



Analyst and Investor Day Meeting

NewLink Genetics Corporation

Nasdaq: NLNK  
October 25, 2016

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NASDAQ: NLNK

# Today's Agenda

## Science, Clinical Trials and Future Opportunities

### **IDO, GDC-0919 and Indoximod**

- Immuno-oncology is the future of cancer treatment
- IDO is an increasingly validated immuno-oncology target
- Two IDO pathway inhibitors – GDC-0919 and indoximod
- Two distinct mechanisms of action

### **Clinical Trials and Timelines**

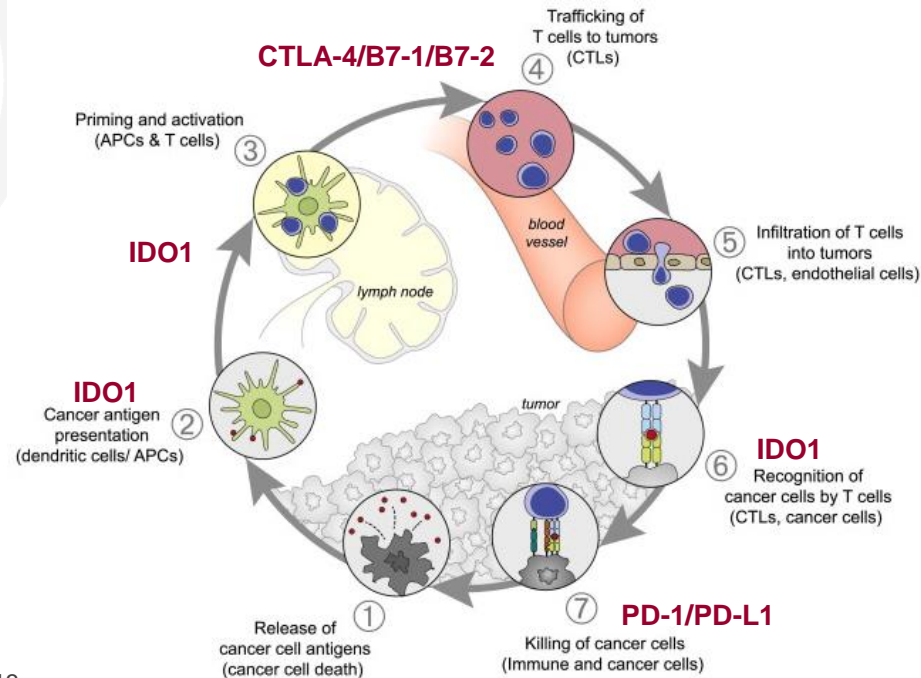
- GDC-0919 – NewLink partnership with Genentech/Roche, opportunity for milestones
- Indoximod – proprietary to NewLink, update on clinical progress

### **Future R&D and Financials**

- PTEN R&D
- In-licensing
- Financial update

# IDO is a Central Pathway in Tumor Immuno-Oncology

Applicable Across a Wide Range of Malignancies



From DS Chen, Ira Mellman: Immunity 2013

IDO overexpression is central to immune escape

## Today's Presenters – Distinguished Speakers



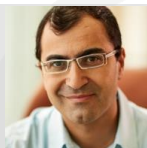
### IDO Combinations with Checkpoint Inhibitors

*George C. Prendergast, PhD, President & Chief Executive Officer, Lankenau Institute for Medical Research (LIMR), Editor-in-Chief, Cancer Research*



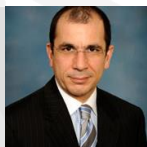
### Immunoregulatory Role of Tryptophan Metabolism

*David H. Munn, MD, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University*



### Understanding Current Melanoma Clinical Data

*Montaser Shaheen MD, Associate Professor, University of New Mexico Cancer Center*



### Indoximod in Treatment of Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)

*Ashkan Emadi, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, University of Maryland*

## Today's Presenters – NewLink Management Team



### Clinical Strategy and Key Collaborations

*Nicholas N. Vahanian, MD, Co-Founder, President, Chief Medical Officer*



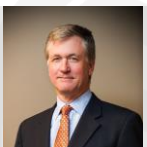
### Indoximod Clinical Development Update

*Eugene Kennedy, MD, FACS, Vice President, Clinical and Medical Affairs*



### Discovering New Immuno-Oncology Products

*Mario Mautino, PhD, Senior Vice President, Drug Discovery, Intellectual Property Officer*



### Financial Update

*John B. Henneman III, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer*



### Opening & Closing Remarks

*Charles J. Link, Jr., MD, Co-Founder, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer*

# NewLink Genetics

## Key Points for Today's Program

- Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO) pathway is central to immune escape
- IDO is an increasingly validated immuno-oncology target
- Two promising candidates that target the IDO pathway, with distinct mechanisms of action
  - GDC-0919, which targets the enzyme directly (partnered with Genentech)
  - Indoximod, which inhibits the effects of IDO by supplying a “tryptophan-sufficiency” signal
- Scientifically visionary, with “over-the-horizon” programs, such as PTEN
- Proven track record in both in- and out-licensing of products
- Strong balance sheet to execute our current clinical programs



## IDO Combinations with Checkpoint Inhibitors

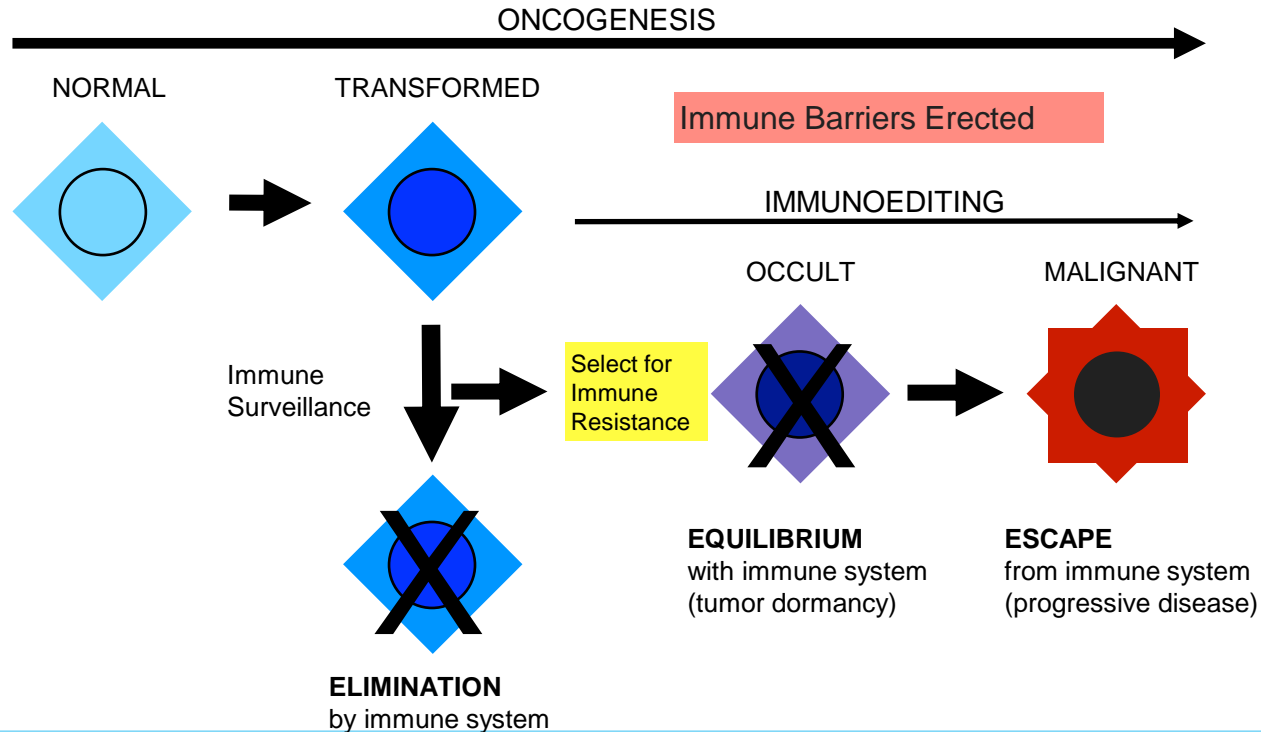
*George C. Prendergast, PhD, President & Chief Executive Officer, Lankenau Institute for Medical Research (LIMR), Editor-in-Chief, Cancer Research*



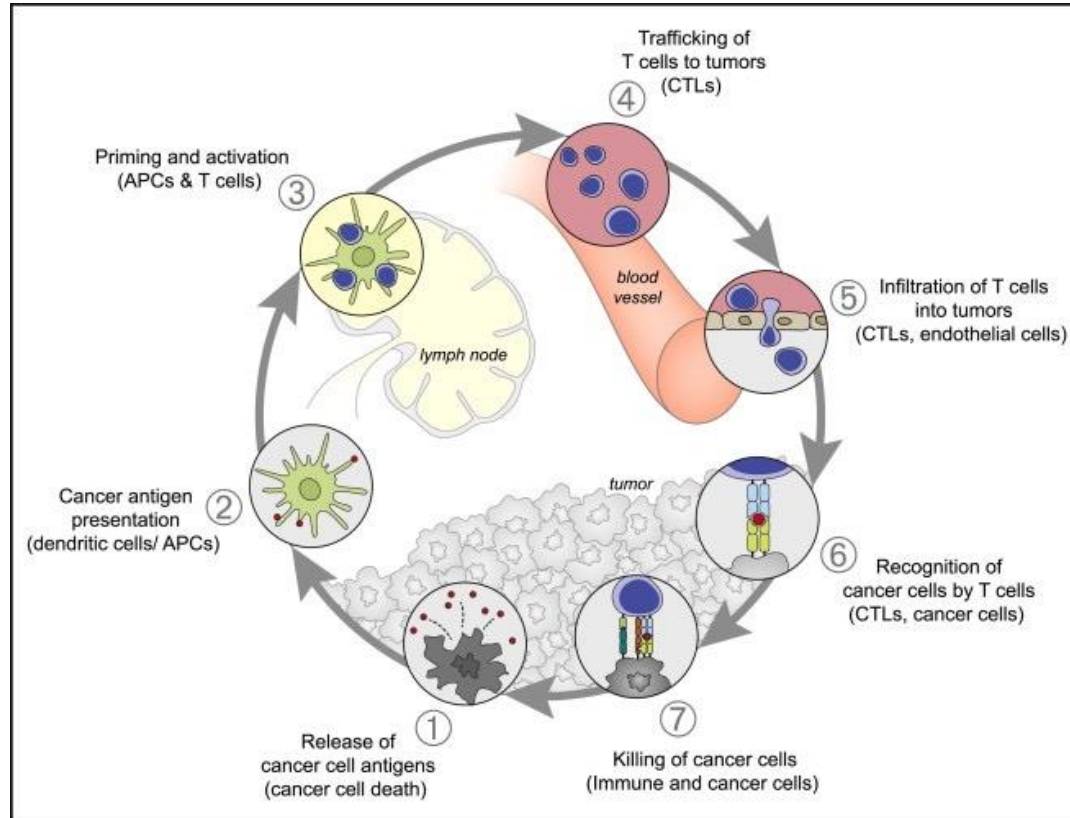


# Immuno-Oncology (I-O): Restoring Immune Defenses to Eradicate Cancer

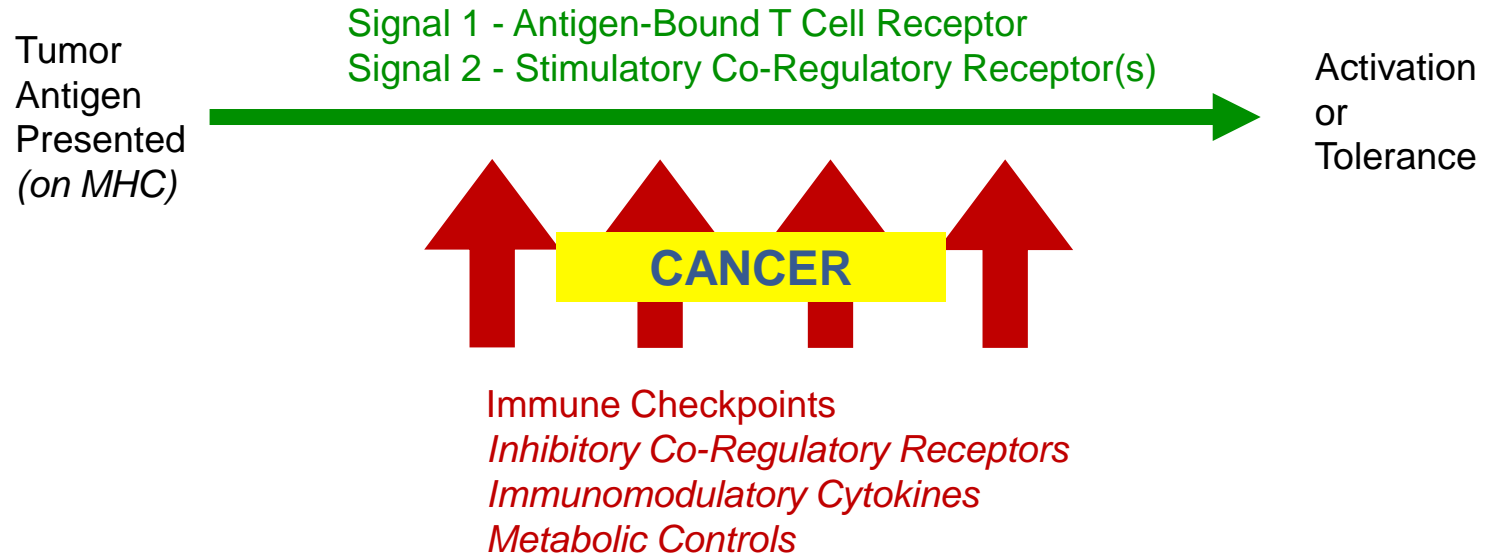
## Immunity & Oncogenesis: The Grand Battle of Cancer



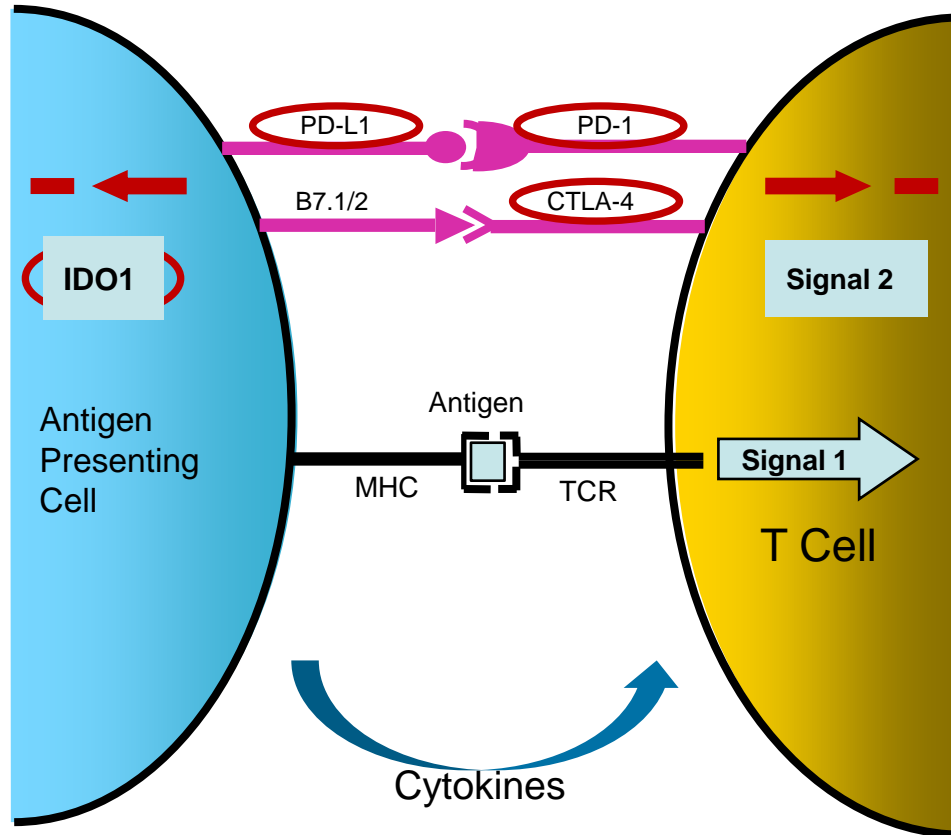
# Immuno-Oncology Landscape: Cycle of Skirmishes in the Battle



