



# Harnessing the Power of RNA Modification to

Create 1<sup>st</sup> in Class Inhibitors of RNA Modifying Enzymes (RME) to Treat Cancer and Other Diseases





Leader  
in the RNA  
Modification Enzyme  
Field

## 1<sup>ST</sup> MOVER ADVANTAGE

STC-15 (lead program), a 1<sup>st</sup> in class METTL3 inhibitor, entered PhI in 2022

## LEADING PLATFORM

Proven methods and insights to identify & prosecute multiple attractive RME targets, particularly methyltransferases

## NOVEL PIPELINE

Multiple novel pipeline assets with potential uses in oncology, immunology, CNS diseases and virology

## EXCEPTIONAL TEAM

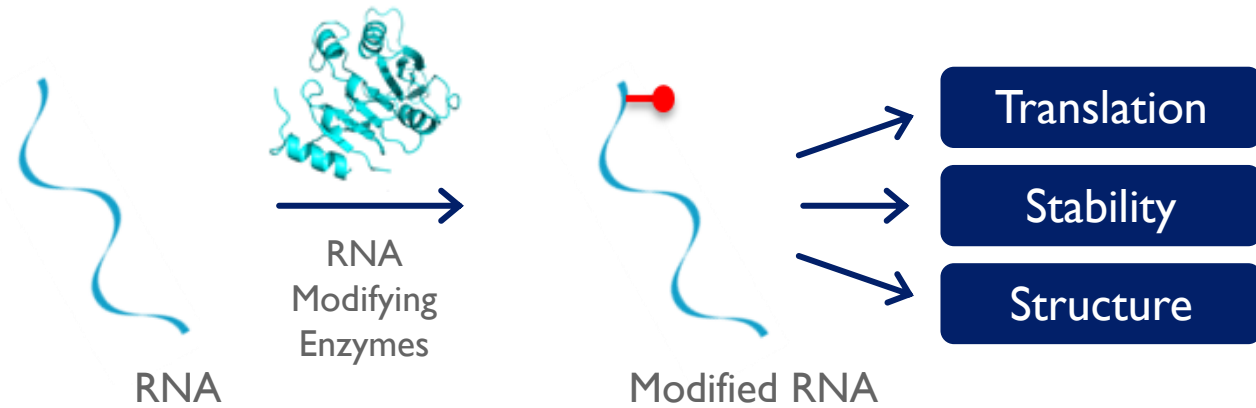
Experienced R&D team and advisors have a deep understanding of RMEs and are supported by a world-class academic network

# RNA Modification: A Novel Mechanism of Gene Regulation



## RNA Modification

Modulation of RNA function via post-transcriptional modifications



## >170 RNA modifications identified

All types of RNA modified (mRNA, miRNA, lncRNA, tRNA)

RNA  
Modification  
Enzymes  
Can...

- Regulate RNA function and immune responses
- Represent novel therapeutic targets including for oncology, virology, CNS and immunology

# Founded by Pioneers in RNA Modification

## Formed the 1<sup>st</sup> Company in the RME Space (Cambridge, UK)

World leaders in RNA modification and  
RNA driven gene regulation

and

Experts on multiple novel targets within  
the STORM pipeline



**Prof. Tony Kouzarides**  
Founder & Director

- Professor of Cancer Biology at the University of Cambridge
- Director of the Milner Therapeutics Institute and Deputy Director of the Gurdon Institute
- abcam founder – now £3bn,
- discovery of I-BET and founder of Chroma Therapeutics
- >150 publications, mostly epigenetics (including >30 in Nature, Cell and Science)



**Prof. Eric Miska**  
Founder

- Herchel Smith Professor of Molecular Genetics at the University of Cambridge
- Head of Department of Biochemistry
- Associate Faculty at the Wellcome Trust Sanger and CRUK Cancer Research Institutes
- >80 publications (including >20 in Nature, Cell and Science)

Supported by an extensive academic KOL network (>25 collaborations)

