



# OTHER NOVEL STRATEGIES WITH POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES IN MULTIPLE MYELOMA

Current practice and future directions

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#### **OUTLINE**

- Biologic rationale and efficacy/safety findings with Venetoclax
- Next-generation immunomodulatory agents
- Bispecific monoclonal antibodies
- Efficacy/safety data for Melflufen
- New insights on myeloma biology and relapse

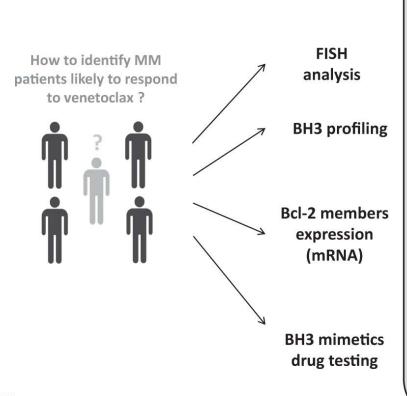
#### Targeting Bcl-2 for the treatment of multiple myeloma

- Overexpression of anti-apoptotic proteins are hallmarks of cancer
- Tumor cell proliferation is regulated through interactions between anti-apoptotic (Mcl-1, Bcl-2 and Bcl-xL) and pro-apoptotic (Bax and Bak) members
- Subset of myeloma cells with high Bcl-2 expression and low Mcl-1 expression commonly found in CCND1 subset, characterized by the presence of the translocation (11;14)
- Venetoclax binds to Bcl-2 and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> but not to Mcl-1. It induces apoptosis by displacing proapoptotic BH3-only proteins (Bim and Puma) from Bcl-2, leading to caspase-dependent cell death





#### How to identify multiple myeloma likely to respond to venetoclax?



Biomarkers predicting sensitivity to venetoclax in MM

Presence of t(11;14) P.C

Bcl-2 priming P

High Bcl-2 P.C

High Bcl-2 / Mcl-1 ratio P.C

High Bcl-2/Bcl-X, ratio P.C

High Bcl-2/Bim binding P

Determination of *in* vitro PC sensitivity to BH3 mimetics

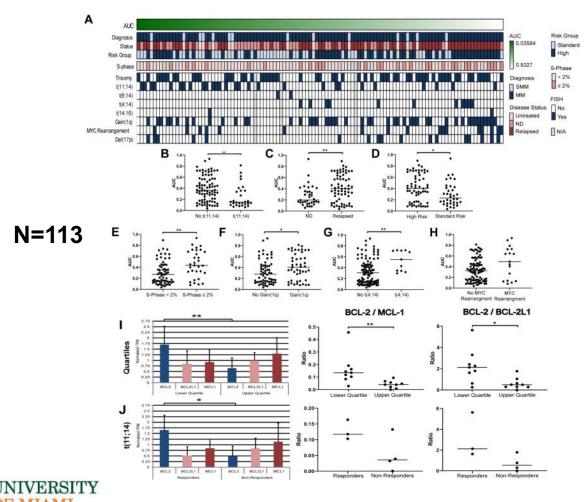
Biomarkers predicting sensitivity to venetoclax in multiple myeloma:

- C = biomarker demonstrated in clinical trials
- P = biomarker demonstrated in preclinical studies





#### Venetoclax sensitivity ex vivo in primary multiple myeloma samples

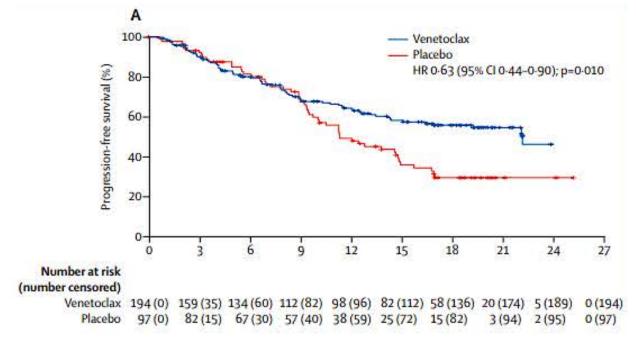


- Cellular efficacy of single agent venetoclax response following a 24 h drug exposure
- Increased sensitivity in patient samples with:
   t(11;14); low plasma cell S-Phase; lack of 1q+; lack of t(4;14); lack of MYC rearrangements
- Transcriptomic ratios of anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 family members, showing Bcl-2 expression significantly increased in responders, with significant difference in Bcl-2/Mcl-1 and Bcl-2/Bcl-2L1 ratios
- Bcl-2 expression significantly increased in the t(11;14) responders compared to the t(11;14) nonresponders



