



# TEDDY – European Network of Excellence for Paediatric Clinical Research

## Cell and advanced therapies for children with cancer “Cells4kids”



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## Cell and advanced therapies for children with cancer

1. A dream comes true: “Immunotherapy as reality”
2. Immune effector cells as old new drugs for childhood cancer
  - a) The killer cells
  - b) The memory cells
  - c) The cell engineering
3. Hospital needs transformation: Research University Hospital

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## Cytotoxic lymphocyte



*James A Sullivan. Quill Graphics. Charlottesville, VA, USA*

## “From immune hypothesis to drug development”



**Paul Ehrlich:**  
 Hypothesis that host defense forces may prevent neoplastic cells from developing tumors.

**Gross and Foley:**  
 first clear demonstration of specific capability of tumours to stimulate immune response.



1909

1953

1957

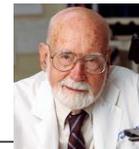
2002

2012

2018



aminopterin e



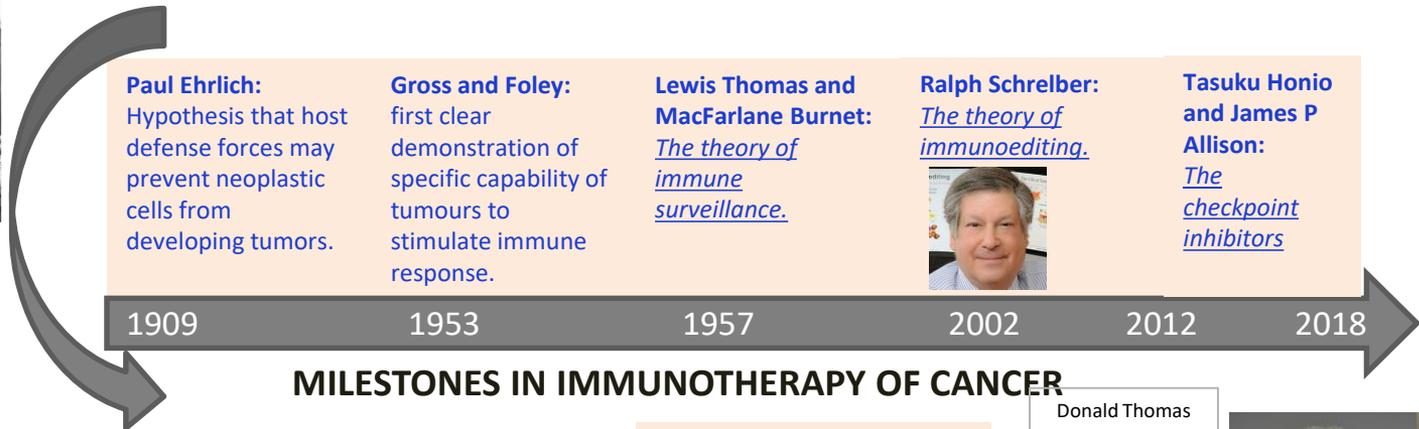
Next generation sequencing

Immunotherapy

Total chemotherapy	HSCT	Clinical trials	Personalized medicine	Cell therapy and advances therapies
1955-1990	1990	2000	2010	



## “From immune surveillance to cancer immunoediting”



**Paul Ehrlich:**  
 Hypothesis that host defense forces may prevent neoplastic cells from developing tumors.

1909

**Gross and Foley:**  
 first clear demonstration of specific capability of tumours to stimulate immune response.

1953

**Lewis Thomas and MacFarlane Burnet:**  
*The theory of immune surveillance.*

1957

**Ralph Schrelber:**  
*The theory of immunoediting.*



2002

**Tasuku Honjo and James P Allison:**  
*The checkpoint inhibitors*

2012

2018

### MILESTONES IN IMMUNOTHERAPY OF CANCER

**1957 Bone Marrow Trasplant**

**1984 IL-2 Immunotherapy**

**1988 Adoptive T cell**

**1997 Antibody therapy**  
**2002 NK cell alloreactivity**

**2012 Dendritic cell vaccines**  
**2013 Checkpoint inhibitor**  
**2017 CART cell therapies**

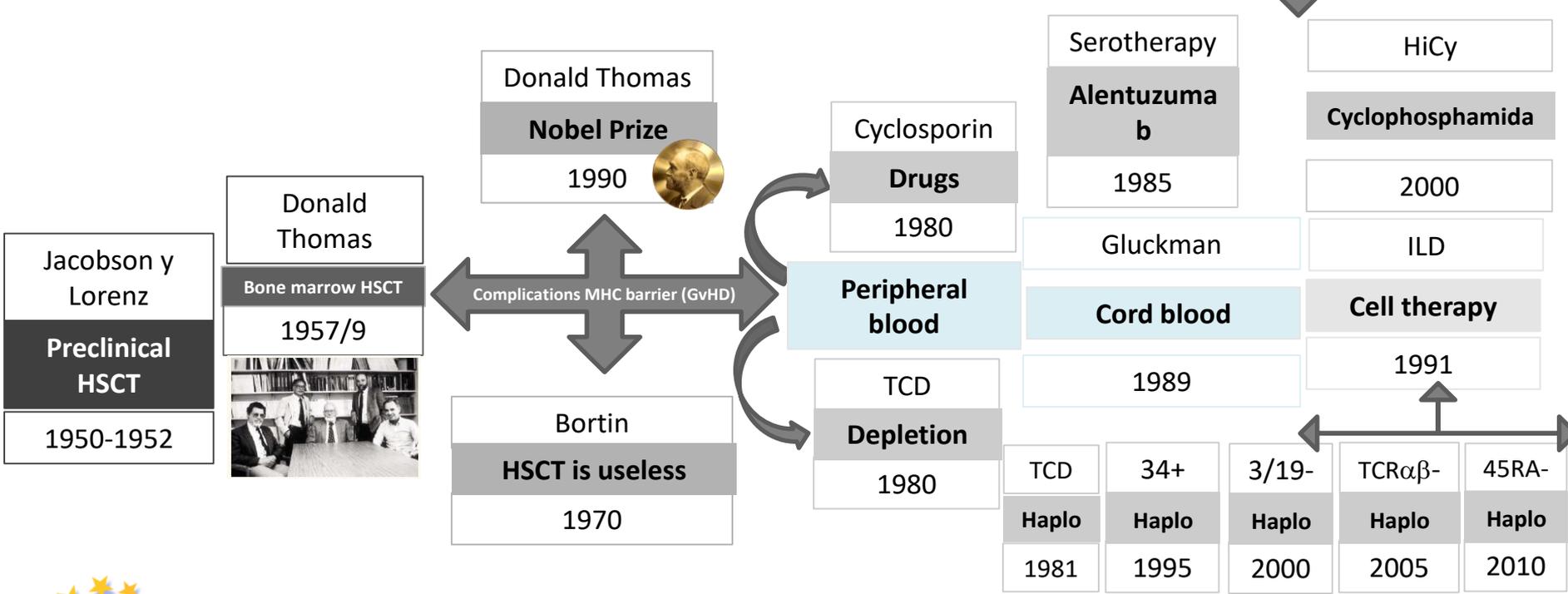
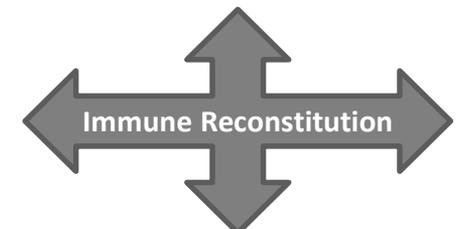
Donald Thomas  
**Premio Nobel**  
 1990



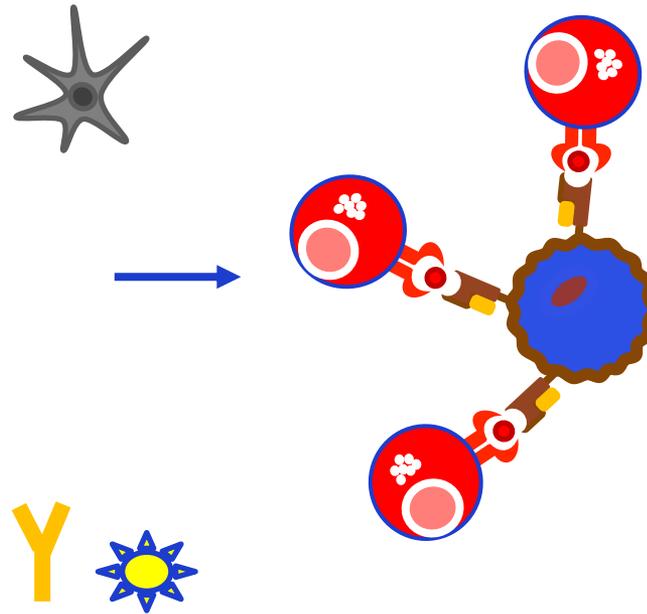
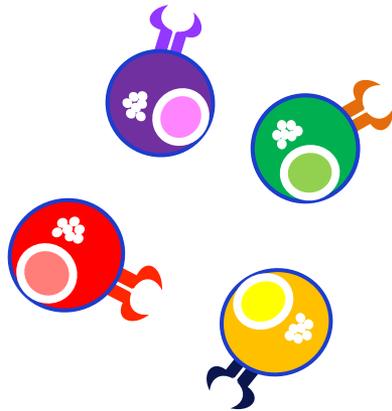
**Tasuku Honjo James P Allison**

# HSCT outcome: “from chemo to immune THERAPY”

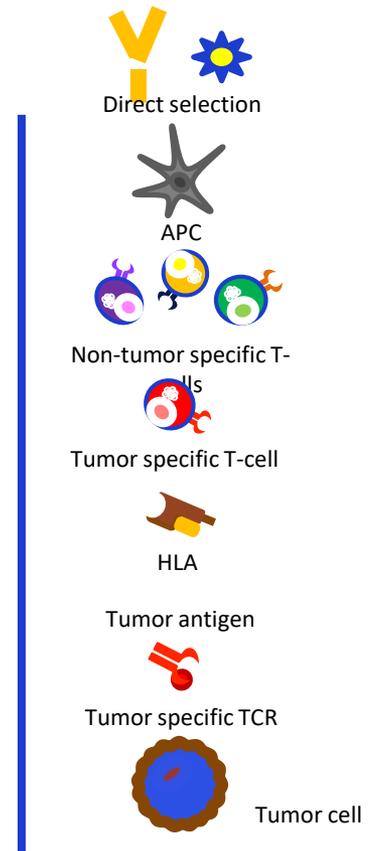
## HSCT historical overview: “from bone marrow to cell therapy”



