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### Developing New Immunotherapies in Preclinical Models and Humans

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Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



### **Presenter Disclosure Information**

### Elizabeth M. Jaffee, M.D.

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# How can we accelerate immunotherapy to successfully treat currently resistant cancers?



### GI Cancers as Example: Emerging Successes

- PD-1 blockade shows responses in microsatelite instability (MSI) high tumors
  - MSI high tumors have a large mutational burden
  - Mutational burden recruits T cells and so these tumors look like melanomas
  - PD-1 blockade activates the infiltrating T cells
  - 2% of pancreatic cancer patients benefit
  - 10% of colorectal cancer patients benefit
- Vaccines alone show some evidence of clinical regressions in pancreatic cancer patients but hard to beat chemotherapy in metastatic disease
- Unfortunately most GI cancers do not respond to single agent immunotherapy



## Challenges for cancers that do not naturally respond to current checkpoint therapy

- Need methods to induce functional effector T cells most patients don't have them
- Each cancer type and subtype have a unique TME
  - Need to elucidate the specific suppressive mechanisms to have a clinical effect
  - We need to design "science in patient" studies that acquire pre- and post treatment tissue to uncover the signals that need to be modified
  - Developing combinations efficiently requires new trial designs and FDA clinical development pathways



Lack of effective T cells is one difference between single agent immune checkpoint responders and non-responders

The checkpoints expressed in each cancer's tumor microenvironment is likely unique to the genetic, epigenetic and inflammatory changes that drive the cancer and its progression



### Invasive pancreatic tumors lack

infiltration of effector T cells: Vaccines are first step of multistep process!





Pancreatic cancers are infiltrated with immune suppressive regulatory T cells (Tregs) and MDSCS (not shown) 50% of Melanomas have spontaneous infiltration of effector T cells



### TCGA Data: Upregulation of Multiple Immune Targets in Pancreatic Cancer Which Differ by Patient Tumor





## TCGA Data suggests PDL1 Upregulation correlates with shorter term survival





## TCGA Data suggests IDO1 upregulation correlates with shorter term survival





Naturally Non-Immunogenic Cancers Require a 2-Step Process to Reprogram the TME and Optimize Immunotherapy



Modified from Soares, Zheng, Edil, and Jaffee Cancer J. 2012 G CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY WORLDWIDE



### (Neo)adjuvant Pancreatic Cancer Vaccine Study Provides New Evidence for ANTITUMOR Immunity Cancer Immunology Research, 2014



Week

Arm A: Vaccine alone Arm B: Vaccine + low dose IV Cy Arm C: Vaccine + metronomic Cy









Lei Zheng, M.D./Ph.D. Chris Wolfgang M.D./Ph.D. Dan Laheru, M.D. Eric Lutz, Ph.D. ADVANCING CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY WORLDWIDE



### Lymphoid Aggregates found in 2 location patterns in vaccinated patients 2 weeks after a single vaccine



Intratumoral

**Peri-tumoral** 



### Lymphoid Aggregates Are Sites of Immune Activation and Regulation – Not Cytoloysis





## PD-1/PD-L1 pathway is upregulated in vaccine induced lymphoid aggregates



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### Two panels of 12-color multiplex IHC depicted tumor immune infiltrates in pancreatic cancer tissues

Human PC tissue, neoadjuvant GVAX



Tsujikawa T, Jaffee, Coussens et al. Unpublished data ADVANCING CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY WORLDWIDE



Neoadjuvant GVAX therapy associated with PD-L1 upregulation in myeloid cell lineages correlates with Myeloid biomarker panel prognosis – marker of T cell infiltration? PD-L1+ CD45+ 50 um 50 µm Nuclei PD-L1 CD45 Nuclei PD-L1 CSF1R CD68 PD-L1 expression in CD45<sup>+</sup> CD68<sup>+</sup> cells **Neoadjuvant Chemo** Overall survival (%) 6 00 - > Median CD3<sup>+</sup> Neoadjuvant Chemo (N = 14) T cell ≤ Median Neoadjuvant GVAX (N = 18) CD3<sup>-</sup> CD20<sup>4</sup> B cell n.s. N = 7 Log rank test CD56<sup>+</sup> NK N = 7 CSF1R<sup>+</sup> Macrophage ᅌ 2000 1500 CSF1R<sup>+</sup> 500 1000 CD163<sup>-</sup> CD3- CD20- CD56<sup>-</sup> MHC-II<sup>+</sup> CD Days CD163+ \*\*\*\* PD-L1 expression in CD45<sup>+</sup> CD68<sup>+</sup> cells Overall survival (%) DC-SIGN<sup>4</sup> \*\*\* > Mədian Neoadjuvant GVAX g — ≤ Median CD83<sup>+</sup> P < 0.01 Neut CD66b<sup>+</sup> 50 Log rank test Eos N = 9 Mast Tryptase<sup>+</sup> N = 9 0<del>1</del> 0 CD45<sup>-</sup> Lin<sup>\*</sup> 500 1000 1500 2000 Days CD45 Tsujikawa T, et al. Unpublished data

20

40

% of PD-L1 positive cells

60

80

100

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#### Neo-Adjuvant Study of Vaccine +/- PD-1 Blockade







## How do we move from signal to outright effective activity in GI cancers?



### **Combination Therapy Strategy For Less Immunogenic Tumors**





### Personalized selection of immune checkpoint inhibitors

A subset of untreated pancreatic cancers upregulate immune checkpoints and have worse survival





### Personalized selection of immune checkpoint inhibitors

Selection of immune checkpoints based on upregulation of immune escape pathways in each patient





### IDO causes increase in Tregs and depletes cytotoxic T cells



Lob et al. Nature Reviews Cancer. 2009



### GVAX Vaccination increases IDO (Indolamine 2,3-Dioxygenase) expression in the tumor epithelium and lymphocytes in human PDAs





### GVAX Vaccination increases IDO expression in the lymphocytes and tumor cells in human PDAs





Postitive Staining Tumor Epithelium Scores for Unvaccinated vs. Vaccinated Cases





### Syngeneic Mouse Hepatic Metastasis Model by Hemispleen Injection



Jain et al. Annals Surg. Onc. 2003

Soares et al. JoVE. 2014

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Inhibition of IDO combined with GVAX increases survival in liver metastasis mouse model

#### Survival Proportions: 90 Day Survival of All Groups



Study planned to combine anti-PD-1 + vaccine and anti-IDO ADVANCING CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY WORLDWIDE



### SUMMARY

- Non-immunogeneic cancers lack adequate numbers of effector T cells
- These cancers require a 2-STEP approach to reprogram the TME and induce the most effective anticancer immunity
- The first is induction of the best effector T cells
- The second is modulation of multiple checkpoints within the tumor microenvironment
- The best approach is to personalize combination checkpoints to an individual's tumor which is based on:
  - \* A tumor's genetic evolution
  - Prior therapies (chemotherapy/radiation/immunotherapy)



### **Scientific Partners**