# STORM Therapeutics Pioneering Novel Drug Targets for RNA Modification



## **nature**

**Small-molecule inhibition of METTL3 as a strategy against myeloid leukaemia**

## **nature**

**Loss of ADAR1 in tumours overcomes resistance to immune checkpoint blockade**

## **nature genetics**

**A call for direct sequencing of full-length RNAs to identify all modifications**

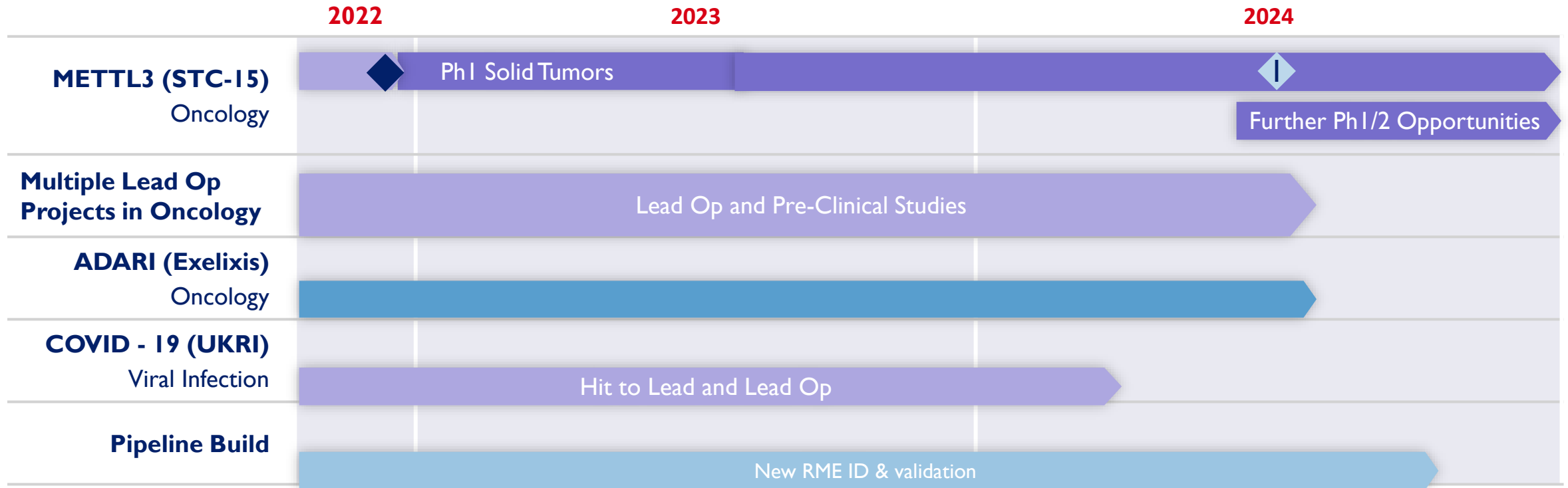
For most organisms, DNA sequences are available, but the complete RNA sequences are not. Here, we call for technologies to sequence full-length RNAs with all their modifications.

## **Molecular Cell**

**METTL1-mediated m<sup>7</sup>G modification of Arg-TCT tRNA drives oncogenic transformation**

**N<sup>7</sup>-Methylguanosine tRNA modification enhances oncogenic mRNA translation and promotes intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma progression**

# Progressing a Novel Pipeline of Proprietary Products



Clinical Trial start



Interim Safety PK/PD and early efficacy data

# STORM Corporate History & Achievements

**2016**

**\$55M Series A**

**Strong International Investor Syndicate**



**2016 - 2021**

**Platform, Pipeline, and People**

- ✓ Location at Babraham Research Campus (Cambridge, UK)
- ✓ Experienced management, board, and advisors
- ✓ Academic network
- ✓ Leading technology platform
- ✓ CRO partners
- ✓ Multi-target pharma license & collab deal (Exelixis - Oct21)
- ✓ U.S. subsidiary established
- ✓ STC-15 (METTL3) identified

**2022 - 2023**

**Clinical Stage Company**

- ✓ Global development organization in place
- ✓ Initiated STC-15 Phase I (2H 2022)
- ✓ Completion of a \$30 million Series B financing round (late 2022)
- ✓ New investors to the STORM syndicate Fast Track Initiative and the UTokyo Innovation Platform Co., Ltd.
- Phase I safety, PK/PD, biomarker readouts (2023)(Solid cancers)
- Identify STC-15 Phase 2 dose and regimen
- Enable Phase I/2 initiations for STC-15 (2024)
- Pipeline expansion, BD milestones, new partnerships



