

Improving access to personalised treatments



Wednesday 1st May | 15Hatfields, London





SCAN ME

Improving access to personalised treatments



#### Welcome to The National Cancer Vaccine Summit!

**VENZIS** 



SCAN ME

1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 9am – 5:30pm 15Hatfields, London



Improving access to personalised treatments



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Improving access to personalised treatments



### **Chair Opening Address**

**VENZIS** 



Dr Lennard YW Lee Associate Professor (University of Oxford), Medical

Oncologist (NHS), National Clinical Advisor (Office for Life Sciences) - University of Oxford



### The Great National Cancer Vaccine Summit Improving access to personalised treatments



### Our place in the world

The UK routinely deliver world firsts for vaccination, health and high-end technologies

In 2024, a new opportunity has opened, vaccine for cancer, generating global interest.

The summit showcases our national expert's greatest ideas for our UK strategy to potentially make an advance against cancer.



### Building on the strongest foundations



1796 **Edward Jenner** St Andrews





1940 Florence Horsbrugh Edinburgh





1953 Watson & Crick Cambridge





2012-2018 **100,000 genome** Pan- UK





2022 COVID vaccine Oxford







### What are vaccines?



Vaccines Peptide vaccines

Personalised vaccines Viral vaccines

DNA/RNA vaccines

Vaccines train our immune system

They help the immune system find abnormalities, called antigens, and remove diseased cells.





### What is a cancer vaccine?



### A global vaccine technology race is underway





### What's the plan?

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To initiate a **global advance** of vaccines for cancer for immunity against cancer

(2)

Transformative benefit will be achieved across multiple cancer subtypes, for early and late-stage cancers

To place **10,000 people** through clinical trials **by 2030** 



#### uk news website of the year The Telegraph

#### Dozens of NHS hospitals to offer pioneer cancer vaccines in next three months

Health chiefs sign deal with BioNTech as part of cutting-edge clinical trials



*By* **Joe Pinkstone**, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT 8 July 2023 • 2:33pm



#### **S**INDEPENDENT

NEWS ) HEALTH

#### Up to 10,000 Britons could take part in cancer vaccine trials

Participants could receive groundbreaking treatment after the Government signed an agreement with a leading pharmaceutical company.



University Hospitals Birmingham

#### UHB first to start mRNA cancer vaccine trial for colorectal cancer



University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) is the first site in the UK to launch the BioNTech Messenger RNA (mRNA) cancer vaccines trial which will aim to recruit 10,000 people across the UK.



'A silver lining': how Covid ushered in a vaccines golden era

Pandemic accelerated advances in vaccine technology, opening up possibilities for combating array of diseases



#### B B C NEWS

#### Covid vaccine research now helping cancer patients

By Gill Dummigan Health Correspondent, BBC North West

Ten months ago, Adrian Taylor was told he had incurable cancer and there were few treatment options left.



BREAKING

#### THE

### Britain jabs its way to centre stage in the mRNA revolution





HEALTH AND SCIENCE

BioNTech says it will start cancer vaccine trials in the UK from September







Cancer Vaccine Trials—Using Same mRNA Tech Behind Covid Shots—Could Launch In U.K. This September



B B C L Style Meer Meer Style , Walter Director , Walter Director NEWS Home Inter-Garaver Cretof Long Works Ukraine Indu Election Climate LK Work! Reviews Health

British man tests first personalised melanoma vaccine





### How you can help?

Your support:- Being here and learning about what national experts are doing. Be vocal in support

Your insights:- Do let us know if you see any opportunities to raise awareness for this new advance against cancer vaccines.







Improving access to personalised treatments



#### Speaking Now...



#### **Professor Christian Ottensmeier**

Professor of Immuno-Oncology, Molecular & Clinical Cancer Medicine / Consultant Medical Oncologist -University of Liverpool / Clatterbridge Cancer Centre











#### CAN CANCER VACCINES BE A CORE BUILDING BLOCK FOR COMBINATION IMMUNOTHERAPY?

**CHRISTIAN OTTENSMEIER MD PHD** 

**PROFESSOR OF IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY** 

**CLATTERBRIDGE CANCER CENTER & UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL** 











### The brief answer is: YES

...and the date are accumulating at a staggering pace in randomized studies

- But there is a lot of history to consider
- After many years of failure Steve Rosenberg concluded in 2004: "The ineffectiveness of cancer vaccine approaches is not commonly appreciated, however, because of the 'spin' often accompanying reports of cancer vaccines."
- So what has changed?

