

Virtual R&D Day

November 24 2020

Mereo BioPharma Group plc NASDAQ: MREO, AIM: MPH





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Mereo Biopharma Virtual R&D Day - Agenda

Welcome, introductions and Agenda Denise Scots-Knight, PhD, CEO Mereo Biopharma



Etigilimab : TIGIT as a target/MOA and anti-PD-1/PDL-1 combination approach **Tim Yap, MBBS, PhD, FCRP, Associate Professor, Dept of Investigational Cancer Therapeutics, Division of Cancer Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**

Overview of Phase 1a/1b data John Strickler, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Member of the Duke Cancer Institute



Development strategy – phase 1b/2 and biomarkers John Lewicki, PhD, CSO Mereo & Ann Kapoun, PhD, SVP Translational R&D Mereo

Etigilimab Q&A



Neutrophil Elastase in lung disease : AATD and COVID 19 Mark Dransfield, MD, Professor and Interim Director, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine, University of Alabama

Alvelestat : development overview, previous data Alastair Mackinnon, MD, CMO Mereo & Jackie Parkin, MD, Therapeutic Head Mereo



Overview other pipeline programs and upcoming milestones Denise Scots-Knight, PhD, CEO Mereo

Alvelestat/Other Q&A



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Today's Speakers



John Strickler, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Member of the Duke Cancer Institute



Tim Yap, MBBS, PhD, FCRP, Associate Professor, Dept of Investigational Cancer Therapeutics, Division of Cancer Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center



Mark Dransfield, MD, Professor and Interim Director, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine, University of Alabama



Dr. Denise Scots-Knight Chief Executive Officer



Dr. John Lewicki Chief Scientific Officer



Dr. Ann Kapoun SVP Translational Research & Development



Dr. Alastair Mackinnon Chief Medical Officer



Dr. Jackie Parkin Therapeutic Area Head, Respiratory and Endocrinology



Dr. Brian Schwartz Non-Executive Director



Our Core Purpose, Strategy & Vision Guide Us

SUMMARY	Mission	Strategy	Our Track Record	Fundamentals
 #1 priority – the patients we seek to serve Identify and refine novel targets with strong scientific rationale Develop & commercialize innovative medicines to treat patients with rare diseases and cancer Seek partners to unlock value for the large opportunities where more resources required Reach broadest range of patients possible Partner of choice 	Improving lives of patients with oncology and rare disease by unlocking the potential of novel targets #1 priority – the patients that we seek to serve	 In-licence or acquire programs for oncology and rare diseases with strong scientific rationale / clinical data based on targets with strong scientific rationale Focus on core competences – translational R&D, development, CMC, regulatory, rare diseases Collaboration with the right partners to unlock the value of our programs Commercialize where it makes sense and match with strategic partnerships 	 Acquired/in-licensed 6 programs with Phase 1b/2 data in risk sharing structures since mid-2015 Delivered three successful Phase 2 studies to-date with a Phase 2 and Phase 1b/2 ongoing Global out licensing of one program with partnering for three additional programs ongoing Aim to retain regional commercial rights for our rare disease programs 	Our partners b NOVARTIS AstraZeneca Conc Cerna • Listed on LSE (AIM : MPH) and NASDAQ (MREO) • Well financed with cash runway into 2022 • Significant news flow into Q4 and 2021



Late Stage Diversified Clinical Pipeline



Core Programs

Product Candidate / Indication	Phase 1a	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 3	Next Milestones
Etigilimab Solid tumors					Phase 1b/2
Alvelestat Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency COVID-19					Phase 2 AATD Phase 1b/2 COVID
Setrusumab Osteogenesis imperfecta					Extension study Phase 3 – Partner

With partnering opportunities on non-core programs

Product Candidate / Indication	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Financing Milestones
Acumapimod Acute exacerbations of COPD				Separate funding
Leflutrozole HH Infertility				Partner
Navicixizumab Ovarian Cancer				Partnered ~ \$300M in milestones + royalties



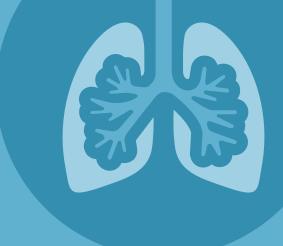




Etigilimab

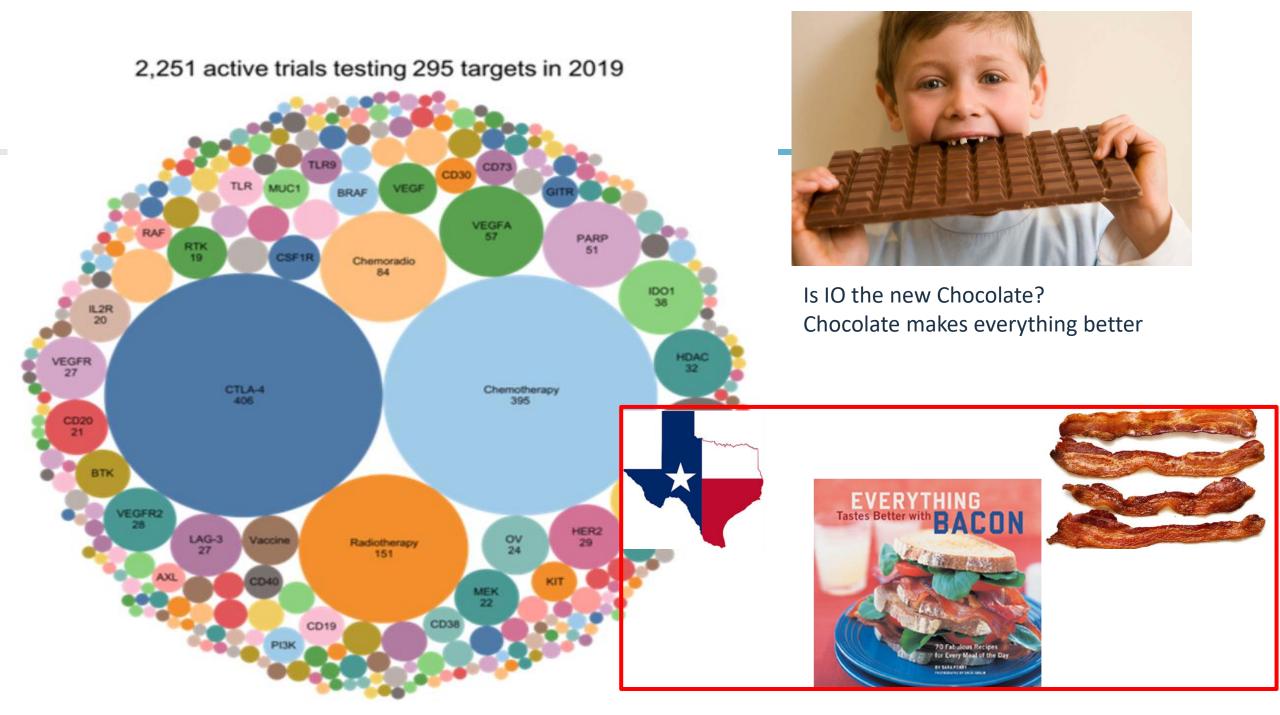




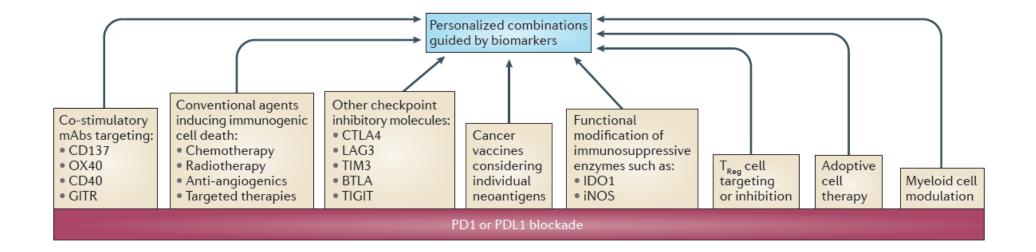




Dr. Timothy A. Yap MBBS PhD FRCP



Most IO-IO Combos Use Anti-PD-1/PD-L1 as Backbone



However, most combos are not based on strong supporting biology

"Our paradigm of ... let's just add something onto existing therapy may not be correct." — FDA OCE Director Richard Pazdur

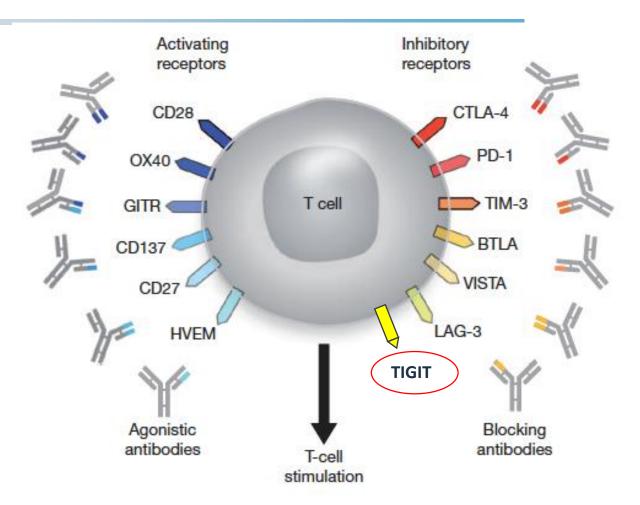
We need new targets driven by strong biology



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Melero, .., Haanen Nature Reviews Cancer 2015

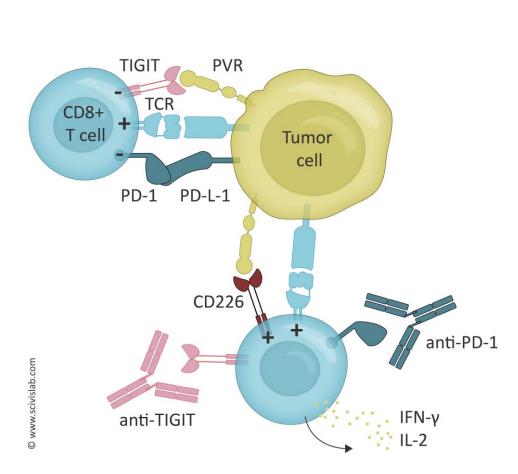
TIGIT: The New Kid on the Block





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TIGIT is a Negative Regulator of T Cell Responses



T cell Immunoreceptor with Ig and ITIM domains (TIGIT)

Negative regulator of T cell response:

• Competes with CD226 for PVR, disrupts CD226 activation, and directly inhibits T cells

Expressed on CD4, CD8 and NK cells and is elevated upon activation

Highly expressed on regulatory T cells (Tregs)

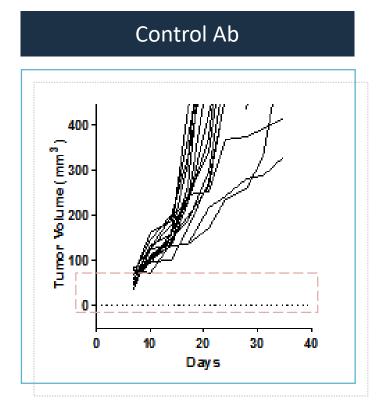
Human tumors co-express high levels of TIGIT and PD1

Co-blockade of anti-TIGIT and anti-PD1 elicits tumor rejection preclinically (Johnson et al., 2014, Cancer Cell)

Do we have good drugs against TIGIT?

