## The "AlloHSCT" and prospects for cellular therapy

**Ghulam J Mufti** 















## Disclosures

 Research funding and advisory board of Celgene, Cellectis, Novartis









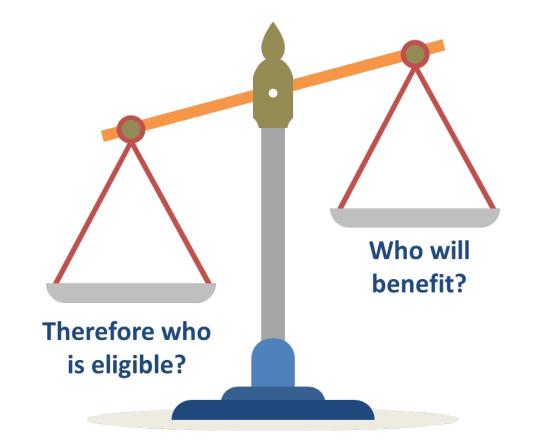
## **Presentation 7: Recent Advances...**

- 5. Case Study Mr X
  - Previously fit, 65 year old man with symptoms of anaemia of 6 month duration.
  - Bone marrow- hypercellular
  - WCC- 1.6x109/l (N=0.3x109/l); Hb- 10.1G/dl; Plts- 21x109/l; Bone marrow blasts- 7%; cytogenetics- 47,XY,+8; Mutation-NRAS(G12A), HCT CI- 1; VUD donor 10/10; CMV -/-

#### **Treatment Option**

- a. Demethylating agents alone
- b. Demethylating agents followed by alloHSCT
- c. Intensive chemotherapy followed by alloHSCT
- d. AlloHSCT with myeloablative conditioning upfront
- e. Reduced Intensity Conditioning with post-transplant MRD monitoring
- f. a, b & c

# Current treatments for MDS fail to cure MDS & only prolong survival by a few months at best



## How can benefits of HSCT best be increased in the context of leukaemia specific immunity



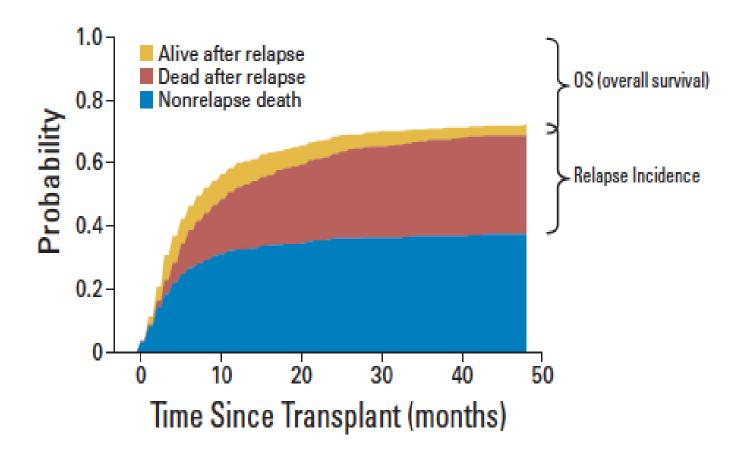






#### **Relapse is the leading cause of treatment failure post HSCT**

## Prevention of relapse post HSCT now the most important challenge in AML/MDS

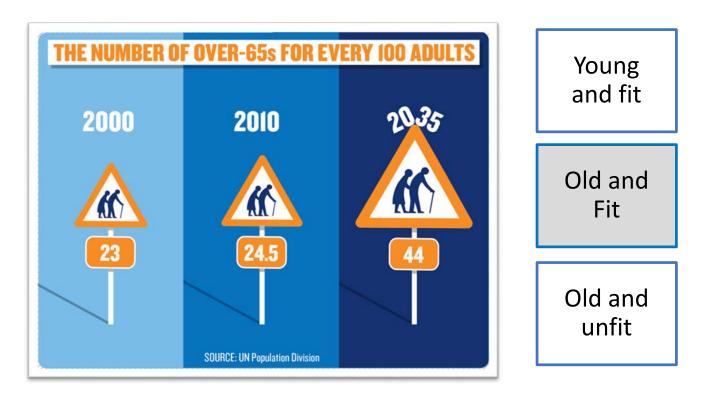








### We have an ageing population



World Population Prospects: the 2017 Revision

Number of older people >60 years — In 2017 = 962 million; 2050 = 2.1 billion; 2100 = 3.1 billion.

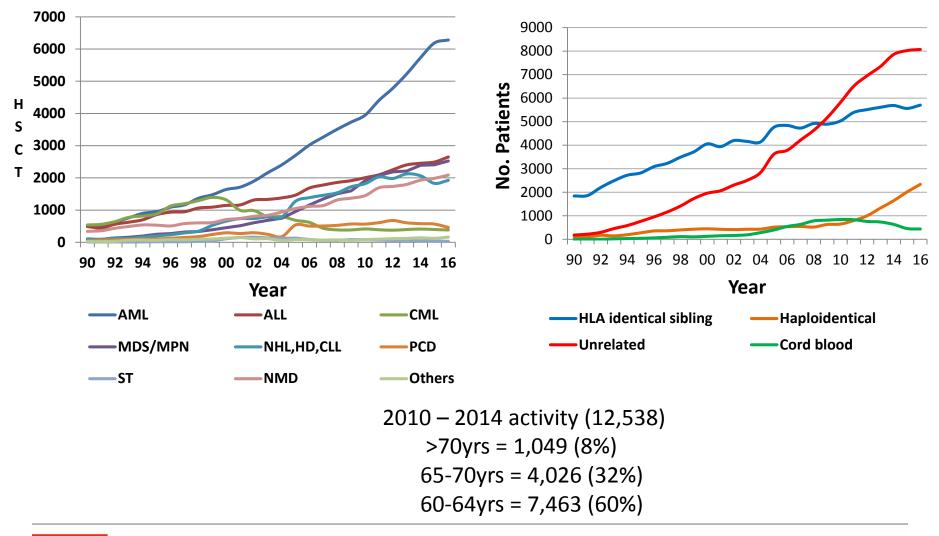
Patients who are eligible for HSCT are increasing due to a fitter population