## Venetoclax in combination with bortezomib and dexamethasone in patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma (BELLINI)

- Venetoclax, bortezomib and dexamethasone have shown encouraging clinical efficacy with acceptable safety and tolerability in phase 1 trial
- 291 patients (1-3 prior lines) randomized to receive venetoclax (n=194) or placebo (n=97), with bortezomib and dexamethasone
- At median follow-up of 18.7 months, median progression-free survival (PFS) was 22.4 versus 11.5 months favoring venetoclax; p=0.010



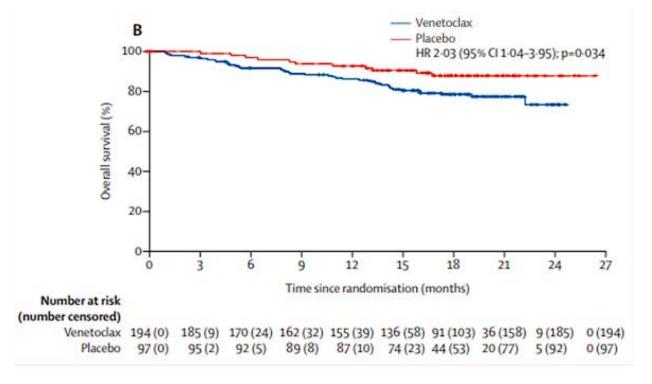
 Prespecified sub-analysis of t(11;14) patients (N=35) show median PFS not reached versus 9.5 months in venetoclax versus placebo group; similarly, sub-analysis of patients with high Bcl-2 expression (qPCR) levels (N=98) show median PFS of 22.4 versus 9.9 months, respectively





## Venetoclax in combination with bortezomib and dexamethasone in patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma (BELLINI)

- However, excess death was found; in safety analysis population, 21% and 11% of pts in the venetoclax and placebo group died, respectively
- 8/13 of treatment-emergent deaths (within 30 days of last dose) in the venetoclax group were infections, including 5 patients who died from sepsis/septic shock and 3 who died from pneumonia
- In venetoclax group, excess mortality primarily seen in patients without t(11;14)



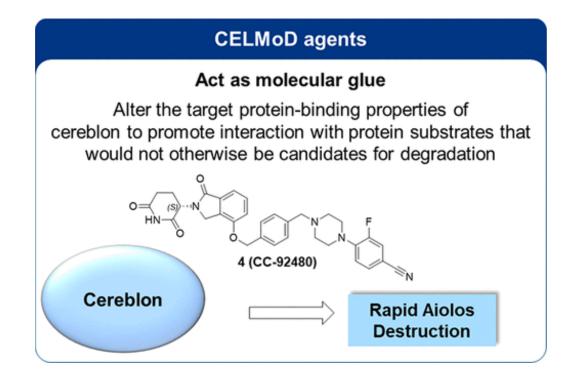
 Authors speculate venetoclax combination may select aggressive malignant clones? Or, treatment-induced immunosuppression may cause susceptibility to life-threatening infections? Or, other explanation(s)?