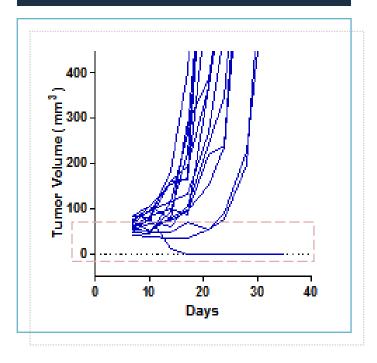


Etigilimab is an IgG1 Anti-TIGIT Antibody with Inhibitory and ADCC Characteristics



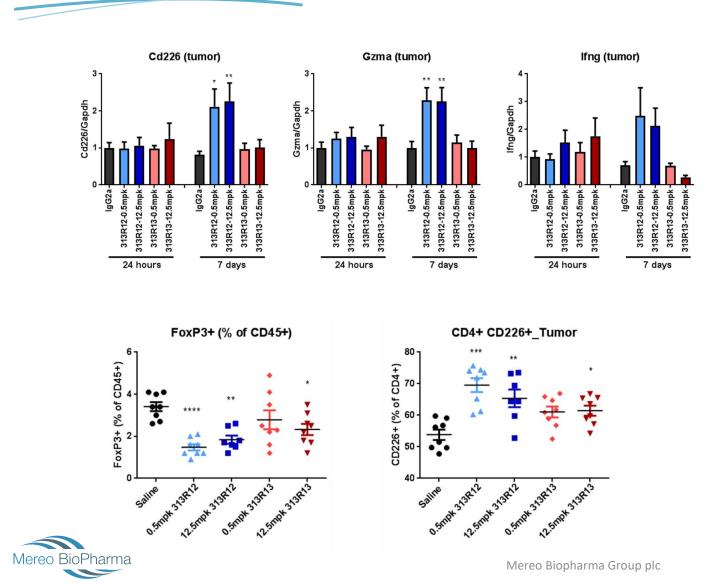
Effector function competent 400 **679** -°mm 300 9mm 200 200 0 20 30 10 40 0 Days

Effector function silent



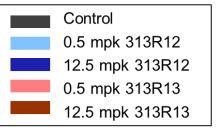


Fc Receptor Binding Important for Biomarker Changes & Efficacy in Preclinical Models



313R12: effector function competent

313R13: effector function incompetent



313R12: Mereo's surrogate anti-mouse antibody used for preclinical studies; comparable affinity to etigilimab (antihuman TIGIT)



-TIGIT Clinical Landscape



CITYSCAPE Study Design

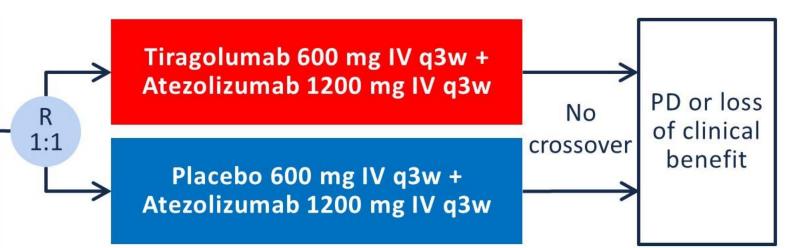
1L Stage IV NSCLC

- EGFR/ALK wild-type
- Tumor PD-L1 TPS ≥ 1% by 22C3 IHC by local or central assay

N=135

Stratification Factors:

- PD-L1 TPS (1-49% vs ≥ 50%)
- Histology (Non-Squamous vs Squamous)
- Tobacco use (yes vs no)



- Co-Primary Endpoints: ORR and PFS
- Key Secondary Endpoints: Safety,
 DOR, OS, Patient-reported outcomes (PROs)
- Exploratory Endpoints: Efficacy analysis by PD-L1 status

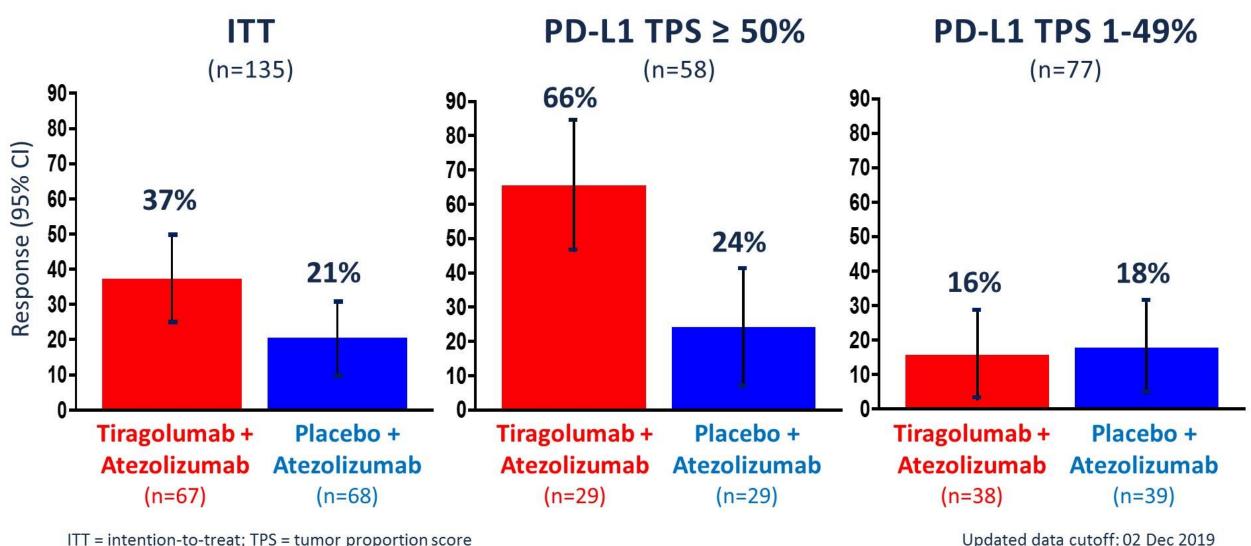
DOR = duration of response; IHC = immunohistochemistry; ORR = confirmed overall response rate; OS = overall survival; PD = progressive disease; PFS = progression free survival; q3w = every 3 weeks; R = randomized; TPS = tumor proportion score



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Updated Confirmed Overall Response Rate (ORR)



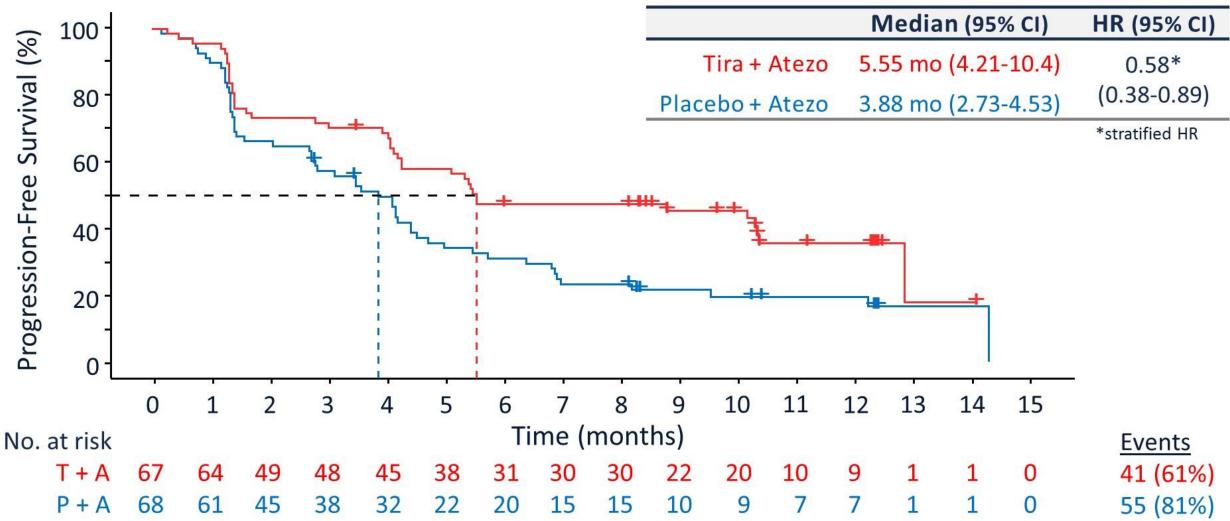
ITT = intention-to-treat; TPS = tumor proportion score



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Updated Investigator-Assessed PFS: ITT



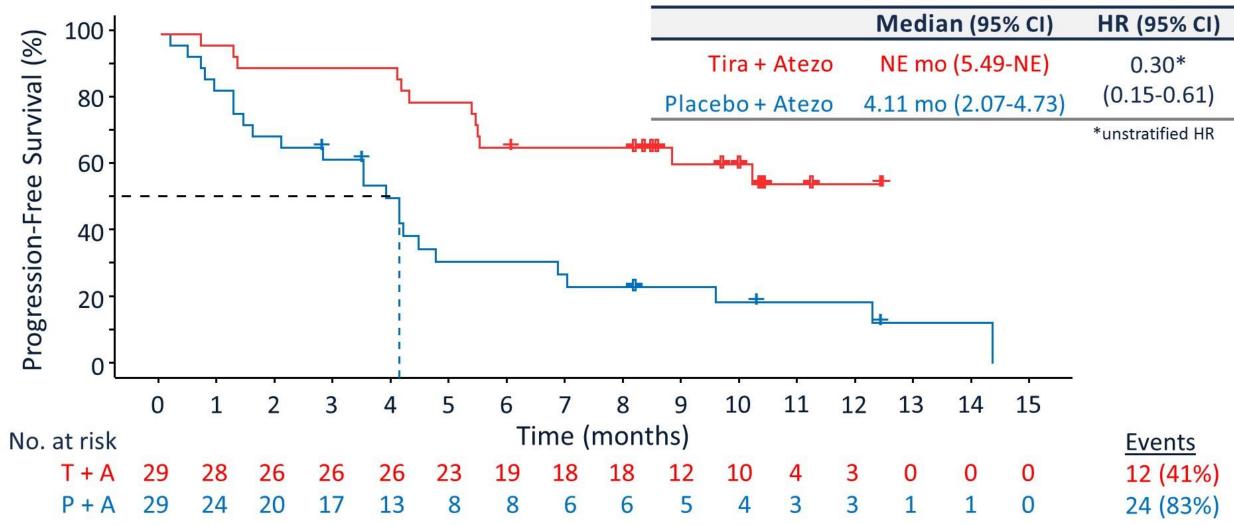
ITT= intention-to-treat; P+A = placebo + atezolizumab; T+A = tiragolumab + atezolizumab

Follow data cutoff: 02 December 2019



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<u>Updated</u> Investigator-Assessed PFS: PD-L1 TPS ≥ 50%



NE = non-evaluable; P+A = placebo + atezolizumab; T+A = tiragolumab + atezolizumab; TPS = tumor proportion score

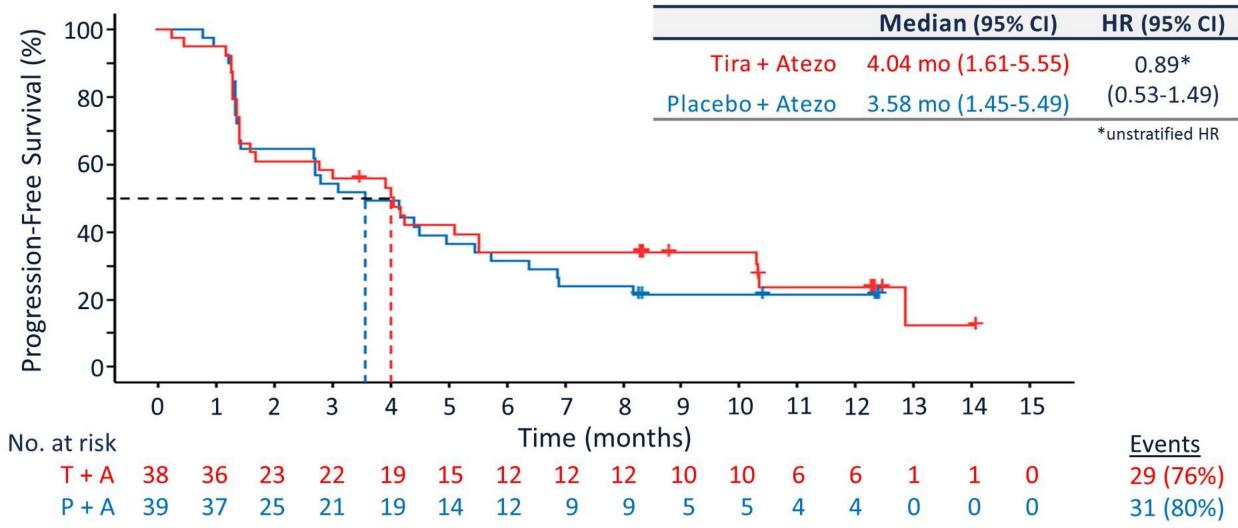
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Updated Investigator-Assessed PFS: PD-L1 TPS 1-49%



NE = non-evaluable; P+A = placebo + atezolizumab; T+A = tiragolumab + atezolizumab; TPS = tumor proportion score

Follow data cutoff: 02 December 2019



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Safety and Efficacy of Vibostolimab, an Anti–TIGIT Antibody, Plus Pembrolizumab in Patients With Anti–PD-1/PD-L1–Naive NSCLC

Table 4. Response Summary Based on Investigator Assessment per RECIST v1.1 in Patients With Anti-PD-1/PD-L1-Naive NSCLC

	Vibostolimab + F N =	
All Patients	Without Confirmation	With Confirmation ^a
Responders, n	12	10
ORR, % (95% CI)	29 (16-46)	24 (12-40)
CR, n (%)	1 (2)	1 (4)
PR, n (%)	11 (27)	9 (22)
SD, n (%)	11 (27)	1 2 (29)
PD, n (%)	14 (34)	1 4 (34)
Not available, ^b n (%)	4 (10)	5 (12)
Median DOR, ^c months (range)	-	NR (4-17+)
Patients With Available PD-L1 Data	Without Confirmation	With Confirmation ^a
TPS ≥1%: responders, n	6	4
TPS ≥1%: ORR, % (95% CI)	46 (19-75)	31 (9-61)
TPS <1%: responders, n	3	3
TPS <1%: ORR, % (95% CI)	25 (6-57)	25 (6-57)

CR, complete response; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease.

