

Engineered PSCA antibody for Targeted Radiotherapy Anna M. Wu, Ph.D.

City of Hope

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Executive Summary

> Target:

Prostate Stem Cell Antigen (PSCA)

> Therapeutic hypothesis / MoA:

Engineered anti-PSCA antibody delivering therapeutic radionuclides to prostate cancer

Proposed disease indications:

Prostate Cancer

Current status

- Key assays: Antibody characterization, immunoreactivity, PET imaging ✓
- Hits / leads and attributes: ¹⁷⁷Lu-scFv-Fc; high affinity, high specificity to PSCA ✓
- Preclinical disease models and PoC / working plan: Xenograft, KI models available
- > Major Issue / Challenge / Risk:

Dose regimen and dosimetry; therapeutic benefits vs safety; competition

> **COH IP status:** Provisional patent application filed

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TPP: Target Product Profile

Goal: Targeted delivery of therapeutic radionuclides to PSCA-prostate cancer

Desired criteria
Patients with metastatic prostate cancer
Specific targeting and delivery of radionuclide to PSCA-expressing prostate cancer. Low uptake in normal tissues including kidney, bladder, stomach. Timely hepatobiliary clearance, minimizing radiation dose to sensitive tissues such as bone marrow and kidney
Radiolabeled with Lu-177 (beta-emitter) to deliver high radiation doses to kill tumor cells while sparing normal tissues.
Comparable safety profile to approved targeted radioligand agents (Zevalin, Bexxar, Lutathera)
10-30 mCi single administration or potentially q 4-8 wks
Suitable for intravenous administration
Rapid uptake in tumors (6-12 hrs); blood half-life 24-48 hrs; hepatic clearance

Biological Rationale: PSCA

- Target background Prostate Stem Cell Antigen (PSCA)
- 123 aa cell-surface glycoprotein
- Low background expression in normal organs
- Highly expressed in prostate cancer (~95%), also bladder and pancreatic cancers
- Evidence of target validation
 - huPSCA knock-in mice show physiologic expression in stomach, pancreas, prostate, bladder
 - Anti-PSCA antibodies have been evaluated clinically in pancreatic cancer (Astellas)
 - PSCA-CAR-T cells currently under clinical investigation prostate cancer (CoH)



Normal Prostate



Primary Prostate Ca



Bone metastasis

Biological Rationale: Radioimmunotherapy

Therapeutic hypothesis / Mechanism of action



- Radioimmunotherapy uses radiolabeled antibodies recognizing tumor-specific targets for direct delivery of toxic radionuclides to cancer cells
- FDA approval of two radiolabeled anti-CD20 antibodies for lymphoma (Bexxar and Zevalin)



Challenge and opportunity:

- Radiolabeled antibodies offer highly specific delivery to tumors
- However, efficacy is hampered by their long circulating half-life
- Blood pool radioactivity leads to dose-limiting bone marrow toxicity.

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Biological Rationale: Technology (1)

Intact Antibodies and Engineered Fragments

- Protein engineering offers extensive control over biological properties such as PK and organ of clearance
- Critical for efficacious delivery of therapeutic radionuclides

PET imaging to evaluate tumor targeting and clearance

- MicroPET imaging in xenograftbearing mice using ¹²⁴I-labeled antibodies and fragments
- Requires up to a week using intact antibodies
- 20-120 h for scFv-Fc
- 20 h (minibody) or 4 h (diabody) for smaller fragments



Wu AM, Protein Engineering, in: Molecular Imaging Principles and Practice (ed. Weissleder, Gambhir) 2010

Biological Rationale: Technology (2)

ScFv-Fc fragments with tailored PK

- Serum persistence of intact antibodies is governed by interaction between Fc and FcRn receptor
- Point mutations can weaken or eliminate FcRn interactions and accelerate clearance
- **CEA**-specific scFv-Fc fragments:
 - Wild-type
 - Single mutant: H435Q, I253A, H310A
 - Double mutant (DM) H435Q/H310A
- Serum half-lives from 8 80 h





Biological Rationale: Published Data (1)

Prototype anti-PSCA cys-diabody Targeting and imaging syngeneic tumor in hPSCA KI model

- Prototype anti-PSCA cys-diabody radiolabeled with ⁸⁹Zr for PET
- HuPSCA knockin (KI) mice
- Murine RM9 and RM9-hPSCA prostate cancer s.c. tumors
- Serial PET imaging shows high uptake of ⁸⁹Zr-DFO-anti-PSCA cys-diabodies in tumors on right shoulders
- Clearance and retention of activity in kidneys



Prototype A2 anti-PSCA cys-diabody



- Serial PET images of hPSCA KI mice bearing control (white arrows) or PSCA-expressing (yellow arrows) s.c. tumors using ⁸⁹Zr-A2 cys-diabody.
- High activity is observed in tumors, while normal organ activity remains low

Zettlitz KA, ... Wu AM Mol Imag Biol. 2020 8

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Biological Rationale: Published Data (2)

Prototype anti-PSCA minibody Targeted radionuclide delivery in xenograft mouse model



