

### Current Trends & Future Directions in Bedside to Bench Translational Research in ER+ Breast Cancer

Carlos L. Arteaga, MD Professor of Medicine Director, UTSW Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Lisa K. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Comprehensive Oncology Associate Dean of Oncology Programs

> UT Southwestern Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center



## **Disclosures**

- Grant support
  - Pfizer, Lilly, Radius, PUMA Biotechnology, Bayer, Takeda
- Advisory role
  - Abbvie, Novartis, Lilly, Sanofi, Radius, TAIHO Oncology, PUMA Biotechnology, Merck, H3Biomedicine, Symphogen, OrigiMed
- Stock options
  - Provista, Y-TRAP
- Scientific Advisory Board
  - Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation

## **Approaches to Discover Mechanisms of Endocrine Resistance in ER+ Breast Cancer**

- Short presurgical (aka, 'window') and neoadjuvant therapeutic trials
- Biopsy and molecular profiling of recurrent (drugresistant) metastases
- Interrogation of exceptional responders to targeted therapies

## **Endocrine Resistance: Mechanisms and Targeted Therapies**

| Mechanisms               | Targeted Therapies                                     |
|--------------------------|--|
| HER2 amplification       | Trastuzumab, lapatinib, T-DM1                          |
| ESR1 mutations, fusions  | Fulvestrant (?), novel ER degraders, CDK4/6 inhibitors |
|                          |  |
| Ligand-independent ER    | CDK4/6 inhibitors, fulvestrant                         |
| PIK3CA mutations         | > TORC1, pan-PI3K, and PI3K $\alpha$ inhibitors        |
| FGFR pathway alterations | FGFR inhibitors  |
| HER2 mutations           | > Neratinib  |
| NF1 mutations/deletions  | MAPK pathway inhibitors                                |

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## **Profiling ER+ breast cancer to discover mechanisms of resistance**



### **Baseline biopsy**



### 2 wks post-letrozole



### Glitnane et al Science Trans Med 2017

### **Profiling ER+ breast cancer to discover mechanisms of resistance**



Resistant Intermediate Sensitive Unknown

Glitnane et al Science Trans Med 2017

### Most frequent recurrent somatic alterations associated with resistance to estrogen deprivation (letrozole)







### ER+/FGFR1-amplified PDXs do not shrink with fulvestrant alone but are potently inhibited by fulvestrant <u>and</u> FGFR TKI lucitanib

TM00368



Formisano et al. Clin. Cancer Res. 2017

## CDK4/6 inhibitors are first-line therapy in advanced ER+ breast cancer

PALOMA2

MONALEESA2

**MONARCH3** 







Finn et al NEJM 2016

Hortobagyi et al NEJM 2016

De Leo et al JCO 2017

### Dual blockade of the ER pathway with ER and CDK4/6 inhibitors



CCNE1 mRNA overexpression in presurgical studies correlates with resistance to CDK4/6 inhibitors

POP Trial 2 weeks Palbociclib NeoPalAna Anastrozole → Palbociclib





Arnedos et al Ann Oncol 2018, Turner et al JCO 2019

Ma C et al CCR 2017

## Implications

- Neoadjuvant and short term presurgical trials can be used as a platform to discover mechanisms of antiestrogen resistance
- And also to identify patients that can be considered for treatment with adjuvant targeted therapies (i.e., CDK4/6 inhibitors)

## Approaches to Discover Mechanisms of Endocrine Resistance in ER+ Breast Cancer

- Short presurgical (aka, 'window') and neoadjuvant therapeutic trials
- Biopsy and molecular profiling of recurrent (drugresistant) metastases – including plasma ctDNA
- Interrogation of exceptional responders to targeted therapies

## ER+ breast cancer evolution under endocrine therapy (Razavi et al. Cancer Cell 2018)



- WES in 30 treatment-naïve primary tumors, post-progression (hormonal therapy) specimen, and matched normal control
- Acquired mutations not found in primary tumors, including with higher depth sequencing using MSK-IMPACT (sensitivity to 1.3% of cancer cells)
- Additional targeted sequencing on matched pre- and post progression tumors from 44 additional patients
- Acquired mutations often subclonal

## **Cancer Cell**

### Loss of the FAT1 Tumor Suppressor Promotes Resistance to CDK4/6 Inhibitors via the Hippo Pathway



Li Z, ..... Chandarlapaty S. Cancer Cell 2018

## Loss of FAT1 tumor suppressor promotes resistance to CDK4/6 inhibitors via Hippo pathway-dependent CDK6 overexpression



### FGFR pathway alterations in ctDNA are associated with progression on CDK4/6 inhibitors



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# Extraordinary response of patient with breast cancer to HER2 (ERBB2) tyrosine kinase inhibitor neratinib

