

# CAR T CELL THERAPY FOR MYELOMA

MAUNG MYO HTUT, MD

# Disclosures

---

- I do not have anything to disclose

# CAR T cell targets in multiple myeloma (MM)

Targets	Rationale	Trials
CD19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not detectable by current methods but present on MM cells</li> <li>Myeloma stem cells may express CD19</li> </ul>	CD19 CAR given after 2 <sup>nd</sup> auto BMT 2/10 patients – remission inversion <sup>1</sup>
Kappa	To target only malignant cells	4/7 patients – stable disease <sup>2</sup> (kappa not expressed on MM cells surface)
CD138	High expression on MM cells	4/5 patients – stable disease <sup>3</sup> (CD138 also expressed on variety of normal tissues)
BCMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ B cell maturation/plasma cell survival via NF-KB pathway (via APRIL)</li> <li>✓ High expression on MM cells</li> </ul>	>8 trials
CS1 (SLAMF7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ B cell proliferation (signaling lymphocyte activation molecule family)</li> <li>▪ Very high expression on MM cells</li> </ul>	City of Hope trial

1. Garfall AL, et al. N Engl J Med. 2015;373(11):1040–7
2. Ramos CA, et al. J Clin Invest. 2016;126(7): 2588–96
3. Guo B, et al. J Cell Immunother. 2016;2(1):28–35.
4. Matteo Giovanni Carrabba, et al. Blood 2018 132:5790
5. Eric L. Smith, et al. Blood 2018 132:589

## Other pre-clinical stage CAR T:

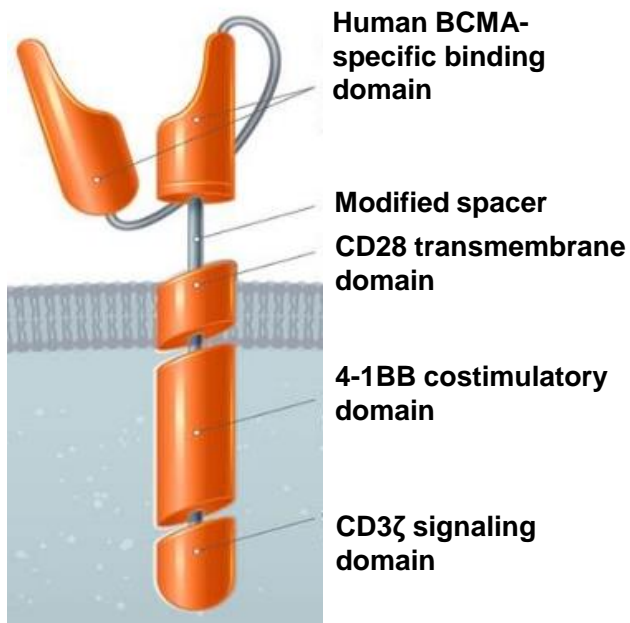
- CD38 - also expressed on hematopoietic cells
- CD56 - also expressed on CNS cells
- CD44v6 – also on keratinocytes<sup>4</sup>
- GPRC5D - 95% on MM cells<sup>5</sup>

## ABSTRACT 957

# JCARH125, Anti-BCMA CAR T-cell Therapy for Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma: Initial Proof of Concept Results From a Phase 1/2 Multicenter Study (EVOLVE)

