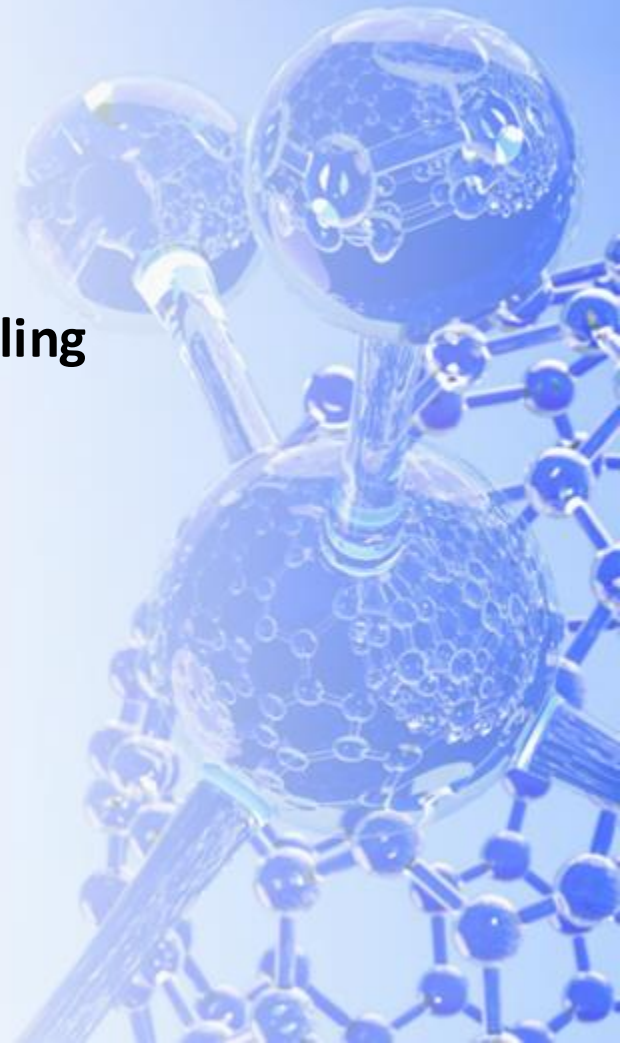


# Azymetric™ Fc-based Therapeutic Modalities Enabling Tumor-Restricted Immune Cell Activation and Engagement

PEGS Europe Protein & Antibody Engineering Summit  
November 5, 2024

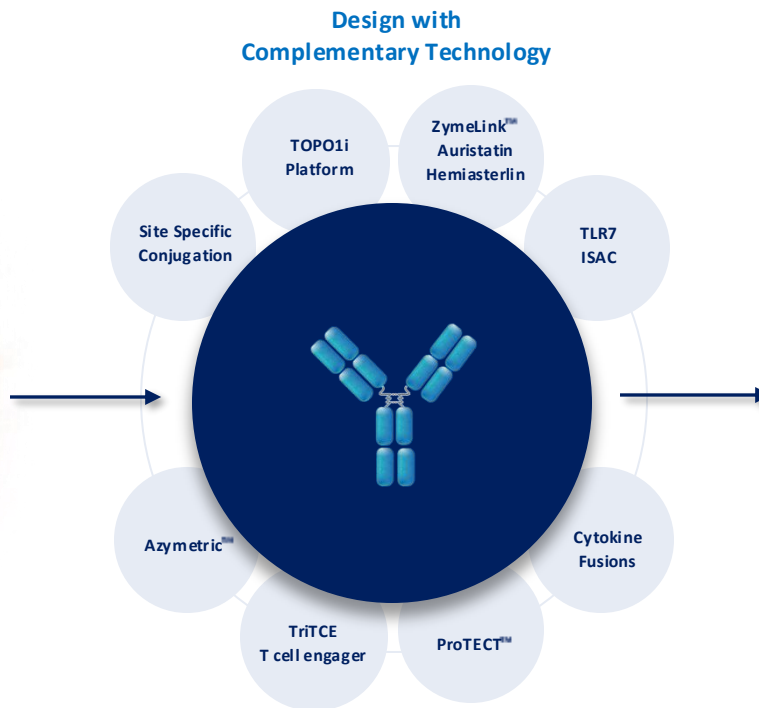
**Thomas Spreter von Kreudenstein, PhD**

Senior Director, Protein Engineering and Multispecific Antibody Technologies

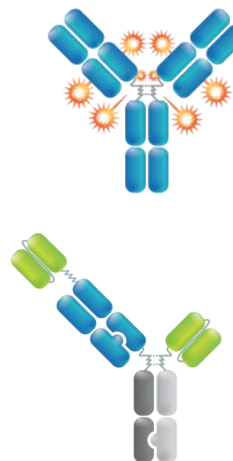


# ADC and Multispecific Modalities Driving Zymeworks' Pipeline

## Select Difficult-to-Treat Cancers & Target



## Optionality with Two Foundational Fit-for-Purpose Modalities



### Antibody Drug Conjugates

Customization:

- Antibody properties
- Antibody format
- Payload
- DAR

### Multispecifics

Customization:

- Multiple MOA in single molecule
- Synergistic biology
- Precision targeting through multivalency

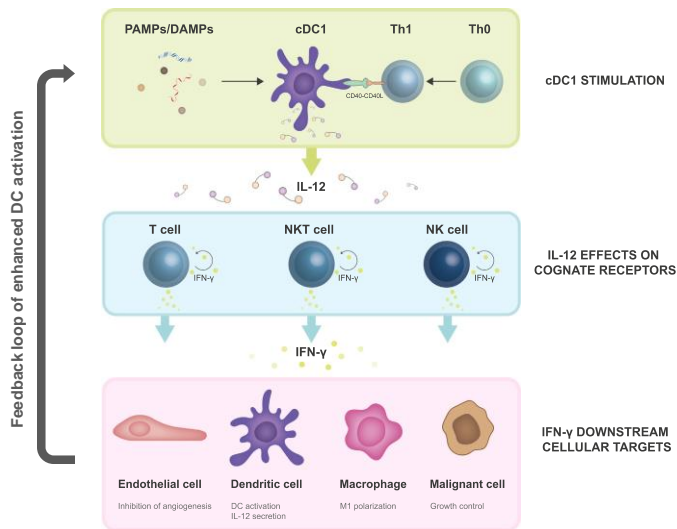
A background image of a scientist wearing safety glasses and a lab coat, holding a small vial. The image is overlaid with a dark blue gradient.

