



Avellino, Hotel de la Ville  
March 30-31, 2023

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

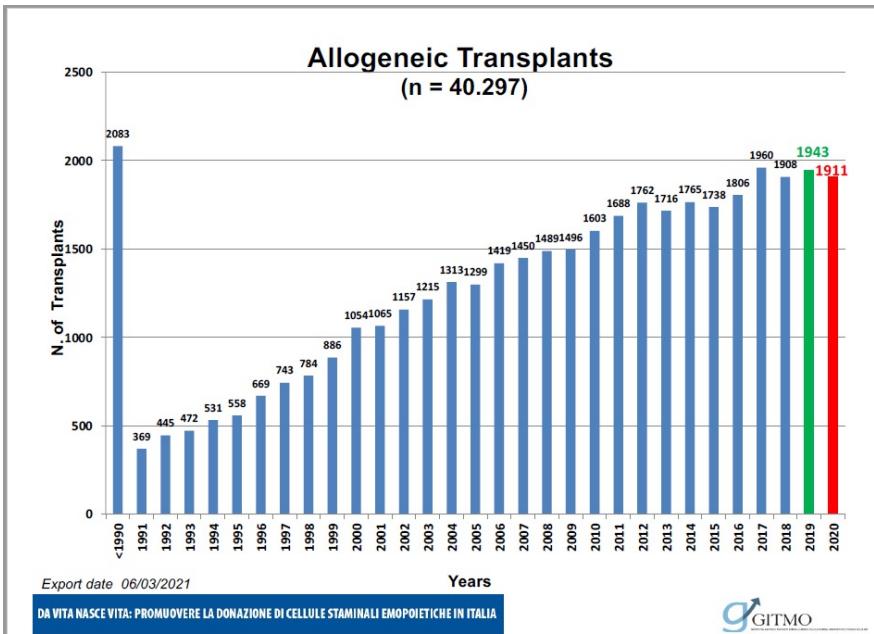
**Ruxolitinib and other innovative treatments for GVHD**

*Maria Teresa Lupo-Stanghellini  
Ospedale San Raffaele, IRCCS, Milano*

## Disclosures of Maria Teresa Lupo-Stanghellini

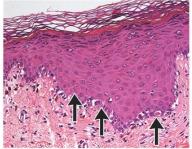
Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Novartis						x	
Mallinckrodt						x	
Incyte							x
Neovii							x

## GITMO – Allo HSCT activity

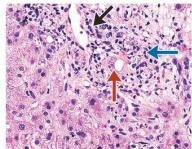


# 1<sup>ST</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

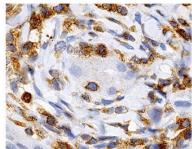
E Specimen of the Skin Biopsy



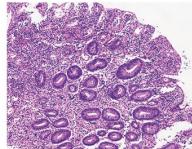
F Liver-Biopsy Specimen of Bile Ducts



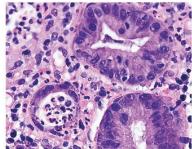
G Liver-Biopsy Specimen of Lymphocyte Infiltration



H Colon-Biopsy Specimen of Mucosal Surface Destruction



I Colon-Biopsy Specimen of Apoptosis



A Early Acute GVHD of the Skin



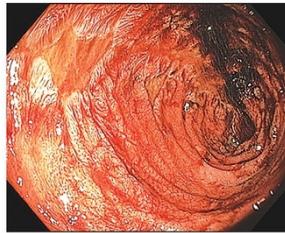
B Advanced Acute GVHD of the Skin



C Early Acute GVHD of the Intestine



D Advanced Acute GVHD of the Intestine



## aGVHD

incidence 50%

G3-4 14%

mortality G3-4 36%

60% fail 1° line

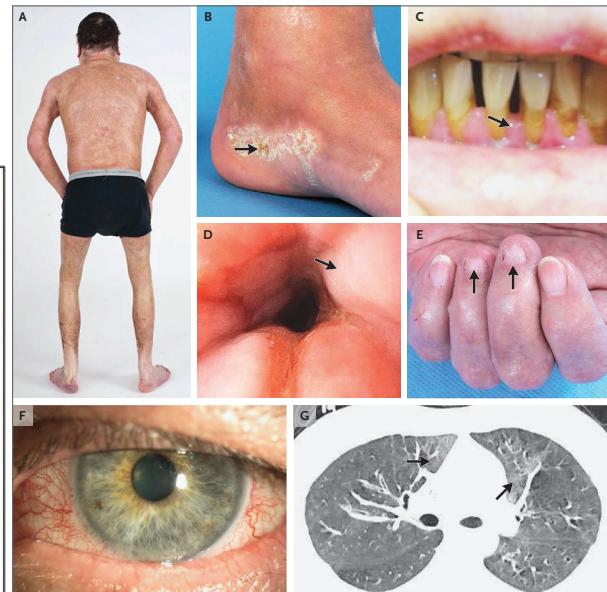
5-30% LT-survival

## ChGVHD

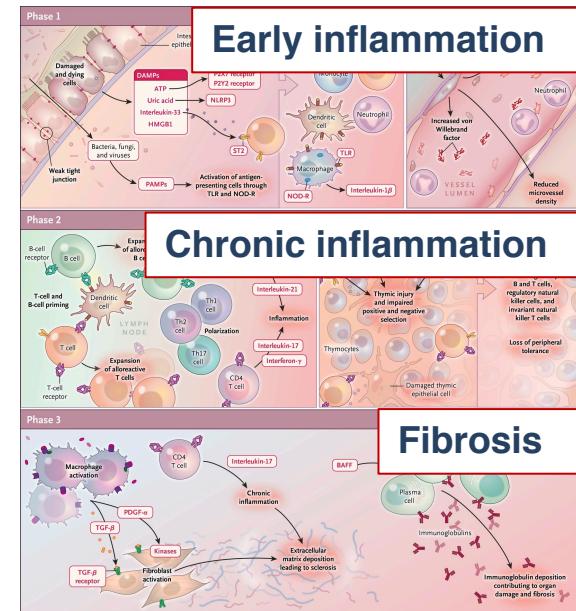
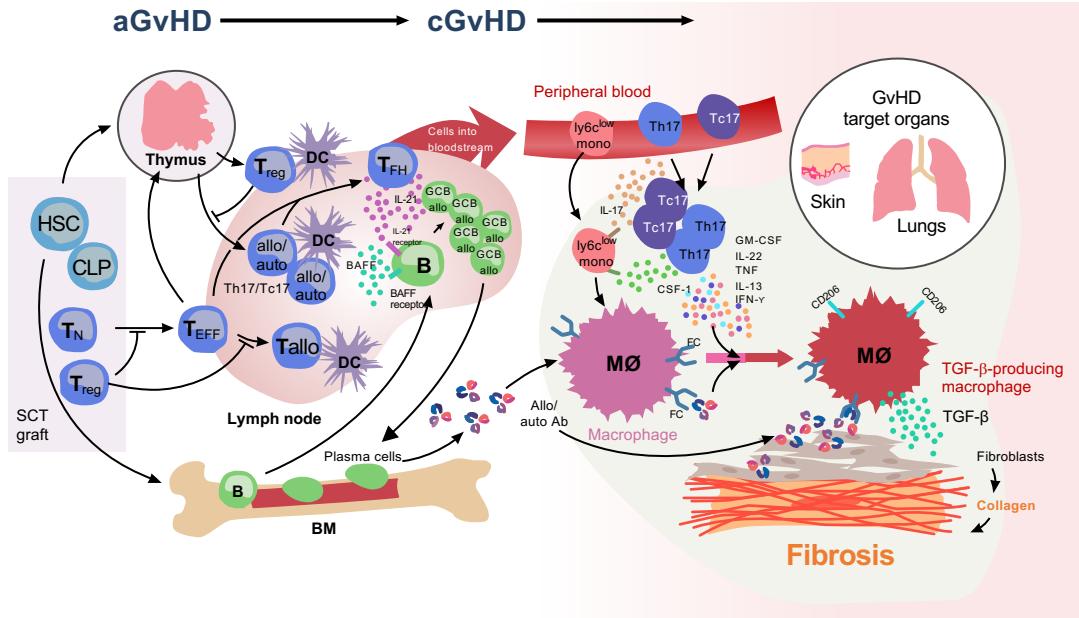
↑ NRM among survivors >2y

↓ QoL e LT-outcome

↑ Immune-disregulation



## Cellular and molecular mediators contributing to the continuum of aGvHD and cGvHD pathology



# How we treat Acute GvHD

*EBMT recommendation 2020*

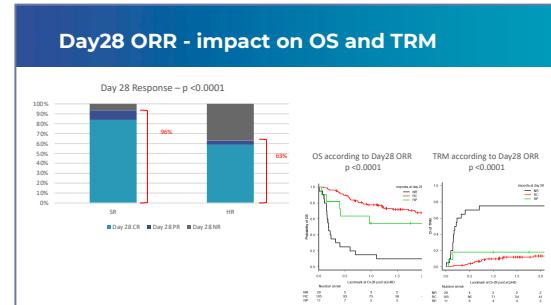
*Clinical trials*

Overall MAGIC	Topical Treatment	Systemic Treatment	When?
<b>Grade I</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Not recommended</b>	
<b>Grade II</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes*</b>	The decision to initiate treatment for acute GVHD is based on clinical signs.
<b>Grade III</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes*</b>	
<b>Grade IV</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes*</b>	Biopsies are recommended.

