



ZW1528: A Dual-Targeting Bispecific Antibody to Broadly Suppress Airway Inflammation by Inhibiting IL-4Ra and IL-33 Pathways

Robert Nechanitzky

Senior Scientist, Immunology

Festival of Biologics USA

MARCH 5, 2026

Azymetric™ – Adaptable to Different Formats and Applications

Engineering

Set of transferable mutations supporting pure and stable Fc heterodimer formation with exclusive chain pairing during co-expression

Libraries of constant domain Fab mutations available for kappa/kappa, kappa/lambda and lambda/lambda bispecific LC combinations

Flexibility

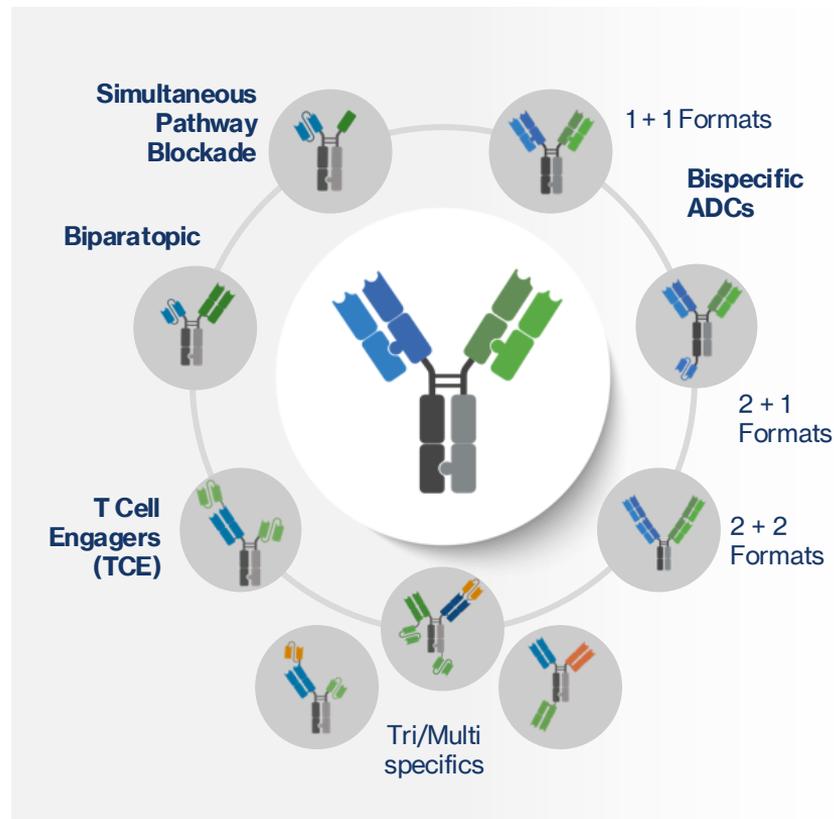
Can employ novel or existing antibody paratopes; human (IgG1, IgG2A, IgG4) and mouse frameworks; other CH2 and glyco-engineering approaches (eg YTE). Compatible with linker/payload conjugation

High-throughput Screening

Best-in-class activity requires screening of alternative targets, epitopes, sequences, target engagement geometries, and mechanisms of action (blocking, lytic, ADC)

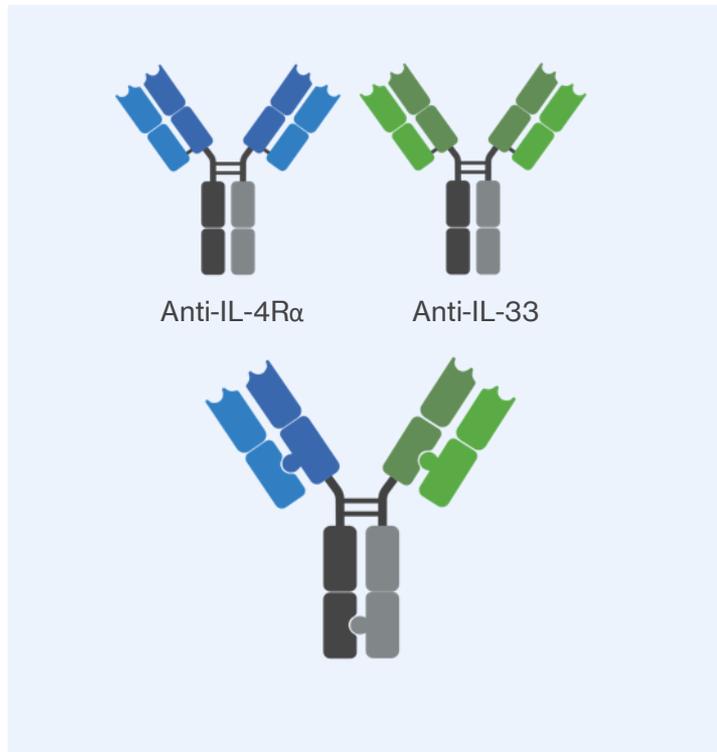
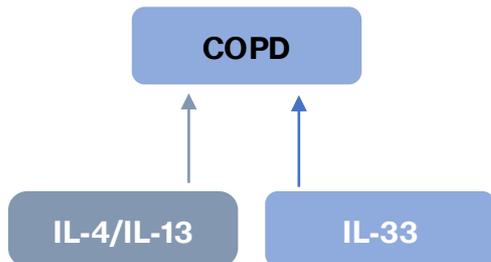
Highly Manufacturable

