



Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center



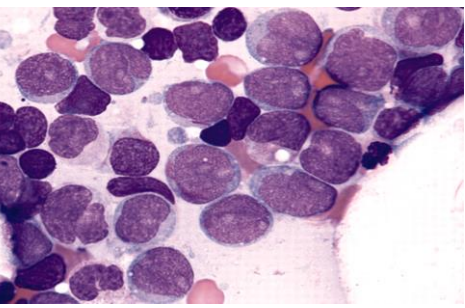
A major teaching hospital of  
Harvard Medical School

# **Personalized Cancer Vaccines: A New Treatment Paradigm for Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Multiple Myeloma**

David Avigan, MD

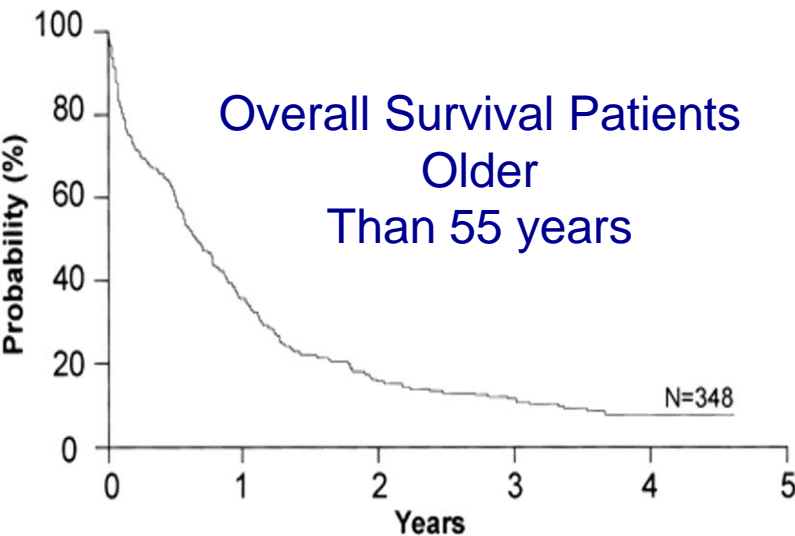
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
Chief Section of Hematological Malignancies and Bone  
Marrow Transplantation

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Dana Farber Harvard Cancer Center

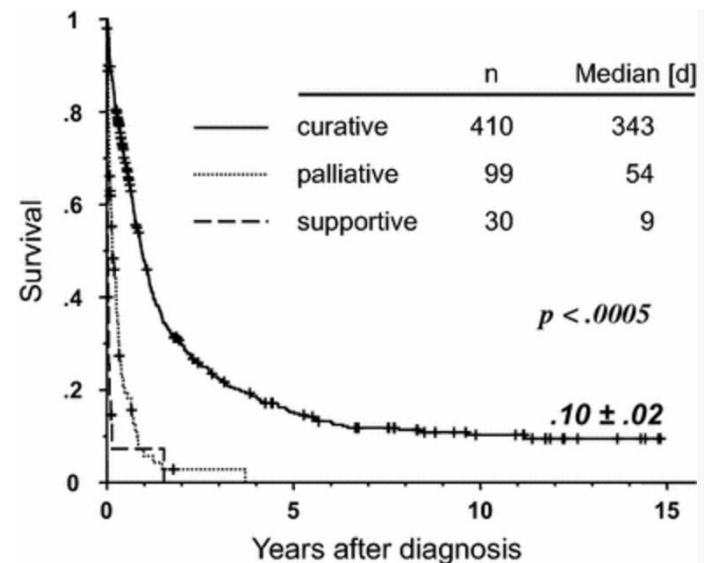


# Acute Myeloid Leukemia

- >50% of patients achieve remission but chemotherapy is not curative for most patients
- Outcomes are poor for patients over age 60



Forman, S. J. Hematology  
2009:406-413

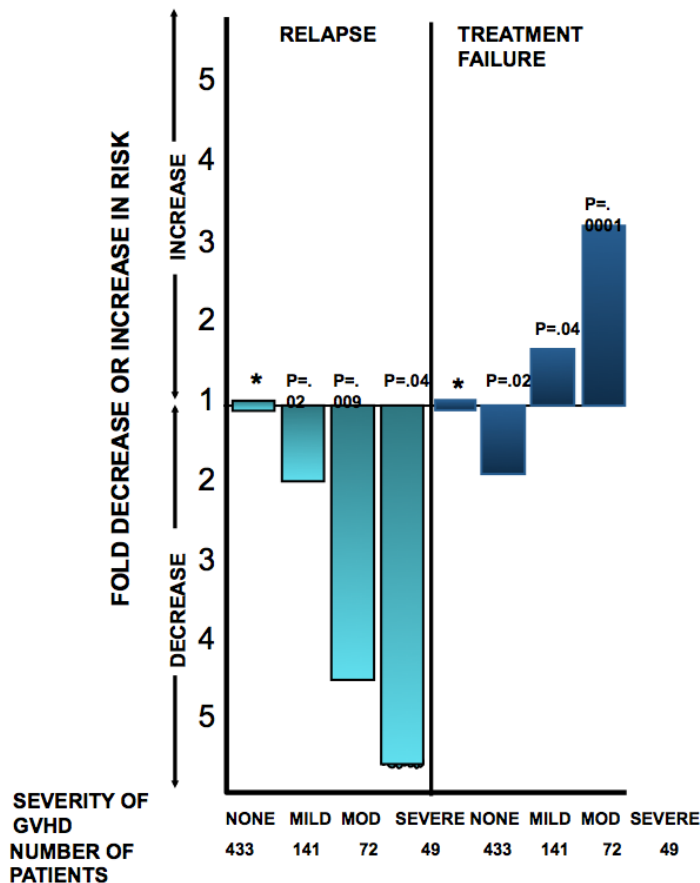


Kahl, C. et al. J Cancer Res Clin Oncol  
(2016)142: 305.

# Potency of Immune Based Therapy for AML

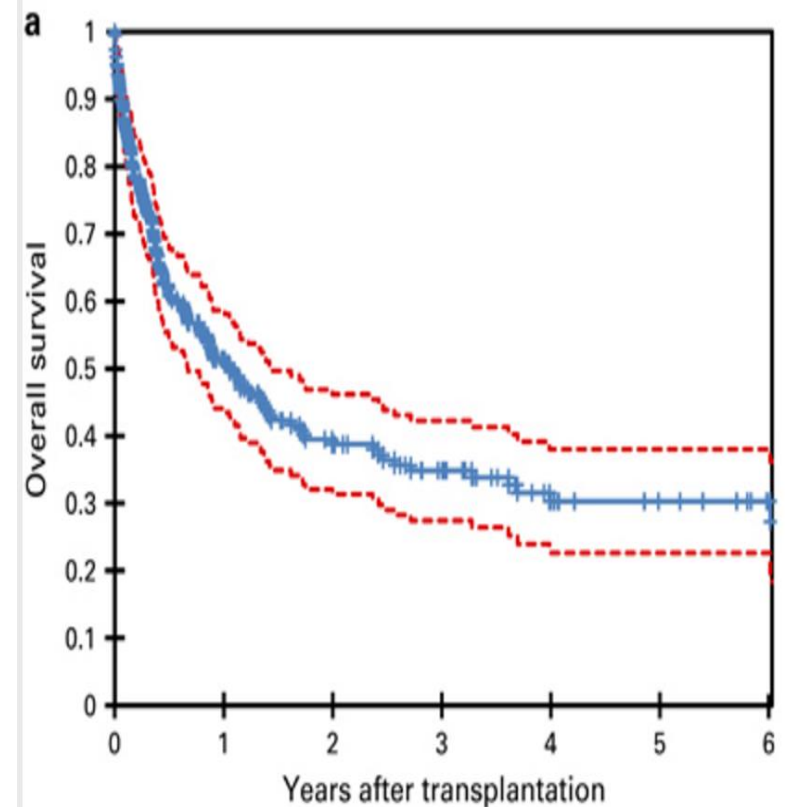
## Lessons from Allogeneic Transplantation

### IBMTR Analysis of Graft vs Leukemia Effect



Horowitz, *Blood* 1990;75:555

### Outcome of allogeneic transplantation for AML in patients $\geq 60$ years



Pohlen et al. *Bone Marrow Transplantation* (2016) 51, 1441–1448

# Can a Tumor Vaccine Induce Tumor Specific Immunity that Translates in Clinically Meaningful Outcomes?

- Expansion of immune effector cells to **selectively target malignant cells**
- A broad anti-tumor immune response has the potential to **target tumor heterogeneity**, including malignant stem cell populations
- Immune response provides the potential for memory and **long term surveillance**

# Cancer and Immune Escape :

## Role of the Tumor Microenvironment

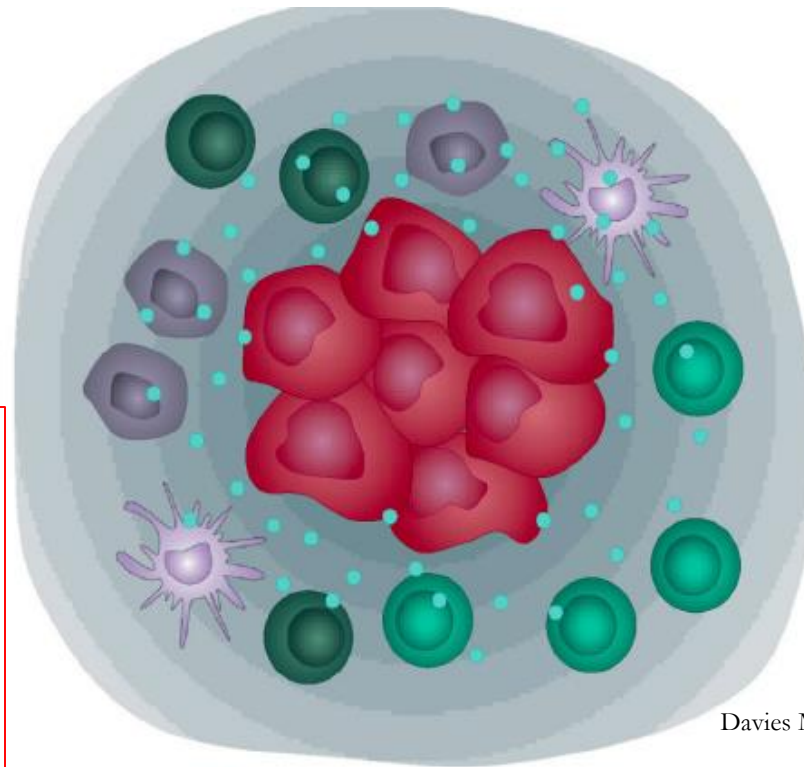
### Recruitment of immunosuppressive cells



Tregs



MDSCs



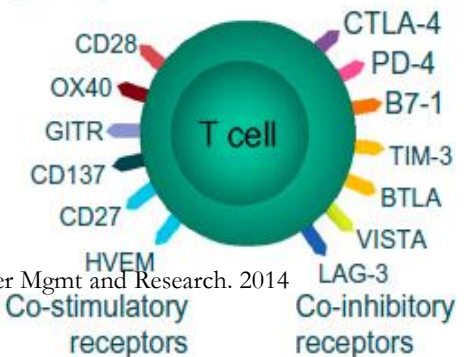
Tumor microenvironment

### C Release of immunosuppressive factors

Factors/enzymes directly or indirectly suppress immune response



### D T-cell checkpoint dysregulation



Davies M. Cancer Mgmt and Research. 2014

### Ineffective presentation of tumor antigens to the immune system

Downregulation of MHC expression

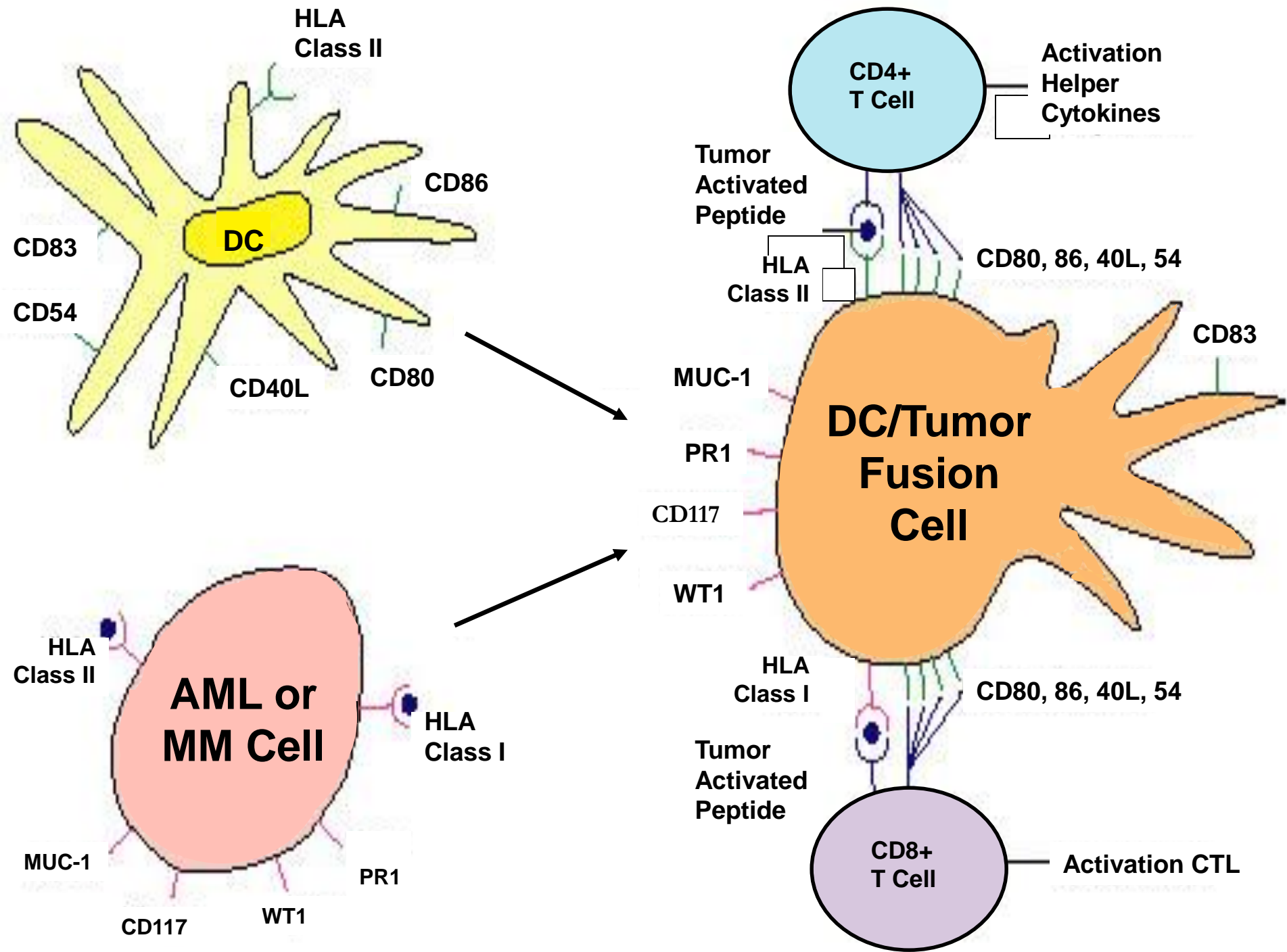
Suppression of APC



Tumor cell



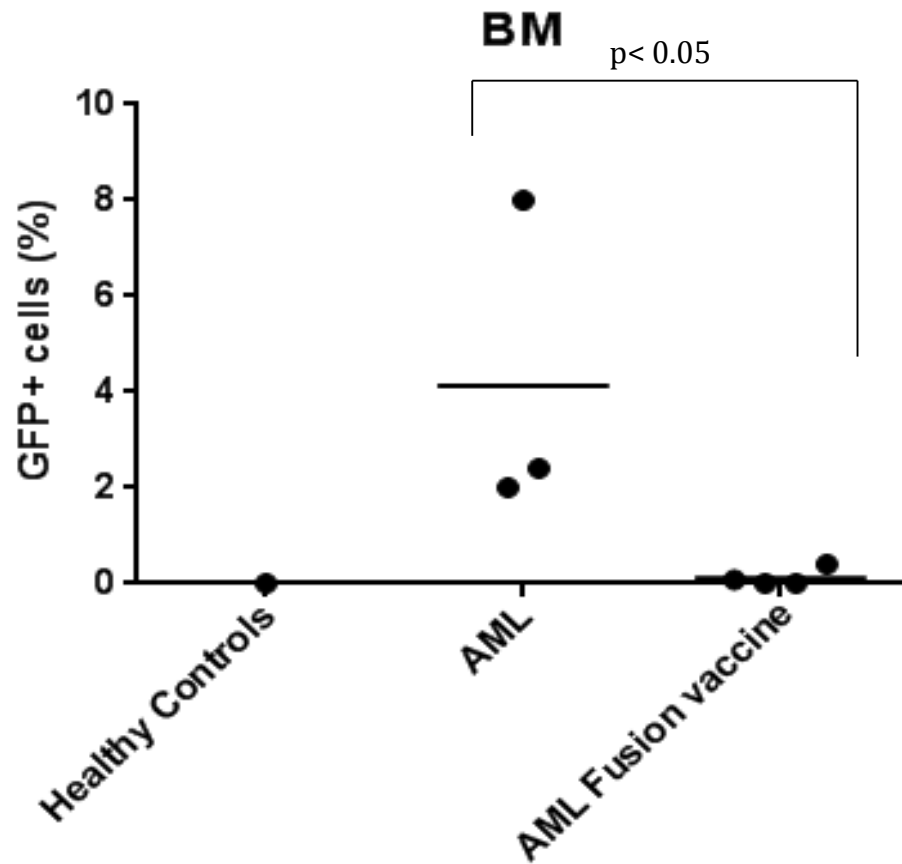
APC



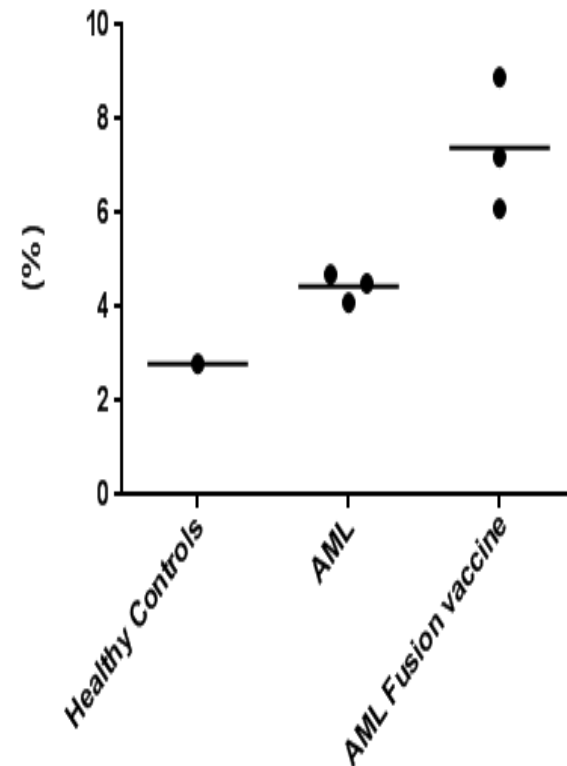
# DC/AML Fusion Vaccine:

## Immunocompetent Murine Model:

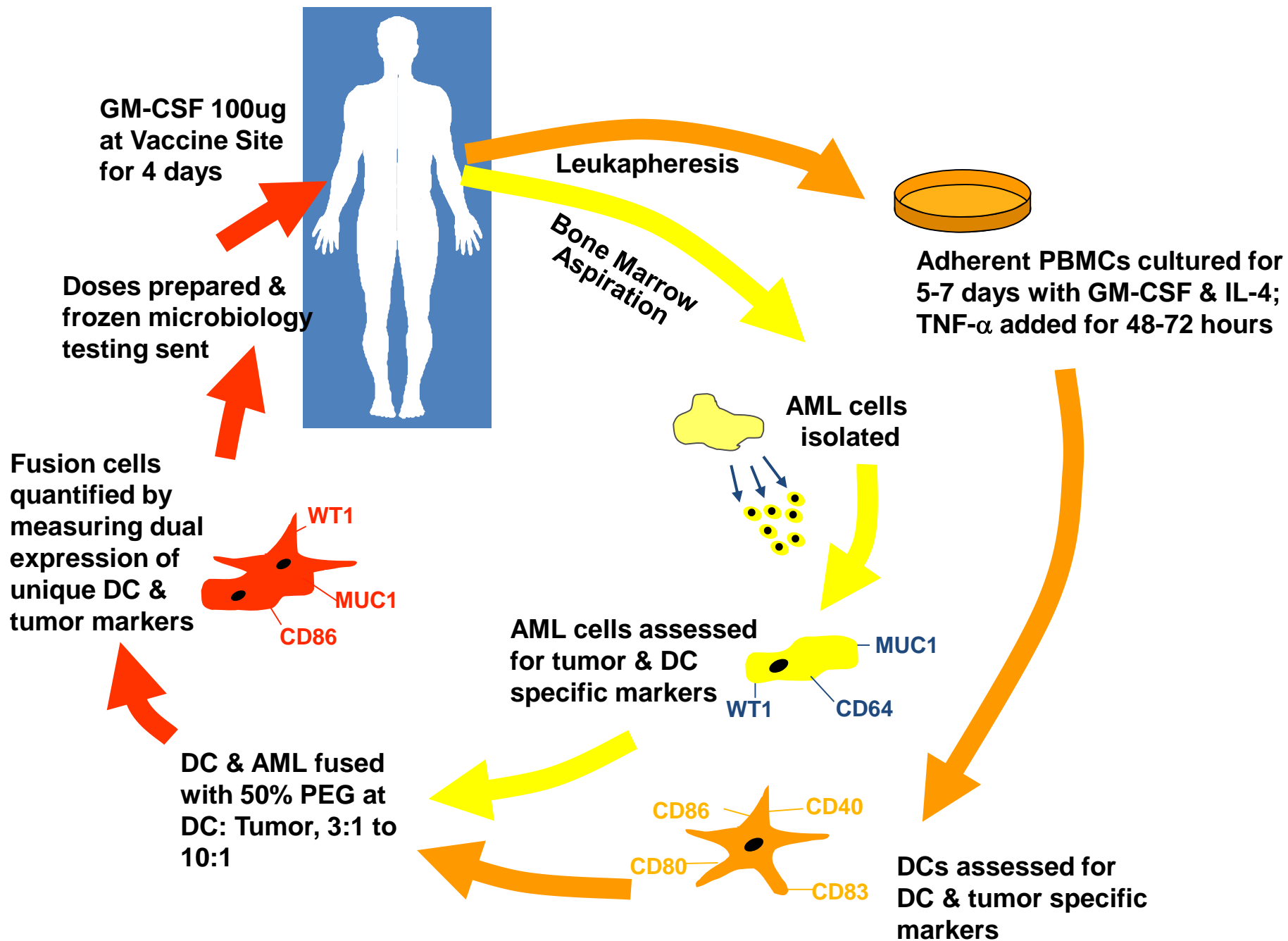
C57BL/6J mice inoculated with GFP+ TIB-49 AML cells



