

nkarta

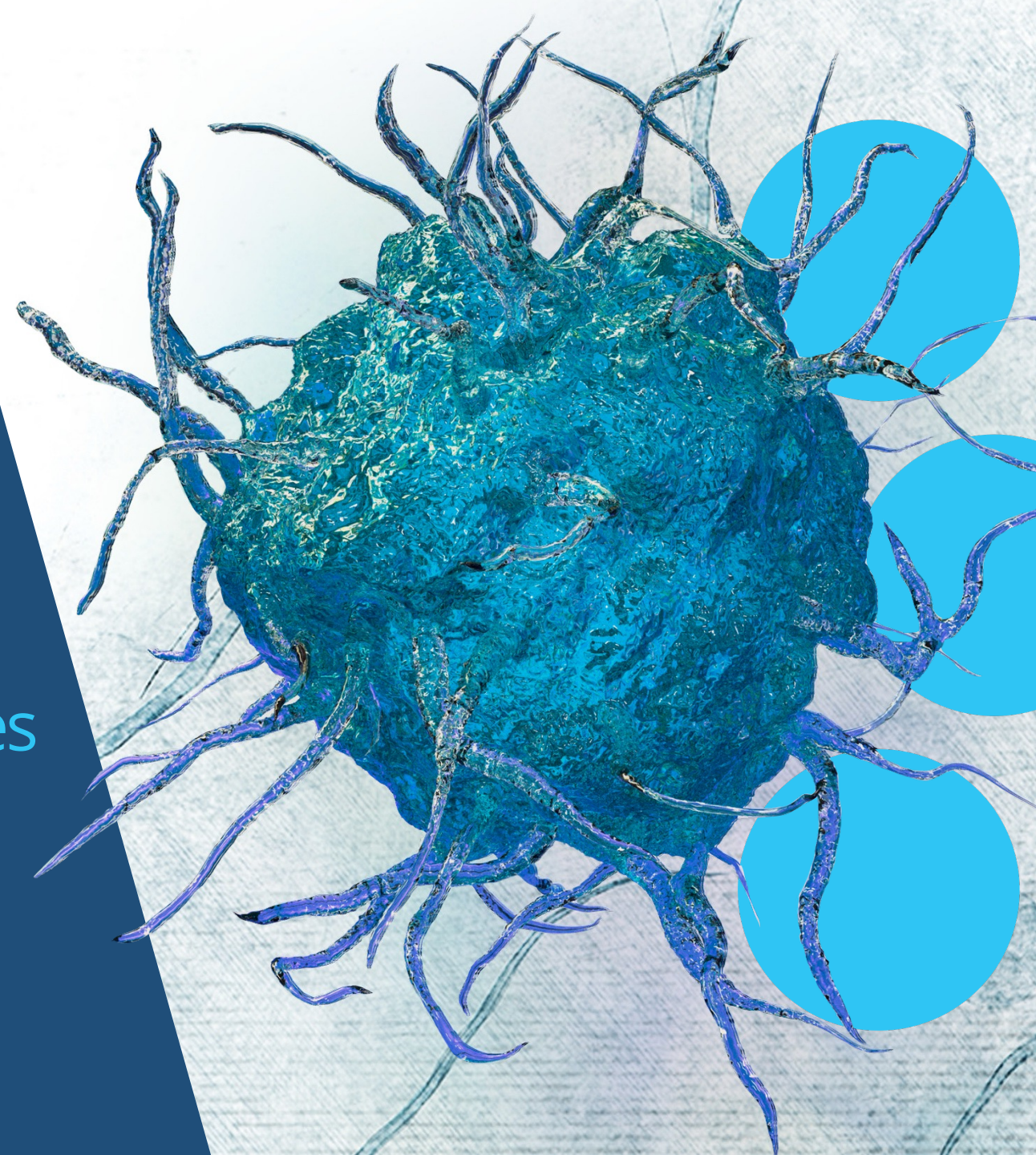
*ENGINEERING*

# Natural Killer Cells

for next generation treatment of  
cancer and autoimmune diseases

*ON DEMAND*

FEBRUARY 2024



# Forward-looking statements

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# Delivering the future of cell therapy by harnessing the killing ability of natural killer (NK) cells

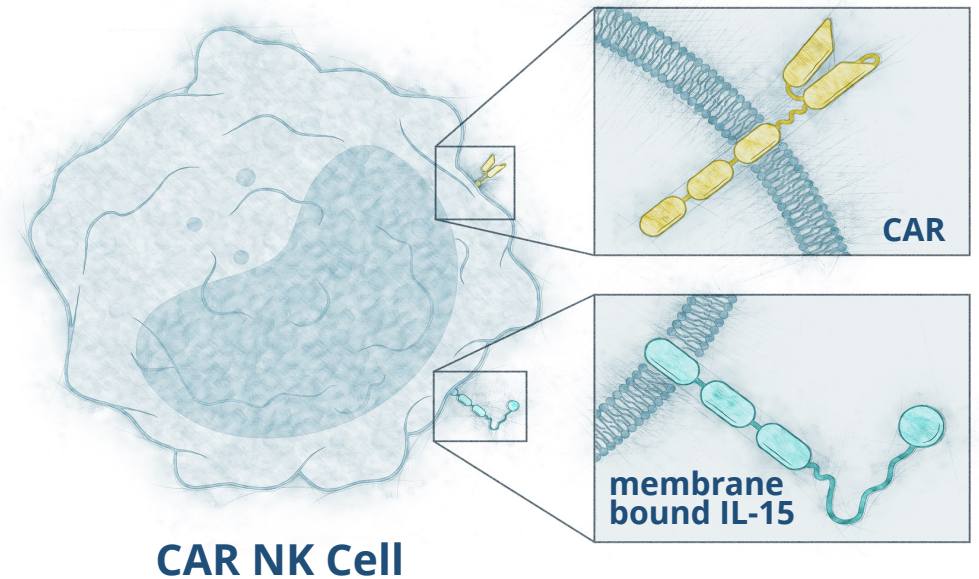
Fully allogeneic from healthy, pre-screened donors

On-demand, off-the-shelf availability for outpatient administration

Programs in autoimmune disease and oncology

Multiple clinical updates expected in 2024



Cash runway into 2026



CARs engineered for optimal target cell killing

Candidates engineered with a targeting CAR and membrane bound IL-15

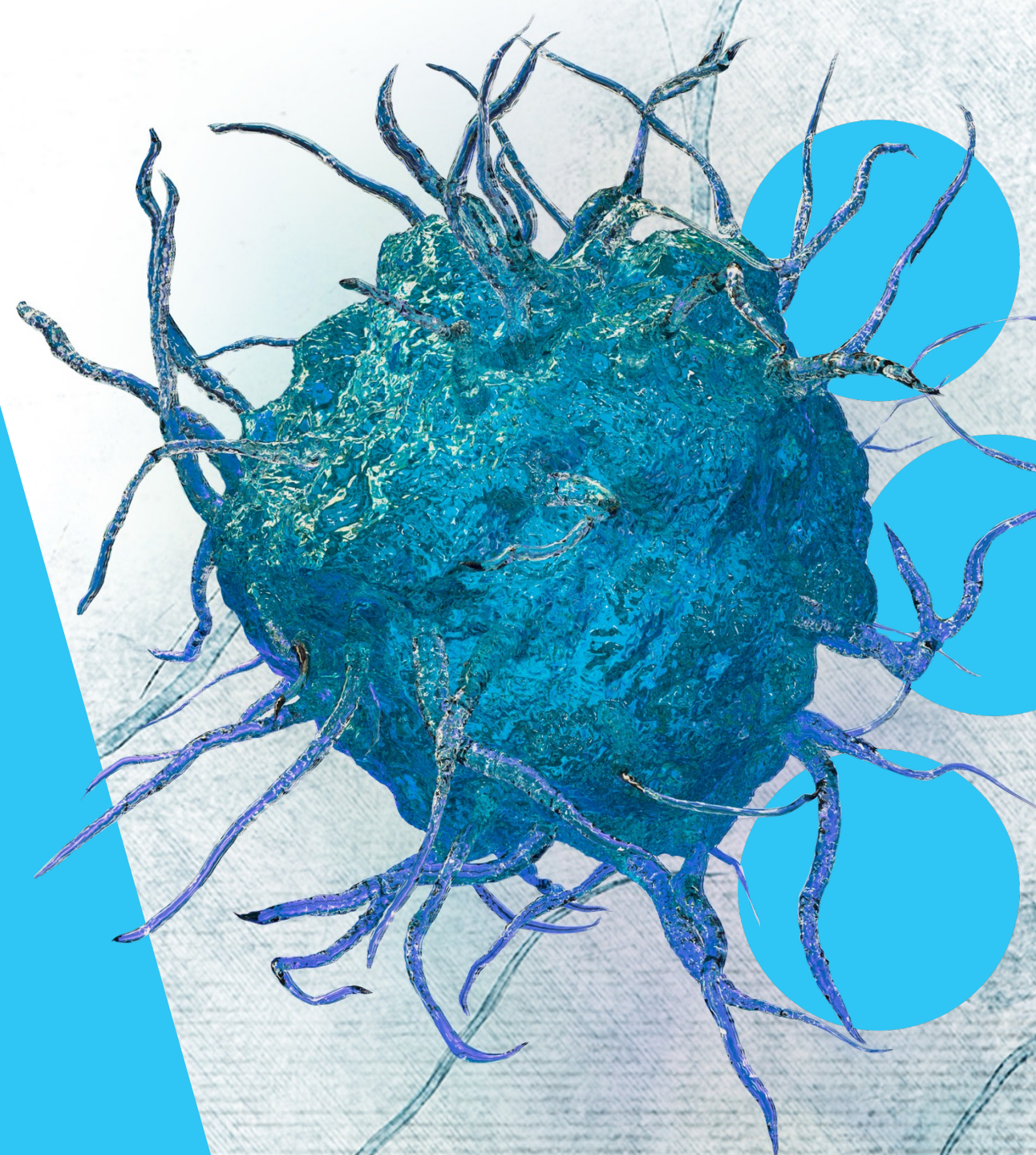
# Pipeline with transformational potential

