

What's Next for Cancer Immunotherapy?

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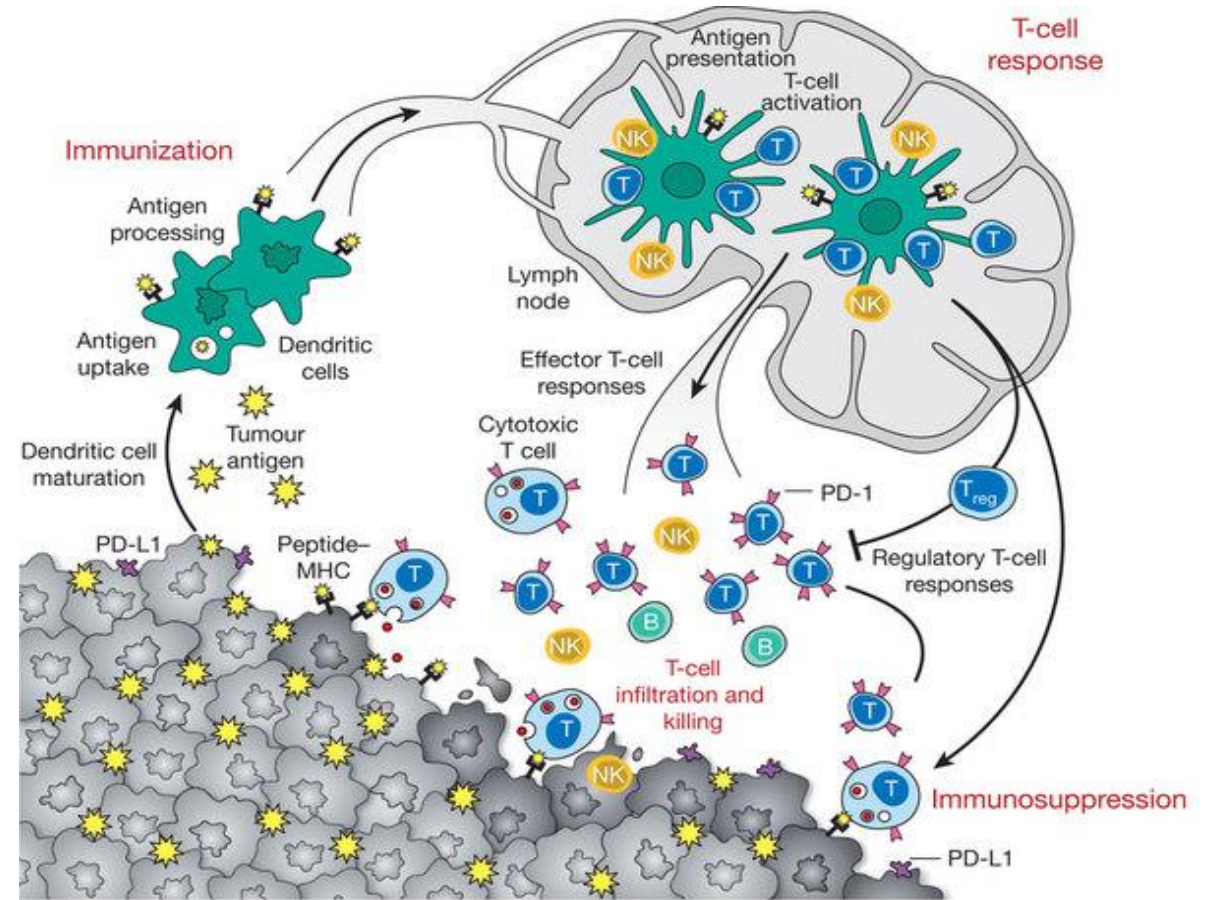
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

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 - Bristol Myers Squibb
 - Incyte Corporation
- **Consulting/expert witness fees**
 - Novartis
- **Provisional patentholder**
 - Immunotherapy targets and biomarkers in cancer.
- ***I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.***

What's been done?

- Transformation of cancer therapy
- Immune checkpoint inhibitors have the highest potential for wide therapeutic adoption
 - mABs targeting PD-1/L1 and CTLA-4 axes
- Healthcare costs, widely variable response rates, and unpredictable toxicities hinder usage



Mellman et al Nature 2011

Expansion of indications for PD-1/L1 targeted ICI therapy

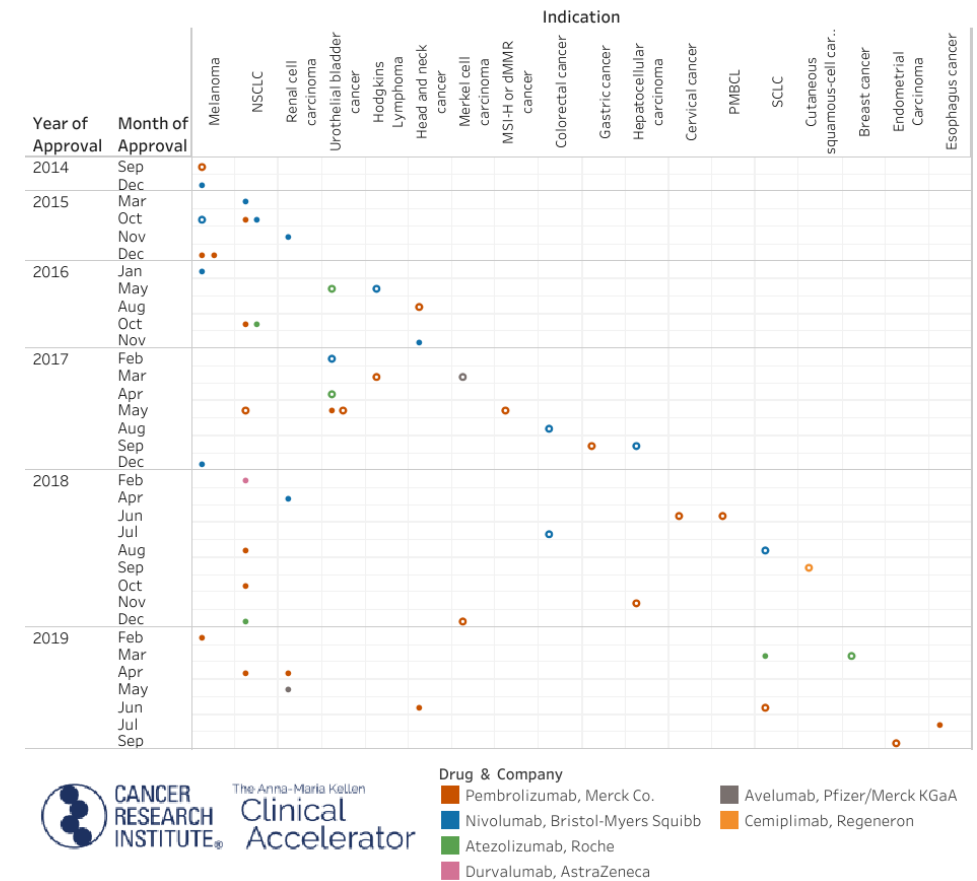
- Indications are rapidly expanding – nearly monthly
- A wide variety of solid and hematologic malignancies
- Estimations are nearly \$1M per patient treated (all healthcare, combination immunotherapy)
 - \$150-300K/QALY quality-adjusted life-years¹
- Non-complex biomarkers that maximize benefiting patients can improve cost-effectiveness

¹Verma et al, JITC. 2018

Timeline of Anti-PD-1/L1 Antibody Approvals by the FDA

Updated on September 23, 2019, by Jun Tang/Annie Yu

Sources: CRI, CRI Analytics, and FDA



CANCER
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

The Anna-Maria Kellen
Clinical
Accelerator

Drug & Company

Pembrolizumab, Merck Co.

