

# Challenges and Opportunities for Modeling and Simulation in Late Phase Oncology Development: Combinations, Cancer Immunotherapy, and More



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# Modeling and Simulation in Oncology Development

## □ Overview

- Today's Anti-cancer Agents
- M&S in Drug Development

## □ Case Examples

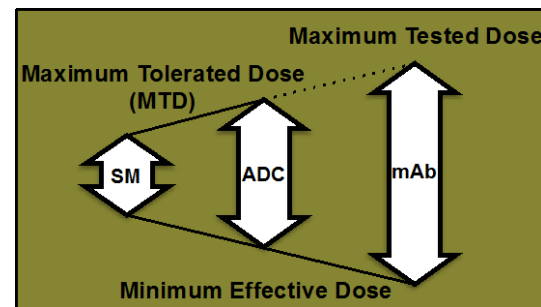
- NME+SOC Combo Dose Selection – *Benefit-risk analysis*
- Cancer Immunotherapy Dose Justification – *PK-tumor-survival*

## □ Final Remarks

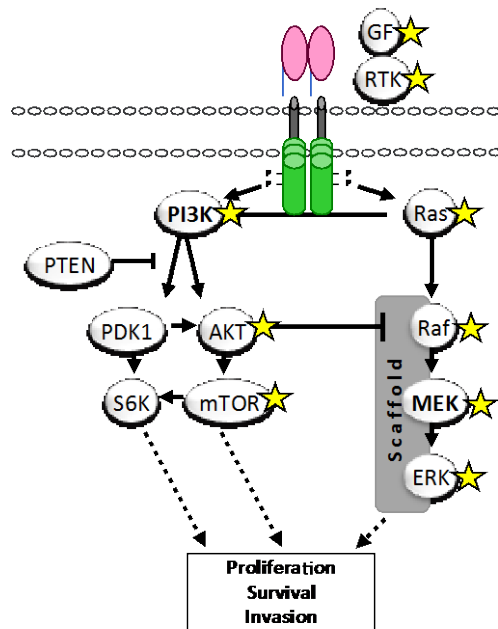
# Today's Anti-Cancer Agents

**Vision:** Simultaneous inhibition of multiple targets to enhance activity in broader population with less resistance

- ❑ Multiple mechanism of action
- ❑ Multiple molecule types
- ❑ Combination therapy (NME+SOC, NME+NME)

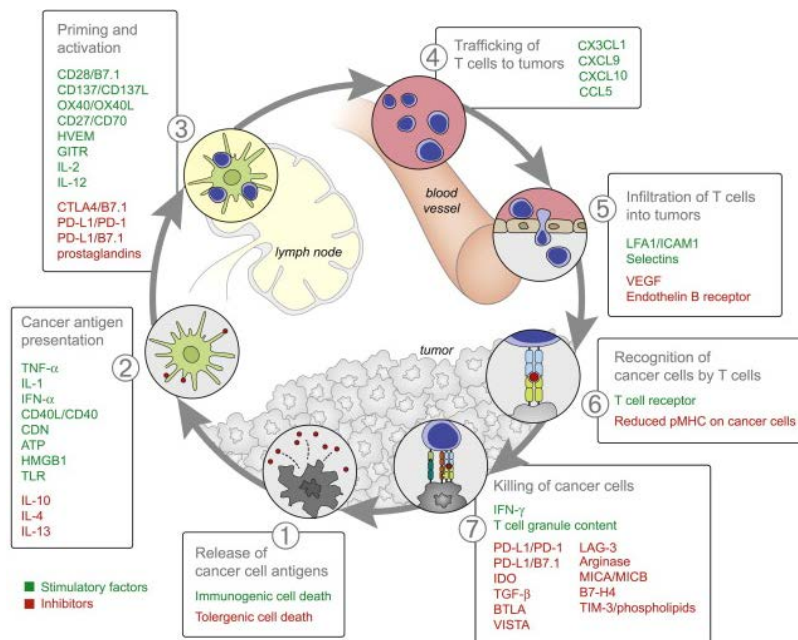


## Kinase Pathways



★ Drug Targets

## Cancer Immunotherapy

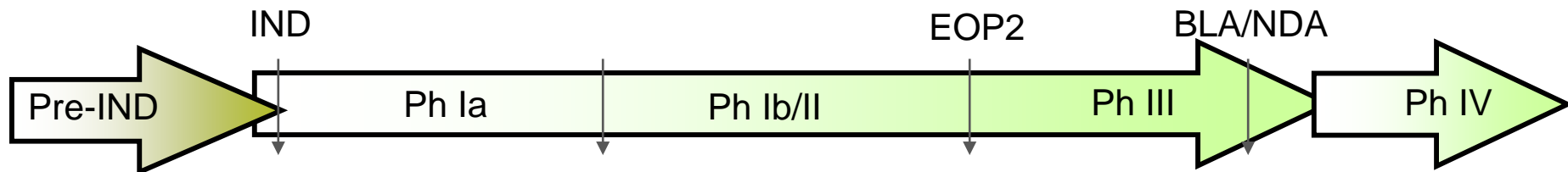


Chen & Mellman; Immunity 2013

NME: new molecular entity; SOC: standard of care

# Modeling and Simulation in Drug Development

## Project Modeling (Molecule-specific)



### Pre IND

- Human dose projection: *translational PK/PD*
- Exposure and target engagement at site of action: *tissue PK/PD, PBPK/PD*

### Phase I/II/III

- Dose optimization: *translational & clinical PK/PD*
- Regimen and dosing schedule optimization: *longitudinal M&S*
- Effect of intrinsic factors: *PopPK, PBPK*
- Effect of extrinsic factors: *PopPK, PBPK*
- QT prolongation: *concentration-QT*
- Exposure and response at site of action: *biomarker PK/PD, PBPK/PD*
- Sampling optimization: *Trial simulation*

- Dose justification
- Clinical pharmacology characterization
- Decision making
- Label

## Platform Modeling (Cross-molecules)

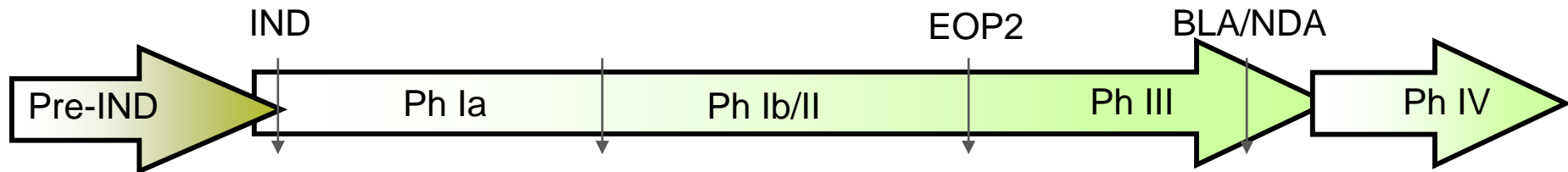
M&S for molecule platform and/or disease platform: disease progression, prediction of outcome by early endpoints, literature meta-analysis, system pharmacology modeling (QSP), etc.

