



# Custom Built Biology for Patients

September 2022

Molecular Partners AG, Switzerland  
(SIX: MOLN, NASDAQ: MOLN)



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# Molecular Partners H1 Highlights



## Science Highlights:

### **MP0533:** Tri-specific T-cell engager for AML

- On track to reach clinical initiation by end 2022
- Presentation at [EHA 2022 Congress](#)

### **MP0317:** Bi-specific CD40 local agonist

- In Phase 1 – enrollment ongoing at 1 mg/kg dose level
- Publication in [Cancer Immunology Research](#)
- Data in H2/2022

### **Ensovibep:** Tri-specific anti-viral in COVID-19

- Positive Phase 2 data from EMPATHY trial
- Licensed to Novartis, CHF 210 million received, to date
- EUA submitted and pending, Novartis engaging with the FDA to develop a Ph III protocol

## **DARPin-radioligand therapies:**

- Deal with Novartis on 2 targets: CHF 18.6 million received, to date
- Internal research – ongoing

## **Abicipar:**

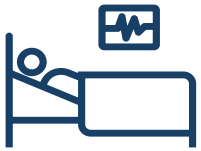
- FDA supports single safety trial for approval
- Reviewing path forward outside MP

## Operational Highlights:

- Reported cash and equivalents as of June 30, 2022: CHF ~285 million
- Consistent, disciplined spend rate
  - Runway into 2026

# Strategy: Highly Differentiated Programs, True Patient Value

## PATIENT VALUE



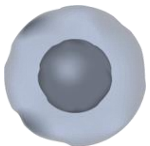
We aim to drive **true patient value** with an **early clinical read-out** by directly changing the course of disease

## DARPin ADVANTAGE



We leverage the advantages of **DARPin**s to provide **unique solutions** to patients with high medical need, no satisfactory solutions and well-defined disease biology

## BIOLOGY



We target **biological hypothesis** that can be tested in relevant preclinical models with translatable value – focus on oncology and virology

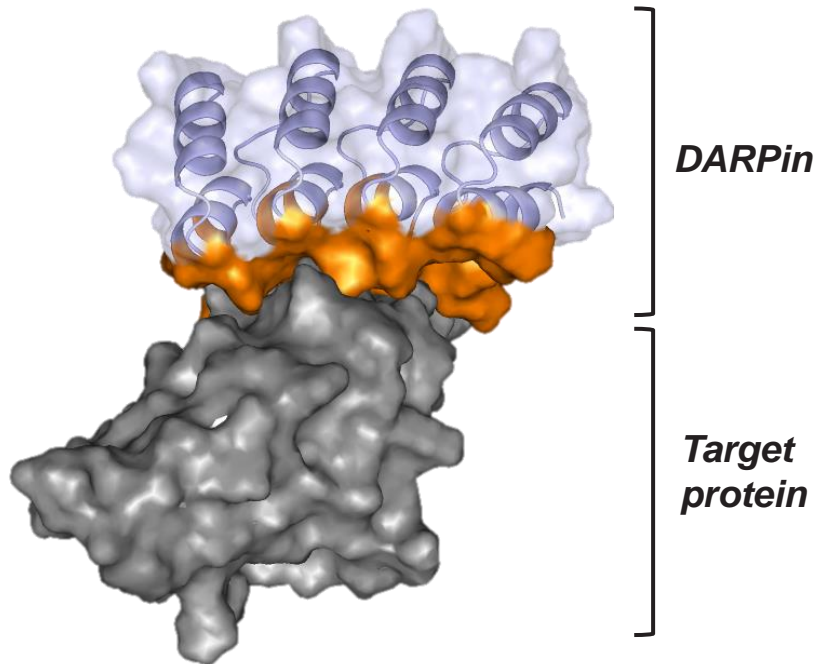
## PARTNERING



We share an open mindset and **collaborate** with world leading companies, scientists and clinicians from ideation to approval

# DARPin: The Core of our Drug Engine

DARPin are binding proteins derived from natural ankyrin repeat proteins



## DARPin KEY PROPERTIES

## DARPin ADVANTAGE



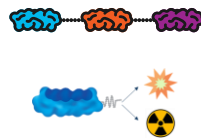
Small size  
(15 kDa)

- Deep tissue penetration
- High molar concentration



Rigid protein  
scaffold

- Ultra-high binding affinity and selectivity



Simple & robust  
architecture

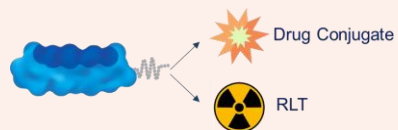
- Turn-key multispecifics
- Easy coupling of payloads

# Translating DARPin Properties into Differentiated Therapeutics

## Delivery vectors “radical simplicity”

### RLT & DDC

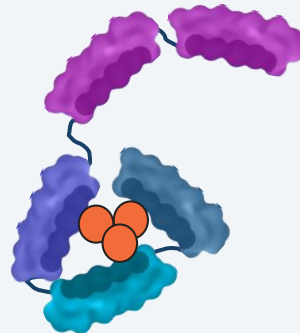
Small size: high affinity delivery, limited systemic exposure



## Multi-specificity-enabled possibilities

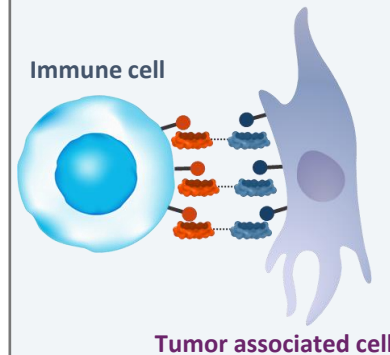
### Ensovibep

Cooperative binding to inhibit SARS-Cov-2 and prevent escape



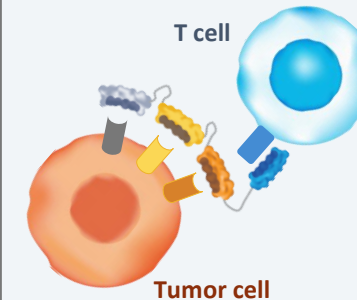
### MP0310 & MP0317

Tumor localized clustering activates effector cells in tumor



### MP0533

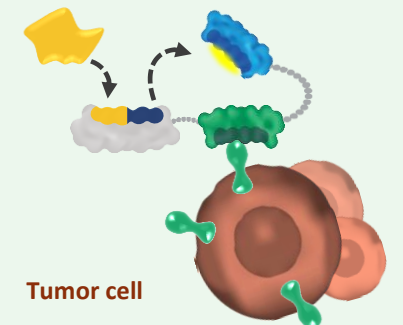
Avidity driven TCE for tumor specificity and heterogeneity



## Conditional activation “radical complexity”

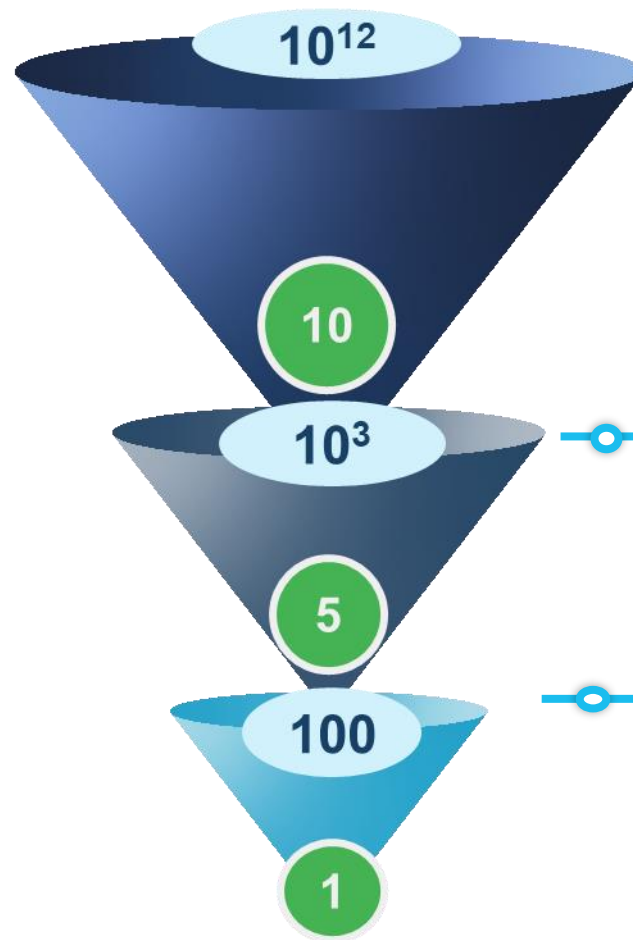
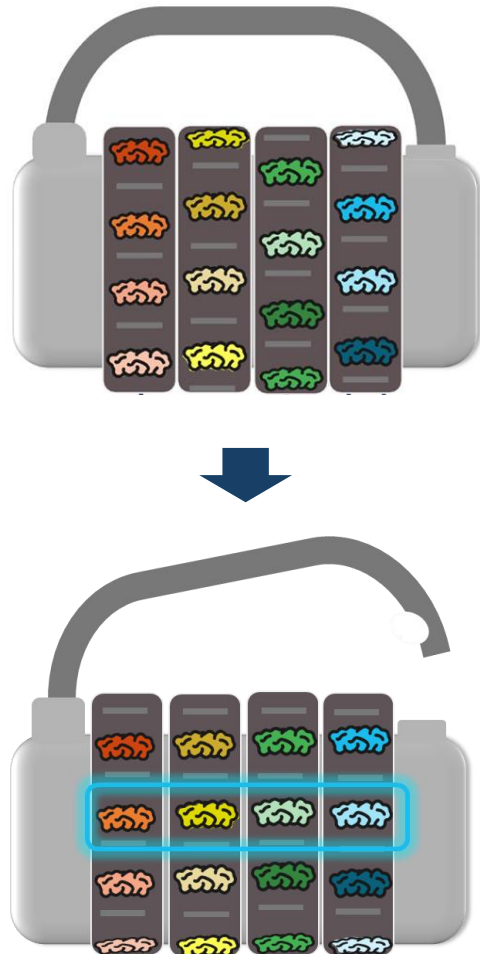
### SWITCH

