



Developing CART-cells Therapies in Brazil

Prof. Renato Cunha, M.D. - Ph.D.

Bone Marrow and Cell Therapy Clinical Unit - HC-FMRP-USP

Advanced Cellular Therapy Laboratory – Center for Cell-based Therapy

Ribeirão Preto Medical School – University of São Paulo (USP)

Potential Conflict of Interest

Consultant / Advisory Board	Novartis	BMS	Janssen	Libbs	Pfizer	Amgen
Grant / Research Support	CNPq		ASH		DECIT/MS	
Honoraria / Speaker's Bureau			Janssen			
Patent / Stock / Royalties	-					
Affiliation to any Board of Directors or Council	SUPERA Parque					
Off-label medications use discussing	-					

**The views expressed are my own and do not represent the opinion of
The Clinical Hospital and The Center for Cell Therapy of FMRP-USP**

How to develop a CAR T-cell platform in low-middle income countries?

- Restricted budget
- Restricted human resources to develop new technologies
- Delay to define regulatory aspects of advanced cell therapy
- Establish new GMP facilities
- Generation of vectors in GMP conditions
- Translational research
- Clinical units and clinicians with the expertise need to

The CAR T-cell in Brazil: Initiatives

- **INCA:**
 - Martin Bonamino: pre-clinical study with sleeping beauty transposon vectors
- **Boldrini:**
 - Pedro Campos Lima: pre-clinical studies with CD19
- **Celluris+Eretz Bio (Einstein):**
 - Pre-clinical studies with CAR anti-CD123 e -CD33
- **FMRP-USP - Center for cell-based Therapy (Ribeirão Preto)**
 - Brazilian CAR T Platform
- **Prodigy: Einstein, USP-SP, PUC-UFPR, Sírio Libanês**

The CAR T-cell in Brazil: Initiatives

Human Gene Therapy

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CAR T cells generated using *Sleeping Beauty* transposon vectors and expanded with an EBV-transformed lymphoblastoid cell line (LCL) display antitumor activity *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

Leonardo Chicaybam*^{1,2}, Luiza Abdo*¹, Mayra Carneiro*¹, Bárbara Peixoto³, Mariana Viegas¹, Priscila de Sousa¹, Márcia C. Fornazin⁴, Maria C. Spago⁴, Angelo Brunelli Albertoni Laranjeira⁴, Pedro O. de Campos-Lima⁵, Alexandre Nowill⁴, Luciana Rodrigues Carvalho Barros¹, Martín H. Bonamino^{1,2#}

Slide courtesy Martin H Bonamino

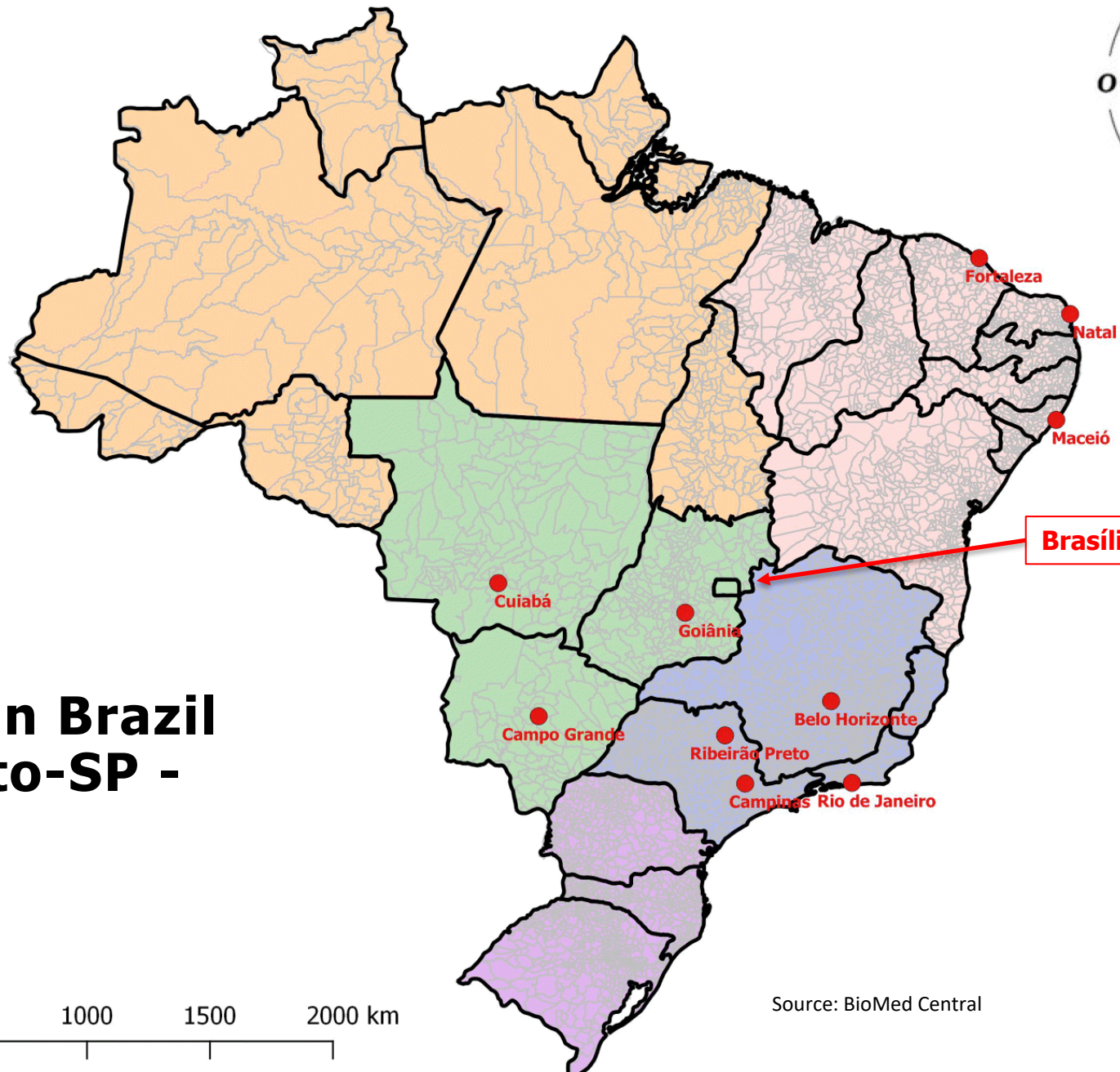
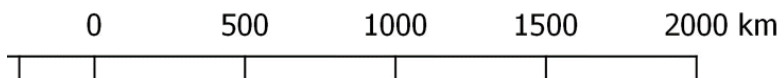
The CAR T-cell in Brazil

- Brazilian CAR T Platform Ribeirão Preto-SP -

- **Principle: 100% Brazilian technology**

- Design and validate new lentiviral vectors (new clones) for clinical purposes
- Develop the platform for pre-clinical studies
- New translational research lab focused on advanced cell therapy
- Manufacture and scale lentiviral vectors up in GMP conditions
- Manufacture CAR T-cells in an affordable cost to low-middle income countries
- Establish collaborations and launch clinical trials

The CAR T-cell in Brazil - Ribeirão Preto-SP -



Legend

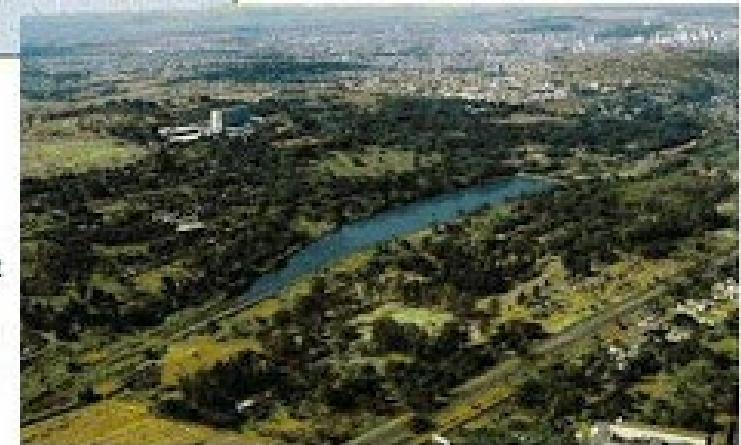
- State boundary
- Municipality boundary
- Region boundary**
- Center West
- Northeast
- North
- Southeast
- South

Source: BioMed Central

The CAR T-cell in Brazil - Ribeirão Preto-SP -



Downtown Ribeirão Preto



Campus of the University of São Paulo at Ribeirão Preto with the city of Ribeirão Preto behind it. Notice the campus lake and the Clinics Hospital (the large and rectangular building).

Brazilian CAR T Platform - Ribeirão Preto-SP

- New scFv clones -

Figure 1. QC SDS-PAGE [CD123]

Lane 1: Marker

Lane 2: CD123

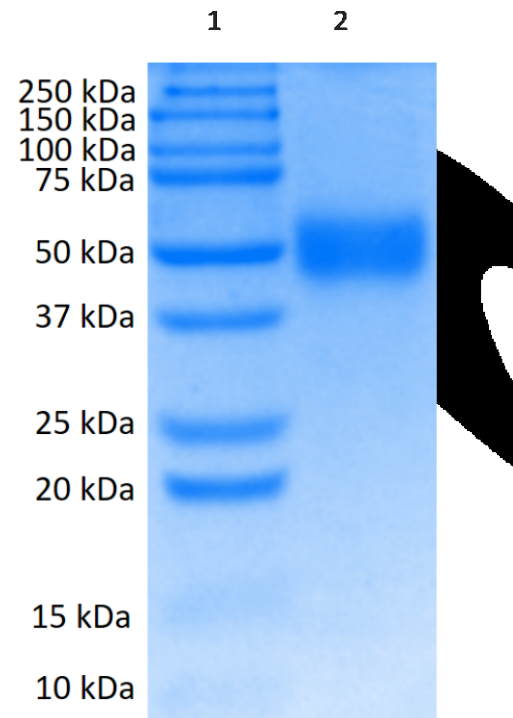


Table 5. QC soluble ELISA of the positive clones [CD123]

Clones	Induce Temp.	Coating: CD123	Coating: BSA	No coating
10	30°C	2.0026	0.0641	0.0553
	37°C	2.5711	0.0654	0.0439
13	30°C	2.1305	0.0640	0.0631
	37°C	2.3632	0.0652	0.0599
	37°C	1.0574	0.0600	0.0478
26	30°C	2.7119	0.0646	0.0436
	37°C	2.1732	0.0654	0.0453
	37°C	1.7632	0.0659	0.0609
TG1	30°C	0.0643	0.0645	0.0450
PBS	-	0.0545	0.0570	0.0578

Unpublished data [confidential]

Brazilian CAR T Platform - Ribeirão Preto-SP

- Virus production and processing -



Transfection

Producer cell line

Transfection reagents

Medium composition

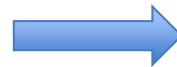


Clarification

Filtration to remove debris

Tangential Flow Filtration

DNase treatment



**Purification
Concentration**

Pore size

Flow rate

Saturation

Chromatography for purification (?)

