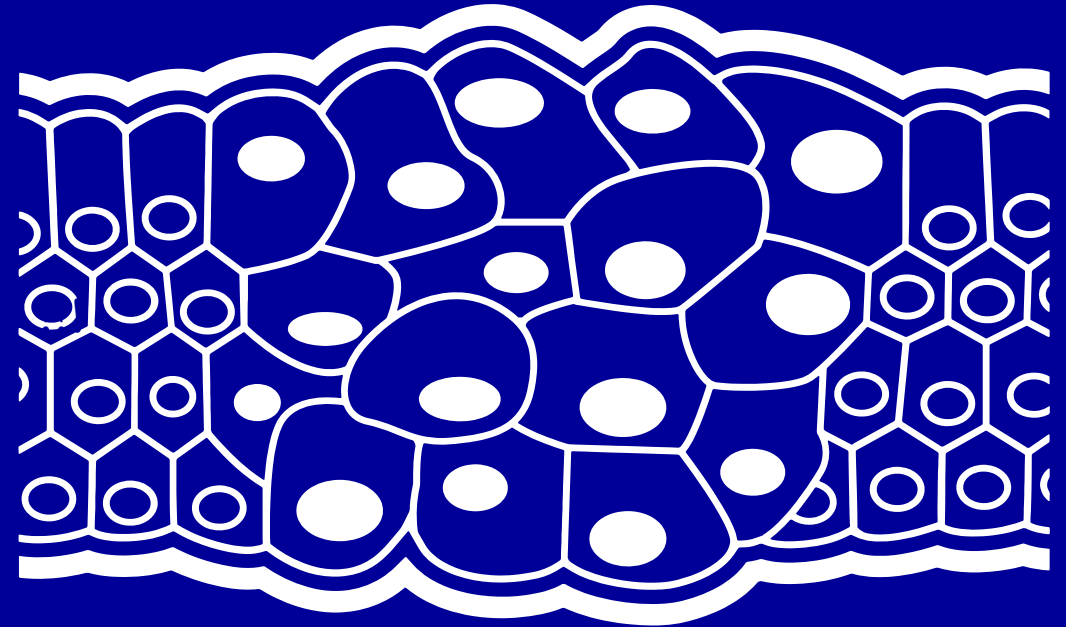
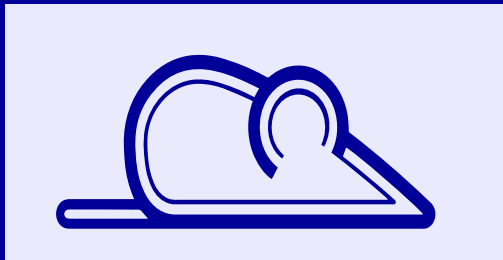


# *AACR 2024*

## *Oncology and Immuno-oncology*

*In vivo / ex vivo Expertise & Capabilities*





# Agenda

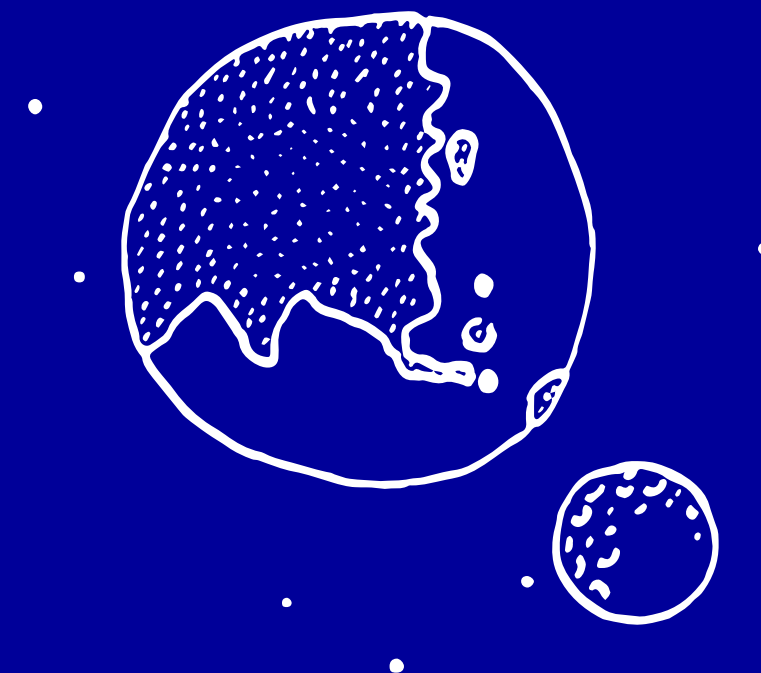
## 1. Oncology and Immuno-oncology *in vivo*

## 2. Oncology models

- *In vivo target validation*
- *PD / Efficacy*
- *Tailored model*

## 3. Immuno-oncology models

- *Syngeneic mouse tumour models*
- *humanised mouse tumour models*
- *Mouse models for cancer vaccines*





# Agenda

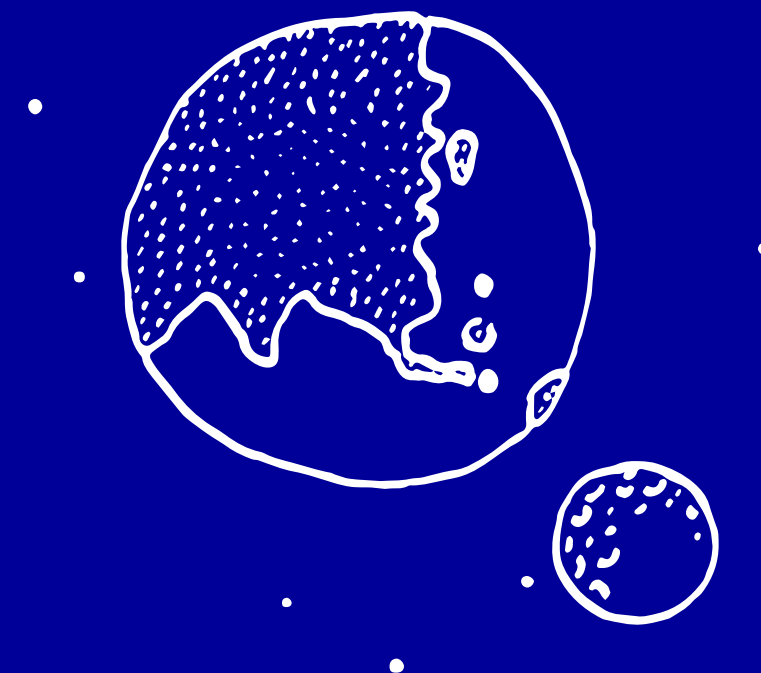
## 1. Oncology and Immuno-oncology *in vivo*

## 2. Oncology models

- *In vivo target validation*
- *PD / Efficacy*
- *Tailored model*

## 3. Immuno-oncology models

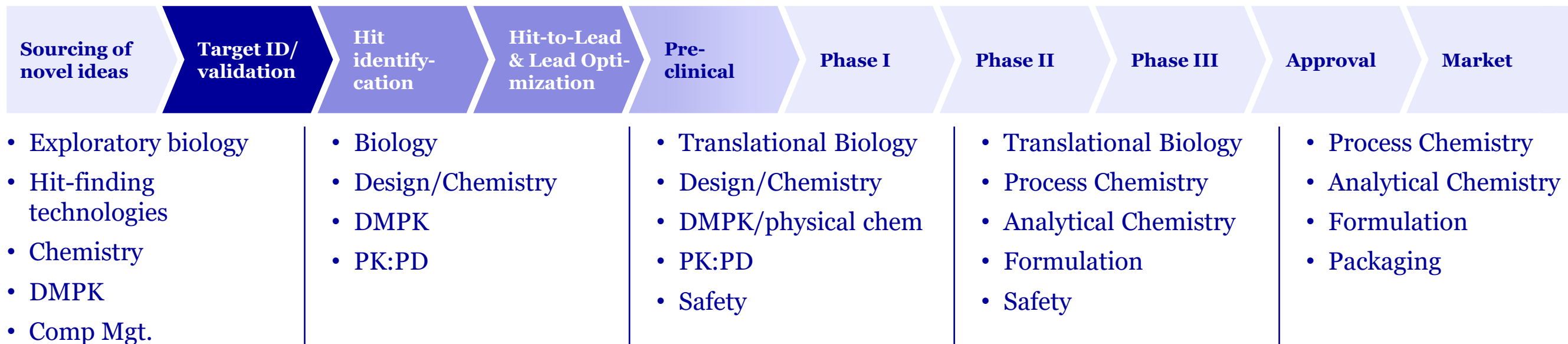
- *Syngeneic mouse tumour models*
- *humanised mouse tumour models*
- *Mouse models for cancer vaccines*





# Evotec offers integrated solutions up to IND and manufacturing

Integration benefits applied all through the value chain



- Interdisciplinary integration and seamless team working and evolution
- Innovation, high science, technology and problem-solving
- Knowledge and experience of successful practitioners
- Under “ONE Evotec” roof offering, unique breadth, capacity, knowhow, track record
- Operational excellence to drive rapid progress and successful outcomes



# State-of-the-art animal facility and *in vivo* expertise in Toulouse

*In vivo* team of ~90 staff

- **Drug discovery and research services**
  - **PK studies** supported by **formulation** assay/screening
  - **PK/PD studies** in accordance with *in vitro* assays and identification of PD biomarkers
  - **Efficacy studies**
  - **Early discovery toxicology** (non GLP): type/severity of injury, MTD, NOAEL, dose-exposure relationship, therapeutic index ...
  - **Biomarker discovery** and hypothesis testing/validation
- **Disease area expertise**
  - **Oncology and immuno-oncology**
  - **Immunology and inflammation**
  - **BSL3 infectious disease** (tuberculosis, SARS-Cov-2 ...)
- **AAALAC** accredited animal facility
- **Area:** >4,000 m<sup>2</sup> animal facility with dedicated procedure & surgery rooms, drug preparation rooms, cell culture room
- **Animal capacity:** 46,440 mice, 5,400 rats, 1,080 gerbils and hamster, 540 guinea pigs and 540 rabbits
- **3 in-house veterinarians**



## Over 30 scientists dedicated to Oncology including 13 scientists specialized in Immuno-Oncology

- *In vivo/ex vivo* support from **early target validation to candidate selection**
- **Activity fully integrated within drug discovery programs**

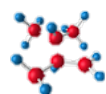


# Build a tailored *in vivo* approach for the project

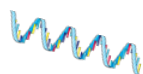
Models adapted to the cancer treatment modality

## Cancer Therapy Modalities

Small molecules



Oligonucleotides  
(ASO, siRNA ...)



