# Clinical Results with Combination of Anti-CD27 Agonist Antibody, Varlilumab, with Anti-PD1 Antibody, Nivolumab, in Advanced Cancer Patients

Rachel E. Sanborn<sup>1</sup>, Michael J. Pishvaian<sup>2</sup>, Harriett Kluger<sup>3</sup>, Margaret K. Callahan<sup>4</sup>, Amy Weise<sup>5</sup>, Jose Lutzky<sup>6</sup>, Michael Yellin<sup>7</sup>, Tracey Rawls<sup>7</sup>, Laura Vitale<sup>7</sup>, Abdel Halim<sup>7</sup>, Tibor Keler<sup>7</sup>, Tom Davis<sup>7</sup> and Naiyer Rizvi<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Robert W. Franz Cancer Research Center, Earle A. Chiles Research Institute, Providence Cancer Center, Portland, OR, <sup>2</sup> Georgetown University, Washington, DC, <sup>3</sup> Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, New Haven, CT, <sup>4</sup> Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, <sup>5</sup> Karmanos Cancer Institute, Detroit, MI, <sup>6</sup> Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center, Miami Beach, FL, <sup>7</sup> Celldex Therapeutics, Hampton, NJ, <sup>8</sup> Columbia University Medical Center New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Herbert Irving Pavilion, New York, NY

## **Disclosures**

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- Travel, Accommodations, Expenses Five Prime Therapeutics

# **Enhancing the Efficacy of Immune Checkpoint Blockade**

Nivolumab, a fully human IgG4 mAb that binds to PD-1 and inhibits PD-1/PD-L1 interactions, is approved for multiple indications but many opportunities to improve efficacy remain

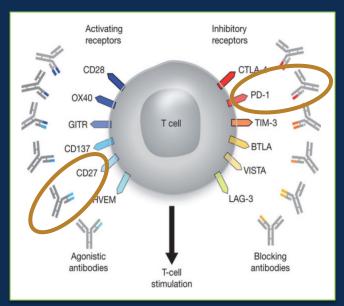
Combination strategies that target T cell costimulation molecules such as CD27 may enhance clinical responses to checkpoint blockade

#### **CD27: Member of the TNF-receptor superfamily**

- Single ligand is CD70 (tightly regulated)
- Constitutively expressed on most T cells and a subset of B and NK cells
- CD27 activation:
  - Signaling through Traf2, Traf 5
  - Activation of the NF-κB pathway
  - Cell survival, activation, proliferation
  - Role in generation and long-term maintenance of T cell immunity
  - Role in NK cell differentiation/activation

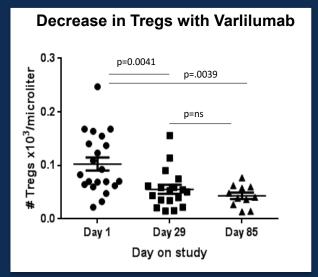
#### Varlilumab: Fully human IgG1 CD27 agonist mAb

Strong preclinical data demonstrating single agent and combination activity in tumor models

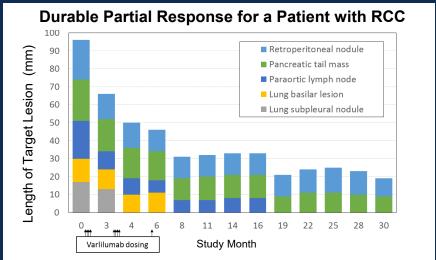


# Varlilumab Clinical Experience: Phase 1 Monotherapy Trial

- Safety profile appears favorable in its class of agonist mAbs; minimal toxicities; no significant immune-mediated AEs 1, 2, 3
- Potent immunologic activity consistent with MOA<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>
  - Rapid induction of pro-inflammatory IFN-γ driven chemokines, increased expression of T cell activation markers, and marked decrease in T regs without evidence of broad T cell depletion



