



# Training the Immune System to Fight Cancer

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NASDAQ: SNSE



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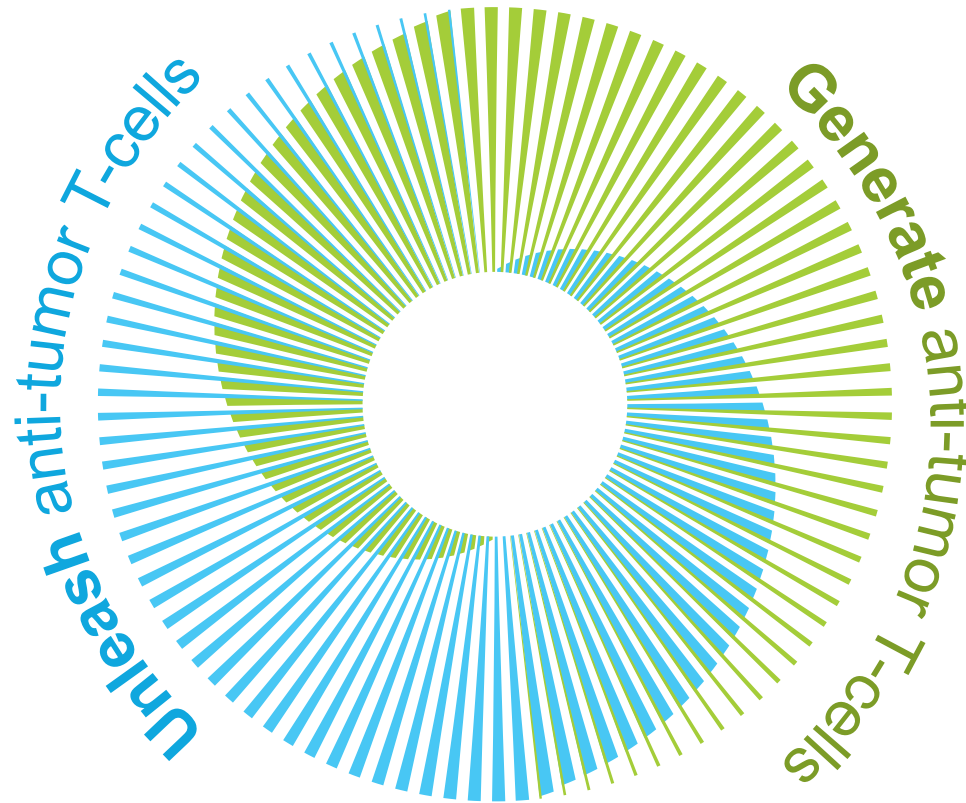
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# Two Platforms to Unleash Anti-Cancer T-cell Activity



## TMAb™ (Tumor Microenvironment Activated Biologics) Platform

- Next-generation tumor activated mAbs
- Binding only in the low-pH tumor microenvironment
- Target checkpoints and/or other immune pathways
- Enable improved PK/PD and toxicity profiles

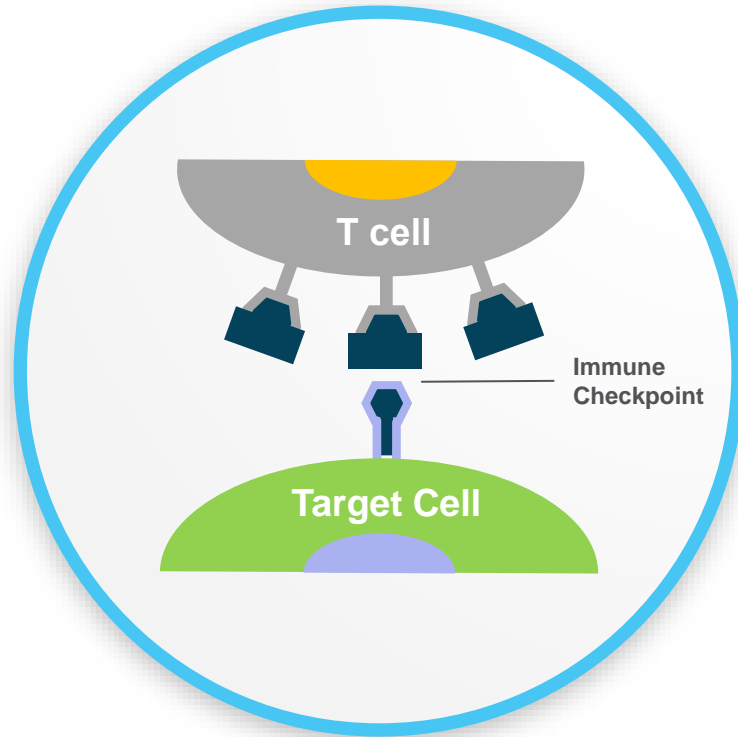


## ImmunoPhage™ Platform

- Powerfully self-adjuvanted nanoparticle vaccine can drive B cell and T cell responses
- Multi-antigen vaccine enables personalized approach from “off-the-shelf” components
- Targets APCs
- Enhanced through addition of immunostimulatory nanobodies & cytokines

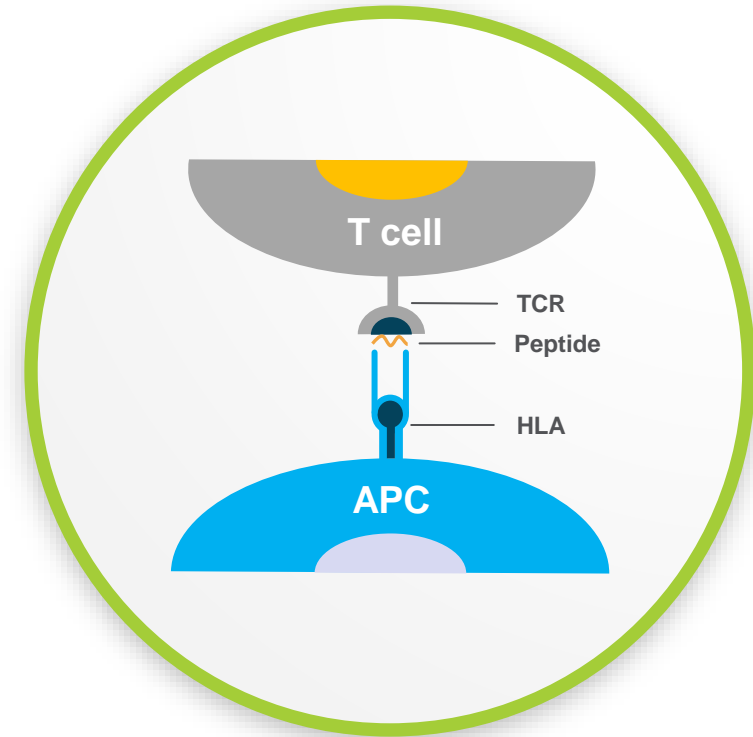
# T-Cells Are Central to Our Approach and the Key to Unlocking Groundbreaking Clinical Activity

## TMAb



Focus on novel immune checkpoints to  
**UNLEASH** anti-tumor T-cells

## ImmunoPhage™



Focus on multi-antigen approach for HLA-  
mediated immunotherapy to **GENERATE**  
anti-tumor T-cells



# Positioned to Drive Value with Next Generation Product & Platform Development



**Two Platforms Provide Broad Pipeline Opportunities**

**TMAb\*  
Platform**

**ImmunoPhage™  
Platform**

**In-house GMP  
manufacturing  
capabilities**



**Strong Cash Position**


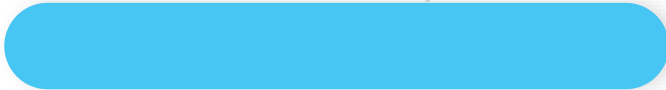
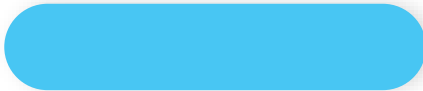








**Business Development**

\*Tumor Microenvironment Activated biologics

# Pipeline Utilizing Pioneering ImmunoPhage Platform, TMAb Platform



	Program (Target)	Indication	Discovery	IND-enabling	Phase 1 / 2 Clinical
 TMAb	SNS-101 (VISTA)	Solid Tumors			
	SNS-VSIG4	Solid Tumors			
 ImmunoPhage	SNS-401-NG (Multiple Tumor Antigens)	Merkel Cell Carcinoma			
		Head and Neck Cancer			
		Lung Cancer			
		Melanoma			
		Breast Cancer			