Rosenberg, S., Yang, J. & Restifo, N. Nature medicine 10 (2004).

### What has changed?

- We know more about 'immune competence' of the patient
  - A vaccine cannot work if the immune system is damaged
  - Issues:
    - more inhibitory tumour microenvironment in advanced disease
    - Global immunocompetence decays with progression
      - Not least because of the treatments we have given
- We are better at understanding the tumor microenvironment



### What has changed?

- We know more about 'immune competence' of the patient
  - A vaccine cannot work if the immune system is damaged
  - Issues:
    - more inhibitory tumour microenvironment in advanced disease
    - Global immunocompetence decays with progression
      - Not least because of the treatments we have given
- We are better at understanding the tumor microenvironment
- We are doing smarter trials (efficacy endpoints in early disease)
  - as we leave drug development strategies of cytotoxics behind
- We are making better vaccines
- We are better at making IO treatment choices (well, a bit)

### We understand better the correlates of protection

#### long lived CD8+ T tissue resident memory:

Presence of CD103 (IHC) predicted patient survival above that of CTLs



highly effective killers divide in the cancer tissue clonally expanded express unique, actionable target profile

released by aPD1 treatment unique actionable targets identified ,TRAINED' BY VACCINATION

> Ganesan et al, Nat Imm 2017 Clarke et al, JEM 2019 Von Witzleben, CCR 2023

### **Determining which checkpoint blocks T cells**











So there is no point to 'throw the kitchen sink' at the problem

Fold increase of gene expression



#### **Conclusion:**

• Enough tissue resident memory cells: anti-PD1 for control sufficient

CD3 PD1

cytokeratin

CD3+PD1=purple

- Selection markers:
  - $\rightarrow$  PDL1 expressing cells in the TME
  - PDL1 is upregulated by effector T cells that produce IFNg
  - (note: other pathways to upregulate PDL1 exist)
  - Their 'target antigen' is unknown







### Inhibitory T<sub>regulatory</sub> cells are abundant across cancer types



CCR8

RDCD1

 $\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{FB}}$ 

T<sub>REG</sub>

10

5

NFRSF18

ÌIGIT

 $\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{FR}}$ 

 $\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{REG}}$ 

TGFB1

IL10

T<sub>FB</sub>

I <sub>REG</sub>

MKI67

T<sub>REG</sub> T<sub>FR</sub>

%+cells

60 40 20

0

- Meta-analysis of RNA-sequencing from 6 types of cancer
- $T_{FR}$  cells were present in all assessed studies
- T<sub>FR</sub> cells highly suppressive
- T<sub>FR</sub> cells activated by aPD1 antibody

Eschweiler, Nat Immunology 2021 Eschweiler, Nature 2022

#### Stratification of IO treatment:

- T cells are turned off
  - by tumour cells
    - Anti-PD1 antibody or anti PDL1 antibody
  - by other T cells
    - Remove regulatory T cells (Treg/T follicular regulatory cells)
      - E.g. anti-CTLA4 antibody, PI3k delta inhibitor, anti-CCR8, anti-GITR...
  - (by myeloid cells
    - No clear strategy yet (chemotherapy?))
- Not enough T cells
  - Vaccinate to train more T cells
  - Protect them against 'being turned off'
    - Anti-PD1 antibody (as above)
    - Anti-CTLA4 antibody (as above)
- T cells cannot get to the cancer cells
  - Need to address CAF, myeloid cells

#### T cells recognition of tumor cells: 'cancer cell content' the immune system can 'see'



Specificity



#### Antigen recognition underpins outcome differences

Central tolerance and peripheral tolerance: limit immune attack

Multiple targets are immunogenic The best target is unknown

#### **Training the immune system**

#### • THE PROCESS:



turn the difference into a vaccine

vaccinate the patient

lmmunogenicity

#### • TWO CONCEPTS:

A NEW VACCINE FOR EACH PATIENT PERSONALISED MEDICINE ONE VACCINE FOR MANY PATIENTS STRATIFIED MEDICINE



Specificity

#### Personalised cancer vaccines: Adjuvant TG4050: early suggestion of agent clinical activity



• From Repeated Injections of TG4050 as Monotherapy in Patients with Minimal Residual Disease

