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ENGINEERED T CELL THERAPIES: DEVELOPMENT, ACCESS, FUTURE PROSPECTS

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**Dept. Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Center for Cellular Immunotherapies,
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Co-Founder, Tmunity Therapeutics & Co-Founder, Capstan Therapeutics

Past-President, International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy



@BLLPHD



Conflict of Interest Statement

- Declaration of financial interest due to intellectual property and patents in the field of cell and gene therapy.
- Co-Founder and equity holder: Tmunity Therapeutics (acquired by Kite), Kite Senior Advisor, Capstan Therapeutics – Chair, SAB
- Scientific Advisory Boards: Akron, AVectas, Cellula Therapeutics, Immuneel, Immusoft, In8bio, Ori Biotech, Oxford Biomedica, ThermoFisher Pharma Services, UTC Therapeutics, Vycellix
- Conflict of interest is managed in accordance with University of Pennsylvania policy and oversight

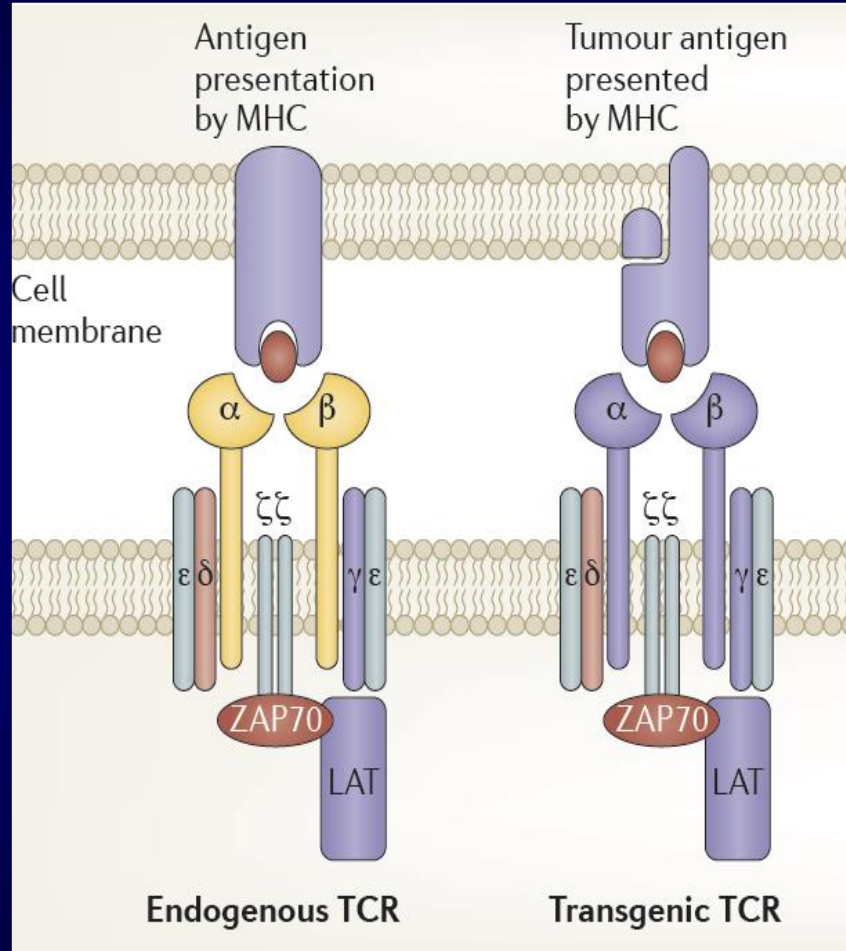
How did we get here?



Where are we going?

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Overcoming the Scarcity of Tumor Specific Immunity and Tumor Suppression: Creation of Re-directed T cells



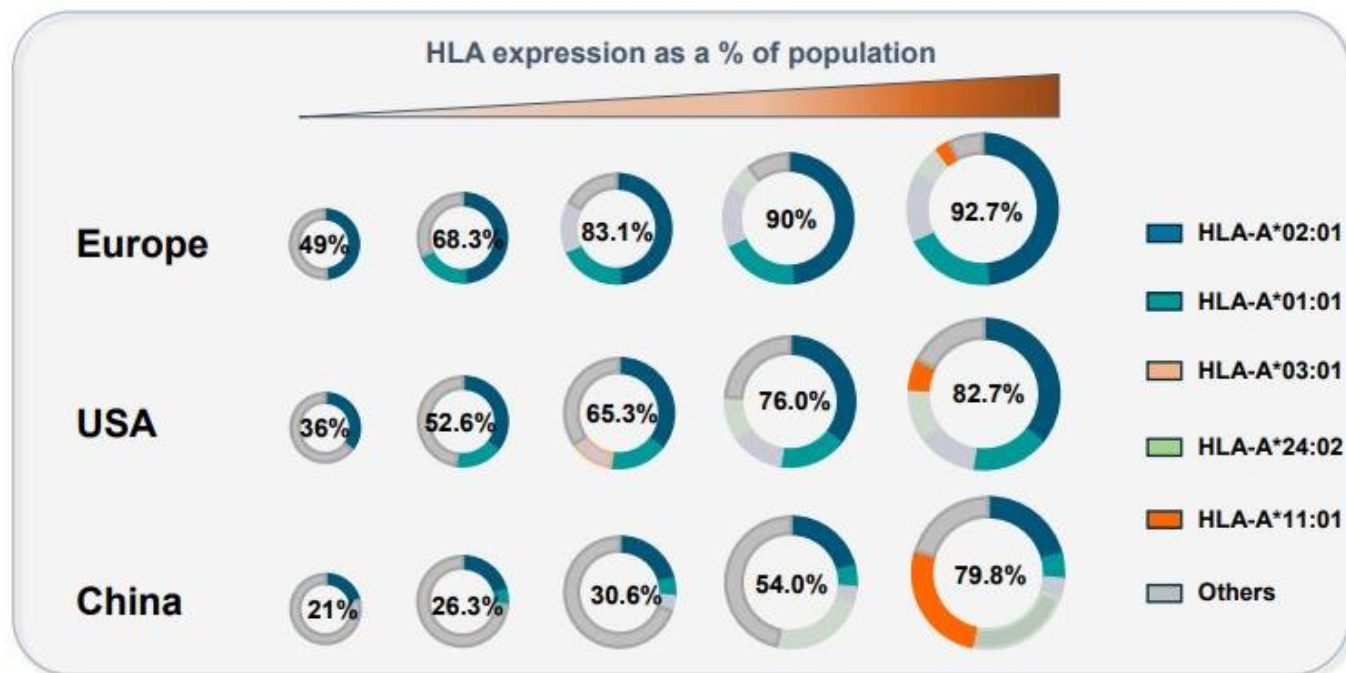
-intracellular Ags
-MHC dependent

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Engineered T Cell Receptor Population Challenges

Key Target Challenges – Tumor Heterogeneity and Population Diversity

TCR library helps to address tumor heterogeneity in the broadest possible population



Multiple *HLAs* for
single antigen / epitope



e.g. A*11 & A*03 for KRAS mutations
A*02 subtypes for NY-ESO-1 + LAGE-1a

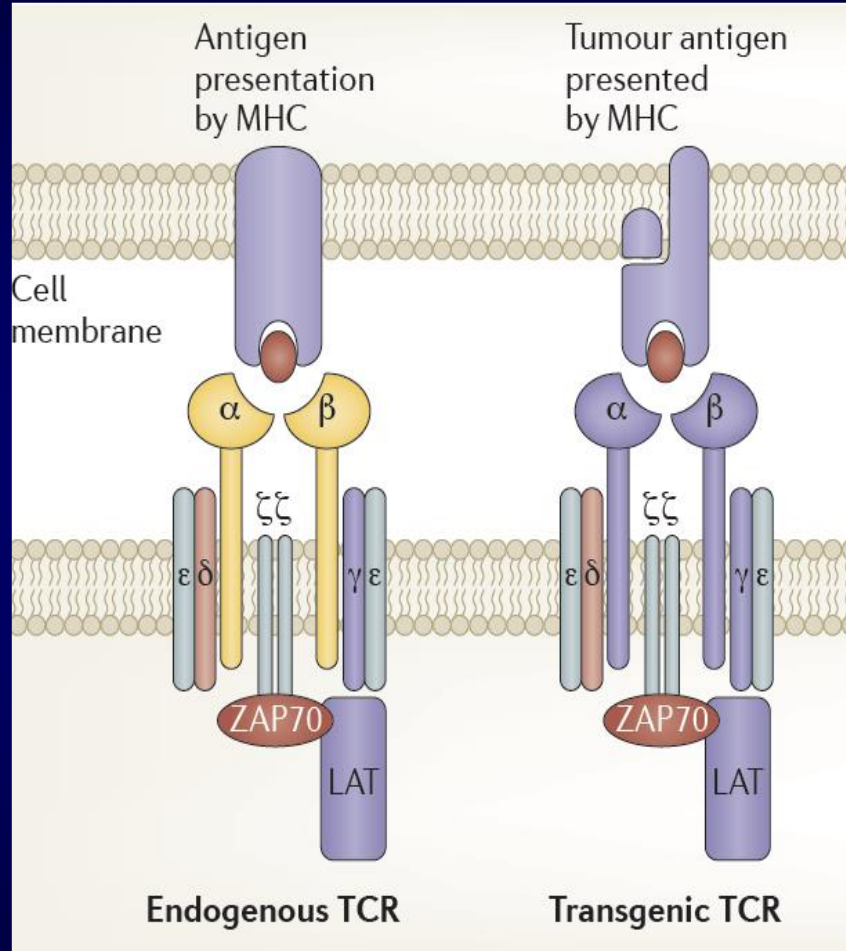
Multiple *epitopes* for
single HLA

e.g. A*11 for KRAS G12V, G12D....



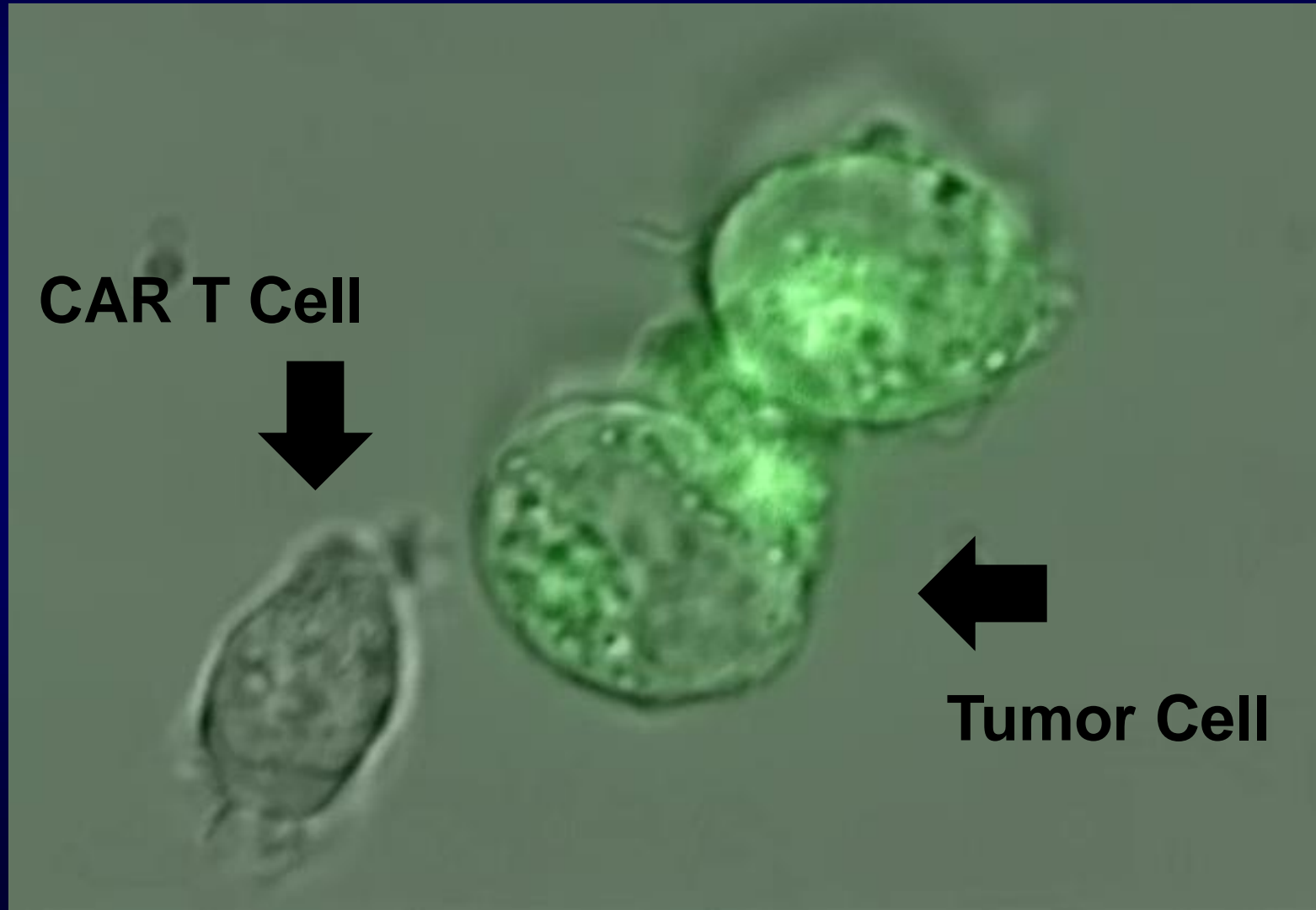
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Overcoming the Scarcity of Tumor Specific Immunity and Tumor Suppression: Creation of Re-directed T cells



