A positron emission tomography imaging study to confirm target engagement in the lungs of patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis following a single dose of a novel inhaled αvβ6 integrin inhibitor

Toby M. Maher 1,2, Juliet K. Simpson 3, Joanna C. Porter 4, Frederick J. Wilson 3, Robert Chan 3, Rhena Eames 3, Yi Cui 3, Sarah Siederer 3, Simon Parry 3, Julia Kenny 3, Robert J. Slack 3, Jagdeep Sahota 4, Lyn Paul 3, Peter Saunders 1,2, Phillip L. Molyneaux 1,2, Pauline T. Luky 3, Gaia Rizzo 5, Graham E. Searle 3, Richard P. Marshall 3, Azeem Saleem 5, Arthur R. Kang’ombe 3, David Fairman 3, William A. Fahy 3 and Mitra Vahdati-Bolouri 3*

Abstract

Background: Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a chronic, progressive lung disease with poor prognosis and a significant unmet medical need. This study evaluated the safety, pharmacokinetics (PK) and target engagement in the lungs, of GSK3008348, a novel inhaled alpha-v beta-6 (αvβ6) integrin inhibitor, in participants with IPF.

Methods: This was a phase 1b, randomised, double-blind (sponsor unblind) study, conducted in the UK (two clinical sites, one imaging unit) between June 2017 and July 2018 (NCT03069989). Participants with a definite or probable diagnosis of IPF received a single nebulised dose of 1000 mcg GSK3008348 or placebo (ratio 5:2) in two dosing periods. In period 1, safety and PK assessments were performed up to 24 h post-dose; in period 2, after a 7-day to 28-day washout, participants underwent a total of three positron emission tomography (PET) scans: baseline, Day 1 (~ 30 min post-dosing) and Day 2 (~ 24 h post-dosing), using a radiolabelled αvβ6-specific ligand, [18F]FB-A20FMDV2. The primary endpoint was whole lung volume of distribution (Vf), not corrected for air volume, at ~ 30 min post-dose compared with pre-dose. The study success criterion, determined using Bayesian analysis, was a posterior probability (true % reduction in Vf > 0%) of ≥80%.

Results: Eight participants with IPF were enrolled and seven completed the study. Adjusted posterior median reduction in uncorrected Vf at ~ 30 min after GSK3008348 inhalation was 20% (95% CrI: −9 to 42%). The posterior probability that the true % reduction in Vf > 0% was 93%. GSK3008348 was well tolerated with no reports of serious adverse events or clinically significant abnormalities that were attributable to study treatment. PK was successfully characterised showing rapid absorption followed by a multiphasic elimination.

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**Background**

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a specific form of chronic, progressive interstitial pneumonia of unknown cause [1, 2]. It occurs primarily in adults and the clinical course varies amongst diagnosed individuals from slow progression to acute decompensation and death, with a median survival time in untreated patients of just 2 to 4 years [1, 2]. Pharmacological treatment is currently limited to two oral anti-fibrotics, pirfenidone and nintedanib, both of which have been shown to reduce the rate of decline in lung function but are associated with significant side effects [2]. There remains a considerable unmet need for new therapies to treat this disease.

The alpha-v beta-6 (αvβ6) integrin has a major role in the activation of transforming growth factor-β (TGFβ), a cytokine that is central to the development of IPF [3]. The expression of αvβ6 is upregulated in IPF lung tissue [4], and increased levels of αvβ6 are associated with disease progression and poor prognosis [5], suggesting that an inhibitor of αvβ6 may provide therapeutic benefits to patients with IPF. GSK3008348 is a novel, small molecule αvβ6 integrin inhibitor that has been developed for inhaled delivery via nebulisation and is the first inhaled compound in this class [6]. In vitro, GSK3008348 demonstrates selective and high affinity binding to the αvβ6 integrin, inducing fast internalisation and degradation of the integrin. In an in vivo mouse model of lung fibrosis, inhaled GSK3008348 inhibited the activation of TGFβ [7]. GSK3008348 has previously been demonstrated to be well tolerated at single doses up to 3000 mcg in healthy human participants, with a pharmacokinetic (PK) profile that was dose proportional at potentially clinically relevant doses [8].