# Technology Platform



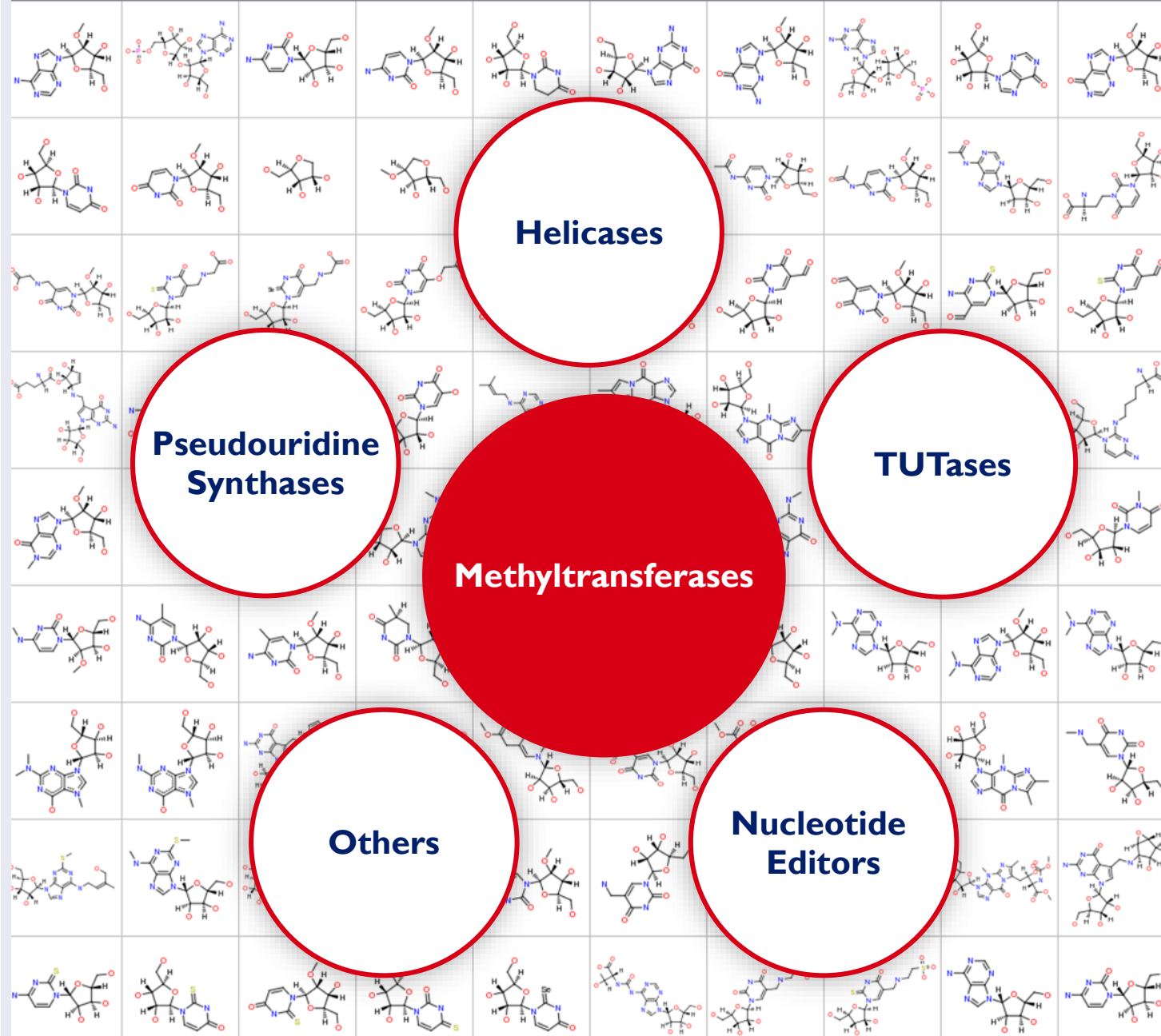


# RNA Modifying Enzymes

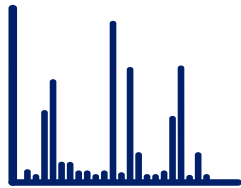
Untapped Target Class  
~300 enzymes

Writers, Readers and Erasers

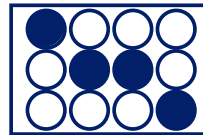
STORM's disease agnostic platform  
uniquely placed to generate value



# Leading RME Platform in Place: Initial Focus on RNA Methyltransferases



**RNA Modification  
Analysis**



**Selectivity Assays  
and Chemical Probes**



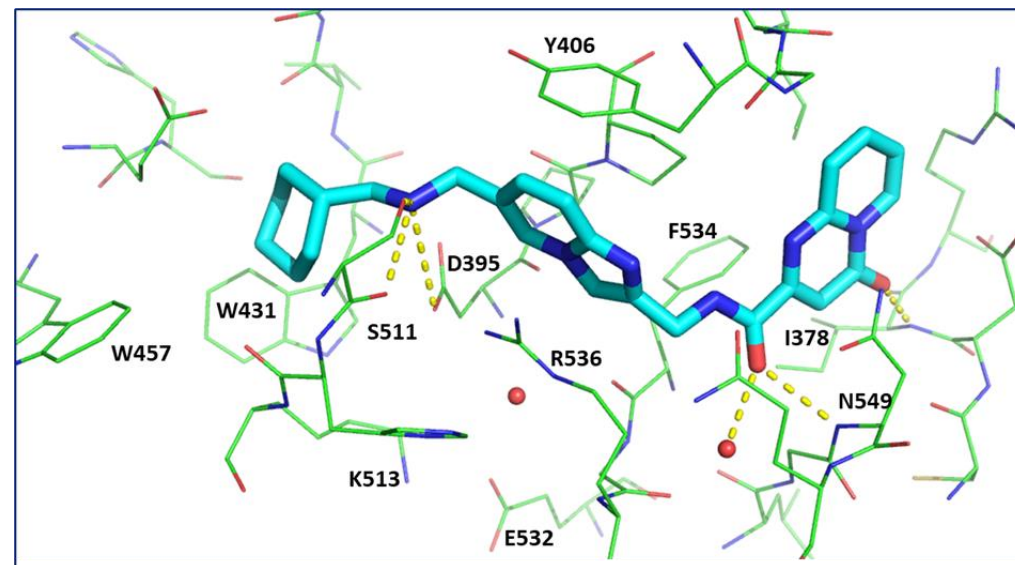
**Functional  
Genomic Screens**

## Multiple Unique Advantages

- 1** Efficiently identify and validate targets
- 2** Establish a proprietary view of the RME families
- 3** Measure any RNA modification, in sequence context

# Platform enables target validation and drug discovery

- Biochemical assays and CRISPR screen for initial target identification
- Capability & understanding to generate potent/selective inhibitors of RNA modifying enzymes
- Track record of using such compounds to:
  - unlock novel target/disease biology
  - create 1<sup>st</sup>-in-class drug candidates



# STC-I5: Lead Program METTL3

*1<sup>st</sup> In Class Clinical Candidate discovered by STORM and a first for the Field*

HTS to clinical candidate in <3 years on an unprecedented target class / novel biology area

- ✓ Novel efficacy mechanisms identified in solid tumors (immune based) and in leukemia models (stem cell)
- ✓ Preclinical data indicating upregulation of interferon signaling and synergy with T cell checkpoint blockade
- ✓ STC-I5 combination activity with anti-PD1 antibodies observed in multiple syngeneic tumor models
- ✓ First patient treated in Phase I multiple ascending dose trial Q4 2022 (NCT05584111)
- ✓ Potential for multiple Phase I/2 clinical trials in solid tumors and leukemia driven by the novel anti-cancer mechanisms of METTL3 inhibition.

