



# **CAR T: NOW AND NEXT GENERATION**

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Philadelphia, PA*



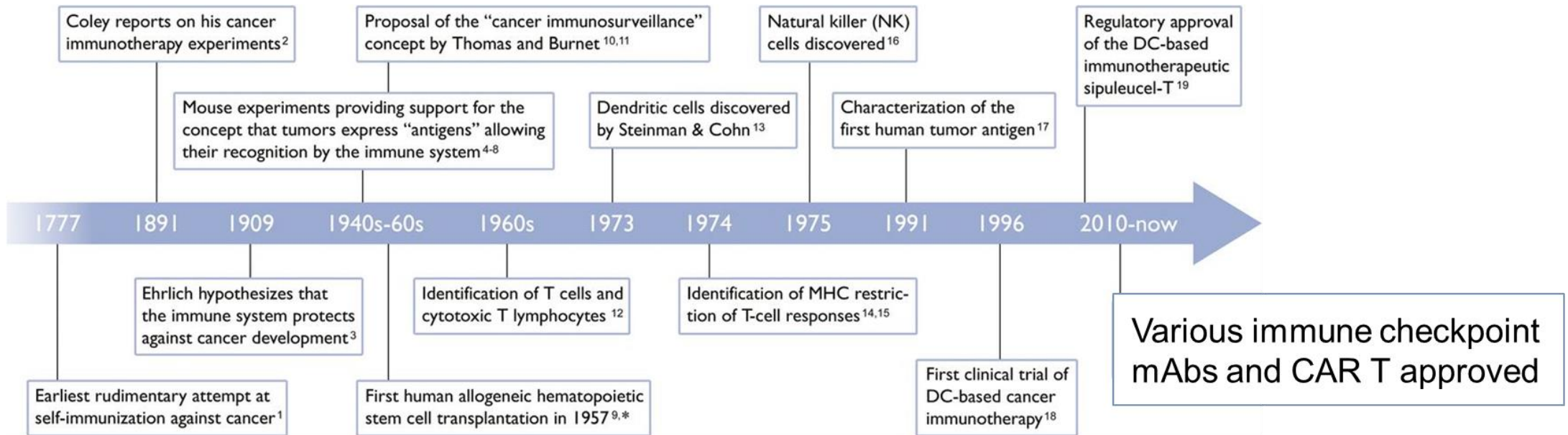
# Disclosures

**Carl H. June, MD**, has affiliations with Novartis (*Royalty and Contracted Research*); Tmunity Therapeutics (*Ownership Interest*); Patents with CAR T cells (*Receipt of Intellectual Property Rights/Patent Holder*).



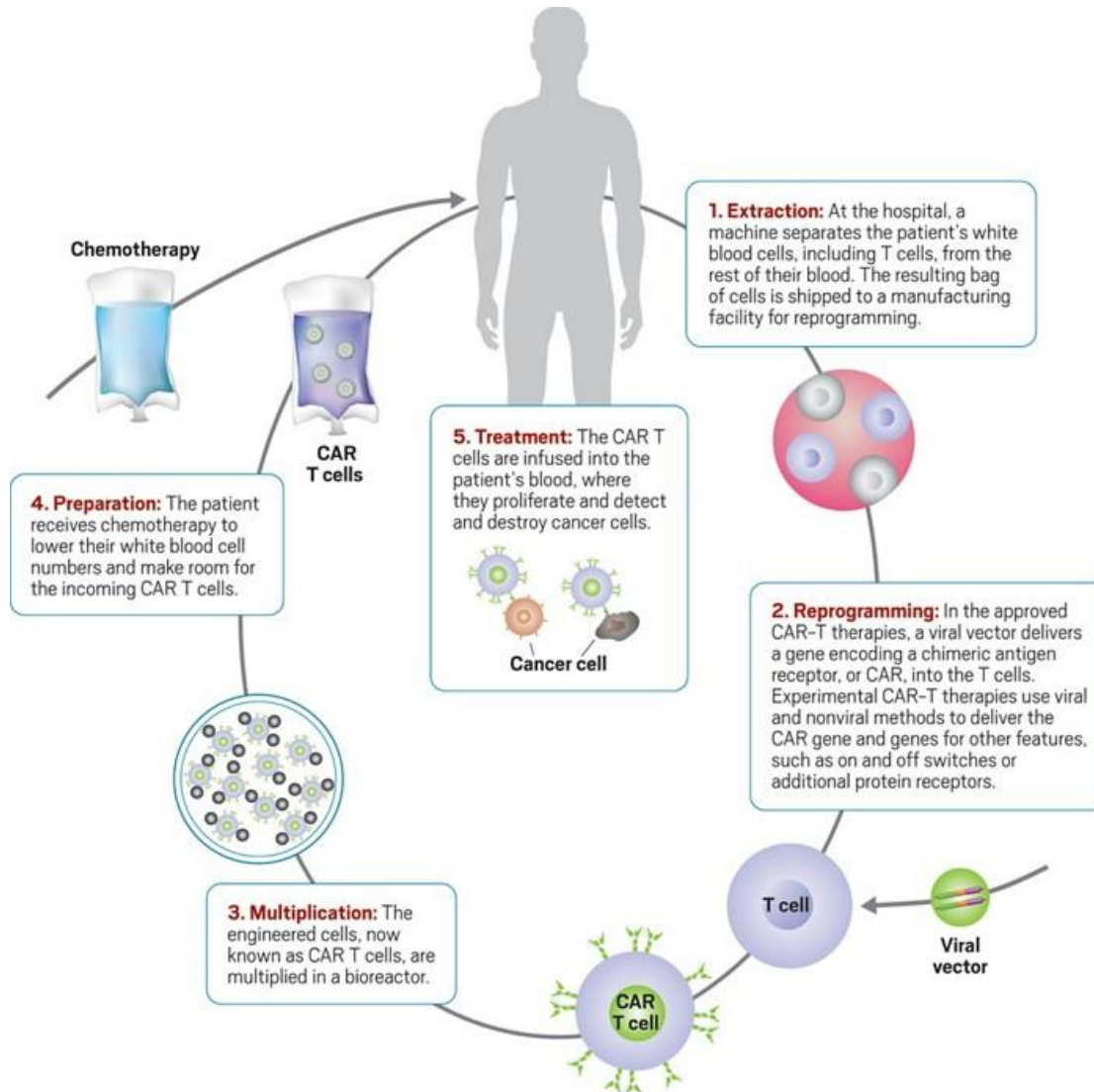
# Cancer Immunotherapy: Overnight Sensation 100 years in the Making

## Checkpoints and CAR T





# CAR T Cell Therapy: A Process Not a Drug

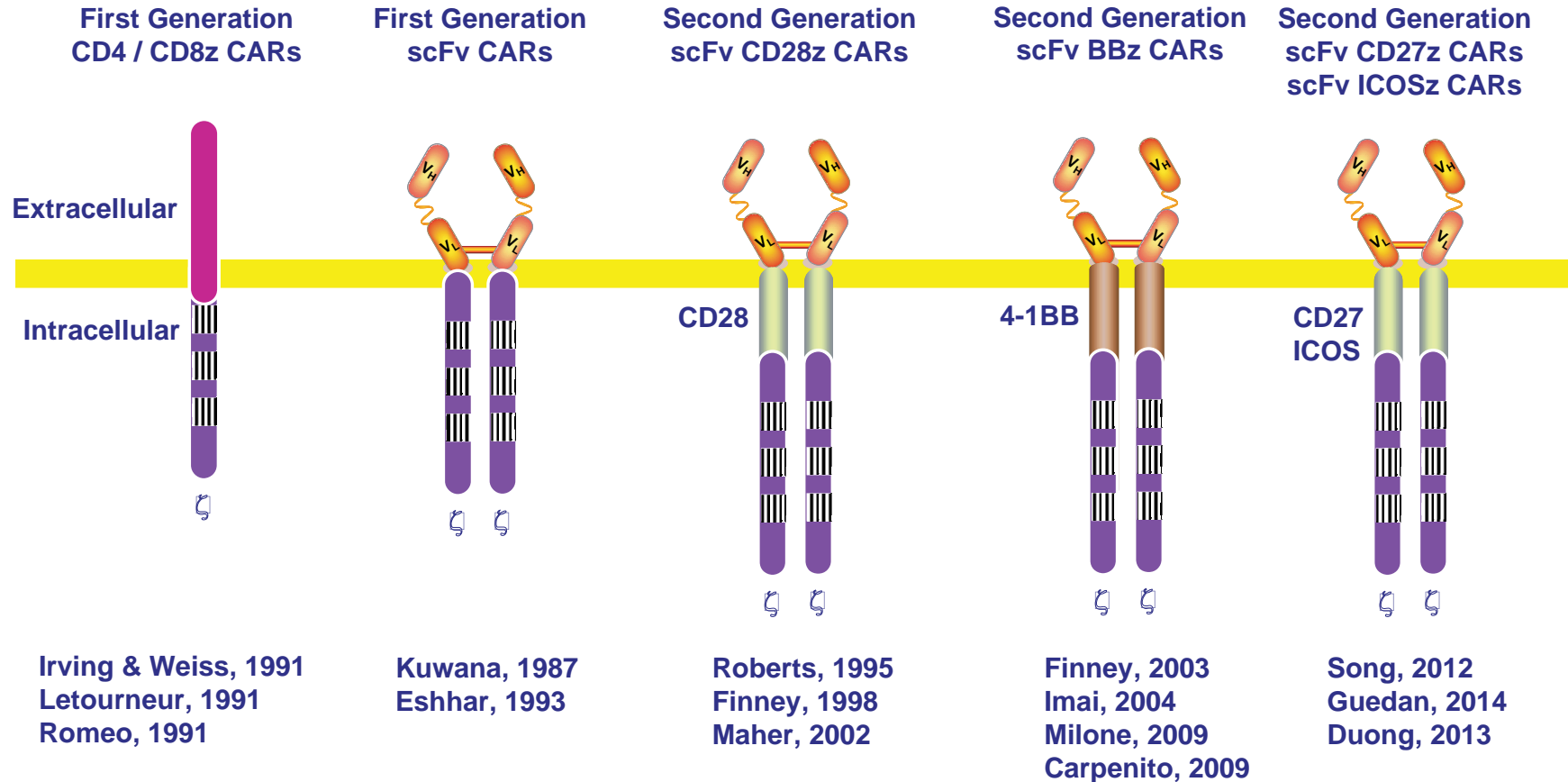


- Autologous T cells
- Allogeneic “3<sup>rd</sup> party” T cells
  - Cord blood
  - Healthy donor
  - iPSC



# Using Synthetic Biology to Overcome Tolerance Creation of Bi-specific CAR T cells

## Axi Cab      Tisagenlecleucel



## Design of CAR T Cells



# Design Features of Axi Cab and Tisagenlecleucel: Differential Persistence

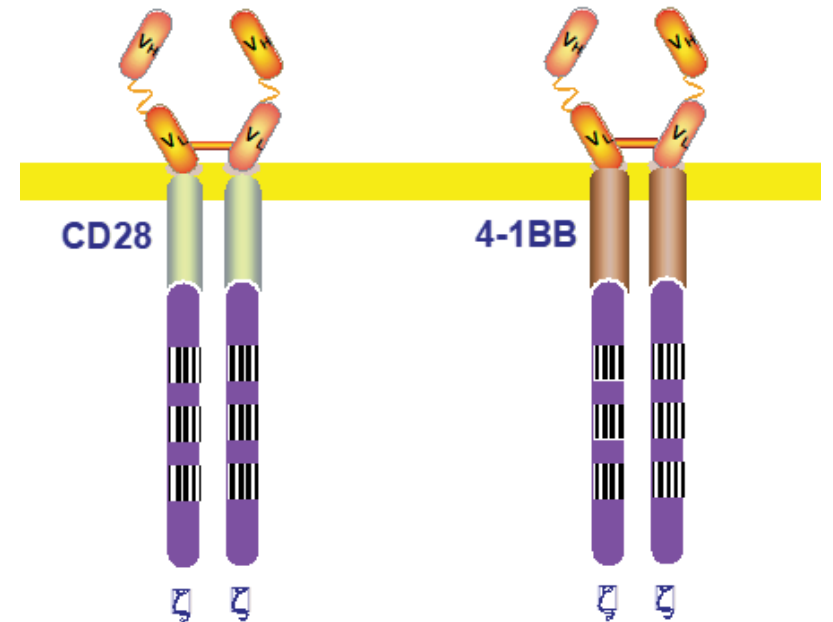
Attribute	Tisagenlecleucel	Axi Cab
Vector	Lentiviral	Retroviral
Promoter	EF1a	MSCV
ScFv (CD19)	FMC63	FMC63
Signaling Domain	4-1BB zeta	CD28 zeta
Hinge and TM	CD8 alpha	CD28
Cell Culture	Frozen CD3/28 beads	Fresh PBMC/CD3
CAR T Persistence	Long term >1 to 7 years	Short term (<6 weeks)

