

# What's Next for Cancer Immunotherapy?

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# Financial Disclosures:

- **Consultant for:** Merck (compensated), Pfizer (compensated), Celgene (compensated), AstraZeneca/Medimmune (compensated), Morphosys (compensated), Roche (compensated), GeneSeq (compensated), Loxo (compensated), Oncorus (compensated), Symphogen (compensated)
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- **Stockholder in:** Agios (spouse)
- **Employee of:** None



**reatment of Patients with  
 stable or Metastatic**

**FDA Approv  
 Newly Diagn  
 Melanoma, t**

- First a **FDA News Release**
- First **Improv**
- First **F**
- First **A**
- Risk Ev **YERVO**

**FDA approval brings first  
 United States**

**CAR T-cell therapy approved to treat certain childr  
 lymphoblastic leukemia**



**THE NOBEL PRIZE  
 IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE 2018**

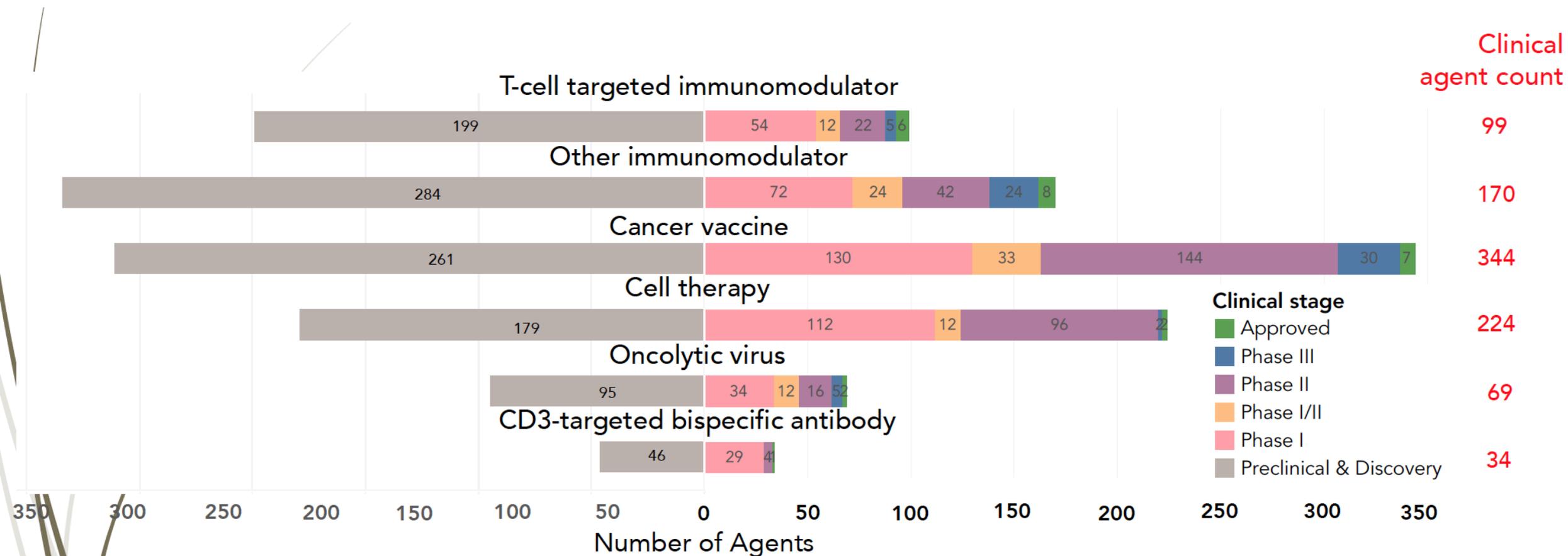
**James P. Allison • Tasuku Honjo**  
 “for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition  
 of negative immune regulation”  
 THE NOBEL ASSEMBLY AT KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET

# Key Challenges of IO Development

- Identification of the most promising agents for clinical development
- Complexities of IO phase I trials
- Development of IO combinations
- Biomarker development and validation in IO

# A REVOLUTION IS UNDERWAY: 2,004 IO AGENTS IN DEVELOPMENT

940 AGENTS ARE IN CLINICAL STAGES, AND 1,064 IN PRECLINICAL



Tang, et al. Annals of Oncology 2017

# Over 2,400 Immunotherapy Interventional Studies in Cancer

 U.S. National Library of Medicine

*ClinicalTrials.gov*

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2487 Studies found for: **Immunotherapy | Interventional Studies | Cancer**

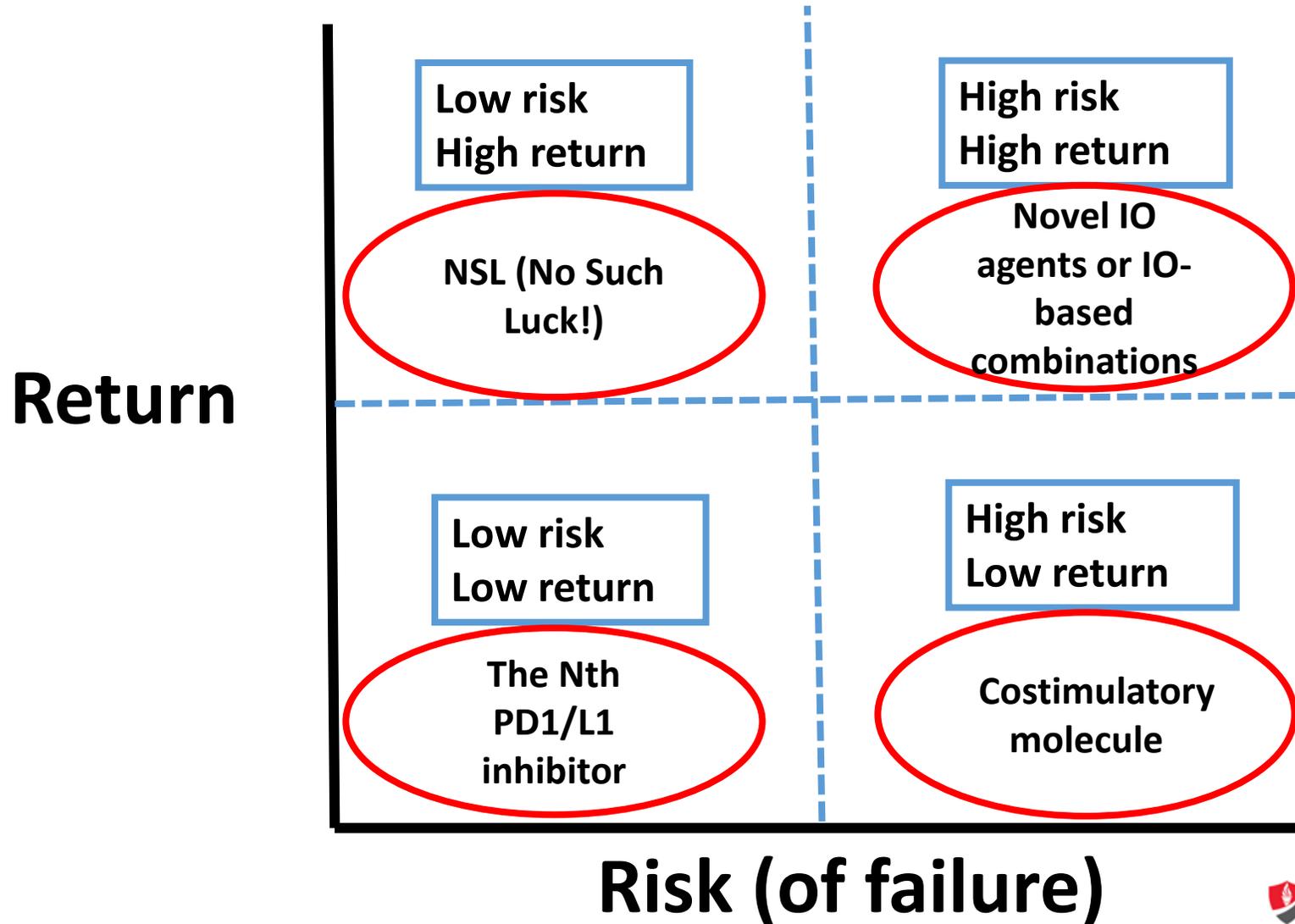
Also searched for **Neoplasm, Tumor, and Malignancy**. [See Search Details](#)

