



Antoni Caralps



Josep Maria Subirachs (1927-2014)



1985

Lessons and consequences in the evolution of immunosuppression in organ transplantation



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Eras in
Immunosuppression
in Transplantation

Conventional IS (AZA-ST)

Calcineurin inhibitor era :
CsA and tacrolimus

Rationally designed IS
(MOA)

Conventional Immunosuppression (AZA+ ST) (1964- 1980)

Adrenal cortical
steroids: Kendall's
compound E:
'cortisone' (1953)

anti-inflammatory effects
(Rheumatology...)

- A 'wonder drug'
- Medicine before and after
steroids

From 6- mercaptopurine
(antineoplastic drug) to
azathioprine

REVIEW

Diamonds are forever: the cortisone legacy

Stephen G Hillier 2007

National Research
Council Conference
(Washington 1963)

AZA + steroids (Starzl 1963)

Very well known limitations

CNI and MMF

Reduction of rejection rates

Toxicities

Metabolic and CV morbidity

Malignancies (+BKVi)

Transplantation: from an 'acute' to a 'chronic' clinical entity

Need for improved outcomes in the mid, long-term

Acute rejection: not enough appropriate for evaluating the benefits of a new drug/ IS regime

Endpoints

Empirical IS minimization strategies

ST withdrawal

CNI minimization

CNI withdrawal

Trial and error approach

The success of the Symphony trial

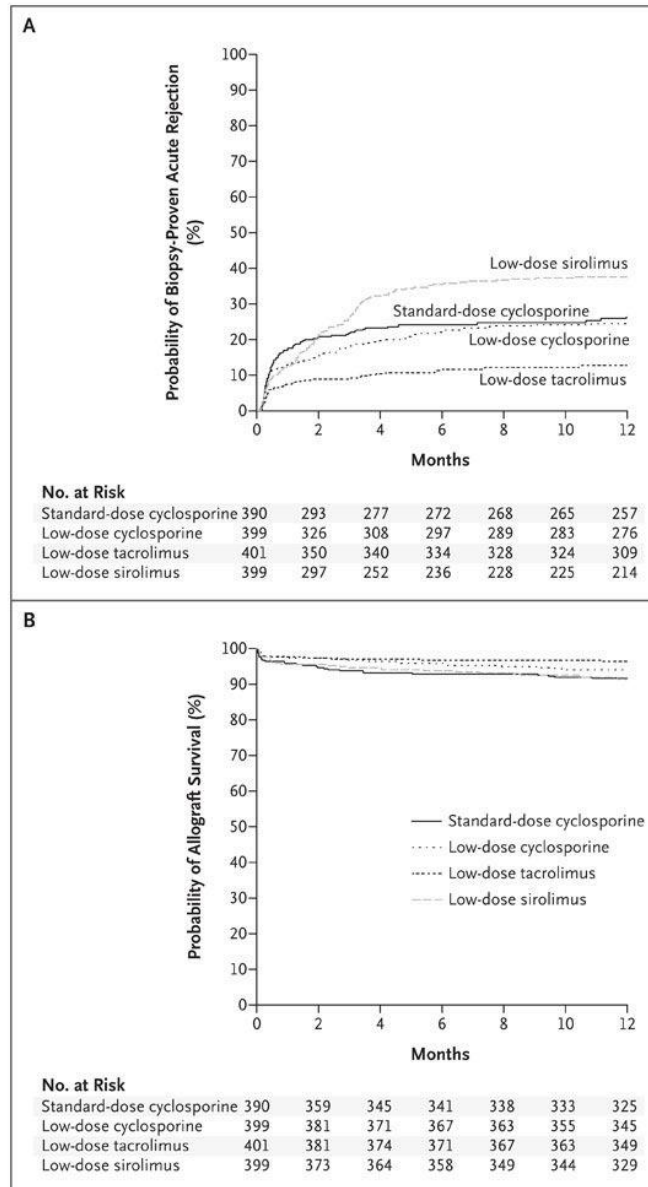
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Reduced Exposure to Calcineurin Inhibitors in Renal Transplantation

Henrik Ekberg, M.D., Ph.D., Helio Tedesco-Silva, M.D., Alper Demirbas, M.D., Štefan Vitko, M.D., Björn Nashan, M.D., Ph.D., Alp Gürkan, M.D., F.A.C.S., Raimund Margreiter, M.D., Christian Hugo, M.D., Josep M. Grinyó, M.D., Ulrich Frei, M.D., Yves Vanrenterghem, M.D., Ph.D., Pierre Daloze, M.D., and Philip F. Halloran, M.D., Ph.D., for the ELITE–Symphony Study*