Antibody like yields/stability; leveraged by multiple pharma/biotech with various clinical stage programs in development



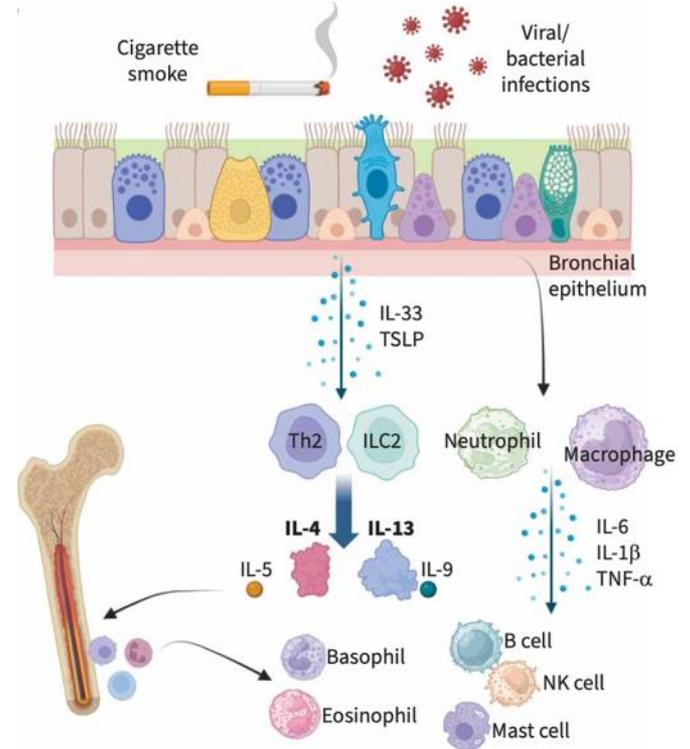
Rationale for anti-IL-4R α as an Anchor Arm

- Dupixent®/dupilumab is a highly successful mAb targeting IL-4R α
 - Approved for multiple atopic and inflammatory diseases
- Blocking IL-4R α inhibits both IL-4 and IL-13 signaling
 - Two key cytokines responsible for driving Type II inflammation
- Multiple cytokines drive pathology of respiratory inflammation
 - Add inhibition of an additional inflammatory pathway to augment or improve on monotherapy effects
 - **ZYME opportunity to develop more efficacious molecules**



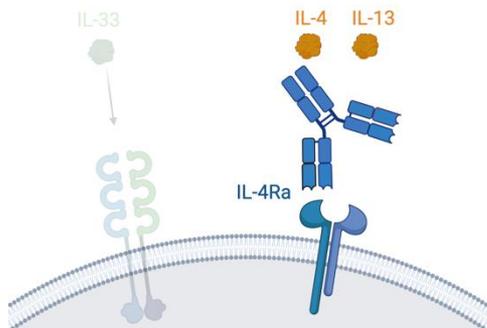
IL-33 as a Bispecific Arm in COPD and other Respiratory Diseases

- IL-33 is a tissue alarmin released in response to epithelial damage
 - Acts on a range of cells e.g., neutrophils, Th2 cells, eosinophils, and mast cells
- Initiates and amplifies inflammatory response / perpetuates chronic immune response
 - May also drive tissue remodelling in chronic inflammatory diseases e.g., COPD and asthma
- Clinical proof-of-concept for targeting IL-33
 - For former smokers with COPD, and in asthma
 - Phase III trials underway for anti-IL-33 mAbs itepekimab [Regeneron / Sanofi] and tozorakimab [AstraZeneca]



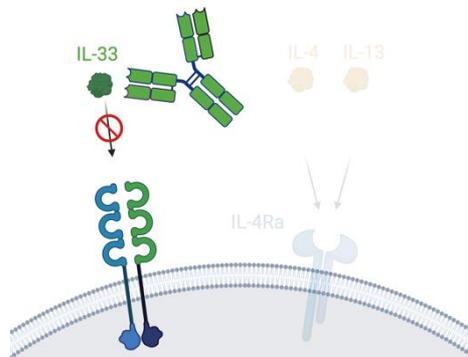
ZW1528 Design and Proposed Mechanism of Action

Dupilumab blocks IL-4Ra



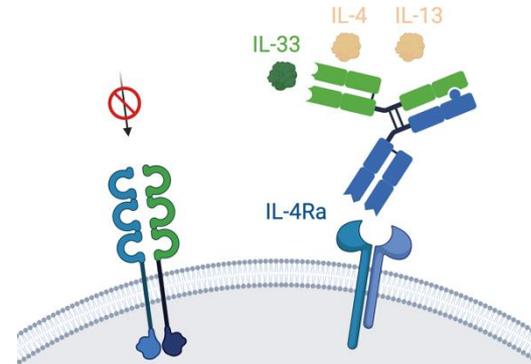
Type 2 inflammation suppression
Approved in asthma, COPD