**ZW270: A conditionally masked, affinity attenuated IL-12 cytokine fusion displaying potent anti-tumor activity without systemic toxicity**

# Opportunity for Next Gen IL-12 with Widened Therapeutic Index

- **IL-12** is a highly **potent inducer of anti-tumor immunity**
- Initial clinical responses show ability to turn ‘cold’ tumors ‘hot’, but overall **low responses likely due to toxicity and low TI**
- **Hypothesis:** Widened TI and higher exposure of IL-12 in the TME might increase clinical responses

## IL-12 drives innate and adaptive responses



## IL-12 Strategies in clinical development

|                                 | Development Status  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Systemic administration:</b> |   |
| Half life extended IL-12        | Most discontinued, lack of TI and clinical responses        |
| Attenuated IL-12 Fc             | Discontinued or ongoing, potentially low clinical responses |
| Conditionally masked IL-12      | Ongoing clinical development                                |
| <b>Local administration:</b>    |   |
| WT IL-12 (recombinant, plasmid) | Discontinued, lack of TI and clinical responses             |
| Targeted IL-12                  | Ongoing clinical development                                |

# Development of a Conditionally Masked IL-12 Cytokine Fusion with Enhanced Therapeutic Window

## ZW270: a conditionally masked, affinity attenuated IL-12 Fc

### Protease cleavable linker

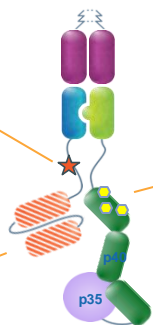
Proprietary protease cleavage linker with efficient tumor cleavage and slow peripheral release (<1%/day)

### Attenuated IL-12 potency

Proprietary mutations to reduce IL-12 potency without affecting scFv masking

### Engineered Mask

Anti-IL-12 scFv antibody mask with high affinity to p40, blocking IL-12 activity



## Engineering approach: Benchmarking different strategies to optimize TI of IL-12 fusion

### 1. WT IL-12 Fc

- Wild type (WT) IL-12 potency



### 2. Attenuated IL-12 Fc

- Reduced IL-12 potency



### 3. Conditionally masked IL-12 Fc

- Cleavable scFv mask
- Wild type (WT) IL-12



### 4. Conditionally masked, attenuated IL-12 Fc

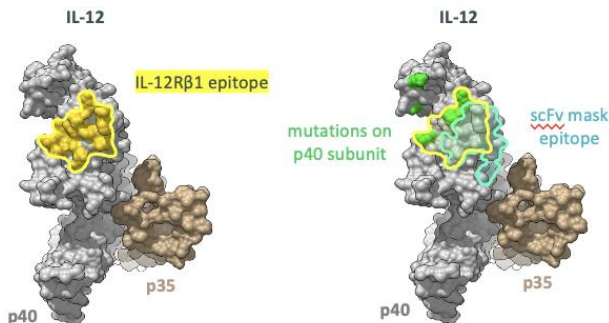
- Cleavable scFv mask
- Reduced IL-12 potency



# Combining Masking with Reduced Potency Engineering of IL-12 Leads to Enhanced Masking Window

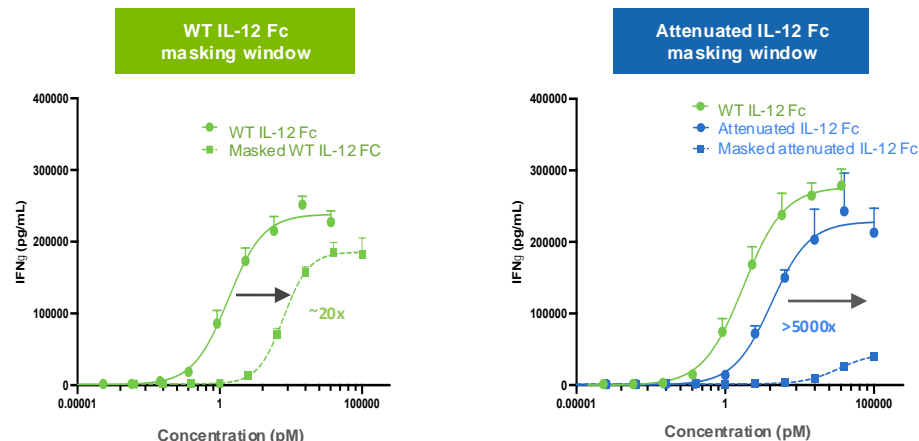
IL-12 was engineered for reduced IL12R $\beta$ 1 affinity and IL-12 potency without impacting scFv mask binding

Library of potency attenuated IL-12 variants  
without impact of scFv mask



Combined masking and attenuation strategies improves masking  
window in a human *in vitro* T cell activation assay

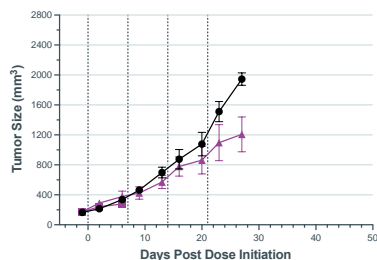
*In vitro* potency in primary human CD8 T cell assay



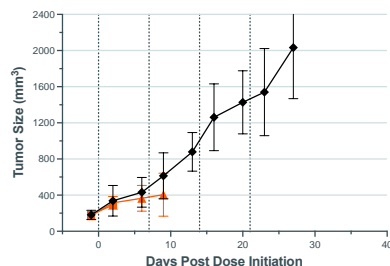
# Attenuated, Masked IL-12 Fc (ZW270) Reduces Tumor Growth in a Humanized Mouse Model and is Superior to IL-12 Fc Comparators

|  | WT IL-12 Fc    | Attenuated IL-12 Fc | Masked WT IL-12 Fc | ZW270       |
|--|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Tumor growth inhibition at highest tolerated dose                  | X              | X                   | X                  | ✓           |
| Maximum tolerated dose (MTD)<br>(<20% loss of mice due to BW loss) | < 0.0008 mg/kg | < 0.008 mg/kg       | > 0.01 mg/kg       | > 0.1 mg/kg |