#### Cereblon E3 ligase modulators (CELMoDs)

- CC-92480 binds to cereblon, thereby affecting the ubiquitin E3 ligase activity, and targeting certain substrate proteins for ubiquitination...
- this induces proteasome-mediated degradation of certain transcription factors, some of which are transcriptional repressors in T cells...
- this leads to modulation of the immune system, including activation of T lymphocytes; and antiproliferative effects and induction of apoptosis in myeloma cells







## Phase I trial supports CC-92480 for heavily pretreated multiple myeloma

- Patients received escalating doses of CC-92480 + dexamethasone. Parallel dosing schedules:
   more continuous with 4-day or 7-day breaks vs. intensive with longer breaks in a 28-day cycle
- 66 patients received CC-92480 plus dexamethasone; median 6 (range 2-13) prior therapies. Prior therapies: proteasome inhibitors (100%), lenalidomide (97%), pomalidomide (92%), high-dose melphalan (76%). About 50% were considered triple-class refractory
- About 30% of patients remained on CC-92480. Of 51 patients who discontinued treatment, main cause was progressive disease (n=39), withdrawal (n=5), death (n=5), and adverse events (AEs; n=1). No deaths related to CC-92480





## Phase I trial supports CC-92480 for heavily pretreated multiple myeloma (cont.)

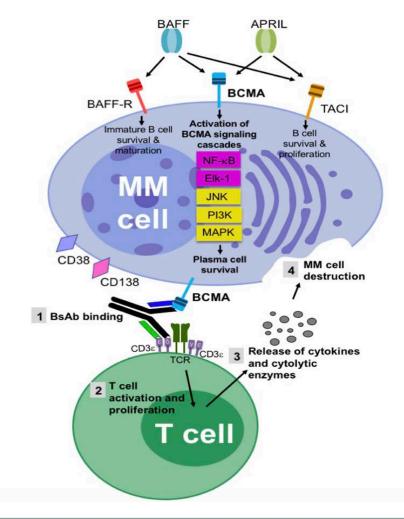
- 10 patients had dose-limiting toxicities, most commonly neutropenia. Maximum tolerated dose 1.0 mg for both 10/14-day and 21/28-day schedules
- Most common AEs observed in the study population were neutropenia (74%), infections (71%), and anemia (55%). Neutropenia most common grade 3-4 AE, reported in 49 patients.
   Neutropenia managed with dose modification and G-CSF; most infections successfully managed with antibiotics
- Preliminary analyses revealed 21% overall response rate (ORR) across all dosing cohorts; 40%
   ORR among patients treated with maximum tolerated dose (1.0 mg once daily for 10/14 days), and 55% ORR with the recommended phase II dose (1.0 mg once daily for 21/28 days)





#### Targeting BCMA for the treatment of multiple myeloma

- B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA) is a cell-surface receptor in TNF superfamily.
   Plays key role in B-cell maturation and differentiation
- Promotes myeloma cell growth, chemotherapy resistance, immunosuppression in bone marrow microenvironment
- Antigen expressed specifically on PCs and myeloma cells; higher expression on myeloma cells than normal plasma cells



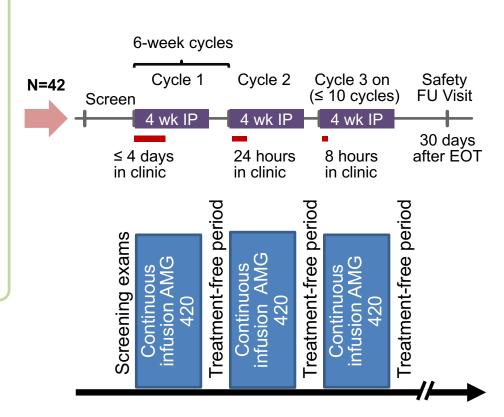




### Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma: AMG420

#### **Key Inclusion Criteria:**

- Adults ≥ 18 years old
- R/R multiple
   myeloma with
   progression after ≥ 2
   prior treatment lines,
   including a PI and
   an IMiD
- ECOG performance score of ≤ 2



#### **Primary Endpoints:**

- Safety
- DLTs
- -MTD

#### **Secondary Endpoints:**

- Antitumor activity
  - Response, including MRD-negative CR\*
  - -DOR
- Correlative markers



 Single-patient cohorts (0.2–1.6μg/day) followed by cohorts of 3–6 patients (3.2–800 μg/day)



### Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma: AMG420

- First-in-human study, up to 10 cycles of AMG 420 (4-week infusions/6-week cycles)
- 42 patients received AMG 420 at 0.2-800 µg/d. Median exposure was 1 cycle (range: 1-10) and 7 cycles (range: 1-10) for responders
- Patients discontinued for disease progression (n=25), adverse events (AEs; n=7), death (n=4), completion of 10 cycles (n=3), and consent withdrawal (n=1).