Positron emission tomography (PET) imaging using the αvβ6-selective [18F]FB-A20FMDV2 PET ligand provides a non-invasive method for measuring αvβ6 expression and a potential model for assessing target engagement of inhaled therapies in the lung [9, 10]. In a study of 15 participants (6 healthy, 9 with pulmonary fibrosis), lung uptake of [18F]FB-A20FMDV2 measured by lung volume of distribution (VT), a partition co-efficient that acts as a marker of expression of the integrin αvβ6, was successfully quantified. This demonstrated increased expression in IPF compared with healthy participants [10]. Additionally, [18F]FB-A20FMDV2 was well-tolerated and the PET measures were reproducible over a two-week period. An independent study has recently reported similar results with an alternative αvβ6-specific PET ligand ([18F]FP-R01-MG-F2) [11].

The aim of this study was to evaluate the safety, tolerability and PK of GSK3008348 in participants with IPF and to obtain preliminary information on target engagement using the [18F]FB-A20FMDV2 PET ligand.

**Methods**

**Study design**

This phase 1b study was conducted at three centres in the UK (two clinical sites [Royal Brompton Hospital and University College London Hospital, London, UK] and one imaging unit [Invicro, London, UK]) between June 2017 and July 2018. The study was designed to comprise up to two cohorts (cohort 2 was optional) (Study 204,715, NCT03069989). In cohort 1, under double-blind (sponsor unblind) conditions, participants were randomised 5:2 to receive a single nebulised dose of either 1000 mcg GSK3008348 or placebo in two dosing periods (Fig. 1).

Dosing period 1 was to assess safety and PK; participants remained in the clinical unit overnight to enable regular safety and PK assessments up to 24 h post-dose. Dosing period 2 was to enable assessment of target engagement. After a wash out period of 7 to 28 days following the first dose, participants attended the imaging unit on an outpatient basis for a pre-dose PET scan and imaging unit [Invicro, London, UK] between June 2017 and July 2018. The study was designed to comprise up to two cohorts (cohort 2 was optional) (Study 204,715, NCT03069989). In cohort 1, under double-blind (sponsor unblind) conditions, participants were randomised 5:2 to receive a single nebulised dose of either 1000 mcg GSK3008348 or placebo in two dosing periods (Fig. 1).

Dosing period 1 was to assess safety and PK; participants remained in the clinical unit overnight to enable regular safety and PK assessments up to 24 h post-dose. Dosing period 2 was to enable assessment of target engagement. After a wash out period of 7 to 28 days following the first dose, participants attended the imaging unit on an outpatient basis for a pre-dose PET scan (pre-dose PET), to determine baseline levels of pulmonary uptake of the αvβ6-specific tracer, as well as a high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT) scan. Following the baseline scan, participants attended the clinical unit for safety assessments and once deemed fit to continue, attended the imaging unit for their second dose of study medication and post-dose PET scans: Day 1 [~ 30 min post-dosing (PET 1)] and Day 2 [~ 24 h post-dosing (PET 2)]. There was a maximum of 14 days between the baseline PET scan and the PET scan on Day 1.

Optional cohort 2 was to enable further exploration of the safety of GSK3008348 and/or target engagement if required. Following completion of cohort 1, no safety signals emerged that warranted further investigation and the pre-defined study success criterion for GSK3008348 target engagement was met. This, together with the...
operational complexities of the study, led to the decision to stop the study prior to progression to cohort 2.

To ensure consistency of nebulised dosing the same model of Philips Sidestream Plus nebuliser (Philips, Guildford, United Kingdom) was used at each site. The 1000 mcg dose was selected for two reasons;

1) It was lower than the maximum 3000 mcg dose used in healthy volunteers, which would enable significant safety margins in the event that systemic exposure was higher in IPF patients than healthy volunteers.

2) PK from the study in healthy participants [10], demonstrated peak systemic unbound concentrations at 1000 mcg that were significantly in excess of the in vitro dissociation constant (Kd). As lung tissue exposures are likely to be at least as high as the systemic exposure, it was expected that αvβ6 would demonstrate significant engagement at this dose.

