

Creating Smarter T Cells For Immunotherapy



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American Cancer Society Virginia Hobbs Research Professor

Disclosures

Founder and Sponsored Research

Juno Therapeutics/Celgene/BMS
Lyell Immunopharma

Consultant and Equity

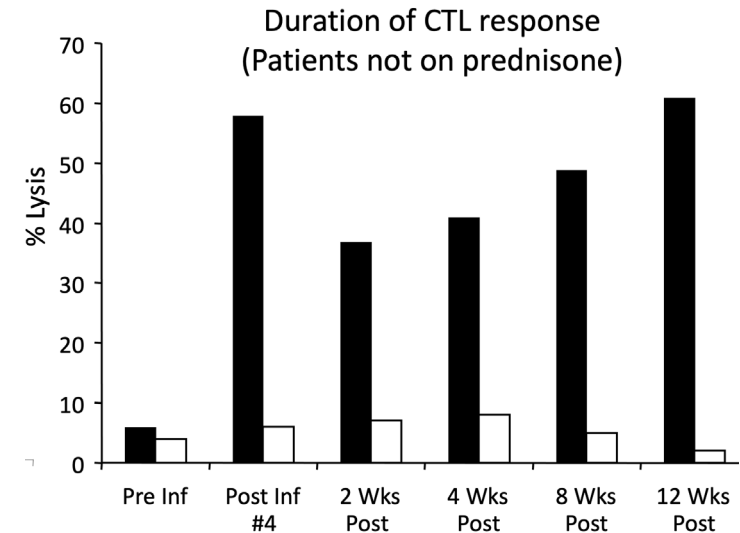
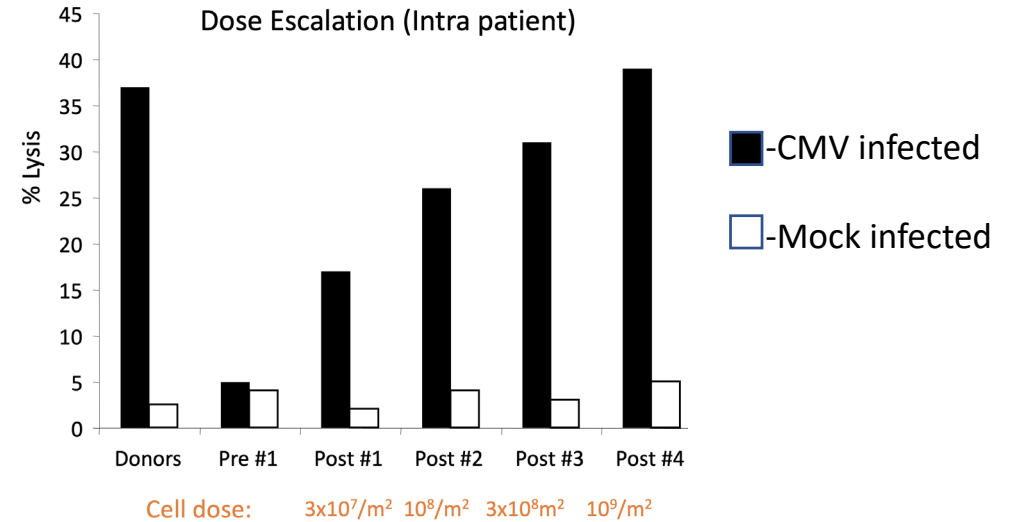
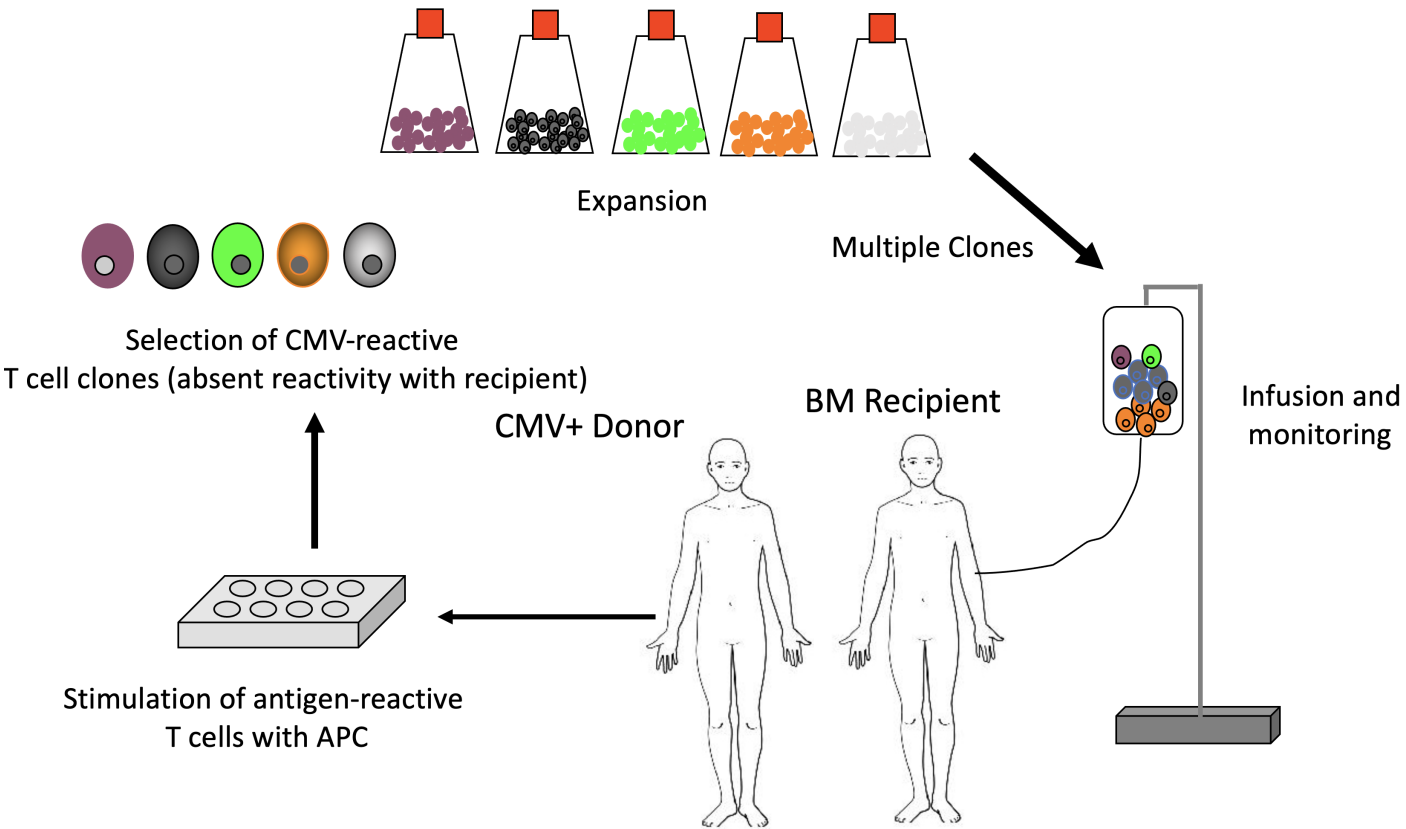
Juno Therapeutics/Celgene/BMS
Lyell Immunopharma
Adaptive Biotechnologies

I. T cell fitness

II. Infiltration and function of CAR-T cells in solid tumors

III. Enhancing the sensitivity and specificity of receptors

Reconstituting CMV-specific T cell immunity after allogeneic bone marrow transplant



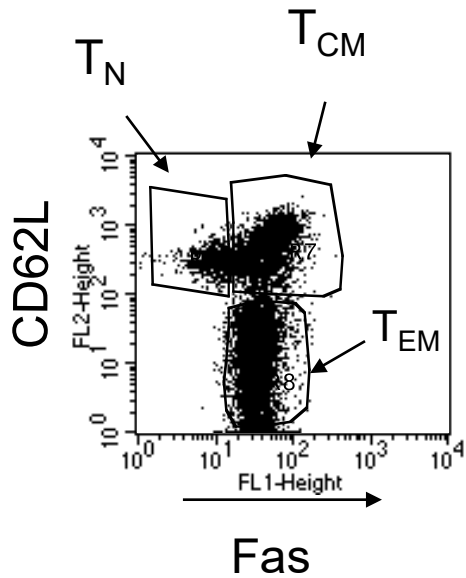
- **TCRVb - not all transferred T cells were detected post infusion**
- **Ability of T cells to persist was not dose related**

T cells derived from T_{CM} and T_{EM} subsets exhibit different capacities for reconstituting durable immunity

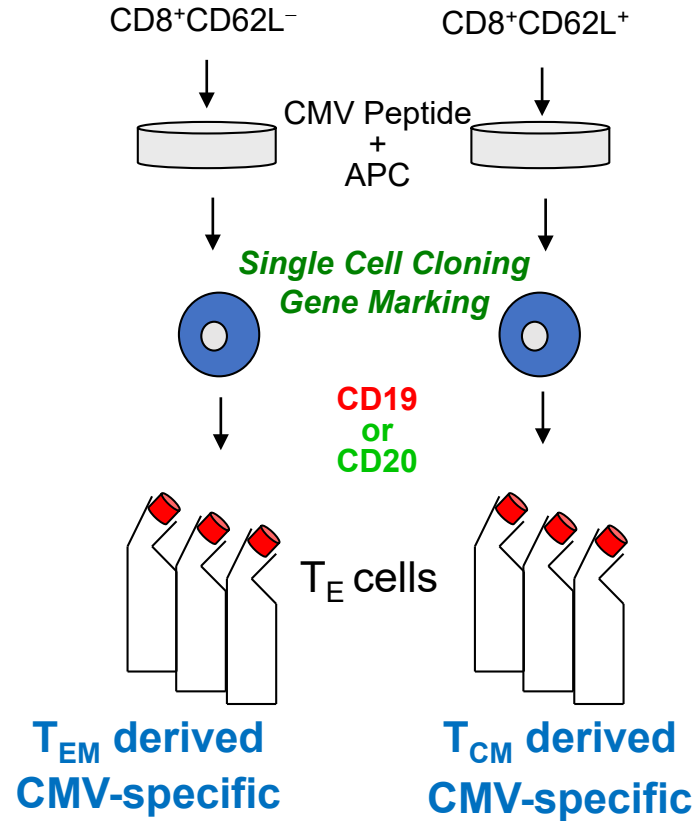
letters to nature

Two subsets of memory T lymphocytes with distinct homing potentials and effector functions

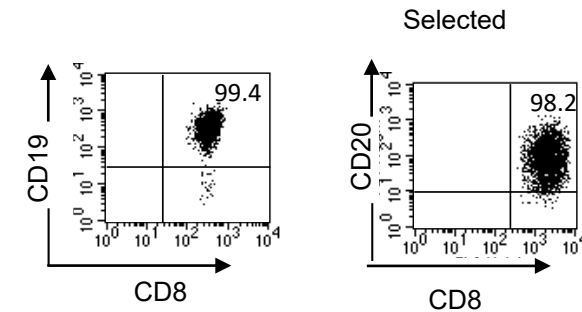
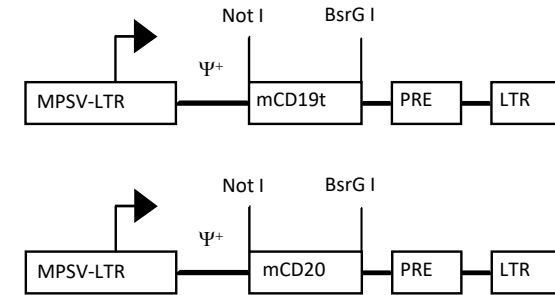
Federica Sallusto*, Danielle Lenig*, Reinhold Förster†, Martin Lipp† & Antonio Lanzavecchia*



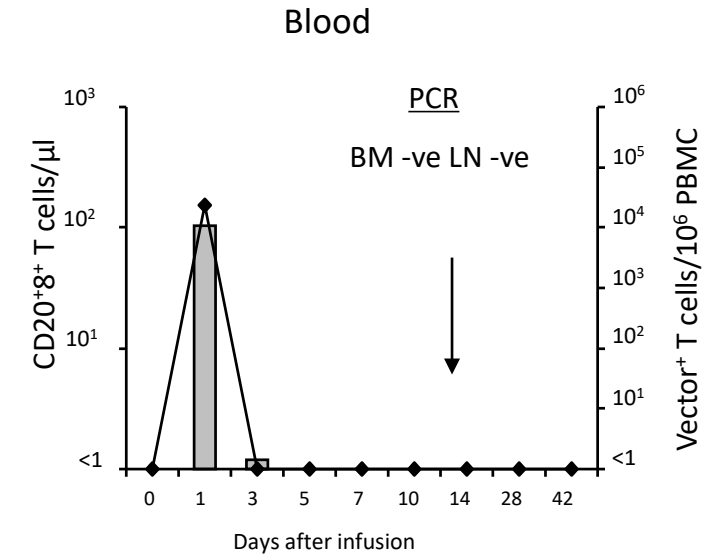
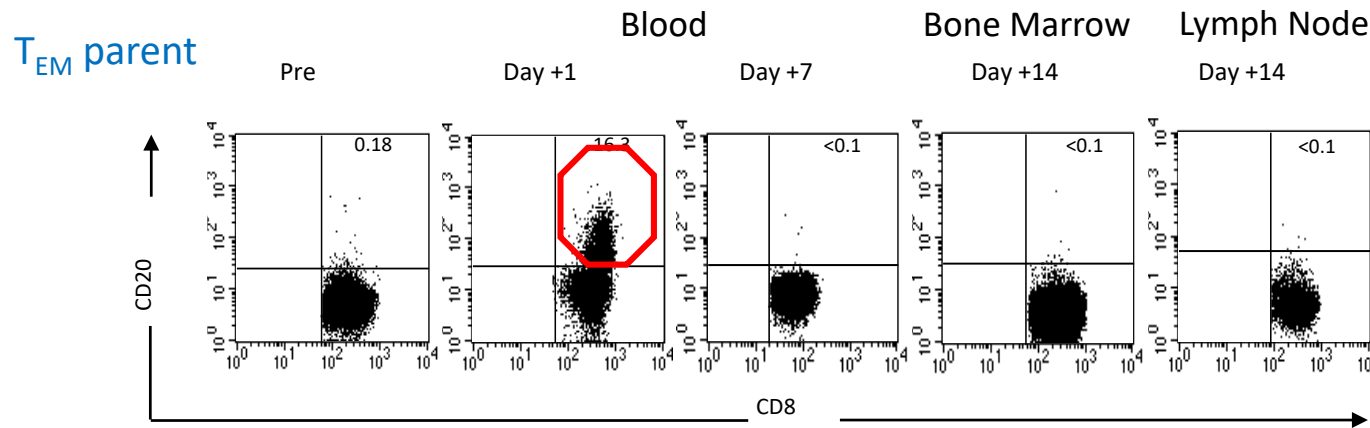
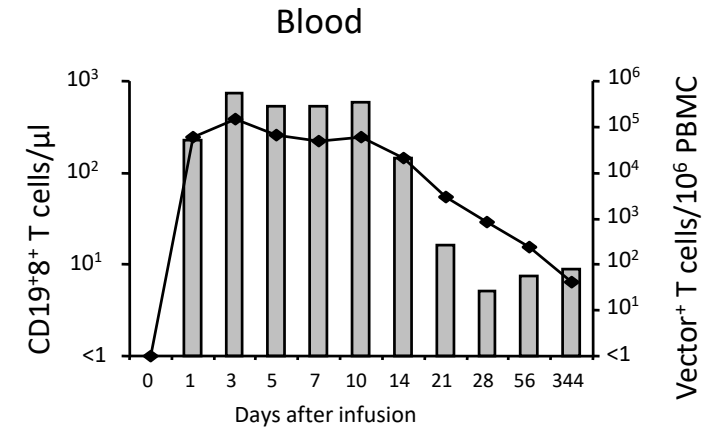
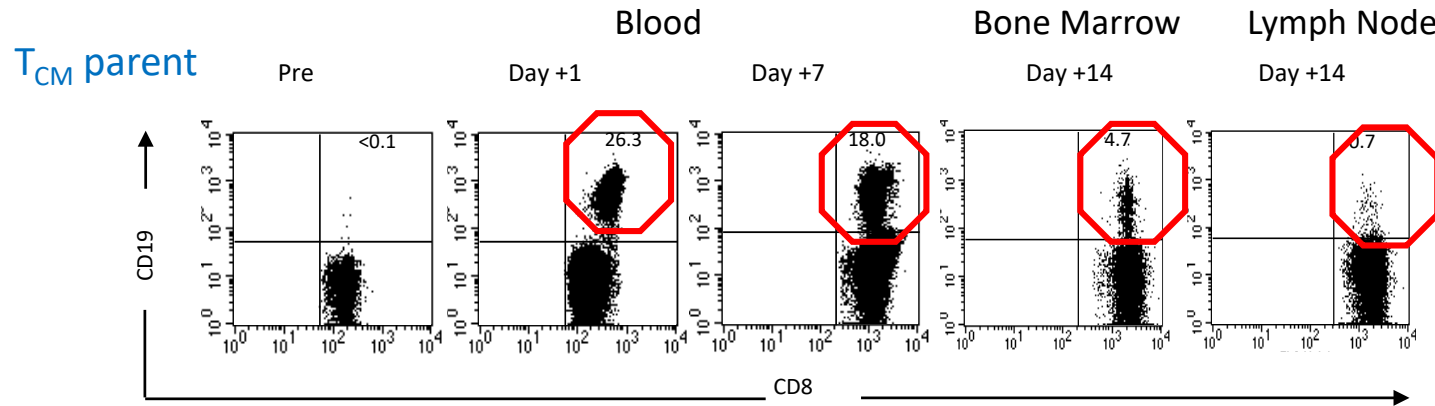
Gene marking of RhCMV-specific T cells for adoptive transfer in non-human primates



Retroviral Vectors: MP71-mCD19; mCD20

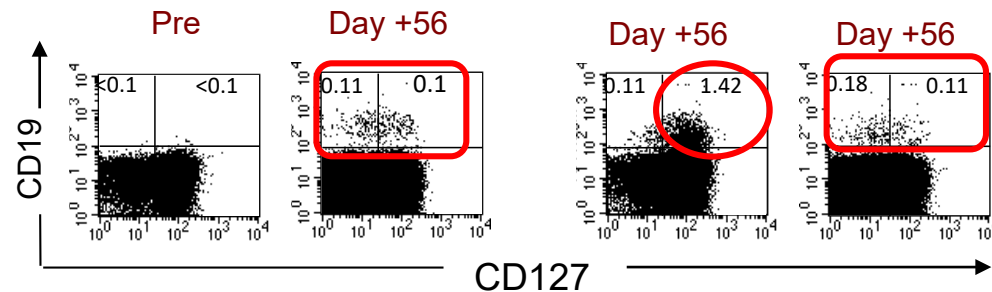
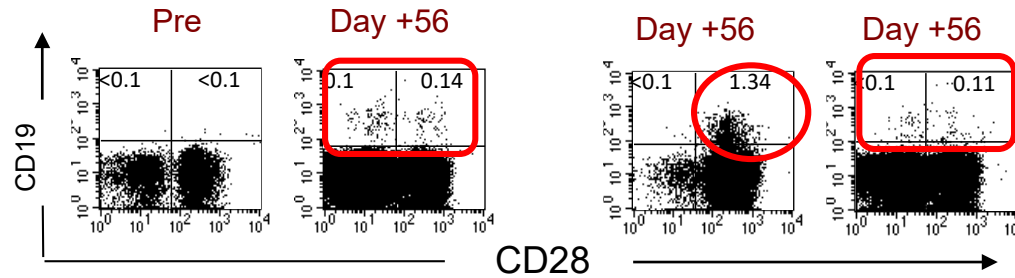
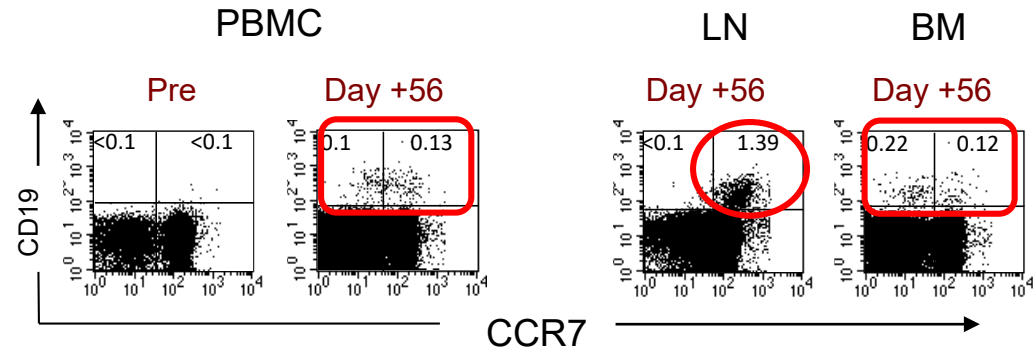
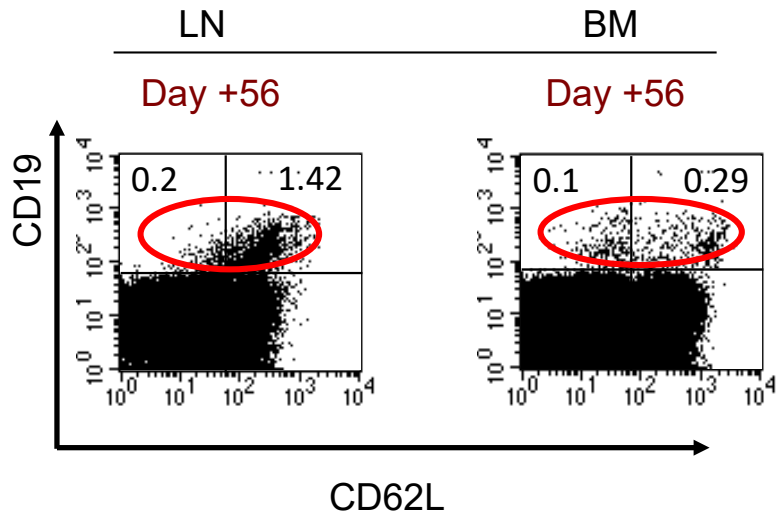


Virus-specific T_E clones derived from T_{CM} but not T_{EM} persist long term after adoptive transfer into animals without lymphodepletion



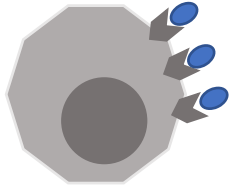
Transfer of T_{CM} -derived T_E cells establishes diverse memory phenotypes

Gated on CD3+
CD8+ T Cells



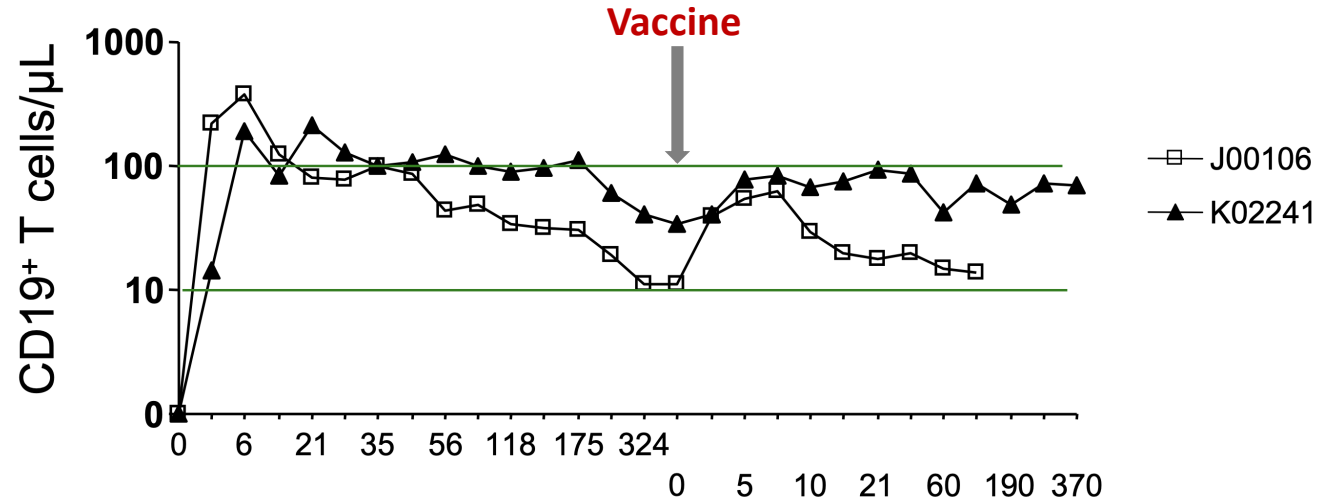
T cell memory established by transfer of T_{CM} derived cells is antigen responsive and durable

T cell vaccine (T-APC)

