# From Academia to Industry: Lessons Learned in the Development of CAR-T Therapies

Sadik H. Kassim, Ph.D. 10-July-2018 CASSS Cell and Gene Therapy Products 2018

### 1. Background

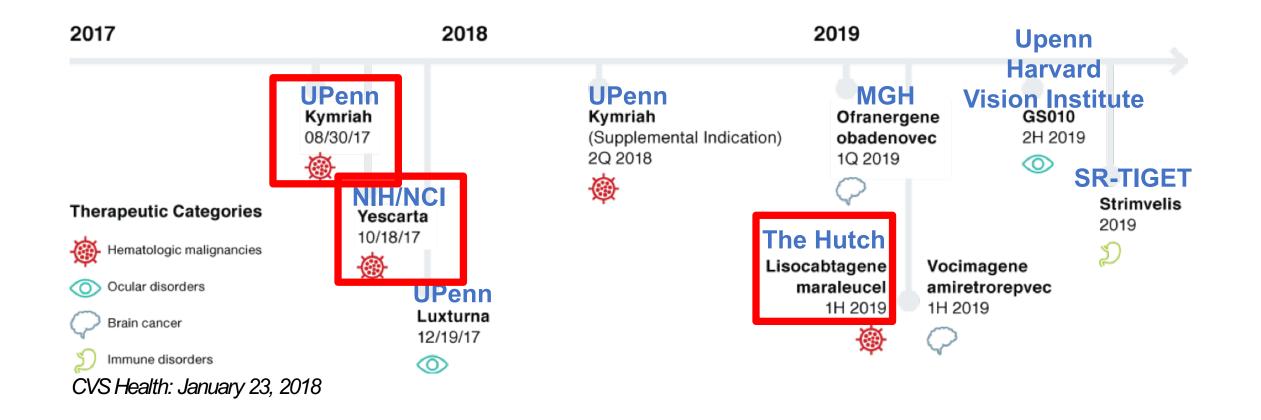
- 2. Comparing the NCI/Kite Experience to the UPenn/Novartis Experience
- 3. Critical Quality Attributes: CD19 CAR-T Therapies
- 4. Final Thoughts

I am an employee of Mustang Bio.

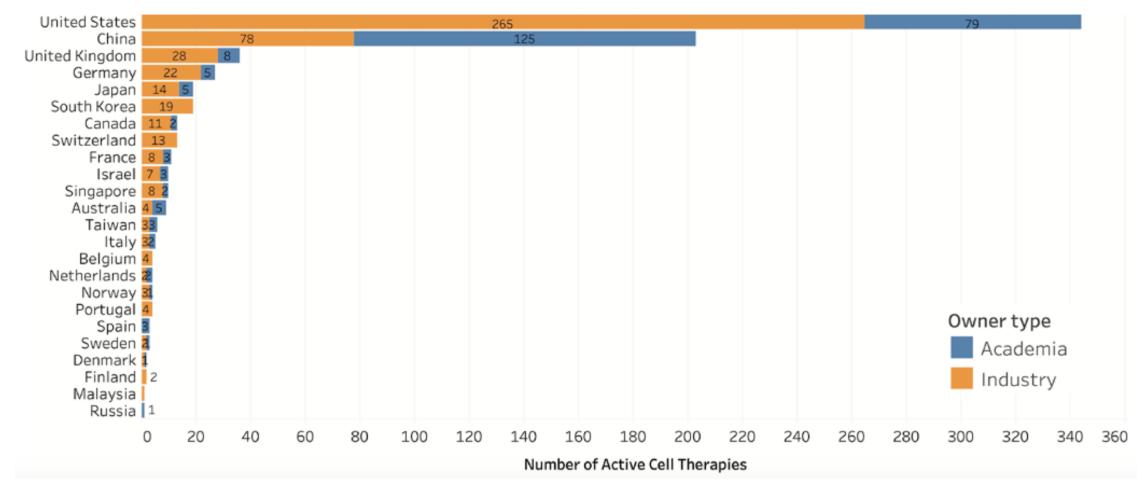
#### Forward Looking Statements

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## **Cell and Gene Therapies are Highly Dependent on Academic Founders**



## Academic and Industry Sponsored Cellular Immunotherapy Trials



- "Unlike other areas of research and development, most innovation in cancer cell therapies is carried out in academic centres and then licensed by commercial entities."
- Academic centres own and are actively developing 251 cell therapies, of which 184 are already in clinical development.

