## Clinical Pharmacology Considerations for Immuno-oncology Combination Development

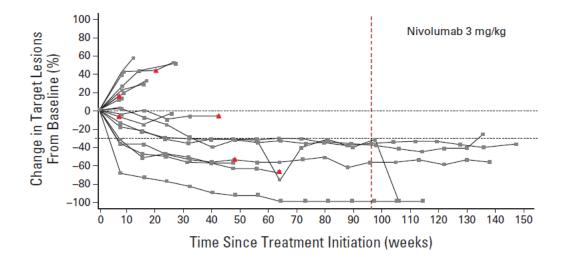
Shruti Agrawal

ASCPT 2016 San Diego



### What is cancer immunotherapy?

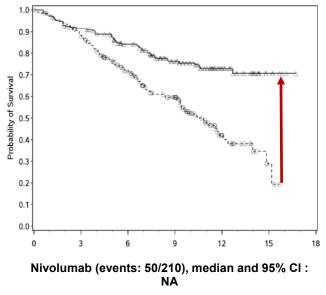
Immunotherapy is a type of cancer treatment designed to boost the body's natural defenses to fight the cancer



#### **Red triangles: New lesions**

#### **Characteristics of tumor-response to I-O Agents**

- Patients who do not progress tend to have durable disease control
- Unconventional responses: reduction in target tumor burden despite appearance of new lesions



Dacarbazine (events 96/208), median and 95% CI : 10.84 (9.33, 12.09)



Topalian et al. J Clinical Oncology 2013; 32-1020-30, Robert et al. N Engl J Med 2015;372:320-30

### **Combinations may improve efficacy**

Combination therapy to block more than one immunomodulatory pathway may further enhance the anti-tumor efficacy of each individual treatment





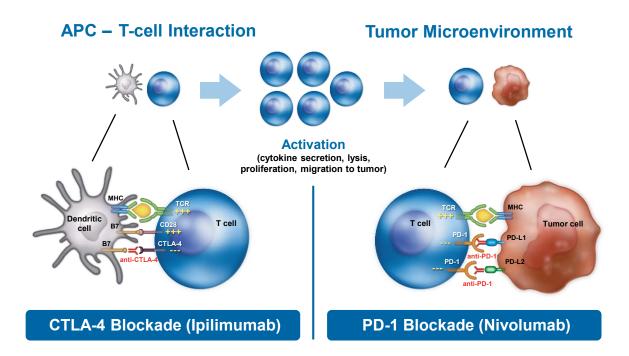
Sharma P., Allyson JP. Cell 2015, 161: 205-214

## **Biologic Rationale for Combined PD-1 and CTLA-4 Blockade**

Ipilimumab (IPI) monotherapy in melanoma improves OS (~20% of treated patients alive ≥3 years)<sup>1</sup>

Phase III studies of nivolumab (NIVO) monotherapy in advanced melanoma:<sup>2,3</sup>

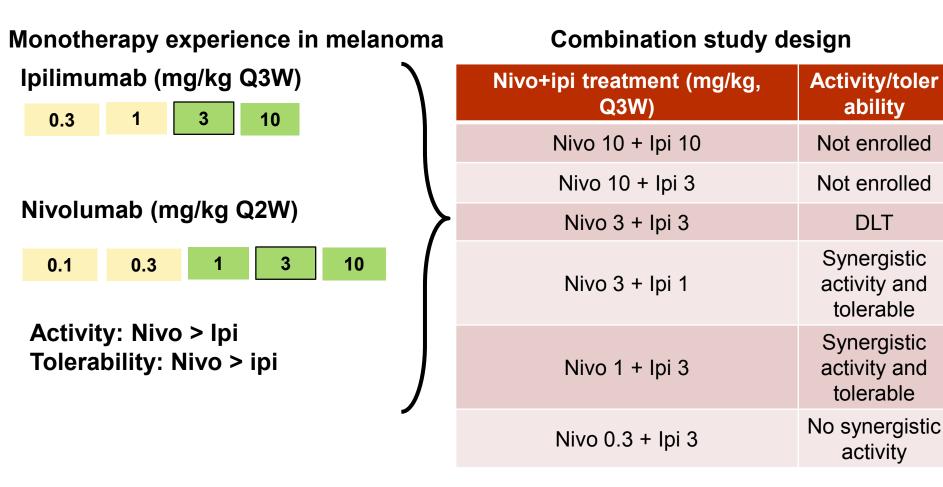
- 1-year OS rate of 73% and ORR of 40% in untreated melanoma (BRAF wild-type)
- ORR of 32% after progression on IPI, or IPI and a BRAF inhibitor if BRAF mutation-positive



1. Schadendorf et al. J Clin Oncol 2015 Feb 9 [Epub ahead of print]; 2. Robert et al. N Engl J Med 2015;372:320-330; 3. Weber et al. Lancet Oncol 2015;16:375-384.



