



VIRTUAL  
MEETING

# BEYOND THE CONGRESS

Key Conversations from the  
2021 Hematology Annual Meeting™

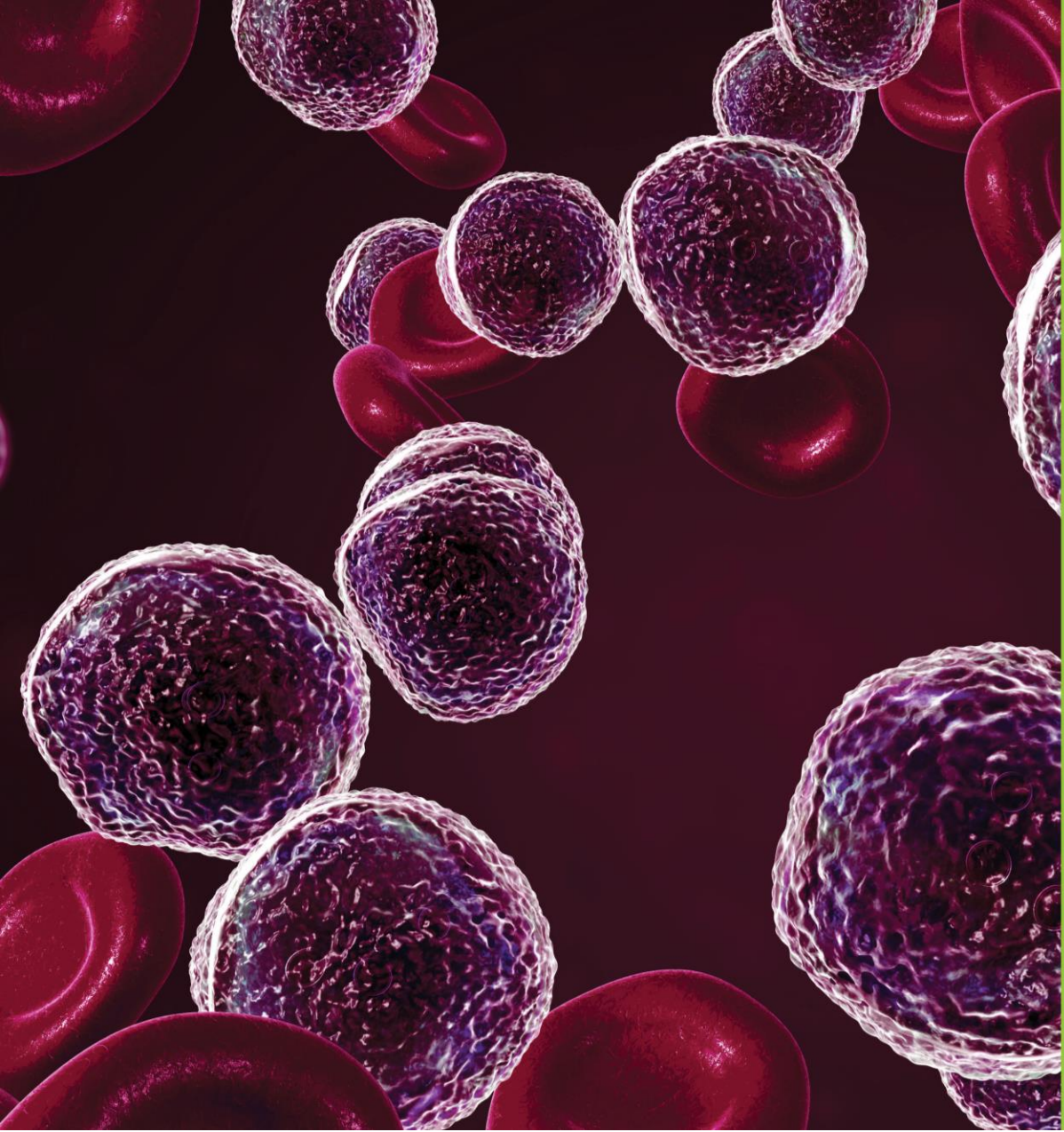
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

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# Emerging Themes and Concepts in the Treatment of MDS

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# Disclosures

I have the following financial relationships to disclose:

*Advisory and consulting:* Abbvie, Celgene, CTI, Geron, Karyopharm, Novartis, Ryvu, Taiho, Takeda, TG Therapeutics; *Research Support:* ALX Oncology, Astex, Incyte, Takeda, TG Therapeutics; *Equity:* Karyopharm, Ryvu; *Data Safety Monitoring Board:* Celgene, Sierra Oncology, TG Therapeutics; *Licensing Agreement:* Boehringer-Ingelheim

# Myelodysplastic syndromes: Emerging Themes and Ideas

- 1. Prognostication** via IPSS/IPSS-R includes marrow fitness, transformational features, and large structural changes in somatic DNA → critical small mutational changes are now formally part of the prognostication
- 2. Metabolic changes** in MDS cells provide vulnerability for treatment
- 3. Targeting Inflammation** as part of the pathophysiology of MDS



# Use of NGS in Prognostication

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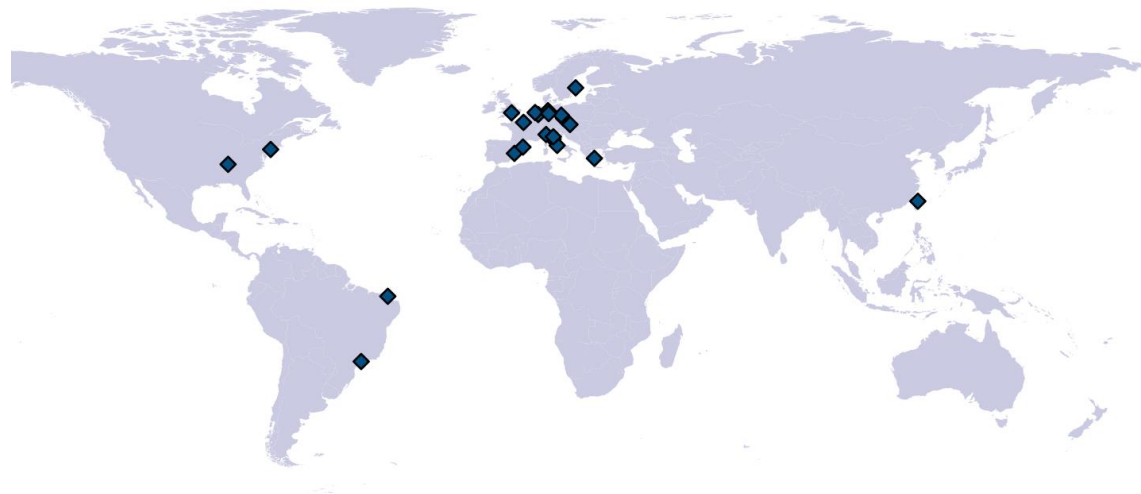
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# International Working Group for the Prognosis of MDS (IWG-PM)

Study objective: Integrate gene mutations into the International Prognostic Scoring System (IPSS/IPSS-R)

IWG cohort (discovery)



n=2,957

Japan cohort (validation)

