

# Carcinoid Tumors, Carcinoid Syndrome and Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors

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Thursday, August 19, 2021



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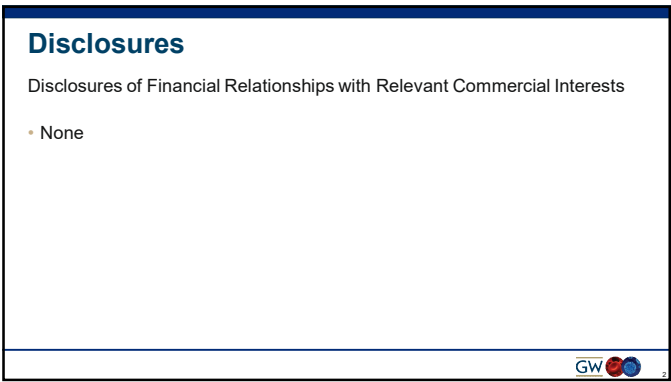
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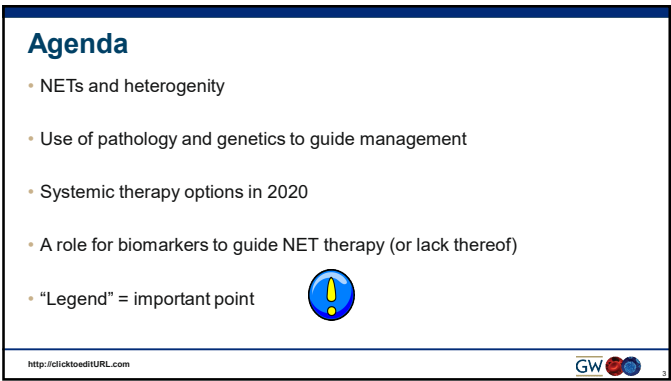
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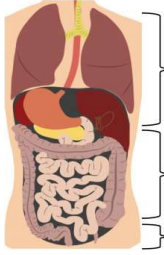
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### NET Pearls: Location Matters!

Treatment and prognosis driven by where the tumor starts



**Foregut**

- Thymus
- Esophagus
- Lung
- Stomach
- Duodenum
- Pancreas

**Midgut**


- Appendix
- Ileum
- Cecum
- Ascending colon

**Hindgut**

- Distal bowel
- Rectum

Oronsky et al. (2017), Neoplasia

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### Pathology grading– most important prognostic tool but with problems


Uses differentiation status, cytologic grade

	Well-differentiated (NET)		Poorly-differentiated (NEC)
Tumor grade	1	2	3
Ki-67 index (%)	<3	3-20	>20
Mitotic count (per 10 HPF)	<2	2-20	>20

WHO, World Health Organization; NET, neuroendocrine tumor; NEC, neuroendocrine carcinoma; HPF, high-power field

Kartalis et al. (2015), Ann Gastroenterol

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### WHO Classification of Pancreatic NE Neoplasms (2017)

**Well differentiated NE tumor\***

Grade	Mitoses	Ki-67 Index
G1	<2 / 10 HPF	<3%
G2	2-20 / 10 HPF	3-20%
G3**	>20 / 10 HPF	>20%

\*Organoid architecture, "well differentiated" cytology, absence of non-neuroendocrine carcinoma components, may have components of G1 or G2, usually strong immunorexpression of general NE markers

\*\*mitoses >20/10 HPF but usually <30/HPF; Ki 67 >20% but usually <55%

**Poorly differentiated NE carcinoma\***


Grade	Mitoses	Ki-67 Index
G3**	>20 / 10 HPF	>20%

\*Small cell carcinoma and large cell NE carcinoma; less organoid architecture, classic cytology of small cell and large cell NE CA, absence of G1 or G2 NE components, may have non-neuroendocrine carcinoma components, less diffuse immunorexpression of general NE markers

\*\*mitoses >20/10 HPF and usually >30/10 HPF; Ki67 >20% and usually >55%

Kartalis et al. (2015), Ann Gastroenterol

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Symptoms of Neuroendocrine Tumors