#### Randomized data: making cancer vaccines mainstream...

mRNA-4157 (V940) and pembrolizumab demonstrated an improvement in recurrence-free survival (RFS) vs pembrolizumab



<sup>4</sup>The hazard ratio and 95% CI for mRNA-137 (VP40) pix perhapitations was pembrolitamab is estimated using a Cox proportional hazards model with frostmenta group as a covariate, stratified by disease stage (strates) it is of its control of the strategies of the strategies and the strategies in the strategies and the strategies and

Multiple trials either ongoing or reported

#### Personalised cancer vaccines:

Nykode – DNA vaccine in advanced cancer + aPD1 BioNtech & Roche - PCV mRNA vaccine in pancreatic cancer Nouscom – adenovirus Transgene – in HNSCC Geneos DNA vaccine+ aPD1 in HCC

#### Shared antigen vaccination:

Many targets and platforms

#### Moderna:

Adjuvant anti-PD1 +/- Personalised cancer vaccine

Concor Vaccino

Home	News	Publications	Statistics	Blogs	Events	Contact us		
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Coronav respons	rirus (COV e	ID-19)	The NHS	Cancer V	' accine Lau	unchpad (CVL	.P) is a project that act	S
Our serv	vices		with cano	cer to par	ticipate at 1	the earliest po	ossible opportunity in a	28
Public a	nd partner	s	the development of cancer vaccines.					
Annual Health Checks Focus Group		The aim of the CVLP is to provide a basis for accelerated developr treatment, by providing a standardised, high quality, expanded sta						
NHS	111		molecula	olecular analysis and sequencing incorporating elements o				3

The primary objective is to identify and recruit cancer patients who

#### Merck V940 / Moderna rna-4157 Individualized Neoantigen Therapy (INT) Trials

Phase / Status		Treatment Setting / Stage	N, Indication	TME Modulation	Breakthrough Data
	Actively	<b>Adjuvant</b> , completely resected Stage IA-IIB	<b>11</b> pts, <b>NSCLC</b> (Part A)	None (monotherapy)*	<b>0/11 relapses</b> (interim data, Sep 2023)
(8 <b>single arm</b> cohorts)	to N=242	Unresectable (locally advanced or metastatic)	<b>22</b> pts, CPI-naive HPV- neg <b>HNSCC</b> (Part C)	αPD-1 pembrolizumab	<b>6/22 (27.1%) ORR</b> (2 CR, 4 PR)
2b Randomized	Actively recruiting to N= 257	Adjuvant, completely resected Stage III/IV <b>157</b> pts, <b>Melanoma</b>		αPD-1 pembrolizumab	<b>49% relapse reduction/delay</b> (Dec 2023) 1-sided p=0.0095
2b Randomized	Actively recruiting	<b>Adjuvant</b> , completely resected	200 pts, Muscle invasive bladder cancer	αPD-1 pembrolizumab	Relapse data (DFS) expected OCT2026
2b Randomized	Actively recruiting	<b>Adjuvant</b> , completely resected	<b>272</b> pts, <b>Renal cell carcinoma</b>	αPD-1 pembrolizumab	Relapse data (DFS) expected JAN2028
3 Randomized	Actively recruiting	<b>Adjuvant</b> , completely resected Stage IIB/C, III, IV	<b>1089</b> pts, <b>Melanoma</b>	αPD-1 pembrolizumab	Relapse data (RFS) expected OCT2029
3 Randomized	Actively recruiting	<b>Adjuvant</b> , completely resected Stage II, IIIA, IIIB (N2)	<b>868</b> pts, <b>NSCLC</b>	αPD-1 pembrolizumab	Relapse data (DFS) expected JUN2030
2/3 <b>Randomized</b>	Not yet recruiting	<b>Neoadjuvant / adjuvant</b> , completely resected Stage II, III, IV(M0)	1012 pts, Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma	αPD-1 pembrolizumab	Relapse data (EFS) expected APR2029

