

# AME-133: A Next-Generation Anti-CD20 Engineered for Enhanced Killer Function

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# **Antibody Therapy of Lymphoma**

- Rituximab as first-generation biotherapeutic
  - Efficacious in chemoresistant NHL
  - Less toxic than most chemotherapies
  - Multiple potential antitumor activities
    - CDC- Complement dependent cytotoxicity
    - ADCC- Antibody dependent cytotoxicity
    - Direct apoptotic effect (with cross linking)
- Opportunities for improvement
  - Chimeric mouse/human structure
  - Modest affinity for CD20
  - Role of host immune system in efficacy
    - FcR influences response





# Influence of FCγRIIIa Polymorphism on Rituximab Efficacy

- Clinical and molecular response to rituximab in chemo-naive follicular NHL
  - Cartron, Blood. 2002; 99:754-758
- Clinical response to rituximab in relapsed follicular NHL
  - Weng, JCO 2003; 21:3940-47
- Clinical response to rituximab in Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia
  - Treon, ASH 2002, Poster #2002
- B cell depletion in SLE
  - Anolik, Arth Rheum. 2003; 48:455-459





#### Effect of FCγRIIIa (CD16) Genotype on Rituximab Therapy of NHL

	FCγRIIIa 1	58 Genotype
	<u>VV</u>	<u>VF or FF</u>
Prevalence n (%)	13(15)	74(85)
PR+CR M1-3 %	<b>92</b> *	59
PR+CR M6 %	85*	45
PR+CR M9 %	75*	36
PR+CR M12 %	75*	26
*p < 0.05 VV vs. VF+FF		

Weng & Levy, J Clin Onc 21:3940-47, 2003





### Progression Free Survival After Rituximab Correlates with FcγRIIIa Genotype





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# **AME & Antibody Engineering Opportunities**



#### Addressed in anti-CD20 engineering

•Potency Association rate Dissociation rate Complement dependent cytotoxicity •Cell mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC) •Half-life Immunogenicity Framework chimeric residues Somatic mutations (framework, V/C) •Specificity (epitope, cross-reactions) Pharmaceutical properties Oxidation sites Deamidation sites •Glycosylation sites Protease sites •Solubility Production Cost of facilities and goods





# **AME Antibody Optimization Technology**

- Generate DNA library with directed variability
- Express protein library
- Screen for desired activity
- Iterative cycles to optimize



## Anti-CD20 Antibodies with Fully Human Frameworks and Increased Affinity

- Multiple high affinity variants identified
  - Variants provide tool for characterizing impact of affinity on ADCC, CDC, and apoptosis
- Fully human, common germline frameworks





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### Fc Optimization - Cell Based Primary Screening with Human PBMC

- >2,400 variants screened
- Multiple novel variants identified

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Α			38.62	109.25	19.00	38.62	71.63	7.10	7.54	93.83	100.18		
В			-2.51	0.68	38.19	3.19	-6.19	50.48	102.02	99.37	72.03		
С			87.92	64.14	-4.60	73.30	77.68	77.89	70.41	93.29	93.95	93.76	1x wt
D			62.60	101.20	98.51	98.33	-9.62	91.19	114.40	83.05	101.06	97.76	1x wt
E			-0.48	-1.16	-4.58	-3.91	88.42	100.77	99.43	-3.91	-4.82	102.24	1x wt
F			-27.15	106.57	-0.27	113.76	-1.67	2.70	114.73	-4.14	107.90	155.00	2x wt
G			28.79	117.16	117.76	115.95	47.76	93.50	137.20	108.87	102.25	177.36	4x wt
Н			118.66	112.14	118.67	122.80	113.87	108.37	49.71	70.45	114.88		

#### % of Wild Type (Average)





# AME-133 is More Potent than Rituxan in ex vivo ADCC



Human PBMCs and Wil-2S Target cells; mean +/- 1 SD





#### **AME-133 Retains CDC Activity**







### **Apoptosis**

- Rituxan induces apoptosis of Ramos cells (weakly) in the absence of antibody cross-linking
- Induction of apoptosis is enhanced significantly by secondary cross-linking reagents
- AME anti-CD20 variants induce apoptosis in the presence of secondary cross-linking reagents





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# Summary

- Multiple characteristics of proteins can be improved significantly through optimization
  - Improved efficacy, safety, and potency
  - Enhanced convenience
  - Decreased manufacturing costs
  - Broadened intellectual property
  - Increased understanding of biology
- AME-133, an optimized anti-CD20, will be tested for clinical activity in CD20<sup>+</sup> oncology indications







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## **Humanization of Antibodies**

- Reduces immunogenicity associated with murine Igs
  - CDR grafting typically diminishes affinity
  - Structural modeling is used to predict framework residues key for maintaining affinity



# **AME- Applied Molecular Evolution**

- San Diego directed evolution company founded in 1989
  - All classes of protein therapeutics engineered
- Partnerships with MedImmune, Centocor, Eli Lilly, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Chiron, Seattle Genetics, CancerVax, Biosynexus
- Application of the protein engineering to in-house projects
  - A development function was added to go from gene to clinic
  - AME-527 (TNF, inflammation) & AME-133 (CD-20, oncology)
- AME and Eli Lilly and Company performed multiple collaborative projects
  - Successes led to discussion on broadened collaboration
  - AME was acquired by Lilly in 2004