The study was approved by the National Research Ethics Service Committee London and the Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee of the UK. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

Participants

Eligible participants were male (aged ≥50 years) or female (aged ≥55 years) with a definite or probable diagnosis of IPF [12], forced vital capacity (FVC) > 50% predicted and diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO) > 40% predicted. Body weight was required to be ≥45 kg and body mass index within the range of 18.5 to 35.0 kg/m². Participants who were currently taking pirfenidone or nintedanib (or who had received either within 30 days of the first dose of study treatment), had a current IPF exacerbation or respiratory tract infection, a post-bronchodilator forced expiratory volume in 1 s (FEV1)/ FVC ratio < 0.70, or known hepatic or biliary abnormalities were excluded. Full details of the eligibility criteria can be found on ClinicalTrials.gov (https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03069989).

PET imaging assessments

Dynamic [18F]FB-A20FMDV2PET scans were acquired using a Siemens PET/CT system Biograph 6 TruePoint with TrueV or a Hi-Rez Biograph 6 (Siemens Healthcare, Erlangen, Germany). Full details of the methodology for image acquisition and analysis have been detailed elsewhere [10]. In brief, for each PET scan, [18F]FB-A20FMDV2 was injected into a cubital or forearm vein through an intravenous cannula and emission data were acquired for up to 90 min. An additional venous cannula was used to collect blood samples throughout the PET scan for quantification of the total and unmetabolized [18F]FB-A20FMDV2-related radioactivity in whole blood and plasma. These data were used alongside the images to derive an input function for the analysis of emission PET data based on a volume of interest (VOI) in the descending aorta. Using time activity curves from the whole lung VOI, PET outcome parameters of dynamic VT, a partition coefficient derived using a kinetic model, and static standardised uptake value (SUV), integrated from 10 to 30 mins post tracer administration, were obtained. Both VT and SUV measures were expressed with and without correction for air volume – referred to as air-corrected VT and SUV and uncorrected VT and SUV from here on.

The primary pharmacodynamic endpoint was the change in the uptake of [18F]FB-A20FMDV2 in the whole lung, assessed as uncorrected VT at ~30 min post-dose compared with pre-dose. VT was chosen a priori as the appropriate measure to assess uptake of the αvβ6 PET ligand as it intrinsically accounts within the kinetic model for any distributional changes in the ligand, for example altered blood kinetics, that may be caused by the effects of a therapeutic αvβ6 inhibitor.
The total maximum effective radiation dose received per participant was estimated to be 20.9 mSv [13], comprised of three PET scans each with up to two low-dose computed tomography scans for attenuation correction, and a HRCT scan which was performed once only at baseline in dosing period 2 for anatomical localisation.

Safety assessments
Full safety assessments were conducted at screening, pre-dose baseline and at regular intervals during each dosing period, including vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate and temperature), 12-lead electrocardiograms (ECGs), routine safety laboratory tests and lung function. Oxygen saturation was measured continuously from pre-dose to 4 h post-dose in dosing period 1. Adverse events (AEs) were monitored throughout the study.

Pharmacokinetic assessments
PK blood samples (2 mL) were collected at pre-dose, and at 15 and 30 min, 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 18 and 24 h post-dose in dosing period 1, and on Day 1 (pre-dose, 15 and 30 min, 2 and 4 h post-dose) and Day 2 (on arrival and discharge at the imaging unit) in dosing period 2. Plasma samples were analysed for GS3008348 using a validated analytical method based on protein precipitation extraction followed by liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) (Covance, Harrogate, UK). The lower limit of quantification for GS3008348 was 50 μg/mL using a 50-μL aliquot of human plasma with an upper limit of quantification of 50,000 pg/mL.

Statistical methods
A required sample size of five participants in the GS3008348 group was based on a within-subject standard deviation in uncorrected VT between two PET scans of 0.15 and a minimum detectable reduction of 6.2% [10]. The primary endpoint, change in uncorrected VT at ~30 min post-dose compared with pre-dose, was analysed using a Bayesian repeated measures model assuming non-informative priors of the form N (mean = 0, SD = 1000) for all model parameters and a Toeplitz covariance matrix. The analysis was based on the PET data from the five participants who received GS3008348. Placebo participants were included primarily as a comparator for safety assessments. PET data from the placebo participants were included on plots for reference but were not included in the analysis. The estimated posterior median value of VT ratio (PET1/Pre-dose) was calculated together with corresponding standard deviation and 95% highest posterior density (HPD) credible interval (CrI). The posterior probability that the true ratio PET1/Pre-dose is less than 1 (= true % reduction in VT at ~30 min compared to Pre-dose >0%) was calculated and the pre-defined study success criterion was defined as a posterior probability ≥80%. The same Bayesian model was used for the analysis of all other PET derived endpoints.

