

# Near infrared photoimmunotherapy for cancer

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関西研講演 (2018/03/20, Nara, Japan)



## Three major cancer therapies

- Surgery: Remove cancer together with normal cells
  - impairing function, damage to the body
- Radiation: Damage cancer cells with normal cells
  - damaging immune system, secondary cancer
- Chemotherapy: Damage cancer cells better than most of normal cells
  - loosing hear, white blood cells, etc.

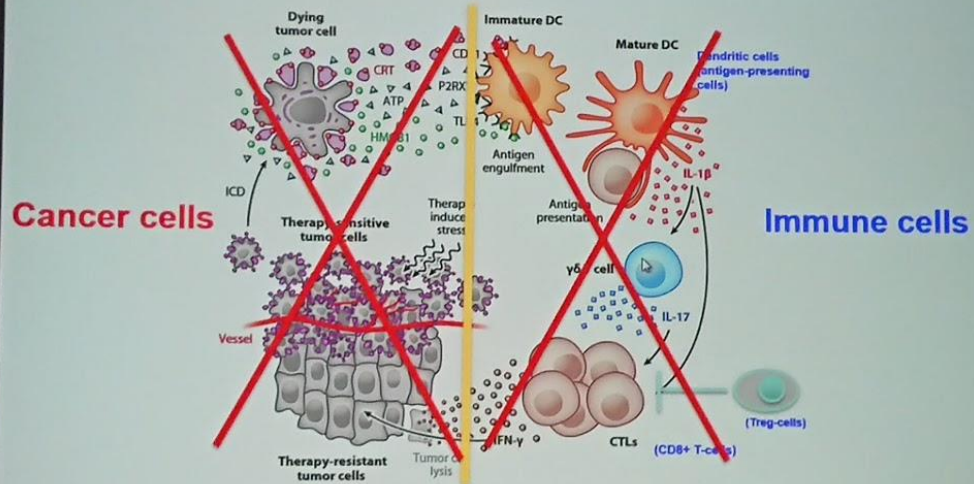
## Three major cancer therapies

- Surgery: Remove cancer together with normal cells
  - impairing function, damage
- Radiation: Damage normal cells
  - damage system, secondary cancer
- Chemotherapy: Damage cancer cells
  - damage most of normal cells
  - losing hair, white blood cells, etc.

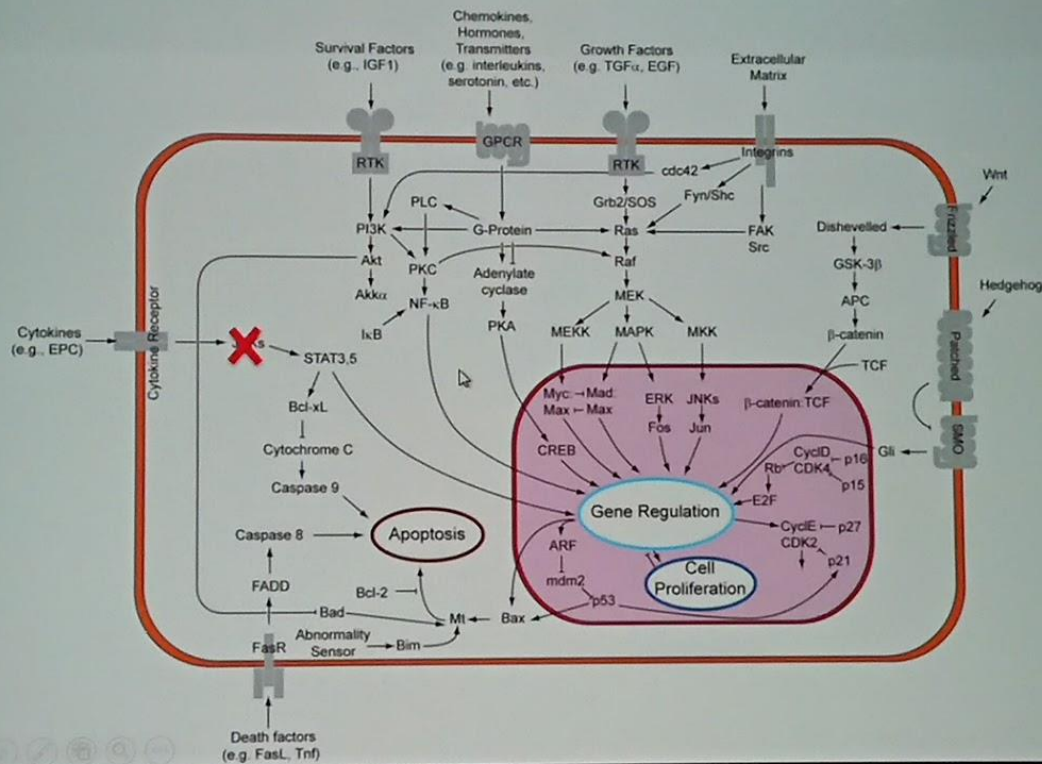
Direct therapy against cancer!



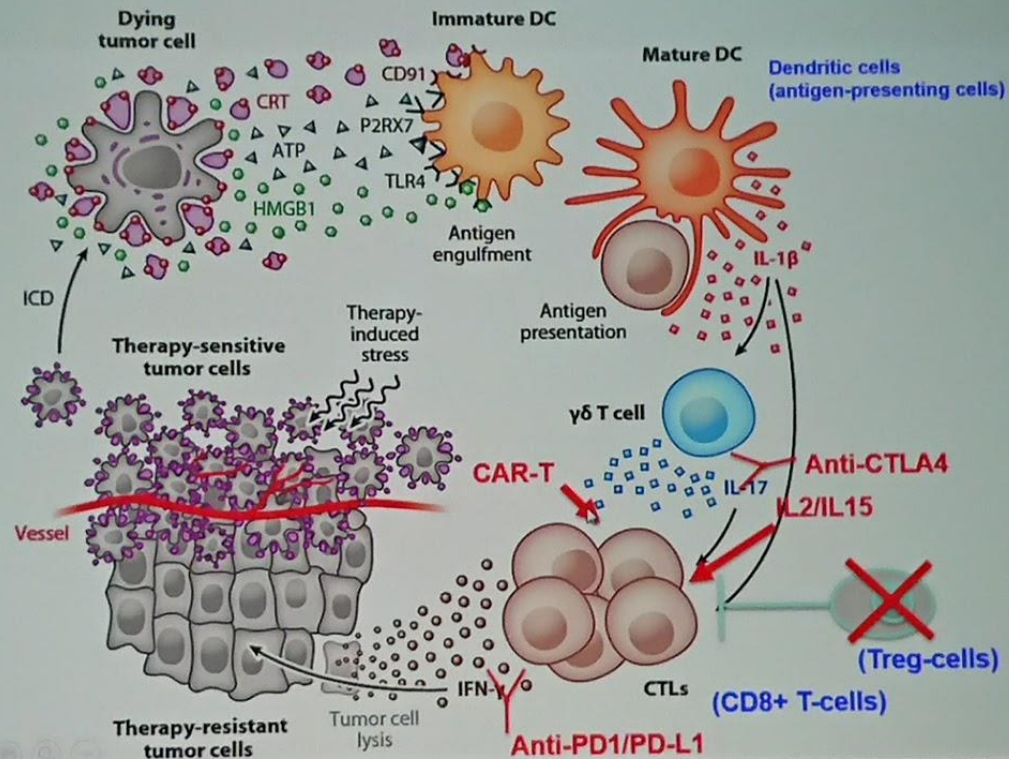
## Three major cancer therapies



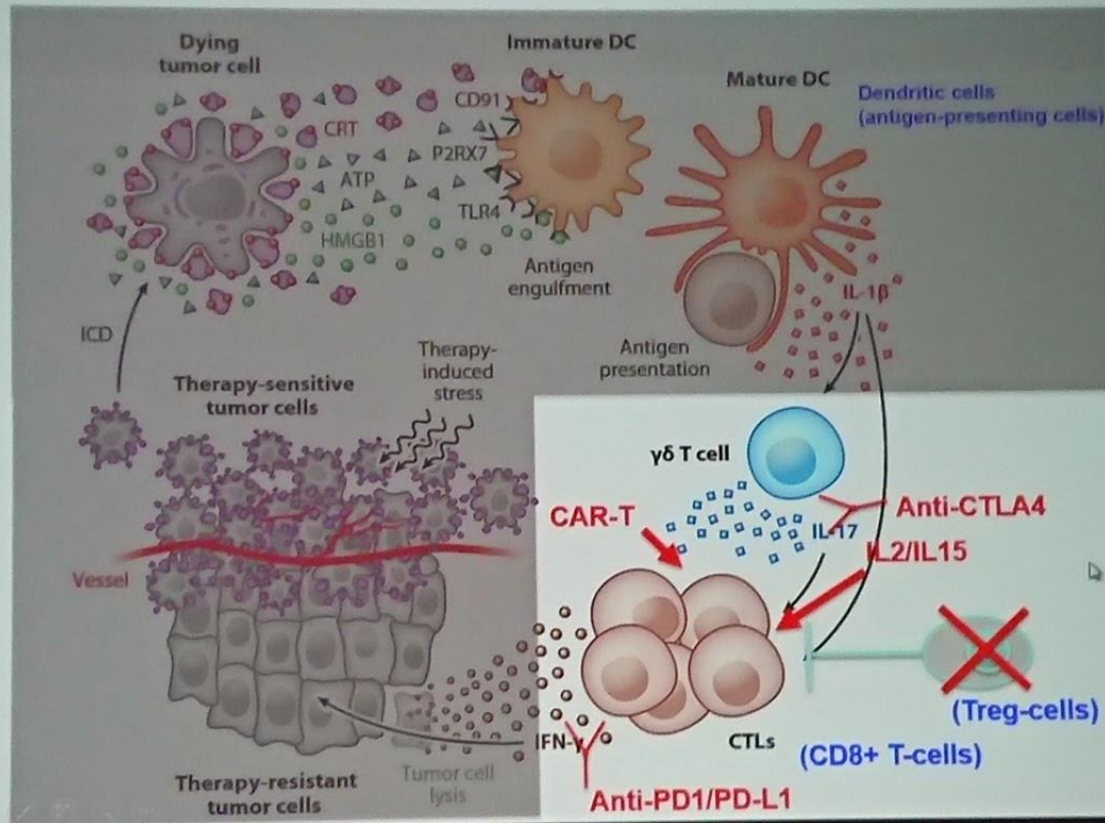
# Molecular-target therapy



# Cancer immunotherapies



# Cancer immunotherapies

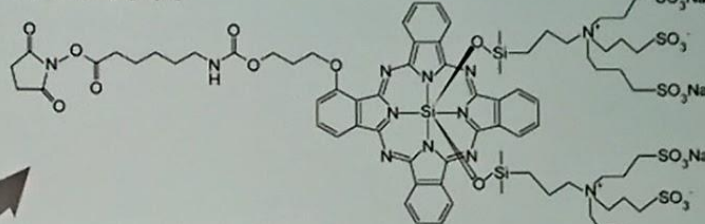
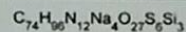
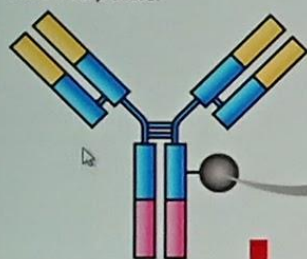




# Near infrared photo-immunotherapy (NIR-PIT)

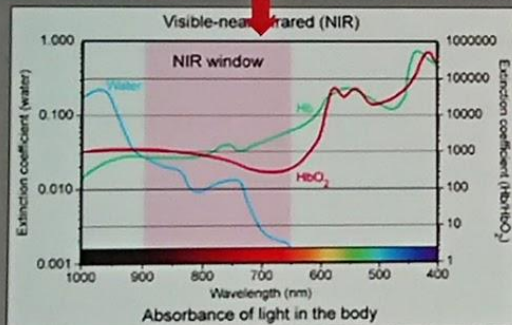
## Humanized monoclonal antibody (biology/medicine)

Highest binding specificity, greatest *in vivo* target delivery, applicable to the clinical practice.

