cell activity. KIT mutation was seen in 10 of 147 patients with high MS4A1/CD20 expression, and 10 of 135 patients with low MS4A1/CD20 expression. Overall survival was 15 months for the patients with KIT mutation and low MS4A1/CD20 expression, and significantly lower when compared with other groups despite low number of patients. (P<0.0001) (figure 1).

Conclusions B cells have significant role in immune response to tumor. Lower expression of MS4A1/CD20 is known to be associated with poor prognosis in melanoma and other solid tumors. We demonstrated that a concurrent KIT mutation in melanoma with lower expression of MS4A1/CD20 contributes to poor prognosis in melanoma. Therefore, this small subset of aggressive tumors may need combination strategies involving targeting driver pathways with a kinase and immune checkpoint inhibitor.

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Conclusions B cells have significant role in immune response to tumor. Lower expression of MS4A1/CD20 is known to be associated with poor prognosis in melanoma and other solid tumors. We demonstrated that a concurrent KIT mutation in melanoma with lower expression of MS4A1/CD20 contributes to poor prognosis in melanoma. Therefore, this small subset of aggressive tumors may need combination strategies involving targeting driver pathways with a kinase and immune checkpoint inhibitor.

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526 INHIBIGENTM-SPECIFIC RESPONSES SUPPRESS ANTITUMOR IMMUNITY AND PROMOTE TUMOR GROWTH

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Background Personalized cancer immunotherapies can generate potent antitumor responses yet finding the right targets remains challenging. The ATLAS™ platform employs ex vivo functional screening of tumor mutations using autologous cells to identify patient-specific neoantigens. Stimulatory neoantigens are identified by upregulation of inflammatory cytokine secretion and can be employed in vaccines or cell therapies. Conversely, ATLAS also identifies inhibitory neoantigens (termed Inhibigenes) that lead to cytokine downregulation, and in murine models accelerate tumor growth and abrogate the efficacy of otherwise-protective vaccines. Here we further explore Inhibigen mechanism of action in humans and mice including whether checkpoint inhibition (CPI) can ameliorate Inhibigen-accelerated tumor growth.

Methods Human and mouse ATLAS screens were performed as previously described. ATLAS-identified stimulatory or Inhibigen peptide vaccines were evaluated in a therapeutic B16F10 melanoma tumor model ± CPI. Immune responses were measured using ELISPOT, flow cytometry, and immunohistochemistry (IHC).

Results In the GEN-009 personalized neoantigen vaccine trial (NCT03633110), Inhibigenes were observed in 92% of patients (N=39). Of total mutations screened, 16% (1.8 - 47.5%) were classified as Inhibigenes, which were found more often in the CD4+ (mean 10.3%; 0.5 - 42%) versus CD8+ T cell subset (mean 6.1%; 1.2 - 23%). No relationship between Inhibigen-specific responses and tumor type or mutational burden were observed. To study the functional effects of Inhibigen vaccination in vivo, a B16F10 mouse melanoma model was employed. Inclusion of Inhibigenes in an otherwise protective vaccine abrogated efficacy and correlated with decreased T cell responses to vaccine antigens as well as a global depression of T cell cytokine secretion. Early experiments suggest that these decreases are not due to MHC competition. In addition, administration of a therapeutic vaccine containing an Inhibigen led to reduced tumor infiltration of CD8+ T cells and myeloid populations. A corresponding increase of classical Tregs in the tumor or periphery was not observed. Surprisingly, preliminary data show combination therapy with anti-CTLA4 partially ameliorated Inhibigen-accelerated tumor growth but anti-PD1 provided no additional benefit.

Conclusions The nearly ubiquitous presence of Inhibigenes in human cancer patients and the demonstrated pro-tumor effects in mice suggest that ATLAS-identified Inhibigenes must be considered and omitted in the design of cancer immunotherapies. Furthermore, in mice, CPI co-administration has a modest (anti-CTLA4) or no (anti-PD1) effect on Inhibigen-accelerated tumor growth suggesting that Inhibigen profiling could guide CPI selection or predict clinical outcome. These data confirm the benefits of the ATLAS platform for neoantigen and Inhibigen identification.

Ethics Approval All animal studies were undertaken in conformity with the Cambridge, MA City Ordinance 1086 of the city’s Municipal Code and in accordance with the policies and protocols approved by Genocea’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

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527 TUMOR ORGANOID AND IMMUNE CELL CO-CULTURE SYSTEM POTENTIATES IMMUNO-ONCLOGY DRUG DEVELOPMENT

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Background Patient-derived organoids (PDOs) are derived from adult epithelial stem cell with self-renewal, organisation and differentiation properties, reflecting the original 3D organ-like or tissue-like structure and morphology in vitro. PDOs also faithfully recapitulate the genetic modifications and phenotypical features of original tumors, making them an attractive preclinical models for oncology drug development. However, modeling the tumor microenvironment (TME) in vitro remains a challenge due to the lack of stromal and immune cells. In this study, we reconstructed component of the TME through co-culture of tumor organoids with various immune cells in vitro to assess the immune modulatory and tumor killing effects of immuno-oncology (IO) drug candidates such as therapeutic monoclonal antibodies, bispecific T cell engagers and CAR-T cells.

Methods Using the Hubrecht organoid technology (HUB) protocols we have established a biobank of tumor and normal organoids, which closely resemble the genetic and morphologic features of original organs from multiple different tissue types. This large and diverse biobank of organoids can act as