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# ***Ex-Vivo heat shock protein 70-peptide-activated, autologous natural killer cells adoptive therapy: from the bench to the clinic***

iSBTC 10-13 November 2005  
Valeria Milani, MD, PhD  
Munich



# Agenda

- 1. NK ligands**
- 2. HSP70-NK interaction**
- 3. HSP70-activated NK cells adoptive transfer**
- 4. Hyperthermia and NK cells transfer**



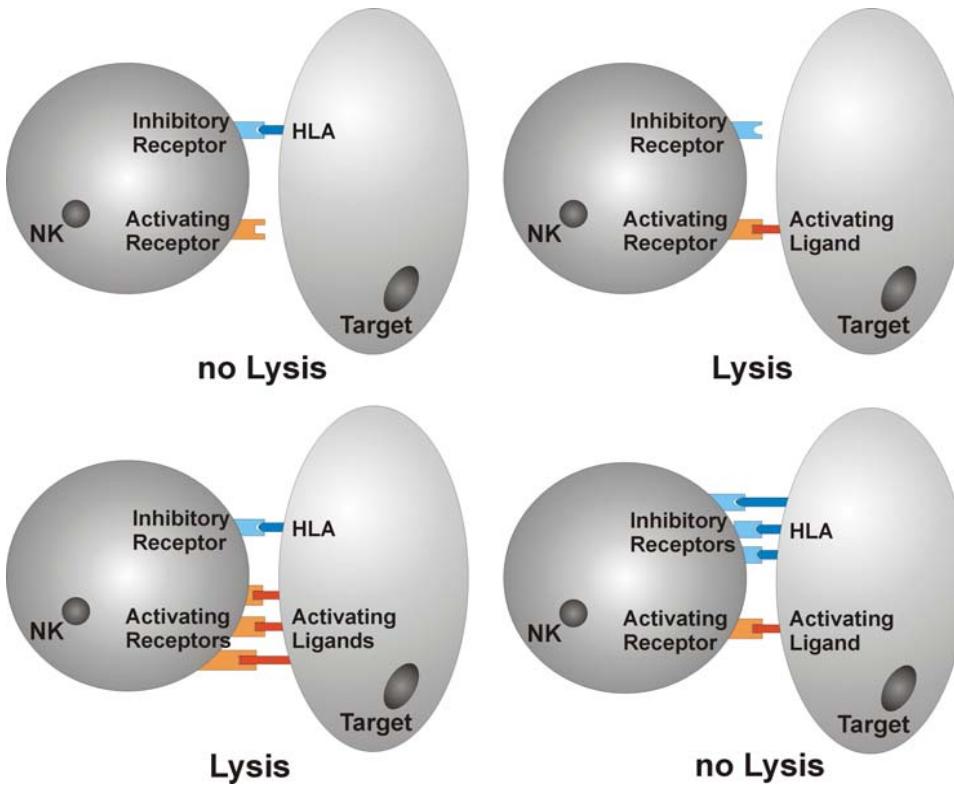
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## **1. NK ligands**



# NK ligands

## Missing self hypothesis

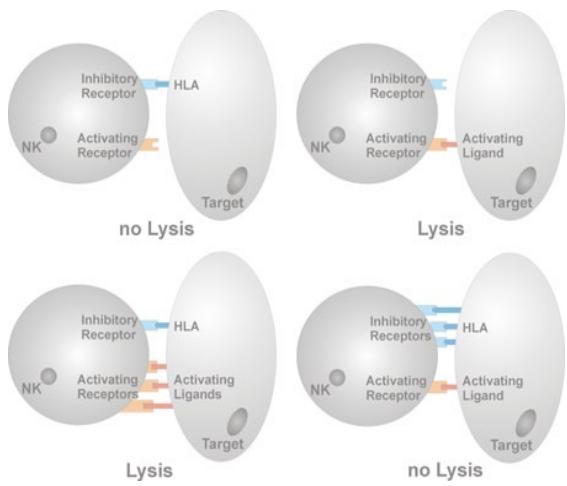


HG. Ljunggren and K. Karre, Immunol Today 11, 237 (1990)



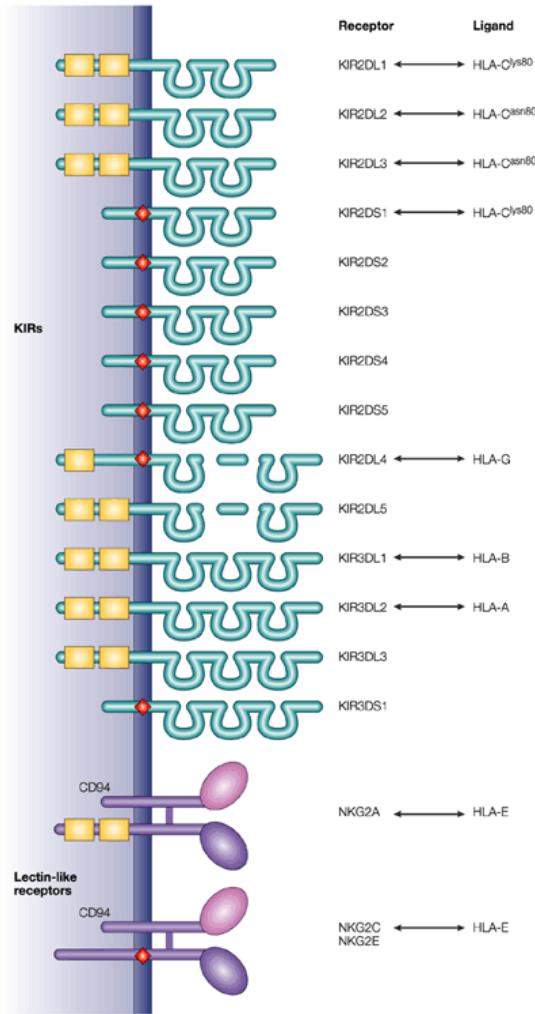
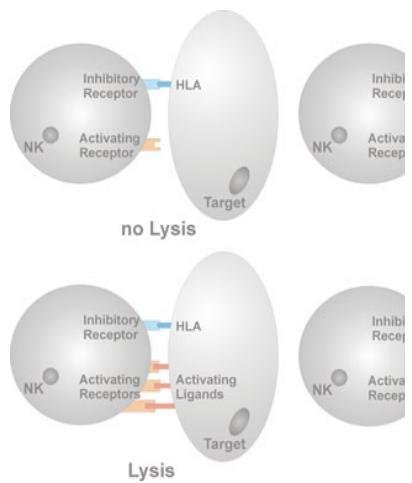
# NK ligands

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# NK ligands

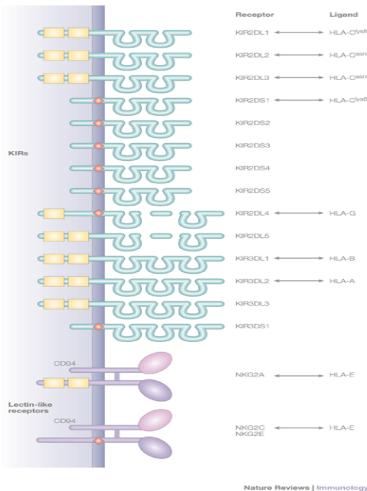
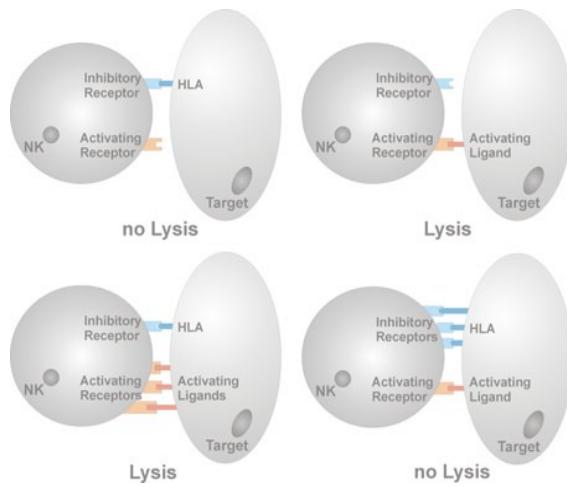
## NK cell receptors