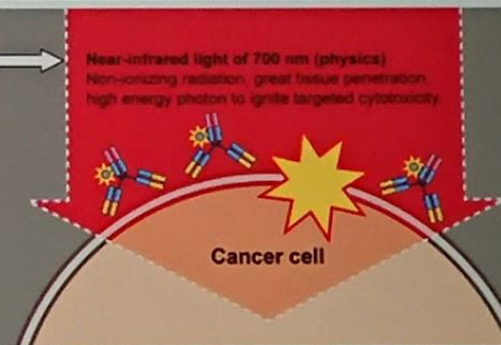


## Hydrophilic phthalocyanine (chemistry)

Great absorber of 700nm light, great urinary excretion. Works as a "nano-dynamite" to damage only binding cell membrane.

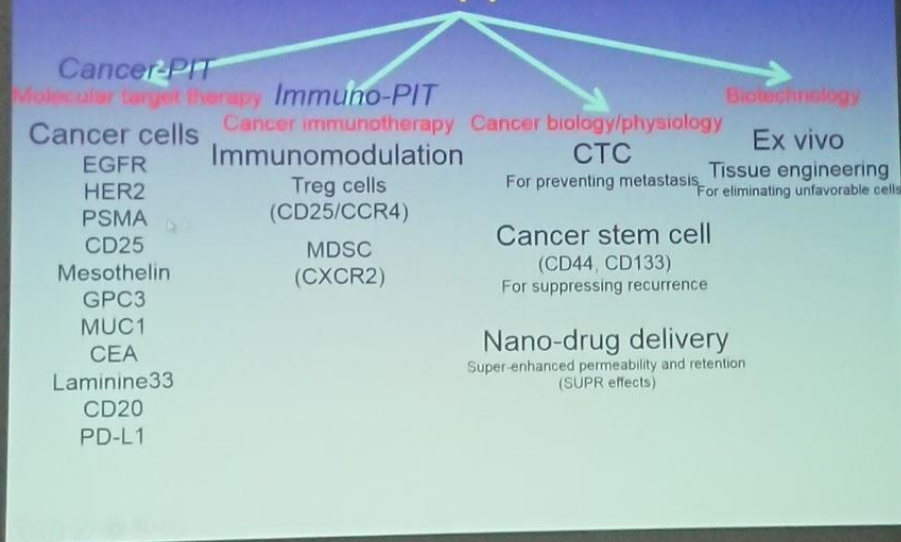


Near-infrared light of 700 nm (physics)  
Non-ionizing radiation, great tissue penetration  
high energy photon to ignite targeted cytotoxicity



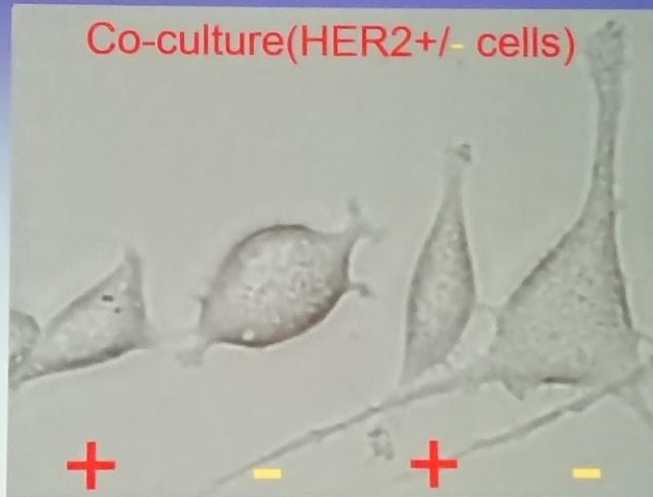
Mitsunaga, Kobayashi, Nature Med, 2011/12

# NIR-PIT applications



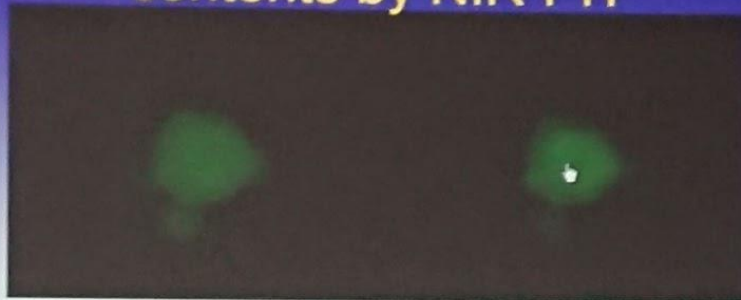
## NIR-PIT selectively killed only target-expressing cells

Co-culture(HER2+/- cells)



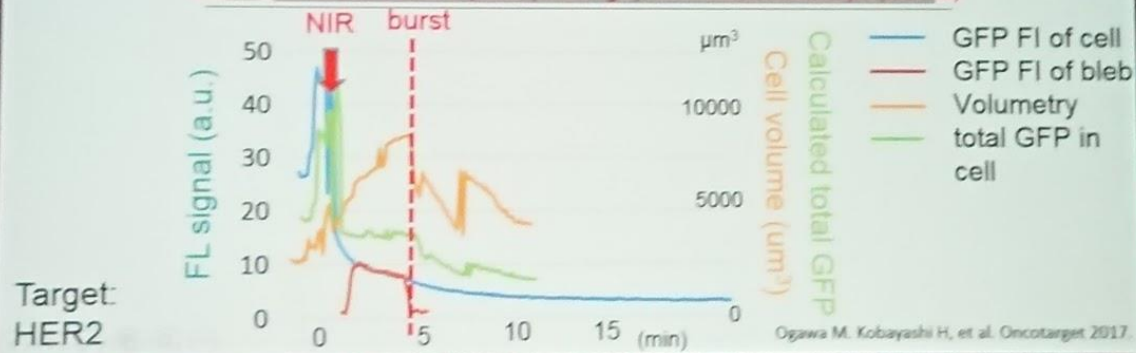
Target:  
HER2

# Direct killing with release of cellular contents by NIR-PIT



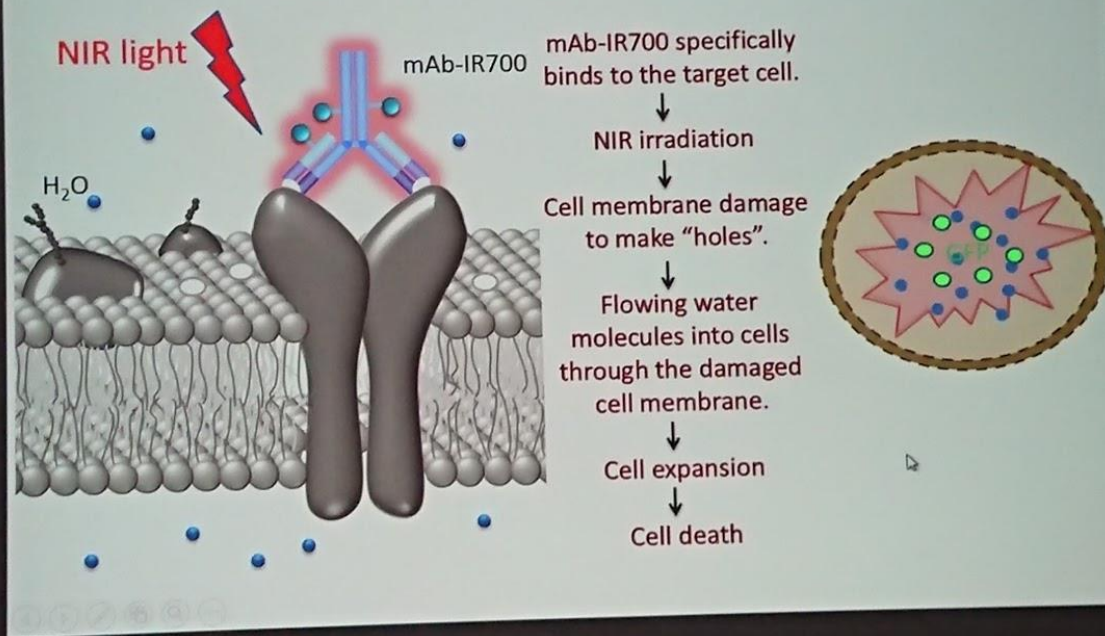
Dynamic 3D-image of 3T3/HER2 cell expressing GFP in the cytoplasm (Stereo view)

*Dual-view inverted selective plane (sheet light) illumination microscope (diSPIM)*

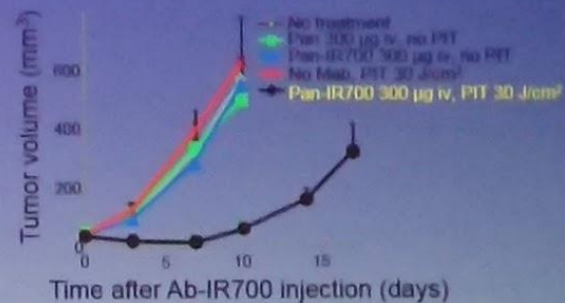
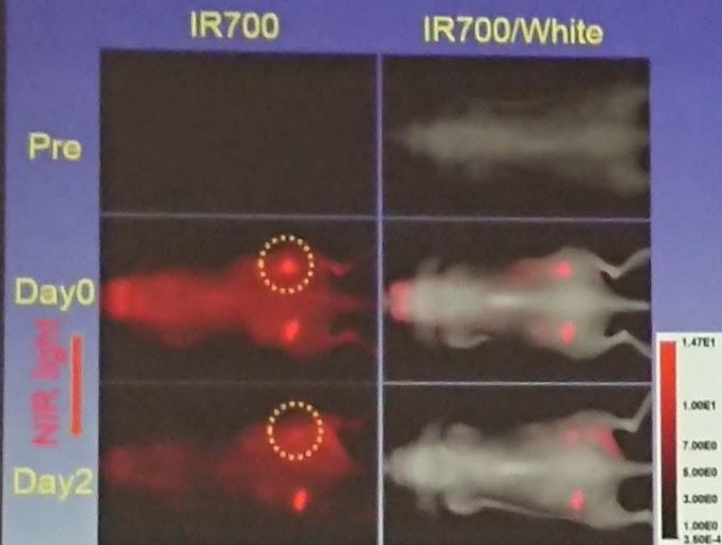




