# New Drugs for MPNs (what to look for)

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Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

# Agenda

- Monotherapies for MF\*
  - Phase 3: Navtemadlin, Imetelstat
  - Early phase: PIM1 kinase inhibitor
- Targeting hepcidin in PV
- Don't forget about ET: vaccinations against CALR

\*Dr Pemmaraju will cover combinations in a later talk

# What do MPN patients want?

- Highly effective therapy
- Low toxicity
- Convenient administration
- "Disease course modifying"
- Cure

# How do MPN Investigators get there?

- Mechanism based agents
- Preclinical data
- Biomarker evidence of ontarget effect

Disease burden
 modification

- We understand what the drug targets
- Laboratory evidence of activity in mice and human samples
- Blood and bone marrow samples from treated patients confirm it hits the intended target
- The driver mutation level decreases

# Agenda

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# Nutlins Block the MDM2:P53 interaction and activate the P53 pathway









#### **POSTER 3581**

Potential Disease-Modifying Activity of Navtemadlin (KRT-232), a First-in-Class MDM2 Inhibitor, Correlates With Clinical Benefits in Relapsed/Refractory Myelofibrosis (MF)

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#### PRESENTED AT: 63rd ASH ANNUAL PRESENTED BY: Pankit Vachhani, MD MEETING & EXPOSITION O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL, USA Slides are the property of the author, permission required for use.

### Driver and HMR Mutations at Baseline and After Navtemadlin Treatment

#### Distribution of Driver and HMR Mutations at Baseline



#### Best Decrease in Mutation Burden on Navtemadlin Treatment



# Correlation Between Changes in Driver Mutations and Responses



Baseline mutation burden = MPN driver(s) plus each HMR gene (ASXL1, EZH2, IDH1/2, SRSF2, U2AF1). If more than 1 MPN driver gene alteration was present, each gene was counted toward mutation burden. The driver gene with the highest baseline variant allele frequency VAF was used for evaluation of VAF responses.

\*All patients with available data are included in the correlations.

†All patients with evaluable data for analysis are included; best SVR responses are shown with all results evaluated centrally.

### Changes in Circulating CD34+ Cell Count and Correlation With SVR



#### Percent Change in Circulating CD34+ Cell Count

#### Median Change in CD34+ Cells

Median %	240 mg	240 mg	120 mg	240 mg
Change (IQR)	D1-7/28	D1-7/21	D1-7/21	D1-5/28
Week 12	<b>-88</b>	<b>-70</b>	<b>-59</b>	<b>-50</b>
	(-93, -40)	(-94, -63)	(-83, -6)	(-64, -27)
	20 pts	8 pts	15 pts	14 pts
Week 24	<b>-89</b>	<b>-66</b>	<b>-68</b>	<b>-58</b>
	(-95, -63)	(-89, -64)	(-94, -24)	(-71, -17)
	15 pts	5 pts	11 pts	11 pts

#### Correlation Between Change in CD34+ Cells and SVR



Best Change in Blood CD34+ Cells, %

Data cut-off: 19 Apr 2021.

# Bone Marrow Fibrosis Improvement and Association With Response

#### MF Bone Marrow Fibrosis Improvement

**Reticulin Staining** 

Bone Marrow Grade at Week 24	Improved n (%)	Stable n (%)	Worsened n (%)
240 mg D1-7/28 (n=16)	5 (31)	8 (50)	3 (19)*
240 mg D1-7/21 (n=7)	1 (14)	5 (71)	1 (14)
120 mg D1-7/21 (n=10)	3 (30)	6 (60)	1 (10)
240 mg D1-5/28 (n=11)	3 (27)	3 (27)	5 (45)
Total (n=44)	12 (27)	22 (50)	10 (23)



Data cut-off: 19 Apr 2021.

Bone marrow fibrosis scores by central pathology review; European consensus scoring used (Gianelli et al. Haematologica. 2012).

\*One patient showed worsened MF fibrosis score 5 months after discontinuation of treatment (D28).