## PCV DNA vaccine encoding IL12 in Hepatocellular carcinoma



Time on treatment (weeks)

Yarchoan, Nature Medicine, 2024 Geneos trial, HCC – vaccine + aPD1

#### T cells recognition of tumor cells: 'cancer cell content' the immune system can 'see'



Specificity

#### We need to understand for individual vaccine targets

- Can T cells 'see' it
  - Only a small fraction of gene products make it into MHC molecules
- Does the immune system consider the antigen as 'self'
  - 'No' is good for vaccination
    - tumour mutations
    - shared antigens can also behave like this
- How much inherent 'regulation' is there through CD4 regulatory cells
  - Expect this problem to be worse as the cancer progresses

#### Defining patient 'strata' based on TME classification



Bagaev A. et al. Cancer Cell, 2021.

Reference population is in line with the described literature with 50/50 fraction of immunoreactive/immusuppressive phenotypes described by other authors. (e.g. Zhang et al. 2021 (https://doi.org/10.3389%2Ffcell.2021.7 11348) or De Cecco et al., 2015 (https://doi.org/10.18632%2Foncotarge t.3301)

1486, HNSCC

Slide adapted from K. Bendjama, Transgene

#### **Towards rational vaccine + IO approaches:**

- Testing how the TME is set up in individual patients
- Systematic evaluation of classes of antigens for targeting with vaccines
- Tumour antigen recognition by T cells:
  - Upregulation of 'checkpoint molecules' is the mandatory consequence
  - Vaccination needs CPI to overcome this
- Targeting inhibitory cells
  - Regulatory T cells
  - Other cells
- For clinical testing:
  - Comparing vaccine platforms
  - Strictly standardizing immune monitoring





Improving access to personalised treatments



### Speaking Now...



**Gary Middleton** Professor of Medical Oncology University of Birmingham

# Why and when should we use cancer vaccines?

Lung Cancer as an exemplar Gary Middleton University of Birmingham
"I am going to tell you a thing that will make you wish yourself here. The smallpox, so fatal, and so general amongst us, is here entirely harmless, by the invention of engrafting, which is the term they give it. There is a set of old women, who make it their business to perform the operation, every autumn, in the month of September, when the great heat is abated. People send to one another to know if any of their family has a mind to have the small-pox; they make parties for this purpose, and when they are met (commonly fifteen or sixteen together) the old woman comes with a nut-shell full of the matter of the best sort of small-pox, and asks what vein you please to have opened. She immediately rips open that you offer to her, with a large needle (which gives you no more pain than a common scratch) and puts into the vein as much matter as can lie upon the head of her needle, and after that, binds up the little wound with a hollow bit of shell, and in this manner opens four or five veins"

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu to her friend, Sarah Chiswell

## What do people die from? Causes of death globally in 2019 The size of the entire visualization represents the total number of deaths in 2019: 55 million. Each rectangle within it is proportional to the share of deaths due to a particular cause.



74% died from noncommunicable	diseases	L4% died t	from infectious diseases
<b>33% died from heart diseases</b> Heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular diseases. Per year: 18.5 million deaths			4.4% Pneumonia and other lower respiratory diseases Per year: 2.5 million deaths Per average day: 6800 deaths
Per average day: 50,650 deaths			2.7% Diarrheal diseases Per year: 1.5 million deaths Per average day: 4200 deaths
			2% Tuberculosis
			1.5% HIV/AIDS
			1.1% Malaria
18% Cancers Per year: 10 million deaths Per average day: 27,600 deaths			2.1% other infectious diseases
			3.3% Neonatal deaths babies who died within the first 28 days of life
			0.4% Maternal deaths
7% Chronic respiratory diseases	1 5% Digestive disease		0.4% Nutritional deficiencies
COPD, Asthma, and others	Cirrhosis and others		2.3% Transport accidents Per year: 1.3 million deaths Per average day: 3500 deaths
	2.7% Diabetes		3 1% Other accidents
	5.7% Other noncommunicable disea	diceases	including falls, drownings, and fires.
3.9% Neurological diseases		uiseases	
Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, epilepsy,			1.3% Suicides Per year: 760,000 deaths Per average day: 2080 deaths
and others			0.7% Homicides Per year: 415,000 deaths Per average day: 1140 deaths
		due to T	0.2% War battle deaths 0.05% Terrorism
	Less than 1% died	i due to	
Jata source: IHME Global Burden of Disease and Global Terrorism Dat	abase IIILEIDEISOIIdIV	IUIEIICE	