- 85% of tumors are non-functional!
- A nonfunctional tumor can become functional –always assess for new symptoms particularly at progression
- Hormone w/u driven by clinical symptoms
  - Midgut and Lung
    - Carcinoid syndrome –flushing and diarrhea (24 hour 5h1aa, serum 5h1aa)
  - Pancreatic NETs
    - VIP
    - Insulin, Proinsulin
    - Gastrin
    - Glucagon
    - ACTH
    - Carcinoid syndrome –flushing, diarrhea (rare)- 24 hour 5h1aa, serum 5h1aa



Diagnostic Work-Up

- Cross-sectional imaging (CT Triphasic or MRI)
- Functional Imaging x1 (Somatostatin scintigraphy –i.e. Octreotide scan or Ga68DOTATATE)
- Biopsy
- Biomarkers? Unlikely to help
- Role of EUS? Capsule Endoscopy? Yield is low



Evolving Diagnostic Imaging GA68 DOTATATE



Ga 68 DOTATATE improved sensitivity compared to octreotide imaging

Radioactive diagnostic agent indicated for localization sst positive disease

Beware of comparing apples to oranges! Ga68 should not be compared to cross-sectional imaging to define extent of disease



**Question 1**

16 year-old boy has a resected 0.8 cm tumor of the appendix found incidentally at the time of acute appendicitis. Does any further work-up need to be done

- A) Yes
- B) No



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**Answer: NO**

- Review of 200 patients at MSK suggest there is no role for right hemicolectomy or any other imaging for carcinoid <1.0 cm
- NCCN recommendations tumors >2.0 cm should be considered for right hemicolectomy
- Tumors between 1-2 cm with meso-appendiceal involvement might have LN involvement; in our data set NO patients with carcinoid of the appendix recurred (even with LN Involvement)



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**Question 2**

75 year-old man has bilobar liver lesions and 3 cm RLQ mass in terminal ileum. The liver lesion is biopsied to be well differentiated low grade NET. He experiences flushing and diarrhea. He is started on octreotide LAR with improvement of his symptoms. He develops sudden onset acute n/v/abdominal pain and is found to be pSBO at the site of the primary tumor. What does the anesthesiologist have to worry about?

- A) Cardiac history and risk for carcinoid heart
- B) Carcinoid Crisis
- C) Epinephrine surge and risk of hypertensive emergency
- D) All of the above
- E) none of the above
- F) A+B



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Genetics: Sequencing of NETs



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Mutations in well differentiated panNETs

- Whole-exome sequencing → targeted sequencing
- Early stage (59%), metastatic (41%)
  - Chromatin remodeling genes (MEN1/DAXX/ATRX)
  - mTOR pathway (PTEN, TSC2)
  - \*Better prognosis with MEN1 + DAXX/ATRX mutated status

Jiao et al. (2011), Science

Jiao et al Science, 2011



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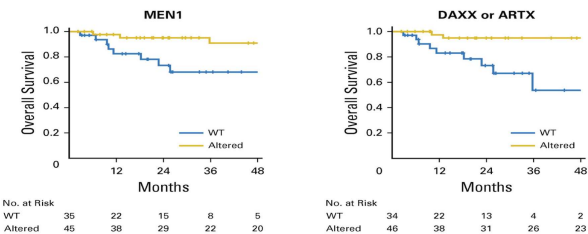
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Next-generation sequencing of Pancreatic NETs



Raj et al JCO PO, 2018

Raj et al. (2018), JCO Precision Oncology



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### Exome sequencing in Small Intestine NETs (SI-NETs)

- 48 SI-NETs (70% G1, 30% G2)
- Integrated analysis: recurrent alterations (chromatin remodeling, DNA damage, apoptosis, RAS signaling, axon guidance)
- Most frequent alterations along mTOR pathway (33%)

Diagram illustrating the mTOR pathway and its role in evading apoptosis. Key components include EGF, FGFR, IGF1R, PI3K, AKT2, AKT1, FOXO, Bcl-2, and mTOR. The pathway shows how these components interact to inhibit apoptosis.

