



Translational Opportunities in Immunotherapy Research

Taha Merghoub

Attending Lab Member • Immuno-Oncology Service

HOPP program, Depart of Medicine

Co-Director of the Wolchok/Ludwig Collaborative and Swim Across America lab at MSK

Prof. of Immunol. Research, Weill Cornell



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Disclosures

- » IMVAQ therapeutics co-founder
- » Advisory board immunos therapeutics
- » Consulting for Pfizer, Daichii
- » 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.

Some of my research was supported by:

- » Bristol-Myers Squibb
- » Surface Oncology
- » Kyn Therapeutics
- » Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- » Peregrine Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- » Adaptive Biotechnologies
- » Leap Therapeutics, Inc.
- » Aprea.

Some key points for today's lecture

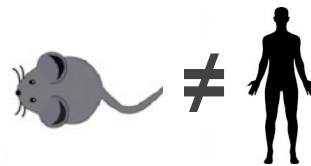
- » Pre-clinical models inform mechanism based therapeutic strategies.
- » Tumor immune landscape should be taken into consideration when designing immune therapy.
- » The timing of the immune intervention is key.
- » Real time monitoring of the tumor microenvironment should help rationally design immune intervention.
- » Do not ignore a phenomena when you don't understand it.

Some key points for today's lecture

» Use appropriate models for each type of approach.

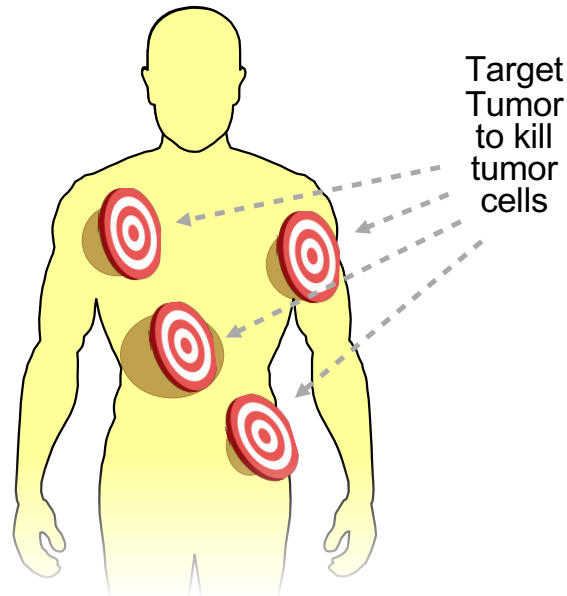


» Often time the models are not the problem. We are.
› We need to make sure that we are not over interpreting (literal translation).

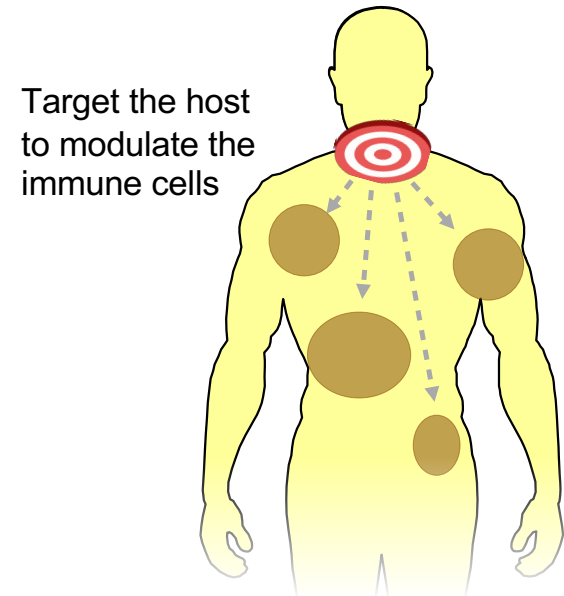


Two Main Paradigms for Advancing Cancer Therapy Melanoma: the poster child

Targeted Therapy



Immunotherapy



Melanoma Therapy — 2010



FDA Approved Therapies (USA)

Date

DTIC (chemotherapy):

Helps 10% of patients for short periods of time (3 months)

1970s

High-dose interleukin-2:

Helps <15% of patients for a decade or more; high toxicity

1998



There was a clear need for new and more effective therapies.

The Poster Child: Metastatic Melanoma today

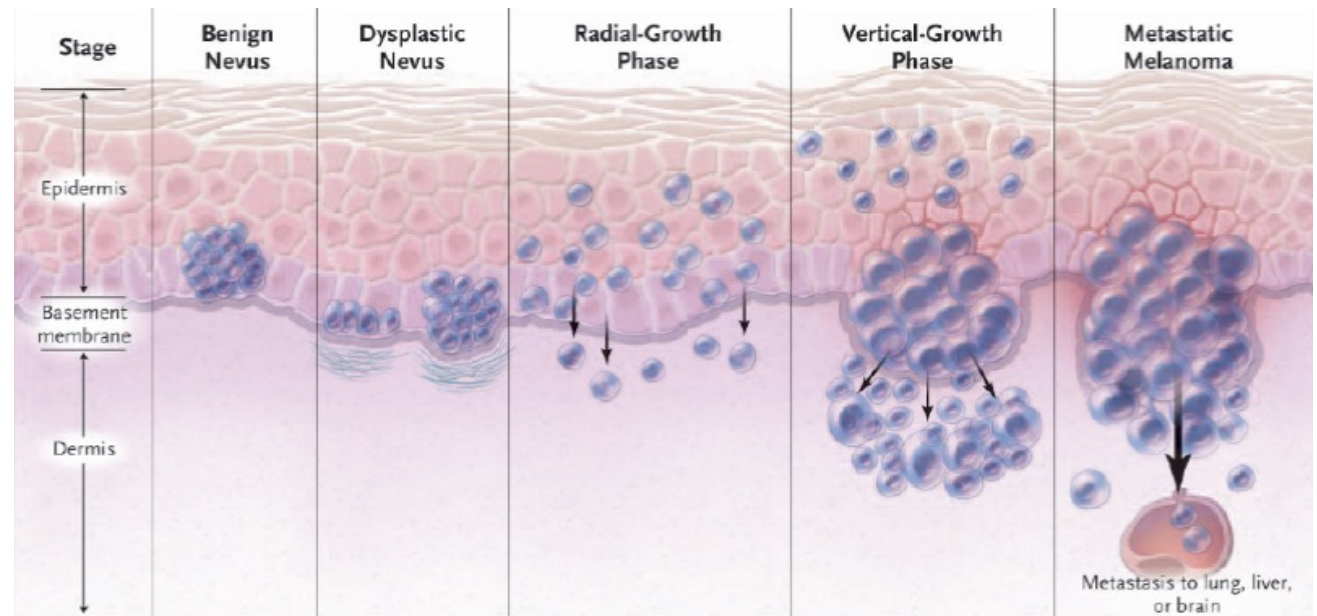


FDA-approved Therapies (USA)	Date
DTIC (dacarbazine)	1970s
Interferon alfa (adjuvant)	1996
High-dose interleukin-2	1998
Ipilimumab	2011
Nivolumab	2014
Pembrolizumab	2014
Ipilimumab/Nivolumab	2015
Talimogene Laherparepvec (T-VEC)	2015
Vemurafenib	2011
Dabrafenib	2013
Trametinib	2013
Cobimetinib	2015
Encorafenib/Binimetinib	2018

NCI, cancer.gov, 2021

Biological Events and Molecular Changes in Melanoma Progression

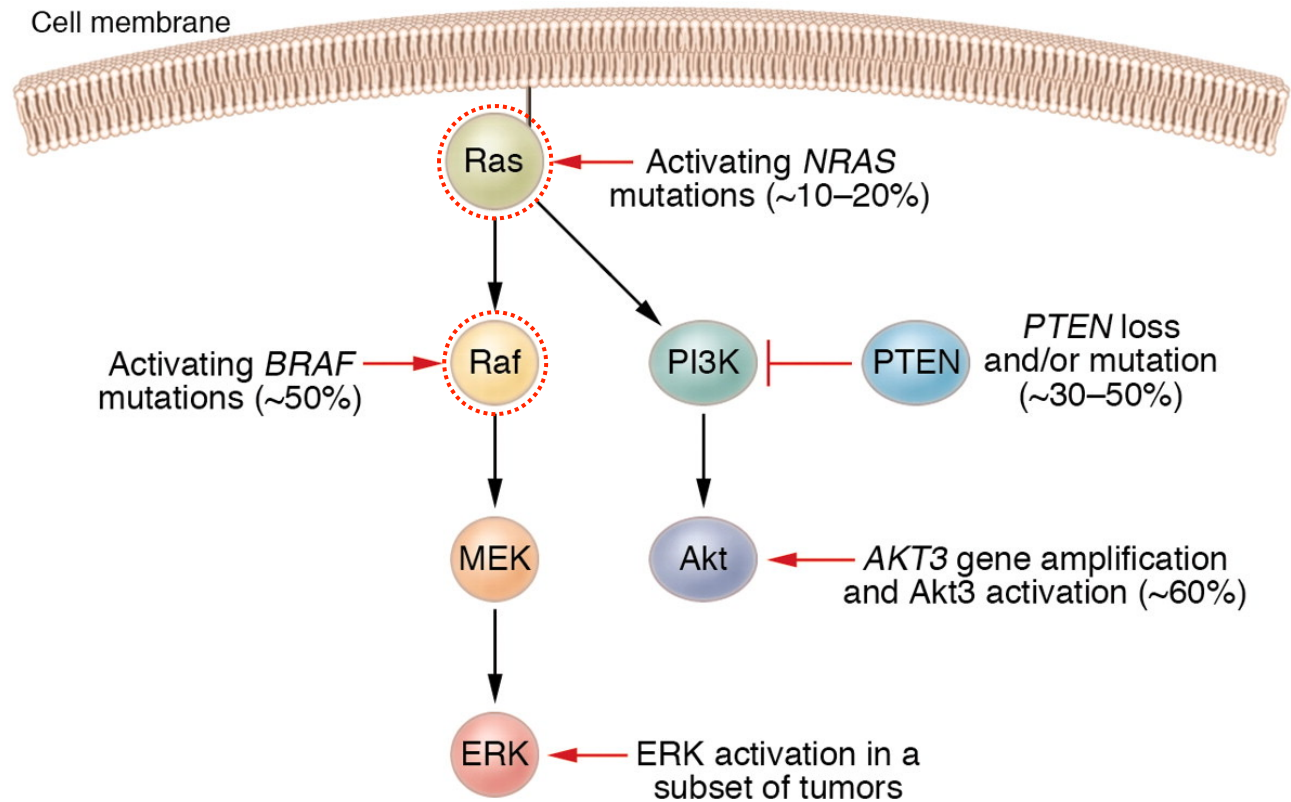
- » Many molecular changes occur during melanoma progression
- » Oncogenes and Tumor Suppressor genes are mutated



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

Genomic alteration/Mutation

Genes and Pathways Involved in Melanoma Development



Chudnovsky Y,
JCI, 2005.

Mutations Define Distinct Melanoma Molecular Subsets



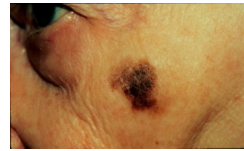
Arising from Skin Without Chronic Sun Damage



Vemurafenib

50% ~~BRAF~~
20% NRAS

0% KIT



Arising from Skin With Chronic Sun Damage



10% BRAF
10% NRAS

2% KIT



Arising from Mucosal Surfaces



5% BRAF
15% NRAS

20% KIT

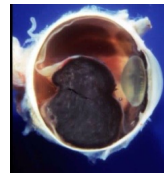


Arising from Acral Surfaces



15% BRAF
15% NRAS

15% KIT



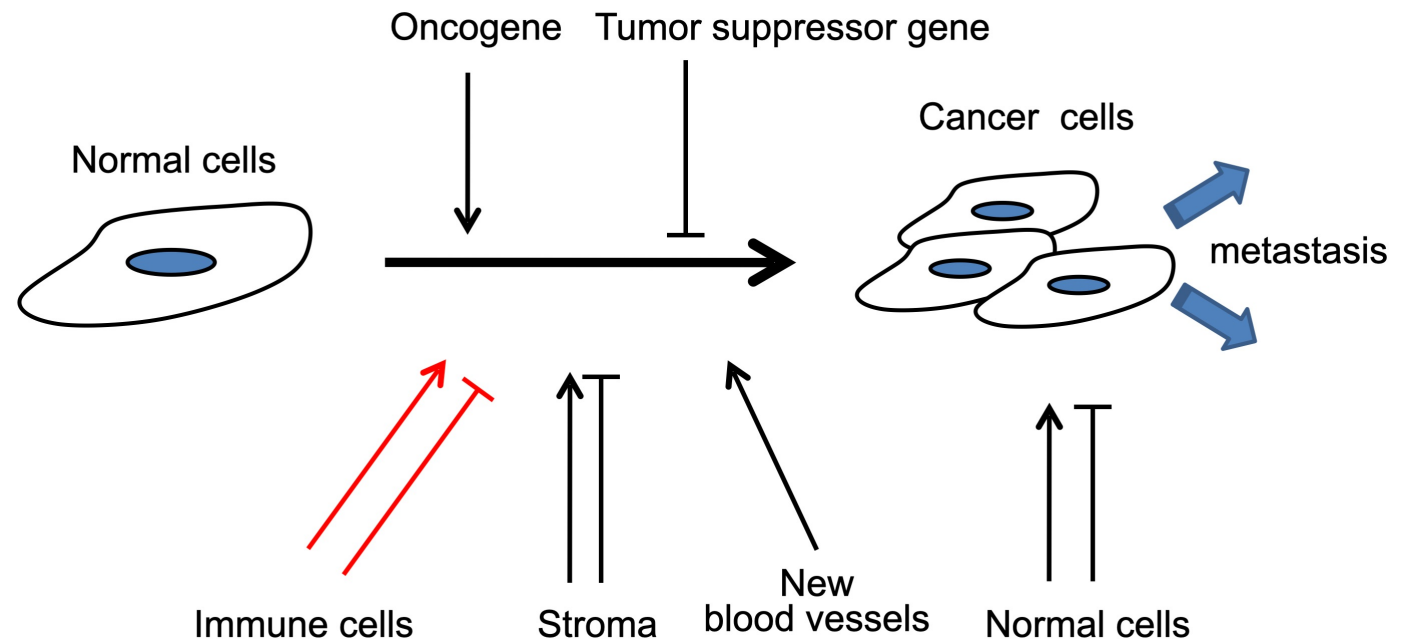
Uveal Melanoma



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



~~Non-self~~

Self

What if the immune system recognizes and attacks self?