BM CD4+IFN $\gamma$ + T cells following stimulation with auto-tumor lysate

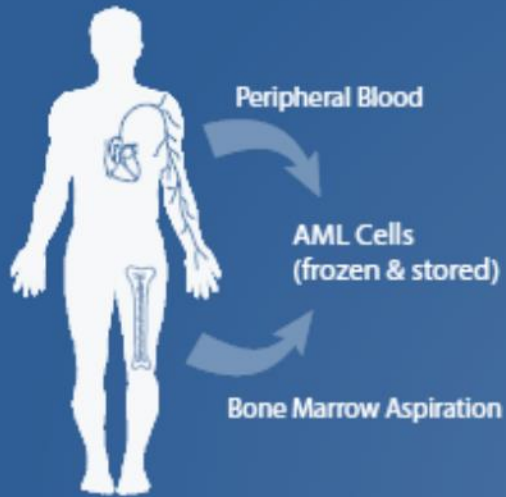








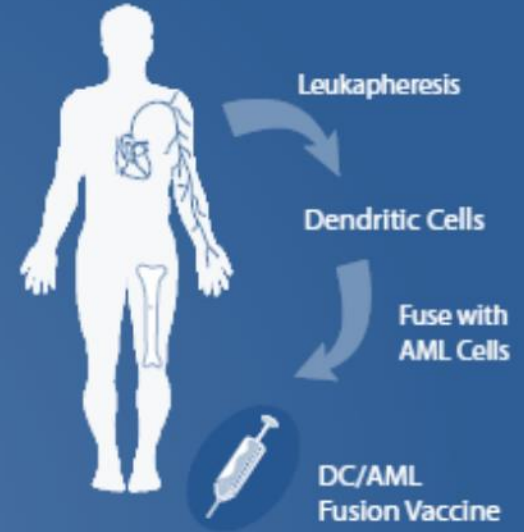
### Tumor Harvest



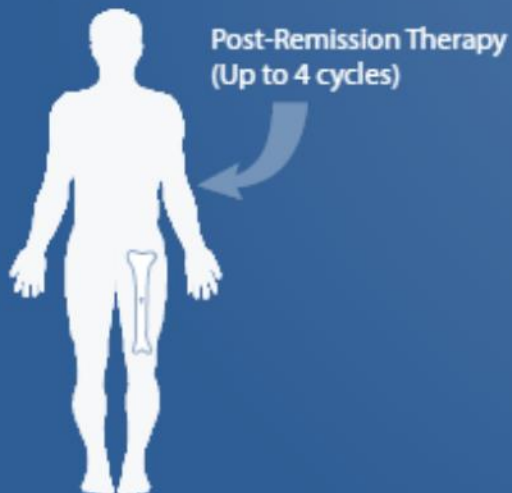
### Induction Chemotherapy



### Dendritic Cell Collection



### Consolidation Chemotherapy



### Cohort 1: DC/AML Fusion Vaccine



Schema: Protocol 09412

# Characteristics of 19 patients who completed vaccine generation

- Median age was **63 years**
- 11 patients had **intermediate or high risk** disease
- 2 patients completed vaccine generation, but did not receive any vaccination:
  - relapsed AML (n=1)
  - ongoing chemotherapy toxicity (n=1).
- **17 patients initiated vaccination:**
  - 16 patients received at least 2 vaccines
  - 1 patient relapsed after 1 dose of vaccine
- Median time from completing chemotherapy to initiating vaccination was 56 days (range 38-118 days)

**Table 1. Patient Demographics**

Study Number	Age	Gender	Disease Status at Presentation	WHO Classification	Induction Regimen(s)	Consolidation	Current Status	Time to Relapse (Months)	Duration of CR (Months)
PA2	37	F	Initial Diagnosis	Acute myelomonocytic leukemia	7+3	4 cycles of HiDAC	CR		71.6
PA3	76	M	Initial Diagnosis	AML with maturation	7+3	3 cycles of MiDAC	CR		71
PA5	69	M	Initial Diagnosis	Acute monocytic leukemia	7+3	3 cycles of MiDAC	CR		69.4
PA6	66	M	Initial Diagnosis	AML with minimal differentiation	7+3 and MEC	1 cycle HiDAC, 1 cycle MiDAC	Relapse	5.8	
PA8	32	M	Initial Diagnosis	Acute myelomonocytic leukemia	7+3	4 cycles of HiDAC	CR		68.2
PA9	54	F	Initial Diagnosis	Acute monocytic leukemia	7+3	4 cycles of HiDAC	Relapse	8.1	
PA10	56	F	Initial Diagnosis	t-AML	7+3	4 cycles of HiDAC	CR		58.3
PA11	77	F	1st Relapse (following remission of 1 year)	Acute myelomonocytic leukemia	MEC	1 cycle of MiDAC	CR		59.8
PA13	76	M	Initial Diagnosis	AML w/MDS-related changes	2 cycles of Decitabine	4 cycles of Decitabine	Relapse	9.1	
PA14	28	F	Initial Diagnosis	AML with maturation	7+3 and 5+2	4 cycles of HiDAC	Relapse	14	
PA16	64	M	Initial Diagnosis	AML with t(8;21)(q22;q22); RUNX1-RUNX1T1	7+3	4 cycles of HiDAC	CR		58.3
PA18	62	F	Initial Diagnosis	AML without maturation	7+3	3 cycles of HiDAC	CR		54.6
PA21	56	M	Initial Diagnosis	AML with t(8;21)(q22;q22); RUNX1-RUNX1T1	7+3	4 cycles of HiDAC	CR		57.1
PA23	74	F	Initial Diagnosis	AML with mutated NPM1	7+3	1 cycle of HiDAC	Relapse	5.9	
PA24	67	M	Initial Diagnosis	AML with minimal differentiation	7+3	3 cycles of MiDAC	CR		51.9
PA26	72	M	Initial Diagnosis	Acute myelomonocytic leukemia	7+3	4 cycles of HiDAC	Relapse	3.8	
PA29	59	F	Initial Diagnosis	t-AML	7+3	4 cycles of HiDAC	CR		26
PA36	56	M	Initial Diagnosis	AML with mutated NPM1	7+3	3 cycles of HiDAC	CR		23.4
PA38	63	M	Initial Diagnosis	AML with t(8;21)(q22;q22); RUNX1-RUNX1T1	7+3	4 cycles of MiDAC	CR		21.7

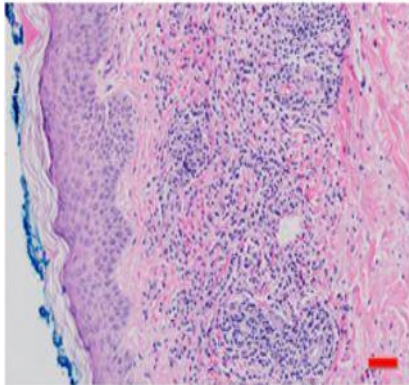
# Adverse Events Related to Vaccination

**Table 2. Adverse Events**

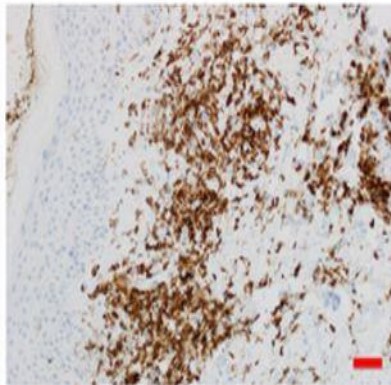
Adverse Events	Grade	# of Episodes
Vaccine Site Reaction	1	31
	2	3
Leukopenia	1	5
Urticaria	1	4
Eosinophilia	1	3
Elevated TSH	1	3
Thrombocytopenia	1	3
Pruritis	1	2
	2	1
Increased Monocytes	1	1
Arthralgia	1	1
Myalgia	1	1

# Vaccine Site Reaction

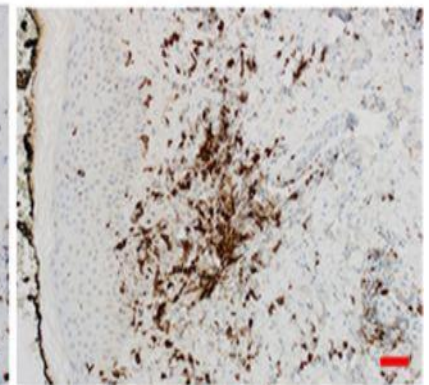
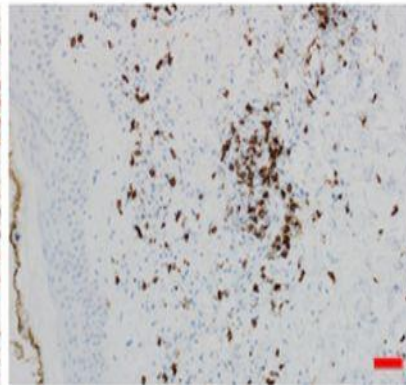
**CD4<sup>+</sup>**