^aResponse confirmation per RECIST v1.1.

^bPatients with no postbaseline assessment available for response evaluation or patients with insufficient data for assessment of response per RECIST v1.1. ^cFrom product-limit (Kaplan-Meier) method for censored data.

"+" indicates there was no progressive disease at the time of the last disease assessment.



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J. Niu et. Al, Phase 1, Presented at the ESMO Virtual Congress 2020; September 19-21, 2020

Summary Clinical Data

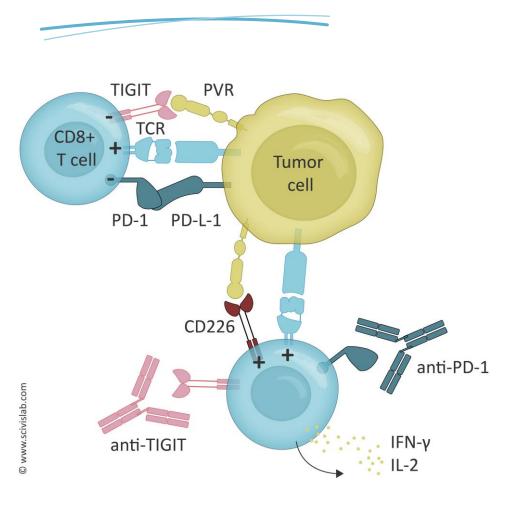


Making Cancer History®

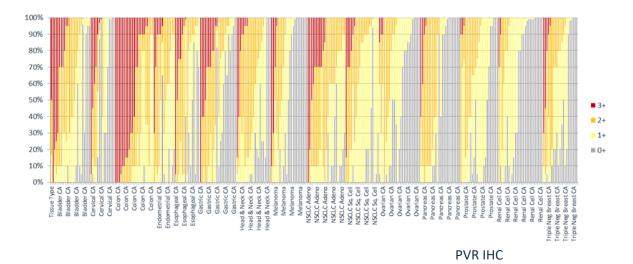
	Tiragolumab	Vibostolimab	Etigilimab
Type of drug	Anti-TIGIT human IgG1 mAb	Anti-TIGIT humanized IgG1 mAb	Anti-TIGIT humanized IgG1 mAb
Trial	Ph II randomized	Ph I dose escalation	Ph I dose escalation
ORR monotherapy	0%	3% (1/34)	0% (0/18)
DCR monotherapy	17%	35%	39%
ORR combo with anti-PD1 or anti- PD-L1	37%	24% (10/41)	N/A



Potential of PVR and TIGIT as Predictive Biomarkers



- High levels of PVR are associated with poor prognosis in multiple cancers
- PVR/TIGIT potential involvement in resistance to IO
- Potential important role of biomarkers beyond PD-L1, e.g. TIGIT, PVR, CD226



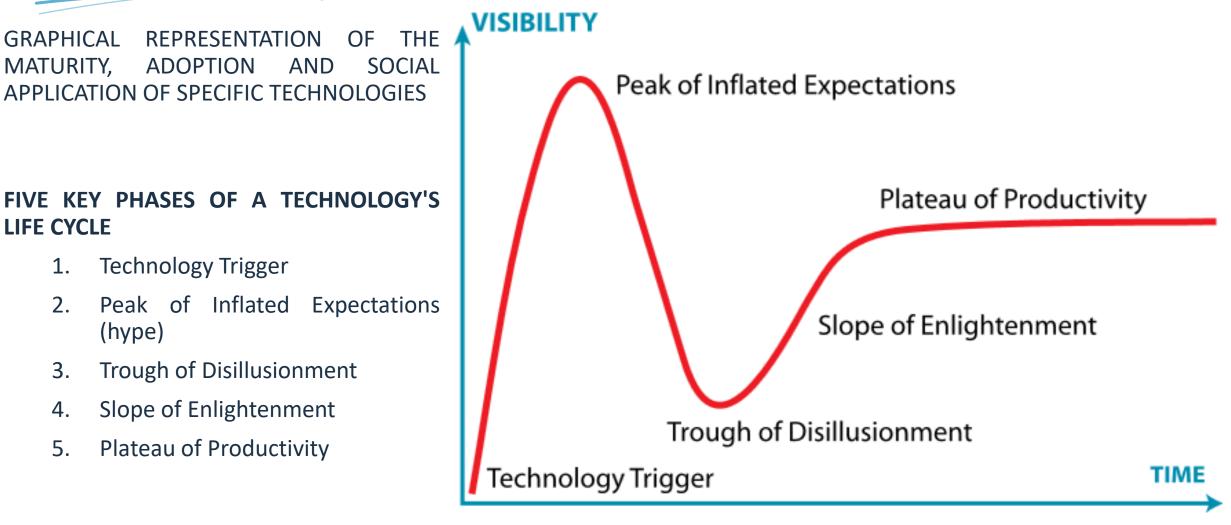


Where is the TIGIT Field Heading?

- Etigilimab is a potent and active IgG1 anti-TIGIT antibody
- Monotherapy unlikely to represent registration strategy
- Combination with PD-1/L1 inhibitors is promising line of sight to FDA approval
- Upcoming anti-TIGIT + PD-1/L1 inhibitor trials will define:
 - Specific tumor types beyond NSCLC ('moving away from the crowd')
 - Molecular biomarkers of response, e.g. TIGIT expression

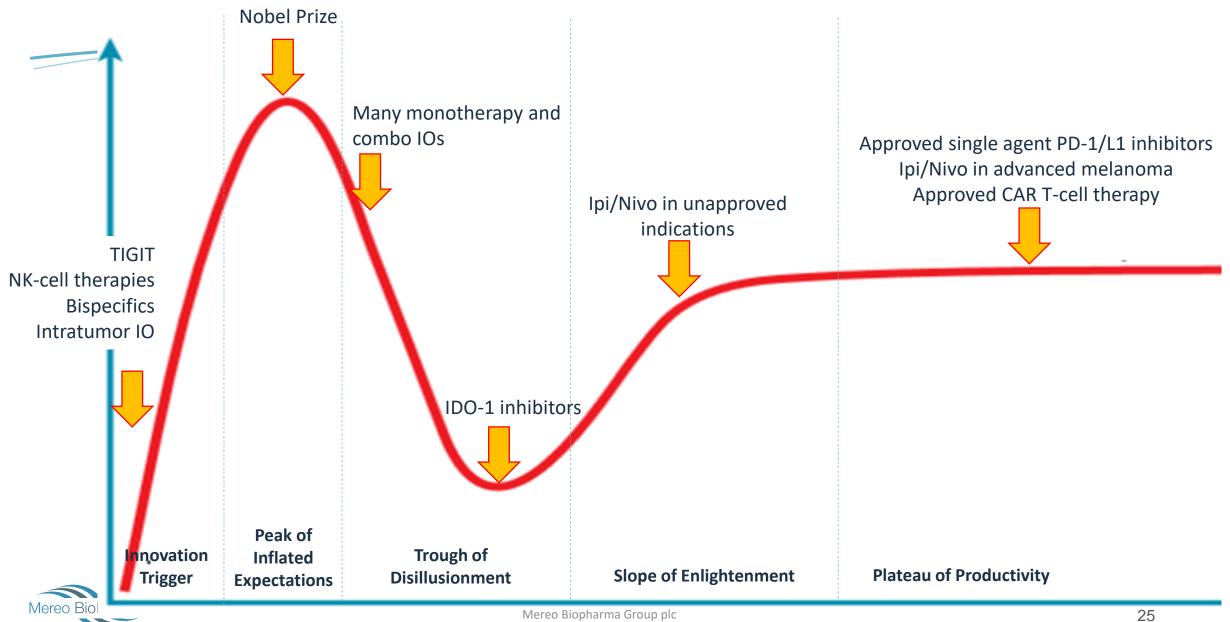


The Innovation Cycle (aka Gartner's Hype Cycle)

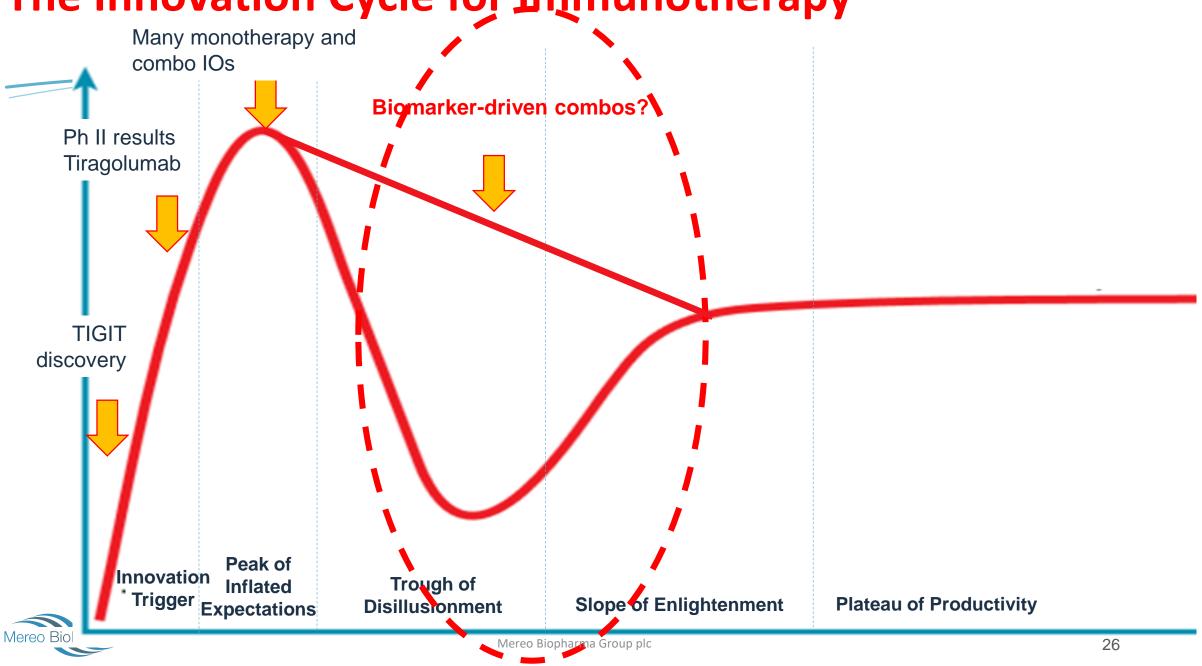




Gartner's Hype Cycle for Immunotherapy



The Innovation Cycle for Immunotherapy



Take Home Messages

- Promising antitumor activity observed in NSCLC, but also in patients who have progressed on or after prior anti-PD(L)-1 treatment in other cancers
- Optimal trial designs should be guided by shared knowledge from pre-clinical, translational and early clinical data
- Further translational studies warranted to better understand mechanisms of response and resistance

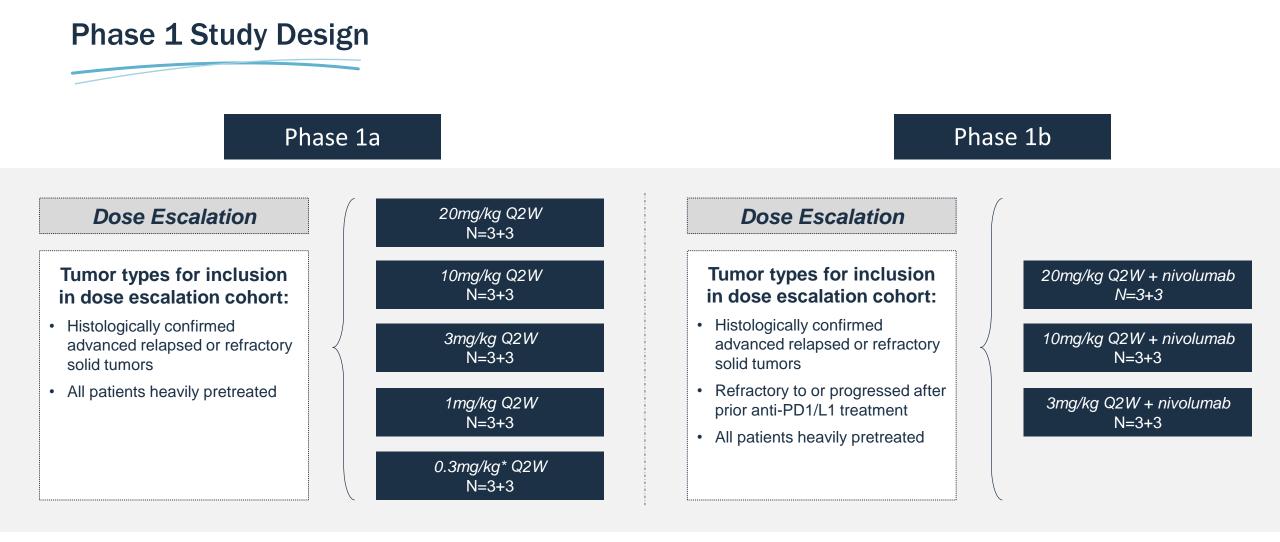






Etigilimab

Dr. John Strickler, MD





Baseline Characteristics

	Phase 1a	Phase 1b	Total
M/F	10/13	6/4	16/17
Tumor Type			
Head and Neck	4	1	5
Uterine	4	0	4
CRC	3	1	4
Gastric	0	3	3
MSS CRC	3	0	3
TNBC	2		2
Pancreatic Cancer	2	0	2
Other	5	5	10

