

The Role of HHLA2 in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Name of student Off-Topic Candidacy Exam Date of Exam

Advisor: Name of Advisor

Lung Cancer Statistics

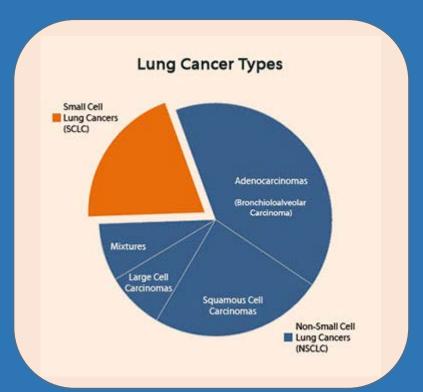
 Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in the USA, with ~200,000 new cases annually.

Estimated Deaths

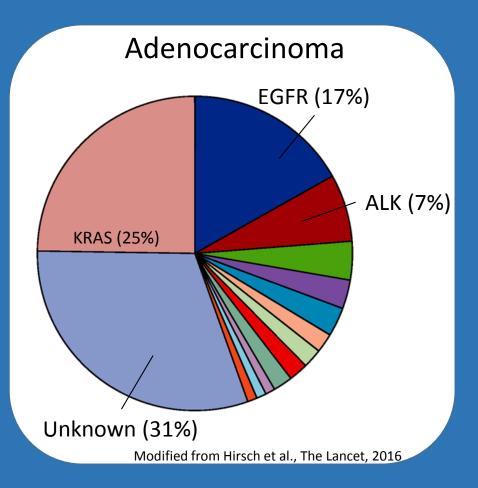
				Males	Female	s		
	Lung & bronchus	84,590	27%			Lung & bronchus	71,280	25%
	Colon & rectum	27,150	9%			Breast	40,610	14%
	Prostate	26,730	8%		T	Colon & rectum	23,110	8%
	Pancreas	22,300	7%			Pancreas	20,790	7%
Liver & intrahepatic bile duct		19,610	6%			Ovary	14,080	5%
	Leukemia	14,300	4%			Uterine corpus	10,920	4%
	Esophagus	12,720	4%			Leukemia	10,200	4%
	Urinary bladder	12,240	4%			Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	9,310	3%
No	n-Hodgkin lymphoma	11,450	4%			Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	8,690	3%
Brain &	other nervous system	9,620	3%			Brain & other nervous system	7,080	3%
	All Sites	318,420	100%			All Sites	282,500	100%

Siegel et al., CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 2017

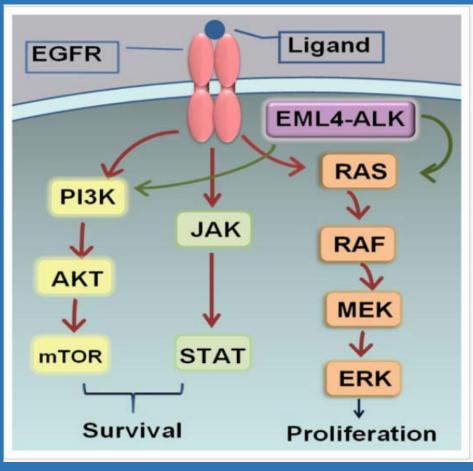
The Biology of Lung Cancer



• Understanding histology and molecular landscape of NSCLC provides basis for treatment decisions.

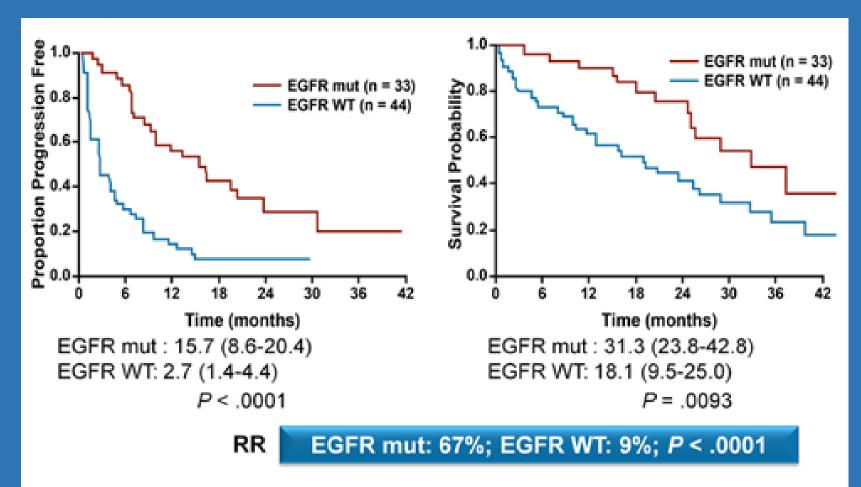


Rationale for Targeting Specific Driving Mutations



Wu, Int. J. Mol. Sci. 2012

EGFR TKIs Show More Benefit in EGFR Mutant Patients

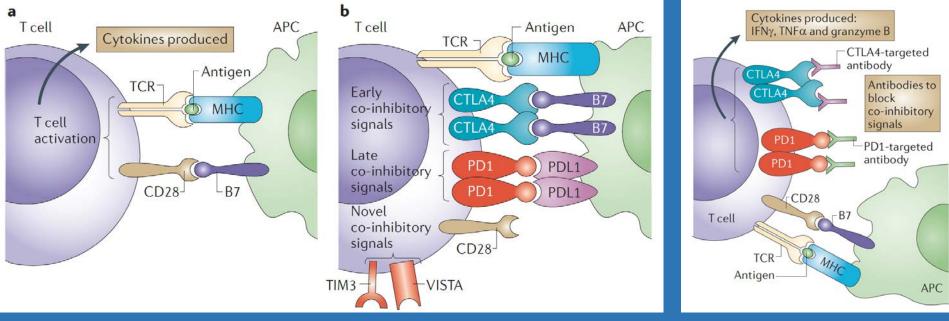


Mut = mutant; WT = wild type Janne PA, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2010;28:7503.

Issues of Specific TKIs

- Only patients who harbor the specific mutations can benefit from TKIs. (He et al., Med Sci Monit. 2016)
- Resistance to TKIs often occur, leading to relapse. (Reviewed in Neel, Nature, 2017)
 - 70% of patients who harbor EGFR mutations will have a prolonged PFS of about one year, then gain resistance and relapse.

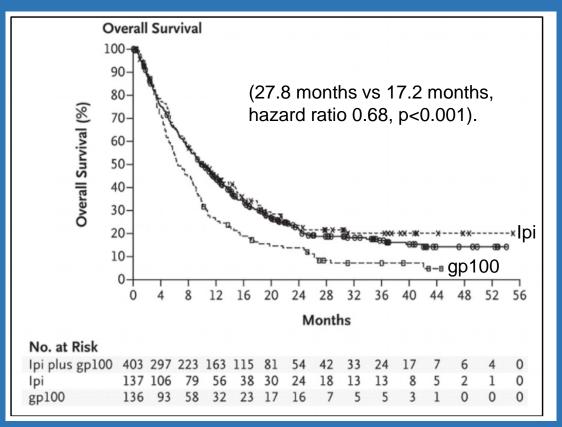
Immunotherapy Can Reverse Tumor Immune Escape



Sharma et al., NRC, 2011

Blocking CTLA-4 is Therapeutically Efficacious in Melanoma

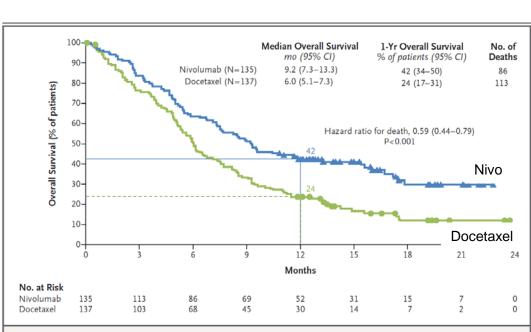
• The CTLA-4 blocking antibody was FDA approved for treatment of metastatic melanoma in 2011.



Hodi et al., NEJM, 2010

Blocking PD-1 is Therapeutically Efficacious in Lung Cancer

 PD-1 blocking antibody, Nivolumab was FDA approved for treatment of advanced lung cancer in 2015.



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier Curves for Overall Survival.

The analysis included all the patients who underwent randomization. Symbols indicate censored observations, and horizontal lines the rates of overall survival at 1 year.

Brahmer et al., NEJM, 2015

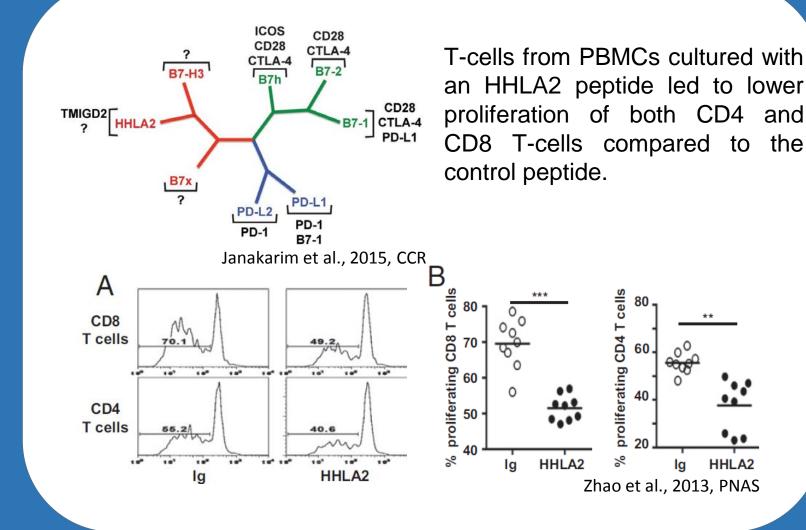
Patients Treated with Both Specific TKIs and Immunotherapy Do Relapse

• There is an unmet need of alternative therapies for patients who relapse from initially beneficial drugs.

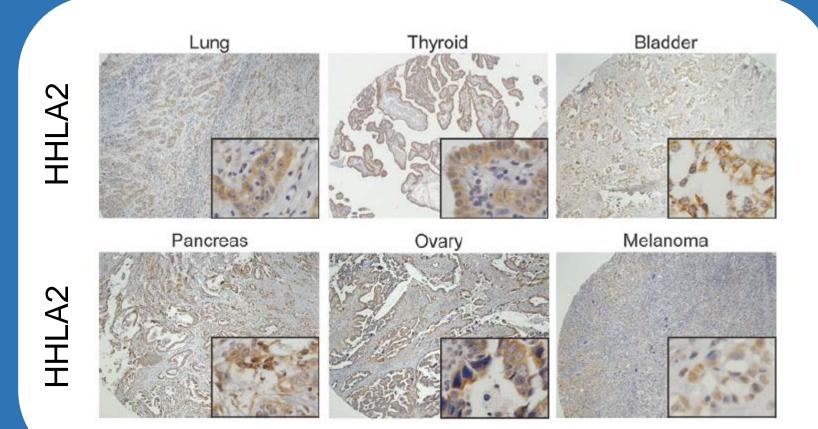
New TargetsCombination Therapies

HHLA2 is a Recently Discovered **T-cell Co-inhibitory Molecule**

the



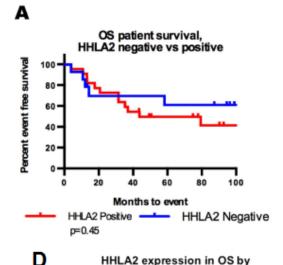
HHLA2 Is Expressed in Many Different Cancers

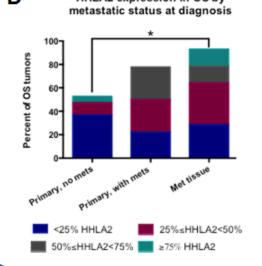


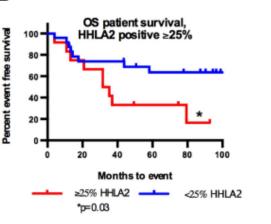
Janakiram et al., 2015, CCR

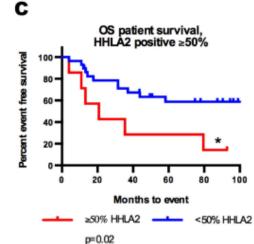
HHLA2 is Associated with Poor Survival and Metastasis in Osteosarcoma

В









- A high expression level compared to a low expression level of HHLA2 is associated with a lower rate of survival in osteosarcoma.
- A higher expression rate of HHLA2 is also associated with metastasis in osteosarcoma.

