

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

# **Pre-Clinical Combination Immunotherapy**

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# Disclosures

- IMVAQ therapeutics co-founder
- Advisory board immunos therapeutics
- Inventor on a patent applications related to work on Oncolytic Viral therapy, Alpha Virus Based Vaccine, Neo Antigen Modeling, CD40, GITR, OX40, PD-1 and CTLA-4.

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Aprea.

# It's Been A Long Journey and we came a long way.....

# INTRODUCING THE LATEST BREAKTHROUGH IN CANCER THERAPY. YOU.

Everyone is born with a defense system against cancer. We're turning melanoma patients into stronger cancer fighters by harnessing the power of their immune systems with a drug pioneered at Memorial Sloan Kettering. By turning the concept of targeted immunotherapy into a reality for our patients, we're changing the way the world treats cancer. Learn more at MSKCC.ORG/MORESCIENCE



In-network with most health plans. Ask about financial aid.

Two Main Paradigms for Advancing Cancer Therapy Melanoma: the poster child



# Melanoma Therapy—2010

# FDA Approved Therapies (USA)Date• DTIC (chemotherapy):<br/>Helps 10% of patients for short periods of time (3 months)1970s• High-dose interleukin-2:<br/>Helps <15% of patients for a decade or more; high toxicity</td>1998

# THERE WAS A CLEAR NEED FOR NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE THERAPIES

# The Poster Child: Metastatic Melanoma today

# Approved Therapies (USA) Date

	<ul> <li>DTIC (dacarbazine)</li> </ul>	1970s
Immune therapy	<ul> <li>Interferon alfa (adjuvant)</li> </ul>	1996
	<ul> <li>High-dose interleukin-2</li> </ul>	1998
	<ul> <li>Ipilimumab</li> </ul>	2011
	Nivolumab	2014
	<ul> <li>Pembrolizumab</li> </ul>	2014
	<ul> <li>Ipilimumab/Nivolumab</li> </ul>	2015
	• T-VEC	2015
	Vemurafenib	2011
	<ul> <li>Dabrafenib</li> </ul>	2013
	Trametinib	2013

### Biological Events and Molecular Changes in Melanoma Progression



#### Genomic alteration/Mutation

Many molecular changes occur during melanoma progression Oncogenes and Tumor Suppressor genes are mutated

(Adapted from Miller A.R., and Merghoub T)

# Genes and Pathways Involved in Melanoma Development



Chudnovsky Y, JCI, 2005.

# Mutations Define Distinct Melanoma Molecular Subsets

Arising from Skin Without Chronic Sun Damage	50% BRAF 0% KIT 20% NRAS
Arising from Skin With Chronic Sun Damage	10% BRAF 2% KIT 10% NRAS
Arising from Mucosal Surfaces	5% BRAF 20% KIT 15% NRAS
Arising from Acral Surfaces	15% BRAF 15% KIT 15% NRAS
Uveal Melanoma	25% GNAQ 55% GNA11

Curtin et al. NEJM 2005; Curtin et al. JCO 2006; Van Raamsdonk et al., NEJM 2010

## **Targeting Multiple Pathways is Needed for Effective Therapy**



# Can the immune system recognize cancer?

# The immune system is designed to recognize foreign antigens



# Immune Response 101



# The immune system is designed to recognize foreign antigens



What if the immune system recognizes and attacks self?



**Cancer = self** 

# Autoimmune reaction to self / transformed self

Recognizing self as non-self: Autoimmunity/<u>Vitiligo</u> Goal : Recognition of Transformed-self/Cancer





# Natural response to melanoma



- Clinical observation that melanoma patients who develop vitiligo "do better" and that vitiligo is associated with response to chemotherapy as well as immunotherapy
- Isolation from a patient of an antibody recognizing "pigmented associated antigen"



# Role of the Immune System in Cancer: Immunoediting







**Robert D. Schreiber** 

# Immunoediting

# Immune Suppressive Microenvironment





William J. Murphy. Front Oncol. 2013; 3: 197.

# **Immune Suppressive Microenvironment**



William J. Murphy. Front Oncol. 2013; 3: 197.

# Ipilimumab Augments T-Cell Activation and Proliferation



Adapted from O'Day et al. Plenary session presentation, abstract #4, ASCO 2010.