Bank et al. (2013), J Clin Invest <http://dx.doi.org/10.1172/JCI61111>

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### Multidisciplinary Treatment for Advanced NETs

**Surgery**

**Nonsurgical Liver-Directed Therapy**

- Embolization (+/- chemotherapy)

**Medical Treatment**

- SSAs
- IFN- $\alpha$  (carcinoid-toxic)
- Cytotoxic chemotherapy (pNET)
- Biologic targeted agents (pNET)
- PRRT (carcinoid)

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### Role of Liver Directed Therapy

- Response rates similar across all embolization types (bland embolization, Y90 Radioembolization, Chemoembolization)
- No randomized controlled trials to know which is better
- Drug eluting beads have high rate of abscesses and bilomas
- Radioembolization for large bulky disease may be safer but could be risks with PRRT
- Largely dependent on the comfort level of Interventional Radiologist

Kennedy, et al American Journal of Clinical Oncology, 31(3):271-279, June 2008;  
Chamberlain et al Cancer, 2006; Gupta et al Cancer 2007

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## Systemic Treatment in Advanced NETs

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## NET Therapy: Key Advances through Level 1 Evidence

Moertel et al. (1980), N Engl J Med; Moertel et al. (1992), N Engl J Med; Rinke et al. (2009), J Clin Oncol; Yao et al. (2011), N Engl J Med; Raymond et al. (2011), N Engl J Med; Caplan et al. (2014) N Engl J Med; Yao et al. (2016), Lancet; Strosberg et al. (2015), ESMO Annual Meeting

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## Systemic Treatment Options for Advanced NETs

Pancreatic NET	Extra-Pancreatic NETs
Lanreotide	Lanreotide } -GI
Everolimus	Octreotide
Sunitinib	Everolimus (non-functional GI, lung)
Alkylating agents (streptozocin, temozolomide); platinum, 5FU	<sup>177</sup> Lu-Dotatate
<sup>177</sup> Lu-Dotatate	

- Activity of sunitinib in pancreatic NET was established in patients without prior everolimus
- Activity of VEGF pathway inhibitors in advanced carcinoid tumors has not been established

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Somatostatin Analogs



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What We Know



- No data to use a different somatostatin analog upon disease progression
- No data comparing octreotide and lanreotide
- No data to use beyond progression in nonfunctional patients



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“Carcinoid” GI and Lung NETs:  
Targeted Trials



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### RADIANT-4

Advanced NETs  
(well differentiated, G1/G2),  
progressive and non-  
functional of lung or GI origin

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2:1

Everolimus  
10mg daily

Placebo

Primary endpoint:  
Central PFS

Secondary endpoints:  
OS, ORR, DCR, safety,  
HRQOL

Yao et al. (2016), Lancet

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### RADIANT-4 Results: PFS (central review)

Kaplan-Meier median progression-free survival  
 Everolimus 11.0 months (95% CI 9.2-13.3)  
 Placebo 3.9 months (95% CI 3.6-7.4)  
 HR 0.48 (95% CI 0.35-0.67)  
 p<0.00001 by stratified one-sided log-rank test

	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
Everolimus	205	168	145	124	101	81	65	52	26	10	3	0	0	0	0	0
Placebo	97	65	39	30	24	21	17	15	11	6	5	1	0	0	0	0

Yao et al. (2016), Lancet

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### NETTER-1: Phase 3 Study Design Role of PRRT

Patients with  
inoperable,  
somatostatin  
receptor +, midgut  
carcinoid tumors;  
progressive under  
octreotide LAR  
(N=230)

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<sup>177</sup>Lu-DOTA<sup>0</sup>-Tyr<sup>3</sup>,  
octreotate + octreotide  
LAR 30 mg at  
8 ± 1-week interval  
(n=115)

Octreotide LAR (high  
dose, 60 mg) every  
4 weeks  
(n=115)

Treatment  
given until  
end of the  
study or until  
PD (CT/MRI  
tumor  
assessment)  
or death

Primary Endpoint

PFS according to RECIST criteria  
(objective tumor response)

Secondary Endpoints

Safety and tolerability

A study comparing treatment with <sup>177</sup>Lu-DOTA<sup>0</sup>-Tyr<sup>3</sup>-octreotate to octreotide LAR in patients with inoperable, progressive, somatostatin receptor positive midgut carcinoid tumours (NETTER-1). ClinicalTrials.gov website. <https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study?term=NETTER&rank=1>. Accessed 10/20/2015.

Rutkowski P, et al. ESMO. 2015 (abstr 450A).