Itepekimab/tozorakimab block IL-33



Type 2 and non-T2 inflammation suppression.
Improved tissue remodelling.
Ph3 studies in COPD

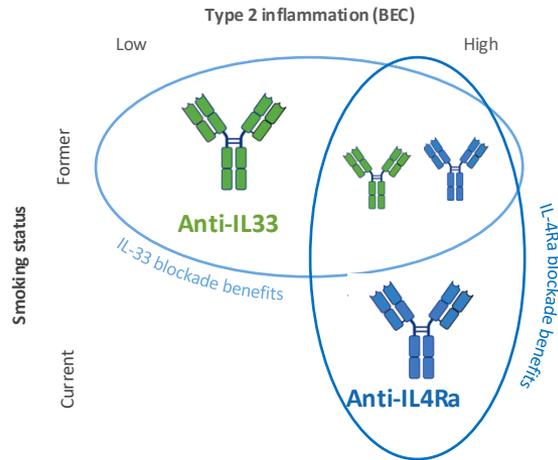
Dual blockade by ZW1528



- Aim at complete, prolonged blockade of IL-4Ra
- Utilize potential advantages of local retention
- Take advantage of IgG-like geometry (PK, CMC)

IL-4R α x IL-33 Bispecific Provides Opportunity to Treat Broader Set of COPD Patients with Single Molecule

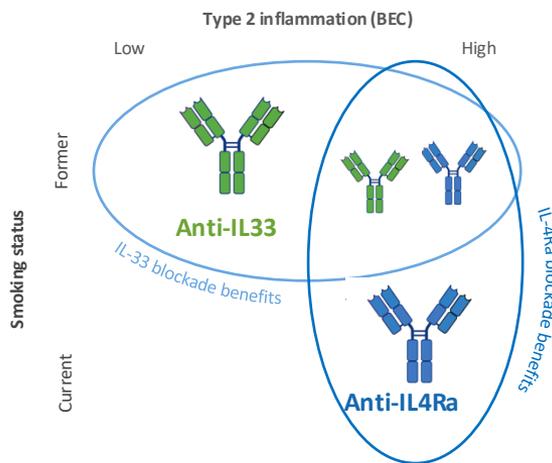
Anti-IL4R α and anti-IL-33 therapeutics are being developed to treat different COPD populations



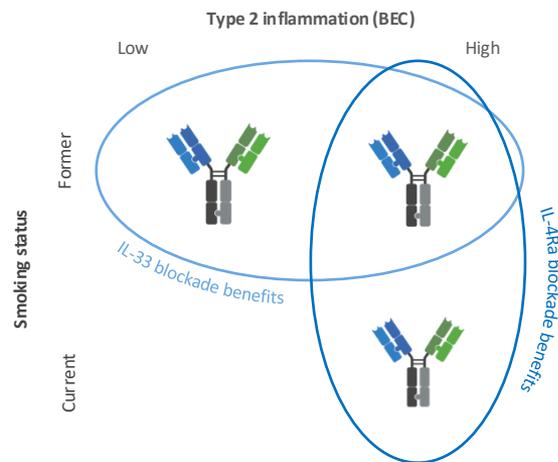
- Anti-IL4R α effective in Type 2 COPD (those with eosinophilia)
- Anti-IL-33 may prove to be effective in former smokers

IL-4R α x IL-33 Bispecific Provides Opportunity to Treat Broader Set of COPD Patients with Single Molecule

Anti-IL4R α and anti-IL-33 therapeutics are being developed to treat different COPD populations

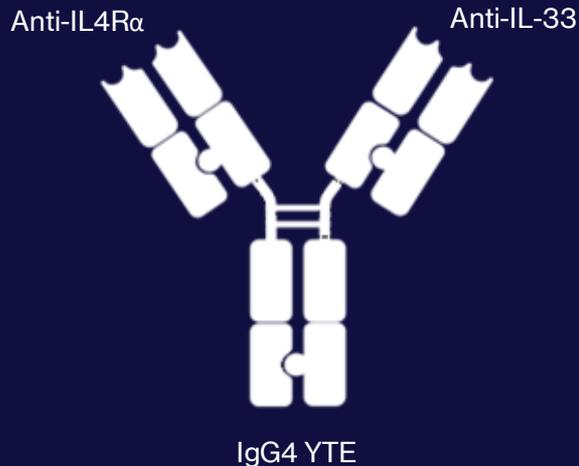


IL-4R α x IL-33 bispecific provides opportunity to treat broader set of COPD patients with single molecule



- Anti-IL4R α effective in Type 2 COPD (those with eosinophilia)
- Anti-IL-33 may prove to be effective in former smokers

- IL-4R α x IL-33 bispecific to **combine the effects of two mAbs**
- Potential for **increased efficacy in monotherapy-responsive** patients



ZW1528

IL-4R α x IL-33 Bispecific

Inhibits Multiple Pathways within
Complex Pathophysiology of
Inflammation



Design

- Native **IgG-like geometry**; highly manufacturable, compatible with half-life extending Fc modifications
- Clinically-validated targets
- Core arm mediates complete, prolonged IL-4R α blockade. Second arm adds inhibition of IL-33, an upstream cytokine involved in perpetuating chronic inflammation.