Nature Reviews | Immunology

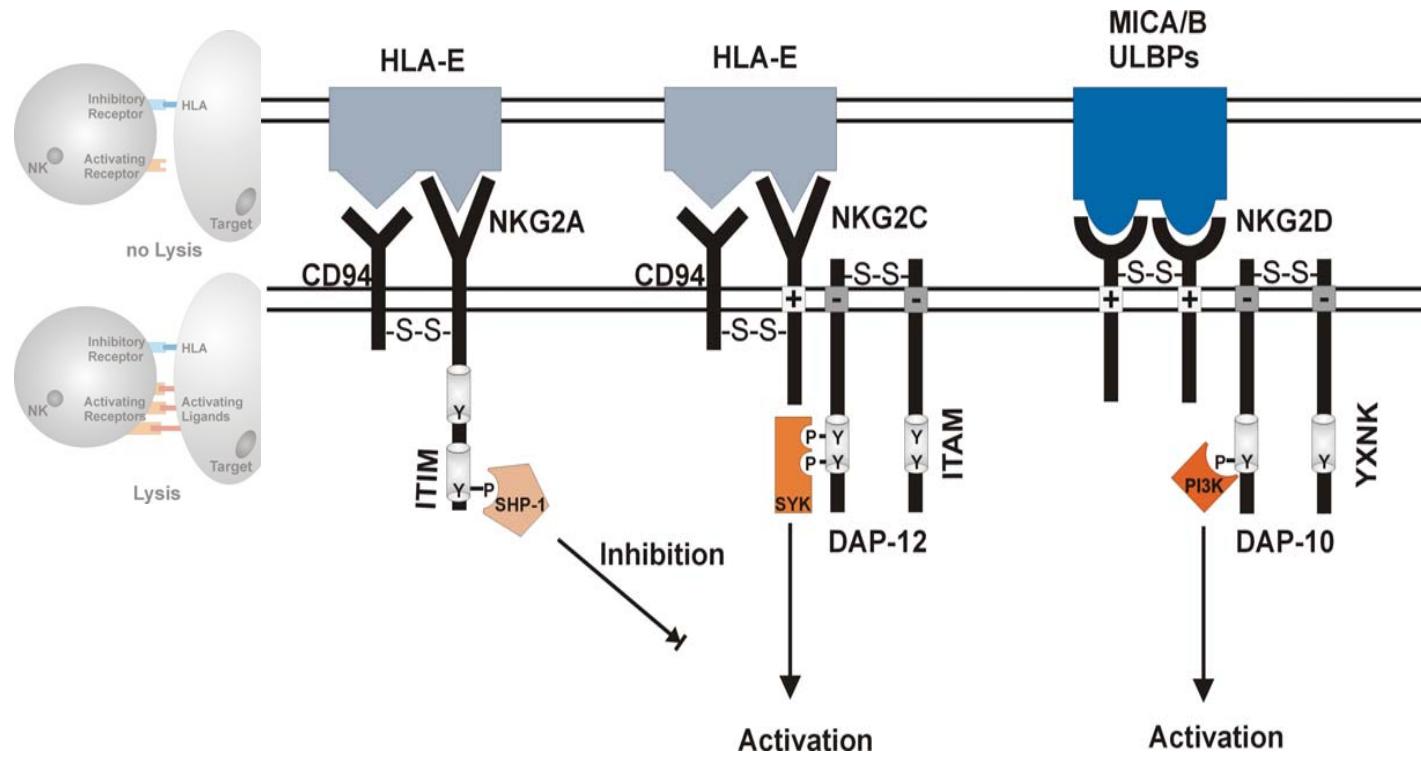


# NK ligands



# NK ligands

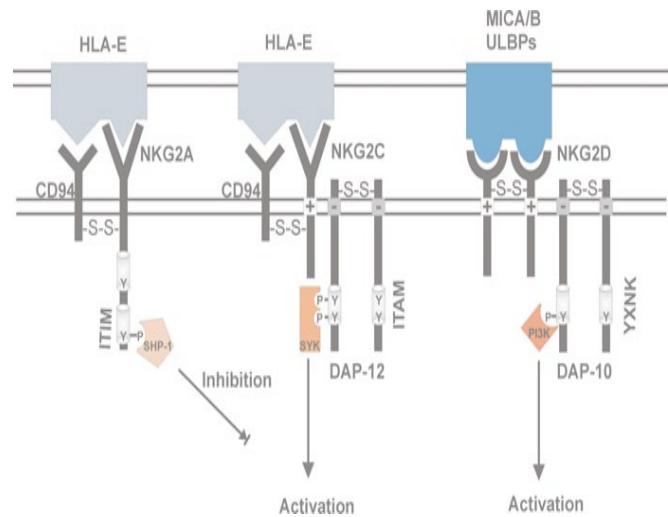
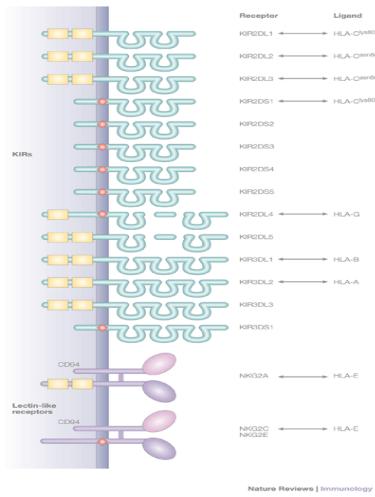
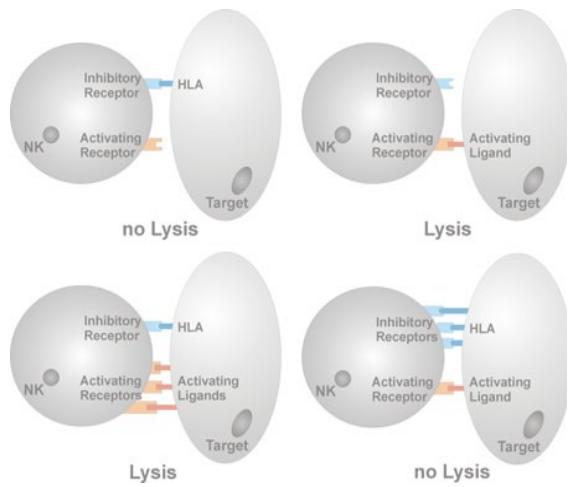
## C-type lectin receptors