Applied Filters:

**Interventional**

**Accessed March 10, 2019**

# Trade-off in IO Drug Development

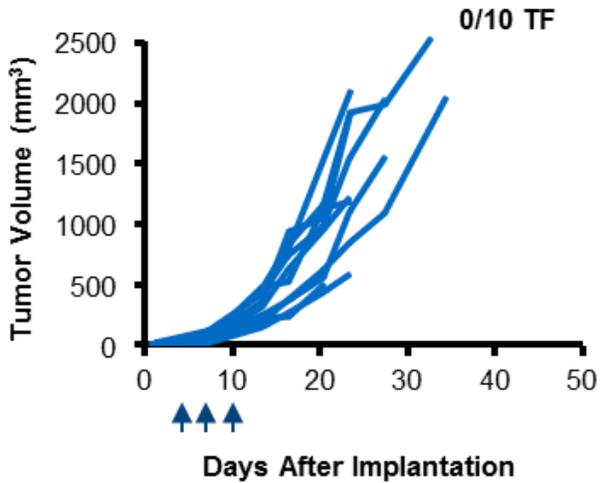


# IO Combinations in Clinical Trials: Basis for Combination – Limited Nonclinical Data and Lack of Reliable Animal Models

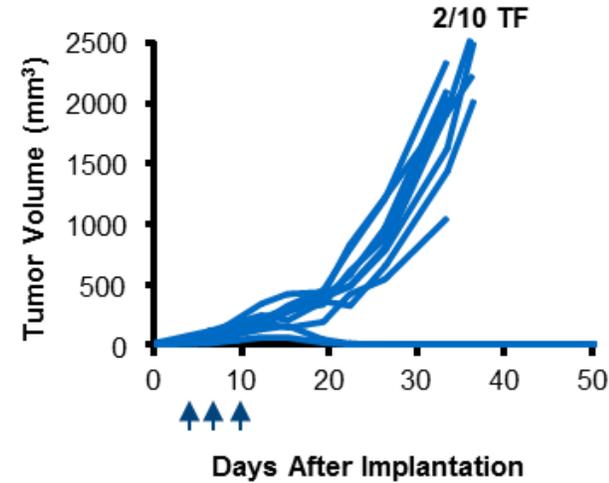
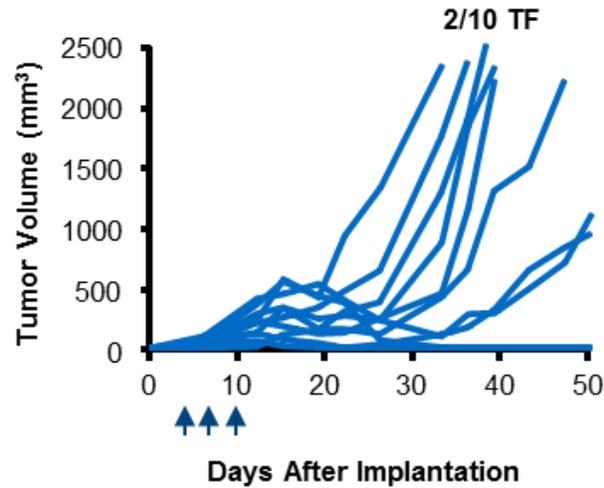
Phase	Agents	Targets	Basis for Combination	NCT
Ib	PF-05082566 (utomilumab) pembrolizumab	4-1BB PD-1	<b>B16F10 melanoma and MC38 colorectal cancer models</b>	02179918
Ib	MOXR0916 atezolizumab	OX40 PD-L1	<b>MC38 colorectal model</b>	02410512
I/II	Epacadostat various PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors	IDO PD-1/PD-L1	<b>B16.SIY melanoma model</b>	multiple trials
I/II	Indoximod nivolumab	IDO PD-1/PD-L1	<b>4T1 breast cancer model</b>	01866319
I/II	BMS-986156 nivolumab	GITR PD-1	<b>MC38 colorectal cancer</b>	02598960

