

# DANSKE KRÆFTFORSKNINGSDAGE 2023

Hvor langt er vi med kræftvacciner målrettet patienterne og  
hvad er de mest lovende principper?

Mads Hald Andersen

Professor, Centerleder

Nationalt Center for Cancer Immunterapi, Herlev og Gentofte Hospital

#DKD2023

#SamarbejdeOmKræft

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# DANSKE KRÆFTFORSKNINGSDAGE 2023

Hvad er og hvordan virker kræftvacciner?  
Hvorfor ser de ud til at få succes nu?

Mads Hald Andersen  
Professor, Centerleder  
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# Cancer Vaccines

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- In general, Cancer Vaccines are not used to prevent cancer (except the HPV vaccine), but are used as **therapeutic** vaccines
- Cancer Vaccines is a method to induce anti-cancer immunity, especially **T-cell reactivity**
- In general, Cancer Vaccines has shown very **low toxicity**



# The way to use Cancer Vaccines

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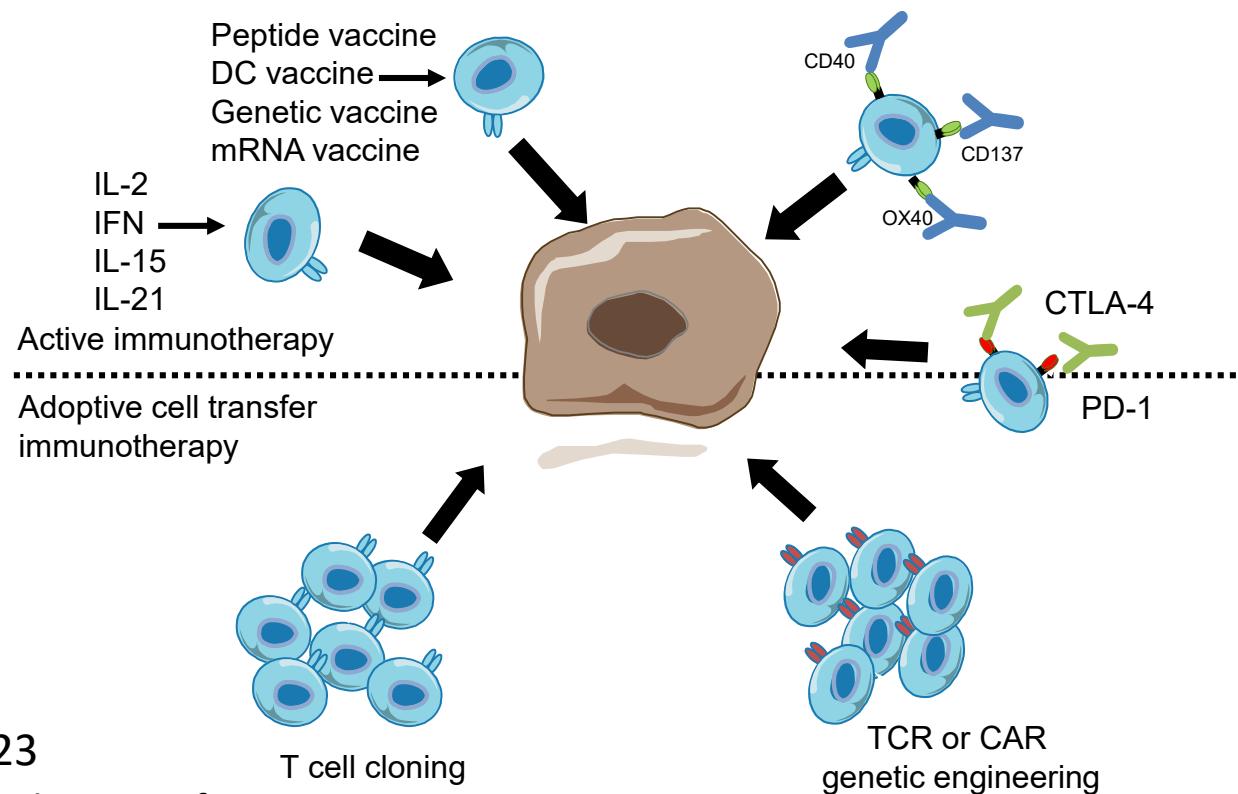
*For many years therapeutic Cancer Vaccines were used as monotherapy in very late state cancers.*