# T Cells in Immuno-Oncology: Restoring Function



# Key Immuno-Oncology Targets



# IDO Pathway Inhibitors in Clinical Trials

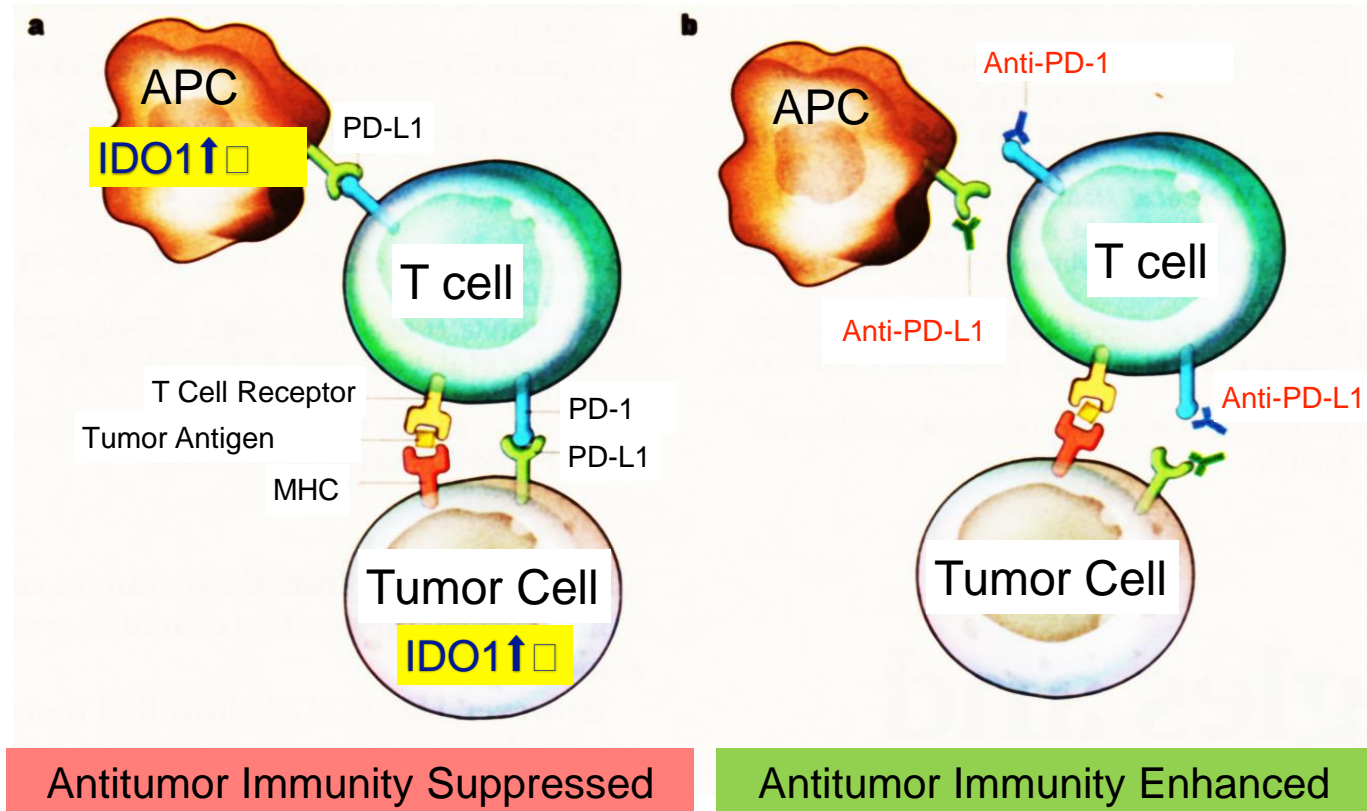
IDO Pathway Inhibitors	Clinical Trials
Indoximod	Phase II (multiple)
Epacadostat (INCB024360)	Phase II (multiple)
GDC-0919 (NLG-919)	Phase I/II (multiple)
BMS-986205	Phase I Entry
PF-06840003	Phase I Entry

# Where Does IDO Fit In?

## Broad Role Based Upon Action at Multiple Sites

Lymph Node	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adaptive Immune Cells<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <i>T Cell - Antigen Presenting Cell Interface</i></li></ul></li></ul>
Tumor Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cancer Cells</li><li>• Cancer Stem-Like Cells</li></ul>
Tumor & Metastasis Microenvironment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Innate Immune Cells<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <i>MDSC - Major Immune Suppressor</i></li><li>– <i>TAM - Inflamm Mediator</i></li></ul></li><li>• Connective Tissue Cells<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <i>MSC - Inflamm Mediator</i></li><li>– <i>CAF - Invasion-Inflamm Mediator</i></li></ul></li></ul>

# IDO Blockade Acts at Two Sites to Leverage PD-1 Disruption



# IDO Pathway Inhibitor Combinations: Checkpoint Therapy

## Checkpoint Responses in Tumor Types

### Checkpoint virgin territory

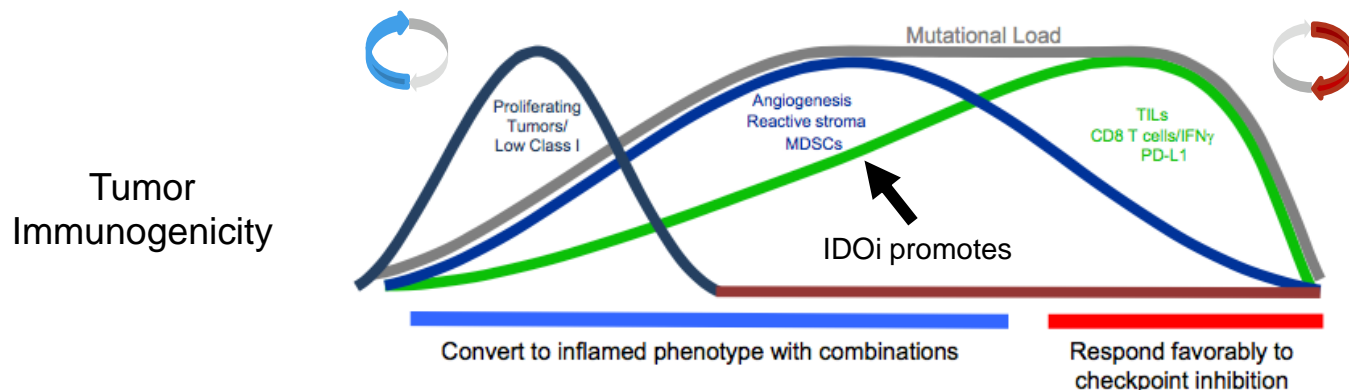
- Non-MMR deficient colorectal (<5%)
- Pancreatic
- P53/KRAS mut tumors
- Others

### Checkpoint weak response

- NSCLC (~15-20%)
- SCLC (~15-25%)
- RCC (~15-30%)
- Squamous H&N (~20%)
- HCC (~20%)
- TNBC (~20%)
- Ovarian (~10-15%)

### Checkpoint favorable

- Hodgkin lymphoma (~65-85%)
- PD-L1 high urothelial (~45%)
- MMR deficient colorectal (~40%)
- Melanoma (~30%)
- B/T-cell NHL (~30%)





# IDO Pathway Inhibitor Combinations: Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy That  
Cooperates with IDO Blockade

Tumor Immunogenicity

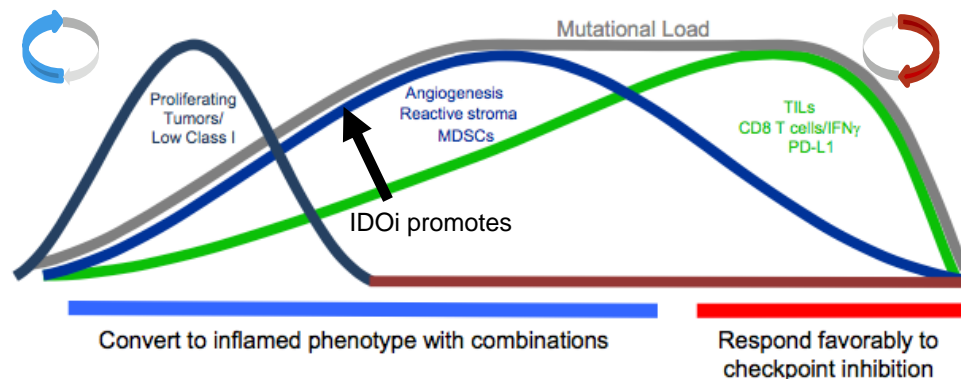
Leveraging Chemotherapy-  
Induced Inflammation

Immunogenic Drug Classes

Platins

Anthracyclines

Taxanes



Non-Inflammatory

- Chemotherapy puts inflammation "On Board"

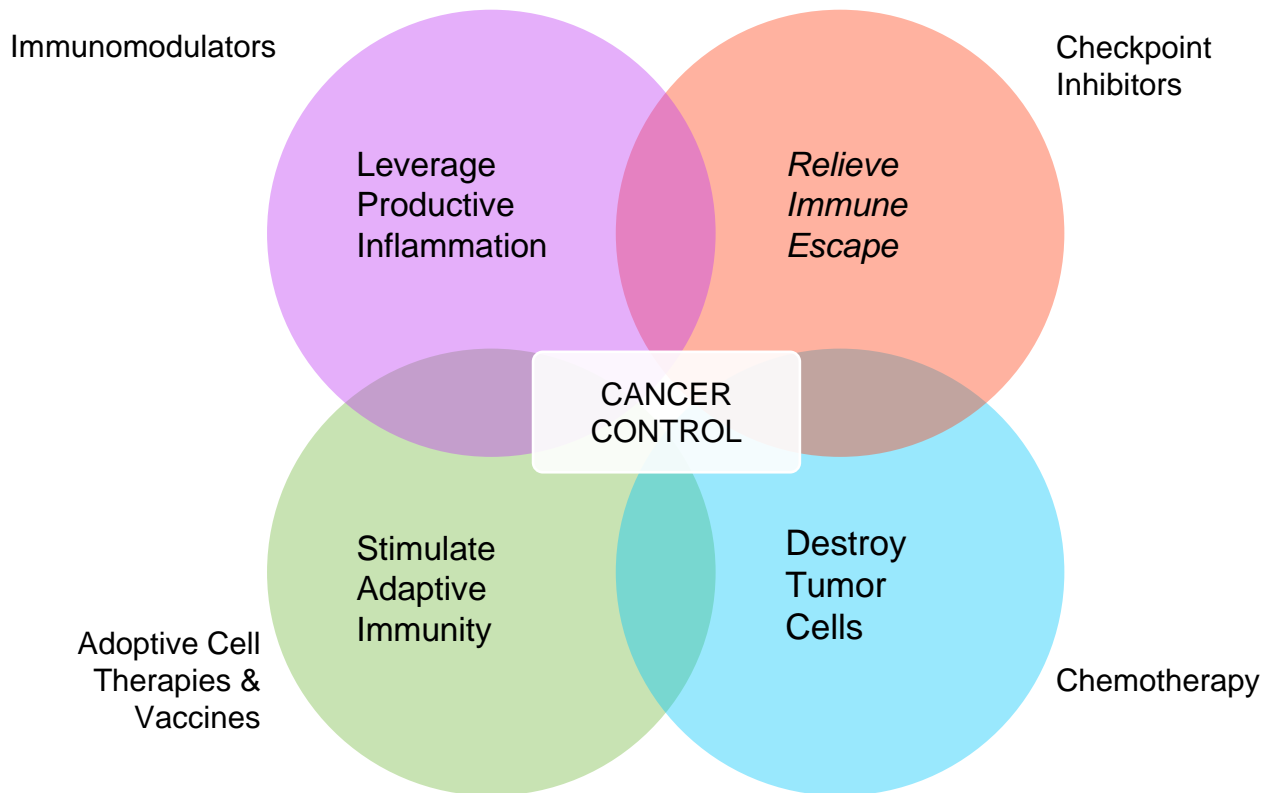
Weak/Non-Productive Inflamm.

- Chemotherapy increases / converts inflammatory phenotype

T Cell Inflamed

- Chemotherapy converts inflammatory phenotype

# IDO Blockade to Leverage Checkpoint Therapy & Chemotherapy





## Immunoregulatory Role of Tryptophan Metabolism

*David H. Munn, MD, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University*



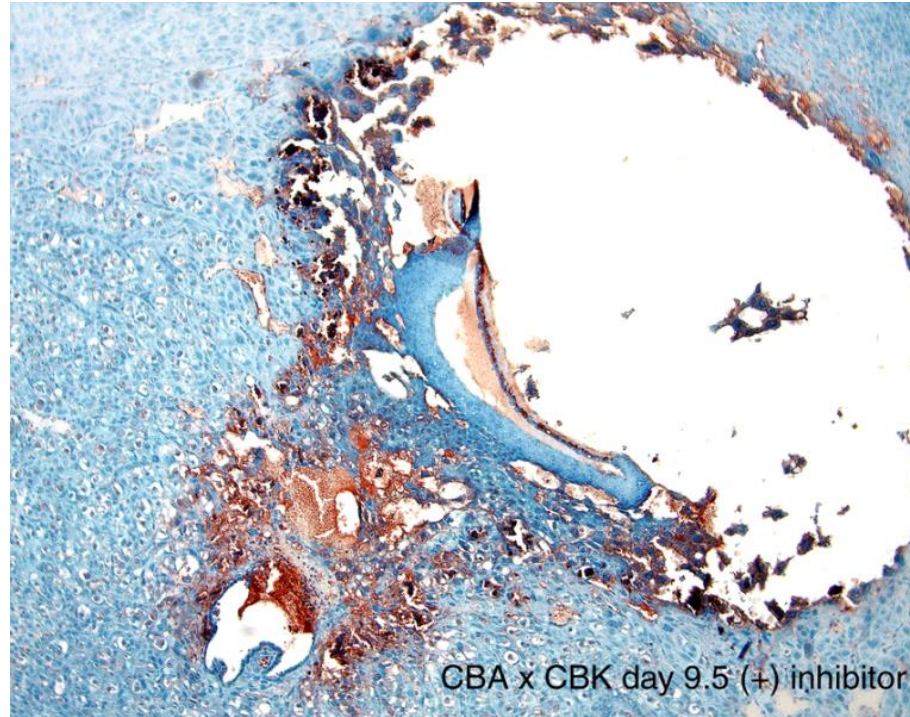
# IDO Pathway: Immunoregulatory Role of Tryptophan Metabolism & Indoximod Mechanism of Action



Georgia Cancer Center



# IDO Is a Natural Molecular Mechanism of Immune Suppression and Tolerance



IDO-inhibitor drugs: mechanism of action

# IDO Pathway

## A Key Checkpoint in the Immune System

- **Regulates innate and adaptive immune response**

- Part of the natural mechanism of immune tolerance to dying cells
- Inhibits effector T cells, activates suppressive Tregs
- Is also counter-regulatory (induced by inflammation)

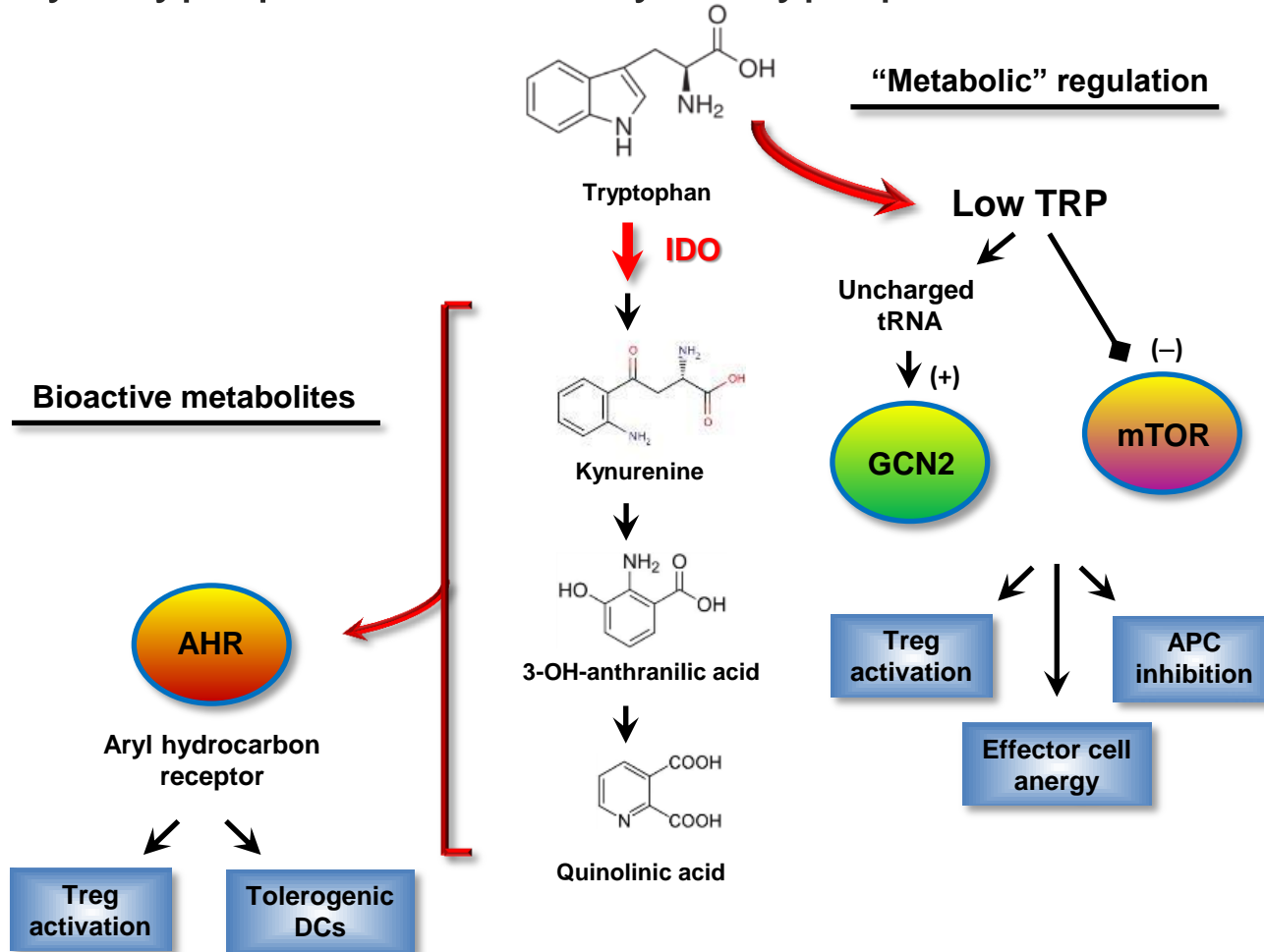
- **Dominant suppressive role**

- Maternal tolerance; prevents autoimmune disorders; creates transplant tolerance
- Tumor induced immunosuppression