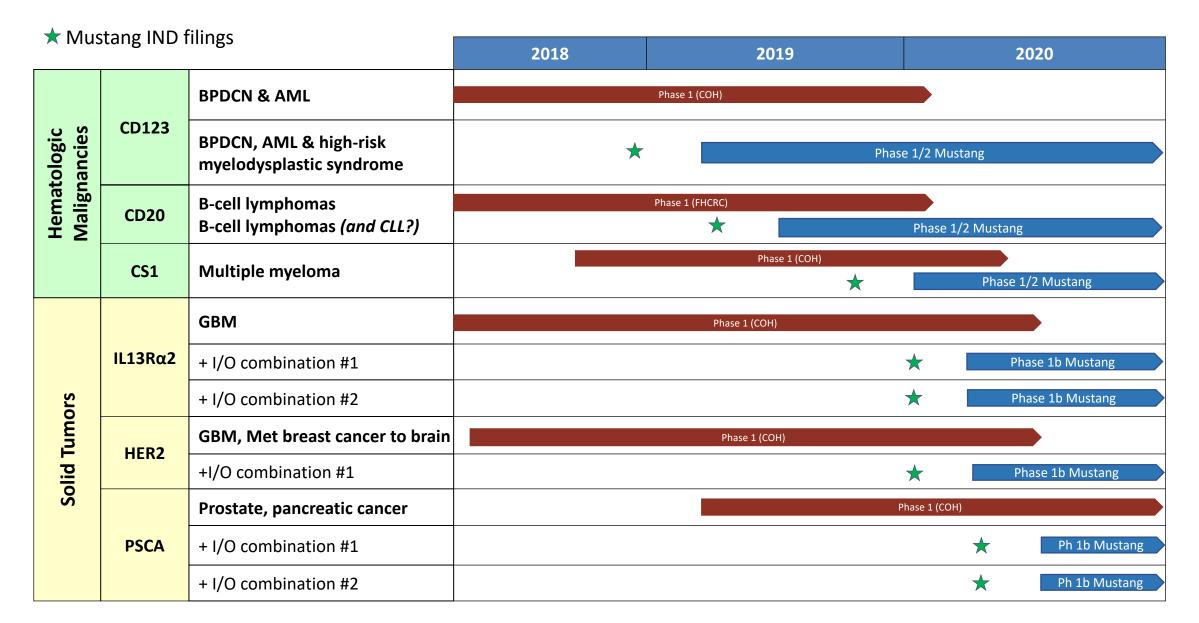
Tang et al. Nature Reviews Drug Discovery (2018)

## Mustang Bio's Portfolio is Dependent on Academic Partnerships

- Founded by Fortress Biotech in 2015; publicly traded (NASDAQ: MBIO)
- Focus on Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T Cell technology in Oncology
- Technology licensed from City of Hope (COH), Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center (FHCRC), & Harvard; ongoing research collaborations
  - COH: Stephen Forman & Christine Brown
  - FHCRC: Brian Till & Oliver Press<sup>1</sup>
  - Harvard / Beth Israel Deaconess: Chad Cowan