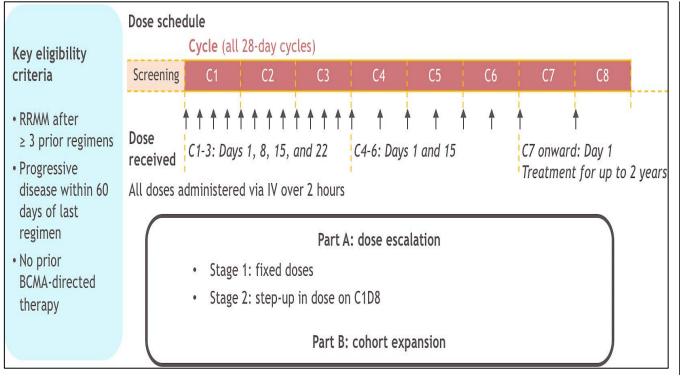
### Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma: AMG420

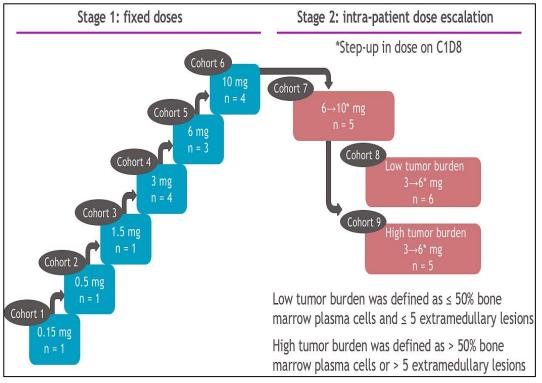
- Patients discontinued for disease progression (n=25), adverse events (AEs; n=7), death (n=4), completion of 10 cycles (n=3), and consent withdrawal (n=1)
- Serious AEs (n=20; 48%) included infections (n=14) and polyneuropathy (n=2); treatmentrelated serious AEs included 2 grade 3 polyneuropathies and 1 grade 3 edema. There were no grade ≥ 3 CNS toxicities or anti-AMG 420 antibodies
- Maximum tolerated dose (MTD) of 400 µg/d had overall response rate of 70% (7 of 10). Of these, five patients experienced MRD-negative complete responses, and 1 had a partial response, and 1 had a very good partial response; all 7 patients responded during the first cycle, and some responses lasted > 1 year





## Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma: CC-93269: study design









## Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma: CC-93269: prior regimens

	All patients (N = 30)	
	Exposed	Refractory
Prior regimens, median (range), n	5 (3-13)	
Pls, n (%)	30 (100)	23 (76.7)
Bortezomib	30 (100)	13 (43.3)
Carfilzomib	23 (76.7)	17 (56.7)
Ixazomib	5 (16.7)	3 (10.0)
IMiDs, n (%)	30 (100)	24 (80.0)
Lenalidomide	30 (100)	14 (46.7)
Pomalidomide	26 (86.7)	22 (73.3)
Anti-CD38 monoclonal antibodies, n (%)	29 (96.7)	24 (80.0)
Daratumumab	28 (93.3)	23 (76.7)
Isatuximab	4 (13.3)	2 (6.7)
Prior PI, IMiD, and anti-CD38 antibody, n (%)	29 (96.7)	20 (66.7)
Stem cell transplantation, n (%)		
Autologous	23 (76.7)	
Allogeneic	3 (10.0)	





### Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma: CC-93269: adverse events