Programming highly potent effectors to omit off-tumor activity



# Exploiting the Multi-DARPin Platform

*Allows screening for function sweet spot*



*Library used to generate binders against TAAs*  
**Identified functional DARPin modules to each TAA**

Recombination of DARPin modules:  
**TAA1 x TAA2 x TAA3 x ...**

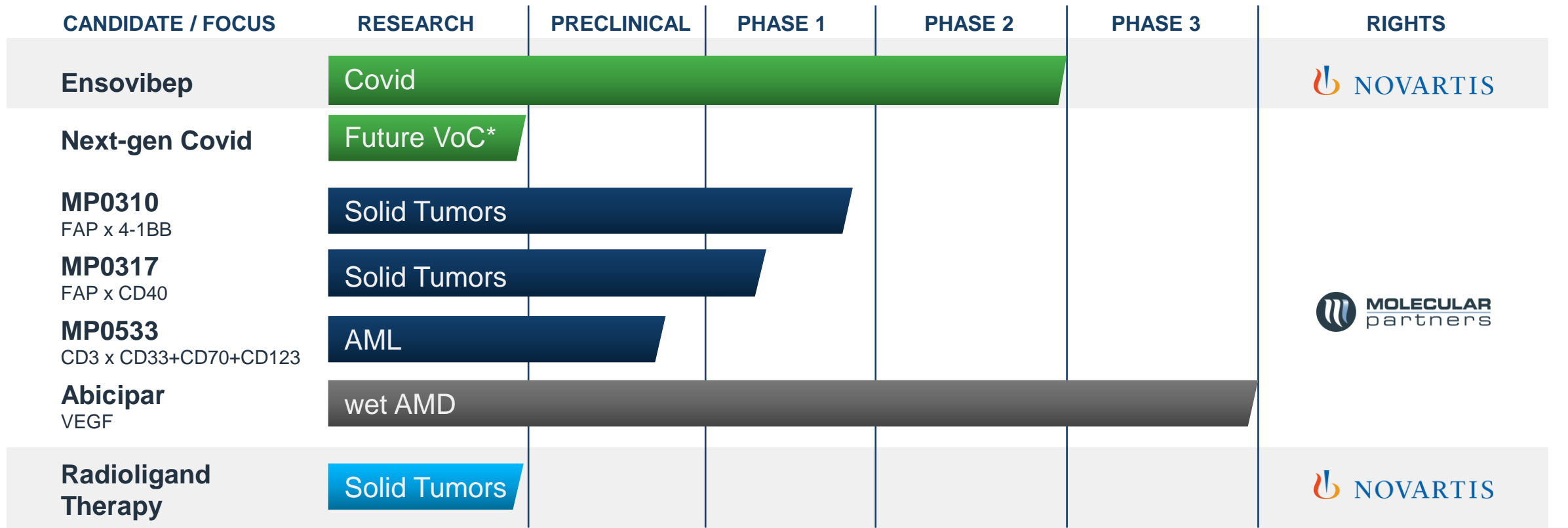
*Screening of multi-domain DARPins*  
**Functional Multi-DARPin candidates**

**Affinity & format & half-life optimization**  
Recombination of DARPin modules

*Screening of multi-domain DARPins*  
**Multi-DARPin lead molecule**

 Multiple iterations

# Pipeline



## PLATFORM DISCOVERY AREAS

- Radical simplicity & conditional activation
- Additional infectious diseases

■ Infectious disease    ■ Ophthalmology  
■ Oncology    ■ Discovery oncology

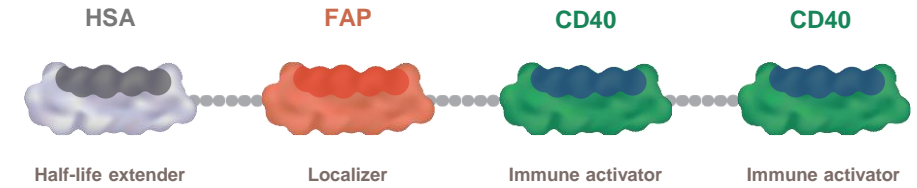




# MP0317

Multispecific Immune Activators

# MP0317: Localized CD40 Engager



## Clinical Problem

- Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors have transformed cancer treatment, yet most patients still fail to respond
  - One cause of resistance or lack of activity is the absence of intra-tumoral immune cell activation
- Current CD40 agonists activate intra-tumoral but also peripheral immune cells, leading to dose-limiting toxicity

## DARPin Solution

- **MP0317: Long-acting DARPin co-targeting both FAP and CD40**
  - FAP is a stromal target stably expressed at high density in various tumors and absent systemically
  - CD40 requires multimerization for its activation
- **MP0317 aims for FAP-dependent CD40 multimerization for intra-tumoral immune activation w/o systemic tox**

## Reason to believe

- ✓ Pre-clinical data demonstrates tumor localized immune activation without systemic toxicity
- ✓ Clinical data with MP0310 (FAPx4-1BB) demonstrating tumor localization of FAP-targeting DARPin
- ✓ Phase 1 dose-escalation trial ongoing with MP0317 – **1 mg/kg dose reached without systemic toxicity**

## Next value

- PD markers from paired biopsies to demonstrate tumor local immune cell activation (Q1/23)
- Partnering for combination trials (H1/23)

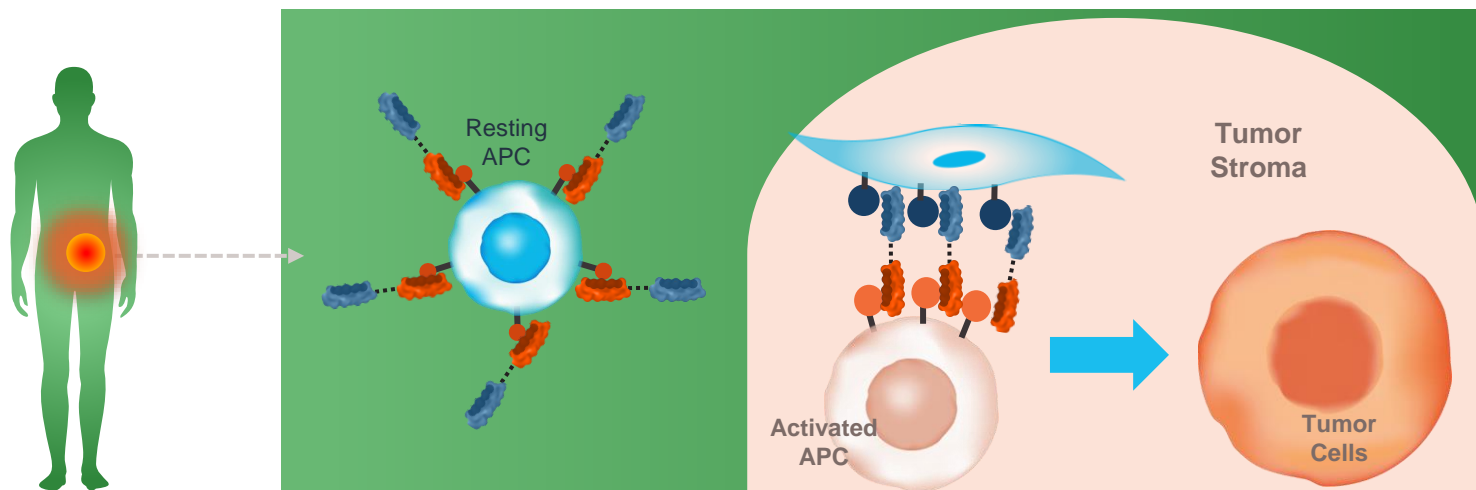
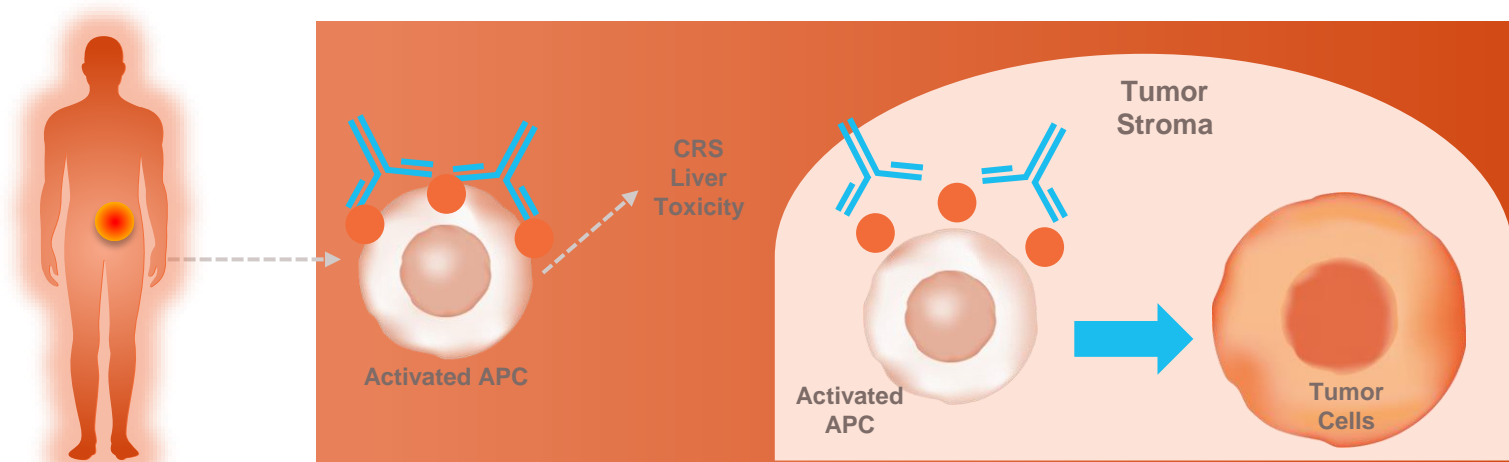
# Toxicity of CD40 antibodies has so far limited their activity

