

Exploiting the mutanome for cancer immunotherapy

Ugur Sahin

SITC Washington 5th November 2015

Disclosure Information SITC Washington

Ugur Sahin, M.D.

I have the following financial relationships to disclose:

I am

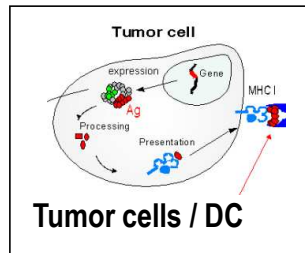
- Co-founder and CEO BioNTech AG, Mainz
- Inventor of Licensed Patents related to Cancer Immunotherapy
- Head of the Scientific Advisory Board of Ganymed Pharmaceuticals

- and -

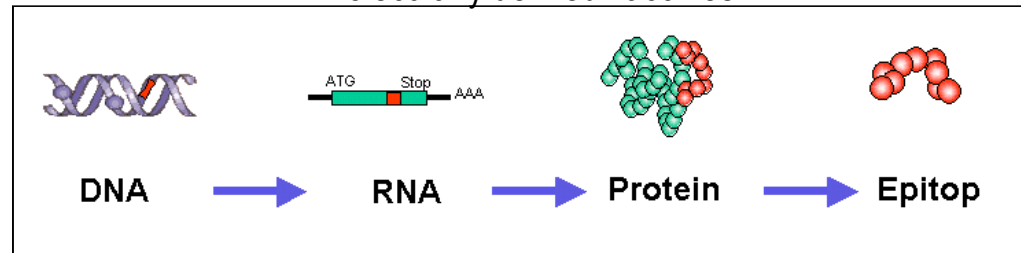
I will not discuss off label use and/or investigational use in my presentation.

Vaccine Approaches

Cellular Vaccines



Molecularly defined vaccines



Autologous
Allogeneous
Transduced

Tumor components
• Extracted Lysates
• Extracted mRNA
• Extracted HSPs
• Exosomes & Others

Plasmids
Rec. Viruses

- Adeno / Poxviruses
- Vaccinia (MVA)
- Canary (ALVAC)
- Fowlpox (TROVAC)
- Retrovirus

Bacteria

- Engineered Salmonella
- Engineered Listeria

Clonal RNA
Rec. Viruses

- Influenza
- Alpha
- Sindbis
- Semliki Forest

Recombinant proteins

Virus Like Particles
- HBV
- HPV

Synthetic Peptides

- CD8-Epitopes
- CD4-Epitopes
- Mixes

> 25 antigens tested as targets (out of >> 100 candidate targets)

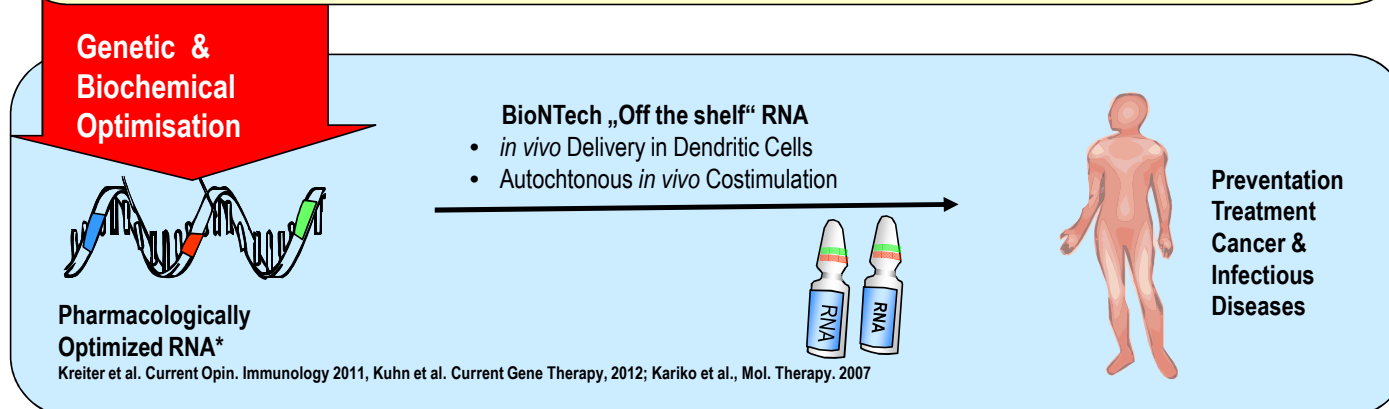
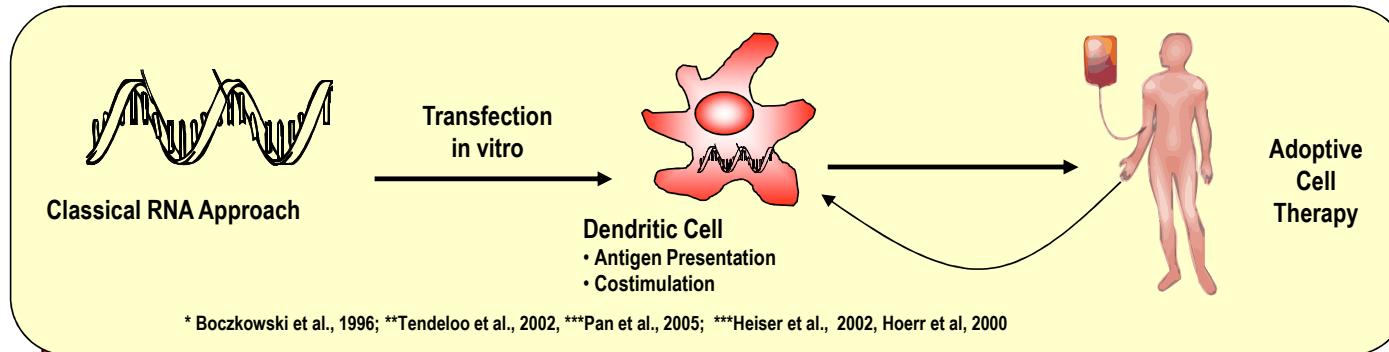
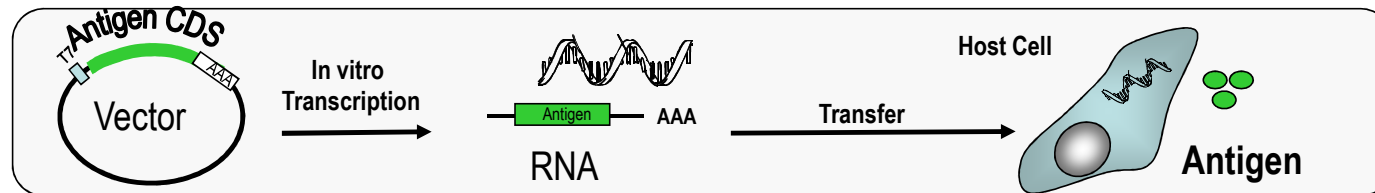
> 50 vaccine approaches under development

+ increasing number of adjuvants, various protocols

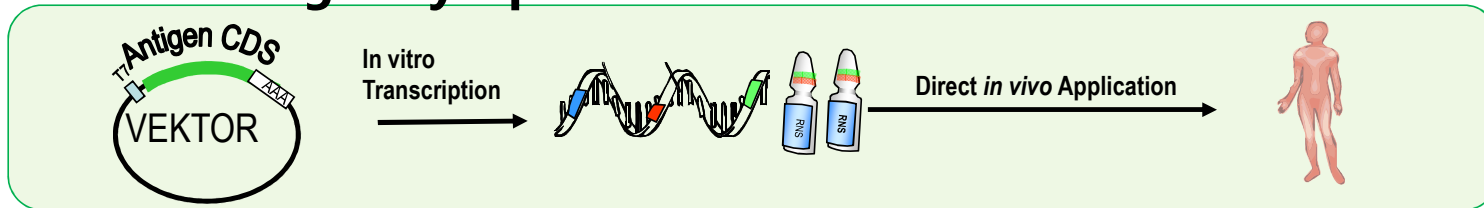
Provenge® Sipuleucel T approved

Some Phase III studies failed, several phase III studies ongoing

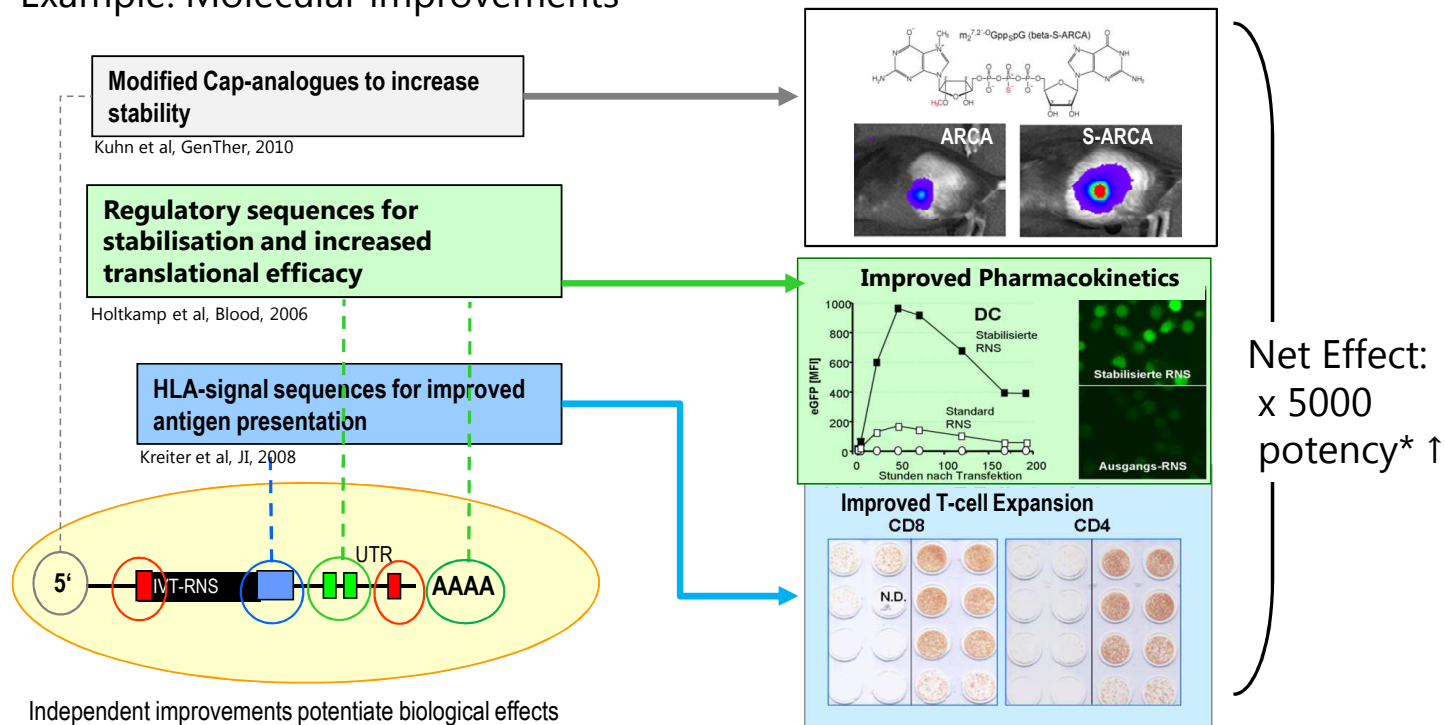
mRNA Immunotherapies



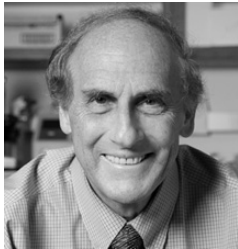
Potency matters – Pharmacologically Optimized RNA



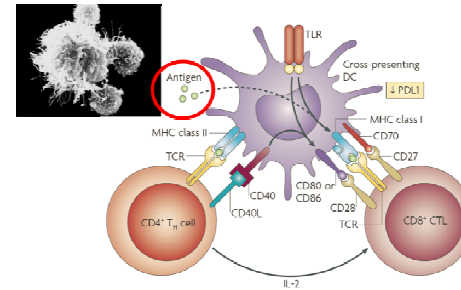
Example: Molecular improvements



Scientific Foundation for Vaccine Development



Dendritic Cells specialized and regulable antigen presentation machines
I Mellman, RM Steinman - Cell, 2001



The immune system evolved to discriminate infectious nonself from noninfectious self

Charles A. Janeway, Jr

Self/Non-self	Characterization of the entity			Theories		
	Danger	Pathogen associated molecular patterns (PAMPs)		Self-non-self theory	Infectious non-self theory	Danger theory
Self	Not dangerous			No response	No response	No response
Non-self	Dangerous			No response	No response	Response
	Not dangerous	No PAMPs		Response	No response	No response
		With PAMPs		Response	Response	No response
	Dangerous	No PAMPs		Response	No response	Response
		With PAMPs		Response	Response	Response

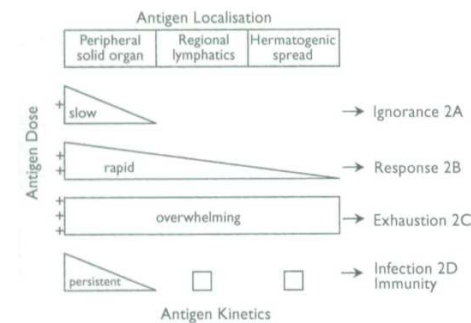
According to the classic self-non-self theory is *g.* Burnet, 1960, only non-self entities trigger an immune response. The infectious non-self theory *Linnaeus*, 1969 states that only infectious non-self, i.e., entities that express pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) trigger an immune response, through the activation of antigen-presenting cells (APCs). The danger theory offers different predictions by saying that what triggers an immune response is not "foreignness," but the release of "alarm signals" by damaged tissues (Matsinger, 2002).