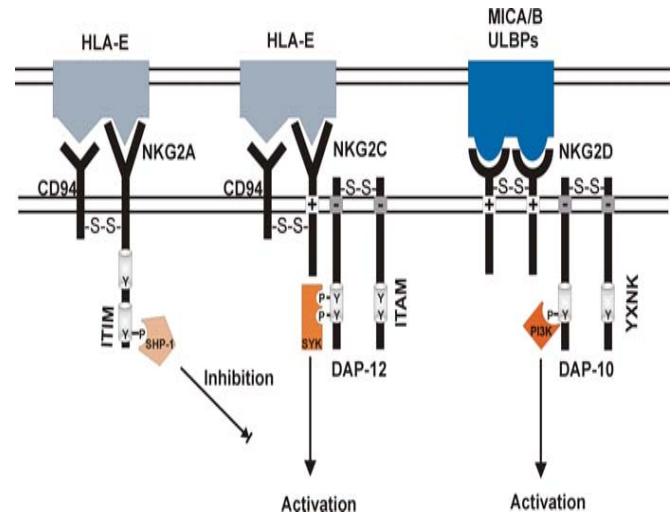
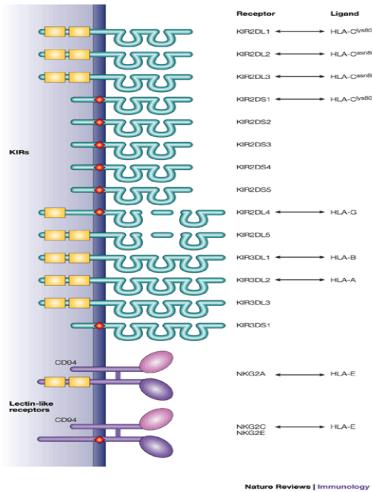
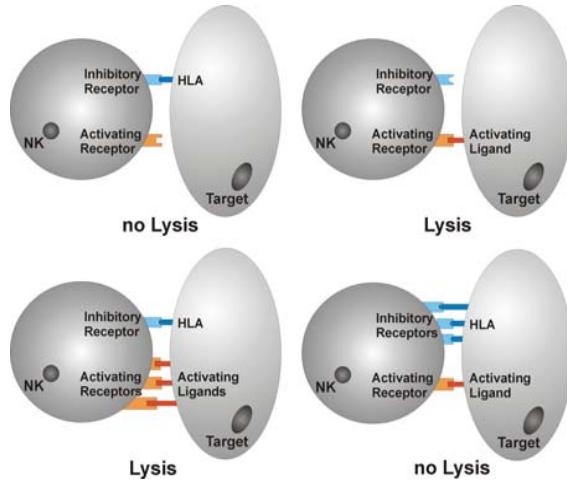
V. Braud et al. *Nature* **391**:795 (1998); S. Bauer et al. *Science* **285**:727 (1999); J. Michaelsson et al. *J Exp Med* **196**:1403 (2002)



# NK ligands



# NK ligands



→ The NK cell response depends on the net effect of activating and inhibitory receptors with additional involvement of adaptor molecules



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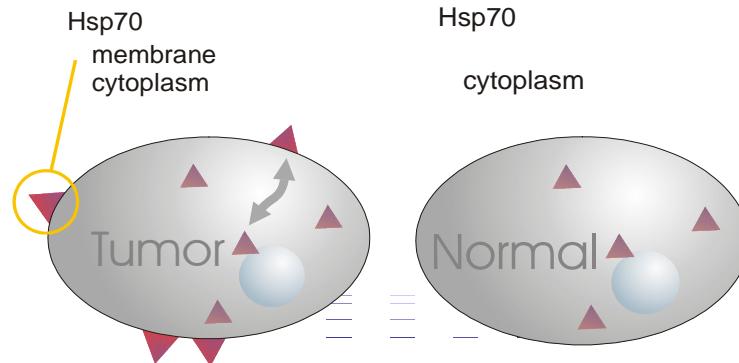
2.

## HSP70-NK interaction



# Hsp70-NK interaction

## Tumor-specific HSP70 membrane expression



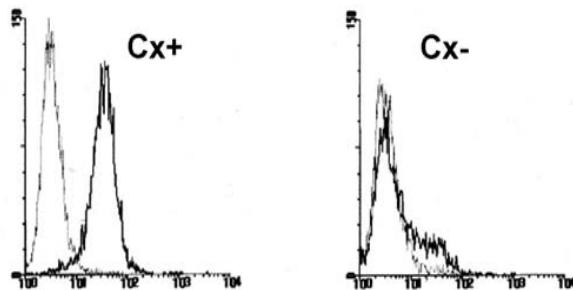
### Tissue bank

Solid tumors  
Respiratory  
Gastrointestinal  
Urogenital  
Head and neck  
Sarcoma  
Melanoma

Hematological tumors

Metastases

## Hsp70 on tumor cells

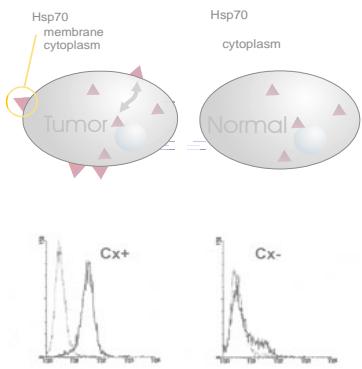


### Methods

FACS  
Surface biotinylation  
Proteomic profiling

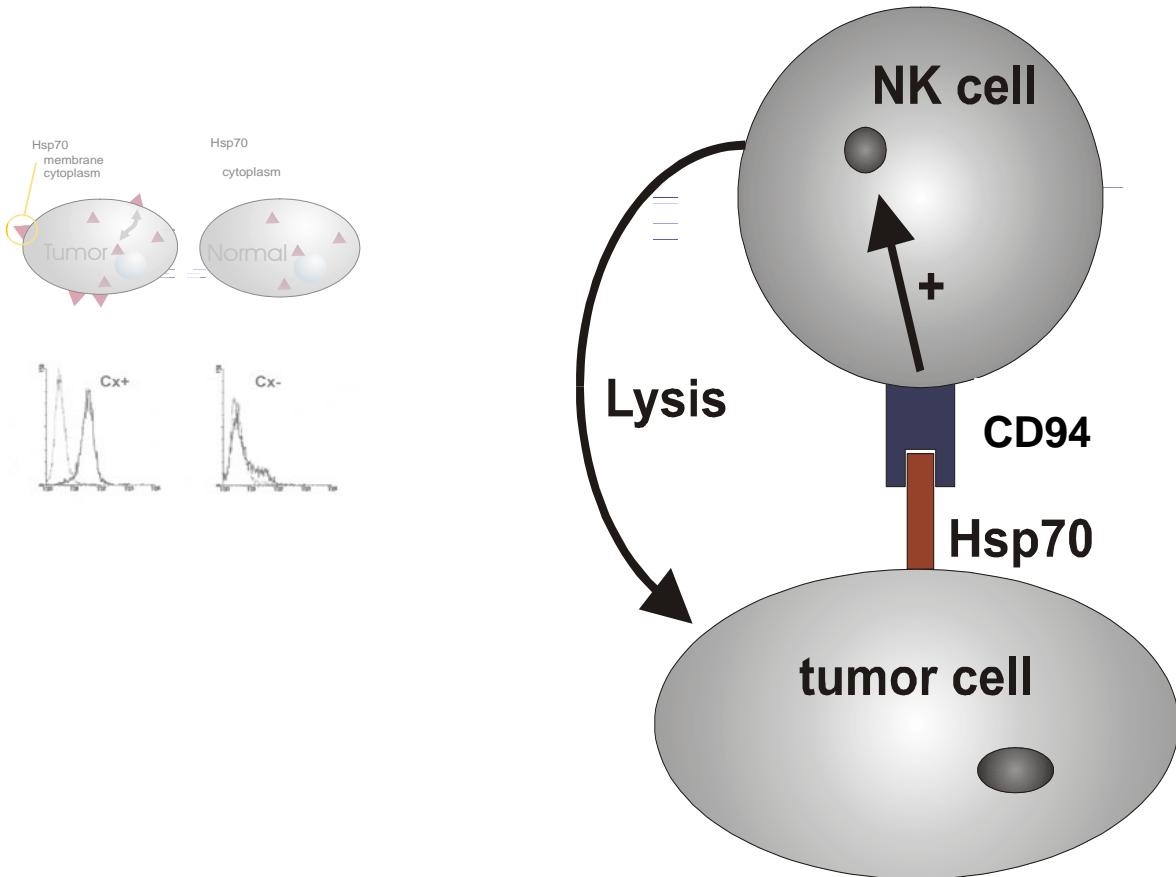
# Hsp70-NK interaction

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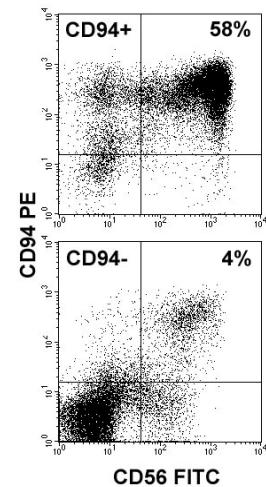