# Non-Clinical Models

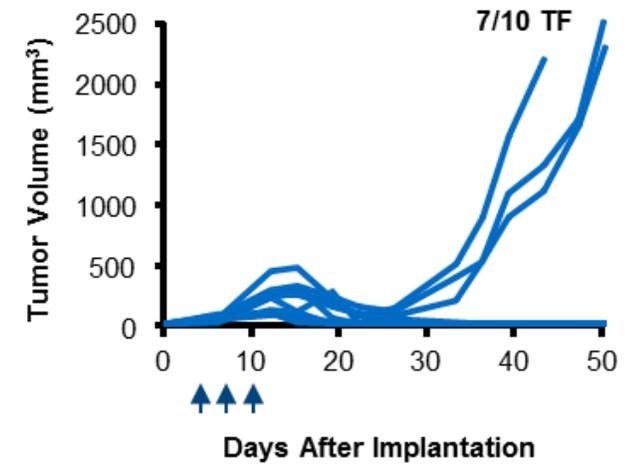
Control  
Anti-PD1



Drug X



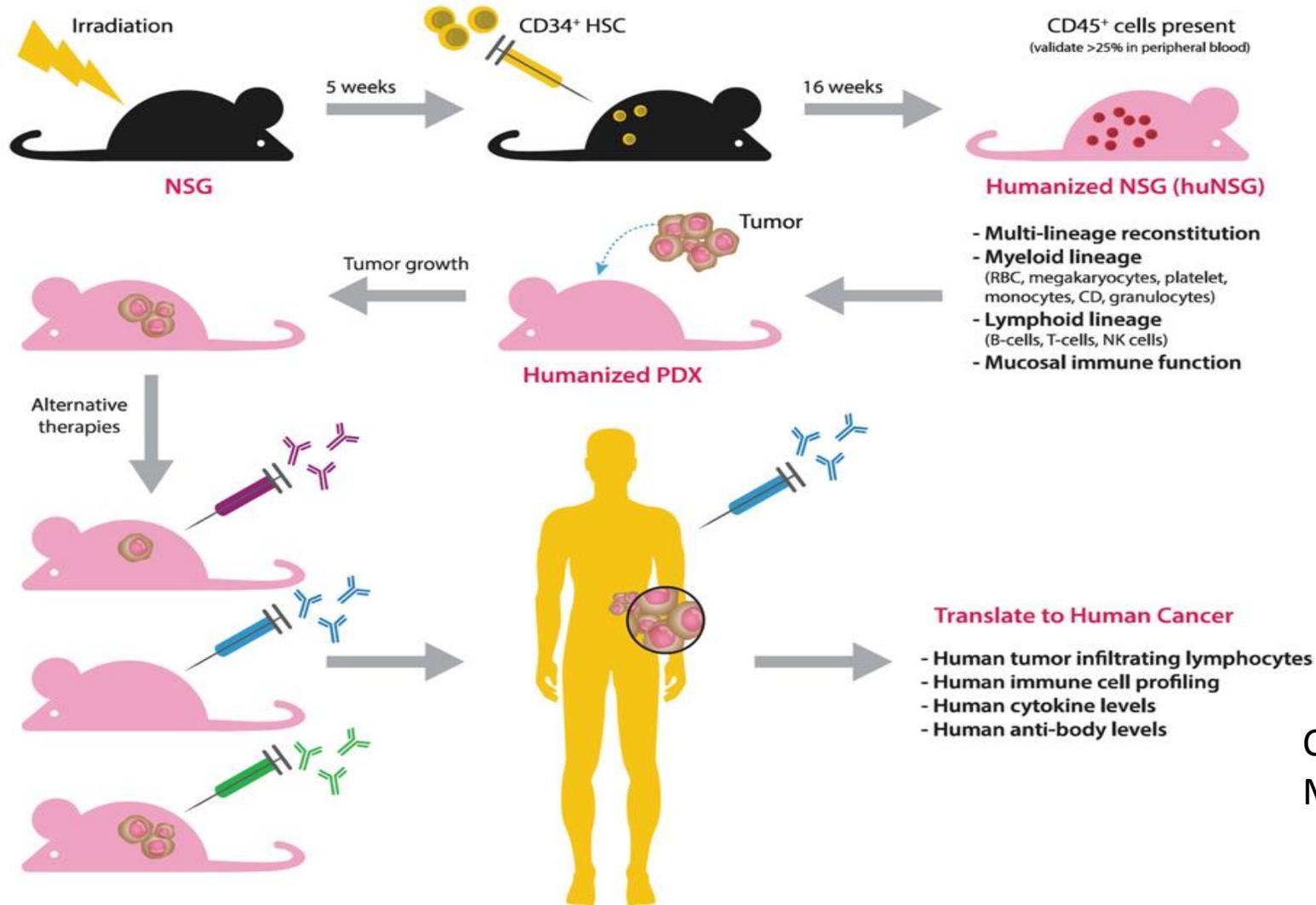
Drug X + Anti-PD1



▲ mAbs: 10 mg/kg<sup>a</sup>

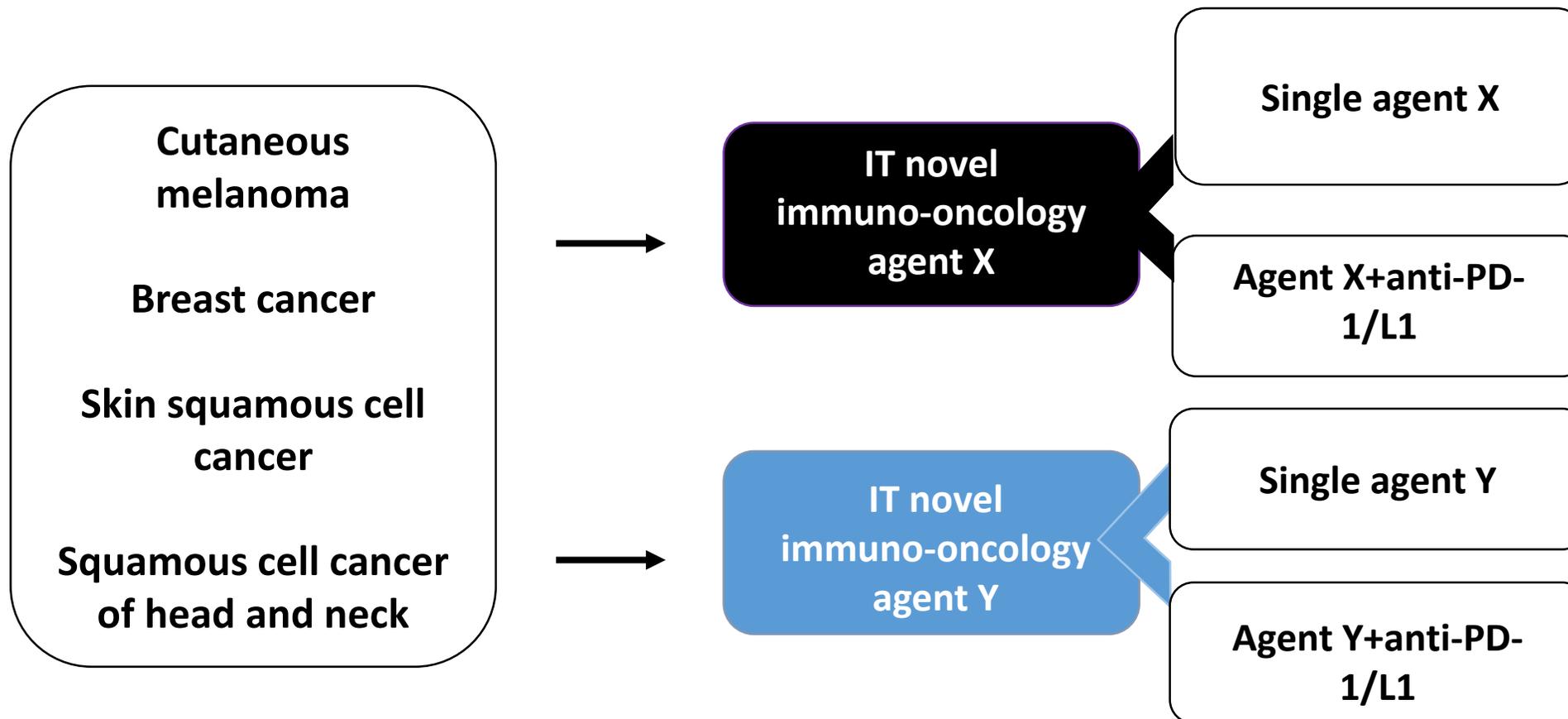
## Syngeneic models

# Humanized Mice for Immunotherapy Models



Choi et al. Experimental & Molecular Medicine 2018

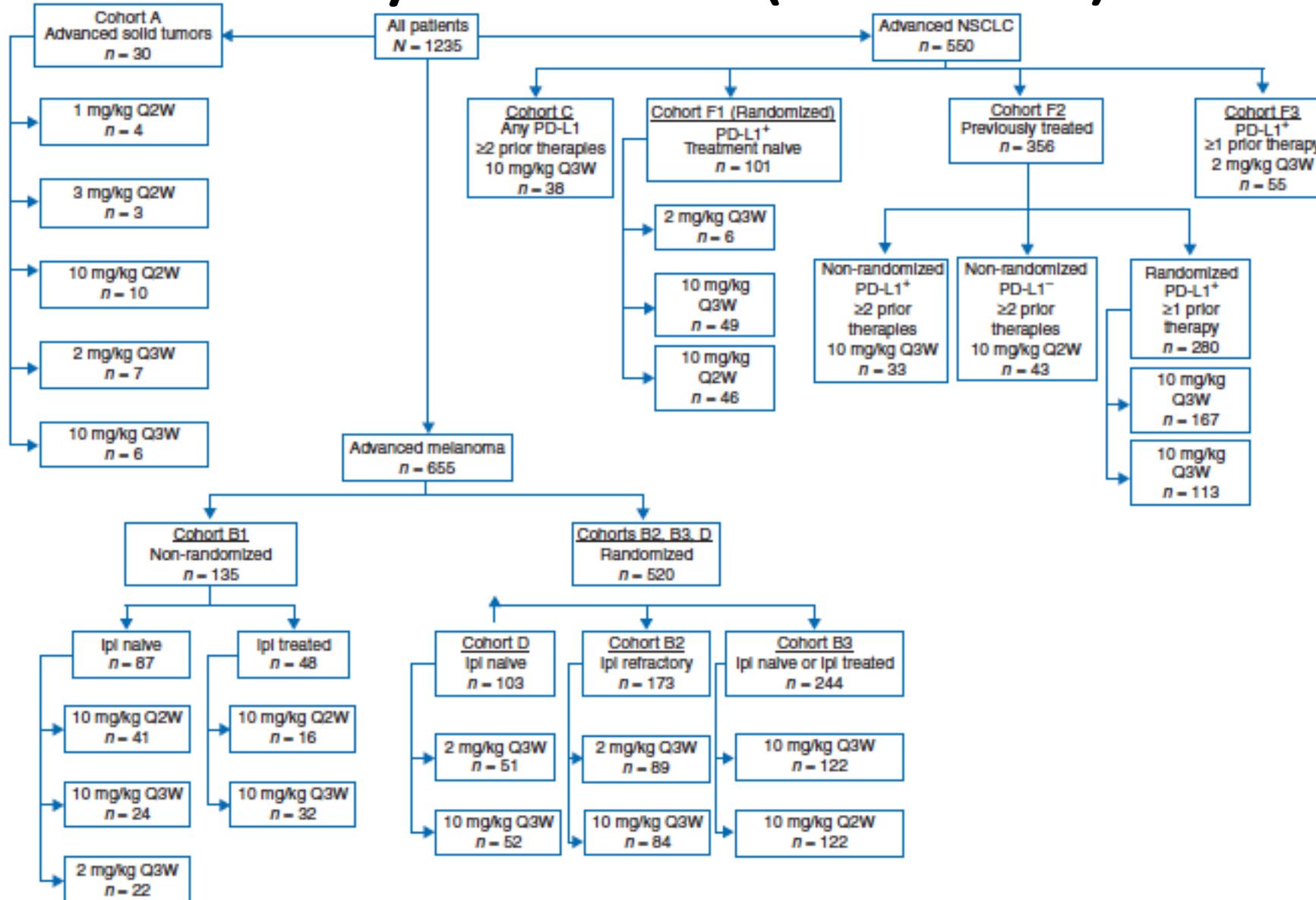
# Phase 0 Evaluation of Novel IO Agents



# Complexities of IO Phase I Trials

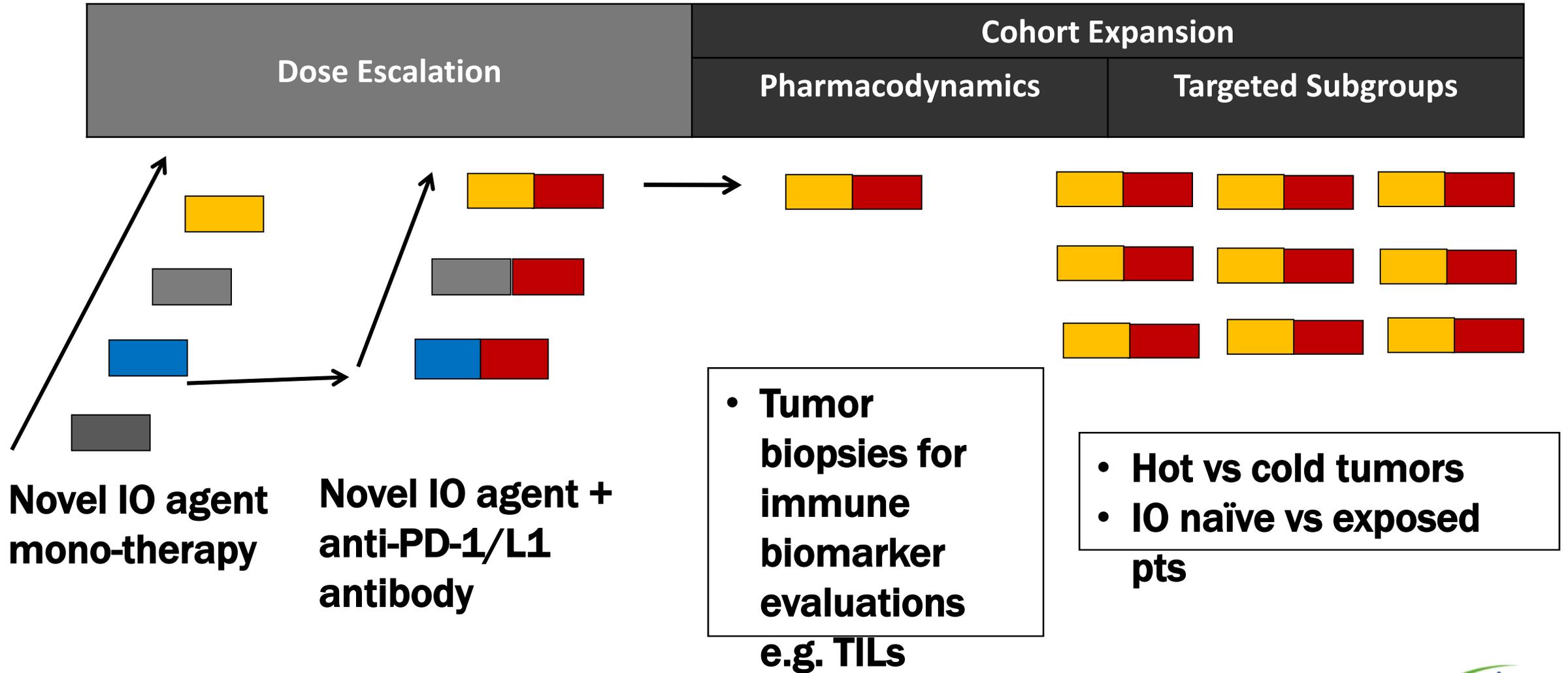
- Design
- Logistics and Economics
- Complexity and safe guards
- Dealing with new toxicities (e.g. CRS)

# Keynote-001 (n = 1235)



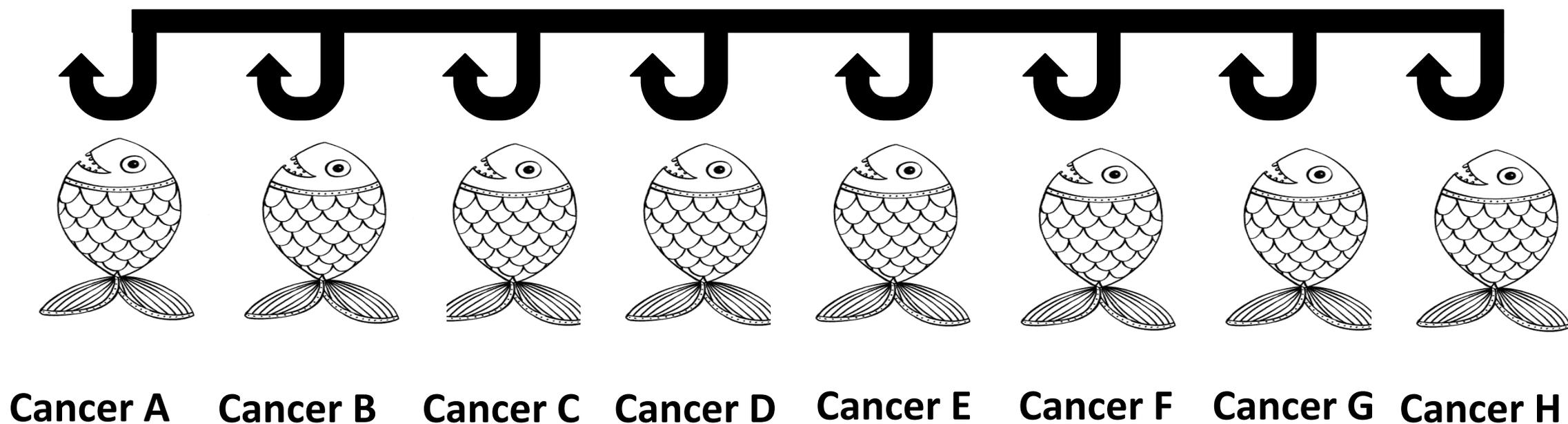
Kang et al. Annals Oncology 2017

# Common IO Phase I Study Design



# Signal-Finding, Multiple Cohort Phase I Trials

## Common Design with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors



# Pros and Cons of Seamless Phase I-II Trials

## Pros:

- Efficiency, time-saving
