# Creating a Multiplex Immunotherapeutic Virus



Ottawa Hospital Research Institute University of Ottawa, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & immunology

# John C. Bell Disclosure



**Scientific Co-Founder and Advisor** 

- Understanding virus -host cell interactions provides therapeutic opportunities Oncolytic Virus Paradigm
- Multiplex Virus Therapeutic as a Strategy to Overcome Tumour Heterogenity
- Virally Programed Exosomes
- Virally Encoded T cell Engagers
- Virally Encoded Self Amplifying RNA Molecules

### **TUMOUR EVOLUTION**



The Same Biological Processes that Control Cell Growth, Death and Metabolism also Control the Ability of Individual Cells to Fight Virus Infections!

Viruses Can be Engineered to Exploit Tumour Specific Defects in Anti-Virus Defense Mechanisms

### The Oncolytic Virus Paradigm



# Tumor Heterogeneity Thwarts Monotherapeutic Strategies



### Combination Therapy Will be Required to have Broadly Active Immunotherapeutics

#### Challenges:

- (1) Systemic Combinations will/may have Compounded Toxicities
- (2) Costs of Novel IO Combinations may not fit in our Health Care Systems

**Our Solution** - Create a Single Virus Therapeutic that Can Deliver Multiple Therapeutic Payloads



### Characteristics of a Multiplex Virally Based Immunotherapeutic

- Ideally, can be Delivered Systemically
- Highly Selective Replication only in Malignant Tissues
- Good Replication and Spread Within and Between Tumours

• Has Ample Coding Capacity for Therapeutic Transgenes

# Vaccinia Virus – A Systemically Delivered Oncolytic Virus

Colon Cancer



**Ovarian Cancer** 



Breitbach et al Nature 2010

# Vaccinia Virus Lifecycle



Information from Moss, B. Poxviridae. In Fields Virology, 6th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2013.

# Bio-Selecting an Optimal Vaccinia Strain



# Enhancing "Tumour Selective" Oncolysis

### STING: a master regulator in the cancer immunity cycle



Zhu et al Molecular Cancer 18:152 (2019)

### STING Pathway Senses Virus Infection and Activates Anti-viral Responses



Suppression of STING Signaling through Epigenetic Silencing and Missense Mutation Impedes DNA-Damage Mediated Cytokine Production

Hiroyasu Konno1, Shota Yamauchi1, Anders Berglund2, Ryan M. Putney2, James J. Mulé3,4, and Glen N. Barber1,\*. Oncogene. 2018 April; 37(15): 2037–2051.

80% of Human Tumour Samples Have Silenced or Mutated Sting Pathways

# A STING Activating Virus Will be Rapidly Detected and Eliminated from Normal Tissues but Remain Stealth in Tumour Cells

# SKV – A Novel Oncolytic Vaccinia Virus Platform





Integration of Biological Data Led to the Development of SKV

Adrian Pelin



Ragunath Singaravaleu

### SKV Activates the cGAS-STING Pathway







18

Fuan Wang

### SKV – Highly Selective for Cancer Cells



Wyeth TK-

Copenhagen TK-

SKV



Adrian Pelin

#### SKV is Active in a Spectrum of Human Tumours



#### Attacking Cancers with a Multiplex Virus Based Immunotherapeutic Poster P811 Friday AM



Twumasi-Boateng, Pettiogrew, Kwok, Bell, Nelson (2018) Nature Reviews Cancer

### **Exosomal Transport of MicroRNAs**



### Strategies for Reprogramming the Tumour Microenvironment with Virally Expressed microRNAs



# Genetic Strategies to Enhance OV Replication





Marie-Eve Wedge



Larissa Pikor





Can we Develop a Strategy to Spread amiRNAs from Infected to Un-infected Cells



Mathieu Crupi.

**Giuseppe Pugiliese** 

Virally Programmed Exosomes to Modify the Tumour Microenvironment



VSV∆51-shPDL1 downregulates PD-L1 levels in B16-F10 cells (MOI 0.1, 18 hpi)

EVs-derived from B16-F10 VSV $\Delta$ G-shPDL1 infected cells downregulate PD-L1 levels in uninfected cells



### Encoding T Cell Engagers in SKV





### *SKV – A Therapeutic Aircraft Carrier?*





Nikolas Martin

#### Self Amplifying RNA Vectors



#### Transfer of saRNA from Infected to Non-Infected Cells



# SKV – Disseminating saRNA within the Tumour Microenvironment



SKV – Green saRNA - Red

Time







Leeds University Vicky Jennings Institute of Cancer Research Alan Melcher Turnstone Biologics Mike Burgess Caroline Breitbach Steve Berinstein Dave Stojdl NCT Germany

OHRI

Carolina Ilkow Jean Simon Diallo Marie-Eve Edge Brian Keller *McMaster University* Brian Lichty Fuan Wang *NCT Heidelberg* Guy Ungerechts