Data source: IHME Global Burden of Disease and Global Terrorism Database OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

Global					
		2019			
Rank	Cause	Deaths (000s)	% of total deaths	Cumulative % of total deaths	CDR (per 100 000 population)
0	All Causes	55,416	100.0	100.0	718.9
1	Ischaemic heart disease	8,885	16.0	16.0	115.3
2	Stroke	6,194	11.2	27.2	80.4
3	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	3,228	5.8	33.0	41.9
4	Lower respiratory infections	2,593	4.7	37.7	33.6
5	Neonatal conditions	2,038	3.7	41.4	26.4
6	Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers	1,784	3.2	44.6	23.1
7	Alzheimer disease and other dementias	1,639	3.0	47.6	21.3
8	Diarrhoeal diseases	1,519	2.7	50.3	19.7
9	Diabetes mellitus	1,496	2.7	53.0	19.4
10	Kidney diseases	1,334	2.4	55.4	17.3
11	Cirrhosis of the liver	1,315	2.4	57.8	17.1
12	Road injury	1,282	2.3	60.1	16.6
13	Tuberculosis	1,208	2.2	62.3	15.7
14	Hypertensive heart disease	1,149	2.1	64.4	14.9
15	Colon and rectum cancers	916	1.7	66.0	11.9
16	Stomach cancer	831	1.5	67.5	10.8
17	Self-harm	703	1.3	68.8	9.1
18	Falls	684	1.2	70.0	8.9
19	HIV/AIDS	675	1.2	71.2	8.8
20	Breast cancer	640	1.2	72.4	8.3

#### The Global Health Observatory: World Health Organisation. Downloaded 22.4.24

International Agency for Research on Cancer	
ttps://www.iarc.who.int/	
CARS World Health	
Organization	

#### GLOBAL CANCER OBSERVATORY



## LUNG

#### Incidence

 Rank
 Cases
 ASR (World)

 1
 2 480 675
 23.6

## Mortality

 Rank
 Deaths
 ASR (World)

 1
 1817469
 16.8

#### Cancer site ranking







#### Lung Cancer (C33-C34): 2007-2011 European Age-Standardised Mortality Rates by Deprivation Quintile, England

	Male	Female
1 - least deprived	29.6	18.6
2	36.1	22.9
3	45.7	27.4
4	59.1	36.3
5 - most deprived	80.1	51.3



Source: cruk.org/cancerstats You are welcome to reuse this Cancer Research UK statistics content for your own work. Credit us as authors by referencing Cancer Research UK as the primary source. Suggested style: Cancer Research UK, full URL of the page, Accessed [month] [year].





## **The LungVax study** Prof Sarah Blagden – Director of Oncology Clinical Trials Office (OCTO), Oxford

## What do we know about j emalignant cancer?





Figure from Simon Leedham

Premalignant phase: reversible

OXFORD

**Invasive cancer:** irreversible, obeys cancer hallmarks.



## Preinvasive squamous cell lung cancer has clonal mutations







## Lung cancer has shared "public" mutations



Kevin Litchfield, UCL



Concentration curve analysis on >61,000 cancer genomes (cBioportal) including >8,000 lung cancers shows high concentration of hotspot shared mutations in lung cancer. For fixed cocktail of the 10 or 20 most common mutations, lung cancer is second most attractive for "off the shelf" targeting.