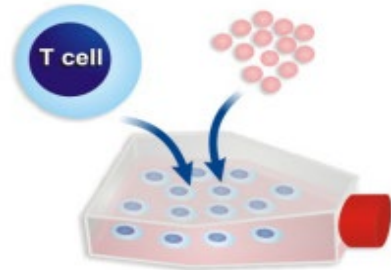


**Filter
sterilization**

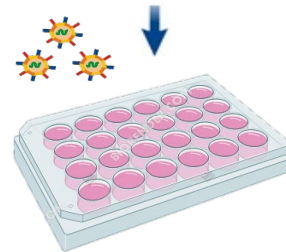
Experimental design



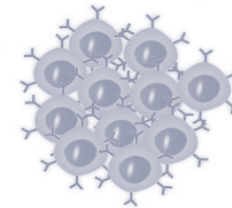
Leukapheresis



T-cells selection and activation



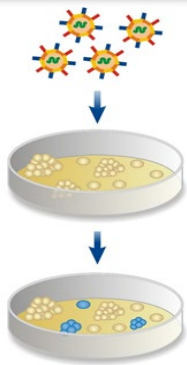
Genetic Modification



Cell expansion



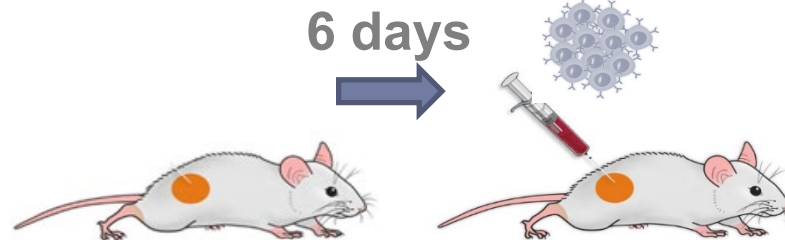
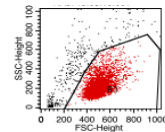
Quality Control



Generation of RAJI-Luciferase cells

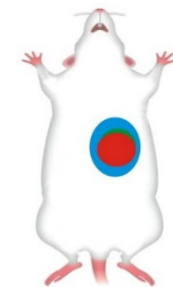


Flow cytometry



Tumor cell transplantation

Injection of CAR-T cells



IVIS analysis

Lentivirus production - GMP

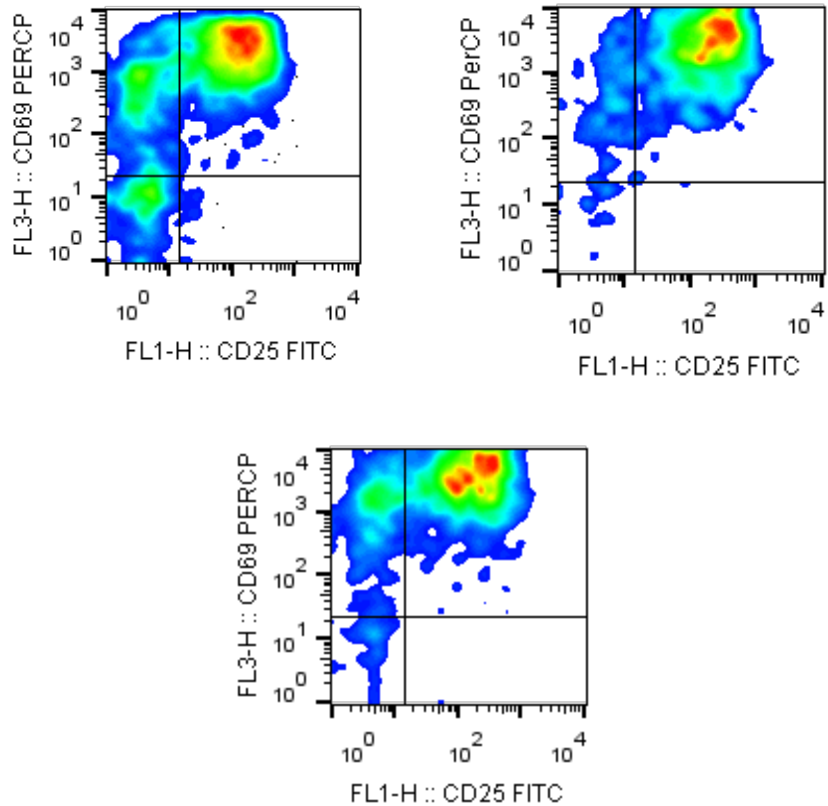


Parameter	Acceptance criteria	Batch#1	Batch#2	Batch#3
Lentiviral Titer (Infecting Units/mL)		6.9x10 ⁷	7.7x10 ⁷	1.0x10 ⁸
Microbiologic	negative	negative	negative	negative
Endotoxin	<5.0 EU/mL	0.728	0.853	0.57
Mycoplasma	<1.0	0.21	0.25	0.61

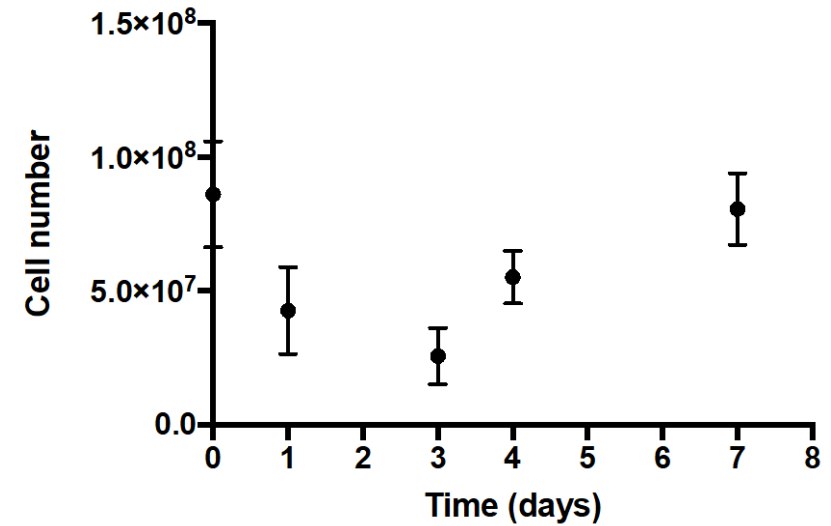
CAR19 T cells generation and expansion – healthy donors

- Cell therapy laboratory – GMP (n=3, three donors)

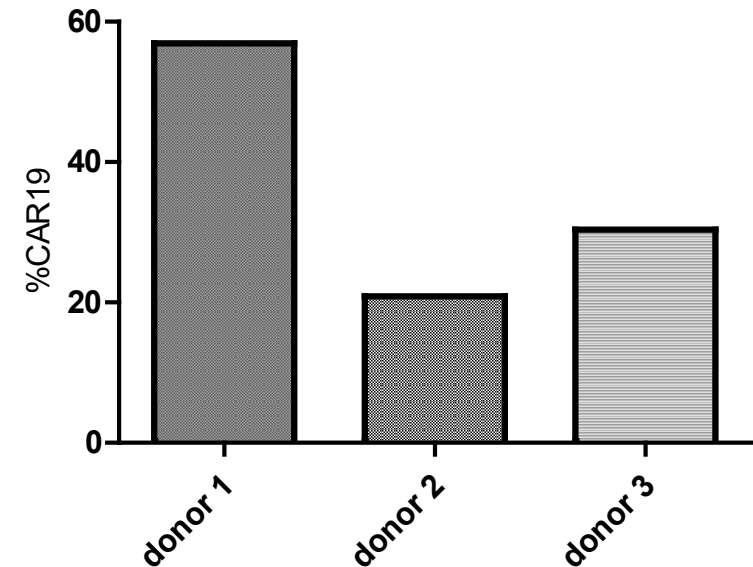
Cell activation



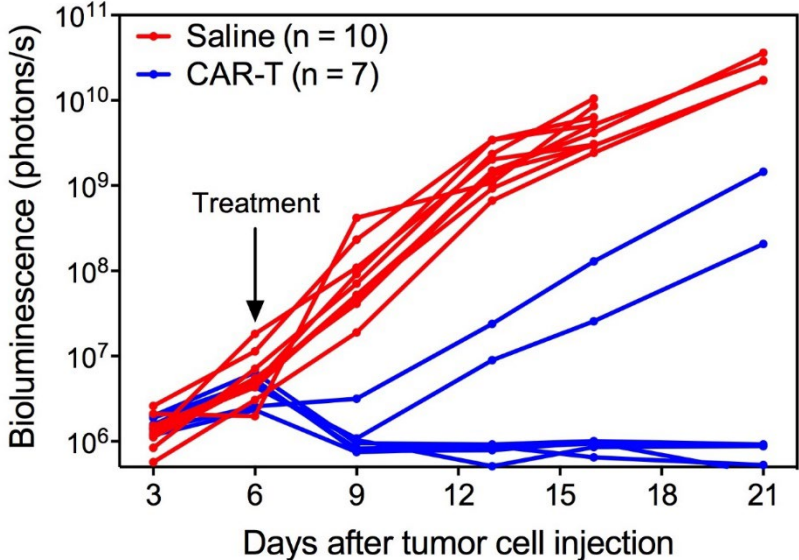
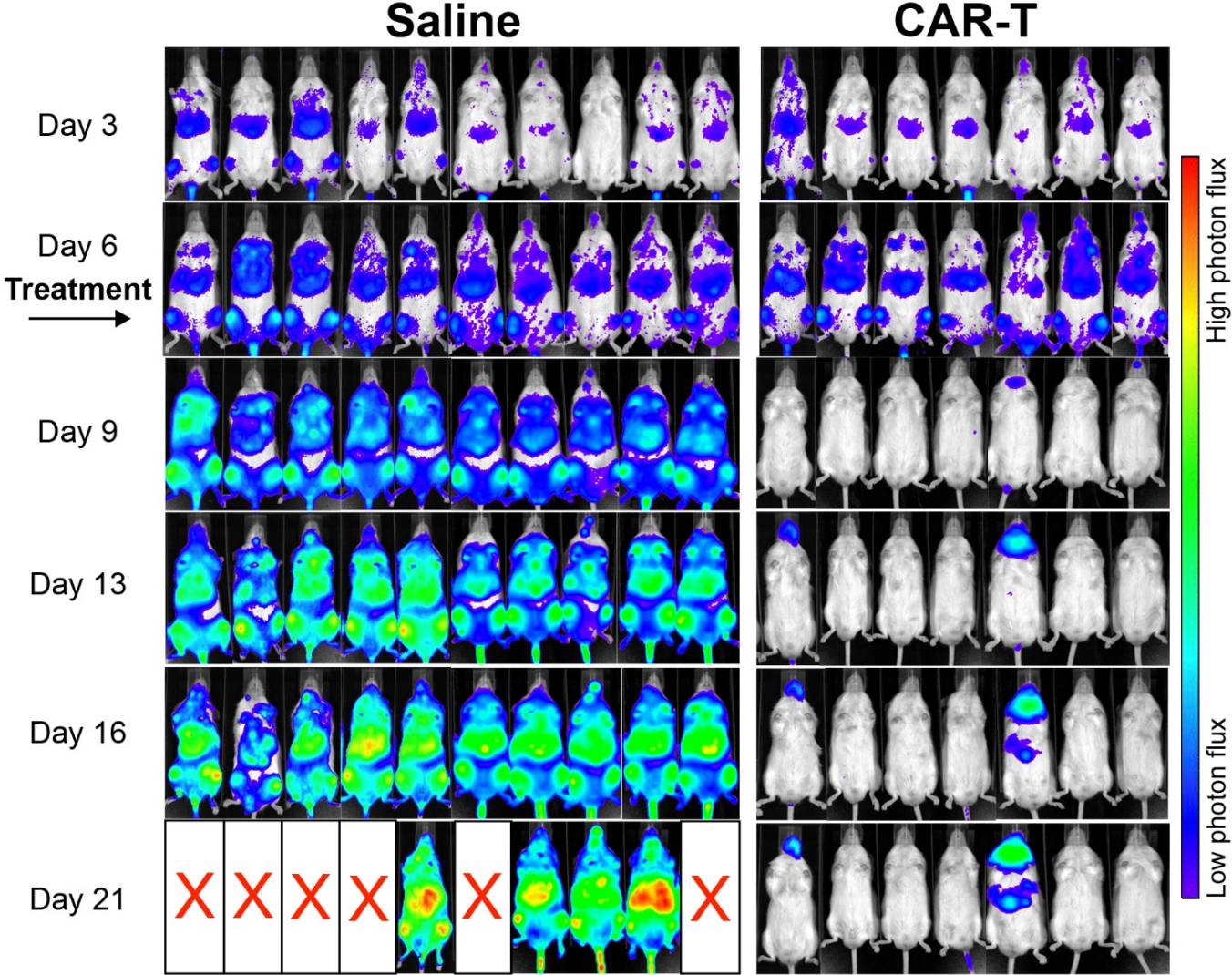
Cell expansion