### ERBB2 mutant (L755\_E757delinsS) ER+/HER2- breast carcinoma



Baseline

8 weeks

16 weeks

Confirmed PR: 70% reduction by RECIST following neratinib monotherapy

# HER2 (ERBB2) mutations occur in 2-4% of breast cancers



## HER2-T798I gatekeeper mutation mediates acquired resistance to neratinib



## HER2 L869R lobular breast cancer





Baseline

Post-Treatment (20 days)

Hanker et al. Cancer Discovery 2017

HER2 L869R/T798I

## Efficacy in HER2-mutant tumors by cancer type



Hyman et al. Nature 2017

## HER2 mutations confer resistance to estrogen deprivation and to fulvestrant



## Estrogen rescues ER+/HER2 mutant cells: Combined blockade of HER2 and ER is required



Croessmann et al. Clin. Cancer Res. 2018

## Figure 1 SUMMIT study design (Amendment 4)



Neratinib: oral 240 mg daily

Fulvestrant: intramuscular 500 mg on day 1, 15 and 29; once every 28 days thereafter (labeled dose) Paclitaxel: intravenous 80 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on day 1, 8 and 15; every 28 days Loperamide prophylaxis: oral 12 mg days 1–14, 8 mg days 15–18; as needed thereafter



#### Primary endpoint

 Objective response rate at first (8wks) post-baseline tumor assessment (ORR<sub>8</sub>)

#### Secondary endpoints

- ORR (confirmed)
- Duration of response (DoR)
- Clinical benefit rate (CBR)
- Progression-free survival (PFS)
- Safety
- Biomarkers

#### Simon 2-stage design

- If ≥1 response in first evaluable 7 patients, expand cohort to Stage 2 (N=18)
- If ≥4 responses in Stage 2, expand or breakout

#### **Tumor assessments**

- RECIST v1.1 (primary criteria)
- PET response criteria (RECIST nonevaluable)

#### Statistical methods

- ORR<sub>8</sub>, ORR, CBR: associated 95% CI
- Median PFS: KM estimate with 95% CI

## Figure 3 Waterfall plot – best % change in tumor size



Not shown: 5 patients in whom no % change in tumor size could be calculated (n=1 died before first post-baseline assessment; n=1 ended treatment due to AEs before first post-baseline assessment; n=3 non-target lesions only)

## HER2 kinase domain mutations exhibit enhanced dimerization with HER3 (ERBB3)











#### Croessmann et al. Clin. Cancer Res. 2018

### HER2 kinase domain mutations rely on PI3K/AKT/mTOR signaling



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## *PIK3CA* (p110 $\alpha$ ) mutations are gain-of-function oncogenes





MCF10A cells



#### Chakrabarty et al. Oncogene 2010

## Gain of interaction of $p110\alpha$ helical domain mutants with IRS-1 is required for its oncogenicity



Hao et al. Cancer Cell 23:583-93, 2013

## Combination of $PI3K\alpha$ inhibitor alpelisib and letrozole is active against breast cancers with mutant PIK3CA

PIK3CA D447-L455\_del



Mayer et al. Clin Cancer Res 23:26-34, 2017

### **Duration on therapy: Letrozole + BYL719 (alpelisib)**



Mayer et al. Clin Cancer Res 23:26-34, 2017

PIK3CA

Months on Treatment

## SOLAR-1: A Phase 3 Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial (NCT02437318)<sup>1</sup>



#### Primary endpoint

 PFS in *PIK3CA*-mutant cohort (locally assessed)

#### Secondary endpoints include

- OS (PIK3CA-mutant cohort)
- PFS (PIK3CA-non-mutant cohort)
- PFS (PIK3CA mutation in ctDNA)
- PFS (PIK3CA-non-mutant in ctDNA)
- ORR/CBR (both cohorts)
- Safety
- The primary endpoint included all randomized patients in the PIK3CA-mutant cohort; PFS was analyzed in the PIK3CA-non-mutant cohort as a proof of concept
- Safety was analyzed for all patients who received ≥ 1 dose of study treatment, in both cohorts

ABC, advanced breast cancer; AI, aromatase inhibitor; ALP, alpelisib; CBR, clinical benefit rate; ctDNA, circulating tumor DNA; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; FUL, fulvestrant; HER2-, human epidermal growth factor receptor-2-negative; IM, intramuscular; ORR, overall response rate; OS, overall survival; PBO, placebo; PFS, progression-free survival;

PO, oral; QD, once daily; R, randomization.

<sup>a</sup> More than 90% of patients had mutational status identified from archival tissue.

<sup>b</sup> Fulvestrant given on Day 1 and Day 15 of the first 28-day cycle, then Day 1 of subsequent 28-day cycles.