Cancer = Self

Autoimmune reaction to self / transformed self

Recognizing self as non-self:
Autoimmunity/Vitiligo



Goal: Recognition of
Transformed-self/Cancer

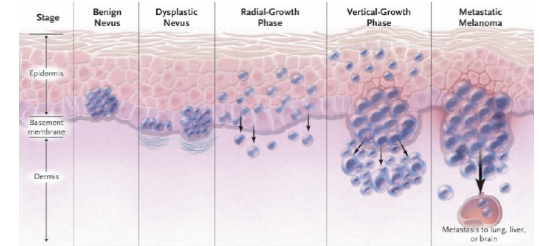


Natural response to melanoma

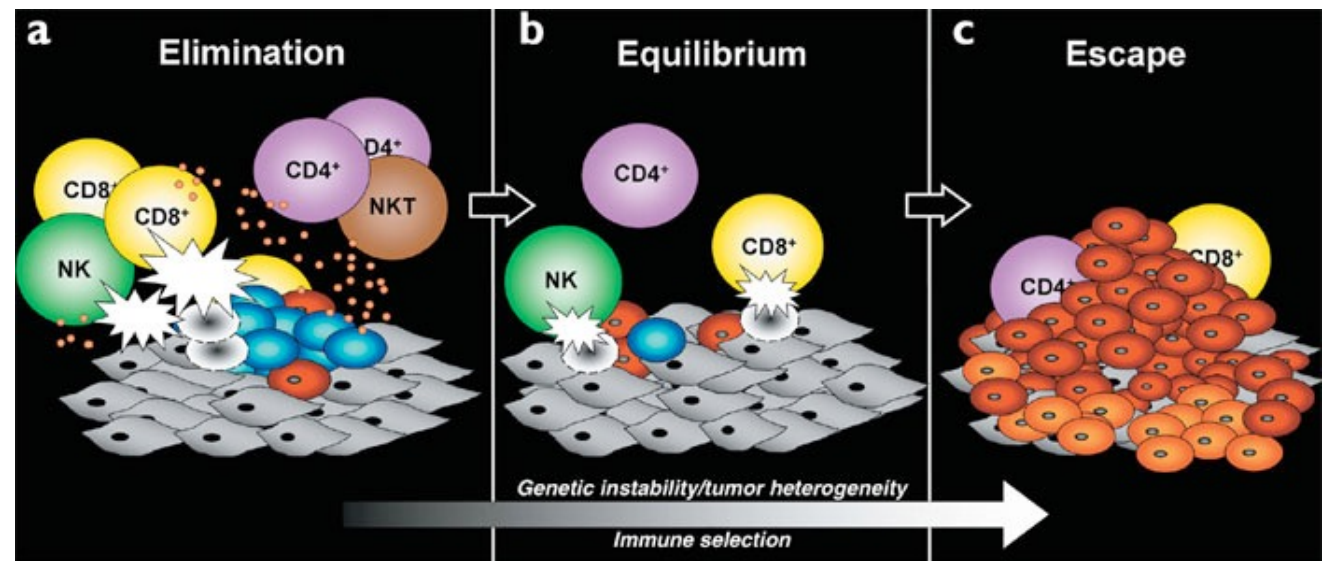
- » Clinical observation that melanoma patients who develop vitiligo “do better” and that vitiligo is associated with response to chemotherapy as well as immunotherapy
- » Isolation from a patient of an antibody recognizing “pigmented associated antigen”



Role of the Immune System in Cancer: Immunoediting

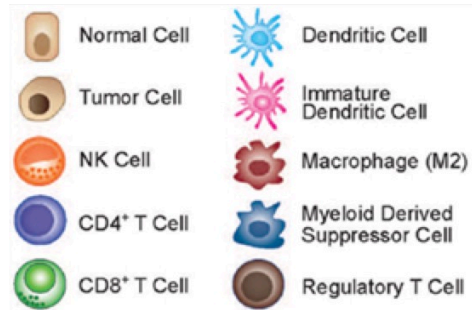


Robert D. Schreiber

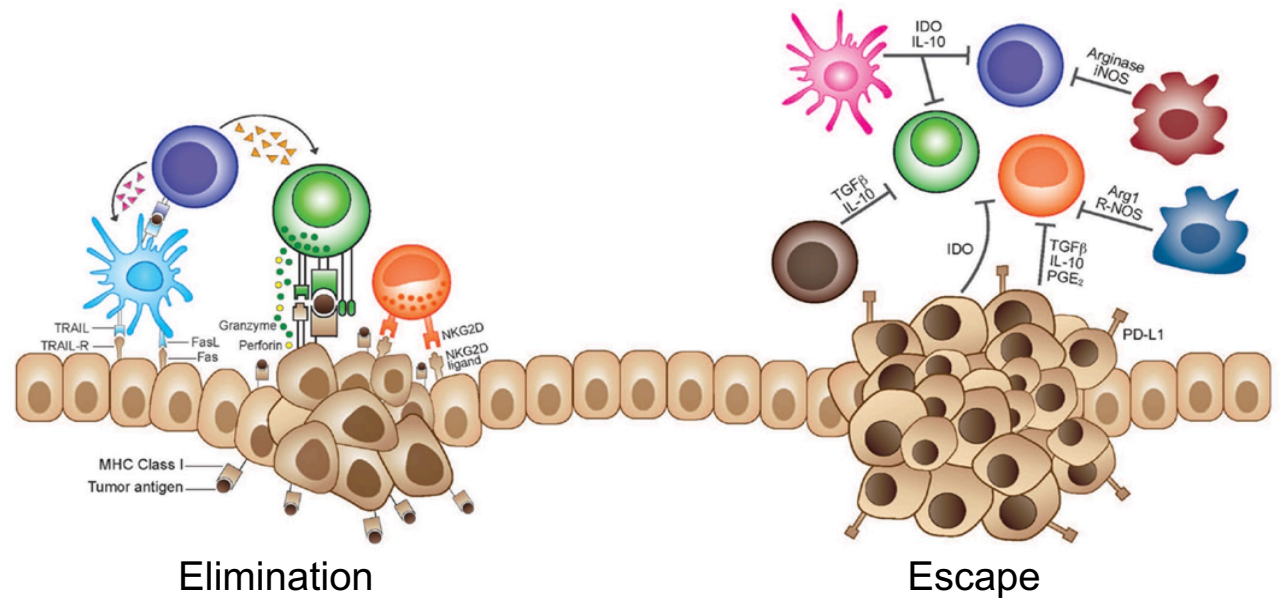


Immunoediting

Immune Suppressive
Microenvironment

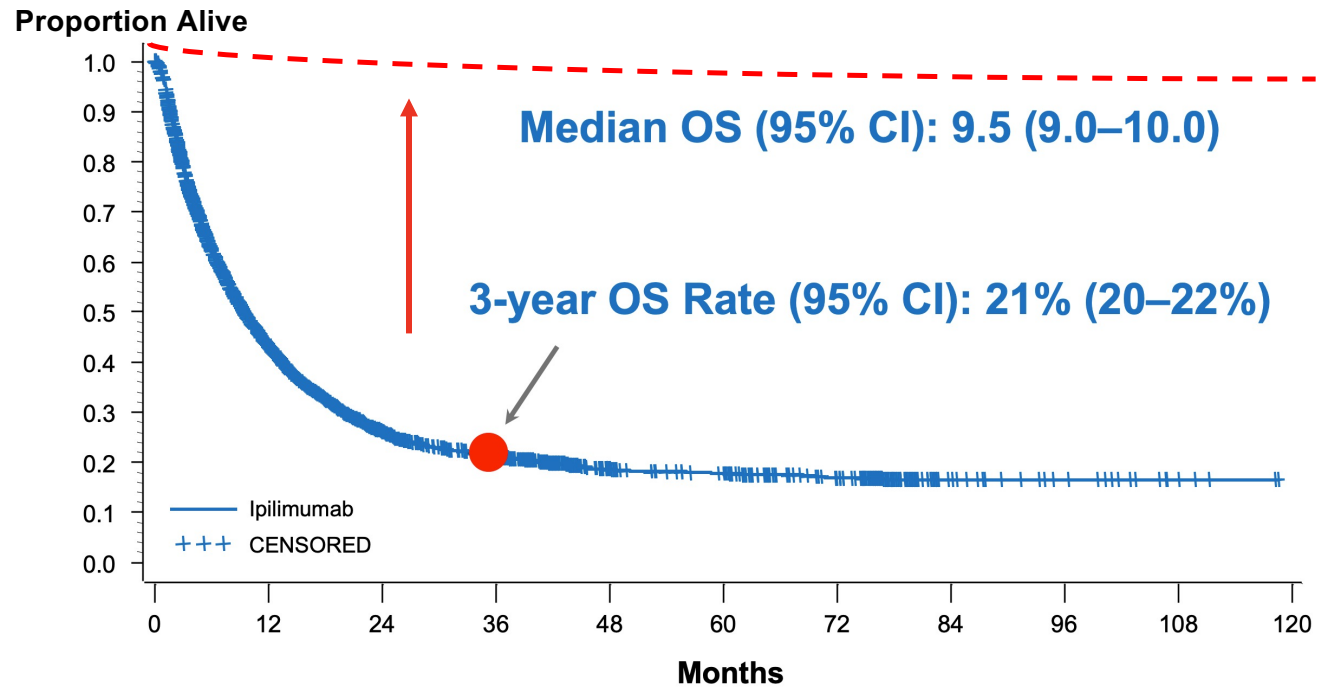


Tumor Microenvironment



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

Ipilimumab Long Term Pooled Survival Analysis: 4846 Patients



Patients at Risk

Months	0	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120
Ipilimumab	4846	1786	612	392	200	170	120	26	15	5	0

Schadendorf, Hodi
Wolchok, ESMO, 2013



- 1. Can we predict response to immune therapy reliably?**
- 2. Can we improve response to immune therapy?**

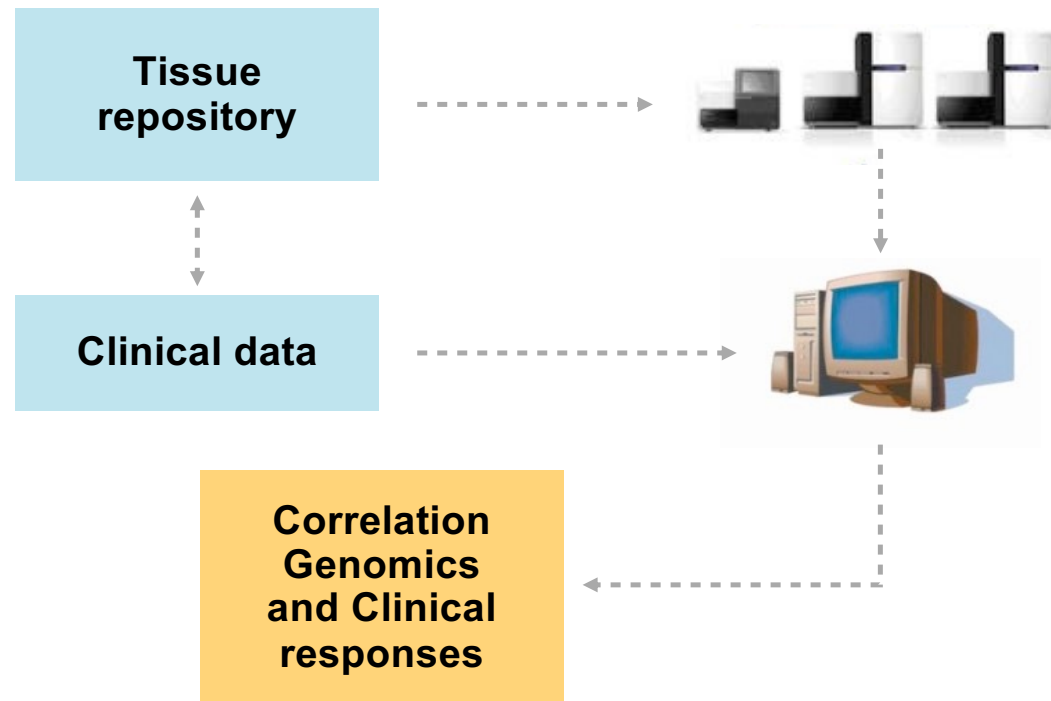


Can we predict response to immune therapy reliably?

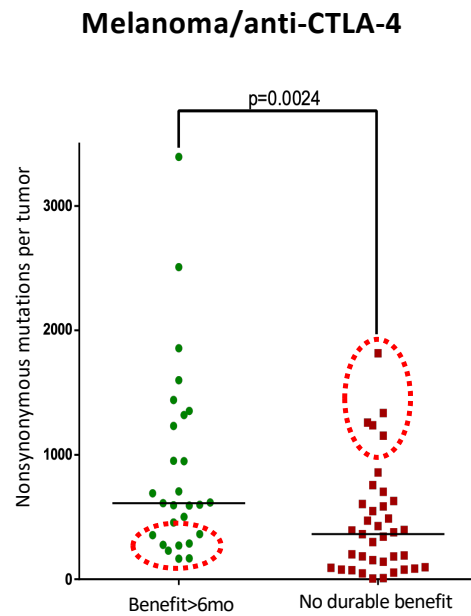


Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

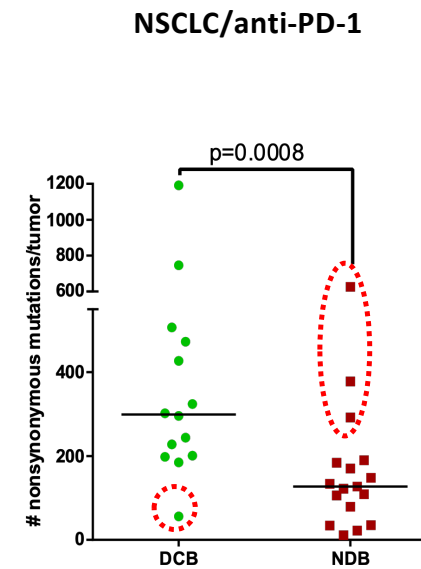
Mutations, Immunogenicity and Prediction of clinical response



Mutational Load Correlates with Benefit from Checkpoint BlockadeWith Important Exceptions



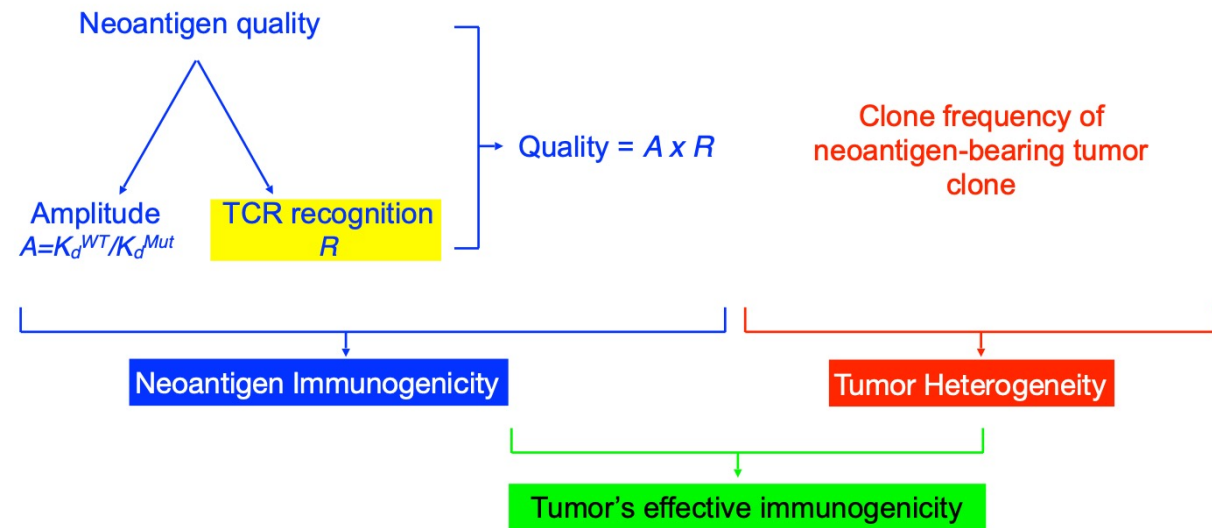
Snyder, Makarov, Merghoub, Yuan et al NEJM 2014
Van Allen, Miao et al Science 2015, Hugo et al Cell 2016



Le et al NEJM 2016, Rizvi, Hellmann, Snyder et al
Science 2015, Rosenberg et al Lancet Oncol 2016