# Novel Mechanisms of METTL3 Inhibitor Efficacy

## #1

**DIRECT KILLING**  
of cancer cells

**MOA**

- Intrinsic dependency of cancer cells on METTL3 activity.
- Differentiation/apoptosis of cancer stem cells.

## #2

**STIMULATION**  
of anti-tumor immunity

**MOA**

- Induction of innate immune response in cancer cells.
- Enhancement of Checkpoint inhibitor efficacy.

## #3

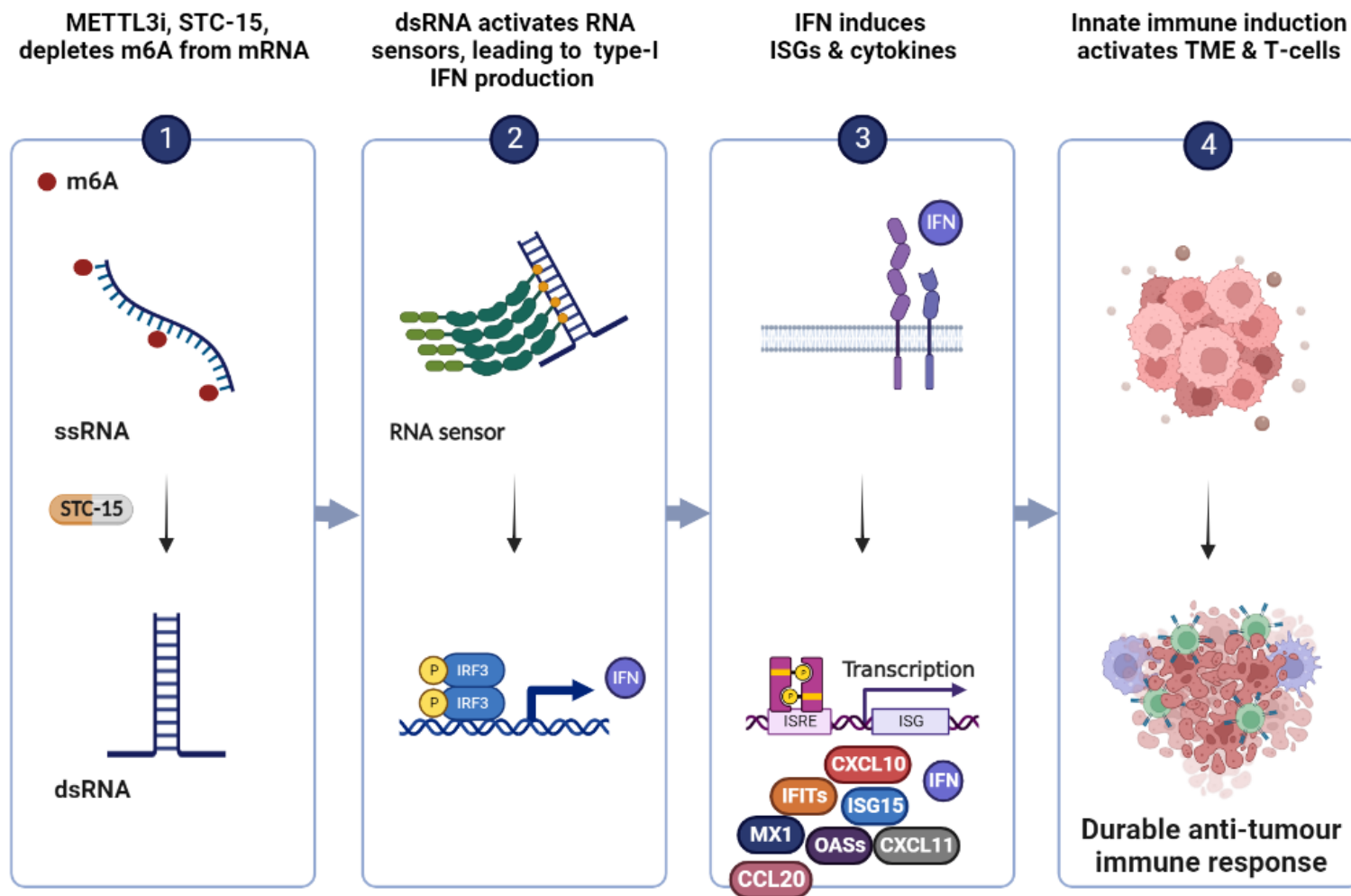
**DRUG RESISTANCE**

**MOA**

- Inhibition of METTL3's role in DNA repair and ability to promote chemoresistance & radiotherapy resistance

# METTL3: a novel cancer target

- RNA methyltransferase – methylates N6-position of A (m6A) in selected mRNAs
- m6A regulates mRNA translation and stability
- Inhibition of METTL3 and loss of m6A can inhibit key oncogenes
- Inhibition of METTL3 activates innate immune responses in cancer cells via induction of dsRNA



