

# XIV Jornada de Actualización en infección por **VIH**



## AVANCES EN LA CURA DEL VIH

*Pepe Alcamí*  
*Instituto de Salud Carlos III*  
*Coordinador de la Red de Investigación en SIDA*

Con el Patrocinio científico de :



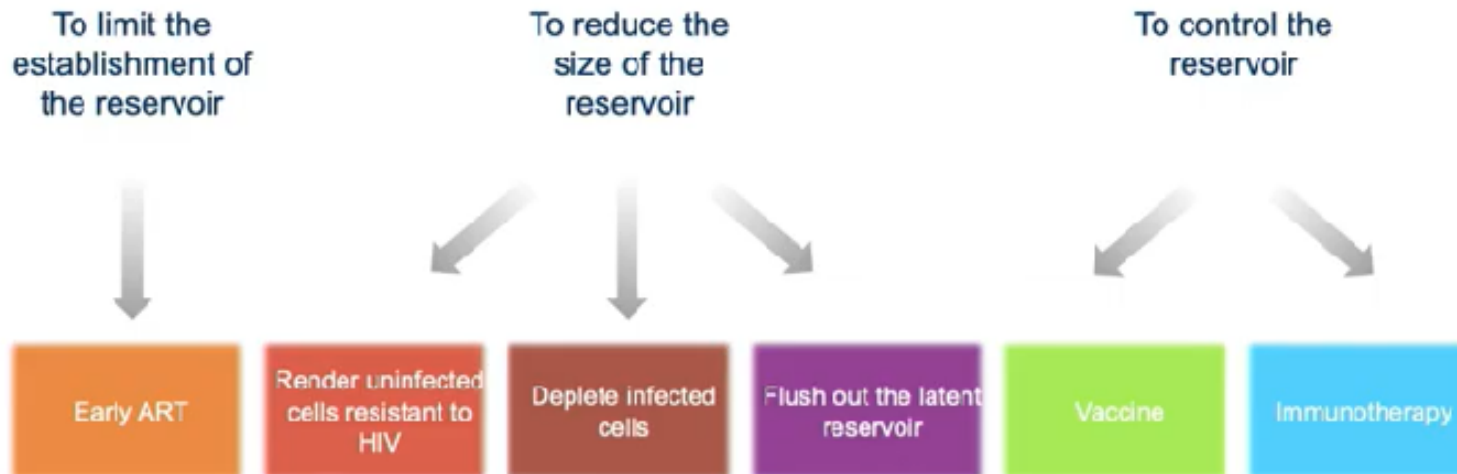
Con la Colaboración de :





**ADVANCES IN HIV CURE**  
**Nicolas Chomont**, *Univ*

- Why do we need a cure?
- What are viral reservoirs?
- How to measure reservoirs?
- What are the strategies to cure HIV?

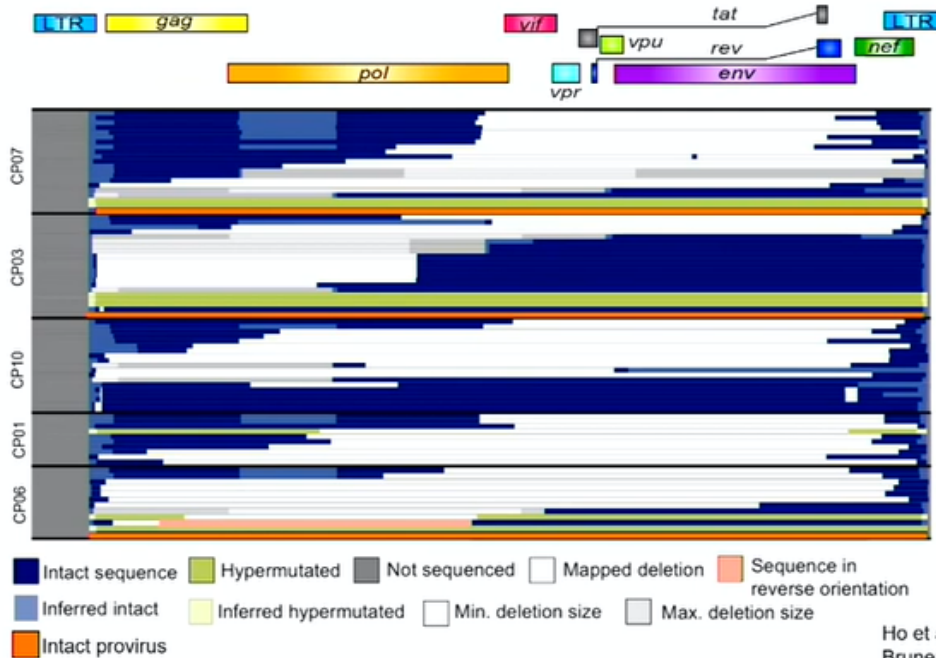


## CONCEPTS IN RESERVOIR MEASUREMENTS

Janet M. Siliciano, *The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA*



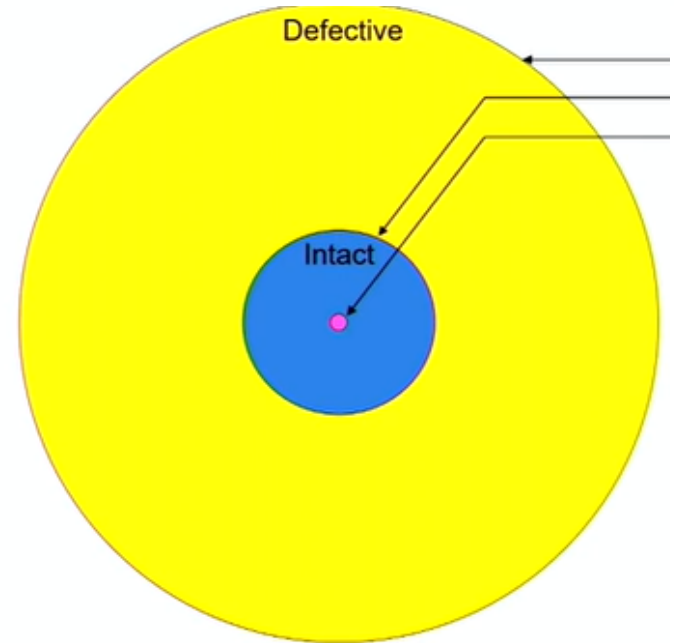
## Most HIV proviruses are defective



Ho et al, *Cell*, 2013  
Bruner et al, *Nature Med* 2016

## Cuantificación de virus completos

### Discovery of intact non-induced proviruses



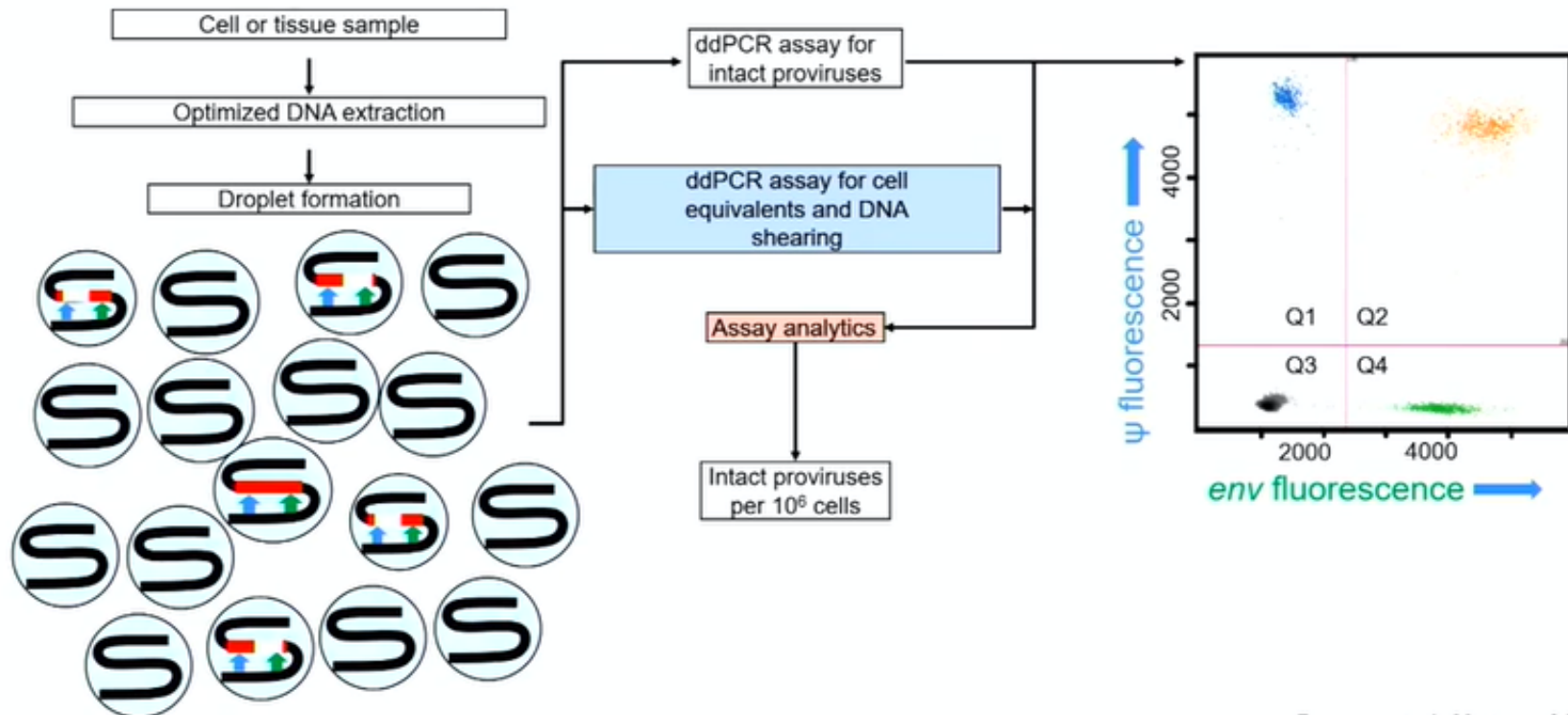
Assay	Frequency (per 10 <sup>6</sup> )
gag PCR	1000 – 10,000
nFLS	100
QVOA	1

## CONCEPTS IN RESERVOIR MEASUREMENTS

Janet M. Siliciano, *The Johns Hopkins University School of  
 Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA*