**Axi Cab**

Second Generation  
scFv CD28z CARs

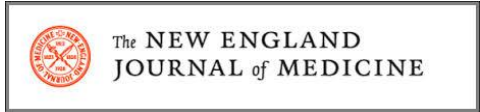
**Tisagen**

Second Generation  
scFv BBz CARs





# CT019 (tisagenlecleucel)

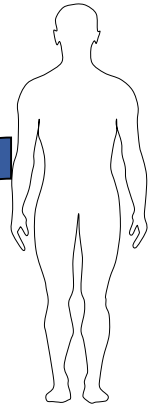


July 31, 2010  
1st CART19 Infusion

The New York Times

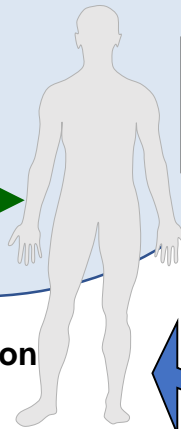


Patient Donates Cells



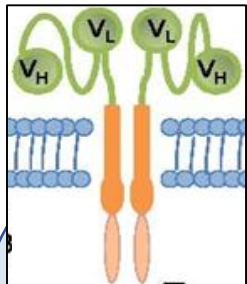
Pediatric Oncology:  
ALL

Cytokine Release Syndrome



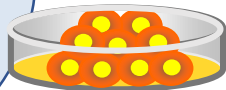
T cell transfusion

Adult Oncology:  
ALL, CLL, DLBCL,  
MCL, Myeloma



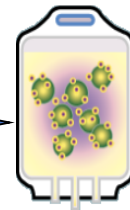
Genetic engineering

Synthetic  
Biology



Expand T cells

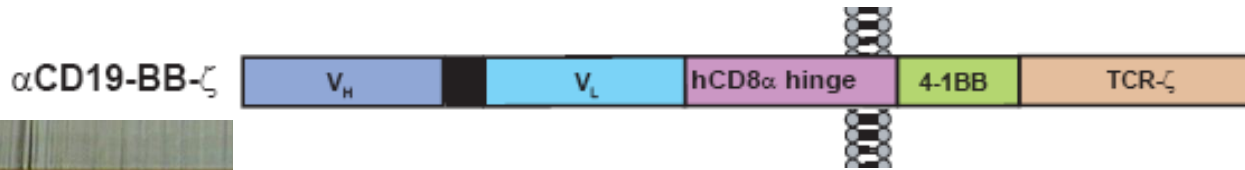
CVPF



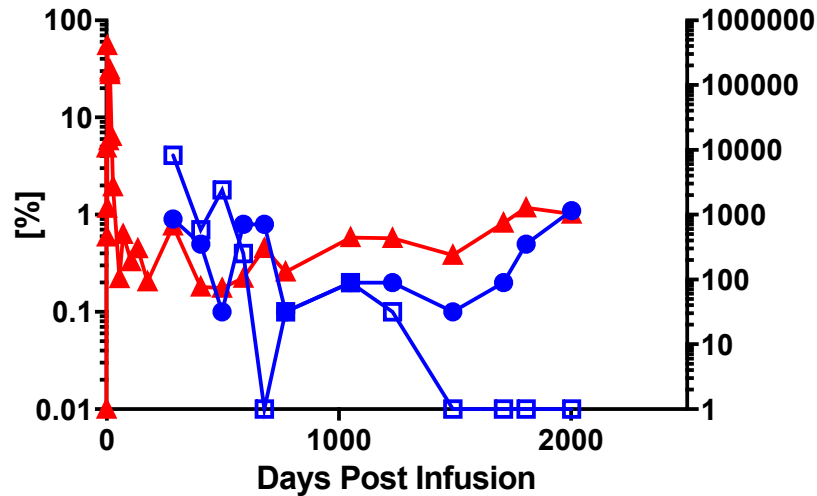
Porter DL, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365(8):725-733;  
Grupp SA, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2013;368(16):1509-1518;  
Maude SL, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2014;371(16):1507-1517;  
Garfall AL, et al. *N. Engl J Med.* 2015;373(11):1040-1047;  
Schuster SJ, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2017;377(26):2545-2554;  
Maude SI, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2018;378(5):439-448.



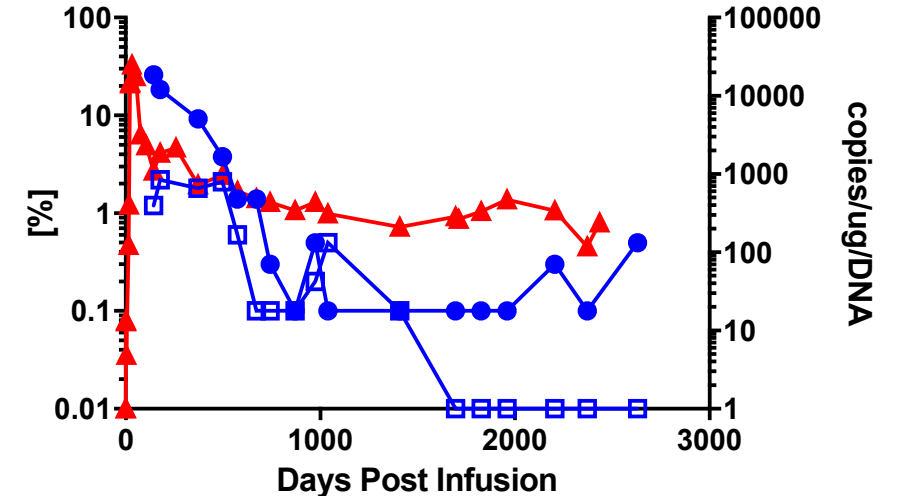
# Long-Term Persistence of CTL019 in CLL Patients



UPCC04409-01



UPCC04409-02



Note: For Flow 0 = 0.01; qPCR 0 = 1

● CAR    □ B cell    ▲ qPCR

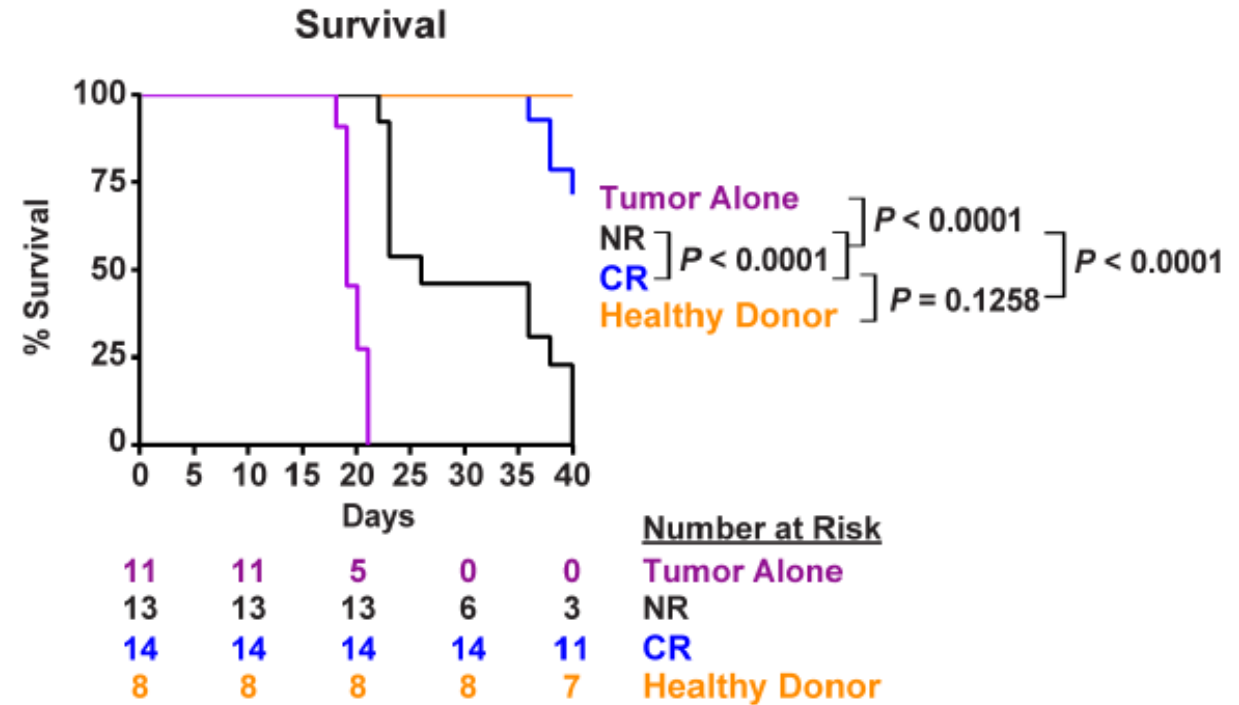
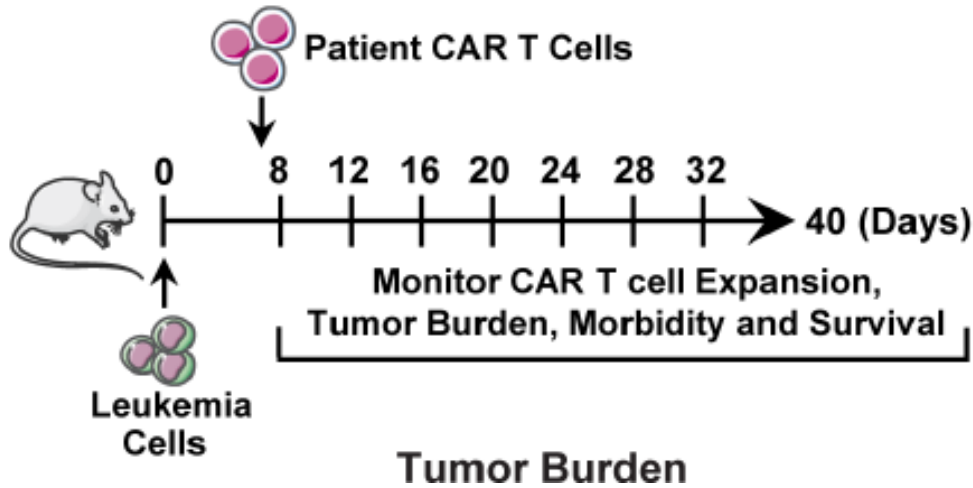
1. 7-year survival and function of CTL019 in patients 1 and 2
2. First “living drug”







# Characterization of CLL CAR T Cells in NSG CLL Model



Fraietta JA, et al. *Nat Med*. 2018;24(5):563-571; Imai C, et al. *Leukemia*. 2004;18(4):676-684; Milone MC, et al. *Mol Ther*. 2009;17(8):1453-1464; Carpenito C, et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2009;106(9):3360-3365.



# Characterization of Long-Term CAR T Cells in CLL Patients

- Transcriptomic profiling revealed that CAR T-cells from complete responding CLL patients were enriched in memory-related genes, including IL-6/STAT3 signature
- CAR T-cells from non-responders upregulated programs involved in effector differentiation, glycolysis, exhaustion, and apoptosis.
- Sustained remission was associated with an elevated frequency of CD27+CD45RO- CD8+ T-cells in baseline blood samples
- CD27+PD-1- CD8+ CAR T-cells expressing high-levels of IL-6R predicts therapeutic response and is responsible for tumor control.



# CAR T Cells for Relapsed/Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Hematologic Malignancies:

- CD19 Phase I/II trials at the University of Pennsylvania

CLL<sup>1</sup>

ALL<sup>2</sup>

ALL<sup>3</sup>

Myeloma<sup>4</sup>

DLBCL<sup>5</sup>

ALL<sup>6</sup>



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

85% of children are cured with intensive chemotherapy and radiation. However, major long-term disability from chemoradiotherapy:

- The 2-year survival for twice relapsed pediatric ALL is <2 years
- Tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah™) induced complete remissions in <85% young adults and children with multiply relapsed ALL
- FDA approved August 2017

1. Porter DL, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2011;365(8):725-733.
2. Grupp SA, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2013;368(16):1509-1518.
3. Maude SL, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2014;371(16):1507-1517.
4. Garfall AL, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2015;373(11):1040-1047.
5. Schuster SJ, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2017;377(26):2545-2554.
6. Maude SI, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2018;378(5):439-448.