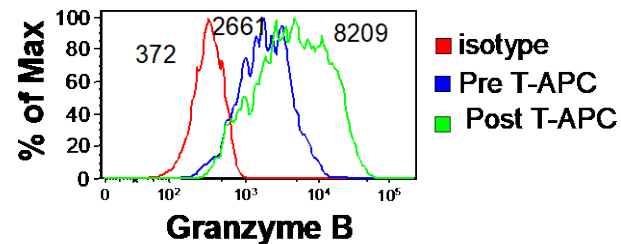
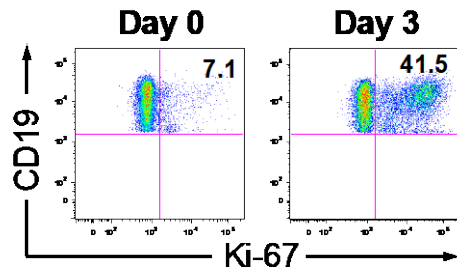
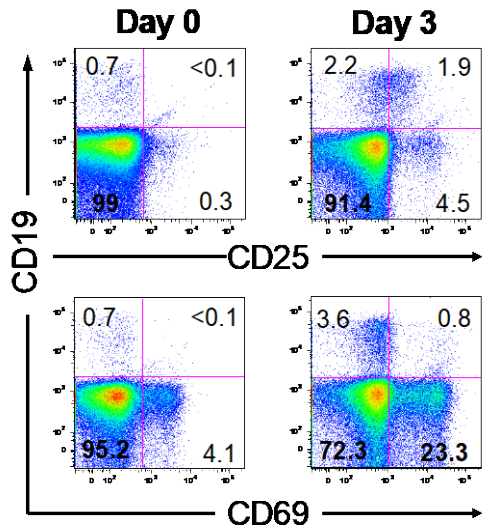


Administered T-APC
~ 1 yr post transfer

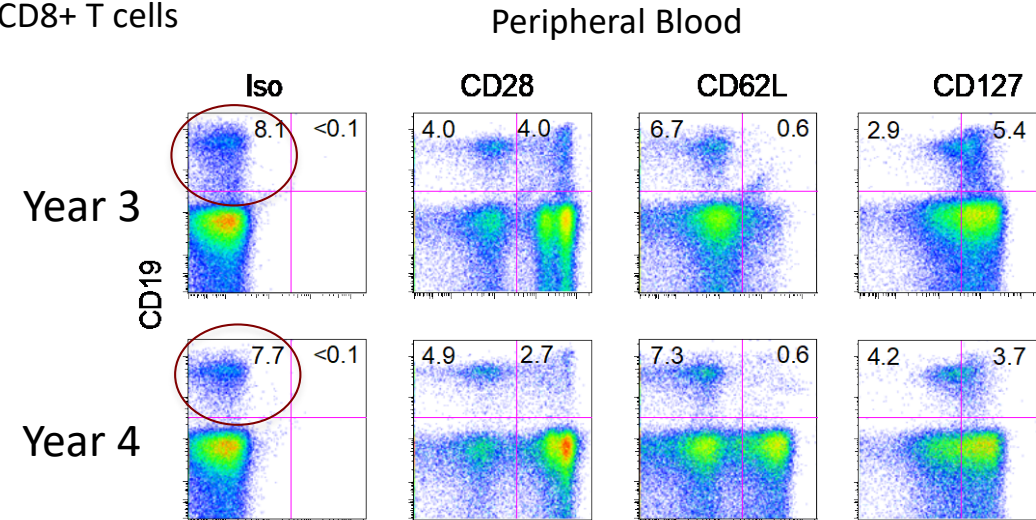
Autologous T cell
CMV peptide - ●



Gated on CD3⁺
CD8⁺ T Cells



Gated on CD3⁺
CD8⁺ T cells

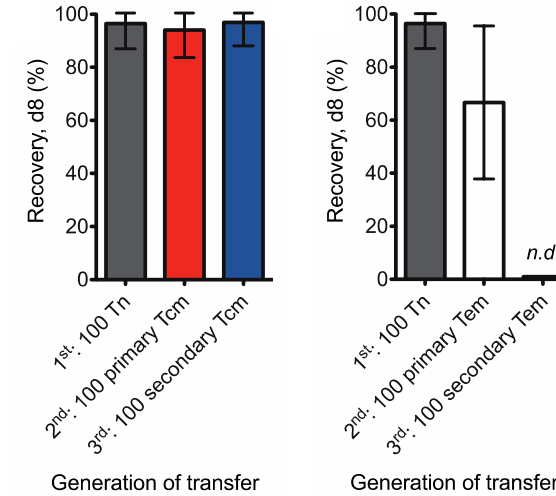
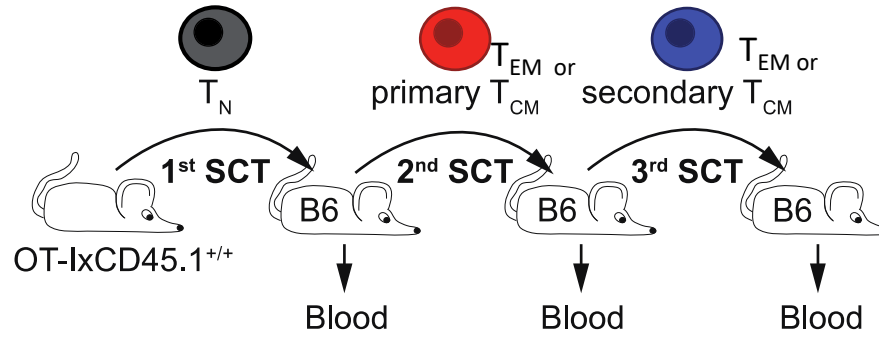




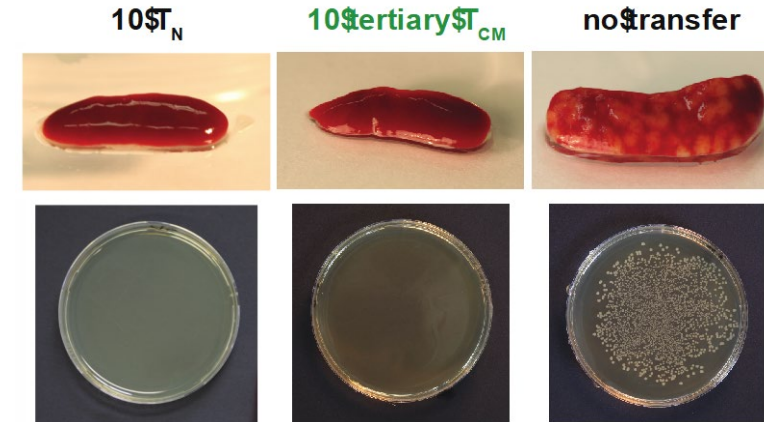
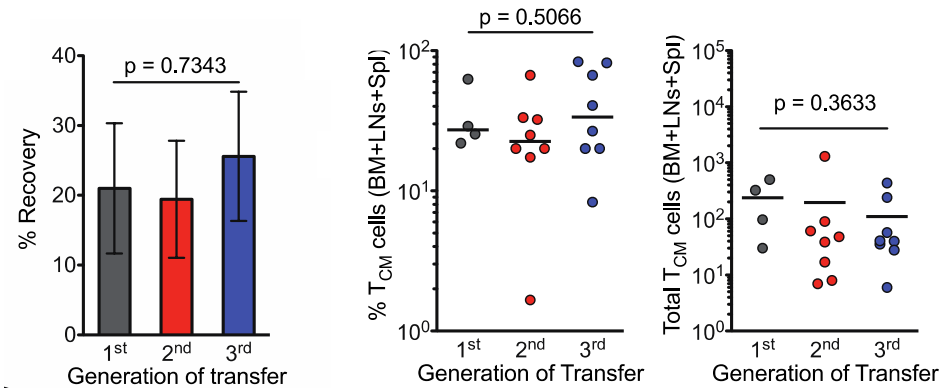
Serial transfer of T_{CM} and T_{EM} CD8⁺ OT-1 specific T cells in mice



Listeria/ova challenge after each transfer

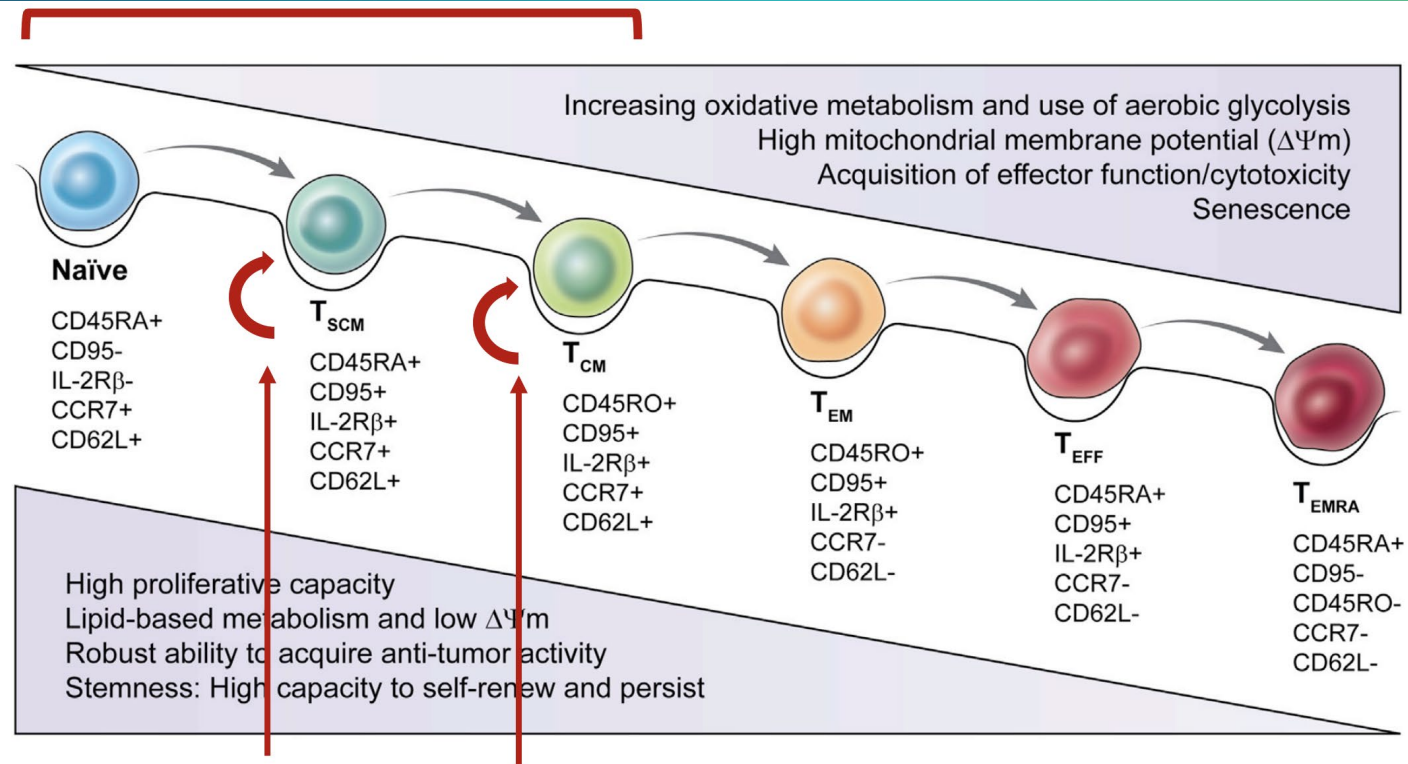


Single T_{CM} transfer and re-expansion



- T_{CM} exhibit stemness – self-renewal, differentiation to T_{EM} and T_E subsets

T Cell Differentiation State and Utility in Adoptive Therapy



Galetti et al. Nat Immunol 2020

Graef et al. Immunity, 2014

Adapted from Kishton et al. Cell Metabolism 2017

Preclinical data for CAR-T cells

- CD8⁺ T_N, T_{SCM} or T_{CM} cells superior to T_{EM}: Gattinoni et al. Nat Med. 2011; Sommermeyer et al. Leukemia 2016
- CD4⁺ T cells and combining CD4s and CD8s : Sommermeyer et al. Leukemia 2016; Boulch et al. Sci Immunology, 2021

→ **Defined composition CAR-T cells targeting CD19 (Turtle et al. JCI, 2016 Science Translational Medicine, 2016)**

The “gemisch” problem in T cell therapy.....

Correlative clinical data suggests response driven by “effective” subsets

nature
medicine

LETTERS

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-018-0010-1>

There are amendments to this paper

Determinants of response and resistance to CD19 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy of chronic lymphocytic leukemia

Joseph A. Fraietta^{1,2,3}, Simon F. Lacey^{1,2,3,9}, Elena J. Orlando^{4,9}, Iulian Pruteanu-Malinici⁴, Mercy Gohil², Stefan Lundh², Alina C. Boesteanu², Yan Wang², Roddy S. O'Connor², Wei-Ting Hwang⁵, Edward Pequignot², David E. Ambrose², Changfeng Zhang², Nicholas Wilcox², Felipe Bedoya², Corin Dorfmeier², Fang Chen², Lifeng Tian², Harit Parakandi², Minnal Gupta², Regina M. Young², F. Brad Johnson¹, Irina Kulikovskaya², Li Liu², Jun Xu², Sadik H. Kassim⁴, Megan M. Davis^{1,2}, Bruce L. Levine^{1,2}, Noelle V. Frey^{2,6}, Donald L. Siegel^{1,2,7}, Alexander C. Huang^{3,8}, E. John Wherry^{3,8}, Hans Bitter⁴, Jennifer L. Brogdon⁴, David L. Porter^{1,6}, Carl H. June^{1,2,3} and J. Joseph Melenhorst^{1,2,3*}

“Sustained remission was associated with an elevated frequency of CD27+CD45RO- CD8+ T cells before CAR T cell generation, and these lymphocytes possessed memory-like characteristics.”

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-1061-7>

nature
medicine

Check for updates

Characteristics of anti-CD19 CAR T cell infusion products associated with efficacy and toxicity in patients with large B cell lymphomas

Qing Deng^{1,5}, Guangchun Han^{2,5}, Nahum Puebla-Osorio¹, Man Chun John Ma¹, Paolo Strati¹, Beth Chasen³, Enyu Dai², Minghao Dang², Neeraj Jain¹, Haopeng Yang¹, Yuanxin Wang², Shaojun Zhang², Ruiping Wang², Runzhe Chen², Jordan Showell¹, Sreejoyee Ghosh¹, Sridevi Patchva¹, Qi Zhang¹, Ryan Sun⁴, Frederick Hagemester¹, Luis Fayad¹, Felipe Samaniego¹, Hans C. Lee¹, Loretta J. Nastoupil¹, Nathan Fowler¹, R. Eric Davis¹, Jason Westin¹, Sattva S. Neelapu^{1,2}, Linghua Wang^{2,3} and Michael R. Green^{1,2,3}

“CR had 3-fold higher frequencies of CD8 T cells expressing memory signatures....”

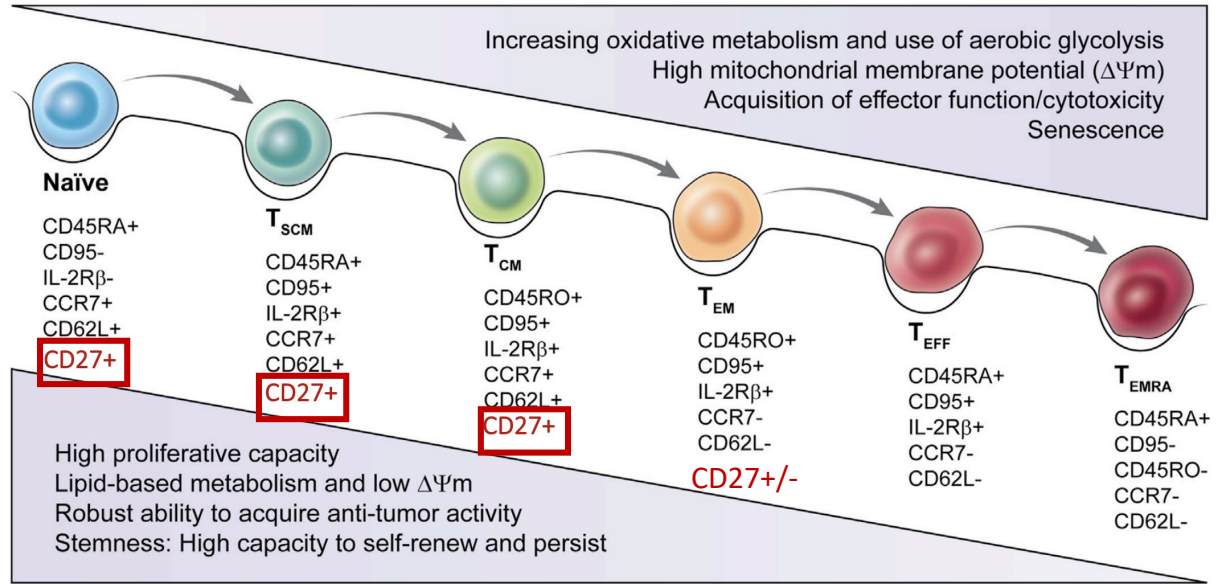
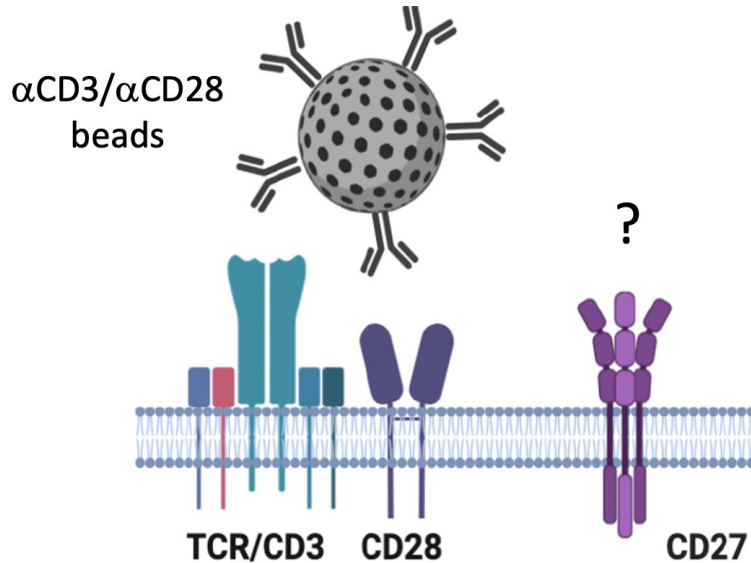
CANCER DISCOVERY 

Integrative bulk and single-cell profiling of pre-manufacture T-cell populations reveals factors mediating long-term persistence of CAR T-cell therapy

Gregory M Chen, Changya Chen, Rajat K Das, Peng Gao, Chia-Hui Chen, Shovik Bandyopadhyay, Yang-Yang Ding, Yasin Uzun, Wenbao Yu, Qin Zhu, Regina M Myers, Stephan A. Grupp, David M. Barrett, and Kai Tan

“...the TCF7 regulon not only associates with the favorable naive T-cell state, but is maintained in effector T-cells among patients with long term CAR T-cell persistence.”

Role of CD27 costimulation in T cell differentiation and function



nature immunology

CD27 is required for generation and long-term maintenance of T cell immunity

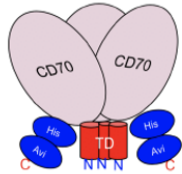
Jenny Hendriks, Loes A. Gravestein, Kiki Tesselaar, René A. W. van Lier, Ton N. M. Schumacher & Jannie Borst



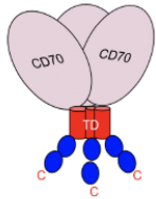
TNIK signaling imprints CD8⁺ T cell memory formation early after priming

Carla A. Jaeger-Ruckstuhl^{1,2,3,4,7}, Magdalena Hinterbrandner^{1,2,3,7}, Sabine Höpner^{1,2}, Colin E. Correnti⁵, Ursina Lüthi^{1,2}, Olivier Friedli^{3,6}, Stefan Freigang⁶, Mohamad F. Al Sayed^{1,2,3}, Elias D. Bühner^{1,2,3}, Michael A. Amrein^{1,2,3}, Christian M. Schürch^{1,2,6}, Ramin Radpour^{1,2}, Carsten Riether^{1,2} & Adrian F. Ochsenbein^{1,2}

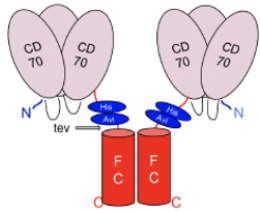
Design of functional CD70 trimers for costimulation



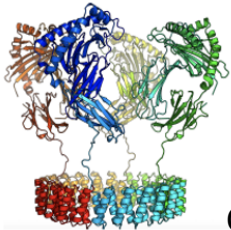
- Mono-Trimer Tetranectin^{TD}**
- Site-specific biotinylation of AviTag
 - Binding to Streptavidin Magnetic Beads



- Mono-Trimer Collagen^{TD}**
- Site-specific biotinylation of AviTag
 - Binding to Streptavidin Magnetic Beads



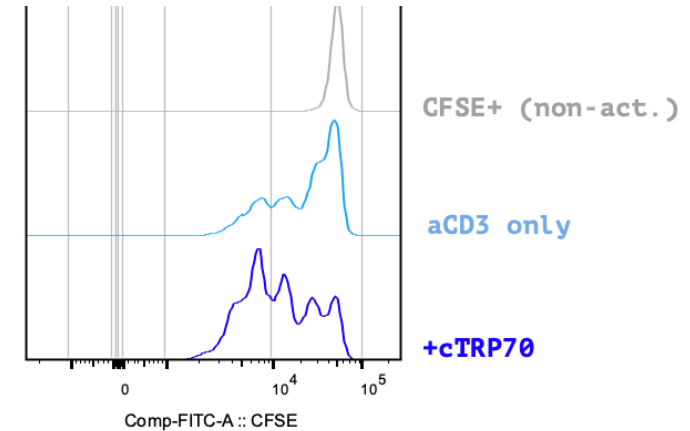
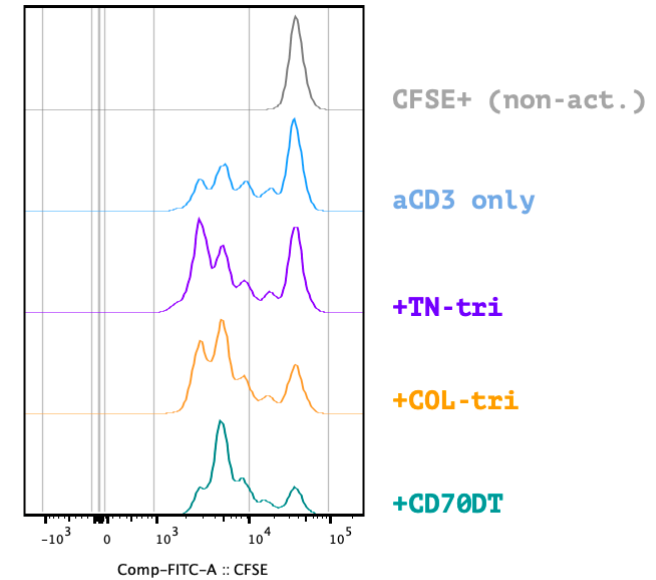
- Dimer-Trimer CD70^{DT}**
- Plate-coated activation system



