



School of Medicine
and Science



BREAST CANCER VACCINES

Are They For Real?

Keith L. Knutson, Ph.D.

20th Annual Breast Cancer Education Conference
January 22, 2022 - Virtual

DISCLOSURES

- Marker Therapeutics, Inc.
 - Cancer Vaccines and T Cell Therapy – Houston Tx
 - Scientific Advisory Board (unpaid)
 - Several Patent Licensing Agreements (Mayo)
- Kiromic, Inc.
 - Cancer Vaccines/CAR T cell therapy – Lubbock, TX
 - Scientific Advisory Board
 - Stock owner
- Antigen Express, Inc.
 - Cancer Vaccines – Cambridge, MA
 - Scientific Advisory Board (Paid)
- AffylImmune
 - CAR T cell therapy – Cambridge, MA
 - Scientific Advisory Board (Paid)
 - Ownership
- MacroGenics, Inc.
 - Biologics – Bethesda, MD
 - Grant funding
- Leidos
 - Biologics – Reston, VA
 - Collaborations
- Bolt Therapeutics
 - Biologics – Redwood, CA
 - Grant Funding

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1

Basics of the immune system

2

How vaccines are used in breast cancer

3

What is targeted with vaccines

4

Understand pathways to regulatory approval

THE ADAPTIVE IMMUNE SYSTEM IS THE TARGET OF VACCINES

CD4 T cells

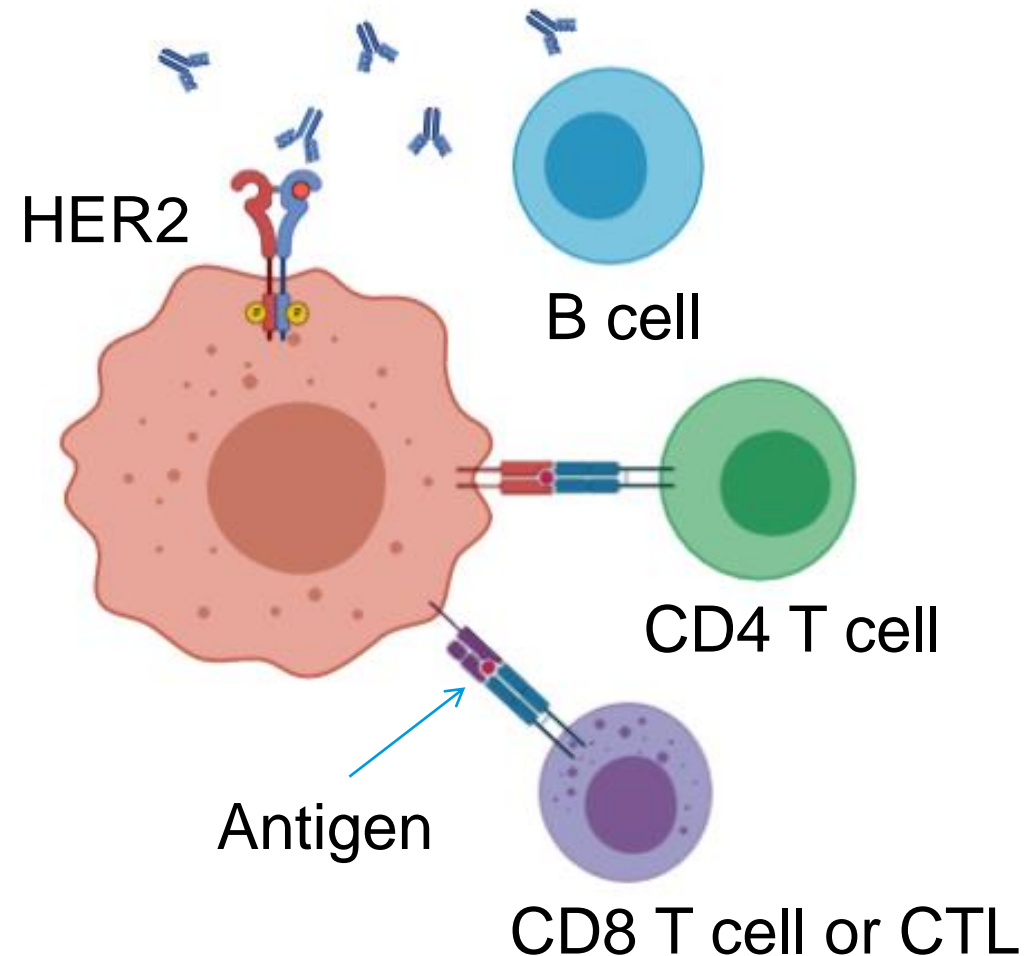
- Inflammation (macrophages and neutrophils)
- Induction of antibody-producing cells
- Activate/maintain cytotoxic T cells
- Immune-surveillance
- Epitope-spreading
- Direct cytotoxicity