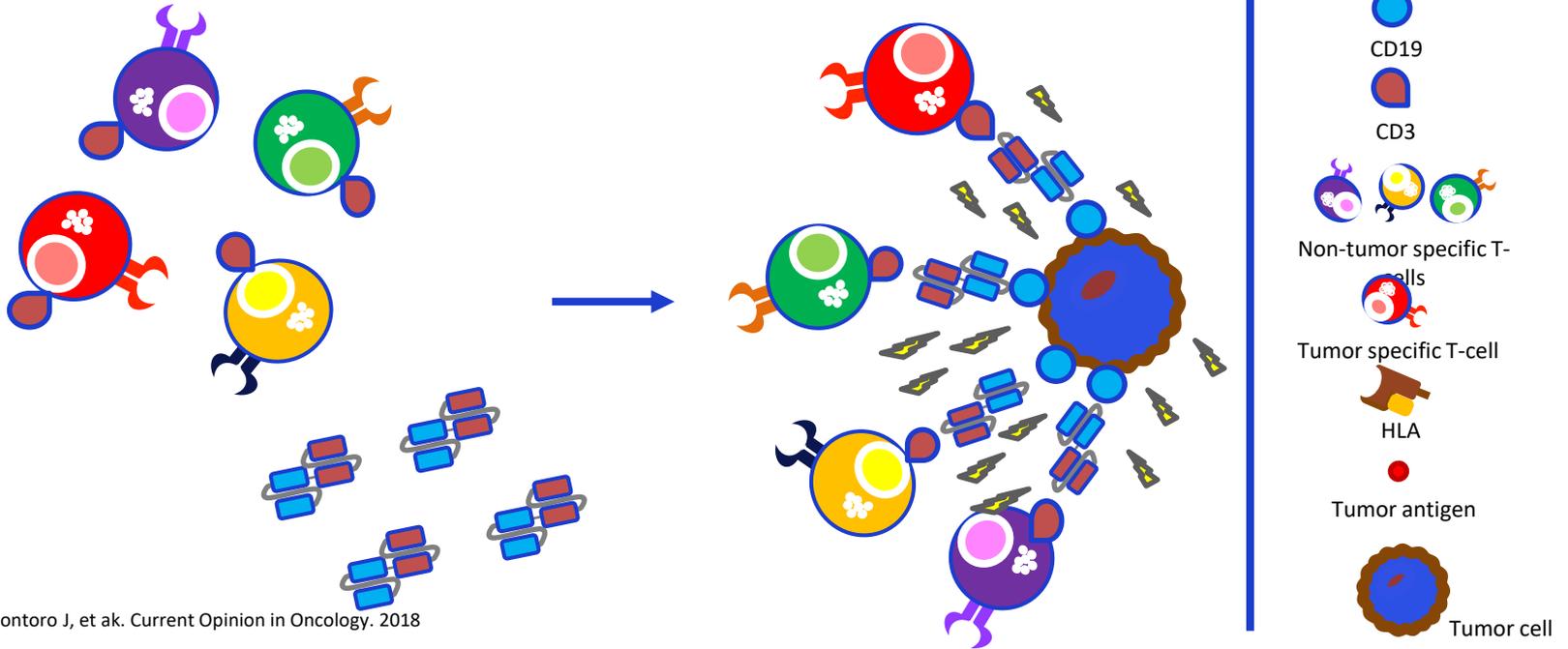
## Cytotoxic T lymphocytes



Montoro J, et al. Current Opinion in Oncology. 2018

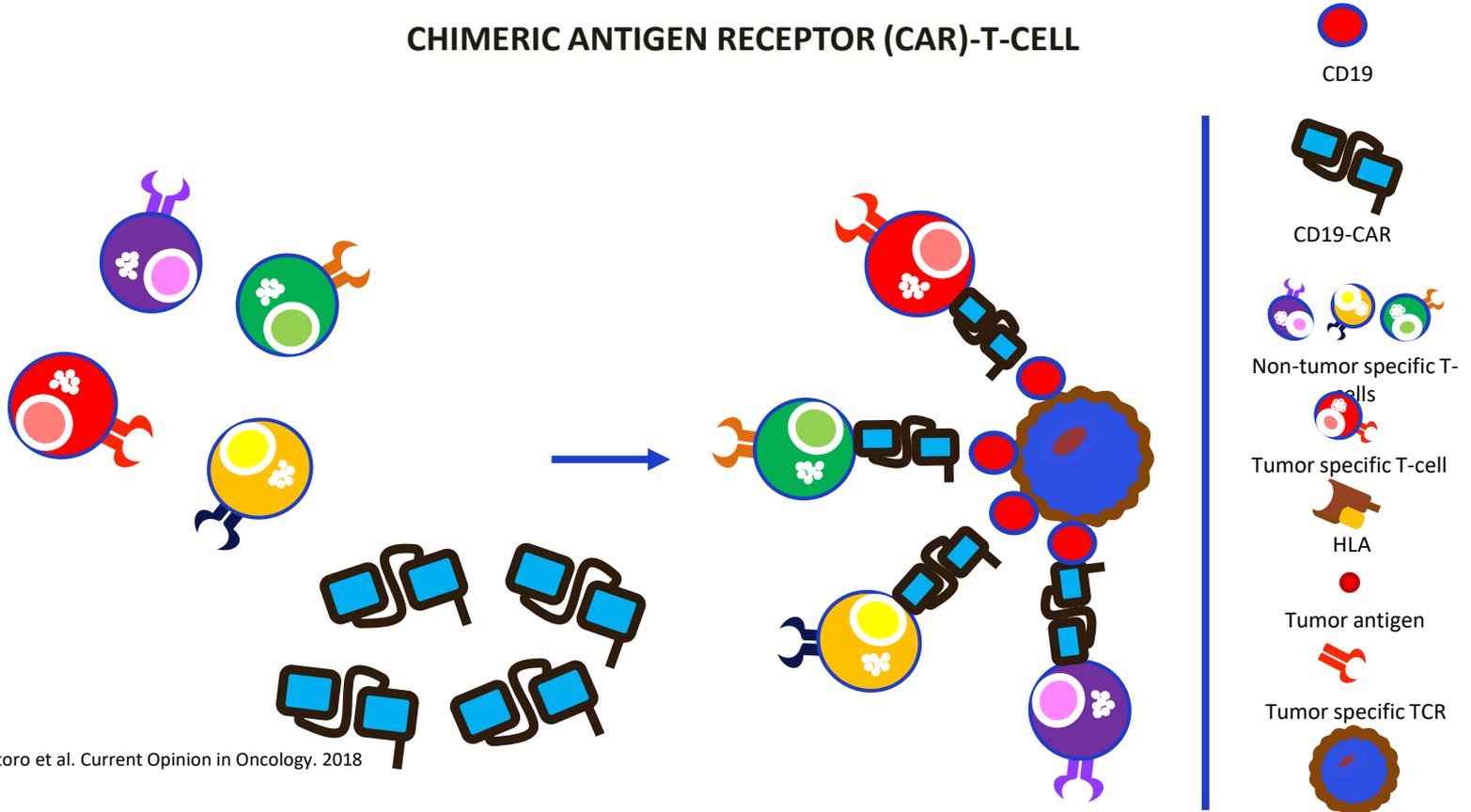


## Bi-specific antibodies



Montoro J, et al. Current Opinion in Oncology. 2018

## CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR (CAR)-T-CELL



Montoro et al. Current Opinion in Oncology. 2018

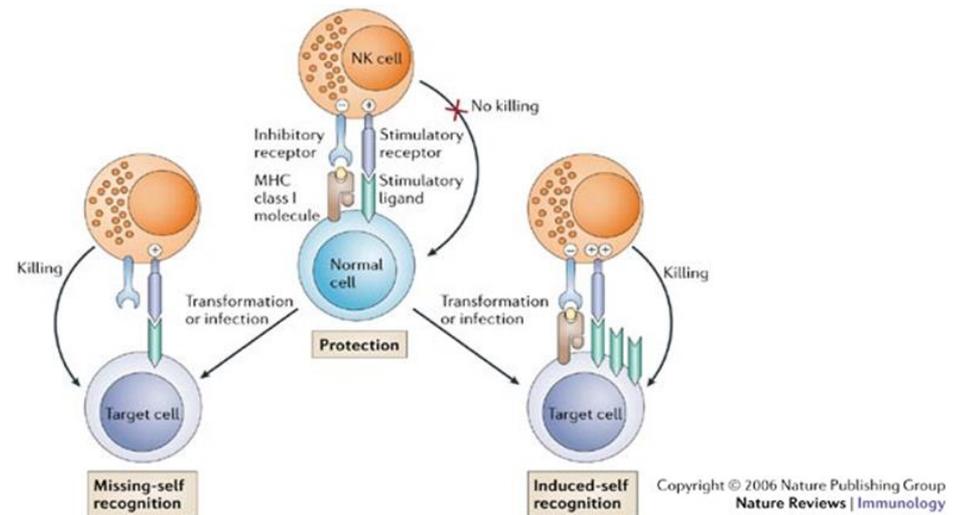
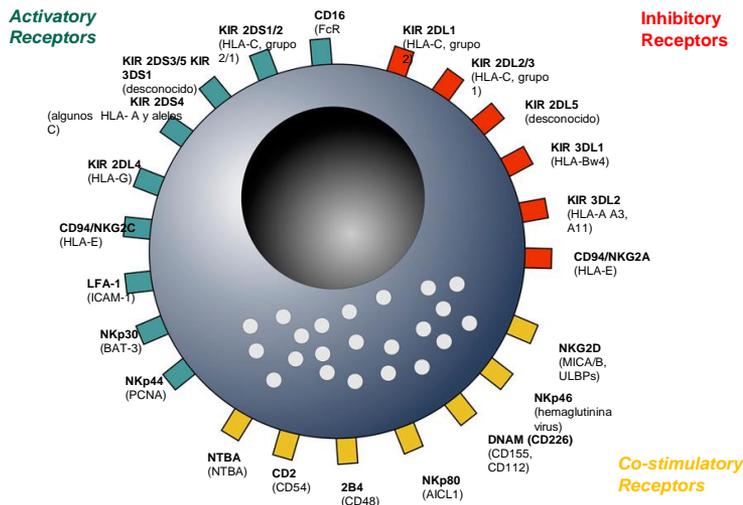
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## Natural Killer cells for cancer cell therapy

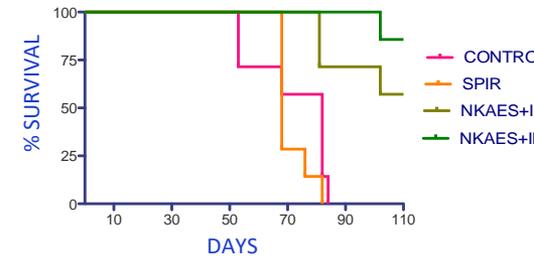
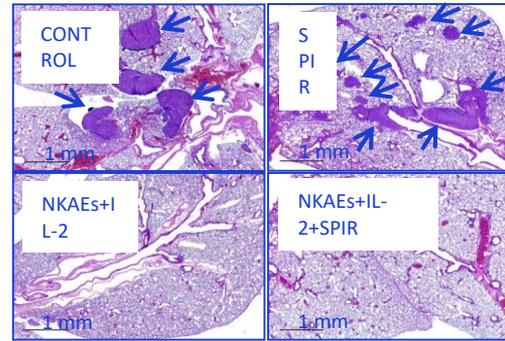
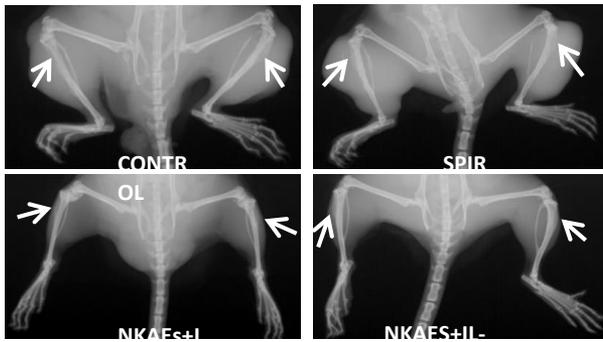


- ✓ These functions are performed in the context of a learning process ("licensing") regulated mainly by inhibitory KIR receptors and their ligands (HLA class I molecules, in humans).
- ✓ In a basal situation the cells of the different tissues express their own ligands (self), HLA class I, so they are protected.

## Natural Killer cells for cancer cell therapy



# Natural Killer cells for cancer cell therapy



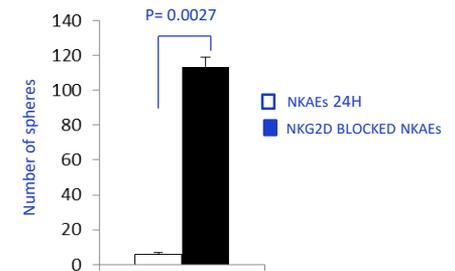
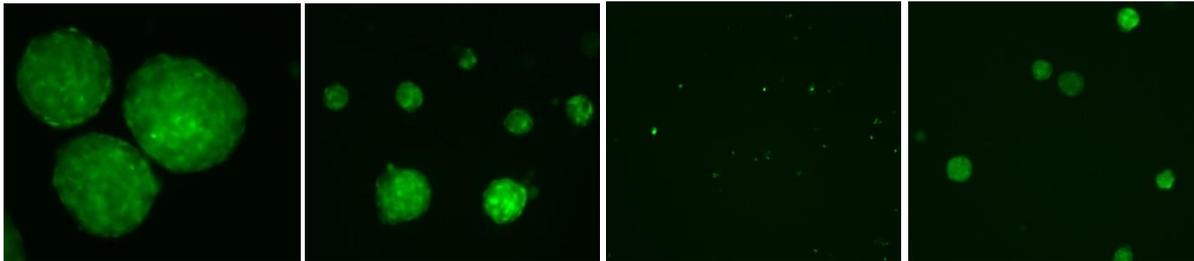
Fernández L et al. Cancer Letter 2016.

MG-63 UNTREATED

MG-63 +NKAEs 4h

MG-63 +NKAEs 24h

MG-63 +NKG2D BLOCKED NKAEs 24h

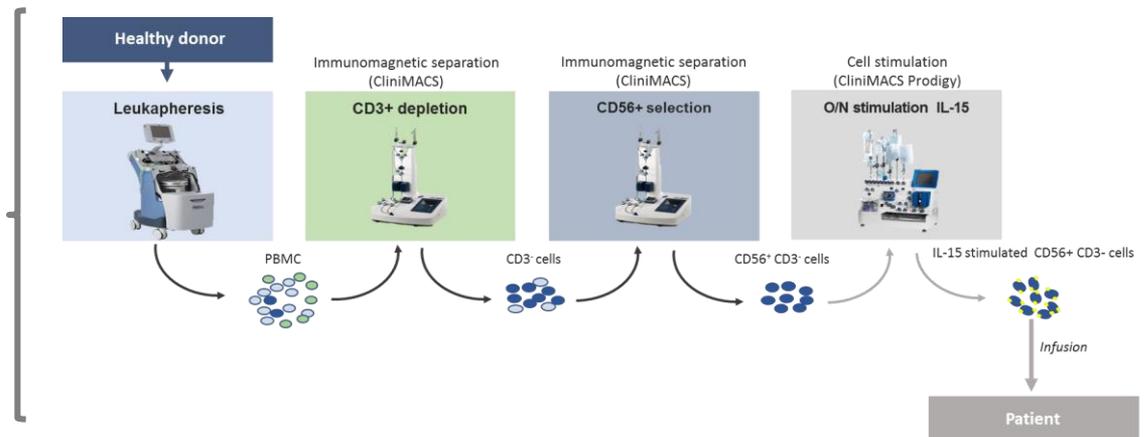


Fernández L et al. Cancer Letter 2016.

## Natural Killer cells for cancer cell therapy

### Activation and expansion protocols:

#### ❖ Overnight stimulation with IL-15



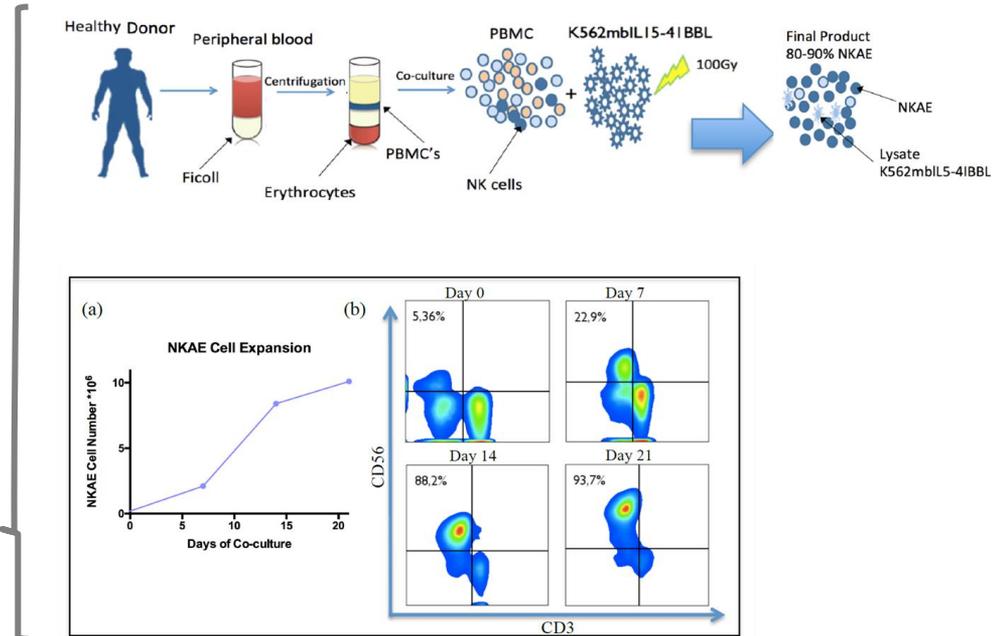
#### ❖ 15-21 days co-culture with K562-mb15-4.1bb1