Mechanism

- Inhibition of 3 cytokines in single asset
- Potential advantages of **local retention**

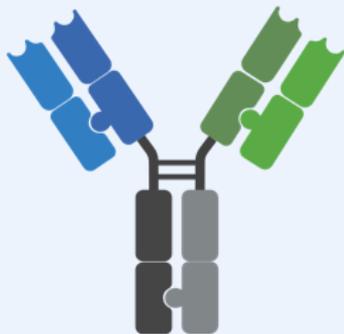


Profile

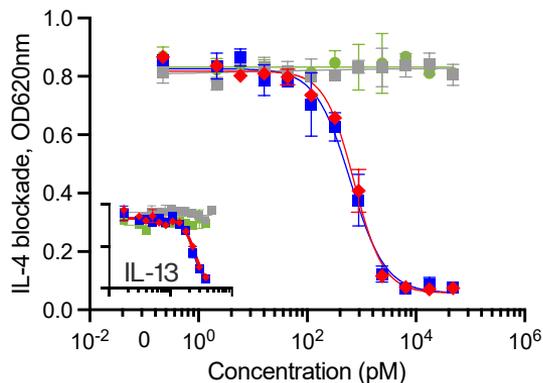
- ZW1528 potently blocks two complementary pathways of respiratory inflammation

ZW1528 Effectively Blocks both IL-4/13 and IL-33 Signaling

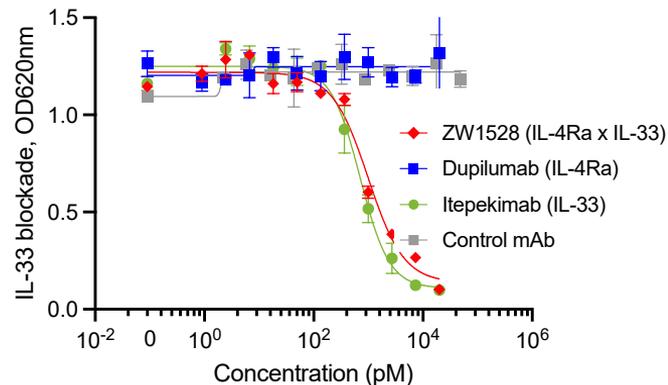
Anti-IL4R α Anti-IL-33



Blockade of IL-4/13



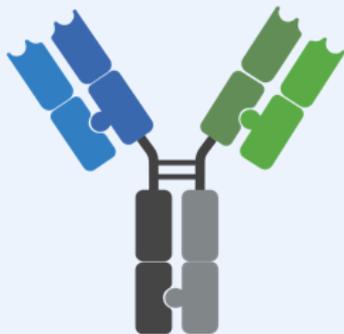
Blockade of IL-33



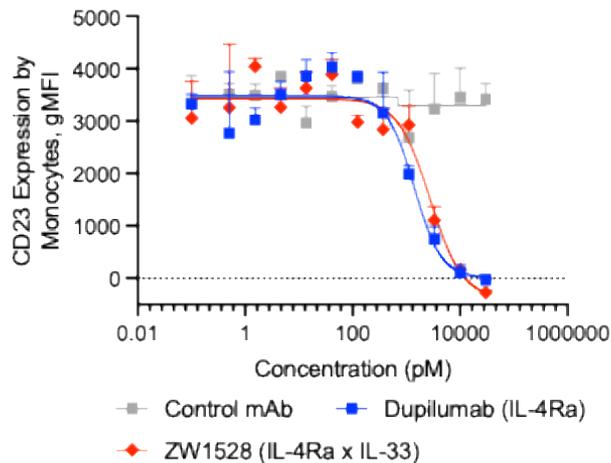
- Potency of ZW1528 similar to the *bivalent* benchmark mAbs
- ZW1528 blocks both targets

ZW1528 Blocks Two Complementary Pathways of Airway Inflammation in Primary Cells of COPD Patients