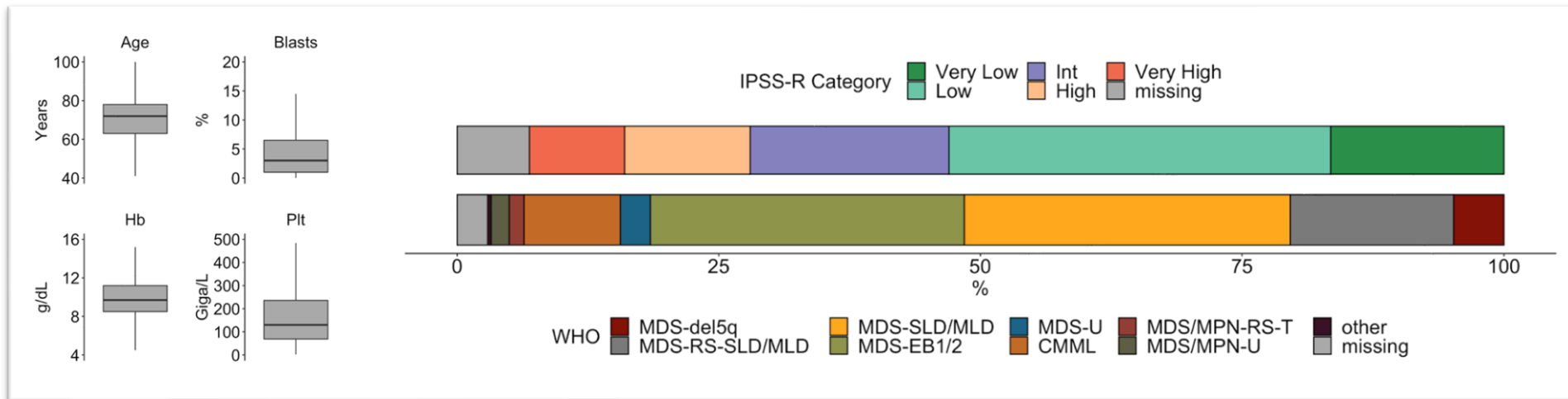


n=754



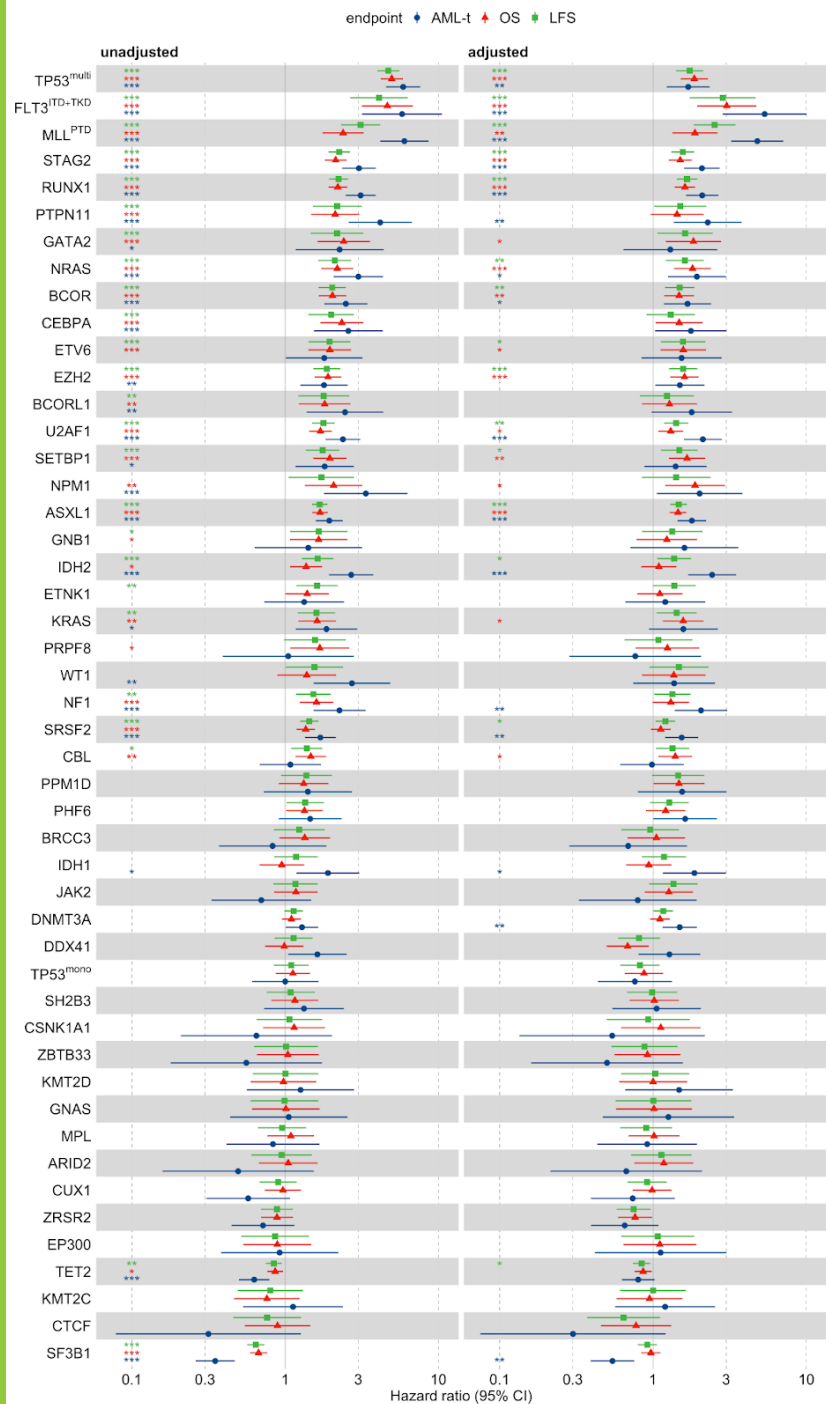
# IWG-PM cohort clinical characteristics

**Inclusion criteria: diagnostic samples | blast percentages < 20% | white blood cell count < 13x10<sup>9</sup>/L**



- Median age of presentation 72 years (39-88, 95<sup>th</sup> range).
- Representative of all IPSS-R risk categories and WHO subtypes.
- 8% of patients had therapy-related MDS.
- 30% of patients treated with disease-modifying agents according to established guidelines.
- Median follow-up 3.8 years.





# Association between gene mutations and clinical endpoints

Leukemia free survival (LFS)

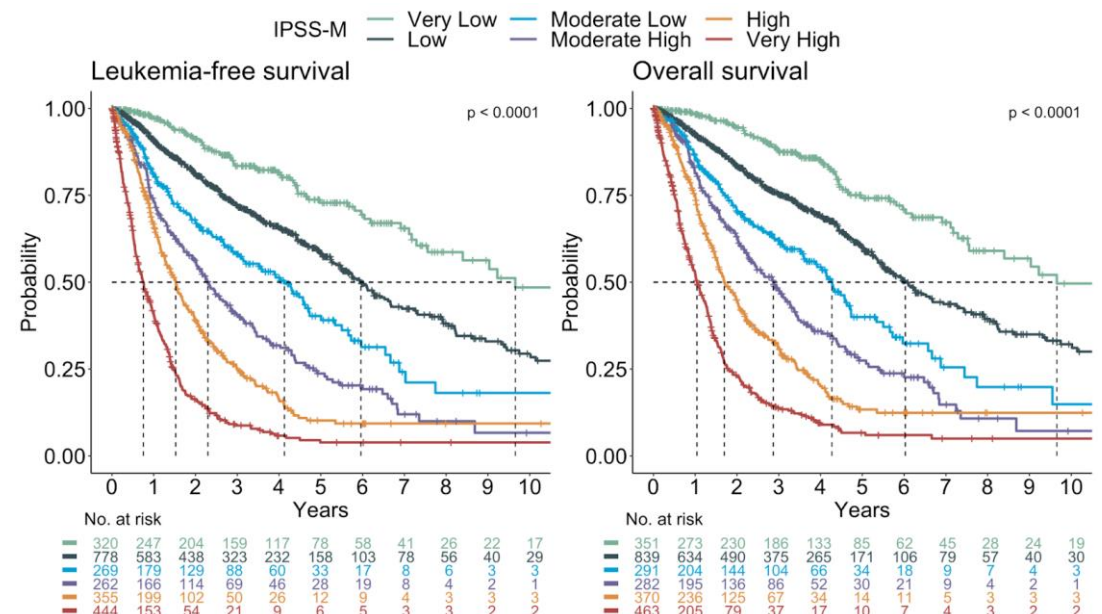
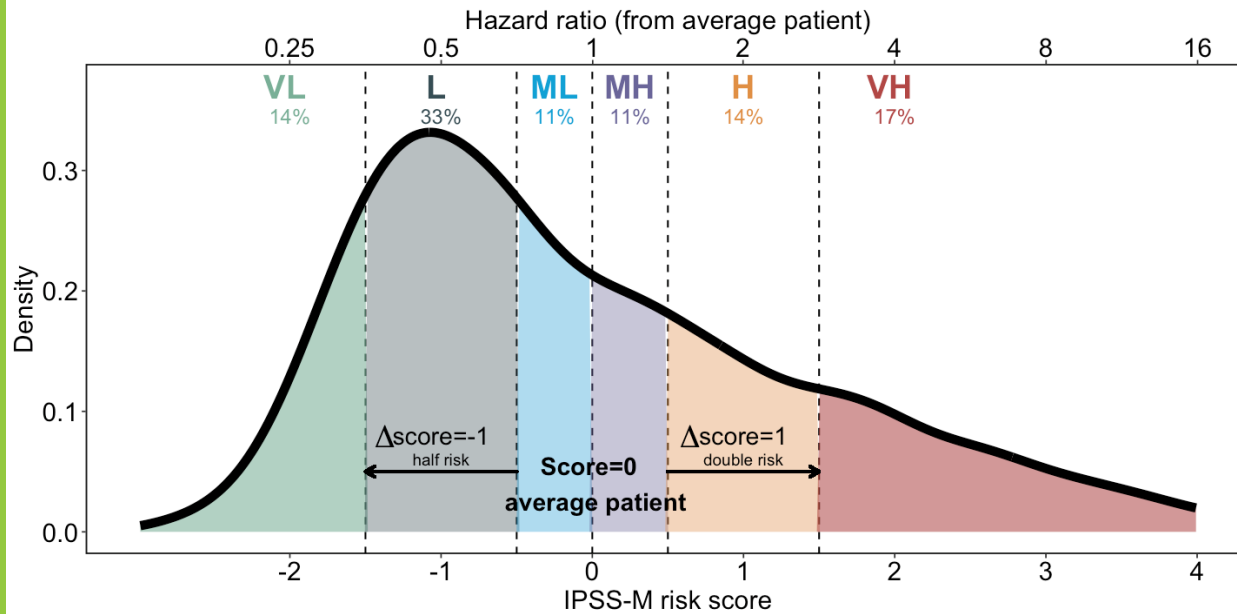
Overall survival (OS)

AML transformation (AML-t)

Adjusting for age, sex, MDS type (primary vs. therapy-related), and IPSS-R raw score, 14, 16 and 15 genes were significantly associated with adverse outcomes for the three endpoints, respectively.

