



### Multicentre, prospective research protocol for development of a clonal neoantigenreactive T cell therapy pipeline across multiple tumour types

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- Cancer cells accumulate mutations in their DNA over time. Many of the mutations lead to changes in the proteins encoded by the mutated genes, which can then be recognised by the immune system as 'foreign'
- These **cancer-specific 'neo-antigens'** can potentially be exploited by immunotherapies such as Adoptive Cell Therapy (ACT) and Checkpoint Inhibitors (CPIs)
- The **mutations occurring before the initial cancer** transformation event are carried by all of the cells of the growing cancer and are known as **'clonal' mutations**
- Mutations that **subsequently occur are known as 'subclonal' mutations** and are not present in all of the cancer cells, hence these are less likely to produce complete response, i.e. the elimination of the whole cancer cell population

## Achilles has developed proprietary technology to target all tumor cells







Tumors are **clonal in origin** and originate from a group of cells that are exactly the same



Tumors evolve, developing many new mutations resulting in **heterogeneity** that enables them to evade targeting<sup>1</sup>



To kill all of the tumor cells we believe you need to target the **clonal neoantigens formed early in tumor evolution** 

Achilles has developed proprietary technology (using TRACERx) to identity the original tumor mutations **present on all cancer cells**, **clonal neoantigens** 

We are able to identify and **target multiple clonal neoantigens** with our Clonal Neoantigen Targeting T cell therapy, or cNeT



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# Background



#### Tumour Infiltrating Lymphocyte (TIL)

- TIL has delivered long-term durable disease control in multiple solid tumor settings<sup>1-4</sup>
- T cell expansion is **non-specific** with no control over which antigens are targeted and the approach results in subclonal targeting, reducing chances of complete disease control
- Requires very high (nonphysiological) levels of IL-2 that result in T cell exhaustion and reduced anti-tumor activity<sup>5</sup>



Red: clonal neoantigens
Purple, green and orange: subclonal
neoantigens

#### Clonal Neo-antigen Reactive T Cell (cNeT)

- Ability to measure antigen-specific potency and monitor antigen-specific T cell engraftment and expansion
- Provides precision targeting of clonal neoantigens shown to correlate with the anti-tumor activity of TIL<sup>6</sup> and checkpoint inhibitors<sup>7</sup>
- Clonal neoantigen targeting provides a means to target all the tumor cells
- Using **dendritic cells** to drive T cell expansion reduces the need for IL-2 expansion, **producing a fitter T cell**

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Besser et al., Clin. Can. Res., 2010
 Forget et al., Clin. Can. Res. 2018
 Rosenberg et al., Clin. Can. Res. 2015
 Moffitt Investigator Sponsored Study update at <u>AACR April 2020</u>

Gattinoni et al. J Clin Invest, 2005
 Lauss et al., Nature Comm, 2017
 Snyder et al., NEJM, 2014

## Background







- The Material Acquisition Platform (MAP) study (NCT03517917) is a prospective research protocol collecting tumour tissue and blood in a range of cancers (Lung, Melanoma, Head and Neck, Renal, Bladder and Breast)
- This study was developed to explore the ability to produce cNeT using **PELEUS** and **VELOS** platforms – across indications and to evaluate factors that may affect the baseline tumour, TIL intermediates and final cNeT products
- In addition, we are exploring **leukapheresis** as a means to use **blood as a source material** to produce a cNeT product



- The study commenced in February 2018 initially in Lung and Melanoma with the aim of recruiting 300 participants
- MAP has since expanded into 8 active sites in the UK, EU and US, with 17 tumour procurement channels in 6 tumour indications and have established operation pipelines to support subsequent, international, first-in-human studies



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#### Key inclusion/exclusion criteria

#### Inclusion

- Patient scheduled for surgical excision and/or collection of multiple tissue samples via image or device guided biopsy or has a superficial skin/subcutaneous metastasis or lymph node metastasis that can be safely accessed for the purposes of the study
- Hb ≥ 10g/dL(without transfusion support for at least 3 weeks)

#### • Exclusion

- Pregnant or breastfeeding
- Known/laboratory confirmed diagnosis of an infectious disease preventing inclusion of tissue into cell manufacturing suite
- Patients who are currently participating in a clinical trial involving an unlicensed medical product
- Patients receiving immunosuppressive treatments or who require regular treatment with steroids at a dose higher than prednisolone 10 mg/day (or equivalent)



- Patients are identified prior to standard of care debulking/resection
- If eligible, patients are required to attend 3 visits (1 being carried out on the day of their surgery)