Koirala, 2016, Sci Rep

HHLA2 is Widely Expressed in Lung Cancer

	Discove	ery cohort (<i>n</i> = 392)			Validation cohort (<i>n</i> = 287)		
Parameter	HHLA2 Negative	HHLA2 Positive	Р	Parameter	HHLA2 Negative	HHLA2 Positive	Р
Age, year	67.9	67.5	0.78	Age, year	70.5	70	0.47
Gender			0.60	Gender			0.09
Female ($n = 215$)	78 (36%)	137 (64%)		Female (<i>n</i> = 180)	46 (26%)	134 (74%)	
Male (<i>n</i> = 141)	55 (39%)	86 (61%)		Male (<i>n</i> = 80)	29 (36%)	51 (64%)	
Histology		< 0.0001	Histology			0.92	
Adeno (<i>n</i> = 290)	91 (31%)	199 (69%)		Adeno (<i>n</i> = 186)	58 (31%)	128 (69%)	
Squam ($n = 31$)	20 (65%)	11 (35%)		Squam (<i>n</i> = 29)	8 (27%)	21 (73%)	
Large ($n = 18$)	16 (89%)	2 (11%)		Large ($n = 3$)	1 (33%)	2 (67%)	
Stage			0.09	Stage			0.39
l (<i>n</i> = 252)	85 (34%)	167 (66%)		l (<i>n</i> = 157)	43 (27%)	114 (73%)	
II (<i>n</i> = 47)	23 (49%)	24 (51%)		ll (<i>n</i> = 39)	15 (38%)	24 (61%)	
III (<i>n</i> = 35)	10 (29%)	25 (71%)		III (<i>n</i> = 22)	7 (31%)	15 (69%)	
Mutation status			0.04	Mutation status			0.01
EGFR (<i>n</i> = 41)	10 (24%)	31 (76%)		EGFR(n = 44)	5 (11%)	39 (89%)	
KRAS (<i>n</i> = 62)	23 (37%)	39 (63%)		KRAS (<i>n</i> = 66)	24 (36%)	42 (64%)	
WT/WT (<i>n</i> = 91)	43 (47%)	48 (53%)		WT/WT ($n = 88$)	27 (31%)	61 (69%)	

Cheng et al, 2017, CCR

Central Hypothesis

Targeting HHLA2 in NSCLCs will be effective for killing cancer cells through a cytotoxic T-cell mediated mechanism of action.

Specific Aims

Aim 1: Analyze the role of HHLA2 on Tcells within the tumor microenvironment.

Aim 2: Determine the therapeutic efficacy of targeting HHLA2 in NSCLC.

Specific Aim 1

Analyze the role of HHLA2 on T-cells within the tumor microenvironment.

- 1. Analyze the T-cells of the TME in NSCLC based on HHLA2 expression.
- 2. Examine the changes of T-cell sub-populations when HHLA2 is blocked within the TME.
- Investigate the activation of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) or splenocytes of HHLA2 expressing NSCLC bearing mice.

Specific Aim 2

Determine the therapeutic efficacy of targeting HHLA2 in NSCLC.

- 1. Test the therapeutic effect of a blocking HHLA2 in NSCLC.
- 2. Investigate the therapeutic effect of targeting HHLA2 and PD-L1 *in vivo*.
- **3.** Inspect therapeutic effectiveness of blocking EGFR and HHLA2 in *EGFR* mutant NSCLC *in vivo*.

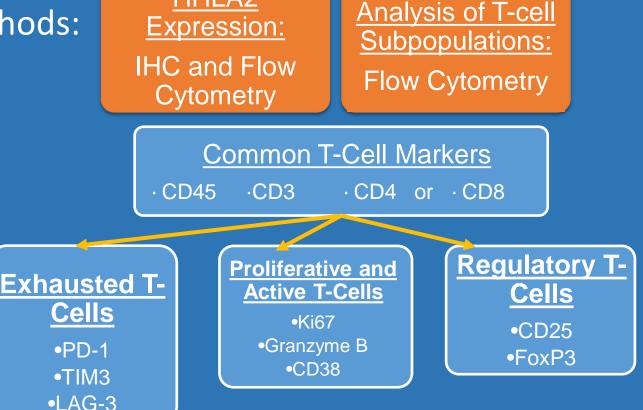
Human Lung Cancer Models

- NSCLC tumor biopsies will be collected from the MD Anderson Department of Thoracic Head and Neck Medical Oncology.
- The Biopsy will be split into three portions
 1. IHC of HHLA2
 - 2. Flow cytometry of fresh biopsy to analyze T-cell subpopulations of the TME
 - Development of lung cancer cell lines and matched T-cells

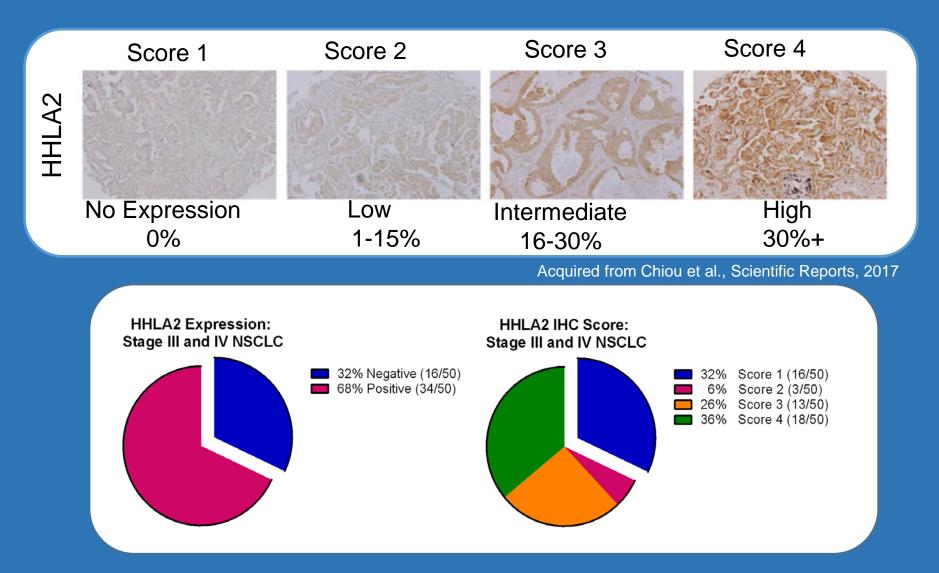
Aim 1.1: Analyze the T-cells of the TME in NSCLC based on HHLA2 expression.

Materials: Lung Cancer Biopsies \bigcirc Human NSCLC Cells and Matched T-Cells

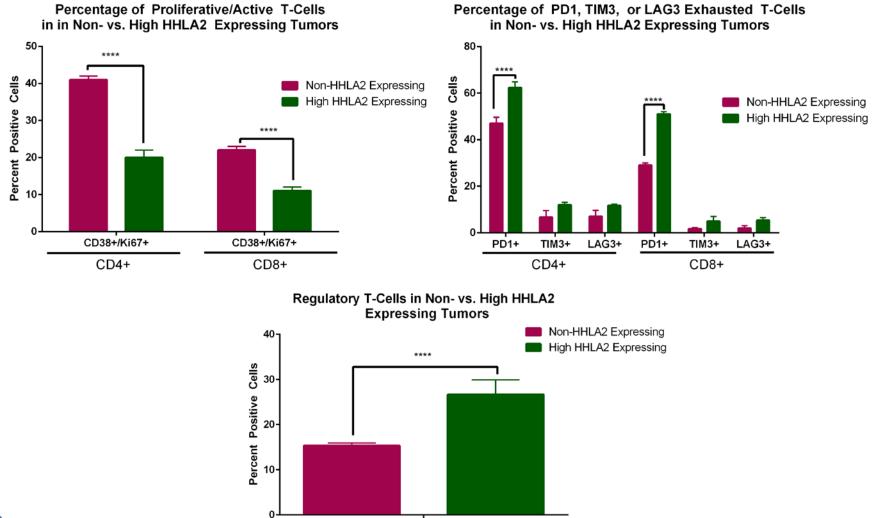
HHLA2 Methods: • Expression:



Aim 1.1: Expected Results



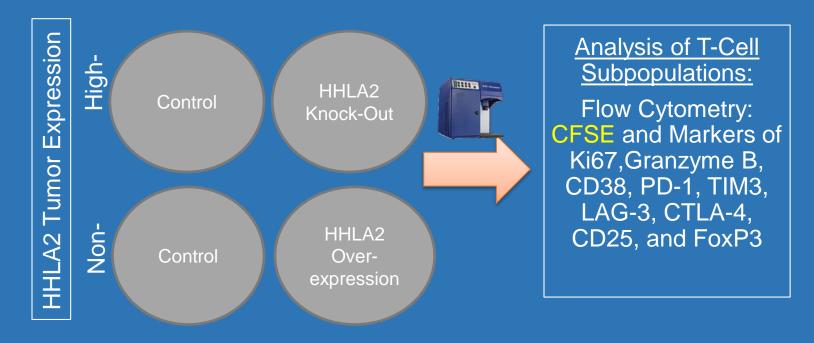
Aim 1.1 : Expected Results



CD4+/CD25+/FOXP3+

Aim 1.2: Examine the changes of T-cell subpopulations when HHLA2 is blocked within the TME.

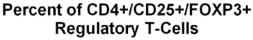
- Model: Human NSCLC Cells and Matched T-Cells
- Method: Genetically Modify NSCLC cell lines

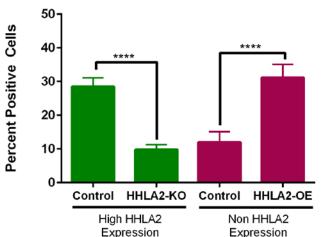


Aim 1.2: Expected Results

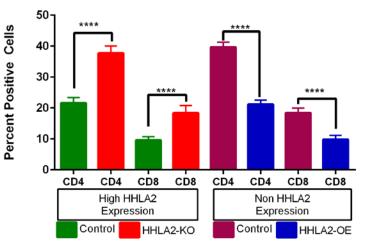
100₇ **** **** 80. Percent CFSE 60 40-20. 0 HHLA2-KO Control HHLA2-OE Control High HHLA2 Non HHLA2 Expression Expression

Percent of Non-Proliferating T-Cells

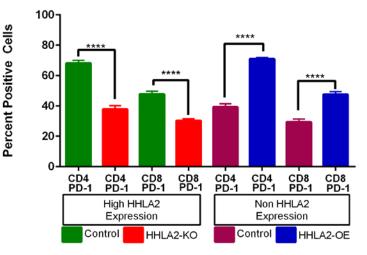




Percent of CD4+ or CD8+ Proliferative (CD38+/Ki67+/Granzyme B+) T-Cells



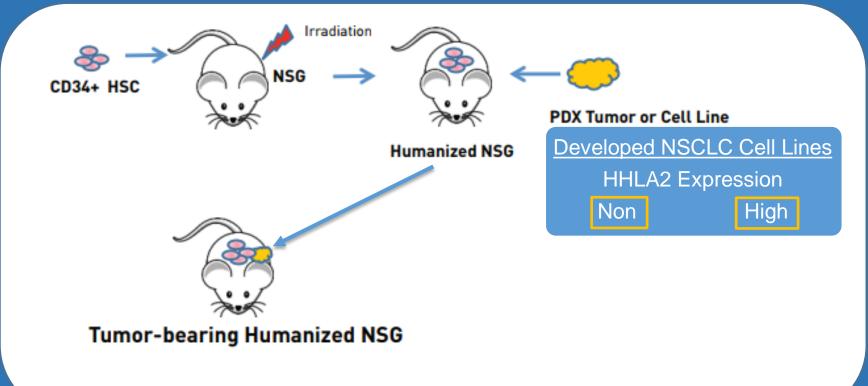
Percent of CD4+ or CD8+ Exhausted T-Cells



Aim 1.3: Investigate the activation of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) or splenocytes of NSCLC bearing mice.