**CD8<sup>+</sup>**

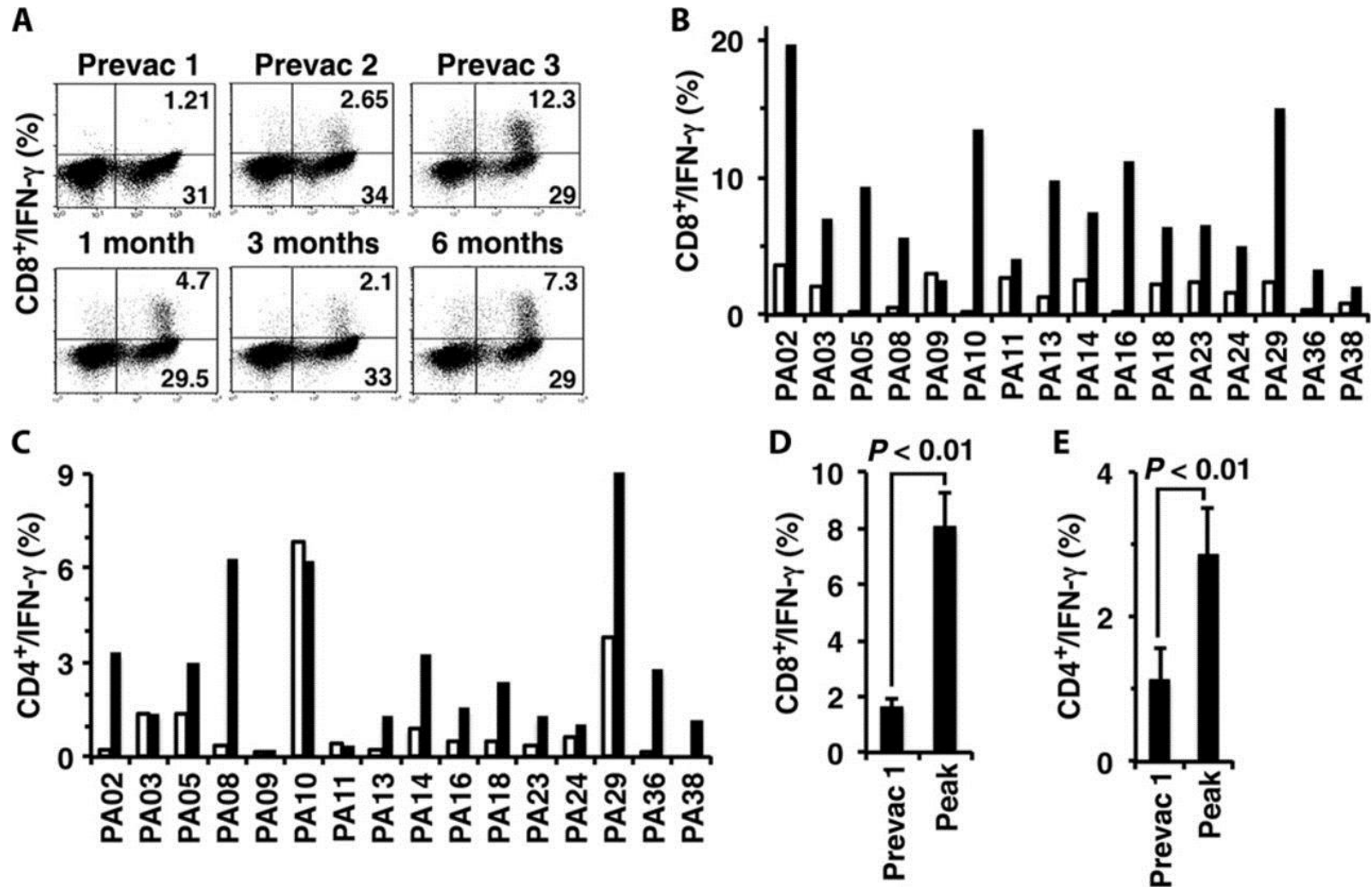


**CD1a<sup>+</sup>**



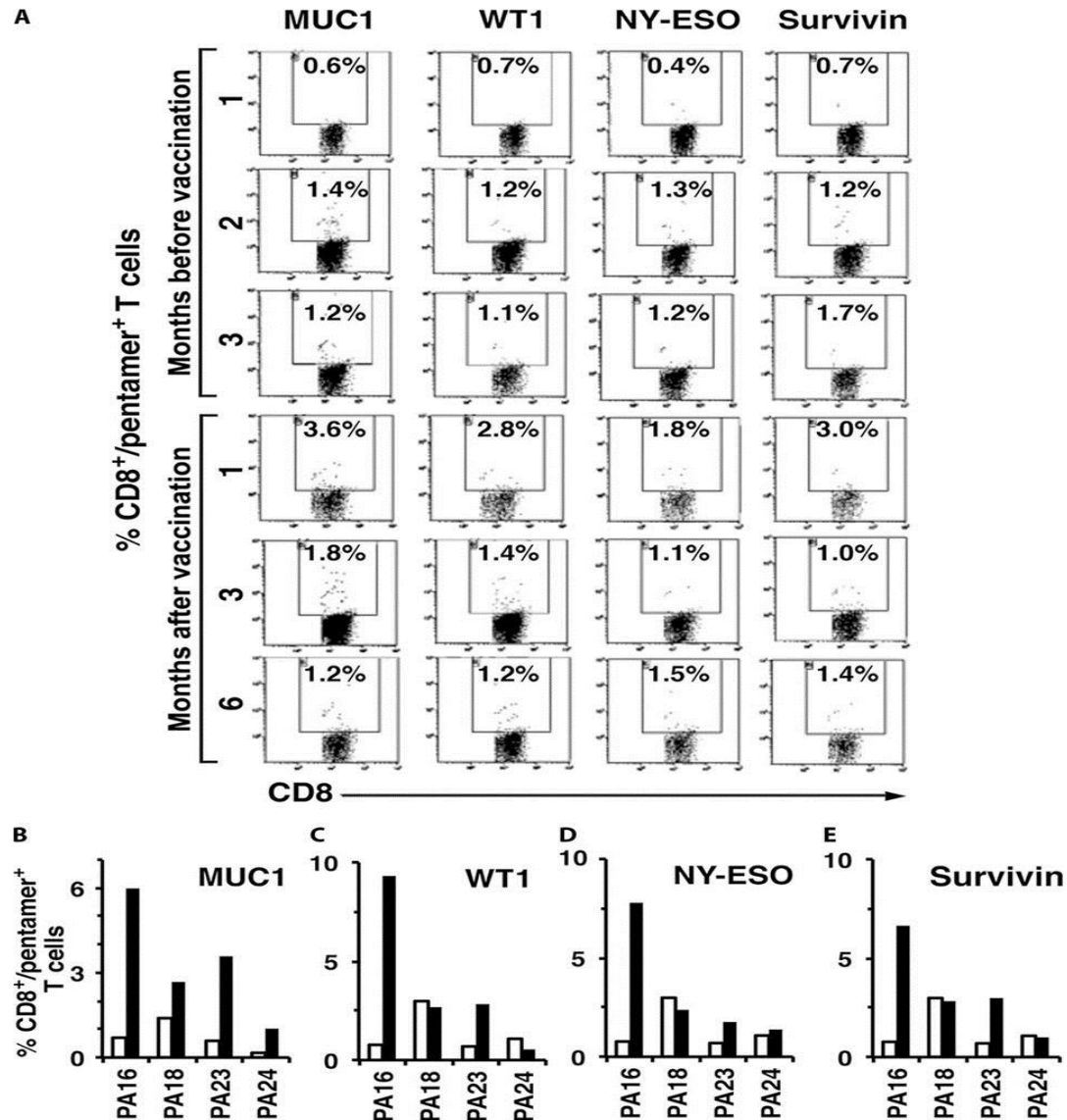
**Sci Transl Med 2016;8:368ra171**

# Expansion of leukemia-specific CD4+ and CD8+ T cells after vaccination

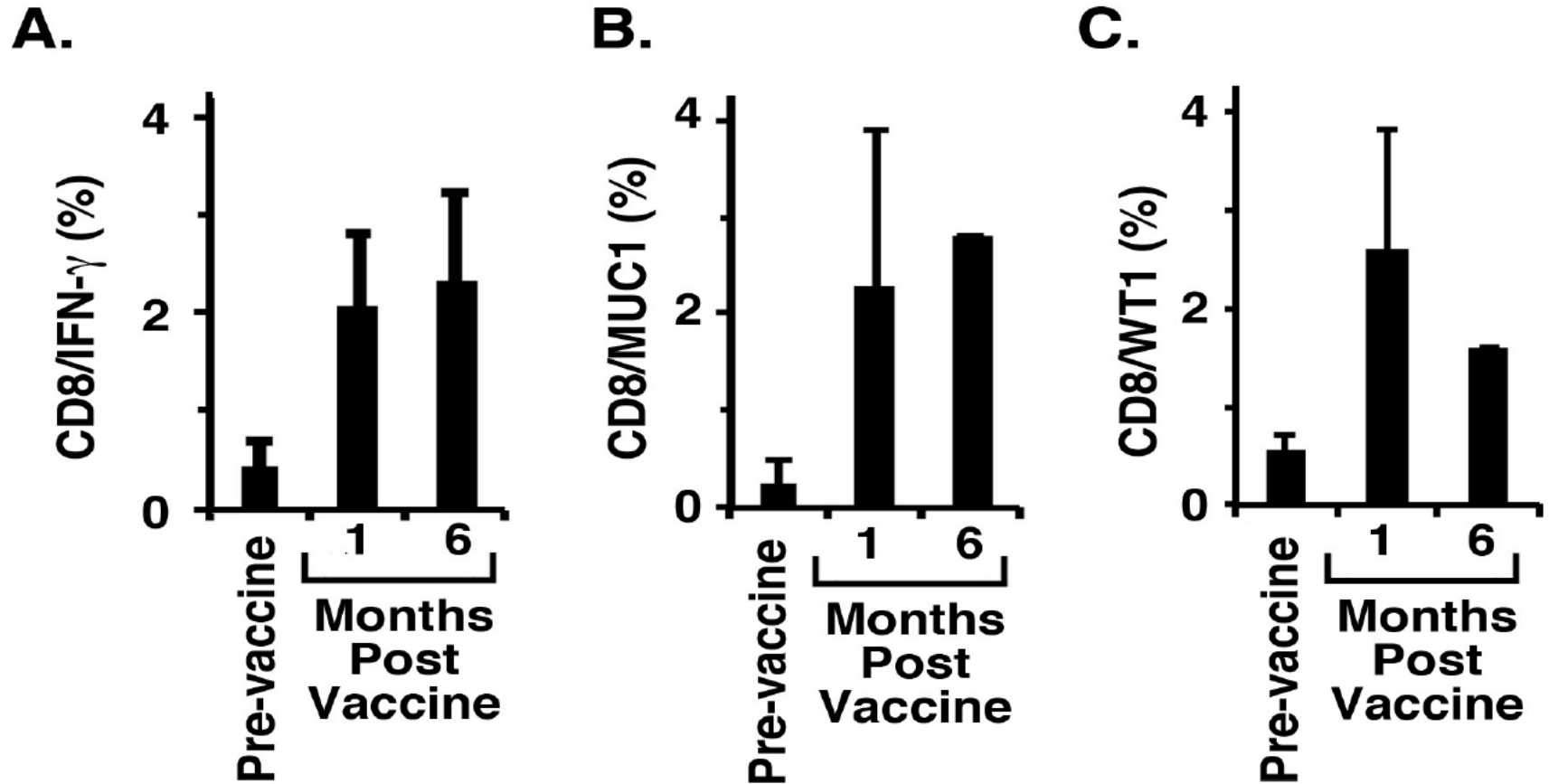




# Expansion of antigen specific T cells

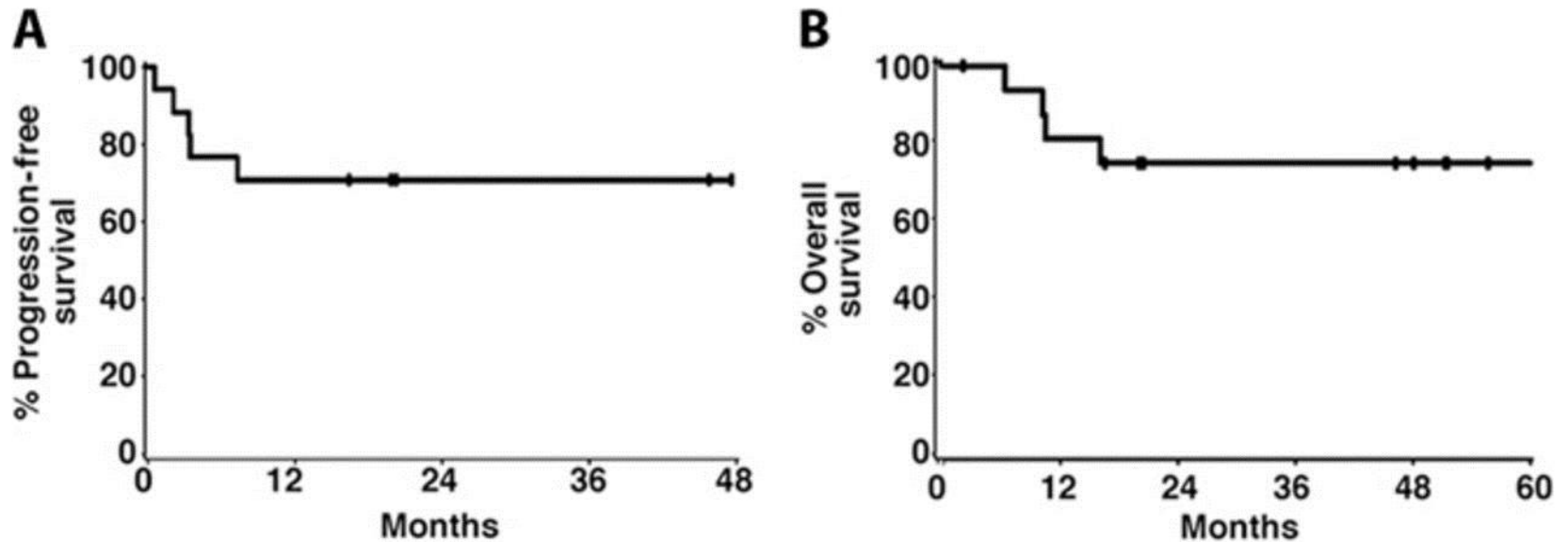


# Increased Presence of Leukemia Reactive T cells in the Bone Marrow Following Vaccination



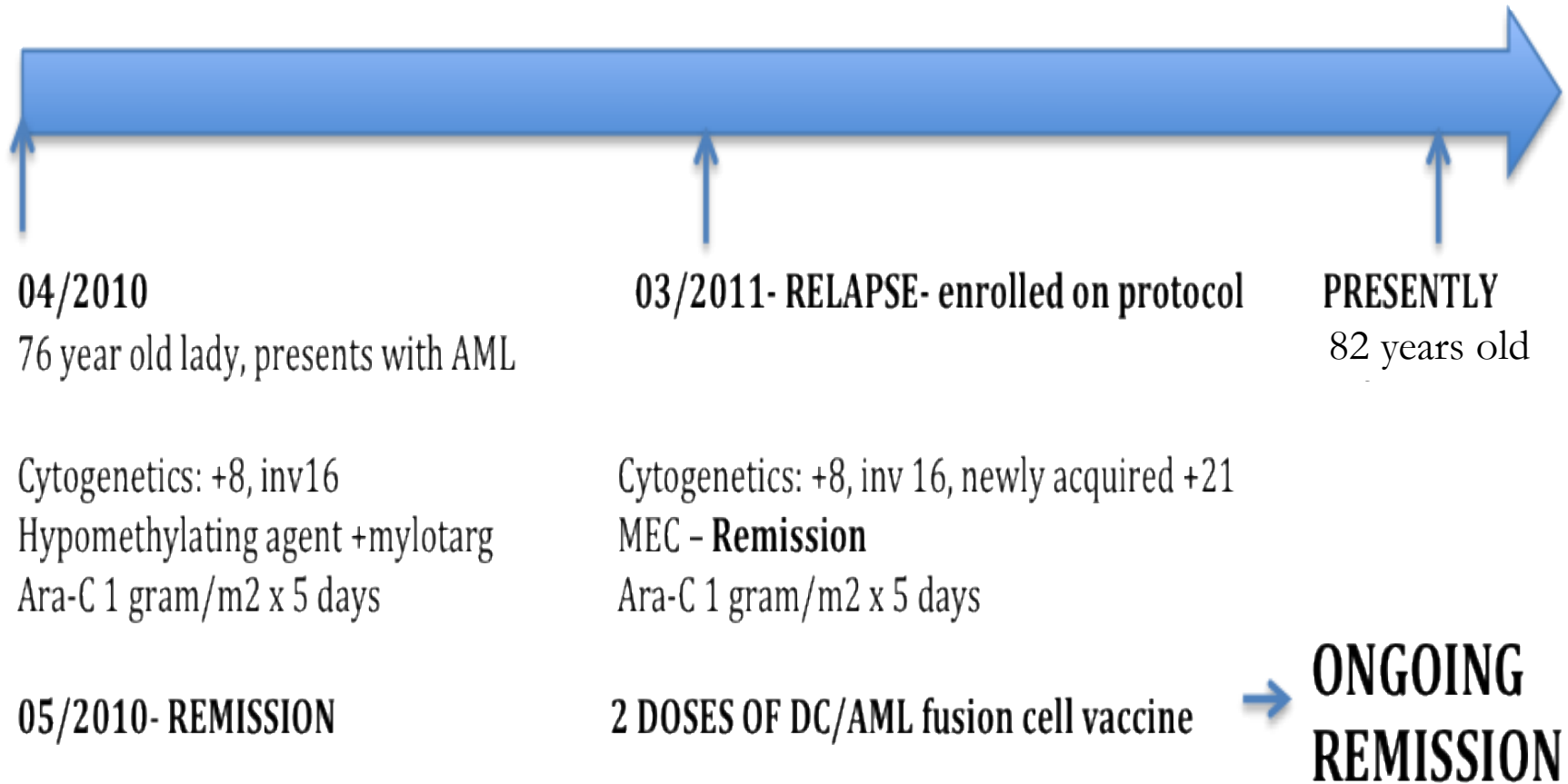


# Clinical Outcome



- 12 of 17 patients who received at least one dose of vaccine remain alive and in remission (**71%**; 90% CI, 52 to 89%) at 16.7 to 66.5 months from initiating vaccination
- **Median follow-up: 57 months**

# Clinical Outcome: Patient 11

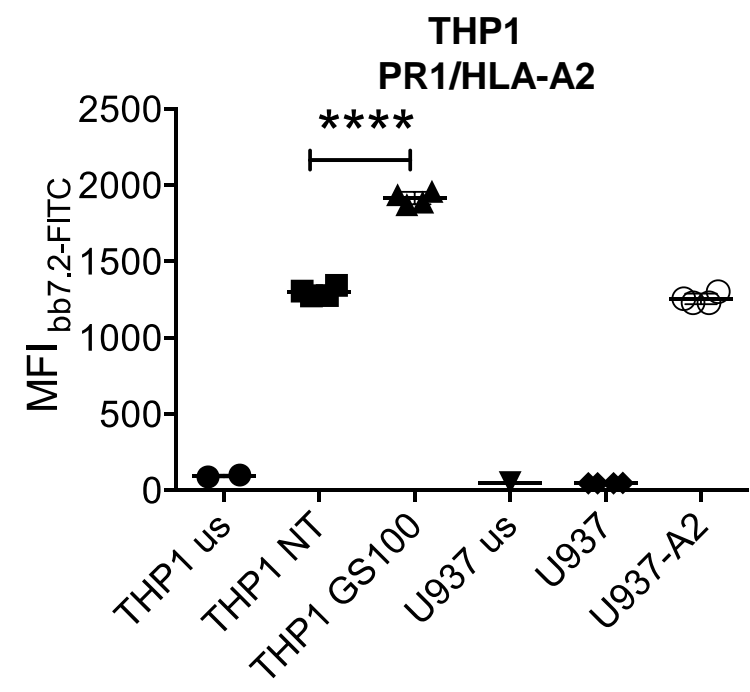
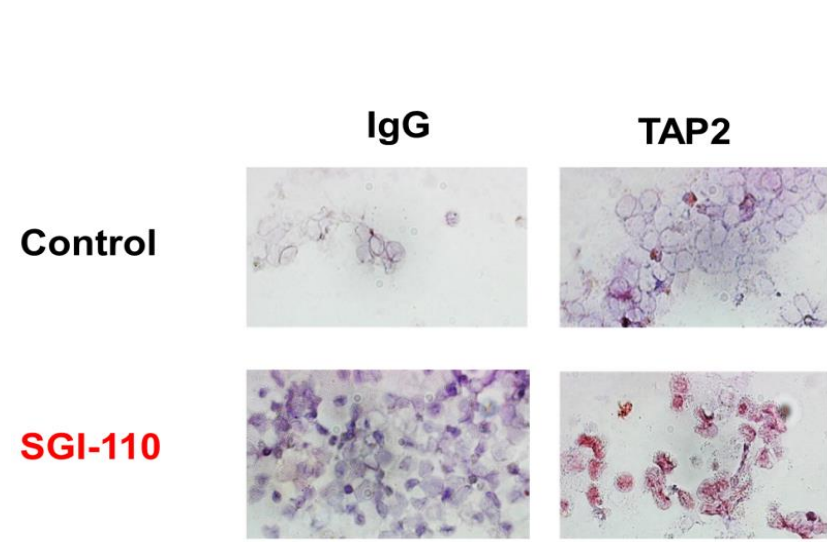


# Next steps in AML: Randomized Trial

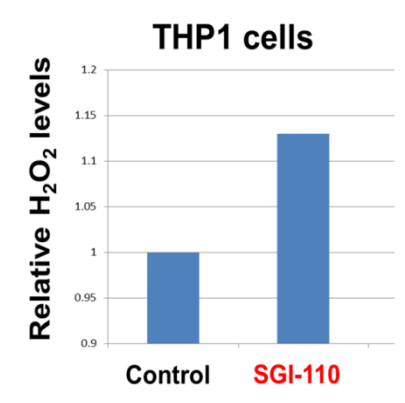
## *NCT03059485*

- Randomized phase II study
- Patients 55 years or older who achieve remission are randomized to either
  - DC/AML fusion vaccine alone
  - DC/AML fusion vaccine in combination with PDL-1 antibody
  - observation
- Primary clinical endpoint: 2-year progression free survival
- Secondary clinical endpoint: overall survival
- The study is powered to detect a difference in the expansion of circulating AML specific T cells between each of the three treatment arms.

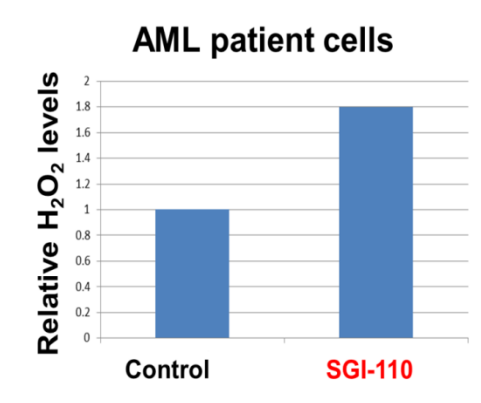
# Hypomethylating Agent Augments Tumor Antigen Presentation



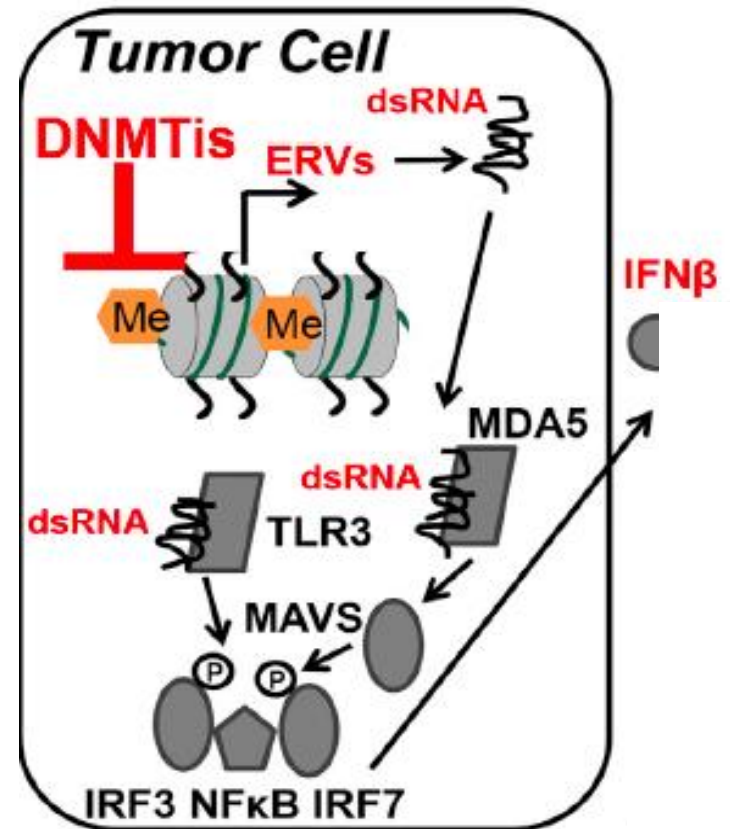
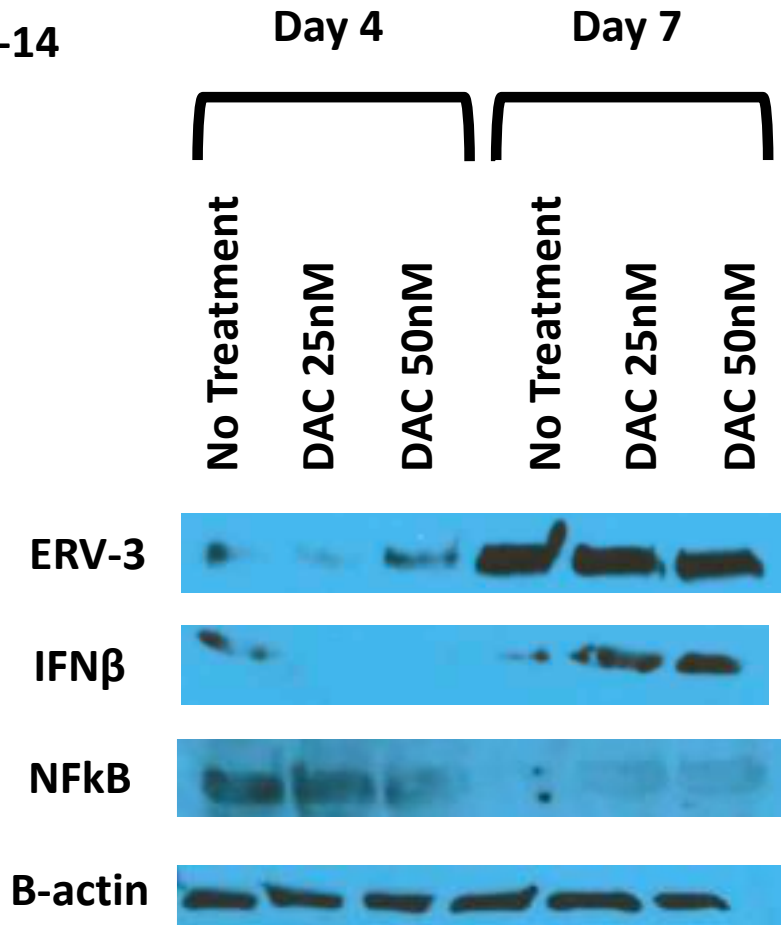
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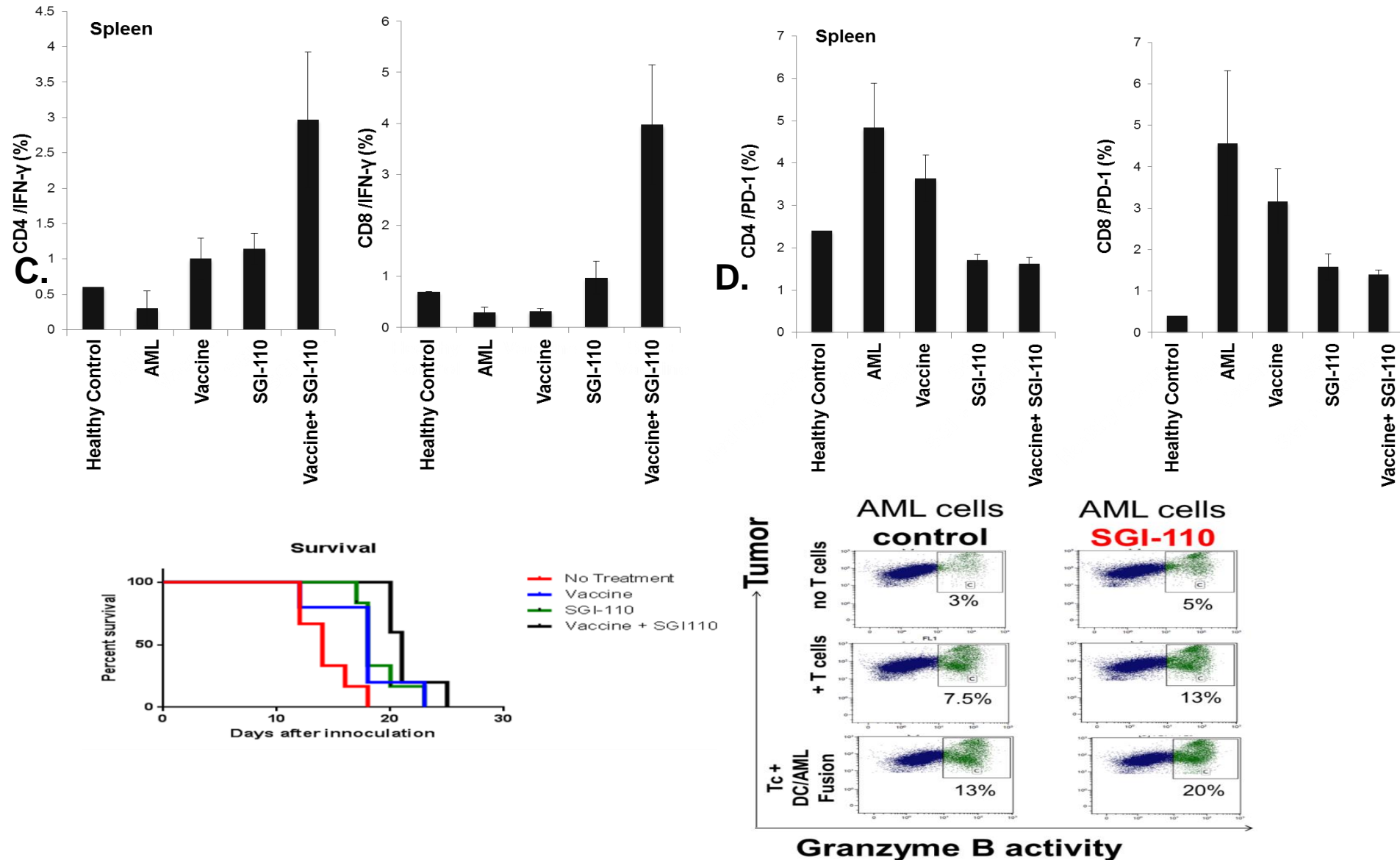


MOLM-14



Viral RNA sensing proteins (ie: TLR3 on endosomal membrane and MDA5, PKR, and RIG-I in the cytoplasm) induce IRF3, IRF7, and NF-kB to **translocate** to the nucleus and activate transcription of IFNb1

# Vaccination and HMA Therapy for AML: Murine Model



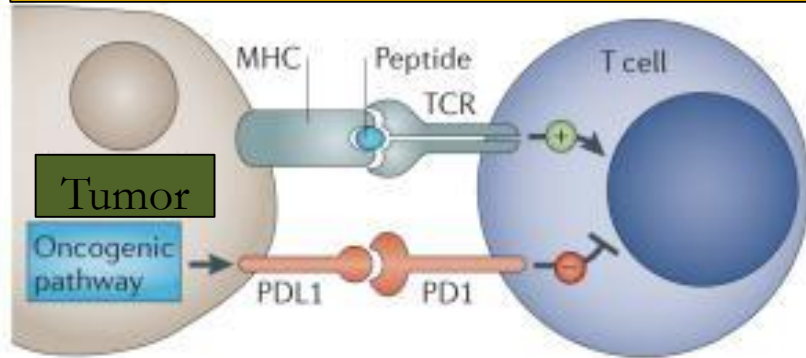
# Next steps in AML: Clinical Trial of Vaccination with donor DC/AML fusions in high risk patients

- AML patients with high risk features who undergo allogeneic transplantation in remission will undergo post-transplant vaccination with donor DC/AML fusions alone or in conjunction with HMA
- **Primary clinical endpoint:** to assess vaccine associated toxicity including impact on GVHD.
- **Secondary clinical endpoint:** to examine the effect of vaccination on relapse-free survival
- To assess the **immunologic response** following post-transplant vaccination alone or with HMA

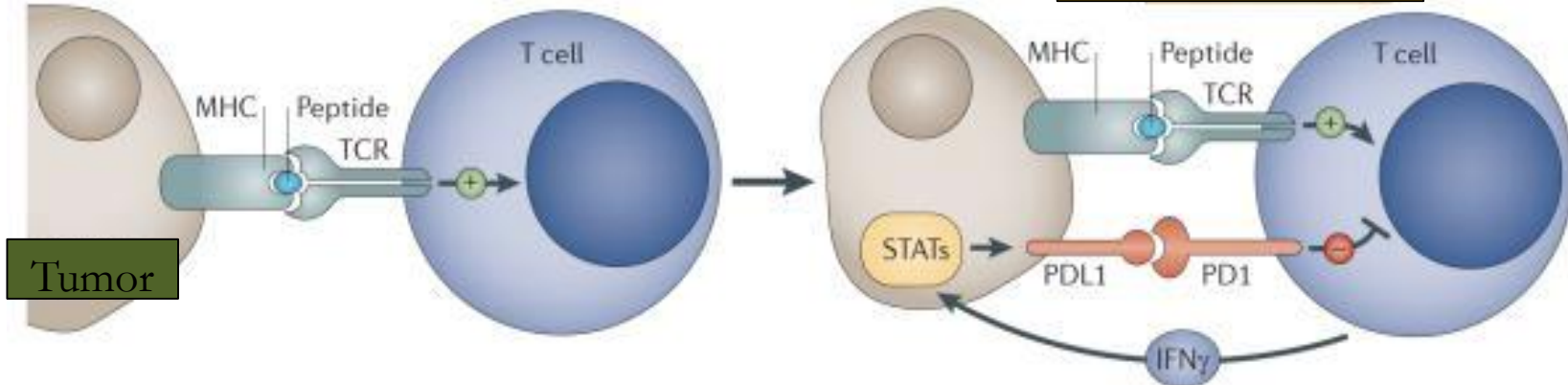


# PD-L1/PD-1 Axis and Immune Tolerance

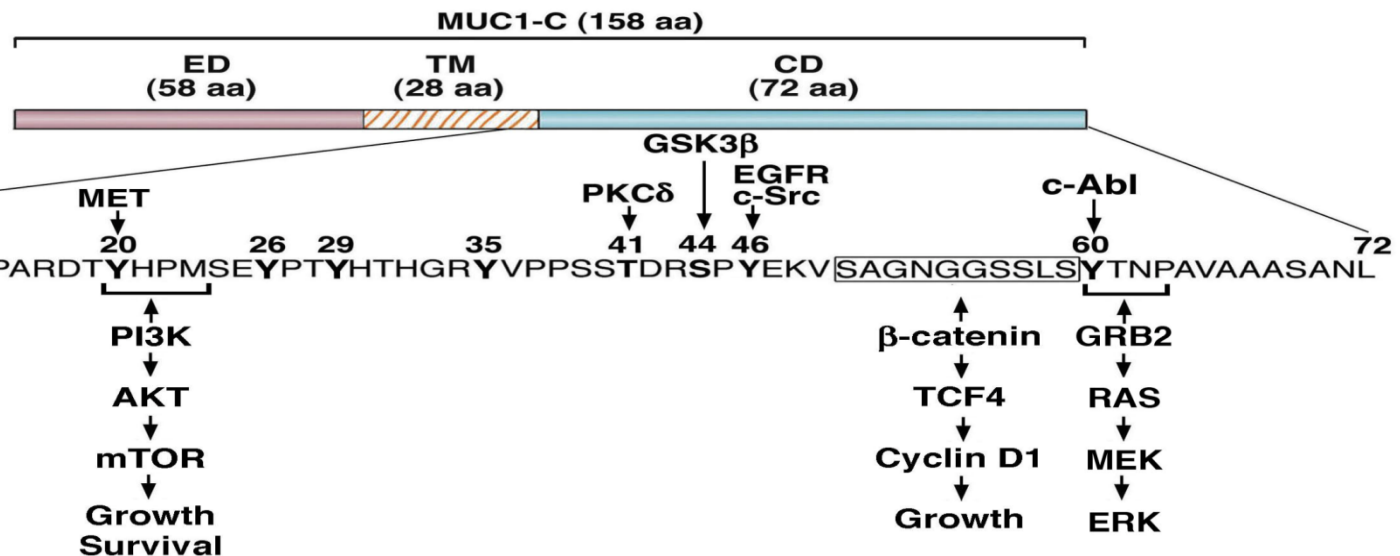
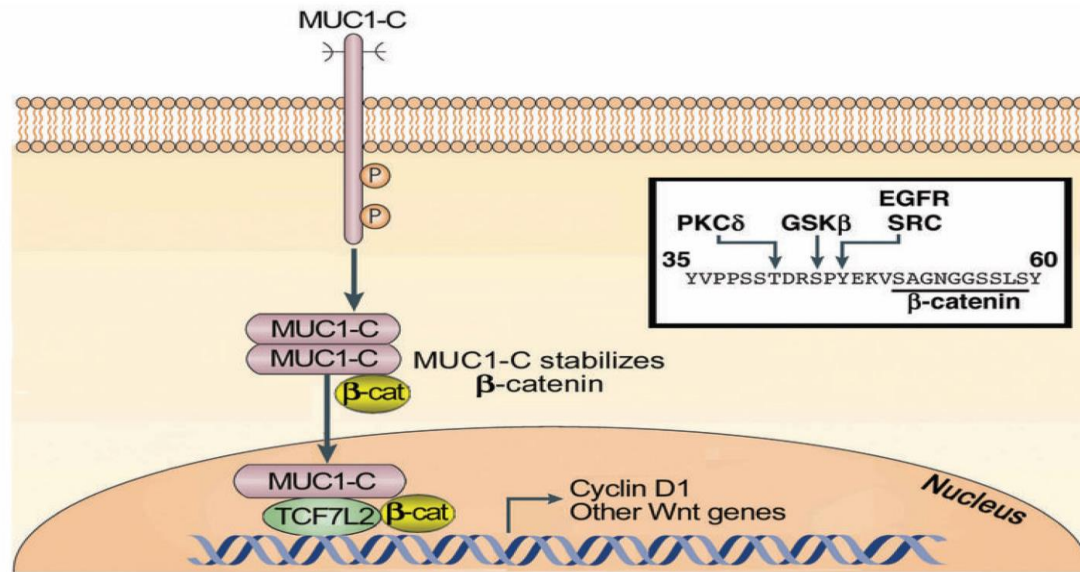
## Innate Immune Resistance