# BOREAS Phase 3 Study Design (NCT03662126)



Best available therapy options include hydroxyurea, chemotherapy, or supportive care. JAKi are excluded

#### **Patient Stratification:**

- MF type (primary vs secondary)
- Baseline TSS (≤10 vs >10)

JAKi, Janus kinase inhibitor; MF, myelofibrosis; R/R, relapsed/refractory; TP53<sup>WT</sup>, wild-type tumor protein p53 gene.

<sup>a</sup>Treatment selection is at the discretion of the investigator. Patients with documented disease progression at any time or those who complete Week-24 assessments may crossover to the KRT-232 arm.

2/22/2023

## Telomerase as a novel target



### **Telomerase enzyme:**

- Reverse transcriptase comprised of an RNA component (hTR) and a reverse transcriptase catalytic protein subunit (hTERT)
- Binds to the 3' strand of DNA and adds TTAGGG nucleotide repeats to offset the loss of telomeric DNA occurring with each replication cycle
- Not active in somatic cells; transiently upregulated in normal hematopoietic progenitor cells to support controlled proliferation
- Highly upregulated in malignant progenitor cells, enabling continued and uncontrolled proliferation

# Imetelstat: First in Class Telomerase Inhibitor

### imetelstat binds to RNA template preventing maintenance of telomeres



- Proprietary: 13-mer thiophosphoramidate oligonucleotide complementary to hTR, with covalently-bound lipid tail to increase cell permeability/tissue distribution
- Long half-life in bone marrow, spleen, liver (estimated human t<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> = 41 hr with doses 7.5 – 11.7 mg/kg);
- Potent competitive inhibitor of telomerase: IC50 = 0.5-10 nM (cellfree)
- **Target:** malignant progenitor cell proliferation

# Imetelstat, a telomerase inhibitor, induces morphologic and molecular remissions in myelofibrosis and reversal of bone marrow fibrosis

Tefferi A, <sup>1</sup> Begna KH, <sup>1</sup>Laborde RR, <sup>1</sup>Patnaik MM, <sup>1</sup> Lasho TL, <sup>1</sup> Zblewski DL, <sup>1</sup> Finke CM, <sup>1</sup> Schimek L, <sup>1</sup> LaPlant B, <sup>1</sup> Hanson CA, <sup>1</sup> Stuart M, <sup>2</sup> Pardanani A. <sup>1</sup>

> <sup>1</sup>Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA <sup>2</sup>Geron Corporation, Menlo Park, CA, USA

N Engl J Med. 2015 Sep 3;373(10):908-19.

### Primary Endpoint: Overall Response by IWG-MRT

	N = 33 (%)	
Overall Response (CR+PR+CI)	12 (36.4%)	• CR/PR/CI: 36.4%
Complete Remission (CR)	4 (12.1%)	CR/PR· 21.2%
Partial Remission (PR)	3 (9.1%)	
Clinical Improvement (CI) by Anemia	1 (3.0%)	
Clinical Improvement (CI) by Spleen	4 (12.1%)	
Stable Disease (SD)	21 (63.6%)	
Spleen Response (by palpation lasting $\geq$ 12 weeks )	8/23 (34.8%)	
Transfusion dependent becoming transfusion independent	4/13 (30.8%)	

- All 4 CR patients achieved reversal of BM fibrosis and 3 complete molecular response.
- 3 CR/PR patients who were transfusion dependent at baseline became transfusion independent
- 3 CR/PR patients with splenomegaly at baseline achieved splenic response

Tefferi et al. N Engl J Med. 2015 Sep 3;373(10):908-19.