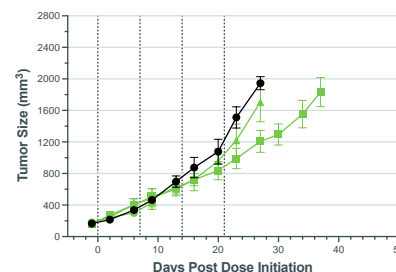
BxPC3 Tumor Volume



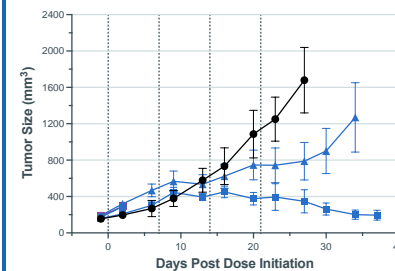
BxPC3 Tumor Volume



BxPC3 Tumor Volume

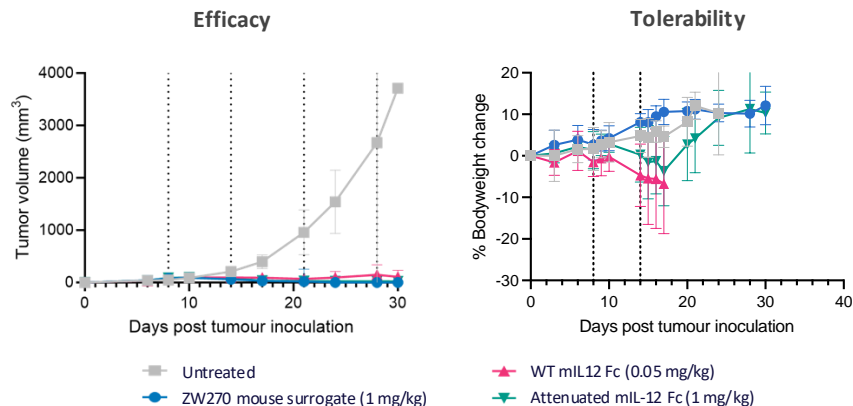


BxPC3 Tumor Volume



# ZW270 Mouse Surrogate Shows Enhanced Therapeutic Window in a Syngeneic Mouse Model

- Development of **mouse surrogate** for attenuated IL-12 Fc and ZW270 (masked, attenuated IL-12 Fc)
- Evaluation of Therapeutic Index (TI) in a **MC38 syngeneic mouse model**



| Murine Surrogate                                       | MED<br>(Minimum effective dose) | MTD<br>(Maximum tolerated dose) | TI<br>(Therapeutic Index) |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| WT mL-12 Fc*   |                                 | < 0.05 mg/kg                    | ~10*                      |
| Attenuated mL-12 Fc                                    | 0.06 mg/kg                      | 1 mg/kg                         | ~16                       |
| Masked, attenuated mL-12 Fc<br>(ZW270 mouse surrogate) | 0.5 mg/kg                       | 32 mg/kg                        | ~32                       |

\* Gutierrez E et al Med (2023); Koliesnik et al., Cancer Res (2023)

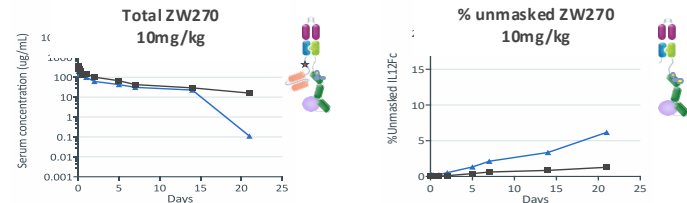
# ZW270, a Conditionally Masked IL-12 Cytokine Fusion is well Tolerated in Cynomolgus Monkeys at > 10mg/kg



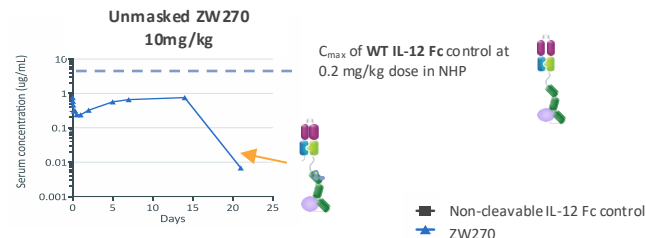
A single dose of attenuated masked IL-12 Fc is well tolerated in cynomolgus monkeys

|  | WT IL-12 Fc<br>0.2 mg/kg   | ZW270<br>10 mg/kg   |
|--|--|---|
| Mortality  | Yes,<br>(at 0.2 mg/kg, day 21)   | No<br>(up to 31.8 mg/kg)  |
| Clinical signs   | Watery feces on Day 15;<br>decreased activity on day<br>8 and 15; thin day 8 and<br>15; loose non elastic skin<br>day 15 | At 10 mg/kg no notable<br>changes<br><br>At 31.8 mg/kg loose feces<br>on day 15 |
| Body weight,<br>% difference on day 22<br>compared to pre-dose | -39.26 %   | -7.56 %   |
| MTD  | 0.2 mg/kg  | > 31.8 mg/kg  |

ZW270 demonstrates low overall unmasking in cynomolgus monkeys and a slow protease unmasking of < 1%/day



Unmasked IL-12 Fc serum concentration at >10 mg/kg is below  $C_{max}$  of unmasked WT IL-12 at MTD in cynomolgus monkeys



# ZW270, a Conditional Masked Attenuated IL-12 Fc Cytokine Fusion

## Summary

- ZW270 is a novel, masked protease activated IL-12 Fc fusion with attenuated IL-12 potency
- ZW270 has potent anti-tumor activity and a higher therapeutic window than comparator IL-12 fusions
- ZW270 was well tolerated in a single dose non-human primate study up to >30mg/kg
- Our data suggests that combining engineering strategies of affinity attenuation and masking has the potential to widen the therapeutic window of IL-12

A background image of a scientist wearing safety glasses and a lab coat, holding a small vial, overlaid with a dark blue gradient.

**ProTECT™: A novel trispecific antibody masking platform with integrated immune modulation displays unique activity and differentiated modes of action**

# Landscape for Conditionally-Active CD3 Redirection

- **Multiple masking technologies** in development
- Initial promising clinical results, but **low efficacy** remains a potential issue
- All platforms remain susceptible to general limitations of TCEs due to **suppressive TME**