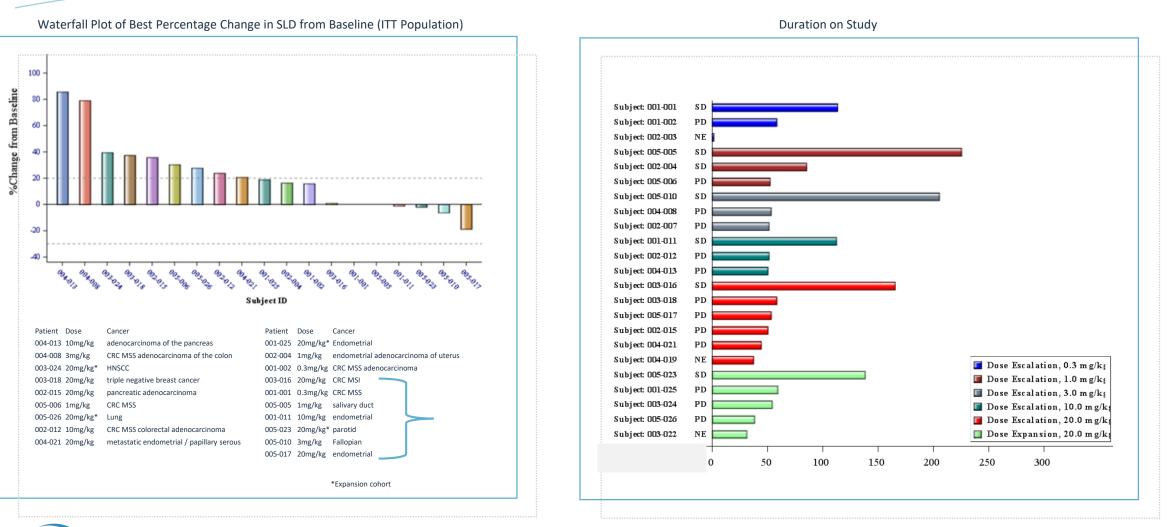


RECIST Response Data

Dose	Phase 1a	Phase 1b	Total
Complete Response	0	0	0/33 (0%)
Partial Response	0	1	1/33 (3%)
Stable Disease	7	1	8/33 (24%)
Progressive Disease	13	6	19/33 (58%)
Not Evaluable	3	2	5/33 (15%)
Clinical Benefit Rate	7	2	9/33 (27%)



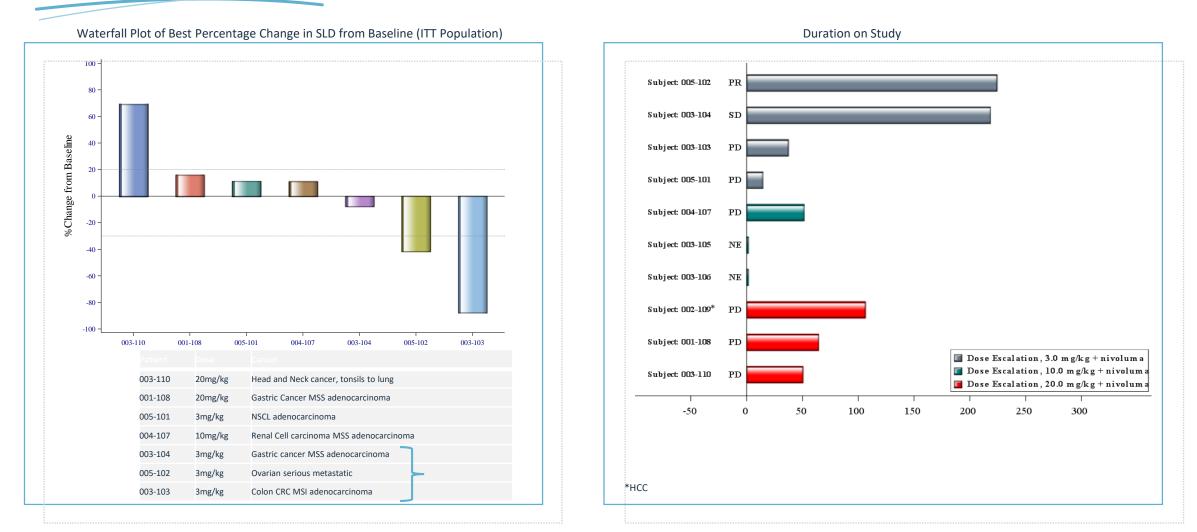
Phase 1a Best % Reduction in Target Lesion Size & Duration on Study etigilimab monotherapy





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Phase 1b Best % Reduction in Target Lesion Size & Duration on Study etigilimab + nivolumab





Phase 1a Safety Data

Related AEs ≥ 5%				
Adverse event, n (%)	Number (%)			
Pruritis	4 (17%)			
Fatigue	3 (13%)			
Nausea	3 (13%)			
Rash	3 (13%)			
Rash maculopapular	3 (13%)			
Chills	2 (9%)			
Cough	2 (9%)			
Rash macular	2 (9%)			

≥ Grade 3 Related AEs

Adverse event, n (%)	Number (%)
Rash	1 (4%)
Rash Macular	1 (4%)
Rash Maculopapular	1 (4%)
ALT Increased	1 (4%)
AST Increased	1 (4%)
Hypophosphatemia	1 (4%)

Immune Related Adverse Events

Adverse event, n (%)	Number (%)
Skin Disorders	8 (35%)
Pruritis	3 (13%)
Rash	3 (13%)
Rash Maculopapular	3 (13)%
Rash macular	1 (4%)
Rash pruritic	1 (4)%
Skin disorder	1 (4%)
Autoimmune Hepatitis	1 (4%)

Generally safe and well tolerated



Phase 1b Safety Data

Phase 1b: ≥Grade 3 Related AEs (n = 10)*

Adverse event, n (%)	Number (%)
Rash	2 (20%)
Rash maculopapular	1 (10%)
ALT increased	1 (10%)
AST increased	1 (10%)

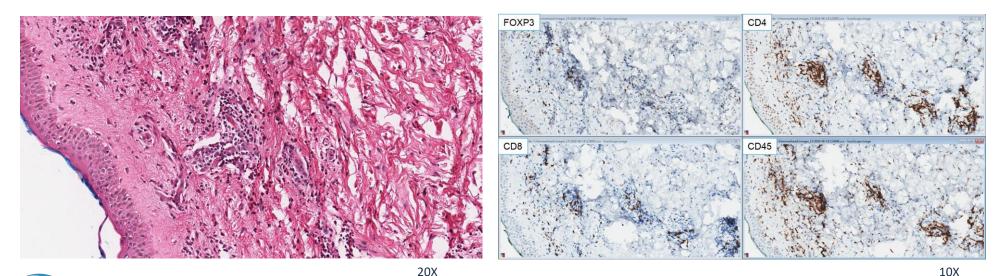
Phase 1b: Immune-Related Adverse Events (n=10)*

Adverse event, n (%)	Number (%)
Skin Disorders	5 (50%)
Pruritis	2 (13%)
Rash	2 (20%)
Rash pruritic	2 (20%)
Dermatitis psoriasiform	1 (10%)
Rash maculopapular	1 (10%)
Autoimmune hepatitis	1 (10%)
Infusion reaction	1 (10%)



Patient 005-010 Rash Example rash

- Pt 005-010, 3 mg/kg, Grade 1-3 rash in multiple areas, topical steroids, skin biopsy on day ~150
- Pathology: perivascular lymphocytic inflammatory infiltrate with scattered eosinophils
 - Typical rash seen with other checkpoint inhibitors
 - Received biopsy in-house and stained with CD45, CD4, CD8 and FoxP3
- Rashes seen with checkpoints are diverse, dermal immune eruptions, lichenoid patterns (scaling)





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Phase 1 Clinical & Biomarker Findings

- Seven subjects (30%, n=23) had stable disease as their best response in the single-agent Phase 1a cohort
 - Majority of patients are heavily pretreated and have tumor types typically non-responsive to anti-PD1 agents
- One partial response and 1 stable disease evident in initial Phase 1b (combination with nivolumab) cohorts (n=8 evaluable, n=7 with tumor assessments)
- No DLTs were observed; etigilimab generally well tolerated
- Etigilimab elicited adverse events consistent with immune system activation
- The pharmacokinetic profile of etigilimab is linear, with an estimated T1/2 of 6 days; and no evidence of anti-drug antibodies were observed
- Target engagement of etigilimab demonstrated in Phase 1a patients in blood by flow cytometry, NGS gene expression, and DNA methylation analysis







Etigilimab: A Differentiated Development Strategy

Dr. Ann Kapoun, SVP Translational R&D, PhD Dr. John Lewicki, Chief Scientific Officer, PhD

Mereo's etigilimab Has Key Differentiating Features

High affinity IgG1 antibody Phase 1a and Phase 1b dose escalation and safety data available

- IgG1 backbone activates antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC). Preclinical data suggest advantages of this backbone over competitor ADCC-null anti-TIGIT mAbs
- Active IND and drug product in place
- Potential early clinical signals observed: 30% SD in Phase 1a; 1PR in Phase1b. Majority of patients are heavily pre-treated and some in non-IO responsive tumor types

Advanced Biomarker capabilities in place

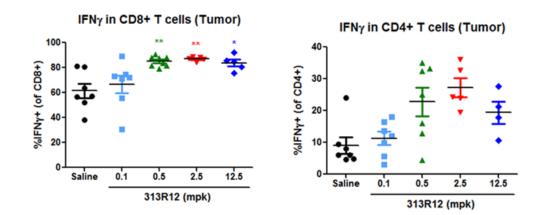
- Target engagement of etigilimab demonstrated in Phase 1a patients
- Identified tumors with high expression of TIGIT/PVR based on survey of large cohorts of tumors tissues
- Biomarker methods established to evaluate and enable future patient stratification and selection, e.g. IHC for PVR, TIGIT, PVRL2, FOXP3, CD226 and multiple panels for >15 immune related tumor parameters

Innovative Phase 1b/2 Trial Design

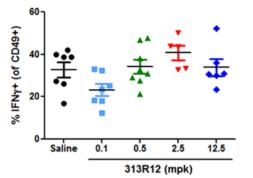


Non-clinical Biomarkers and Evidence of T Cell and NK Cell Activation

Anti-TIGIT Promotes Activation of CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ T Cells and NK Cells in the Tumor Microenvironment (FLOW)

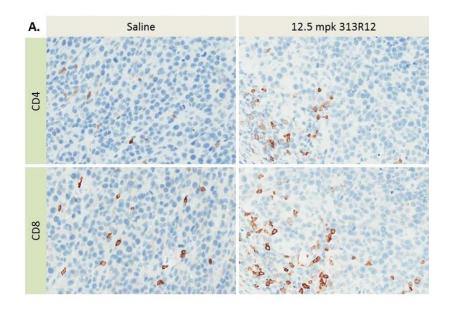




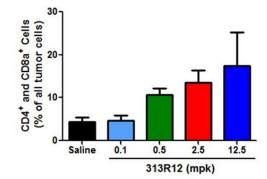


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Anti-TIGIT Increases CD4+ and CD8+ Cell Frequency in CT26.WT Tumors (IHC)