### HSCT Activity in Europe 1990-2016: Main indications/donor origin: allogeneic 1st. HSCT

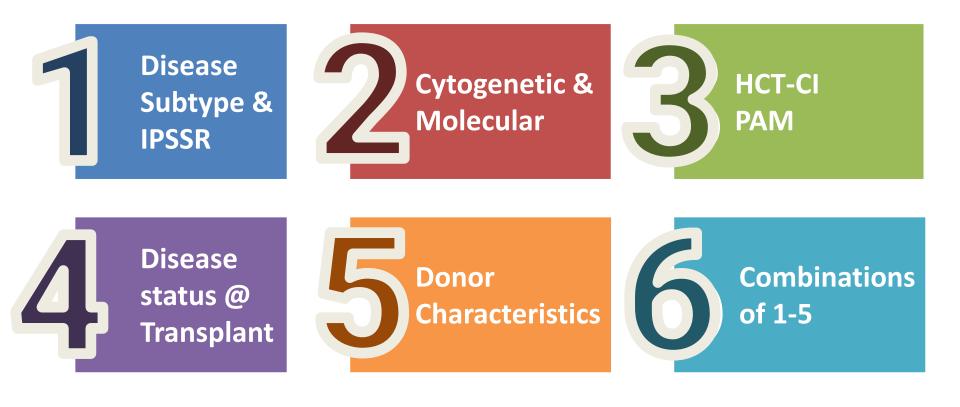








#### How best to select for transplant?



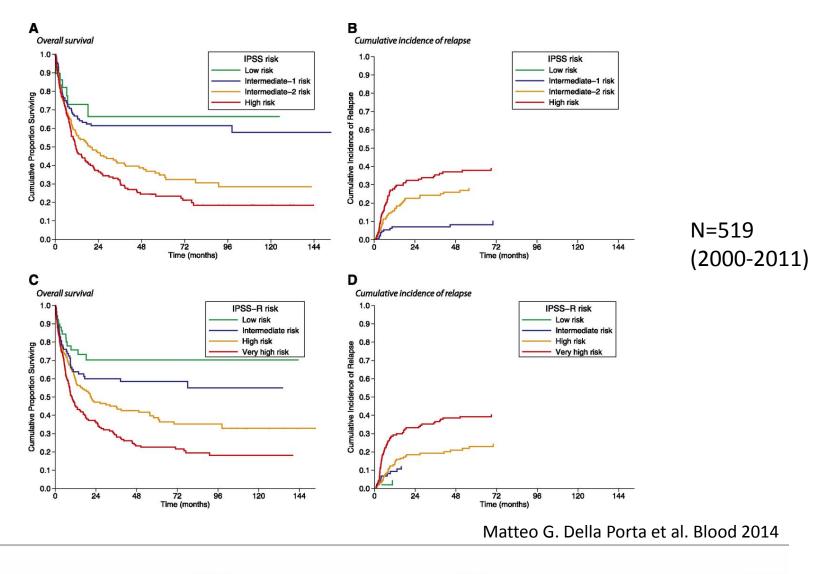








### Kaplan-Meier analysis of OS & CIR following allogeneic HSCT in MDS patients stratified on their pre-transplant IPSS or IPSS-R risk



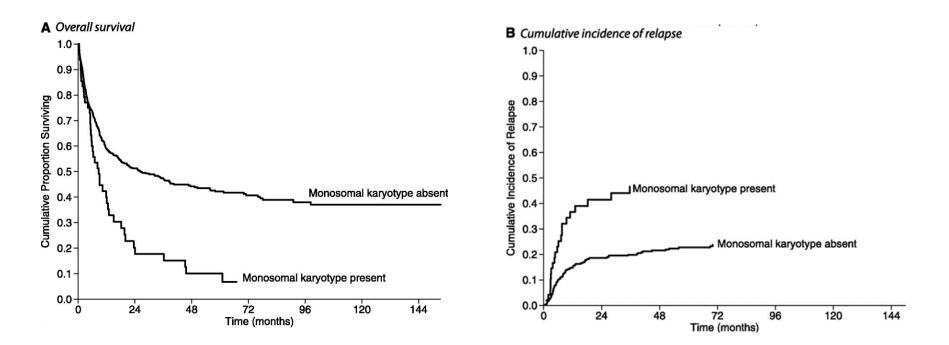




King's College Hospital NHS



# Post-transplant outcome in MDS patients stratified according to the absence or presence of monosomal karyotype



Matteo G. Della Porta et al. Blood 2014

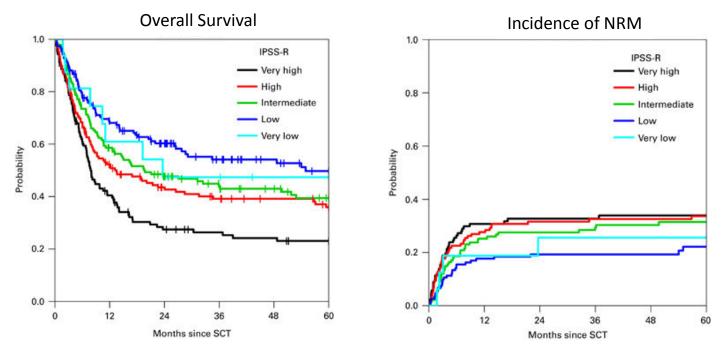








# Retrospective EBMT study of 579 patients confirms validity of IPSS-R at HSCT irrespective of prior therapy



#### Median OS (months)

Very low: 23.6; Low: 55; Int: 19.7; High: 13.5; Very high: 7.8

#### **Multivariate Analysis Significant Factors**

IPSS-R, graft source, age and prior treatment

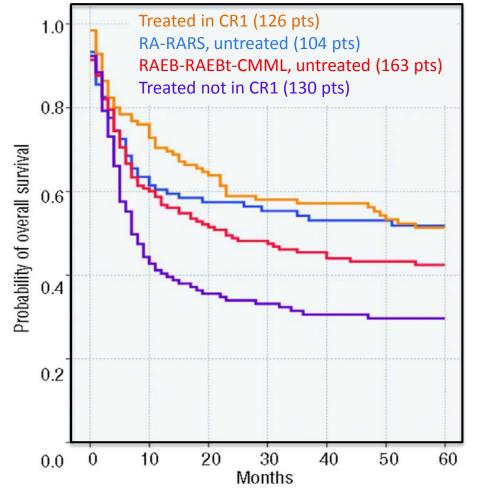
Scheid BMT 2017







# Overall survival according to remission status and percentage of marrow blasts



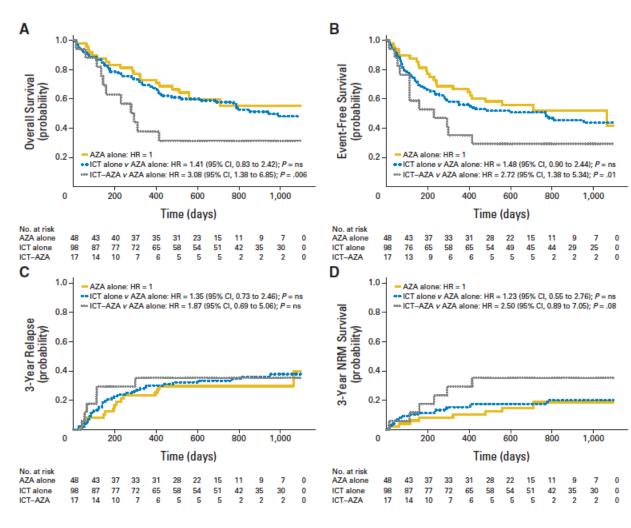
Onida et al. Haematologica 2014







### Intensive chemotherapy (ICT) +/- 5-Azacytidine (5-Aza) Cytoreduction pre Allo-HSCT



Retrospective study of 265 patients, 163 of whom received cytoreductive therapy prior to transplant. ICT=98, Aza= 48, ICT + AZA = 70, SIB = 75, VUD = 88, MAC = 33, RIC = 130

Damaj et al JCO 2012

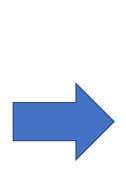






Venetoclax combined with decitabine or azacitidine in treatment-naive, elderly patients with acute myeloid leukemia

