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P02.10 FOCUSCOPE: A SINGLE CELL, MULTI-OMICS SOLUTION TO SIMULTANEOUSLY ANALYZE TUMOR VARIANTS AND MICROENVIRONMENT

Y Arjmand Abbassi*, N Fang, W Zhu, Y Zhou, Y Chen, U Deutsch. Singleron Biotechnologies GmbH, Köln, Germany

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Recent advances of high-throughput single cell sequencing technologies have greatly improved our understanding of the complex biological systems. Heterogeneous samples such as tumor tissues commonly harbor cancer cell-specific genetic variants and gene expression profiles, both of which have been shown to be related to the mechanisms of disease development, progression, and responses to treatment. Furthermore, stromal and immune cells within tumor microenvironment interact with cancer cells to play important roles in tumor responses to systematic therapy such as immunotherapy or cell therapy. However, most current high-throughput single cell sequencing methods detect only gene expression levels or epigenetics events such as chromatin conformation. The information on important genetic variants including mutation or fusion is not captured. To better understand the mechanisms of tumor responses to systematic therapy, it is essential to decipher the connection between genotype and gene expression patterns of both tumor cells and cells in the tumor microenvironment. We developed FocuSCOPE, a high-throughput multi-omics sequencing solution that can detect both genetic variants and transcriptome from same single cells. FocuSCOPE has been used to successfully perform single cell analysis of both gene expression profiles and point mutations, fusion genes, or intracellular viral sequences from thousands of cells simultaneously, delivering comprehensive insights of tumor and immune cells in tumor microenvironment at single cell resolution.

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P02.11 TREM1 AGONIST PY159 PROMOTES MYELOID CELL REPROGRAMMING AND UNLEASHES ANTI-TUMOR IMMUNITY

V Juric*, E Mayes, M Binnewies, P Canaday, T Lee, S Dash, JL Pollack, J Rudolph, V Huang, X Du, N Jahchan, AJ Ramoth, S Mankikar, M Norrg, C Santamaria, KP Baker, L Liang. Pionyr Immunotherapeutics Inc., South San Francisco, CA, USA

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Background Tumor-associated myeloid cells can impede productive anti-tumor immunity. One strategy for targeting immunosuppression is myeloid reprogramming, which drives immunosuppressive myeloid cells to acquire an immunostimulatory phenotype. Triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells-1 (TREM1) is an immunoglobulin superfamily cell surface receptor expressed on neutrophils and subsets of monocytes and tissue macrophages. TREM1 associates with DAP12 adaptor and induces proinflammatory signaling, amplifies innate immune responses, and is implicated in the development of acute and chronic inflammatory diseases. TREM1 is also enriched in tumors, specifically on tumor-associated myeloid cells. To investigate the potential of TREM1 modulation as an anti-cancer therapeutic strategy, we developed PY159, an afucosylated humanized anti-TREM1 monoclonal antibody, and characterized it in the pre-clinical assays described below.

Materials and Methods An FcγR binding ELISA and a Jurkat TREM1/DAP12 NFAT-luciferase reporter cell line were used to assess PY159 binding to human FcγRs and TREM1 signaling, respectively. PY159 responses in human whole blood *in vitro* were evaluated by flow cytometry, transcriptional analysis of sorted leukocyte subsets, and measurement of secreted cytokines/chemokines by MSD. A Transwell system was used to evaluate PY159 effects on neutrophil chemotaxis. TREM1 expression in human tumors was validated by scRNAseq, immunohistochemistry, and flow cytometry. Anti-tumor efficacy of a surrogate anti-mouse TREM1 antibody, PY159m, was evaluated using syngeneic mouse tumor models, either as a single agent or in combination with anti-PD-1.

Results PY159 afucosylation increased its binding affinity for FcγR and its ability to activate TREM1/DAP12 signaling. In human blood assays, PY159 treatment did not induce depletion of TREM1-expressing cells. Rather, it upregulated monocyte activation markers, promoted neutrophil chemotaxis, and induced proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines, which was dependent on PY159 afucosylation. In human tumors, TREM1 was detected on tumor-associated neutrophils, tumor-associated macrophages, and monocytic myeloid-derived suppressive cells. PY159 induced proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines in dissociated human tumors *in vitro*, demonstrating that PY159 can reprogram tumor-associated myeloid cells. A surrogate anti-mouse TREM1 antibody, PY159m, exhibited anti-tumor efficacy in several syngeneic mouse tumor models, both as single-agent and in combination with anti-PD-1.

Conclusions These results show that PY159 is a TREM1 agonist that reprograms myeloid cells and unleashes anti-tumor immunity. PY159 safety and efficacy are currently being evaluated in first-in-human clinical trial (NCT04682431) involving patients resistant and refractory to standard of care therapies.

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