CD8 T cells

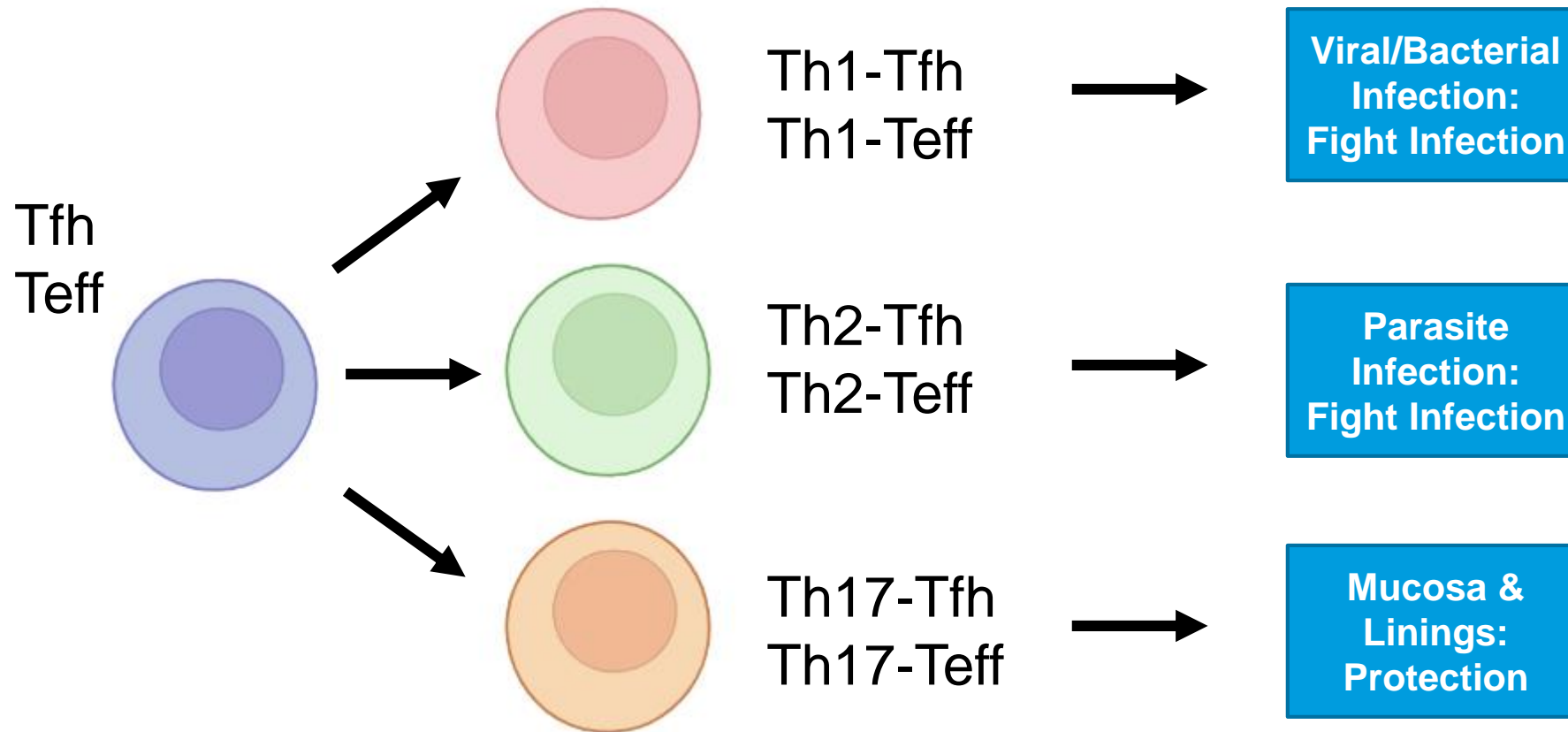
- Tumor lysis

B cells

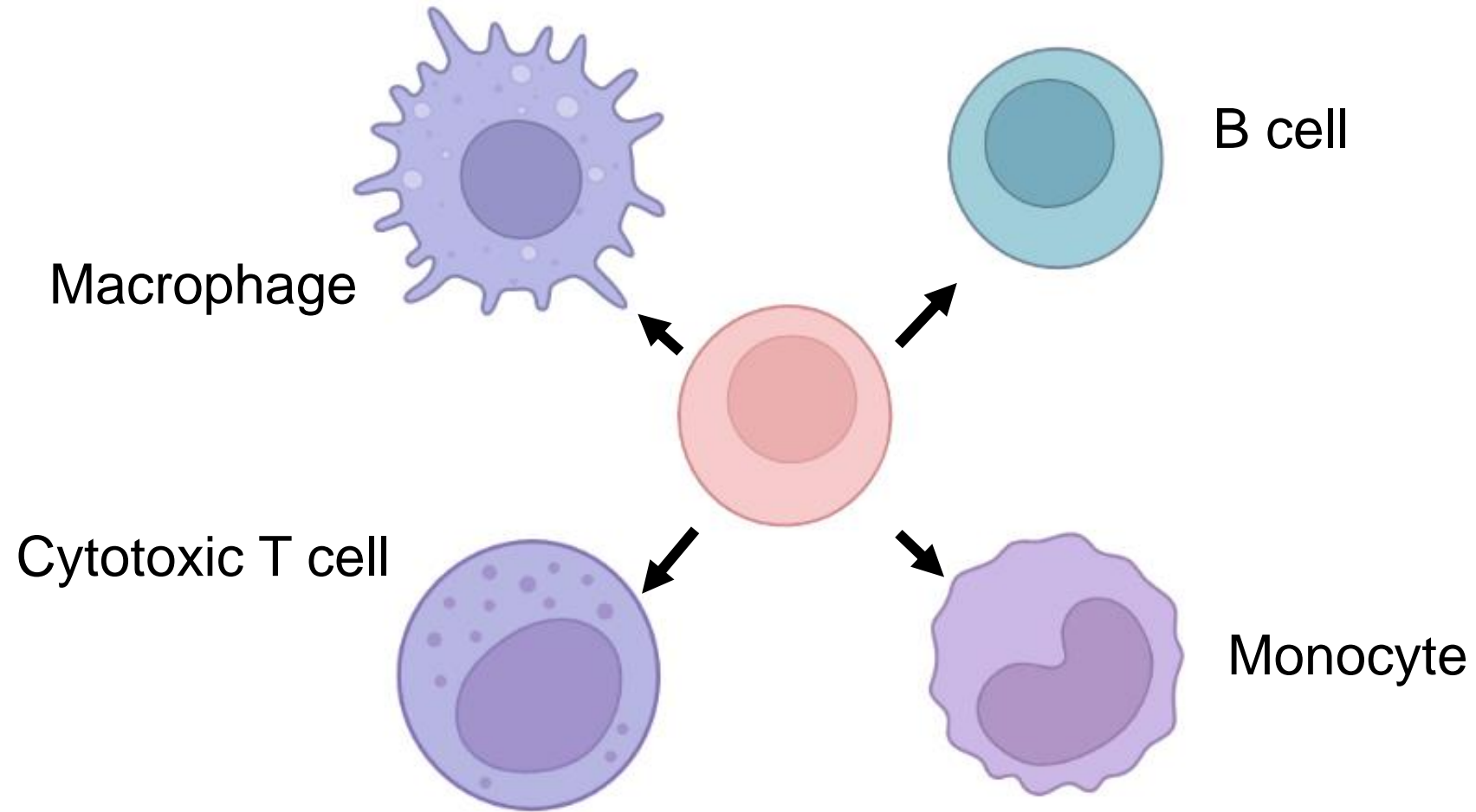
- Antibodies
- Signaling
- ADCC
- Complement



THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF IMMUNE RESPONSES



TH1 IMMUNITY, GENERALLY, IS THE TARGET FOR CANCER VACCINES



VACCINATION MAY BE USEFUL FOR CANCER IN MANY WAYS

Therapeutic



Tumor shrinkage

Provenge

Maintenance



Prevention of relapse

Prevention

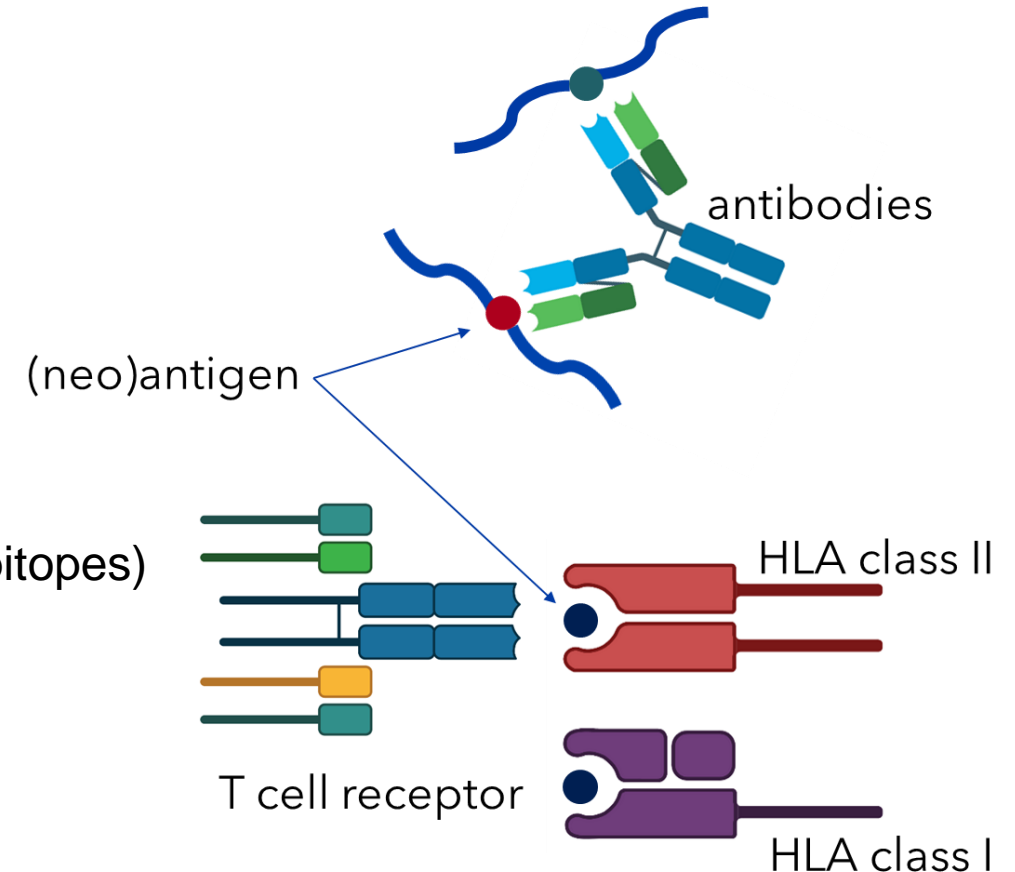


Prevent incidence

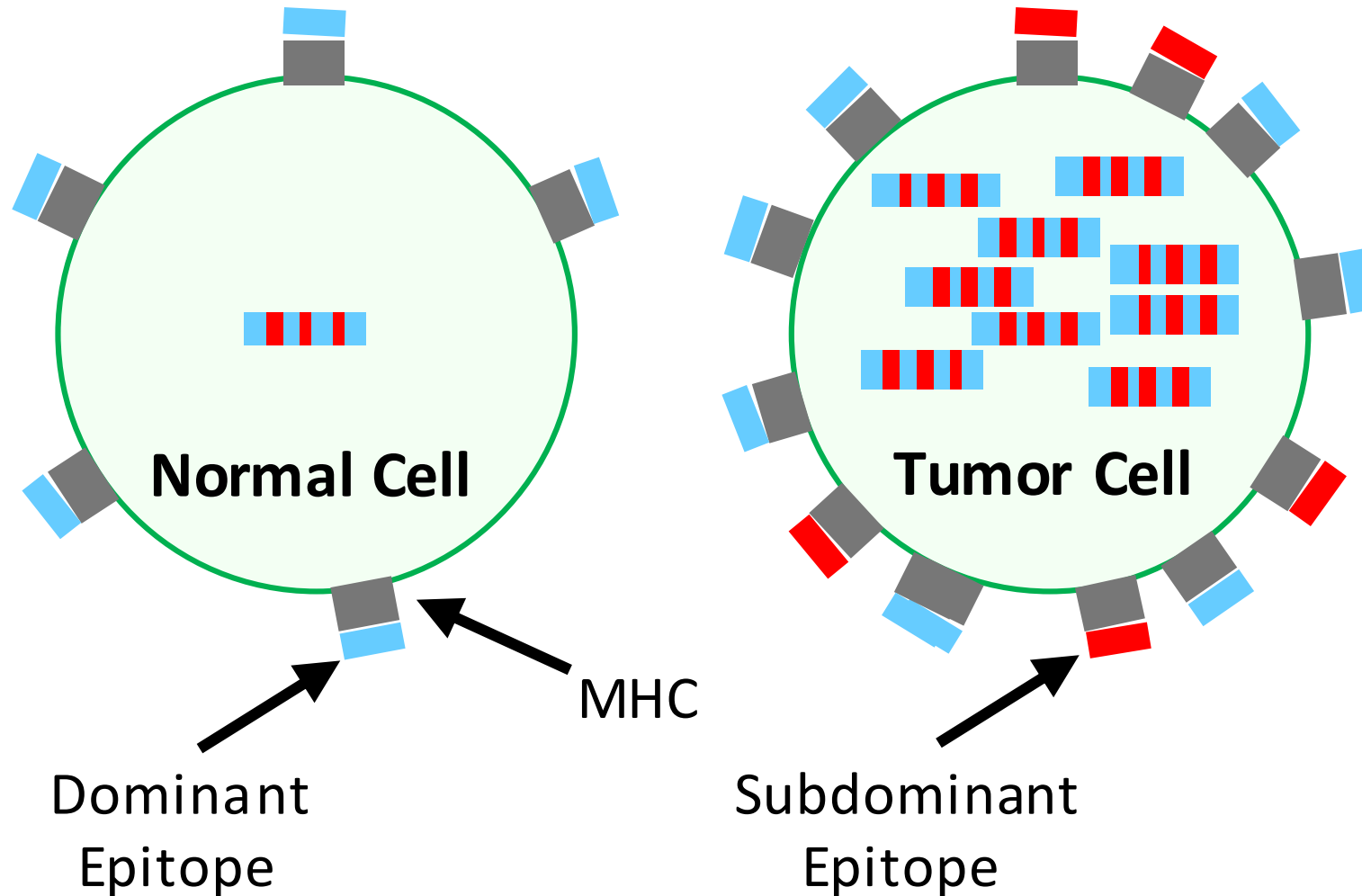
Hepatitis B Virus
Human Papilloma Virus

IDENTIFYING VACCINE TARGETS FOR CANCER

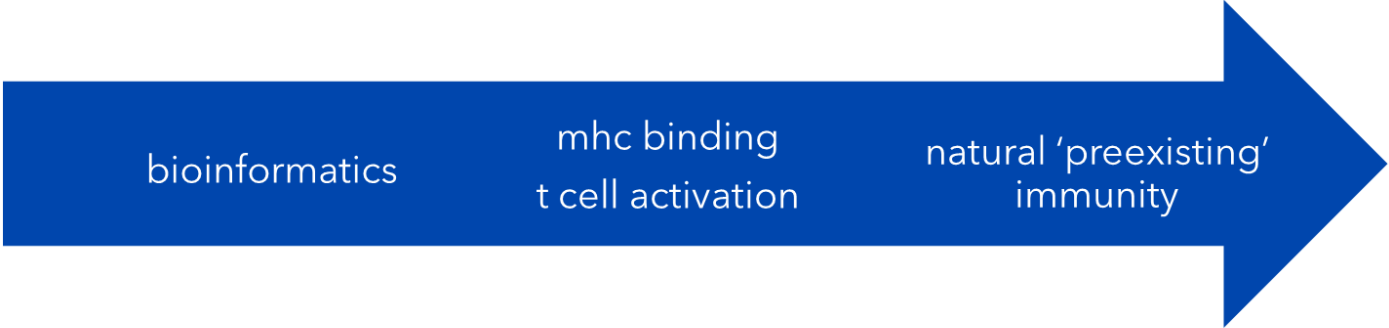
- Goal: Target tumor-specific antigens
- Types of cancer neoantigens
 - Protein
 - Carbohydrates
 - Nucleic acid
 - Lipid
- Protein antigens targeted in cancer
 - Microbial
 - Self protein derived neoantigens (subdominant epitopes)
 - Mutated protein derived neoantigens
- Platforms
 - Peptide, Nucleic acid, protein
 - Cell-based
 - Virus or bacteria



