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## Future of Immunotherapy in Breast Cancer

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## Disclosures

Dr Bianchini has received honoraria for consultancy/advisory role/speaker fee from

AstraZeneca, Daichii Sankyo, EISAI, Exact Science, Gilead, Eli Lilly, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Seagen, Menarini/Stemline and Agendia















## Know where you have

# been, where you are now and where you want to be.

Jim Valvano

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## Immunotherapy in Breast Cancer



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# Completed, ongoing and planned trials of immunotherapies in patients with breast cancer



Bianchini G ESMO Breast 2023; Mariani M (submitted manuscript under-review)

### ICI monotherapy in (poorly selected) breast cancer patients is active, but it is not effective



Bianchini G Nature Rev Clin Oncol 2022

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# Immunotherapy in advanced TNBC (only for "PD-L1" positive tumors)





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## Breast cancer is an ecosystem resulting from the co-evolution of cancer-cell and the tumor microenvironment



#### Tumor/immune co-evolution as integrated system

Cancer cell

CD274 gain/amp	LAR
gBRCA2mut	
	Mesenchymal
JAK/STAT signaling	
Ras/MAPK pathway	Basal-like
Low	
	TP53mut or
High	17p loss
High	
Clonal heterogeneity	
SCNAs	
	G GBECAM
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## Implication of tumor/immune co-evolution



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Bianchini G Nature Rev Clin Oncol 2022

<sup>1</sup>Emens L JAMA Oncol 2018; <sup>2</sup>Adams S Ann Oncol 2019; <sup>3</sup>Cortes J ESMO LBA21; <sup>4</sup>Adams S Ann Oncol 2019

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### Neoadjuvant immunotherapy in TNBC: transformative



#### Neoadjuvant vs adjuvant chemotherapy: different approaches with similar results



#### Neoadjuvant immunotherapy: different therapies with different results



#### Neoadjuvant vs adjuvant immunotherapy

Pembrolizumab-chemotherapy

And in case of the local division of the loc

30 33 36

(n=1098)

112 (10.2)

27 30 33

SAN ANTONIO BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM

AAC

Placebo-chemotherapy

39 42 45 48 51

42

APOID

0

Schmid P NEJM 2022

**NEGATIVE** 

0

Ignatiadis M SABCS 2023

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#### Neoadjuvant vs adjuvant immunotherapy in advanced melanoma



## Immunotherapy in Breast Cancer



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## Landscape of anti-PD-1/anti-PD-L1 combination strategies IN TNBC



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Bianchini G Nat Rev Clin Oncol 2022 (Updated 14 April 2023 (ClinicalTrials.gov)); Bianchini G ESMO Breast 2023

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#### Neoadjuvant pembrolizumab and nivolumab in grade 3 ER+/HER2breast cancers



Cł

Some promising results also in HER2-positive breast cancer (e.g KATE-2, APTneo)



### Landscape of anti-PD-1/anti-PD-L1 combinations in HER2-positive and ER+/HER2- Breast Cancer

#### **HER2-positive** HR-positive/HER2-negative Radiotherapy and cryoablation Immunotherapies Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiosurgery Intra-lesional GM-CSF and imiguimod Radiotherany and cryoablation Chemotherapy Immunotherapies Brain radiotherapy or Stereotactic Paclitaxel Cryoablation Talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC) Intra-lesional GM-CSF and imiquimod Nab-paclitaxe Microwave ablation **TOO MUCH OF A** Carboplatin Cisplatin Docetaxel Local thera Doxon ubicin cal therapy Eninubicin Pegylated liposomal doxorubicir Antiangiogenetic Antiangiogenetic Gemcitabine Chemotherapy Bevacizumab Anti-PD-1 Capecitabine Anti-PD-1 Eribulin Anti-PD-L' Cyclophosphamide nti-PD-L1 5-fluorouracil Targeted therapy Vinorelbine Immunotherapy T-cell targeted Adoptive T cell therapy Molecular target therapies PARP inhibitors Can immunomodulator Trastuzumab Niraparib Autol Anti-CTLA4 Pertuzumab GM-C Immunomodulators Pyrotinib Antibody drug conjugates Vacci Cancer experts debate whether there's a glut of immunotherapy trials Oncolytic virus Inetetamab Reco TDM-1 Hydroxychloroquine Tucatinih vacci Cancer vaccine Trastuzumah deruxtecan Imprime PGG Kaiser C Science 2018 MEK inhibitors Autologous whole cell cancer GM-CSF gene-transfected breast cancer vaccine AKT inhibitors Histone deacetylase inhibitors MDM2 antagonist Multi-TKle

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PI3K inhibitors

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Mariani M (personal data, manuscript under-review)

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## The Achilles' heel of immunotherapy and immunotherapy combinations



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#### Cases and fatality rates



## Fatal irAEs: rare but real

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Champiat et al Ann Oncol 2016; Wang et al, JAMA Oncology 2018; Bianchini G ESMO Breast 2023

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# Combination trials with PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors explosion: do we follow a rationale?

"Too many of the combinations we see in the clinic are being conducted with noses held or eyes closed," says Ira Mellman, vice-president of cancer immunology at Genentech. "We just don't know enough about the basic mechanisms."

Weitraub K Nature 2017

"Many seem to be tried simply because they are possible to do or the agents are available"

Kaiser C Science 2018

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#### **Synerigstic effect of ADC - ICIs combination**

Enfortunab Vendotin + Pembro (mUC)





Powles T ESMO 2023; Powels T NEJM 2023

#### Datopotamab Deruxtecan + Durva (mTNBC)

#### Sacituzumab Govitecan + Pembro (mUC)



## Very strong rationale for ICI/ADCs combinations



APC, antigen-presenting cell; CTL, cytotoxic T lymphocyte; PD-1, programmed cell death-1; PD-L1, programmed death-ligand 1.