PET imaging results
After single nebulised dosing with GS3008348, adjusted median uncorrected VT at ~30 min post-dose decreased from 1.50 mL/cm³ to 1.20 mL/cm³ and a reduction in uncorrected VT was observed in all participants in the GS3008348 group (Fig. 2; Additional File 1, Table S1). The adjusted posterior median reduction was 20% (95% HPD CrI: −9 to 42%) and the posterior probability that the true reduction at ~30 min post-dose compared with pre-dose >0%, was 93%, meeting the pre-defined study success criterion (Table 2). The estimated standard deviation of log (PET1/Pre-dose) was 0.16 (Table 2). Three of the five participants receiving GS3008348 had a PET scan at the ~24 h timepoint (PET 2) and for all three, uncorrected VT was observed in all participants in the GS3008348 group (Fig. 2; Additional File 1, Table S1). The adjusted posterior median reduction was 20% (95% HPD CrI: −9 to 42%) and the posterior probability that the true % reduction at ~30 min post-dose compared with pre-dose >0%, was 93%, meeting the pre-defined study success criterion (Table 2). The estimated standard deviation of log (PET2/Pre-dose) was 0.16 (Table 2). Three of the five participants receiving GS3008348 had a PET scan at the ~24 h timepoint (PET 2) and for all three, uncorrected VT increased from the ~30 min post-dose levels (Fig. 2) with a median adjusted VT of 1.72 mL/cm³ at this time point (Additional File 1, Table S1). The estimated adjusted posterior median ratio of PET2/pre-dose was 1.154 (95% HPD CrI: 0.791, 1.647) and the posterior probability that the true % reduction at ~24 h post-dose compared with pre-dose >0%, was 18% (Table 2).

Data for air-corrected VT showed a similar pattern to uncorrected VT with a decrease in signal between PET1 and pre-dose (Additional File 2, Figure S1). However,
the results for SUV (air-corrected and uncorrected) showed a different pattern to the VT and did not show a decrease in signal between PET 1 and pre-dose (Additional File 3, Figure S2a and Figure S2b).

Safety results
Six AEs were reported across four participants, three in the GSK3008348 group and one in the placebo group (Table 3). All AEs were mild in intensity and none were considered treatment related. There were no SAEs reported and no participant withdrawals from the study as a result of safety findings. Furthermore, no clinically significant abnormalities that were attributable to study treatment were reported for clinical laboratory evaluations, ECGs, vital signs or lung function assessments.

Table 1 Demographic and baseline characteristics

|                        | Placebo (N = 3) | GSK3008348 1000 mcg (N = 5) |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| **Age (years), mean (SD)** | 70.3 (3.1)     | 73.6 (2.3)                  |
| **Males, n (%)**        | 3 (100)        | 4 (80)                      |
| **BMI (kg/m^2), mean (SD)** | 31.4 (1.1)     | 27.9 (1.9)                  |
| **Race, n (%)**         | White/Caucasian/European heritage 3 (100) | 5 (100) |
| **Lung function**       |                |                             |
| FVC percent predicted (%) | 92.6 (77.9–93.6) | 91.0 (78.5–113.4) |
| FEV1 percent predicted (%) | 90.0 (89.8–99.2) | 99.0 (71.4–123.9) |
| DLCO percent predicted (%) | 43.3 (43.0–50.1) | 48.0 (41.7–53.5) |

BMI body mass index

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Fig. 2 Summary of adjusted medians of uncorrected VT (mL/cm3) of [18F]FBA20FMDV2 and individual patient profiles. PET1: PET scan on day 1 at ~30 min post-dose; PET2: PET scan on day 2 at ~24 h post-dose. The adjusted medians (with 95% Cr I) were calculated from a Bayesian repeated measures model using data from participants on the GSK3008348 1000 mcg arm only and is indicated by a thicker line and filled triangles. Data for individual participants dosed with GSK300834 are shown with dotted lines linking the data. Individual subject data is shown for participants on GSK3008348 1000 mcg (red symbols) and placebo (green symbols). The PET data from the placebo participants are included on plots for reference, but were not included in the analysis.
Pharmacokinetic results