## NIR-PIT induced cell swelling and release of intracellular contents

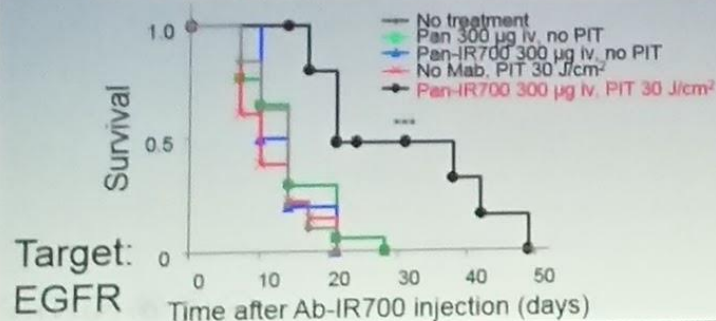
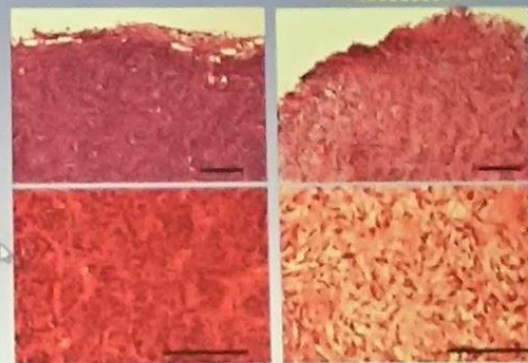


# NIR-PIT cannot cure tumors in nude mice



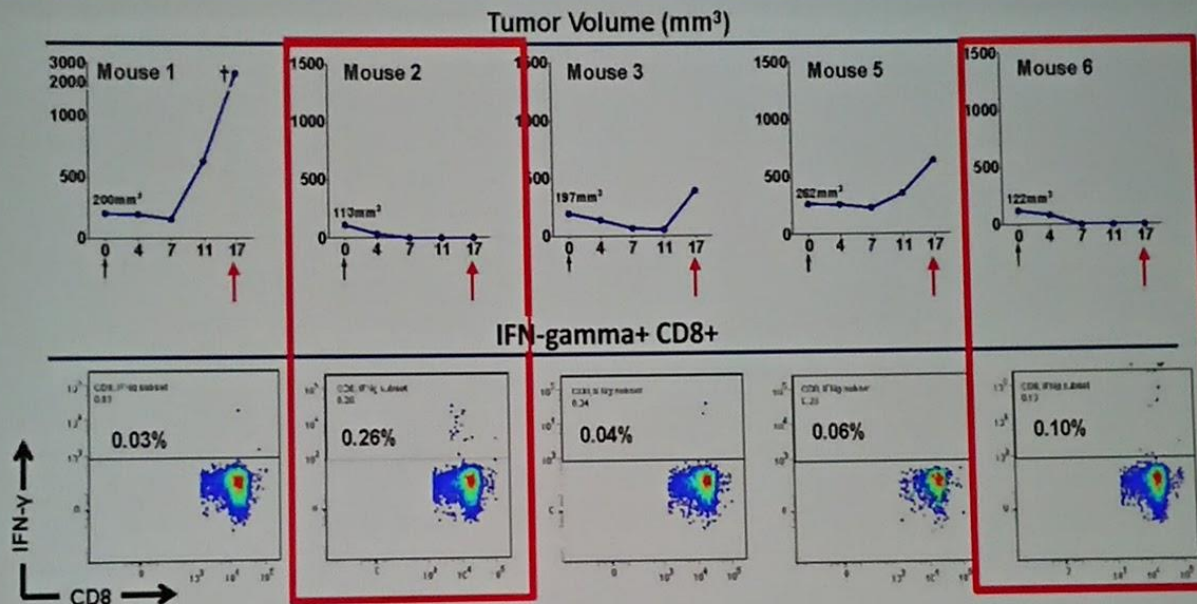
No PIT control

Pan-IR700-PIT day 2



# NIR-PIT induces acquired immune response

Heparanase targeted NIR-PIT cured TC-1 tumors with 1 shot of treatment



Cured mice had specific CD8+ T-cell response, therefore, re-injected TC-1 tumors did not grow in these mice.

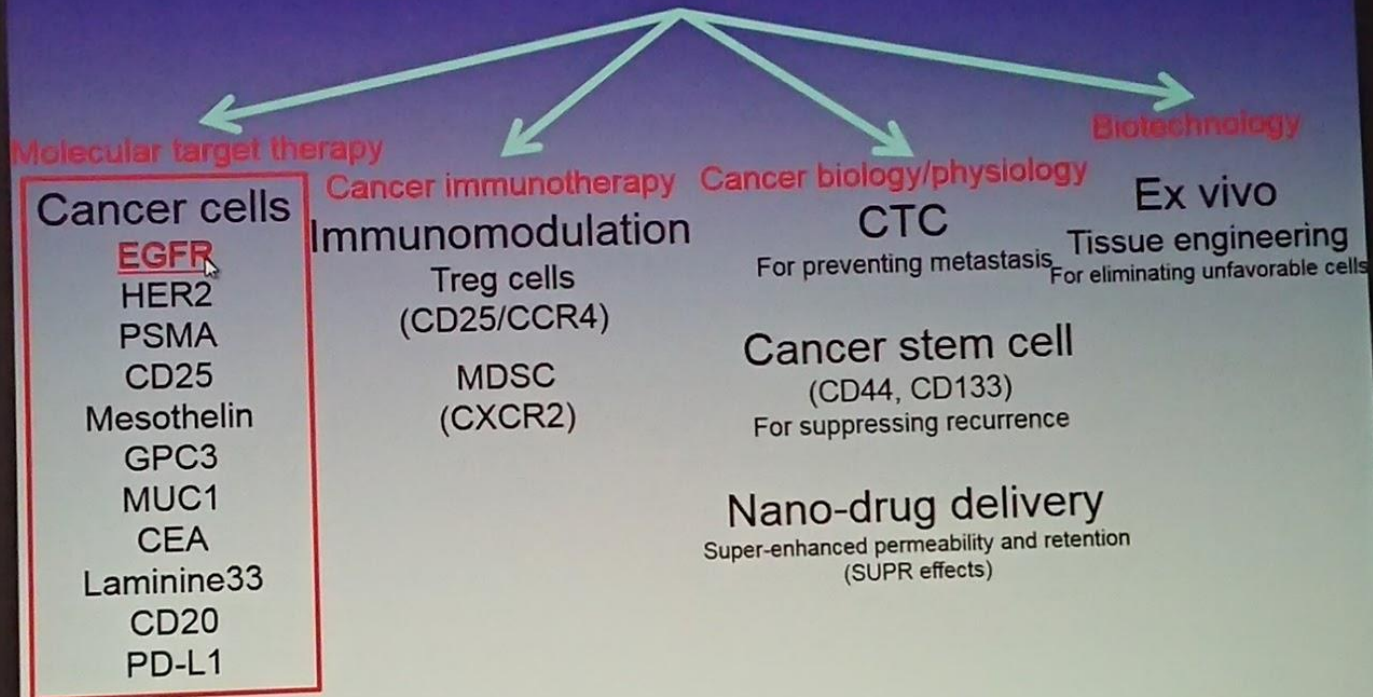
Target:

Heparanase

Kines R, Kobayashi H, Schiller J, In Preparation



# NIR-PIT applications





# Phase I, Head and Neck Cancer Study Design

Phase I study, recurrent/unresectable Head and Neck Cancer that failed conventional therapies. (Antibody-conjugate dose escalation)

Step 1: RM-1929 infusion



Step 2: Tumor illumination at 24 h



Outpatient service

## Phase 1 Study

### RM-1929 Dose Escalation, fixed light dose

Duration: 2015/6-2016/6

Total Patients: up to 24 → 10

Description: dose escalation study of RM-1929 in various cohorts to determine the **safety profile and the anticancer activity of the treatment with NIR light  $50 \text{ J/cm}^2$** .

- Cohort 1: 160 mg/m<sup>2</sup> of RM-1929
- Cohort 2: 320 mg/m<sup>2</sup> of RM-1929
- Cohort 3: 640 mg/m<sup>2</sup> of RM-1929
- Cohort 4: 1280 mg/m<sup>2</sup> of RM-1929

Clinical Sites: up to 3 clinical sites in the USA

Target:  
EGFR

SPYRIAN THE

# NIR-PIT in a clinical trial

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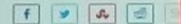
PUBLIC RELEASE: 15-NOV-2016

Media Contact

## Photoimmunotherapy spares nearby tissue

Head and neck cancer

RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



When Kerstin Stenson, M.D., uses an innovative technique she has developed to fight cancer, it seems like a Tom Clancy military espionage thriller.

Stenson is treating patients with photoimmunotherapy, PIT, an experimental technique that uses the immune system's ability to destroy cancer cells precisely with laser energy's ability to destroy those cells. Like a high-tech weapon in a Clancy thriller, PIT delivers extremely precise, lethal payloads with minimum collateral damage.

"Almost immediately, you can see the tumor start dying. It turns white and melts away," Stenson says. Because the payload drug remains inert unless activated by a specific wavelength of light that doesn't damage human tissue, destroying the cancer cells causes almost no damage to surrounding cells. "The drug/dye combination (the monoclonal antibody combined with the photosensitizer) is not toxic until activated by near infrared light, thus is very safe from a systemic perspective," Stenson explains.



IMAGE: DR. KERSTIN STENSON READIES THE LASER OPTIC LEADS USED IN PHOTOIMMUNOTHERAPY.