\*Systemic treatment - Methylprednisolone 2 mg/kg per day or equivalent prednisone

\*Clinical trial

**2<sup>^</sup> Line and Beyond** no drugs in label in Europe (FDA 2019 Ruxolitinib)  
 ECP – Ruxolitinib – Infliximab – MMF etc  
 Clinical Trial



# How we treat Chronic GvHD

*EBMT recommendation 2020*

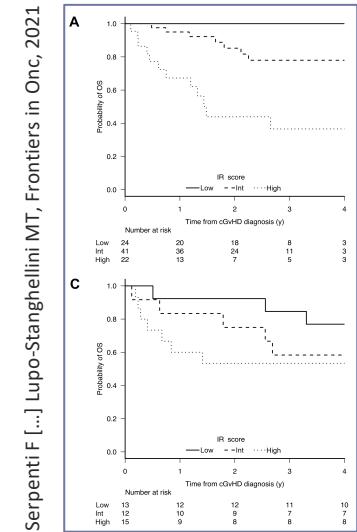
*Clinical trials*

Overall NIH	Topical Treatment	Systemic Treatment	When?
Mild	Yes	Not recommended	According to symptom type, severity (moderate / severe), dynamics of progression.
Moderate	Yes	Yes*	Other relevant variables: disease risk, chimerism, minimal residual disease.
Severe	Yes	Yes*	

\*Systemic treatment - Prednisone 1 mg/kg per day

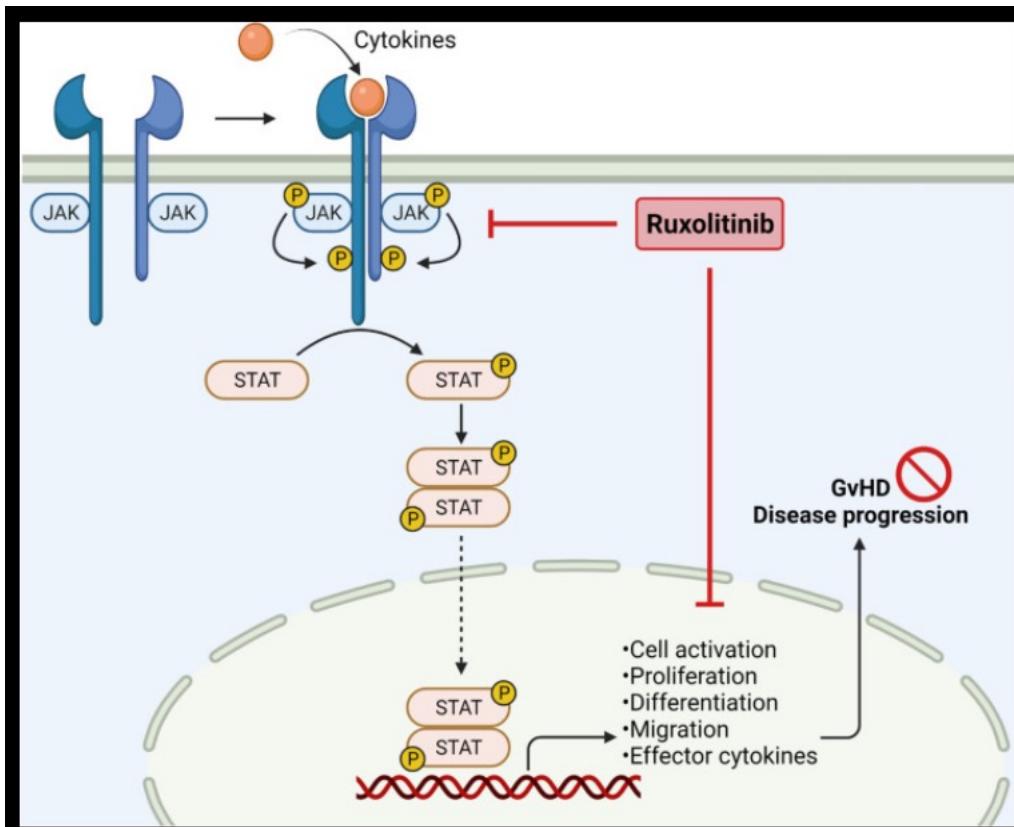
\*Clinical trial

**2<sup>nd</sup> Line and Beyond** no drugs in label in Europe  
(FDA approved Ruxolitinib – Ibrutinib - Belumosudil)  
ECP – Ruxolitinib – Infliximab – MMF – TKi – Ibrutinib - etc  
Clinical Trial



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

Braun & Zeiser. Front in Immun 2021



Key players in mediating pro-inflammatory signalling

**Ruxolitinib**

## Changing Paradigm - 1 *Ruxolitinib (2015&beyond)*

### Acute GvHD

**1Ph 2 & 1Ph 3**

225 pts

Day 28  
ORR 62%

2  
prospective  
trials

72 pts

Worst  
outcome  
in liver

4  
retrospective  
trials

126 pts

CMV  
reactivatio  
n

### Chronic GvHD

**1 Ph 3**

165 pts

Skin-Mouth-  
Upper/Lower  
GI ORR>40%

1  
prospective  
trial

43 pts

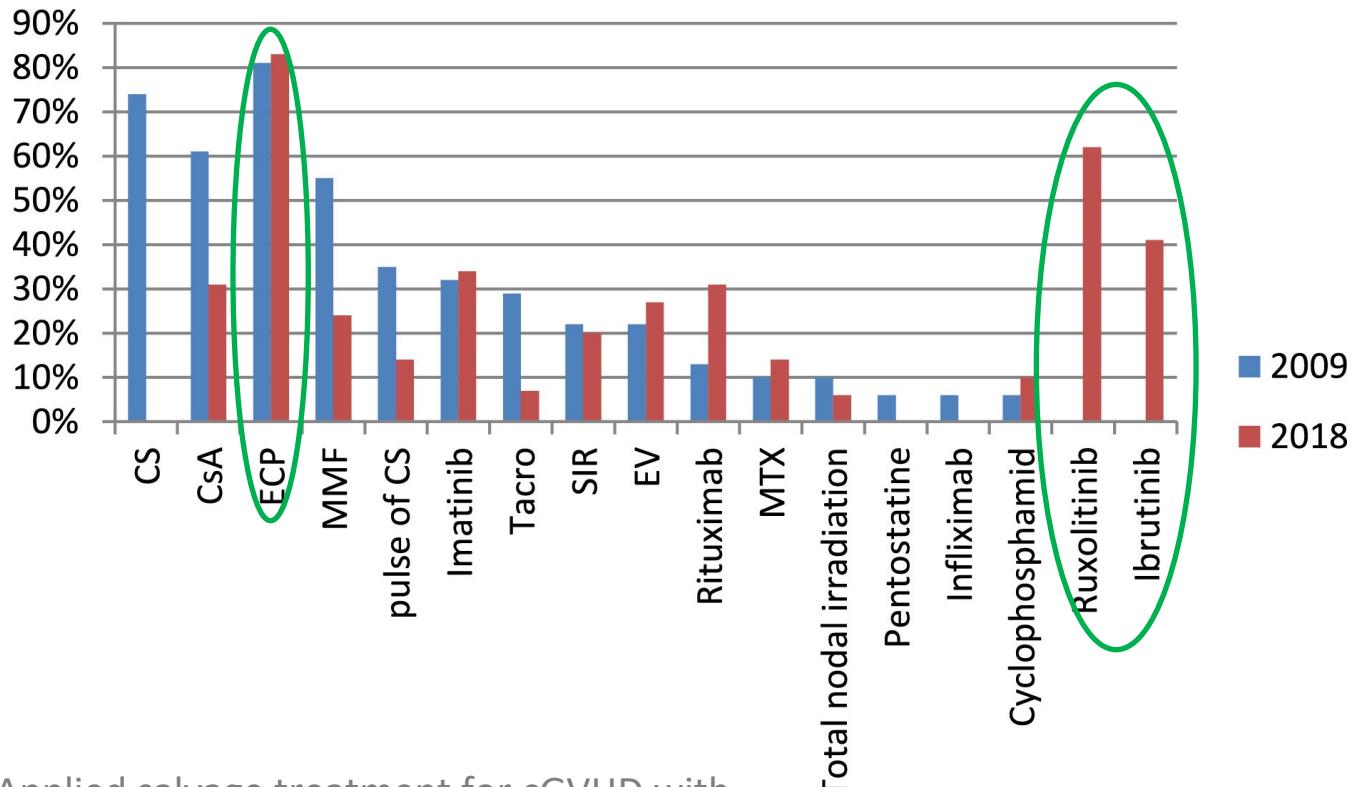
No change  
eyes, lung,  
joint,  
genitalia

9  
retrospective  
trials

373 pts

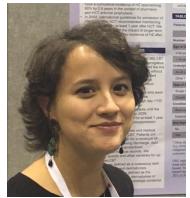
Good  
mouth  
response,  
worst lung

## Changing Paradigm - 2



Applied salvage treatment for cGVHD with cutaneous deep sclerosis.

Wolff et al, BBMT 2019



Elisabetta Xue



Francesca Lorentino

## Ruxolitinib for chronic steroid-refractory graft versus host disease: a single center experience

Elisabetta Xue<sup>a</sup>, Francesca Lorentino<sup>a,b</sup>, Francesca Pavesi<sup>a</sup>, Andrea Assanelli<sup>a</sup>, Jacopo Peccatori<sup>a</sup>, Massimo Bernardi<sup>a</sup>, Consuelo Corti<sup>a</sup>, Fabio Ciceri<sup>a</sup>, Maria Teresa Lupo Stanghellini<sup>a,\*</sup>

**Table 3**  
Differentiated response according to Wilcoxon signed ranks test.

	Baseline → 3 months	Baseline → 6 months
Performance Status <sup>†</sup>	0145	0058
Skin	0005	003
Eyes	0083	0046
Mouth	0002	0009
Joint-Fascia	0564	1
Lung	0317	0317
Genital Tract <sup>*</sup>	0046	0705
Gastro-intestinal	0317	0157
Liver	NE	NE

<sup>†</sup> Performance status was calculated through Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group score.

\* Responses were seen both among female and male patients.