Common (> 20% all grade)	All patients (N = 30)		
Common (≥ 20% all grade) TEAEsª, n (%)	All grade	Grade ≥ 3	
Patients with ≥ 1 TEAE	29 (96.7)	22 (73.3)	
Hematologic TEAEs			
Neutropenia	14 (46.7)	13 (43.3)	
Anemia	13 (43.3)	11 (36.7)	
Thrombocytopenia	9 (30.0)	5 (16.7)	
Nonhematologic TEAEs			
Cytokine release syndrome	23 (76.7)	1 (3.3)	
Infections and infestations	17 (56.7)	9 (30.0)	
Diarrhea	8 (26.7)	1 (3.3)	
Vomiting	8 (26.7)	0	
Back pain	7 (23.3)	0	
Fatigue	6 (20.0)	0	
Infusion-related reaction	6 (20.0)	0	
Nausea	6 (20.0)	0	

Parameter	All patients (N = 30)
Patients with a CRS event, n (%)	23 (76.7)
After first dose	23 (76.7)
After second dose	7 (23.3)
After third dose	2 (7.4) <sup>a</sup>
Maximum CRS grade, n (%)	
1	15 (50.0)
2	7 (23.3)
≥ 3	1 (3.3)
Time to onset, median (range), days	1 (1–9)
Duration, median (range), days	2 (1–6)
Tocilizumab use, n (%)	13 (43.3)
Corticosteroid use, n (%)	22 (73.3)

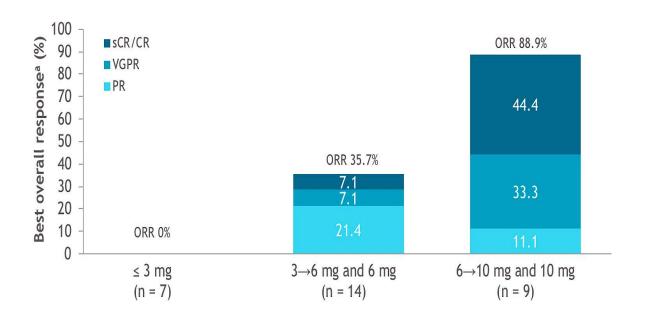


In cohort 7 (6  $\rightarrow$ 10 mg), 1 patient experienced grade 3 (6 mg) followed by grade 5 CRS (10 mg); contributing factors included myeloma progression with extensive extramedullary disease, and concomitant infection

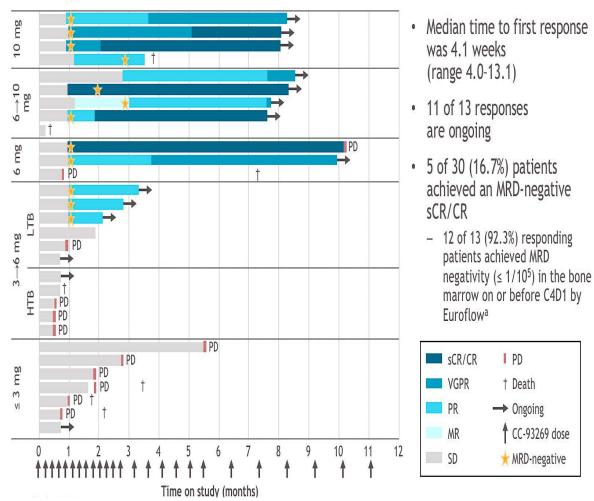


Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma:

CC-93269: efficacy



In all patients (N=30), 43% ORR and 17% sCR/CR; among patients receiving 10 mg (N=9), 89% ORR and 44% sCR/CR







## Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma: teclistamab: study design

