

# Reprogramming the immune system A new era of precision immunotherapy for cancer and autoimmune disease

Travis S Young
Vice President, Biologics
Calibr-Skaggs Institute for Innovative Medicines
At Scripps Research Institute



# Scripps Research | A World Leader in Biomedical Research

# Some of the most brilliant minds in the world join forces at Scripps Research:





128 active faculty
Working to
advance scientific
knowledge across
6 departments

\$ 600M+

annual research budget



Work at Scripps Research has led to

6 Nobel prizes

The faculty currently includes 2 MacArthur Fellows

Chemists at Scripps Research have won **6 Wolf Prizes** 



FDA-approved drugs and vaccines have arisen from our discoveries



nature INDEX

Ranked among the top 5
biomedical institutes in the world

30 memberships in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine

Faculty earned **8 spots** on the **2023 Highly Cited Researchers list** (representing the top 1% in the world)



50+
active spin-off companies



# Engineering Cures | A New Model for Biomedical Innovation at Scripps

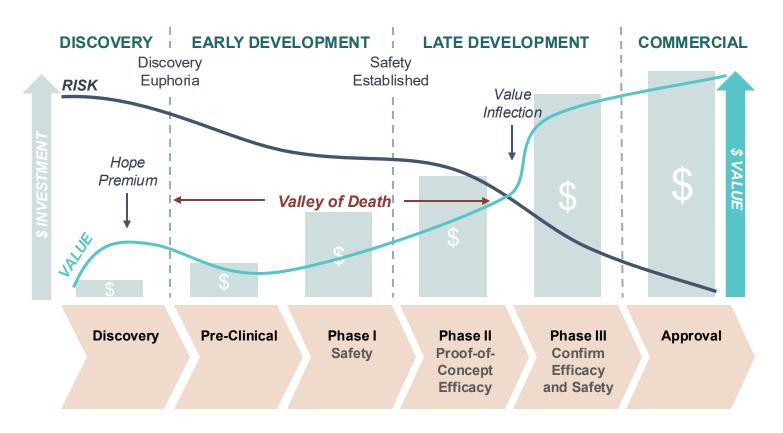
Hill	COVID-19 vaccines	2021
100	SARS-CoV-2	
SEA	Zeposia <sup>®</sup>	2020
	Multiple sclerosis	_0_0
	Trodelvy®	2020
	Multiple cancers	_0_0
	Vyndaqel®	2019
	Heart disease	2010
563	Mavenclad <sup>®</sup>	2019
da	Multiple sclerosis	2010
	Takhzyro®	2018
	Hereditary angioedema	2010
0	Palynziq <sup>®</sup>	2018
7	Phenylketonuria	2010
	Bavencio <sup>®</sup>	2017
	Merkel cell carcinoma	2017
	Unituxin®	2015
	Brain cancer	2010
	Portrazza®	2015
	Squamous non-small cell lung cancer	2010
	Cyramza®	2014
	Multiple cancers	
20	Surfaxin®	2012
4 6	Respiratory distress syndrome	
	ABthrax™	2012
	Anthrax toxin	2012
	Benlysta®	2011
	Lupus	2011
	Humira®	2002
	Autoimmune	_002
	Leustatin®	1993
	Hairy cell leukemia	1000

Scripps Research has a 100-year history of **developing innovations**, foundational discoveries in chemistry, biology, and medicine. **Many life-changing drugs started here**, developed by scientists pursuing curiosity-driven research and **would not exist if it were not for inventions made here at Scripps**.

- Scripps is changing the model for nonprofit drug discovery by building an internal translational engine: The Calibr-Skaggs Institute for Innovative Medicines
- We are leveraging this model to accelerate the development and translation of a new type of gene and cellular therapy into patients
- Switchable CAR-T cells: A new therapy with the potential to treat a wide range of indications from leukemia to breast cancer, and even autoimmune conditions

# The Challenge | Translating New Ideas to Patients

### The Valley of Death in Drug Development



How do we bridge the valley of death at Scripps?



# The Solution | Calibr-Skaggs Institute for Innovative Medicines

### Pioneering a new vision for drug discovery in the non-profit research sector





A nonprofit research institute based on creating a new business model for nonprofit science

One that bridges **breakthrough findings** with the **expertise**, **the know-how**, **and the infrastructure** to translate those ideas to patients, without needing to "let go" of the science

Scientific and medical successes create funding and licensing revenues that can be reinvested in research and education to amplify the impact of philanthropic and federal funding, and ultimately create a self-sustaining, evergreen ecosystem for doing innovative non-profit research



# Calibr-Skaggs | Institute Overview

### Efficiently Translating Discoveries into Innovative Medicines

Established as an independent 501c3 nonprofit translational research center with a focus on preclinical drug discovery and early-stage clinical research bridging the 'valley of death' in drug discovery and development



- Based on the vision of Peter Schultz, established in 2012 to translate new ideas into early-stage clinical trials
- Became the translational research arm of Scripps Research in 2018, like an incubator embedded within the institute
- A conduit for new ideas to reach patients
- As a non-profit, Calibr-Skaggs can accelerate translation of ideas at a fraction of industry cost
- Collaborations with foundations, pharma, and academic institutions throughout the world including the Gates Foundation, Gilead, and AbbVie linking early proof-ofconcept with large-scale impact
- Powered by the generosity of the Skaggs Family with a transformational renaming gift in 2023
- 160+ full-time employees with **experienced leadership** in medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, biologics, clinical, program management, and business development

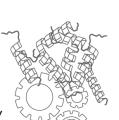
# Calibr-Skaggs | State-of-the-Art Capabilities and Infrastructure

#### DISCOVERY



#### **PROTEIN ENGINEERING**

- Fusions of antibodies with bioactive peptides and proteins
- Semi-synthetic peptide technologySwitchable CAR-T cell therapy



#### **OPTIMIZATION**



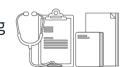
#### PHARMACOLOGY & SAFETY

- Dedicated core group supports rapid model development and proof-of-concept in vivo studies
- In-house/CRO support for PK/PD, in vitro safety assessment and toxicology

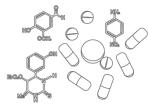
#### **TRANSLATION**

#### **IND-ENABLING STUDIES**

- Dedicated internal team and network of trusted contractors and consultants
- Process development and GMP manufacturing
- GLP toxicology and safety studies
- Multi-species PK and allometric scaling
- Regulationy expertise











#### **CLINICAL SAFETY &** PROOF-OF-CONCEPT

- Phase 1 safety and Phase 1b/2a proof-of-concept (PoC) studies
- Capacity to take a number of programs through early clinical studies
- Leverage non-profit clinical partners to gain unique access and speed

