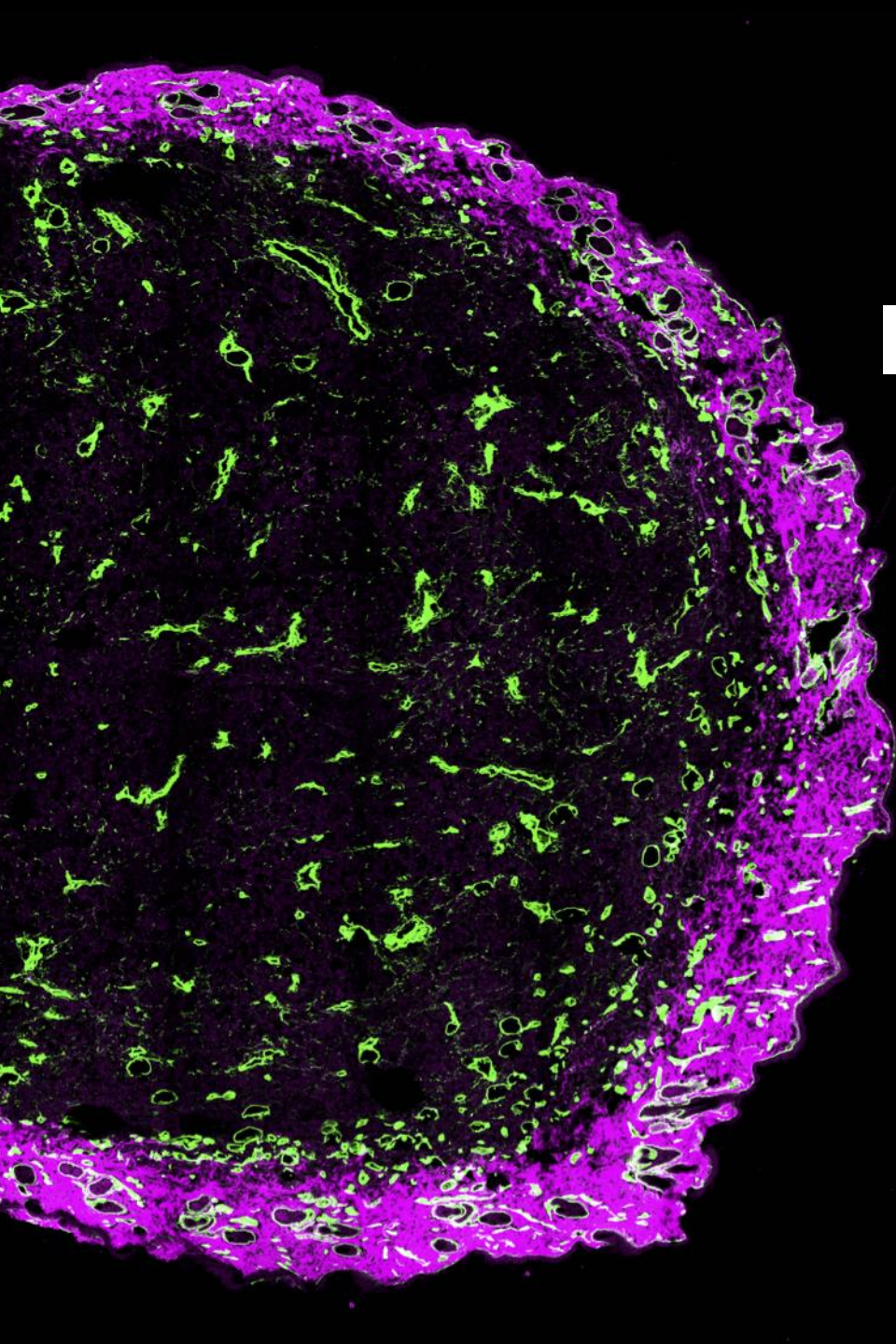




Intratumoral Cytokine Therapy: Principles and Practice

Noor Momin

(she/her/hers)

previously at MIT with Prof. Dane Wittrup

April 2022

SITC TME Workshop



Disclosures

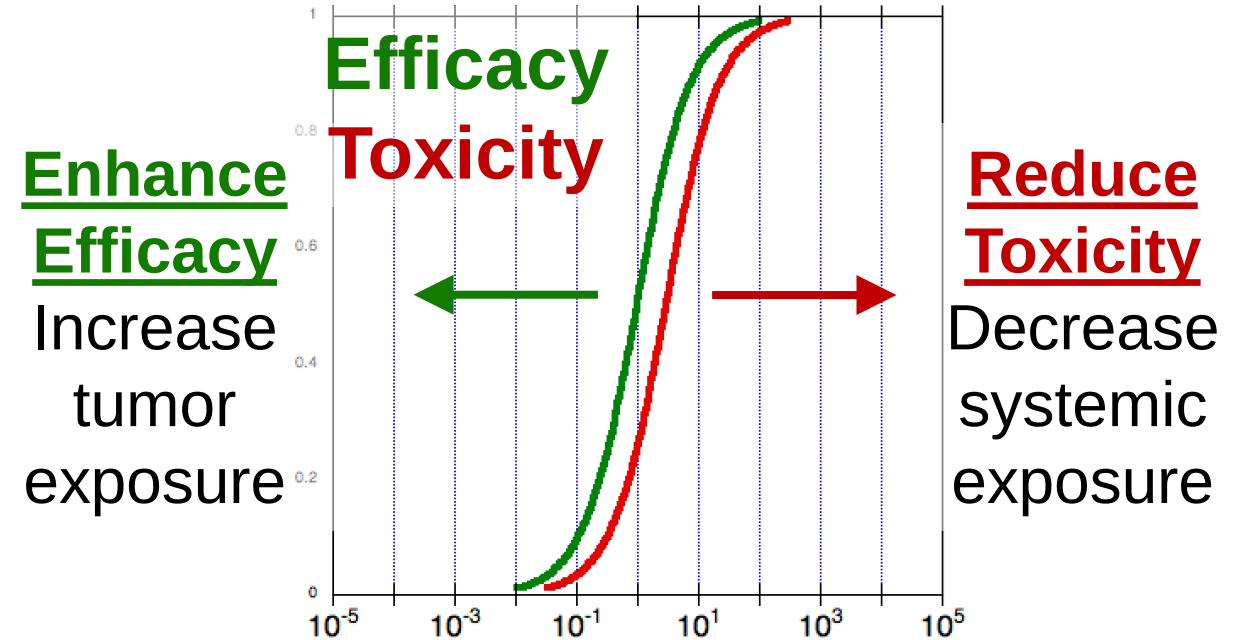
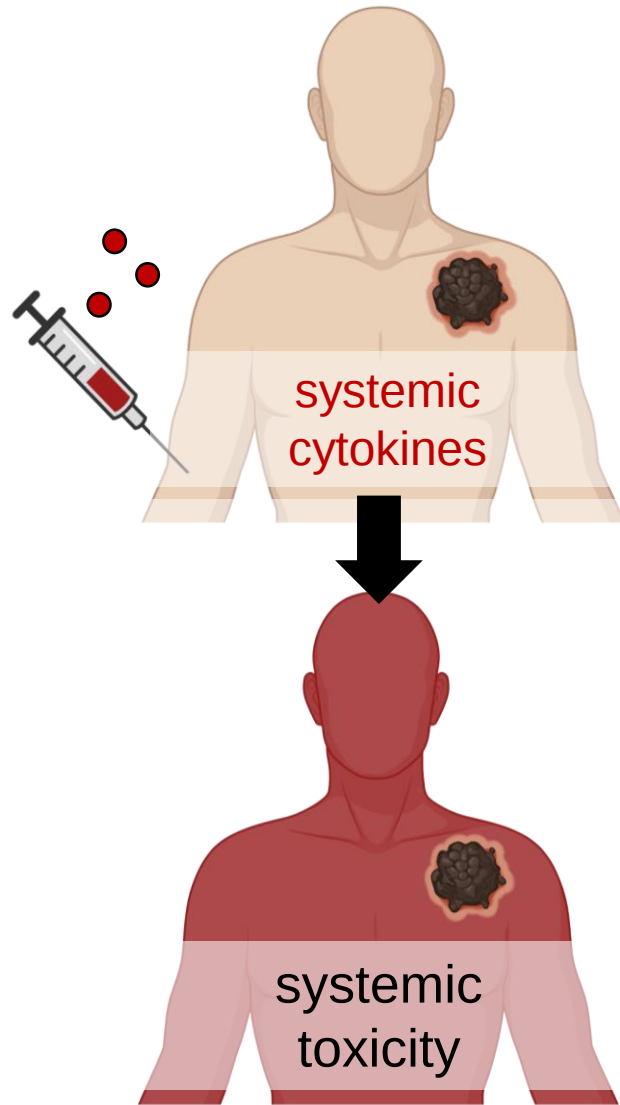
Noor Momin

I have the following relevant financial relationships to disclose:

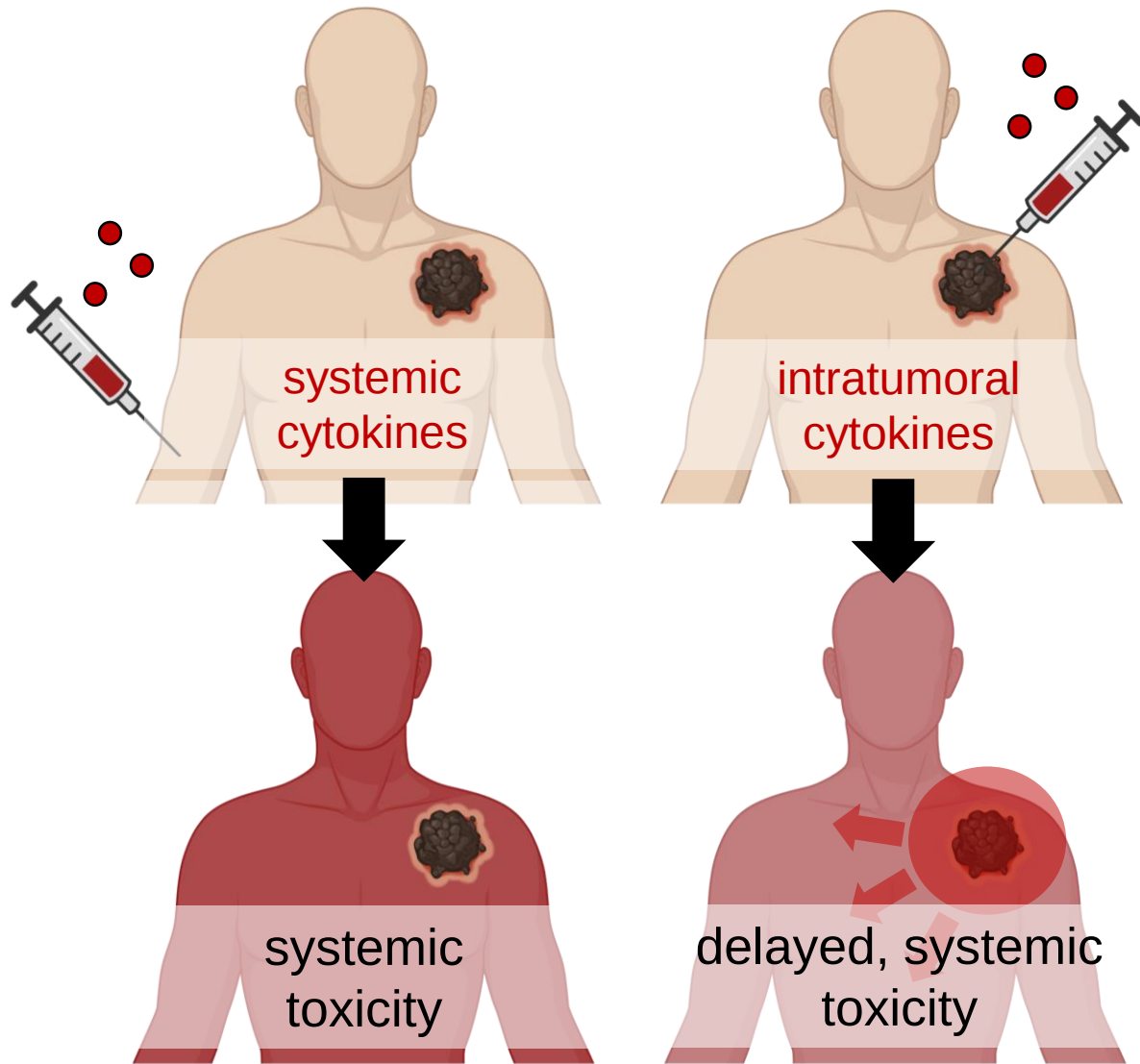
Consultant for: Cullinan Oncology*

*licensee of patent on collagen anchoring technology

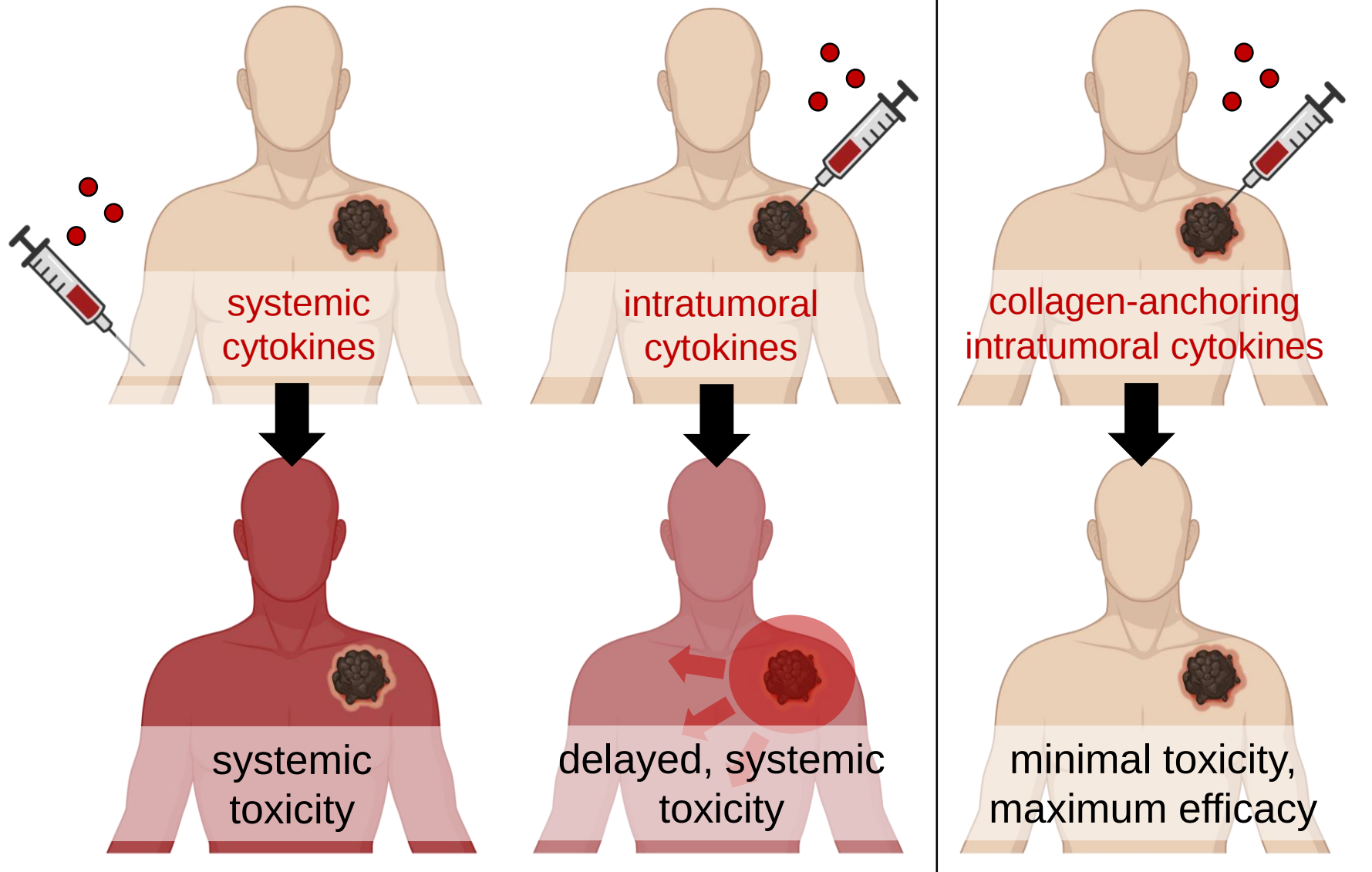
Cytokine therapies have poor therapeutic windows



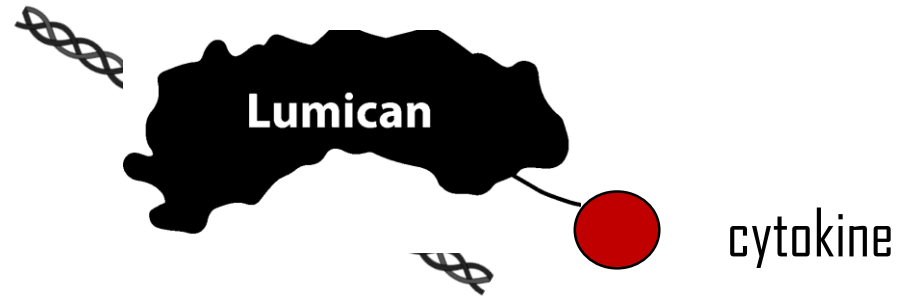
Local administration $\neq$ Localization



Collagen Anchoring of Intratumorally Administered Cytokines



Why (and how) to anchor cytokines to collagen?



tumor-agnostic

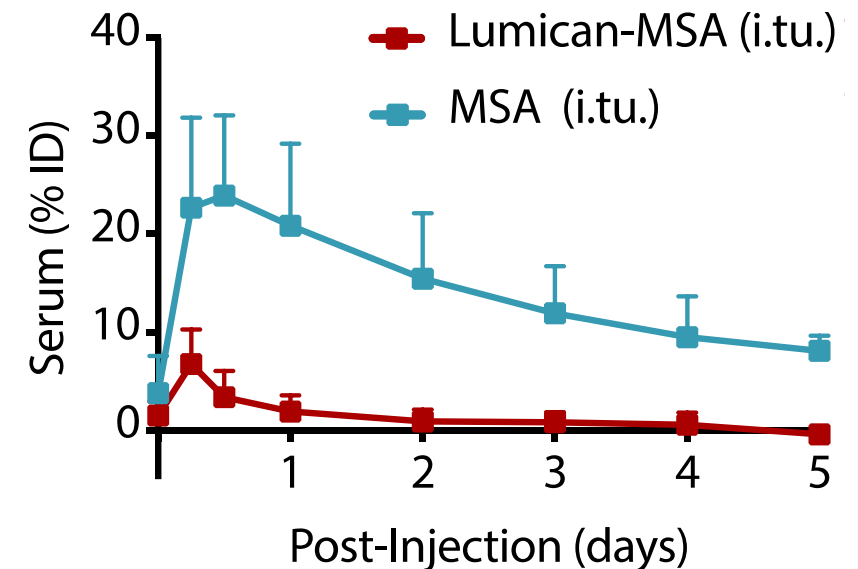
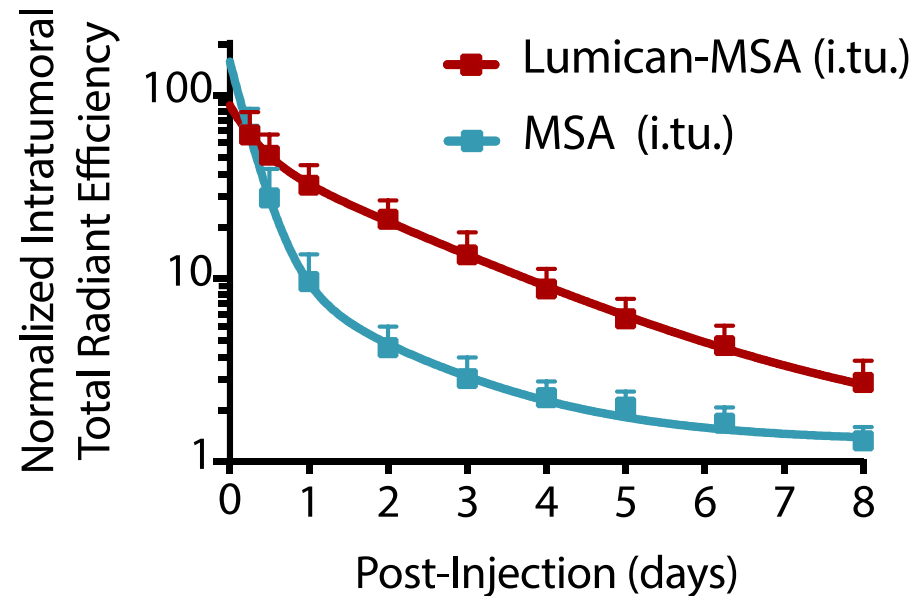
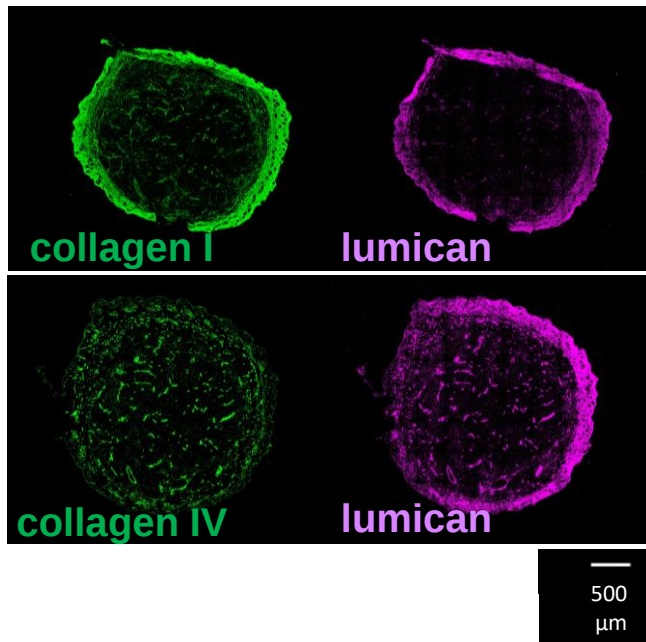
generalizable

long-lived

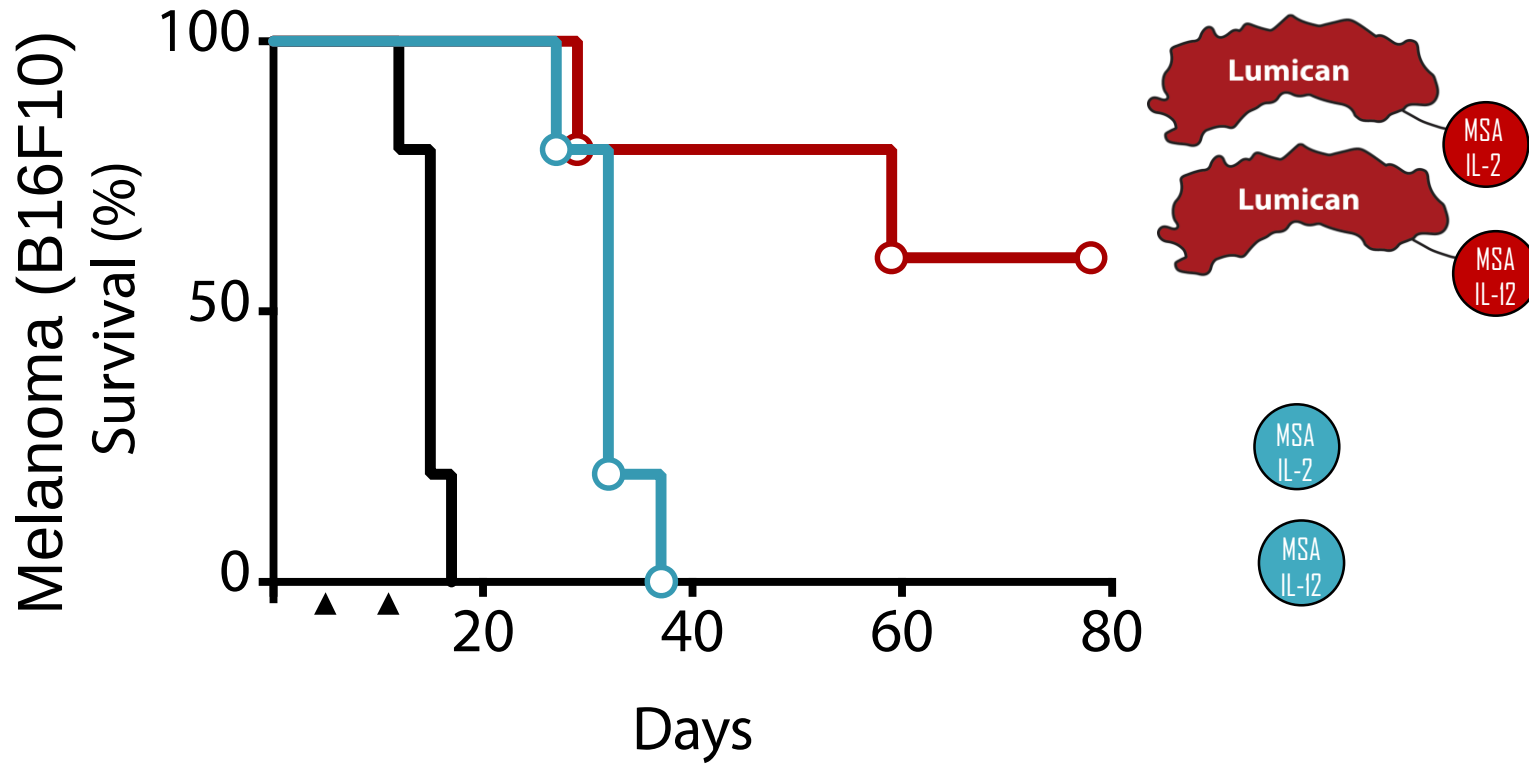
increased **TUMOR** exposure

abundant

decreased **systemic** exposure

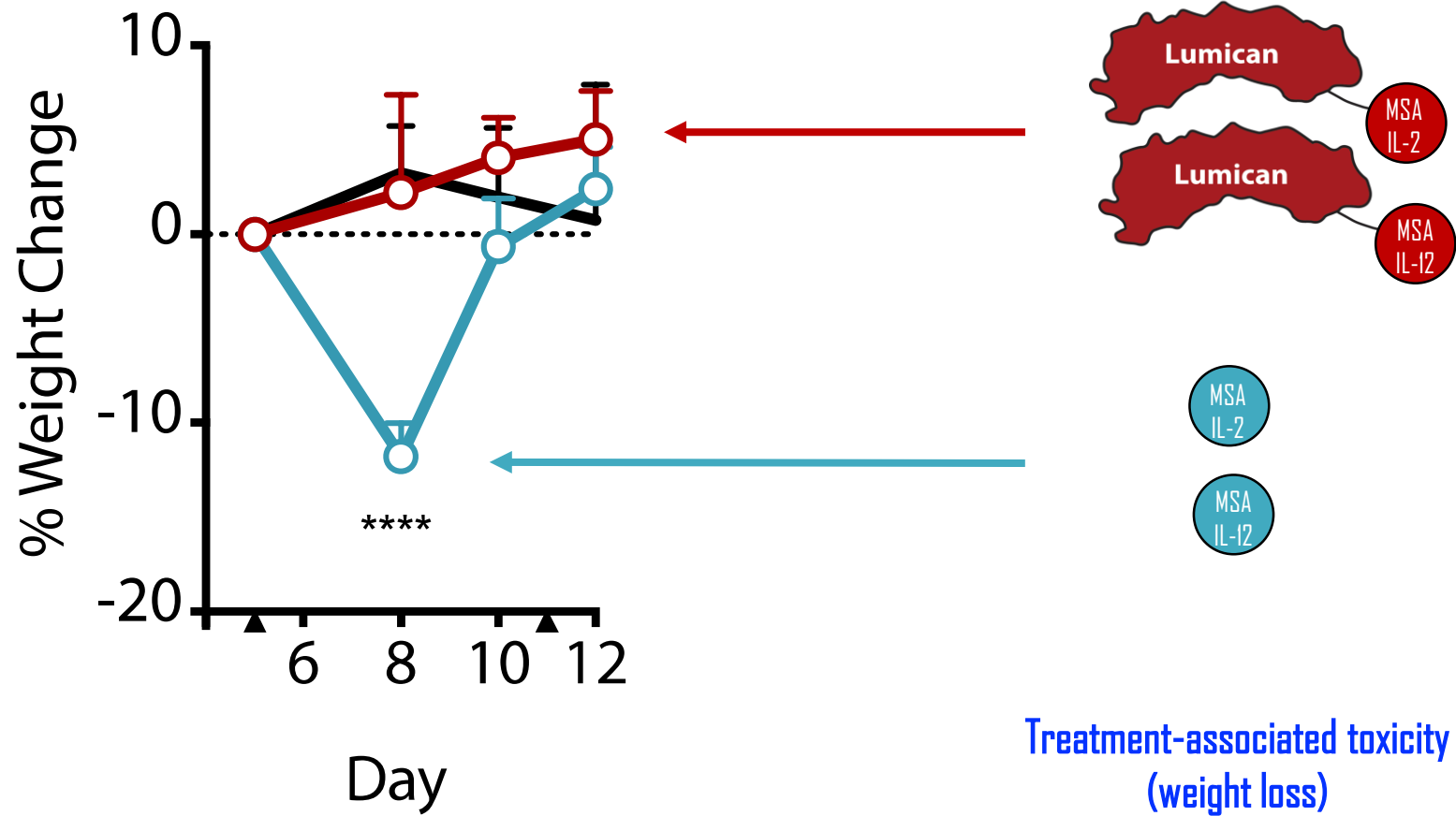


Lumican-cytokines are an effective, tumor-agnostic treatment



Effective against
breast (EMT6),
colon (MC38),
lung (KP2677),
Braf^{V600E}/Pten^{fl/fl} GEMM tumor models

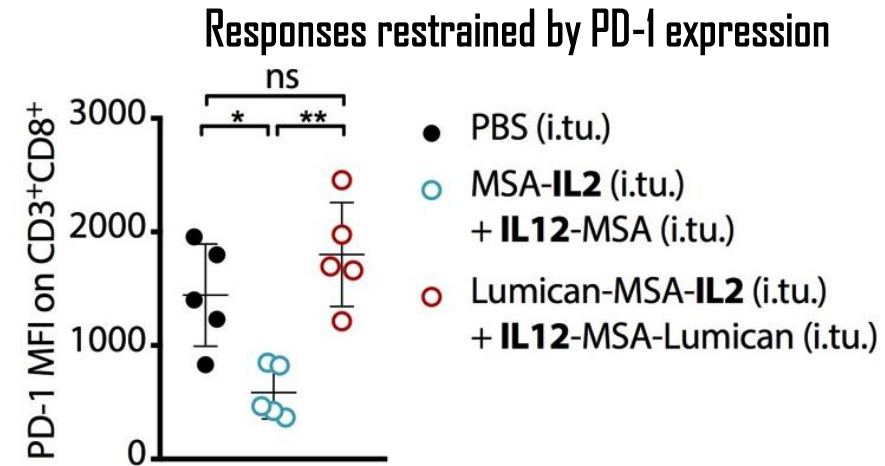
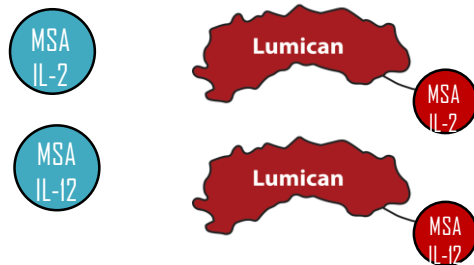
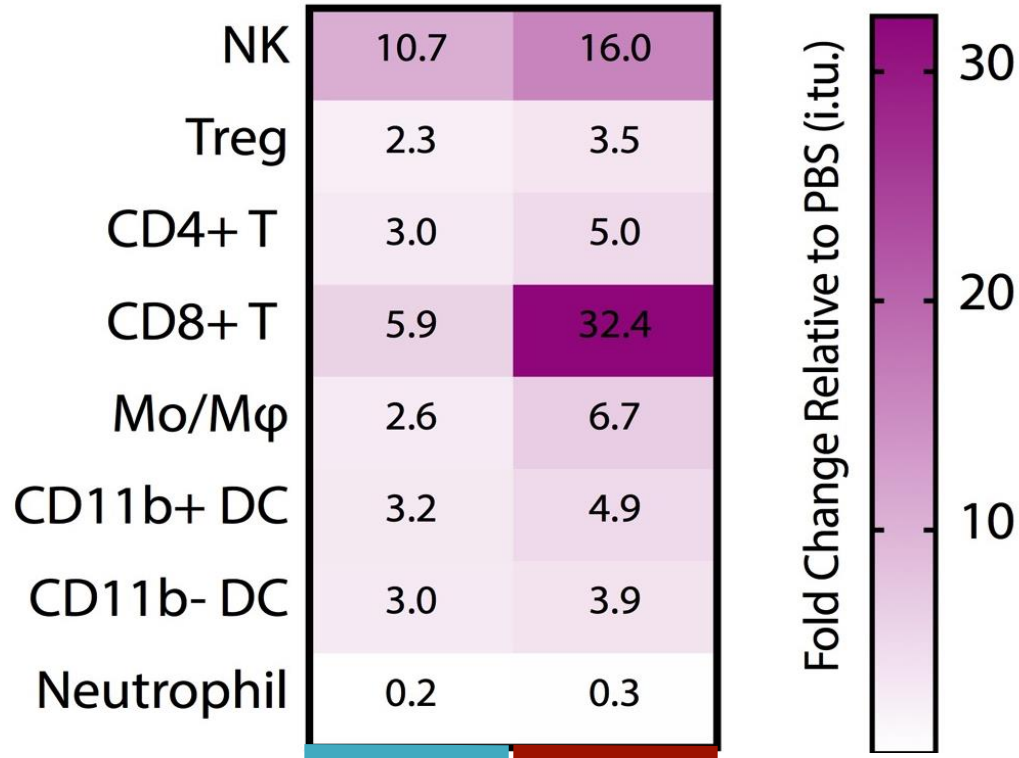
Lumican-cytokines are a safer, tumor-agnostic treatment



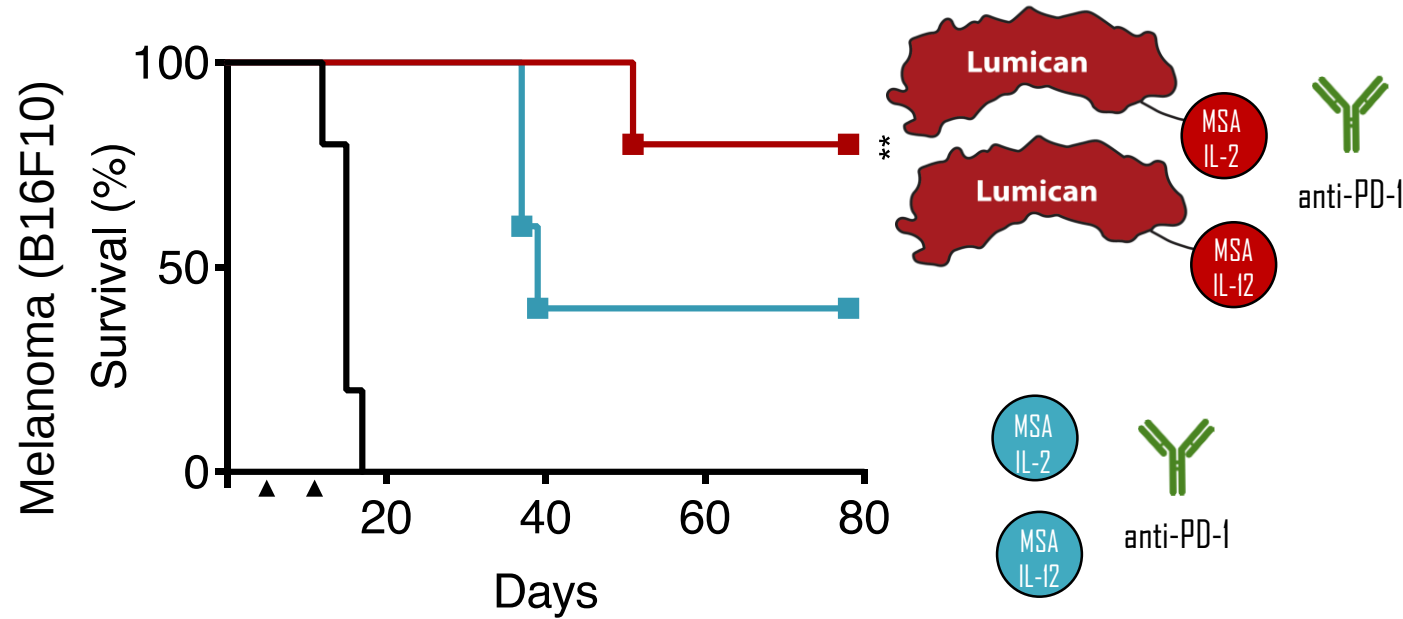
Effective against
breast (EMT6),
colon (MC38),
lung (KP2677),
Braf^{V600E}/Pten^{fl/fl} GEMM tumor models

Lumican-cytokines enhances CD8 T cell infiltration

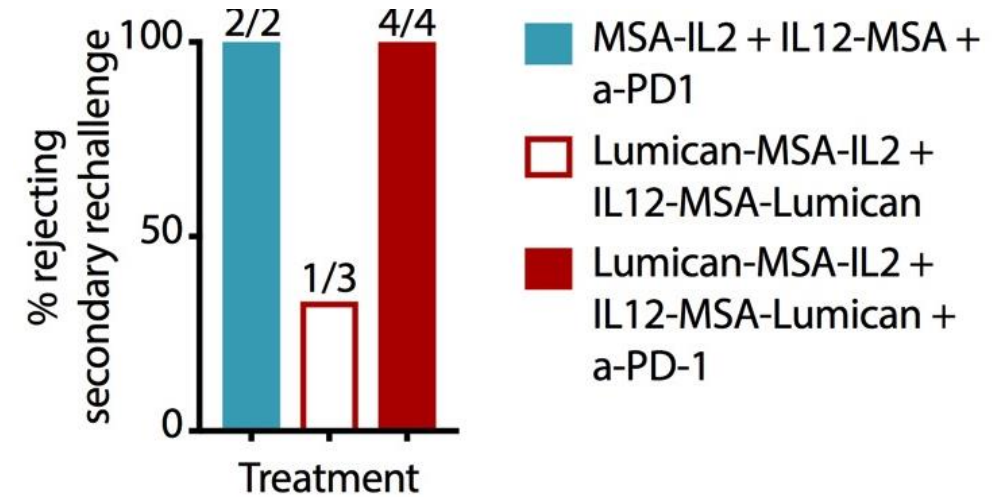
Influx of CD8+ T cells into tumor



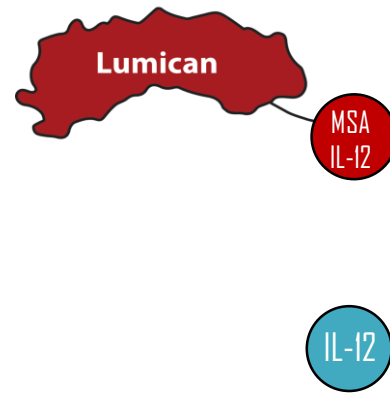
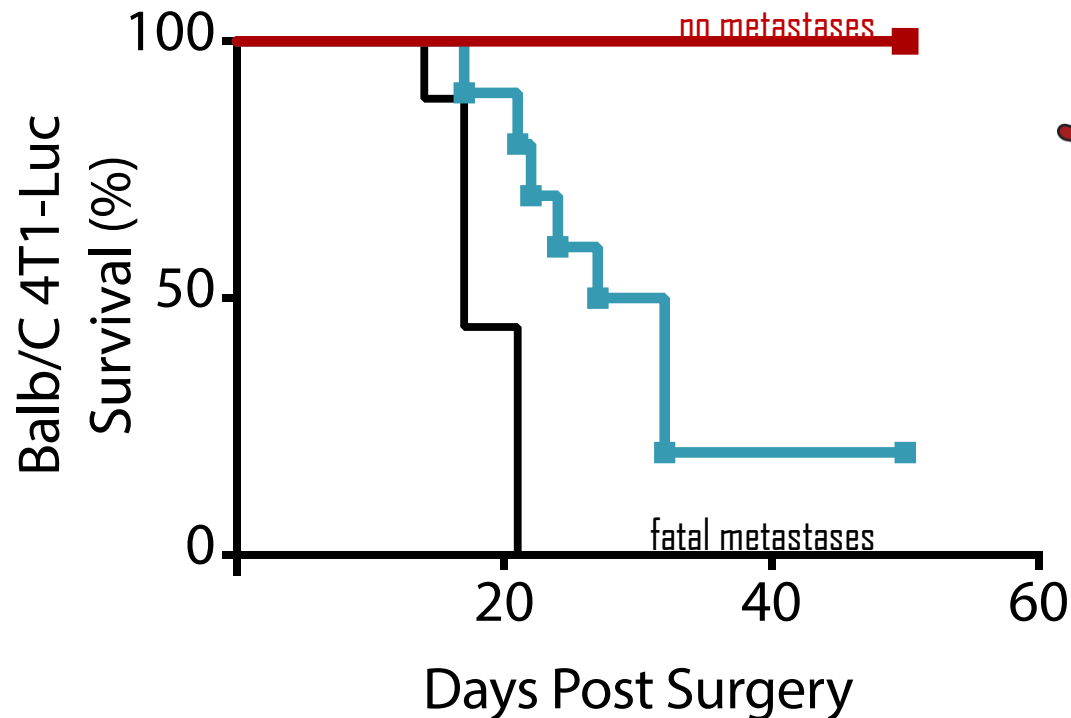
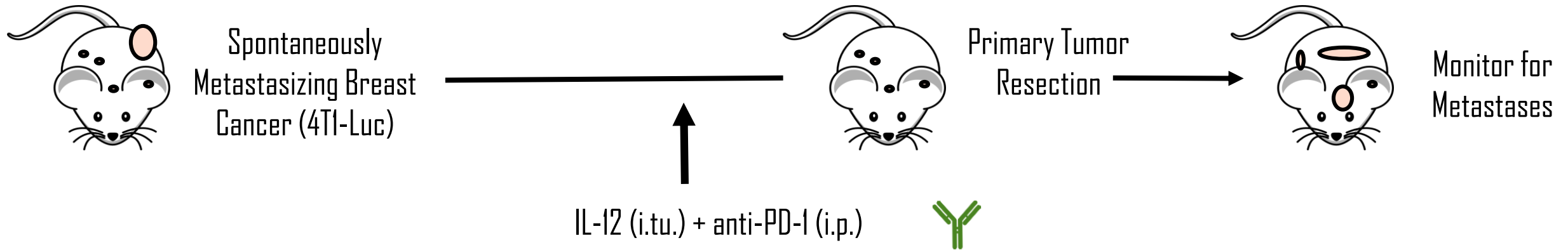
Lumican-cytokines prime durable anti-tumor immune response