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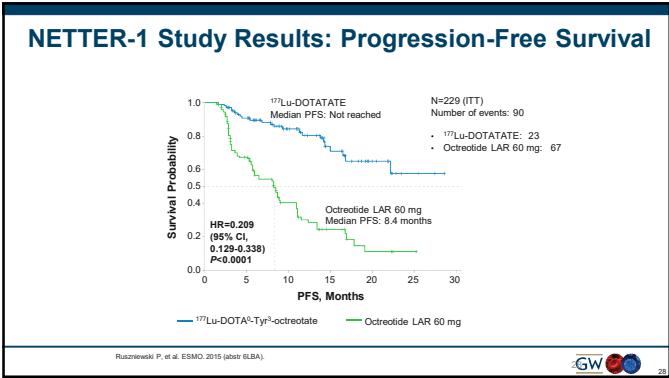
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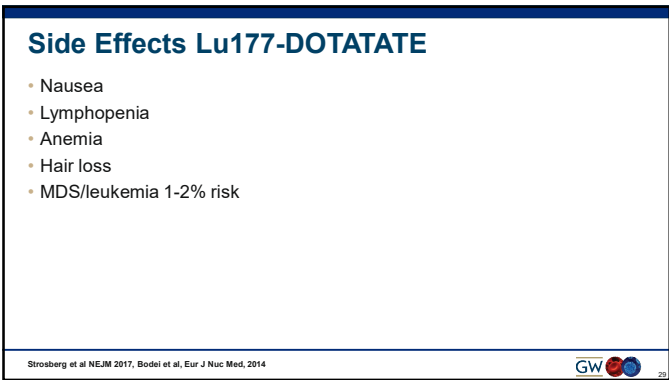
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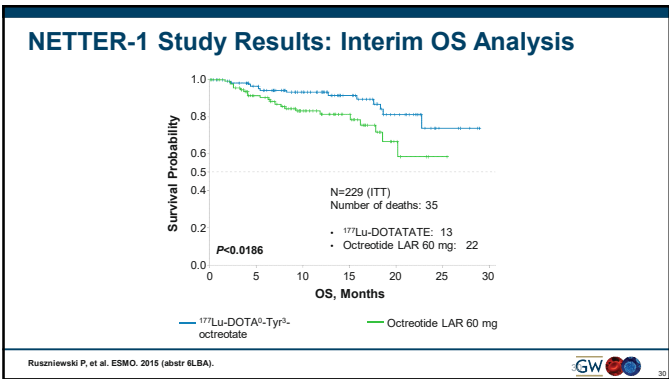
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Carcinoid Syndrome

- Treat the disease!
  - Embolization and other systemic approaches
- Somatostatin Analogs



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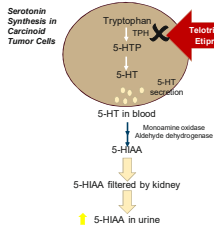
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Telotristat Etiprate  
A Tryptophan Hydroxylase (TPH) Inhibitor



- Telotristat etiprate is a novel oral inhibitor of TPH, the rate-limiting enzyme in serotonin biosynthesis
- Two early-stage clinical studies of telotristat etiprate demonstrated a favorable safety profile and evidence of clinical activity in carcinoid syndrome
- Both preclinical and clinical studies suggested that telotristat etiprate is associated with minimal CNS activity



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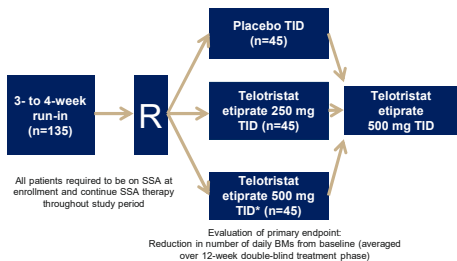
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Study Design Phase III Telestar



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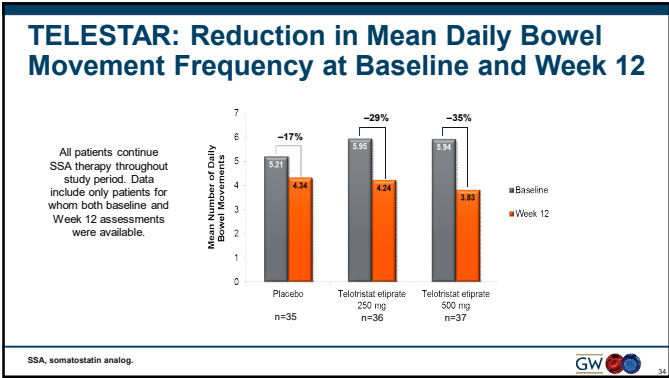
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**Pancreatic NETs:  
Targeted and Cytotoxic Therapies**