CAR19 expression

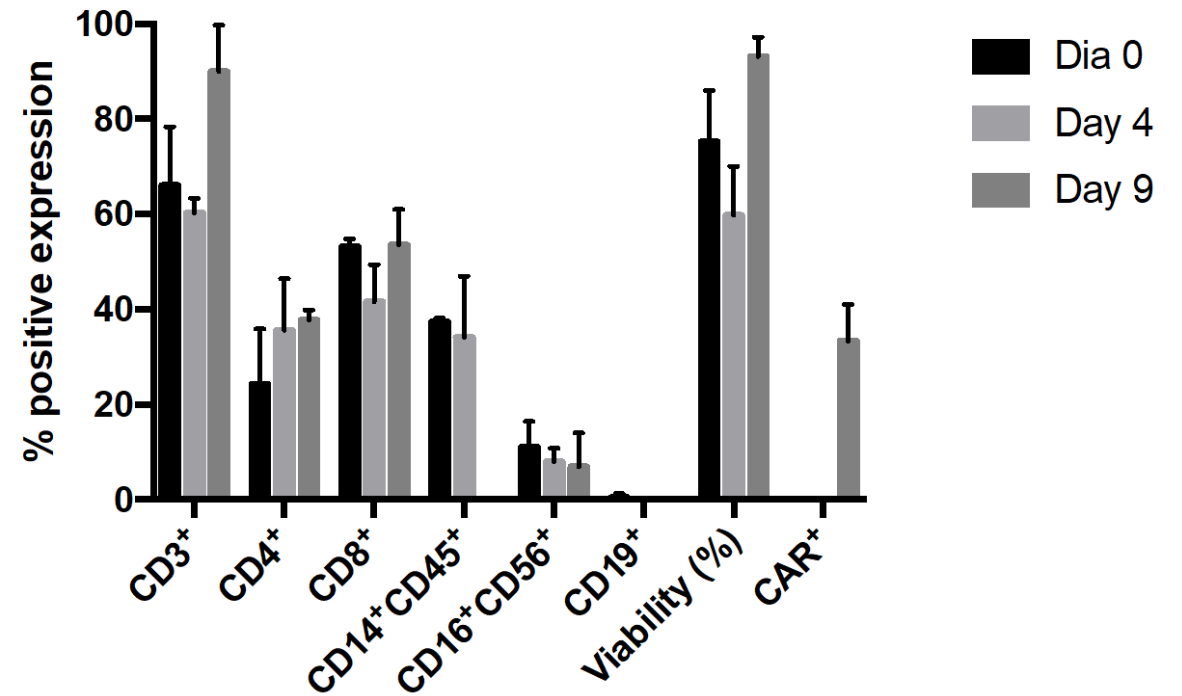
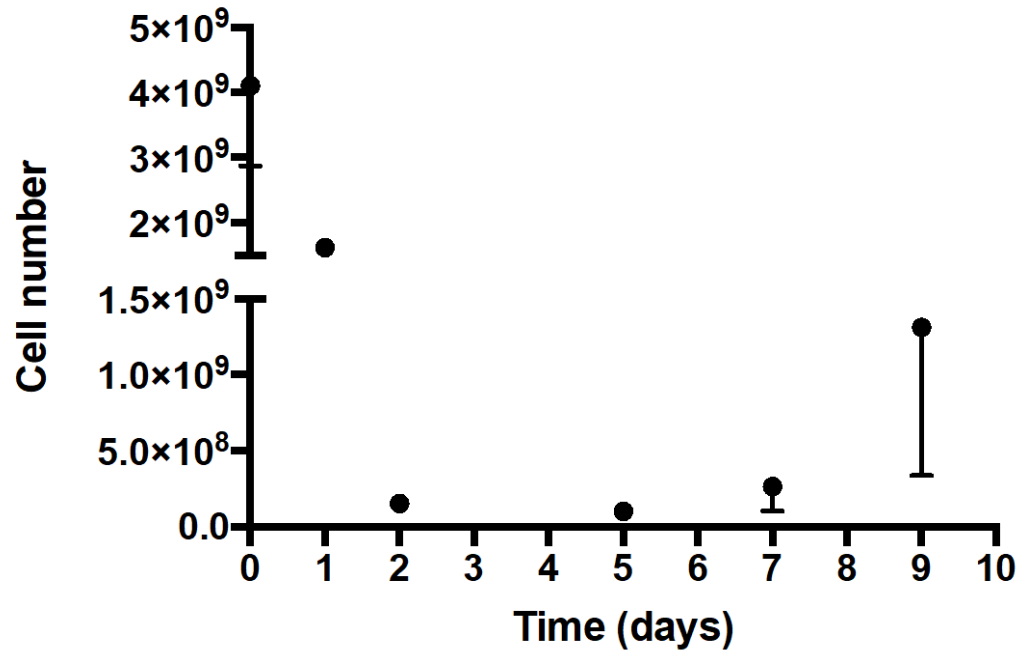


Anti-tumoral efficacy of CAR19 T cells in animal model



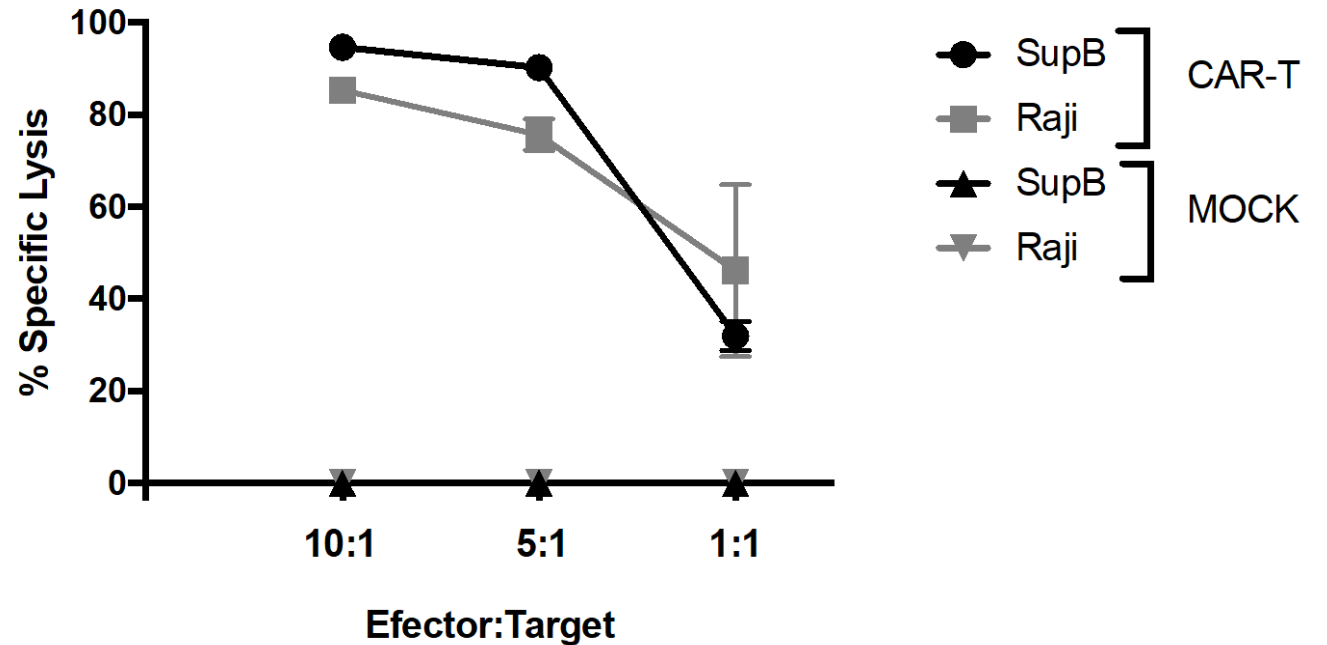
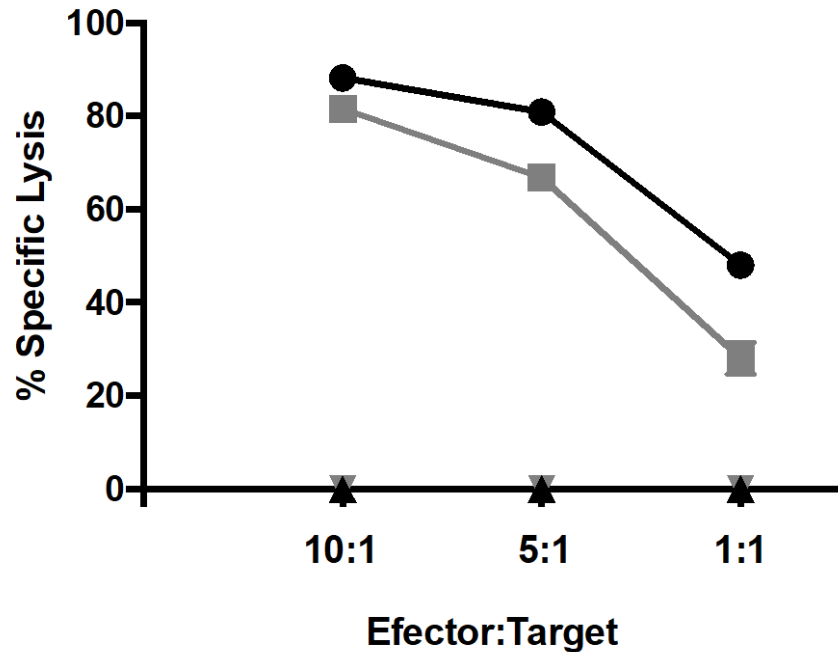
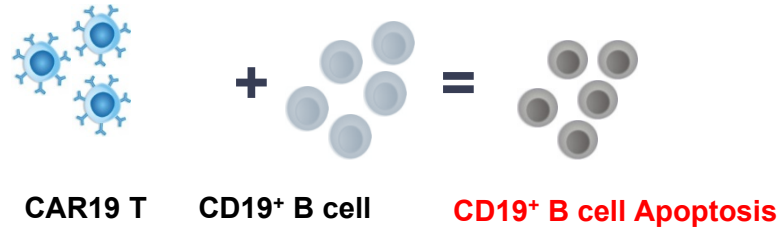
CAR19 T cells – Lymphoma patients