Resistance to secondary tumor rechallenge indicates long-lived immunological memory



Collagen-anchoring cytokines exert superior distal tumor control

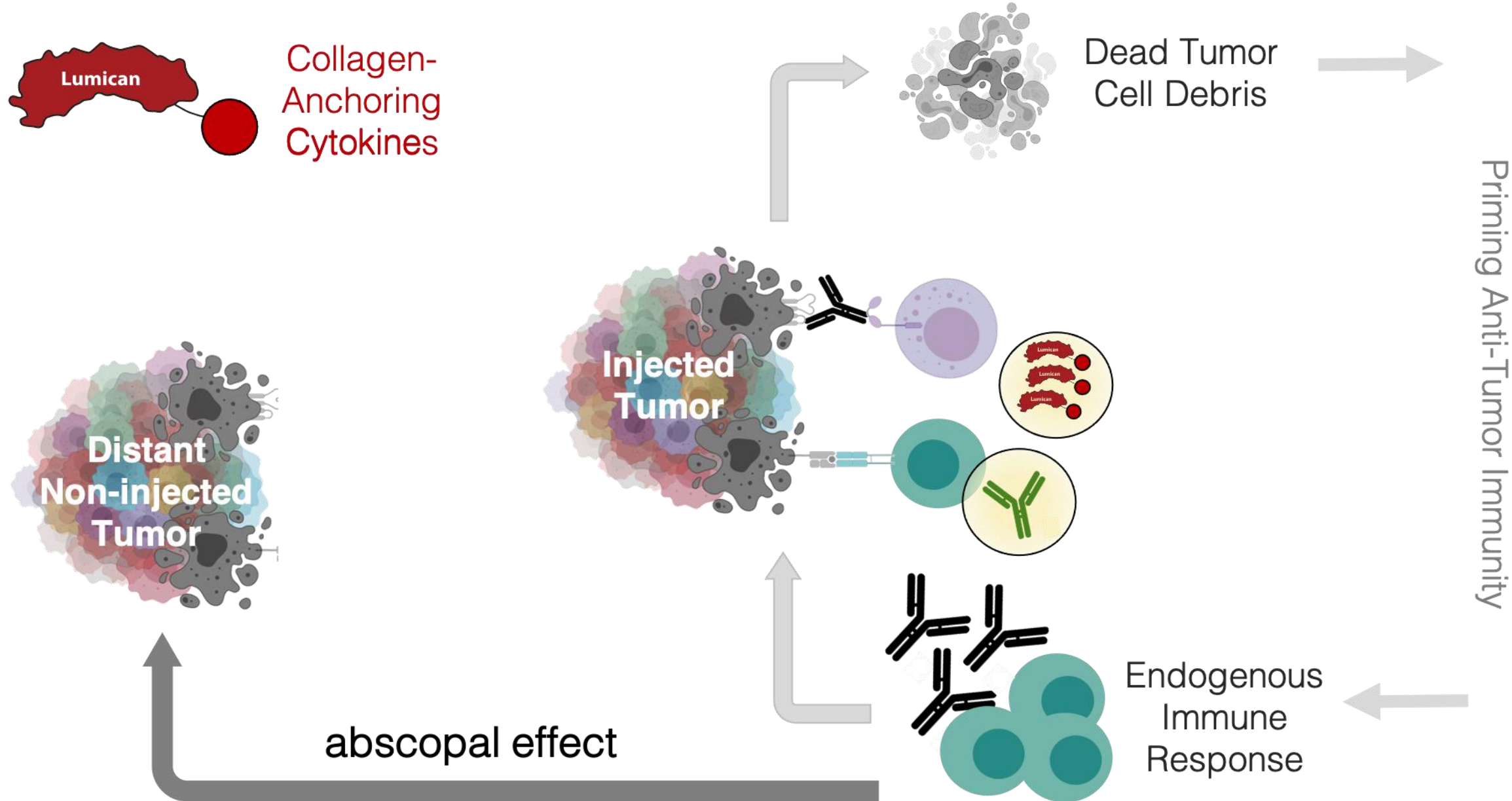


localized

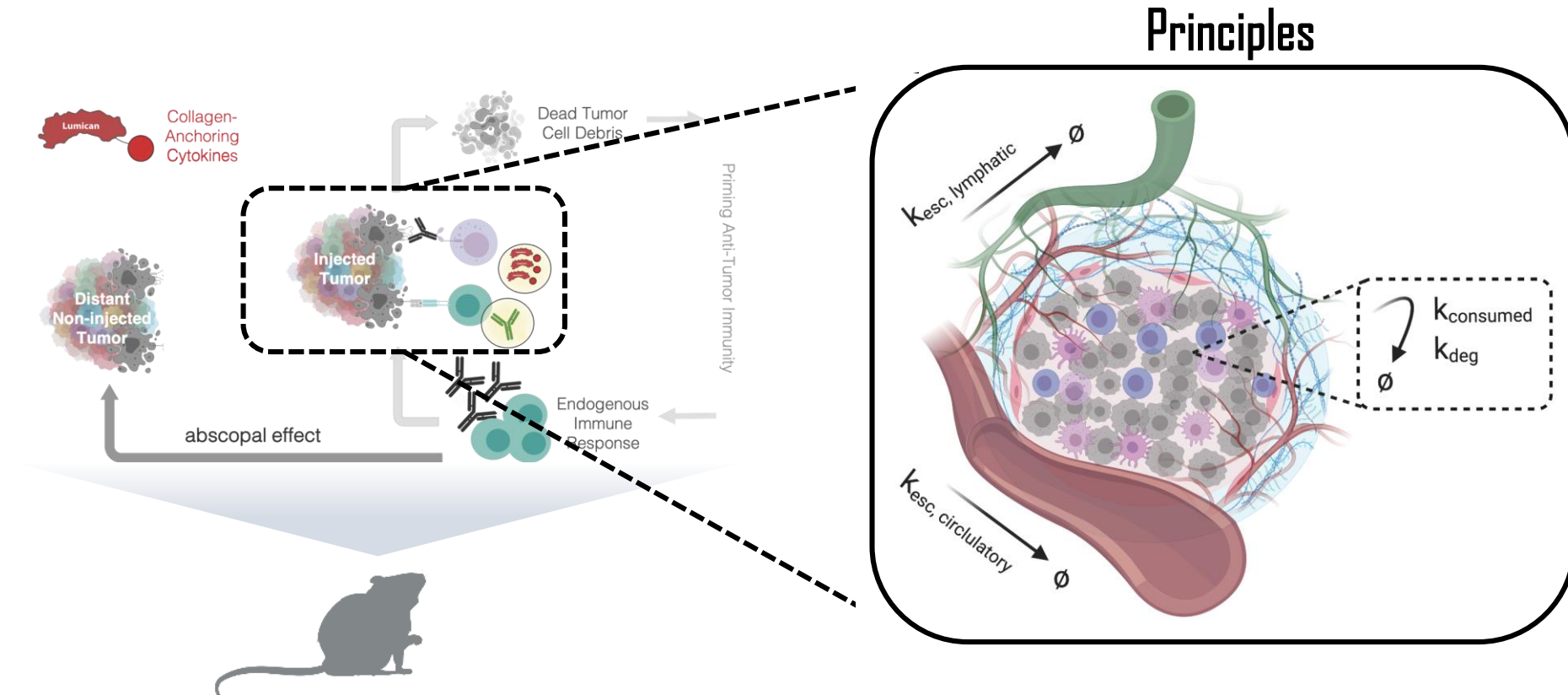
systemic

WHOLE
BODY
anti-tumor
immunity

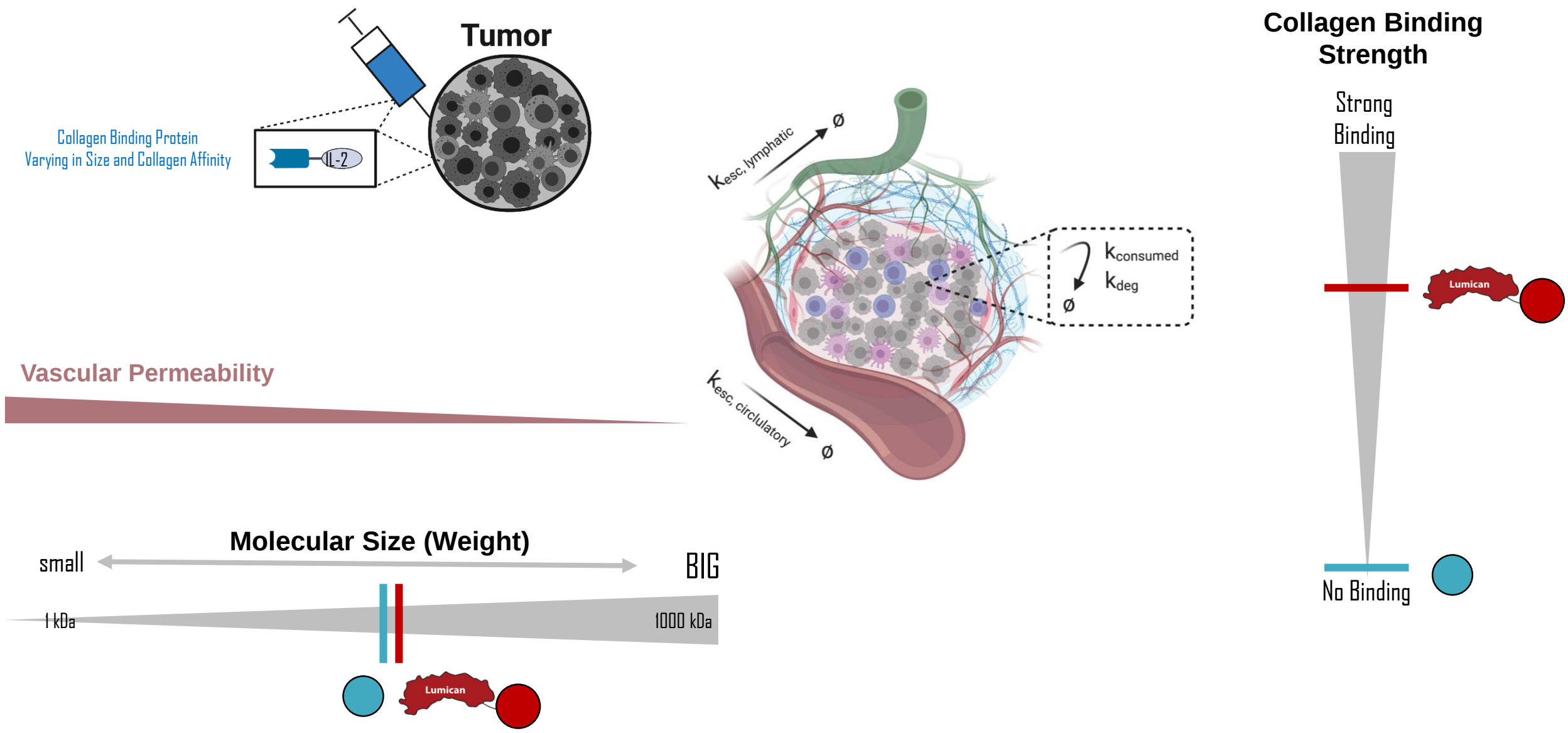
Immunological snapshot collagen anchoring cytokines



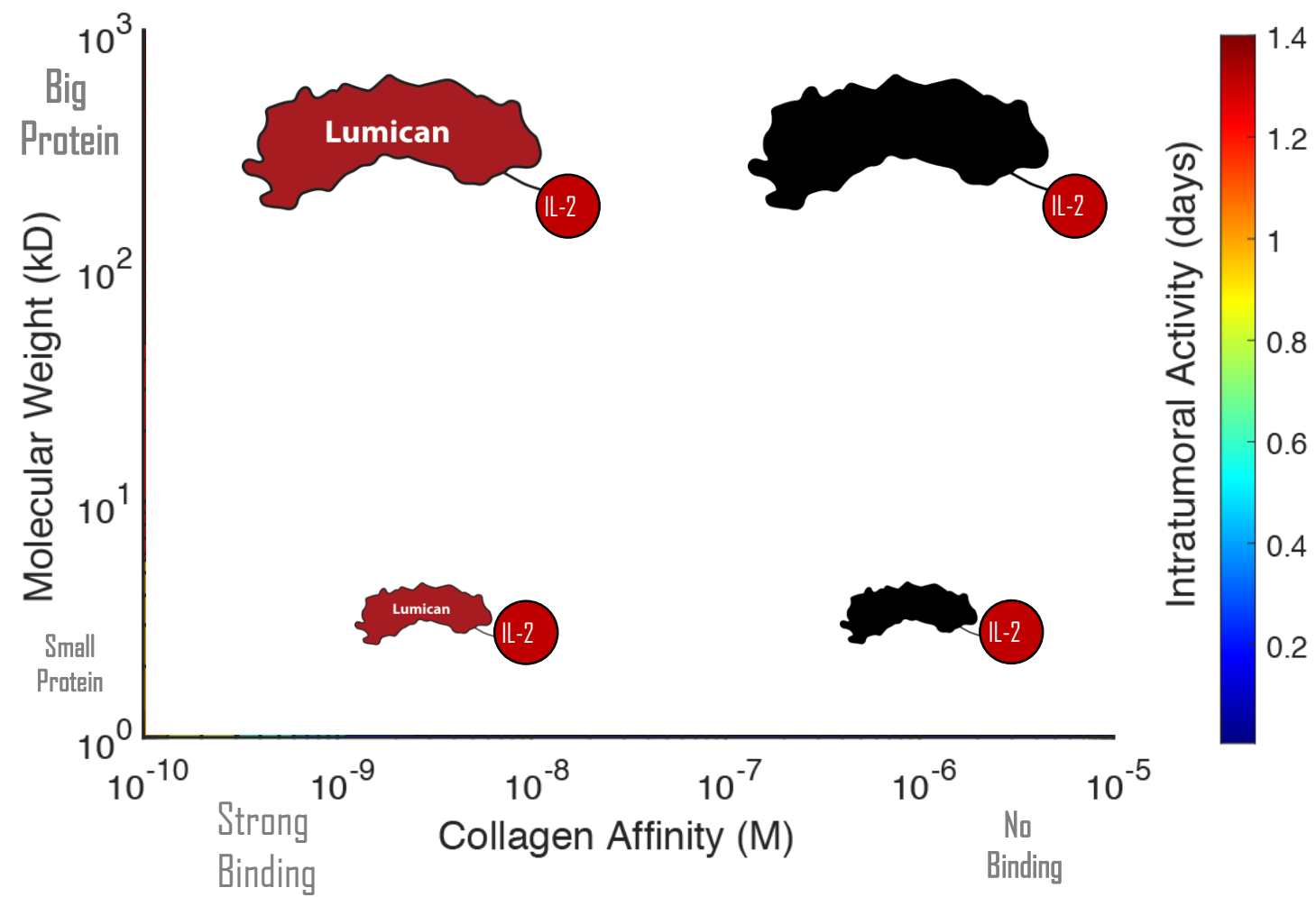
Intratumoral therapy is a new treatment paradigm



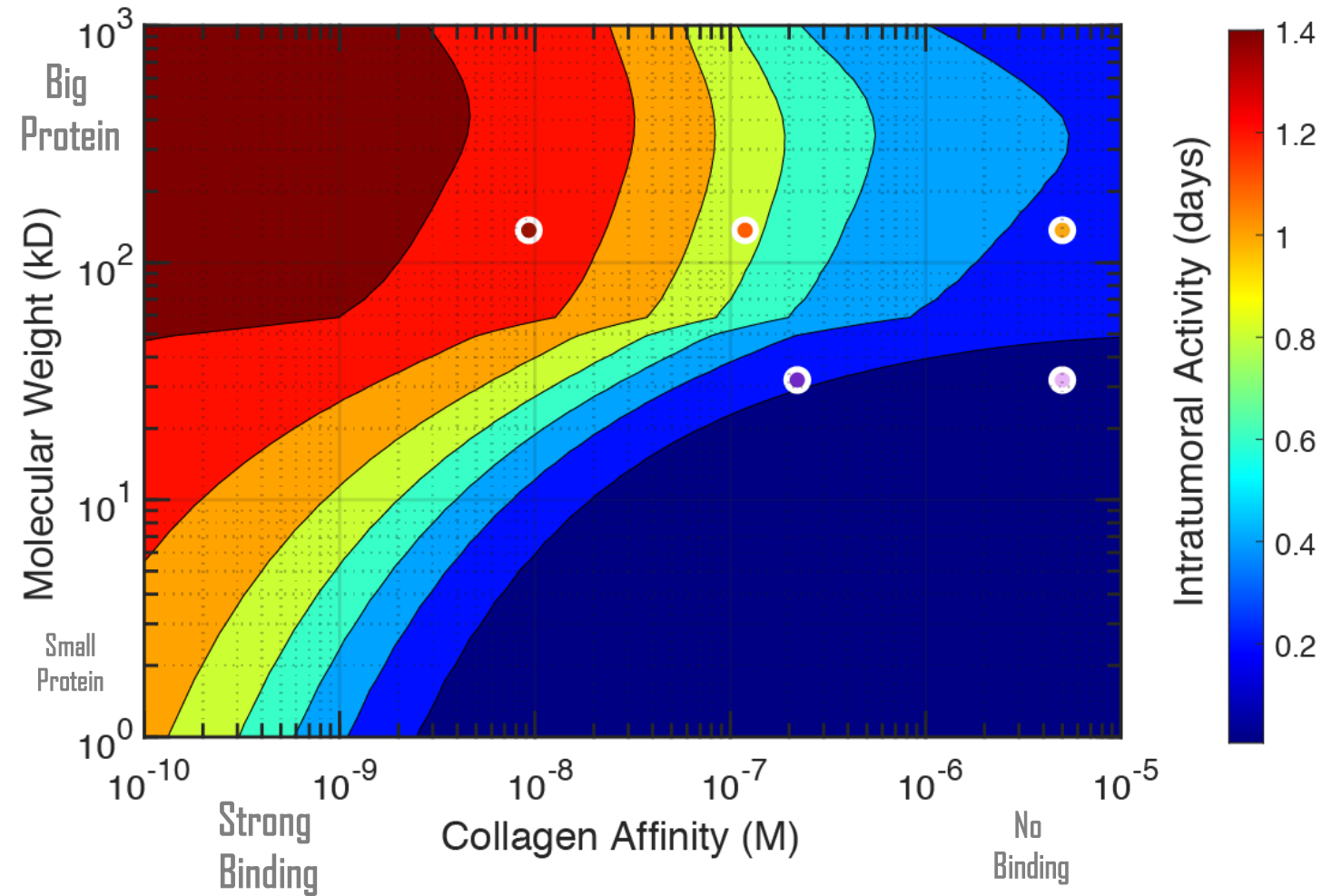
How do features of our drug impact its tumor retention (and effectiveness)?



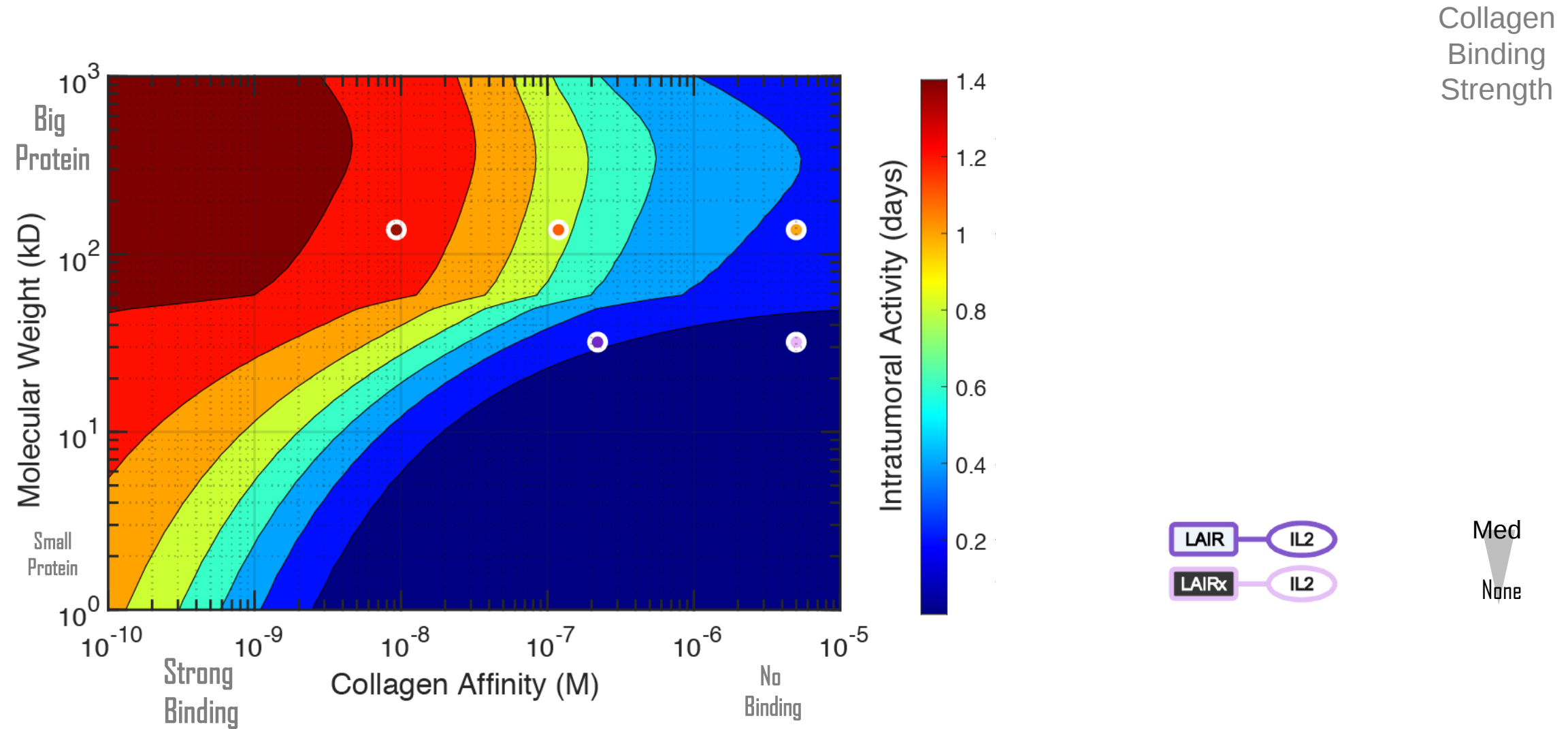
Model predicts activity of IL-2 varying in collagen affinity and size



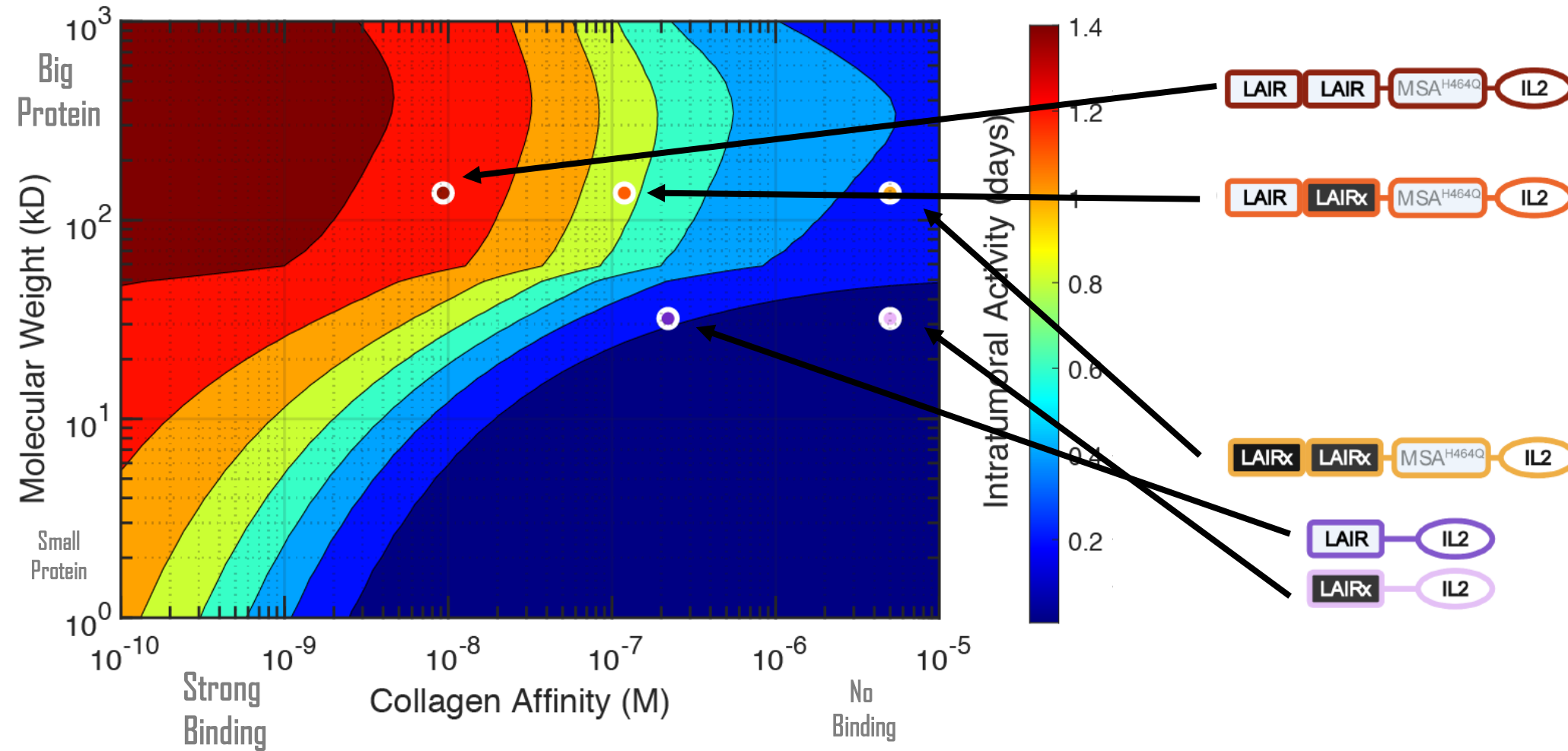
Generating cytokines therapies to test the model's prediction



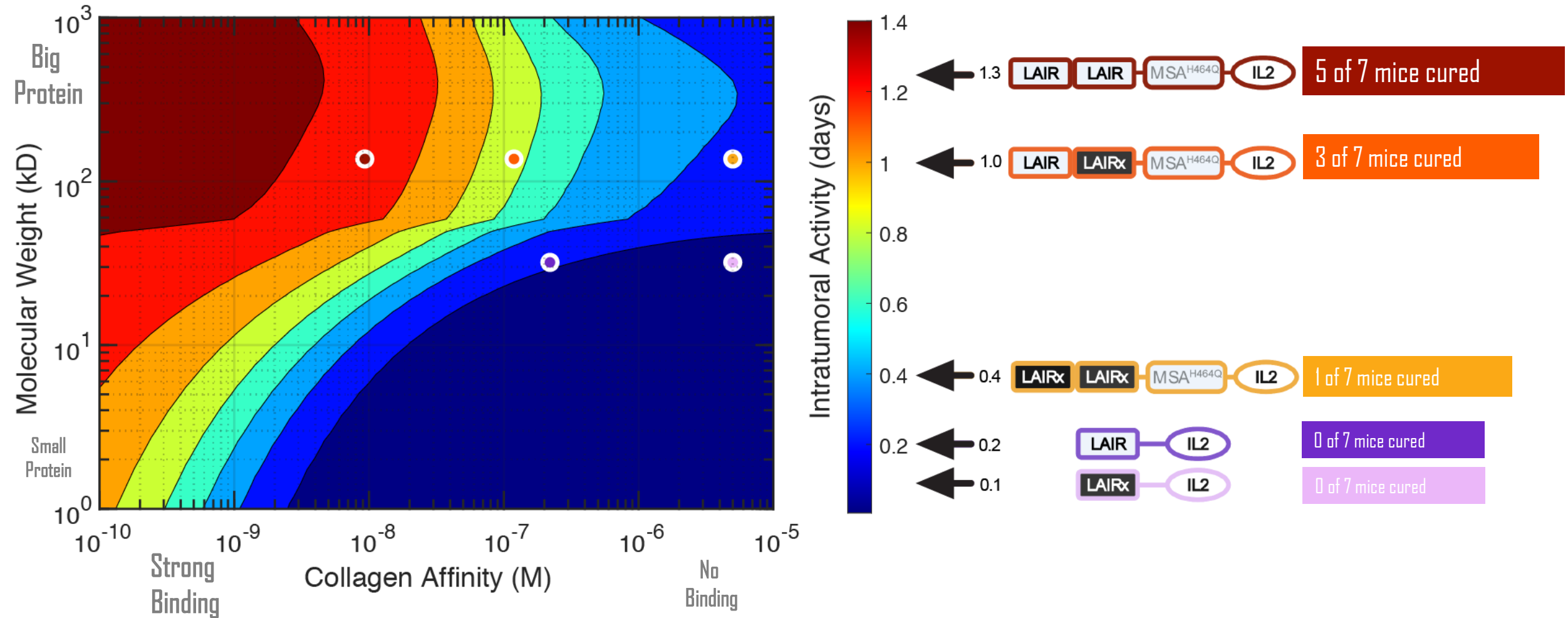
Generating cytokines therapies to test the model's prediction



Generating cytokines therapies to test the model's prediction



Empirically validating the model in B16F10 mouse model



Quantitatively validating the model using PET imaging

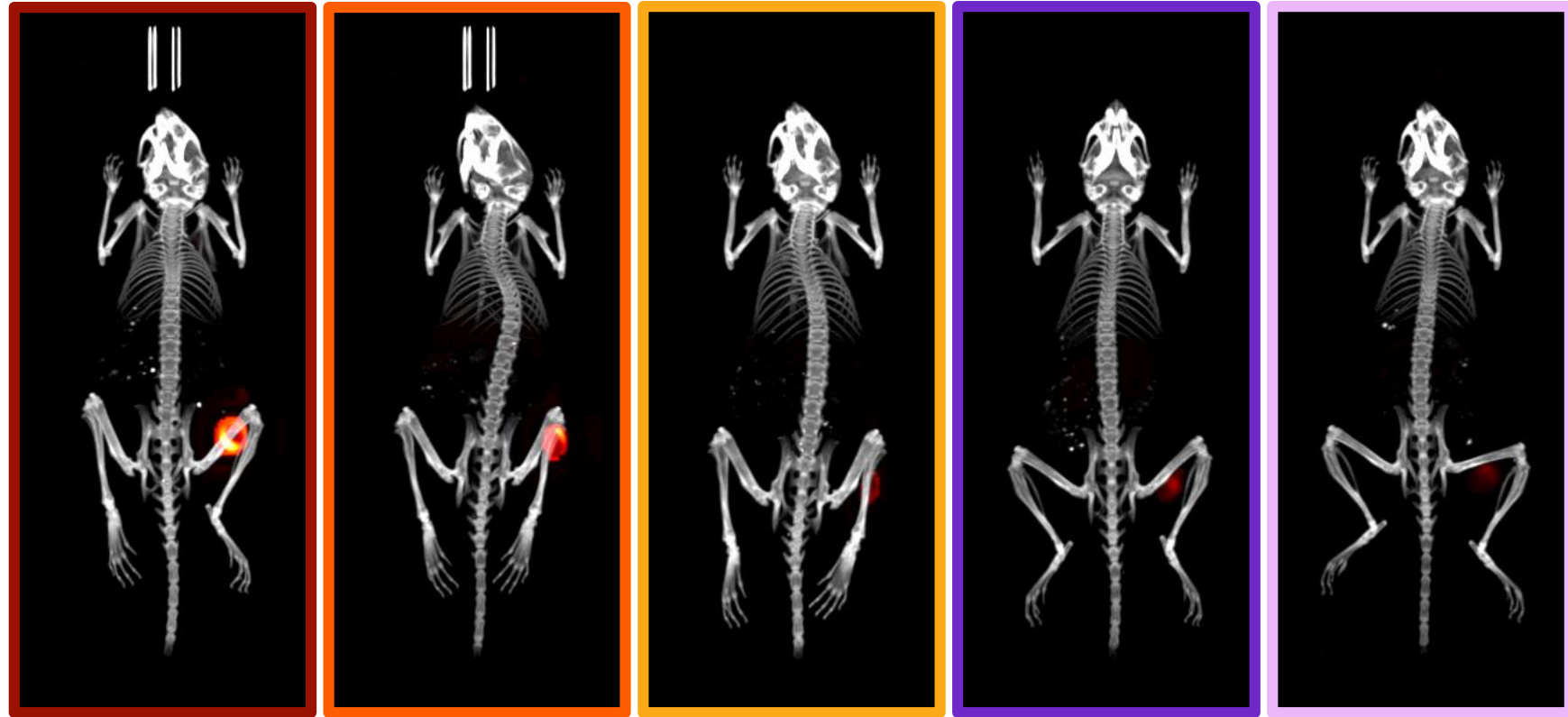
LAIR LAIR MSA^{H464Q}  Zr-89

LAIR LAIRx MSA^{H464Q}  Zr-89

LAIRx LAIRx MSA^{H464Q}  Zr-89

LAIR  Zr-89

LAIRx  Zr-89

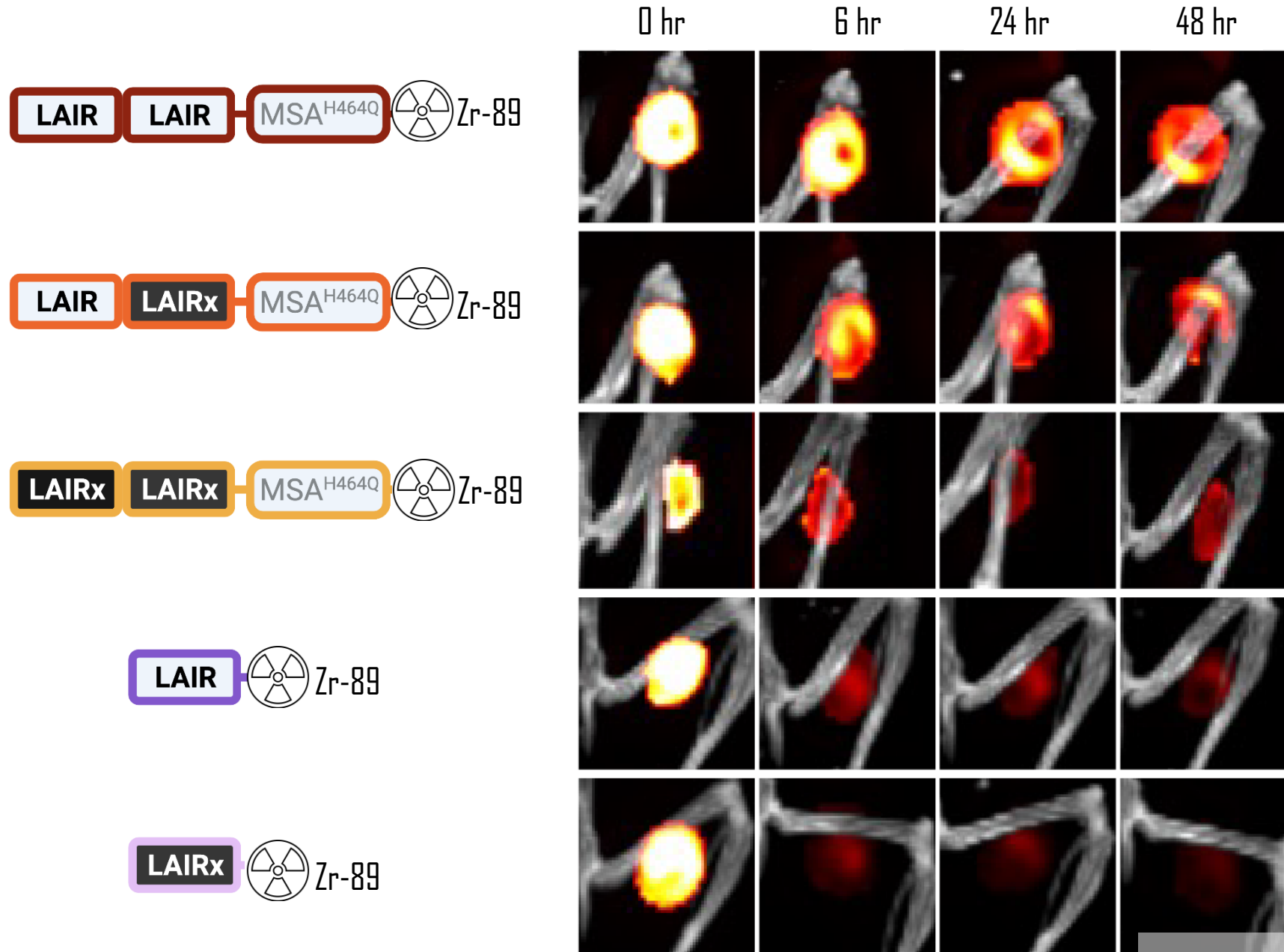


0% ID



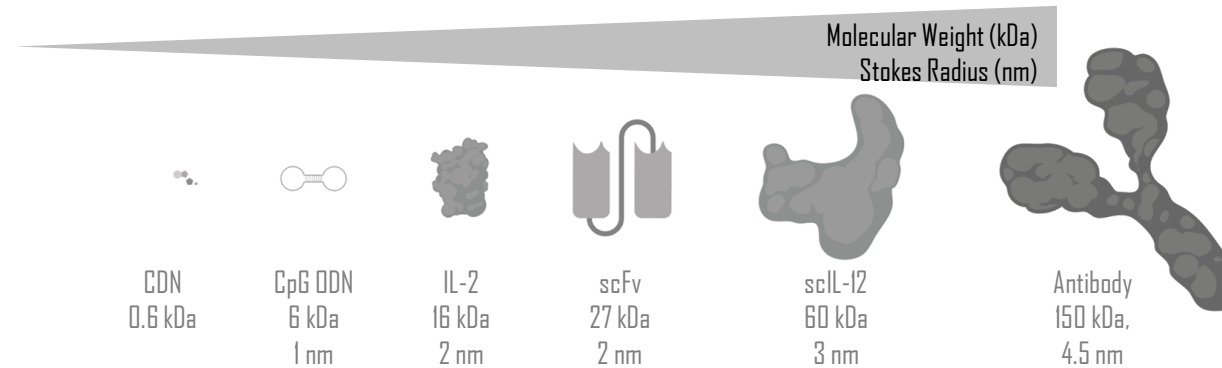
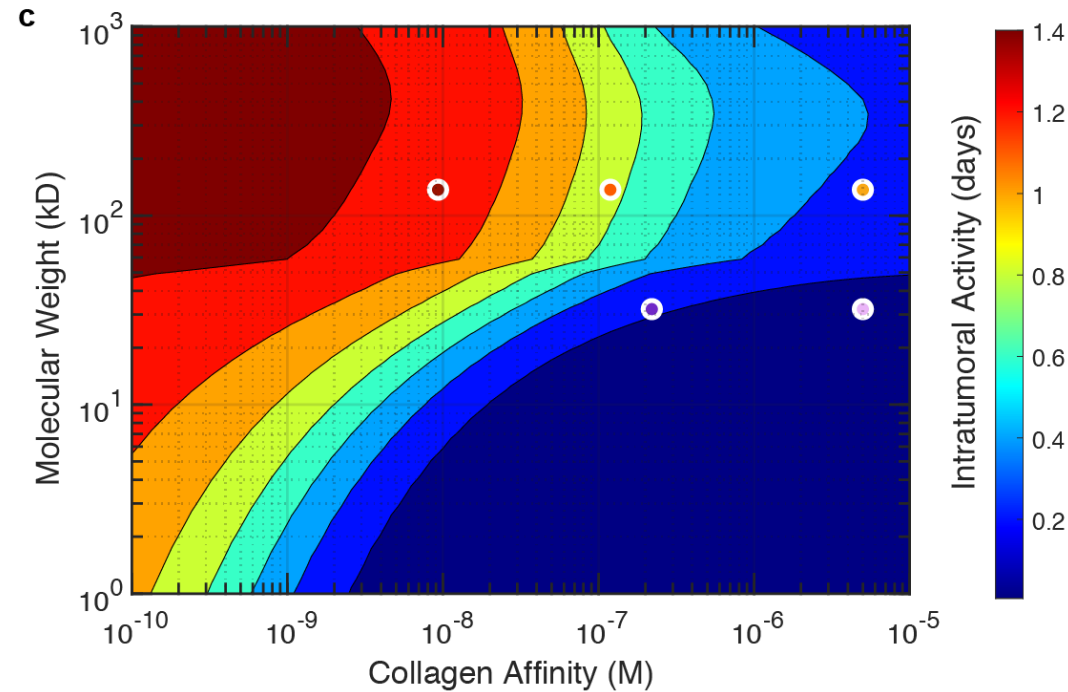
100 % ID

Contribution of size to retention outweighs affinity to collagen



Framework to increase tumor retention of local therapy

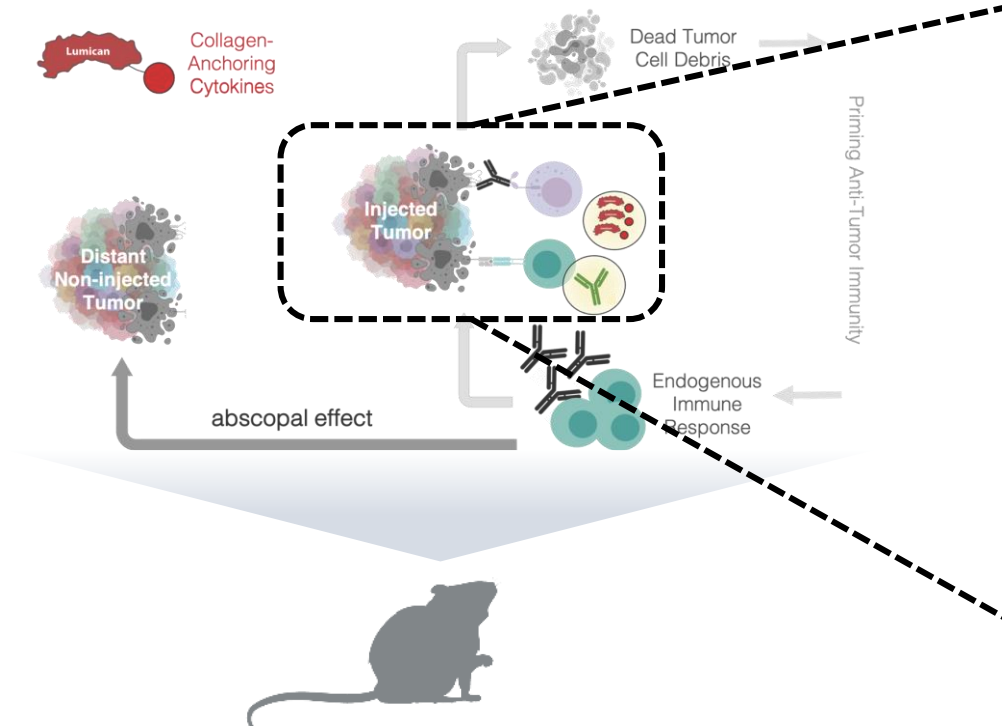
Molecular Modifications



Code deposited on Github!