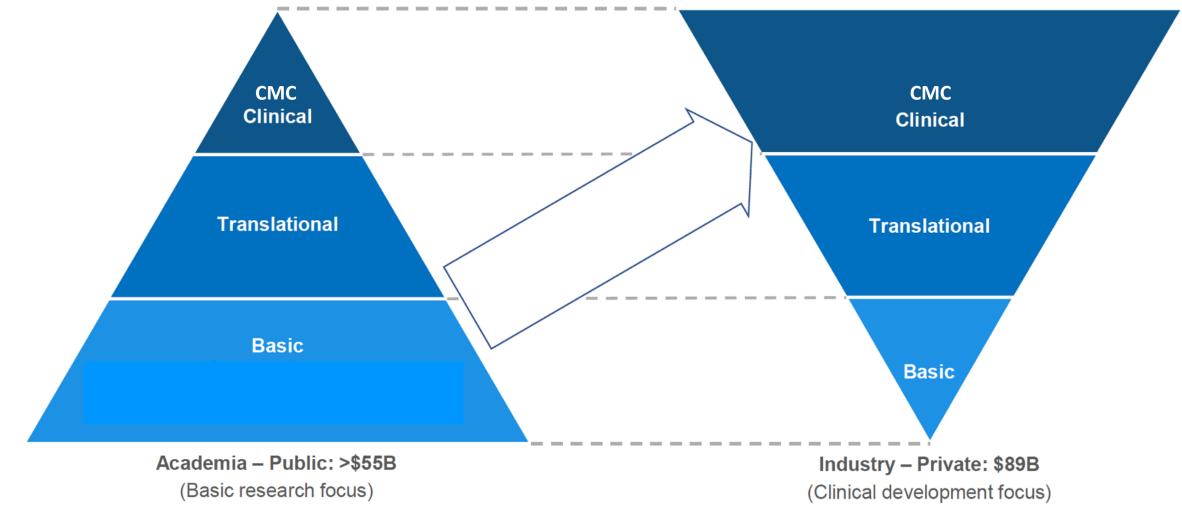


# Mustang Portfolio: First-in-Human Investigator IND Trials (*red*), Followed by Mustang IND Trials (*blue*)



## **Relative Biotech Investment: Academic vs. Industry**

-Public and private investments in biotech and life sciences are roughly equal, yet spent in markedly different ways. -Typically, public funding drives the innovation which private industry then acquires.



Sources: GAO, Celdara, and E. Zerhouni.

## **CMC** Is the Primary Challenge for Cell and Gene Therapies

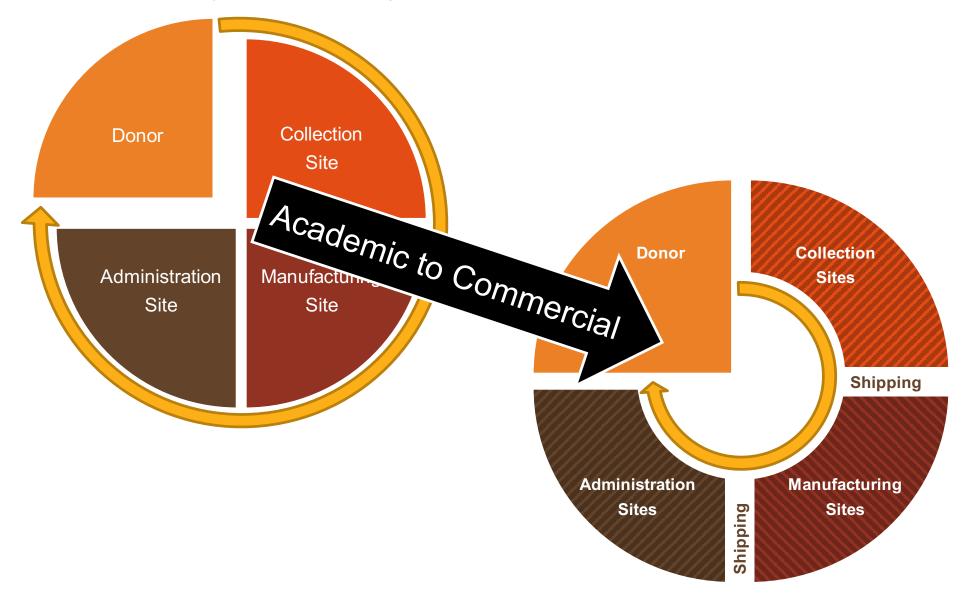


"A lot of the complexity with gene therapy is in product-related issues, not the clinical issues. Whereas with normal drug review, I'd say 80% is the clinical portion and 20% is the CMC and product portion of the review. I think with gene therapy and cell-based regenerative medicine it's completely inverted. We're having to think very differently about the regulatory issues with these."

Scott Gottlieb\_2018 Bio International Convention

### **Moving From Academic to Commercial Manufacturing**

Moving from one academic facility to many collection sites, multiple manufacturing sites, and many patient treatment sites