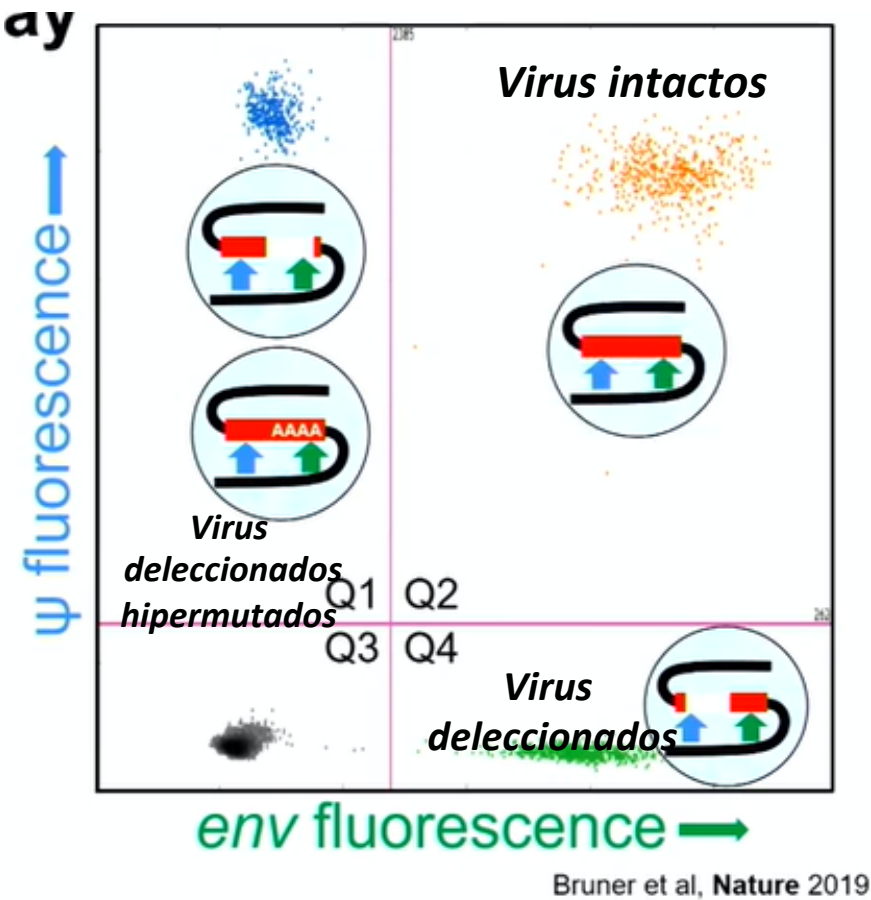
### Intact proviral DNA assay



Bruner et al, **Nature** 2019



## Intact Proviral DNA Assay (IPDA)

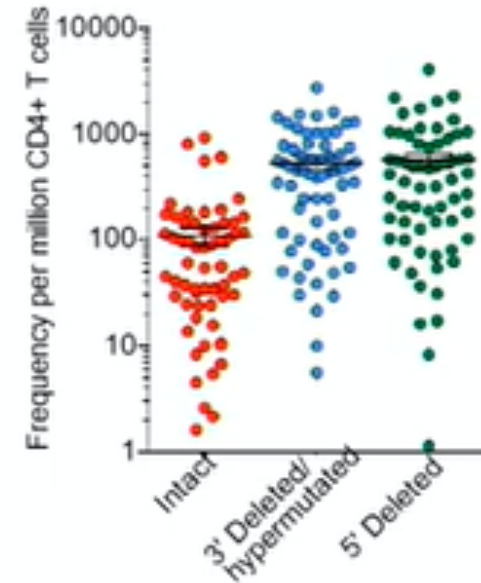
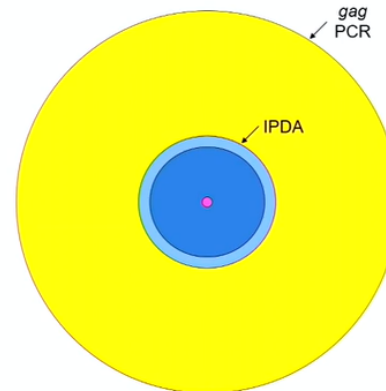


## CONCEPTS IN RESERVOIR MEASUREMENTS

Janet M. Siliciano, *The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA*



## IPDA as a replacement for proviral DNA PCR



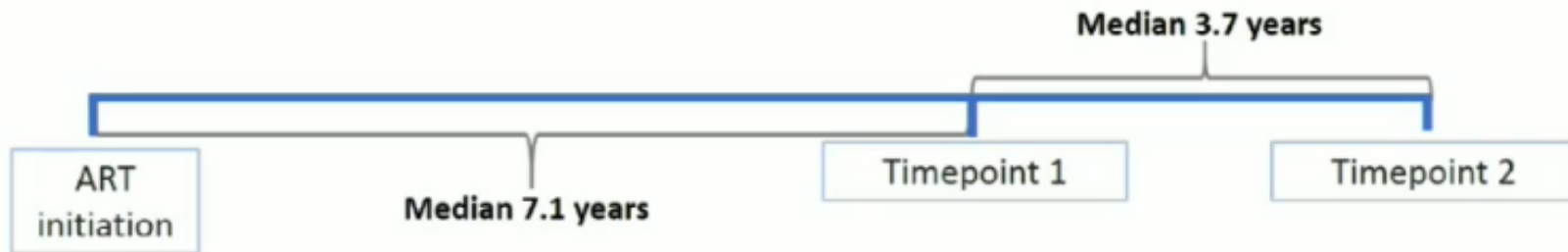
## INTACT PROVIRAL DNA LEVELS DECLINE IN PEOPLE WITH HIV ON ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY

**Rajesh T. Gandhi**, Joshua C. Cyktor, Ronald Bosch, Hanna Mar, Gregory Laird, Albine Martin, Ann Collier, Sharon Riddler, Bernard J. Macatangay, Charles Rinaldo, Joseph J. Eron, Robert Siliciano, Deborah McMahon, John W. Mellors, for the ACTG A5321 team

### ACTG HIV Reservoir Cohort (AHRC; ACTG A5321)



- Participants with chronic HIV who initiated ART in ACTG trials and who had well-documented and sustained virologic suppression
- 50 participants from this cohort underwent testing

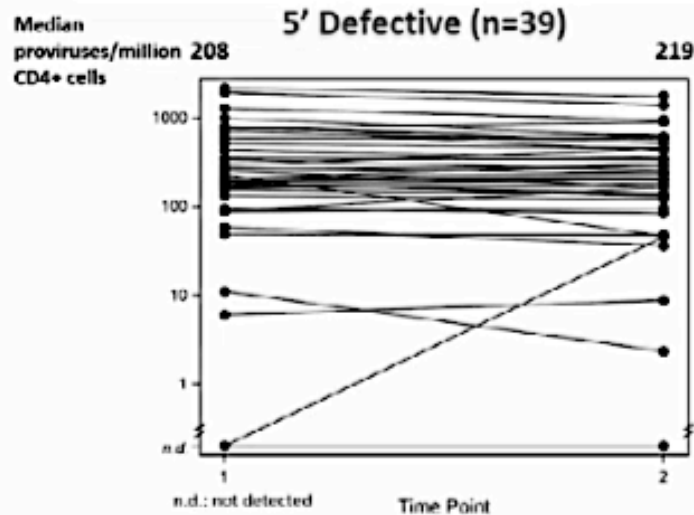


Longitudinal analysis excluded:

N=2: no intact proviruses detected by IPDA at either timepoint;

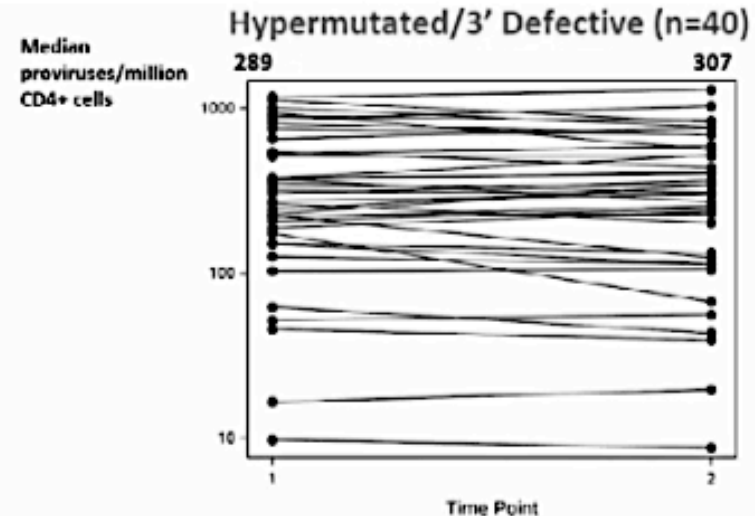
N=2: exclusionary medications.

## Defective Proviruses Do Not Decrease In Participants On ART



$T_{1/2}$ : 22 y (95% CI 11 y to infinity)

Change (log10) Between Entry and Year 4	Median (-0.014) Decreased 23 (59%) Increased 16 (41%)
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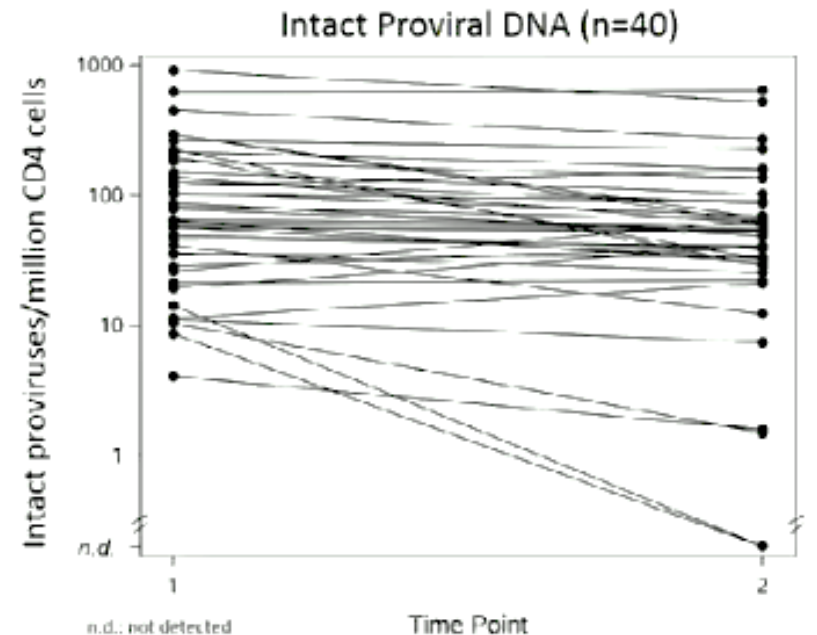


Change (log10) Between Entry and Year 4	Median (0.001) Decreased 20 (50%) Increased 20 (50%)
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**Total Proviral DNA (Intact + Defective) Median Half-life: 30 yr (95% CI 12 to 61 yr)**

## Intact Proviruses Decrease In Participants On ART

- Median intact proviral DNA:
  - Timepoint 1: 65/million CD4 cells
  - Timepoint 2: 53/million CD4 cells
- Between timepoint 1 and 2, 83% of participants had decrease in intact proviral DNA levels; 17% had increase
- Median half-life: 7.1 y (95% CI 4.7 to 18 y)
- No evidence that decay differed by age, sex, pre- or on-ART measurements of inflammation, activation



Timepoint 1: median 7.1 yr after ART initiation  
 Timepoint 2: approximately 4 yr after Timepoint 1

## Expansión clonal y determinación de los sitios de integración

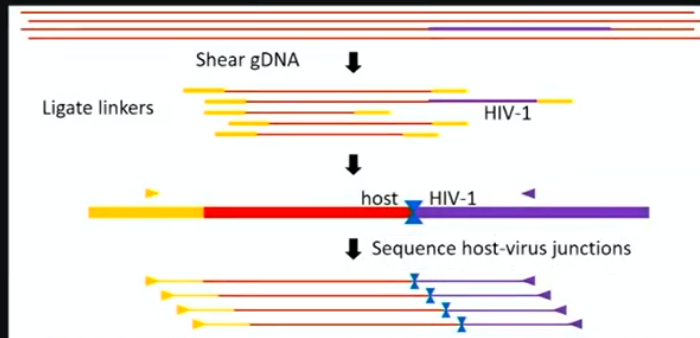
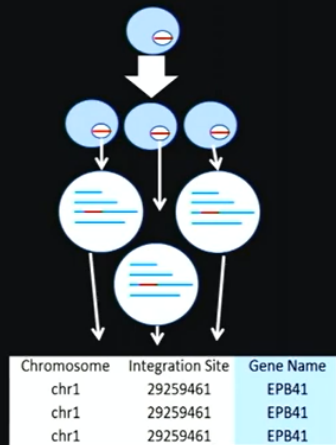
### CHARTING GENOME-WIDE INTEGRATION