The plasma concentration-time profiles indicated rapid absorption of GSK3008348 (median T_{max} of 0.5 h) followed by a rapid decline in plasma concentrations up to 4 h post-dose and a slower decline thereafter (Fig. 3, Table 4). Plasma concentrations were measurable up to 24 h post-dose in period 1 and 30 h post-dose in period 2 with the exception of two participants whose last sampling time was 22 h. Systemic exposure to GSK3008348, as measured by geometric mean AUC{sub}_{0-t} and C_{max} did not appear markedly different between dosing periods 1 and 2. Between subject variability (%CVb) in total systemic exposure (AUC{sub}_{0-t} and C_{max}) to GSK3008348 was moderate (range 31 to 58%).

Discussion

This was the first study to evaluate the effects of the inhaled αvβ6 integrin inhibitor, GSK3008348, in an IPF population not currently treated with pirfenidone or nintedanib. The participants in this study were typical of an IPF population, 80% male and with a mean age > 70 years. The majority of participants had preserved FVC (median % predicted > 90%) but significantly impaired DLCO (median % predicted > 90%) but significantly impaired, with fibrosis, all important factors to consider when interpreting lung {sup}[18F]{sub}FB-A20FMDV2 uptake [14]. V_{T} was chosen as the appropriate measure to assess the uptake of the αvβ6 PET ligand as, unlike SUV, it accounts for any distributional changes in the ligand that may be caused by a therapeutic αvβ6 inhibitor. This selection was corroborated as SUV indeed showed a different pattern to the V_{T} and did not decrease between PET 1 and pre-dose, strongly suggesting that distributional changes were relevant as expected.

The decision to use uncorrected rather than air-corrected V_{T} as the primary endpoint was well considered when designing this study. IPF is characterized by interstitial pneumonia together with fibrosis and the distribution of air, fibrosis and blood in the lung varies according to the stage of fibrosis, all important factors to consider when interpreting lung {sup}[18F]{sub}FB-A20FMDV2 uptake [14]. V_{T} was chosen as the appropriate measure to assess the uptake of the αvβ6 PET ligand as, unlike SUV, it accounts for any distributional changes in the ligand that may be caused by a therapeutic αvβ6 inhibitor. This selection was corroborated as SUV indeed showed a different pattern to the V_{T} and did not decrease between PET 1 and pre-dose, strongly suggesting that distributional changes were relevant as expected.

The data presented here are insufficient alone to allow interpretation of how the 20% reduction in uncorrected V_{T} relates to the level of target engagement. However, putting these results into context, it is comparable to the 17% difference seen between IPF and healthy participants.

### Table 2 Adjusted posterior median ratios of uncorrected V_{T} (mL/cm\(^3\))

| Parameter                        | Adjusted Median of Ratio | 95% HPD Crl of Ratio | SD Logs of Ratio | Probability (True Ratio < 1.0) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| PET1/Pre-dose                    | 0.797                    | (0.578, 1.087)       | 0.1576          | 0.934                         |
| PET2/Pre-dose                    | 1.154                    | (0.791, 1.647)       | 0.1779          | 0.175                         |
| PET2/PET1                        | 1.446                    | (0.984, 2.083)       | 0.1868          | 0.030                         |

HPD Crl Highest posterior density credible interval; PET positron emission tomography; PET1 PET scan on day 1 – 30 min post-dose (n = 5); PET2 PET scan on day 2 at ~ 24 h post-dose (n = 3).

PET data from the placebo participants were included on plots for reference but were not included in the analysis.

Table 3 Summary of all adverse events by treatment group

| Number of participants with any AE, n (%) | Placebo (N = 3) | GSK3008348 1000 mcg (N = 5) |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Diarrhoea                                | 1 (33)         | 3 (60)                      |
| Urinary tract infection                  | 0              | 1 (20)                      |
| Headache                                 | 0              | 1 (20)                      |
| Contact dermatatitis                     | 0              | 1 (20)                      |
| Tooth extraction                         | 0              | 1 (20)                      |

GSK3008348 were well tolerated, and PK was generally consistent with that observed for healthy volunteers [8].