Program (Target)	Indication	Research	IND-Enabling	Clinical	Status
<b>NKX019</b> (CD19)	Lupus Nephritis (SLE)	○ ——— ○ ——— ○			IND cleared 4Q 2023 First patient enrollment expected 1H 2024
<b>NKX019</b> (CD19)	r/r NHL	○ ——— ○ ——— ○			Phase 1 dose-compression cohort ongoing Update planned mid 2024
<b>NKX101</b> (NKG2D)	r/r AML	○ ——— ○ ——— ○			Phase 1 ongoing Update planned 1H 2024
<b>NKX101</b> (NKG2D)	Solid Tumors	○ ——— ○			Gated on proof of concept in r/r AML
<b>NKX070</b> (CD70)	Heme & Solid Tumors	○ ———→			Collaboration 
<b>NK + T</b> (Undisclosed)	Undisclosed	○ ———→			Collaboration 

Autoimmune
Oncology

# NKX019 in Autoimmune Disease

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# Cell therapy offers a promise of a disease-modifying option for patients with refractory autoimmune disease

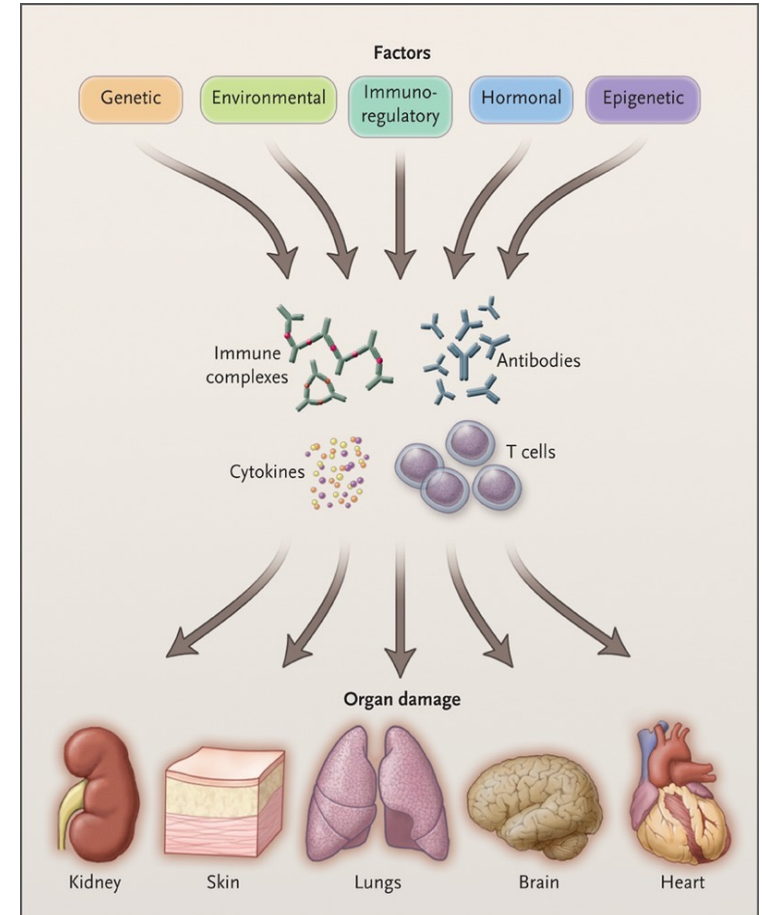
## Autoimmune disease is a major unmet need

- Estimated 7 million patients in U.S. with a form of B-cell mediated autoimmune disease<sup>1</sup>
- Pathogenic B cells can drive systemic diseases via combination of intrinsic and extrinsic factors

## Effectiveness of current therapies is inadequate and often consists of lifelong immune suppression

## CD19-directed cell therapy has challenged the treatment paradigm for autoimmune diseases

- Drug-free remissions after a single treatment in academic trials<sup>2</sup>



Tsokos, *N Engl J Med* 2011; 365:2110-2121.

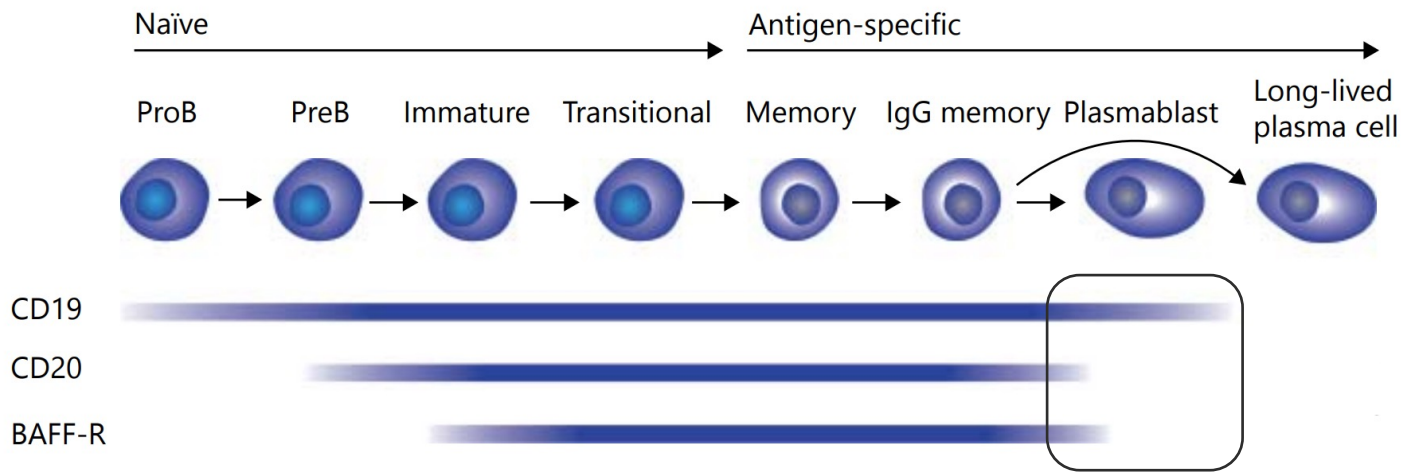
# Target, not only modality, may explain benefits of CD19 cell therapy compared to historical responses to B cell-targeting

## Benefit of CD19-directed CAR T in SLE may be via elimination of autoantibody-producing cells

- CD19<sup>high</sup> CD20<sup>neg/dim</sup> plasmablasts
- CD19<sup>neg/dim</sup> CD20<sup>neg</sup> long-lived plasma cells

## Current agents that target B cells have inconsistent benefit in SLE

- Rituximab (CD20 antibody)
- Belimumab (BAFF-R antibody)



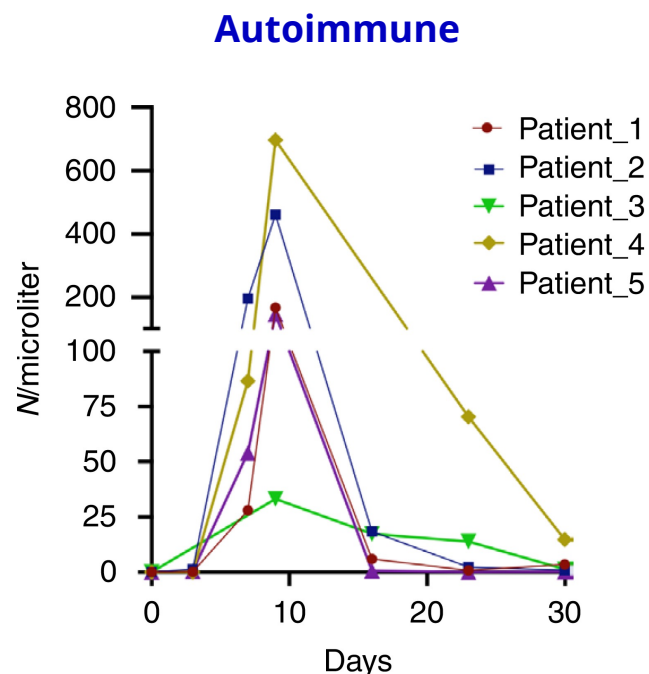
von Büdingen, et al. *Eur Neurol* 2015;73:238–246.

# CAR T cell kinetics in autoimmune disease differ greatly from oncology

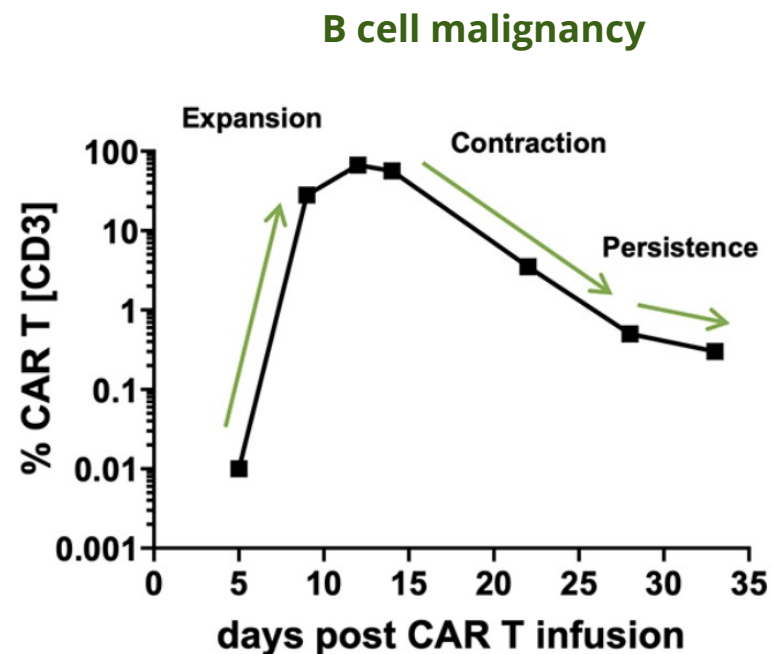
Transient persistence is followed by rapid elimination in **autoimmune disease**

- Expansion peaks at ~10 days
- Less antigen burden may explain differences in persistence and exposure

**In B cell malignancies, CAR T cells persist long after antigen-dependent expansion**



Mackensen et al. *Nature Med.* 28 Oct 22. 2124–2132.