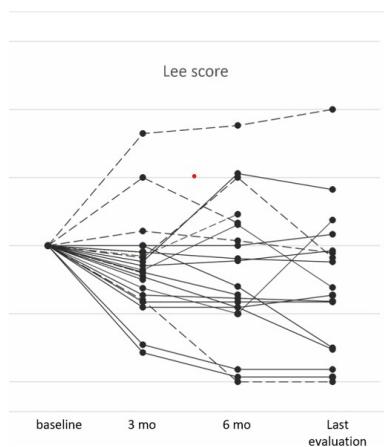
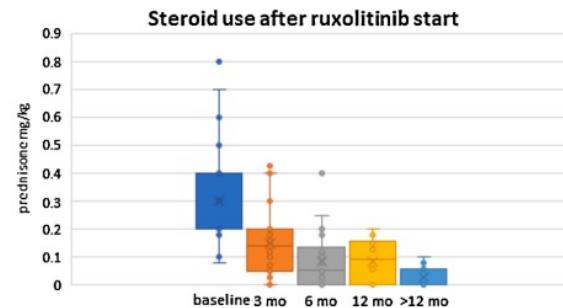
# Ruxolitinib – great expectations

**Table 2**

Overall response rate on evaluable patients from Ruxolitinib start.

	At 3 months	At 6 months	Long term response
CR or PR	20 (59 %)	16 (62 %)	15 (75 %)
SD or PD	14 (41 %)	10 (38 %)	5 (25 %)
Not evaluable	2	10	16

Abbreviation: CR, complete response, PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; PD, progression disease.



# 1ST SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE



## Ruxolitinib for Glucocorticoid-Refractory Acute GVHD

PHASE 3, MULTICENTER, RANDOMIZED, OPEN-LABEL TRIAL

309 Patients  
with grade II–IV  
glucocorticoid-refractory  
acute graft-versus-host  
disease



Best Available Therapy



Partial or complete  
response at day 28

62%

39%

Odds ratio, 2.64; P<0.001

Treatment-associated  
adverse reaction

33%

Thrombocytopenia

18%

Ruxolitinib significantly improved efficacy outcomes as compared with  
best available therapy

Ruxolitinib  
acute GvHD phase 3

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

**Table 1. Criteria for corticosteroid-refractory and ruxolitinib-refractory acute GVHD**

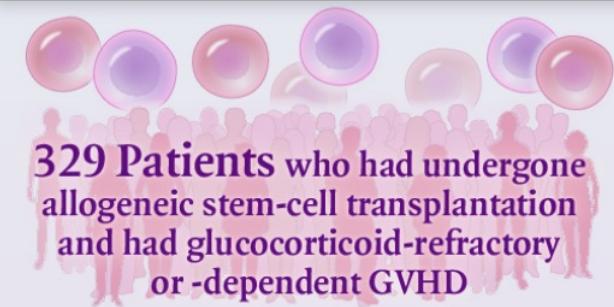
Criteria
<b>Corticosteroid-refractory acute GVHD</b> (1) Disease progression after 3 days of treatment with MP 2 mg/kg per day equivalent, (2) Lack of improvement after 7 d of treatment with MP 2 mg/kg per day equivalent, (3) Progression to a new organ after treatment with MP 1 mg/kg per day equivalent for skin and upper gastrointestinal GVHD, or (4) Recurrence during or after a corticosteroid taper.
<b>Ruxolitinib-refractory acute GVHD</b> (1) Progression of GVHD compared with baseline after $\geq$ 5 to 10 days of treatment with ruxolitinib, based either on objective increase in stage/grade or new organ involvement; (2) Lack of improvement in GVHD (PR or better) compared with baseline after at least 14 days of treatment with ruxolitinib; or (3) Loss of response, defined as objective worsening of GVHD determined by increase in stage, grade or new organ involvement at any time after initial improvement.

Mohy et al, Blood 2020



## Ruxolitinib for Glucocorticoid-Refractory Chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease

PHASE 3, OPEN-LABEL, RANDOMIZED TRIAL



**329 Patients** who had undergone allogeneic stem-cell transplantation and had glucocorticoid-refractory or -dependent GVHD



Ruxolitinib  
10 mg twice  
daily  
(N=165)



Investigator's  
choice of therapy  
(control)  
(N=164)

Overall response  
(complete or partial response)  
at week 24

49.7%  
(82 patients)

OR, 2.99; P<0.001

25.6%  
(42 patients)

Ruxolitinib showed superior efficacy over control but led to a higher incidence of grade  $\geq 3$  thrombocytopenia and anemia

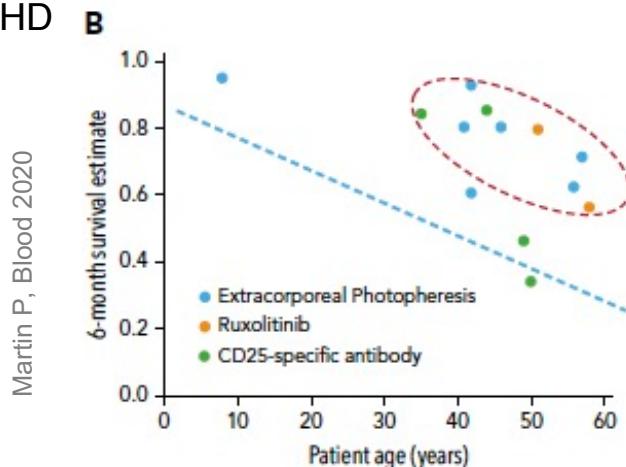
Ruxolitinib  
chronic GvHD phase 3

Ruxolitinib is approved by FDA / EMA / AIFA for both a/c GvHD

Meta-analysis **Ruxo and ECP are superior to other 2<sup>nd</sup> line in SR-aGvHD.**

Preference for ECP in case of infection or severe cytopenia.

- ⌚ Durable overall response in aGvHD 40%
- ⌚ Unsatisfactory ORR in eyes – liver – lung ch GvHD



## Changing Paradigm.3

GITMO / SIDEM BestPractice ECP 2022

GITMO GvHD guideline → ongoing

PTCy

ECP

Ruxo

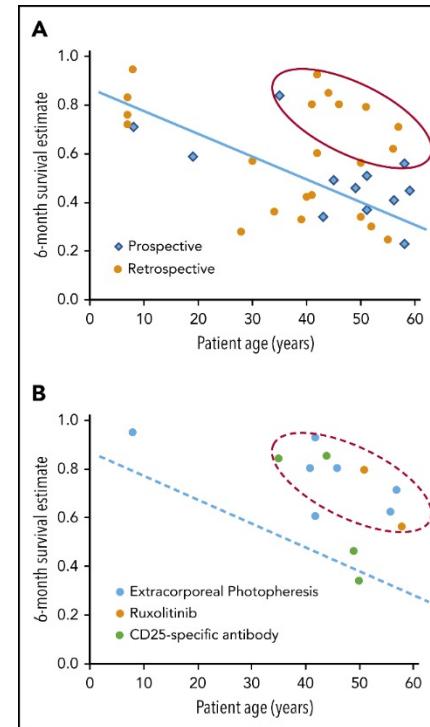
Anti-TNF

MMF

EBMT 2020 Recommendation → up-date

## ECP vs Ruxolitinib

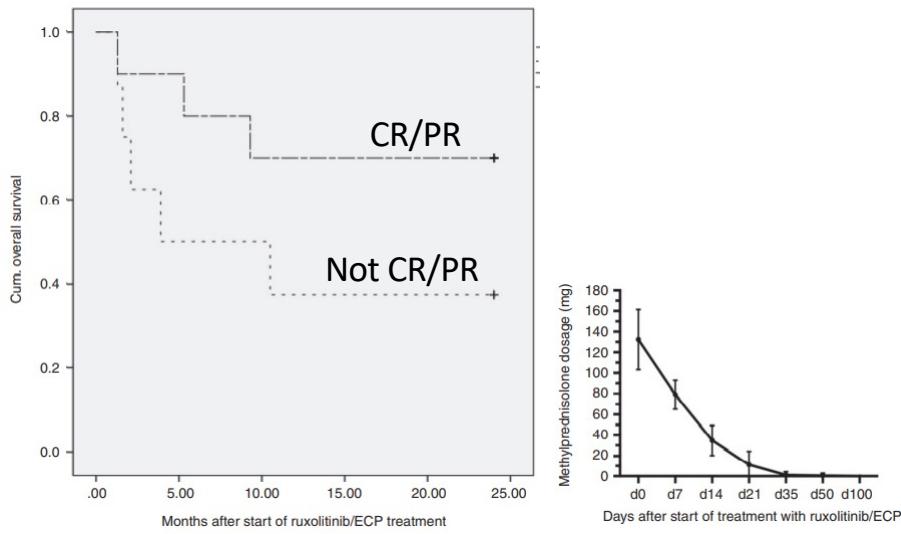
	ECP pros	ECP cons	Ruxo pros	Ruxo cons
Citopenia		X		X
Infezioni	X			X
Assenza accessi venosi periferici		X	X	
Drug Drug Interactions	X			X
Disponibilità sul territorio		X*	X*	
Acute vs Chronic	X		X	



# ECP + Ruxolitinib in aGvHD

Ruxolitinib plus extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP) for steroid refractory acute graft-versus-host disease of lower GI-tract after allogeneic stem cell transplantation leads to increased regulatory T cell level

Franziska Modemann<sup>1,2</sup> · Francis Ayuk<sup>1</sup> · Christine Wolschke<sup>1</sup> · Maximilian Christopeit<sup>1</sup> · Dietlinde Janson<sup>1</sup> · Ute-Marie von Pein<sup>1</sup> · Nicolaus Kröger<sup>1</sup>



Single center

18 pts w steroid-refractory lower GI acute GvHD

15/18 Ruxo → Ruxo + ECP

17/18 Ruxo + ECP + 6MP+/-CsA + MMF

CR 44% - PR 11%

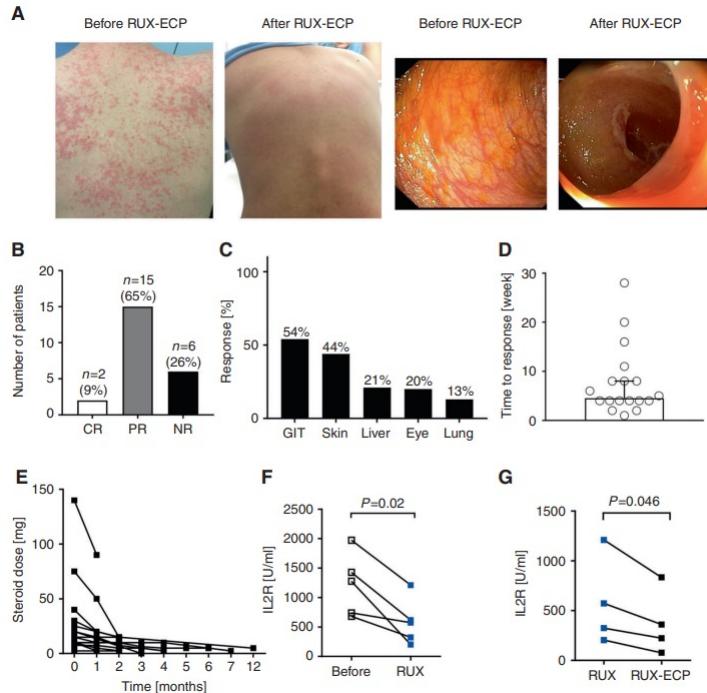
Ruxolitinib plus extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP) for steroid refractory acute graft-versus-host...