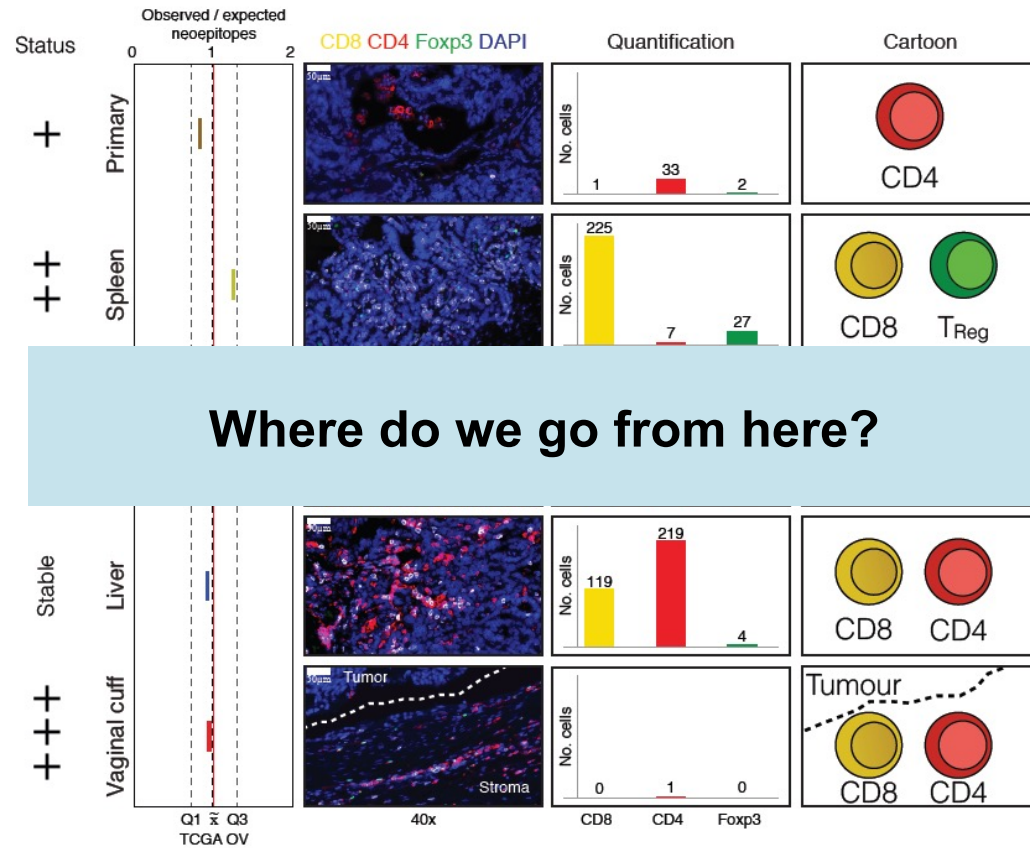
A computation model of neoantigen quality based immunogenicity

Which neoantigen(s) are the most immunogenic?



Balachandran VP, Wolchok JD, Merghoub T et al. *Nature* 2017.
Luksza M, Balachandran VP, Greenbaum BG et al. *Nature* 2017.

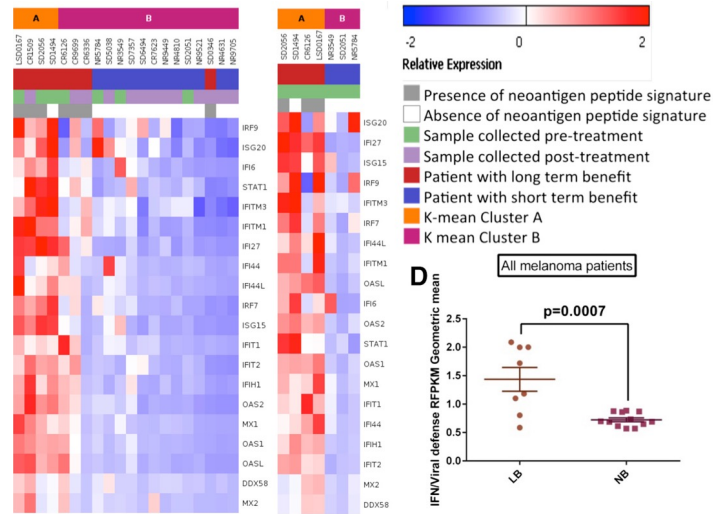
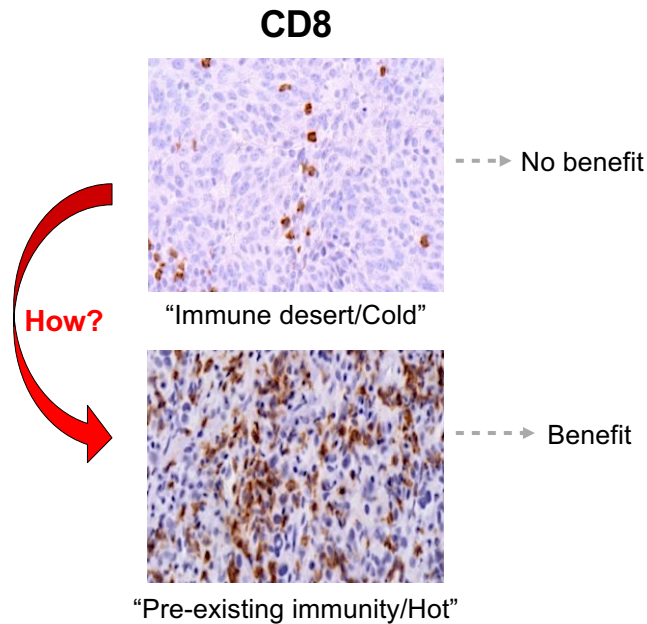
Distinct Tumor Immune TME in one Patient, Controlled for Environmental & Inherited Factors





**Can we improve response
to immune therapy?**

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



Type I IFN signature is associated with clinical benefit from CTLA-4 blockade in melanoma

“Pre-existing immunity/Hot”

↓

Immune check point
point is enough

“Immune desert/Cold”

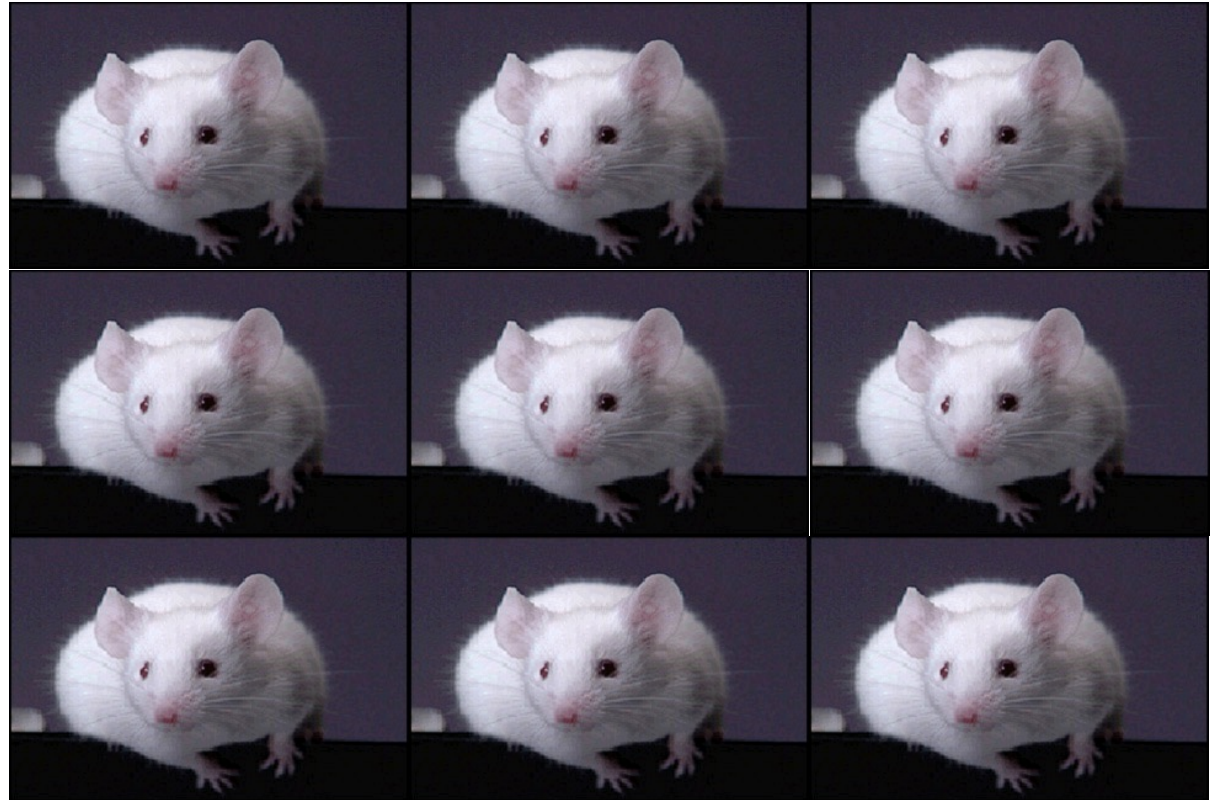
↓

Immune check point
+ bring immune cells to tumors

Need to go back to murine tumor models

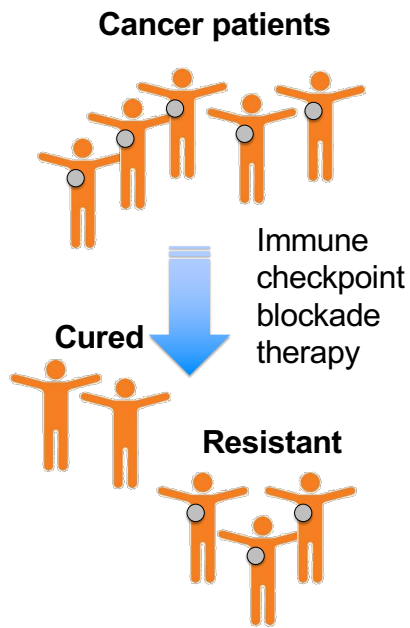
We look like identical twins!

Inbred mouse strains are a great tool



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Major mechanisms of resistance to anti-tumor immunity



Tumor intrinsic resistance

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature14404

Melanoma-intrinsic β -catenin signalling prevents anti-tumour immunity

Stefani Spranger¹, Riyue Bao² & Thomas F. Gajewski^{1,3}

Loss of IFN- γ Pathway Genes in Tumor Cells as a Mechanism of Resistance to Anti-CTLA-4 Therapy

Jianjun Gao,^{1,6} Lewis Zhichang Shi,^{1,6} Hao Zhao,^{4,6} Jianfeng Chen,¹ Liangwen Xiong,¹ Qiuming He,¹ Tenghui Chen,⁴ Jason Roszik,⁷ Chantale Bernatchez,⁷ Scott E. Woodman,¹ Pei-Ling Chen,¹ Patrick Hwu,² James P. Allison,¹ Andrew Futreal,⁴ Jennifer A. Wargo,^{1,6} and Padmanee Sharma^{1,4,7,8}

Genomic and Transcriptomic Features of Response to Anti-PD-1 Therapy in Metastatic Melanoma

Willy Hugo,^{1,4,6} Jesse M. Zaretsky,^{2,6,8} Lu Sun,^{1,6} Chunying Song,^{1,6} Blanca Homet Moreno,^{1,6} Siwen Hu-Lieskovan,¹ Beata Berent-Moaz,¹ Jia Pang,¹ Bartosz Chmielowski,¹ Grace Cherry,¹ Elizabeth Seja,¹ Shirley Lomeli,^{1,6} Xiangju Kong,^{1,6} Mark C. Kelley,¹ Jeffrey A. Sosman,¹ Douglas B. Johnson,¹ Antoni Ribas,^{2,3,4,6,9} and Roger S. Lo^{1,2,6,8}

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812 SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 VOL. 375 NO. 9

Mutations Associated with Acquired Resistance to PD-1 Blockade in Melanoma

Jesse M. Zaretsky, B.S., Angel Garcia-Diaz, Ph.D., Daniel S. Shin, M.D., Helena Escuin-Ordinas, Ph.D., Willy Hugo, Ph.D., Siwen Hu-Lieskovan, M.D., Ph.D., Davis Y. Tonneau, M.D., Gabriel Abril-Rodriguez, M.Sc., Saleemza Sandoval, Ph.D., Lucas Barthly, M.Sc., Justin Saco, B.S., Blanca Homet Moreno, M.D., Riccardo Mezzadra, M.Sc., Bartosz Chmielowski, M.D., Ph.D., Kathleen Ruchalski, M.D., I. Peter Shintaku, Ph.D., Phillip J. Sanchez, Ph.D., Cristina Puig-Saus, Ph.D., Grace Cherry, R.N., N.P., Elizabeth Seja, B.A., Xiangju Kong, M.Sc., Jia Pang, B.S., Beata Berent-Moaz, Ph.D., Begona Comin-Andreu, Ph.D., Thomas G. Graeber, Ph.D., Paul C. Tumeh, M.D., Ton N.M. Schumacher, Ph.D., Roger S. Lo, M.D., Ph.D., and Antoni Ribas, M.D., Ph.D.

Immune-mediated resistance

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Frequencies of circulating MDSC correlate with clinical outcome of melanoma patients treated with ipilimumab

Christiane Meyer · Laurene Cagnon · Carla M. Costa-Nunes · Petra Baumgaertner · Nicole Montandon · Loredana Leyvraz · Olivier Michielin · Emanuela Romano · Daniel E. Speiser

REVIEW ARTICLE

Tumor-associated macrophages in cancers

W. Hu^{1,2,3} · X. Li^{1,2,3} · C. Zhang¹ · Y. Yang¹ · J. Jiang^{2,3} · C. Wu^{1,2,3}



Research article

CTLA4 blockade and GM-CSF combination immunotherapy alters the intratumor balance of effector and regulatory T cells

Sergio A. Quezada, Karl S. Peggs, Michael A. Curran, and James P. Allison
Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Department of Immunology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, USA

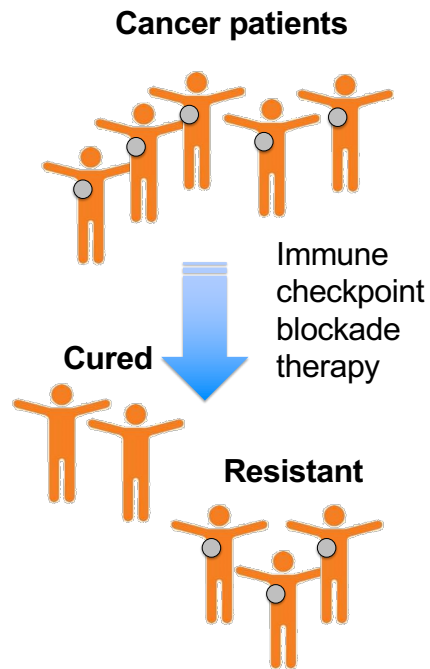
JEM

Article

Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase is a critical resistance mechanism in antitumor T cell immunotherapy targeting CTLA-4

Rikke B. Holmgaard,^{1,2} Dmitriy Zamarin,^{1,2,3} David H. Munn,⁴ Jedd D. Wolchok,^{2,3,5,6} and James P. Allison^{1,7}

1 – Better define the tumor intrinsic mechanisms of response to immune therapies



Tumor intrinsic resistance

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature14404

Melanoma-intrinsic β -catenin signalling prevents anti-tumour immunity

Stefani Spranger¹, Riyue Bao² & Thomas F. Gajewski^{1,3}

Loss of IFN- γ Pathway Genes in Tumor Cells as a Mechanism of Resistance to Anti-CTLA-4 Therapy

Jianjun Gao,^{1,6} Lewis Zhichang Shi,^{1,6} Hao Zhao,^{1,6} Jianfeng Chen,¹ Liangwen Xiong,¹ Qiuming He,¹ Tenghui Chen,⁴ Jason Roszik,¹ Chantale Bernatchez,⁵ Scott E. Woodman,⁵ Pei-Ling Chen,¹ Patrick Hwu,¹ James P. Allison,¹ Andrew Futreal,¹ Jennifer A. Wargo,^{2,5} and Padmanee Sharma^{1,4,7}