Mary F. Kearney, National Cancer Institute, Frederick,

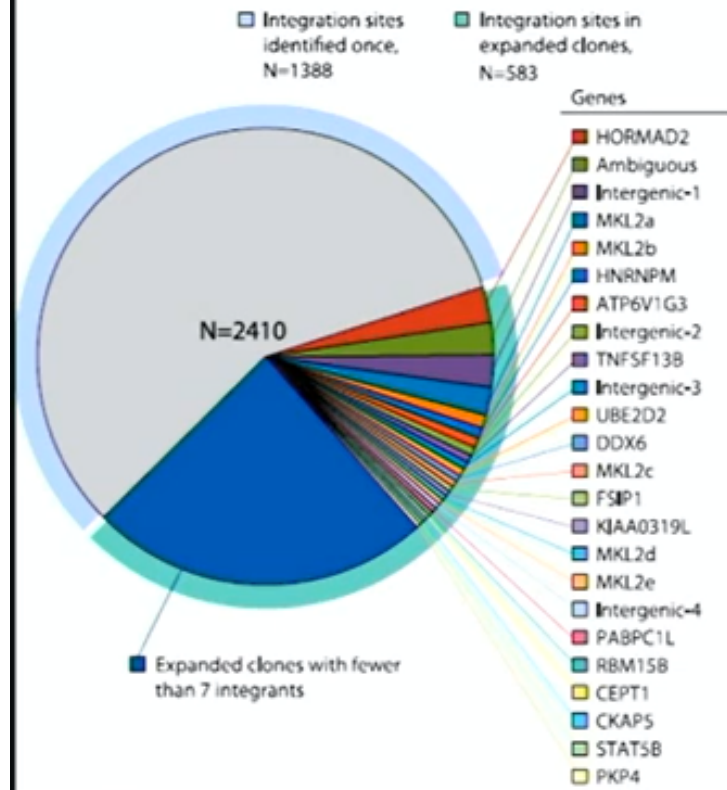


### HIV-1 Integration Sites Analysis

- Clonal populations have identical sites of integration in the human genome
- Cell clones can be identified with Integration Sites Assay (ISA)



Modified from Berry, et al. & Bangham, Bushman, Bioinformatics, 2012



Maldarelli, et al. & Hughes Science 2014  
Wagner, et al. & Frenkel Science 2014



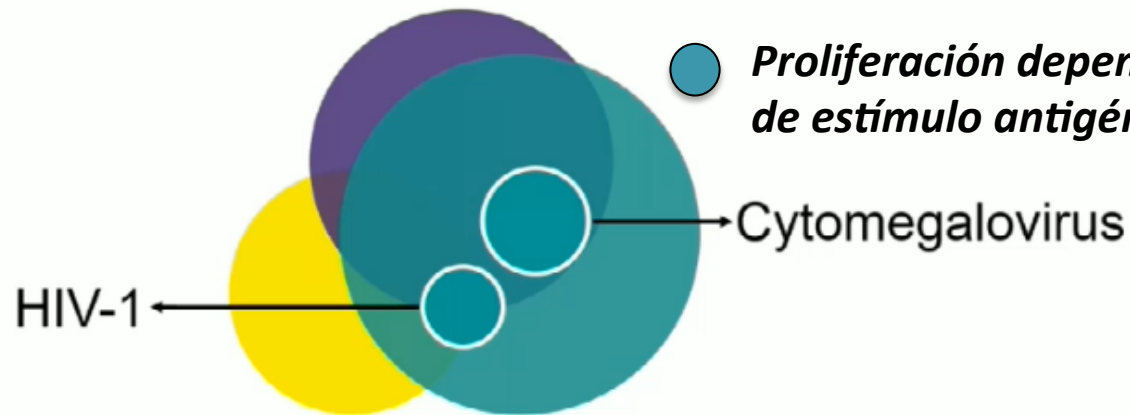
## ANTIGEN-DRIVEN CLONAL SELECTION SHAPES THE FATE OF HIV- INFECTED CD4+ T CELLS IN VIVO

Francesco R. Simonetti, Hao Zhang, Garshasb Soroosh, Subul A. Beg,  
Jiayi Duan, Kyle Rhodehouse, Christopher L. Nobles, Jun Lai, Rebecca Hoh,  
Steven G. Deeks, Frederic Bushman, Janet Siliciano, Robert Siliciano

Proliferation of HIV-infected T cells contributes to HIV persistence

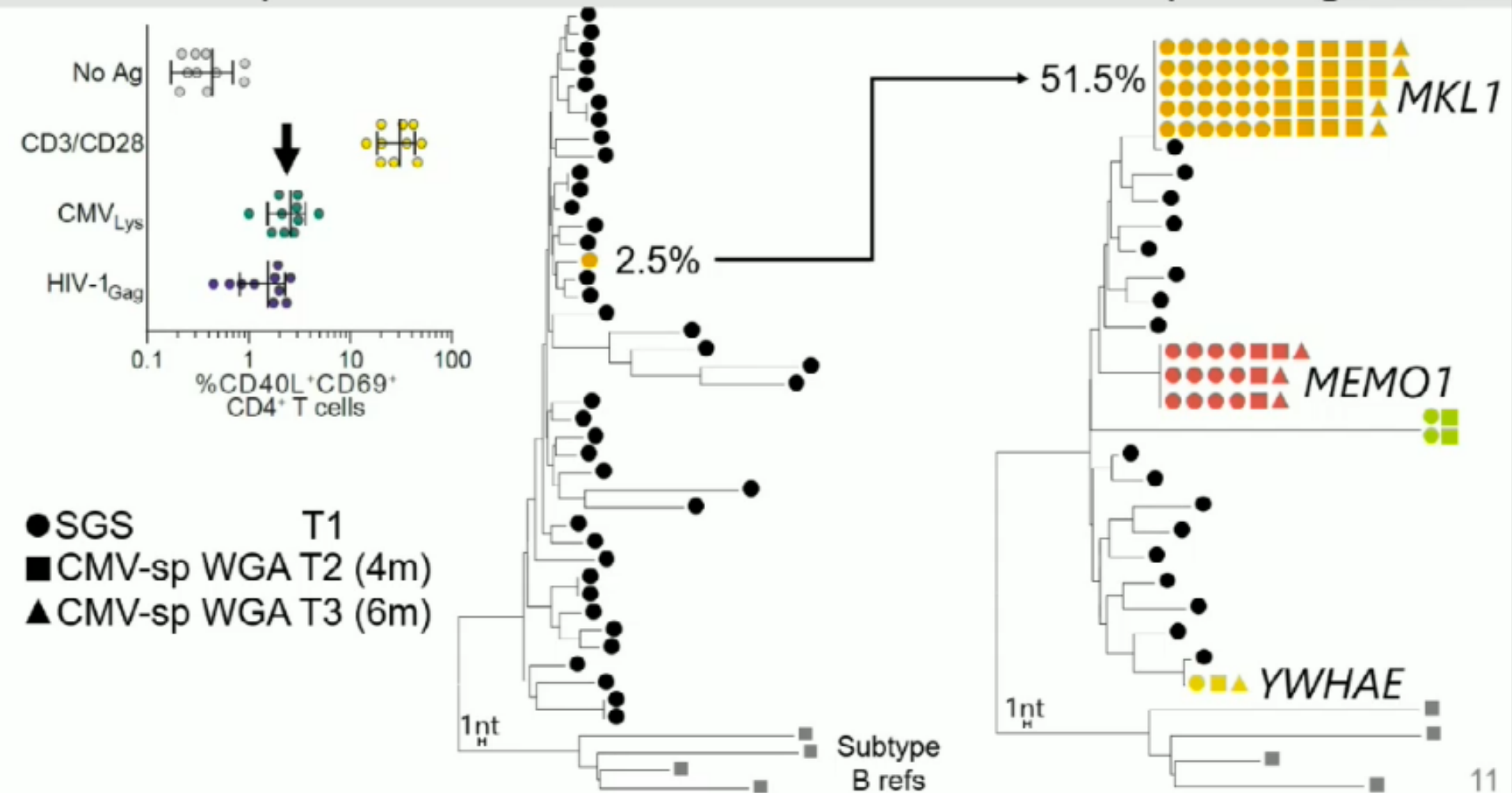
● *Proliferación homeostática*

● *Proliferación dependiente  
de estímulo antigénico*



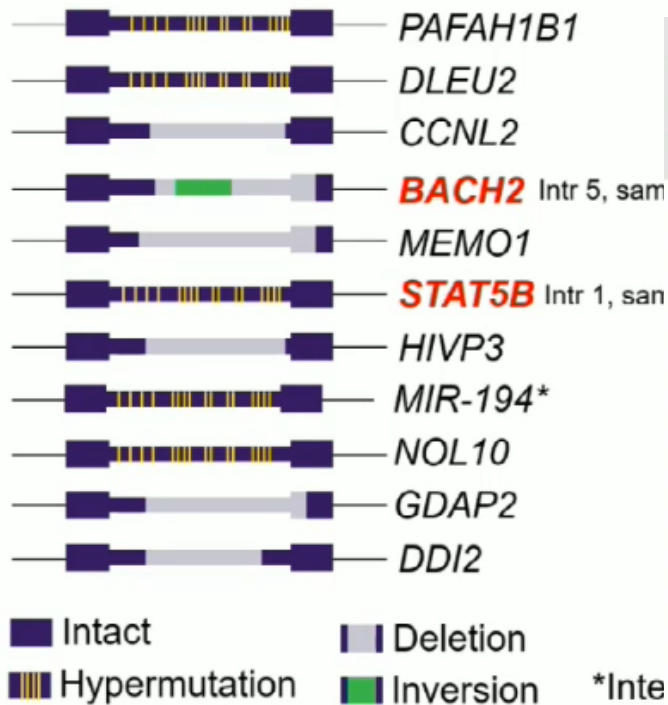
● *Células infectadas por VIH*

## Identical proviruses dominate in infected CMV-responding cells

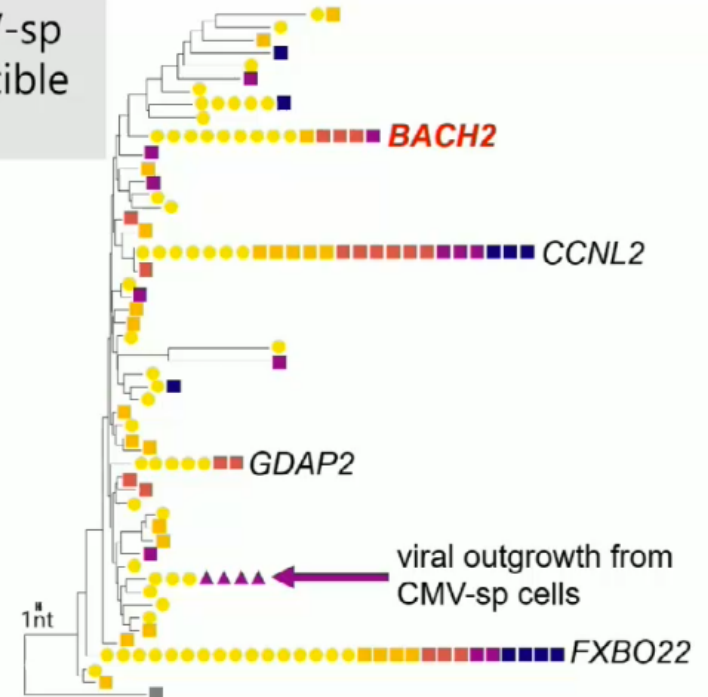
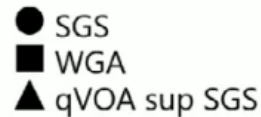