# The IPSS-M risk categories

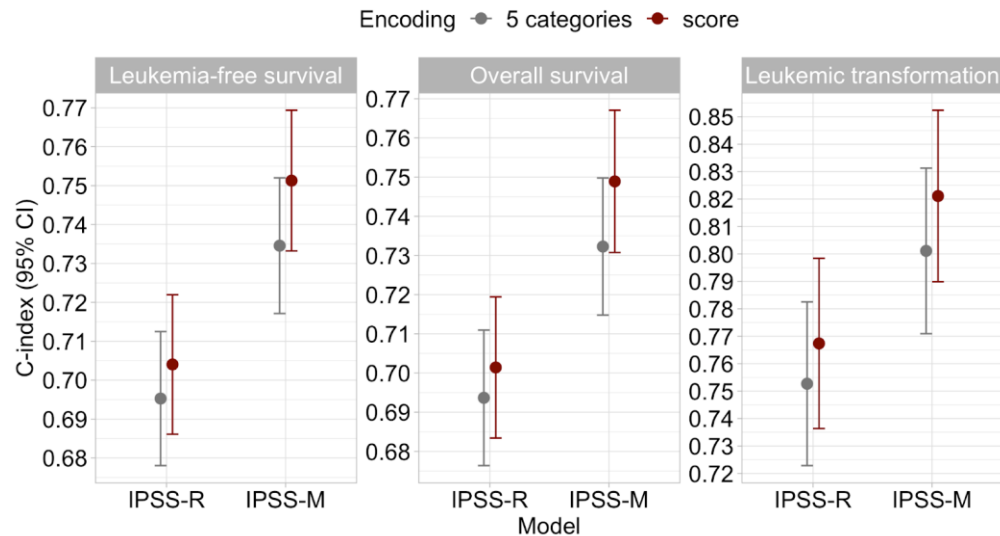
## A six-category risk schema



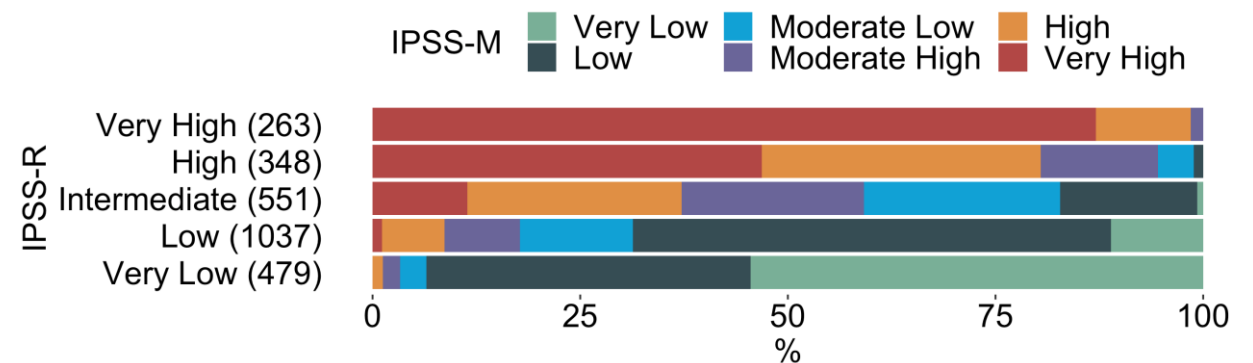
Very Low | Low | Moderate Low | Moderate High | High | Very High

# From the IPSS-R to the IPSS-M

## Improved prognostic discrimination



## Extensive patient re-stratification



**Five points increase in concordance index from IPSS-R to IPSS-M across all endpoints**

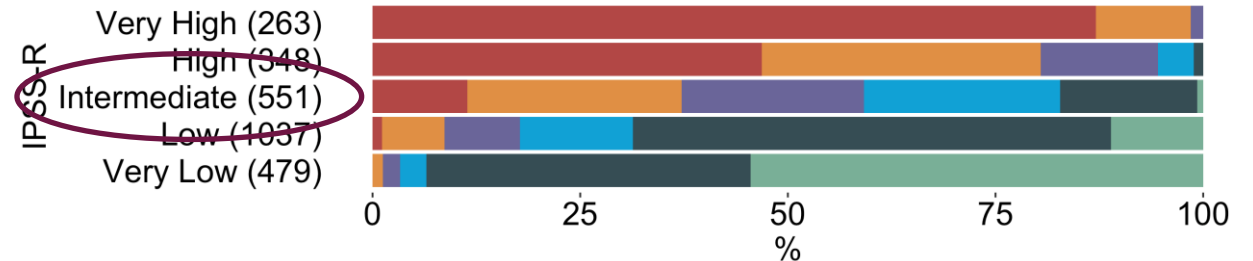
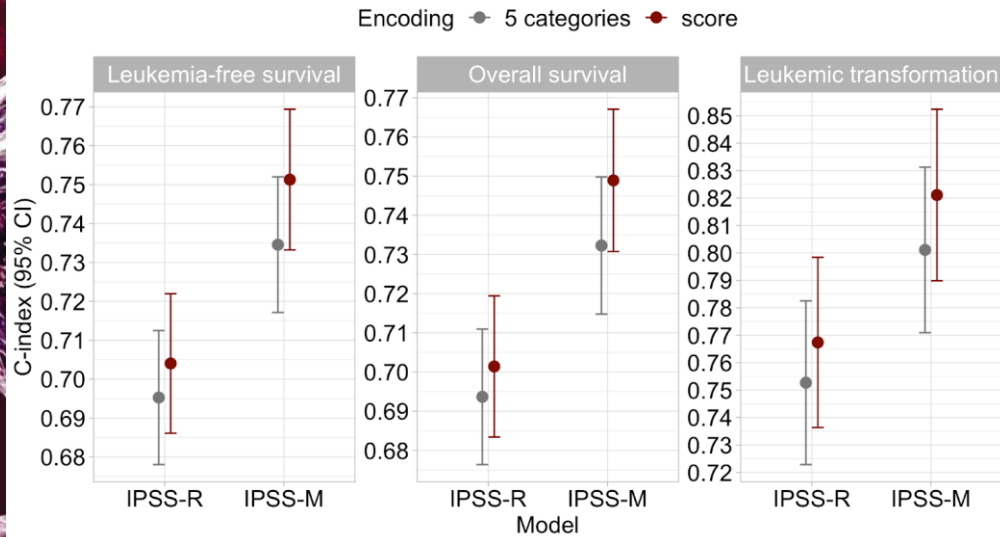
**46% (n=1,223) of patients were re-stratified**

**7% (n=196) of patients were re-stratified by more than one strata**

# From the IPSS-R to the IPSS-M

Improved prognostic discrimination

Extensive patient re-stratification



Five points increase in concordance index from IPSS-R to IPSS-M across all endpoints

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# Metabolism and Apoptosis

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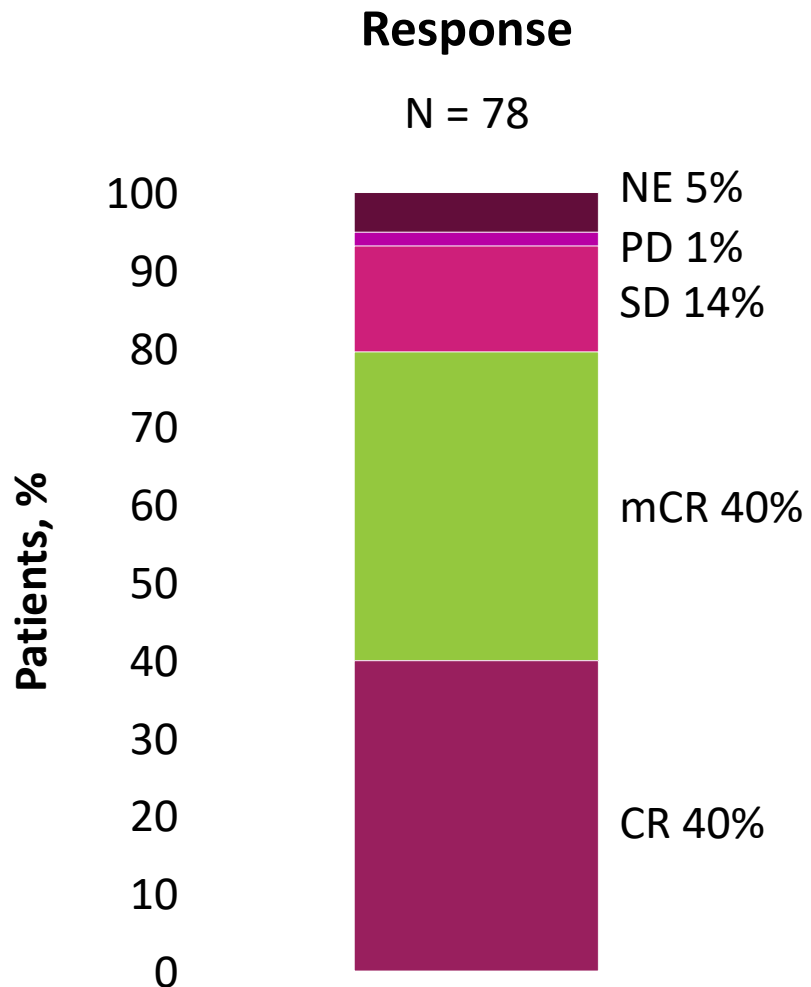