**Cancer Vaccines work best as....**

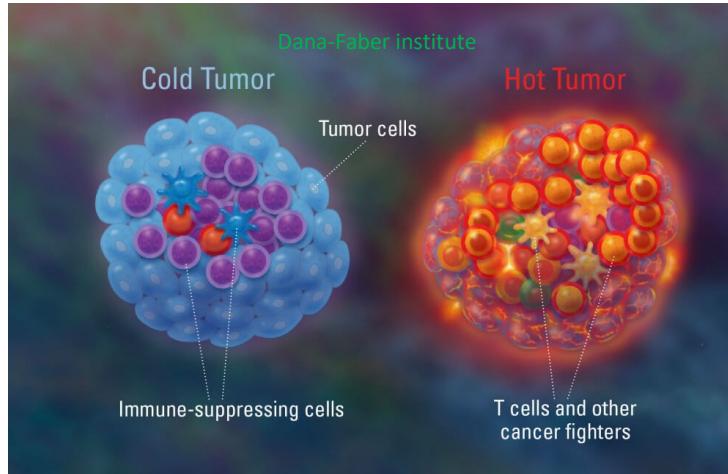
- **early as possible** in disease development
- **a combination agent** - for example (or obviously) with immune checkpoint molecules that works in patients harboring tumor reactive T cells.



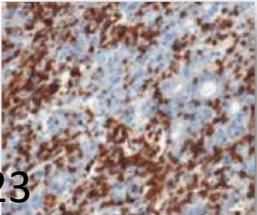
# T-cells are involved in almost any form of cancer immunotherapy



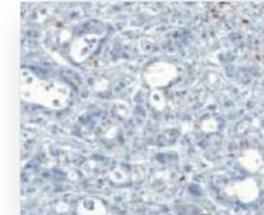
# Immuno-Cold versus Hot tumor



Inflamed

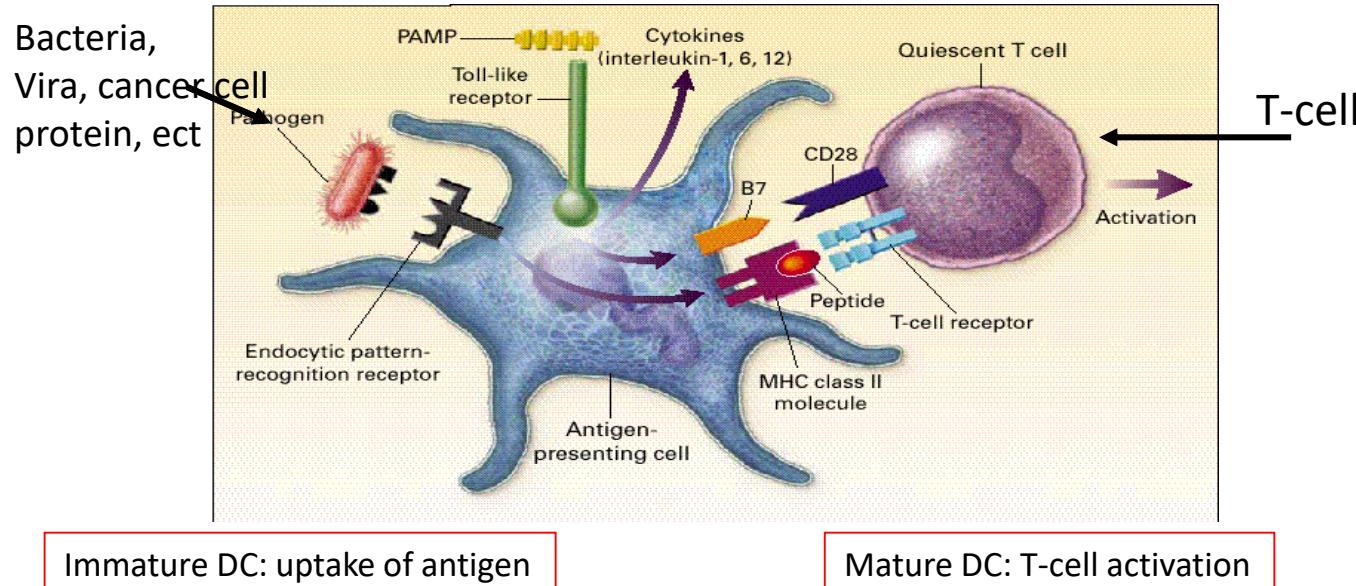


Non-inflamed



↑  
TILs  
CD8+ T cells  
IFN-γ gene signature  
PDL1 expression  
Pre-existing immunity