In Vivo Model

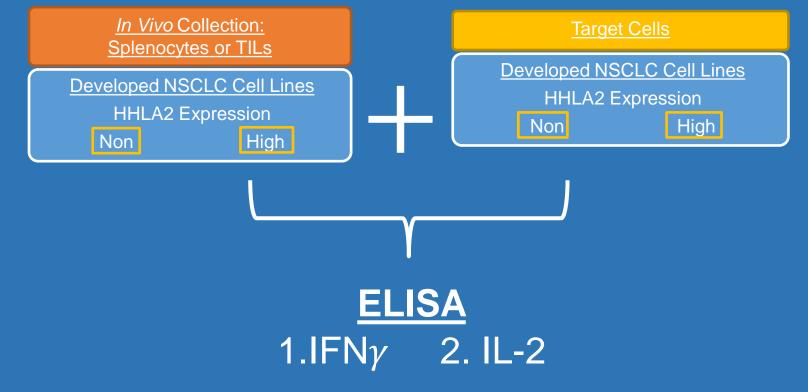
HHLA2 is expressed in humans, but not in mice.
Humanized NSG mice



Modified from the Jackson Laboratory

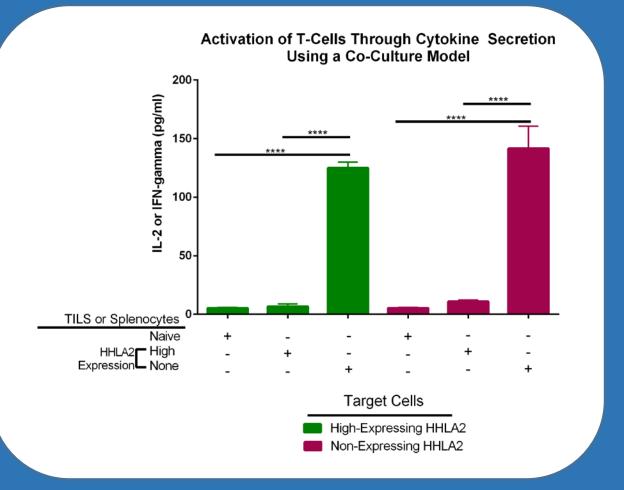
Aim 1.3: Investigate the activation of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) or splenocytes of NSCLC bearing mice.

- Model: Humanized NSCLC Mouse Model
- Method: Co-Culture Experiments



Aim 1.3: Expected Results

 The highest levels of IFNγ and IL-2 will be in the cells co-cultured with TILs or splenocytes from the mice implanted with the non-HHLA2 expressing cells.



Aim 1: Potential Pitfalls and Alternatives

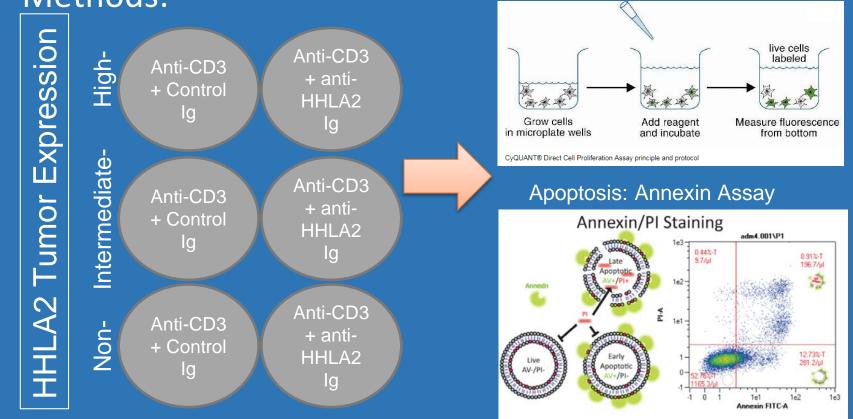
- T-cell inactivation might be employed by PD-L1/PD-1 or CD80/CD86/CTLA-4 signaling, and cause HHLA2 inactivation of T-cells to be unrecognized.
 - PD-L1, PD-1, and CTLA-4 expression and function will be sought out as necessary.
 - Genetic or therapeutic blockage of PD-L1, PD-1, or CTLA-4 will be used.
- HHLA2 might be a silenced immune evasion mechanism.
 - Resistance models will be sought out.

Aim 2.1: Test the therapeutic effect of a blocking HHLA2 in NSCLC.

Model: Human NSCLC Cells and Matched T-Cells

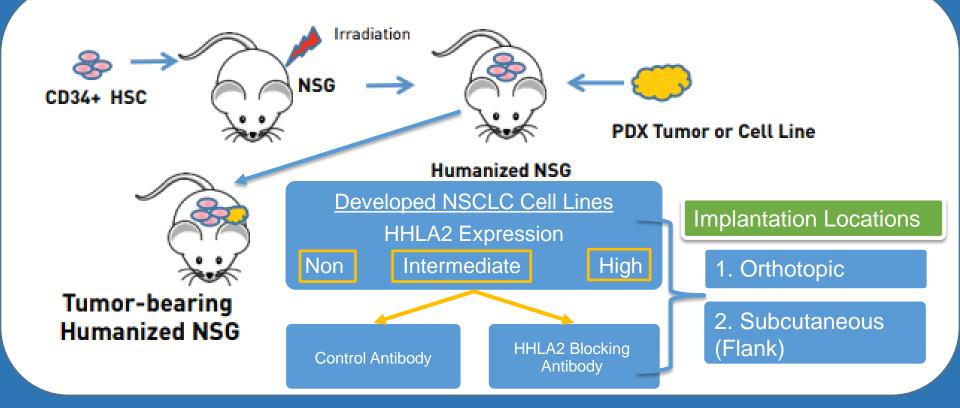
• Methods:

Measure Cell Growth: CyQUANT Assay



In Vivo Model

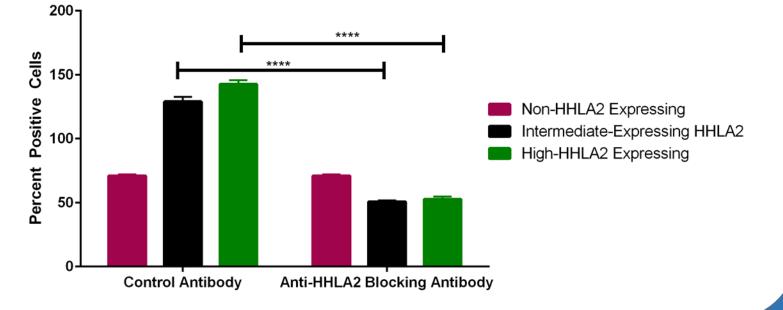
HHLA2 is expressed in humans, but not in mice.
Humanized NSG mice



Aim 2.1: Expected Results

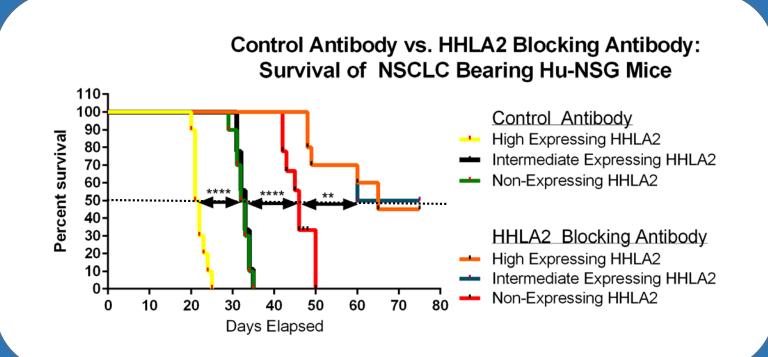
 I hypothesize that the HHLA high expressing cancer cells cultured with the HHLA2 blocking antibody will undergo less proliferation and more cell death compared to the control lg group.

> Autologous NSCLC T-Cell Models Treated with a Control Antibody or a HHLA2 Blocking Antibody



Aim 2.1: Expected Results

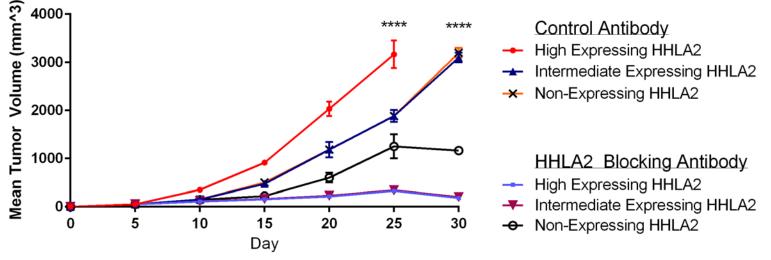
 I hypothesize that the HHLA2 blocking antibody will extend survival and yield long-term survivors.



Aim 2.1: Expected Results

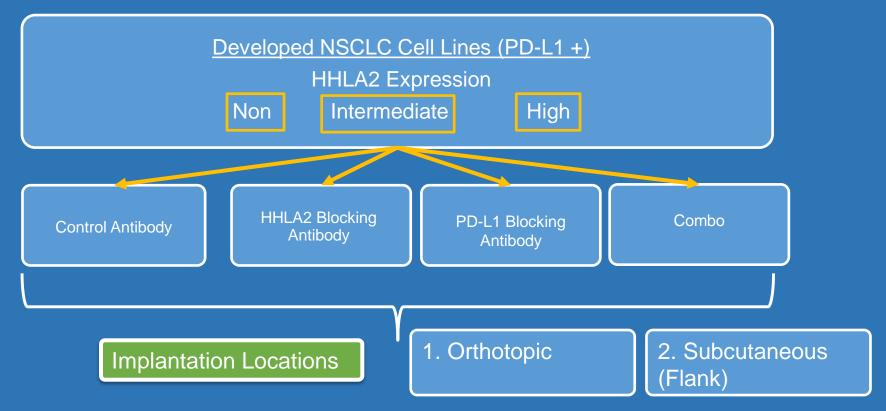
 I hypothesize that the HHLA2 blocking antibody will slow down tumor growth.





Aim 2.2: Investigate the therapeutic effect of targeting HHLA2 and PD-L1 *in vivo*.

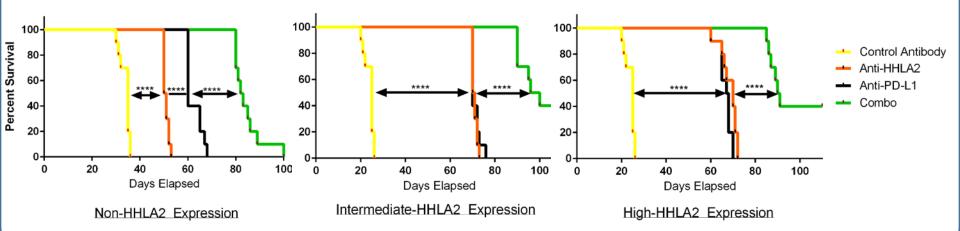
- Model: Humanized NSG Mouse Model
- Methods: Survival Experiments and Tumor Measurements



Aim 2.2: Expected Results

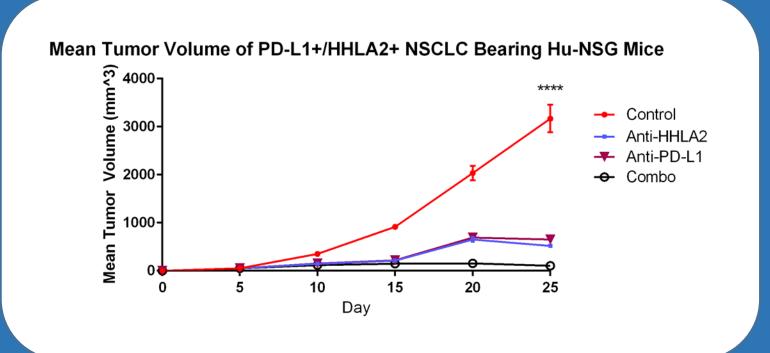
 I hypothesize that targeting both HHLA2 and PD-L1 in an HHLA2overexpressing NSCLC model will extend the survival and yield long-term survivors compared to other treated groups.





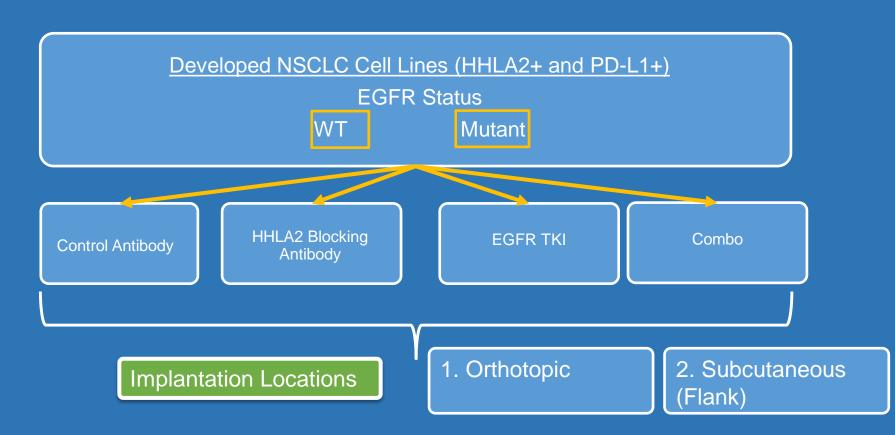
Aim 2.2: Expected Results

 I hypothesize that targeting both HHLA2 and PD-L1 in an HHLA2overexpressing NSCLC model will delay growth of the tumor compared to other treated groups.



