

# DEVELOPMENT OF NOVEL FULLY HUMAN BISPECIFIC ANTIBODIES FOR ONCOLOGY

Eric Smith April 10th, 2019

**PEGS:Boston** 

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# **REGENERON'S BISPECIFIC STRATEGY**

- Combine use of a single "common" light chain with a simple substitution (IgG\*) that introduces asymmetric protein A binding
  - IgG\* substitution allows selective isolation of the bispecific antibody
  - The IgG\* is an IgG with two amino acid substitutions that create no new T cell epitopes
  - Common light chain ensures correct light chain pairing
  - The Fc region can be modified to reduce effector function



REGENERON CLINICAL STAGE BISPECIFIC PROGRAMS FOR ONCOLOGY:

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REGN1979: CD20xCD3 REGN5458: BCMAxCD3 REGN4018: MUC16xCD3

# REGN1979: A FULLY HUMAN ANTI-CD20 X ANTI-CD3 BISPECIFIC ANTIBODY FOR B CELL MALIGNANCIES



REGN1979: a Bispecific, hinge-stabilized mAb based on an IgG4 isotype with reduced effector function "B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphomas as a group comprise one of the most common forms of blood cancer in humans, and they develop from normal B lymphoid progenitor cells."

REGN1979 was designed to eliminate CD20+ B Cell lymphomas by engaging T cells to directly kill the CD20 expressing B Cell

## CLINICAL SUMMARY FROM ASH 2018: REGN1979 (CD20XCD3) DISPLAYS EFFICACY AND AN ACCEPTABLE SAFETY PROFILE IN PATIENTS WITH R/R B-NHL

### Best Overall Responses<sup>1</sup>

#### Relapsed/Refractory Follicular Lymphoma grade 1–3a\*

#### Relapsed/Refractory Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma

	REGN1979 dose groups					REGN1979 dose groups			
	<5 mg (n=7)	≥5–≤12 mg (n=5)	≥18–≤40 mg (n=5)			<5 mg (n=15)	≥5–≤12 mg (n=11)	≥18–≤40 mg (n=10)	
ORR, n (%)	1 (14.3)	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	ORR, n (	(%)	3 (20.0)	2 (18.2)	6 (60.0)	
CR, n (%)	1 (14.3)	4 (80.0)	4 (80.0)	CR, n (%	b)	0	1 (9.1)	2 (20.0)	
PR, n (%)	0	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	PR, n (%	<b>b</b> )	3 (20.0)	1 (9.1)	4 (40.0)	
Responding patients who did not progress during study treatment, n/N (% of responders)	1 (100.0)	4 (80.0)	5 (100.0)	Respond not progr treatmen n/N (% o	ling patients who did ress during study t, f responders)	1 (33.3)	1 (50.0)	3 (50.0)	

<sup>1</sup>Cheson et al, J Clin Oncol. 2007;25:579-86.

- Most treatment emergent adverse events were CRS/IRR and associated signs and symptoms, which have been managed with supportive care.
- No clinically significant neurological toxicity has been observed.
- At doses of 5-40 mg, the preliminary ORR was 100% in pts with FL Grade 1-3a and 60.0% in pts with DLBCL. This promising efficacy at lower dose levels warrants further clinical investigation and dose escalation is currently ongoing.

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#### Bannerji et al ASH 2018 Poster#1690

## BISPECIFIC xCD3 ANTIBODIES FOR OTHER HEMATOPOIETIC MALIGNANCIES: MULTIPLE MYELOMA

- Multiple Myeloma (MM) represents a significant unmet medical need with ~30,000 new cases and 13,000 deaths in the US / year
- Recent advances/approvals include new-generation immunomodulatory drugs, newgeneration proteasome inhibitors, and CD38 Ab
- But, despite these advances, **MM remains a generally incurable cancer:** there remains significant unmet need as many patients do not respond and most will eventually relapse; thus, MM-targeted therapies are needed

→ Both bispecific antibodies and CAR T cells are being developed in clinical studies targeting MM



## THE RESTRICTED EXPRESSION OF <u>BCMA</u> MAKES IT AN ATTRACTIVE TARGET FOR MM



REGN1979 (CD20xCD3) displayed safety/efficacy in patients with CD20+ lymphomas; However CD20 is not generally expressed in multiple myeloma

# REGN5458: A BCMAxCD3 BISPECIFIC ANTIBODY FOR THE POTENTIAL TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE MYELOMA

- **B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)** is also known as tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 17 (TNFRSF17)
  - BCMA is a receptor for BAFF and APRIL, which are known to promote B cell and plasma cell survival
- Expression patterns
  - <u>Normal tissue</u>: Restricted to plasma cells (antibody-secreting subset of B cell lineage) and some activated B cells
  - <u>In Tumors</u>: BCMA is expressed on most multiple myeloma cells (malignant plasma cells) in most multiple myeloma patients
- Opportunity:

Develop BCMAxCD3 bispecific antibody targeting BCMA that can be used to treat Multiple Myeloma