Rolf M. Zinkernagel
 Stephan Ehl
 Peter Aichele
 Stephan Oehen
 Thomas Kündig
 Hans Hengartner

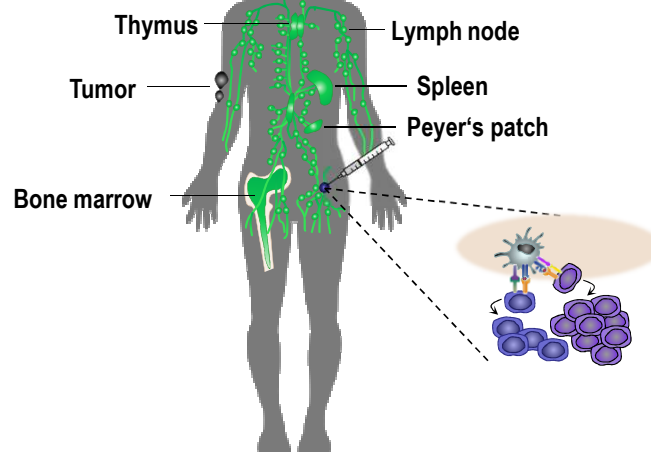
Immunological Reviews 1997
 Vol. 156: 199–209

Antigen localisation regulates immune responses in a dose- and time-dependent fashion: a geographical view of immune reactivity



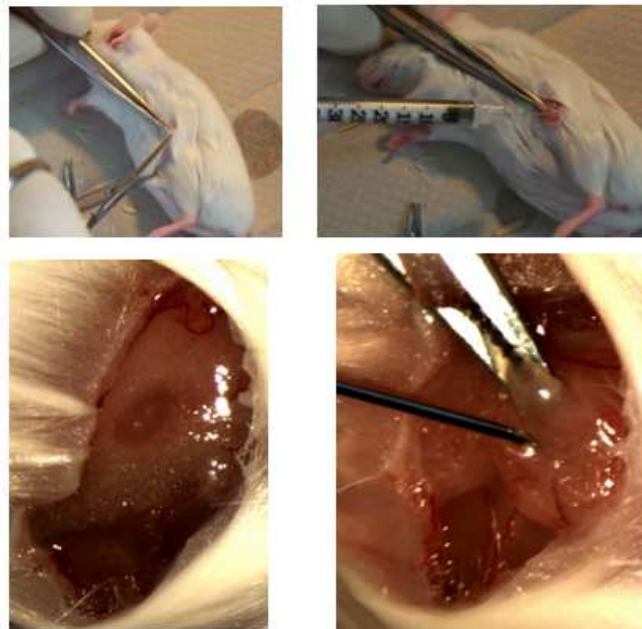
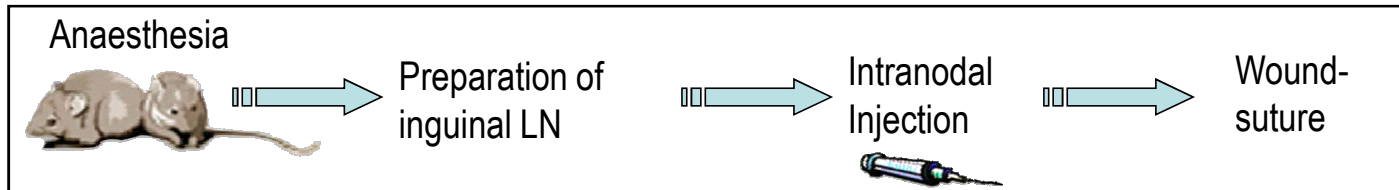
Local DC targeting

Ultrasound-guided
intranodal injection



mRNA and DCs meet directly at injection site

Intranodal Immunisation

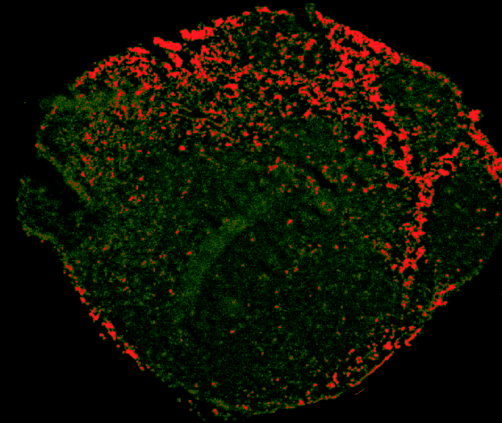
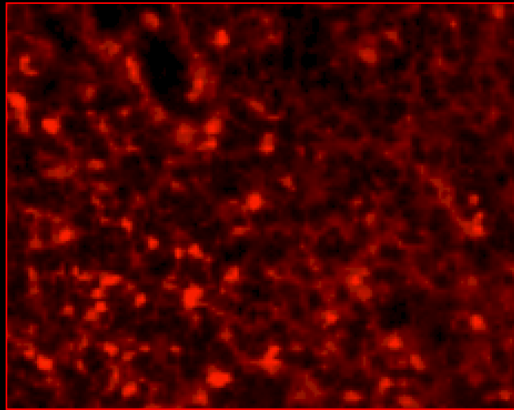


Intralymphatic immunization enhances DNA vaccination. [Kevin J. Maloy*](#), [Iris Erdmann*](#), [Veronique Basch*](#), [Sophie Sierrot](#), [Thomas A. Krampst](#), [Rolf M. Zinkernagel†](#), [Stefan Oehent†](#), and [Thomas M. Kündig](#). Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 2001

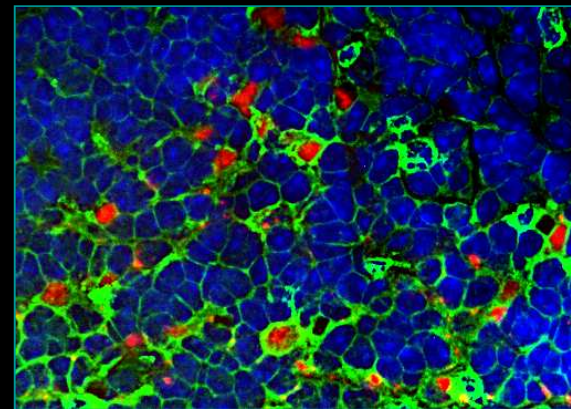
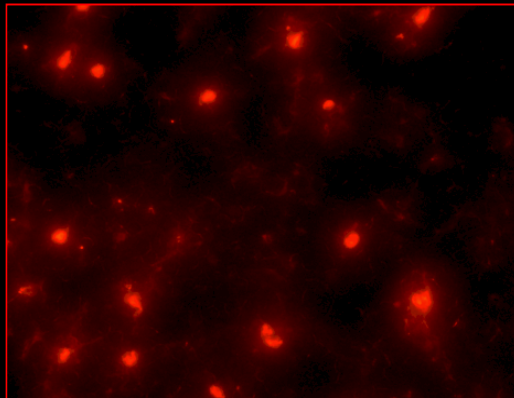
Intranodal in situ Targeting of mRNA into DC

Analysis of Biodistribution after Injection of RNA-CY3

5min



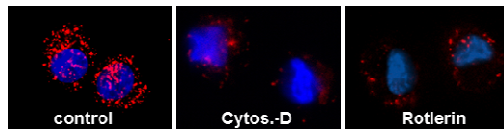
30min



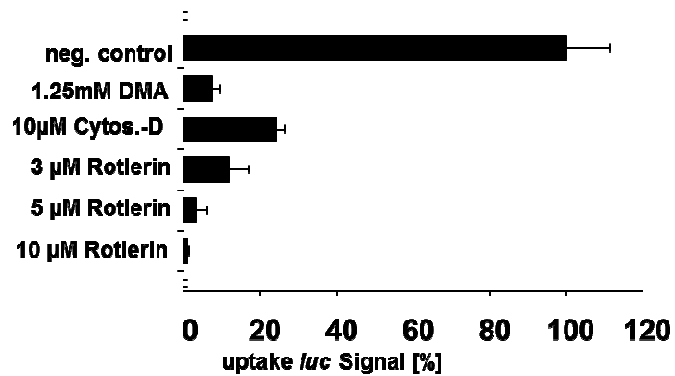
DAPI
RNA-CY3
CD11b

Macropinocytosis mediated RNA uptake into DC

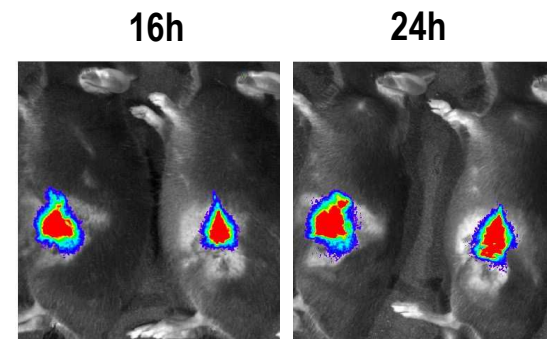
Influence of macropinocytosis inhibitors
(fluorescence imaging)



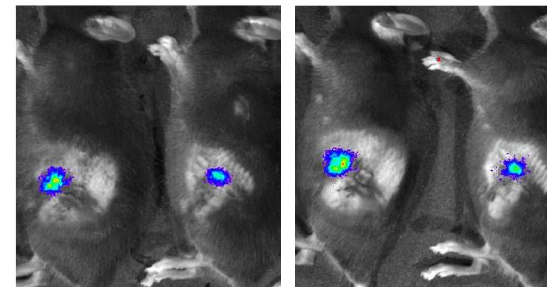
Influence of macropinocytosis inhibitors
(luciferase assay)



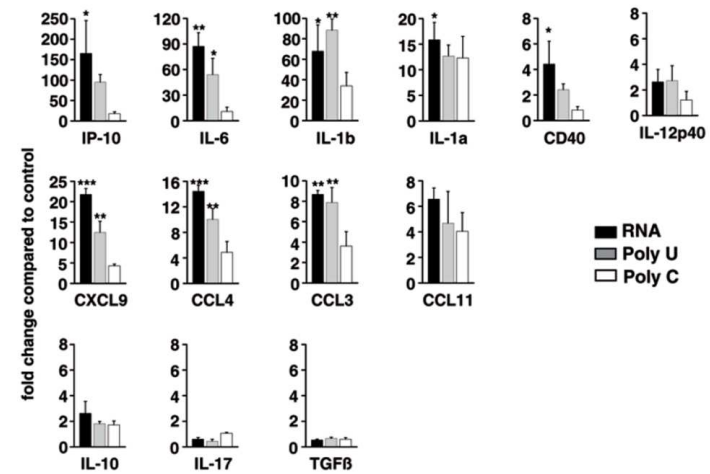
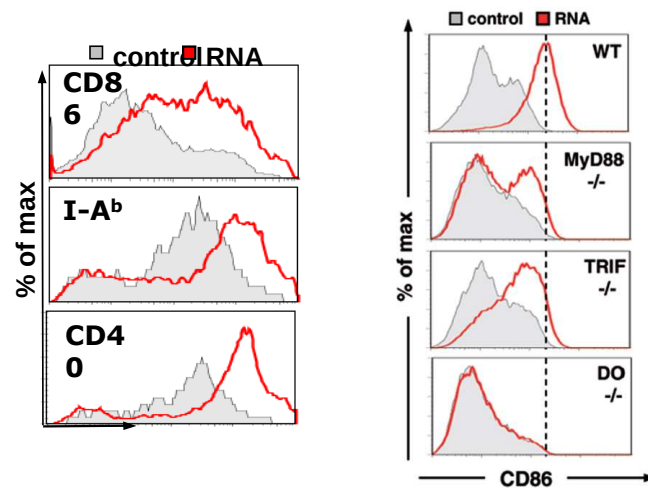
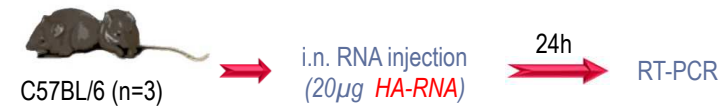
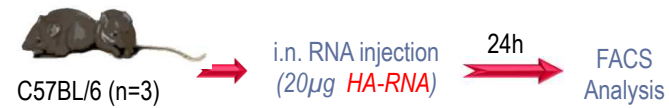
Luc RNA
PBS



Luc
Rottlerin



Effects on the lymph node microenvironment



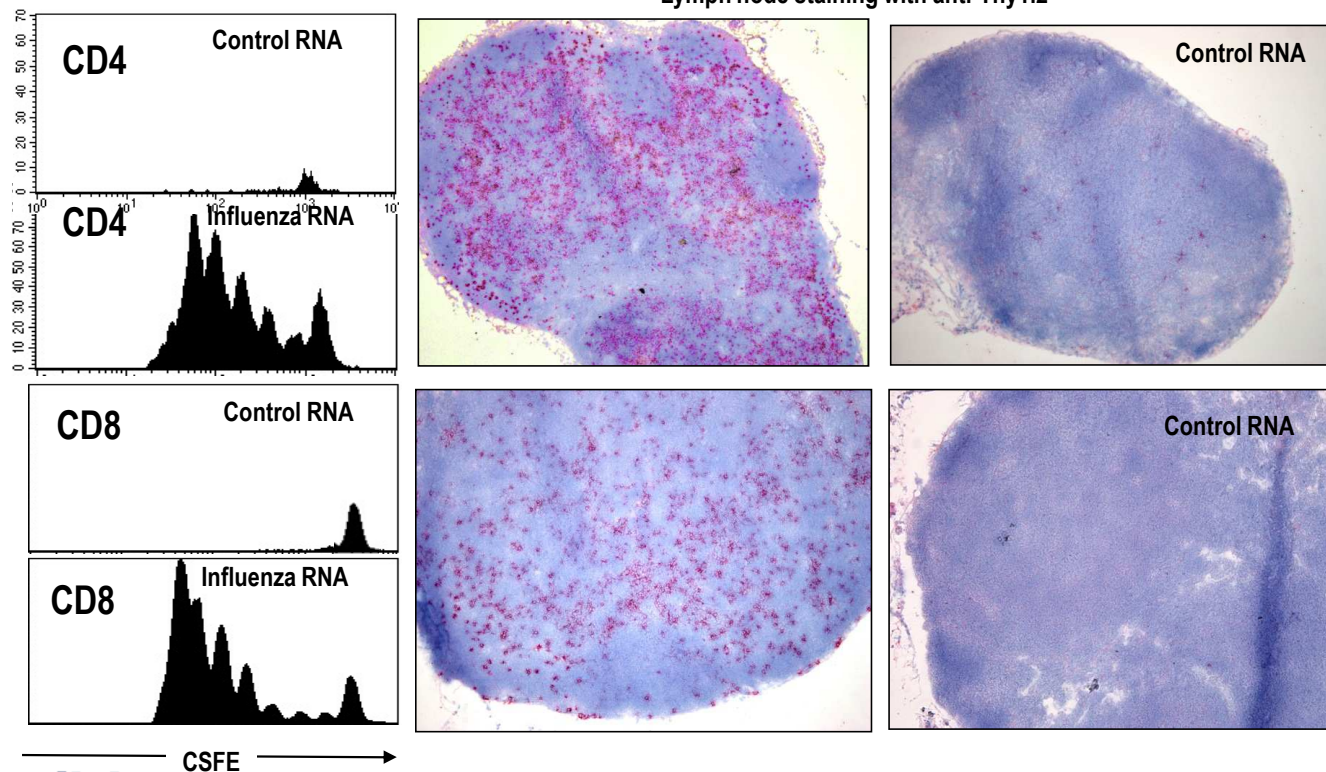
Kreiter et. al., Cancer Research, 2011

Stimulation of CD8⁺ and CD4⁺T cells

Adoptive Transfer of 5×10^5 Influenza HA specific CD8⁺ or CD4⁺ T cells followed by 1x RNA Immunisation