Aim 2.3: Inspect therapeutic effect of blocking EGFR and HHLA2 in EGFR mutant NSCLC *in vivo*.

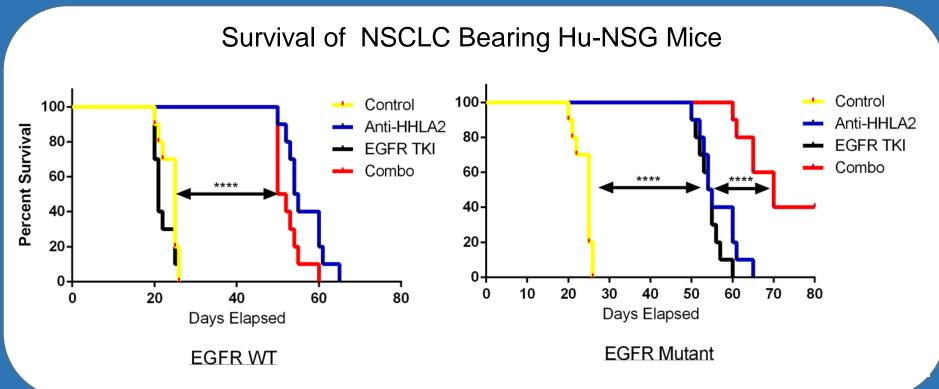
- Model: Humanized Lung Cancer Mouse Model
- Methods: Survival Experiments and Tumor Measurements



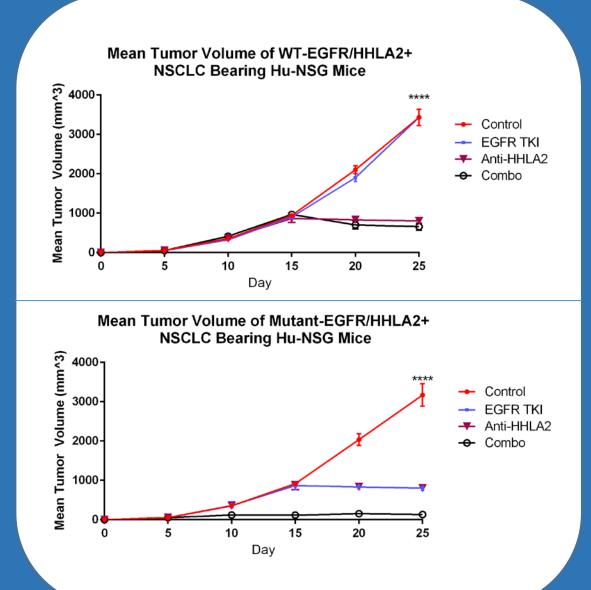
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Aim 2.3: Expected Results

I hypothesize that treatment using an EGFR TKI and an HHLA2 blocking antibody in a EGFR mutant NSCLC model will extend the survival of the mice compared to the other treatment groups based on the theory that HHLA2 is highly expressed on EGFR mutant cells for tumor evasion.

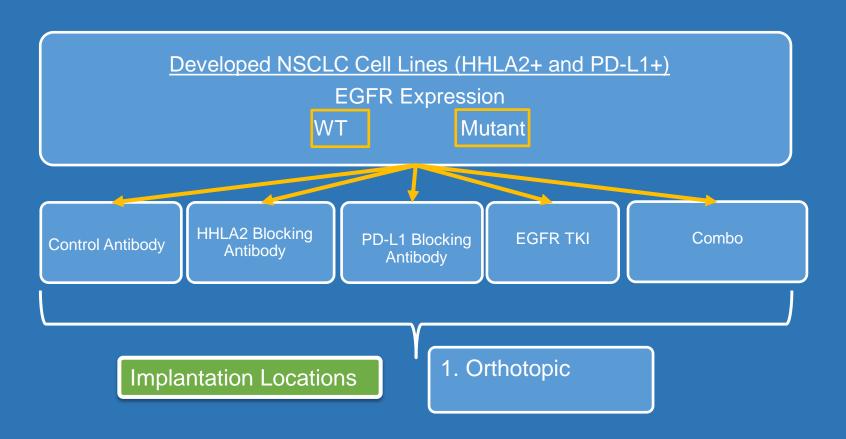


Aim 2.3: Expected Results



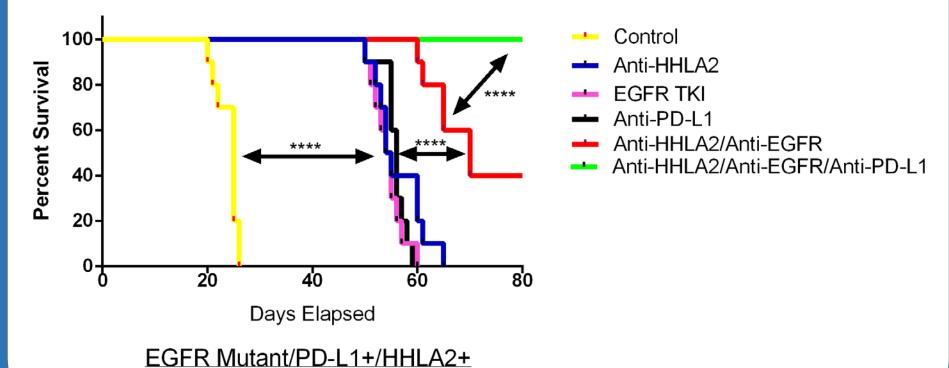
Aim 2.3 Extension: Inspect therapeutic effect of blocking EGFR, PD-L1, and HHLA2 in EGFR mutant NSCLC *in vivo*.

- Model: Orthotopic Lung Cancer Mouse Model
- Methods: Survival Experiments and Tumor Measurements



Aim 2.3 Extension: Expected Results

Survival of EGFR Mutant/PD-L1+/HHLA2+ NSCLC Bearing Hu-NSG Mice



Aim 2: Potential Pitfalls and Alternatives

- Genetic variability might be seen within the PDX models.
 - Use of the genetically modified models of Aim 1.2 will be utilized instead.
- HHLA2 activation might arise in response to anti-PD-L1 or anti-EGFR treatment.
 - Anti-PD-L1 or anti-EGFR resistant models will be developed.
 - Sequential treatment of anti-PD-L1 or anti-EGFR followed by anti-HHLA2 will be utilized.

Alternative Strategies

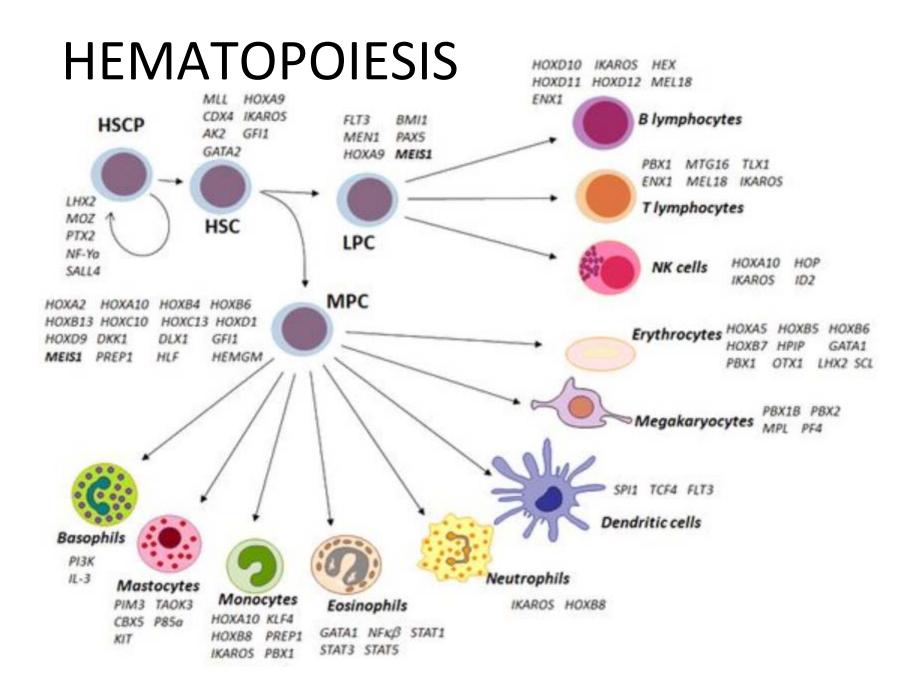
• Explore other aspects of the TME.

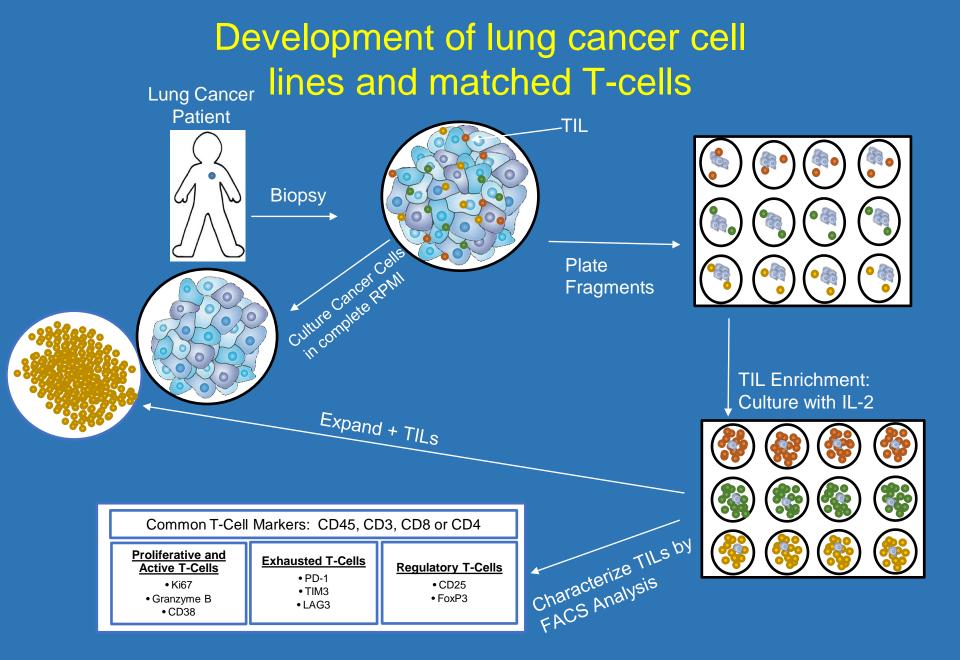
- MDSCs, B-Cells, NK Cells
- Block other members of the B7 family, B7x or B7-H3, in NSCLC.

Conclusions

- HHLA2 is a recently discovered member of the B7 family of T-cell inhibitory molecules.
- HHLA2 is widely expressed in NSCLC, and may provide a novel therapeutic immuno-target.
- Successful results from targeting HHLA2 in NSCLC immunocompetent mouse models may lead to clinical trials and exploration of HHLA2 in other cancers.