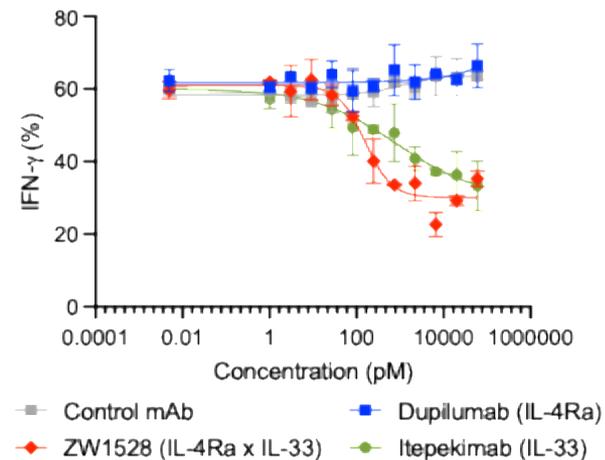
Anti-IL4R α Anti-IL-33



Blockade of IL-4



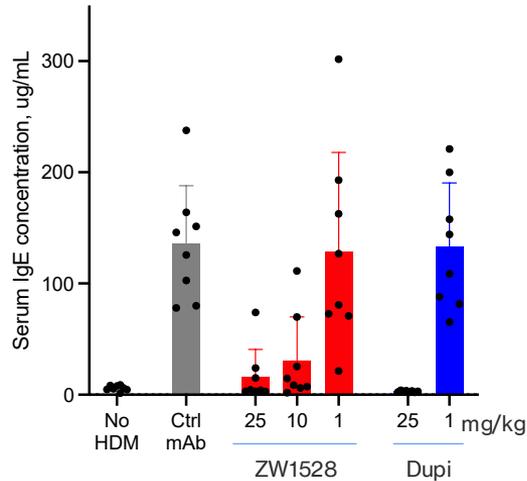
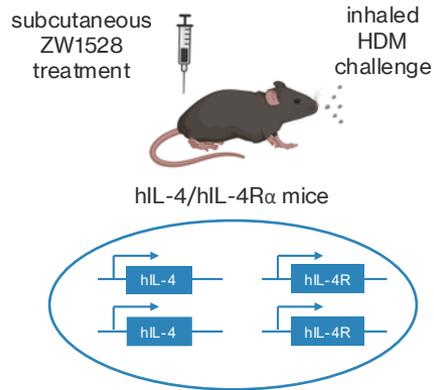
Blockade of IL-33



- ZW1528 effectively blocks IL-4Ra and IL-33 in PBMC of ***COPD patients*** in vitro
- Enhanced blockade of IL-33 axis

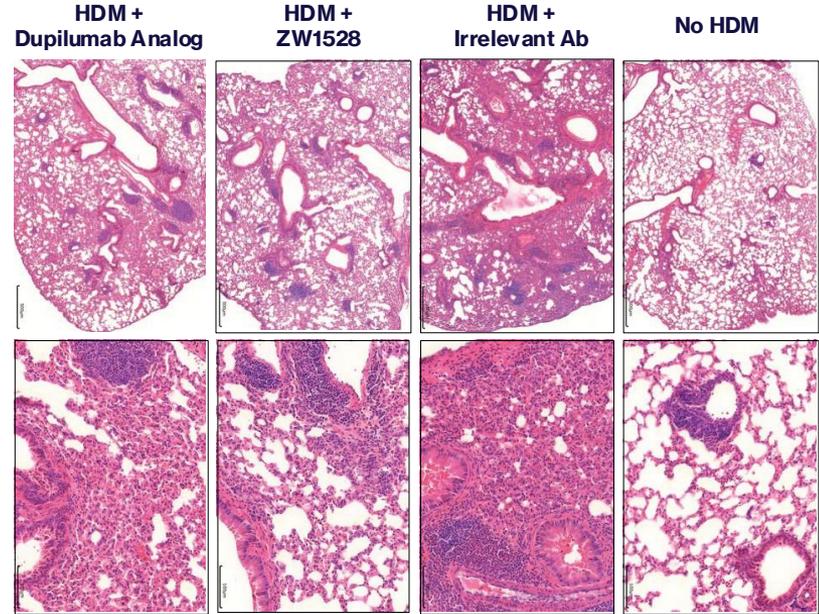
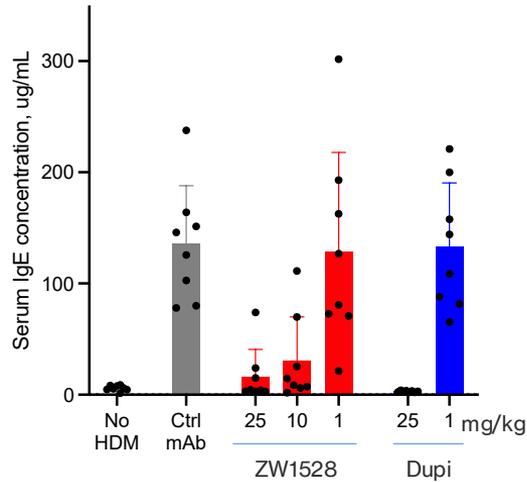
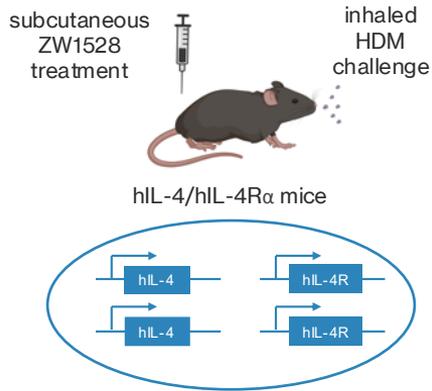
ZW1528 Blocks IL-4R α *in vivo*

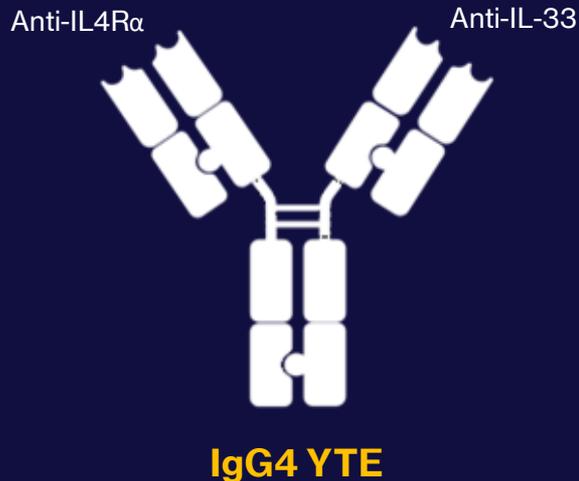
Suppression of IgE after inhaled allergen challenge