### IMbark Phase 2 Trial: Study Design



#### **Patient Population:**

- Patients with Intermediate-2 or High-risk MF (Int-2/High-risk) patients who have relapsed after or are refractory to prior treatment with a janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor
- Relapsed or refractory to JAKi defined as documented progressive disease during or after JAKi:
  - Patients must have worsening of splenomegaly-related abdominal pain at any time after the start of JAKi therapy and EITHER:
    - No reduction in spleen volume or size after 12 weeks of JAKi therapy, OR
    - Worsening splenomegaly at any time after the start of JAKi therapy documented by:
      - Increase in spleen volume from nadir by 25% measured by MRI or CT, or
      - Increase in spleen size by palpation

### Dose Related Clinical Benefits from Treatment with Imetelstat

	4.7 mg/kg	9.4 mg/kg
Clinical Benefits	(N = 48)	(N = 59)
Median OS, months (95% CI)	19.9 (17.1 <i>,</i> 33.9)	28.1 (22.8, 31.6)
Symptoms Response at week 24 (TSS reduction ≥50%), n (%)	3 (6.3%)	19 (32.2%)
Spleen Response at week 24 (SVR ≥35% by IRC), n (%)	0	6 (10.2%)
Median PFS, months (95% CI)	14.8 (8.3, 17.1)	20.7 (12.0, 23.2)
Clinical improvement, per IWG-MRT, n (%)	8 (16.7%)	15 (25.4%)
Transfusion independence of 12 weeks, n/N (%)	2/14 (14.3%)	3/12 (25.0%)
Reduction in bone marrow fibrosis , n/N (%)	4/20 (20.0%)	16/37(43.2%)
≥ 25% Reduction in VAF of JAK2, CALR or MPL , n/N (%)	1/18 (5.6%)	8/19 (42.1%)

CALR = calreticulin gene, CI = confidence interval, JAK = Janus kinase, IWG-MRT = International Working Group – Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Research and Treatment, MPL = thrombopoietin receptor gene, OS = overall survival, PFS = progression free survival, SVR = spleen volume reduction, TSS = total symptom score, VAF = variant allele frequency

### imetelstat Safety Profile

### Manageable and Reversible Cytopenias with Limited Clinical Consequences

	9.4 mg/kg (n=59)	
n (%)	All Grades	Grade ≥ 3
*Hematologic (≥ 10% in either arm)		
Thrombocytopenia	29 (49)	24 (41)
Anemia	26 (44)	23 (39)
Neutropenia	21 (36)	19 (32)
Leukopenia	8 (14)	8 (14)
Non-hematologic (≥ 20% in either arm)		
Nausea	20 (34)	2 (3)
Vomiting	8 (14)	1 (2)
Diarrhea	18 (31)	0
Fatigue	16 (27)	4 (7)
Cough	9 (15)	0
Dyspnea	14 (24)	3 (5)
Abdominal Pain	14 (24)	3 (5)
Asthenia	14 (24)	6 (10)
Pyrexia	13 (22)	3 (5)
Edema peripheral	11 (19)	0

\*Treatment emergent, per reported AEs (not laboratory values). Frequency of reported Grade 3/4 hematologic AEs were consistent with cytopenias reported through lab values.

#### Thrombocytopenia and neutropenia characterization:



#### • Median time to the event: is 9 weeks (~ 3 cycles)

- Median duration: neutropenia 1.1 weeks and thrombocytopenia 1.7 weeks
- Reversible: >90% within 4 weeks
- Manageable with dose hold and modification: median time to first dose reduction 21 weeks (~7 cycles)
- Limited clinical consequences:

n(%)	9.4 mg/kg (n=59)
Grade 3 Febrile Neutropenia	1 (2)
Grade ≥ 3 Hemorrhagic events	3 (5)
Grade ≥ 3 Infections	6 (10)

# Improved Bone Marrow Fibrosis Correlated to Improved Survival



### Strong Evidence of Disease Modification Potential Reduction in Key MF Driver Mutations Correlated to Improved Survival

#### Significant Dose-Dependent ≥20% VAF Reduction with imetelstat Treatment



VAF = variant allele frequency

## Longer Median OS and Higher Survival Rate in Patients Who Achieved ≥ 20% VAF Reduction



ClincialTrials.gov (NCT02426086)

### Phase 3 Trial Design in Int-2/HR MF with OS as Primary Endpoint IMpactMF trial



#### Population: Int-2/High-risk MF refractory to a JAKi

- Inadequate spleen or symptom response after treatment with JAKi for ≥ 6 months, including an optimal dose of JAKi for at least 2 months