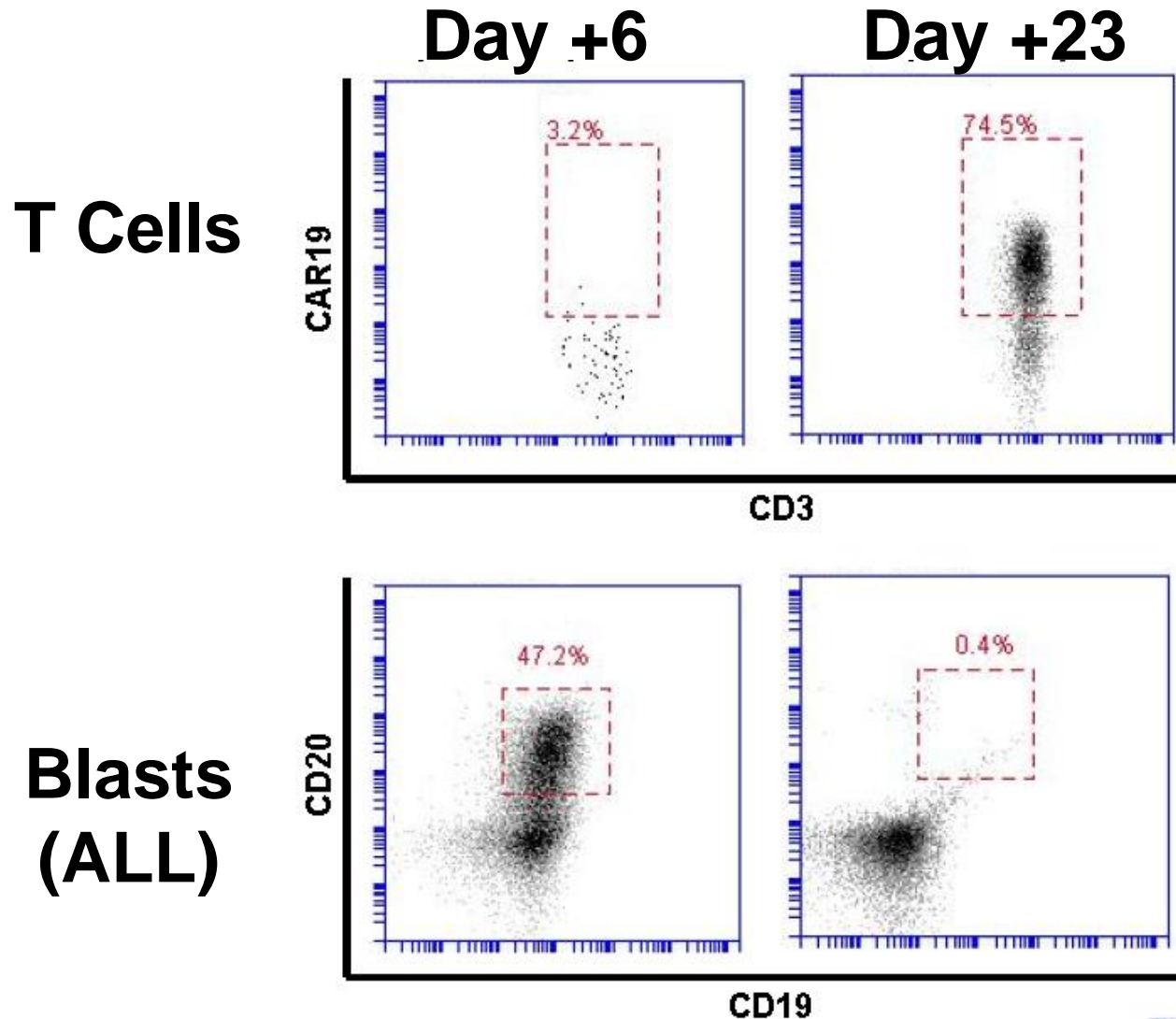
# **Pediatric CART19 ALL Study**

## **PI: Stephan Grupp, MD, PhD**

- Subject #1: 7yoF pre-B ALL. Karyotype: high risk
- Dx May 2010: Standard COG ALL induction
- Relapse #1: 10/2011
- Relapse #2: 2/2012
- 3/2012: High-dose cytoxan/clofaribine: persistent ALL
- Marrow 4/16/2012: 60% blasts w/kidney, liver, spleen lesions
- Autologous CART19: 4/17/2012
- Total dose CART19:  $1.2 \times 10^7$  CAR cells/Kg
- CAR T cells infused with no additional chemotherapy



# First Pediatric ALL Patient



- Deep remission induced in 23 days
- 0% blasts seen
- Flow MRD negative
- CR maintained >5 yrs



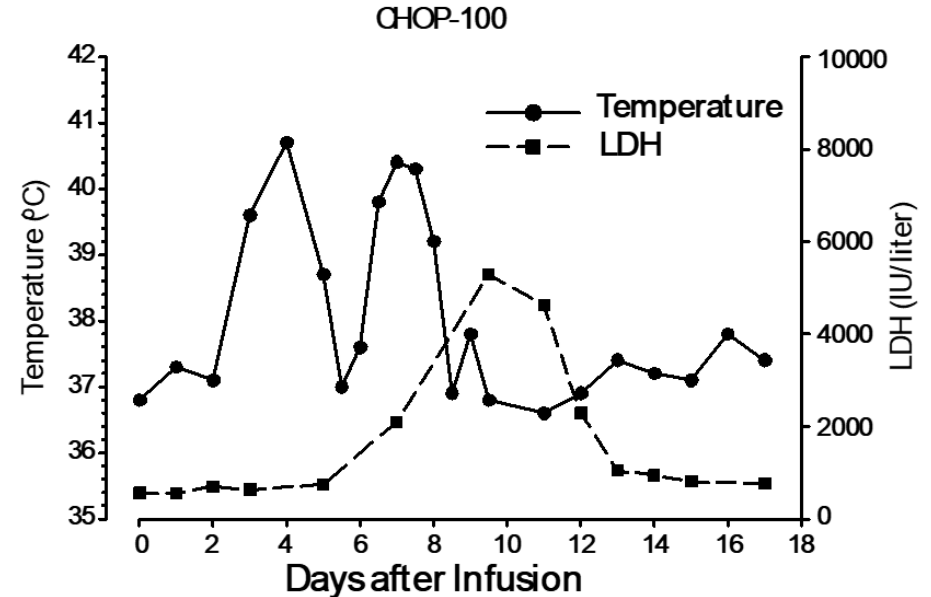
# Considerations for T Cell Therapy

- 1 kg of tumor =  $10^{12}$  cells
- Our first 3 patients had 3 to 7 lbs of tumor!
- It is not realistic to expect tumor eradication unless the killing machinery (T, NK, macrophage) is equivalent to tumor burden, ie, “E:T” ratio  $\sim$  1
- Failure to achieve critical mass of T cells likely explains previous trials with disappointing results
- Two potential solutions:
  - Infuse huge numbers of T cells (TILs)
  - Infuse small numbers of T cells programmed to divide



# Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)

- High fever, flu-like syndrome
- Severe CRS – unstable hypotension, can proceed to need for mechanical ventilation
- Only occurs in responding patients:  
On-target toxicity



**Steroids** ↑  
↑↑  
**Etanercept, Tocilizumab**







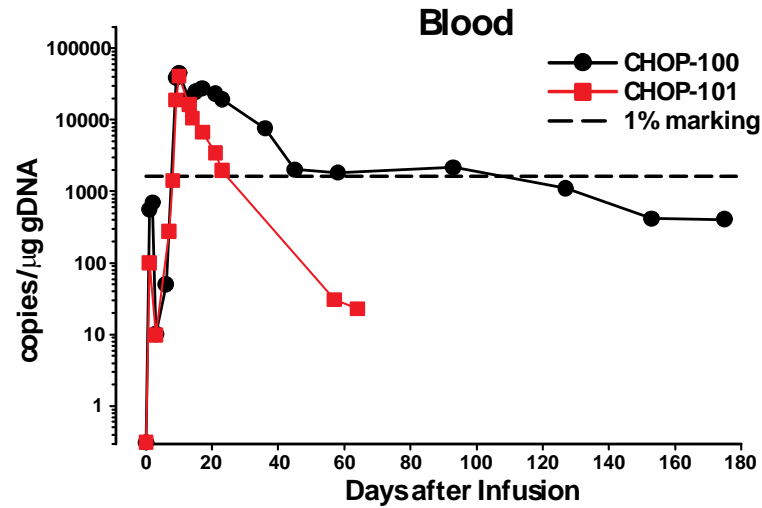
# Tocilizumab (Actemra)

- Interleukin 6 (IL-6) receptor antagonist
- Blocks IL-6 mediated effects
- Indicated in:
  - Juvenile idiopathic arthritis(JIA)
  - Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
  - In Japan, indication for Castleman's disease
- Typically given monthly
- Rare side effects of transaminitis and neutropenia
- Co-labeled with CD19 CAR T

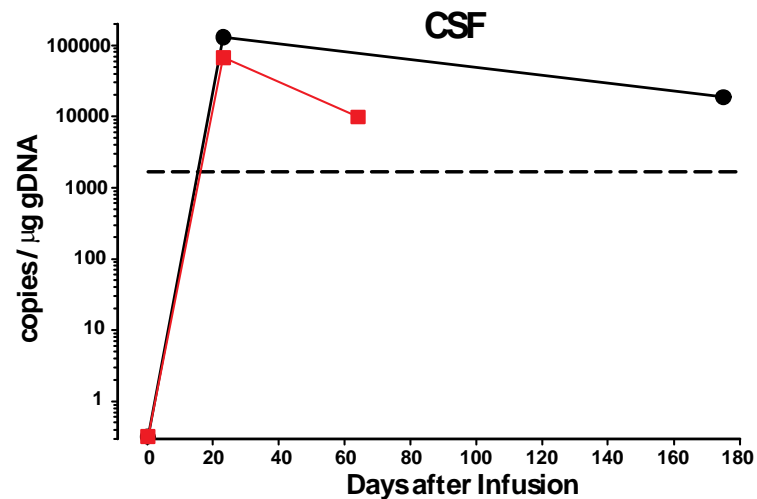
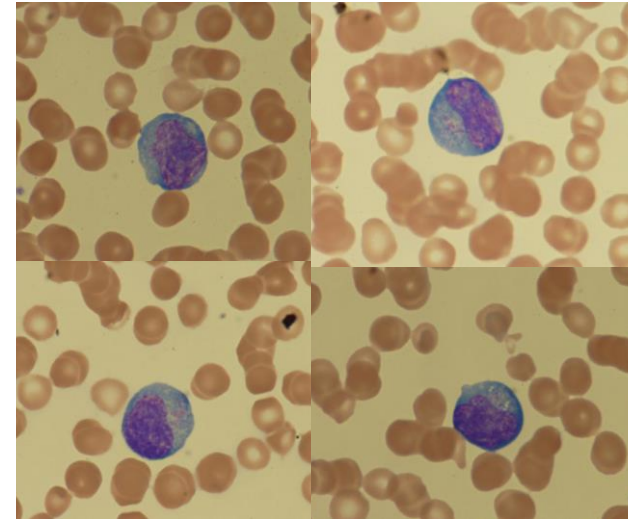