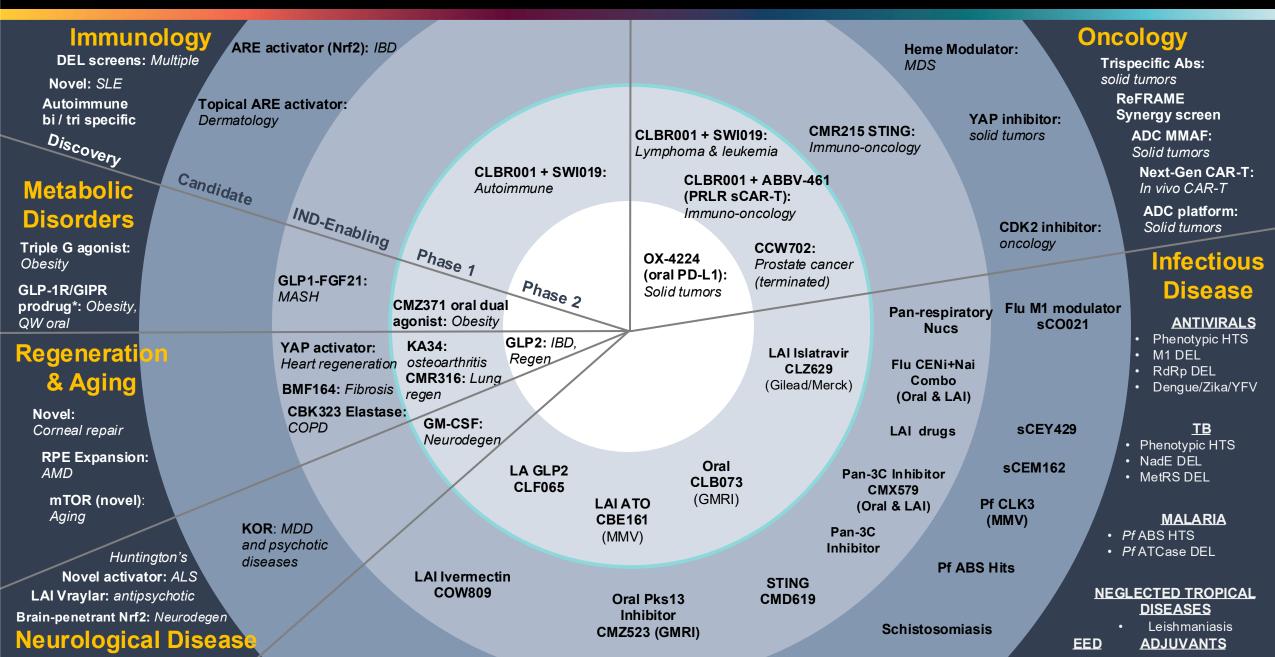
#### **SMALL MOLECULE DISCOVERY**

- Library of > 850,000 drug-like compounds
- Best-in-class drug repurposing collection
  State-of-the-art robotics
- Expertise in cell-based screening and mechanistic deconvolution

#### **MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY**

- Nimble hit-to-lead campaigns for early discovery efforts
- Lead/late-lead optimization capabilities to nominate development candidates
- Novel bio-conjugate/rational design platforms

# Calibr-Skaggs | A Clinical-stage Institute with a Robust Pipeline



# Immunotherapy | Re-educating the Immune System to Fight Cancer

### Late 1800s: Coley's Toxins

- •William Coley observes tumor regression after infections; develops "Coley's toxins" (heat-killed bacteria)
- •Early immunotherapy concept emerges

# 1970s: BCG Immunotherapy

•BCG approved for bladder cancer; one of the first modern immunotherapies



Tasuku Honjo

### 2010s-Today: Gene & Cell Therapy Era



William B Coley Wikipedia

# Early-Mid 1900s: Radiation & Chemotherapy Dominate

- •Coley's work falls out of favor as radiation and chemo become standard of care
- •Immunotherapy largely forgotten

# 1990s–2000s: Checkpoint Blockade Revolution

- •Breakthroughs by Jim Allison (CTLA-4) and Tasuku Honjo (PD-1)
- •FDA approvals: Yervoy (2011), Keytruda (2014), Opdivo (2014)
  - Nobel Prize awarded in 2018