Genomic and Transcriptomic Features of Response to Anti-PD-1 Therapy in Metastatic Melanoma

Willy Hugo,^{1,4,8} Jesse M. Zaretsky,^{1,6,9} Lu Sun,^{1,6} Chunying Song,^{1,6} Blanca Homet Moreno,¹ Siwen Hu-Lieskovan,¹ Beata Berent-Maoz,¹ Jia Pang,¹ Bartosz Chmielowski,¹ Grace Cherry,¹ Elizabeth Seja,¹ Shirley Lomeli,^{1,6} Xiangju Kong,^{1,6} Mark C. Kelley,¹ Jeffrey A. Sosman,¹ Douglas B. Johnson,¹ Antoni Ribas,^{2,3,4,6,8} and Roger S. Lo^{1,2,5,6,*}

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

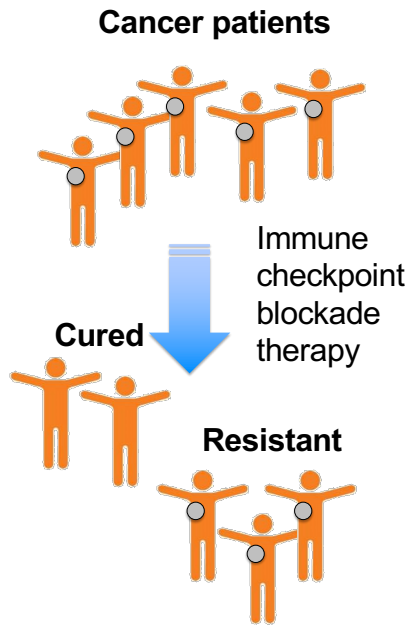
SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

VOL. 375 NO. 9

Mutations Associated with Acquired Resistance to PD-1 Blockade in Melanoma

Jesse M. Zaretsky, B.S., Angel Garcia-Diaz, Ph.D., Daniel S. Shin, M.D., Helena Escuin-Ordinas, Ph.D., Willy Hugo, Ph.D., Siwen Hu-Lieskovan, M.D., Ph.D., David Y. Torrejon, M.D., Gabriel Abiri-Rodriguez, M.Sc., Saleemiz Sandoval, Ph.D., Lucas Barthly, M.Sc., Justin Saco, B.S., Blanca Homet Moreno, M.D., Riccardo Mezzadra, M.Sc., Bartosz Chmielowski, M.D., Ph.D., Kathleen Ruchalski, M.D., I. Peter Shintaku, Ph.D., Phillip J. Sanchez, Ph.D., Cristina Puig-Saus, Ph.D., Grace Cherry, R.N., N.P., Elizabeth Seja, B.A., Xiangju Kong, M.Sc., Jia Pang, B.S., Beata Berent-Maoz, Ph.D., Begonia Comin-Anduix, Ph.D., Thomas G. Graeber, Ph.D., Paul C. Tumeh, M.D., Tom N.M. Schumacher, Ph.D., Roger S. Lo, M.D., Ph.D., and Antoni Ribas, M.D., Ph.D.

Major mechanisms of resistance to anti-tumor immunity



Tumor intrinsic resistance

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature14404

Melanoma-intrinsic β -catenin signalling prevents anti-tumour immunity

Stefani Spranger¹, Riyue Bao² & Thomas F. Gajewski^{1,3}

Loss of IFN- γ Pathway Genes in Tumor Cells as a Mechanism of Resistance to Anti-CTLA-4 Therapy

Jianjun Gao,^{1,6} Lewis Zhichang Shi,^{1,6} Hao Zhao,^{4,6} Jianfeng Chen,¹ Liangwen Xiong,¹ Qiuming He,¹ Tenghui Chen,⁴ Jason Roszik,⁷ Chantale Benatchez,⁷ Scott E. Woodman,¹ Pei-Ling Chen,¹ Patrick Hwu,² James P. Allison,¹ Andrew Futreal,⁴ Jennifer A. Wargo,^{1,6} and Padmanee Sharma^{1,4,7,8}

Genomic and Transcriptomic Features of Response to Anti-PD-1 Therapy in Metastatic Melanoma

Willy Hugo,^{1,4,9} Jesse M. Zaretsky,^{2,5,10} Lu Sun,^{1,6} Chunying Song,^{1,6} Blanca Homet Moreno,^{1,6} Siwen Hu-Lieskovan,¹ Beata Berent-Macoz,¹ Jia Pang,¹ Bartosz Chmielowski,¹ Grace Cherry,¹ Elizabeth Seja,¹ Shirley Lomeli,¹⁰ Xiangju Kong,^{1,4} Mark C. Kelley,¹ Jeffrey A. Sosman,¹ Douglas B. Johnson,¹ Antoni Ribas,^{2,3,4,9} and Roger S. Lo^{1,2,5,6,9}

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812 SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 VOL. 375 NO. 9

Mutations Associated with Acquired Resistance to PD-1 Blockade in Melanoma

Jesse M. Zaretsky, B.S., Angel Garcia-Diaz, Ph.D., Daniel S. Shin, M.D., Helena Escuin-Ordinas, Ph.D., Willy Hugo, Ph.D., Siwen Hu-Lieskovan, M.D., Ph.D., Davis Y. Tonneau, M.D., Gabriel Abril-Rodriguez, M.Sc., Saleemza Sandoval, Ph.D., Lucas Barthly, M.Sc., Justin Saco, B.S., Blanca Homet Moreno, M.D., Riccardo Mezzadra, M.Sc., Bartosz Chmielowski, M.D., Ph.D., Kathleen Ruchalski, M.D., I. Peter Shintaku, Ph.D., Phillip J. Sanchez, Ph.D., Cristina Puig-Saus, Ph.D., Grace Cherry, R.N., N.P., Elizabeth Seja, B.A., Xiangju Kong, M.Sc., Jia Pang, B.S., Beata Berent-Macoz, Ph.D., Begona Comin-Anduza, Ph.D., Thomas G. Graeber, Ph.D., Paul C. Tumeh, M.D., Ton N.M. Schumacher, Ph.D., Roger S. Lo, M.D., Ph.D., and Antoni Ribas, M.D., Ph.D.

Immune-mediated resistance

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Frequencies of circulating MDSC correlate with clinical outcome of melanoma patients treated with ipilimumab

Christiane Meyer · Laurene Cagnon · Carla M. Costa-Nunes · Petra Baumgaertner · Nicole Montandon · Loredana Leyvraz · Olivier Michielin · Emanuela Romano · Daniel E. Speiser

REVIEW ARTICLE

Tumor-associated macrophages in cancers

W. Hu^{1,2,3} · X. Li^{1,2,3} · C. Zhang¹ · Y. Yang¹ · J. Jiang^{2,3} · C. Wu^{1,2,3}



Research article

CTLA4 blockade and GM-CSF combination immunotherapy alters the intratumor balance of effector and regulatory T cells

Sergio A. Quezada, Karl S. Peggs, Michael A. Curran, and James P. Allison
Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Department of Immunology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, USA

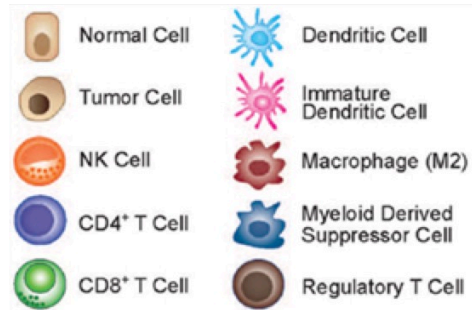
JEM

Article

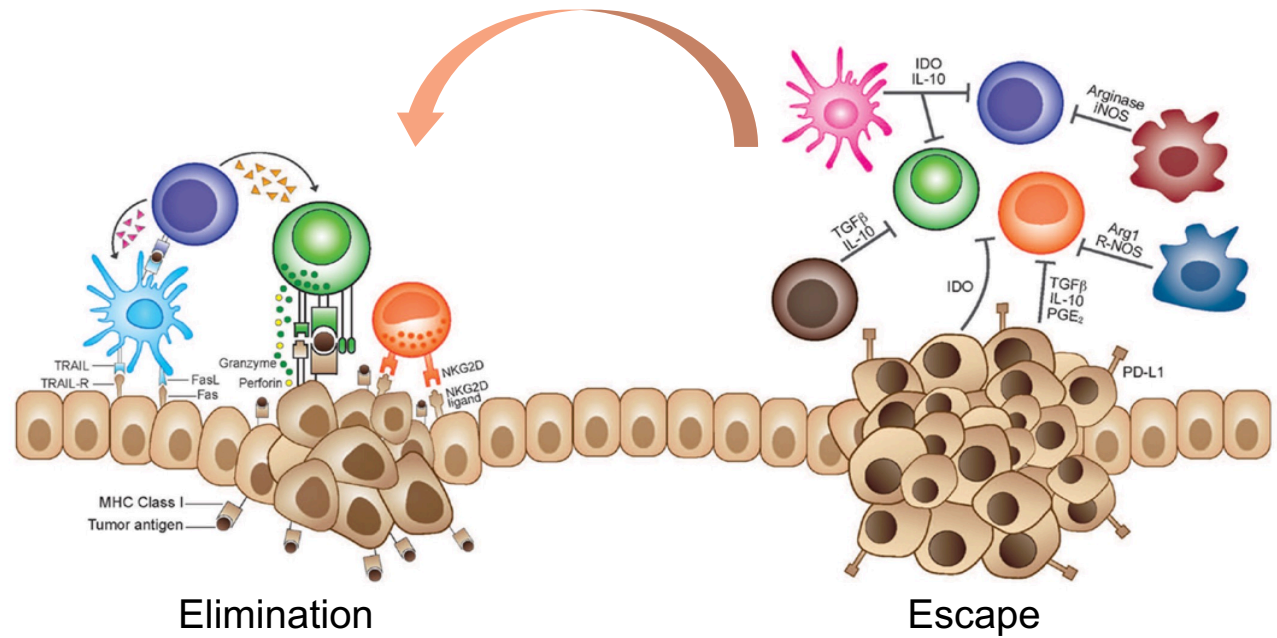
Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase is a critical resistance mechanism in antitumor T cell immunotherapy targeting CTLA-4

Rikke B. Holmgaard,^{1,2} Dmitriy Zamarin,^{1,2,3} David H. Munn,⁴ Jedd D. Wolchok,^{2,3,5,6} and James P. Allison^{1,7}

2 – Modify the Immune Suppressive Microenvironment



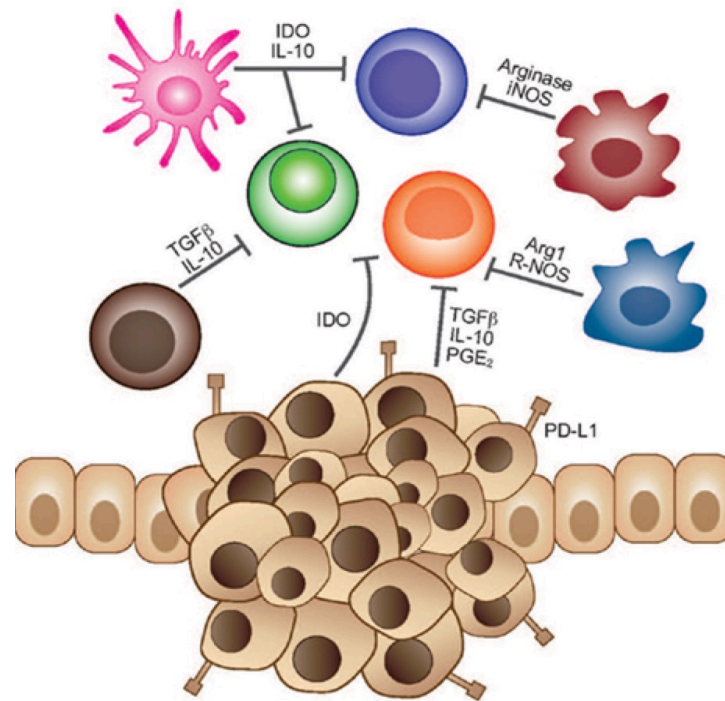
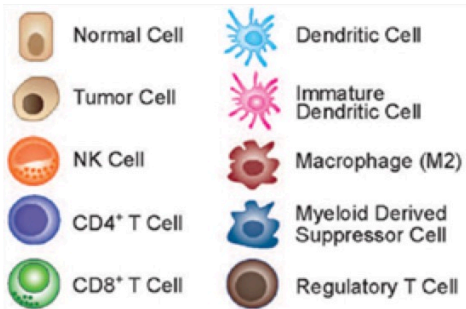
Tumor Microenvironment



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

- » Reverse immune suppression
- » Induce anti-tumor immune response

Variants for immunogenicity study

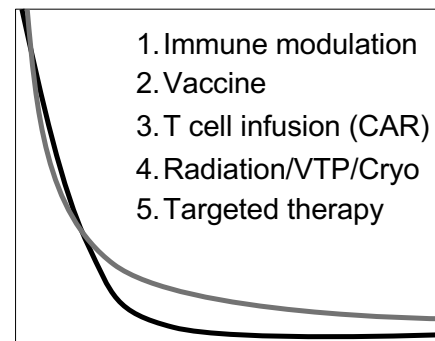
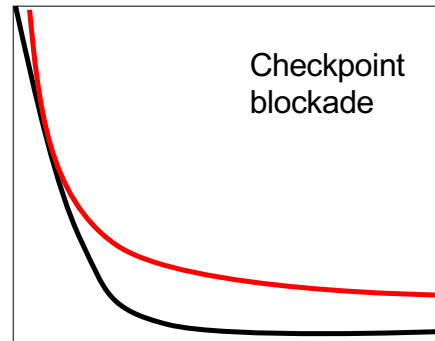


Escape

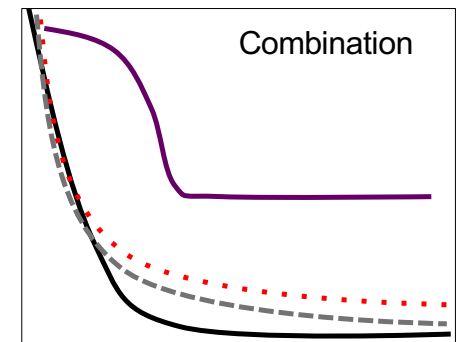
Segal et al. Cancer Res 2008
 Matsushita et al. Nature 2012

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 of immune suppression with immunotherapy

-----> The target cell need to be present

Modify the Immune Suppressive Microenvironment



ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-17750-z> OPEN

Check for updates

Blockade of the AHR restricts a Treg-macrophage suppressive axis induced by L-Kynurenine

Luis Felipe Camesato^{1,2}, Sadna Budhu^{1,2}, Jeremy Tchaicha³, Chien-Huan Weng^{1,2}, Mathieu Gigoux^{1,2}, Ivan Jose Cohen⁴, David Redmond^{1,2}, Levi Mangarin^{1,2}, Stephane Pourpe^{1,2}, Cailian Liu^{1,2}, Roberta Zappasodi^{1,2}, Dmitry Zamarin^{1,2}, Jill Cavanaugh³, Alfredo C. Castro³, Mark G. Manfredi³, Karen McGovern³, Taha Merghoub^{1,2,5,6,8} & Jedd D. Wolchok^{1,2,5,6,8}

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

To cite this article: Rikke B. Holmgaard, Alexandra Brachfeld, Billel Gasmi, Thompson Doman, Mary Murphy, David Schaer, Jedd D. Wolchok & Taha Merghoub (2016). Timing of CSF-1/CSF-1R signaling blockade is critical to improving responses to CTLA-4 based immunotherapy. *Oncimmunology*, DOI: 10.1080/2162402X.2016.1151595

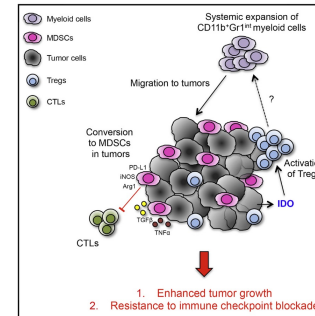


Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Cell Reports

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

Graphical Abstract



Authors

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

Correspondence

wolchokj@mskcc.org

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 immunotherapy, which is orchestrated through expansion, recruitment, and activation of MDSCs in a Treg-dependent manner.