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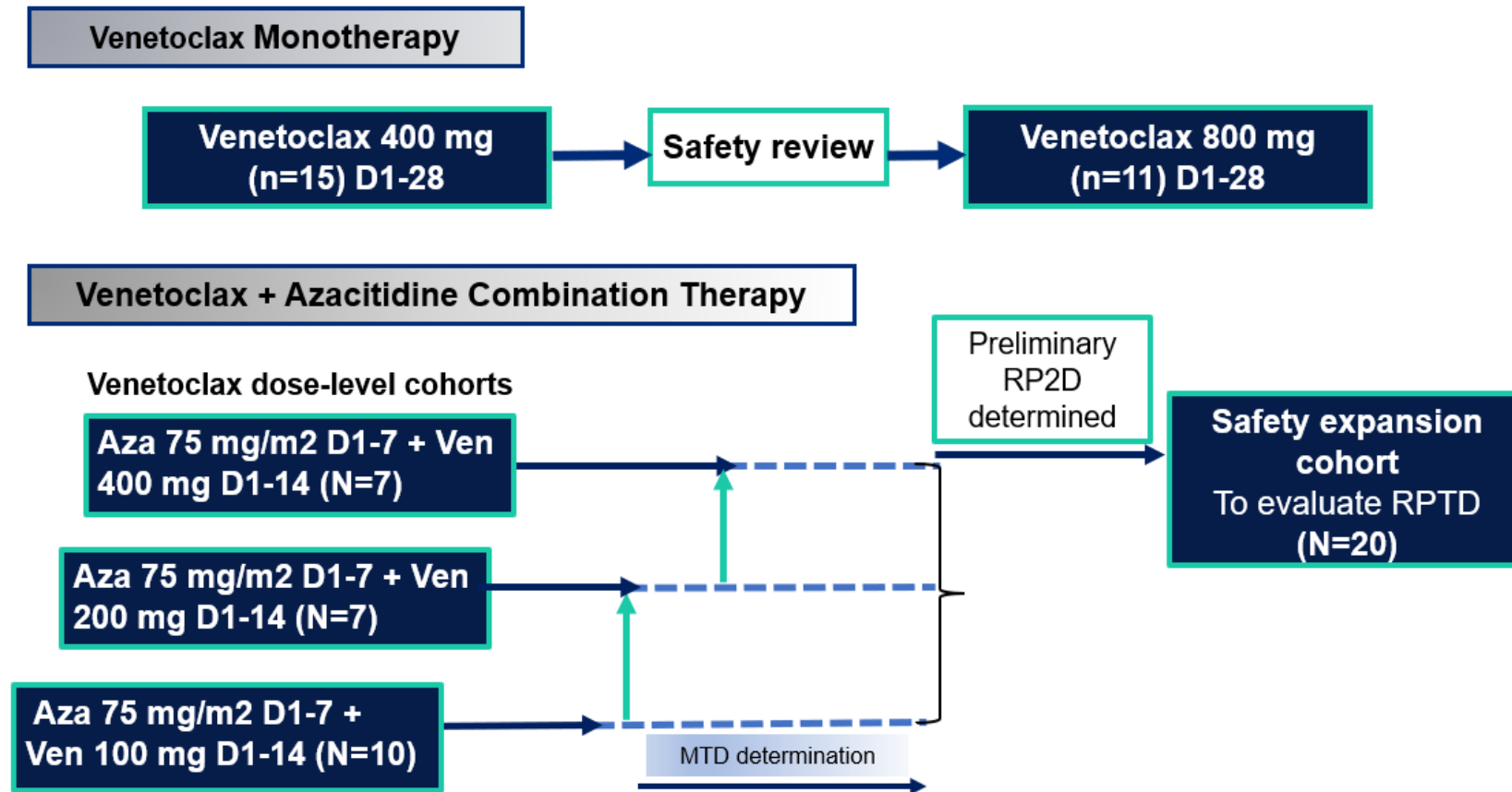
# Phase Ib Study Adding Venetoclax to Azacitidine in Higher-risk MDS Shows Safety and Efficacy



Median time to mCR, mo (range)	0.9 (0.7-4.6)
Median time to CR, mo (range)	2.6 (1.2-19.6)
Transfusion independence rate n/N (%) [95% CI]	20/43 (46.5) [31.2-62.3]
Duration of response for CR, median	13.8 (8.9-NE)

- Prior to other post-study systemic cancer therapies, 23% of the study population moved to post-study allogeneic HSCT

# Study of Venetoclax and Azacitidine in R/R MDS

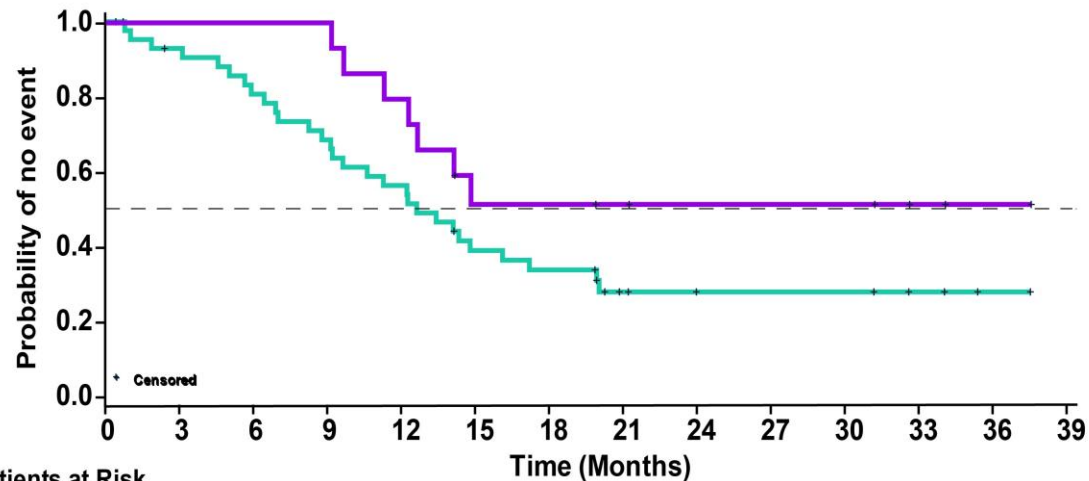


# Safety of Venetoclax and Azacitidine in R/R Higher-risk MDS

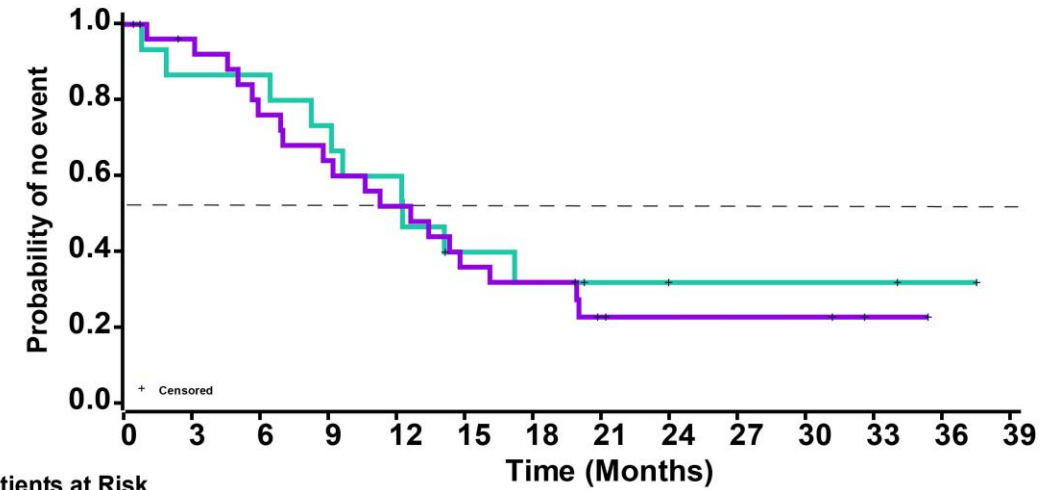
	Ven n (%)	Aza n (%)
<b>Study drug discontinuation<sup>a</sup></b>	9 (20.5)	7 (15.9)
<b>Dose interruption<sup>b</sup></b>	21 (47.7)	18 (40.9)
Febrile neutropenia	7 (15.9)	7 (15.9)
Neutropenia	4 (9.1)	3 (6.8)
Pneumonia	3 (6.8)	1 (10)
Pneumonia fungal	2 (4.5)	1 (10)
Oral infection	1 (2.3)	1 (10)