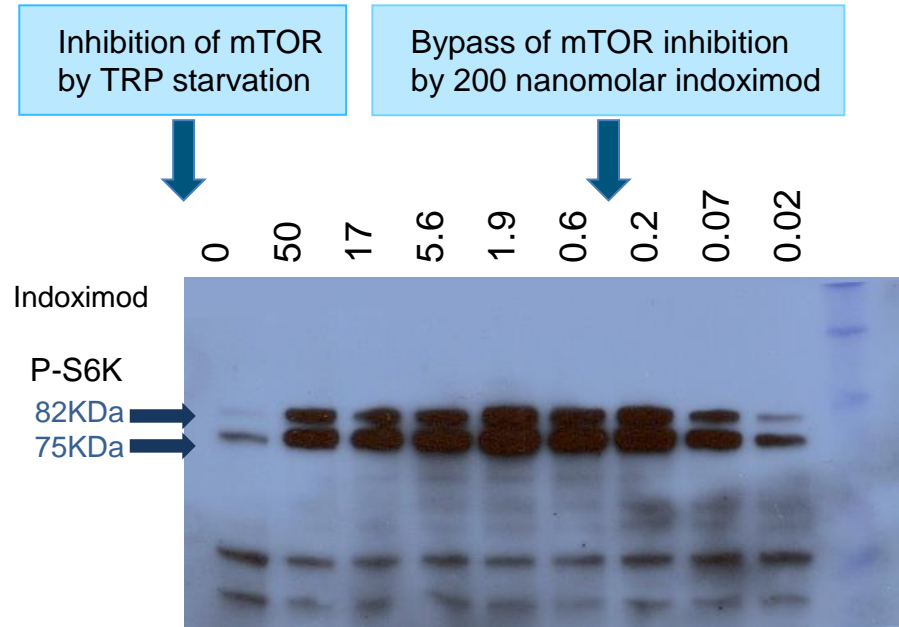
- **Overexpressed in cancer**

- Can be expressed by tumor cells – to suppress effector T cells in the tumor
- Can be expressed by host antigen presenting cells – to create systemic acquired peripheral tolerance to tumor associated antigens (TAAs)

# IDO Pathway: Tryptophan Sufficiency & Tryptophan Metabolism



# Indoximod Can Directly Bypass mTOR Block Induced by Low Tryptophan



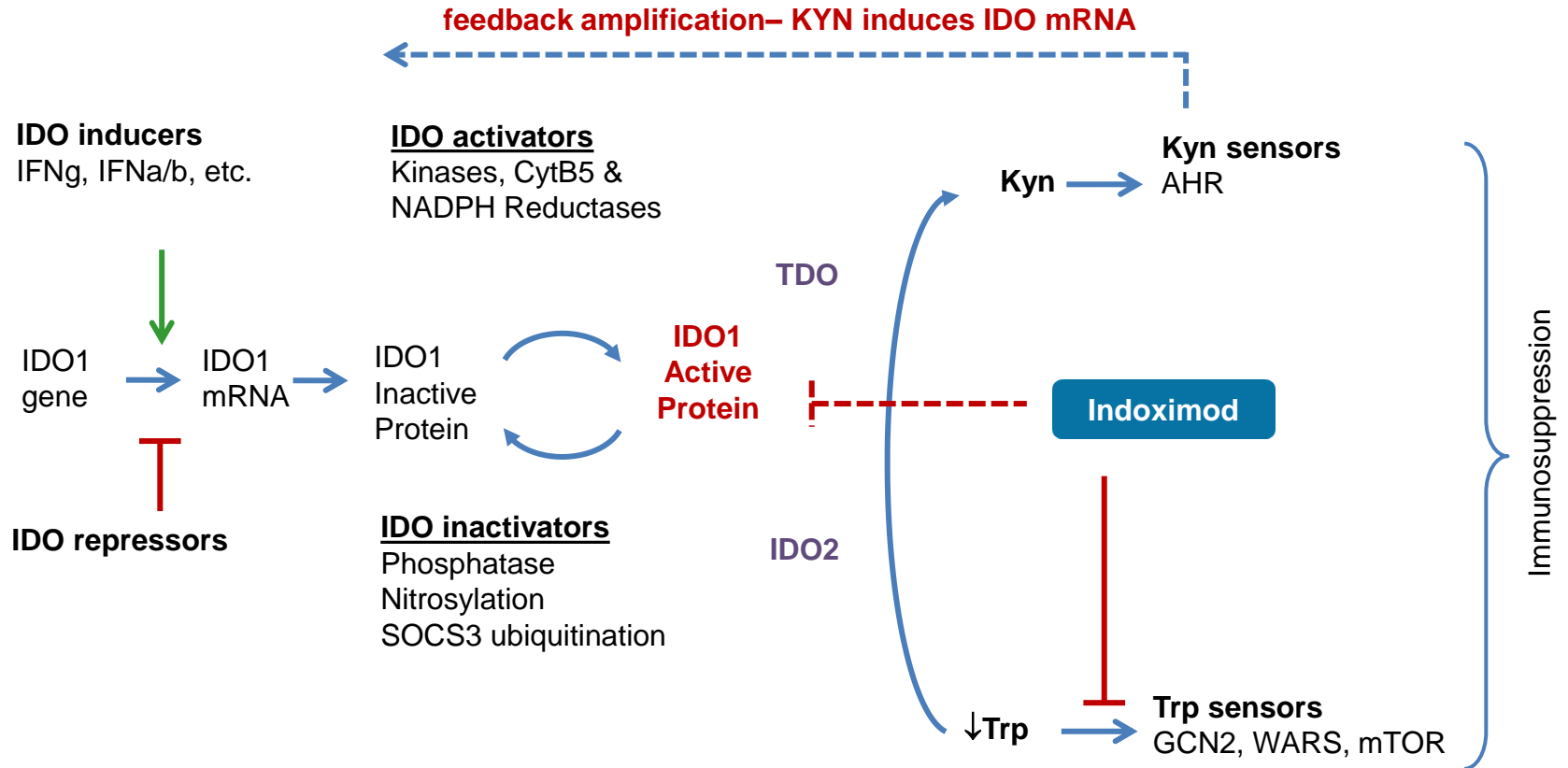
Cells were Starved of Tryptophan for 18 hours and then stimulated for 2 hours with Varying amounts of Indoximod

From Metz et al, Oncoimmunology (2012)

Indoximod Bypasses Tryptophan Insufficiency Signal



# IDO Pathway & Immunosuppression

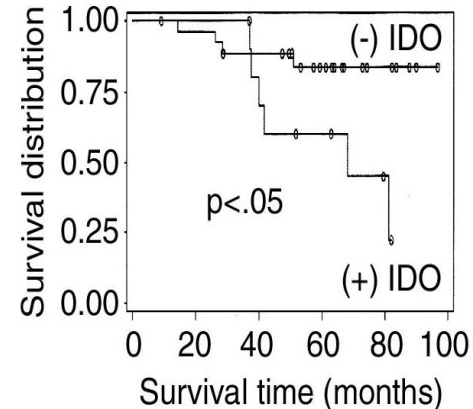
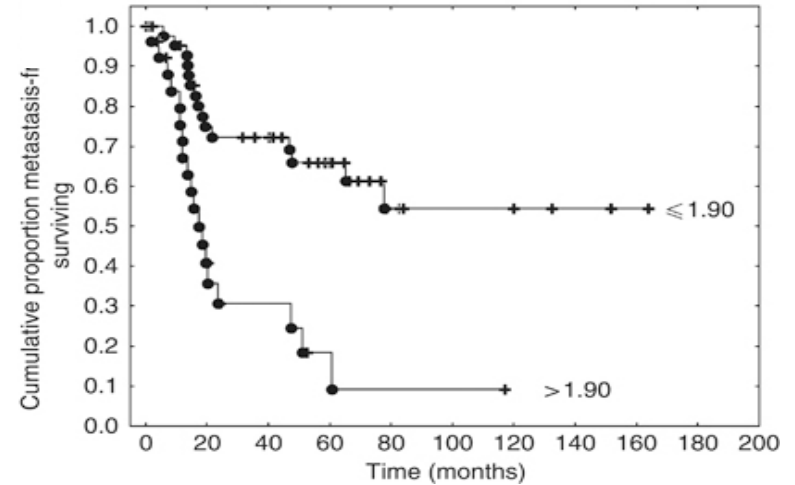


# IDO Over-Expressed by Many Cancers

## Correlates with Poor Prognosis

- Prostate Cancer<sup>1</sup>
- Osteocarcinoma<sup>2</sup>
- Ovarian Cancer<sup>3</sup>
- Lung Cancer<sup>4</sup>
- Melanoma<sup>5</sup>
- Cervical Cancer<sup>6</sup>
- Endometrial Cancer<sup>7</sup>
- Colorectal Cancer<sup>8</sup>
- AML<sup>9</sup>

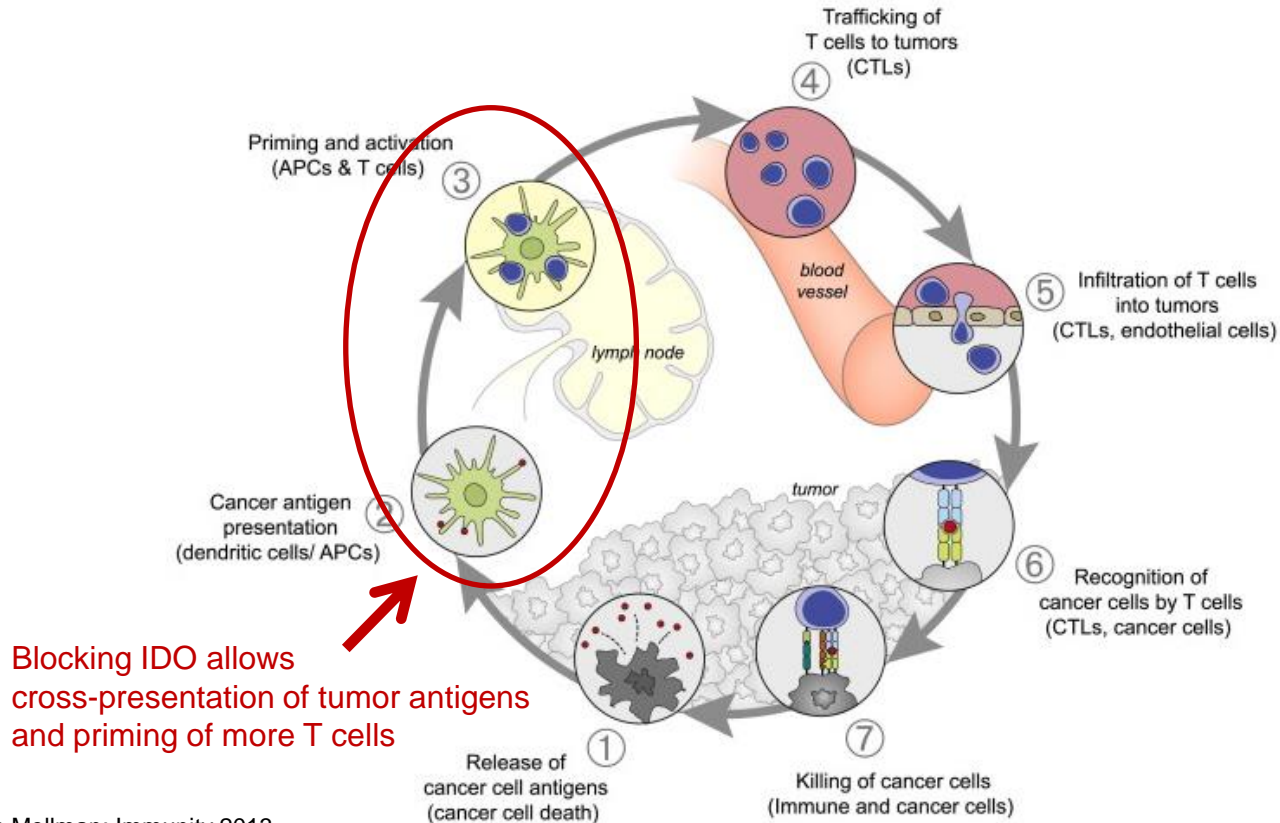
1. *Eur. J. Cancer*, 2008, (44): 2266-75; 2. *Clin Exp Metastasis* (2009) 26 :1005-12; 3. *Gyn Oncol.*, 2009, (115): 185-92; *Clin Cancer Res*, 2005, (11): 6030-39; 4. *Lung Cancer*, 2010, (67): 361-65. 5; *J. Clin. Invest.*(2004) 114:280.; 6. *Gyn. Oncol*, 2010, (117): 423-28; 7. *British J. Cancer*, 2006, (95): 1555-61; 8. *Clin Cancer Res*, 2006, (12): 1144-51; 9. *Leukemia Res*, 2009, (33): 490-94.



# Considerations of IDO Expression as a Biomarker

1. Lack of validated antibodies for *in vitro* diagnostic use
2. IDO can be expressed in either tumor or host (e.g., the relevant site may be the draining lymph node)
3. A small number of host cells may have a powerful systemic effect
4. IDO can be induced by therapy

# Blocking IDO Allows Cross-Presentation of Tumor Antigens

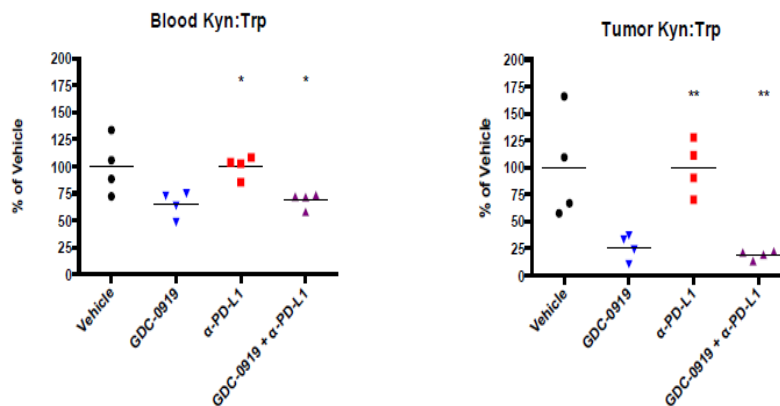


# IDO-Inhibitors Are Inherently Team Players

1. IDO-inhibitors are optimal in combination – you have to kill some tumor cells to start the amplification cycle, e.g., combination with:
  - Chemotherapy/radiation
  - Immunotherapy (e.g., pembrolizumab)
  - Checkpoint blockade (if patients have pre-activated T cells)
  - Adoptive T cell therapy (CARs, etc)
2. Blocking IDO helps change the **tumor microenvironment** so that tumor antigens are now presented in an immunogenic fashion

# Combination of GDC-0919 and Anti-PDL1 Ab Improved Anti-tumor Immunity and Efficacy

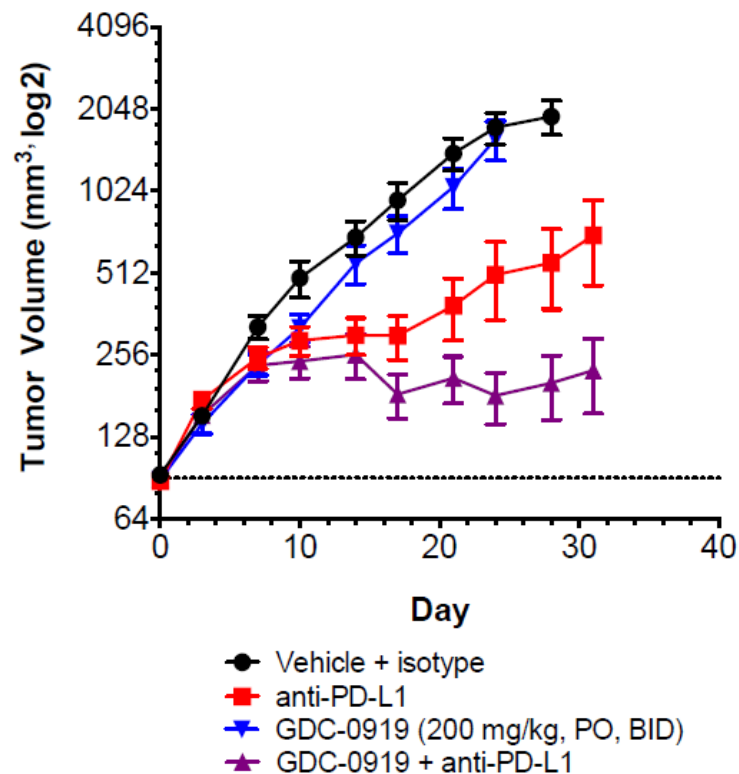
## **GDC-0919 alters tumor microenvironment favorably**



### **GDC-0919 decreases blood and tumor kynurenine levels in the EMT6 model.**

Balb/c mice were injected with EMT6 cells followed by treatment with α-PD-L1 alone (10 mg/kg, 2x/week), GDC-0919 alone (200 mg/kg twice daily), or a combination of the two. At 2 hrs post-last-dose, blood and tumors were assessed for kyn/trp.