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature20554

Overcoming resistance to checkpoint blockade therapy by targeting PI3K γ in myeloid cells

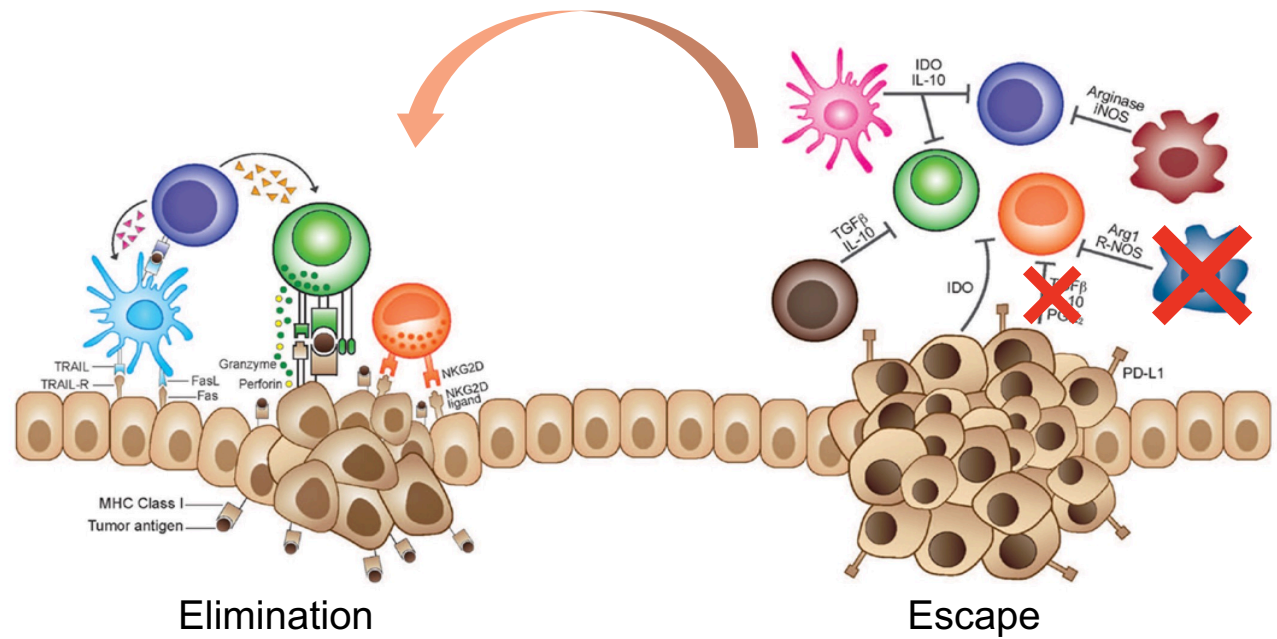
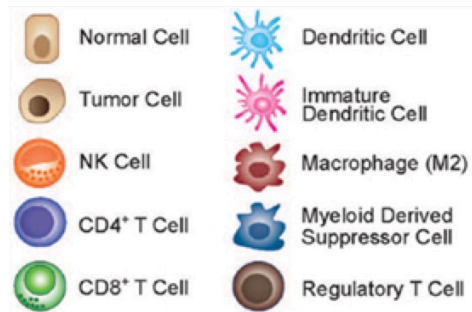
Olivier De Henau¹, Matthew Rausch², David Winkler², Luis Felipe Camesato¹, Callian Liu¹, Daniel Hirschhorn-Cymerman¹, Sadna Budhu¹, Arnab Ghosh¹, Melissa Pink², Jeremy Tchaicha², Mark Douglas², Thomas Tibbitts², Sujata Sharma², Jennifer Proctor², Nicole Kosmider², Kerry White², Howard Stern², John Soghla², Julian Adams², Vito J. Palombella², Karen McGovern², Jeffery L. Karok², Jedd D. Wolchok^{1,3,4} & Taha Merghoub^{1,3}

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 cancers¹. Although these new immunotherapies have had a notable effect on cancer treatment, multiple mechanisms of immune resistance exist in tumours. Among the key mechanisms, myeloid cells have a major role in limiting effective tumour immunity^{2–4}. Genetic evidence suggests

but contain more activated CD8⁺ T cells (Fig. 1b, c). Additionally, CD8⁺ 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 have varying phenotypes and are more suppressive in ICB-resistant tumours. Tumour-derived soluble factors such as granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF) help shape the

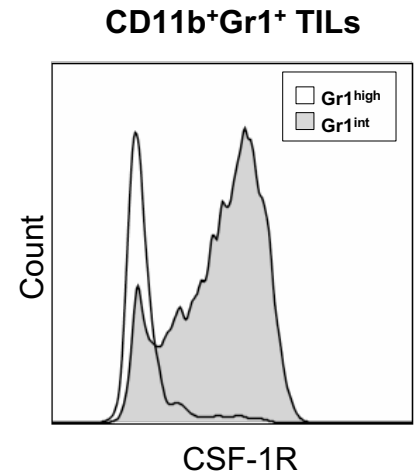
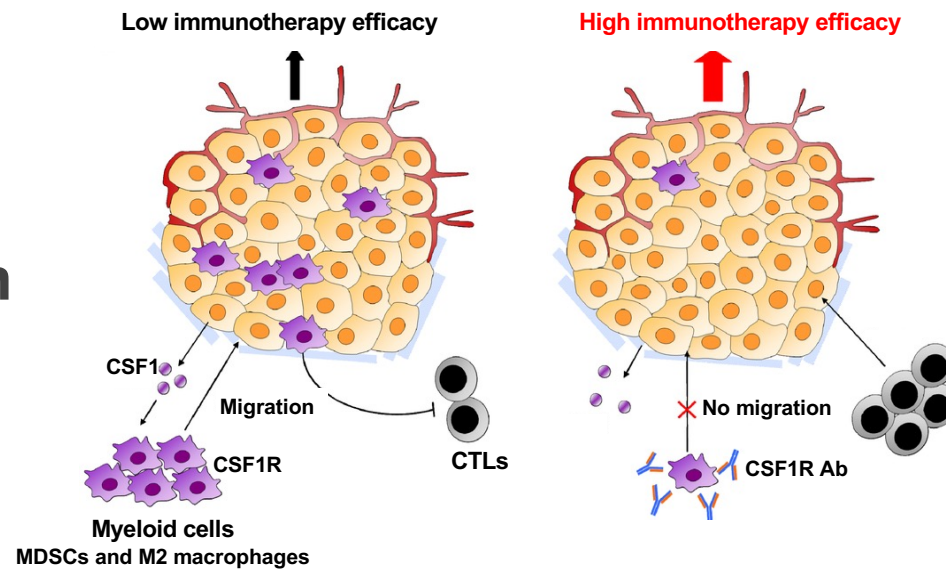
Immune Suppressive Microenvironment

Tumor Microenvironment

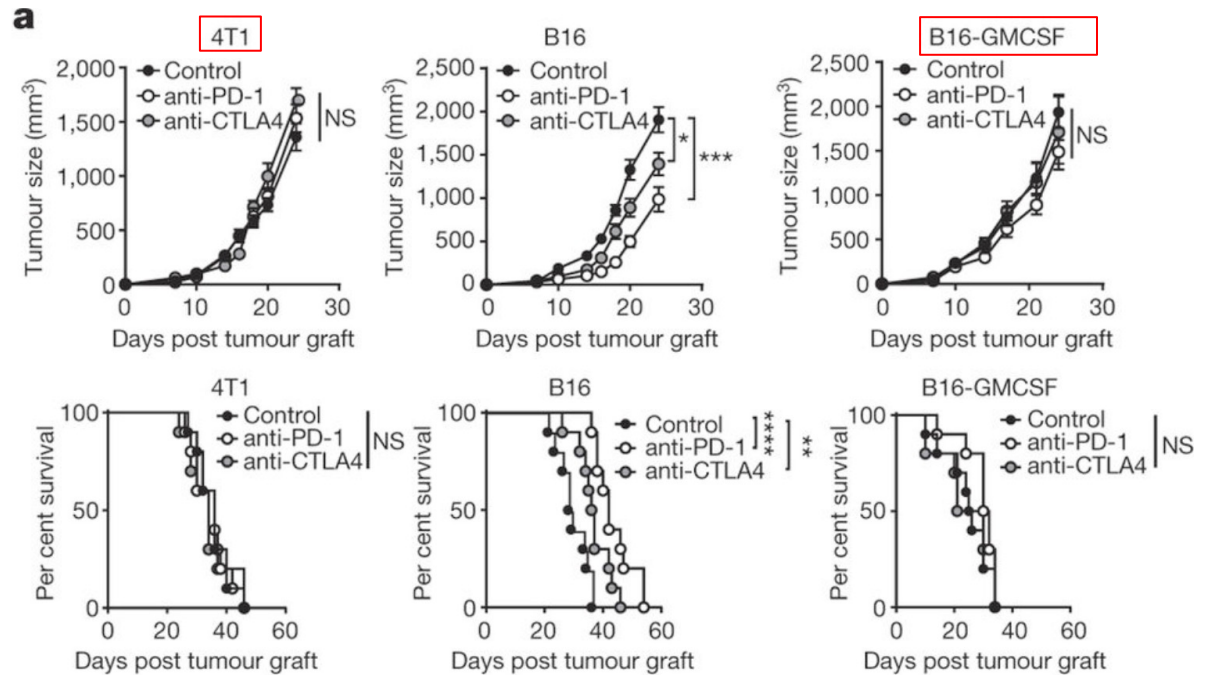


William J. Murphy.
Front Oncol.
2013; 3: 197.

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



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



**Mammary Carcinoma Model
(Rich in myeloid cells)**

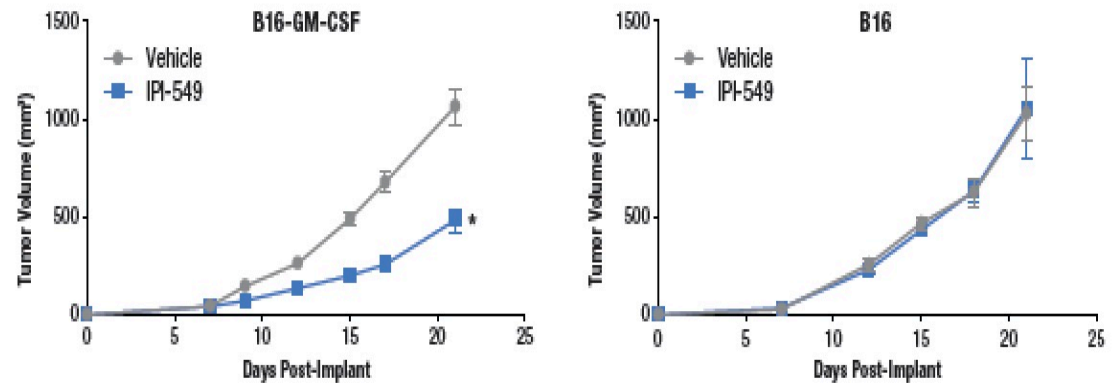
**Melanoma Model
(Poor myeloid cells)**

**Melanoma Model
(Rich in myeloid cells)**

Role of Myeloid Cells in IPI-549 Antitumor Activity

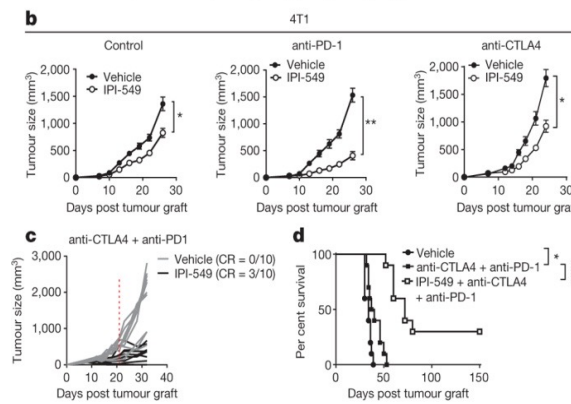
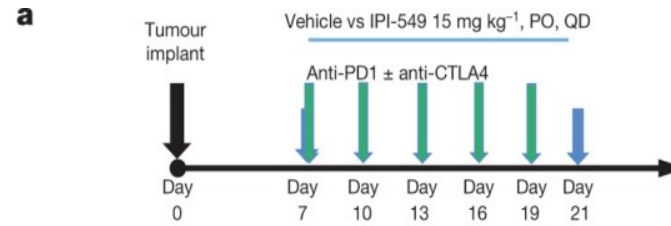
- » PI3 kinase gamma is preferentially expressed in MDSCs
- » IPI-549 is a PI3 kinase gamma inhibitor.
- » IPI-549 is only active in myeloid MDSC dependent tumors.

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

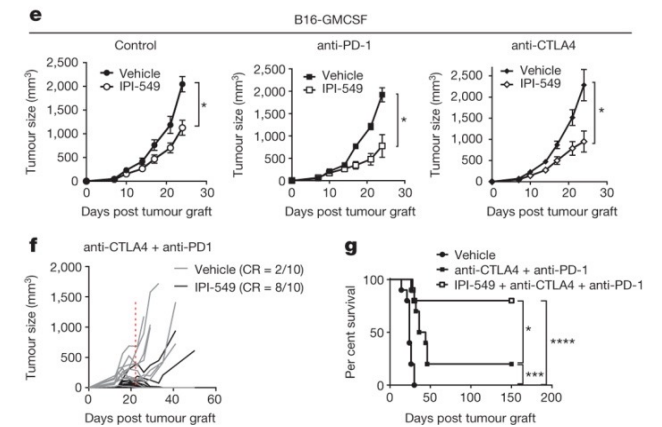


Administration of IPI-549 15 mg/kg orally, daily to C57Bl6 mice bearing GM-CSF transduced B16 tumors resulted in a significant inhibition of tumor growth (* $p < 0.0001$), while IPI-549 had no impact on B16 tumors without GM-CSF ($p = 0.1852$) ($n = 5-6$ mice/group).