# Modeling and Simulation in Drug Development

Project Modeling (Mole

**NME+SOC  
Combo**

**Cancer  
Immunotherapy**

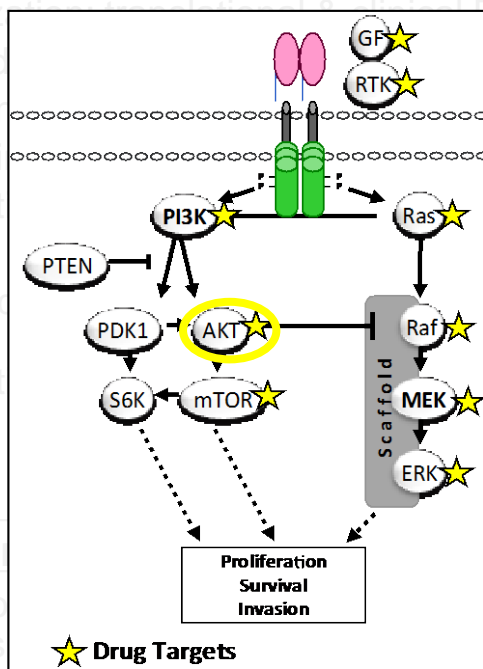


Pre IND

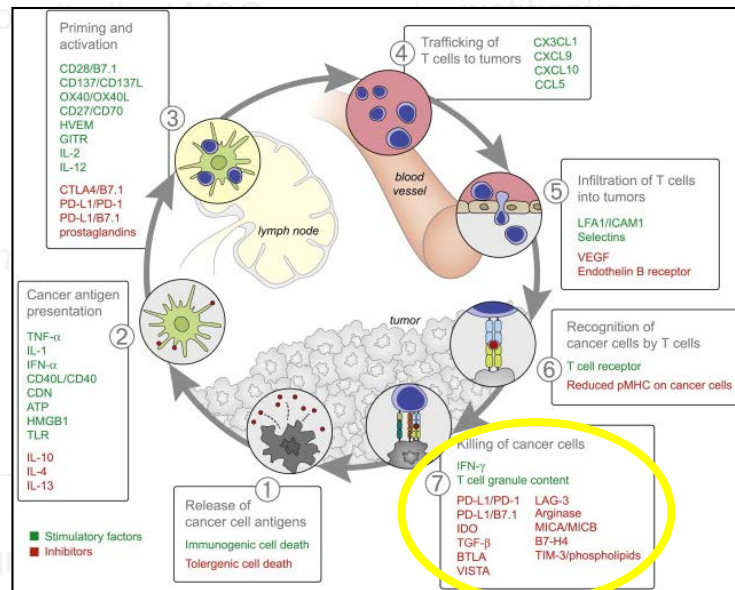
- Human dose projection: *translational PK/PD*
- Exposure and target engagement at site of action: *tissue PK/PD, PBPK/PD*

Phase I/II/III

- Dose optimization
- Regimen and schedule
- Effect of intrinsic and extrinsic factors
- Effect of extrinsic factors: *QT prolongation*
- Exposure and target engagement: *PBPK/PD*
- Sampling optimization



• Dose



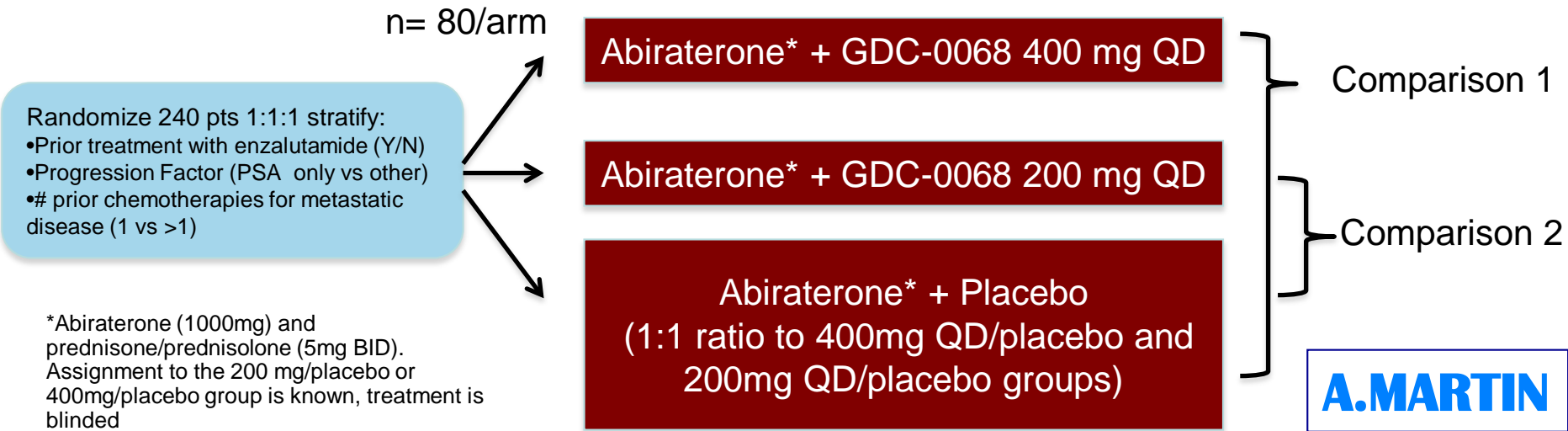
Platform Modeling (Cross-

M&S for molecule platform and/or endpoints, literature meta-analysis

# Dose Selection for Ipatasertib

- ❑ The PI3K/AKT pathway is central for cancer cell growth and survival
- ❑ Ipatasertib (GDC-0068) is a potent, oral, ATP-competitive AKT inhibitor

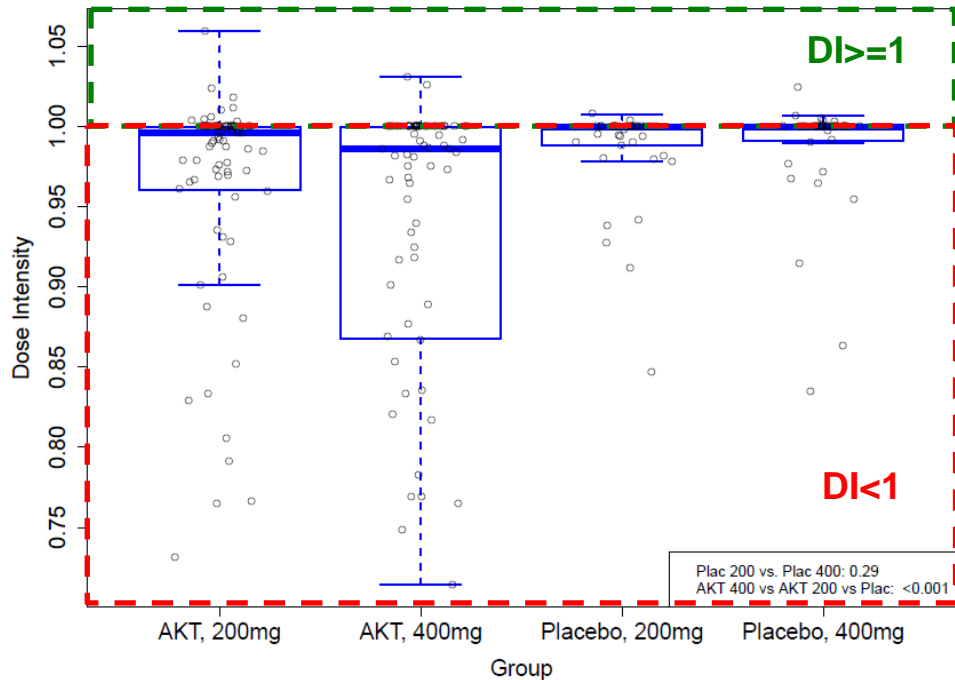
## Ipatasertib 2L mCRPC Phase 2 (A.MARTIN) Study Design