OVEREXPRESSED SELF PROTEINS ARE CANCER ANTIGENS



IN SOME CASES, IT IS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY PARTS OF PROTEINS TO MAKE VACCINES



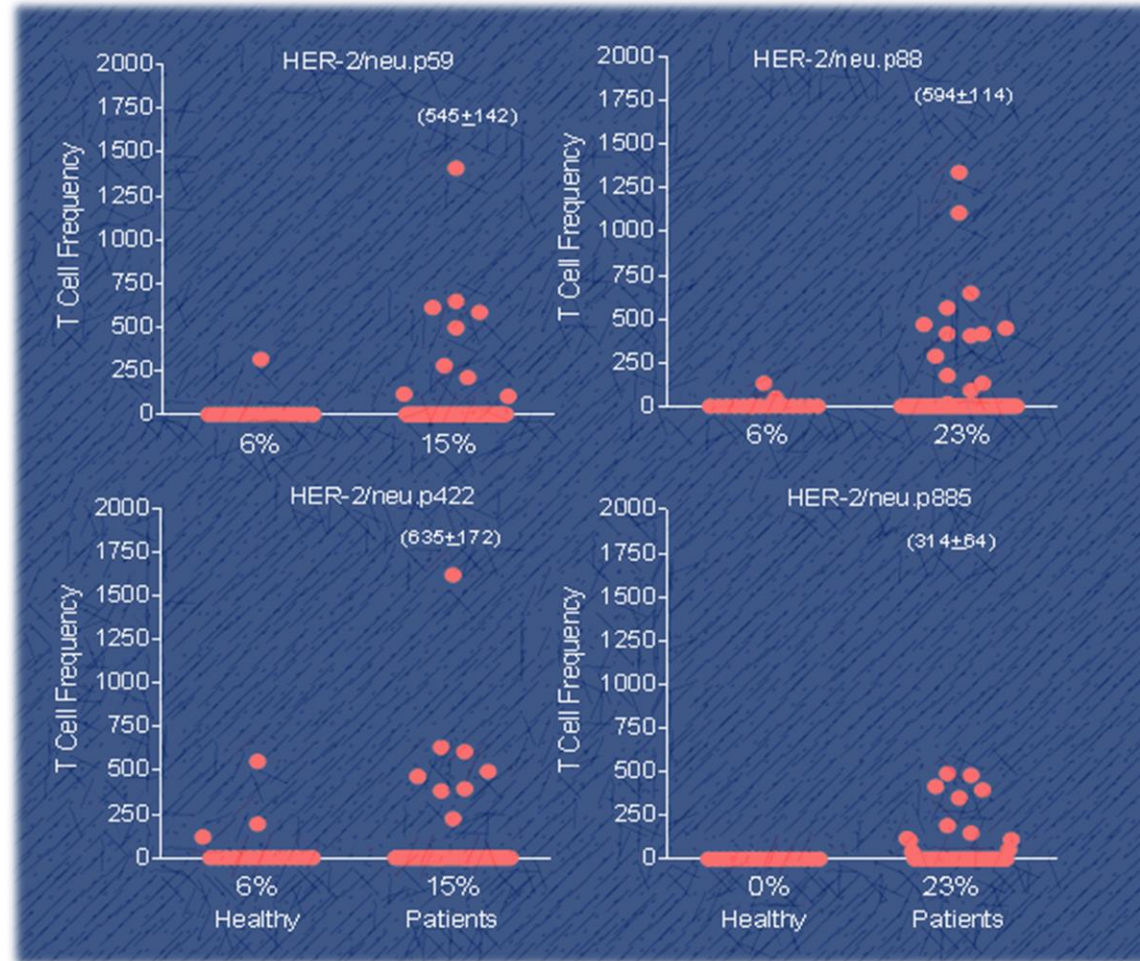
			IC ₅₀ nM to purified HLA														
Sequence	Peptide Name	Position [†]	DRB1 *0101	DRB1 *0301	DRB1 *0401	DRB1 *0404	DRB1 *0405	DRB1 *0701	DRB1 *0802	DRB1 *0901	DRB1 *1101	DRB1 *1201	DRB1 *1302	DRB1 *1501	DRB3 *0101	DRB4 *0101	DRB5 *0101
NLELYLPTNASLSF	HER-2/neu.59	59	4.9	7356	6.2	2.7	38	7.2	94	3055	30	141	105	23	ND	29	189
LTYLPTNASLSFLQD	HER-2/neu.62	62	9.7	3364	19	16	80	15	426	4081	213	150	47	132	141	1633	173
IQEVQGYVLIAHNQV	HER-2/neu.77	77	57	7763	111	178	102	35	213	302	165	3438	103	75	13,508	546	1361
YVLIAHNQVRQVPLQ	HER-2/neu.83	83	28	454	53	104	1185	92	300	358	208	302	1.9	679	649	124	18
HNQVRQVPLQRLRIV	HER-2/neu.88	88	950	971	840	78	1303	80	85	6644	21	42	270	340	ND	18	173
MEHLREVRAVTSANI	HER-2/neu.347	347	9.6	2970	533	12	200	9.7	95	4345	262	221	23	86	ND	81	216
LREVRAVTSANIQEF	HER-2/neu.350	350	17	3913	43	8.2	50	12	456	5187	661	161	1.5	27	ND	163	94
LSVFQNLQVIRGRIL	HER-2/neu.422	422	1.3	345	6.3	33	26	7.1	148	859	9.6	486	80	33	ND	67	17
RGRILHNGAYSLTLQ	HER-2/neu.432	432	2.4	710	480	129	2845	5.6	5077	430	773	40	1.3	5.4	358	562	82
LRSLRELGSGLALIH	HER-2/neu.455	455	7.1	ND	896	14	603	142	1075	594	309	498	16	24	16,142	549	726
VLGVVFGILIKRRQQ	HER-2/neu.666	666	67	2449	177	335	101	17	35	ND	12	268	17	185	ND	958	38
SRLLGICLTSTVQLV	HER-2/neu.783	783	80	2923	85	13	90	9.0	634	137	80	446	4.7	39	3567	481	392
PIKWMALESILRRRF	HER-2/neu.885	885	12	30	14	250	161	664	312	3620	133	66	349	3.3	ND	62	3.4
IKWMALESILRRRFT	HER-2/neu.886	886	16	10	37	1075	435	1795	515	9282	136	241	1118	11	ND	340	3.3
FSRMARDPQRFVVIQ	HER-2/neu.976	976	29	35	512	2224	855	1423	798	1481	49	6867	240	1408	901	227	45

[†]Position of N-terminal amino acid; ND=not determined; Peptides that constitute degenerate pool are in bold

NATURAL IMMUNITY IN PATIENTS CAN HELP IDENTIFY RELEVANT PARTS OF PROTEINS FOR VACCINATION



DRB1*0101, DRB1*0301
DRB1*0401, DRB1*0404
DRB1*0405, DRB1*0701
DRB1*0802, DRB1*0901
DRB1*1101, DRB1*1201
DRB1*1302, DRB1*1501
DRB3*0101, DRB4*0101
DRB5*0101



Karyampudi et. al., Clin Cancer Res. 2010

Knutson KL and Ishioka G, 2007, HLA DR binding peptides and their uses. Patented 12/740,562.

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DEVELOPMENT OF VACCINES IS A LONG PROCESS