- Compelling data can lead to accelerated regulatory approval
- Frequent investigator-sponsor communications are critical to ensure safety

## Cons:

- Often huge studies with 100s-1000s of patients – potentially exposing them to subtherapeutic or toxic doses
- Increased complexity often with multiple amendments
- Challenges in disseminating new safety information to investigators, IRBs, regulators in a timely manner
- Objectives, endpoints and statistical analysis plans often lacking
- Diluted clinical experience due to large number of participating sites

Adapted in part from FDA Draft Guidance:

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM616325.pdf>

# Statistical Considerations and Challenges for Seamless Trials

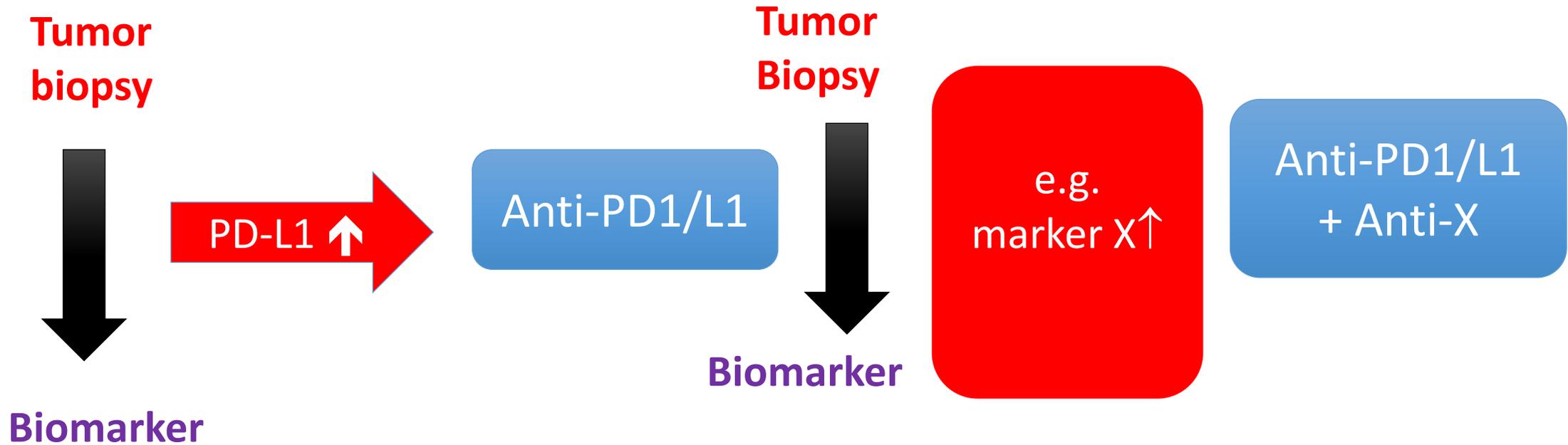
- Must clearly
- Select

“We are phase I trialists carrying the responsibilities of phase III trialists!”

