# Volition (1)

**NYSE:VNRX** 

Casting a new light on sepsis management

February 2025



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# **Speakers**





Mr. Gael Forterre

**Chief Commercial Officer** 



**Dr. Andrew Retter** 

MBBS, MRCP, FRCPath (Haem), DICM, FFICM

Clinical Lead in Critical Care Medicine, ECMO and Thrombosis

Chief Medical Officer at VolitionRx, UK

## **Investment Highlights**



#### Vet Commercial Progress

- Nu.Q<sup>®</sup> Vet Cancer test now available in 20 countries
- Sold >110,000 tests and test components Q1-Q3 2024
- Received \$23 million in upfront and milestone payments to-date
  - Additional \$5 million milestone payment (feline) anticipated 2025
  - Simple, low cost, recurring revenue generating tests performed on standard lab equipment
- Multiple international partnerships launching

#### **Human Licensing Progress**

- Same business model as Nu.Q<sup>®</sup> Vet low capex/low opex, leveraging global base of established diagnostic and liquid biopsy companies
- Clinical Partnering: multiple near-term licensing opportunities progressing
- Direct and Indirect sales of CE marked routine clinical product(s) in Europe as hospitals evaluate for routine clinical use

#### Strong IP Worldwide

- 81 patents granted
- 129 pending internationally
- Patent coverage up to 2044

#### Large Unmet Needs

- Lung Cancer Screening screening, prognostics and MRD represent a \$1.8B opportunity
- Sepsis testing and monitoring ICU patients alone is a ~\$1B+ opportunity
- Other addressable markets include Acute Kidney Injury (AKI), Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) and use in the Emergency Department >\$10B opportunity

Derisked R&D and Commercial Strategy: First \$1 million Revenue 2024

## What sets us apart?



- Our tests are simple, low-cost <u>accessible</u> routine blood tests
  - Platform agnostic, can be adapted to any diagnostic workflow
    - Manual, Reference Lab, Specialist Lab and Point of Care









Six Hours

45 minutes

<10 minutes

<15 minutes

- Our expanding Intellectual Property portfolio
  - 81 patents granted, 129 pending, across 54 patent families<sup>1</sup>

### **Go-to-Market Strategy**



#### Strategy implemented

- **Extensive product R&D conducted** by Volition and its research partners
- Direct and Indirect sales of CE Marked product(s) Europe as Centers of Excellence hospitals evaluate for routine clinical use
- Monetize broad IP through commercial contracts with upfront, milestone payments, royalties and sales of key components

Proven Commercial **Model** with Nu.Q<sup>®</sup> Vet

- Published canine clinical evidence in peer reviewed journals
- Launched early access program via Texas A&M GI lab
- Licensed the Vet product via a range of agreements, where partner does all lab, blood and sales work (global, regional and national with

















## **Go to Market Strategy - HUMAN**



 Utilize granted CE mark for NETs to drive adoption in the EU working with KOLs and hospital networks for wide-ranging NETs utility. Early revenue (pre-US FDA) clinical use in Europe.

 Focused partner led launch worldwide of product in sepsis on existing widely adopted current platforms, leveraging their sales teams, regulatory work and labs

# Commercialization of OU.Q





#### **Current European CE marked IVDD Product Strategy**

- Very broad granted clinical utility for all NETs related diseases
- Both direct and indirect through IDS, (Revvity) sales of the CE Marked product
- Kits already purchased by three hospitals (centers of excellence) for clinical validation work.
- More than ten other active discussions ongoing across six European countries
- NETosis applications through broad CE granted mark:
  - Sepsis
  - Burns
  - Post-transplant
  - Kidney disease

and more...

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# **Focused Sepsis Licensing Strategy**



# Aim to open up wide scale international adoption on existing platforms, with existing labs and sales pipelines

- TAM Sepsis testing and monitoring ICU patients alone is a ~\$1B+ opportunity
- Other addressable markets include Acute Kidney Injury (AKI), Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) and use in the Emergency Department >\$10B opportunity

#### **Licensing and partnering criteria:**

- Large installed base worldwide
- Experience of tech transfer to installed platforms
- Regulatory and clinical affairs management, rollout and funding
- Targeting Royalties, upfronts, milestones and key component sales

Progressing well with several global diagnostic and liquid biopsy companies, aim to sign multiple licensing human deals in 2025 to add to the EIGHT signed for Nu.Q<sup>®</sup> Vet.