Tac levels 3-7 ng/ml

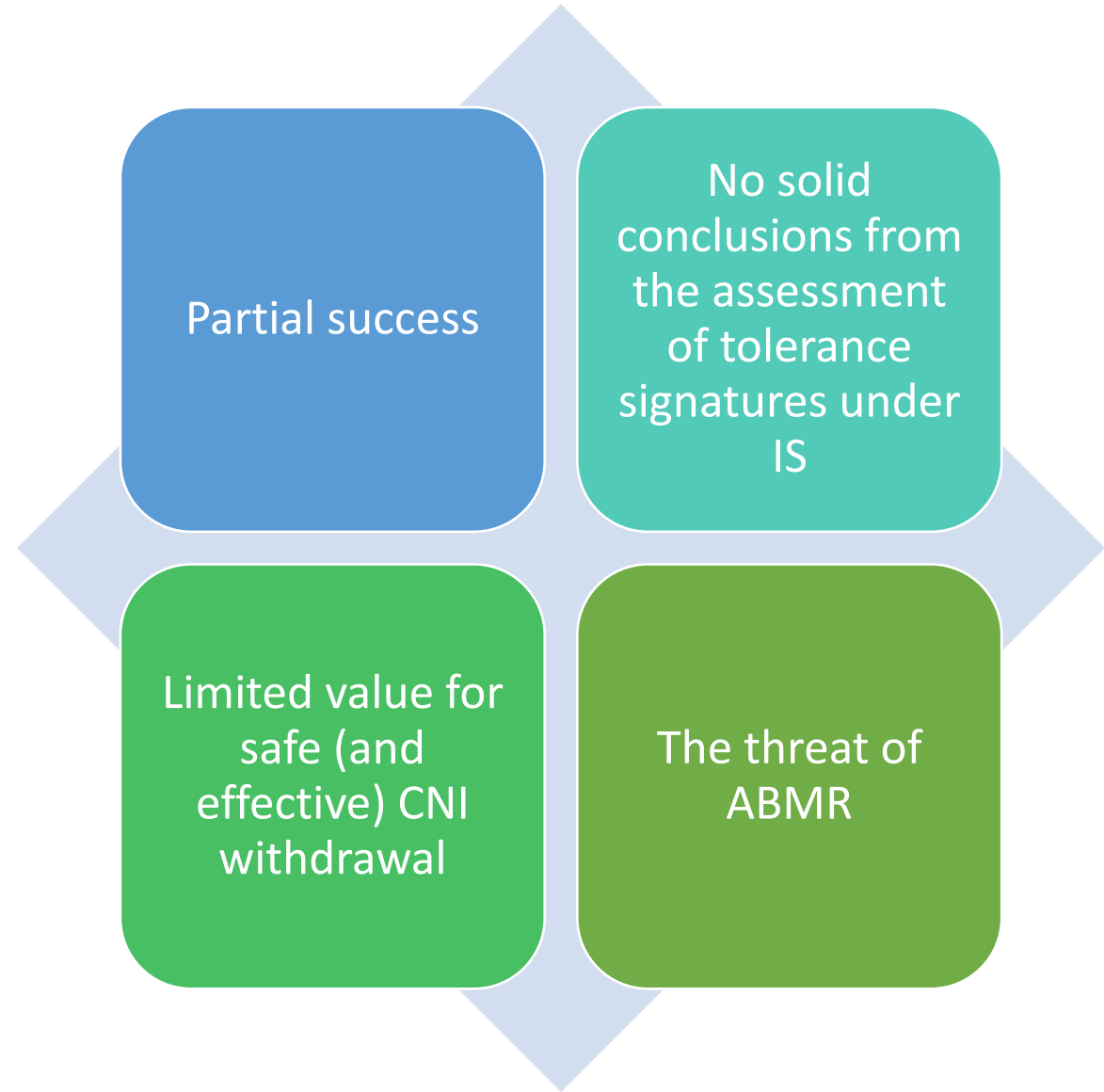


The threat of ABMR



Back to more conventional CNI doses and exposures?