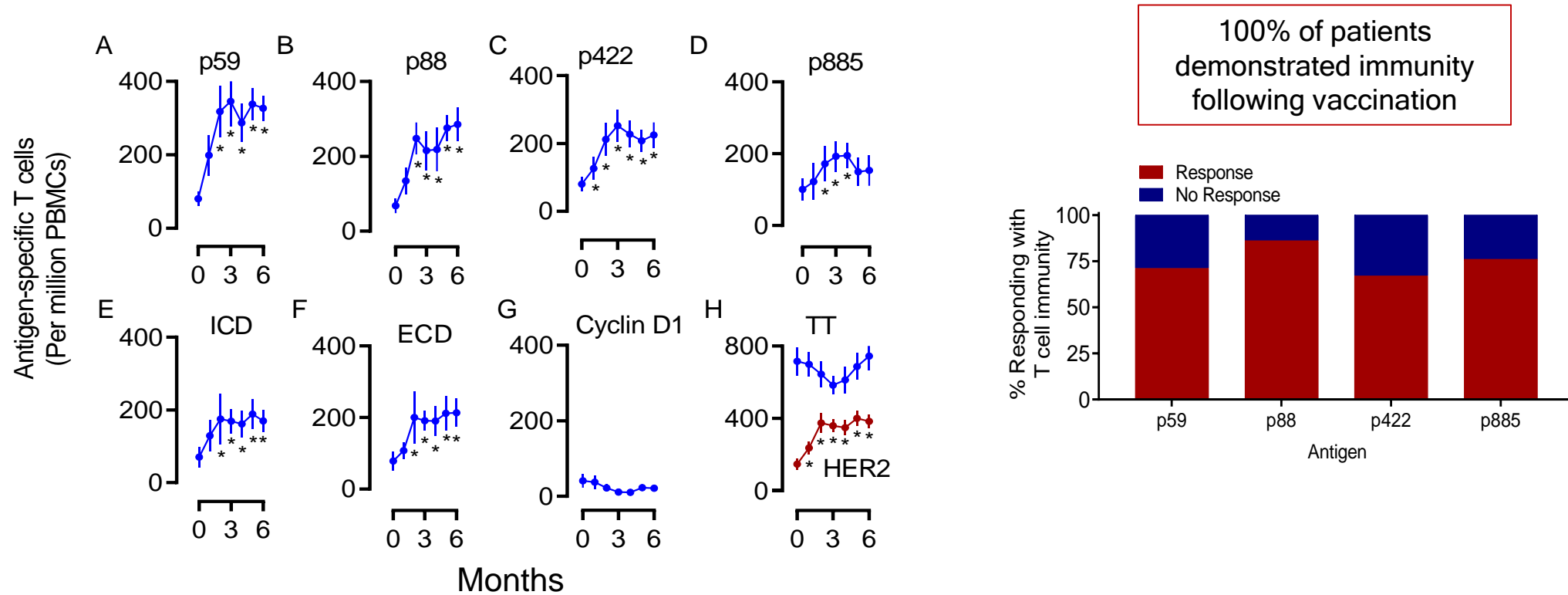
Clinical Trials



Pharmacological profile
Administration route
Drug interactions

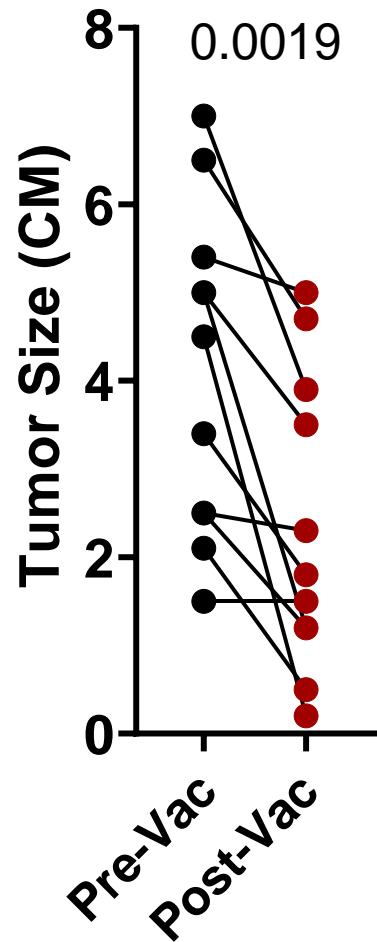
<https://www.jliedu.com/blog/clinical-trial-phases/>