# Hsp70-NK interaction

## Receptor mediated HSP70-NK activation



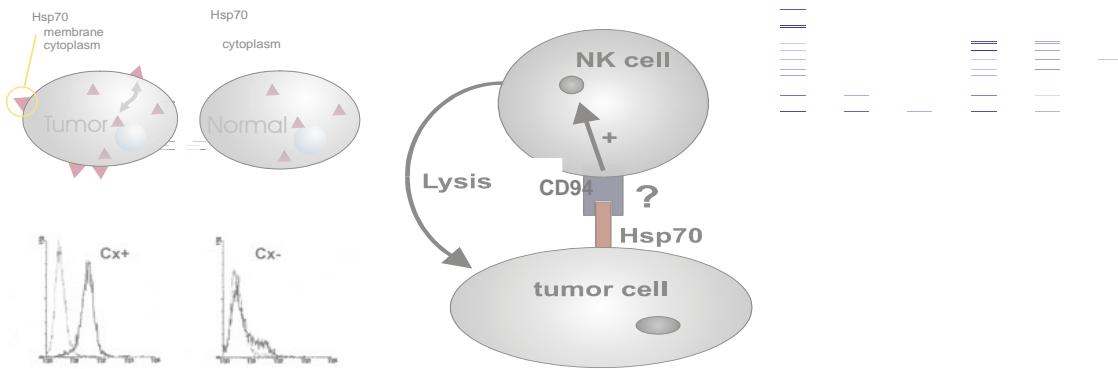
NK cell proliferation ↑  
Cytolytic activity ↑  
INF- $\gamma$  production ↑



Multhoff et al. JI 158: 4341 (1997); Multhoff et al. Exp Hematol 27:1627 (1999); Gross et al. Cell Stress Chaperone 8: 348, (2003); Gross et al. Biol Chem 384: 267, (2003)

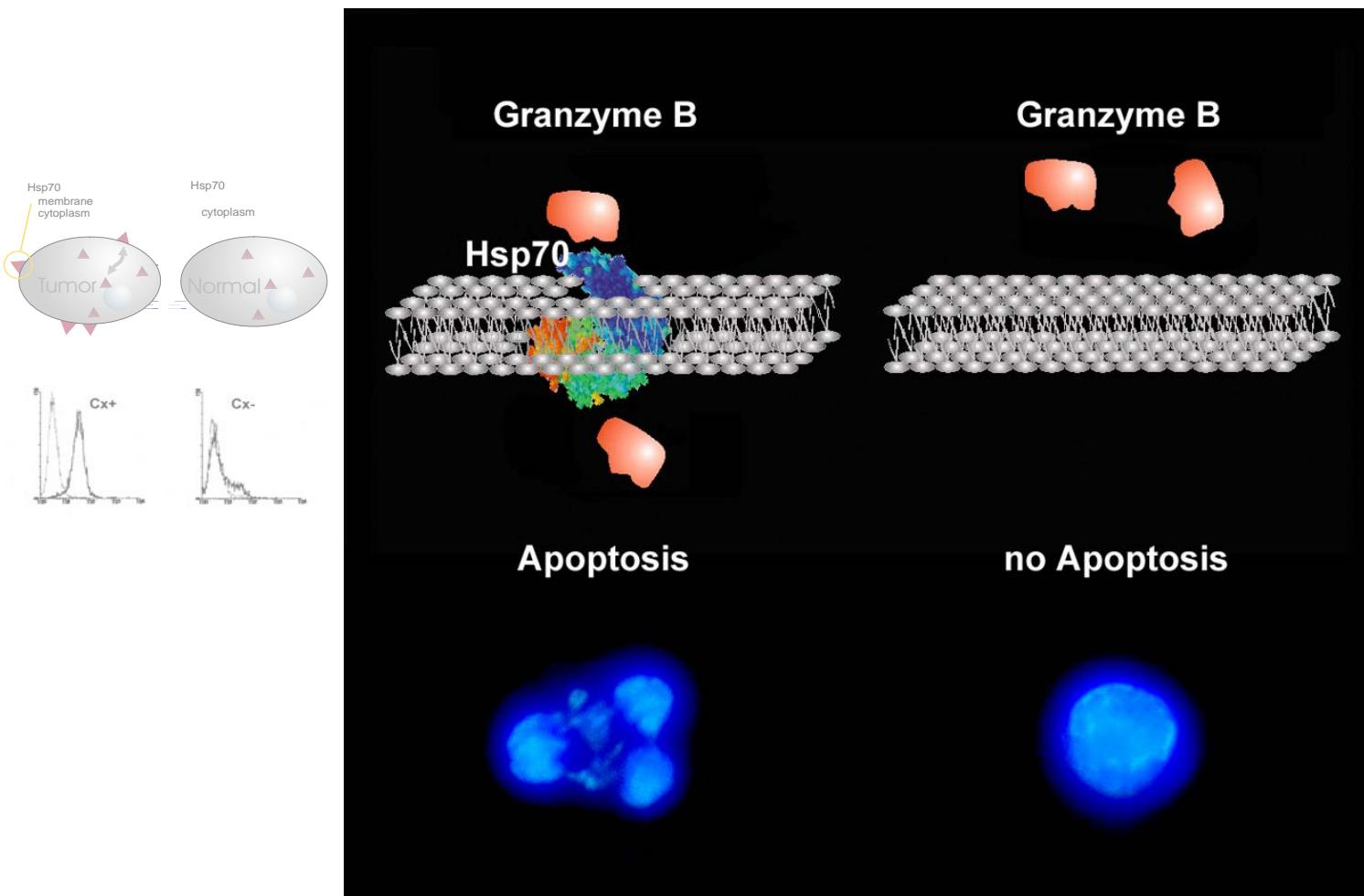


# Hsp70-NK interaction

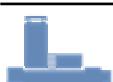


# Hsp70-NK interaction

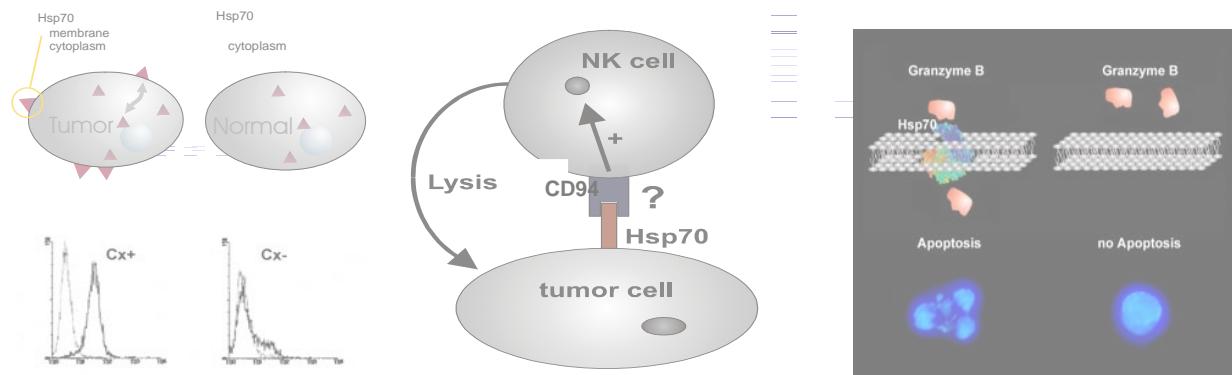
Mechanism of kill: Granzyme B (mi-APO)  
initiates apoptosis in Hsp70 positive tumors