## Steric Occlusion



## Specific Peptide / Antibody Masks



## Conditional Assembly of CD3

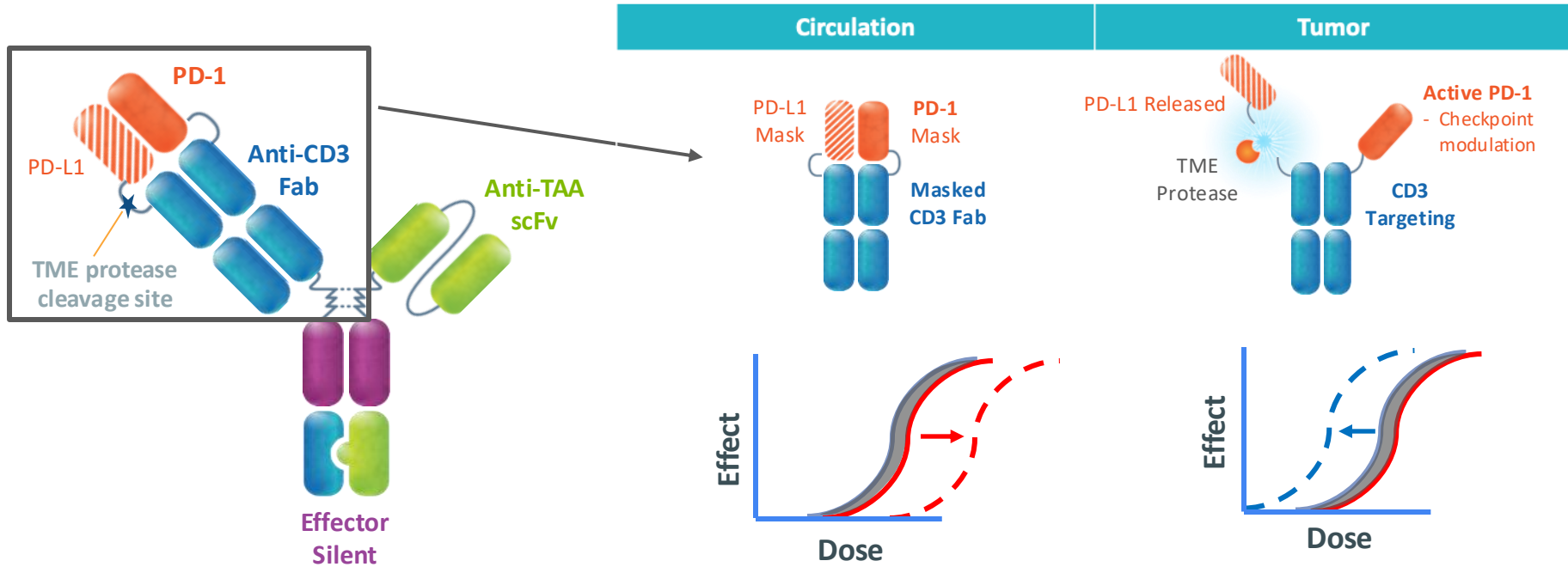


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# ProTECT™ Platform

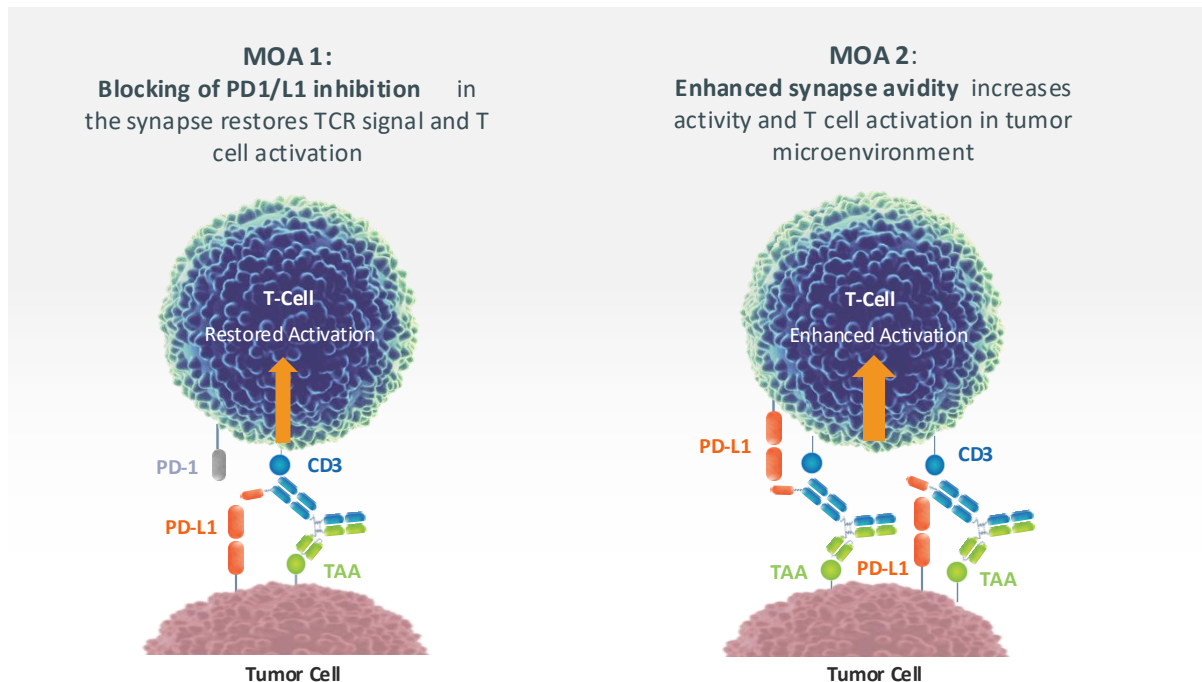
## PROgrammed Tumor Engagement & Checkpoint Targeting

Functional natural PD-1/PD-L1 heterodimer sterically blocks antigen binding



# ProTECT™ Has Enhanced Functionality and May Have the Ability to Overcome Limitations of T Cell Engagers in Immunosuppressed Tumors

ProTECT™ trispecific functions by dual MOA and has potential to address limited activity of T Cell Engagers due to PD-1/PD-L1 upregulation in the tumor microenvironment

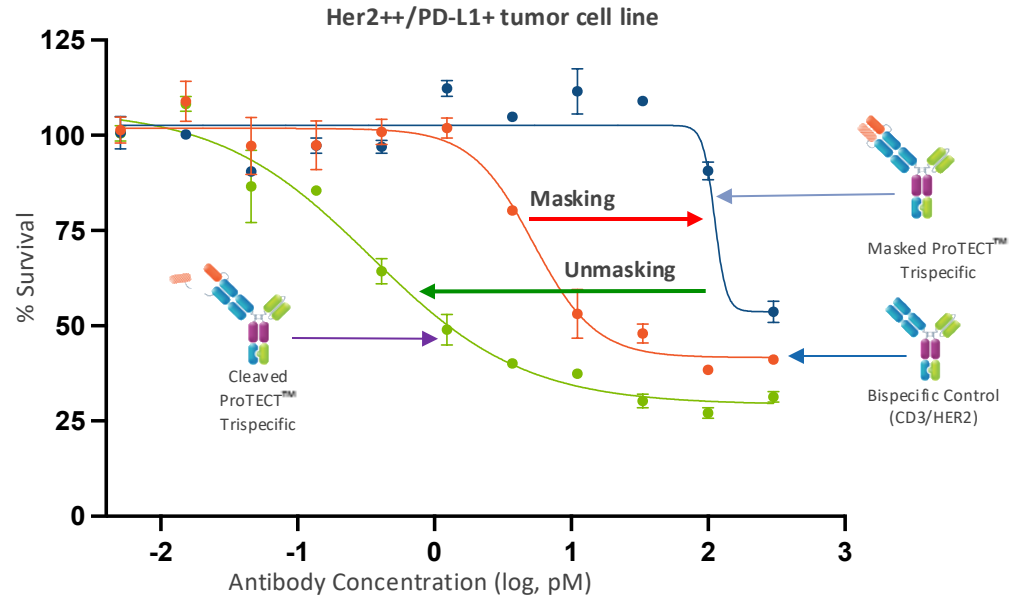
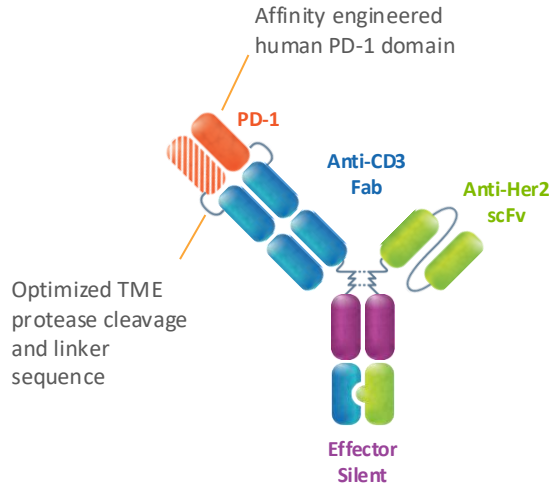