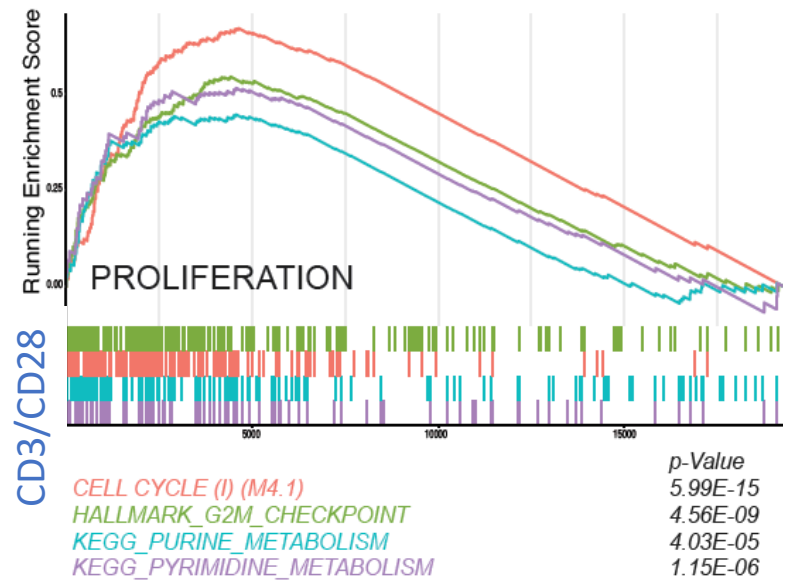
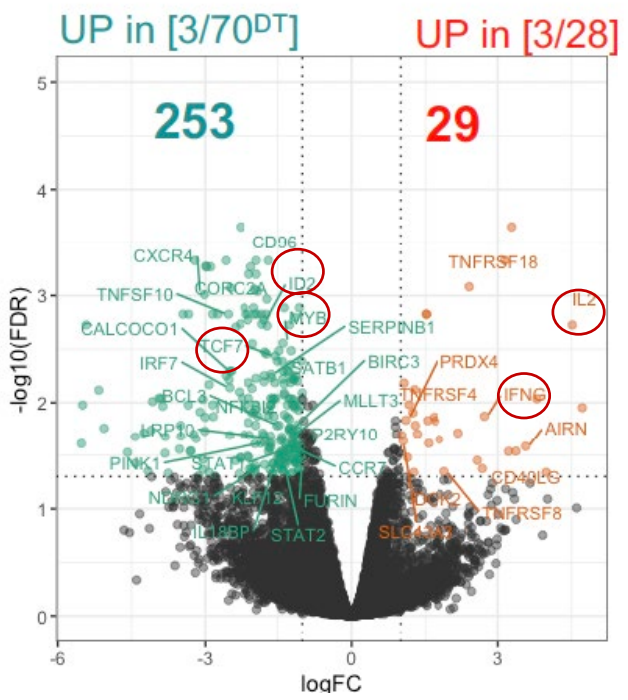
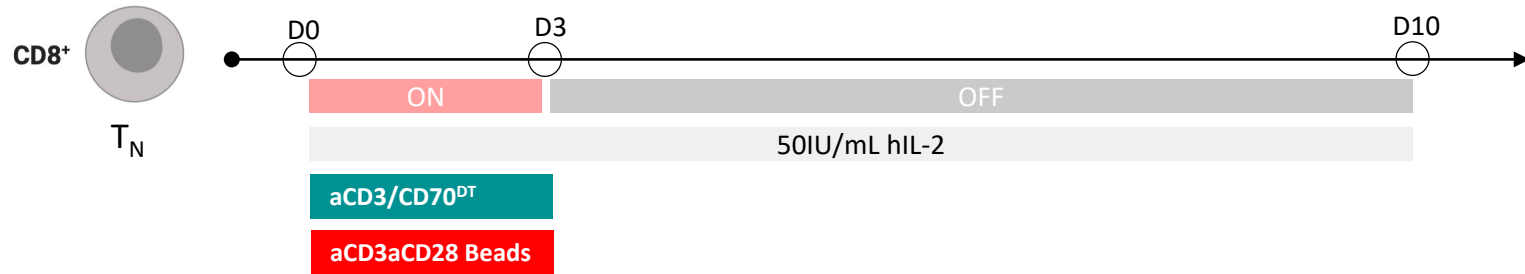
- Tetra-Trimer cTRP70**
- Soluble superagonist

Correnti et al Nature Struct Mol Biol, 2020

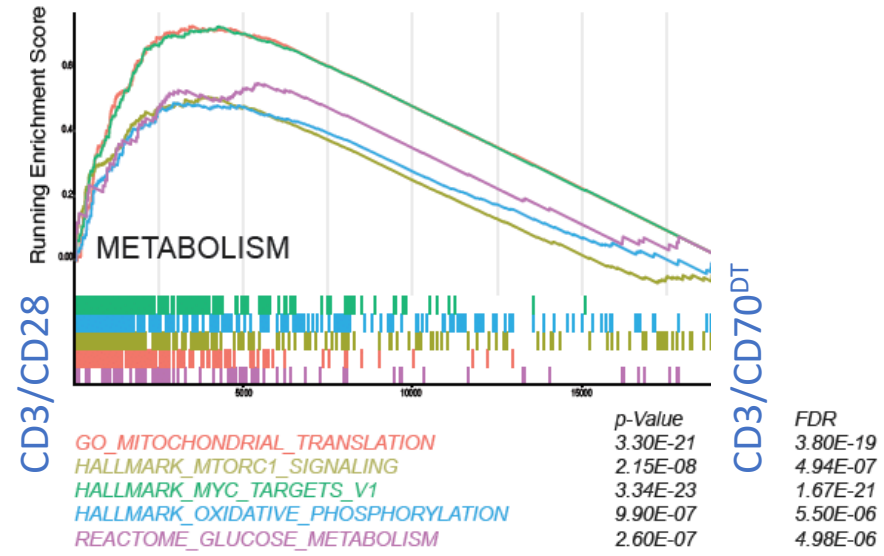
Bulk CD8⁺ T cells : CFSE dye dilution (day 3)



RNAseq shows early divergence in genes associated with cell proliferation and metabolism in CD3/CD28 vs CD3/CD70^{DT} activated CD8⁺ T_N cells

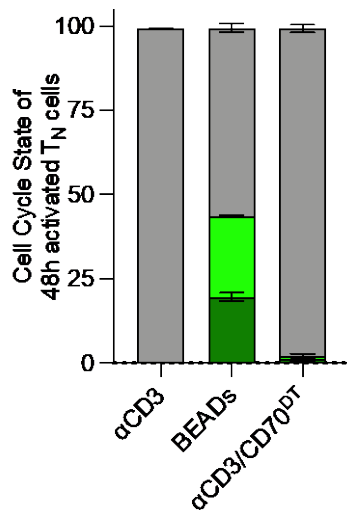
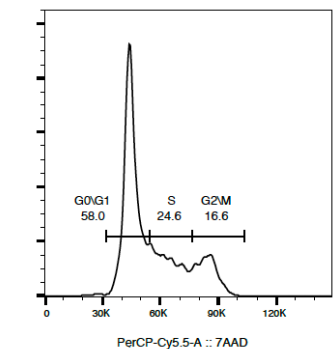


FDR
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 3.80E-08
 0.001249752
 4.29E-05

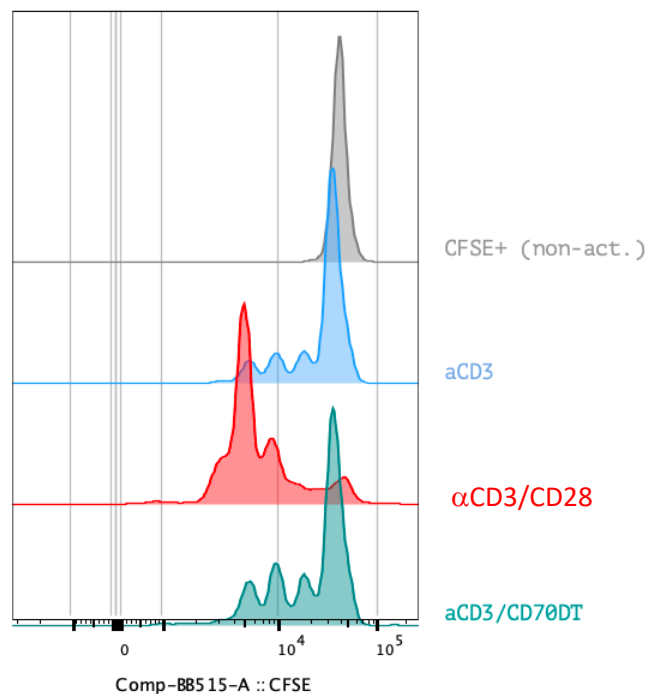


CD3/CD70^{DT} activated CD8⁺ T_N cells exhibit delayed entry into cell cycle compared to αCD3/CD28 but similar proliferation over 9 days

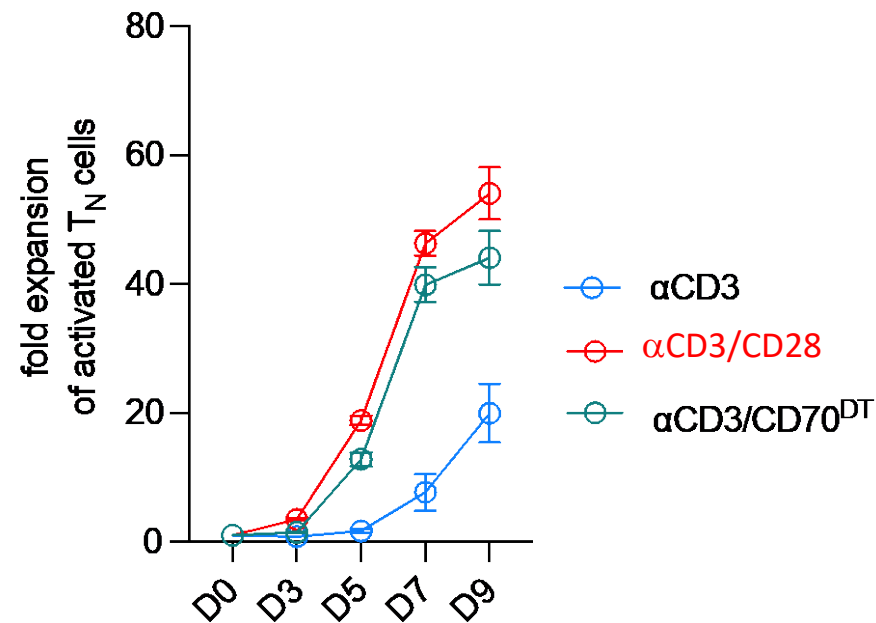
48h post act.: Cell cycle entry



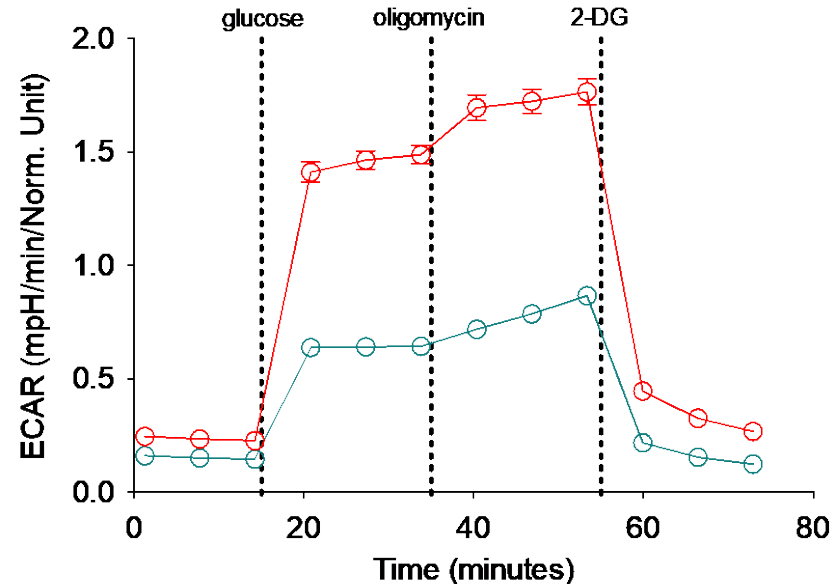
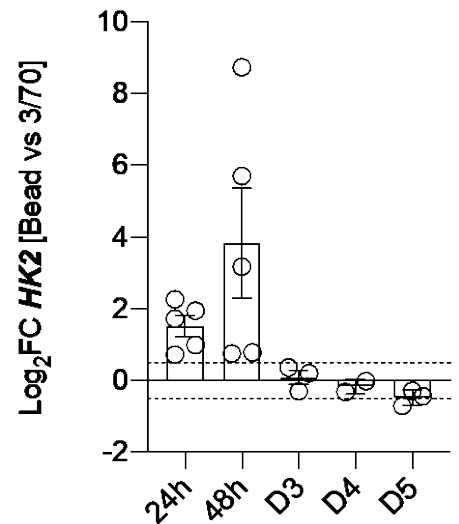
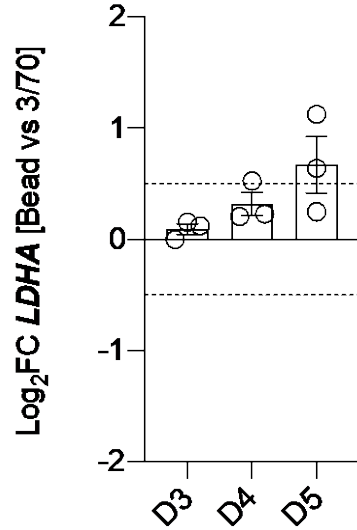
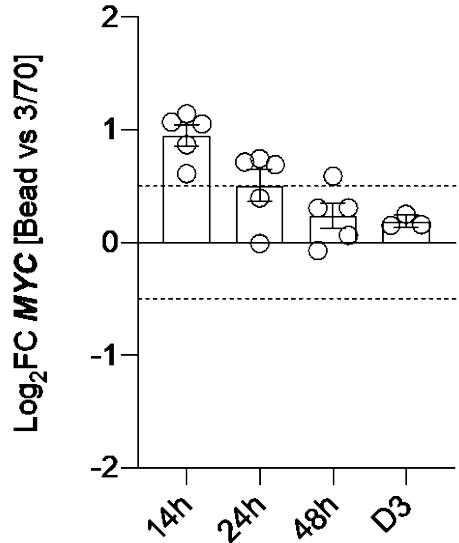
72h post act.: CFSE



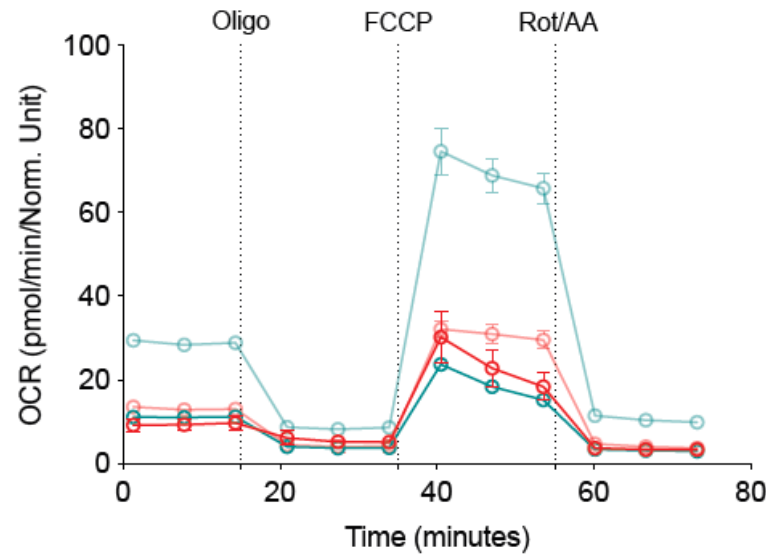
Day 9 expansion



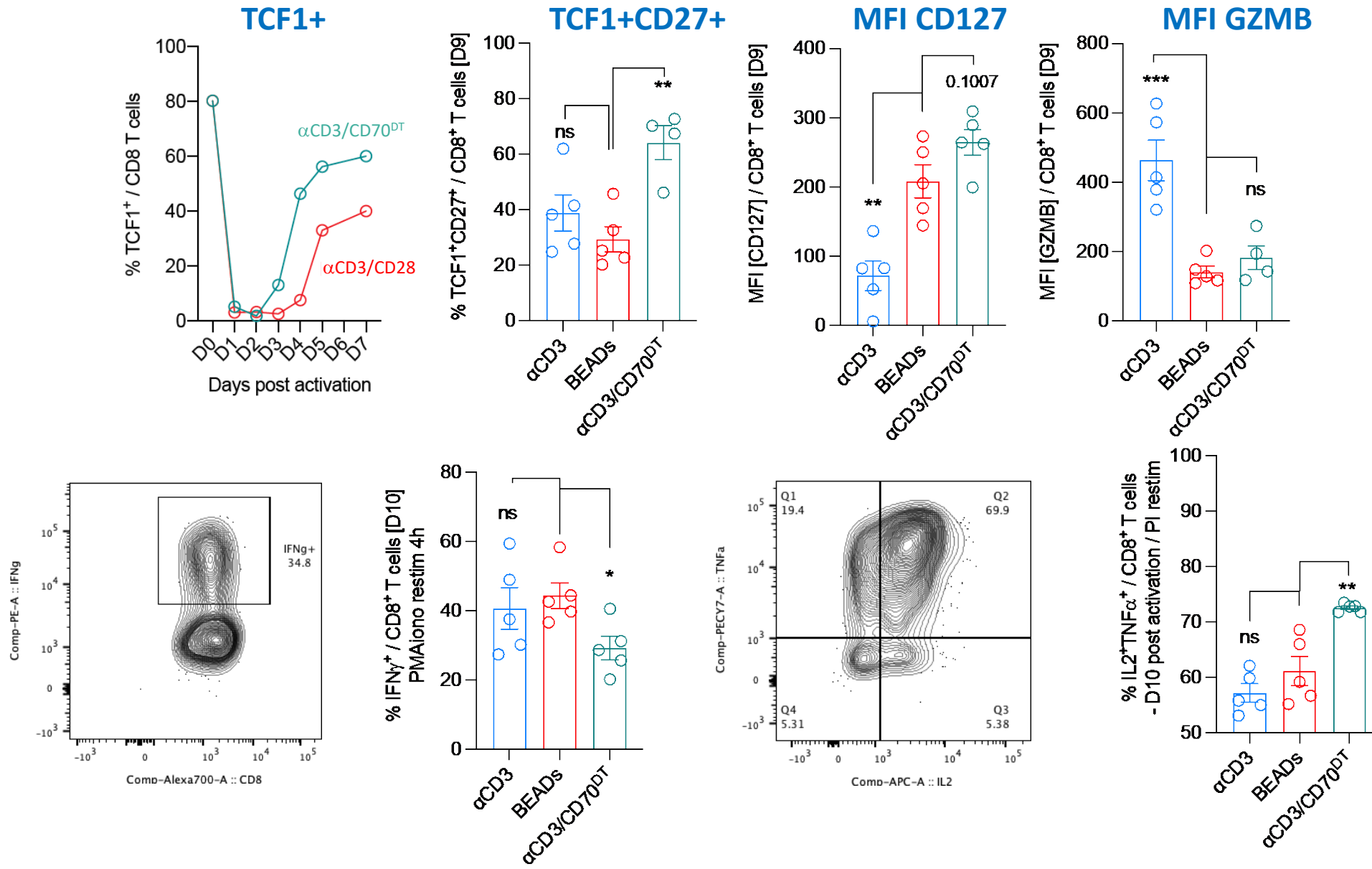
α CD3/CD28 drives early effector metabolism, lactate production and reduction in mitochondrial spare respiratory capacity



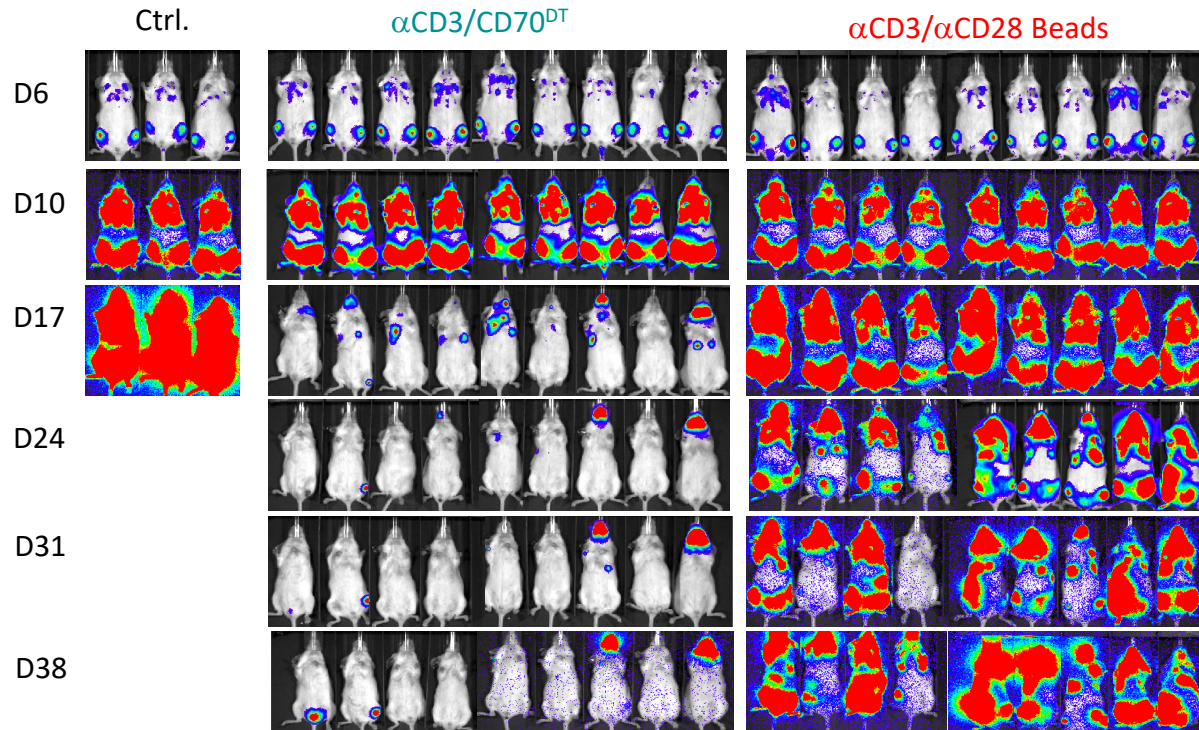
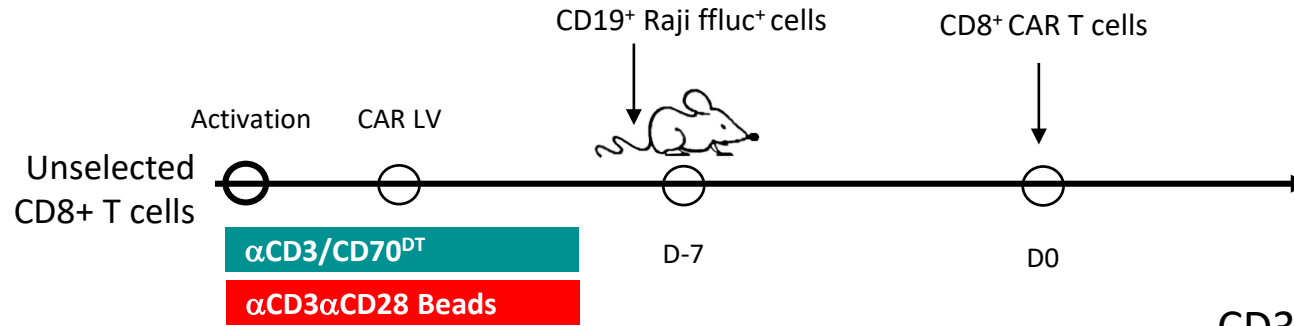
- D5 α CD3/CD28
- D5 α CD3/CD70^{DT}
- D10 α CD3/CD28
- D10 α CD3/CD70^{DT}



CD27 primed CD8⁺ T cells recover TCF7 more rapidly and maintain a less differentiated phenotype and polyfunctionality after *in vitro* expansion

