Annual Congress

A Multi-Center Phase 2a Trial to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of BL-8040 (a CXCR4 inhibitor) in Combination with Pembrolizumab and Chemotherapy in Patients with Metastatic Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma (PDAC)

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#### **Presenter Disclosure**

- Founder and stockholder: Champions Oncology, Inc., Agenus, Pharmacyte
- Research support from: BioLineRx, Erytech, BioExcell
- Honorarium from: Agenus, InxMed, Takeda, Oncomatrix, BioOncotech, Pharmacyte.
- **Royalties:** Myriad for PALB2 patent.

#### Rationale for the use of BL-8040 (a CXCR4 antagonist) in cancer immunotherapy





#### **CXCR4 and PD-1 Blockade in PDAC Models**



 $\alpha$ -PD-L1 alone had no effect, whereas CXCR4 antagonist **increased the accumulation of T cells**. The combination of  $\alpha$ -PDL-1 with a CXCR4 antagonist amplified this effect and led to an apparent decrease in the frequency of p53 LOH cancer cells

 $\begin{array}{l} \alpha\text{-PDL-1}, \alpha\text{-CTL4} \text{ and a CXCR4} \\ \text{antagonist alone had no effect in} \\ \text{tumor growth. Only the} \\ \text{combination of} \quad \alpha\text{-PDL-1} \text{ with a} \\ \text{CXCR4} \text{ antagonist showed decrease} \\ \text{of tumour volume} \end{array}$ 

Feig et al 2013

#### **COMBAT- Cohort 1- Dual Combination**

Phase 2a, open-label, multi-center study to assess the safety and efficacy of the high-affinity CXCR4 antagonist BL-8040 in combination with pembrolizumab in patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer; NCT02826486



#### **COMBAT- Cohort 1 Dual Combination Results**

- 34.5% DCR (PR+SD) for 29 evaluable patients
  - 40% reduction in tumor burden was seen in 1PR
  - 1.5-13% reduction in tumor burden was seen in 6 out of 9 patients with SD
- In all lines of therapy (2L-5L) mOS: 3.3 months
- In 2L (N=16) mOS: 7.5 months

**COMBAT- Cohort 1 Dual Combination clinical and biomarker data** 





- Increase in activated CD8 T cells
- Decrease in MDSCs
- Reduction in tumor cell density

#### Rationale for Triple Combination (BL-8040+Pembrolizumab+Chemotherapy)

#### Mechanistic rationale

- · Chemo induces tumor death, reducing tumor burden, allowing immunotherapy to kick-in
- Chemo induces immunogenic cell death => activation/expansion of new tumor-reactive T-cell clones
- BL-8040 modulates TME (TILs↑, MDSC ↓)
- Pembrolizumab maintains/restores T-cell activity in the tumor

#### **Preclinical support**

• Synergy of Triple Combo (Chemo+BL-8040+Pembro) in Mouse model



Peleg et al SITC 2019

ILF=irinotecan, 5-FU, Leucovorin

#### COMBAT/Keynote-202 Cohort 2- Study Design



#### Main Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

- 18 years old and above
- Metastatic disease at diagnosis (Stage 4)
- Progressed after first-line gemcitabine-based treatment
- No previous surgeries for PDAC
- No prior PD-1 or PDL-1 treatment

#### COMBAT/Keynote-202 Cohort 2- Study Design- Baseline Demographics

- Total Enrolled N=30: Spain 13, Israel 7, US 10
  - Safety cohort N=30
  - Evaluable patients<sup>1</sup> N=22

Baseline Characteristics	N=30		
Gender	Female 43%/Male 57%		
Number of prior therapies	1 previous therapy-100%		
Median CA 19-9	945.6 (1.2-123112)		
Median Age	68 (50-83)		
ECOG 0/1	37%/63%		

### COMBAT/Keynote-202 Cohort 2- Safety

Safety cohort N=30	Any grade, n (%)	Grade 3–4,n (%)
All Adverse events (AEs) Related to any of the study drugs	87.5%	
Adverse events reported in >15% of the patients		
Vomiting	14(47%)	2 (7%)
Diarrhea	13 (43%)	4 (13%)
Asthenia	13 (43%)	3 (10%)
Injection site pain	12 (40%)	1 (3%)
Nausea	12 (40%)	
Anemia	8 (27%)	1 (3%)
Pruritus	8 (27%)	1 (3%)
Generalized pruritus	7 (23%)	
Skin Hyperpigmentation	7 (23%)	
Rash	5 (17%)	
Decrease Appetite	5 (17%)	2 (7%)

- Combination safety profile is generally consistent with the individual safety profile of each component
- AE and SAE profiles are as expected with chemotherapy-based treatment regimens
- Two subjects early discontinued from study due to Adverse Events

#### COMBAT/Keynote-202 Cohort 2- Change from Day 5 Monotherapy CT scan (BL) in Target lesions (N=22)



Study COMBAT Cohort 2 - mITT Analysis Set (N=22) - Sum Longest Diameters Maximal % Change from Baseline by Best Response according to RECIST1.1

Max % Change: Max decrease was used for subjects with decreases	Max increase was used for subjects
with increases only	

	Ν	%
Evaluable patients	22	100%
ORR	7	32%
DCR (PR + SD)	17	77%
PR	7	32%
SD	10	45%

#### COMBAT/Keynote-202 Cohort 2- Change from Day 5 Monotherapy CT scan (BL) in Target lesions (N=22)



Data shown for subjects treated with the triple combination and have at least one Post Monotherapy D5 (BL) Scan

#### COMBAT/Keynote-202 Cohort 2

Best Response by RECIST & Study Status Over Time. All Patient (N=30)



### Duration of Clinical Benefit for Subjects with PR (N=7) and SD (N=10) Months from D1 monotherapy to Disease Progression/Death

10 11

#### ESMO IMMUND-ONCOLOGY COMBAT/Keynote-202 Cohort 2- Response and CA19-9



# **Conclusions**

- CXCR4 is a chemokine receptor and a validated target overexpressed in many cancer types (including PDAC); overexpression correlates with poor prognosis
- CXCR4 and its ligand, CXCL12, play a critical role in T-cell trafficking, immune cell infiltration, TME modulation, and survival and metastasis of cancer cells
- In this ongoing Phase 2a trial, BL-8040, a CXCR4 antagonist, when combined with Pembrolizumab and Onivyde, 5FU and Leucovorin, demonstrates a tolerable safety profile generally consistent with the profile of each of the components alone
- Preliminary data from the triple-combination cohort in this trial demonstrate promising ORR and durable clinical benefits from the study regimen as second line therapy in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer
- Further studies of the combination of BL-8040, Pembrolizumab and chemotherapy are warranted in pancreatic cancer, as well as other indications historically unresponsive to checkpoint inhibitors and/or chemotherapy

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