# STC-15 may 'set the scene' for efficacious CPI treatment

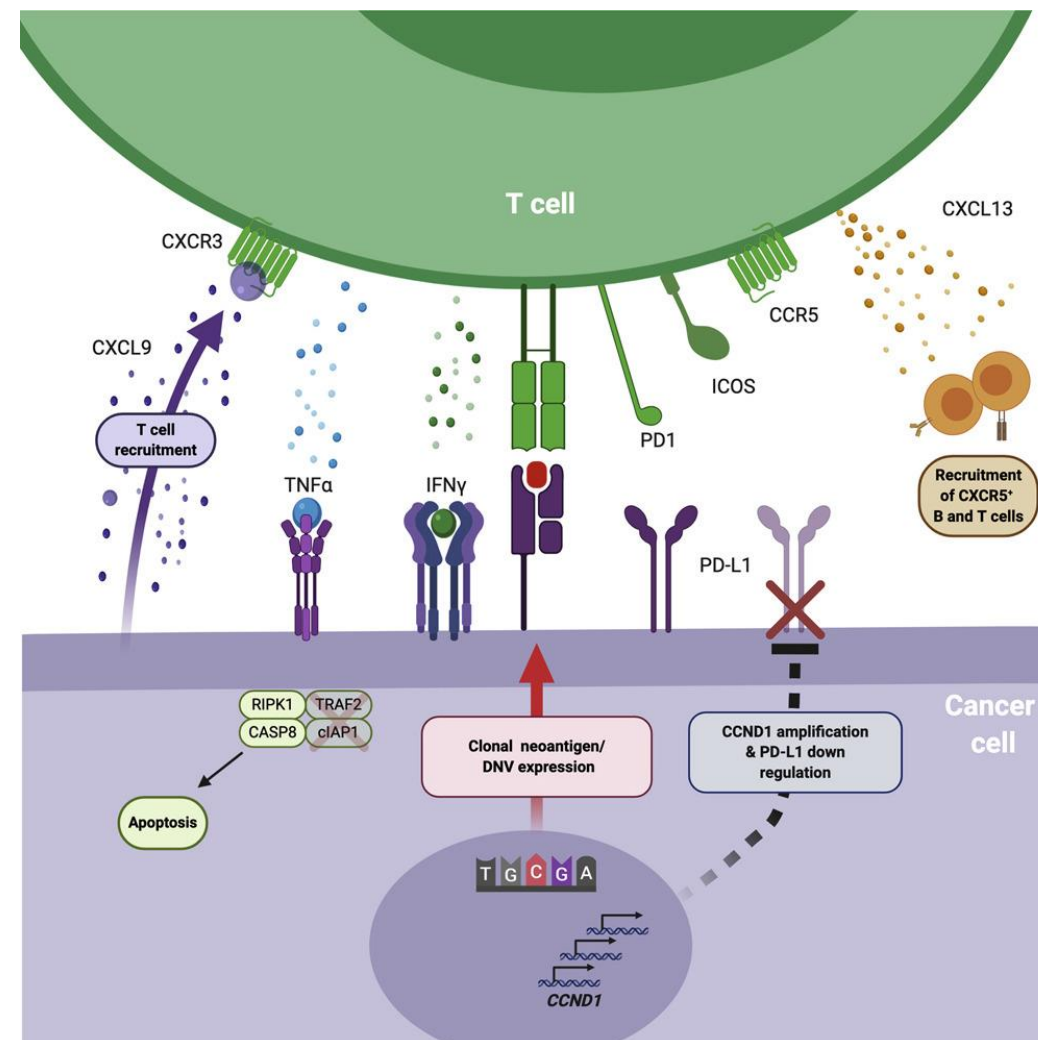
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**Litchfield et al., *Cell*, 2021: Meta-analysis of tumor and T cell-intrinsic mechanisms of sensitization to checkpoint inhibition**

- Report analysis of CPI response in >1000 CPI-treated patients
- Authors identified tumor- and TME- related predictors of patient response to checkpoint inhibitors:

- CD8a
- CXCL9 (CXCR3 ligands)
- CD274 (=PD-L1)
- CCR5 (binds CCL3, 4, 5, 8)
- ICOS
- Antigen presentation
- IFN signalling
- TNFα signalling
- CXCL13

**Upregulated by STC-15  
treatment in in-vivo models**





# Combination of STC-15 and Anti-PD1 Induces Tumor Regression and Anti-cancer Immunity in Mouse Syngeneic Models

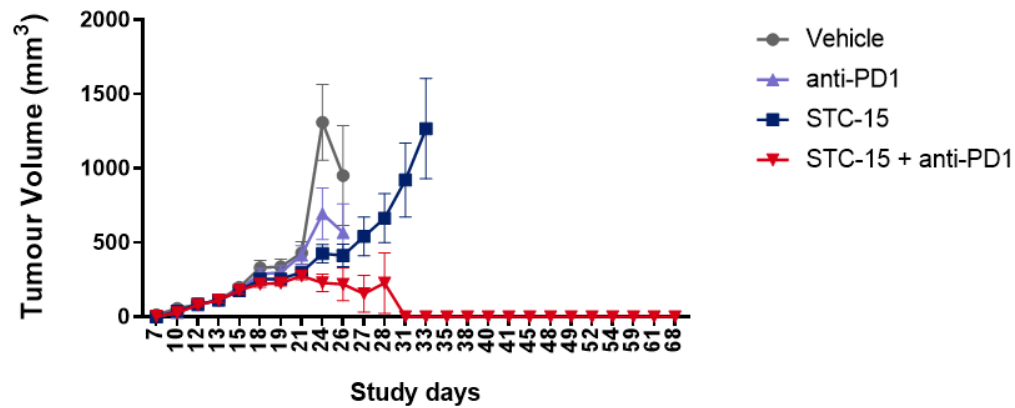
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## STC-15 / anti-PD1 Treated Mice Appear To Be Cured: No Regrowth of Regressed Tumors

- Mice with regressions are immune to the cancer (rechallenge with tumor cells fails to generate new tumors)
- STC-15 efficacy is CD8 T cell dependent (no activity if deplete CD8 T cells).
- Combination activity seen in multiple syngeneic models