Potent Expansion of Antigen Specific T Cells

Lymph node staining with anti-Thy1.2

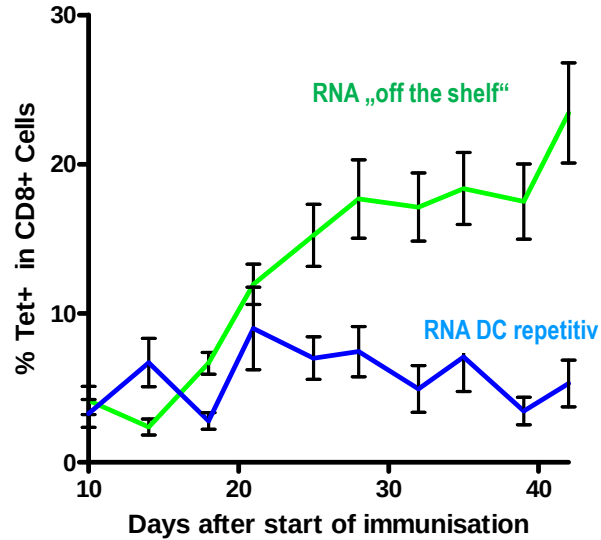


CSFE →

Robust Expansion of immunodominant CTLs

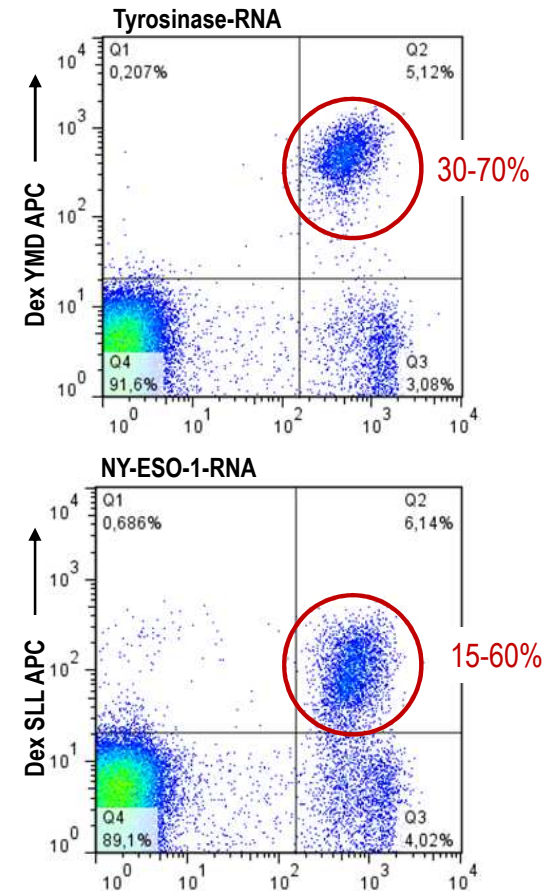


Repetitive Immunisation in B6/C57L

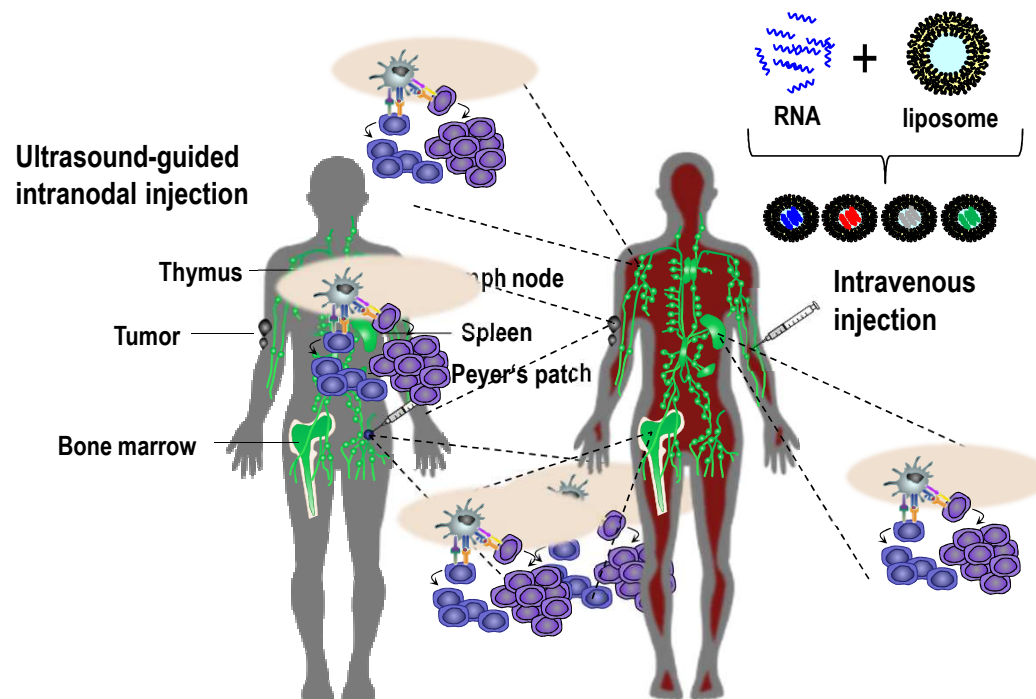


...Translation into first in human testing*

Immune Response in A2/DR1 Mice



Local DC targeting Systemic DC targeting



mRNA and DCs meet directly at injection site

Challenges:

mRNA integrity

DC-specific uptake

Antitumor T cell response

Lena Kranz, Mustafa Diken, Heinrich Haas et al.

Development of a liposomal RNA vaccine

Formulation Development Discovery, R&D

- Application tailored mRNA formulation development.
Cancer Immunotherapy
Infect. Disease vaccines
Organ specific delivery
(lung, liver, DC & others)
- Optimized formulations for various routes
(i.v., s.c., i.d, i.m, i.n.)
- Focus on well tolerated excipients

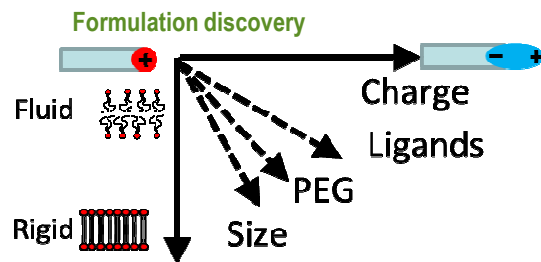
Analytics Assay Development

- HPLC Analytics
Bioanalytics (LC/MS)
- Particle Analytics
- Particle Engineering
- Broad scope of pharma-ceutically relevant methods
- Extended biophysical characterization inhouse or with external partners

Process Development

- Upscaling and GMP process development
- GMP manufacturing of liposomes with partners
- Assembly of IMP KIT for administration to patients in own facilities
- Development of market-compliant methods for manufacturing

GMP Manufacturing



Process development



GMP production

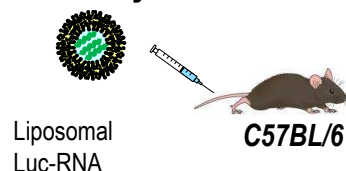


QC & Release

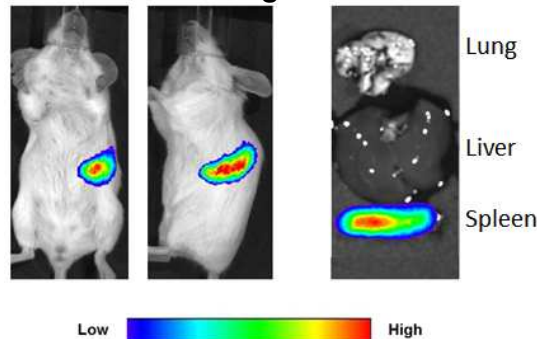


Liposomal mRNA delivery into DCs

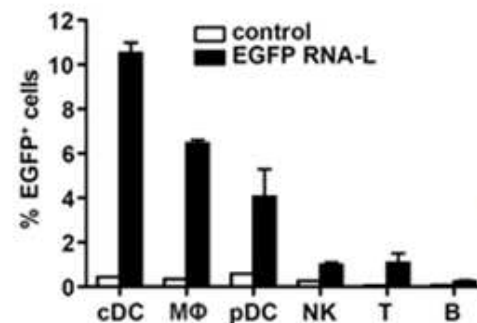
Intravenous Delivery



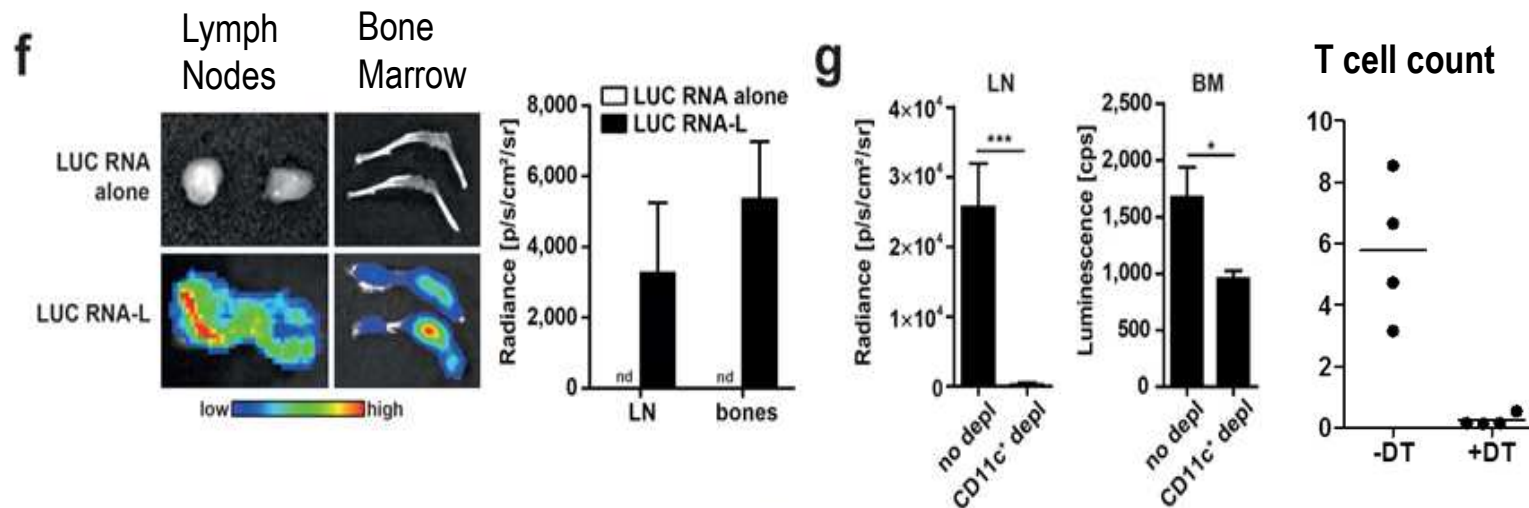
Luciferase Expression in vivo



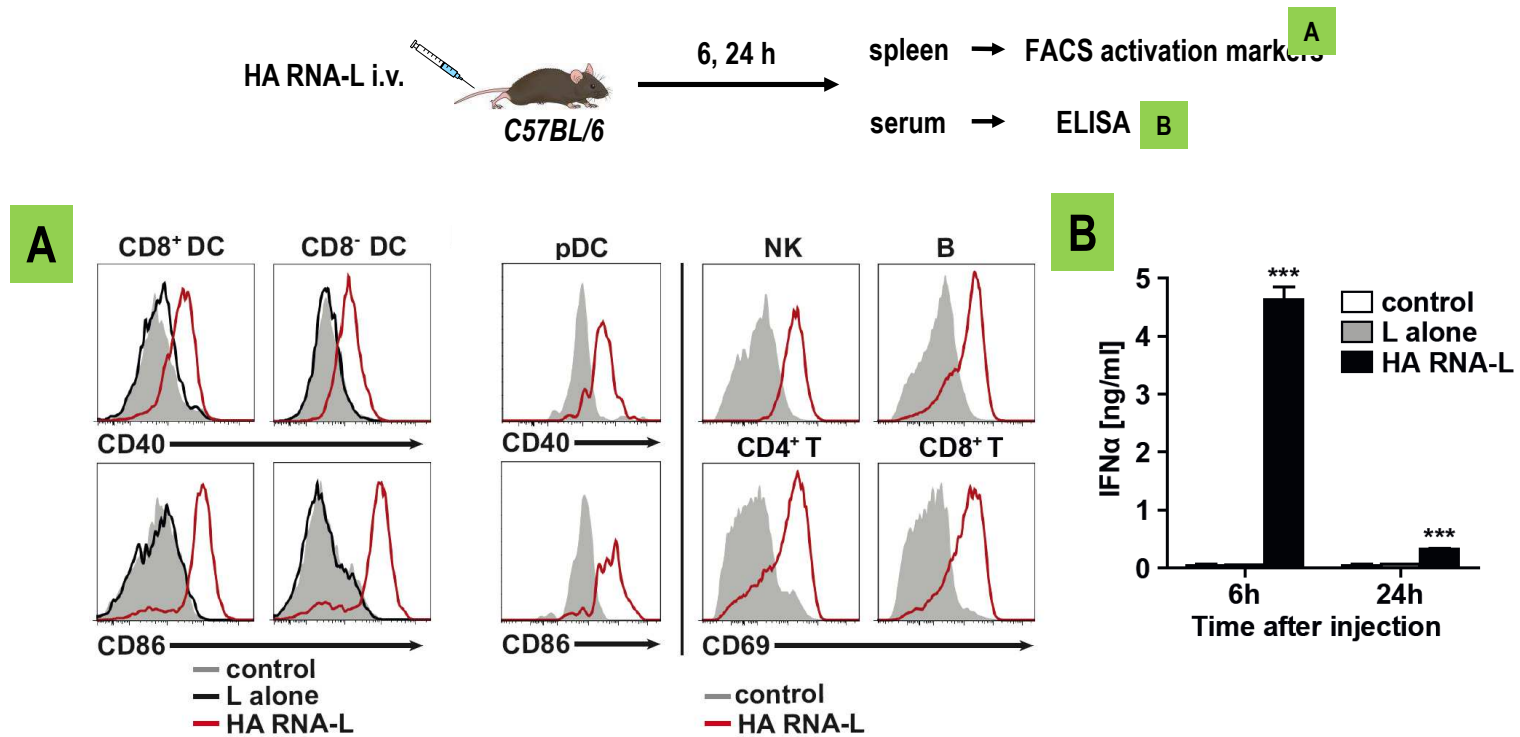
Transfected Cell Populations



DC Depletion in CD11c-DTR mice abrogates expression and Immune Response

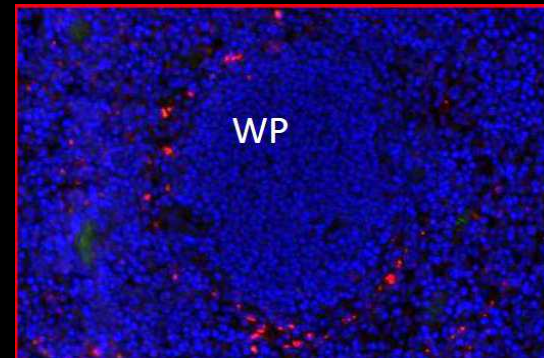
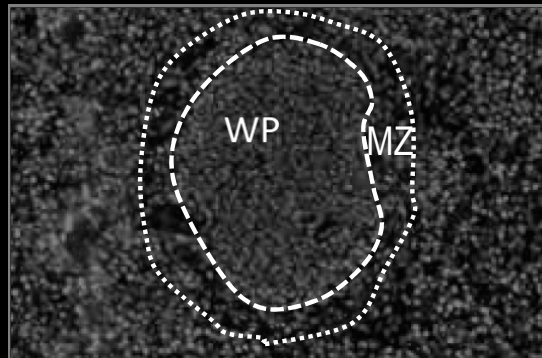


Secondary pharmacodynamics of Liposomal RNA

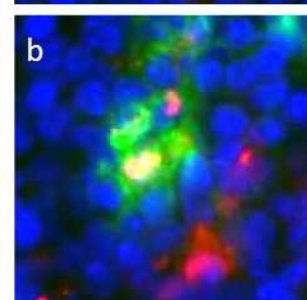
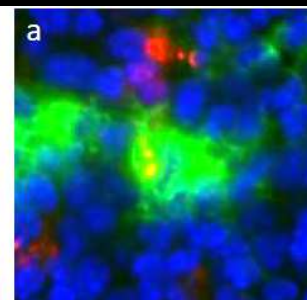
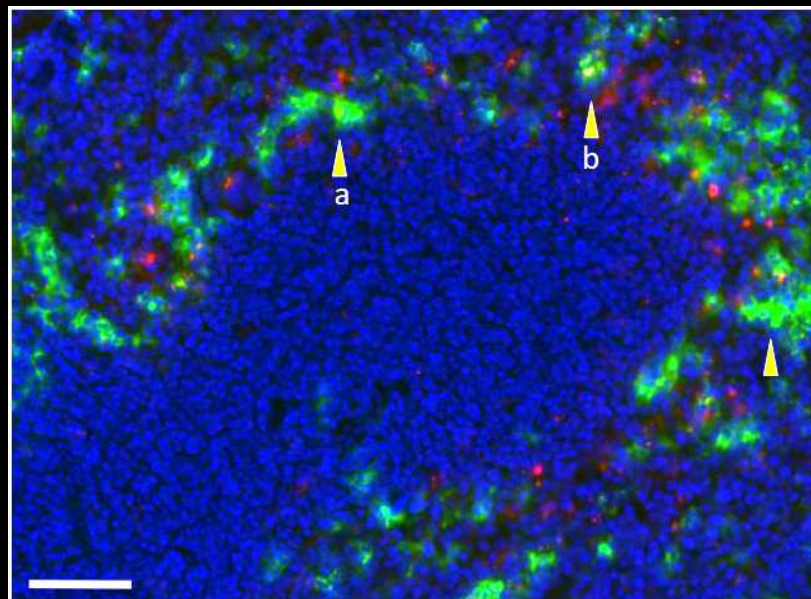


- RNA-L induce APC maturation and activation of tissue resident cells
- RNA-L induce systemic IFN α