- Cell therapy laboratory – GMP (n=2, two independent donors)



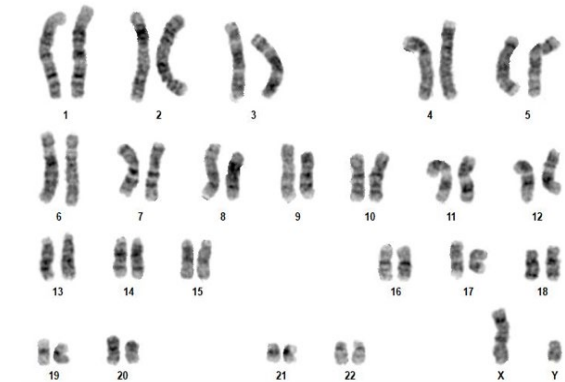
CAR19 T cells - Lymphoma patients

- In vitro cytotoxicity

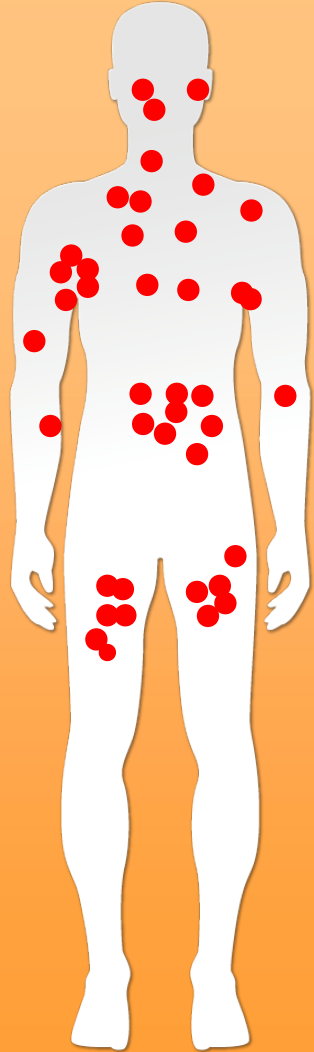


CAR19 T cells – Lymphoma patients

Patient 1	
Microbiologic	Negative
Endotoxin (<5.0 EU/mL)	0.77 EU/mL
Mycoplasma	Negative
%CD3+ cells ≥ 80%	95.9%
Cytogenetic	OK
Transduction efficiency	27.9%



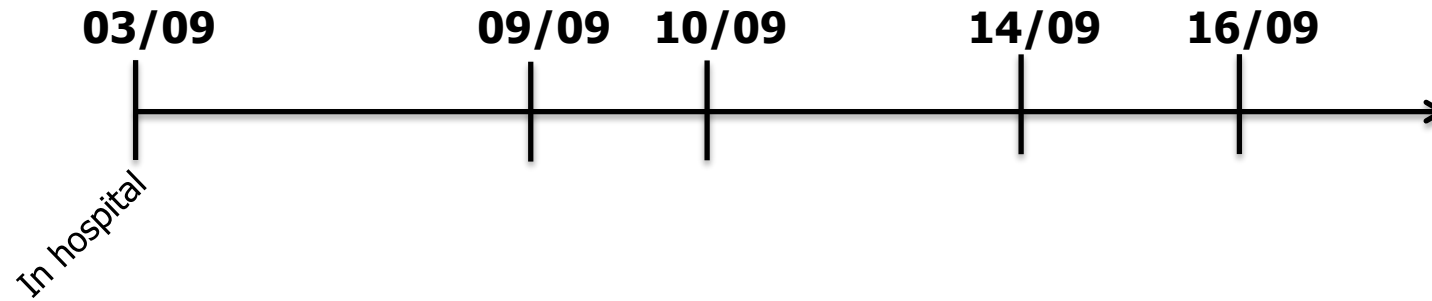
The 1st Brazilian CAR T Cell Recipient



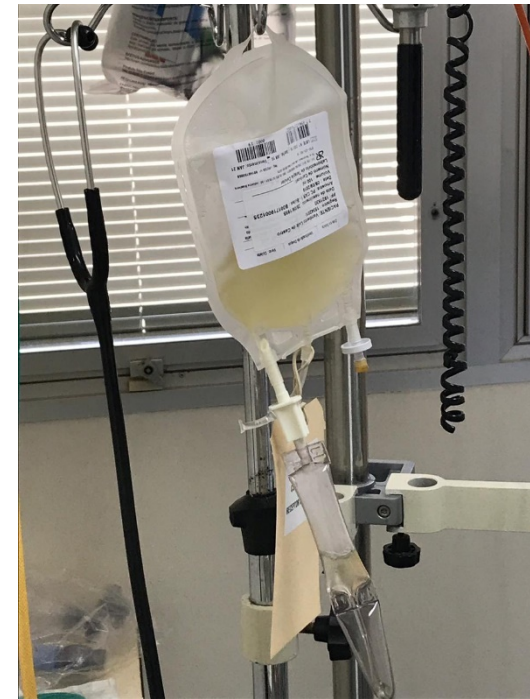
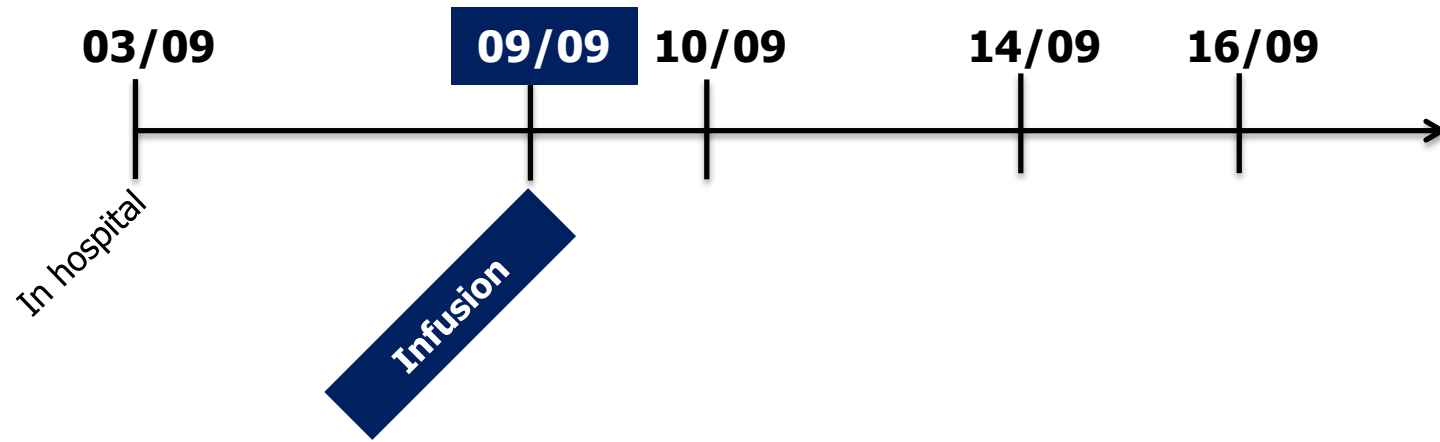
63y, male, diagnosed in 09/14/2017 with Non-Hodgkin Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma, non-GCB (Hans Algorithm), Double-Expressor, stage IIB and R-IPI score ?.

- 1st treatment (set./2017) → 8 R-CHOP + Radiotherapy
No response → bone marrow biopsy confirmed
- 2nd treatment → R-GDP + autologous
Progression of disease after 2 cycles
- 3rd treatment → R-ICE
Progression of disease after 4 cycles
Lymphocytes collection by apheresis → CAR T cell
- 4th treatment → Polatuzumab + bendamustine + rituximab
Progression of disease after 3 cycles