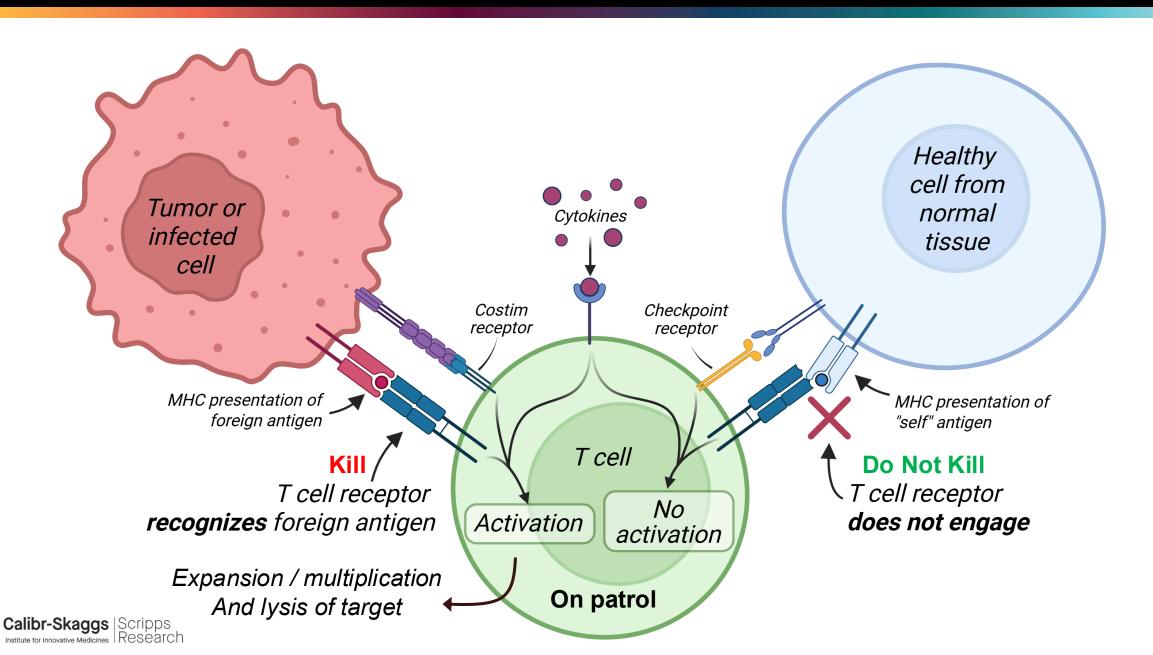
### Nobel Prize 2018



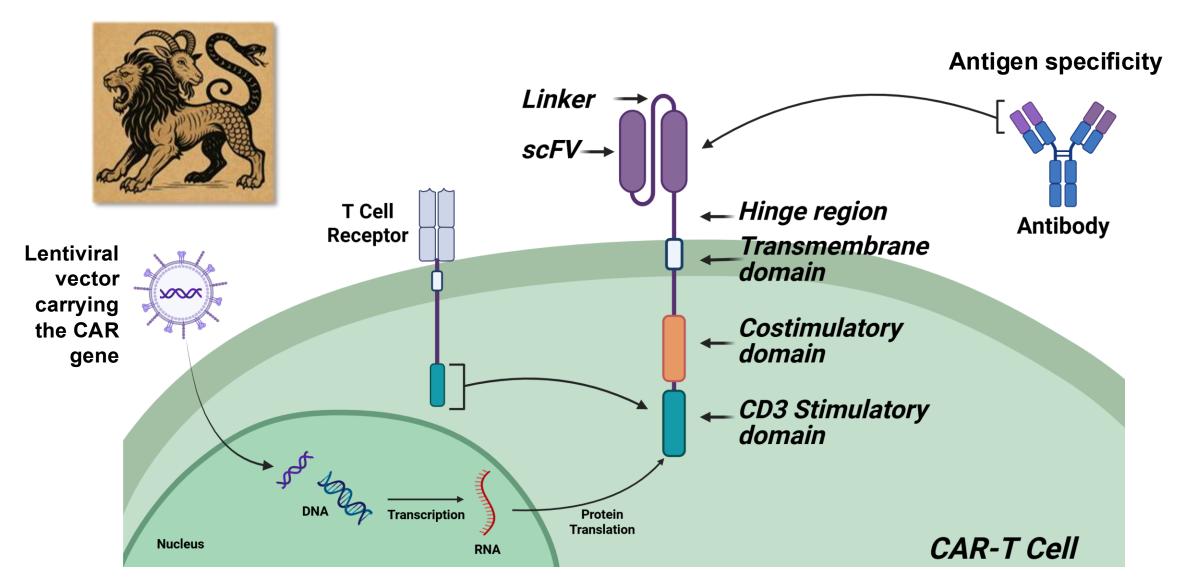
Jim Allison



# The T cell | The Immune System's Decision Engine



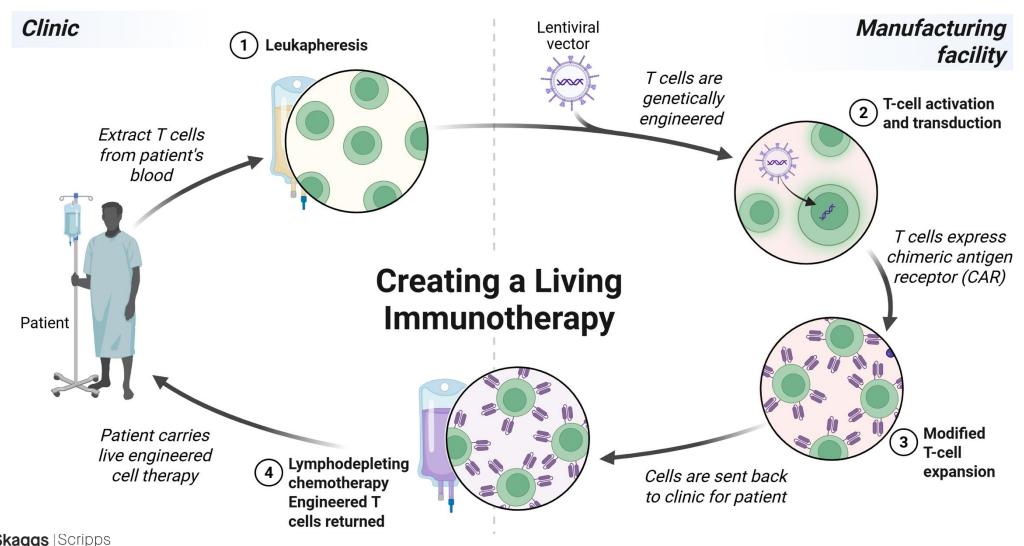
# CAR-T | Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) – T Cell Therapy





# CAR-T | A "Living" Drug

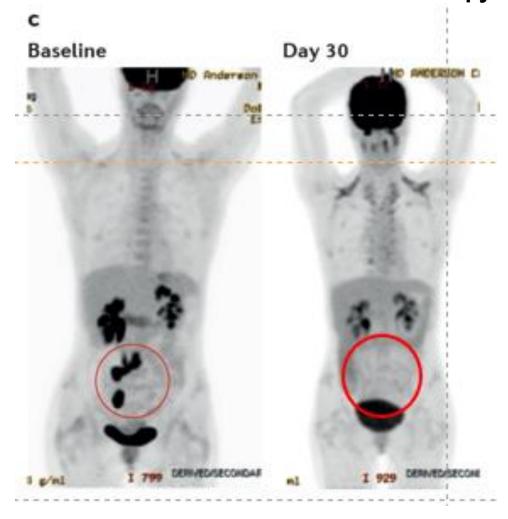
### The first "living" drug and the first gene therapy



# CAR-T | Transformative Efficacy for B Cell Cancers

Patient with refractory diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL)

Treated with anti-CD19 CAR-T cell therapy





# CAR-T | Emily Whitehead

### 2012



acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)

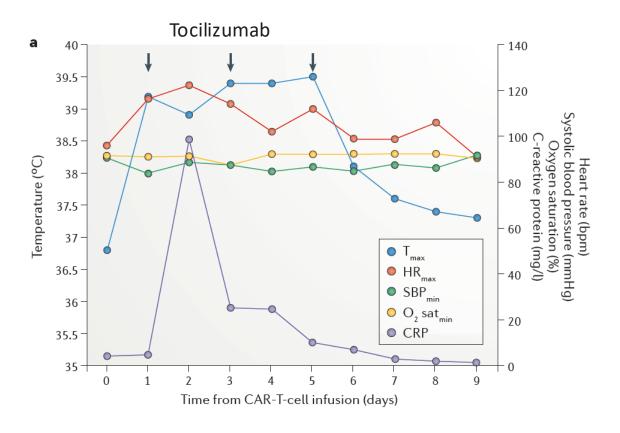


The Emily Whitehead Foundation



# **CAR-T** | Toxicities Arising from CAR-T Cell Therapy

### **Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)**



### **Neurotoxicity (ICANS)**

b

Day 4, MMSE 29/30

I love Shawner KS.