-intracellular Ags
-MHC dependent

Engineered Immunity: Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T Cells To Kill Cancer



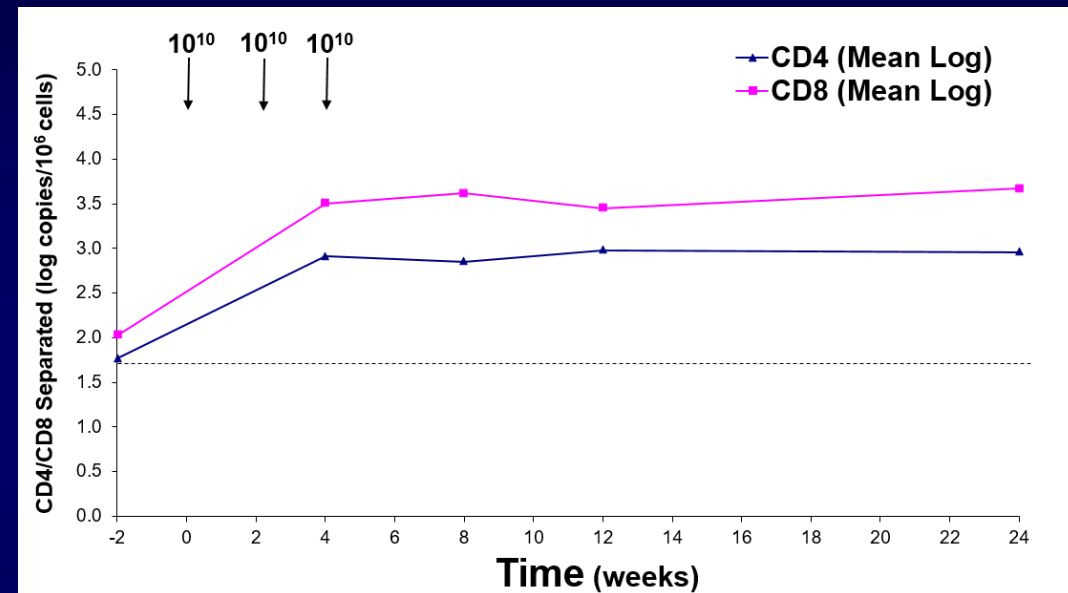
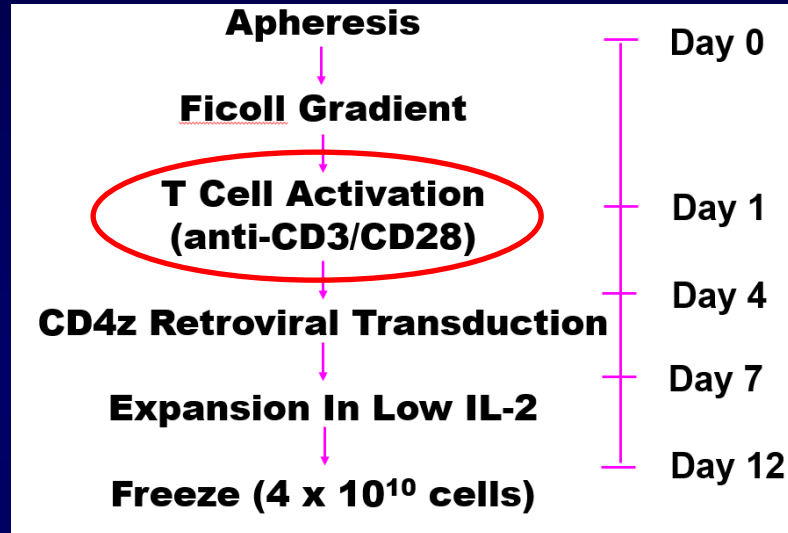
Engineered Immunity: Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T Cells To Kill Cancer



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Improved Persistence of CD4z-modified CD8 CAR T Cells

Now Manufactured With Anti-CD3/Anti-CD28 Beads

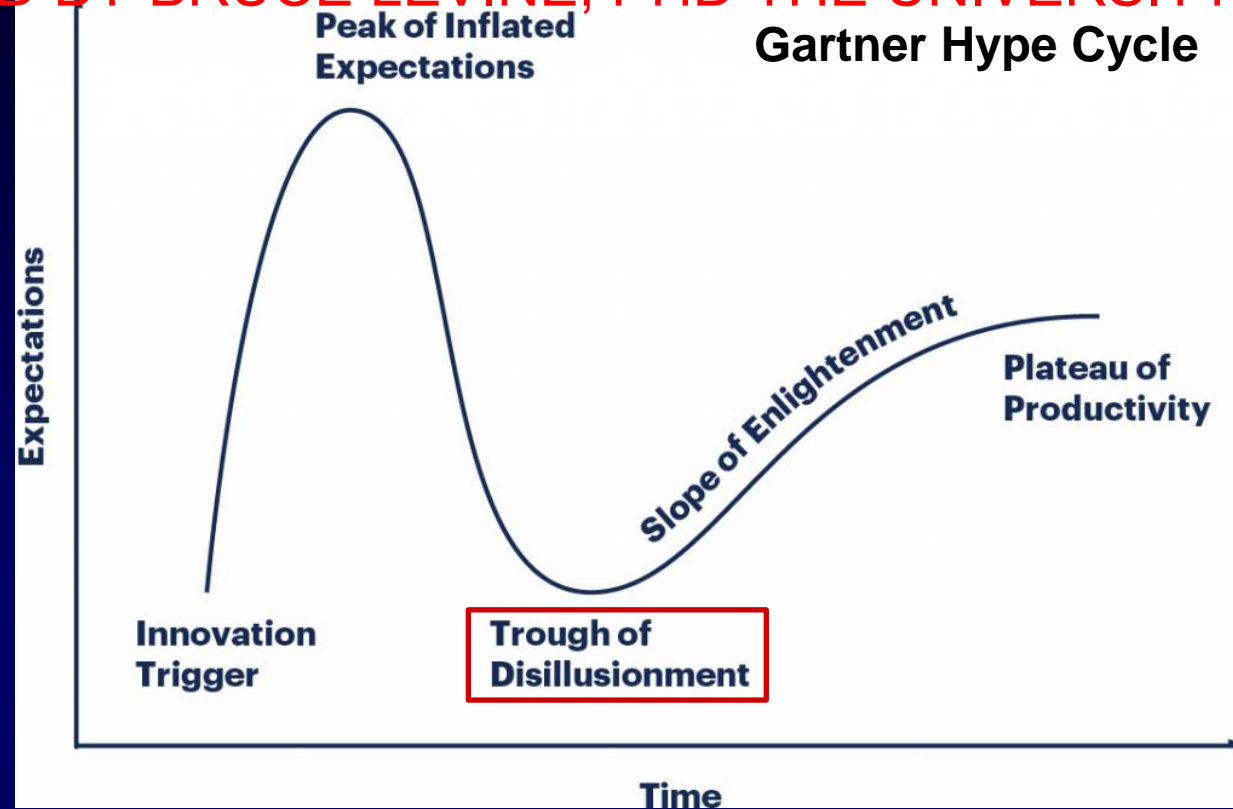


Prolonged survival and tissue trafficking following adoptive transfer of CD4 ζ gene-modified autologous CD4 $^{+}$ and CD8 $^{+}$ T cells in human immunodeficiency virus-infected subjects

Ronald T. Mitsuyasu, Peter A. Anton, Steven G. Deeks, David T. Scadden, Elizabeth Connick, Matthew T. Downs, Andreas Bakker, Margo R. Roberts, Carl H. June, Sayeh Jalali, Andy A. Lin, Rukmini Pennathur-Das, and Kristen M. Hege

BLOOD, 1 AUGUST 2000 • VOLUME 96, NUMBER 3





First clinical experiences in cancer:

Lamers et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 24:e20, 2006

Kershaw et al. *Clin Cancer Res*. 12: 6106, 2006

Park et al. *Mol Ther*. 15:825-833, 2007

Pule et al. *Nat Med*, 14:1264, 2008

> Trials disappointing due to poor T cell engraftment

2023

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YESCARTA™ is a treatment for your non-Hodgkin lymphoma. It is used when you have failed at least two other kinds of treatment. YESCARTA™ is different than other cancer medicines because it is made from your own white blood cells, which have been modified to recognize and attack your lymphoma cells.

+ MORE

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION, INCLUDING BOXED WARNING

What is the most important information I should know about YESCARTA™?

YESCARTA™ may cause side effects that are life-threatening and can lead to death. Call or see your healthcare provider or get



CARVYKTI

**TILs (melanoma)**

Netherlands
Lifileucel

TCR (Synovial Sarcoma)

Afami-cel

Engineered Stem Cells**Allogeneic post HCT****Sickle Cell Disease**

Exa-cel (PDUFA 12/8)

Lovo-cel (PDUFA 12/20)