# Efficient Trafficking of CTL019 T Cells to CNS in ALL

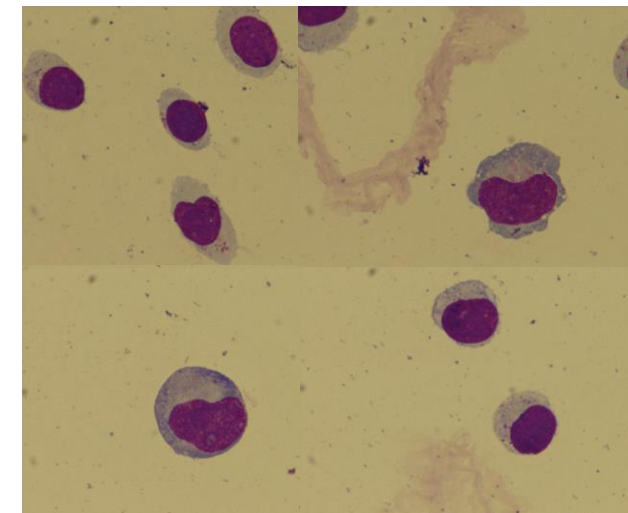
Morphology of CARs *in vivo*



Blood  
Day 10



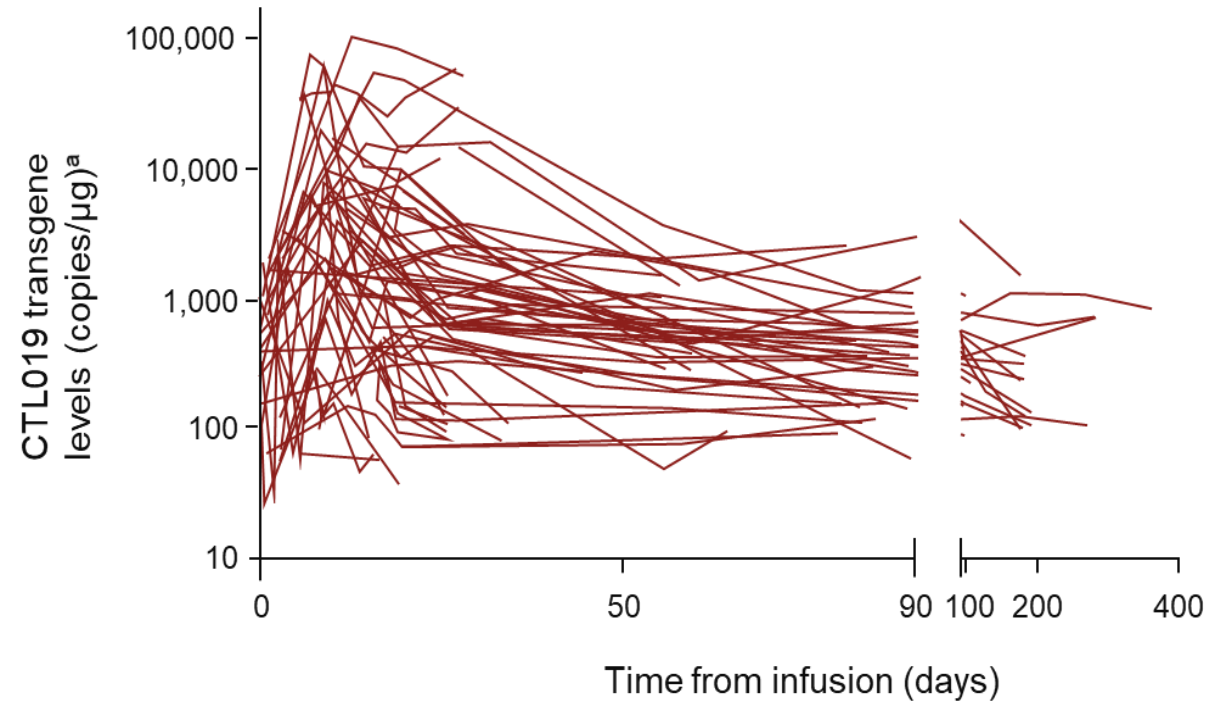
CSF  
Day 23





# Cellular Kinetics of Tisagenlecleucel

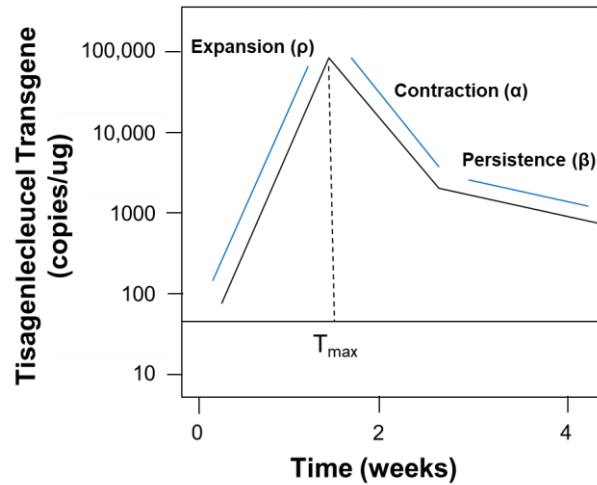
- CTL019 transgene levels were observed to undergo significant expansion and demonstrated measurable persistence *in vivo* >1 year
- Persistence and expansion similar to ALL and CLL patients



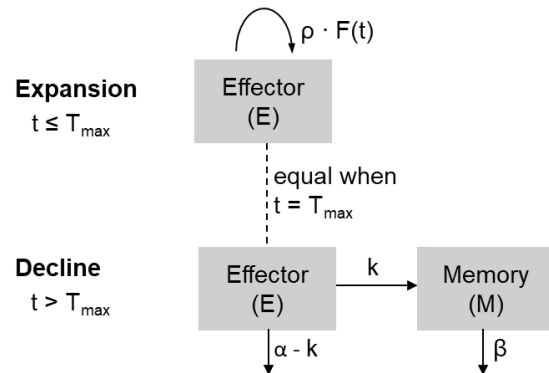
<sup>a</sup> Includes all patients with  $\geq 1$  quantifiable transgene level post infusion (N = 83).



# Modeling the Cellular Kinetics of Tisagenlecleucel



## Compartmental model



- Blood samples from 90 patients with r/r ALL analyzed
- For tisagenlecleucel, the initial doubling time ( $\ln 2/\rho$ ) was 0.78 days, the half-life for the initial rate of decline ( $\ln 2/\alpha$ ) was 4.3 days, and the terminal half-life ( $\ln 2/\beta$ ) was 220 days
- $\alpha$  slope corresponds to a rapid contraction due to AICD of CAR T effector and the  $\beta$  slope corresponds to a gradual decrease of memory CAR T
- Unlike a traditional drug, no relationship was detected between the dose of tisagenlecleucel and  $C_{max}$  or any other model parameter
- $C_{max}$  was associated with more severe CRS



# Patient Safety Years of Genetically Modified T cells University of Pennsylvania

Trial	Engineered T Cell	# Patients Infused	Safety (Patient-Years)	# Patients Alive (as of last date enrolled in study/LTFU)
Sangamo ZFN (HIV)	Ad5/35 zinc finger nuclease	12	74.4	12
CD4z CAR (HIV) includes CG trials	Retroviral CAR	44	783.6	44
SB-728mR CCR5 ZFN	CCR5 ZFN	11	10.9	11
MAZ-Takara (HIV)	Retroviral MazF	10	22.7	10
VirxSys VRX496 (HIV)	Lentiviral antisense HIVenv	20	204.1	20
Adaptimmune (HIV)	Lentiviral gag TCR	2	10.8	2
Adaptimmune Myeloma and Sarcoma	Lentiviral NY-ESO1 TCR	21	100.8	21
Penn/Novartis CART19/CTL019	Lentiviral 19:BBz CAR	311	467.3	214
EGFR	Lentiviral CART-EGFR	10	8.5	3
UPCC19214 CART-MESO-19	CART-MESO-19	3	3.2	2
UPCC31213	CART-MESO	15	10.2	2
UPCC31415	CART22	3	1.5	1
UPCC14415	CART-BCMA	14	10.9	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>476</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>352</b>

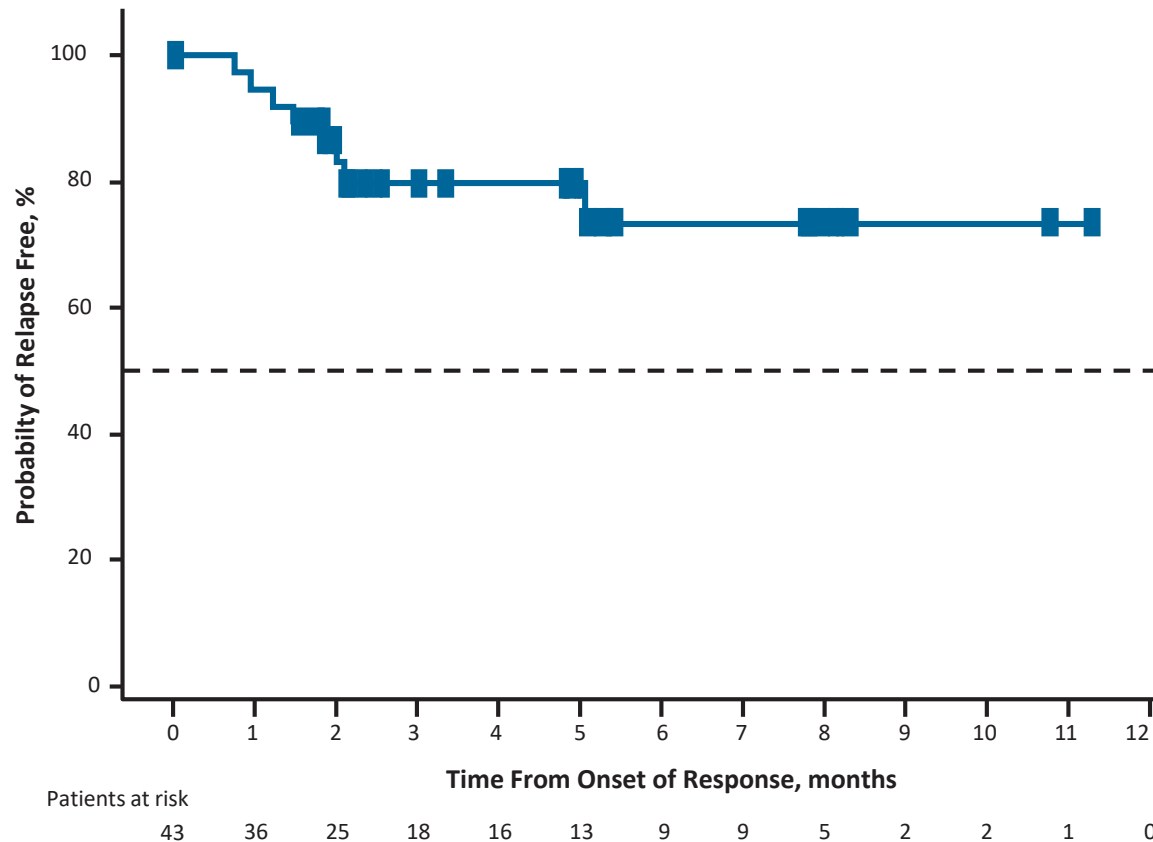


# **CD19-DIRECTED CAR T CELLS IN RELAPSED/REFRACTORY AGGRESSIVE B-CELL LYMPHOMAS**

**Stephen J. Schuster, et al.**



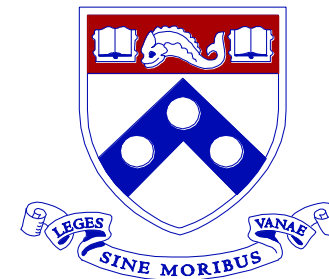
# JULIET: Duration of Response 74% Relapse Free at 6 Months



- Median DOR and OS not reached
- Almost all patients in CR at month 3 remained in CR
- No patients proceeded to transplant while in response

Efficacy analysis set = all patients who received a tisagenlecleucel infusion  $\geq$  3 months prior to data-cut date.

