

# **Hot Topic in Multiple Myeloma: The Evolving Role for Immunotherapy in Patients With Relapsed/Refractory Disease**

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On behalf of

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# Patients With MM Are a Heterogeneous Group



## Younger, fit

- Achieving longest possible remission/sustained disease control while preserving QoL?



## Elderly, fit

- Achieving and maintaining responses while preserving QoL?



## Frail/comorbidities

- Tolerability while preserving QoL?

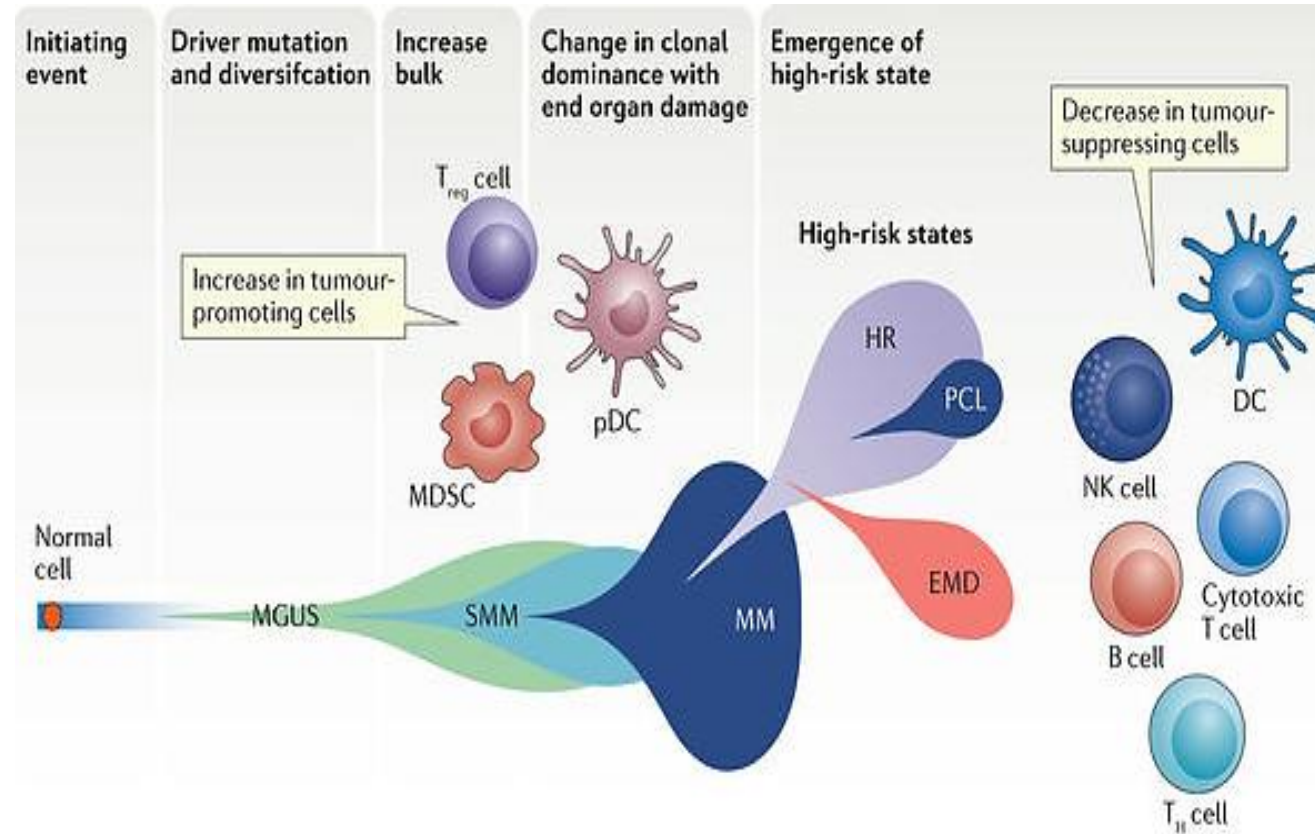


## Very frail

- Palliative care while preserving QoL?

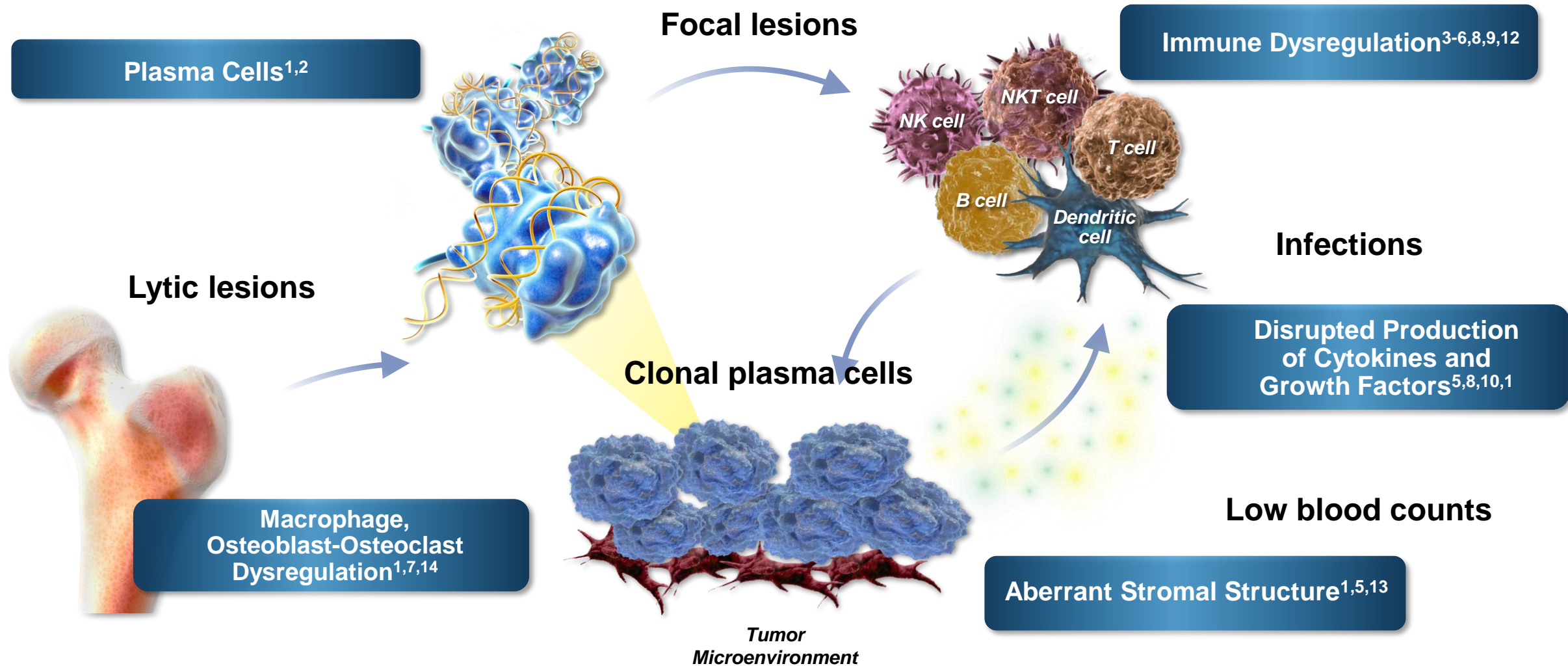
***“The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease”***  
**Sir William Osler**

# Co-Evolution of Myeloma Clone With its Immune Microenvironment



- t(4;14)\*
  - t(6;14)
  - t(11;14)
  - t(14;16)\*
  - t(14;20)\*
  - Hyperdiploidy
- 
- Copy number changes (e.g. Gain (1q), Del (1p) and Del (17p))
  - Mutations
- 
- MYC translocations
  - Jumping translocations
  - Homozygous TSG inactivation
  - Amp(1q)

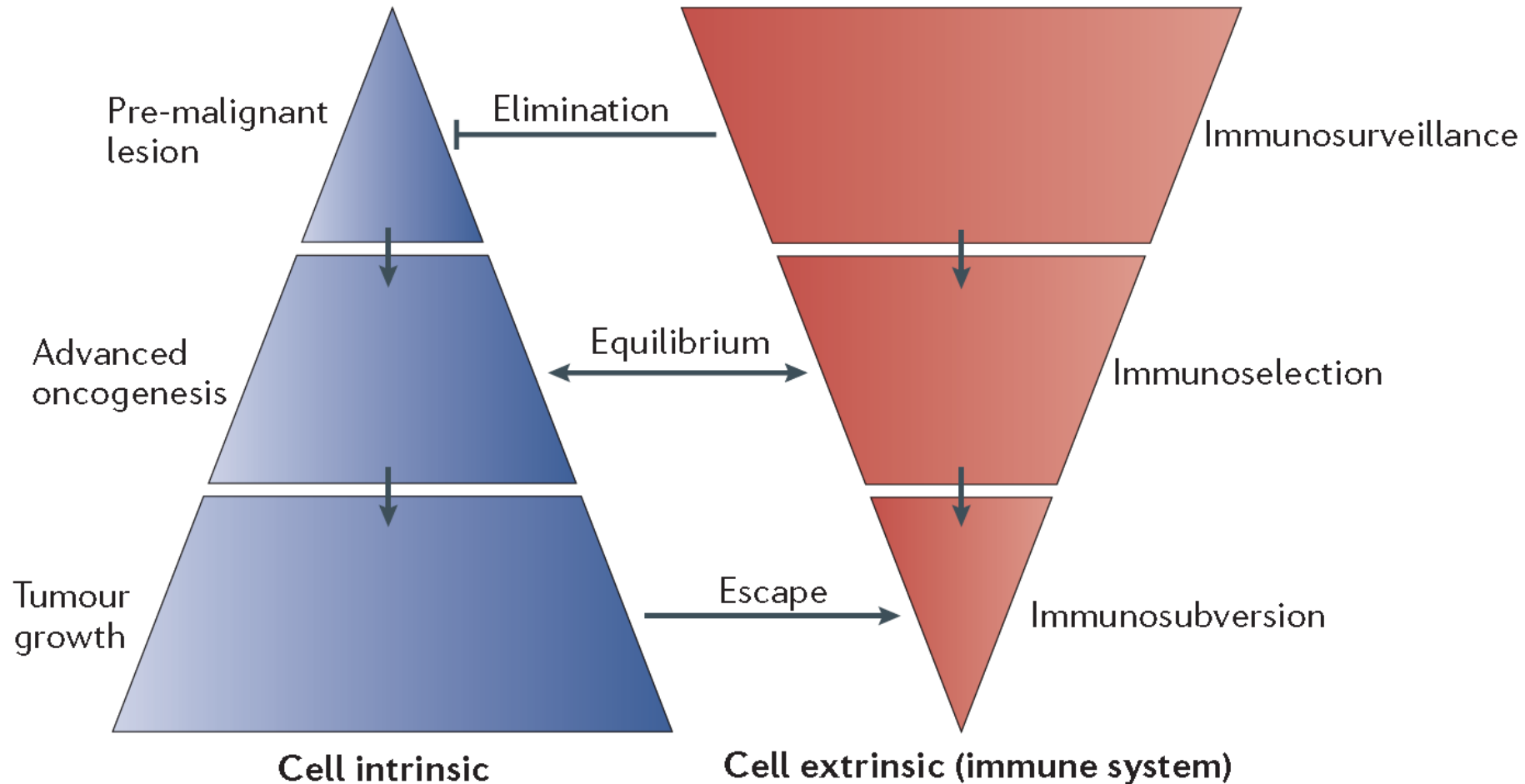
# Multiple Myeloma Pathophysiology



ICAM1, intercellular adhesion molecule 1; NK, natural killer; NKT, natural killer T cell; TNF- $\alpha$ , tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ ; VCAM1, vascular cell adhesion molecule 1