# AVANCES EN LA CURA DEL VIH

Most proviruses from CMV-responding clones are defective



Identification of a CMV-sp clone carrying an inducible infectious provirus



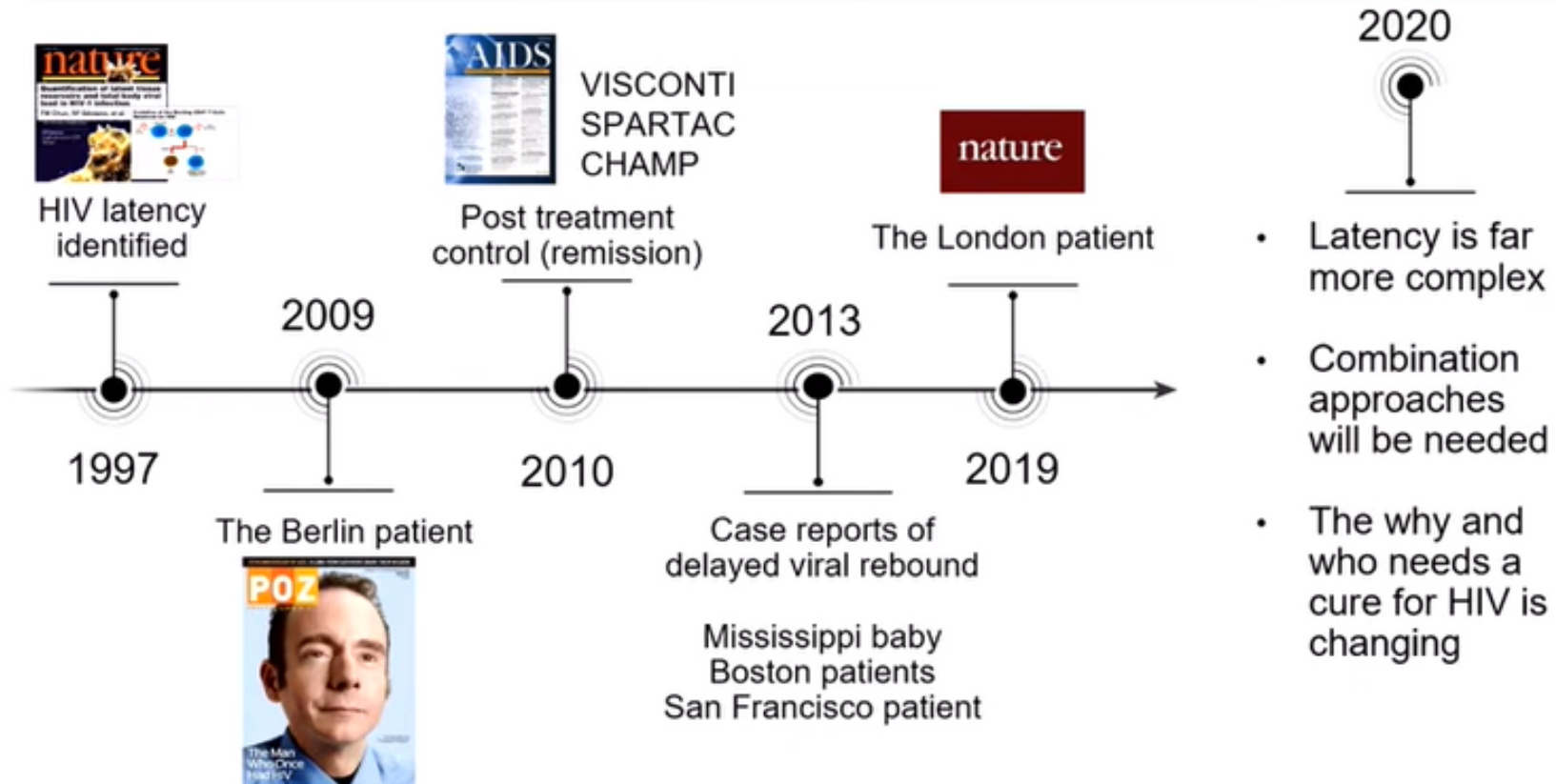
17  
8:30

## HIV CURE FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE

Sharon R. Lewin, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

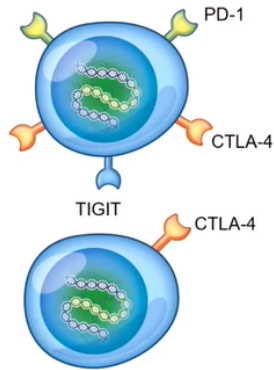


### A short history of HIV cure research: from cure to remission to cure again





## Immunomodulatory LRAs: immune checkpoint blockers

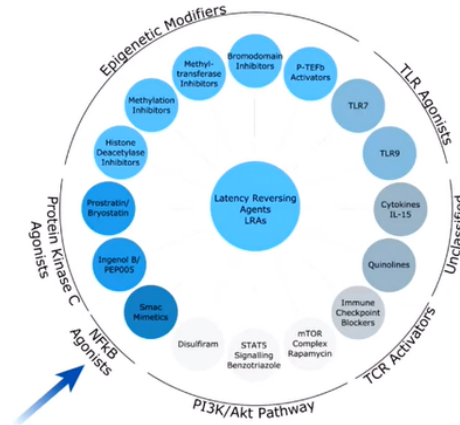


- Latent virus is enriched in cells that express PD-1 and other immune checkpoint markers (CTLA-4, TIGIT)<sup>1-3</sup>
- In vitro and in vivo anti-PD-1 reverses HIV latency and greater effect with anti-CTLA-4<sup>4,5,6</sup>
- Anti-PD-1 increases HIV/SIV-specific T-cell function and can lead to enhanced viral control in macaques<sup>7</sup>
- Significant challenges in using these agents in PLWH given immune related toxicity<sup>8,9</sup>



1 Chomont et al., Nat Med 2009; 2 Fromentin et al Plos Path 2016; 3 McGarry et al., Immunity 2017; 4 Fromentin et al., Nature Comms 2019; 5 Uldrick CROI 2019, Seattle, WA; 6 Van der Sluis et al., J Immunol 2020; 7 Velu et al., Nature 2006; 8 Gay et al J Infect Dis 2017; 9 <https://actgnetwork.org/>; Rasmussen et al CROI 2020 abs 334; Lau et al CROI 2020 abs 337; Okoye et al., CROI 2020 abs 117

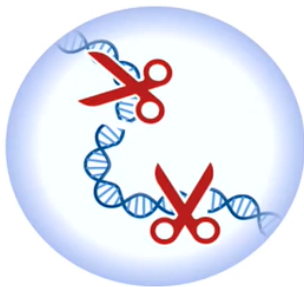
## Latency reversing agents (LRA): can 'shock' but not 'kill'



- Need for **more potent** and **less toxic** LRAs
- Need to get the 'kill' into shock and kill: **pro-apoptotic drugs**<sup>1</sup>
- Immune modulating latency reversing agents such as **toll like receptor (TLR) agonists** or **anti-PD1** have dual activity of targeting the virus and immune system<sup>2</sup>

1 Kim, Anderson and Lewin, Cell Host Microbe 2018; 2 Zerbato et al., Curr Op Virol 2019

## Gene therapy: targets and strategies



**Attack:** enhance anti-HIV immune responses

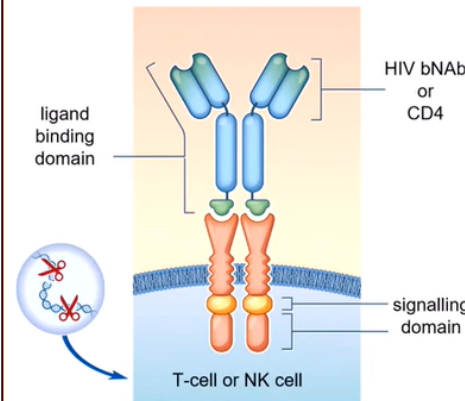
**Protect:** engineer uninfected cells to be resistant to HIV

**Purge:** directly eliminate the virus itself

Delivery of gene therapy a major challenge :  
**ex vivo** (gene editing of cells outside the body) or **in vivo** (gene editing in the body)

Slide courtesy of Paula Cannon

## Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T cells



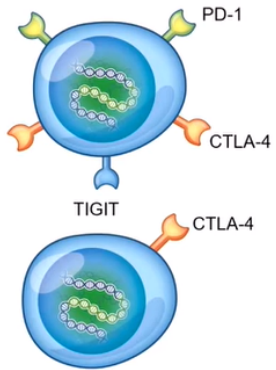
- Autologous T-cells or NK cells undergo gene editing to express a CAR to bind and kill cells that express HIV envelope<sup>1-4</sup>
- CAR T-cells for HIV tested in mice, macaque models and in clinical trials in China (x3) and the US (x1)<sup>5</sup>
- Major challenges include toxicity (potentially preventable), delivery to tissue sites and low expression of HIV envelope on ART

1 Deeks et al., Mol Ther 2002; 2 Sung et al., Mol Ther 2018; 3 Herzog et al., Cell 2019; 4 Anthony-Gonda Sci Transl Med 2019; 5 clinical trials.gov



# AVANCES EN LA CURA DEL VIH

## Immunomodulatory LRAs: immune checkpoint blockers

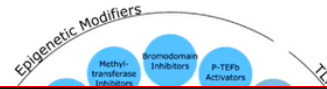


- Latent virus is enriched in cells that express PD-1 and other immune checkpoint markers



1 Chomont et al., Nat Med 2009; 2 Fromentin et al Plos  
Uldrick CROI 2019, Seattle, WA; 6 Van der Sluis et  
<https://aiglnetwork.org/>; Rasmussen et al CROI 2020 abs

## Latency reversing agents (LRA): can 'shock' but not 'kill'



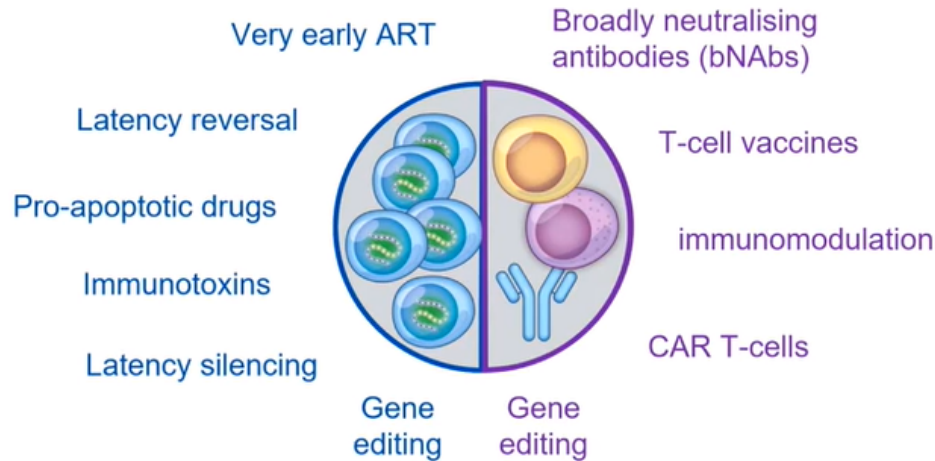
- Need for **more potent** and **less toxic** LRAs

Need to get the 'kill' into shock and kill: **pro-apoptotic drugs**<sup>1</sup>

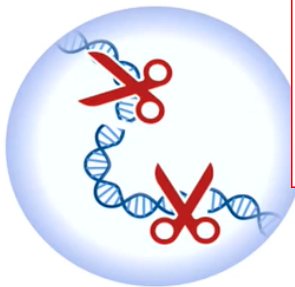
Immune modulating latency reversing agents such as **toll like receptor (TLR) agonists** or **anti-PD1** have dual activity of targeting the virus and immune system<sup>2</sup>

1 Microbe 2018; 2 Zerbato et al., Curr Op Virol 2019

## Combination immunotherapy



## Gene therapy: targets



**Purge:** directly eliminate the virus itself

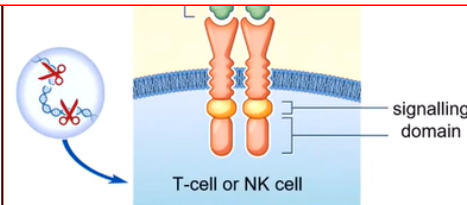
Delivery of gene therapy a major challenge :  
**ex vivo** (gene editing of cells outside the body) or **in vivo** (gene editing in the body)

Slide courtesy of Paula Cannon

## cells

Autologous T-cells or NK cells undergo gene editing to express a receptor to bind and kill cells that lack HIV envelope<sup>1-4</sup>