- Inadequate spleen or symptom response after treatment with maximal doses of JAKi for ≥ 3 months

#### Primary endpoint: Overall Survival (OS; HR=0.6)

- Secondary endpoints include: symptom response, spleen response, progression free survival, complete response, partial response, clinical improvement, duration of responses, safety, pharmacokinetics, patient reported outcomes

#### Imetelstat treatment arm: 9.4 mg/kg every 3 weeks

Comparator arm: Best Available Therapy (BAT), excluding JAKi

Mascarenhas ASH 2021



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### Phase I/II Study of TP-3654, a Selective Oral PIM1 Kinase Inhibitor, in Patients with Myelofibrosis Previously Treated with or Ineligible for JAK Inhibitor Therapy

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<sup>1</sup>University of Virginia Health System, VA; <sup>2</sup>The John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack Meridian Health, NJ; <sup>3</sup>Duke University Medical Center, NC; <sup>4</sup>Shands HealthCare &University of Florida, FL; <sup>5</sup>Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, NY; <sup>6</sup>University of Arizona Cancer Center, AZ; <sup>7</sup>Juntendo University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; <sup>8</sup>University of Miyazaki, Miyazaki, Japan; <sup>9</sup>Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Suita City, Japan; <sup>10</sup>National Cancer Center Hospital East, Kashiwa, Japan; <sup>11</sup>Richard T. Silver, Weill Cornell Medicine, NY; <sup>12</sup>Sumitomo Pharma Oncology, Inc., MA; <sup>13</sup>Sumitomo Pharma Oncology, Inc., UT; <sup>14</sup>Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY

## Background: PIM1 Kinase Signaling

- PIM1 is a proto-oncogene regulated in part through the Janus kinase (JAK)/signal transducers and activators of transcription (STAT) pathway<sup>3</sup>
- PIM1 kinase also has an essential role in cytokine-induced signal transduction by controlling transcription factors<sup>3</sup>
- Upregulation of PIM1 kinase leads to increased cytokines relevant to immune activation and fibrosis including RANTES and TGF-β<sup>3</sup>



Adapted from Zhang et al 2018. Used with permission from the Creative Commons License



## PIM1 Kinase: A Novel Target in MF

- PIM1 expression was shown to be significantly increased in MF patients' bone marrow and PBMC samples<sup>4</sup>
- PIM1 knockout was shown to prevent myelofibrosis progression, but PIM2 knockout has no effect in MF mouse models<sup>4</sup>
- PIM1 knockout was shown not to cause platelet count decrease, while pan-PIM knockout resulted in thrombocytopenia in mice<sup>5</sup>

#### MPL<sup>W515L</sup> Mouse Model Bone Marrow (Reticulin Stain)





 Novel therapies which selectively inhibit PIM1 kinase may provide disease-modifying benefits for MF patients while avoiding cytopenia adverse effects



4. Dutta et al. Leukemia 2021 5. An et al. JH&O, 2013

## TP-3654: An Oral Selective PIM1 Inhibitor in Murine MPL<sup>W515L</sup> MF Model

 ✓ Spleen Size Reduction



Spleen weight

# ✓ Bone Marrow Fibrosis Reduction



### ✓ Overall Survival Increase



Similar TP-3654 activity was observed in murine JAK2<sup>V617F</sup> MF model<sup>4</sup>

American Society of Hematology

4. Dutta et al. Leukemia 2021

## TP-3654 Phase I/II Study Design in MF



### **Key Eligibility**

- DIPSS Intermediate- 1, 2, or high-risk
- Platelet count ≥ 25 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L
- ECOG ≤ 2
- Splenomegaly (volume of ≥ 450 cm<sup>3</sup>)
- At least 2 symptoms by MF-SAF v4.0

### Endpoints

- Primary:
  - Safety and tolerability
- Secondary
  - Spleen volume reduction
  - Total symptoms score reduction (MF-SAF v4.0)
  - Overall survival
  - Bone marrow fibrosis change
  - Pharmacokinetics



### **TP-3654: Dose Escalation and Safety**

Cohort	Number of Patients	DLT
480mg QD	1	None
720mg QD	2	None
360mg BID	1	None
480mg BID	4	None
720mg BID	1 / ongoing	None

- No DLT or related serious AE.
- The most common AEs are Grade 1 diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting, and transient resolving within 1-2 weeks.
- Transient Grade 3 anemia and thrombocytopenia were observed in 1 patient.
- No dose reduction or discontinuation due to AE.