#### Two underlying principles:

- Low CapEx for partners / Low OpEx for Volition
- Low-cost and routine = <u>accessible</u> tests worldwide



# Dr. Andrew Retter

MBBS, MRCP, FRCPath (Haem), DICM, FFICM Clinical Lead in Critical Care Medicine, ECMO and Thrombosis Chief Medical Officer at VolitionRx, UK

#### **Conflicts of interest to declare**



Employee and shareholder of VolitionRX Limited

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## The Burden of Sepsis

#### 1 in 5 deaths worldwide are associated with sepsis

Almost **50 million** cases resulting in **11** million deaths

Over 40% of cases are children under 5 years of age

It's the **number 1...** 

Cause of death in hospitals

Cause for hospital readmissions

Healthcare cost (\$62bn in USA pa alone)

Over **40%** of survivors suffer from long-term physical or psychological effects

#### Who is at risk?



#### Anyone can get sepsis. It is indiscriminate of:



Age



**Ethnicity** 



Socio-Economic status

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#### **Unmet Needs**



- Current diagnosis is empirical, multi-factorial and subjective.
- CURRENT methods of assessment (SOFA and APACHE II) are both complex & slow.
- Accepted need for improved diagnostics<sup>1</sup>.

1. Rudd et al. 2020 The Lancet doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(19)32989-7.

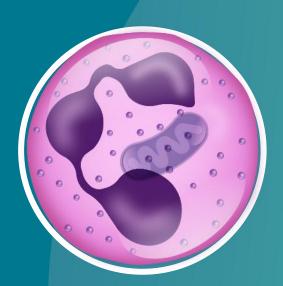
#### **Volition's Mission**



Develop a low-cost, easy-to-use, rapid diagnostic test to save lives and improve outcomes for patients worldwide.

We are here to present Nu.Q<sup>®</sup> NETs H3.1 assay, a novel, clinically relevant biomarker which has the potential to change the management of patients with sepsis.

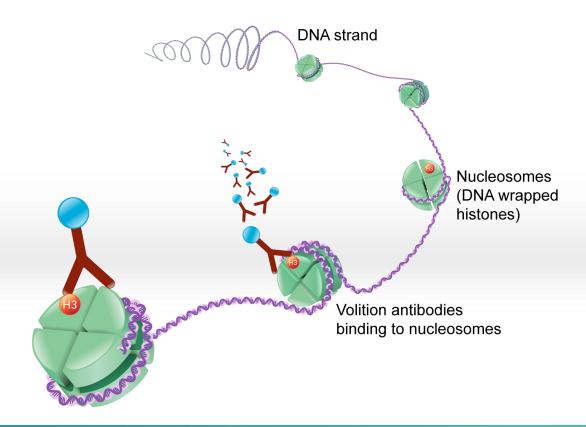
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# Why is H3.1 key: The biology & scientific rationale

#### **Nucleosomes and histones:**





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#### **Nucleosomes and histones:**

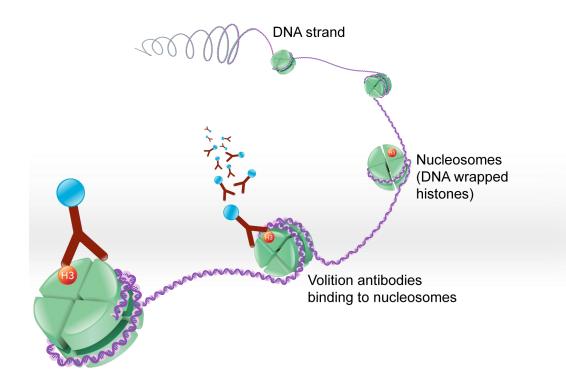


#### **Key message:**

The H3.1 assay can detect nucleosomes using chemiluminescence technology and provide a result within 15 minutes

