

#### Therapeutic Strategy Against Tumour Acidity Induced Immune-Suppression

STREAM Summer School Medical University of Warsaw June 2016



## The Hallmarks of Cancer



### The Hallmarks of Cancer: Next Generation



### **Treatment Strategy**



## Metabolic Reprogramming



### **Cancer Hall Marks Link to Metabolism**



### Dysregulated pH is Emerging as a Hallmark of Cancer



Nature Reviews | Cancer

## Low pH and Tumor Invasion



(A) The tumor edge has an increased expression of NHE-1 (small thin arrows) and GLUT1 (large arrows), which is indicative of acidification caused by an increase in glycolysis. This is consistent with microenvironmental acidosis observed in vivo leading to subsequent invasion. (B) Expression of GLUT-1 and NHE-1 as a function of distance from the tumor edge. (C) and (D) Expression trends of GLUT-1 and NHE-1 as a function of distance from tumor edge in N=4 tumors.

### Tumor pH Effects on Immune Cells



#### Lactate Lower Tumour pH and Polarize Macrophages



Colegio et al. Nature 513:559-563 (2014)

Macrophages integrate metabolic and environmental signals to promote tumor growth. Tumor lactate which lower pH polarizes macrophage and up-regulate Arg1. Area within dotted indicates rectangle proposed mechanisms of action. ARG, arginase; HIF, hypoxia-inducible factor; MCT, monocarboxylate transporter; NADH, nicotine adenine dinucleotide, reduced; PKM2, M2 isoform of kinase; VEGF, pyruvate vascular endothelial growth factor.

#### T Cell Loss of Function from Low pH and Lactate



Haas et al. Am J. Clinic. Immunol. 2(2): 146-155 (2013



Haas et al. PLoS Biol. 13(7) (2015)

Several factors in the inflammatory microenvironment (e.g., oxygen concentration, pH, lactate, fatty acids and ROS) can influence the function of T cells and other immune cells on a number of levels and determine the outcomes of the inflammatory process.

The motility of CD4+ and CD8+ T cells is blocked once they get exposed to elevated levels of lactate in the inflammatory site. Lactic acid also causes loss of cytolytic activity by CD8+ T cells, and sodium lactate promotes the production of IL-17 by CD4+ T cells.

### T Cell Loss of Function from Low pH



Restimulation at pH 7.4

in low pH, has lower IFNg secretion upon stimulation (A,B). The effect can be reversed by re-stimulation in higher pH (D).

5,000

0

Original culture

### Acidity Affects Adoptive T cell Therapy



Effect of bicarbonate on adoptive T-cell transfer. A, tumor growth after adoptive transfer of T cells or controls in combination with or without buffer therapy. Group mean differences between T cells vs. T cells vs bicarbonate were not significant. However, there was a survival advantage, as shown in the survival curve in B

### **Tumor pH and Check-Point Inhibitors**



Buffer therapy enhances efficacy of anti-immunotherapy in B16 melanoma. C57BL/6

Targeting the tumor microenvironment

**DOS47** 



### DOS47

- DOS47 is a technology that changes the tumor microenvironment from acidic to alkaline using the enzyme 'urease'
- Alkalinizing the tumor has the potential to
  - To exert direct cytotoxic effect on tumours
  - <sup>–</sup> to increase the action of certain chemo-therapies
  - to correct an impaired immune microenvironment

Helix First Clinical Drug Candidate

## L-DOS47





- L-DOS47 is a conjugate of urease with a proprietary camelid single domain antibody specific for CEACAM6
- CEACAM6 is a cell surface tumor antigen highly expressed on lung, colon, pancreatic and other cancer cells
- L-DOS47 is in clinical studies for the treatment of nonsquamous, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

## L-DOS47 – Dual Function

#### **Antigen: CEACAM6**



- Glycosylated 90 kDa (286aa) GPIlinked membrane protein
- Intercellular adhesion molecule forming homotypic and heterotypic bonds with CEACAM-1, 5 and -8
- Important for cell attachment and proliferation
- May act as a checkpoint inhibitor in Multiple Myeloma

