



# Where no QP has gone before?

Challenges for a QP working on the borderline between startup and early/mid clinical stage

AQPA Vereinstreffen 04-MAY-2022

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# Disclaimer



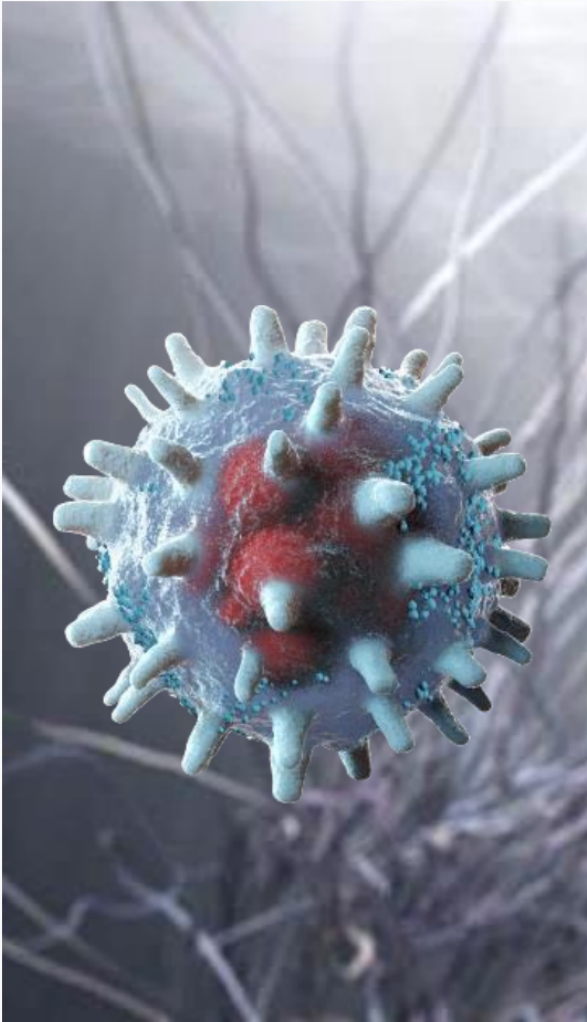
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# About me



- 2010: QC and RA at Polymun Scientific Immunbiologische Forschung GmbH
- 2012: RA at Polymun Scientific Immunbiologische Forschung GmbH
- 2017: 3rd QP at Polymun Scientific Immunbiologische Forschung GmbH
- 2019: Manager – QM/QP at HOOKIPA Biotech GmbH
- Aug 2020: Sr. Manager – QA/QP at HOOKIPA Biotech GmbH

# Directing the Power of the Immune System Against Serious Diseases



## Vision

A world in which cancers can be chronically managed or eradicated

## Mission

Advancing the field of immunotherapy by using a novel, arenavirus-based antigen delivery system

## Strategy

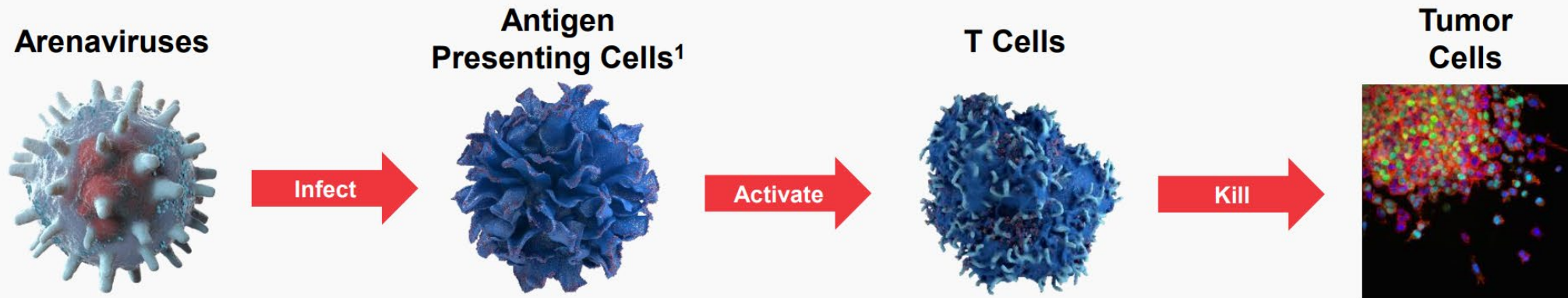
Focus on **T cells**

- **Optimize** induction of T cells to achieve unprecedented levels of antigen-specific T cells
- **Mobilize** high numbers of functional antigen-specific T cells that efficiently infiltrate the tumor and kill malignant cells
- **Maximize** the potential benefits of our products through rational combination with other therapeutic modalities



# Arenaviruses Naturally Target Immune Cells to Activate T Cells - Using This Mechanism to Direct T Cells to Specifically Kill Tumor Cells

## Arenavirus Vector Mode of Action






Potential to design drugs that are:

- Safe
- Off-the-shelf
- *In vivo* administration
- Repeat administration

<sup>1</sup>Antigen Presenting Cells include dendritic cells and macrophages.