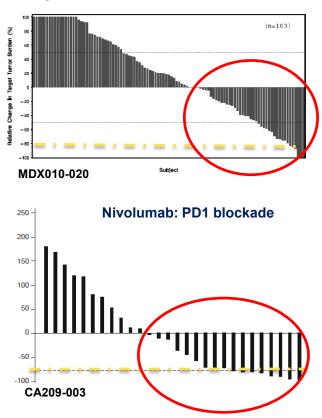
## Nivo + Ipi combination: Melanoma experience (CA209004)

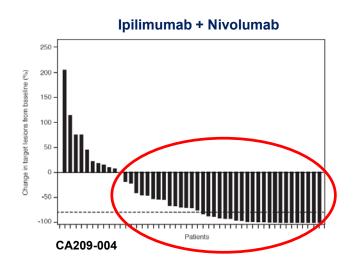


Agrawal et al, SITC-2015; P-141, Sznol et al. ECC-2013; abstr. 3734, Wolchok et al. N Engl J Med 2013, 369:122-33

#### **Proof of principle for I-O combinations: Percent Change in Tumor Burden**

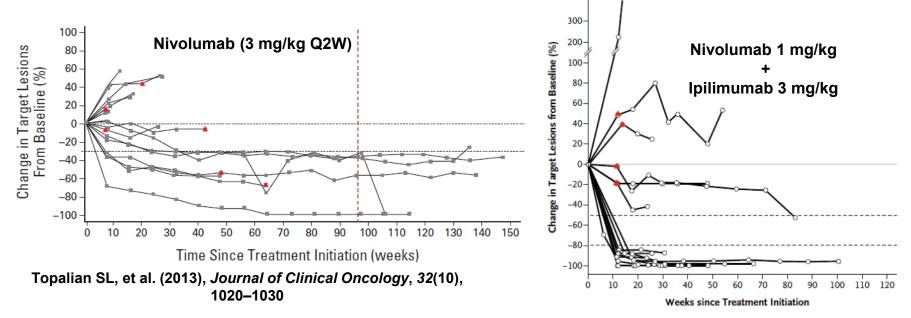
Ipilimumab: CTLA4 blockade







#### Time-Profile of Target Tumor Burden: Metastatic Melanoma Patients Treated with Nivolumab ± Ipilimumab



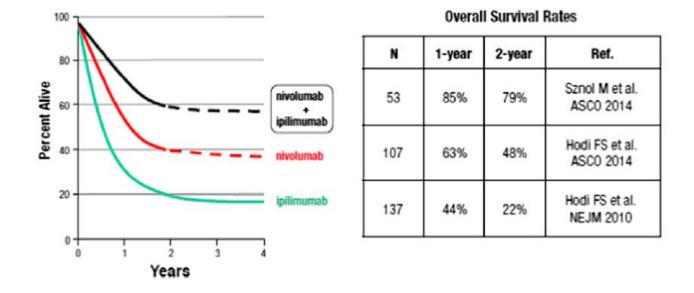
Wolchok JD, et al. (2013). New England Journal of Medicine, 369(2), 122–33.

- Distinct patterns of response particularly evident with combination therapy
- % of patients with > 80% tumor reduction (depth of response) was used for dose selection of combination
- N1+ I3 dose was selected based on maximum activity and acceptable tolerability