Nivolumab, Bristol-Myers Squibb

Atezolizumab, Roche

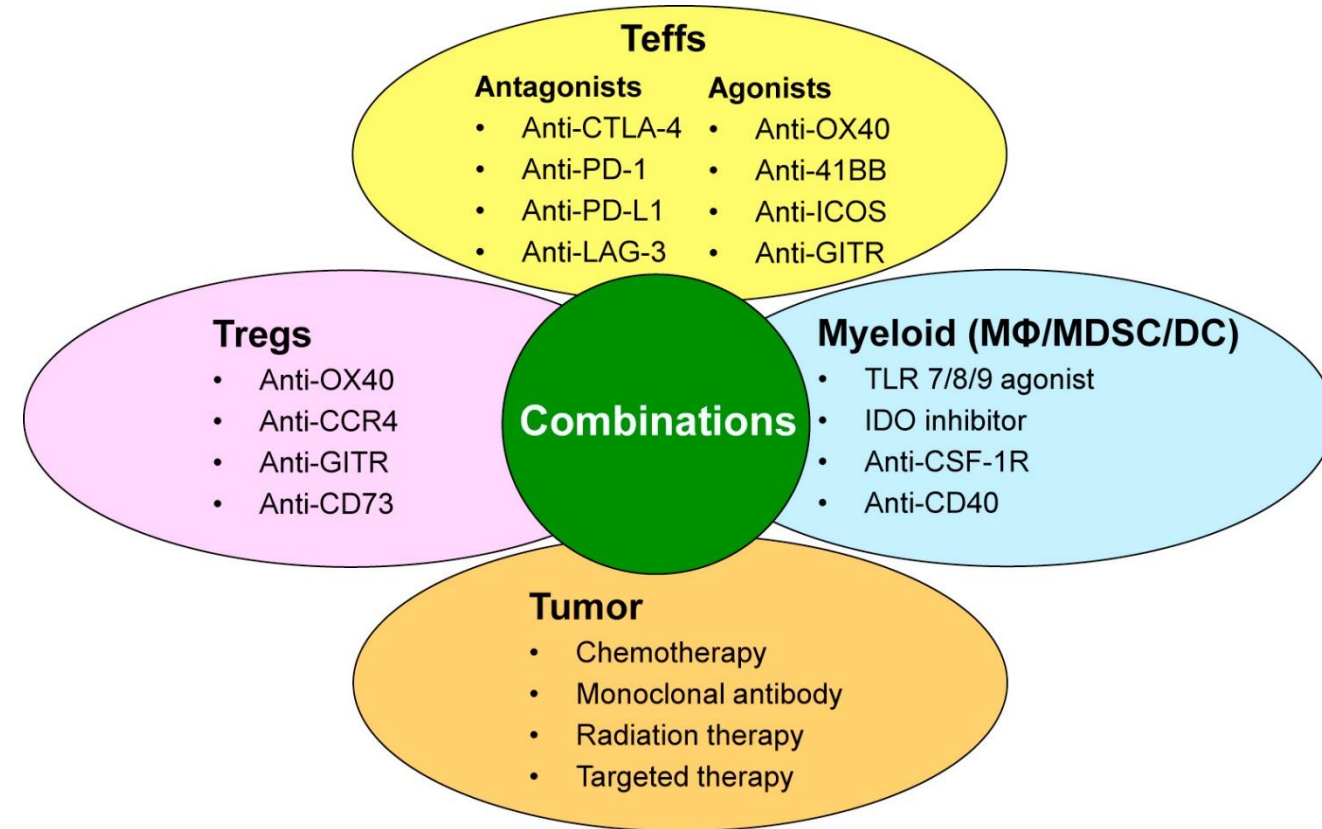
Durvalumab, AstraZeneca

Avelumab, Pfizer/Merck KGaA

Cemiplimab, Regeneron

What are the next steps?

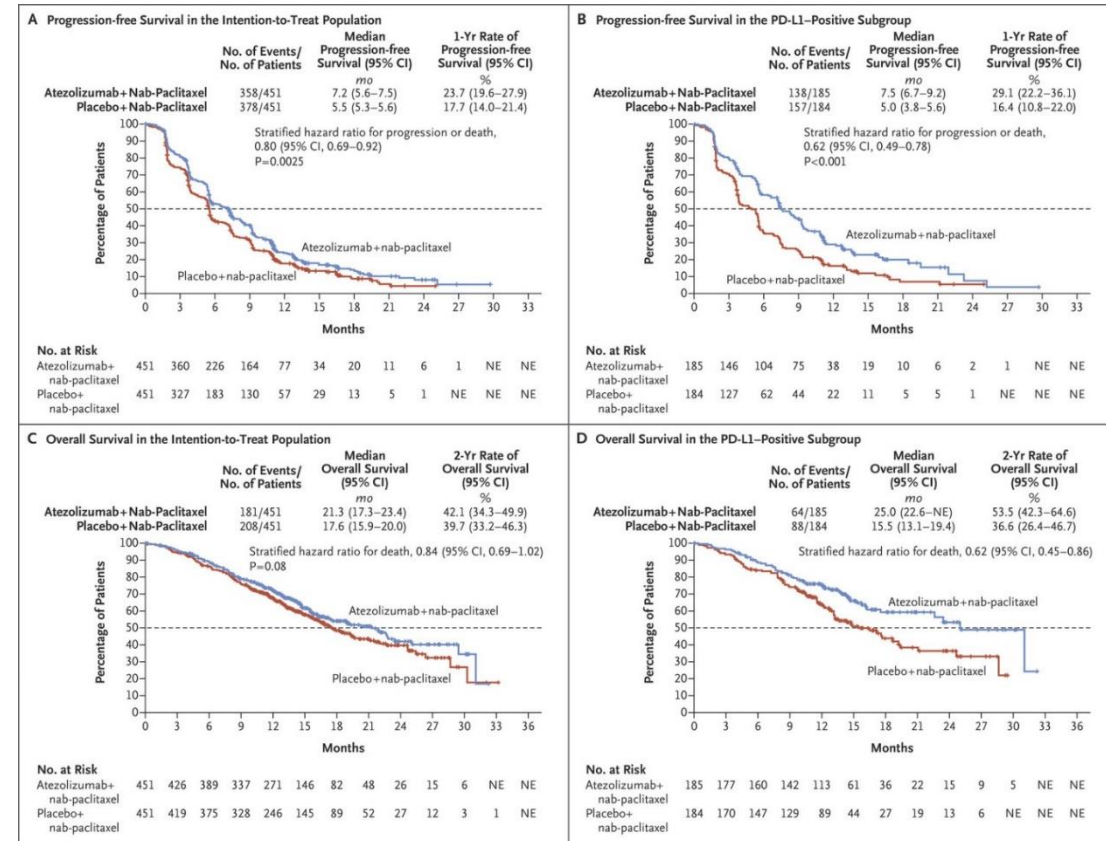
- Novel immunotherapies and combinations
 - 100s of active clinical trials in this area
- Goals are to identify therapeutic strategies that enhance tumor inflammation, driving response to agents like anti-PD-1/L1



Sathyanarayanan et al, Molecular Oncology 2015

IMpassion130 – first approval of immunotherapy combination in TNBC

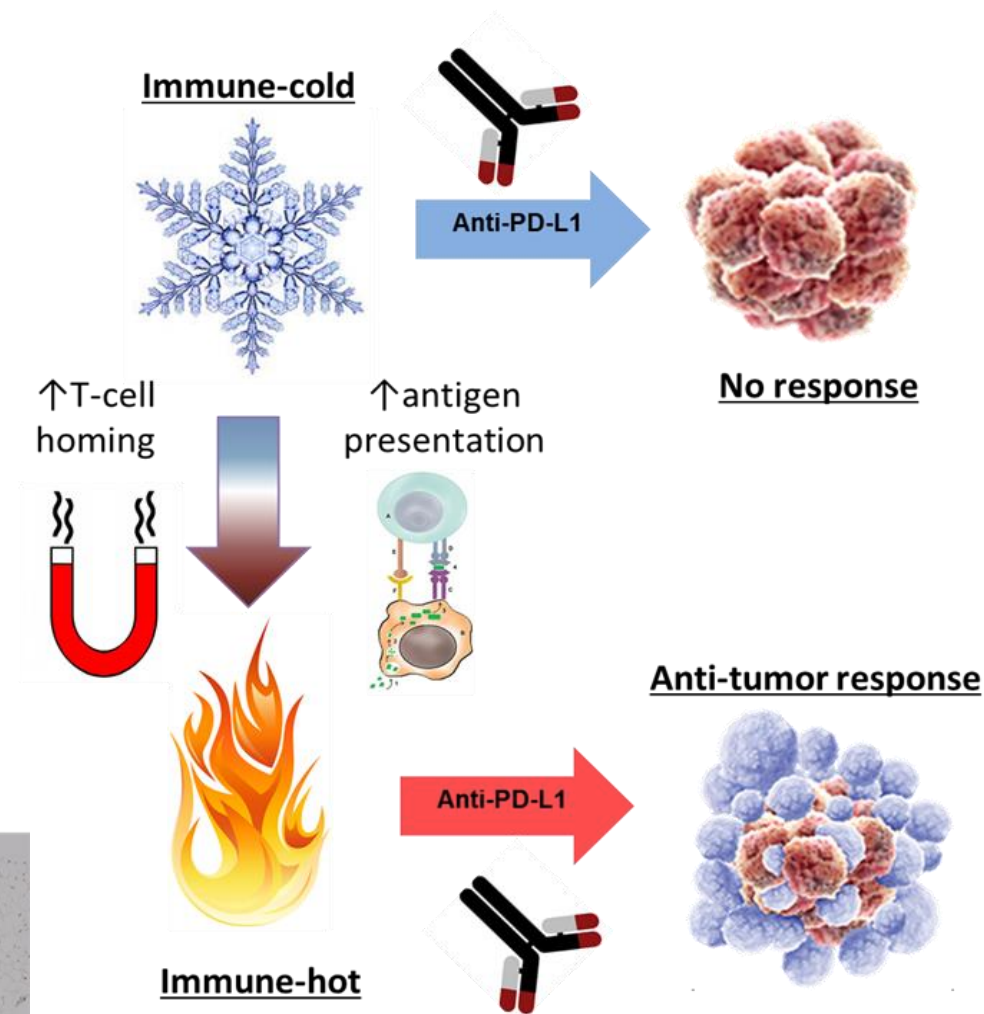
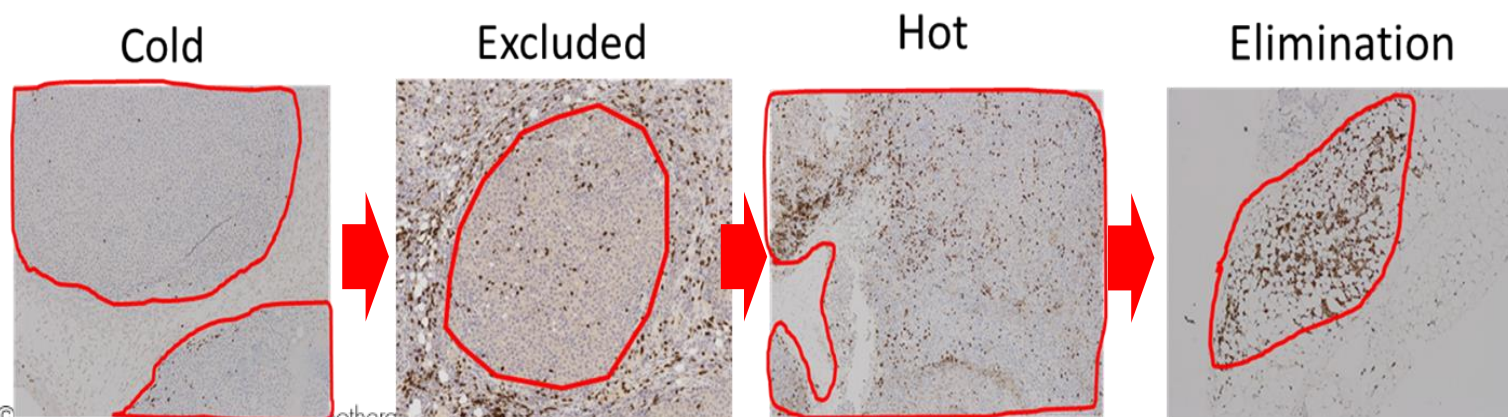
- Recent FDA-approval in PD-L1+ mTNBC in combination with nAb-paclitaxel
- Open question in mTNBC:
 - PD-L1 is a challenging biomarker
 - Tumor vs. stroma
 - Antibody variability
 - How to improve patient selection