Top 20 cancer types ranked by % of patients captured by 10 most common hotspot mutations:		
Cancer type	% of Patients	
Diffuse Glioma	80.2%	
Lung cancer	64.0%	
Glioma	56.6%	
Melanoma	53.7%	
Myelodysplastic Neoplasms	53.5%	
Pancreatic Cancer	53.0%	
Mixed Cancer Types	50.3%	
Colorectal Adenocarcinoma	48.8%	
Ampullary Cancer	48.6%	
Bladder/Urinary Tract Cancer, NOS	47.9%	
Bladder Cancer	47.0%	
Bladder Urothelial Carcinoma	45.9%	
Endometrial Carcinoma	44.6%	
Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma	44.6%	
Colorectal Cancer	40.1%	
Myelodysplastic Syndromes	37.1%	
Leukemia	36.5%	
Invasive Breast Carcinoma	32.7%	
Breast Cancer	32.6%	
Prostate Cancer, NOS	29.4%	

**CONFIDENTIAL – UNPUBLISHED** 



## LungVax - the strategy



## Life savers: the amazing story of the Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid vaccine

A year ago, two scientists began work on the response to a new virus. Now, as their vaccine is being given to millions, they tell of their incredible 12 months



✿ Professor Sarah Gilbert and Professor Andrew Pollard, who were key figures in the development of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine. Composite: Christian Sinibaldi/The Observer; John Cairns/Oxford University



### Saved 6.3 million lives in the first year of the pandemic



## We are testing 4 variations (V1-V4) of ChAdOx2-LungVax





## LungVax - the strategy



Vaccinate people at high risk of lung cancer with ChAdOx2 + DNA encoding shared clonal lung cancer neoantigens





ChAdOx2 taken up by macrophages and dendritic cells. Neoepitope DNA incorporated into host DNA, expressed, presented by HLA as peptides



Figure from Coughlan, Frontiers in Immunology, 2020

To elicit lasting tissue resident memory T cells – long term lung surveillance



Elimination of neoantigen expressing precancer cells



### BALB/C mice show strong immunogenicity to two LungVax ChAdOx2 vaccines.



Zinaida Dedeic



### MRD and the INTerpath-002 trial in resected stages II, III<sub>A</sub> and III<sub>B</sub> NSCLC

Building on Individualised neoantigen therapy mRNA-4157 (V940) plus pembrolizumab versus pembrolizumab monotherapy in resected melanoma (KEYNOTE-942): a randomised, phase 2b study



#### Weber JS et al. Lancet. 2024 Feb 17;403(10427):632-644.



## **Lung Vax Precision Prevention trial**



At risk group: 590 who have had primary stage IA/1B NSCLC resected - have 30-40% risk of recurrent or new cancer within 2 years





**Biological Endpoints:** 



#### How does vaccine work?

Correlations between immunogenicity and disease response

#### How does lung cancer start?

Correlations between cfDNA, PBMC sequencing, plasma biomarkers/methylation profiling and disease emergence and response

#### **Endpoints: Does vaccine** work? Disease-free survival, cancer incidence, safety and Quality of Life

### LungVax programme overview

#### Work Completed to Date:

- Patented off-the-shelf vaccine design
- Potential to prevent up to 96% lung cancers
- Designed inserts containing 21 hotspot driver mutations and tumour associated antigens
- Selected ChAdOx2 for superior T cell priming
- Non-GMP vaccine manufacture
- Clinical study drafted

#### PreClinical:

- Validated vaccine insert expression and immunogenicity in vivo
- GMP manufacture of 3K doses
   of vaccine for clinical study
- Validated tissue resident T cell priming in lung
- Regulatory toxicology
- Applied for clinical trial funding

#### Phase 1/2 Clinical Trial:

- Trial accepted onto OCTO
   portfolio
- Enrolling 590 participants with recently resected Stage 1A/1B NSCLC
- Safety run in, then 560 randomised to LungVax versus no treatment
- Endpoints: prevention of recurrence or new primary cancer, QoL, immunogenicity

#### Phase 3 Clinical Trial:

- Future Phase 3 study will be in people undergoing Lung Health Checks at risk of NSCLC
- High risk smokers without cancer
- Study will explore impact of vaccine on smoking/vaping behaviours as well as overall cancer risk reduction

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Funding application submitted



## **Translational Data Platform**







- **Preinvasive cancer** predates emergence of cancer by years or decades and represents a therapeutic window
- Lung cancer expresses some **clonal and shared neoantigens** from preinvasive to advanced cancer
- Vaccines designed to target neoantigens is an emerging personalised strategy for adjuvant treatment and an "off the shelf" primary preventative strategy
- LungVax, based on findings from TRACERx, is world's first neoantigen-based lung cancer prevention vaccine
- Clinical study to open Jan 2026