Biomarker-driven IS
minimization/withdrawal



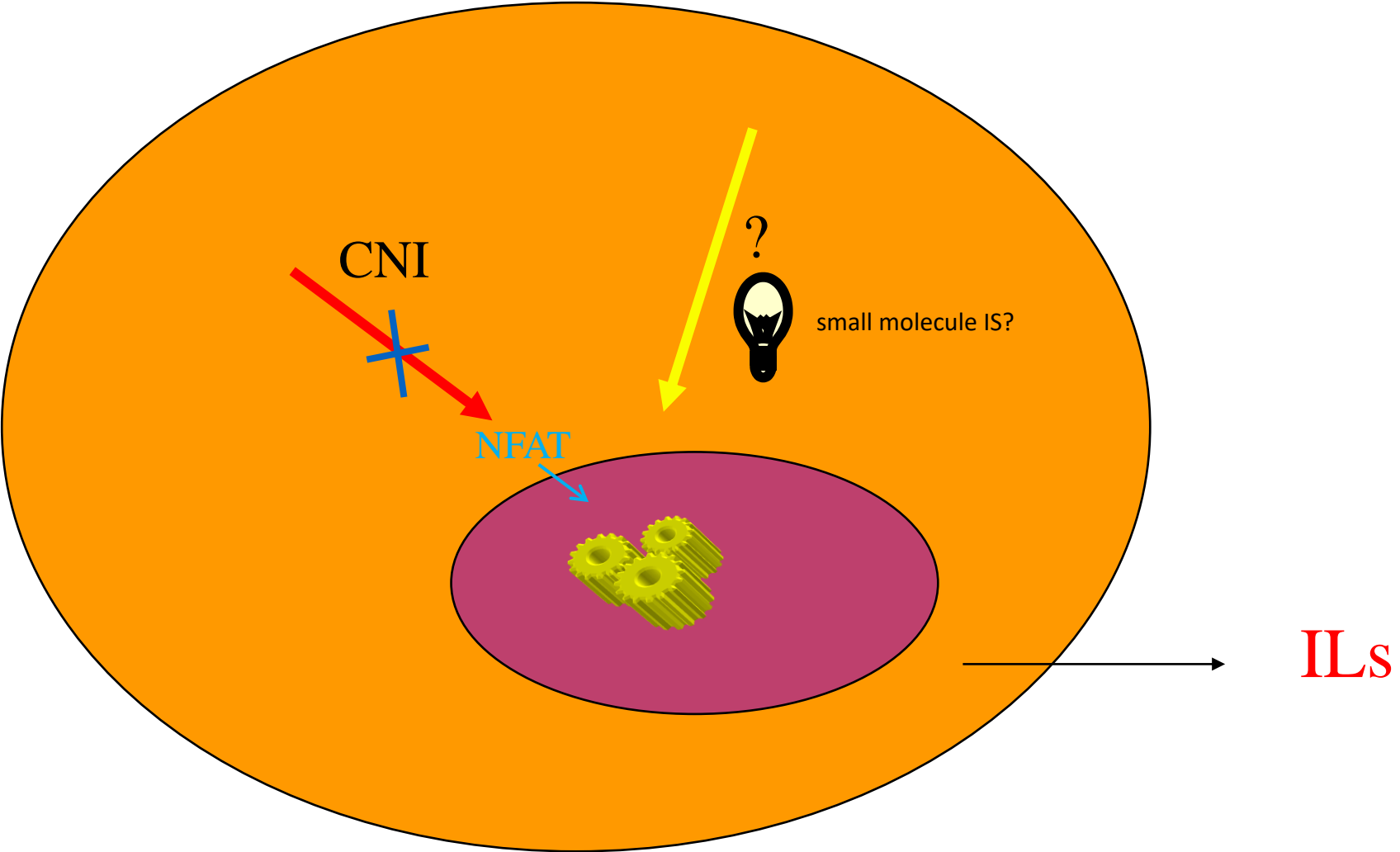
.....in parallel

IS drug development in transplantation in the last decade

- DSG analogues
- FK778
- FTY 720
- Anti-CD40L mAb
- Alefacept
- Sotrastaurin
- CsA analogs
- JAK3 inhibitors

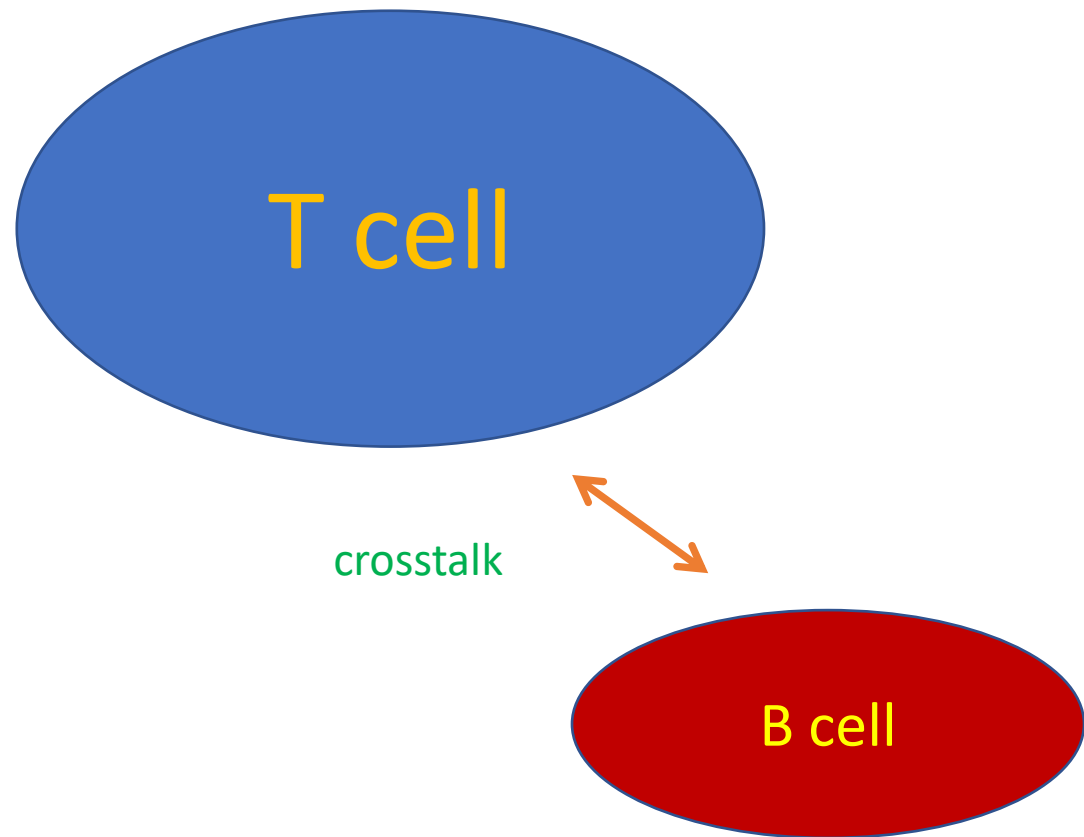


Sotrastaurin (PKCi): inhibition of T cell activation



Efficacy failure in RT

Historical imbalance between T and B cells



- Pathophysiology of allograft reaction
- BMK development for transplant monitoring (beyond anti-HLA Ab)
- IS drug development
- IS borrowed from myeloma
- Better knowledge of B cell effects of T-cell-oriented IS agents

mAbs: antagonism or agonism?