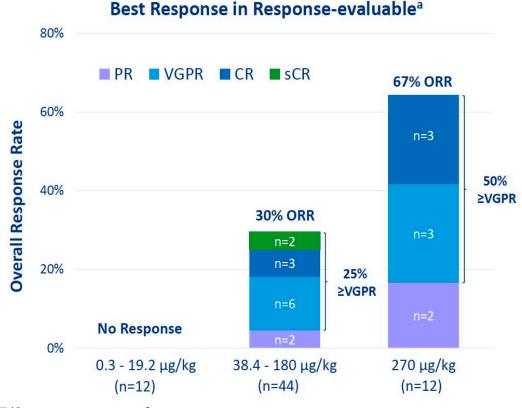
#### **Key Objectives Key Eligibility Criteria** Part 1 720 µg/kg Part 1: Identify RP2D Measurable MM **Dose Escalation** n=9 RR or intolerant to established MM Part 2: Safety and tolerability therapies 270 µg/kg Antitumor activity, PK, PD n=12 Hb ≥8 g/dL, platelets<sup>a</sup> ≥75x10<sup>9</sup>/L, ANC ≥1.0x109/L 180 μg/kg No prior BCMA-targeted therapy n=6 + Step-up Dosing 120 μg/kg Part 2 RP2D n=6 Intravenous Dosing Dose 80 μg/kg • Initial Q2W dosing switched to weekly ± step-up dosing Expansion n=17 • Pre-medications<sup>b</sup> limited to step-up doses and 1<sup>st</sup> full dose 57.6 μg/kg Step-up Dose Cycle 1 and beyond (full dose) n=10 Week 1 Week 2 Week 3 Week-1 $38.4 \mu g/kg$ 1-3 doses D1 D1 0.3-19.2 μg/kg Results from Part 1 intravenous dose escalation are presented





## Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma: teclistamab: prior therapies and efficacy

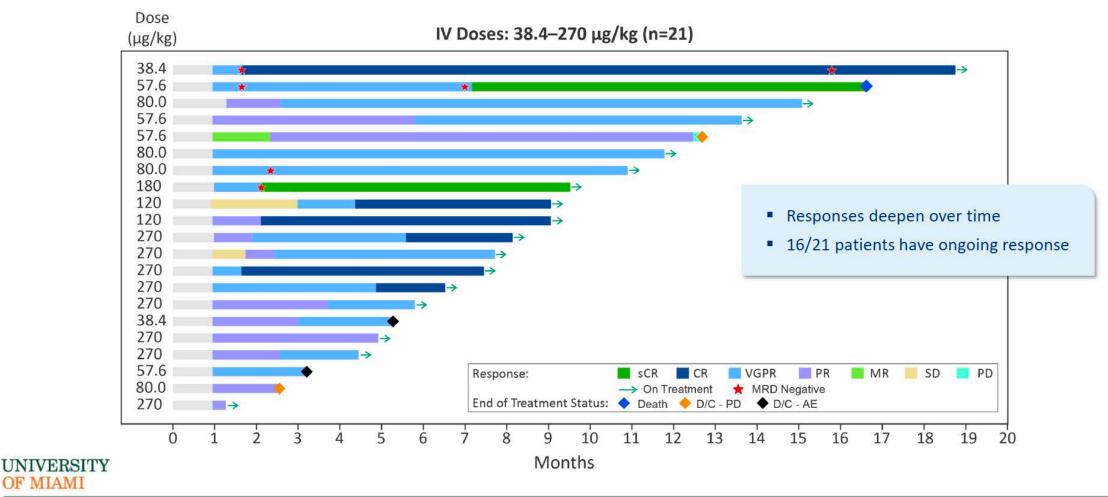
Characteristic	Total (N = 78)
Prior lines of therapy, median (range)	6 (2–14)
Triple-class exposed, n (%)°	72 (92)
Penta-drug exposed, n (%) <sup>d</sup>	51 (65)
Refractory status, n (%)	
Carfilzomib	48 (62)
Pomalidomide	56 (72)
Anti-CD38 <sup>e</sup>	68 (87)
Triple-class refractory <sup>c</sup>	62 (80)
Penta-drug refractory <sup>d</sup>	32 (41)
Refractory to last line of therapy, <sup>f</sup> n (%)	67 (86)



- At 270 μg/L. 7/8 responders were triple class refractory; 5/8 were penta-refractory.
- 4/5 evaluable patients were MRD neg at 10<sup>-6</sup>
- 2/2 evaluable patients maintained MRD neg for 5m (VGPR) and 14m (CR)



#### Bi-specific BCMA/CD3 for the treatment of multiple myeloma: teclistamab: duration of response





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## Bispecific antibodies in development for the treatment of multiple myeloma