# Improved Depth and Duration of Tumor Growth Inhibition with GDC-0919 and anti-PDL1 Ab



# Two Basic Approaches to Immunotherapy

## Not Mutually Exclusive

1. Take the brakes off the **T cells**
  - Conventional checkpoint blockade
    - PD-1 and CTLA-4 are expressed on activated **T cells**
  - Activate T cells in vitro and transfer them
2. Change the **tumor microenvironment** so that endogenous tumor antigens are presented in an immunogenic fashion
  - Immunogenic chemotherapy and radiation
  - Inhibit the IDO pathway
  - Block the activated Tregs (e.g., PTEN-inhibitors)





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# Q & A

## IDO Science

- Charles J. Link, Jr., MD
- George C. Prendergast, PhD
- David H. Munn, MD





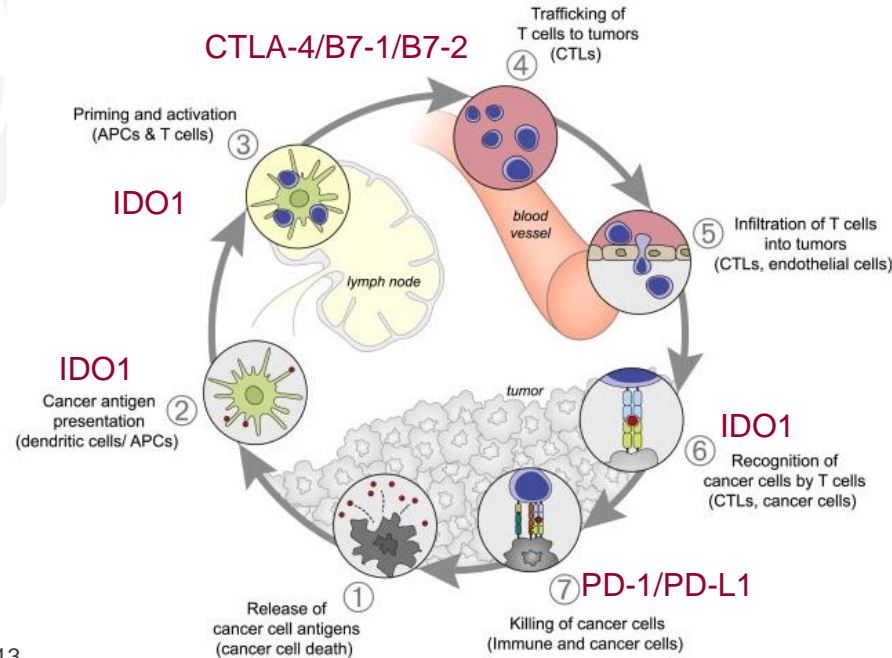
## Clinical Strategy and Key Collaborations

*Nicholas N. Vahanian, MD, Co-Founder, President, Chief Medical Officer*



# IDO is a Central Pathway in Tumor Immuno-Oncology

Applicable Across a Wide Range of Malignancies



From DS Chen, Ira Mellman: Immunity 2013

IDO, PD-1/PD-L1 and CTLA-4 are all validated pathways

# IDO Pathway Plays Key Role in Immune Regulation

## Current IDO Landscape

- Three IDO pathway inhibitors with early clinical data
  - GDC-0919 (NewLink in partnership with Genentech/Roche)
  - Indoximod (NewLink)
  - Epacadostat (Incyte)
- GDC-0919 is currently Phase 1b studies
- Indoximod is in multiple Phase 2 studies
- Epacadostat has advanced as far as Phase 3 in melanoma
  - Positive melanoma update at ESMO
  - Encouraging clinical activity in other indications
- Continued increase in investment by multiple groups in IDO science
  - In-licensing/acquisition of pre-clinical assets

NewLink has two of the three most advanced IDO pathway inhibitors

# NewLink Clinical Programs Targeting IDO Pathway

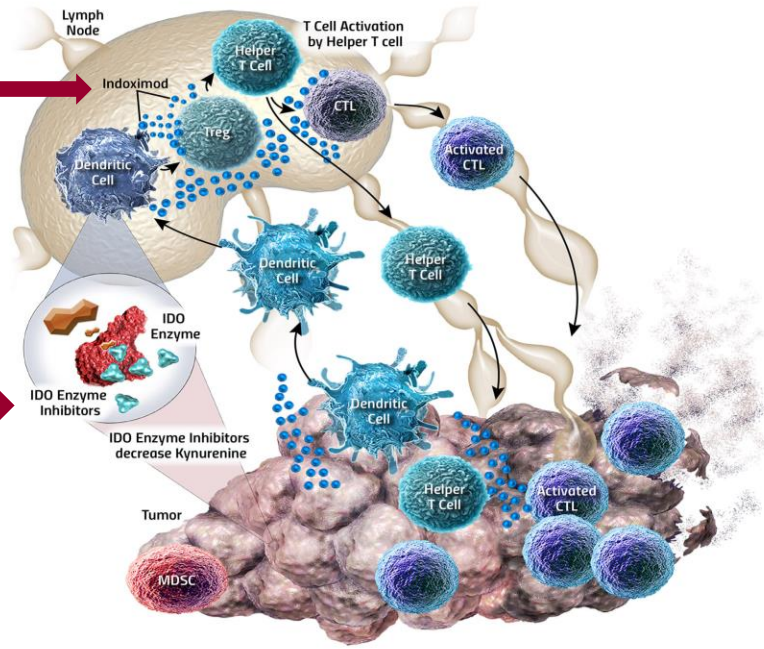
## Two Small Molecules with Distinct Mechanisms of Action

### Indoximod

Interferes with  
IDO mediated  
TRP signaling

### GDC-0919

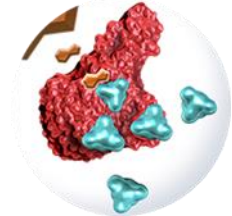
Direct inhibitor  
of IDO enzyme



Potential for combination of GDC-0919 and indoximod

# GDC-0919 is a Potent and Selective IDO Inhibitor

Roche Presentation at Cowen Healthcare Conference, March 9, 2016

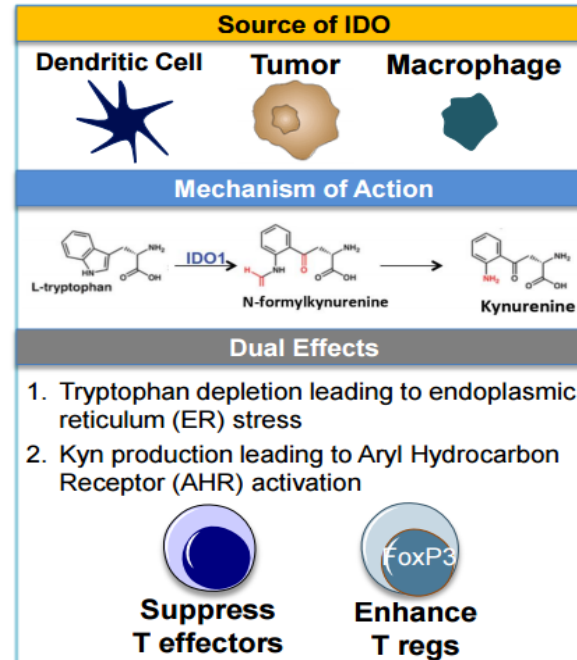


## IDO1:

- IDO1 activity contributes to maternal-fetal tolerance and tumor immune escape
- Expression correlates with poor patient survival across a range of tumors
- **MOA:** Catabolizes Tryptophan to Kynurenine, suppresses effector T cells and enhances Tregs function

## IDO1 Inhibitor GDC0919 (NLG919):

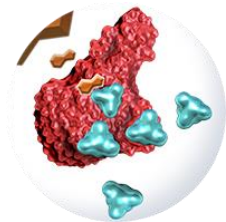
- Oral small molecule inhibitor of IDO1
- Being tested in Ph1b in combination with **atezolizumab**



# NewLink Genetics and Genentech/Roche Partnership

## IDO and TDO Pathway Inhibitors

- Exclusive worldwide license agreement
- \$150M upfront payment; >\$1B in potential milestones
- Clinical collaboration for GDC-0919
- Joint research collaboration for IDO and TDO pathway inhibitors
- Escalating double-digit royalties on net sales
- NewLink retains U.S. co-promote option, with royalty escalation
- NewLink retains exclusive rights to indoximod

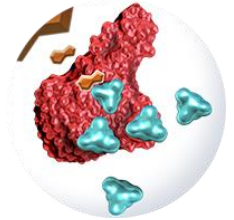




# NewLink Genetics and Genentech/Roche Partnership

## GDC-0919 Clinical Development Overview

- Joint Development Committee for clinical development activities
- Phase 1 single agent of GDC-0919
  - Dose escalation in solid tumors
  - Target enrollment of 36 patients
- Phase 1b combination of GDC-0919 (IDO) and atezolizumab (PD-L1)
  - Initiated Q3 2015
  - Dose escalation and expansion study in solid tumors
  - Target enrollment of 276 patients
- Plans to combine with additional immuno-oncology agents (i.e. OX 40)

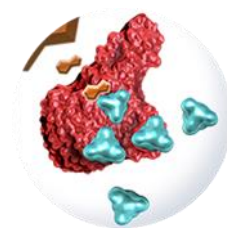


Leading oncology partner, future opportunities

## GDC-0919 Phase 1a Results

### Safety in Patients with Recurrent/Advanced Solid Tumors

- Well tolerated up to 800mg BID, MTD not reached
- Best response was limited to stable disease (SD) in 7 out of 17 patients
- No AEs requiring withdrawal of study drug were reported
- Grade  $\geq 3$  AEs regardless of attribution were reported in 11 (58%) of patients
- Grade  $\geq 3$  AE drug related in 1 patient with Grade 4 lower GI hemorrhage
- Grade 4 lower GI hemorrhage, only SAE possibly related to study drug

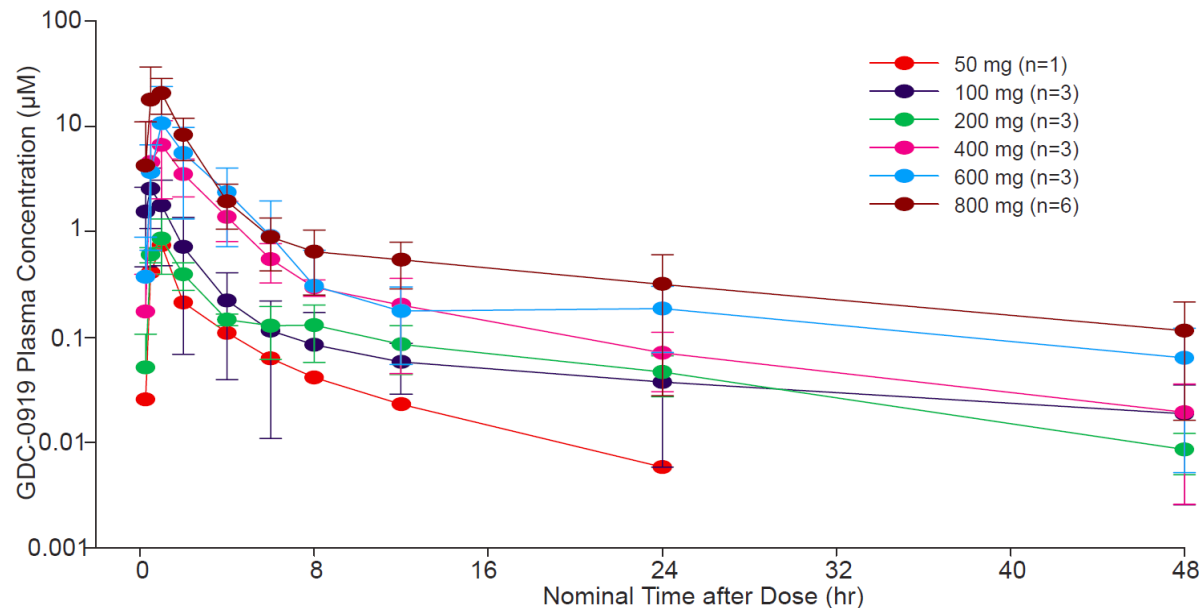
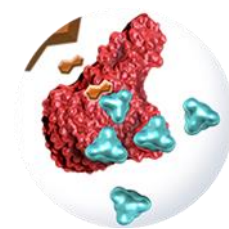


Nayak, A, et al, European Cancer Congress, September 2015, Abstract 346

GDC-0919 is generally well tolerated; a good candidate for potential combinations

# GDC-0919 Pharmacokinetic Results

Linear and Dose Proportional, Rapidly Absorbed

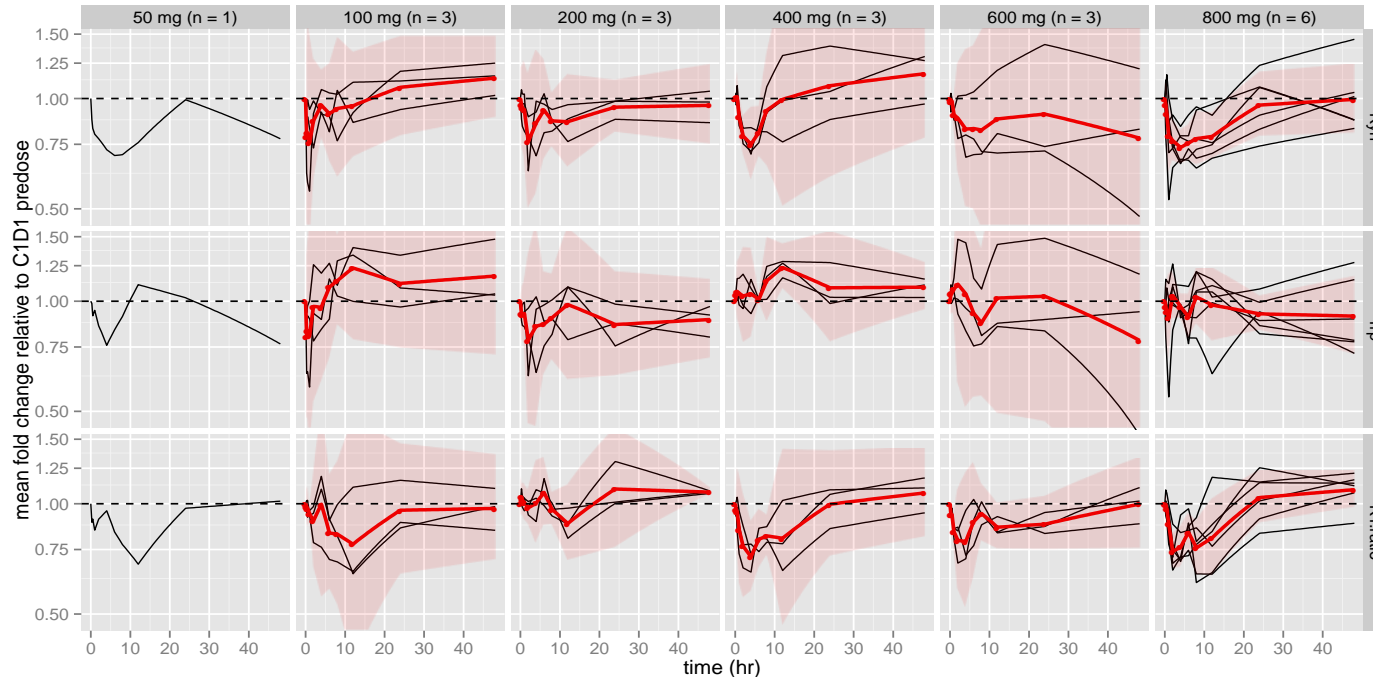


Nayak, A, et al, European Cancer Congress, September 2015, Abstract 346

~12 hour half-life supports BID dosing

# GDC-0919 Pharmacodynamic Results

## Significant Decrease in Plasma Kynurenine (Kyn) at Higher Dose Levels

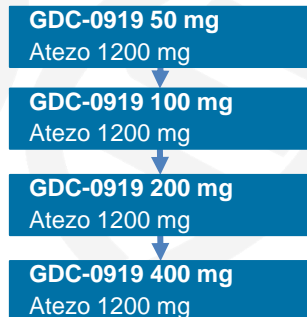


black line: individual patients; red line: cohort mean red ribbon = 95% CI

# GDC-0919 Clinical Development

## Phase 1b Trial Design

### Dose Escalation



Expansion cohorts at or below MTD/MAD

- Advanced solid tumors
- Combination treatment
- 3+3 escalation design
- DLT window: 21 days
- Mandatory archival tissue