Arispe et al. Cell Stress Chaperone (2002); Gross et al. J Biol Chem 17: 41173, (2003)

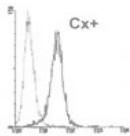
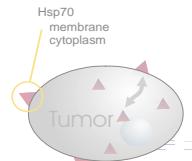


# Hsp70-NK interaction



# Hsp70-peptide TKD (aa 450-463) (ENKASTIM)

## Epitope of the therapeutic Hsp70 specific antibody (mi-TUMEX)



Name	aa	Sequence	NK Cell Stimulation
NLL	454-461	- - - - N L L G R F E L	no
GIPP	454-466	- - - - N L L G R F E L S G I P P	no
TKD	450-463	T K D N N L L G R F E L S G	yes

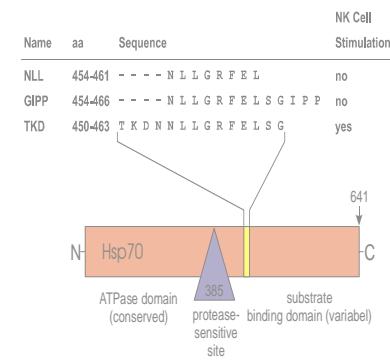
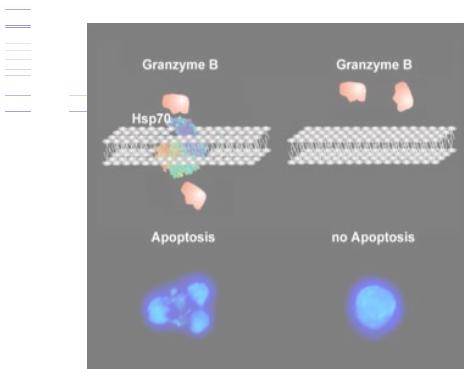
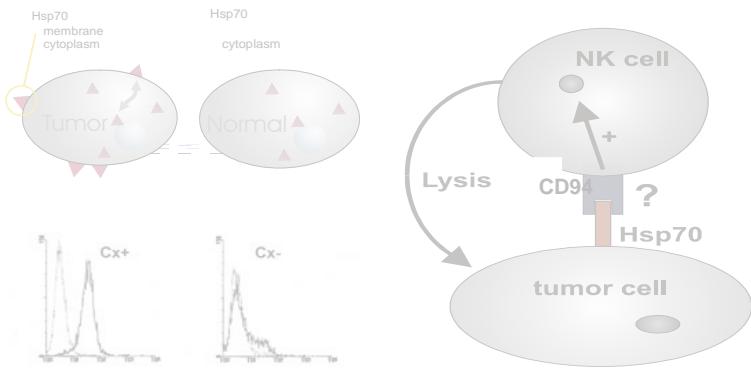
Diagram of the Hsp70 protein structure:

- The protein is shown as an orange rectangle with "N" at the left end and "C" at the right end.
- The "ATPase domain (conserved)" is the leftmost orange segment.
- The "substrate binding domain (variabel)" is the rightmost orange segment.
- A purple triangle labeled "385" points to the boundary between the ATPase domain and the substrate binding domain.
- A yellow vertical bar marks the "protease-sensitive site" located between the two domains.
- An arrow labeled "641" points downwards from the C-terminal end of the substrate binding domain.

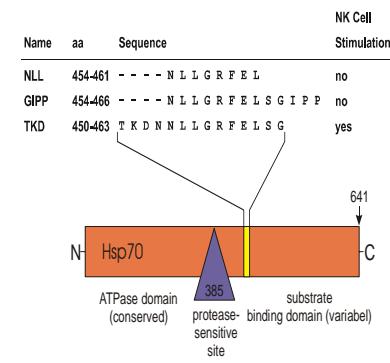
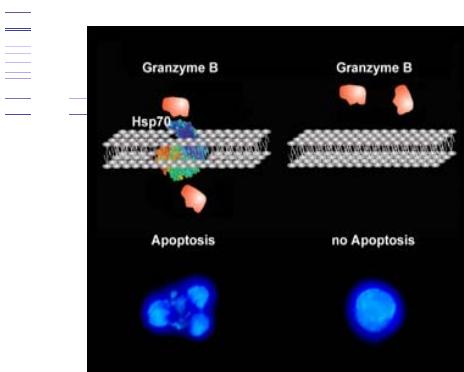
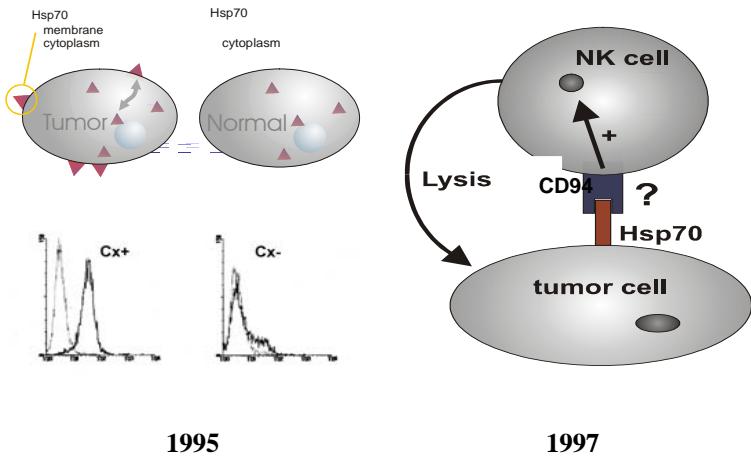
Multhoff et al. *Cell Stress Chaperone* 6: 337, (2001); Gastpar et al *J Immunol* 172: 972 (2004)