Systemic Immune activation of APC leads to toxicity



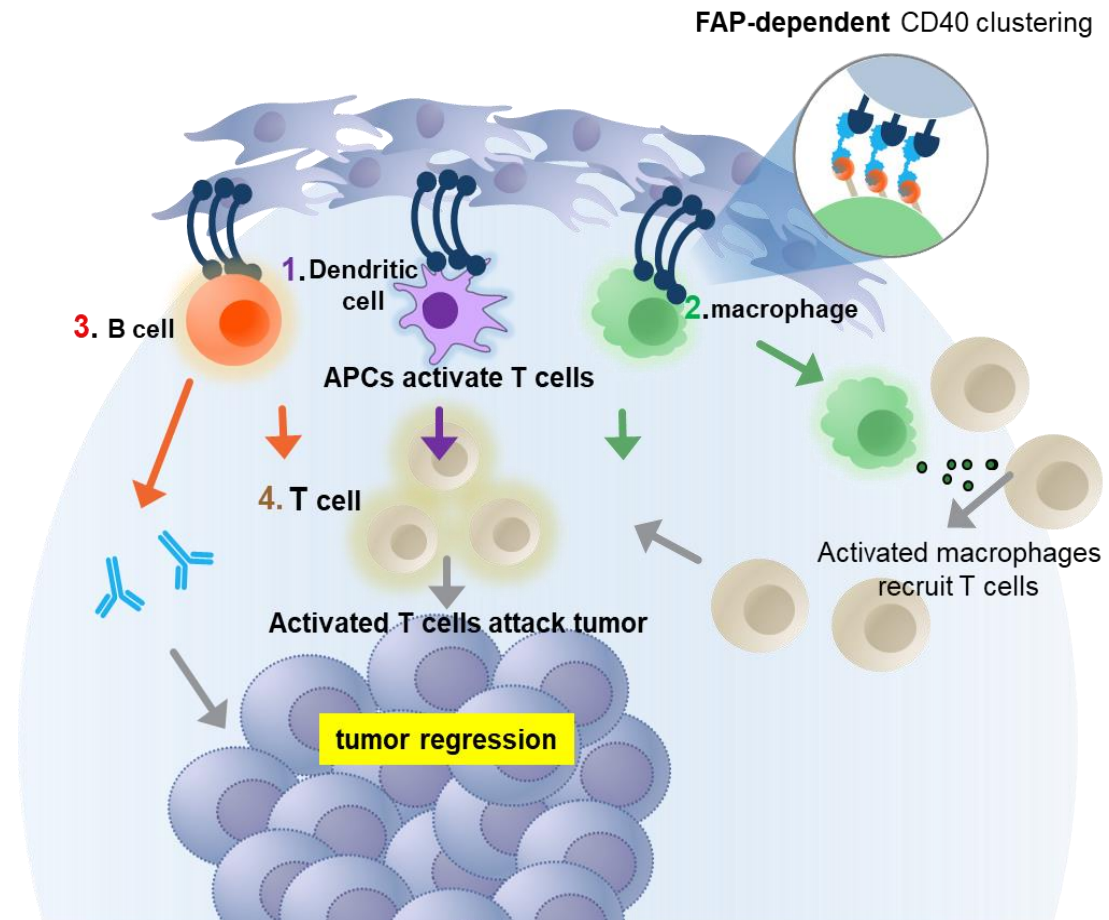
Low MTD

Our solution: Increasing therapeutic window via a tumor-localized approach



# MP0317's Potential Promise

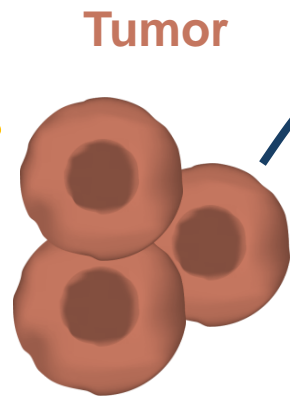
- **CD40 is a clinically validated target** involved in activation of antigen presenting cells (APCs)
- **MP0317 holds the promise to overcome limitations of systemic CD40 agonists** and expand therapeutic window
- **Limited direct competition** (most assets still systemic)
- **Supportive preclinical package** with single agent efficacy in a mouse FAP<sup>high</sup> tumor model
- **Encouraging early safety data supportive of partnering for combination therapies**



# CD40 Open for Multiple Combination (IO or Other)

## + Chemo / Radio Therapy

- Direct **tumor killing**
- Release of tumor **antigens**
- Debulking aids **immune cell access**



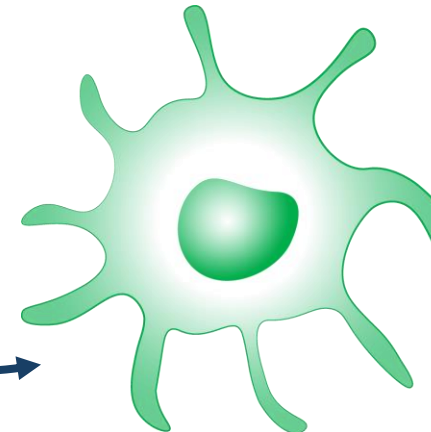
Antigens  


## + Anti-cancer vaccines (intratumoral)

- Provision of **tumor antigens** (peptides, proteins, DNA, RNA)

## CD40 agonism

- **Improves** tumor antigen presentation and T-cell priming
- **Reduces** suppressive effect of macrophages on T cells
- **Promotes** anti-tumor macrophage activity



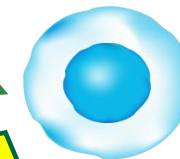
T-cell



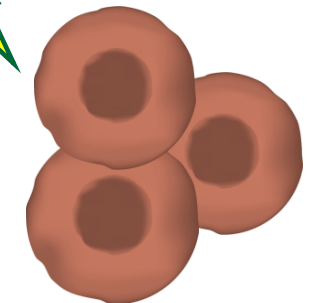
B-cell

## + PD(L)-1 blockade or other CPIs

- **Removes suppression** of T-cell responses by PD-L1 or other CPIs in the tumor



Cytotoxic T-cell

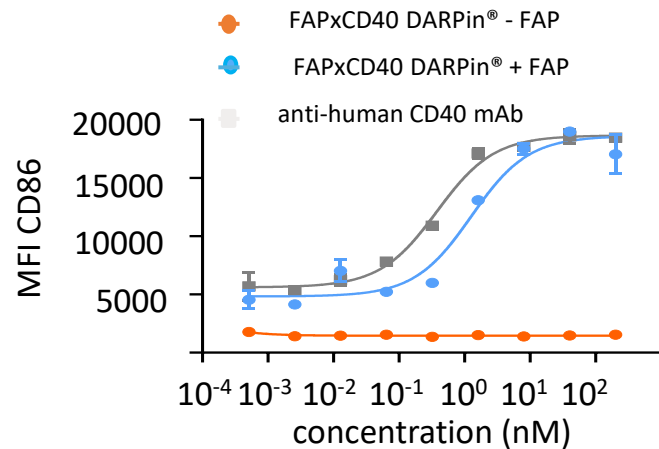
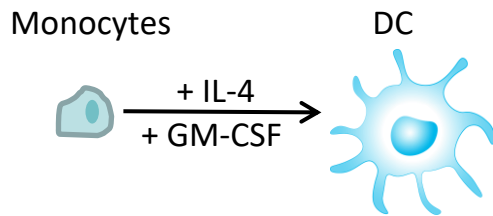