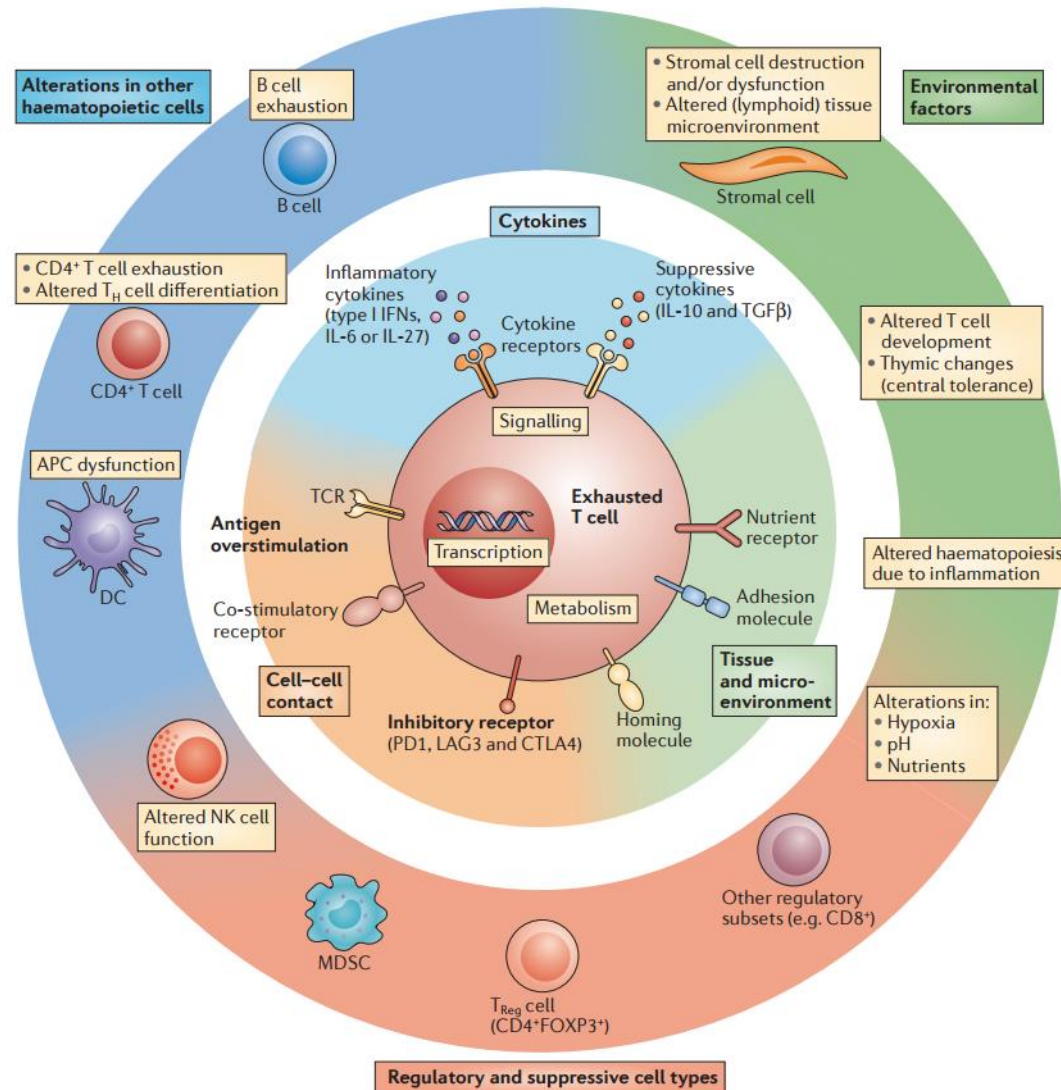
1. Raab MS, et al. *Lancet*. 2009;374(9686):324-339. 2. Morgan GJ, et al. *Nat Rev Cancer*. 2012;12(5):335-348. 3. Katodritou E, et al. *Am J Hematol*. 2011;86(12):967-973. 4. Braga WM, et al. *Clin Dev Immunol*. 2012;2012:293479. 5. Pratt G, et al. *Br J Haematol*. 2007;138(5):563-579. 6. Rosenblatt J, et al. *J Immunother*. 2011;34(5):409-418. 7. Kyle RA, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2004;351(18):1860-1873. 8. Cook G, et al. *Blood Rev*. 1999;13(3):151-162. 9. Bernal M, et al. *Hum Immunol*. 2009;70(10):854-857. 10. Gupta D, et al. *Leukemia*. 2001;15(12):1950-1961. 11. Jourdan M, et al. *Eur Cytokine Netw*. 1999;10(1):65-70. 12. Favaloro J, et al. *Leuk Lymphoma*. 2014;55(12):2893-2900. 13. Damiano JS, et al. *Blood*. 1999;93(5):1658-1667. 14. Oranger A, et al. *Clin Dev Immunol*. 2013; 2013:289458.

# Oncogenesis As a Result of Interplay Between Cell Intrinsic and Immune Factors

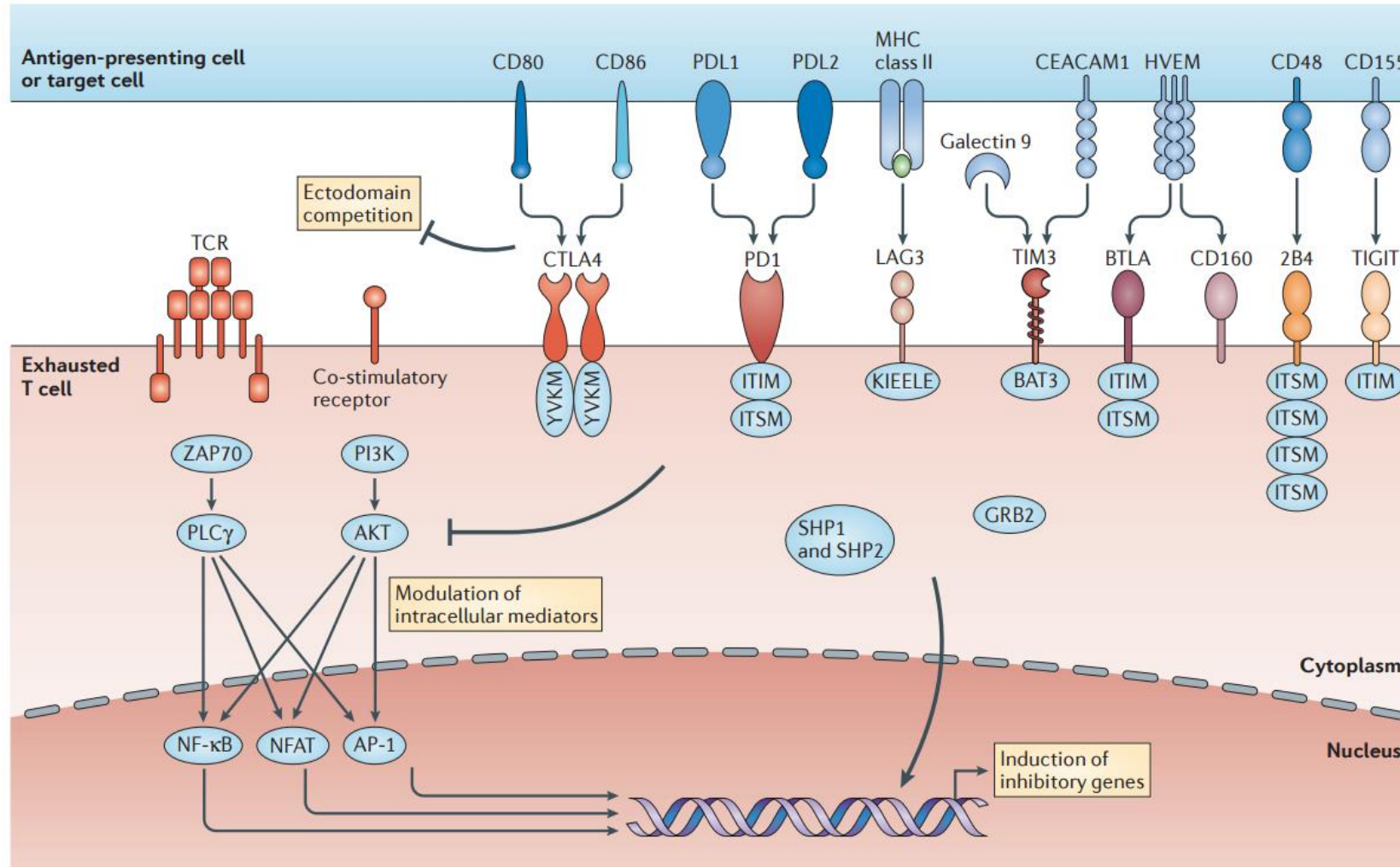




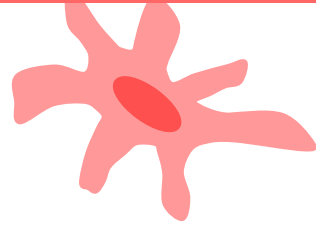
# Immunosuppressive Mechanisms



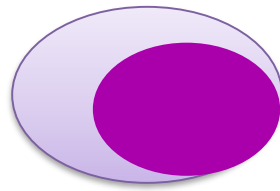
# Immunosuppressive Interactions: Pathway Analysis