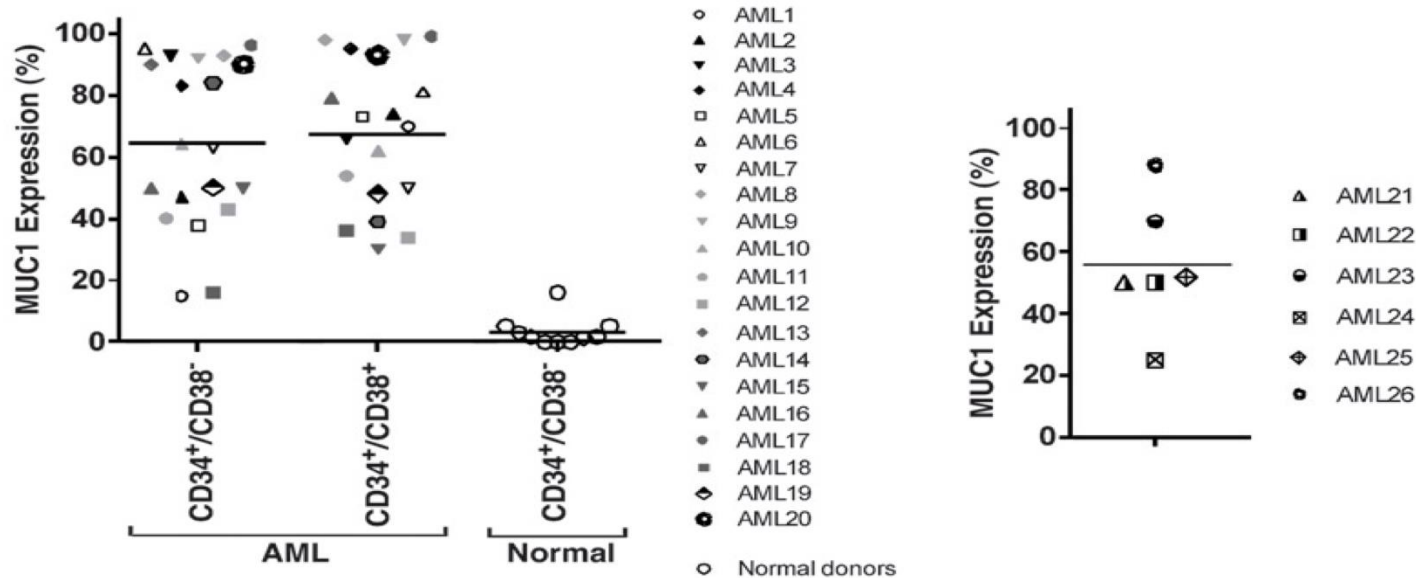
## Adaptive Immune Resistance



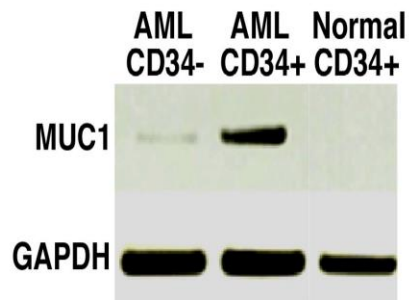
# The MUC1 Oncogene and the Tumor Microenvironment



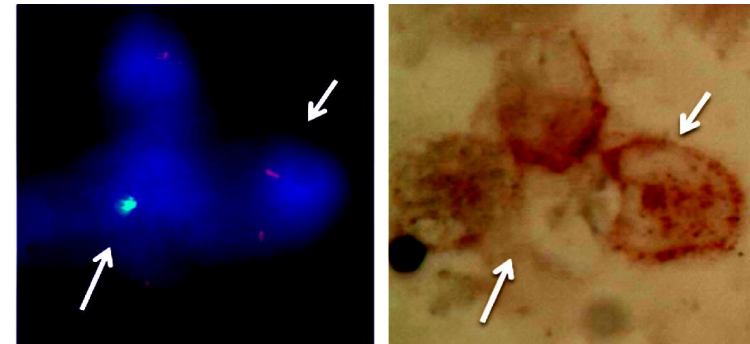
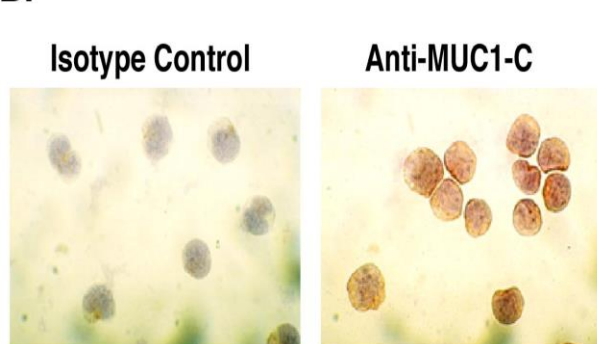
# MUC1 is expressed by AML stem cells but not normal HSCs



A.

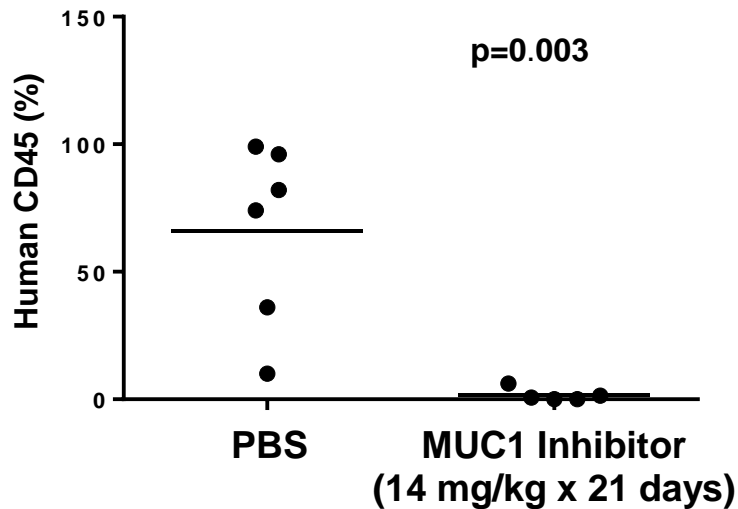


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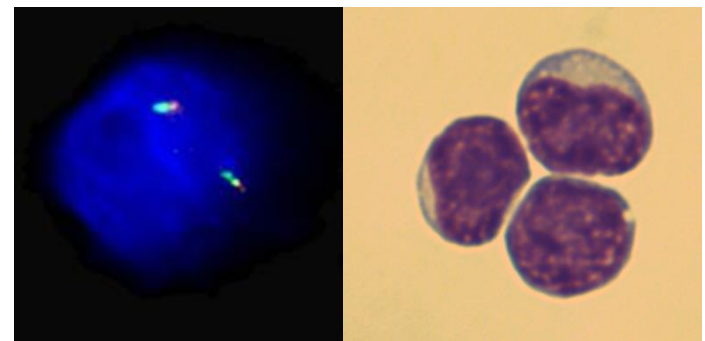
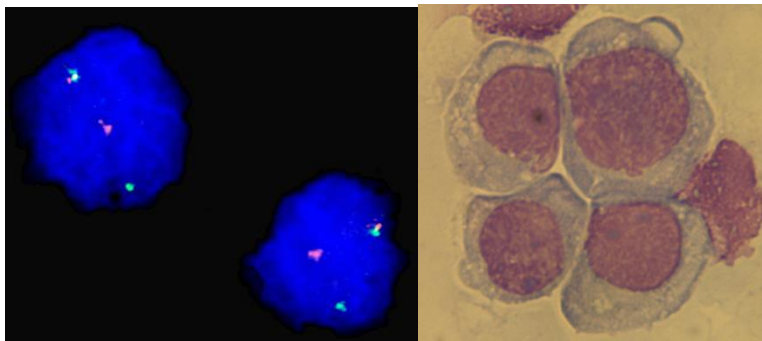
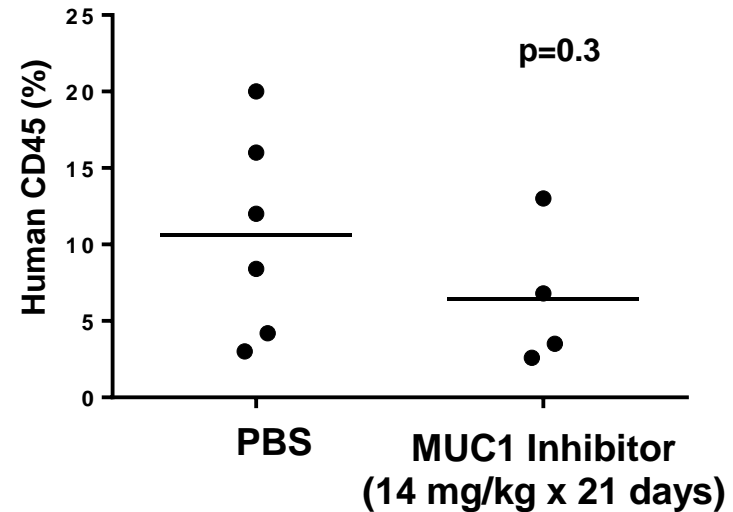


# MUC1 Inhibition Eradicates Disease in Previously Engrafted AML

Engraftment in BM of NSG mice inoculated with MUC1<sup>high</sup> cells

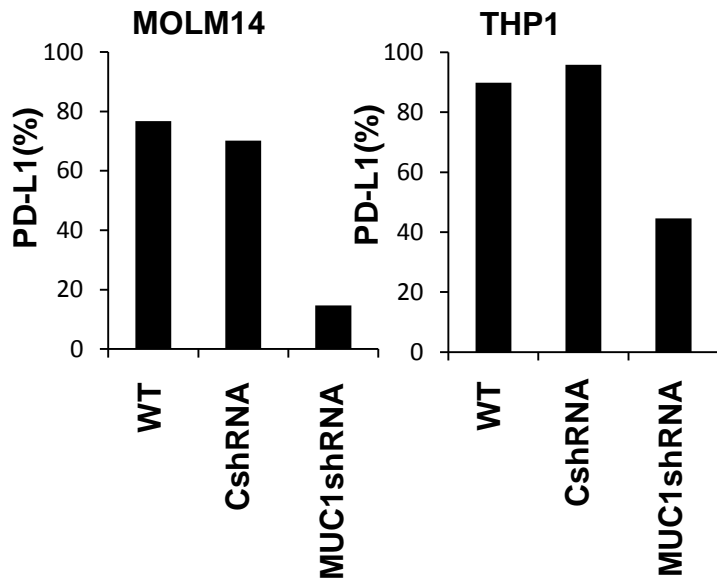


Engraftment in BM of NSG mice inoculated with MUC1<sup>low</sup> cells

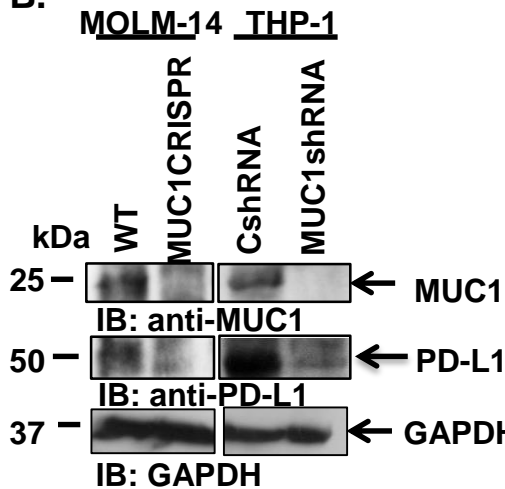


# MUC1 Regulates PD-L1 Expression in AML

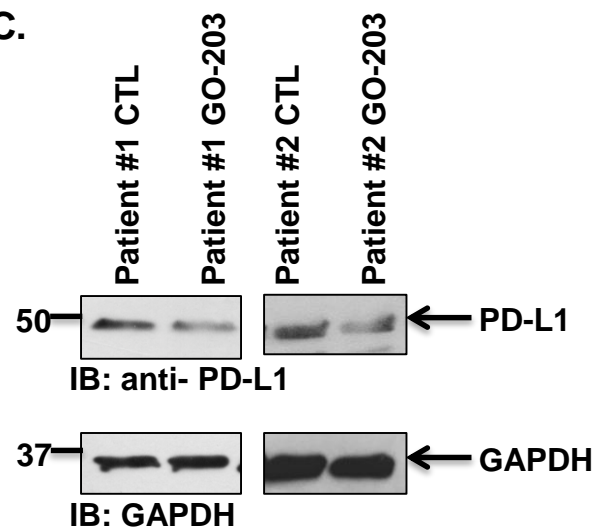
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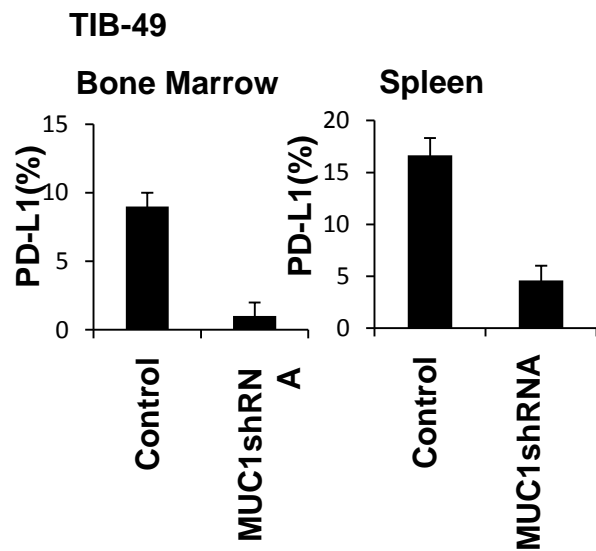
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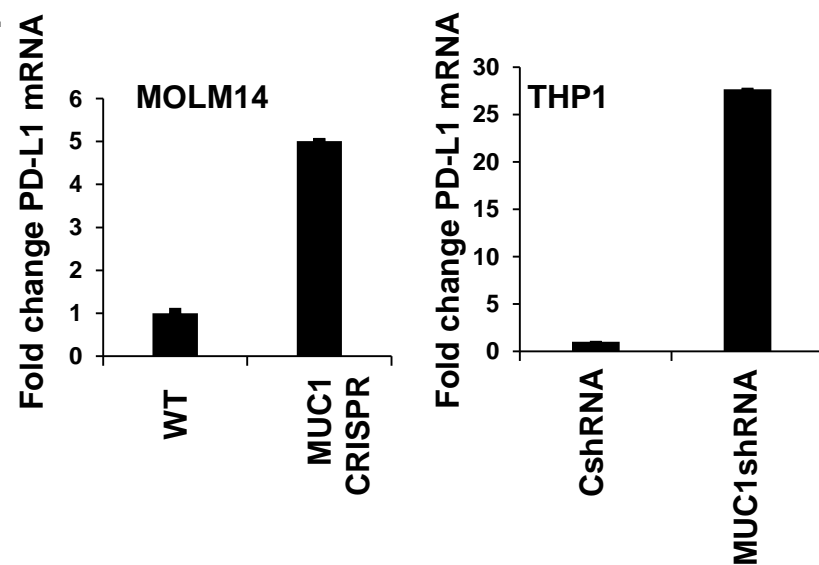
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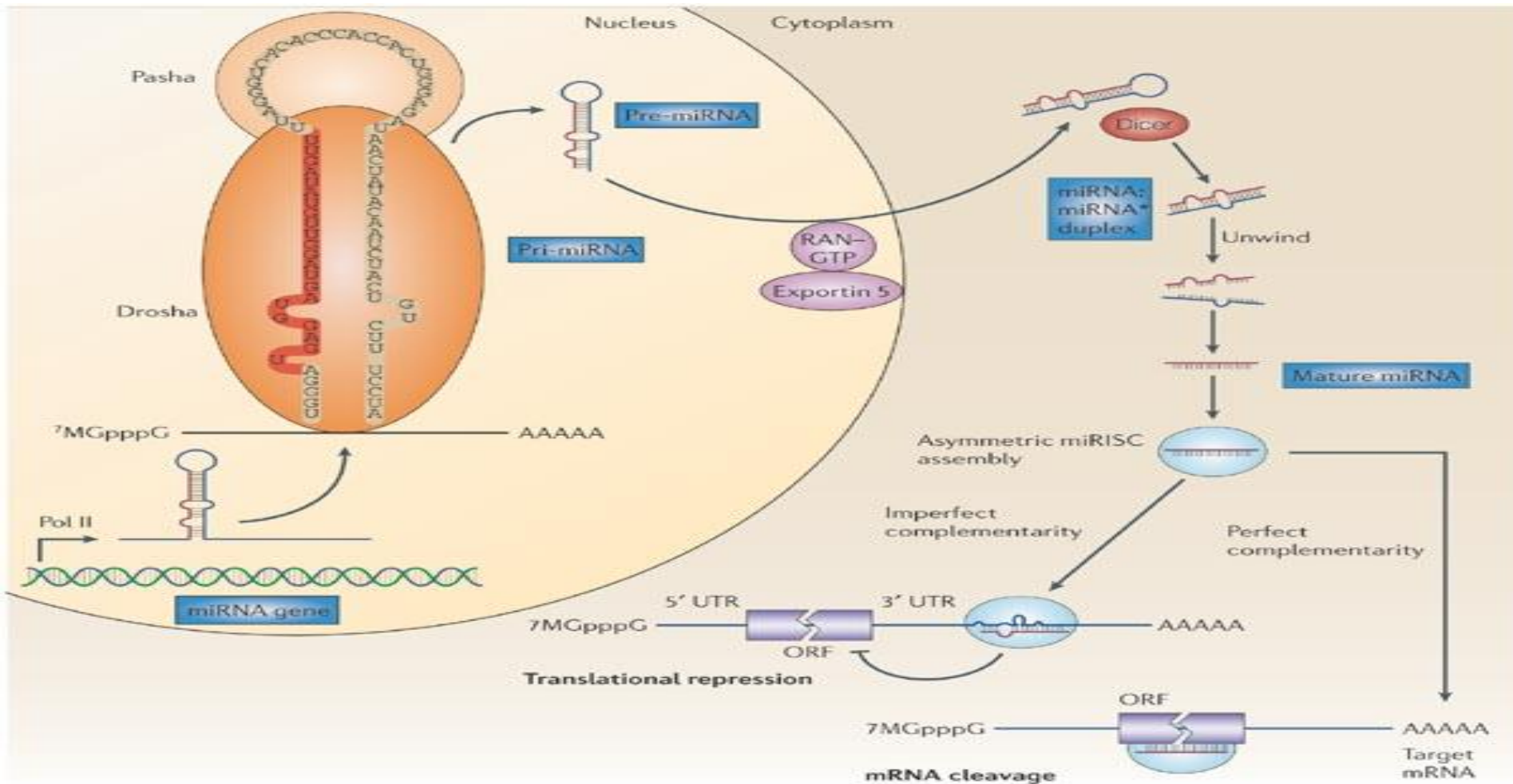
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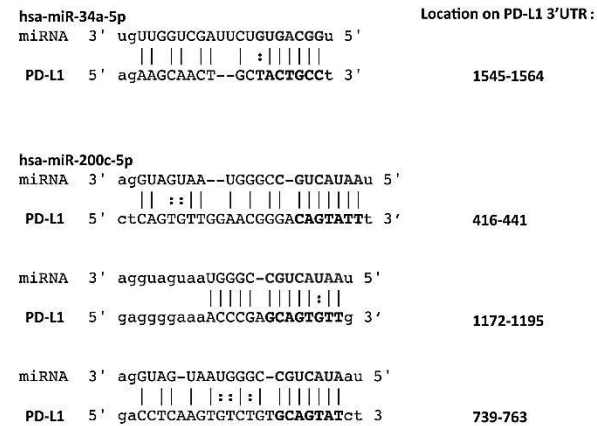
# Noncoding RNAs a Critical Regulator of Protein Transcription