- Single-agent antitumor activity demonstrated in advanced, refractory patients with solid tumors or hematologic malignancies (n=90)<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>
  - Three patients experienced objective responses
    - Patient with HL achieved a CR after 3 cycles of varlilumab (0.3 mg/kg). Remains in remission at 33.1+ months without further anticancer therapy
    - Patient with RCC achieved a PR with varlilumab (3 mg/kg). PR persists at 2.5 years without further anticancer therapy (see graph below)
    - Patient with RCC completed 5 cycles of varlilumab (3 mg/kg) and maintained stable disease until achievement of a single-time point PR at 4.2 years without additional anticancer therapy
  - Twelve patients experienced SD up to 14 months

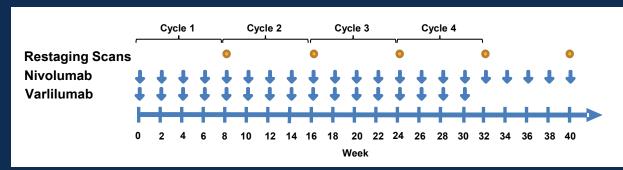


# Phase 1/2 Study of Varlilumab in Combination with Nivolumab

Phase 1: Dose escalation/expansion of varlilumab (0.1, 1, and 10 mg/kg) with nivolumab 3 mg/kg

- 6 initial patients per cohort, with option for expansion to 15 patients
- Objectives:
  - Primary: safety and tolerability, identify varlilumab doses for Phase 2 cohorts
  - Secondary: DOR, TTR, PFS, OS, Immunogenicity and PK
  - Exploratory: Pharmacodynamic effects on peripheral blood and tumor markers

- Key eligibility criteria:
  - Recurrent or refractory SCCHN, ovarian cancer, melanoma,
    NSCLC, or CRC
  - Documented progressive disease
  - ≤ 5 prior anticancer regimens for advanced disease
  - ≥ 3 month washout for anti-CTLA-4 or other T cell directed mAbs
  - No prior anti-PD-(L)1 therapy
  - No active, untreated CNS metastases
  - No autoimmune disease



- Tumor biopsies at baseline and onstudy (4-6 weeks)
- Four 8-week cycles of combination therapy, followed by nivolumab monotherapy
- Treatment until dose-limiting toxicity or disease progression

**Phase 2:** Tumor-specific cohorts (CRC, GBM, Ovarian, SCCHN, and RCC) to evaluate clinical activity of selected varlilumab dose(s) and schedules with nivolumab flat dose (240 mg)

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### **Baseline Patient Characteristics**

|  | 0.1 mg/kg<br>(n=6) | 1 mg/kg<br>(n=15) | 10 mg/kg<br>(n=15) | All Phase 1<br>(n=36) |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Age, years (median [range])                      | 66 (57-76)         | 54 (40-66)        | 50 (29-84)         | 57 (29-84)            |
| Male (n [%])                                     | 3 (50)             | 8 (53)            | 7 (47)             | 18 (50)               |
| Primary Diagnosis (n [%])                        |                    |                   |                    |                       |
| CRC  | 5 (83)             | 8 (53)            | 8 (53)             | 21 (58)               |
| Ovarian  | 1 (17)             | 4 (27)            | 3 (20)             | 8 (22)                |
| Melanoma   | 0                  | 1 (7)             | 3 (20)             | 4 (11)                |
| SCCHN  | 0                  | 2 (13)            | 1 (7)              | 3 (8)                 |
| ECOG performance status (n [%])                  |                    |                   |                    |                       |
| 0  | 2 (33)             | 3 (20)            | 9 (60)             | 14 (39)               |
| 1  | 4 (67)             | 12 (80)           | 6 (40)             | 22 (61)               |
| Stage IV at Study Entry (n [%])¹                 | 5 (83)             | 15 (100)          | 14 (93)            | 34 (94)               |
| No. of prior treatment regimens (median [range]) | 3 (2-4)            | 4 (0-9)           | 3 (0-8)            | 3 (0-9)               |
| Prior immunotherapy (n [%])                      | 1 (17)             | 1 (7)             | 1 (7)              | 3 (8)                 |
| PD-L1+ tumor (n/n [%]) <sup>2</sup>              | 0/6 (0)            | 1/11 (9)          | 2/11 (18)          | 3/28 (11)             |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Two stage III patients were ovarian cancer (0.1 mg/kg group) and SCCHN (10 mg/kg group).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Denominator represents patients with tumor assessed for PD-L1 status. PD-L1+ criteria: ≥ 1% tumor cells staining positive, using the BMS developed PD-L1 IHC method at a central lab