All participants dosed with GSK3008348 showed a reduction in uncorrected V_{T}, the primary endpoint, thus supporting the robustness of this finding. It is recognised that the treatment response differed between participants. It is difficult to explain the reasons for this in such a small study, but possible explanations include differences in drug exposure in the lungs and disease severity or activity. The variability (SD) of the data in the active group was 0.16, comparing favourably with the value of 0.15 assumed in the sample size calculations during study design, which were based on the test-retest variability measured in a previous enabling study, where PET scans were repeated ~ 12 days apart in patients with IPF [10].

The rationale for selecting uncorrected V_{T} as the primary endpoint was well considered when designing this study. IPF is characterized by interstitial pneumonia together with fibrosis and the distribution of air, fibrosis and blood in the lung varies according to the stage of fibrosis, all important factors to consider when interpreting lung {sup}[18F]{sub}FB-A20FMDV2 uptake [14]. V_{T} was chosen as the appropriate measure to assess the uptake of the αvβ6 PET ligand as, unlike SUV, it accounts for any distributional changes in the ligand that may be caused by a therapeutic αvβ6 inhibitor. This selection was corroborated as SUV indeed showed a different pattern to the V_{T} and did not decrease between PET 1 and pre-dose, strongly suggesting that distributional changes were relevant as expected.

The decision to use uncorrected rather than air-corrected V_{T} as the primary endpoint was based on the assumption that the fraction of air in the lung would be unchanged for an individual participant in this short-duration study. The relative changes in the post-dose air-corrected V_{T} were similar to those for uncorrected V_{T}, justifying this assumption. As the reduction from pre-dose to ~ 30-min post-dose air-corrected V_{T} also met the pre-defined success criterion, this further supported the primary endpoint results.

The data presented here are insufficient alone to allow interpretation of how the 20% reduction in uncorrected V_{T} relates to the level of target engagement. However, putting these results into context, it is comparable to the 17% difference seen between IPF and healthy participants.
in air-corrected $V_T$ [10], suggesting that it is a meaningful change. In making this comparison it is important to consider that some of the difference in PET signal between IPF and healthy participants will be due to reduced air fraction in IPF lungs, hence the difference in air-corrected $V_T$ (which is smaller than the difference in uncorrected $V_T$) is the appropriate comparator. In any case, the consistency in the relative change of uncorrected and air-corrected $V_T$ values in the current study add further credence to the robustness of the result.

Data on uncorrected $V_T$ at ~24 h post-dose, available for three out of five participants receiving GSK3008348, returned to approximate baseline levels - in line with a priori modelling that indicated the duration of action would be less than 24 h and hence not supporting a once daily dosing regimen for this drug. However, further study would be required to characterise the drug’s duration of action fully.

In this preliminary study in IPF patients, inhaled GSK3008348 was well tolerated with no AEs or clinically relevant findings attributable to treatment. The PK profile following single inhaled dosing demonstrated rapid absorption and multi-phasic elimination of GSK3008348. Furthermore, there was significant overlap in systemic exposure ($C_{\text{max}}$ and AUC) to GSK3008348 in IPF patients compared with healthy participants following a 1000 mcg single dose [8].

**Conclusion**

This first-time in patient IPF study successfully demonstrated that a nebulised 1000 mcg dose of GSK3008348 inhibited the uptake in the lung of a target-specific PET ligand for the $\alpha_v\beta_6$ integrin at ~30 min but not at ~24 h post-dose, providing evidence of target engagement and indicating a duration of target engagement of less than 24 h. Further study would be required to confirm the level of target engagement and to assess its impact on downstream pharmacology. GSK3008348 was well tolerated and PK was consistent with the PK profile shown in healthy subjects. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that a target-specific radioligand has been used to assess target engagement of a putative

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**Table 4** Summary of Derived Plasma GSK3008348 Pharmacokinetic Parameters

| PK Parameter (units) | N | Period | Geometric Mean | 95% CI | %CVb |
|----------------------|---|--------|----------------|--------|------|
| $AUC(0-t)$ (h*pg/mL) | 5 | Period 1 | 64,638 | (33,065, 126,362) | 58 |
|                      | 5 | Period 2 | 66,123 | (39,036, 112,005) | 44 |
| $C_{\text{max}}$ (pg/mL) | 5 | Period 1 | 14,050 | (8876, 22,243) | 38 |
|                      | 5 | Period 2 | 10,418 | (7191, 15,094) | 31 |
| $T_{\text{max}}$ (h) | 5 | Period 1 | 0.50 | (0.4–0.5) | |
|                      | 5 | Period 2 | 0.47 | (0.4–0.5) | |