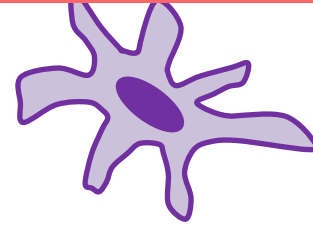
## Reduction of immunosuppression



MDSCs

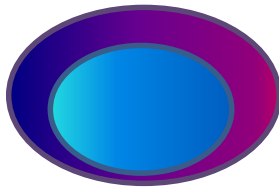


T-regs

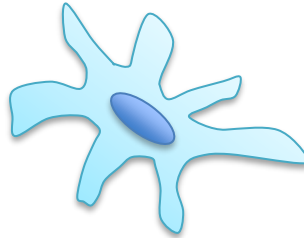


pDC

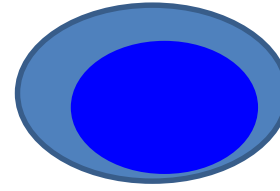
## Induction of anti-MM activity



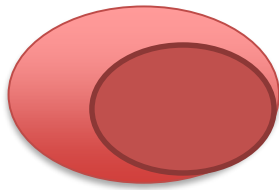
NK cells



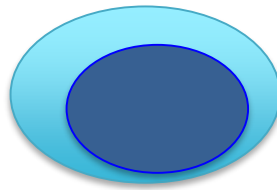
DC



Cytotoxic T cells



B cells



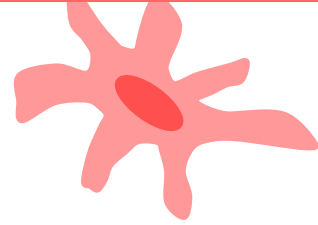
Th cells

**Tumor promoting  
cells**

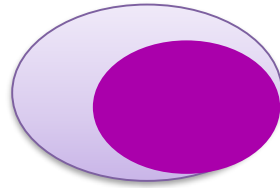
**Anti-tumor  
cellular  
immunity**



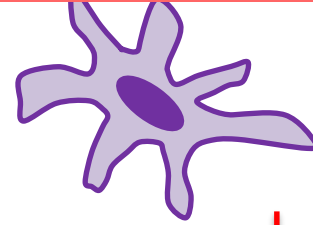
## Reduction of immunosuppression



MDSCs



T regs

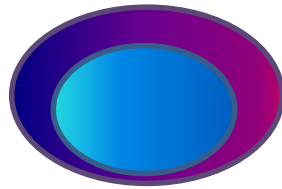


pDC

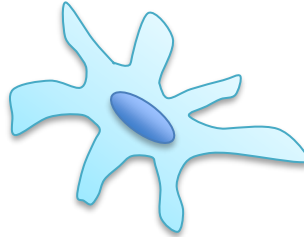


**Tumor promoting  
cells**

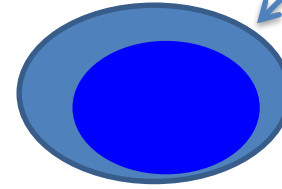
## Induction of anti-MM activity



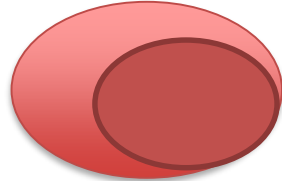
NK cells



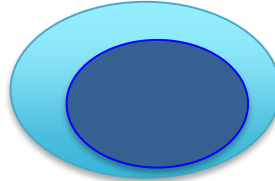
DC



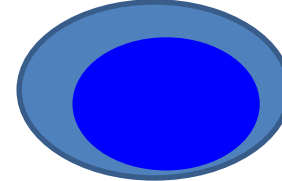
Cytotoxic T cells



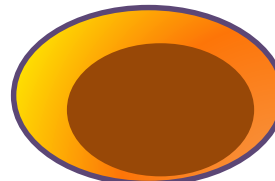
B cells



Th cells



Cytotoxic T cells



CAR T cells

**Anti-tumor  
cellular  
immunity**

### IMiDs

Thalidomide, lenalidomide,  
pomalidomide

### Checkpoint blockers

PD-L1/PD-1 inhibitors

### Immune adjuvants

TLR-7/9 agonists

### MoAbs

SLAMF7, CD38

### Vaccines

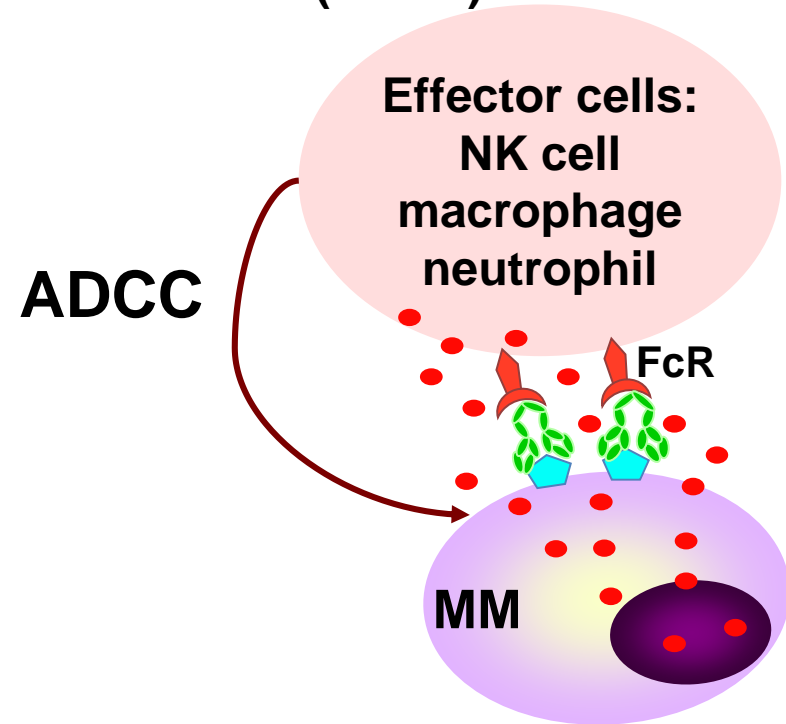
Native idiotype protein, PVX-410,  
CD138, MM-DC

### CAR T cells

anti-Kappa, CD138,  
BCMA, NKG2D

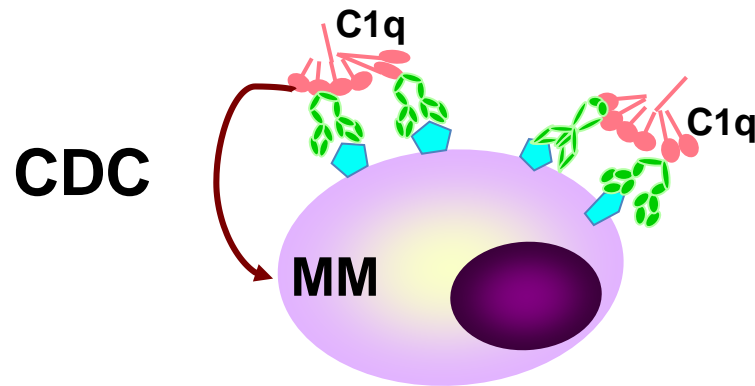
# MoAb-Based Therapeutic Targeting of MM

## Antibody-dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity (ADCC)



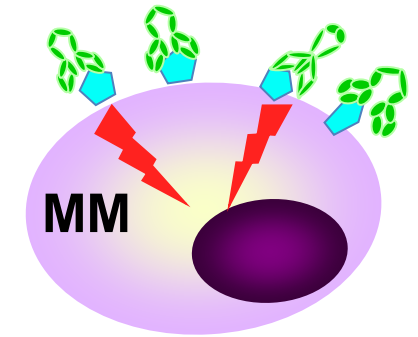
- Elotuzumab (SLAMF7)
- Daratumumab (CD38)
- SAR650984 (CD38)

## Complement-dependent Cytotoxicity (CDC)



- Daratumumab (CD38)
- SAR650984 (CD38)

## Apoptosis/growth arrest via intracellular signaling pathways

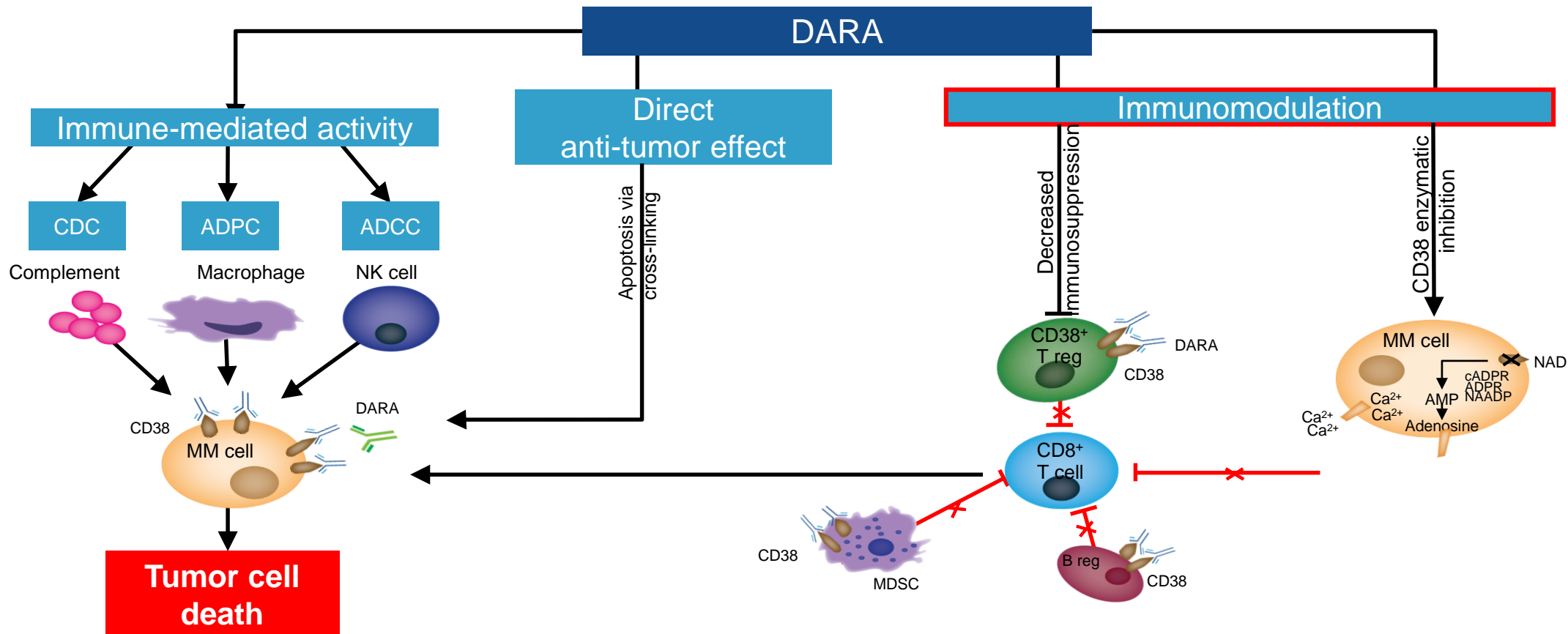


- huN901-DM1\* (CD56)
- nBT062-maytansinoid/DM4\* (CD138)
- Daratumumab (CD38)
- SAR650984 (CD38)
- GSK2857916\* (BCMA)

\* Ab drug conjugate

# Daratumumab Mechanism of Action

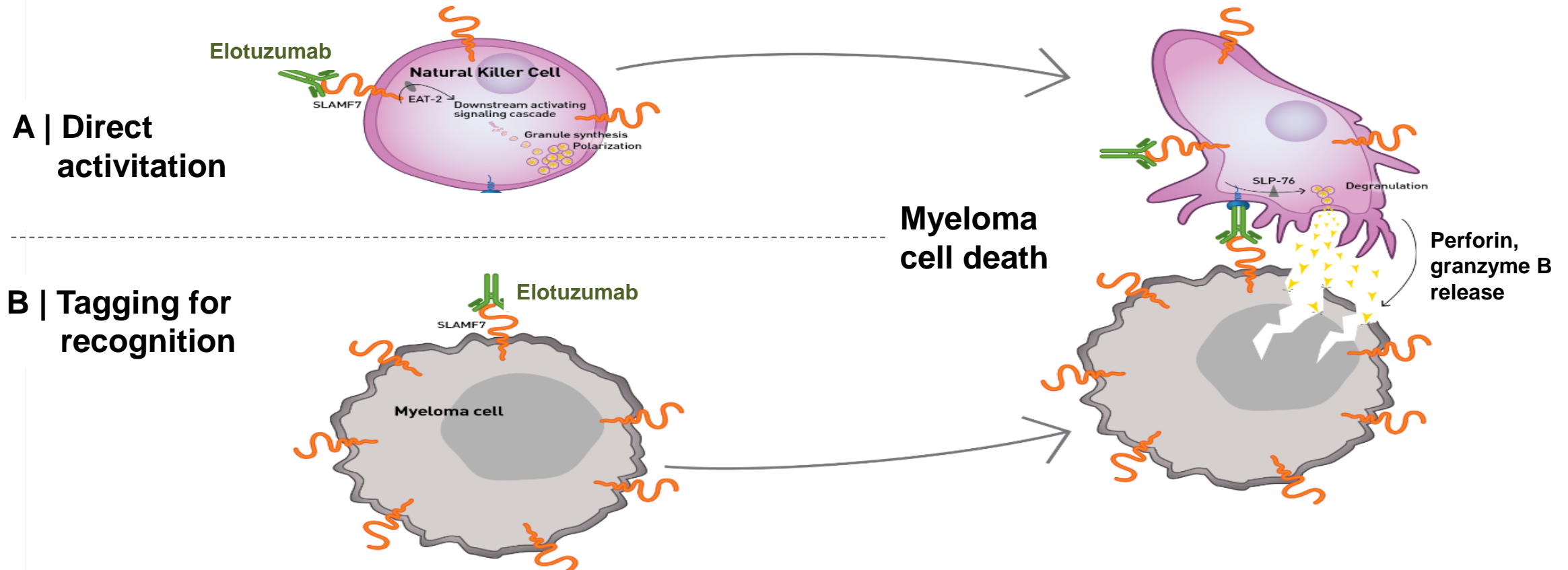
- CD38 is highly and ubiquitously expressed on myeloma cells<sup>1,2</sup>
- DARA is a human IgG1 monoclonal antibody that binds CD38-expressing cells
- DARA binding to CD38 induces tumor cell death through direct and indirect mechanisms<sup>3-5</sup>



# Elotuzumab: An Immunostimulatory Antibody Directed to SLAMF7

## Elotuzumab: Dual mechanism of action

- Directly activates NK cells
- Myeloma cells are tagged to facilitate NK cell recognition and targeted cell death via ADCC



# Approved MoAbs in RRMM

## Lenalidomide + Dex versus Triplet Regimens

### ELOQUENT-2<sup>1</sup>

#### Key inclusion criteria

- RRMM
- 1-3 prior lines of therapy
- Prior Len exposure permitted in 10% of study population (patients not refractory to Len)

#### Elo plus Len/Dex (E-Ld) schedule (n = 321)

Elo (10 mg/kg IV): Cycle 1 and 2: weekly;  
Cycles 3+: every other week  
Len (25 mg PO): days 1-21  
Dex: weekly equivalent, 40 mg

#### Len/Dex (Ld) schedule (n = 325)

Len (25 mg PO): days 1-21;  
Dex: 40 mg PO days 1, 8, 15, 22

Repeat every 28 days →

Co-Primary endpoint: PFS and ORR

Secondary endpoints: OS, Duration of response, QoL, safety

### POLLUX<sup>2</sup>

#### Key inclusion criteria

- RRMM
- ≥1 prior line of therapy
- Prior lenalidomide exposure, but not refractory
- Patients with creatinine clearance ≥30 mL/min

#### Dara plus Len/Dex (DRd) schedule (n = 286)

- Daratumumab 16 mg/kg IV
- Qw in Cycles 1-2, q2w in Cycles 3-6, then q4w until PD
  - R 25 mg PO
  - Days 1-21 of each cycle until PD
  - d 40 mg PO
  - 40 mg weekly until PD