# Varlilumab & Nivolumab Combination Therapy is Well Tolerated

- All dose levels well tolerated, without identification of a maximally tolerated dose
- No evidence of additive toxicity for the combination of varlilumab with nivolumab
- 3 patients discontinued the study due to treatment related AEs
- 3 patients with treatment-related\* SAEs (all 10 mg/kg varlilumab):
  - Peripheral sensorimotor neuropathy (grade 2)
  - ALT increased (grade 3)
  - Acute kidney injury (grade 3) and hepatitis (grade 4 and a dose-limiting toxicity)

#### **Treatment-Related Adverse Events**

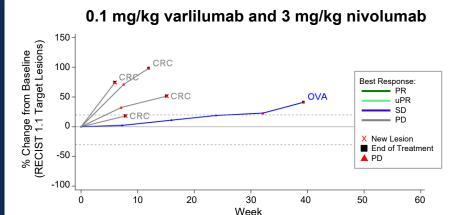
|                                      | All Phase 1 (n=36) |           |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--|
|                                      | Any Severity       | Grade ≥ 3 |  |
| Any treatment-related adverse event  | 31 (86%)           | 10 (28%)  |  |
| Infusion related reaction            | 10 (28%)           | 0         |  |
| Fatigue                              | 10 (28%)           | 0         |  |
| Lymphopenia                          | 9 (25%)            | 6 (17%)   |  |
| Pruritus                             | 8 (22%)            | 0         |  |
| Rash                                 | 11 (19%)           | 1 (3%)    |  |
| Nausea                               | 7 (19%)            | 0         |  |
| Arthralgia                           | 5 (14%)            | 0         |  |
| Pyrexia                              | 4 (11%)            | 0         |  |
| Vomiting                             | 4 (11%)            | 1 (3%)    |  |
| ALT increased                        | 4 (11%)            | 2 (6%)*   |  |
| AST increased                        | 3 (8%)             | 1 (3%)*   |  |
| Lipase increased                     | 2 (6%)             | 2 (6%)    |  |
| Acute kidney injury                  | 1 (3%)             | 1 (3%)*   |  |
| Amylase increased                    | 1 (3%)             | 1 (3%)    |  |
| Autoimmune hepatitis                 | 1 (3%)             | 1 (3%)*   |  |
| Blood alkaline phosphatase increased | 1 (3%)             | 1 (3%)*   |  |
| Blood bilirubin increased            | 1 (3%)             | 1 (3%)*   |  |

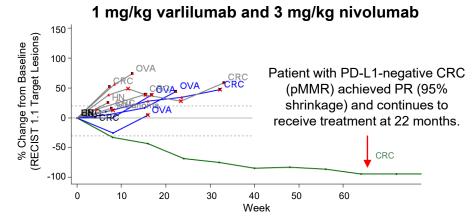
Table includes adverse events assessed as related to either varillumab or nivolumab for ≥ 10% of patients overall, or at grade ≥ 3 severity any patient.

<sup>\*</sup>The above SAEs were related to varlilumab and nivolumab

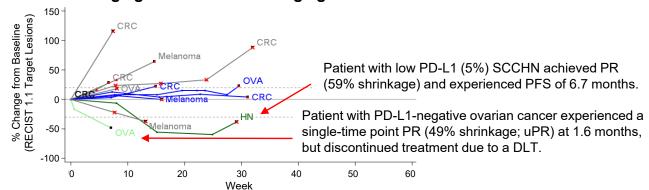
<sup>\* 1</sup> patient had all AEs (excluding 1 incident of ALT increased)