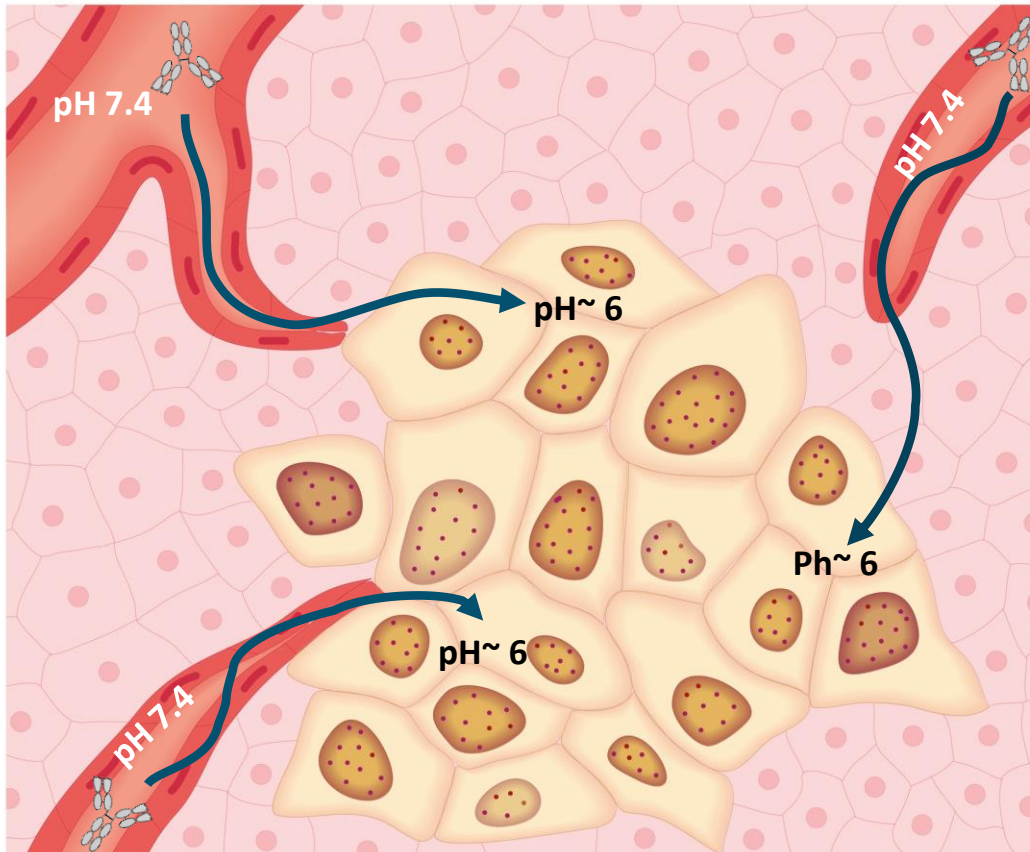
# TMAb (Tumor Microenvironment Activated biologics) Platform



# pH-sensitive Antibodies Only Bind their Targets in the Low-pH Tumor Microenvironment

## TMAb PLATFORM

The tumor microenvironment of pH ~6 is lower than physiological pH of 7.4



Sensei's technology identifies pH-sensitive antibodies that bind only at the tumor

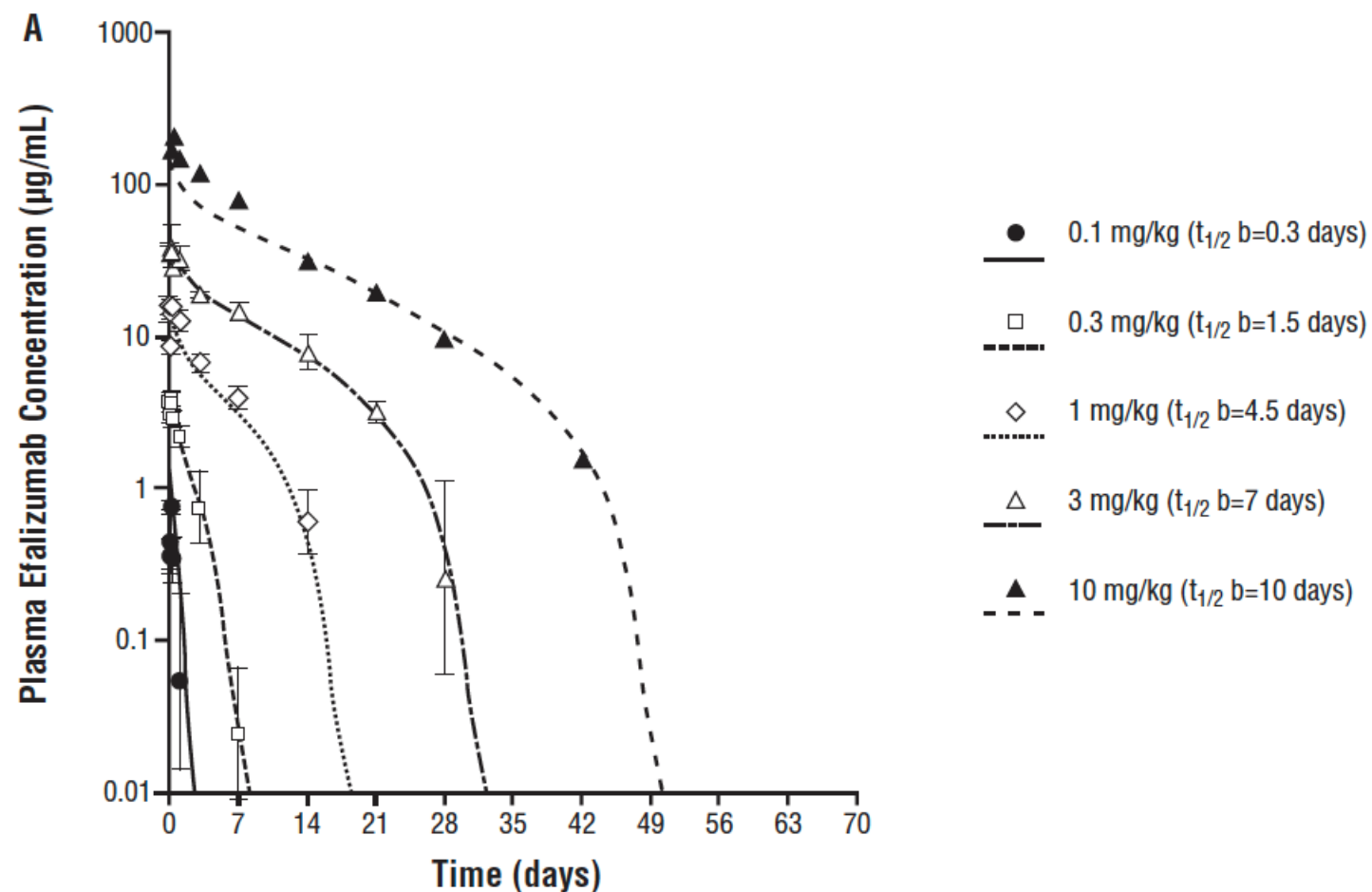
- Antibodies that bind at physiological pH may encounter a “sink”
  - Prevents effective binding at the tumor and may lead to toxicity
- TMAb antibodies bypass tissue compartments other than the low-pH tumor microenvironment
- Potential for improved safety and clinical activity profile



# Why a pH-sensitive Antibody is Important

## TMAb Platform

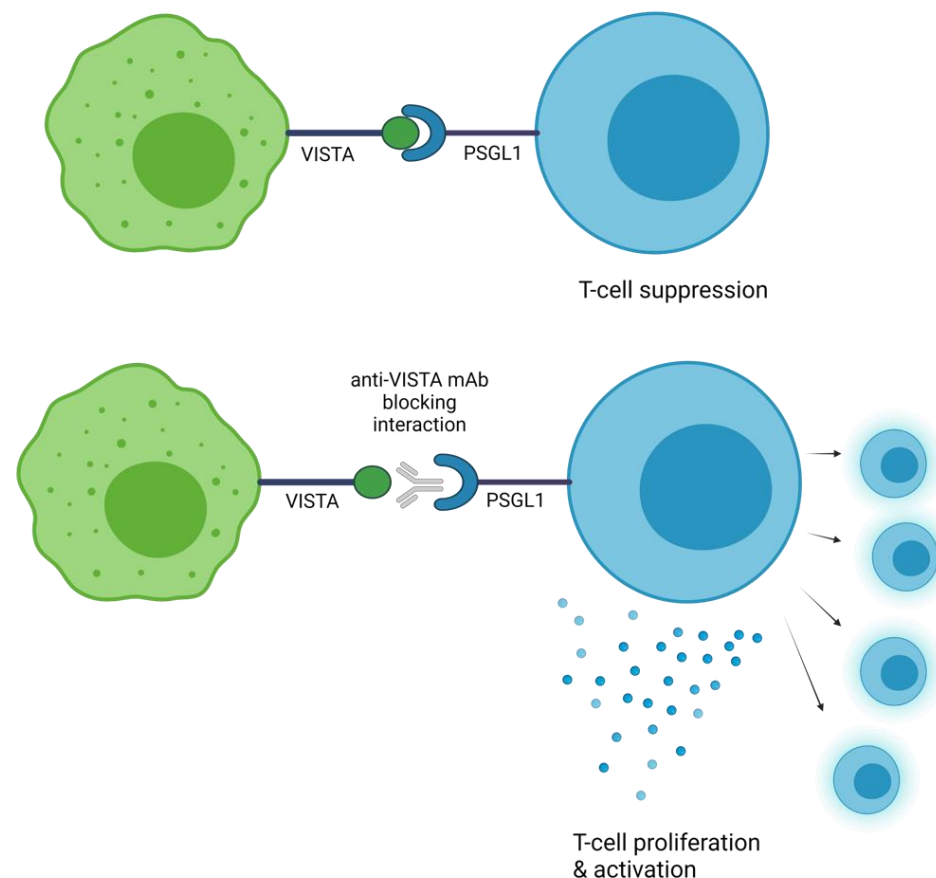
- Antibodies that bind at physiological pH may result in rapid elimination from circulation through targeted-mediated drug disposition (TMDD)
- In such cases, efficacious drug occupancy levels may be difficult to reach, potentially narrowing the therapeutic window