Tumor

# MP0317 Activates all APCs in a FAP-Dependent Manner *in vitro*

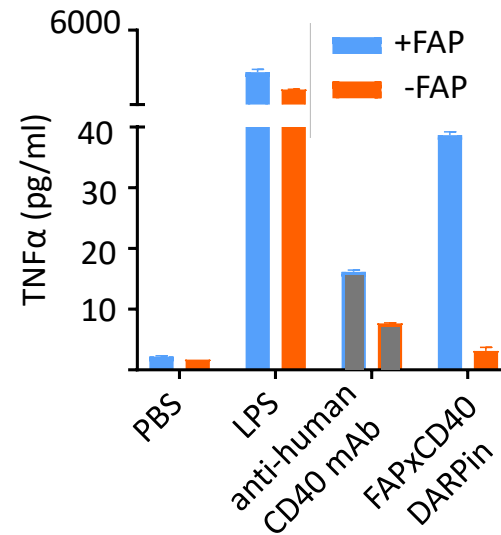
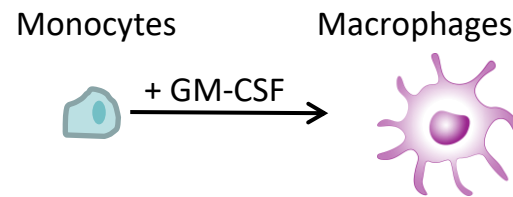
1

**Dendritic cells:**



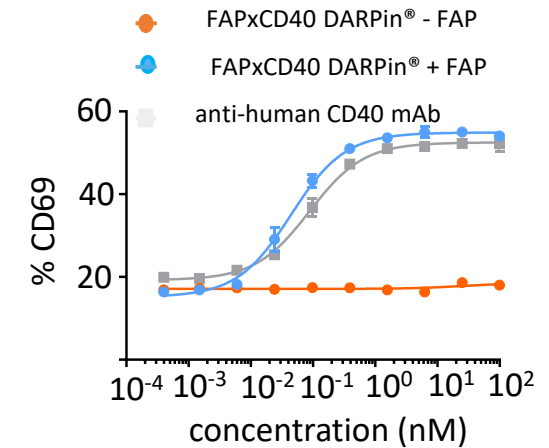
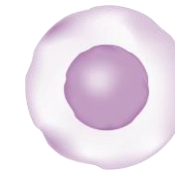
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**Macrophages:**



3

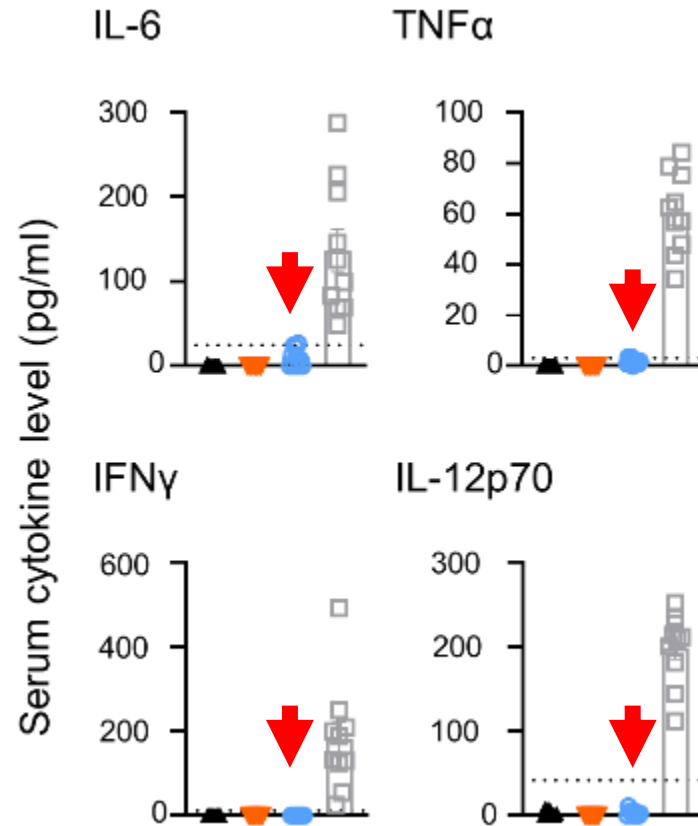
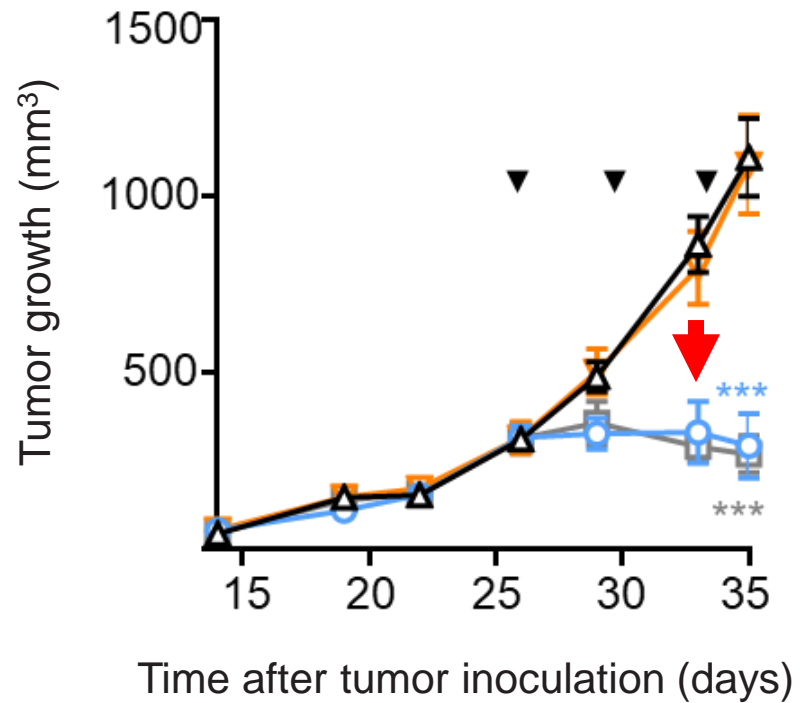
**B cells:**



# MP0317 Shows Therapeutic Activity without Cytokine Release

Efficacy

Peripheral cytokine release



Vehicle

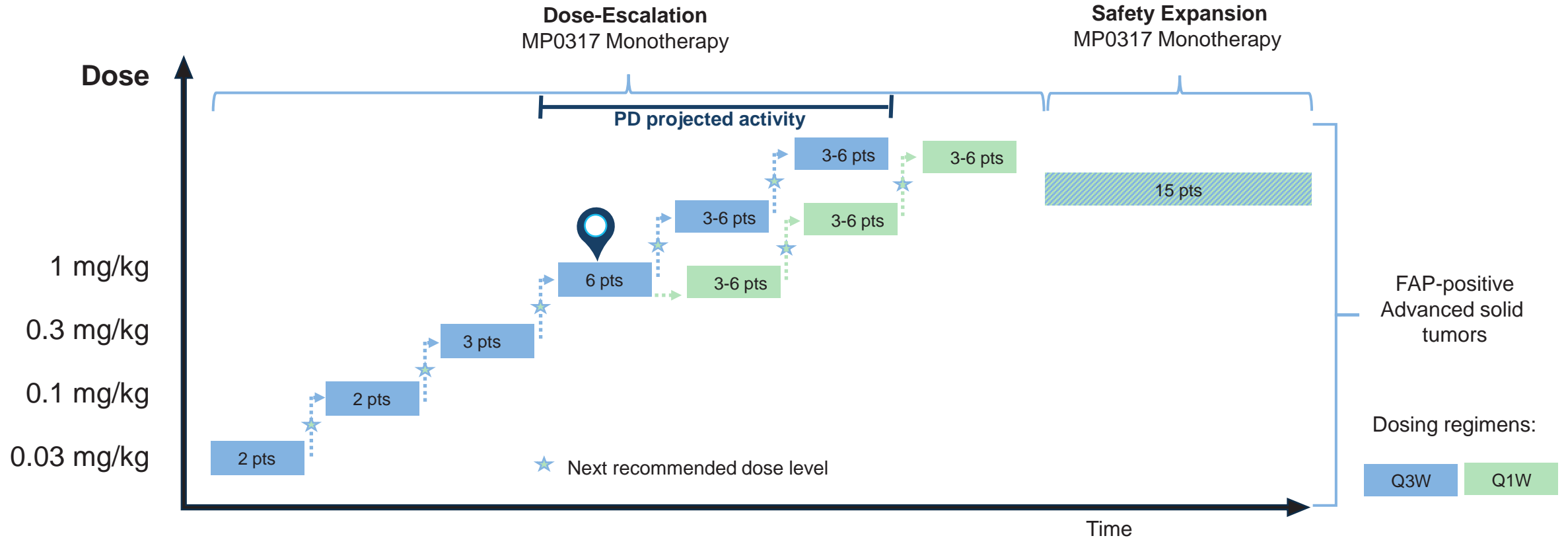
Neg. CTRL\*

mFAP x mCD40

mCD40 Ab

MC38-FAP  
Colorectal cancer

# MP0317-CP101 Clinical Trial Update



## Next:

- Communication of emerging clinical data in H2/22
- PD data on tumor-immune activation expected Q1-23
- Select partners for combination trials



Recruiting at 1 mg/kg dose

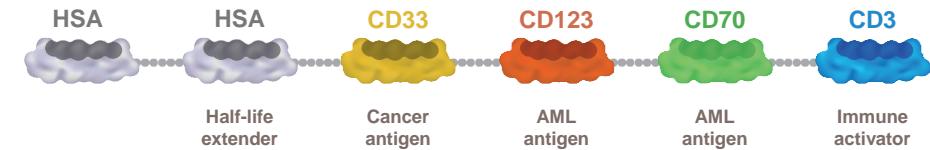


# MP0317 Status Update and Next Steps

- Ongoing Phase I dosing escalation, expected to be completed in Q4 2022
  - No DLTs / drug-related SAEs up to Cohort 4 (1 mg/Kg)
  - Initiating weekly dosing in parallel to every-3-weeks
- Submitted for scientific presentation in H2
- Establish ideal combination partners for phase II

**MP0533:  
Trispecific T-cell  
Engager for AML**

# MP0533 – Avidity-driven Selective Killing of Blasts & LSC in AML



## Clinical Problem

- AML remains a deadly disease for most patients, especially non-transplant eligible ones
- Leukemic stem cells (LSCs) play a key role in initiating and sustaining AML, while blasts drive disease intensity
- LSCs are less sensitive to chemo and their selective targeting is a challenge, lack of selective markers

## DARPin Solution

- **MP0533: DARPin binding to CD33xCD70xCD123 (optimized avidity) and CD3 (T-cell activation)**
  - Blasts and LSC co-express CD33, CD70 and CD123, while healthy cells (HSC) show mostly mono-expression
  - Killing of cells that co-express 2 or more targets, while mono expressing cells are spared
- **MP0533 is designed to preferentially kill Blasts and LSCs, opening a therapeutic window**

## Reason to believe

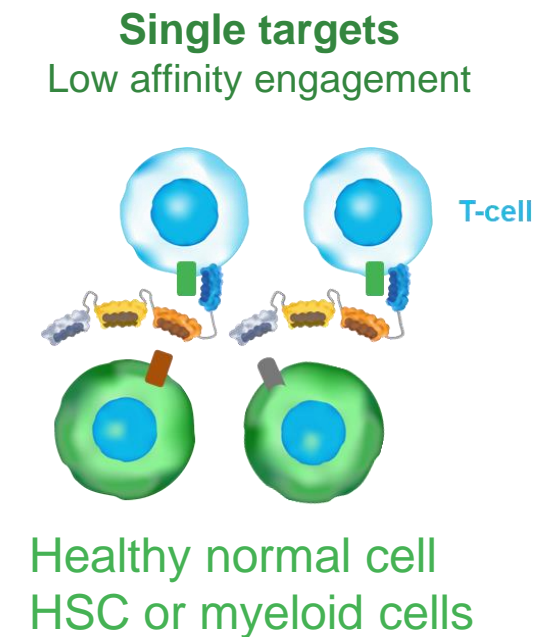
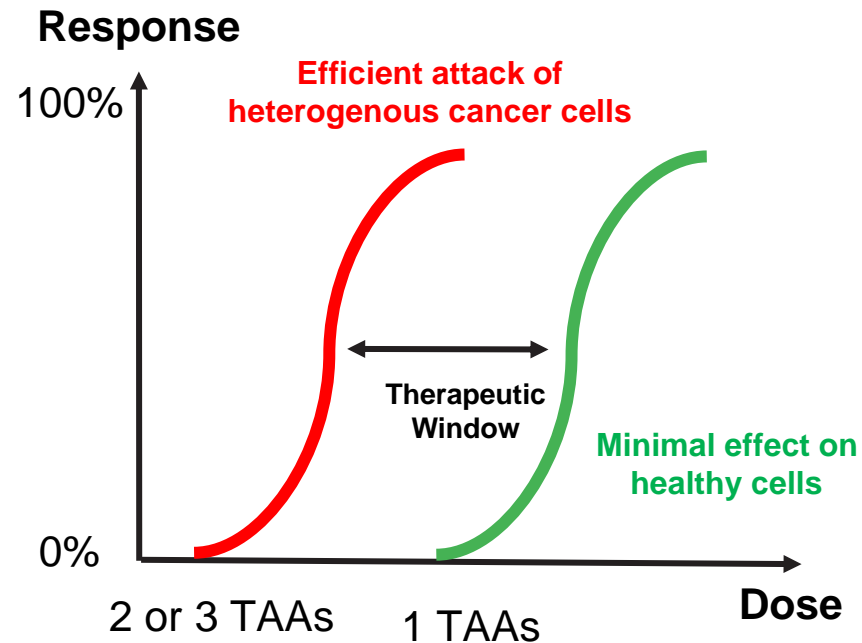
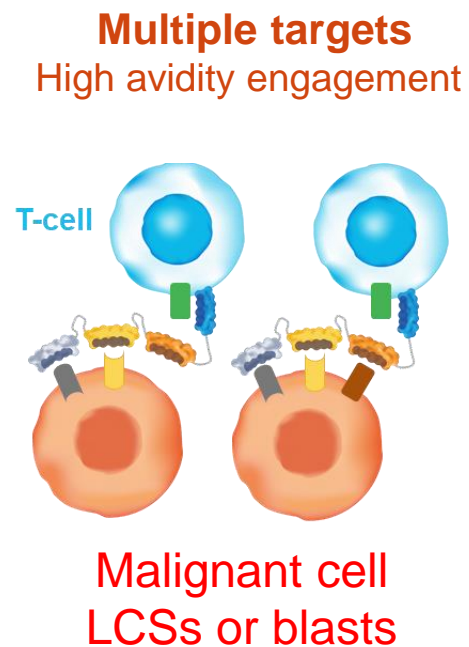
- ✓ Preclinical results from cell-based and animal models demonstrate MoA described above
- ✓ *Ex-vivo* patient samples: preferential killing of LSCs & Blasts (potentially to open therapeutic window)

## Next value

- FIH clinical studies initiating in H2/2022, mono-activity expected

# Avidity-Driven Specificity Against Leukemic Stem Cells and Blasts in AML

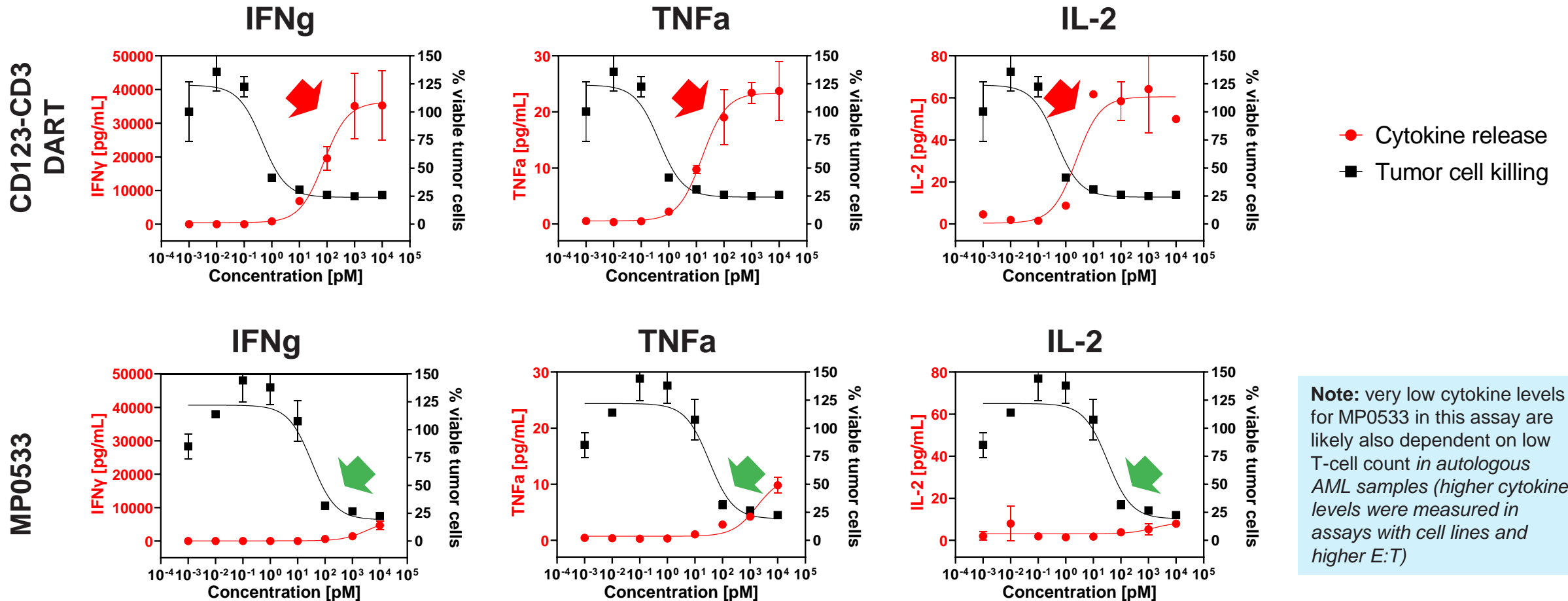
- Persistence of LSCs is the driver of relapse in AML
- Targets in AML are also on healthy cells, leading to on-target toxicity (unclean targets)
- Goal: avidity-driven killing of LSCs and blasts, with reduced killing of HSCs and other healthy cells