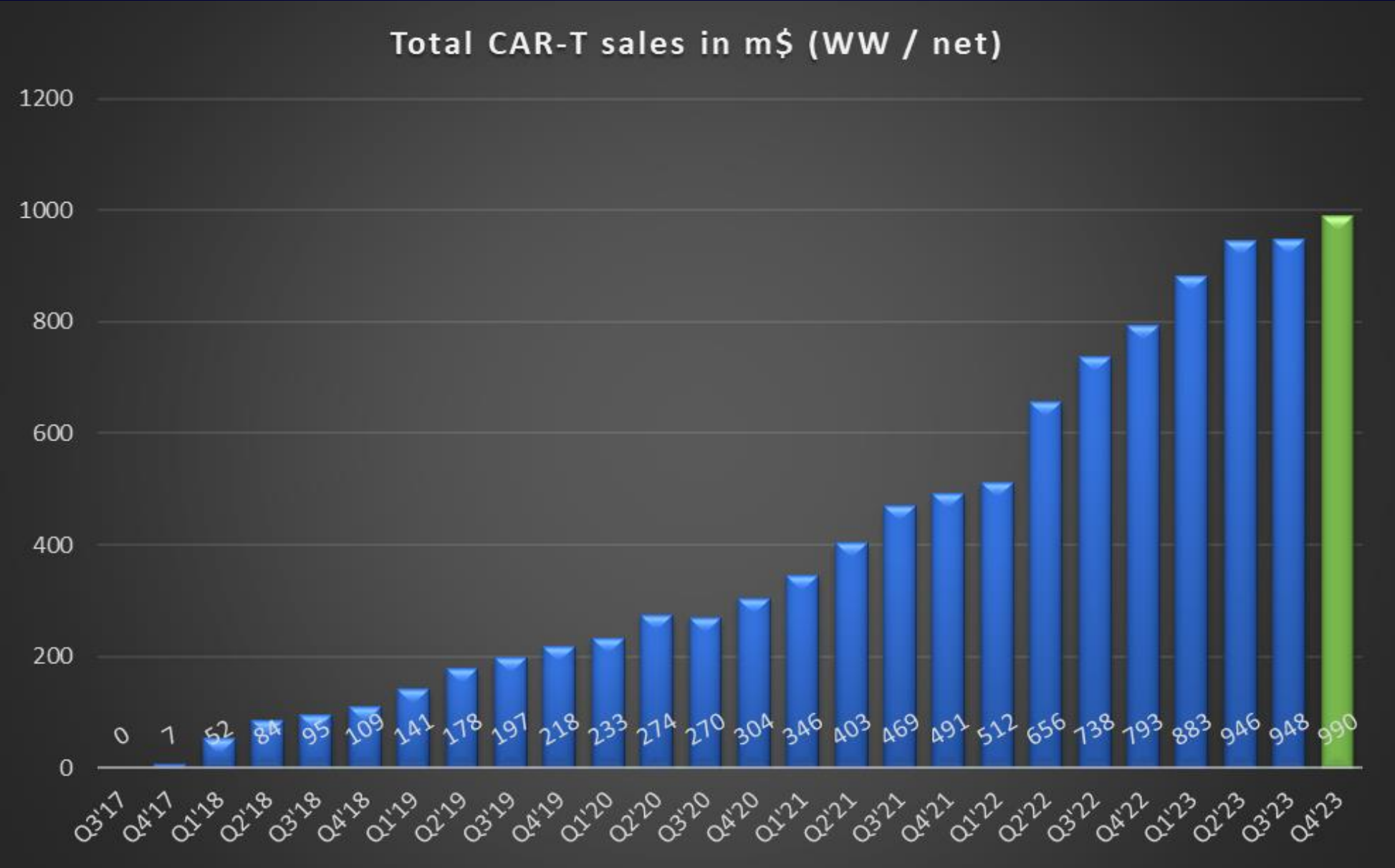


U.S. Approved Gene Therapies

- Kymriah (2017)
- Yescarta (2017)
- Luxturna (2017)
- Zolgensma (2019)
- Tecartus (2020)
- Brexambi (2021)
- Abecma (2021)
- Carvykti (2022)
- Zynteglo (2022)
- Skysona (2022)
- Hemgenix (2022)
- Adstiladrin (2022)
- Vyjuvek (2023)
- Elevidys (2023)
- Roctavian (2023)

 Stem cell  T cell  Directly administered

Global CAR T Sales (Millions \$US by Q)



Decade-Long Safety and Function of Retroviral-Modified Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cells

John Scholler,^{1*} Troy L. Brady,^{2*} Gwendolyn Binder-Scholl,¹ Wei-Ting Hwang,³ Gabriela Plesa,¹ Kristen M. Hege,⁴ Ashley N. Vogel,¹ Michael Kalos,¹ James L. Riley,² Steven G. Deeks,⁵ Ronald T. Mitsuyasu,⁶ Wendy B. Bernstein,⁷ Naomi E. Aronson,^{7,8} Bruce L. Levine,¹ Frederic D. Bushman,^{2†} Carl H. June^{1†}

The success of adoptive T cell gene transfer for treatment of cancer and HIV is predicated on generating a response that is both durable and safe. We report long-term results from three clinical trials to evaluate gammaretroviral vector-engineered T cells for HIV. The vector encoded a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) composed of CD4 linked to the CD3 ζ signaling chain (CD4 ζ). CAR T cells were detected in 98% of samples tested for at least 11 years after infusion at frequencies that exceeded average T cell levels after most vaccine approaches. The CD4 ζ transgene retained expression and function. There was no evidence of vector-induced immortalization of cells; integration site distributions showed no evidence of persistent clonal expansion or enrichment for integration sites near genes implicated in growth control or transformation. The CD4 ζ T cells had stable levels of engraftment, with decay half-lives that exceeded 16 years, in marked contrast to previous trials testing engineered T cells. These findings indicate that host immunosuppression before T cell transfer is not required to achieve long-term persistence of



nature

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Article

Decade-long leukaemia remissions with persistence of CD4⁺ CAR T cells

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-04390-6>

Received: 7 May 2021

Accepted: 29 December 2021

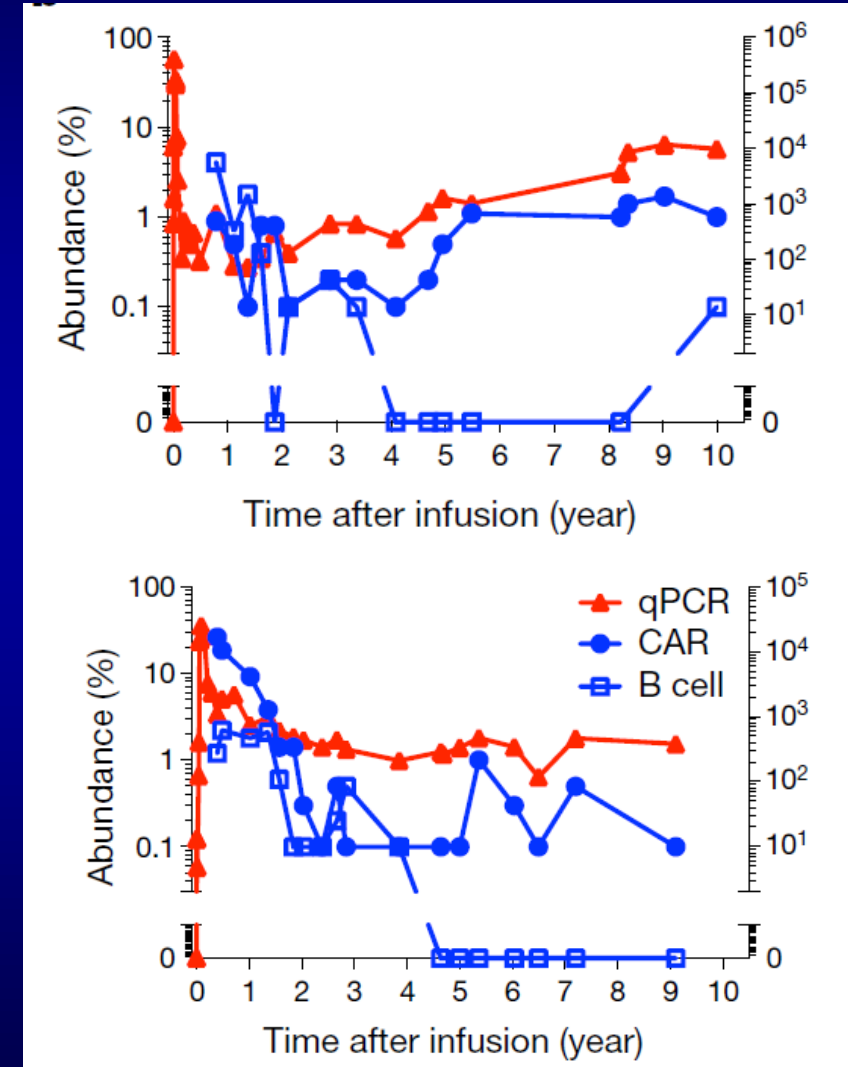
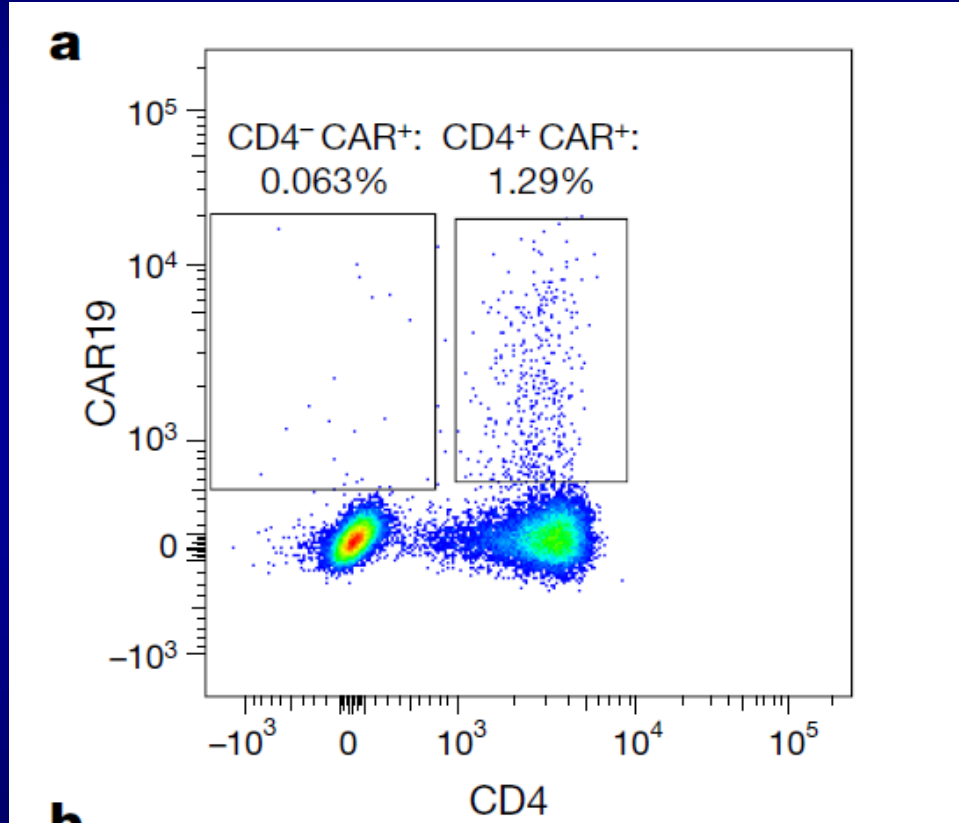
Published online: 02 February 2022

Check for updates

J. Joseph Melenhorst^{1,2,3,4,5,15,16}✉, Gregory M. Chen^{6,15}, Meng Wang^{1,2,3,14}, David L. Porter^{3,7,15}, Changya Chen^{8,9}, McKensie A. Collins^{1,2,3,10}, Peng Gao^{8,9}, Shovik Bandyopadhyay¹⁰, Hongxing Sun^{1,2,3}, Ziran Zhao^{1,2,3}, Stefan Lundh^{1,2,3}, Iulian Pruteanu-Malinici¹¹, Christopher L. Nobles¹², Sayantan Maji^{1,2,3}, Noelle V. Frey³, Saar I. Gill³, Lifeng Tian^{1,3}, Irina Kulikovskaya^{1,2,3}, Minnal Gupta^{1,2,3}, David E. Ambrose^{1,2,3}, Megan M. Davis^{1,2,3}, Joseph A. Fraietta^{1,2,3,12}, Jennifer L. Brogdon¹¹, Regina M. Young^{1,2,3}, Anne Chew^{1,2,3}, Bruce L. Levine^{1,2,3}, Donald L. Siegel^{1,2,13}, Cécile Alanio^{4,5,14}, E. John Wherry^{4,5,14}, Frederic D. Bushman¹², Simon F. Lacey^{1,2,3}, Kai Tan^{2,4,6,9,10,16}✉ & Carl H. June^{1,2,3,4,5,16}✉

The adoptive transfer of T lymphocytes reprogrammed to target tumour cells has demonstrated potential for treatment of various cancers^{1–7}. However, little is known about the long-term potential and clonal stability of the infused cells. Here we studied long-lasting CD19-redirected chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells in two patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia^{1–4} who achieved a complete remission in 2010. CAR T cells remained detectable more than ten years after infusion, with sustained remission in both patients. Notably, a highly activated CD4⁺ population emerged in

Tracking CAR T Cells For A Decade



Teach Every T Cell To Be All That It Can Be



Immunotherapy in Solid Tumors

The Challenges

- Antigen Escape
- Antigen Heterogeneity
- Trafficking
- Hostility of the tumor microenvironment



T Cell Quality/Potency Improvements

- Activators
- Cytokines
- Metabolism / transcriptional regulation
- Gene knockouts
- Which combinations?