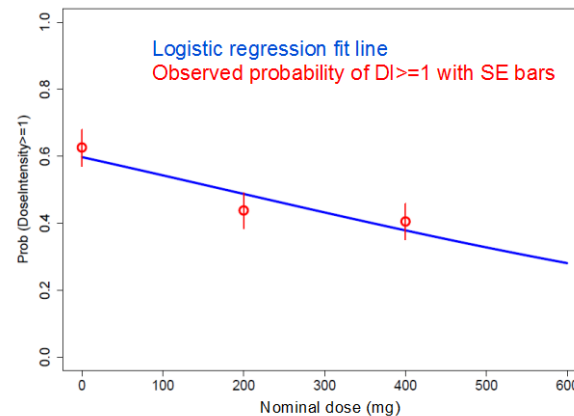
**Clinical Question:** What is the recommended Ipatasertib dose for further development in mCRPC?

# Dose Selection: Account for Dose Reduction

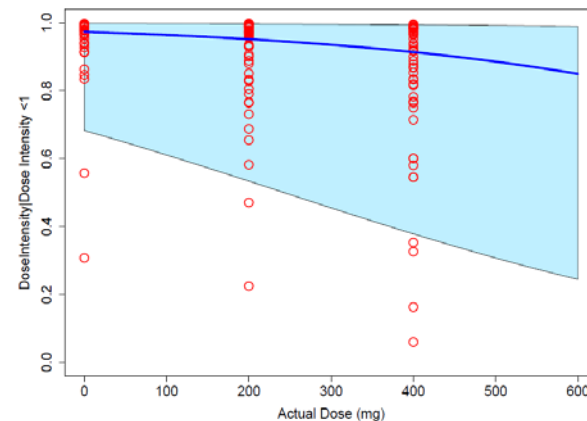
**Clinical Question:** How to account for the confounding effect of dose reduction in Phase 2?



DI Model 1: Prob(DI>=1) vs. Dose

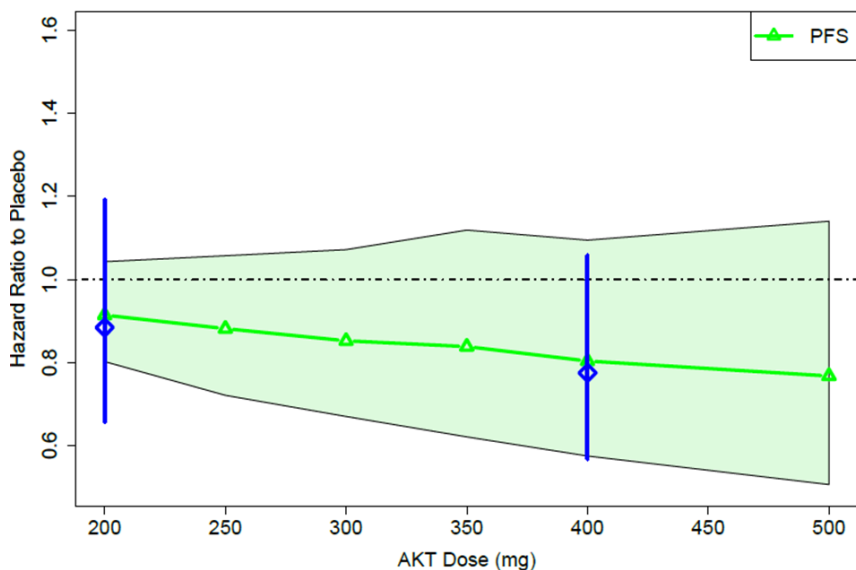


DI Model 2: DI distribution in DI<1 population



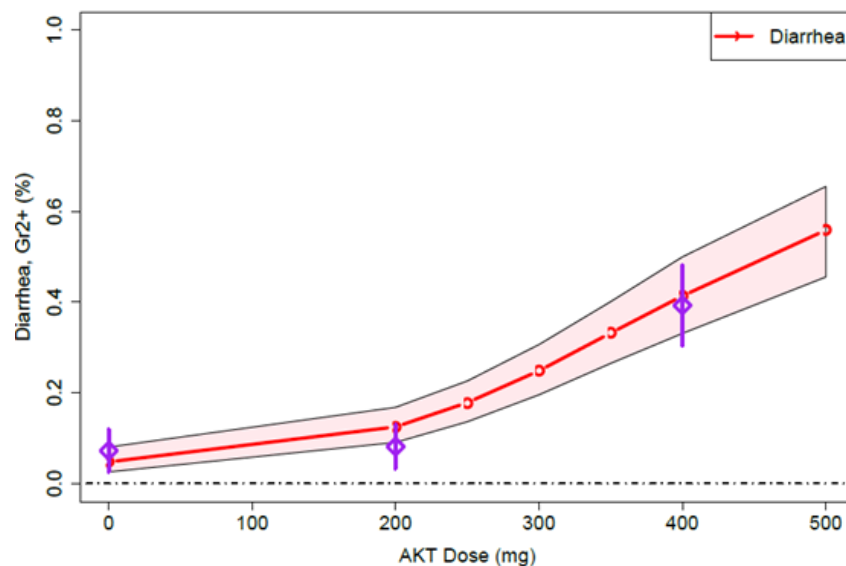
# Dose Selection: Exposure-Response

## Exposure-Efficacy: radiographic PFS



Dose-rPFS projections from Cox regression model of exposure-rPFS coupled with dose intensity model

## Exposure-Safety: Gr2+ Diarrhea



Dose-safety projections from logistic regression model of exposure-safety coupled with dose intensity model (Gr2+ diarrhea)

