### AAGR American Association for Cancer Research ANNUAL MEETING



Poster Board: 18 LB-394

> Initial results from a Phase II study (TACTI-002) in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, or Head and Neck cancer patients receiving eftilagimod alpha (a soluble LAG-3 protein) and pembrolizumab

> > 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA provided pembrolizumab for the study. The trial identifiers are IMP321-P015 (Sponsor code), Keynote-PN798 (MSD code), 2018-001994-25 (EudraCT) and NCT03625323 (ClinicalTrials.gov). Corresponding author: Frederic Triebel, frederic.triebel@immutep.com



## Eftilagimod alpha (efti)

### **Innovative LAG-3 I-O Product Candidate**



**MoA:** Efti is a soluble LAG-3 protein targeting a subset of MHC class II on APC to mediate antigen presenting cell (APC) and then CD8 T-cell activation.

**Rationale:** Efti activates APCs and leads to an increase in activated T cells which effect potentially reduces the number of non-responders to pembrolizumab.



# Efti is an MHC II agonist APC activator

- boost and sustain the CD8+ T cell responses
- activate multiple immune cell subsets

#### LAG-3 antagonist, or blocking, antibodies: Immune checkpoint inhibitor

 increase cytotoxicity of the pre-existing CD8 T cell response



### eftilagimod alpha TACTI-002



#### **Trial Design + Introduction**

- → Phase II, multi-national, open label, PD-L1 (central assessment) all comer trial
- → The study has a Simon's optimal two-stage design. During the first stage, N1 patients are recruited. Additional patients (N2) will be recruited for each part if the pre-specified threshold for ORR is met. In total, 109 patients planned
- → In collaboration with Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD)





### eftilagimod alpha - TACTI-002 Results<sup>1</sup> – all parts stage 1

#### **Exposure and Safety**

#### Summary

- In total 63 pts were enrolled until data cut-off<sup>1</sup>.
  Recruitment is ongoing.
- Pts received median 6 (range 1-22) efti injections and median of 5 (range 1-19) pembrolizumab infusions
- 20 pts (31.7%) had ≥ 1 TESAE
- 24 pts (38.1 %) had 1 TEAE ≥ grade 3 (thereof 5 pts (7.9 %) drug related)
- 5 fatal TEAEs (hemoptysis G5; bronchospasm G5, respiratory failure G4, respiratory failure G5, malignant neoplasm progress G5) were reported – all unrelated to both study drugs
- 3 TEAEs (hepatitis drug induced G4; ALT and AST elevation G3; syncopal event G3) lead to discontinuation both study drugs - first 2 were assessed as related to both study drugs

TEAEs occured in  $\geq 10$  % of pts (N=63 in total)

Adverse event (PT)	Any Grade N (%)	Grade 3 N (%)	Grade 4 N (%)
Cough	20 (31.7)	-	-
Asthenia	13 (20.6)	-	-
Decreased appetite	11 (17.5)	-	-
Dyspnoe	11 (17.5)	3 (4.8)	1 (1.6)
Fatigue	10 (15.9)	1 (1.6)	-
Diarrhoea	9 (14.3)	1 (1.6)	-
Upper respiratory tract infection	8 (12.7)	-	-
Constipation	7 (11.1)	1 (1.6)	-
Nausea	7 (11.1)	-	-

- · Injection site reactions all were reported related to efti
- No new safety signals observed thus far



### eftilagimod alpha - TACTI-002 Results<sup>1</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> line NSCLC (part A, stage 1)

#### **Baseline Characteristics + efficacy**

- PD-L1 distribution as historically expected with 31 % of evaluable pts ≥ 50 % → PD-L1 all comer trial
- 65 % male, 71 % ECOG 0, median age 65 yrs, 94 % smokers, 59
  % Squamous + 41 non-squamous → typical NSCLC 1<sup>st</sup> line pts

Tumor response - iBOR as per iRECIST	N (%) Total (N=17)
Complete Response (iCR)	0 (0.0)
Partial Response (iPR)	9 (52.9)
Stable Disease (iSD)	5 (29.4)
Progressive Disease (iPD)	3 (17.7)
<b>Objective Response Rate (iORR)</b>	9 (52.9)
Disease Control Rate (iDCR)	14 (82.4)

- 12/17 (71 %) patients with target lesion decrease
- Responses in all PD-L1 subgroups (3/9 iPRs in ≥ 50 % subgroup)
- 6/9 iPRs confirmed and treatment ongoing in 7/9
- At data cut-off 9 pts (53 %) were still under treatment (8+ months)
  → median not yet reached
- Two late responders after 8 and 10 months



5 (2) % in reference to evaluable samples; 4 specimens not evaluable by central lab using standard IHC kit
 (3) Garon et al N Engl J Med 2015;372:2018-28

Part A\* - 1st line NSCLC Best response: 100iUPD/iCPD best % change from baseline 75iSD iPR 50 25 **PD-L1 %** 80% ő 3% 10% %0 삇 50 0 %C ₽ -25 -50 -75 n = 17 \* cut-off 20-Mar 2020 -100 PD-L1 Part A\* - 1st line NSCLC 100 <1% % change compared to start of therapy 80 1-49 % 60 >=50% 40 20 -20 -40 -60 -80 n =17 \* - unconfirmed PD \* cut-off 20-Mar 2020 -100 27 0 9 18 36 45 54 weeks



### eftilagimod alpha - TACTI-002 Results<sup>1</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> line HNSCC (part C, stage 1)

#### **Baseline Characteristics + efficacy**

 Median age 66, 94 % male, 47 % ECOG 1, different HNSCC subtypes -> typical 2<sup>nd</sup> line HNSCC population

Tumor response - iBOR as per iRECIST	N (%) Total (N=18)
Complete Response (iCR)	0 (0.0)
Partial Response (iPR)	6 (33.3)
Stable Disease (iSD)	3 (16.6)
Progressive Disease (iPD)	6 (39.9)
Not evaluable*	2 (11.1)
Not yet evaluated**	1 (5.6)
<b>Objective Response Rate (iORR)</b>	6 (33.3)
Disease Control Rate (iDCR)	9 (50.0)

- Initial iORR of 33.3 % in this PD-L1 all comer 2<sup>nd</sup> line HNSCC pts (1 pt with outstanding imaging)
- 5 responses confirmed; all 6 pts with PR still under therapy
- 1 iPR after pseudoprogression, 1 iPR at 8 months, responses getting deeper over time
- At cut-off 9 pts (50 %) still under therapy HNSCC 2nd line patients



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