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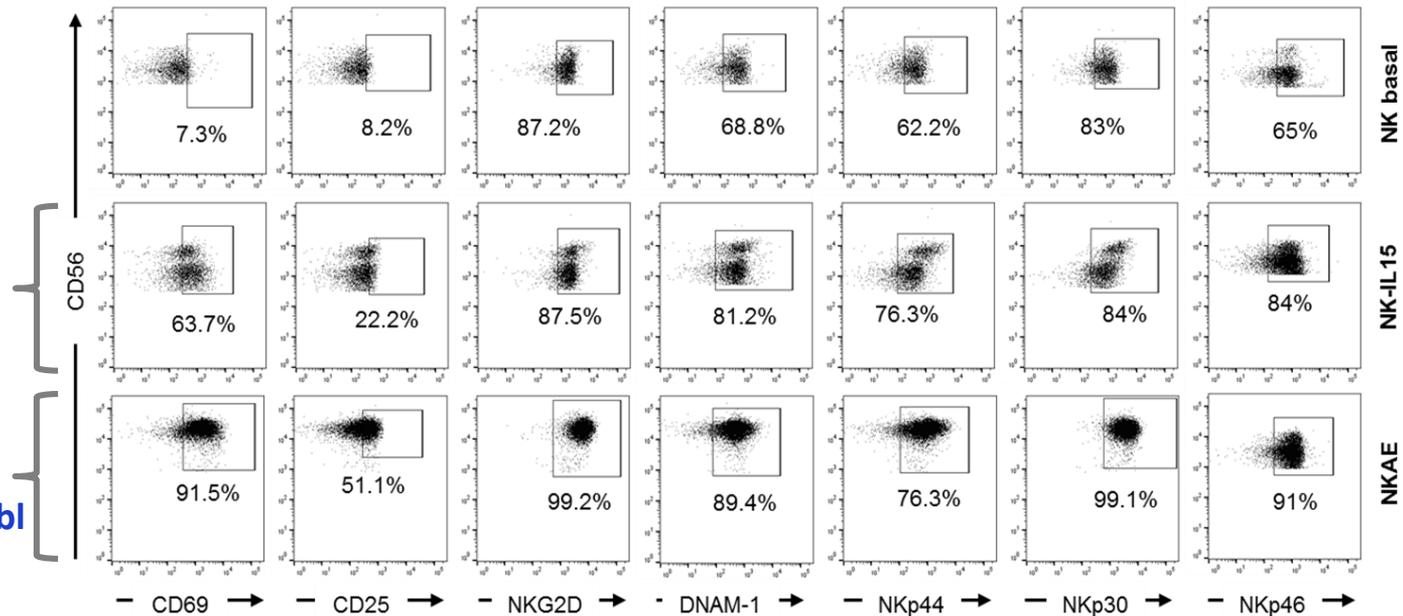


## Natural Killer cells for cancer cell therapy

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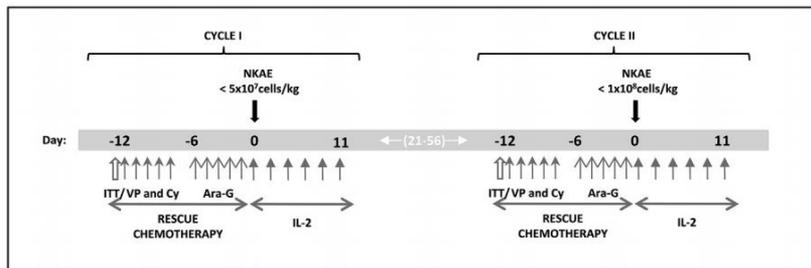
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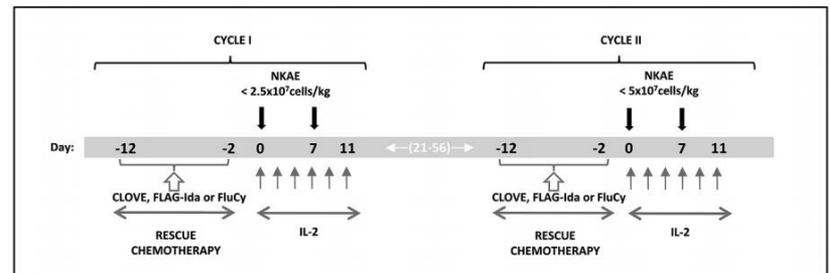
Fernández F, et al. Transfusion 2018. How do we manufacture clinical-grade interleukin-15-stimulated natural killer cell products for cancer treatment?

# Natural Killer cells for cancer cell therapy

## ❖ HNJ-NKAES-2012



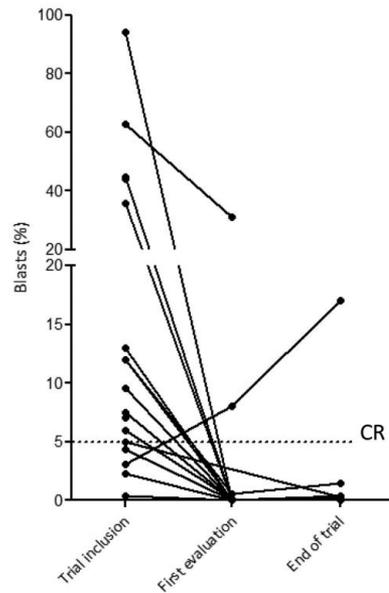
## ❖ LYDIA



➤ In both cases, two cycles of rescue chemotherapy followed by NKAES and IL-2 infusions were administered

Vela M, et al. Cancer Lett. 2018. Haploidentical IL-15/41BBL activated and expanded natural killer cell infusion therapy after salvage chemotherapy in children with relapsed and refractory leukemia.

## Natural Killer cells for cancer cell therapy



➤ **Bone marrow response to treatment.**

Percentage of blasts of each patient at trial inclusion, after first treatment cycle and at the end of the study are indicated.

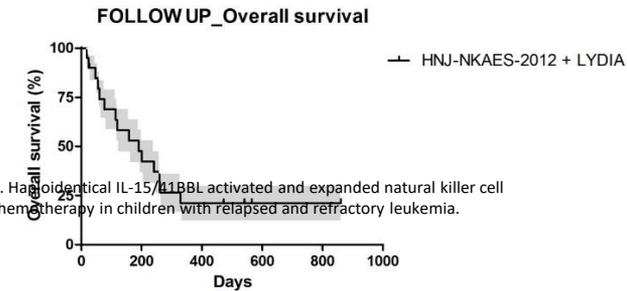
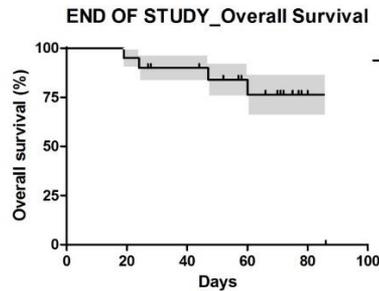
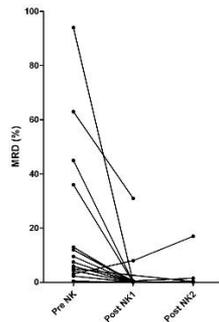
Vela M, et al. Cancer Lett. 2018. Haploidentical IL-15/41BBL activated and expanded natural killer cell infusion therapy after salvage chemotherapy in children with relapsed and refractory leukemia.

# Natural Killer cells for cancer cell therapy

**NCT01944982**

**NCT02074657**

	HNJ-NKAEs (EudraCT: 2012-005146-38)	LANK-2/LYDIA (EudraCT: 2012-000054-63)	Total
<b>Characteristic</b>	7	13	20
<b>Response (%)</b>			
Cytological remission	3 (42)	4 (30)	7 (35)
MRD negative	2 (28)	5 (38)	7 (35)
Progression	1(16)	1 (16)	2 (10)
Died because toxicity	1(16)	3 (23)	4 (20)
<b>Get a HSCT (%)</b>	3 (42)	7 (53)	10 (50)
<b>Status</b>			
Alive without disease	1 (14)	5 (38)	6 (30)
Response to NK infusions	150 (27-230)	177 (19-350)	164 (19-350)

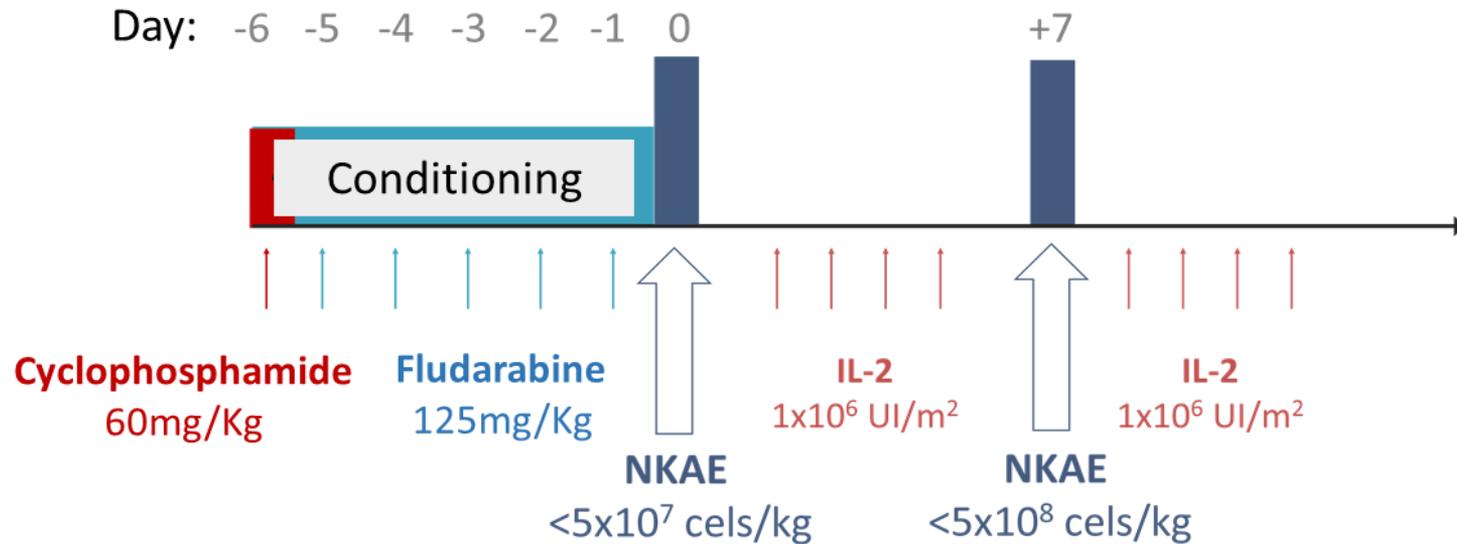


Vela M, et al. Cancer Lett. 2018. Haploidentical IL-15/11βBL activated and expanded natural killer cell infusion therapy after salvage chemotherapy in children with relapsed and refractory leukemia.

# Lydia II trial Protocol

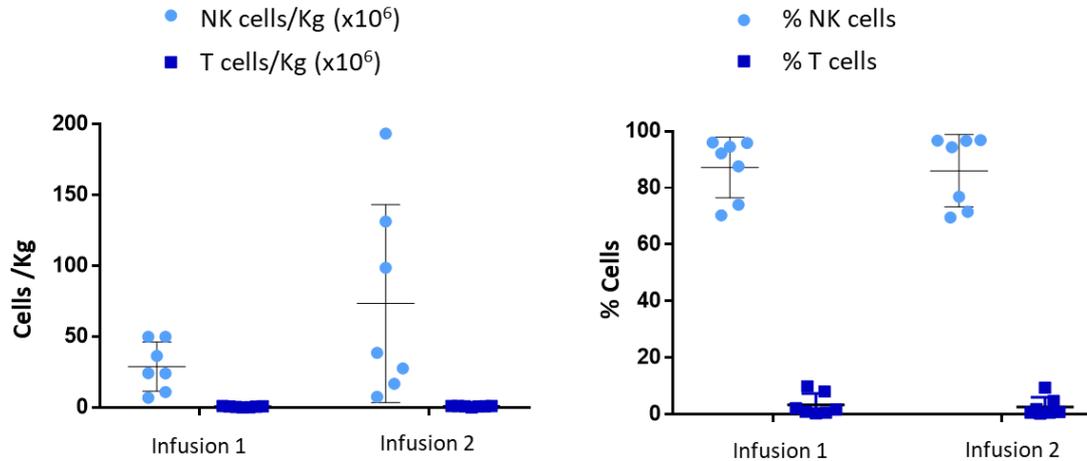
Previous treatment: Spanish protocol (SEHOP 2002) including 2 inductions + 2 consolidation cycles

## Lympho-ablative treatment



Sissini L, et al. EBMT Cell Therapy oral communication 2019.

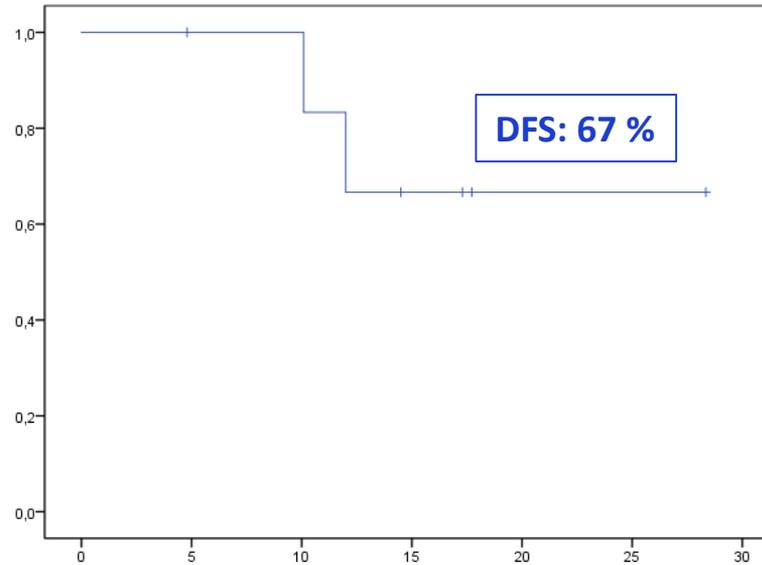
## Characteristics of NKAЕ products infused



13 products in 7 patients	cells/kg ( $\times 10^6$ )	%
<b>NK cells</b>	<b>51.14 <math>\pm</math> 53.99</b>	<b>86.64 <math>\pm</math> 11.36</b>
<b>T lymphocytes</b>	0.69 $\pm$ 0.35	2.94 $\pm$ 3.55

Sissini L, et al. EBMT Cell Therapy oral communication 2019.