Day 5, MMSE 27/30

Sharris a start

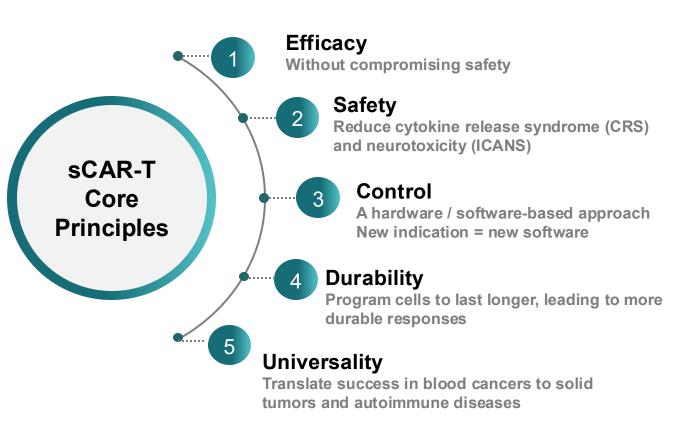
Day 6, MMSE 29/30

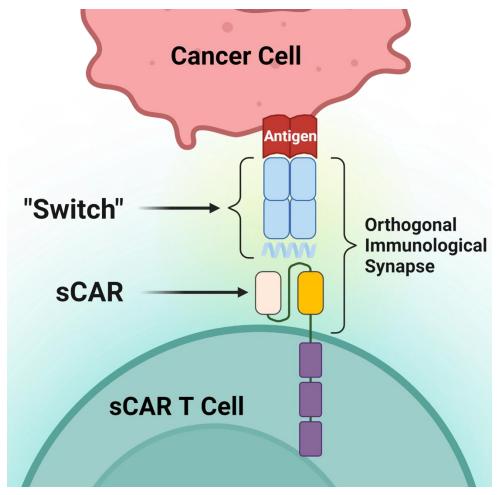
I miss my kids



### **sCAR-T** | Switchable CAR-T – Core Principles

### How to harness the power of CAR-T cell therapy, while addressing the challenges

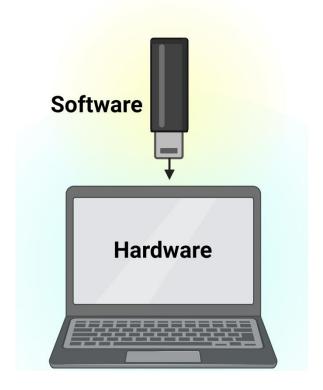


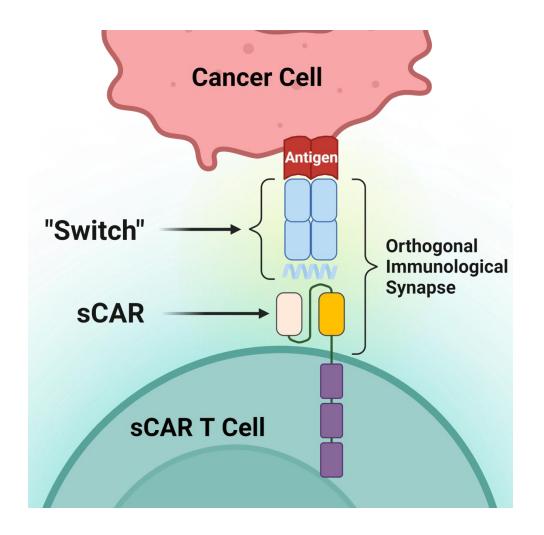




# **sCAR-T** | A Software and Hardware-based Approach

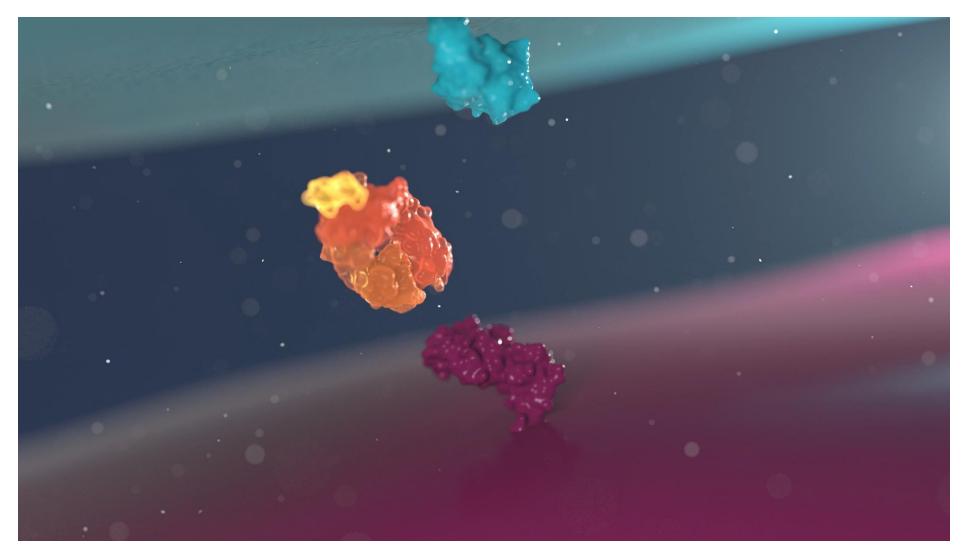
The switch programs the CAR-T cells to target a specific antigen, much like software instructs a computer on what tasks to perform







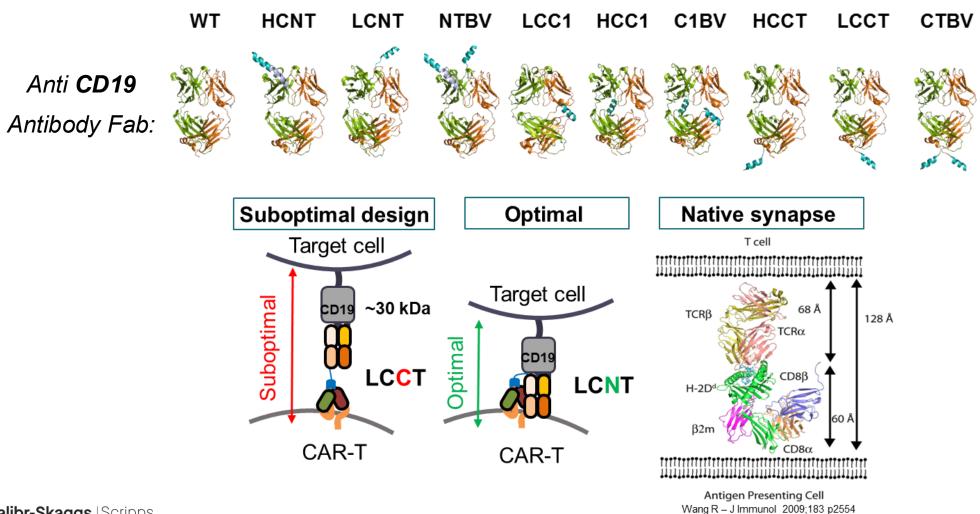
# sCAR-T | How the Switch Turns "ON" the CAR-T Cell



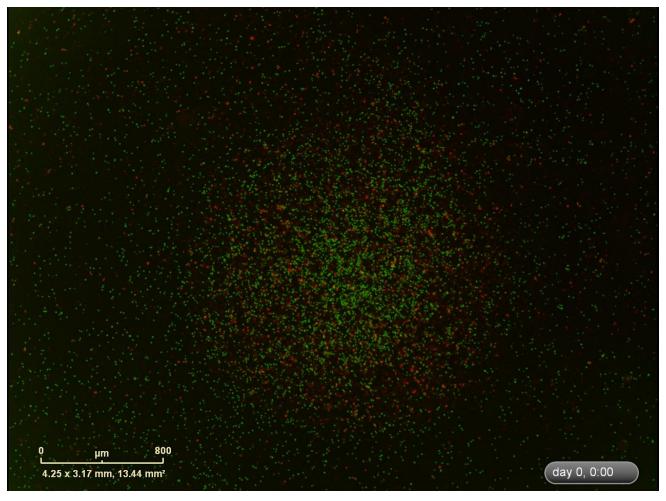


# sCAR-T | Protein Engineering for a Designer Immunological Synapse

### Engineering the "switch" with structure-guided protein design to fit in the synapse



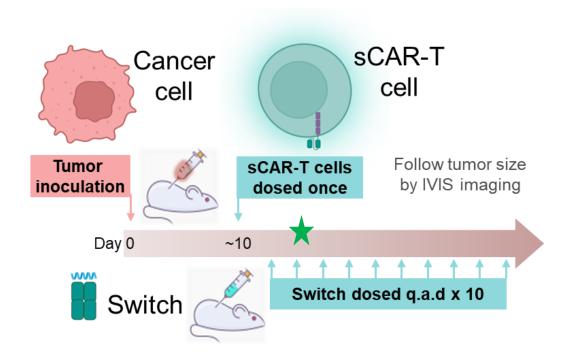
# sCAR-T | Running the Software Against CD19-positive Leukemia

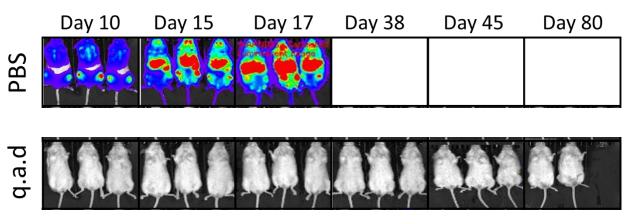


sCAR-T cells in red, cancer cells in green



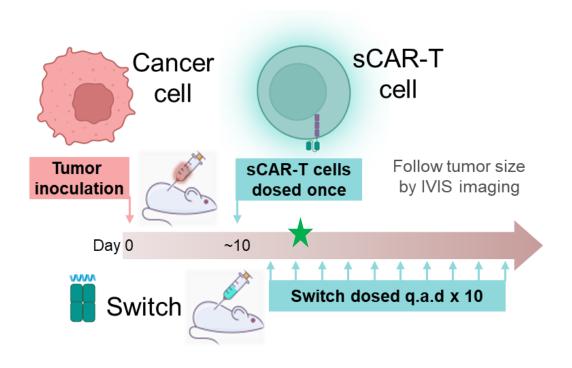
# **sCAR-T** | Eliminating Tumors in Mice