### Disease Specific Expansion Cohorts

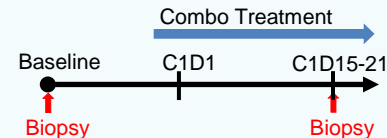
**NSCLC**

**Renal**

**Bladder**

**Triple Neg Breast**

- Selection by PD-L1 IHC:
- Optional tumor biopsies



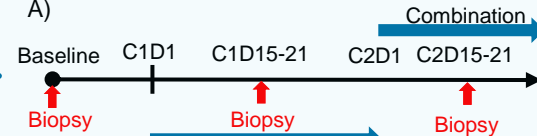
### Biopsy Expansion Cohorts

**SCCHN**

**Melanoma**

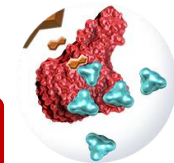
**Gastric**

- Mandatory serial biopsies
- Selection by PD-L1 IHC and/or IDO1 (cohort A)



Single Agent

Cohort A: GDC-0919 run-in  
Cohort B: MPDL3280A run-in



Trial NCT02471846

Estimated enrollment up to 276 patients in multiple indications

## GDC-0919 Summary

### Promising Early Results with Combination Trial Underway

- Well tolerated up to 800 mg BID as a single agent on a 21/28 day cycle
- No immune-related AEs evident
- Higher doses decrease plasma Kyn consistent with half-life
- Evaluating safety, PK, activity, and pharmacodynamics at a continuous dosing schedule (BID 28/28 days) to enable greater flexibility in future dosing regimens
- Phase 1b combination with atezolizumab (PD-L1 inhibitor) currently underway
- Phase 1 combination with OX40 (MOXR0196) currently planned

# IDO Pathway Inhibitor Clinical Development

AGENT	INDICATION	DESIGN	STATUS
<b>Indoximod</b>	Melanoma (advanced)	Indoximod + ipilimumab or anti-PD-1 Ab	Phase 2 Enrolling
	Pancreatic cancer (metastatic)	Indoximod + gemcitabine and nab-paclitaxel	Phase 2 Enrolled
	Glioblastoma multiforme	Indoximod + temozolomide	Phase 2 Enrolling
	Breast cancer (metastatic)	Indoximod + taxane	Phase 2 Enrolled
	Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)	Indoximod + Standard Frontline Chemotherapy	Phase 1b Enrolling
	Advanced NSCLC	Indoximod + tergenpumatucl-L + chemotherapy	Phase 1b Enrolling
<b>GDC-0919*</b>	Solid tumors	GDC-0919	Phase 1 Enrolling
	Solid tumors	GDC-0919 + atezolizumab	Phase 1b Enrolling
	Solid tumors	GDC-0919 + anti-OX40	Planned

\*Partnered with Genentech/Roche

# Indoximod Strategy

Optimize Formulation, Enhance Commercial Opportunity and Extend Lifecycle

Current State	Next 6-12 Months	2018 and Beyond
<b>IDO target increasingly validated with early clinical data*</b>	<b>Emerging IDO data may provide additional validation</b>	<b>IDO combination data may support multiple indications</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clinical results support preclinical combination data</li> <li>▪ Promising data in melanoma, brain and pancreatic cancers</li> <li>▪ Distinct mechanism of action</li> <li>▪ Potential for IP extension</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Updated clinical data for indoximod in melanoma, brain and pancreas cancers</li> <li>▪ Formulation improvements to optimize clinical and commercial potential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for large scale indoximod trials</li> <li>▪ Commercial formulation established</li> <li>▪ Potential for regulatory exclusivity</li> </ul>

\*Includes indoximod, epacadostat and GDC-0919





## Understanding Current Melanoma Clinical Data

*Montaser Shaheen, MD, Associate Professor, University of New Mexico Cancer Center*



# Melanoma Facts

- Fifth most common cancer in men and the seventh in women in U.S.
- Estimated 2016 U.S. incidence of 76,380
- Estimated 2016 U.S. mortality of 10,130
- Incidence is increasing (1.9% annually 2000-2009)
- 1 in 50 persons diagnosed with melanoma of the skin during their lifetime

# FDA Approved Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors for Metastatic Melanoma

- **Ipilimumab** (anti-CTLA-4)
  - Shown to improve OS when administered as monotherapy compared to a peptide vaccine<sup>1</sup>
- **Nivolumab** (anti-PD1)
  - Shown to improve OS vs dacarbazine in patients with BRAF wild-type, previously untreated advanced melanoma<sup>2</sup>
- **Pembrolizumab** (anti-PD1)
  - Shown to improve OS vs ipilimumab in previously untreated patients<sup>3</sup> and vs chemotherapy in patients who previously received ipilimumab<sup>4</sup>
- **Combination of IPI and Nivolumab**
  - Shown to improve ORR, PFS, and OS vs ipilimumab<sup>5,6</sup>

1. Hodi et al. *NEJM* 2010;363:711-723; 2. Robert et al. *NEJM* 2015;372:320-330, 3. Robert C, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2015; 372:320-330 4. Ribas *Lancet Oncol.* 2015 Aug;16(8):908-18. 5. Larkin J, et al *N Engl J Med.* 2015 Jul 2;373(1):23-34 6. Hodi et al *Lancet Oncol.* 2016 Sep 9. pii: S1470-2045(16)30366

# OVERALL Response Rate (ORR) to Currently Approved Frontline Melanoma Immunotherapies

- Ipilimumab renders an ORR of 10.9%<sup>1</sup>-19%<sup>2</sup>
- Nivolumab ORR 40%<sup>2</sup>-43%<sup>3</sup>
- Pembrolizumab ORR 32.9%<sup>4</sup>
- Ipilimumab and nivolumab combination ORR 57.6%<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hodi FS, et al. N Engl J Med 2010; 363:711-723

<sup>2</sup>Robert C, et al. N Engl J Med 2015; 372:2521-2532

<sup>3</sup>Larkin J, et al. N Engl J Med 2015;373(1):23-34

<sup>4</sup>Robert C, et al. N Engl J Med 2015; 372:320-330

# Selected Adverse Events Associated with Combination Immunotherapy in Melanoma

	Nivolumab	Nivolumab + Ipilimumab
	<u>All Grades (Grade 3/4)</u>	<u>All Grades (Grade 3/4)</u>
Diarrhea	19.2% (2.2%)	44.1% (9.3%)
Rash	25.9% (0.6%)	40.1% (4.8%)
Pneumonitis	2%	6%
Hepatitis	3.8% (1.3%)	17.6% (8.1%)
Hypophysitis	<1%	>10%

Larkin J, et al. N Engl J Med. 2015;373(1):23-34  
Hodi, FS, et al. Lancet Oncol 2016; S1470-2045(16)30366

# Rationale for Combining an IDO Pathway Inhibitor with Anti-PD-1 Antibody

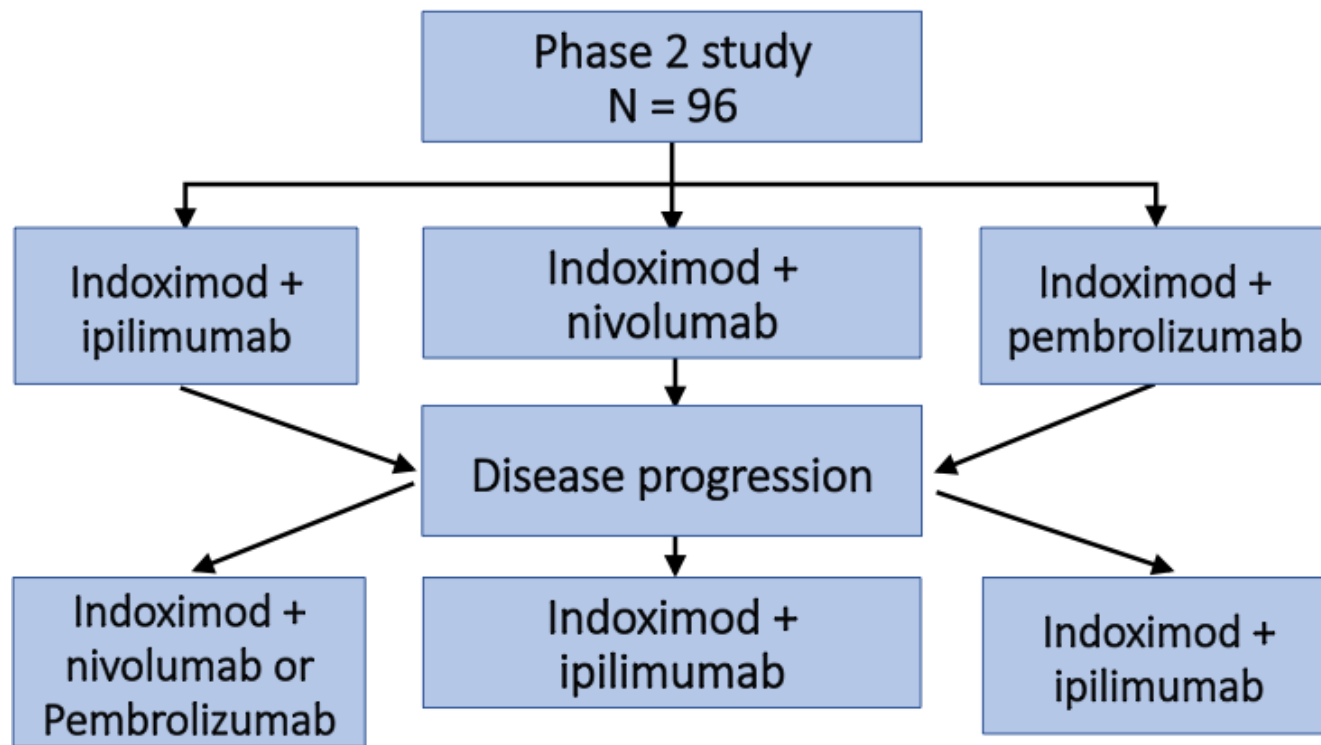
- An effective immunotherapy combination that can rival anti-PD-1 (nivolumab) plus anti-CTLA-4 (ipilimumab) antibody combination in terms of efficacy with a lower toxicity profile to be adapted in a community oncology setting is clearly needed in the frontline setting for metastatic melanoma management
- Anti-PD-1 antibody (pembrolizumab) was shown to be more effective and less toxic than ipilimumab in the frontline setting

# Indoximod Plus Ipilimumab

## Phase 1b Clinical Trial Results

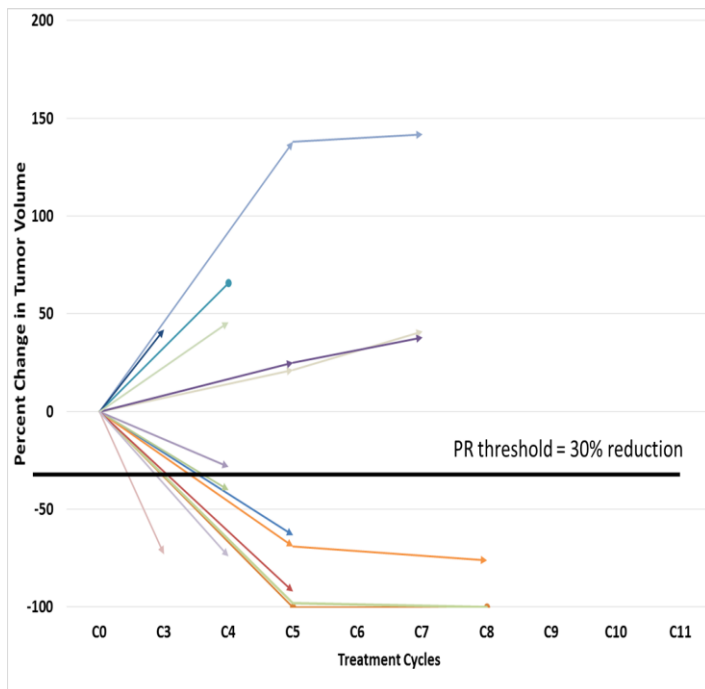
- Patients with untreated metastatic melanoma in standard 3+3 design
- Indoximod (twice daily orally) was dose escalated in combination with ipilimumab (standard dosing) in four 21-day cycles; treatment with indoximod continued beyond treatment with ipilimumab in 28-day cycles until toxicity or disease progression.
- Indoximod and ipilimumab well tolerated without potentiation of immune-mediated adverse events and with no dose-limiting toxicities (DLT).
- Nine patients treated in Phase 1
- 1 complete response by RECIST criteria at 13 months.
- Most common (observed in 33% of patients) AEs, regardless of attribution, were fatigue (7 patients, 78%), pruritus (6 patients, 67%), diarrhea and rash (4 patients each, 44%), and abdominal pain and headache (3 patients each, 33%).

## NLG-2103: Open-label Phase 2 combination of indoximod plus checkpoint inhibitors for the treatment of unresectable stage 3 or stage 4 melanoma





# Responses with Indoximod and Pembrolizumab



- 15 patients in Phase 2 that received pembrolizumab in combination with indoximod as initial therapy
- Response per site reported imaging
- Response rate is 53% (8/15) with two CRs
- Data only available at this time on one patient who received nivolumab

# Pembrolizumab Combination with An IDO Pathway Inhibitor

- NLG-2103 (indoximod plus pembrolizumab)
  - Patients with advanced melanoma
  - 15 patients in Phase 2, site reported imaging
  - Overall Response Rate (ORR) is 53% (8/15)
- ECHO-202/KEYNOTE-037 (epacadostat plus pembrolizumab)
  - Patients with advanced melanoma and select solid tumors
  - 19 treatment naïve melanoma patients in Phase 2
  - Melanoma ORR 58% (11/19)

Zakharia Y, et al. ASCO 2016, Abstract 3075

Gangadhar TC, et al. ESMO 2016, Abstract 1110PD



## Indoximod Clinical Development Update

*Eugene Kennedy, MD, Vice President, Clinical and Medical Affairs*



# NewLink Genetics IDO Pathway Inhibitors

## Leading Position in IDO Development

- NewLink Genetics responsible for the initial development work on 2 of the first 3 IDO pathway inhibitors to advance in human studies
- Two drug approach balances potentially complementary but distinct mechanisms of action within IDO pathway
- GDC-0919 directly inhibits the IDO enzyme
  - Program partnered with Genentech/Roche
- Indoximod works downstream from the IDO enzyme
  - Early development work coming to fruition
  - Indoximod is being positioned to enter late stage development in 2H:17

Leading IDO pathway development position

# GDC-0919 Summary

## Clinical Development

- Two clinical trials currently underway
  - Single agent dose escalation trial initiated by NewLink Genetics and continued by Genentech/Roche
    - Phase 1 study to establish initial safety data
    - Trial identifier NCT02048709
  - Combination study of GDC-0919 with atezolizumab
    - Phase 1b trial with multiple cohorts
    - Estimated enrollment 276 patients
    - Trial identifier NCT02471846

Productive partnership positioning GDC-0919 for further development

# Indoximod Clinical Development

## Current Status

- Indoximod has successfully completed Phase 1 and Phase 1b studies
- Established the safety and initial trial dosing of indoximod
  - Current dose set by maximum amount that can be absorbed
- Established evidence of clinical activity in conjunction with chemotherapy
- Current series of Phase 2 trials initiated in 2013 and 2014

Indoximod well positioned for subsequent development

# IDO Pathway Inhibitor Clinical Development

AGENT	INDICATION	DESIGN	STATUS
<b>Indoximod</b>	Melanoma (advanced)	Indoximod + ipilimumab or anti-PD-1 Ab	Phase 2 Enrolling
	Pancreatic cancer (metastatic)	Indoximod + gemcitabine and nab-paclitaxel	Phase 2 Enrolled
	Glioblastoma multiforme	Indoximod + temozolomide	Phase 2 Enrolling
	Breast cancer (metastatic)	Indoximod + taxane	Phase 2 Enrolled
	Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)	Indoximod + Standard Frontline Chemotherapy	Phase 1b Enrolling
	Advanced NSCLC	Indoximod + tergenpumatucl-L + chemotherapy	Phase 1b Enrolling
<b>GDC-0919*</b>	Solid tumors	GDC-0919	Phase 1 Enrolling
	Solid tumors	GDC-0919 + atezolizumab	Phase 1b Enrolling
	Solid tumors	GDC-0919 + anti-OX40	Planned

\*Partnered with Genentech/Roche

# Indoximod

## Clinical Development in Melanoma

### NLG2103 – Advanced Melanoma

Primary Endpoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best Overall Response Rate</li> </ul>
Key Secondary Clinical End-Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Progression Free Survival</li> <li>▪ Overall Survival</li> </ul>
Trial Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phase 2 single arm study</li> <li>▪ Indoximod in combinations with checkpoint inhibitors</li> </ul>
Trial Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 96 patients in Phase 2</li> </ul>
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Greater than 75% enrolled</li> <li>▪ Report results 2H:17</li> <li>▪ NCT02073123</li> </ul>