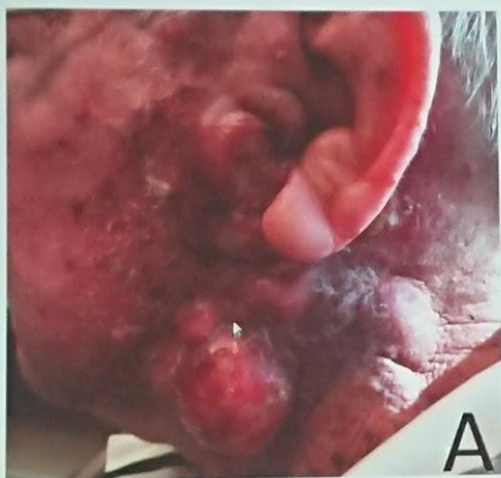
KEYWORDS

CANCER CELL BIOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS

IMMUNOLOGICAL DISEASES ASTHMA

MEDICINE/HEALTH

## Clear healing after NIR-PIT



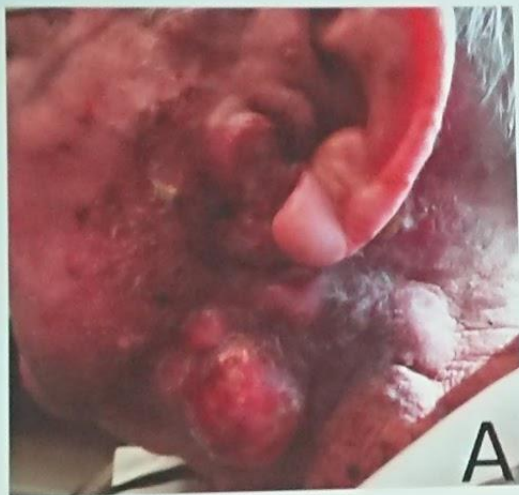
Pre-treatment



During treatment



## Clear healing after NIR-PIT



Pre-treatment



3 month after Tx



# Phase 1: Multicenter results

9 patients (7 males, 2 females), aged 52–86 years, enrolled in to RM-1929/101 Part I study.

Patient	Tumor site	Previous Treatment	Tumor size, CT (cm)	HPV/p16 Status
03-101	Oropharynx	Surgery, radiation×2, cisplatin	2.6 × 1.2	+/+
03-102	Posterior oro- and hypopharynx	Surgery, radiation	3.0 × 7.0 clinical	-/-
03-103	Right anterior tongue	Surgery, radiation ×2, carboplatin, 5-FU, cetuximab	2.8 × 0.7 × 1.3	-/-
03-201	Right neck	Surgery, radiation, taxol, carboplatin, cetuximab, nivolumab	8.0 × 6.0 × 4.0	-/-
03-201	Right submandibular, submental	Surgery, radiation, cisplatin, paclitaxel	6.0 × 4.5 submandibular, 2.3 × 1.7 submental	-/-
02-212	Left tongue base	Surgery, radiation, cisplatin, docetaxel, cetuximab	2.0 × 1.1 × 0.9	-/-
02-311	Occipital mass	Surgery, radiation, PD-1 inhibitor, cetuximab, PI3K inhibitor	2.7 × 3.3	+/NA
05-341	Pharynx and buccal mass	Surgery, radiation, 5-FU, cisplatin, docitaxel	6.0 × 4.0 left cheek 4.0 × 4.0 left oropharynx 5.0 × 3.0 left nasopharynx	NA/NA
03-301	Dermal metastases, neck nodes	Surgery, radiation, cisplatin, cetuximab, nivolumab	4.0 × 1.0, 2.0 × 1.0 right neck metastases; 2.0 × 1.0 right neck midline metastasis	-/+

Abbreviations: CT = computed tomography, HPV = human papilloma virus, NA = not applicable; PD-1 = programmed cell death protein 1, PI3K = phosphoinositide 3 kinase; p16 = p16 protein; 5-FU = 5-fluorouracil

## 7 cases at the Thomas Jefferson Univ.

### Results

Age	Tumor site	Treatments	Comments	RESIST
78M	oropharynx, hypopharynx	2	Clinical and radiologic improvement, no evidence of disease currently	CR
67M	retropharyngeal nodes, bilateral neck nodes	4	Moderate rash of scalp and back from drug initially, continued clinical and radiologic improvement of tumor noted	CR
59F	right and left neck, peristomal area	3	Strong tumor response leaving right carotid artery exposed, developed pharyngocutaneous fistula; died of carotid bleed after exposure	CR
66M	left neck mass	4	Partial response of tumor to treatments, underwent resection after completion	PR
65M	neopharynx	1	Progression of disease posteriorly into spine, palliative chemotherapy, died due to disease	PR
86M	left face and neck	1	Extensive tumor necrosis debrided, wound granulating with NED. Noted increased appetite, weight gain, and activity	CR
75M	right face and neck	1	Partial response on right (treated) side but progression on left, transitioned to hospice, died due to disease	PR

AHNS 2017 David Cignetti, et al.; Thomas Jefferson University

# Cell death

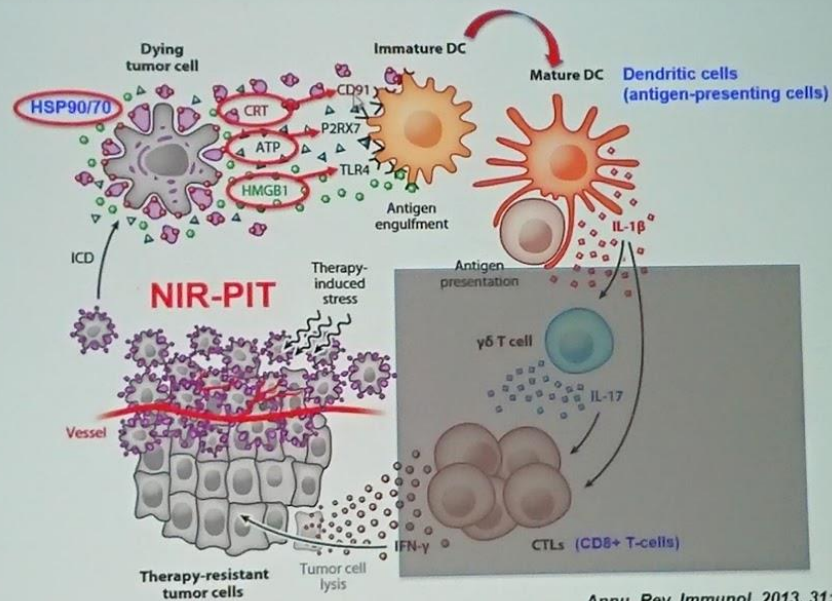
## Apoptotic cell death

- Non-immunogenic
- Biological death
- >6 hrs to days
- Death with healing
- Induced by
  - (to non-selective cells)
    - Drugs/chemotherapy
    - Radiation
    - Photodynamic therapy
  - (to selective cells)
    - Molecular target Txs
      - Antibodies
      - Small molecules

## Necrotic/Immunogenic cell death

- Immunogenic
- Physical/chemical death
- Seconds to minutes
- Death without healing
- Induced by
  - (to non-selective cells)
    - Heat
    - Cryotherapy
    - Focused Ultrasound
  - (to selective cells)
    - NIR-PIT

# Tumor immunity initiated by NIR-PIT induced Immunogenic cell death (ICD)



Annu. Rev. Immunol. 2013. 31:51-72

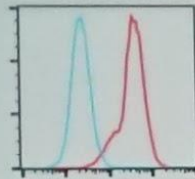


# Stress markers are quickly induced by NIR-PIT

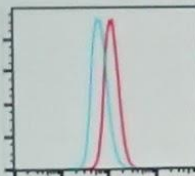
A431 cells

No NIR-PIT

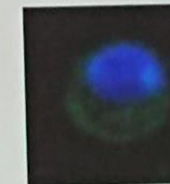
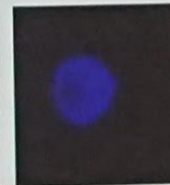
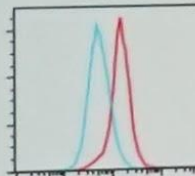
After NIR-PIT



Hsp70-PE Ab



Calreticulin-FITC Ab

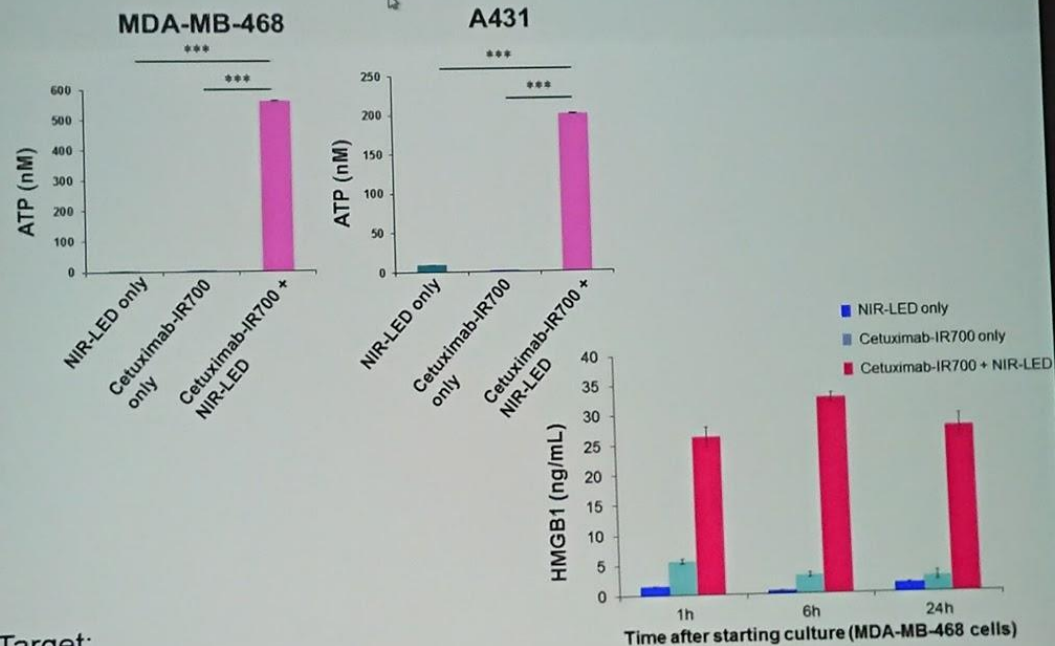


FITC-Hsp90L

Target:  
EGFR

Ogawa M. Kobayashi H, et al. Oncotarget 2017.