\*G3 Bilirubin and G3 Anemia from a patient with baseline G2 bilirubin and transfusion-dependent.



TEAE (≥2 patients) n = 9	Grade 1/2	Grade 3	
Non-hematological			
Diarrhea	7 (78%)	0	
Nausea	5 (56%)	0	
Vomiting	4 (44%)	1 (11%)	
Abdominal distension	2 (22%)	0	
Abdominal pain	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	
UTI	2 (22%)	0	
Bilirubin Increased	1 (11%)	1 (11%)*	
Muscle spasms	2 (22%)	0	
Insomnia	2 (22%)	0	
Fatigue	2 (22%)	0	
Dyspnea	2 (22%)	0	
Hematological			
Platelet count decreased	2 (22%)	1 (11%)	
Anemia	1 (11%)	1 (11%)*	
Leukocytosis	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	

Preliminary data as of 11-OCT-2022

# TP-3654: Stable Lab Values in the Dose Escalation with No Worsening of Blood Counts



\*N=9; Mean ± SD

### TP-3654: Best Spleen Volume Response in Dose Escalation



- 8 evaluable patients on treatment ≥ 12 weeks
- Baseline spleen volume median
  2535 cm<sup>3</sup> (1189 to 4407)
- 6 of 8 have SVR
  - Median -11%
  - 5 of 8 patients have ≥ 10% SVR
  - 2 of 8 patients have ≥ 35% SVR

### TP-3654: Best Symptoms Response in Dose Escalation



- MF-SAF v4.0 (Max TSS 70): Baseline symptom burden median 21 (4 to 62)
- 8 evaluable patients on treatment ≥ 12 weeks
- 7 of 8 have TSS reduction
  - Median -66%

= Intolerant

5 of 8 patients have ≥ 50% TSS reduction

## TP-3654: PIM1 Inhibition Leads to Early Reduction in Cytokines

- Cytokine reduction observed as early as Week 4 from initial dose cohorts
- Cytokine reduction generally correlate with TSS reduction
- Cytokines associated with MF (IL-6, IL-10, IL-12, IL-18, TGFb, EGFR, Ferritin, GRO-a, IL-1RA, MMP-9, PAI-1, RANTES, TIMP-1, TNFR-2, VCAM-1) show reduction after treatment

No change

Cytokine change relative to baseline Reduction >0-25% >25-50% >50% Increase >0-25% >25-50% >50%





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  - Early phase: PIM kinase inhibitor
- Targeting hepcidin in PV
- Don't forget about ET: vaccinations against CALR

\*Dr Pemmaraju will cover combinations in a later talk



\*\* e.g. duodenal enterocytes, macrophages, hepatocytes

# PTG-300 (Hepcidin-mimetic) Mechanism of Action in PV



### **REVIVE Study Design**

- First patient enrolled in October 2019. . and last patient enrolled March 2022
- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: •
  - Phlebotomy-dependent PV Individualized patients diagnosed per 2016 WHO criteria Dose-Finding Phase<sup>a</sup> Efficacy Evaluation Phase<sup>a</sup> (n=70) ≥3 phlebotomies in 6 months \_ with or without concurrent Starting dose: 20 mg SQ cvtoreductive therapy Dose titrations: 10 mg - 120 mg Maximum weekly dose: 120 mg All patients prior to first rusfertide dose were Dose ± Titration phlebotomized to HCT <45 Weekly SQ dosing at initiation to standardize the starting but other dosing strategies HCT allowed.