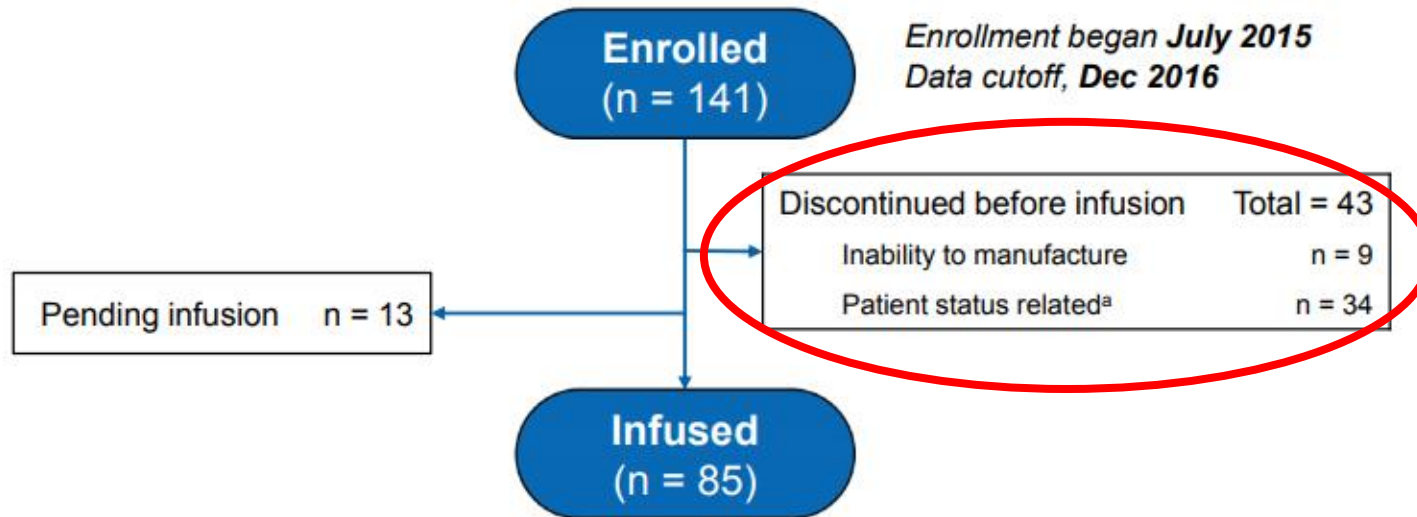
CR, complete response; DOR, duration of response; OS, overall response.





# “Vein-to-Vein”: Current Limitations

## JULIET Patient Disposition



- 85 patients evaluated for safety
- 51 patients evaluated for response (completed  $\geq 3$  months follow-up or discontinued earlier)
  - Median time of 3.7 months from infusion to data cutoff (20 Dec 2016)
- CTL019 cell dose<sup>b</sup>:
  - Median (range),  $3.1 \times 10^8$  ( $0.1$ - $6.0 \times 10^8$ ) cells

<sup>a</sup> Progressive disease (n = 28; including 16 deaths); adverse event (n = 2), investigator decision (n = 2), withdrawal (n = 1), protocol deviation (n = 1).

<sup>b</sup> 1 patient received < and 3 patients received > the target dose range.





# CAR T Cell Manufacturing

Other limitations:

- Apheresis availability →
- GMP suites availability →
- Testing of each product →
- “Peak serum” →

**Financial  
toxicity**

**Not enough blood  
bank donors**



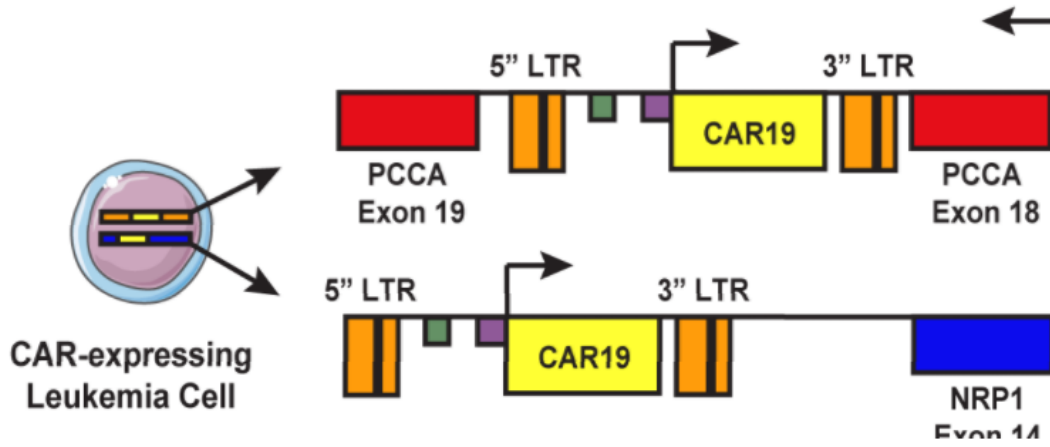
# Mechanisms of Resistance to CD19 CAR T

- CD19 escape: A combination of genomic mutations and shifts in splicing that favor retaining some CD19 protein. Incidence is 28% in ALL<sup>1-3</sup>
- T cell exhaustion and/or AICD
- “CARB”: Inadvertent transduction of tumor blast cells with CAR19

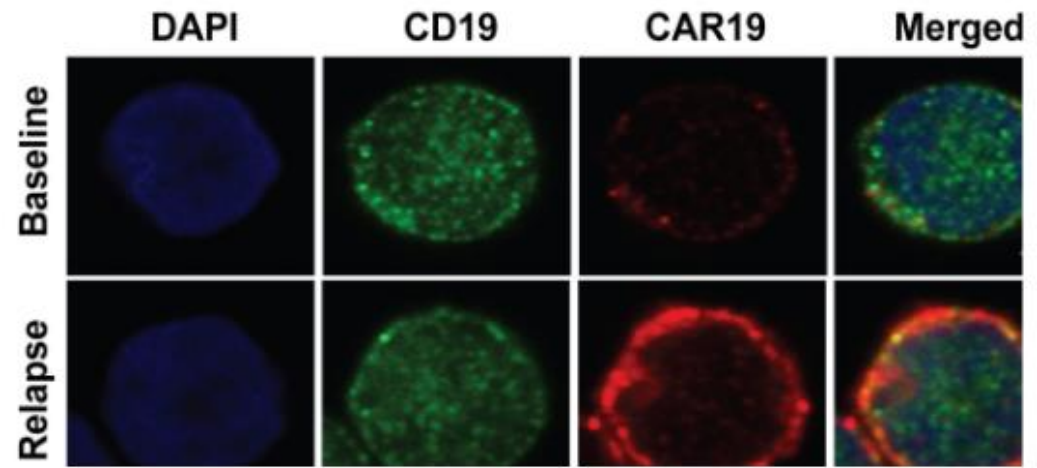
1. Grupp SA, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2013;368(16):1509-1518.
2. Sotillo, et al. *Cancer Discov*. 2015;5(12):1282-1295.
3. Orlando EJ, et al. *Nat Med*. 2018;24(10):1504-1506.



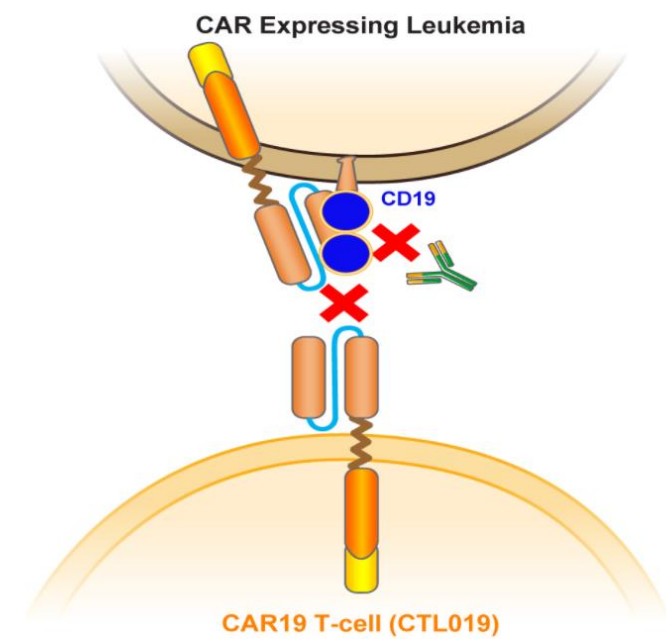
# CARB Cells “Lethality of a Single Rogue CAR Cell” Mechanism



Co-localization of CD19 and CAR19 in B-ALL Cells



Model of CAR19-mediated CD19 Epitope Masking

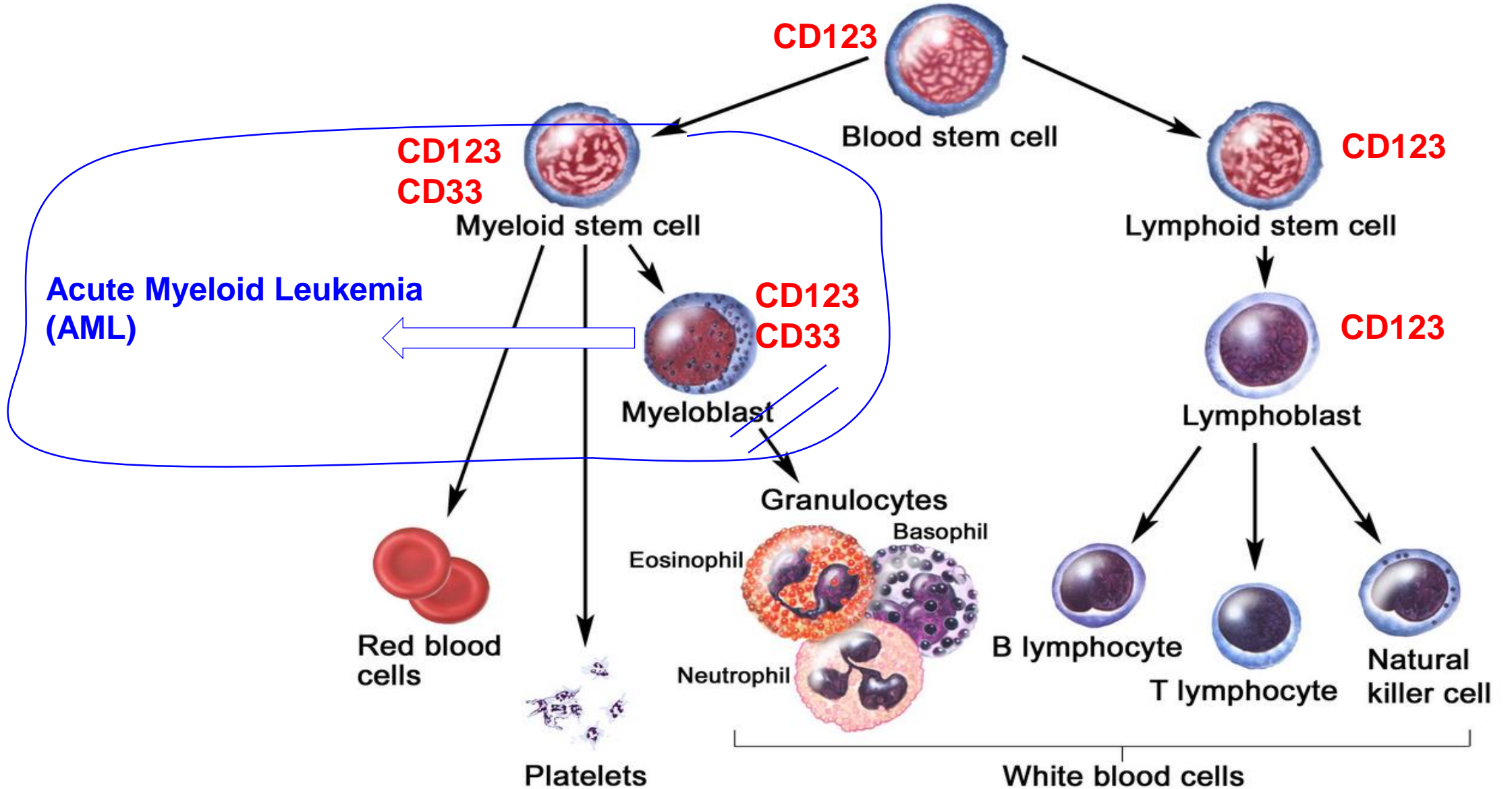


- 2 patients with clinical CARB
- 80% blasts at apheresis
- Infused product was 99.7% T cells
- 7/18 patients with low-level CARB in product

Ruella M, et al. *Nat Med.* 2018;24(10):1499-1503.