# Results

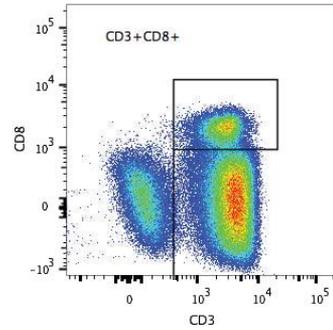


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## Cell and advanced therapies for children with cancer

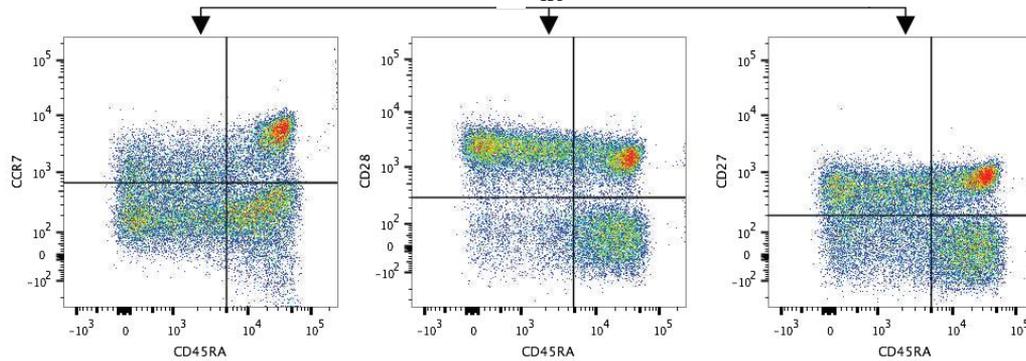
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## Why memo T cell as adoptive immunotherapy?

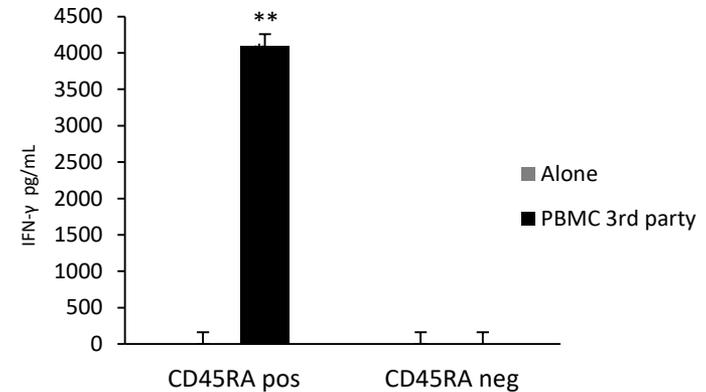
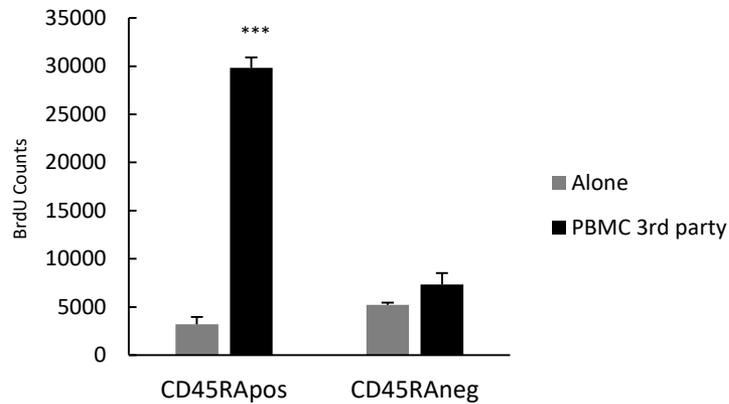


These subsets:

1. **Baive** (CD45RA+CD27+),
2. **Central memory** (CM; CD45RA-CD27+),
3. **EM** (CD45RA-CD27-),
4. **EMRA** (CD45RA+CD27-)

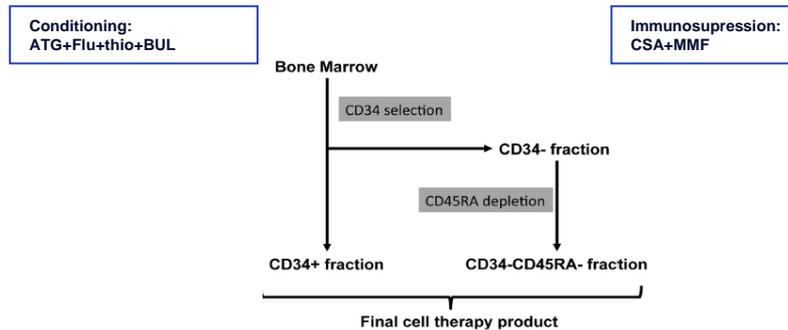


## Why memo T cell as adoptive immunotherapy?



*Fernandez L et al. Clin Can Research 2017*

## Why memo T cell as adoptive immunotherapy?



n=5	CD34 +	CD3+	T naive	NK	CD14	B cells
X10e6/kg (CD45RA )	11	89	<0.003	0.16	1.21	0

- **Bone marrow mismatch related Graft.**
- Myeloablative conditioning.
- 4/5 engraftment.
- 1/5 aGvHD grade I.
- No viral disease
- 4/5 alive
- Clinical grade depletion of CD45RA naïve T cells from an allograft might be a treatment option for patients with combined immunodeficiency at high risk of GvHD, infection, or both in an HLA mismatch setting.

Touzot et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2015

# Why memo T cell as adoptive immunotherapy?

Bone Marrow Transplantation (2018) 53:264–273  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41409-017-0035-y>

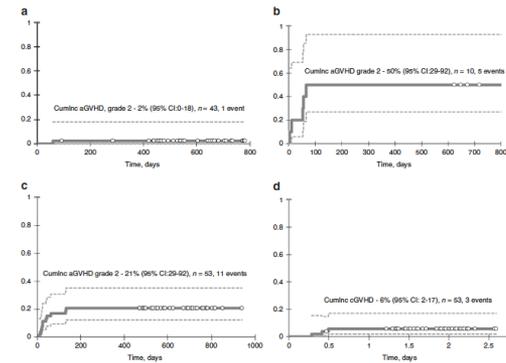
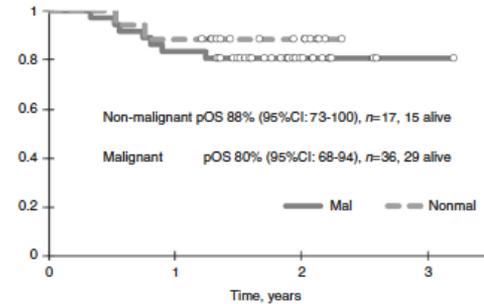
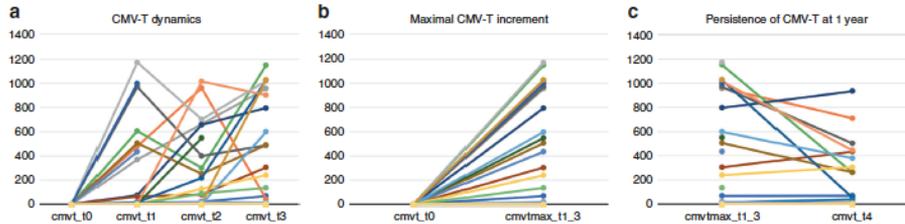


ARTICLE

## Low-dose donor memory T-cell infusion after TCR alpha/beta depleted unrelated and haploidentical transplantation: results of a pilot trial

Michael Maschan<sup>1</sup> · Sergey Blagov<sup>1</sup> · Larisa Shelikhova<sup>1</sup> · Zhanna Shekhovtsova<sup>1</sup> · Dmitriy Balashov<sup>1</sup> · Julia Starichkova<sup>2</sup> · Elena Kurnikova<sup>3</sup> · Elena Boyakova<sup>4</sup> · Yakov Muzalevskii<sup>3</sup> · Alexei Kazachenok<sup>3</sup> · Pavel Trakhtman<sup>3</sup> · Elena Osipova<sup>5</sup> · Natalia Khripkova<sup>5</sup> · Vladimir Zhogov<sup>5</sup> · Galina Novichkova<sup>6</sup> · Alexei Maschan<sup>1</sup>

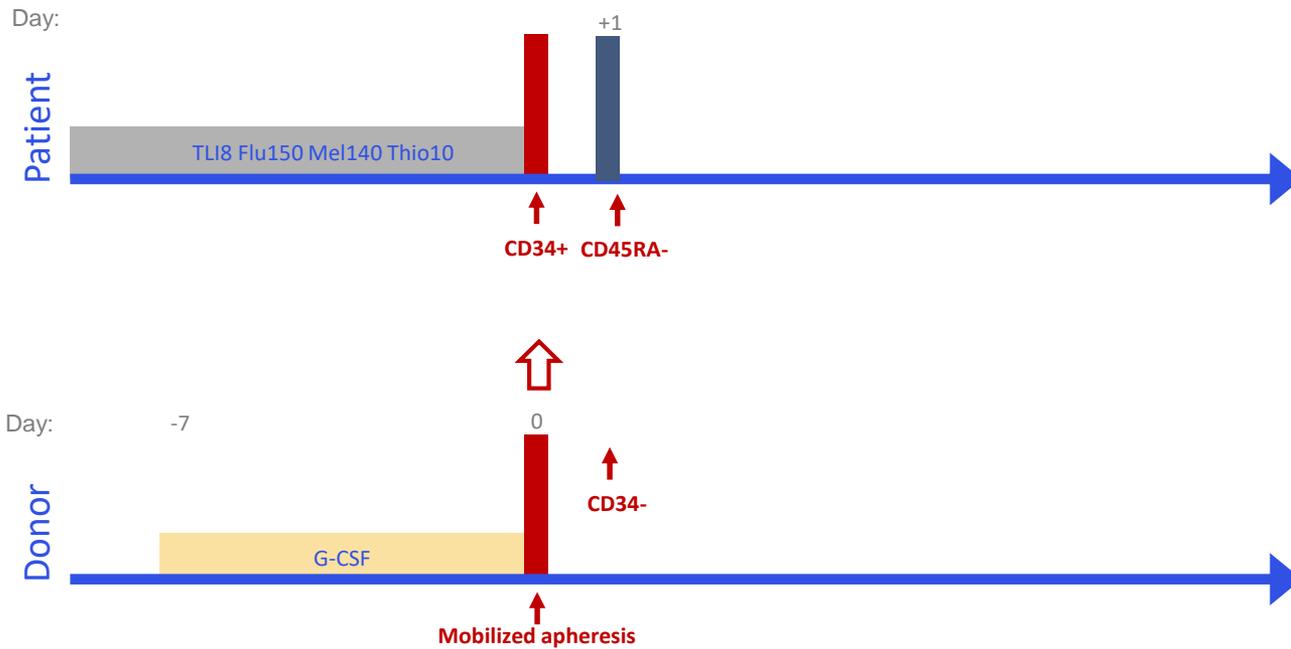
### Memory T-cell DLI after αβT-depleted haplo and MUD HSCT



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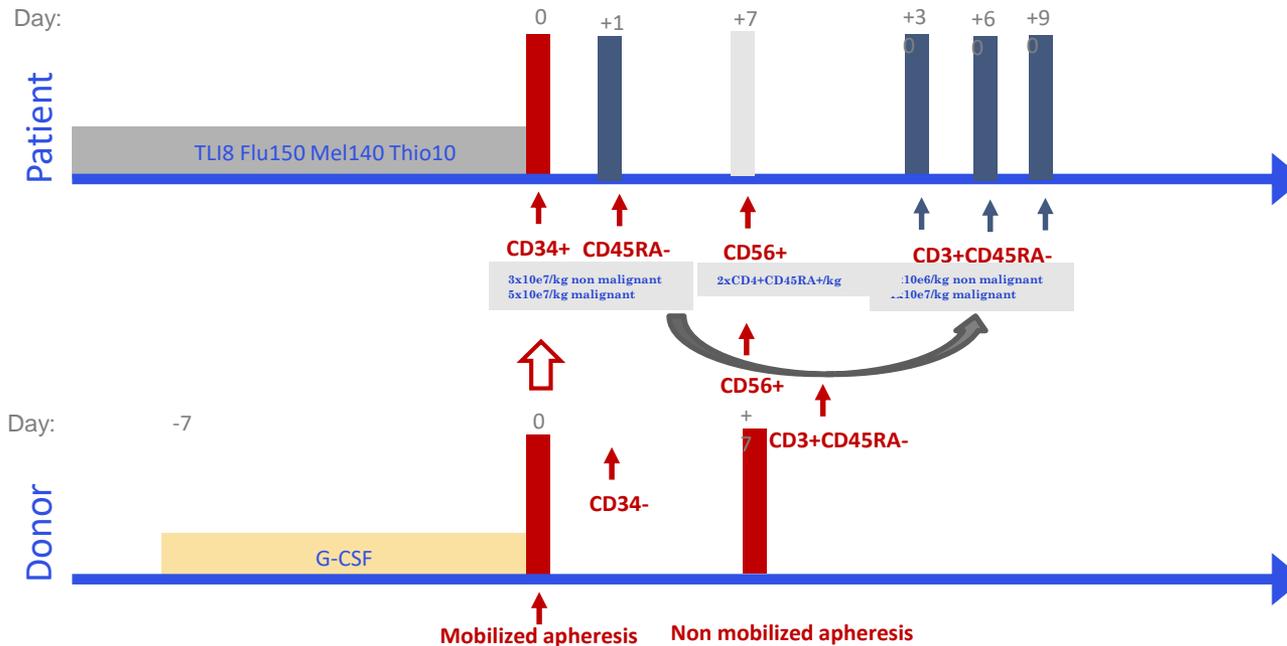
## NK cell and memo T cell as adoptive immunotherapy