# Survival in Ongoing Study of Venetoclax and Azacitidine in R/R Higher-risk MDS



Patients at Risk		0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39
Ven+Aza (All patients)	44	38	33	28	23	15	13	7	5	5	5	3	1	0	
Ven+Aza (mCR)	14	14	14	14	11	6	6	5	4	4	4	2	1	0	



Patients at Risk		0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39
≤6 Cycles	15	13	13	11	9	5	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	0	
>6 Cycles	28	24	19	16	13	9	8	4	3	3	3	1	0		

OS	# of events	12-month, % (95% CI)	24-month % (95% CI)	Median OS, months (95% CI)
Ven+Aza (All patients)	29	56.2 (39.8 – 69.7)	27.7 (14.8 – 42.3)	12.6 (9.1 – 17.2)
Ven+Aza (mCR)	7	78.6 (47.2 – 92.5)	49.0 (21.6 – 71.7)	14.8 (11.3 – NE)

OS	# of events	12-month, % (95% CI)	24-month % (95% CI)	Median OS, months (95% CI)
≤ 6 cycles of prior HMA	10	60.0 (31.8 – 79.7)	32.0 (10.9 – 55.7)	12.3 (6.4 – NE)
> 6 cycles of prior HMA	19	52.1 (31.3 – 69.3)	22.9 (8.8 – 40.9)	12.6 (7.0 – 19.9)

# Untreated High Risk MDS is Largely BCL2 Dependent

Venetoclax (μM)	0.23	2.54	5.00	3.69	5.00	1.05	0.25	3.61	1.41	0.29	5.00	5.00	3.82	0.84	0.27	0.23	5.00	0.25	1.57	0.27	0.20	0.47	0.26	0.11	0.36	0.18	0.15	0.12	0.08	0.14	5.00	1.15	5.00	0.18	0.13		
S63845 (μM)	0.21	0.56	0.33	0.30	0.18	1.70	0.20	0.34	0.62	0.30	0.13	0.36	0.44	0.22	0.30	0.13	0.41	0.06	0.64	0.14	0.30	0.39	0.99	0.13	0.12	0.33	0.13	0.82	0.36	0.17	1.73	1.73	0.52	1.84	0.57		
A-1155463 (μM)	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00	1.46	1.70	3.17	1.68	0.53	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.58	2.99	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.03	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.12	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	
MDS WHO 2016 Classification	MDS-RS-SLD				MDS-RS-MLD					MDS-MLD								MDS-EB1								MDS-EB2											
	MDS001	MDS002	MDS003	MDS004	MDS005	MDS006	MDS007	MDS008	MDS009	MDS010	MDS011	MDS012*	MDS013*	MDS014*	MDS015	MDS016	MDS017	MDS018	MDS019	MDS020	MDS021	MDS022	MDS023	MDS024	MDS025	MDS026	MDS027	MDS028	MDS029#	MDS030*	MDS031	MDS032*	MDS033	MDS034	MDS035		

# Untreated High Risk MDS is Largely BCL2 Dependent

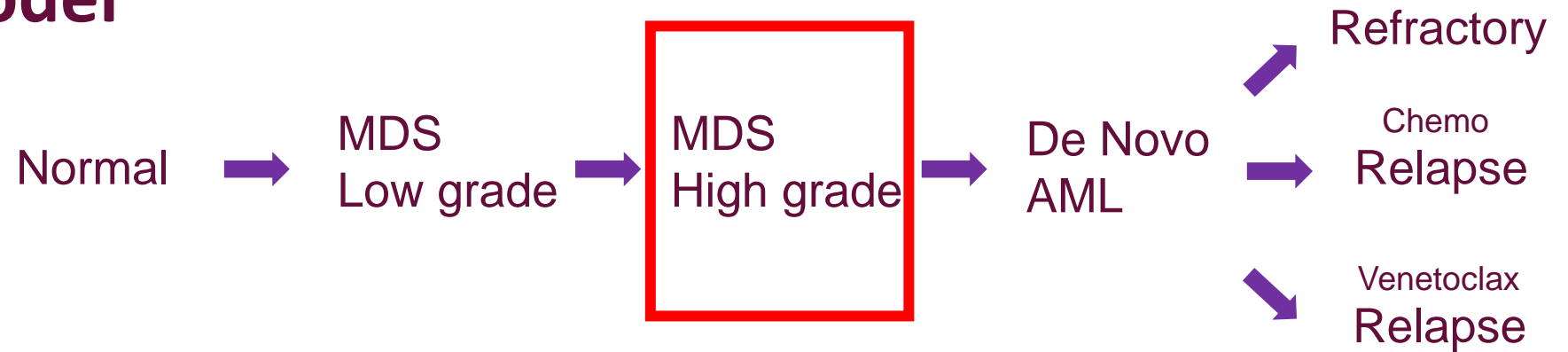
MDS WHO 2016 Classification	MDS-RS-SLD				MDS-RS-MLD					MDS-MLD						MDS-EB1								MDS-EB2												
	MDS001	MDS002	MDS003	MDS004	MDS005	MDS006	MDS007	MDS008	MDS009	MDS010	MDS011	MDS012*	MDS013*	MDS014*	MDS015	MDS016	MDS017	MDS018	MDS019	MDS020	MDS021	MDS022	MDS023	MDS024	MDS025	MDS026	MDS027	MDS028	MDS029#	MDS030*	MDS031	MDS032*	MDS033	MDS034	MDS035	
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S63845 (μM)	0.21	0.56	0.33	0.30	0.18	1.70	0.20	0.34	0.62	0.30	0.13	0.36	0.44	0.22	0.30	0.13	0.41	0.06	0.64	0.14	0.30	0.39	0.99	0.13	0.12	0.33	0.13	0.82	0.36	0.17	1.73	1.73	0.52	1.84	0.57	0.13
A-1155463 (μM)	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00	1.46	1.70	3.17	1.68	0.53	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.58	2.99	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.03	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.12	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

# Untreated High Risk MDS is Largely BCL2 Dependent

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MDS WHO 2016 Classification	MDS-RS-SLD				MDS-RS-MLD				MDS-MLD						MDS-EB1								MDS-EB2														
	MDS001	MDS002	MDS003	MDS004	MDS005	MDS006	MDS007	MDS008	MDS009	MDS010	MDS011	MDS012*	MDS013*	MDS014*	MDS015	MDS016	MDS017	MDS018	MDS019	MDS020	MDS021	MDS022	MDS023	MDS024	MDS025	MDS026	MDS027	MDS028	MDS029#	MDS030*	MDS031	MDS032*	MDS033	MDS034	MDS035		

...R/R High Risk MDS is less BCL2 Dependent

# Stem Cell Energy Metabolism During Myeloid Pathogenesis: Working Model



Metabolic fuel	Glucose	?	AA*	AA	AA or FA
Oxphos	?	?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Glycolysis	Yes	?	No*	No	No

\*indirect evidence only, AA = amino acids, FA = fatty acids

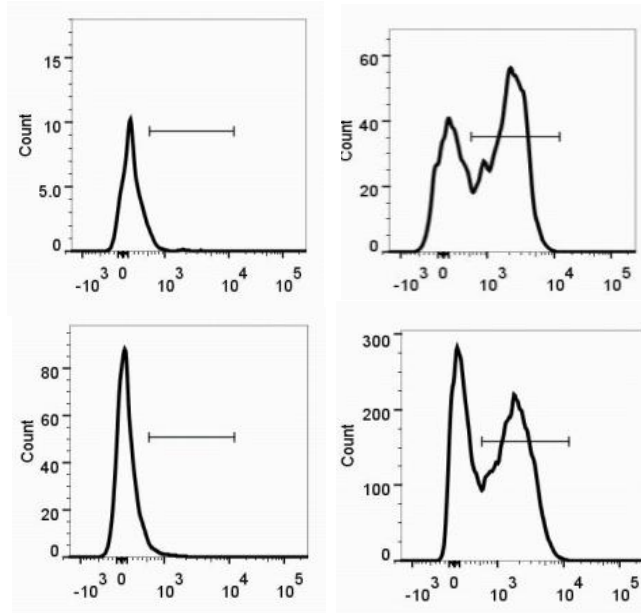
Lagadinou et al, *Cell Stem Cell*, 2013; Stevens et al, *Nat. Comm*, 2018,; Jones et al, *Cancer Cell*, 2018; Pollyea, Stevens, Jones et al, *Nature Medicine*, 2018; Pei et al, *Cancer Discovery*, 2020; Jones et al, *Cell Stem Cell*, 2020; Stevens et al, *Nature Cancer*, 2020