1. Andre F, et al. ESMO 2018. Abstract LBA3 [oral].

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## Primary Endpoint: Locally Assessed PFS in the *PIK3CA*-mutant Cohort<sup>1,a</sup>



| Data cut-off:<br>Jun 12, 2018  | ALP + FUL<br>(n = 169) | PBO + FUL<br>(n = 172) |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Number of PFS events, n<br>(%) | 103 (60.9)             | 129 (75.0)             |  |  |  |  |  |
| Progression                    | 99 (58.6)              | 120 (69.8)             |  |  |  |  |  |
| Death                          | 4 (2.4)                | 9 (5.2)                |  |  |  |  |  |
| Censored                       | 66 (39.1)              | 43 (25.0)              |  |  |  |  |  |
| Median PFS (95% CI)            | 11.0 (7.5-14.5)        | 5.7 (3.7-7.4)          |  |  |  |  |  |
| HR (95% CI)                    | 0.65 (0.50-0.85)       |                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| One-sided <i>P</i> value       | 0.00065                |                        |  |  |  |  |  |

#### Number of subjects still at risk

| Alpelisib · | + Fulv 16 | 69 158 | 145 | 141 | 123 | 113 | 97 | 95 | 85 | 82 | 75 | 71 | 62 | 54 | 50 | 43 | 39 | 32 | 30 | 27 | 17 | 16 | 14 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
|-------------|-----------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Placebo +   | Fulv 17   | 72 167 | 120 | 111 | 89  | 88  | 80 | 77 | 67 | 66 | 58 | 54 | 48 | 41 | 37 | 29 | 29 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 14 | 13 | 9  | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; PFS, progression-free survival.

At final PFS analysis, superiority was declared if one-sided, stratified log-rank test P value was ≤ 0.0199 (Haybittle–Peto boundary).

<sup>a</sup> Mutation status determined from tissue biopsy.

1. Andre F, et al. ESMO 2018. Abstract LBA3 [oral].

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## Best Percentage Change in Sum of Target Lesion Diameters Based on Local Investigator Assessment in *PIK3CA*-mutant Cohort<sup>a,b</sup>



PD, progressive disease; UNK, unknown.

Patients for whom the best % change in target lesions was not available and patients for whom the best % change in target lesions was contradicted by overall lesion response = UNK were excluded from the analysis, percentages above use n as denominator. Only patients with measurable disease at baseline are presented.

<sup>a</sup> Mutation status determined from tissue biopsy. <sup>b</sup> Change from baseline in sum of target lesion diameters.

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## Locally Assessed PFS by Tissue or Plasma ctDNA-determined Mutation Status



|  | ALP + F          | UL            | PBO + FL         |               |      |
|--|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------|
|  | Event n/N<br>(%) | Median<br>PFS | Event n/N<br>(%) | Median<br>PFS | HR   |
| Patients with <i>PIK3CA</i> mutation: tissue           | 103/169 (60.9)   | 11.0          | 129/172 (75.0)   | 5.7           | 0.65 |
| Patients with <i>PIK3CA</i> mutation: plasma           | 57/92 (62.0)     | 10.9          | 75/94 (79.8)     | 3.7           | 0.55 |
| Patients <u>without</u> PIK3CA mutation: tissue        | 49/115 (42.6)    | 7.4           | 57/116 (49.1)    | 5.6           | 0.85 |
| Patients <u>without</u> <i>PIK3CA</i> mutation: plasma | 92/181 (50.8)    | 8.8           | 103/182 (56.6)   | 7.3           | 0.80 |

ctDNA, circulating tumor DNA; HR, hazard ratio; PFS, progression-free survival; QD, once daily. This presentation is the intellectual property of Dejan Juric. Contact <u>Juric.Dejan@mgh.harvard.edu</u> for permission to reprint and/or distribute.

## Adverse events in the total population

|                           | A          | pelisib + fulvestra<br>N=284 | nt        | Placebo + fulvestrant<br>N=287 |           |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| AEs ≥20% in either arm, % | All        | Grade 3                      | Grade 4   | All                            | Grade 3   | Grade 4  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Any adverse event         | 282 (99.3) | 183 (64.4)                   | 33 (11.6) | 264 (92.0)                     | 87 (30.3) | 15 (5.2) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hyperglycemia             | 181 (63.7) | 93 (32.7)                    | 11 (3.9)  | 28 (9.8)                       | 1 (0.3)   | 1 (0.3)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Diarrhea                  | 164 (57.7) | 19 (6.7)                     | 0         | 45 (15.7)                      | 1 (0.3)   | 0        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nausea                    | 127 (44.7) | 7 (2.5)                      | 0         | 64 (22.3)                      | 1 (0.3)   | 0        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Decreased appetite        | 101 (35.6) | 2 (0.7)                      | 0         | 30 (10.5)                      | 1 (0.3)   | 0        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rash*                     | 101 (35.6) | 28 (9.9)                     | 0         | 17 (5.9)                       | 1 (0.3)   | 0        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vomiting                  | 77 (27.1)  | 2 (0.7)                      | 0         | 28 (9.8)                       | 1 (0.3)   | 0        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Decreased weight          | 76 (26.8)  | 11 (3.9)                     | 0         | 6 (2.1)                        | 0         | 0        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stomatitis                | 70 (24.6)  | 7 (2.5)                      | 0         | 18 (6.3)                       | 0         | 0        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fatigue                   | 69 (24.3)  | 10 (3.5)                     | 0         | 49 (17.1)                      | 3 (1.0)   | 0        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Asthenia                  | 58 (20.4)  | 5 (1.8)                      | 0         | 37 (12.9)                      | 0         | 0        |  |  |  |  |  |  |