# T-cell activation



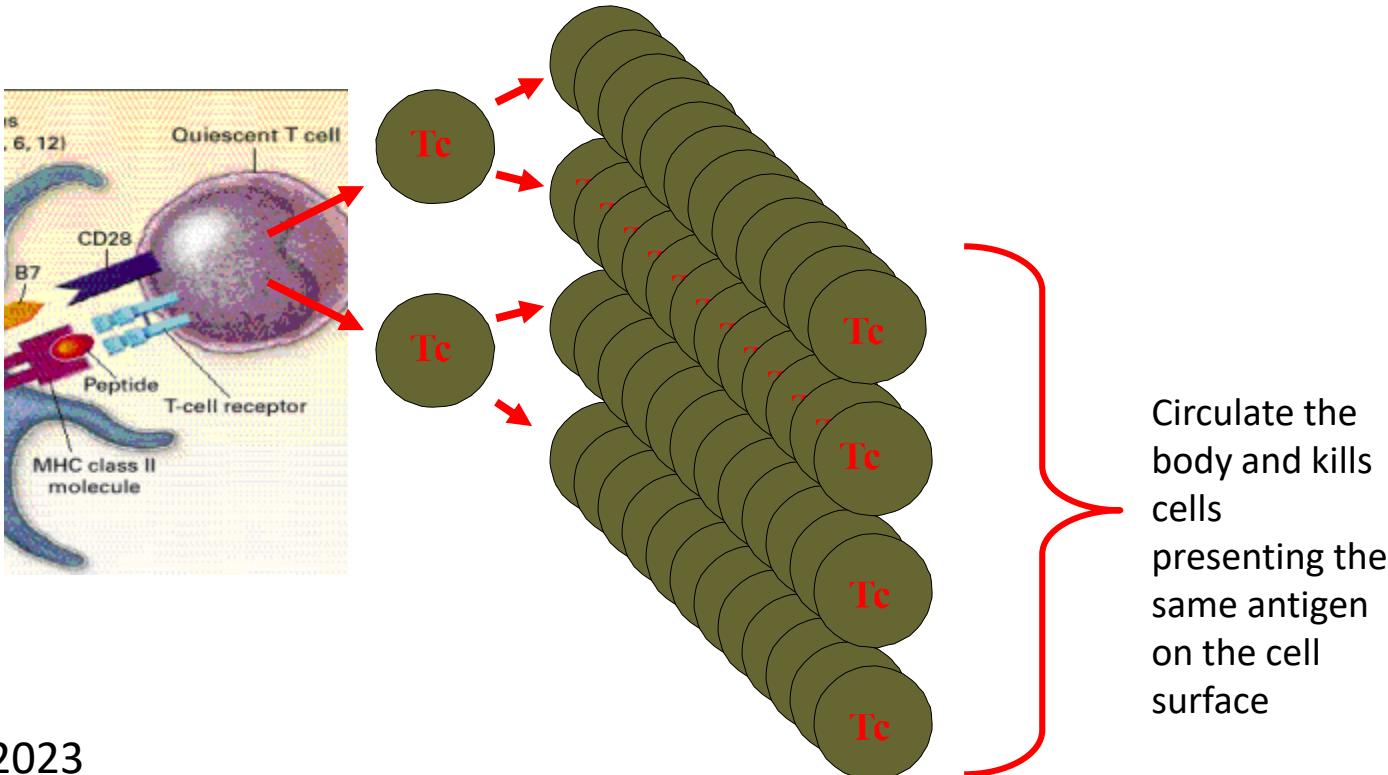
Immature DC: uptake of antigen

Mature DC: T-cell activation

Migration to lymph node:



# Proper activation leads to cell division

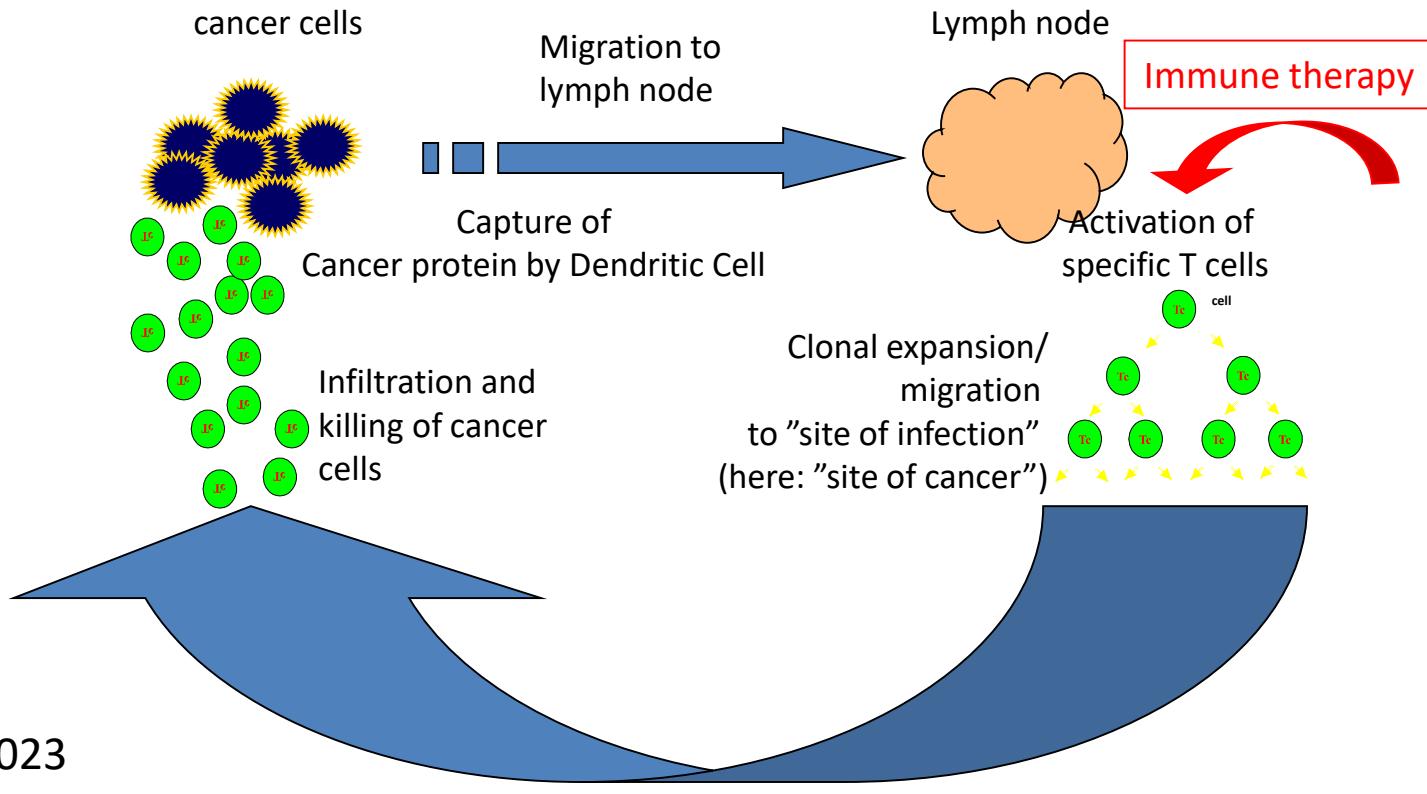


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# The Cancer Immunity Cycle



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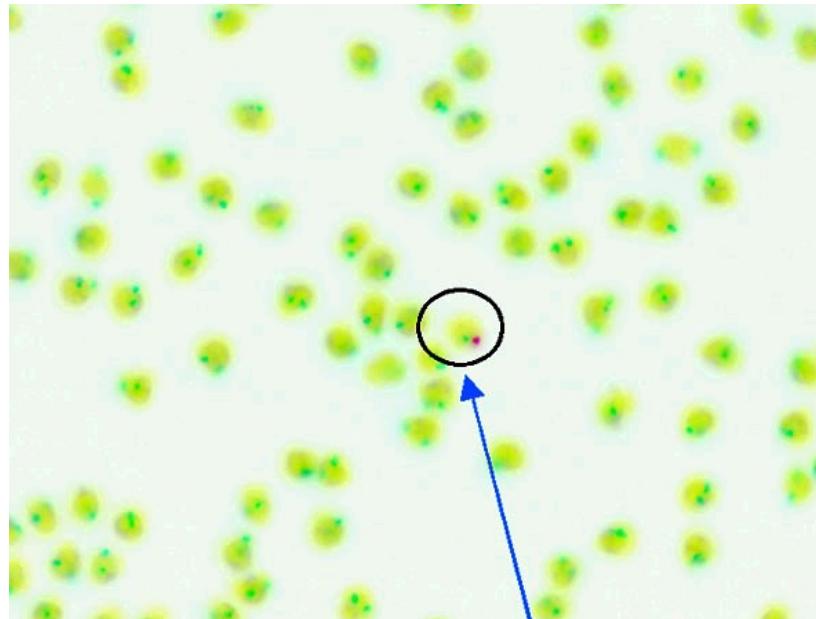
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# What is recognized by the immune system...

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Cancer cells: genetic and epigenetic changes



....leading to some sort of '**non-self**'



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# What is recognized by the immune system...

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## **Tumor specific antigens (TSAs)**

**Group I.** Viral antigens, e.g. HPV

**Group II.** Broadly expressed mutated antigens, e.g. ras, braf

**Group III.** Patient specific mutated antigens

## **Tumor associated antigens (TAAs)**

**Group IV.** differentiation antigens, e.g. MART-1, gp100, PAP

**Group V.** Cancer-testis antigens, e.g. MAGE

**Group VI.** Overexpressed (including universal) tumor antigens, e.g. telomerase, survivin

....new group: ***Tumor microenvironment antigens (TMAs)***



# Cancer Vaccines

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Consisting of a part that *activates* the immune system = **adjuvant**  
against something from the cancer cell = **antigen**