Liposomal RNA targets to CD11c DCs in the Marginal Zone



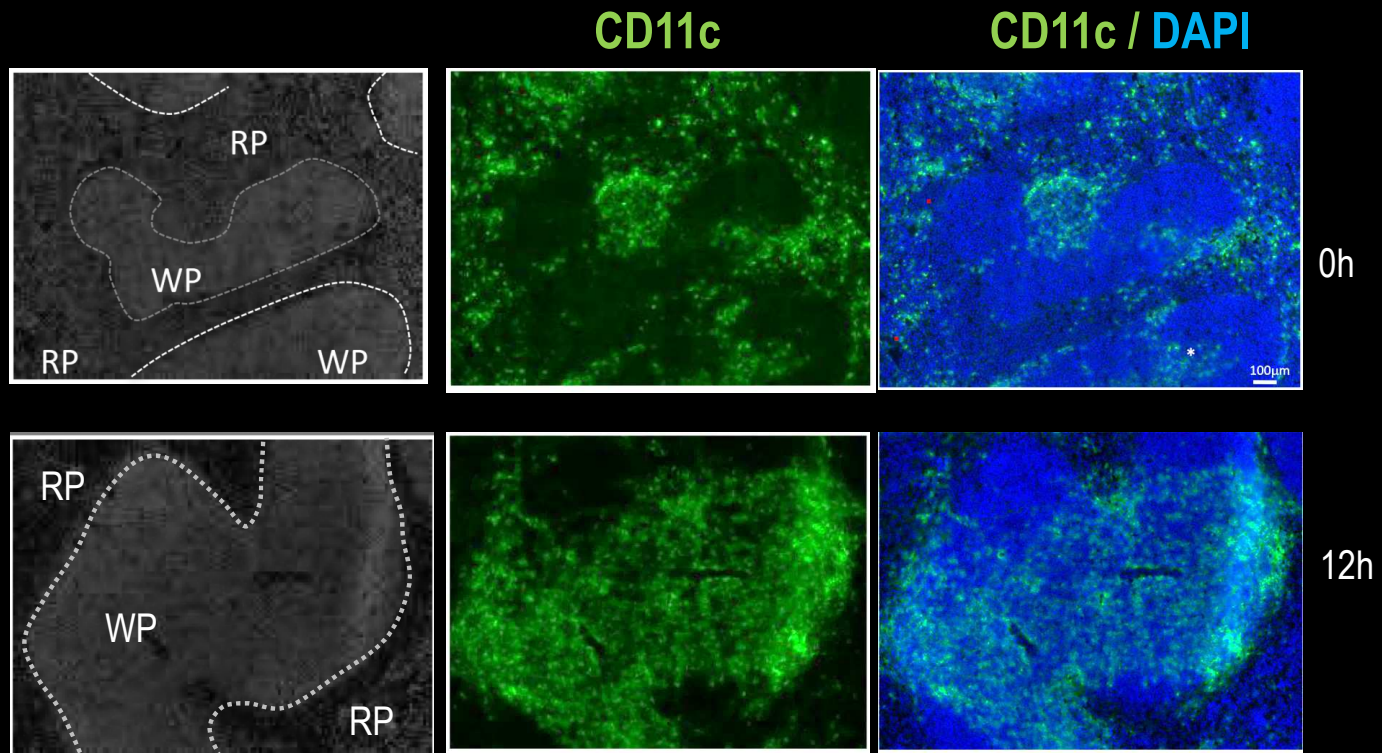
RNA



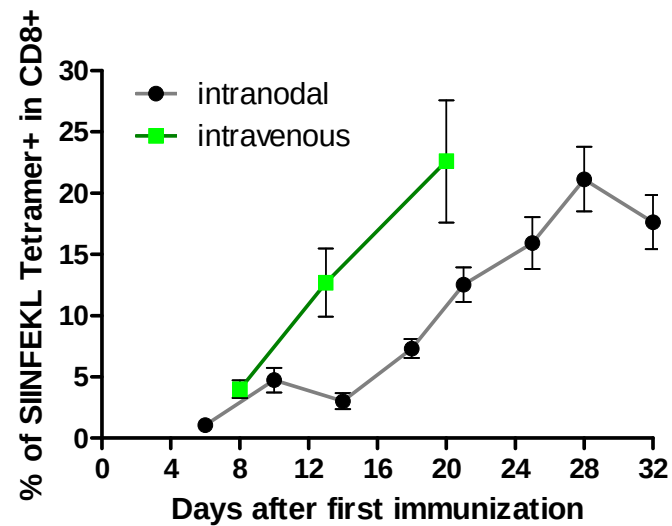
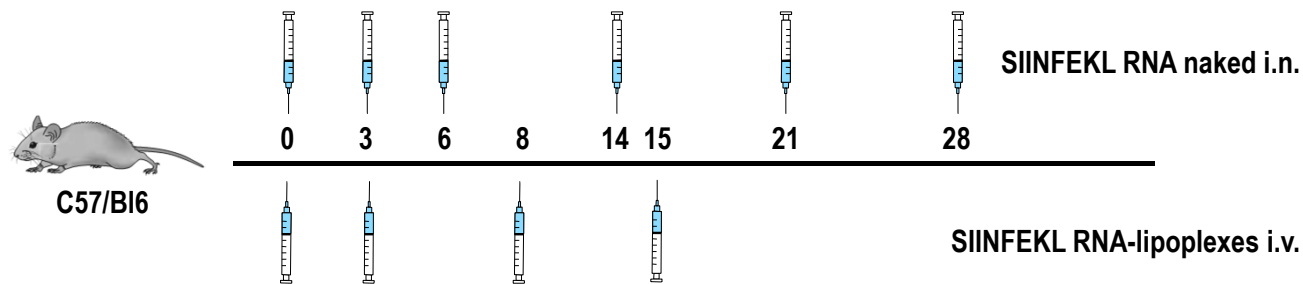
RNA

CD11c

CD11c⁺ DC enter White Pulp upon Liposomal RNA Transfection



Rapid induction of T cells via RNA lipoplexes



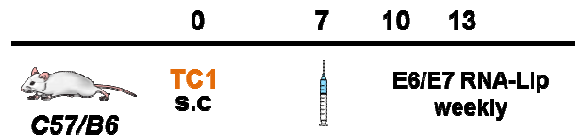
Liposomal RNA vaccination induces rapid expansion of antigen-specific T cells compared to intranodal (i.n.) naked RNA vaccination

Tumor antigens generated by cancer associated alterations

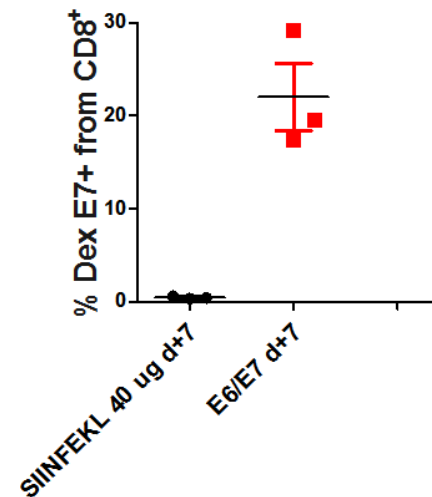
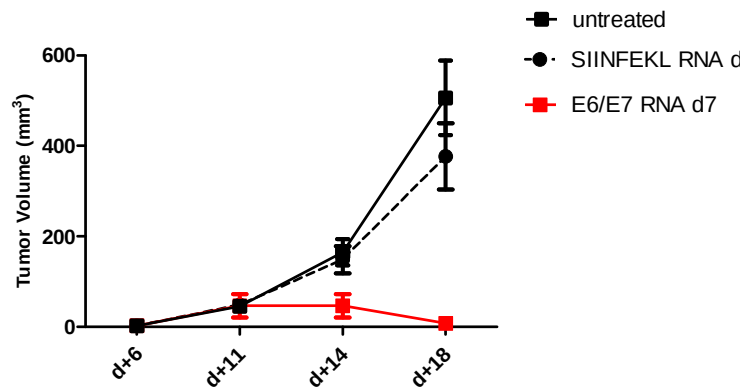
- **Viral Neoantigens**
(viral neoantigens , HPV, EBV)
- **Gene Mutations**
(point mutations, translocations → mutant neoepitopes)
- **Epigenetic Mechanisms & Aberrant Transcription**
(Activation of silenced genes, intronic & antisense transcription,..)
- **Aberrant Translation**
(alternate ORF, UTR translation, .)
- **Posttranslational Modifications**
(amino acid changes, phosphorylation, glycosylation, protein-splicing, ..)
- **Aberrant Subcellular Localisation**
(amino acid changes, glycosylation, protein-splicing, ..)

What are the best vaccine targets for Cancer Immunotherapy ?

HPV E6/E7 transformed TC1 tumor model *



Christian Grunwitz
Fulvia Vascotto
Sebastian Kreiter



TC-1, derived from primary epithelial cells of C57BL/6 mice cotransformed with HPV-16 E6 and E7 and c-Ha-ras oncogenes

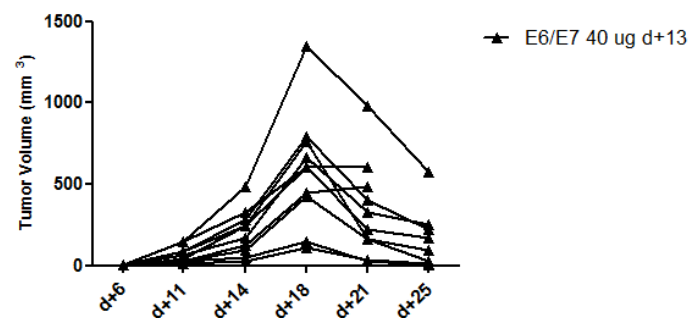
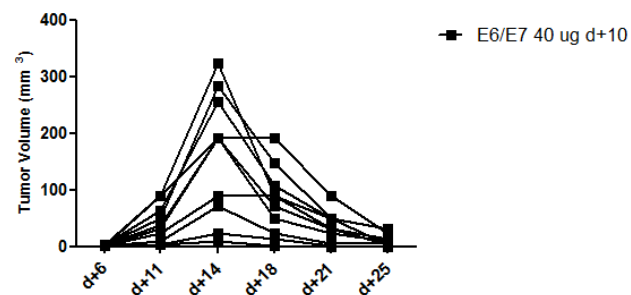
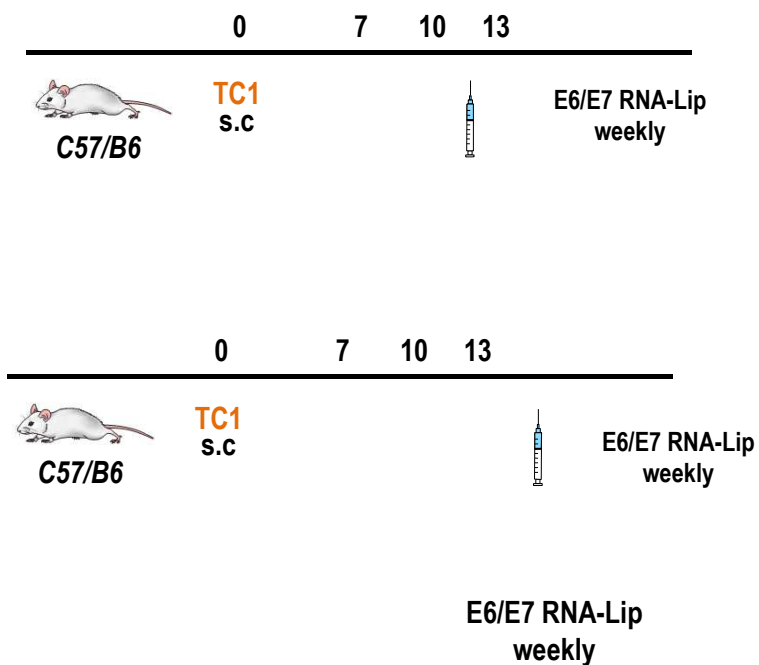
Treatment of Established Tumors with a Novel Vaccine That Enhances Major Histocompatibility Class II Presentation of Tumor Antigen¹

Ken-Yu Lin, Frank G. Guarnieri, Kevin F. Staveley-O'Carroll, Hyam I. Levitsky, J. Thomas August, Drew M. Pardoll, and Tzzy-Chou Wu²

Departments of Pathology [K.Y. L., T.C. W.], Pharmacology and Molecular Science [F. G. G., J. T. A.], Surgery [K. F. S.-O.], and Oncology [H. I. L., J. T. A., D. M. P.], The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, Maryland 21287-6417

Rejection of advanced tumors

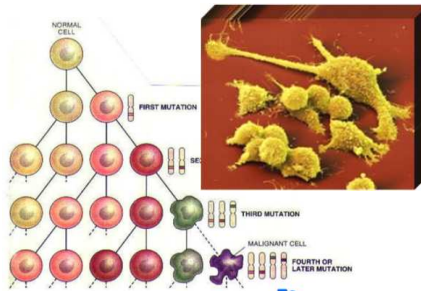
TC1 HPV E7 transformed tumor model



Clinical Phase I/II Study in HPVpos Head Neck Cancer
in collaboration Christian Ottensmeier (Univ. Southampton)
I-ACT consortium (Coordinator - Rienk Offringa)

Targeting Mutant Neopitopes in Cancer

Cancer



Genetic / Epigenetic Mutations

- > 100 Mutations/Cancer, > 95% Individual Mutations
- > Individual Spectrum of Shared Tumor antigens
- Tumor Growth, Resistance, Metastasis, Recurrence
- Immunosuppression

Immune Recognition of Cancer Mutations

A p16^{INK4a}-Insensitive CDK4 Mutant Targeted by Cytolytic T Lymphocytes in a Human Melanoma

Thomas Wölfel,* Martina Hauer, Jörg Schneider, Manuel Serrano, Catherine Wölfel, Eva Klehmann-Hieb, Etienne De Plaen, Thomas Hankeln, Karl-Hermann Meyer zum Büschenfelde, David Beach

SCIENCE • VOL. 269 • 1 SEPTEMBER 1995

Cloning Genes Encoding MHC Class II-Restricted Antigens: Mutated CDC27 as a Tumor Antigen

Rong-Fu Wang,* Xiang Wang, Alicia C. Atwood, Suzanne L. Topalian, Steven A. Rosenberg

SCIENCE VOL 284 21 MAY 1999

The response of autologous T cells to a human melanoma is dominated by mutated neoantigens

Volker Lenzner*, Martina Fatho*, Chiara Gentilini*, Roy A. Frye*, Alexander Lifke*, Dorothea Fenzl*, Catherine Wölfel*, Christoph Huber*, and Thomas Wölfel*

PNAS | November 1, 2005 |

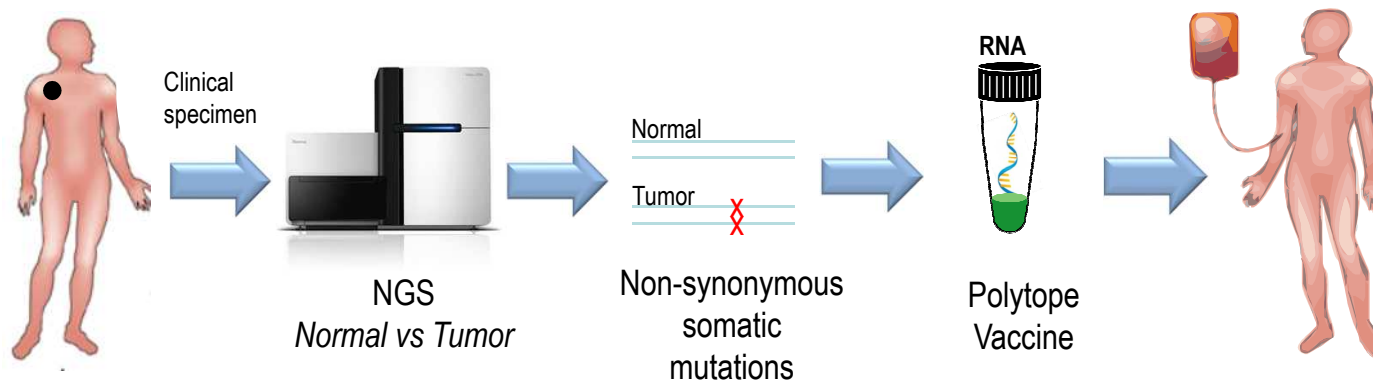
Germline Variation

- HLA-Antigens
- Genetic Polymorphisms

Individual Patients

IVAC: A collaborative Project for Development and Testing of an Individualized Vaccine Concept

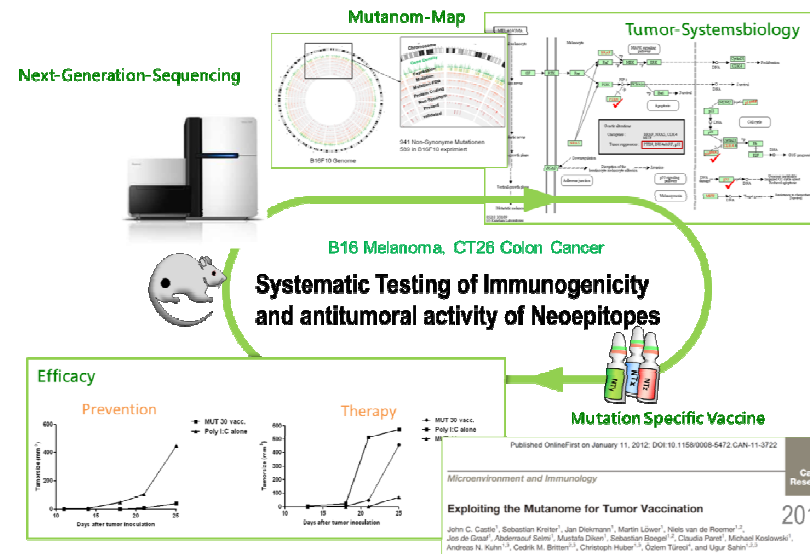
From Cancer Mutations to Vaccines



- All somatic mutations in the tumor of the patient are determined by NGS (Next Generation Sequencing).
- A poly-neo-epitopic coding RNA based vaccine featuring the unique mutation signature of this patient is to be engineered and administered as an individualized treatment.