# Low Cytokine Release Under 'Close-to-patient' Conditions

## Primary autologous setting

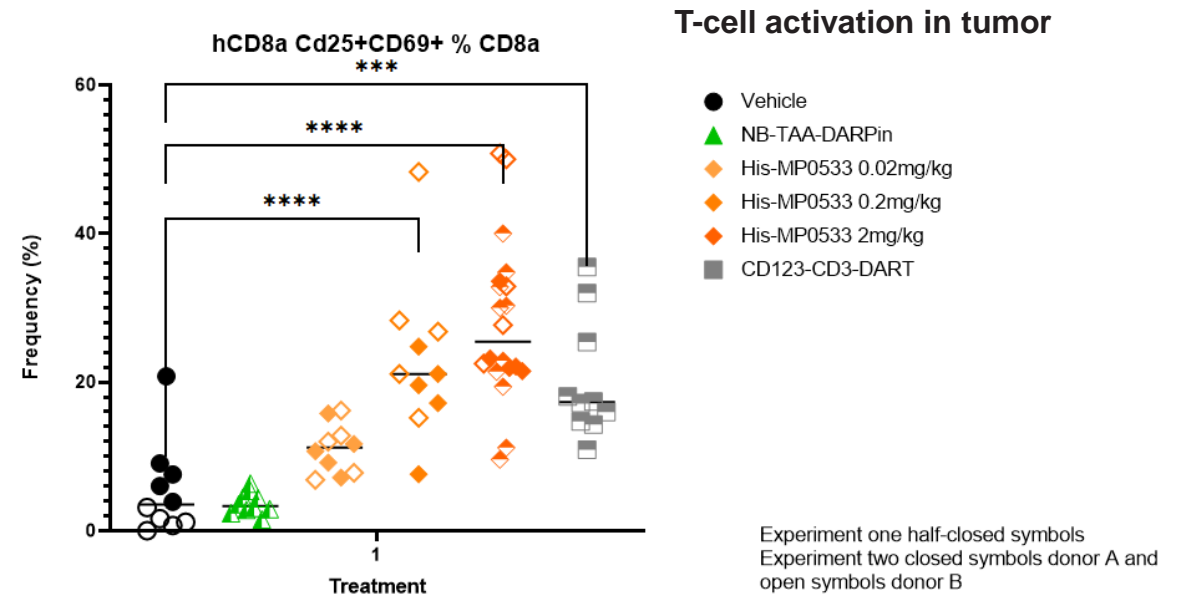
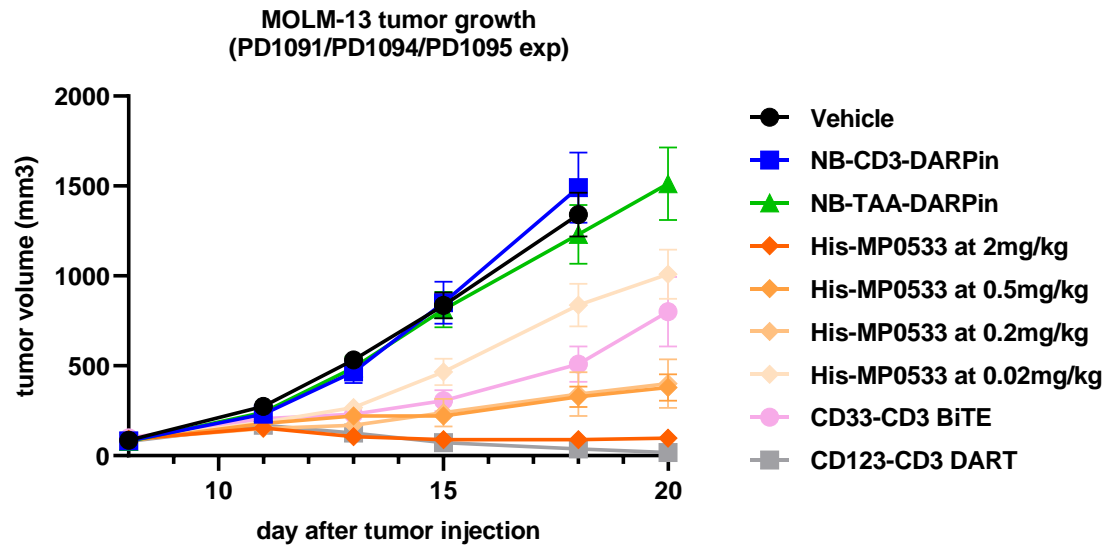
- Primary AML BMMCs (bone marrow mononuclear cells) with 80% blast content in bone marrow (E:T of  $\approx 1:20$ ); 5-day assay



**Note:** very low cytokine levels for MP0533 in this assay are likely also dependent on low T-cell count in autologous AML samples (higher cytokine levels were measured in assays with cell lines and higher E:T)

# Good *in-vivo* efficacy of His-MP0533\* in AML tumors

*In vivo* efficacy in line with competitors



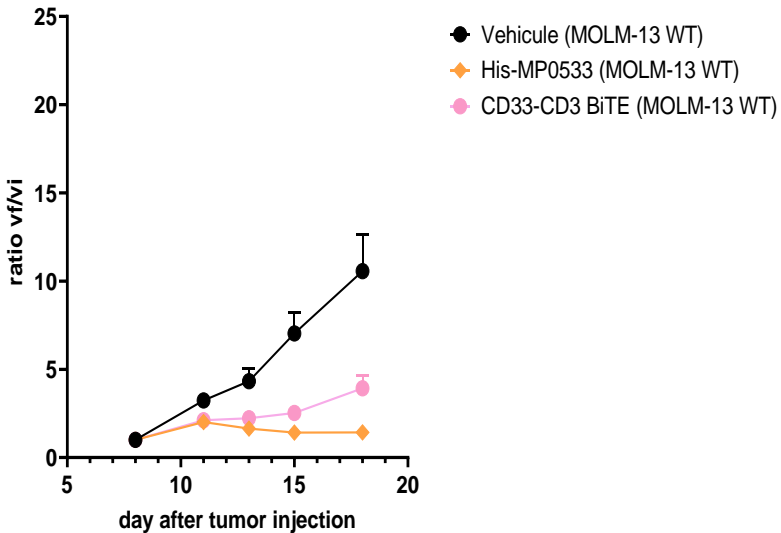
- ✓ His-MP0533 showed a significant efficacy in MOLM-13 WT tumors
- ✓ His-MP0533 induced T-cell activation in MOLM-13 tumors. Level of T-cells activation correlated with His-MP0533 efficacy *in vivo*.
- ✓ No increase of cytokines/chemokines released in mouse serum - only in tumors.
- ✓ Level of cytokines/chemokines release correlate with His-MP0533 efficacy and T-cell activation in tumors only.

\*His-MP0533 has a 6x His-tag attached during the research stage

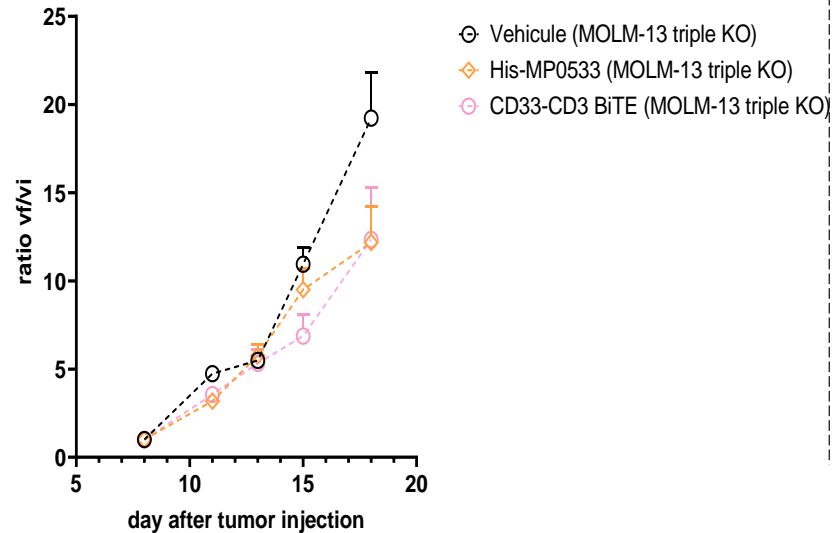
# No Off-target Killing *in vivo*

*In vivo* selectivity to TAA-expressing MOLM-13 tumors

MOLM-13 WT tumor growth  
(PD1101 exp)

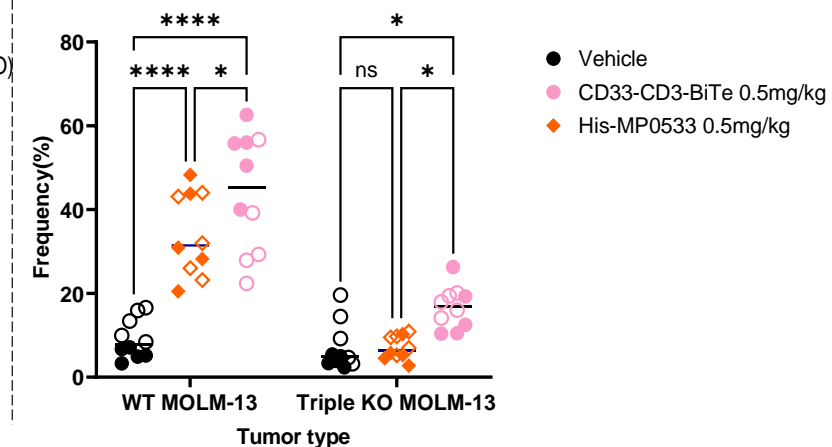


MOLM-13 KO tumor growth  
(PD1101 exp)