# VISTA: An Emerging Checkpoint Target on Myeloid Cells

- First TMAb™ program against VISTA
- B7 family ligand
- Expressed on myeloid cells, macrophages, NK cells and T-regs<sup>1</sup>
- Inhibition of VISTA may lead to activation of myeloid cells
- Excellent therapeutic combinability with CTLA-4 or PD-1/PD-L1 ICIs, especially in cold tumors<sup>2</sup>
- VISTA expression correlates with poor survival rates across multiple cancers
- **Novel development program with no approved therapies**

## VISTA is a Negative Regulator of T cell Function



<sup>1</sup> Lines et al. Cancer research vol. 74,7 (2014)

<sup>2</sup> Gao et al. Nature medicine vol. 23,5 (2017)

# Increased Understanding of VISTA as a Promising Target to Address the Needs of Patients with Cancer



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## BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

### VISTA is an inhibitory immune checkpoint that is increased after ipilimumab therapy in patients with prostate cancer

Jianjun Gao<sup>1</sup>, John F Ward<sup>2</sup>, Curtis A Pettaway<sup>3</sup>, Lewis Z Shi<sup>1</sup>, Sumit K Subudhi<sup>1</sup>, Luis M Vence<sup>4</sup>, Hao Zhao<sup>5</sup>, Jianfeng Chen<sup>1</sup>, Hong Chen<sup>6</sup>, Eloni Hristova<sup>7</sup>, Patricia Troncoso<sup>8</sup>, James P Allison<sup>9,10</sup>, Christopher J Logothetis<sup>1</sup>, Ignacio I Wistuba<sup>6</sup>, Manuel A Sepulveda<sup>2</sup>, Jingjing Sun<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer Wargo<sup>9</sup>, Jorge Blando<sup>9</sup> & Padmanee Sharma<sup>1,11</sup>

To date, anti-CTLA-4 (ipilimumab) or anti-PD-1 (nivolumab) monotherapy has not been demonstrated to be of substantial clinical benefit in patients with prostate cancer. To identify additional immune-inhibitory pathways in the prostate-tumor microenvironment, we evaluated untreated and ipilimumab-treated tumors from patients in a presurgical clinical trial. Levels of the PD-L1 and VISTA inhibitory molecules increased on independent subsets of macrophages in treated tumors. Our data suggest that VISTA represents another compensatory inhibitory pathway in prostate tumors after ipilimumab therapy.

Immune checkpoint therapies, including anti-CTLA-4 and anti-PD-1 therapies, that block T cell inhibitory pathways have led to durable antitumor responses and clinical benefit in a substantial number of patients with cancer<sup>1,2</sup>. However, prostate cancer has proven to be poorly responsive to immune checkpoint monotherapy<sup>3–5</sup>. To better understand the immune profile within prostate tumors and potential compensatory immune-inhibitory pathways that may arise in the setting of immune checkpoint monotherapy, we conducted a clinical trial (NCT01194271) with ipilimumab plus androgen-deprivation therapy (ADT) before surgery in patients with localized prostate cancer (Supplementary Fig. 1a–c and Supplementary Tables 1 and 2).

We compared post-treatment and baseline blood samples (Supplementary Fig. 1a), evaluating the levels of CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells (Supplementary Fig. 2a), as well as those of T cell subsets expressing inducible costimulator (ICOS), OX40, 4-1BB, PD-1, CTLA-4, and FoxP3 (Supplementary Fig. 2a,b). We observed an increase in CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, including PD-1<sup>+</sup> and ICOS<sup>+</sup> subsets, after ipilimumab therapy, which is similar to our previous findings with ipilimumab monotherapy in patients with melanoma

and bladder cancer<sup>6–8</sup>. We also compared post-treatment tumor tissues (Supplementary Fig. 1a) to those of stage-matched untreated tumors from another cohort of patients (Supplementary Fig. 1b). Flow cytometric studies revealed a significantly higher frequency of CD4<sup>+</sup>, CD8<sup>+</sup>, and ICOS<sup>+</sup> T cells in the post-treatment tumors (Fig. 1a). Immunohistochemical (IHC) studies also demonstrated significant increases in tumor-infiltrating immune cells, including CD4<sup>+</sup>, CD8<sup>+</sup>, ICOS<sup>+</sup>, CD45RO<sup>+</sup>, granzyme-B (GrB)<sup>+</sup>, and CD68<sup>+</sup> cells (Supplementary Fig. 3). We found significantly greater immune cell infiltration in prostate tumors after ipilimumab therapy but not after ADT alone, although ADT monotherapy was associated with significantly higher levels of ICOS<sup>+</sup> and GrB<sup>+</sup> cells, which may represent an activated T cell subset (Fig. 1b). Taken together, our data suggest that the immunologic changes in post-treatment tumors were mostly due to ipilimumab therapy, as opposed to ADT. However, we cannot discount a possible synergistic effect between ipilimumab and ADT. We did not observe clinical responses consisting of pathologic complete response, as we did previously for patients with bladder cancer<sup>8</sup>. To identify potential mechanisms that might explain this lack of response, we performed an unbiased gene expression study and found that ipilimumab therapy resulted in significant changes in the expression of a total of 690 genes (false discovery rate (FDR) <0.2;  $P < 0.028$ ; log<sub>2</sub> (fold change) > 0.5) (Supplementary Table 3), most of which are related to immune responses (Supplementary Fig. 4a). We focused our analyses on a subset of genes that represent inhibitory immune checkpoints and identified increased PD-L1 and VISTA expression in post-treatment tumors (Supplementary Fig. 4b). Both PD-L1 and VISTA were previously reported as inhibitory molecules that can suppress murine and human T cell responses<sup>9,10</sup>. Here we found significantly greater protein expression of PD-1, PD-L1, and VISTA in prostate tumors after ipilimumab therapy (Fig. 1c and Supplementary Fig. 5a).

We also evaluated metastatic tumors and blood samples from patients with metastatic prostate cancer who took part in a separate clinical trial (NCT02113657) and received treatment with ipilimumab, finding an increase in PD-L1 and VISTA expression in tumor tissues (Supplementary Fig. 5b) as well as on monocytes in blood (Supplementary Fig. 6a), which was similar to data from a mouse model of prostate cancer (Supplementary Fig. 6b). We suggest that PD-L1 and VISTA are likely to be relevant inhibitory immune checkpoints in both localized and metastatic prostate cancer.

We evaluated PD-L1 and VISTA expression in different cell subtypes from matched pre- and post-treatment prostate tumors and observed significantly higher PD-L1 expression on CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells, CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, and CD68<sup>+</sup> macrophages after treatment (Supplementary Fig. 7a).

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## Feature Review

### VISTA: A Mediator of Quiescence and a Promising Target in Cancer Immunotherapy

Long Yuan,<sup>1,2</sup> Jahnvi Tatineni,<sup>2</sup> Kathleen M. Mahoney,<sup>2,3</sup> and Gordon J. Freeman<sup>2,4\*</sup>

V-domain Ig suppressor of T cell activation (VISTA) is a B7 family member that maintains T cell and myeloid quiescence and is a promising target for combination cancer immunotherapy. During inflammatory challenges, VISTA activity reprograms macrophages towards reduced production of proinflammatory cytokines and increased production of interleukin (IL)-10 and other anti-inflammatory mediators. The interaction of VISTA with its ligands is regulated by pH, and the acidic pH ~6.0 in the tumor microenvironment (TME) facilitates VISTA binding to P-selectin glycoprotein ligand 1 (PSGL-1). Targeting intratumoral pH might be a way to reduce the immunoinhibitory activity of the VISTA pathway and enhance antitumor immune responses. We review differences among VISTA therapeutics under development as candidate immunotherapies, focusing on VISTA binding partners and the unique structural features of this interaction.