Similar analyses conducted for: Gr3+ diarrhea, Gr2+ rash, Gr 3+ rash



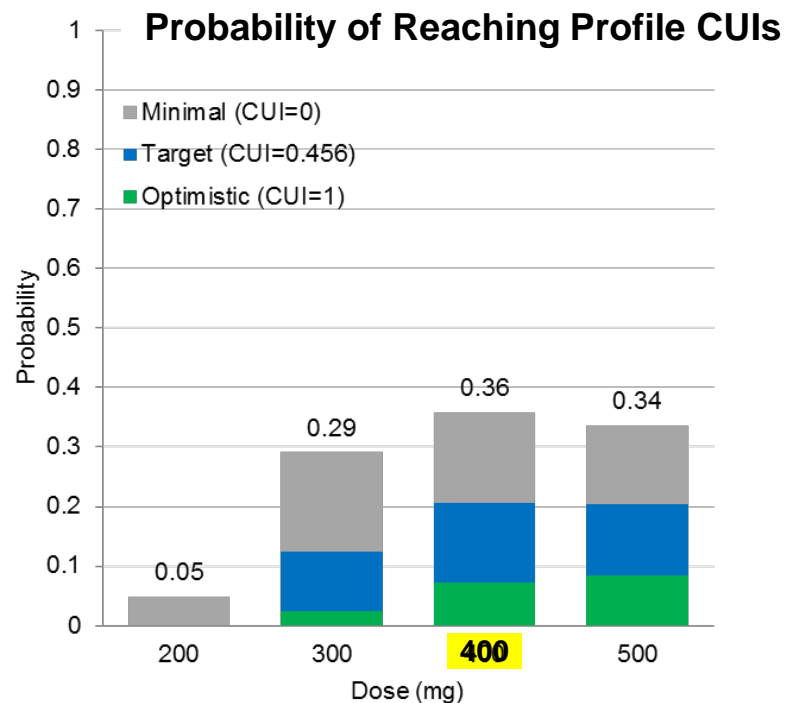
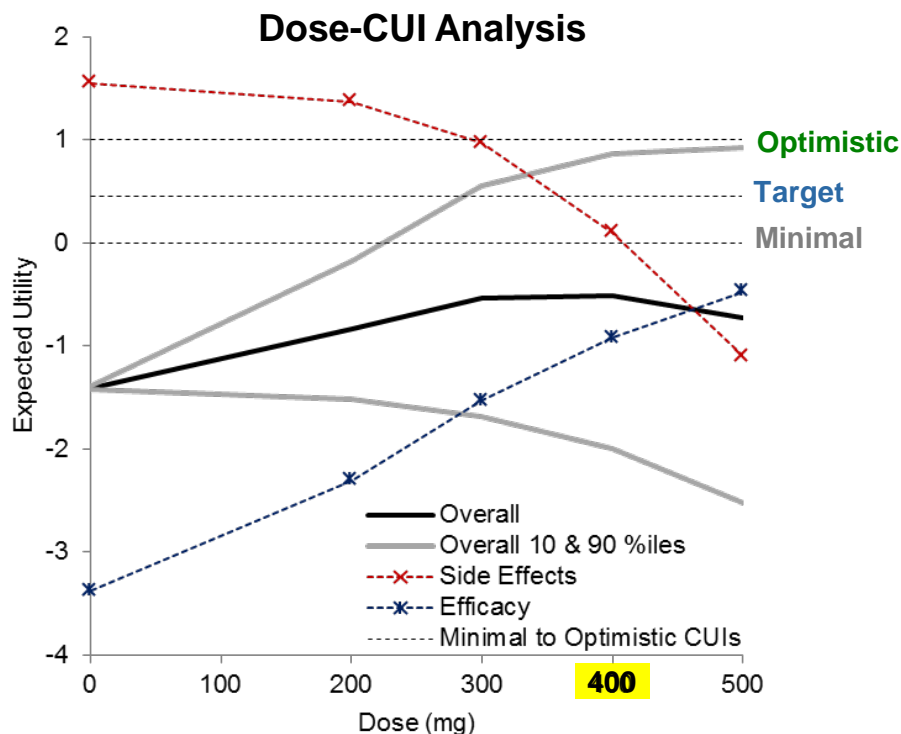
# Dose Selection: Clinical Utility Index

Benefit-risk analysis via exposure-response and clinical utility index (CUI) approaches indicated that 400 mg QD Ipatasertib has the highest probability of achieving the minimal Product Profile (PP) with better benefit/risk balance than 200, 300, or 500 mg QD.

**Optimistic, Target, and Minimal Product Profile (PP) (Scenario #4)**

- rPFS HR (weight: 0.6)  
0.65 0.7 0.73
- G2+ Diarrhea (weight: 0.3)  
25% 35% 45%
- G2+ Rash (weight: 0.1)  
6% 12% 18%

4 scenario tested varying E & S criteria & weight

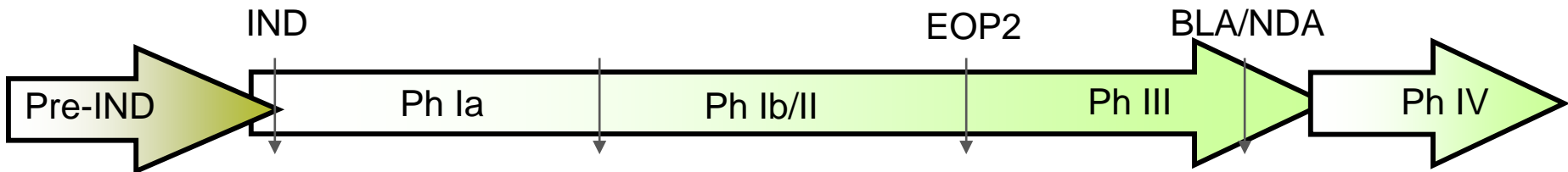


**Impact:** Overall, Ipatasertib 400mg QD dose was supported by M&S for further development in mCRPC.

# Modeling and Simulation in Drug Development

Project Modeling (Molecule-specific)

**Cancer Immunotherapy**



Pre IND

- Human dose projection: *translational PK/PD*
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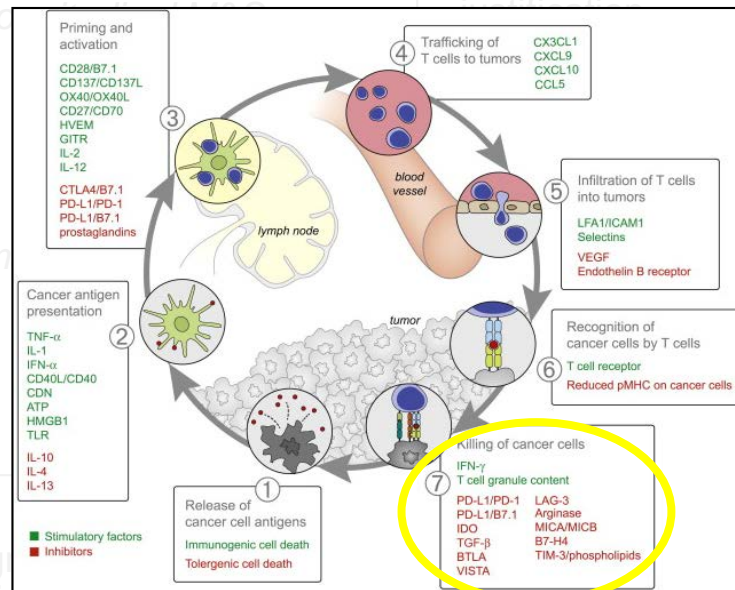
Phase I/II/III