Resistance to checkpoint blockade therapy is overcome when combined with selective PI3K γ inhibition



Mammary Carcinoma Model



Melanoma Model

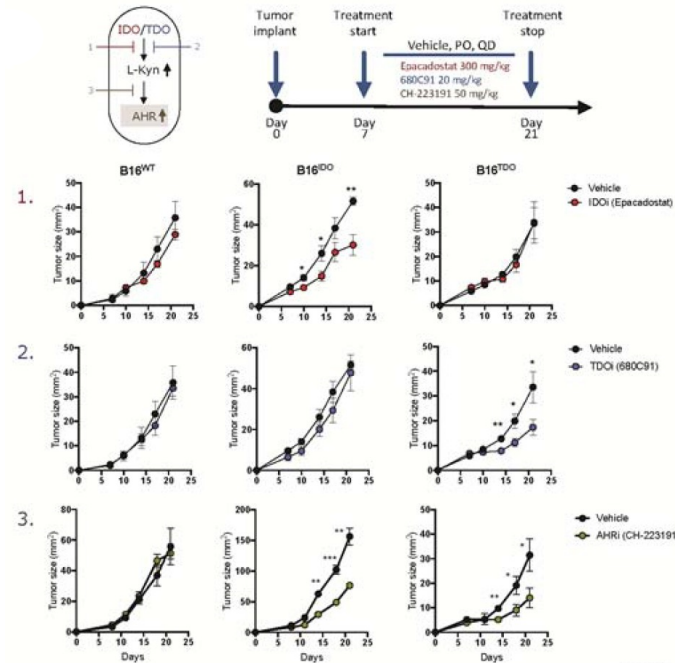
O De Henau et al. Nature 1–4
(2016) doi:10.1038/nature20554

Blocking Suppressive Mechanisms

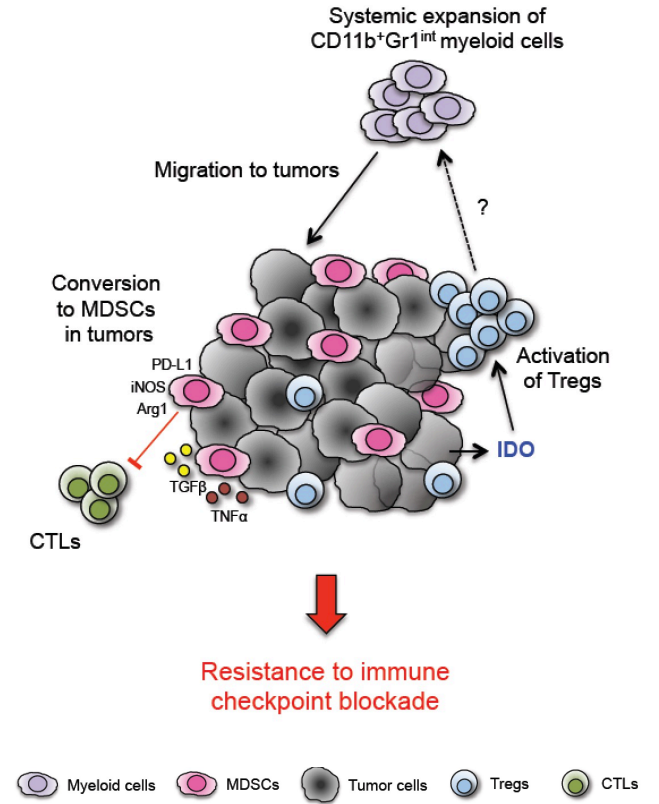
MDSCs Inhibition (CSF1R blockade, PI3 Kinase.....)

IDO inhibition, Kyn, AHR

Campesato, et al, Nat Commun, 2020
Hoolmgard et al, Cell Report,2015

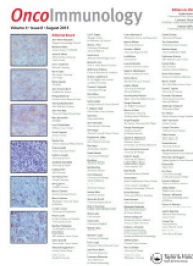


AHRi delays tumor regression of IDO and TDO expressing tumors



Approach combining blockade of immune suppression with checkpoint blockade

- > The target cell need to be present
Timing is key**



OncoImmunology



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

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

To cite this article: Rikke B. Holmgaard, Alexandra Brachfeld, Billel Gasmi, Thompson Doman, Mary Murphy, David Schaer, Jedd D. Wolchok & Taha Merghoub (2016): Timing of CSF-1/CSF-1R signaling blockade is critical to improving responses to CTLA-4 based immunotherapy, *OncoImmunology*, DOI: [10.1080/2162402X.2016.1151595](https://doi.org/10.1080/2162402X.2016.1151595)



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Approach combining blockade of immune suppression with checkpoint blockade

-----> Location is important

Approach of combining check point blockade with the induction of antigen response

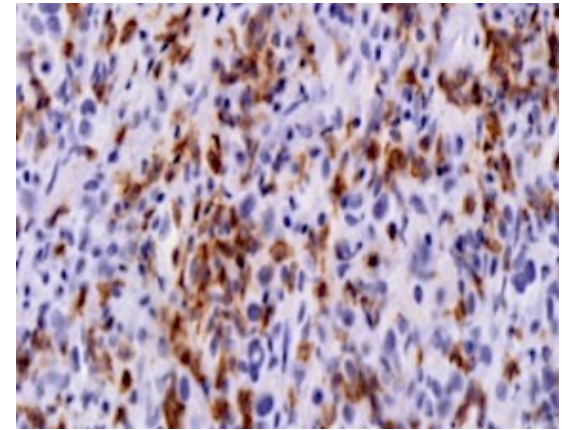
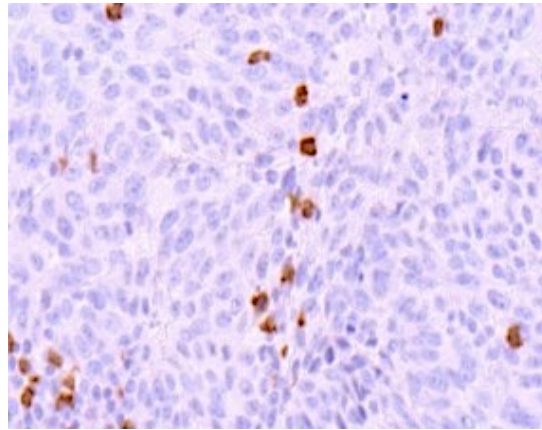
- > Antitumor immune response is
needed in situ vaccine**

Approach

Induce Tumor Antigen Response

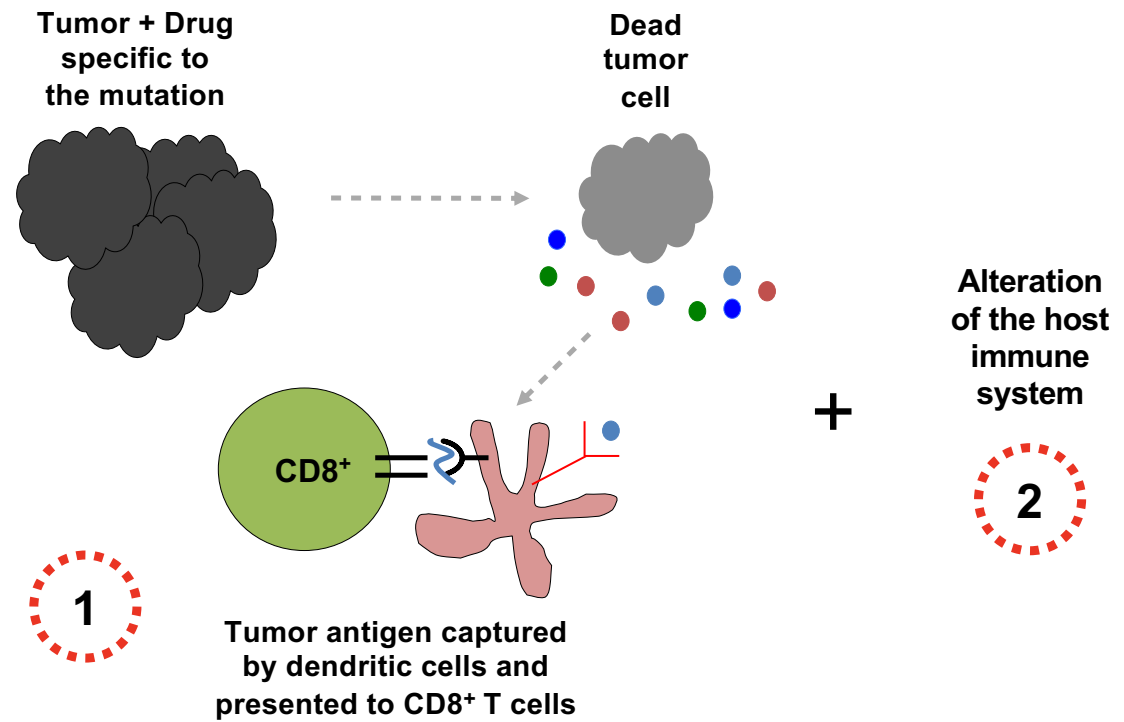
- » Killing the tumors with targeted therapies
- » Oncolytic viral therapy
- » Chemotherapy
- » Radiation therapy
- » VTP
- » Other means...

Increase the Number of Immune Infiltrating Immune Cells

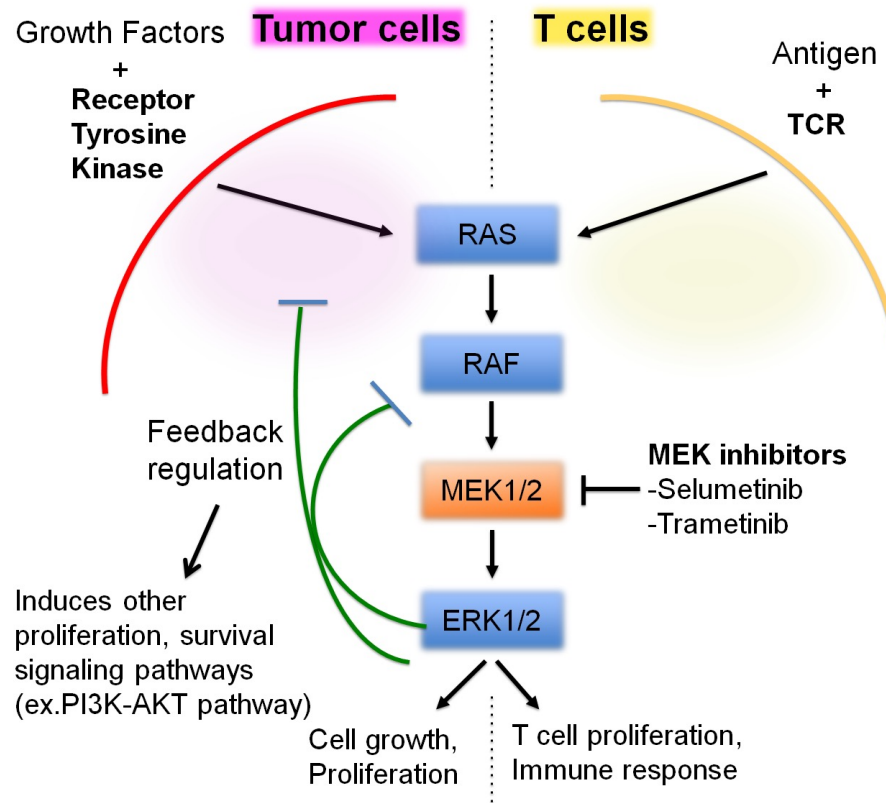


Segal et al. Cancer Res 2008
Matsushita et al. Nature 2012

Targeting tumor cells should induce a tumor-specific immune response

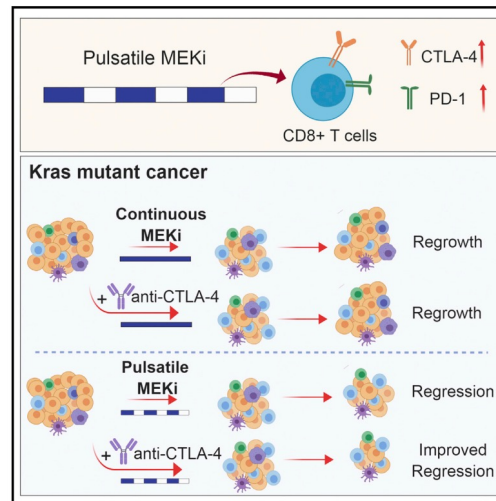


MEK signaling is important to the tumor cells and immune cells both



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

Graphical Abstract



Authors

Hyejin Choi, Jiehui Deng, Shuai Li, ..., Taha Merghoub, Kwok-Kin Wong, Jedd D. Wolchok

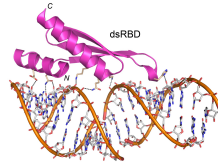
Correspondence

merghout@mskcc.org (T.M.), kwok-kin.wong@nyumc.org (K.-K.W.), wolchokj@mskcc.org (J.D.W.)

In Brief

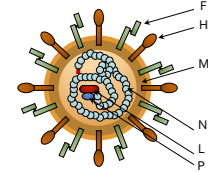
KRAS mutant non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) remains refractory to targeted therapeutics. Choi et al. show that pulsatile, rather than continuous, treatment with MEK inhibitors can maintain T cell activity better and prolong survival in mice with Kras mutant cancer. This effect is further enhanced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

Induction of antitumor immunity with oncolytic viruses : Δ E3L vaccinia virus or Newcastle disease virus (NDV)



Δ E3L
vaccinia

- » Antagonist of intracellular innate immune signaling
- » A mutant vaccinia virus lacking the E3L gene (Δ E3L):
 - › 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 C-terminal dsRNA BD are required for full pathogenesis of the virus in vivo.



NDV

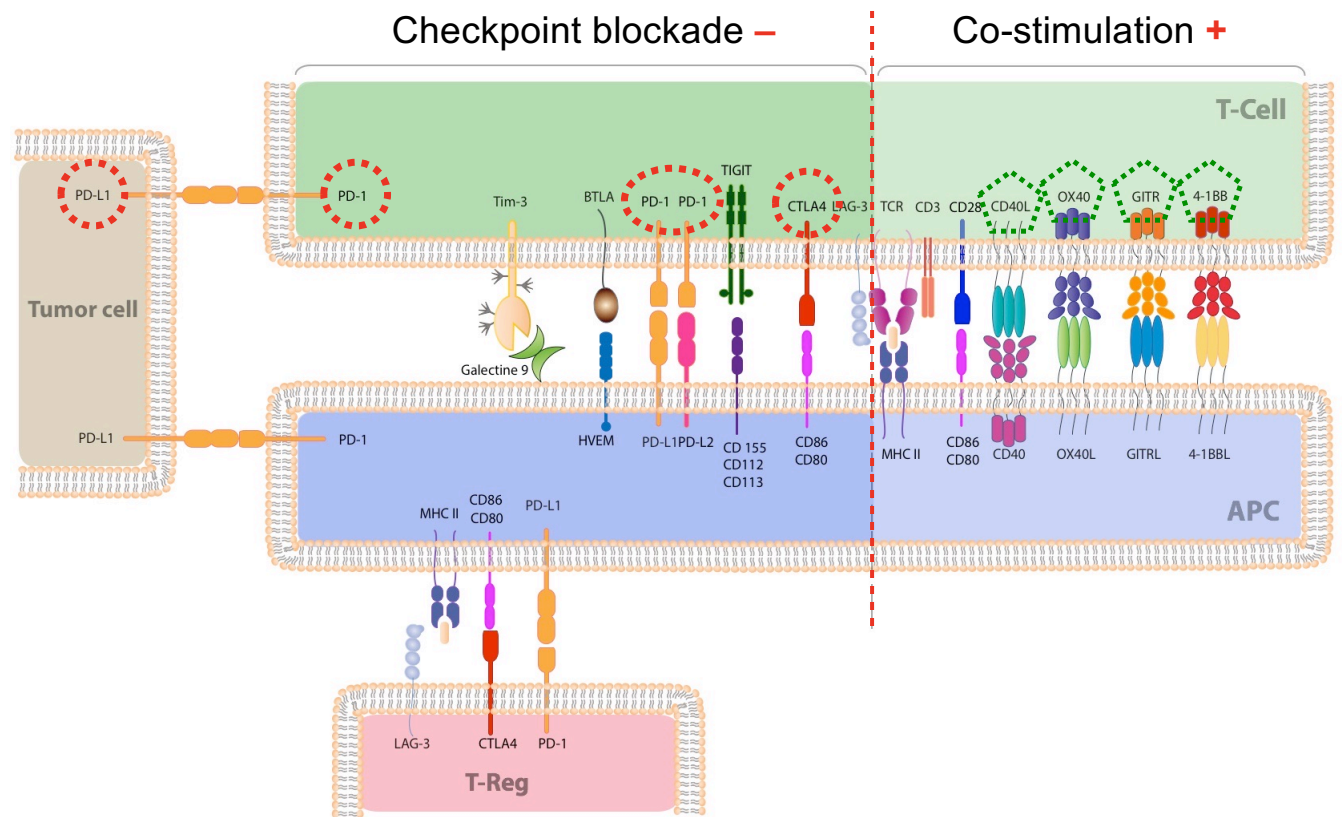


- » Member of Paramyxoviridae family
- » Birds are a natural host
- » Strong inducer of type I IFN
- » Readily infects the majority of cancer cells due to
 - » ubiquity of the receptor (sialic acid)
- » Specificity for cancer cells is mediated by selective viral replication in cells with deficient innate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

Approach:

**Combining Other
immune modulatory
antibodies**

Alter Host Immune System: Rationale Combination with Immune modulation



Khalil Merghoub
 Adv Cancer Res.
 2015;128:1-68.