CD8a+CD25+CD69+ % of CD8a

T cell activation in tumor



✓ His-MP0533 showed a significant efficacy in MOLM-13 WT (wild-type) tumors

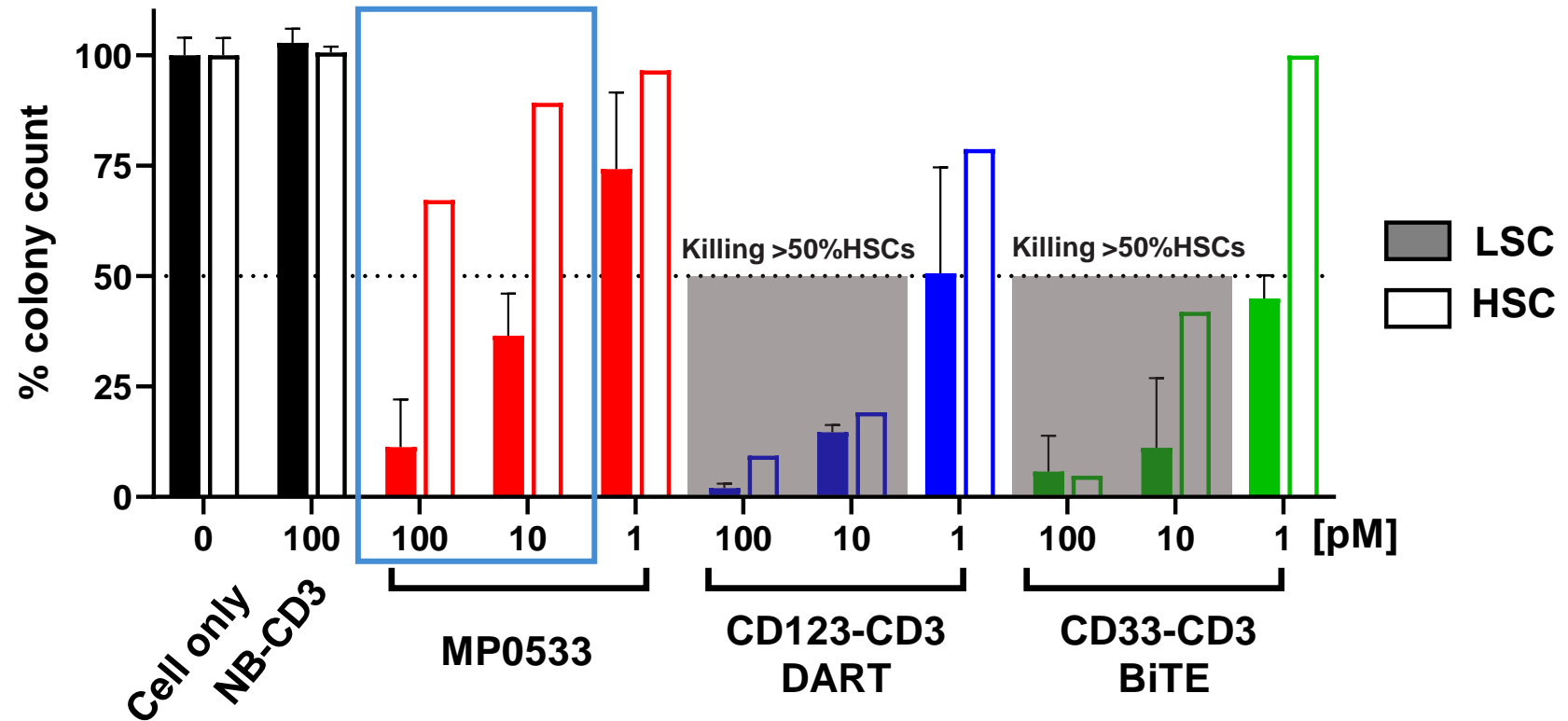
✓ But no efficacy in MOLM-13 triple KO (knock-out) tumors (growing on the same mice)

✓ His-MP0533 induced T-cell activation only in MOLM-13 WT tumors (expressing 3x TAAs)

# MP0533 Shows Larger Therapeutic Window Compared to CD123-DART and CD33-BiTE

Successfully killing leukemic stem cells (LSC, full bars) while sparing hematopoietic stem cells (HSC, empty bars) *in vitro*

**Killing of sorted CD34+ LSC or HSC by colony formation assay**  
using allogenic T-cells (E:T of 1:1, 4 d) / CFU counted after 2 weeks semi-solid media





# MP0533 Phase 1: Open Label, Multicenter Dose Escalation Study in AML or HR-MDS Patients

## Main inclusion criteria:

- Diagnosis of AML or MDS/AML according to the ELN recommendation 2022 refractory or relapsed to pretreatment with HMA (with or without venetoclax), induction chemotherapy or allogeneic HSCT
  - No active active GvHD requiring immune-suppressive therapy
  - No signs of CNS AML
  - No leucostasis
  - No use of immunosuppressive drug
- Number of patients: 20-45

## Primary endpoint:

- Safety and Tolerability

## Main secondary/ exploratory endpoints:

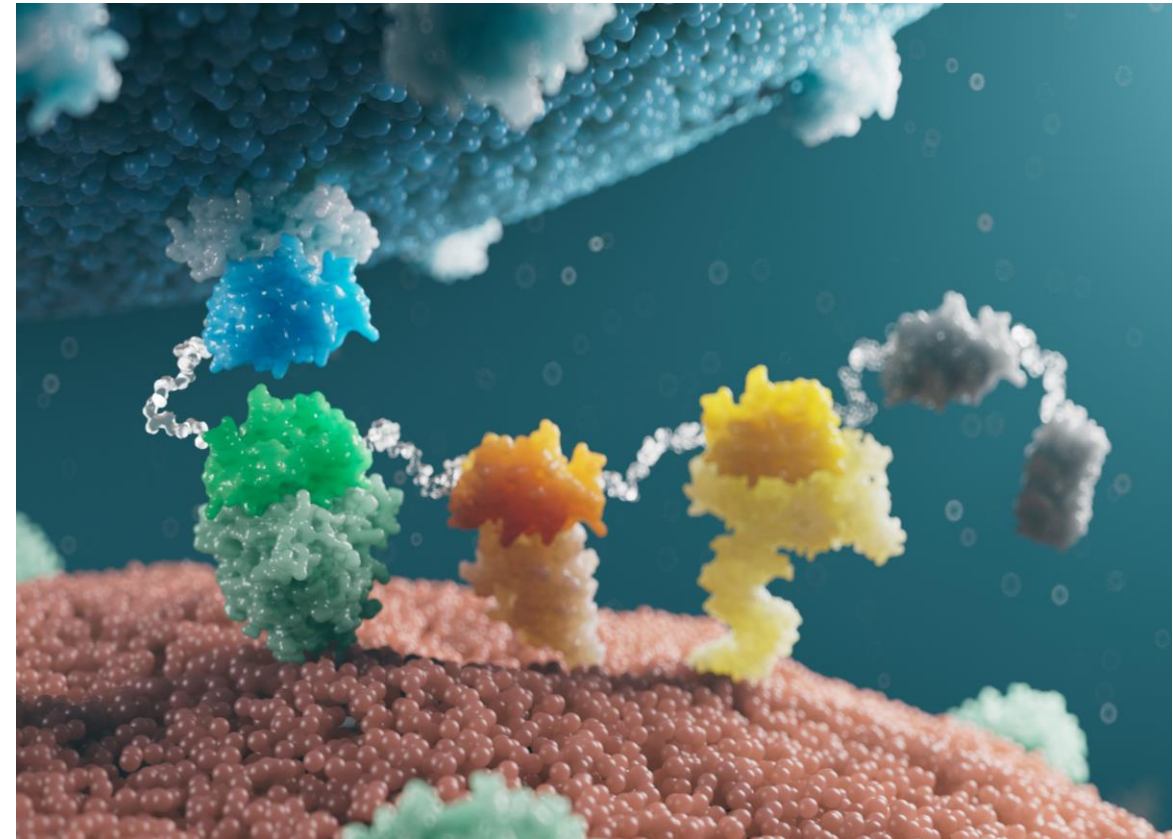
- Efficacy
- Pharmacokinetics
- T-cell Activation
- Cytokine Release
- Effect on LSCs

**Trial initiation planned for late 2022**

**Abbreviations:** AML = Acute myeloid leukemia; HR-MDS = high-risk myelodysplastic syndrome; ELN = European LeukemiaNet; HMA = hypomethylating agents; HSCT = Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation ; GvHD = graft vs host disease; LSC = leukemic stem cells;

# MP0533: a Unique DARPin Solution for AML Patients

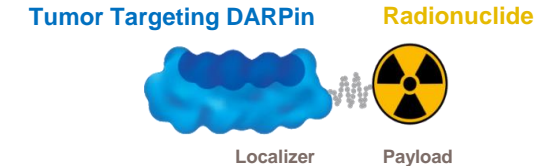
- ✓ **Very good progress on translational data generation path**
- ✓ **Advanced clinical interactions with KOLs and CROs will enable timely protocol completion and submission**
- ✓ **Progress requirements met:**
  - Critical data on MoA, safety & efficacy
  - TPP refinement
  - Biomarker plan
  - Competition analysis
  - CMC feasibility
- **Phase 1 clinical trial initiation H2 2022**