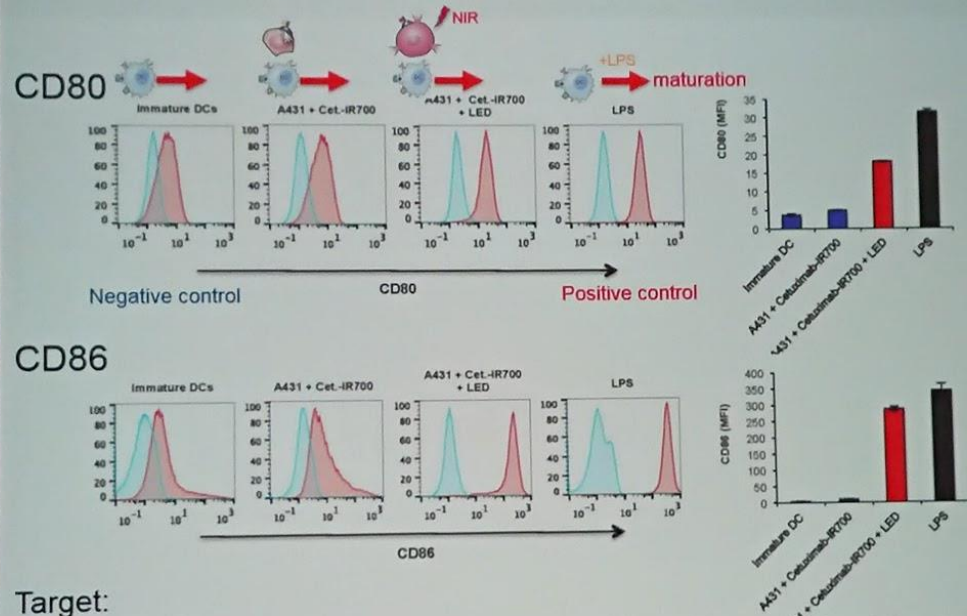
# ATP and HMGB1 are released after NIR-PIT



Target:  
EGFR

Ogawa M. Kobayashi H, et al. Oncotarget 2017.

# NIR-PIT induces maturation of immature dendritic cells

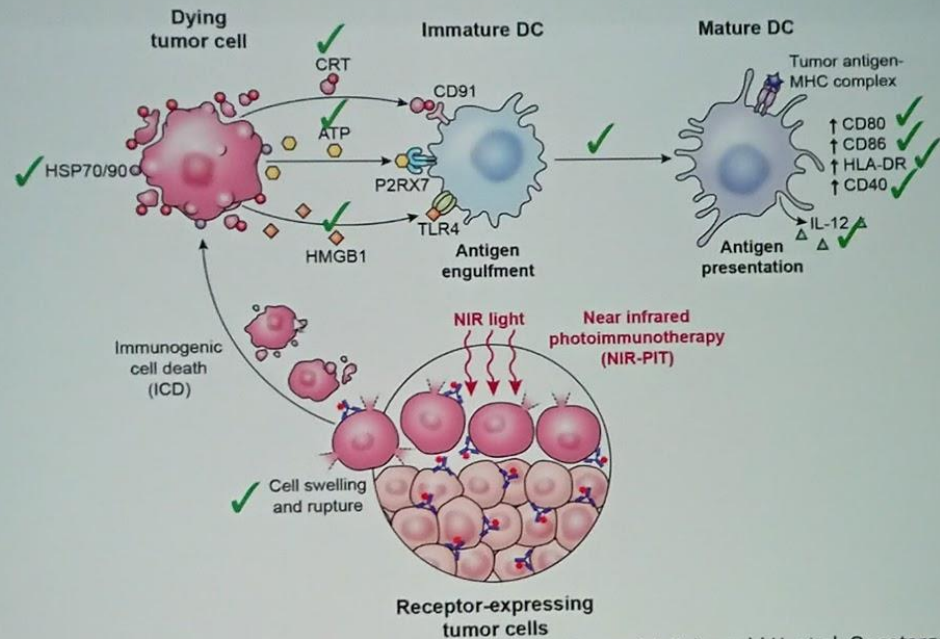


Target:  
EGFR

Ogawa M, Kobayashi H, et al. Oncotarget 2017.



# NIR-PIT induced immunogenic cell death



Ogawa M. Kobayashi H, et al. Oncotarget 2017.

## Advantages of selective cancer cell killing by NIR-PIT

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- Intact immune cells
  - Dendritic cells – activate initiate immunity against crashed cancer cells
  - T-cells – rapidly activate cytotoxic-CD8<sup>+</sup>T and NK cells
- Intact tissue stem cells
  - Rapid and clear repairing process

## NIR-PIT: Skin metastasis lesions

Pre-PIT



1 week after





## NIR-PIT: Skin metastasis lesions

Pre-PIT



1 month after



## NIR-PIT: Skin metastasis lesions

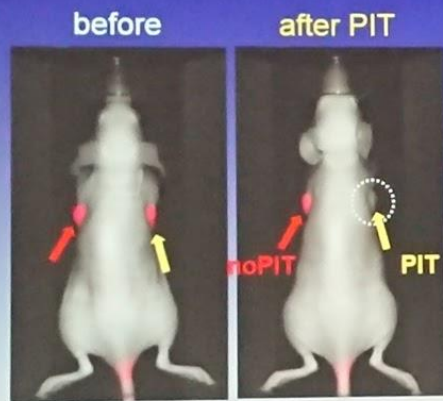
Pre-PIT



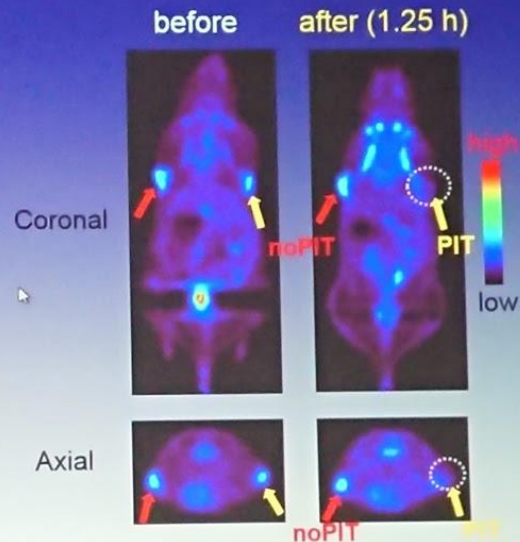
2 month after



# Immediate cell killing of PIT (FDG-PET: glucose metabolism)



White light + IR700 FL



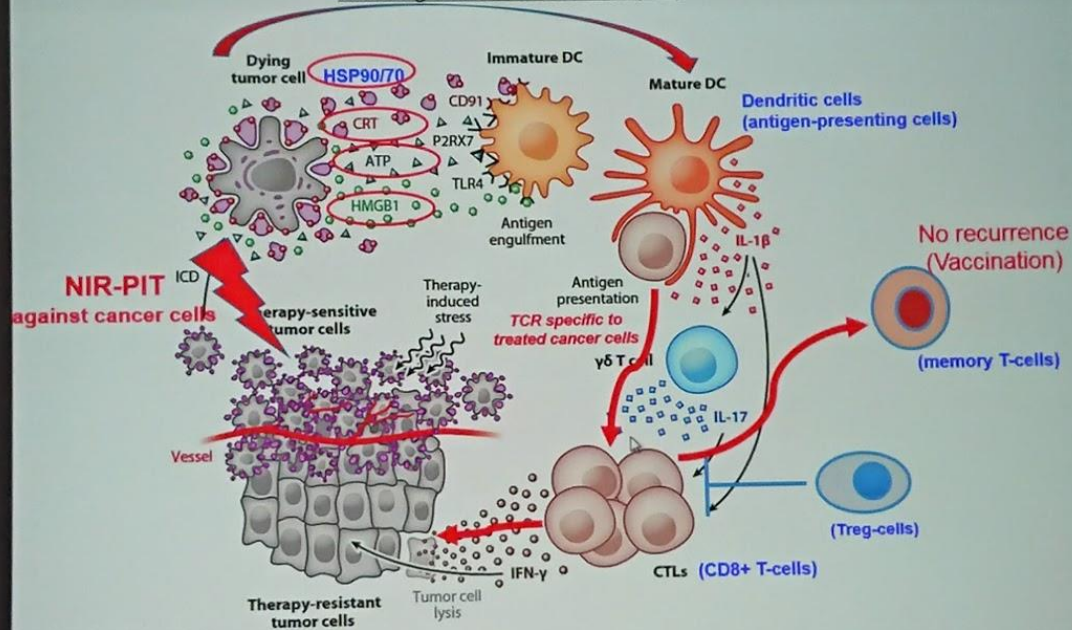
$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET

Sano, Kobayashi, J Nucl Med 2013



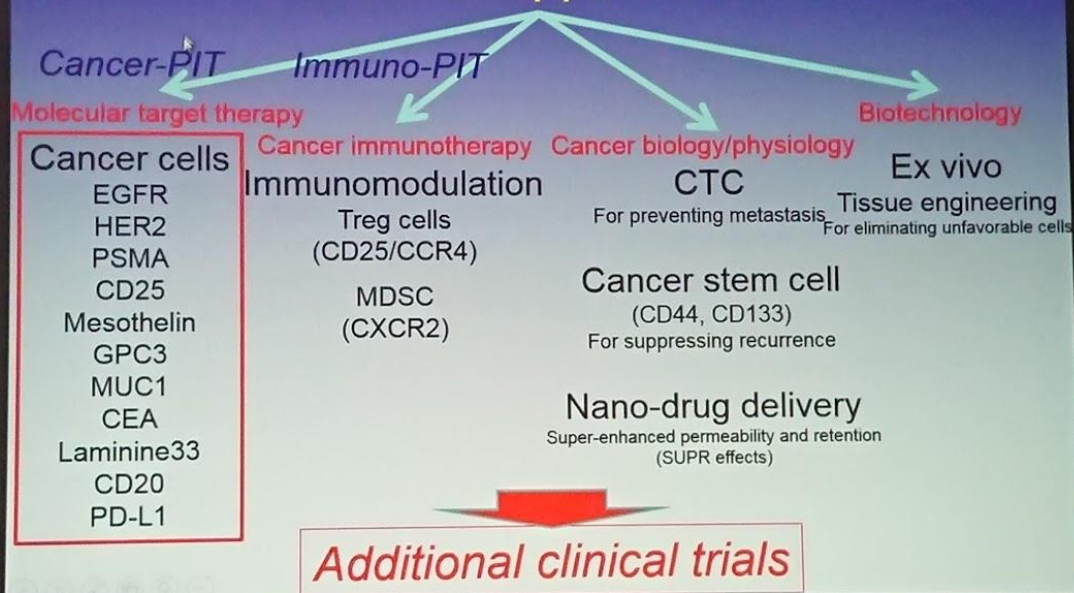
# Cancer target NIR-PIT only crashes cancer cells

*(Step 1) Cancer-cell targeted NIR-PIT induced  
Immunogenic cancer cell death (ICD)*