Peinelt, et al. *Front. Immunol.* 2022. 13:830773.



# Transient B-cell suppression can provide treatment-free responses in autoimmune disease

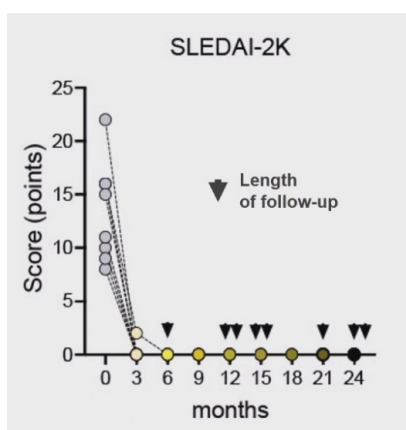
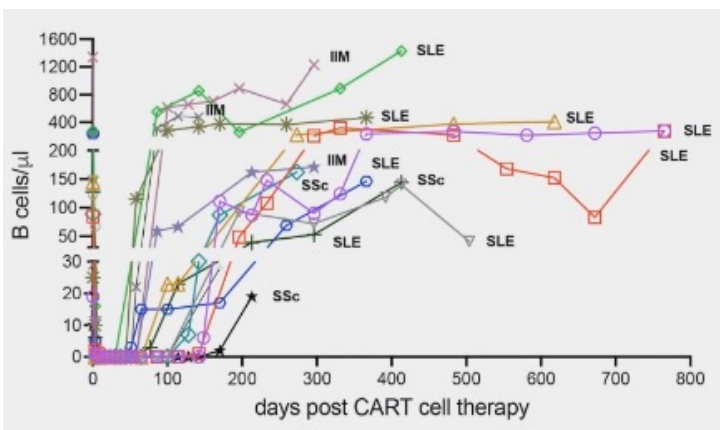
Immune “reset” occurs after B cell suppression as short as 50 days in **autoimmune disease**

- Persistent B cell aplasia is NOT required for long-term responses
- Autoantibodies remain negative in most patients and drug-free remissions persist

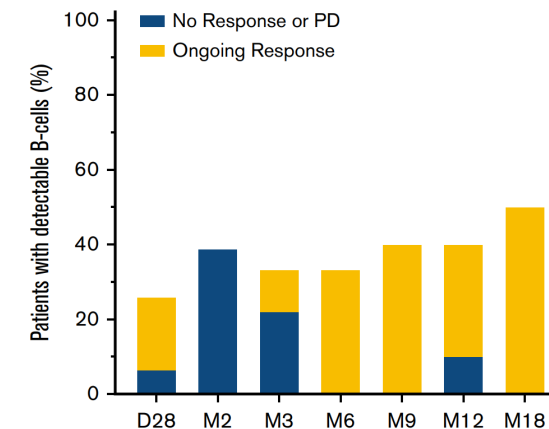
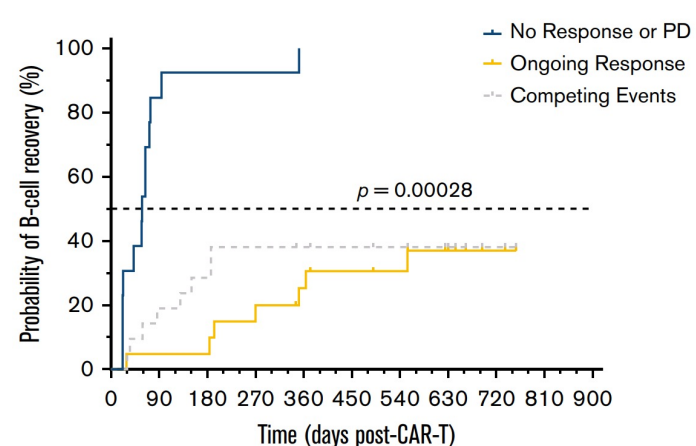
**Prolonged B cell aplasia is common in oncology (median ~18 mo<sup>1</sup>), especially in responders**

- Absence of B cells is used as clinical proxy for detection and activity of CAR T cells
- B cell recovery within 3 months of infusion is associated with disease progression

## Autoimmune



## B cell malignancy



Muller et al. Abstract 220, ASH 2023.

1: Bhoj, et al. *Blood*. 2016 Jul 21; 128(3): 360-370.

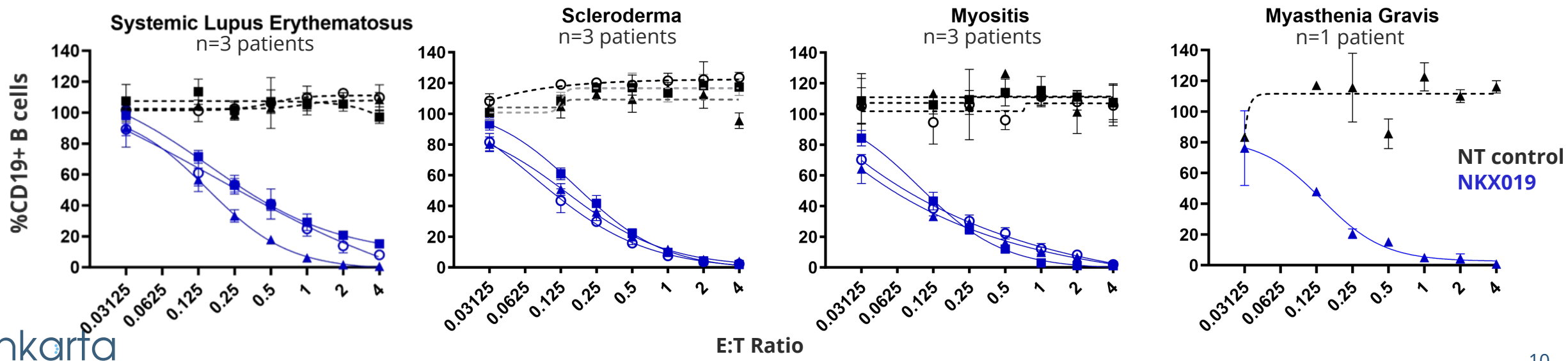
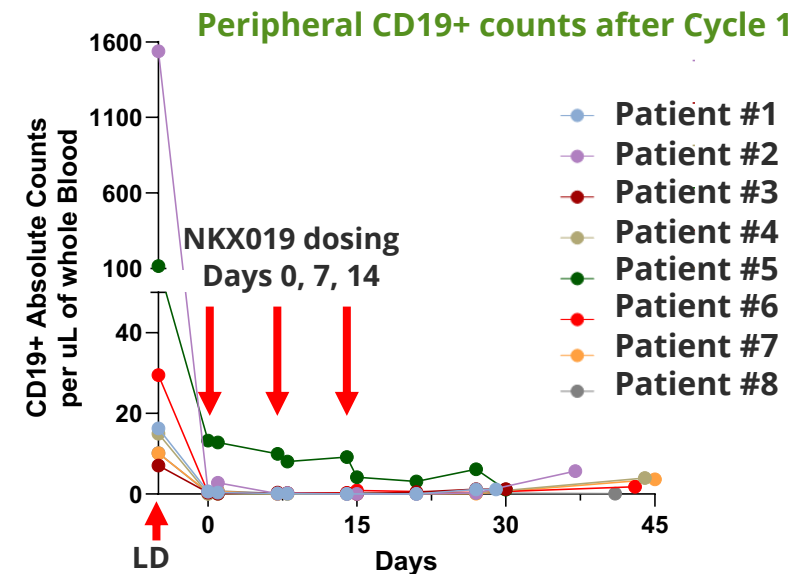
Baird, et al. 2021. *Blood Advances* 5(1):143-155.