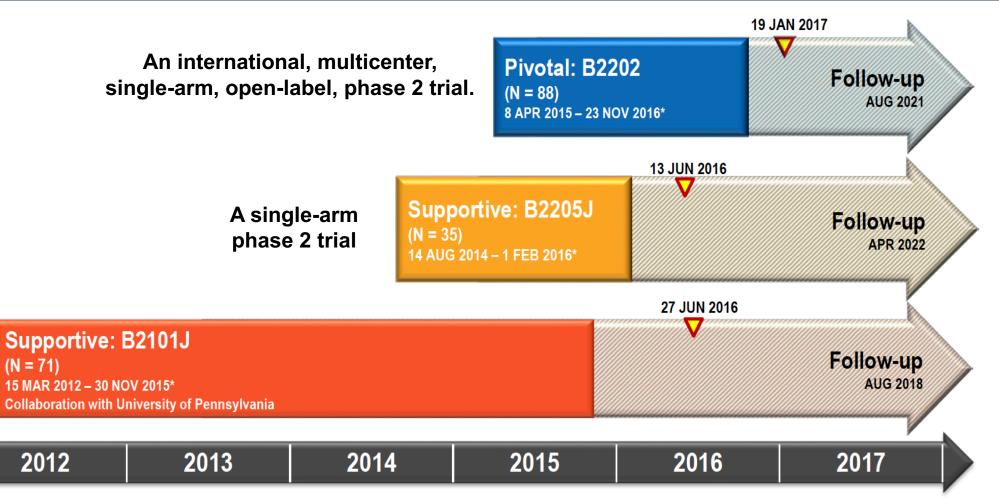
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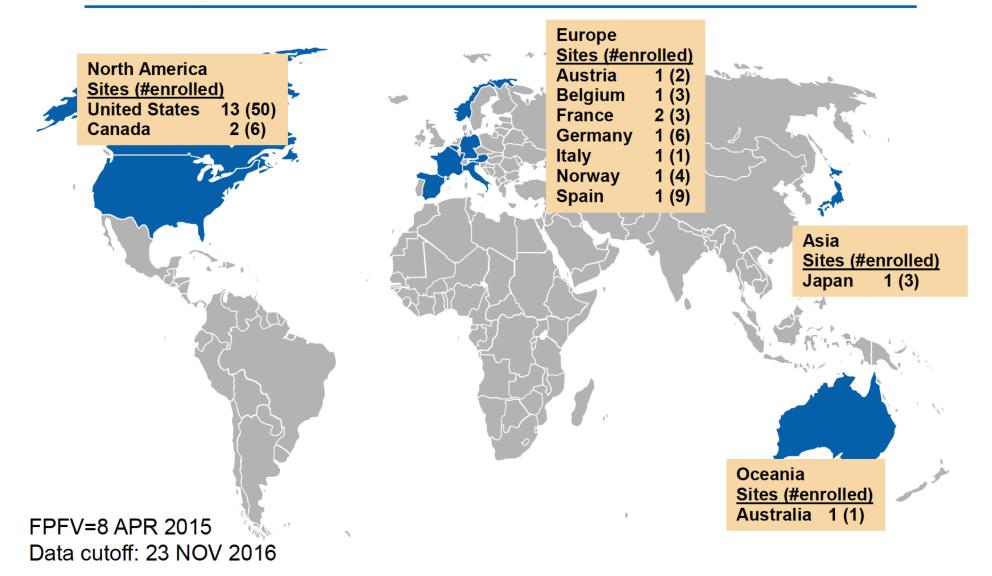
## The UPenn/Novartis Experience



- August 2012-Upenn/Novartis sign deal.
- December 2012-Novartis buys 173k sqft Dendreon manufacturing facility.
- August 2013-Novartis signs exclusive deal for Dynabeads with Life Technologies.
- October 2014-Novartis signs lentivirus vector deal with Oxford Biomedica.
- The primary objective of Novartis was rapid global scale out of the UPenn CD19 CAR-T manufacturing process and pivotal/registration trial.