NGS discovered mutations as tumor antigens

Which Individual
neoantigens
useful as targets
for antitumoral
vaccines ?



Are neoantigens
targets for
cancer
immunoediting ?

Cancer exome analysis reveals a T-cell-dependent mechanism of cancer immunoediting

Nature

Hirokazu Matsushita^{1,*}, Matthew D. Vesely^{1,*}, Daniel C. Koboldt², Charles G. Rickert¹, Ravindra Uppaluri³, Vincent J. Magrini^{2,4}, Cora D. Arthur¹, J. Michael White¹, Yee-Shiuan Chen¹, Lauren K. Shea¹, Jasreet Hundal², Michael C. Wendl^{2,4}, Ryan Demeter², Todd Wylie², James P. Allison^{5,6}, Mark J. Smyth^{7,8}, Lloyd J. Old⁹, Elaine R. Mardis^{2,4} & Robert D. Schreiber¹

Expression of tumour-specific antigens underlies cancer immunoediting

Nature

Michel DuPage¹, Claire Mazumdar¹, Leah M. Schmidt¹, Ann F. Cheung¹ & Tyler Jacks^{1,2}



Kreiter et al., 2015 Nature

Summary

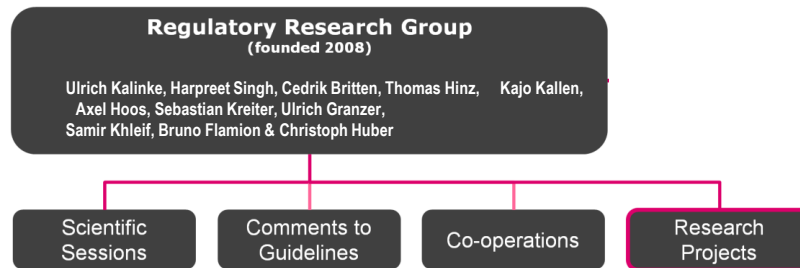
Mutant MHC class II epitopes drive therapeutic immune responses to cancer *

Sebastian Kreiter¹, Mathias Vormehr^{2*}, Niels van de Roemer^{2*}, Mustafa Diken¹, Martin Löwer¹, Jan Diekmann^{1,3}, Sebastian Boegel¹, Barbara Schrörs¹, Fulvia Vascotto¹, John C. Castle¹, Arbel D. Tadmor¹, Stephen P. Schoenberger⁴, Christoph Huber², Özlem Türeci^{1§} & Ugur Sahin^{1,2,3§}

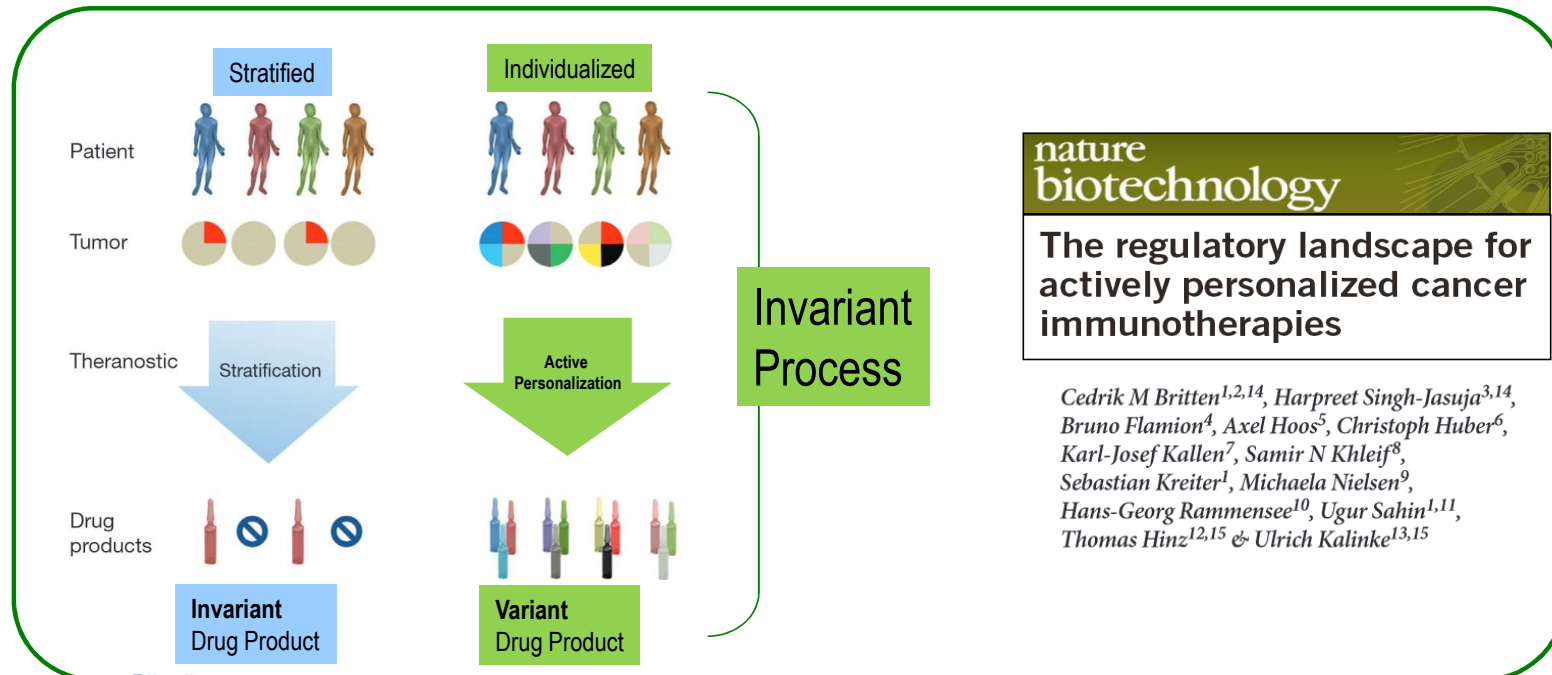
- **Frequent immune recognition** of mutant neoepitopes
- Nonsynonymous mutations are **mostly recognized by CD4 T cells**
- Neoepitope specific **CD4 T cells are antitumoral** and induce favorable changes in the tumor microenvironment
- CD4 mediated tumor control may involve CD8 T cells and CD40L signaling and may induce **antigen spread**
- Potent mutated vaccine targets can be identified via **computational prioritization** utilizing MHCII binding prediction and RNA expression level
- **Blueprint process** for Just in time design and production of neoepitope vaccines
- Antitumoral Activity 1 in 15 Mutated Targets

Clinical translation: Regulation matters

CIMT Regulatory Research Group



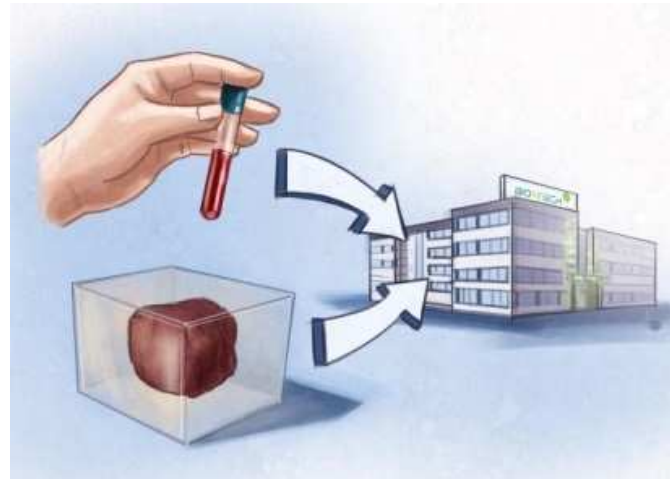
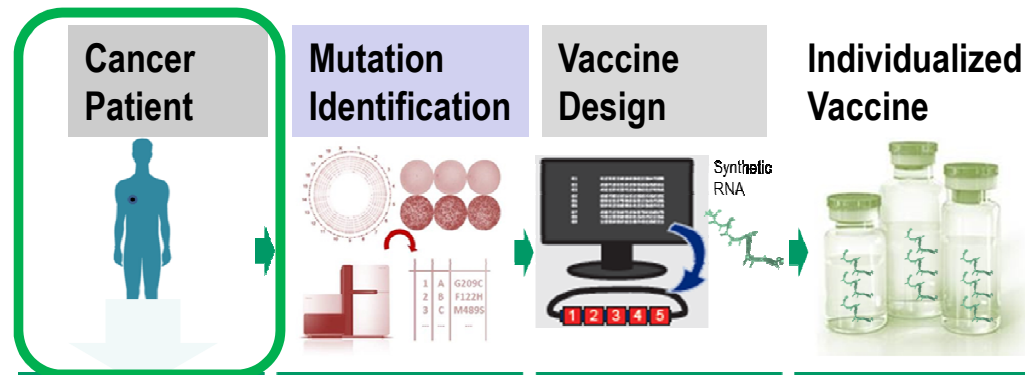
CIMT Chair Ch. Huber

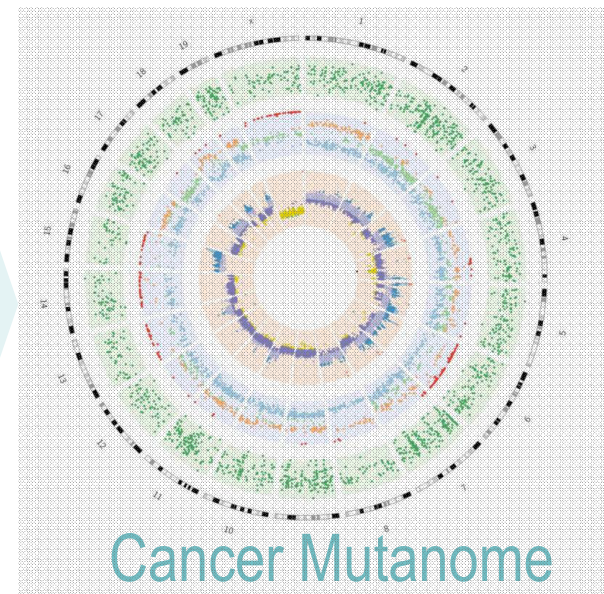
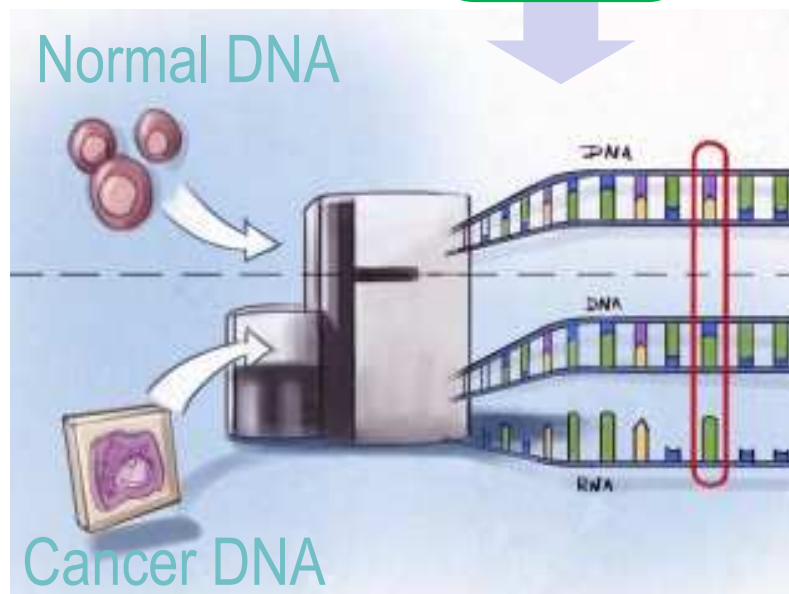
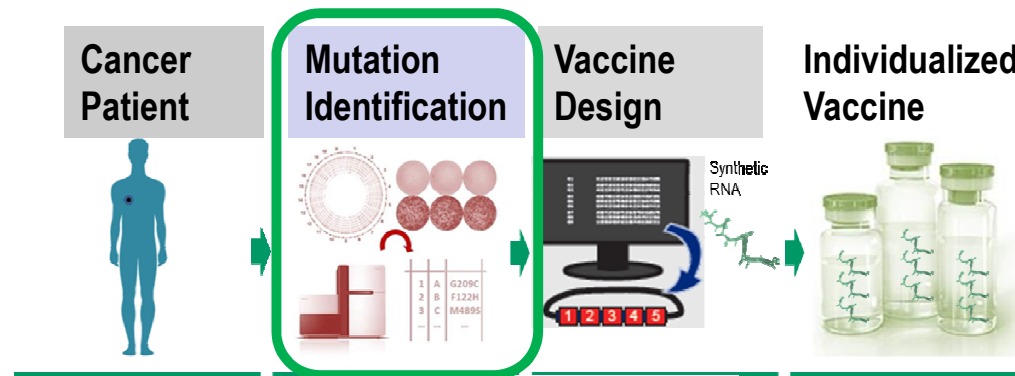