#### Len/Dex (Rd) schedule (n = 283)

Len (25 mg PO): days 1-21;  
Dex: 40 mg PO days 1, 8, 15, 22

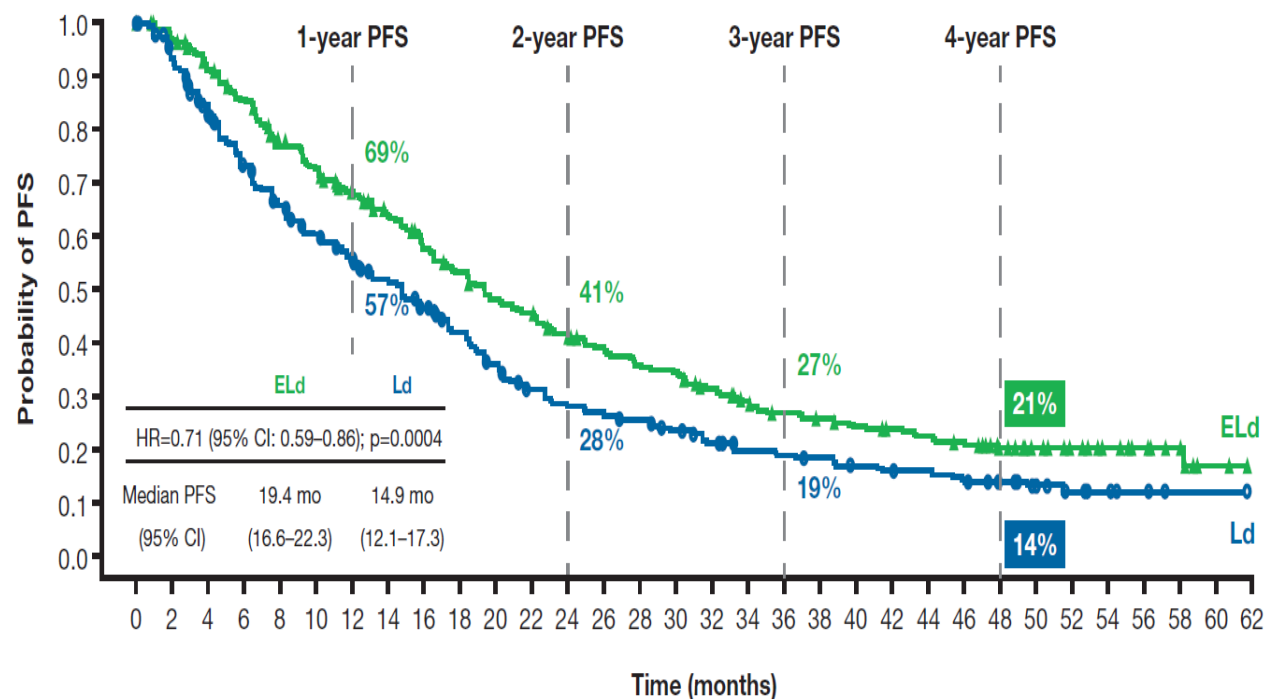
Repeat every 28 days →

Primary endpoint: PFS

Secondary endpoints: TTP, OS, ORR, VGPR, CR, MRD, Time to response, Duration of response

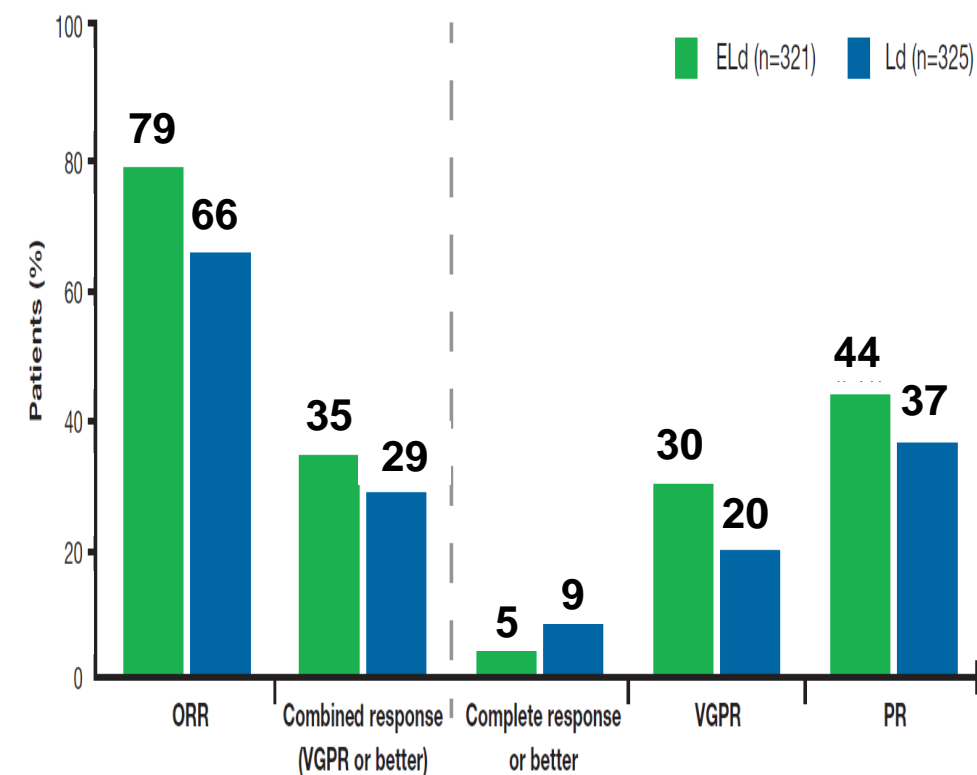


# Updated Efficacy of ELOQUENT-2 Trial

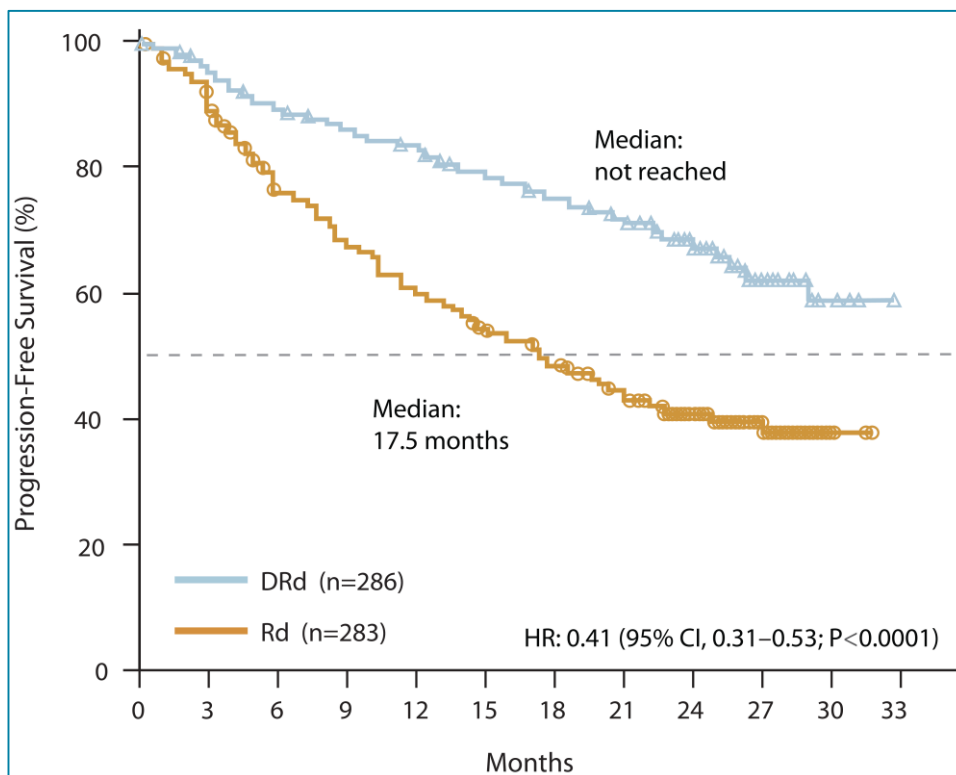


Patients at risk

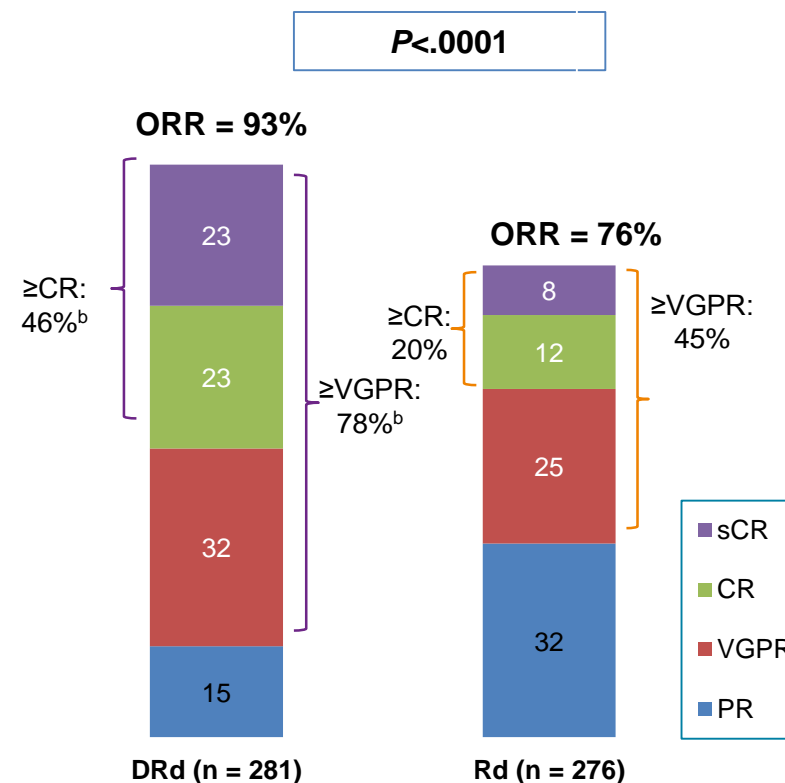
ELd	321	304	280	260	233	216	196	180	160	147	132	125	111	103	94	91	79	70	63	60	55	52	49	46	36	31	24	17	13	6	2	0
Ld	325	295	249	216	192	173	158	141	124	108	91	76	68	64	61	54	47	41	39	37	33	31	30	27	22	13	9	6	3	1	1	0



# Updated Efficacy of POLLUX Trial



- Median (range) follow-up: 17.3 (0-24.5) months
- $P<0.0001$  for DRd vs Rd



Response rates

# Approved MoAbs in RRMM

## Bortezomib + Dexamethasone vs Triplet Regimens

### CASTOR

#### Key inclusion criteria

- RRMM
- $\geq 1$  prior line of therapy
- Prior bortezomib exposure, but not refractory

#### Dara plus Len/Dex (DVd) schedule (n = 251)

Daratumumab (16 mg/kg IV)

Every week - cycle 1-3

Every 3 weeks - cycle 4-8

Every 4 weeks - cycles 9+


Vel: 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> SC, days 1,4,8,11 - cycle 1-8

dex: 20 mg PO-IV, days 1,2,4,5,8,9,11,12 - cycle 1-8

#### Len/Dex (Vd) schedule (n = 247)

Vel: 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> SC, days 1,4,8,11 - cycle 1-8

dex: 20 mg PO-IV, days 1,2,4,5,8,9,11,12 - cycle 1-8

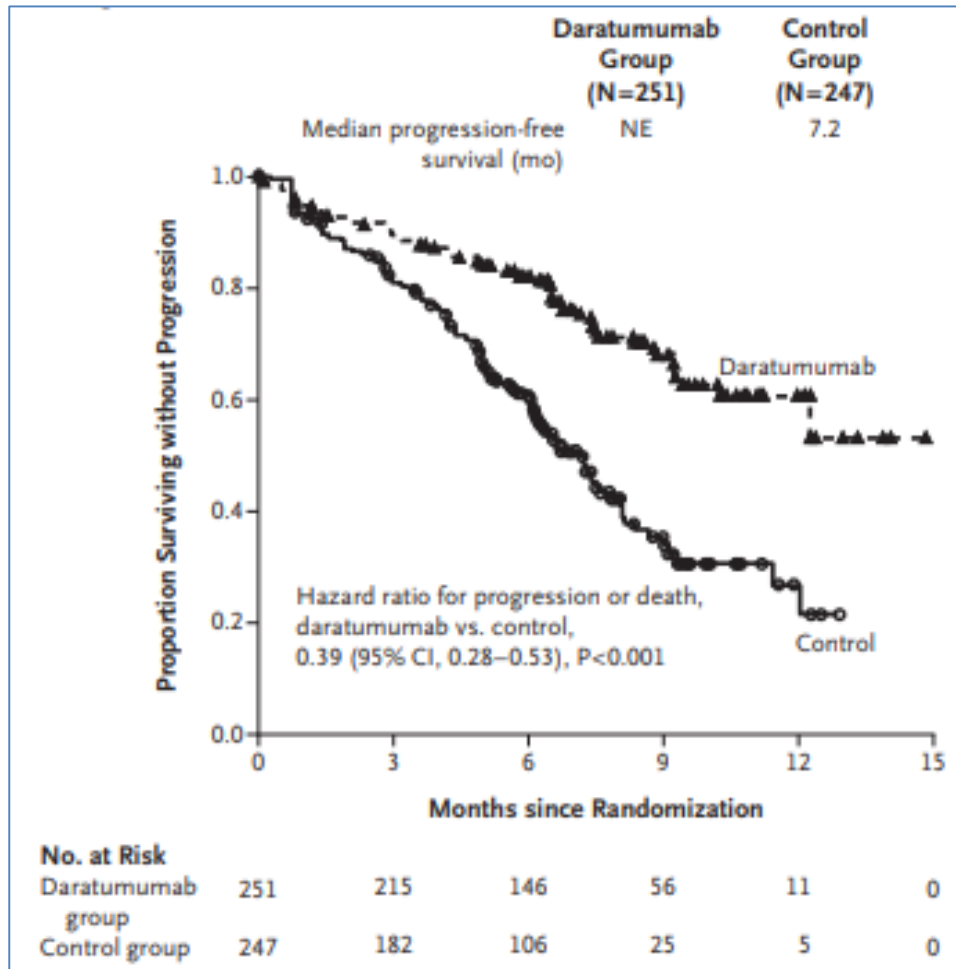
- Cycles 1-8: repeat every 21 days
  - Cycles 9+: repeat every 28 days
- 