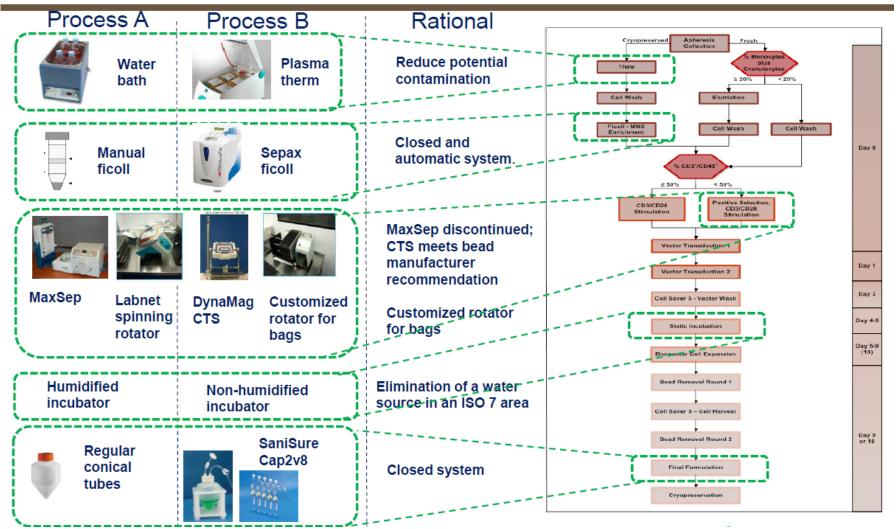
FDA ODAC Meeting, July 12, 2017

### **B220:** Novartis' Multi-Center Global Trial



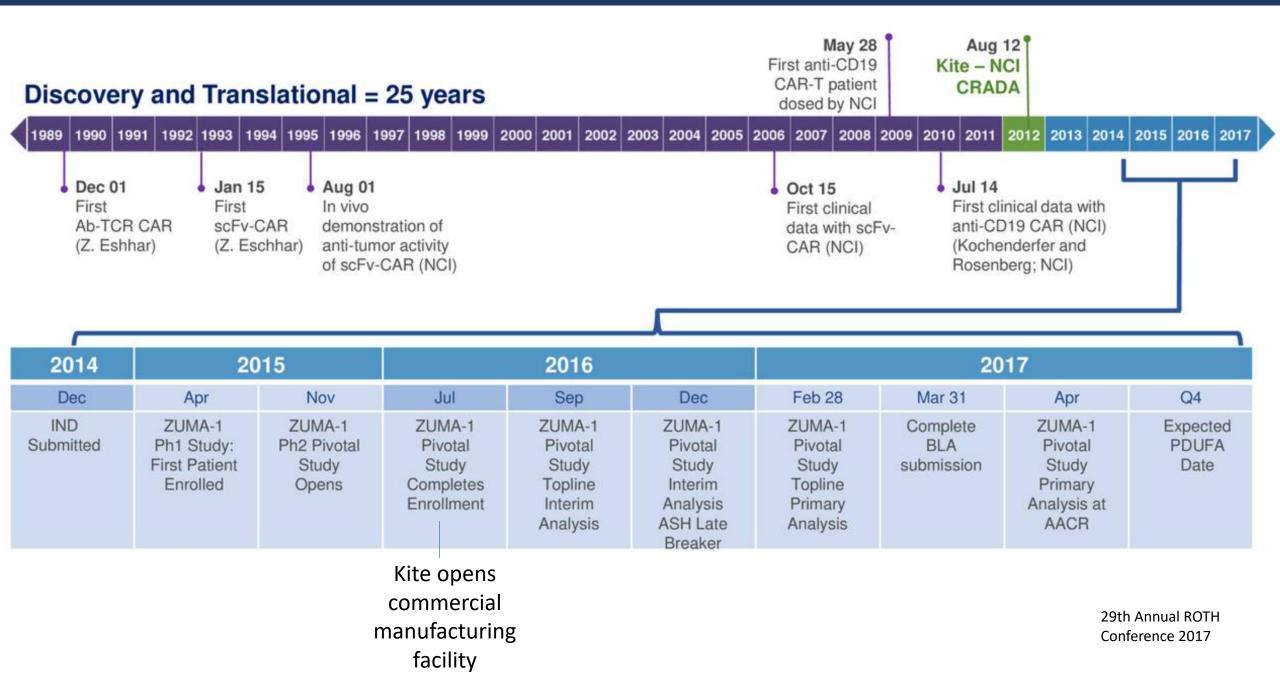
## Novartis' Modifications of UPenn's Manufacturing Process

#### Equipment Comparison to UPenn Process A\*



The primary aim of Novartis was to maintain product comparability and reduce the amount of manual unit operations.