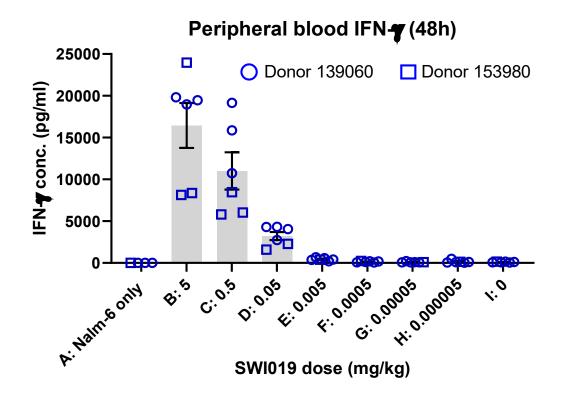






# **sCAR-T** | Controlling the Toxicity







### **sCAR-T** | Extensive Collaboration to Validate the Concept

### Used internationally by labs as universal platform against liquid and solid tumors

Her2

**PDAC** 

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Switchable CAR-T cells mediate remission in metastatic pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma

Deepak Raj, <sup>1</sup> Ming-Hsin Yang, <sup>1</sup> David Rodgers, <sup>2</sup> Eric N Hampton, <sup>2</sup> Julfa Begum, <sup>1</sup> Arif Mustafa, <sup>3</sup> Daniela Lorizio, <sup>1</sup> Irene Garces, <sup>1</sup> David Propper, <sup>4</sup> James G Kench, <sup>5</sup> H M Kocher, <sup>6</sup> Travis S Young, <sup>2</sup> Alexandra Aicher, <sup>1</sup> Christopher Heeschen <sup>7</sup> Gut 2018

Her2

**Breast** 

Cancer

Cancer Immunotherapy

### German Edition: DOI: 10.1002/ange.201601902

International Edition: DOI: 10.1002/anie.201601902

### Design of Switchable Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cells Targeting Breast Cancer

Yu Cao, David T. Rodgers, Juanjuan Du, Insha Ahmad, Eric N. Hampton, Jennifer S. Y. Ma, Magdalena Mazagova, Sei-hyun Choi, Hwa Young Yun, Han Xiao, Pengyu Yang, Xiaozhou Luo, Reyna K. V. Lim, Holly M. Pugh, Feng Wang, Stephanie A. Kazane, Timothy M. Wright, Chan Hyuk Kim,\* Peter G. Schultz,\* and Travis S. Young\* Angew Chem Int Ed 2016

CD19 Syngeneic

# Switchable control over in vivo CAR T expansion, B cell depletion, and induction of memory

Sophie Viaud\*, Jennifer S. Y. Ma\*.¹, Ian R. Hardy\*.², Eric N. Hampton\*, Brent Benish\*, Lance Sherwood\*, Vanessa Nunez\*, Christopher J. Ackerman\*, Elvira Khialeeva\*, Meredith Weglarz\*.³, Sung Chang Lee\*, Ashley K. Woods\*, and Travis S. Young\*.4

\*Department of Biology, California Institute for Biomedical Research (Calibr). The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA 92037

Edited by Carl H. June, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, and accepted by Editorial Board Member Arthur Wess October 2, 2018 (received for

PNAS 2019

CD19, CD20 Lymphoma

### Switch-mediated activation and retargeting of CAR-T cells for B-cell malignancies

David T. Rodgers", Magdalena Mazagova", Eric N. Hampton", Yu Cao<sup>b</sup>, Nitya S. Ramadoss<sup>6, 1</sup>, Ian R. Hardy<sup>6, 2</sup>, Andrew Schulman", Juanjuan Du", Feng Wang", Oded Singer<sup>6, 3</sup>, Jennifer Ma", Vanessa Nunez<sup>6</sup>, Jiayin Shen<sup>6, 4</sup>, Ashley K. Woods", Timothy M. Wright", Peter G. Schultz<sup>6, 6, 5</sup>, Chan Hyuk Kim<sup>6, 5</sup>, and Travis S. Young<sup>6, 5</sup>

\*Department of Biology, California institute for Biomedical Research, La Jolla, CA 92019; and \*Department of Chemistry and The Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology, The Scrigos Research Institute, La Jolla, CA 92037

Contributed by Peter G. Schultz, December 11, 2015 bent for review October 23, 2015; reviewed by Carl M. June and Kevan M. Shokat)

PNAS 2016

CD19, CD22 Lymphoma Leukemia

### Versatile strategy for controlling the specificity and activity of engineered T cells

Jennifer S. Y. Ma<sup>A,1</sup>, Ji Young Kim<sup>a</sup>, Stephanie A. Kazane<sup>A,3</sup>, Sei-hyun Choi<sup>b</sup>, Hwa Young Yun<sup>B,3</sup>, Min Soo Kim<sup>a,4</sup>, David T. Rodgers<sup>a</sup>, Holly M. Pugh<sup>a</sup>, Oded Singer<sup>a</sup>, Sophie B. Sun<sup>a</sup>, Bryan R. Fonslow<sup>c,d</sup>, James N. Kochenderfer<sup>a</sup>, Timothy M. Wright<sup>a</sup>, Peter G. Schultz<sup>a,b,5</sup>, Travis S. Young<sup>a,5</sup>, Chan Hyuk Kim<sup>a,5</sup>, and Yu Cao<sup>b,1</sup>

"Department of Biology, California Institute for Biomedical Research, La Jolla, CA \$2032," Department of Chemical and The Stages Institute for Chemical Episcopy, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA \$2032, "SCEX. Separations, Sms. CA \$201-7, and "Experimental Transplantation and Immunology Branch, National Branch, National Career Institute, Schedul, MD 2015.

Contributed by Peter G. Schultz, December 10, 2015 Sent for review October 23, 2015; reviewed by Carl H. Aure and Kevan M. Shokat)

PNAS 2016

PSMA Prostate Cancer

#### Redirection of Genetically Engineered CAR-T Cells Using Bifunctional Small Molecules

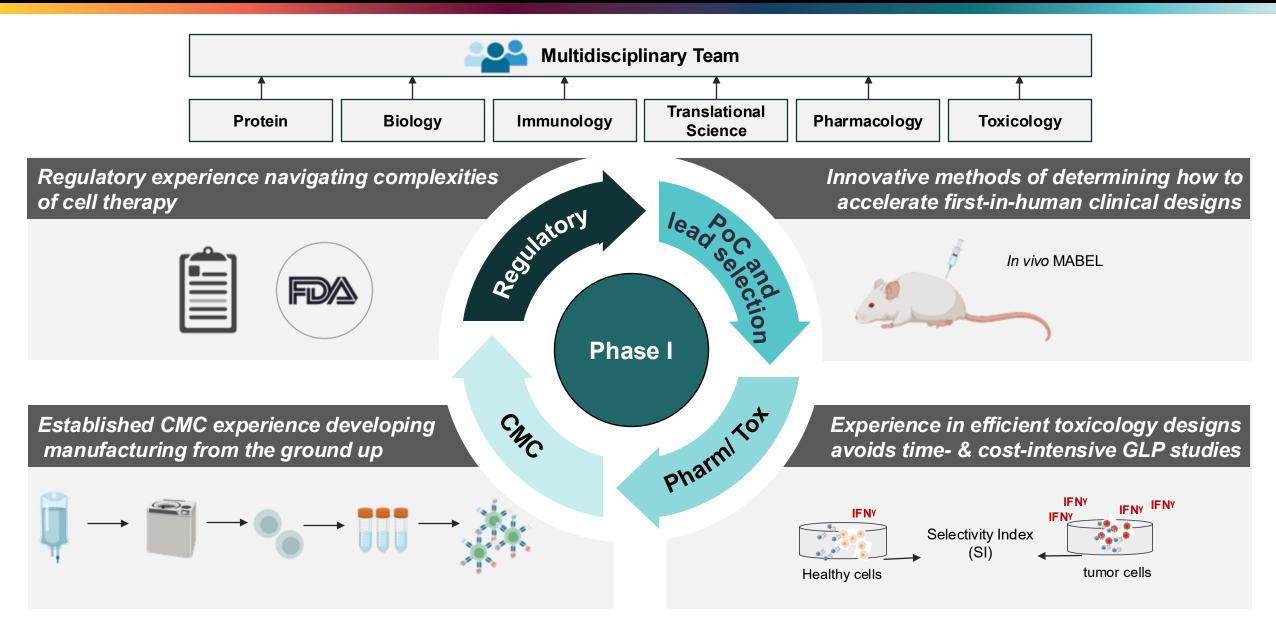
Min Soo Kim, †, † Jennifer S. Y. Ma, †, † Hwayoung Yun, †, † U Cao, † Ji Young Kim, † Victor Chi, † Danling Wang, † Ashley Woods, † Lance Sherwood, † Dawna Caballero, † Jose Gonzalez, † Peter G. Schultz, \*, †, † Travis S. Young, \*, † and Chan Hyuk Kim\*, †