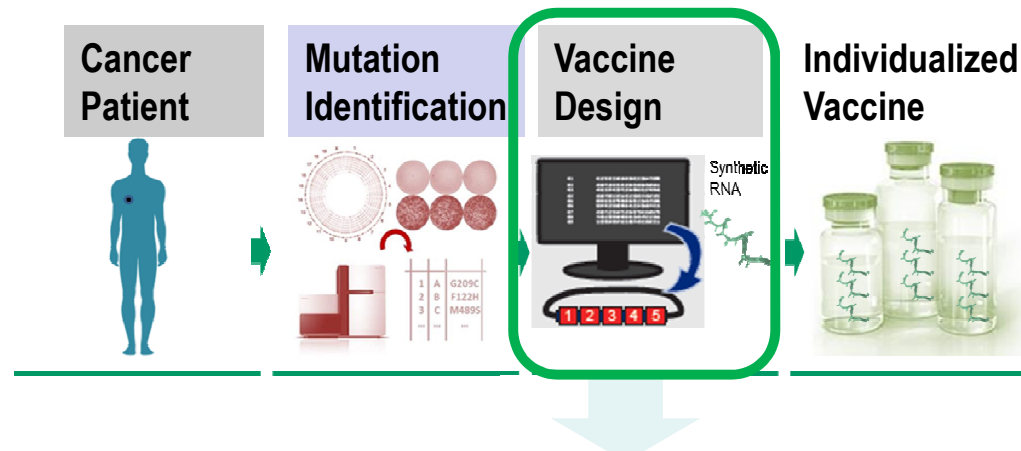
IVAC Mutanome Trial

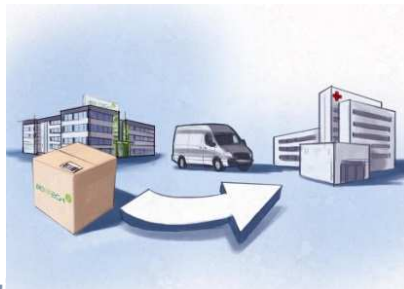
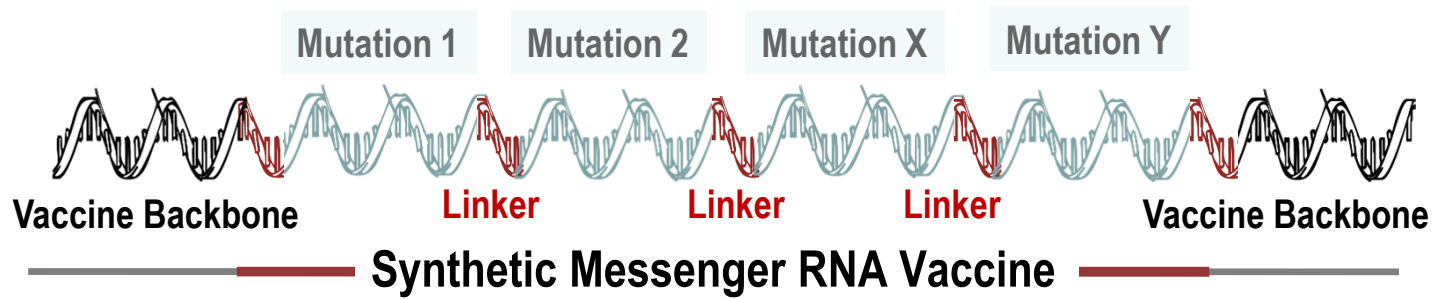
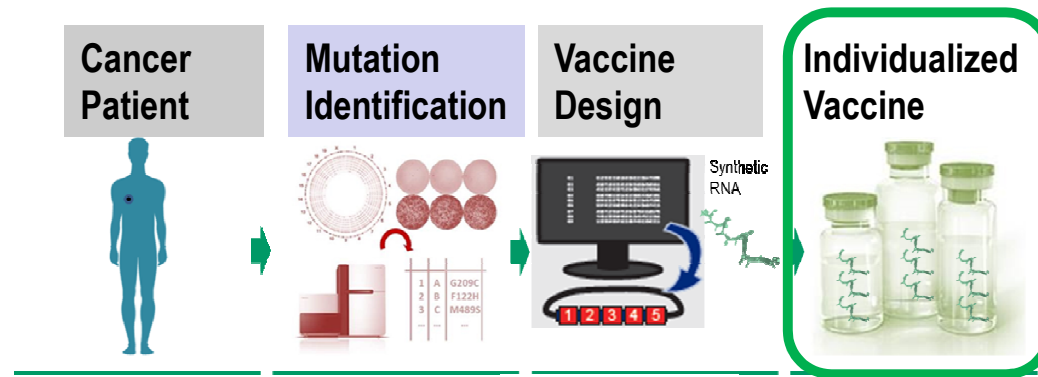
DESIGN AND OUTLINE (NCT02035956)

Indication	Malignant Melanoma, stage IIIA-C
Number of Patients	Total number of patients is 15
Study design	Phase I, International – Multicenter, Open-label, Interventional The study design includes an optional continued treatment with IVAC MUTAMONE for patients that show continued clinical benefit.
Endpoints	Primary: Safety, adverse reactions, tolerability of repetitive doses of IVAC MUTANOME vaccine after initial treatment with RBL001/RBL002 Secondary: Determine the vaccine induced antigen-specific immune response. Determine antitumor activity of IVAC MUTANOME vaccine after initial treatment with RBL001/RBL002.
Investigators	<u>UMM – Universitätsmedizin Mainz</u> Carmen Loquai, Dr (PI)., Stephan Grabbe, Prof. Dr. <u>UMM - Universitätsmedizin Mannheim:</u> Jochen Utikal, Christoffer Gebhardt <u>Medizinische Universität Wien</u> Christoph Höller, Prof. Dr.



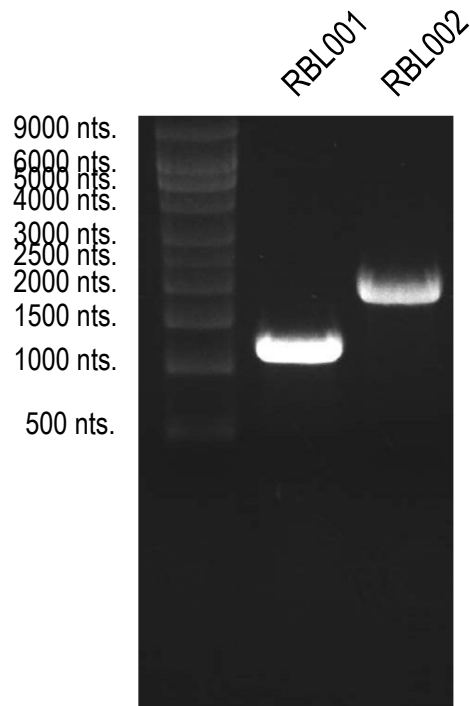




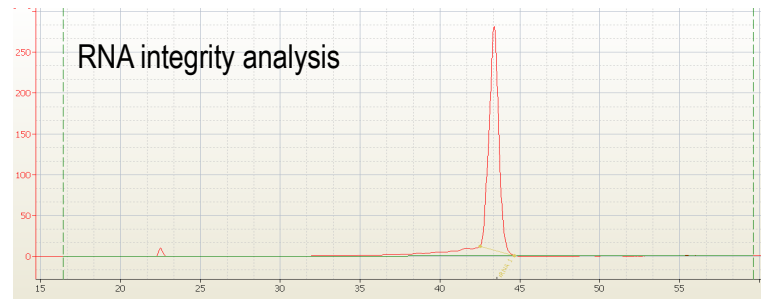


RNA manufactured at BioNTech manufacturing facility

Gel analysis of RBL001 (1270 nts.)
and RBL002 (2047 nts.)



- Optimized manufacturing process
- Inhouse production, release testing, fill & finish.



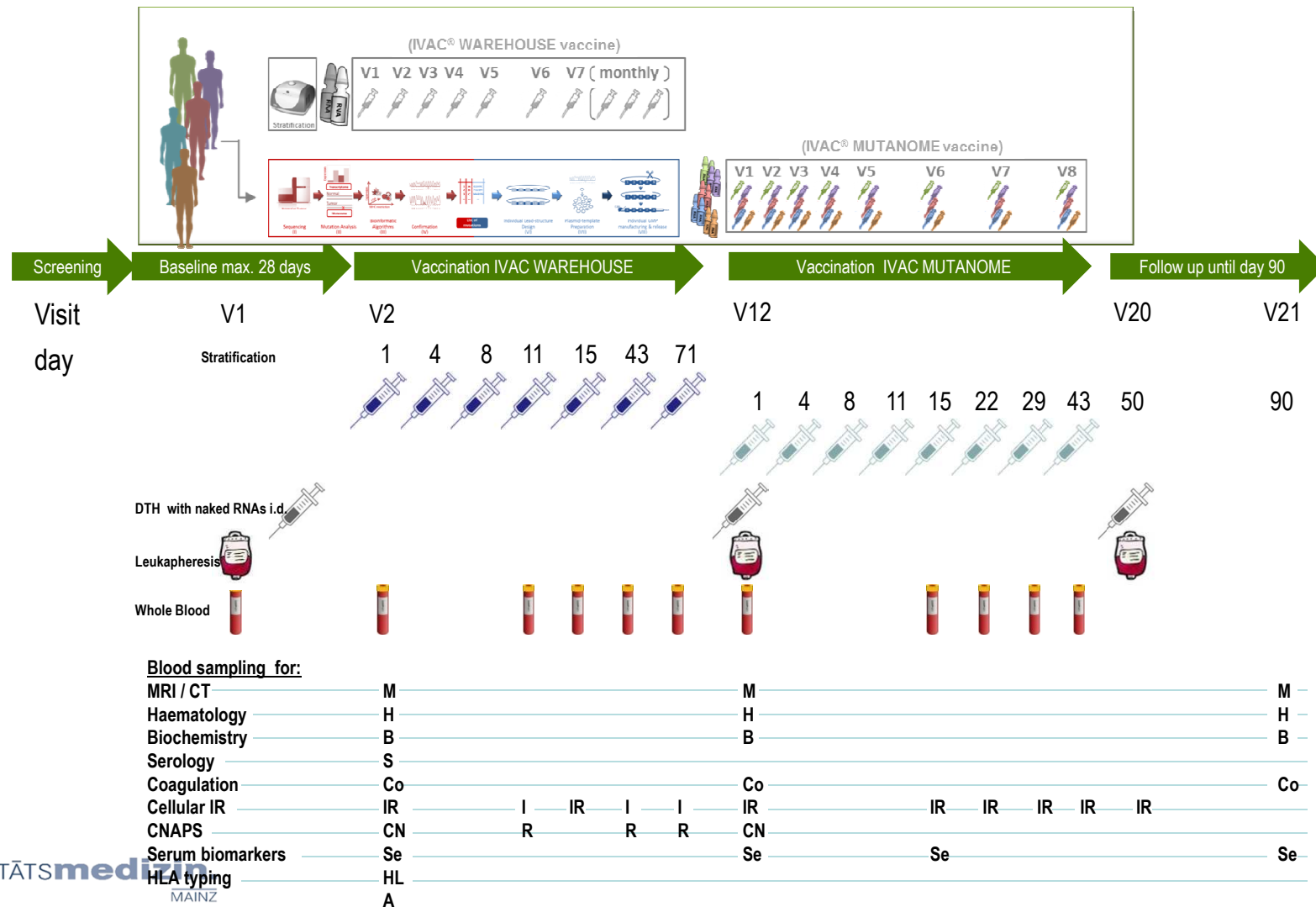
GMP
Certification for both
production of
pharmacologically
optimized RNA
for clinical trials

Production scales for clinical trials 1 -1000 patients

IVAC® MUTANOME intranodal application

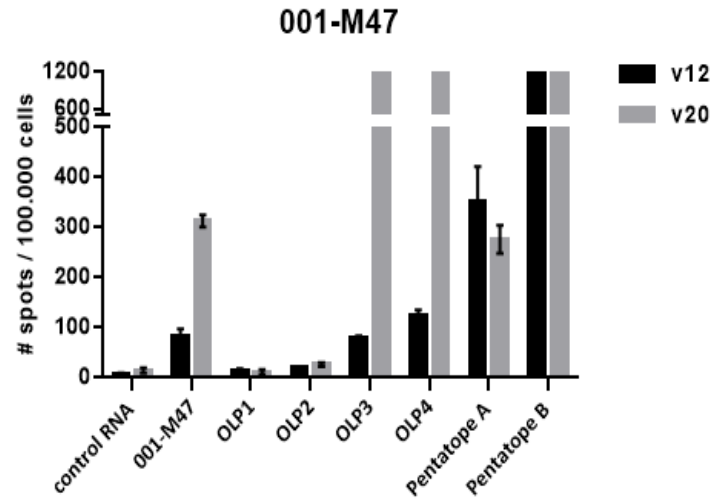


Overview Biomarker Assessment

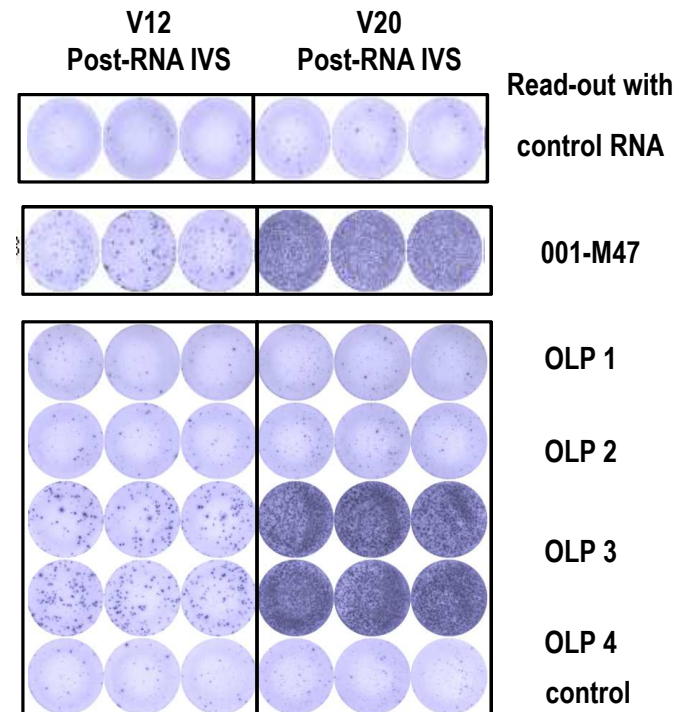


Post-IVS ELISPOT data
001-M47, Pentatope B, position 1

Unit GxP Analytics



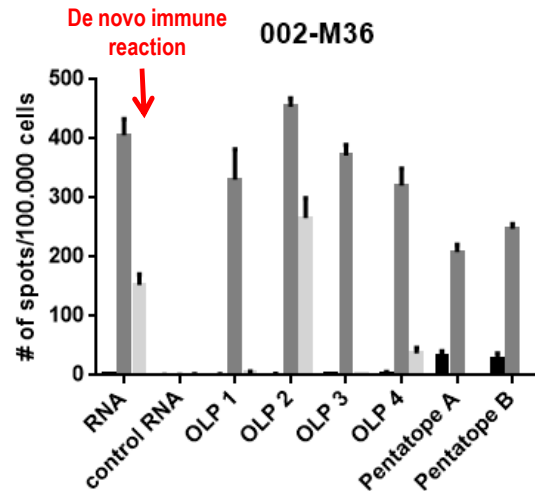
Peptide	Sequence
OLP1	PQTLGKKGSKNNIFV
OLP2	GKKGSKNNIFVYMTL
OLP3	SKNNIFVYMTLNQKK
OLP4	IFVYMTLNQKKSDSS



Best-predicted epitope:
Minimal immunogenic sequence:

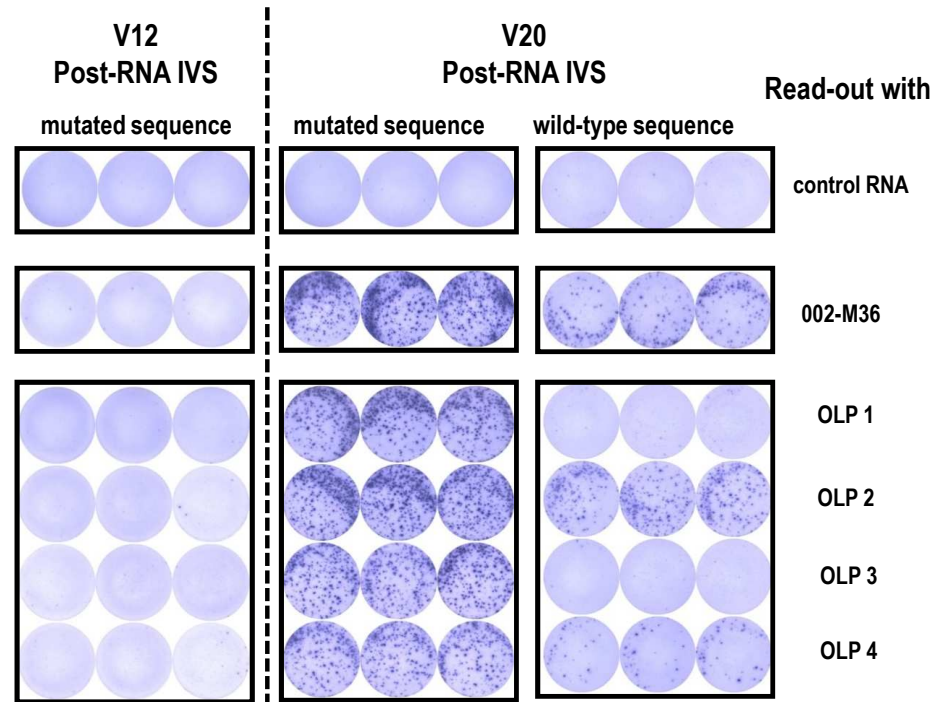
GSKNNIFVY (HLA A*3002)
IFVYMTLNQKK

Post-IVS ELISPOT data summary for 002-M36 Pentatope B Position 3



Peptide	Sequence
OLP1	SADARLMVFDKTER T
OLP2	RLMVFDKTER T WRLL
OLP3	FDKTER T WRLLCSSR
OLP4	E RTWRLLCSSRSNAR

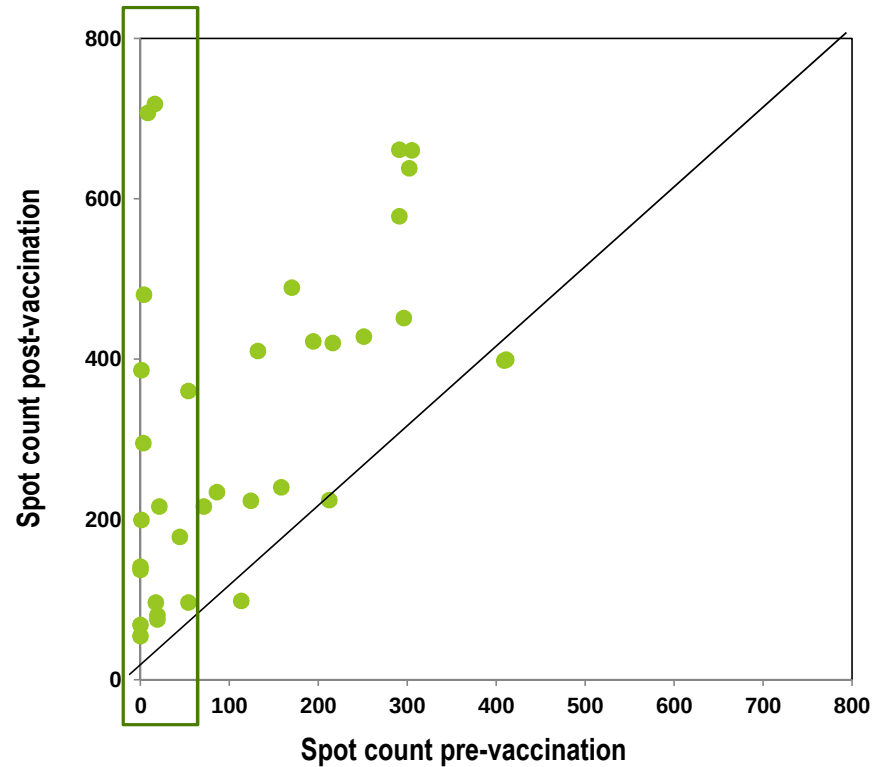
■ mutation sequence V12
 ■ mutation sequence V20
 ■ wild-type sequence V20



Best-predicted MHC-I epitope:
Minimal immunogenic sequence:

VFDK**T**ERTW (HLA A*2402)
not possible to define. An oligo-epitope response?

Correlation between pre- and post-vaccination responses – All reponses



Each spot represents a post-vaccination positive response (>50 spots/50.000 cells after subtraction of background) by CD4 or CD8 cells against RNA or peptide. The green box defines the area of no or weak pre-vaccination responses (>50 spots/50.000 cells after subtraction of background).

Patient IVAC Mutanome uID-004

- 75 female, Stage IIIC BRAF negative
- 10/2013 removal of inguinal LN metastases / Radiatio
- 02/2014 CT no remaining lesions
- 04/2014 Recruitment to IVAC Mutanome study
**246 Non-Synonymous Mutations,
Start of vaccine production**
- **07/2014 CT Disease Progression**
Novel abdominal LN metastases
- 07/ 2014 – 11/2014 IVAC Mutanome (8 Injections)
- **11/ 2014 CT stable disease,**
- **6 /2015 CT stable disease, necrotic metastases ?**
- 7/ 2015 Surgical removal of metastatic lesions



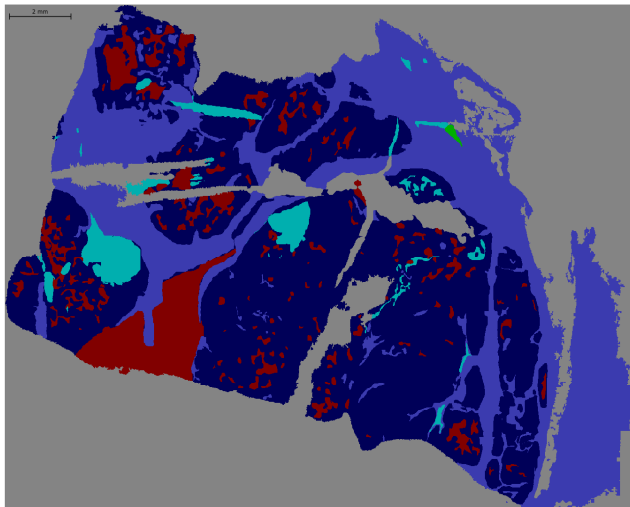
Removal of the stable metastatic lesion

- Analyses of TIL Infiltration
- Immunohistological Analyses of Tumor content , T cell Infiltration, PDL1 Staining

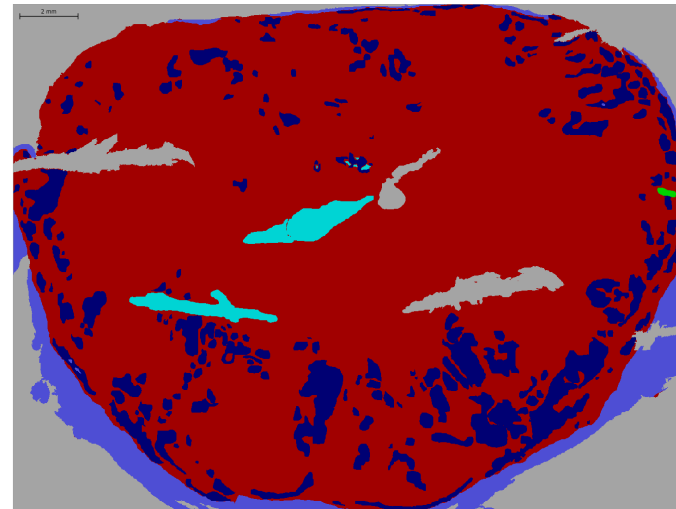
Patient IVAC Mutanome uID-004

Computerized Analyses of necrotic tumor area*

Pre-Vaccination Metastasis



Post -Vaccination Metastasis



- Normal tissue
- Tumor tissue
- Necrosis
- Whitespace
- Background
- Artefact

* Definiens Imaging Software

Immune Response Data

Mutation ID	Gene	AA exchange	Pre-formed response	Post-vaccination response	Type of response	Response to wt sequence	Minimal class I epitope	HLA-restriction
004_M32	C7	E258K	No	Yes	CD4+, CD8+	No	nd	nd
004_M05	CDC37L1	P186L	Weak, no	Yes	CD4+, CD8+	No	YES	HLA A*0201
004_M06	MLL3	P1028S	No	Yes	CD4+, CD8+	No	YES	HLA B*0702
004e_M02	HSD17B4	N397I	No	Yes	CD8+	No		
004e_M20	DSE	R735C	No	No	na	na	na	na
004e_M33	NRAS	G13D	No	Yes	CD4+, CD8+	No	na	na
004_M20	SAMD9L	S412L	No	Yes	CD4+	No	na	na
004e_M14	FLNA	P369L	Weak, no	Yes	CD4+, CD8+	No	YES	HLA A*0201
							YES	HLA B*4402
004e_M34	DICER1	P627S	No	No	na	na	na	na
004_M44	DOPEY2	R365C	Yes	Yes	CD8+	No	YES	HLA B*0702

- ➔ Immune Responses against 8 of 10 Neoepitopes
- ➔ Immune response NRAS G13D (13-25%) of all melanomas

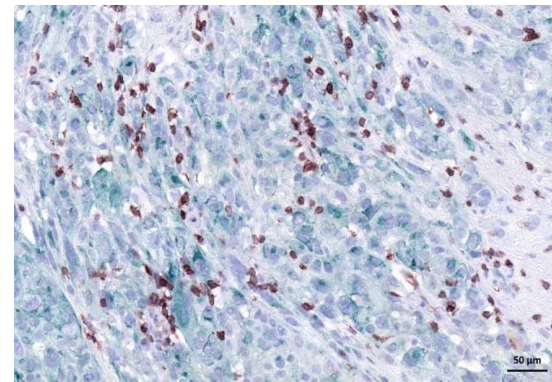
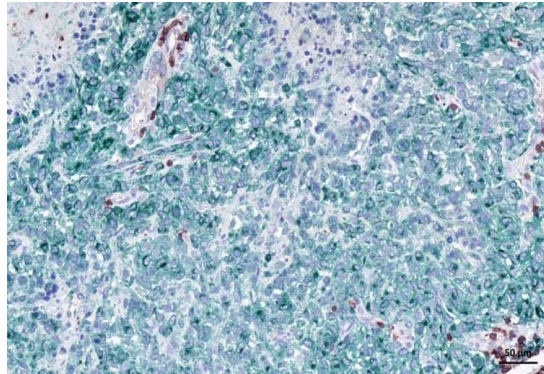
Patient IVAC Mutanome uID-004

Immune Infiltration and anti-PDL1 Staining

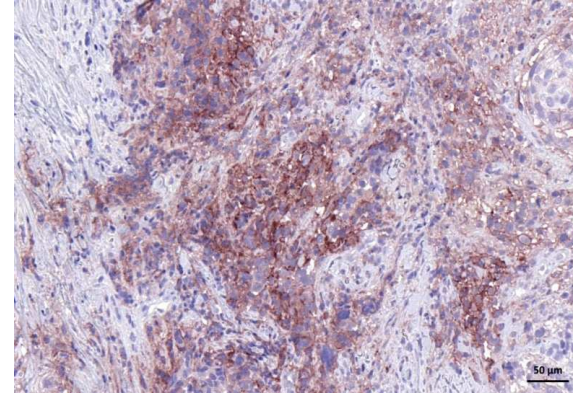
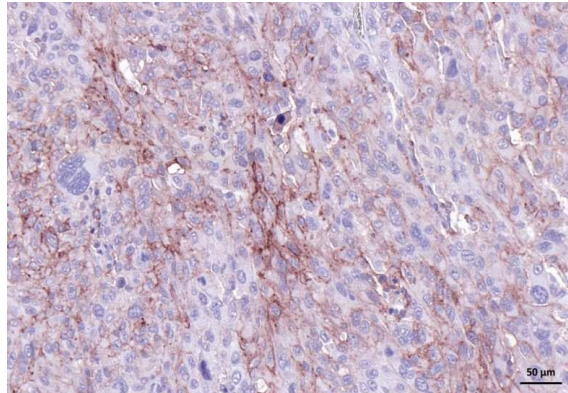
Pre-Vaccination Metastatic Lesion

Post -Vaccination Metastatic Lesion

Anti-CD3



Anti-PDL1



Patient IVAC Mutanome uID-004



Dextramer Analyses of PBMC and TILs

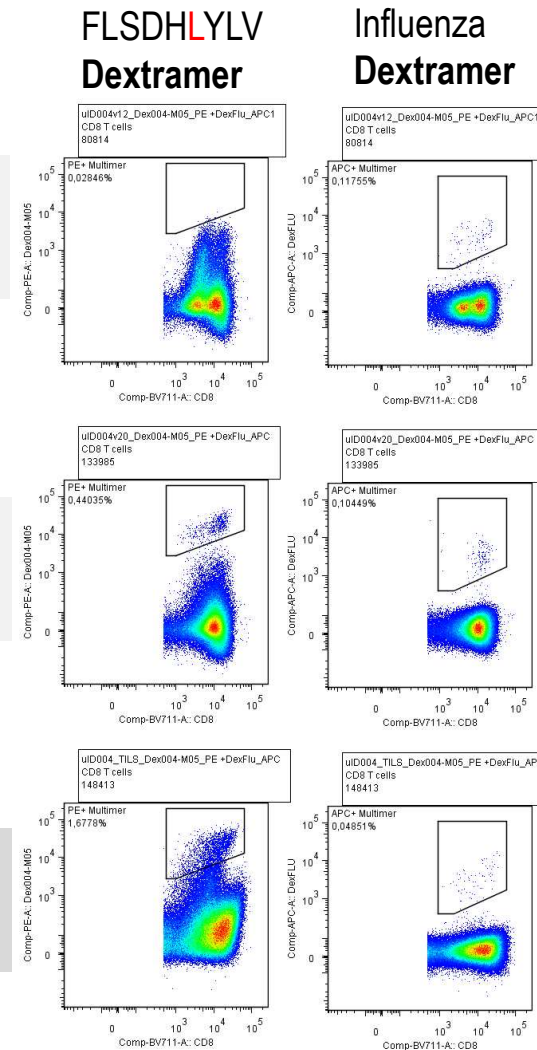
Mutation Mut05
CDC37L1 P186L

Minimal HLA-A201 Epitope
FLSDHLYLV

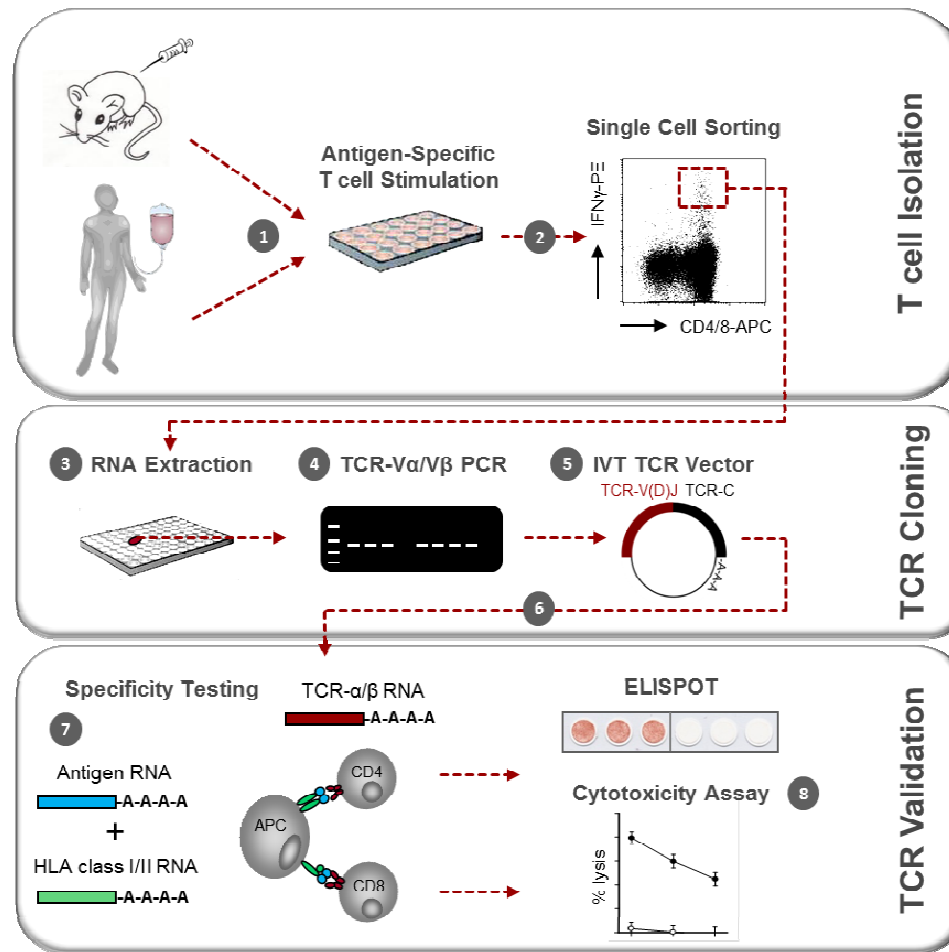
V12 PMBC
Before Vaccination
07/2014

V20 PMBC
After Vaccination
11/2014

TILs
After Vaccination
7 / 2015



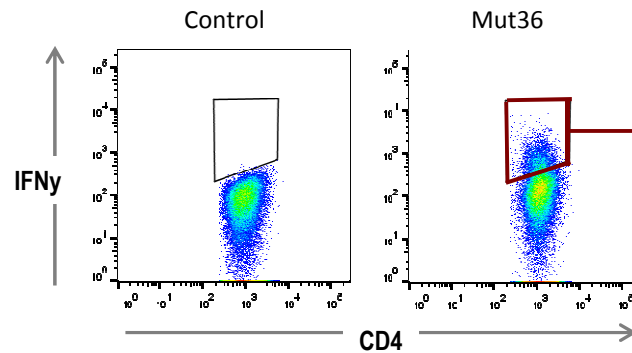
Single Cell TCR cloning & validation



Simon et al. J Cancer Immunol Reseach, 2015
Simon, Omokoko, Türeci & Sahin Oncoimmunology, 2015