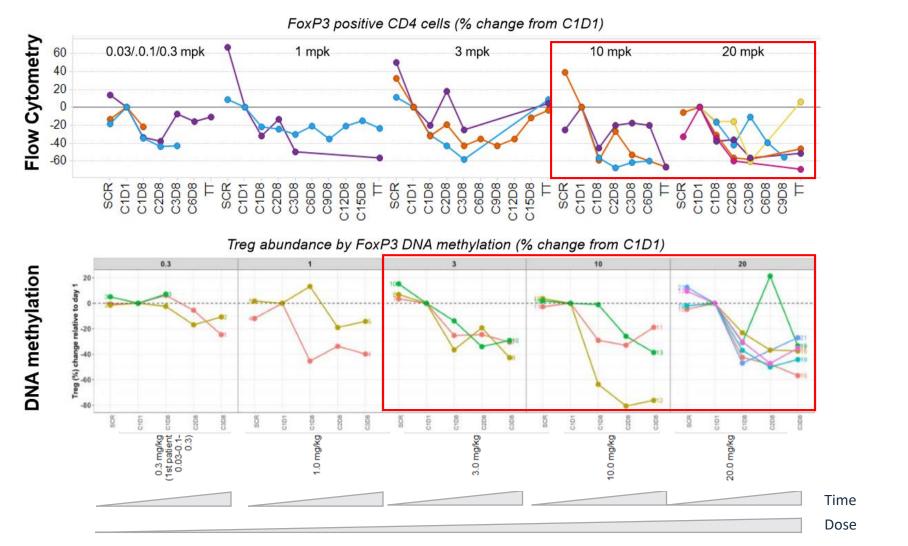


B. CT26.WT total CD4+ and CD8+ cells



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Etigilimab Decreased the Number of Treg Cells in Circulation and Changed FoxP3 DNA Methylation in Phase 1a Patients



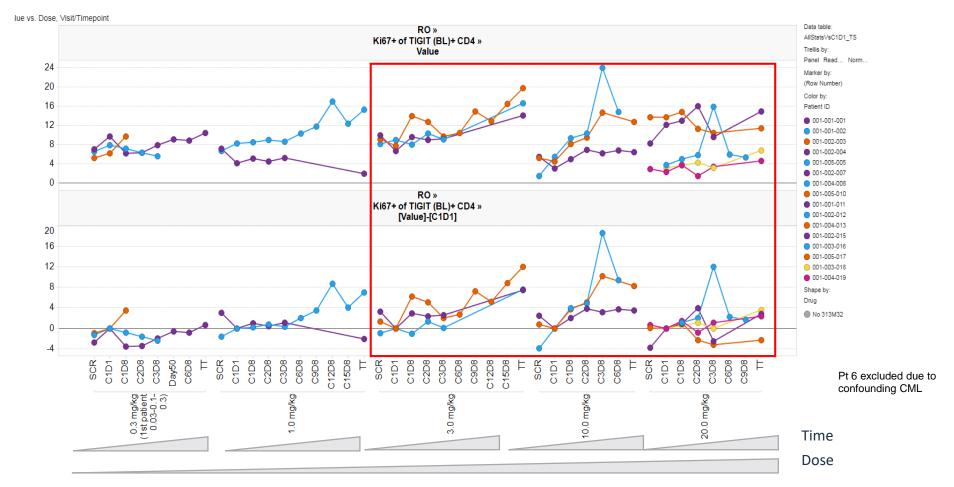
Sharma et al

Huang et al



Etigilimab Increased Markers of Cell Proliferation in T and NK Cells of Phase 1a Patients





Increases in Ki67+ observed in CD4 T cells as well as NK & Treg



Anti-TIGIT Phase 1a Biomarker Summary

Target engagement of etigilimab demonstrated in Phase 1a patients by multiple modalities: flow cytometry, NGS gene expression, and DNA methylation analysis

- Activated immune cells measured by increases in Ki67+TIGIT+CD4 as well as NK cells and increased in intracellular cytokines
- Reduced Tregs in circulation, with a corresponding increase in the CD8/Treg ratio
- Regulation of Treg associated genes by etigilimab



Factors & Analyses Influencing Design of Phase 1b/2 Trial

- Survey of large cohorts of tumors for TIGIT/PVR/PD-1 expression, including internal IHC expression data
- Study includes tumor types with high PVR/TIGIT and co-expression with PD1
- Tumors showing responsiveness to anti-PD-1/L1 including rare tumors
- Potential future patient selection in cohort(s) based on biomarker (PDL1, PVR, TIGIT)
- Strong biology rationale and early clinical signals

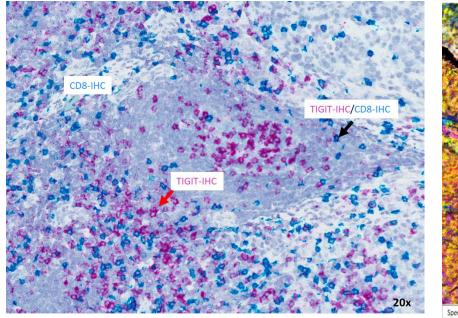
Huang D-W et. al. Onco Targets Ther. 2017; Braun M. et. al. Immunity 2019; Stamm H. et. al. Oncoimmunology 2019; Lee B-R et. al. JCI Insight 2020; Yang Z-Z et. al. Clin. Cancer. Res. 2020; Lepletier A. et. al. Clin Cancer Res. 2020

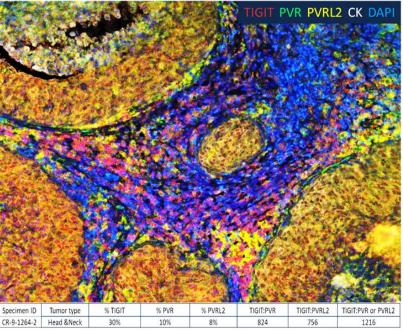


Biomarker Capabilities in Place

Example TIGIT & PVR Immunohistochemistry

- TIGIT biomarker single & multiplex IHC/IF assays developed with image analysis
- These assays were used to survey large cohorts of tumor tissues for indication selection
- Robust multiplex IHC assays and staining for PVR, TIGIT, and ~15 immune related tumor parameters including TIGIT, PVR, PVRL2, CD226, CD4, CD8, FOXP3, PD1, PDL1
- TIGIT and PVR assays developed and establishing as CLIA-validated to enable prospective pt selection at central lab







Biomarker Analysis of TIGIT Expression and Correlation with PD1 Expression

IHC and gene expression analyses of large tumor cohorts were used to:

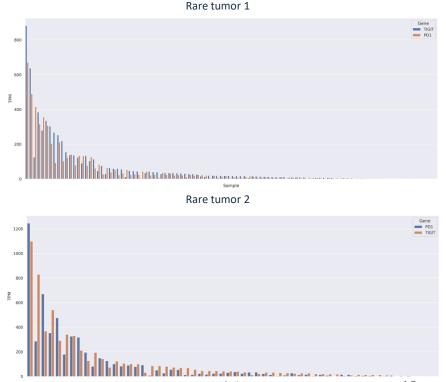
- Rank tumors for high PVR/TIGIT expression and co-expression with PD1
- Interrogate histological subtypes and rare tumors where anti-TIGIT plus anti-PD1 may show clinical activity and be amenable for patient selection with IHC assay in central labs

>3rd Quartile (100.3) Total Samples Freq ymphoid Neoplasm Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma 48 95 839 ticular Germ Cell Tumors 150 58.67% 515 51.84% ung adenocarcinoma 520 45.19% 470 43.839 502 42 639 ous cell carcinon 05 41.649 33 33 969 ev renal clear cell carcinoma 415 31.819 ast invasive carcinom Pancreatic adenocarcinoma Bladder Urothelial Carcinom Sarcoma ICEC Uterine Corpus Endometrial Carcinoma 545 20 929 moma 6 19 449 sophageal carcinoma r hepatocellular carcin olon adenocarcinoma 60 14 13 ectum adenocarcinom 166 9.64% cute Myeloid Leukemi Uveal Melanoma Ovarian serous cystadenocarcin rine Carcinosarcoma state adenocarcinom 90 4.489 ney renal papillary cell carcinom drenocortical carcinoma 16 0.789 in Lower Grade Glioma 161 0.62% blastoma multiform idney Chromophobe 66 0.00% ocytoma and Paraganglioma

TIGIT

Percentage of Cases for each Indication with ≥50% of Tumor Cells with PVR staining at ≥2+:		
Group	Tumor Indication	% of Cases with Staining ≥50% at ≥2+
High	Colon CA	83%
	Bladder CA	57%
	Endometrial CA	54%
	H&N CA	52%
	Lung Adeno CA	52%
	Gastric CA	50%
Moderate	Esophageal CA	47%
	Pancreatic CA	42%
	Cervical CA	33%
	Melanoma	32%
	Lung Squam CA	30%
	TNBC	29%
	Prostate CA	22%
Low	Ovarian CA	20%
	Leukemia	15%
	RCC	7%
	T-cell Lymphoma	6%
	B-cell Lymphoma	0%

PVR



Prevalence of TIGIT gene expression in tumor types as available from TCGA. The quartile RSEM value of TIGIT gene expression is ~100.



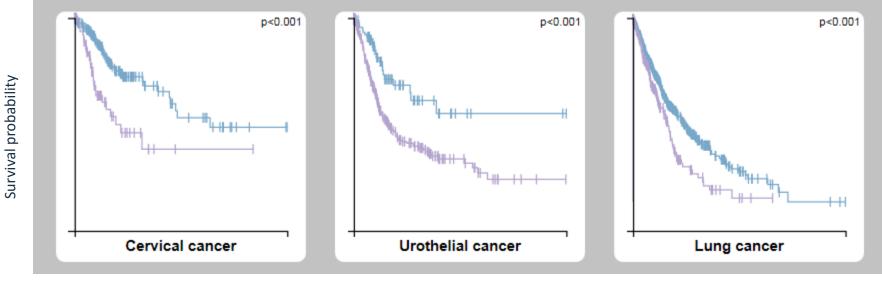
PVR Signaling as a Resistance Mechanism in Tumors

- Emerging data suggests the following:
 - High levels of PVR associated with poor prognosis in cancer patients
 - High PVR expression associated with resistance to anti-PD1 therapy

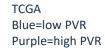




High PVR Expression Associated with Poor Clinical Outcome

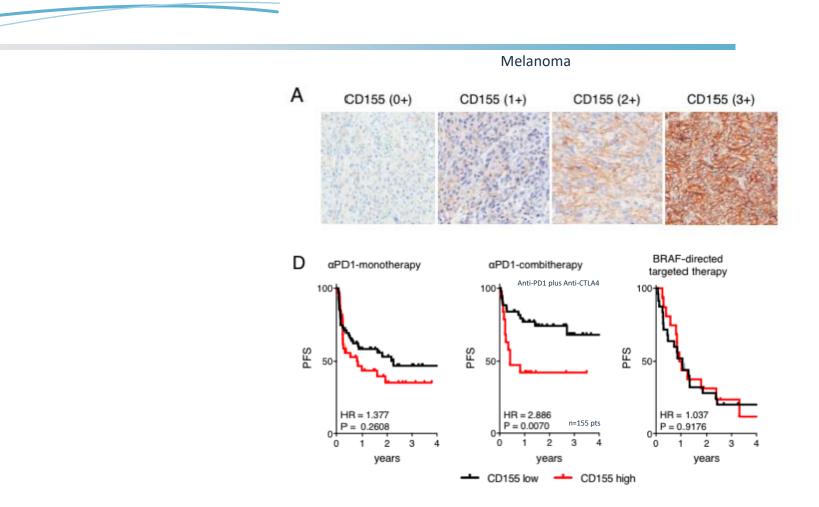


Time





High PVR Expression Associated with Reduced Response to Anti-PD1 Immunotherapy



Lepletier A. et. al. Clin Cancer Res. 2020

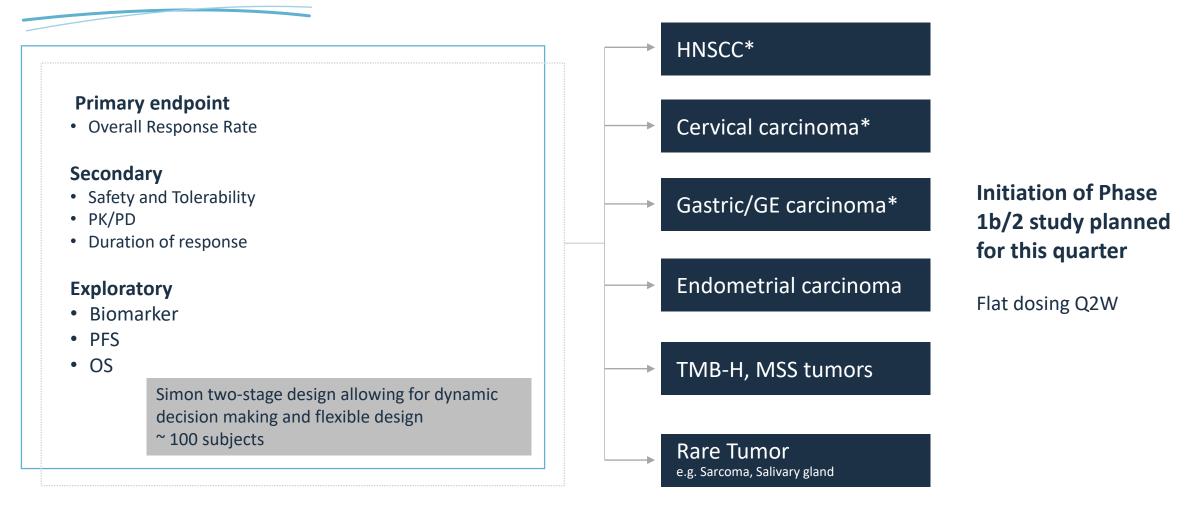


Phase 1b/2 Basket Study

- Clinical design influenced by the following observations:
 - Survey of large cohorts of tumors for TIGIT/PVR/PD-1 expression, including internal IHC expression data
 - Study includes tumor types with high PVR/TIGIT and co-expression with PD1
 - Tumors showing responsiveness to anti-PD-1/L1 including rare tumors
 - Potential patient selection in cohort(s) based on biomarker (TMB, PDL1, PVR, TIGIT)
 - Correlation between high PVR and clinical outcomes
 - Strong biology rationale and signals from anti-TIGIT clinical data