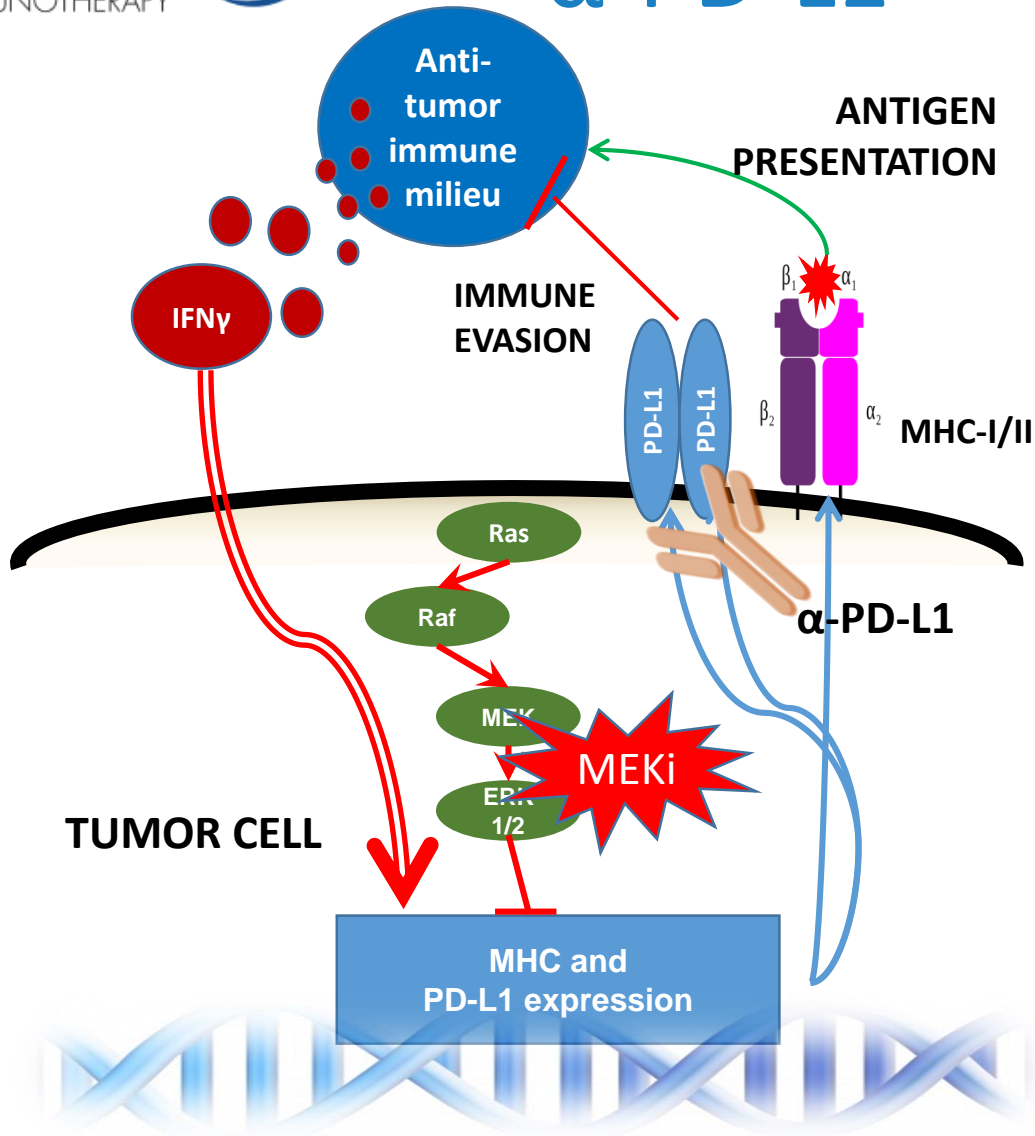
P Schmid et al. N Engl J Med 2018.

Strategies for enhancing anti-PD-1/L1 response

- Immune-hot or excluded
 - Deepen response/enhance rates
 - Agonize T cells
 - Enhance antigen presentation
 - Inhibit additional/alternative checkpoints
 - Target regulatory phenotypes (e.g. Treg/MDSCs)
- Immune cold/desert
 - Enhance response rates
 - Prime T cells
 - Recruit T cells
 - Enhance antigen presentation