# MDS stem cells can be marked by CD123

## Immunophenotype

Low Risk

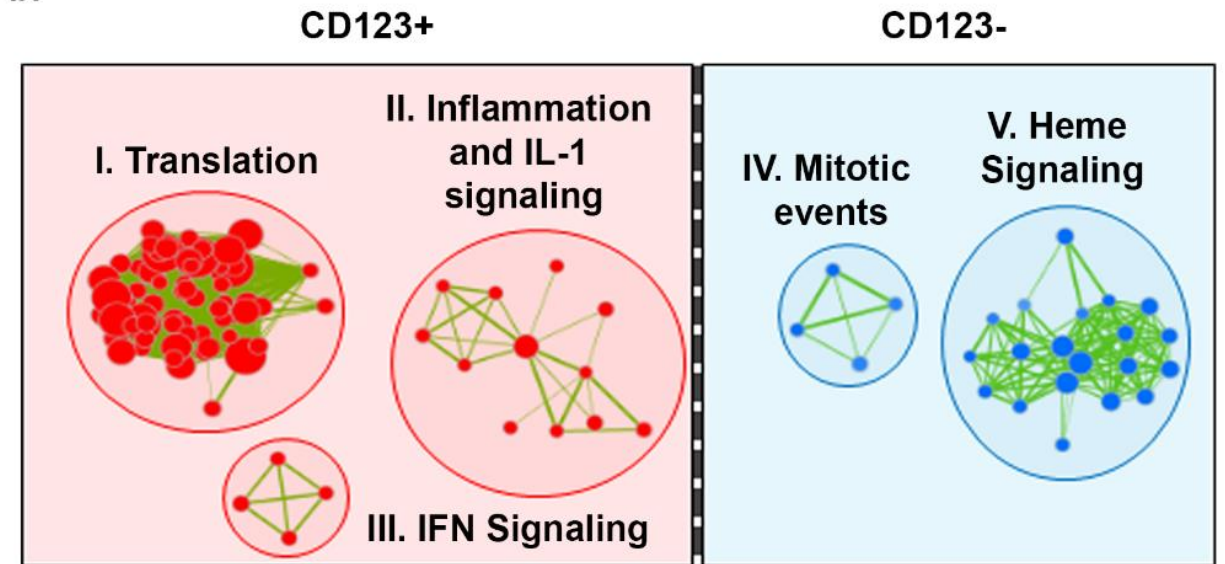
High Risk



CD123

## Transcriptional Differences

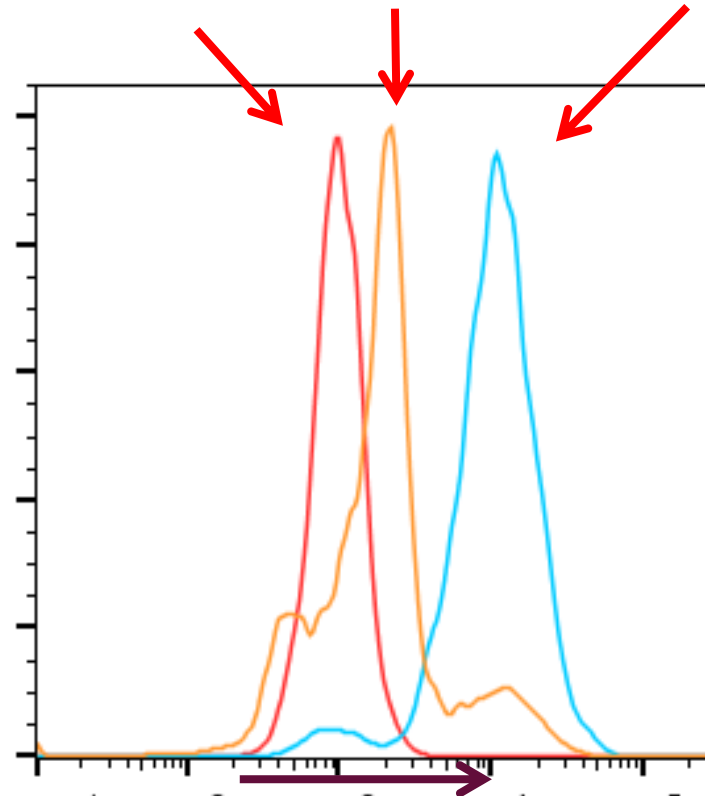
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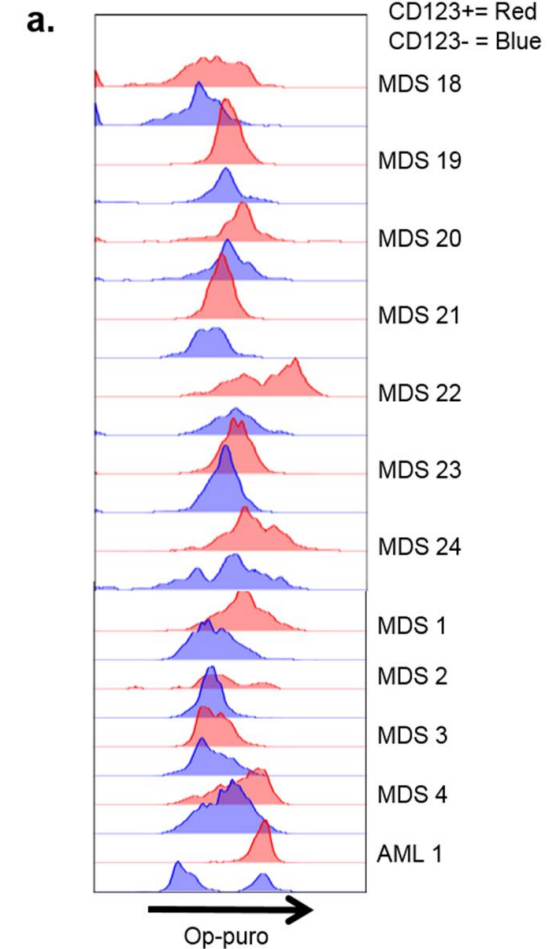
Stevens et al, 2018, Nature Communications.

# MDS stem cells have increased protein translation

Unstained CD123- CD123+



**OP-Puro**

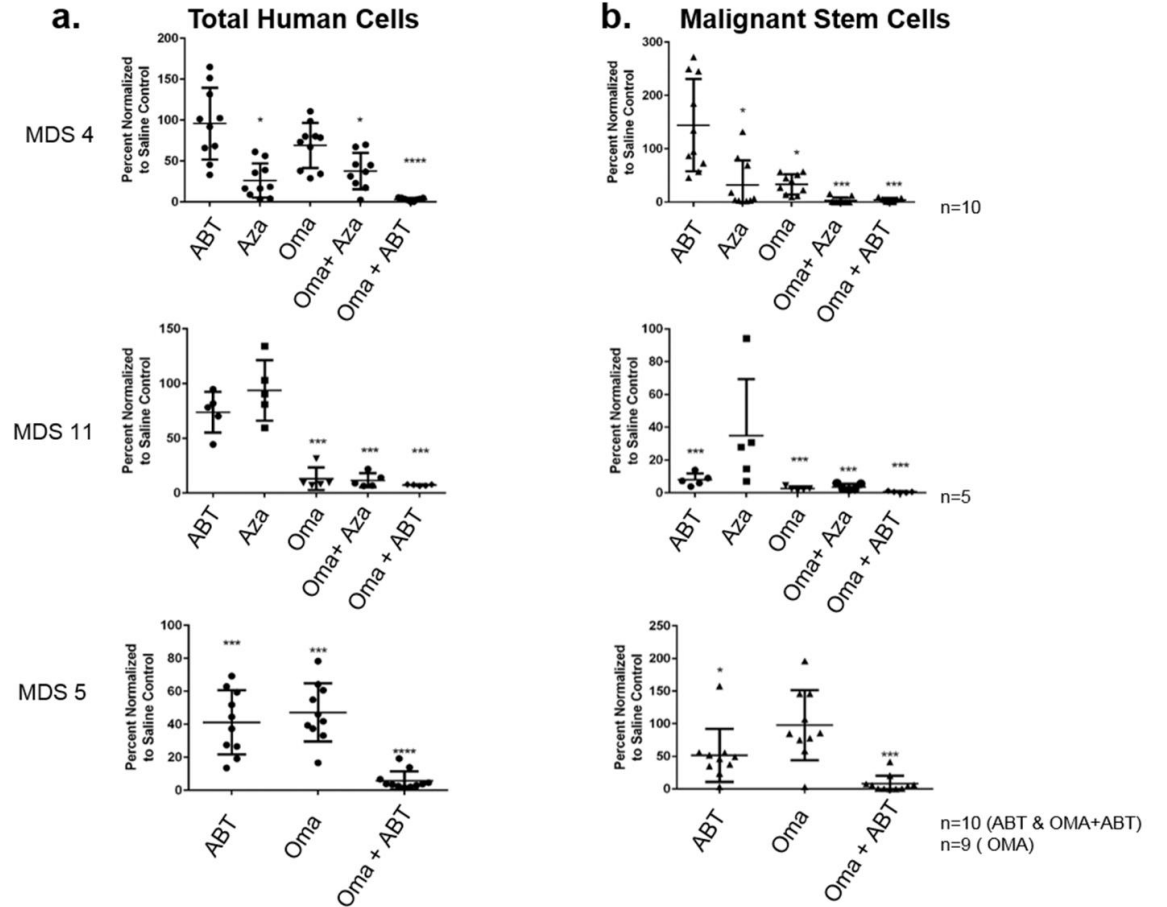
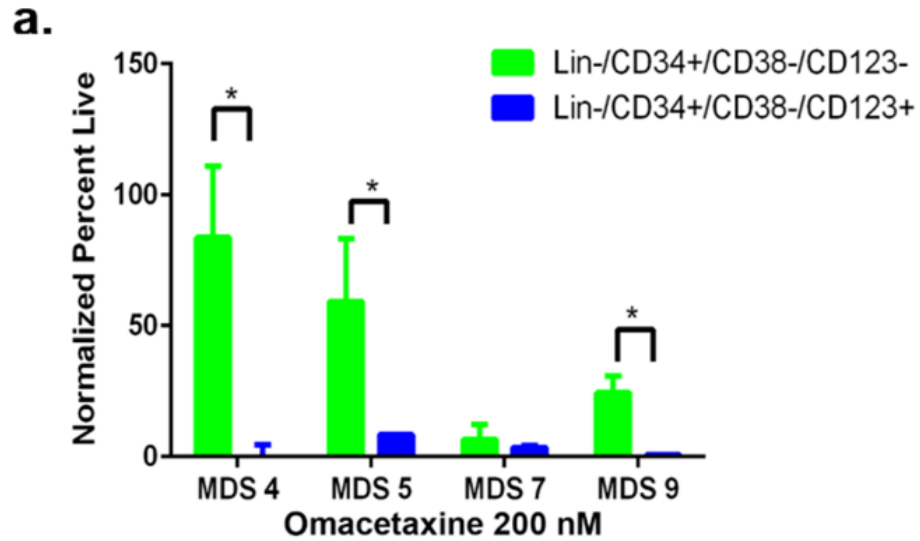