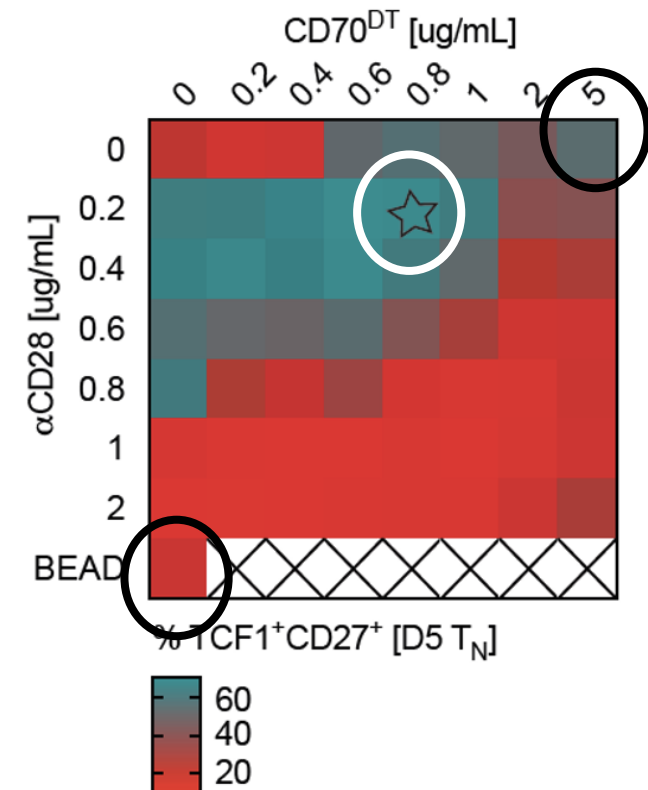


CD27 activated CD19/BB/ ζ CAR T cells are effective in treating Raji lymphoma



- Improved CAR-T proliferation
- Superior tumor control

CD3/CD28/CD27 stimulation



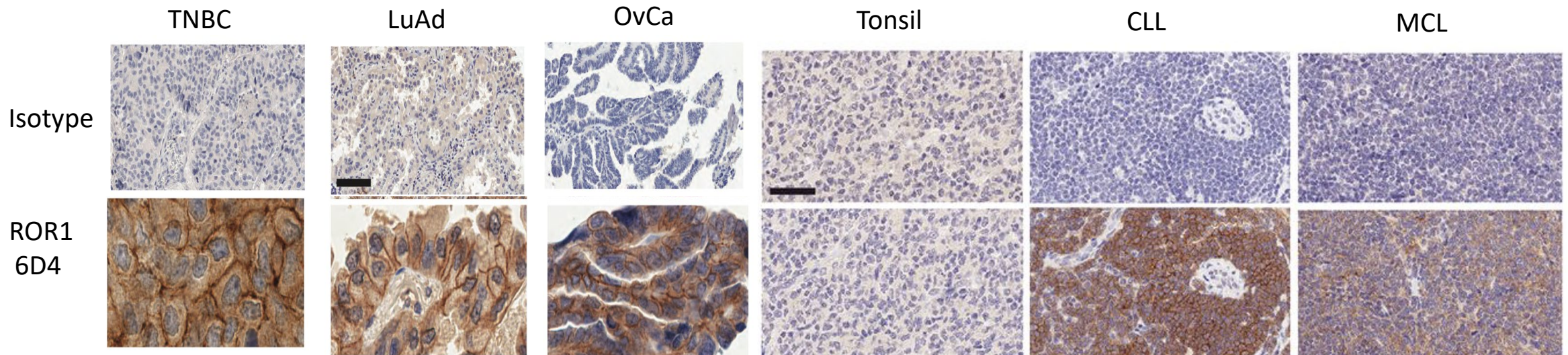
I. T Cell Fitness

II. Infiltration and Function In Solid Tumors

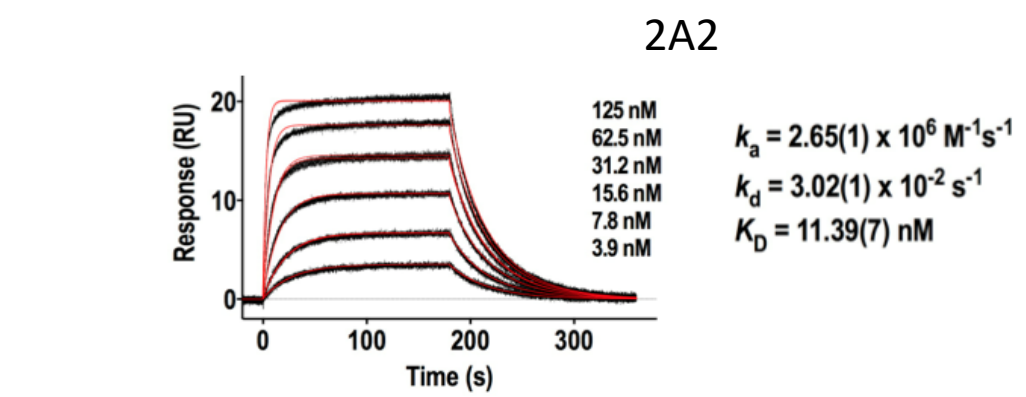
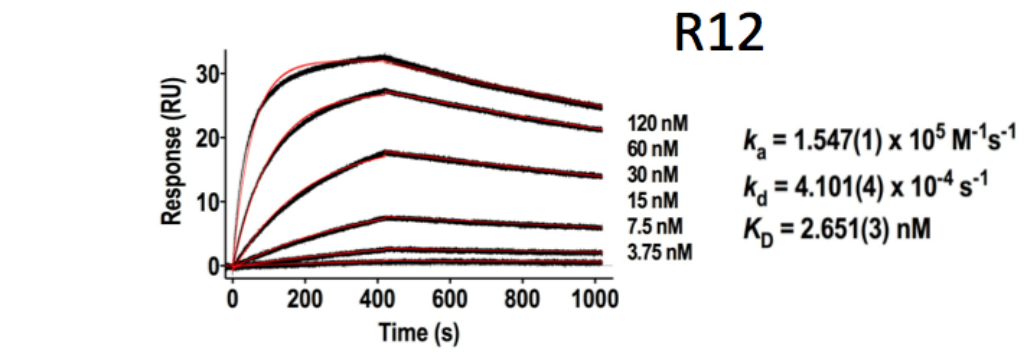
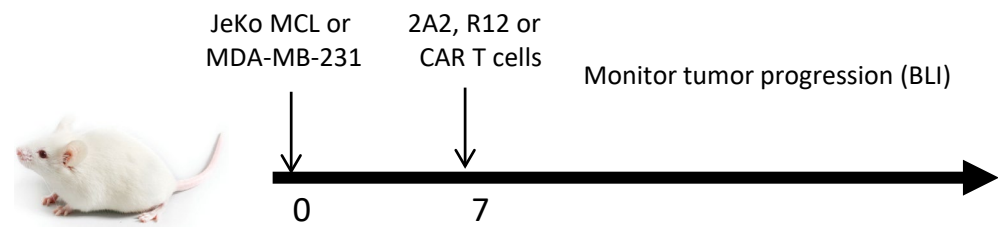
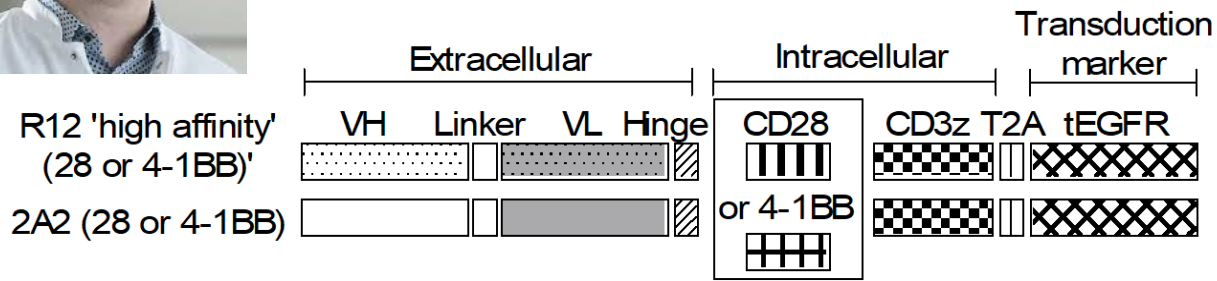
III. Enhancing sensitivity and specificity of receptors

Targeting ROR1 on hematologic malignancies and solid tumors with CAR T cells

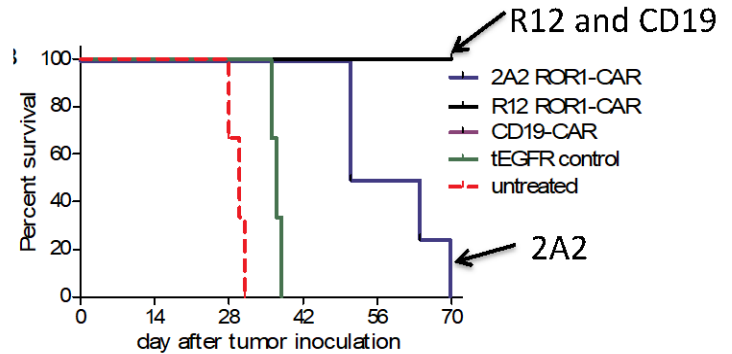
- ROR1 -- Receptor tyrosine kinase-like orphan receptor 1
- Expressed during embryonic development; **overexpressed** in many common, incurable solid tumors and in B cell malignancies (CLL, Mantle cell lymphoma, ALL)
- May regulate **tumor growth and metastasis**; Expression associated with **poor prognosis**
- Some **expression in normal tissues** (*parathyroid, esophagus, pancreatic islets*)
- ADC linked to monomethyl auristatin exhibits antitumor activity in MCL, DLBCL without serious toxicity (ASH 2020)



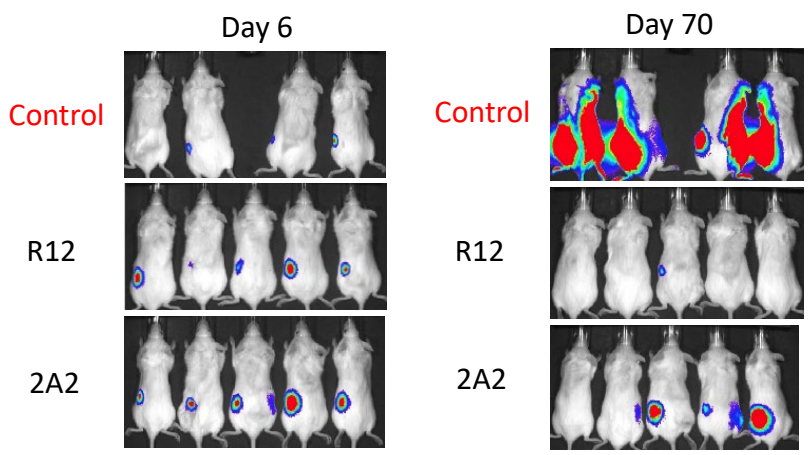
Design of ROR 1 chimeric antigen receptors



JeKo MCL



MDA-MB-231



Phase 1 Clinical Trial of ROR1 CAR-T Cells In Refractory Lung Cancer, TNBC, and CLL (David Maloney, Jennifer Specht, Sylvia Lee)

Primary Objective

- Safety of targeting ROR1 with autologous CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ CAR-T cells (4-1BB/CD3ζ)

Two patient groups

- Lung/Breast cancer
- CLL/Mantle cell lymphoma

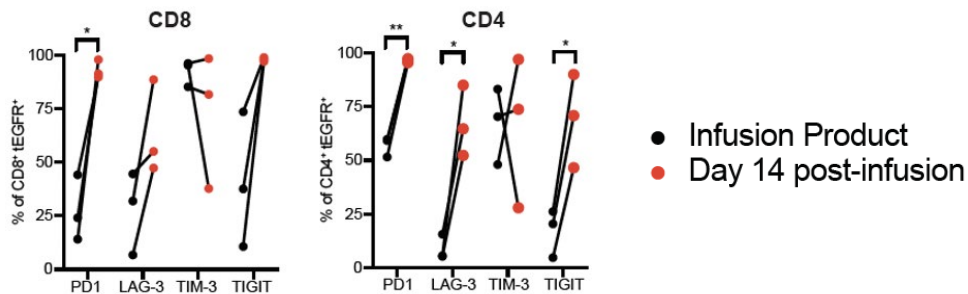
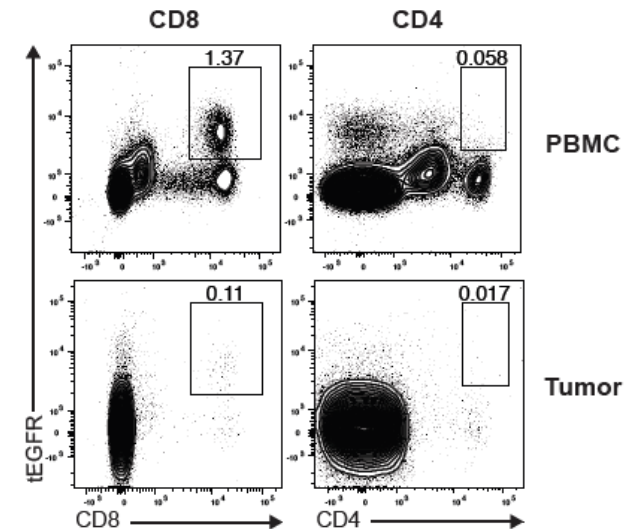
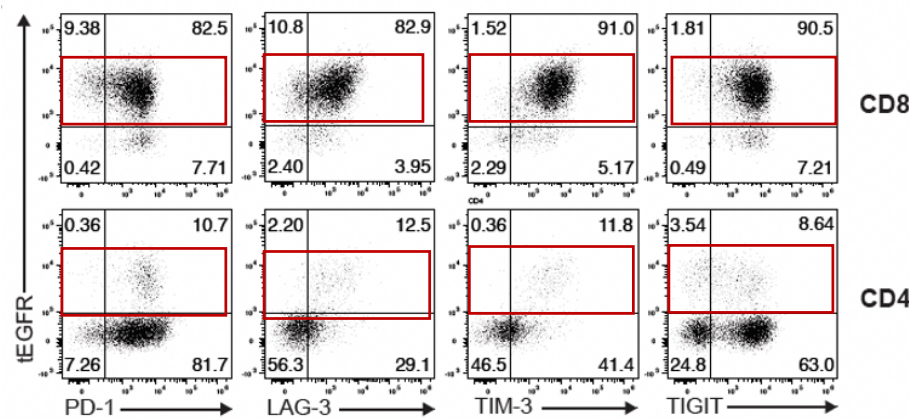
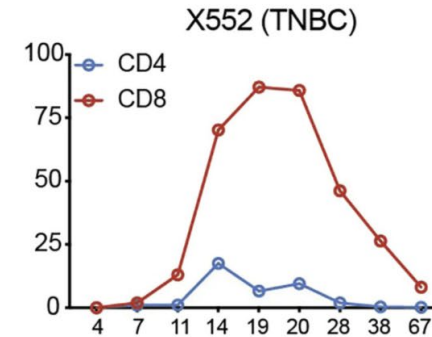
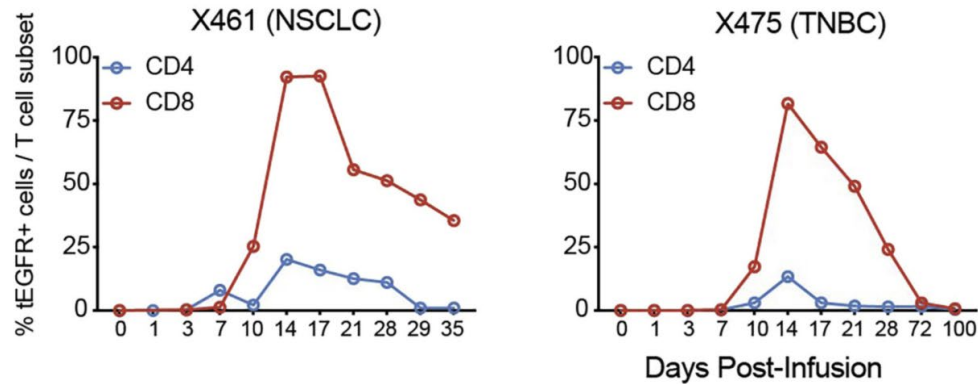
Lymphodepletion: Cy/Flu; Ox/Cy

CAR-T cell Dosing - CD4/CD8 1:1 Formulation)

- Dose Escalation/De-escalation (Continuous Reassessment Method)

Dose level 0:	up to 1×10^5 EGFR ⁺ cells/kg
Dose level 1:	up to 3.3×10^5 EGFR ⁺ cells/kg (Starting dose level)
Dose level 2:	up to 1×10^6 EGFR ⁺ cells/kg
Dose level 3:	up to 3.3×10^6 EGFR ⁺ cells/kg
Dose level 4:	up to 1.0×10^7 EGFR ⁺ cells/kg

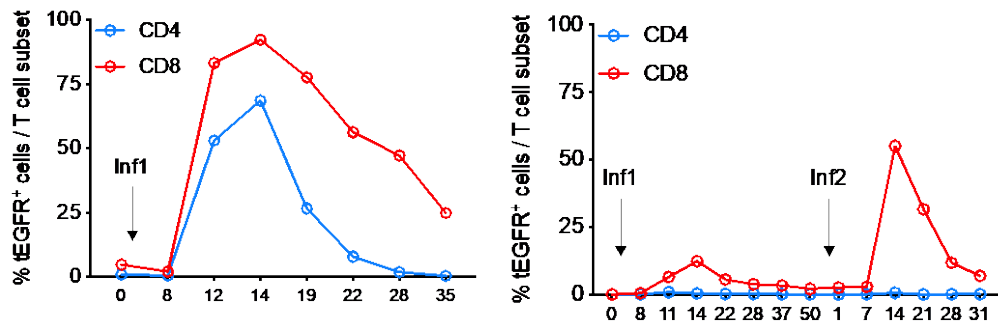
Solid Tumors: ROR 1 CAR-T cells proliferate in vivo in a subset of patients, upregulate inhibitor receptors, and lack sustained tumor infiltration



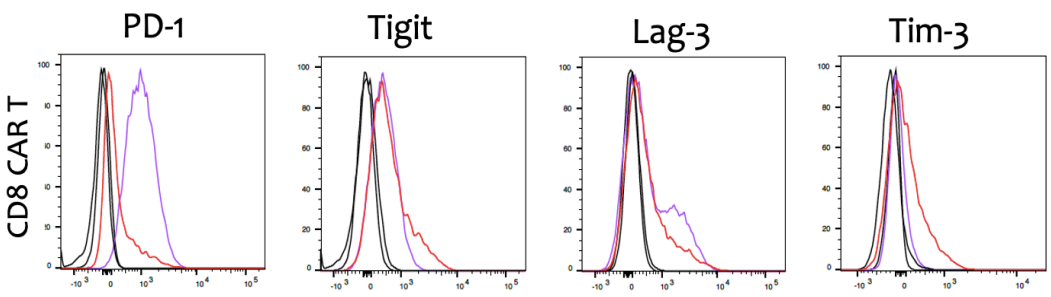
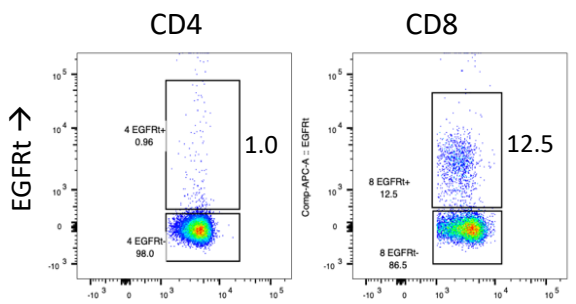
Tumor Biopsy (Day 28)

Response Rate (RECIST): 1 of 14 patients (PR)

CLL: CAR-T cells proliferate and infiltrate tumor sites and eliminate ROR1+ CLL cells without upregulating all inhibitory receptors

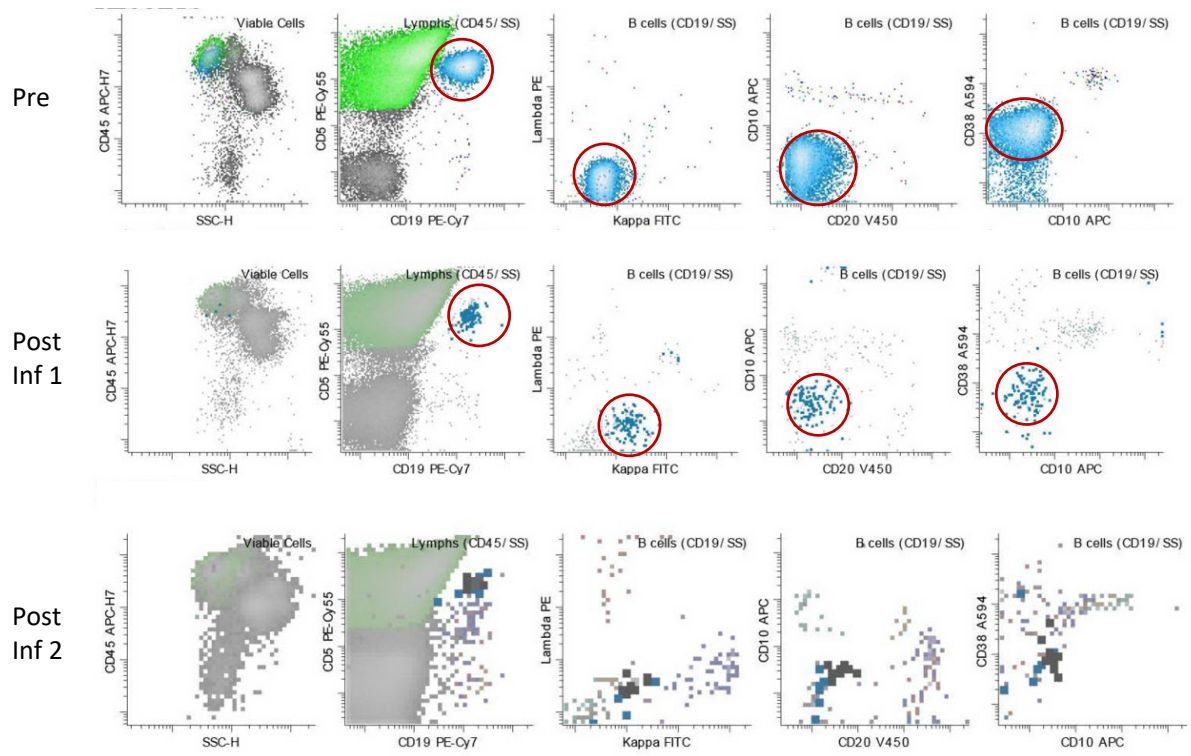


Bone Marrow



IP CAR
Peak CAR

Bone Marrow Analysis



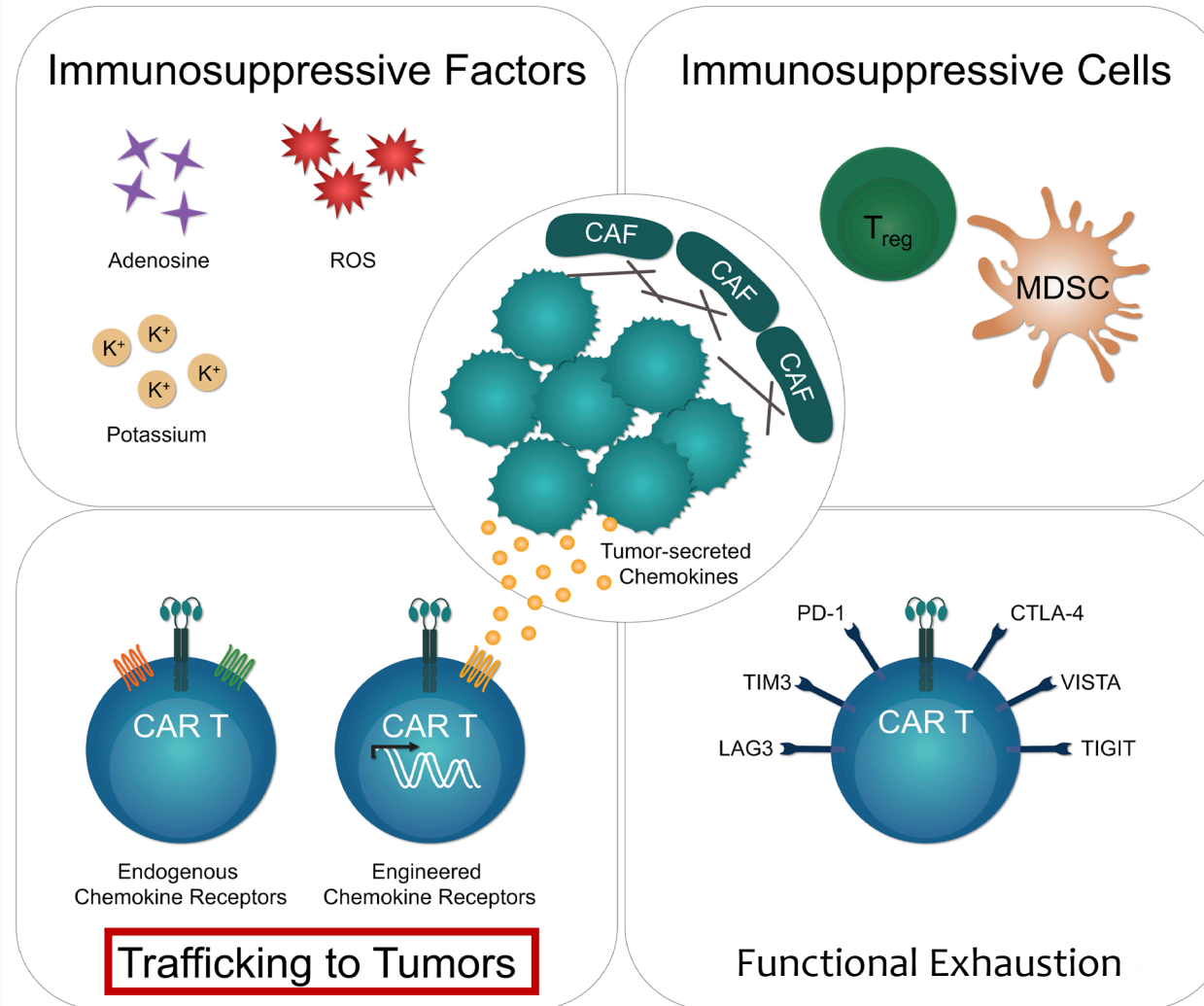
Abnormal:
CD5
CD20
CD23
99.5% ROR1+
10% of total WBC