<u>ACTIVATE</u> Study Design Etigilimab Phase 1b/2 Basket Study



*PDL1+

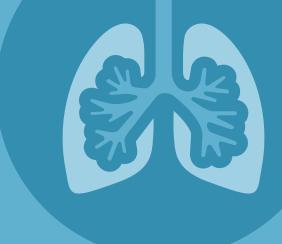


<u>ACTIVATE</u> Study Design Etigilimab Phase 1b/2 Basket Study

- Received the study may proceed letter from FDA
- 12-15 months study duration
- Anticipating initial data in 2H2021
- Site initiation ongoing in US and EU; top sites and investigators in place







Q&A







Alvelestat







Professor Mark Dransfield Neutrophil Elastase-Driven Diseases: Alpha-1 Antitrypsin and COVID-19

Neutrophil Elastase- A critical protease in health and agent of disease



- Highly aggressive protease, normally constrained in neutrophil cytoplasmic granules (uM) until activation
 - Physiological role in intracellular killing and degradation of bacteria
- Dysregulated response identified as critical pathogenic mechanism in inflammatory disease
- During neutrophil activation granule contents are translocated to cell surface and released as soluble enzyme and within extracellular vesicles (exosomes) leading to:
 - Local degradation of elastin within tissue matrix
 - Diffusion of soluble elastase and exosomes into adjacent tissue spreads damage and initiates inflammation
- Uncontrolled NE particularly damaging in lung
 - Respiratory parenchyma has highest concentration of elastin -comprises 20–30% connective tissue
- Escalating body evidence for extent of pathogenic role for NE through Neutrophil Extracellular Trap (NET) formation in diseases of systemic inflammation beyond the lung



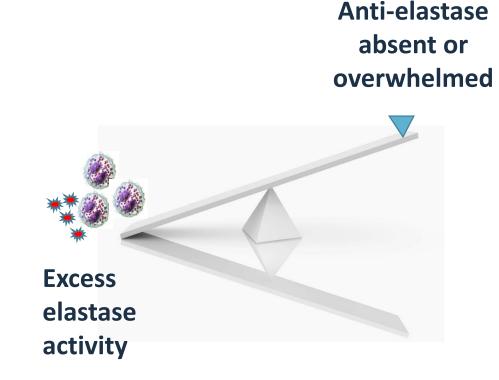
Pathogenesis of Lung Disease – a Critical Balance between Physiological Inhibitor (alpha-1 antitrypsin) and NE

Steps leading to Proteinase/Anti-Proteinase concept of pathogenic role of NE in lung damage

- Recognition of the genetic deficiency of the physiological inhibitor of HNE (alpha-1 antitrypsin) as a rare cause of aggressive early-onset lung disease
- Experimental observations that instillation of NE into lungs of animal models induced emphysema

Demonstration that membrane bound NE is relatively resistant to the physiological inhibitor alpha-1 antitrypsin (α1AT) if protein at low levels or alternatively overwhelmed by high concentrations of elastase

Recent recognition that neutrophil activation releases NEcontaining exosomes, resistant to $\alpha 1AT$ (steric hindrance), and induce emphysema in animal models

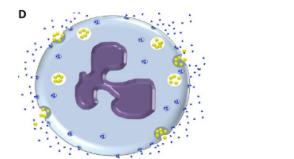


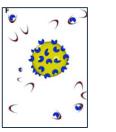


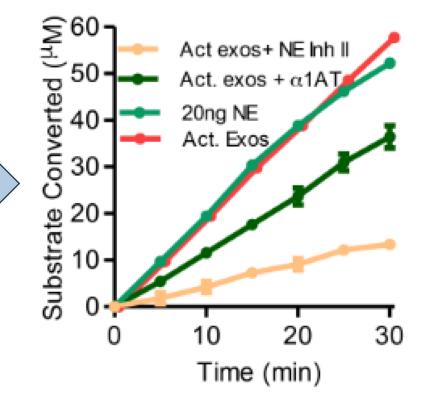
Identification of Exosomes in NE-driven Pathology (COPD)

Key Findings

- Exosomes from activated PMNs harbor surface NE
- Activated PMN exosomes bind and degrade Extra Cellular Matrix via NE
- Activated PMN exosomes are relatively resistant to α 1-AT, but are inhibited by small molecule NEi
- CD66b/NE PMN exosomes reside in COPD patients and transfer a COPD phenotype to mice





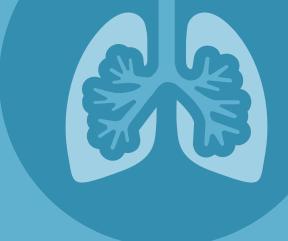


NE activity of activated exosomes with small molecule NE Inhibitor, α 1-AT, or PBS control



Cell. 2019; 176(1-2): 113–126. Activated PMN Exosomes: Pathogenic Entities Causing Matrix Destruction and Disease in the Lung. Genschmer et al.





Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency Lung Disease

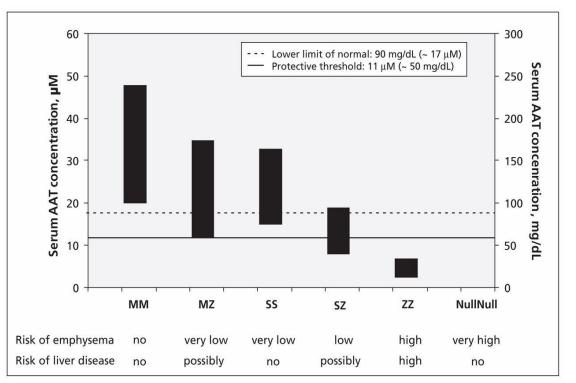
Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency Lung Disease: a Disorder of Physiological Elastase Inhibitor Deficiency

Genetic condition

- Autosomal co-dominant inheritance MM (normal), MZ, SZ, ZZ and null
- Severity of disease related to level of α1AT Homozygotes (ZZs) and nulls have most severe deficiency and disease
- PiZZs misfolded α1AT 'trapped' in liver 'loss of function' mutation with systemic deficiency with liver disease mainly in children due to accumulation of polymerised α1AT

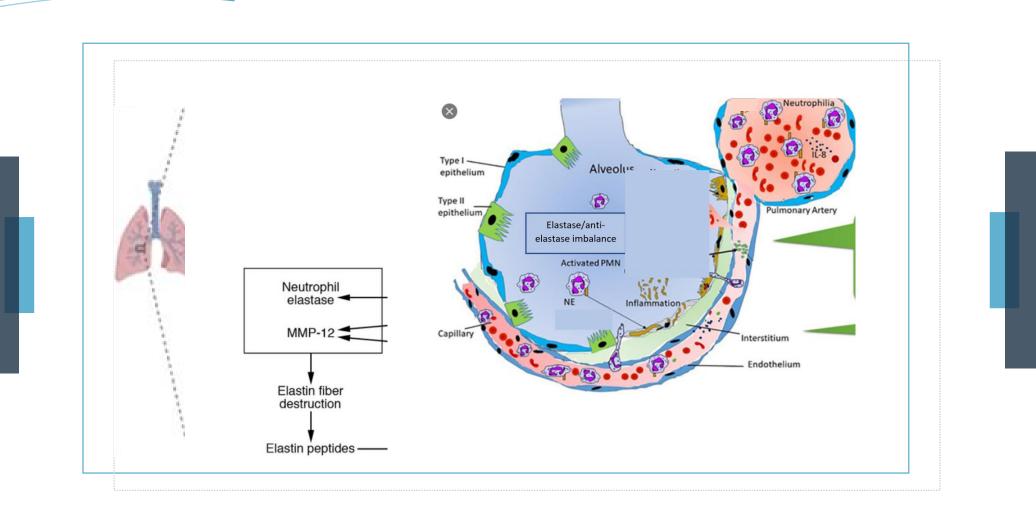
AATD-Lung Disease

- Prevalence in US ~ 80-100,000, diagnosis often missed/delayed
- Presents age 20 to 50 SOB, shortness of breath, cough and reduced exercise tolerance
- Unopposed proteases \rightarrow progressive alveolar & structural damage \rightarrow emphysema
- May progress to chronic oxygen therapy, lung surgery, transplant and death



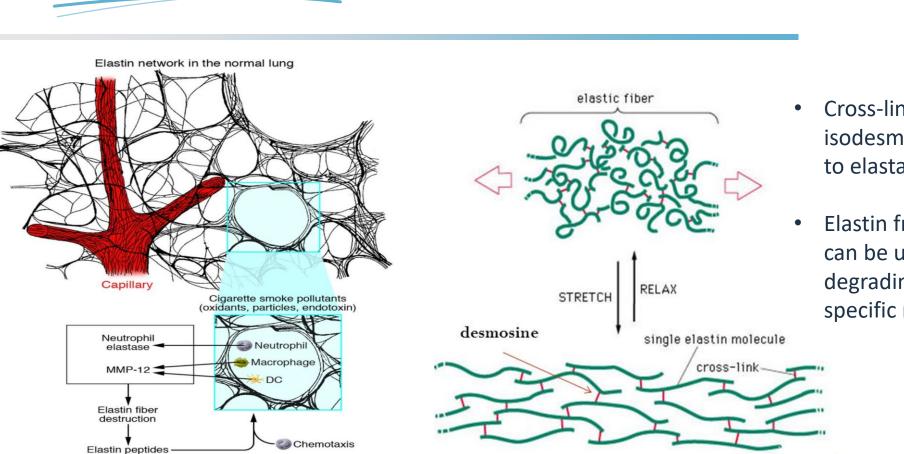


The Role of NE in Pathogenesis of AATD Lung Disease





Failure to Control Elastase is Destruction of the Lung Structure Leading to Early-onset Emphysema



- Cross-linking amino acids desmosine and isodesmosine are released on exposure to elastase
- Elastin fragments detected in body fluids can be used as markers for elastindegrading diseases along with other NE specific markers of eg A-alpha val)





Relationship of Elastin Breakdown Markers and Severity of Lung Disease in AATD-LD Supports the Potential Importance of Controlling Elastase

- Levels of elastin breakdown highest at site of pathology (lung), but also raised in plasma
- Desmosine/isodesmosine correlate with disease severity:
 - Plasma levels of DES/IDES significantly correlate with FEV_1 and DLCO (Ma et al 2017)
 - Lung tissue loss:
 - Reduced DES/IDES associated with slower lung density decline (CT imaging)
- Longitudinal studies demonstrate progressive increase in DES/IDES over time
- Replacement of alpha-1 antitrypsin (IV augmentation) associated with decrease in DES/IDES levels

The Effect of Alpha-1 Proteinase Inhibitor on Biomarkers of Elastin Degradation in Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency: An Analysis of the RAPID/RAPID Extension Trials. Ma et al Chronic Obstr Pulm Dis. 2017;4(1):34-44



Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD) – Current Standard of Care

Clinical Management

- 'COPD' maintenance treatment, personal lifestyle management, e.g., avoidance of smoking and pollution
- -Testing of family to enable lifestyle choices

- Intravenous plasma-derived augmentation therapy, weekly, approved in N. America and EU, but clinical efficacy not uniformly recognized by physicians or payors:

- Limited penetration into lung
- Inability to 'titrate' up to cover periods of acute lung inflammation. elastase activity and lung damage
- Growing evidence that higher doses may be needed for clinical efficacy with cost and convenience implications





Neutrophil Extracellular Traps



COVID-19- Immunopathology

For 80% infections with SARS-Cov 2 causes mild or asymptomatic disease

For others, the infection is characterized by dyspnea, hypoxemia, with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), shock, and multi-organ failure:

- Direct damaging effects of viral infection, compounded by a dysregulated and damaging hyperresponsive immune reaction
- Characterized by elevation of pro-inflammatory cytokines, acute phase reactants, and neutrophilia/lymphocytopenia
- Coagulopathy with microthrombi contributing to organ failure-
- Neutrophil Extracellular Traps (NETs) have been identified as a potential key driver of SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis



Evidence for NETosis Driving Pathogenesis in SARS-Cov2

Networks of DNA fibers, extruded from activated neutrophils:

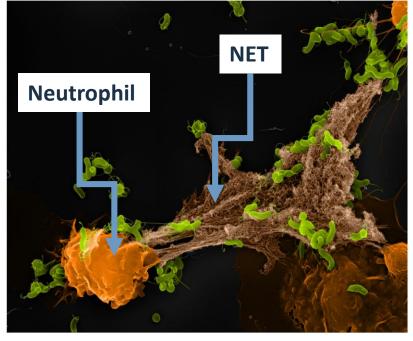
- Studded with histones, myeloperoxidase and NE
- Can be be 10x size of neutrophil

NET effects align with pathogenic features of COVID-19:

- Cytotoxic to endothelial/epithelial cells; act as Damage Associated Molecular Pattern Molecules- cytokine release¹
- Activate platelets and coagulopathy- scaffold for thrombus

In patients:

- NET biomarkers correlate with COVID-19 disease severity, poor clinical outcomes in hospitalized patients
- Present at post-mortem in lungs, heart, and thrombi^{2,3}



Colorized scanning electron micrograph of human neutrophils (orange) with NETs (brown) after co-culture with *Helicobacter pylori (green) VOLKER BRINKMANN*



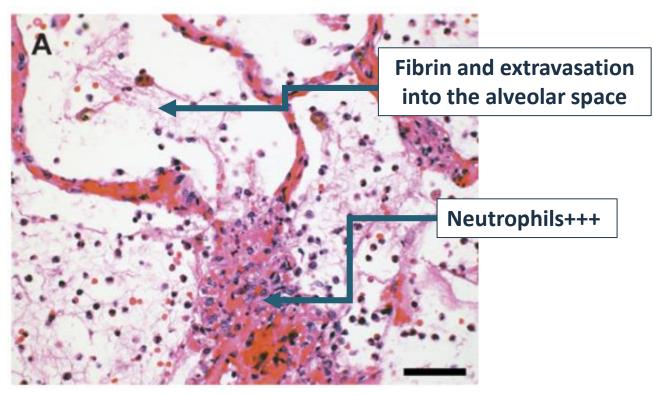
²Barnes et al 2020

³Zuo et al 2020

Mereo Biopharma Group plc

Pathology of Organs and Vessels from Patients who Succumbed to COVID-19 are Closely Associated with Excessive Neutrophil/NET Activity

Neutrophilic Inflammation



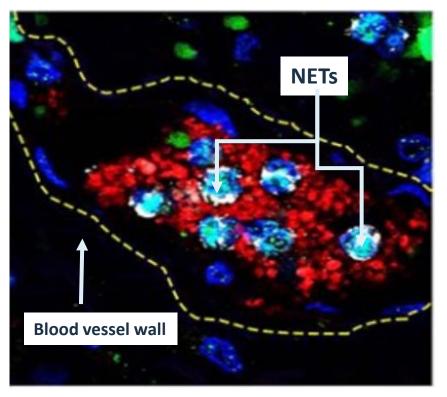
Extensive neutrophil infiltration in Lung

Adapted from Barnes et al 2020



Mereo Biopharma Group plc

Immuno-Thrombosis



NET structures associated with blood clots in vessels

Adapted from Xue-Yan He and David Ng, Egeblad Lab/Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

Critical Role of Neutrophil Elastase in Formation and Inflammatory Activity of NETs

Elastase is essential and sufficient for NET formation⁴

- NE knock-out mice and NE inhibitor treated neutrophils fail to make NETs
- In models of NET-induced Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)⁻ pecific NE inhibitors (alvelestat or anti-NE antibody) attenuated both NET formation and ARDS ⁵

NE is required for ongoing activity of NETs once formed⁵

⁴Papayannopoulos et al 2010

 NE inhibitors protected against cell death and inflammatory effect of administration of pre-formed NETS

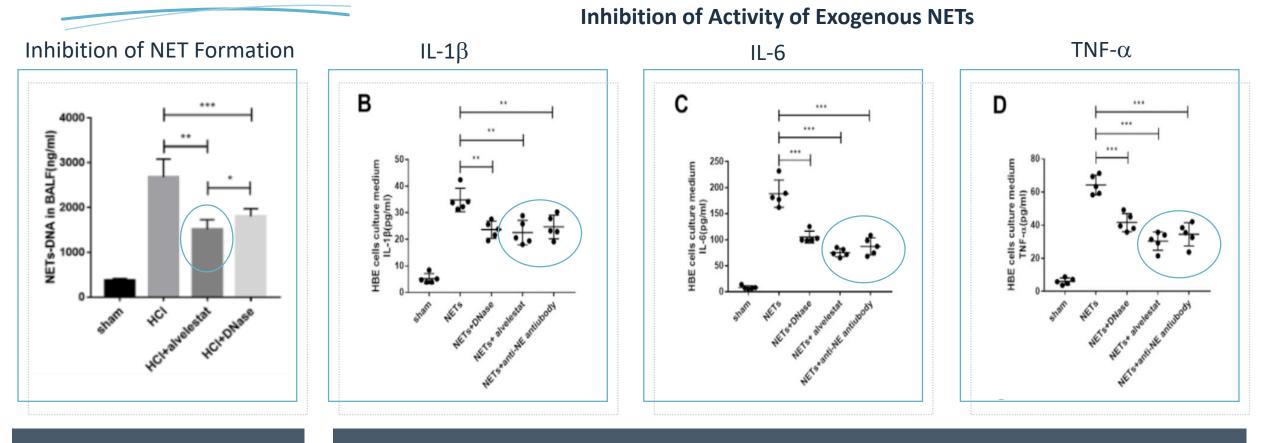
⁵ Li et al 2018

⁶McElvanay et al 2020

In COVID-19, the physiological inhibitor of NE, Alpha-1 antitrypsin, is overwhelmed⁶



Alvelestat Inhibits both NET Formation and Inflammatory Activity of Pre-formed NETs in Mouse Model (Li et al 2018)

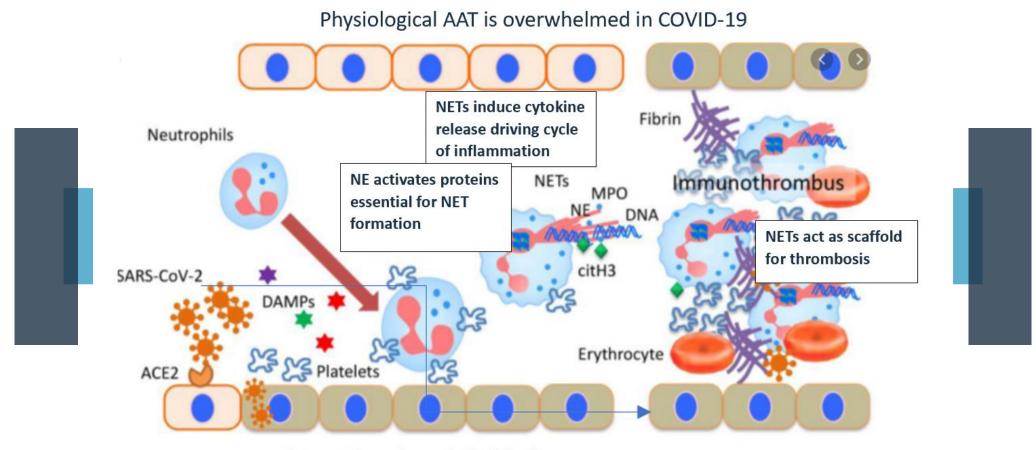


NET-DNA in Bronchiolar lavage after acidaspiration. * p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001

Administration of exogenous NETs in HBE cells (B–D) increased the levels of IL-1 β , IL-6, and TNF- α in the supernatant of culture medium, whereas anti-NE antibody, alvelestat or DNase preincubation substantially decreased these cytokines (* p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001).



Neutrophil Elastase in NETosis-driven Disease (COVID-19)

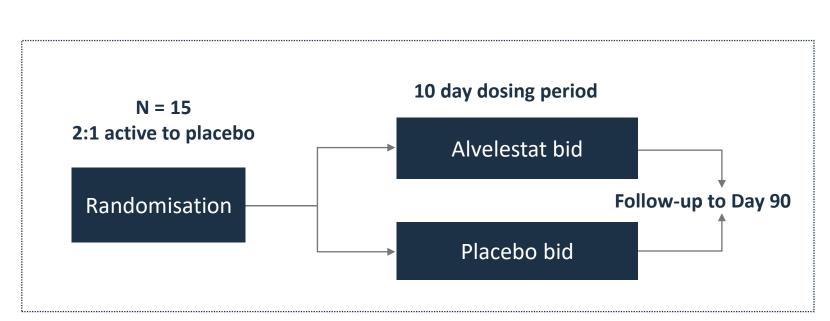


Damaged vascular endothelial cells

Adapted from EBioMedicine Volume 59, 102942, Sept 01, 2020



Testing the Hypothesis in COVID-19 Phase 1b/2 Investigator-initiated Study "COSTA" (Prof. Mike Wells, UAB)



Trial Population

- > 18 years, hospitalized
- Moderate/Severe SARS-CoV-2 infection (WHO grade 3-5)
- Not on invasive ventilation

Primary Endpoint

- Safety and tolerability (Day 60)
- Mortality (Day 90)

Secondary Endpoints

Pharmacodynamic Biomarkers of:

- NETosis
- Inflammation
- Elastase

Clinical outcomes





Alvelestat (MPH-966)



Alvelestat Mechanism of Action

Potent, reversible, oral inhibitor of neutrophil elastase (NE)

Compared to natural inhibitors i.e., alpha-1 antitrypsin native protein

- Comparable association constant
- Not susceptible to oxidative inactivation at sites of inflammation
- Active against both soluble and cell-bound NE
- Well-characterised exposure-response profile significant lung penetration
- Safety established in >1000 subjects

Activity in pre-clinical models of NE and NETosis pathology

Studies underway include:

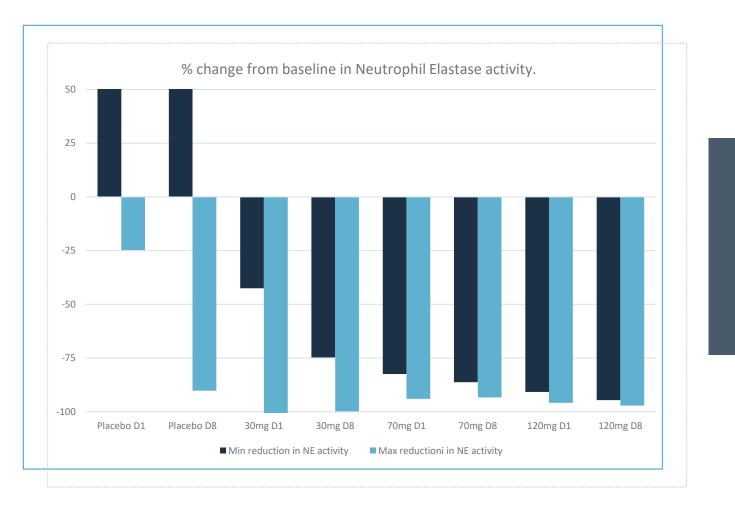
- AATD (NE)
- COVID-19 (NETosis)

Potential mechanistic indication expansion





Inhibition of Neutrophil Elastase Activity

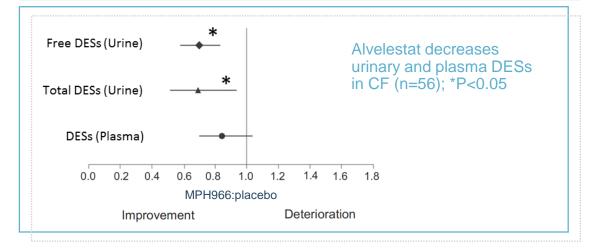


- MAD study once daily dosing
- 3 cohort study; 9 subjects per cohort
- In each cohort, 6 received active, 3 placebo. Placebo from each cohort pooled.
- In placebo arm patients had increases in NE activity – 2 patients > 50% at separate time points
- One 30mg patient had > 100% reduction in NE, due to unusually low reaction to zymosan stimulation