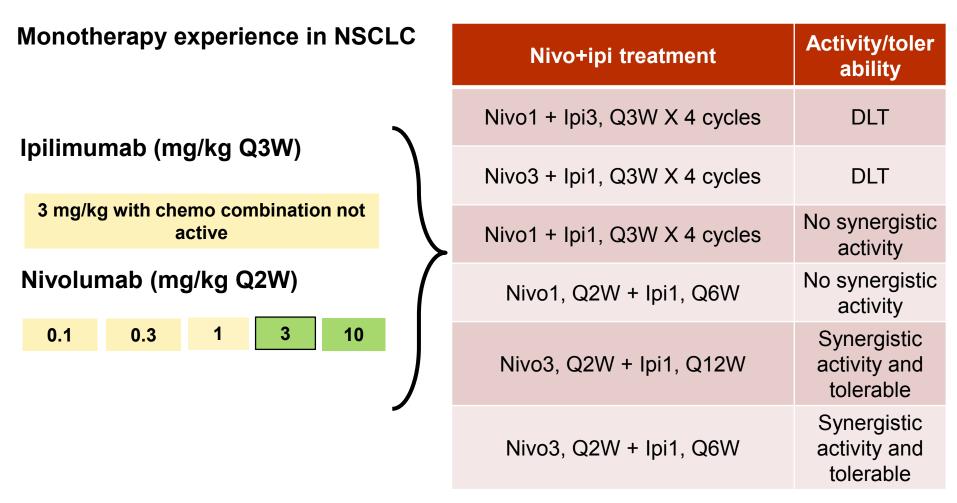
#### Concept of "Clinical Cure" with I-O combinations in Melanoma



The 5-year survival rate was 18.2% (95% CI, 13.6% to 23.4%) for patients treated with ipilimumab plus dacarbazine versus 8.8% (95% CI, 5.7% to 12.8%) for patients treated with placebo plus dacarbazine (*P* = .002).



#### Nivo + Ipi combination: NSCLC experience (CA209012)



Higher nivo exposure with low ipi exposure results in optimal benefit-risk profile

Bristol-Myers Squibb

NSCLC: Non small cell lung cancer

Agrawal et al, SITC-2015; P-141, Rizvi NA. WCLC 2015. ORAL02.05

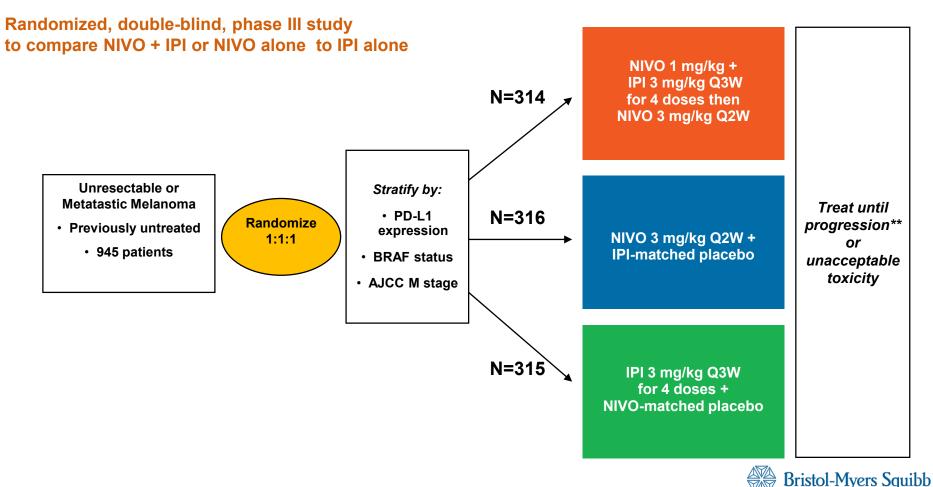
### **Considerations for combination trial design**

- Dose cohorts based on expression levels of relevant targets in tumor types
- Differences in activity and tolerability by tumor type
- Dose de-escalation for either compounds
- Close monitoring of safety
- Novel study design to screen multiple combinations with speed
- Early surrogate endpoints for decision making
- PK and biomarker to understand contribution to efficacy and/or safety
- Patient selection for maximizing benefit from monotherapy vs. combination