Primary endpoint: PFS

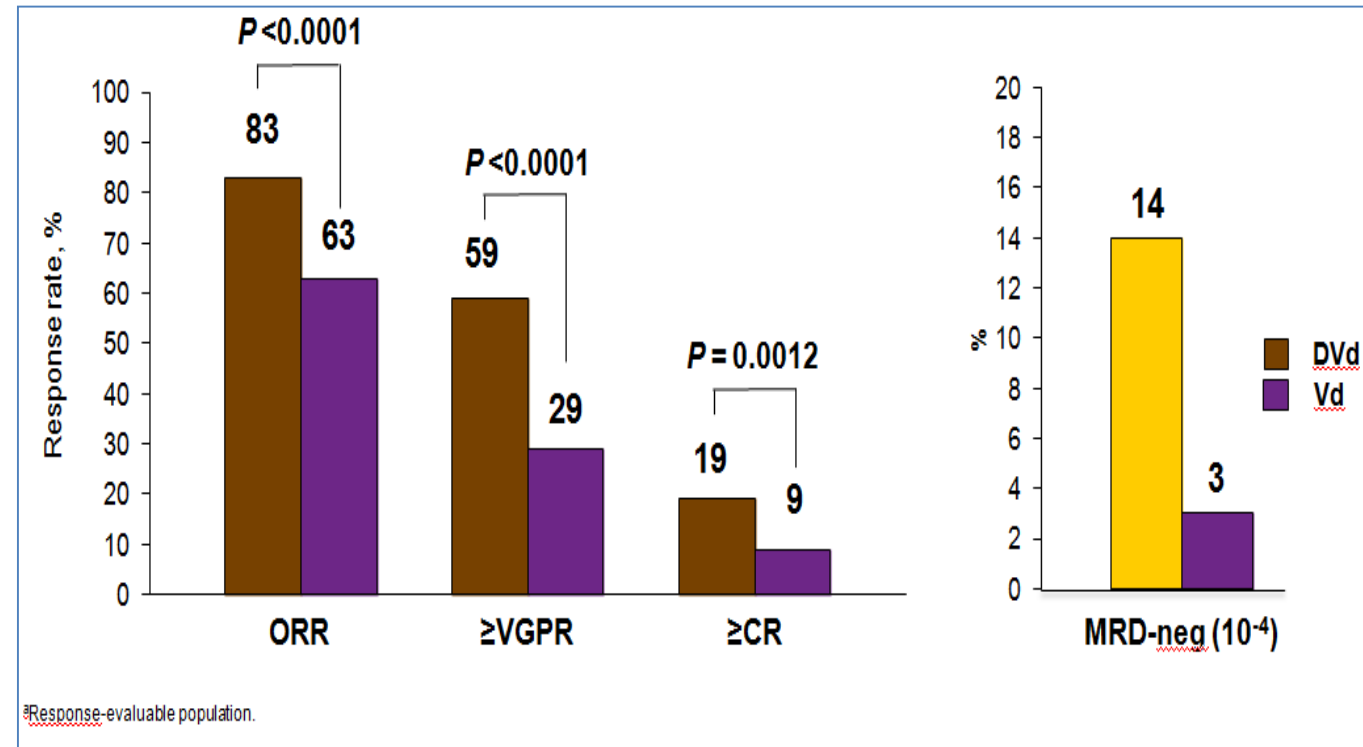
Secondary endpoints: TTP, OS, ORR, VGPR, CR, MRD, Time to response, Duration of response