# NKX019 targets and kills cells from patients across indications

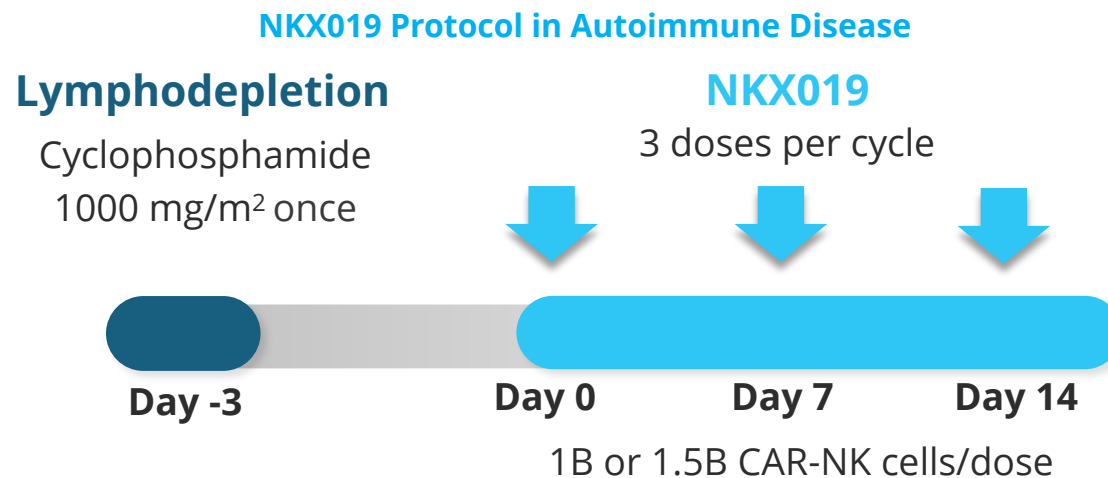
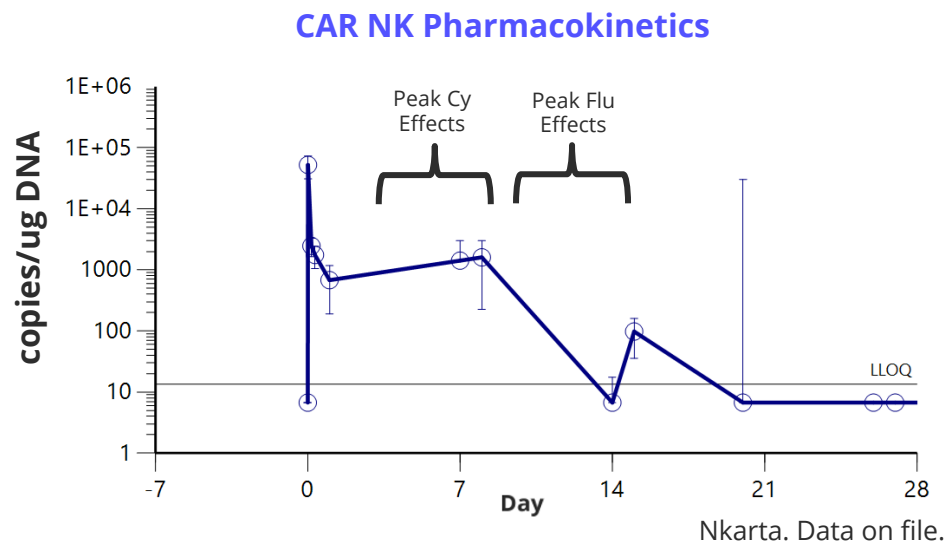
Patient samples from ongoing **NHL trial** show effective elimination of CD19+ cells from circulation by NKX019

- Normal and malignant cells cleared with a single cycle
- One cycle includes lymphodepletion and 3 doses of NKX019
- Deep suppression achieved by day 30

*In vitro* studies using blood from patients with various **autoimmune diseases** show consistent B cell killing



# Disease-tailored lymphodepletion with cyclophosphamide alone could provide a critical advantage for patients with autoimmune disease



## Early C<sub>max</sub> of NK cells may lessen need for prolonged suppression provided by fludarabine

- LD is tailored to limit chemotherapy exposure as delayed peak effect offers less benefit for NK cells
- Elimination of fludarabine also lessens risks of cytopenias, infection, and secondary MDS<sup>1</sup>

## Historical use of single agent Cy at same dosage offers additional benefits

- Rheumatology providers and patients more familiar with Cy
- Possible regulatory advantage leveraging prior studies and real-world evidence

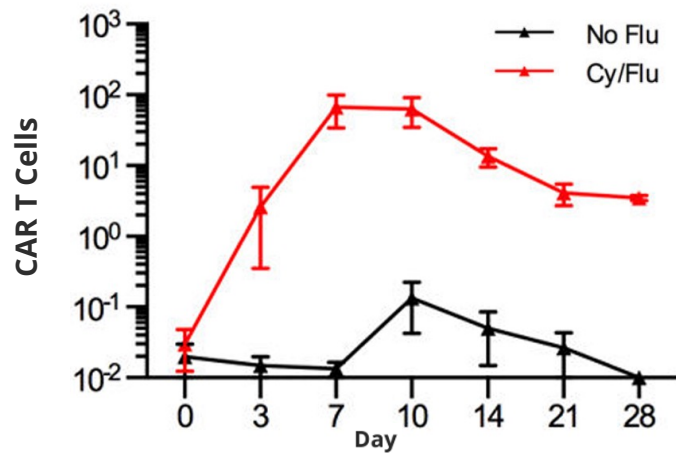
# Autologous CD19 CAR T cells require fludarabine-containing LD for maximal exposure due to induction of endogenous cytokines, especially IL-15

Despite no immune barrier, autologous CAR T cells depend on multi-agent LD for elimination of “cytokine sink” to facilitate expansion

- Fludarabine-sparing LD results in limited CAR T expansion and benefit
- IL-15 levels peak shortly after infusion and correlate with expansion

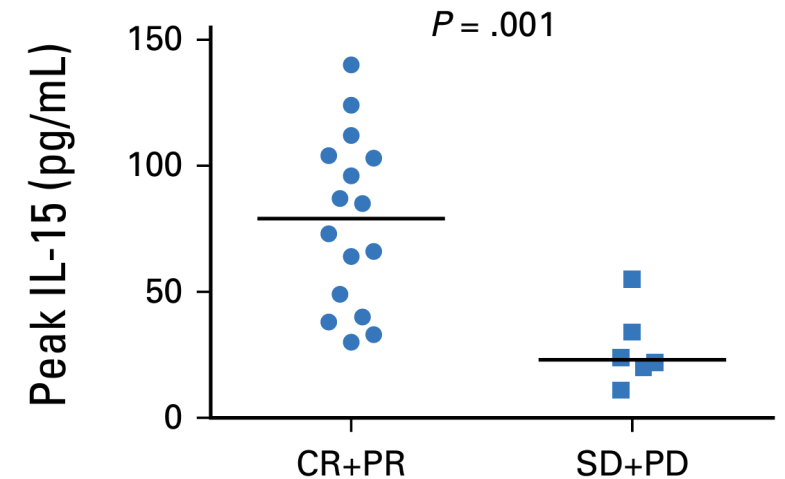
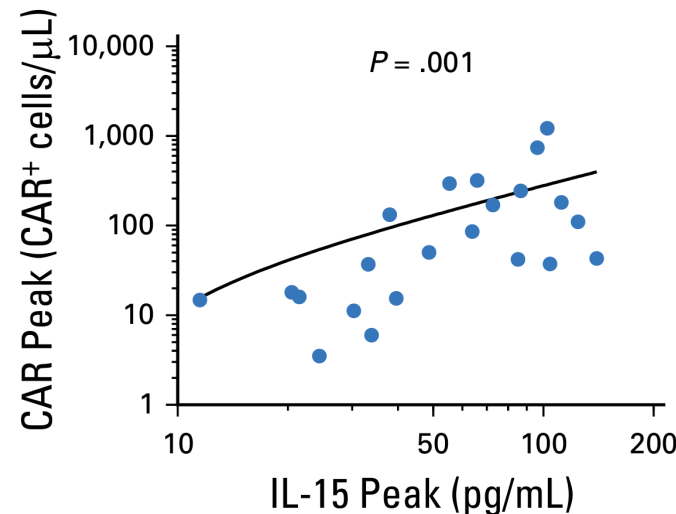
Lower peak IL-15 levels associated with decreased responses in CAR T<sup>1</sup>

LD without fludarabine results in lower CAR T expansion and persistence

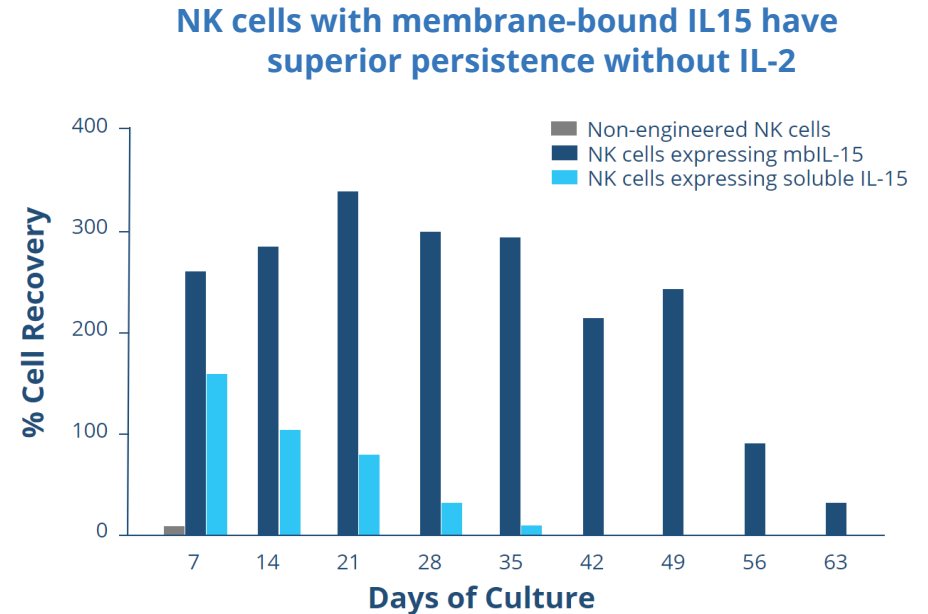
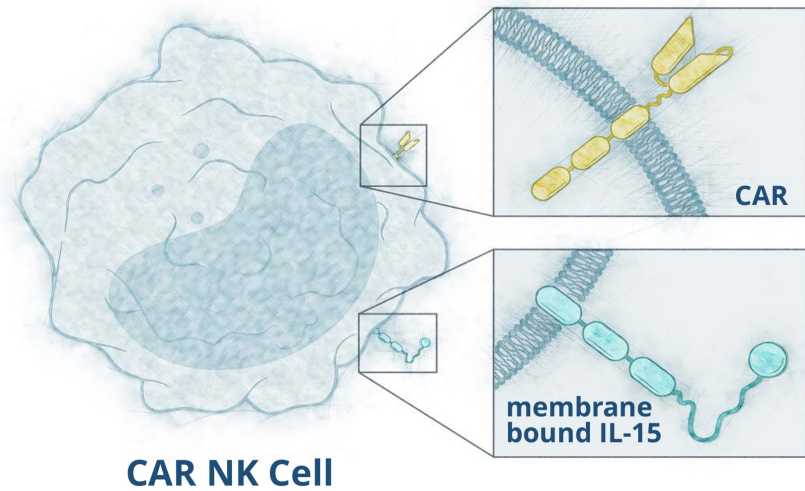


Turtle, et al. *Sci Transl Med.* 2016 Sep 7;8(355).