Available data indicate clinical activity in PD-1 combination



# Indoximod

## Clinical Development in Pancreatic Cancer

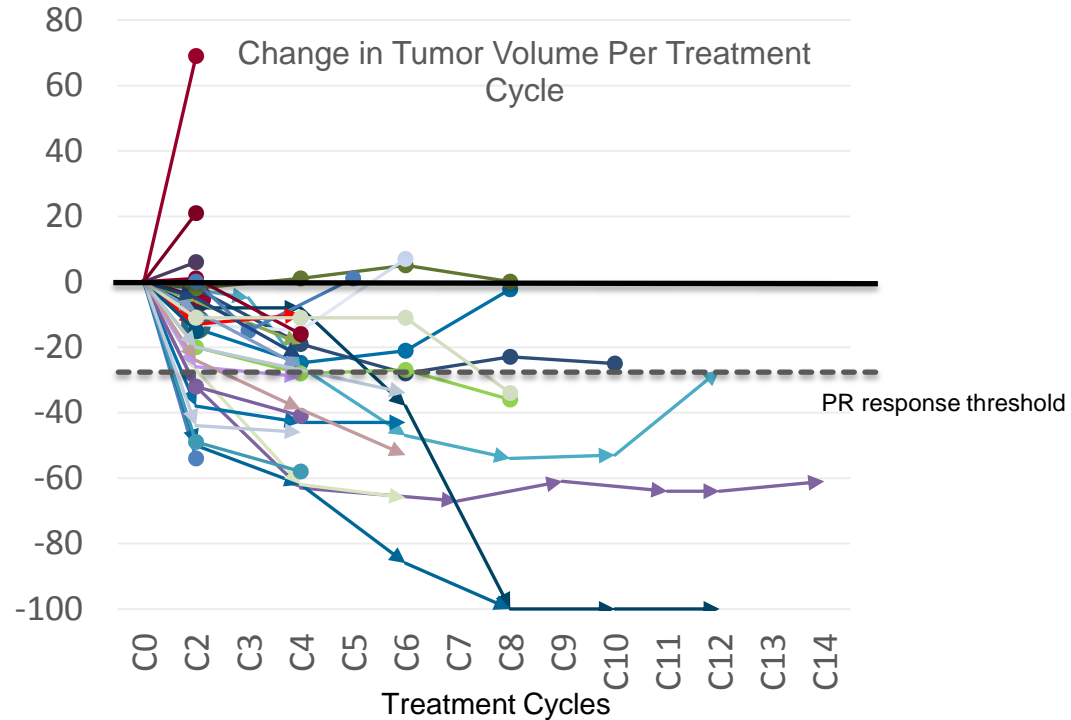
### NLG2104 – 1<sup>st</sup> line Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer

Primary Endpoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall survival</li> </ul>
Key Secondary Clinical End-Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective response rate</li> <li>Progression free survival</li> </ul>
Trial Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 2 single arm study</li> <li>Indoximod in combination with gemcitabine / nab-paclitaxel</li> </ul>
Trial Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80+ patients in Phase 2</li> <li>40 patients in biopsy expansion cohort</li> </ul>
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial cohort fully enrolled</li> <li>Anticipate data 1H 2017</li> <li>Biopsies cohort enrolling</li> <li>NCT02077881</li> </ul>

# Indoximod

## Clinical Development in Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer

- Overall, combination of indoximod and gemcitabine / nab-paclitaxel was well tolerated
- 45 patients enrolled 4 months or longer
  - 45% ORR (14/31 PR or CR)
  - Response data per site reports
- Objective responses include 2 CR's
- Kinetics and durability of responses suggest immune mediated mechanism



Bahary et al, ASCO 2016 Abstract #3020

Depth and duration of response suggest immune mediated mechanism

# Indoximod

## Clinical Development in Malignant Brain Tumors

NLG2102- Refractory GBM	
Primary Endpoint	▪ Progression free survival
Key Secondary Clinical End-Points	▪ Objective response rate ▪ Overall survival
Trial Design	▪ Phase 2 single arm trial ▪ In combination with temozolomide in temozolomide refractory patients
Trial Size	▪ 132 patients in Phase 2
Status	▪ Primary subgroups fully enrolled ▪ Report results 2H:17 ▪ NCT02052648

Preliminary responses observed, await further data

# Indoximod

## Clinical Development in Breast Cancer

### NLG2101 – 1<sup>st</sup> line Metastatic Breast Cancer

Primary Endpoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progression free survival</li> </ul>
Key Secondary Clinical End-Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall survival</li> <li>Objective response rates</li> </ul>
Trial Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 2 randomized, double blind</li> <li>In combination with taxane chemotherapy</li> </ul>
Trial Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>154 patients</li> </ul>
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully enrolled fully enrolled end of 2015</li> <li>Report results 2017</li> <li>NCT01792050</li> </ul>

Demonstrated to be a difficult indication for immunotherapy

# Indoximod

## Clinical Development in AML

### NLG2106 – 1<sup>st</sup> line Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Primary Endpoint	▪ Safety of combination
Key Secondary Clinical End-Points	▪ Evidence of minimal residual disease
Trial Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phase 1b dose escalation</li> <li>▪ In combination with standard chemotherapy</li> </ul>
Trial Size	▪ Up to 18 patients
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anticipate full enrollment in 1H:17</li> <li>▪ Opportunity to expand into Phase 2 in 2H:17</li> <li>▪ NCT02835729</li> </ul>

Strong preclinical data and great unmet need

# Indoximod + Tergenpumatucl-L

## Clinical Development in NSCLC

### NLG0401 – Advanced NSCLC

Primary Endpoint

- Progression free survival

Key Secondary  
Clinical End-Points

- Objective Response Rate
- Overall Survival
- Correlative scientific studies
- Safety

Trial Design

- Phase 1b / 2 single arm study
- Indoximod in combinations with cellular immunotherapy

Trial Size

- 103 patients in Phase 2
- Evaluates PD-1 naïve and PD-1 prior therapy patients

Status

- Enrolling
- NCT02460367

Combines two proprietary platforms  
Evaluates dosing of tergenpumatucl-L and indoximod

## Indoximod Clinical Development Plan

- Evidence of clinical activity justifies moving indoximod into late-stage development
- Clinical investigation and formulation efforts in mid-2017
- Planning for confirmatory randomized trials to start in 2H:17



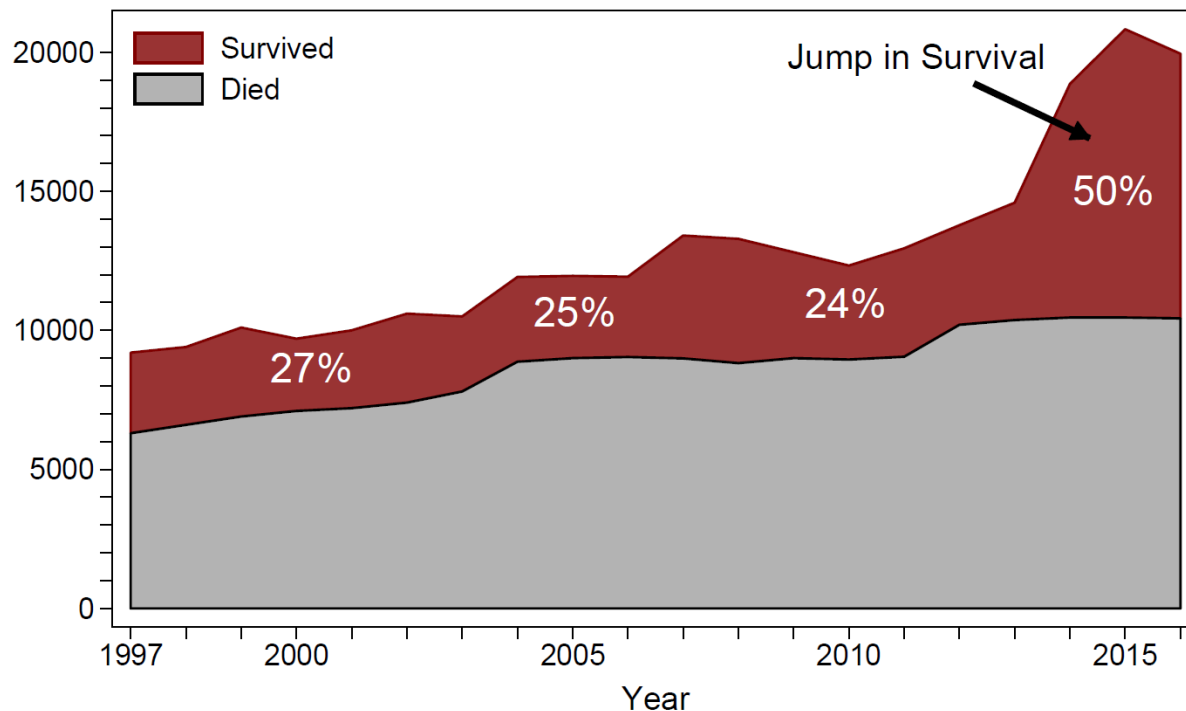
## Indoximod in Treatment of Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)

*Ashkan Emadi, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, University of Maryland*



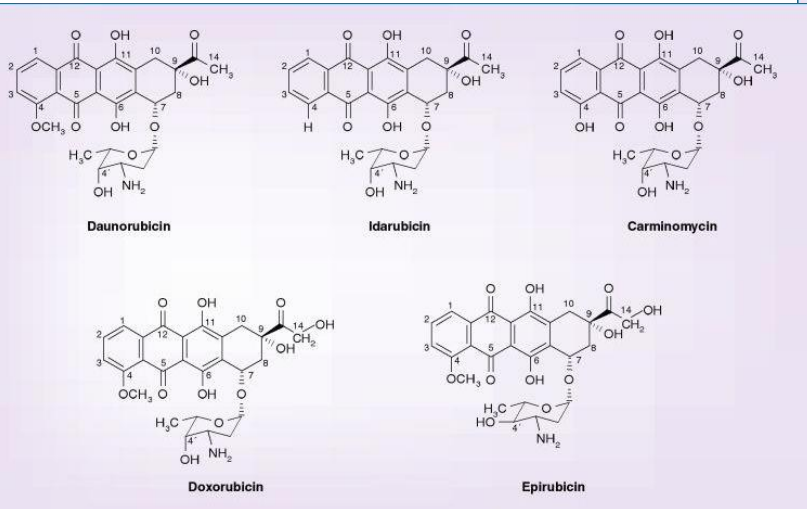
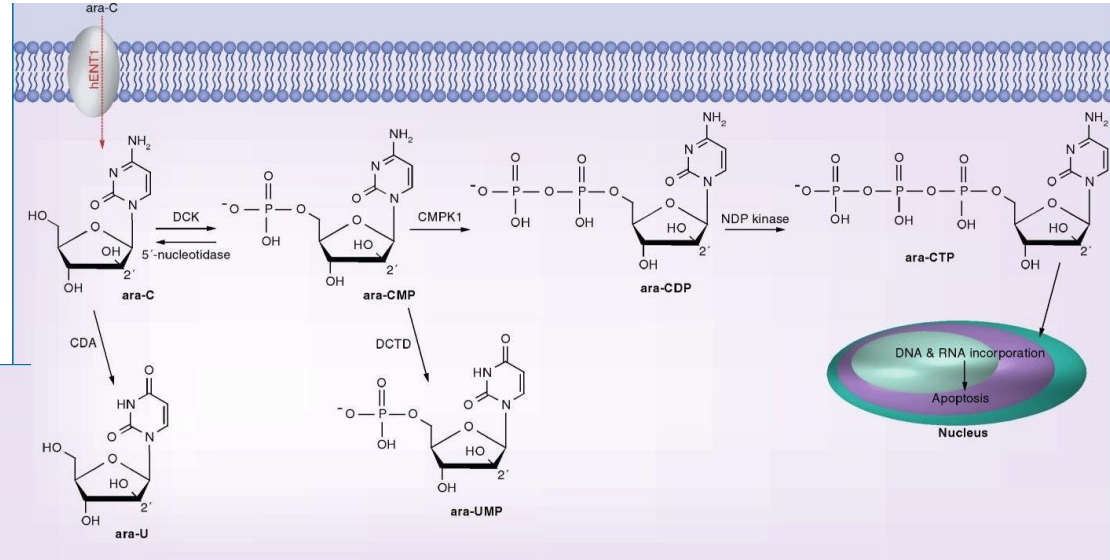


# AML: Epidemiology

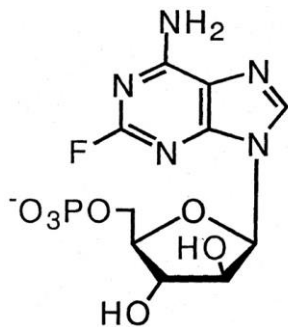


- Siegel R, Ma J, Zou Z, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2015. CA Cancer J Clin. 2015 Jan-Feb;65(1):5-29.
- Emadi A, Karp JE. The state of the union on treatment of acute myeloid leukemia. Leukemia & lymphoma 2014;55:2423-5

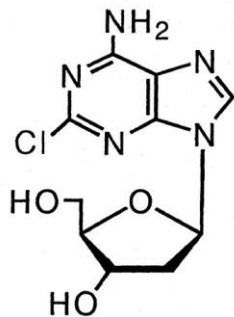
# AML Treatment for Young and Medically Fit Patients



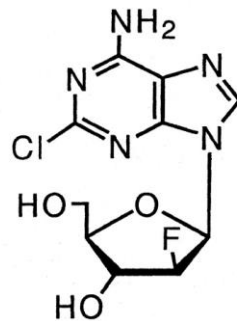
# Attempts to Find a 3rd Conventional Cytotoxic Agent



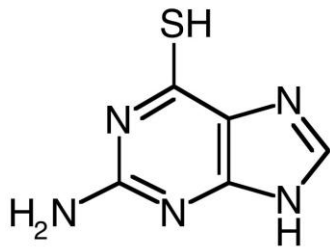
**Fludarabine**



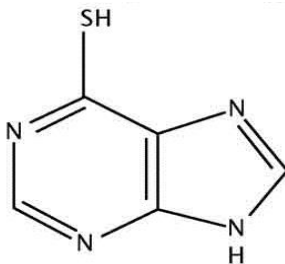
**Cladribine**



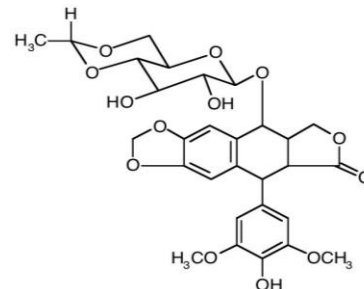
**Clofarabine**



**Thioguanine**



**6-MP**

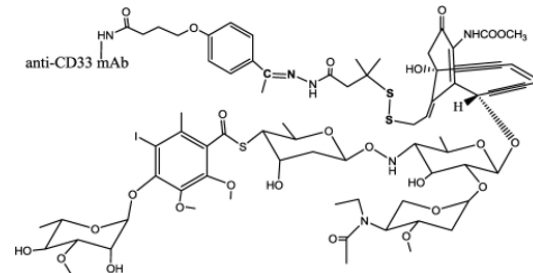


**Etoposide**

# FDA Approved Drugs for Different Hematologic Neoplasms: 1995-2016

- **CML:** busulfan, imatinib, dasatinib, nilotinib, bosutinib, ponatinib, omacetaxine
- **CLL:** alemtuzumab, bendamustine, ofatumumab, obinutuzumab, ibrutinib, idelalisib
- **NHL (B-&T-):** rituximab, Zevalin (ibritumomab tiuxetan), Bexxar (Tositumomab), pralatrexate, romidepsin, brentuximab vedotin, lenalidomide, mechlorethamine gel, SAHA, belinostat, ibrutinib, idelalisib, obinutuzumab
- **Hodgkin Lymphoma:** brentuximab vedotin, nivolumab
- **Multiple Myeloma:** thalidomide, lenalidomide, bortezomib, carfilzomib, pomalidomide, panobinostat, daratumumab (11/6/15), ixazomib (11/20/16), elotuzumab (11/30/16)
- **MDS:** azacitidine, decitabine, lenalidomide
- **ALL:** clofarabine, nelarabine, asparaginase Erwinia chrysanthemi, Marqibo (vinCRISTine sulfate LIPOSOME injection), blinatumomab
- **AML??**

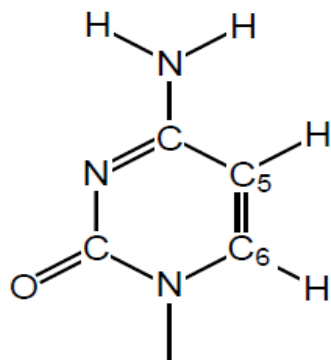
# Gemtuzumab ozogamicin (Myelotarg)



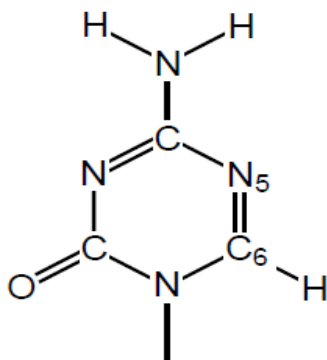
- Gemtuzumab ozogamicin was approved by the FDA in May, 2000 under the Accelerated Approval regulations for the treatment of patients 60 years of age or older with CD33-positive AML in first relapse
- A confirmatory clinical trial began in 2004 to determine whether adding gemtuzumab ozogamicin to standard chemotherapy would improve survival of patients with AML
- The trial was stopped early when no clinical benefit was observed, and after a greater number of deaths occurred in patients who received gemtuzumab ozogamicin compared with those who received chemotherapy alone (5.7% with gemtuzumab and 1.4% without the agent ( $16/283 = 5.7\%$  vs  $4/281 = 1.4\%$ ;  $P = 0.01$ ))
- **Gemtuzumab ozogamicin was withdrawn from the market in June, 2010.**