# Hsp70-NK interaction



# Hsp70-NK interaction



From the bench to the bedside

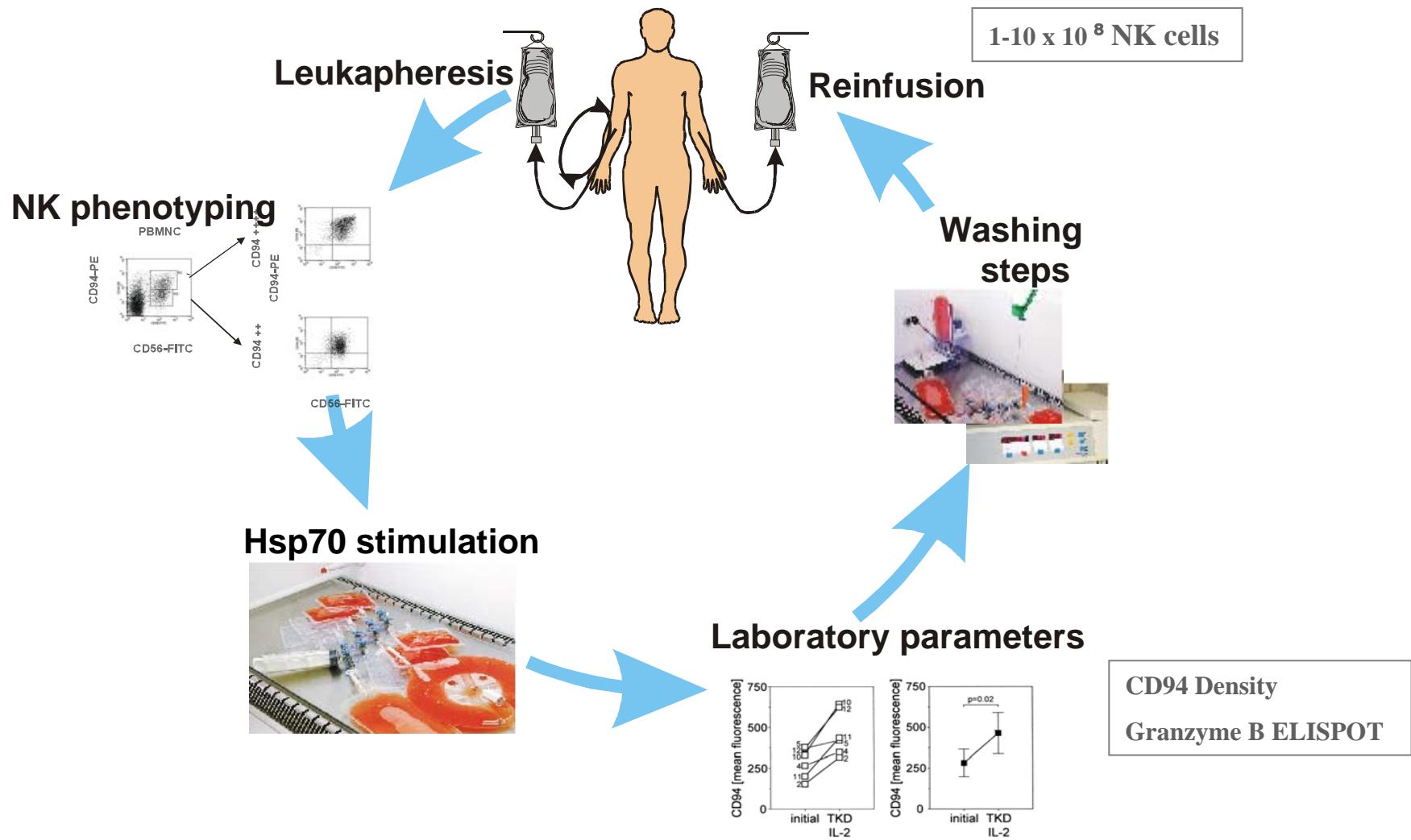


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### **3. Clinical trials**



# Phase I clinical trial



Krause et al. Clin Canc Res 10: 3699 (2004)



# Phase I clinical trial

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## Treatment of colon and lung cancer patients with ex vivo HSP70-peptide-activated NK cells

### **Patients:**

metastasised, therapy refractory colorectal cancer ( $n = 11$ ) and non-small cell lung cancer ( $n = 1$ )

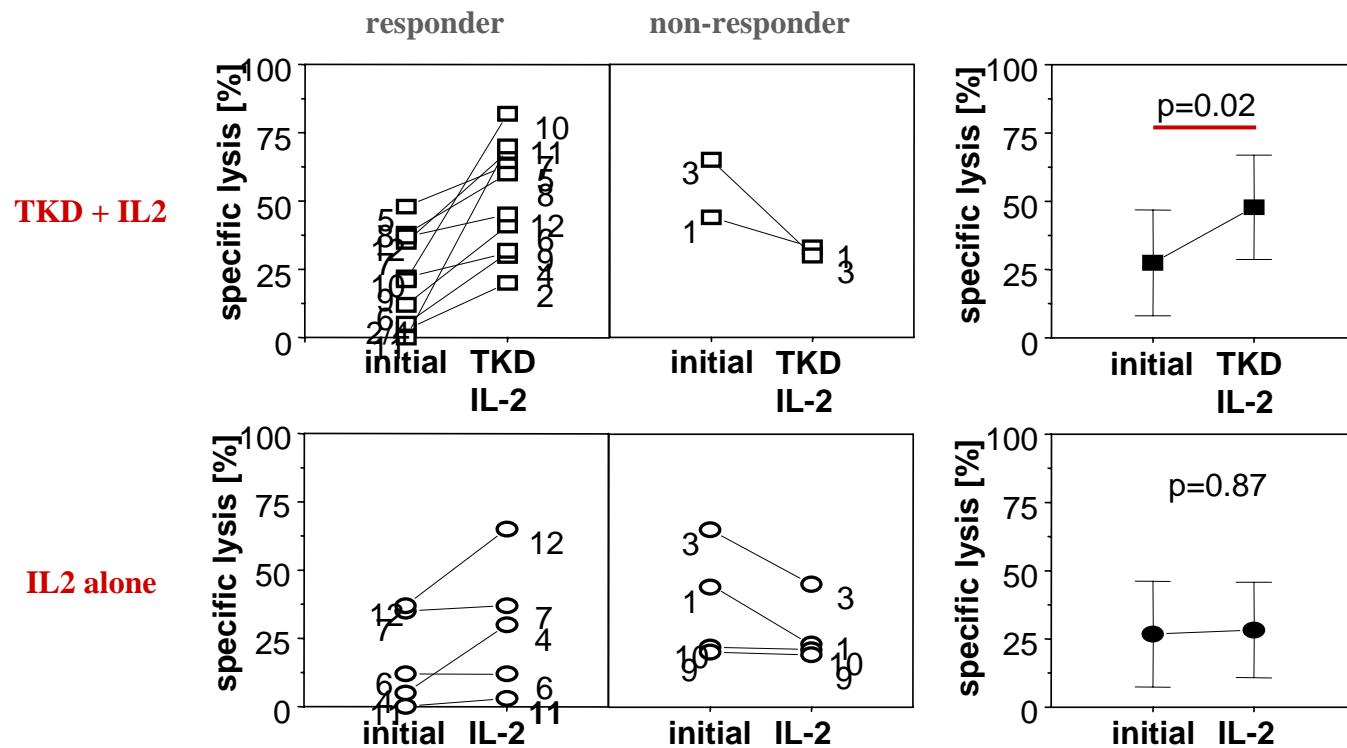
- 1) Feasibility and safety of Hsp70-reactive NK cells → Excellent safety profile even at maximum dose
- 2) Escalation: cell dose, infusion cycles → max  $1-10 \times 10^8$ , 6 cycles every 4 weeks
- 3) *In vitro* efficacy → *In vitro* efficacy in 10 of 12 patients (**CD94, cytolytic activity**)
- 4) Clinical outcome → 1 SD and 1 mixed response in 5 pts with > 4 cycles

Krause et al. Clin Canc Res 10: 3699 (2004)



## Phase I clinical trial

### Increased tumor kill by patient-derived, TKD-activated NK cells



Krause et al. Clin Canc Res 10: 3699 (2004)



# Clinical studies on NK cell adoptive immunotherapy

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Setting	Source	Results	N	Tumor entity
<b>Autologous</b>	<b>Conclusion: feasible, increases NK-cell function <i>in vivo</i>, no improvement in outcome</b>			
	<i>Keilholz et al. EJC 1994</i>	HD-IL2 +/- LAK iv or ia in liver MTS (objective responses 20%)	9	melanoma
	<i>Law T et al. Cancer 1995</i>	ci IL-2 +/- LAK (objective responses 6%)	71*	renal cell carcinoma
	<i>Lister et al. CCR 1995</i>	IL2 + NK after HD-PBSCT (increase NK activity)	12	refractory lymphomas
	<i>Kruit et al. J Immunoth 1997</i>	ci IL-2 +/- IFN + LAK (objective responses 24-37%)	72	renal cell carcinoma
	<i>Kimura et al. Cancer 1997</i>	IL-2 + LAK adjuvant after chemo-radiotherapy (survival benefit?)	174*	lung carcinoma
	<i>Rosenberg et al, JEM 1997</i>	HD-IL2 + LAK (objective responses 20%)	157	metastatic cancer
	<i>Burns et al. BMT 2003</i>	IL-2 activated NK +/- IL2 (increase NK lysis + cytokines)	57	refractory lymphomas
<b>Allogeneic</b>	<b>Conclusion: feasible, eradication of leukemia, protection against GVHD</b>			
	<i>Ruggeri et al. Science 2002</i>	Haploididential NK (KIR mismatch) in Allo-BMT setting	na	AML
	<i>Miller et al. Blood 2005</i>	Transfer and expansion of haplo-NK in non-BMT setting	43	metastatic cancer