Vaccines



Antibodies<sup>1</sup>, Ab-conjugated,  
Bi-specific T-cell Engagers  
(BiTEs)



Adoptive cell therapies:  
TIL, chimeric antigen receptor  
(CAR) or engineered TCR



Cytokines therapies



Oncolytic viruses



## Our *in vivo* models

### Syngeneic models

- s.c. or orthotopic in immunocompetent mice
- **full murine immunity** and comprehensive stroma

### Xenografts cell line derived models

- s.c. or orthotopic in immunodeficient mice
- **human cancers** with the relevance of an *in vivo* host

### Xenografts in humanised models

- Immunocompromised mice with a human immune system
- immunotherapy efficacy and pharmacodynamics in a **human immune-tumour context**

### Specific models

- Chemically-induced tumour models
- Chemo-induced alopecia
- Vaccine models

- **General evaluation and clinical pathology:** clinical signs, body weight, food consumption, hematology (RBC and WBC counts)
- **Tumour growth:** digital caliper system, *in vivo* imaging (bioluminescence)

- **Target engagement – PD/Biomarkers** modulation in relation to **compound exposure or biodistribution**
- **Survival / Relapse efficacy models:** Therapeutic index-Driver of efficacy



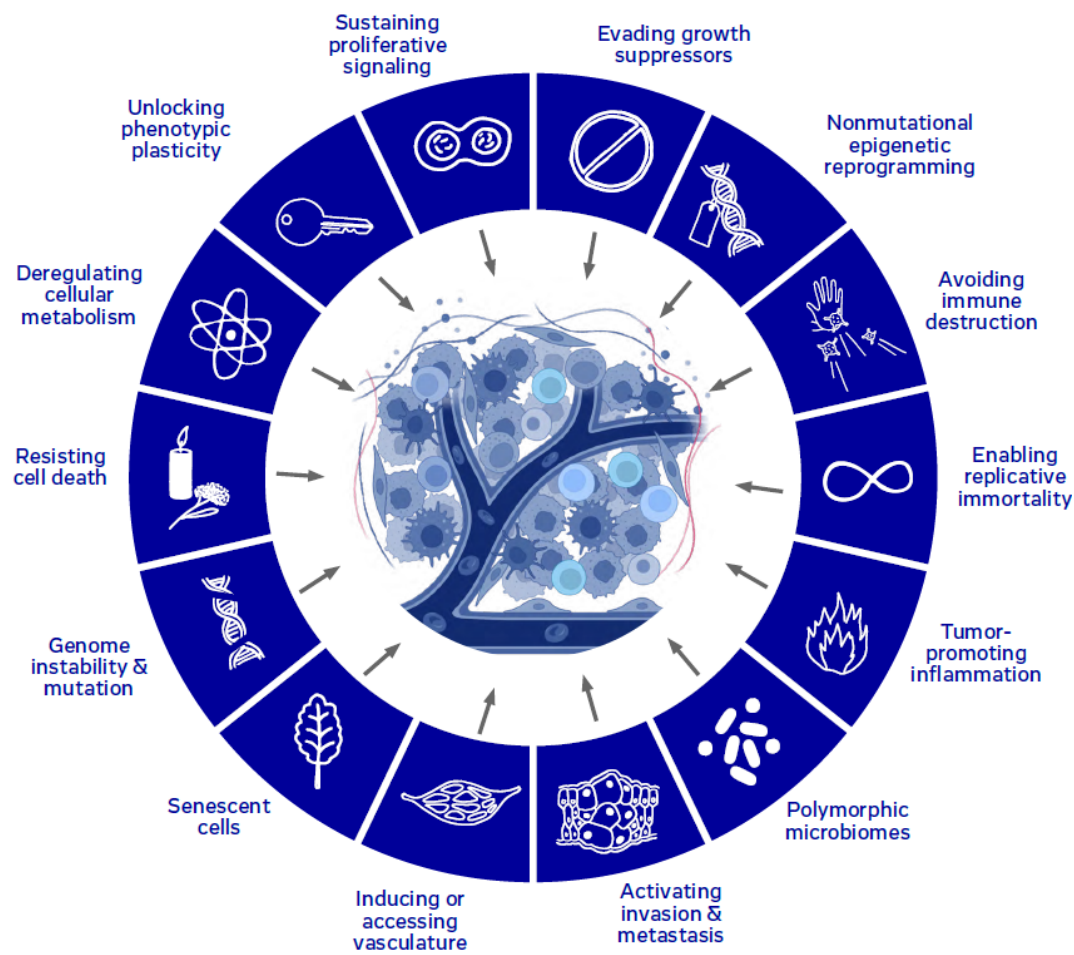




# A broad range of *ex vivo* assays/readouts

To further characterize the response *in vivo*

## Therapeutic targeting of cancer hallmarks



## Our key readouts

- **Tumour micro-environment:** flow cytometry, IHC
- **Tumour angio/lymphogenesis:** anti-CD31/anti-LYVE IHC
- **Metastasis on xenograft models:** Alu ISH, human CK19 IHC
- **Cancer metabolism:** leading mass spectrometry-based proteomics, metabolomics and lipidomics
- **Gene signature and signal transduction:** qRT-PCR, RNA-Seq and single cell RNA-Seq transcriptomics supported by proprietary bioinformatics tools for data mining and pathways analysis
- **Functional assays with immune cells:** proliferation assay, ELISpot, flow cytometry
- **Cytokines release:** MSD & HTRF, ELISA
- **Analysis of proteins and phosphoproteins:** MSD & HTRF, western blot, ELISA, enzyme activity assay
- **Compound blood exposure:** bioanalysis; mass spectrometry, ELISA
- **Custom assay development**



# Rely on cutting-edge technologies to fully exploit *in vivo* studies

## Innovative technical platforms

### *In vivo* and live-cells imaging systems



Bioluminescence  
Fluorescence  
3D tomography  
(IVIS Spectrum)



X-ray imager  
(Faxitron MX20)



Laser Doppler  
(MoorLDI2)



Live-Cell Analysis  
Instrument (Incucyte S3)

### Flow cytometry and haematology



Flow cytometry analyzer up 30 parameters / 5 lasers  
(BD Canto II, BD Fortessa X20, Biorad ZE5 and BD Symphony)



Cell separator  
(autoMACS Pro)

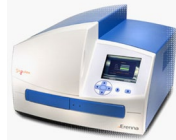


Cell sorter  
(FACSria Fusion)

### Gene/mRNA/protein analysis



Viia7, QuantStudio



Singulex



MSD&HTRF  
technology ELISA



Automated Western  
Device (Jess)

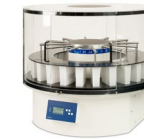
### Histology: tissue sample preparation, classical staining, IHC/ISH/TMA, scan and digital analysis



Dehydration



Paraffin  
embedding



SLEE  
autostainer



Leica  
BondRX



Ventana auto-  
stainers Ultra/XT



Opera



Operetta

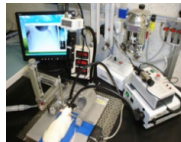
### Mass spectrometry



Bio-analysis



Proteomics



Metabolomics/  
Microdialysis

### Analyzer system



ELISpot  
reader



Haematology analyzer  
(Procyte Dx)

### Tissue slicing



Vibratome



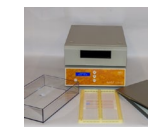
Microtome



Cryo-Microtome



Cryostat



ACD-Bio ISH system



Zeiss Axioscan



OperaPhenix



Manual  
microscopes

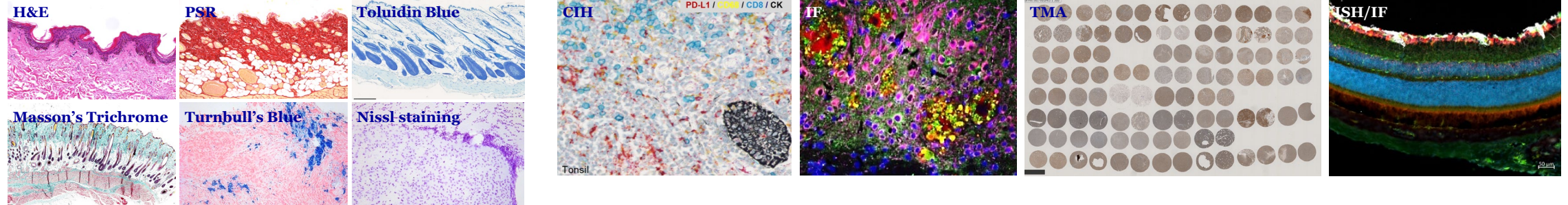




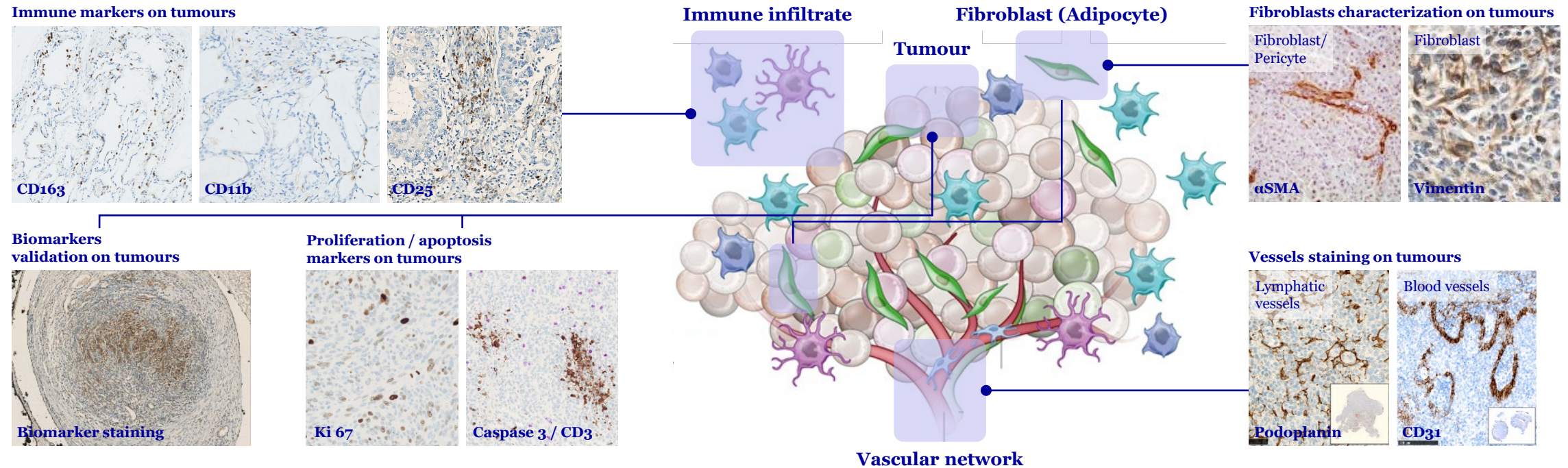
# Highly efficient platform for histological processing and analysis

Different workflows tailored to the partner needs

## Evotec's Histological capabilities



## Analysis of the Tumour Micro-Environment (IHC): from biomarkers validation to MoA exploration



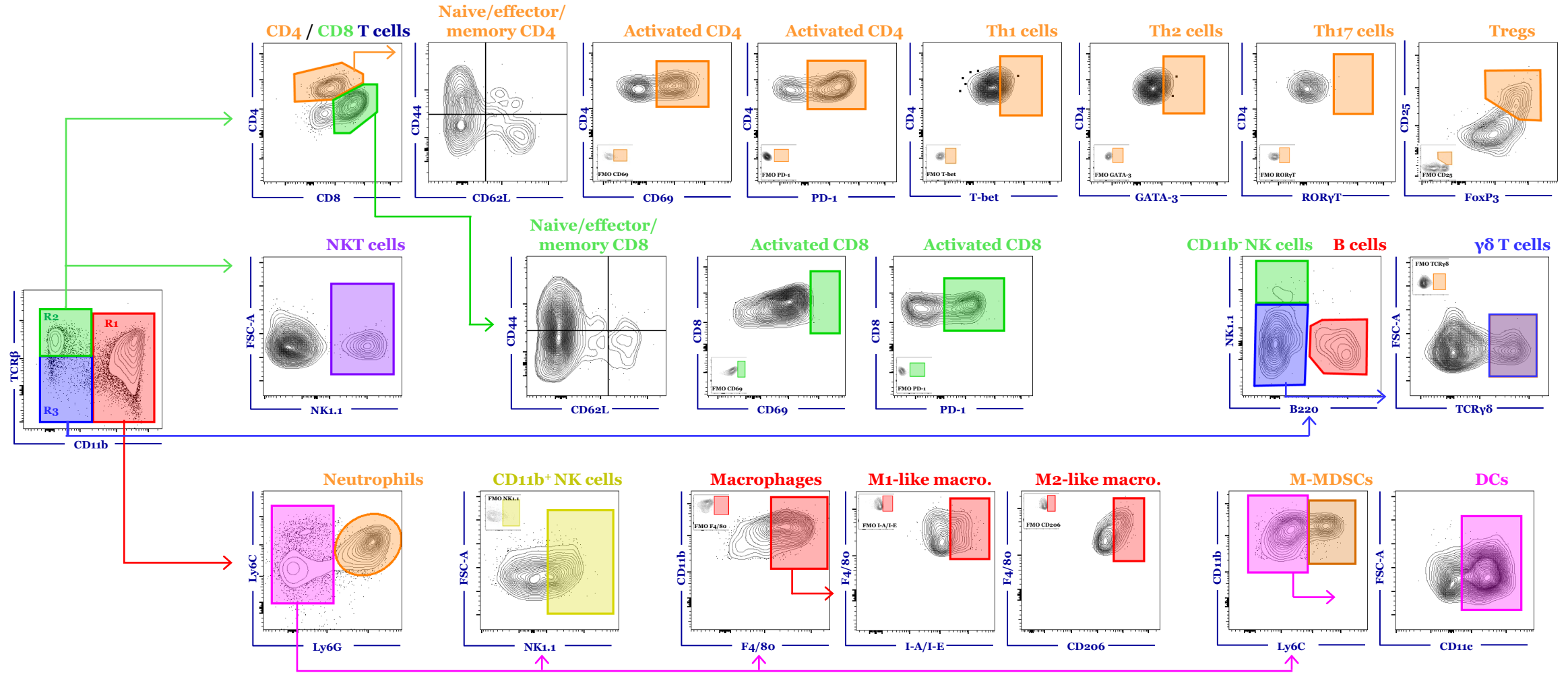


# Deep expertise in multiparametric flow cytometry

Off-the-shelf or custom flow cytometry panels

**Immune response profiling:**  
from simple to complex phenotypic and functional analysis

26-parameters panel allowing identification of multiple immune cell types in tumour, lymph node, spleen or blood<sup>1</sup>







# ***In vivo* imaging to follow therapeutic effect**

Animal models supported by *in vivo* imaging

## **Evotec's *in vivo* imaging capabilities**

- Non invasive imaging of internal tumour growth (orthotopic tumour models), metastasis spreading and microbial invasion
- Tracking of fluorescence imaging probes
- Monitoring of tissue-vascularisation: blood flow measurement and vascular network visualisation

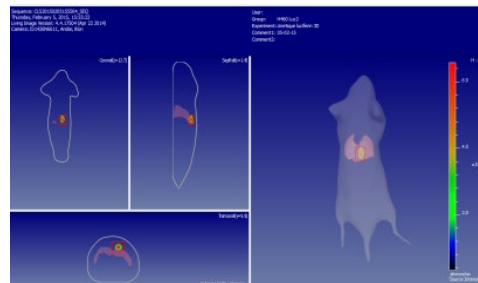
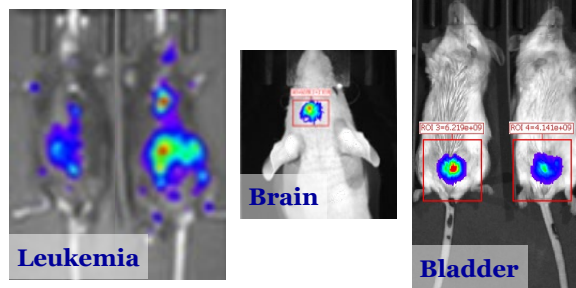
### **Optical *in vivo* imaging:**

- Bioluminescence
- Fluorescence



IVIS Spectrum

### **Orthotopic tumours imaging**



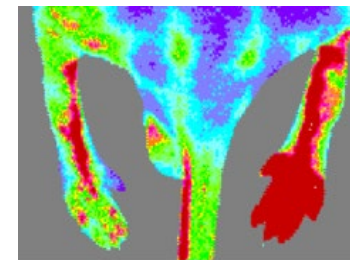
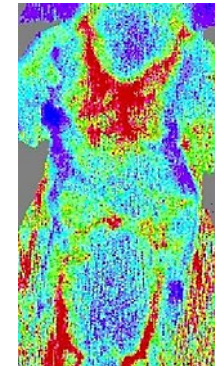
### **Laser Doppler monitoring:**

High spatial resolution & depth penetration in tissues (IR 830 nm)



MoorLDI2

### **Blood flow imaging**



### **X-Ray imaging:**

Radiography of bone tissue, some soft tissues & vascular network

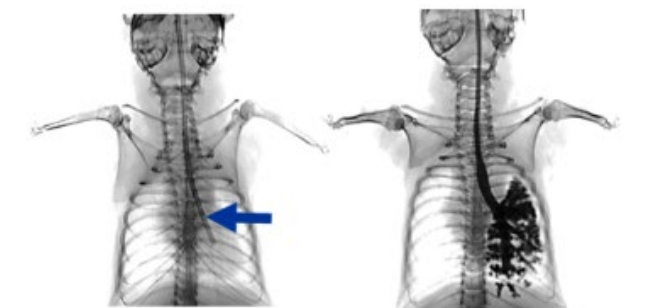


Faxitron MX20

### **Vascular network imaging**



### **Intrabroncheal instillation imaging**





# Agenda

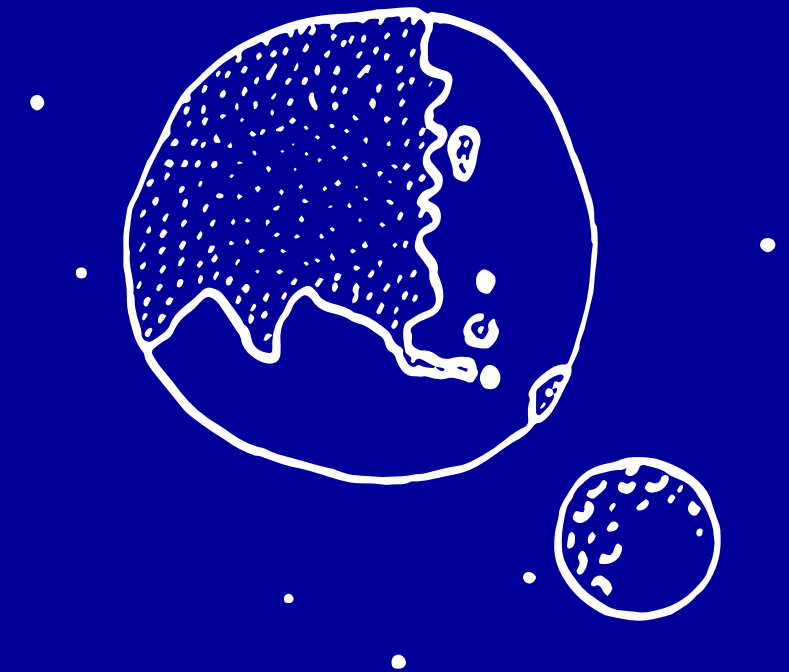
## 1. Oncology and Immuno-oncology *in vivo*

## 2. Oncology models

- *In vivo target validation*
- *PD / Efficacy*
- *Tailored model*

## 3. Immuno-oncology models

- *Syngeneic mouse tumour models*
- *humanised mouse tumour models*
- *Mouse models for cancer vaccines*





# Extensive expertise in preclinical tumour models

Subcutaneous & orthotopic models in immuno-deficient /competent mice

- **Model set up based on project need**
  - Choice of the cancer cell type: based on therapeutic indication, molecular profile, *in vitro* work, ...
  - In immunocompetent, immunocompromised or humanised mice
- **Orthotopic implantation can be considered to foster the original location**
  - Skills in breast, lung, liver, bladder, ovary, leukemic cells implantation, ...
  - Luciferase-engineered cells for time-course follow up of tumour growth by bioluminescence
- **PDX models outsourced on demand (Master agreements with a number of providers)**
  - Model identification based on target indication
  - Study design: dose and schedule, sampling time points
  - Study follow up with the CRO
  - *Ex vivo*, PK analysis of the samples

## Examples of tumour indications for which models have been set up

Tissue	Site of inoculation	Species
Bladder	s.c. / Intravesical instillation	Mouse / Human
Brain	s.c.	Human
Breast	Mammary fat pad	Mouse / Human
Colon	s.c.	Mouse / Human
Fibrosarcoma	s.c.	Mouse
Kidney	s.c.	Human
Leukemia	Intravenous	Mouse
Lung	s.c. / Transpleural / Intratracheal / Intracranial	Mouse / Human
Lymphoma	s.c.	Mouse / Human
Ovary	s.c. / i.p. for peritoneal carcinomatosis	Mouse / Human
Pancreas	s.c.	Human
Skin	s.c. / Intradermal	Mouse / Human