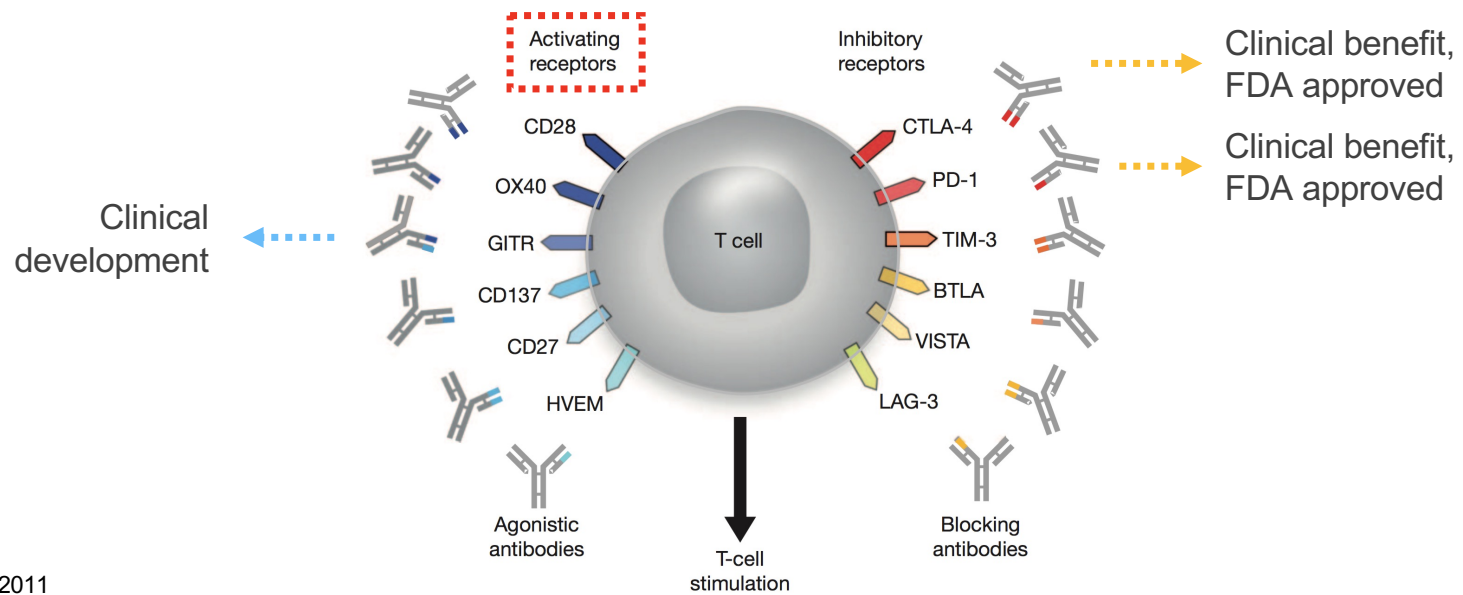
Approach:

**Combining Other
immune modulatory
antibodies beyond
checkpoint blockade**



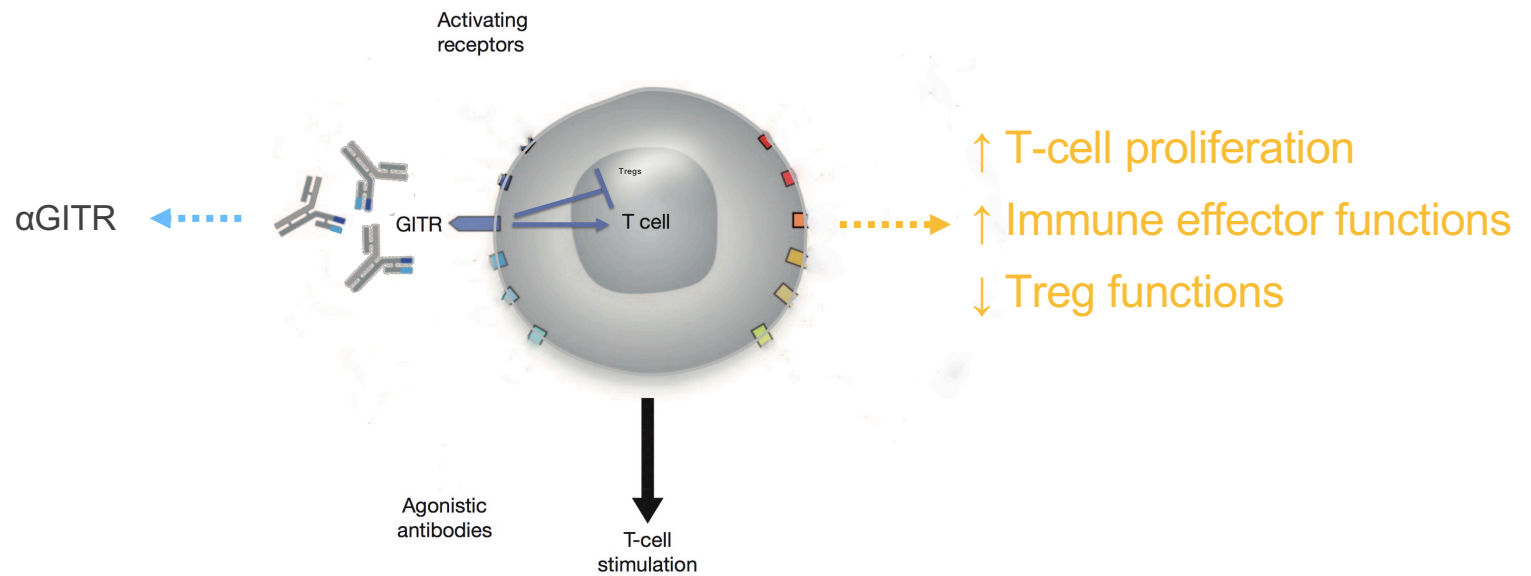
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Immunomodulatory Abs for cancer therapy: beyond immune checkpoint blockade



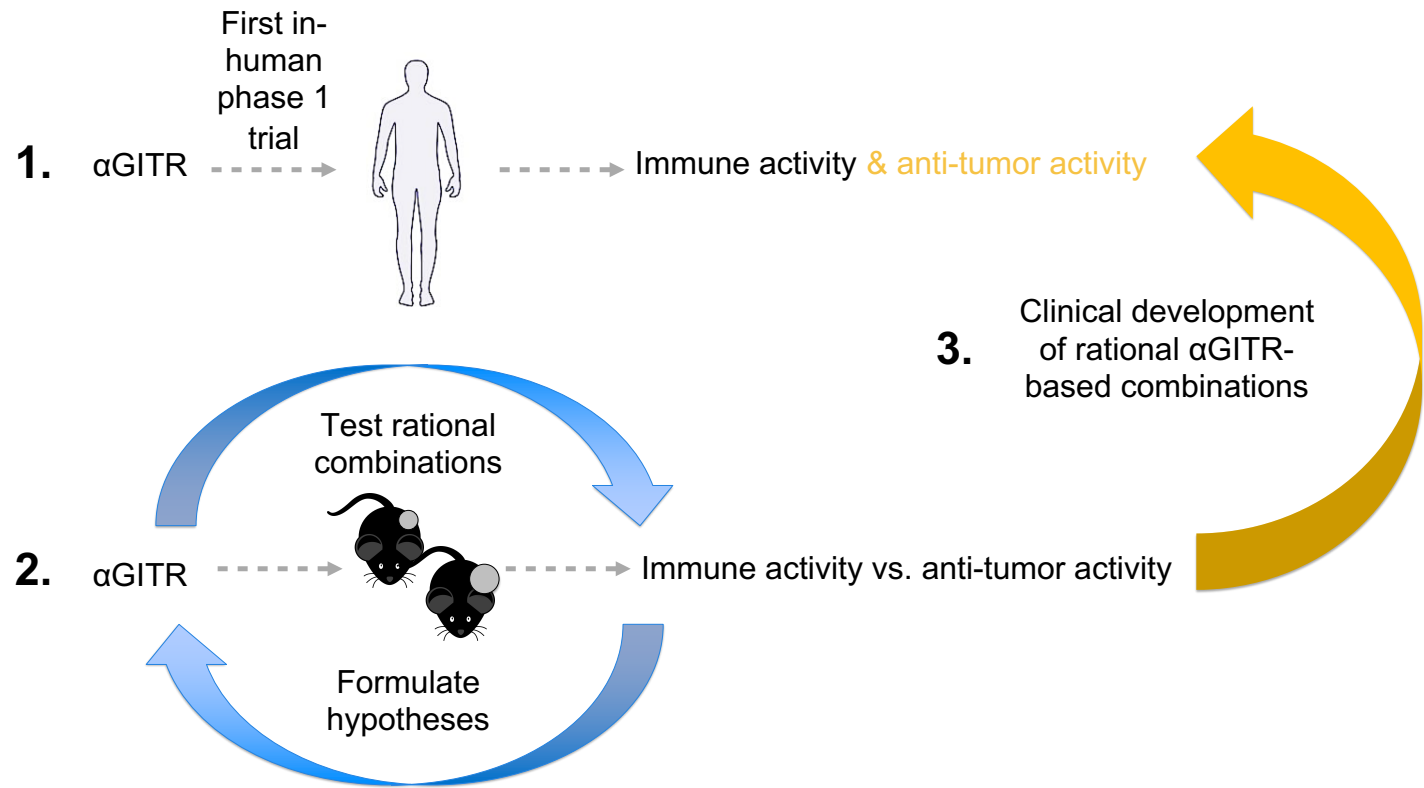
Adapted from
Mellman, Nature 2011

Immunomodulatory Abs for cancer therapy: beyond immune checkpoint blockade



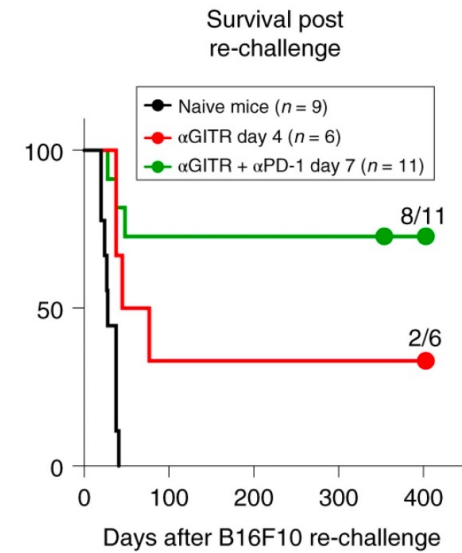
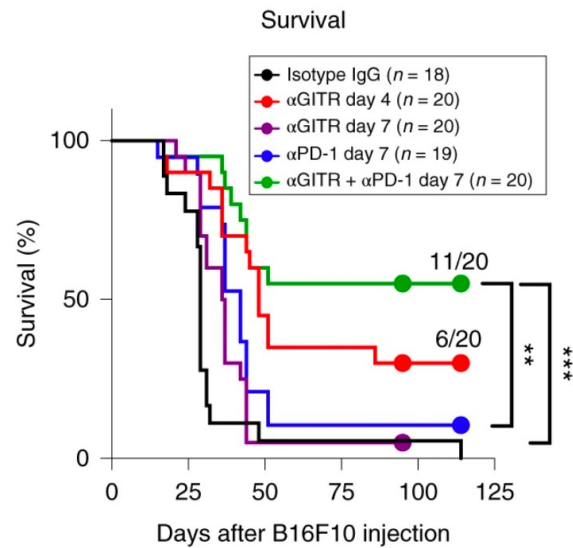
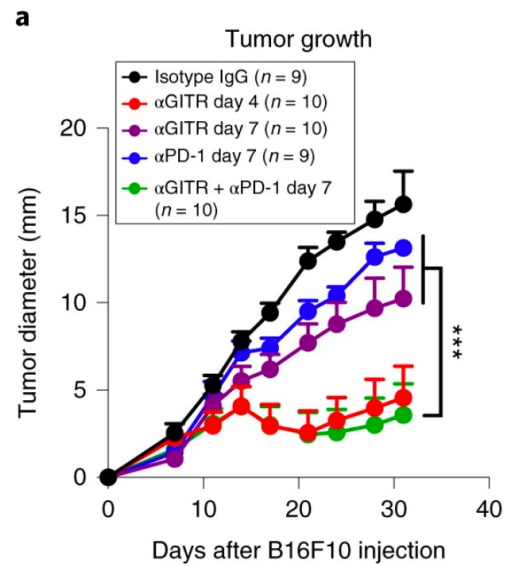
Adapted from
Mellman, Nature 2011

Study Design



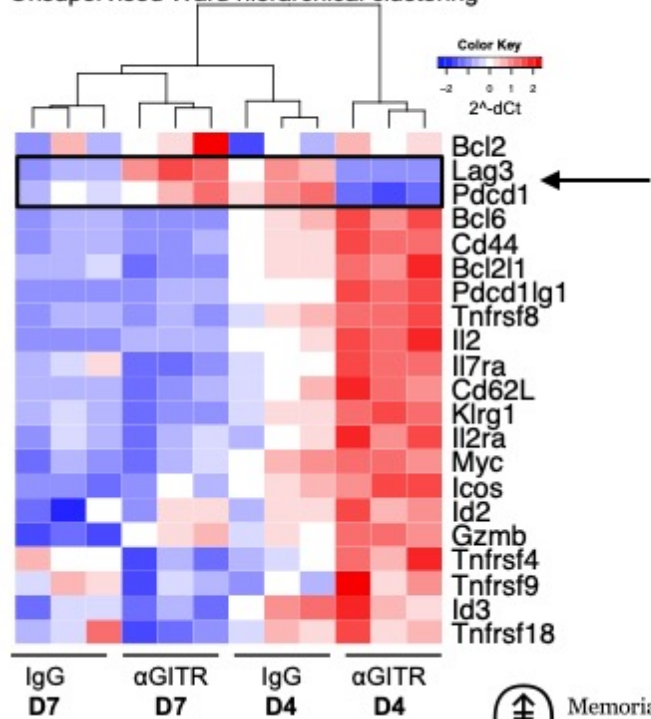
Rational design of anti-GITR-based combination immunotherapy

Roberta Zappasodi^{1,5}, Cynthia Sirard¹, Yanyun Li^{1,5}, Sadna Budhu¹, Mohsen Abu-Akeel¹, Cailian Liu¹, Xia Yang¹, Hong Zhong¹, Walter Newman¹, Jingjing Qi^{1,5}, Phillip Wong^{1,5}, David Schaefer¹, Henry Koon¹, Vamsidhar Velcheti¹, Matthew D. Hellmann^{2,5*}, Michael A. Postow^{3,5*}, Margaret K. Callahan^{2,5*}, Jedd D. Wolchok^{1,2,3,4,5*} and Taha Merghoub^{1,2,3,5*}