### The NCI/Kite Experience

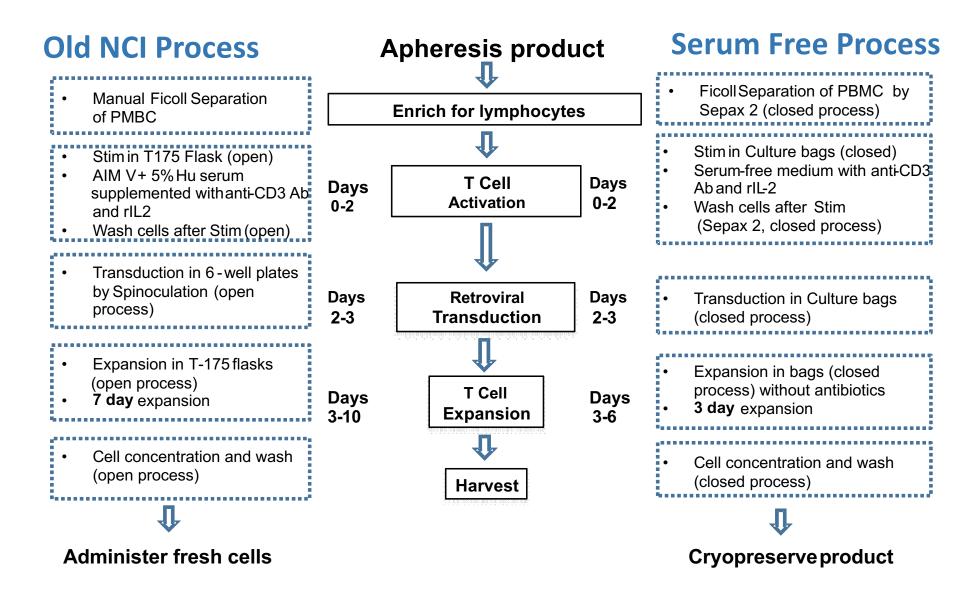


#### **Original NCI Process**

Administer fresh cells

<ul> <li>Manual Ficoll Separation of PMBC</li> </ul>		Can we automate Ficoll separation? Yes
<ul> <li>Stim in T175 Flask (open)</li> <li>AIM V+ 5% Hu serum supplemented withanti-CD3 Ab and rIL2</li> <li>Wash cells after Stim (open)</li> </ul>	Days 0-2	Can we remove serum from the process? Yes
<ul> <li>Transduction in 6-well plates by Spinoculation (open process)</li> </ul>	Days 2-3	Can we remove retronectin? No
<ul> <li>Expansion in T-175 flasks (open process)</li> <li>7 day expansion</li> </ul>	Days 3-10	Can we eliminate "spinoculation"? Yes
<ul> <li>Cell concentration and wash (open process)</li> </ul>	5-10	

## The NCI's Legacy Process vs. Kite's Commercial Process



## Learning from the Pioneers

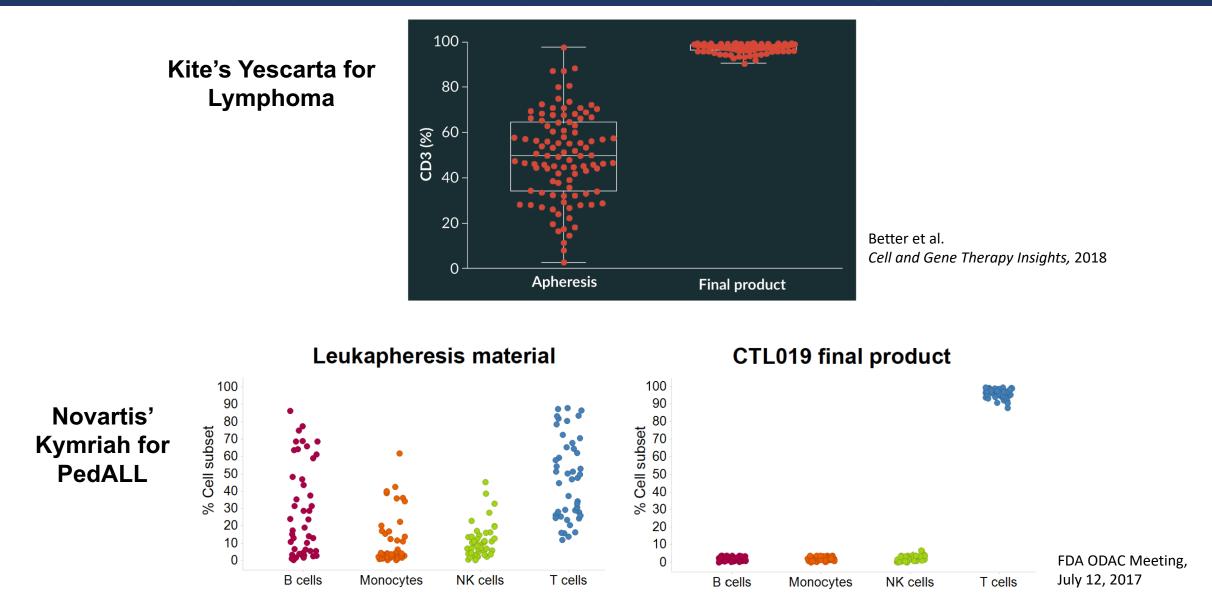
Chang	ge	No Change		Change in Pivotal Portion of Trial
Change (Ordered by Significance, High to Low)	NIH to Kite Pharma (CD19)		UPenn to Novartis (CD19)	
Viral vector source				
T Cell Activation Reagent				
Cell Culture Media				
Cell Culture Duration				
Cell Culture Vessel				
Closed Process				
Cryopreserved Final Product				
Pre-clinical mouse studies required to justify change?	No		No	

- Moving forward, are pre-clinical mouse studies required to justify process changes when transitioning from academic to industrial manufacturing?
- Hundreds of patients have now been treated with CAR-T therapies, worldwide.
- What have we learned about these patient products?