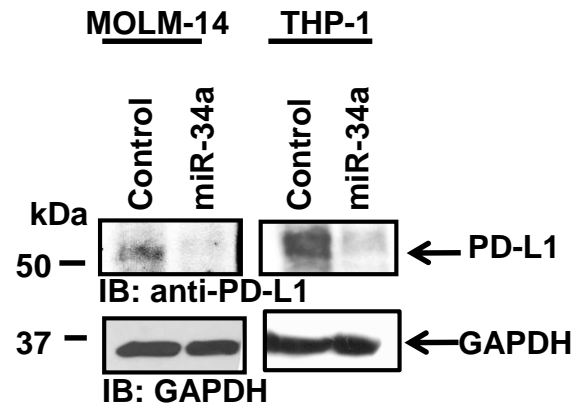


# MUC1 regulates PD-L1 in AML via miR200c and miR34a

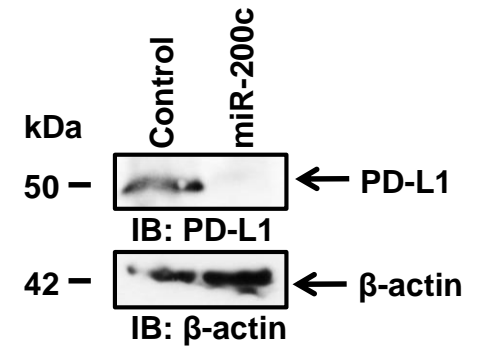
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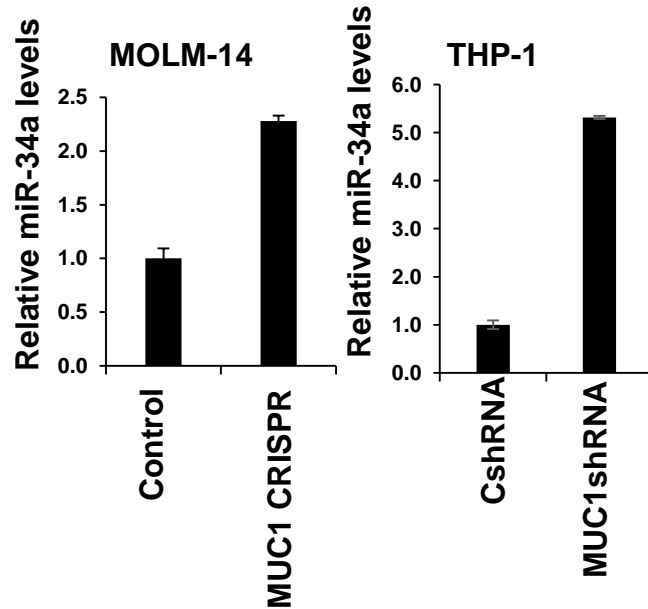
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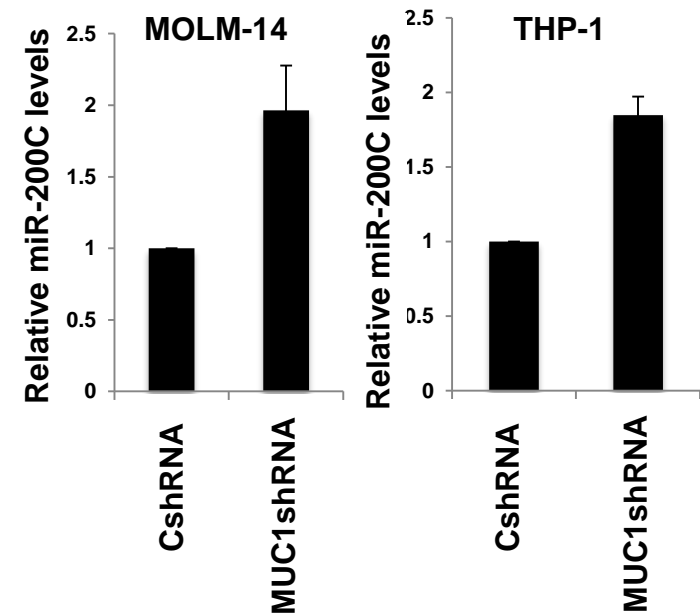
**C. MOLM-14**



**D.**

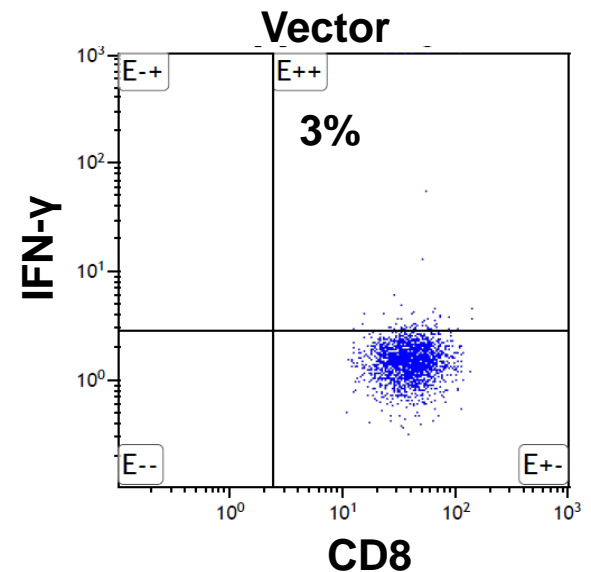
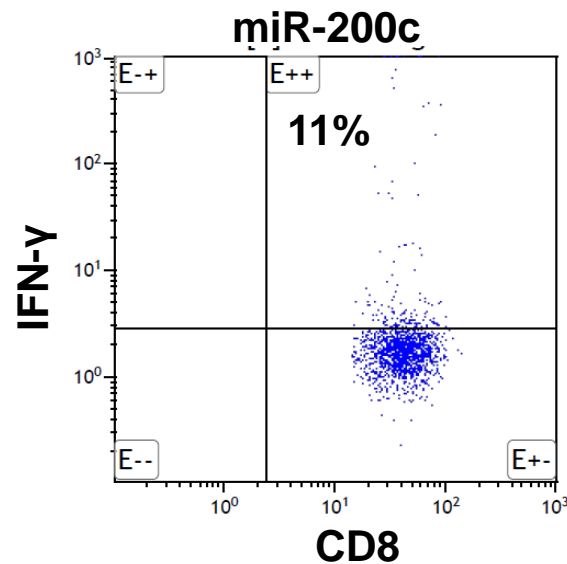
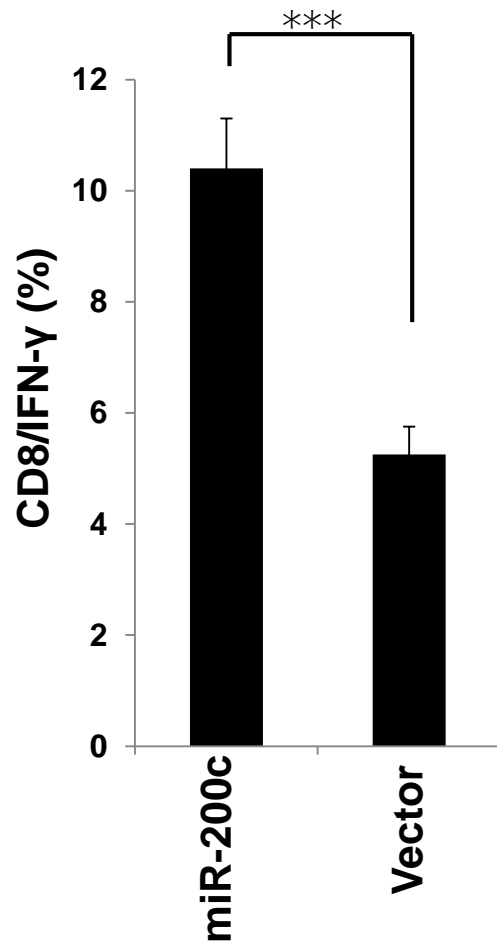


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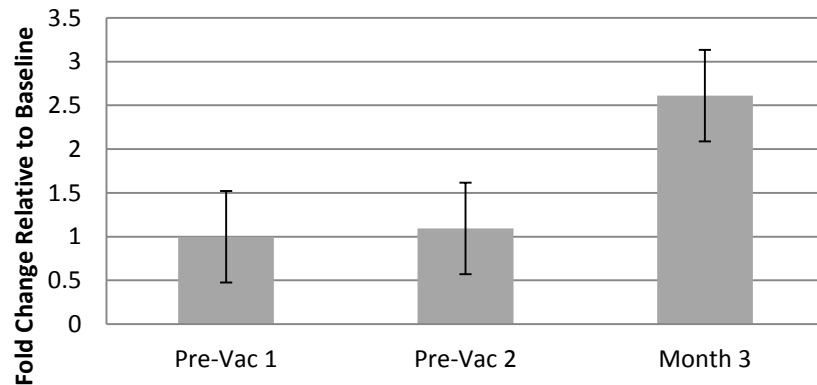


# Upregulation of miR200c Results in Increased Tumor Specific Immunity

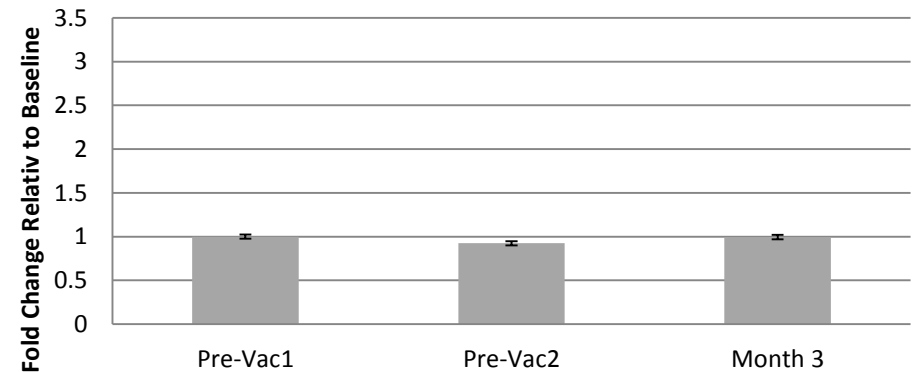


# miR200c and miR34a as Biomarkers of Response

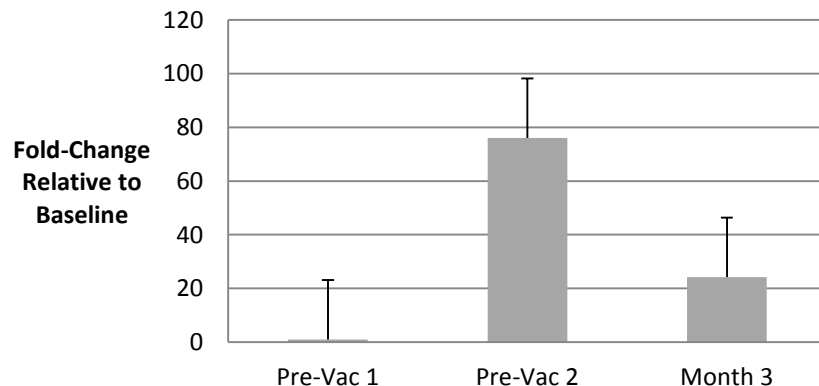
**miR-200C in Vaccine Responders (N=6)**



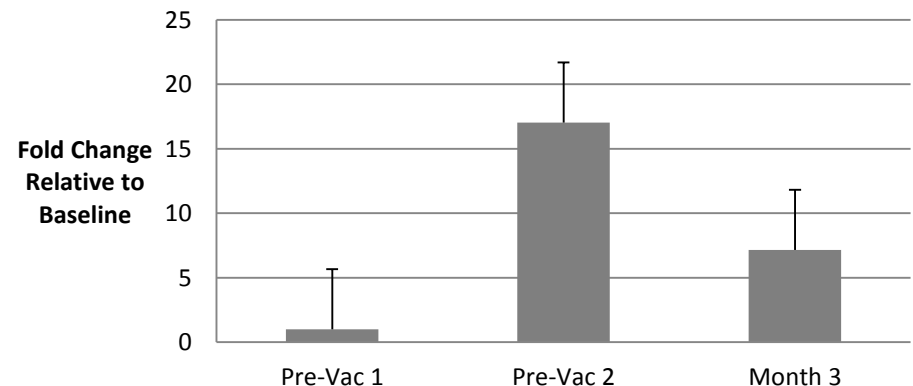
**miR-200c in Vaccine Non-Responders (N=2)**



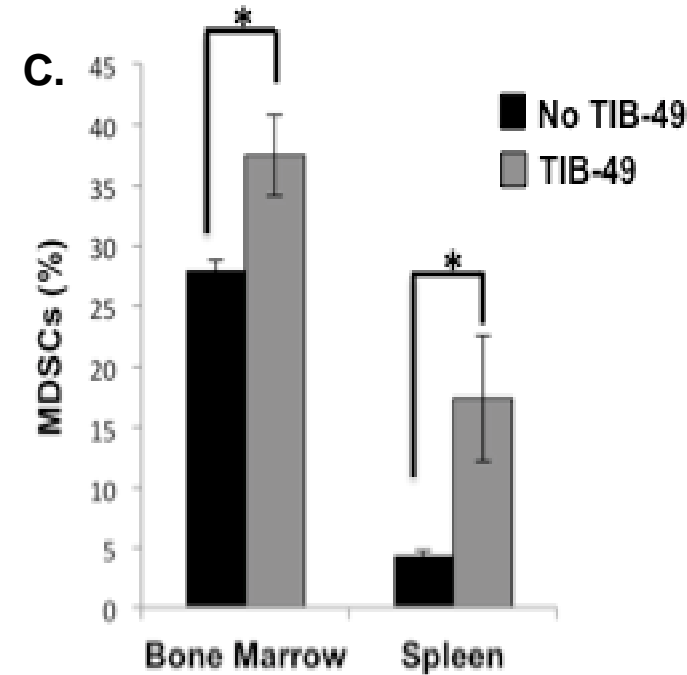
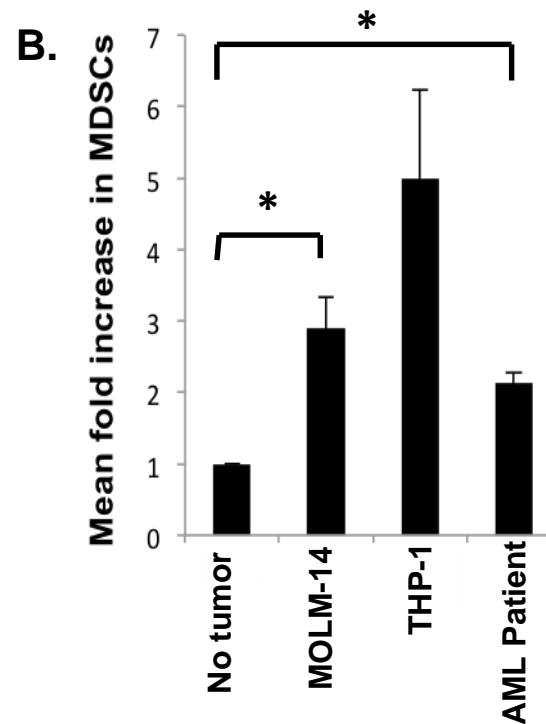
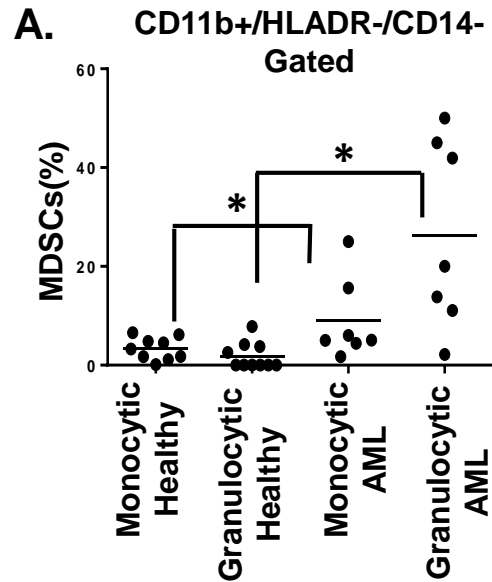
**miR200C in Vaccine Responders (N=3, RT-PCR)**



**miR-34A in Vaccine Responders (N=3, RT-PCR)**



# AML mediates MDSC Expansion in the Tumor Bed

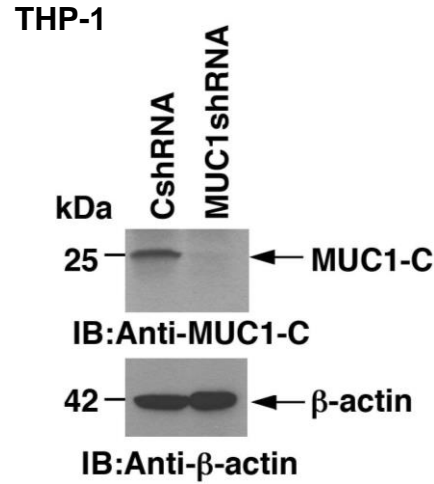
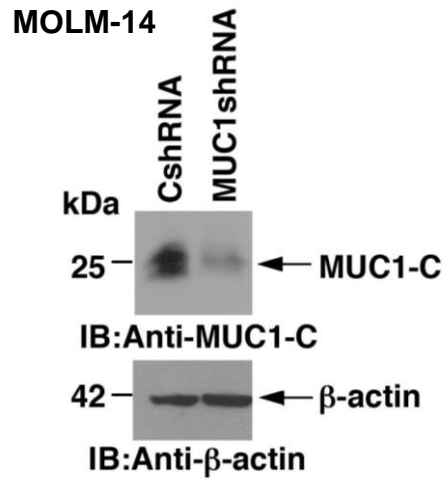


**D.**

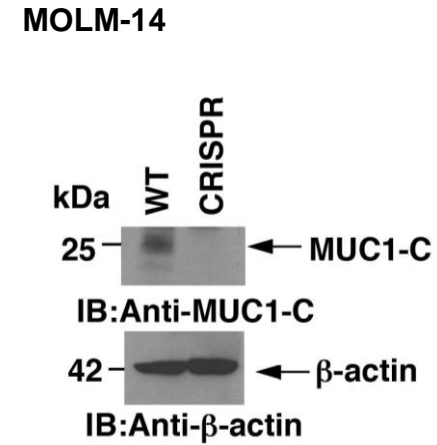
**F.**

# MUC1 silencing leads to a decreased expansion of MDSCs

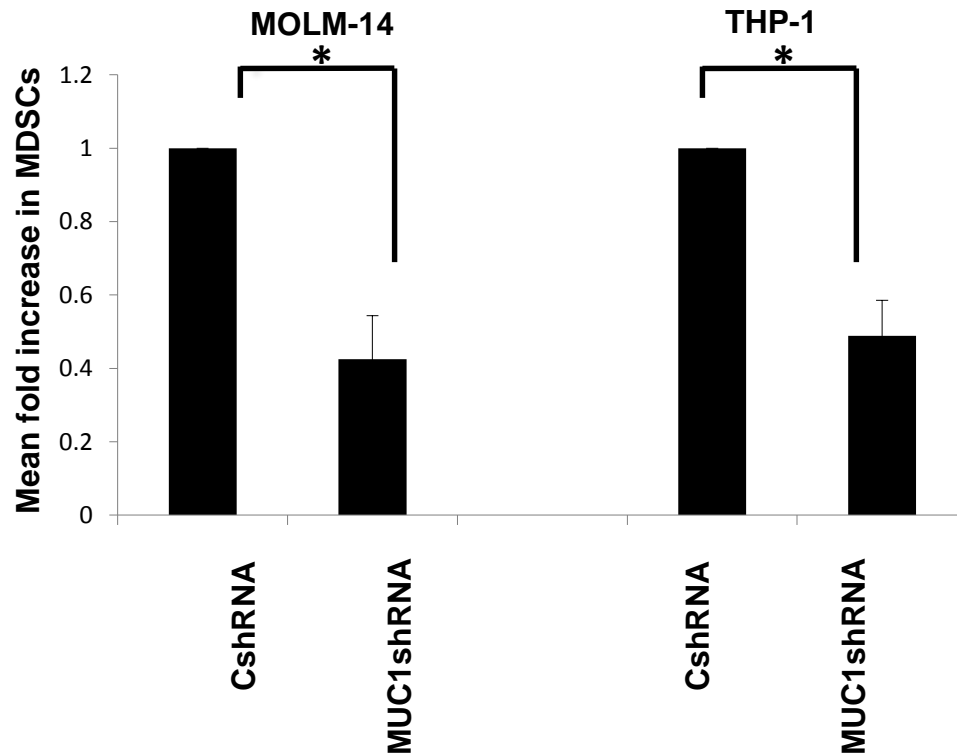
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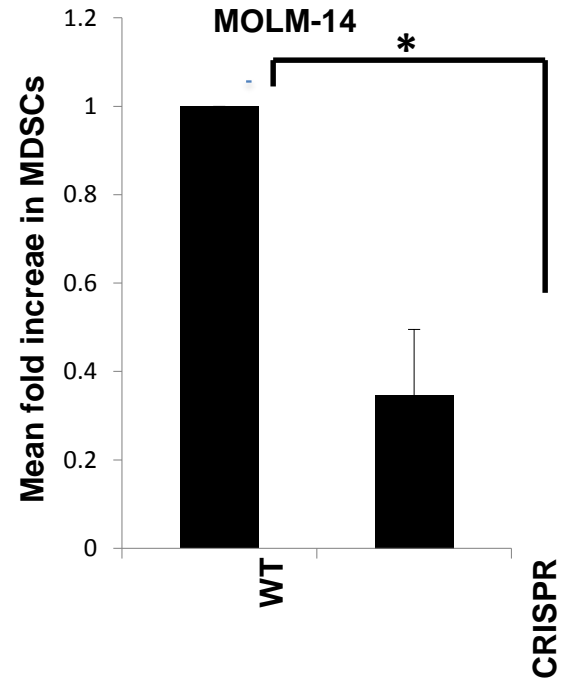
B.