Sham Mailankody, Myo Htut, et al. Oral Presentation Abstract 957 : ASH 2018

# JCARH125—design and manufacturing features

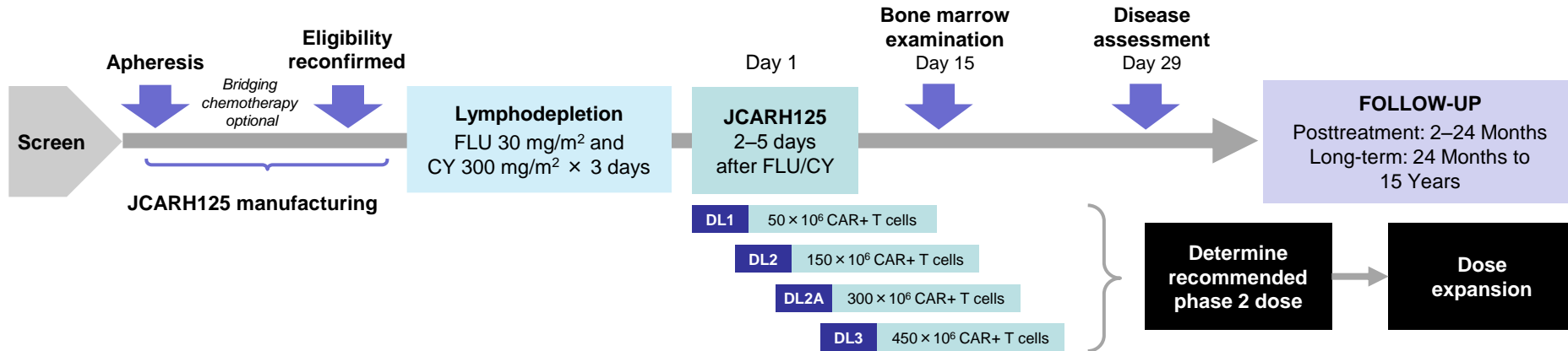


- **JCARH125 CAR construct**
  - Fully human binder with low affinity for sBCMA (MSKCC)<sup>1</sup>
  - Active on target cells that express low BCMA density
- **Manufacturing process**

T cells enriched for central memory phenotype cells, potentially increasing persistence and durability

1. Smith et al. *Mol Ther.* 2018;26:1447-1456.  
BCMA, B-cell maturation antigen; CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; sBCMA, soluble B-cell maturation antigen.

# EVOLVE: Phase 1/2 Study (NCT03430011)



## Key Eligibility

- Relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma
- Failed at least 3 prior therapies
  - Autologous stem cell transplantation
  - IMiD, proteasome inhibitor
  - Anti-CD38 (combination or monotherapy)
- Refractory to last line of therapy
- ECOG performance status 0-1
- No selection based on BCMA expression

## Study Objectives (Phase 1)

### Primary

- To evaluate safety and tolerability (DLTs, adverse events)
- To determine a recommended phase 2 dose

### Secondary

- To determine JCARH125 pharmacokinetics ( $C_{max}$ ,  $T_{max}$ , AUC)
- To evaluate preliminary antitumor activity
- To evaluate MRD

AUC, area under the curve; BCMA, B-cell maturation antigen; CAR, chimeric antigen receptor;  $C_{max}$ , maximum concentration; CY, cyclophosphamide; DL, dose level; DLT, dose-limiting toxicity; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; FLU, fludarabine; IMiD, immunomodulatory drug; MRD, minimal residual disease;  $T_{max}$ , time to maximum concentration.

# Baseline characteristics

	Total	CAR+ T Cell Dose		
		50 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	150 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	450 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
	(N=44)	(N=14)	(N=28)	(N=2)
Median (range) age, y	62 (36–79)	56 (36–70)	63 (42–79)	67 (64–69)
Male, n (%)	25 (57)	9 (64)	15 (54)	1 (50)
High-risk cytogenetics, n (%) <sup>a</sup>	34 (77)	11 (79)	22 (79)	1 (50)
ECOG performance status 0 or 1, n (%)	43 (98)	14 (100)	27 (96)	2 (100)
Median (range) time since initial diagnosis, years	6 (2–17)	6 (2–15)	5 (2–17)	6 (5–7)
ISS stage III, n (%)	11 (25)	1(7)	9 (32)	1 (50)
Measurable serum M-protein spike, n (%)	24 (55)	4 (29)	19 (68)	1 (50)
Measurable urine M-protein spike, n (%)	23 (55)	8 (62)	14 (52)	1 (50)
Measurable by sFLC only, n (%)	8 (18)	4 (29)	3 (11)	1 (50)
Received bridging chemotherapy, n (%)	34 (77)	9 (64)	23 (82)	2 (100)
Progressed on bridging chemotherapy, n (%)	19 (56)	5 (56)	12 (52)	2 (100)

<sup>a</sup>High-risk cytogenetics is based on local testing and includes: del(17p), t(4;14), t(14;16), 1q21 amp.

CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; ISS, international staging system; sFLC, serum free light chain.

# Treatment history

	Total	CAR+ T Cell Dose		
		50 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	150 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	450 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
	(N=44)	(N=14)	(N=28)	(N=2)
<b>Median (range) number of prior regimens</b>	<b>7 (3–23)</b>	<b>8 (4–23)</b>	<b>7 (3–14)</b>	<b>7 (7–7)</b>
<b>Prior autologous SCT, n (%)</b>				
1	30 (68)	10 (71)	19 (68)	1 (50)
>1	12 (27)	4 (29)	7 (25)	1 (50)
<b>Cumulative exposure, n (%)</b>				
Prior PI, IMiD agent, and anti-CD38 agent	44 (100)	14 (100)	28 (100)	2 (100)
Prior 2 IMiD agents, 2 PIs, and anti-CD38 agent	38 (86)	12 (86)	24 (86)	2 (100)

IMiD, immunomodulatory drug; PI; proteasome inhibitor; SCT, stem cell transplant.



# Safety summary

	Total	CAR+ T Cell Dose		
		50 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	150 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	450 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
	(N=44)	(N=14)	(N=28)	(N=2)
Any SAE, n (%)	12 (27)	1 (7)	9 (32)	2 (100)
<b>AEs of special interest grade ≥3/4, n (%)</b>				
Neutropenia	38 (86)	11 (79)	25 (89)	2 (100)
Anemia	22 (50)	6 (43)	15 (54)	1 (50)
Thrombocytopenia	19 (43)	4 (29)	13 (46)	2 (100)
Febrile neutropenia	8 (18)	1 (7)	6 (21)	1 (50)
Infections <sup>a</sup>	6 (14)	0	4 (14)	2 (100)
CRS	4 (9)	1 (7)	2 (7)	1 (50)
Neurological events <sup>b</sup>	3 (7)	0	2 (7)	1 (50)
TLS	1 (2)	0	1 (4)	0
<b>DLT, n</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

- A DLT of grade 4 CRS occurred at the dose level of 450 × 10<sup>6</sup> CAR+ T cells:

The patient with a history of chronic kidney disease related to myeloma developed CRS grade 4 and a neurological event of confusion, as well as lack of pharyngeal reflex, acute kidney injury, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* sepsis as a nosocomial infection. The patient died on Day 19 after JCARH125 infusion.

<sup>a</sup>Pneumonia, appendicitis, campylobacter infection, cellulitis, sepsis. <sup>b</sup>Confusional state, agitation, areflexia, lethargy, depressed level of consciousness.

AE, adverse event; CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; DLT, dose-limiting toxicity; SAE, serious adverse event; TLS, tumor lysis syndrome.

# CRS and neurological events

	Total	CAR+ T Cell Dose		
		50 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	150 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	450 × 10 <sup>6</sup>
	(N=44)	(N=14)	(N=28)	(N=2)
<b>Cytokine release syndrome, n (%)</b>	<b>35 (80)</b>	11 (79)	22 (79)	2 (100)
Median time to onset, days (range)	3 (1–10)	7 (3–10)	3 (1–10)	1
Median duration, days (range)	5 (1–19)	3 (2–16)	5 (1–19)	8
<b>Neurological events, n (%)</b>	<b>11 (25)</b>	1 (7)	8 (29)	2 (100)
Median time to onset, days (range)	3 (1–12)	6 11	3 (1–12)	3 (2–3)
Median duration, days (range)	6 (1–58)	3	9 (1–58)	6
<b>Treatment of CRS and/or neurological events, n (%)</b>	<b>16 (36)</b>	3 (21)	11 (39)	2 (100)
Tocilizumab (IL-6R)	15 (34)	3 (21)	10 (36)	2 (100)
Siltuximab (IL-6)	3 (7)	0	2 (7)	1 (50)
Anakinra (IL-1R)	2 (5)	0	1 (4)	1 (50)
Steroids	9 (20)	1 (7)	6 (21)	2 (100)
Tocilizumab and steroids	8 (18)	1 (7)	5 (18)	2 (100)
<b>Admitted to ICU, n (%)</b>	3 (7)	0	1 (4)	2 (100)