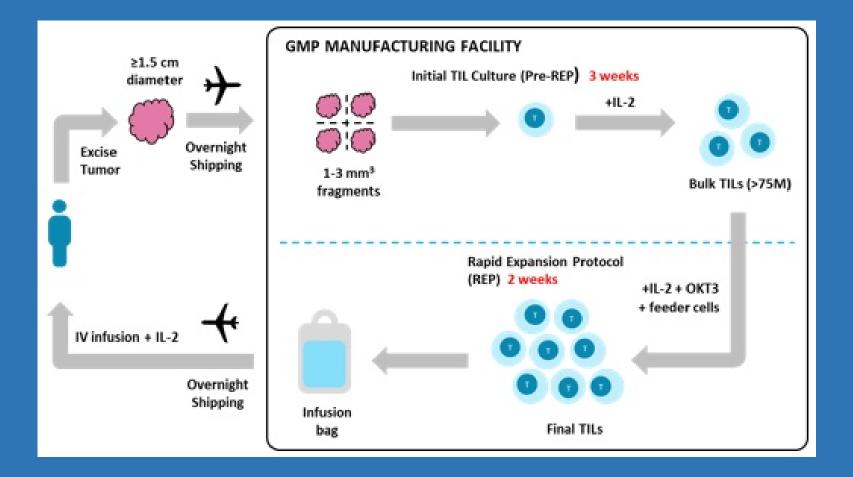


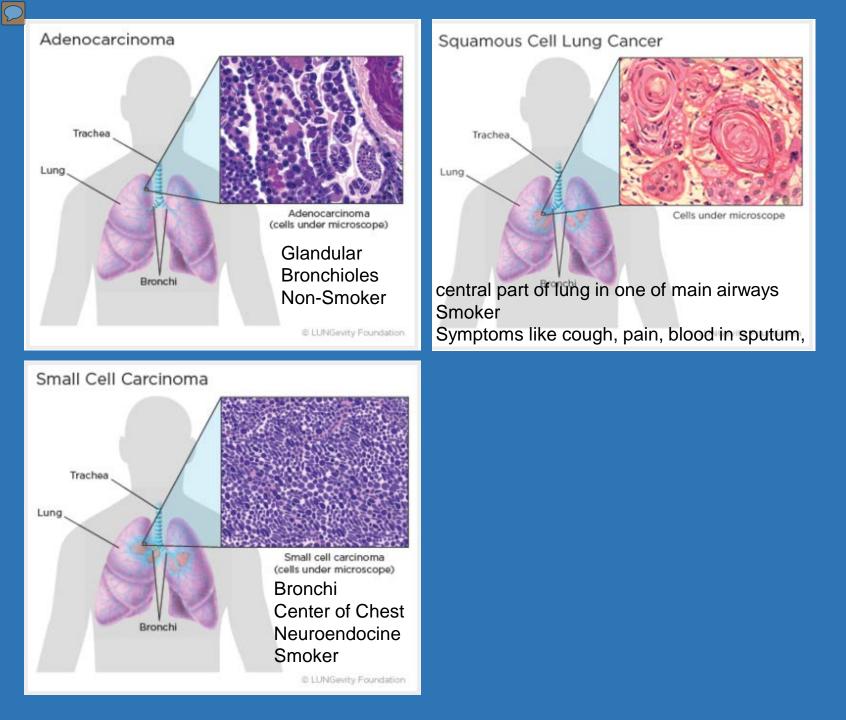
The Human Lung Cancer Model: Cancer Cells with Matched T-Cells

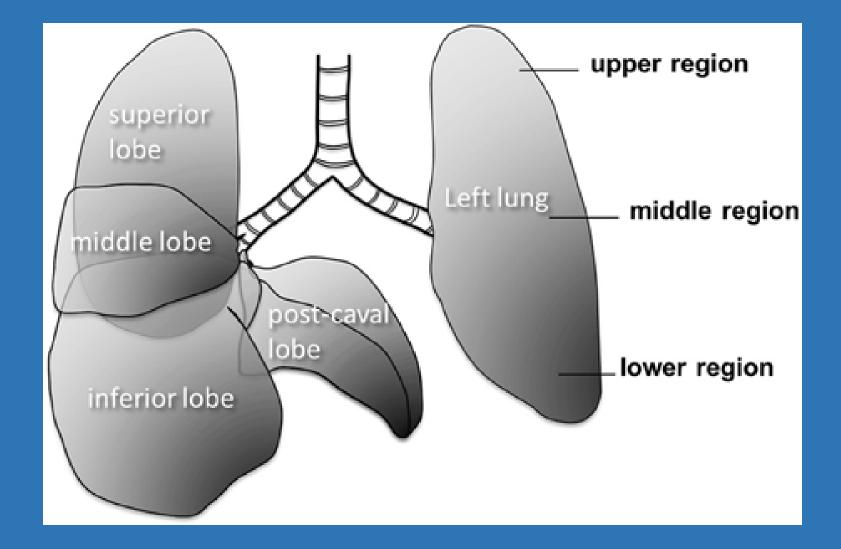




Rapid Expansion







Lung Cancer Treatment Algorithm

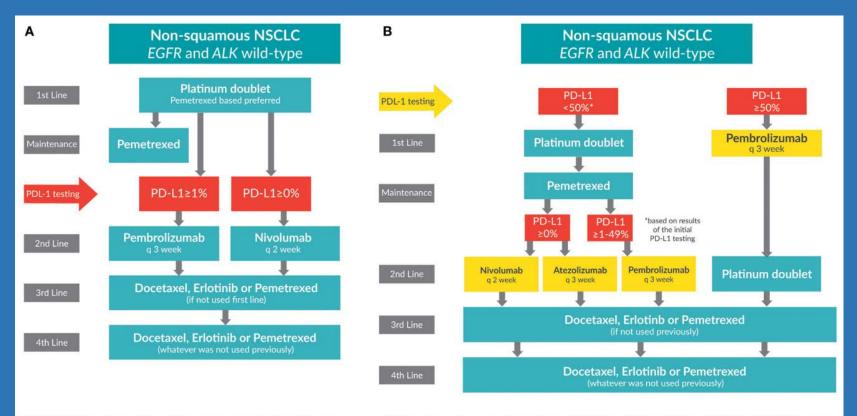
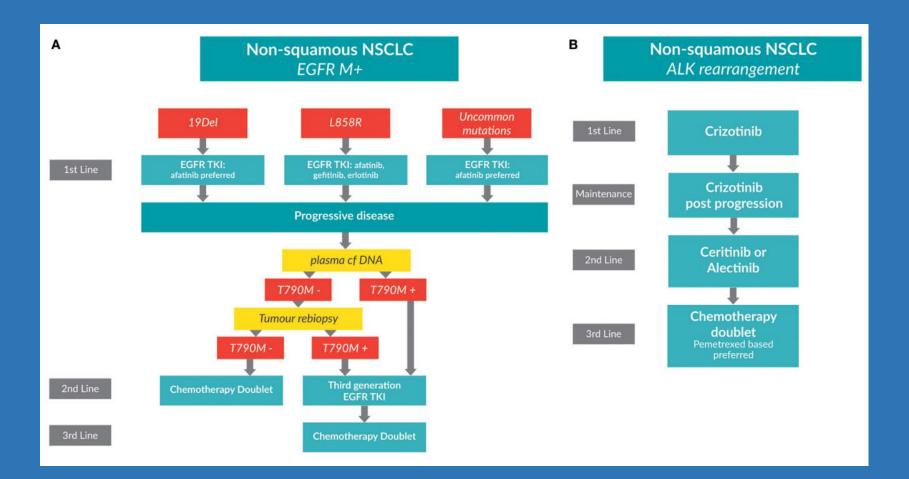


FIGURE 2 | Treatment algorithms for non-small cell lung cancer patients whose tumors do not have *EGFR* or *ALK* mutations (wild-type). (A) Current treatment algorithm. (B) Future treatment algorithm.

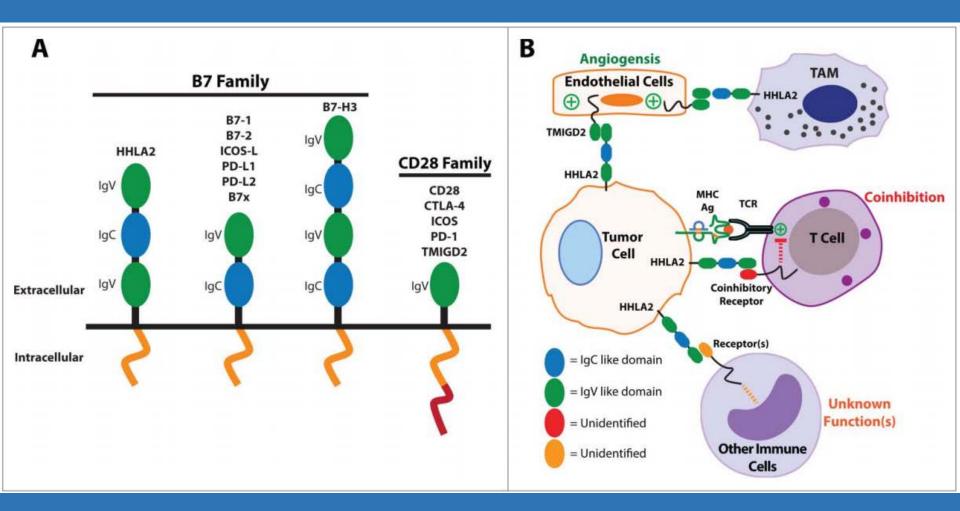
Melosky, Frontiers in Oncology, 2017

Lung Cancer Treatment Algorithm



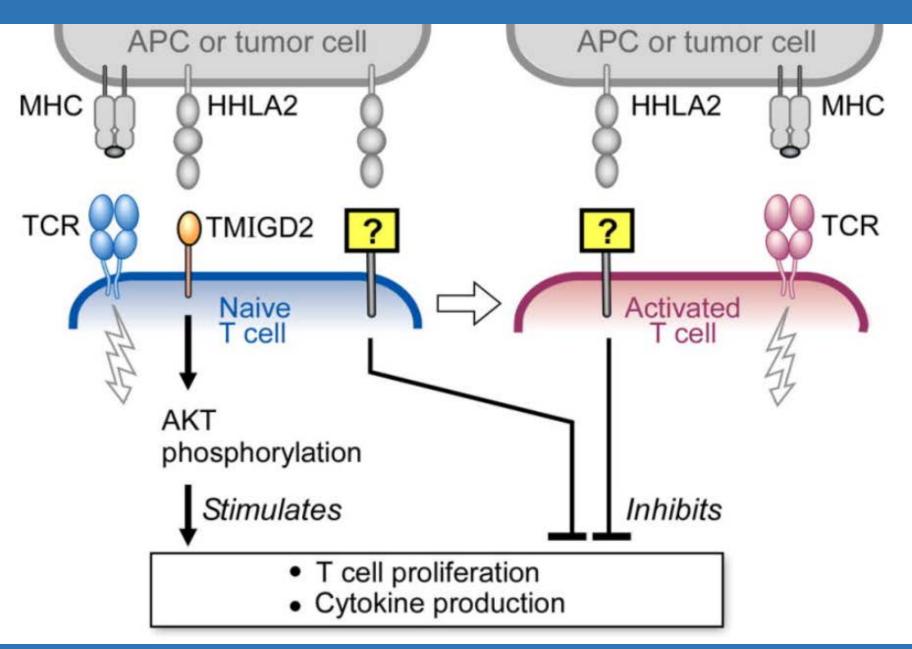
Melosky, Frontiers in Oncology, 2017

HHLA2 Signaling

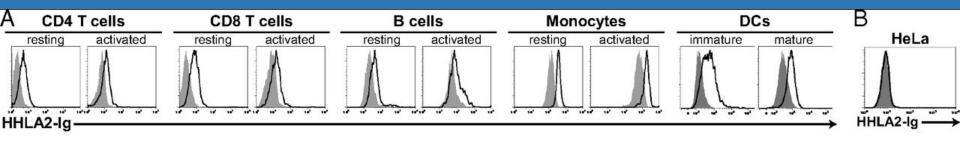


Janakiram, Oncoimmunology, 2015



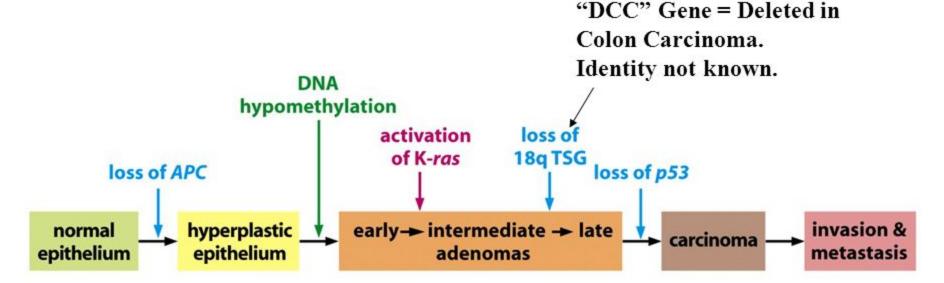


A Putative Receptor Exists for HHLA2



Loss of Tumor Suppressor Genes (TSG) in Progression in Colon Carcinoma

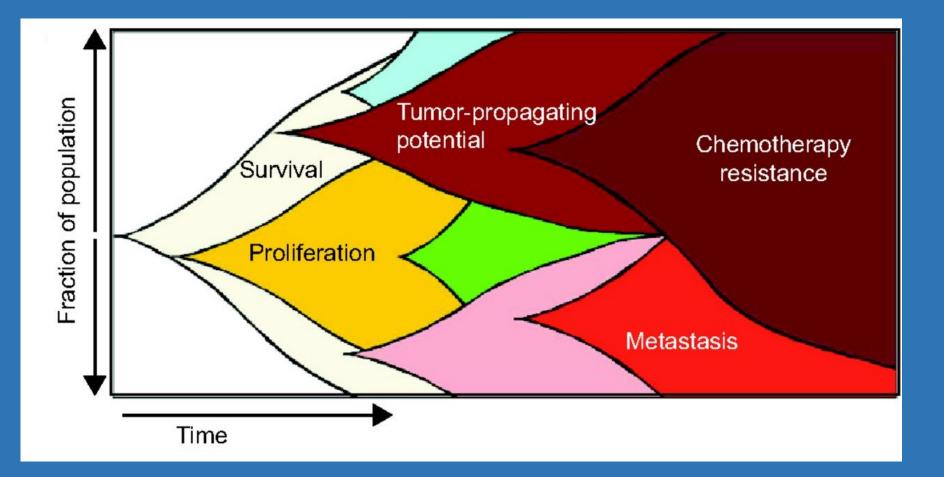
(See Also Sidebar 11.1, p. 434 Relating p53 loss to RAS mutations in the same cancer cell.)