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SCIENCE TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE | RESEARCH ARTICLE

CANCER

Deleting DNMT3A in CAR T cells prevents exhaustion and enhances antitumor activity

Brooke Prinzing^{1†}, Caitlin C. Zebley^{1,2,3,4†}, Christopher T. Petersen^{1†‡}, Yiping Fan⁵, Alejandro Allo Anido¹, Zhongzhen Yi¹, Phuong Nguyen¹, Haley Houke¹, Matthew Bell^{1,4}, Dalia Haydar¹, Charmaine Brown², Shannon K. Boi², Shanta Alli², Jeremy Chase Crawford², Janice M. Riberdy¹, Jeoungeun J. Park¹, Sheng Zhou¹, Mireya Paulina Velasquez¹, Chris DeRenzo¹, Cicera R. Lazzarotto⁶, Shengdar Q. Tsai⁶, Peter Vogel⁷, Shondra M. Pruett-Miller⁸, Deanna M. Langfitt¹, Stephen Gottschalk^{1*}, Ben Youngblood^{2*}, Giedre Krenciute^{1*}

Prinzing *et al.*, *Sci. Transl. Med.* **13**, eabh0272 (2021)
17 November 2021

Cell

Article

An NK-like CAR T cell transition in CAR T cell dysfunction

9 December 2021

Charly R. Good, M. Angela Aznar, Shunichiro Kuramitsu, ..., Regina M. Young, Shelley L. Berger, Carl H. June

- Unlike WT CAR T cells, ID3 and SOX4 knockout CAR T cells retain anti-tumor immunity

JCI

The Journal of Clinical Investigation

BET bromodomain protein inhibition reverses chimeric antigen receptor extinction and reinvigorates exhausted T cells in chronic lymphocytic leukemia

Weimin Kong, ... , Golnaz Vahedi, Joseph A. Fraietta

J Clin Invest. 2021;131(16):1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI145459>.

16 August 2021

Dasatinib

Periodic stimulation

DNMT3a

IFN KO

IL-7/IL-15/IL-21

TWS119

SOCS3

ID3 SOX4

7SL

Anti-4-1BB

PD1 KO

TIGIT KO

TGFbDNR

CISH

MICA/MICB

c-jun

CBL-B

BCL2L1 to upregulate BCL XL

PI3K inhibit. (e.g. bb21217)

Flt3L

TNFR2

PRODH2

Arginine

IL-18

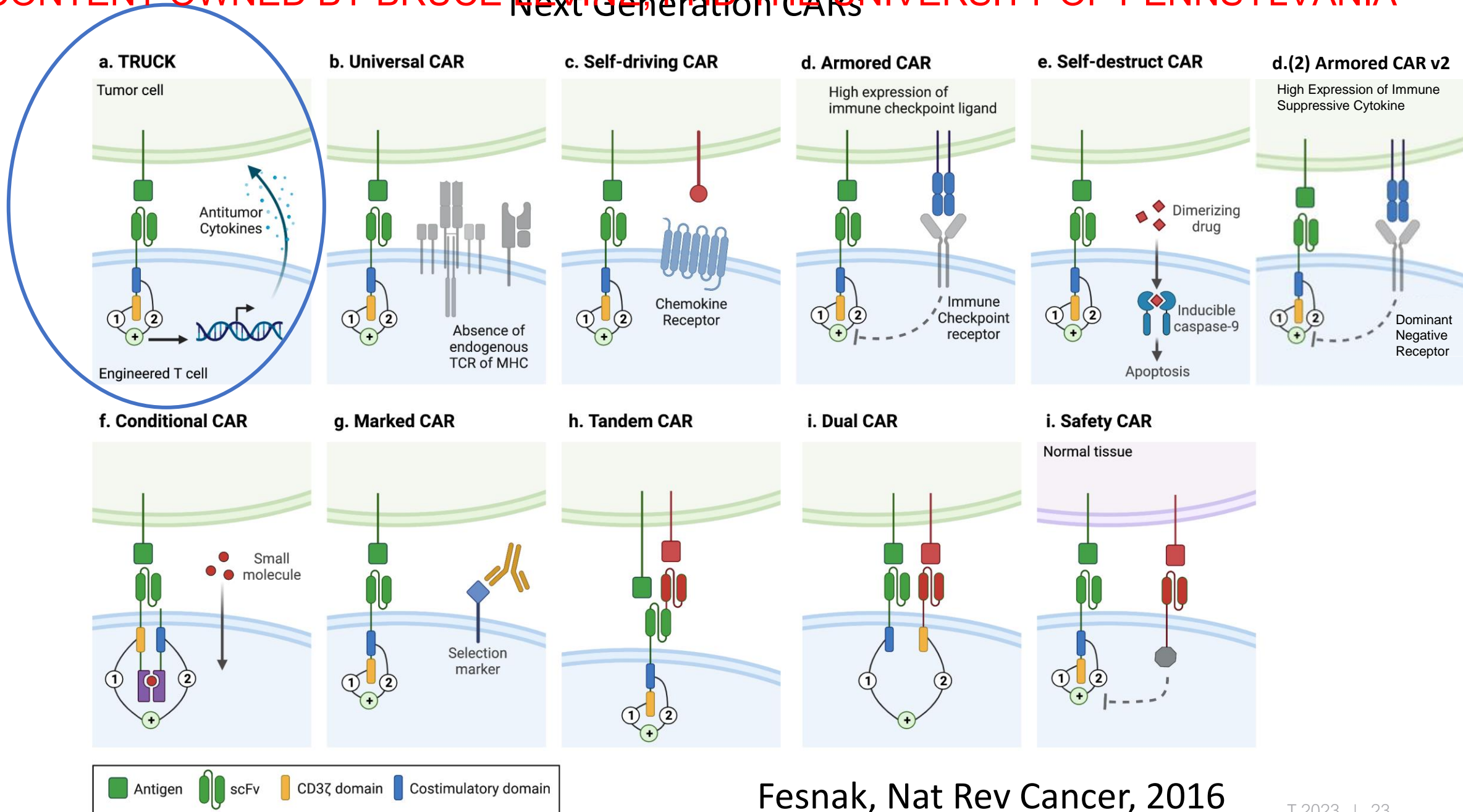
RASA2 ablation

FOXO1

Lymphotoxin-β receptor

BLIMP1 and NR4A3

Next Generation CARs



Fesnak, Nat Rev Cancer, 2016

TRUCKs = T cells redirected for antigen-unrestricted cytokine-initiated killing

CARs

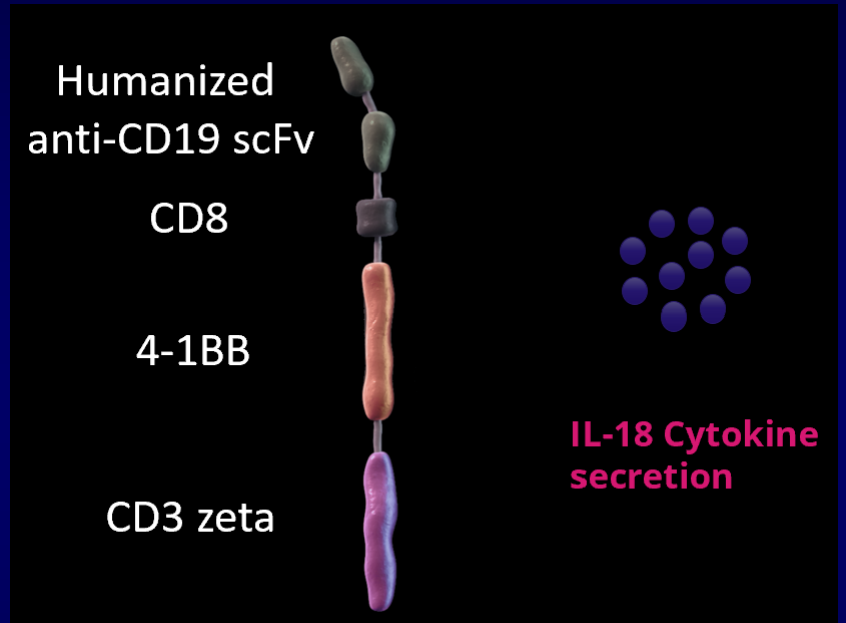


CD19

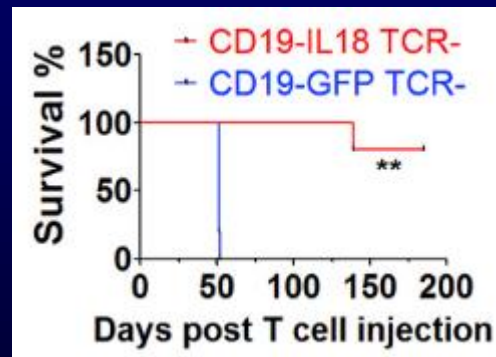
TRUCKs



CD19-IL18



Biliang Hu, PhD



Hu B, Ren J, Luo Y, Keith B, Young RM, Scholler J, Zhao Y, and June CH. Augmentation of Antitumor Immunity by Human and Mouse CAR T Cells Secreting IL-18. *Cell reports*. 2017; 20(13):3025-33.

Chmielewski M, and Abken H. CAR T Cells Releasing IL-18 Convert to T-Bet(high) FoxO1(low) Effectors that Exhibit Augmented Activity against Advanced Solid Tumors. *Cell reports*. 2017;21(11):3205-19.

Avanzi MP, Yeku O, Li X, Wijewarnasuriya DP, van Leeuwen DG, Cheung K, Park H, Purdon TJ, Daniyan AF, Spitzer MH, and Brentjens RJ. Engineered Tumor-Targeted T Cells Mediate Enhanced Anti-Tumor Efficacy Both Directly and through Activation of the Endogenous Immune System. *Cell reports*. 2018;23(7):2130-41.