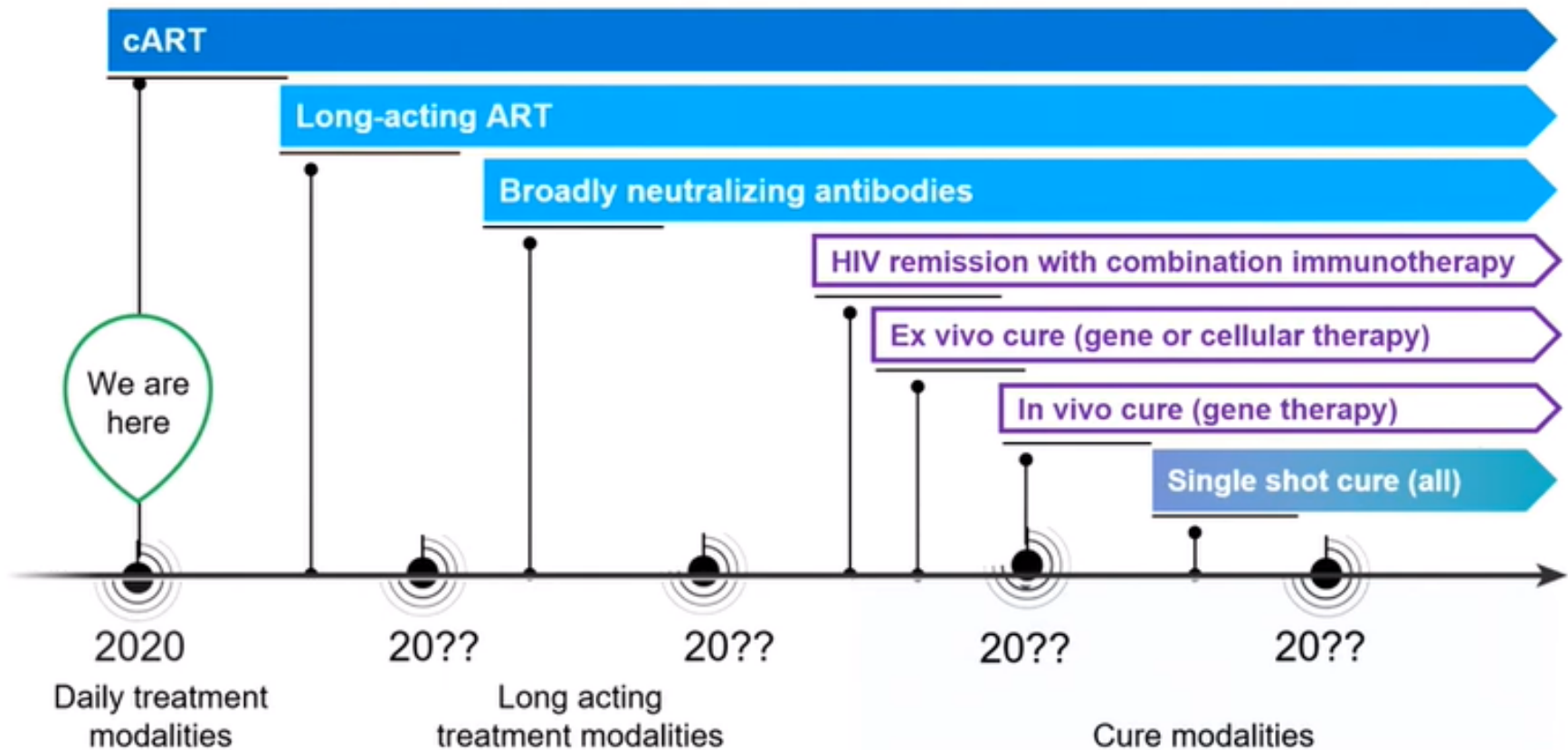
T-cells for HIV tested in mice, macaque models and in clinical trials in China (x3) and the US (x1)<sup>5</sup>



- Major challenges include toxicity (potentially preventable), delivery to tissue sites and low expression of HIV envelope on ART

1 Deeks et al., Mol Ther 2002; 2 Sung et al., Mol Ther 2018; 3 Herzig et al., Cell 2019; 4 Anthony-Gonda Sci Transl Med 2019; 5 clinical trials.gov

## Current and future landscape for HIV treatment



**Oral Abstract 0-03 THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS FOR HIV  
TREATMENT AND ERADICATION**

**Auditorium 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Oral Abstract Moderators**

**María J. Buzón**, Vall d'Hebrón Research Institute,  
Barcelona

**Aadia Rana**, University of Alabama, Birmingham,  
AL, USA



**37 10:45 IMPACT OF ANTI-PD-1 AND ANTI-CTLA-4 ON THE HIV RESERVOIR  
IN VIVO: THE AMC-095 STUDY**

**Thomas A. Rasmussen**, Laskhmi Rajdev, Ajantha Solomon,  
Ashanti Dantanarayana, Surekha Tennakoon, Socheata Chea,  
Rachel L. Rutishauser, Danielle Rigau, Shelly Lensing, Sonia Bakkour,  
Michael P. Busch, Dirk Dittmer, Steven G. Deeks, Christine Durand,  
Sharon R. Lewin

**38 11:00 A RANDOMIZED TRIAL OF THE IMPACT OF 3BNC117 AND  
ROMIDEPSIN ON THE HIV-1 RESERVOIR**

Henning Gruell, Yehuda Z. Cohen, Jesper D. Gunst, Marie H. Pahas,  
Clara Lehmann, Katrina Millard, Martin Tolstrup, Julio C. Lorenzi,  
Michel Nussenzweig, Gerd Fätkenheuer, Florian Klein, Marina Caskey,  
Ole S. Søgaard

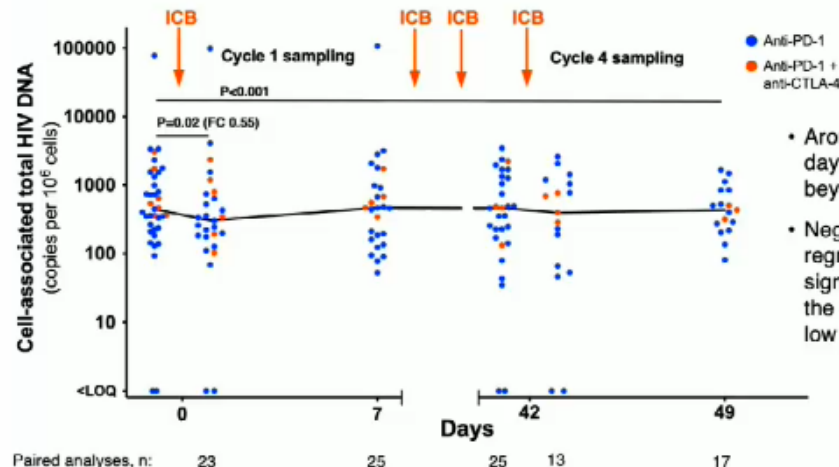
**39 11:15 SAFETY & PHARMACOKINETICS OF GS-9722 IN HIV-NEGATIVE  
PARTICIPANTS AND PEOPLE WITH HIV**

**Peter Ruane**, Eric Daar, Kimberly Workowski, Rebecca Begley,  
Rita Humeniuk, Tariro Makadzange, Steve K. West, Hui Liu, Yizhao Li,  
John Ling, Luisa M. Stamm, Polina German, Joseph J. Eron, Princy N. Kumar,  
Edwin DeJesus

**40 11:30 SAFETY AND ANALYTIC TREATMENT INTERRUPTION OUTCOMES  
OF VESATOLIMOD IN HIV CONTROLLERS**

**Devi Sengupta**, Moti Ramgopal, Cynthia Brinson, Edwin DeJesus,  
Anthony Mills, Peter Shalit, Scott McCallister, Hiba Graham, Heena Patel,  
Lijie Zhong, Joseph Hesselgeser, Brian Doehle, Susan Guo, Diana Brainard,  
Steven G. Deeks

## Transient decrease in cell-associated total HIV-DNA

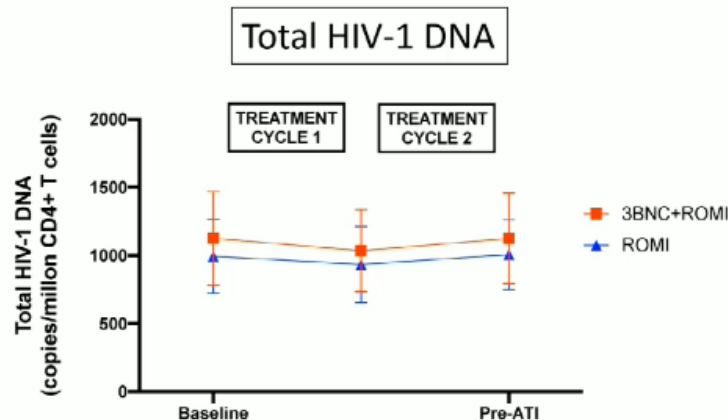


- Around 45% decrease at day 1 but not sustained beyond this time point
- Negative binomial regression identified a significant decrease over the 4 cycles but with a very low effect size

Statistical analyses done by paired t-test on log-transformed data and generalized negative binomial regression

TA Rasmussen. CROI 2020 #37

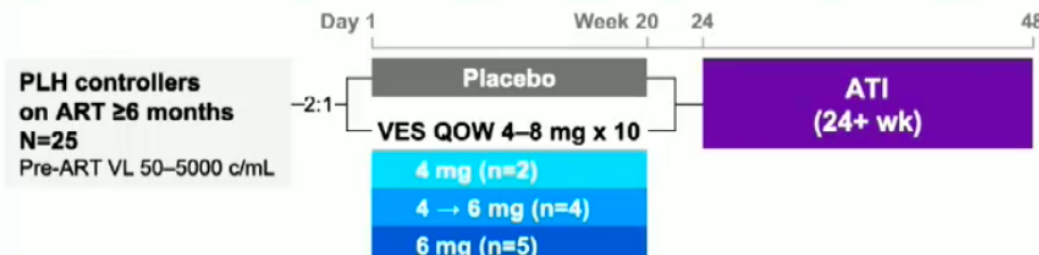
## Effect on the size of HIV-1 reservoir