# Efficacy of CASTOR Trial

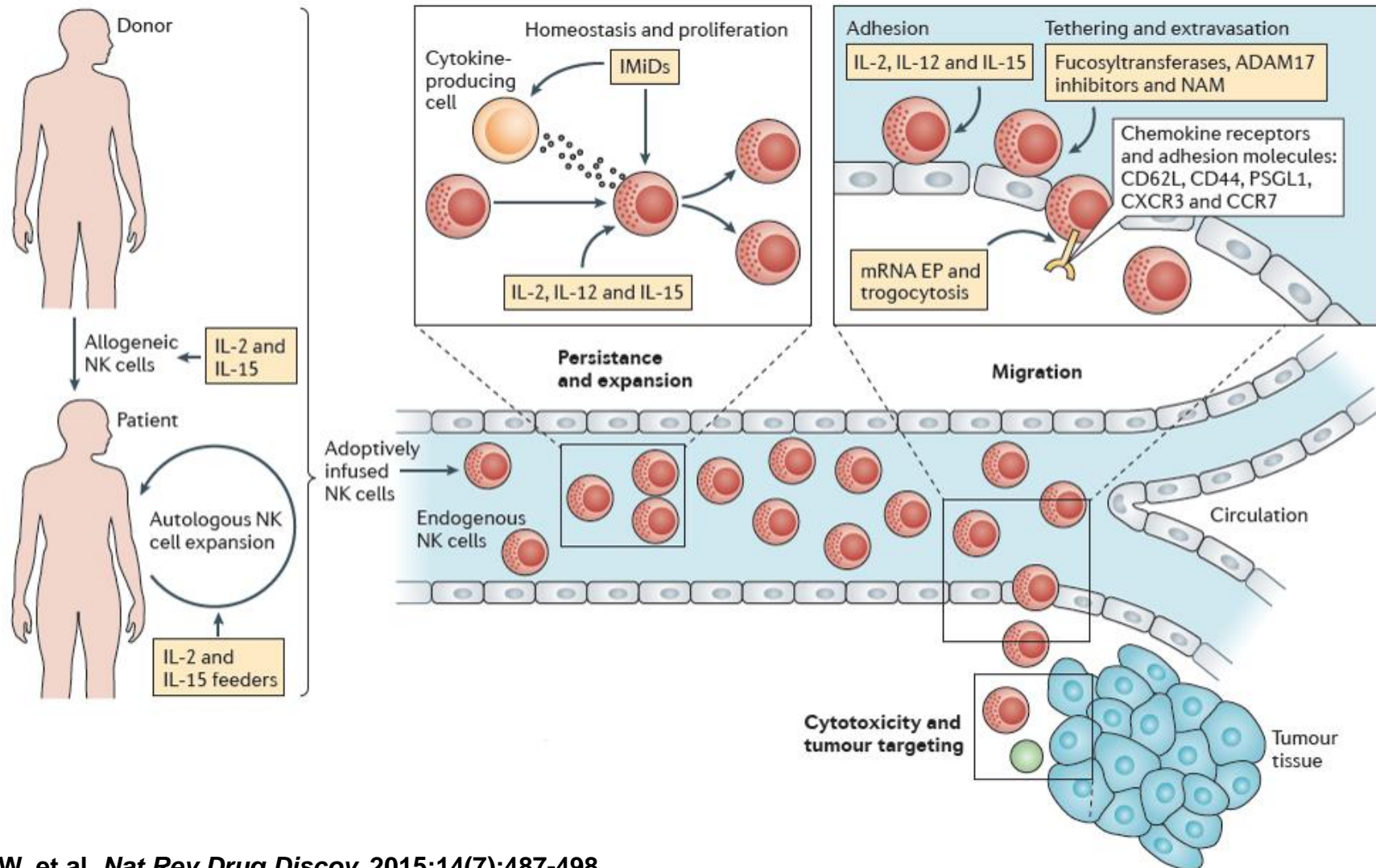
## PFS



## ORR

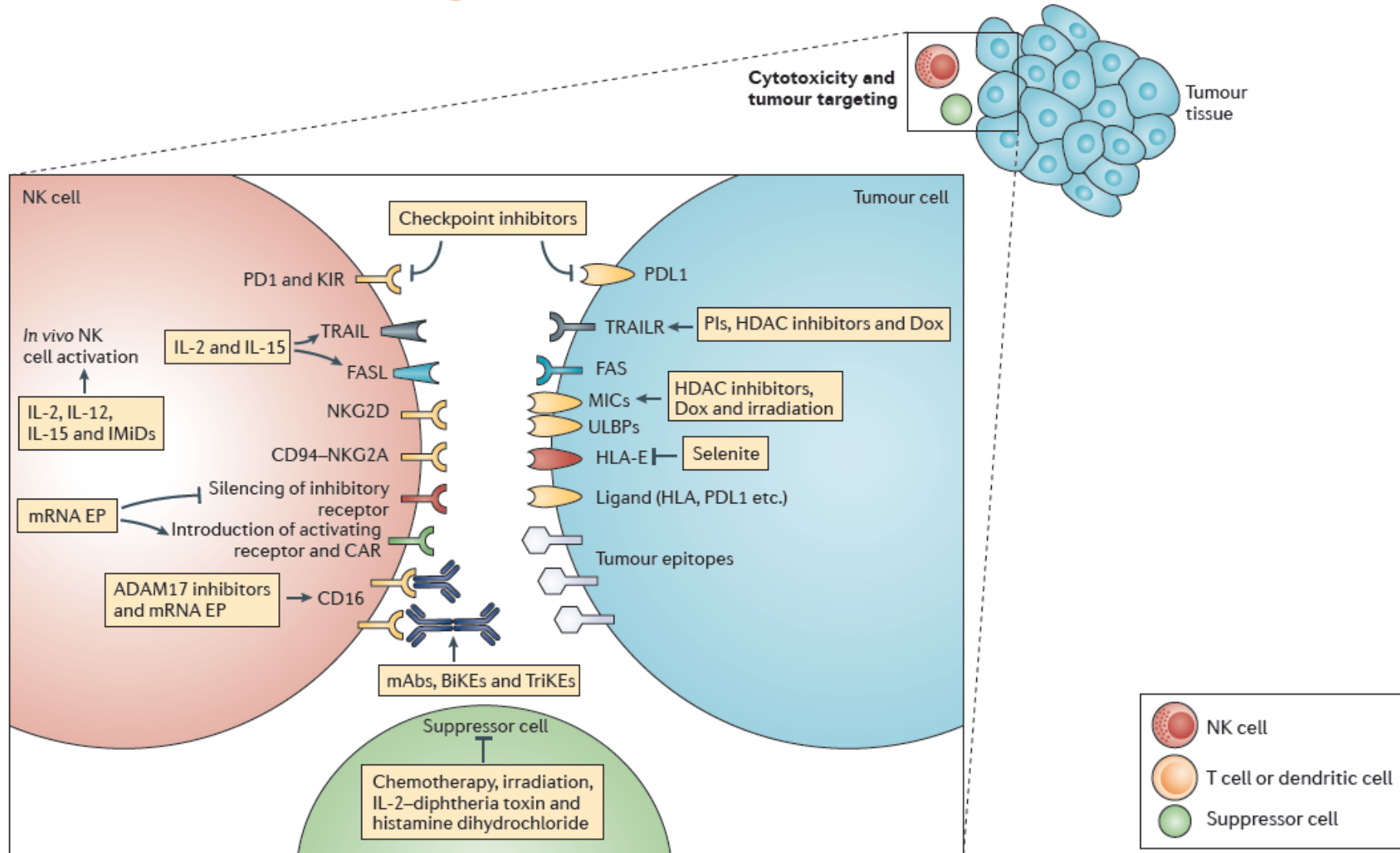


# Enhancing NK Cell Therapies

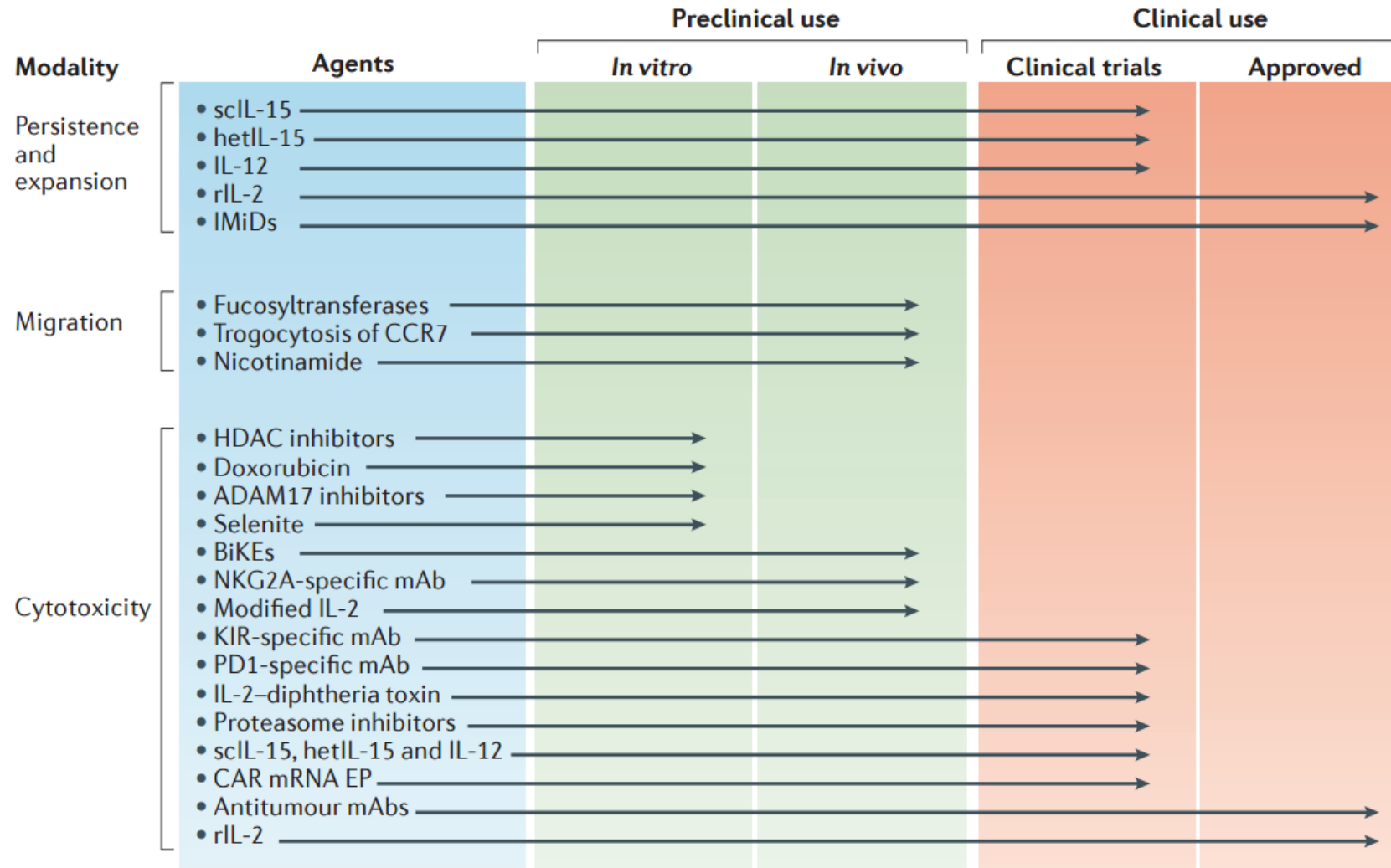




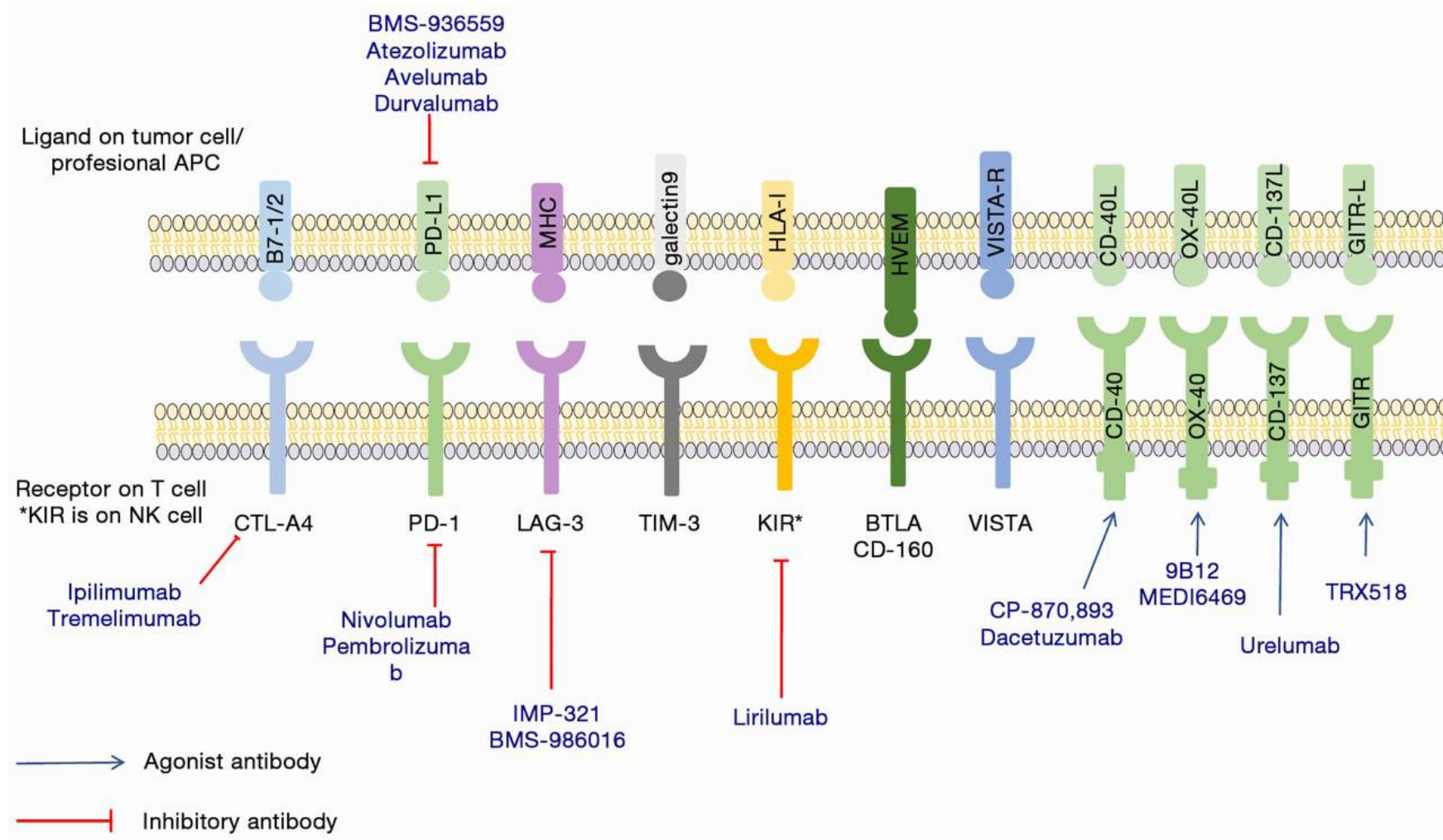
# Enhancing NK Cell Therapies



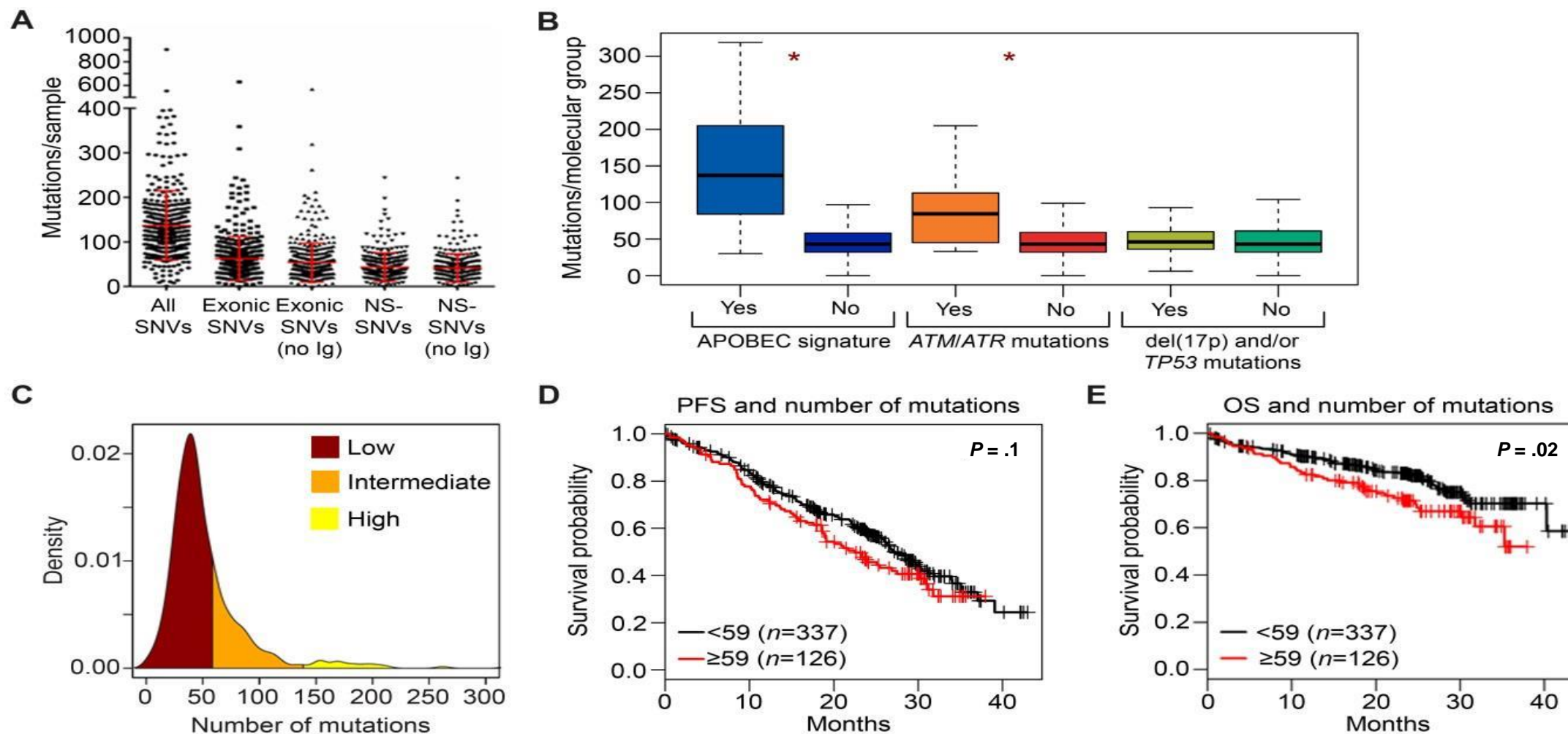
# NK Cell-Enhancing Drugs



# Checkpoint Inhibition



# Precision Immunotherapy and Mutational Load: Checkpoint Inhibition



OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival

# Checkpoint Inhibitors in RRMM

- **Pembrolizumab (August, 2017) – The FDA placed a clinical hold on two clinical trials**
  - KEYNOTE-183 and KEYNOTE-185
- **Nivolumab (December 2017)**
  - The partial hold on CA204142 and CheckMate-039 were lifted in 12/17
  - The CheckMate-602 is no longer accruing patients but results are expected in 2018
- **Durvalumab – the FDA placed a partial clinical hold on 3 trials in MM and a full clinical hold on one trial**
  - The trials placed on partial clinical hold are: MEDI4736-MM-001, MEDI4736-MM-003, MEDI4736-MM-005
  - MEDI4736-MM-02 is on full clinical hold
- **Atezolizumab – Phase Ib and Phase Ib/II studies have been lifted. The studies will continue in accordance with the protocol amendments agreed upon by the FDA.**

<https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm574341>.