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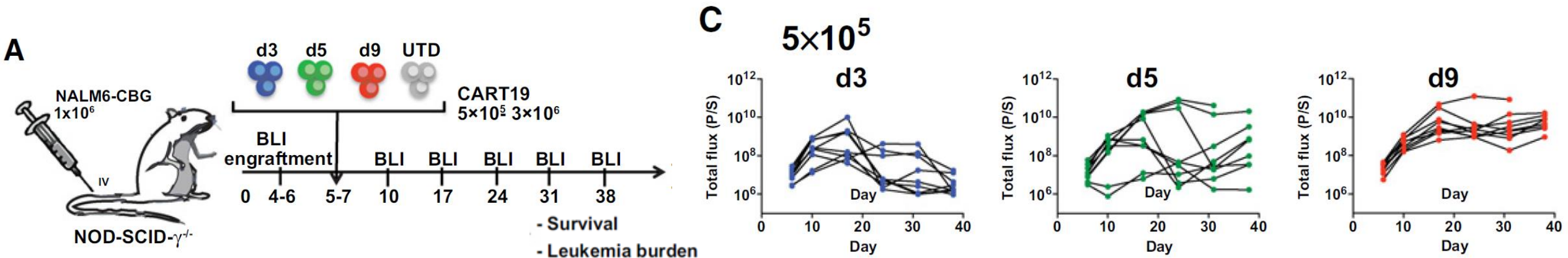
Manufacturing Improvements: Faster CAR's



Research Article

Cancer Immunology Research Ghassemi et al, 2018

Reducing *Ex Vivo* Culture Improves the Antileukemic Activity of Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T Cells



Now Enrolling NCT04684563:

Phase I Trial of huCART19-IL18 Cells in Patients With R/R CD19+ NHL or CLL

Contact: Abramson Cancer Center Clinical Trials Service 1-855-216-0098

PennCancerTrials@emergingmed.com



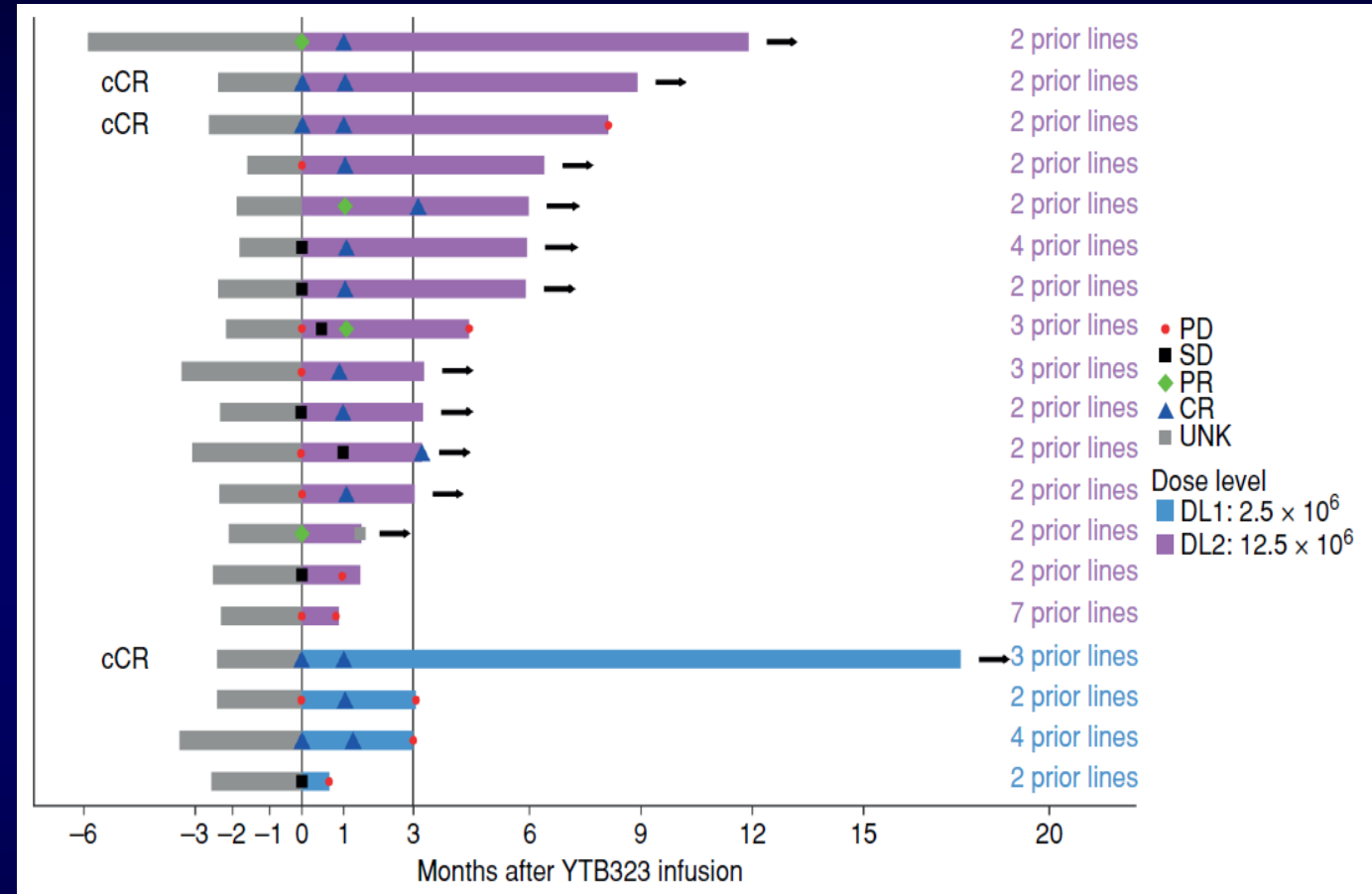
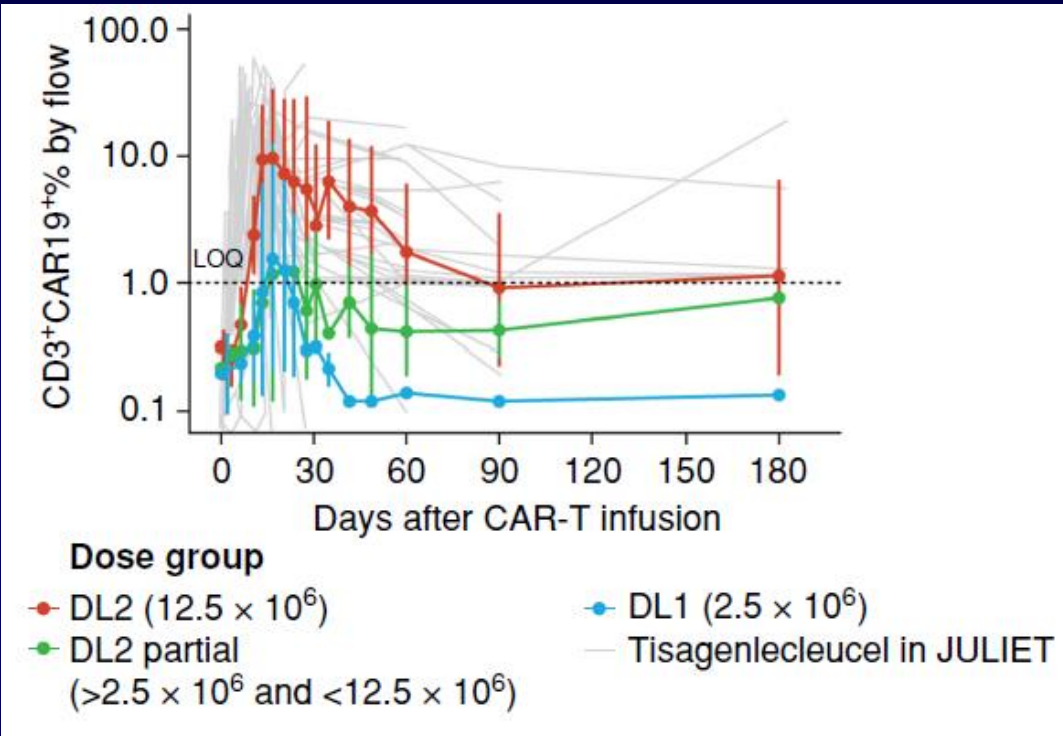
Penn Medicine
Center for Cellular Immunotherapies



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Abramson Cancer Center

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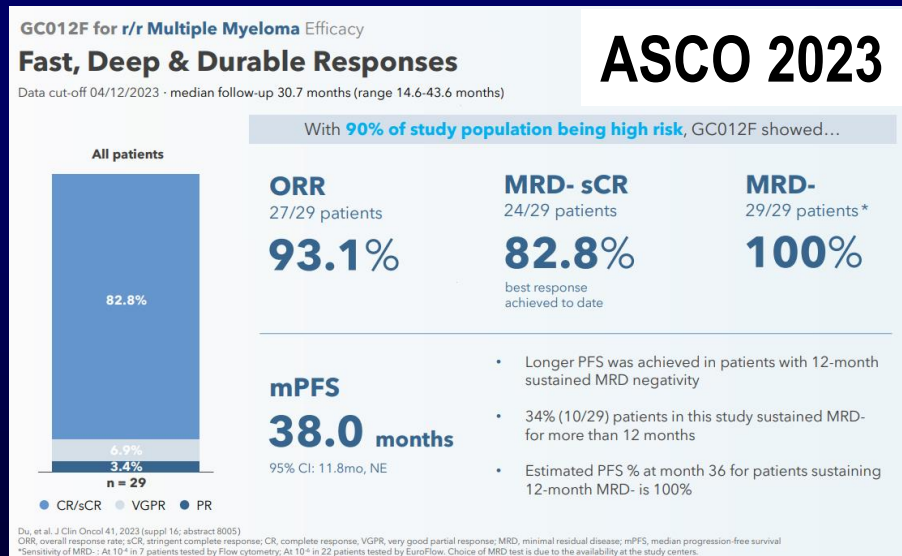
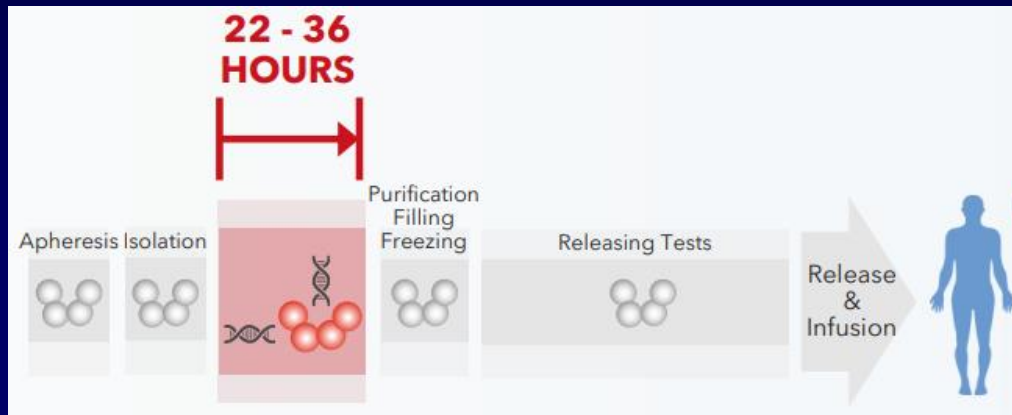
<2 Day Expansionless CAR T Cell Manufacturing



YTB323 favorable safety profile
demonstrated efficacy at DL1, DL2.
Comparable in vivo expansion to tisagen at 25X lower dose

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24-Hours Manufacture of Anti-CD19/CD22 Dual CAR T Cells for Multiple Myeloma



nature
biomedical engineering

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41551-021-00842-6>

Check for updates

Rapid manufacturing of non-activated potent CAR T cells

Saba Ghassemi^{1,2}✉, Joseph S. Durgin¹, Selene Nunez-Cruz^{1,2}, Jai Patel¹, John Leferovich^{1,2}, Marilia Pinzone², Feng Shen¹, Katherine D. Cummins¹, Gabriela Plesa¹, Vito Adrian Cantu³, Shantan Reddy³, Frederic D. Bushman³, Saar I. Gill^{1,4}, Una O'Doherty², Roddy S. O'Connor^{1,2} and Michael C. Milone^{1,2}✉

Chimaeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells can generate durable clinical responses in B-cell haematologic malignancies. The manufacturing of these T cells typically involves their activation, followed by viral transduction and expansion ex vivo for at least 6 days. However, the activation and expansion of CAR T cells leads to their progressive differentiation and the associated loss of anti-leukaemic activity. Here we show that functional CAR T cells can be generated within 24 hours from T cells derived