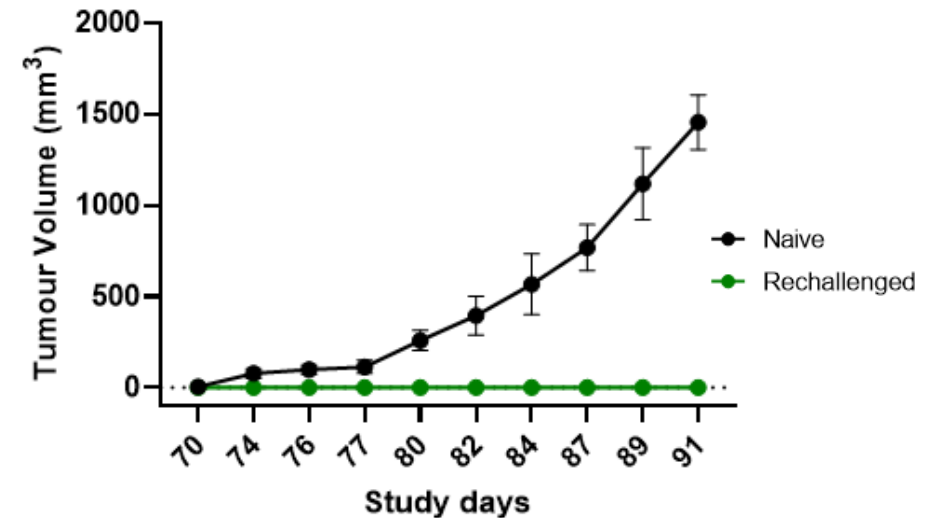
### A20 Average Tumor Volumes (Primary Study)

#### Efficacy Study



### A20 Average Tumor Volumes (Rechallenge Study)

#### Rechallenge Study



# STC-15 Phase I Data Emerging in 2H 2023



- Trial sites at MD Anderson, Honor Health and START (NCT05584111)
- Multiple Ascending Dose study in adults with advanced malignancies
- Objectives:
  - Safety and PK of STC-15
  - Recommended Phase 2 dose/regimen (RP2D)
  - Biomarker rich translational study
    - (m6A PD marker, immune MOA markers, tumor genetic/immune profiling)



STORM Team



# STORM Leadership Team

	<b>Dr Jerry McMahon</b> CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;30 years drug discovery and development experience</li> <li>• Former CEO at Harpoon Therapeutics leading the company from discovery into clinical stage alongside a successful IPO and fundraising rounds.</li> <li>• Successful track record of executive industry roles including the discovery and development of Sunitinib</li> </ul>
	<b>Dr Oliver Rausch</b> CSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;20 years drug discovery and development experience</li> <li>• Ex NIHR, Cellzome, UCB and GSK</li> </ul>
	<b>Dr Josefin-Beate Holz</b> MD CMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;25 years drug development experience in oncology, immunology and other disease areas.</li> <li>• Held Exec level roles in pharma and biotech (BMS, Gilead, Ablynx, GPC-Biotech and LEO Pharma)</li> </ul>
	<b>Dr Matthew Fyfe</b> Senior Vice President Therapeutics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;20 years' experience in drug discovery and development</li> <li>• Successfully led research endeavors in multiple therapeutic areas that have reached Phase 2, with several purchased by major pharma companies</li> </ul>
	<b>Dr Beth Thomas</b> Vice President Medicinal Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;20 years' experience in medicinal and computational chemistry</li> <li>• Worked at Celltech, UCB, BioFocus, University of Cambridge and was Head of Discovery Chemistry at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre</li> </ul>
	<b>Dr Angus Lauder</b> Senior Director of Business Development and Alliance Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;15 years of Business &amp; Development experience working with biotech, pharma and academia</li> <li>• Extensive deal sheet across licensing, discovery partnerships and spin-out company formation</li> </ul>
	<b>Margaret Daniel</b> CFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experienced biotech CFO providing CFO services to prominent biotechs</li> <li>• Co-founder of Daniel-Bradshaw, a bespoke CFO and Accounting Services company to biotech sector</li> </ul>

# Board Members & Investors

<b>Dr Jerry McMahon</b>	CEO & President
<b>Hakan Goker, PhD</b>	M Ventures
<b>Christopher O'Donnell, PhD</b>	Pfizer Ventures
<b>Sakae Asanuma</b>	Taiho Ventures

<b>John Haurum, PhD</b>	Independent
<b>Prof. Tony Kouzarides, PhD, FMedSci, FRS</b>	Founder
<b>Prof. Paul Workman</b>	Independent
<b>Tim Edwards</b>	Chairman





Leader in the RNA  
Modification Enzyme  
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**1<sup>ST</sup> MOVER ADVANTAGE**

**LEADING PLATFORM**

**NOVEL PIPELINE**

**EXCEPTIONAL TEAM**

- **Partnerships:**
  - Pipeline Asset Collaborations (METTL3 and beyond)
  - Discovery partnerships in novel RME target space:
    - Oncology
    - Virology
    - CNS
    - Immunology

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# Appendix





# Recent Presentations Highlight STC-15 Novel Mechanisms



**STC-15, an oral small molecule inhibitor of the RNA methyltransferase METTL3, inhibits tumour growth through activation of anti-cancer immune responses and synergizes with immune checkpoint blockade**