2289

Table 2 Response and side effects.

Patient	Response to treatment	Leukopenia	Anemia	Thrombopenia	Other side effects	CMV reactivation
1	CR	None	None	None	None	No
2	No response	None	CTC I	None	Fever CTC I	Yes
3	PR	CTC II	None	None	Fever CTC II	Yes
4	No response	None	None	None	None	No
5	PR	CTC I	CTC I	CTC I	Elevated CRP-level CTC II	Yes
6	CR	CTC II	None	None	None	Yes
7	No response	None	None	None	Elevated CRP-level CTC II	Yes
8	No response	CTC III	None	None	Fever CTC I elevated CRP-level CTC II	No
9	CR	CTC II	None	CTC III	Elevated CRP-level CTC II	Yes
10	No response	None	None	CTC II	Elevated CRP-level CTC I	Yes
11	CR	None	None	None	Fever CTC I elevated CRP-level CTC III	Yes
12	CR	CTC I	CTC I	None	None	Yes
13	No response	None	None	None	Fever CTC II elevated CRP-level CTC III sepsis	Yes
14	CR	CTC II	None	None	Fever CTC I	Yes
15	No response	CTC I	CTC I	None	Fever CTC II elevated CRP-level CTC I	No
16	No response	None	CTC II	CTC III	None	No
17	CR	CTC I	None	CTC II	None	No
18	CR	None	None	CTC I	Fever elevated CRP-level	Yes

# ECP + Ruxolitinib in chGvHD



## Ruxolitinib–ECP combination treatment for refractory severe chronic graft-versus-host disease

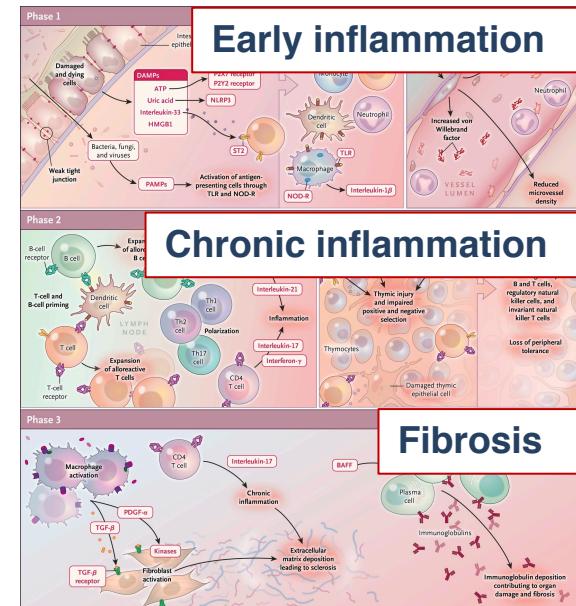
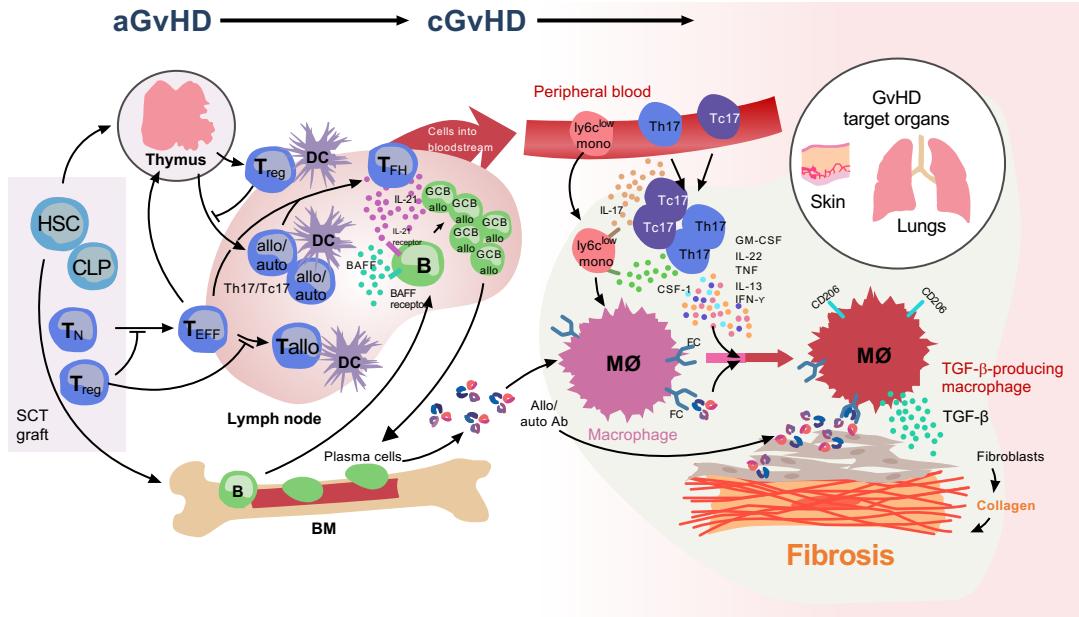
Kristina Maas-Bauer<sup>1</sup> · Chrissoula Kiote-Schmidt<sup>1</sup> · Hartmut Bertz<sup>1</sup> · Petya Apostolova<sup>1</sup> · Ralph Wäsch<sup>1</sup> · Gabriele Ihorst<sup>2</sup> · Jürgen Finke<sup>1</sup> · Robert Zeiser<sup>1</sup>

Single center  
23 pts w steroid-refractory ch GvHD

Best response rate (CR or PR) at any time point  
74% (17/23) - 9% (2/23) CR and 65% (15/23) PR.  
The 24-months-survival was 75% (CI 56.0–94.1).

Newly diagnosed cytopenia 22% (5/23)  
CMV reactivation 26% (6/23)

## Cellular and molecular mediators contributing to the continuum of aGvHD and cGvHD pathology



# Changing Paradigm.4

## *One size does not fit all – smth old*

### Randomized phase II trial of extracorporeal phototherapy and steroids vs. steroids alone for newly diagnosed acute GVHD

Rohtesh S. Mehta<sup>1</sup> · Roland Bassett<sup>2</sup> · Gabriela Rondon<sup>1</sup> · Bethany J. Overman<sup>1</sup> · Uday R. Popat<sup>1</sup> · Chitra M. Hosing<sup>1</sup> · Katy Rezvani<sup>1</sup> · Muzaffar H. Qazilbash<sup>1</sup> · Paolo Anderlini<sup>1</sup> · Roy B. Jones<sup>1</sup> · Parbat Kebriaei<sup>1</sup> · David Maini<sup>1</sup> · Issa F. Khouri<sup>1</sup> · Betul Oisan<sup>1</sup> · Stefan O. Clurea<sup>1</sup> · Kayo Kondo<sup>1</sup> · Daniel R. Couriel<sup>3</sup> · Elizabeth J. Shpall<sup>1</sup> · Richard E. Champlin<sup>1</sup> · Amin M. Alousi<sup>1</sup>

Single center - open label – adaptively randomized Bayesian design

- 20 pts randomized fairly
- Subsequent assignment to be harmonized to an arm based on probability of success in each arm

New onset

Biopsy proven

1<sup>st</sup> line

### Treatment success on day 56 (primary endpoint):

- Be alive
- Be in remission from malignancy
- Achieved aGvHD response w/o need for additional therapy
- Be on <1mg/Kg PDN on day 28 and <0.5 mg/Kg PDN on day 56

Table 2 Primary outcome: day 56 treatment success<sup>a</sup>.

Treatment Arm	Risk group	Success	Failure	Total
Steroids alone	All patients	16 (53%)	14 (47%)	30
	Visceral	3 (43%)	4 (57%)	7
	Skin only	13 (57%)	10 (43%)	23
ECP + steroids	All patients	33 (65%)	18 (35%)	51
	Visceral	7 (47%)	8 (53%)	15
	Skin only	26 (72%)	10 (28%)	36

<sup>a</sup>Defined as being alive, in a remission, achieving a GVHD response (CR or PR) without additional therapy and on a prednisone (MP equivalent) dose of <1 mg/kg/day on day 28 and <0.5 mg/kg/day by day 56. The probability the ECP + steroids arm has a higher success rate compared to steroids alone for day 56 treatment success was 81.5%.

**Caveat**  
study not powered for subgroup analyses

**ECP arm higher probability of success (0.815) – response rate 65% vs 53%.**

Potentially more beneficial than steroid alone in skin-only GvHD (response rate 72% vs 57%) than for visceral organ aGvHD (47% vs 43%).