## -Visit 1: Screening

 $\circ$  Baseline history, medications and assessments (including blood sampling and pregnancy testing) in the weeks prior to surgery

### - Visit 2: Day of surgery/procedure

 Blood samples – source of genetic material for PELEUS and analyses required for exploratory end points

 $_{\odot}$  Whole blood collection – source of monocyte for VELOS

 $_{\odot}$  Resection of tumour material - source of TILs for VELOS

### - Visit 3: Safety Follow-up

 $_{\odot}\text{To}$  include procurement related adverse events



#### **Patient summary**

- Ninety patients (n=90) enrolled at time of submission
- Median age of **67 years**
- 54 (60.0%) are male
- 59 (65.6%) had tissue procurement at first diagnosis, 31 at relapse
- 19 (21.1%) had received prior systemic anti-cancer therapy
- From samples processed (n=74), the **median number of native TIL** was 45.9x10<sup>6</sup> (range: 0.14x10<sup>6</sup>-161x10<sup>7</sup>)
- There was **no significant difference in native TIL** numbers between newly diagnosed and recurrent (p=0.307), or treatment-naïve and pre-treated (p=0.149) patients

## Results



- At time of data cut-off for submission, n=90 samples had undergone analysis with PELEUS<sup>TM</sup>
- A median of **71 clonals** were identified in Head and Neck samples (n=16)
- This is consistent with what we observe in large public data sets (TCGA) where the median is 68
- This is a lower median than NSCLC (107) and Melanoma (156)
- Data for renal (n=4) and bladder (n=1) still immature at time of data cut-off

Results



#### • VELOS<sup>™</sup> manufacturing process

expands **TILs** from tumour fragments whilst **monocyte-derived dendritic** cells are generated from whole blood

- These are then co-cultured after dendritic cells are pulsed with neoantigen peptides (determined by PELEUS<sup>TM</sup>) to drive the expansion
- The process delivers both CD4+ and CD8+ T cells. There is a strong body of pre-clinical data which shows
   CD4+ and CD8+ T cells can work in concert to deliver robust and durable responses<sup>1-3</sup>

**T cell specificity and potency**<sup>4</sup> Cytokine secretion measured through flow cytometric analysis, *n*=1

TIL cNeT IFN-γ 27.7% 81.6% 100 CD8+ 104 10 103 104 0.1% 61.1% CD4+ 104 104 10 . 4 104 TNF-α

**T cell specificity and potency**<sup>4</sup> % reactivity, *n*=1





Hunder et al., NEJM, 2008;
 Church et. al., Eur J Immunol, 2014;
 Antony et al. J Immunol, 2005;

 Achilles' data measuring the production of inflammatory cytokines in response to clonal neoantigens Results





Memory phenotype is dominated by effector memory cells in the process



CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells Proportion of CD4<sup>+</sup> cells (%) 00  $\mathcal{L}$ 0 0 0 00 0 0 0 ō 0 0 0 0 0 80 0 00 0 00 0 0 0 000 0 00 00 <u>\_</u> 00 HLADR\* د<sup>ل666\*</sup> FOTES GranB\* د<sup>039\*</sup> cD154\* CD183\* cD185\* 80.<sup>1×</sup> TIGIT\* cD25\* cD21\* د<sup>038\*</sup> **CD**51\* cD103\* cD218\* Ki61\* c10131\* CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells 뿓





within both cell types: **Conservation of CD25** 

expression

High levels of CD27 expression in CD8+ cells

**Favourable pattern of phenotypes** 



Gated CD3<sup>+</sup>-Overnight stimulation with neoantigen peptide pools



## Conclusions



- The Material Acquisition Platform (MAP) study has been extremely successful in the accumulation of a broad set of tumour-related materials
- MAP continues to expand into new countries and indications
- Initial data suggests **TIL extraction and cNeT** production is possible across a range of solid malignancies and patient characteristics
- Elucidating this information will help to enable the expansion of Achilles' interventional trials of cNeT products in new indications
- Future participants will help establish the possibility of blood-derived cNeT products, without need for surgical procurement of tissue





#### Achilles' Teams

Authors and all members of contributing teams:

- R&D
- Process Development
- Translational Science
- Supply Chain
- Clinical Operations
- Clinical Development

**Collaborating sites and Principle Investigators** 

- UCH Dr Martin Forster
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- The Christie/Wynthenshawe Dr Yvonne Summers & Dr Manon Pillai
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The Christie

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The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals