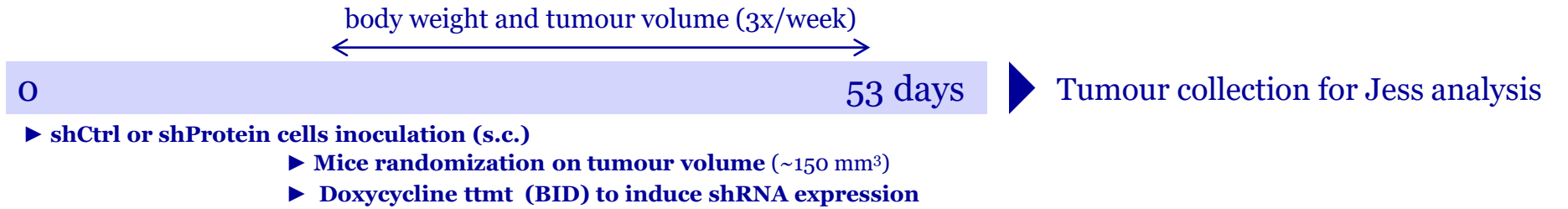
# *In vivo* target validation study in tumour xenograft model

Case study: inducible shRNA KD to validate a protein as a possible therapeutic target

## Study design

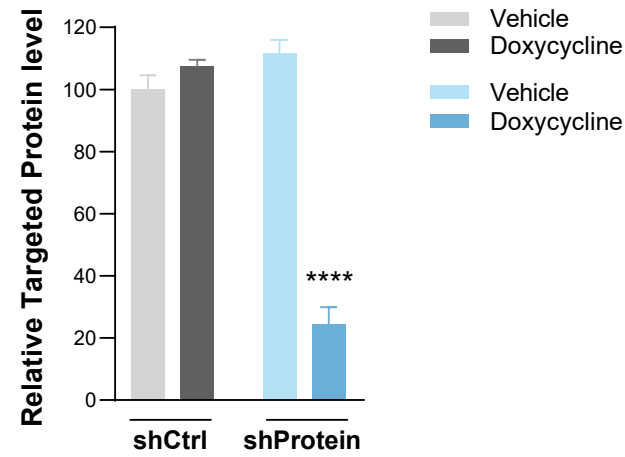


NSG mice  
(immunodeficient)

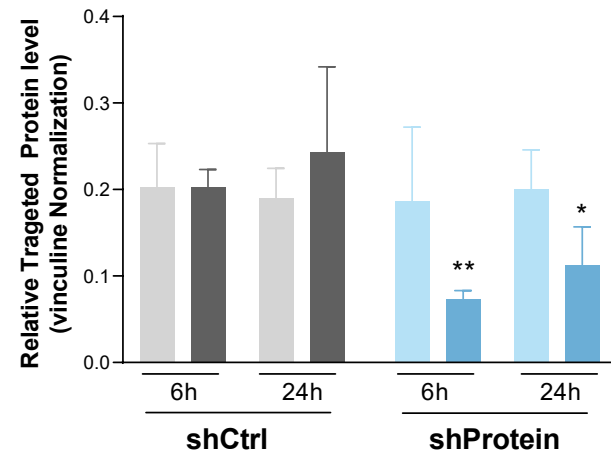


## shRNA induction decreases Targeted Protein level in the tumour *in vitro* and *in vivo*

### *In vitro* data

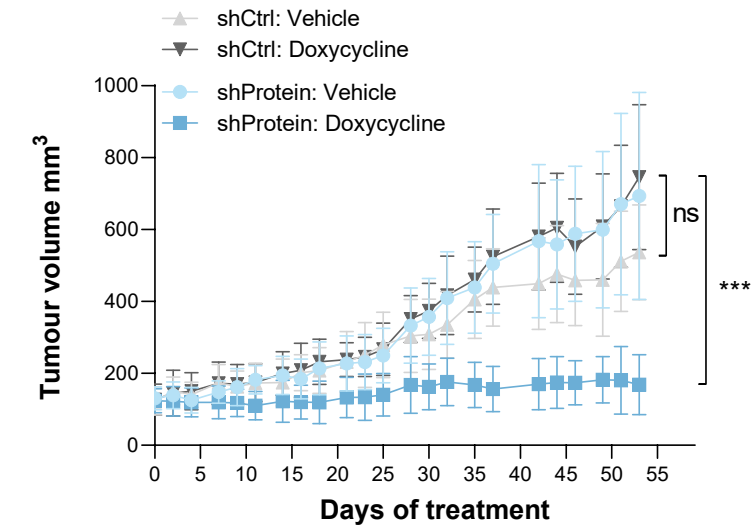


### *In vivo* data (tumour)



## Targeted Protein KD translates to tumour growth inhibition and validates the protein as a possible therapeutic target

### Tumour growth





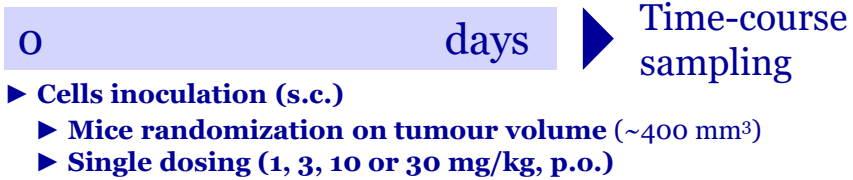


# PD data to design dosing schedule in efficacy study

Case study: PD response in tumours predicts the dosing regimen in efficacy study

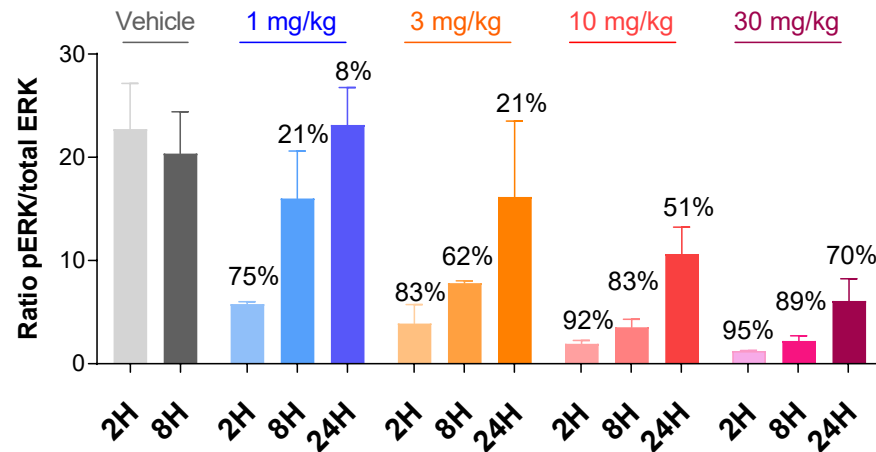
## Pharmacodynamic study

### Study design



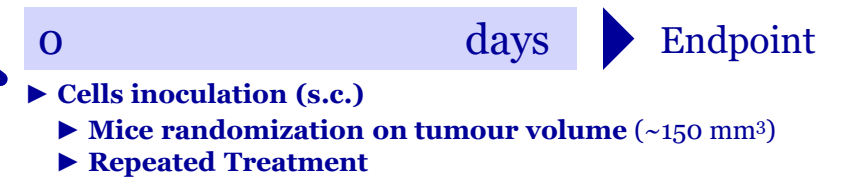
Sustained >50% pErk inhibition until 24h at 30 mg/kg

pERK modulation after single p.o. dosing



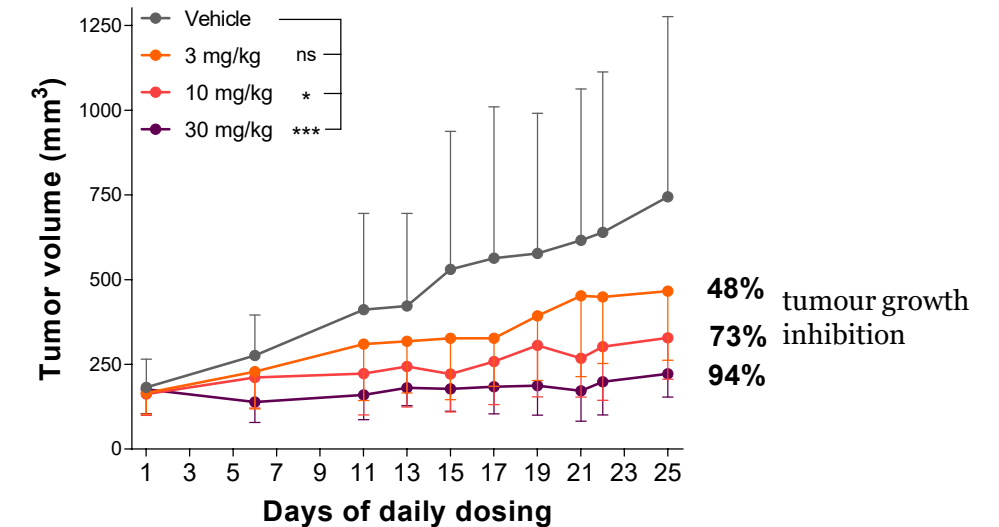
## Efficacy study

### Study design



PD data were used to define the dose and schedule in the efficacy study

Tumour stasis was observed after daily dosing at 30 mg/kg





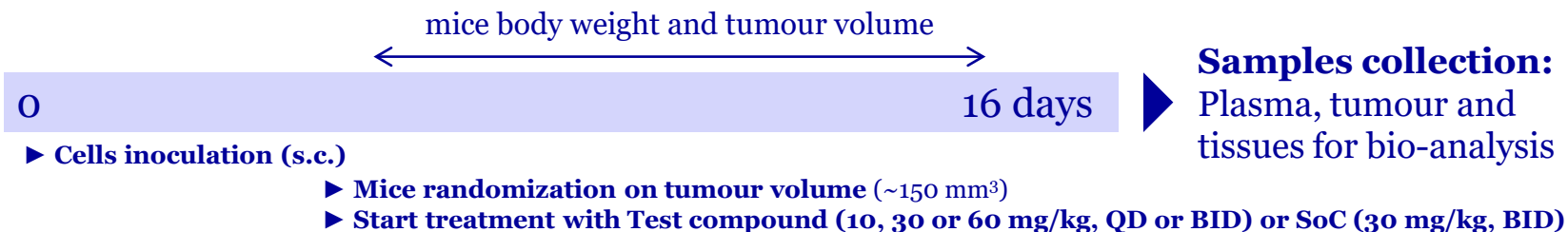
# Efficacy and PK/PD in tumour xenograft model