**Patients with treatment success** (regardless of arm assignment) **had a markedly lower risk for NRM when compared to those with treatment failure** (HR 0.32 – p 0.003)

Since **Ruxolitinib** can lead to cytopenias due to co-inhibition of JAK2, specific JAK1 inhibitors – **Itacitinib** - were developed to reduce cytokine signaling w/o side effects

Efficacy and safety of itacitinib versus placebo in combination with corticosteroids for initial treatment of acute graft-versus-host disease (GRAVITAS-301): a randomised, multicentre, double-blind, phase 3 trial

Robert Zeiser, Gérard Socié, Mark A Schroeder, Sunil Abhyankar, Carlos Pinho Vaz, Mi Kwon, Johannes Clausen, Leonid Volodin, Sebastian Giebel, Manuel Jurado Chacon, Gabrielle Meyers, Monalisa Ghosh, Dries Deeren, Jaime Sanz, Rodica Morariu-Zamfir, Michael Arbushites, Mani Lakshminarayanan, April M Barbour, Yi-Bin Chen

Highly selective JAK1 inhib (Itacitinib) + steroid  
vs  
steroid + placebo

Day 28 ORR 74% (CR 53%) vs 66% (CR 40%) p 0.078

*Improvement did not reach the prespecified significance level*

Zeiser et al, Lancet Hematol 2022

## Changing Paradigm.5

*One size does not fit all – smth new*



American Society of Hematology  
2021 L Street NW, Suite 900,  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202-776-0544 | Fax 202-776-0545  
editorial@hematology.org

Effective treatment of low risk acute GVHD with itacitinib monotherapy

Tracking no: BLD-2022-017442R1

Itacitinib vs steroid  
In Low Risk aGvHD (Minnesota RS + Ann Arbor 1)  
Day 28 ORR 89% vs 86 p 0.67  
Day 7 ORR 81% vs 66% p 0.02

Safe – durable  
Alternative to steroid in LR aGvHD?!

Etra et al, Blood 2022

*One size does not fit all  
smth new & smth old*

<b>Risk stratification</b>	biomarker (eg Ann Arbor) clinical risk score (eg Minnesota RS; IR score; etc)
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## **Escalation (HR) vs Deescalation (LR)**

Old drug in different pts selection

**Comparator**

**Organ target**

**Trials' design** – match pair vs randomized vs cohort comparison etc

## Changing Paradigm.6

*smth borrowed*

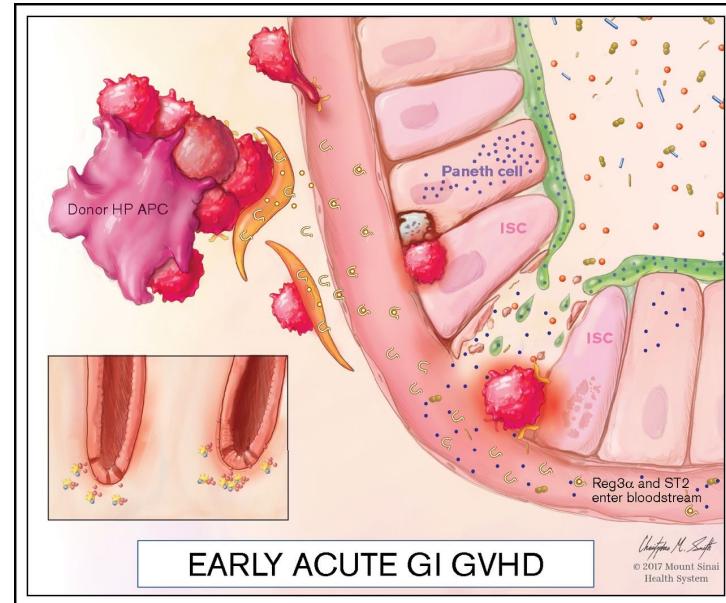
### Background

- GUT aGvHD is a life-threatening complication
- Stage 4 GUT predict 6-12 month mortality
- Steroid-refractory GI-GvHD has low rate of response to therapy

### Goal

Novel therapies specifically aiming at enhanced intestinal regeneration should be pursued

- **IL22**
- R-spondin
- **GLP-2 - Glucagone-like-peptide-2**



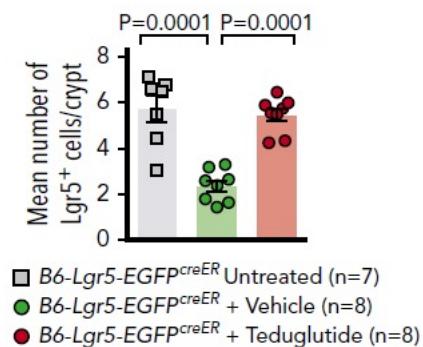
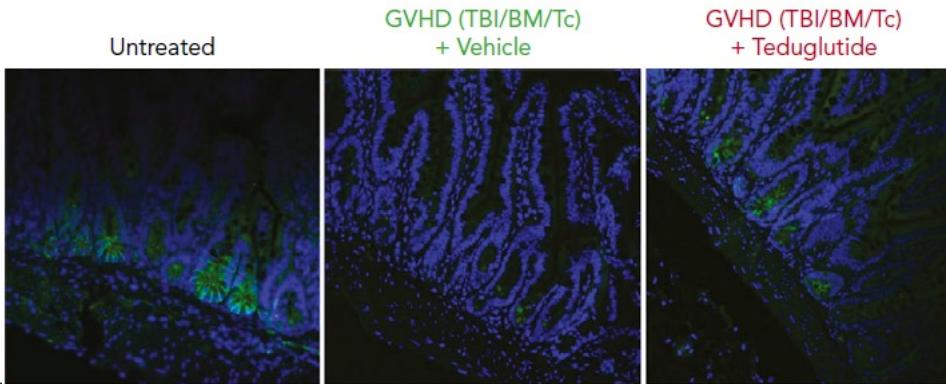
EARLY ACUTE GI GVHD

## GLP-2

*Glucagon-like-peptide-2*

GLP-2 is a enteroendocrine tissue hormone produced by intestinal L cells.

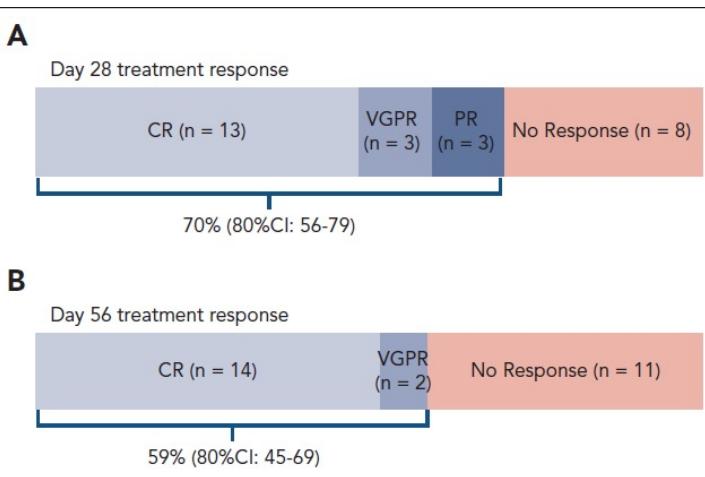
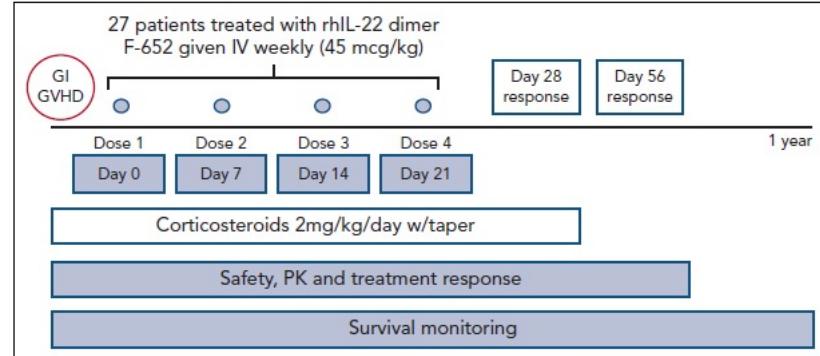
- aGvHD reduce GLP-2 level (Human/Mouse)
  - GLP-2 agonist reduce de novo aGvHD and SR-aGvHD, preserving GvL.
  - GLP-2 agonist promote regeneration of Paneth Cells and Intestinal Stem Cells
  - GLP-2 enhance production of antimicrobial peptides and caused microbiome changes
- **intestinal homeostasis**



## Open label – single cohort – multicentre

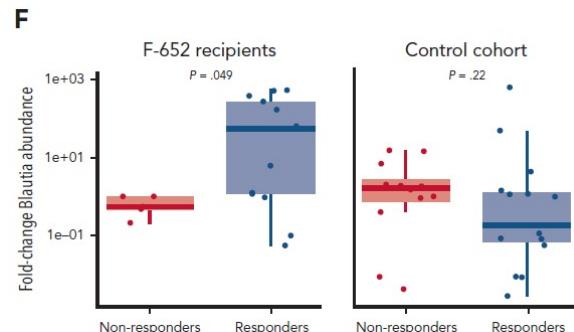
27 pts newly diagnosed  
biopsy proven  
 $G1 \rightarrow G4$  GUT GvHD

AE 20% xerostomia / 23% skin xerosis / 13% xerophthalmia



**KEY POINTS**

- Use of the rhIL-22 dimer F-652 with systemic steroids appeared safe and was associated with a high response rate in newly diagnosed GI GVHD.
- Patients responding after tissue-targeted therapy with F-652 and corticosteroids demonstrated an expansion of healthy commensal GI flora.