Prototype minibody

- ¹³¹I-A11 anti-PSCA minibody in 22rv1-PSCA xenograft-bearing mice
- Dosimetry predicts ¹³¹I version has higher therapeutic index
- Radioimmunotherapy showed dose-dependent growth inhibition and improved survival using ¹³¹I-anti-PSCA minibody
- However, high kidney uptake limits the utility of the prototype for radioimmunotherapy, especially with radiometals



Tsai W., ... Wu AM Mol. Imag. Biol. 2020

Lead candidate: Engineered anti-PSCA scFv-Fc



Optimized scFv-Fc antibody fragment will maintain high delivery to tumor while minimizing normal tissue toxicity

- Fully humanized, affinity-matured anti-PSCA antibody
- Two versions: parental A2scFvFc2 (slow clearance kinetics) and variant A2scFvFc2DM (accelerated clearance)
- Retention of high affinity for PSCA (0.4 nM)
- Rapid tumor targeting combined with hepatic clearance will minimize dose to bone marrow and kidney
- Ideal for delivery of Lu-177 for radioimmunotherapy



SDS-PAGE



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Lead candidate: Engineered anti-PSCA scFv-Fc



Serial immunoPET imaging confirms expected properties:

- ⁸⁹Zr-labeled scFv-Fc wild type (WT, A) vs candidate scFv-Fc DM (B)
- DM Candidate demonstrates accelerated clearance via the liver
- This is reflected in the blood half-lives and tumor:blood ratios

Half lives: **12.2 h (DM)** vs 74.7 h (WT) T:B ratio at 96 h: **32.8 (DM)** vs 1.9 (WT)

Proposed Disease Indication

- Overall utility: Targeted therapy of PSCA-expressing cancers such as prostate, pancreatic, bladder cancer
- Lead indication: Metastatic, castrate-resistant prostate cancer
- Current unmet need: patients who progress through hormonal therapy need alternative therapies
- Radiolabeled ligand therapies (e.g., PSMA-617) are promising but patients recur. PSMA-targeted agents are limited by side effects such as severe xerostomia
- Specificity of PSCA-targeted agents is high and complementary to PSMA-targeted agents
- 20-40% of prostate cancer patients recur, and once prostate cancer has spread, ~30% 5-year survival

Current Project Status and Hit / Lead Profile

- Biology: Well characterized and established target (Human Protein Atlas; IHC; under active investigations by industry and academic groups). Low normal tissue expression; overexpression in key cancers including prostate cancer, pancreatic cancer, bladder cancer
- Key Assays: Biochemical (SDS-PAGE, SEC-HPLC), functional (PSCA binding by ELISA or flow cytometry), in vivo (image and therapy in xenograft and syngeneic knock-in preclinical models). Assays are all established
- Screening: Mouse monoclonal antibody, humanization, affinity maturation and reformatting are all completed
- Hits / leads /prototype products and key attributes: Lead candidate has the required biochemical and functional properties. *In vivo* characterization is in progress

Competitive Landscape for CoH's PSCA¹ modified Antibody [scFv-Fc]² Radiotherapy Program [in mCRPC]³

Key Takeaways: (1) Currently no marketed therapies targeting PSCA [target currently not validated with/without radiolabeling]; late stage industry pipeline mainly exploring PSMA⁴ and next gen AR⁴ in mCRPC (2) CoH program potentially can be first in class; no publications found covering indication/modality/target (3) Big Pharma activity in mCRPC very high; several blockbuster brands on market [may present high scientific, regulatory and commercial hurdles to future agents]; GRx presence will increase [Zytiga copycats on market; 1st Gen anti-AR expected to follow; will impact cost/benefit of future agents] (4) SM⁵ is the dominant modality in mCRPC but I/O presence growing [e.g. BiTEs; CAR-Ts; checkpoints] (5) Various combination options being explored; assumed to be approved; will address unmet need impacting later (last) line therapies (7) Xofigo latest radiolabeled agent approved in space [bone mets]; industry/academia is exploring other assets targeting later (last) line therapies; including novel radiopharma agents.

PSCA in mCRPC

- Market: Currently none on market ٠
- **Pipeline:** Two Inactive: (a) CV-9104 [Curevac AG; last development stage phase II; inactive since 2017; failed to improve OS); an mRNA therapeutic comprising of 6 mRNAencoded prostate cancer-associated antigens including PSCA] (b) CV-9103 [by Curevac AG; last development stage phase II; inactive since 2015] a chemically unmodified mRNA immunotherapy targeting four antigens including PSCA]