- num
- Interim safety
- Futility analysis to limit enrollment of patients to ineffective regimens

Hobbs and CTEP Clinical Trials Design Task Force. JNCI, 2019

# Adaptive/Preemptive IO **Dynamic** Trial



- Can we individualize each patient's treatment dynamically?

# Risk-Based Management of Novel Therapies

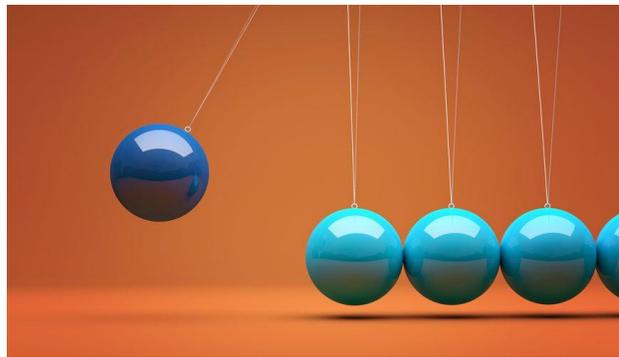
## *CRS / CRES*

Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)/CAR-related Encephalopathy Syndrome (CRES)

Risk Category	Example	Severe CRS Rate	Timing of CRS	Inpatient Requirement	Inpatient CAR-T Package
High	<i>CAR-T</i>	CRS or CRES >10%	Within 1 week of infusion	At least 7 days on cell therapy unit	Required
Medium	<i>TCR Transgenic</i>	CRS 5-10% Or any known CRES	Within 1 week of infusion	4-7 days on cell therapy unit	Can be considered
Low	<i>Bispecific antibodies</i>	CRS Unknown or <5% No known CRES risk	Within 2 days of infusion	At least 2 days for first dose on unit with expertise in CRS management	Not required

From the Princess Margaret Cancer Center Cell Therapy Program

# The Swinging Pendulum.....



## Cytotoxic Chemotherapy

Inpatients for  
complex regimens

## Molecularly Targeted Agents

Largely outpatient  
ambulatory care

## Some Immunotherapy

Some require  
observation for  
cytokine release  
syndrome or even  
ICU admissions

# Development of IO Combinations

- Often tested initially as expansion cohort in phase I studies or in seamless studies
- Go-no-go decisions frequently made based on objective response rates (ORR) in single-arm cohorts without comparators

# Examples of Successful IO Combinations

Combination	Indication	ORR	PFS	OS	Toxicity
<b>Ipilimumab + Nivolumab (CheckMate-067)</b>	<b>Melanoma</b>	<b>CR+PR:</b> I: 19% N: 44% I+N: 58%	<b>3-year PFS:</b> I: 10% N: 32% I+N: 39%	<b>3-year OS:</b> I: 34% N: 52% I+N: 58%	<b>Gr 3/4 TRAE:</b> I: 28% N: 21% I+N: 59%
<b>Pembrolizumab + Chemotherapy (Keynote-189)</b>	<b>NSCLC</b>	<b>CR+PR:</b> C: 19% P+C: 48%	<b>1-year PFS:</b> C: 17% P+C: 34%	<b>1-year OS:</b> C: 49% P+C: 69%	<b>Gr 3-5 AE:</b> C: 66% P+C: 67%
<b>Hu5F9-G4 (anti-CD47) + Rituxumab</b>	<b>NHL (rituximab-refractory)</b>	<b>CR+PR:</b> 36%+14% = 50%	-	-	<b>Mainly Gr 1-2</b>

Wolchok et al. NEJM, 2017; Gandhi et al. NEJM, 2018; Advani et al. NEJM, 2018

# Examples of **Less Successful** IO Combinations

- MYSTIC (Durvalumab + Tremelimumab vs Platinum-based SOC Chemotherapy) in 1L NSCLC with PD-L1  $\geq 25\%$  of tumor cells – PFS and OS endpoints not met
- Pembrolizumab + Epacadostat vs Pembrolizumab + Placebo in stage III/IV melanoma – OS endpoint not met

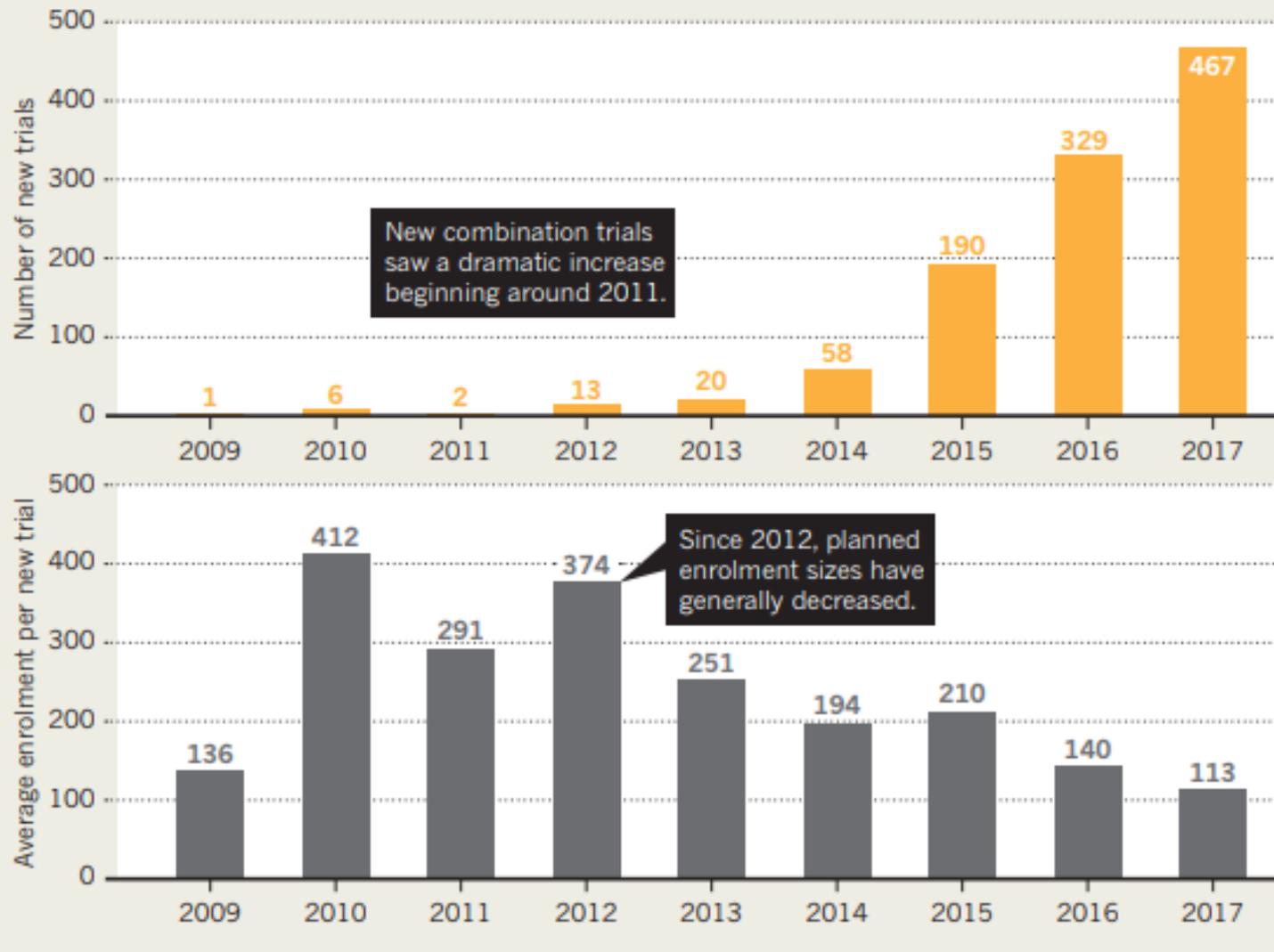
Long et al ASCO 2018

## Challenges in Designing Rational IO Combinations

- Need to understand the biological effects different IO agents have on T cells, other immune cells and the tumor microenvironment to design rational combinations
- Beyond ORR, what are the best endpoints for go-no-go decisions? What thresholds define potential antitumor efficacy? The readouts are complicated by heterogeneous pt populations some of whom may be responding to anti-PD1/L1 antibody alone
- Biomarker-driven combination studies are needed

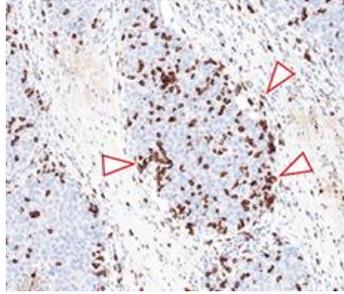
## IN COMBINATION: MORE TRIALS, BETTER TARGETED

The number of new clinical trials that combine checkpoint inhibitors targeting PD-1 or PD-L1 with other treatments is soaring worldwide. At the same time, the average planned enrolment for each trial is dropping, partly reflecting more targeted study populations.