ZW1528 Blocks IL-4R α *in vivo*

Suppression of IgE after inhaled allergen challenge





ZW1528

IL-4R α x IL-33 Bispecific

Inhibits Multiple Pathways within
Complex Pathophysiology of
Inflammation

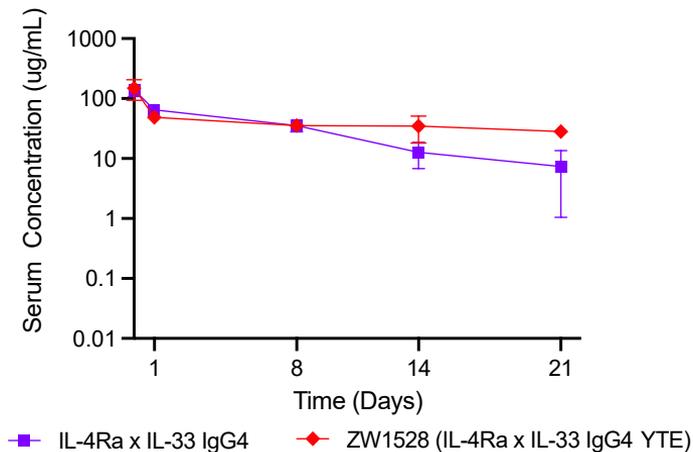


Mechanism

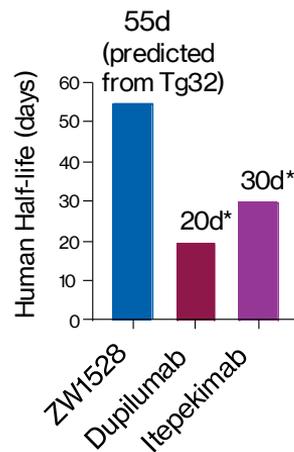
- Inhibition of 3 cytokines in single asset
- Potential advantages of local retention
- **YTE mutations:** a triple amino acid substitution in the Fc region of antibodies that significantly extend serum half-life by enhancing binding to the neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) at acidic pH.

ZW1528 Demonstrates IgG-like PK *in vivo*

Half-life extension (Tg32 mice PK)



Allometric scaling to predict half life in patients based on Tg32 data

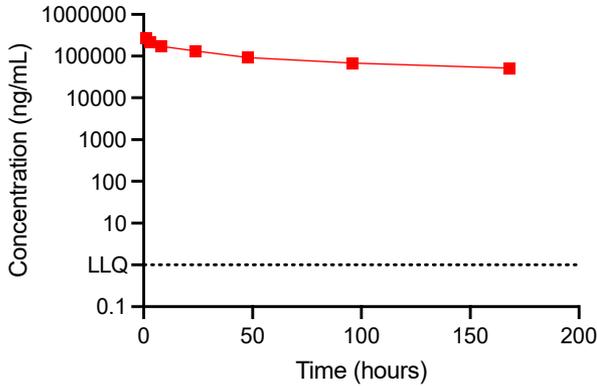


*based on literature values

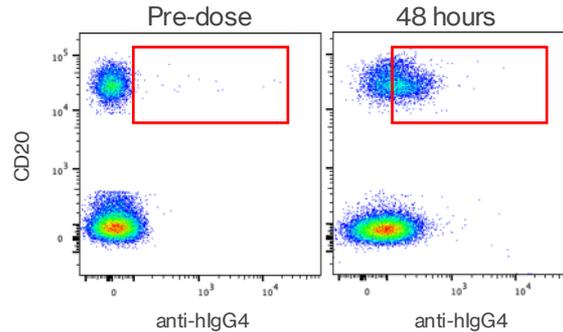
PK in Tg32 mice after 5 mg/kg i.v. administration