# Ipilimumab Long Term Pooled Survival Analysis: 4846 Patients



Schadendorf, Hodi Wolchok, ESMO, 2013

### Role of PD-1 Pathway in Tumor Immunity



Sznol et al., ASCO, 2013

### **PFS (Intent-to-Treat)**



Larkin et al, NEJM, 2015

# 1- Can we predict response to immune therapy reliably?

# 2-Can we improve response to immune therapy?



# Can we predict response to immune therapy reliably?



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# Mutations, Immunogenicity and Prediction of clinical response



## Mutational Load Correlates with Benefit from Checkpoint Blockade ....With Important Exceptions



### Mutational Load Correlates with Benefit from Checkpoint Blockade ....With Important Exceptions



### A computational model of neoantigen quality based immunogenicity

#### Which neoantigen(s) are the most immunogenic?



Mount Łuksza M Sinai

IAS

Memorial Sloan Kettering

Cancer Center

Łuksza M, Balachandran VP, Greenbaum BG et al. *Nature* 2017.

### Neoantigen driven tumor evolutionary dynamics



Łuksza et al., Nature, 2017

### Model construction: fitness of a clone



#### Amplitude due to MHC presentation:

- From inferred affinities of wildtype and mutant peptides
- Should relate to discrimination ability by class I HLA molecule

#### TCR recognition probability:

- Sequence similarity to pathogen epitopes (IEDB) as a proxy for TCR binding affinity
- Hypothesized measure of likelihood of TCR recognition

# Distinct Tumor Immune TME in one Patient, Controlled for Environmental & Inherited Factors



Jiménez-Sánchez A, Cell. 2017

# Can we improve response to immune therapy?



Mendonal Slovn Kesteri Cancer Center:

#### Immune-active microenvironment in human cancers is associated with clinical benefit from immunotherapies



Presence of neoantigen peptide signature Absence of neoantigen peptide signature Sample collected pre-treatment Sample collected post-treatment Patient with long term benefit Patient with short term benefit K-mean Cluster A K mean Cluster B FI441 All melanoma patients D۶ OASL p=0.0007 OAS2 STAT1 OAS1 MX1 IFIT1 2 1.0 .0

**Relative Expression** 

Ω

is enough

Type I IFN signature is associated with clinical benefit from CTLA-4 blockade in melanoma Chiappinelli et al., Cell 2015





# **1- Better define the tumor intrinsic mechanisms of response to immune therapies**




## Need to go back to murine tumor models



We look like identical twins!

Inbred mouse strains are a great tool

### Transplantable lung tumor model from KP mice derived cells



KPA and KPC cells from Kwok-kin Wong's lab

### T cell infiltration in Kras mutant lung cancer models



CL13 CL25 model

CL13: day 28 CL25 : day 20

## How are neoantigens edited in vivo?

= Is there a rule to eliminate certain neoantigens in tumor?

Neoantigen quality matters?

1. Clonal vs branch mutations in tumors



Clonal mutations are associated with response to immune checkpoint blockade.



#### 2. High affinity vs low affinity to MHC?



High DAI (MHC I affinity, WTA-MA) is associated with better prognosis.

Neoantigen quantity matters?

1. Abundant vs rare

McGranahan et al., 2017 Ghorani et al., 2018

## How are neoantigens edited in vivo?

<u>Question</u>

✔ □ What clones (clonal/subclonal or high/log MHC binder) are eliminated by immune system?



## How are neoantigens edited in vivo?

 $\bigcirc$ 

#### <u>Question</u>

Will abundant or rare clones be eliminated in an equal way or unequally by immune system
( = are they subject to the same degree of T cell attack?)



1. Transplantable Kras lung cancer model for neoantigen study and targeting was developed.

2. The model will be used to address questions about in vivo **cancer immune editing pattern** to understand how tumor heterogeneity is shaped.

3. Diverse strategies of **targeting neoantigens** in Kras lung cancer will be investigated for best efficacy of cancer vaccine.





## Modify the Immune Suppressive Microenvironment

<u>2</u>



## - Reverse immune suppression

# - Induce anti-tumor immune response

Depends on the immune landscape

## Rationale for Combination with other therapies:

- Use other means to enhance tumor recognition
- Strategy to address low response rates of checkpoint blockade



## Approach combining blockade <u>of immune</u> <u>suppression</u> with immunotherapy



## Modify the Immune Suppressive **Microenvironment**

## JET TER

ALICIE

#### **Cell Reports**

#### **Tumor-Expressed IDO Recruits and Activates MDSCs in a Treg-Dependent Manner**

#### Graphical Abstract



#### Authors

Rikke B. Holmgaard, Dmitriy Zamarin, Yanyun Li, ..., James P. Allison, Taha Merghoub, Jedd D. Wolchok

#### Correspondence

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#### In Brief

IDO mediates immune inhibition in tumors, though the mechanisms of this are poorly understood. Holmgaard et al. demonstrate that tumor IDO is a central regulator of both local and systemic immunosuppression and resistance to

immunother through exp activation of manner.