# Investing in a Diverse Oncology Pipeline, Partnering Infectious Disease Programs

	Program & Indication	Development Stage				Next Milestone	Partner
		Preclinical	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3		
Immun-Oncology	HB-200 HPV <sup>+</sup> Cancers <sup>1</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> + Line Monotherapy				Data Mid 2022	-
	HB-200 1L HPV16 <sup>+</sup> HNSCC		→	+ Pembro ± Chemo		Data 2H 2022, Randomized study start 2023	 MERCK <sup>2</sup>
	HB-200 2L HPV16 <sup>+</sup> HNSCC			+ Pembro or Chemo		Data in 2H 2022	
	HB-300 Prostate cancer					IND Q3 2022	-
	HB-700 KRAS mutant tumors						-
Infectious Diseases	HB-101 CMV prophylaxis in kidney transplant <sup>3</sup>					Final Phase 2 data in 2023	To be identified
	HBV Therapy					IND 2022	 GILEAD
	HIV Therapy					IND 2023	 GILEAD <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT04180215; <sup>2</sup>Clinical supply agreement for Pembrolizumab; <sup>3</sup>ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT03629080.

<sup>4</sup>HIV Therapy: Upon completion of Phase 1b study, Gilead has exclusive right for further development.

## Novelty of platform

- Initially, limited experience on GMP production of arenaviruses:
  - Limited number of CMOs and CLOs capable of handling BSL-2 attenuated viral vectors
    - Dependency
    - Complex contractor landscape (improved)
    - Harmonization of processes and methods between different contractors
    - Assure adequate quality oversight (deviations, OOS,...)
  - Limited manufacturing experience in case of new vectors (antigens)
    - Difficult to define specifications (e.g. yield experience may not fully translate to new antigens)
- Implementing increasing process knowledge and experience
  - Adaption of manufacturing process
  - Comparability (the process is the product)
  - Compliance with GMP
  - Compliance with regulatory filings
- Ongoing stability program
  - Frequent extension of shelf-life

# Challenges

## Company structure

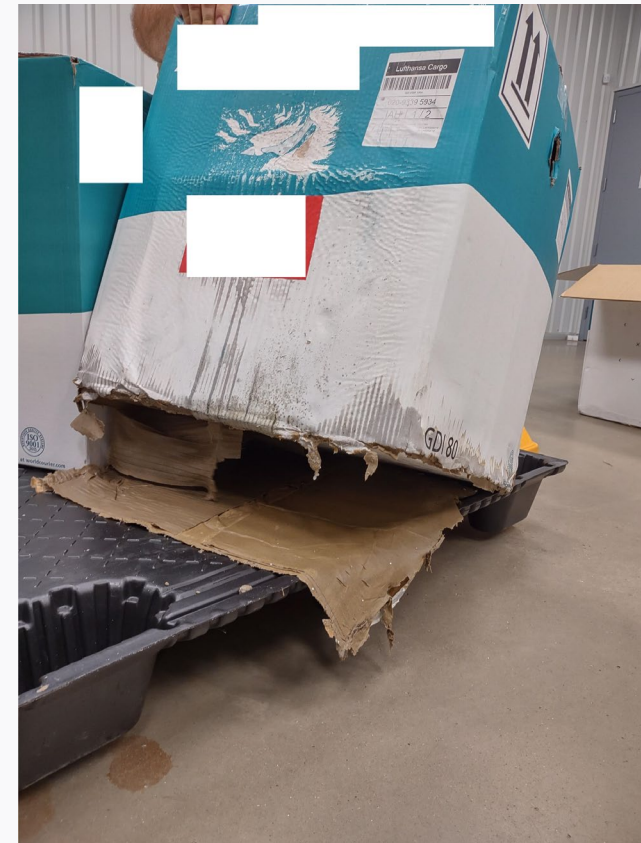
- Clinical Operations and Regulatory Affairs mainly located in US
  - Disciplined communication required
  - Align on regulatory expectations (e.g. ATMP vs. Vaccine, phase I requirements US vs. EU, IND vs IMPD, label requirements)
  - Working in different time zones

## Changing regulatory requirements

- Annex 1?
- Clinical Trial Regulation (Annex 13 vs “GMP for IMPs” vs GMP for ATMPs)

## Storage and shipping conditions

- Limit time at RT during manufacture (avoid hold times)
- Store and ship at  $\leq -65^{\circ}\text{C}$  (dry ice shipments)
- "The patient is waiting at the site. Can we use the product?"