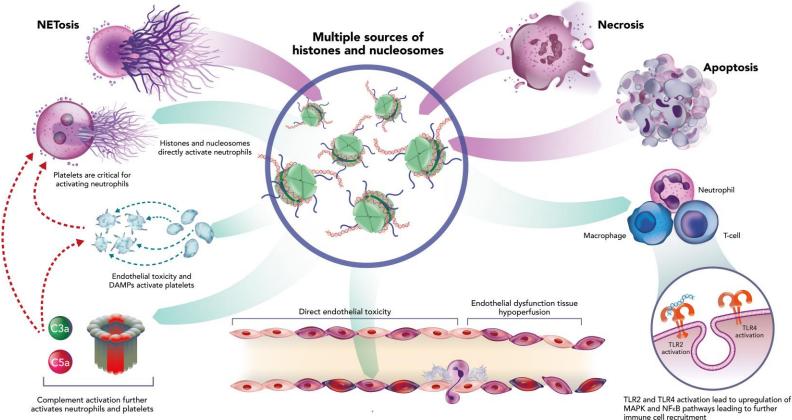
The lower limit of quantification is 20ng/ml

The upper limit of quantification is 20,000ng/ml



## H3.1 as a Damage-Associated Molecular Protein





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Silk et al. Cell Death & Disease, 2017 http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/cddis.2017.52

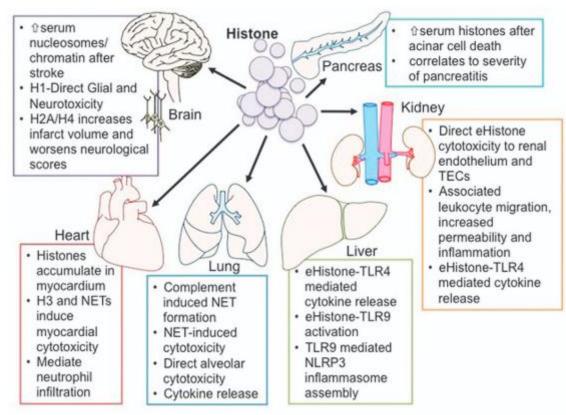


H3.1 sits as a triumvirate of innate immunity, inflammation and coagulation.

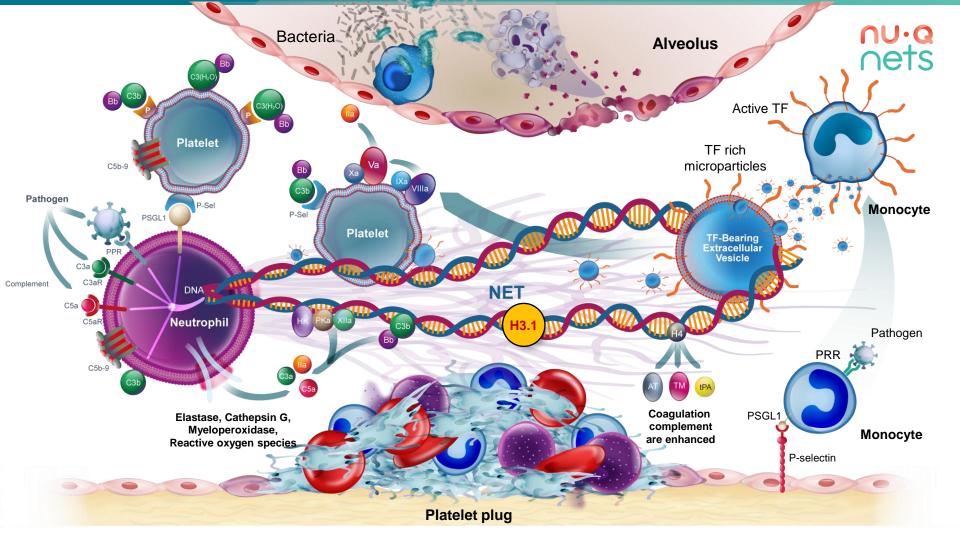
The majority of extracellular pathology is due to the indiscriminate binding of anionic components of the circulation and vasculature.

### **Extracellular Histones and Organ Injury**

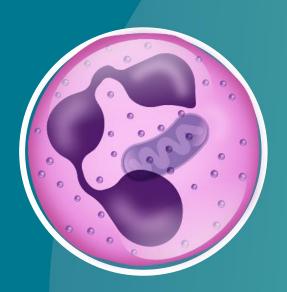




Silk et al, Cell Death & Disease, 2017 http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/cddis.2017.52







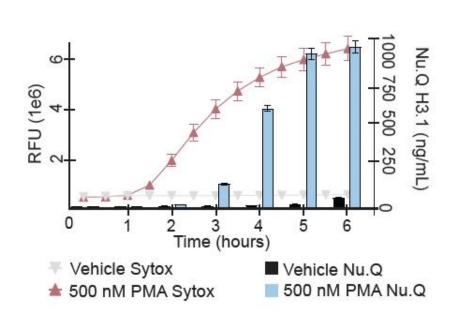
# The role of H3.1 in NETosis:

...proving we are measuring what we say we are measuring!