RRMM patients with median 5 lines of therapy

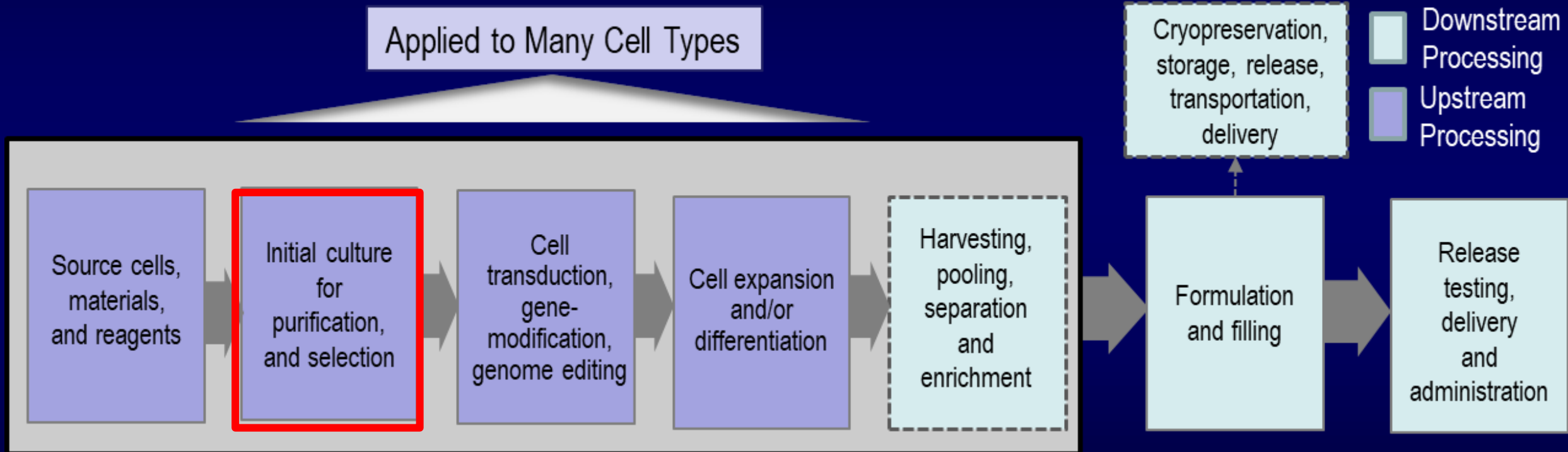
Quality Control Release Testing

Conventional 9-10 Day Expanded CAR T 24 hr Non-Activated

ASSAY	SITE	SPECIFICATION	RESULT
Cell Viability on Sentinel Vial	CVPF	$\geq 70\%$	%
% CD3+CD45+		$\geq 80\%$	%
Residual Bead Number		≤ 100 beads / 3×10^6 cells	beads / 3×10^6 cells
Endotoxin		≤ 3.5 EU/mL	EU/mL
Mycoplasma		Negative	
Transduction Efficiency (scFv Expression)		$\geq 2\%$	%
Bactec Culture		No Growth at Day 7	at Day 7
Fungal Culture	HUP Microbiology	No Growth at day 7	at Day 7
Vector DNA Sequence (BBz PCR)	TCSL	$\geq 0.02 - \leq 4$ Avg. copies per cell	Avg. copies/cell
VSV-G DNA (RCL)		< 50 Avg. copies VSV-G per μg DNA	Avg. copies / μg DNA

- CAR expression?
- Vector copy number?
- RCL?
- Potency?

Ex Vivo Immune Cell Engineering Processing Flow



**Not All Collections and Manufacturing
Runs Are Predictable**

Perfect is the Enemy of Good Enough

What is Good Enough?

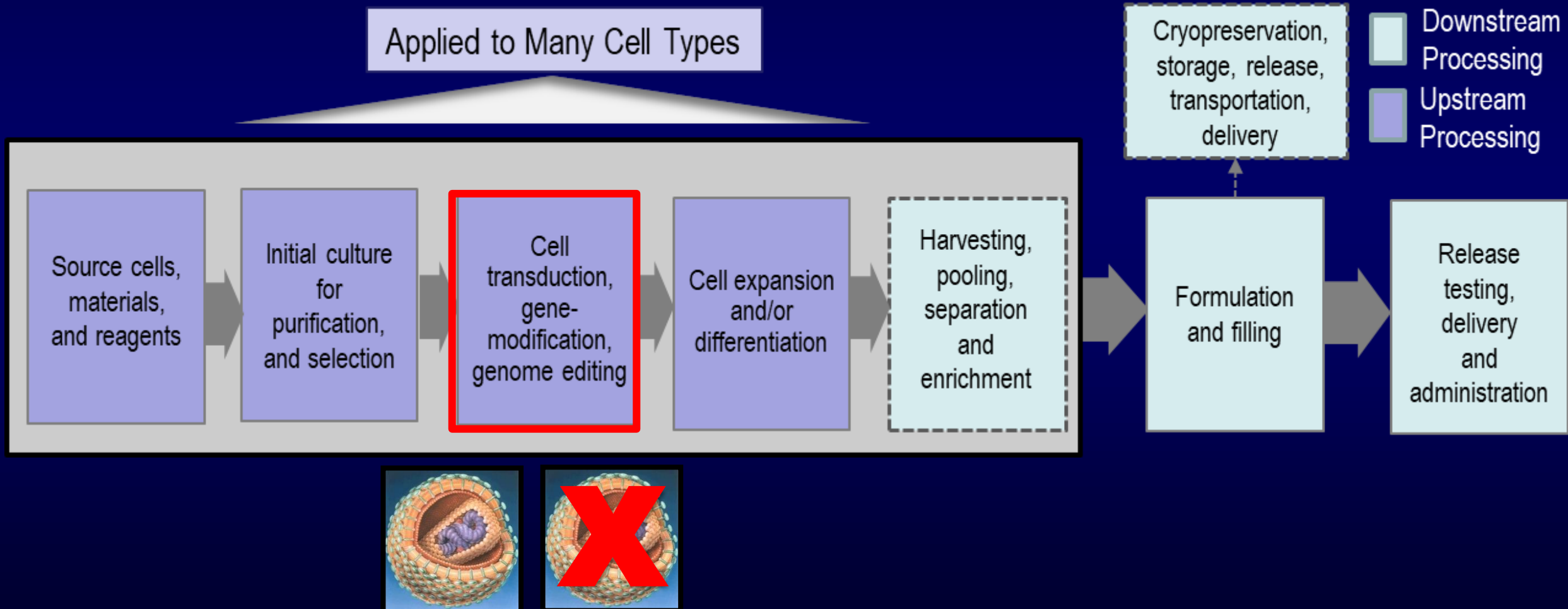
CQA's of Raw Material

- How do you know you (always) have the right cells?
- What cellular raw material is acceptable?

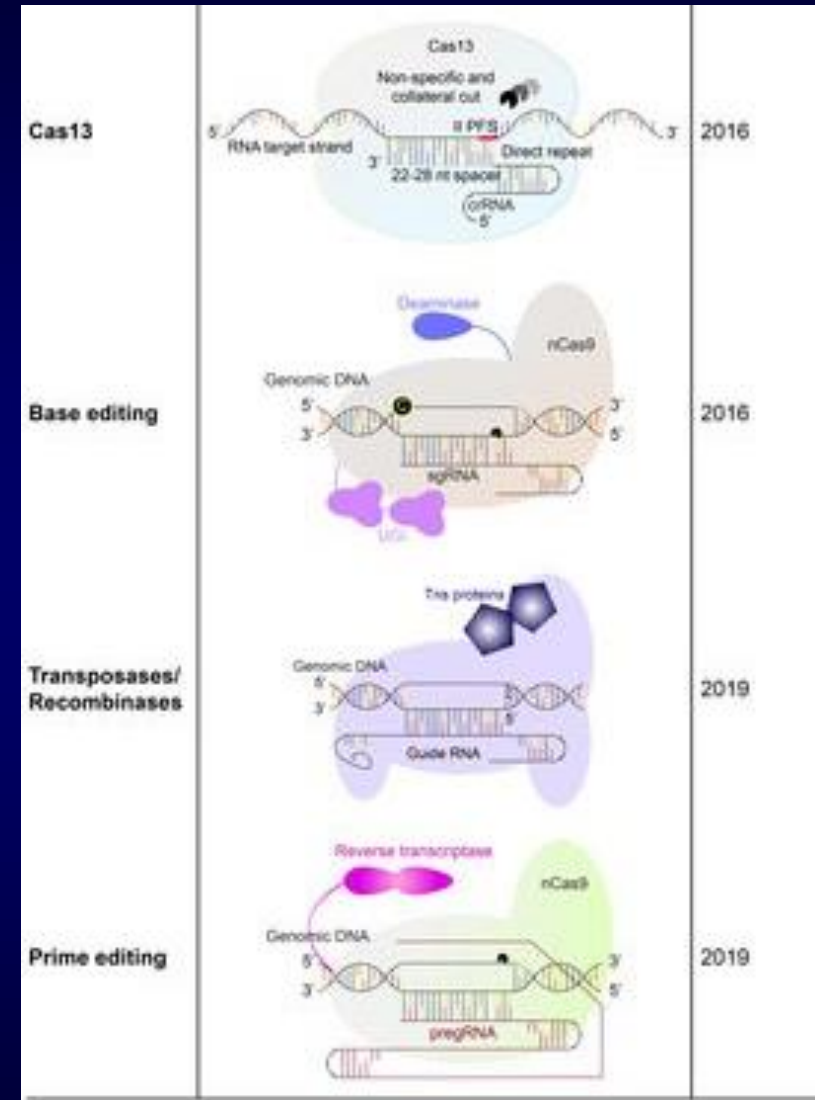
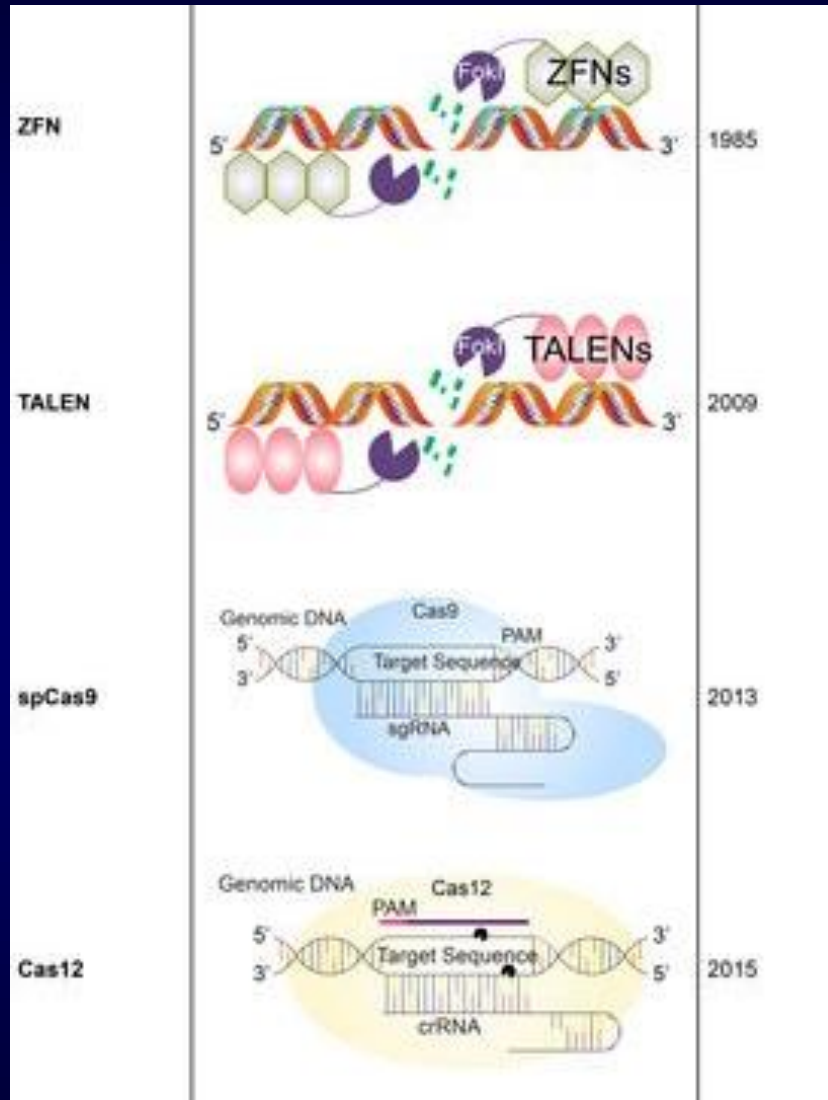
- 1) Are all of these colors blue?
- 2) Are all of these colors blue enough?
- 3) Do all of these colors have blue in them?



Activated T Cell Ex Vivo Processing Flow



Rapid Evolution of Gene Editing Tools



Epigenetic Editing?

New Technologies For Viral Free Cargo Delivery

What is important for Clinical Development?