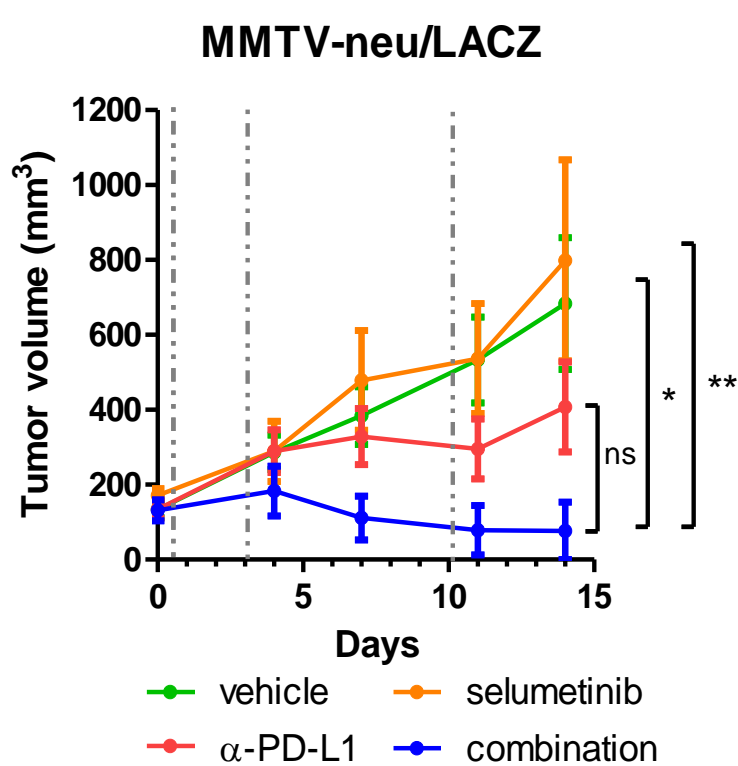


Potential for synergistic activity of MEKi + α -PD-L1

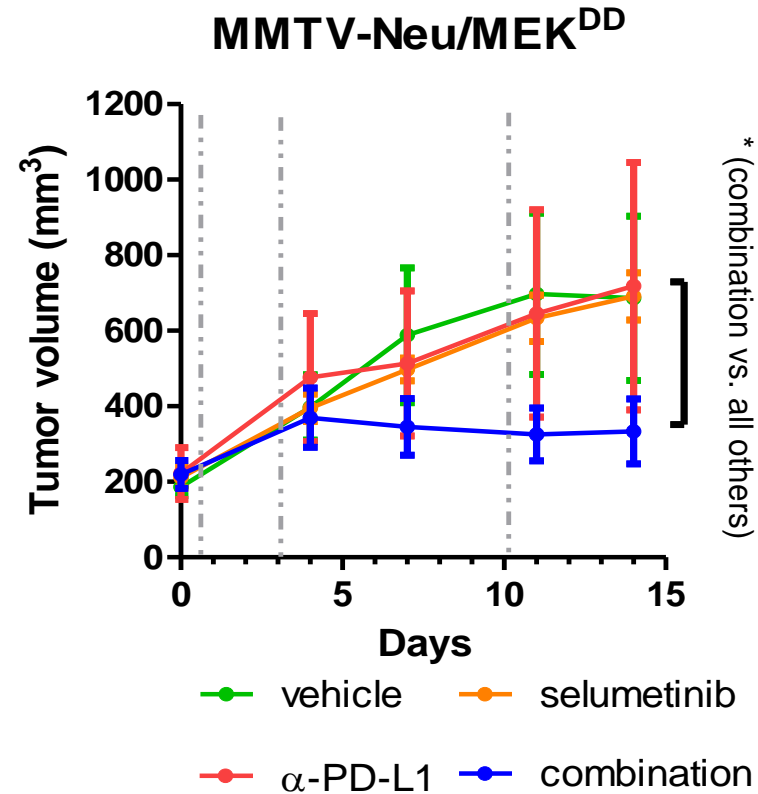


- Interferon upregulates MHC and PD-L1, which is decreased by MEK activation.
- PD-L1 reduces the immune response while MHC expression increases it
- Co-treatment with MEK inhibitors and PD-L1 mABs may synergize