- Dose optimization: *translational & clinical PK/PD*
- Regimen and dosing schedule optimization: *PK/PD*
- Effect of intrinsic factors: *PopPK, PBPK*
- Effect of extrinsic factors: *PopPK, PBPK*
- QT prolongation: *concentration-QT*
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- Sampling optimization: *Trial simulation*

• Dose

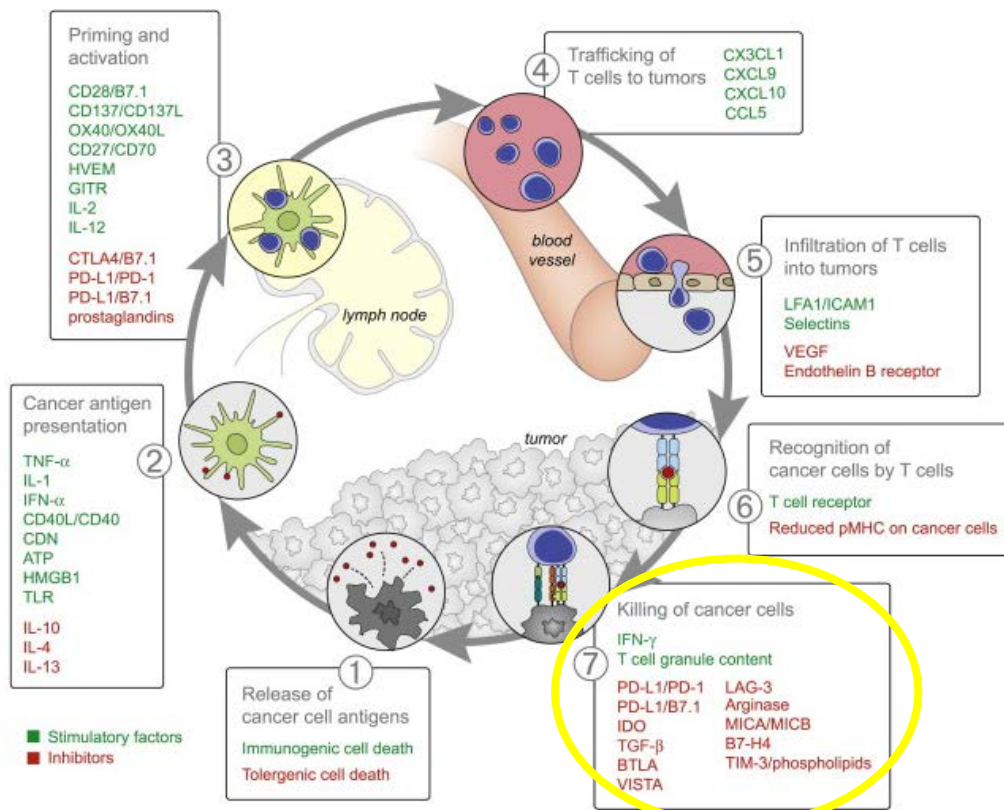
Platform Modeling (Cross-molecules)

M&S for molecule platform and/or disease platform: disease progression, endpoints, literature meta-analysis, system pharmacology modeling (QSP), etc.



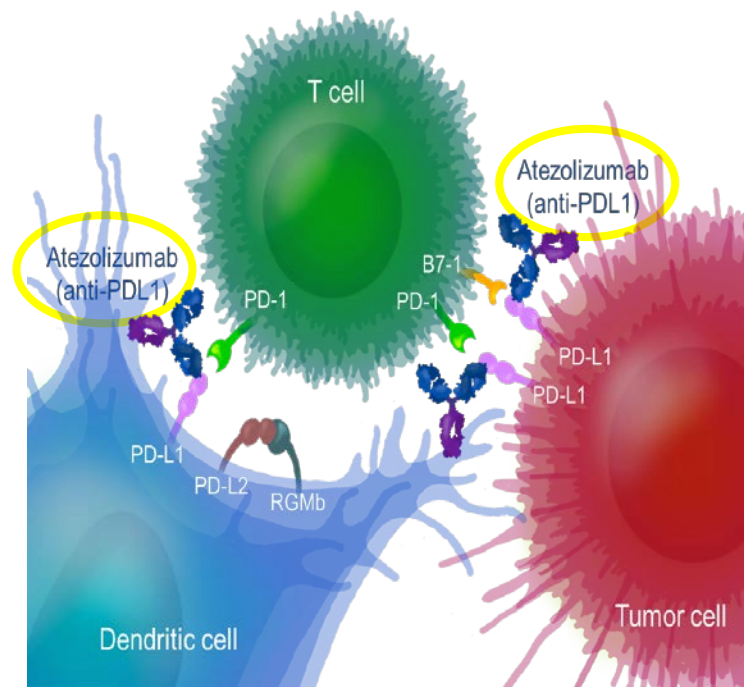
# Cancer Immunotherapy and Atezolizumab

## Cancer-immunity Cycle & Therapeutic Intervention



Chen & Mellman; *Immunity* 2013

## PD-L1 and Atezolizumab



PD-L1, programmed death-ligand 1

- ❑ Atezolizumab is a humanized engineered mAb that selectively targets PD-L1
  - By inhibiting interactions with receptors PD-1 and B7.1, anti-cancer immunity can be reinvigorated and enhanced<sup>1,2</sup>
- ❑ Atezolizumab has demonstrated efficacy and safety in a broad range of cancer types, including mUC, NSCLC and RCC<sup>1,3-5</sup>

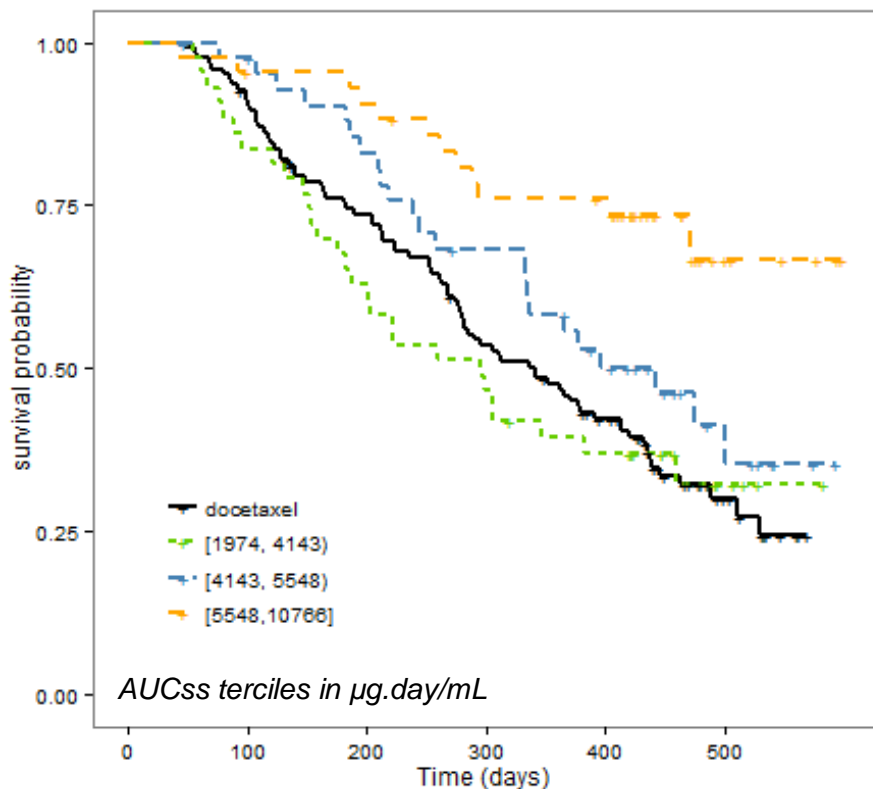
<sup>1</sup> Herbst *Nature* 2014. <sup>2</sup> Chen *Immunity* 2013. <sup>3</sup> Powles *Nature* 2014.