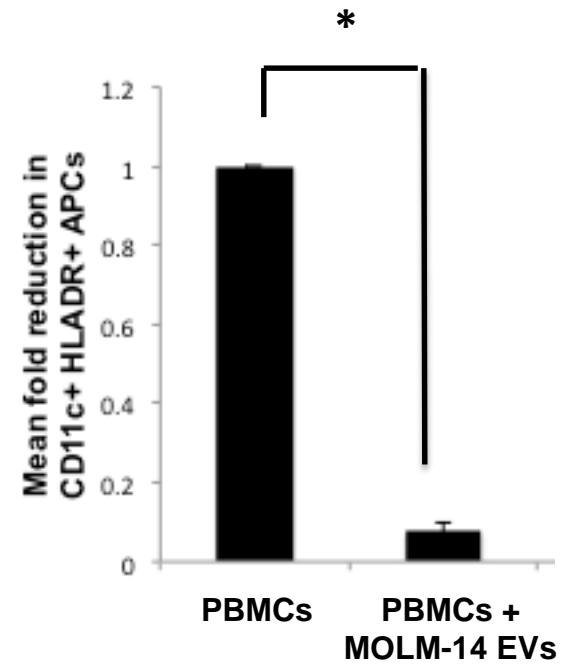
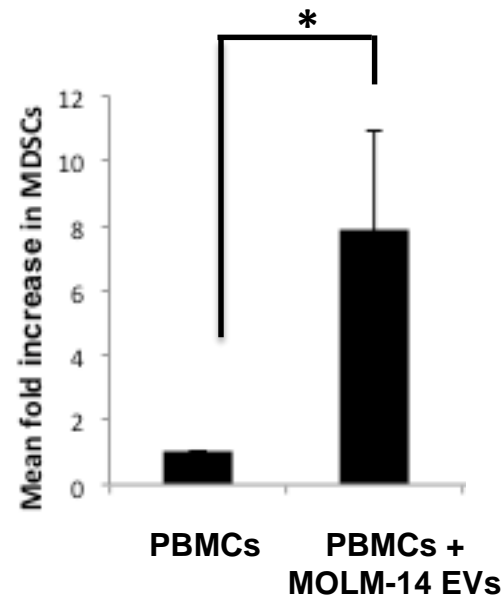
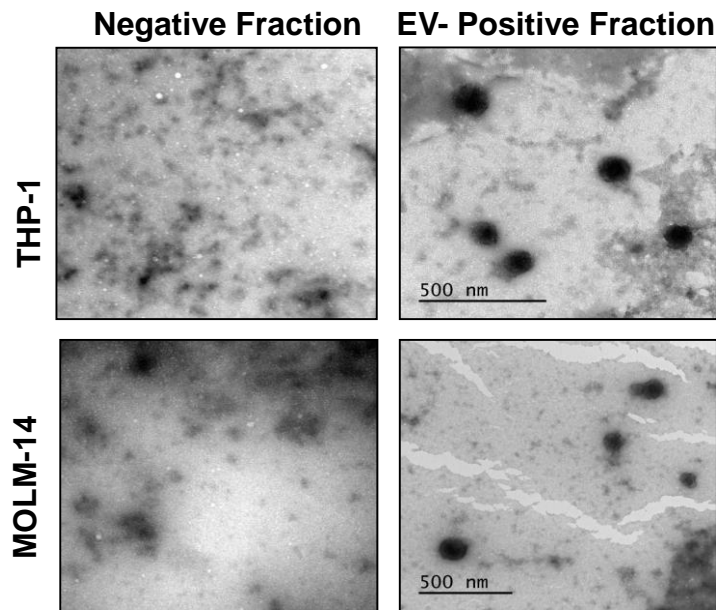
C.



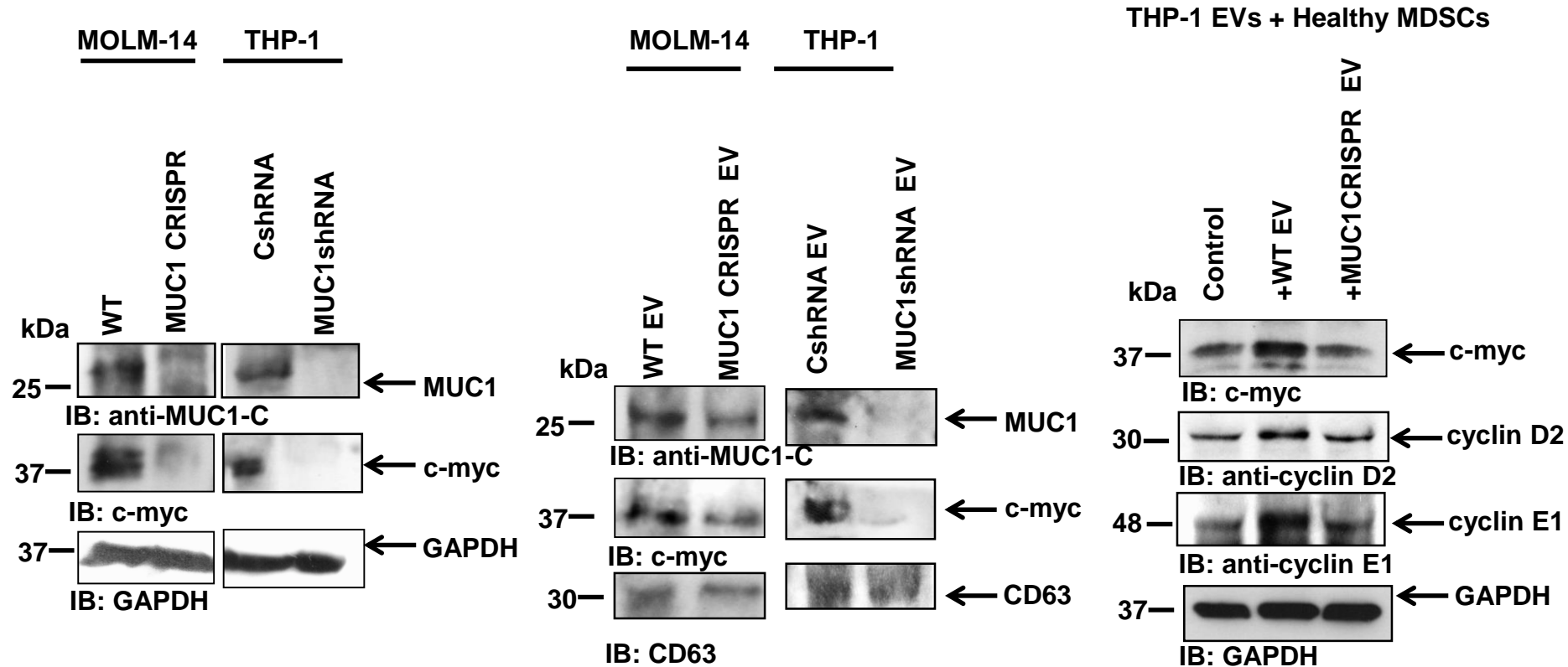
D.



# AML EVs mediate MDSC Expansion in the Tumor Bed

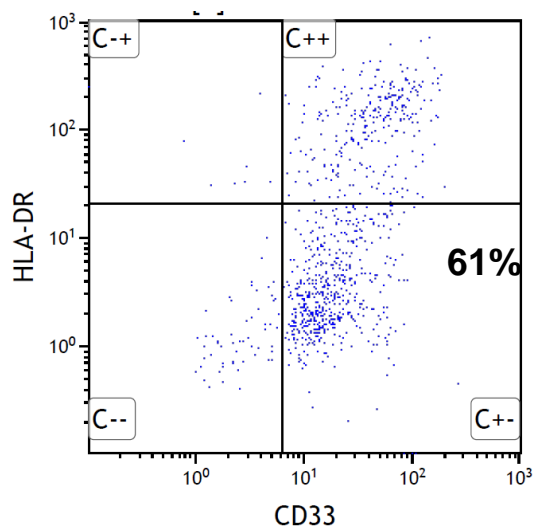
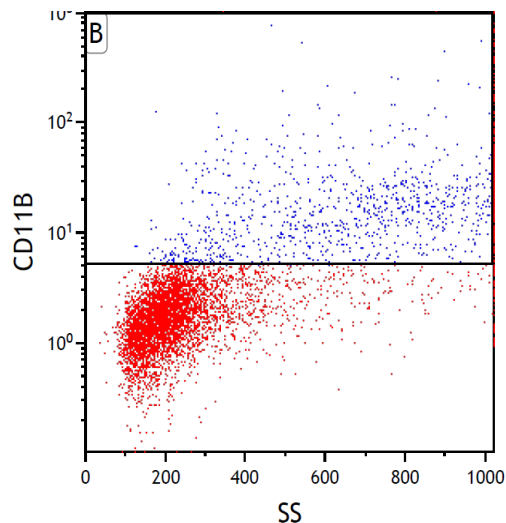


# MUC1 promotes c-myc Expression in AML cells and EVs

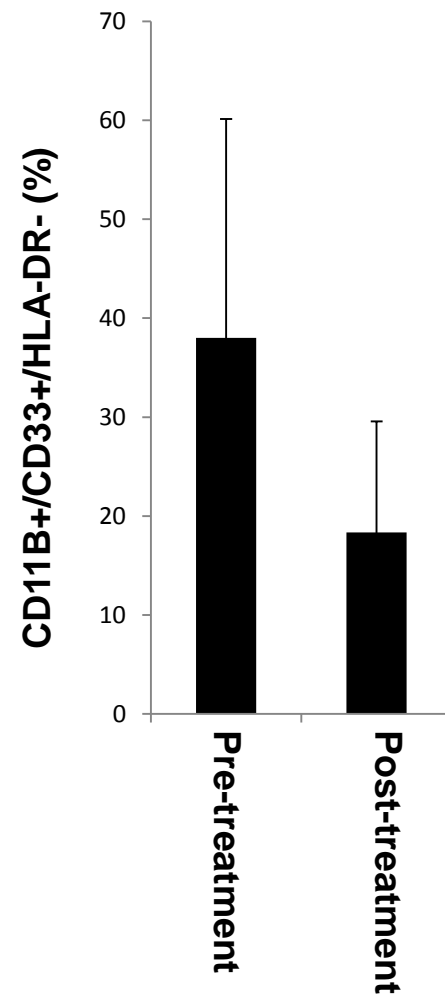
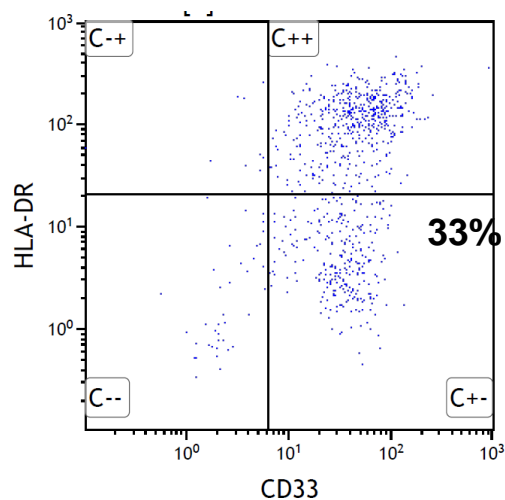
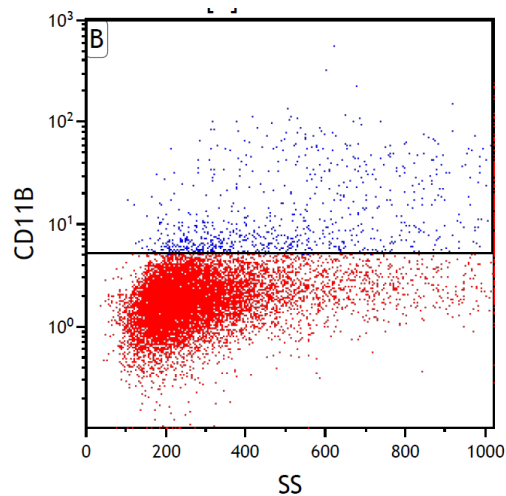


# Decrease in Myeloid Derived Suppressor Cells Following Treatment

**Pre-treatment**

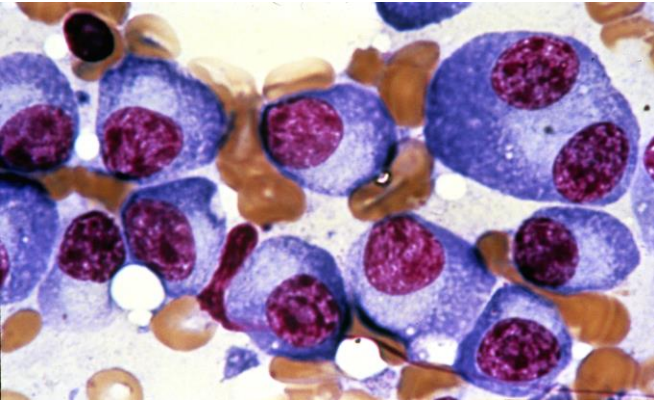


**Post-treatment**



n=3





## Pursuing Vaccine Therapy in Multiple Myeloma

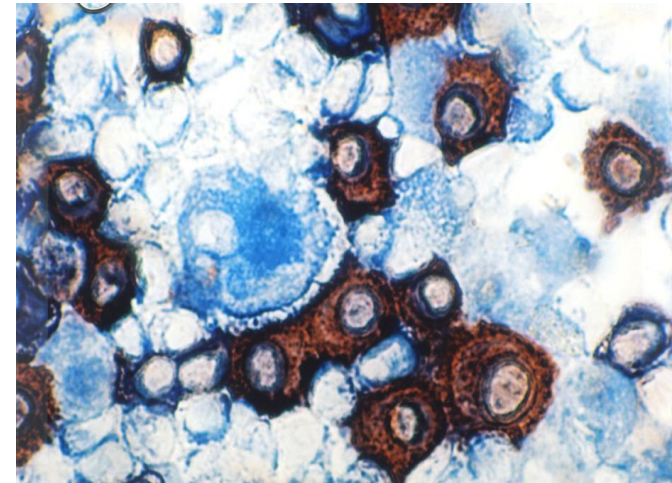
- Biological therapy and transplant results in high levels of cytoreduction, achievement of MRD- in a subset of patients, and improved long term outcomes
- Patients ultimately experience disease progression
- Can a tumor vaccine effectively target residual disease?

# DC/MM Fusion Vaccination in Conjunction with Autologous Transplantation

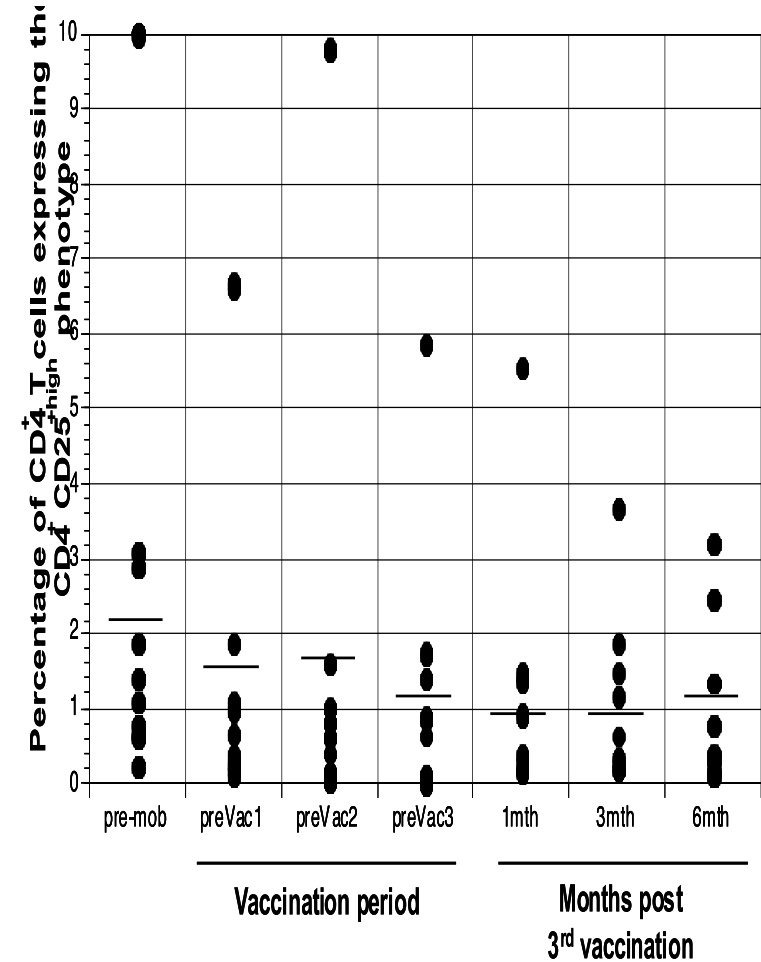
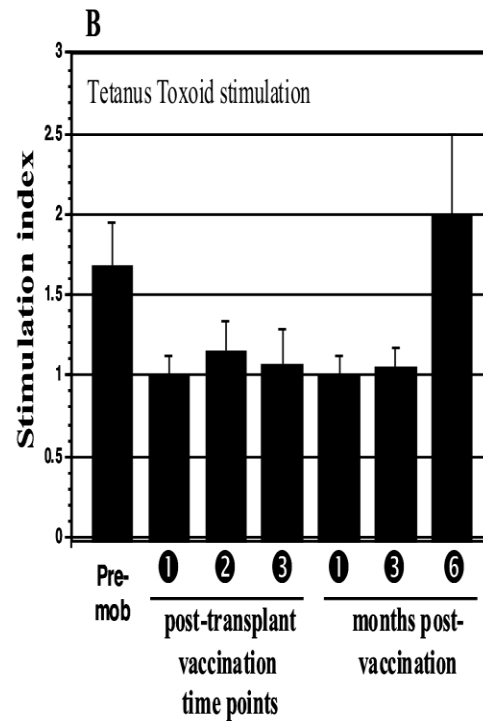
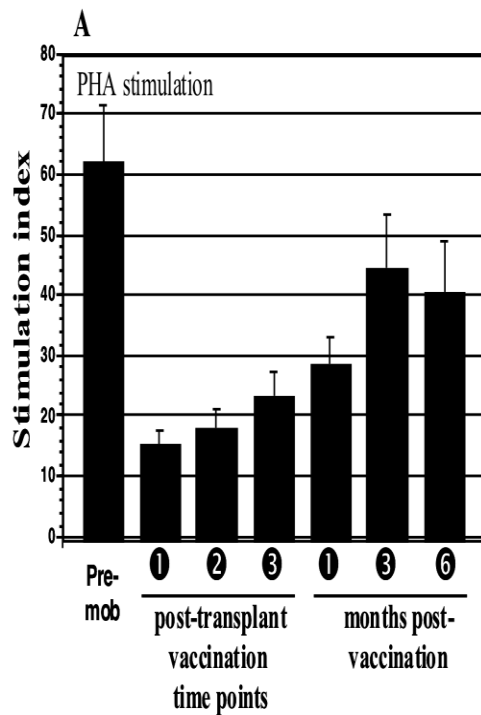
- Transplant cytoreduction minimizes immunosuppressive effect of MM
- Transplant mediated lymphodepletion transiently breaks tolerance due to T-reg suppression
- Targeting of post-transplant MRD and more durable response
- Capacity to respond to DC vaccination early post-transplant (Chung et al Canc Immunol Res 2015)

# DC/MM Fusion Vaccination in Conjunction with Autologous Transplantation

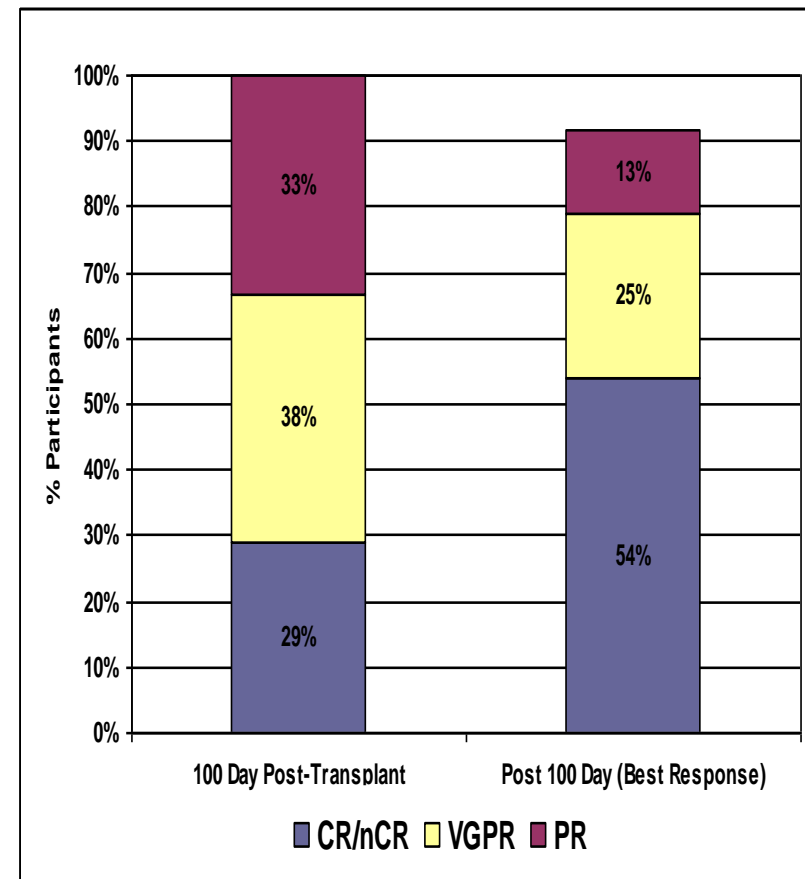
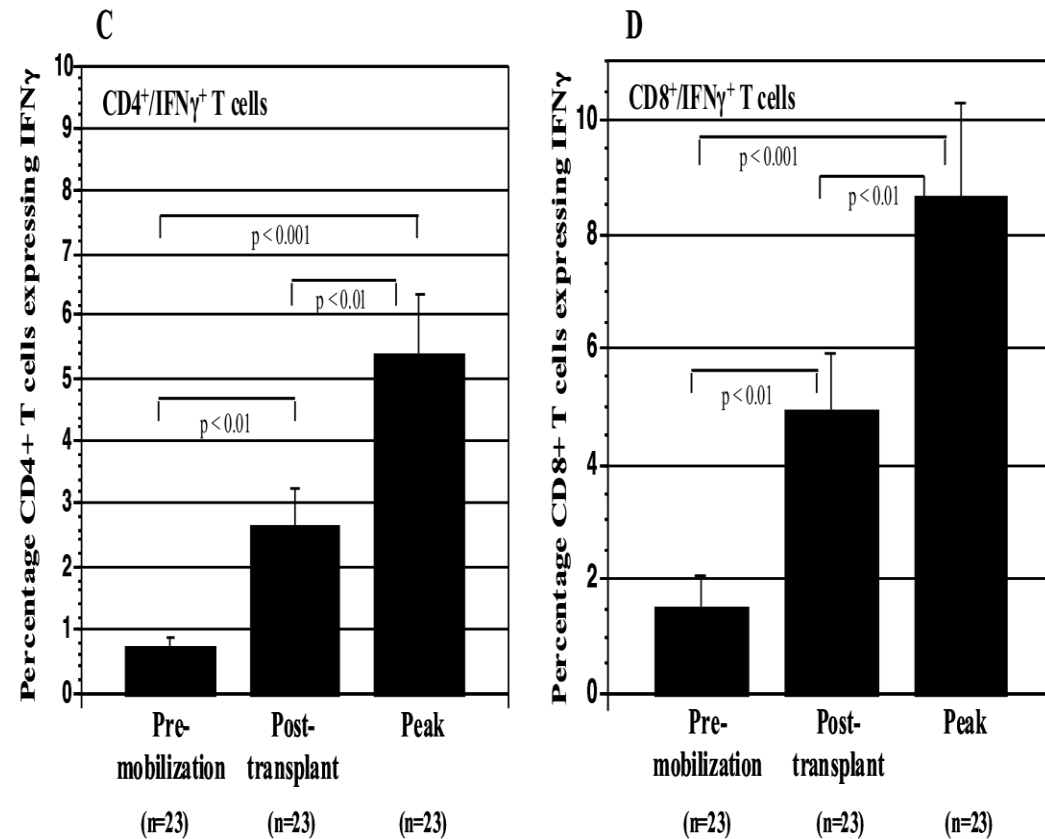
- **Number Enrolled: 45**
  - 80% Male, 20% Female
- **Number Received Vaccine: 35**
- **Median Age at Enrollment: 58**
- **Median Bone Marrow Involvement at Enrollment: 55% plasma cells**
- **Median Time from Transplant to Post-Transplant Vaccine: 48 days**