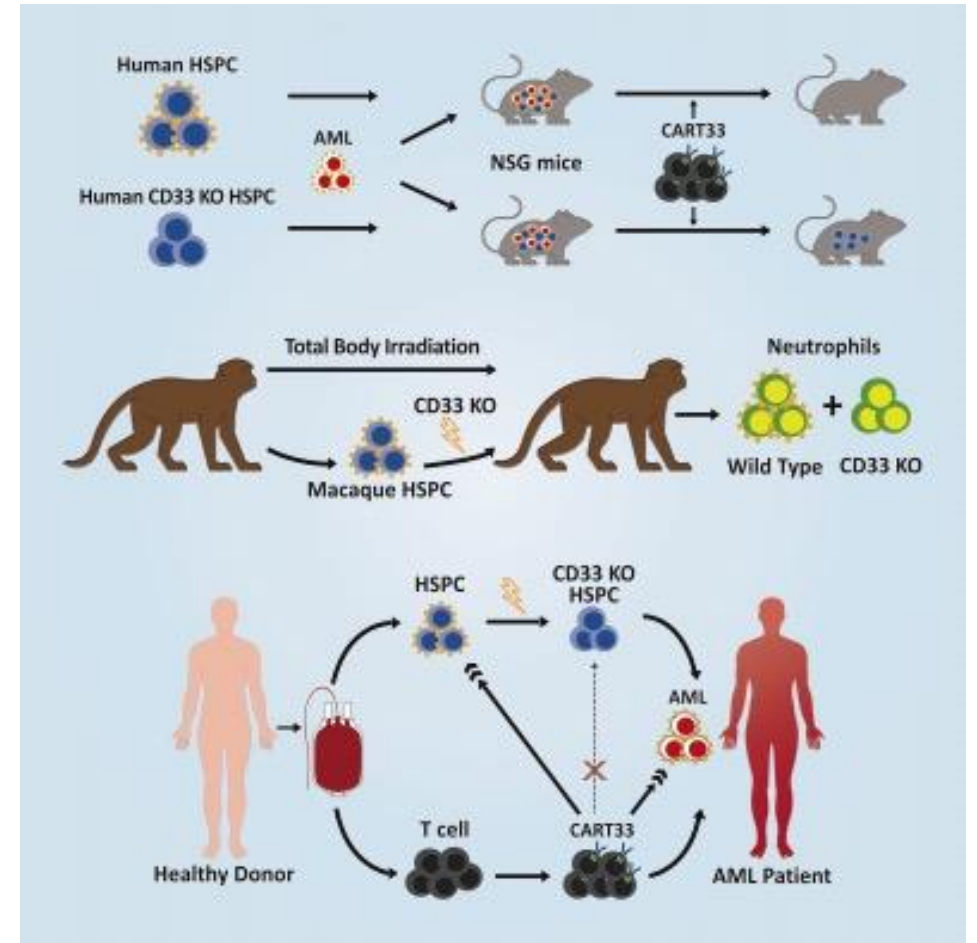
# CAR T Cell Therapy of AML





# Genetic Inactivation of CD33 in Hematopoietic Stem Cells to Enable CAR T Cell Immunotherapy for Acute Myeloid Leukemia

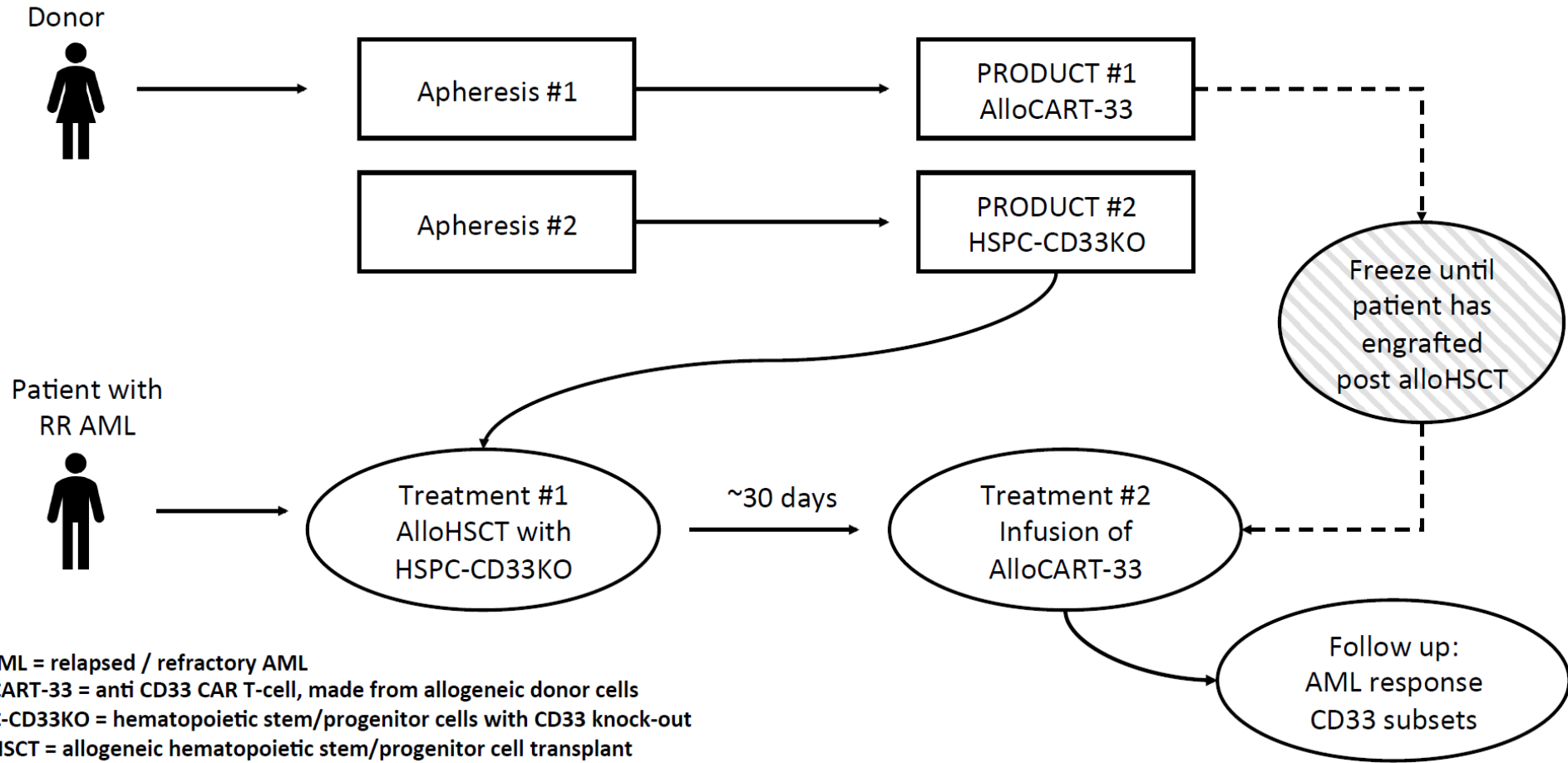
- CD33 is not required for human myeloid development and function
- CD33-deficient non-human primate myeloid cells are fully functional
- Anti-CD33 CAR T cells can eradicate AML while sparing CD33-deficient hematopoiesis
- This is a synthetic biology approach to generating a leukemia-specific antigen





# Dual Engineered CD33 CAR T and CD33 Deleted HSC for r/r AML: Pilot Trial

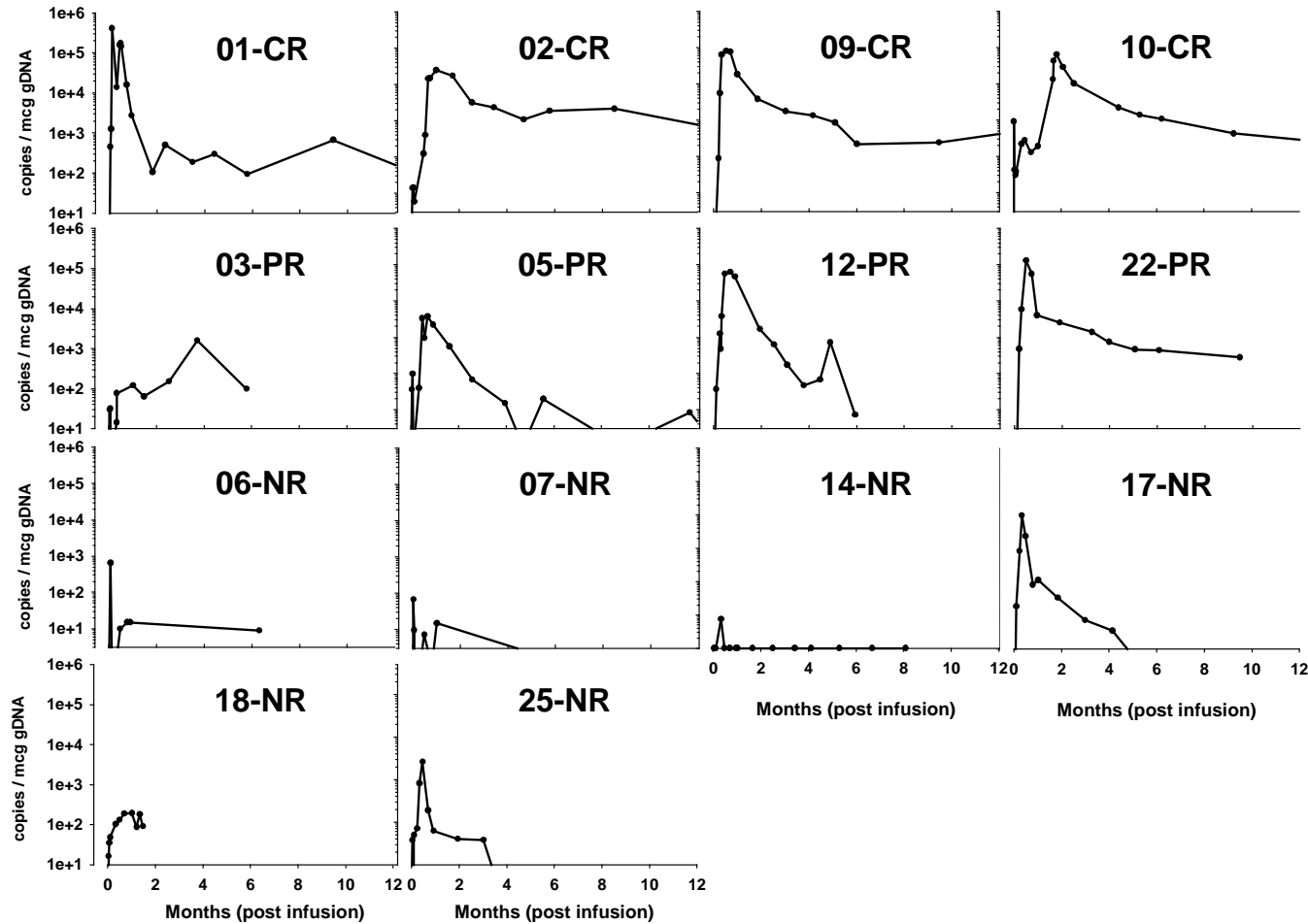
## Saar Gill MD, PhD





# Long-Term Persistence and Expression of CTL019 is Associated With Durable Remission in Leukemia: Predictive Biomarker

CAR T Persistence for first year after infusion

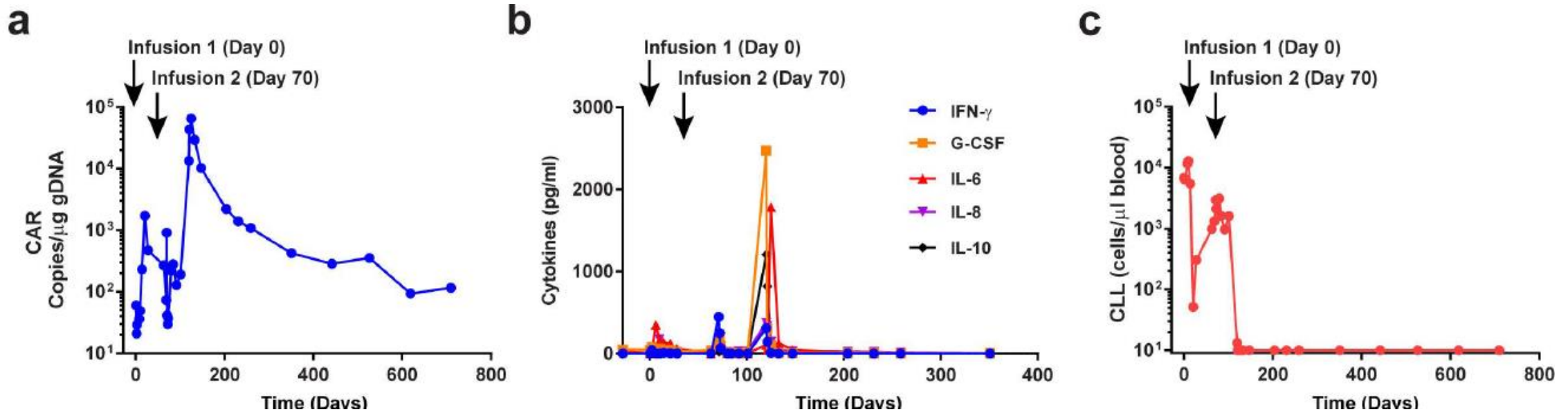


Porter DL, et al. *Sci Transl Med.* 2015;7(303):303ra139.