#### Enzyme substrate: urea

- Urea is a natural metabolite
- Ammonia/ Ammonium produced from urea hydrolysis is toxic to cells
- Apoptotic enzymes caspase
   2 and 3 (A549 lung cell) and caspase 8 and 9 (BxPC3 pancreatic cells) are induced

#### L-DOS47 Cytotoxic to CEACAM6 cells



Cell lines		Binding assay	Cytotoxicity assay
MDA-MB231	Breast adenocarcinoma	-	-
MCF-7	Breast carcinoma	-	-
ZR-75-30	Breast ductal carcinoma	+++	+++
LS174T	Colon adenocarcinoma	++	++
A549	Lung adenocarcinoma	++	+
H23	Lung adenocarcinoma	-	+
BxPC-3	Pancreatic adenocarcinoma	+++	+++
Capan-1	Pancreatic adenocarcinoma	+++	++
MIA PaCa-2	Pancreatic carcinoma	+	+

Where: +, positive (the number of + indicates the strength of activity); -, negative

#### L-DOS47 Inhibits Tumor Growth in Lung and Pancreatic Models



17;26(6):1144-55

#### L-DOS47 Binds to CEACAM6 Positive Cancer Patient Tissues

Samples	Tumour Tissue		Age-matched Normal Tissue	
	Positive	Negative	Negative	
Kidney carcinoma		12/12	12/12	
Parathyroid adenoma		1/1	n/a	
Plaenta, umbilical cord, allantois	n/a		1/1	
Myofibroblastic tumor		1/1	n/a	
Prostate carcinoma		4/4	4/4	
Thyroid carcinoma		2/2	2/2	
Pancreas adenocarcinoma	7/57 weak 8/57 v. weak	42/57	25/25	
Neuroendocrine tumors		9/9	n/a	
Brain, heart muscle, testis, spleen	n/a		30/30	
Testis - teratoma and seminoma		3/3	3/3	
Parotis tumor		1/1	1/1	
Cervix squamous carcinoma		2/2	n/a	
Thymoma		2/2	n/a	
Colon adenocarcinoma	14/24 weak	10/24	24/24	
<ul> <li>lymph node metastasis</li> </ul>		3/3	24/24	
Breast adenocarcinoma		13/13	12/12	
<ul> <li>lymph node metastasis</li> </ul>		2/2	13/13	
Leiomoma - lung metastasis		1/1	n/a	
Ovary carcinoma		4/4	n/a	
Bladder carcinoma		42/42		
<ul> <li>lymph node metastasis</li> </ul>	1/1 strong		36/36	
<ul> <li>squamous carcinoma metastasis</li> </ul>		2/2		
Lung - small cell carcinoma	1/1 5/5 strong		E/E	
- adenocarcinoma			0/0	
Stomach adenocarcinoma		3/3	3/3	
Liver carcinoma		4/4	4/4	
Soft tissue tumors		3/3	n/a	
Melanoma		48/48	40/40	
- metastasis		18/18	18/18	

# L-DOS47 Binds Primary and Metastatic human cancer tissues



Human lung adenocarcinoma tissue biopsies were sectioned and prepared into slides. Positive binding of L-DOS47 is revealed by brown staining with blue counter stain.



Immunopositive staining of L-DOS47 in human lung adenocarcinoma metastasized to lymph node. Positive binding of L-DOS47 is revealed by brown staining with blue counter stain

#### **Specific Delivery to Tumors**



Full Body Scan A549 tumour (8 x 7 mm) L-DOS47-Cy5.5

#### Filtered Scan L-DOS47-Cy5.5 Cy5.5 emission max @710nm



## **Tumour Formation Inhibition**

Group	Cell Treatment	Final Concentration (µg/mL)	Mean number of lung tumors <sup>#</sup> 3 weeks	Mean number of lung tumors <sup>#</sup> 10 weeks	Representative lung images
1	Untreated	-	103.8 ± 30.0	110.6 ± 50.0	
2	Isotype	10	44.6 ± 5.1	60.4 ± 14.3	
3	L-DOS47	10	28.0* ± 7.2	50.0 ± 17.7	
4	L-DOS47	15	18.2* ± 7.8	112.2 ± 52.5	

## L-DOS47 Action Monitored by NMR

32P-NMR microenvironment

#### 1H-NMR anatomical imaging



NMR imaging on A549 xenograft mice showing a change in energy metabolism (Pi/Pcr) as a result of L-DOS47 treatment