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

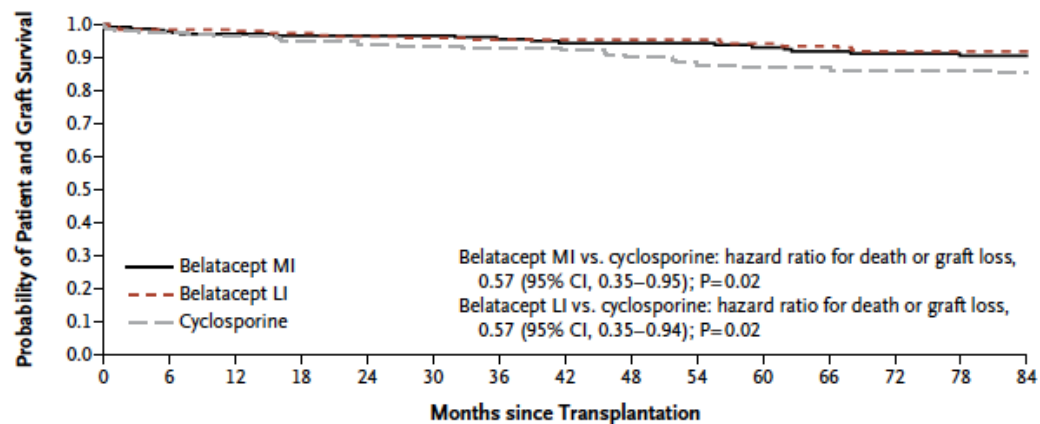
BRIEF REPORT

Cytokine Storm in a Phase 1 Trial of the Anti-CD28 Monoclonal Antibody TGN1412

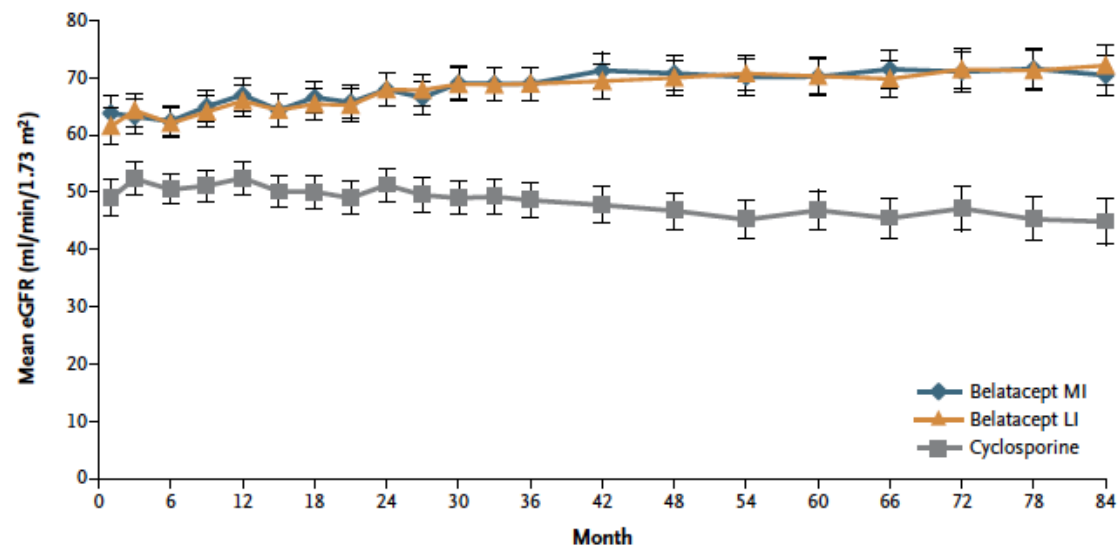
Ganesh Suntharalingam, F.R.C.A., Meghan R. Perry, M.R.C.P.,
Stephen Ward, F.R.C.A., Stephen J. Brett, M.D., Andrew Castello-Cortes, F.R.C.A.,
Michael D. Brunner, F.R.C.A., and Nicki Panoskaltsis, M.D., Ph.D.



The story of Belatacept
(after phase III BENEFIT trials)



No. at Risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84
Belatacept MI	219	212	208	206	204	202	199	153	151	149	146	142	135	131	128
Belatacept LI	226	220	218	216	213	209	204	165	161	159	152	151	142	139	137
Cyclosporine	221	208	206	202	199	197	186	137	123	117	112	107	102	100	92



Belatacept and Long-Term Outcomes in Kidney Transplantation

Flavio Vincenti, M.D., Lionel Rostaing, M.D., Ph.D., Joseph Grinyo, M.D., Ph.D.,
 Kim Rice, M.D., Steven Steinberg, M.D., Luis Gaité, M.D.,
 Marie-Christine Moal, M.D., Guillermo A. Mondragon-Ramirez, M.D.,
 Jatin Kothari, M.D., Martin S. Polinsky, M.D., Herwig-Ulf Meier-Kriesche, M.D.,
 Stephane Munier, M.Sc., and Christian P. Larsen, M.D., Ph.D.