Target	Agent	Type	Comments	Clinical trials no.*
BCMA	AMG 420 (BI 836909)	BITE	7 of 10 (70%) ORR in phase 1 expansion at MTD; single- agent phase 1b/2 ongoing	NCT02514239, NCT03836053
<b>BCMA</b>	PF-06863135	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03269136
<b>BCMA</b>	JNJ-64007957	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03145181
<b>BCMA</b>	TNB-383B	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03933735
<b>BCMA</b>	REGN5458	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03761108
<b>BCMA</b>	CC-93269 (EM901)	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03486067
<b>BCMA</b>	AMG 701	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03287908
<b>BCMA</b>	AFM26	Bispecific	c CD16 × BCMA, targets NK cells, preclinical	
<b>BCMA</b>	HPN217	Bispecific	ific Preclinical	
<b>BCMA</b>	EM801	Bispecific	Preclinical	
CD38	AMG 424	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03445663
CD38	GBR 1342	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03309111
FcRH5	BFCR4350A	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03275103
GPRC5D	JNJ-64407564	Bispecific	Single-agent phase 1	NCT03399799





## Melflufen: a novel peptide-drug conjugate that rapidly delivers cytotoxic payload into tumor cells

- HORIZON single arm study (N=95), melflufen + low-dose dex in pts refractory to pom and/or daratumumab. Pts must have received >2 prior lines. ORR primary endpoint.
  - 30% ORR: 1 pt achieved sCR, 11% VGPR, and 18% PR. Median PFS: 4 months
  - Treatment-related grade 3/4 AEs were reported in 68 pts (72%), most commonly (>20%) neutropenia (55%), thrombocytopenia (52%), and anemia (26%). The most common treatment-related nonhematologic grade 3/4 AE was pneumonia (3%)





## Melflufen: a novel peptide-drug conjugate that rapidly delivers cytotoxic payload into tumor cells

- OCEAN, randomized, global, Phase III study evaluating the efficacy and safety of melflufen + dexamethasone versus pomalidomide + dexamethasone
  - Eligible patients cannot be primary refractory, they should have received 2-4 prior lines of therapy; patients refractory to both their last line of therapy and lenalidomide within 18 months of randomization

Group	Drug	Dose	Schedule (/28-day cycle)
Arm A	Melflufen	40 mg IV	Day 1
	Dexamethasone	40 mg oral tablets†	Days 1, 8, 15 and 22
Arm B	Pomalidomide	4 mg oral capsule	Days 1–21 (inclusive)
	Dexamethasone	40 mg oral tablets†	Days 1, 8, 15 and 22

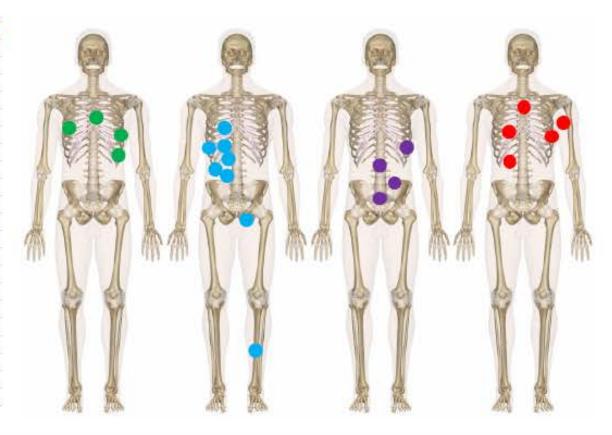




#### Genomic profiling of multiple myeloma at relapse

Whole genome sequencing on concurrent samples obtained from several – rarely biopsied
 – anatomical sites, obtained by warm autopsy in relapsed/refractory myeloma patients