- **CRS events**—one patient required high-dose vasopressor.

CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; ICU, intensive care unit.

# PROLONGED CYTOPENIAS<sup>a</sup>

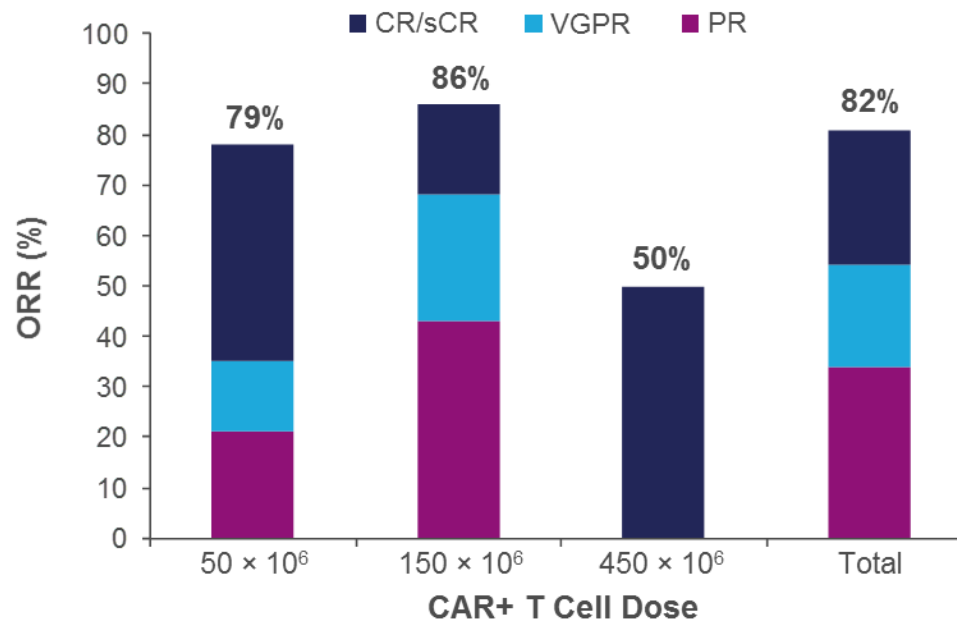
- **Grade 3/4 anemias and thrombocytopenias** before start of lymphodepleting chemotherapy occurred in 18% of patients
- **Grade 3/4 Cytopenias** lasting longer than 29 days occurred in **67%** of patients
- **Cytopenias** resolved to grade  $\leq 2$  by month 3 in **71%** of patients
- **Median time to resolution<sup>b</sup>:**
  - Neutropenia 2.1 months
  - Anemia 2.2 months
  - Thrombocytopenia 3.4 months

<sup>a</sup>Laboratory assessment.

<sup>b</sup>Recovery is defined as grade 2 or lower without transfusion within 1 week of lab assessment or without growth factor support within 1 week of lab assessment (2 weeks for pegfilgrastim).