28 weeks

Rusfertide doses of 10-120 mg administered subcutaneously added to prior standard therapy



Dosing interruption<sup>b</sup> occurred at a specific time while patients were in different phases of the trial

Primary Endpoint: Proportion of achieving a response<sup>c</sup> during randomized withdrawal period Rusfertide Significantly Decreased Phlebotomy Requirements in Patients Treated With Phlebotomy Only or Cytoreductive Therapy Plus Phlebotomy

- Mean number of phlebotomies in 28 weeks before treatment with rusfertide: 4.81 (range 2–10)
- Mean number of phlebotomies after starting rusfertide: 0.3 (range 0–2)



#### Mean rate of phlebotomies before and during Part 1

N. Pemmaraju et al SOHO 2022

### Effect of Rusfertide on HCT, RBC, WBC, Platelet Counts





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### Improvement in MPN-TSS Scores Following Rusfertide Treatment



Hoffman R et al ASH meeting abstract 2021

### Safety: Rusfertide (PTG-300)

- Most treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were grade 1-2
  - Injection site reaction (ISRs) were the most common AE and occurred in 85.6% of patients. All ISRs were transient, and no patient discontinued due to an ISR
- No grade 3 events related to rusfertide
- No grade 4 or 5 TEAEs
- 2 withdrawals due to TEAEs
  - 1 popliteal aneurysm, 1 pulmonary embolism identified on study
- Secondary malignancies
  - 5 patients (5.5%) had secondary malignancies (6 skin cancers, 1 AML) in all rusfertide-treated patients in phase 2 trials (N=90)
  - o All skin cancers were in situ or stage 1
  - All newly developed cancers were in patients with previous rux and/or HU. The patient with AML had also experienced radioactive iodine exposure

Any-grade TEAE in ≥10% (preferred term)	n (%)
Total number of patients	70
Injection site reaction	77 (85.6)
Fatigue	20 (28.6)
Headache	17 (24.3)
Pruritus	17 (24.3)
Arthralgia	16 (22.9)
Dizziness	15 (21.4)
Nausea	15 (21.4)
Anemia	12 (17.1)
COVID-19	9 (12.9)
Dyspnea	9 (12.9)
Hyperhidrosis	9 (12.9)
Diarrhea	8 (11.4)
Insomnia	8 (11.4)
Myalgia	8 (11.4)
Pain in extremity	7 (10.0)
Paresthesia	7 (10.0)

### VERIFY Trial: Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-

**Controlled Phase 3 Study Design in PV patients** 

N~250 subjects



\* Phlebotomy history for up to 52 weeks

#### Currently enrolling patients

# Additional Hepcidin-mimetic Agents Currently in Trials for PV Patients

A Phase 2a, Randomized, Open-Label Study to Evaluate the Efficacy, Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacodynamics of ISIS 702843 Administered to Patients with Phlebotomy Dependent Polycythemia Vera (PD-PV)

Liver-targeted ASO against TMPRSS6, sapablursen (NCT05143957), SQ monthly

## *Tmprss6*-ASO as a tool for the treatment of

### Polycythemia Vera mice

Carla Casu<sup>®1\*</sup>, Alison Liu<sup>1</sup>, Gianluca De Rosa<sup>1</sup>, Audrey Low<sup>2</sup>, Aae Suzuki<sup>3</sup>, Sayantani Sinha<sup>®1</sup>, Yelena Z. Ginzburg<sup>4</sup>, Charles Abrams<sup>3</sup>, Mariam Aghajan<sup>2</sup>, Shuling Guo<sup>2</sup>, Stefano Rivella<sup>1,3,5,6,7</sup>

PLOS ONE | https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0251995 December 10, 2021

#### SLN124, a GalNAc-siRNA Conjugate Targeting TMPRSS6, Efficiently Prevents Iron Overload in Hereditary Haemochromatosis Type 1

Sandro Altamura<sup>1,2</sup>, Ute Schaeper<sup>3</sup>, Sibylle Dames<sup>3</sup>, Kathrin Löffler<sup>3</sup>, Mona Eisermann<sup>3</sup>, Christian Frauendorf<sup>3</sup>, Katja Müdder<sup>1,2</sup>, Joana Neves<sup>1</sup>, Martina U. Muckenthaler<sup>1,2</sup>

HemaSphere (2019) 3:6

www.hemaspherejournal.com

Liver-targeted doublestranded siRNA against TMPRSS6, SQ every 6 weeks

#### SLN124-004

Phase 1/2 study with an open-label dose escalation phase followed by a randomized, double-blind phase of SLN124 in patients with Polycythemia Vera.