The story of Belatacept

Inconveniencies

- Cost
- IV route administration
- Early TCMR

Advantages

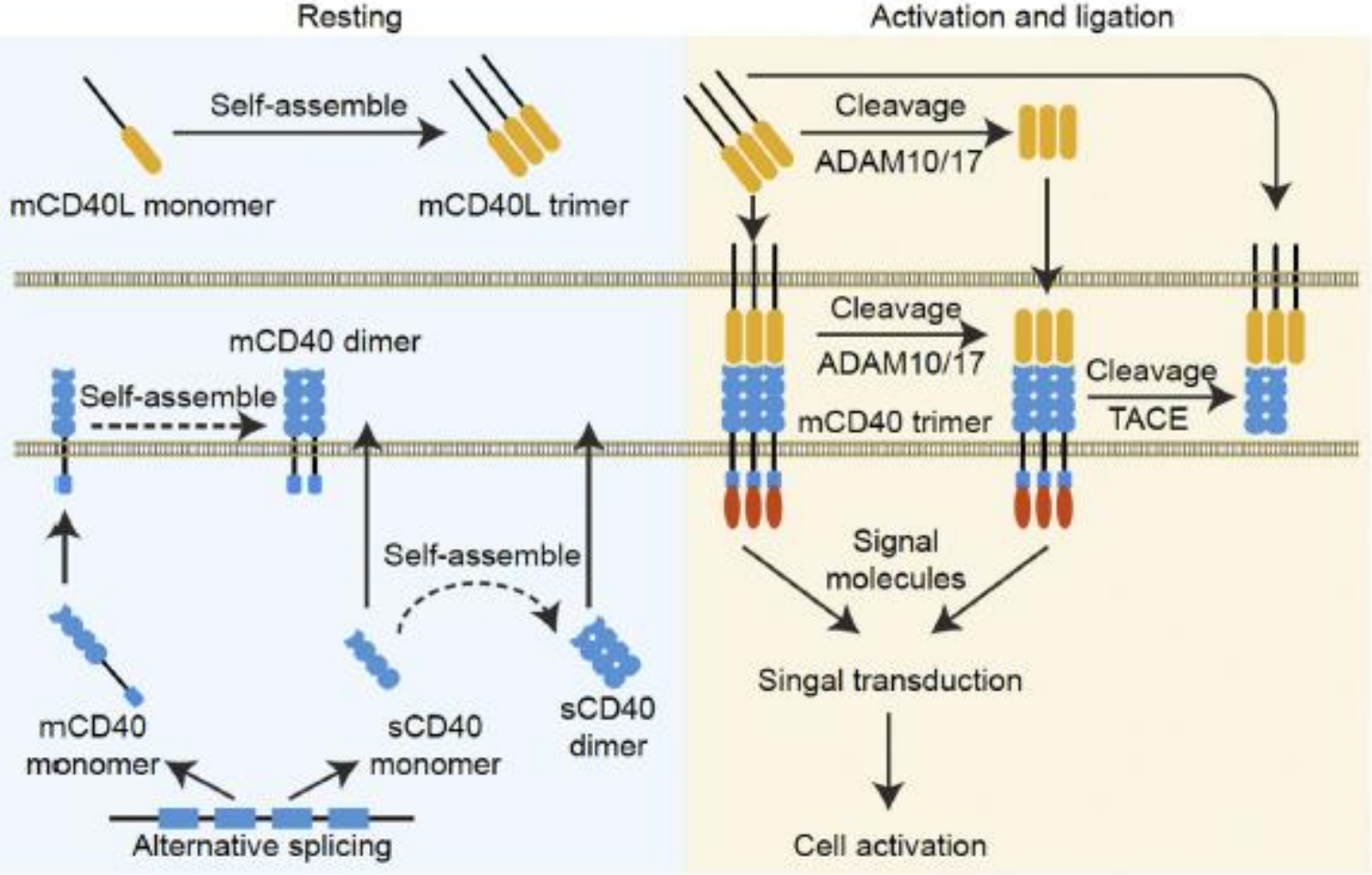
- Improved outcomes
- Safety profile
- Reduction of the novo DSA
- Mechanistic properties
- Compliance

Belatacept

- De novo use trials in DGF (PNF)
- High KDPI kidneys of high risk patients
- Desensitization studies/ABMR with MOA-supported drug combinations.
- Conversion studies.
- Support Investigator-driven studies (dosage, PD)
- Consensus guidelines

The targeting of CD40/CD40L pathway

CD40/CD40L checkpoint molecules processing and interaction



α CD40L mAbs

- hu5c8 (Ruplizumab)
- ABI793
- BG9588



Thrombosis
Fc dependent (FcγRs)

epitope
epitope
epitope



Engineering of a Novel Anti-CD40L Domain Antibody for Treatment of Autoimmune Diseases

Jenny H. Xie,* Aaron P. Yamniuk,[†] Virna Borowski,* Robert Kuhn,* Vojkan Susulic,* Sandra Rex-Rabe,* Xiaoxia Yang,* Xiadi Zhou,* Yifan Zhang,* Kathleen Gillooly,* Ruth Brosius,* Rathna Ravishankar,* Kimberly Waggle,[‡] Kathy Mink,[‡] Laura Price,* Robert Rehfuss,* James Tamura,[†] Yongmi An,[†] Lin Cheng,[†] Bozena Abramczyk,[†] Olga Ignatovich,[§] Philip Drew,[§] Steven Grant,[§] James W. Bryson,[†] Suzanne Suchard,* Luisa Salter-Cid,* Steven Nadler,* and Anish Suri*¹

Fc mutation

Lupus (2015) 24, 1045–1056
<http://lup.sagepub.com>

PAPER

First-in-human trial of the safety, pharmacokinetics and immunogenicity of a PEGylated anti-CD40L antibody fragment (CDP7657) in healthy individuals and patients with systemic lupus erythematosus

A Toccoian¹, P Buchan¹, H Kirby¹, J Soranson¹, M Zamacona¹, R Walley¹, N Mitchell¹, E Esfandiari¹, F Wagner² and R Oliver¹

¹UCB Pharma, Slough, UK; and ²Charité Research Organisation GmbH, Germany

Pegylation

Unconclusive results

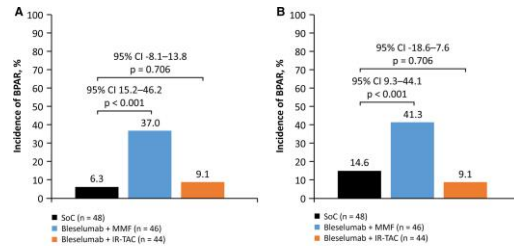
α CD40 mAbs

Bleselumab (non-depleting IgG₄ mAb)

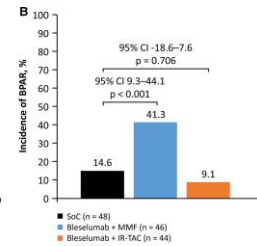
Iscalimab (non-depleting IgG₁ N297A mutation)

Efficacy failure in Cirrus study (2021)