## Changing Paradigm.7 *smth borrowed*

### Background

Intestinal homeostasis  $\leftrightarrow$  dysbiosis is crucial for outcome in autologous / CAR-T / allogeneic HSCT

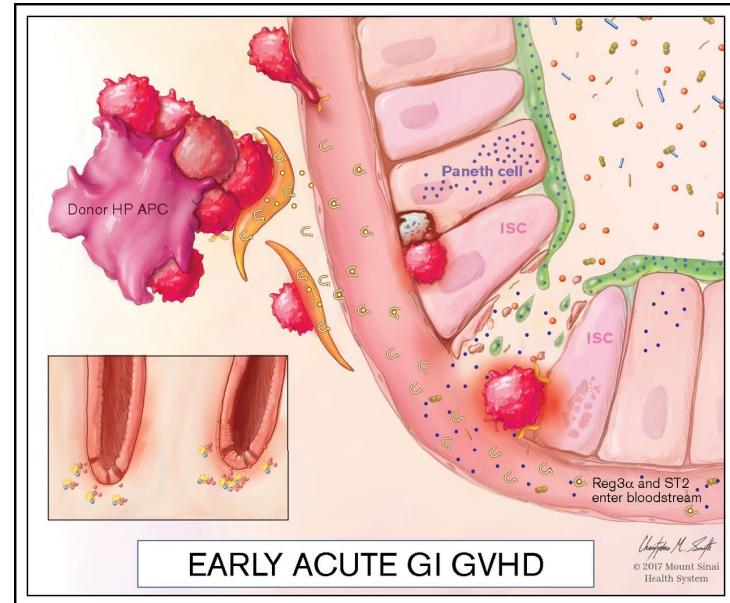
Microbiota interplays with immune system → infection, multi drug resistant germs, SR-aGvHD

### Goal

Dysbiosis = disruption of balance

REVERSIBLE

**FMT** (faecal microbiota transplantation) restores microbiota richness and correct dysbiosis associated with chronic disease.



## *The MaaT013 experience*

76 pts w SR-GI-aGvHD

24 pts Ph2 – 52 compassionate

MaaT013      is a pooled allogeneic microbiome ecosystem therapy.  
Weekly enema administration.  
cGMP production.

Day 28 – ORR 38% (Ph2)

Day 28 – ORR 58% (expanded access)

Day 28 responders have an higher 12-M OS

Day 28 responders have an higher alfa-diversity indices

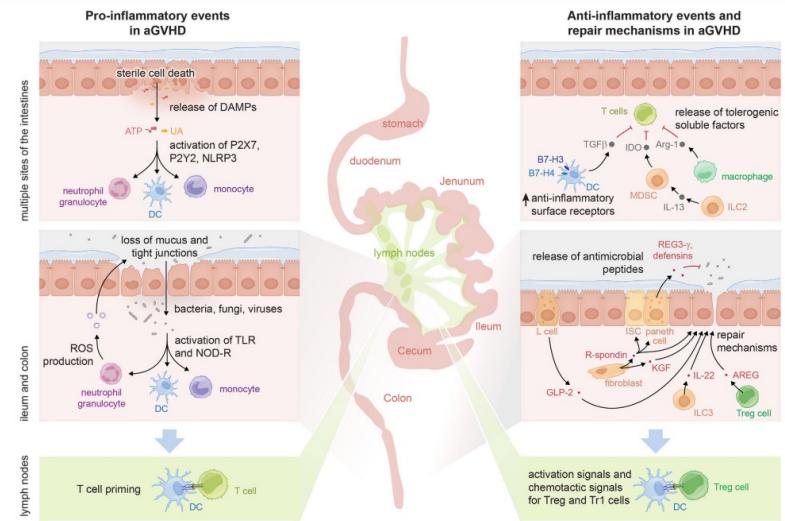
Day 28 responders have a better MaaT engraftment

## *One size does not fit all smth borrowed*

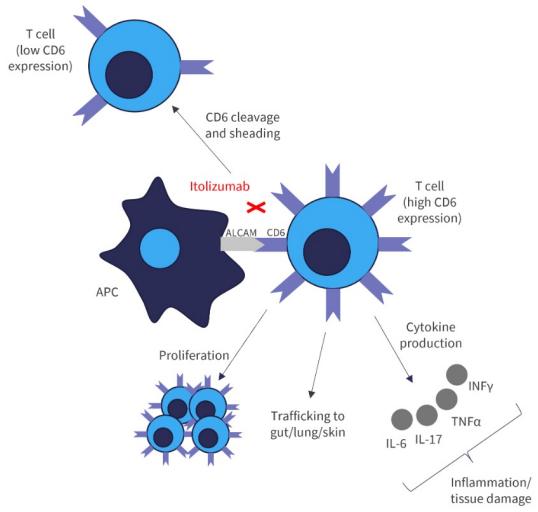
### GUT lesson

*GVHD, IBD, and primary immunodeficiencies  
The gut as a target of immunopathology  
resulting from impaired immunity*

Zeiser et al, Eur J Immunol 2022



## Changing Paradigm.8 *smth given as a gift*



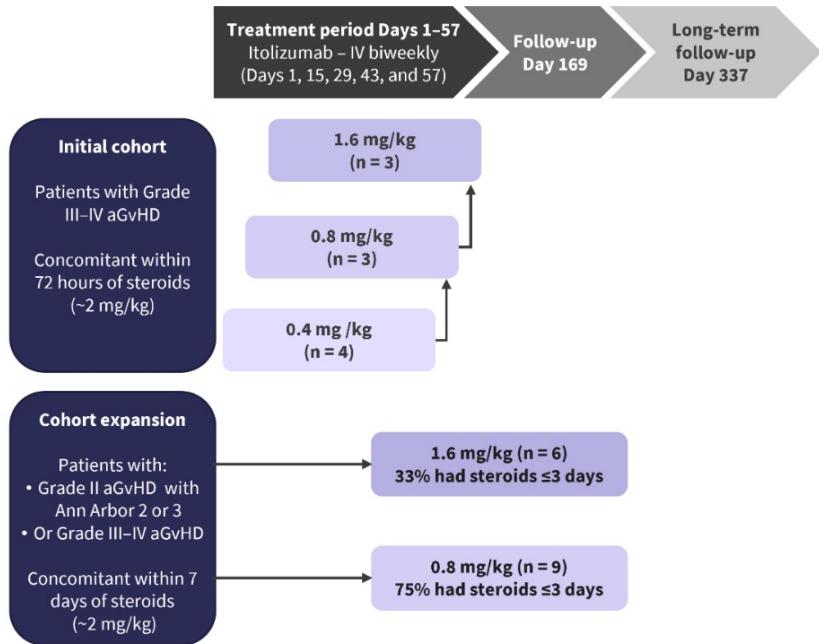
Itolizumab, a humanized immunoglobulin G1 (IgG1) anti-CD6 monoclonal antibody, inhibits CD6 signaling, consequently decreasing T-cell activation and proliferation.

The CD6-activated leukocyte cell adhesion molecule (ALCAM) pathway plays an important role in inflammation and autoimmunity.

Itolizumab binds to CD6 (at Domain-1) and causes shedding of the receptor. T cells with lower levels of CD6 exhibit reduced sensitivity to stimulation, including decreased activation, proliferation, and cytokine production

# 1ST SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

## Itolizumab



Cutler C et al, EBMT 2022

Characteristic, % (unless otherwise stated)	Itolizumab 0.4 mg/kg (n = 4)	Itolizumab 0.8 mg/kg (n = 12)	Itolizumab 1.6 mg/kg (n = 9)	Total (N = 25)
aGVHD grade <sup>†</sup>				
II	0	8	0	4
III	75	58	67	64
IV	25	33	33	32
Organ involvement				
Skin	25	33	44	36
Liver	25	0	11	8
UGI	25	67	22	44
LGI	100	83	78	84
Minnesota high risk score <sup>‡</sup>				
100	67	78	76	
Ann Arbor Score 2 or 3				
100	100	89	96	

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

## EQUATE - Phase I-II study – 1<sup>^</sup> line in HR GvHD

25 pts

### Efficacy

Day 15 CR rate 50% and ORR 71%

Day 29 CR rate 52% and ORR 64%

Itolizumab within 72 hours of corticosteroids

Day 29 CR rate and ORR of 61% and 67%

Day 169 durable response rate 79%

Day 337 response rate 55%

### Safety

SAE 64% of patients

40% infection

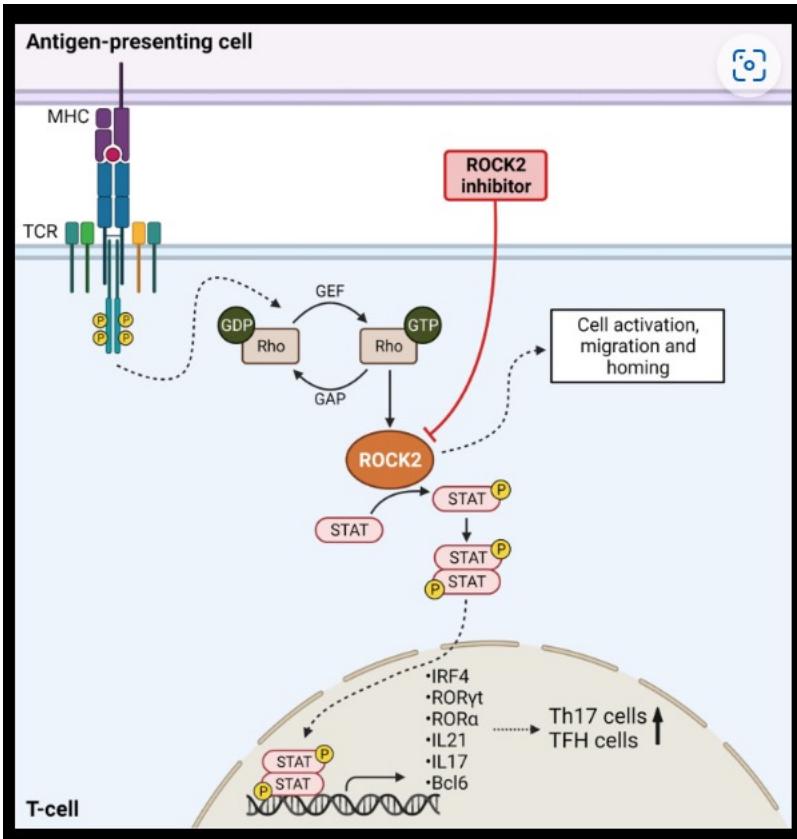
8% reporting a treatment-related SAE

Cutler C et al, EBMT 2022

*Phase III study has been initiated to investigate the efficacy and safety of itolizumab versus placebo as first-line-therapy in patients with Grade III–IV aGvHD ([NCT05263999](#)).*

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

Braun & Zeiser. Front in Immun 2021



**Belumosudil**

## Changing Paradigm.9 smth blue

### Belumosudil (*Rezurock*)

Oral selective inhibitor of ROCK-2 (Rho-associated coiled-coil containing protein kinase 2).