MEKi + anti-PD-L1 potentiates CD8 T cell mediated tumor elimination

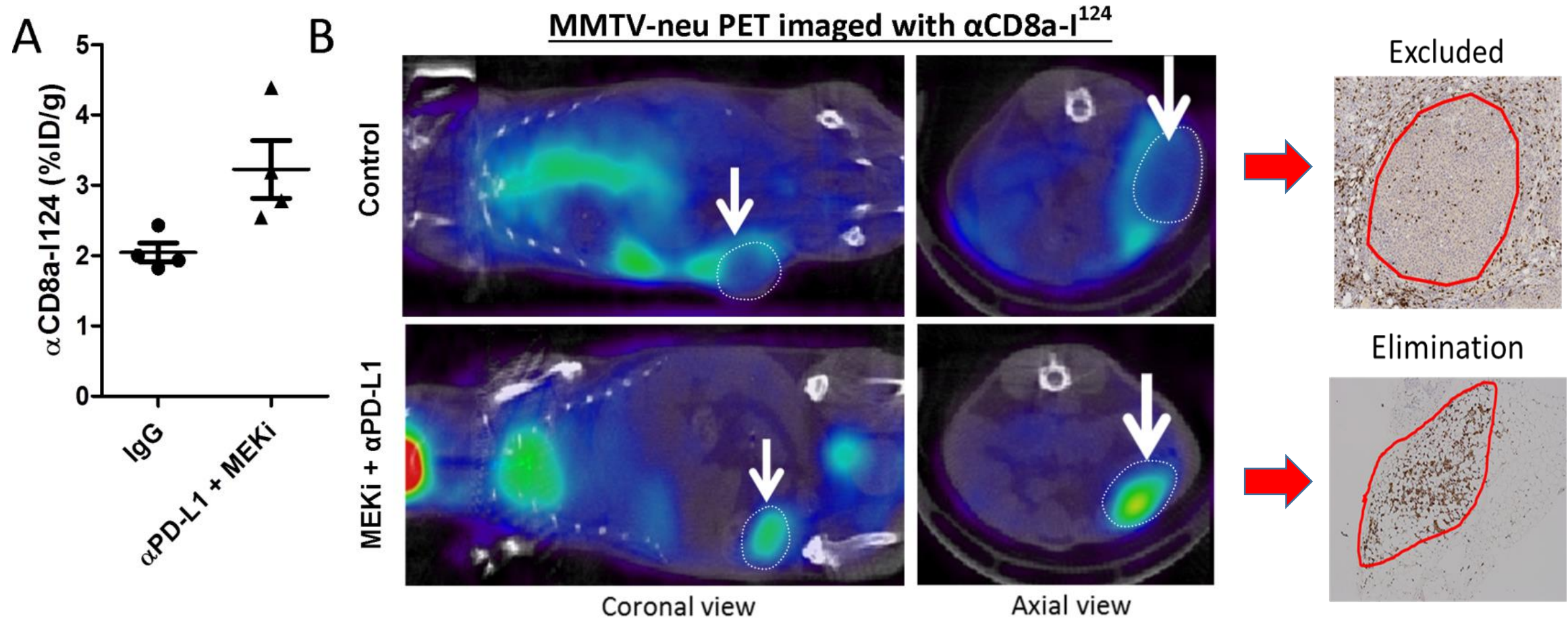


Without MEK activation

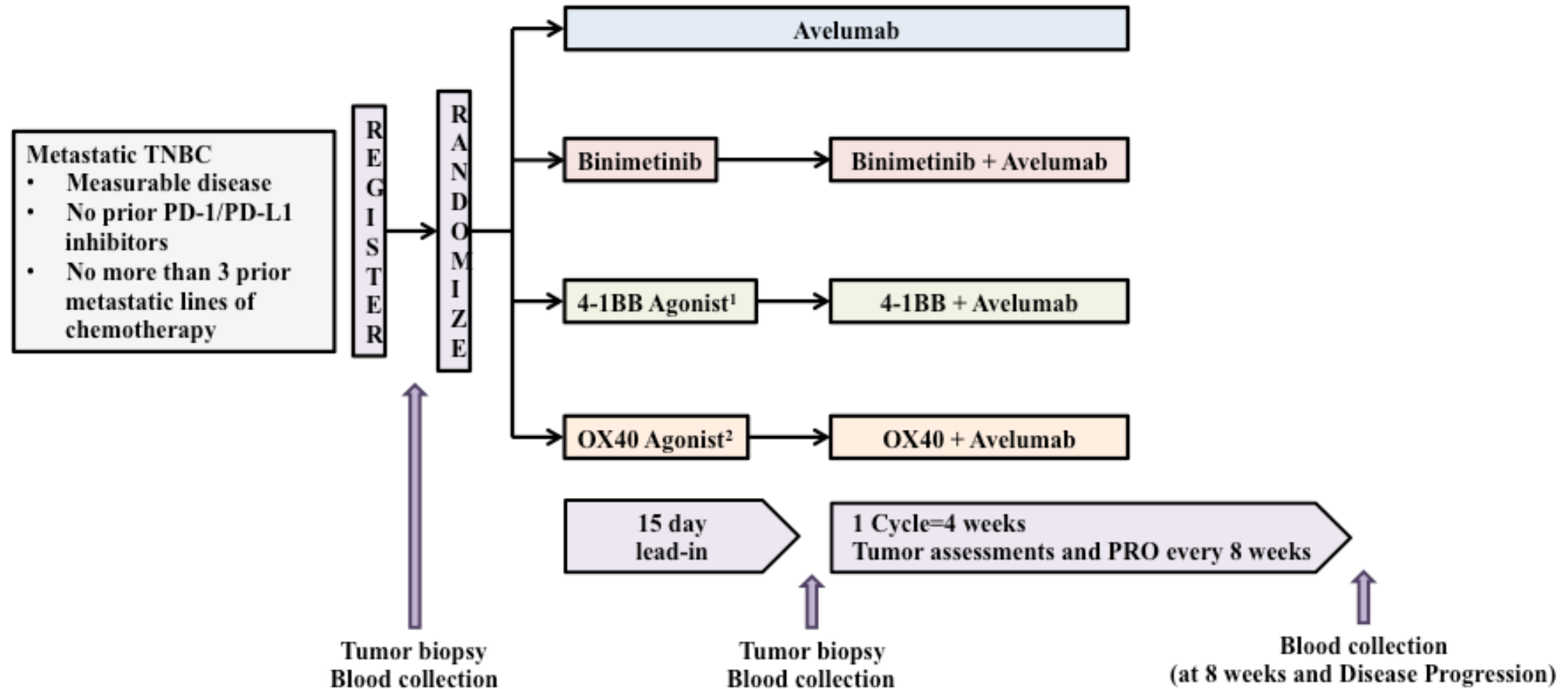


With MEK activation

MEKi + anti-PD-L1 potentiates CD8 T cell mediated tumor elimination



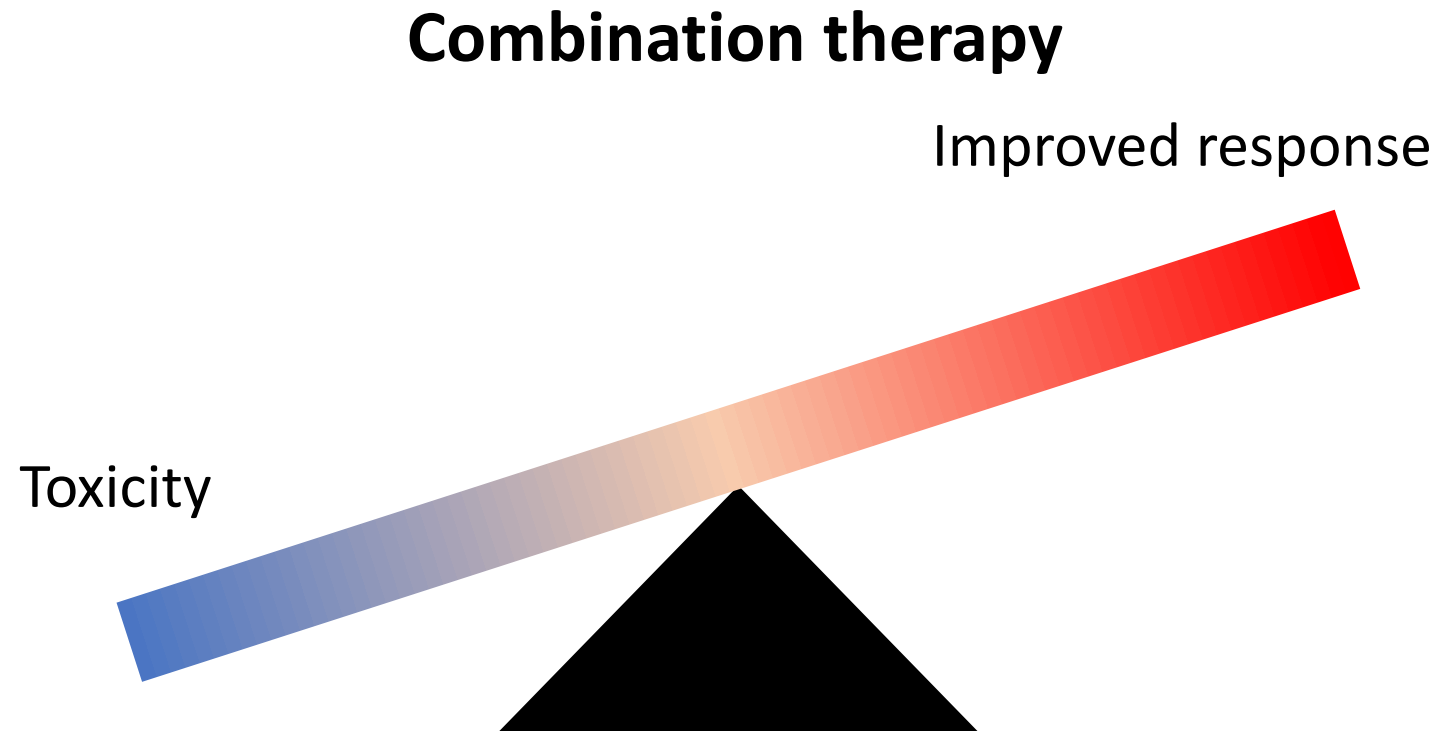
InCI_Te: Innovative Combination Immunotherapy for mTNBC



Goga, Liu, Rugo, Perou, Balko, Mayer et al

What are the next steps?

- Managing risk/benefit
 - Predictive markers of toxicity
 - Prioritizing patients for optimal benefit
 - Precision medicine approach



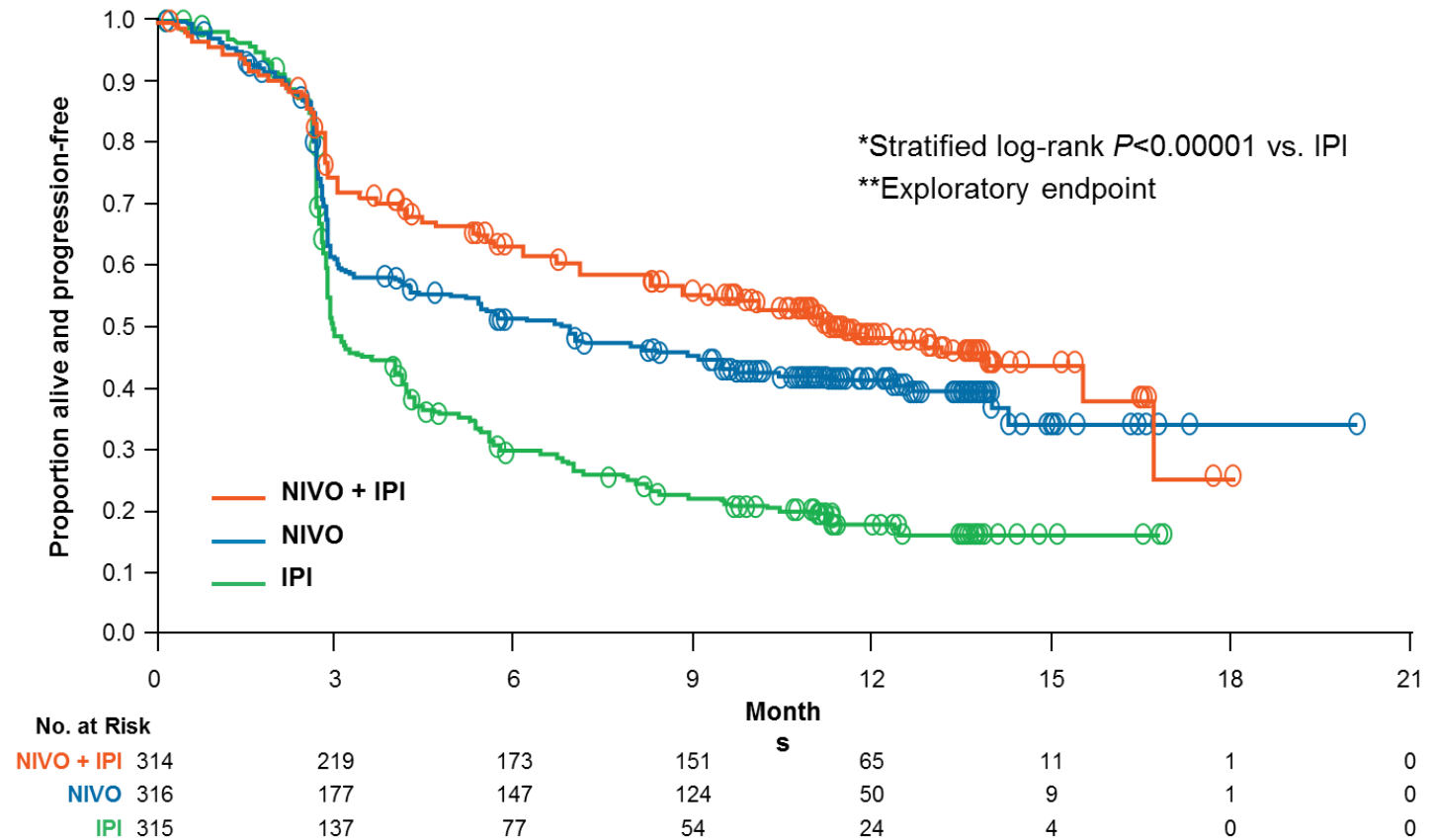
Personalized ICI therapy in melanoma

• Goals:

- Predict responders
- Prioritize therapy
- Prioritize combinations
- Predict and mitigate toxicities