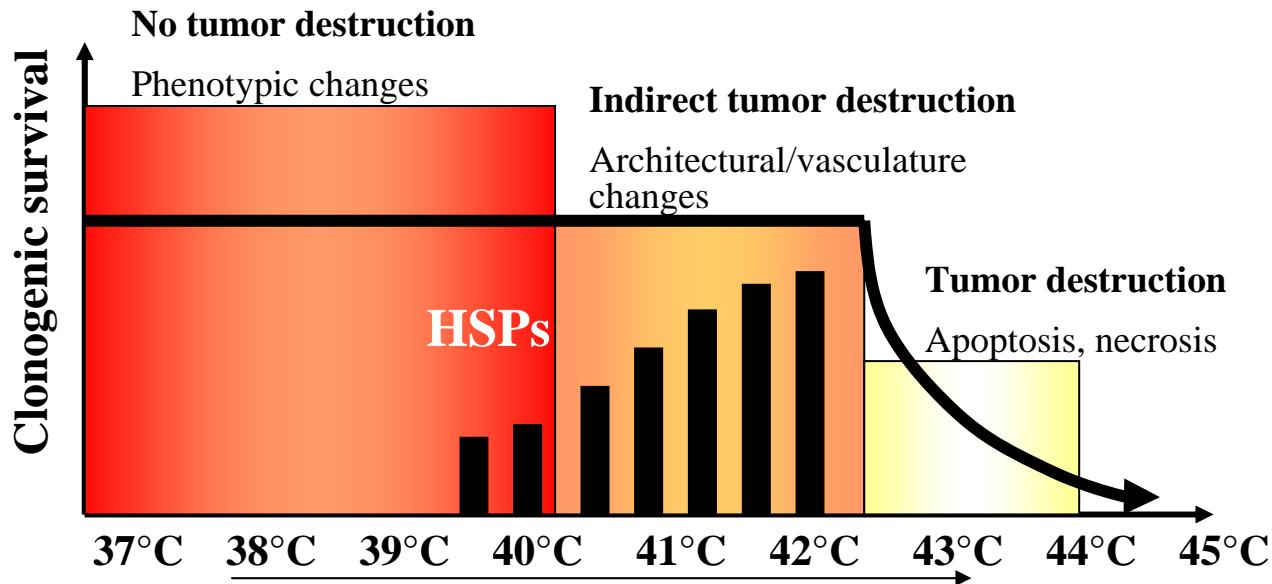


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## **4. Hyperthermia and NK transfer**



# Clinical hyperthermia



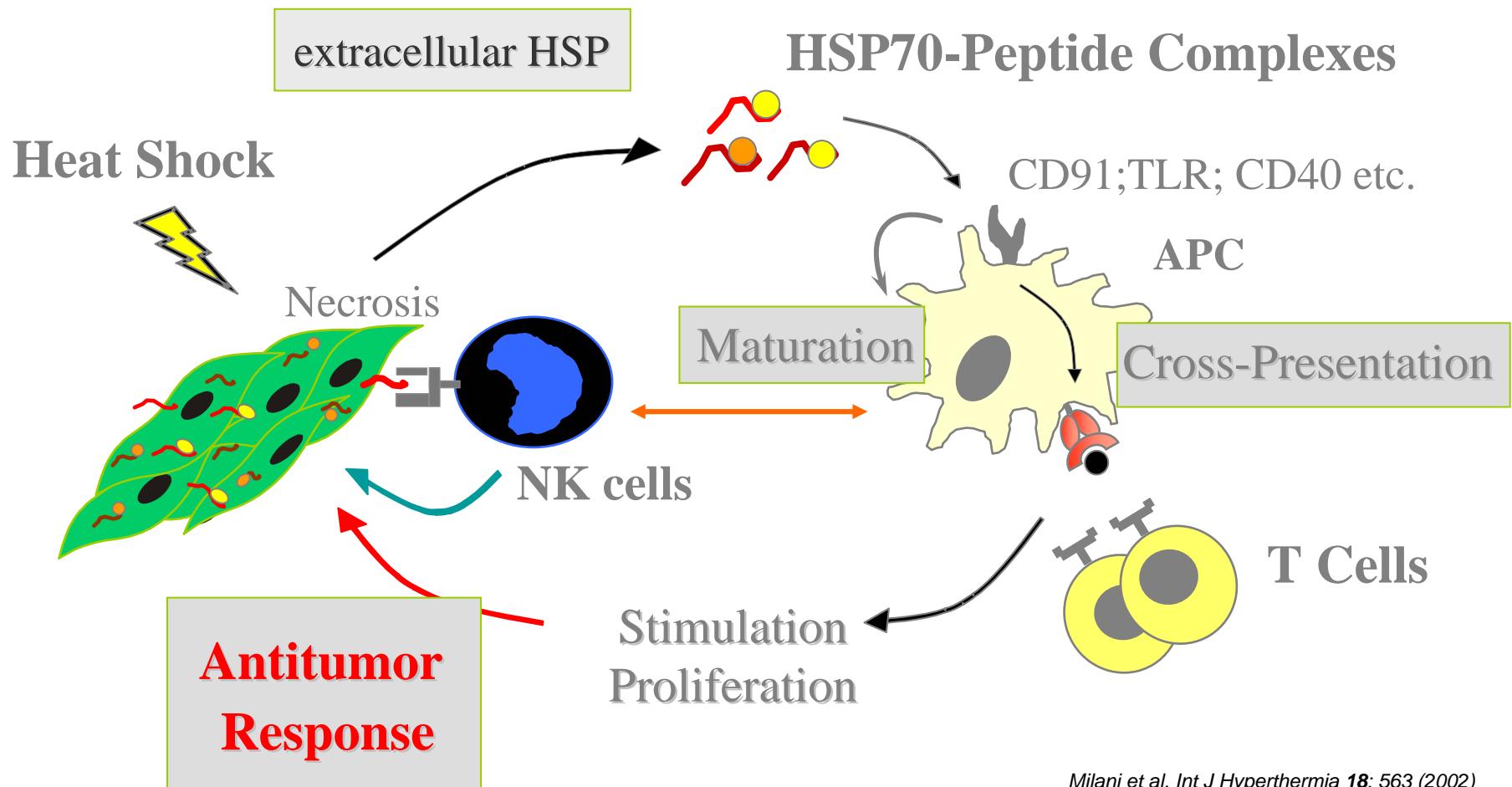
<b>Immune response</b>	Increased susceptibility to NK Maturation/Activation od DC	Increased lymphocytes migration/infiltration	Release of HSPs and HSP-PC
<b>Molecular response</b>	Cell cycle; DNA repair Induction of intracellular heat shock proteins	Apoptosis	Necrosis
<b>Clinical setting</b>	Thermosensitisation of chemotherapy and radiation Whole-body Hyperthermia		
	Regional hyperthermia		

Overgaard e al. Lancet 345:540 (1995); Van der Zee et al. Lancet 355: 1119 (2000); Wendtner et al. J Clin Oncol. 20:3156 (2002); Jones et al. J Clin Oncol 23:7039 (2005)