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  - Phase 3: Navtemadlin, Imetelstat
  - Early phase: Selinexor, PIM kinase inhibitor
- Targeting hepcidin in PV
- Don't forget about ET: vaccinations against CALR

\*Dr Pemmaraju will cover combinations in a later talk



# Peptide Based Vaccine in Patients with Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Harboring CALR Mutations

Marina Kremyanskaya MD PhD

Ronald Hoffman MD Michal Bar Nathan MD John Mascarenhas MD Nina Bhardwaj MD PhD Cansu Cimen Bozkus PhD Camelia Iancu-Rubin PhD



**PARKER INSTITUTE** for CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY



### CALR is a highly conserved, ubiquitous and MULTIFUNCTIONAL protein



### Exposure of CALR on the cell surface triggers clearance of apoptotic cells and induces immunogenic cancer cell death



### Mutations in CALR generates a novel C-terminal peptide.



CALR mutations in MPN are heterogeneous but regardless of the mutation type they result in an unique epitope shared among all patients with mutated CALR-identical 36-AA sequence in the Cterminus of the protein

### PD-1 inhibition in advanced MPN (NCT03065400) Study drug: Pembrolizumab (Keytruda)<sup>™</sup>



Hobbs et al Blood Advances 2021

# Vaccination: boosting antitumor T cell responses



#### Pt that don't go on maintenance

-Ten doses of Mutant-CalR peptides with poly-ICLC and KLH as helper peptide -administered Q2 weeks for the first 4 doses and then Q4 weeks for 6 doses





Pt that go on maintenance



Figure by Dr. Mansi Saxe

### Vaccination: boosting antitumor T cell



OPEN ACCESS

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Bina Xu.

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200 ug 36aa C-terminal, s.c., with montanide.

15 doses total: 1<sup>st</sup> 6 doses every 2 weeks, remaining 9 doses every 4 weeks.

Therapeutic Cancer Vaccination With a Peptide Derived From the **Calreticulin Exon 9 Mutations Induces Strong Cellular Immune Responses in Patients With CALR-Mutant Chronic Myeloproliferative Neoplasms** 

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No clinical responses were observed

# Inventions and discoveries (in comparison to Denmark vaccination trial)

- Vaccine formulation: overlapping peptides (instead of a single 36 aa peptide)
  - The use of overlapping peptides is expected to increase the efficiency of antigen presentation, yielding a greater amount of immunogenic epitopes, thereby improving the anti-tumor T cell immunity the vaccine will elicit.
- Target sequence: 44 aa (instead of 36 aa)
  - Targeting the 44 aa of mutated protein, instead of 36 aa, is likely to increase the breath of T cell responses elicited after immunization by providing additional neoepitopes.
- Poly-ICLC and KLH (instead of montanide)
  - Poly-ICLC and KLH are reported to have immune-enhancing properties.

# Summary

- Exciting monotherapy and combination therapy approaches are ongoing in MPNs
- Trials are built on laboratory data that supports a rational mechanism
- Trials sample blood and bone marrow from treated patients to prove the drug is on-target and killing MPN cells
- Approaches to limit MPN stem cells from expanding and encouraging them to commit suicide are promising in MF
- Choking the bone marrow supply of iron with a hepcidin mimetic can remove the need for phlebotomy in PV
- Turning on p53 to kill PV stem cells needs to be perfected so it can be tolerated better
- Redirecting the immune system to naturally get rid of CALR mutated cells in ET and early PMF
- Clinical trials today bring wide access to better drugs tomorrow



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