#### Overcoming resistance to checkpoint blockade therapy by targeting PI3K $\gamma$ in myeloid cells

Olivier De Henau<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Rausch<sup>2</sup>, David Winkler<sup>2</sup>, Luis Felipe Campesato<sup>1</sup>, Cailian Liu<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Hirschhorn-Cymerman<sup>1</sup>, Sadna Budhu<sup>1</sup>, Arnab Ghosh<sup>1</sup>, Melissa Pink<sup>2</sup>, Jeremy Tchaicha<sup>2</sup>, Mark Douglas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Tibbitts<sup>2</sup>, Sujata Sharma<sup>2</sup>, Jennifer Proctor<sup>2</sup>, Nicole Kosmider<sup>2</sup>, Kerry White<sup>2</sup>, Howard Stern<sup>2</sup>, John Soglia<sup>2</sup>, Julian Adams<sup>2</sup>, Vito J. Palombella<sup>2</sup>, Karen McGovern<sup>2</sup>, Jeffery L. Kutok<sup>2</sup>, Jedd D. Wolchok<sup>1,3</sup>§ & Taha Merghoub<sup>1</sup>§

Recent clinical trials using immunotherapy have demonstrated its potential to control cancer by disinhibiting the immune system. Immune checkpoint blocking (ICB) antibodies against cytotoxic-T-lymphocyte-associated protein 4 or programmed cell death protein 1/programmed death-ligand 1 have displayed durable clinical responses in various cancers<sup>1</sup>. Although these new immunotherapies have had a notable effect on cancer treatment, multiple mechanisms of immune resistance exist in tumours. have varying phenotypes and are more suppressive in ICB-resistant Among the key mechanisms, myeloid cells have a major role in tumours. Tumour-derived soluble factors such as granulocytelimiting effective tumour immunity<sup>2-4</sup> Growing eviden

but contain more activated CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells (Fig. 1b, c). Additionally, CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells express more granzyme B in the B16-F10 model. They also express higher levels of PD-1 and CTLA4 (Fig. 1c, data not shown), which might explain their sensitivity to ICB. Furthermore, myeloid cells from 4T1 tumours or spleens suppress proliferation of T cells to a greater extent compared to myeloid cells from B16-F10 models (Fig. 1d and Extended Data Fig. 1b). These data suggest that TAMCs macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSE) help shape the

#### Timing of CSF-1/CSF-1R signaling blockade is critical to improving responses to CTLA-4 based immunotherapy

Rikke B. Holmgaard, Alexandra Brachfeld, Billel Gasmi, Thompson Doman, Mary Murphy, David Schaer, Jedd D. Wolchok & Taha Merghoub

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To link to this article: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/2162402X.2016.1151595

## **Immune Suppressive Microenvironment**



William J. Murphy. Front Oncol. 2013; 3: 197.

## Therapeutic targeting of suppressive MDSCs: Suppressive MDSCs show high expression of CSF-1R



MDSCs and M2 macrophages

Castells et al. 2012, Int J Mol Sci.

# CSF-1Ri potentiates the anti-tumor efficacy of T cell checkpoint immunotherapy



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## Resistance to checkpoint blockade is associated with suppressive myeloid cells infiltration in tumor microenvironment



O De Henau et al. Nature (2016)

## Role of Myeloid Cells in IPI-549 Antitumor Activity

#### IPI-549 is Active in the Myeloid-Cell-Rich Melanoma (B16-GM-CSF) Model



Administration of IPI-549 15 mg/kg orally, daily to C57BI6 mice bearing GM-CSF transduced B16 tumors resulted in a significant inhibition of tumor growth (\*p < 0.0001), while IPI-549 had no impact on B16 tumors without GM-CSF (p = 0.1852) (n = 5-6 mice/group).

- PI3 kinase gamma is preferentially expressed in MDSCs
- IPI-549 is a PI3 kinase gamma inhibitor.
- IPI-549 is only active in myeloid MDSC dependent tumors.

## **IPI-549 reverses tumor-associated MDSC supression**



CD11b\* tumor-infiltrating leukocytes (TILs) were isolated from 4T1 mammary carcinoma tumors from vehicle- or IPI-549-treated (15 mg/kg orally, daily) animals. CD8\* T cells, isolated from spleens of naïve animals and preloaded with carboxyfluorescein succinimidyl ester (CFSE) dye, were activated with coated CD3/CD28; proliferation was measured 48 hours after incubation ± CD11b\* TILs at a 1:1 ratio.