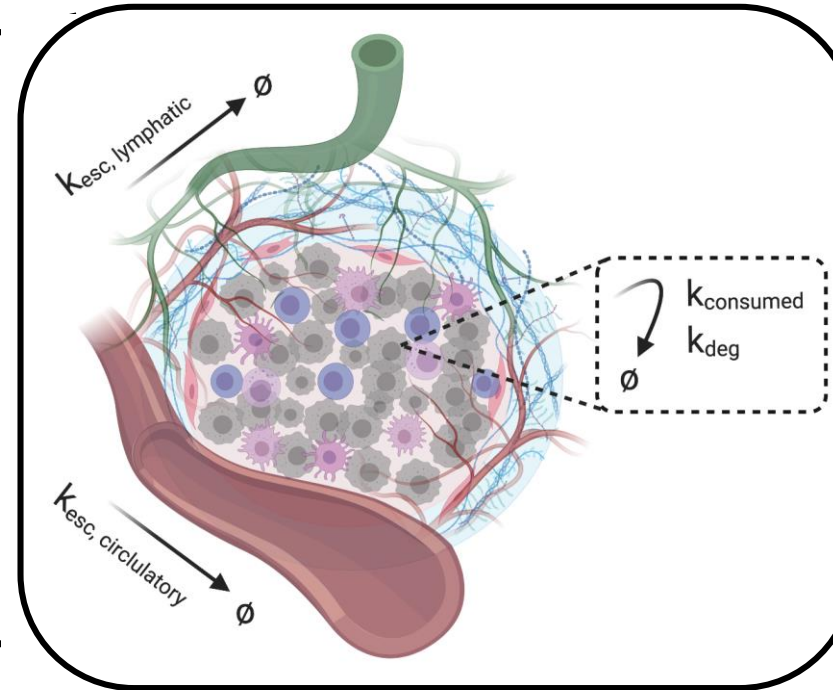
Adapted from Momin et al. *Nat Comm.* 2022

Translating intratumoral collagen cytokines therapy to the clinic



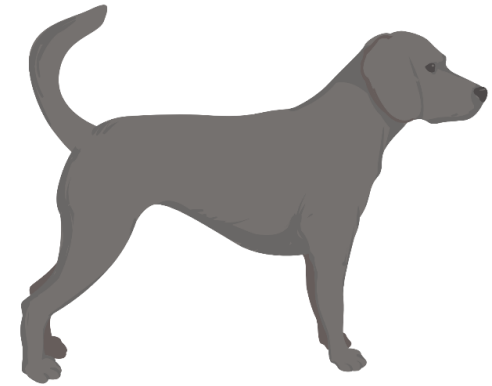
Momin et al. *Sci Trans Med*. 2019

Principles



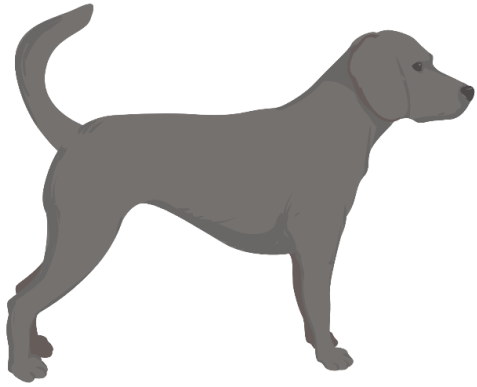
Momin et al. *Nat Comm*. 2022

Practice



Intratumoral Therapy

Pet dogs with naturally-occurring cancer can bridge translation



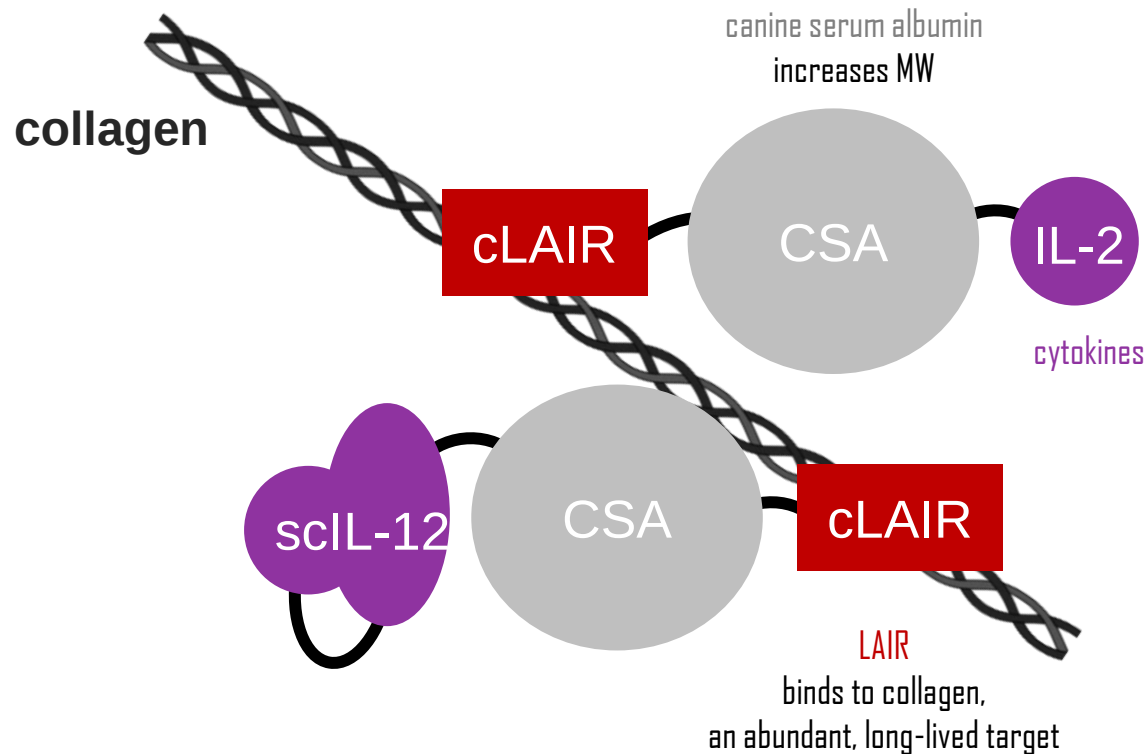
Prof. Tim Fan,
UIUC



Dr. Rebecca Bernstein, DVM



Dr. Jordan Hampel,
DVM



Prof. Dane Wittrup, MIT



Jordan
Stinson

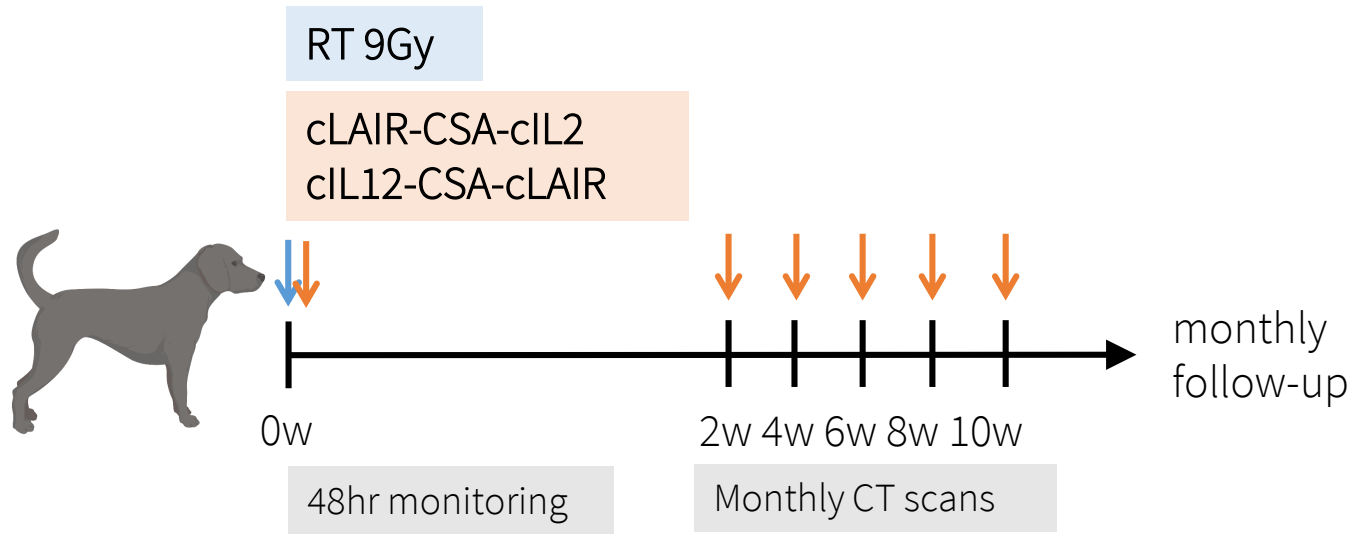
Dr. Noor
Momin

Allison
Sheen



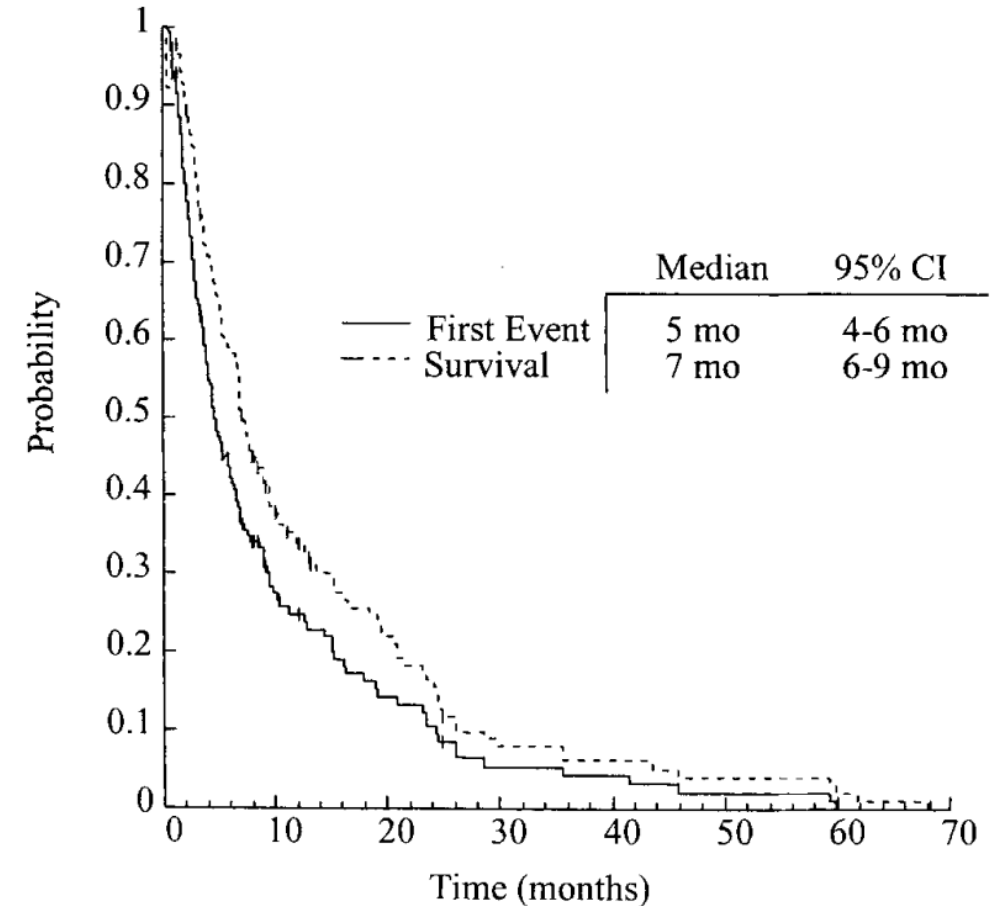
Cancer Center
at Illinois

Phase I/II – Oral Malignant Melanoma



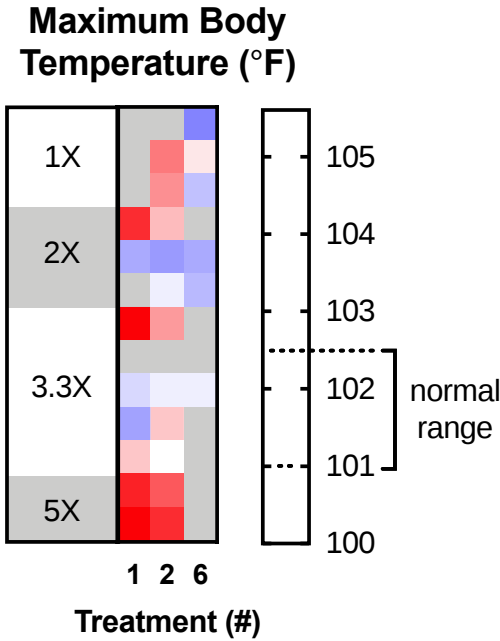
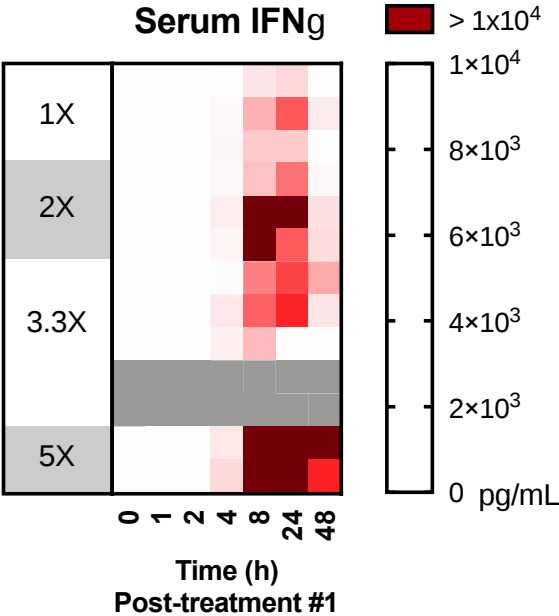
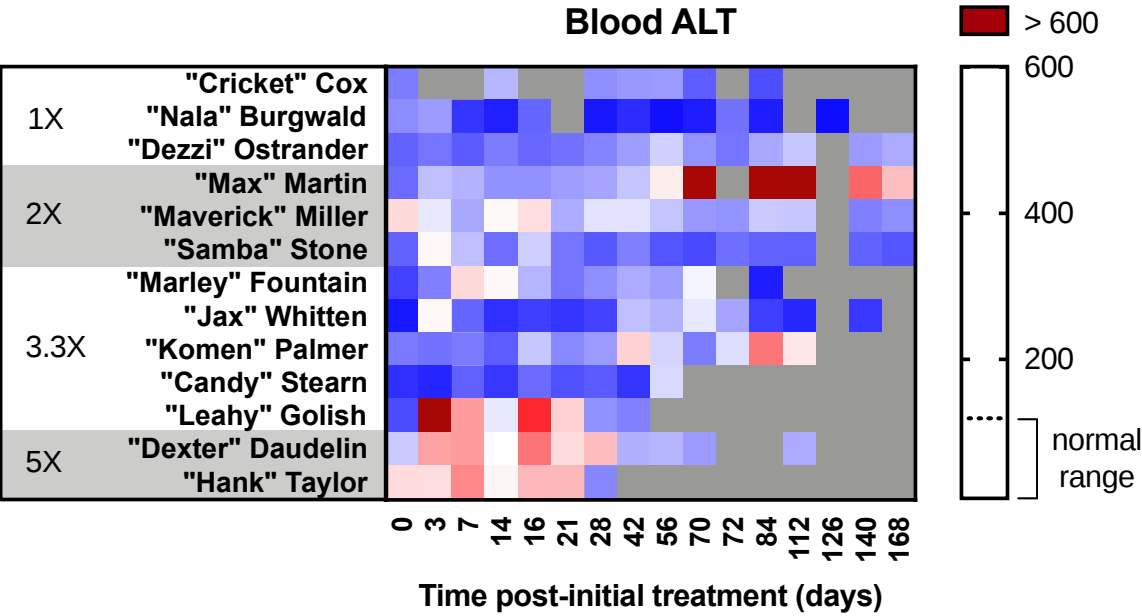
Starting dose (1X):
cLAIR-CSA-cIL-2: 17.4 µg/kg
cIL-12-CSA-cLAIR: 0.041 mg/m²

Escalated to 2X, 3.3X, 5X dose

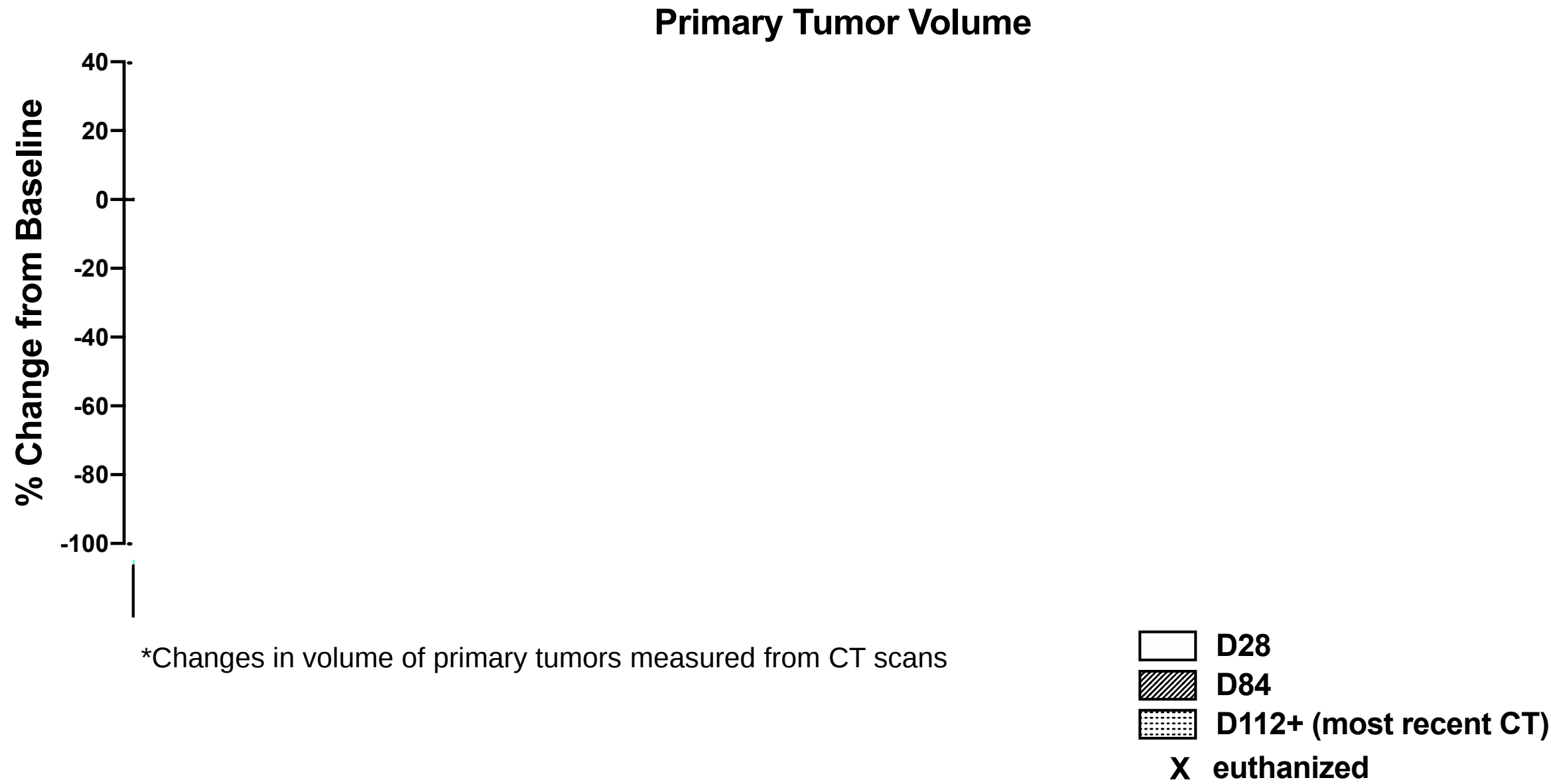


Proulx, D. R., Veterinary Radiology Ultrasound 2003

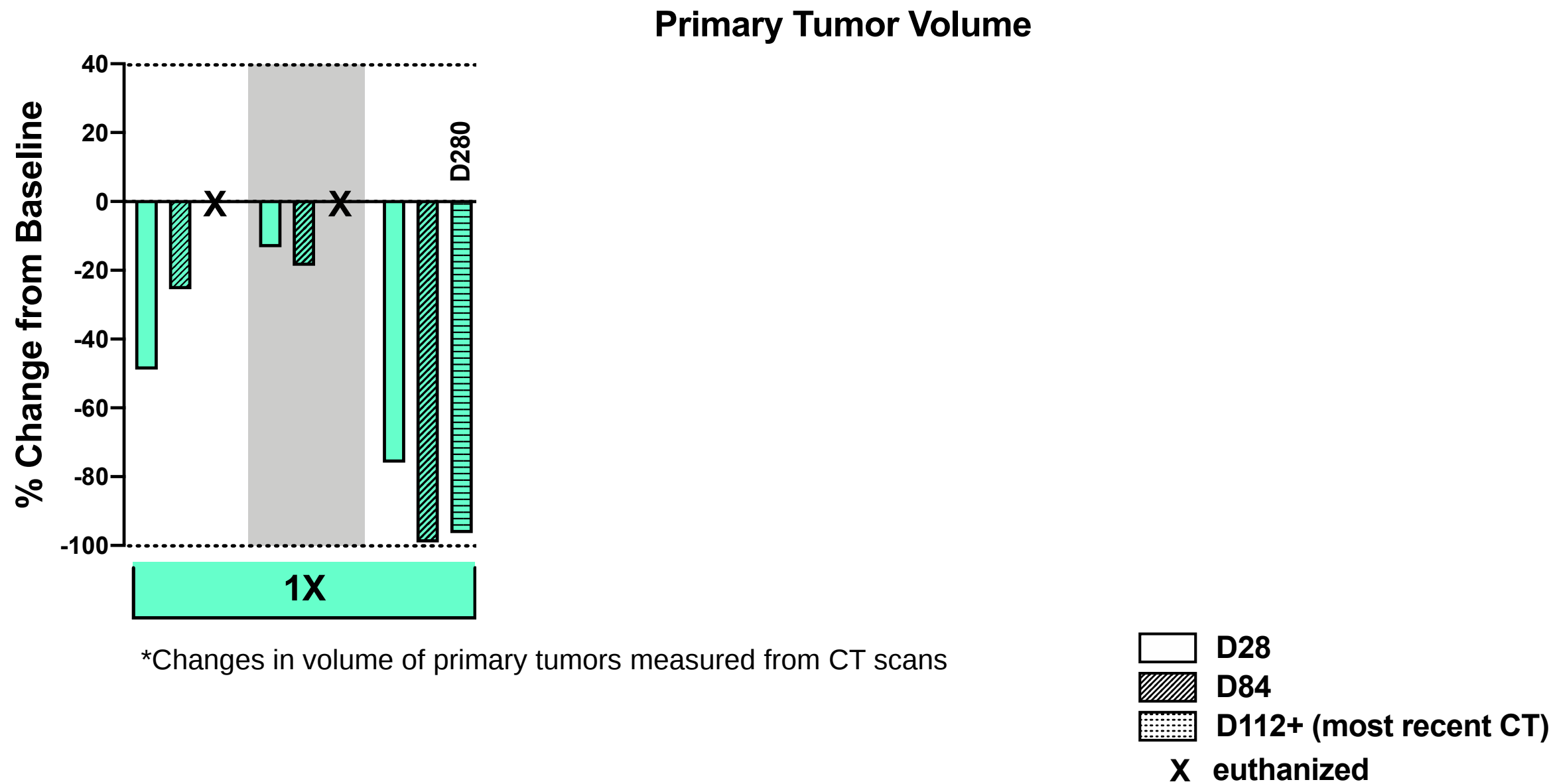
Safety – intratumoral cytokine treatment is tolerable $\leq 3.3X$ dose



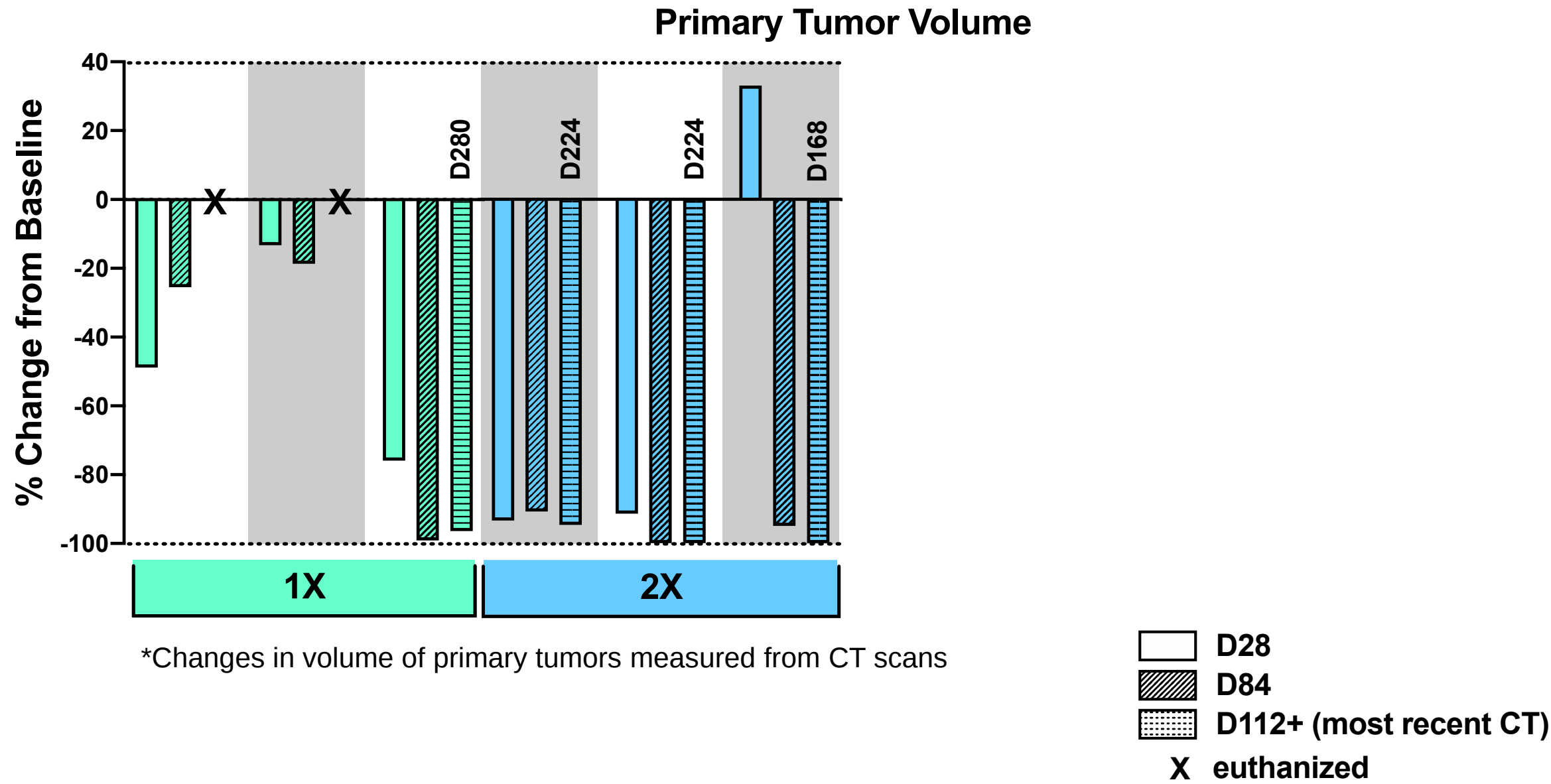
Efficacy – intratumoral cytokines results in regression of melanoma



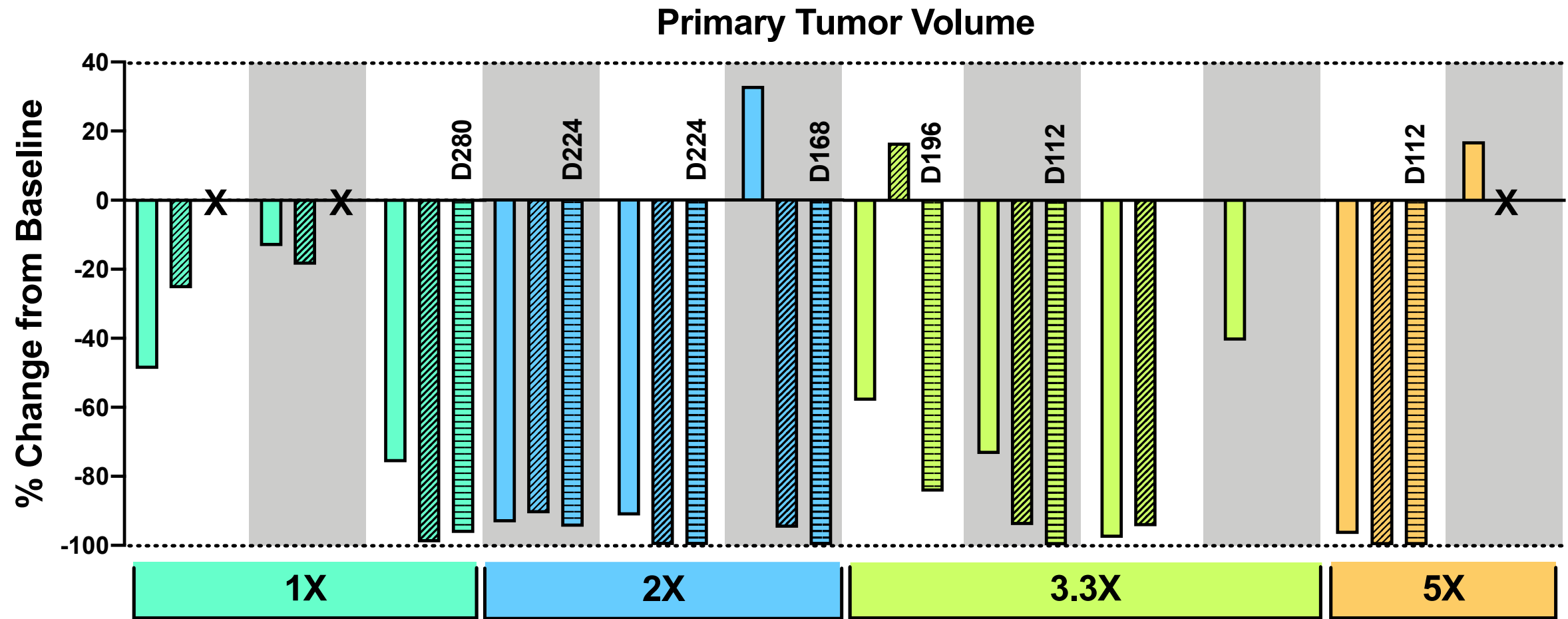
Efficacy – intratumoral cytokines results in regression of melanoma



Efficacy – intratumoral cytokines results in regression of melanoma



Efficacy – intratumoral cytokines results in regression of melanoma



*Changes in volume of primary tumors measured from CT scans

Efficacy – evidence of long-lived anti-tumor immune response

“Max” Martin (2X dose)



D1

D112

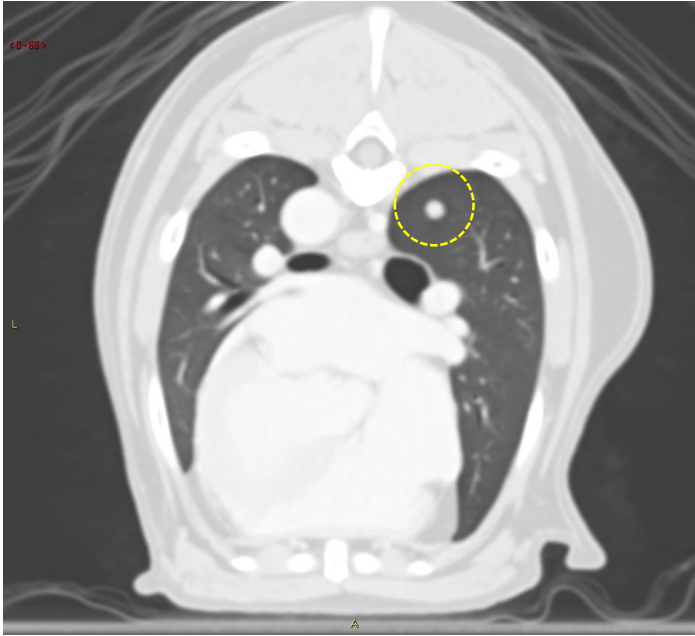
D140

D224

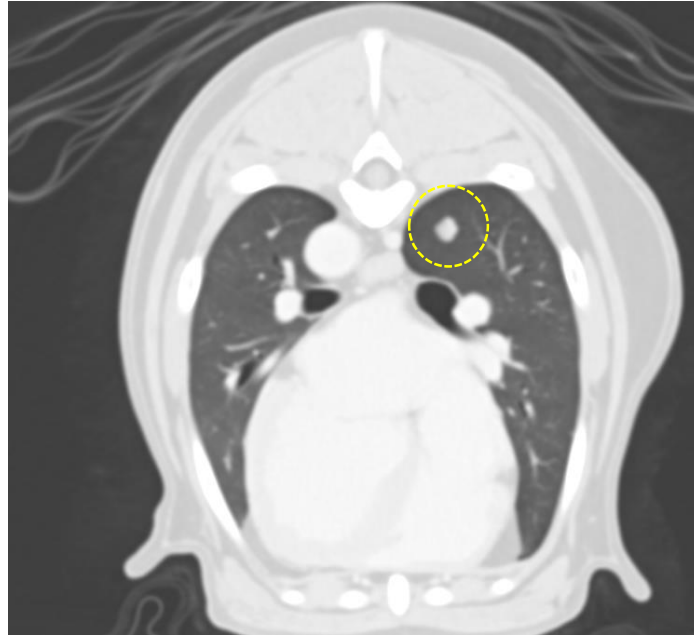
Tumor regrowth followed by regression after last cytokine dose (d84)
suggests long-lived anti-tumor immune response

Efficacy – evidence of abscopal responses

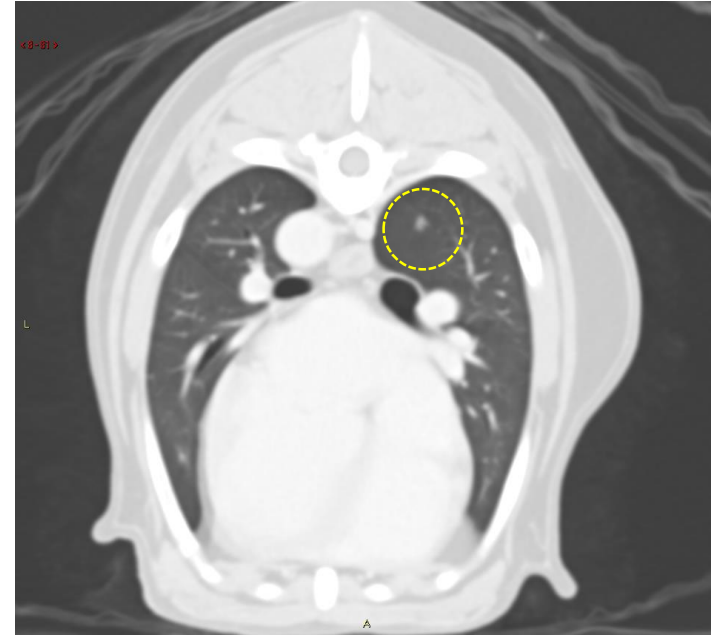
“Candy” Stern (3.3X dose)



Pre-treatment



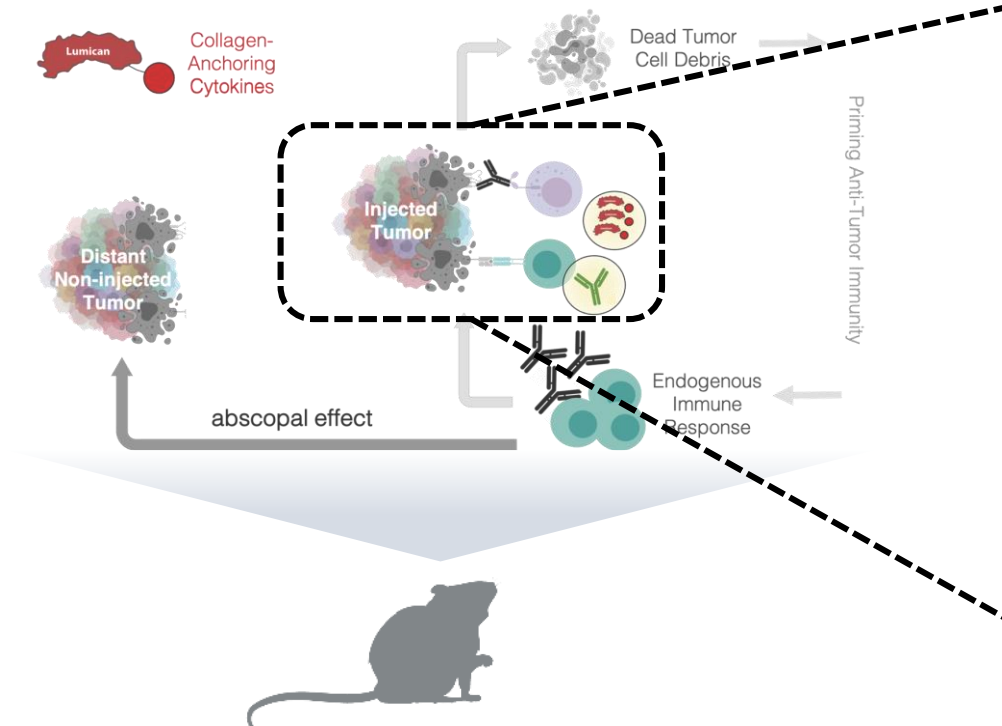
D28 (2 doses)



D70 (5 doses)

Evidence of distant response at lung metastatic site (CT)

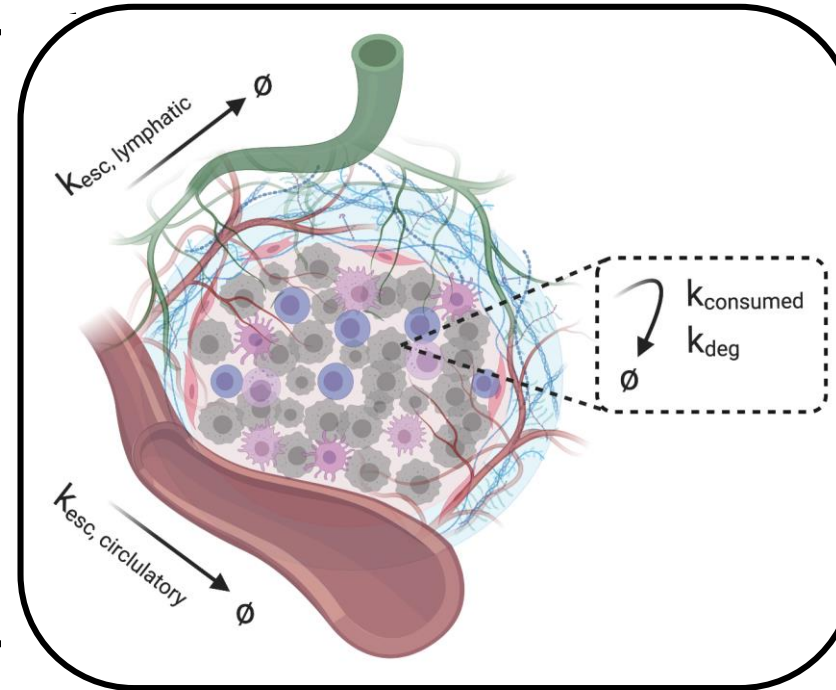
Intratumoral Cytokine Therapy: Principles and Practice



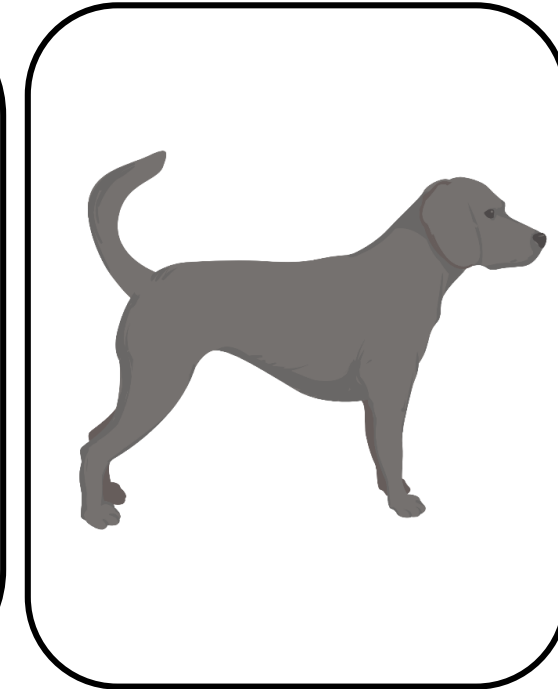
Tumor localization of collagen binding IL-2 and IL-12 can safely drive anti-tumor efficacy in several mouse tumor models.