**VISTA: How This B7 Protein Might Transform Cancer Immunotherapy** Immunotherapy has become an established pillar of cancer treatment, in large part owing to the success of blocking the programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1)/programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) immune checkpoint (see Glossary) pathway. As recent research deepens our understanding of V-domain Ig suppressor of T cell activation (VISTA), the VISTA signaling pathway has increasingly become a promising target for overcoming resistance to current immune checkpoint therapies [1]. Although the development of VISTA blocking antibodies has not reached fruition clinically, this review highlights the new features of VISTA that make this pathway particularly attractive for therapeutic development. We discuss (i) VISTA expression on immune cells in the tumor microenvironment (TME), (ii) the biological functions and bidirectional signaling pathways of VISTA in mammalian lymphocytes and myeloid cells, (iii) the structural features of VISTA that contribute to its molecular interactions, (iv) current VISTA monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) that are in clinical development, and (v) the candidate druggable targets that regulate the pH of the TME and which in turn might affect VISTA activity in vivo. This review gives a detailed picture of VISTA structure in the context of its binding partners and therapeutic antibodies targeting VISTA.

**VISTA Structure** VISTA, also known as PD-1H, B7-H5, Diest1, G24, DD10, and C10orf54, is encoded by the VSIF gene in human (Vslr in mouse) and has multiple unique features, including its interaction with two receptors that bind to overlapping but distinct sites on the VISTA extracellular domain (ECD) [2–4]. VISTA is a type I transmembrane protein that was identified by mRNA analysis of activated versus resting mouse natural regulatory T cells (Tregs) [5] and also by homology to coinhibitory molecules such as PD-1 [6]. VISTA bears features of both the B7 and CD28 families of immunoregulatory molecules and can act as both a ligand and a receptor [3, 7, 8]. The VISTA ECD is most homologous to the B7 family, which includes well-known immune checkpoint ligands such as PD-L1 (Figure 1c). Whereas other B7 family members have an IgV-like and IgC-like domain, mouse and human VISTA contain a single unusually large IgV-like domain (Figure 1a) [2]. VISTA

**Highlights** V-domain Ig suppressor of T cell activation (VISTA) binds to V-set and Ig domain-containing 3 (VSG3) and P-selectin glycoprotein ligand 1 (PSGL-1) ligands, and signaling may be bidirectional.

VISTA binds to PSGL-1 at acidic pH, such as in the tumor microenvironment (TME), but not at physiological pH.

VISTA activity imposes quiescence on mammalian myeloid and naive T cells, and inhibits T cell activation and cytokine production. It can promote peripheral tolerance via enhanced activation-induced T cell death.

VISTA is particularly upregulated on myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) via hypoxia, and can contribute to the immunosuppressive functions of myeloid cells by reducing Toll-like receptor (TLR) signaling and cell migration, as well as by reprogramming myeloid cells towards reduced production of the proinflammatory cytokines interleukin (IL)-6, tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- $\alpha$ , and IL-12, and increased production of IL-10 and other anti-inflammatory mediators.

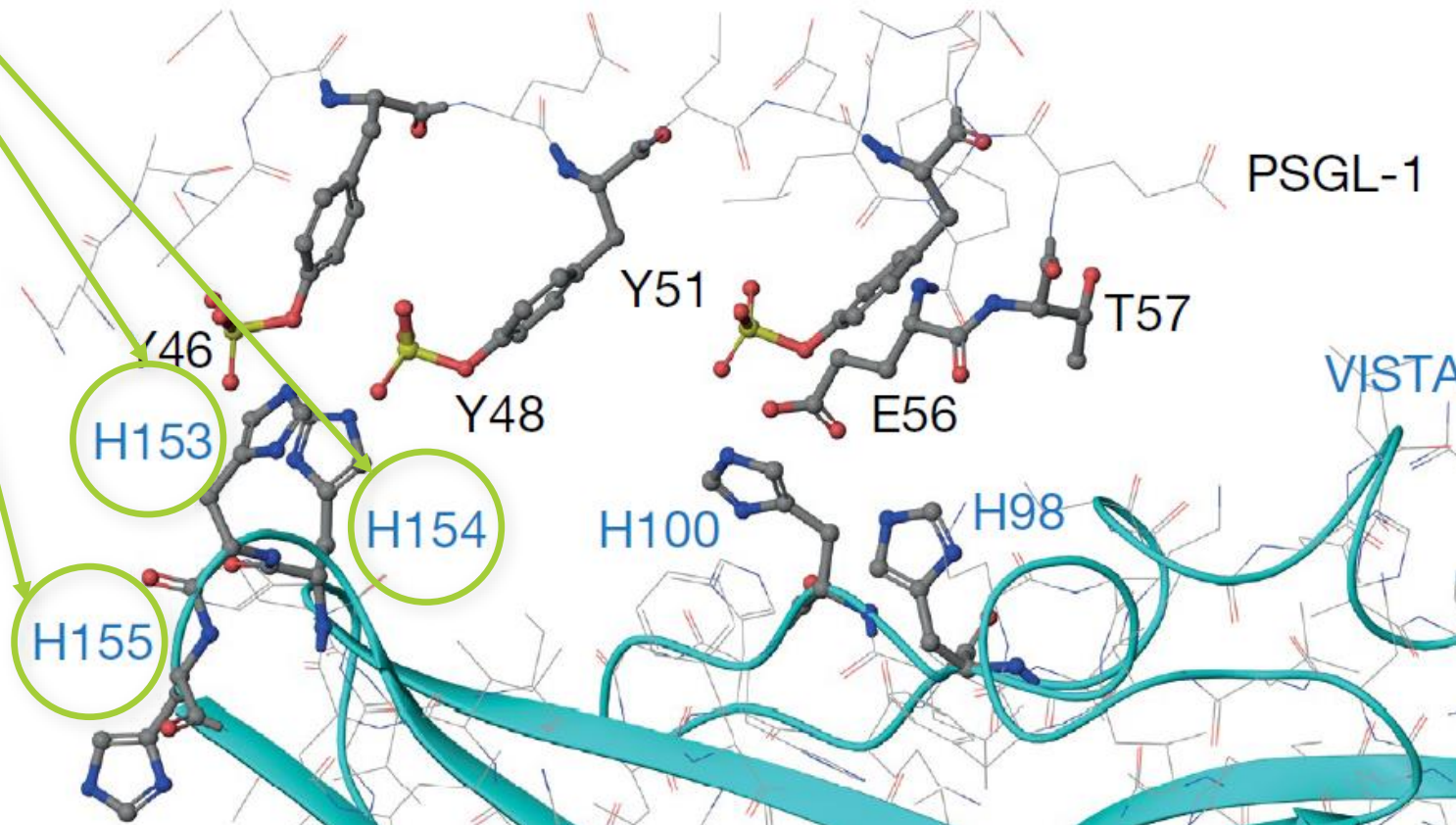
Antagonistic VISTA antibodies are in clinical development for treating some cancers; drugs that target the acidity of the TME might reduce immunoinhibitory activity in acidic niches and combine well with VISTA or checkpoint blockade therapies.





# VISTA Checkpoint is Activated at the Low pH of the Tumor Microenvironment

Antibodies that block VISTA histidines:  
H153, H154 and H155 on interrupt  
PSGL-1 binding<sup>1</sup>



VISTA's extracellular domain is uniquely rich in histidines<sup>1</sup>

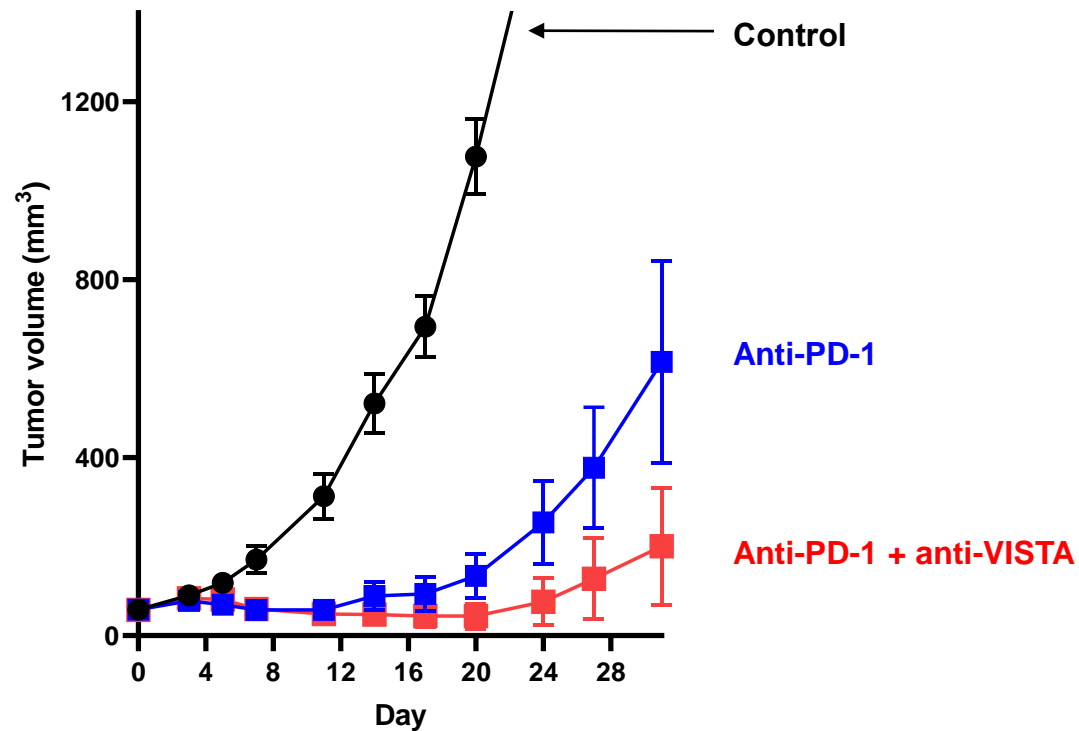
Histidines are protonated at low pH enabling VISTA to distinguish the active (acidic pH) and inactive (neutral pH) PSGL-1 binding interface