Gassior M et al. In preparation

# NK cell and memo T cell as adoptive immunotherapy

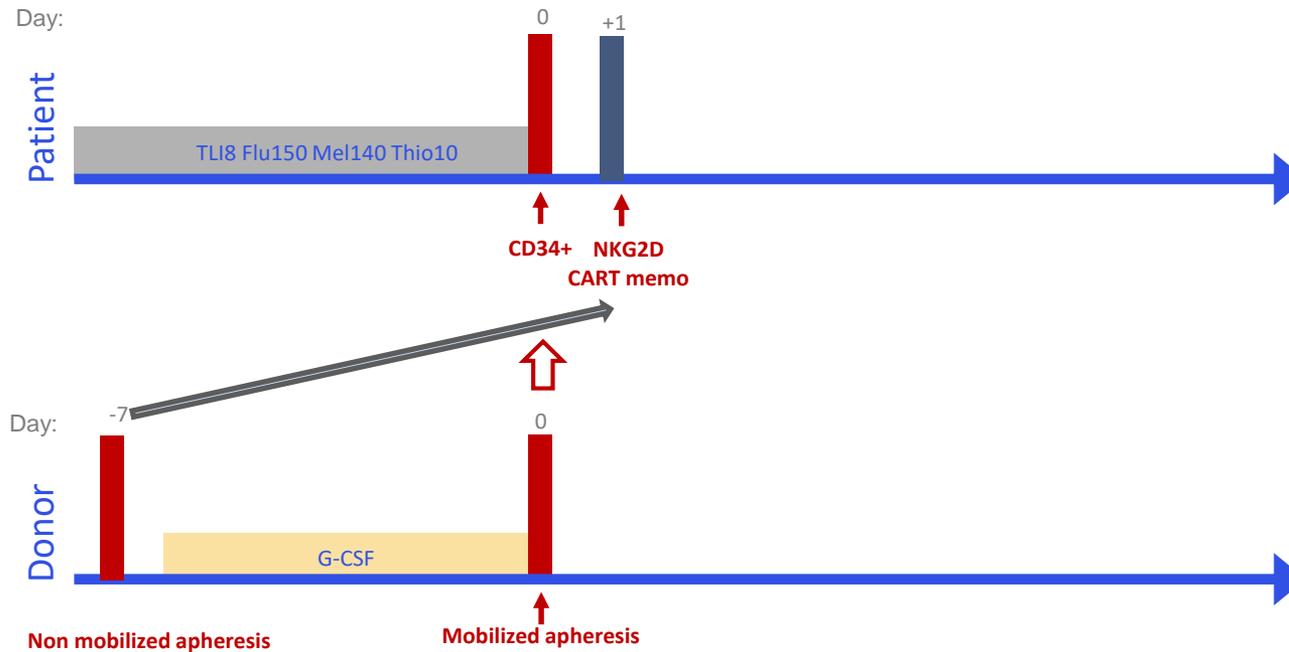
HIGH DOSE OF MEMORY (hm) T and NK cells DLI TO IMPROVE:



Gassior M et al. In preparation

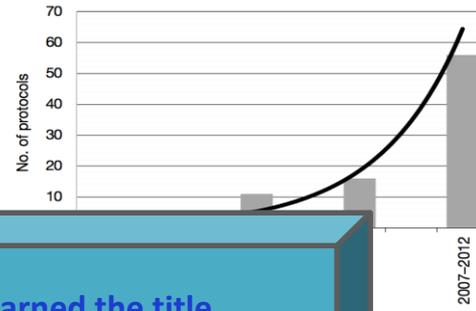
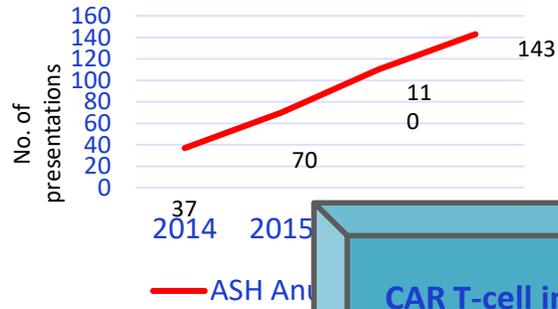
# NKG2D CAR T memo cells as adoptive immunotherapy

NKG2D CART memo as DLI :

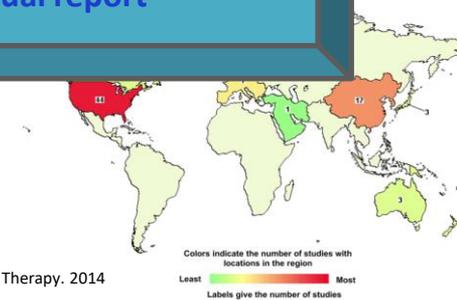
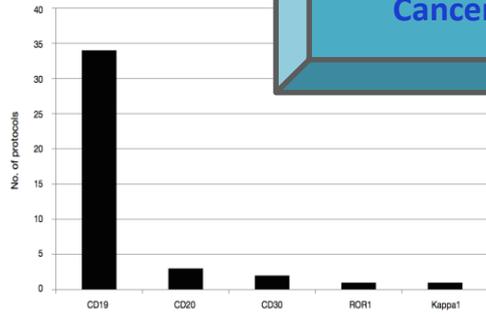


Gassior M et al. In preparation

### CARs: State of the science



**CAR T-cell immunotherapy earned the title "Advance of the Year" in the ASCO Clinical Cancer Advances 2018 annual report**



Corrigan-Curay J., et al. Molecular Therapy. 2014

## First two CAR-T cell medicines recommended for approval in EU



 **NOVARTIS**

Novartis LAL <25 y: 475,000 \$ / patient  
 response ) 408 m€

Soon in April that LAL in Adults and later  
 NHL

NICE = £282,000 per patient (Sep 5, 2018)  
 317 m€

**axicabtagene ciloleucel** Kite Pharma, Inc.  
**YESCARTA™** Site: FXX



Cell Order: 1234567



LOT: 123456789-01

Mfg Address Street, City, State Postal Code  
 (XXX) XXX-XXXX

AS-00730

 **Kite**  
 A GILEAD Company

Kite NHL DLBCL: 373,000 \$ / patient

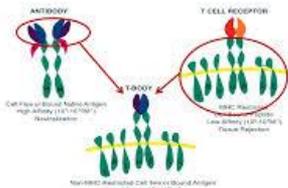
# CAR-T cells : “from the T-cell body approach to first class FDA approval”

## The T-body approach

### 1989: First CAR - T cells



Zelig Eshhar



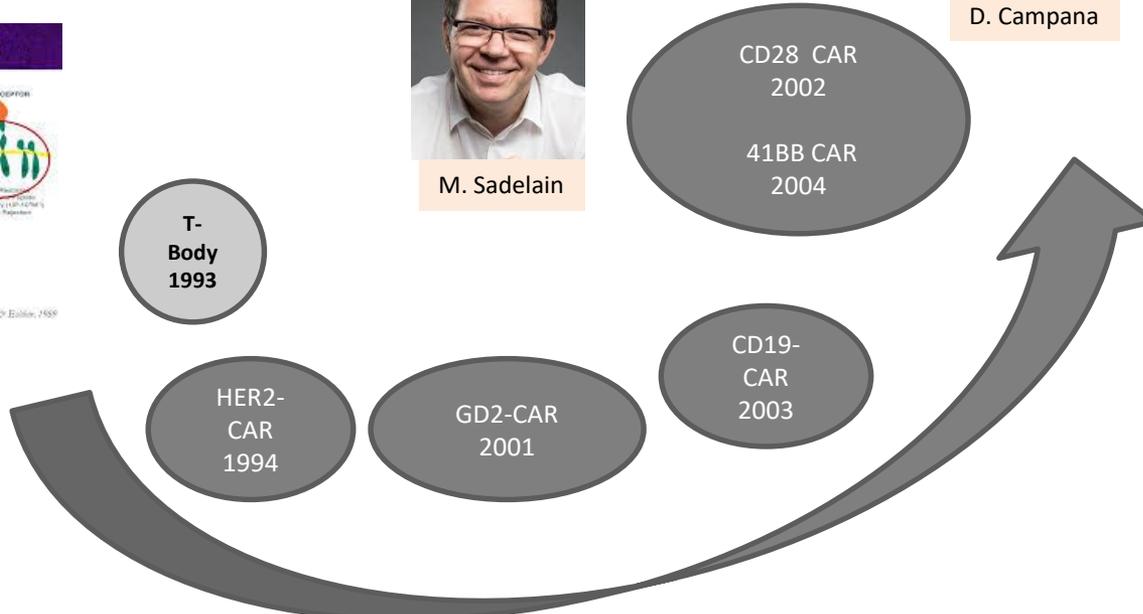
Eshhar Z et al. Pnas 1993



M. Sadelain



D. Campana



**Kymriah, Novartis Pharmaceuticals (Tisagenlecleucel)**

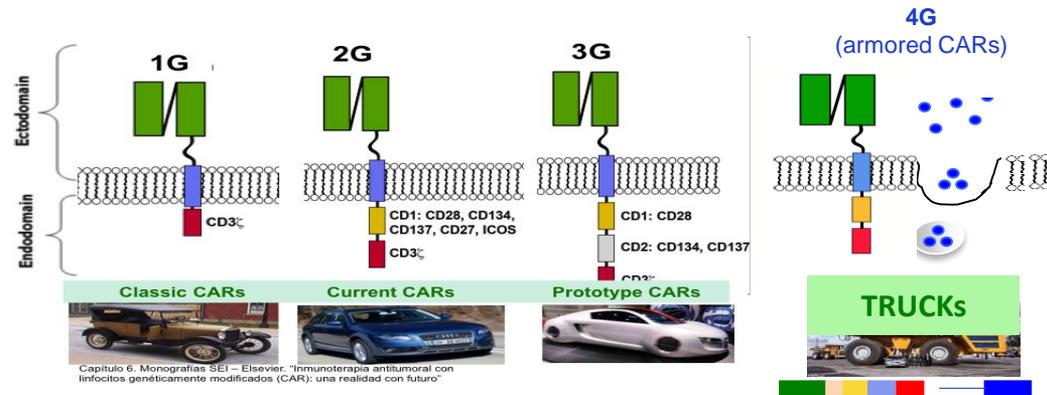
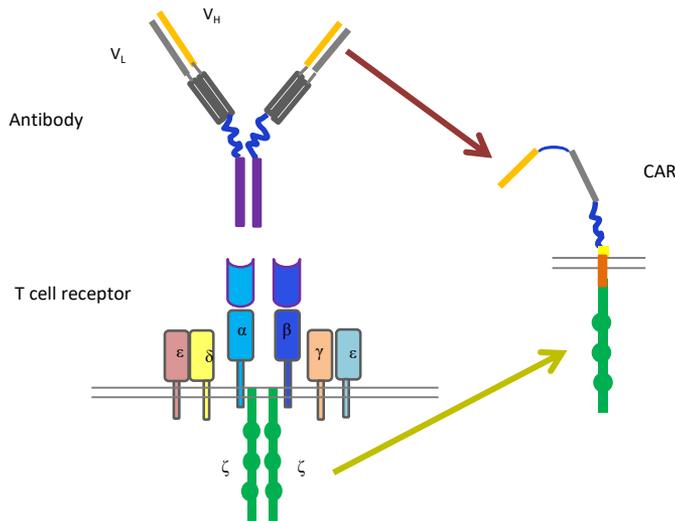
FDA approval  
 8/30/2017

# CAR-T cells : “from the T-cell body approach to first class FDA approval”

## STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

- Engineered receptor → redirect immune cells

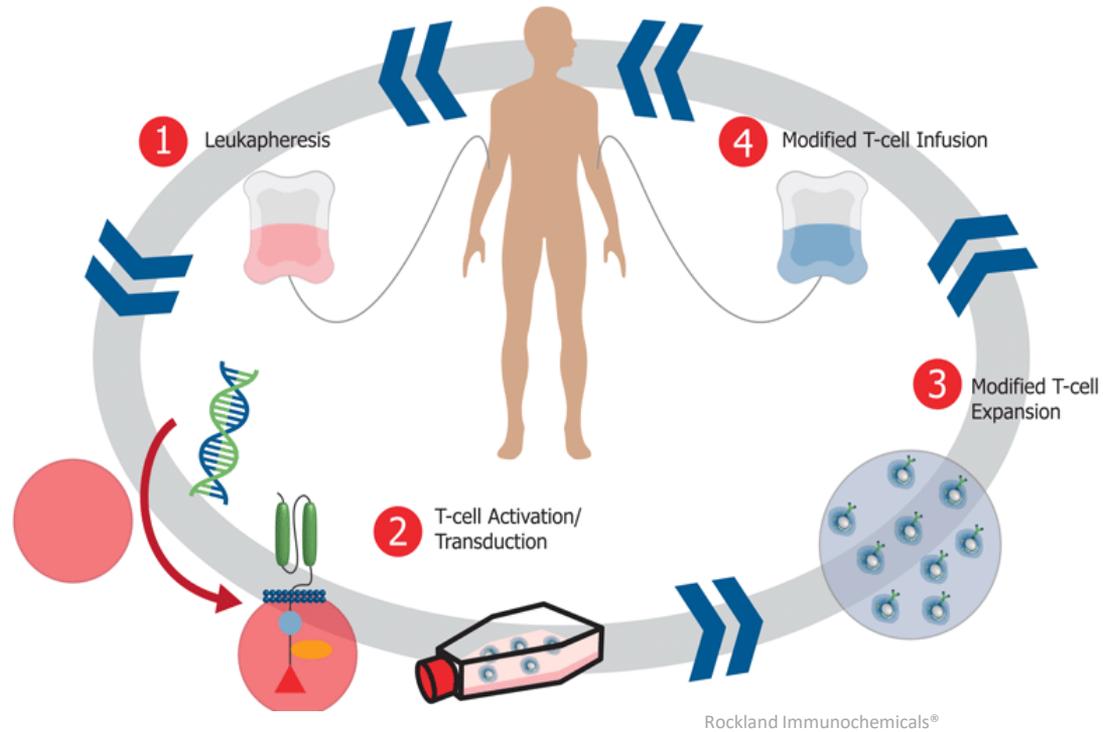
Phusion protein: Recognition Domain + Cytotoxic domain (CD3 $\zeta$ ) [+ costimulation (CD28/4-1BB)]