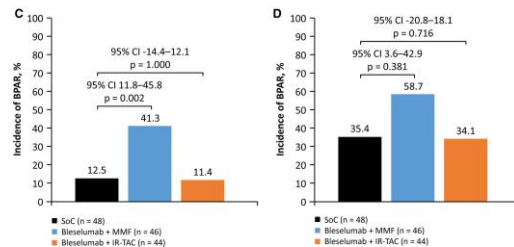
6 mos w/o LTFU



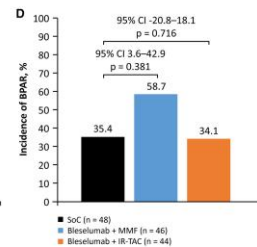
6 mos with LTFU
(as BPAR)



36 mos w/o LTFU



36 mos with LTFU
(as BPAR)

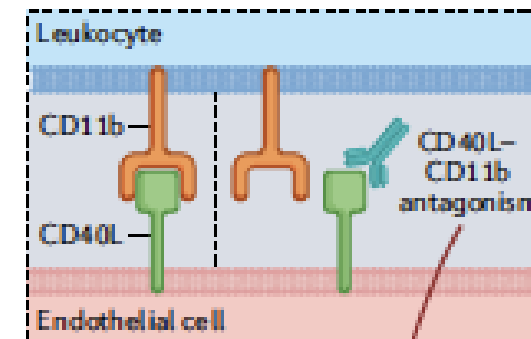
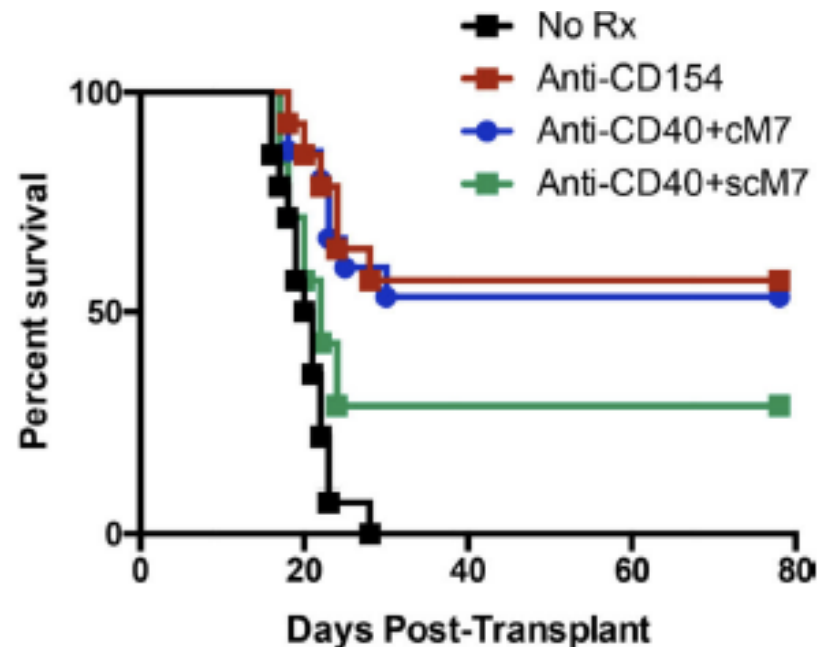
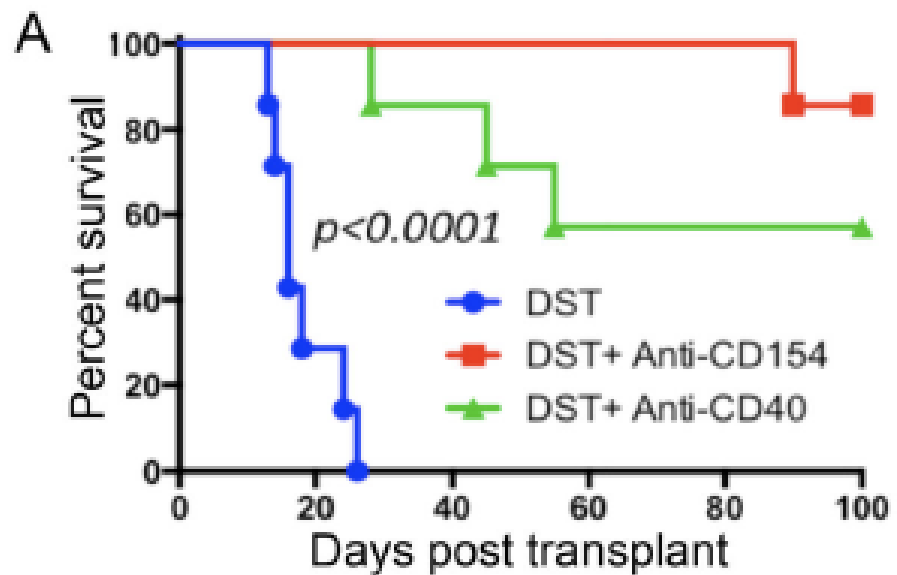


Harland et al. Am J Trans, 2019, DOI: (10.1111/ajt.15591)