Joanna Obacz<sup>1</sup>, Yaara Ofir-Rosenfeld<sup>1</sup>, Lina Vasilisauskaitė<sup>1</sup>, Claire Saunders<sup>1\*</sup>, Alexandra Sapetschnig<sup>1</sup>, Georgia Tsagkogeorga<sup>1,2</sup>, Mark Albertella<sup>1\*</sup>, Marie Carkill<sup>3</sup>, Jezrom Self-Fordham<sup>3</sup>, Josefin-Beate Holz<sup>1</sup>, Oliver Rausch<sup>1</sup> and Jerry McMahon<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Storm Therapeutics Ltd, Cambridge, UK | <sup>2</sup>Miller Therapeutics Institute, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK | <sup>3</sup>Charles River, Portishead, UK

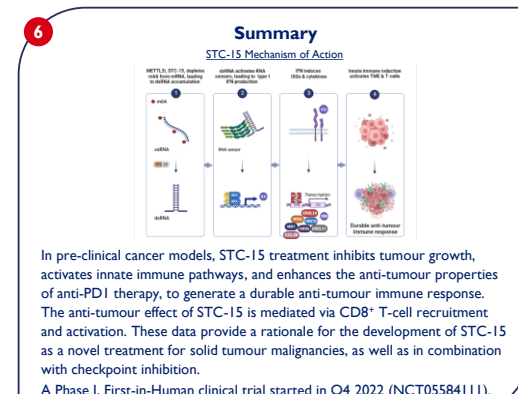
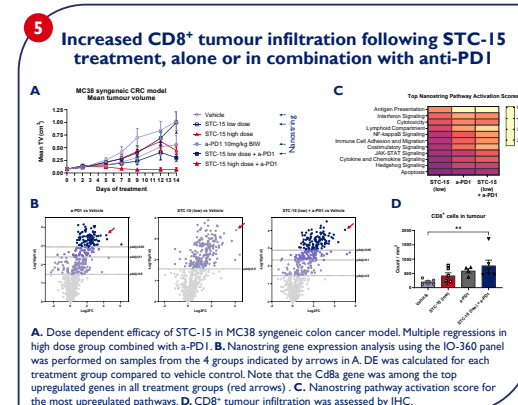
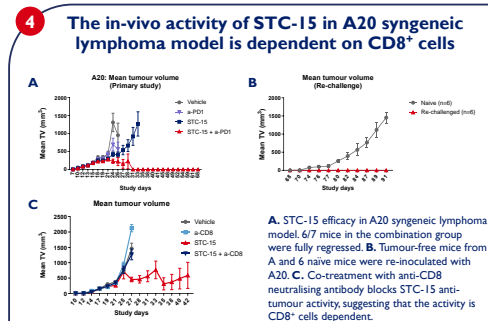
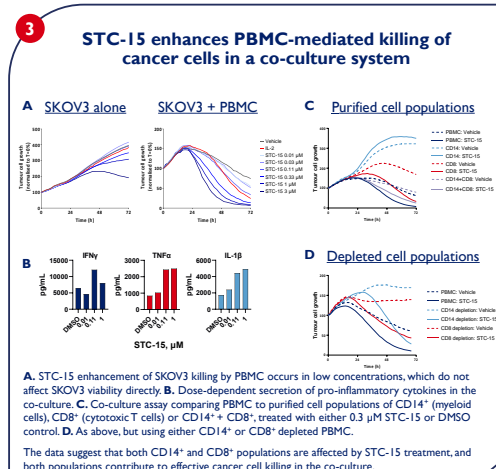
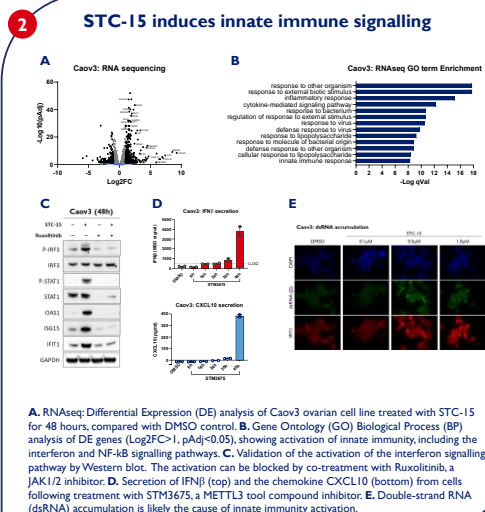
\*Current address: UCL Cancer Institute, London, UK | \*Current address: Oncology R&D, AstraZeneca, Cambridge UK

**1 Introduction**

METTL3 is an RNA methyltransferase responsible for the deposition of N-6-methyladenosine (m6A) modification on mRNA and long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) targets, to regulate their stability, splicing, transport and translation.

Small molecule inhibitors of METTL3 catalytic activity have previously demonstrated direct anti-tumour efficacy in models of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) (Yankova et al., *Nature*, 2021) and solid tumours.

Here we present pre-clinical data showing that the orally bioavailable small molecule METTL3 inhibitor STC-15 inhibits cancer growth and induces anti-cancer immunity, by mechanisms involve the activation of CD8<sup>+</sup> cytotoxic T-cells.