Abnormal:
CD5,
CD20,
CD23
ROR1+
0.02% of total WBC

Small number (.004%) of
questionable events
Repeat BM → CR

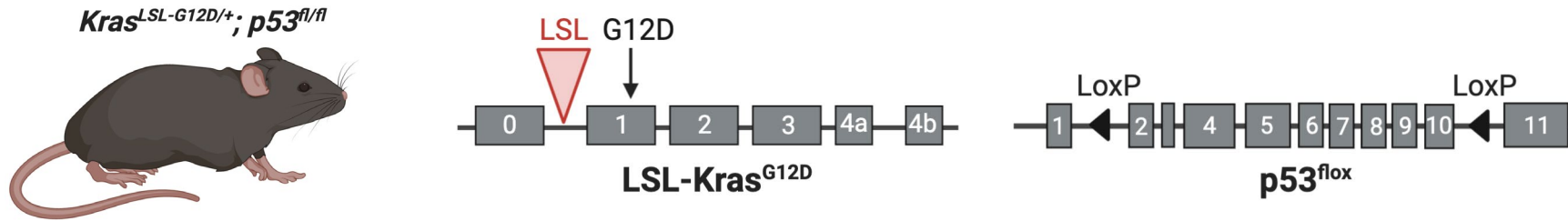


Overcoming obstacles for T cell therapy of solid tumors



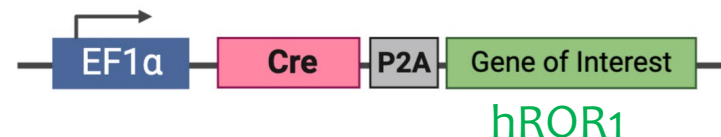
Most current models for CAR T cells are not representative of human tumors

KP conditional immunocompetent syngeneic mouse model of ROR1+ non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)



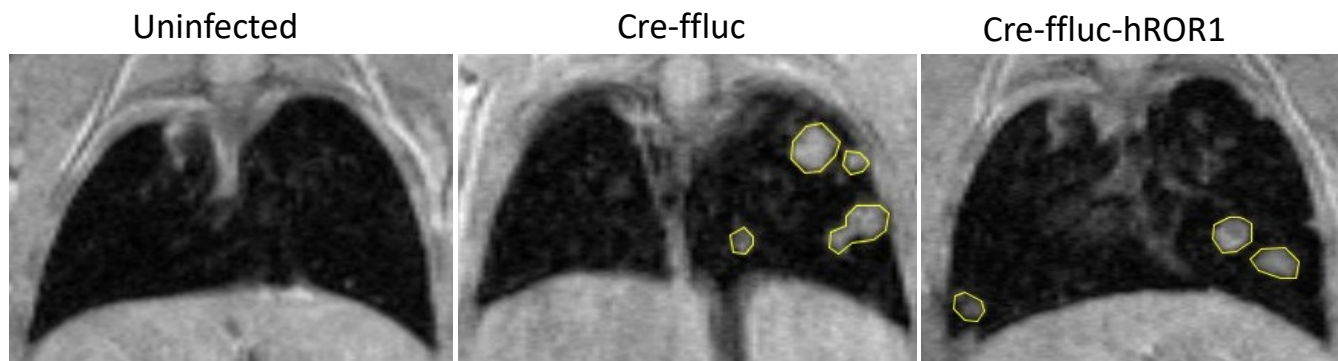
DuPage M, Dooley AL, Jacks T Nat Protoc. 2009

- Use cre-recombinase to induce the two most common mutations in NSCLC:
 - LoxStopLox K-ras allele - activating K-ras G12D mutation
 - LoxP p53 alleles -- biallelic loss of function
 - Deliver Cre through intra-tracheal lentiviral infection
- Tumors arise naturally in their site of origin vs. transplantable models
- Tumors co-evolve a relevant TME over 3-4 months with host immune system
- Introduction of CAR target antigen accomplished via cre-lentivirus

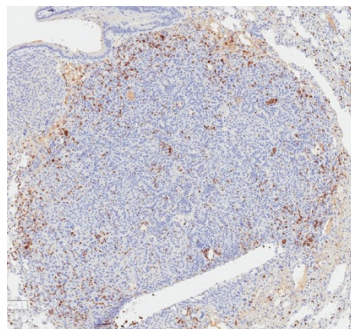


Characteristics of ROR1⁺ (KP^{ROR1}) non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

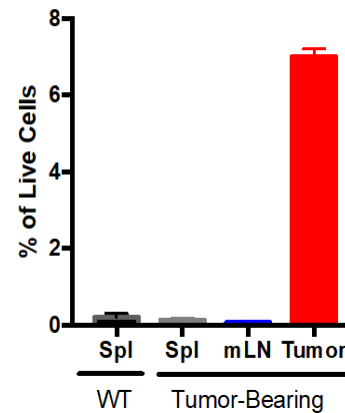
MRI



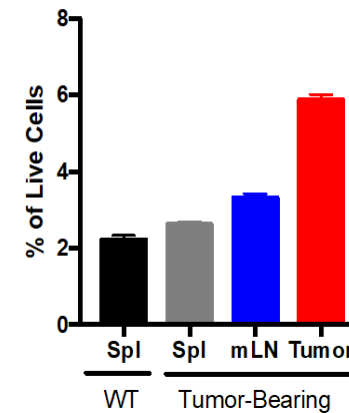
Ly6G



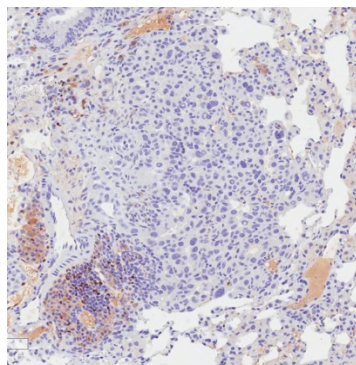
CD11b⁺ Ly6G^{hi} Ly6G^{int}



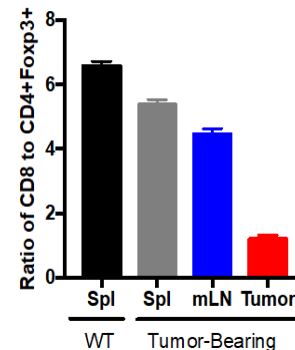
CD11b⁺ Ly6G^{hi} Ly6G⁻



Foxp3

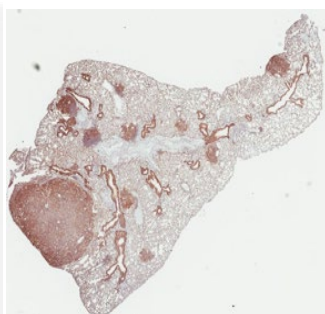
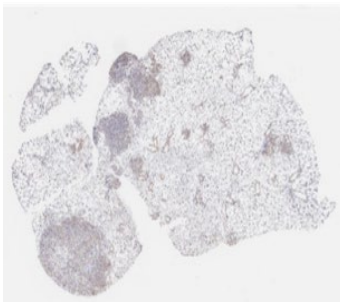


CD8:Treg Ratio

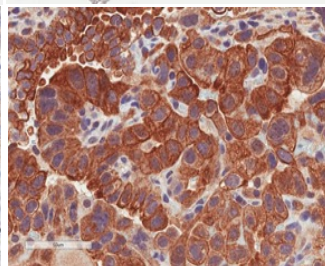
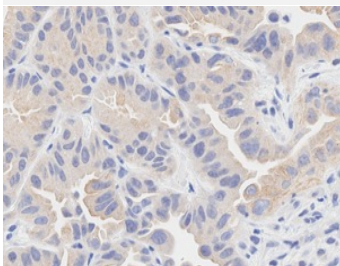


Cre-ffluc

Cre-ffluc-hROR1

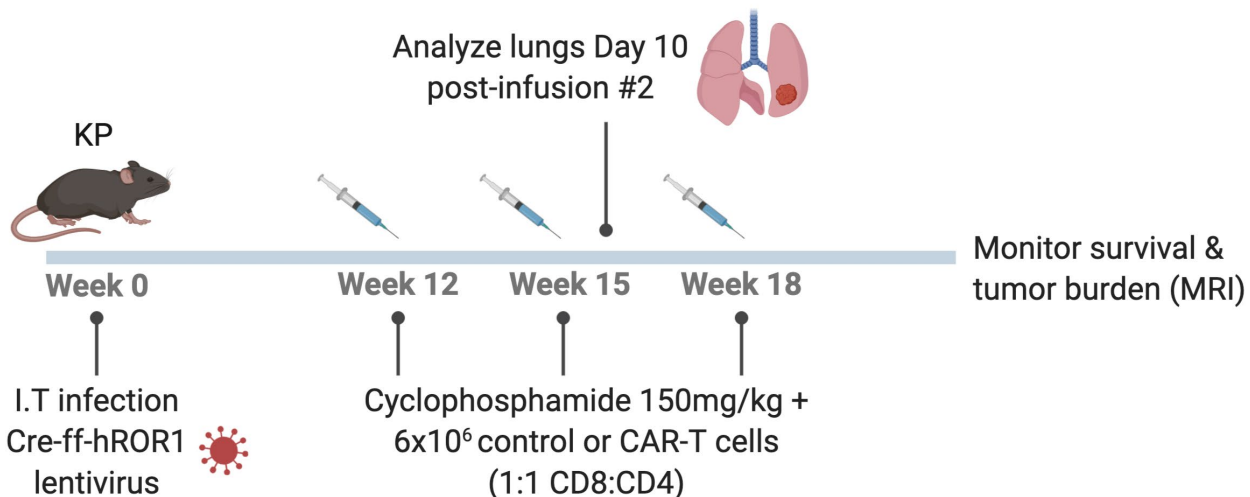


1X
ROR1

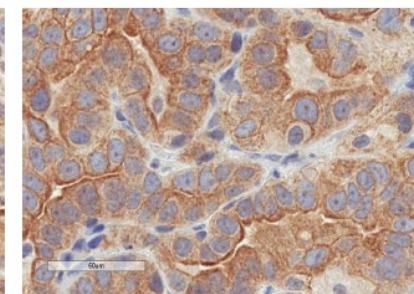
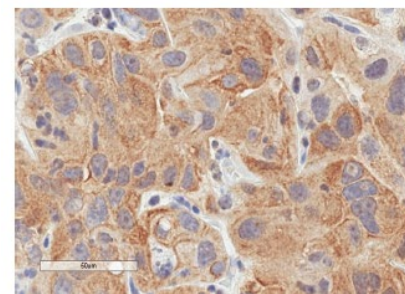
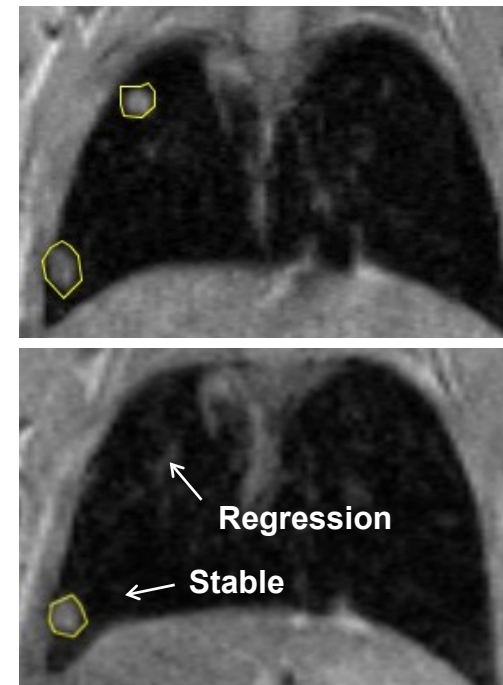


40X
ROR1

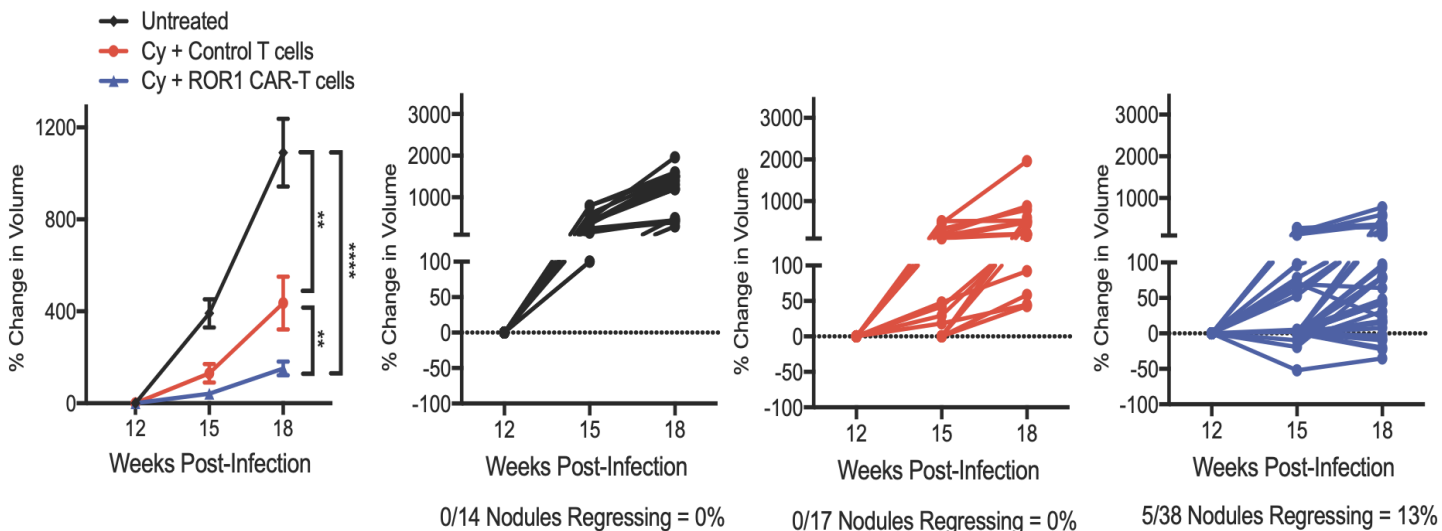
ROR1 CAR-T cells given after Cy lymphodepletion have limited activity in KP^{ROR1} mice



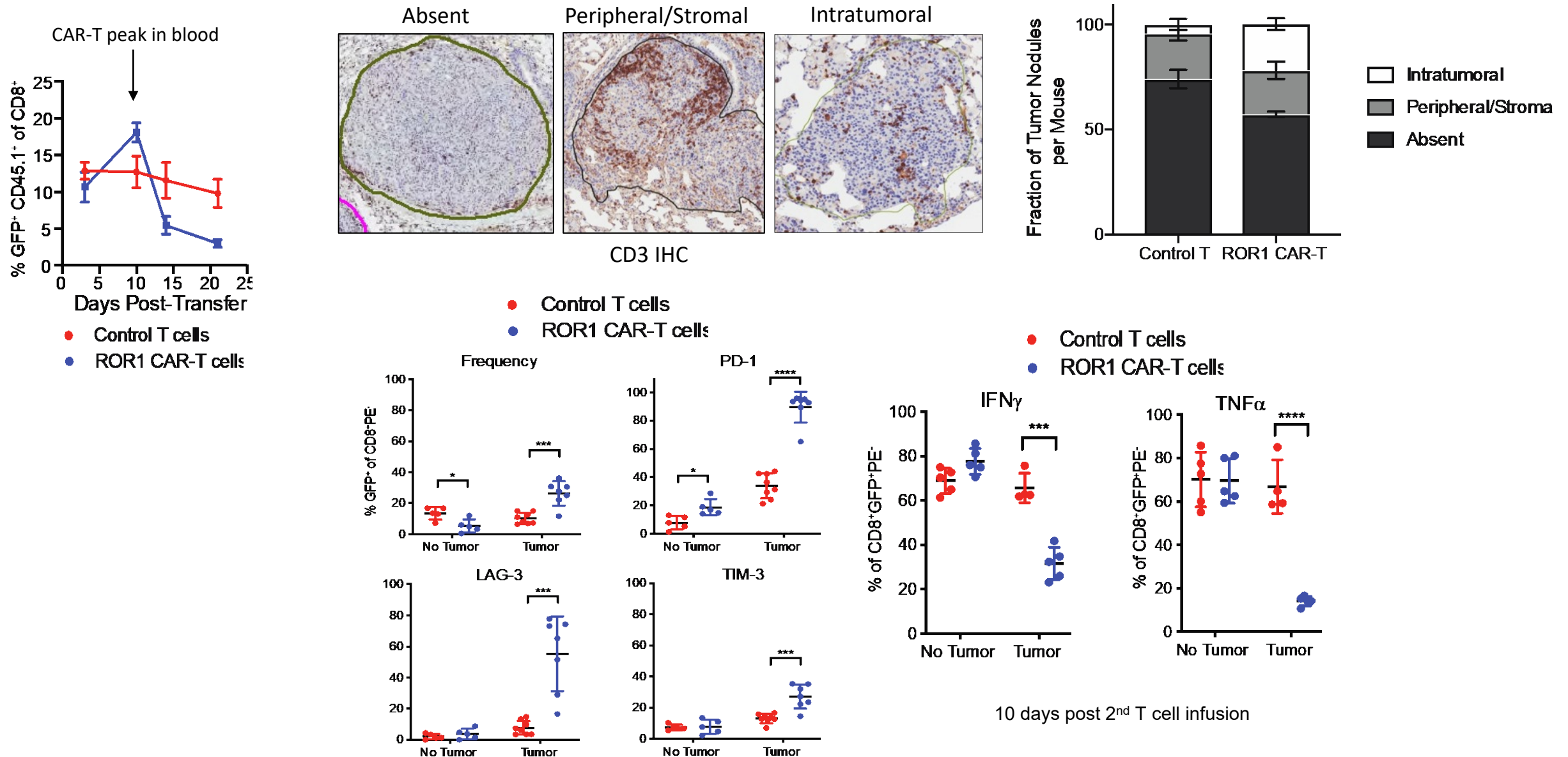
Mixed Response After ROR1 CAR-T



Control T cell-treated ROR1 CAR-T cell-treated



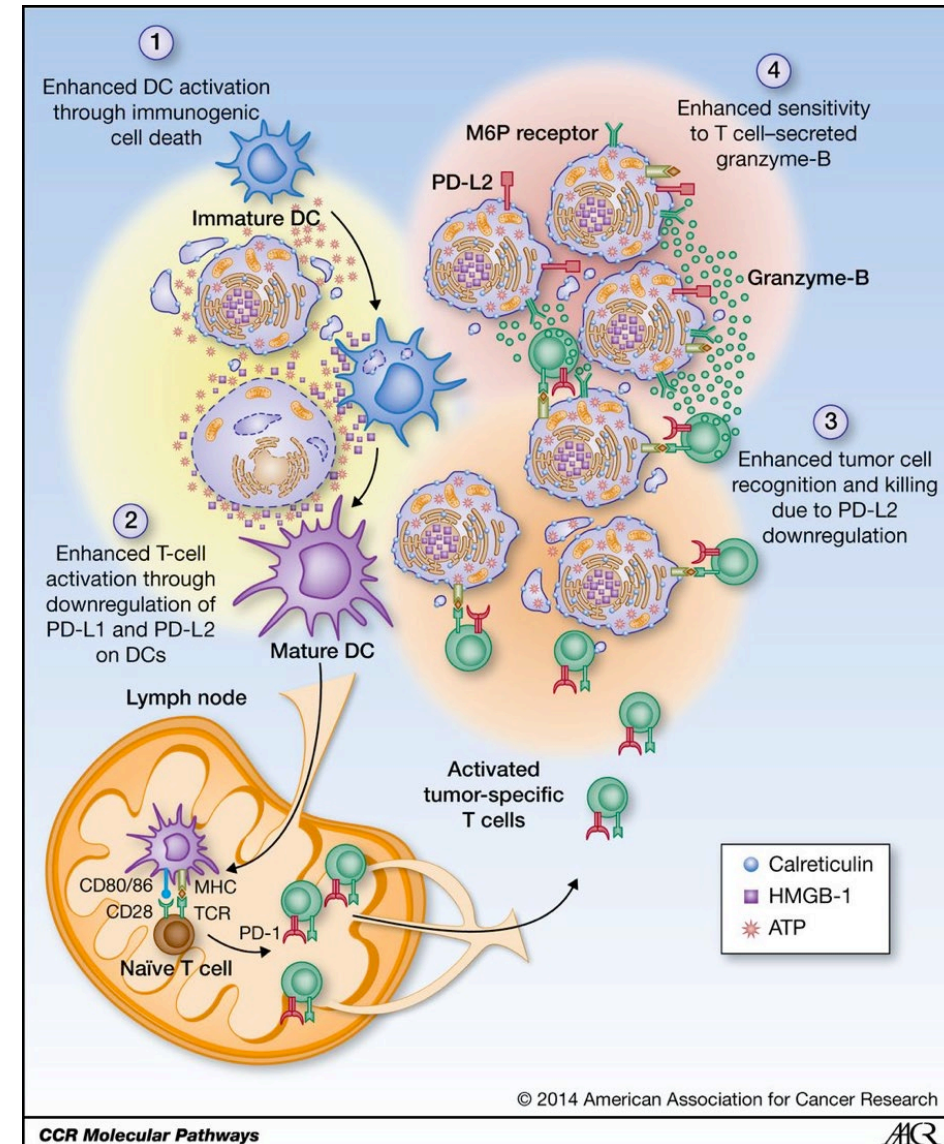
ROR1 CAR-T cells expand in blood but infiltrate lung tumors poorly and become dysfunctional



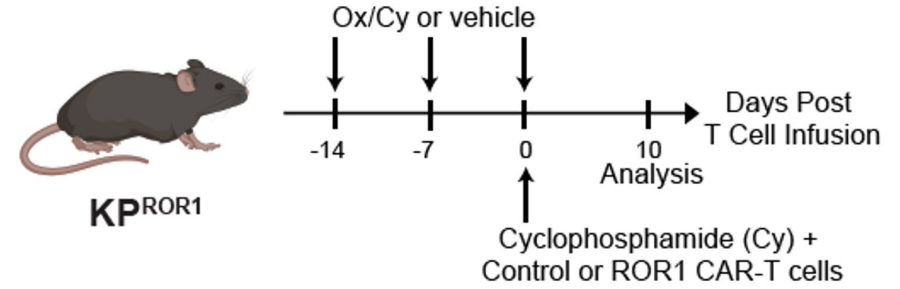
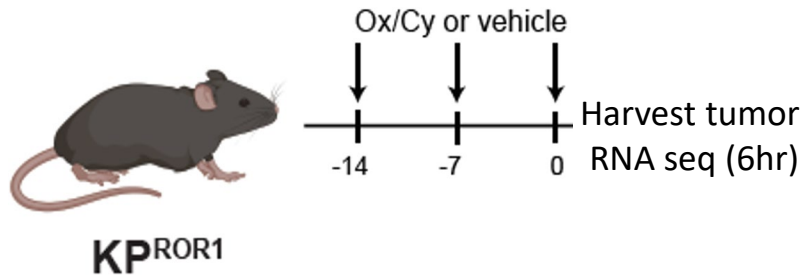
“Immunogenic” chemotherapy can increase infiltration of endogenous T cells into tumors

Immunogenic cell death

- Anthracyclines, platinum-based agents plus cytoxan, radiotherapy
- Release of DAMPs including calreticulin, ATP, and HMGB1
- Activation of DCs/macrophages, induction of chemokines, pro-inflammatory cytokines, antigen presentation
- Oxaliplatin + cyclophosphamide (Ox/Cy) induced ICD in KP-Ova tumors and response to ICB (Pfirschke et al, Immunity 2016)