Molecular weight, in addition to matrix affinity, contributes substantially to the retention of injected agents.

Principles



Practice



Treatment of canine soft tissue sarcoma and malignant melanoma with collagen binding IL-2 and IL-12 is safe and effective

Momin Lab

Cardio-Immunoengineering



Join us!



Prof. K. Dane Wittrup

Jordan Stinson

Allison Sheen

Emi Lutz

Dr. Naveen Mehta

Dr. Adrienne Rothschilds

Joseph Palmeri

Anthony Tabet

Magnolia Chinn

Izumi de los Rios Kobara

Yash Agarwal

Luciano Santollani

Sarah Cowles

Megan Hoffman

Keith Cheah

Prof. Timothy Fan (UIUC)

Dr. Rebecca Bernstein, DVM

Dr. Jordan Hampel, DVM

Rebecca Kameron

Dr. Jonathan Samuelson

Prof. Kimberly Selting

Prof. Darrell Irvine (MIT)

Dr. Nitasha Bennet

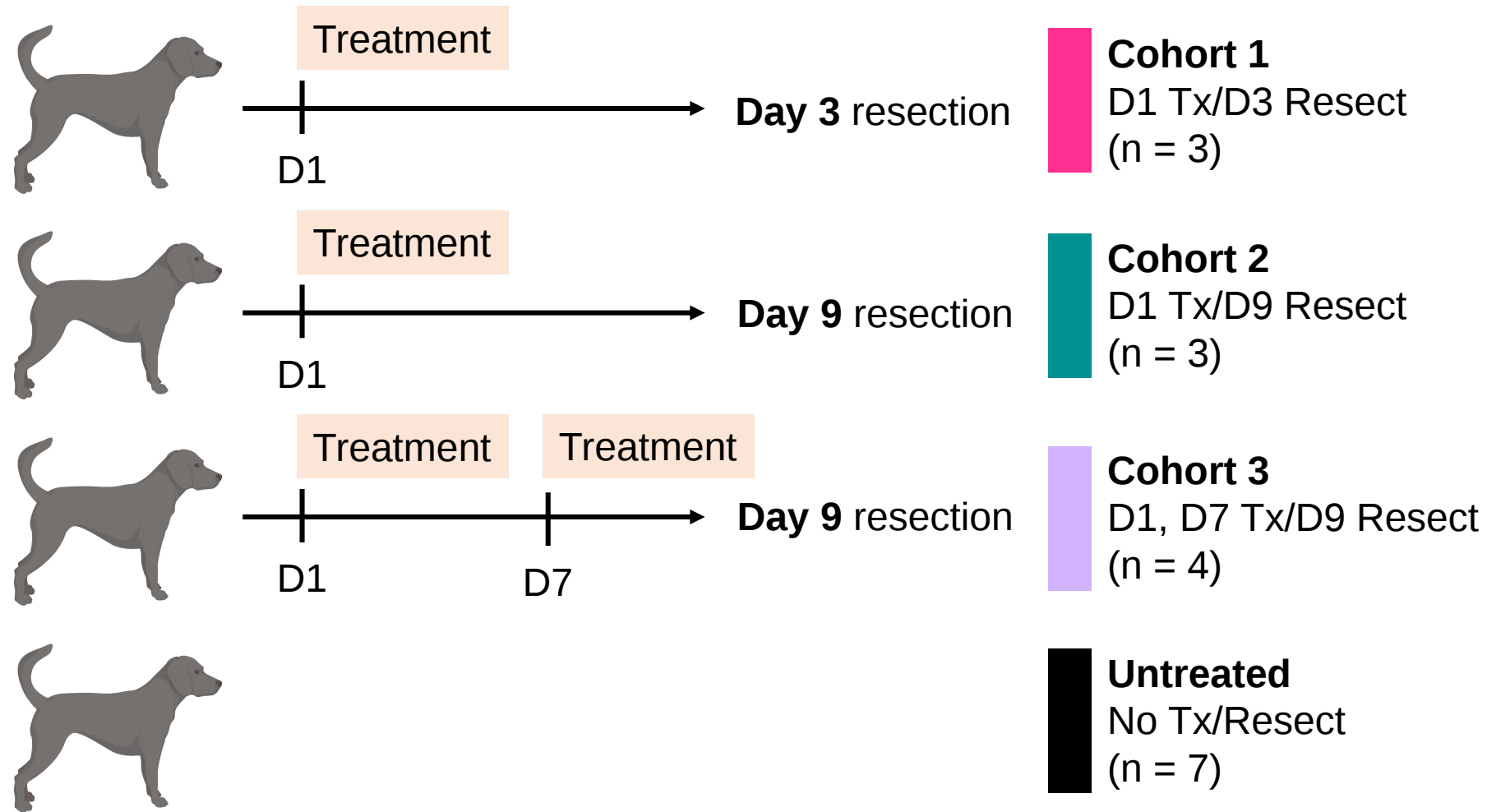
Dr. Leyuan Ma (Penn)

Prof. Stefani Spranger (MIT)

**Canine Patients and
their Families**



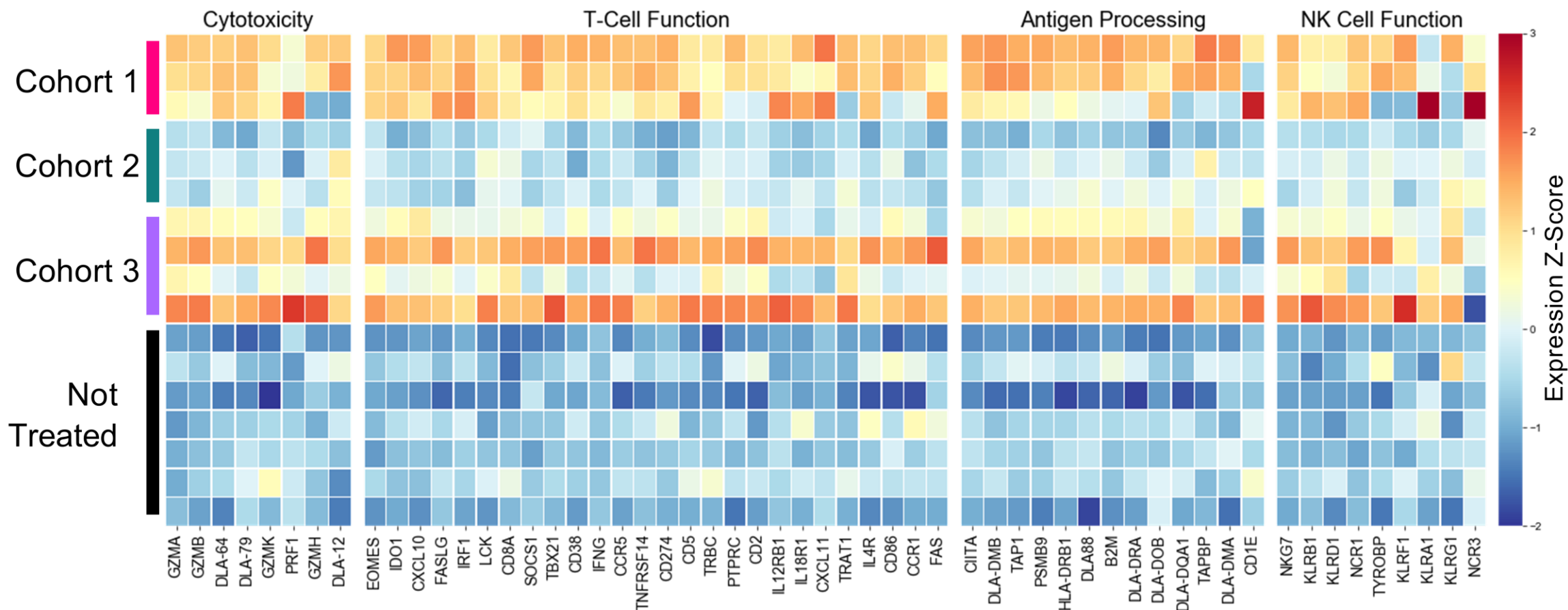
Immunological Measurements - Soft Tissue Sarcoma Trial



Treatment: Intratumoral dosing of cytokines

- cLAIR-CSA-cIL-2: 17.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$
- cIL-12-CSA-cLAIR: 0.041 mg/m^2

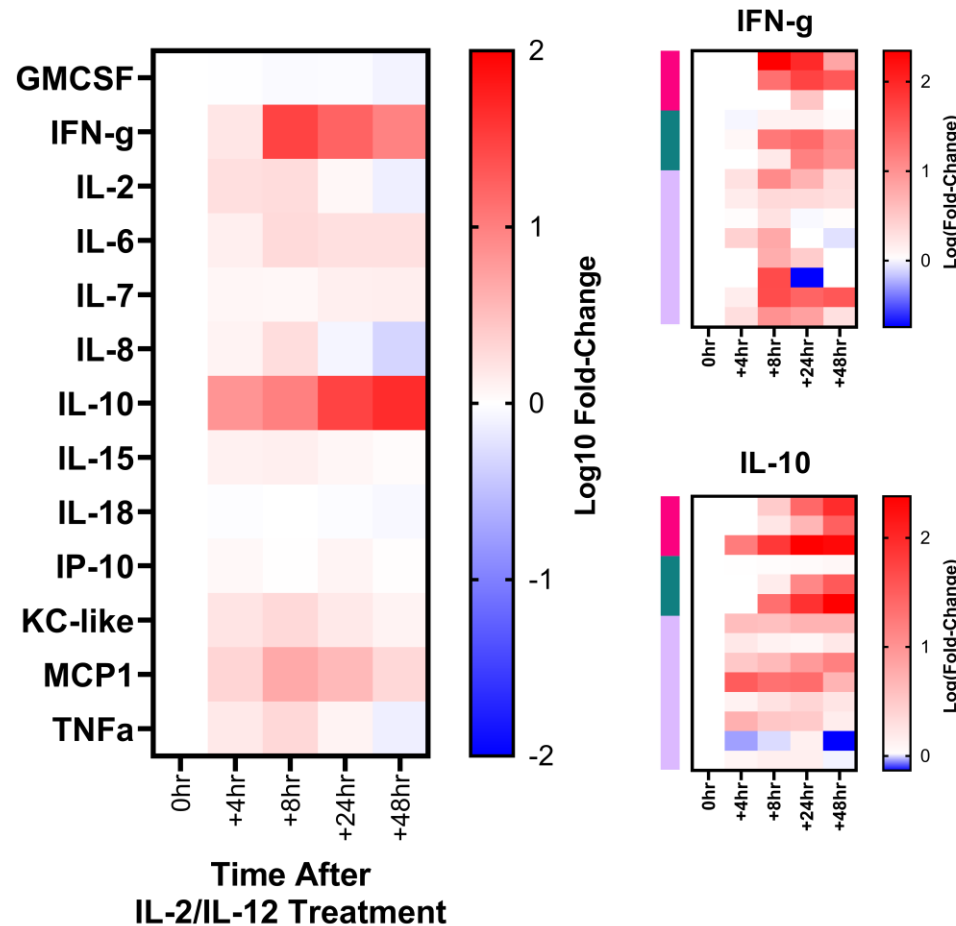
Treated, resected sarcomas display enhanced immune infiltration



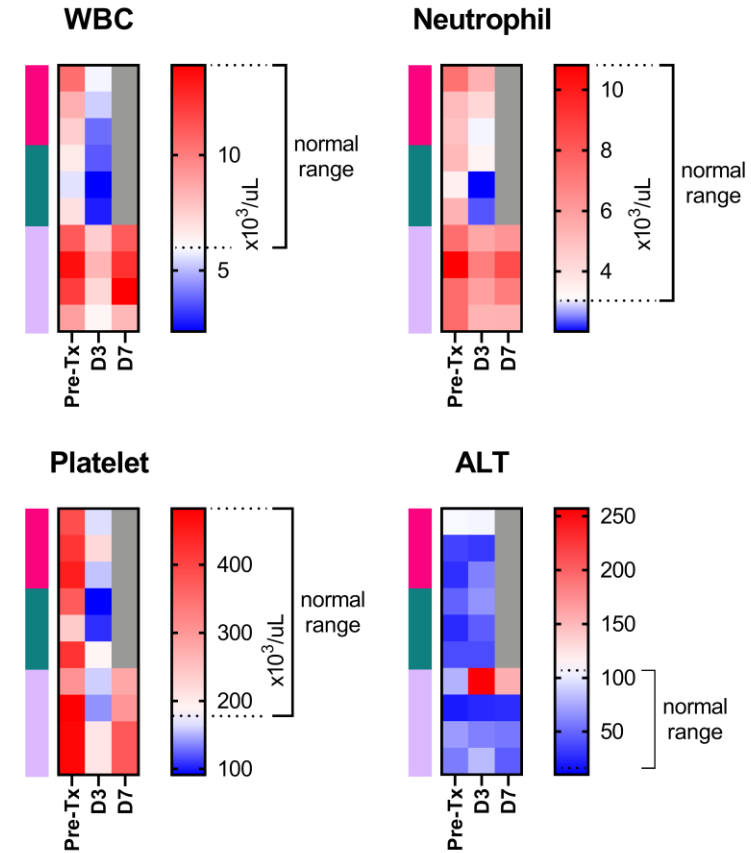
FFPE-derived tumor RNA profiled by Nanostring confirmed infiltration of CD45+ immune populations

Counter-regulatory responses limit TIL effector functions after intratumoral cytokine therapy

Average Patient Serum Response:



Complete Blood Count:



Multiplex analysis of serum analytes revealed a common IFN-g and IL-10 response pattern to treatment, which led to minor neutropenia and thrombocytopenia

Immunologically "cold" soft-tissue sarcomas treated with IL-2 and IL-12 had immune infiltration confirmed by immunohistochemistry

CD3

PAX5

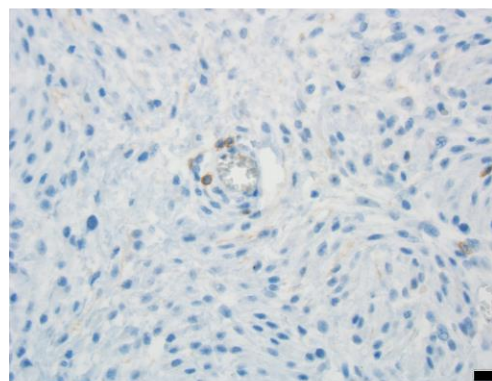
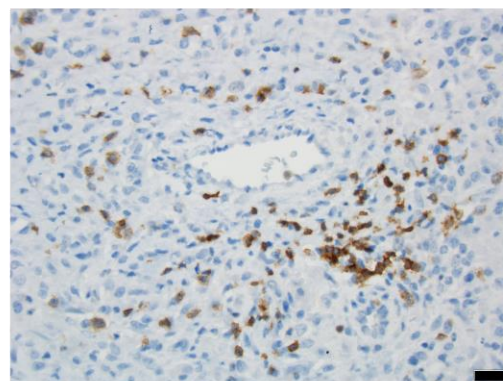
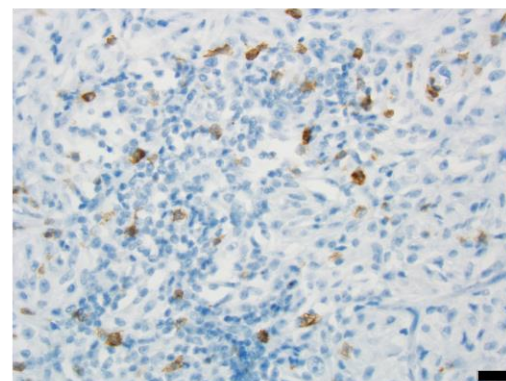
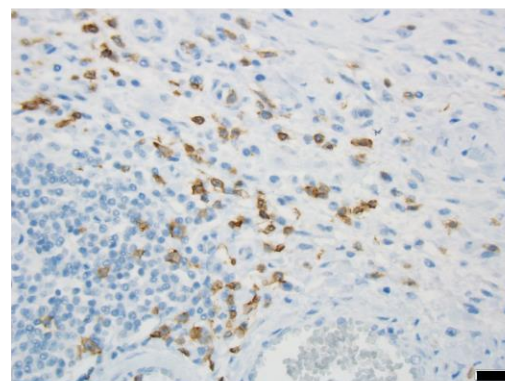
IBA-1

Cohort 1

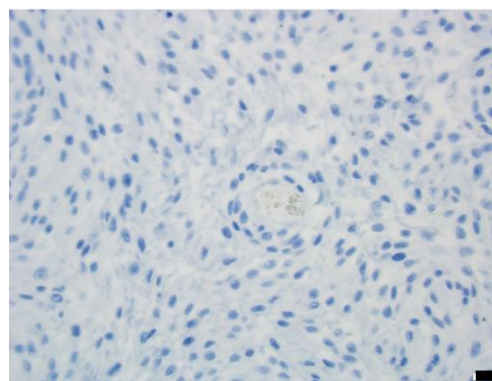
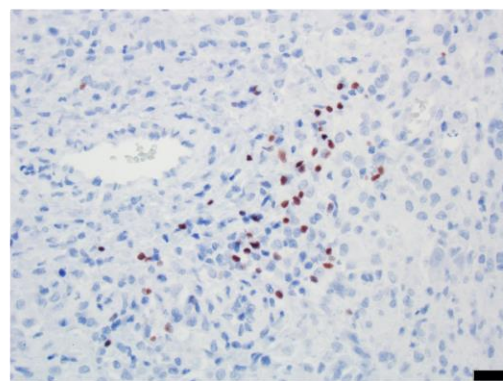
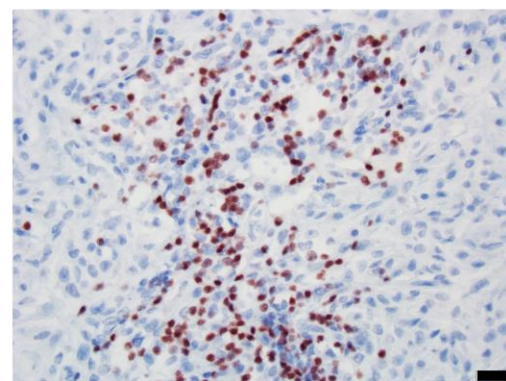
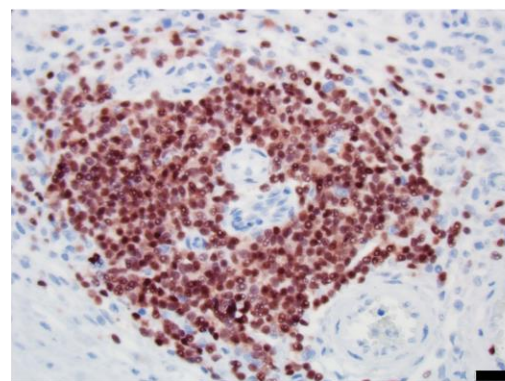
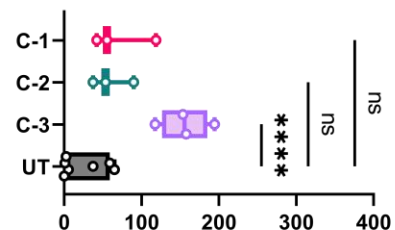
Cohort 2

Cohort 3

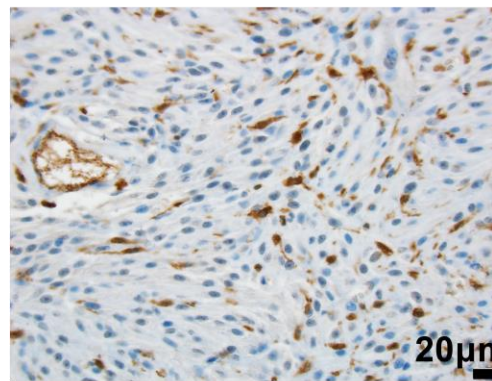
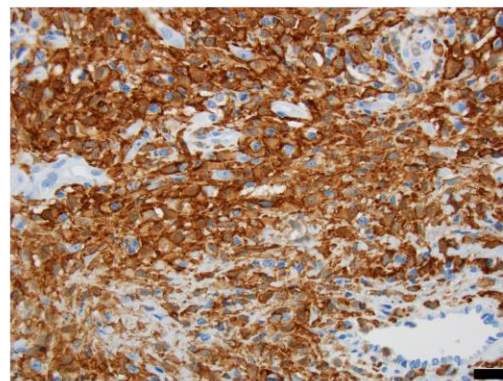
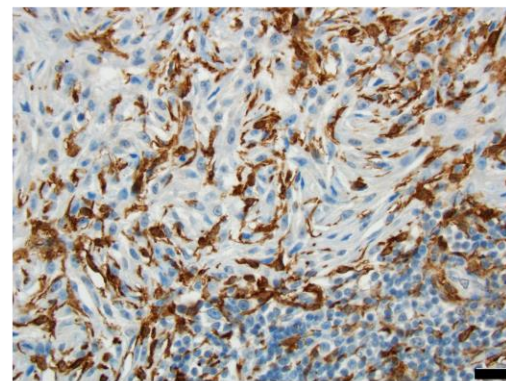
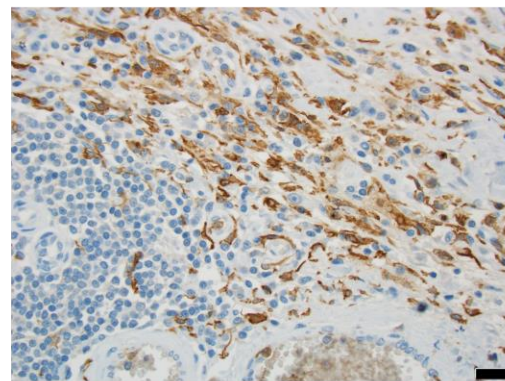
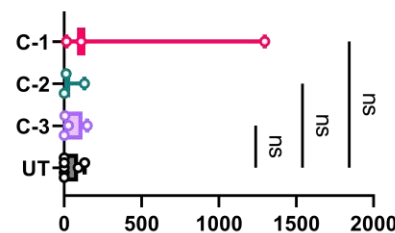
Untreated



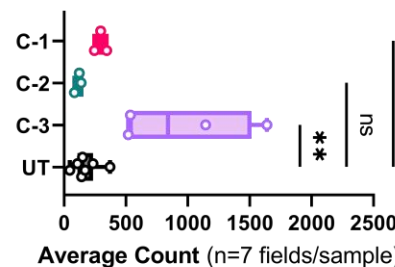
T-Cells (CD3⁺)



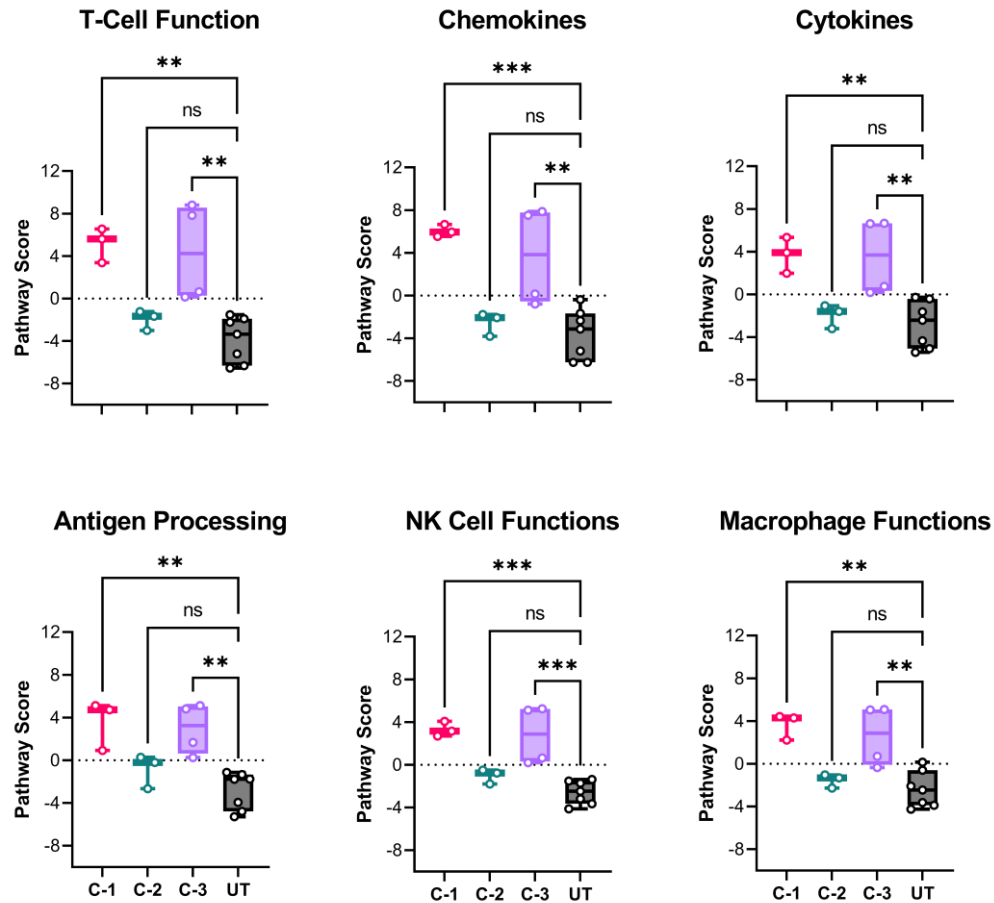
B-Cells (PAX5⁺)



Macrophages (IBA-1⁺)



20μm

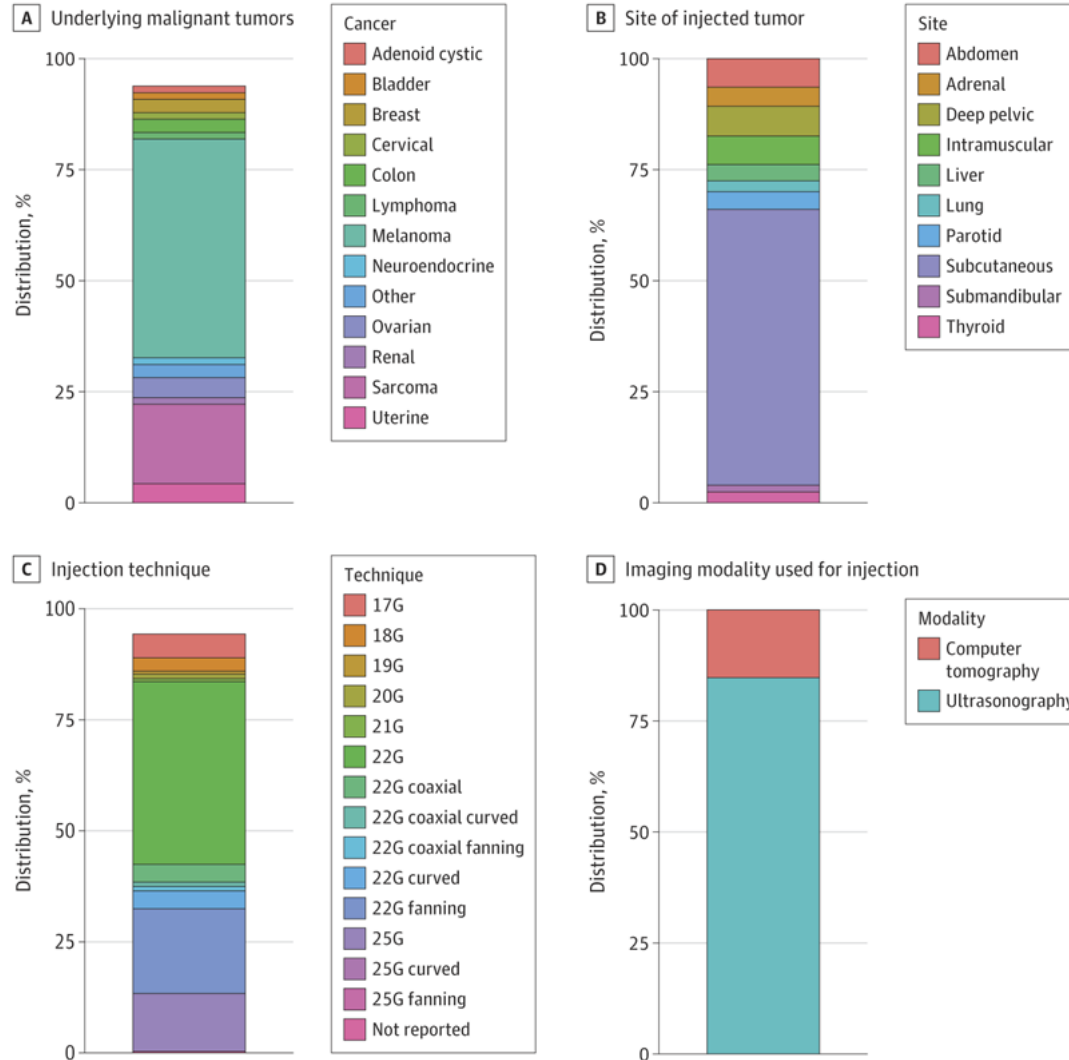


RNA profiling of treated sarcomas suggest immune infiltrates display hallmarks of activation, antigen presentation, and anti-tumor effector functions

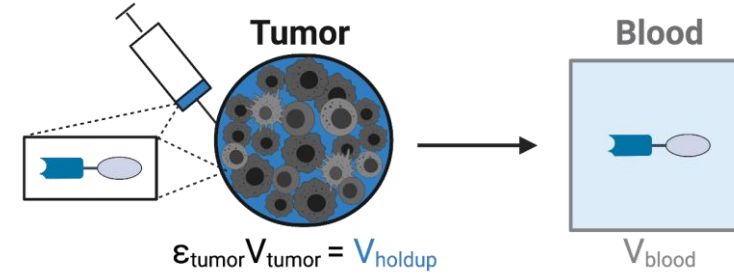
FFPE-derived tumor RNA profiled by Nanostring confirmed infiltration of CD45+ immune populations

Outlook on the Field

Intratumoral injections are the future



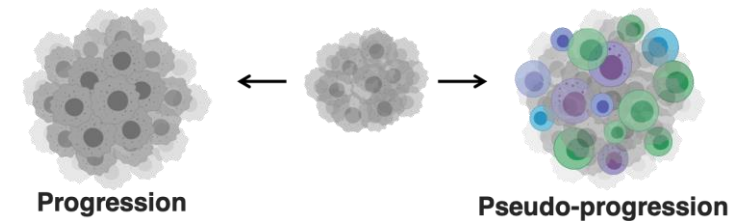
How to inject intratumoral therapies?



How to sequence local therapies with standard of care?



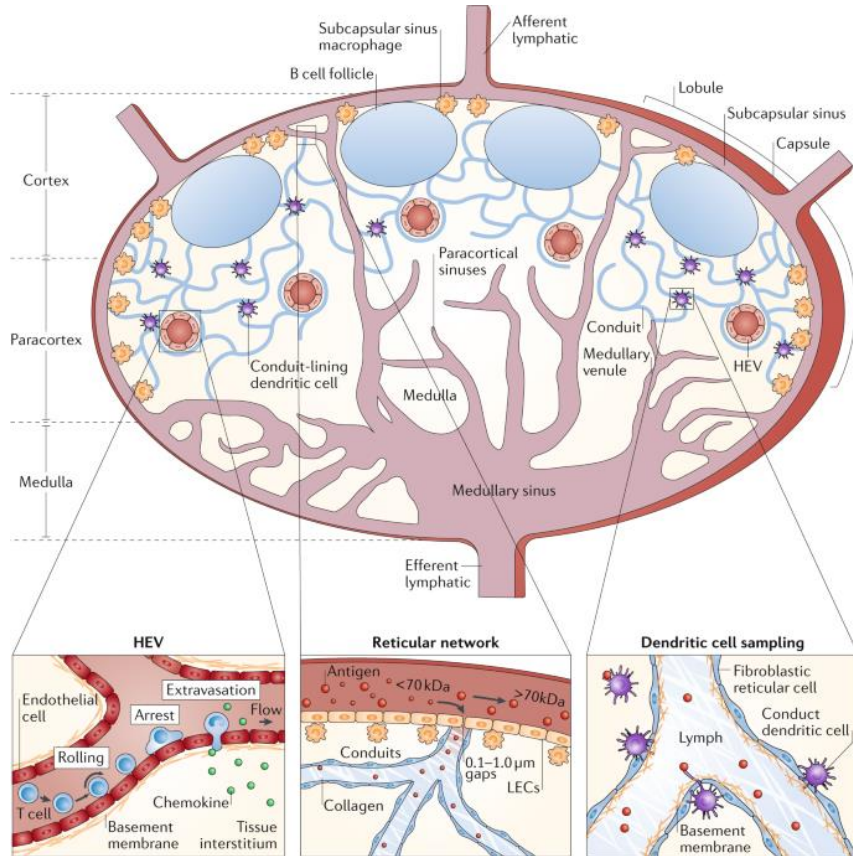
How to measure clinical responses?



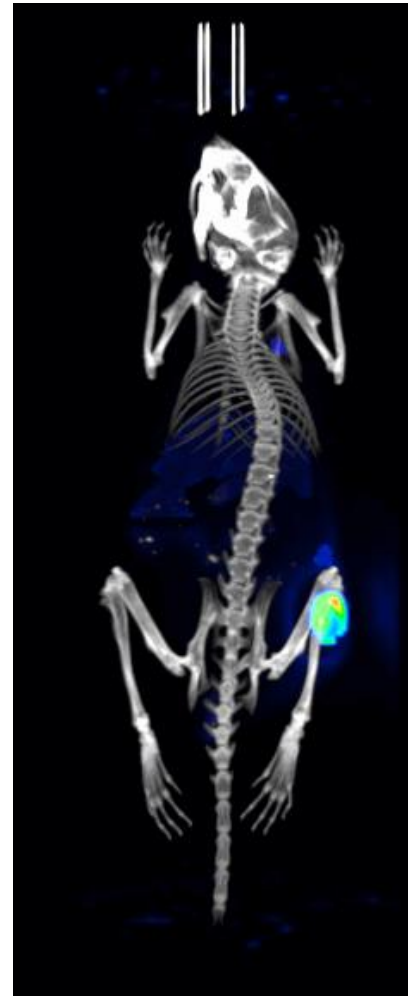
Why are there major changes in the lymph node?