↓ type 17 and follicular T helper cell

↓ STAT3

↑ RegT via STAT5

#### Phase IIa – open label dose-finding

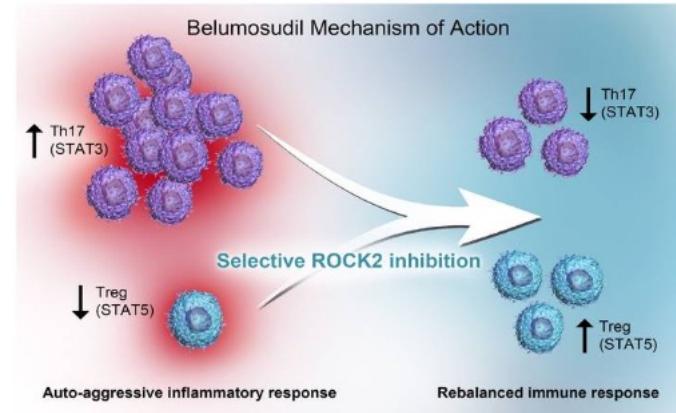
54 pts 200 mg die – 200 mg bid – 400 mg mono

#### Phase II – randomized, multicenter study

66 pts 200 mg die vs 66 pts 200 mg bid

chGvHD 2-5 previous lines

(30% ruxo – 30% ibrutinib)



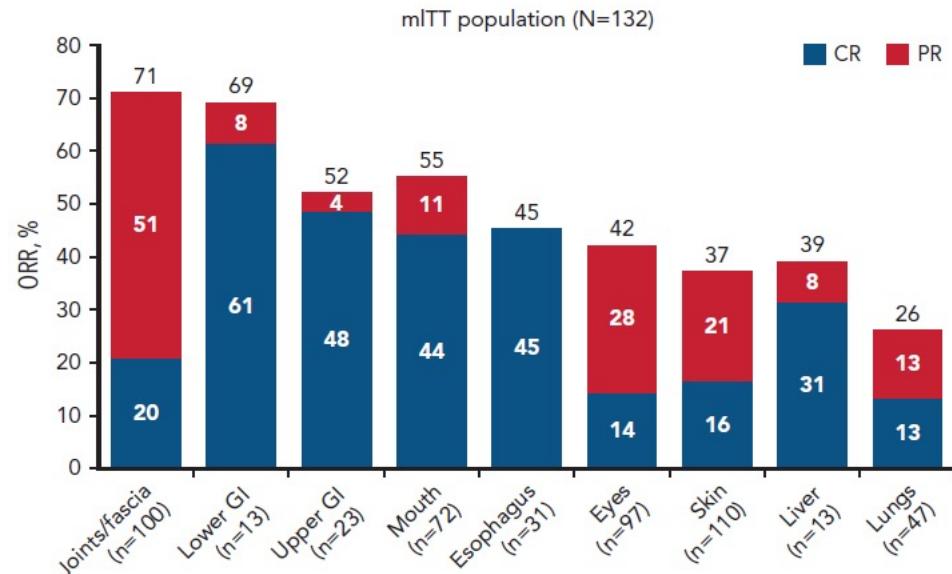
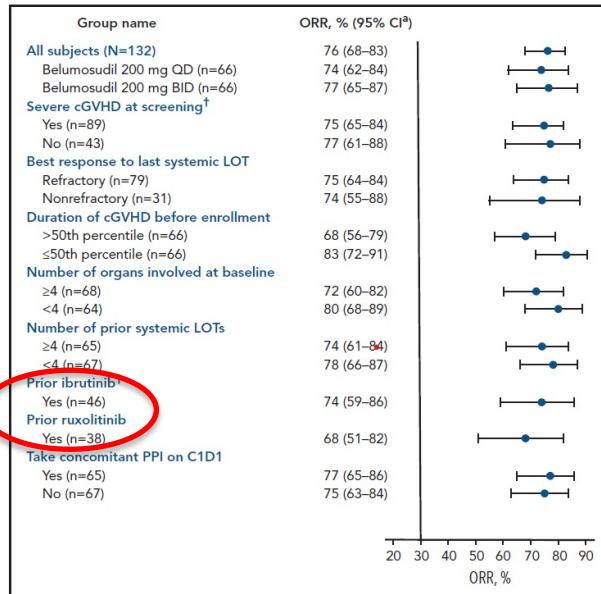
Jagasia M et al, JCO 2021  
Cutler C et al, Blood 2022

→ FDA approval

# Changing Paradigm.9

## **Belumosudil – ROCKstar study**

# *smth blue*



# Changing Paradigm.9

*smth blue*

## Belumosudil in Lung ChGvHD

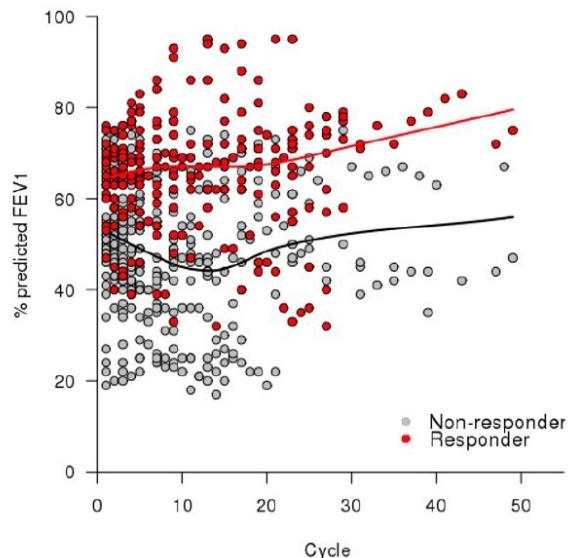
KD025 208 (Jagasia et al JCO 2021)

KD025 213 (Cutler et al Blood 2021)

59 pts	N	ORR
NIH G1	30 (59%)	50%
NIH G2	23 (39%)	17%
NIH G3	6 (10%)	0%
Overall		32% (17 PR – 15 CR)

### Multivariable analysis:

male sex, lower baseline NIH score, PR to previous lines



DeFilipp Z et al, Blood ADV 2022

# Changing Paradigm.9

*smth blue*

## Budget impact analysis of belumosudil for chronic graft-versus-host disease treatment in the United States

Carlos R. Bachier<sup>a</sup>, Jeffrey R. Skaar<sup>b</sup>, Sumudu Dehipawala<sup>b</sup>, Benjamin Miao<sup>b</sup> , Jonathan Leyoub<sup>c</sup> and Haya Taitel<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Sarah Cannon Transplant and Cellular Therapy Program, Methodist Hospital, San Antonio, TX, USA; <sup>b</sup>Evidence Strategy, Trinity Life Sciences, Waltham, MA, USA; <sup>c</sup>A Sanofi Company, Kadmon Corporation, LLC, New York, NY, USA



Figure 5. Budget percent change in 2026 with adoption of belumosudil with ibrutinib and ruxolitinib reduction.

## CSF-1R signaling is critical for macrophage-driven cGVHD pathophysiology

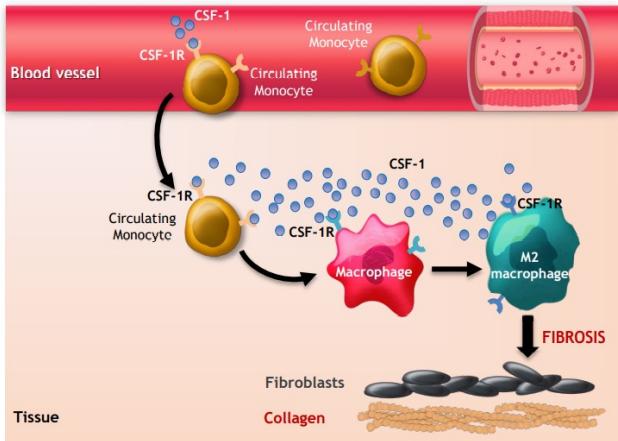


Figure Adopted from MacDonald, K.P.A. et al., *Blood*, 5 (129) 13-21;

- Preclinical models demonstrate the role of CSF-1R-dependent macrophages in disease development
- Blocking CSF-1 / CSF-1R signaling may prevent and treat cGVHD

## Axatilimab: Anti-CSF-1R mAb targeting macrophage-driven diseases

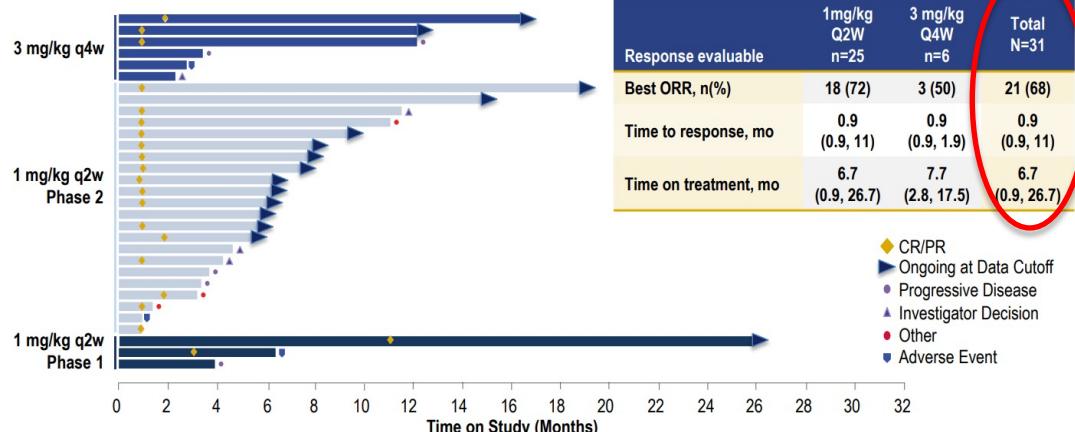
- High affinity humanized IgG4 monoclonal antibody
- Binds to ligand binding domain on CSF-1R
- Blocks binding of both CSF-1 & IL-34 ligands
- Administered via 30-minute infusion every 2-4 weeks
- Highly effective in selectively reducing levels of circulating profibrotic/non-classical monocytes
- Intermittent dosing allows for monocyte recovery prior to subsequent dose