Higher peak IL-15 after LD correlates with CAR T expansion and responses



# NKX019 engineering allows cytokine independence, further enabling disease-tailored LD



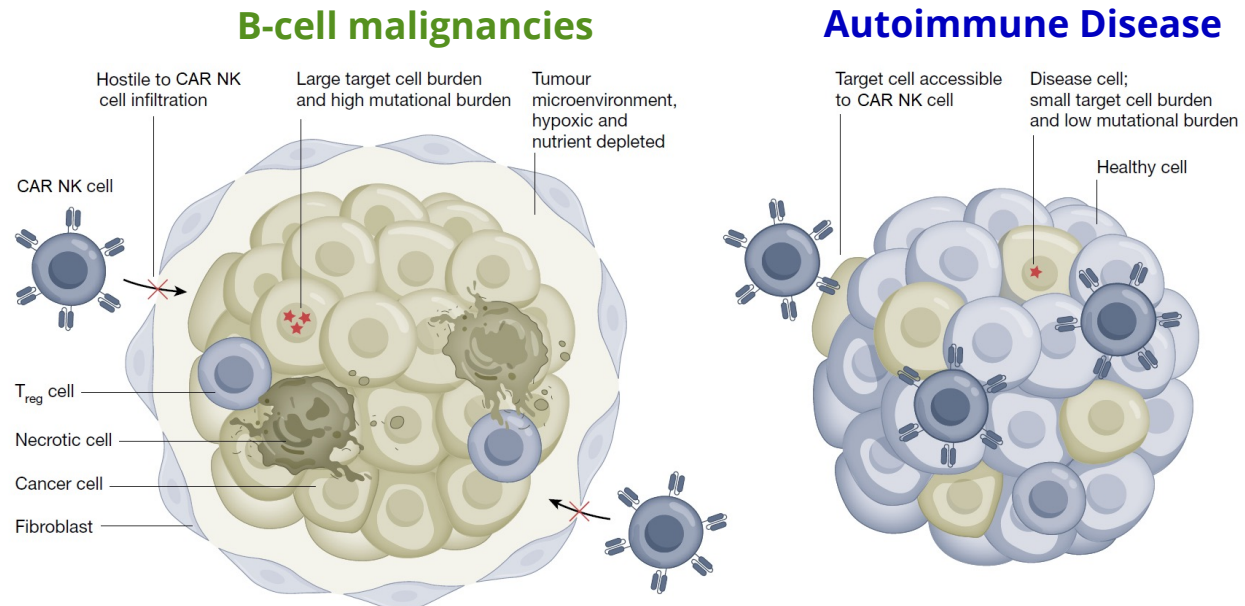
## Autocrine stimulation by membrane-bound IL-15 (mb-IL15) provides pro-survival signal

- mb-IL15 allows NKX019 to survive several weeks without supplemental cytokines like IL-15 or IL-2
- Construct causes no secreted IL-15 and has limited cross-cell stimulation

# Autoimmune B cells may be more accessible than malignant B cells

**While CD19 allows effective targeting of normal and abnormal cells of B cell lineage, multiple factors may make B cells in autoimmune disease more accessible to killing**

- ❌ Widespread antigen escape via downregulation or loss of CD19 by malignant B cells
- ❌ Tumor microenvironment preventing trafficking and infiltration
- ❌ Large cell burden and tumor infrastructure



Adapted from: Baker, et al. *Nature* 2023 Jul;619(7971):707-715.

# CD19 CAR NK cells may be ideally suited for autoimmune disease

## **NK cells reach peak activity at infusion for rapid target activity**

- Maximal immediate effect without *in vivo* expansion
- T cells require expansion and necessitate a different LD approach

## **Allogeneic NK cells are cleared by host immunity**

- Low risk of prolonged B-cell aplasia which is not required for response
- Long-lived CAR T cells have FDA-issued risk of T-cell malignancy<sup>1</sup>

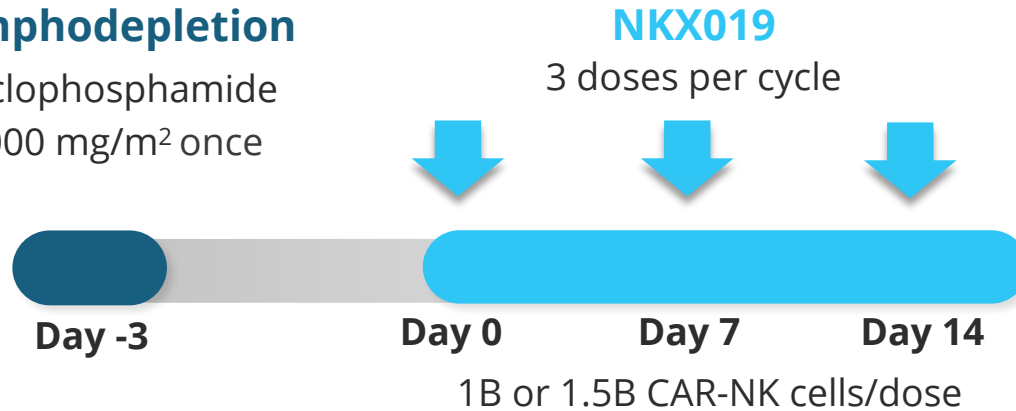
## **Superior safety and accessibility in non-malignant setting**

- On-demand availability without need for cumbersome infrastructure at treatment centers
- Low risk of expansion-related toxicities including CRS and ICANS

# NKX019 CAR NK for autoimmune diseases: A multicenter, open-label, phase 1 study

## Lymphodepletion

Cyclophosphamide  
1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> once



## Endpoints:

- Safety and tolerability
- Pharmacokinetics
- Renal function
- Autoantibody serology

Off the shelf administration  
reduces burden to patients and providers

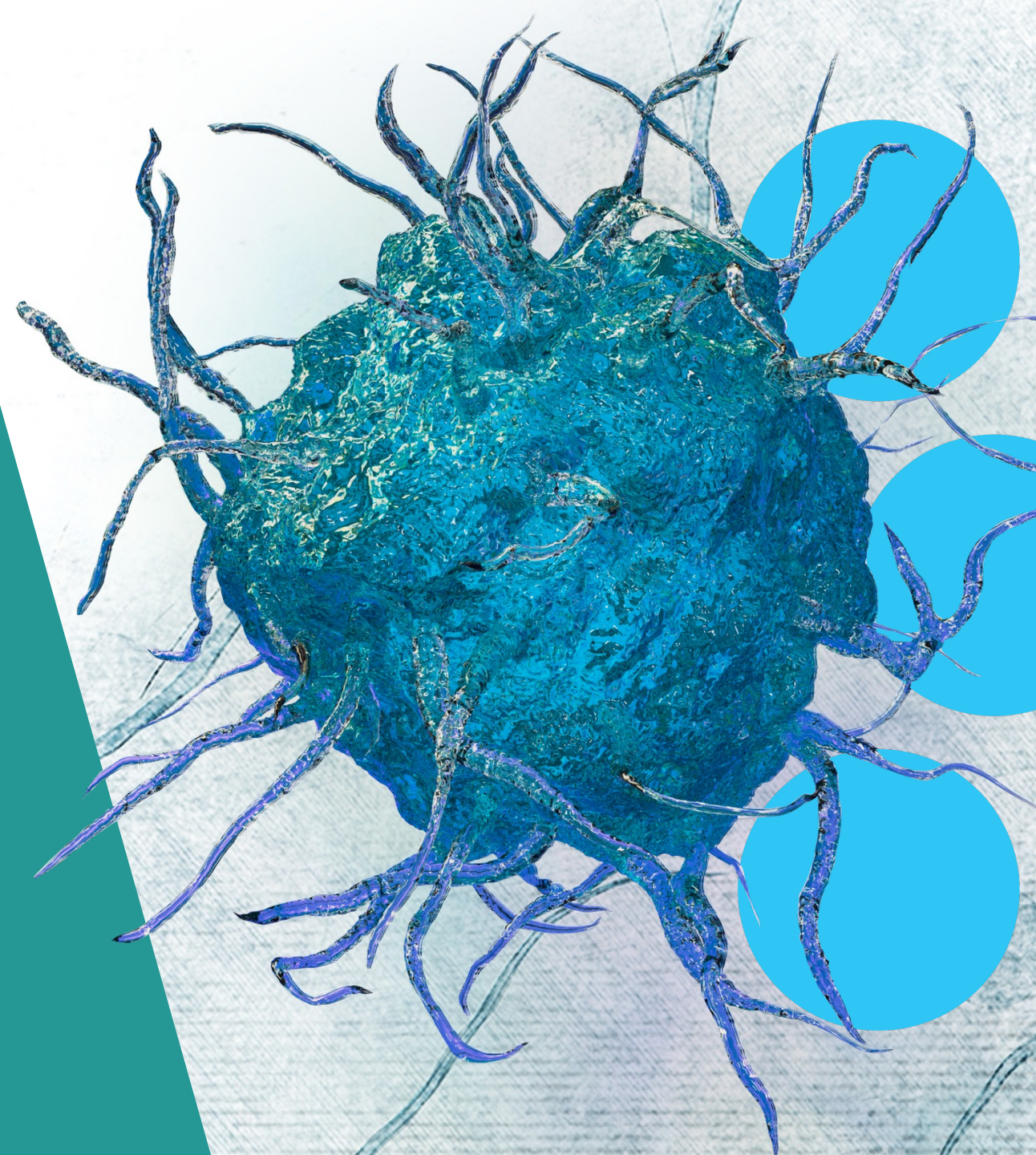
First patient dosing expected 1H 2024

Opportunity to investigate broader  
applicability of NKX019 in  
multiple autoimmune diseases



# NKX019 and NKX101 in oncology

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# NKX019

CD19 CAR NK in  
r/r non-Hodgkin  
lymphoma

# Autologous CAR T-cell therapy has set the bar for cellular therapies in r/r NHL but has limitations

## CAR T-cell therapy is not broadly accessible

- Only 20-30% of patients with LBCL who could benefit from CAR T receive it
- Patients often need to change providers and receive bridging chemotherapy

## Potential toxicity requires proximity to a specialized inpatient treatment center

- Over 25% of patients require ICU care
- Grade 3+ CRS: 13 to 49%, Grade 3+ ICANS / neurotoxicity: 18 to 31%

## Only 30-40% of patients with LBCL treated with CAR T-cell therapy have 6-month CR

- No ability to re-dose for incomplete response
- Outcomes among those that relapse are poor

YESCARTA USPI; KYMRIAH USPI; BREYANZI USPI; Azoulay et al, 2020; Tomas, et al. 2022.