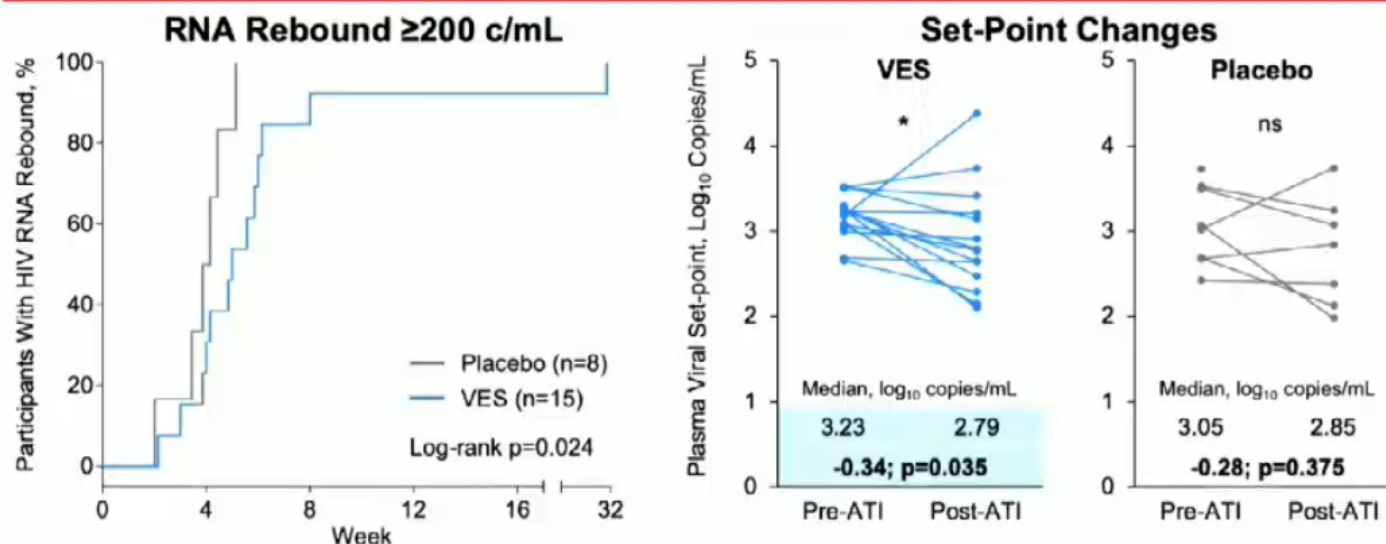
H Gruell. CROI 2020 #38

No significant changes in total HIV DNA

# Safety & Analytic Treatment Interruption Outcomes of Vesatolimod in HIV Controllers



## ATI Results by Group

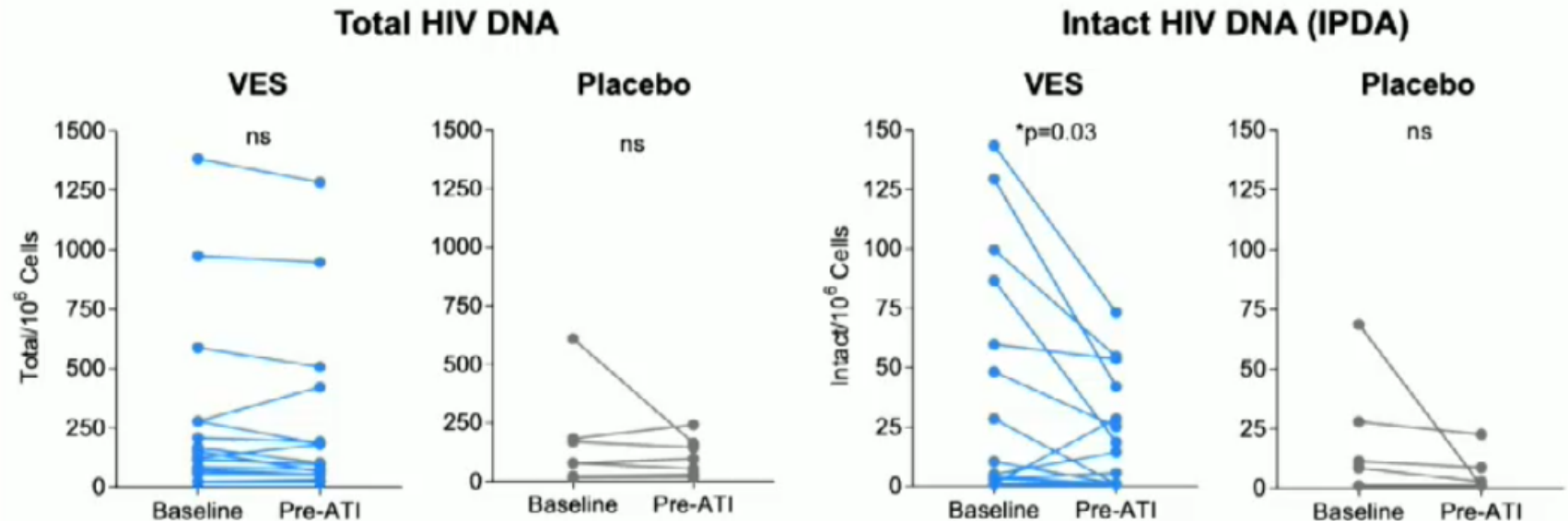


- ♦ Median time to ART restart: VES 47 wk, Placebo 28 wk
- ♦ Participant with longest time to rebound (31 wk) received 6 mg VES
  - Maintained low viral loads  $<200$  c/mL x 48 wk;  $\sim 1$   $\log_{10}$  decrease in set-point

Time to virologic rebound = wk from start of ATI to two consecutive HIV-1 RNA  $\geq 200$  c/mL; plasma viral set-point following ATI calculated as the geometric mean of all HIV-1 RNA measurements between start date and end date; start date and end date were determined by blinded clinical data review of each participant profile.



## Changes in HIV DNA



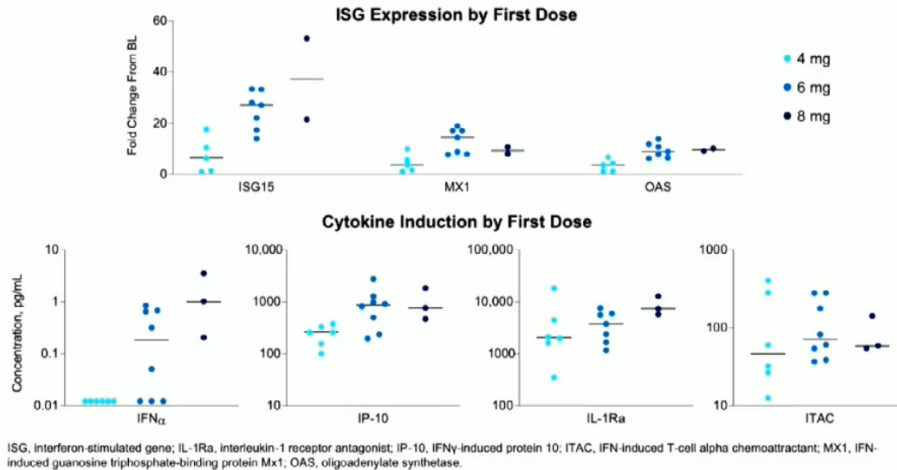
- ◆ No consistent impact on total DNA
- ◆ IPDA (designed to assess replication-competent reservoir) decreased in VES group

Accelevir Diagnostics; IPDA, intact proviral DNA assay.

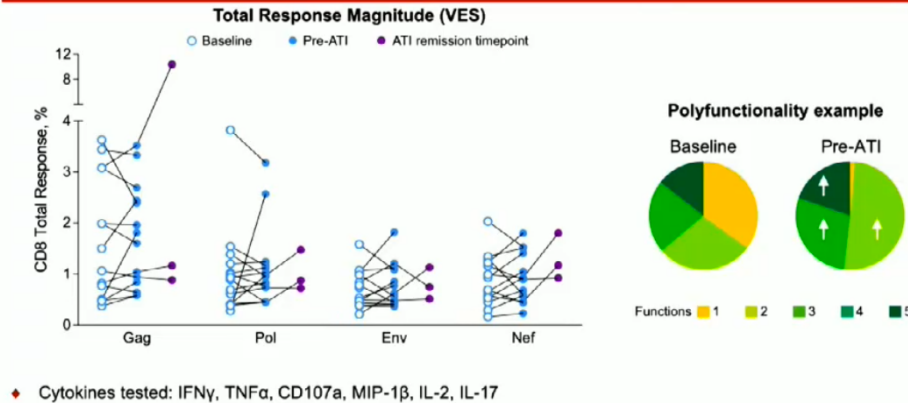


# Safety & Analytic Treatment Interruption Outcomes of Vesatolimod in HIV Controllers

## Vesatolimod Induces ISG & Cytokines in a Dose-dependent Manner

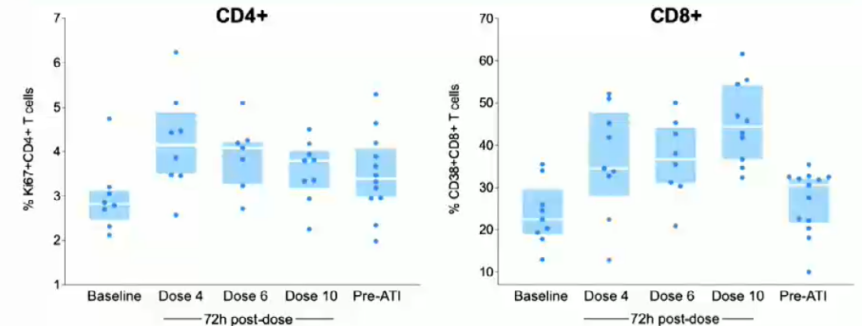


## HIV-specific CD8+ Responses by Intra-cellular Cytokine Staining



UC Davis Shacklett lab; MIP-1 $\beta$ , macrophage inflammatory protein-1 $\beta$ ; TNF $\alpha$ , tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$ .

## Vesatolimod Increases CD4+ and CD8+ T Cell Activation



- ♦ CD4 and CD8 transitional and effector memory subsets had the largest post-dose increase in activation
- ♦ Participants with delayed rebound had higher activation in CD8+ TM, EM, and TEMRA

UCSF Core Immunology Lab. Immune cell phenotyping by flow cytometry. EM, effector memory; TEMRA, CD45RA+ EM; TM, transitional memory.

## Conclusions

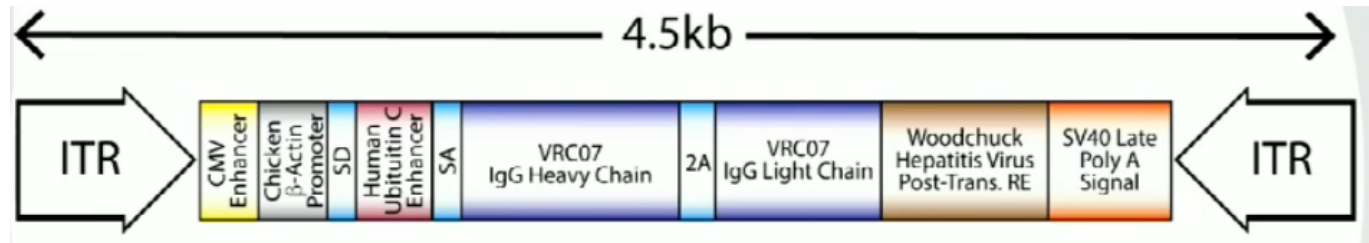
In HIV controllers, compared to placebo, multiple VES doses up to 8 mg:

- ♦ Were well-tolerated
- ♦ Did not impact total HIV DNA, but were associated with decreases in intact DNA, as estimated by the IPDA
- ♦ Modestly increased time to viral rebound after ATI and decreased viral set point compared to pre-ART
- ♦ These effects are potentially due to an augmented antiviral immune response
  - Induced ISG expression, cytokines
  - Activated immune cells
  - Increased polyfunctional HIV-specific CD8+ responses in a subset of participants

Trials evaluating the efficacy of VES in combination with other agents such as CD8-inducing vaccines and monoclonal antibodies are warranted