# Delayed Tumor Lysis Syndrome in Pt #10

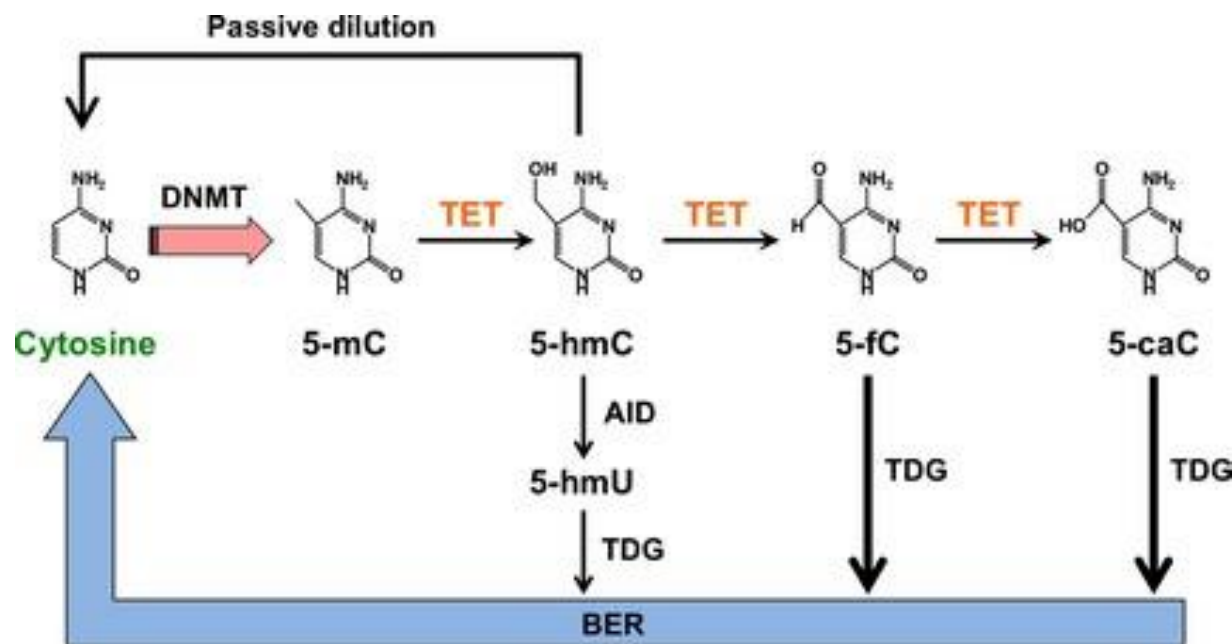
- Presented with fevers 45 days after infusion
- Day 50: Definitive evidence of TLS and MAS
  - Fevers, hypoxia (intubated), hypotensive (pressors)
  - Treated with tocilizumab
  - Expanding CART19 cells became detectable







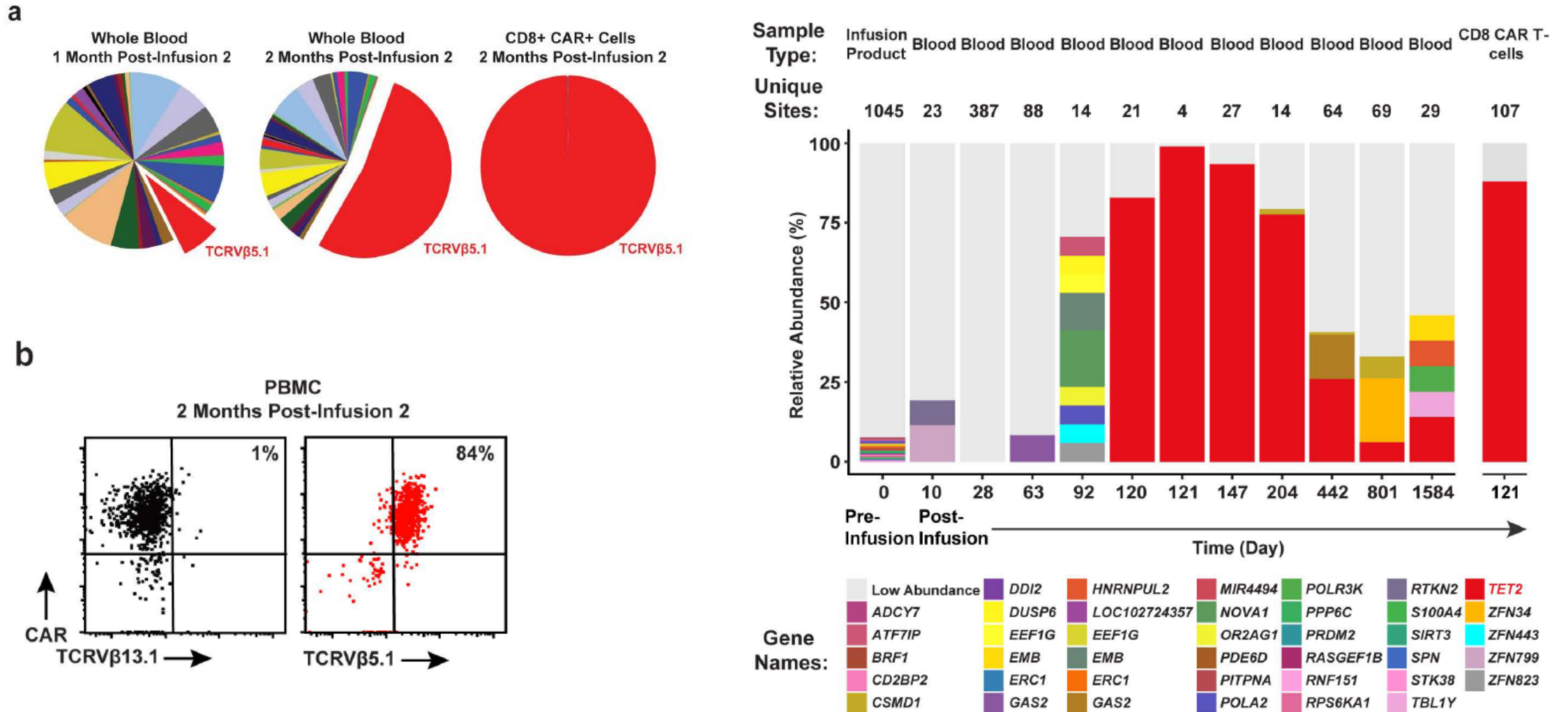
# TET (Ten-eleven translocation) Proteins



- All TET enzymes contain a C-terminal catalytic domain (CD) that belongs to the dioxygenase superfamily and oxidizes 5mC in a 2-oxoglutarate- (2-OG) and Fe(II)-dependent manner
- TET2 mutations frequently occur in hematological malignancies, including myeloid malignancies, T cell lymphomas, and adult T cell leukemia
- TET2 mutation not sufficient for transformation
- TET2 LOF mutations frequent in clonal hematopoiesis

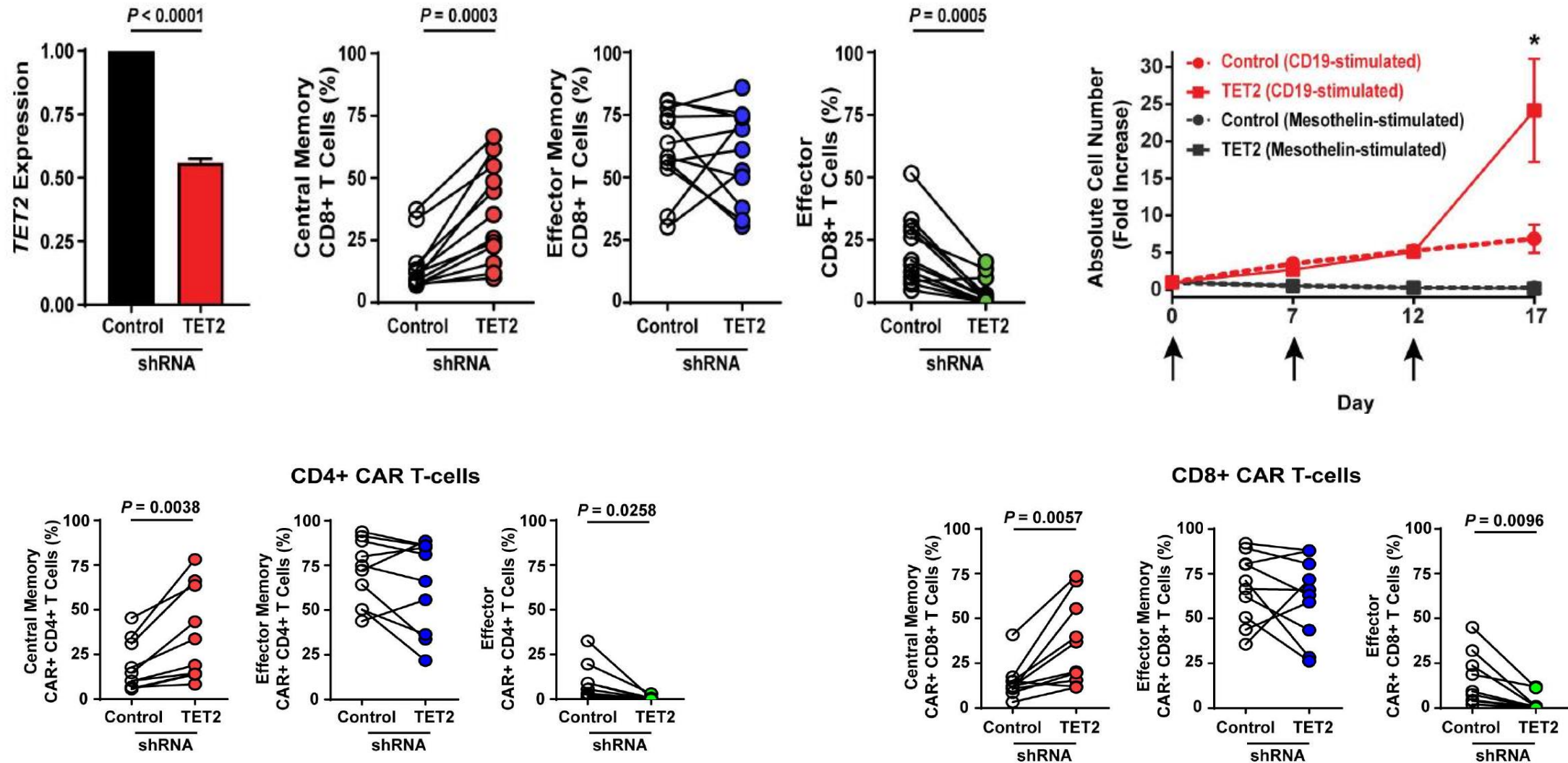


# Rapid Massive Expansion of Clonal CART Cell Population in Patient #10





# Tet2 Knock Down in Healthy Donor T Cells





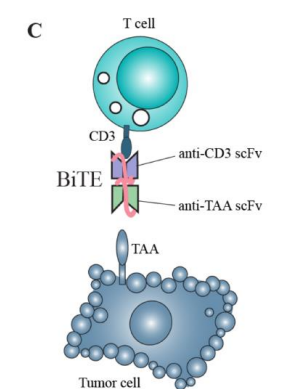
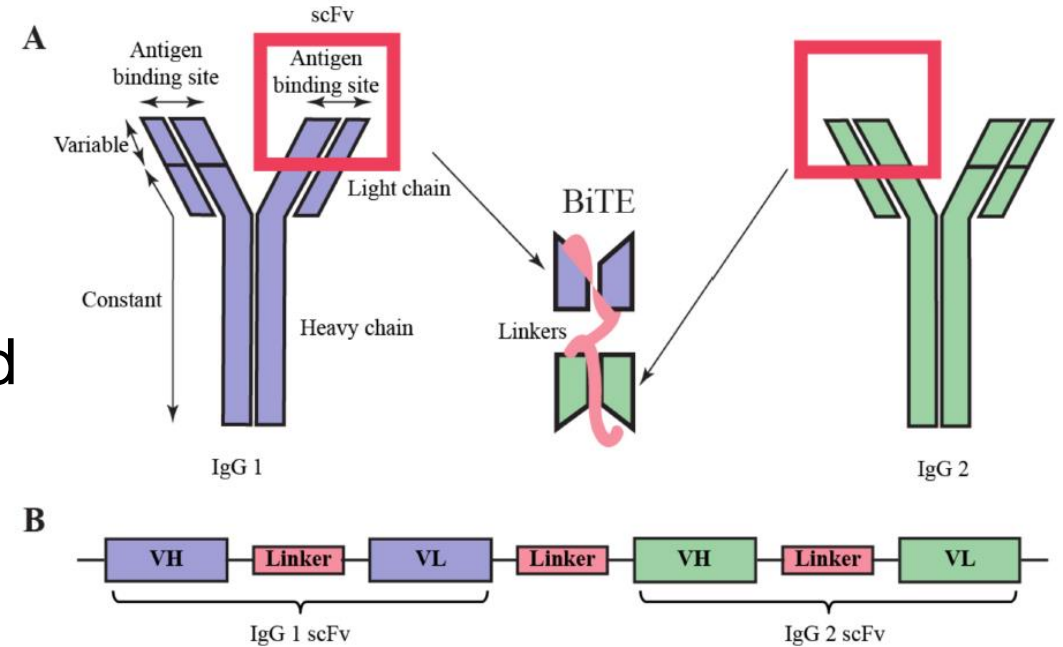
# Lessons Learned from Tet2 Disruption in CLL Patient #10

- Progeny derived from a single CTL019 TCRV $\beta$ 5.1+ CD8+ T cell were responsible for the eradication of massive tumor burden in patient #10.
- Can the lowest effective dose of CAR T be a single cell?
- Unintentional knock out of Tet2 was responsible for enhanced CAR T function
- Since Tet2 can increase HSC stem cell renewal, would inhibition or intentional disruption of Tet2 increase CAR T cell proliferation and/or function?