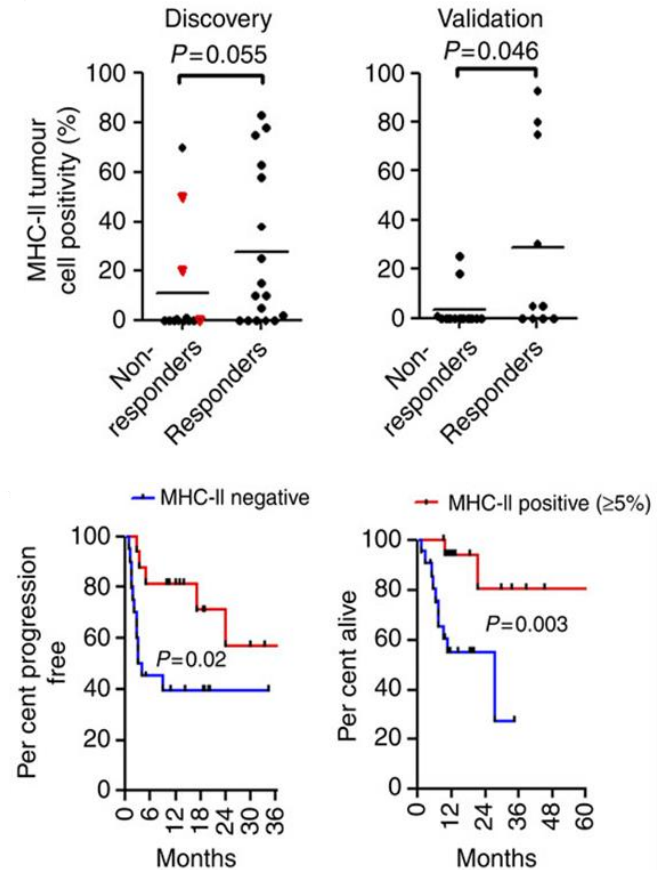
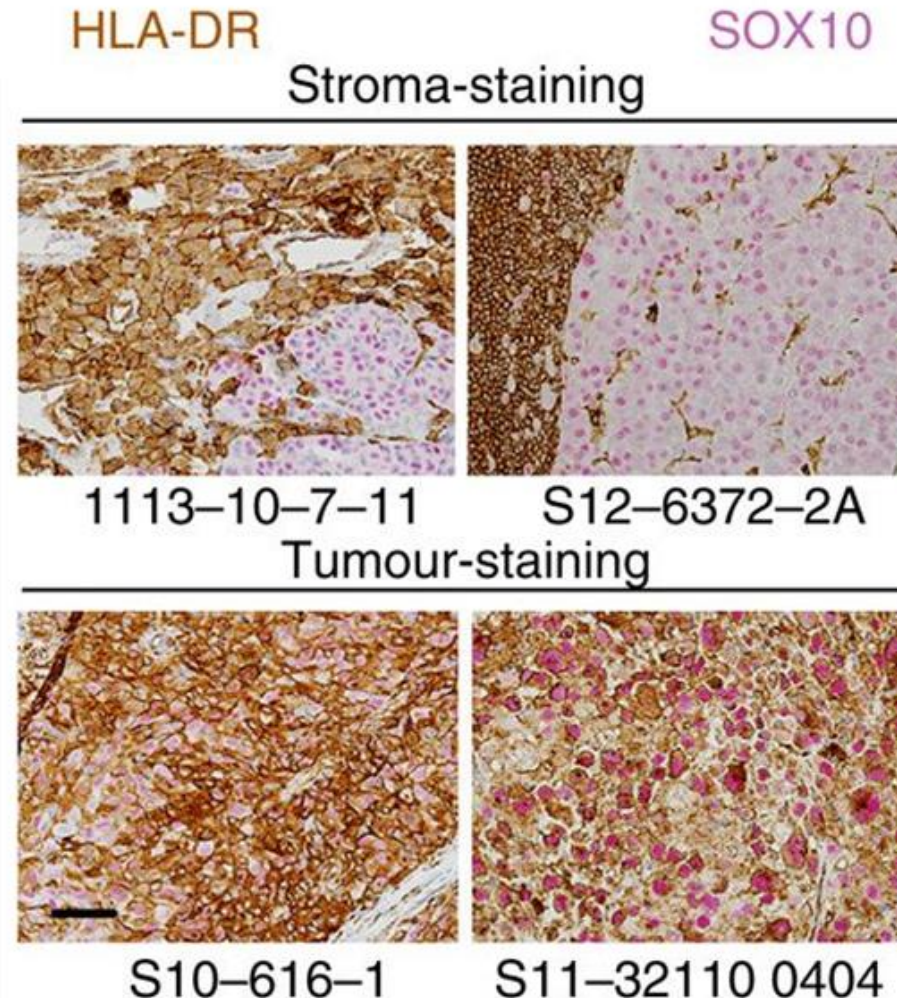
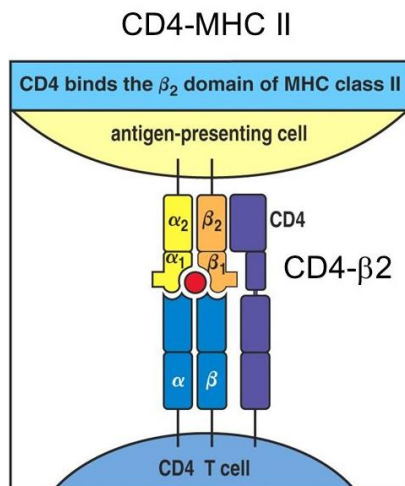
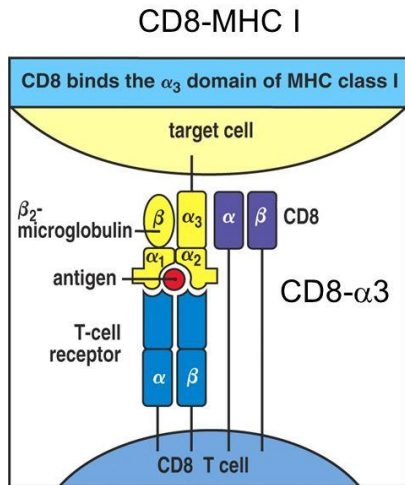
• Current biomarkers:

- Mutation load (NGS)
- Inflammation gene signatures (RNAseq/gene panel)
- PD-L1 (IHC, mixed efficacy)



Adapted from Wolchok J, ASCO 2015

Tumor specific MHC-II as a predictor of anti-PD-1 outcomes

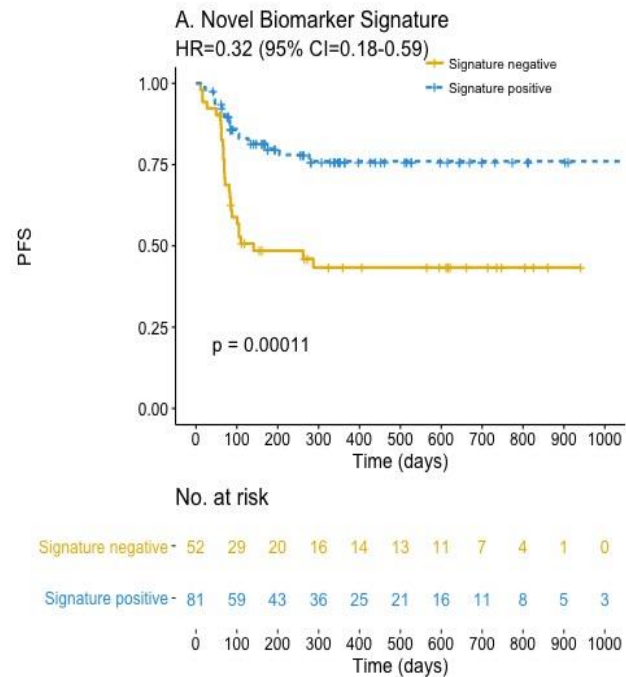
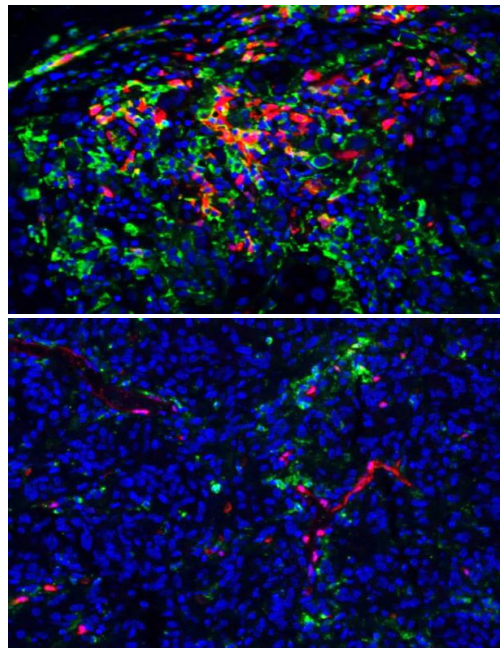


Johnson and Balko, Nature Comm 2016

Tumor specific MHC-II as a predictor of anti-PD-1 outcomes

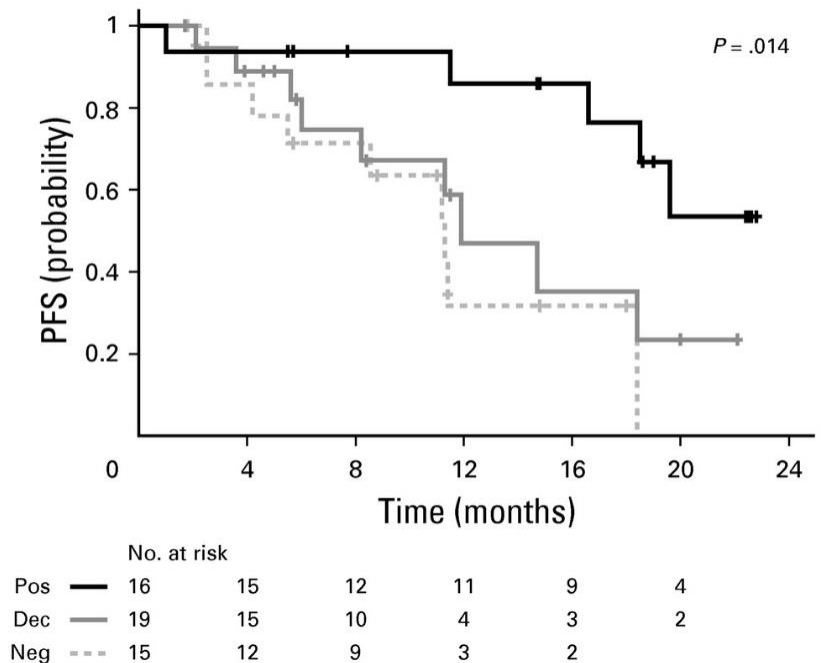
- MHC-II + PD-1/L1 interaction signature in a series of melanoma patients (n=141)