# pH-Sensitive Anti-VISTA Antibodies Showed Positive Results *In Vivo*



## Sensei Anti-VISTA Parental mAb Tumor Growth of MC38 in Hu VISTA Knock-in Mice



Dosing: 14d @ 20mpk q3d

## SNS-101 is pH-Sensitive


	pH 6.0	pH 7.4
Monovalent Affinity ( $K_D$ ) [nM]	0.218	132 (~No binding)

- >600-fold selectivity for pH 6.0
- Significant binding occurs at low pH
- No significant binding observed at physiological pH (7.4)

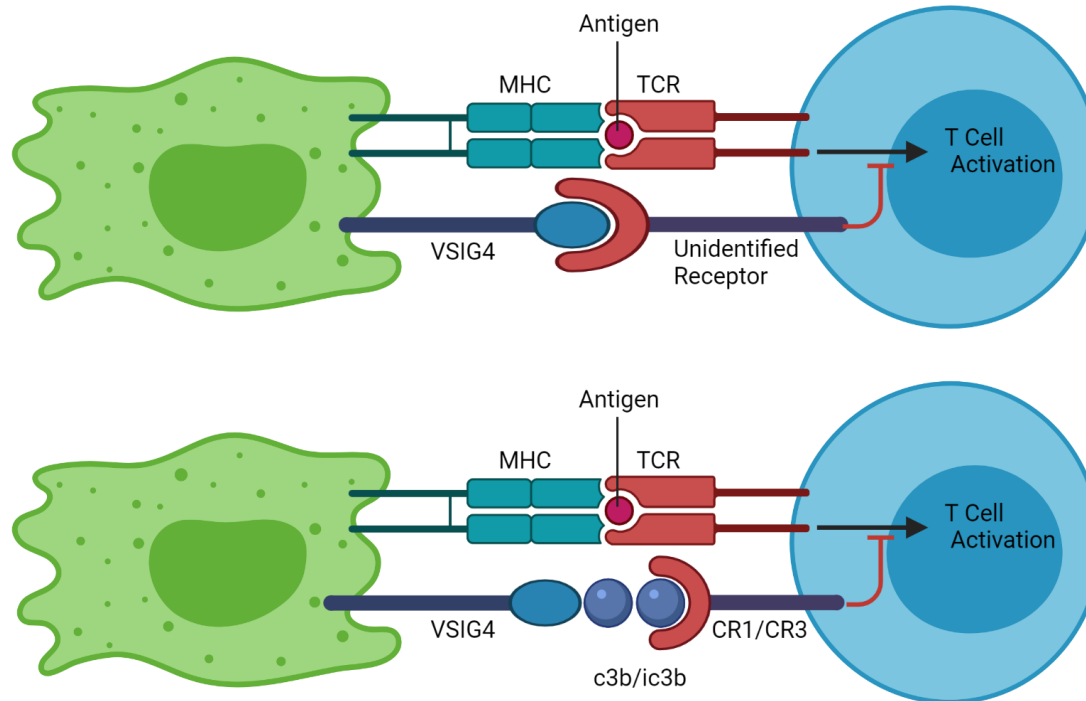
# Anti-VISTA Programs in Development



## TMAb Platform

		BMS	Kineta	CI-8993 (formerly JNJ-61610588)	PF-W0180	HMBD-002
pH Sensitivity	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Stage	Preclinical	Preclinical	Preclinical	Phase I	Phase I	Phase I
Clinical Data / Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preclinical data to be presented by year-end 2021</li> <li>IND-enabling studies to initiate by year-end 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JNJ initiated Phase I study in 2016</li> <li>12 pts enrolled; initial dose was 0.005 mg/kg</li> <li>Only patient treated at 0.3 mg/kg experienced grade 3 CRS-associated encephalopathy and trial was halted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing; no data reported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing; no data reported</li> </ul>

# VSIG4: A Novel Next Generation Checkpoint Modulating the Tumor Microenvironment



*No approved therapies against VSIG4*

- Second TMAb program
- B7 family related protein
- Expressed on macrophages
- Inhibits T-cell activation
- Novel therapeutic combinability with existing IO drugs

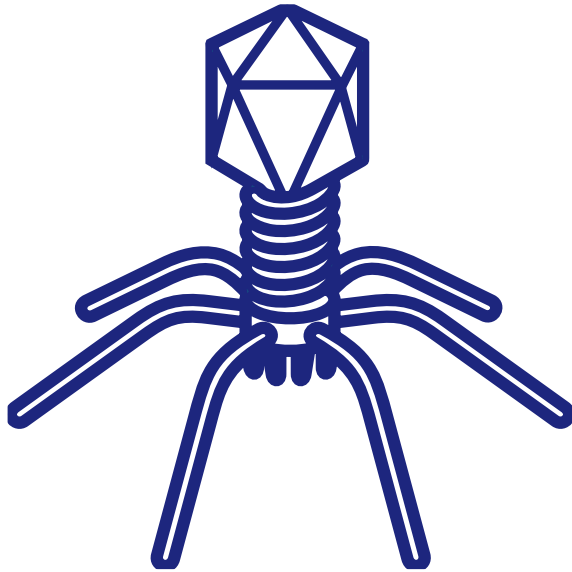
# ImmunoPhage™ Platform





# Bacteriophage

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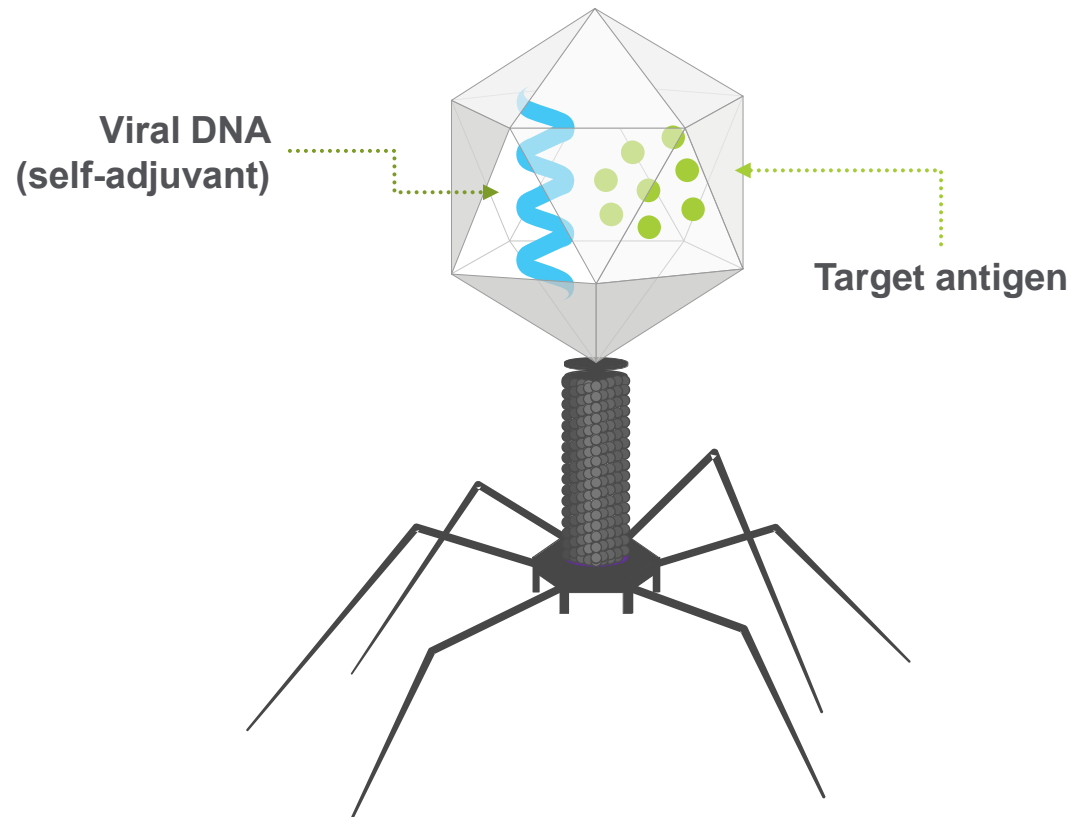