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#### **H3.1 Nucleosome Levels Increase With NETosis**





Zukas et al, Journal of Thrombosis & Hemastasis, 2024 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtha.2024.05.028

0 min 50 µm

JTH Commentary, Sept 2024 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtha.2024.06.016

#### **Kinetic Information**



H3.1 is not impacted by height, weight, age, sex<sup>1</sup>

H3.1 is not impacted by the circadian rhythm<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1.</sup> Neumann et al, under review

<sup>2.</sup> RHU Records Data Set, data on file

#### **Innovation Lab Publications**



https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtha.2024.05.028

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Rapid high-throughput method for investigating physiological regulation of neutrophil extracellular trap formation

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Kieran Zukas<sup>1</sup> | Justin Cayford<sup>1</sup> | Finley Serneo<sup>1</sup> | Brandi Atteberry<sup>1</sup> | Andrew Retter<sup>2</sup> | Mark Eccleston<sup>1</sup> | Theresa K. Kelly<sup>1</sup> •
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"The NET Effect" - Neutrophil extracellular traps: a potential key component of the dysregulated host immune response in sepsis

Andrew Retter1.2.3\*, Mervyn Singer4, and Diillali Annane5,6,7,8

Understanding the complex chromatin dynamics in primary human neutrophils during PMA-induced NET formation

Brandi Atteberry<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin P. Berman<sup>1,2</sup>, Theresa K. Kelly<sup>1</sup> and Justin Cayford<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Innovation Laboratory, Volition America, Carlsbad, CA, United States, <sup>2</sup>Department of Developmental Biology and Cancer Research, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel

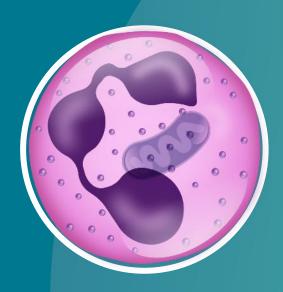
"The NET Effect" - Neutrophil extracellular traps: a potential key component of the dysregulated host immune response in sepsis

# Published Paper

#### The key take home messages are:

- Neutrophils are key cells in fighting off invading pathogens. They can swallow up invading micororgansisms. They can also eject their DNA in the form of neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs). These webs as DNA can trap pathogens. NETs act as a critical bridge between our blood coagulation system and our immune system.
- 2. When NETs are released in excess blood vessels become inflamed and damaged. This process is called thromboinflammation and contributes to organ failure by disrupting the blood supply. Targeting excessive release of NETs represents a promising diagnostic and therapeutic strategy.

Retter, Singer and Annane, Crit Care, 2025 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1186/s13054-025-05283-0">https://doi.org/10.1186/s13054-025-05283-0</a>



# **Clinical Data**

# Studies at Centers of Excellence: >3000 patients nets



Study	Country	Description	Cohort Size	Status
SISPCT	Germany	Retrospective analysis of prospectively collected cohort	971 intensive care patients Multiple timepoints	Completed. Manuscript under review. Available on MedRXIV
Amsterdam UMC	Netherlands	Retrospective analysis of prospectively collected cohort	1,713 intensive care patients Multiple timepoints	Completed. Manuscript submitted
RHU RECORDS	France	Prospective, multi-center, placebo controlled, bio-marker-guided, adaptive Bayesian design basket trial	1,500 intensive care patients Interim analysis of 416 patients	Study ongoing
CLUED (CRO organized)	U.S.	Prospective, blinded, longitudinal cohort study.	200 patients (intensive care and emergency department)	Completed. Data on file

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## **Executive Summary: consolidated conclusions**



Results from three independent studies totalling over 3,000 patients. These findings are consistent across cohorts<sup>1-3</sup>

An elevated H3.1 level reflects a dysregulated immune response and is associated with:

- a risk of increased mortality
- an increased risk of septic shock
- an increased risk of (multi-) organ failure
- an increased risk of ARDS
- an increased risk of renal failure

...could be thought of as a Treatable Trait in sepsis management

1. Neumann et al, under review; 2. Daan F.L. Filippini et al. Data on File. Manuscript submitted; 3. RHU Records Data Set, data on file

#### Prognostic value of admission H3.1 nucleosome levels in sepsisassociated acute kidney injury: a secondary analysis of the SISPCT randomised clinical trial



Caroline Neumann et al.