# Impact of Transplantation on Cell Mediated Immunity and Tregs



# Vaccination Induced Expansion of MM reactive T cells and Targeting of MRD



# **BMT CTN Protocol 1401**

*Phase II Multicenter Trial of Single Autologous Hematopoietic Cell  
Transplant Followed by Lenalidomide Maintenance for Multiple Myeloma  
with or without Vaccination with Dendritic Cell (DC)/Myeloma Fusions  
(MY T VAX)*

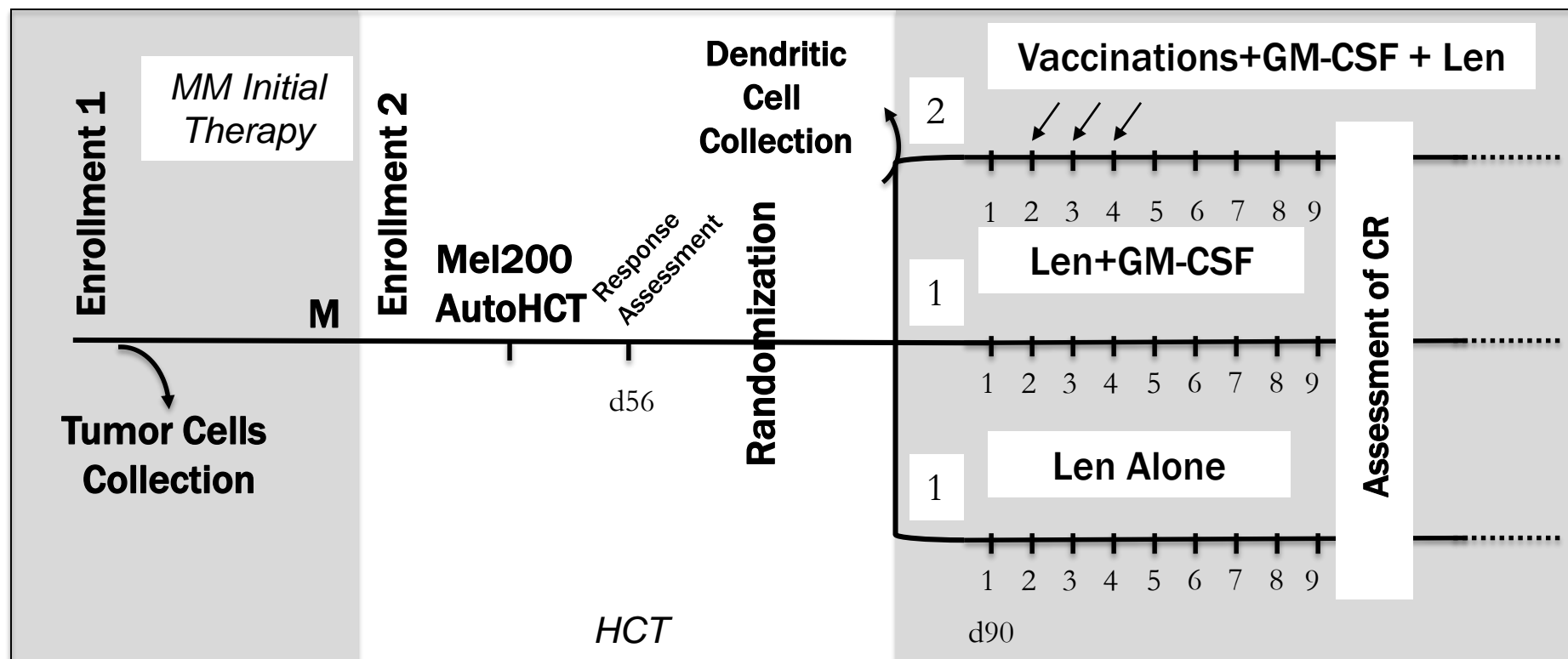
*David Avigan, Nina Shah, David Chung  
Marcelo Pasquini*

# CTN Protocol 1401

- Academic led multicenter trial for cellular therapy in cooperative groups setting
- Site specific production of DC/tumor fusions
- Central review of vaccine characterization and verification of release criteria
- Integrated scientific assessment of cellular and humoral immune response as team science by centers of excellence

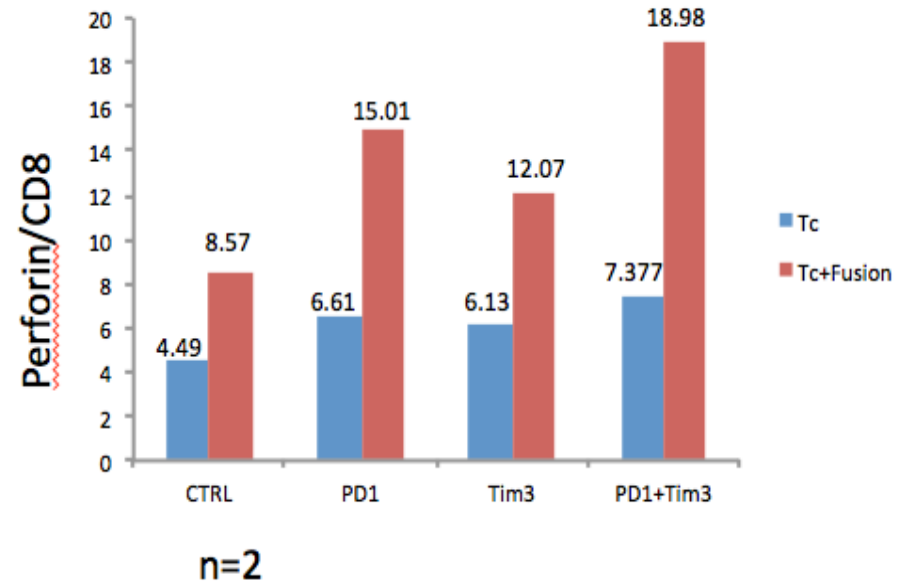
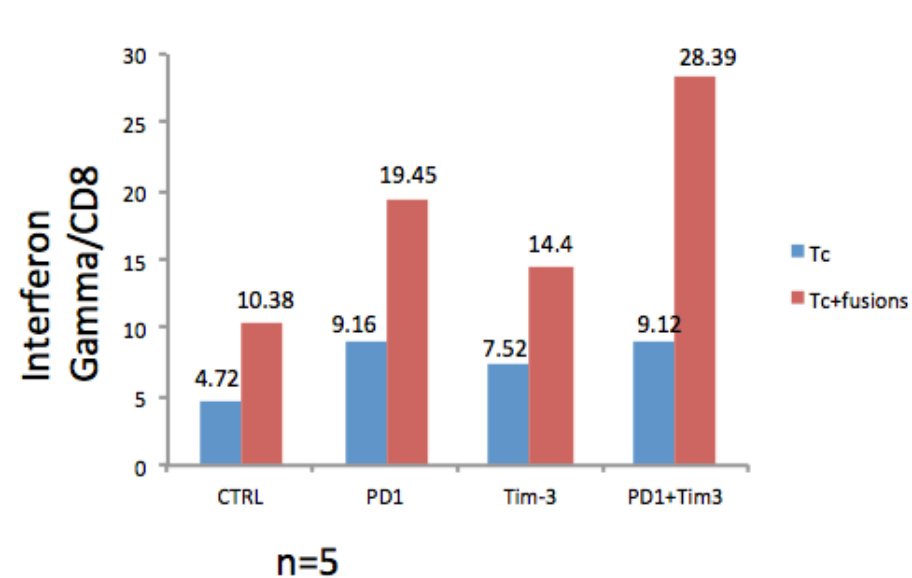


# Study Schema

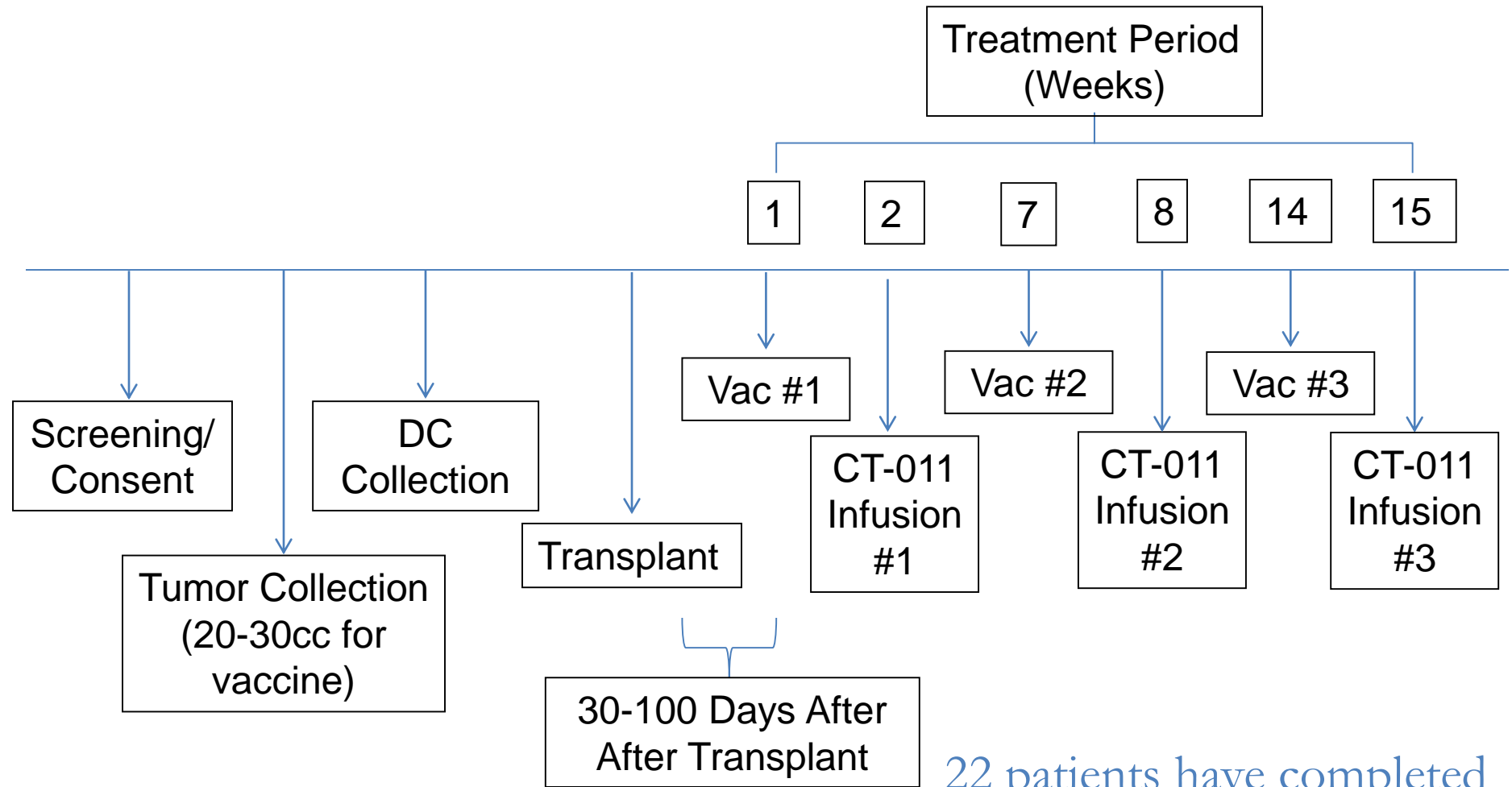


- Accrual targets 188 patients to be enrolled with a target of 132 patients to be randomized
- Assuming about 30% of patients are unable to proceed with post-transplant immunotherapy.
  - Arm A: Maintenance lenalidomide + vaccine + GM-CSF (n=66)
  - Arm B: Maintenance lenalidomide + GM CSF (n=33)
  - Arm C: Maintenance lenalidomide alone (n=33)
- Patients will be stratified according to disease status at time of randomization between
- CR and sCR and VGPR/PR/Stable disease.

# Combination Checkpoint Blockade Enhances Immune Response to DC/MM fusions in vitro



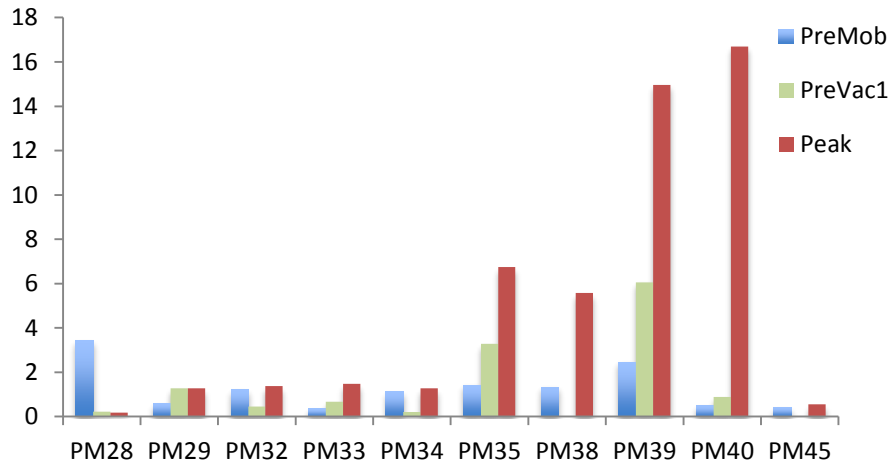
# Pidilizumab + DC/MM Fusions Post-transplant



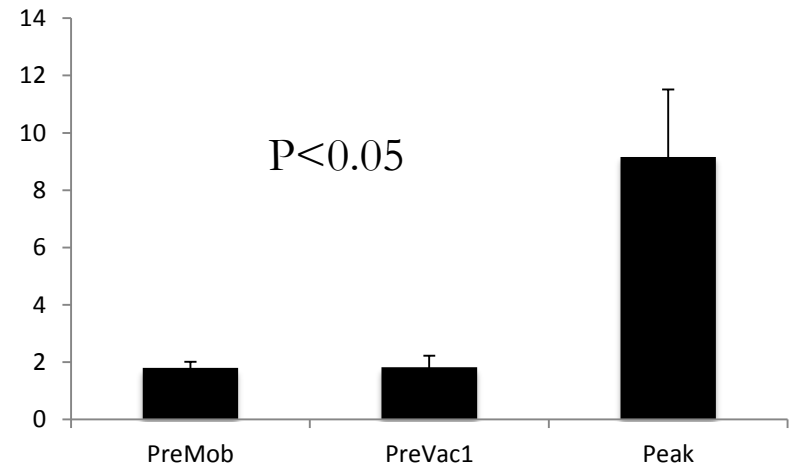
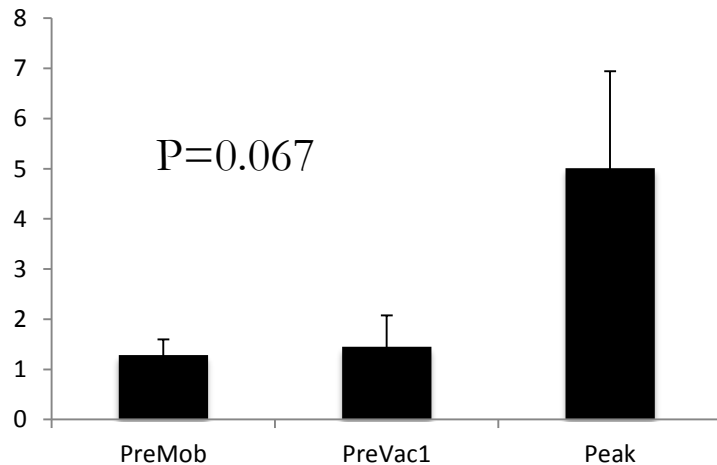
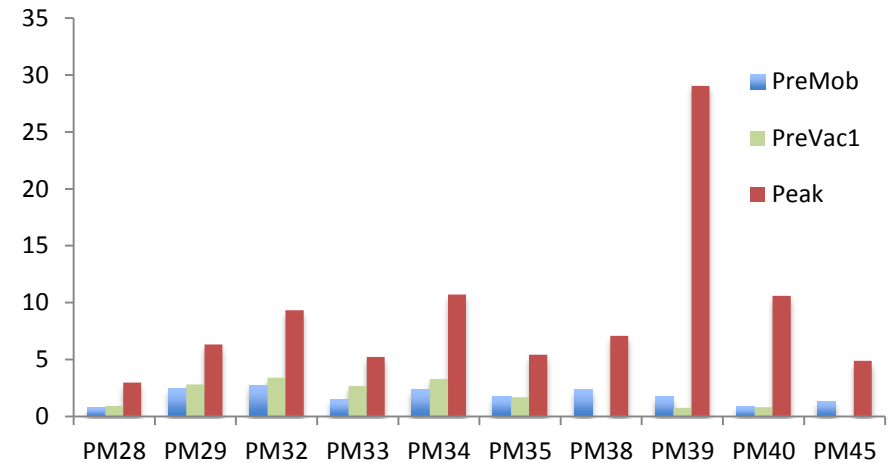
22 patients have completed therapy to date

# Immune Response to Vaccine

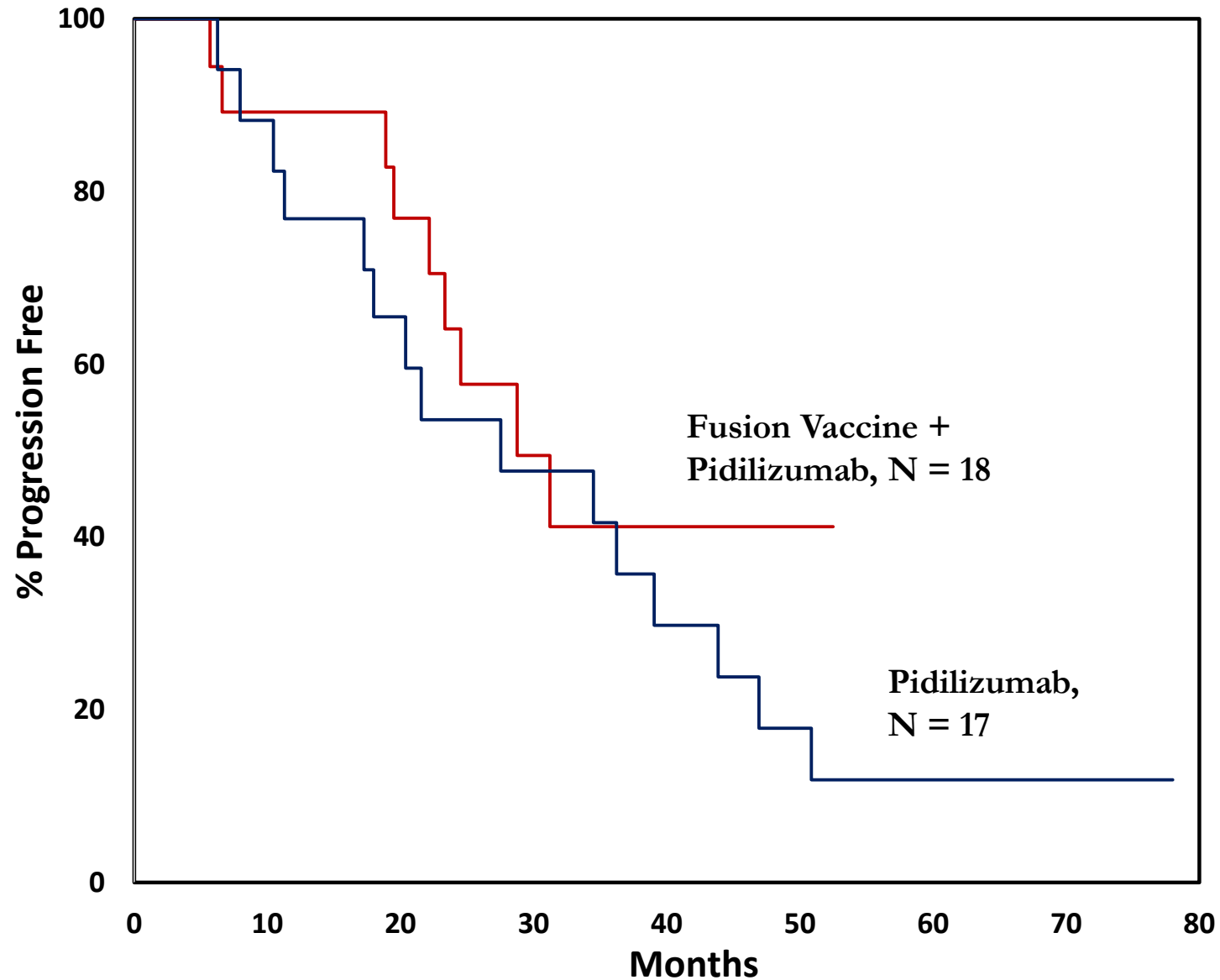
## CD4+IFN $\gamma$



## CD8+IFN $\gamma$



# Progression Free Survival: Is There a Plateau?

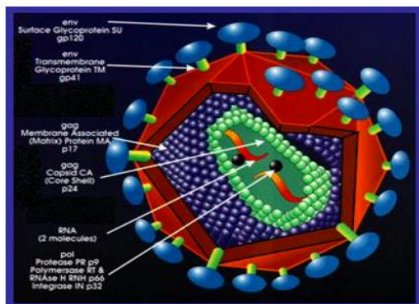




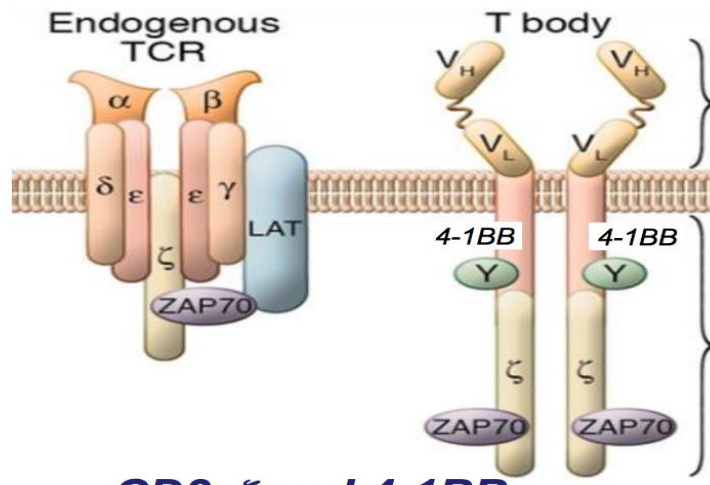
Where are we heading?