Harnessing the Power of RNA Modification

SITC, Nov 2022

# Recent Presentations Highlight STC-15 Novel Mechanisms



## STC-15, a novel METTL3 inhibitor, and its combination with Venetoclax confer anti-tumour activity in AML models

Lina Vasiliauskaitė<sup>1</sup>, Yaara Ofir-Rosenfeld<sup>1</sup>, Mark Albertella<sup>1</sup>, Annabelle Congras<sup>2</sup>, Coralie Hoareau-Aveilla<sup>2</sup>, Jerry McMahon<sup>1</sup>, Oliver Rausch<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Storm Therapeutics Ltd., Cambridge, UK

<sup>2</sup>Evotec SAS, Toulouse, FR

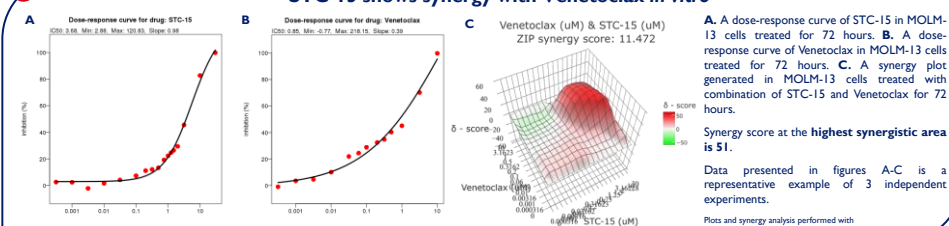
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### Introduction

METTL3 is an RNA methyltransferase responsible for the deposition of N<sup>6</sup>-methyladenosine (m<sup>6</sup>A) modification on mRNA and lncRNA targets to regulate their stability, splicing, transport and translation. To date, METTL3 has been implicated in the initiation and progression of multiple cancer types, with the highest expression of METTL3 mRNA observed in acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Currently, one line of standard of care therapy for AML patients is Venetoclax, which targets the anti-apoptotic protein BCL2. It was shown that m<sup>6</sup>A, deposited by METTL3 on BCL2 transcript, affects BCL2 mRNA stability and translation. Storm Therapeutics has developed potent and selective METTL3 inhibitors, including STC-15, which is in clinical development (clinical trial NCT05584111). Here, we explore pharmacological inhibition of METTL3 as monotherapy or in combination with Venetoclax in AML models *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

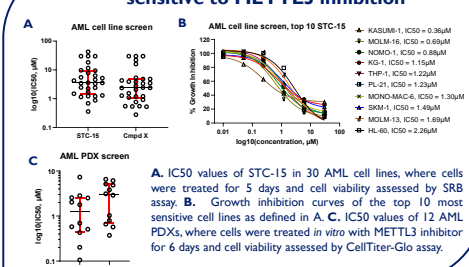
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### STC-15 shows synergy with Venetoclax *in vitro*



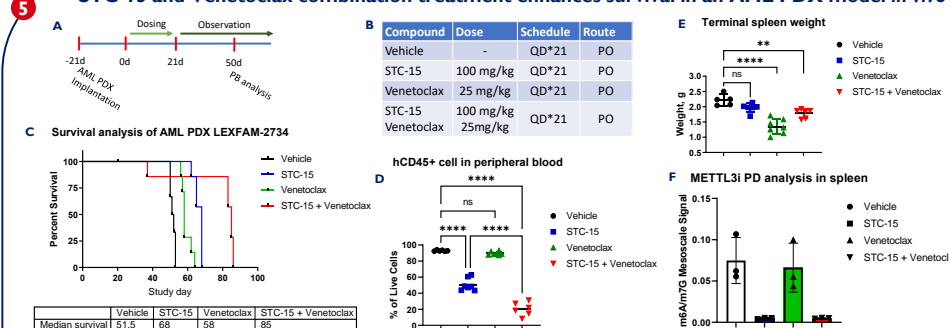
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### Multiple human AML cell lines and PDXs are sensitive to METTL3 inhibition



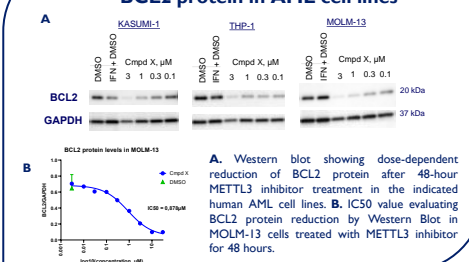
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### STC-15 and Venetoclax combination treatment enhances survival in an AML PDX model *in vivo*



3

### METTL3 inhibition leads to downregulation of BCL2 protein in AML cell lines



6

### Summary

Here we have demonstrated that multiple AML cell lines and AML PDX models were sensitive to pharmacological inhibition of METTL3 by STC-15 or other METTL3 tool inhibitors. In addition, METTL3 inhibition led to a dose-dependent downregulation of BCL2 protein. Matrix-combination experiments have shown a high degree of synergy between STC-15 and Venetoclax: in MOLM-13 cells the most synergistic area had a score of 51, which indicates a 51% higher degree of inhibition than expected by an additive effect. An *in vivo* AML PDX model also revealed that combination therapy extended median group survival to 85 days in comparison to 51.5 days in the vehicle group, while STC-15 monotherapy outperformed Venetoclax (median survival 68 days vs 58 days, respectively). The survival results were supported by reduced numbers of circulating human CD45+ cells and lower spleen weight when compared therapy and control groups.

In conclusion, we demonstrated that METTL3 inhibition results in anti-tumour effects across different AML models. Moreover, we demonstrated a synergistic effect between the novel METTL3 inhibitor STC-15 and Venetoclax, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. These studies provide evidence for the utility of METTL3 inhibitors as a new therapeutic agent to treat AML. Currently, STC-15 is in a phase I, First-in-Human multiple ascending dose study (NCT05584111).

AACR AML, Jan 2023