Case study: dose response of an inhibitor (targeted therapy small molecule)

## Study design

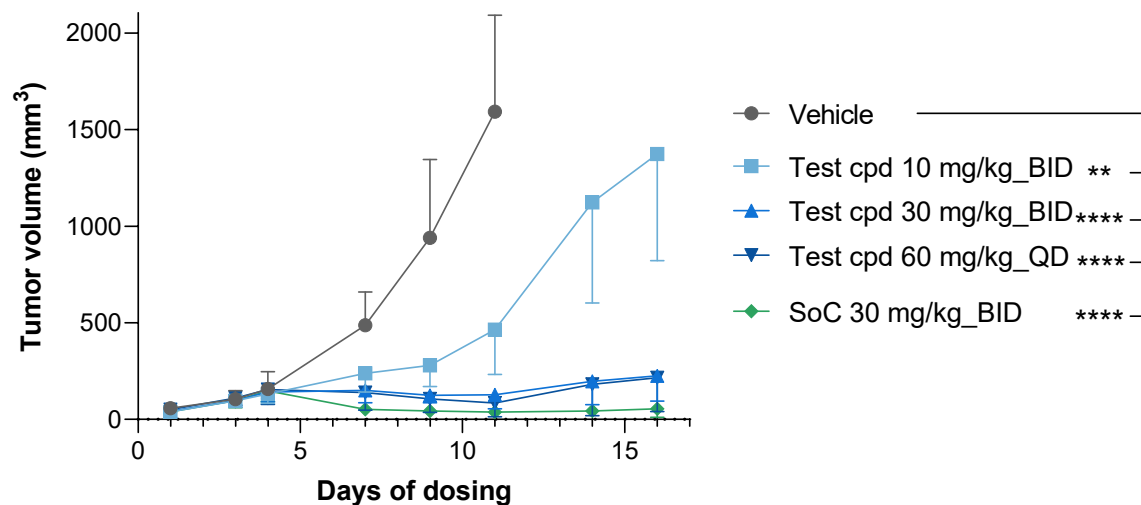


NSG mice

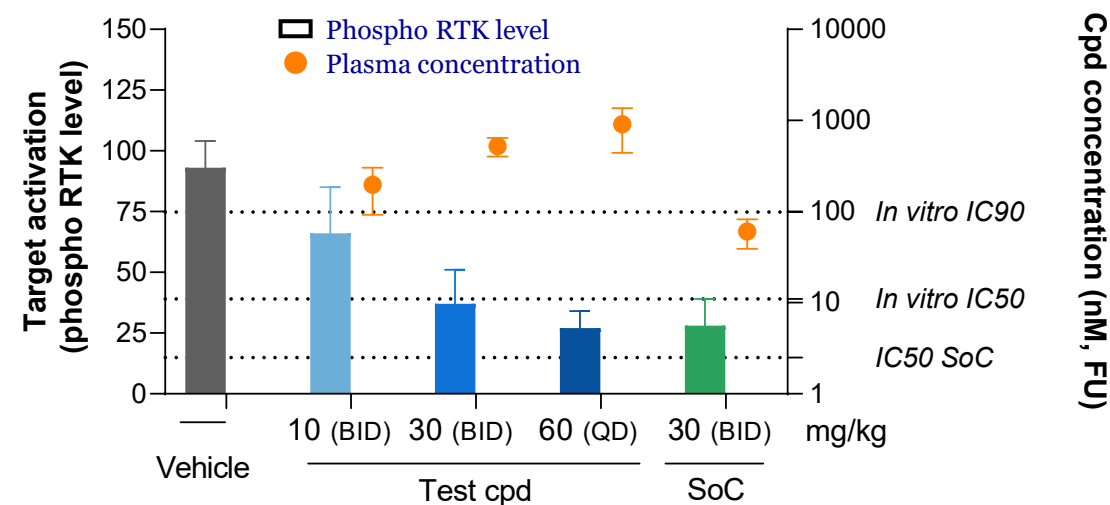


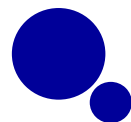
## Correlation between tumour growth inhibition, target engagement in the tumour and plasma cpd concentrations

### Tumour growth



### Target engagement in tumours (2h post last-dosing)





# Tailored models when needed for the project

Case study: cells expressing a double mutant oncogenic protein fusion of interest

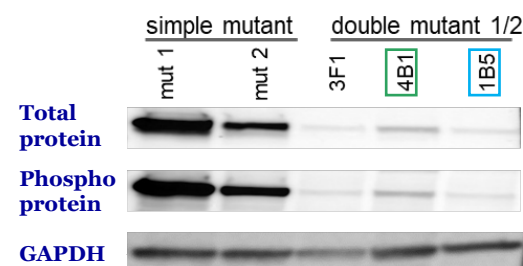
Cell transduction, cloning and characterization

*In vitro* 2D and 3D functional assays for validation with SoC

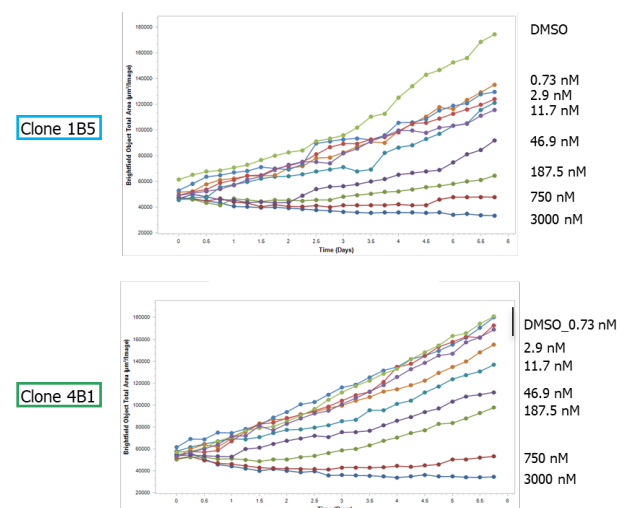
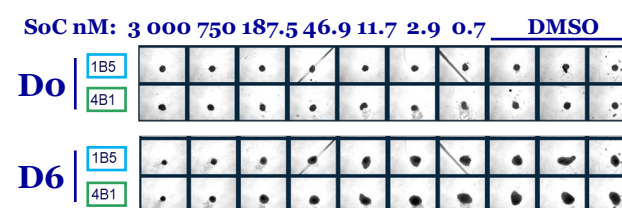
*In vivo* mouse model set up

*In vivo* PK/PD and Efficacy studies

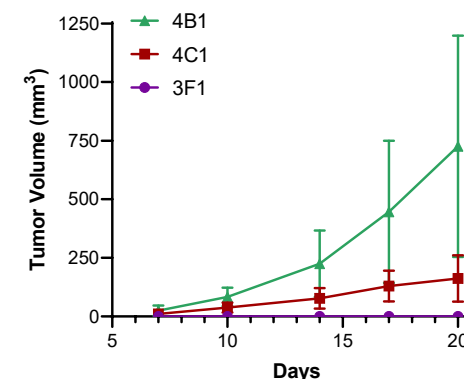
## Protein fusion expression levels: Tumour spheroid growth:



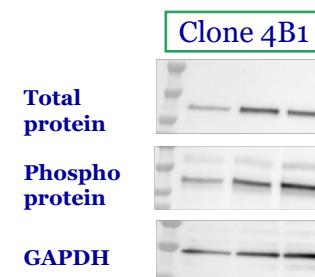
Preselection of clones



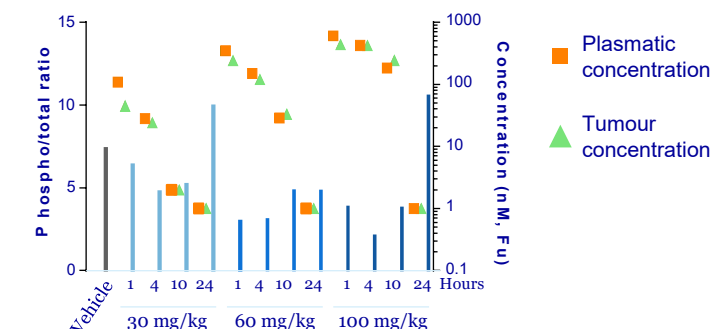
## Tumour growth of preselected clones:



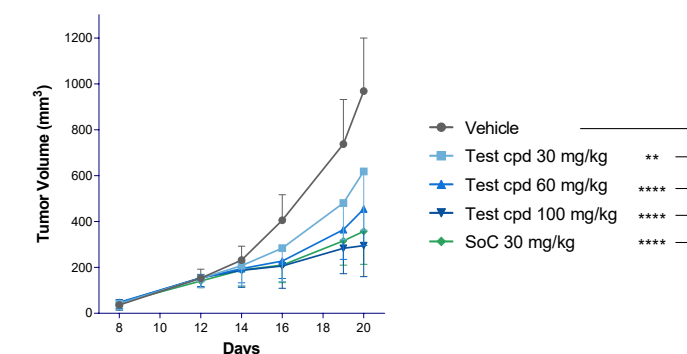
## Tumour expression level:



## PK/PD study (on 4B1 selected clone):



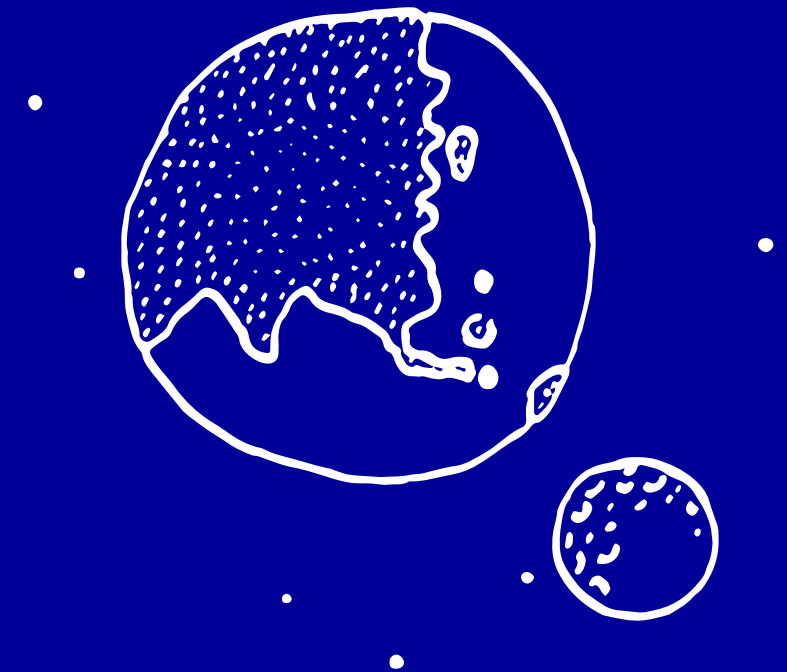
## Efficacy study (on 4B1 selected clone):