# Hyperthermia: vaccination *in situ* ?

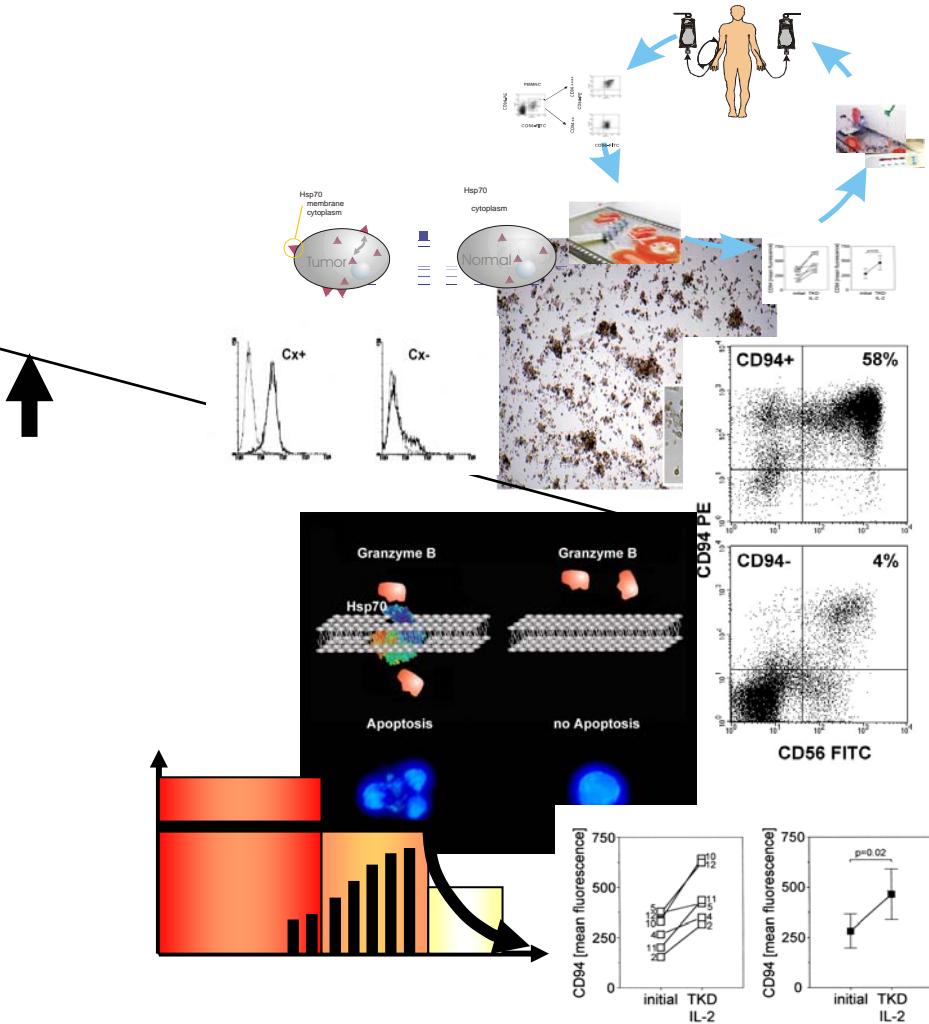
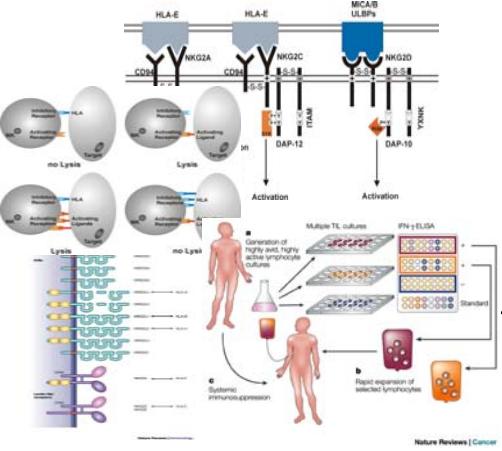
## Tumor Necrosis and Release of HSP70 Activate the Immune System



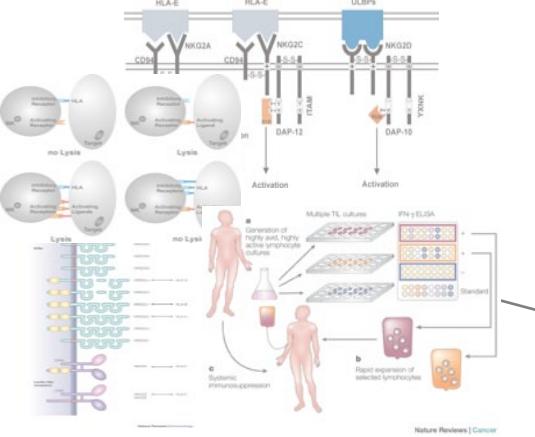
Milani et al. Int J Hyperthermia 18: 563 (2002)



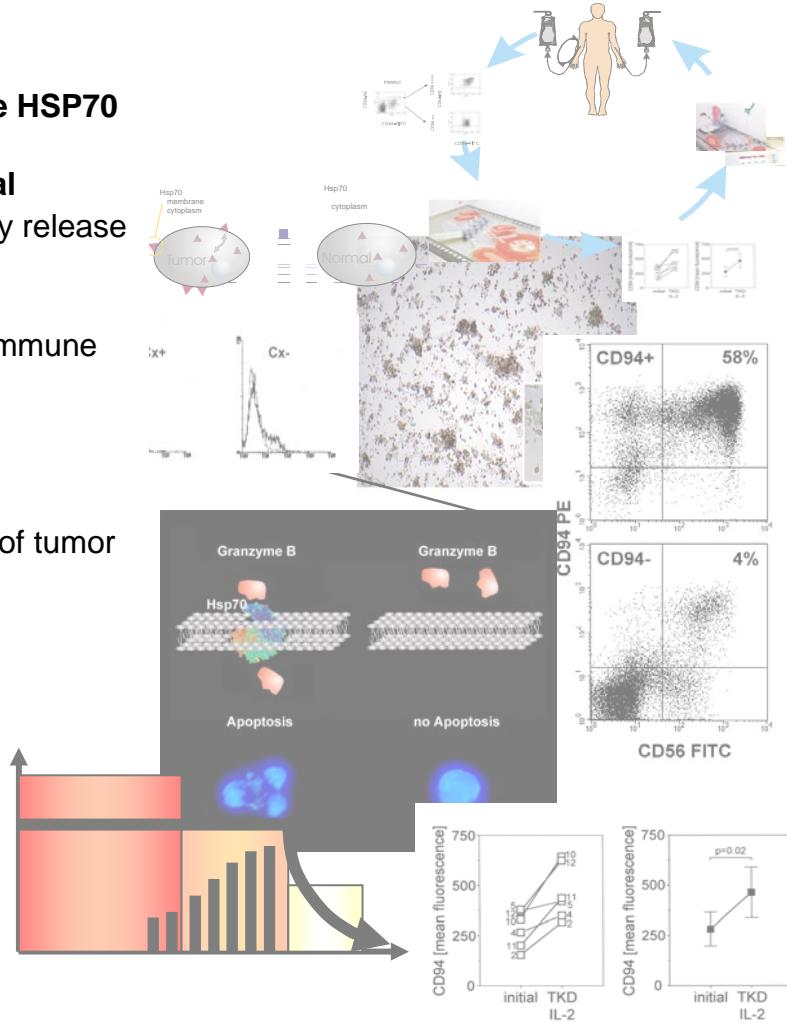
# Can we specifically activate NK cells against tumor?



# Can we specifically activate NK cells against tumor?



- Heat upregulates **surface HSP70**
- Heat provides the **optimal immunological milieu** by release of **HSPs**
  - trigger the innate immune system
  - cross-talk DC-NK
  - cross-presentation of tumor antigens



Multhoff et al. (1995); Asea et al. (2000); Srivastava (2000-5); Noessner et al. (2002); Parmiani et al. (2001-5); Milani et al. (2005); Massa et al. (2005); Pilla et al. (2005)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Regensburg**

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C. Gross (NIH)

M. Gehrmann



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**G. Multhoff, CEO**



Institut für Molekulare Immunologie  
Klinische Kooperationsgruppe  
Hyperthermie