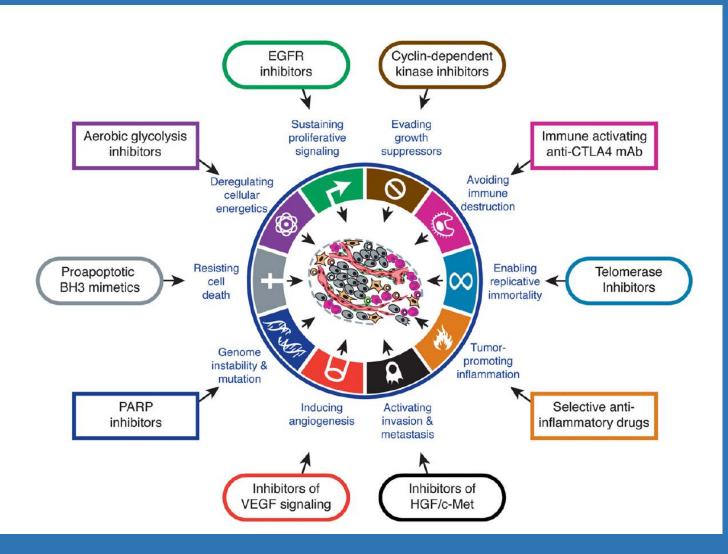
"APC" = Adenomatous polyposis coli gene (Cancer suppressor gene) "K-ras" = Oncogene activated, transduced, or mutated, first identified in virally-induced rat sarcoma. (On chromosome 1*) TSG = Tumor Suppressor Gene p53 = Major cancer suppressor gene *EMBO J. 1983; 2(12): 2281–2283. PMCID: PMC555446 Localisation of the human N-ras oncogene to chromosome 1cen - p21 by

p. 409 in situ hybridisation. M Davis, S Malcolm, A Hall, and C J Marshall

Clonal Expansion of Cancer



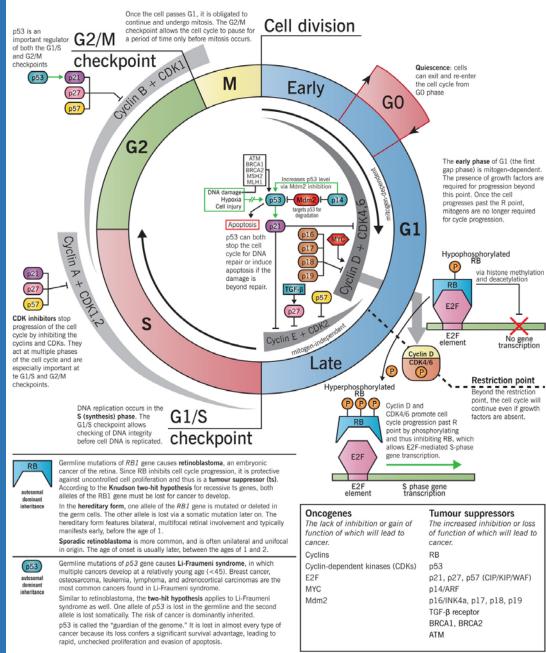
Hallmarks of Cancer



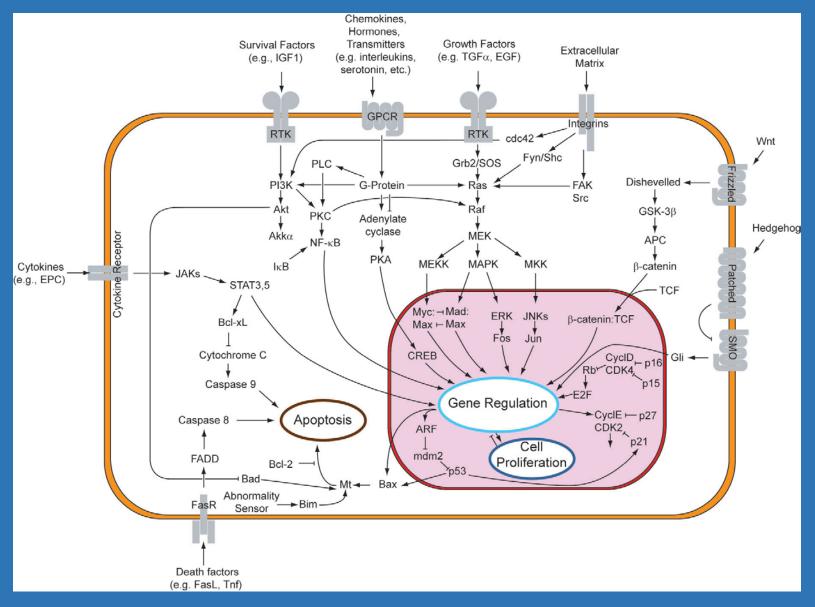
The cell cycle and implications for cancer genetics

Eric Wong

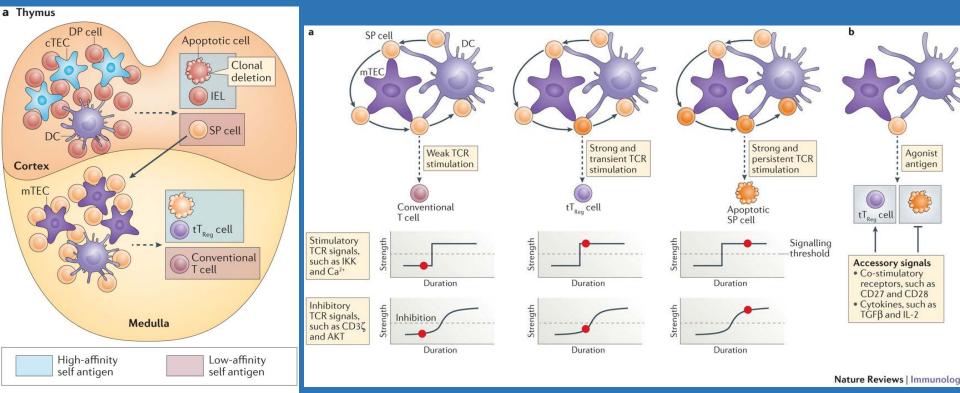


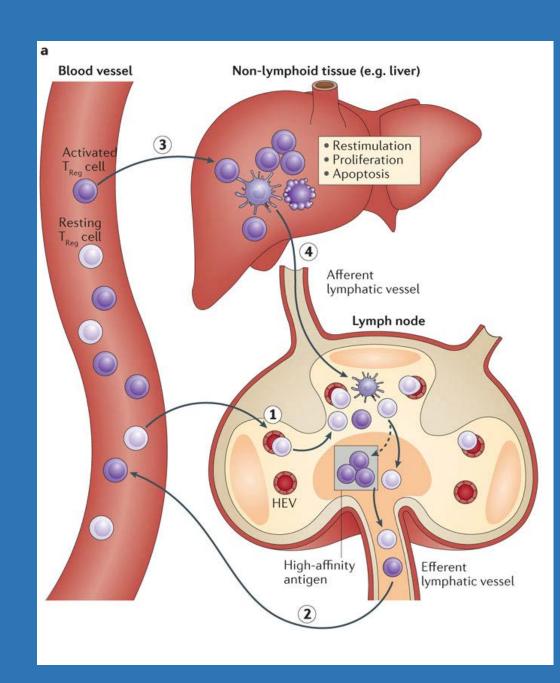


Cancer Cell Signaling



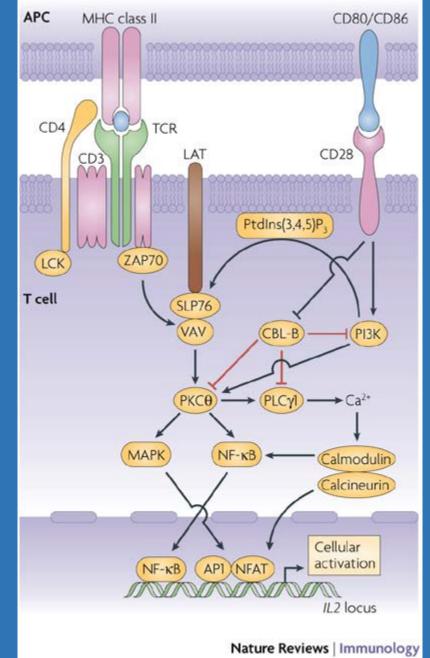






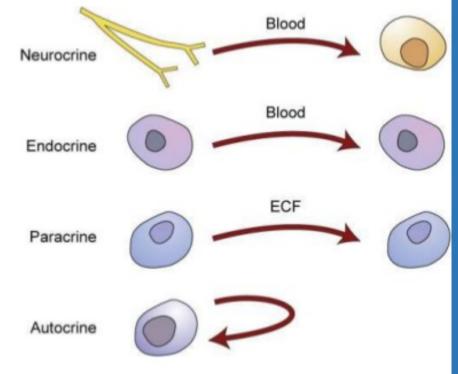


T-Cell Signal Transduction

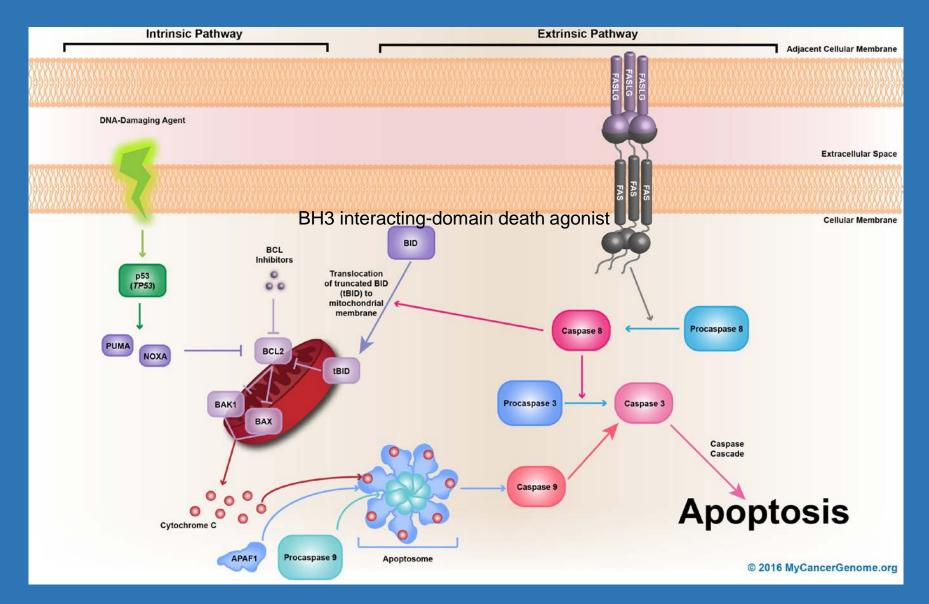


Hormones

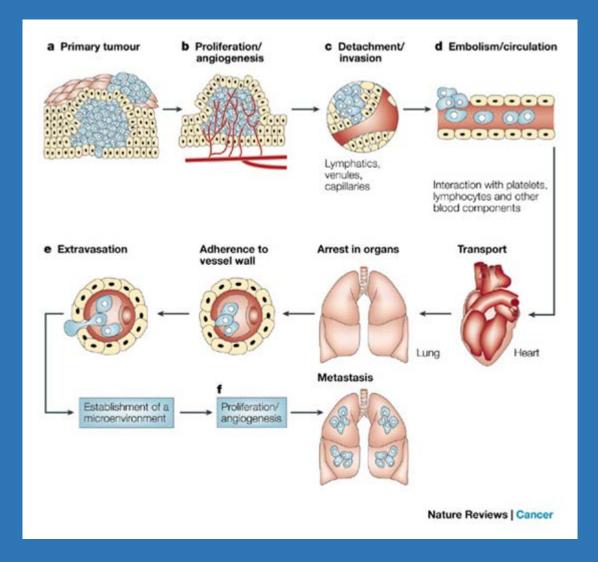
- Neurocrine—secretion of hormones into the bloodstream by neurons
- Endocrine—secretion of hormones into the bloodstream by endocrine glands
- Paracrine—hormone molecule secreted by one cell affects adjacent cells
- Autocrine—hormone molecule secreted by a cell affects the secreting cell