- **PD-1/PD-L1 upregulation** in the tumor microenvironment is a **resistance mechanism** to bispecific T cell engagers
- Enhanced activity of ProTECT™ is driven by **dual MOA** of PD-1/PD-L1 blockade in synapse and increased avidity
- Dual MOA has potential for enhanced activity compared to combination therapy

# ProTECT™ Platform

## PROgrammed Tumor Engagement & Checkpoint Targeting

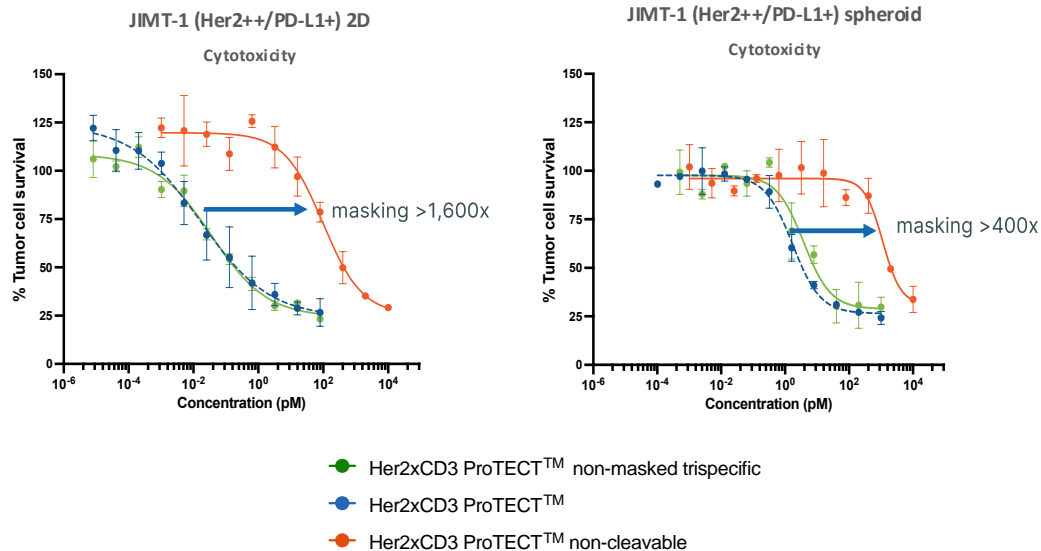
Functional PD-1/PD-L1 heterodimer sterically blocks activity and mediates enhanced *in vitro* cytotoxicity after cleavage



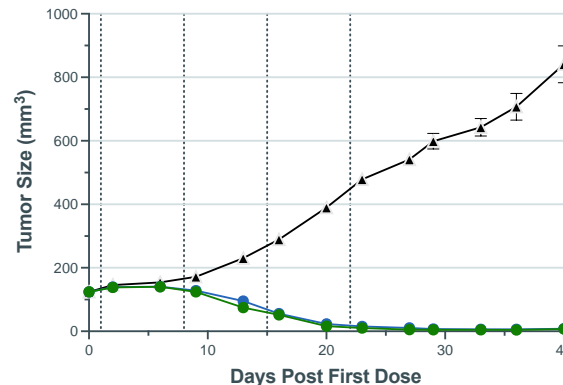
# Masked ProTECT™ Mediates Reduced Cytotoxicity While Cleaved ProTECT™ Shows Full Recovery of Cytotoxicity *in vitro* and *in vivo*

Her2xCD3 ProTECT™ has >400x masking window *in vitro* and fully recovers activity after cleavage

Her2xCD3 ProTECT™ is active in a humanized mouse model



JIMT-1 (Her2++/PDL1+) Tumor Volume

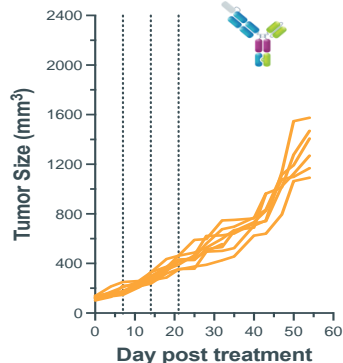


- Her2xCD3 ProTECT™ non-masked trispecific (0.1 mg/kg)
- Her2xCD3 ProTECT™ (0.5 mg/kg)
- ▲ Palivizumab (5 mg/kg)

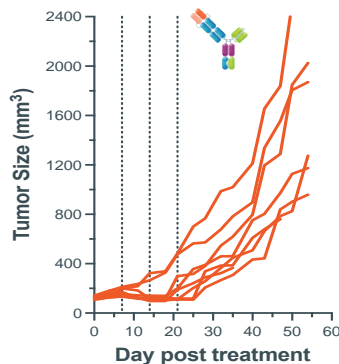
# ProTECT™ Induces Complete Individual Tumor Responses in a Humanized Mouse Model and is Superior to Bispecific Anti-PD-L1 Combination

- ProTECT™ trispecific showed individual complete tumor responses
- No complete tumor responses seen for any controls including bispecific Her2xCD3 + Atezo (anti-PD-L1)

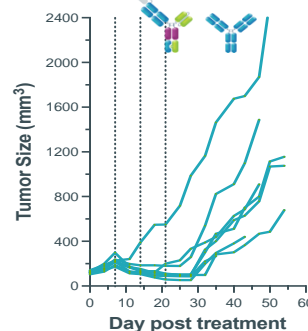
**HER2xCD3  
(PD1 dummy-arm)  
0.5 mg/kg**



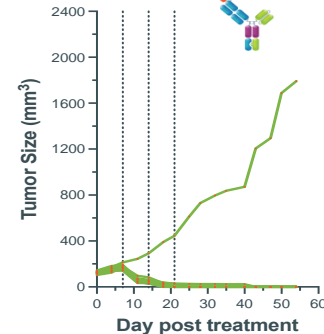
**HER2xCD3 ProTECT™  
(non-cleavable)  
5 mg/kg**