- 145 patients > 65yrs with treatment naïve AML
- Median age 75
- Poor risk cytogenetics in 49%
- Venetoclax (400-1200mg) and azacytidine 75mg/m<sup>2</sup> for 7 days OR Decitabine 20mg/m<sup>2</sup> for 5 days
- Median time on study 8.9 months



- CR + Cri for venetoclax 400mg + HMA cohort was 67%
- Median duration CR+Cri 11.3 months
- Median OS 17.5 months
- Median OS not reached in venetoclax 400mg group

#### medicine

ARTICLES https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-018-0233-

Venetoclax with azacitidine disrupts energy metabolism and targets leukemia stem cells in patients with acute myeloid leukemia Venetoclax + LD AraC N=71 CR/CRI Intd Cyto = 76%, Poor Risk = 47% Responses in all molec subtypes = 60-100%, except Tp53 mut = 44% Wei et al, Nov 2017

Pollyea et al, Nov 2018

DiNardo et al Blood October 2018

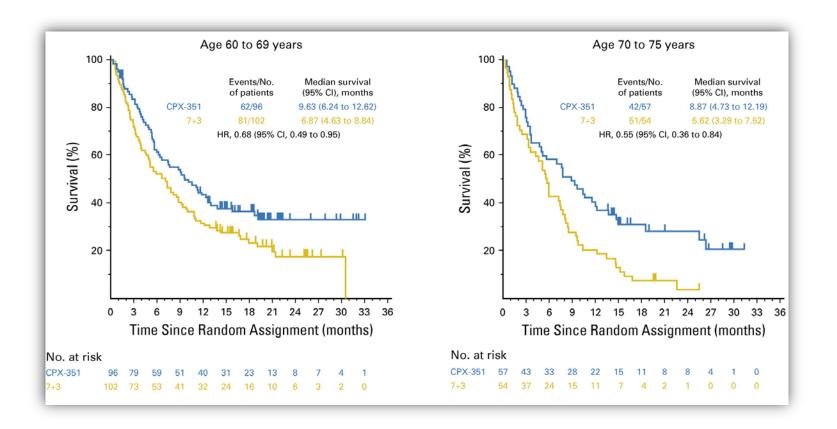








#### CPX-351 (cytarabine and daunorubicin) Liposome for Injection Versus Conventional Cytarabine Plus Daunorubicin in Older Patients With Newly Diagnosed Secondary Acute Myeloid Leukemia



Lancet JE, Journal of Clinical Oncology. 2018

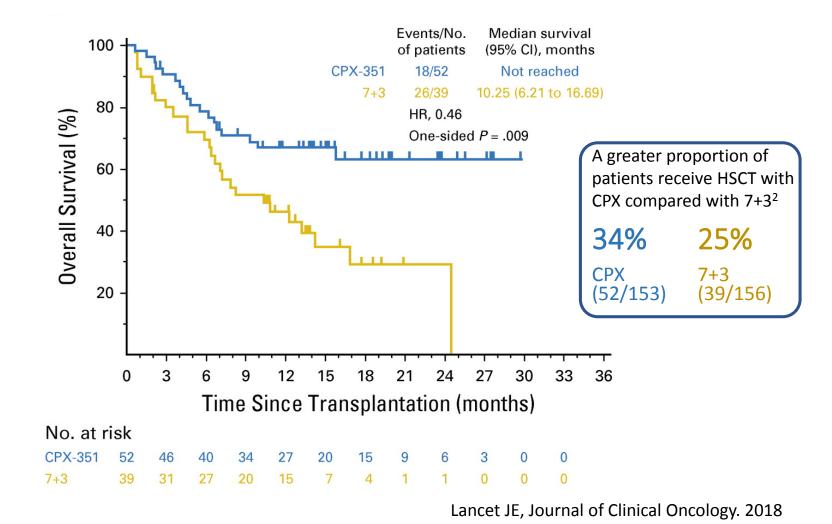




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## Post-Hoc Analysis suggests possible improved outcomes in those who received HSCT





South London and Maudsley

**NHS Foundation Trust** 



#### The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

### TP53 and Decitabine in Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Myelodysplastic Syndromes

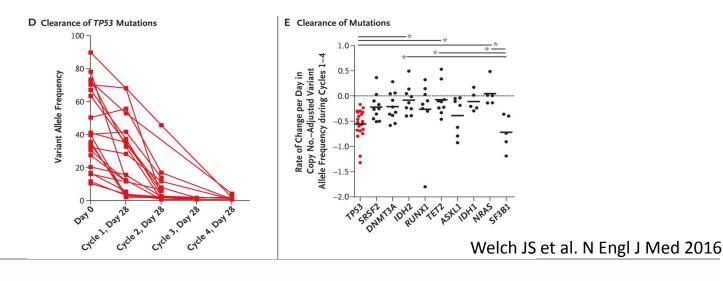
• Of the 116 patients, 53 (46%) achieved <5% BM blasts.

NHS

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NHS Foundation Trust

- Response rates were higher in patients with an unfavourable karyotype than an intermediate-risk or favourable-risk cytogenetic profile (29 of 43 [67%] vs. 24 of 71 [34%], P<0.001)</li>
- Patients with *TP53* mutations had a higher response rate than among patients with wild-type *TP53* (21 of 21 [100%] vs. 32 of 78 [41%], P<0.001).

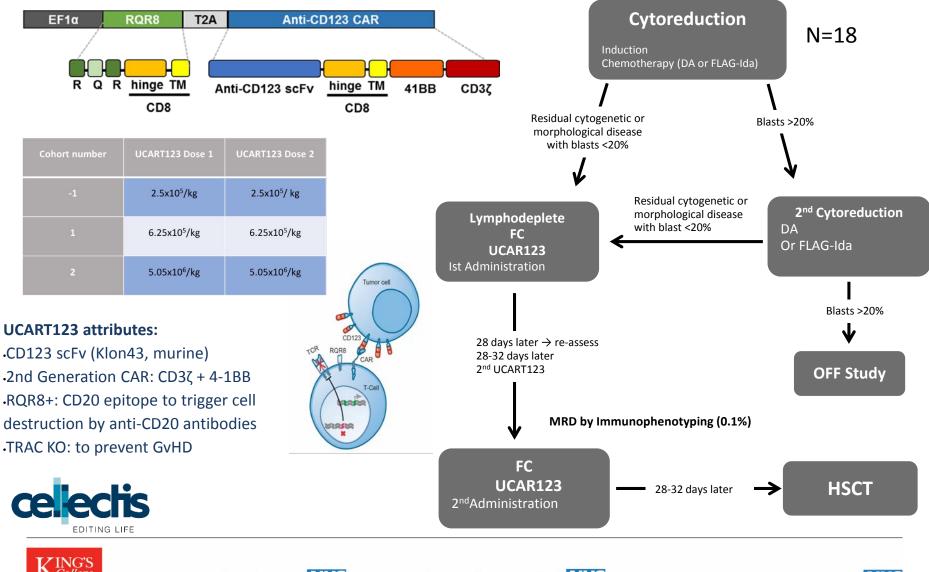








## Phase I Trial of Allo-UCART123 in High Risk AML



Guy's an

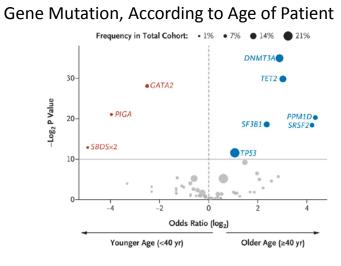
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Guy's and St Thomas'