- Efficiency
- Cargo Size
- Lack of toxicity
 - Gene disruption, metabolic disruption, viability
- Cell Yield
- Repeatability
- Regulatory compliance (DMF, 21 CFR Part 11)

CAR Cells Move Beyond Oncology

- CAR T Cells for HIV/AIDS
- CAR T Cells for Autoimmunity/Tolerance
- CAR T Cells for Heart Failure and Fibrosis
- CAR T Cell for Aging?

Multispecific anti-HIV duoCAR-T cells display broad in vitro antiviral activity and potent in vivo elimination of HIV-infected cells in a humanized mouse model

Kim Anthony-Gonda^{1,*}, Ariola Bardhi^{2,*}, Alex Ray², Nina Flerin², Mengyan Li², Weizao Chen³, Christina Ochsenbauer⁴, John C. Kappes^{4,5}, Winfried Krueger¹, Andrew Worden¹, Dina Schneider¹, Zhongyu Zhu¹, Rimas Orentas^{1,†}, Dimitar S. Dimitrov^{6,‡}, Harris Goldstein^{2,‡} and Boro Dropulić^{1,‡}

nature
medicine

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-02017-5>

Mackensen et al. September 15, 2022

Anti-CD19 CAR T cell therapy for refractory systemic lupus erythematosus

Check for updates

nature

Aghajanian et al. 2019

Targeting cardiac fibrosis with engineered T cells

Article

Senolytic CAR T cells reverse senescence-associated pathologies

Amor et al. Nature, 2020

T Cells Beyond CARs- TCRs and TILs

RESEARCH Lowery et al., *Science* 375, 877–884 (2022) 25 February 2022

CANCER IMMUNOLOGY

Molecular signatures of antitumor neoantigen-reactive T cells from metastatic human cancers

Frank J. Lowery^{1*}, Sri Krishna^{1*}, Rami Yossef¹, Neilesh B. Parikh¹, Praveen D. Chatani¹, Nikolaos Zacharakis¹, Maria R. Parkhurst¹, Noam Levin¹, Sivasish Sindiri¹, Abraham Sachs¹, Kyle J. Hitscherich¹, Zhiya Yu¹, Nolan R. Vale¹, Yong-Chen Lu¹, Zhili Zheng¹, Li Jia², Jared J. Gartner¹, Victoria K. Hill¹, Amy R. Copeland¹, Shirley K. Nah¹, Robert V. Masi¹, Billel Gasmi¹, Scott Kivitz¹, Biman C. Paria¹, Maria Florentin¹, Sanghyun P. Kim¹, Ken-ichi Hanada¹, Yong F. Li¹, Lien T. Ngo¹, Satyajit Ray¹, Mackenzie L. Shindorf¹, Shoshana T. Levi¹, Ryan Shepherd³, Chris Toy¹, Anup Y. Parikh¹, Todd D. Prickett¹, Michael C. Kelly⁴, Rachel Beyer¹, Stephanie L. Goff¹, James C. Yang¹, Paul F. Robbins¹, Steven A. Rosenberg^{1*}

The accurate identification of antitumor T cell receptors (TCRs) represents a major challenge for the engineering of cell-based cancer immunotherapies. By mapping 55 neoantigen-specific TCR clonotypes (NeoTCRs) from 10 metastatic human tumors to their single-cell transcriptomes, we identified signatures of

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

N ENGL J MED 386;22 NEJM.ORG JUNE 2, 2022

BRIEF REPORT

Neoantigen T-Cell Receptor Gene Therapy in Pancreatic Cancer

Rom Leidner, M.D., Nelson Sanjuan Silva, B.S., Huayu Huang, M.S., David Sprott, B.S., Chunhong Zheng, Ph.D., Yi-Ping Shih, Ph.D., Amy Leung, B.S., Roxanne Payne, M.N., Kim Sutcliffe, B.S.N., Julie Cramer, M.A., Steven A. Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D., Bernard A. Fox, Ph.D., Walter J. Urbani, M.D., Ph.D., and Eric Tran, Ph.D.

Open access

Original research

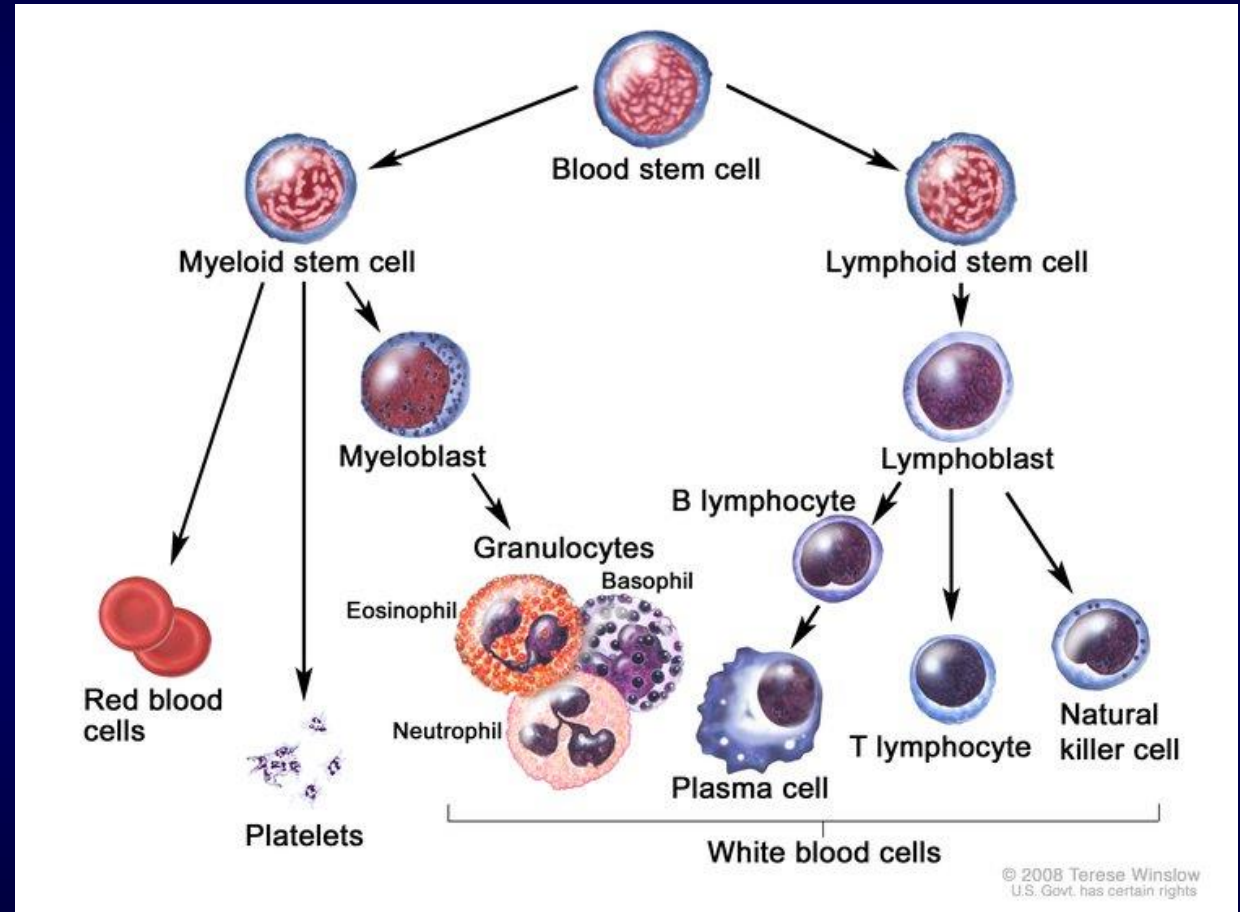


Phase I clinical trial evaluating the safety and efficacy of ADP-A2M10 SPEAR T cells in patients with MAGE-A10⁺ advanced non-small cell lung cancer

George R Blumenschein,¹ Siddhartha Devarakonda,² Melissa Johnson,³ Victor Moreno,⁴ Justin Gainor,⁵ Martin J Edelman,⁶ John V Heymach,¹ Ramaswamy Govindan,² Carlos Bachier,⁷ Bernard Doger de Spéville,⁴ Matthew J Frigault,⁸ Anthony J Olszanski,⁶ Vincent K Lam,⁹ Natalie Hyland,¹⁰ Jean-Marc Navenot,¹¹ Svetlana Fayngerts,¹¹ Zohar Wolchinsky,¹⁰ Robyn Broad,¹⁰ Dzmitry Batrakou,¹⁰ Melissa M Pentony,¹⁰ Joseph P Sanderson,¹⁰ Andrew Gerry,¹⁰ Diane Marks,¹¹ Jane Bai,¹¹ Tom Holdich,¹⁰ Elliot Norry,¹¹ Paula M Fracasso ¹¹

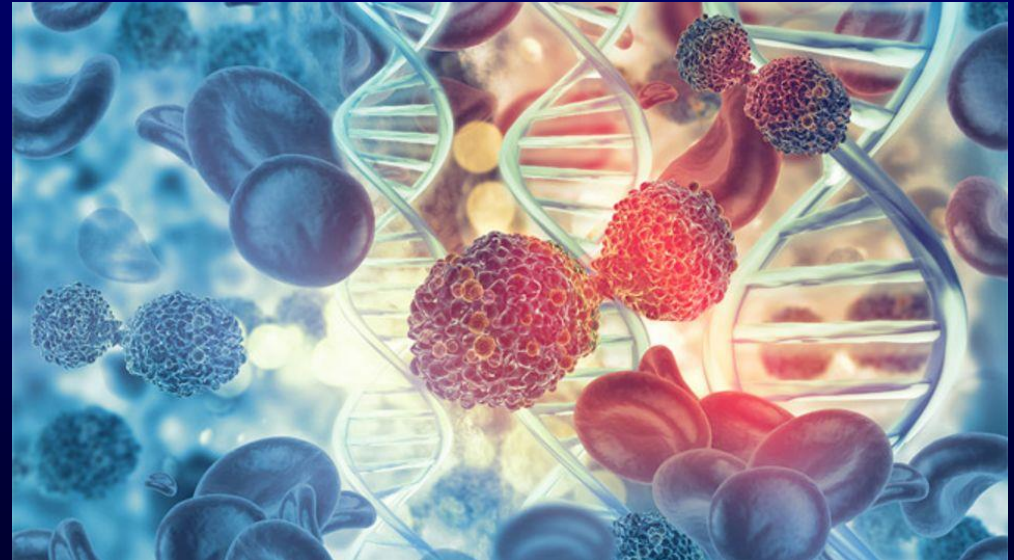
CAR Cells Move Beyond T Cells

- CAR NK/iNK
- CAR macrophages
- CAR in blood stem cells
- CARs derived from iPSC



Future prospects

- Autologous?
- Off the shelf/allogeneic?
- Both? How is that possible?