Sample ID	Specimen Source
I-H-106917-T2-1	Right 5th rib
I-H-106917-T2-2	Left 6th rib
I-H-106917-T2-3	Left 9th rib
I-H-106917-T2-4	Sternum
I-H-130718-T1-1	Left inferior calf
I-H-130718-T1-2	Left inguinal
I-H-130718-T1-4	Right pleural cavity
I-H-130718-T1-6	Right lung
I-H-130718-T1-9	Liver
I-H-130718-T1-10	Gallbladder
I-H-130718-T1-11	Right chest wall
I-H-130718-T1-12	Epigastric subcutaneous
I-H-130719-T1-2	Lower left rib 10 <sup>th</sup>
I-H-130719-T1-4	Spinal
I-H-130719-T1-5	Left psoas
I-H-130719-T1-6	Sacrum
I-H-130720-T1-2	Left arm subcutaneous
I-H-130720-T1-3	6th rib mass
I-H-130720-T1-4	Upper sternum mass
I-H-130720-T1-5	Liver
I-H-130720-T1-8	Right lung middle lobe

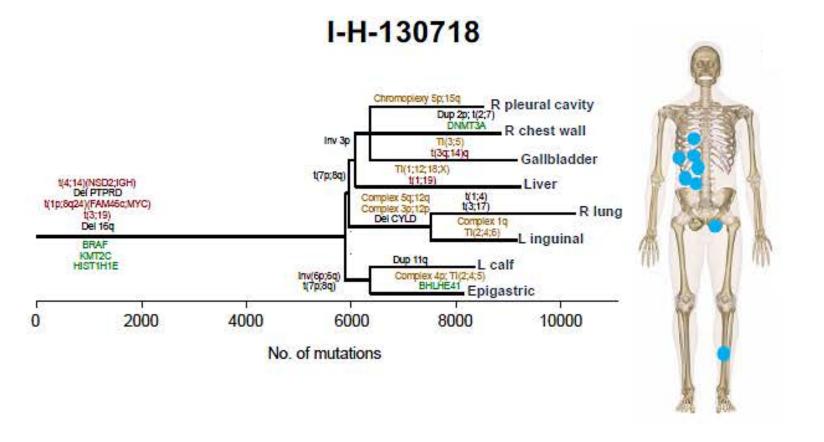






#### Reconstruction of myeloma evolutionary trajectories

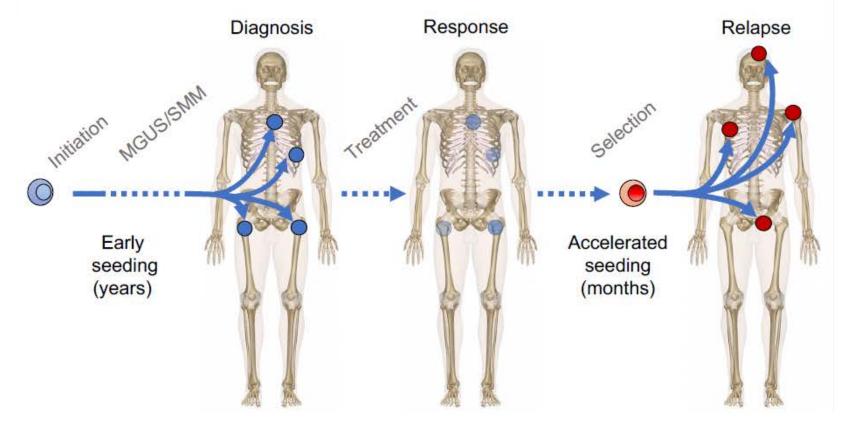
- Median of 10,938 (range 6977-13,239) mutations detected by WGS
- We defined key evolutionary trajectories and drivers of myeloma seeding
- We reconstructed phylogenetic tree solution (trunk and branches) for each patient and defined the main evolutionary trajectories







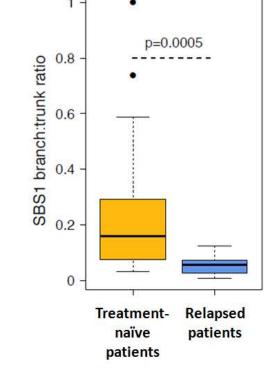
#### Reconstruction of myeloma evolutionary trajectories



Accelerated seeding within months, similar to metastasis in solid tumors







Contribution of mutational signatures associated with aging (SBS1 described as "clock-like"), in the branches versus the trunk