LAIR LAIRx MSA^{H464Q}  Zr-89

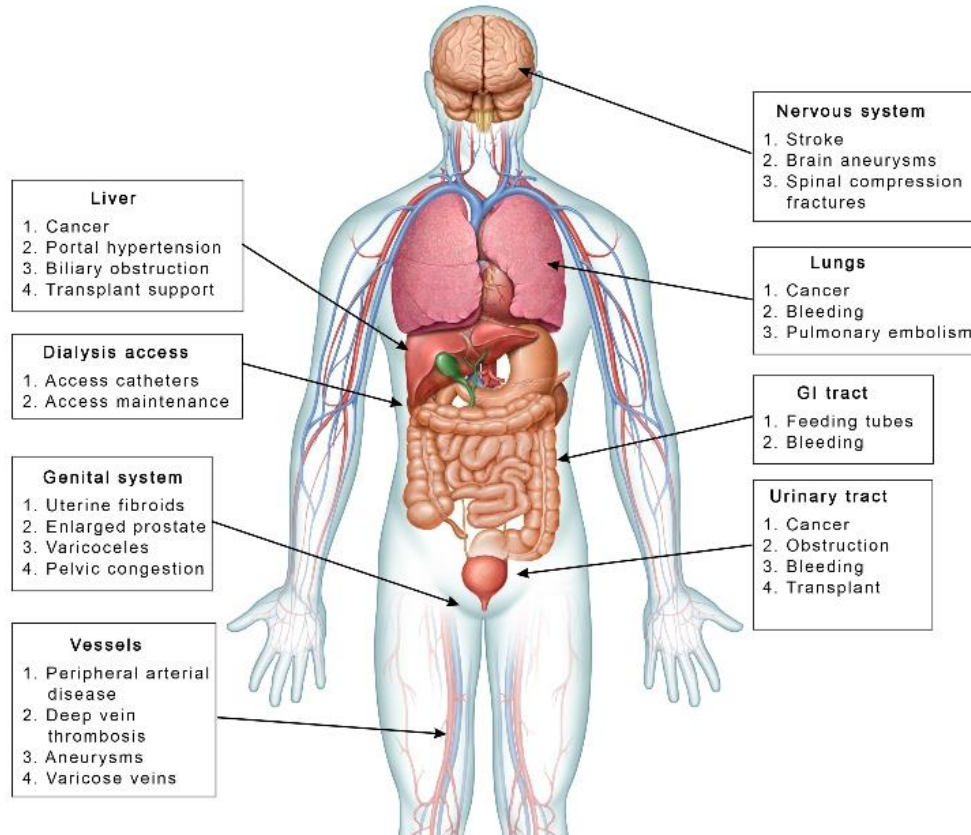
LAIRx LAIRx MSA^{H464Q}  Zr-89



Schudel et al Nature Review Materials, 2019



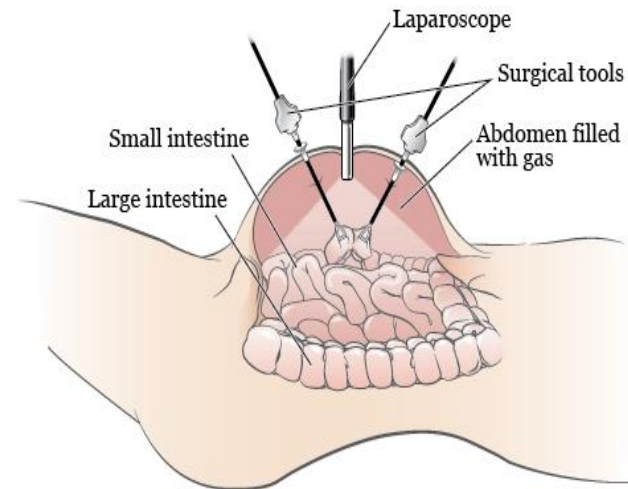
What about non-superficial tumors?



Very few sites are inaccessible to interventional radiology, guided by ultrasound, CT, MRI



Diagnostic laparoscopy



“During laparoscopic procedures, various types of needles can be used, including aspiration, injection, irrigation, puncture needles, and Veress needles with stopcocks.”
Millennium Surgical Instruments
(www.surgicalinstruments.com)

Minimally-invasive surgery is commonplace

Needle biopsies are standard of care

- Breast

- *Image-guided breast biopsy: state-of-the-art.*
O'Flynn E et al., Clin Radiol. 65: 259, '10.

- Lung

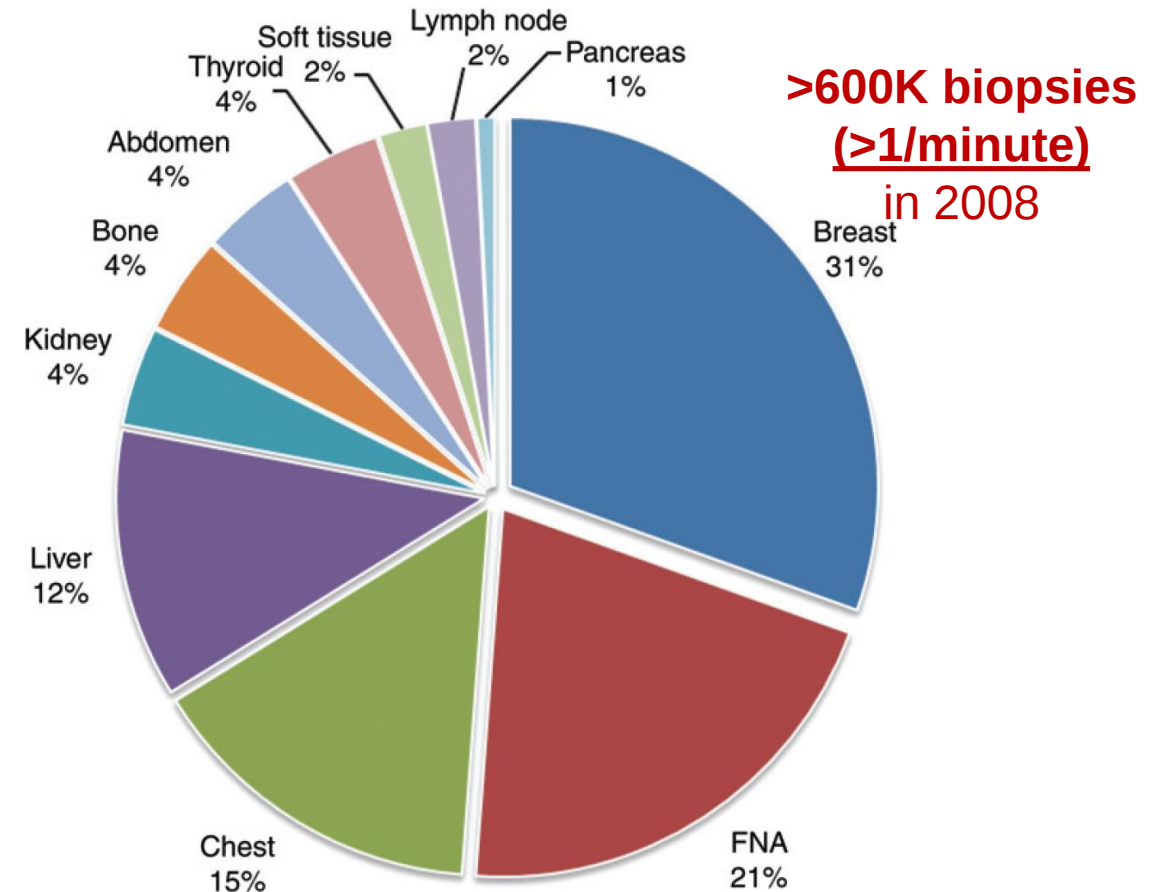
- *Feasibility of image-guided transthoracic core-needle biopsy in the BATTLE lung trial.* Tam et al., J Thorac Oncol. 2013 8:436.

- Prostate

- *Image-Guided Prostate Biopsy Using Magnetic Resonance Imaging-Derived Targets: A Systematic Review.*
Moore et al., Eur Urol. 63:125, '13.

- Liver

- *Complications following percutaneous liver biopsy. A multicentre retrospective study on 68,276 biopsies.*
Piccinino et al., J. Hepatol 2:165, '86



Radiology 256:751, '10

∴ Curative intratumoral treatments will find a straightforward path to clinical practice

How is TVEC injected?

Table 1. TVEC and theoretical maximum injectable volumes

Legion size (Longest dimension, cm)	TVEC injection volume (mL)	Predicted V_{max} (mL)	TVEC/ V_{max}
>5	4	16	0.25
2.5-5	2	2.0-16	0.125-1
1.5-2.5	1	0.42-2.0	0.5 – 2.4
0.5-1.5	0.5	0.016-0.42	1.2 – 31
<0.5	0.1	0.016	6.3

Canine Back Up Slides

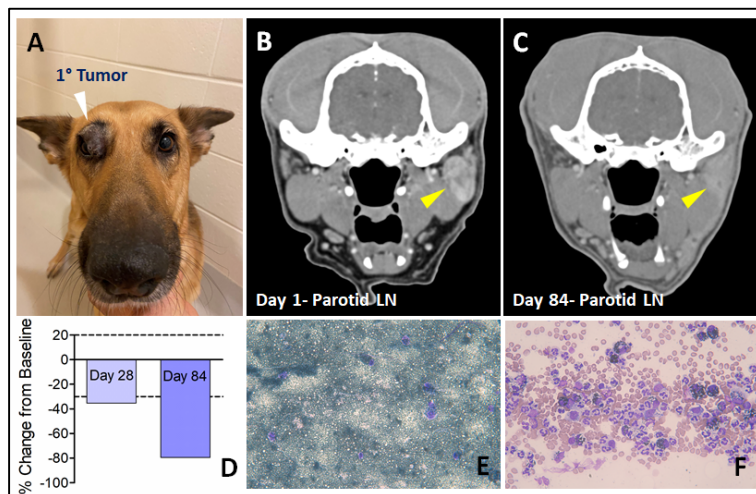


Fig 9. Periocular melanoma (A) treated with localized radiation and intratumoral cytokine therapy. Regional metastatic parotid lymph node pretreatment identified on computed tomography and cytology (B and E, respectively), with reassessment following treatment with radiation and intratumoral cytokines (C and F, respectively). Strong partial abscopal response (D) achieved at days 28 & 84 of therapy.

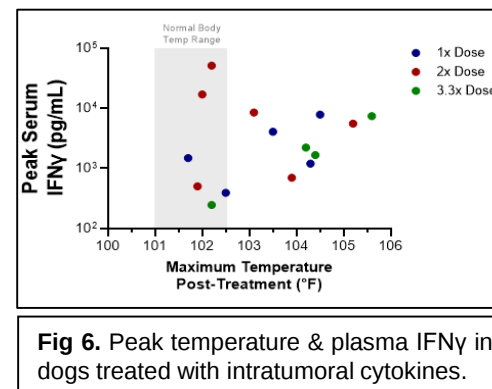
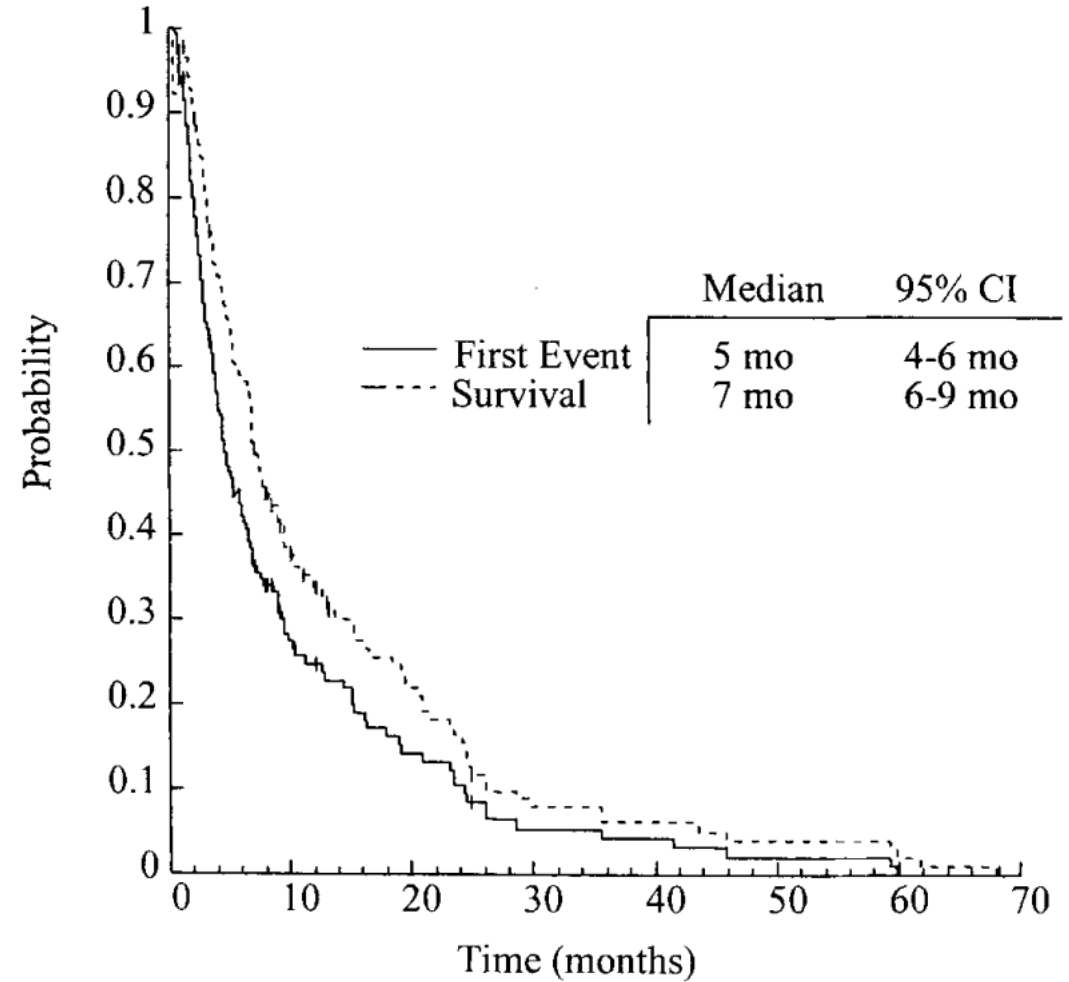
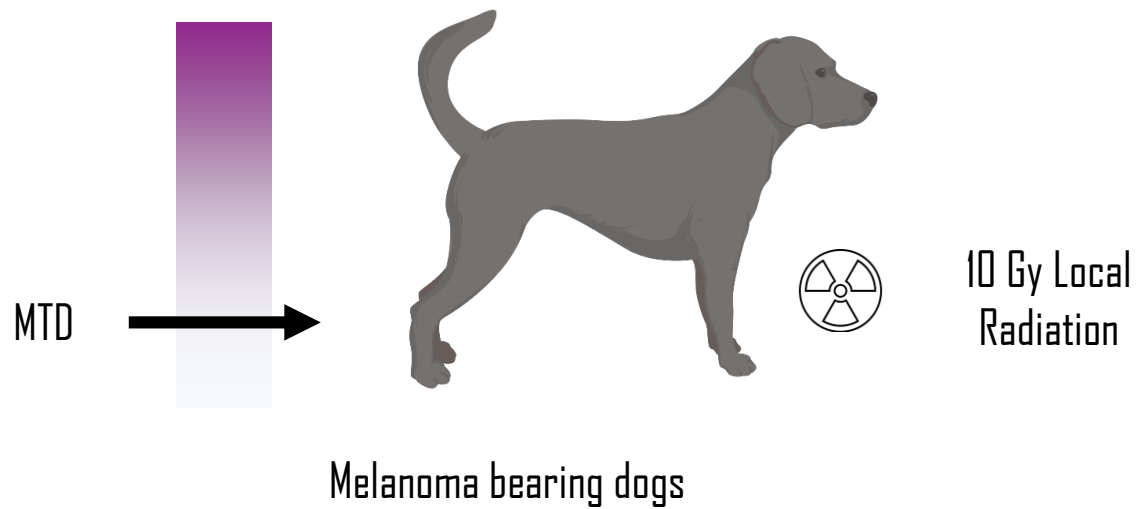


Fig 6. Peak temperature & plasma IFN γ in dogs treated with intratumoral cytokines.

Phase II: Treating pet dogs with spontaneous melanoma

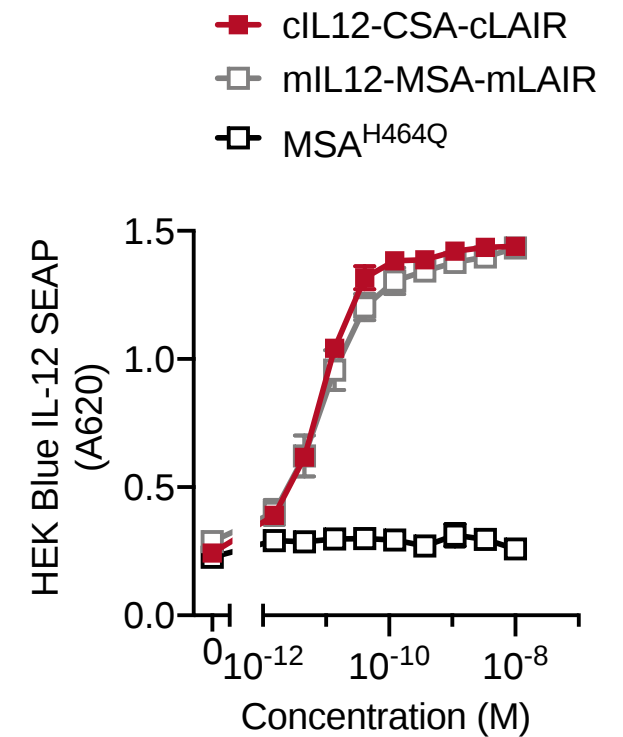
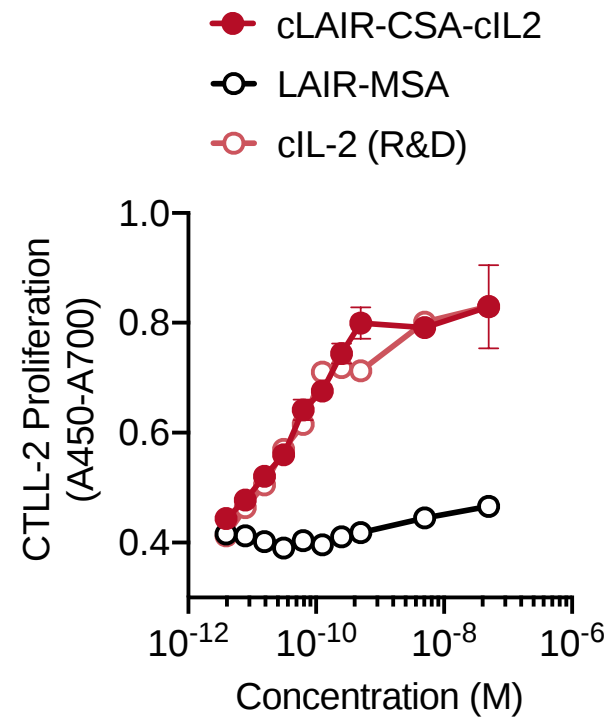
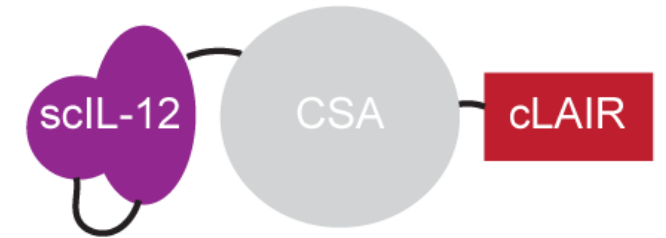
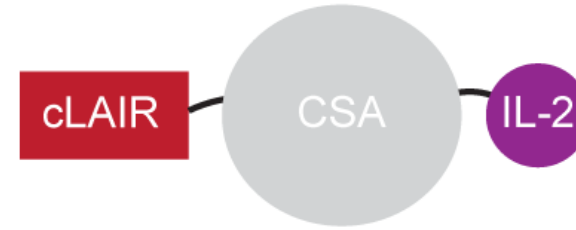
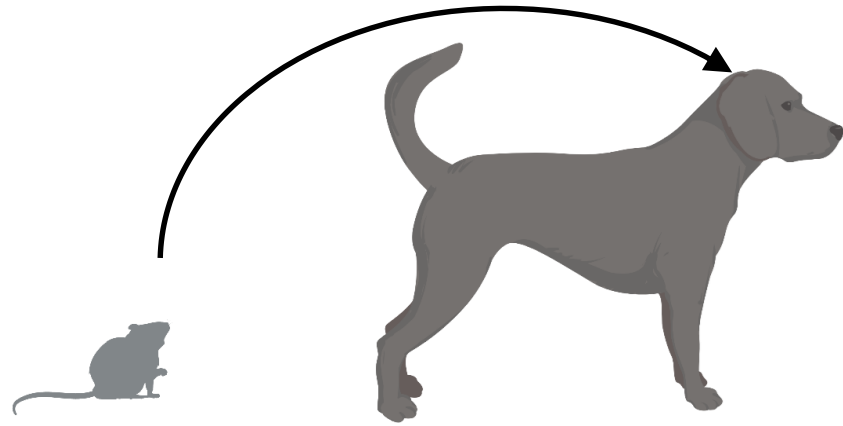


Proulx, D. R., Veterinary Radiology Ultrasound 2003

Phase I

Phase II

Canine collagen anchoring cytokines are functional

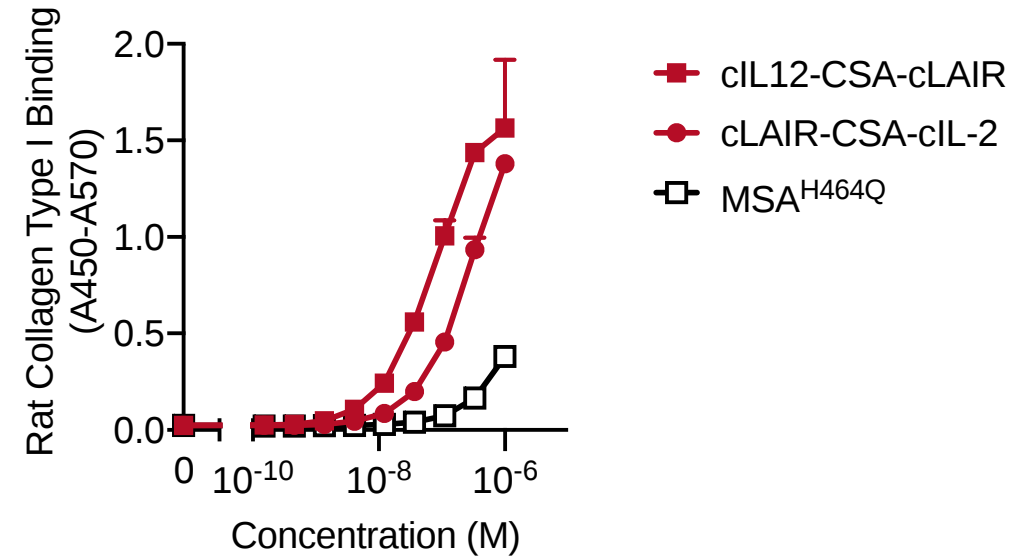
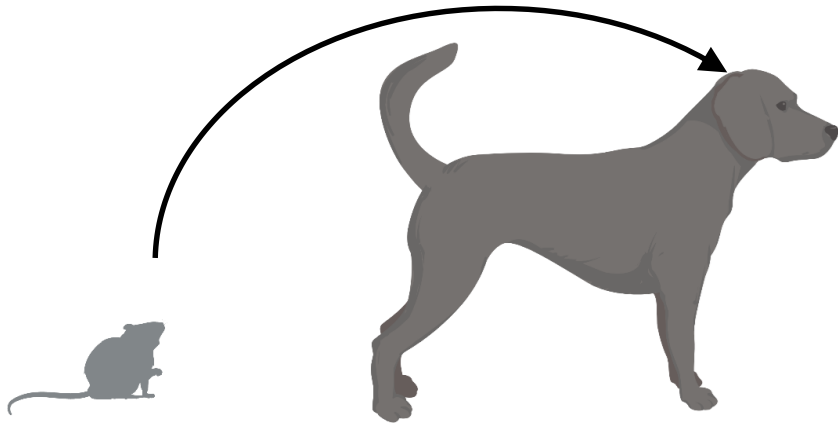


Preclinical

Phase I

Phase II

Canine collagen anchoring cytokines are functional

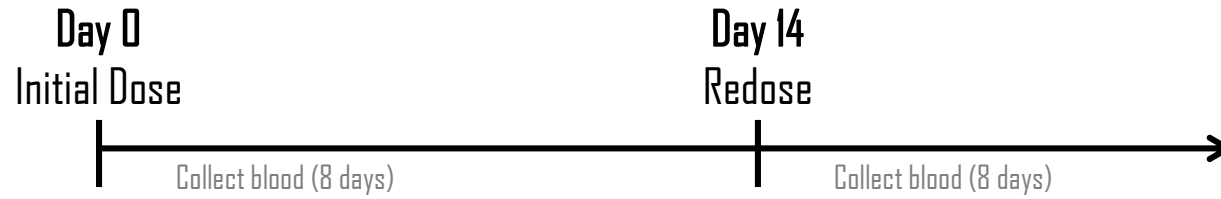


Preclinical

Phase I

Phase II

Phase I: Defining a maximum tolerated dose in healthy beagles

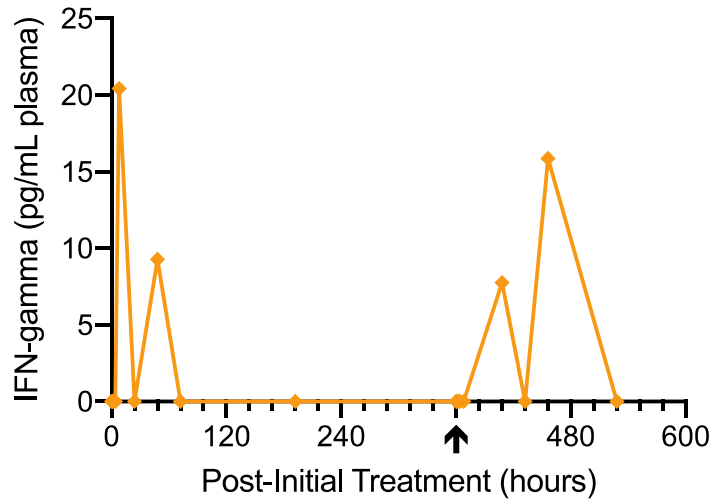


Treatment
cLAIR-CSA-cIL2
+ cIL12-CSA-cLAIR
in 600 μ L, with 25G needle
into shaved shoulder

High
Dose

Med
Dose

Low
Dose

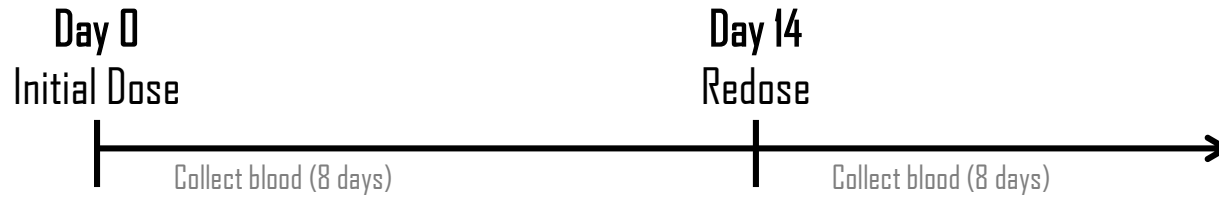


Preclinical

Phase I

Phase II

Phase I: Defining a maximum tolerated dose in healthy beagles

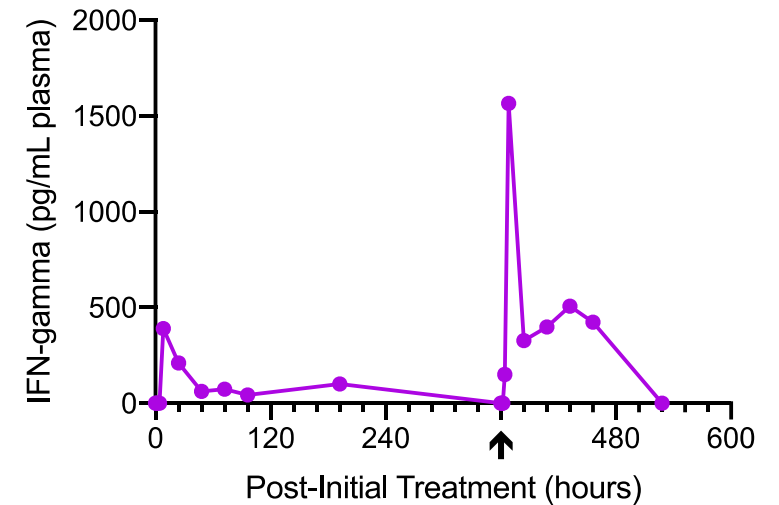
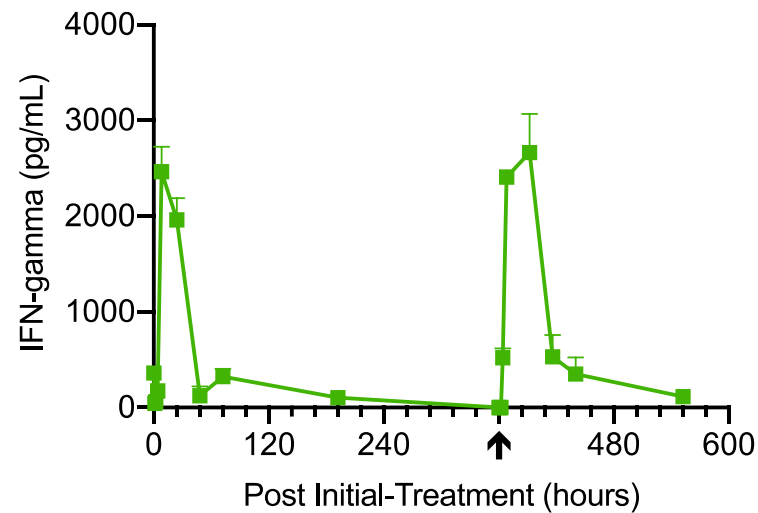
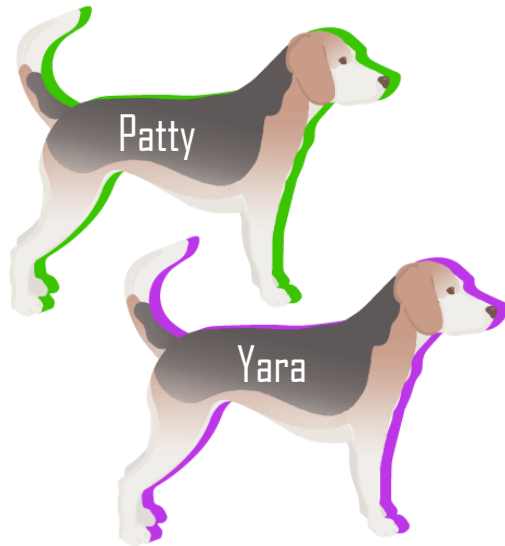


Treatment
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High
Dose

Med
Dose

Low
Dose

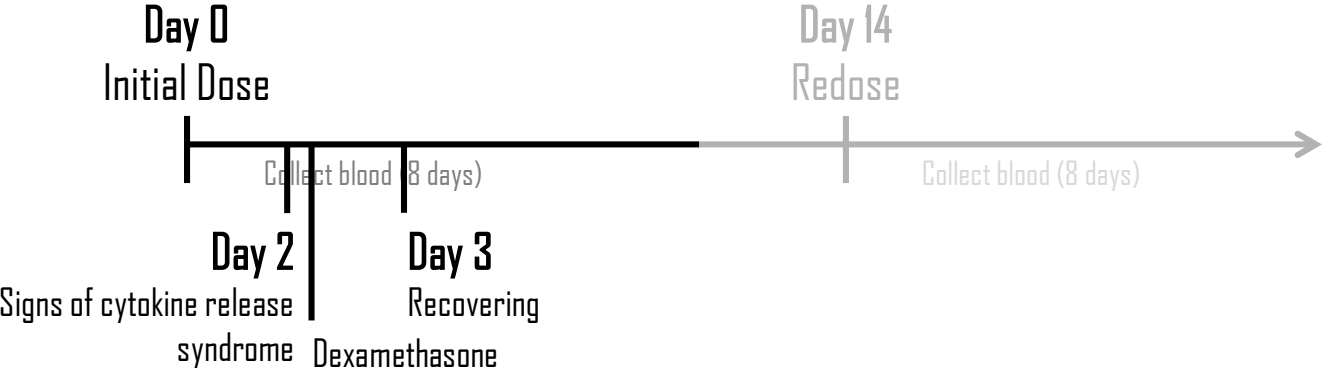


Preclinical

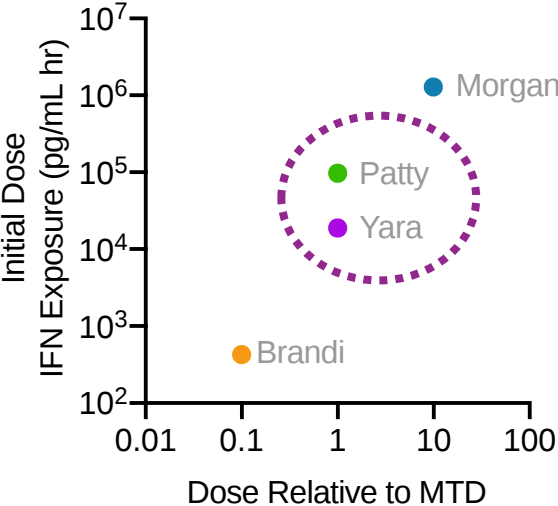
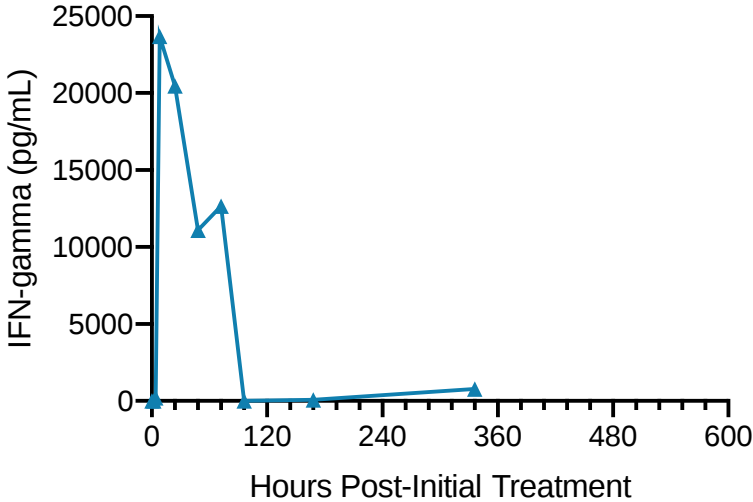
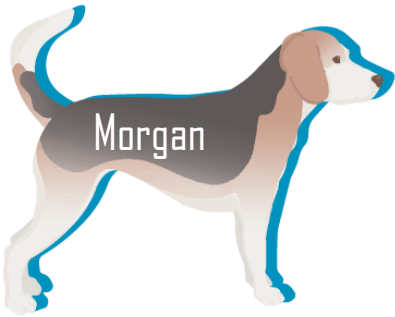
Phase I

Phase II

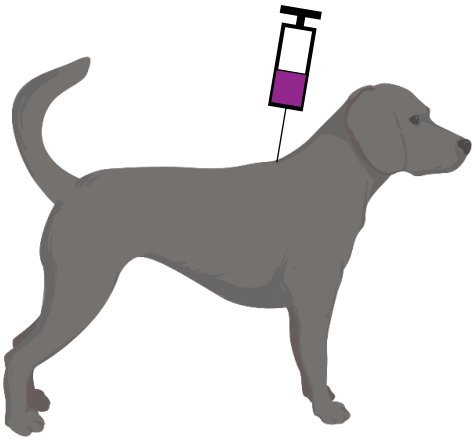
Phase I: Defining a maximum tolerated dose in healthy beagles



Treatment
cLAIR-CSA-cIL2
+ cIL12-CSA-cLAIR
in 600 μ L, with 25G needle
into shaved shoulder



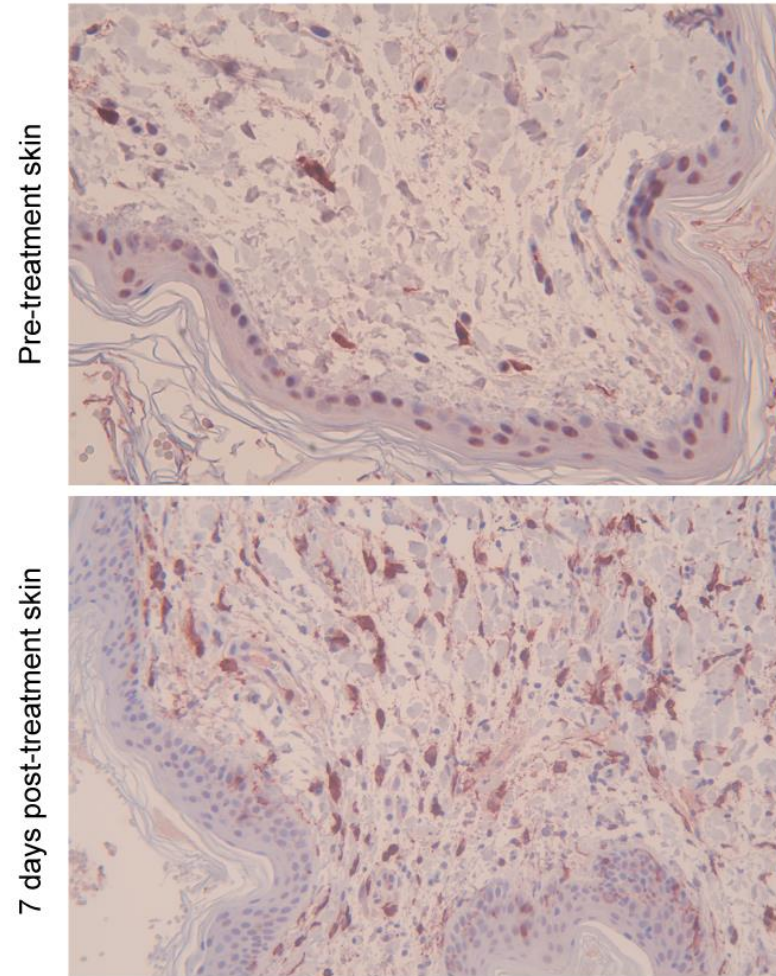
Phase I: Defining a maximum tolerated dose in healthy beagles



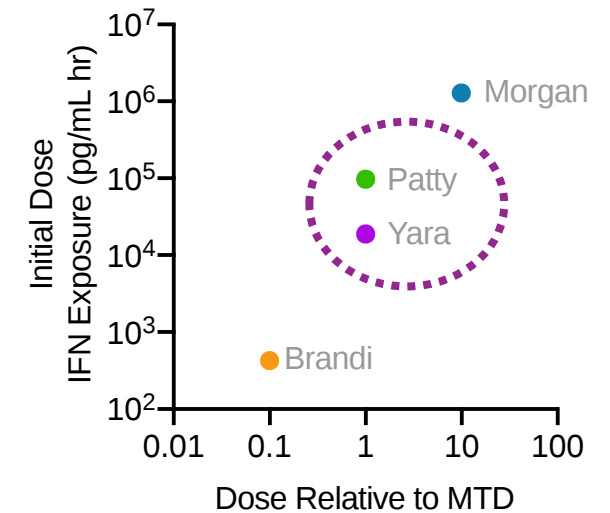
Healthy Dogs

High Dose	=	173.6 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ alloscaled Proleukin MTD	+	0.4 mg/m^2 NHS-IL12 canine MTD
Med Dose	=	17.36 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ cLAIR-CSA-cIL2	+	0.04 mg/m^2 cIL12-CSA-cLAIR
Low Dose	=	1.736 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	+	0.004 mg/m^2

Myeloid cell infiltration into dermis



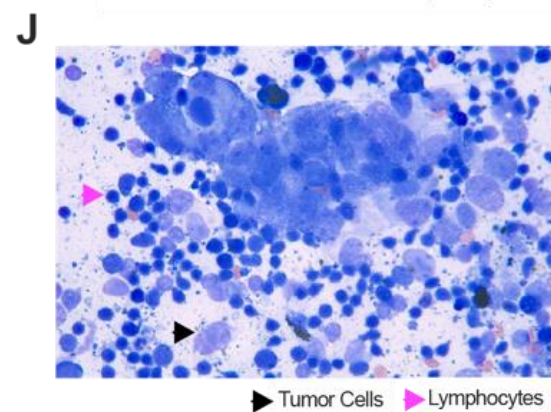
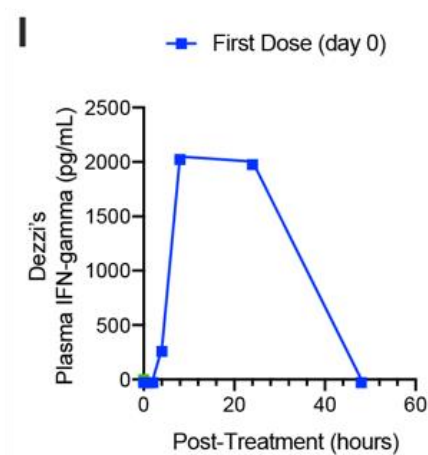
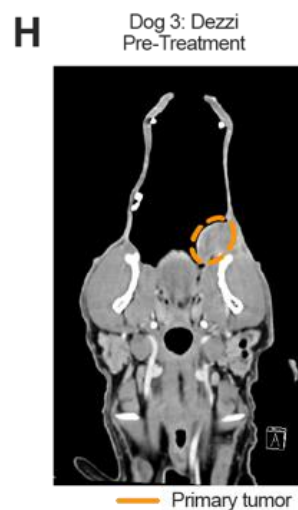
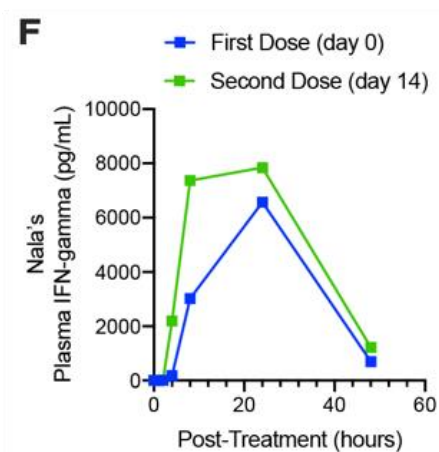
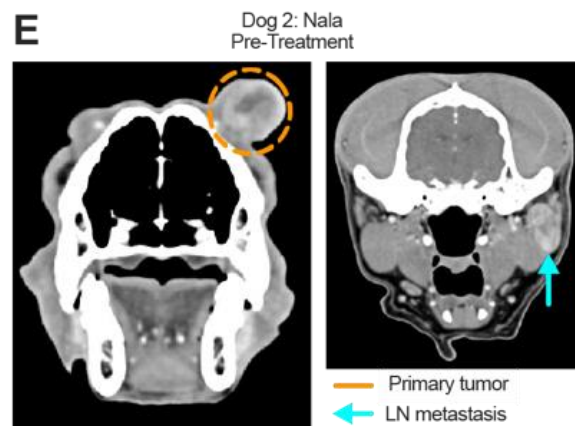
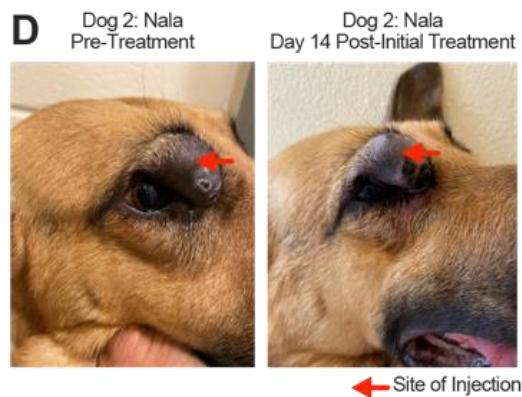
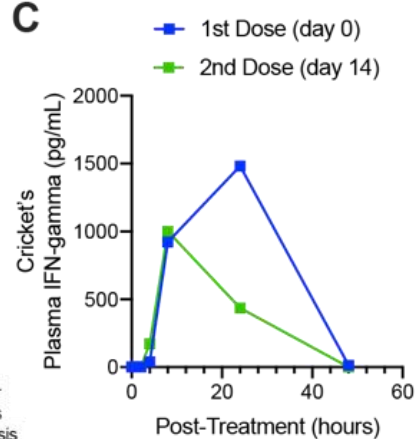
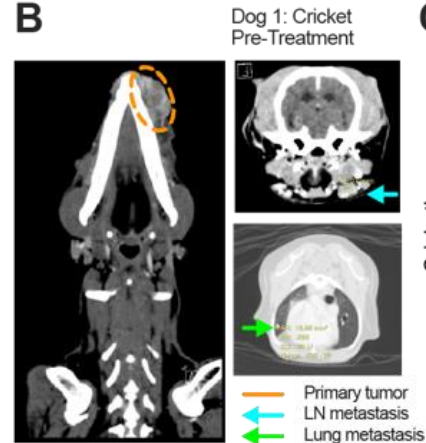
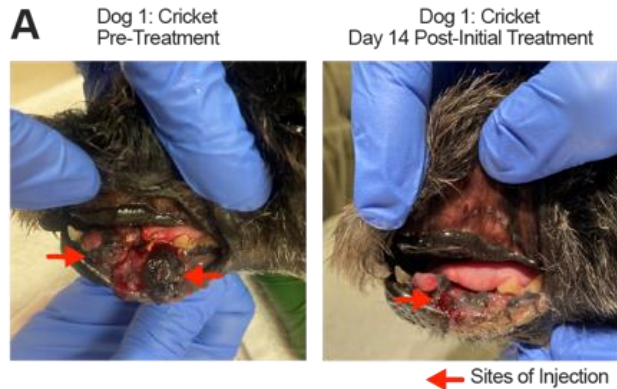
Iba1 (histiocyte marker), NOVA Red



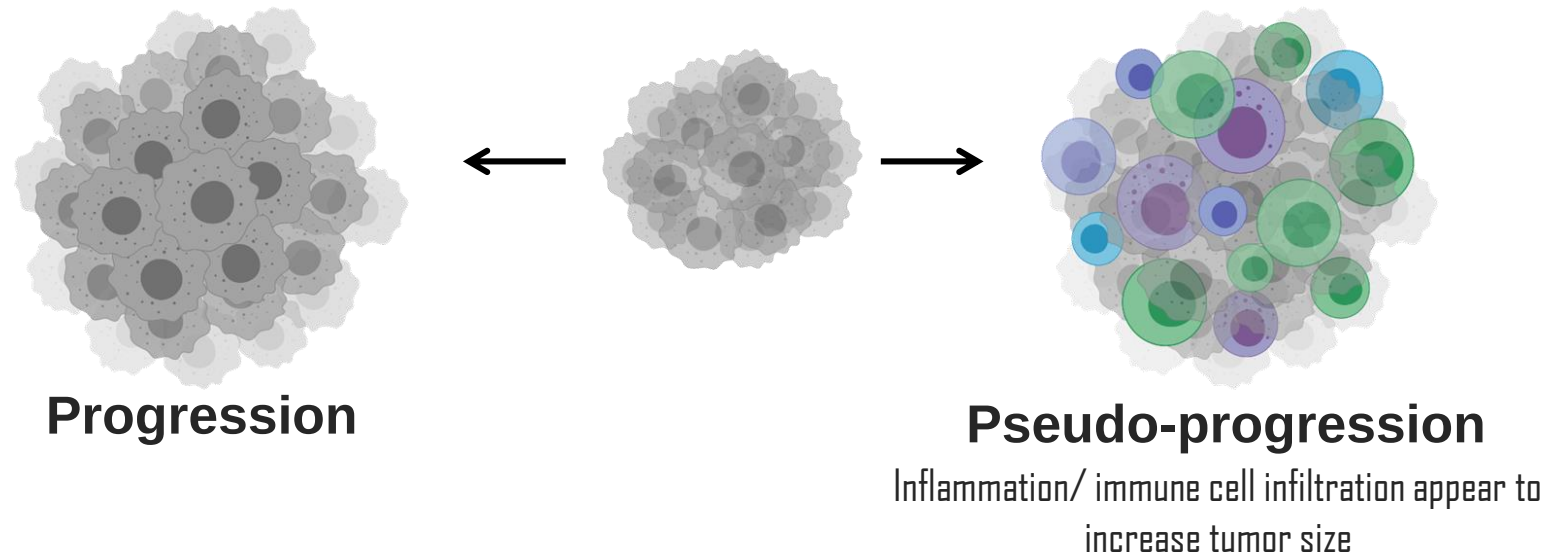
Preclinical

Phase I

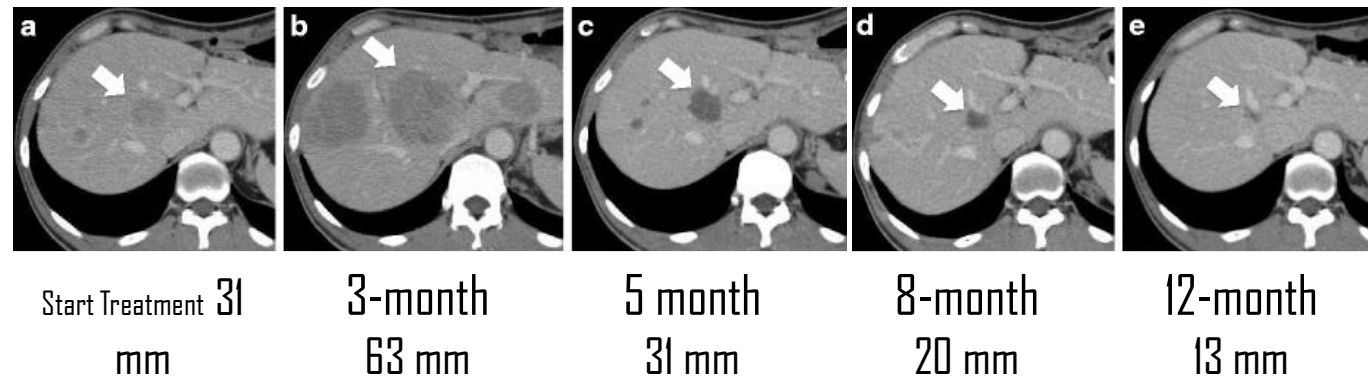
Phase II



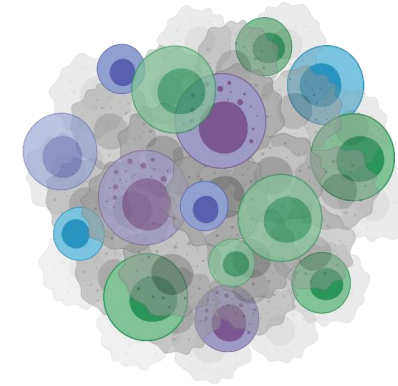
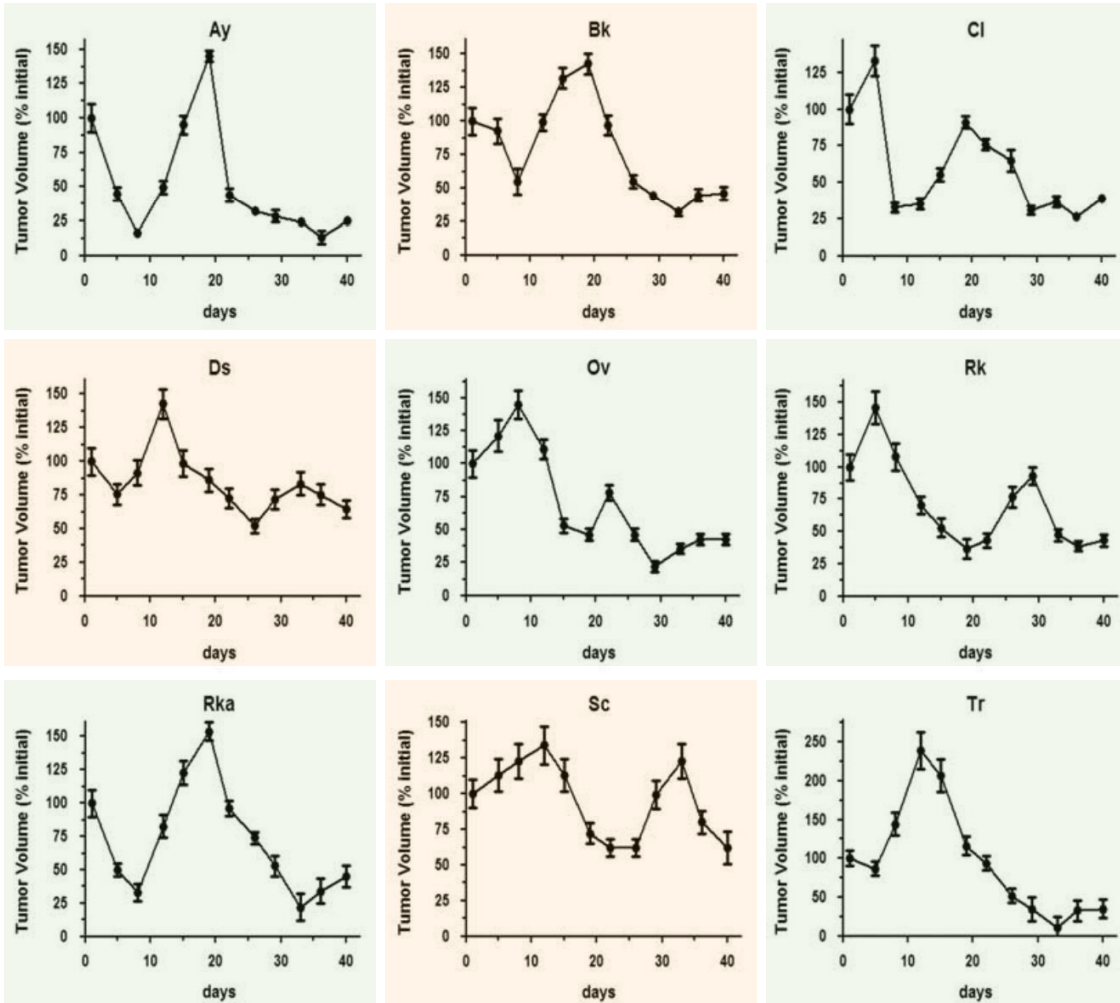
Immunotherapy trials require patients and patience



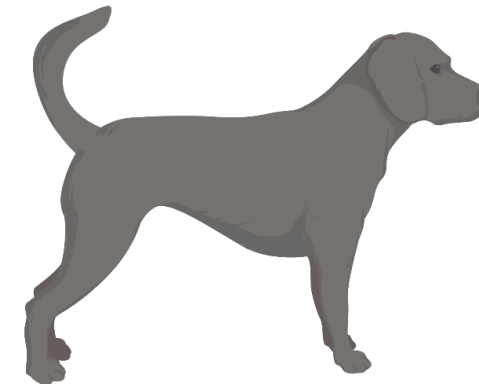
Liver metastases of malignant melanoma human patient treated with **nivolumab**



Immunotherapy trials require patients and patience



Pseudo-progression
Inflammation/ immune cell infiltration appear to increase tumor size

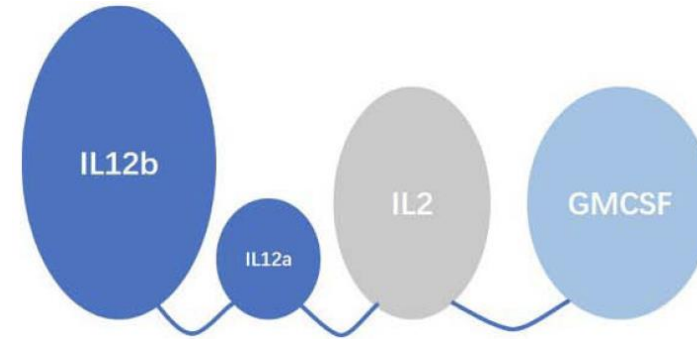
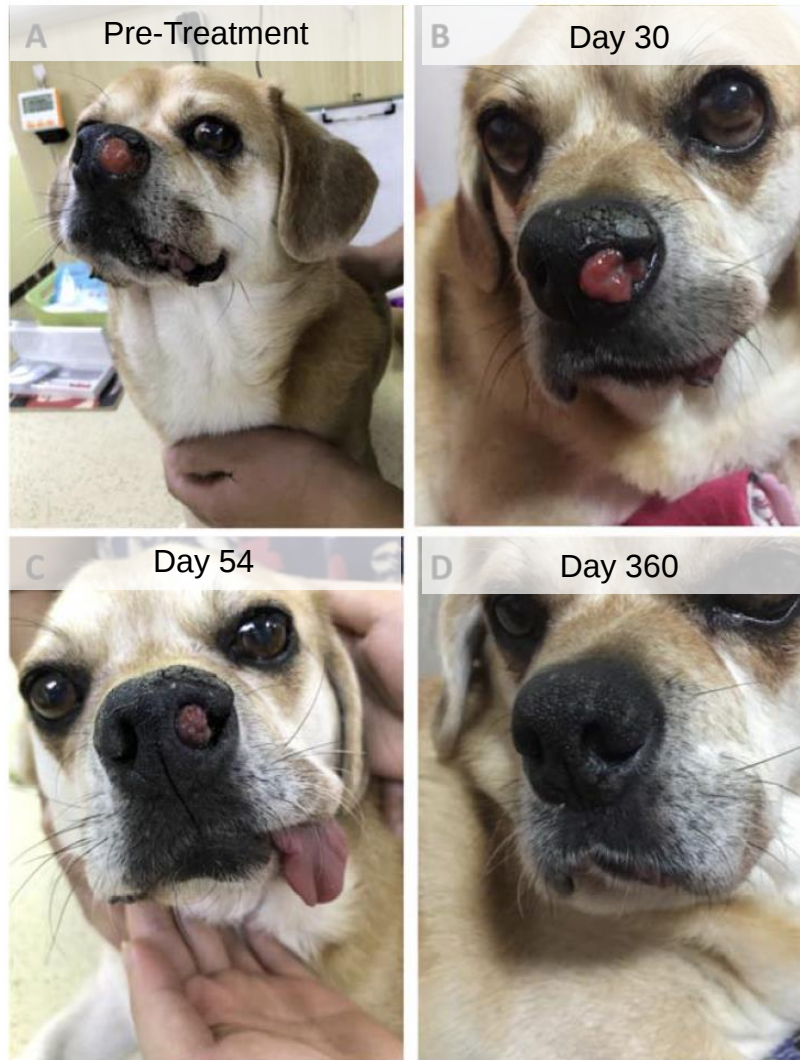


Stable Disease

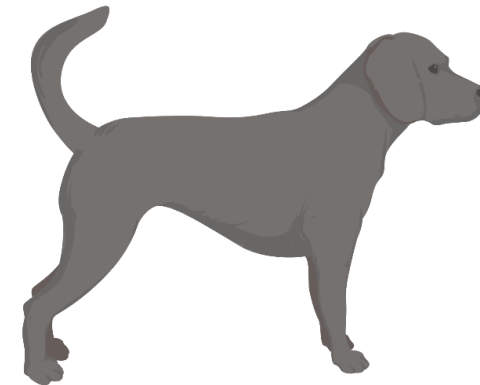
Partial Response

Fondello et al, Melanoma Research 2018

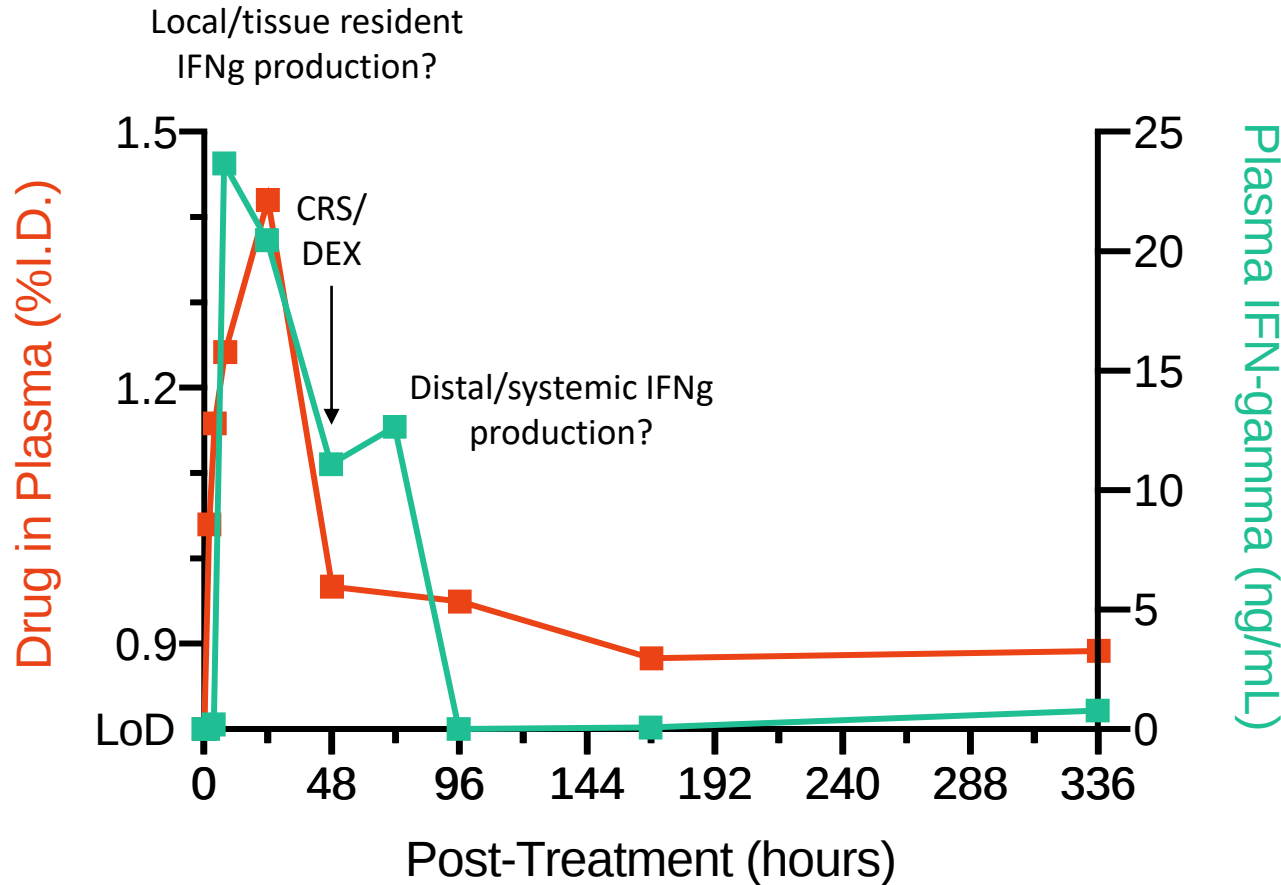
Immunotherapy trials require patients and patience



16.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ of IL12-IL2-GMCSF
every other week for 4 total treatments



Interesting temporal dynamics though...



Major and minor peaks
in IFN-gamma levels

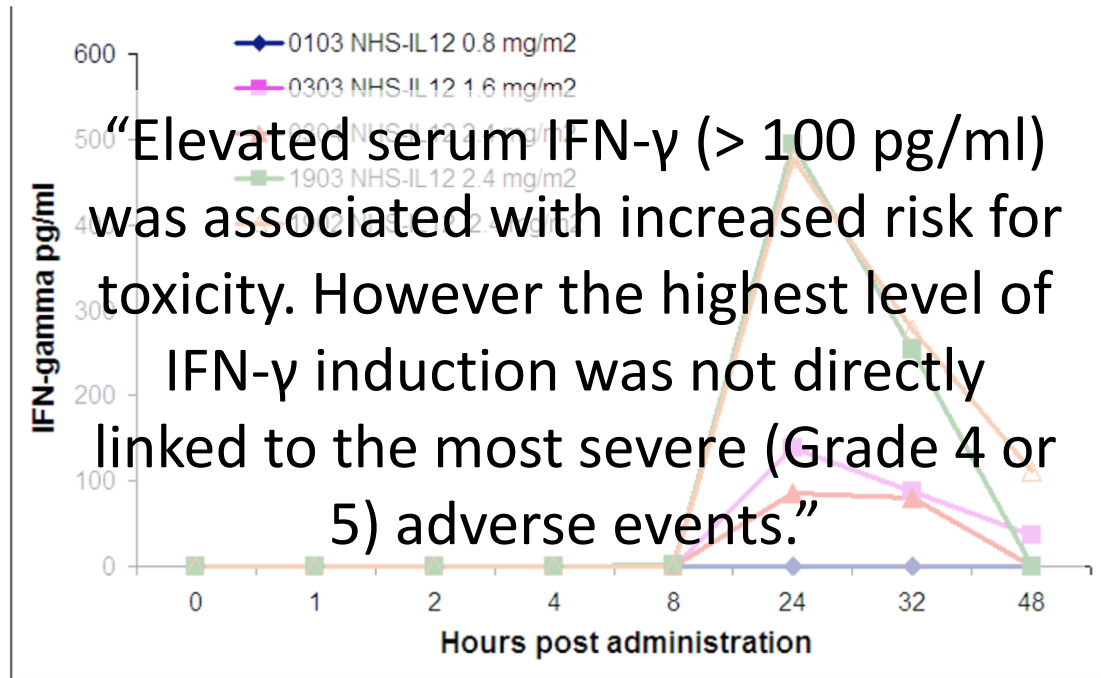
$C_{\max, \text{IFN}\gamma}$ precedes $C_{\max, \text{drug}}$

n = 1 dog and k = 1 technical replicate due to scant sample

Elevated plasma IFN-gamma

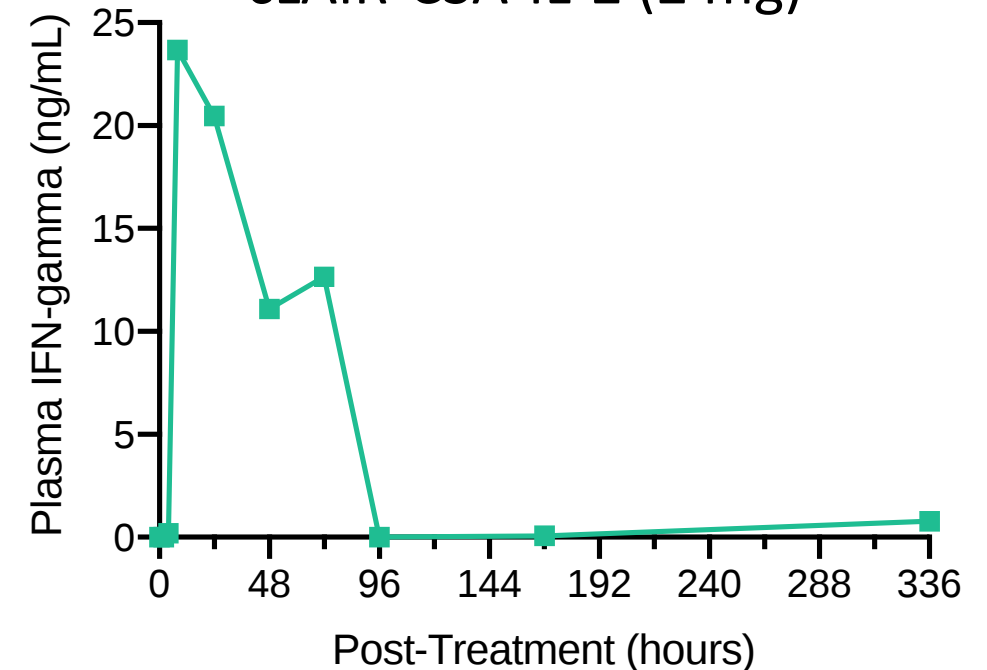
Paoloni et al, 2015

Subcutaneous administration
NHS-IL12 in dogs (dose 0.8 mg/m²)



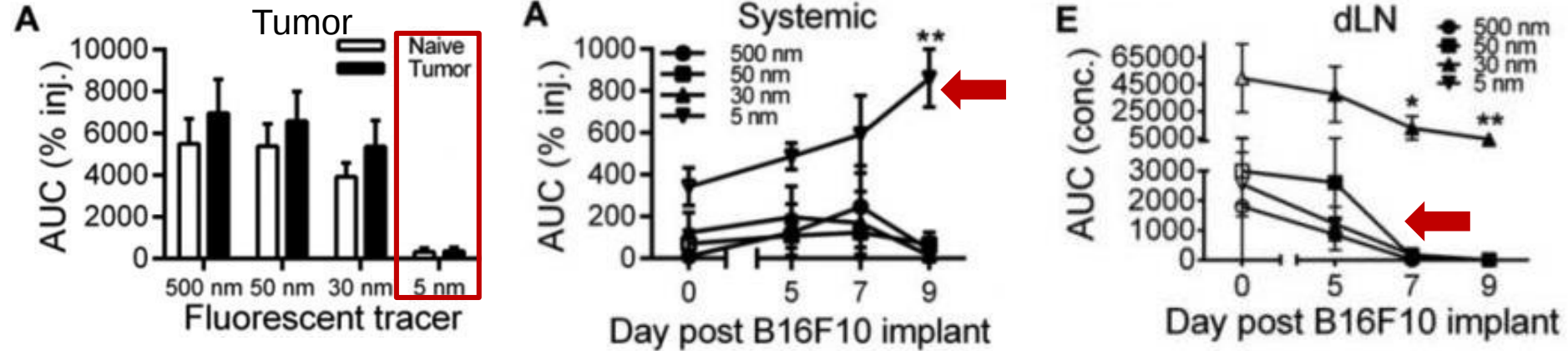
Our Study

Intradermal administration
cIL12-CSA-cLAIR (0.4 mg/m² -> 0.2 mg)
cLAIR-CSA-IL-2 (2 mg)

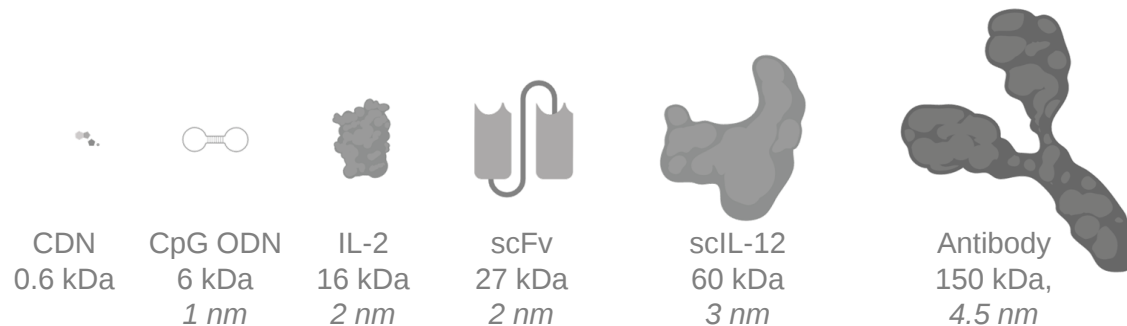


Need to characterize pharmacokinetics of <5 nm radius agents

Rohner and Thomas *J Control Release*, 2016

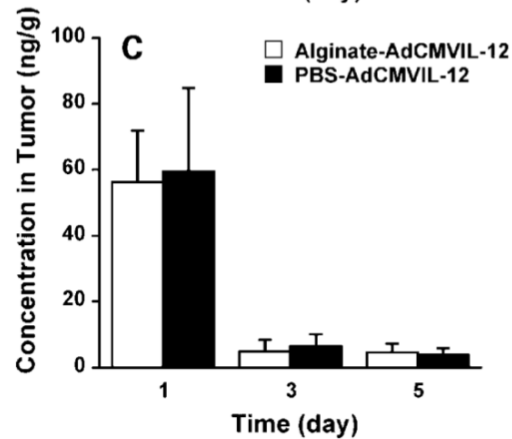
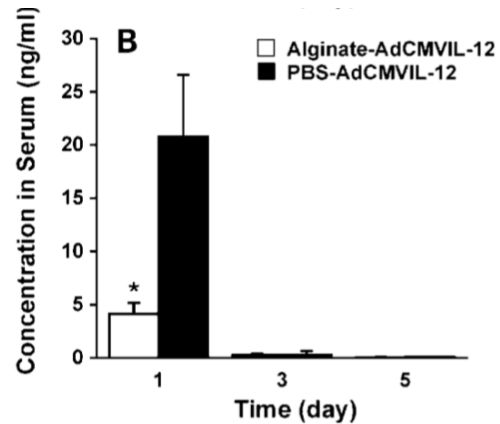


Molecular Weight (kDa)
Stokes Radius (nm)

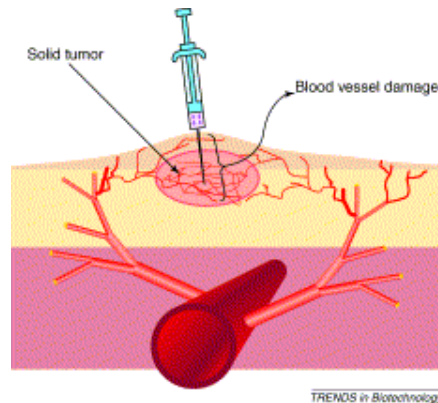


Drug dissemination observed DURING i.tu. injection

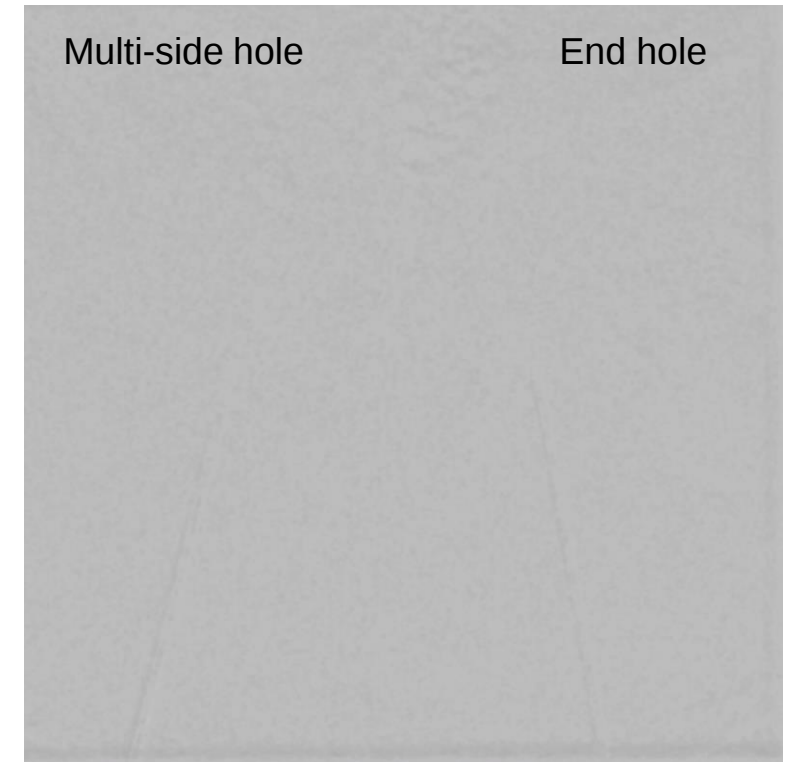
Posited Systemic Dissemination Occurred
During IT Injection of Viral Vector



Exit Route: Damaged Blood Vessels



Luo. Trends in Biotechnology, 2004

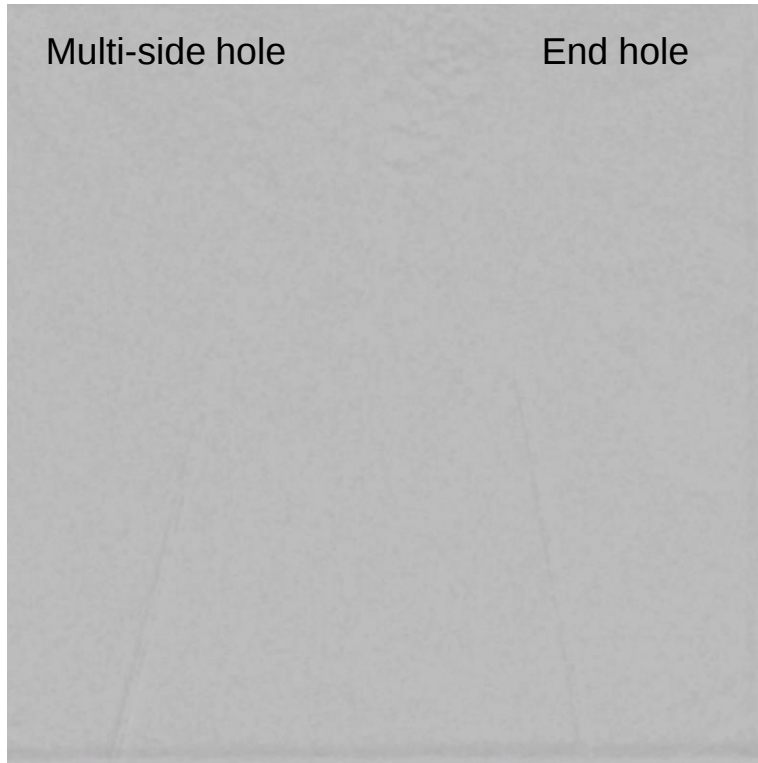


Munoz et al. JITC. 2021

Wang et al. Molecular Cancer Therapeutics. 2003

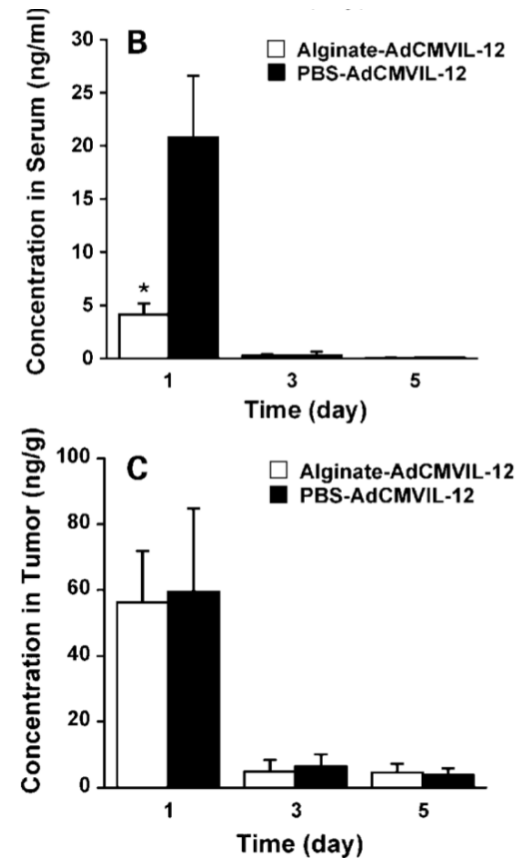
Potential avenues to increase V_{holdup}

- 1) Slow injection rate (with pump)
- 2) Multi-side hole needle (laser etch?)



Munoz et al. JITC. 2021

- 3) Formulation with alum, alginate, matrigel, hydrogel etc.

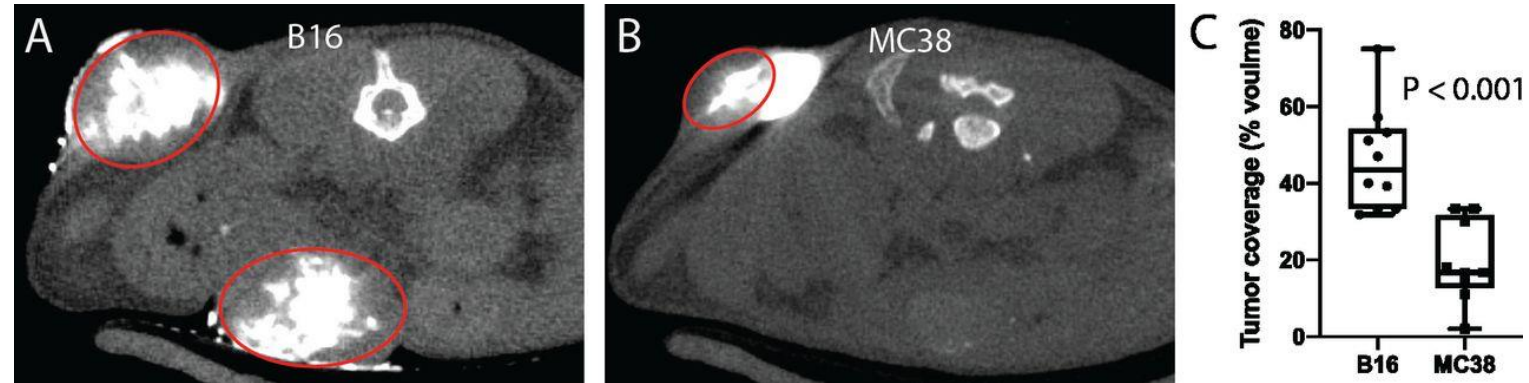


Wang et al. Molecular Cancer Therapeutics. 2003

But also V_{holdup} will vary by tumor type!