*Ubiquitous viruses that infect bacteria but not mammalian cells. Adept at activating the human immune system in multiple unique ways*

# Generating Strong Antibody and T-cell Responses

## ImmunoPhage Platform

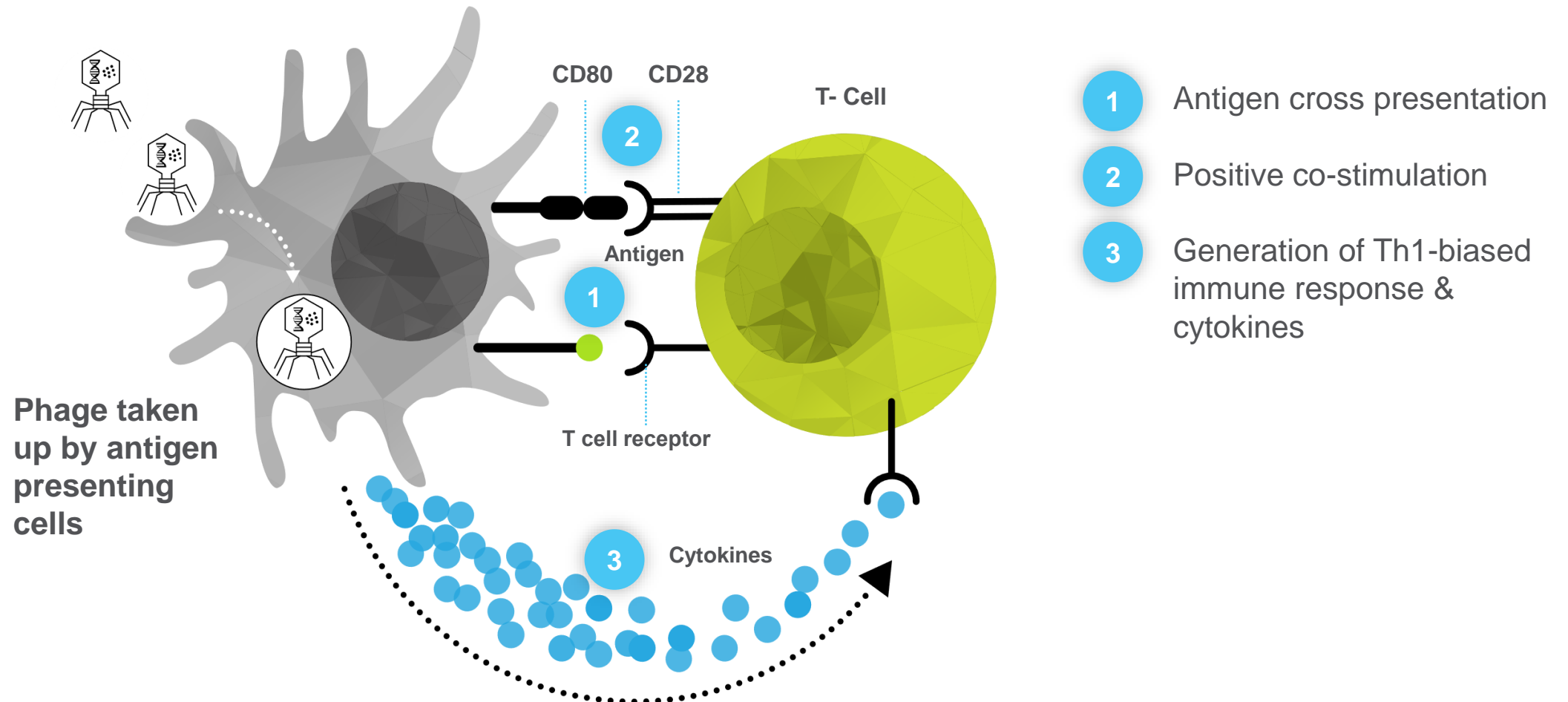
Bacteriophage virus is engineered and manufactured with both antigen and immune stimulatory viral DNA



The **ImmunoPhage™** bacteriophage is an icosahedron with a tail. This configuration can be viewed as an activating signal to the immune system

# Generating Strong Antibody and T-cell Responses

*ImmunoPhages* are taken-up by APCs and deliver three critical signals required to drive activation of T cells.



# ImmunoPhage™ A Multi-Pronged Approach to Address the Complexities of Cancer



Our **ImmunoPhages** can mount a multi-modal attack on cancer, combining the benefits of a traditional vaccine with localized gene therapy

## Targeted therapeutic vaccine

- MHC-mediated immunity
- Bacteriophage have natural tropism for APCs
- Can be further targeted to APCs with non-antigen capsid modifications



## Phortress™ library

- Personalized - yet off the shelf - medicines
- Pre-manufactured cost effectively - then combined based on genetic profile

## Gene therapy vehicle

- Phage containing self-replicating RNA
- Used to deliver payloads consisting of immunomodulatory proteins or nanobodies



# SNS-401-NG: Building the First Custom Merkel Cell Polyoma Virus (MCPyV) ImmunoPhage



SNS-401-NG Development



Collaboration with University of Washington to build **first custom Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC) vaccine consisting of Merkel Cell Polyoma Virus epitopes** and other patient specific antigens

**MCC is a rare, aggressive neuroendocrine skin cancer**

- 33-46% disease-specific mortality
- 2,500 cases/yr with disease-specific mortality approaching 50%
- Vaccine combination therapy in adjuvant or neoadjuvant is attractive and feasible
  - PD-1/PD-L1 refractory MCC remains unmet medical need with aggressive clinical course
  - ~40% MCC patients recur <24 months following definitive local treatment

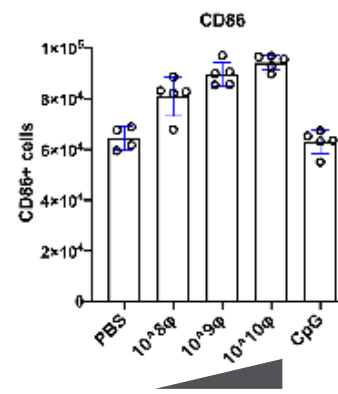
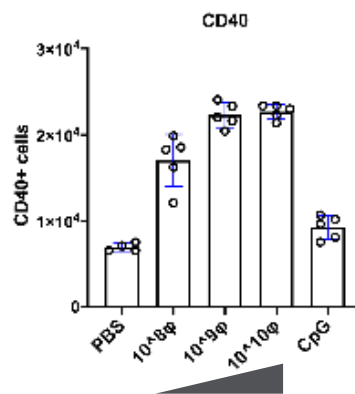
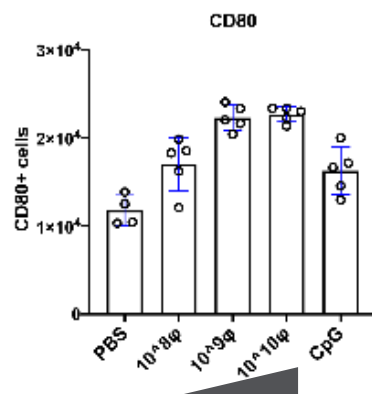
**Integration of MCPyV is present in ~80% of U.S. cases**

- In these cases, expression of a viral antigen (oncogenic T-antigen) **appears to be a strictly required tumor driver**
- Researchers at UW have mapped MCPyV epitopes and **determined CD8 T-cell, CD4 T-cell, and B-cell epitopes that are antigenic** in the context of MCPyV+ MCC tumors.

