## ESMO Preceptorship on Ovarian Cancer

## Novel treatment pathways – Horizon scanning

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**Presenter Disclosures** 

No disclosure

### Content

- Antibody drug conjugate: new developments
- Targeting tumor-associated mesothelin
- Targeting signal pathways
  - Anti Wnt
  - Anti AXL

## Antibody – drug conjugates (ADC)



### Antibody – drug conjugates (ADC)



Most ADC Targets are:

Tumor Associated Antigens, Not Tumor Specific

#### Activity & Toxicity Dependent Upon:

The relative distribution Normal tissue / Tumor tissue: specificity

Off-target distribution of payload

Bystander effect

PK and immune effector functions

## **ADC: challenging clinical development**

- Narrow therapeutic index
- Difficult extrapolation of preclinical data
- Low drug to antibody ratios (DAR) for microtubule destabilizing payload
- Need of payload with different MoA (DNA minor groove AA)

## Mesothelin (MSLN) and OvCa

- Tumor-differentiation membrane-bound Ag with normal expression limited to mesothelial cells.
- Higher expression in mesothelioma, OvCa, pancreatic adenocarcinoma.
- Binds to CA125 possibly contributing to peritoneal spread.
- Different targeting strategies:

ADC: BAY 94-9343

DMOT4039A

BMS – 986 148

Chimeric Ab: Morab\_009

BAY 94-9343 (Anetumab ravtansine)

## Fully human anti-MSLN mAb (MF-T) coupled by

disulfide linker to maytansinoid microtubule - targeting DM<sub>4</sub>

#### Anetumab ravtansine

#### **Preclinical features in OVCAR-3 tumor model**



In vivo antitumor activity



#### Anetumab ravtansine

## **Preclinical features**



## Phase I study of Anetumab Ravtansine (N=77)

- IV infusion q 3wks Dose escalation (mesothelioma, pancreas, ovary) followed by expansion (mesothelioma, ovary)
- DLT<sub>S</sub>: keratitis and neuropathy
- Most common AE<sub>S</sub>: fatigue, GI, LFT<sub>S</sub> increase

## Phase I study of DMOT 4039 A (N=71)

- Fully human anti-MSLN mAb (47D9. v3) coupled by protease sensitive cleavable linker to microtubute disrupting auristatin (MMAE)
- Phase I in unresectable pancreatic or platinum-resistant OvCa
- Dose escalation, followed by expansion with mesothelin ICH 3+
- 90 min IV q3wks
- Main toxicities: constitutional, GI, cumulative peripheral neuropathy.
- PR 3 in 10 ovary pts, additional 3 decrease of CA125 only (ICH 3+)

## MDX – 1204 (BMS\_986148)

- Fully human anti-MSLN mAb coupled by clivable peptide linker to DNA alkylating agent related to duocarmycin.
- Antitumor activity in OvCa, lung and pancreatic xenografts.
- Phase I/IIa study ongoing with BMS\_986148 alone or in combination with nivolumab in mesothelioma, NSCL, OvCa, pancreatic and gastric cancer.

## Anti-PTK7 ADC: PF-06647020



- Protein tyrosine kinase 7, component of Wnt/planar cell polarity pathway.
  - Functions as molecular switch in Wnt, semaphorin-plexin and VEGF signaling pathway.
  - Overexpressed in different human cancers (breast, colon, lung, gastric, esophageal, AML)
  - Expression linked to poor prognosis in patients with TNBC and NSCLC

## Phase I Study of PTK7 (N=76) (NCTO2222922)



- Dose escalation
  - Single agent q3wks IV in patients with advanced solid tumors
  - Unselected for PTK7 expression

## Best Response by RECIST (Dose escalation)



Tumor Size Change Data (Number of Subjects = 18)

## Phase I Study of PTK7 (N=76)

## **Results**

60 pts treated at RP2D, 29 with recurrent OvCa Main toxicities: nausea (46%), alopecia (34%), fatigue ( 30%), neutropenia (26%)

1CR, 5PR in 22 (4 platinum resistant) evaluable OvCa

Accrual ongoing

### GAS6 - AXL signaling



#### **Ovarian Cancer: Heterogeneity in gene expression molecular subtypes (GEMS)**



#### AXL and other RTKs crosstalks in MES



### **AXL signature expression**

## Significantly overexpressed in Mes GEMS (CSIOVDB)



Correlated to overall survival (OS) (CSIOVDB)



#### AXL signature expression

#### Overexpressed in metastasis and platinum resistant relapse

Resistant to platinum-based chemotherapy associated with EMT in OvCA





E-MTAB-611: Gene expression profile of primary and relapsed epithelial ovarian cancer

Marchini et al., EJC, 2012

# Resistance to platinum-based chemotherapy is associated with EMT in epithelial ovarian cancer

#### MECHANISTIC CONSIDERATIONS

- Primary tumors and synchronous metastases express a homogenous overlapping gene expression profile.
- In 70% of cases, sensitive and resistant-relapsing tumors are associated with differential expression of genes belonging to TLR 4, ECM and TGF-β signalling pathways, all involved in the EMT.

### HuMax – AXL – ADC, a novel ADC

- Human AXL mAb coupled by a protease cleavable linker to MMAE
- Promising antitumor activity in lung cancer xenografts, also in a model with high expression of GAS6.

### Targeting the GAS6 AXL axis in OvCa

### Phase I of the HuMax-AXL-ADC (NCT 02988817)

2 escalation arms (IV q3wks, 3q 4w) with expansion at RP2D OvCa, cervical, endometrial, NSCL, thyroid cancer

### **Novel treatment pathways - Horizon Scanning**

## Conclusions

<u>New</u> promising <u>ADC</u> targeting "<u>new</u>" potentially relevant <u>signal pathways</u>

Improved knowledge with improvement of chemical and biological properties

Possibly more efficient than small TKI

All in platinum resistant disease, mostly targeting TME