Adapted from:  
B. Savoldo, G. Dotti / Immunology Letters 155 (2013) 40–42

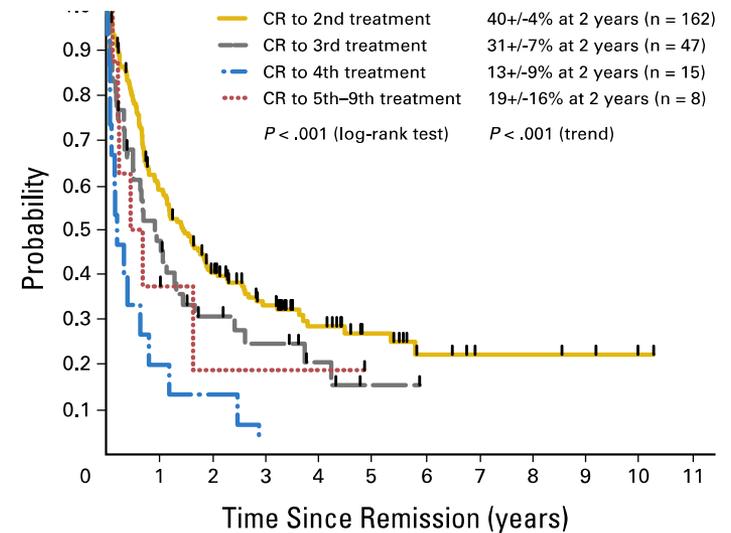
T cells Redirected for Universal Cytokine Killing

## CAR-T cell therapy



## Childhood leukemia

- By contrast with the steadily improved outcome of patients with newly diagnosed ALL, little progress has been made in the treatment of relapsed ALL
- r/r ALL: clofarabine+cy+etoposide. Toxic-related mortality 24%

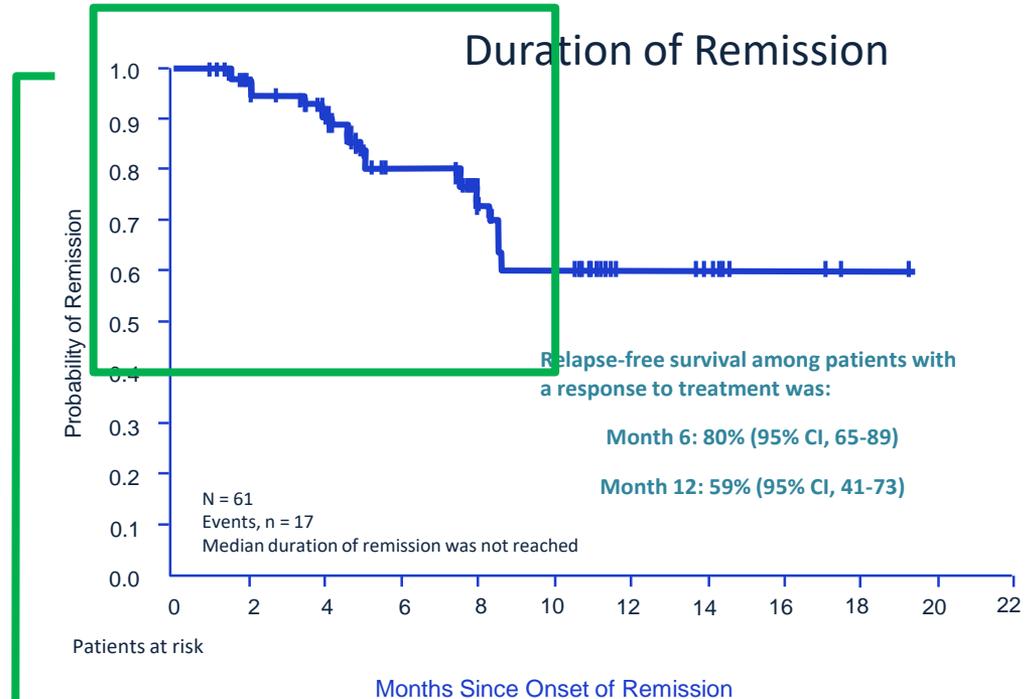


Ko et al. J Clin Oncol 2010

## CART19 Efficacy

75 patients who received a tisagenlecleucel infusion and had at least 3 months of follow-up:

- Overall remission rate was 81% (95% CI, 71 to 89)
  - 45 patients (60%) had complete remission
  - 16 (21%) had complete remission with incomplete hematologic recovery.
  - All of them were negative for minimal residual disease

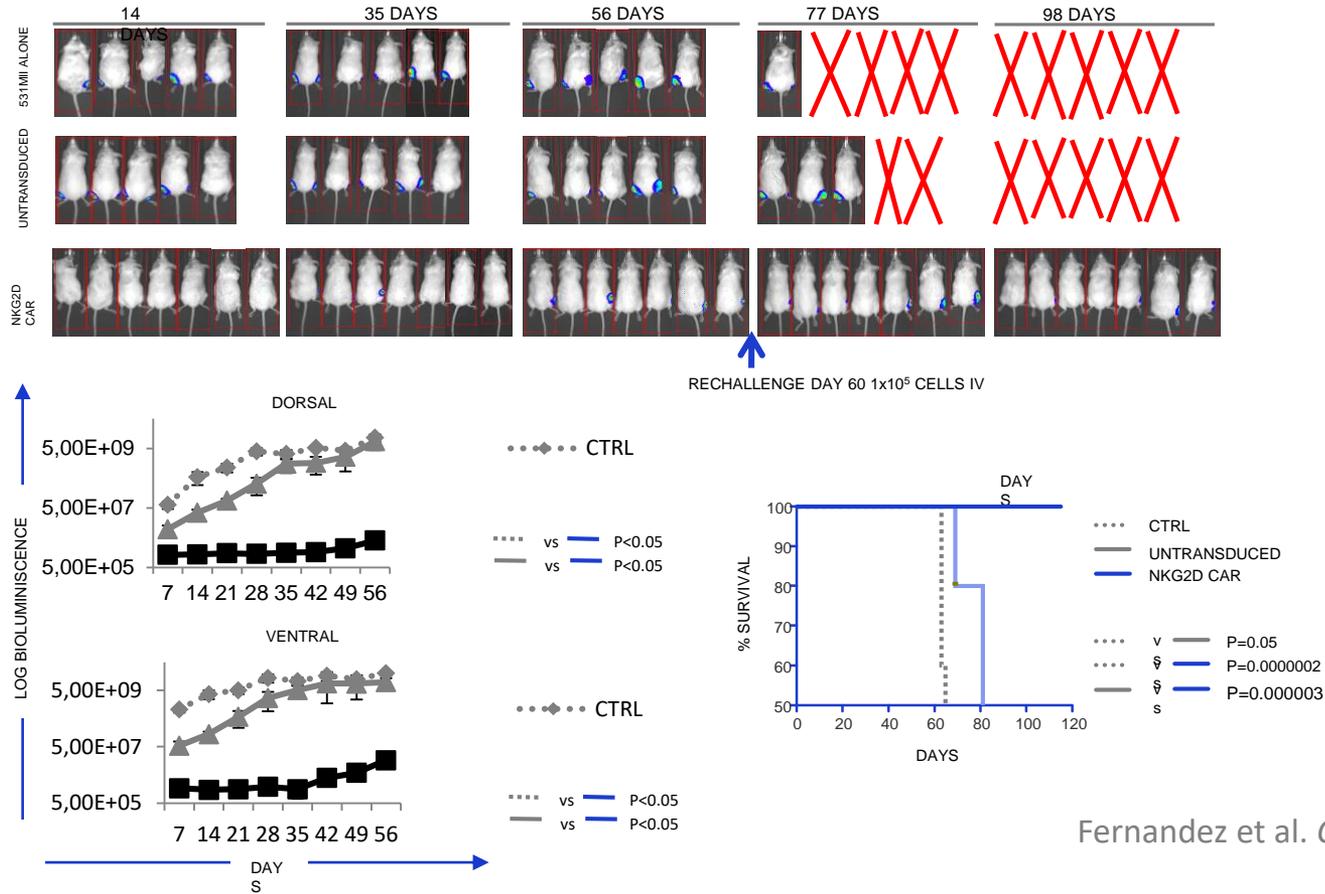


1 CD19+  
 15 CD19-  
 No CNS relapse

N Engl J Med 2018;378:439-48.

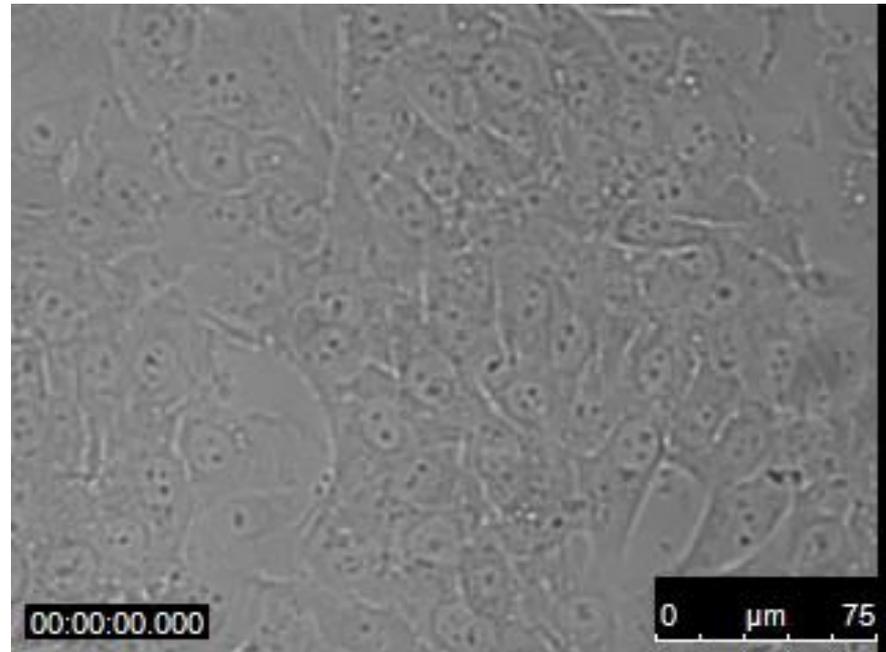
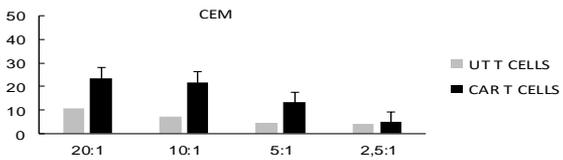
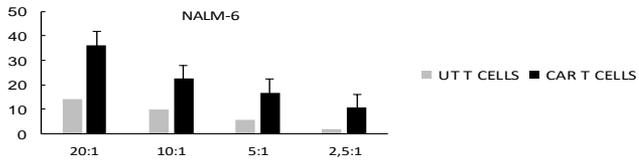
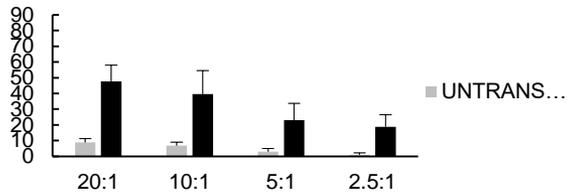


## The T-NK approach: opportunity and innovation



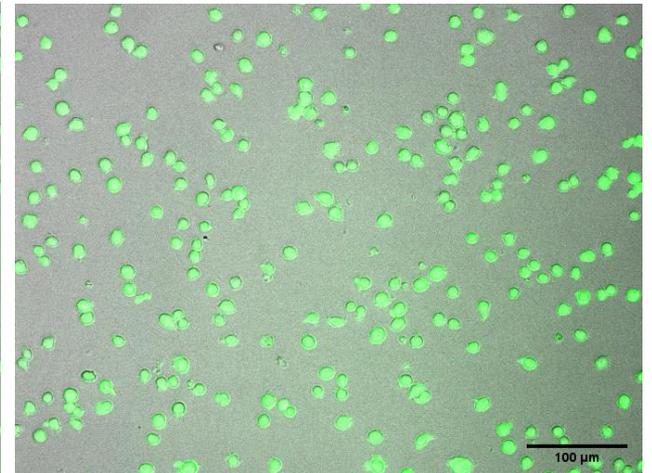
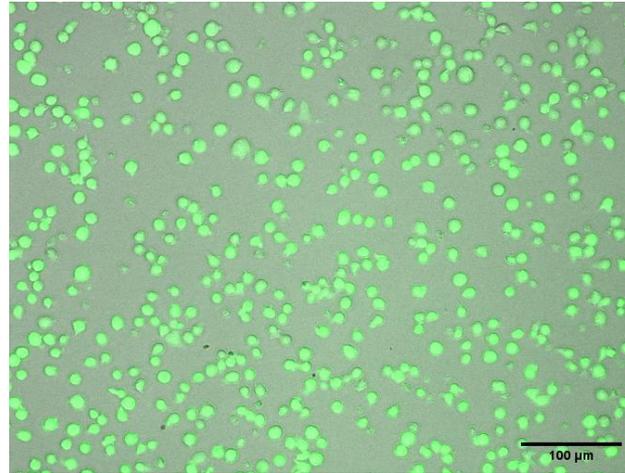
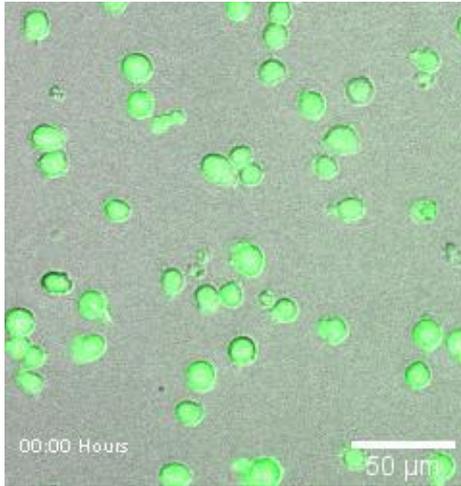
Fernandez et al. *Clin Can Res* 2016