# Best Overall response

**ORR 82%, with 48%  $\geq$ VGPR**

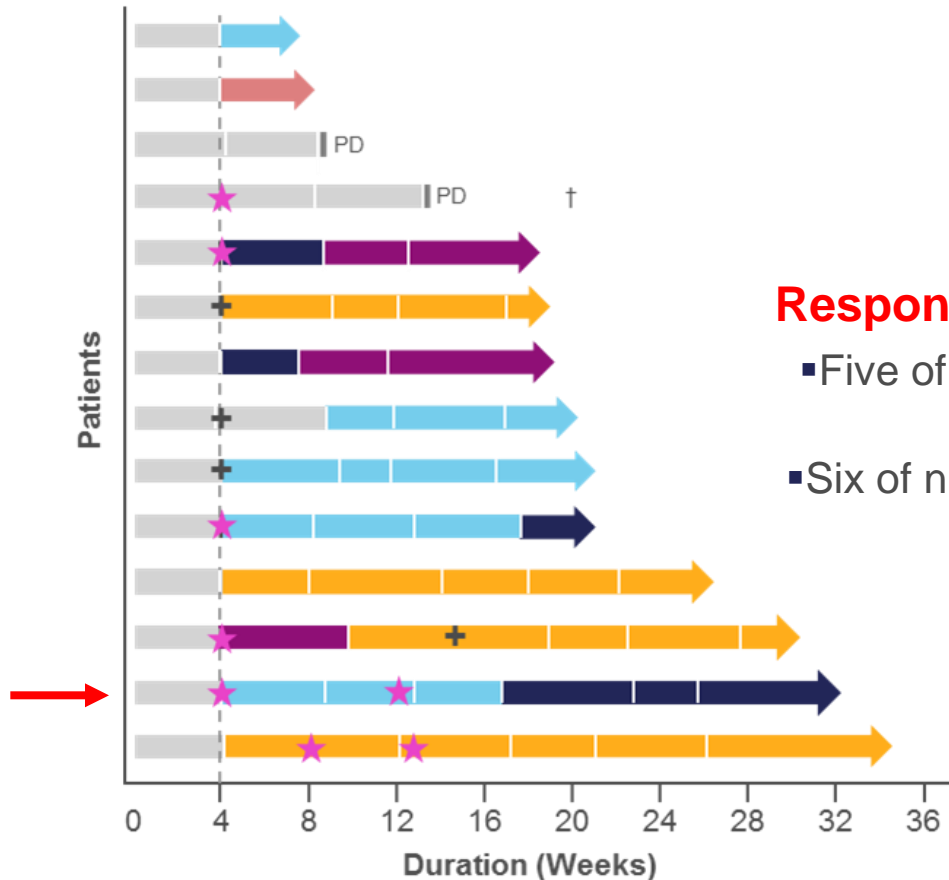


<b>Patients, n:</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Median follow-up, weeks:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

<sup>a</sup>One patient was not evaluable for efficacy (no postbaseline response evaluation at Day 29).

CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; CR, complete response; ORR, objective response rate; PR, partial response; sCR, stringent complete response; VGPR, very good partial response.