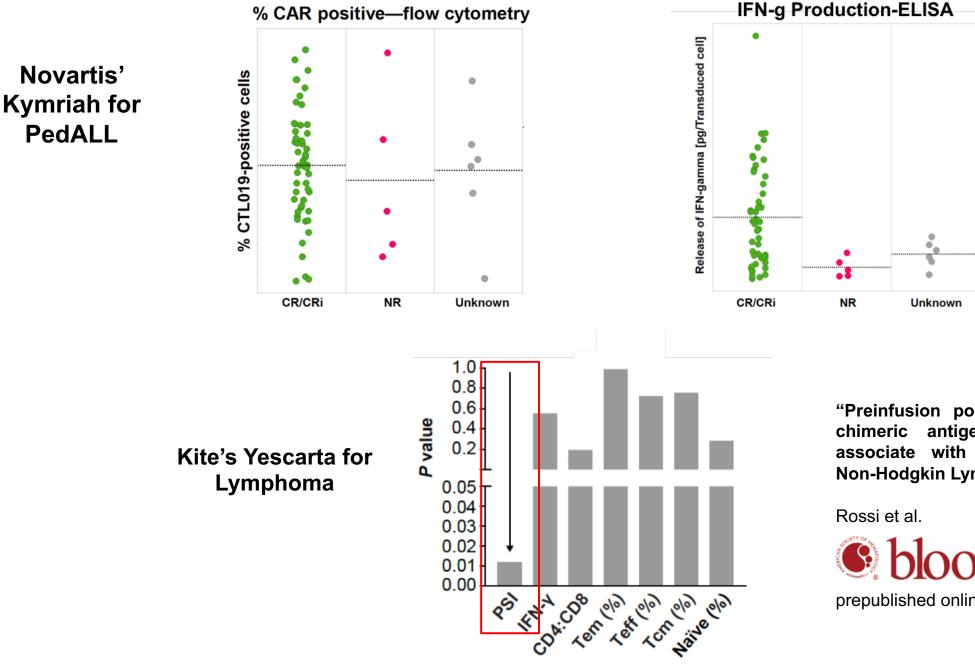
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#### CD19 CAR-T Drug Products Were Routinely Manufactured Despite Heterogeneity in the Apheresis Material



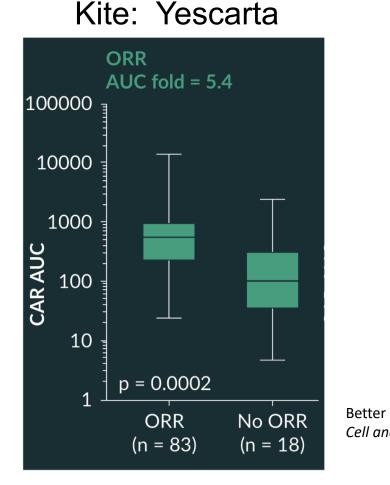
#### Neither the %CD19 CAR+ T Cells Nor IFN-g Production by Final Drug Product Predict Clinical Response



"Preinfusion polyfunctional anti-CD19 chimeric antigen receptor T cells associate with clnical outcomes in Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL)"

prepublished online June 12, 2018

CD19 CAR-T Products from Responders Display Greater In Vivo Cell Expansion Compared to Nonresponders