# AVANCES EN LA CURA DEL VIH

## DURABLE HIV-1 ANTIBODY PRODUCTION IN HUMANS AFTER AAV8-MEDIATED GENE TRANSFER

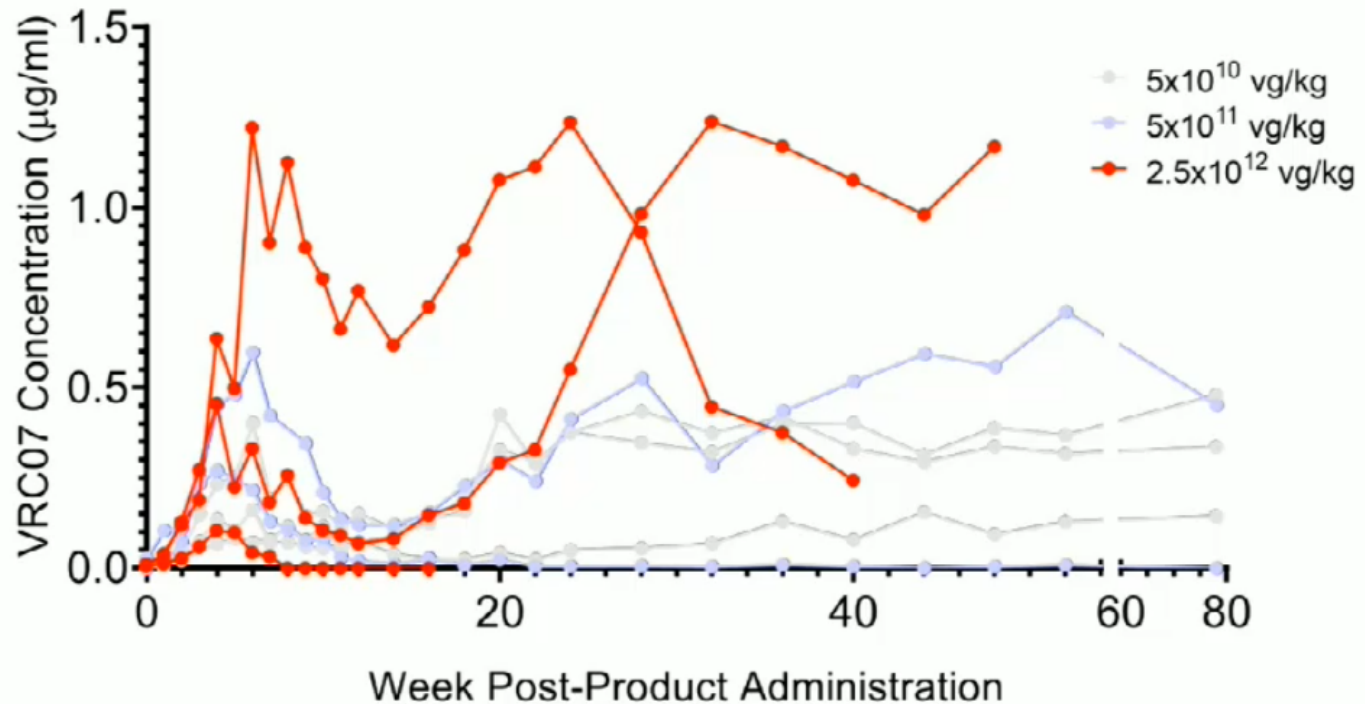


### VRC 603 Enrollment



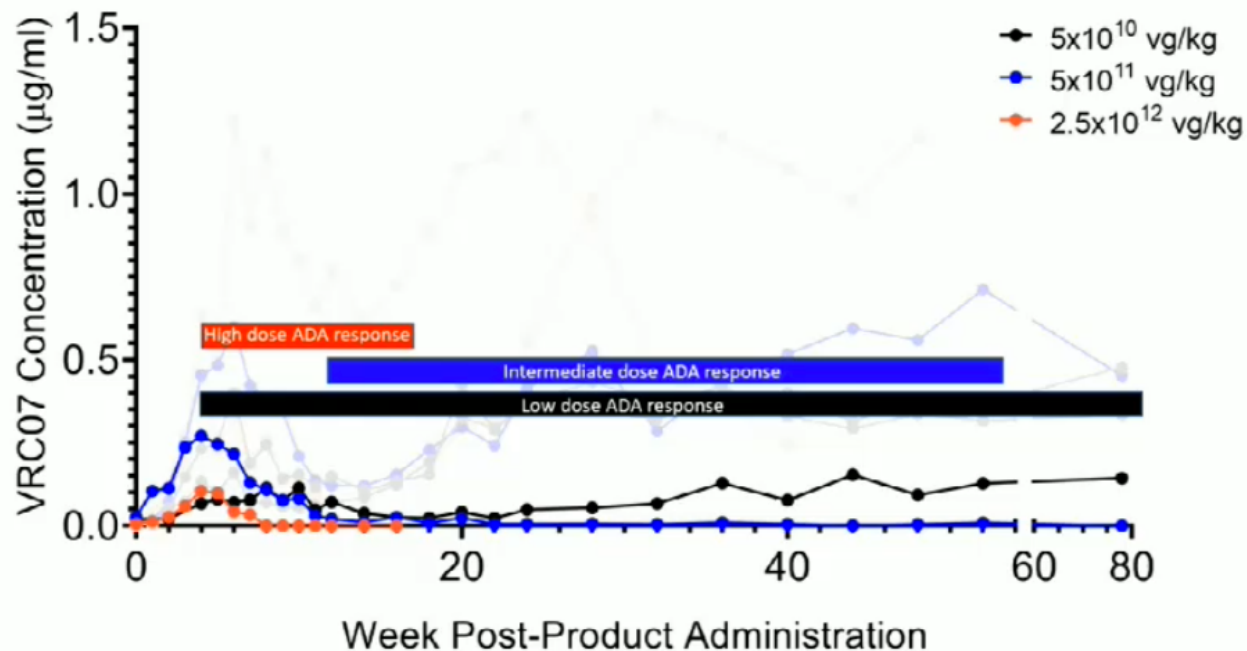
## DURABLE HIV-1 ANTIBODY PRODUCTION IN HUMANS AFTER AAV8-MEDIATED GENE TRANSFER

### Longitudinal Serum VRC07 Concentrations



## DURABLE HIV-1 ANTIBODY PRODUCTION IN HUMANS AFTER AAV8-MEDIATED GENE TRANSFER

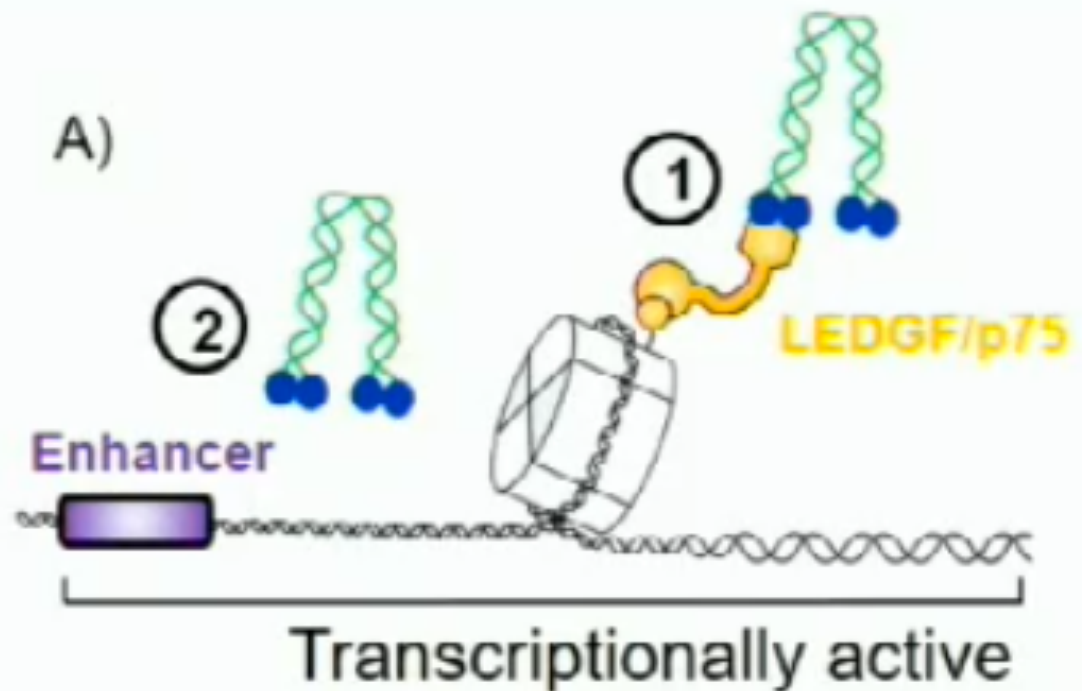
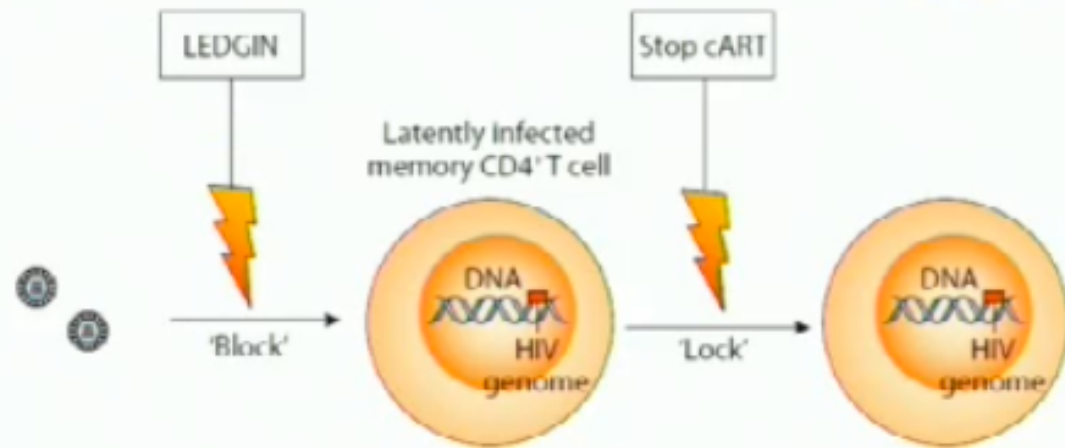
### Three Volunteers Developed ADA Responses to VRC07



## THE CHROMATIN LANDSCAPE AT THE HIV-1 INTEGRATION SITE DETERMINES VIRAL EXPRESSION

Gerlinde Vansant, Julie Janssens, Heng-Chang Chen, Eduard Zbrity,  
 Frauke Christ, Guillaume Filion, **Zeger Debyser**

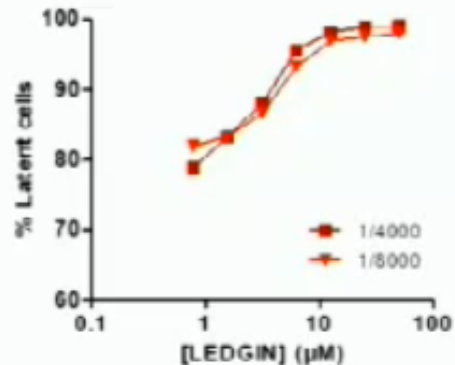
Block and lock



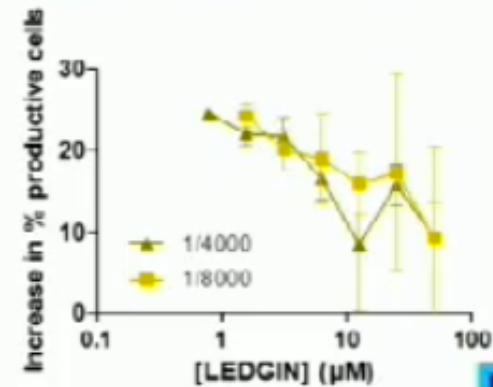


## The impact of LEDGINs on latency/ block-and-lock strategy

### Increase the latent reservoir fraction



### Decrease the reactivation potential



**Eytan Herzig, Kaman Chan Kim, Thomas A. Packard, Noam Vardi, Roland Schwarzer, Andrea Gramatica, Steven G. Deeks, Steven R. Williams, Kyle Landgraf, Nigel Killeen, David W. Martin, Leor Weinberger, Warner C. Greene**

The diagram illustrates the development of convertible CAR-T cells, showing the transition from a standard CAR-T cell to a more controlled and versatile convertible CAR-T cell.

**Standard CAR-T Cell:**

- HIV-infected cell:** The target cell to be lysed.
- Env:** HIV envelope protein on the infected cell.
- Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR):** Always "on" - lacks control.
- Mouse-derived scFv receptors:** Used for single antigen targeting.
- Activation:** Leads to **Lysis** of the HIV-infected cell.

**convertibleCAR-T Cell:**

- Resting "off" State:** The cell is inactive.
- MicAbody-activated "on" State:** The cell is activated by a MicAbody.
- Env:** HIV envelope protein on the infected cell.
- MicAbody:** Used for multi-antigen targeting.
- iNKG2D CAR:** Human-derived iNKG2D receptor.
- Activation:** Leads to **Lysis** of the HIV-infected cell.
- Multi-antigen targeting:** The cell can target multiple antigens.
- MicAbody dose controlled:** The activation is controlled by the dose of the MicAbody.