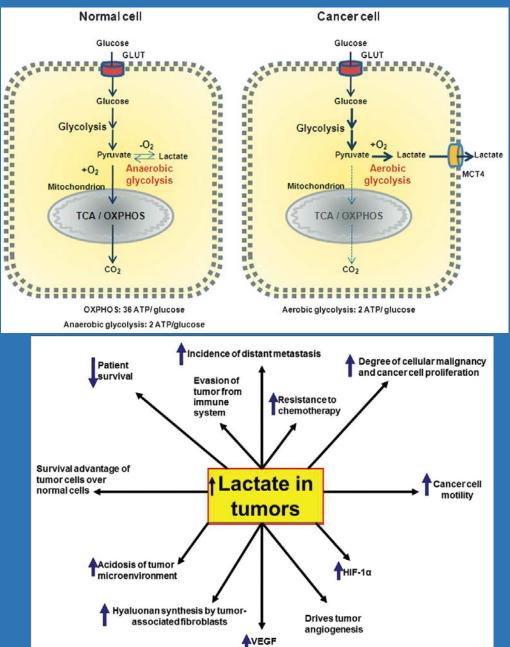
APOPTOSIS



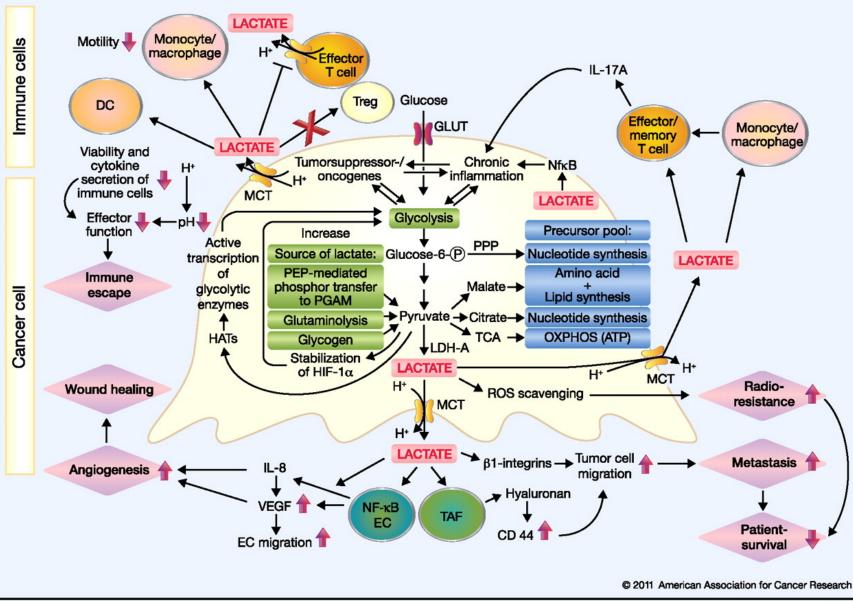
Invasion Metastasis Cascade



Cancer Cell Metabolism



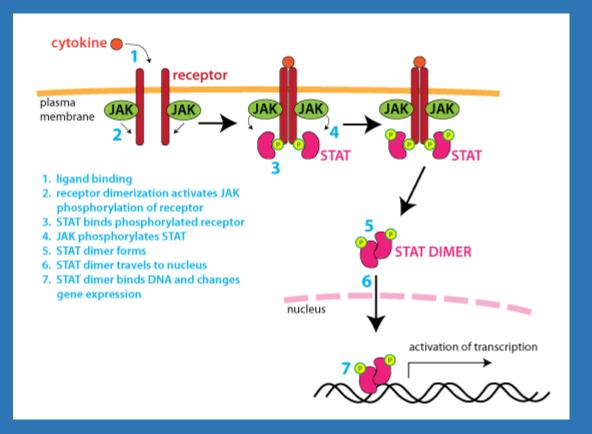
Cancer Cell Metabolism



Cancer Research Reviews

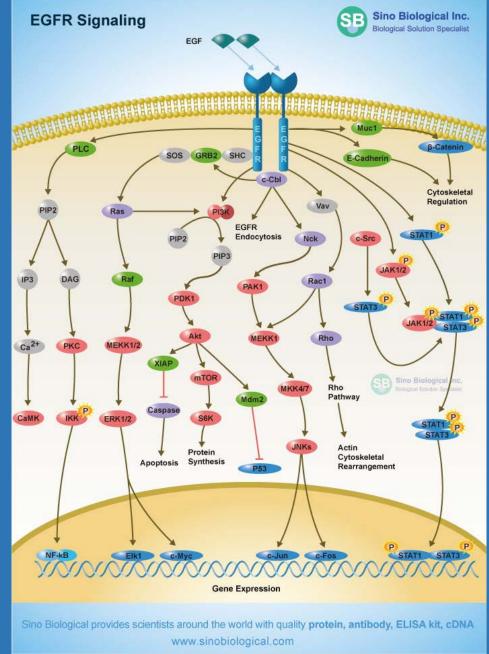


Jak/Stat Signalling

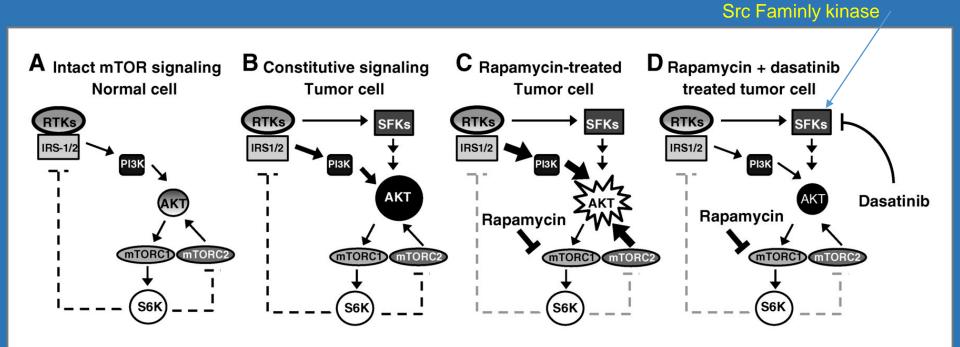


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EGFR Signaling



Src Signaling



IHC

Indirect Immunohistochemistry

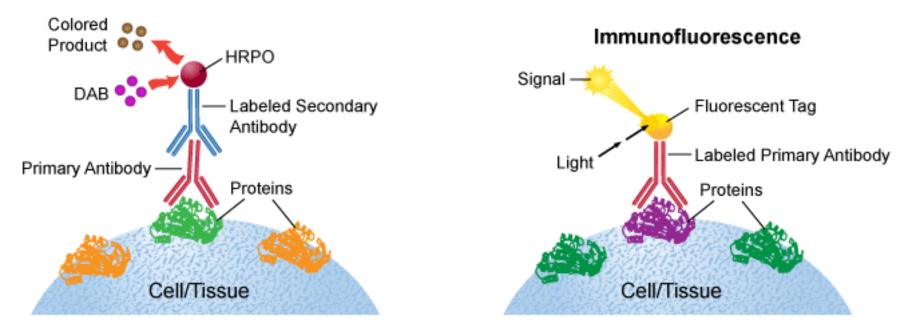
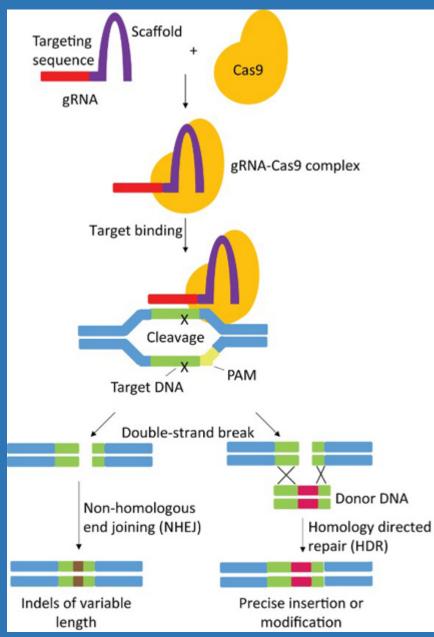


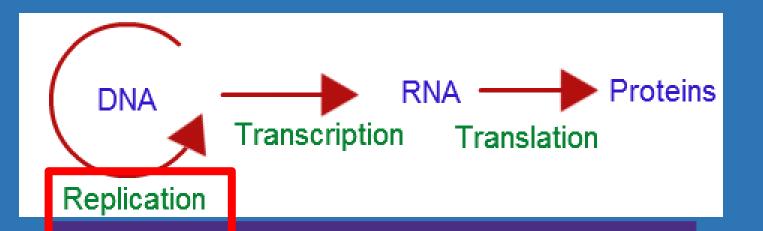
Diagram 1: Illustration of Indirect Immunohistochemistry and Immunofluorescence methods.



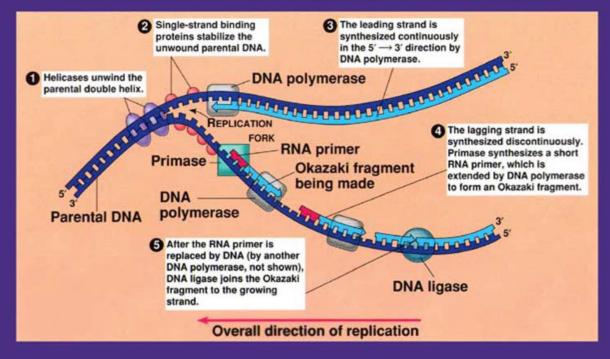
CRISPR/Cas9

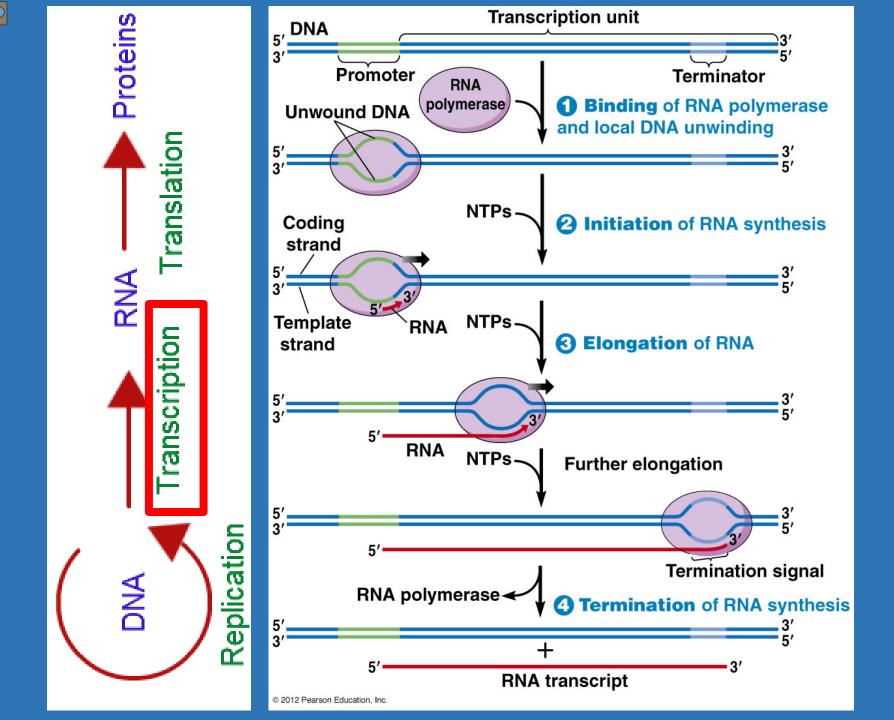


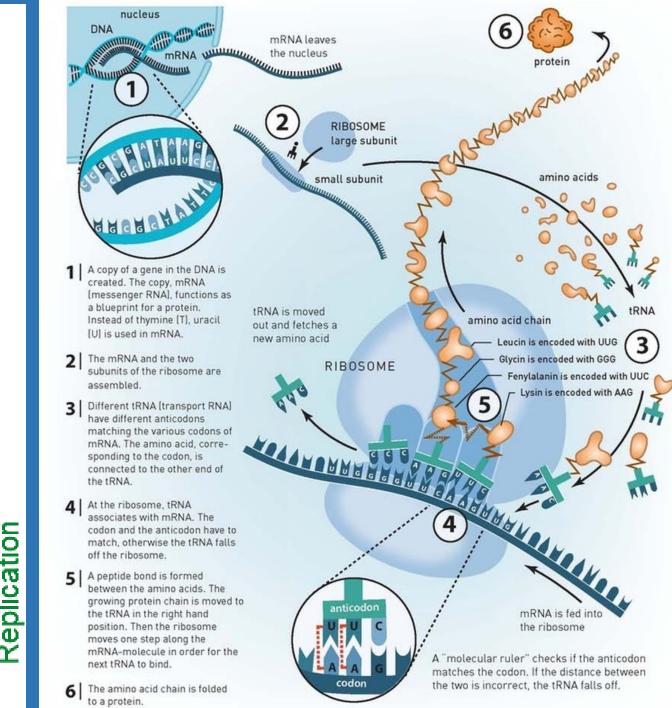
Immunotherapy for NSCLC -Atezolizumab (aPD-L1), 2016 approval •metastatic NSCLC that has progressed during or after first-line chemotherapy with a platinum-based drug. • 12.6 vs. 9.7 (docetaxel) Side effects were less frequent Pembrolizumab (aPD-L1), 2016 approval •the first-line treatment in PD-L1 expressing metastatic **NSCLC** • second-line treatment of metastatic NSCLC (PD-L1 1%+) 10.4 months and 12.7 months vs. 8.5 (docetaxel group) Nivolumab (aPD-1,) 2015 approval -second-line treatment of NSCLC