Improving access to personalised treatments



## Speaking Now...

**VENZIS** 



**Dr Nangi Lo** Consultant Medical Oncologist - Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

## Can we deliver big vaccine trials in smaller centres?

Dr Nangi Lo

**Consultant Medical Oncologist** 

**Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust** 



# Disclosures

I have no disclosures





## Why are you here?

Barcelona, 2019

# Why do research?

Patients	Healthcare professionals	Department	NHS systems
Improving outcomes through early diagnosis, effective treatments, disease prevention	Keeping up to date, improving care and job satisfaction	Benchmarking and quality assurance, rapid adoption of treatments and technologies	Research active hospitals have lower mortality rates and improved quality of care, not limited to research participants (Jonker et al 2020)
Levelling inequalities	Gold standard treatment is clinical trial		







## Our smaller centre

- Geographically remote district general hospital
- Catchment population 290000

#### Wide variance

- Rural and urban
- Wealth and deprivation

## Our smaller centre

- Elderly, fit population
- No ivory tower in Southwest Peninsula
- Smallest radiotherapy facility in the UK, delivering IMRT + SABR
- CAN DO mindset
- Work-life balance



### 2019

Small non-income generating research department under threat



### 2019

Small non-income generating research department under threat

### 2020 Pandemic

- Reduce/stop chemotherapy
- Impact on clinical research



## 2019

Small non-income generating research department under threat

## 2020 Pandemic

- Reduce/stop chemotherapy
- Impact on clinical research

### Torbay

- Move chemotherapy unit and ward to remote 'green' site
- Protect Cancer Trials team
- <u>Continued</u> to recruit to clinical trials



### 2019

Small non-income generating research department under threat

## 2024

414% increase in recruitment

- Second highest recruiter to KEYNOTE 859
- One of two trusts to open B15 trial
- First recruit in to 8 national trials this year

Second to the Christie in recruitment to commercial trials



# Benefits to a department

- Rapid adoption and safe delivery of new standards of care
- Income generation £750k
  - Radiology
  - Chemotherapy delivery
  - Pharmacy
  - Medical physics

- Benefits to a small department are proportionately larger
  - Attract and retain Oncology staff in a challenging recruitment climate





# BNT-122 trial

A multi-site, open-label, Phase 2, randomized controlled trial to compare efficacy of R07198457 versus watchful waiting in resected Stage II (high risk) and Stage III colorectal cancer patients who are ctDNA positive following resection

# The 4 P's for achieving success



Purpose

Planning

Perseverence

Passion

## Purpose: why do we want to do this?

- Exciting Pioneering approach in management of cancer
- Equity Important to bring this study to our rural, deprived and under-served population
- Future Position for future vaccine trials



# Planning: can we deliver?



#### Don't just do it, but do it well

- Good quality data
- Meet target

#### Resources

- Research staff
- Medical staff
- Pharmacy
- Space

# ATIMPs: Reinventing the wheel

Vaccines are classed as ATIMPs and require an ATIMP committee to review before trial sign-off

Torbay is on the small-end of medium sized hospitals and is not resourced to have an ATIMP committee in place



Pharmacy had to conduct bespoke risk assessments mirroring those that would normally be conducted by an ATIMP committee

This allowed our pharmacy to bring this study to Torbay

# Planning: Space

- Low numbers proceed to be treated
- Low level of intervention but long observation times

### **Options**

- Colorectal day unit: blood transfusions, mAbs
- ICU: keen to collaborate, have space, all have GCP
- Portacabin in supermarket carpark
- Campervan

Chemotherapy Day unit: space in exchange for research nurse time on treatment days


# Planning: Staff

- Maximise efficiency
- Get the right people to the right place at the right time
- Flexibility around whole oncology research portfolio
- Alteration of jobs plans
- Training up middle grades and SpR



• Dedicated research clinic

## Perseverance: Arrival of the CVLP

CVLP referral site for the whole of the Southwest

- Team Build a team that could flex to accommodate large numbers of patients
- Space Maintain exposure/experience on day unit without overwhelming our small chemotherapy day unit