## BCMAxCD3 bispecific Ab



## **REGN5458 (BCMAXCD3) BINDS TO HUMAN T CELLS AND MYELOMA CELL LINES**





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#### DiLillo and Olson – In Preparation

#### REGN5458 (BCMAxCD3) MEDIATES HUMAN T CELL ACTIVATION AND REDIRECTED KILLING OF MM CELL LINES AND HUMAN PLASMA CELLS, BUT NOT B CELLS

48-hour flow cytometry-based cytotoxicity assay



Parental anti-BCMA mAb

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DiLillo and Olson – In Preparation

# **TWO APPROACHES TO TEST IMMUNOTHERAPIES IN MICE**

Need for multiple models: using both immuno-compromised mice with engrafted human immune system, and immuno-competent mice with genetically modified targets

Xenogenic: Immuno-compromised mice with human effector cells and human tumor cell lines



- \* Mice lack T cells, B cells, NK cells
- This allows a human tumor to grow in these mice without rejection
- Mouse myeloid cells still abundant: monocytes, DCs and granulocytes
- Efficient human T cell engraftment: Both CD4 and CD8 T cells present



## MURINE XENOGENIC MODEL: REGN5458 (BCMAxCD3) DEMONSTRATES DOSE-DEPENDENT ANTI-TUMOR EFFICACY AGAINST DISSEMINATED HUMAN MM TUMORS



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# SYNGENEIC MODEL: REGN5458 (BCMAxCD3) DEMONSTRATES ANTI-TUMOR EFFICACY IN MICE GENETICALLY HUMANIZED FOR CD3



DiLillo and Olson – In Preparation

## **XENOGENIC MODEL: BENCHMARKING BISPECIFIC ANTIBODY TO CAR T IN VIVO**

#### BCMAxCD3 BISPECIFIC ANTIBODY CAN RAPIDLY CLEAR ESTABLISHED SYSTEMIC BCMA<sup>+</sup> OPM-2 TUMORS IN VIVO



#### BCMA CAR T CAN CLEAR ESTABLISHED SYSTEMIC BCMA+ OPM-2 TUMORS IN VIVO; SLOWER KINETICS THAN BISPECIFICS

Radiance (Photons/sec)



Anti-BCMA CAR T constructs were designed using an scFv derived from the BCMA binding arm of REGN5458 (BCMAxCD3), with 4-1BB and CD3 intracellular signaling domains.

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#### DiLillo and Olson – In Preparation

# <u>CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY PK/PD:</u> REGN5458 (BCMAxCD3) SHOWS LINEAR PHARMACOKINETICS, TRANSIENT DOSE-PROPORTIONAL CRP ELEVATION, AND BONE MARROW PLASMA CELL DEPLETION



#### DiLillo and Olson – In Preparation

# **BCMAxCD3 BISPECIFIC ANTIBODY SUMMARY:**

- BCMAxCD3 bispecific antibody (REGN5458) shows potent *in vitro* and *in vivo* activity against multiple myeloma cell lines and primary cells
- REGN5458 is well-tolerated and depletes BCMA<sup>+</sup> plasma cells in cynomolgus monkeys
- Both REGN5458 and anti-BCMA CAR T cells show similar anti-tumor activities in vitro and in vivo

Based on the promising *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and pre-clinical safety evaluations, a Phase 1 trial has been initiated for REGN5458 in Multiple Myeloma

# CD3 BISPECIFICS FOR SOLID TUMOR INDICATIONS: MUC16xCD3

- Rationale: MUC16 is a large transmembrane protein that is expressed in ovarian cancer as well as subsets of pancreatic, breast, uterine and lung cancers
  - MUC16 contains up to 60 mucin domain repeats (~156 aa each)
  - Expressed in normal: uterine/endometrium, corneal ovarian and tracheal tissue as well as secretions from normal human bronchial epithelial cells
  - Deletion of MUC16 in mice does not produce any obvious phenotype mice are viable and fertile; function unclear
  - CA-125: shed form of MUC16: Serum protein/antigen elevated in ovarian cancer and used as biomarker for ovarian cancer progression and drug response



# REGN4018, A MUC16xCD3 BISPECIFIC, SHOWS *IN VITRO* CYTOTOXICITY AGAINST OVARIAN CELL LINES AT pM CONCENTRATIONS



Cells were incubated with adherent cell depleted PBMC (~1:4 ratio) for 48 hours

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## THE OBSERVED IN VITRO ACTIVITY CORRELATES WITH T-CELL ACTIVATION AND **CYTOKINE RELEASE**



## REGN4018 MAINTAINS BINDING AND CYTOTOXICITY OF OVARIAN CANCER CELL LINES IN PRESENCE OF HIGH LEVELS OF CA-125 IN *IN VITRO* BIOASSAYS

CA-125 minimally blocks binding of REGN4018 to MUC16

CA-125 did not inhibit the ability of REGN4018 to induce killing of OVCAR-3 cells



MUC16∆ is a recombinant protein consisting of the membrane proximal domains of MUC16 which was used as the immunogen for REGN4018