California Institute for Biomedical Research, 11119 North Torrey Pines Road, Suite 100, La Jolla, California 92037, United States
Department of Chemistry and the Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology, The Scripps Research Institute, 10550 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, California 92037, United States

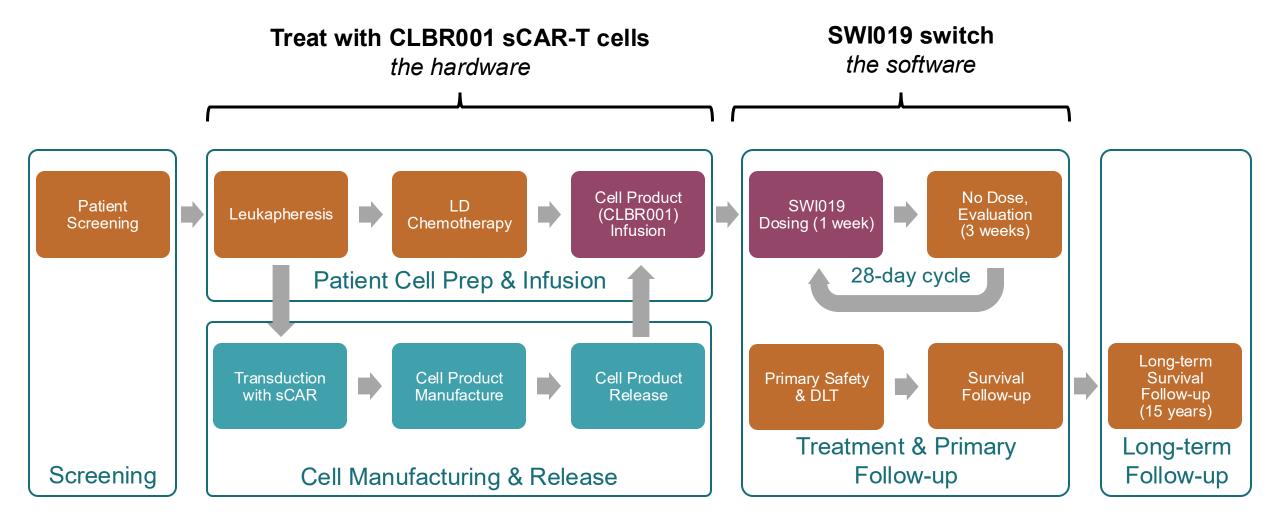
**JACS 2015** 



### Translation | Calibr-Skaggs' Integrated Bench-to-Bedside Platform



# Phase I, CD19 | Enrolling Patients with Leukemia and Lymphoma

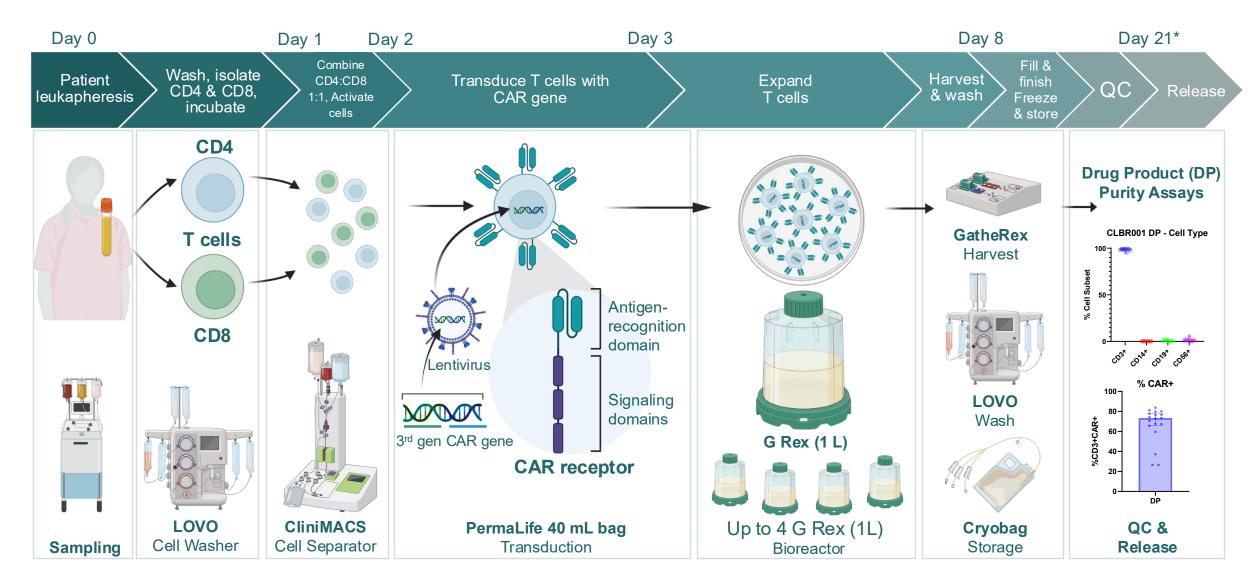


NCT04450069



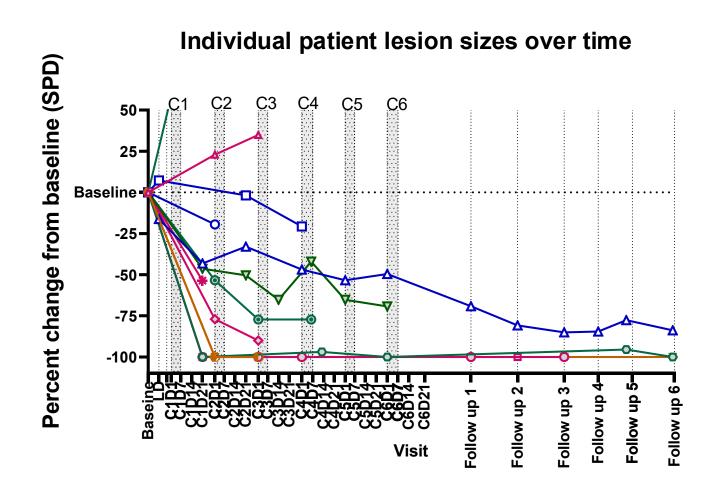


# Phase I, CD19 | Manufacturing an Autologous CAR-T Cell Product





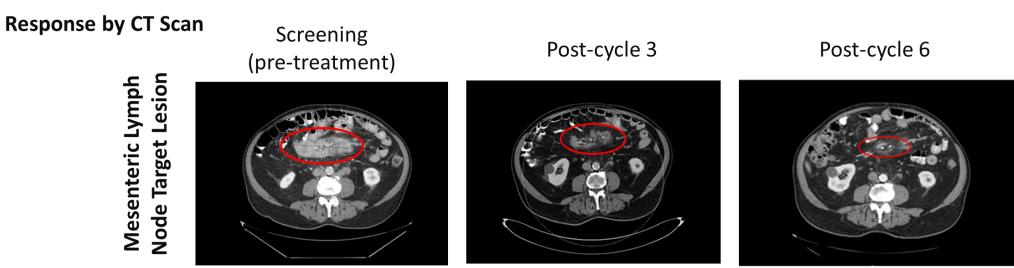
### Phase I, CD19 | Anti-tumor Responses in Highly Refractory Patients