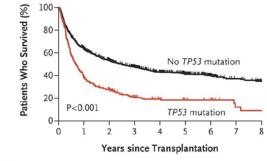
King's College Hospital



### Frequency of Driver Mutations and Age-Independent Association of TP53 Mutations with Poor Overall Survival



Overall Survival, According to TP53 Mutation Status

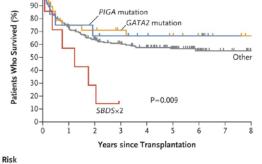


No.	at	Risk	
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No TP53 mutation	1224	757	529	370	261	183	109	53	32
TP53 mutation	289	109	66	39	26	20	14	6	5

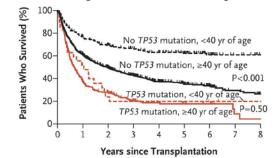
45 patients with truncating *TP53* mutations (16%) had shorter survival than with missense mutations (P=0.005)

Overall Survival among Patients <40y of Age, According to Mutation Status



No. at Risk									
PIGA mutation	12	10	9	8	6	5	5	2	1
GATA2 mutation	28	21	20	17	15	13	10	6	5
Other	198	140	111	97	85	66	32	19	11
SBDS×2	7	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	0

Overall Survival, According to TP53 Mutation Status and Age



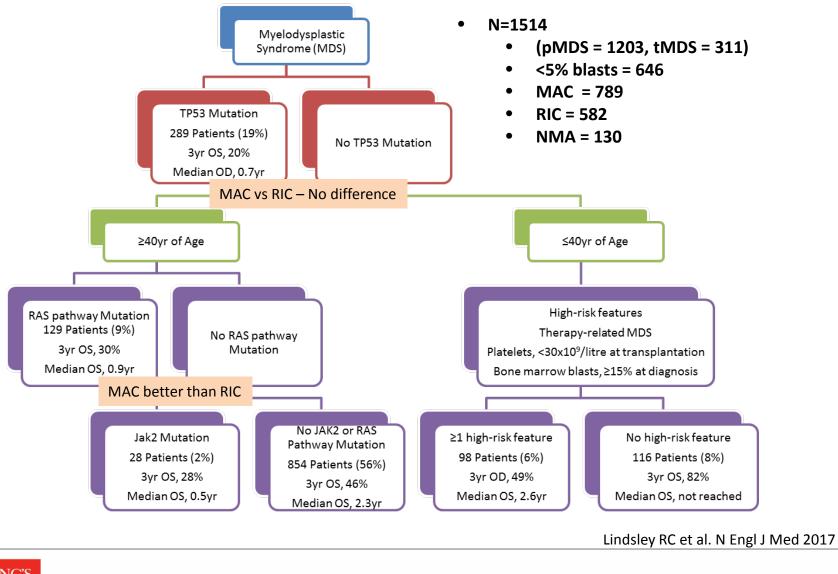
No. at Risk									
No TP53 mutation	n								
<40 yr of age	214	159	133	115	100	78	42	23	13
≥40 yr of age	1010	598	396	255	161	105	67	30	19
TP53 mutation									
<40 yr of age	27	14	7	5	5	5	4	4	3
≥40 yr of age	262	95	59	34	21	15	10	3	2

#### Lindsley RC et al. N Engl J Med 2017





### Models for Overall Survival, Including Clinical and Genetic Variables and Effect of Conditioning Intensity

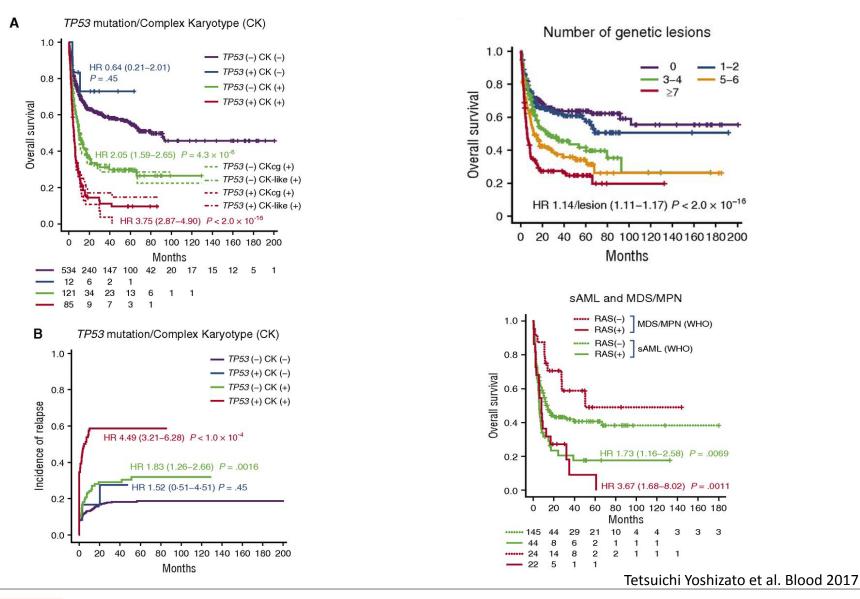








#### Effects of TP53, RAS and CK on survival and relapse



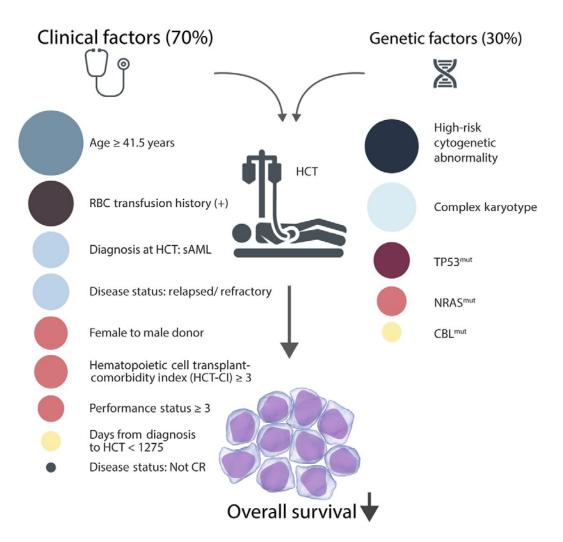




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# Weighted contributions of clinical & genomic factors predicting survival because of leukemic relapse after BMT for MDS and sAML