# Response over time at dose of $50 \times 10^6$ CAR+ T cells (Longest Follow-up)



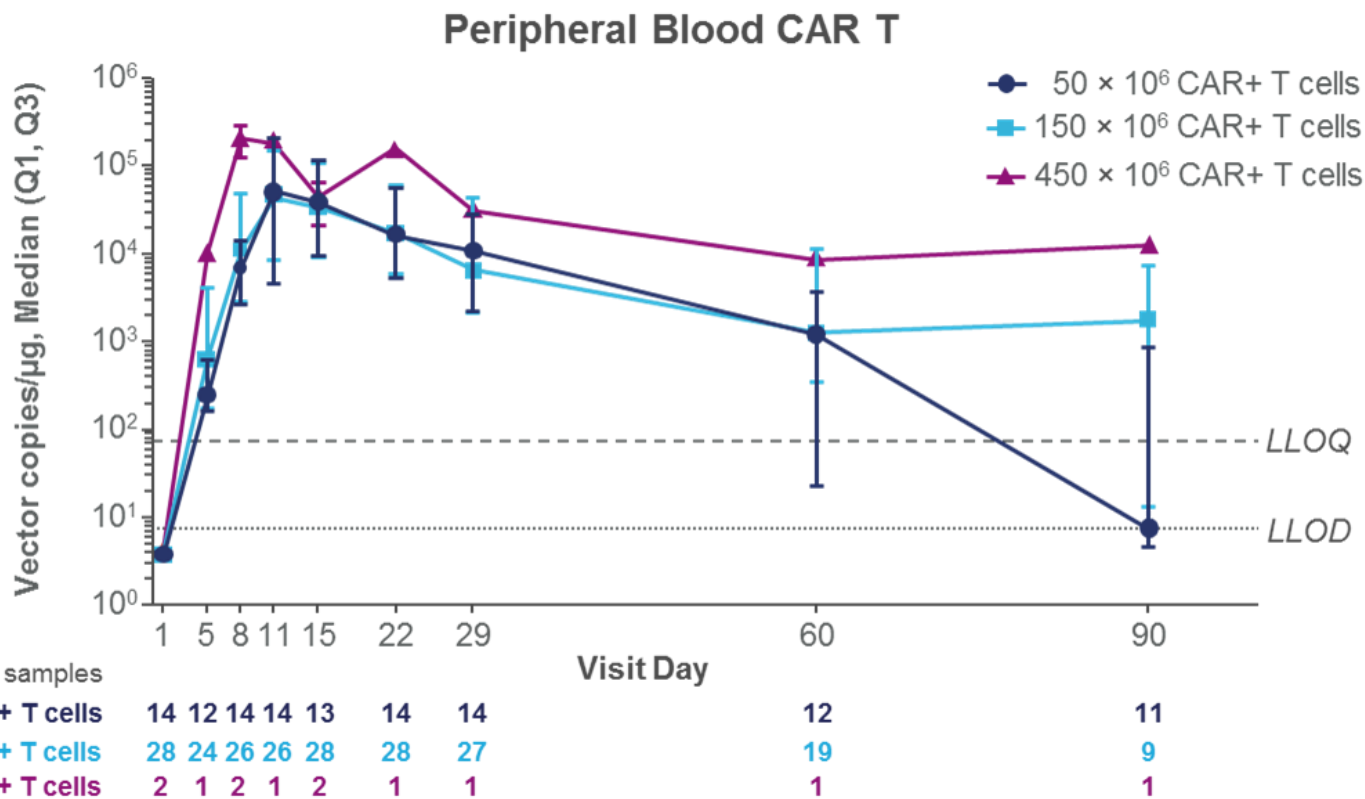
## Responses continued to improve over time

- Five of the 14 patients (36%) showed deepening of response past Day 29
- Six of nine evaluable patients were MRD-negative by NGS at Day 29<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>One patient had MRD assessment at Month 2

CR, complete response; DL, dose level; MR, minimal response; MRD, minimal residual disease; NGS, next generation sequencing; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; sCR, stringent complete response; SD, stable disease; VGPR, very good partial response.

# JCARH125 expansion and Long-term Persistence



- Robust expansion observed at all dose levels
- Trend for increased persistence past Month 2 at dose levels  $\geq 150 \times 10^6$  CAR+ T cells

Vector copy number assessed by quantitative polymerase chain reaction, using genomic deoxyribonucleic acids extracted from whole blood. CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; LLOQ, lower limit of quantification; LLOD, lower limit of detection.

# BCMA targeted CAR T cell clinical trials for relapsed MM

Institution/ Company	NCI <sup>1</sup>	Bluebird Multicenter <sup>2</sup>	Nanjing Legend <sup>3</sup>	UPenn <sup>4</sup>	MSK <sup>5</sup>	Juno therapeutics <sup>6</sup>	Poseida Therapeutics <sup>7</sup>
scFv source	Murine Hybridoma	Murine Hybridoma	Murine Hybridoma	Human Library	Human Library	Human Library	Human Library
Costimulatory molecule	CD28	4-1BB	4-1BB	4-1BB	4-1BB	4-1BB	4-1BB
Gene transfer	Retrovirus	Lentivirus	Lentivirus	Lentivirus	Retrovirus	Lentivirus	PiggyBac DNA modification
BCMA expression required	>50%	>50%	“clear expression”	No	>1%	No	No
Median prior lines	9.5	7	3	7	6	7	3-9 prior lines
ORR (≥ PR)	81%	89%	88%	45%	64%	82%	83% (excluding 1 <sup>st</sup> cohort)
Number of patients	16	18	57	21 (20 Evaluable)	11	44	12