Development halted in transplantation

CD11b is a novel alternate receptor for CD154 during alloimmunity

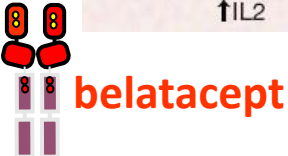
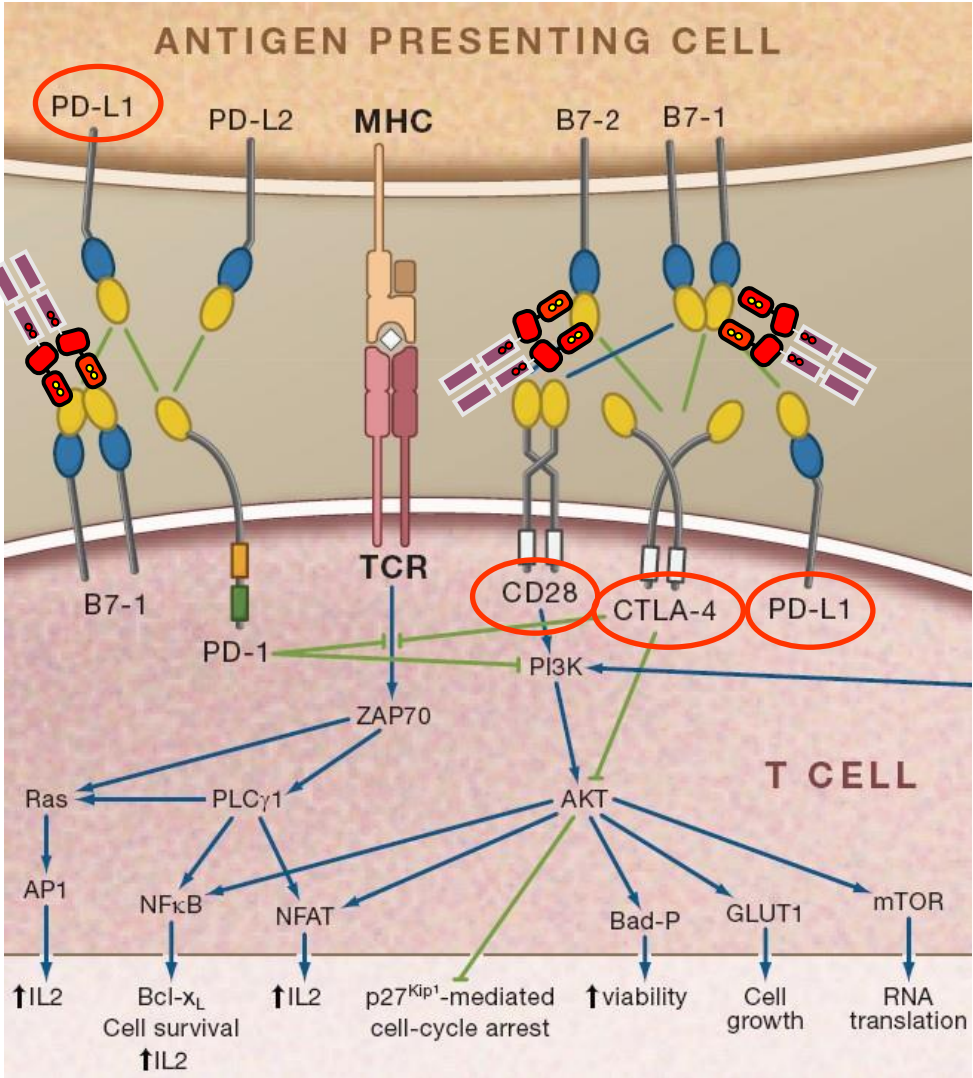
Danya Liu | Mandy L. Ford 



Blocking CD154 interactions with both CD40 and CD11b is required for optimal inhibition of alloimmunity?

Dual targeting for effective immunosuppression?

More AR in Belatacept MI regimen!?



Sharpe et al *Cell* 2009;137:974
Adapted by T. Wekerle

**belatacept =
,anti-B7 compound‘**

APC function



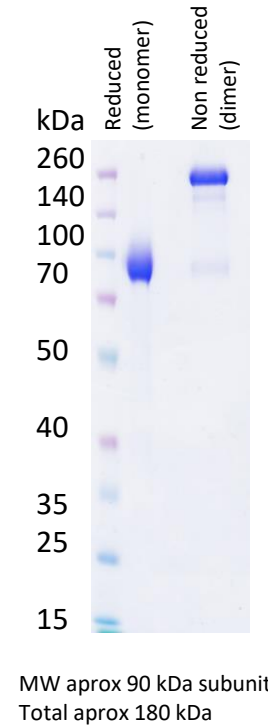
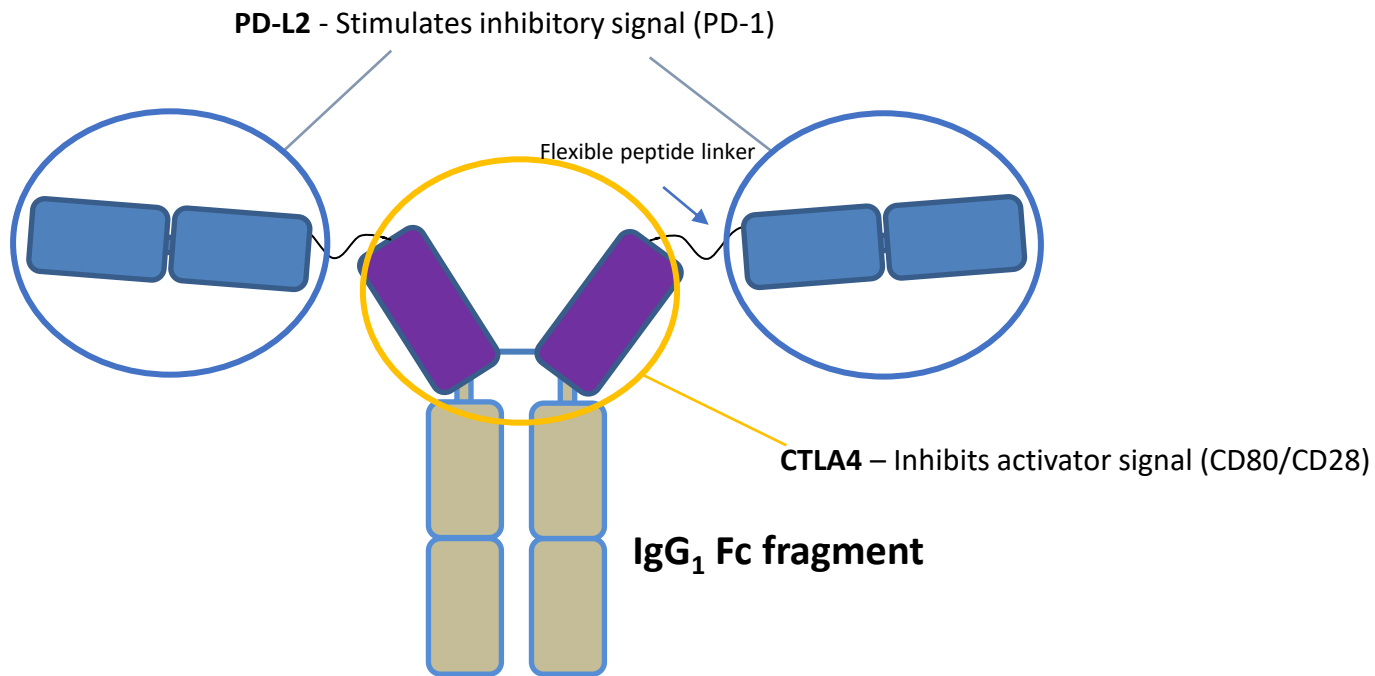
T cell function