### Resistance to checkpoint blockade therapy is overcome when combined with selective PI3Ky inhibition



#### Mammary Carcinoma Model

#### Melanoma Model

O De Henau et al. Nature 1-4 (2016) doi:10.1038/nature20554

## **Blocking Suppressive Mechanisms**



Hoolmgard et al, Cell Report, 2015



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## Approach combining blockade <u>of immune</u> <u>suppression</u> with checkpoint blockade

# The target cell need to be present Timing is key





#### Oncolmmunology

ISSN: (Print) 2162-402X (Online) Journal homepage: http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/koni20

## Timing of CSF-1/CSF-1R signaling blockade is critical to improving responses to CTLA-4 based immunotherapy

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To link to this article: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/2162402X.2016.1151595</u>



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# Approach of combining check point blockade with the <u>induction of antigen response</u>



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# Approach: Induce Tumor Antigen Response

- Killing the tumors with targeted therapies
- Oncolytic viral therapy
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation therapy
- VTP
- Other means .....

# Increase the Number of Immune Infiltrating Immune Cells







## Targeting tumor cells should induce a tumor-specific immune response



### MEK signaling is important to the tumor cells and immune cells both



## **Cell Reports**

### Pulsatile MEK Inhibition Improves Anti-tumor Immunity and T Cell Function in Murine Kras Mutant Lung Cancer

#### **Graphical Abstract**



#### **Authors**

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#### In Brief

KRAS mutant non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) remains refractory to targeted therapeutics. Choi et al. show that pulsatile, rather than continuous, treatment with MEK inhibitors can maintain T cell activity better and prolong survival in mice with Kras mutant cancer. This effect is further enhanced when combined with CTLA-4 blockade.

# Induction of antitumor immunity with oncolytic viruses : $\Delta E3L$ vaccinia virus or Newcastle disease virus (NDV)



- Antagonist of intracellular innate immune signaling
- A mutant vaccinia virus lacking the E<sub>3</sub>L gene (ΔE<sub>3</sub>L):
  - has a restricted host-range
  - is highly sensitive to IFN
  - has greatly reduced virulence in animal models
- Both the N-terminal Z-DNA BD and Cterminal dsRNA BD are required for full pathogenesis of the virus *in vivo*.





- Member of Paramyxoviridae family
- Birds are a natural host
- Strong inducer of type I IFN
- Readily infects the majority of cancer cells due to ubiquity of the receptor (sialic acid)
- Specificity for cancer cells is mediated by selective viral replication in cells with deficient innate immune responses and cells resistant to apoptosis
- Clinical trials with systemically-administered NDV in humans demonstrated safety and <u>durable</u> clinical benefit



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## Approach:

# Combining Other immune modulatory antibodies

## Alter Host Immune System: Rationale Combination with Immune modulation





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## Approach:

# Combining Other immune modulatory antibodies beyond checkpoint blockade

Maslow's hierarchy of needs

# Immunomodulatory Abs for cancer therapy: beyond immune checkpoint blockade



# Immunomodulatory Abs for cancer therapy: beyond immune checkpoint blockade



Adapted from Mellman, Nature 2011

## **Study Design**




#### LETTERS https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-019-0420-8

### Rational design of anti-GITR-based combination immunotherapy

Roberta Zappasodi<sup>1,2</sup>, Cynthia Sirard<sup>3</sup>, Yanyun Li<sup>1,2</sup>, Sadna Budhu<sup>1</sup>, Mohsen Abu-Akeel<sup>1</sup>, Cailian Liu<sup>1</sup>, Xia Yang<sup>1</sup>, Hong Zhong<sup>1</sup>, Walter Newman<sup>3</sup>, Jingjing Qi<sup>2,4</sup>, Phillip Wong<sup>2,4</sup>, David Schaer<sup>1</sup>, Henry Koon<sup>5</sup>, Vamsidhar Velcheti<sup>6</sup>, Matthew D. Hellmann<sup>2,7,8</sup>, Michael A. Postow<sup>7,8</sup>, Margaret K. Callahan<sup>2,7,8</sup>, Jedd D. Wolchok <sup>© 1,2,7,8,9\*</sup> and Taha Merghoub <sup>© 1,2,7,9\*</sup>







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### Approach:

# Combining Other immune modulatory antibodies beyond checkpoint blockade

### Is is all T cell dependent?



"I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a **hammer**, to treat **everything** as if it were a **nail**."