NCI- National Cancer Institute, UPenn- University of Pennsylvania, MSK- Memorial Sloan Kettering, ORR- Overall response (≥ partial response)

1. Brudno JN, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2018;36(22):2267–80

2. Berdeja JG, et al. Blood. 2017;130:740

3. Zhao W-H, et al. 2018 ASH annual meeting. Abstract – 955

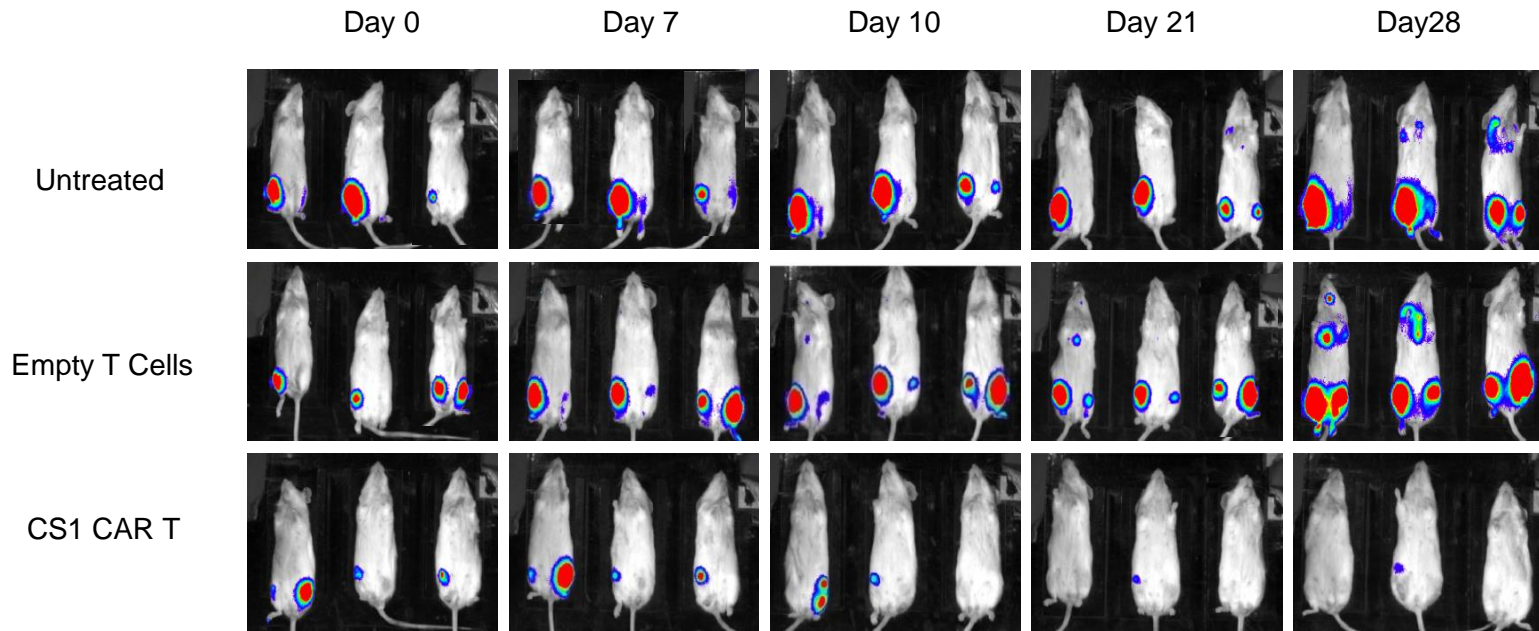
4. Cohen AD, et al. Blood. 2017;130:505

5. Mailankody S, et al. 2018 ASH Annual meeting. Abstract 959

6. Mailankody S, Htut M, et al. 2018 ASH annual meeting. Abstract: 957

7. Gregory T, et al. ASH; 2018. abstract 1012

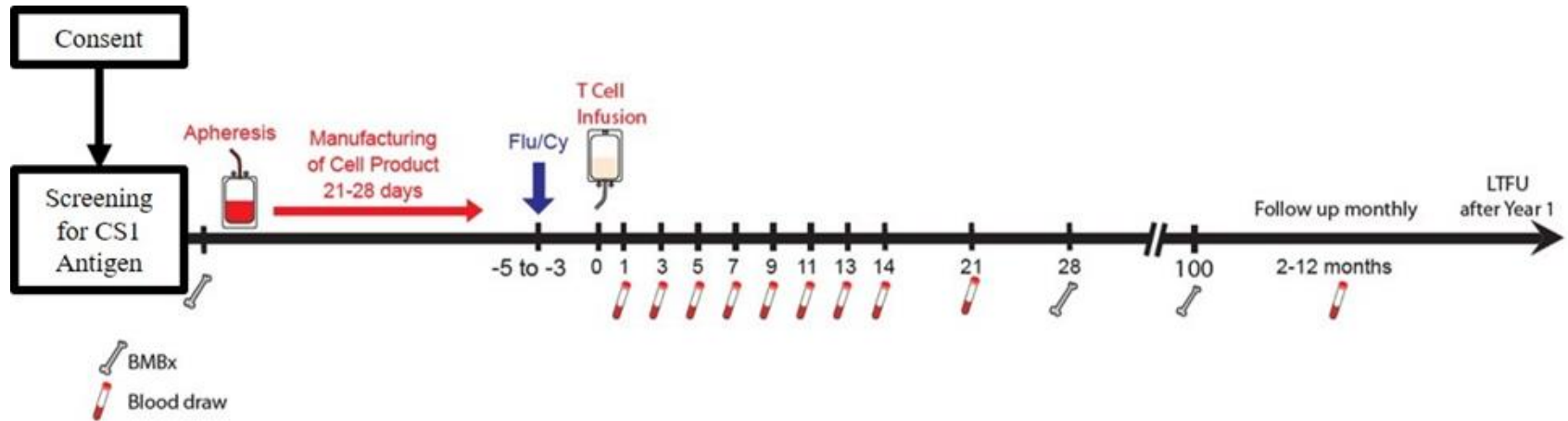
# CS1 CAR-T Cells exhibit efficient anti-Myeloma activity (City of Hope)



First-in-human trial – Enrolling patients at City of Hope (NCT03710421)



# Anti- CS1 CAR T cell trial (IRB-17403)



## Key Eligibility

- Relapsed/refractory myeloma
- Progress after 3 prior therapies
- Refractory to last line of therapy

**Total number** – 18-24 patients

**Primary Objective** - safety and tolerability CS1-CAR T cells

**Secondary Objectives** - response rates, CS1 expression of MM cells, persistence and phenotyping of CAR T cells

# Anti- CS1 CAR T cell trial (IRB-17403)

CAR+ Cell Dose Schedule				
	Dose -1	Dose 0 (Starting Dose)	Dose 1	Dose 2
Dose Range	26-33M	80-100M	160-200M	320-400M
Modified Dose Range for subjects weighing <50kg	0.66M/kg	2M/kg	4M/kg	8M/kg

## Future direction

- CAR T targeting dual antigens (BCMA and CS1)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Gen CAR secreting cytokines (Trucks/armored), scFv secreting CAR
- (bb21217) Addition of PI3 kinase inhibitor during ex vivo culture to enrich memory-like T cell phenotype<sup>1</sup>
- T cell enhancers – PD-1 inhibitors after CAR T therapy<sup>2</sup>