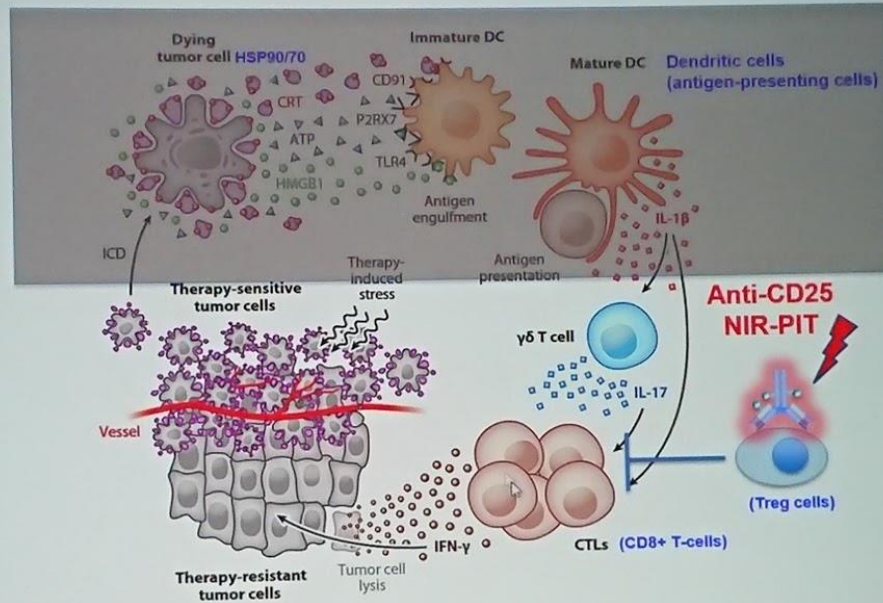
# On-going and future projects

## NIR-PIT applications



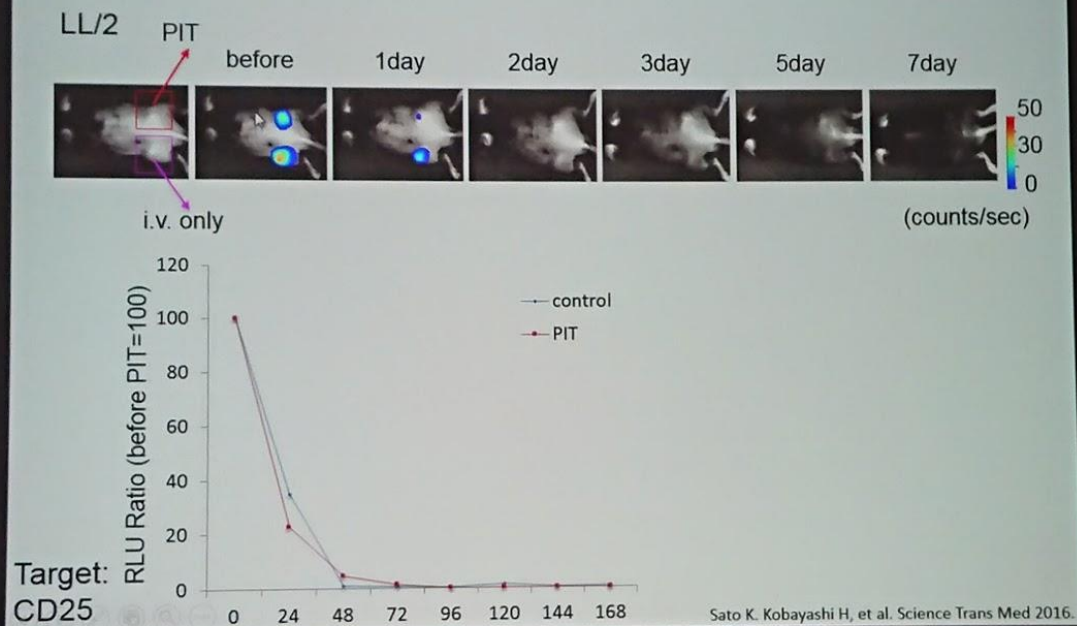
# Immunomodulation with NIR-PIT

(NIR-PIT can activate acquired immunity and destroy cancer cells )



Annu. Rev. Immunol. 2013. 31:51-72

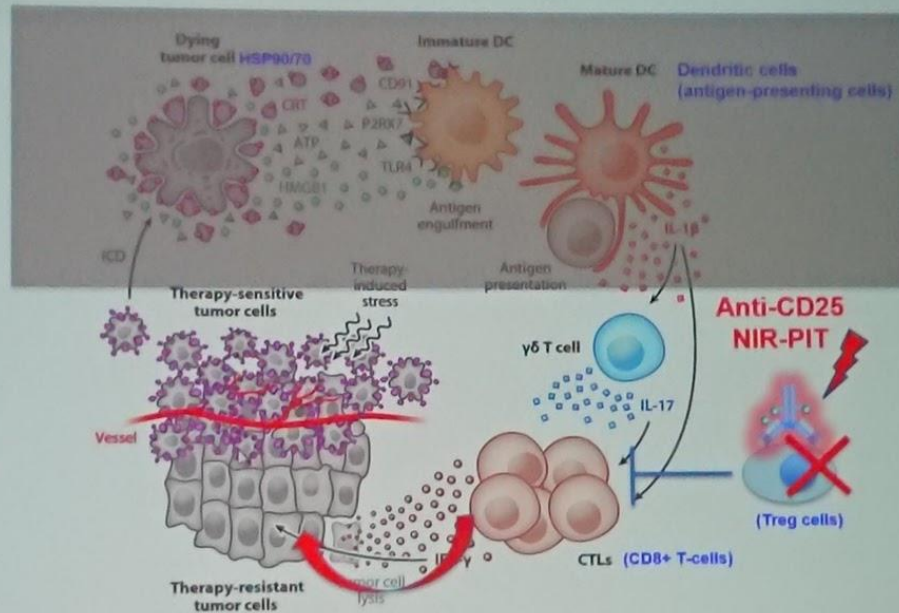
## NIR-PIT-induced local knockdown of Treg cells cure both treated and non-treated tumors



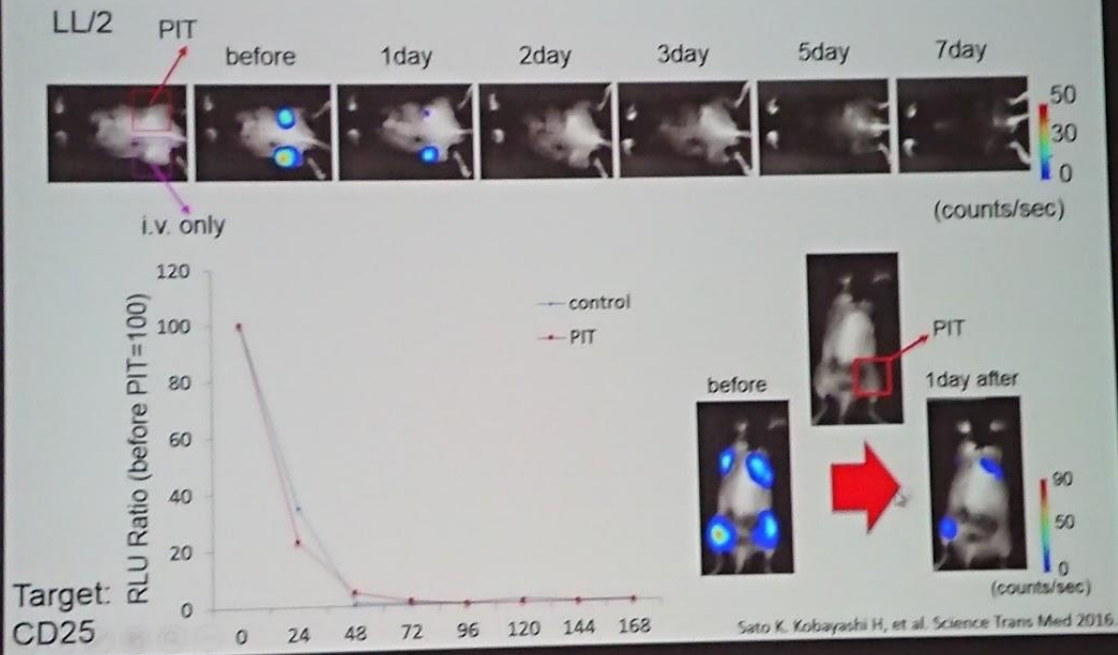


# Immunomodulation with NIR-PIT

(NIR-PIT can activate acquired immunity and destroy cancer cells )



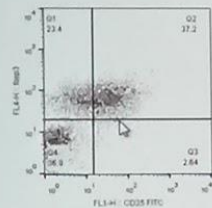
# NIR-PIT-induced local knockdown of Treg cells cure both treated and non-treated tumors



# Treg cell targeted NIR-PIT induces rapid activation of CD8+ T and NK cells

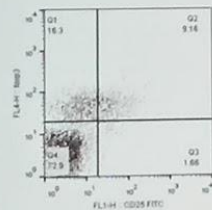
30 min after PIT

CD3+/CD4+/CD25+/F<sub>oxp</sub>3+ control tumor



37.2

CD3+/CD4+/CD25+/F<sub>oxp</sub>3+ PIT treated tumor

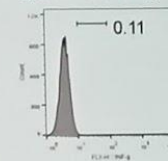


9.16

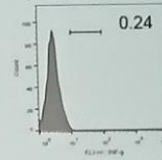
Target:  
CD25

1.5 hrs after PIT

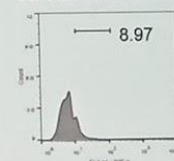
spleen:CD8+INFg



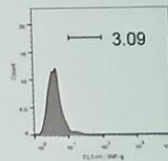
spleen:NK+INFg



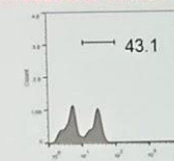
cont tumor:CD8+INFg



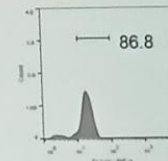
cont tumor:NK+INFg



PIT treated tumor:CD8+INFg



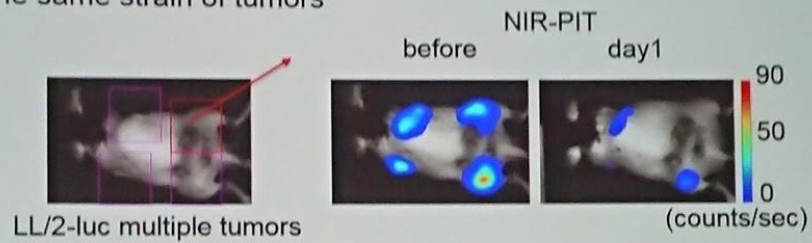
PIT treated tumor NK+INFg



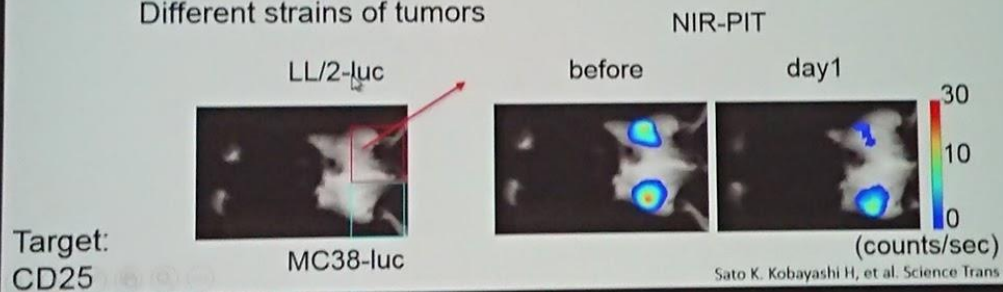
Sato K. Kobayashi H, et al. Science Trans Med 2016.