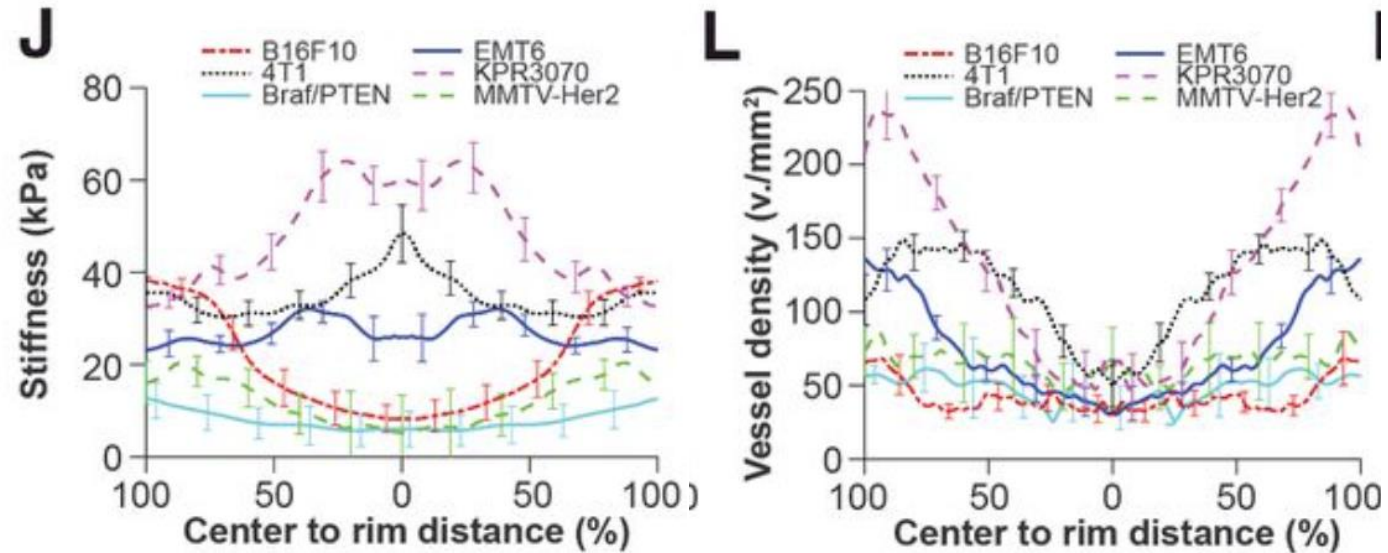
Stiffer tumors have
lowering V_{holdup}

Munoz et al. JITC. 2021



Different tumor types have
different **stiffnesses**
...that changes with **tumor
staging** (d6 v. d12 v. d18)
...that changes with respect to
spatial dimension

Riegler et al. Clinical Cancer Research. 2018

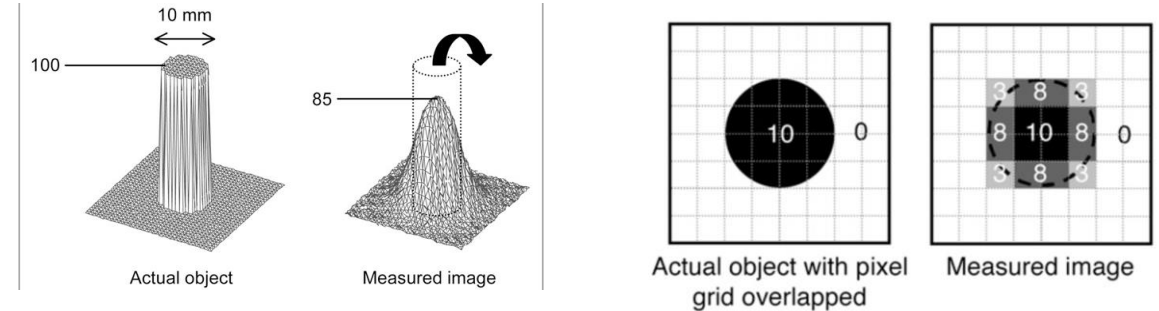


PET without additional correction is qualitative

Partial Volume Effect (PVE)

PVE is a **loss in apparent activity**

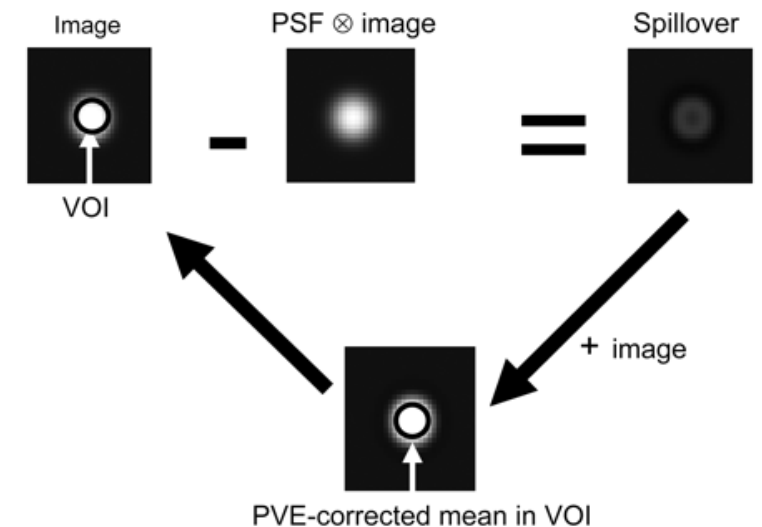
when an object partially occupies the volume of an imaging instruction in both **space and time**.



Soret, Bacharach, and Buvat. *J. Nuclear Medicine*. 2007

Interregional correction for tumor-draining lymph node and tumor spillover: **Labbe and Region-Based Voxel-Wise Correction** (*withstands errors in machine's point spread function, used for spherical structure in the brain, fast-performing*)

Intraregional correction for the same compartment: **Van-Cittret** (*assumes a Gaussian noise distribution and additive correction step leading to optimal signal to noise*)

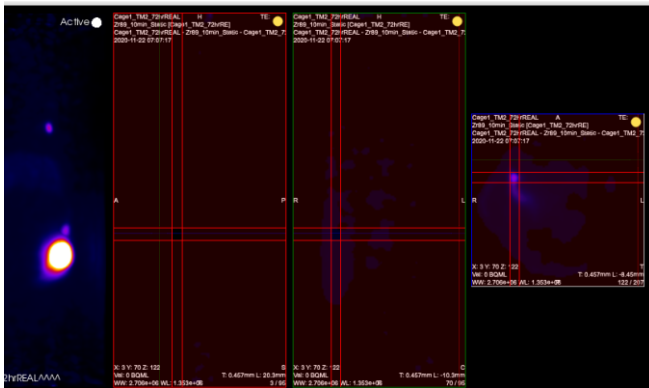


Teo et al *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* 2007

PET without additional correction is qualitative

Manually Convert DICOM
Files to NIFTI format using
MRI-Convert Software

Define Compartments in **Amide Software**
Tumor and Tumor-Draining Lymph Node
for the Labbe + RVC correction

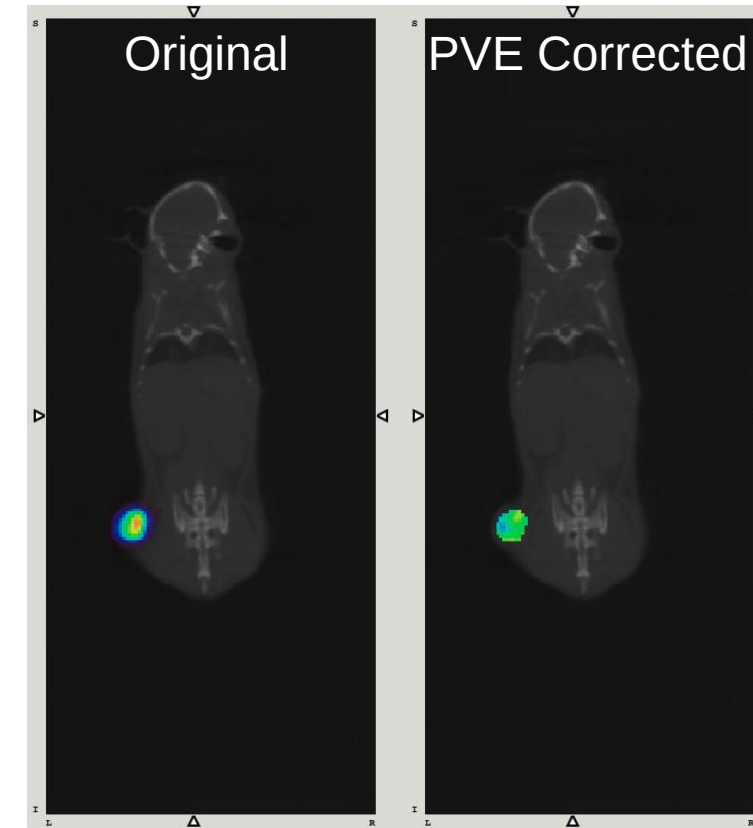


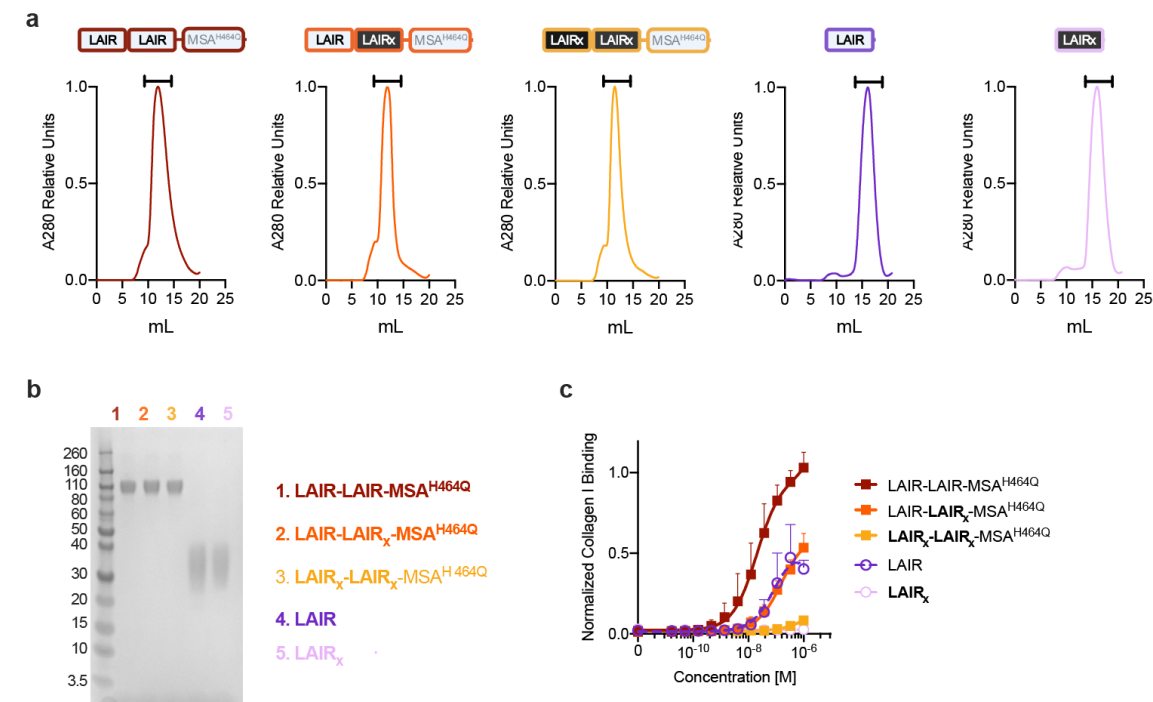
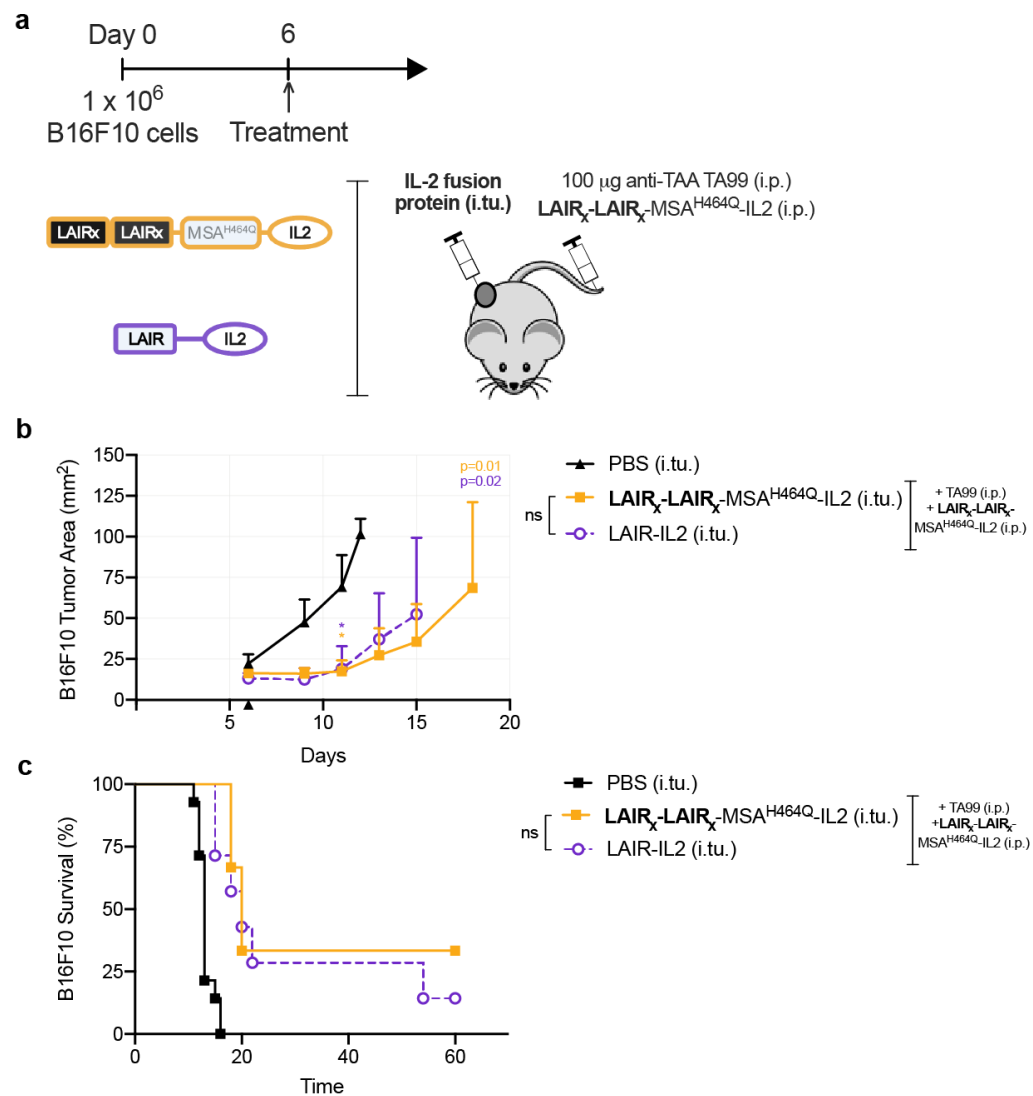
Input 4D Mask and PET Data into
UCL PETPVC **petpvc** function
(Github published code)

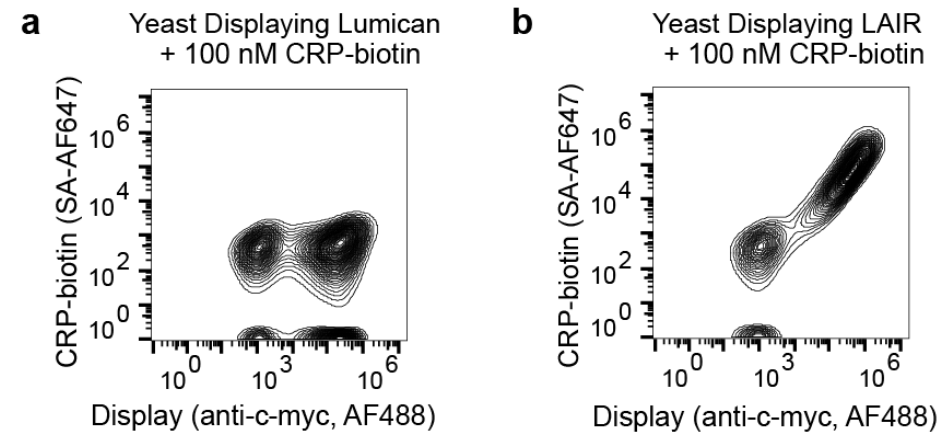
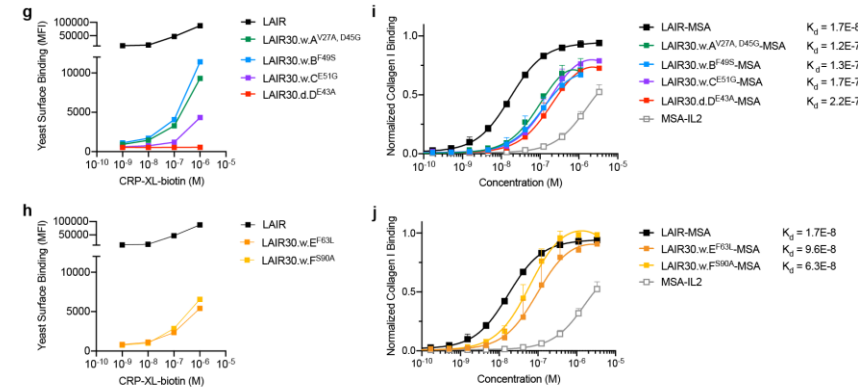
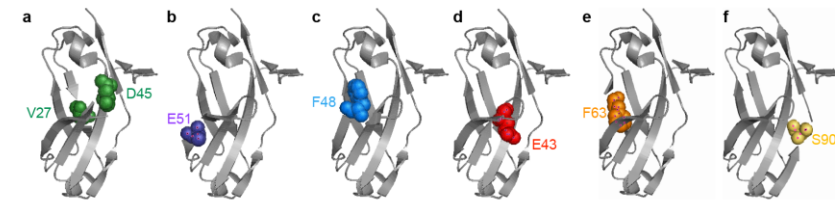
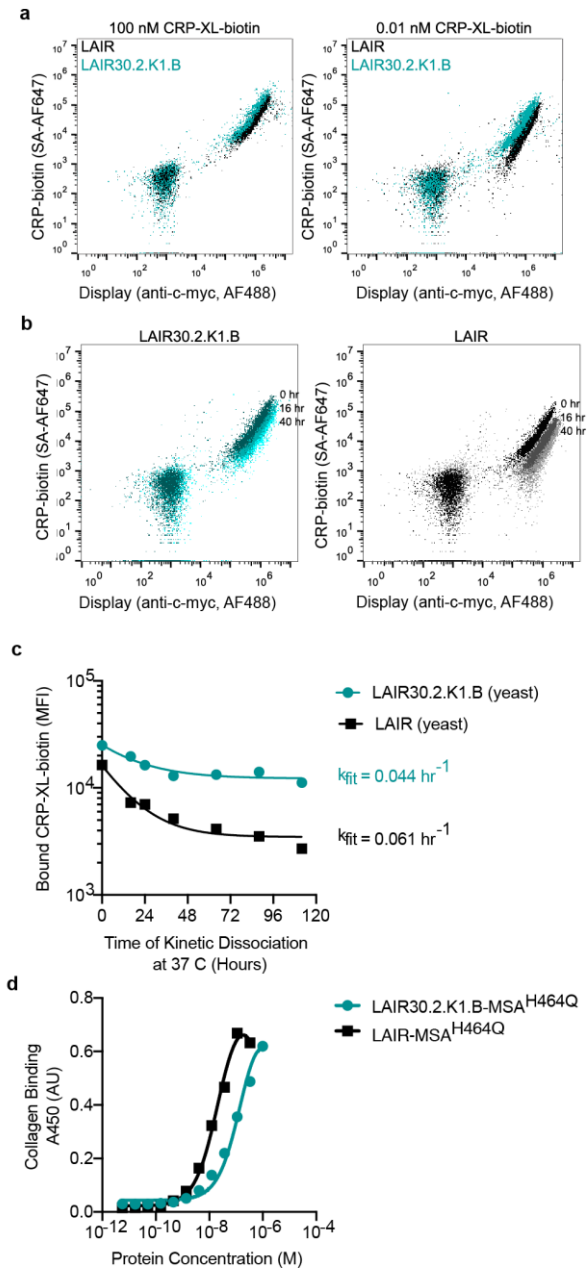
Corrected PET
Image

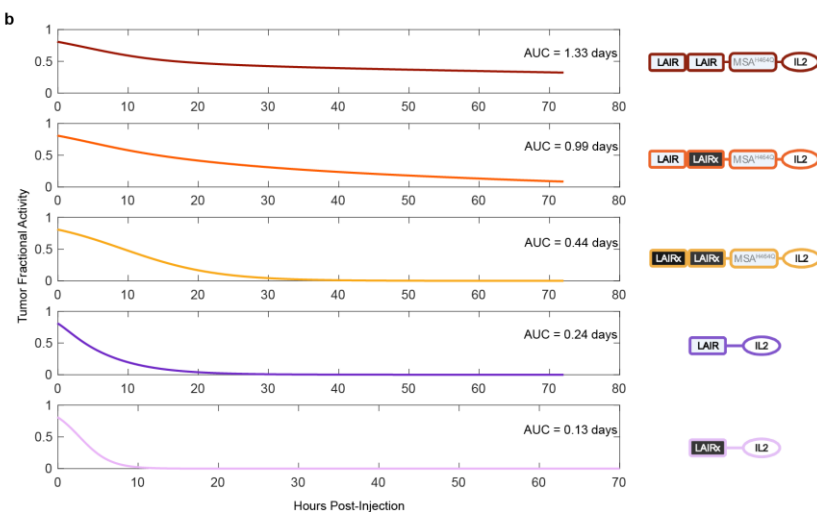
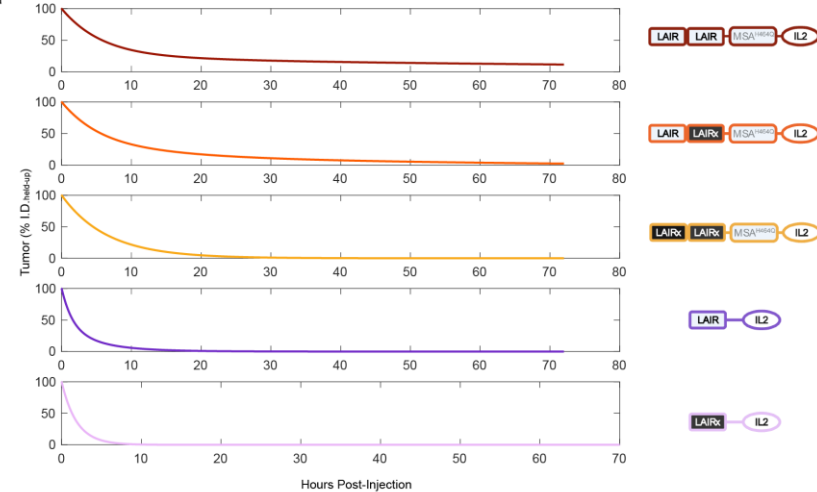
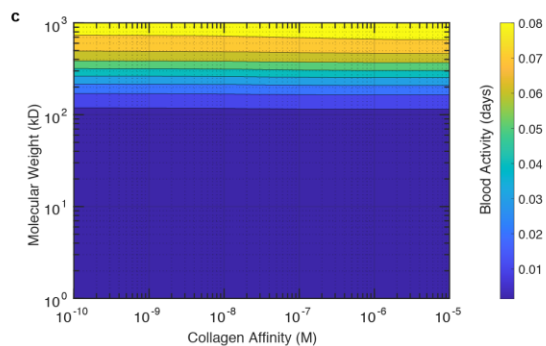
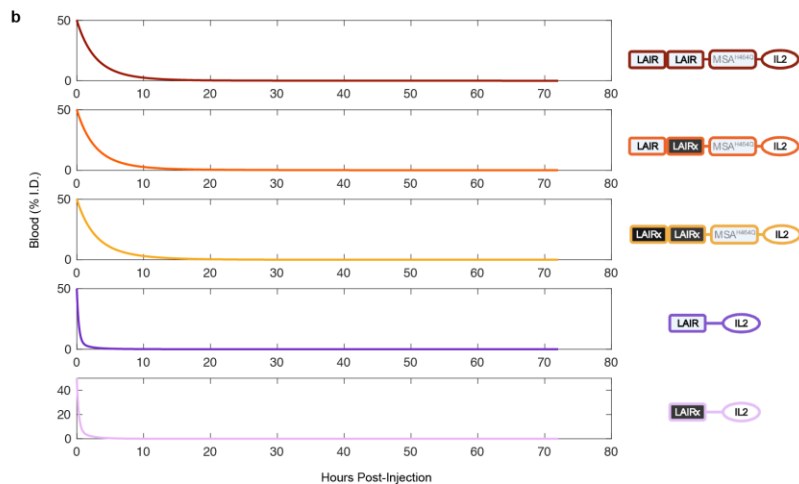
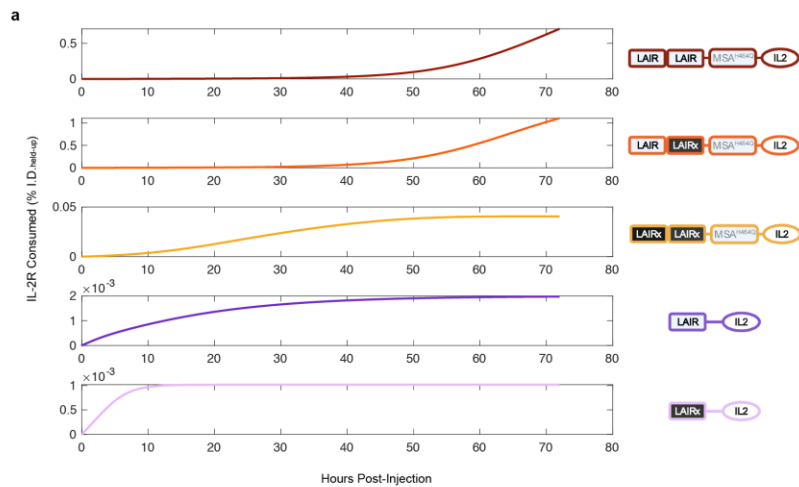
Create 4D Mask using UCL
PETPVC
pvc_make4D function
(Github published code)

Create 3D Mask in **Fiji** Using
MorphoLibJ Connected
Components Plugin



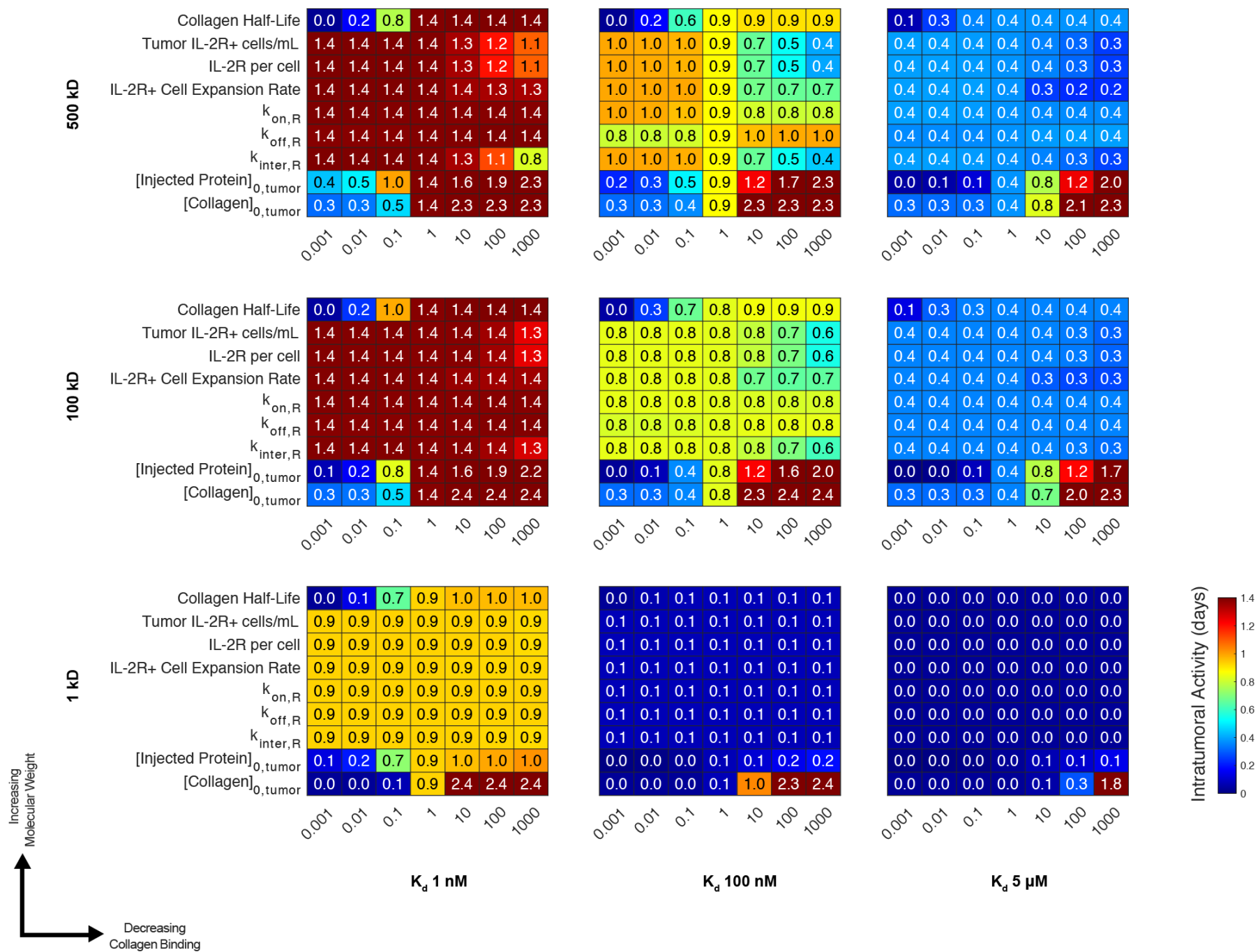


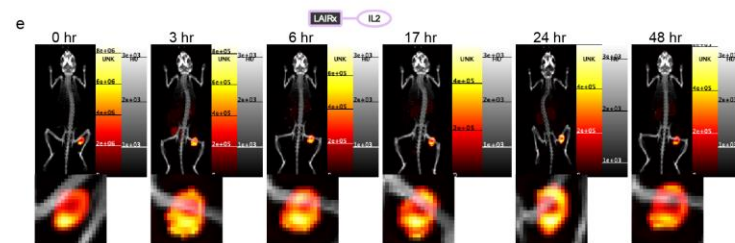
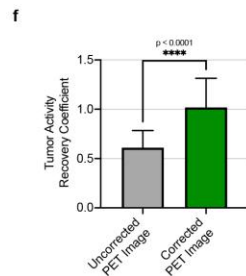
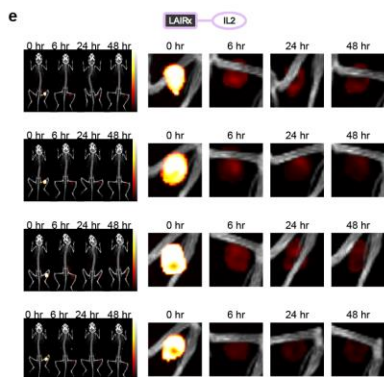
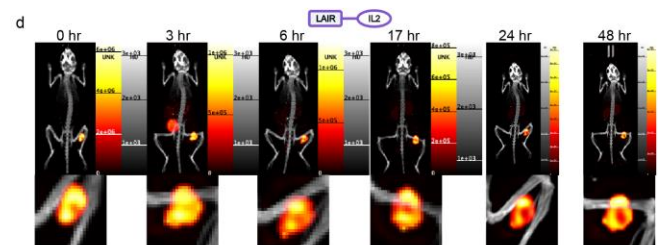
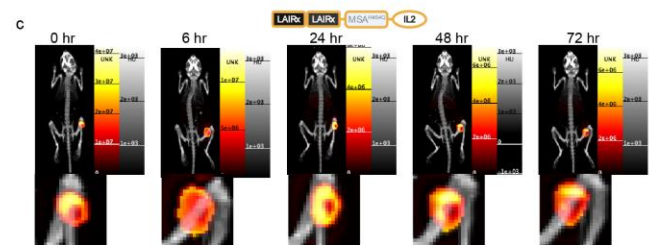
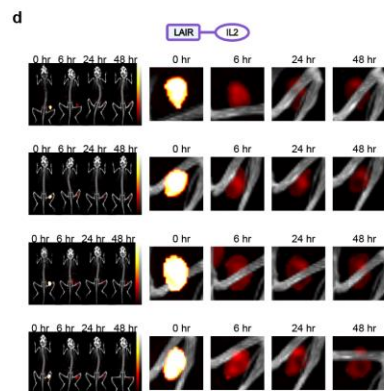
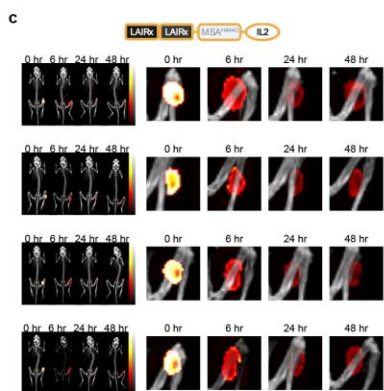
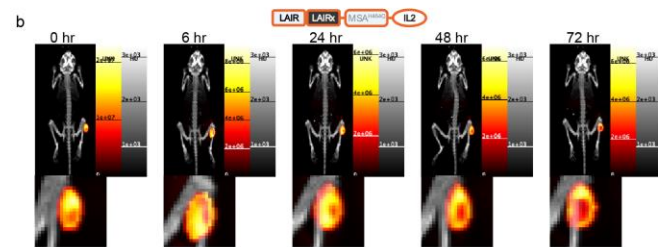
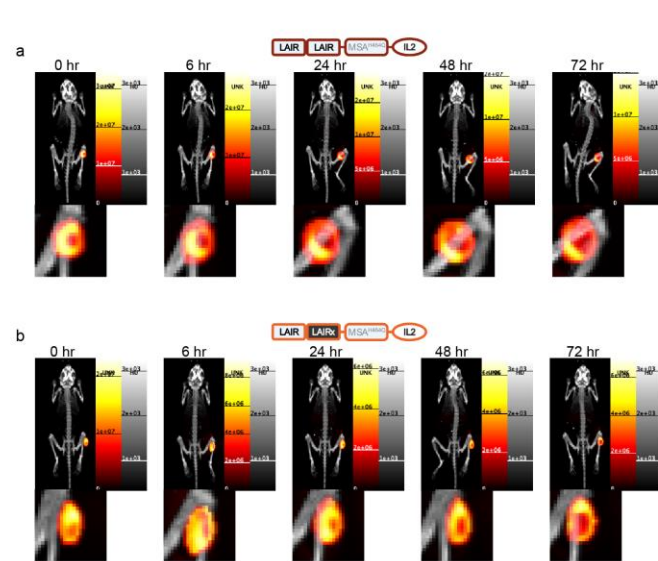
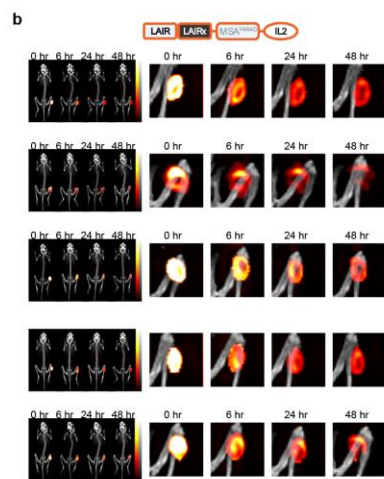
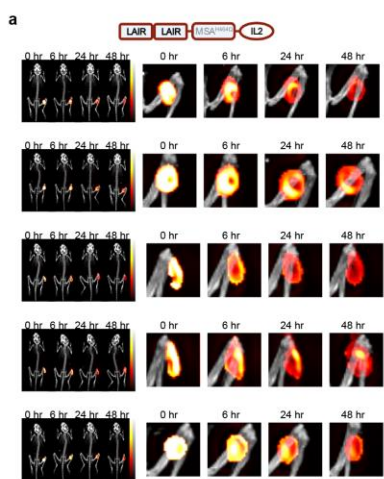




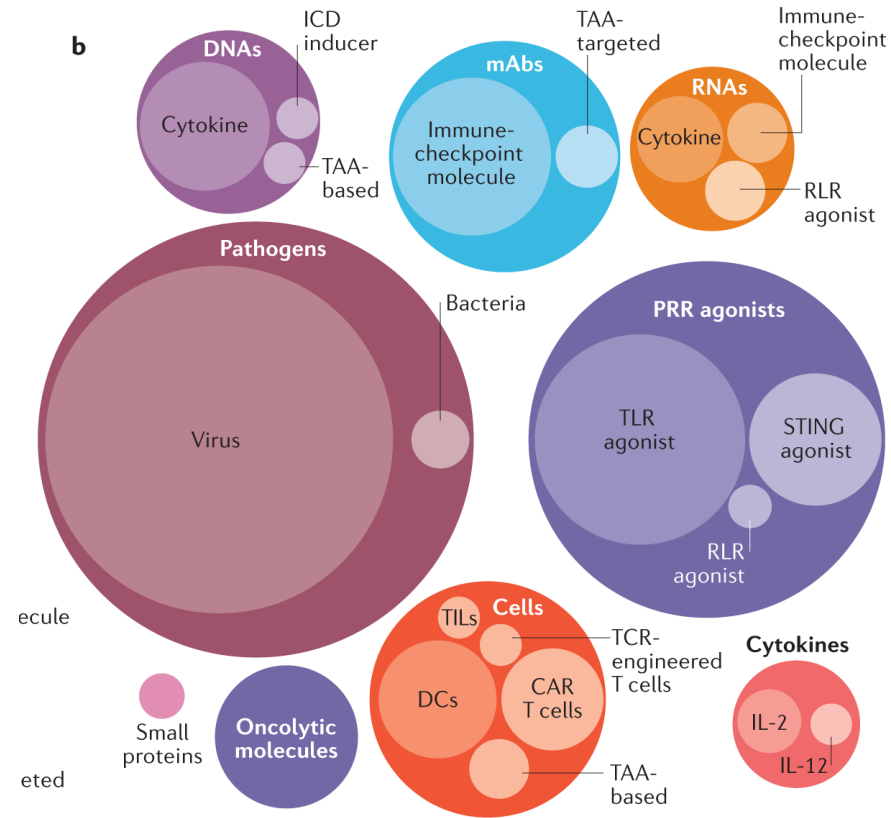
$$Fractional\ Activity = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{EC_{50, IL2}}{[Intratumoral\ Fusion\ Protein]}}$$