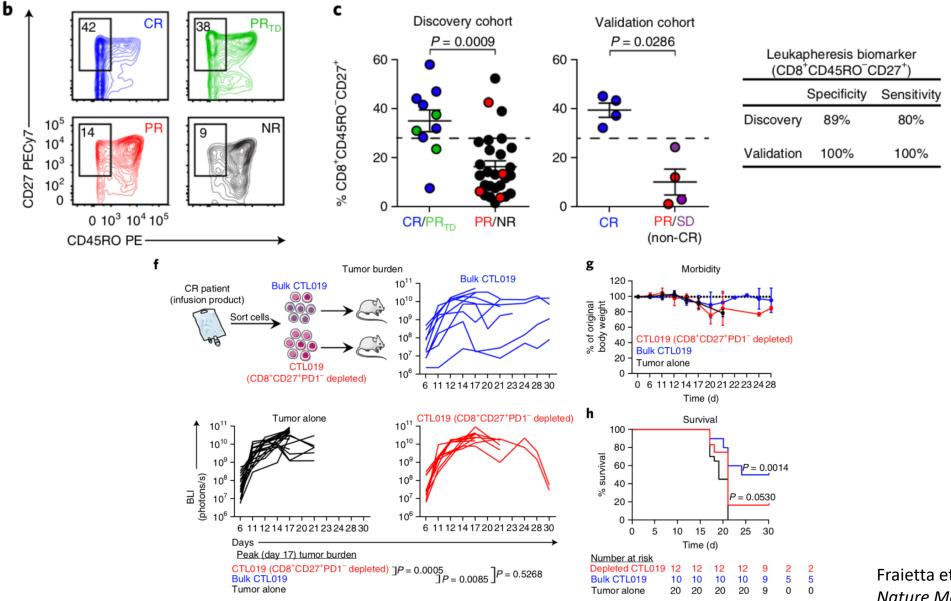


	Responder N=42	Nonresponder N=3
Geometric mean (CV%)		
AUC <sub>0-28d</sub> , copies/µg·day	349,000 (159)	210,000 (152)
C <sub>max</sub> , copies/µg	41,000 (136)	23,500 (110)
Median (range)		
T <sub>max</sub> , days	10 (0-27)	27 (19-63)
T <sub>last</sub> , days	93 (27-366)	68 (29-84)
l. ene Therapy Insights, 2018		FDA ODAC Meeting, July 12, 2017

Novartis: Kymriah

- Novartis: "2-fold higher expansion in responders vs nonresponders and delayed Tmax in nonresponders (Study B2202)."
- Kite: "CAR T cell engraftment/expansion correlates with clinical outcome."
- Can we identify any attributes, earlier in the manufacturing process, that associate with response?

#### Frequency of CD27+ T Cell Subset within Starting Apheresis and Final CD19 CAR-T Drug Product Associates with Clinical Outcome in CLL Patients



Fraietta et al. *Nature Medicine,* 2018

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#### Summary

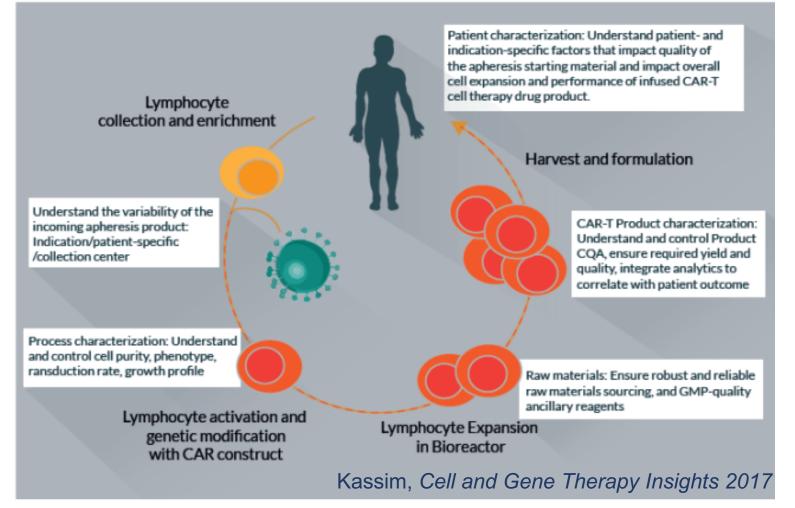
-Current academic CAR T cell manufacturing processes contain common operations that can be simplified and automated to enable scale up and scale out.

-Kite's primary objective was to develop a serum-free, bead-free, closed manufacturing process to enable a multi-center CAR-T trial.

-Novartis' primary objective was to increase automation and minimize raw material/ancillary material changes to enable rapid global scale out of CAR-T trials.

-Integrated analytical characterization throughout the drug development process will enable a more seamless transition of CAR-T therapies from academia to industry.

## The Role of Integrated Analytics in CAR-T Drug Product Development



#### An Integrated Analytical Strategy Can Enable:

- 1) A more seamless transition from academic institutions to industry.
- 2) Reproducible manufacturing.
- 3) Patient selection and improved clinical outcome.