Noa G. Holtzman, and Aaron P. Rapoport Blood 2017

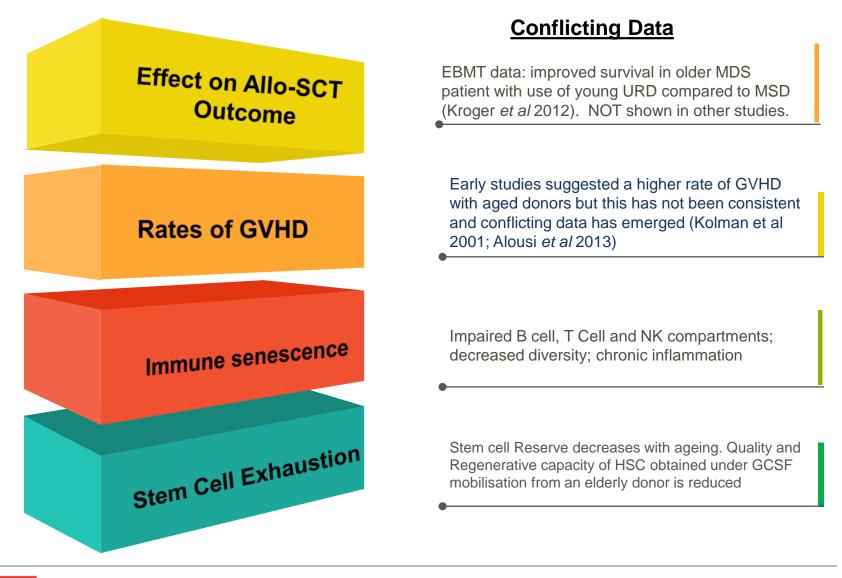








#### Choosing an older sibling versus a Volunteer Unrelated Donor?







South London and Maudslev

**NHS Foundation Trust** 





#### Role of donor clonal haematopoeisis in allogenic HSCT

- 500 healthy, related HSCT donors (≥55yrs) targeted 66-gene panel sequencing
- (1993 2017) Myeloid disease: 19.2 vs
  6.3 (p<0.001)</li>
- Alive patients median follow-up 3.3yr (0.1 20.6)
- Higher cumulative incidence of cGVHD; hazard ratio (P=0.003)
- Lower CIR/P (Univariate P =0.027; multivariate P=0.042)
- No effect on non-relapse mortality and OS
- 2 donor leukaemia's & lineage expansion of CHIP clone paralleled the fall in chimerism

CIR/P - cumulative incidence of relapse/progression

92 clonal mutations, median VAF of 5.9% in 80 (16.0%) donors

- DNMT3a = 8%
- TET2 = 2.2% (C→T)
- ASXL1 = 1.4%

"Allogeneic HSCT from donors with CHIP seems safe and results in similar survival in the setting of older, related donors"

Frick et et al JCO 2018

- CIBMTR (10,000 unrelated donor stem cell transplantation)
- 1999 2014 younger donors are associated with a better transplant outcome

Shaw et al Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2018

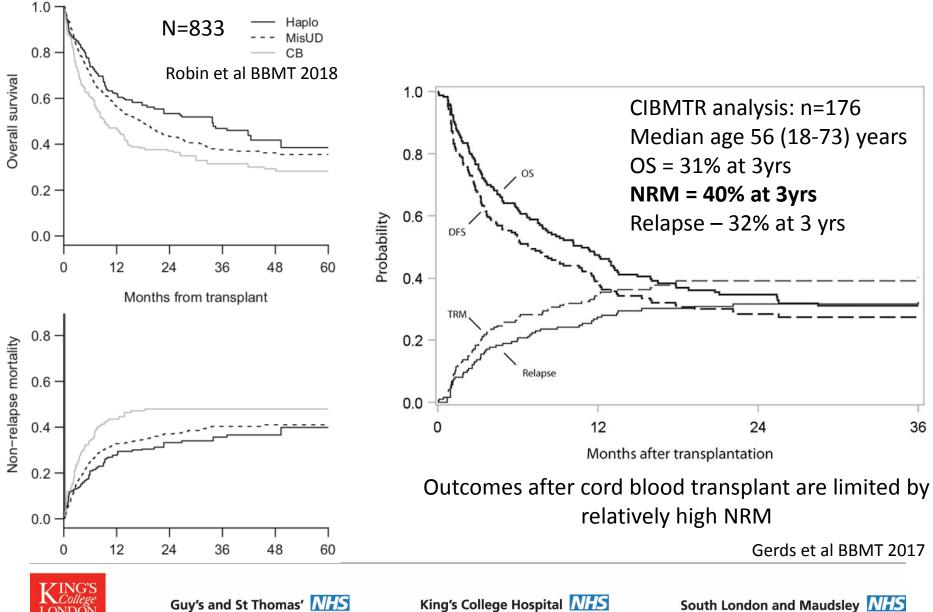








### HLA-Mismatched/Cord Blood Donors in Patients with **Myelodysplastic Syndrome: An EBMT Registry Analysis**



NHS Guy's and St Thomas' **NHS Foundation Trust** 

NHS King's College Hospital **NHS Foundation Trust** 

**NHS Foundation Trust** 

Dose-Reduced Versus Standard Conditioning Followed by Allogeneic Stem-Cell Transplantation for Patients With Myelodysplastic Syndrome: A Prospective Randomized Phase III Study of the EBMT (RICMAC Trial).

#### **129 patients with MDS and sAML**

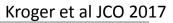
- Median age = 50
- Matched related (MAC/RIC) = 17/16
- Matched unrelated (MAC/RIC) = 36/38
- MM R/UR (MAC/RIC) = 11/11
- Randomly assigned 1:1
- OS at 2yrs = 76% (RIC), 63% (MAC)
- RFS at 2yrs = 62% (RIC), 58% (MAC)
- No difference in acute or chronic GVHD

#### RIC (n=65)

- Fludarabine: 150mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Busulphan: 8mg/kg PO or 6.4mg/kg IV

#### MAC (n=64)

- Busulphan: 16mg/kg PO or 12.8mg/kg IV
- Cyclophosphamide: 120mg/kg











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### Anti-lymphocyte Globulin for Prevention of Chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease

Randomised Phase-3 study patients assigned in a 1:1 ratio to receive ATG or not, with stratification according to center and risk of disease

- n=168, median follow-up = 24 months
- Chronic GVHD = 32.2% (with ATG) vs 68.7% (no ATG) (p<0.001)
- Chronic GVHD free and Relapse Free Survival at 2yrs = 36.6 (with ATG) vs 16.8 (no ATG) (p=0.005)
- Relapse free (p=0.21)/Overall survival (p=0.46) /Non-relapse mortality (p=0.6)





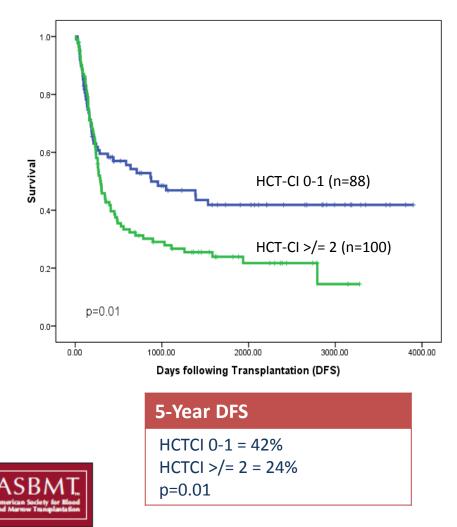




#### Kings College Conditioning Regimen: Flu/Bu/Campath RIC Protocol

Cohort Details				
Number=192 (86 F/	106 M)			
Median Age =56 yea	ars (21-72)			
IPSS Low/Int 1 Int 2/High	50(26%) 44(23%)			
MDS/AML	86 (45%)			
URD= 148 (77%)				
MMUD=41 (21%) -9	/10			

Cohort Details – Survival at 5yrs
OS = 42%
DFS = 33%
RA/RCMD OS = 63%
MDS-AML OS = 46%
CMML/RAEB OS = 25% and 24%