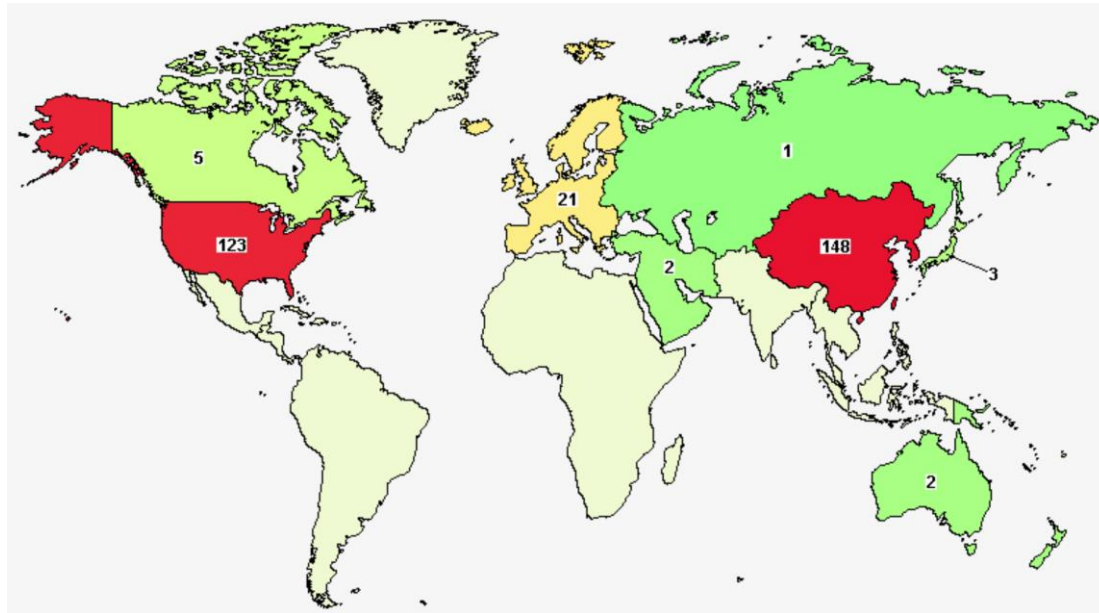
# CARs versus BiTEs: Quo Vadis?

- Both BiTEs and CARs have similar adverse events: CRS and neurotoxicity
- Both strategies are MHC independent
- BiTEs are given without conditioning chemotherapy: host T cells are required
- CAR T have active trafficking to sanctuary sites; BiTEs have passive diffusion
- CAR T: Individual manufacturing
- BiTEs: Off the shelf





# Social Challenges: Geographic Disparities and High Cost of Ultra-personalized Genetically Engineered Cells



Colors indicate the number of studies with locations in that region.

Least Most

Labels give the exact number of studies.

Clinical trials.gov search term “chimeric antigen receptor”  
305 trials listed as of August 2018

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

U.S. Edition | September 4, 2018 | Today's Paper | Video

BUSINESS

### The Million-Dollar Cancer Treatment: Who Will Pay?

So far, few patients have received the new drugs, as commercial health plans and Medicare wrestle with how to cover the treatment

- The number of new myeloma patients in the US in 2017: ~30,000
- At current standard of care: total lifetime costs to treat all patients diagnosed in 2017: \$22.4B
- The average cost of cancer drugs approved in the US in 2017: 150,000

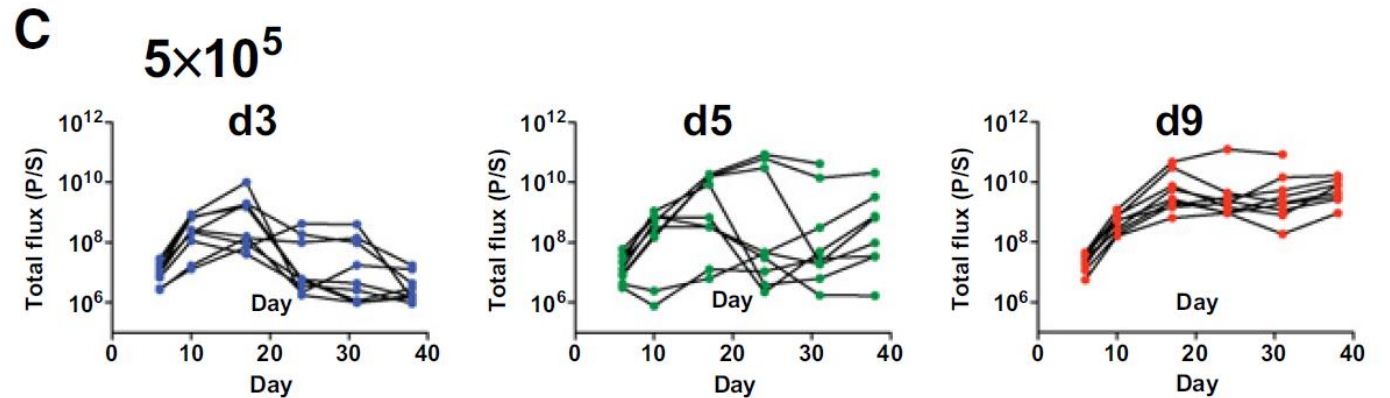
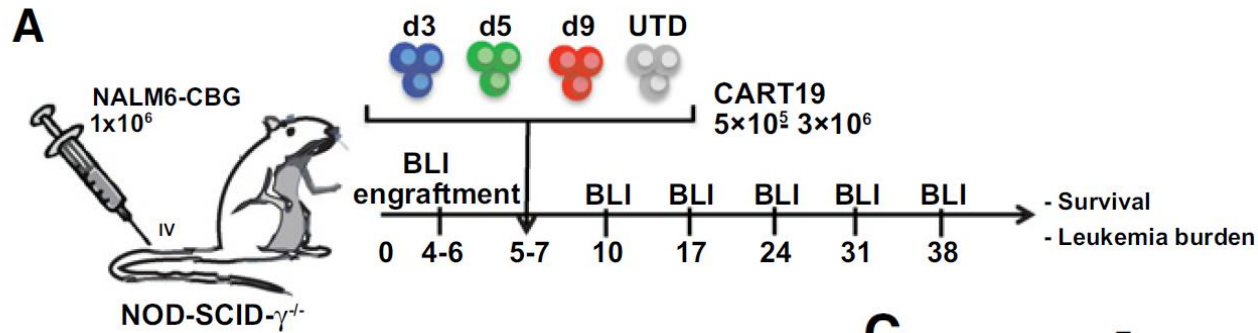


# Making Better and Cheaper CAR T

Research Article

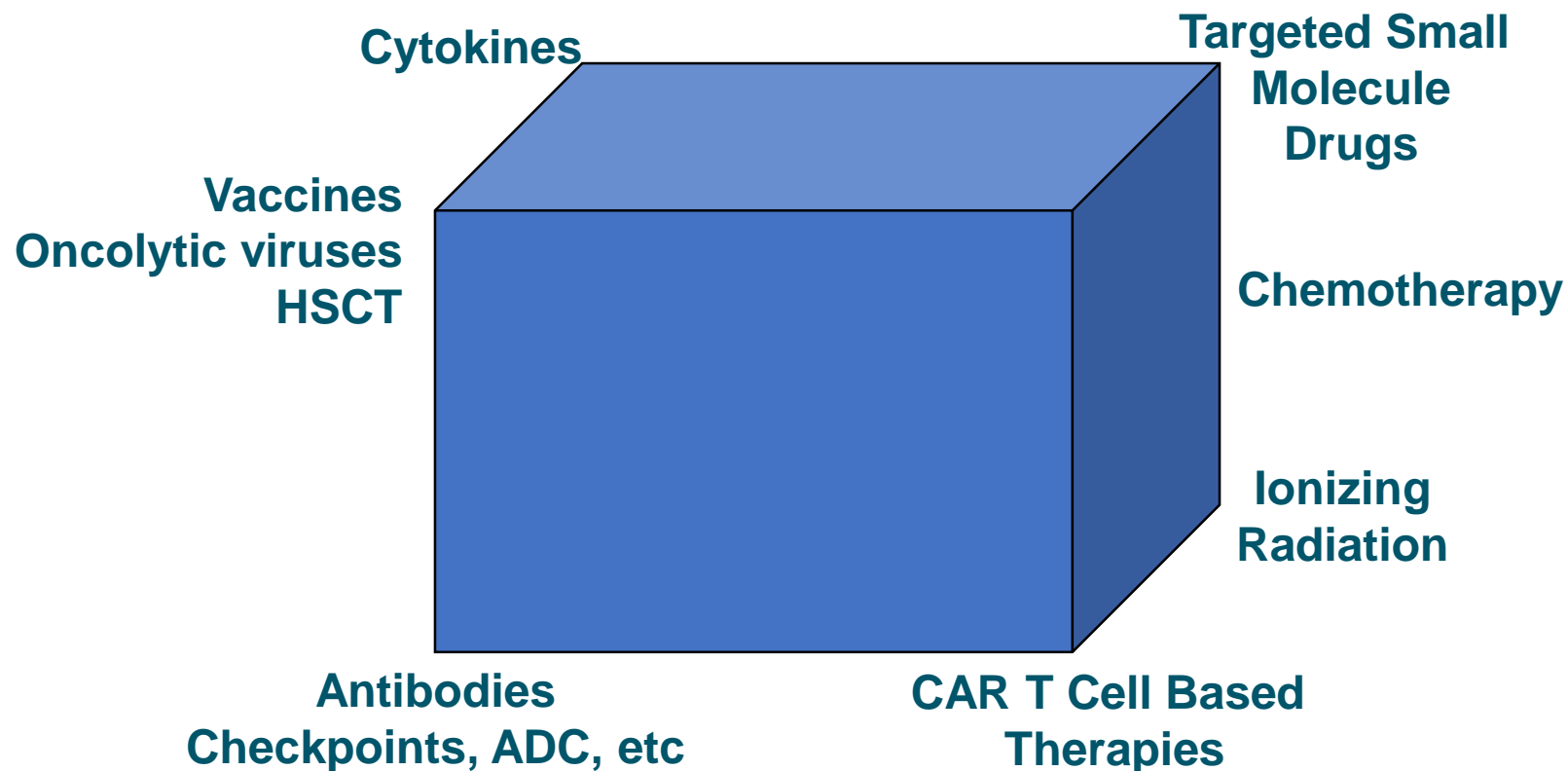
Cancer  
Immunology  
Research

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





# Combinatorial Cancer Immunotherapies: Many Possibilities







# Colleagues and Patients: Thank you!

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**Patients and Families**

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