# Specificity of tumor immunity

The same strain of tumors

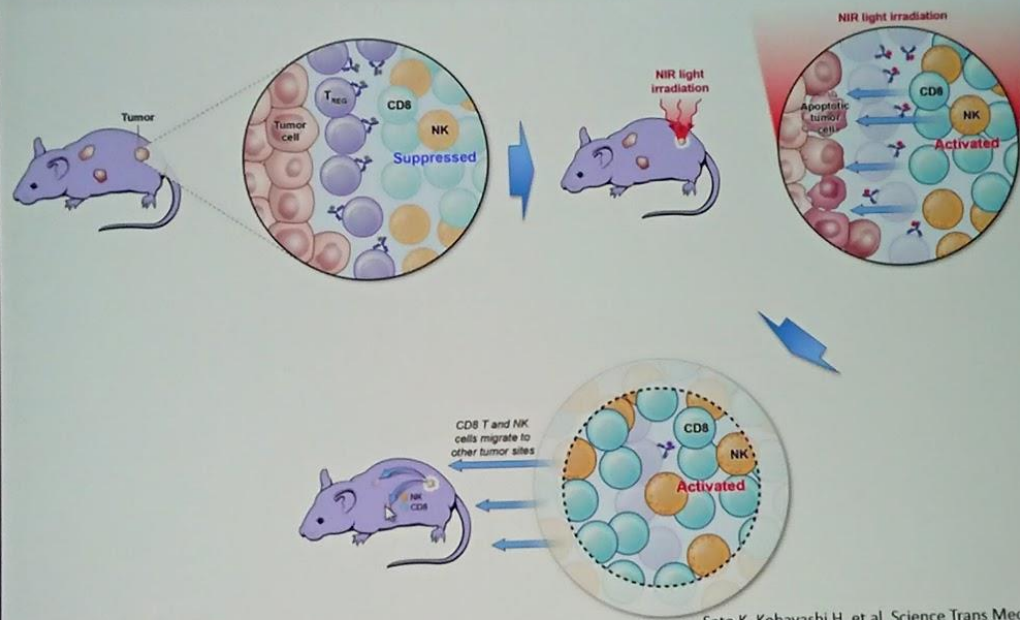


Different strains of tumors



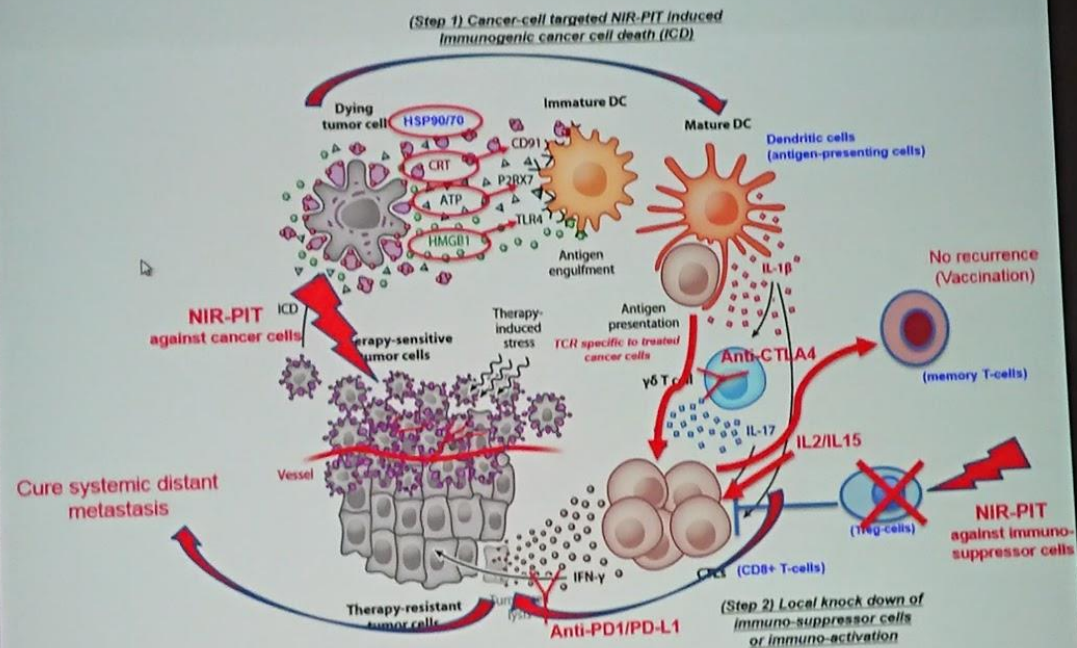


# NIR-PIT induced acquired immunity by local knockdown of Treg cells

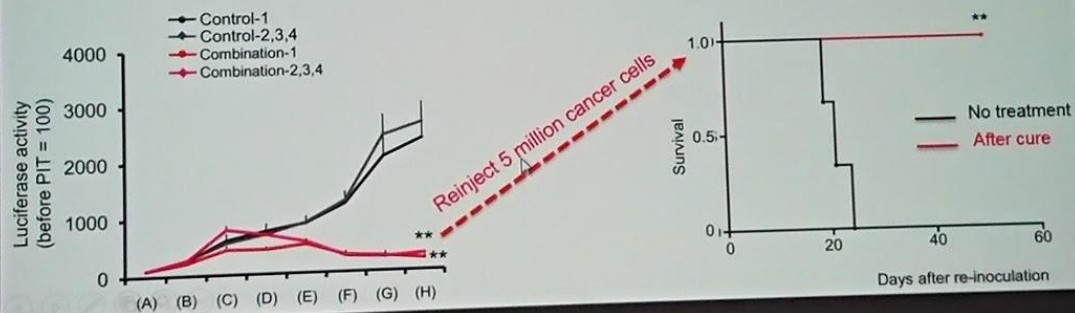
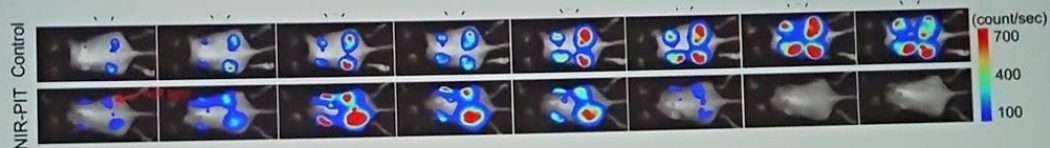
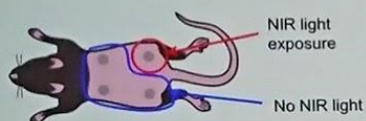


Sato K, Kobayashi H, et al. Science Trans Med 2016.

# Final form of NIR-PIT therapy

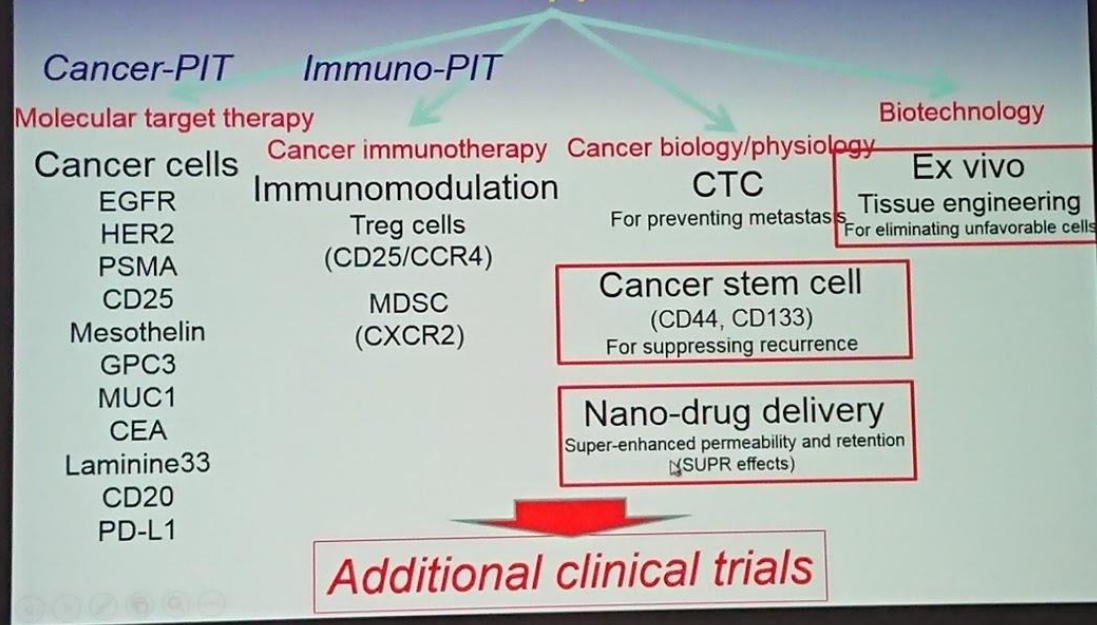


# Cancer-PIT combined with immuno-activation cure local and distant cancers without recurrence



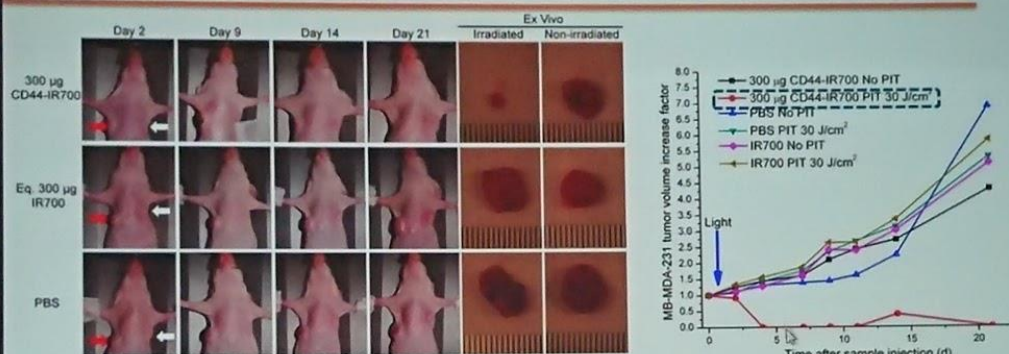
# On-going and future projects

## NIR-PIT applications



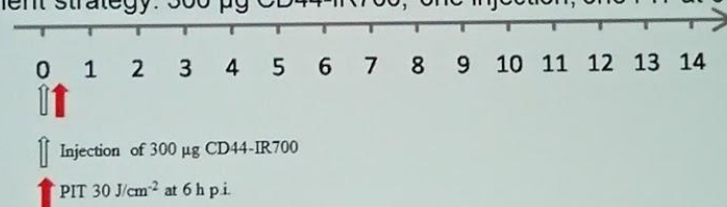


# Application of NIR-PIT targeting cancer stem cells



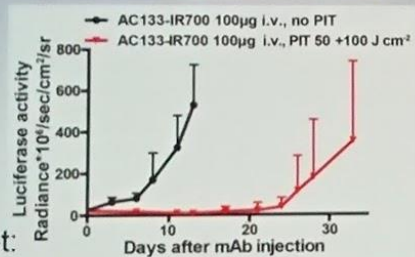
→ 30 J/cm<sup>2</sup> White arrow denotes no PIT

Treatment strategy: 300 µg CD44-IR700, one injection, one PIT at 6 h p.i.