# NKX019 for B-cell malignancies: A multicenter, open-label, phase 1 study in r/r NHL

## Lymphodepletion

- Cyclophosphamide
- Fludarabine

## NKX019

3 doses per 28-day cycle



Efficacy  
assessment

Multiple cycles allowed to **deepen response**  
Subjects in **CR** may receive additional cycle  
as **consolidation**

Subjects with prior response and subsequent  
progression may receive **retreatment**

[NCT05020678](#)

**7 of 10**

**CR in Phase 1 dose  
escalation cohort<sup>1</sup>**

No ICANS, neurotoxicity, or GVHD  
of any grade and only transient fevers  
within 24 h of infusion

**4 of 4**

**CR in retreatment of  
patients with progression  
after NKX019**

Study amended to increase dose  
intensity and prevent relapse

1. Dickinson, et al. Oral presentation at EHA 2023, program section s347.

# NKX019 Amendment: Compressed Dosing

**Dose compression cohort** enrolling patients with large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL), targeting patients who have received *prior CD19 CAR-T cell therapy*

**New compressed dosing schedule to intensify exposure to NKX019 in the first week after LD**

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**NKX019 on Days 0, 3, and 7**  
following standard LD with Flu/Cy

Previous cohorts received NKX019  
on Days 0, 7 and 14

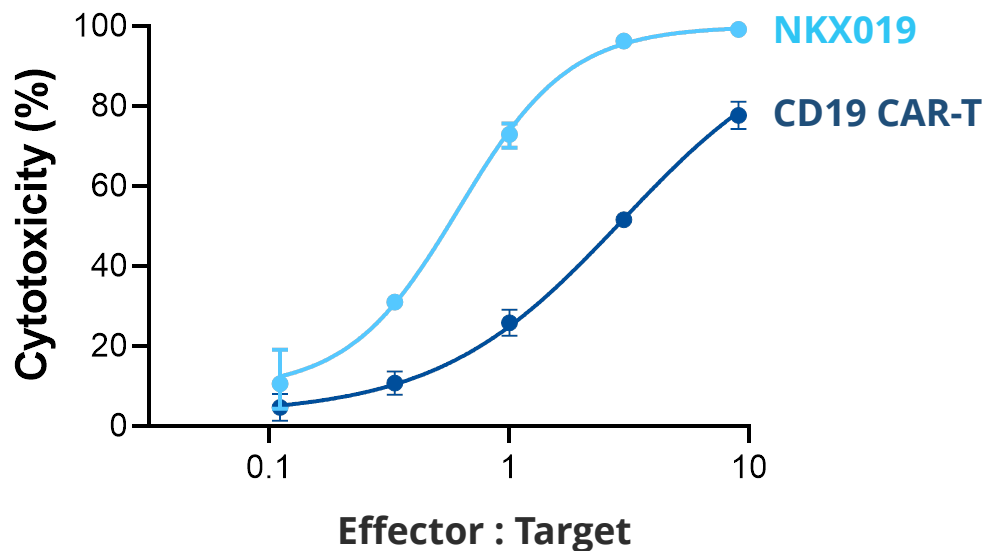
**Study amendment also includes**

- Potential higher doses of CAR NK cells
- Tailored LD with Cy monotherapy for patients with prolonged cytopenias
- Elimination of inpatient requirement
- Streamlined protocol assessments to reduce burden on sites and patients

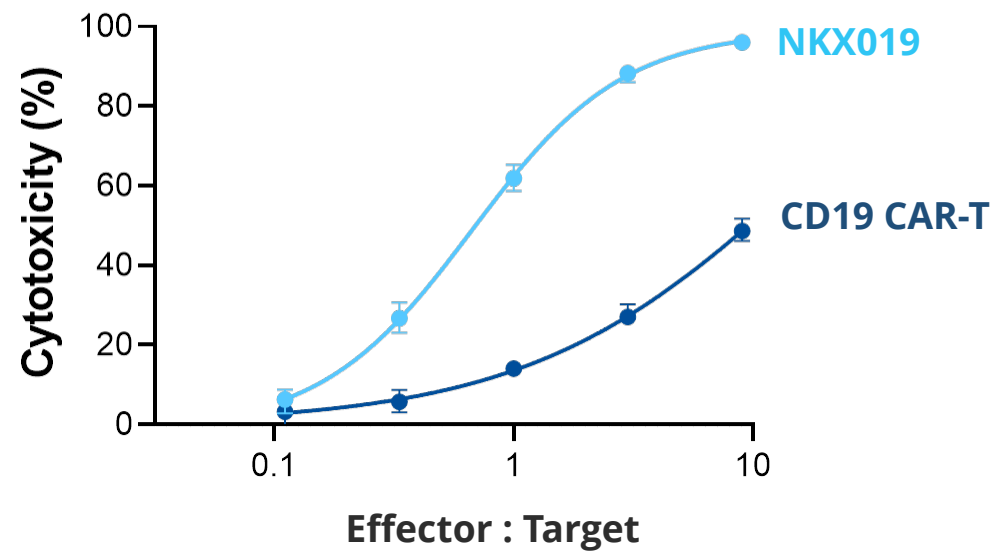
**Next clinical update planned for mid-2024**

# NKX019 has superior target cell killing compared to CD19 CAR T cells, even with low levels of CD19 expression

## High CD19 Expressing Cells



## Low CD19 Expressing Cells



**CD19 downregulation allows normal and malignant B cells to escape CAR T cells<sup>1</sup>**  
**NKX019 maintains superior killing in B cell tumor cells expressing low CD19 levels<sup>2</sup>**  
**Potentially allows a deeper B cell immune reset in autoimmune disease**

# NKX101

NKG2D CAR NK in  
r/r acute myeloid  
leukemia

# AML is a rapidly progressing leukemia with a poor prognosis

## Heterogenous group of blood cancers treated with risk-adapted chemotherapy

- Most patients will ultimately die from relapse or complications from therapy

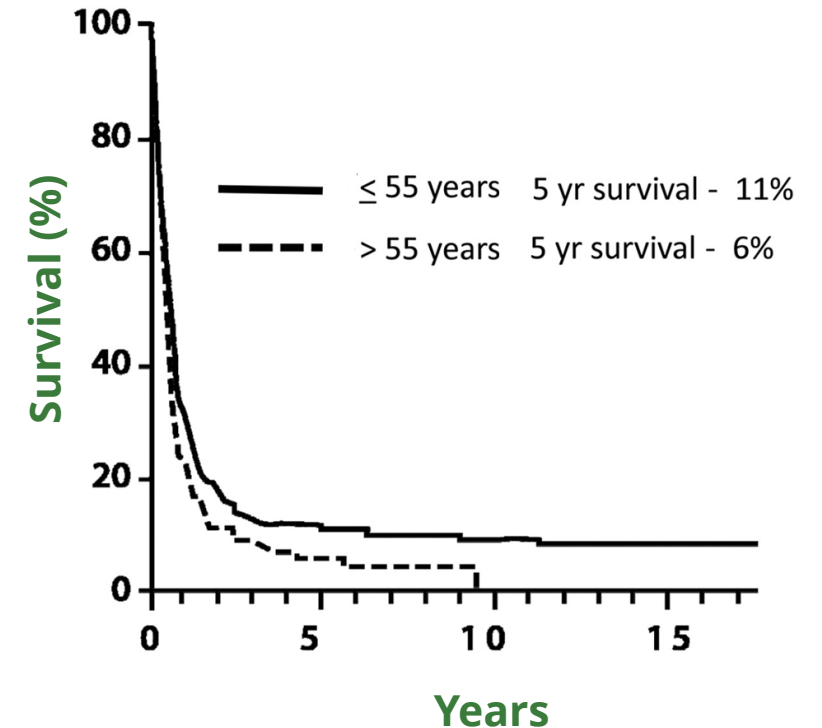
## Allogeneic HCT is best chance of long-term cure

- Limited to patients who are fit
- **Pre-HCT CR** improves outcomes

## Outcomes for patients who relapse or have refractory disease are especially poor

- Low response rates with standard chemotherapy
- 12-18% CR rate, including venetoclax-based regimens