Isolation of Mut36-specific TCRs from Postvaccination Blood of Patient uID002

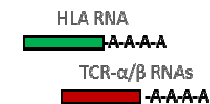
FACS single cell sorting



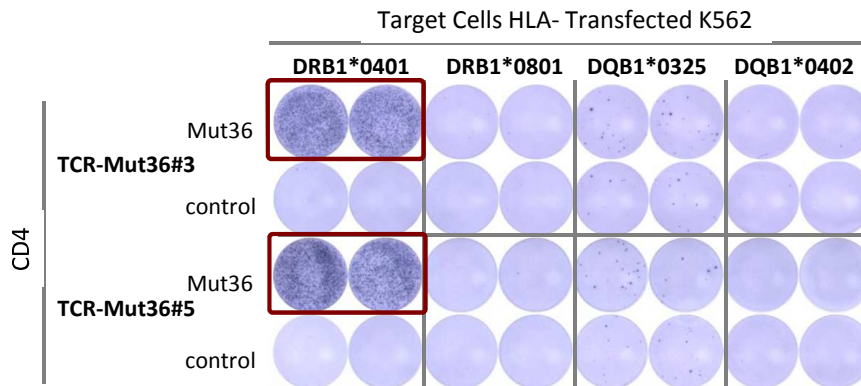
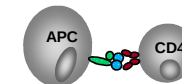
TCR cloning



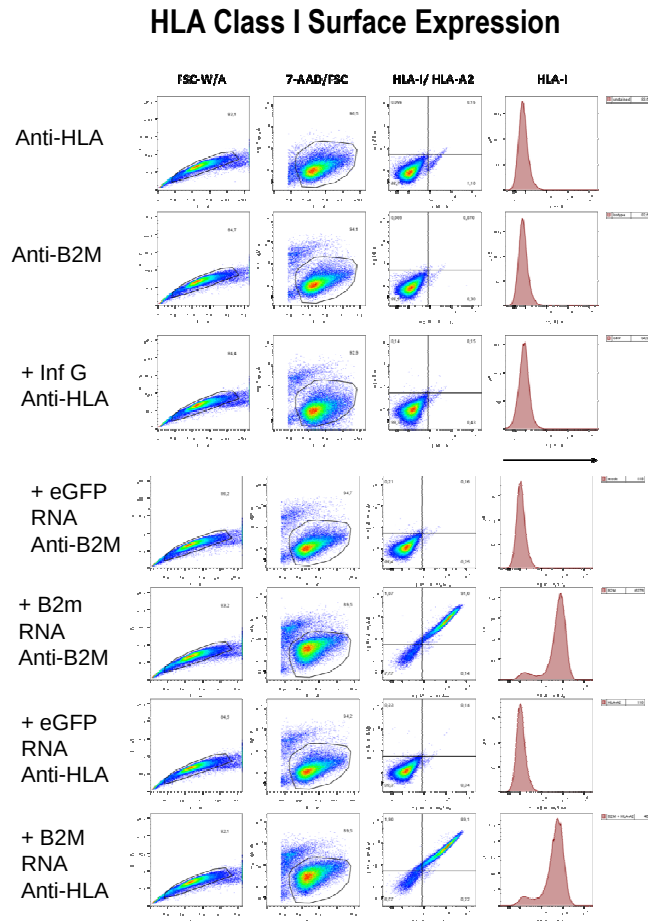
IVT-RNA



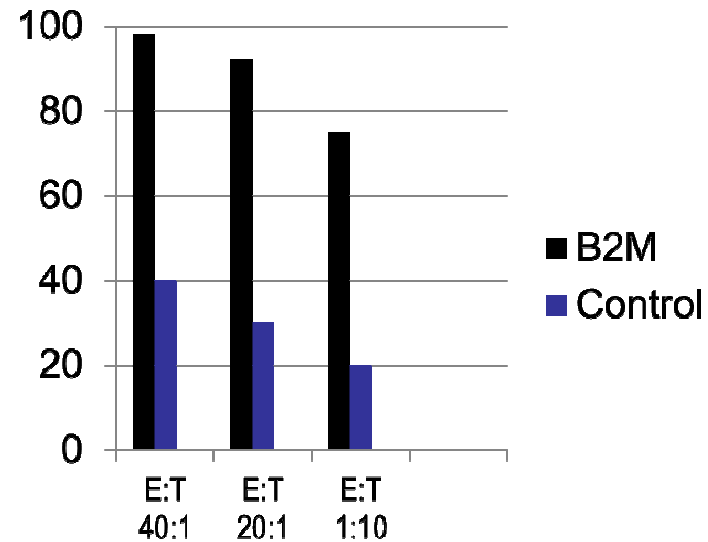
TCR testing



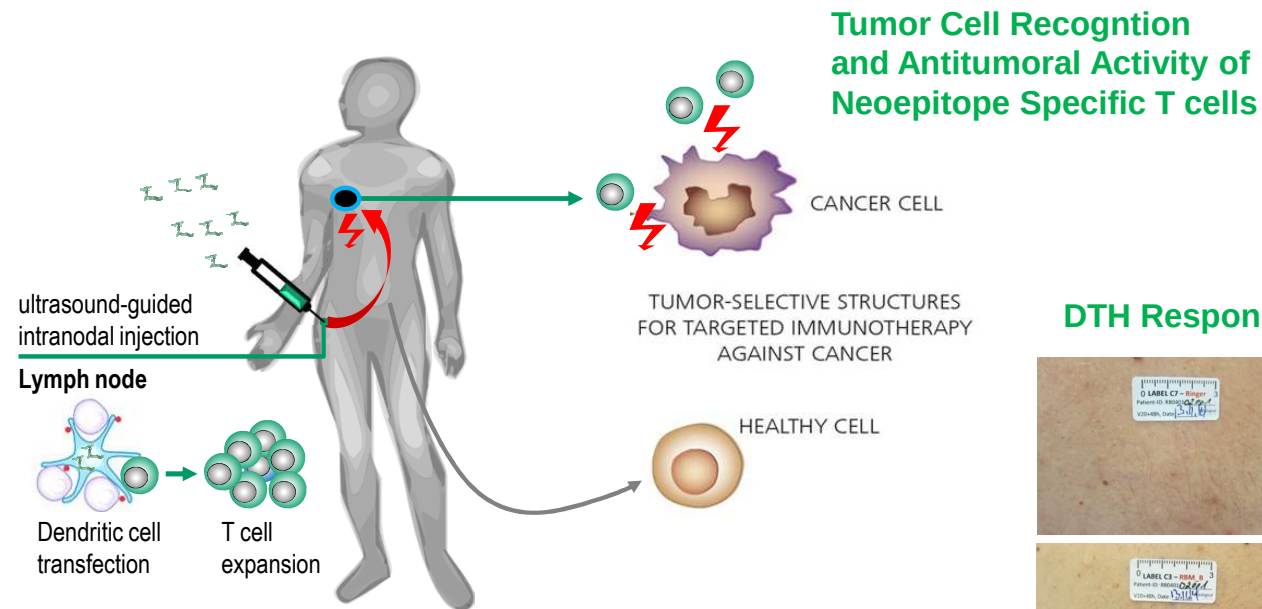
Immune Recognition of Cancer Cells by Vaccine Induced Mutation Specific T cells



**Cytotoxicity Mutation with Specific TCR
transduced T cells on autologous Melanoma Cells**



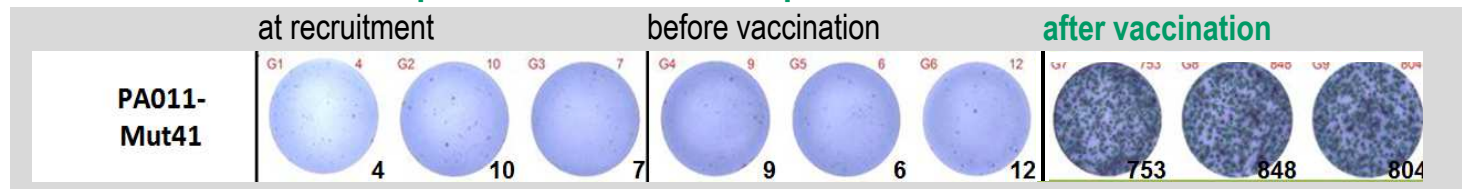
Mutanome Vaccines Clinical Evidence



DTH Response



De novo induction and amplification of mutation specific T cells



Summary Clinical Study



- Targeting Neopitopes with Polytopic RNA Mutanome Vaccines is safe
- Induction of neopeptide specific T cell responses in all patients analyzed so far
- Augmentation of pre-existing and induction of *de novo* CD4+ and CD8+ T cell responses against 50% of neopeptides used for vaccination
- Vaccine induced neopeptide specific T cells infiltrate tumor lesions
- Neopeptide vaccination is associated with increase of overall TILs and intensification of anti-PDL1 staining
- Induction of functionally relevant cytotoxic CD8+ T cell responses
- Evidence of medically relevant antitumoral activity in some patients

Acknowledgments

Immunology & RNA

- Sebastian Kreiter
- Mustafa Diken
- Niels van der Roemer
- Mathias Vormehr
- Lena Kranz
- Raouf Selmi
- Sebastian Attig
- Richard Rae
- Andreas Kuhn
- Janina Buck
- Burkhard Otte
- Fulvia Vascotto
- Isabel Vogler,
- Nicole Bidmon
- Inga Ortseifer
- Eva Godehardt
- Özlem Yildiz
- Evelyn Derhovanessian

Sequencing & Validation

- Valesca Boisguierin
- Jos de Graaf

Computational Medicine

- Martin Löwer
- Tadmor Arbel
- John Castle
- Sebastian Boegel
- Barbara Schrörs

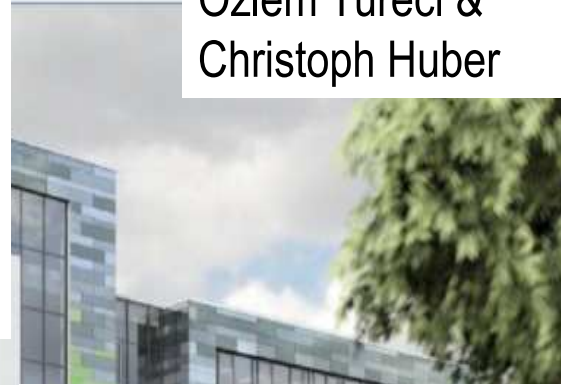
Development

- Björn Kloke,
- Birgit Pless,
- Sandra Heesch,
- Alexander Kemmer-Brück
- Felicitas Müller
- Ulrich Luxemburger
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- Cedrik Britten,
- David Langer



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Özlem Türeci &
Christoph Huber



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- Stephen Schönberger (San Diego)
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MERIT Project Consortium

MERIT
Mutanome Engineered RNA Immuno-Therapy



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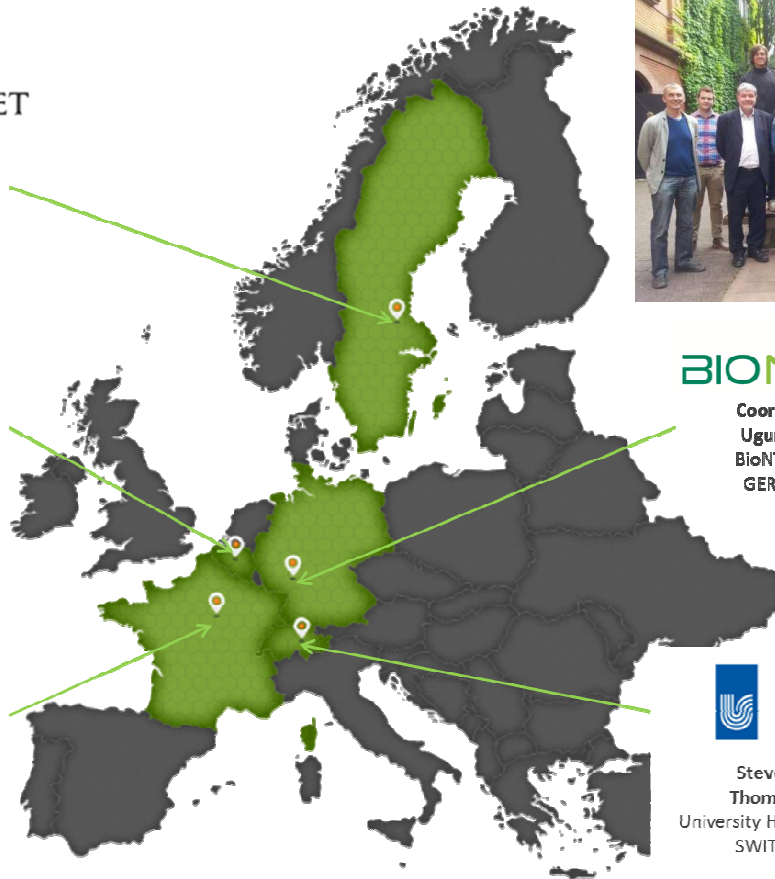


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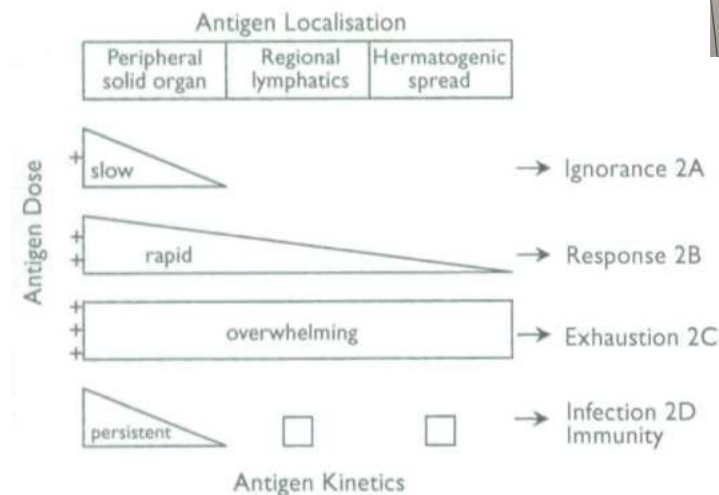
Rolf M. Zinkernagel
Stephan Ehl
Peter Aichele
Stephan Oehen
Thomas Kündig
Hans Hengartner

Immunological Reviews 1997
Vol. 156: 199–209

Antigen localisation regulates
immune responses in a dose- and
time-dependent fashion:
a geographical view of immune
reactivity



Rolf Zinkernagel



...antigen that is transported to secondary lymphoid organs in sufficient (but not excessive) amounts and for sufficient time period (but does not persist) induces an effective immune response

Rolf M. Zinkernagel, 2000, Seminars in Immunology