ZW1528 Demonstrates Biomarkers of IL-4R α /IL-33 Blockade in NHP

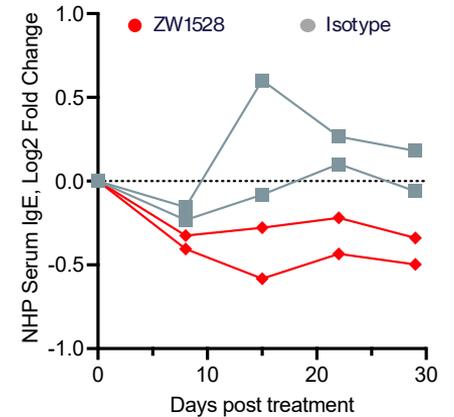
Pharmacokinetics



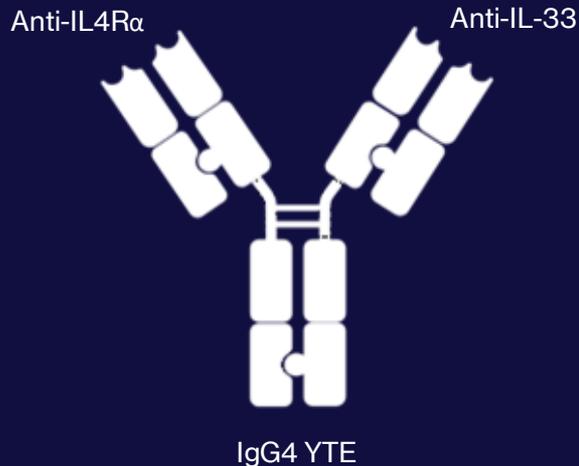
IL-4R α Receptor Occupancy



Reduction of Serum IgE



- IgG-like pharmacokinetics in non-human primates (NHP); exposure is maintained.
- Biomarkers of IL-4R α /IL-33 blockade up to **6 weeks** after single administration



ZW1528

IL-4R α x IL-33 Bispecific

Inhibits Multiple Pathways within
Complex Pathophysiology of
Inflammation

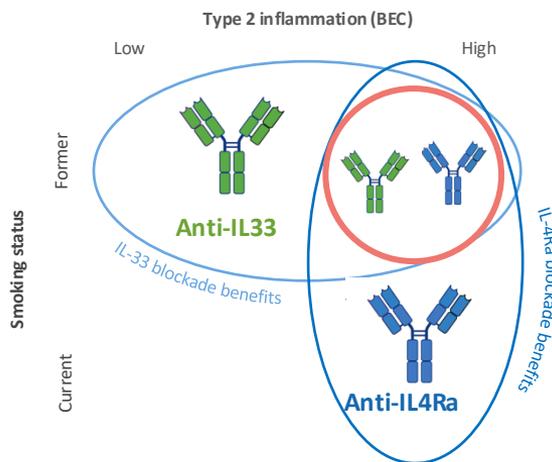


Mechanism

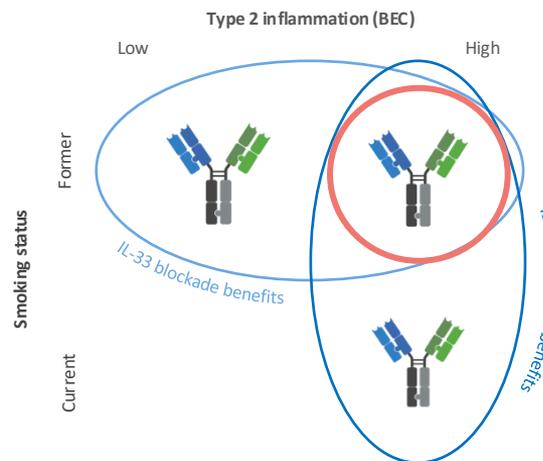
- Inhibition of 3 cytokines in single asset.
- Potential advantages of local retention.
- YTE mutations extend serum half-life.
- **Bispecific advantage:** Potential for increased efficacy than combination monotherapy treatment in patients.

IL-4R α x IL-33 Bispecific Provides Opportunity to Treat Broader Set of COPD Patients with Single Molecule

Anti-IL4R α and anti-IL-33 therapeutics are being developed to treat different COPD populations



IL-4R α x IL-33 bispecific provides opportunity to treat broader set of COPD patients with single molecule

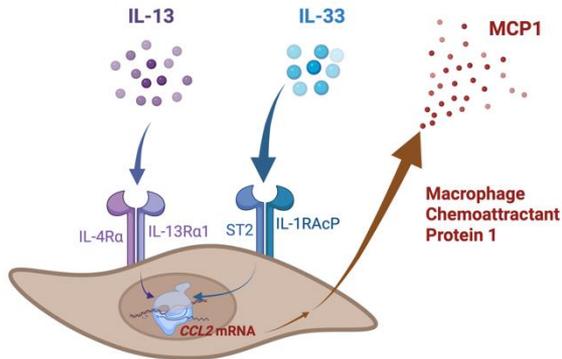


- Anti-IL4R α effective in Type 2 COPD (those with eosinophilia)
- Anti-IL-33 may prove to be effective in former smokers

- IL-4R α x IL-33 bispecific to **combine the effects of two mAbs**
- Potential for **increased efficacy in monotherapy-responsive patients**
- Potential for **increased efficacy than combination monotherapy treatment** (*bispecific advantage*)

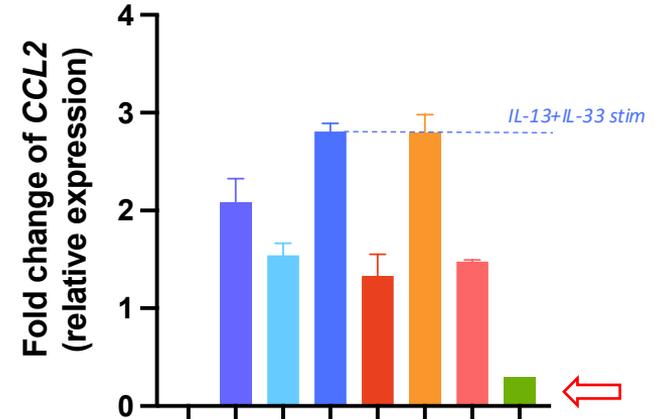
ZW1528-mediated Blockade of Primary Cell Activation is Superior to Dupilumab and Itepekimab