Changing  
Paradigm.10

smth new

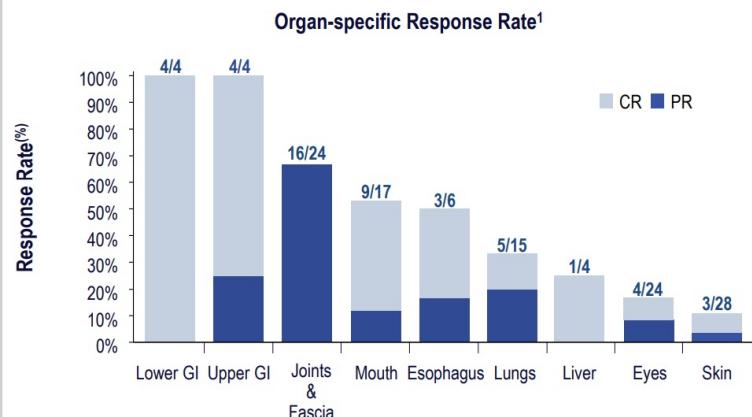
## Rapid and durable responses in doses advanced to pivotal trial

## APIES IN HEMATOLOGY



Response evaluable	1mg/kg Q2W n=25	3 mg/kg Q4W n=6	Total N=31
Best ORR, n(%)	18 (72)	3 (50)	21 (68)
Time to response, mo	0.9 (0.9, 11)	0.9 (0.9, 1.9)	0.9 (0.9, 11)
Time on treatment, mo	6.7 (0.9, 26.7)	7.7 (2.8, 17.5)	6.7 (0.9, 26.7)

## Axatilimab: Response seen across cGVHD organ system involvement

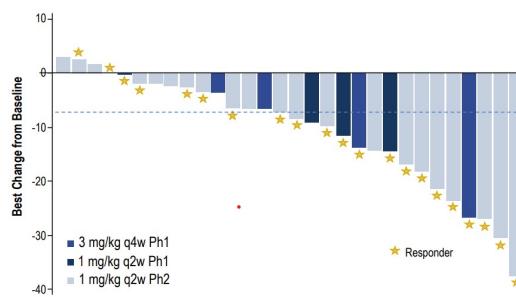


- 25 (81%) had severe skin sclerosis at baseline
- 4 (16%) improved sclerosis

## All related Grades in ≥20%

	1mg/kg Q2W n=26	3 mg/kg Q4W n=6	All patients N=40
Related TEAE, n (%)	17 (65)	5 (83)	29 (73)
AST increased	6 (23)	3 (50)	14 (35)
CPK increased	3 (12)	4 (67)	13 (33)
ALT increased	3 (12)	2 (33)	10 (25)
Lipase increased	3 (12)	3 (50)	9 (23)
Amylase increased	4 (15)	--	9 (23)
Fatigue	6 (23)	2 (33)	12 (30)
Periorbital edema	3 (12)	3 (50)	8 (20)

## Improved Lee symptom scores in a majority

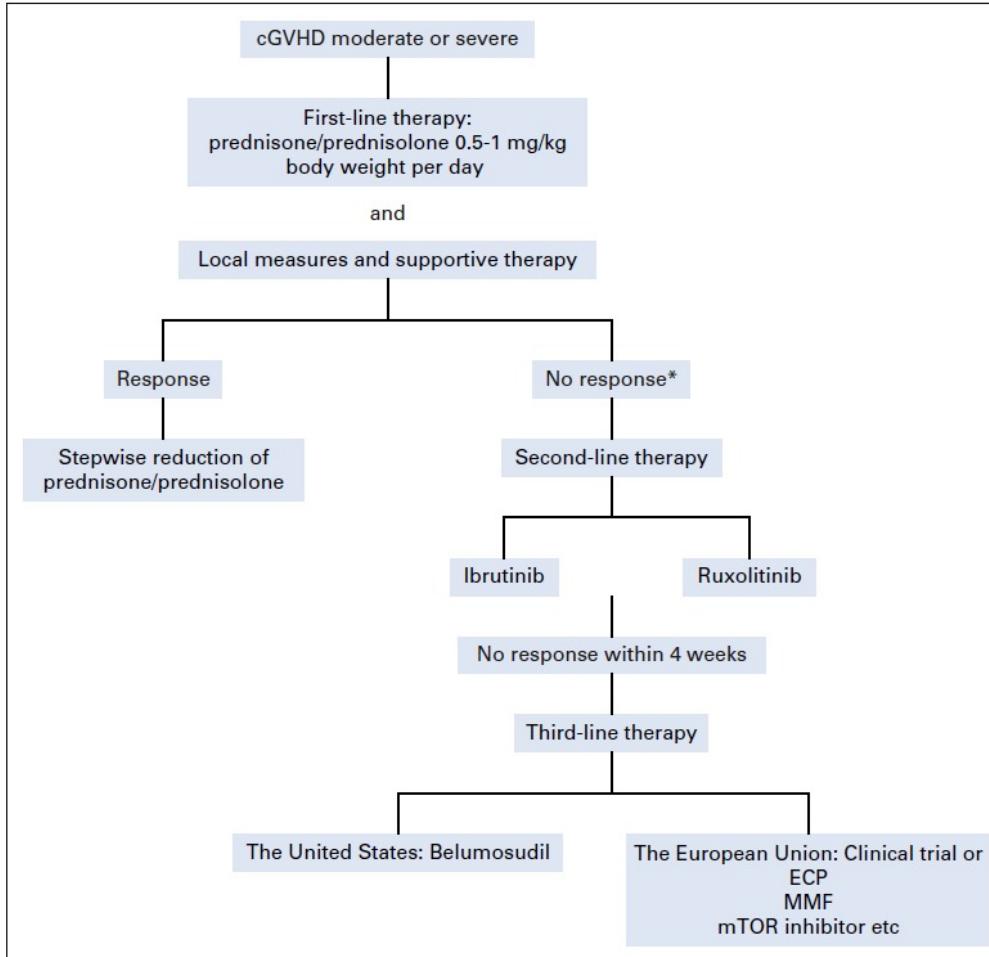


## Phase II AGAVE-201 ongoing

Stephanie J Lee et al, ASH 2021

# 1ST SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

No combination therapy had shown improved response rate over GC monotherapy for therapy naïve chGvHD



Approaches ignoring heterogeneity are likely to fail

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE THERAPIES IN HEMATOLOGY

**PATIENTS REPORTED OUTCOMES (PROS) IN ROUTINE PRACTICE SUPPORT THE IMPACT OF GVHD ON LONG-TERM WORSENING OF QUALITY OF LIFE: ANALYSIS ON 105 PROSPECTIVE PATIENTS.**

M.T. Lupo-Stanghellini<sup>1</sup>, E. Dira<sup>1</sup>, A. Bruno<sup>1</sup>, F. Farina<sup>1</sup>, F. Aletti<sup>1</sup>, S. Piemontese<sup>1</sup>, R. Greco<sup>1</sup>, S. Marktel<sup>1</sup>, S. Mastaglio<sup>1</sup>, E. Xue<sup>1</sup>, C. Daniela<sup>1</sup>, G. Catalano<sup>1</sup>, M. Bernardi<sup>1</sup>, J. Peccatori<sup>1</sup>, M.G. Carrabba<sup>1</sup>, C. Corti<sup>1</sup>, F. Ciceri<sup>1,2</sup>

**Aim:** to analyze the perception of QoL in long-term survivors after HSCT according to FACT-BMT scale.

**Method :** Prospective single-center study

105 patients - HSCT Jan 2004 /Dec 2020

Follow-up >/=2y

**FACT-BMT** paper questionnaire - 5 point Likert-type scale

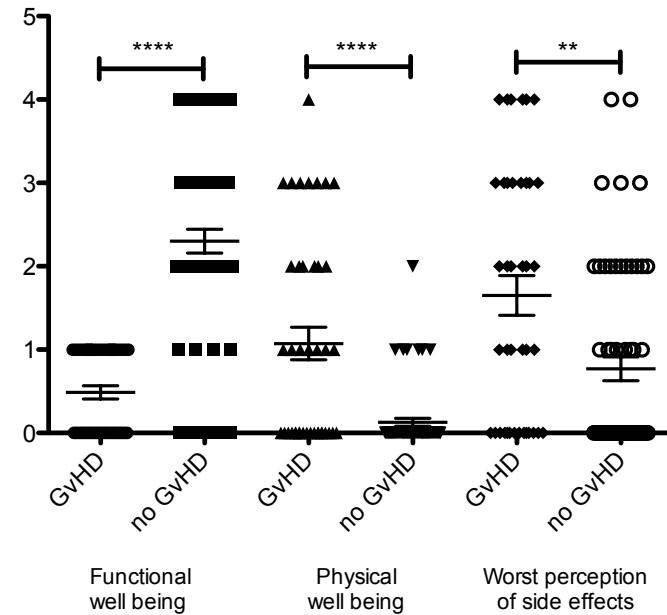
Physical Well-Being,

Social/Family Well-Being,

Emotional Well-Being,

Functional Well-Being,

BMT Subscale



- Donor Source ns
- Age <-> concern about work (p 0.0178).
- Female pts -> less satisfaction about the appearance of their body (p 0.02).

Fabio Ciceri  
Consuelo Corti  
Jacopo Peccatori  
Massimo Bernardi  
Andrea Assanelli  
Matteo Carrabba

**Trial Team**

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**Nurses**

**Clinical**

**Lab Bonini**

**Lab Vago**

**SIM / UAT**

**Paola**

**Alessia**

**Cristina**

**Benedetta Mazzi**

**Pathology Unit**

Maurilio Ponzoni  
Federica Pedica  
Luca Albarello

# Hematology - Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Unit Stem Cell Programme



*Mentore*... qualcuno che ti accompagna con pensiero critico e partecipe, il cui scopo è quello di farci crescere dal punto di vista professionale e umano



*Prof. Mery Flowers*