## 2nd Generation CAR for B Cell Malignancy:

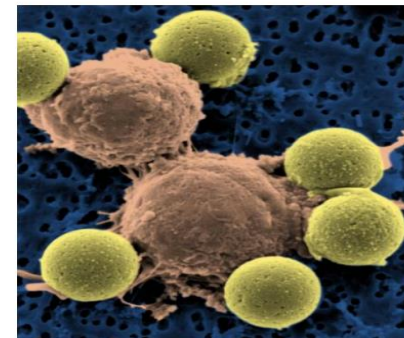
### Autologous T Cells Transduced w/ Anti-CD19 Receptor Spliced to CD3 zeta and 4-1BB Signaling Domains



***Lentiviral vector to deliver construct***



***CD3- $\zeta$  and 4-1BB signaling domains augments proliferation and survival***



***Anti-CD3/anti-CD28 mab coated bead stimulation (artificial DC)***

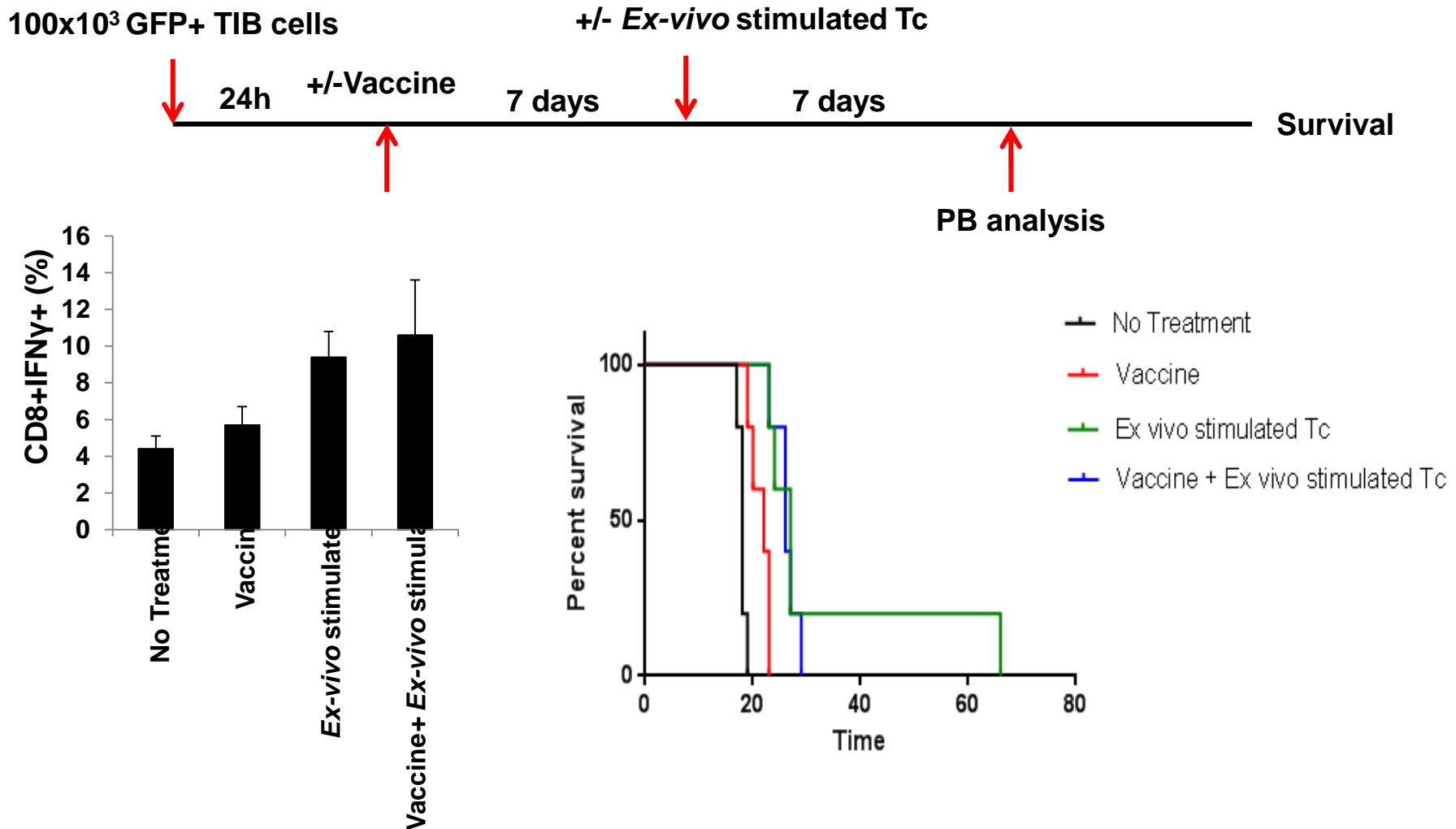
**CARs directed against CD19 have been tested in CLL and ALL**

Toxicity due to unregulated expansion of activated T cells

Resistance due to lack of persistence and escape by antigen negative variants

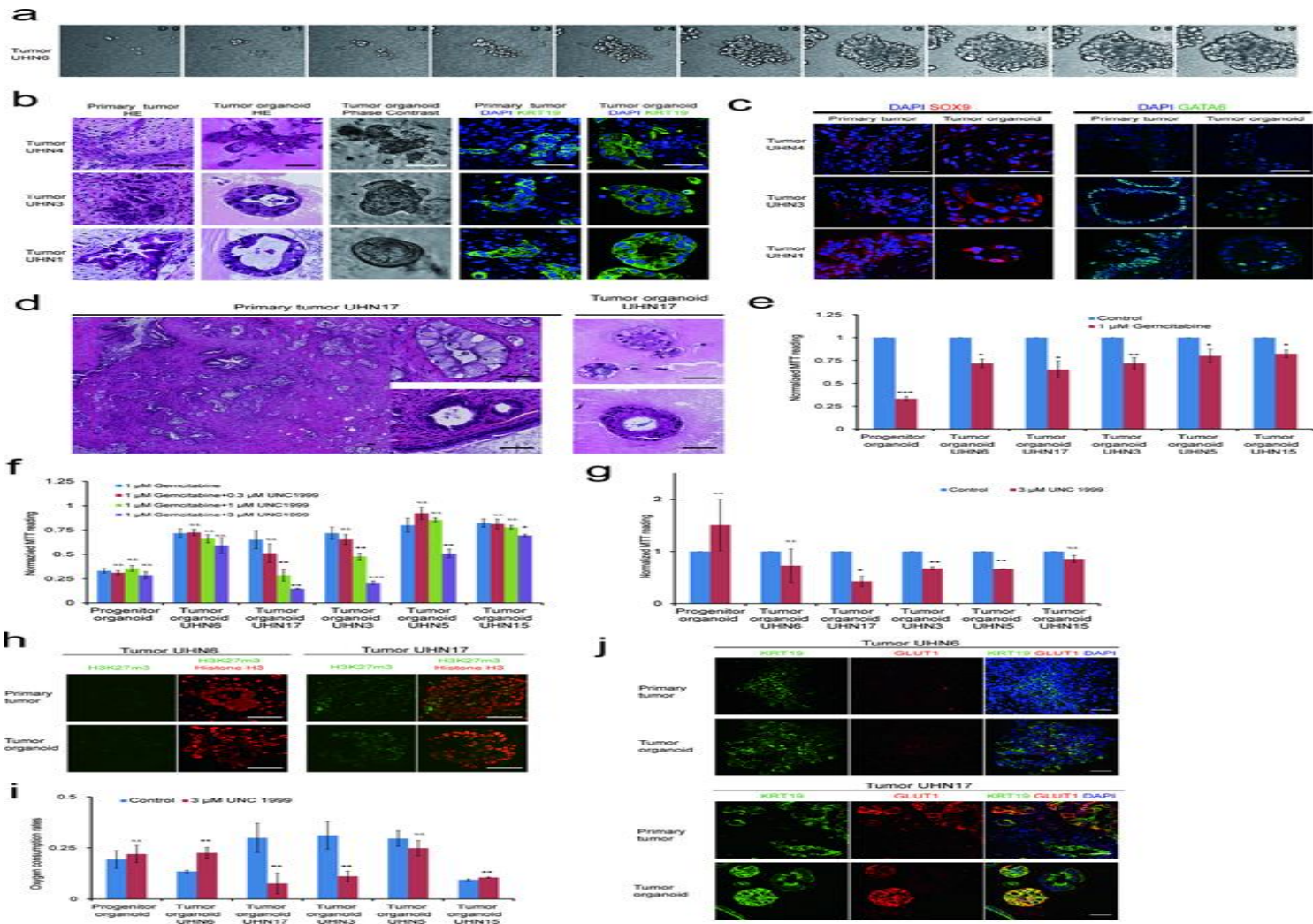


# Vaccination in Conjunction with Activated Effector Cells

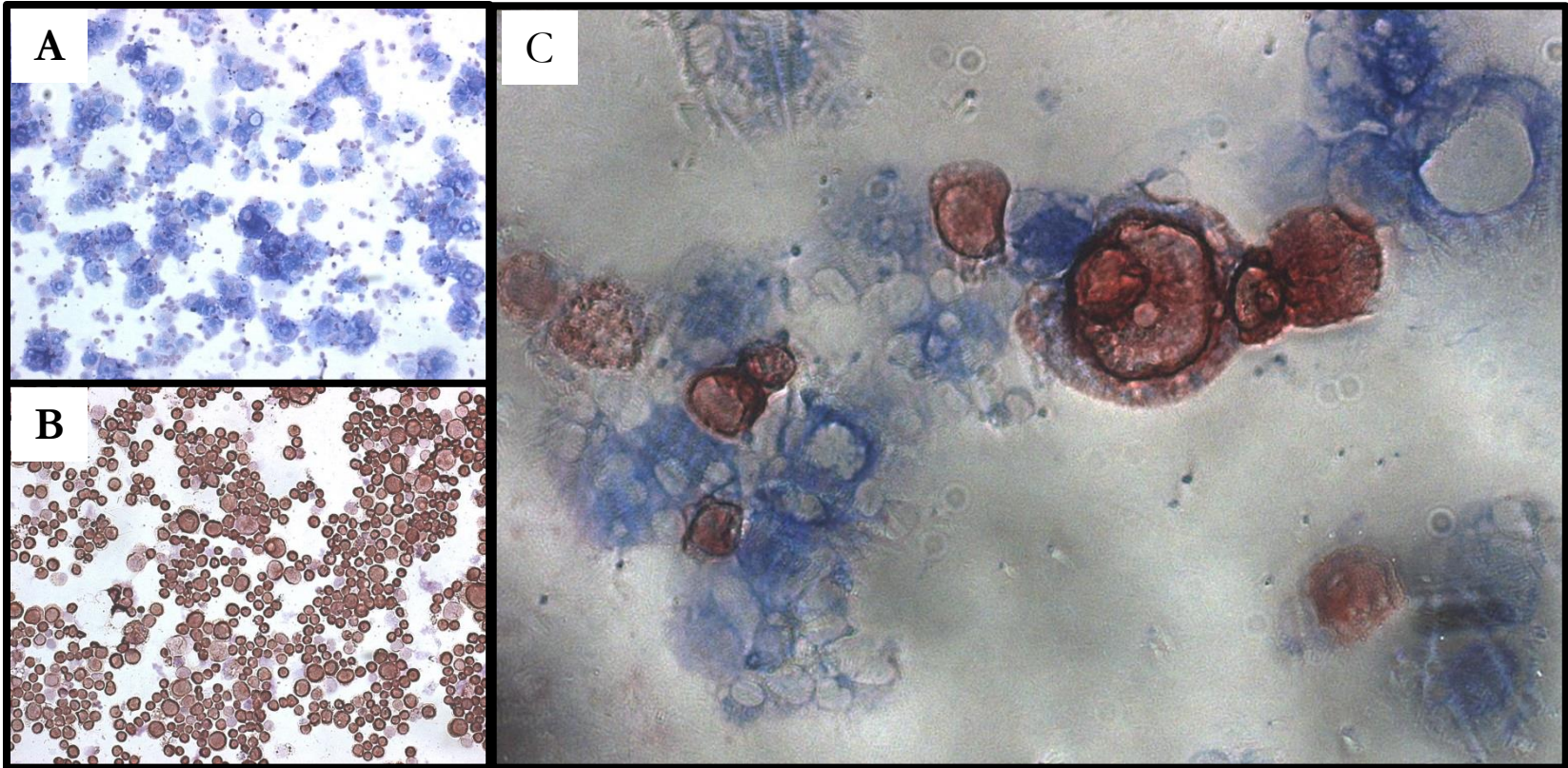


# Organoids for Pancreatic Cancer

## A Platform for Tumor Ex Vivo Expansion



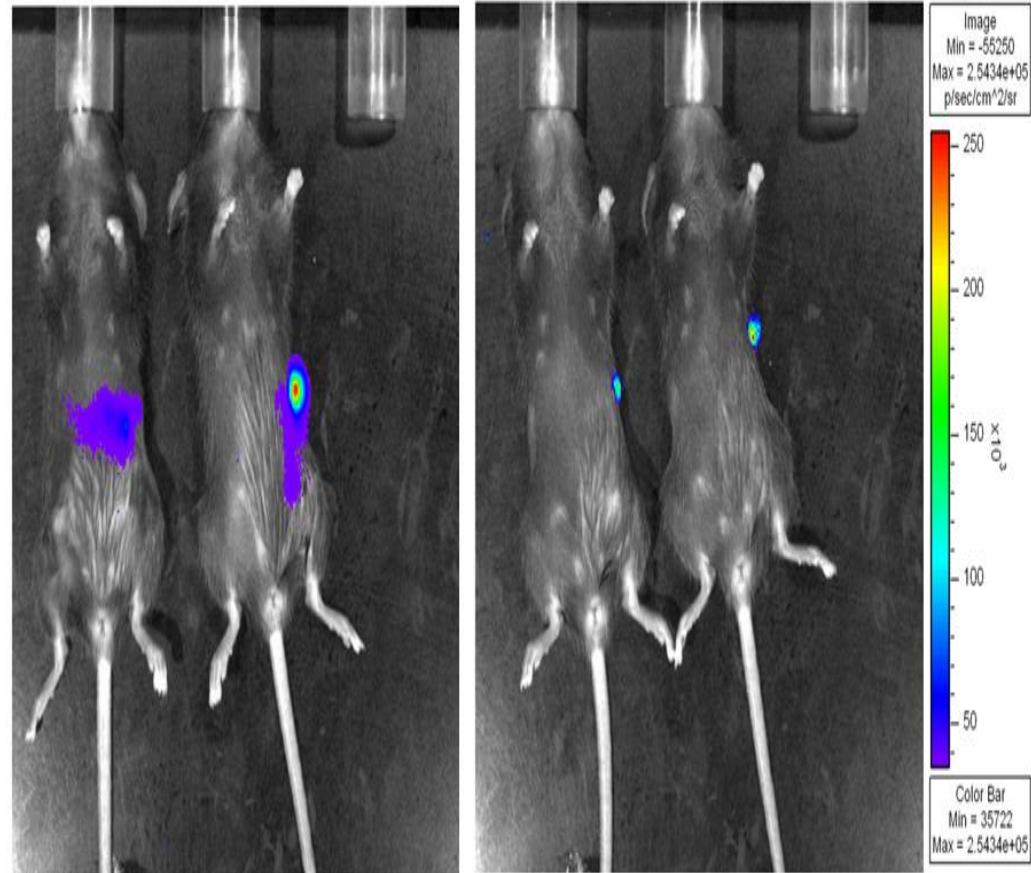
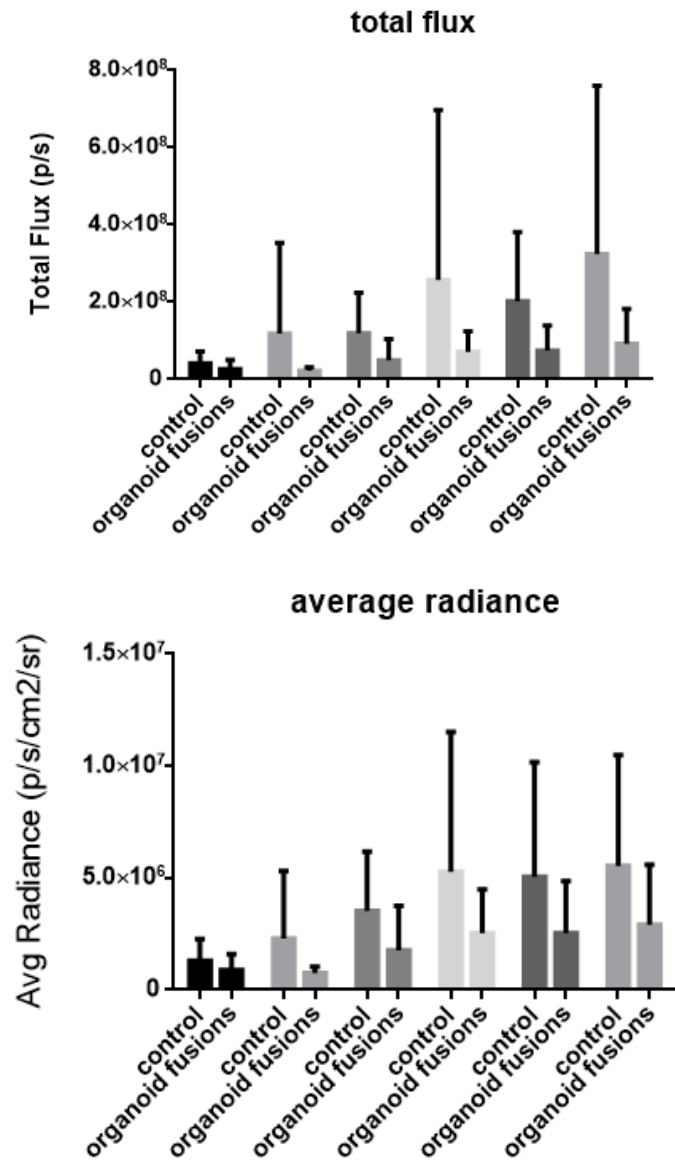
# Fusions of human cells derived from organoids to murine derived dendritic cells



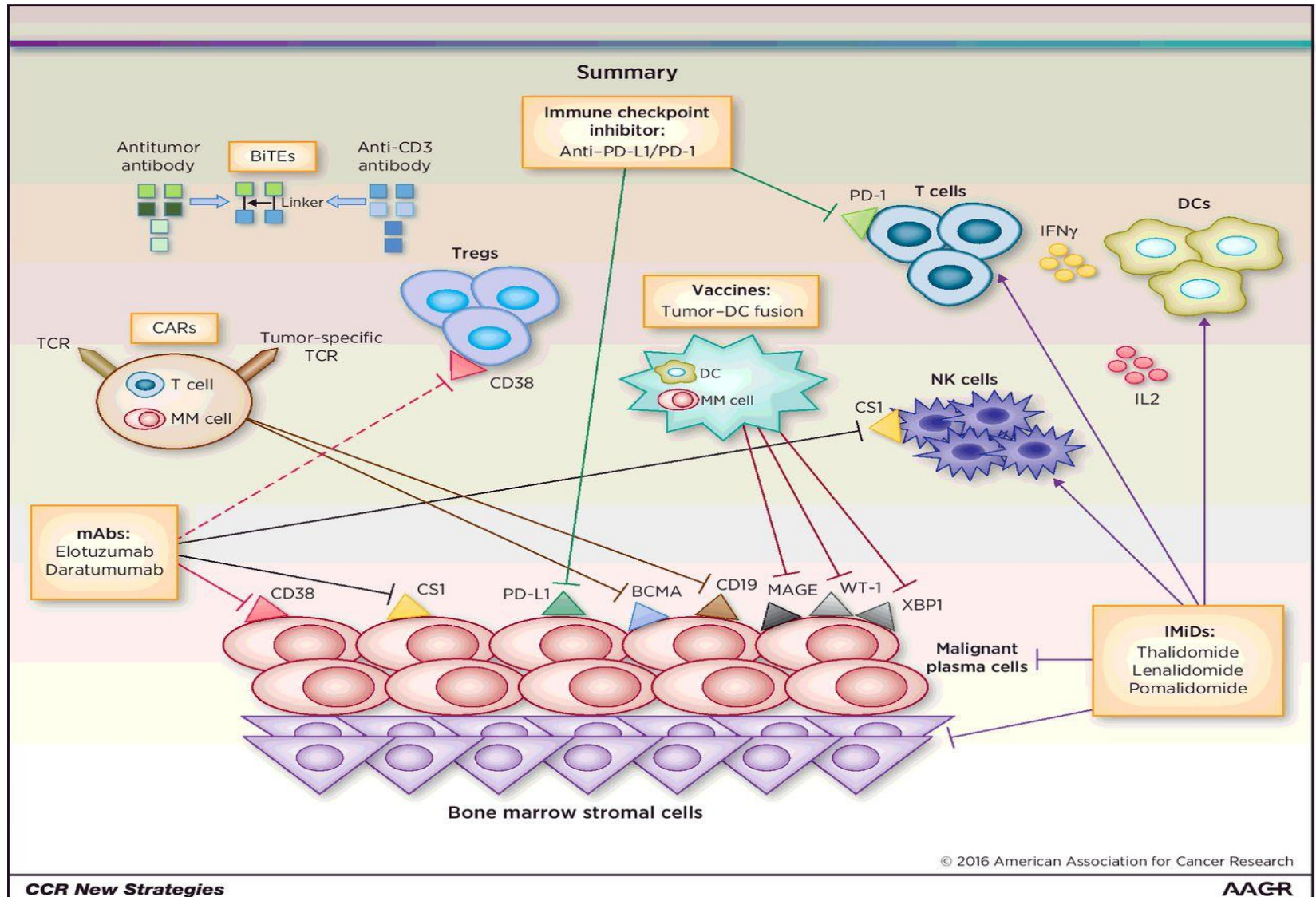
(A) Murine DCs stained for CD86. (B) 363 cell line following dissolving of the organoid to obtain a single cell suspension. The cells are stained for MS-a CK19. (C) Fusions of DCs and 363 cells can be seen by co-localization of the two stains.



# Decreased luciferase signal in mice treated with vaccine



# Pursuing Combination Immune Based Therapy





Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center

# Immunotherapy Team

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**Lynne Uhl**

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DOD

Gateway for Cancer Research