A SUMMARY OF DNA REPLICATION



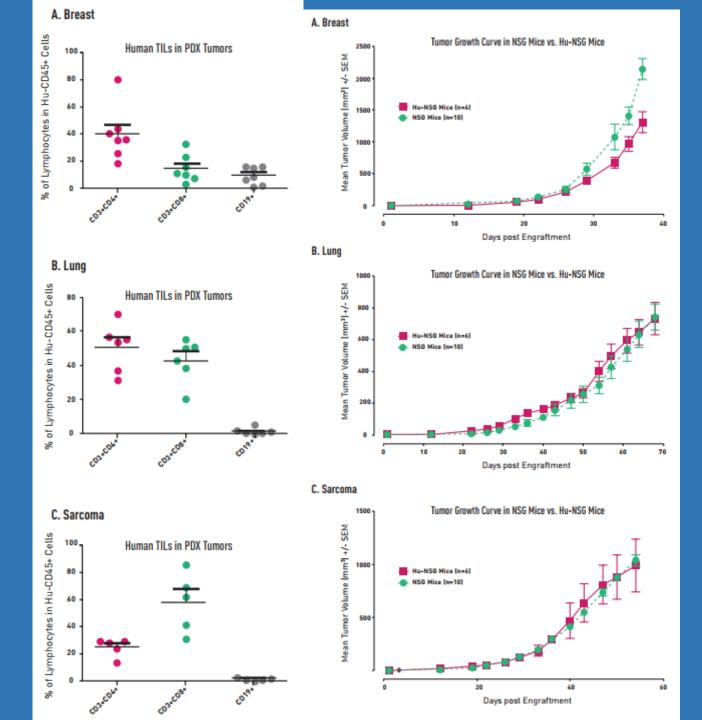


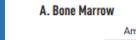


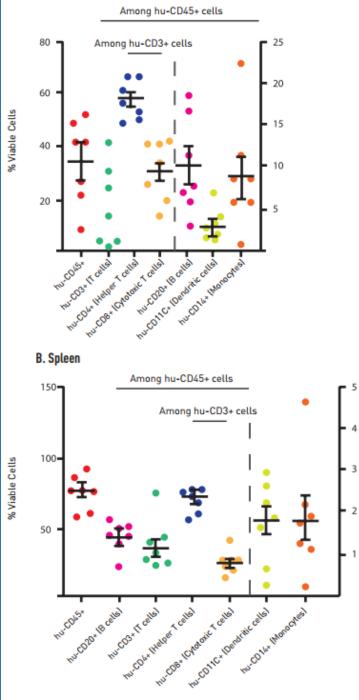
RNA ranscription Replication A N

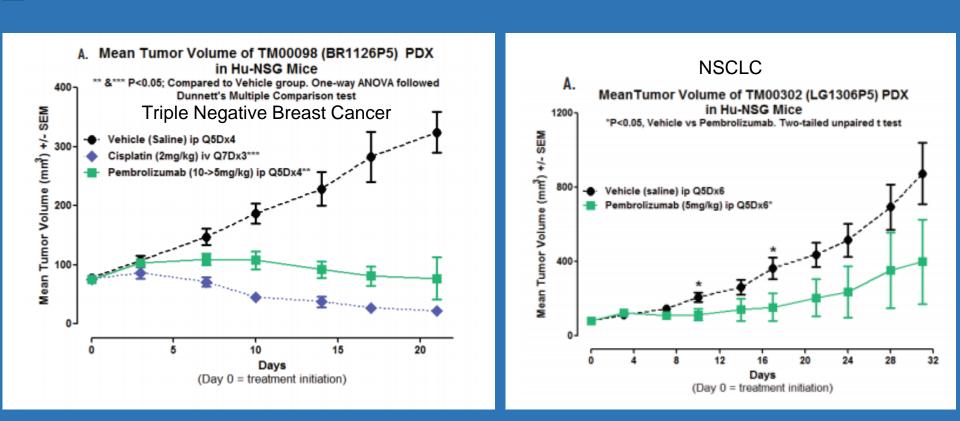
Proteins

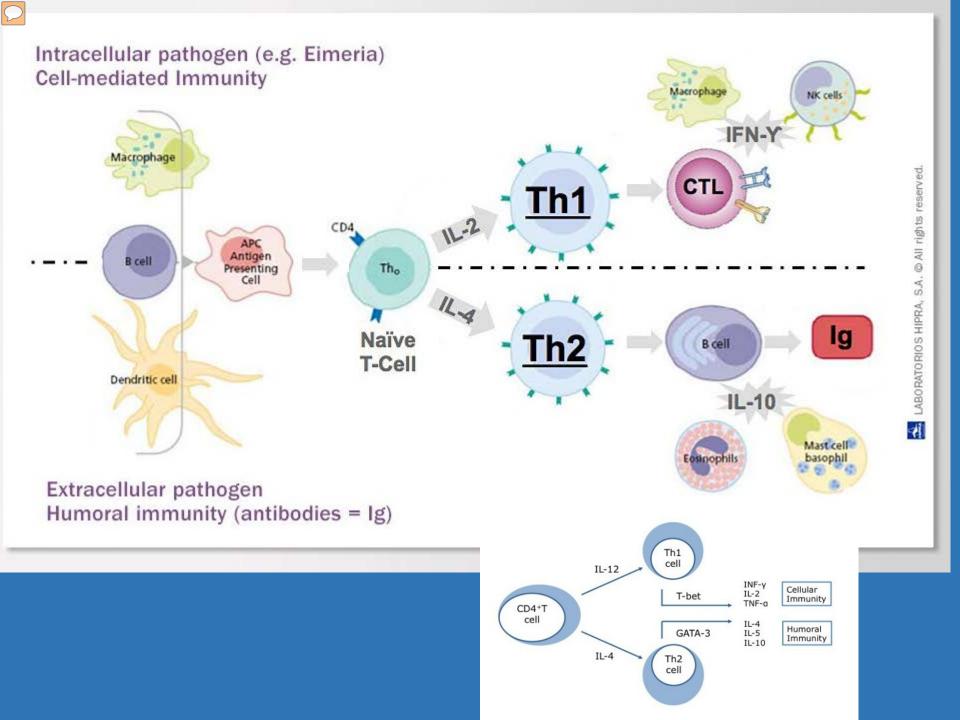
ranslation



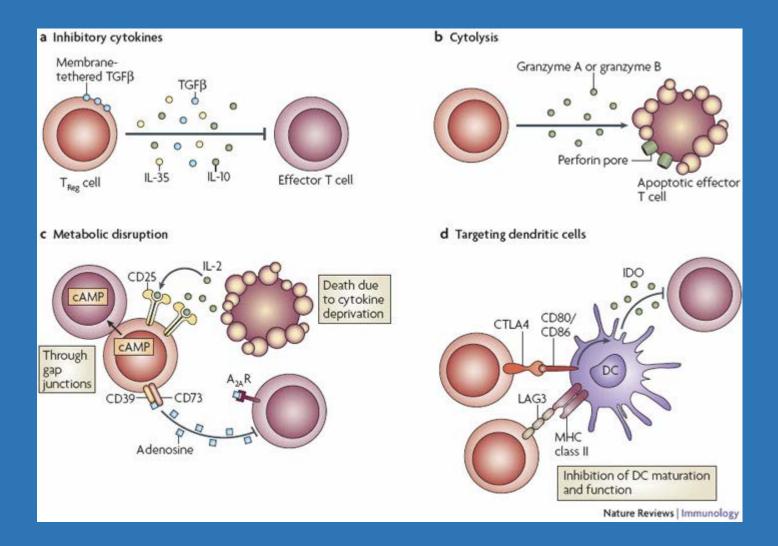


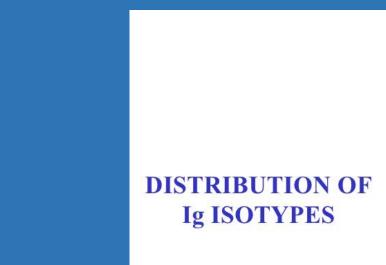






Regulatory T-Cells





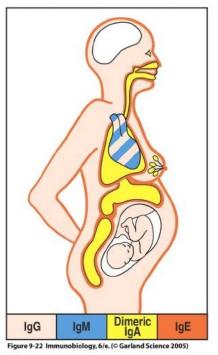
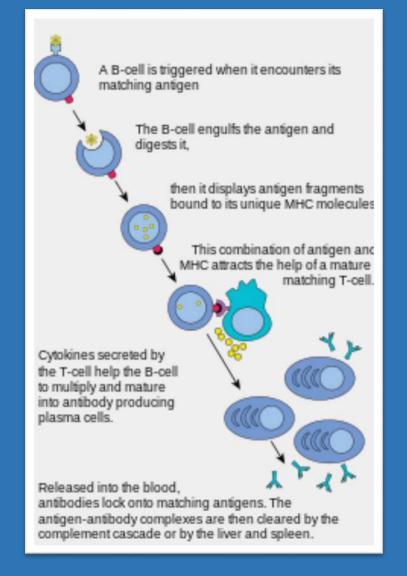


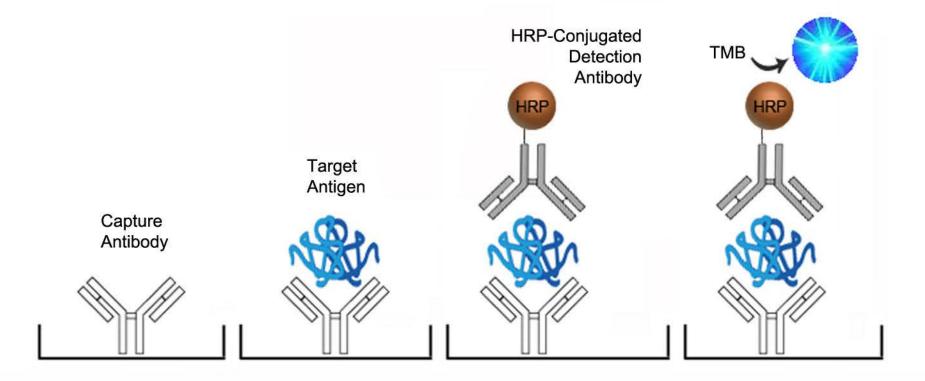
Fig. 9-22

	×	Y	Secretory component	Y	٢
	lgM	lgG	lgA	IgE	IgD
Heavy Chain	μ (mu)	γ (gamma)	α (alpha)	ε (epsilon)	δ (delta)
MW (Da)	900k	150k	385k	200k	180k
% of total antibody in serum	6%	80%	13%	0.002%	1%
Fixes complement	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Function	Primary response, fixes complement. Monomer serves as B-cell receptor	Main blood antibody, neutralizes toxins, opsonization	Secreted into mucus, tears, saliva	Antibody of allergy and anti-parasitic activity	B cell Receptor

B-Cells



Sandwich ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay)



LegendPLEX Cytokine Profiling