Maslow's hierarchy of needs

# Immunomodulatory Abs for cancer therapy: beyond immune checkpoint blockade



#### **OX40** engagement as an effective tumor immunotherapy



#### Increase proliferation

- Clonal expansion
- Increase cytokine production
- Promote memory

- Increase proliferation
- Clonal expansion
- Increase cytokine production
- Promote memory
- Reverse anergy

- Deactivate suppressive function
- Eliminate by AICD
- Eliminate through Fc receptors

OX40 engagement as a monotherapy ineffective treating established poorly immunogenic tumors such as B16 melanoma

#### 2 2

• Causes immunogenic cell death releasing tumor antigens and TLR agonists

•Homeostatic proliferation can expand tumor reactive T cells

• Depletes and functionally inhibits CD4+ Foxp3+ Tregs

Common chemotherapeutic with direct anti-tumor effects

Ercolini. JEM 2005; Green. Nat Rev Immunol 2009; Zitvogel. JCI 2008; Lutsiak. Blood 2005



Immunologic properties of CTX:



# Melanoma-specific CD4+ T cells significantly enhances the potency of anti-OX40 Ab





#### Trp1 CD4+ T cells are purified from a TCR transgenic mouse (Muranski, Blood)

Hirschhorn-Cymerman, JEM, 2012

#### Melanoma-specific CD4+ T cells significantly enhances the potency of CTX + Anti-OX40 combination therapy



#### Triple combination therapy eradicate large established tumors: Spontaneous melanoma model (TG3)



Untreated

Combination therapy



Hirschhorn-Cymerman, JEM, 2012

B78H1 is a B16 variant that does NOT express Trp1

#### Unusual immune-related adverse events of the combination therapy



Autoimmune depigmentation is typical of antimelanoma immune therapies

#### CTX + IgG + Trp1 cells

#### CTX + anti-OX40 + Trp1 cells

#### Ear pinnae thickness

150-

0

190





100-50-\*\*\*\*

anti-OXAO

Swelling and destruction of tissues infiltrated with melanocytes such as the ears, tail, and snout (non hairy skin) ~ **3 weeks** after treatment

# Inverse correlation of irAE and anti-tumor immunity suggest an equivalent underlying mechanism



#### Trp1 cell infiltration does not correlate with ear pinnae inflammation onset



Protein extracts from ear pinnae of treated mice reveal a progressive innate immunity signature





lgG

Protein extracts from ear pinnae of treated mice reveal a progressive innate immunity signature



#### Neutrophil infiltration in the ear pinnae followed Trp1 cells



#### % infiltration in the ear pinnae with anti-OX40



#### Anti-Ly6G depletion ameliorates irAE and has no effect on tumor regression



#### Neutrophils depletion prevents elimination of antigen loss variant chimeric tumors



#### Neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) as a mechanism for pathogen elimination



Kolaczkowska, Nature Reviews Immunology, 2013. Hermosilla, Parasitology, 2014

#### Ear pinnae of treated mice show extensive NETosis



Immunotherapy-induced cutaneous rashes correlate with improved survival in melanoma patients treated with Ipilimumab (anti-CTLA-4)



**Overall Survival** 

## <u>Skin rashes</u> from melanoma patients receiving immunotherapy (ICB) exhibit extensive NETosis







DAPI/DNA
MPO
Citrullinated histone 3



# Increased NETosis in biopsies of <u>tumors</u> from patients receiving checkpoint blockade (Anti-CTLA-4 and/or Anti-PD-1)

#### No immunotherapy



#### Checkpoint blockade





#### Model for the potency of the combination therapy and irAE



tumors

Adverse events

Some	key	poi	ints
------	-----	-----	------

- Tumor immune landscape should be taken into consideration when designing immune therapy.
- The timing of the immune intervention is key.
- Real time monitoring of the tumor microenvironment should help rationally design immune intervention.
- The same patient may have multiple lesions that respond differently.

### Some key points

- Use appropriate models for each type of approach.
- Often time the models are not the problem. We are.
   We need to make sure that we are not over interpreting (literal translation).

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### The Immunotherapeutics Team















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#### Jedd Wolchok



Collaborators working on automated, comparison tools and models to study tumor antigens.

- Determine whether mutation burden or neoantigen homology correlates better with outcome using a highthroughput, automated bioinformatic techniques
- Create resources and tools for future studies.



**Dany Wells** 



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