**HER2xCD3(PD1 dummy-  
arm) + αPDL1  
1 + 5 mg/kg**



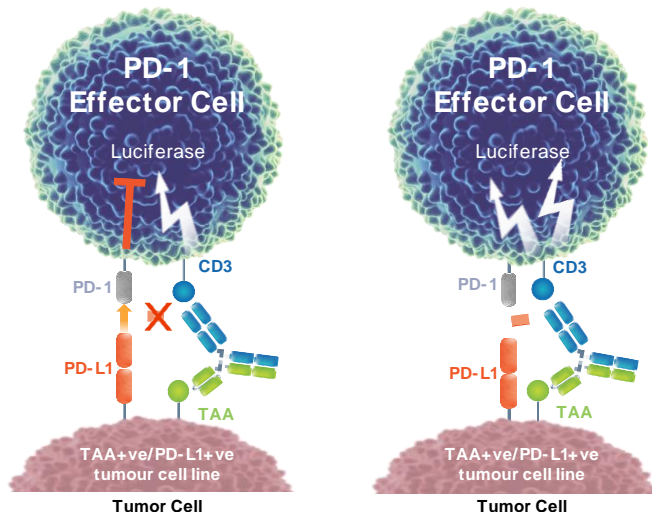
**HER2xCD3 ProTECT™ non-  
masked trispecific  
0.5 mg/kg**



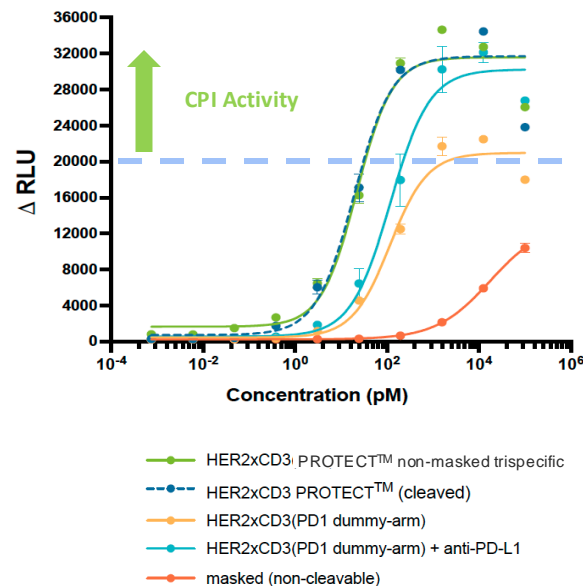
*In vivo* anti tumor activity of ProTECT™ was assessed in HER2+/PD-L1+ (JIMT-1) tumor model in human PBMC engrafted NOG mice

# Protease Activated ProTECT™ Displays Checkpoint Inhibition on PD-L1-Expressing Tumor Cells and is Superior to Combination of Bispecific and Anti-PD-L1

## Checkpoint Inhibitor Reporter Gene Assay

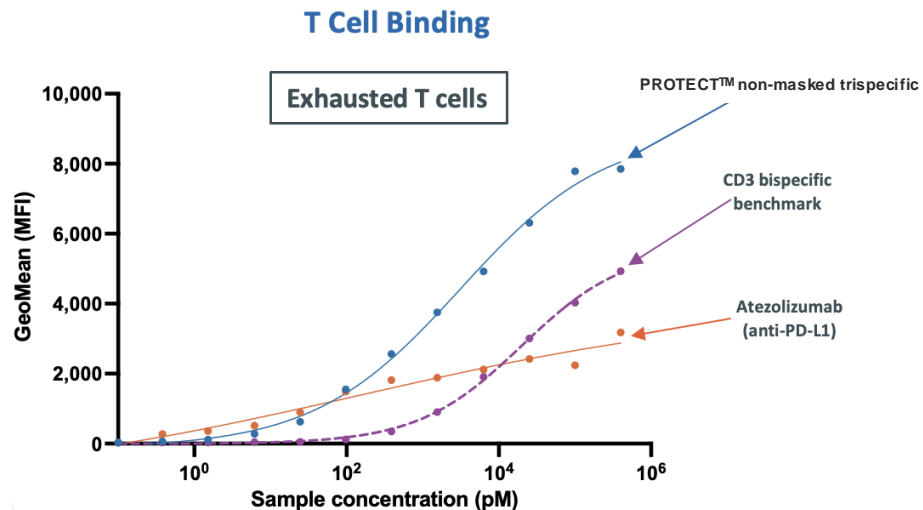
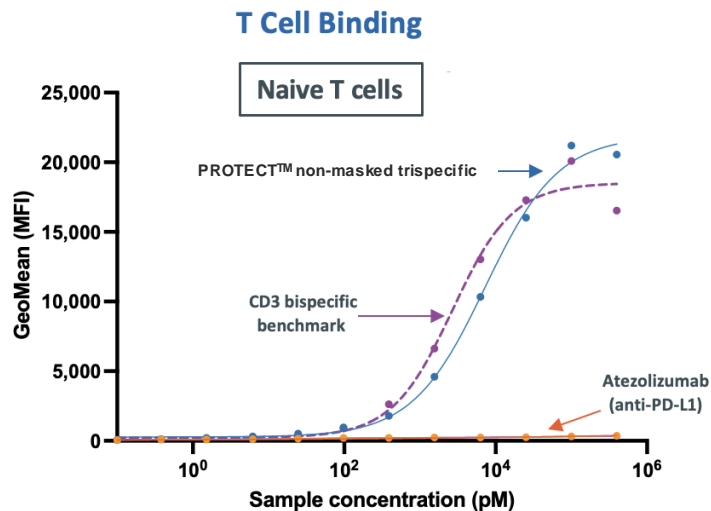