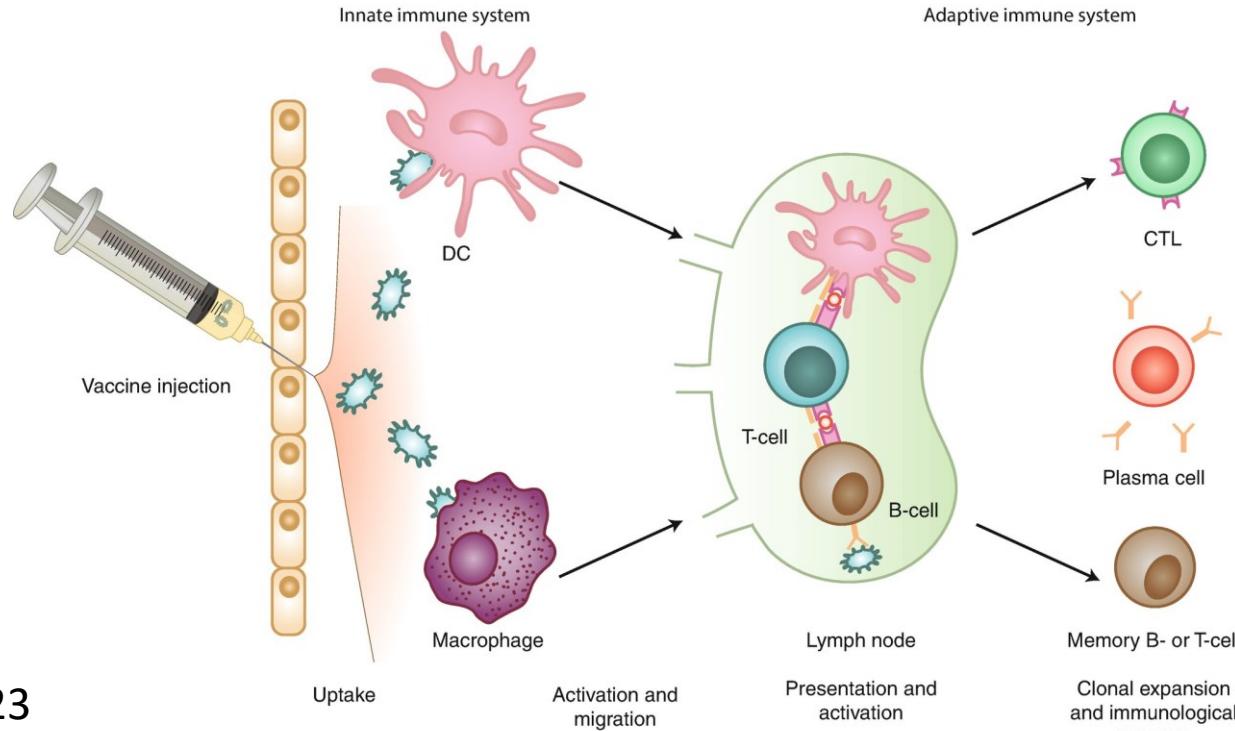
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# Cancer Vaccines

Consisting of a part that *activates* the immune system = **adjuvant**  
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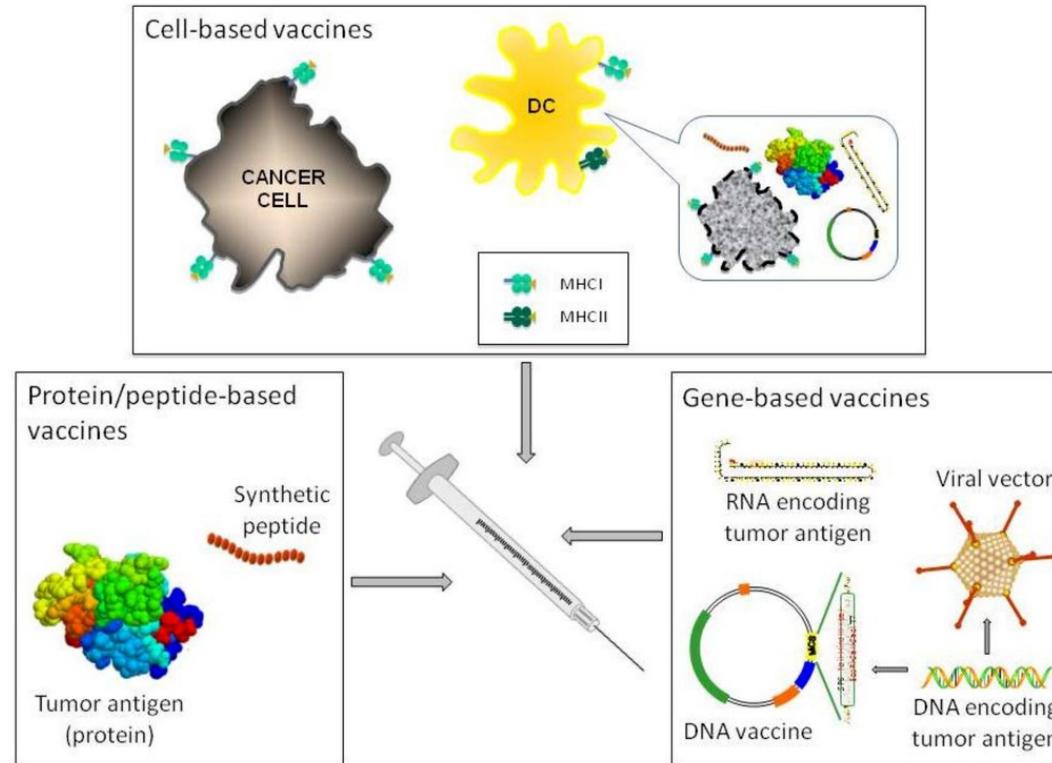
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Jiskoot et al, Pharmaceutical Biotechnology 2019