## The T-NK approach against solid tumours



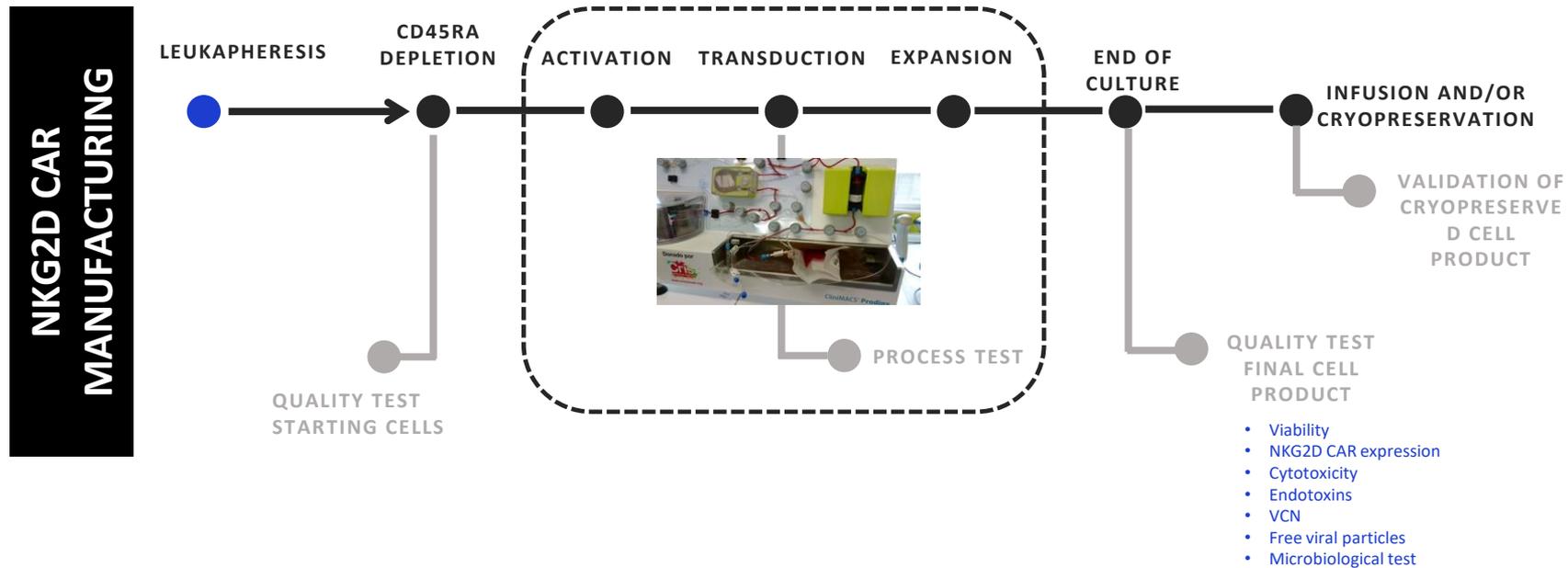
Pérez Martínez et al. *GECAR* 2019

## The T-NK approach against non B acute Leukemia



Pérez Martínez et al. *GECAR* 2019

# Clinical grade automated production of NKG2D-CAR T cells



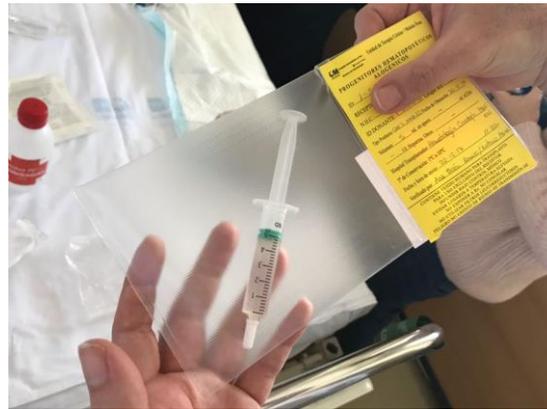
## Characteristics of manufactured NKG2D-CAR T cells

Test	Specification	1-565-2	1-518-3	1-595
Number of cells (x10 <sup>6</sup> )	N/A	2740	2140	1350
Cell viability	≥60%	65%	81.4%	82%
NKG2D expression	≥50%	55%	87.4%	91%
Potency	vs. Jurkat: ≥20% vs. 531MII: ≥20%	vs. Jurkat: 100% vs. 531MII: 20%	vs. Jurkat: 80% vs. 531MII: 42%	vs. Jurkat: N/A vs. 531MII: N/A
Mycoplasma/Sterility	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
Endotoxins	< 0.25 EU/ml	0.019 EU/ml	0.0035 EU/ml	0.01 EU/ml
Genome integrated copy/cell	≤ 5 copies/cell	3.62	12.32	2.43
Oncogenic gene expression (myc, tert)	No overexpression	No overexpression	No overexpression	Myc overexpression
Genetic stability	Normal CGH	Normal CGH	Normal CGH	Normal CGH



CliniMACS Prodigy (Miltenyi Biotec)

## CART cells can be produced “in house”



## Cell and advanced therapies for children with cancer

1. A dream comes true: “Immunotherapy as reality”
2. Immune effector cells as old new drugs for childhood cancer
  - a) The killer cells
  - b) The memory cells
  - c) The cell engineering
3. Hospital needs transformation: Research University Hospital



# Cris Unit for Translational Research and Advanced Therapies



Instituto de Investigación Hospital Universitario La Paz (IdiPAZ)  
 Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncológicas (CNIO)

**Experimentación preclínica**  
 Actividad anti tumoral de los linfocitos T de memoria CAR-NKG2D



Comunidad científica

**Publicaciones**  
 Fernández et al. Clin. Cancer Res. 2017 (D1)

Ud. Terapias Avanzadas (Hospital La Paz)  
**Producción celular**  
 Células T memoria CAR-NKG2D a escala clínica



UNIDAD DE HEMATO-ONCOLOGÍA PEDIÁTRICA

## TRATAMIENTOS PERSONALIZADOS

### Pacientes

Leucemia refractaria tratamientos convencionales

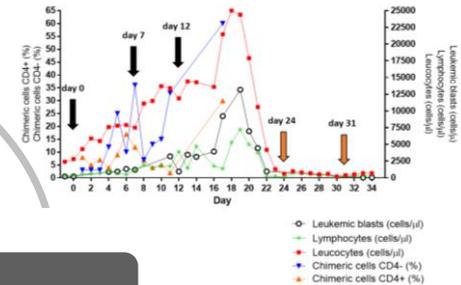


Ud. Calidad Terapias avanzadas (Hospital La Paz)

**Agencias reguladoras**  
 IMPD, Guía de producción

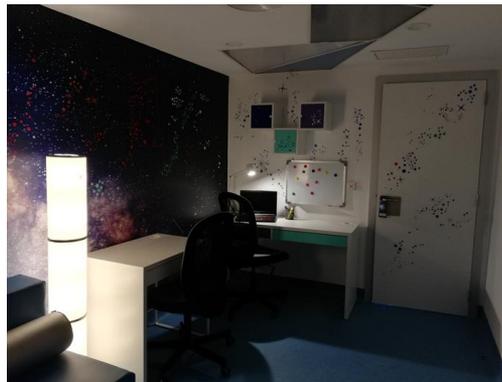
Familias

**Donantes sanos**  
 Selección donante óptimo





## Cris Unit for Translational Research and Advanced Therapies

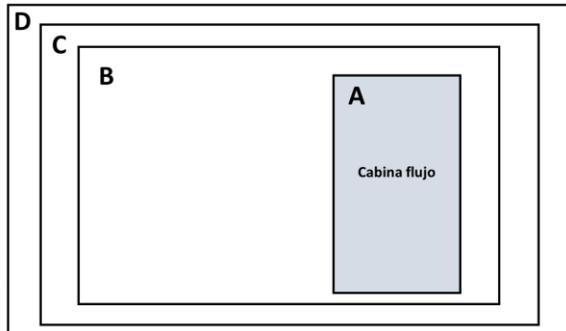




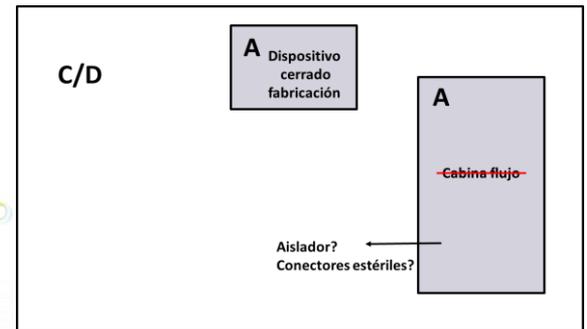
# Cris Unit for Translational Research and Advanced Therapies

## Qualification

➤ GMP facilities

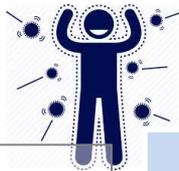


➤ GMP facilities





# Cris Unit for Translational Research and Advanced Therapies



## Inmunoterapy



### Tumor recognition

Especific antigens



### Multiple targets

Multiple cells



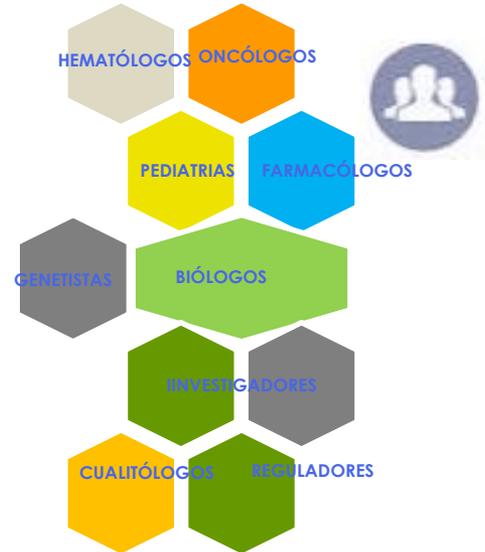
### Tumor burden

Dinamic process



### Response biomarkers

## Multidisciplinary team





## Cris Unit for Translational Research and Advanced Therapies

### Pediatric Hemato-Oncology, Stem Cell Transplantation and Cell Therapy Group

Departamento de Inmunidad Innata, Instituto de Investigación del Hospital Universitario La Paz (IdiPAZ)

#### Composición:

- Dr. Antonio Pérez Martínez (IP y facultativo hematooncología infantil)
- Dra. María Vela
- Jaime Valentín
- Pablo González
- Ariadna Brito





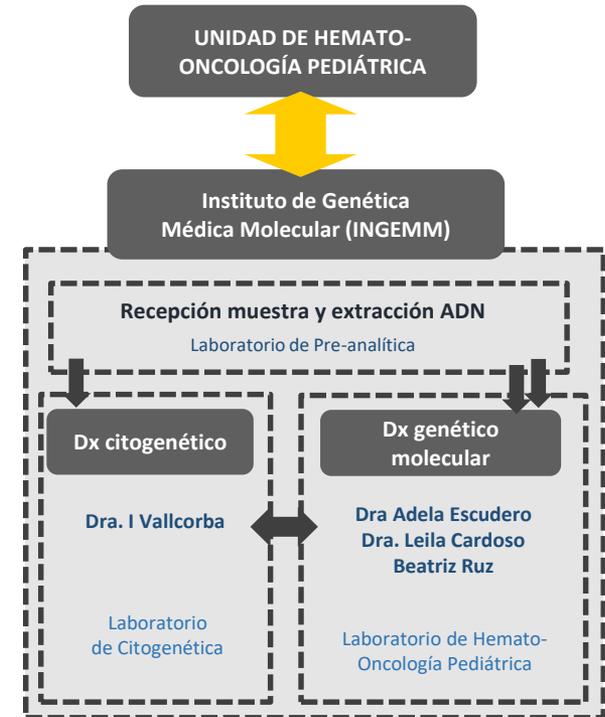
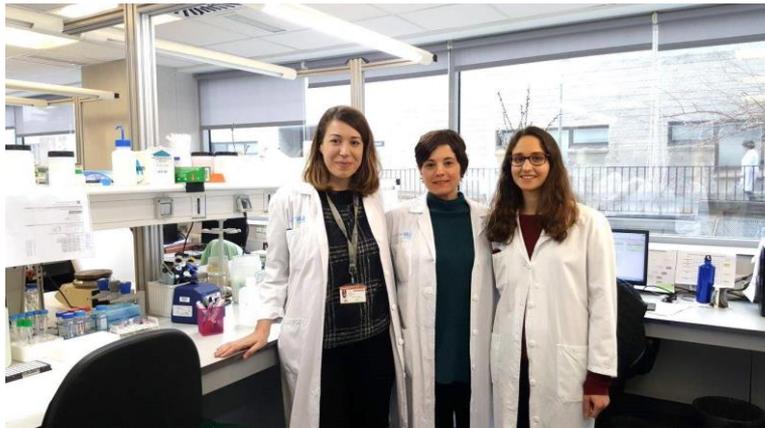
# Cris Unit for Translational Research and Advanced Therapies

## Molecular Pediatric Hemato-Oncology Group

Sección 12, Instituto de Genética Médica y Molecular (INGEMM)

### Composición:

- Dr. Antonio Pérez Martínez (IP y facultativo hemaotoncología infantil)
- Dra. Adela Escudero (Genetista)
- Dra. Leila Cardoso (Genetista/técnico)
- Beatriz Ruz (bioinformática)





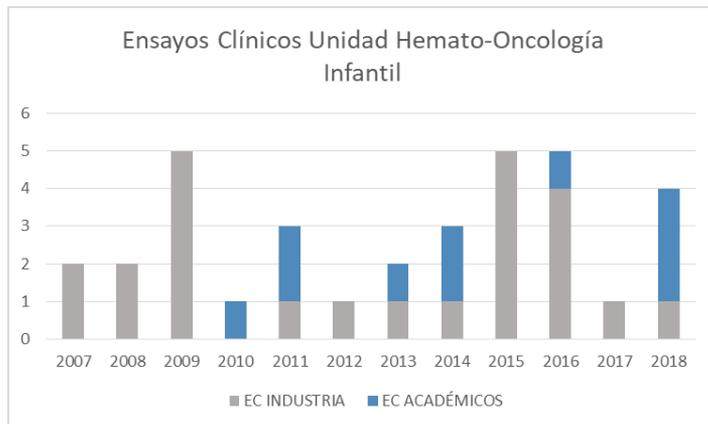
## Cris Unit for Translational Research and Advanced Therapies