# **Tumor Response**





#### 10 mg/kg varlilumab and 3 mg/kg nivolumab



Disease Control Rate\*

• 0.1 mg/kg varli + nivo: 1/5 (20%)

1 mg/kg varli + nivo: 5/15 (33%)

• 10 mg/kg varli + nivo: 6/15 (40%)

<sup>\*</sup> DCR; best response of SD or better ≥ 3 months

# Durable Response in MMR-proficient CRC Patient

4-23-2015 (Baseline)



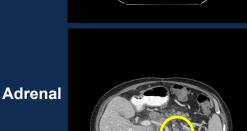
6-29-2015 (Cycle 1)



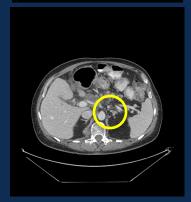
3-06-2017 (Cycle 12)

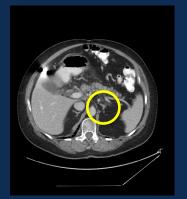


- PD-L1-negative, pMMR colorectal adenocarcinoma with metastatic disease to liver, adrenal gland, abdomen and mesenteric nodule<sup>1</sup>
- 2 prior chemotherapy based regimens (1 with EGFR targeted therapy)
- On study, had a 95% decrease in target lesions, including resolution of 4/5 target lesions. One 6 mm mesenteric nodule remains
- Completed all 4 cycles of varlilumab and nivolumab therapy and continues to receive nivolumab monotherapy at 22+ months
- Treatment-related toxicity limited to grade 1 pruritus, fatigue, chills and fever



Liver





<sup>1</sup>Expected response rate for nivolumab in MSI-low (pMMR) CRC is 0% (Overman, et al, ASCO 2016)

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# **Extensive Immune Monitoring Incorporated into the Study**

- Peripheral blood: serum factors, flow cytometry
- Tumor biopsies: baseline and on-treatment immunohistochemistry

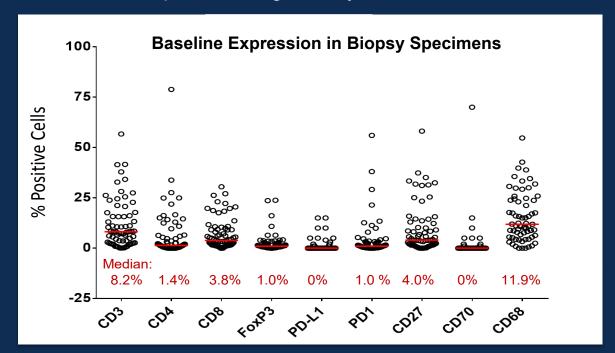
- Peripheral blood analysis
  - Prominent decrease in CD4 and Treg cells observed across all cohorts
  - Serum chemokine changes consistent with varlilumab monotherapy
    - Transient increase in inflammatory chemokines (CXCL10, MCP-1, MIP-1β and MIG) observed across all cohorts

100 CD4 Treg 50 50 Baseline -100 C1DS2 C2DS1 C2DS1 from Median: Median: -76% 100 Change CD8 NK 100 50 % -100 C2DS1 C2DS1 C1DS2 Median: -10% 32% Median:

The correlative analysis contains patients from Phase 1 and patients with data from Phase 2

# Immunohistochemistry of Biopsy Samples

Baseline biopsies were generally low in T cell markers and PD-L1 expression on tumor



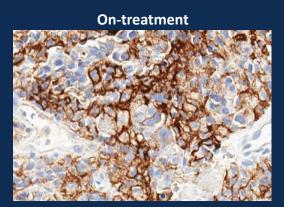
Includes patients from Phase 1 (n=28) and Phase 2 (n=37)

- T cell infiltrates and PD-L1 expression increased significantly during treatment in some patients
- This was particularly evident in a sub-group analysis focused on ovarian patients