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# Cancer Vaccines

Consisting of a part that *activates* the immune system = **adjuvant**  
against something from the cancer cell = **antigen**



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Lollini et al. *Vaccines* 2015

# The long way to the Success Stories of Vaccines in Cancer

2011

*The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## gp100 Peptide Vaccine and Interleukin-2 in Patients with Advanced Melanoma

Douglas J. Schwartzentruber, M.D., David H. Lawson, M.D.,  
Jon M. Richards, M.D., Ph.D., Robert M. Conry, M.D.,  
Donald M. Miller, M.D., Ph.D., Jonathan Treisman, M.D., Fawaz Gailani, M.D.,  
Lee Riley, M.D., Ph.D., Kevin Conlon, M.D., Barbara Pockaj, M.D.,  
Kari L. Kendra, M.D., Ph.D., Richard L. White, M.D., Rene Gonzalez, M.D.,  
Timothy M. Kuzel, M.D., Brendan Curti, M.D., Phillip D. Leming, M.D.,  
Eric D. Whitman, M.D., Jai Balkissoon, M.D., Douglas S. Reintgen, M.D.,  
Howard Kaufman, M.D., Francesco M. Marincola, M.D., Maria J. Merino, M.D.,  
Steven A. Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D., Peter Choyke, M.D., Don Vena, B.S.,  
and Patrick Hwu, M.D.

2009

*The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Vaccination against HPV-16 Oncoproteins for Vulvar Intraepithelial Neoplasia

Gemma G. Kenter, M.D., Ph.D., Marij J.P. Welters, Ph.D.,  
A. Rob P.M. Valentijn, Ph.D., Margriet J.G. Lowik,  
Dorien M.A. Berends-van der Meer, Annelies P.G. Vloon, Farah Essahsah,  
Lorraine M. Fathers, Rienk Offringa, Ph.D., Jan Wouter Drijfhout, Ph.D.,  
Amon R. Wafelman, Ph.D., Jaap Oostendorp, Ph.D., Gert Jan Fleuren, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Sjoerd H. van der Burg, Ph.D., and Cornelis J.M. Melief, M.D., Ph.D.

2019

New Online | Views 851 | Citations 0 | Altmetric 96

Original Investigation

ONLINE FIRST

September 27, 2018

## Combining Immune Checkpoint Blockade and Tumor-Specific Vaccine for Patients With Incurable Human Papillomavirus 16-Related Cancer: A Phase 2 Clinical Trial

Erminia Massarelli, MD<sup>1</sup>; William William, MD<sup>2</sup>; Faye Johnson, MD, PhD<sup>2</sup>; et al

» Author Affiliations

JAMA Oncol. Published online September 27, 2018. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2018.4051



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# Moderna – personalized mRNA vaccines in development - Melanoma

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**ASCO 2023**

**Distant metastasis-free survival results from the randomized, phase 2 mRNA-4157-P201/KEYNOTE-942 trial:**

**Melanoma patients in high risk for relaps** after surgery treated with mRNA vaccines with up to 34 neoantigens + immune checkpoint inhibitors

**18 months of follow-up:** Pts who received the mRNA vaccine and immunotherapy had a **78.6%** rate of cancer-free survival vs **62.2%** in those who only received immunotherapy,

**2 years of follow-up:** 22% of the patients who had received the combo treatment had died or relapsed vs **40%**.



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# Moderna – personalized mRNA vaccines in development - Pancreas

- Pts with pancreatic cancer after surgery: Vaccination+anti-PDL1 antibody induced a strong anti-tumor immune response in half the participants in a small study.
- At 18-month median follow-up, patients (n=8) with vaccine-expanded T cells (responders) had a longer median recurrence-free survival (not reached) compared with patients (n=8) without vaccine-expanded T cells (non-responders; 13.4 months,  $P = 0.003$ )