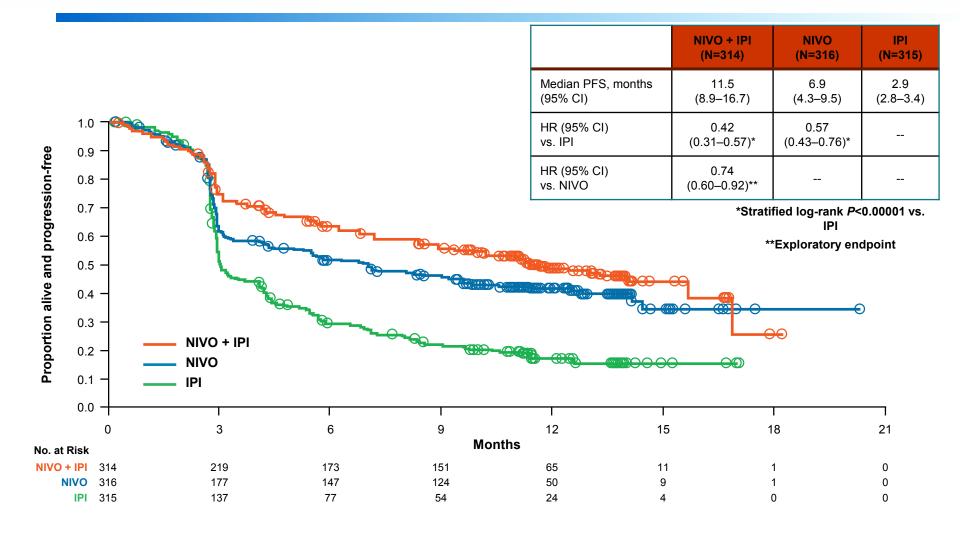
#### **Determining contribution of each component**

#### CA209067 study design



Wolchok et al. ASCO 2015. LBA1

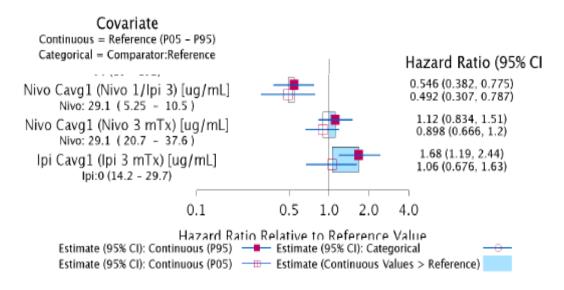
### **Efficacy: Progression-free-survival**





### **Determining contribution of each component**

#### **Exposure-Efficacy (PFS) Analysis**



reference: median Cavg1 at nivo 3 mg/kg monotherapy

Cavg1 produced in combination therapy associated with improved PFS relative to monotherapy of nivo and ipi due to synergistic effect

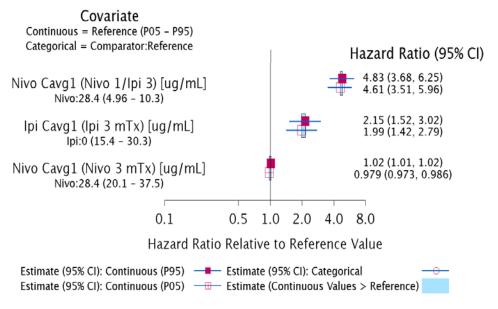
Bristol-Myers Squibb

**PFS: Progression Free Survival** 

Feng et al. ACoP 2015. T-56

### **Determining contribution of each component**

#### Exposure-Safety (AEs leading to discontinuation) Analysis



reference: median Cavg1 at nivo 3 mg/kg monotherapy

• The hazard of AE-DC/D increased with nivo1/ipi 3



### Immunogenicity in combination

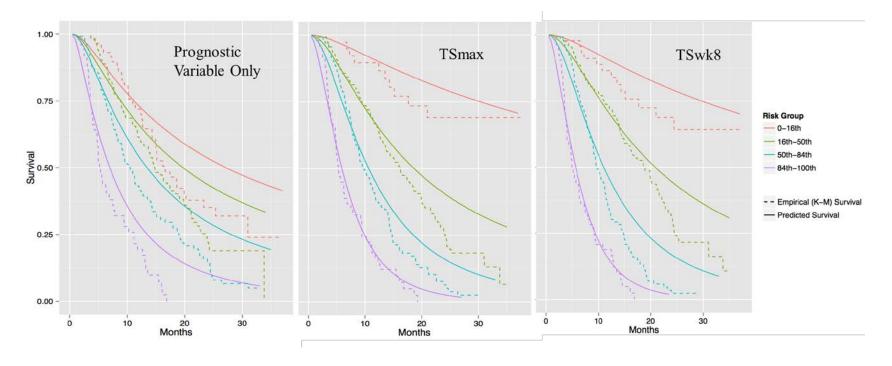
- Both Nivo and Ipi have shown low immunogenicity potential when administered alone
- Theoretically, higher immunogenicity may be possible due to the immunostimulatory mechanisms of these immune checkpoint inhibitors
- The incidence of Nivo immunogenicity was higher combination; however, only a minority of the patients were NAb-positive
- The safety profile for combination regimen was similar in ADApositive/NAb-positive patients and ADA-negative patients.
- Efficacy profiles were also similar between ADA-positive patients and ADA-negative patients
- Overall, the immunogenic potential of Nivo+Ipi when given in combination was low, with no clear evidence of impact on safety or efficacy