PD-1/PD-L1 pathway is a key mechanism of immune resistance **Effector phase** TUMOUR MICROENVIRONMENT Activated Tumour T cel cell мнс Activated PD-L1 Tumour T cel cell Anti-PD1/Anti-PD-L1

Anti-PD1/PD-L1 restores anti-tumour T-cell activity by targeting PD-L1 on tumour cells and tumour-infiltrating immune cells

Chen DS & Mellman I. Immunity 2013; Bianchini G & Gianni L. Lancet Oncol 2014; Herbst RS, et al. Nature 2014



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#### What about re-challenge with ICI?



### **Antiangiogenic and ICI in metastatic TNBC**

Paclitaxel)

**FUTURE-C-Plus** 

(Camrelizumab, Famitinib and Nab-



Wu SY Molecular cancer 2022; Chen L Clin Cancer Res 2022 ATRACTINIB trial (Atezolizumab, bevacizumab, paclitaxel)









Gion M SABCS 2023

## Emerging combination strategies in immuno-oncology















## Personalised mRNA therapeutic VACCINE

#### **KEYNOTE-942**

#### mRNA-4157 vaccine

It is a **personalised mRNA therapeutic created on demand** and encoding up to 34 neoantigens present in each patient's tumour





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Weber JS Lancet 2024

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### **Fecal microbiota transplantation**



https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-023-02453-x

#### Fecal microbiota transplantation plus anti-PD-1 immunotherapy in advanced melanoma: a phase I trial



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Routry B Nature Medicine 2023

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Blake SJ Nature Rev Immunology 2023

### Unintended and under-recognized IMMUNE-MODULATORS



## Urgent need Precision Immunology















#### Urgent need for precision immunology: tailoring immunotherapy on individual cancer immunogram



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Bianchini G Nat Rev Clin Oncol 2022 Licata L The Breast 2023



#### NeoTRIP trial results (NCT02620280), sample collection and imaging mass cytometry (IMC) assessment



Carboplatin (AUC2) + *nab*-paclitaxel (125 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) weekly for 2 wks every 3; 8 cy; Atezolizumab (1200 mg) day 1 every 3 wks for 8 cycles (§) Results in the Per-Protocol-Population (Bianchini G ESMO 2020 LBA13, Bianchini ESMO 2021 LBA11)

IMC: Imaging Mass Cytometry; PPP: Per-protocol-population (patients evaluable for pCR) Bianchini G SABCS 2021; Gianni L Ann Oncol 2022; Wang XQ Nature 2023

### Single-cell information with spatial resolution Cell phenotypes



Epithelial	ТМЕ		
CK8/18 <sup>med</sup>	CD8⁺ T	Neutrophils	
CK <sup>lo</sup> GATA3⁺	CD8 <sup>+</sup> GZMB <sup>+</sup> T	PD–L1 <sup>+</sup> APCs	
panCK <sup>med</sup>	CD8 <sup>+</sup> TCF1 <sup>+</sup> T	PD-L1 <sup>+</sup> IDO <sup>+</sup> APCs	
Basal	CD8 <sup>+</sup> PD1 <sup>+</sup> T <sub>Ex</sub>	Endothelial	
Vimentin <sup>+</sup> EMT	CD4 <sup>+</sup> TCF1 <sup>+</sup> T	Fibroblasts	
CD15 <sup>+</sup>	CD4 <sup>+</sup> PD1 <sup>+</sup> T	Myofibroblasts	
pH2AX⁺ DSB	Treg	PDPN <sup>+</sup> Stromal	
Apoptosis	CD20 <sup>+</sup> B		
MHC I&II <sup>hi</sup>	CD79a <sup>+</sup> Plasma		
PD-L1 <sup>+</sup> IDO <sup>+</sup>	CD56 <sup>+</sup> NK		
PD–L1 <sup>+</sup> GZMB <sup>+</sup>	M2 Mac		
TCF1 <sup>+</sup>	DCs		

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Bianchini G SABCS 2021; Wang XQ Nature 2023

### Association between proliferation fraction of immune cell phenotypes



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Wang XQ Nature 2023

## High CD8+TCF1+Ki67+ density linked to increased EFS by atezolizumab/CT combination

Exploratory analysis



# Urgent need for new surrogate markers















# Hurdle in immunotherapy drug development: high rate of false positive/negative results











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## surrogate endopoints developed for chemo/target therapy inadequate and misleading for immuno-oncology

**Surrogate endopints** (pCR, ORR, PFS) developed for chemotherapy/targeted therapy are inadequate and misleading for Immuno-Oncology



Is pCR rate really informative?

Urgent need to define "biological surrogate markers" (TCR clonality, immune modulation, ctDNA dynamic) to directly assess an effective immune engagement

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## Genomics is static; the immune system is dynamic













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# Anthracycline elicit a stronger immunomodulatory effect in "immune low" (PD-L1 neg) tumors



## Possible benefit from atezolizumab combined to anthracyclines in PD-L1 neg aTNBC

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-022-02126-1

nature medicine

Article

Atezolizumab plus anthracycline-based chemotherapy in metastatic triple-negative breast cancer: the randomized, double-blind phase 2b ALICE trial





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# Dogma to be challanged: ICIs are effective only in PD-L1-positive aTNBC









## What's on the horizon of immunotherapy for BC? The best is yet to come