©2017, Genentech <sup>4</sup> Rosenberg *Lancet* 2016. <sup>5</sup> Fehrenbacher *Lancet* 2016.

## Atezolizumab in NSCLC: POPLAR Study

The POPLAR study is an open-label, Phase 2 randomized controlled trial of atezolizumab compared to docetaxel in patients (n=297) with advanced NSCLC who progressed on post-platinum chemotherapy<sup>1</sup>

- Median OS: Atezolizumab 12.6 months (95% CI: 9.7-16.4); Docetaxel 9.7 months (8.6-12.0)
- Hazard ratio: 0.73 (95% CI: 0.53-0.99, p=0.040)



Exposure-response:

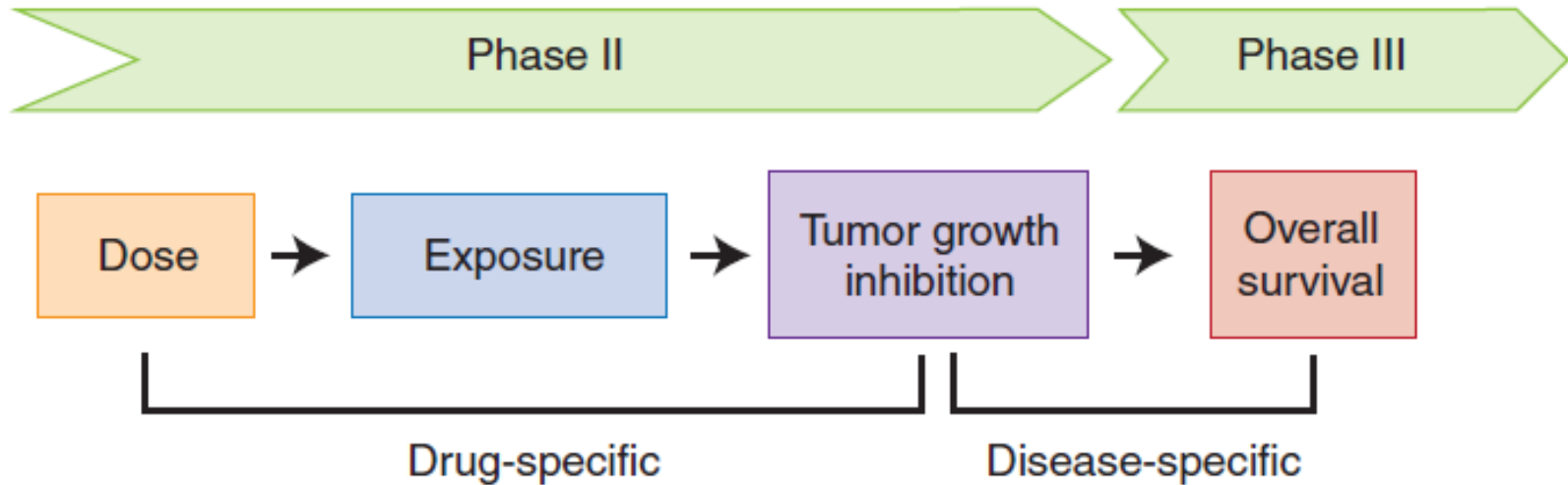
- OS is correlated with atezolizumab exposure
- Exposure-OS relationships are confounded with baseline prognostic factors

**Clinical Question:** Is there any dose adjustment need for Atezolizumab due to loss of efficacy in patients with lower exposure, or increased safety risk in patients with higher exposure?

<sup>1</sup> Fehrenbacher et al, Lancet 387, 1837-1846, 2016

# Oncology Modeling Framework

Models-based tumor growth inhibition (TGI) metrics could be used as biomarkers to capture treatment effect and predict for OS benefit.