# L-DOS47 Clinical Update

- L-DOS47 Phase I / II Trial (LDOS002)
  - Monotherapy in advanced NSCLC patients
  - Currently enrolling Phase II patients
- L-DOS47 Phase I with Expansion Trial (LDOS001)
  - Combination with pemetrexed and carboplatin
  - Currently enrolling in cohort 2
- L-DOS47 Phase II (LDOS003)
  - Combination with vinorelbine and cisplatin
  - In the planning phase

### L-DOS47 Phase I / II Trial (LDOS002)

- Monotherapy treatment protocol in NSCLC patients that have not responded to other treatments;
- Stage IIIb / IV, metastatic, and progression after several lines of chemo, rad, surgery or chemo-naïve patients that have refused other lines of therapy;
- Dosed once a week for 2 weeks, 1 week rest (3-week cycle);
- Conducted in 5 Centers in Poland to assess safety (phase I) and then preliminary efficacy (phase II);
- Centers include The Maria Sklodowska-Curie Institute of Oncology, Military Institute of Health Institute, Mazovian Centre of Pulmonary Diseases and Tuberculosis in Otwock, Department of Oncology, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, National Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Research Institute
- Phase II dosing regimen changed to twice a week dosing for 2 weeks, 1 week rest (3-week cycle);

### Demography and NSCLC Baseline Characteristics (up to 12 Cohorts)

	Total	NSCLC	Total
Demography	(N=40)	History	(N=40)
Age	Mean = 61.2 Min, Max (34, 83)	Tumor Histology	Adeno = 38 (95%) Large Cell = 1 (2.5%) Unknown = 1 (2.5%)
Weight (kg)	Mean = 69.1 Min, Max (48, 95)	Tumor Staging	Stage IIIB = 7 (17.5%) Stage IV = 33 (82.5%)
Gender Male Female	21 (52.5%) 19 (47.5%)	Prior Therapy	None = 8 (20%) Chemo/Target = 32 (80%) Radiation = 21 (52.5%) Surgery = 11 (27.5%)
Race Caucasian	40 (100%)	Prior Chemo/Targ et Therapy	Adjuvant = 2 (5%) Locally Advanced = 3 (7.5%) Metastatic Disease = 31 (77.5%) None = 9 (22.5%)
ECOG 0 1 2	11 (27.5%) 27 (67.5%) 2 (5%)	Best Response	Unknown = 5 (16.1%) CR = 1 (3.2%) PR = 9 (29%) Stable = 9 (29%) PD = 7 (22.6%)

#### **Clinical Observations Up to Cohort 12**

- 21/40 patients had an overall response of SD at cycle 2;
- 10/40 patients had an overall response of SD at cycle 4;
- Patient 01-047 enrolled in cohort 9 (1.84µg/kg) was progression free for 10 cycles (approx. 7 months);
- None of the patients treated to-date have had a partial or complete response as defined by RECIST v1.1 definition;
- One DLT reported in cohort 13 (Grade 4 Back Pain);
- Trial Steering Committee approved enrollment of patients to Phase II at the cohort 16 dose (13.55µg/kg).

# L-DOS002 Summary of Results

- One Dose Limiting Toxicity (DLT);
- No safety issues beyond those observed in pre-clinical toxicology studies or expected in the population of patients being studied;
- being studied;
   Immunogenicity consistent with what was observed preclinically;
- Clinical trends observed to-date are encouraging;
- Phase II currently enrolling.

#### L-DOS47 Phase I with Expansion Trial (LDOS001)

- Combination therapy in first-line treatment of NSCLC:
  - Stage IIIb / IV, metastatic, and chemo-naïve;
  - Given in combination with standard pemetrexed/carboplatin treatment;
  - Dosed continuously each week;
  - Monitor radiologically every 6 weeks;
- Conducted in 3 Centers in US to assess safety (phase I) and then preliminary efficacy (expansion);
- Clinical sites include MD Anderson, Hershey Penn State, and Case Western;
- Two cohorts of patients enrolled to-date.

### Tumor pH Treatment Strategy: DOS47\*





Helix BioPharma Corp

### THANK YOU