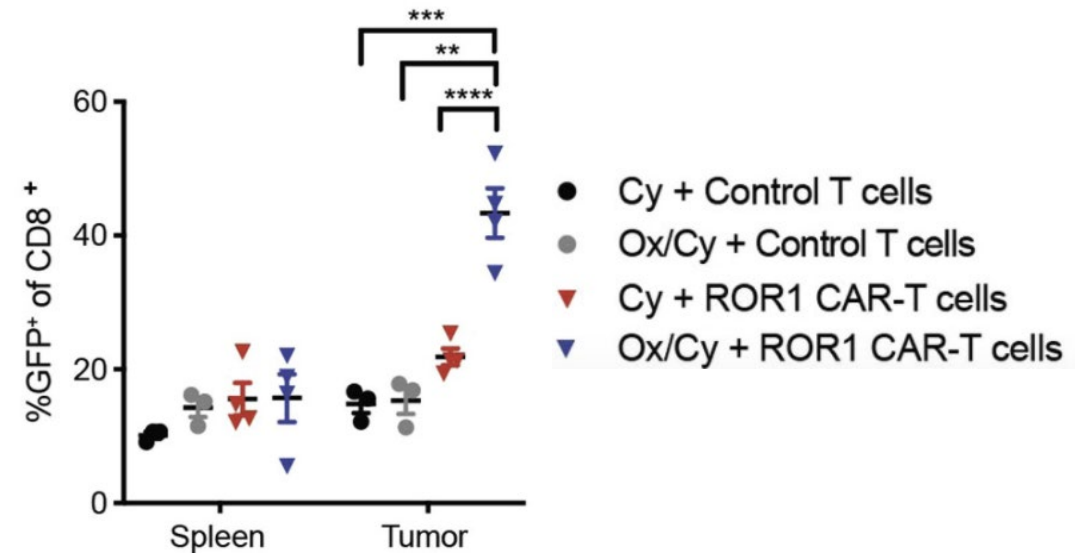
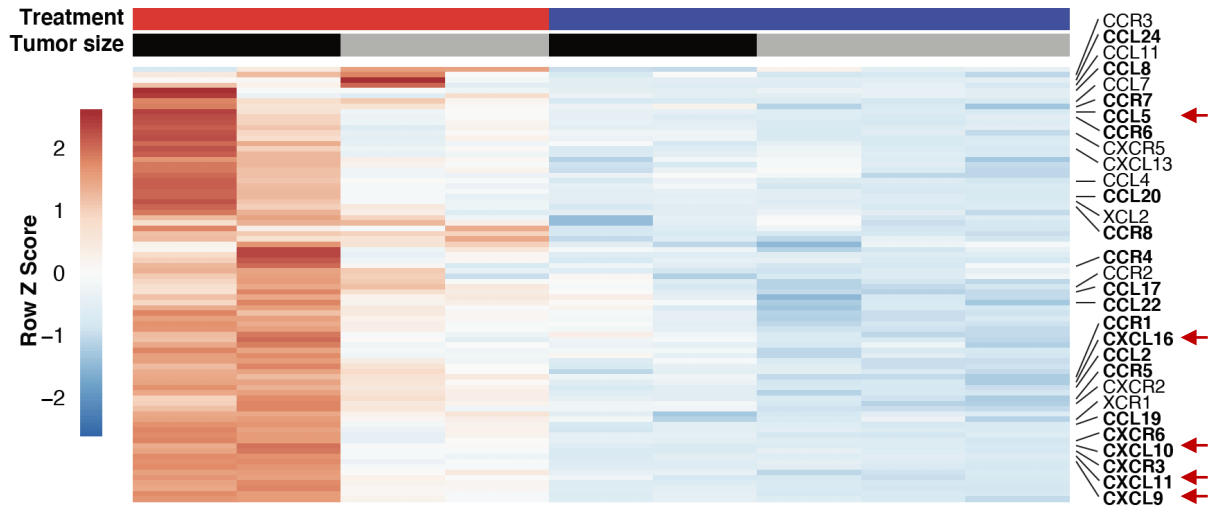
Ox/Cy induces expression of T cell-recruiting chemokines in KP^{ROR1} tumors and markedly improves infiltration of CAR-T cells



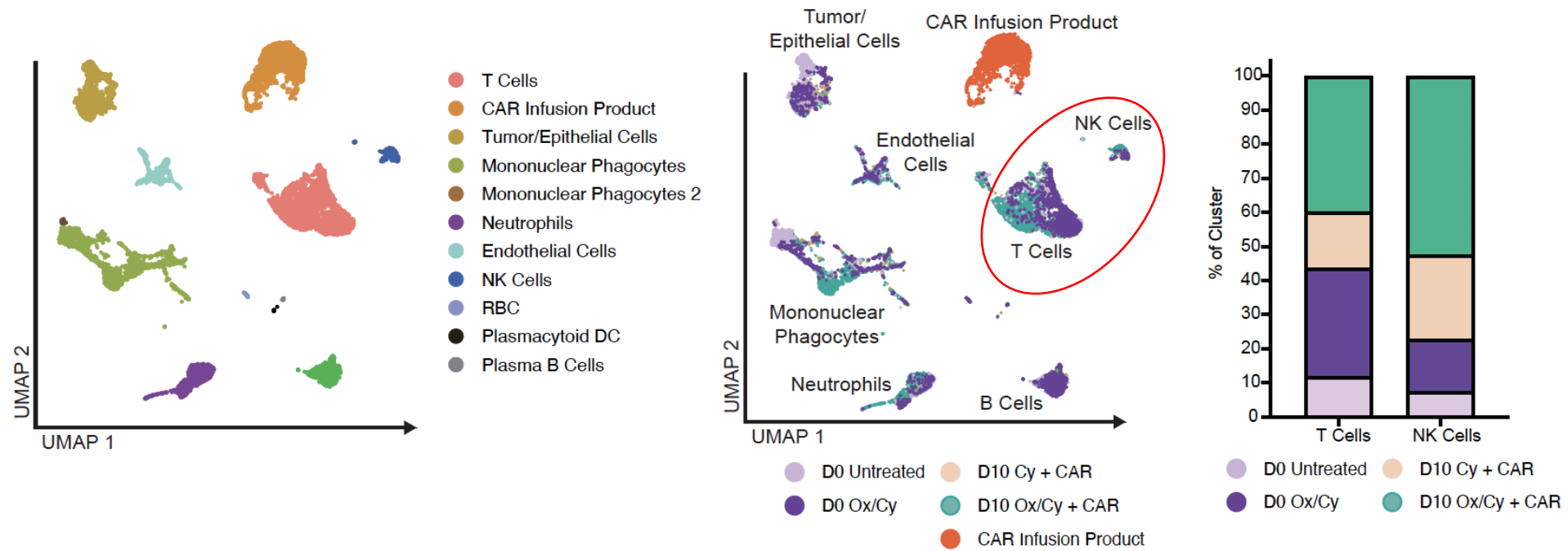
Treatment
■ Ox/Cy
■ Untr.

Tumor size
■ Small
■ Large

KEGG Cytokine-Cytokine Receptor Interaction

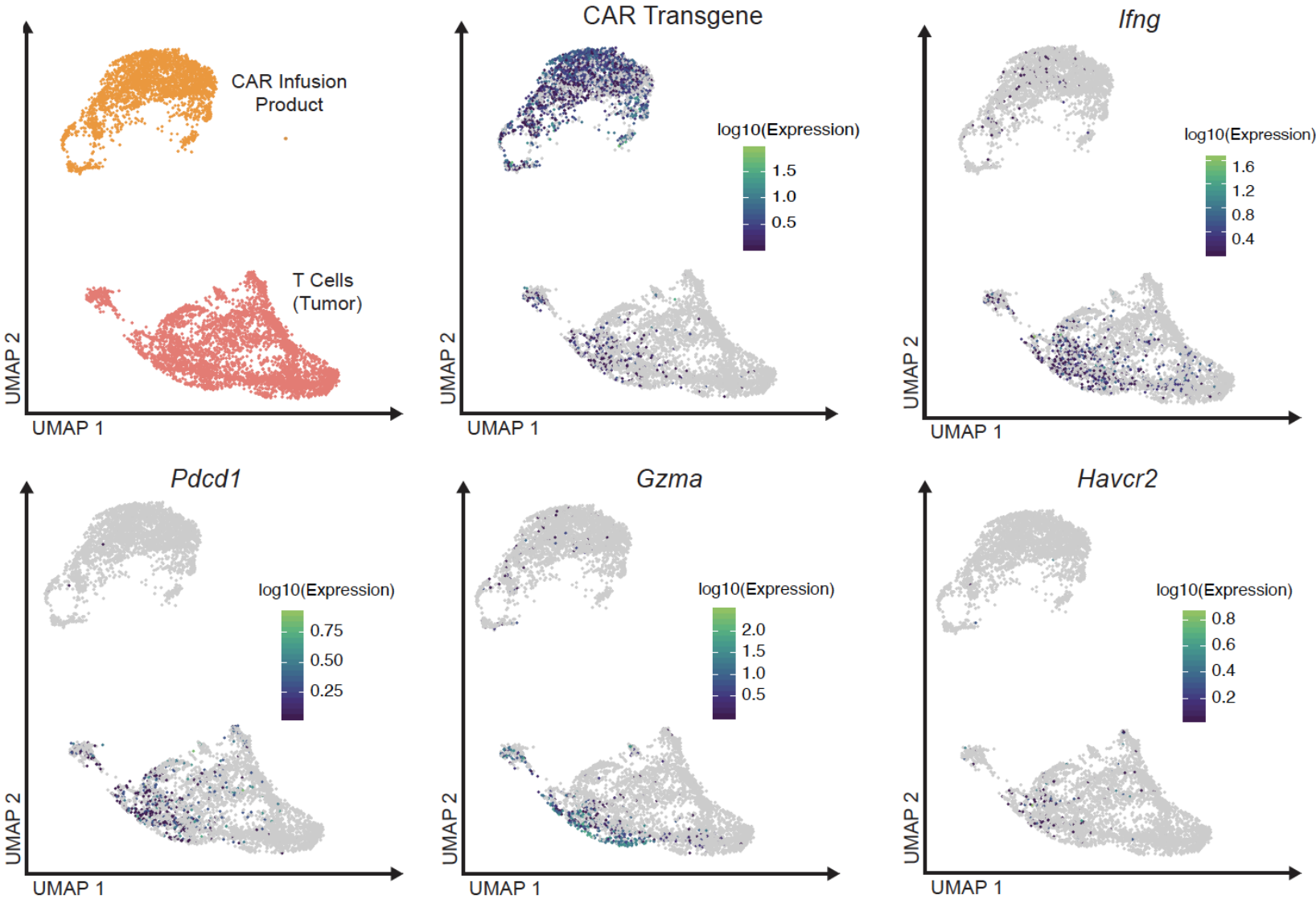


How does Ox/Cy alter cell composition and phenotype in the TME?

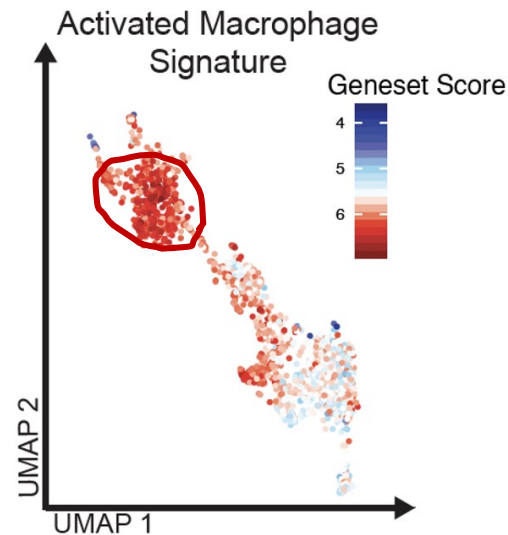
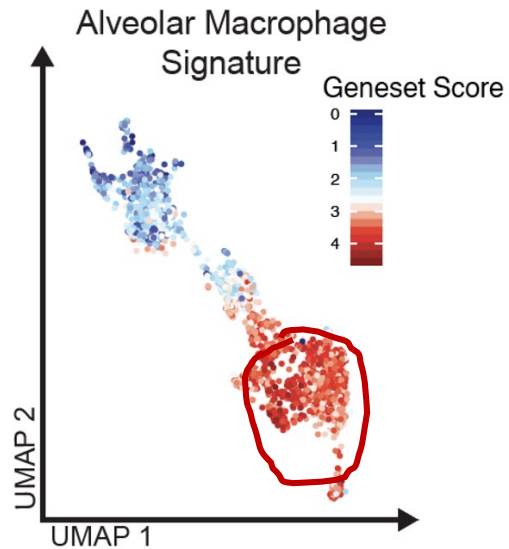
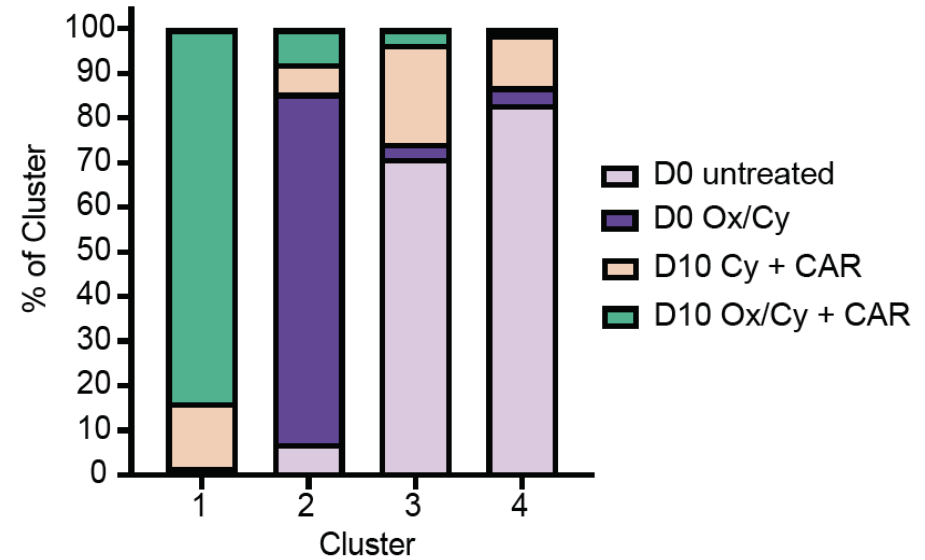
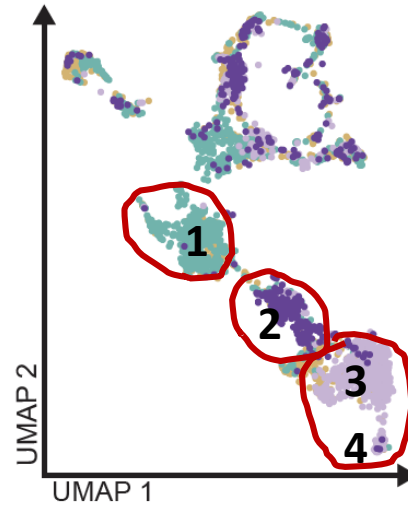
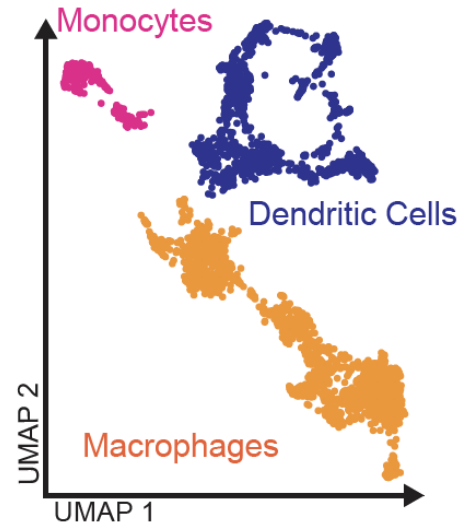


- CAR infusion product clusters separately from tumor-infiltrating CARs
- T cell, NK cell clusters: mostly comprised of D0 and D10 Ox/Cy samples
- Most sample-dependent changes occur in macrophage/DC cluster

Tumor-infiltrating CAR-T cells have an effector phenotype



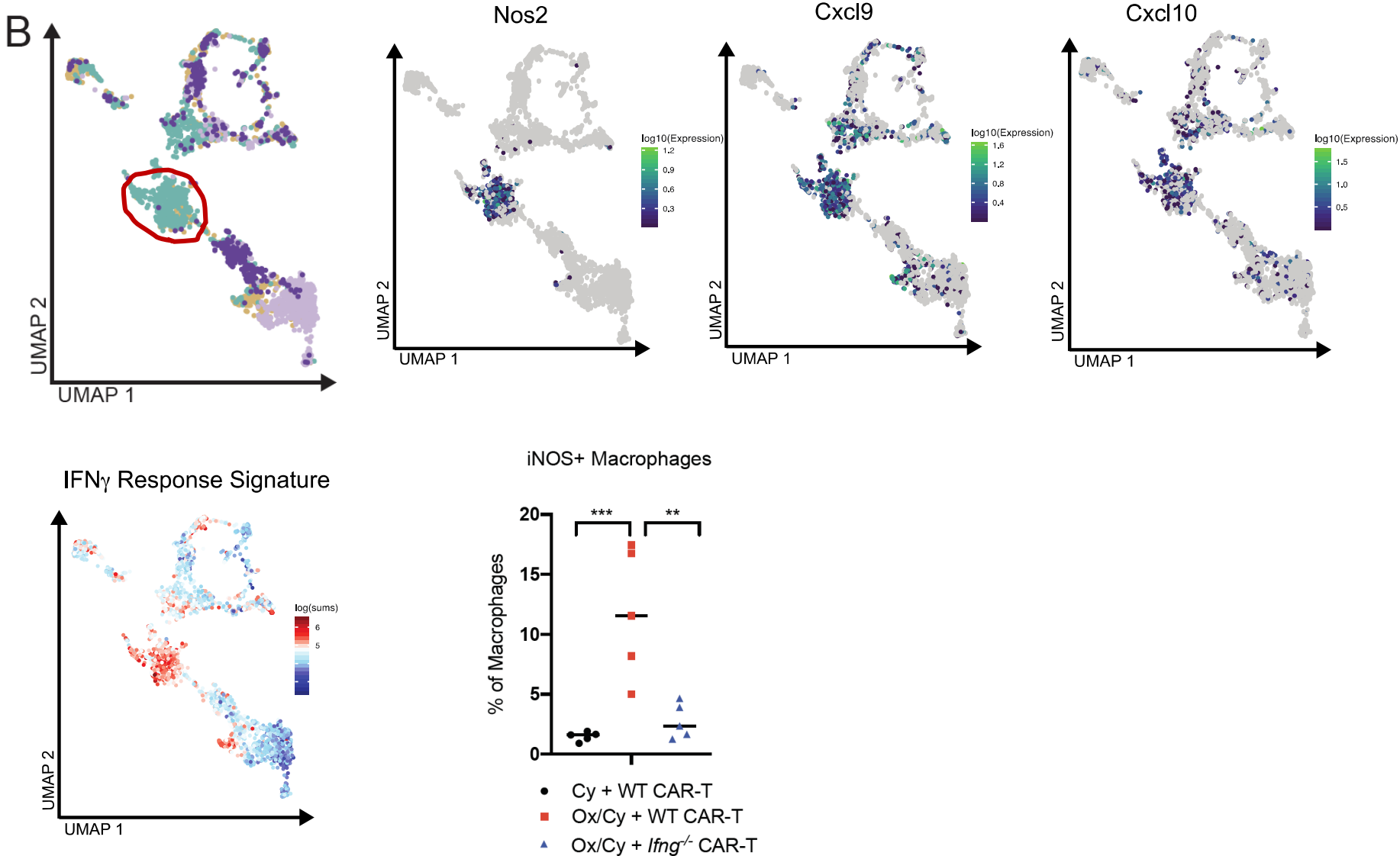
Ox/Cy and CAR T cells remodel macrophages in the TME



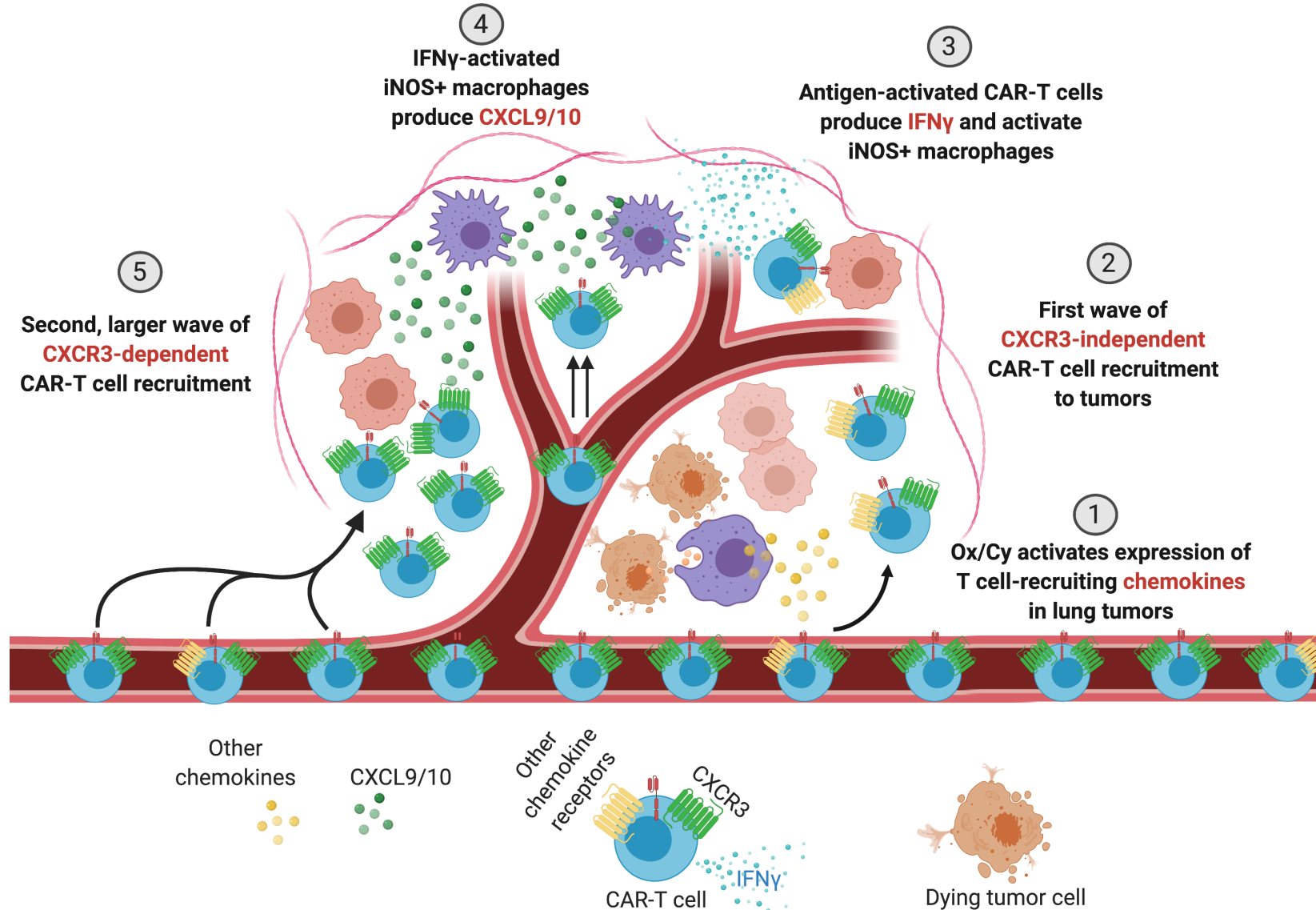
Pathways upregulated in C2 > C3:

- Phagocytosis
- Antigen presentation
- IFN γ and IFN α signaling
- Toll-like receptor signaling
- Chemokines
 - ↑ T cell recruiting (Ccl4, Cxcl16)
 - ↑ monocyte recruiting (Ccl2, Ccl7)
 - ↓ neutrophil recruiting (Cxcl3, Cxcl15)

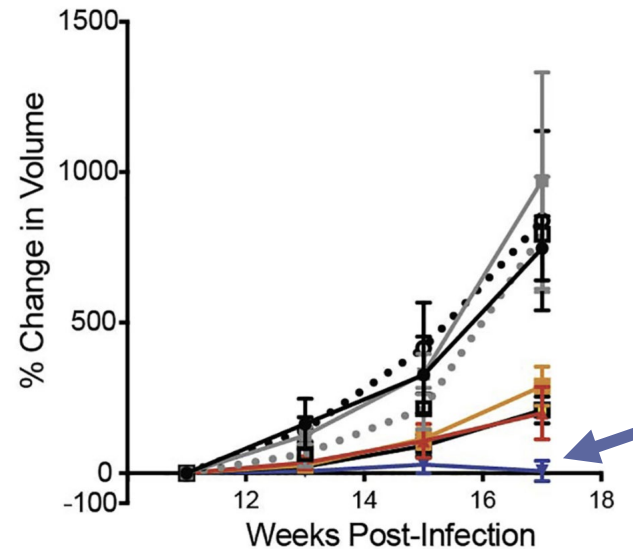
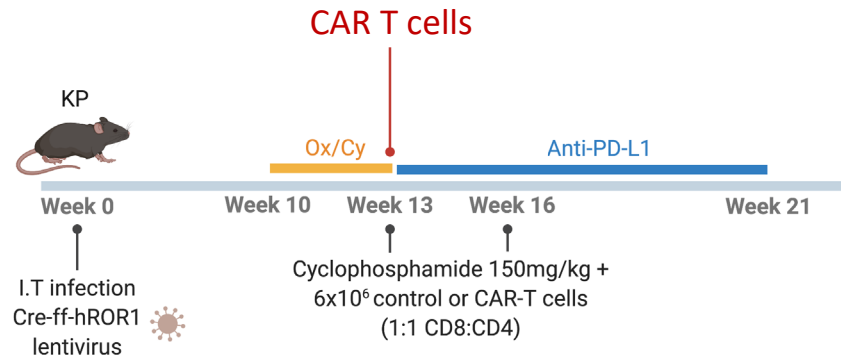
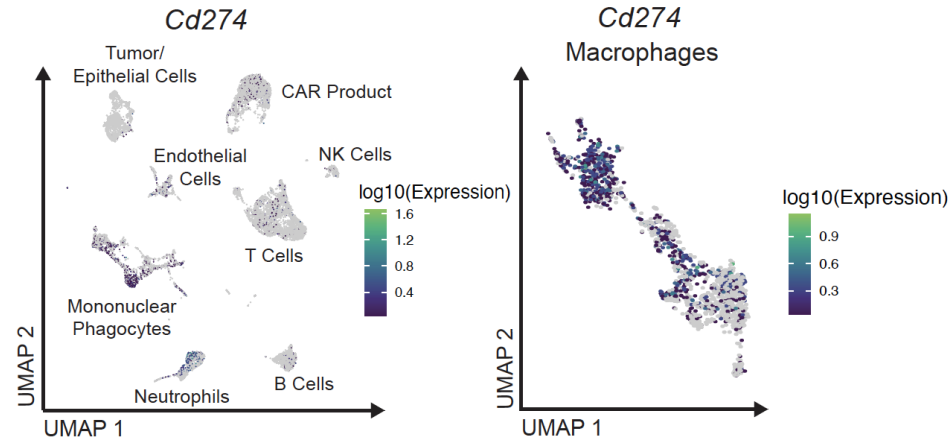
CAR-T cells in Ox/Cy-treated tumors promote accumulation of pro-inflammatory macrophages that express CXCR3 ligands