Schmidt, Nature 2017, Tang, et al. Annals of Oncology 2017

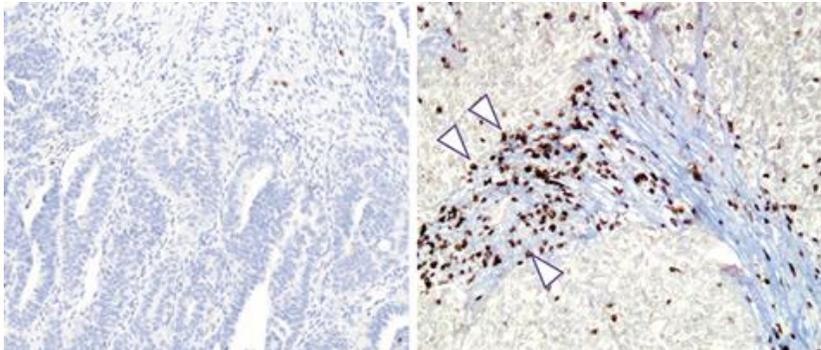
# Combination Strategies in the Post-Anti-PD-1/L1 Era



**Inflamed**

→ **Anti-PD-1/anti-PD-L1**

- + anti-CTLA4, other immune checkpoint inhibitors
- + radiation/SBRT
- + immune activating antibodies or cytokines
- + TLR agonists or oncolytic viruses
- + IDO or macrophage inhibitors
- + targeted therapies
- + chemotherapy



Bring T cells into tumors:

**Immune desert**

**Immune excluded**

Generate/Expand T cells:

- Vaccines
- TCR engineered ACT
- CAR engineered ACT
- Expanded T cells/TIL

Adopted from Marc Butler

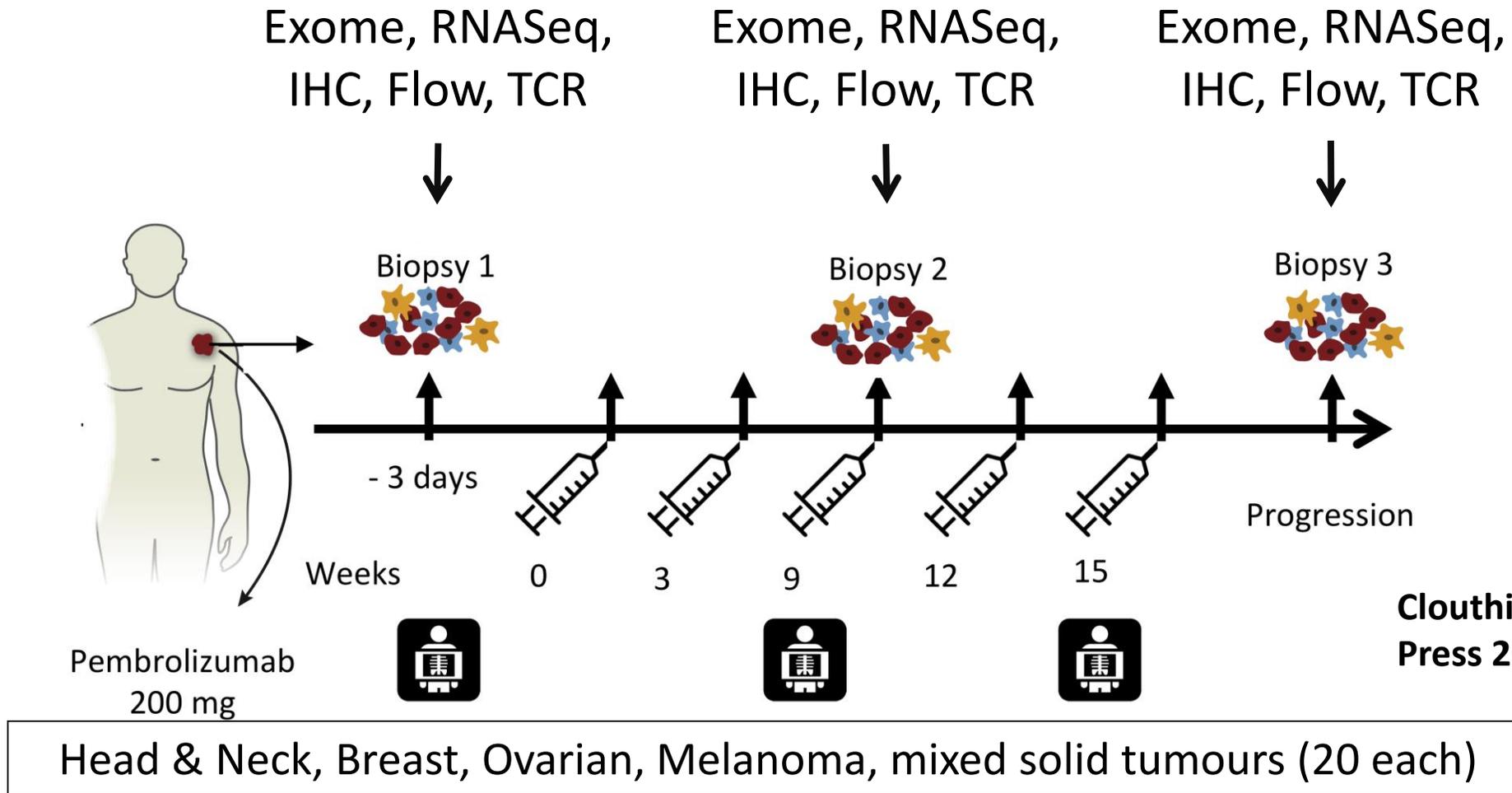
# Biomarker Identification and Validation in IO

- Early phase trials offer an excellent opportunities for investigator-initiated efforts especially in the understanding of pharmacodynamics and predictive biomarkers
- Need for data sharing and cross-validation given that most academic investigator-initiated studies are small and lack the power to draw definitive conclusions

# Predictive Biomarkers for IO Agents

- **PD-L1** – Not a perfect predictive biomarker
- **Microsatellite status/Mismatch repair proteins**
- **Genomics-based** – Tumor mutation burden, neoantigens, other genomic-based biomarkers, TCR sequencing, single cell sequencing
- **Immunophenotyping** – Flow cytometry, CyTOF, multiplexed immunohistochemistry/ immunofluorescence
- **Transcriptomic based** – RNAseq, Nanostring
- **Imaging-based** – Radiomics, PET functional imaging
- **Microbiome-based**