Potter et al BBMT 2014







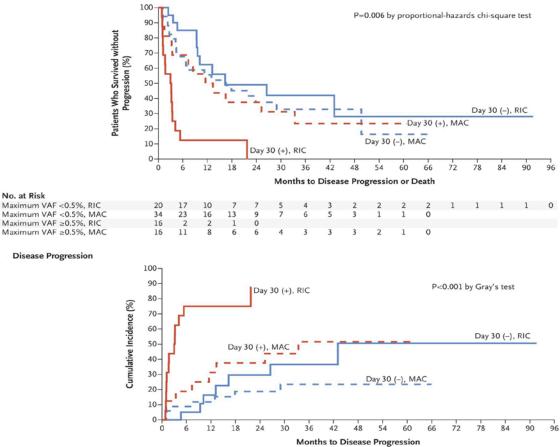


No. at Risk

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### **Mutation Clearance after Transplantation for Myelodysplastic Syndrome**

#### **Disease Progression or Death**



- 86 of the 90 patients studies had a mutation
- Multivariate analysis showed that patients with a mutation and a variant allele frequency of at least 0.5% detected at day 30 had a higher risk of progression (P<0.001) and a lower 1year rate of progression-free survival (P=0.002)









Duncavage et al NEJM 2018

#### **Genetic Trickery** — Escape of Leukemia from Immune Attack

Down-regulation of MHC class II genes (*HLA-DPA1*, *HLA-DPB1*, *HLA-DQB1*, and *HLA-DRB1*) at relapse post transplant to levels 3 to 12 times lower than in paired samples obtained at presentation.

In haploidentical transplants at relapse loss of mismatched haplotype leads to the failure of the GVL effect. The remaining minor antigen alloreactions and NK cytotoxicity are insufficient to prevent leukemic proliferation.

Escape from GVL effect and selection of increasingly genomic unstable clones with multiple mutations in stem/progenitor cells

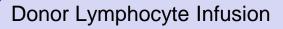








#### **Post-Transplant/Relapse Strategies**



- Pre-emptive +/-DLI
- Therapeutic +/-DLI
- +/- Azacitidine +/-DLI
- Chemotherapy +/- DLI

Vaccination Strategies

• B7.1/IL2; WT1; etc

Check Point Inhibitors Therapy

• CTLA4; PD1; PDL1; etc

Neoantigens/Leukemia Associated Antigen Specific T cells

CAR123 Cellular Therapy

NK Mediated Cellular Therapy

Second Transplant

Antibody-based therapeutics (DARTs, BiTEs)

• CD33/CD3; MCLA-117/CD3; CD123/CD3

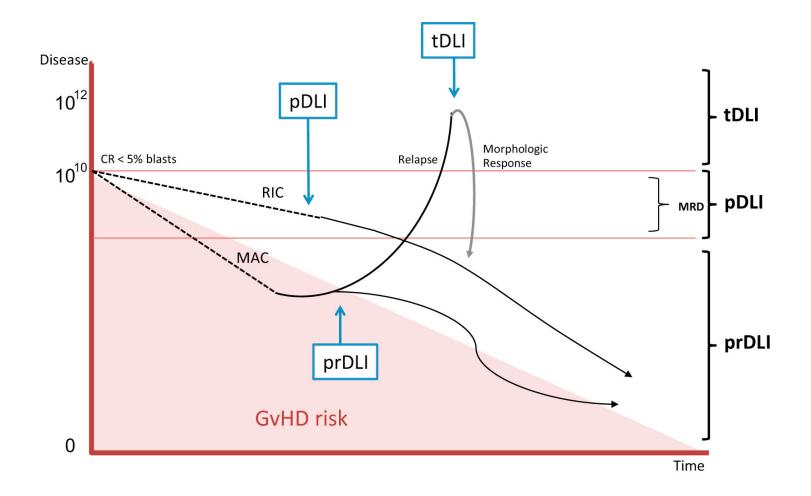








#### **Different strategies for delivering DLI**



Orti et al 2017

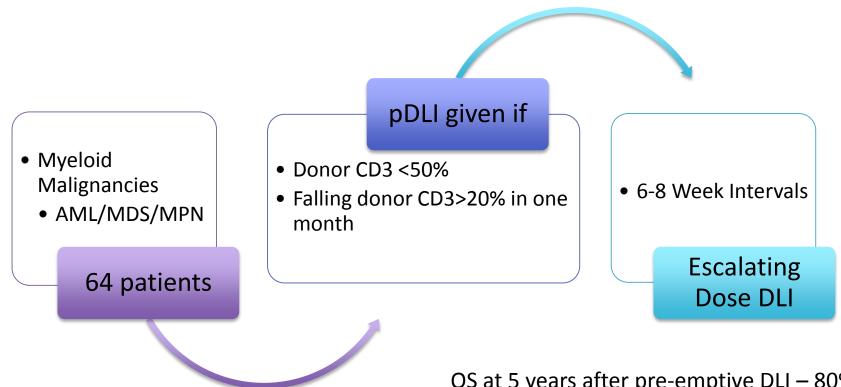








# Early Administration of Pre-emptive DLI correlates with durable AML/MDS Remission



77% of patients achieved FDC or stable MDC after DLI

- 5yr OS was 91% in these patients

OS at 5 years after pre-emptive DLI – 80% EFS at 5 years after pre-emptive DLI – 65% GVHD incidence – 31% (19% chronic extensive) after pre-emptive DLI







#### Limitations to current data

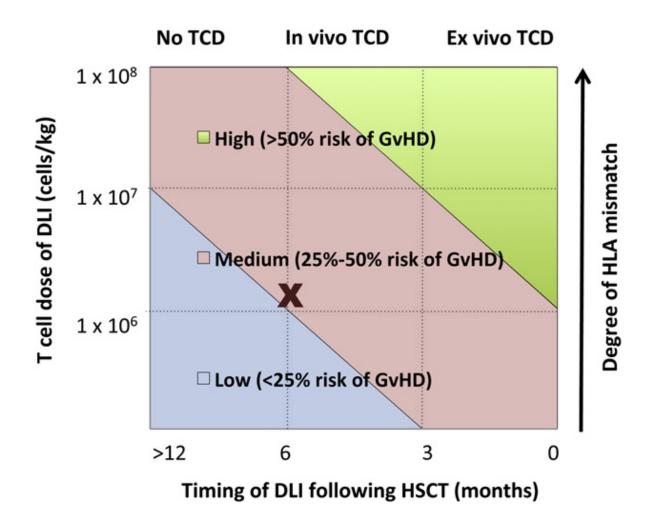
- Above data → promising results but
  - Retrospective
  - Median time to DLI administration 6 months
  - Varying DLI schedule
  - Varying DLI dose
  - DLI given for mixed CD3 chimerism
  - No randomised prospective data for DLI in MDS/AML
  - No accompanying prospective translational data
  - No evidence that pre-emptive or prophylactic DLI influences outcome in MDS/AML despite this being adopted as standard practice by many institutions