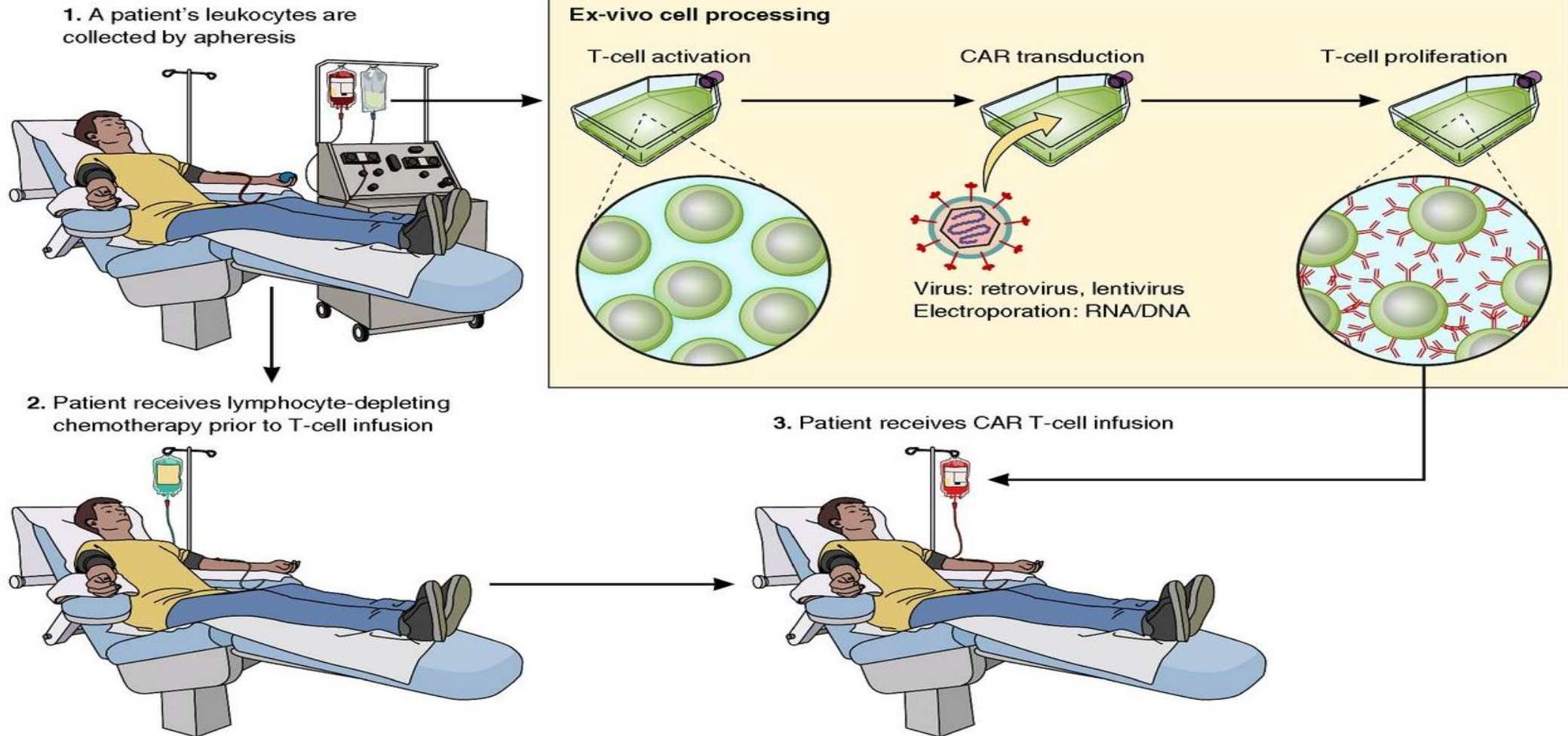
<https://news.bms.com/press-release/corporatefinancial-news/bristol-myers-squibb-provides-update-three-opdivo-based-combin>.

<http://ir.celgene.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=1039476>. [https://www.roche.com/dam/jcr:b92ed33a-95a6-43ae-822f-](https://www.roche.com/dam/jcr:b92ed33a-95a6-43ae-822f-d7ce643d03a1/en/171205_TECENTRIQ_Heme_FDA_en.pdf)

[d7ce643d03a1/en/171205\\_TECENTRIQ\\_Heme\\_FDA\\_en.pdf](https://www.roche.com/dam/jcr:b92ed33a-95a6-43ae-822f-d7ce643d03a1/en/171205_TECENTRIQ_Heme_FDA_en.pdf).

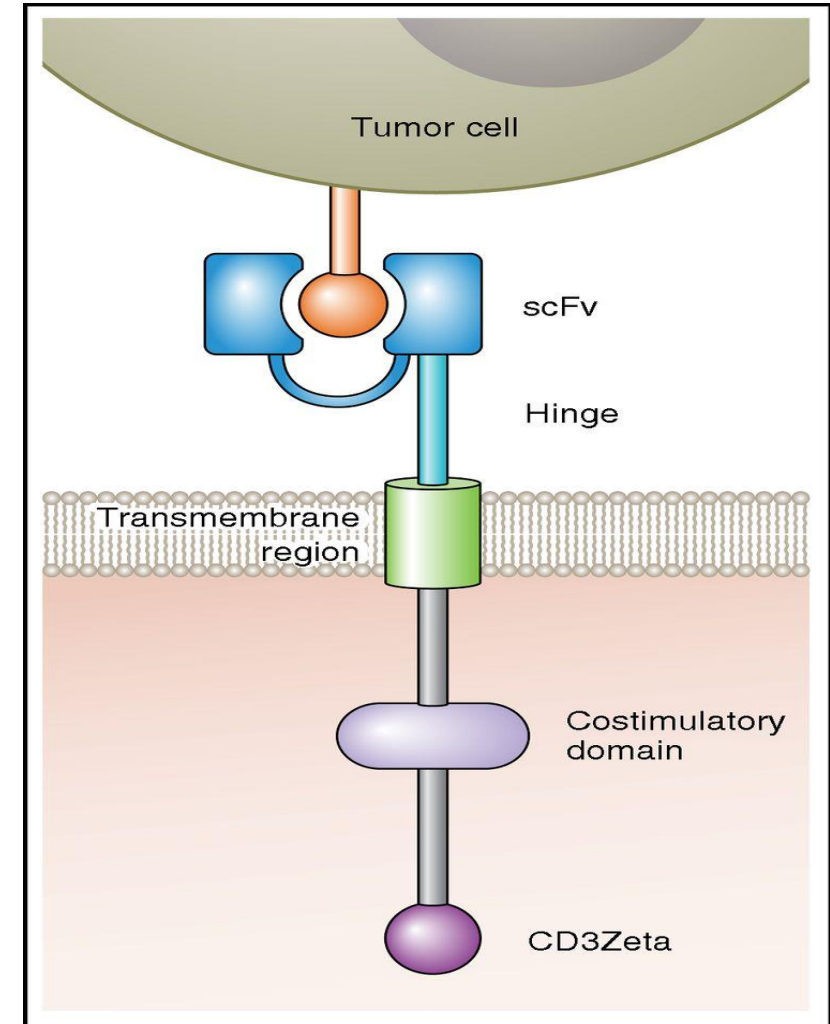


# CAR T Cells



# CAR T-Cell Design

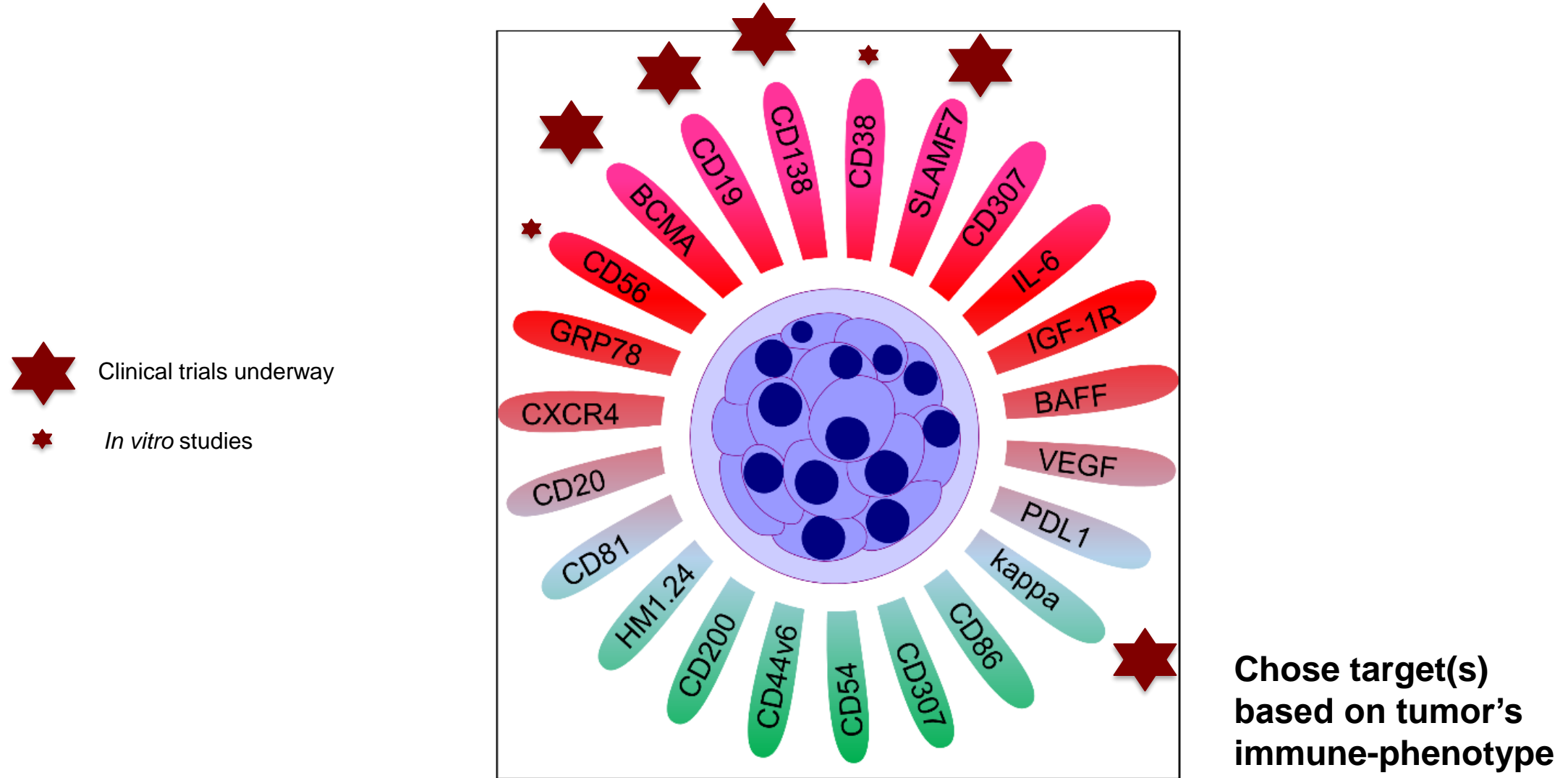
- CAR = Artificial fusion proteins that incorporate an antigen-recognition domain and T-cell signaling domain
- Specifically recognize a targeted antigen
- Not HLA-restricted
- Two signaling domains:
  - Costimulatory domain usually CD28 and 4-1BBB
  - T cell activation domain usually CD3z



HLA, human leukocyte antigen

Mikkilineni L, et al. *Blood*. 2017;130(24):2594-2602.