PATIENTS WITH CANCER CAN BE IMMUNIZED

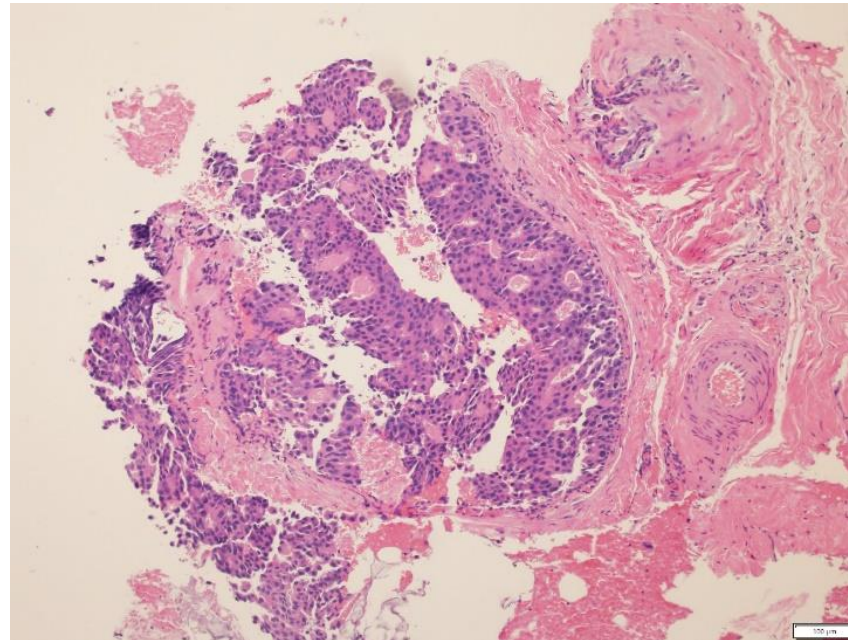


Stages II-III, 22 patients, NED

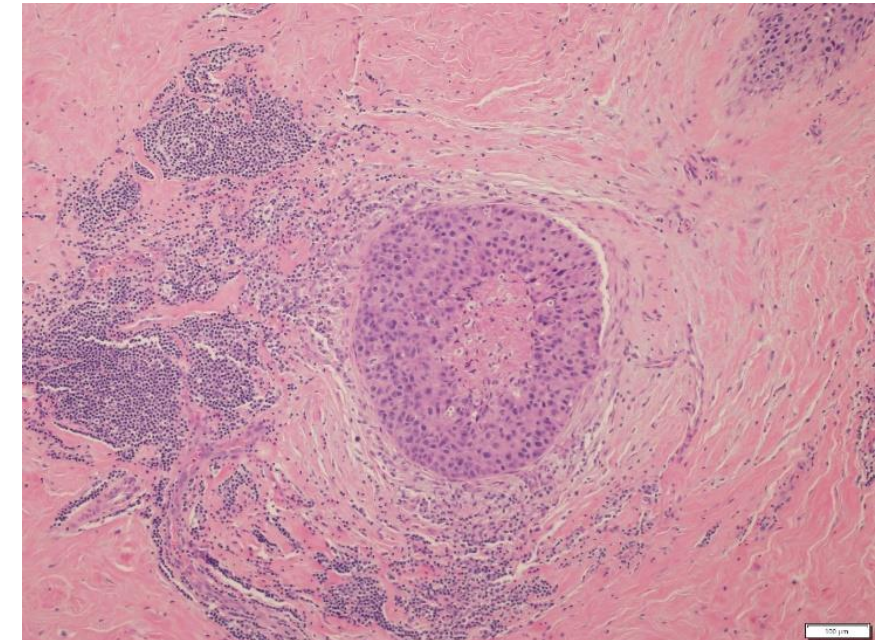
VACCINES CAN INDUCE INFILTRATION IN TUMORS AND CAUSE REGRESSION



Pre-vaccination

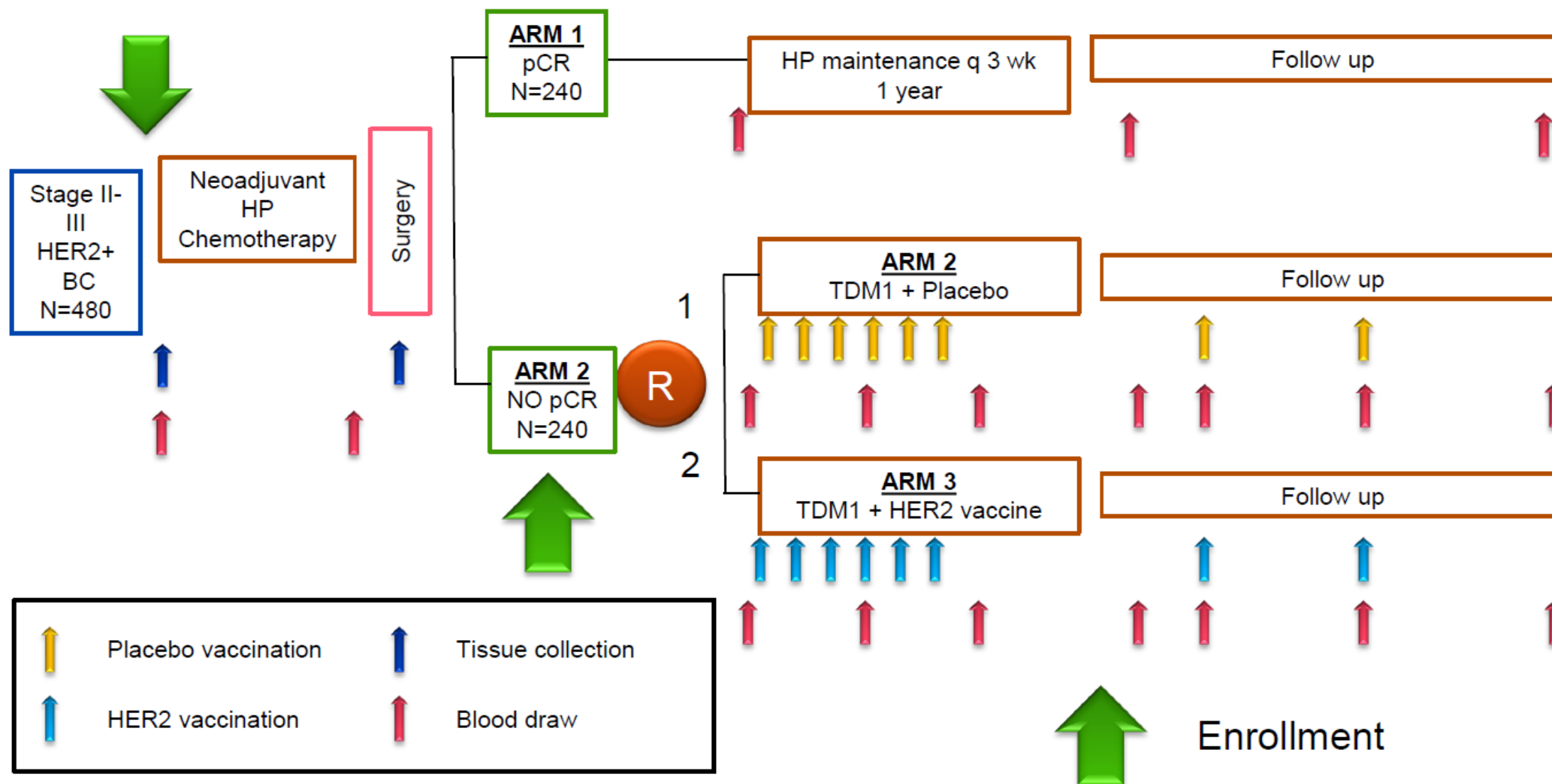


Post-vaccination

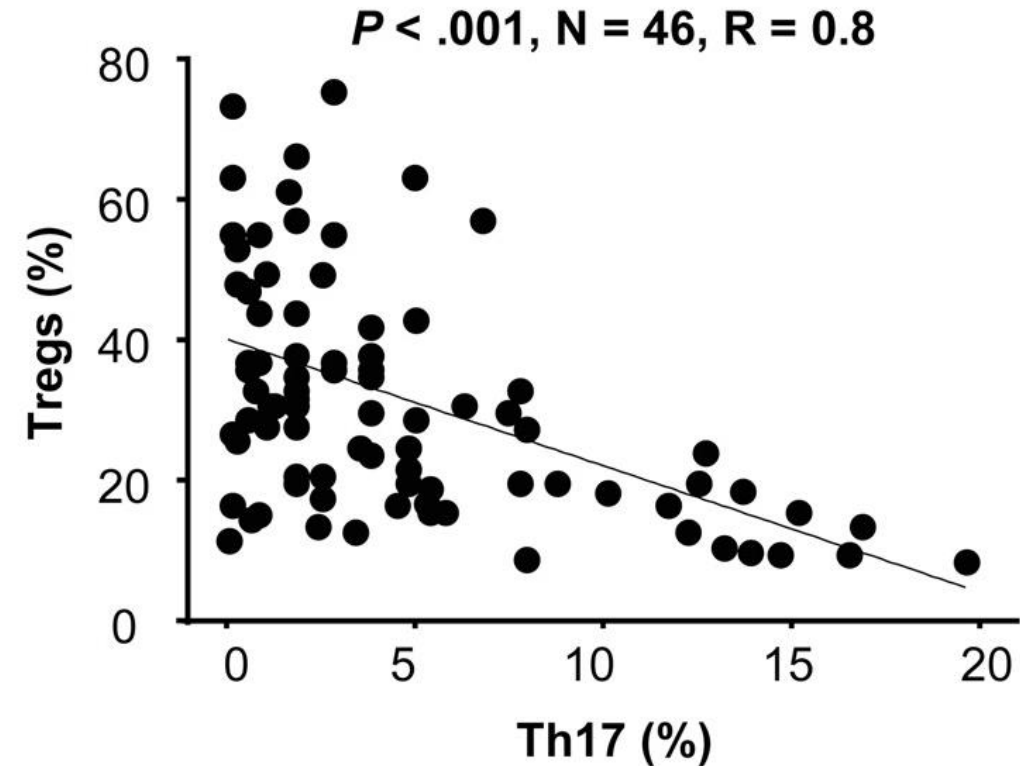
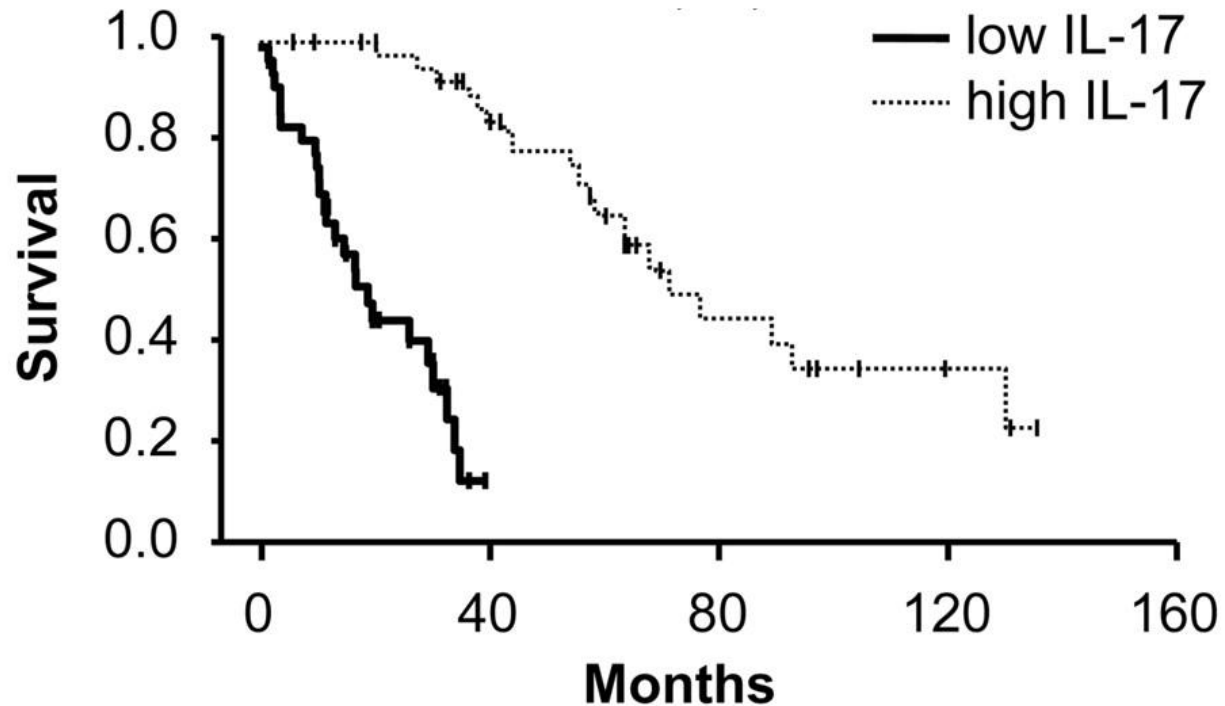


Knutson, unpublished observations

PHASE II CLINICAL TRIALS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE IN COMBINATION WITH ADJUVANT THERAPY REQUIRE CONTROL ARMS



NATURAL IMMUNITY INFORMS ON THE TYPE OF IMMUNE RESPONSE REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE VACCINES

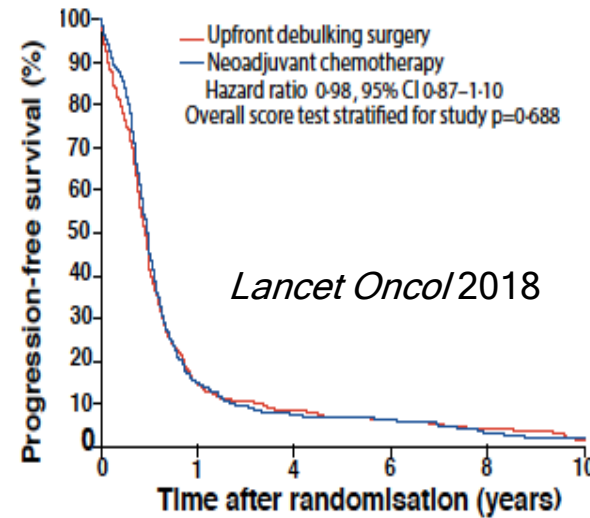
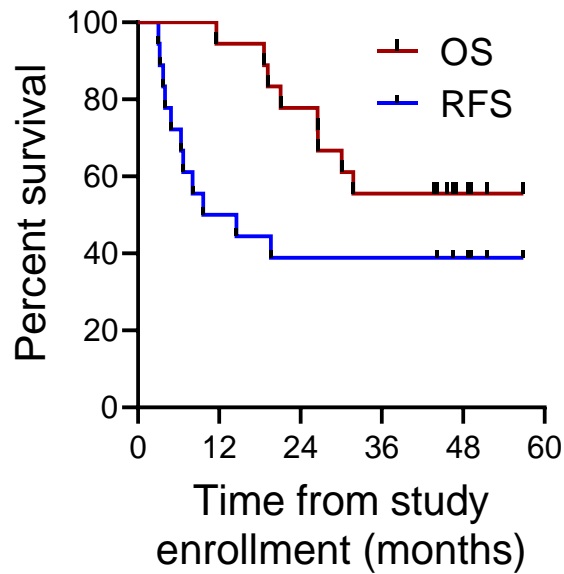


Confirmatory studies:

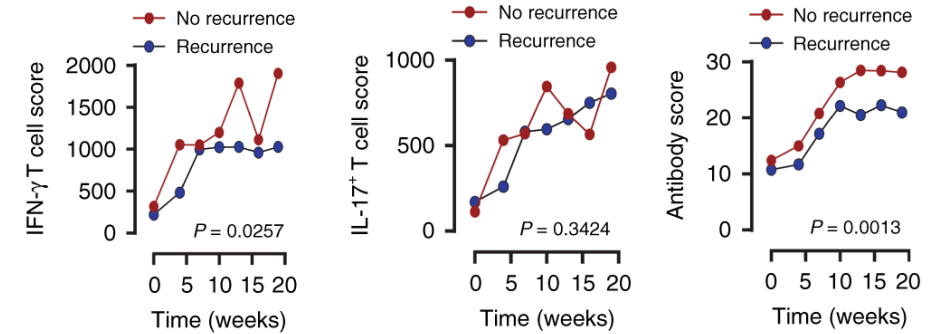
Lan C, *et al*: Cell Tissue Res, 2013

Zeng Y, *et al*: Int J Clin Exp Med, 2015

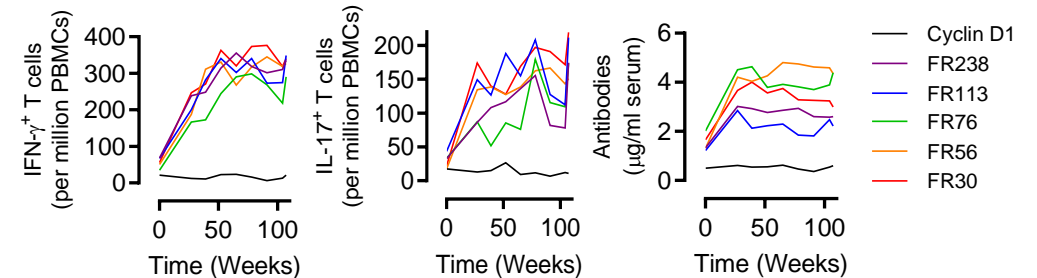
PATIENTS WITH OVARIAN CANCER CAN BE PROTECTED FROM DISEASE RECURRENCE WITH VACCINE ALONE