$AUC_{0-t}$, area under the concentration-time curve from time zero to time of last quantifiable concentration; $C_{\text{max}}$, maximum plasma concentration; $T_{\text{max}}$, time to maximum plasma concentration

$^1T_{\text{max}}$ expressed as median (range)
therapeutic compound in the lung, demonstrating proof of principle that PET imaging can enhance the understanding of pharmacology in early pulmonary drug development.

Supplementary information
Supplementary information accompanies this paper at https://doi.org/10.1186/s12991-020-01339-7.

Additional file 1: Uncorrected Volume of Distribution VT: Table S1. Adjusted posterior median uncorrected VT (mL/cm³).
Additional file 2: Air-corrected Vt: Figure S1. Summary of adjusted medians of air-corrected VT (mL/cm³) of [18F]FB-A20FMDV2 and individual patient profiles
Additional file 3: Uncorrected and air-corrected Standardised Uptake Values (SUVR): Figure S2a. Summary of adjusted medians of uncorrected SUV (g/mL) of [18F]FB-A20FMDV2 and individual patient profiles; Figure S2b. Summary of adjusted medians of air-corrected SUV (g/mL) of [18F]FB-A20FMDV2 and individual patient profiles

Abbreviations
AE: Adverse event; αvβ6: Alpha-v beta-6; AUCO-t: Area under the concentration-time curve from time zero to time of last quantifiable concentration; BMI: Body mass index; Cpr: Credible interval; CI: Volume of interest; DLO: Diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide; ECG: Electrocardiogram; FEV1: Forced expiratory volume in 1 s; FVC: Forced vital capacity; HRCT: High-resolution computed tomography; HPD: Highest posterior density; IPF: Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; Kd: Dissociation constant; LC/MS/MS: Liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry; PET: Positron emission tomography; PET1: Positron emission tomography scan on Day 1, ~ 30 min post-dosing; PET2: Positron emission tomography scan on Day 2, ~ 24 h post-dosing; PK: Pharmacokinetics; SUV: Standard uptake value; TGFβ: Transforming growth factor-β; T_max: Time to maximum plasma concentration; VOI: Volume of interest; VT: Volume of distribution

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Authors’ contributions
Substantial contributions to study concept and design: TMM, JCP, JS, RE, YC, SP, JK, RJS, FJW, PT, PTL, RPM, ARK, DF, WAF, MVB. Data analysis and interpretation: GR, GES and AS. All authors have revised the work critically for important intellectual content and have provided final approval of the version to be published. Authors give their agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. The author(s) read and approved the final manuscript.

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Availability of data and materials
Anonymized individual participant data and study documents can be requested for further research from: https://www.clinicalstudydatarequest.com

Ethics approval and consent to participate
The study was approved by the London - Central Research Ethics Committee, UK (reference 17/LO/0284; IRAS: 221453), Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA; EudraCT number: 2016–003674-41) and permission to administer radioisotopes was obtained from the Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee of the UK.

Competition of interests
TMM has received consultancy fees and, via his institution, has received research funding from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). JCP received funding from GSK for a clinical fellow but received no personal fees and has no other disclosures. PLM via his institution has received industry-academic funding from AstraZeneca and has received speaker and consultancy fees from Boehringer Ingelheim and Hoffman-La Roche which fall outside the submitted work. GR, GES and AS are employees of Invicro; and GES and AS are former employees of GSK. JKS, FJW, RC, RE, YC, SS, SP, JK, DF, WAH and MVB are employees of and shareholders in GSK. PTL is a former employee of and owns shares in GSK and is now an independent consultant (Target to Treatment Consulting Ltd). RJS, RPM and ARK are former employees of and current shareholders in GSK. JS, LP and PS declare they have no competing interests.

Author details
1Royal Brompton Hospital, London, UK. 2National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London, London, UK. 3GlaxoSmithKline Research and Development, Stevenage, UK. 4University College London Hospital, London, UK. 5Invicro, A Konica Minolta Company, London, UK.

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