#### But what is the sweet spot?



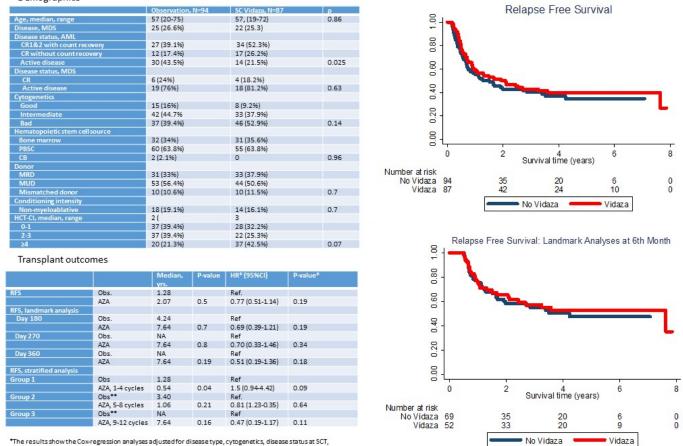






### Maintenance with 5-Azacytidine for Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Myelodysplastic Syndrome Patients

Demographics



\*The results show the Cox-regression analyses adjusted for disease type, cytogenetics, disease status at SCT, conditioning intensity, stem cell source, donor type, HCT-CI and second SCT.

\*\* Obs. included ptsRFS>150

\*\*\*Obs. included ptsRFs>270

Prospective randomized controlled trial. Most patients did not complete the planned 12 cycles. Study closed early due to slow accrual

#### King's London

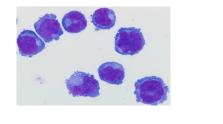




Oran et al ASH Abstract 971 Dec 3 5.30pm



## Novel therapeutics following Relapse: AZA (=/- DLI)



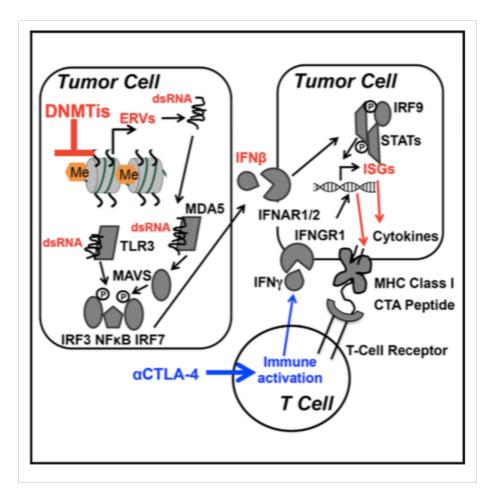
Cancer/testis antigens are upregulated *in vitro* and *in vivo* by these drugs hypothetically sensitizing ("priming") malignant cells to DLIs.

# Schroeder *et al* 2015 BBMT: AZA and DLI for relapse

- 154 patients (AML n=24; MDS n=28)
- All patients received a median number of 4 courses of Aza (range, 4 to 14)
- DLI :105 patients (68%; median DLI, 2; range, 1 to 7).
- CR and PR: 27% and 6%, respectively, resulting in an ORR of 33%.
- MVA identified molecular only relapse and MDS (as predictors for CR)
- OS at 2 years was 29% ± 4%

(Goodyear et al., Blood 2010, Almstedt et al., Leuk. Res. 2010),

## **DNMTi Induce Interferon Responses**



- DNMTis induce an interferon response in cancer cells by activating dsRNA sensors
- DNMTis induce ERV demethylation and expression helping trigger the dsRNA response
- DNMTi viral defense genes in melanoma track with patient response to immune therapy
- DNMTi treatment sensitizes to anti-CTLA-4 immunotherapy in a melanoma mouse model



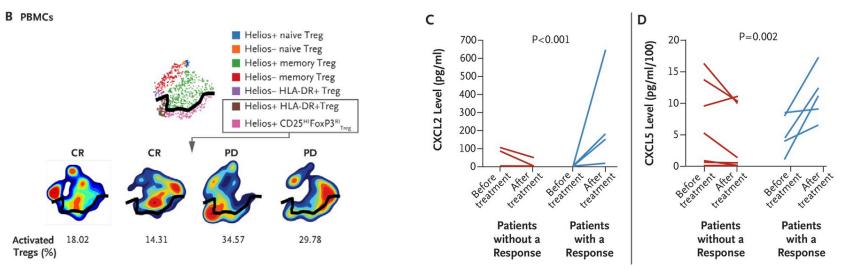






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#### Ipilimumab for Patients with Relapse after Allogeneic Transplantation



- N=28 (Phase 1/1B)
- AML/MDS = 18
- CR = 5/18 (27%)
- Immune related toxicity = 21%
- GVHD = 14%
- Patients who had a complete response or stable disease had fewer CD4+ Treg cells and more CD4+ Tcon cells than patients with progressive disease.

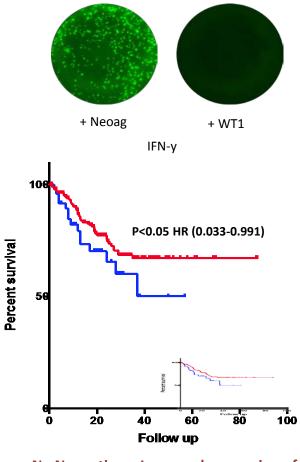
Davids MS et al. N Engl J Med 2016





#### Impact of Neoantigens on survival in MDS

Characteristics	Patients with neoantigens	Patients with no neoantigens	P value
Number	129	51	
Age in years (median)	68	68	NS
Sex (Male / Female)	86 /43	31/20	NS
Type of MDS			NS
RARS	10	6	
RCUD	7	1	
RCMD	42	10	
Isolated 5q-	1	2	
RAEB	41	21	
Other	28	11	
IPSS Categories			NS
Low	46	15	
Intermediate-1	55	20	
Intermediate-2	21	12	
High	6	4	
Number of mutations (median)	2.1	1.3	P<0.001
Progression to AML			
Yes	26/129 (20.1%)	8/51 (15.7%)	NS
Vital Status			
Dead	28/129	15/51	NS



No Neoantigen: Increased expression of CTLA4 (\*p <0.05, \*\* p<0.01

Tom Coats, et al 2018



Collaboration with Dresden



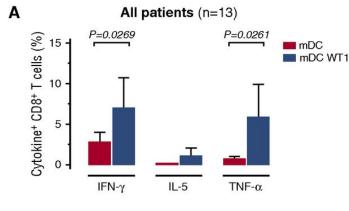
# Intracellular cytokine staining of CD8+ DILs after re-stimulation with mature DCs alone or WT1 mRNA-electroporated DCs

• N=30 High Risk AML

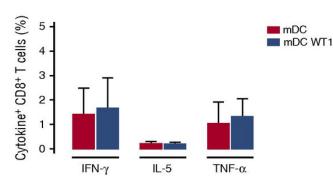
- Anti-leukemic response in 13
- 9/30: sustained CR
- 4/30: Stabilisation of disease

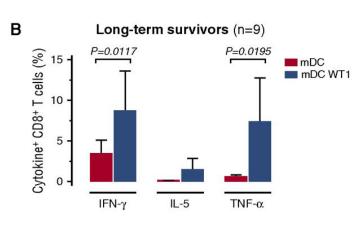
С

 Polyepitope WT1 specific CD8 response correlated with OS



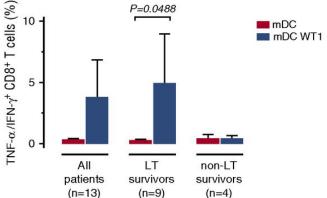
Non-longterm survivors (n=4)