## Translational approaches to accelerate immunotherapy combination

## Leveraging totality of IO data to accelerate dose selection for IO combinations

#### Early tumor shrinkage is predictive of survival



Suryawanshi et al. ACoP 2015. S-11



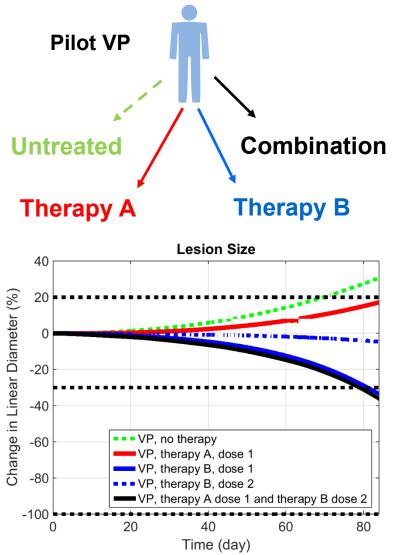
Model predicted tumor shrinkage is based on nonlinear mixed-effects mixture-model of TGD

## IO systems pharmacology to predict combination efficacy

Melanoma immuno-oncology pilot PhysioMap: cells, cytokines, and biomarkers

Elood/Plasma
Pilot: circulating immune cells, cytokines, chemokines, RO, therapy A and B
Stage 2: expand immune cells, 3 more therapies (checkpoint inhibitors, agonists)
Transport
Tumor & Iymph node
Pilot cell types: CD4: Naïve, Th, Th1, Th2, Th17, Treg, TEM; CD8: Naïve, CTL, TEM; NK, B, DC,
M1/M2 Macrophages, MDSC, Cancer
Stage 2 cell types: CD4: TFH , TCM; CD8: TCM; B: Naïve, Plasma (short & long lived), Memory;
VEC, LEC, CAF, pDC, N1/N2 Neutrophils, TIE2-Expressing Monocytes, Lymph node fibroblasts
Pilot mediators and markers (21): IL1, IL2, IL4, IL6, IL7, IL10, IL12, IL15, IL17, IL21, IL23, IFNg,
TGFb, GMCSF, IDO, Chemokines, LDH, tumor associated antigens, antibodies, nivo, ipi
Stage 2 mediators and markers (39): IL18, IFN1, TNFalpha, CXCL8, CXCL9, CXCL12, CCL4,
CCL2, CCL5, CCL20, CCL21, CCL22, MCSF, PGE2, ICAM1, VEGFA, VEGFC, Ang2, ECM, MMP
Pilot cell associated markers: MHC, CTLA4, B7, CD28,
PD-1, PD-L1, PD-L2 FoxP3, Granzymes
Stage 2 cell associated markers: LAG3, sLAG3, CD137, CD137L, GITR, GITRL
Some of the new processes in Stage 2: hypoxia, vessel and ECM density (metastatic
potential), cancer and immune migration to the lymph node, adaptive immune response in the
lymph node
Schmidt B. ASCPT 2016

## Pilot virtual patient: Lesion response to combination therapies



- Different IO therapies tested in same VP
- Note the simulated increased response for the combination relative to monotherapies at the same concentrations
- Alternate VPs will facilitate exploring phenotypes that may have greater benefit from the combination



Schmidt B. ASCPT 2016

# Future directions in optimizing cancer immunotherapy combination regimen

- Establishing optimal regimen: sequencing, concurrent
- Dosing frequency
- Duration of treatment/number of combination doses
- Triple combinations
- Combinations with multiple treatment modalities



### Acknowledgements

- Patients enrolled in clinical trials
- Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics group at Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Nivolumab and ipilimumab clinical development teams