PD-1 PD-L1 DAPI



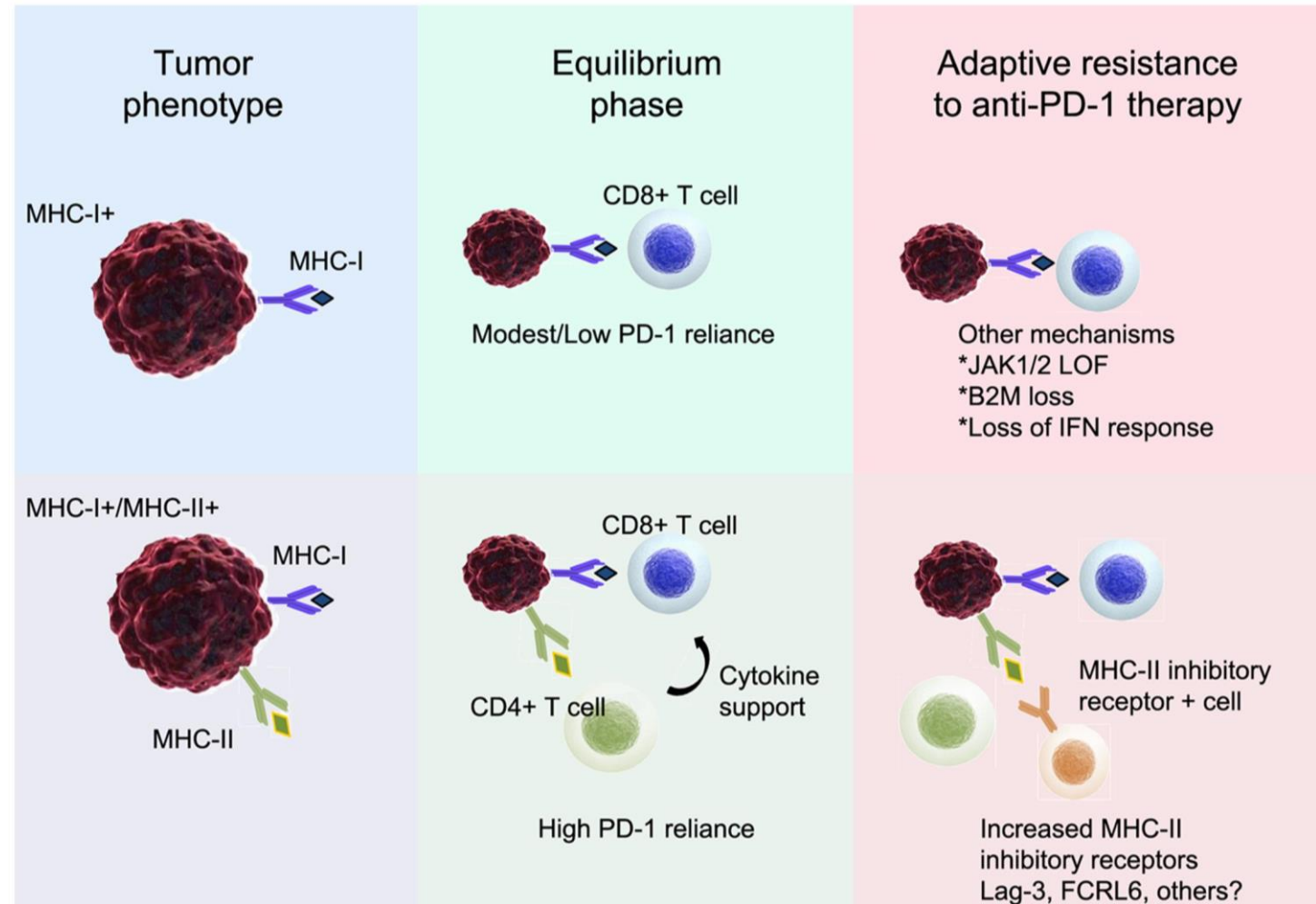
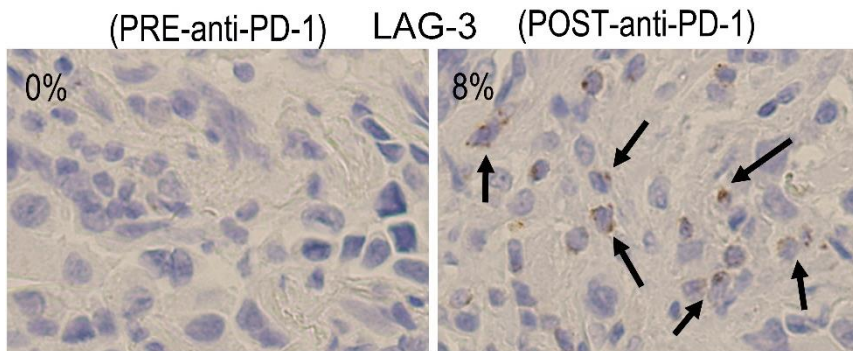
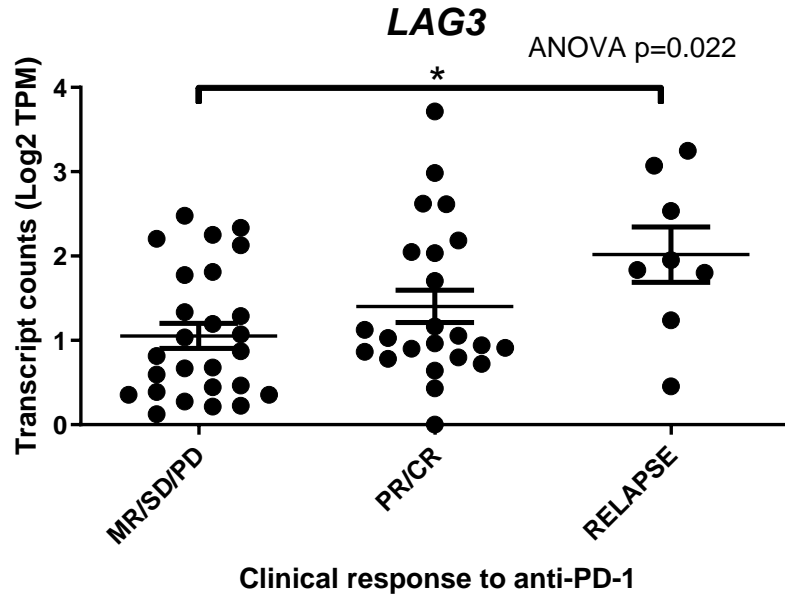
Johnson and Balko et al, CCR, 2018