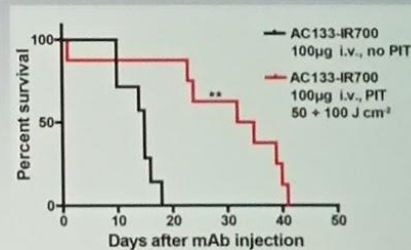


Target:  
CD44

# CD133+ GBM stem cell targeted NIR-PIT

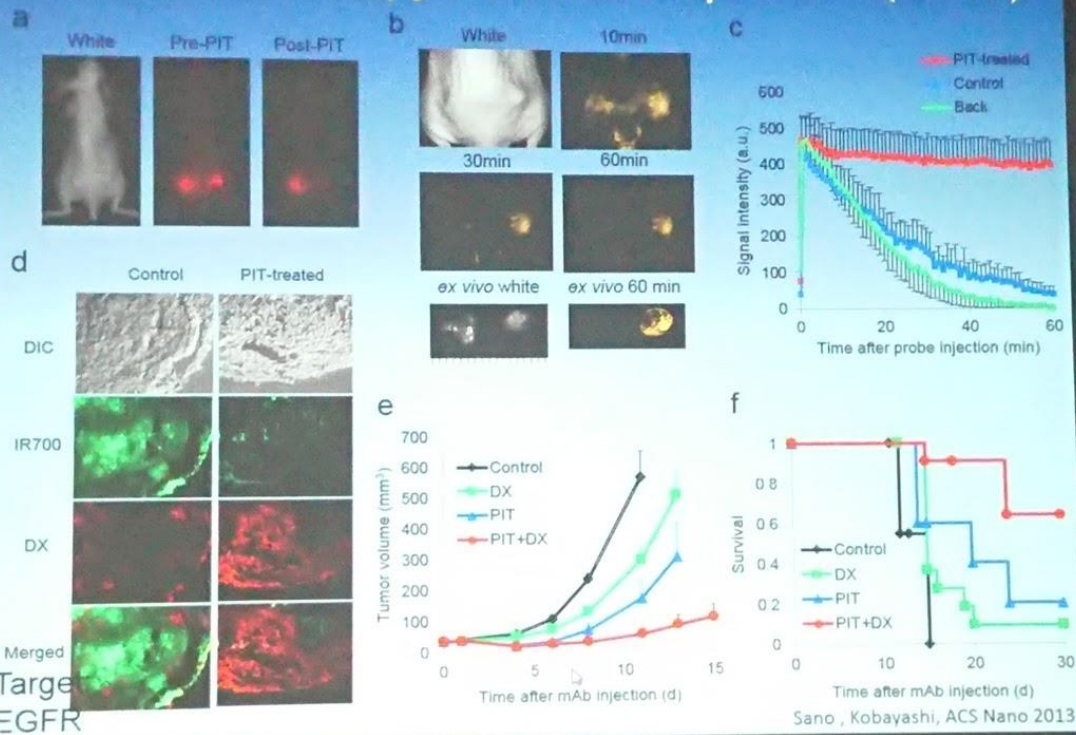


Target:  
CD133



Jing H, Kobayashi H, Niedermann G, Univ. Frieberg: Theranostics 2016

# PIT/SUPR therapy with Daunoliposome (50 nm)





## Aspyrian-Rakuten team





## Summary of talks today

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12



iPS



(re)-productive!!

PIT



"Mwa ha ha!"



destructive!!

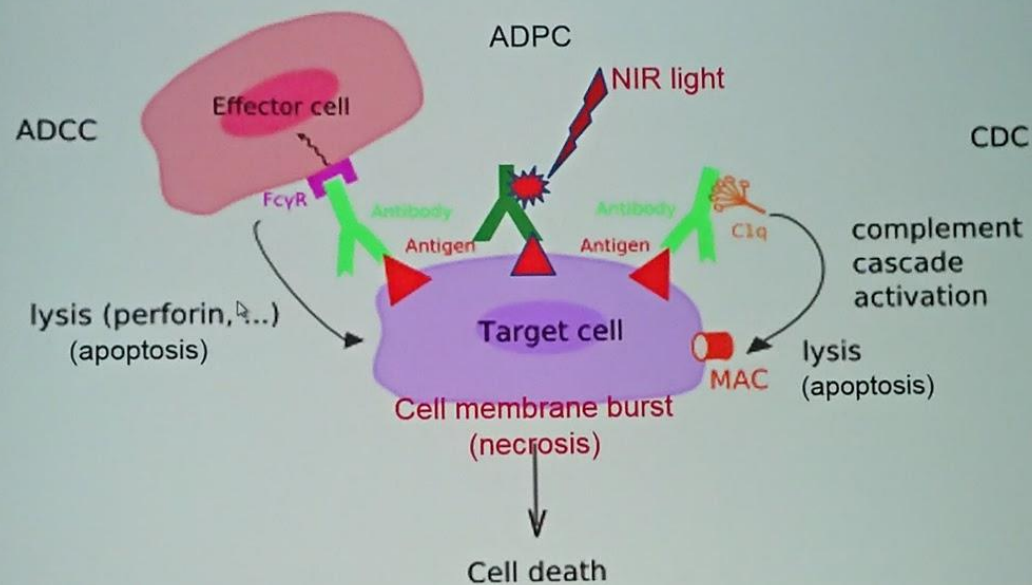


# Applying NIR-PIT to tissue engineering

Eliminating selective cells from 3D culture using NIR-PIT



## Antibody-photosensitizer conjugate (APC)- Dependent Photo-induced Cytotoxicity (ADPC)

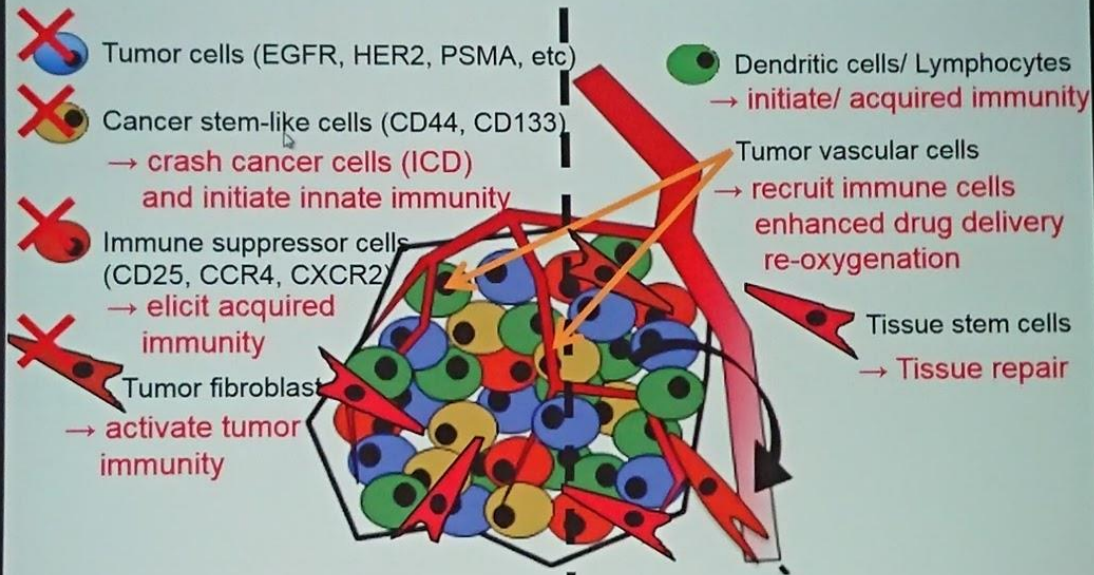


Antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) and Complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC)

## Summary: NIR-PIT cancer therapy

Eliminate tumor/stroma cells

Leave supportive cells



## Phase 2 → Registration trial

STARTUPS, BIOTECH

Rakuten CEO leads \$40M investment in  
photoimmunotherapy startup Aspyrian  
Therapeutics?

By MIC

Post

Aspyrian Therapeutics Inc.  
announces successful advances  
in RM-1929 clinical development  
in recurrent Head and Neck  
Cancer, including Fast Track  
filing, to designation granted by the FDA,  
initiation of clinical studies in  
Japan, and plans to start pivotal  
studies, which will incorporate  
the evaluation of anti-cancer  
immune responses, in early 2018

San Die  
filing, to  
Photoir

Photoir  
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Institut  
to keep

This \$4  
billiona  
largest  
with his

MedCity News  
how the comp  
\$12.7 million l

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/aspyrian-therapeutics-inc-announces-successful-advances-in-rm-1929-clinical-development-in-recurrent-head-and-neck-cancer-including-fast-track-designation-granted-by-the-fda-initiation-of-clinical-studies-in-japan-and-plans-to-300583615.html>



2018-01-16

## Phase 2 → Registration trial

STARTUPS, BIOTECH  
Rakuten CEO leads \$40M investment in  
photoimmunotherapy startup Aspyrian

Th Aspyrian Therapeutics Inc.

- announces successful advances  
in RM-1929 clinical development  
in recurrent Head and Neck



### 光でがん治療、国内で治験始まる

国立がんセンター東病院



2018/3/13 18:42

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近赤外線という光を使ってがんを治療する「がん光免疫療法」の国内初の臨床試験（治験）が、国立がん研究センター東病院（千葉県柏市）で13日までに始まった。米国立衛生研究所（NIH）の小林久隆・主任研究員らが開発した手法で、米バイオベンチャーが実施。頭や首のがん患者数人を対象に安全性を確認し、数年以内の承認を目指す。

治療は、がん細胞の表面に多いタンパク質にくっつく抗体と、近赤外線に反応する物質をつなげ、薬剤として利用。この薬剤を患者に注射し、翌日にがんの部分に光を当てると、がん細胞にくっついた薬剤に化学反応が起きて、がん細胞が破壊するという。



## World wide collaborations



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Hamamatsu Photonics Inc.  
Olympus Inc.  
Toray Inc.

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End of talk