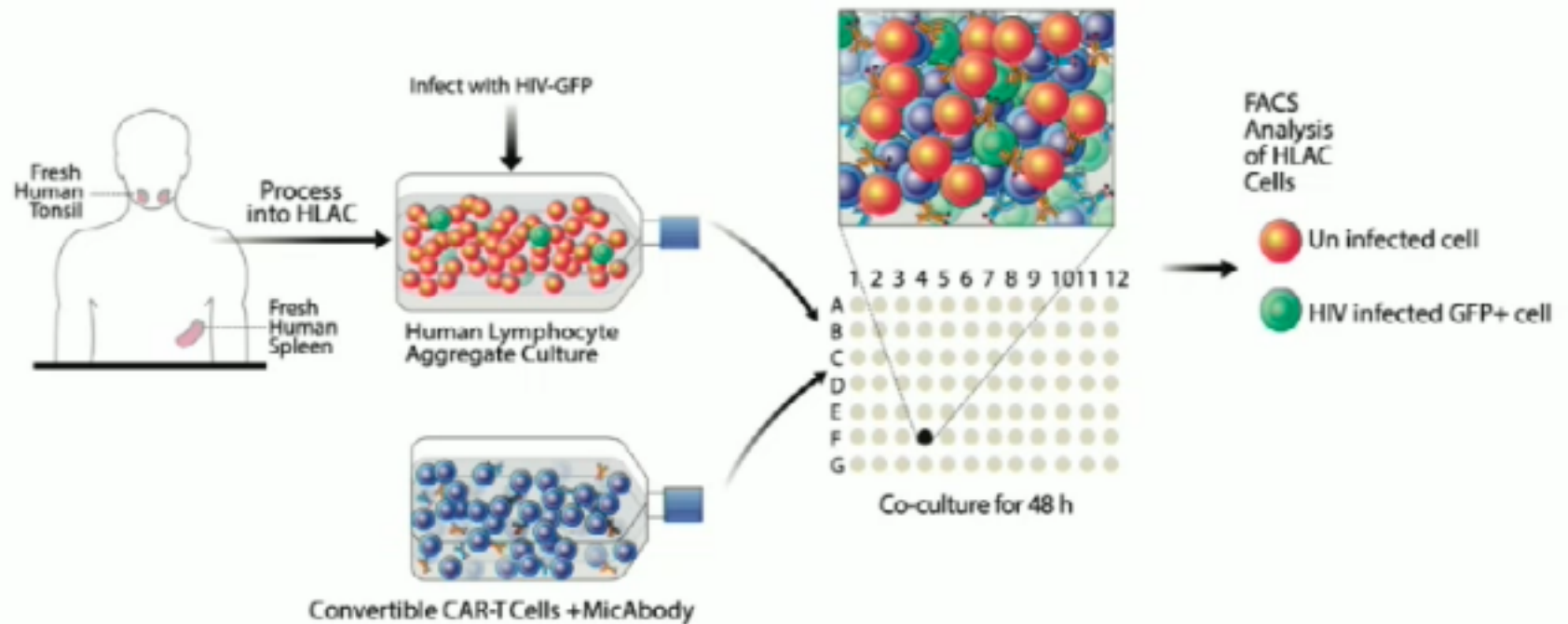
**convertibleCAR Ports:**

- MicAbody:** Used for targeting.
- HIV bNAb:** HIV binding antibody.
- Engineered α1-α2 domain:** Engineered domain for binding.
- Engineered binding domain:** Engineered domain for binding.
- Inert NKG2D Receptors:** Receptors that are inert in the resting state.

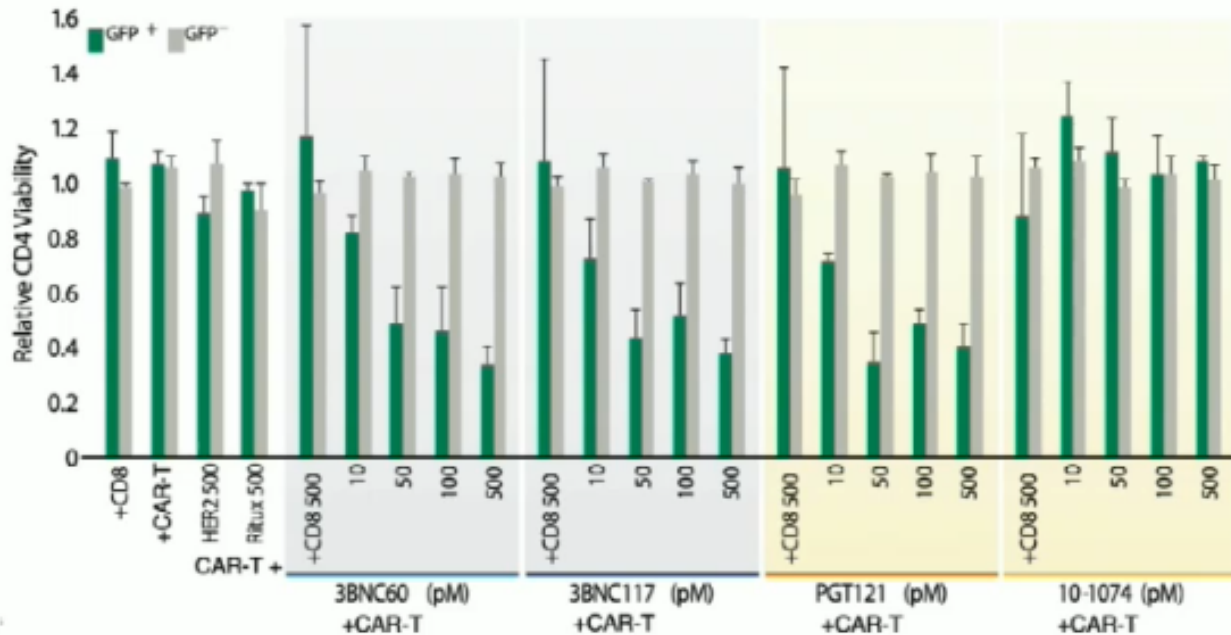
**convertibleCAR-T Cell (Targeting and Functions):**

- Target 1, Target 2, Target 3:** Multiple targets for CAR-T cell targeting.
- Immune modulation:** Modulation of the immune system.
- Checkpoint antagonism:** Antagonism of immune checkpoints.
- CAR ablation:** Ablation of the CAR.
- Imaging:** Imaging of the CAR-T cell.

## Lymphoid tissue used for HIV infection and study of convertible CAR-T function

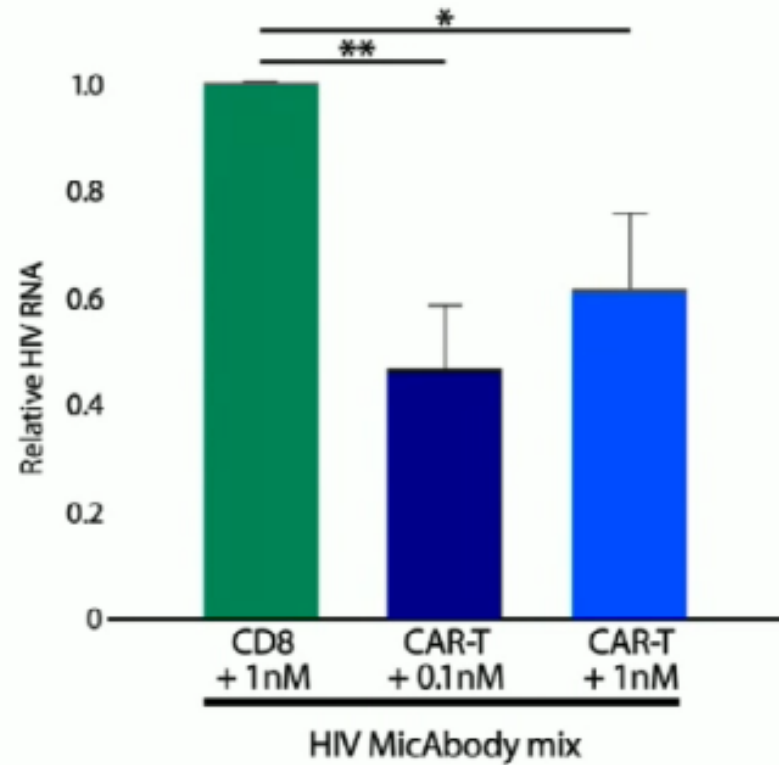


## Specific killing of Transmitted/Founder Virus-infected primary CD4 T cells by cCAR-T combined with specific HIV MicAbodies



n=3 donors. Average + SEM

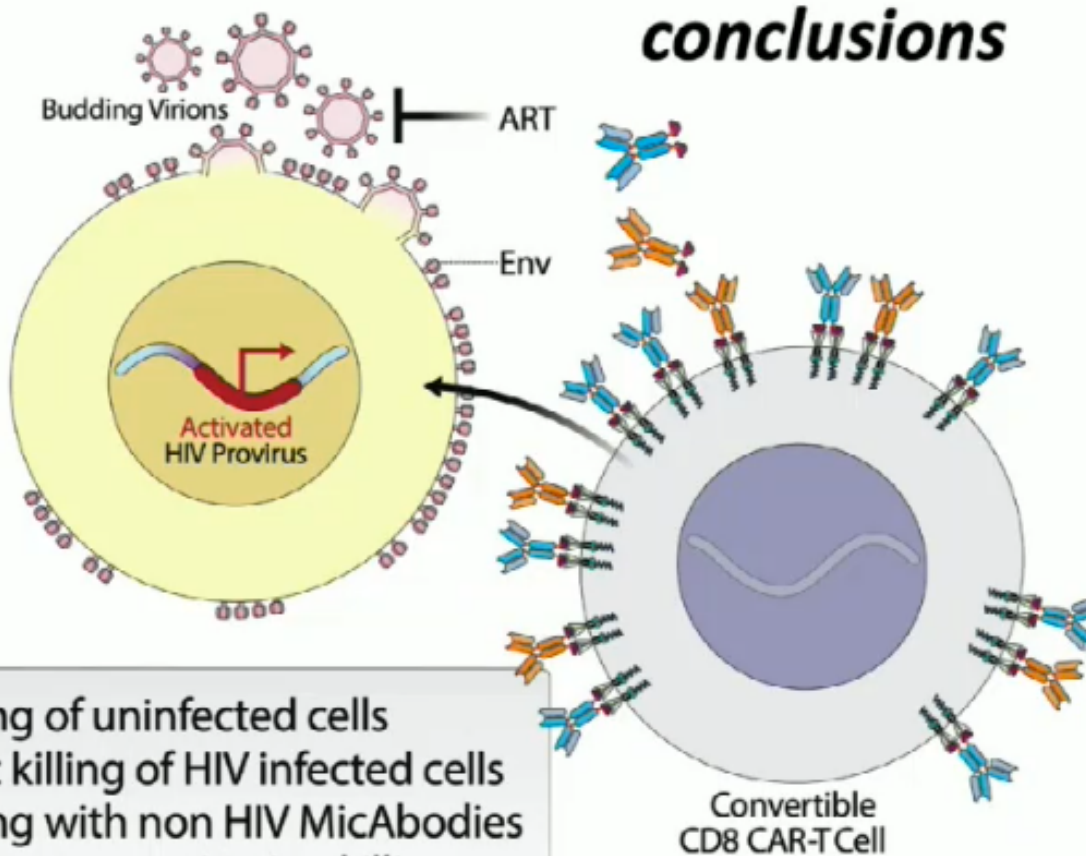
## Killing of reactivated CD4 T-cells from HIV+ individuals by cCAR-T and MicAbodies



n=6 HIV infected individuals' blood. Average +SEM



# AVANCES EN LA CURA DEL VIH



- No killing of uninfected cells
- Specific killing of HIV infected cells
- No killing with non HIV MicAbodies
- Specific post reactivation killing of CD4 T cells from HIV+ individuals

## conclusions

## Future plans

- *in vivo*
  - HuSCID Mice
  - Primates
- Other bNAbs

## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- ✓ Atentos a las nuevas técnicas de cuantificación del reservorio
- ✓ Expansión del reservorio
  - Sitios de integración próximos de oncogenes y factores de crecimiento
  - Células activadas por antígenos
- ✓ La integración como un factor implicado en la latencia
  - Importancia de determinar los sitios de integración
- ✓ Estrategias de Shock → agonistas de TLR7 agonist
- ✓ Estrategias de Lock → LEDGIN inhibitors
- ✓ Estrategias con CART-cells modificados