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## XENOGENIC EFFICACY MODEL: REGN4018 INDUCES POTENT ANTI-TUMOR EFFICACY IN AN OVCAR-3LUC MODEL SYSTEM



**REGENERON** Crawford et al 2018 Submitted

Tumor burden read-out = BLI = Bioluminescence 21

## SYNGENEIC EFFICACY STUDIES: HUMANIZATION OF CD3 AND MUC16 IN MICE

- MUC16 Strategy:
  - Replace mouse *Muc16* SEA repeats 13-17 with human *MUC16* SEA repeats 12-16



- CD3 Strategy:
  - Replace mouse CD3 delta, epsilon, gamma with human
    - Mouse T cells now express human CD3 on surface





# REGN4018 LOCALIZES TO LYMPHOID ORGANS AND MUC16-EXPRESSING TUMORS IN HUMANIZED MUC16/CD3 MICE





# **REGN4018 SHOWS EFFICACY IN BOTH IMMEDIATE TREATMENT AND ESTABLISHED SYNGENEIC TUMOR MODELS**





## REGN4018 SHOWS LINEAR PHARMACOKINETICS AND TRANSIENT DOSE-PROPORTIONAL CRP ELEVATION IN A CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY TOXICITY STUDY





- MUC16xCD3 bispecific antibodies show potent *in vitro* activity against ovarian cell lines

- High CA-125 levels do not block activity of REGN4018 in *in vitro* assays
- REGN4018 demonstrated efficacy in multiple *in vivo* ovarian tumor models
- REGN4018 was generally well tolerated in GLP toxicology studies (Crawford A, et al. Cancer Res 2018;78:1777)

- Phase 1 trial initiated for REGN4018 in Ovarian Cancer in 2018 and dose escalation is ongoing



## STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING BISPECIFIC EFFICACY: CAN COMBINATION OF xCD3 BISPECIFICS WITH CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS ENHANCE ANTI-TUMOR EFFICACY?

SIGNAL 1 CD8 Signal 1 can be mirrored through the Tumor Cytotoxic Cell use of a TAAxCD3 bispecific Lymphocyte Cancer antibody. Antigen MHC-I TCR 1 CTI Activation B7-1 or CD28 B7-2 CTL Anergy Checkpoint inhibitors can be 87-1 or CTLA4 further combined to (e.g.  $\alpha$ PD1, B7-2 (CD152)  $\alpha$ CTLA-4) block inhibitory signals PD-L1 PD-1 from tumor and enhance cytotoxic (B7-H1) CD8 T cell activity

T cell activation requires presentation of antigen ("SIGNAL 1") via MHC/TCR.

## REGN5458 (BCMAXCD3) DEMONSTRATES COMBINATORIAL EFFICACY WITH PD-1 BLOCKADE



### PD-1 BLOCKADE ENHANCES ANTI-TUMOR EFFICACY OVER REGN4018 ALONE IN A SYNGENEIC MODEL

ID8-VEGF\_huMUC16 IP Ascites model:

- PD-L1 is expressed on ID8 cells ex vivo
- PD-1 is expressed on a subset of T cells in the ascites



## STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING BISPECIFIC EFFICACY: CAN COMBINATION OF xCD3 BISPECIFICS WITH COSTIMULATORY AGONISM ENHANCE BISPECIFIC EFFICACY?

Optimal T cell activation requires presentation of antigen ("SIGNAL 1") via MHC/TCR and signaling through costimulatory pathways ("SIGNAL 2").



# THE ADDITION OF TUMOR-TARGETED CO-STIMULATORY BISPECIFIC POTENTIATES KILLING OF OVARIAN CANCER CELLS



- We selected a non-competing co-stim binding arm to enhance the in-vitro potency of the xCD3 bispecific
- We did not observe any activity when the cells were only treated with a TSAxCD28 alone
- The addition of a TSAxCD28 to a TSAxCD3 bispecific resulted in a dramatic increase in cytotoxicity

#### TSAxCD28 Costimulatory Bispecific Antibody

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#### Skokos et al, 2019 – Manuscript submitted

In-vitro 96 hour cytotoxicity assay with unstimulated human PBMC; 4:1 Effector: Target ratio For Combo treatment, a fixed amount of Signal 2 (2.5ug/ml) was added to the titration of Signal 1

# THE TSAxCD28 BISPECIFIC INDUCED POTENTIATION EXTENDS TO T CELL ACTIVATION, PROLIFERATION, AND CYTOKINE RELEASE



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In-vitro 96hour cytotoxicity assay with unstimulated human PBMC; 4:1 Effector:Target ratio For Combo treatment, a fixed amount of Signal 2 (2.5ug/ml) was added to the serial dilution of Signal 1

## COSTIMULATORY BISPECIFIC ANTIBODIES ALSO SHOW SYNERGY WITH xCD3 BISPECIFICS IN *IN VIVO* TUMOR MODELS



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xCD3 bispcifics dosed at 2.5ug/ms; xCD28 dosed at 100ug/ms

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# Thank You!

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