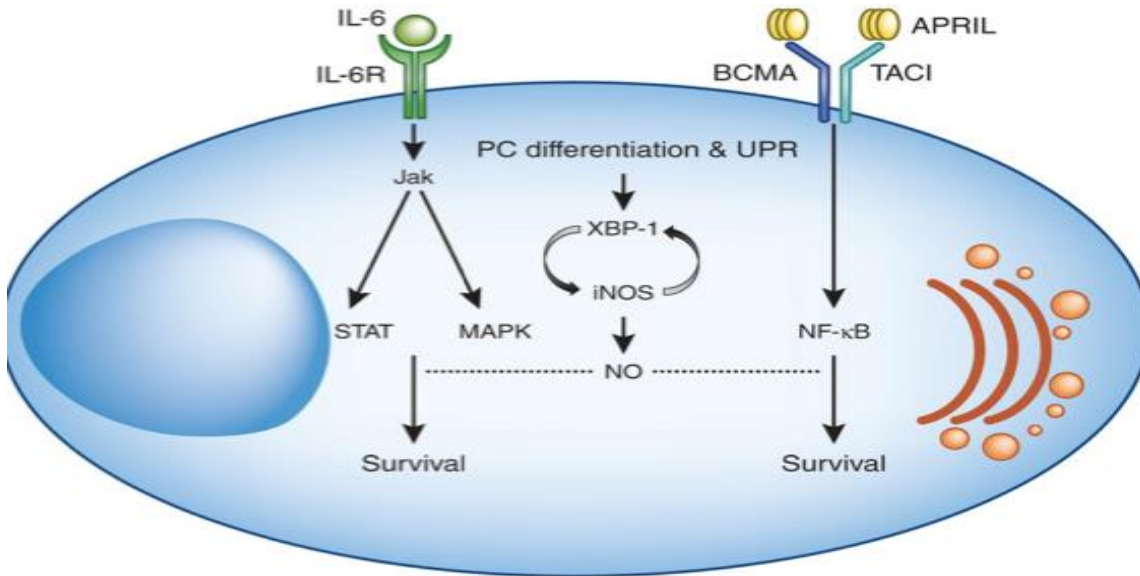
# Target Selection



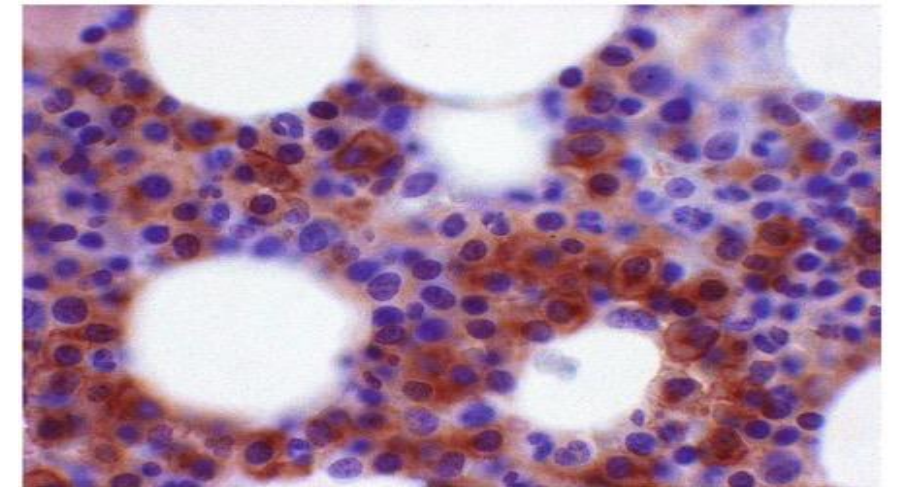
# BCMA: A Promising Target in Multiple Myeloma

BCMA is member of the TNF receptor superfamily

- Expressed nearly universally on multiple myeloma cells
- Expression largely restricted to plasma cells and some mature B cells



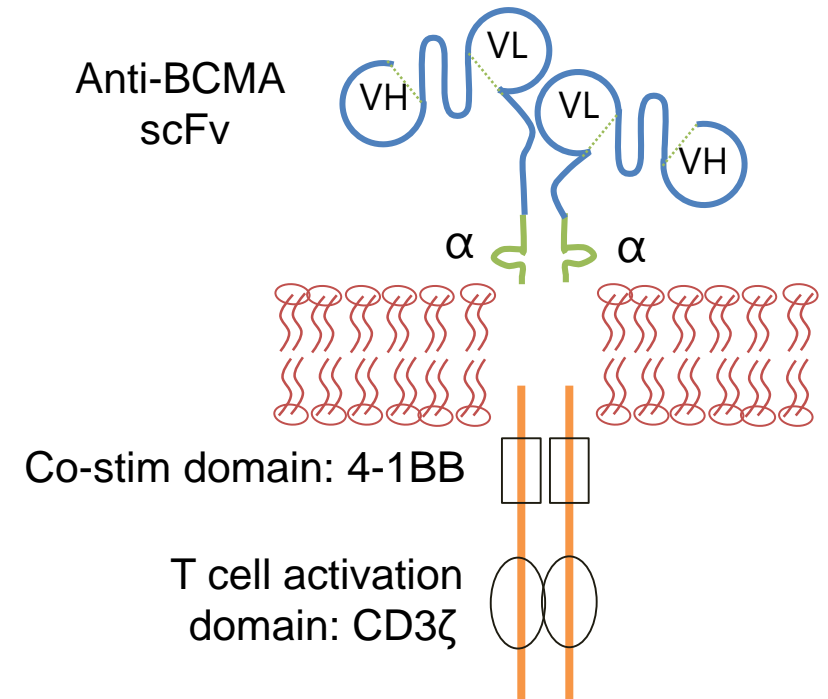
Njau MN, et al. *Nat Immunol.* 2014;15(3):219-221.



BCMA Expression on myeloma cells  
(brown color = BCMA protein)

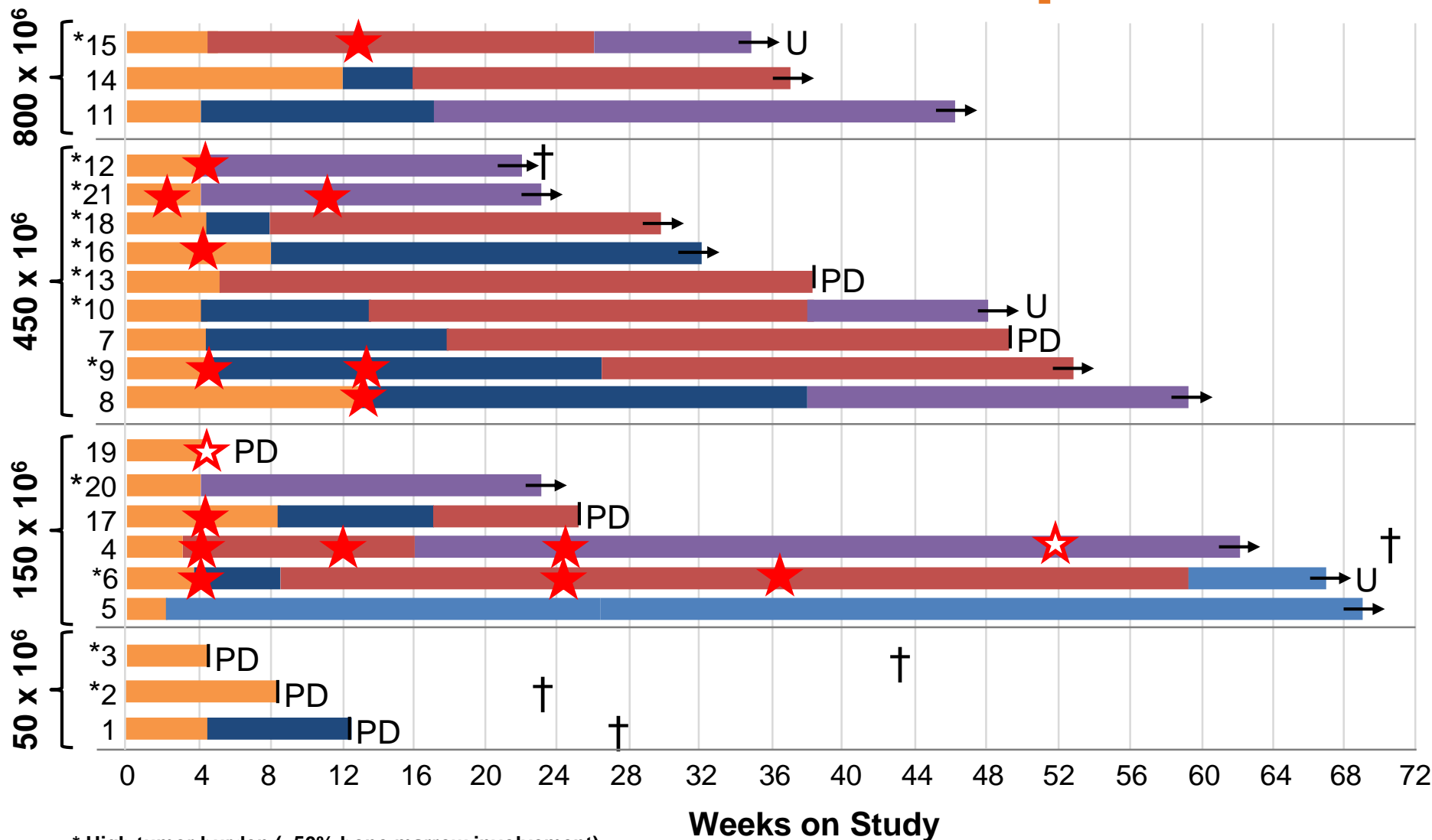
# bb2121

- **bb2121 is a second-generation CAR construct targeting BCMA, consisting of autologous T cells transduced with a lentiviral vector encoding a novel CAR incorporating:**
  - A murine-derived anti-BCMA scFv
  - A 4-1BB costimulatory motif
- **Multicenter, open-label, dose-escalation and dose-expansion trial in patients with R/R MM who received  $\geq 3$  prior lines of therapy or patients with double-refractory MM**
  - Dose-escalation phase:  $\geq 50\%$  BCMA expression required
  - Dose-expansion phase: No BCMA expression required; prior daratumumab required
- **Primary objectives: Safety, tolerability, and recommended phase II dose**

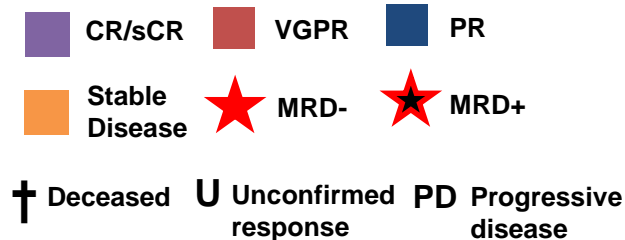




# CRB-401: Tumor Response to bb2121



- ORR: 94% (CR: 56%)
- MRD neg: 9 of 10 evaluable patients
- 5 patients with ongoing responses >1 year
- Responses continue to improve as late as month 15 (VGPR to CR)



\* High tumor burden (>50% bone marrow involvement)

MRD, minimal residual disease; ORR, overall response rate; PR, partial response; sCR, stringent complete response; VGPR, very good partial response

Berdeja JG, et al. *Blood*. 2017;130(suppl): Abstract 740.

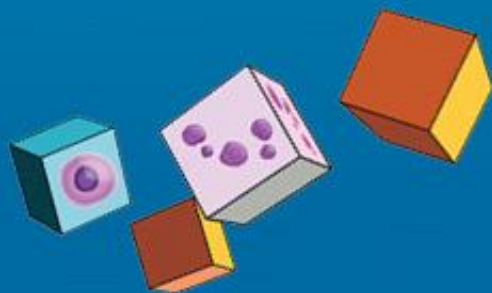
# Cocktail of CAR T Cells: CD19– and BCMA–Targeted CAR T Cells

- **Treatment approach**
  - Day -30: T-cell apheresis to collect cells for individualized CAR T-cell therapy
  - Days -5, -4, -3: Lymphodepletion with cyclophosphamide 300 mg/m<sup>2</sup> + fludarabine 30 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - Day 0: Infusion of 1 x 10<sup>7</sup>/kg CD19-specific CAR T cells
  - Days 2, 3: Split-dose infusions of 4.5 (2.5-8.2) x 10<sup>7</sup>/kg BCMA-specific CAR T cells
- **Primary endpoints:** Safety, tolerability. **Secondary endpoints:** ORR, DoR, CAR T-cell persistence
- Reported on 10 patients: All CD19 negative and 54.2% to 96.9% BCMA expression
- Mean follow-up: 23 weeks (range: 4-32). Response: 2CR, 1VGPR, and 6 PR
- CRS occurred in all patients; 2 patients (grade 3) received anticytokine therapy
- Median time to CRS onset: 14.5 hrs (range: 6-29). Median CRS duration: 3.5 days (range: 1-9)
- Common nonhematologic AEs: Fever (n = 10), fatigue (n = 7), nausea/vomiting (n = 6), prolonged aPTT (n = 6), myalgia (n = 5)

# Conclusions

- Immune dysregulation plays a key role in the pathogenesis and progression of multiple myeloma
- Two recently approved monoclonal antibodies (elotuzumab and daratumumab) are now a cornerstone therapies for RRMM
- The safety and efficacy of checkpoint inhibitors has yet to be confirmed, with excess toxicity identified when combined with IMiDs
- CAR T cells offer a promising approach with functional CAR T cells being generated from patients with MM and multiple promising targets including BCMA

# Treatment Decisions for Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma:



Fitting the  
Pieces Together