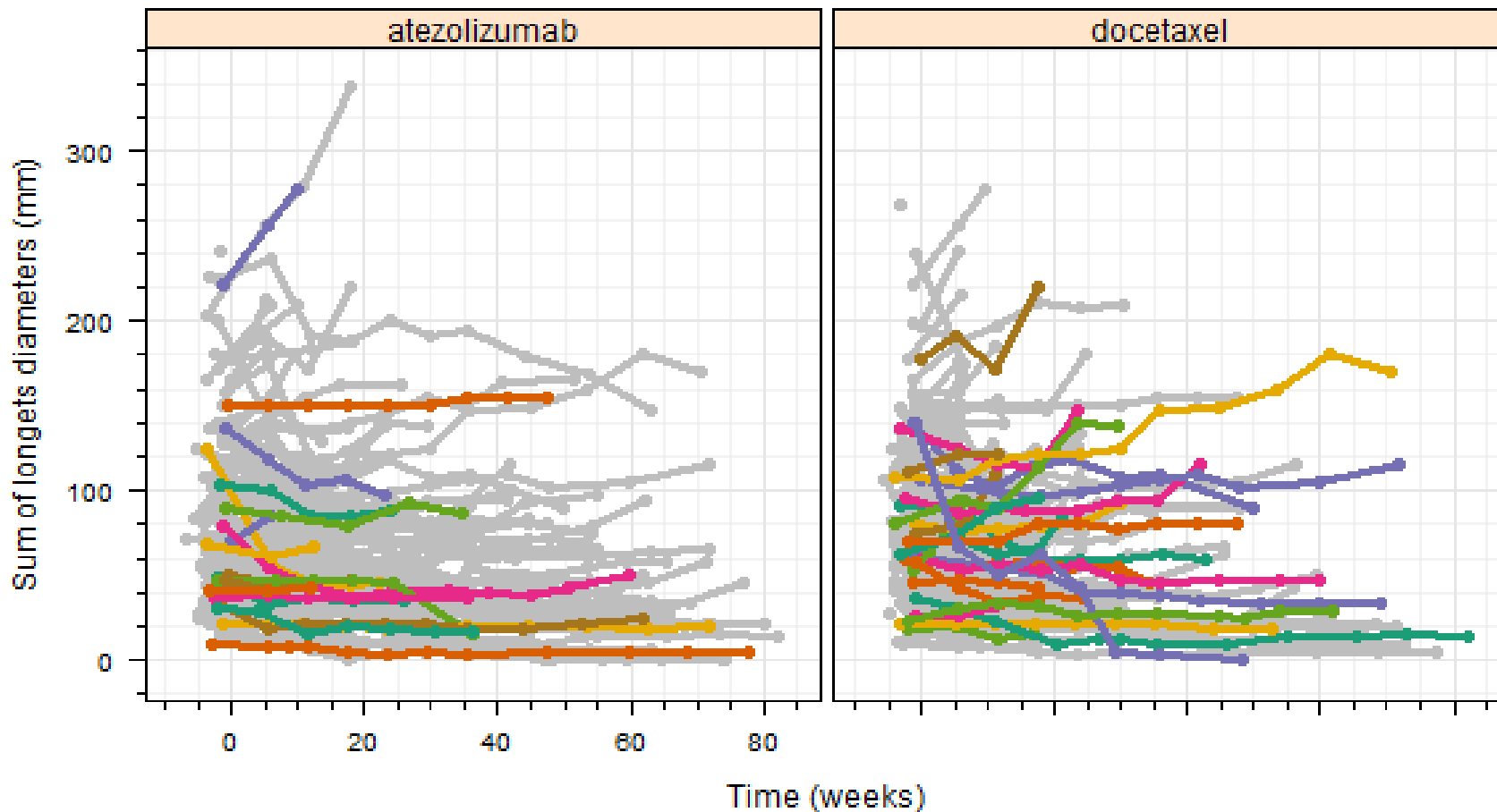


**Q1: Can causality for exposure-response (via tumor growth inhibition) as a way to mitigate confounding by baseline prognostic factors?**

# Tumor Response Data from POPLAR

Atezolizumab  
(1200 mg IV q3w)

Docetaxel  
(75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV q3w)

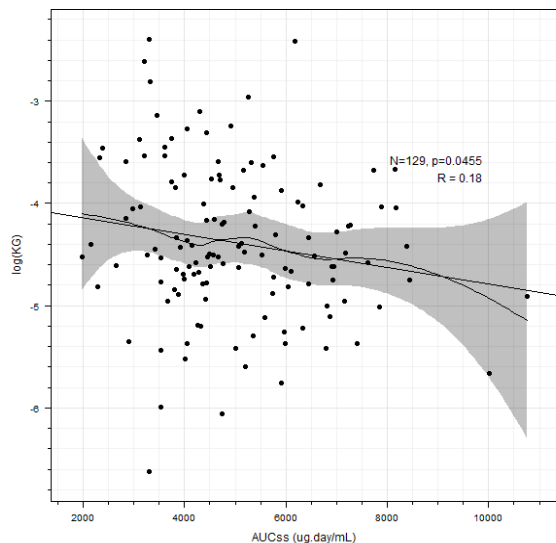


All profiles in grey, 50 patients taken at random are colored

## Dose Justification for Atezolizumab in NSCLC

The bi-exponential Stein model:  $TS(t) = TS_0 * [\exp(-KS * t) + \exp(KG * t) - 1]$

Stein et al. CCR 17:907-17, 2011



AUCss tertiles	Covariates	HR	CI	HR Plot
3393 [1974, 4143]	Original	0.98	(0.92,1.03)	
4750 [4143, 5548]	Original	0.72	(0.68,0.77)	
6903 [5548,10766]	Original	0.51	(0.46,0.56)	
3393 [1974, 4143]	Balanced	0.85	(0.81,0.89)	
4750 [4143, 5548]	Balanced	0.77	(0.73,0.82)	
6903 [5548,10766]	Balanced	0.62	(0.56,0.68)	

AUCss tertiles=median, interval, [a, b]; HR=Hazard ratio distribution over 1000 replicates; 95%PI=95% prediction interval, 5000 patients, 1000 replicates

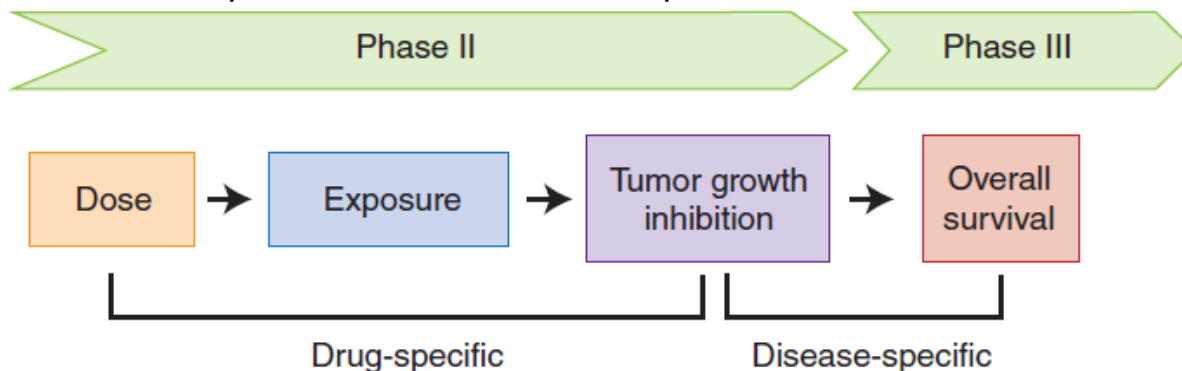
- Slower tumor growth (KG) in atezolizumab arm
- KG correlated with atezolizumab exposure
- In the multivariate OS model, with baseline prognostic factors and KG capturing treatment effect, atezolizumab exposure is no longer significant
- The multivariate OS model was used to simulate exposure-response with OS after adjusting for prognostic

**Impact:** Overall PK-TGI-OS M&S suggested no dose adjustment need due to loss of efficacy in patients with lower exposure, supporting the Atezolizumab dosing of 1200 mg q3w in 2L+ NSCLC patients.

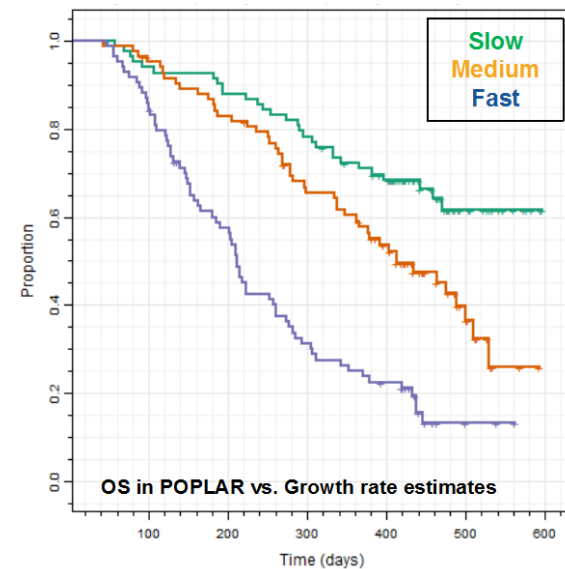
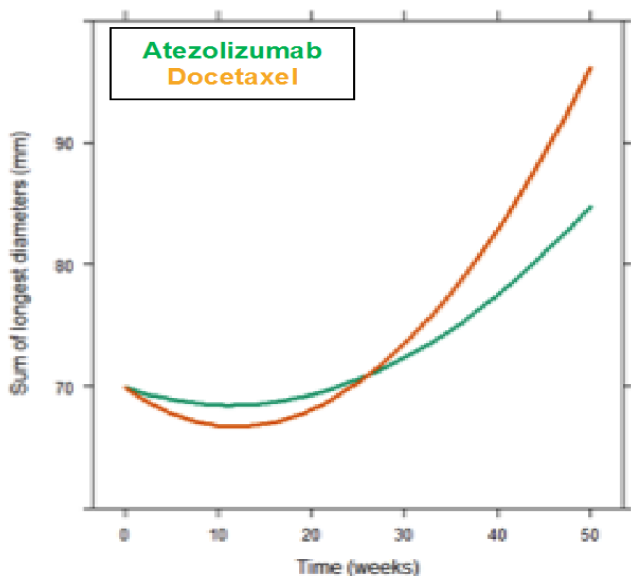