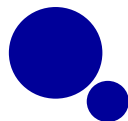




# Agenda

1. Oncology and Immuno-oncology *in vivo*
2. Oncology models
  - *In vivo target validation*
  - *PD / Efficacy*
  - *Tailored model*
3. Immuno-oncology models
  - *Syngeneic mouse tumour models*
  - *humanised mouse tumour models*
  - *Mouse models for cancer vaccines*





# Evotec expertise in syngeneic mouse models for IO

Custom-tailored cell line tumour models can be developed on request

Indication	Cell line	Mouse strain	Inoculation site	Immune CheckPoint Therapy (ICT) response based on			
				αPD-1	αPD-L1	αCTLA-4	αPD-1+αCTLA-4
Colorectal	CT26	BALB/c	Ectopic (s.c.)	αPD-1	–	αCTLA-4	αPD-1+αCTLA-4
	MC38	C57Bl6	Ectopic (s.c.)	αPD-1	αPD-L1	αCTLA-4	αPD-1+αCTLA-4
Bladder	MB49	C57Bl6	Ectopic (s.c.) Orthotopic (intravesical)	αPD-1	–	αCTLA-4	–
Breast	4T1	BALB/c	Orthotopic (mammary f.p.)	αPD-1	–	αCTLA-4	–
	EMT6	BALB/c	Orthotopic (mammary f.p.)	–	–	–	–
Fibrosarcoma	MCA205	C57Bl6	Ectopic (s.c.)	αPD-1	αPD-L1	–	–
Lymphoma	EG7-OVA	C57Bl6	Ectopic (s.c.)	–	αPD-L1	–	–
Pulmonary	LLC1/LL2	C57Bl6	Ectopic (s.c.)	–	–	–	–
Melanoma	B16	C57Bl6	Ectopic (s.c.)	–	–	–	–
Renal cell carcinoma	Renca	BALB/c	Ectopic (s.c.)	–	–	–	–
Ovarian peritoneal carcinomatosis	ID8	C57Bl6	Orthotopic (i.p.)	–	–	–	–

**T/C ratio** ■ high ■ intermediate ■ non responder

## Cell Quality Control (performed before each inoculation)

- Test for mycoplasma contamination (PCR)
- Cell count and size distribution
- Control doubling time
- Essential surface markers expression: MHC-I and PD-L1 (flow cytometry)

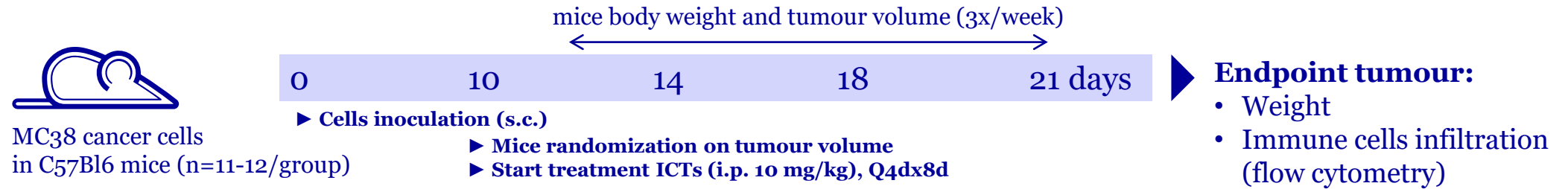




# Combining ICTs enhances anti-tumour response

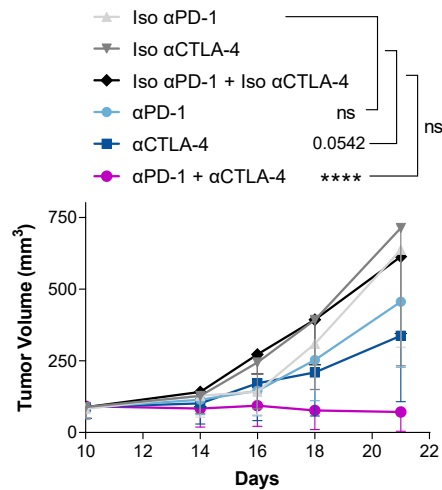
Case study: efficacy and Immune response in MC38 colon carcinoma mouse model

## Study design



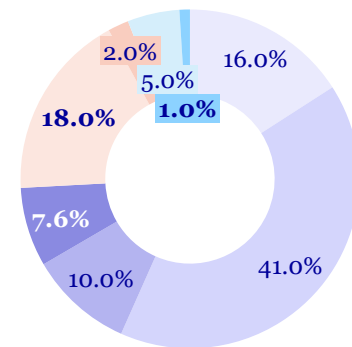
## MC38 is sensitive to ICT treatment. Response is associated with CD8+ T-cells infiltration and M1 polarization

### Tumour growth (mean $\pm$ SD)

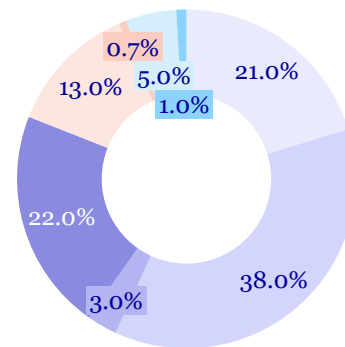


### Evaluation of immune cell infiltrates within the tumour (flow cytometry)

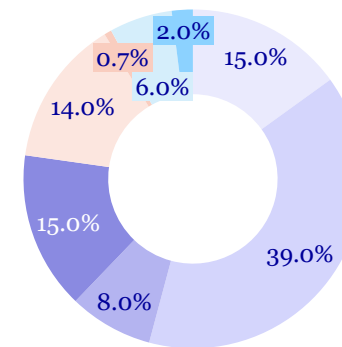
#### Isotype control



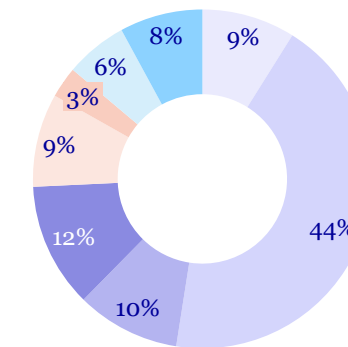
#### $\alpha$ PD-L1



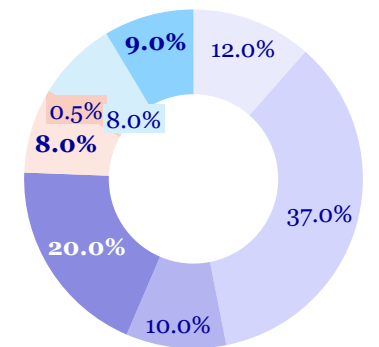
#### $\alpha$ PD-1



#### $\alpha$ CTLA-4



#### $\alpha$ CTLA-4 + $\alpha$ PD-1



DC: Dendritic Cells, Monocytes, MDSC/Neutrophils, M1 macrophages, M2 macrophages, B-cells, CD4 T-cells, CD8 T-cells



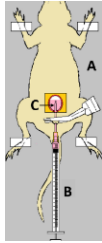


# Evaluating immunotherapy in orthotopic model

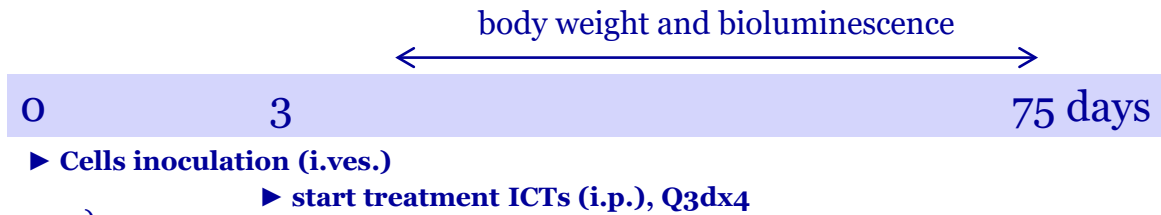
Case study: ICTs efficacy in the orthotopic MB49 bladder cancer model

## Study design

Intravesical instillation  
(i.ves.) of tumour cells:  
a non-invasive procedure



MB49-Luc cancer cells  
in C57Bl6/J mice (n=10/group)



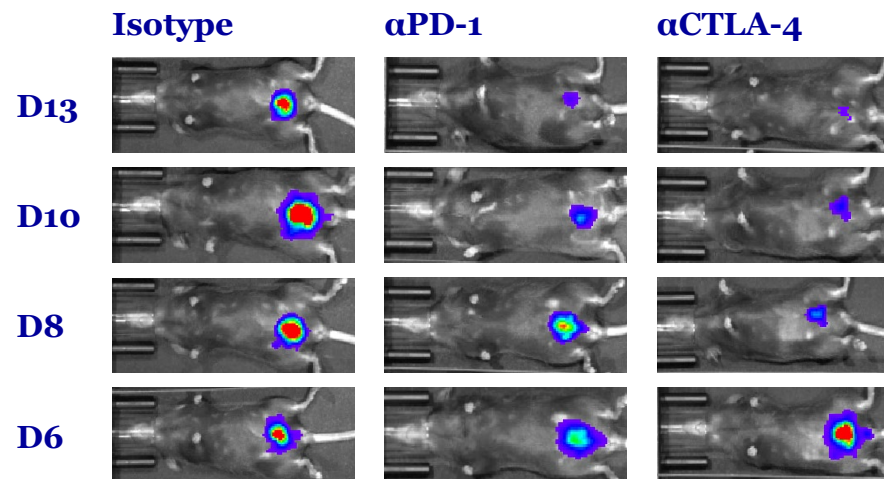
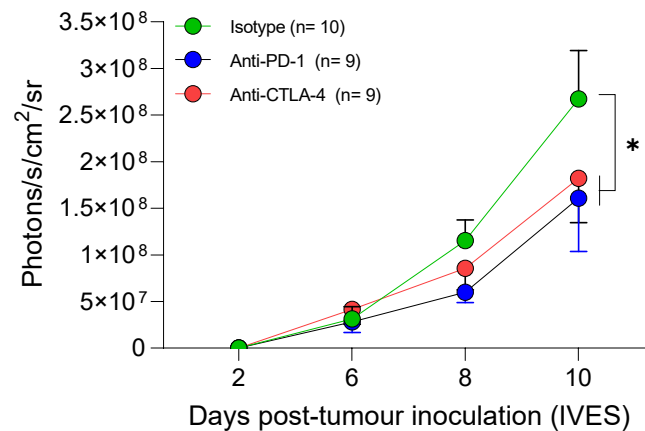
## Endpoint tumour:

- Weight
- Immune cells infiltration (flow cytometry)

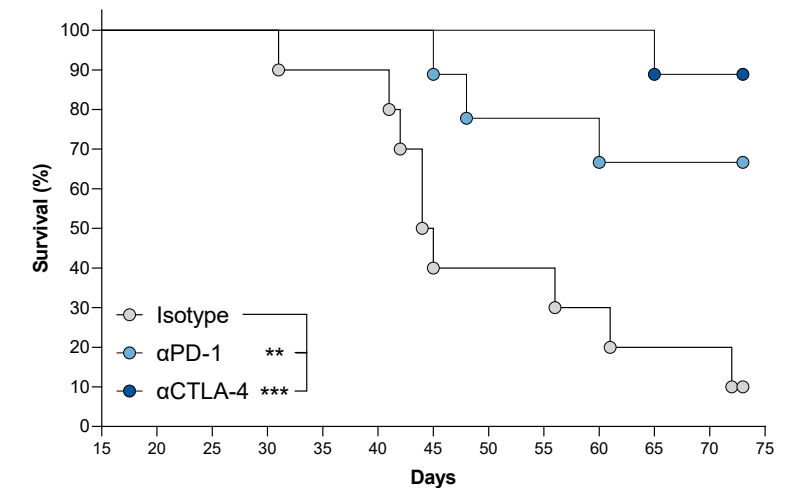
**Orthotopic tumour models provide a clinically relevant, organ-specific TME.**

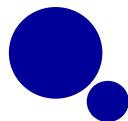
**BLI allows non-invasive monitoring of tumour growth and real time tracking of tumour response**

Tumour growth monitoring by bioluminescence(BLI) (mean  $\pm$  SD and representative images<sup>1</sup>)



## Survival

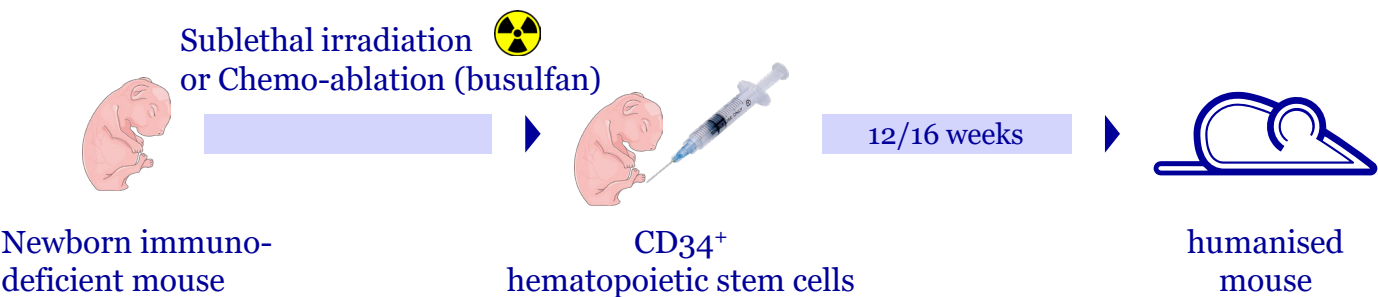




# Mice humanised for the immune system (Humice)

## Mouse generation and providers

### hCD34<sup>+</sup> humanised mice model

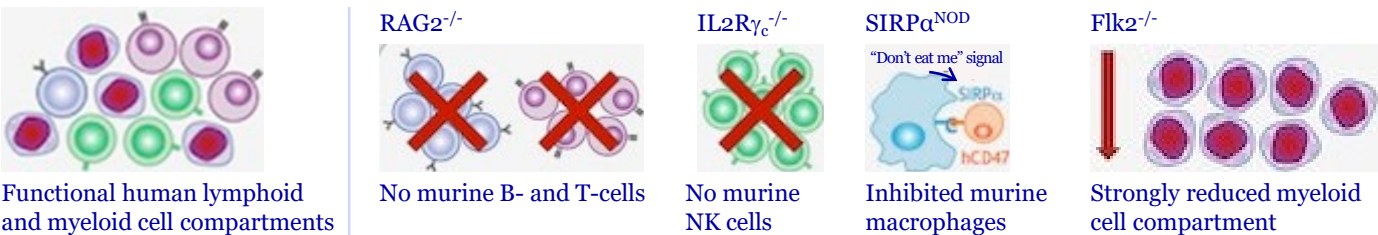


hCD34 humanised mice	Providers	Genetic Backgrounds
BRGSF-his	GenOway	BALB/c
huNOG	Taconic	NOD
Hu-NCG	Transcure	NOD
huNXG	Janvier Labs	NOD
Hu-NSG	The Jackson Laboratory	NOD

### BRGSF-His

- GenOway

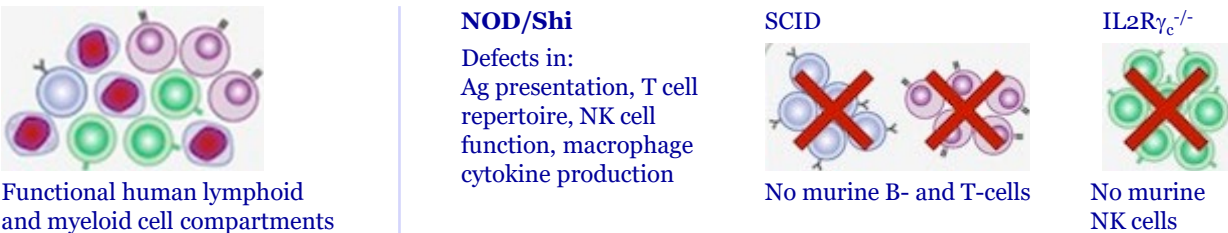
#### BALB/c background: resistant to radiation



### NOD

- Taconic
- Janvier Labs
- Jackson Lab.
- Transcure (busulfan)

#### NOD background



### Information given by the provider

- Donor ID
- Mouse ID
- Reconstitution in human leukocytes
- Reconstitution in human B-cells
- Reconstitution in human T-cells & subpopulations
- Week of engraftment

*Parameters to be taken into consideration when designing the study*



# Evaluate PD and efficacy in a human immune-tumour context

BRGSF-His mice model

**Human immune cells can be activated *in vivo***

$\alpha$ CD3 PD model of *in vivo* T-cells activation in humanised mice (n=3/time point)



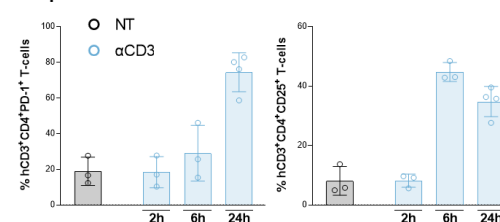
BRGSF-his mice (F, 24-week-old)

$\alpha$ CD3 (1  $\mu$ g, i.p.)

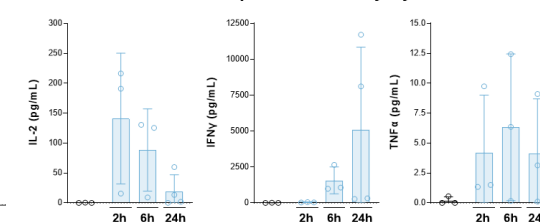
0 +2 +6 +24 hours

- Spleen T-cells activation (FACS)
- Cytokines blood level (MSD)

Expression of activation markers on human CD4 T-cells

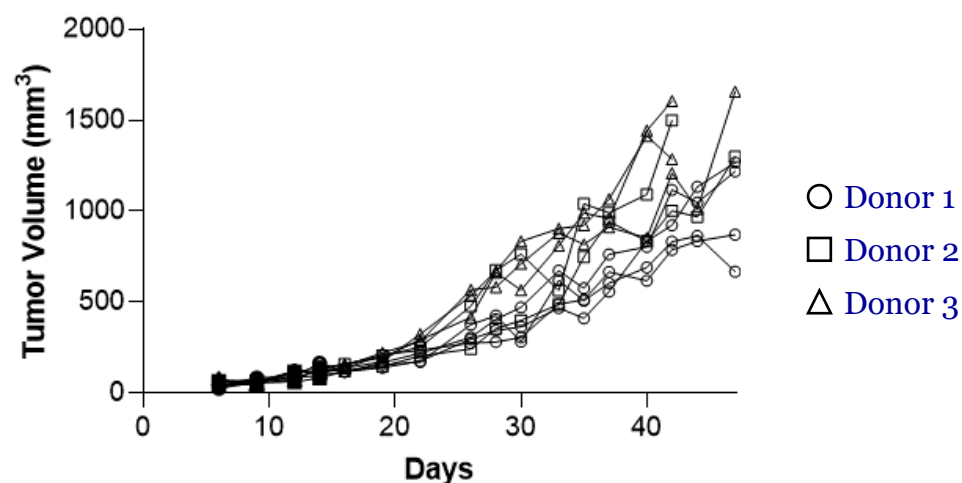


Blood levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines



## Full tumour take and homogeneous tumour growth

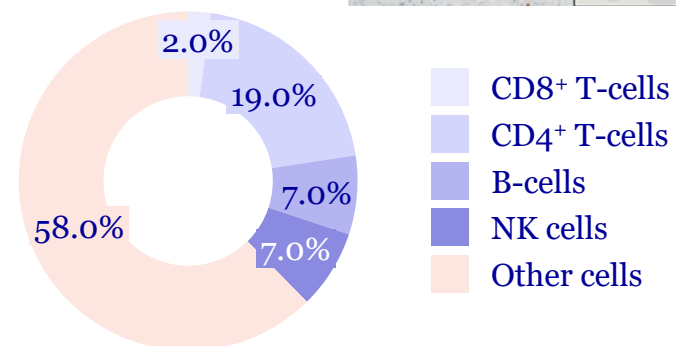
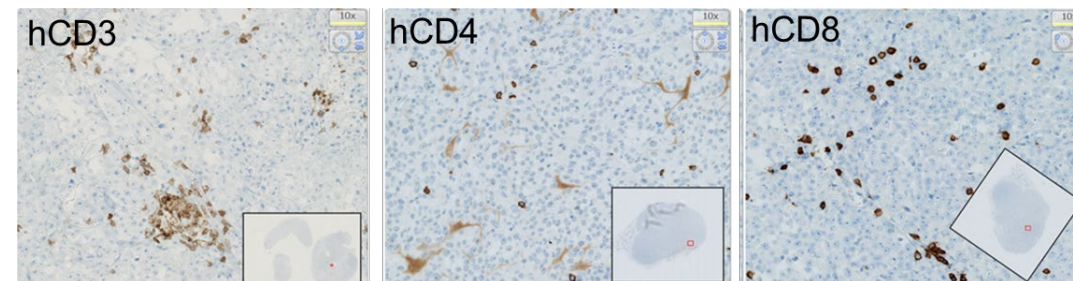
MDA-MB-231 TNBC model