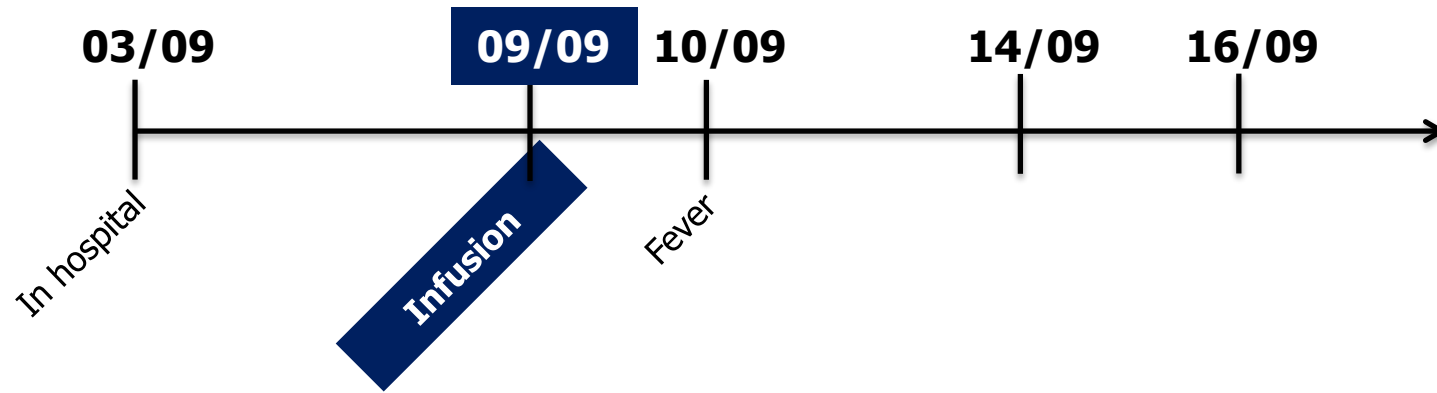
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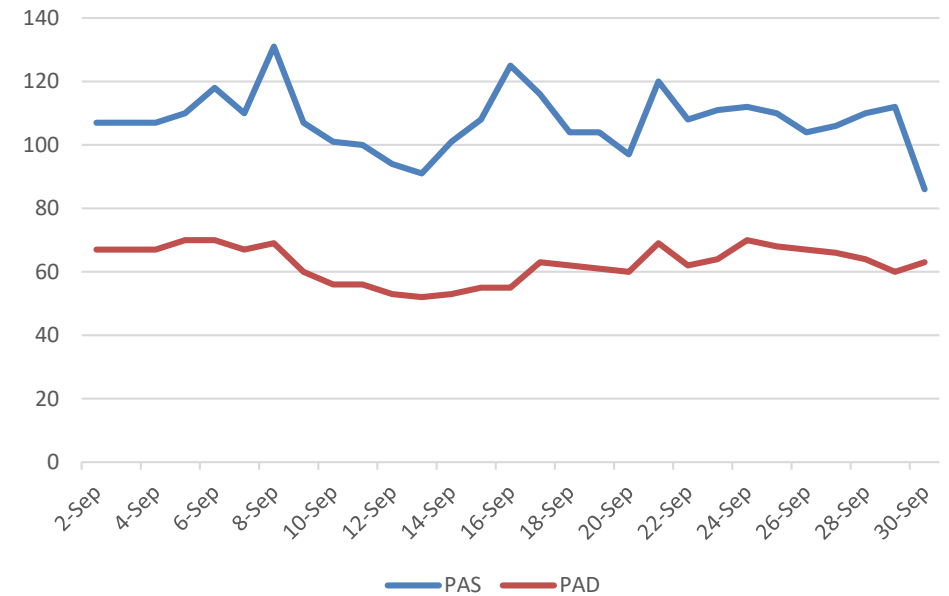
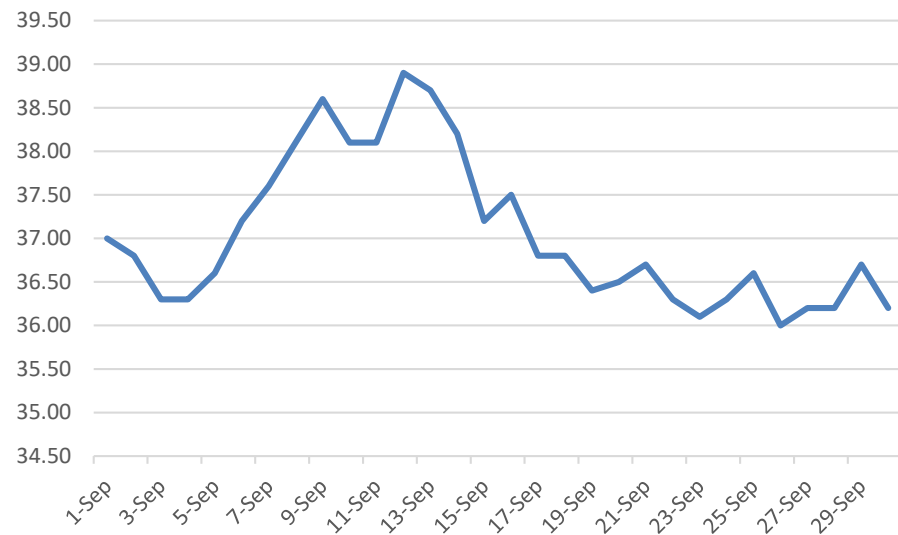
The 1st Brazilian CAR T Cell Recipient



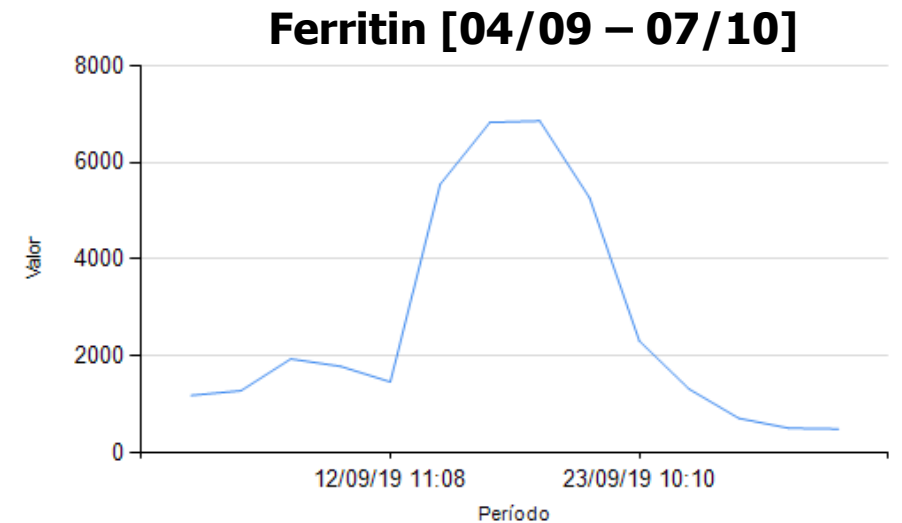
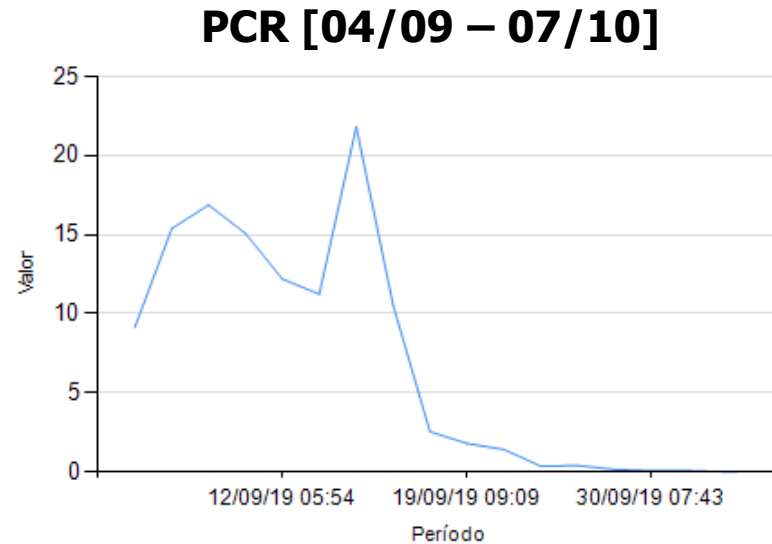
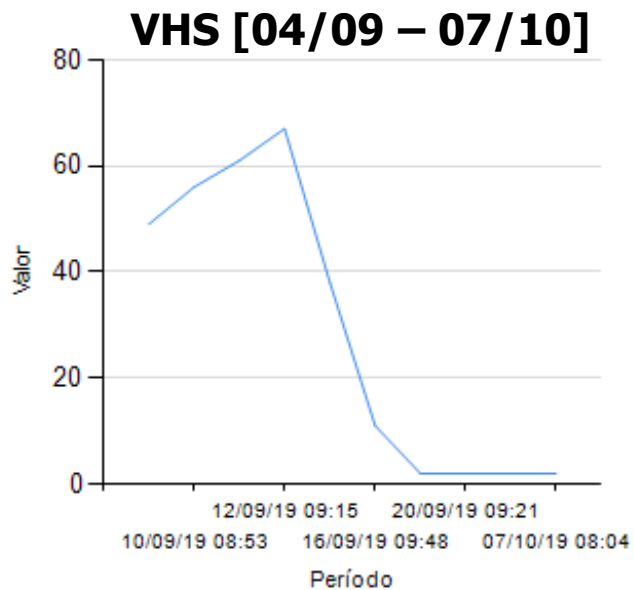
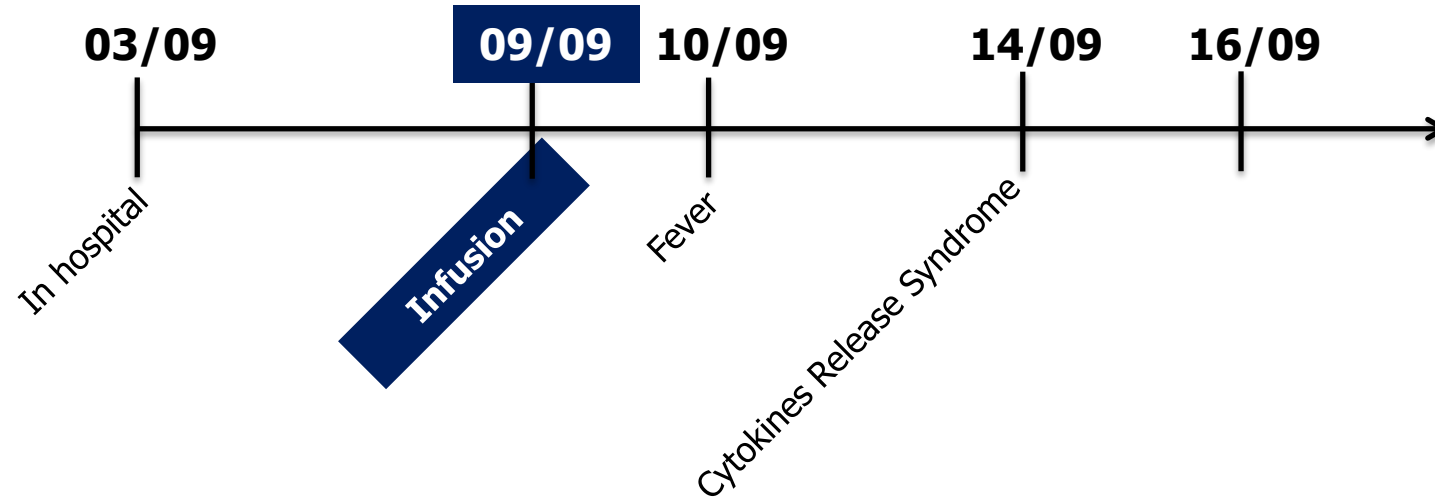
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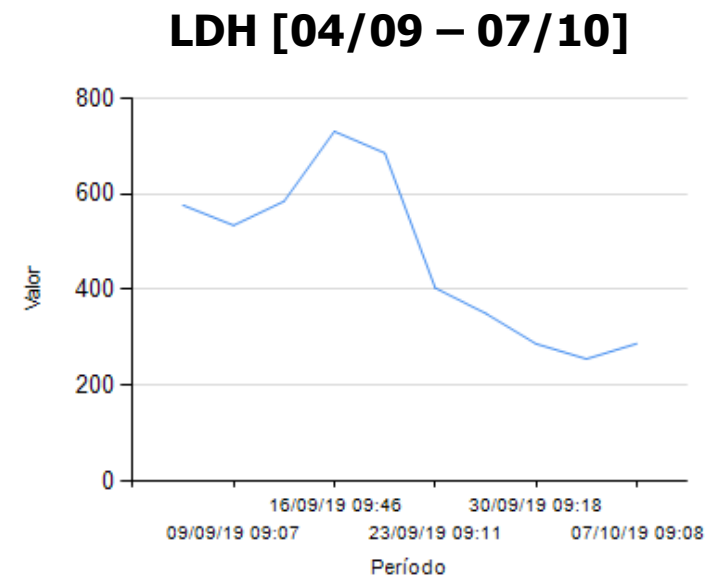
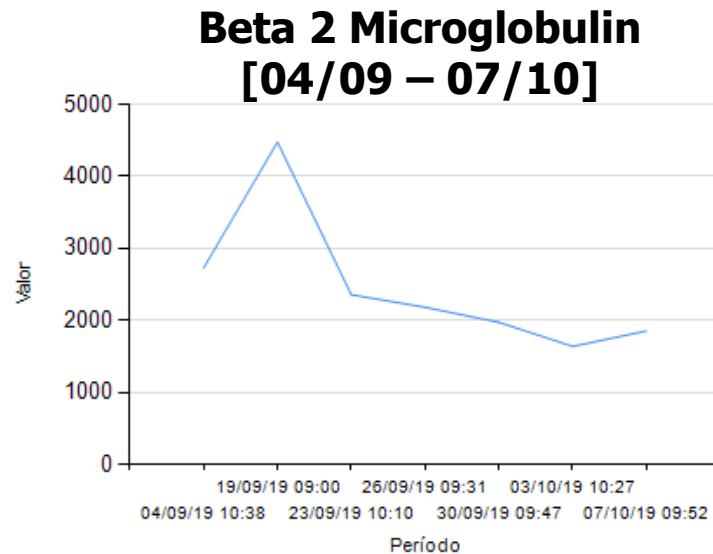
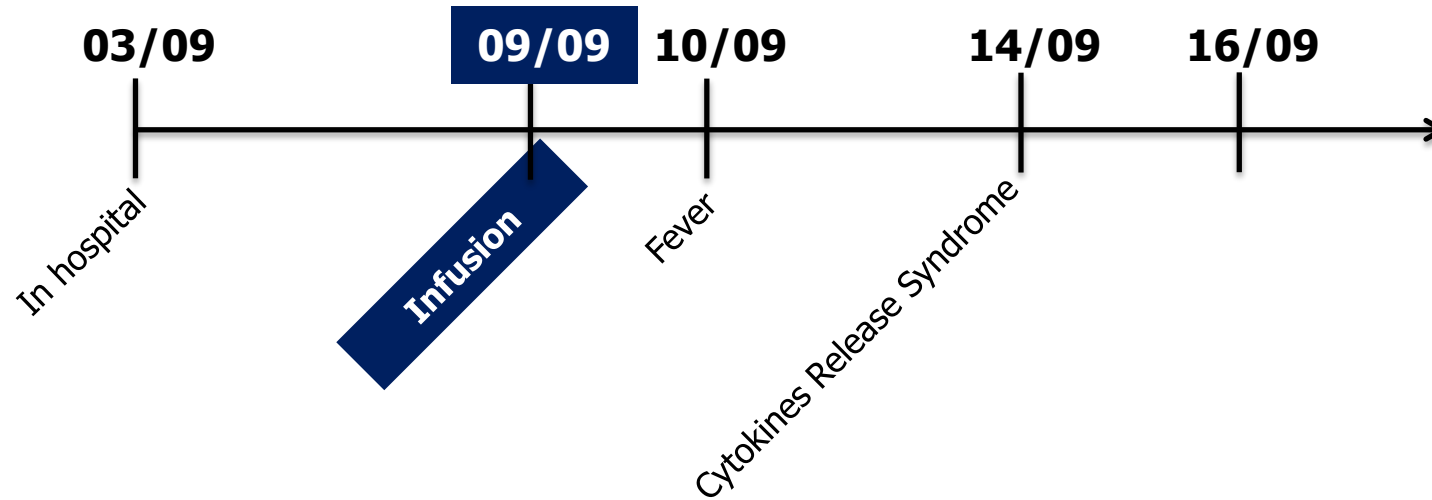
T (oC) Paciente