Stevens et al, 2018, Nature Communications.

Stevens et al. Blood; Abstract 1604: 2021.

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# MDS Stem cells can be targeted *in vitro* and *in vivo* through unique metabolic properties including translation





# Omacetaxine and Azacitidine in TN MDS

## Phase I Baseline Characteristics

Patient	Cohort	IPSS-R	Blast %	Complex/ Monosomal Karyotype	Molecular	Treatment Related
1236	1	7.5 (Very High)	12	N	STAG2, U2AF1	N
1385	1	5 (High)	7	N	RUNX1, U2AF1, BCOR, STAG2	N
1485	1	8.5 (Very High)	7	Y	None	N
1362	0	5.5 (High)	9.5	N	ASXL1, SRSF2, STAG2	N
1595	0	8 (Very High)	13	N	DNMT3A, SETBP1, SRSF2, TET2, CSF3R	N
1676	0	5.5 (High)	10	Y	RUNX1, PHF6	Y
1748	0	4 (Intermediate)	13.5	N	SF3B1	N
1843	0	7 (Very High)	11	Y	TP53	Y
1726	0	5 (High)	8	N	DDX41, JAK2, CBL	N

# Omacetaxine and Azacitidine Phase I Preliminary Efficacy

Patient	Cohort	Best IWG Response	Hematologic Improvement	Number of Cycles	Bridged to Transplant	Alive
1236	1	Marrow CR	No	2	Yes	Y
1385	1	Marrow CR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erythroid</li> <li>Platelets</li> <li>Neutrophils</li> </ul>	1	Yes	Y
1485	1	Marrow CR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neutrophils</li> </ul>	1	No	N
1362	0	Marrow CR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erythroid</li> <li>Neutrophils</li> </ul>	3	Yes	Y
1595	0	Marrow CR	No	1	Yes	Y
1676	0	No Response	No	1	No	N
1748	0	Marrow CR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erythroid</li> <li>Platelets</li> <li>Neutrophils</li> </ul>	3	Yes	Y
1843	0	Marrow CR	No	3	No	N
1726	0	Marrow CR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erythroid</li> <li>Neutrophils</li> </ul>	2	Yes	Y

- 8 of 9 Marrow CR
- 6 of 8 Bridge to transplant
- 5 of 9 Hematologic improvement



# Inflammation and the Niche

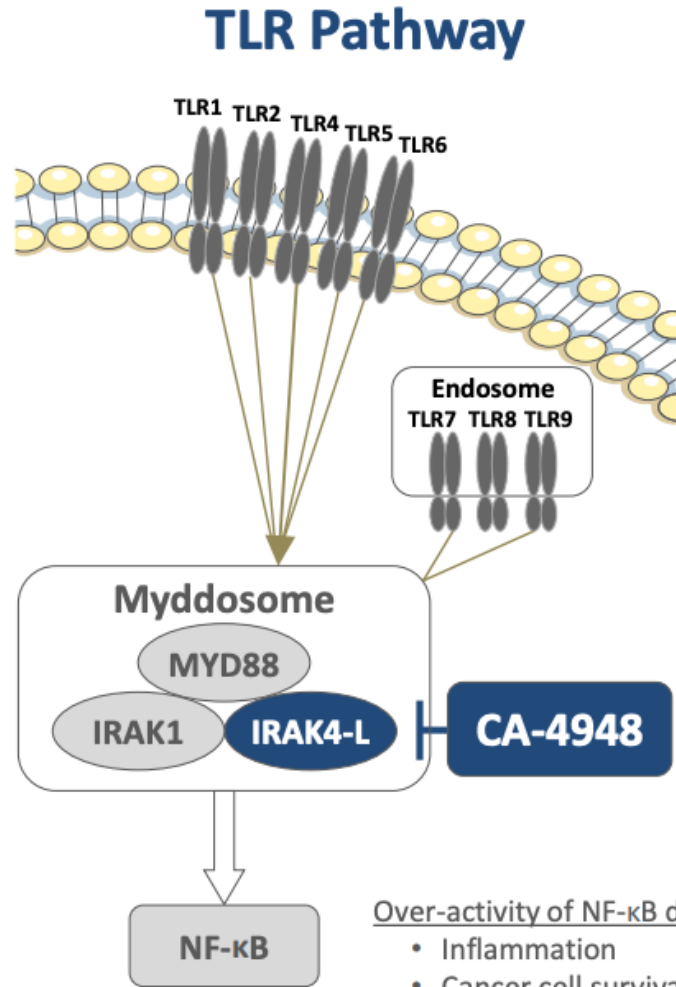
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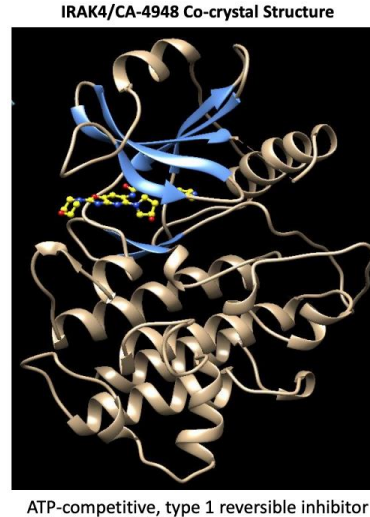
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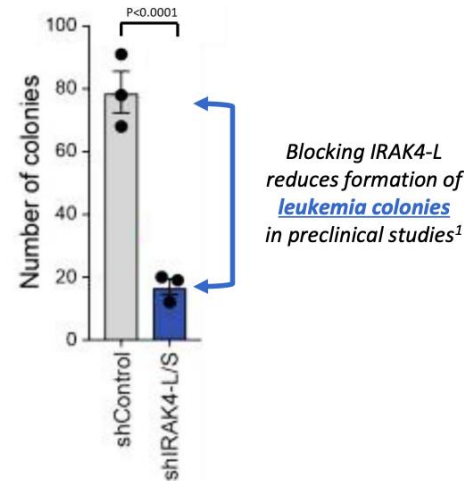
# IRAK-4 Inhibition to Disrupt MDS/AML in the Niche



- Over-activity of NF-κB drives:
- Inflammation
  - Cancer cell survival
  - Malignant proliferation
  - Suppression of apoptosis



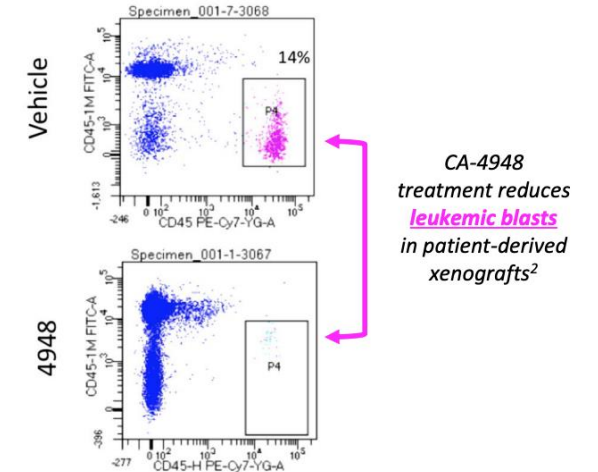
## IRAK4-L is oncogenic



Blocking IRAK4-L reduces formation of leukemia colonies in preclinical studies<sup>1</sup>