In this model immunogenic chemotherapy breaks the barrier to CAR T cell entry, which then remodels the TME to promote further T cell infiltration

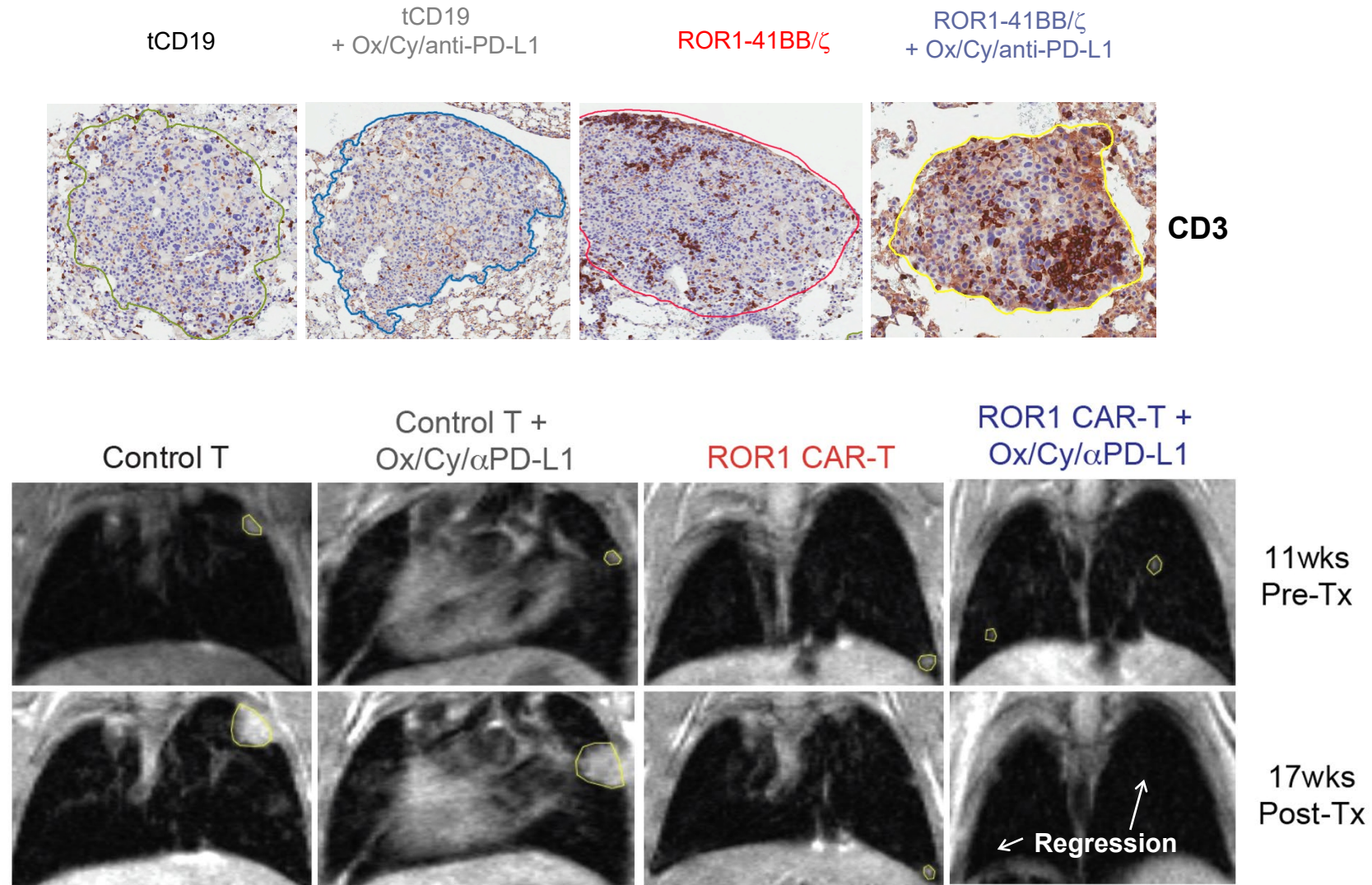


Does this improve antitumor efficacy?



- Cy + Control T cells
- Ox/Cy + Control T cells
- Cy + Control T cells + α PD-L1
- Ox/Cy + Control T cells + α PD-L1
- ▲ Cy + ROR1 CAR-T cells
- Ox/Cy + ROR1 CAR-T cells
- Cy + ROR1 CAR-T cell + α PD-L1
- ▼ Ox/Cy + ROR1 CAR-T cells + α PD-L1

CAR-T infiltration into tumor nodules is markedly improved in Ox/Cy anti PD-L1 treated mice and associated with tumor regression



I. T Cell Fitness

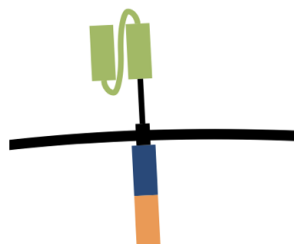
II. Infiltration and Function In Solid Tumors

III. Enhancing sensitivity and specificity of receptors



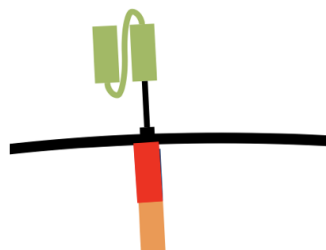
CAR signaling in primary T cells

4-1BB/CD3 ζ
CAR

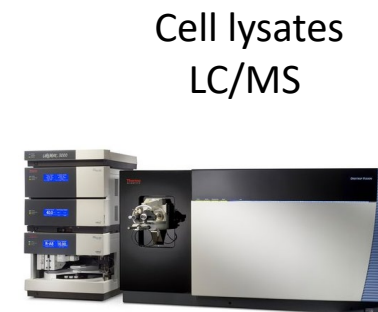
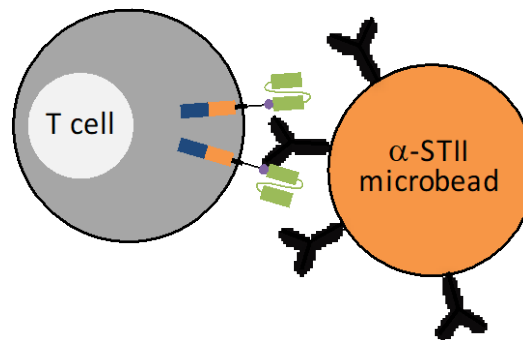
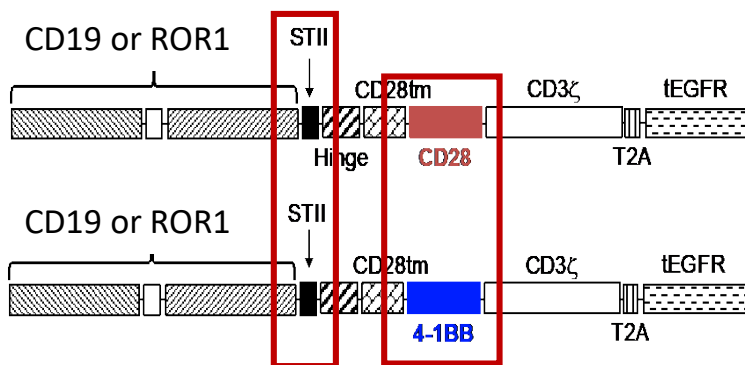
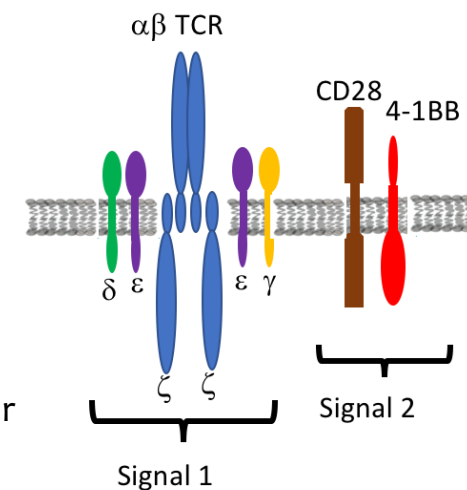


- Expand more slowly in vivo post transfer
- Persist longer (months) in some patients

CD28/CD3 ζ
CAR

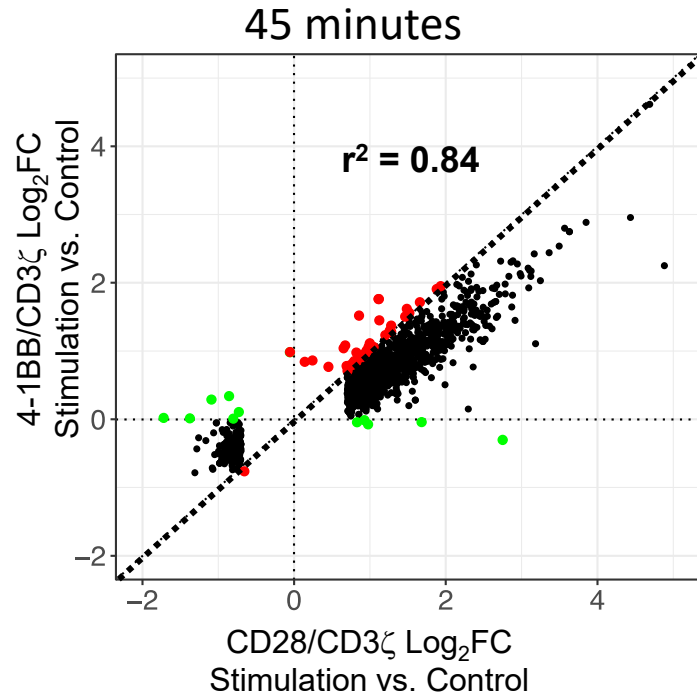


- Expand rapidly in vivo post transfer
- Rarely persist past 60 days



Liu et al Nature Biotech, 2016
Salter et al Science Signaling, 2018

Downstream protein phosphorylation differs in intensity between CD28/CD3 ζ and 4-1BB/CD3 ζ CARs

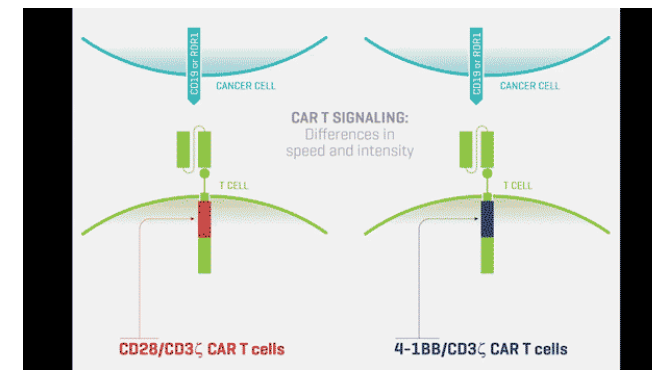
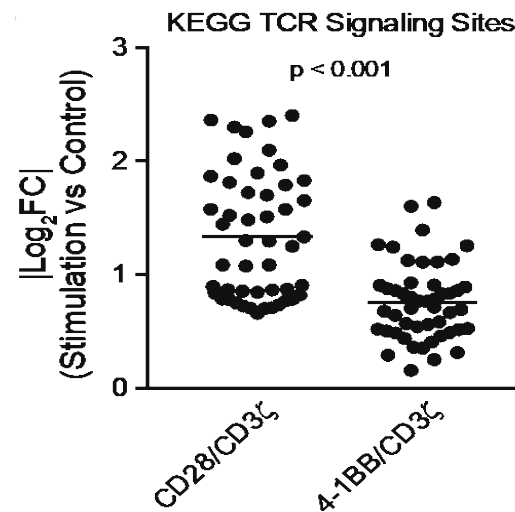
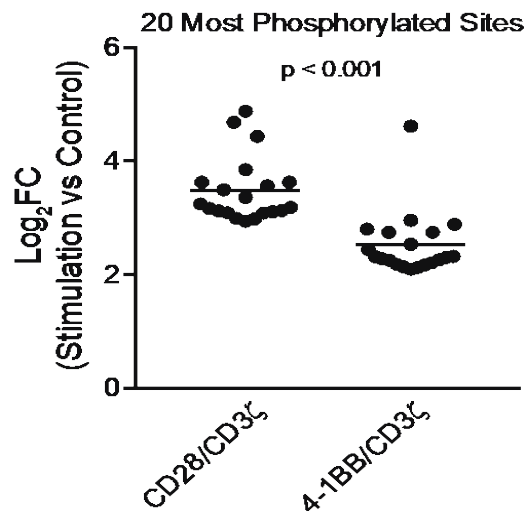


The vast majority of sites lie to the right of the diagonal – **are more intensely modulated by CD28/CD3 ζ CARs**; 43 sites (**red**) more intensely modulated by 4-BB/CD3 ζ CAR

12 of >1200 sites (0.9%; **green**) were differentially modulated by CD28/CD3 ζ and 4-1BB/CD3 ζ CARs

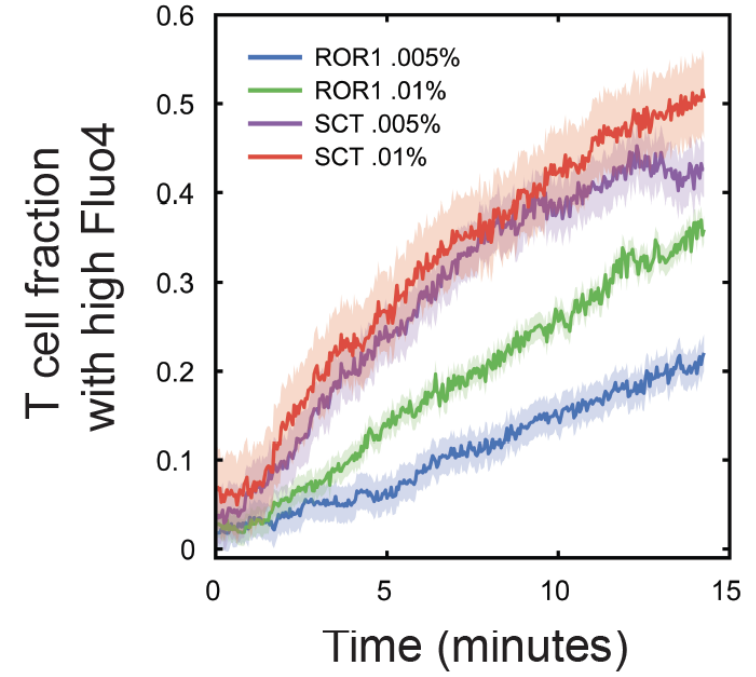
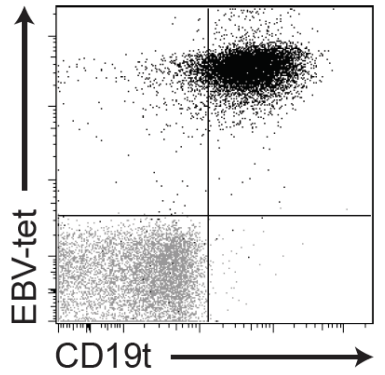
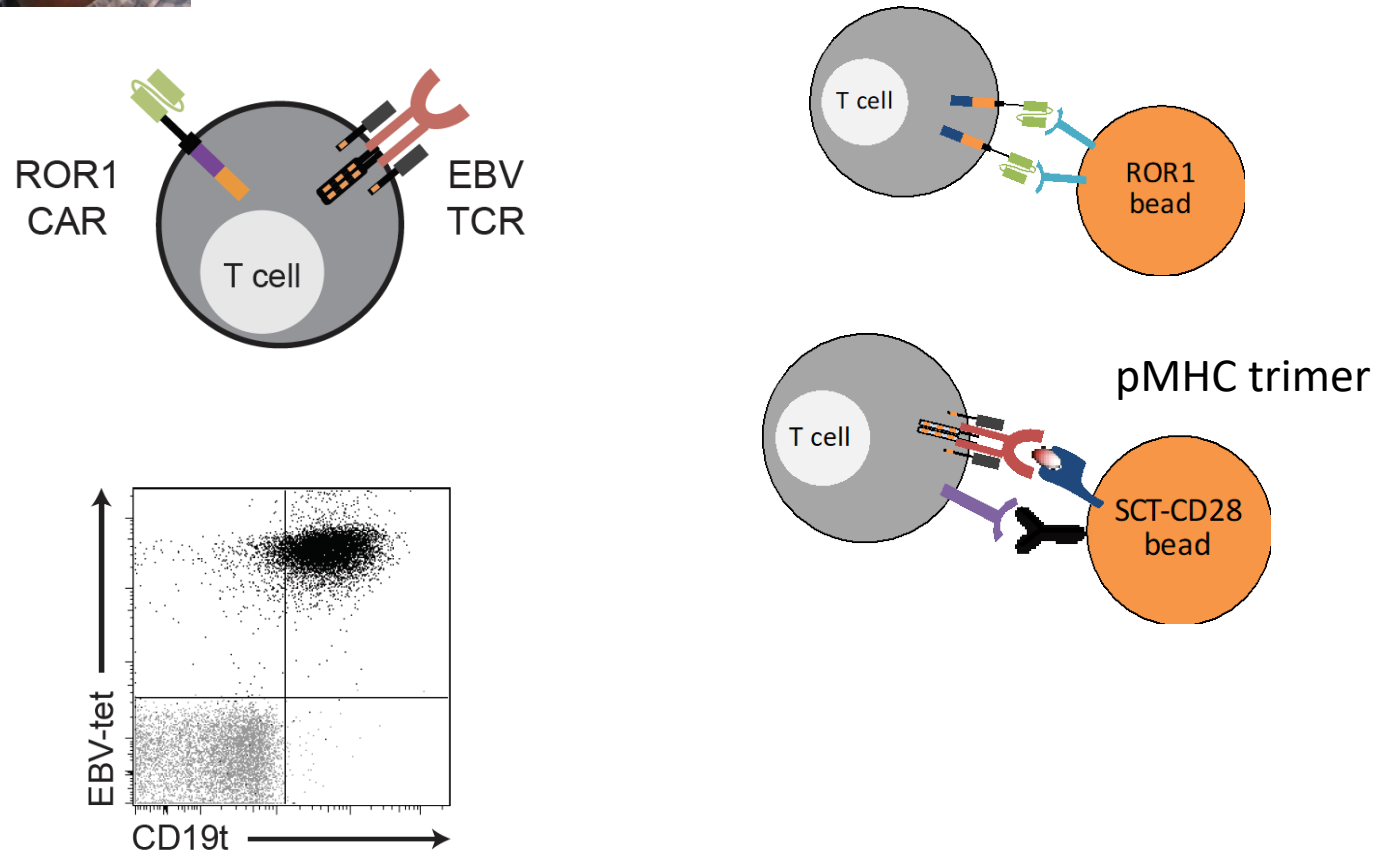
Sites that were differentially modulated did not relate to canonical CD28 or 4-1BB signaling pathways

Both CARs activated CD28 and 4-1BB signaling pathway intermediates

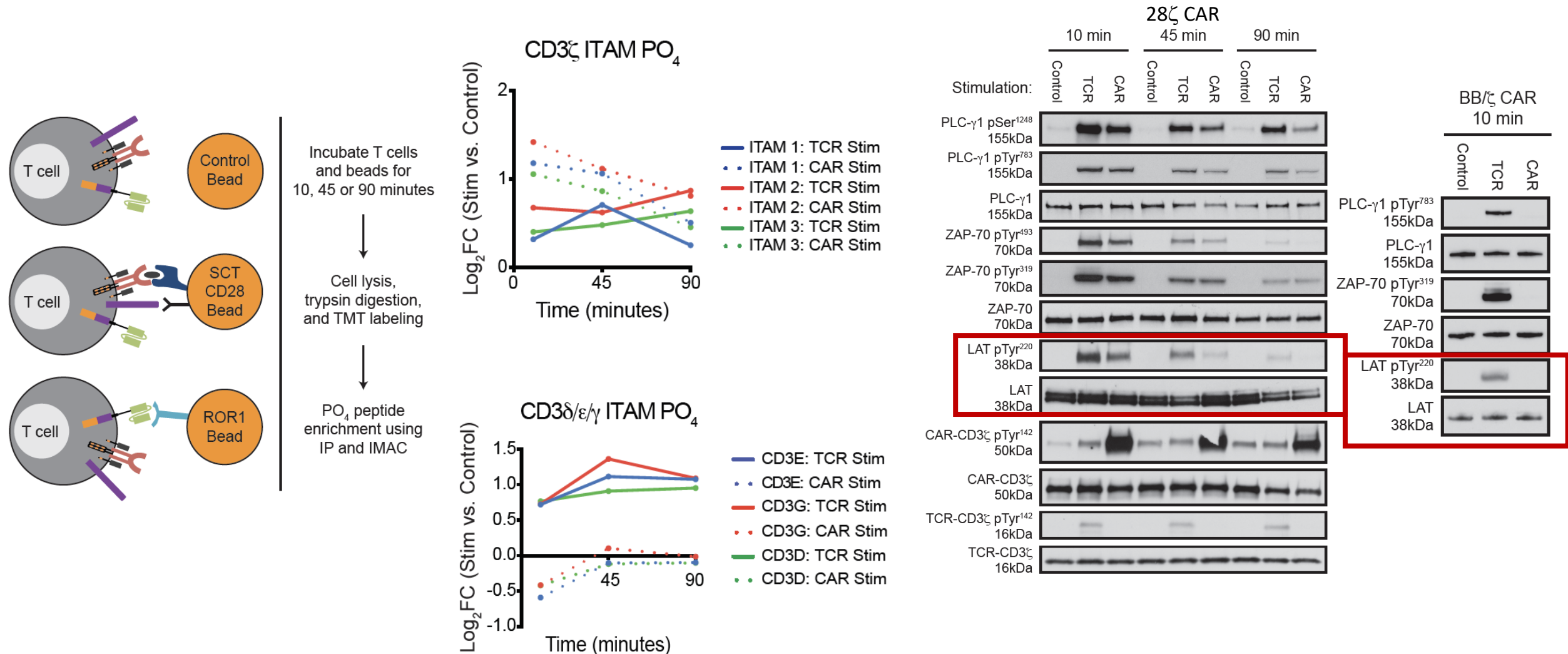




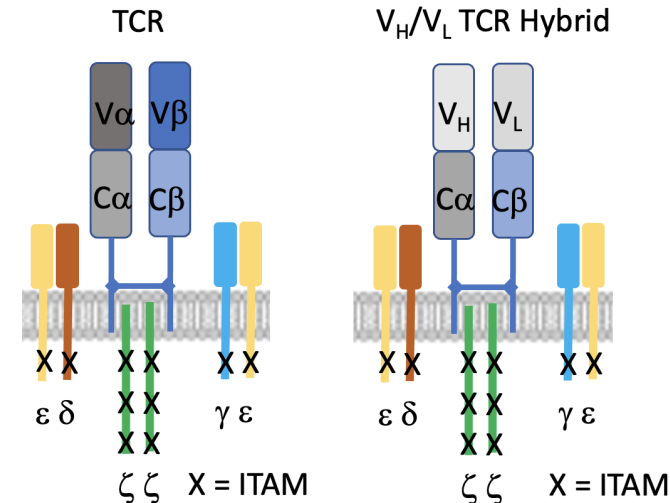
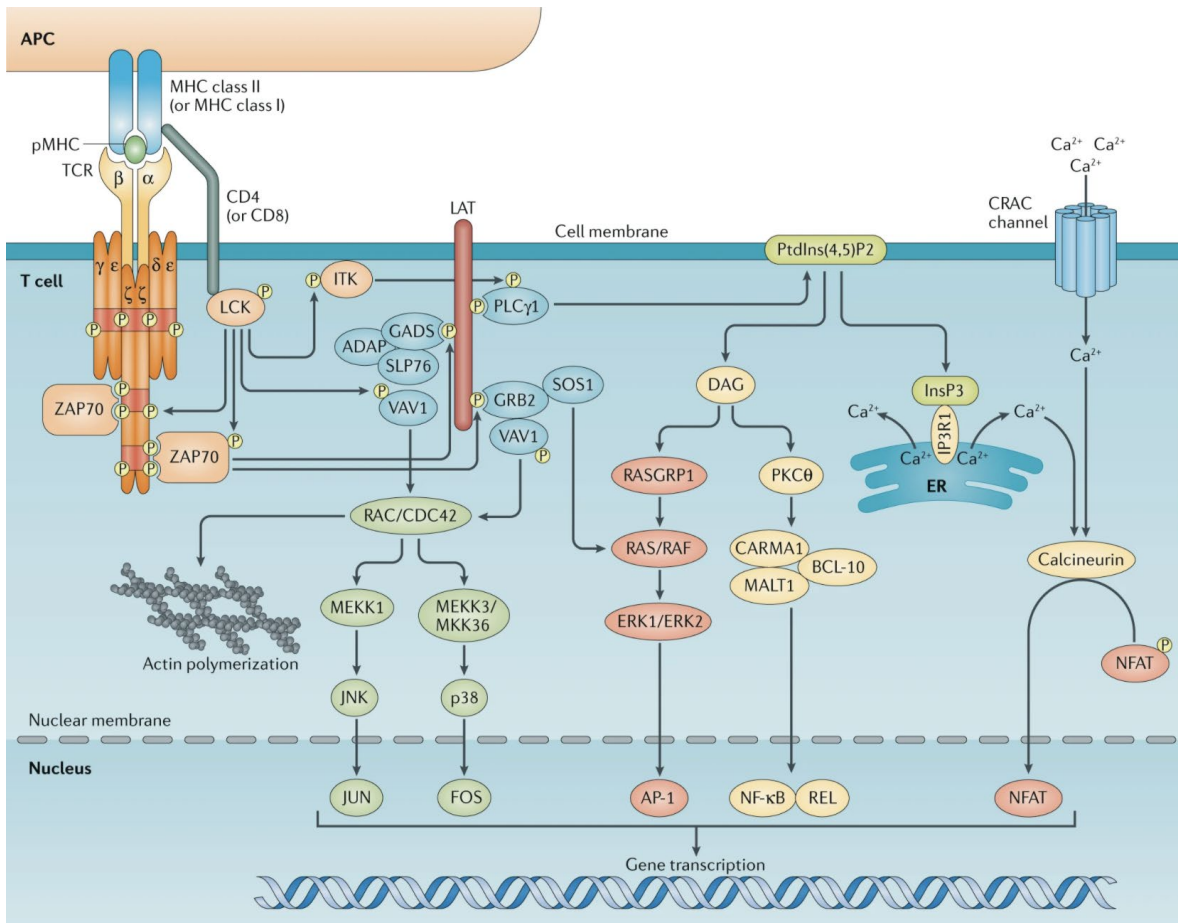
What can we learn by comparing CAR and TCR signaling?