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 106-105-10201 CLBR001 DP was OOS (residual beads), and the product approved for use as is Disease assessments by Lugano criteria SPD = sum of the product of the perpendicular diameters Disease assessment data unavailable for subjects 104-128 & 102-131 (coh 3), 104-122 (coh 4) at time of data cut; subject 107-119 deceased prior to post-treatment disease assessment

### Phase I, CD19 | Case Study: Complete Response in Highly Refractory Disease

Demographics	Disease History	Treatment & Response
Enrollment # 104-102-10102	Diagnosed: 2012	Dose: 140 e6 CAR+ cells / 10 ug/kg SWI019
71 year old male	Lines of prior therapy: 6	Highest Grade CRS / ICANS: 0
Follicular Lymphoma	Bridging Therapy: none	Best Response Lugano: CR



Subject experienced **decrease in all 5 FDG-avid target lesions**, no new target masses, no evidence of lymphoma in bone marrow by IHC

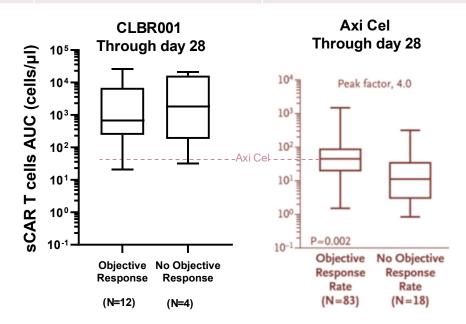


# Phase I, CD19 | Comparable Efficacy, Improved Tolerability

	CBR-sCAR19-3001 CLBR001 + SWI019 all subjects; n=18	ZUMA-1 Yescarta Kite <sup>1</sup>	JULIET KYMRIAH Novartis¹	TRANSCEND Breyanzi BMS <sup>1</sup>
Overall Response Rate (ORR) <sup>2</sup>	12/16 <b>(75%)</b>	74%	52%	73%
Complete Response (CR) <sup>2</sup>	10/16 <b>(63%)</b>	54%	40%	53%
CRS (Grade ≥ 3)	3/18 (17%)	10%	22%	2%
Median time to resolution CRS (any grade)	1 day	8 days	7 days	5 days
ICANS Neurotoxicity (Grade ≥ 3)	3/18 (17%)	32%	11%	10%
Median time to resolution ICANS (any grade)	1 day	17 days	14 days	11 days

# Phase I, CD19 | Greater Cell Expansion Vs Conventional CAR-T

	CBR-sCAR19-3001 CLBR001 + SWI019 all subjects; n=18	ZUMA-1 Yescarta Kite <sup>1</sup>	JULIET KYMRIAH Novartis¹	TRANSCEND Breyanzi BMS <sup>1</sup>
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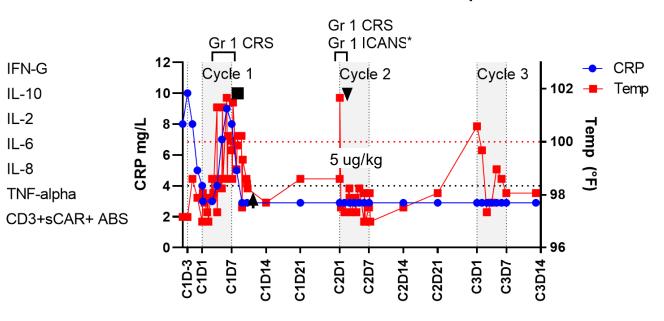
# Phase I, CD19 | Case Study: Rapid Resolution of CRS / ICANS

Demographics	Disease History	Treatment & Response
Enrollment # 103-104-10104	Diagnosed: 2016	Dose: 140 e6 CAR+ cells / 10 ug/kg SWI019
70 year old female	Lines of prior therapy: 7	Highest Grade CRS / ICANS: 1
Follicular Lymphoma	Bridging Therapy: Dexamethasone	Best Response Lugano: CR

### 103-104-10104 Cytokines & CAR+ cell/uL

#### Gr 1 CRS Gr 1 ICANS\* Gr 1 CRS Cytokines pg/mL (linear) Cycle 3 Cycle 2 Cycle 1 1500-- 1000 1000-5 ug/kg - 10 500-SAE 1e-001 C1D14 C3D14 C2D7 C2D14 C2D14 **C3D1** C1D7 C1D21 C2D21 C3D7

### 103-104-10104 CRP & Temp



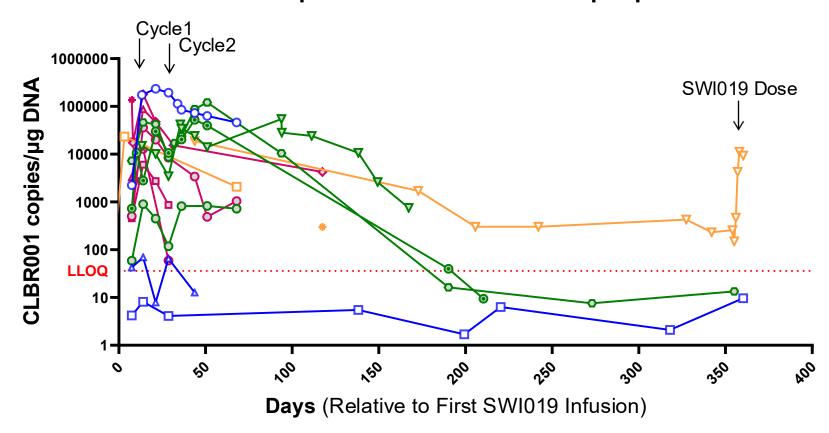


IL-6

TNF-alpha

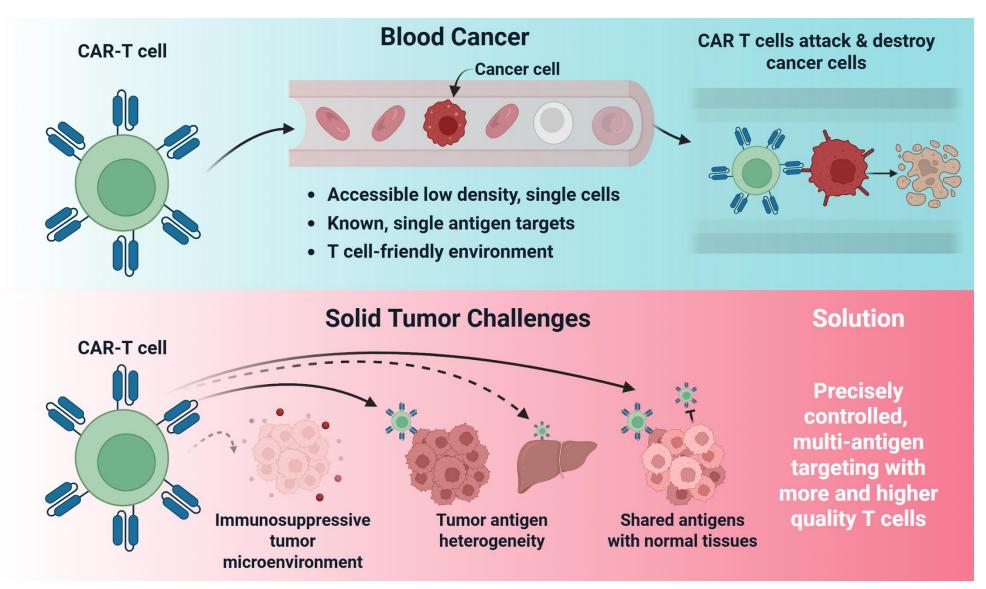
# CD19 Heme | CLBR001 Kinetics in Peripheral Blood