- 16 out of 34 enrolled treated.
- Larger clinical trial ongoing

## Article

### Personalized RNA neoantigen vaccines stimulate T cells in pancreatic cancer

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06063-y>

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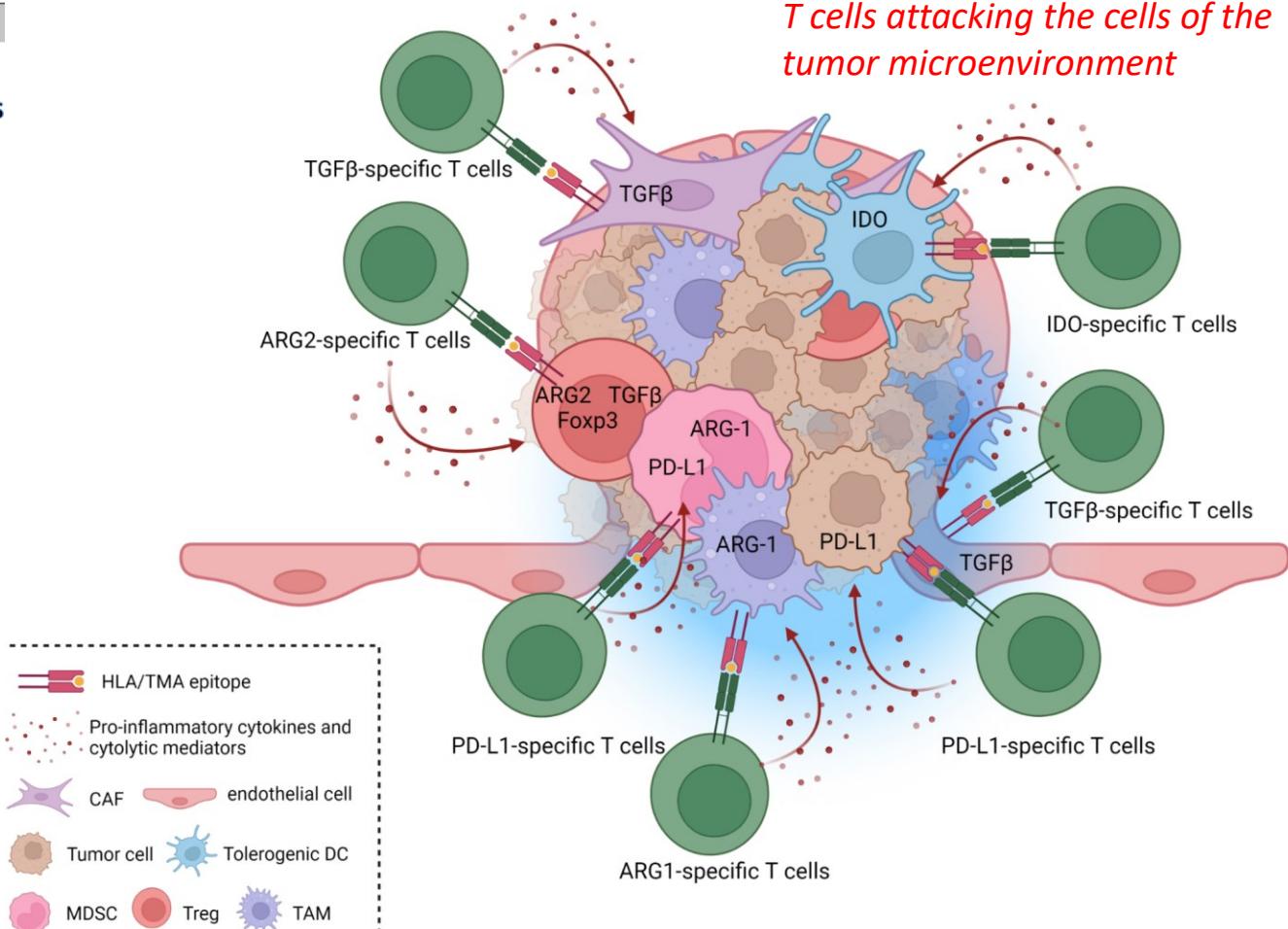
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## Tumor microenvironment antigens