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**Summary**

Parameter	Everolimus (RADIANT-3)	Sunitinib
No. of patients	410	171
	Low-intermediate grade	Low grade
Design	Phase III multicenter RCT	Phase III multicenter RCT
Intervention	10mg Everolimus QD	37.5mg Sunitinib QD
Control	Placebo	Placebo
Crossover	Yes	No
Primary outcome - PFS	11 months vs. 4.6 months	11.4 months vs. 5.5 months
Secondary - OS	NS	NS
CR/PR	5% vs 2%	9% vs 0%
SD	73% vs 51%	63% vs 60%

Raymond et al. (2011), N Engl J Med; Yao et al. (2011), N Engl J Med

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### Cytotoxic Chemotherapy in Pancreatic NETs

- Streptozocin – very toxic
- ECOG randomized phase II cape/tem versus tem alone > Capecitabine + temodar greater PFS 22.7 months versus 14 months temodar alone
- Platinum drugs-higher grade tumors
- Sequencing of therapy needs to be addressed

Kunz et al 2018 ASCO

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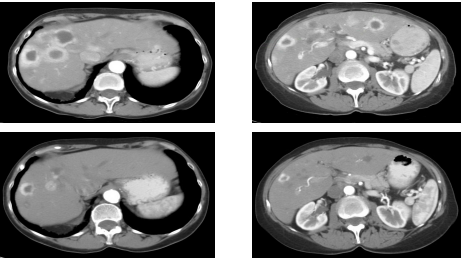
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### Well differentiated, high grade Pancreatic NET (Ki-67 30%) Tx with cape/tem

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### Biomarkers to Guide NET Therapy

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### Biomarkers in NETs: What we Know

- NCCN guidelines do not limit use of SSA to NETs that are SSTR positive
  - But it is likely that SSA treatment only benefits patients whose tumors harbor the SSTR
- To date, all studies have failed to identify a NET patient cohort more likely to benefit from everolimus
- SSTR expression on imaging studies predicts response to PRRT

Janson et al. (1994), *Eur J Endocrinol*; Mehta et al. (2015), *Medicine*; Qian et al. (2016), *Pancreas*; Zakell et al. (2016), *Endocr Relat Cancer*

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### A word on poorly differentiated NEC

- Poorly differentiated NEC are treated with platinum- based therapy
- Platinum/etop or platinum/irinotecan are reasonable first line treatment options
- A PET DOTATATE is NOT HELPFUL as it should not drive management – even if positive, PRRT is ONLY approved for well differentiated NET and not NEC

Walenkamp et al Cancer Treat Rev. 2009;35(3); Cancer Sci. 2014 Sep;105(9):1176-81. Epub 2014 Sep 6.

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### Conclusions

- Pathologic and molecular (genetics) features are important to characterize NET biology
- Through Level 1 evidence, treatment landscape is broadening
- Many therapies to consider that were not available 10 years ago
  - Role for biomarkers in NETs remains limited
- Takes a team approach!

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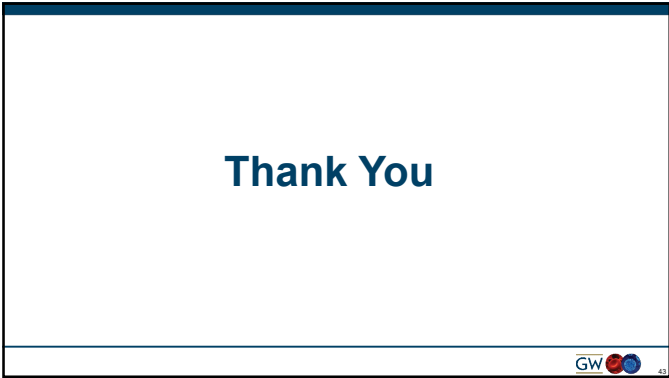
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