Immunity correlates with outcome

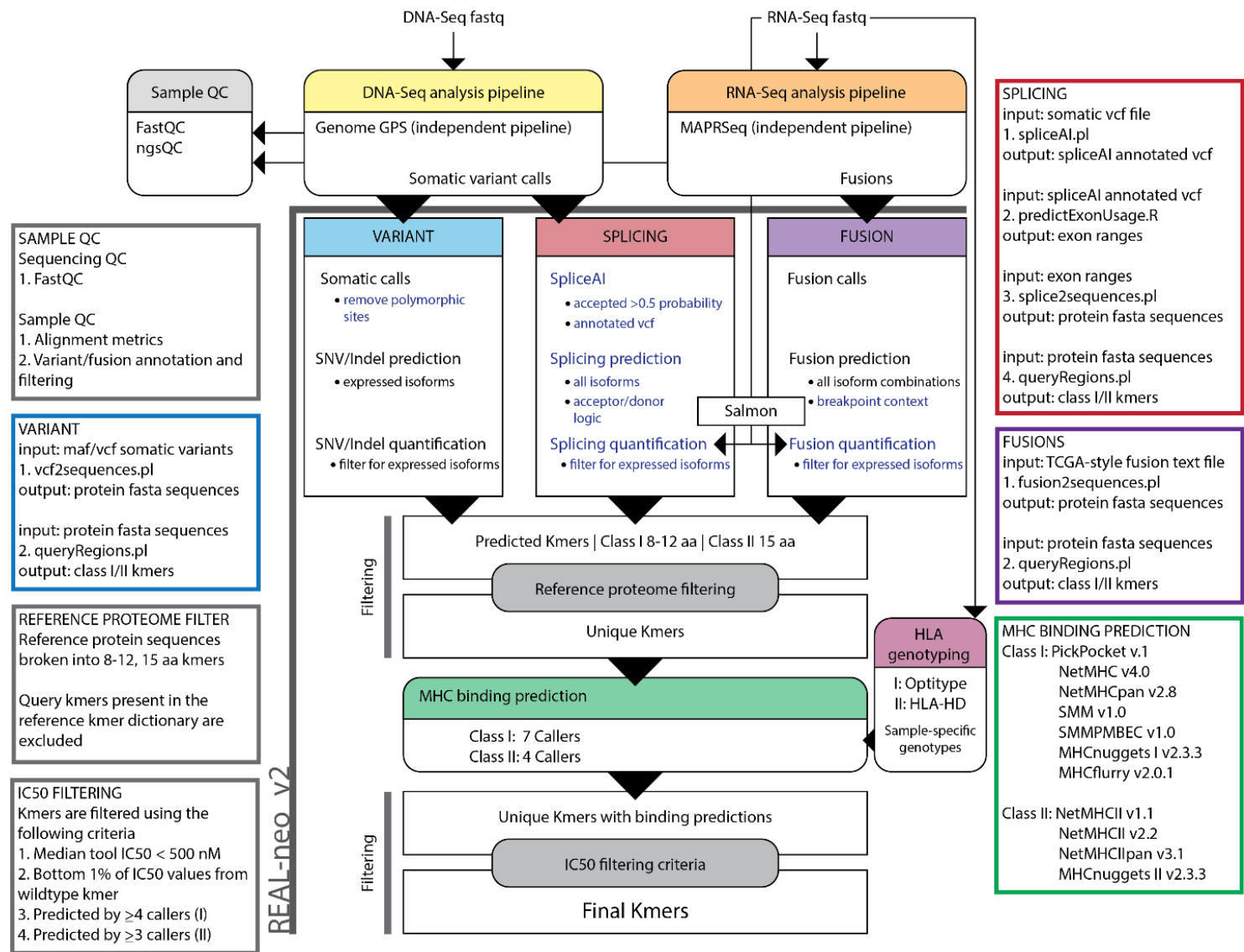
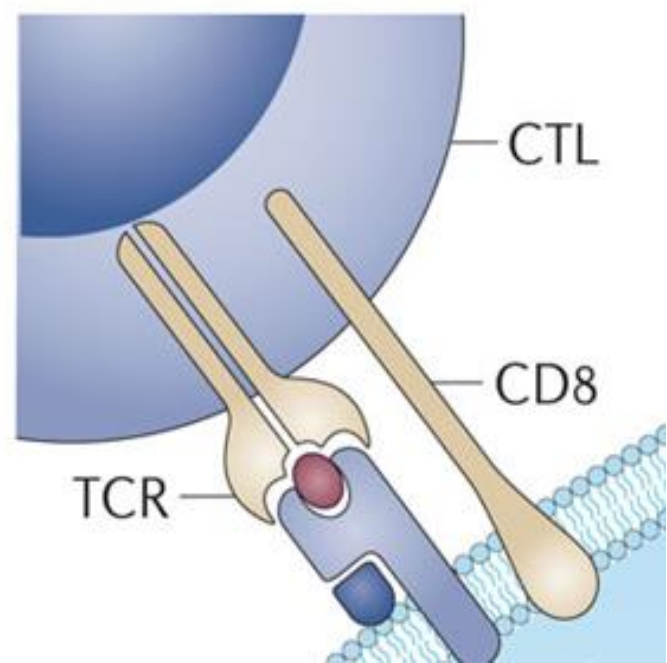


Immunity is persistent (no recurrence patients)