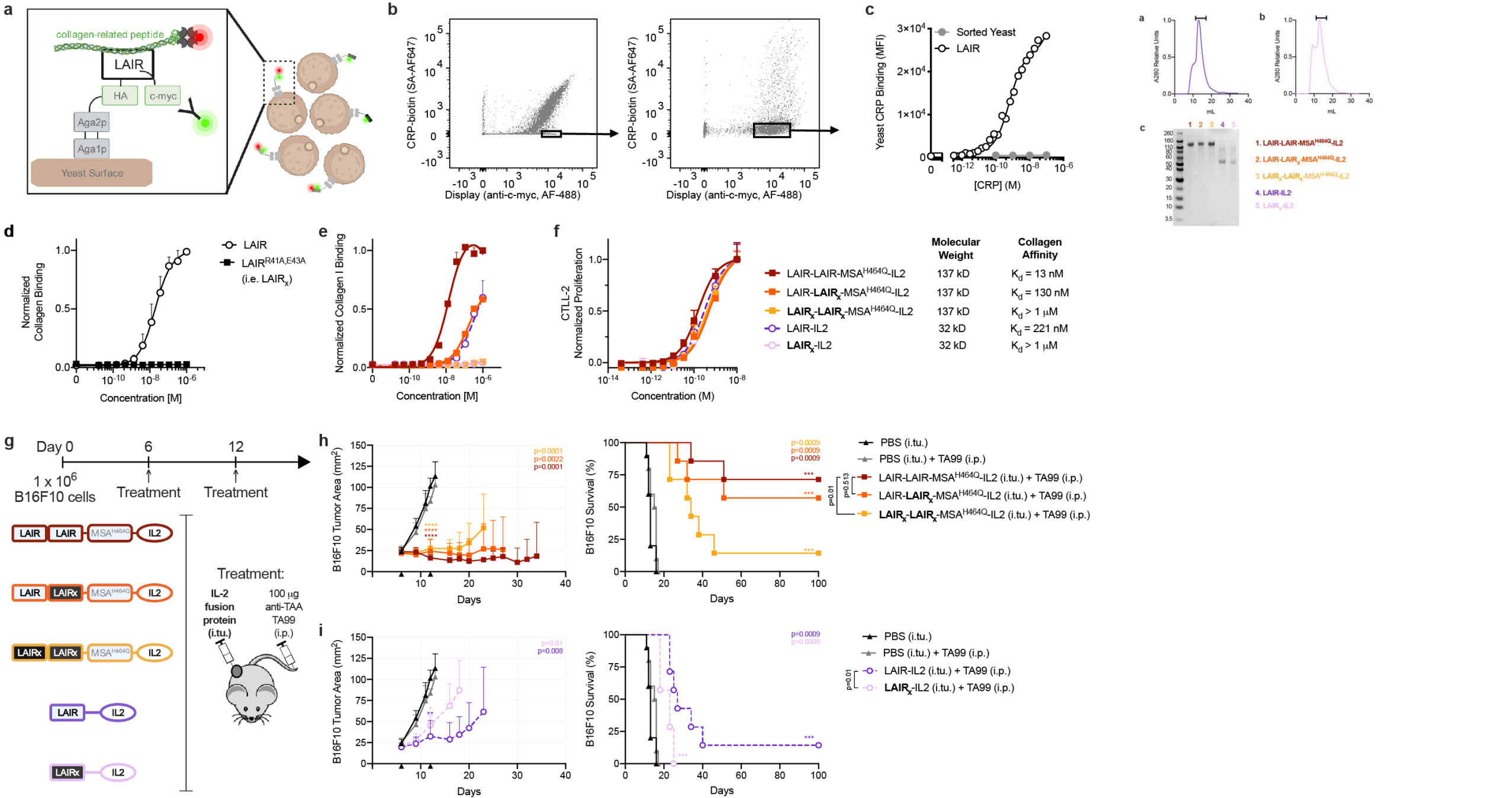
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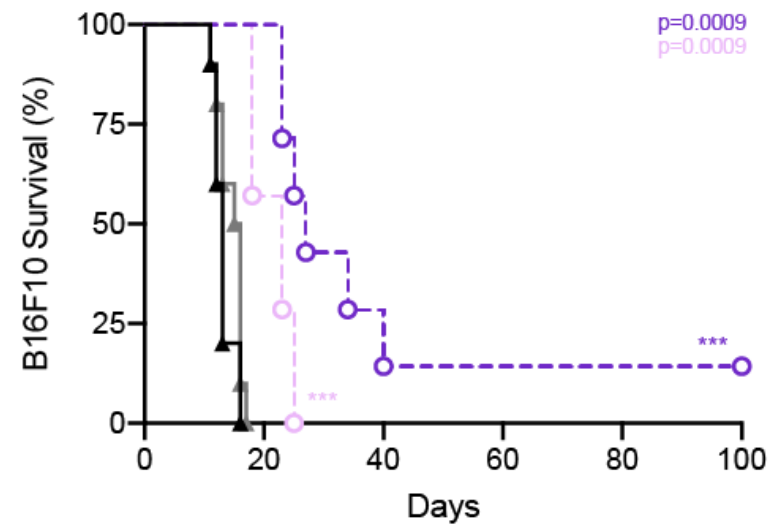
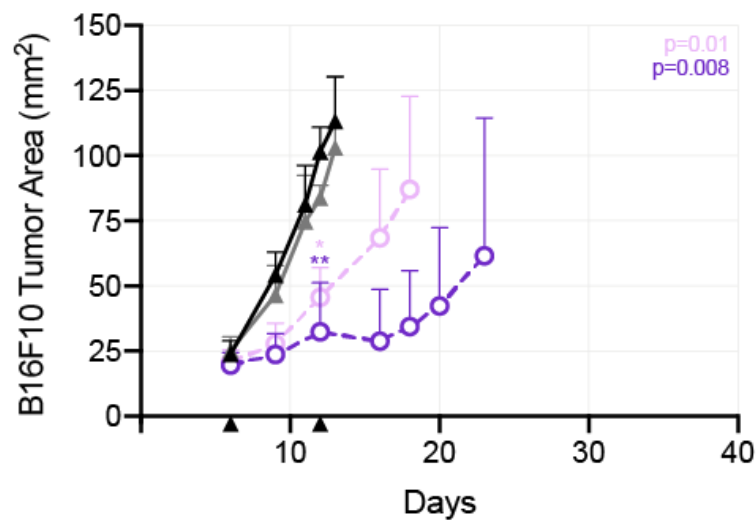
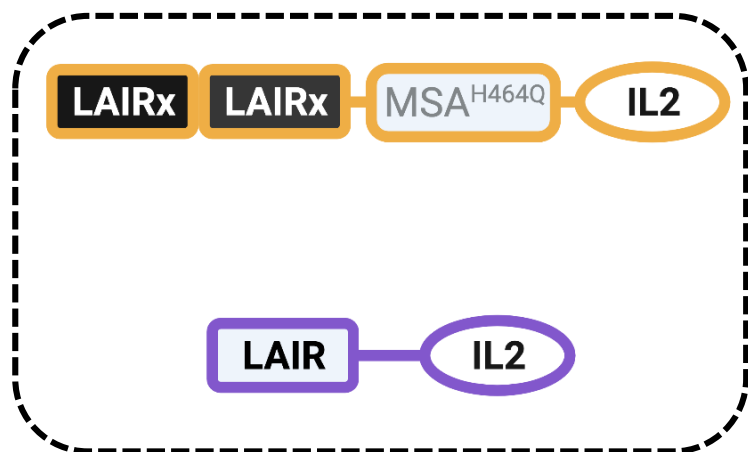
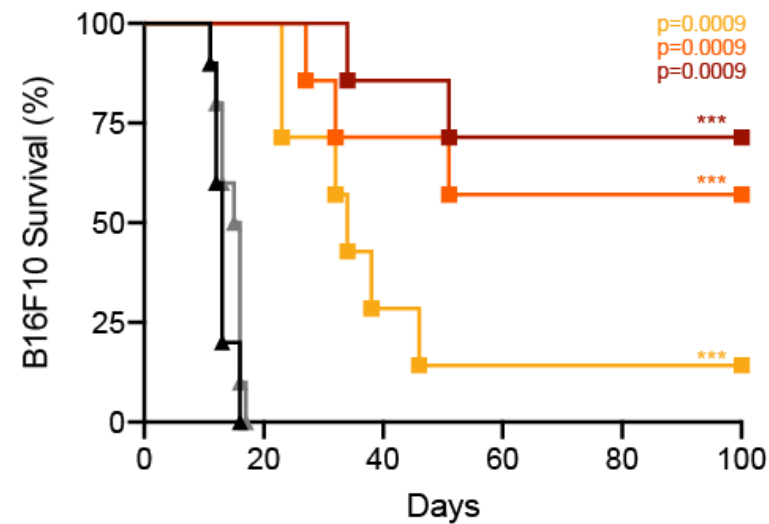
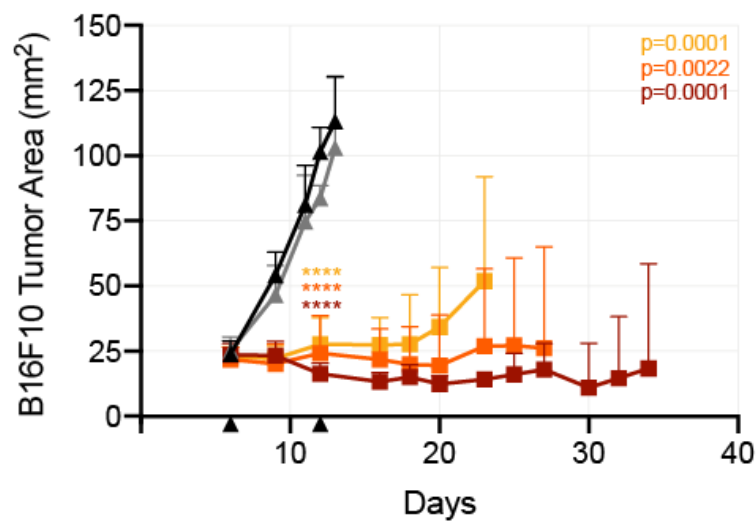
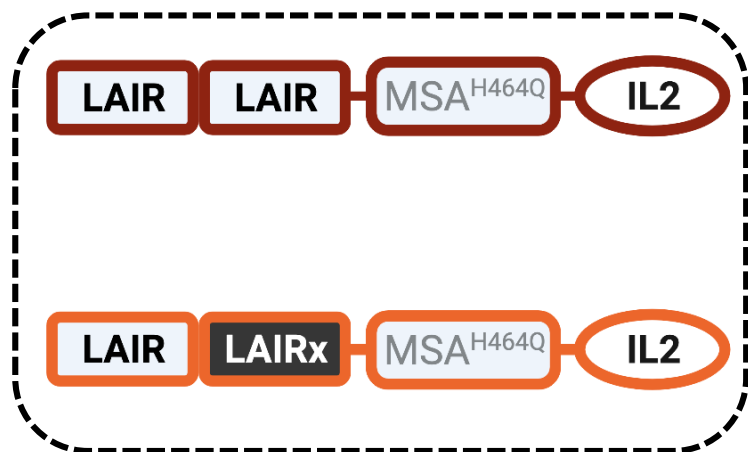




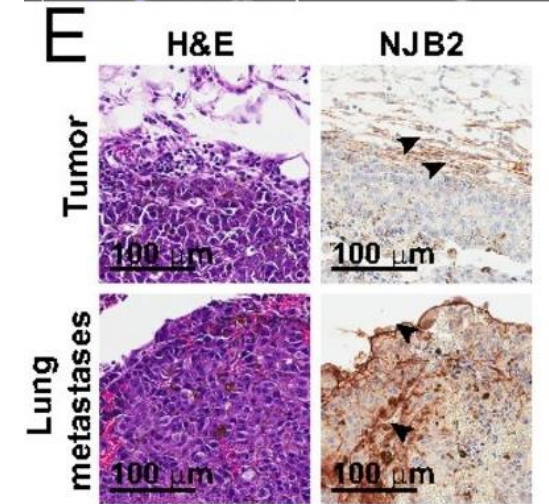
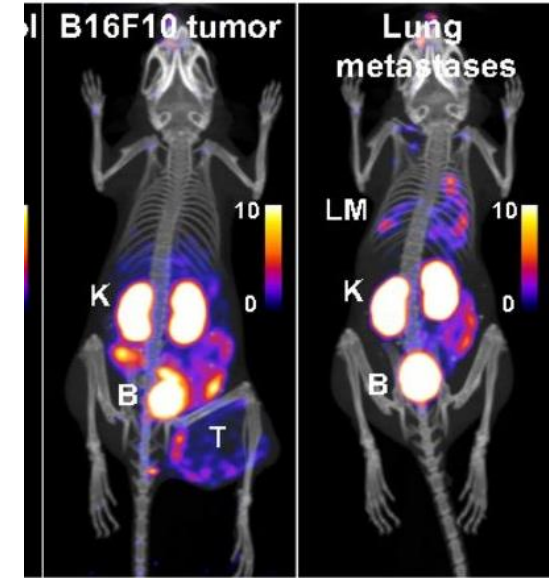
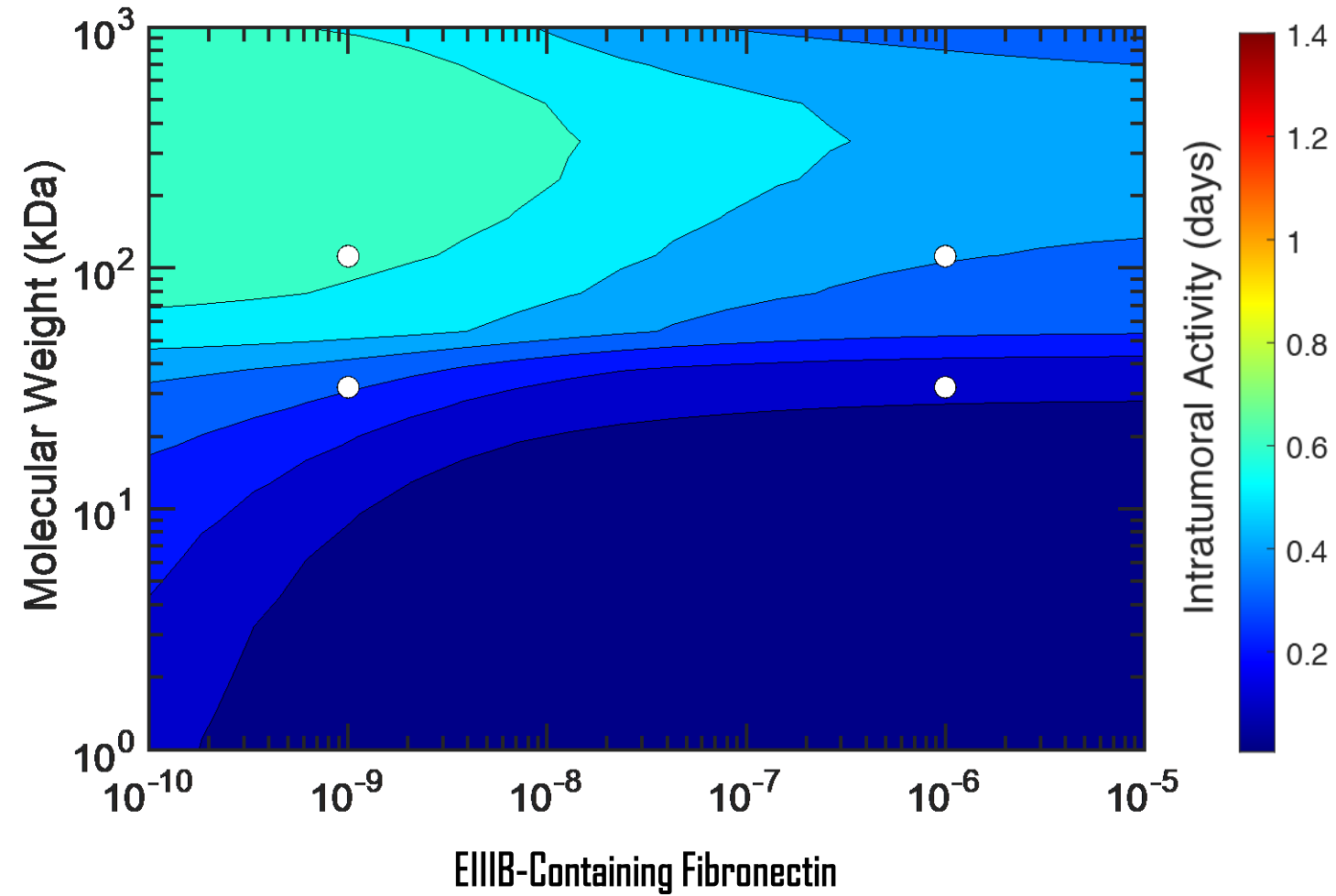
Different Immunotherapies Injected Locally



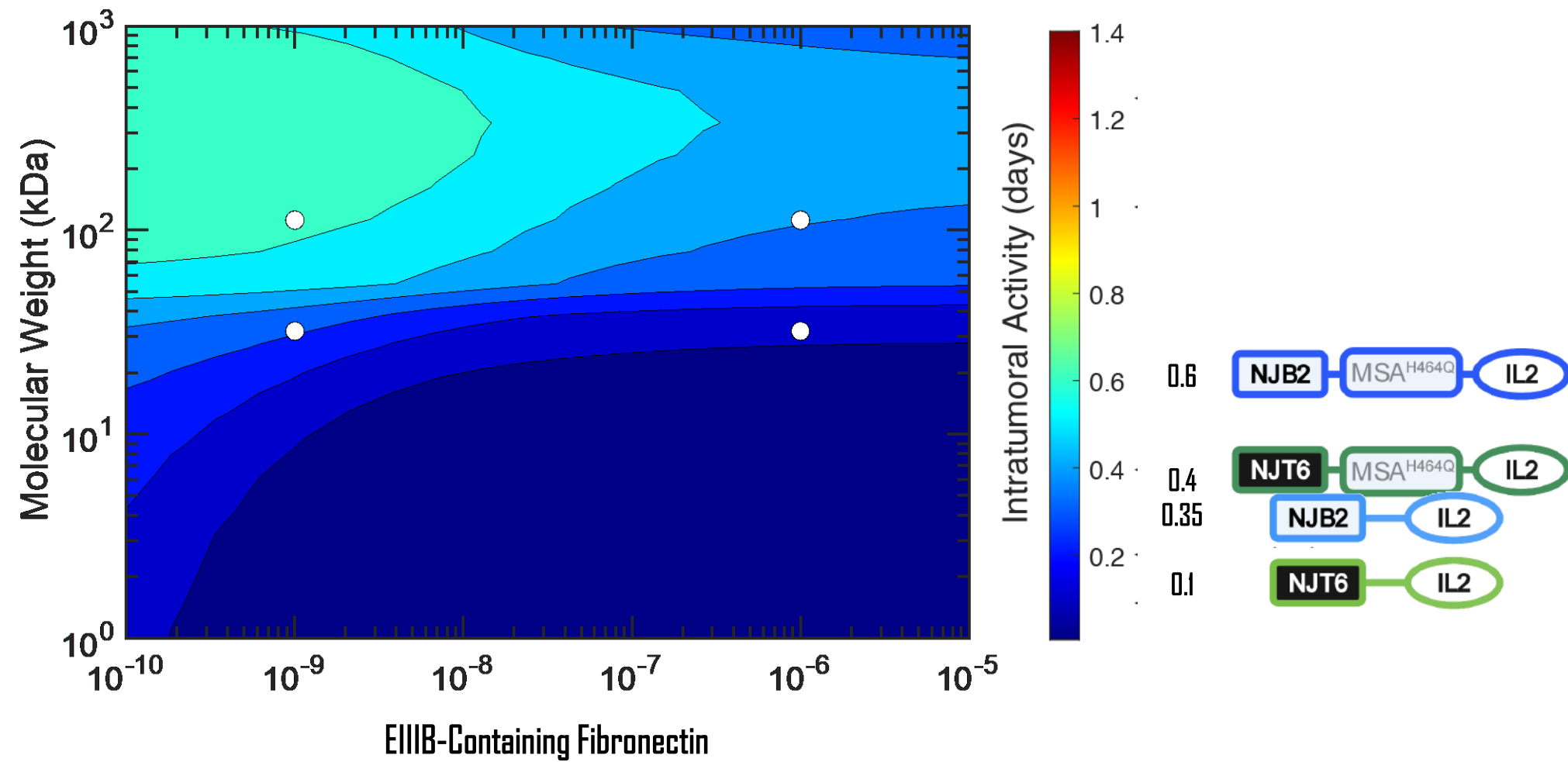




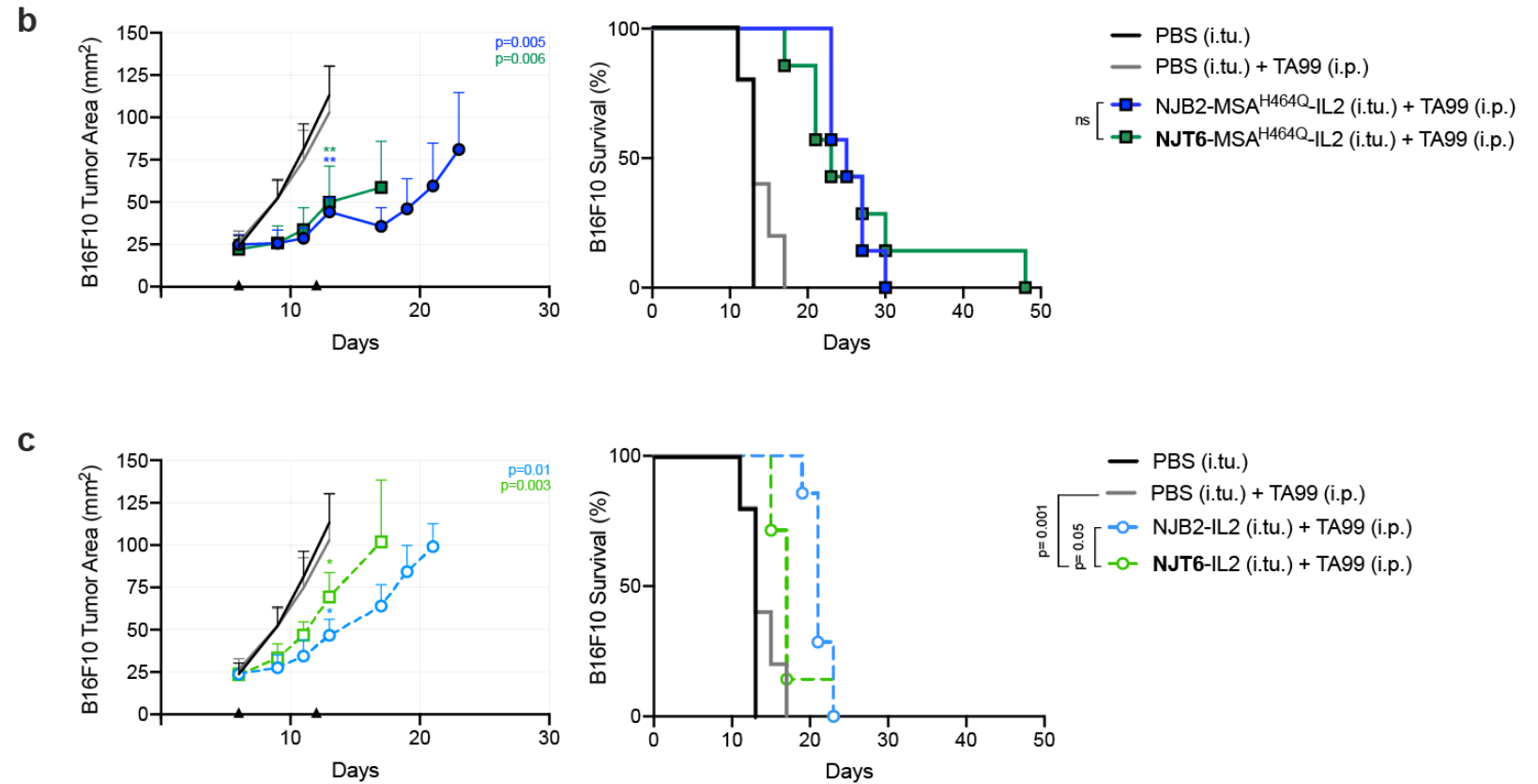
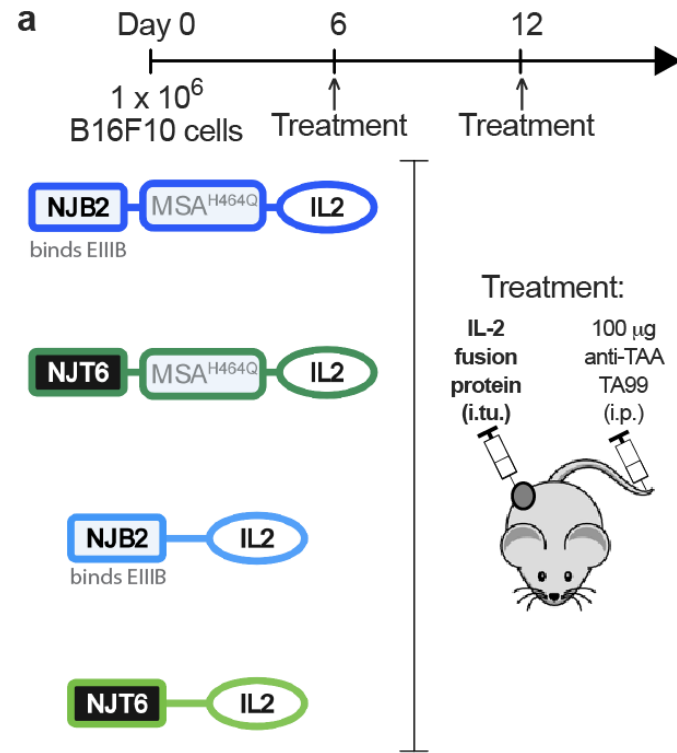
ELIIB Simulation

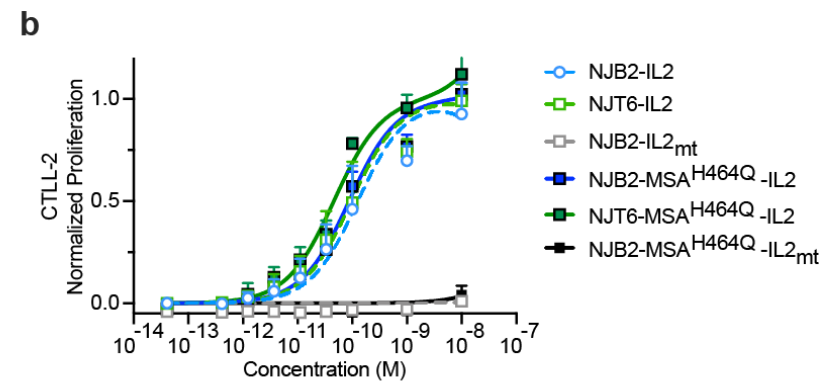
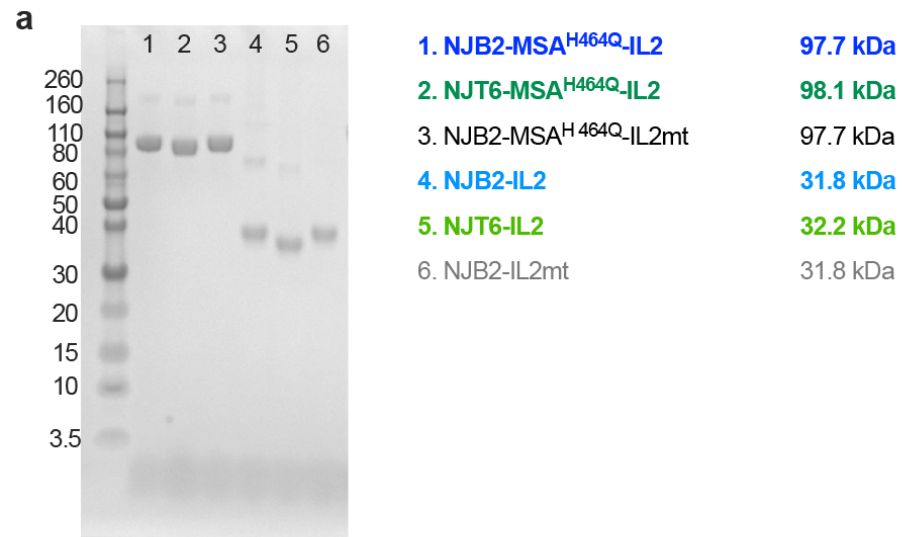


Jailkhani et al. PNAS, 2019



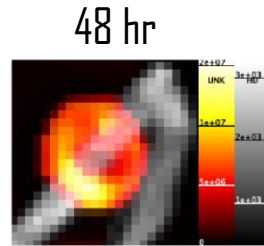
Supplementary



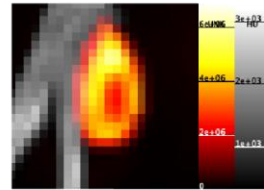


Need to characterize the pharmacokinetics of local therapies

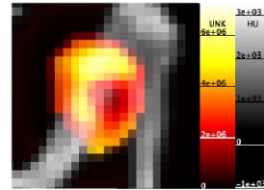
LAIR LAIR MSA^{H464Q}  Zr-89



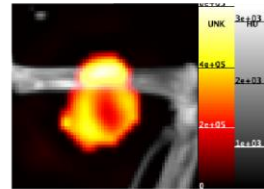
LAIR LAIRx MSA^{H464Q}  Zr-89



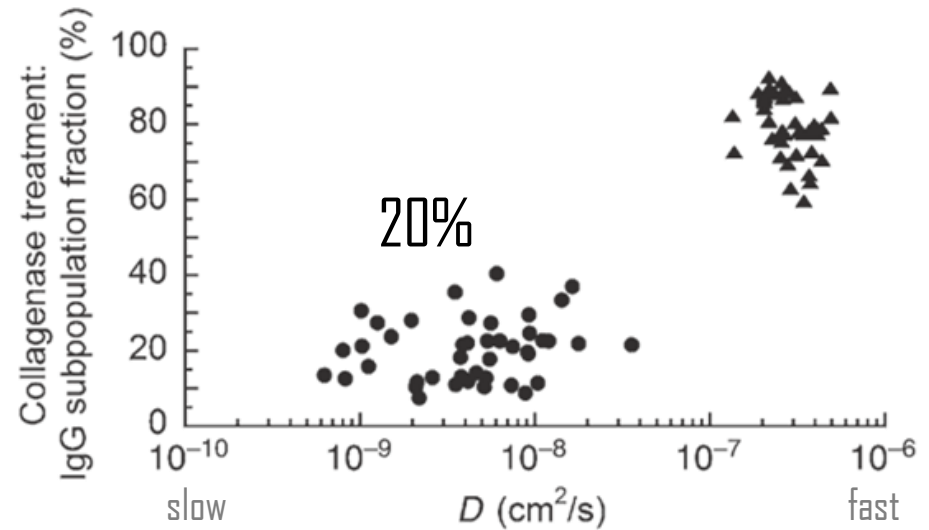
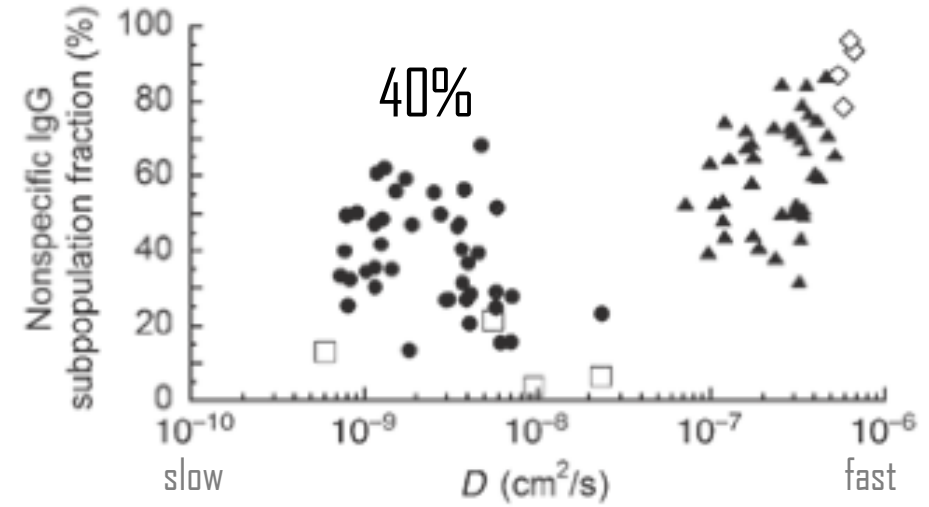
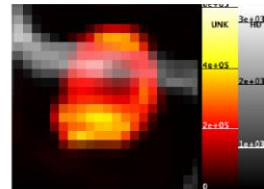
LAIRx LAIRx MSA^{H464Q}  Zr-89

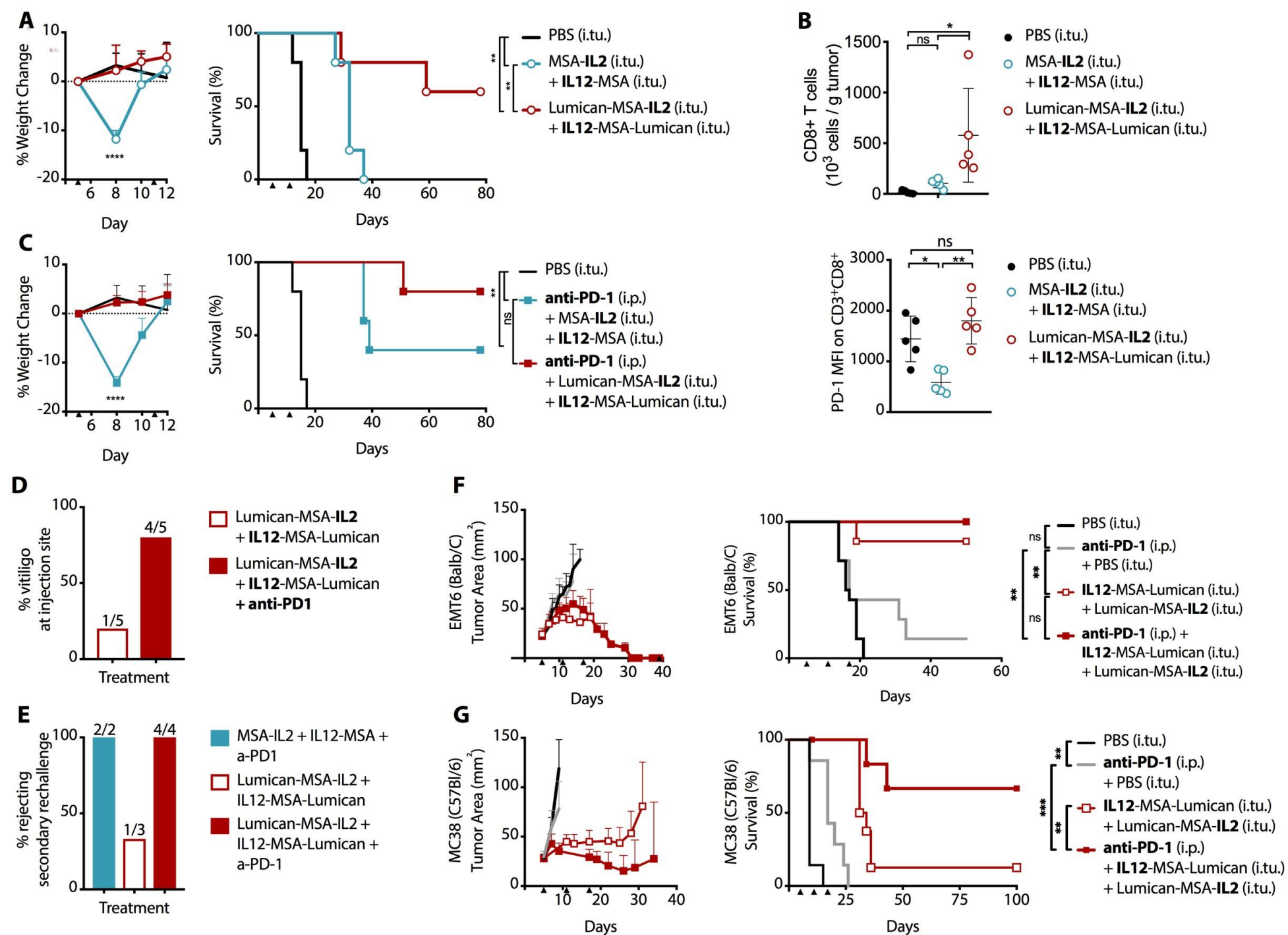


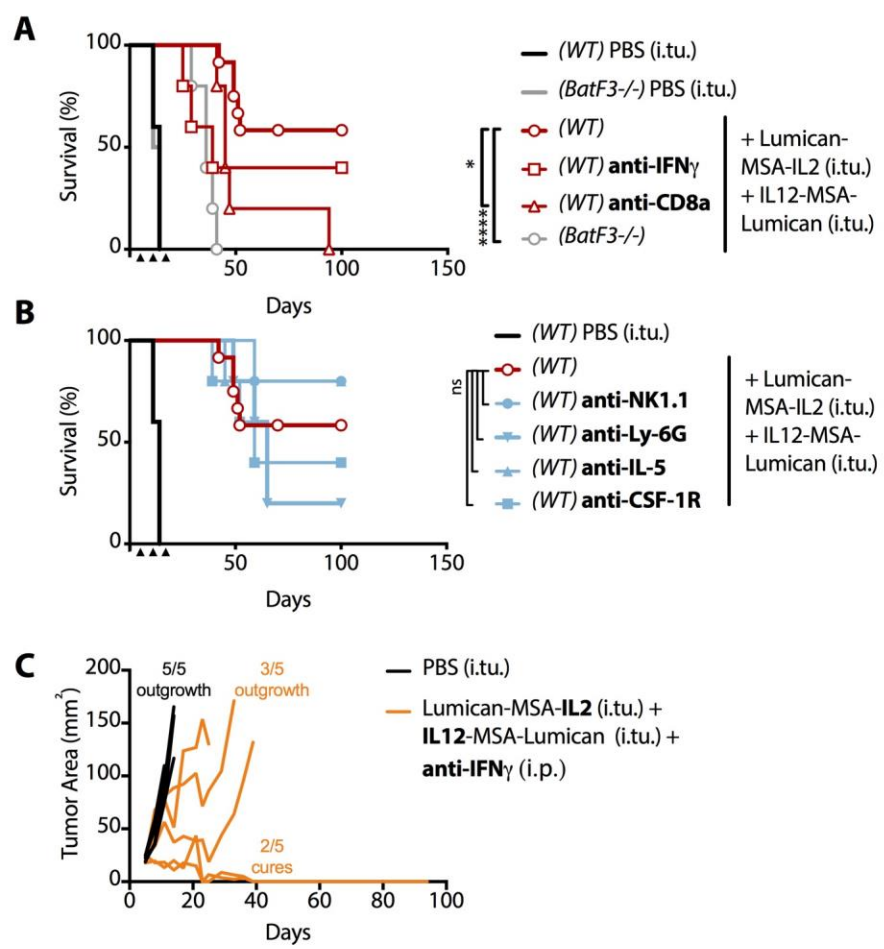
LAIR  Zr-89



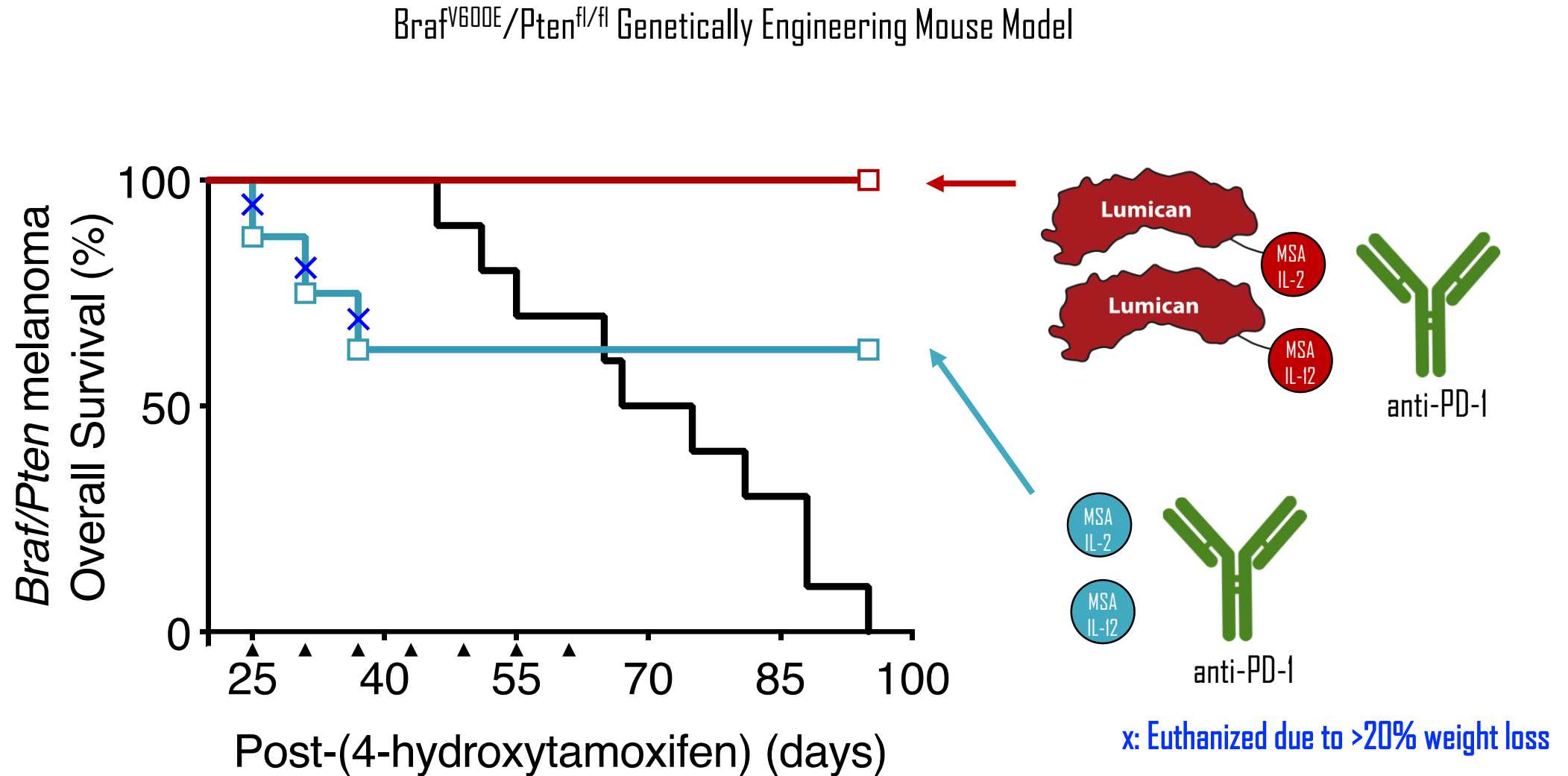
LAIRx  Zr-89







Lumican-cytokines are a safer, tumor-agnostic treatment



Lumican-cytokines are a safer, tumor-agnostic treatment

$\text{Braf}^{\text{V600E}}/\text{Pten}^{\text{fl/fl}}$ Genetically Engineering Mouse Model