# Planning (rapidly)

- Develop trial delivery team that could flex and accommodate surges in referrals
  - Lead nurse, 3 extra nurses on standby
  - Support team of data managers, research HCAs and specialty research doctor
  - Training to allow capacity within SpR and middle grade team



- Business case for Research SACT nurse
  - Future-proofing in order to manage full research portfolio without impacting on standard of care service
- Research fellow post

## Passion

*Strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement...feeds the desire to go above and beyond* 

#### 6 months on

- Capacity to screen 40+/month
- Recruiting well locally
- Referrals coming in via the CVLP
- Research SACT nurse and research fellow in post
- Dedicated research treatment space on the chemotherapy day unit



## Devon health trust chosen for cancer vaccine trial



## Benefits of being small

- Agile
  - Fewer links in the chain
  - Quicker turnaround
  - More control/influence
  - Better quality
- Benefits for small centres are disproportionately large



## Tips

- Build the right team
- Innovate, think laterally
- Negotiate, barter
- Perfect your elevator pitch





## Why are you here?

London, 2024





# Thank you

### The Great National Cancer Vaccine Summit

Improving access to personalised treatments



# NHS cancer vaccine launchpad...



**VENZIS** 



**Dr Benjamin Moxley-Wyles** National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow - NHS England

#### **Dr Gillian Rosenberg** Innovation Transformation Lead - NHS England



#### Nicola Chapman-Hart

Senior Programme Manager - NHS England

# Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad (CVLP)

Dr Gillian Rosenberg, Innovation Transformation Lead, NHS England
Dr Benjamin Moxley-Wyles, Clinical Fellow, NHS England
Nicola Chapman-Hart, Senior Programme Manager, NHS England



# Cancer vaccines: an opportunity to transform cancer care

- The UK has for centuries been a leader in vaccine development, research and deployment, recently exemplified through our Covid-19 response.
- Vaccinology is entering a new era with the advent of mRNA vaccine technology – offering broad benefits in terms of personalisation, modularity and deployment.
- Using these recent advances to accelerate the development of personalised therapeutic cancer vaccines could drive transformative benefit across multiple cancer subtypes.



## **Challenges developing mRNA cancer vaccines**

- Access to patients: large pre-screening patient pools can be required (eg because of significant drop-off at ctDNA analysis step)
- Logistics and capacity for genomic sequencing of tumour/blood samples
- Referral of patients into trials depends heavily on willingness/awareness of clinicians (cancer vaccines being unchartered territory)
- A need to build public trust and support for this novel approach to treatment

## The Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad (CVLP)

- National research platform to support the recruitment of patients into personalised cancer vaccine trials.
- Provides a coordinated tissue pathway to enable high quality nucleic extraction and genetic sequencing of a patient's tumor.
- Provides a mechanism to identify and recruit patients at scale from multiple Trusts across the country and refer them to research trial sites.

### The CVLP pathway



## Cellular pathology and tissue processing

- Tissue quality is vital for sequencing and vaccine manufacture success.
- Molecular diagnostics has not been as streamlined as it should be.
- We are putting specific resource into cellular pathology to improve tissue pathways and expedite tissue transfer to industry partners.
- Investment for personalised cancer vaccines but will have wider benefits for molecular diagnostics.
- Through the CVLP, we can provide tumour block curls & slides ready for DNA/RNA extraction in:
  - o 5 days (initial set)
  - 3 days (second set, if required)

### Future pathway for the CVLP



### **Government strategic partnership**





Department of Health & Social Care

**NHSE Cancer Programme & NHSE Genomics Medicine Service** 



Office for Life Sciences



Health and Care Research

BIONTECH

### **Active CVLP sites across England**





## Future ambition of the CVLP

- National platform with all suitable NHS Trusts signed up.
- Multiple cancer vaccine trials covering different cancer indications run by multiple commercial companies are part of the CVLP portfolio.
- Nucleic extraction and genetic sequencing carried out within the NHS.
- The NHS is prepared to roll-out cancer vaccines should they prove to be effective and cost-effective.



## **Thank You**



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