# DARPin Radio-Ligand-Therapy (RLT) and DARPin Drug-Conjugates

# DARPin-based Radioligand Therapy (RLT)



## Clinical Problem

- Radiation provides a highly effective way to kill tumor cells
  - External beam radiation is successful, however limited to well-localized tumor lesions
  - The delivery of therapeutic radionuclides by tumor-targeting vectors is a powerful methodology for the treatment of disseminated cancers, but is restricted by either low tumor accumulation and/or dose-limiting toxicities

## DARPin Solution

- **Small, mono-DARPin with ultra-high affinity to a tumor-associated antigen, coupled to a radionuclide**
  - **High tumor accumulation, limited systemic exposure, deep tumor penetration and long tumor retention**
  - Generation of optimized DARPin platform with **limited kidney toxicity**

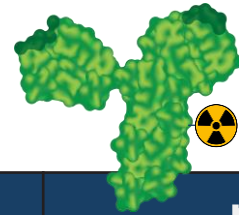
## Reason to believe

- ✓ Affinity driven tumor accumulation of small-sized / ultra-high affinity mono-DARPins in mouse tumor models
- ✓ Ongoing collaboration with Novartis, a leader in RLTs: US\$20 million up-front

## Next value

- Optimize RLT-DARPin platform for limited kidney exposure
- Validate DARPin RLT potential and select first drug candidate(s)
- Novartis: US\$560 million milestones, up to double digit royalties if drugs receive market authorization

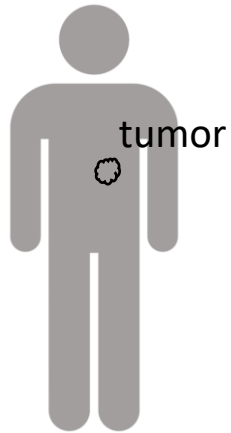
# Challenges of Delivery Vectors for Radionuclides



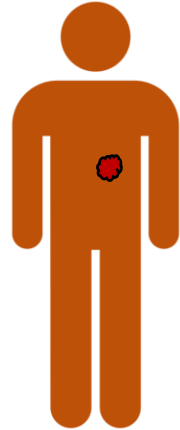
	mAB	LMW compounds
<b>Size</b>	150 kDa	1-2 kDa
<b>Affinity</b>	high (bivalent)	low
<b>Specificity</b>	high	limited
<b>High tumor load</b> ➤ concentration at site of action	+	+
<b>Deep tumor penetration</b> ➤ access site of action	-	+
<b>Long tumor retention</b> ➤ maintenance at site of action	+	-
<b>Limited normal tissue exposure</b> ➤ improved safety profile	-	(+)

# Mono-DARPin as Ideal Delivery Vectors for Radionuclides

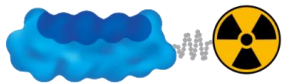
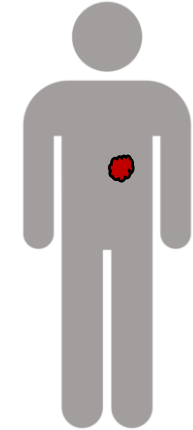
Designed for efficient tumor targeting with limited systemic exposure



Drug  
infusion



Infusion  
stopped



**Small size (15 kDa)**  
fast extravasation &  
deep tumor penetration



Homogeneous **access to tumor cells** for killing

**Small size (15 kDa)**  
rapid systemic  
clearance



Limited normal tissue  
exposure for  
**improved safety**

**High affinity (< 50 pM)**  
long tumor retention



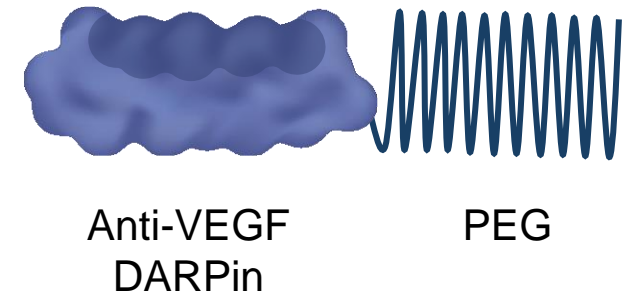
Maintenance on  
tumor for **complete local killing**



**Abicipar**

# Abicipar – Long-acting Anti-VEGF in Wet AMD

- **wAMD market & remaining medical need**
  - US 10 bn\$ /year
  - Competitors: Eylea & **Faricimab** – fix 8 weeks, treat and extend (T&E) to 16 week
  - T&E is sub-optimal in the real-world setting: patients lose vision
- **Abicipar history, value and path forward**
  - Abicipar has two successful Ph3 trials (Cedar, Sequoia; 2019); non-inferiority with 12-week dosing
  - Abicipar was returned to MP last year (2021), following an FDA CRL in 2020 (15% inflammation)
  - Potential inflammation causing agent identified in preclinical studies and to be removed for future clinical studies (2021/22)
- **Path forward: FDA supports single safety trial as path to approval**
  - Single safety trial vs Eylea
  - 550 pts total
  - 40 week read out

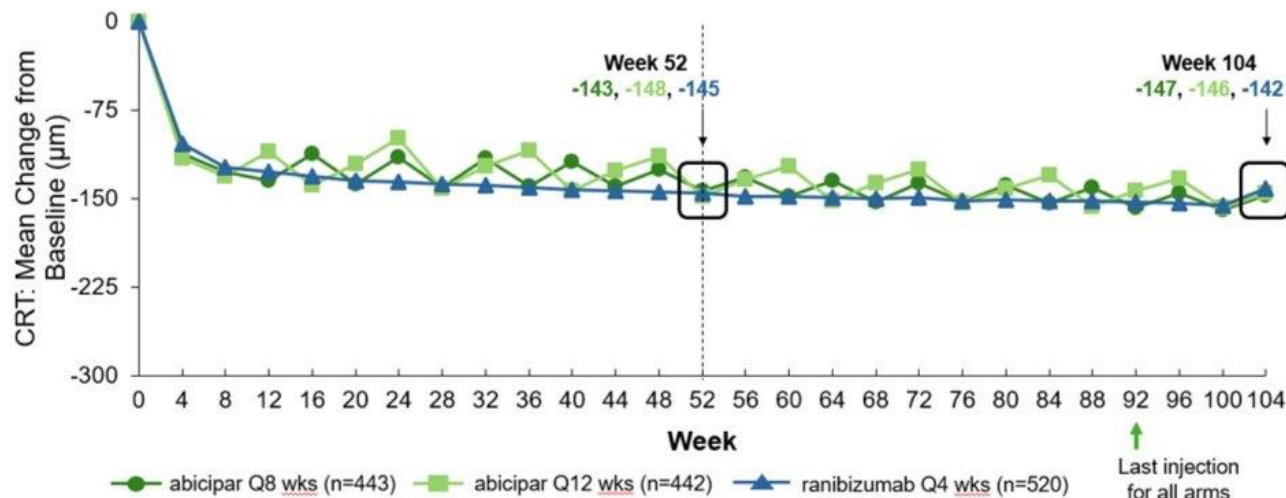




# Abicipar Non-inferiority Shown in CEDAR & SEQUOIA (Phase 3)

## Secondary Endpoint: Mean Change in CRT From Baseline at Weeks 52 and 104

Phase III CEDAR & SEQUOIA



**CRT improvement after initial doses were maintained to Week 104 with quarterly abicipar injections (10) vs. monthly ranibizumab injections (25)**

CRT = central retinal thickness

*Abicipar is under investigation and the safety and efficacy of this product have not been established.*

1. Khurana RN, et al. Presented at AAO 2019 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, USA; Oct 12-15, 2019.

- Abicipar as effective as Lucentis
  - 10 injections instead of 25 (2 y)
  - CRT “biomarker” for activity
- Fixed Q12w regimen proven
  - Potential to simplify visits
- Side effect profile (15% inflammation) lead to CRL
- **Potential inflammation causing agent identified and to be removed**

**exploring opportunities to develop Abicipar outside MP**



# Summary and financial guidance

# H1 2022 Financial Highlights

- Strong financial position with CHF 285.1 million in cash (including short term deposits) as of June 30, 2022
- Revenue of CHF 184.5 million primarily due to payment received from Novartis upon exercise of option to in-license global rights to ensovibep
- Net cash from operating activities of CHF 151.0 million in H1 2022
- Operating profit of CHF 146.3 million and net profit of CHF 148.6 million in H1 2022
- Company expected to be funded into 2026, excluding any potential payments from R&D partnerships
- Updated FY 2022 expense guidance of CHF 70-80 million
- 3.5 million treasury shares created on Aug 25, 2022

# Financial Guidance for Full-Year 2022

- Total expenses of CHF 70-80 million for FY2022, of which around CHF 9 million non-cash effective costs
- With CHF 285.1 million cash at hand (incl. short-term time deposits) and no debt, the Company is funded into 2026, excluding any potential receipts from R&D partners
- Guidance subject to progress and changes of pipeline as well as financial markets

# Summary and H2 Newsflow

**Ensovibep**

Covid

EUA submitted; Phase 3 needed

**Next-gen Covid**

Future VoC\*

Candidate ready for future VoC

**MP0310**

FAP x 4-1BB

Solid Tumors

Phase 1 Concluded

**MP0317**

FAP x CD40

Solid Tumors

Initial Results H2/22

**MP0533**

CD3 x CD33+CD70+CD123

AML

Trial initiation by end 2022

**Abicipar**

VEGF

wet AMD

Discussions with external parties

**Radioligand  
Therapy**

Solid Tumors

Collaboration, Internal Programs





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