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Science

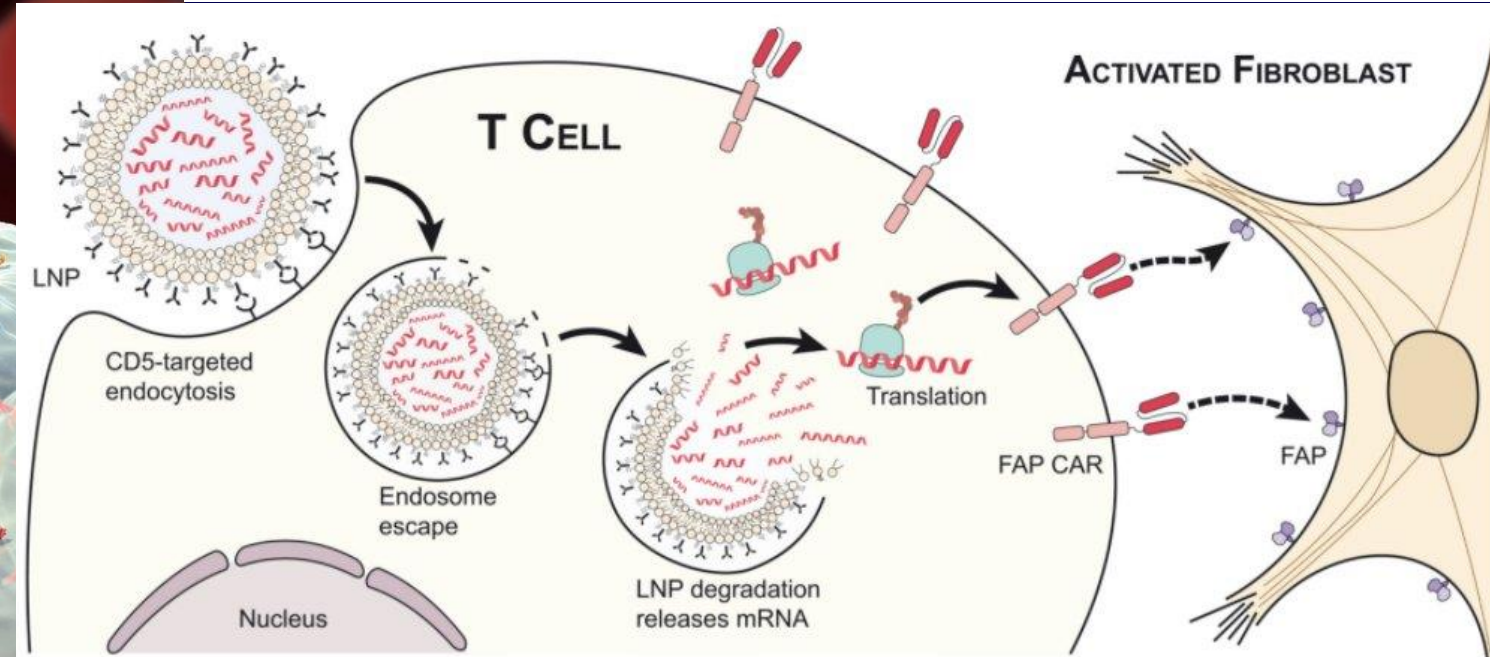
\$15
7 JANUARY 2022
science.org

AAAS

CELL AND GENE THERAPY

CAR T cells produced in vivo to treat cardiac injury

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TARGETED T CELLS

Lipid nanoparticles deliver
mRNA in vivo pp. 23 & 91

Rurik et al.
Science 375, 91–96 (2022)
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Penn Medicine
University of Pennsylvania Health System

CELL THERAPY & TRANSPLANT

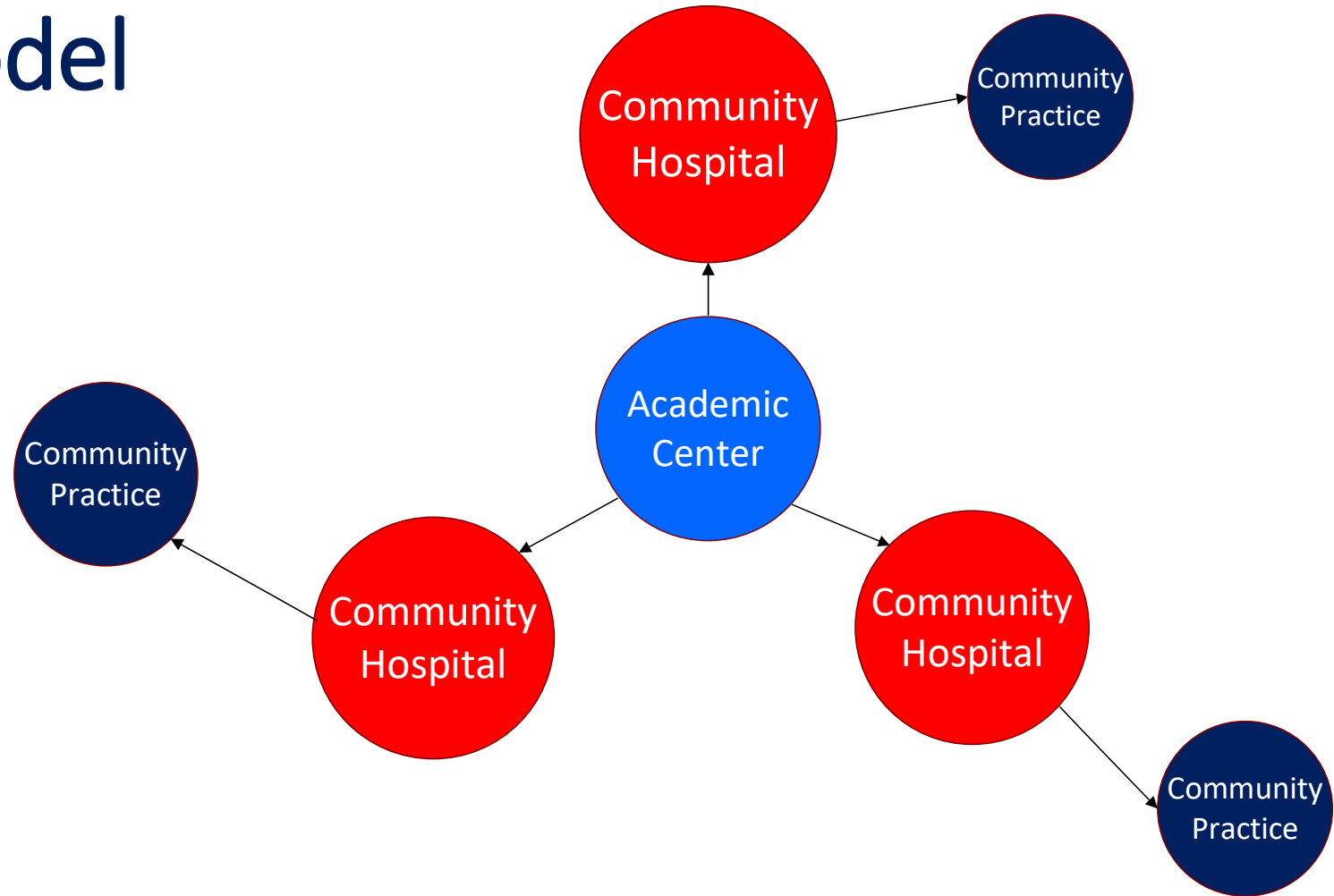
Penn Medicine: Developing Tools to Widen Patient Access to Complex Therapies



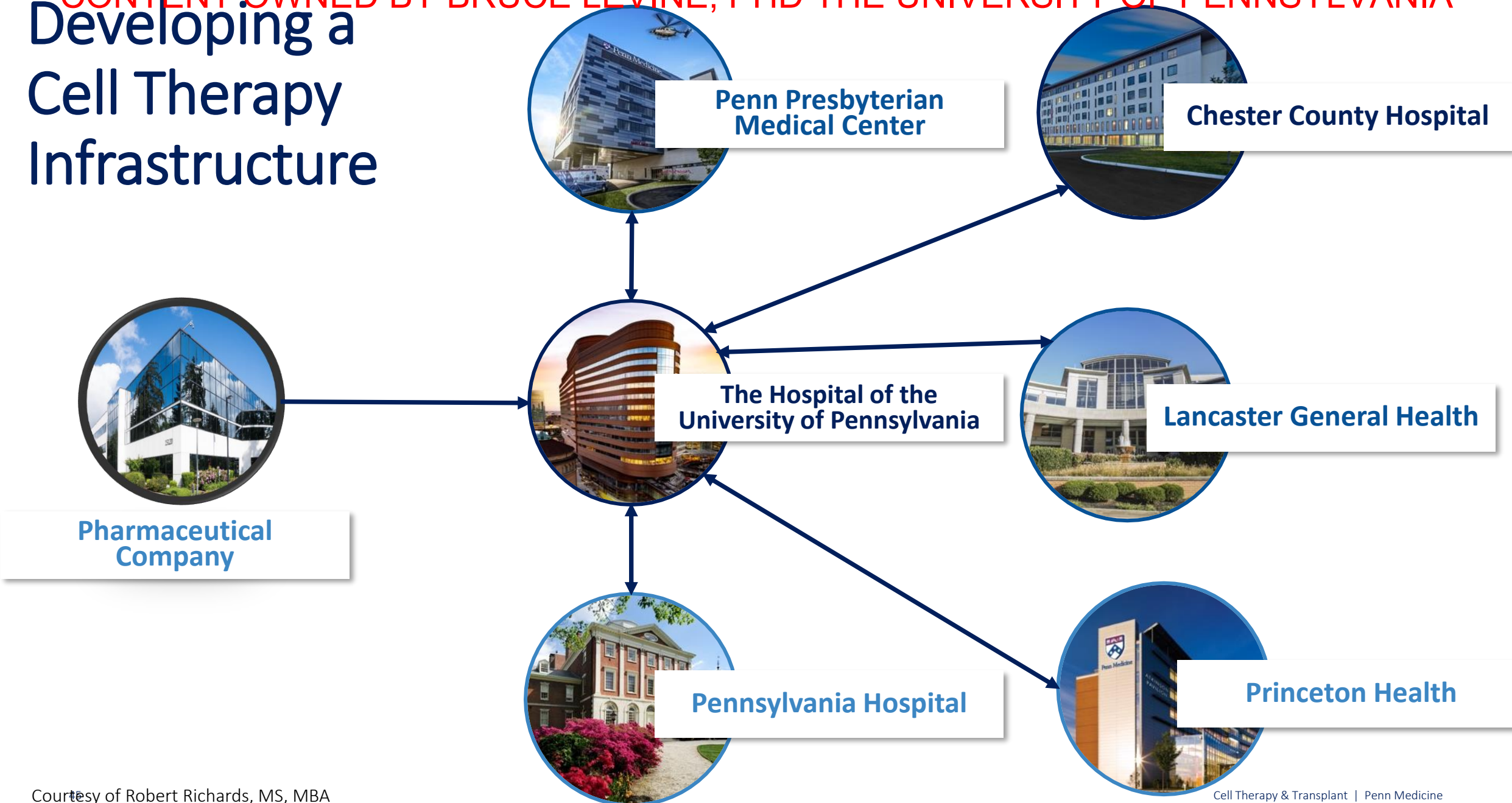
Hub and Spoke Model

Penn goal: To develop FACT accredited IEC sites at Penn community hospitals

- This model fosters continued growth of gene and cell therapy space to locations where access is undeveloped and allows academic to onboard next gen treatments
- Develops hospitals to manage toxicities consistent with REMS guidance from the FDA, keeping patients closer to home



Developing a Cell Therapy Infrastructure



Key Questions in Developing Cell Therapy Sites

1.) Standardization (Operations)

- How do you assure standardization of process/procedures but give autonomy to each site?

2.) Education

- How do standardize training of staff?

3.) Data

- How do you collect data to assure that new sites are performing at a high quality and have comparable outcomes to established transplant/cell therapy centers?

4.) Cost

- How do you develop a program at a site, at a low cost footprint, that likely has little or no resources for cell therapy?

Challenges in Delivering Cell Therapies to Patients

Research
& Development



Regulatory
Approval
&
Patient
Access

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(Some) Critical Path Issues for Wider Patient Access

- Enhancing potency, especially for solid tumors
 - Armor, switches, combination therapies
- ex vivo Manufacturing complexity: cell-based living drugs, viral vectors
 - Automation/shortened ex vivo culture/shortened vein to vein
- Education & Training at all levels
 - ASTCT, ISCT, NMDP, et al.



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- Disparities: Geography, Race, Income, Caregiver
- Financial complexity/affordability
 - Predictive biomarkers
 - Value based payment links price to outcome





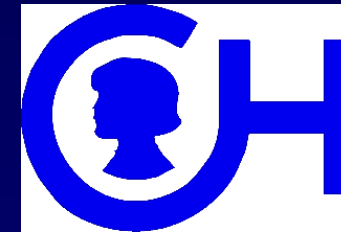
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Study
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It Takes A Village