## PD-1/PD-L1 Inhibition



# ProTECT™ Trispecific Shows Superior Binding to Exhausted T Cells than Benchmark CD3 Bispecific

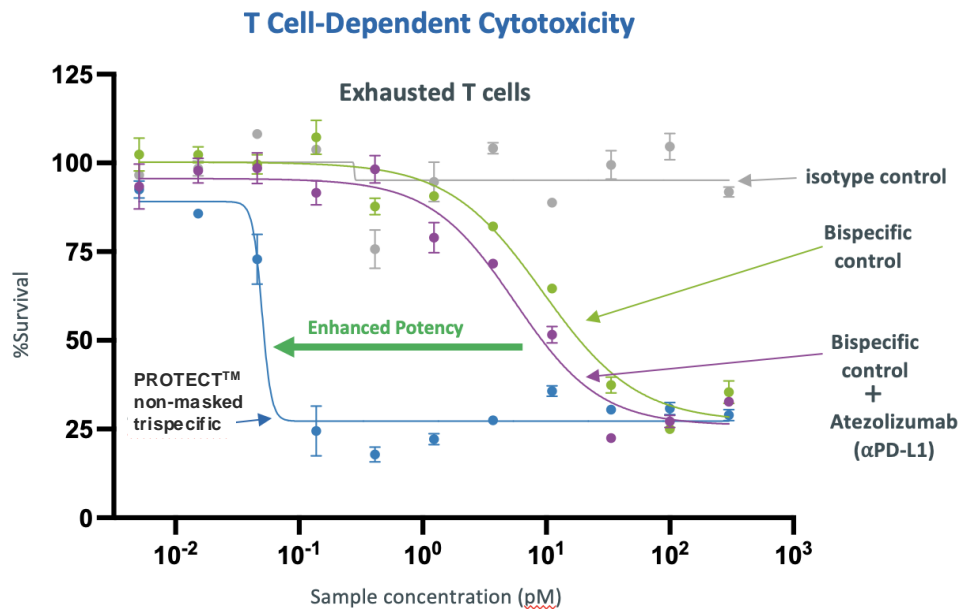
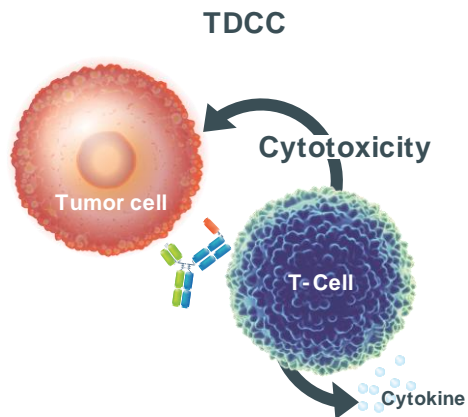
- As T cells become activated and exhausted, they express PD-L1 and downregulate CD3\*
- ProTECT™ Trispecifics can bind to PD-L1 on exhausted T cells resulting in an avidity advantage



\* Lanzavecchia et al., J Exp Med (1997)

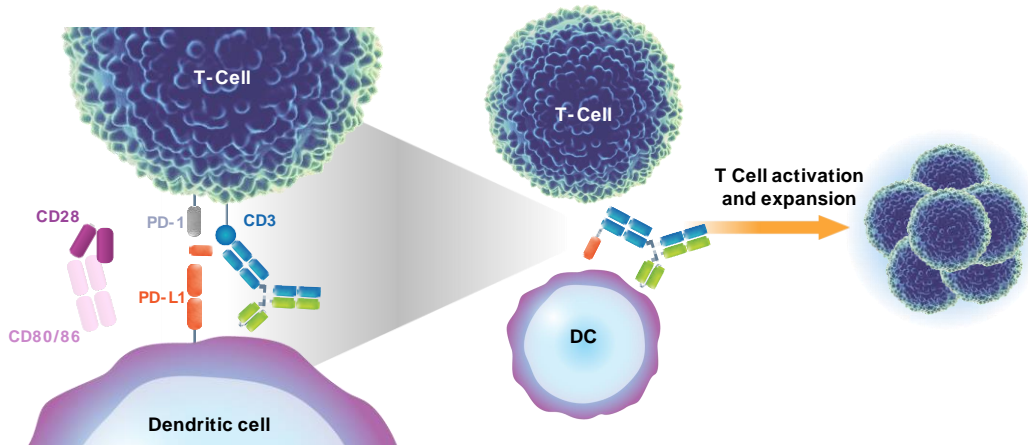
# ProTECT™ Trispecific Shows Superior *In vitro* Activity to Benchmark with Exhausted T Cells

Trispecific shows increased potency compared to bispecific and bispecific + atezolizumab combination when exhausted T cells are used as effector cells

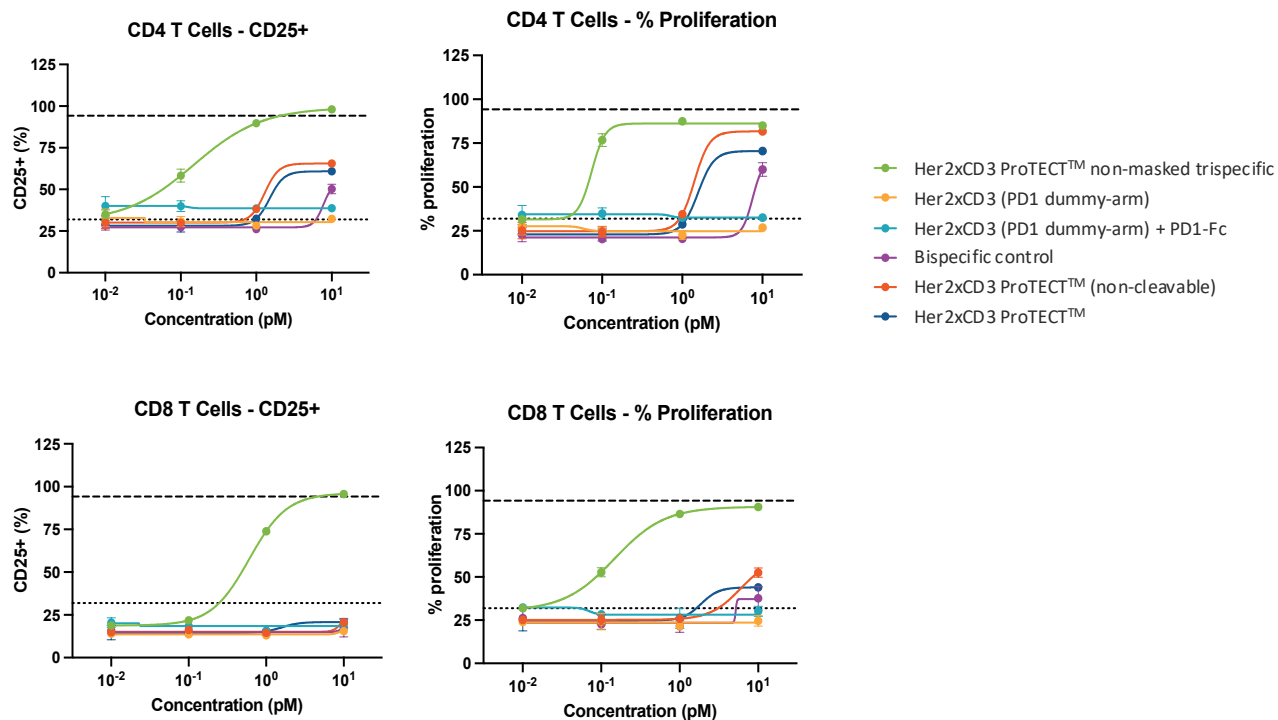
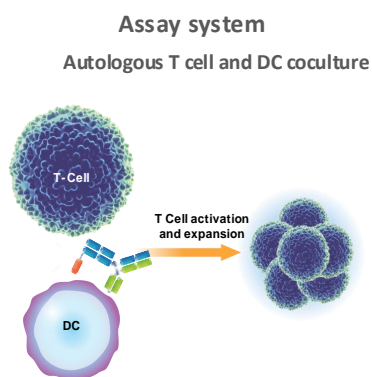