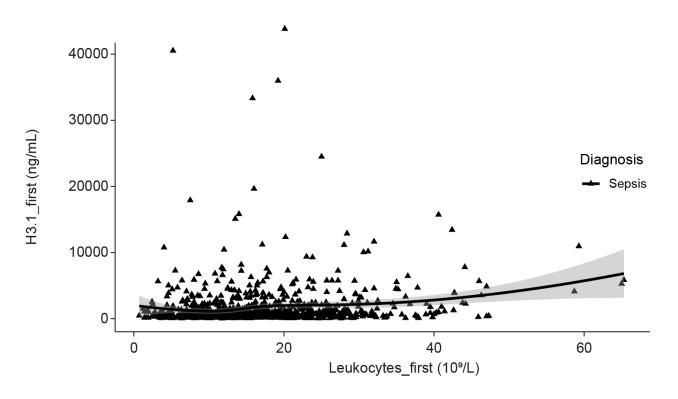
This is the first publication of a large independent cohort of Intensive Care patients. We analysed H3.1 nucleosome levels in 971 patients with sepsis and septic shock.

- The key take home message is that H3.1 nucleosomes are a promising novel biomarker for early mortality and organ dysfunction in sepsis, with significantly higher levels found in septic shock than sepsis patients and a clear doseresponse relationship with acute kidney injury severity.
- The findings establish H3.1 nucleosomes as an independent predictor of 28-day mortality and need for renal replacement therapy.

• The paper demonstrates that Nu.Q® H3.1 provides **ADDITIONAL** information to the clinician and suggests its potential clinical utility for risk stratification and early intervention in critically ill patients presenting with sepsis.

# Correlation between admission H3.1 nucleosome levels and white cell count





1. Neumann et al, under review

# Mortality risk for different levels of H3.1 on admission

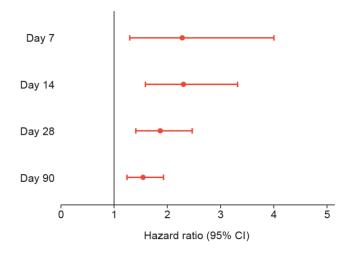


14 day mortality	Survivor			
Initial H3.1 (ng/mL)	Yes	No	Total	Risk
>20,000	0	5	5	100%
10,000-20,000	12	4	16	25%
1,000-10,000	264	36	300	12%
<1,000	508	40	548	7%
Total	784	85	869	10%

<sup>1.</sup> Neumann et al, under review

# Association between log-transformed H3.1 nucleosome levels at admission and mortality risk over time in sepsis patients



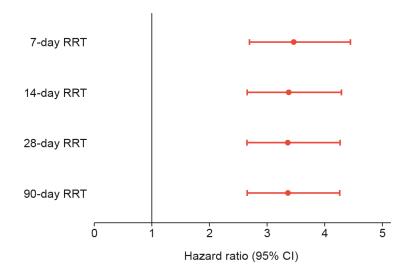


Forest plot demonstrating the hazard ratios (HRs) with 95% confidence intervals (Cls) for mortality at days 7, 14, 28 and 90 in relation to admission H3.1 nucleosome levels (log-10 transformed) in sepsis and septic shock patients. The analysis shows the strongest association between H3.1 levels and early mortality (day 7: HR 2.28, 95% Cl 1.30–4.01; day 14: HR 2.30, 95% Cl 1.59–3.32), with a gradual attenuation over time (day 28: HR 1.86, 95% Cl 1.41–2.47; day 90: HR 1.54, 95% Cl 1.24–1.93). All associations remained statistically significant (p<0.05) throughout the 90-day follow-up period. The raw data are shown in Supplemental Table 3.