IRAK4-L knockdown models demonstrate genetic link to oncogenic immune signaling in AML/MDS<sup>1</sup>

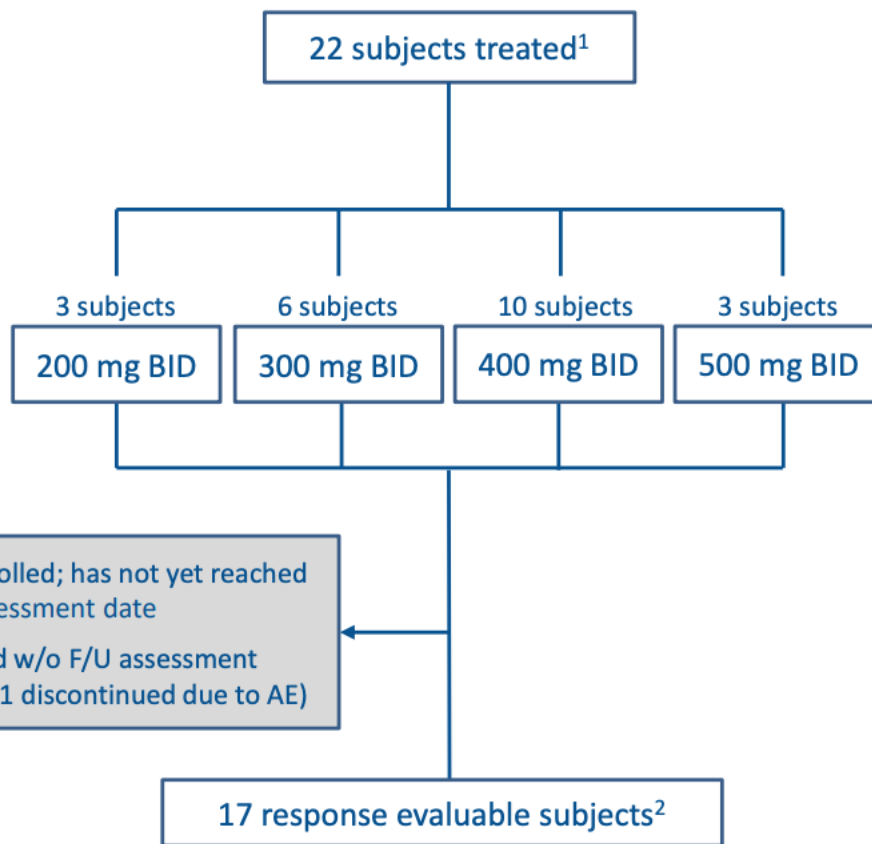
## CA-4948 targets IRAK4-L



CA-4948 treatment reduces leukemic blasts in patient-derived xenografts<sup>2</sup>

In preclinical model, IRAK4-L inhibition with CA-4948 demonstrates anti-cancer activity consistent with knockdown models<sup>2</sup>

# CA-4948

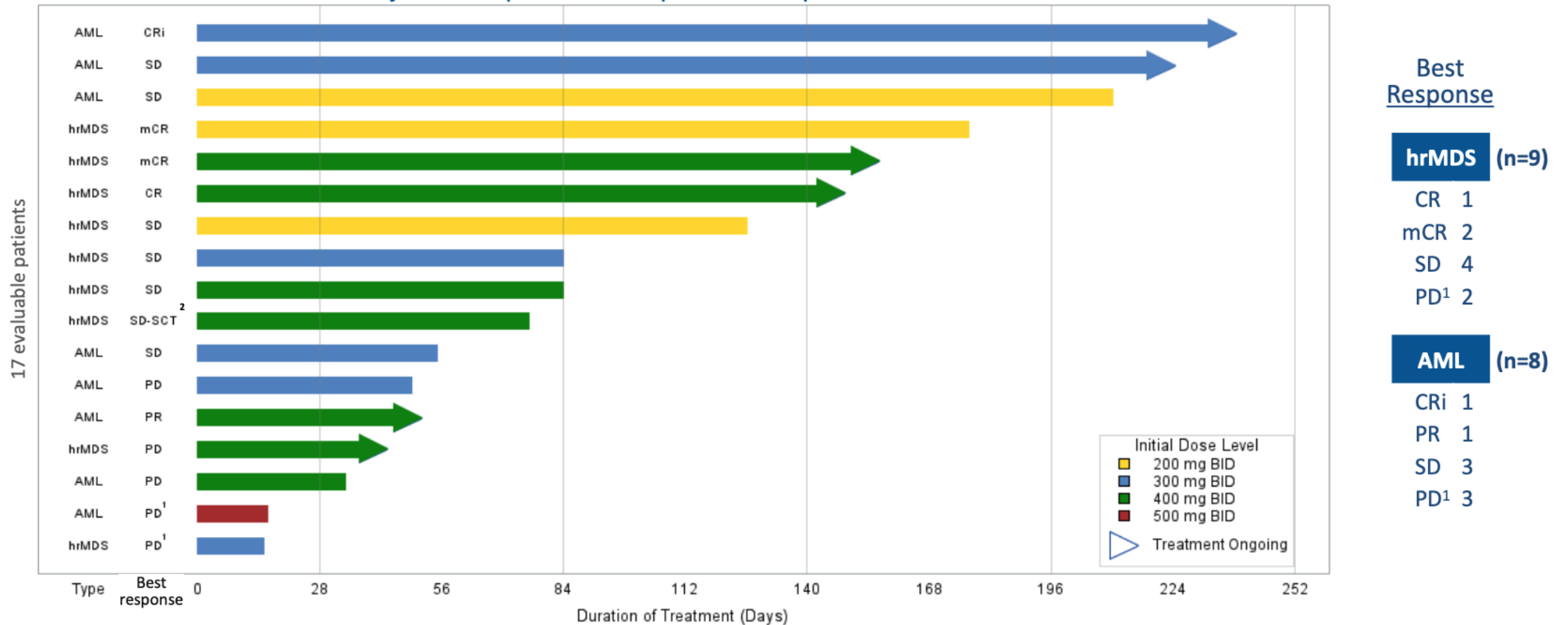


- 1 recently enrolled; has not yet reached first F/U assessment date
- 4 discontinued w/o F/U assessment (3 withdrew, 1 discontinued due to AE)

Characteristics		Patients (n=22)
Female n (%) : Male n (%)		5 (23) : 17 (77)
Age (yrs): median (range)		74 (32-87)
Race, n (%)	White	18 (82)
	African American	1 (4)
	Not reported	3 (14)
ECOG: n 0/1/2		7/11/4
Diagnosis	AML, n (%)	11 (50)
	hrMDS, n (%)	11 (50)
Median platelets ( $10^3/mm^3$ ) (range)		33 (7, 275)
Median ANC ( $10^3/mm^3$ ) (range)		1.2 (0.1, 14.8)
Median lines of prior therapy (range)		2 (1-4)
Prior therapy, n (%)	Azacitidine	14 (64)
	Decitabine	7 (32)
	Cytarabine	3 (14)
	Venetoclax	10 (45)
Cytogenetic risk, n (%) <sup>3</sup>	AML (favorable/intermediate/ adverse)	1 (10) / 2 (20) / 7 (70)
	hrMDS (good/intermediate/poor/ very poor)	1 (9) / 4 (36) / 3 (27) / 3 (27)
Relavant mutations <sup>4</sup>	FLT3	1
	SF3B1	2
	U2AF1	2

# Preliminary Efficacy of CA-4948 in MDS/AML

5 objective responses and 1 patient who proceeded to SCT



# Summary of Key Advances in Myelodysplastic syndromes

1. In Prognostication → IPSS-M
2. Use of venetoclax and address venetoclax metabolic vulnerabilities
3. Therapeutic relationship between somatic changes and inflammation



**Thank you**

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Thank you

# Acknowledgments

The patients

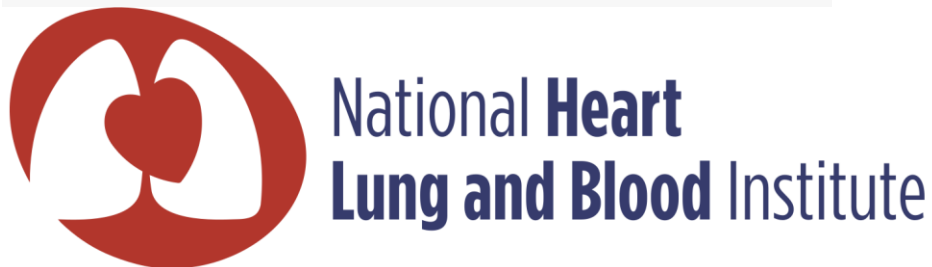
The MDS community



National Institutes of Health



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE



National Heart Lung and Blood Institute

Beverly and George Rawlings Directorship  
in Hematology Research



*Serodino Family Compact*



A funding initiative of  
The Edward P. Evans Foundation



The Biff Ruttenberg  
Foundation



Lovell Family Fellowship

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