# DNMTIs, Hypomethylating Agents

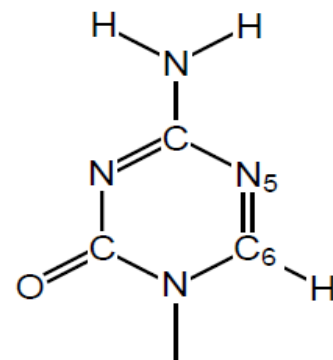
## FDA & EMA Approved for MDS



**Cytidine**



**5-aza-cytidine  
(Azacitidine)**  
No hydrogen (H)  
is attached to  
nitrogen 5 (N<sub>5</sub>)



**Decitabine**  
No hydrogen (H)  
is attached to  
nitrogen 5 (N<sub>5</sub>)

ORIGINAL ARTICLE: CLINICAL

## Ten-day decitabine as initial therapy for newly diagnosed patients with acute myeloid leukemia unfit for intensive chemotherapy

Bhavana Bhatnagar<sup>1,2</sup>, Vu H. Duong<sup>1,2</sup>, Theodore S. Gourdin<sup>1,2</sup>, Michael L. Tidwell<sup>1</sup>, Ching Chen<sup>1,3</sup>, Yi Ning<sup>1,3</sup>, Ashkan Emadi<sup>1,2</sup>, Edward A. Sausville<sup>1,2</sup> & Maria R. Baer<sup>1,2</sup>

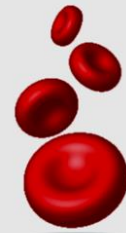
<sup>1</sup>University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center, Baltimore MD, USA and <sup>2</sup>Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Department of Medicine and <sup>3</sup>Department of Pathology, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA

### RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Presence of isocitrate dehydrogenase mutations may predict clinical response to hypomethylating agents in patients with acute myeloid leukemia

Ashkan Emadi,<sup>1\*</sup> Rawan Faramand,<sup>1</sup> Brandon Carter-Cooper,<sup>1</sup> Seda Tolu,<sup>1</sup> Laurie A. Ford,<sup>2</sup> Rena G. Lapidus,<sup>1</sup> Meir Wetzler,<sup>2</sup> Eunice S. Wang,<sup>2</sup> Arash Etemadi,<sup>3</sup> and Elizabeth A. Griffiths<sup>2\*</sup>

AJH



# Boulevard of Broken Dreams, Significant Opportunity Exists

- **Five-year survival: 35-40% in younger patients and only 3-8% in patients older than 60 years of age**
- **AML Therapy is Challenging**
  - An extremely heterogeneous disease with various leukemogenic mutations with poorly understood interplay among them
  - when one particular mutation is inhibited in an individual patient, the leukemic cells may survive and proliferate through other mutations which they harbor
- **One solution to this issue is to target a broad and more fundamental characteristic that is common among all AML cells, is agnostic about specific mutation, and is sufficiently different from normal tissues**



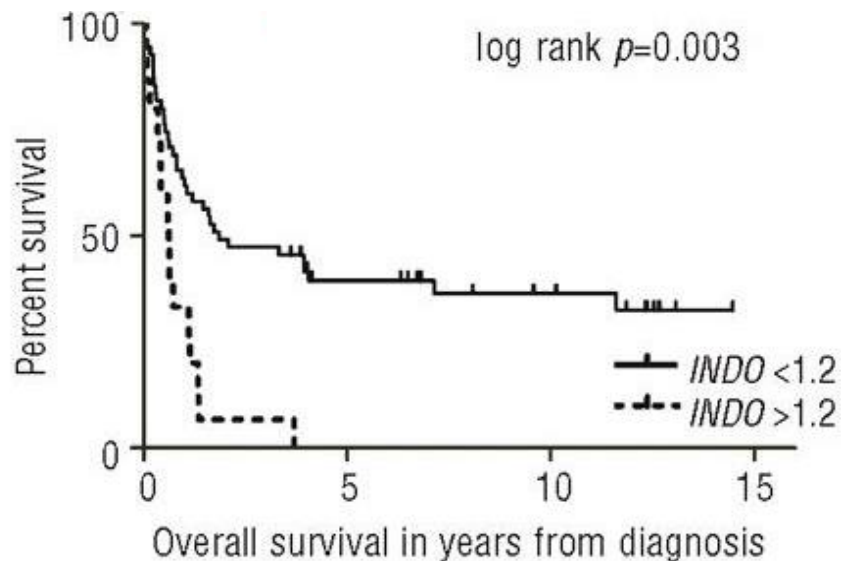
# **Science Supporting Targeting IDO Pathway in AML**

# Immune Response in AML

- Well established that T cell and NK cell responses after completion of chemotherapy are crucial to eventual leukemia-free survival
- Specifically, abnormal or diminished T cell and NK-cell responses have been implicated in increased risk of relapse in these patients
- The majority of evidence supporting the role of T cells in AML comes from experience in patients receiving allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (allo-HSCT)

# IDO in Bone Marrow Aspirate of AML Patients

INDO Expression by Microarray and by qPCR Correlated to Clinical Outcome in Patients with Adult AML



- IDO was a more significant predictor of survival than FAB morphology or white count
- IDO was more predictive even than FLT3-ITD

# Preclinical evidence of indoximod activity in AML

- Curti et al. demonstrated that 52% of a cohort of 76 patients with AML had IDO expression in their leukemic blasts
- IDO expression correlated with increased numbers of T<sub>reg</sub> cells
- Indoximod induced the ability of IDO-expressing blasts to stimulate a helper T cell
- El Kholy et al. also demonstrated that 52% of peripheral mononuclear cells of patients in a cohort of 25 patients with AML expressed IDO
- They demonstrated that co-culture of blasts with doxorubicin led to a decrease in blast proliferation, an effect that was amplified when the blasts were exposed to the combination of doxorubicin and indoximod

- Curti A, Pandolfi S, Valzasina B, et al. Modulation of tryptophan catabolism by human leukemic cells results in the conversion of CD25<sup>-</sup> into CD25<sup>+</sup> T regulatory cells. Blood 2007;109:2871-7

-- El Kholy NM, Sallam MM, Ahmed MB, et al. Expression of indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase in acute myeloid leukemia and the effect of its inhibition on cultured leukemia blast cells. Med Oncol 2011;28:270-8



## **Clinical Trial Protocol NLG2106**

**A Phase 1b / Randomized Phase 2a Trial of Indoximod in Combination with Idarubicin and Cytarabine in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)**

**IND #: 127155**

**Clinicaltrials.gov #: NCT02835729**

**Version 1.2 Dated: 05/04/2016**

**Replaces Version 1.1: 02/23/2016**

**Study Sponsor:**

NewLink Genetics Corporation  
Iowa State University Research Park  
2503 South Loop Drive, Suite 5100  
Ames, Iowa, USA 50010

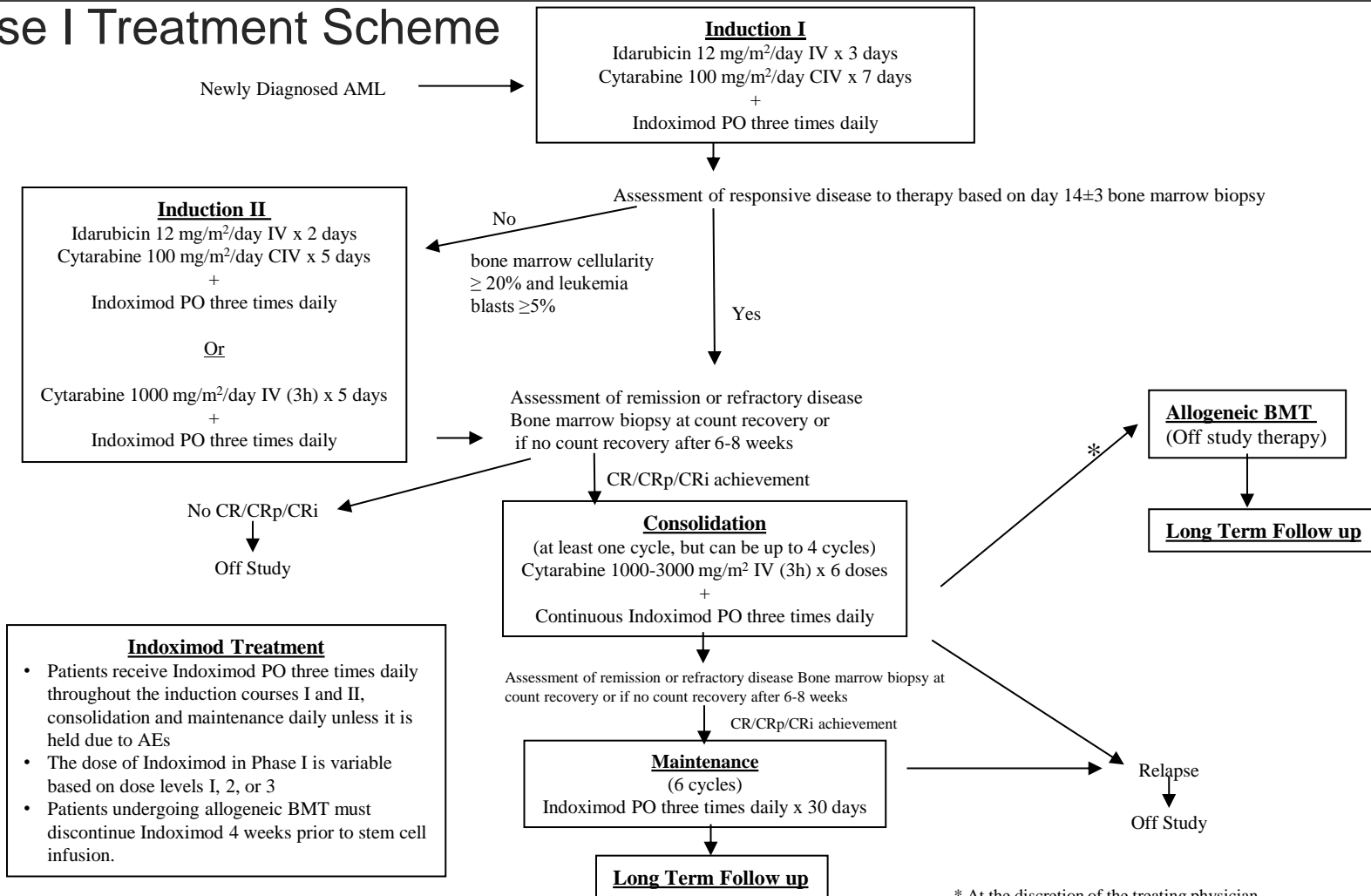
**Investigational Agent:**

**Indoximod (1-methyl-D-tryptophan, D-1MT)**

# Trial Design: Endpoints and Sample Size

- Phase 1: 12-18 patients
- Phase 2a: 120 patients
  - 2:1 randomization, 80 in indoximod arm and 40 in placebo
- **Endpoints:**
  - Safety
  - To determine the minimal (or measurable) residual disease (MRD) in patients with AML who receive indoximod in combination with SOC chemotherapy as compared with patients receiving SOC alone at
    - The end of induction
    - After completion of the first cycle of consolidation therapy
    - Two-three weeks before maintenance therapy or two-three weeks

# Phase I Treatment Scheme



\* At the discretion of the treating physician

# Targeting IDO with Indoximod in AML

## Summary

- Hematologic malignancies also overexpress IDO
- Approximately half of AML patients overexpress IDO
- Studies suggest IDO overexpression portends poor prognosis
- This novel study has been designed to add indoximod to the standard frontline chemotherapy backbone
- The trial is open and began enrollment in August 2016



# Q & A

## Indoximod In the Clinic

- Nicholas N. Vahanian, MD
- Montaser Shaheen, MD
- Eugene Kennedy, MD
- Ashkan Emadi, MD, PhD





## Discovering New Immuno-Oncology Products

*Mario Mautino, PhD, Senior Vice President, Drug Discovery, Intellectual Property Officer*



# Modulating the Function of Tregs

## *Tregs Can Be Reprogrammed Into Helper-Like T Cells*

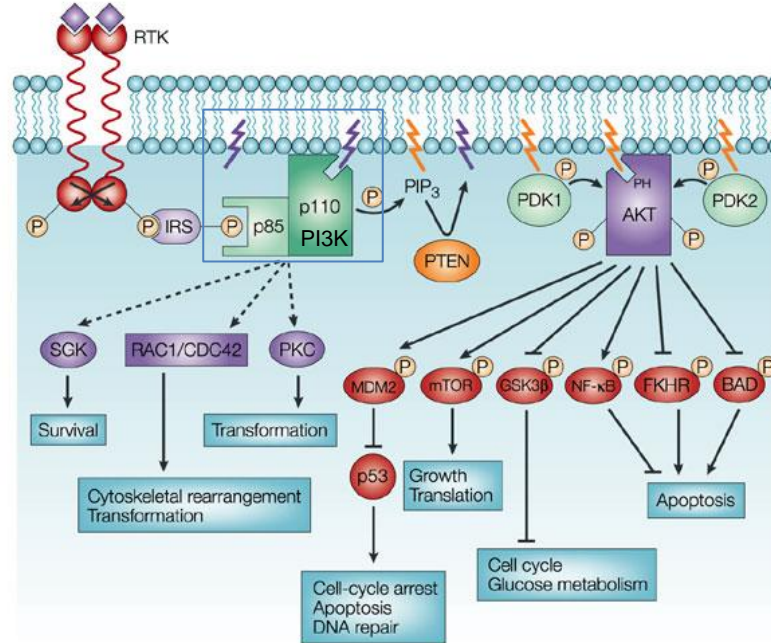
- Tumors are constantly eliciting an immune response, which is being suppressed by Tregs
- Conditions that are generally non-favorable for cell proliferation (lack of nutrients, growth factors, increased activity of tumor suppressor genes, lack of oxygen or glucose) lead to a program that results in very potent suppressive Tregs
- Identification and modulations of tumor microenvironment conditions and pathways that control the immunosuppressive phenotype of Tregs is an important goal of tumor immunotherapy
- Among several of the critical molecules regulating the function of Tregs are IDO, PD-1 and PTEN

Sharma et al, Science Adv 2015

Foe becomes Friend

# PI3K/Akt/PTEN Pathway

## PTEN Inhibits the PI3K/Akt Pathway



PTEN prevents cell growth

# PTEN Regulates Treg Function

## Proliferation and Suppressive Capacity of Tregs Is Regulated by PTEN

### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

### The PTEN pathway in T<sub>regs</sub> is a critical driver of the suppressive tumor microenvironment

Madhav D. Sharma,<sup>1,2</sup> Rahul Shinde,<sup>1\*</sup> Tracy L. McGaha,<sup>1,3\*</sup> Lei Huang,<sup>1,4</sup> Rikke B. Holm,<sup>1,5</sup> Mario R. Mautino,<sup>6</sup> Esteban Celis,<sup>1,7</sup> Arlene H. Sharpe,<sup>8</sup> Loise M. Francisco,<sup>8</sup> Jonathan Andrew L. Mellor,<sup>1,3</sup> Bruce R. Blazar,<sup>11</sup> David H. Munn<sup>1,2†</sup>

### PTENiating autoimmunity through T<sub>reg</sub> cell deregulation

John P Ray & Joe Craft

Regulatory T cells require the phosphatase PTEN to maintain suppressive function in homeostatic conditions through preserved expression of CD25 and the transcription factor Foxp3.