Survival of relapsed AML





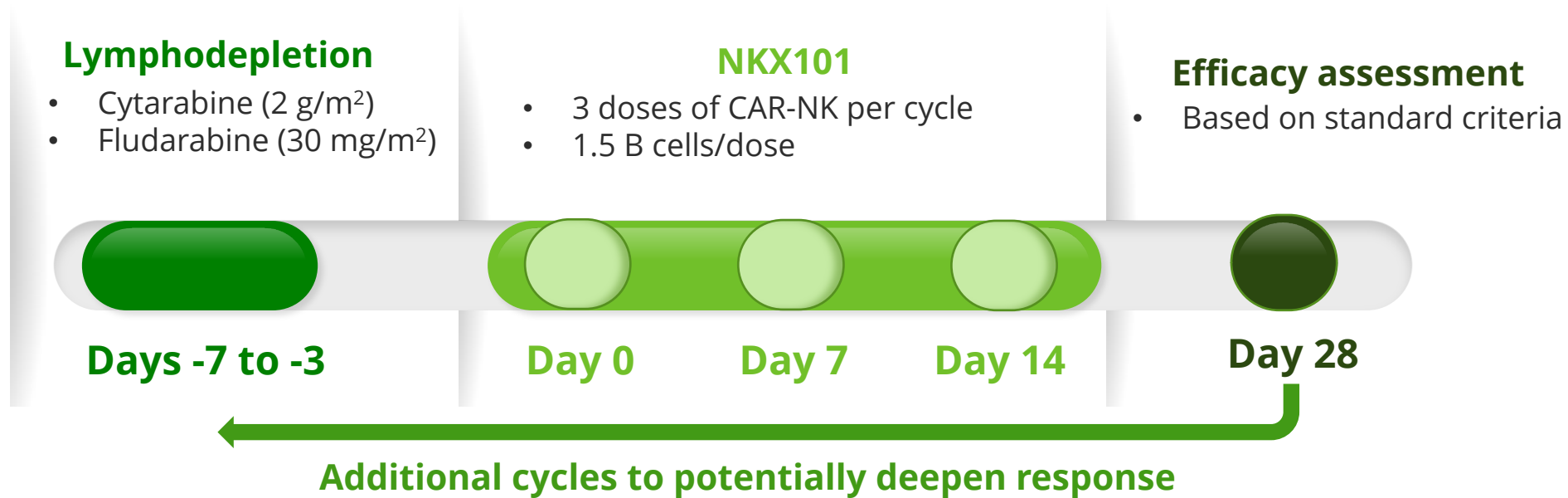
# NKX101 for relapsed/refractory AML following disease-tailored LD

Fludarabine/Ara-C with anthracycline (e.g. FLAG-Ida) is a frequent salvage regimen for r/r AML with true CR rate of ~10% and cCR rate of ~20% as a comparator arm

- Anthracyclines (idarubicin, mitoxantrone, etc.) add toxicity and limit addressable population

**Ara-C (cytarabine) is a DNA damaging agent with potent immunosuppressive effects**

- Incorporated across AML treatment landscape, including upfront therapy



[NCT04623944](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04623944)

CR: complete response; cCR, cumulative CR rate; FLAG-Ida: fludarabine, cytarabine +/- G-CSF and idarubicin;  
NK: natural killer; NKG2D: natural killer group 2, member D

Roboz, et al *J Clin Oncol*. 2014 Jun 20;32(18):1919-26.  
Perl, et al *N Engl J Med*. 2019 Oct 31;381(18):1728-1740.  
Holubova, et al. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2019 Jul 15;20(14):3472.  
Ogbomo, et al. *Neoplasia*. 2008 Dec; 10(12): 1402-1410.  
Cytarabine USPI

# ASH 2023: Updated follow-up of patients with r/r AML

## 4 of 6 patients achieved CR/CRi

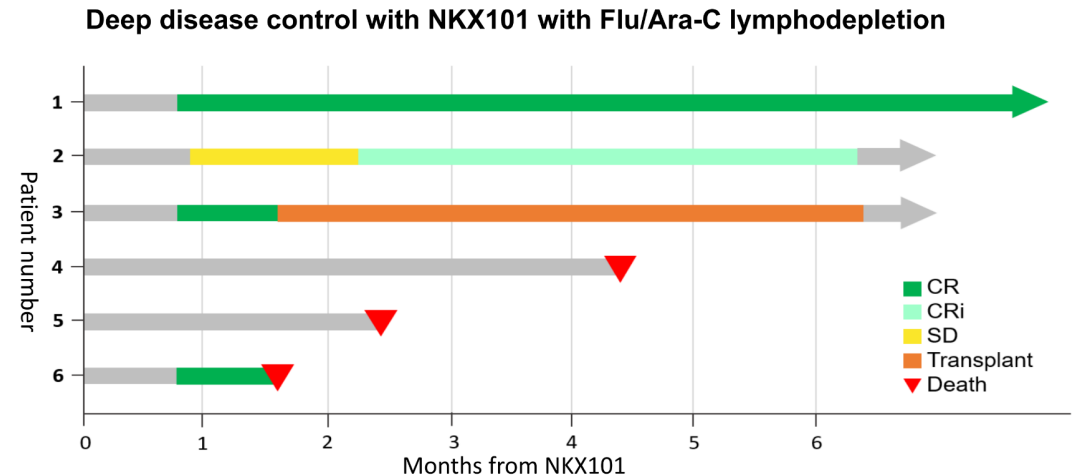
- High-risk features such as prior HCT, TP53 mutation and high blast burden
- 3 of 4 remained in CR/CRi at 4 months

## Safety profile consistent with available therapies

- No CRS, ICANS or GvHD of any grade
- Myelosuppression and infection were the most common  $\geq$ Grade 3 toxicities

## Next clinical update planned for 1H 2024

- 12-20 additional patients
- Additional follow-up for initial patients



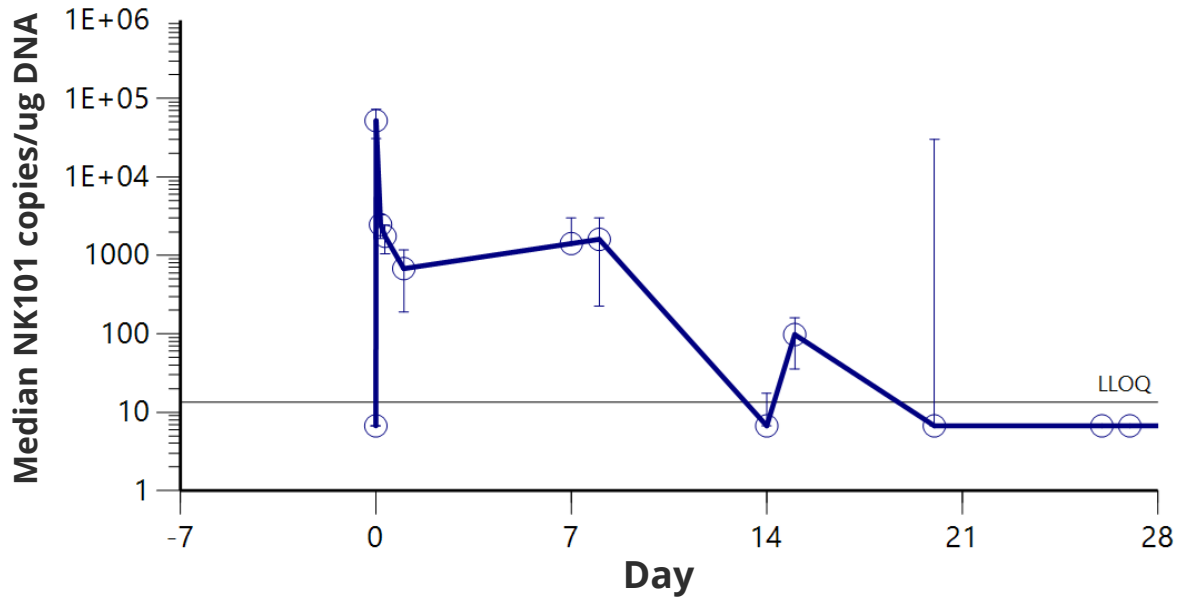
**Figure 1.** Four of six patients had CR/CRi (67%), with three achieving CR. Patients 1 and 6 had no detectable minimum residual disease (MRD) by flow cytometry after one treatment cycle. Patient 3 had MRD of 0.18% after one cycle and was immediately taken to consolidative hematopoietic cell transplant. Patient 2 had three cycles of treatment with successive decrease in disease burden, resulting in CRi. Data as of October 31, 2023.

Of those who achieved CR/CRi, three out of four remained in CR/CRi at 4 months.

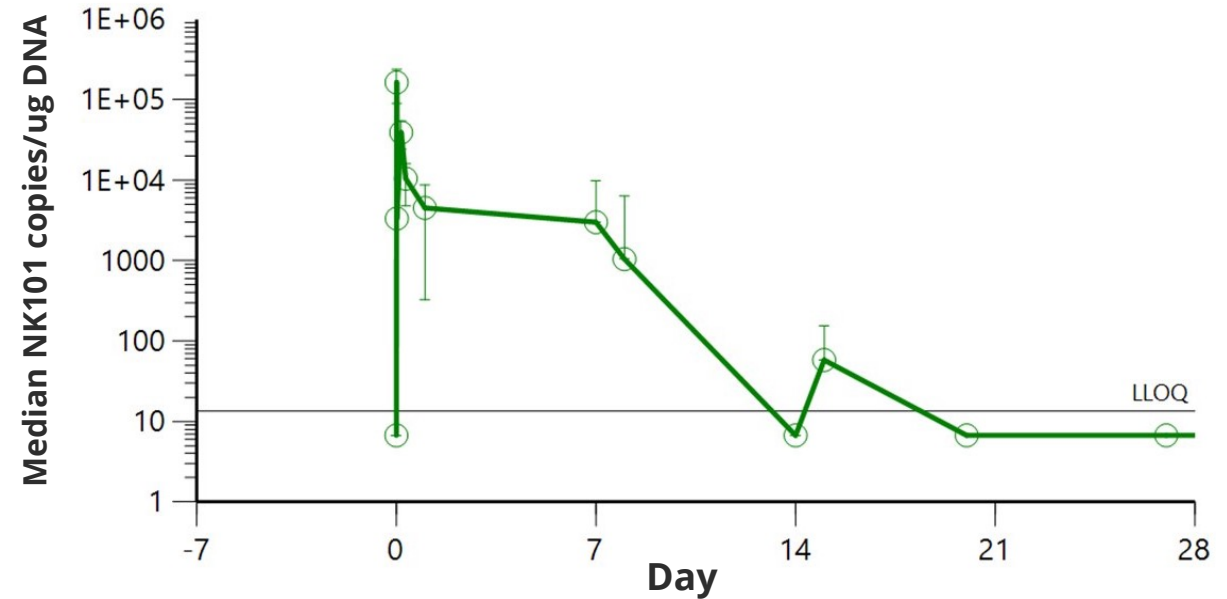
Sauter, et al. ASH 2023

# Disease-tailored lymphodepletion does not compromise PK

## Fludarabine/Cyclophosphamide



## Fludarabine/Ara-C



- NKX101 dosed on days 0, 7, and 14
- Exposure consistent with previously published data using haploidentical NK cells<sup>1</sup>
- No need for exogenous IL-2 or other cytokine support