**belatacept =
,CD28 blocker‘**

A Human Hybrid Fusion Protein Construct

Dual and opposite costimulatory/coinhibitory targeting



Therapeutic efficacy in experimental models:

- Ischemia reperfusion injury
- Renal allotransplantation
- Murine lupus nephritis

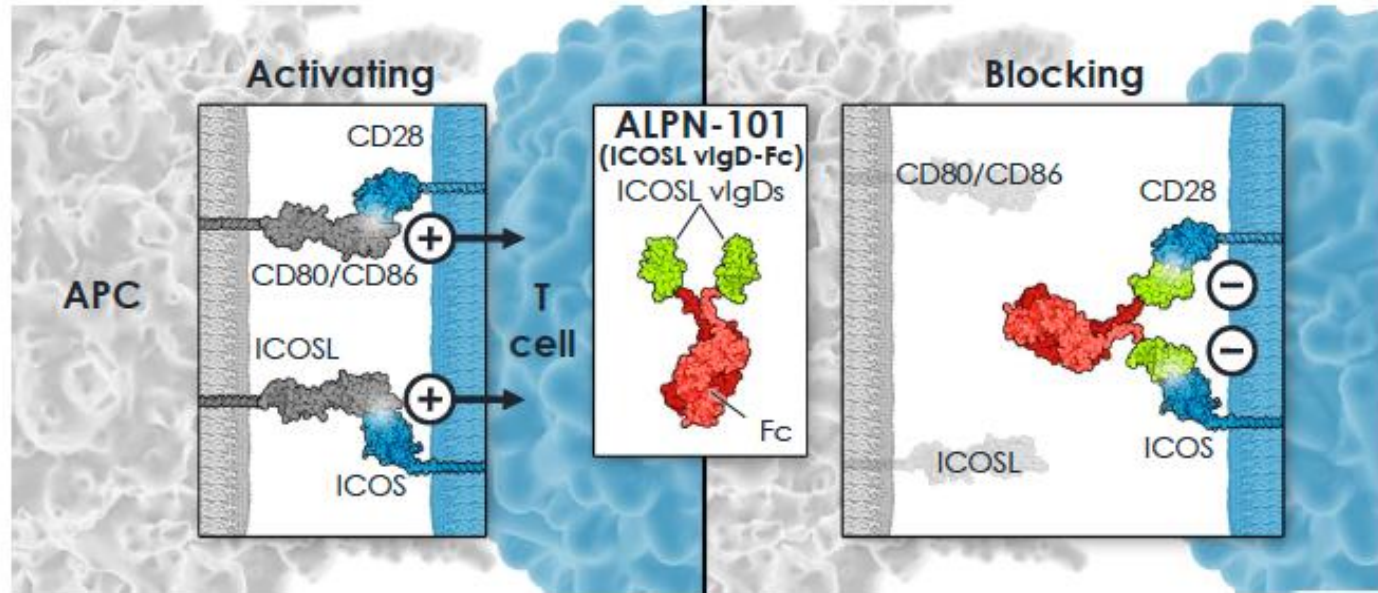
(Guiteras et al. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021; 22: 1216)

(Guiteras et al. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2022; 23: 8411).

Purification > 95%
Estable in human and animal plasma

ExpCHO cells and transient transfection

**Acazicolcept: ICOS ligand and variant Ig domain (ICOSL vIgD-Fc)
(Dual ICOS/CD28 antagonist)**



Therapeutic efficacy in murine models of RA, MS, SS

Serendipity for IS
discovery more
rewarding than rational
design of new IS?





Gaston Bachelard (1884-1962)

L'obstacle épistémologique:

Ce qui vient se placer entre le désir de connaître du scientifique et l'objet qu'il étudie
et l'induit en erreur quant à ce qu'il croit pouvoir savoir du phénomène en question



Jeroni Alsina †



Joan Torras



Alberto M. Castelao



Narcís Serrallach †



Antoni Caralps



Núria Lloberas



Rosa Pérez



Oriol Bestard