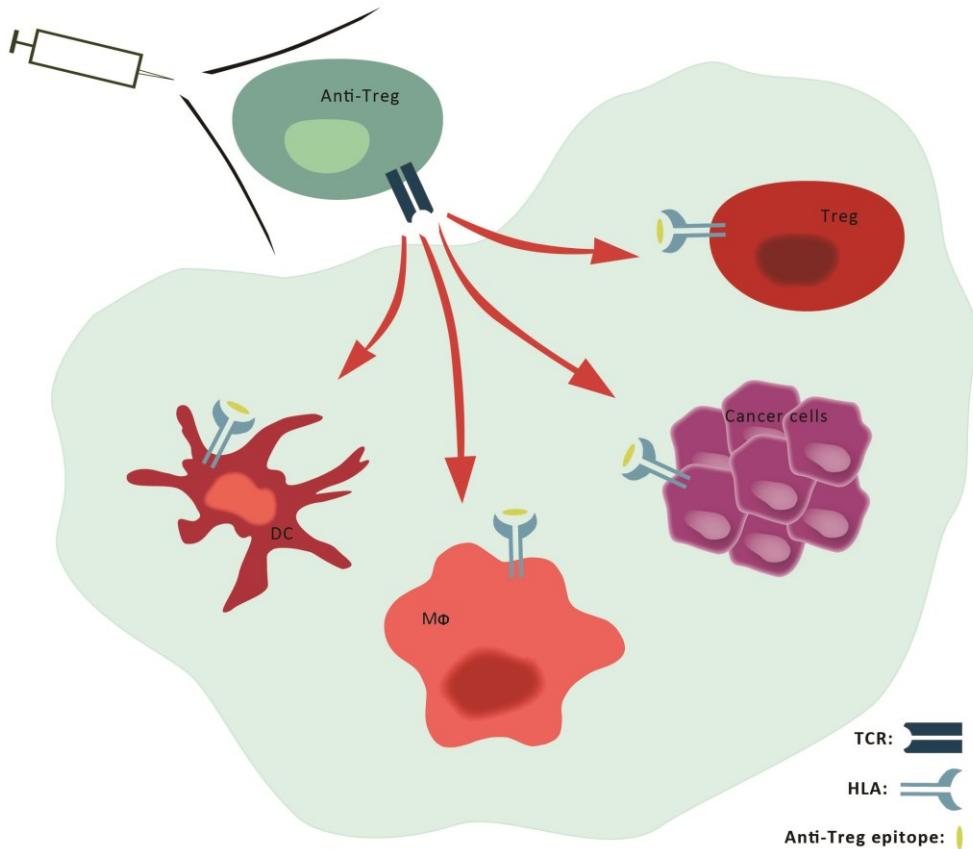
Mads Hald Andersen<sup>1,2</sup> 

Received: 7 July 2022 / Accepted: 16 September 2022  
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**Take home message: Anti-regulatory T cells attacking the cells of the tumor microenvironment**



# In the lab 10 years ago: First description of these T cells as CCIT-dk



JNCI J Natl Cancer Inst (2015) 107(9): djv154

doi:10.1093/jnci/djv154  
First published online June 10, 2015  
Commentary

## COMMENTARY

### Immune Regulation by Self-Recognition: Novel Possibilities for Anticancer Immunotherapy

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# IDO/PD-L1-peptide vaccine combined with nivolumab in first line melanoma

nature  
medicine

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-021-01544-x>



Julie Westerlin Kjeldsen

Cathrine Lund Lorentzen

A phase 1/2 trial of an immune-modulatory vaccine against IDO/PD-L1 in combination with nivolumab in metastatic melanoma

Julie Westerlin Kjeldsen<sup>1,5</sup>, Cathrine Lund Lorentzen<sup>1,5</sup>, Evelina Martinenaita<sup>1,2</sup>,  
Eva Ellebaek<sup>3</sup>, Marco Donia<sup>3</sup>, Rikke Boedker Holmstroem<sup>3</sup>, Tobias Wirenfeldt Klausen<sup>1</sup>,  
Cecilie Oelvang Madsen<sup>1</sup>, Shamaila Munir Ahmed<sup>1</sup>, Stine Emilie Weis-Banke<sup>3</sup>,  
Morten Orebo Holmström<sup>1</sup>, Helle Westergren Hендel<sup>3</sup>, Eva Ehrnrooth<sup>2</sup>, Mai-Britt Zocca<sup>2</sup>,  
Ayako Wakatsuki Pedersen<sup>2</sup>, Mads Hald Andersen<sup>1,4</sup> and Inge Marie Svane<sup>3,4</sup>

- The combination of IDO/PD-L1 peptide vaccine and nivolumab was safe with no additional systemic toxicity
- **An ORR of 80% was reached with 50 % reaching CR (as recently updated)**
- Median PFS reached 26 months and mOS was not reached (as recently updated)
- ORR was significantly higher than a matched historical control group, who had received anti-PD-1 monotherapy as standard of care.
- Vaccine specific T-cells were demonstrated in the Pts



# Immune modulating cancer vaccines

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**IO Biotech** (CCIT-dk spin out company) is currently running IOB-013 / KN-D18 in **1st Line Melanoma**

- Phase 3 Trial - ONGOING
- Breakthrough Therapy Designation by FDA

**Moderna** currently running mRNA-4359 that targets IDO and PD-L1 antigens in Phase 2 for Solid Tumors



# DANSKE KRÆFTFORSKNINGSDAGE 2023

## mRNA eller peptid-baserede kræftvacciner i rivende udvikling

Vaccinerne er **veltolerede** og bivirkningerne er generelt håndterbare

Vaccinerne er **ikke smitsomme**, da de ikke er baseret på virale patogener

Vaccinerne aktiverer først og fremmest det **cellulære immunsystem**

Vaccinerne bør benyttes tidligt i forløbet, f.eks. adjuverende behandling

Virkelig lovende data i **kombination** med anden terapi, især immun-checkpoint blokerende antistoffer.