# ProTECT™ Trispecific May Have Unique Ability to Induce and Potentiate T cell activation via PD-L1 on APCs in the Tumor Microenvironment

- ProTECT™ trispecific has unique ability to bridge DCs and T cells via PD-L1 and CD3 in the TME
- Potential unique activity of ProTECT™ mediated by crosslinking T cells and PDL1+ myeloid cells in the TME



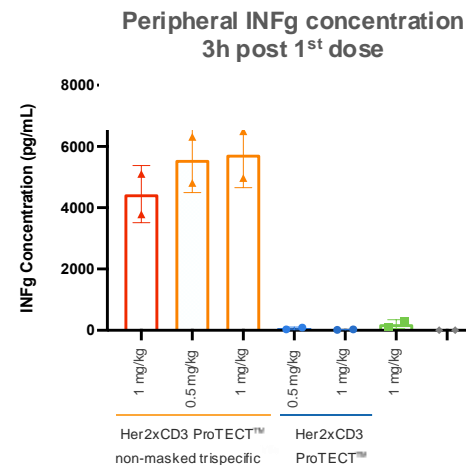
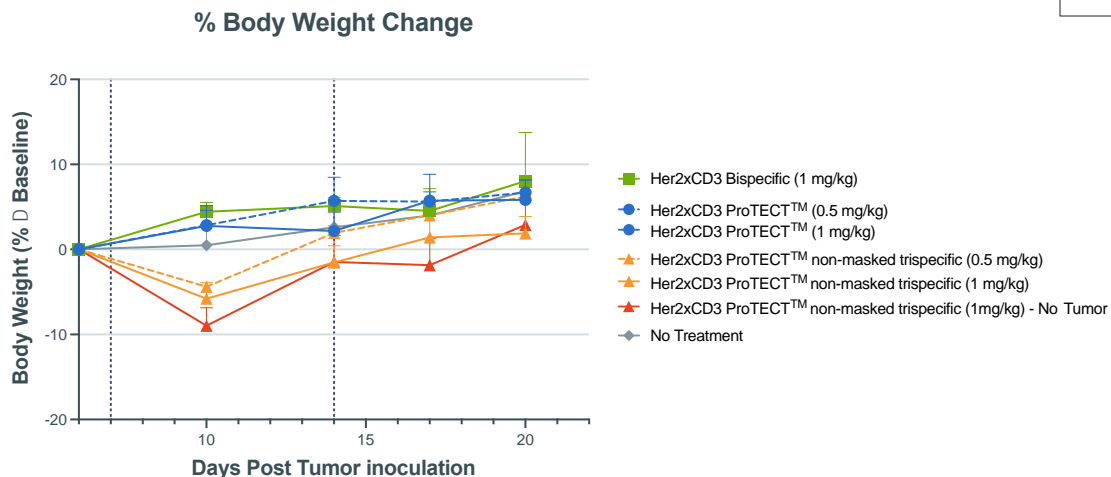
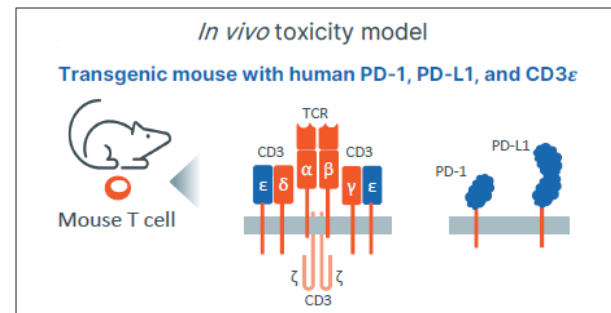
# Protease Activated ProTECT™ Trispecific Engages PD-L1-Expressing APCs to Activate T cells



T cells were incubated with autologous PDL1 expressing monocyte derived dendritic cells (moDCs) at a 5:1 ratio for 5 days. % activation and proliferation assessed with CD25+ and CPD dilution respectively by flow cytometry

# ProTECT™ is Tolerated in a Humanized Mouse *In vivo* Toxicity Model with Human PD-L1/PD-1 Expression

ProTECT™ is well tolerated in a human PD-L1/PD-1 mouse model, while unmasked trispecific causes peripheral cytokine release



- Novel platform that combines tumor-specific masking/unmasking with immune modulation to enhance the therapeutic window for T cell engagers
- ProTECT™ PoC demonstrates effective masking and recovery of activity *in vitro* and *in vivo*
- Demonstrated potent and differentiated activity *in vitro* and *in vivo* and high activity in exhausted T cells
- ProTECT™ PoC demonstrated enhanced functionality and potentially superior activity to combination of TCE plus anti-PD-L1
- Potential for ProTECT™ to be active in suppressive tumor microenvironments and potentially be less susceptible to PD-1/PD-L1 mediated secondary resistance

# Acknowledgements...A Global Team Effort

<https://www.zymeworks.com/publications/>

## **PROTECT™, A Novel Trispecific Antibody Masking Platform With Integrated Immune Modulation Displays Unique Activity and Differentiated Modes of Action**

Anna von Rossum, Genevieve Desjardins, Nichole Escalante, Wingkie Wong, Bryant Harbourne, Janessa Li, Begonia Silva Moreno, Prajwal Raghunatha, Richard Kunze, Madeline Fung, Florian Heinkel, Harsh Pratap, Kevin Haworth, Eric Escobar-Cabrera, Brandon Clavette, Surjit Dixit, Nina Weisser and Thomas Spreter von Kreudenstein

## **ZW270, A Conditionally Masked IL-12 Cytokine Fusion Protein Displaying Potent Anti-tumour Activity Absent of Systemic Toxicity**

Maya C. Poffenberger; Ryan J. Blackler; Kevin G. Haworth; Steven Booth; Shalla Hanson; Jeff R. Proctor; I-Ting Shao; Nichole K. Escalante; Dayananda Siddappa; Joel Smith, Gursev Anmole, Saki Konomura, Nicholas A.J. Dawson; Sifa Arrafi; Desmond Lau; Gerry Rowse; Rupert H. Davies; Thomas Spreter von Kreudenstein



**Zymeworks' Multispecific Antibody  
Therapeutics Team**