# Challenges

Other departments trying to convince QA to release the tricky batch



(source unknown; deliberately exaggerated)

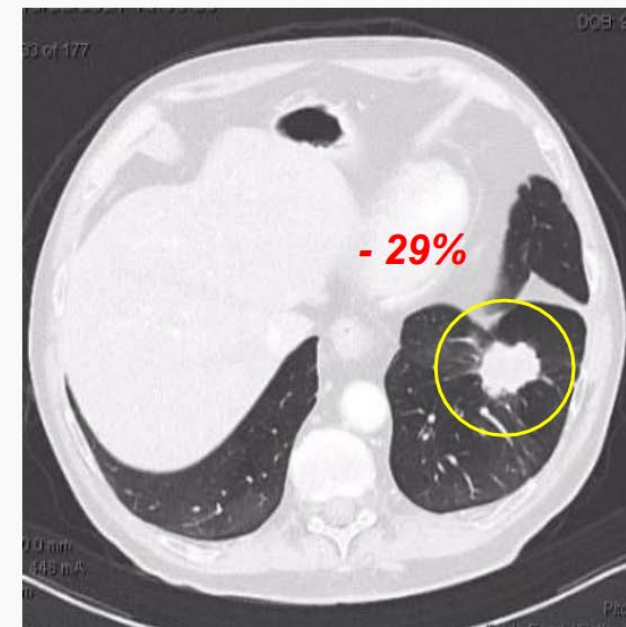
## Maturity

- Quality governance
  - Transitioning a stand-alone QMS into an integrated QMS
- GxP mindset not yet fully internalized across whole organization
  - "I have already requested a re-test"
  - "This is only for Phase I"
  - "Can we release this at a later point in time if needed?"
  - "We are only a little bit OOS"
- Challenging questions
  - "Does this need to be GMP?"
  - "Can we just change the specification?"
  - "How can we avoid temperature excursions"?

- 75-year-old male diagnosed in 2012 with Stage III HPV16+ HNSCC
- Prior therapies:
  - carbo/taxol+RT; 2016 lung metastases
  - 2L pembro for 2 months with progressive disease
  - 3L FU/carbo/cetuximab for 4 months with progressive disease
  - 4L pembrolizumab+CCR4i with prolonged stable disease for 19 months, followed by progression
- Entered HB-200 study 2 months after progression on pembro/CCR4i



Baseline CT scan



First scan after  
HB-202/HB-201 treatment

Near PR

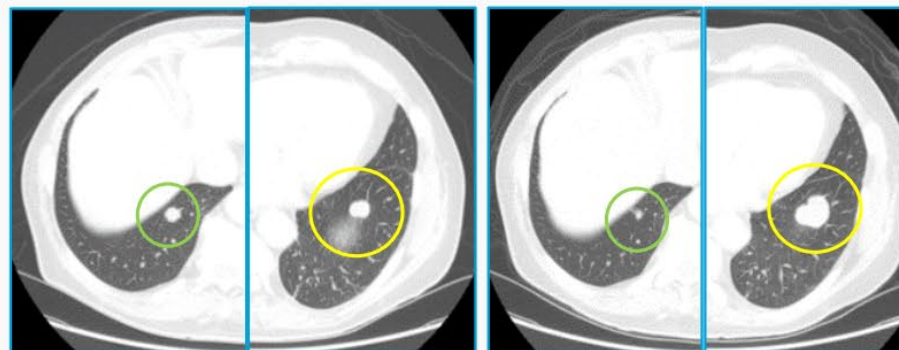
- 29%

→ Patient  
remains  
on trial

2/3/4L, line of treatment; PR, partial response; RT, radiation therapy.

- 65-year-old male diagnosed with Stage III oropharynx/larynx cancer in 2019
- Prior therapies
  - Definitive chemo/radio-therapy
  - 2020 bilateral lung metastases
  - PD-L1 CPS<1

Dec. 2020:  
Metastatic 1L  
Pembrolizumab +  
TKI started



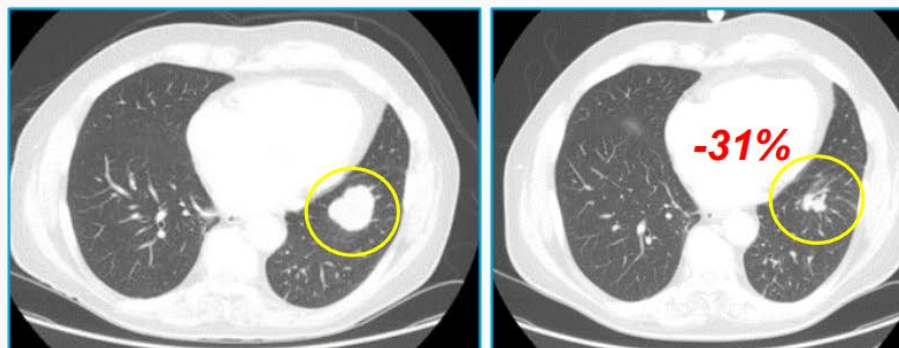
Prior to Starting 1L  
Pembrolizumab+TKI

Confirmed Progression

Mar. 2021:  
Pembrolizumab + TKI  
confirmed progression.  
One lesion responded;  
one lesion progressed

HB-202/HB-201 monotherapy started: “Refractory” lesion resolving, 31% uPR and ongoing

Apr. 2021:  
Patient starts  
HB-202/HB-201  
monotherapy



Baseline CT

Third Scan

→ Patient  
remains  
on trial

**Thank You!**  
**Questions?**