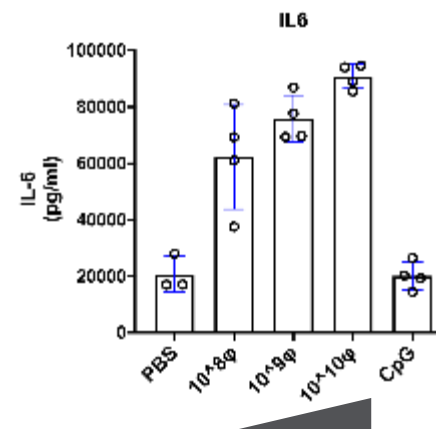
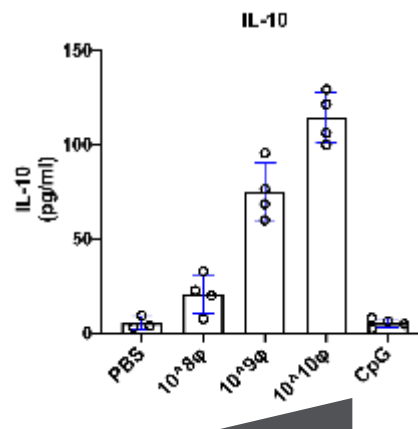
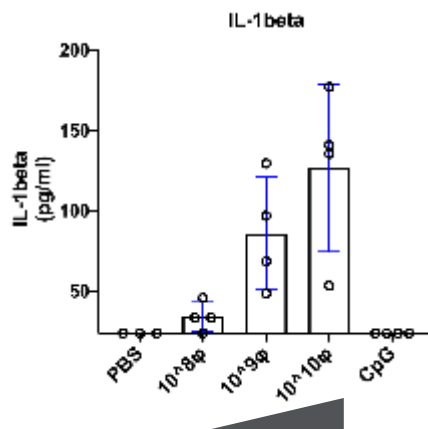
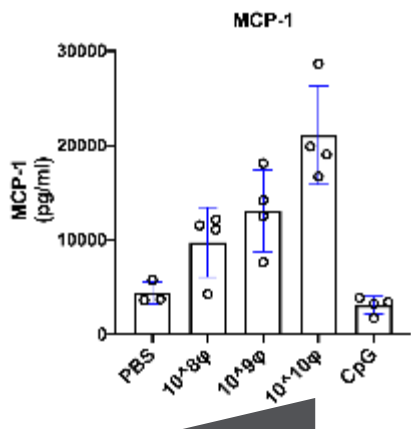
# Mechanism of Action: Activation and Maturation of Dendritic Cells

Dose-response of engineered lambda phage on human skin-derived DC cultures

Signal: Dendritic cell co-stimulatory molecules



Signal: Cytokine secretion



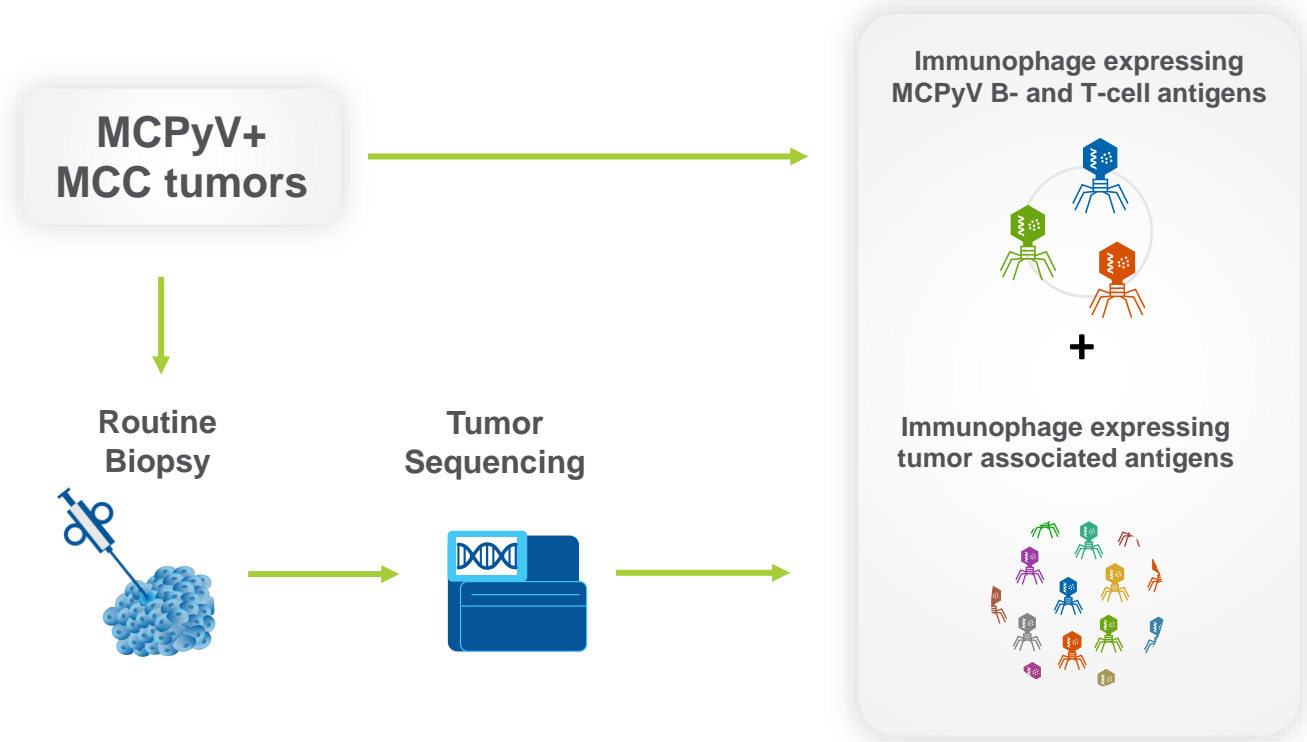
Critical signals of dendritic cell activation show dose-dependent increases when cells are exposed to increasing amounts of ImmunoPhages

# SNS-401-NG has Potential to be First Fully Customized, Yet Off-the-Shelf, Therapy

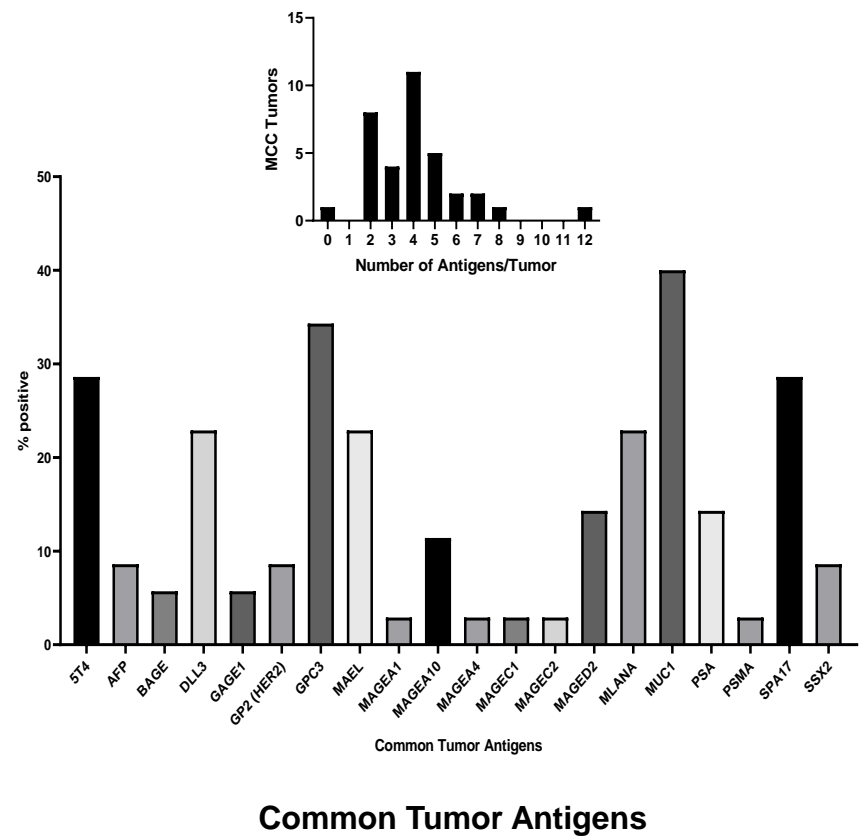


SNS-401-NG Development in Merkle Cell

Patients would receive a bespoke mixture of ImmunoPhage that included antigens from the MCPyV and a subset of TAA-expressing ImmunoPhage