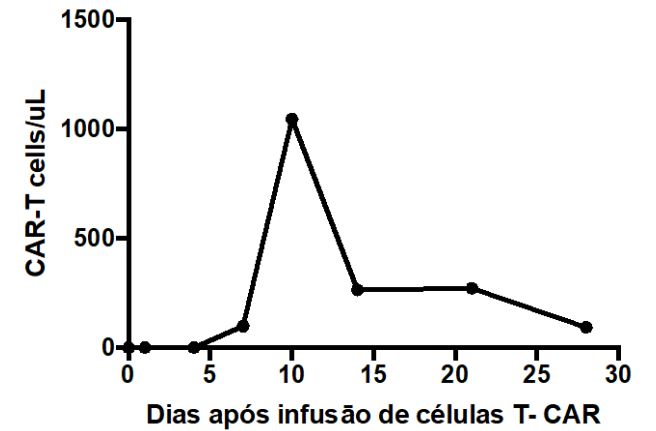
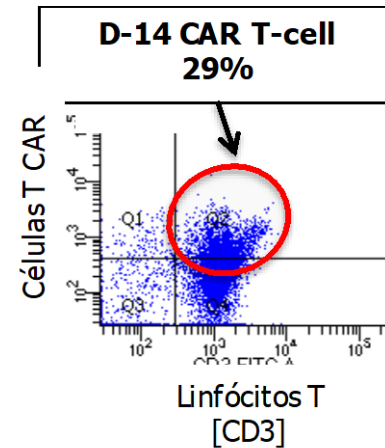
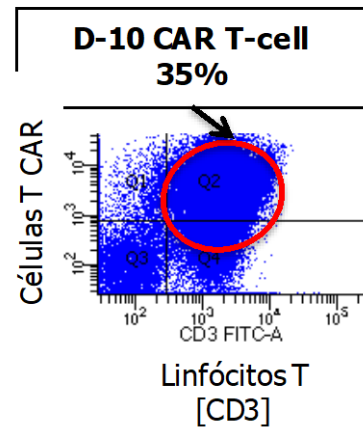
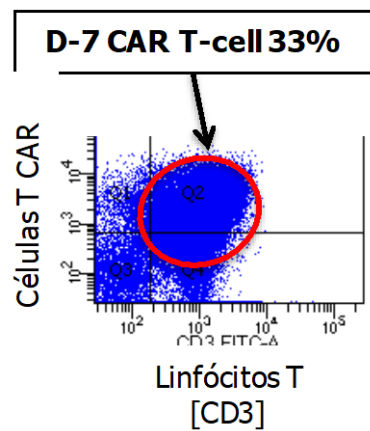
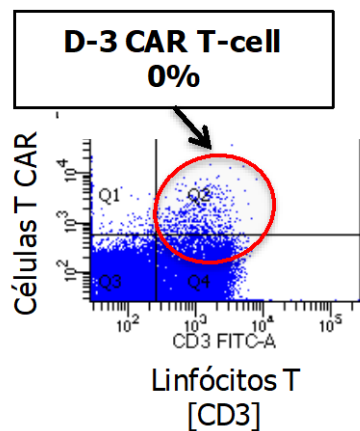
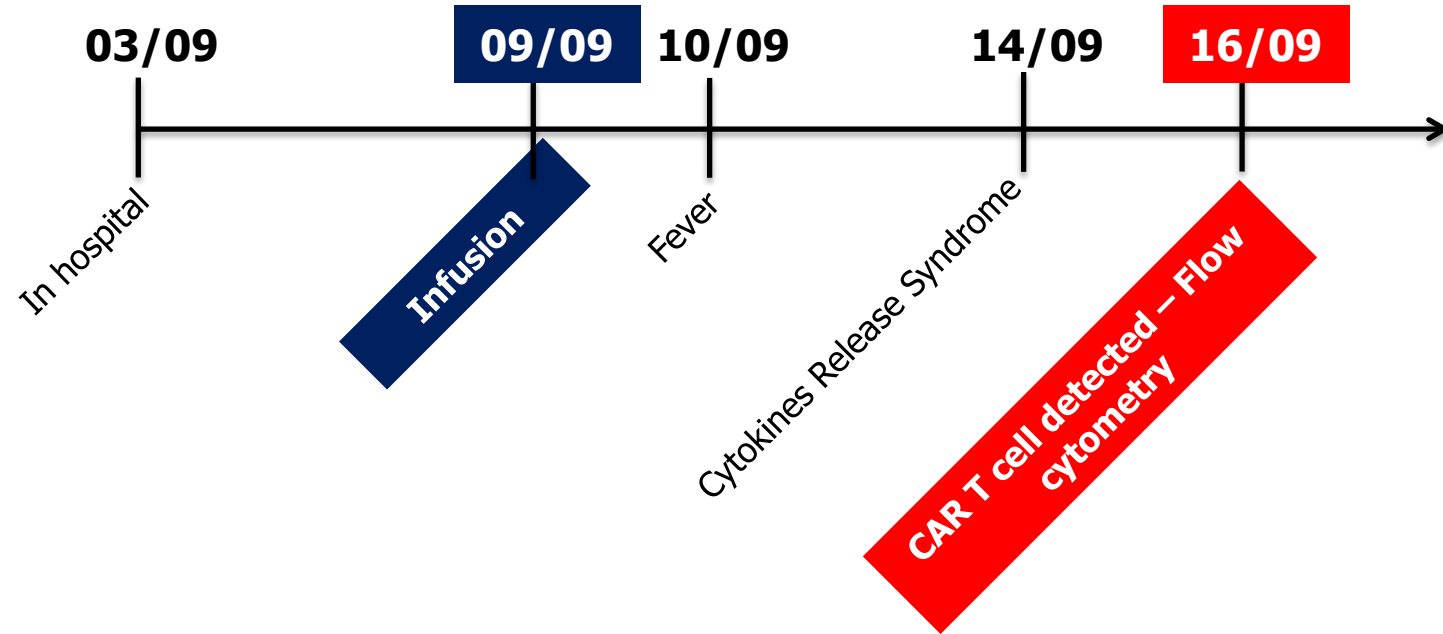
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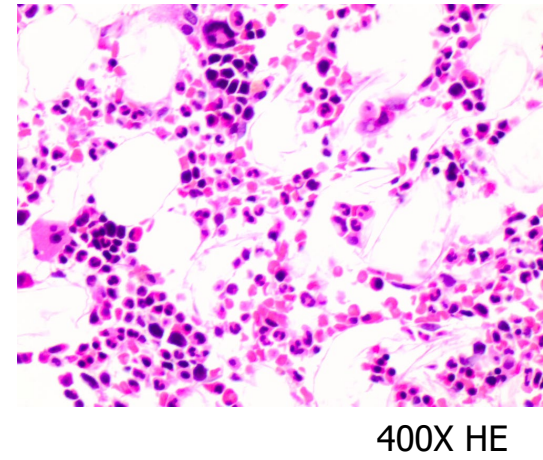
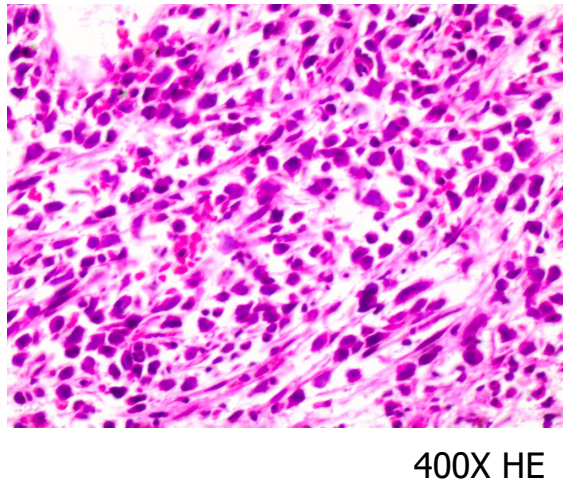
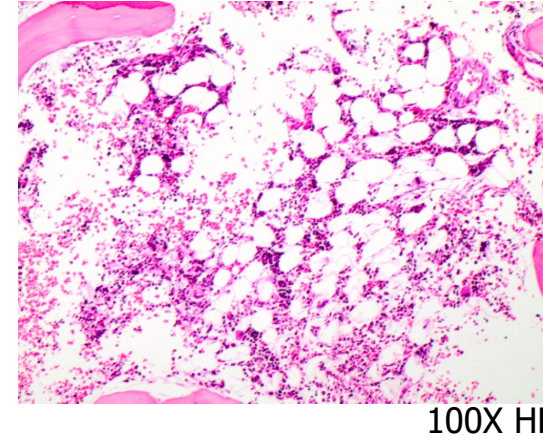
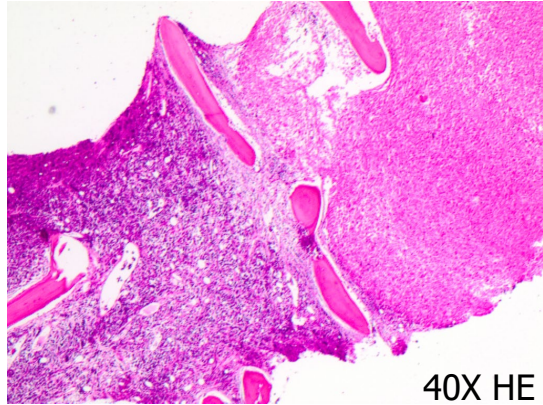
The 1st Brazilian CAR T Cell Recipient