# INSPIRE: Investigator-initiated Phase II Study of Pembrolizumab Immunological Response Evaluation

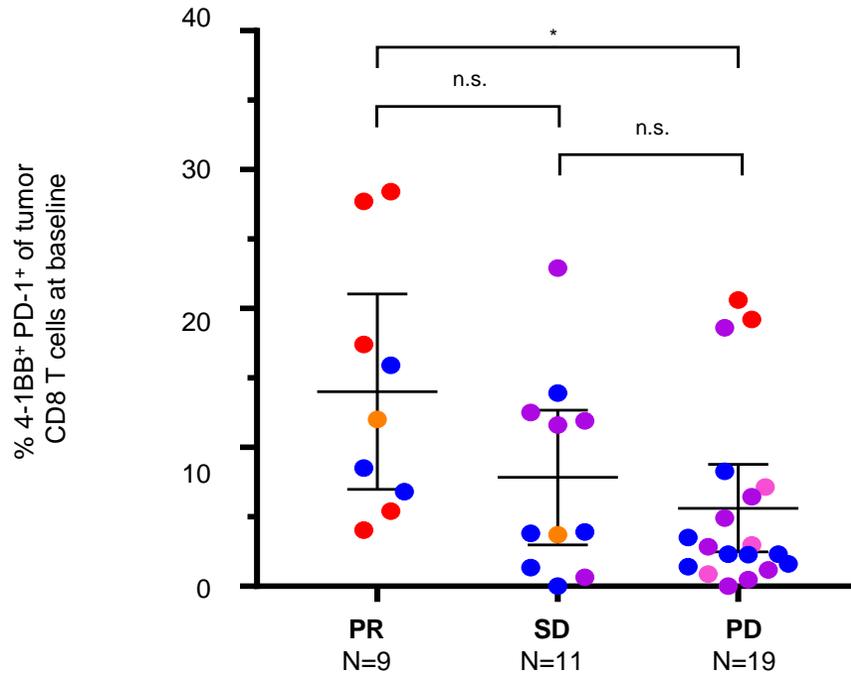


Clouthier et al. JTC, In Press 2019

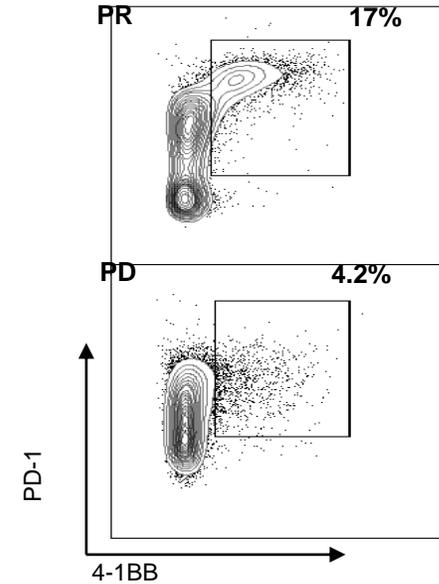
Drug Only Support from Merck

Patients with a confirmed PR had approximately 2-fold more 4-1BB+ PD-1+ CD8 T cells at baseline than patients with a best response of PD (p<0.05) or SD (n.s.) (N = 33 with evaluable paired biopsies)

**A**



**B**



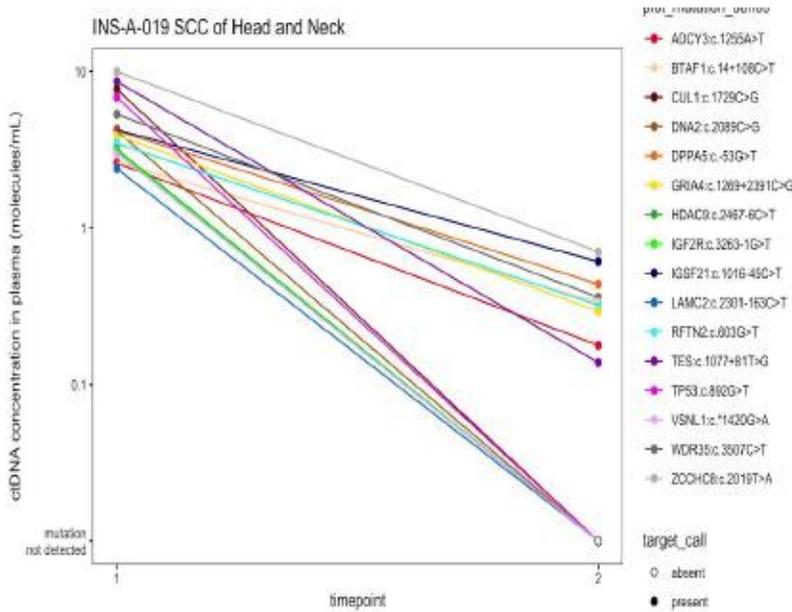
Clouthier et al. JITC, In Press 2019

● SCCHN; ● TNBC; ● HGSC; ● MM; ● MST

**Confidential – Do Not Post**

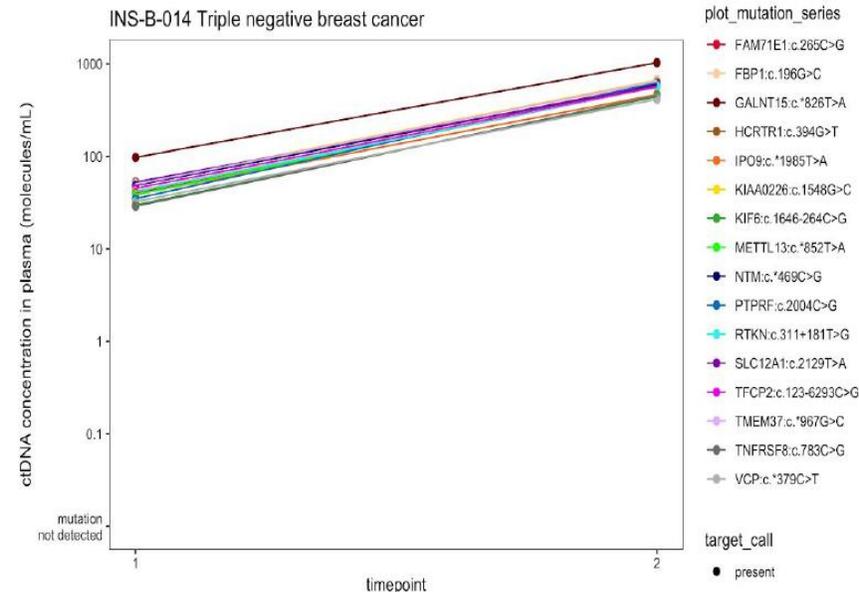
# Bespoke ctDNA Analysis and Correlation with Clinical Outcome (Baseline vs at C3D1 [Week 7])

## INS-A-019



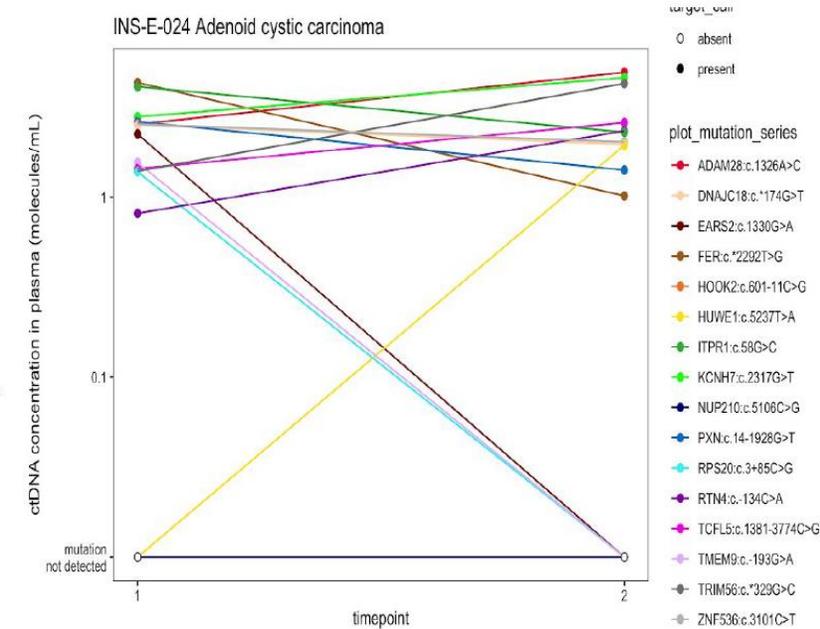
**Head and neck cancer:  
Partial Response**