WT1-specific polyfunctional CD8+ T-cell responses

D



#### Sébastien et al Blood 2017

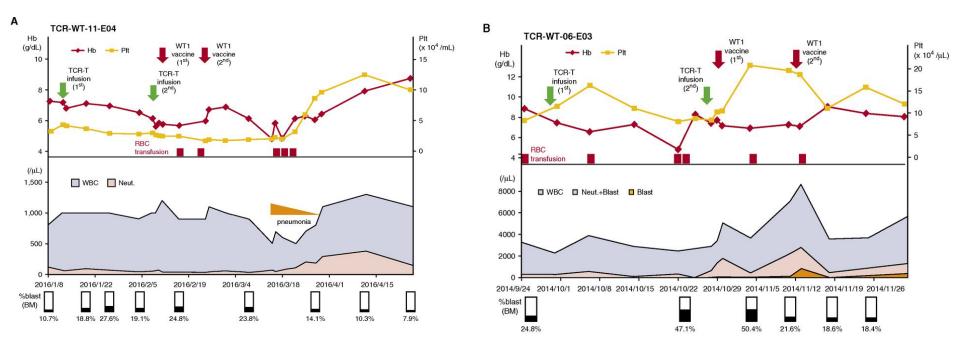








# Clinical courses of TCR-WT-11-E04 and TCR-WT-06-E03 after the WT-specific TCR-T cell transfer.



- HLA-A 24:02 restricted WT1 specific TCR redirected T-cells for AML-MDS
- Mutated WT1 peptide with adjuvant
- 16% CD8+ WT1 specific T cells







Isao et al. Blood 2017

#### CD80/IL-2 immune gene therapy trials at Kings

- B7.1 is an immune co-stimulatory molecule and IL-2 a cytokine which stimulates an immune response.
- The "AML Cell Vaccine" (ACV) is patient specific, derived from the patients' own AML cells which are modified ex-vivo to express B7.1 (CD80) and IL-2
- AML cells then g-irradiated and re-administered to the patient as a whole cell vaccine.
- Modification of the AML cells to express B7.1 and IL-2 enhances the efficiency of antigen presentation to the immune system, generating an anti-leukaemia immune response



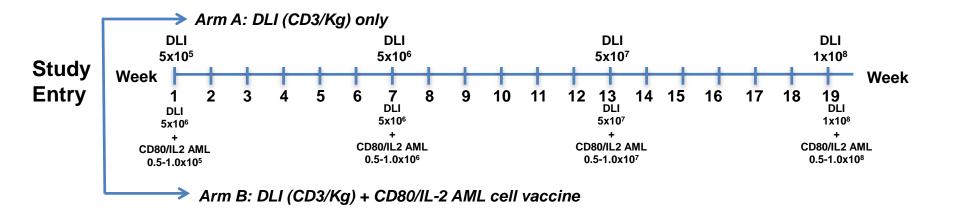




#### CD80/IL-2 Immune Gene Therapy

#### Pre-study entry conditions:

- Relapsed AML/MDS, following allogeneic HSCT
- >50% donor CD3 chimerism at relapse
- <5% BM blast following cytoreductive chemotherapy

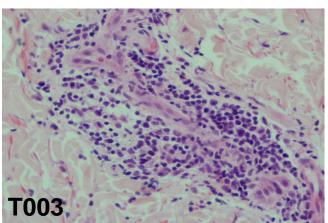








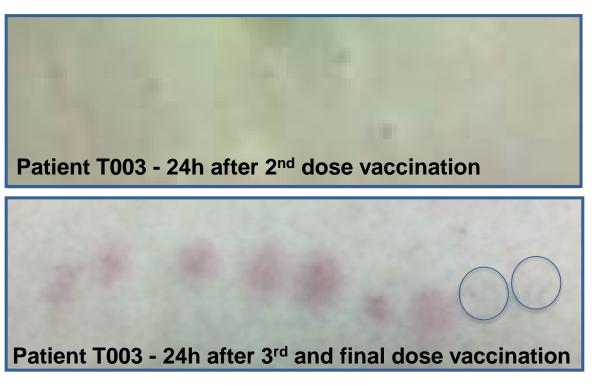
### Delayed Type Hypersensitivity (DTH) following DLI + CD80/IL-2 AML cell vaccination



Skin biopsy 76h post 3<sup>rd</sup> injection

In complete cytogenetic and molecular CR

7 Patients enrolled to date: - Confirmed feasibility



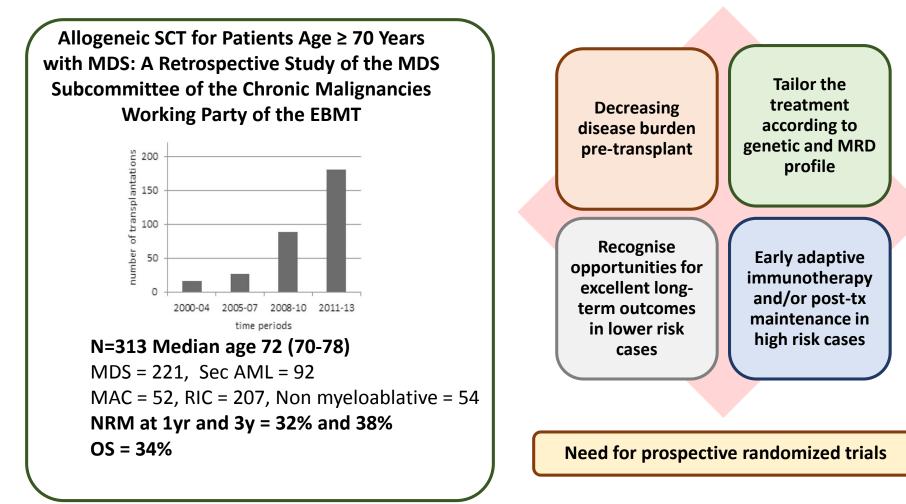
- - No acute toxicities / adverse events
  - Safety/efficacy studies completely satisfactory







Personalising the transplant for MDS Optimising opportunities for success











### **Presentation 7: Recent Advances...**

#### 5. Case Study - Mr X

- Previously fit, 65 year old man with symptoms of anaemia of 6 month duration.
- Bone marrow- hypercellular
- WCC- 1.6x109/I (N=0.3x109/I); Hb- 10.1G/dI; Plts- 21x109/I; Bone marrow blasts- 7%; cytogenetics- 47,XY,+8; Mutation-NRAS(G12A), HCT CI- 1; VUD donor 10/10; CMV -/-

#### **Treatment Option**

- a. Demethylating agents alone
- b. Demethylating agents followed by alloHSCT
- c. Intensive chemotherapy followed by alloHSCT
- d. AlloHSCT with myeloablative conditioning upfront
- e. Reduced Intensity Conditioning with post-transplant MRD monitoring
- f. a, b & c

## Acknowledgment

## Kings Health Partners Bone Marrow Transplant Team

### Dr Victoria Potter

### Director of Bone Marrow Transplantation and Immune Effector Cell Therapy Program