Other mCRPC Agents

- Marketed: <u>~20 drugs</u> [Astellas (Xtandi, anti-AR SM, ~\$3B⁸); J&J (Zvtiga, CYP17⁹ inhibitor SM. ~\$3B8. 12 generic versions {US}); Sanofi (Jevtana, Tubulin inhibitor SM, ~600M8; Taxotere, Tubulin inhibitor SM, ~200M⁸, 5 generic versions {US}); Dendreon Pharmaceuticals (sipuleucel-T, anti-PAP¹⁰ dendritic cell therapy vaccine); others]
- Pipeline: (a) ~10 assets in Ph3 [BMS (nivolumab, anti-PD1¹¹ mAb); Merck & Co (pembrolizumab, anti-PD1 mAb); J&J (niraparib, PARP-1/2 inhibitor SM; apalutamide, anti-AR SM); others] (b) ~70 in Ph2 [Pfizer (palbociclib, CDK4/612 inhibitor SM); AbbVie (venetoclax. Bcl 2¹³ inhibitor SM); Eli Lilly (abemaciclib, CDK4/6 inhibitor SM); Novartis (ribociclib succinate, CDK4/6 inhibitor SM); others] (c) ~50 in Ph1 [Amgen; Bayer AG; Novartis; others] across modalities including SMs [23], mAb [12], Vaccines [3], and others (d) ~40 in Preclinical [J&J; Bayer AG; others] across modalities including SM [25], cell therapies [8] and others

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- 2: scFv-Fc = modified single-chain Variable8: 2019 Global Sales
- Fragment- Crystallizable Fragment 9: CYP17 = Steroid 17 Alpha Hydroxylase 10: **PAP = P**rostatic Acid Phosphatase (PSCA antibody fragment)
- 3: mCRPC = metastatic Castrate-Resistant 11: PD-1 = Programmed Cell Death Prostate Cancer [lead indication] Protein 1 4: **PSMA=** Prostate-Specific Membrane
 - Antigen
- AR= Androgen Receptor
- 5: SM= Small Molecule
- 6: mAb = monoclonal Antibodies
- 7: Only considered therapeutic application
- 12: CDK4/6 = Cyclin Dependent Kinase 4/6
- 13: Bcl-2 = B Cell Lymphoma 2

Preclinical development in progress

Current steps in progress:

- ImmunoPET, biodistribution and pharmacokinetics in syngeneic hPSCA knock-in model to confirm targeting efficiency and pharmacokinetics
- Optimization of radiolabeling to produce high specific activity radioimmunoconjugates for therapy



Appendix

Human PSCA expression and knock-in (KI) mouse model

- In humans: no or low normal organ expression of PSCA (stomach/GI tract, pancreas, kidney, prostate)
- HuPSCA knock-in (KI) mice reproduce physiologic expression in stomach, pancreas, prostate, bladder
- Radiolabeled anti-PSCA antibodies
 localize *in vivo* to normal PSCA+ tissues



Source: The Human Protein Atlas



IHC of normal tissues in huPSCA KI mice



Localization of radiolabeled PSCA antibody fragments in huPSCA KI mice

Zettlitz KA, ... Wu AM Mol Imag Biol. 2020 17

Biological Rationale

Therapeutic hypothesis / Mechanism of action







Intact antibody

- Bivalent, high affinity
- Prolonged blood
 persistence
- Bone marrow background and toxicity

Prototype small antibody fragments

minibody, cys-diabody

- Bivalent, high affinity
- Rapid clearance via kidney
- Ideal for imaging

Lead antibody fragment scFv-Fc with tailored PK

- Bivalent, high affinity
- Moderately rapid clearance via liver
- Lower exposure to radiosensitive bone marrow and kidney
- Ideal for radioimmunotherapy

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Biological Rationale: Published Data

Prototype anti-PSCA minibody Serial PET imaging, biodistribution, and dose estimation



Prototype A11 anti-PSCA minibody

- 1. A11 anti-PSCA minibody labeled with ¹²⁴I or ⁸⁹Zr for comparison of radioiodine vs radiometal
- 2. Serial PET imaging in mice with 22RV1-PSCA xenografts
- 3. A11 anti-PSCA minibody labeled with ¹³¹I or ¹⁷⁷Lu for full biodistribution
- 4. Calculated radiation dose estimates to tumor and normal tissues

(note unexpected kidney accumulation by prototype minibody)



[89Zr]Zr-DFO-A11 Mb



Tsai W., ...Wu AM Mol. Imag. Biol. 2020 in press

Biodistribution and dose estimation



- Prototype minibody radiolabeled with either ¹³¹I or ¹⁷⁷Lu-DTPA for biodistribution studies
- Time-activity curves generated for formal dose estimation
- Results predicted ¹³¹I version would have higher therapeutic index (due to kidney metabolism and clearance)
- Prototype minibody still falls short since at least 60 Gy needed for effective radiotherapy

Clinical POC: Anti-PSMA minibody (ImaginAb)



Patient with metastatic prostate cancer; conventional bone scan and FDG-PET, and PSMA-specific ⁸⁹Zr-Df-IAB2M minibody

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Clinical POC: Anti-CD8 minibody (ImaginAb)



Day1: 6 h

Patient with newly-diagnosed hepatocellular carcinoma; initiated treatment with checkpoint inhibitor 2 weeks prior to scanning with CD8 cytotoxic T cell-specific ⁸⁹Zr-Df-IAB22M2C. Intratumoral CD8 signal is clearly visible in liver.

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