- MHC-II in RS cells of Hodgkin's Lymphoma predicts anti-PD-1 benefit

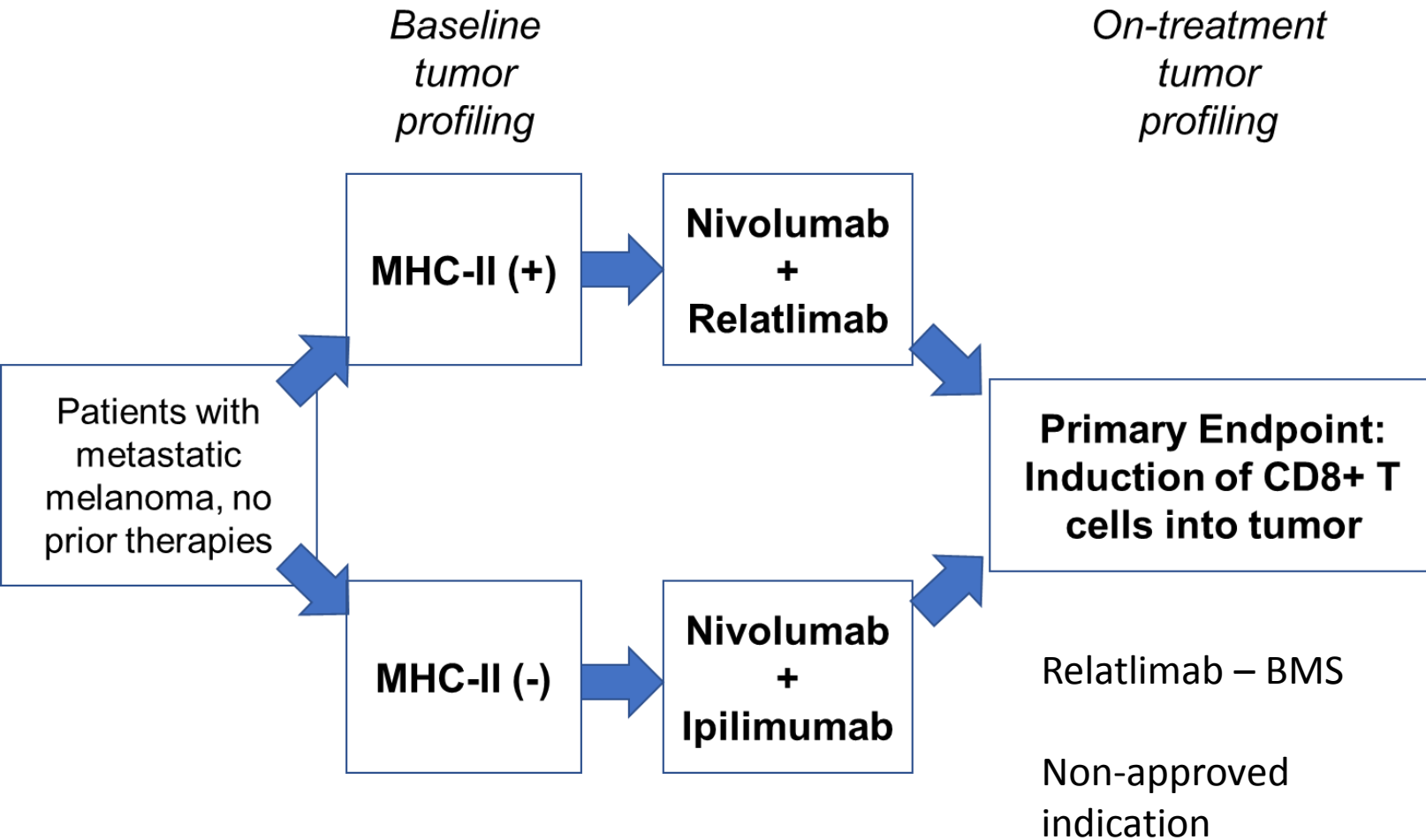


Roemer et al, JCO, 2018

LAG-3: an alternative checkpoint with specificity for MHC-II



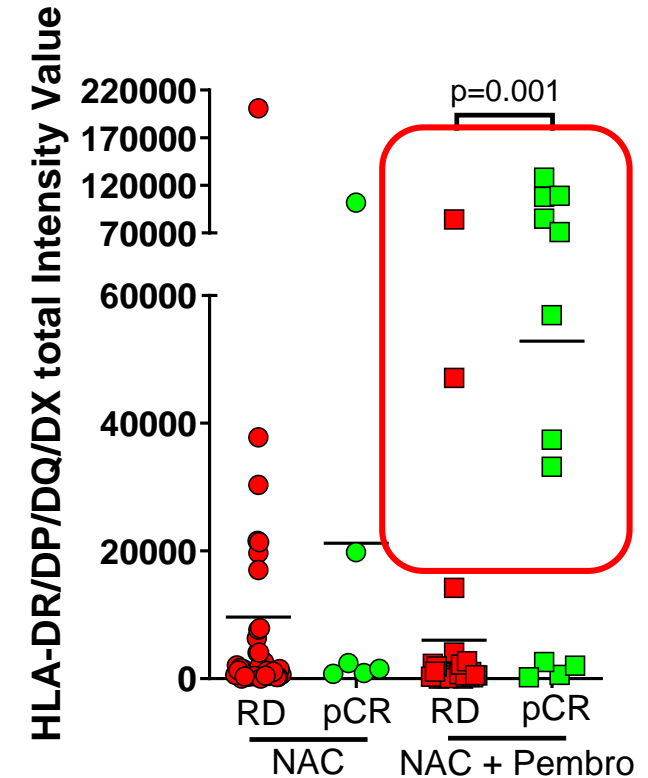
A personalized medicine approach for immunotherapy



- Allocate MHC-II+ patients to anti-PD-1+ anti-LAG3
 - High response rate to PD-1
 - Address resistance up front
- Allocate MHC-II- patients to anti-PD-1+ anti-CTLA-4
 - Low response rate to single-agent PD-1
 - Low CD4+ T cells

Tumor-specific MHC-II predicts benefit to anti-PD-1 + NAC in HER2- breast cancer

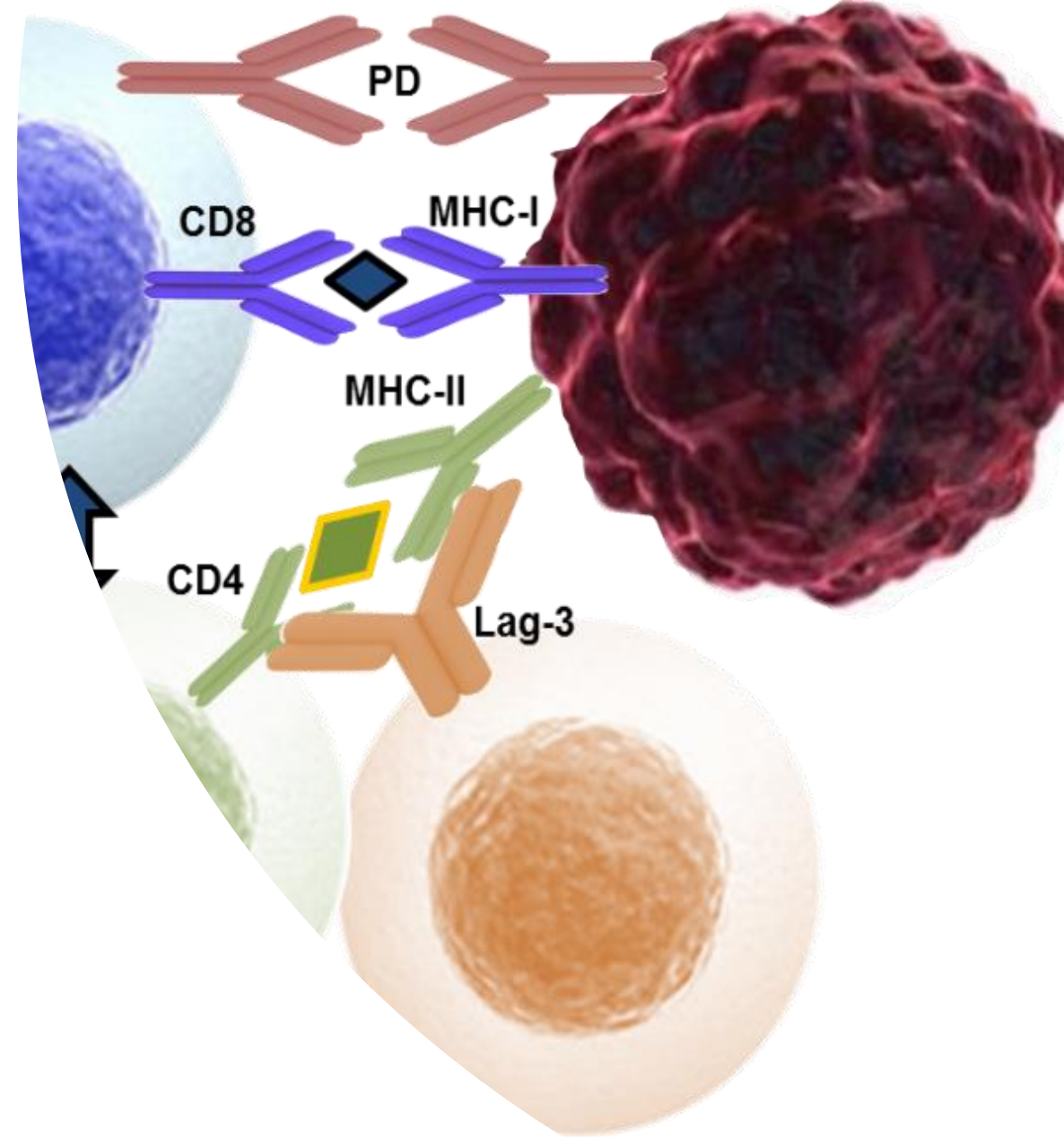
- KEYNOTE-522
 - Anti-PD-1 + NAC will likely be approved in primary TNBC
- I-SPY2 trial arm
 - Investigators identified MHC-II on tumor cells (RPPA) as a powerful biomarker of outcome
 - 8/12 (66%) pCRs had high tsMHC-II
 - 8/10 (80%) high tsMHC-II had pCR
- Can tsMHC-II be a pan-cancer biomarker of anti-PD-1 benefit?



Data courtesy of Emmanuel Petricoin and I-SPY2 team

Conclusions

- The current cost-effectiveness of immunotherapy *hinges* on patient selection
- MHC-II- tumors
 - $\uparrow \sim \downarrow$ CD8+ T cells; \downarrow CD4+ T cells
 - Better response to anti-CTLA-4 (expansion of tumor reactive CD4 helper cells) with anti-PD-1
- MHC-II+ tumors
 - \uparrow CD8+ and \uparrow CD4+ T cells
 - Exceptional response rates to anti-PD-1 alone
 - Lag-3 is a possible mechanism of adaptive resistance
- MHC-II may be a pan-cancer biomarker to help precision oncology with immunotherapy
- Efforts to identify risk factors for toxicity (severe irAEs) are underway
 - Managing risk/benefit



Acknowledgements

Funding



VICC Ambassadors



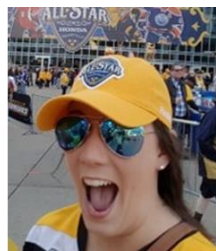
The Balko Lab



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