Comparison of CAR and endogenous TCR signaling in the same primary T cell reveals absence of CD3 δ , ϵ , γ PO₄ and lower LAT PO₄ – a key hub for downstream signaling

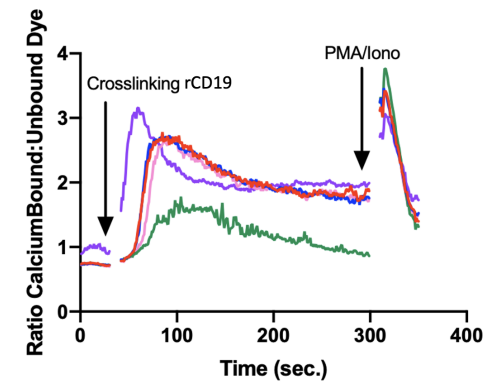
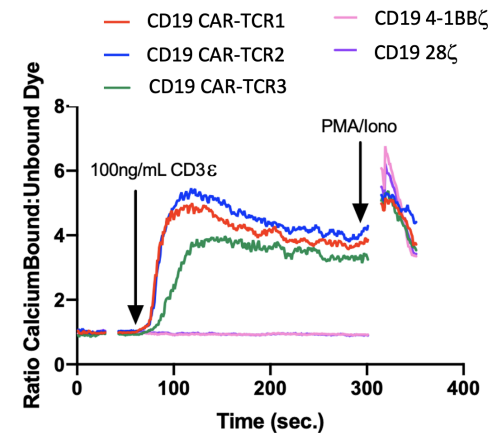


Engaging the TCR signaling apparatus with CAR/TCR hybrid receptors

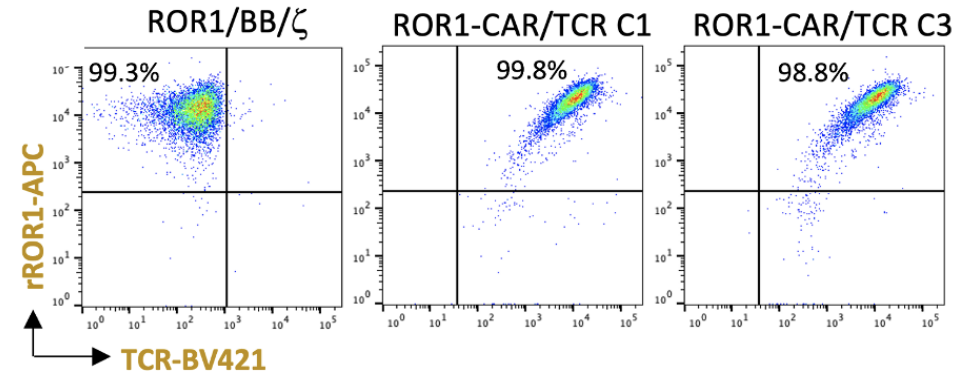
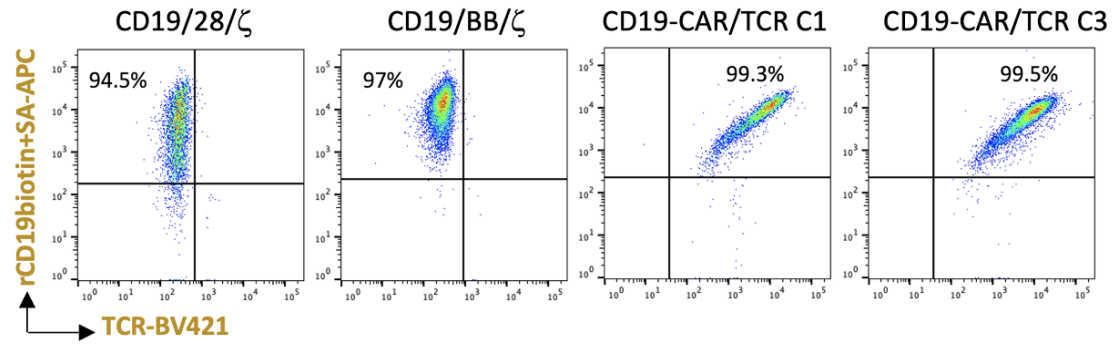


Requires KO of endogenous TCR α and TCR β to optimize expression and prevent mispairing

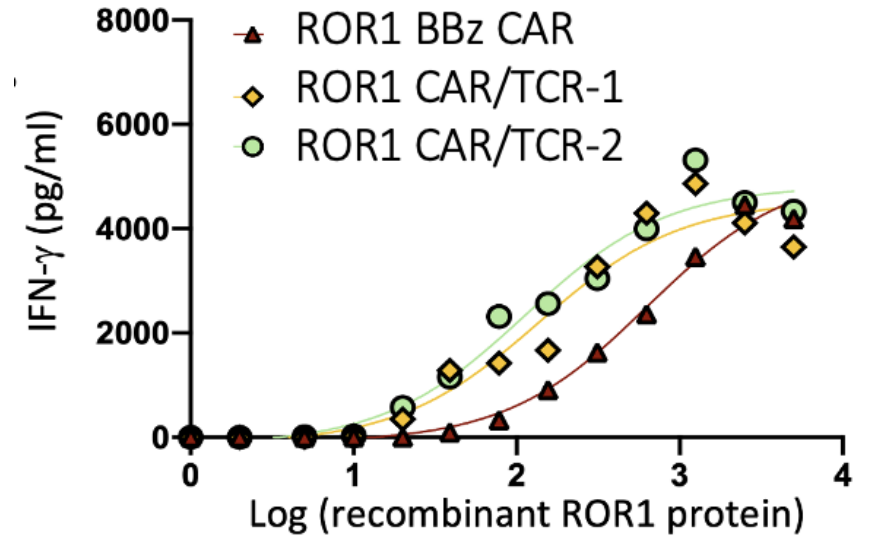
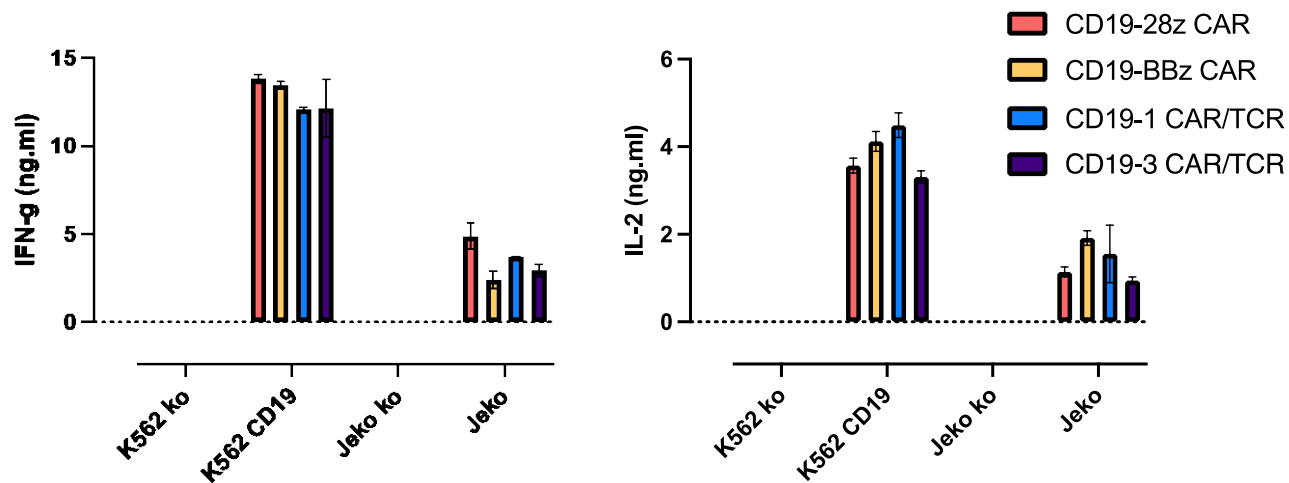
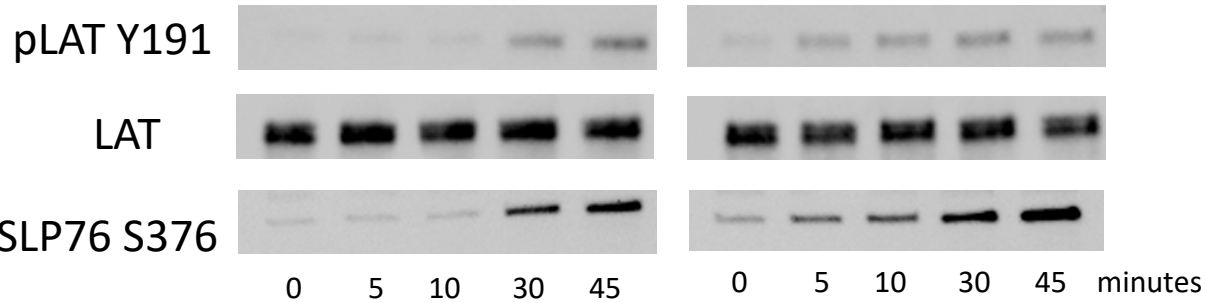
Liu Y et al Science Transl Med, 2021 (Chimeric STAR receptors)



CAR/TCR hybrid receptors are expressed in primary T cells, efficiently activate LAT induce similar levels of cytokines, and exhibit superior antigen sensitivity



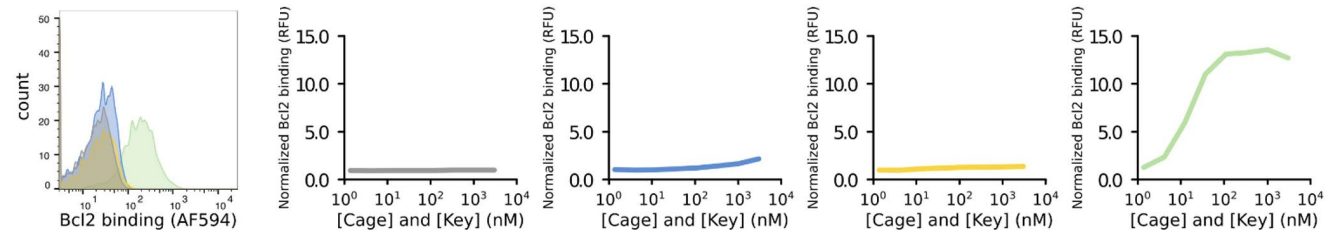
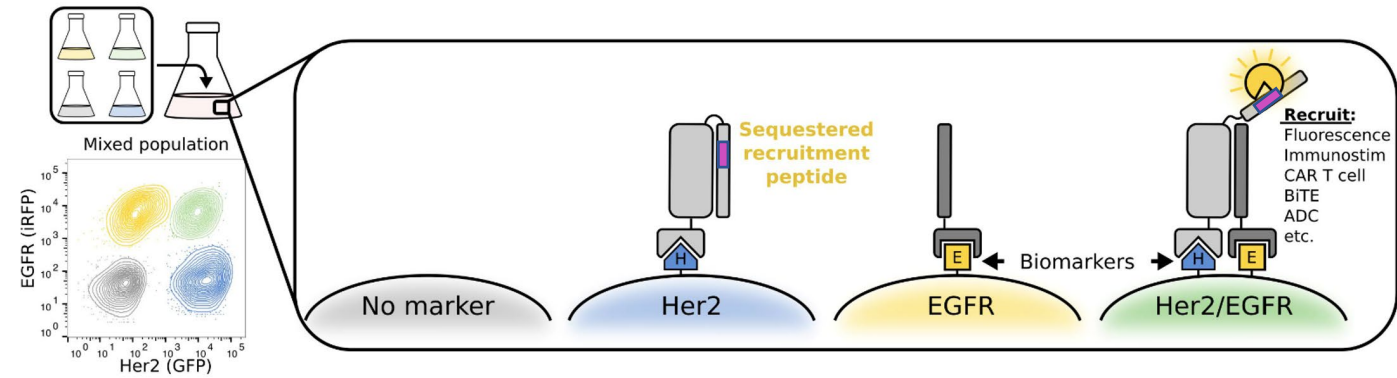
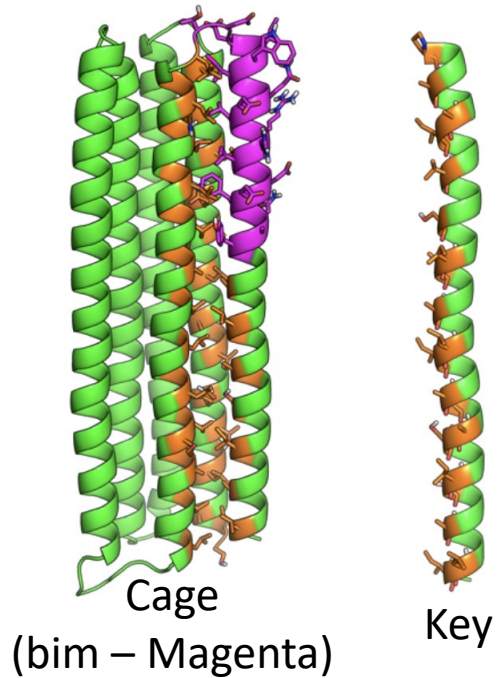
CD19 41BBz CAR CD19 CAR-TCR



Logic Gating With Co-Localized Orthogonal Latch Key Proteins (Co-LOCKR)

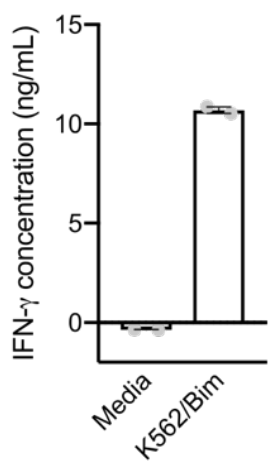
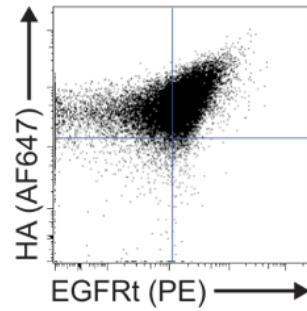
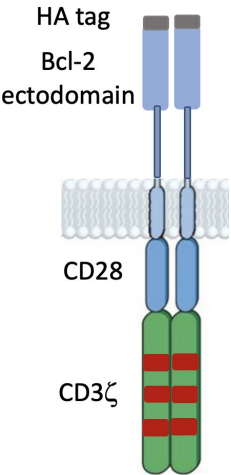
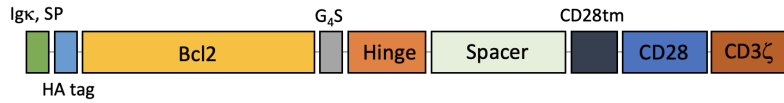


Cage and Key proteins do not associate in solution
 Cage and Key can be colocalized by linking to Darpin or ScFv binding domains
 Colocalization results in the Key displacing the latch and exposing the bim peptide

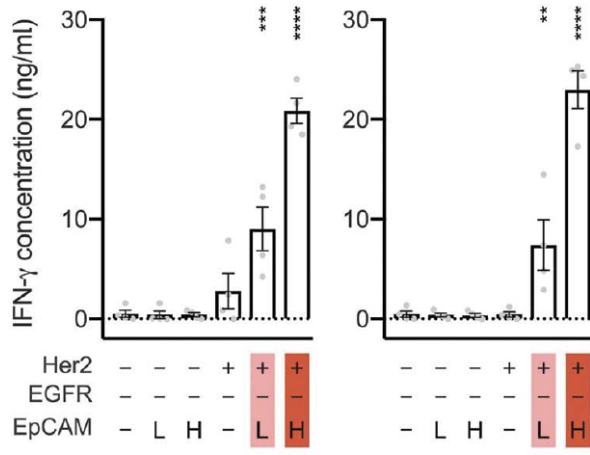
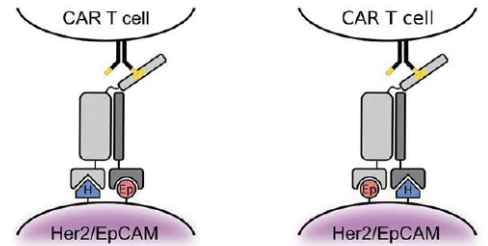


Co-LOCKR can instruct CAR-T cells in AND, OR and NOT logic

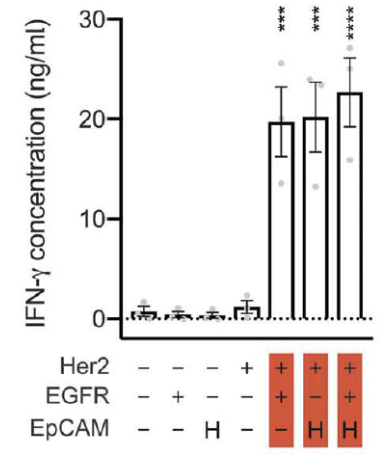
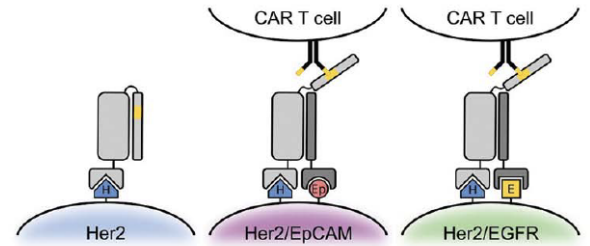
CAR Bcl2/28 ζ



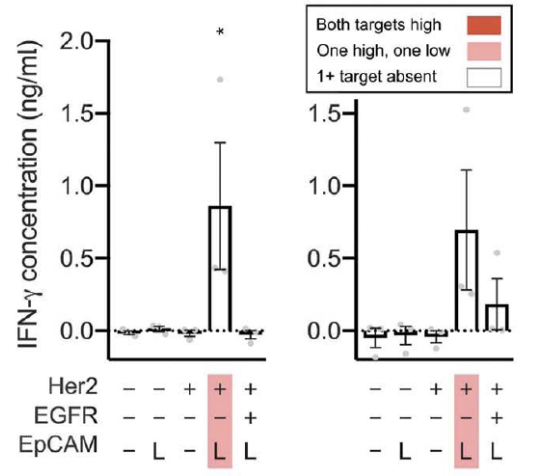
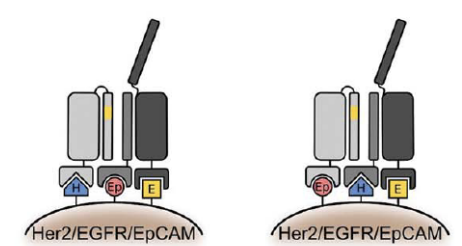
Ag₁ AND Ag₂



Ag₁ AND either Ag₂ OR Ag₃

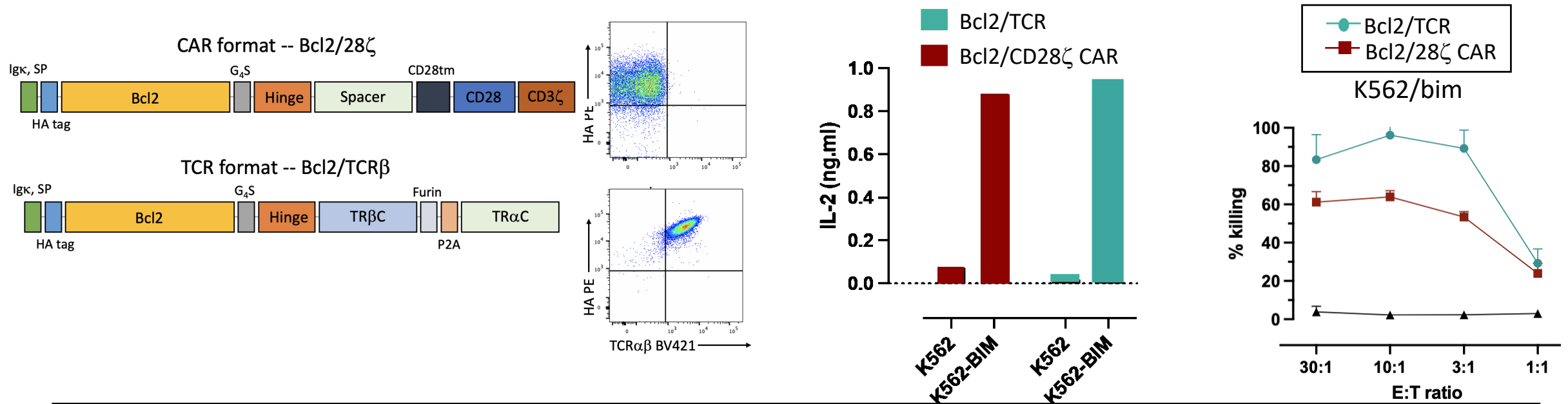


Ag₁ AND Ag₂ NOT Ag₃

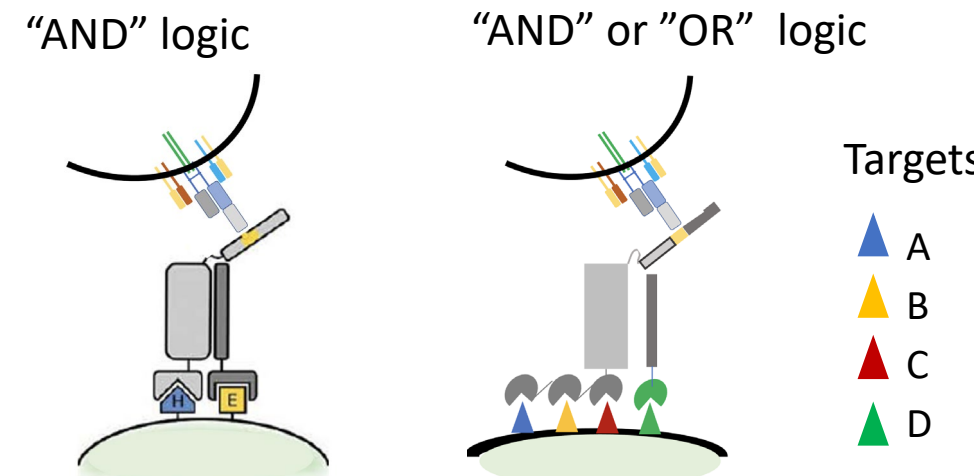


Both targets high (Red)
One high, one low (Light Red)
1+ target absent (White)

Bcl-2 TCR receptor format is highly functional and may provide greater sensitivity and specificity than bcl-2 CARs



Instructing a single T cell product in complex logic to overcome normal tissue expression and tumor heterogeneity



Summary

The pillars of successful cellular therapies for cancer:

- Understanding the biology of the cell products that are administered
- Elucidating and overcoming the barriers at sites of tumor
- Providing precise and comprehensive recognition of tumor cells with natural, synthetic or enhanced receptors or cellular products

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Patients and their families