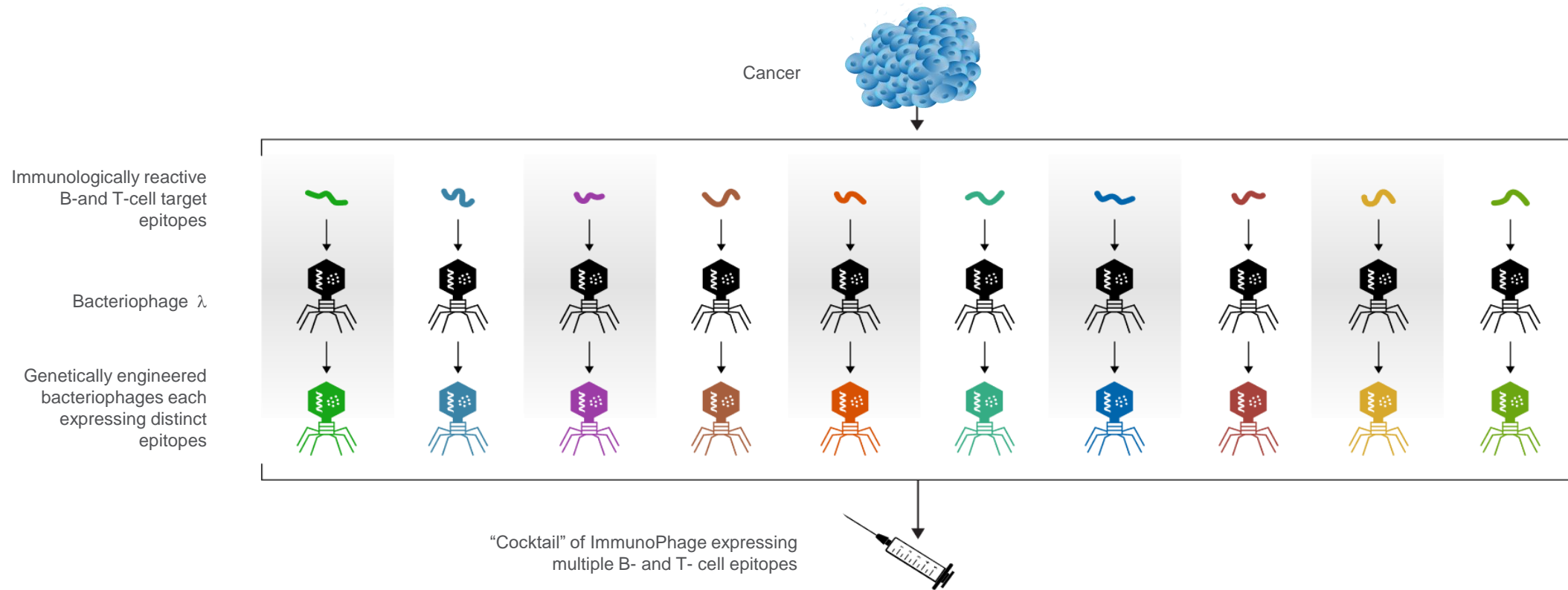


Most MCC tumors contain multipleTAAs<sup>1</sup>



1. Based on internal data

# Phortress: Proprietary Library of Personalized Vaccine Cocktails with Off-the-Shelf ImmunoPhage “ingredients”



- These “cocktails” are defined by the disease or patient genetics
- Combinations are customized to cover multiple epitopes, protein domains or targets
- Each *ImmunoPhage* is pre-manufactured to target a discrete antigen



# Personalized Immunotherapy Approach Could Accelerate Speed to Treatment

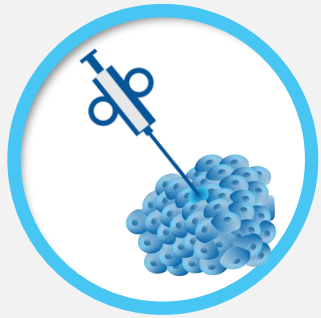


High speed and low cost-of-goods of ImmunoPhage allows a broader array of antigens

## Personalized yet Off-the Shelf TAA Therapy

## Off-the-Shelf + Patient-specific Neoantigen Therapy

### Routine Biopsy



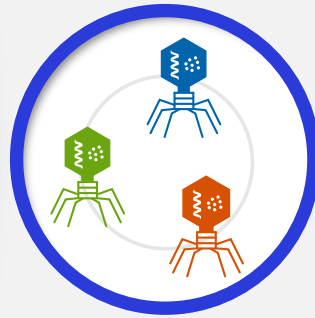
Clinical biopsy of tumor  
as input material

### Tumor Sequencing



Tumor DNA  
Tumor RNA  
Normal DNA

### Personalized yet Off-the-shelf ImmunoPhage Cocktail



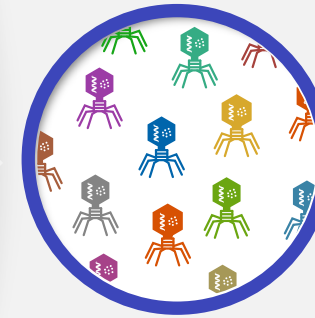
Assemble a  
personalized cocktail  
from off-the-shelf TAA  
ImmunoPhage for  
administration

### Neoantigen Prediction



Identify additional tumor  
specific neoantigens

### Neoantigen ImmunoPhage Manufacturing



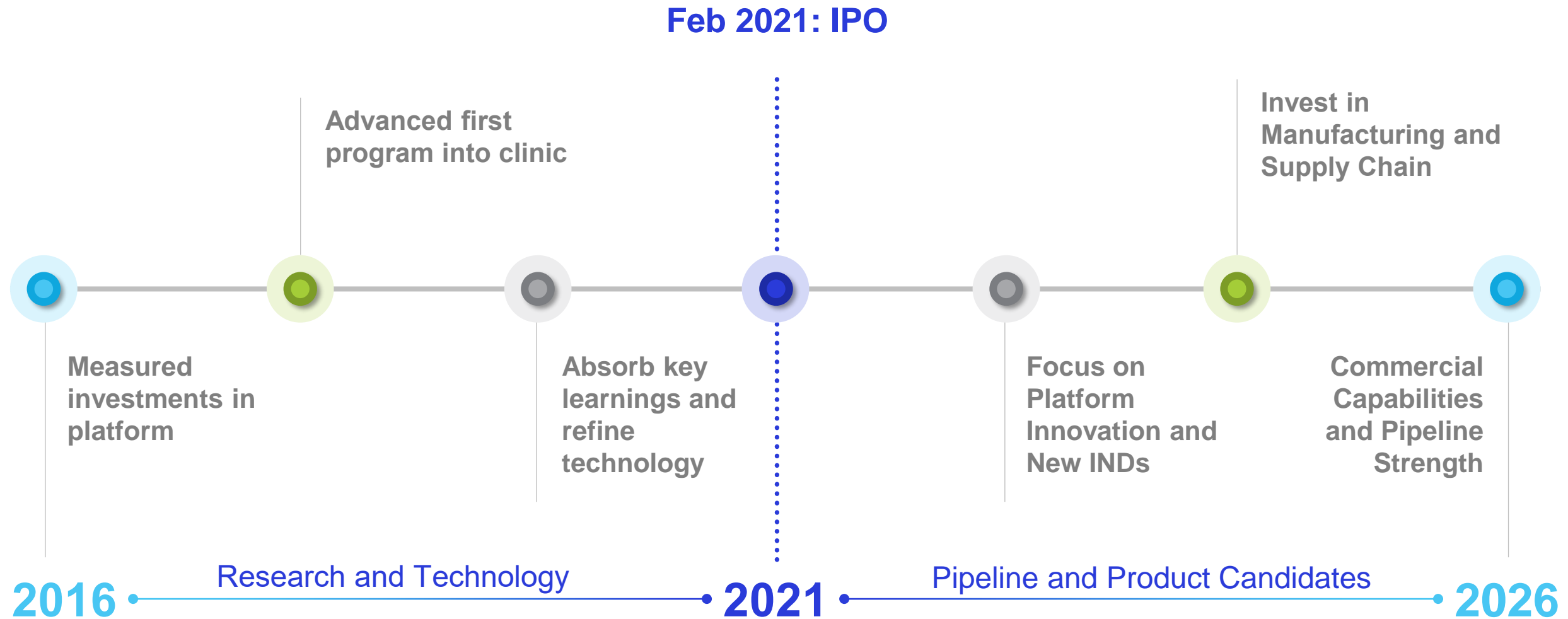
Engineer novel  
ImmunoPhages  
expressing distinct tumor  
specific epitopes

### ImmunoPhage Injection Including Neoantigens



Deliver neoantigen  
ImmunoPhage cocktail  
for administration and  
add neoantigen phages  
to bank for future use

# Sensei's Vision to Capture Platform and Pipeline Value



# Proven Team With Deep Experience



**John Celebi, MBA**  
*President and CEO*



**Michael Boychyn, PhD**  
*SVP, CMC*



**Erin Colgan**  
*SVP, Finance and Administration*



**Pauline Callinan, PhD**  
*VP, Business Operations and Strategy*



**Marie-Louise Fjaellskog, MD, PhD**  
*Chief Medical Officer*



**Jean Campbell, PhD**  
*VP, Biologics Discovery*



**Elisabeth Colunio**  
*VP, Human Resources*



**Alice Drumheller**  
*VP, Clinical Operations*



**Robert Pierce, MD**  
*Chief Scientific Officer*



**Bao Le**  
*VP, Regulatory*



**Lora Pike**  
*VP, Investor Relations Communications*



**Edward van der Horst, PhD**  
*VP, Preclinical Development*

# Upcoming Expected Program Milestones



## **SNS-101 (anti-VISTA)**

**YE 2021:**

- Present preclinical data at 36<sup>th</sup> Annual SITC Conference
- ✓ Select lead candidate
- Initiate IND-enabling studies



## **SNS-401-NG**

**2H 2022:**

- Initiate IND-enabling studies



## **SNS-VSIG4**

**2023:**

- Select product candidate





# Training the Immune System to Fight Cancer

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John K. Celebi, MBA  
President & Chief Executive Officer

October 2021

NASDAQ: SNSE