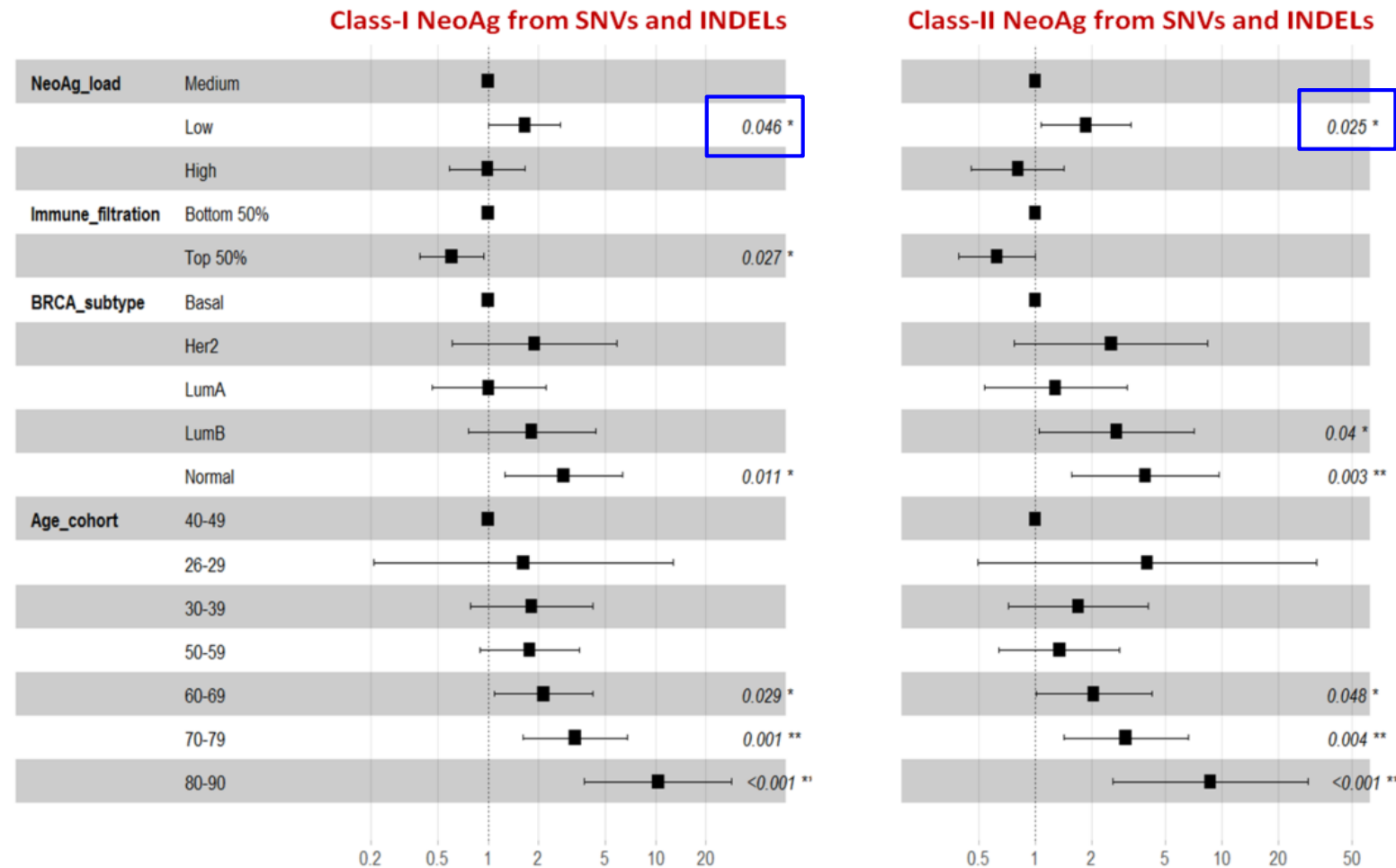
Block, *Nat Commun*, 2020

MUTATED PROTEINS ARE VACCINE TARGETS



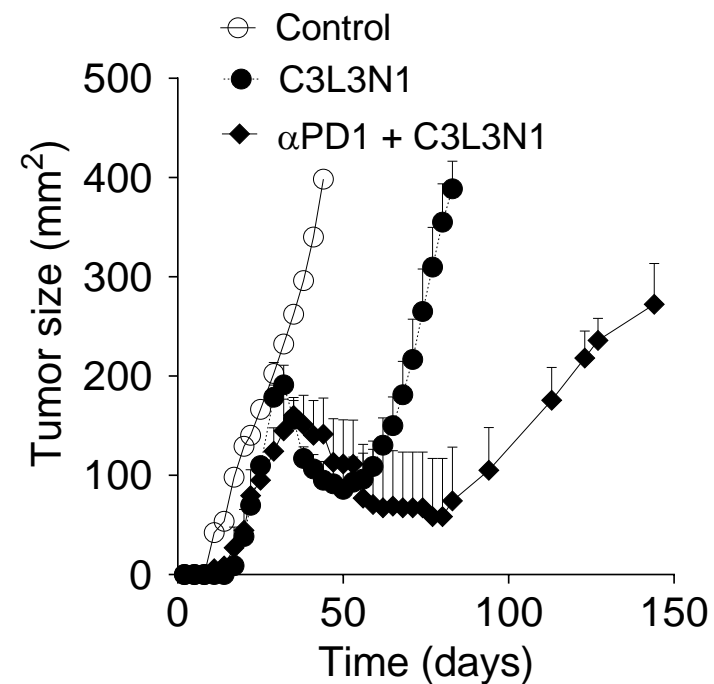
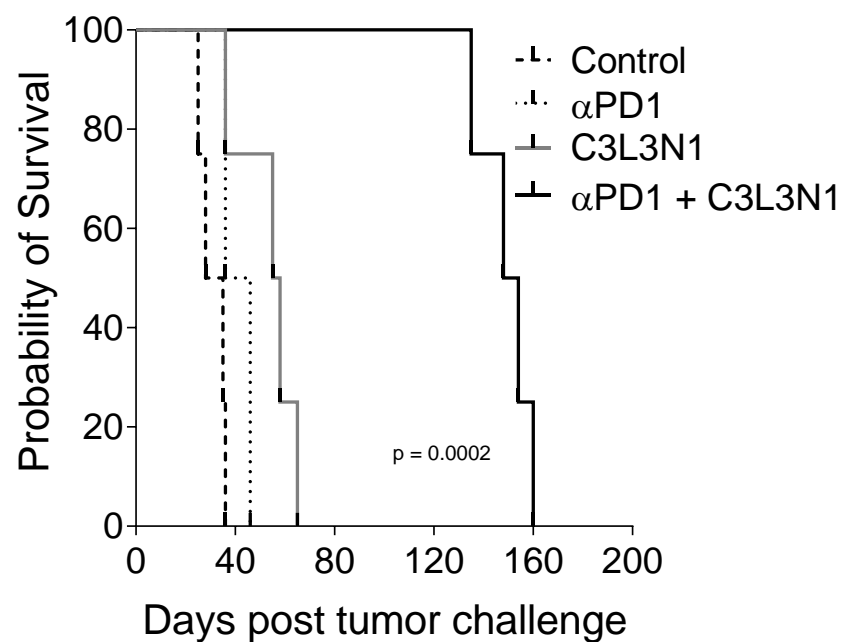
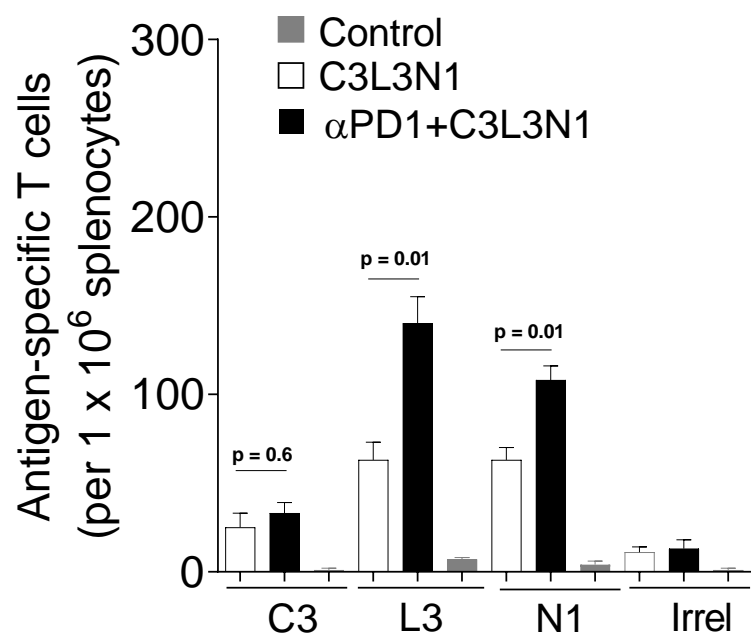
Ren, Y. *et al. Oncoimmunology*, 2020

THE LEVELS OF MUTATED PROTEINS IN BREAST CANCER IS ASSOCIATED WITH BETTER SURVIVAL

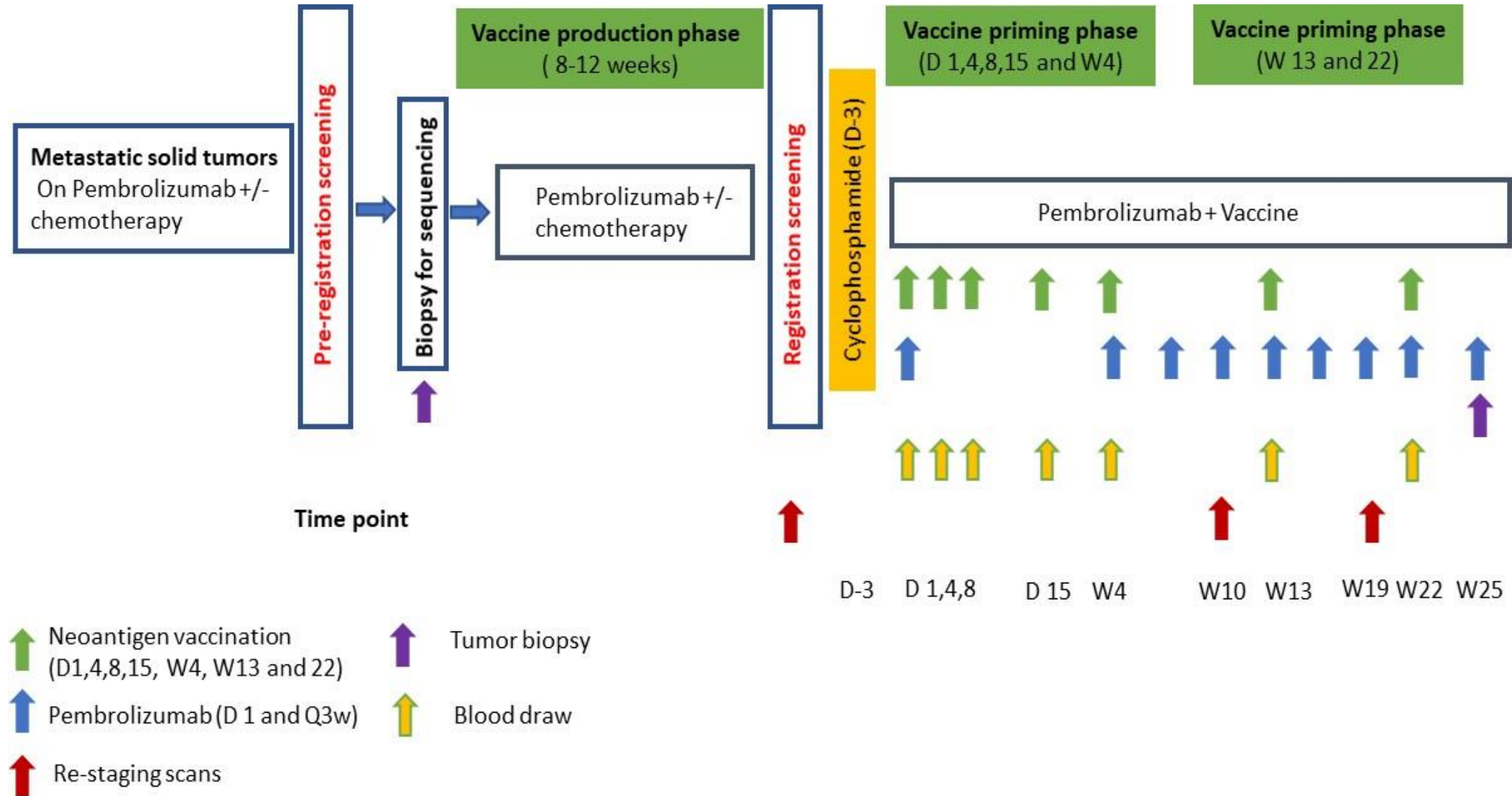


Cox Proportional Hazard model: adjusted for TIL, Breast Cancer Subtypes, Age, and Mutation Burden

VACCINATION IMPROVES IMMUNE CHECKPOINT BLOCKADE EFFECTIVENESS



NEW TRIAL TESTING KEYTRUDA IN COMBINATION WITH VACCINE IS STARTING AT MAYO CLINIC



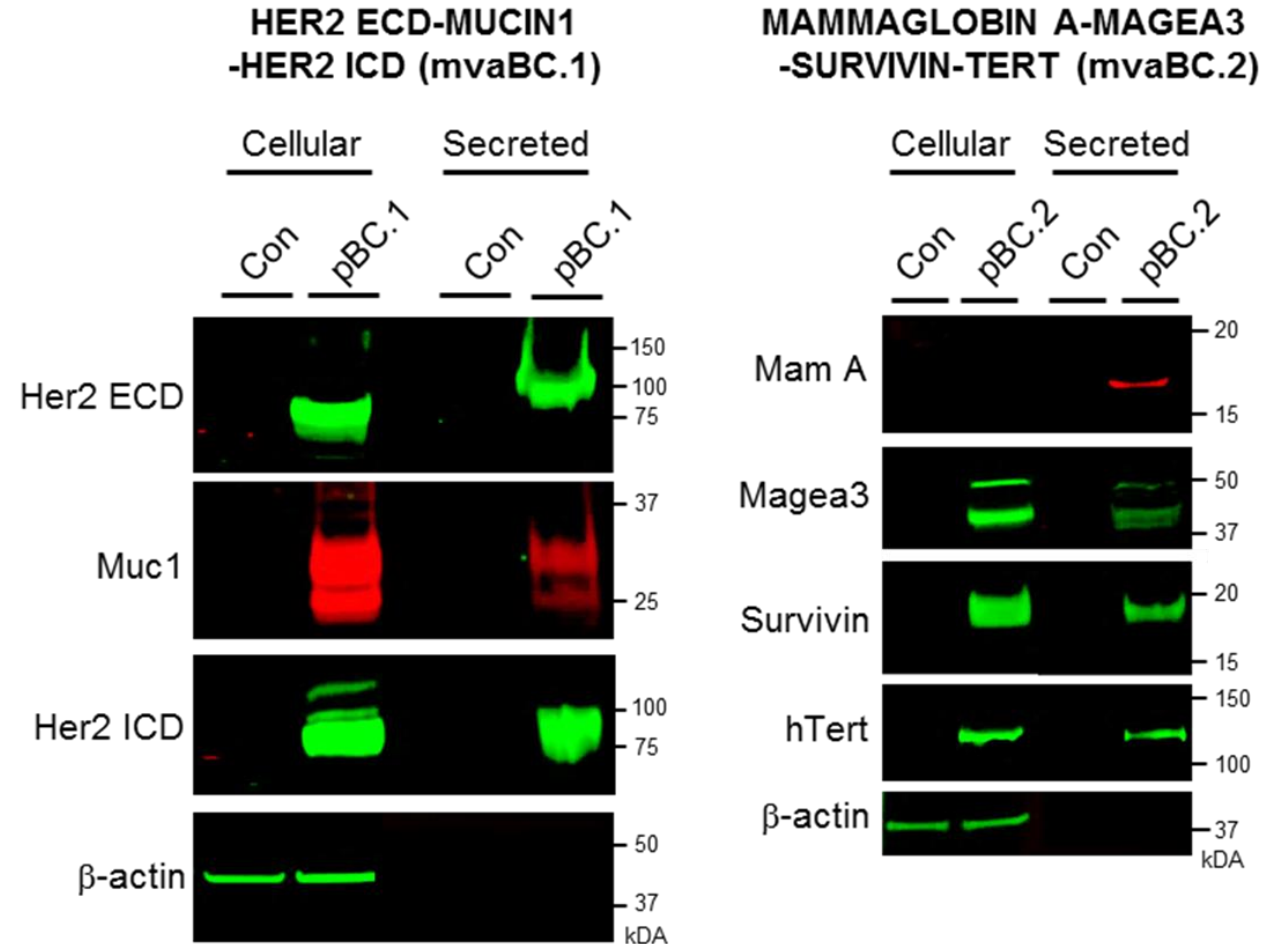
A PREVENTION VACCINE IS BEING DEVELOPED BY THE NBCC, THE MAYO CLINIC, AND THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