The 1st Brazilian CAR T Cell Recipient



The 1st Brazilian CAR T Cell Recipient

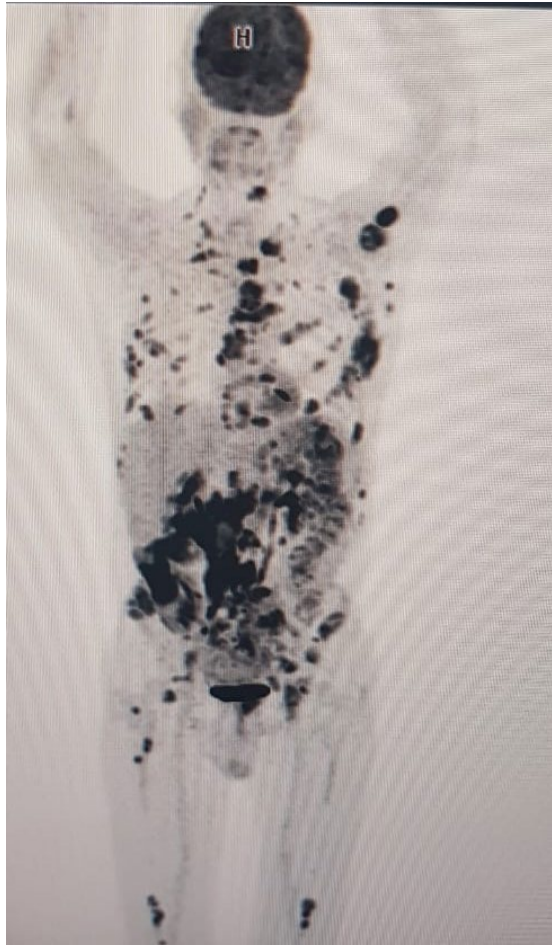


BEFORE

AFTER

EARLY BONE MARROW BIOPSY (D+30)

The 1st Brazilian CAR T Cell Recipient



BEFORE



AFTER

EARLY PET-CET (D+30)

Getting CAR T-cell Therapy into Clinical Trials in Brazil

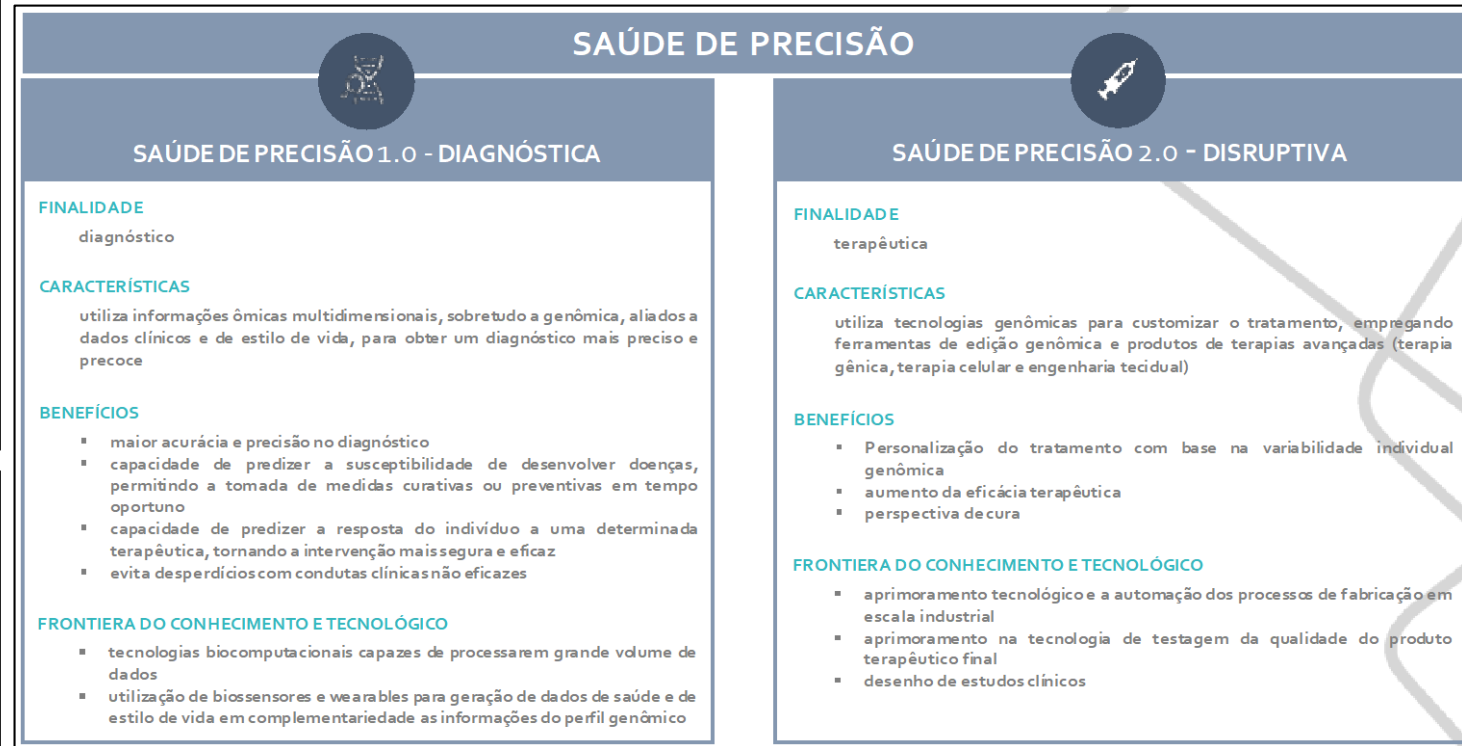
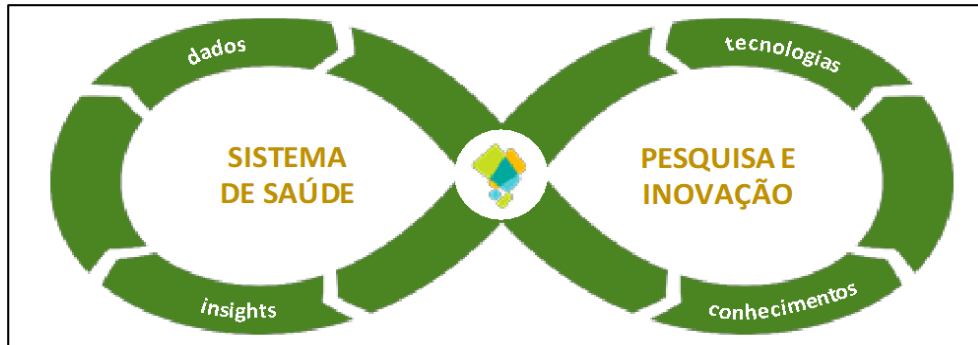
- Challenges and Opportunities -

- Restricted budget
- Restricted human resources to develop new technologies
- Delay to define regulatory aspects of advanced cell therapy
- Establish new GMP facilities
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- Clinical units and clinicians with the expertise need to