Signal Seeking in Neutrophil-driven Diseases (1) Cystic Fibrosis

Desmosine week 4 Ratio alvelestat:placebo



Pro-Inflammatory Cytokines at week 4

Cytokine	Ratio alvelestat:placebo	P Value
IL-6 (sputum)	0.59	0.006
RANTES (sputum)	0.77	0.100

Efficacy, safety and effect on biomarkers of AZD9668 in cystic fibrosis. Elborne et al. Eur Respir J 2012; 40: 969–976



- Double-blind, placebo controlled
- <u>></u> 16 years
- Clinical diagnosis of CF
- FEV1 > 40% predicted
- 60 mg alvelestat or placebo BD for 4 weeks
- Randomized = 56 (27 alvelestat, 29 placebo)



Signal Seeking in Neutrophil-driven Diseases (2) Bronchiectasis – Anti-inflammatory and Clinical Effect

Spirometry at week 4				
Lung Function Parameter	P Value			
FEV ₁	100 mls (34.0)	0.006		
SVC	130 mls (74.0	0.079		

Pro-Inflammatory Cytokines at week 4				
Cytokine	Ratio alvelestat:placebo	P Value		
IL-6 (sputum)	0.72	0.058		
RANTES (sputum)	0.63	0.018		
IL-8 (blood)	0.74	0.085		

Trial Summary

- Double-blind, placebo controlled
- 18-80 years
- Non-CF bronchiectasis, stable for 6 weeks
- 60 mg alvelestat or placebo BD for 4 weeks
- Randomized = 38 (16 alvelestat, 22 placebo)

Phase 2 study of a neutrophil elastase inhibitor (MPH966) in patients with bronchiectasis. Stockley et al. Respiratory Medicine (2013) 107, 524- 533



Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD) – High Unmet Medical Need

Genetic Condition

Progressive life-threatening disease; lack of or deficiency in key protein creates damage to lungs

Autosomal co-dominant inheritance; genetics create MM (normal), MZ, SZ, ZZ and null

Homozygotes (ZZs) and Nulls have severe A1AT protein deficiency and disease, estimated prevalence ~ 50,000 US, 60,000 EU – significant under-diagnosis

A rare, serious genetic disorder that results in early onset pulmonary disease



Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD) – Disease Impact

AATD-Lung Disease

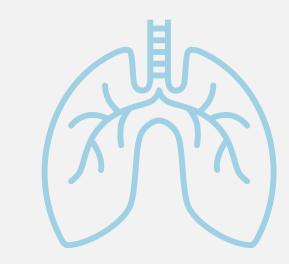
Natural protease inhibitor

is either absent or levels are insufficient and dysfunctional

Unopposed neutrophil elastase \rightarrow progressive and severe lung damage – early onset emphysema

Presents age 20 to 50

shortness of breath, cough and reduced exercise tolerance, can progress to chronic oxygen therapy, lung transplant and death A rare, serious genetic disorder that results in early onset pulmonary disease





Current Unmet Need in AATD-Lung Disease

Improved Efficacy

- Inhibition of elastase forms resistant to alpha-1 antitrypsin
- Effective lung penetration
- Effective inhibition elastase at times of increase activity, e.g. acute exacerbations

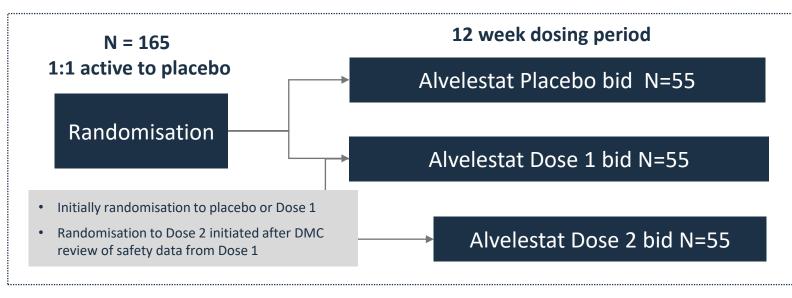
Convenience

• Oral therapy benefit for life-long treatment for chronic disease



ASTRAEUS Phase 2 Study Design (NCT03636347) in Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency

A 12-week Study Treating Participants Who Have alpha1-antitrypsin-related COPD with Alvelestat (MPH966) or Placebo. (ASTRAEUS)



Trial Population

- Age ≥18 and ≤80 years
- Pi*ZZ, Pi*Z Null, or Pi*Null genotype/phenotype,
- Anti-alpha1 antitrypsin <11uM

- Emphysema, FEV1 ≥25% predicted
- No augmentmentation therapy within 6 months of dosing

Primary Endpoint

• Within-individual % change in plasma desmosine/isodesmosine

Secondary Endpoints

- Safety and tolerability
- Other blood biomarkers of neutrophil elastase activity
- St. George's Respiratory Questionnaire
- Forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV₁)



Desmosine/Isodesmosine Rationale for Primary Endpoint- supported by Secondary Endpoints of Inflammation, Lung Damage, Lung Physiology and Exacerbations

Progressive increase over time along with disease progression in patients with AATD-LD (ZZ/null)

• Dynamics of change in target population appropriate for 12 week POC endpoint

Correlation with AATD-relevant measures of lung function and imaging

- Transfer factor
- **FEV**₁
- CT Densitometry

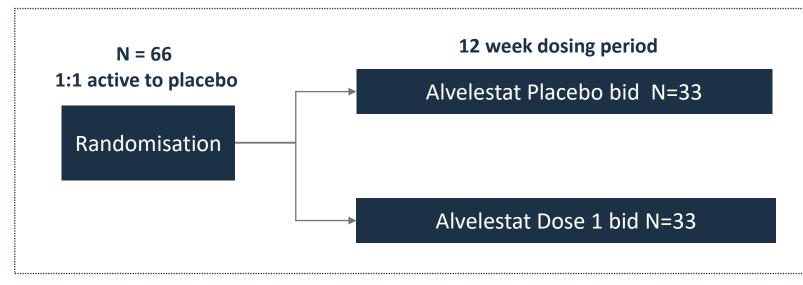
Known assay performance, including in study population

• Plasma levels correlate with endothelial lining fluid in lung

Fregonese et al COPD 2011; 8:329-333; Ma et al Chronic Obstr Pulm Dis. 2017; Stolk et al Respir Res 2005; Fregonese et al Eur Respir J 2007



Alvelestat (MPH966) for the Treatment of ALpha-1 ANTitrypsin Deficiency "ATALANTa" (Investigator-initiated – Mark Dransfield, UAB)



Primary Endpoint

- Within-individual % change in plasma desmosine/isodesmosine (week 12)
- Safety and tolerability

Trial Population

- Age ≥18 and ≤80 years
- Pi*ZZ, Pi*SZ, Pi*Z Null, or Pi*Null genotype/phenotype
- Emphysema, FEV1 ≥25% predicted

 Not currently receiving augmentation OR on stable augmentation for at least 12 weeks prior to screening



NETosis in Systemic Inflammatory Diseases Brings Potential of Mechanistic Indication Expansion

Scientific Rationale

- NETosis a pathogenic mechanism highly dependent on neutrophil elastase
- Drives hyper-inflammatory and thrombotic tendency common to a range of serious inflammatory disorders
- Evidence for enhanced NETosis driving pathology in systemic immunoinflammatory, autoimmune and vasculitic diseases

COVID-19

- Body of existing and rapidly growing evidence for NETosis in disease
- Appropriate disease to test the concept and potentially address high unmet need



SUMMARY Alvelestat Key Differentiating Features

Profile for long term treatment of AATD lung disease and NETosis-driven diseases

Oral, twice daily dosing

High neutrophil elastase inhibition > 90% at doses trialed Combination of twice daily dosing and high neutrophil elastase inhibition allows for 24/7 enzyme coverage Highly specific neutrophil elastase inhibition – reduces potential for side effects Rapid onset of action < 4 hours to > 90% enzyme inhibition







Setrusumab (BPS-804)



Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI)

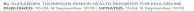
- Rare genetic bone disease, key symptoms include:
 - frequent bone fractures, skeletal deformities, pain and respiratory insufficiency
- 85-90% linked to a mutation in Type I collagen^{1,2}
- Tangible symptomatology leads to early diagnosis:
 - more than 55,000 patients in US and EU-5
- Children have highest unmet need disease management pathways in key centres
- Adult opportunity is significant progressive condition, patients remain symptomatic but often burden is overlooked and patient management less organized than children
- Well established patient groups OIFE and OIF > 50 years old
- Despite the above NO FDA or EMA approved therapies
- Setrusumab (BPS-804) is an antibody targeting sclerostin
- Orphan designation EU and US, PRIME (Priority medicine) designation by EMA and Pediatric Rare Disease designation by FDA

The twins 'made of glass': 17-monthold sisters defy the odds after doctors gave them a 'zero per cent chance of survival' because of a rare disease that caused them to endure fractures in the WOMB

By ALEXANDRA THOMPSON SENIOR HEALTH REPORTER FOR MAILONLINE PUBLISHED: 12:11, 9 September 2019 | UPDATED: 15:09, 9 September 2019



Girl, two, has brittle bone disease that makes her limbs so delicate she was BORN with a broken arm





1. Based on Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation estimates; 2. Based on Orphanet estimates;



Summary of Phase 2B Data

Hierarchical primary end-point based on HRPQCT

- Trabecular vBMD at the radius improved at high dose but not statistically significant Total vBMD statistically significant increases at high and medium doses (+4.1% p=0.004)
- Bone strength (Failure Load and Bone Stiffness) dose dependent increases - statistical significance at the high dose (+2% p=0.037) and (+2.2%, p=0.022)

Secondary end-points based on areal bone mineral density measured by DXA

- Dose dependent statistically significant changes in areal BMD at 6 and 12 months at all doses and in all OI phenotypes (+4.4% p<0.001 at 6 months and +8.8% p,0.001 at 12 months at the high dose
- Dose dependent increase in areal BMD at all the anatomical sites tested (femoral neck and total hip) (3.2% p=0.022 and 2.3% p=0.009 at the high dose

Study not powered to show a difference in fracture rates but a trend of reduction in fractures observed in the high dose cohort (15% of high dose patients fracturing versus 25-35%)

Largest clinical study in adults with OI demonstrating the highest increase in areal BMD changes especially in the more severe patient population Type III/IV







Upcoming Milestones



Late-Stage Diversified Clinical Pipeline



Core Programs

Product Candidate / Indication	Phase 1a	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 3	Next Milestones
Etigilimab Solid tumors					Phase 1b/2
Alvelestat Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency COVID-19					Phase 2 AATD Phase 1b/2 COVID
Setrusumab Osteogenesis imperfecta					Extension study Phase 3 – Partner

With partnering opportunities on non-core programs

Product Candidate / Indication	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Financing Milestones
Acumapimod Acute exacerbations of COPD				Separate funding
Leflutrozole HH Infertility				Partner
Navicixizumab Ovarian Cancer				Partnered ~ \$300M in milestones + royalties



Mereo Upcoming Key Milestones & Opportunities

Product Candidate / Indication	2020		2021	2022			
Etigilimab							
Solid tumors	F	Phase 1b/2 study					
Alvelestat							
Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency	Phase 2 PoC study	ASTRAEUS and ATA	LANTA				
COVID-19	Phase	Phase 1b/2 study COSTA					
Setrusumab	Adult 12-m extension	on study					
Osteogenesis imperfecta	Partnering	Pediat	ric pivotal 12-m f	fracture study			
Partnering	 Navi outlicensed to OncXerna 						
Leflutrozole	Partnering						
Acumapimod	Partnering						



Investment Highlights

Developing therapeutics for oncology and rare diseases based on novel targets with strong biological rationale

Etigilimab is an anti-TIGIT antibody which actively engages FcyR in a Phase 1b/2 oncology basket study

Alvelestat is an oral neutrophil elastase inhibitor in Phase 2 studies for AATD and COVID

Setrusumab is an anti-sclerostin antibody proven to build bone in Osteogenesis Imperfecta Patients in a Phase 2b study in adults

Additional Programs for partnering or partnering income

- Acumapimod for AECOPD
- Leflutrozole for infertility
- Navicixizumab partnered with OncXerna (\$300M + royalties)

Multiple near-term clinical and pipeline milestones

Highly experienced management team with significant expertise in drug development and oncology and rare diseases

Well funded with cash runway into 2022







Q&A





Thank You

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