# Ara-C upregulates NKG2D ligands and increases sensitivity to NK cell killing

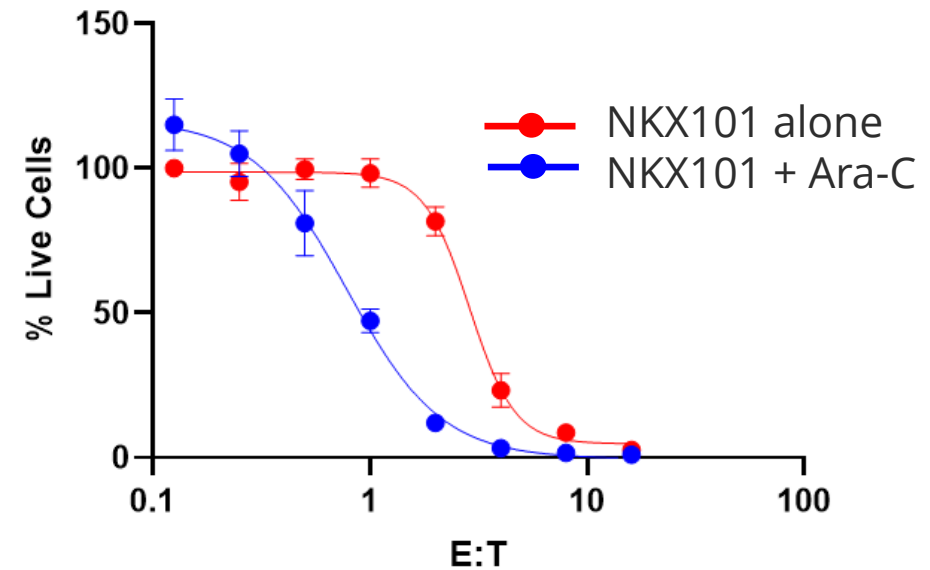
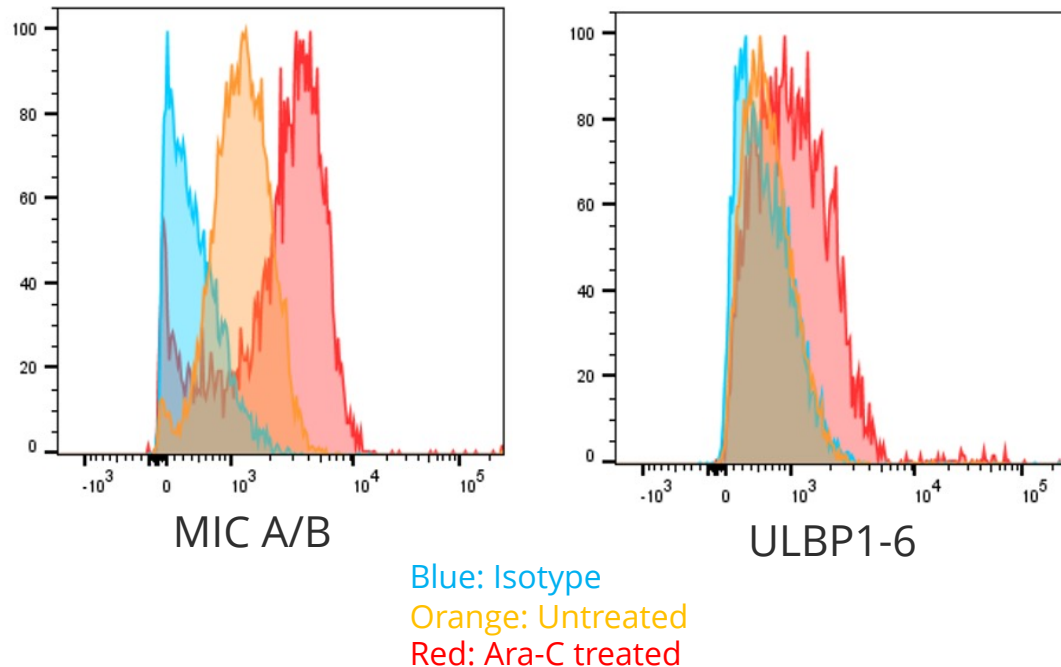
Ligands are upregulated with stress, including chemotherapy

- NKG2D CAR binds to 8 known ligands
- Mediates natural target cell elimination

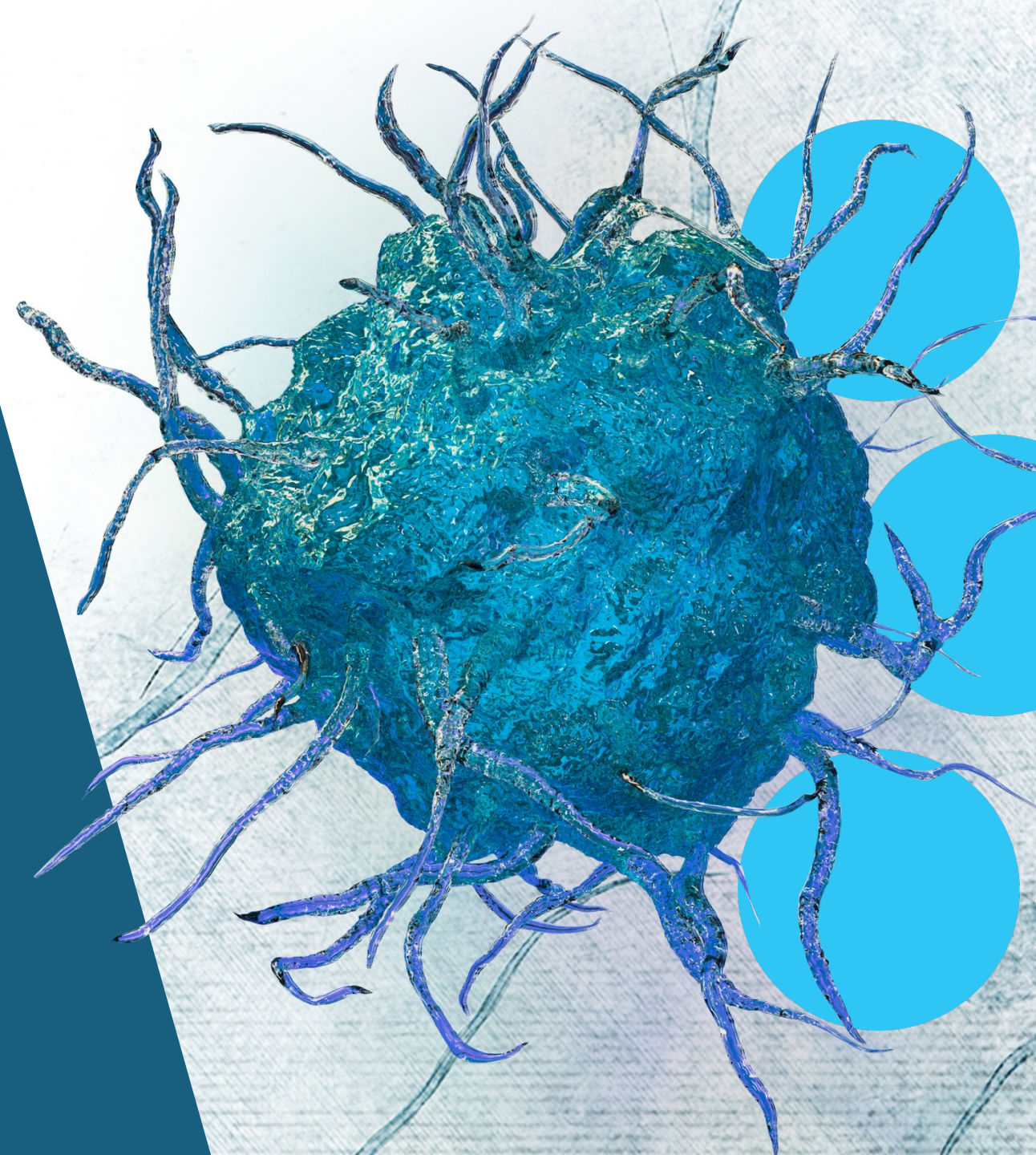
Pre-treatment of AML cells increases sensitivity to NK killing in vitro

- Dose dependent effect
- May increase opportunity for CAR-mediated killing

Ligand staining after 24 hrs of Ara-C Exposure



# Summary



# Autoimmune expansion | 2024 updates | Cash runway

- Pipeline expanded into autoimmune disease
- Further investment in oncology gated by clinical signals from next data updates
- \$278.4 M in cash and cash equivalents as of 30 Sept 2023
- Projected cash runway into 2026
- Multiple clinical updates expected in 2024

## Anticipated 2024 clinical milestones

**1H 2024**

*NKX019 in lupus nephritis* -  
Dose first patient and program update

**1H 2024**

*NKX101 in AML* - Clinical data from  
12 to 20 new patients in flu/Ara-C cohort

**Mid 2024**

*NKX019 in NHL* - Clinical data from  
dose compression cohort in  
patients with LBCL after prior CAR-T