1. Neumann et al, under review

#### Forest plots of hazard ratios for RRT outcomes





Forest plot showing adjusted hazard ratios with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for renal replacement therapy (RRT) outcomes at different time points after admission in sepsis and septic shock patients (n=831). The analysis demonstrates consistent hazard ratios of approximately 3.5–4.0 across all time periods (7, 14, 28 and 90 days), indicating that elevated admission H3.1 nucleosome levels (>2500 ng/mL) are associated with increased risk of requiring RRT. The sustained elevation in hazard ratios suggests that admission H3.1 levels may have prognostic value for predicting RRT requirements throughout the critical care stay. The raw data are shown in Supplemental Table 7.

1. Neumann et al, under review

# Plasma H3.1 nucleosomes as biomarkers of sepsis and organ failure



Daan F.L. Filippini et al

It is our largest study yet; 1713 patients with 4283 samples analyzed from a well characterized cohort and a highly respected consortium.

- The key take home message is that organ failure and inflammation in sepsis are closely associated with NETosis, measured through our Nu.Q® H3.1 nucleosome levels.
- Patients with acute kidney injury (AKI), disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) exhibit significantly higher H3.1 levels compared to those without these conditions.
- Additionally, H3.1 levels show promise in differentiating hyper- and hypo-inflammatory endotypes.
- Like Neumann et al, the paper demonstrates that Nu.Q® H3.1 provides ADDITIONAL information to the clinician and suggests its potential clinical utility for risk stratification and early intervention in critically ill patients presenting with sepsis.
- The differentiation between hyper- and hypo-inflammatory endotypes is particularly interesting in that H3.1 could potentially help "personalise" sepsis care and treatment.

Manuscript complete. Submitted for review



**Table 2.** Baseline H3.1 nucleosomes and mortality

	All		Hypoinflammatory		Hyperinflammatory	•
	n <u>= 1638</u>		n = 1099		n = 538	
	OR (95% CI) per log10 increase	<i>P</i> value	OR (95% CI) per log10 increase	<i>P</i> value	OR (95% CI) per log10 increase	<i>P</i> value
30-day mortality	1.65 (1.4-1.95)	< 0.001	1.23 (0.97-1.55)	0.093	1.58 (1.22-2.06)	0.001
90-day mortality	1.6 (1.37-1.87)	< 0.001	1.23 (0.99-1.53)	0.057	1.47 (1.14-1.91)	0.003

Values are presented as odds ratio (OR) per log10 increase of baseline H3.1 nucleosome concentration, along with the 95% confidence interval (CI). Values are derived by a logistic regression.

## **Summary**



- We have shared a taster of clinical data and scientific evidence to support the use of our proprietary Nu.Q® NETs H3.1 assay
- We believe the data supports the fact that H3.1 will become an integral biomarker in the management of sepsis; it is both a marker of badness and a cause of consequence (as histones contribute to organ injury) which in turn means H3.1 could not only be aid to diagnosis but also be a therapeutic target.

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# Summary

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# Licensing Portfolio: Platform stable, reproducible Volition (1)

Application	Proof of Concept	Viability study	Final Validation study	Licensed
Animal				
Canine Cancer Screening				Launched
Canine Cancer Monitoring			$\rightarrow$	
Feline Cancer		$\rightarrow$		
Automated test				In negotiation
Human			Regulatory/Adoption study	/
Sepsis				Data room available
Sepsis Cancer				Data room available  Data room
Cancer			<b>\</b>	Data room
Cancer Lung Cancer Screening Minimal Residual Disease &		<b>\</b>		Data room  Data room

## **Investment Summary: NYSE:VNRX**



- Listed NYSE, commercial stage diagnostics company developing low-cost, early detection and treatment monitoring diagnostics in human and animal health
  - Disease areas global killers: Cancer, Sepsis; significant market opportunities,
     >\$10's Billion
  - \$23 million in vet milestone payments banked
  - Early 2025 revenue targeting:
- Nu.Q<sup>®</sup> Vet (8 licensing deals already selling)
- Nu.Q<sup>®</sup> Discover
- Nu.Q<sup>®</sup> NETs / Nu.Q<sup>®</sup> Cancer direct/indirect sales of CE-Marked human clinical product(s) in Europe

# 2025 Focus: closing large human licencing deals, in cancer and sepsis





# **Question & Answer Session**

Lou Batchelor



#### Thank you for your interest in Volition.

For more details, please visit www.volition.com

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