Gene expression analyses in purified CD8+ TILs

Unsupervised Ward hierarchical clustering

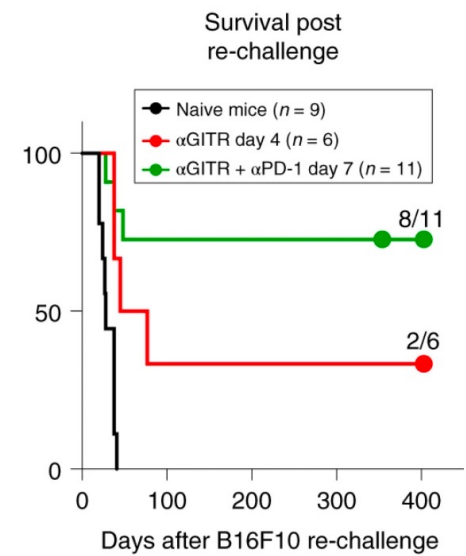


Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

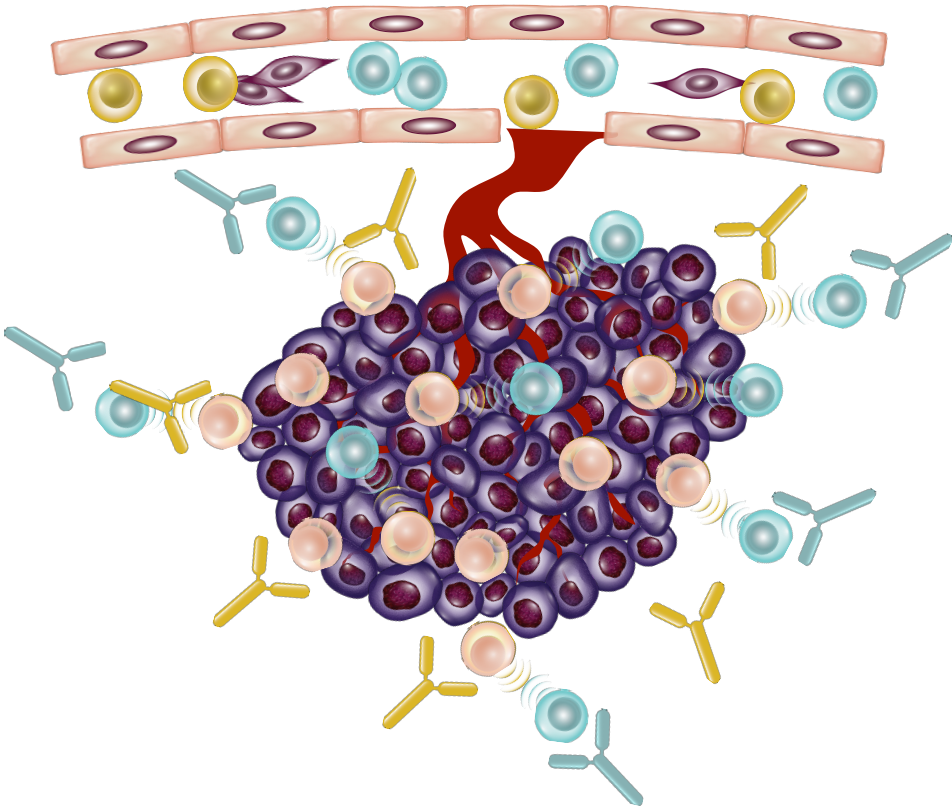
nature **medicine** LETTERS
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-019-0420-8>







Rational design of anti-GITR-based combination immunotherapy

Roberta Zappasodi^{1,2}, Cynthia Sirard¹, Yanyun Li^{1,2}, Sadna Budhu¹, Mohsen Abu-Akeel¹, Cailian Liu¹, Xia Yang¹, Hong Zhong¹, Walter Newman¹, Jingjing Qi^{1,2}, Phillip Wong^{1,2}, David Schaer¹, Henry Koon¹, Vamsidhar Velcheti¹, Matthew D. Hellmann^{1,2,3,4}, Michael A. Postow^{1,2}, Margaret K. Callahan^{1,2,3}, Jedd D. Wolchok^{1,2,3,4,5*} and Taha Merghoub^{1,2,3,4*}



Model



-  Treg
-  Exhausted T cell
-  Cytotoxic T cell
-  Tumor cells
-  α GITR
-  α PD-1

Finally:

**Don't ignore the biology
you don't know**

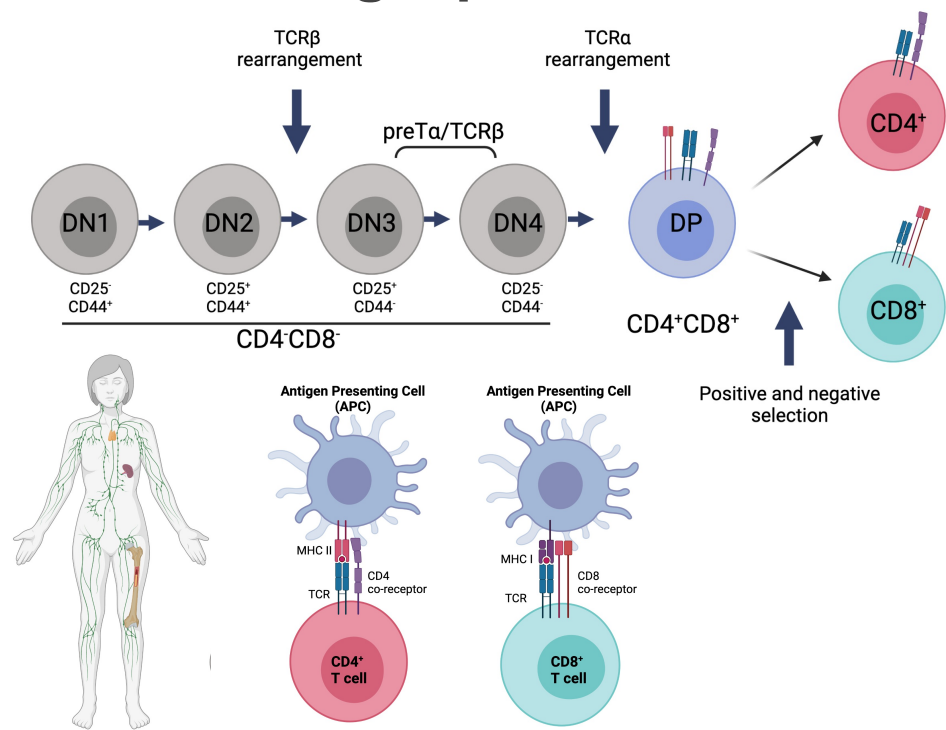


Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

T cell development and commitment to single positive fates

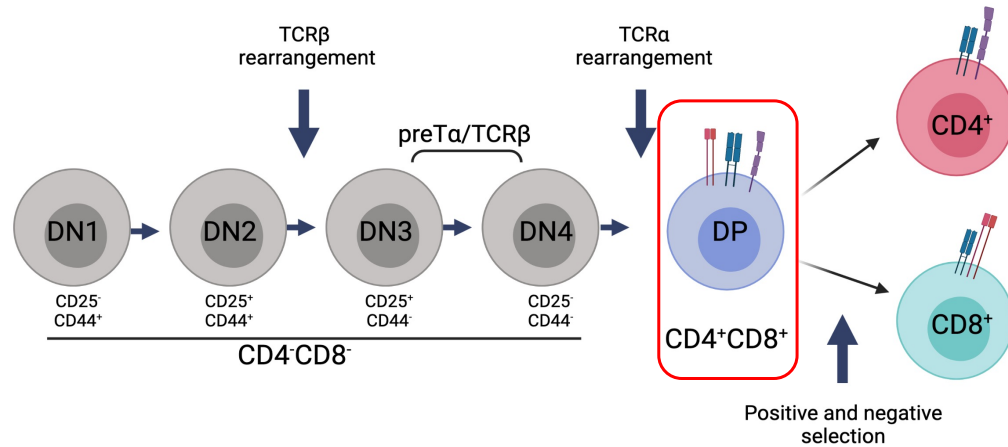
T cells originate from hematopoietic stem cells in the bone marrow and migrate to the thymus for development

- » TCRs undergo rearrangement to produce millions of unique variations
- » Successfully rearranged TCRs are tested for reactivity with peptide:MHC complexes
 - › Strong interactions (self-reactive TCRs) induce cell death
 - › Weak interactions **survive**
 - › No interaction induces cell death
- » Select TCRs enter the periphery as mature single positive T cells

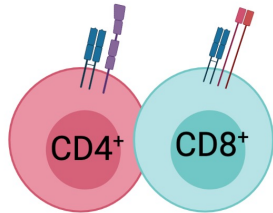


Previous understanding of CD4⁺CD8⁺ T cells

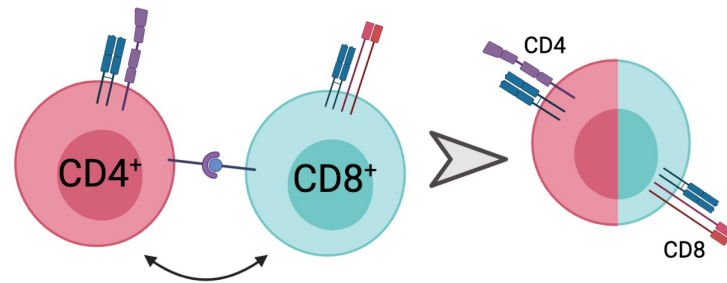
» Developmental stage



» Cell doublet

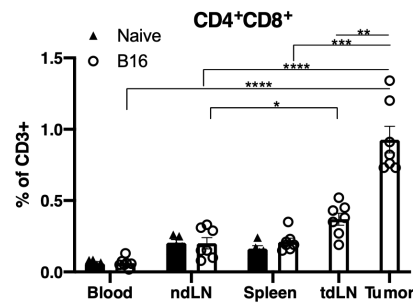
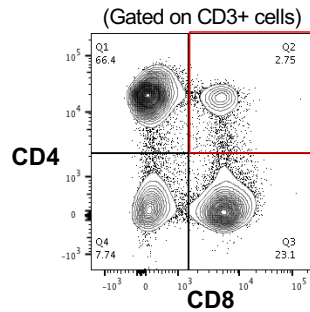


» Trogocytosis (membrane exchange)

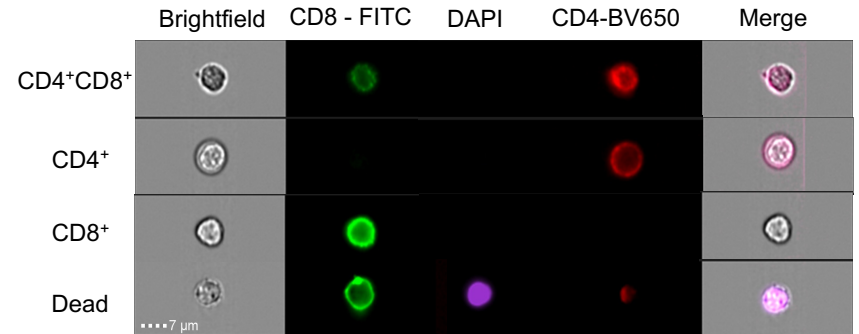
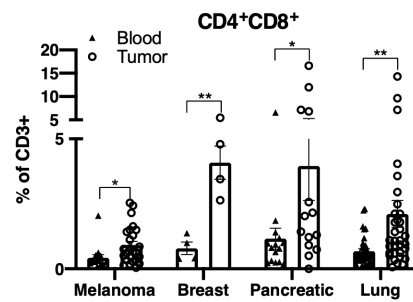
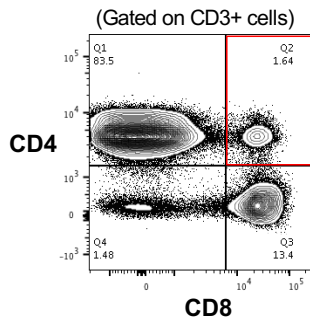
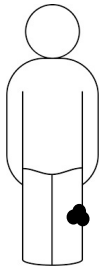


Heterogenous CD4+CD8+ T cells accumulate in murine and human melanoma tumors

B16 Melanoma

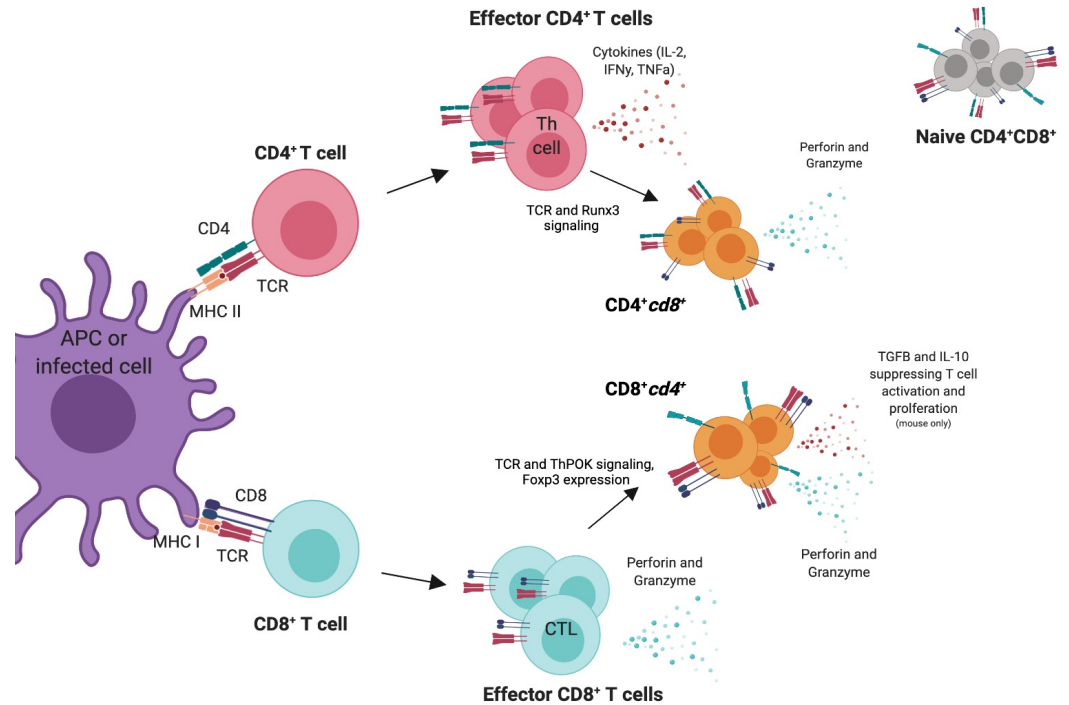


Melanoma resection



CD4⁺CD8⁺ T cells are heterogenous and polyfunctional

- » TCR signaling induces co-receptor re-expression
- » CD4⁺CD8⁺ T cells are polyfunctional and clonally expanded:
 - › Cytotoxic CD4 derived CD4⁺cd8⁺ T cells (mouse and human)
 - › Suppressive (mouse only) and cytotoxic CD8 derived CD8⁺cd4⁺ T cells (mouse and human)
- » “Activated” CD4⁺CD8⁺ T cells may have enriched antigen specificity
- » Naïve, non-clonally expanded CD4⁺CD8⁺ T cells exist



Some key points for today's lecture

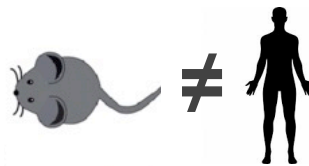
- » Pre-clinical models inform mechanism based therapeutic strategies.
- » Tumor immune landscape should be taken into consideration when designing immune therapy.
- » The timing of the immune intervention is key.
- » Real time monitoring of the tumor microenvironment should help rationally design immune intervention.
- » Do not ignore a phenomena when you don't understand it.

Some key points for today's lecture

» 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).



Acknowledgement



Ludwig Collaborative Lab at MSKCC

Other support: NIH,
Dept of Defense,
Swim Across America,
SU2C, Melanoma
Research Alliance,
Breast Cancer
Research Fdn, CRI,
Damon Runyon Fdn,
ASCO Conquer
Cancer Fdn

Adaptive resistance mechanism to SARS-CoV-2 = Zoom



Adaptive resistance mechanism to SARS-CoV-2 = Zoom





Translational Opportunities in Immunotherapy Research Questions