Similar results were obtained with A375 melanoma cells

## Human immune cells infiltrate human tumours (IHC and FACS)

A375 melanoma model

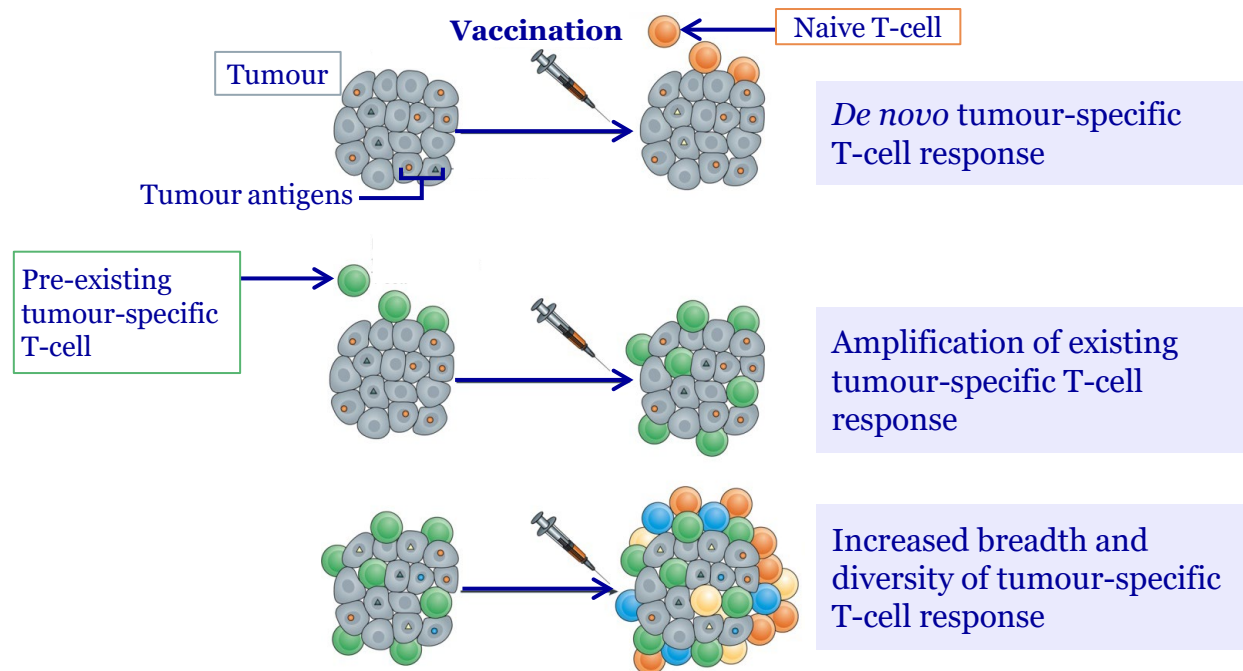




# Therapeutic cancer vaccines

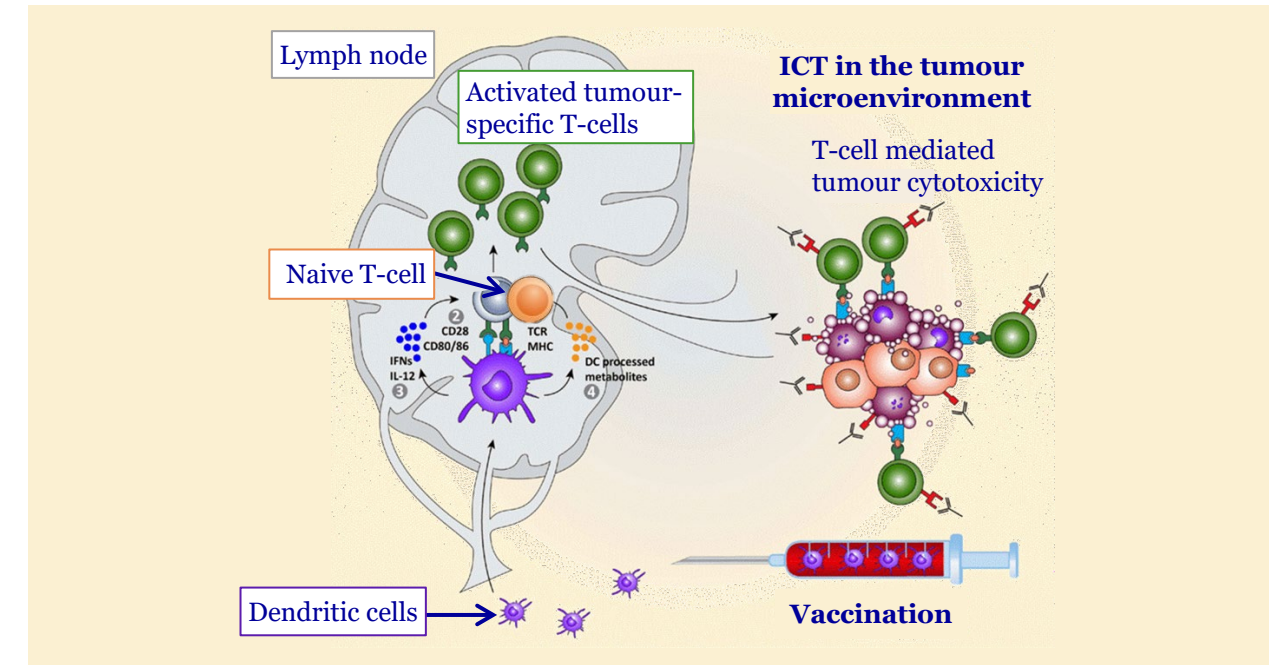
Vaccine immunogenicity: a critical step for antitumour response

## A wide range of vaccination approaches to generate and/or amplify antitumour immunity



## Cancer vaccines as effective partners in combination with ICT<sup>1</sup>

(potential to generate new tumour antigen-specific T-cell responses and amplify existing responses)



*Regardless of the approach, efficacy of cancer vaccines relies on induction of an immune response to vaccination*

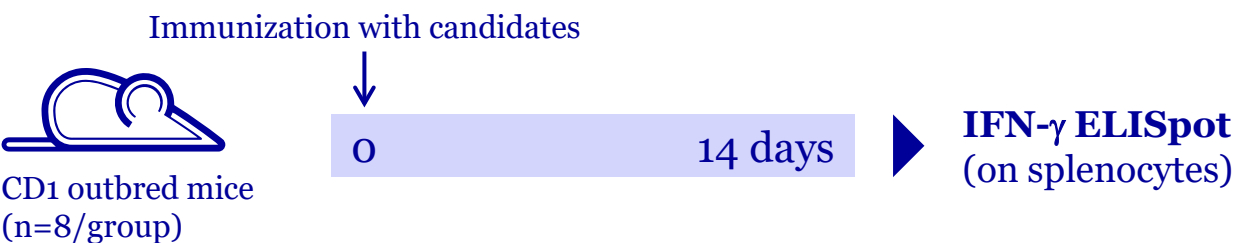




# Immunogenicity assessment of vaccine candidates

Model to evaluate/optimize specific T-cell response to candidate vaccines

## Study design



Treatment	Admin. route	Restimulation
Vaccine_1 (Ag.A)	i.m	Pool Ag.A or Pool Ag.B
Vaccine_2 (Ag.AB)	i.m	
Vaccine_3 (Ag.B)	i.m	

## Vaccination induces development of Ag-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells

IFN- $\gamma$  producing CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells in response to a specific Ag:

Representative ELISpot images:

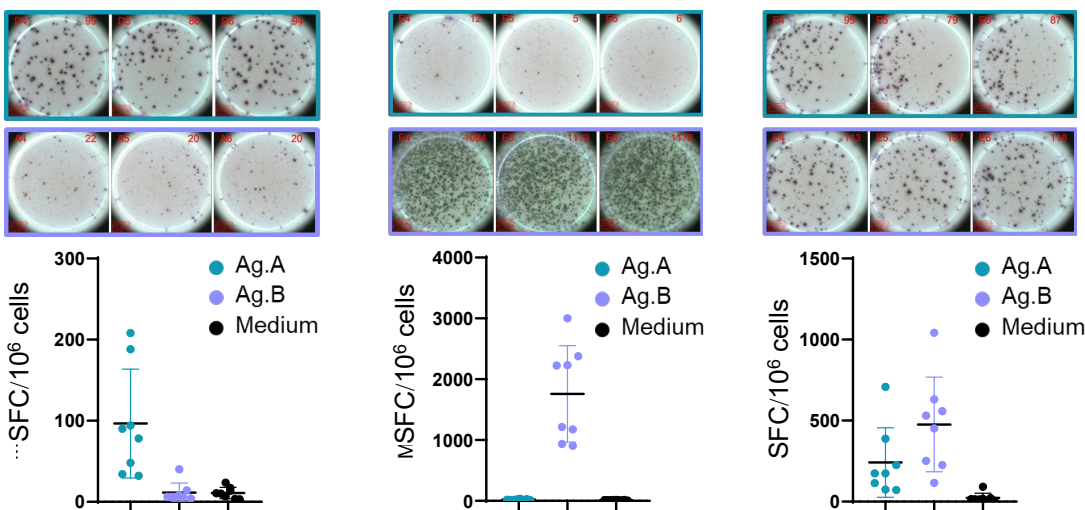
Restimulation  
Ag.A

Restimulation  
Ag.B

Vaccine-1 (Ag.A)

Vaccine-2 (Ag.B)

Vaccine-3 (Ag.AB)



*Pascale Lejeune, Ph.D*  
*SVP, Head of Translational Biology*  
[pascale.lejeune@evotec.com](mailto:pascale.lejeune@evotec.com)

*Frédérique. Dol-Gleizes, Ph.D*  
*VP, Head of In vivo pharmacology*  
[Frederique.dol-gleizes@evotec.com](mailto:Frederique.dol-gleizes@evotec.com)

*Sophie Chabot, Ph.D*  
*Group Leader, In vivo Immuno-Oncology*  
[Sophie.chabot@evotec.com](mailto:Sophie.chabot@evotec.com)

---