### Individual patient CLBR001 titers in peripheral blood





# Solid Tumors | The Next Frontier, the Solid Tumor Barrier





# **Solid Tumors** | Breast Cancer Trial



Phase 1, Open-Label, Dose-Escalation Study Evaluating CLBR001, an Engineered Autologous T Cell Product, and ABBV-461, an Antibody-Based Biologic, in Subjects with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Breast Cancer







### **Eligible Patients**

Locally advanced or metastatic Luminal A, B, or TNBC

 Refractory/ relapsed following standard of care & ineligible for or refused other treatment options

### Goals

- Efficacy: Demonstrate increased sCAR-T expansion (compared with conventional CAR-T) overcomes immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment leading to durable responses
- Safety: Demonstrate the switch-based control can avoid adverse effects associated with solid tumor targets

### Locations

Indiana University
Indianapolis, Indiana

Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Buffalo, New York

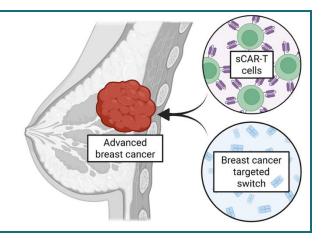
University of Virginia Charlottesville, Virginia



#### **Trial Information**

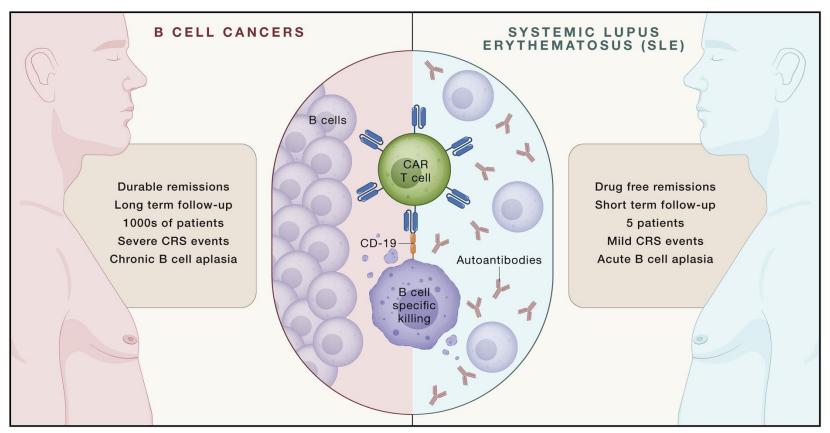
For more information, visit:

clinicaltrials.gov NCT#: NCT06878248

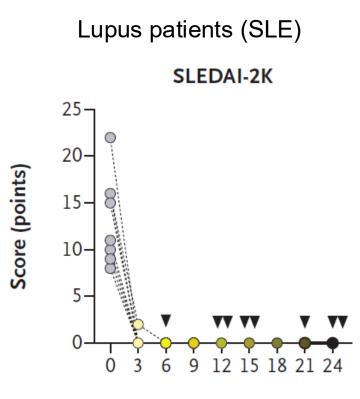




# Autoimmune Diseases | Turning CAR-T Cells Around



Adapted from Cell, Volume 185, Issue 24, P4471-4473, November 23, 2022



Müller F et al. N Engl J Med2024;390:687-700



### Autoimmune Diseases | Phase I Clinical Trial

A Phase 1b Study Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of CLBR001 and SWI019 with or without Lymphodepletion in Subjects with Autoimmune Disorders Including SLE, Systemic Sclerosis, Idiopathic Inflammatory Myositis, or Rheumatoid Arthritis





### **Eligible Patients**

Moderate to severe systemic lupus erythematosus or SLE, systemic sclerosis, idiopathic inflammatory myositis, or rheumatoid arthritis

Patients must have failed at least two prior immunosuppressive treatments

### Goals

- Avoid lymphodepletion: Demonstrate complete remission of disease without the use of lymphodepleting chemotherapy
- Safety: Demonstrate the switch-based control can avoid adverse effects associated with conventional CAR-T cell therapies and allow repopulation of B cells post therapy

### Locations

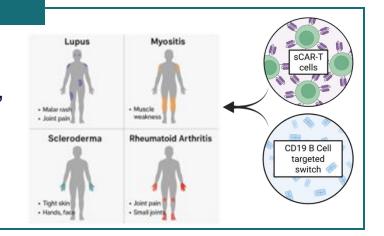
Augusta University
Augusta, Georgia
Duke University
Durham, North Carolina
Methodist University
Fayetteville, North Carolina
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana



### **Trial Information**

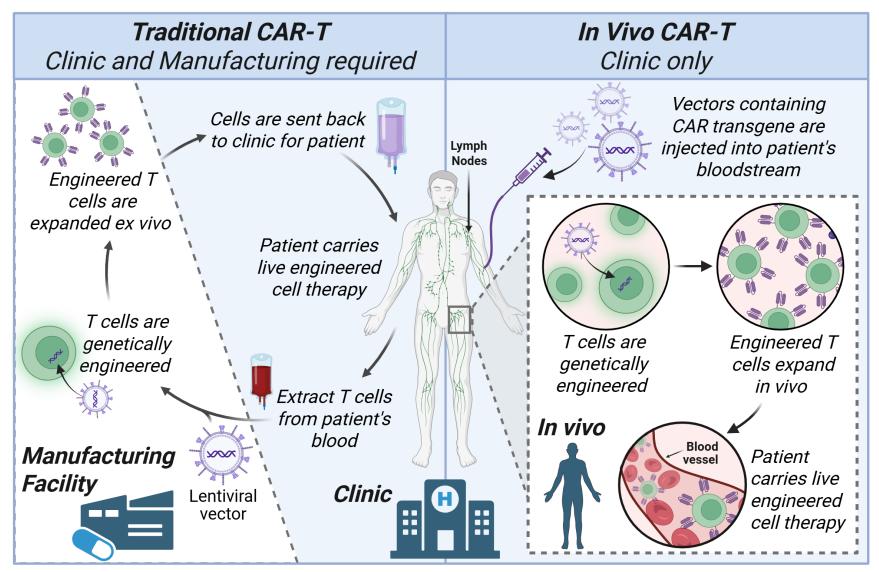
For more information, visit:

clinicaltrials.gov NCT#: NCT06913608





# What's Next | In Vivo CAR Delivery





# Acknowledgments

Calibr-Skaggs:

Pete Schultz

Arnab Chatterjee

**CJ** Ackerman

Eduardo Laborda

**David Rodgers** 

**Justice Fleischmann** 

Kiah Zuniga

Natasha Dolgova

Jing Li

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Kit Bonin

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