• Eighteen patients (6.3%) discontinued alpelisib due to hyperglycemia and 9 patients (3.2%) due to rash; no patients discontinued placebo due to either hyperglycemia or rash

• Maculopapular rash was observed in 14.1% of patients (all-grade) and 8.8% (grade 3) in the alpelisib arm, vs 1.7% and 0.3%, respectively, in the placebo arm

• The safety profile of the alpelisib group and the placebo group was similar in *PIK3CA*-mutant and *PIK3CA*-non-mutant cohorts

\*Single preferred term of "rash" does not include preferred term of "maculopapular rash".

## Inhibition of PI3Kα blocks glucose uptake and increases insulin levels (Juric et al. JCO 2018)



### Reduction in FDG uptake by PET correlates with clinical benefit from pan- PI3K inhibitor buparlisib







Mayer et al. JCO 2014

Insulin is highly elevated in the serum following treatment with PI3K inhibitors and remains high for hours



Hopkins B, ..... Cantley L. Nature 2018

Peak in serum glucose and serum insulin can be reduced by both a sodium-glucose transporter (SGLT) inhibitor and by a ketogenic diet. Metformin is not as effective.

SGLTi  $\rightarrow \downarrow$  glucose reabsorption in the kidney Ketogenic diet  $\rightarrow$  depletes glycogen,  $\downarrow$  gluconeogenesis



90 min post-dosing a PIK3CA mutant/PTEN-null endometrial tumor with BKM120, P-InsR increases and this increase is prevented when mice are on a ketogenic diet





Implication: This insulin rebound partially maintains PI3K activity in Ins/IGF1R+ tumors and prevents complete inhibition of FDG uptake, thus limiting the effect of therapeutic inhibitors





A ketogenic diet markedly improves response to PI3K inhibitors in orthotopic allografts of murine KRASmutant/TP53 deleted pancreatic cancer



# Reasons why therapeutic inhibition of PI3K in cancer has not had a better outcome

- Mutant PIK3CA is a weak oncogene
- Lack of optimal patient selection
- 'Dialing up' inhibition of PI3K causes severe rash and hyperglycemia, thus inhibition of PI3K is suboptimal and transient
- Use of pan-PI3K (± mTOR) inhibitors with poor tolerance
- Therapeutic inhibition of PI3K is followed by compensatory upregulation of several RTKs (ERBB receptors, Ins/IGF-IR, FGFRs), ERα, BCL2
- Lack of emphasis on combination trials
- Insulin production is increased upon inhibition of PI3K
- Lack of mutant specific inhibitors

Hanker et al. Cancer Discovery 2019

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- Short presurgical (aka, 'window') and neoadjuvant therapeutic trials
- Biopsy and molecular profiling of recurrent (drugresistant) metastases
- Interrogation of exceptional responders to targeted therapies → trials with targeted therapies, all informed by metastatic tumor profiling
- Big increase in combinations of targeted therapies with standard of care anti-ER therapy all informed by serially assessed tumor evolution

## **Acknowledgements**





#### Vanderbilt

Ingrid Mayer, MD Justin Balko, PharmD, PhD Melinda Sanders, MD Paula Gonzalez-Ericsson, MD

#### UTSW Simmons Cancer Center

Alberto Servetto, MD, PhD Lisa Kinch, PhD Nisha Unni, MD Saurabh Mendiratta, MS Sumanta Chatterjee, PhD Weil Cornell Lewis Cantley, PhD

#### Puma Biotechnology

Al Lalani, PhD Richard Cutler, PhD Richard Bryce, MD <u>Guardant Health</u> Becky Nagy, PhD Richard Lanman, MD

#### Novartis

Samit Hirawat, MD Tetiana Taran, PhD

## Convergent PTEN-null phenotype developed by parallel evolution under selective pressure with BYL719



Juric, Castel, Nature, 2014