### The Basic Science Behind the Potent New Immunotherapies

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Nicholas P. Restifo, MD Principal Investigator



### Goal: To develop new immunotherapies for patients with cancer

• Strategy: create new animal models that accurately represent the treatment of humans with established tumors.

• Using an iterative process, continually translate bench research into new clinical trials.



• Model clinically generated hypotheses back into the mouse.

#### A view of translational research

The assumption is that mice and humans are evolutionarily close enough so that findings in one species can be translated into the other.

The challenge is finding realistic mouse models that emulate the human experience.

### The challenge: Treat established, vascularized solid tumors in normal mice





The rules:

Tumor must be unmanipulated -- no artificial insertion of costimulatory molecules, alloantigens or neoantigens [like molecules from humans, chickens, bacteria or viruses].

Treatment schema must be realistic -- must be suitable for metastatic (systemic) disease. Cannot involve the manipulation of the mouse prior to its "presentation" to the mouse clinic with a large tumor.



### Lymphodepletion followed by adoptive cell transfer induces objective responses in half of the patients

13 Patients  $\rightarrow$  6 Objective Responses (45%) Dudley, Rosenberg, Science 2002

35 Patients  $\rightarrow$  **18 Objective Responses (51%)** *Dudley, Rosenberg, JCO 2005* 



Day -25



Day +34







18+ Months

### Modeling the impact of lymphodepletion in the mouse

• It has long been observed that the administration of cyclophosphamide or total body irradiation (TBI) could augment the activities of T cell-based immunotherapies.

• We sought to explore the impact of irradiation and chemotherapy in the induction of a lymphopenic host environment.

• We wanted to understand if these modalities could be used to enhance T cell-based treatment in the pmel-1 model.

#### **Pmel-1 ACT murine melanoma model**



Overwijk et al. J exp med 2003

#### Lymphodepletion enhances the anti-tumor efficacy of adoptively transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells



Gattinoni et al. J exp med, 2005





### Sublethal irradiation acts *via* indirect mechanisms rather than direct tumor killing



### Lymphodepletion by genetic means recapitulates the effect of sublethal irradiation



Antony et al. JI, 2005

#### Lymphodepletion does not result in increased numbers of transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells



Gattinoni et al. J exp med, 2005

#### Lymphodepletion augments the effector functions of transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells



Gattinoni et al. J exp med, 2005

#### Endogenous CD4<sup>+</sup> but not CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells suppress the anti-tumor activity of transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells



Antony et al. Jl, 2005

#### CD4+CD25 + regulatory T cells suppress pmel-1 CD8+T cells *in vitro*



#### CD4+CD25 + regulatory T cells suppress pmel-1 CD8+T cells *in vivo*



Antony et al. JI, 2005

### Sublethal irradiation enhances the anti-tumor efficacy of transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells even in the genetic absence of Tregs



Gattinoni et al. J exp med, 2005

#### Removal of NK cells enhances the anti-tumor efficacy of transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells



# IL-15 levels correlate inversely with NK and activated CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell populations



NK<sup>+</sup> activated CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell number

Gress RE, unpublished data

#### Increased access to endogenous IL-15 and IL-7 into irradiated hosts enhances the anti-tumor efficacy of transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells

a Non-irradiated host Irradiated host ---- WT no treatment 400 400 Tumor area (mm<sup>2</sup>) --- IL15(-/-) no treatment 300 300 ---- IL15/IL7(-/-) no treatment 200 200 - WT + treatment 100 100 - IL15(-/-) + treatment 0 n ▲ IL15/IL7(-/-) + treatment 14 19 24 -1 9 29 19 24 29 Days post treatment

Gattinoni et al. J exp med, 2005

#### Proliferative responses of transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells are impaired in the absence of both IL-7 and IL-15



#### Increased access to endogenous IL-15 and IL-7 enhances the effector functions of transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells



Gattinoni et al. J exp med, 2005



## Damage of the integrity of mucosal barriers by irradiation facilitate translocation of LPS into the blood stream

0 Gy

**5 Gy** 

9 Gy





Paulos et al. MS in preparation

### Block of LPS by *Polymyxin B* partially impairs the effect of sublethal irradiation.



Paulos et al. MS in preparation

#### Exogenous administration of LPS augments the antitumor efficacy of transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells



### LPS induces qualitative rather than quantitative improvement on transferred CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells



An interactive model for the host mechanisms underlying the impact of lymphodepletion on adoptively-transferred-T cells





Wrzesinski, Current Opinion In Immunology, 2005 Klebanoff, Trends in Immunology, 2005 Antony, J Immunol, 2005 Paulos, MS in Preparation



### *In vitro* generation of pmel-1 CD8+ T cells at different stages of differentiation



### T cells differentiation stage was validated by FACS.....



#### ..... and functional analyses



### Acquisition of terminal effector function *in vitro* impairs *in vivo* anti-tumor efficacy



#### Further characterization of effective and impaired T cells



Genes highly expressed in effective cells

Genes highly expressed in impaired cells

Lymphoid-homing	E:I fold changes	Effector functions	I:E fold changes
CD62L	5.6	Granzyme A	5.1
CCR7	3.7	Granzyme B	6.0
Integrin $\alpha E$	3.1	Granzyme C	6.0
		Granzyme D	3.5
Co-stimulatory molecules		Granzyme E	2.9
CD27	2.9	Granzyme F	3.9
		Granzyme G	3.1
		Granzyme K	5.0
I cell survival / memory		Perforin	2.4
generation		FASL	2.4
IL-7R- $\alpha$	7.4	IFN-γ	3.4
CD27	2.9	Eomesodermin	4.5
		Apoptosis	
		BID	10.7
		BAD	4.4
		FASL	2.4
		Replicative senescence	
		KLRG-1	2.5
		MRGX	2.3

E, effective cells (early effector)I, impaired cells (intermediate effector)

### The differentiation state of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells is inversely related to their proliferative capacity



Gattinoni et al. JCI, 2005

### The differentiation state of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells is inversely related to their proliferative capacity





#### Can we generate and select more effective CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells?



Gattinoni et al. JCI, 2005



Klebanoff, et al, PNAS, 2005

#### Explosive growth of central memory tumor-specific T cells



Klebanoff, et al, PNAS, 2005

#### Programming T cells with IL-15 improves their efficacy in adoptive Immunotherapy



Klebanoff, et al, PNAS, 2005

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