IL-33 and IL-13 activate human epithelial cells



- IL-13 and IL-33 treatment induces disease-relevant genes in primary cells
- ZW1528-mediated blockade is superior to dupilumab, itepekimab and combo

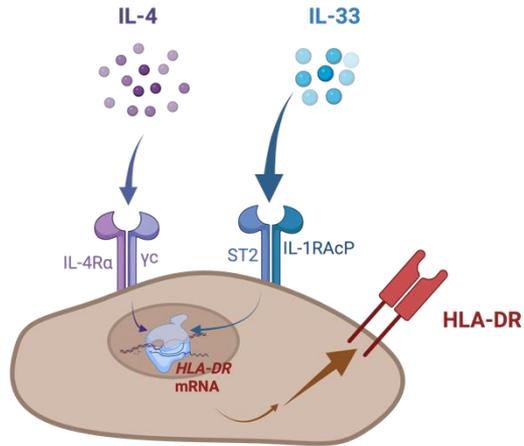
ZW1528 blocks activation



IL-13	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
IL-33	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Dupilumab	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
Itepekimab	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
ZW1528	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+

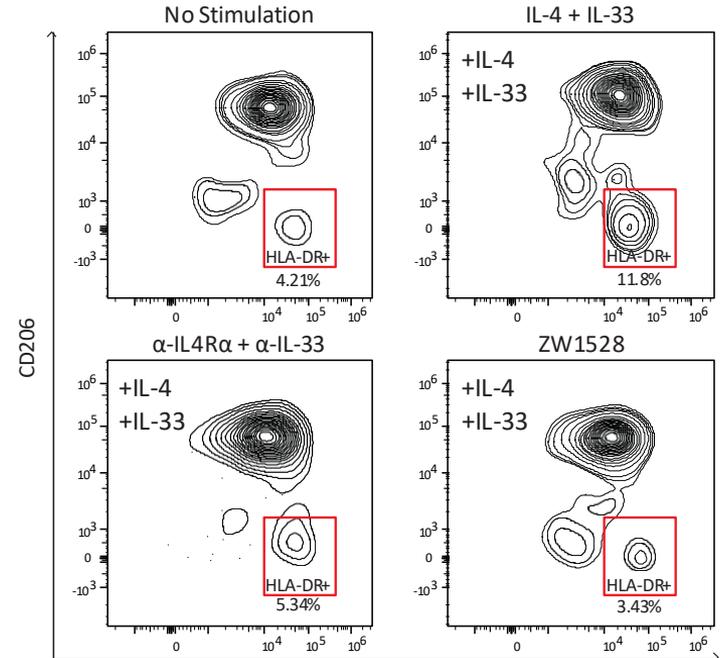
ZW1528-mediated Blockade of Primary Cell Activation is Superior to Dupilumab and Itepekimab

IL-33 and IL-4 activate human monocytes



- IL-4 and IL-33 treatment induces monocytes to differentiate into suppressive macrophages expressing HLA-DR
- ZW1528-mediated blockade is superior to dupilumab, itepekimab and combo

ZW1528 blocks activation



Summary: ZW1528, an IL-4R α x IL-33 Bispecific Antibody has the Potential to be a Significant New Treatment Option for Patients with COPD

ZW1528 potently blocks two complementary pathways of respiratory inflammation

- dual blockade of IL-4Ra and IL-33, preliminary evidence of bispecific advantage

ZW1528 demonstrates favourable profile in vivo

- good tolerability and PD of target blockade in NHP, extended PK in FcRn-humanized mice

ZW1528 aligns with requirements for successful AIID therapeutics

- easy-to-manufacture IgG-like molecule, designed to allow subcutaneous administration and less frequent dosing

Acknowledgements

Project Team			
Team Leads	Meghan Verstraete Purva Bhojane Blair Hardman Robert Nechanitzky	Business Development	David Kroeger Elena Topchiy Steve Seredick
Immunology	Janessa Li Omar Kassas Veronica Luu Yunfan Lyu Scott Lien Maya Poffenberger	LCMS Analytics	Diego Alonzo Edward Lau
Protein Engineering	Kesha Patel Tristan Philip NRC & WuXi (CROs)	TM&O	Mathew Smith Joe Weil Nina Madsen
In vitro Pharmacology	Nichole Escalante Andrew Sharon Catherine Wu Nicole Afacan Anna Von Rossum Lisa Newhook Peter Repenning	Clinical	Sabeen Mekan, Barbara Schaeffler, Jeff Smith
Translational Sciences	Steve Booth	Advisors & Oversight	
Intellectual Property	Emma Macfarlane	Alexey Berezhnoy, Nina Weisser, Thomas Spreter von Kreudenstein Charles Chen, Diana Papove, Adam Schayowitz, Paul Moore, and many more	
Toxicology	Kurt Stahl		
Project Management	Michelle Chakraborti Alyssa Mudryk		