Getting CAR T-cell Therapy into Clinical Trials in Brazil

- Challenges and Opportunities -

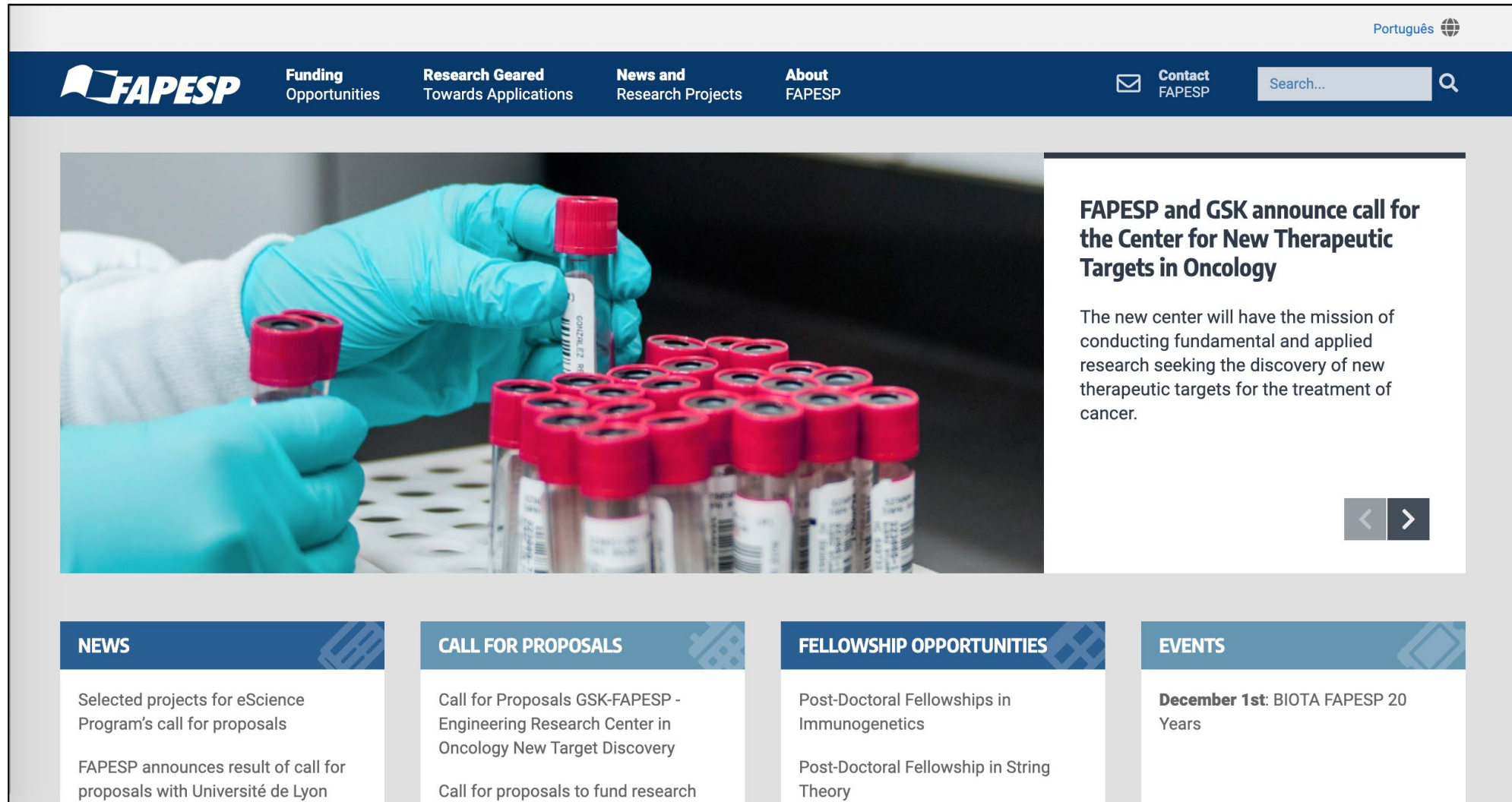
- Restricted budget



Getting CAR T-cell Therapy into Clinical Trials in Brazil

- Challenges and Opportunities -

- Restricted budget



The screenshot displays the FAPESP website interface. At the top right, there is a language selector for "Português" with a globe icon. The main navigation bar includes the FAPESP logo and several menu items: "Funding Opportunities", "Research Geared Towards Applications", "News and Research Projects", and "About FAPESP". On the right side of the navigation bar, there is a "Contact FAPESP" link with an envelope icon and a search bar with the placeholder text "Search..." and a magnifying glass icon.

The main content area features a large image on the left showing a person wearing blue gloves handling several vials with red caps in a laboratory setting. To the right of the image is a news article titled "FAPESP and GSK announce call for the Center for New Therapeutic Targets in Oncology". The article text reads: "The new center will have the mission of conducting fundamental and applied research seeking the discovery of new therapeutic targets for the treatment of cancer." Below the article text are navigation arrows (left and right).

At the bottom of the page, there are four columns of content:

- NEWS**:
 - Selected projects for eScience Program's call for proposals
 - FAPESP announces result of call for proposals with Université de Lyon
- CALL FOR PROPOSALS**:
 - Call for Proposals GSK-FAPESP - Engineering Research Center in Oncology New Target Discovery
 - Call for proposals to fund research
- FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**:
 - Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Immunogenetics
 - Post-Doctoral Fellowship in String Theory
- EVENTS**:
 - December 1st:** BIOTA FAPESP 20 Years

Getting CAR T-cell Therapy into Clinical Trials in Brazil

- Challenges and Opportunities -

- Restricted budget
- Restricted human resources to develop new technologies

International collaboration – research and manufacturing

The screenshot shows the NIH National Cancer Institute Center for Cancer Research website. The main heading is "Experimental Transplantation and Immunotherapy Branch" with Chief Ronald E. Gress, M.D. Below this, there is a "CONTACT INFO" section with the following details:

CONTACT INFO
Experimental Transplantation and Immunotherapy Branch
Center for Cancer Research
National Cancer Institute
Building 10, Room 3E3330
Bethesda, MD 20892-1203
Ph: 240-858-3030
Fax: 240-541-4566

PROGRAM SPECIALIST
Betty Garcia
240-858-3332

PROGRAM SPECIALIST
Deane Francia
240-858-3705

The screenshot shows the American Society of Hematology (ASH) website. The main heading is "Apply for ASH Global Research Award". Below this, there is a list of bullet points:

- Support the hematology-focused careers of ASH members who are trainees or early-career investigator based in countries other than the United States or Canada.
- Foster an inclusive scientific community by supporting leaders from all regions of the world.
- Offer a funding structure that accommodates a wide array of innovative, project-based, hematology-related applications.
- Provide support for training, including training in the conduct of clinical trials and research.
- Support malignant and non-malignant hematology projects.

ASH Global Research Award

CTC - Ribeirão Preto & ETIB - NCI/NIH

Principal Investigator:

Renato Guerino-Cunha, M.D. - Ph.D.

Local Mentor:

Prof. Dr. **Eduardo Magalhães Rego**, M.D. - Ph.D.
Professor Titular FMRP-USP

Global Mentor:

Dr. **Ronald Gress**, M.D.
Experimental Transplantation and Immunotherapy Branch - NCI/NIH
Clinical Center Research (CCR) - NCI/NIH

Prêmio: US\$ 150.000,00 → 100% destinado à pesquisa

Instituição Sede: CTC - Ribeirão Preto



Getting CAR T-cell Therapy into Clinical Trials in Brazil

- Challenges and Opportunities -

- Restricted budget
- Restricted human resources to develop new technologies
- Delay to define regulatory aspects of advanced cell therapy



Ministério da Saúde
Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária

RESOLUÇÃO DA DIRETORIA COLEGIADA – RDC Nº 214, DE 7 DE FEVEREIRO DE 2018

Dispõe sobre as Boas Práticas em Células Humanas para Uso Terapêutico e pesquisa clínica, e dá outras providências.



DIÁRIO OFICIAL DA UNIÃO
Publicado em: 28/12/2018 | Edição: 249 | Seção: 1 | Página: 417
Órgão: Ministério da Saúde/Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária/Diretoria Colegiada

RESOLUÇÃO DA DIRETORIA COLEGIADA - RDC Nº 260, DE 21 DE DEZEMBRO DE 2018

Dispõe sobre as regras para a realização de ensaios clínicos com produto de terapia avançada investigacional no Brasil, e dá outras providências.



DIÁRIO OFICIAL DA UNIÃO
Publicado em: 26/02/2020 | Edição: 38 | Seção: 1 | Página: 69
Órgão: Ministério da Saúde/Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária/Diretoria Colegiada

RESOLUÇÃO DA DIRETORIA COLEGIADA - RDC Nº 338, DE 20 DE FEVEREIRO DE 2020

Dispõe sobre o registro de produto de terapia avançada e dá outras providências.

Getting CAR T-cell Therapy into Clinical Trials in Brazil

- Challenges and Opportunities -

- Delay to define regulatory aspects of advanced cell therapy



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NOSSA EQUIPE

A RENETA é formada por profissionais com expertise em produtos de terapia avançada pertencentes a prestigiadas instituições de ensino, pesquisa e assistência à saúde brasileiras.



[SAIBA MAIS SOBRE A NOSSA EQUIPE](#)

Getting CAR T-cell Therapy into Clinical Trials in Brazil


- Challenges and Opportunities -


- Restricted budget
- Restricted human resources to develop new technologies
- Delay to define regulatory aspects of advanced cell therapy
- Establish new GMP facilities
- Generation of vectors in GMP conditions
 - **Butantan Institute Initiative**

Getting CAR T-cell Therapy into Clinical Trials in Brazil


- Challenges and Opportunities -

- Establish new GMP facilities
- Generation of vectors in GMP conditions
- Translational research
 - **Butantan Institute**
 - **Center for cell-based Therapy - Ribeirão Preto Medical School**


	
Vaccines <small>doses per year</small>	
Flu vaccine <small>trivalent, fragmented, inactivated</small>	140M
Hep B <small>recombinant</small>	66M
HPV 6, 11, 16, 18 <small>with MSD</small>	12M
dTPa <small>with GSK</small>	20M
Hep A Inactivated <small>with MSD</small>	10M
Antivenom <small>ADIs</small>	
Diphtheria antitoxin	
Tetanus antitoxin	
Botulism AB antitoxin	
Anti-rabies immunoglobulin	
Snake antivenom <small>for Bothrops pit vipers, Crotalus durissus rattlesnake, Lachesis bushmaster and Micrurus coral snake envenoming</small>	
Scorpion antivenom <small>for Tityus scorpion envenoming</small>	
Spider and scorpion antivenin <small>for Loxosceles or Phoneutria spider,</small>	



Project ▾
Investigators ▾
Células CAR T ▾
Education ▾
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Clinical Trials ▾
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Ribeirão Preto Medical School
University of São Paulo



Getting CAR T-cell Therapy into Clinical Trials in Brazil

- Challenges and Opportunities -

- Restricted budget
- Restricted human resources to develop new technologies
- Delay to define regulatory aspects of advanced cell therapy
- Establish new GMP facilities
- Generation of vectors in GMP conditions
- Translational research
- Clinical units and clinicians with the expertise need to

Acknowledgements





Thanks!

rlgc@usp.br



[DrRenatoCunha](#)