### Pediatric Hemato-Oncology, Stem Cell Transplantation and Cell Therapy Early Phase Clinical Trial Unit

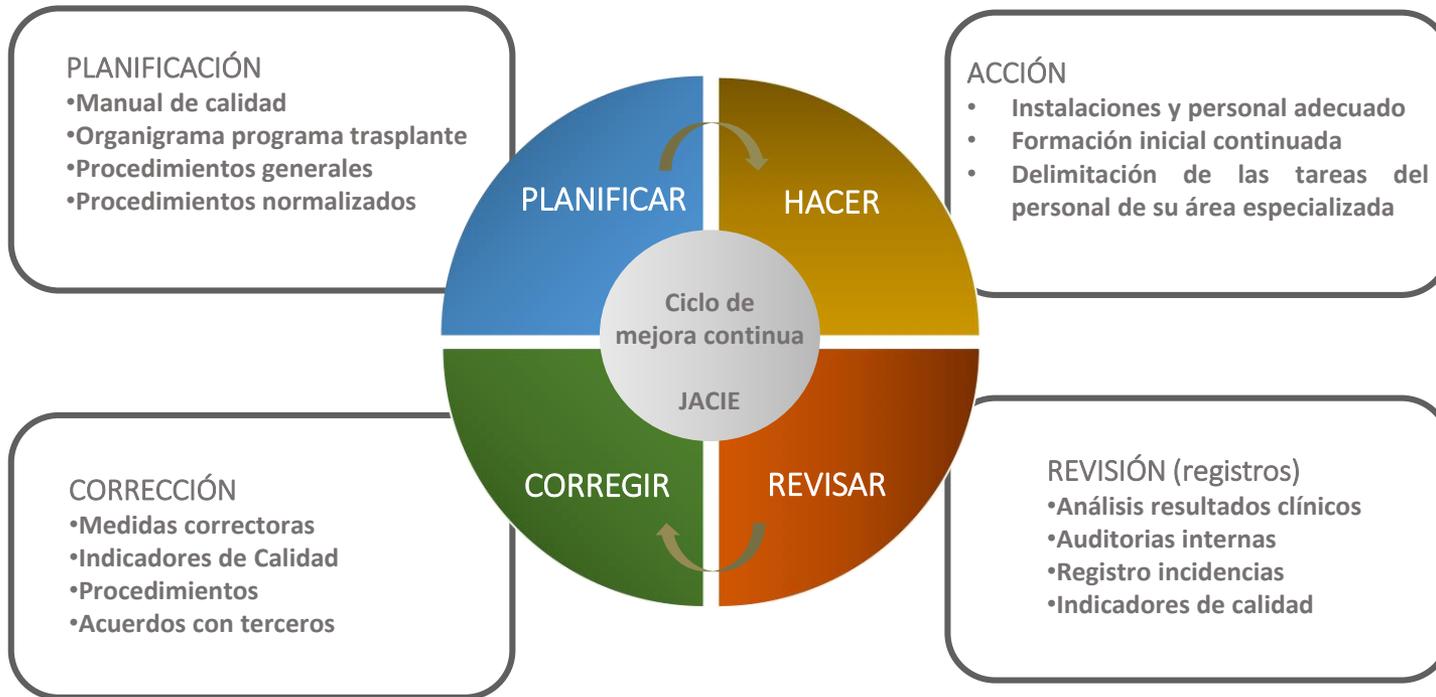
- 37 Ensayos Clínicos en total desde el año 2007 (industria y académicos)
- 15 Ensayos clínicos desde el 2015 en 10 de los cuales el investigador principal es el candidato (industria y académicos)

#### Composición:

- Dr. Antonio Pérez Martínez (IP y facultativo hemaotoncología infantil)
- Mario Muñoz
- Dra. Isabel Mirones Aguilar



## International Standards and Quality Certification (JACIE) in Stem Cell Transplantation and Cell Therapies



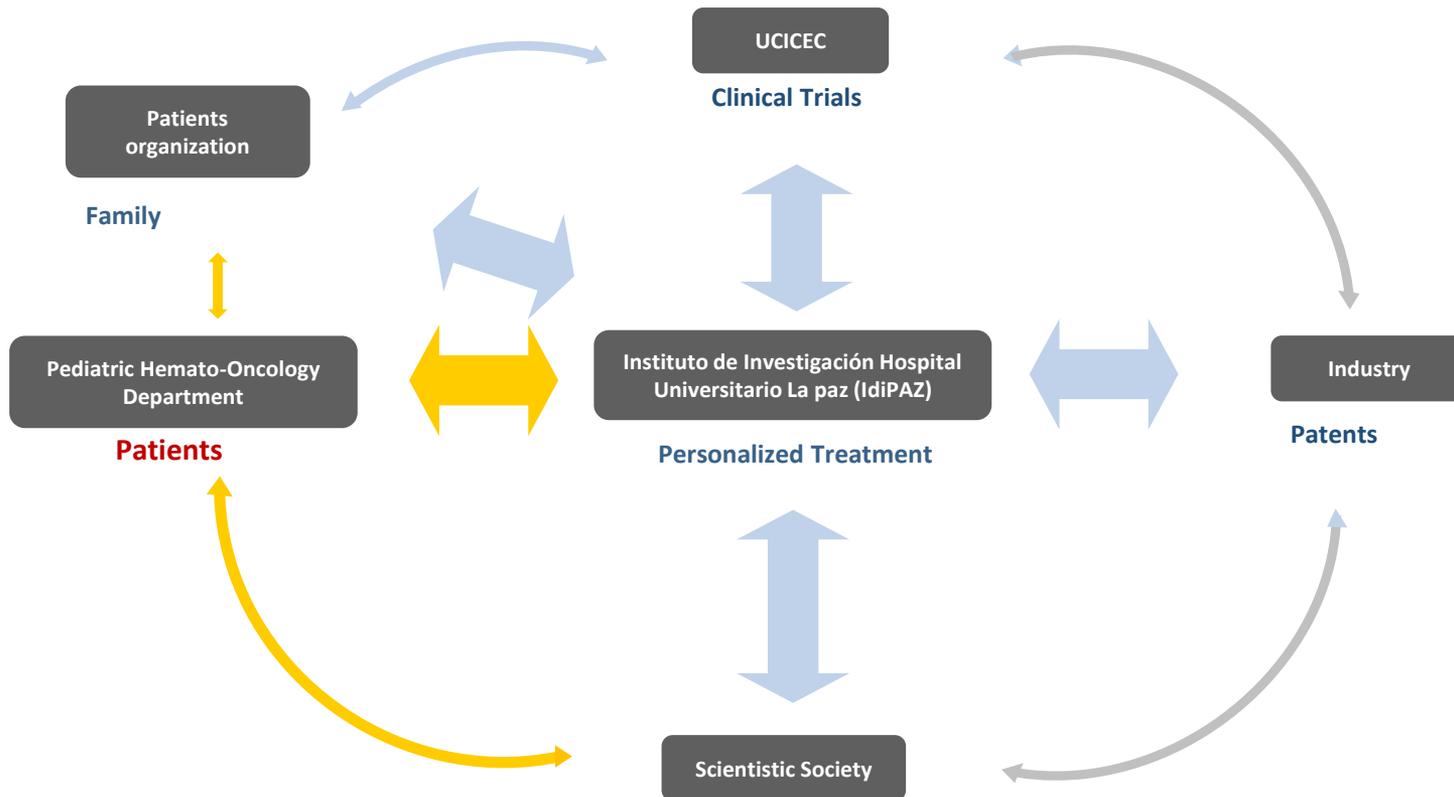
### Composición:

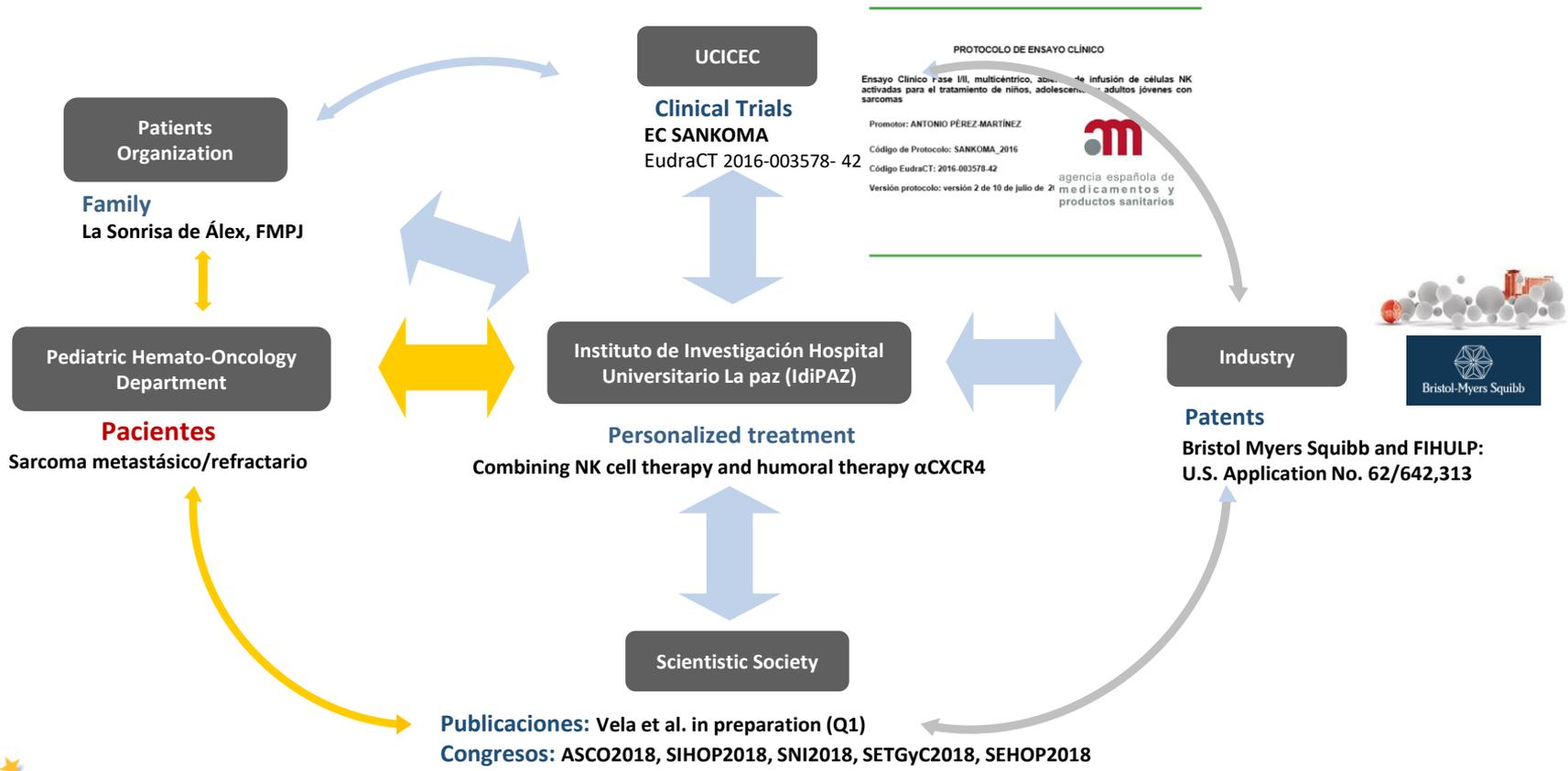
- Dr. Antonio Pérez Marín
- Alba Fernández-Arroyo
- Dra. Isabel Mirones Aguirre





# Cris Unit for Translational Research and Advanced Therapies





Trial name	Title	Code	EudraCT	NCT
<b>HNJ-NK-2009</b>	TRASPLANTE DE PROGENITORES HEMATOPOYÉTICOS E INFUSIÓN DE CÉLULAS NK IL-15 EN TUMORES SÓLIDOS PEDIÁTRICOS REFRACTARIOS	HNJ-NK-01/2009	2009-010186-23	NCT01337544
<b>HNJ-NKAES-2012</b>	INFUSIÓN DE <u>CÉLULAS NATURAL KILLER EN COMBINACIÓN CON QUIMIOTERAPIA EN PACIENTES PEDIÁTRICOS CON LEUCEMIA/LINFOMA T REFRACTARIA</u>	HJN-NKAES-2012	2012-000054-63	NCT01944982
<b>LYDIA</b>	LANK-2: INMUNOTERAPIA CON <u>CÉLULAS NATURAL KILLER ACTIVADAS Y EXPANDIDAS JUNTO CON QUIMIOTERAPIA DE RESCATE EN NIÑOS, ADOLESCENTES Y ADULTOS JÓVENES CON LEUCEMIA AGUDA EN RECAIDA O REFRACTARIEDAD</u>	LANK-2	2012-005146-38	NCT02074657
<b>LYDIA II</b>	FASE II: INFUSION DE CÉLULAS NATURAL KILLER COMO TRATAMIENTO DE CONSOLIDACION EN NINOS Y ADOLESCENTES CON LEUCEMIA MIELOBLÁSTICA AGUDA	NKCell_LMA_2015	2015-001901-1	NCT02763475
<b>SANKOMA</b>	ENSAYO CLÍNICO FASE I/II, MULTICÉNTRICO, ABIERTO, DE INFUSIÓN DE CÉLULAS NATURAL KILLER ACTIVADAS PARA EL TRATAMIENTO DE NIÑOS, ADOLESCENTES Y ADULTOS JÓVENES CON SARCOMAS	SANKOMA_2016	2016-003578-42	No disponible
<b>GABY</b>	<u>RECEPTOR ANTIGÉNICO QUIMÉRICO NKG2D PARA EL TRATAMIENTO DE PACIENTES PEDIÁTRICOS CON LEUCEMIA AGUDA Y LEUCEMIA MIELOMONOCÍTICA JUVENIL: VALIDACIÓN A ESCALA CLÍNICA Y PRIMER ESTUDIO DE SEGURIDAD EN PACIENTES</u>	No disponible	No disponible	No disponible
<b>PHINK</b>	INFUSIÓN DE CÉLULAS NATURAL KILLER ALOREACTIVAS O ESTIMULADAS TRAS TRASPLANTE HAPLOIDÉNTICO DE PROGENITORES HEMATOPOYÉTICOS EN PACIENTES PEDIÁTRICOS CON NEOPLASIAS HEMATOLOGICAS	No disponible	No disponible	No disponible

## Conclusion

- 1. Immunotherapy as new treatment reality**
- 2. Immune effector cells as old but new drugs for childhood cancer**
- 3. Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation developing to a Cell Therapy**
- 4. Hospital needs transformation towards a Research University Hospital**
- 5. Industry and Academic Alliance are needed**



***“ The cure of cancer starts with research ”***

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**RESEARCH (CNIO)**

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**PEDIATRIC HEMATO-ONCOLOGY**



**RAPY**



# TEDDY – European Network of Excellence for Paediatric Clinical Research

## Cell and advanced therapies for children with cancer “Cells4kids”



Antonio Pérez-Martínez<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Translational Research in Pediatric Oncology, Hematopoietic Transplantation and Cell Therapy Unit, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid (Spain),  
<sup>2</sup>Instituto de Genética Médica y Molecular (INGEMM), Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid (Spain), <sup>3</sup>Profesor Titular de Pediatría de la UAM, <sup>4</sup>Jefe de Servicio de Hemato-Oncología Pediátrica, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid (Spain)