### Control of PI(3) kinase in T<sub>reg</sub> cells maintains homeostasis and lineage stability

Alexandria Huynh<sup>1,2</sup>, Michel DuPage<sup>3</sup>, Bhavana Priyadarshini<sup>2</sup>, Peter T Sage<sup>4</sup>, Jason Quiros<sup>3</sup>, Christopher M Borges<sup>1,2</sup>, Natavudh Townamchai<sup>5</sup>, Valerie A Gerriets<sup>6</sup>, Jeffrey C Rathmell<sup>6</sup>, Arlene H Sharpe<sup>4</sup>, Jeffrey A Bluestone<sup>3</sup> & Laurence A Turka<sup>1,2</sup>

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### ARTICLES

nature  
immunology

### T<sub>reg</sub> cells require the phosphatase PTEN to restrain TH1 and TFH cell responses

Sharad Shrestha<sup>1,2,5</sup>, Kai Yang<sup>1,5</sup>, Cliff Guy<sup>1</sup>, Peter Vogel<sup>3</sup>, Geoffrey Neale<sup>4</sup> & Hongbo Chi<sup>1,2</sup>

www.nature.com/scientificreports

## SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

### PTEN ameliorates autoimmune arthritis through down-regulating STAT3 activation with reciprocal balance of Th17 and Tregs

Received: 22 April 2016

Accepted: 08 September 2016

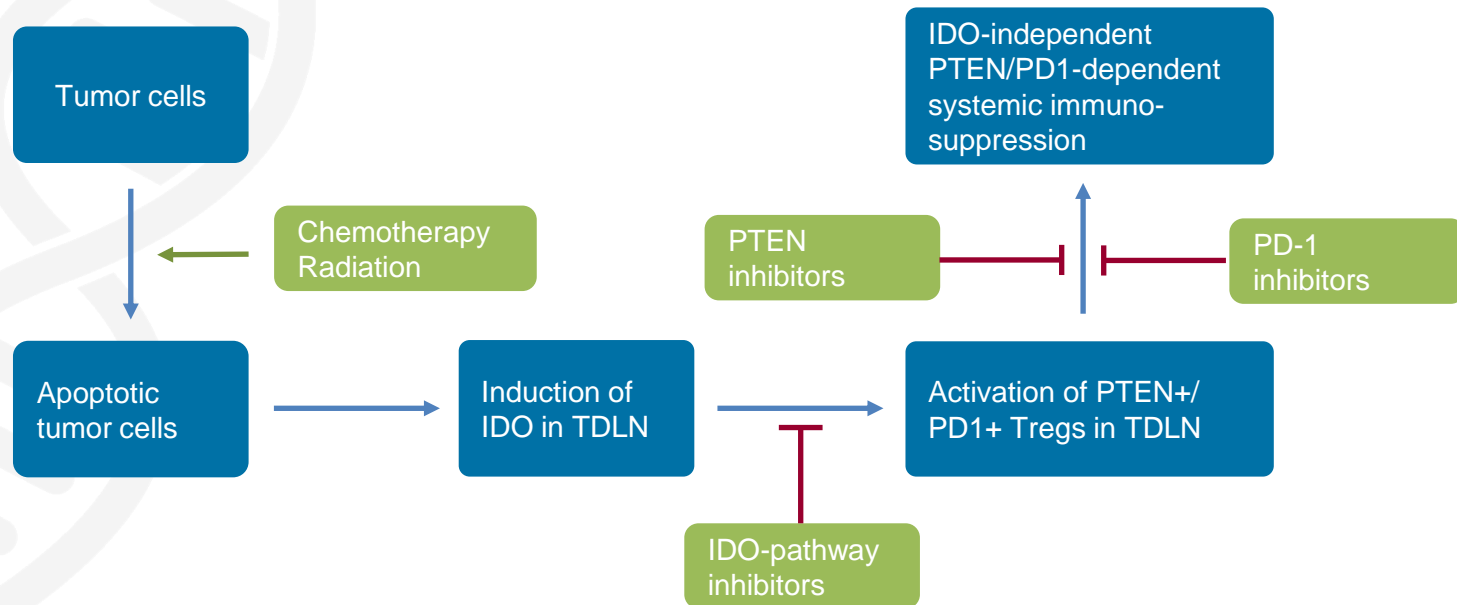
Published: 06 October 2016

Seung Hoon Lee<sup>1,\*</sup>, Jin-Sil Park<sup>1,\*</sup>, Jae-Kyung Byun<sup>1</sup>, JooYeon Jhun<sup>1</sup>, KyungAh Jung<sup>2</sup>, Hyeon-Beom Seo<sup>3</sup>, Young-Mee Moon<sup>1</sup>, Ho-Youn Kim<sup>1,4</sup>, Sung-Hwan Park<sup>1,4,5</sup> & Mi-La Cho<sup>1,4,\*</sup>

The role of PTEN on Treg function is being revealed by several studies

# Tumor Immunosuppression

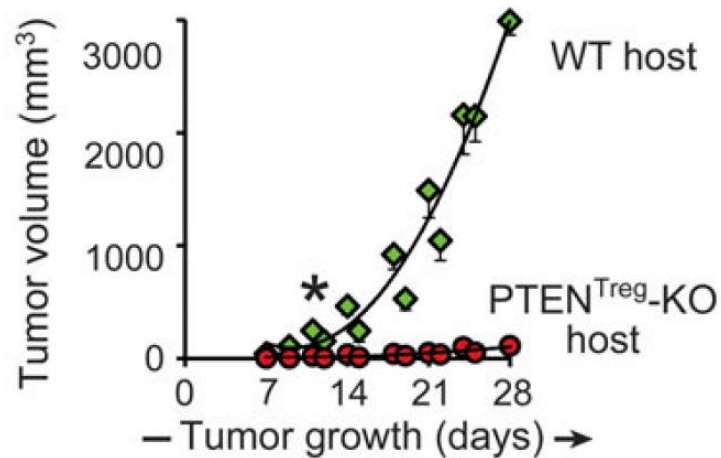
## Operational Model Showing IDO, PD-1 and PTEN Roles



## PTEN inhibitors could reverse IDO-mediated systemic immunosuppression

# PTEN is a Key Protein Needed for Immunosuppression

PTEN Deletion Results in Tumor Regression and  $T_{reg}$  to  $T_{help}$  Conversion



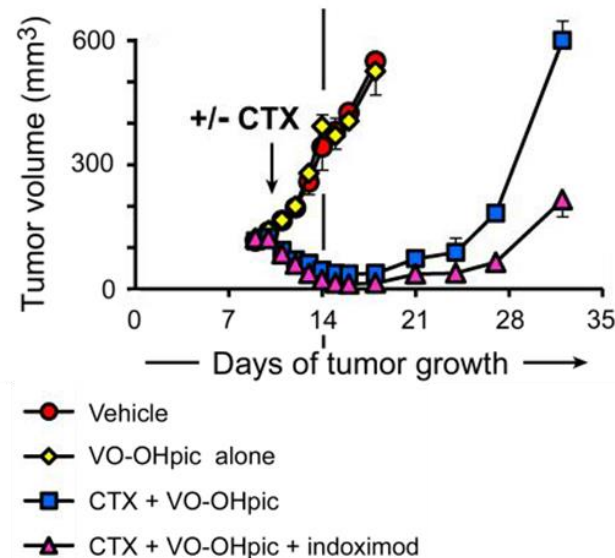
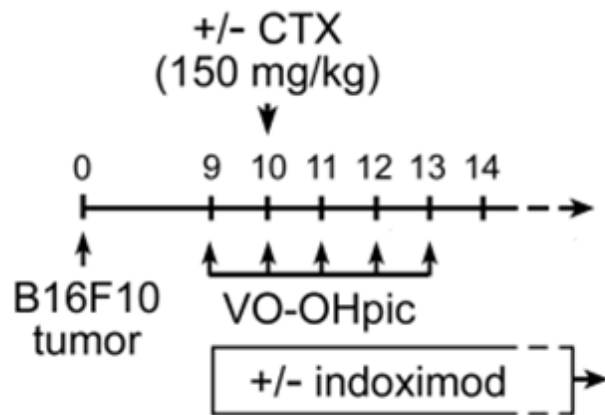
- Genetic deletion of PTEN in host Tregs results in tumor regression
- PTEN-KO Tregs do not express PD-1
- PTEN-KO Tregs acquire a T helper phenotype

Sharma et al, Science Adv 2015

PTEN expressing Tregs are required for tumor growth

# Pharmacologic Inhibition of PTEN + Chemotherapy

## Transplantable Melanoma Model



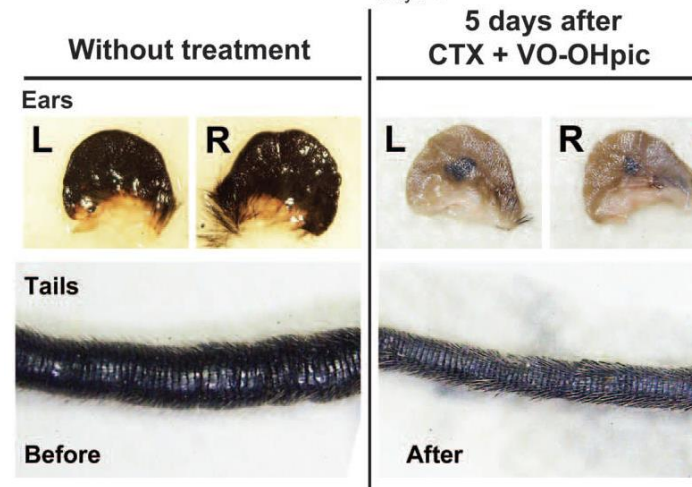
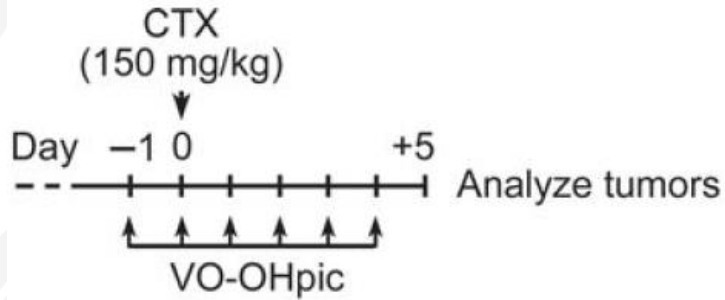
Sharma et al, Science Adv 2015

Strong antitumor effect by pharmacologic inhibition of PTEN



# Pharmacologic Inhibition of PTEN + Chemotherapy

Autochthonous Melanoma Models [Tg(Grm1)Epv]



Sharma et al, Science Adv 2015

Strong antitumor effect by pharmacologic inhibition of PTEN

# The PTEN Pathway in Tregs, A Critical Driver of Tumor Immunosuppression

## Summary

- Exposure to apoptotic tumor cells elicits IDO-dependent activation of PTEN-expressing Tregs in TDLN
- Activation of these PTEN expressing Tregs can be prevented with IDO inhibitors
- Tregs mediate systemic immunosuppression in a PTEN and PD1-dependent and IDO-independent manner
- PTEN inhibition results in reprogramming of highly suppressive Tregs into pro-inflammatory helper-like effector cells (ex-Tregs)
- PTEN deletion or inhibition in Tregs in murine tumor models results in a potent antitumor effect

Sharma et al, Science Adv 2015

Tumors become susceptible to immune attack if PTEN is disrupted in Tregs

# PTEN as a Pharmacological Target

## Why PTEN Inhibitors?

- PTEN is an attractive target for pharmacological inhibition in immuno-oncology
- PTEN inhibition could also find applications in other fields such as diabetes, nerve regeneration, prevention of ischemia damages
- Licensing and research collaboration between AURI and NewLink
- We are working to identify lead PTEN inhibitor compounds
- Multiple assays to test PTEN inhibitors potency, activity and specificity

PTEN inhibitors are a very attractive opportunity in immuno-oncology



## Financial Update


John B. Henneman, III, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer



# Infectious Disease Programs

## Ebola and Zika Virus Vaccines

- Ebola vaccine candidate receives breakthrough therapy designation from FDA and PRIME status from EMA
- Project underway to develop new treatment options for the Zika virus



Jul 25, 2016

◀ Previous Release | Next Release ▶

### NewLink Genetics Announces Merck Receives Breakthrough Therapy Designation from FDA and PRIME Status from EMA for Investigational Ebola Zaire Vaccine (V920)

AMES, Iowa, July 25, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- NewLink Genetics Corporation (NASDAQ:NLNK), announced today that Merck (NYSE:MRK), known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, has reached two key regulatory milestones for the Ebola Zaire vaccine candidate known as V920 (rVSVΔG-ZEBOV-GP). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted the vaccine candidate Breakthrough Therapy Designation, and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has provided the vaccine candidate PRIME (PRiority Medicines) status.

V920 was initially engineered by scientists from the Public Health Agency of Canada and subsequently licensed to NewLink Genetics. In late 2014, when the peak of the Ebola outbreak in western Africa was at its worst, NewLink Genetics licensed V920 to Merck, with the goal of accelerating the development, regulatory approval, and availability of this candidate vaccine. Merck is responsible for the research, development, manufacturing, and regulatory efforts in support of V920. Since that time, Merck continues to work closely with NewLink Genetics and their external collaborators to accelerate development and licensure.

"These regulatory designations reflect great credit upon the extraordinary public-private partnerships which have allowed the vaccine candidate to be included in 12 Phase 1, 2 and 3 studies on three continents in less than two years," said Thomas P. Monath, M.D., Chief Scientific Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the Infectious Disease Division of NewLink Genetics. Charles L. Link, Jr., M.D., Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer of NewLink Genetics emphasized that, "While the Ebola Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) is over, we know the threat of re-emergence remains. We are encouraged by these FDA and EMA decisions which we hope will aid progress of the candidate vaccine towards potential licensure."

**About NewLink Genetics Corporation**

NewLink Genetics is a biopharmaceutical company at the forefront of discovering, developing and commercializing novel immuno-oncology product candidates, including both cellular immunotherapy and checkpoint inhibitor platforms, to improve the lives of patients with cancer. NewLink Genetics' portfolio includes biologic and small molecule immunotherapy product candidates intended to treat a wide range of oncology indications. NewLink Genetics' product candidates are designed to harness multiple components of the immune system to combat cancer. For more information, please visit <http://www.newlinkgenetics.com>

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

### Drug Industry Starts Race to Develop Zika Vaccine

U.S. biotech company [NewLink Genetics Corp.](#) said it too was working on developing treatment options for the disease.

At least a dozen Ebola vaccine and drug candidates were under development when the virus began to spread in West Africa.

Even so, there is still no licensed treatment or vaccine. One vaccine candidate, developed by NewLink and licensed out to [Merck & Co.](#) proved effective in a clinical trial, and the company is gathering data to apply for licensure.

## Financial Position

Cash and Equivalents	\$148 million (September 30, 2016)
Debt	~\$0.6 million
YE 2016 Cash (Projected)	~\$132 million
Quarterly Negative Cash-Flow	~\$13 million
Shares Outstanding	29.1 million
Market Capitalization	\$450 million*
Headcount	130

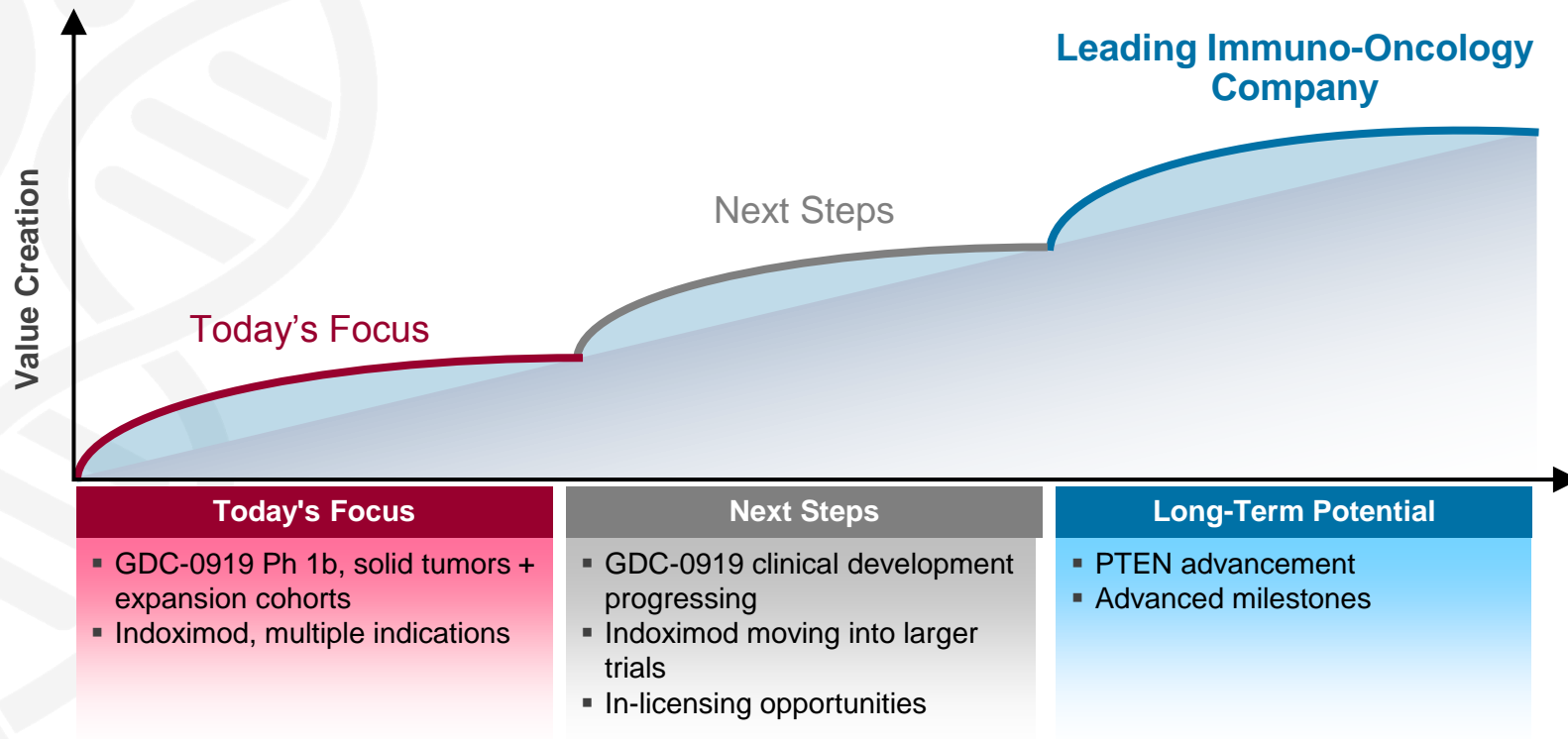
\*As of October 5, 2016

# NewLink Genetics

## Takeaways from Today's Program

- IDO pathway is central to immune escape
- IDO pathway is becoming increasingly validated as a target for drugs
- Two promising candidates that target the IDO pathway, with distinct mechanisms of action
  - GDC-0919, which targets the enzyme directly (partnered with Genentech)
  - Indoximod, which inhibits the effects of IDO by supplying a “tryptophan-sufficiency” signal
- Scientifically visionary, with “over-the-horizon” programs, such as PTEN
- Proven track record in both in-and-out licensing
- Strong balance sheet to advance current clinical programs

# Long-Term Growth Strategy





# Q & A