# Tumor Expression of PD-L1 is Increased in Ovarian Patients

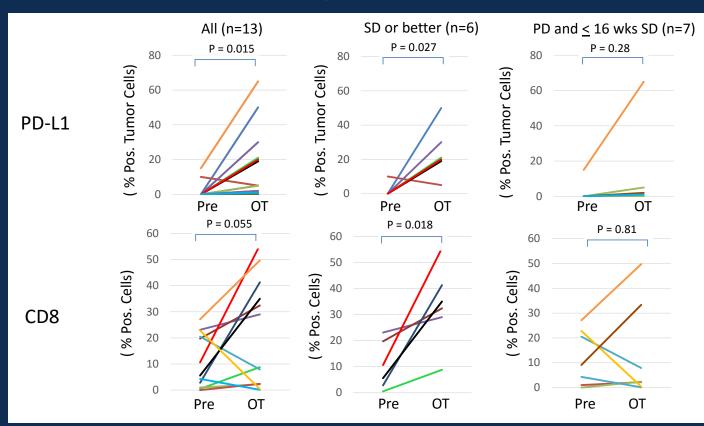
- Baseline biopsies were generally negative or low PD-L1 positive
  - 10 of 26 (38%) had PD-L1 + tumors; range 1%-15% (mean = 5.1%)
- Patients with paired biopsies (n=13):
  - 2 of 13 patients were positive at baseline (10%, 15%)
  - 10 of 13 (77%) were PD-L1 + on-treatment (4-6 weeks); range 1-65% (mean = 20.8%)

# Baseline



PD-L1 testing was performed using the BMS developed PD-L1 IHC method (Dako clone 28-8); PD-L1+ defined as >1% of tumor cells

# Enhanced PD-L1 Expression and CD8 TIL in Ovarian Patients



Ovarian patients with paired baseline and on-treatment biopsies to date

Phase 1 patients n=6 Phase 2 patients n=7

P value: 2-tailed Paired T-Test

# **Optimization of Dosing Regimen**

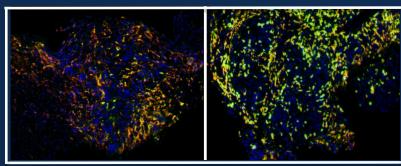
Red = CD3

Green = PD-1

- Chronic CD27 stimulation may not be optimal
  - Evidence of T cell infiltration, but also PD-1 expression
  - Potential for immune exhaustion

Alternate dosing regimens selected using receptor occupancy data and PK modeling

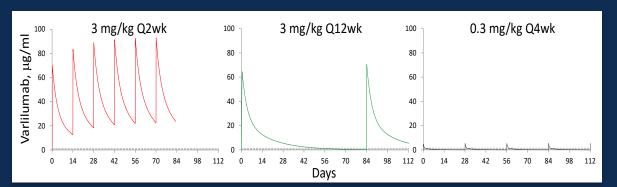
**Ovarian Patient with SD** 



Baseline = 21% PD-1+

OT = 69% PD-1+

#### Continuous saturation or clearance following high or low dose of varlilumab



#### Planned Phase 2 Cohorts:

- CRC (n=18), GBM (n=20) and RCC (n=25): varlilumab 3 mg/kg q 2 weeks
- Ovarian and SCCHN:
  - Varlilumab 3 mg/kg q 2 weeks (n=18)
  - Varlilumab 3 mg/kg q 12 weeks (n=18)
  - Varlilumab 0.3 mg/kg q 4 weeks (n=18)
- All receive nivolumab flat dose (240 mg) q 2 weeks

# **Conclusions and Next Steps**

- The combination of varlilumab and nivolumab was well tolerated at all varlilumab dose levels tested
- The majority of tumors were PD-L1 negative at baseline and 80% of patients enrolled in Phase 1 had CRC or ovarian cancer
  - Representing patient populations expected to have minimal response to checkpoint blockade
- Clinical responses were observed in the Phase 1 portion of the study, including a durable partial response in a patient with pMMR CRC
- Increase in CD8 TILs and tumor PD-L1 expression in some patients
  - In ovarian patients, trend for better disease control
- Alternative varlilumab dosing regimens added to the study to explore intermittent CD27 signaling

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