## INS-B-014



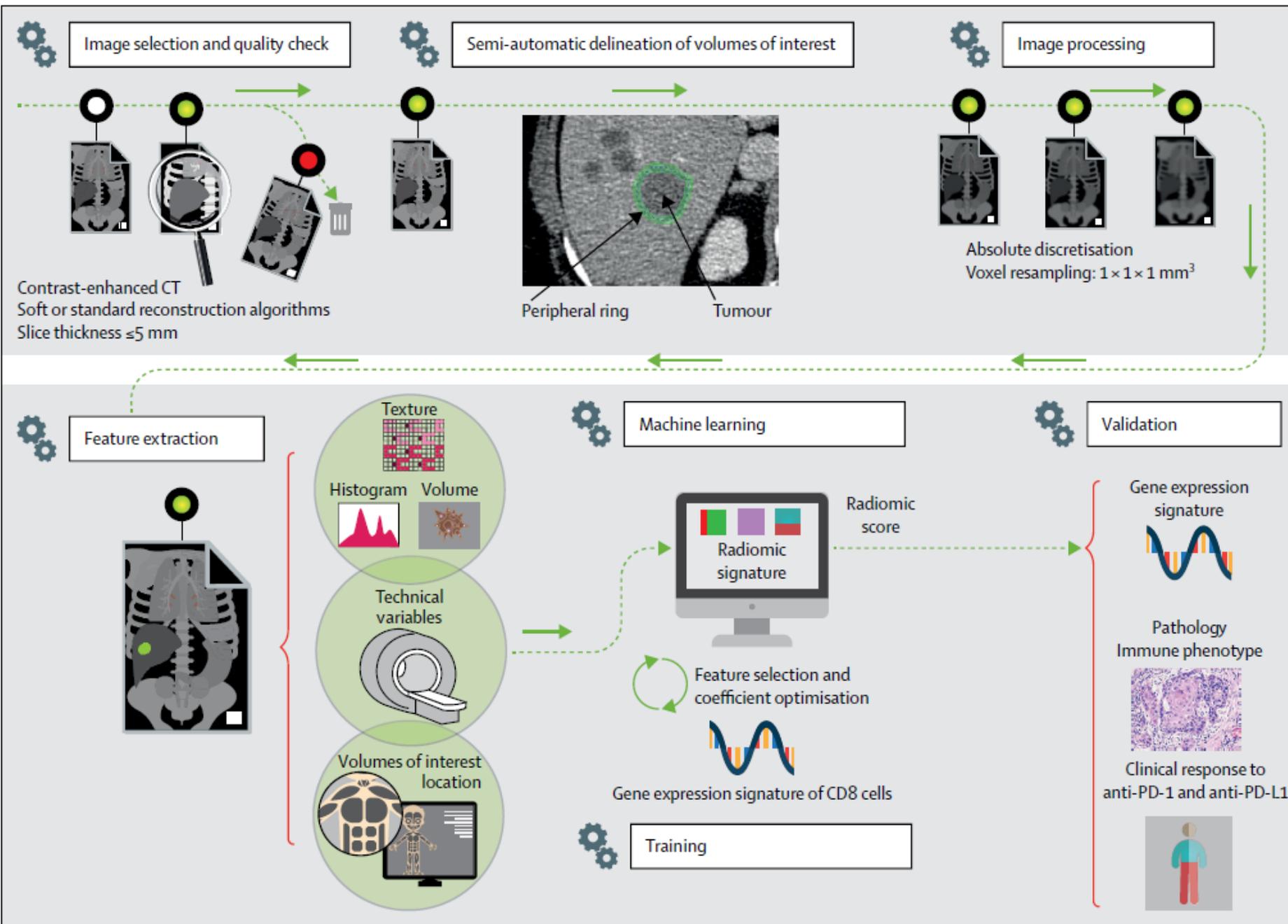
**Triple negative breast cancer:  
Disease Progression**

## INS-E-024

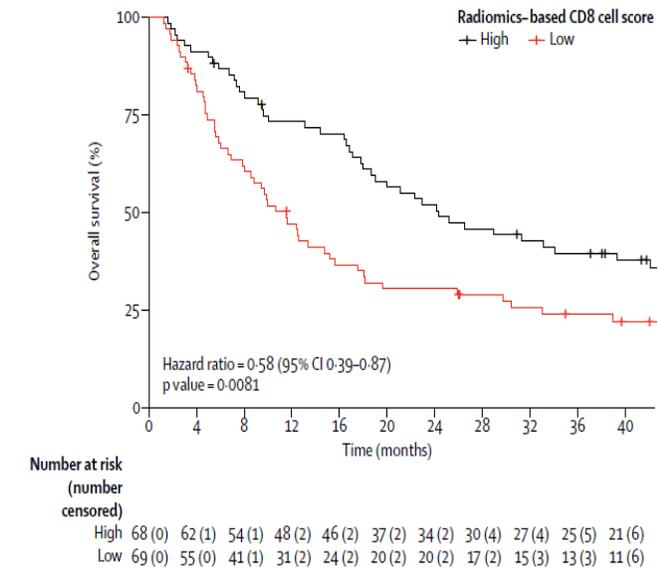


**Adenoid cystic cancer:  
Stable Disease**

**Confidential – Do Not Post**



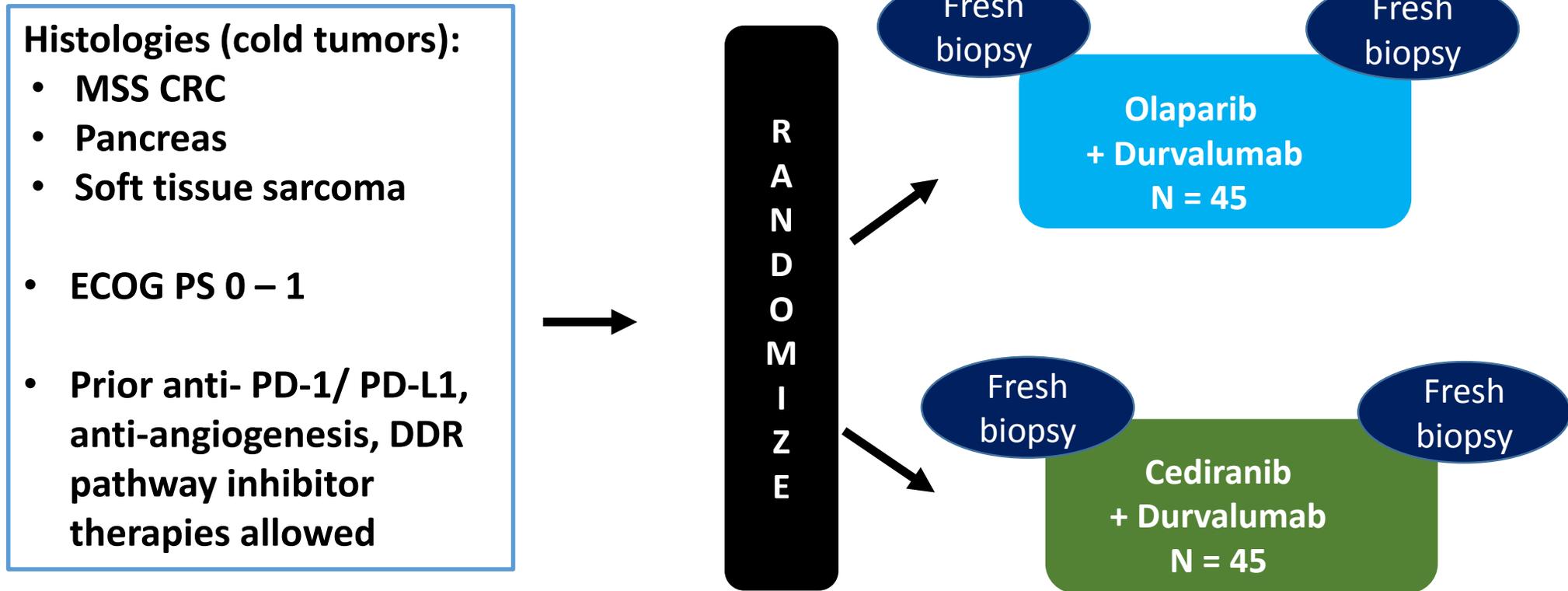
# Using Radiomics to Predict Response to IO



Sun et al. Lancet Oncology 2018



# Basket Combination Study of Inhibitors of DNA Damage Response, Angiogenesis and Programmed Death Ligand 1 in PatiEnts with Advanced Solid TumoRs (**DAPPER**)



**To open March 2019**

# Conclusions

- The emergence of IO era has posed new challenges in multiple aspects:
  - Need better ways to choose the most promising agents to the clinic
  - Rethinking of phase I trial designs that maintain efficiency without comprising on safety or stringency
  - Go-no-go decisions especially for rational IO combinations need to be biology-based and biomarker driven
  - Academia and pharma need to share knowledge to maximize our understanding to provide precision immuno-oncology



# Phase I Program Cancer Genomics Program Tumor Immunotherapy Program at Princess Margaret