# Oncology Modeling Framework

Models-based tumor growth inhibition (TGI) metrics could be used as biomarkers to capture treatment effect and predict for OS benefit.



**Q2: Is this paradigm working for cancer immunotherapy?**



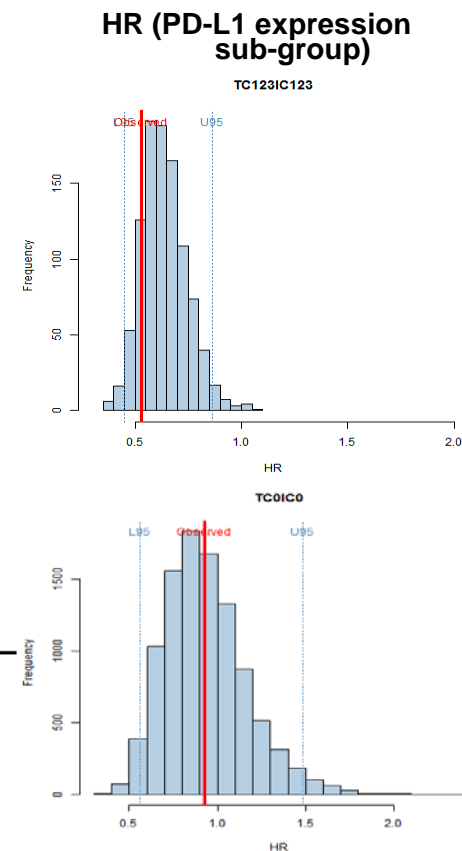
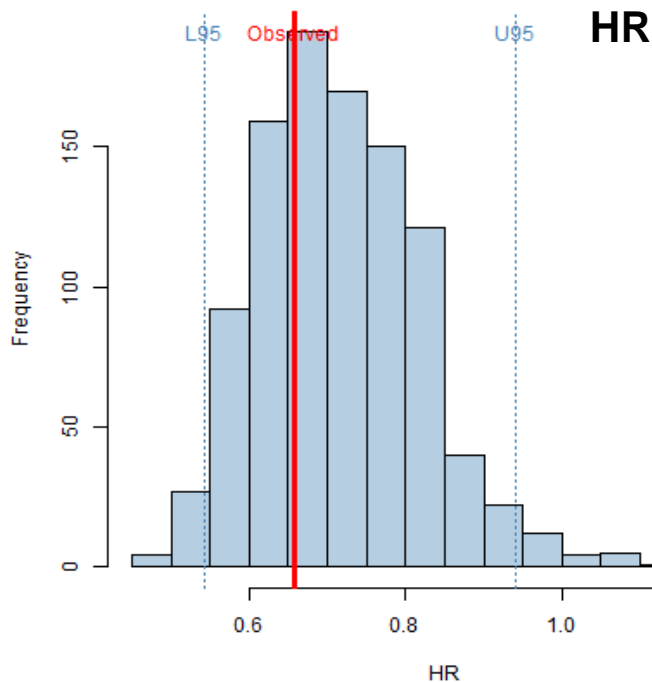
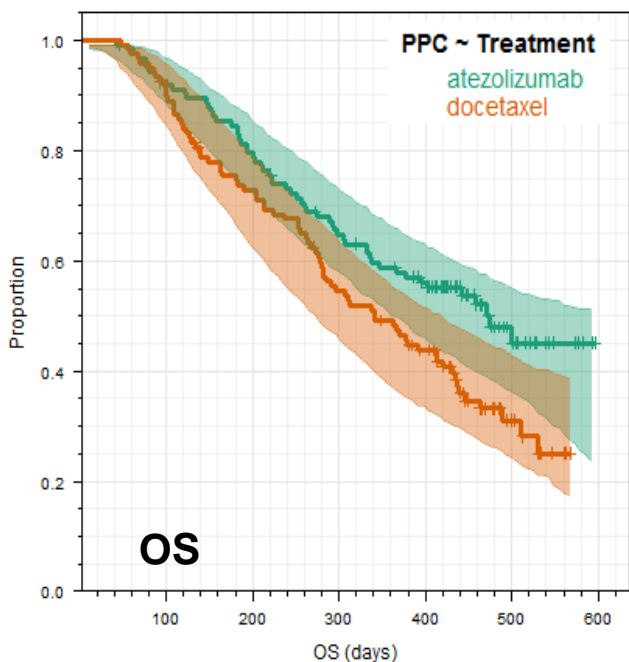
Bruno et al. Clin Pharmacol Ther, 93:303-5, 2013

Bruno et al. ACoP 2016



## Qualification of TGI~OS Model in POPLAR

The OS model appears to capture treatment effect of Atezolizumab in POPLAR study.



The POPLAR project suggested validity of TGI~OS paradigm for cancer immunotherapy. This approach is being further evaluated and validated for broader CIT development.

- ❑ **Identification of the “optimal dose” is one of the primary challenge and opportunity in today’s drug development**
  - Challenge the MTD paradigm with today’s anti-cancer therapies
  
- ❑ **Continuously learn and confirm paradigm using novel quantitative and experimental approaches is key for success in drug development**
  - **Modeling and simulation** throughout the life cycle of a drug to effectively interrogate:
    - Dose, exposure, efficacy, and safety
    - Preclinical and clinical
    - Historical and emerging data
    - Disease biology
    - Mechanism of action
    - Concentration and response at site of action
    - .....
  - **Clinical trial designs** that enable the study of dose-exposure-response
    - Optimized and adaptive design
    - Multiple dose and schedules
    - Effective measurements of drug activity – imaging, biomarkers, efficacy/safety endpoints
    - Assessment of exposure and response at site of action
    - .....

# Acknowledgments

## **Ipatasertib Example:**

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**Rui Zhu**

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Clin Pharm M&S group

Clinical Pharmacology Department

**Investigators**

**Patients**

## **Atezolizumab Example:**

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Sandhya Girish

Smita Kshirsagar

Alyse Lin

Mathilde Marchand (Certara)

Mark Stroh

Helen Winter

**Atezolizumab team**

**Genentech**  
*A Member of the Roche Group*