- To develop a vaccine that targets all three major subsets of breast cancer
- To develop a vaccine that reduces the incidence of breast cancer



A PREVENTION VACCINE NEEDS TO TARGET MANY PROTEINS

- HER2/neu
 - Expressed in majority of breast cancers and amplified in 20%.
- MAGE3
 - Expressed in ~50% of breast cancers.
- MUC1
 - Overexpressed in 90% of breast cancer.
- Survivin
 - Overexpressed in more than 90% of breast cancer.
- Mammaglobin A
 - Expressed 10 fold-higher in 40-80% of breast cancers.
- hTERT
 - Overexpressed in more than 90% of breast cancer.



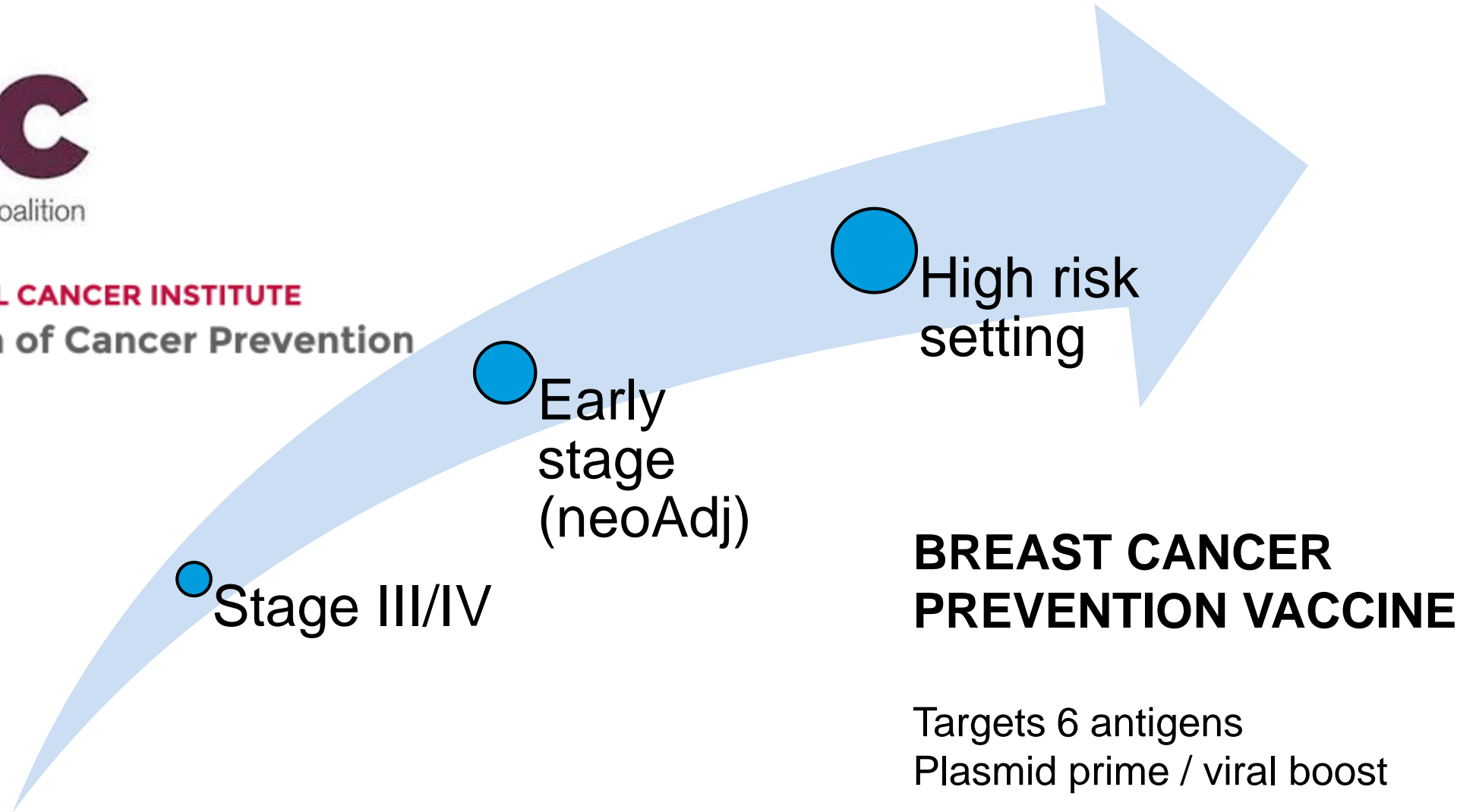
DEFINING THE CRITICAL PATHWAY FOR A PREVENTION VACCINE



National Breast Cancer Coalition



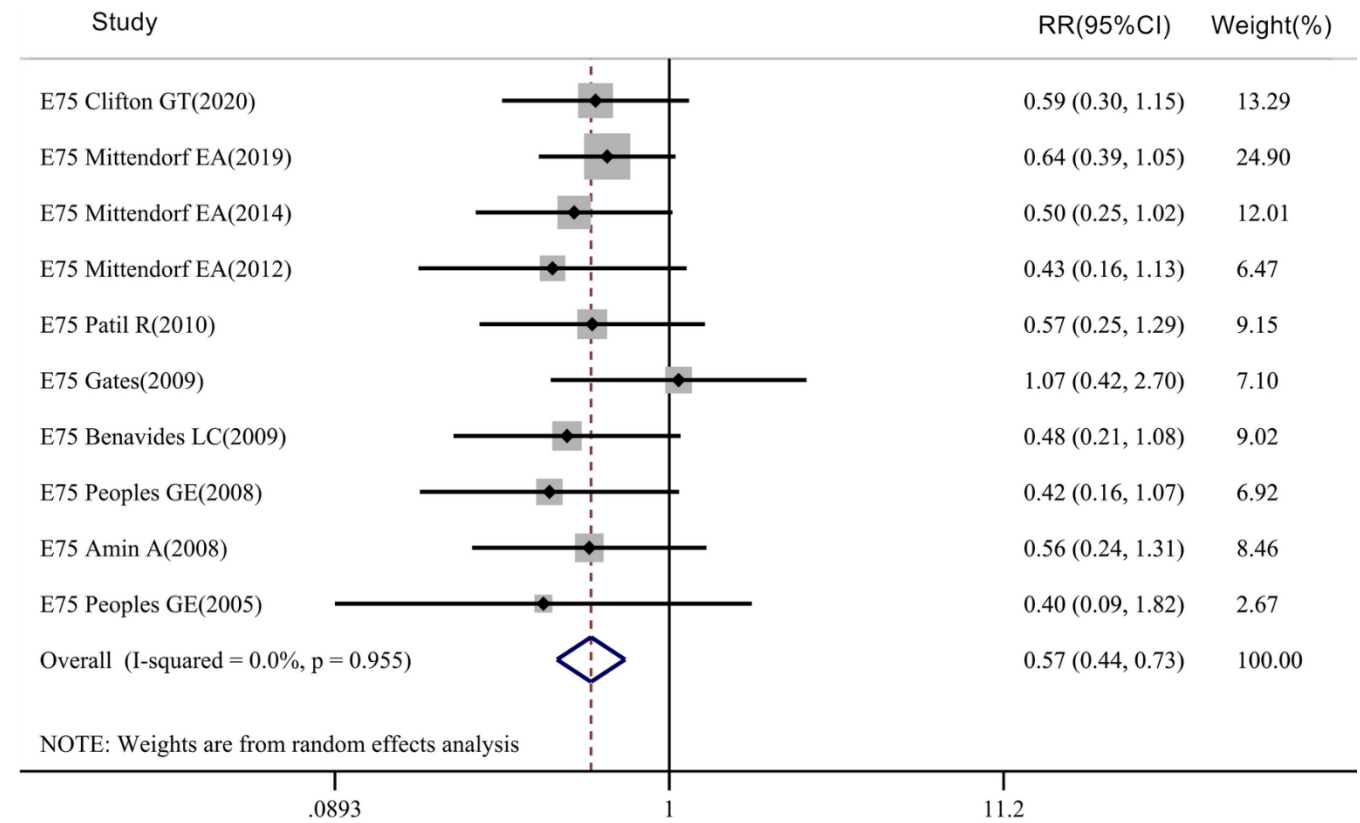
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
Division of Cancer Prevention



CONCLUSIONS

- Vaccines for cancer are used in both the therapeutic and prevention settings
- Vaccines target overexpressed proteins or mutated proteins
- Vaccines are potentially useful alone or combination with immune checkpoint blockade
- Vaccines can provide benefit to patients with breast cancer

META-ANALYSIS OF NELIPEPIMUT-S VACCINE SHOWS BENEFIT



You, et. al., *Cancer Cell Intl*, 2021

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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION