

# TREM2 BLOCKADE AS AN ADJUVANT FOR CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS

[Colonna, Marco](#)

[Poranki, Deepika](#)

T-019371

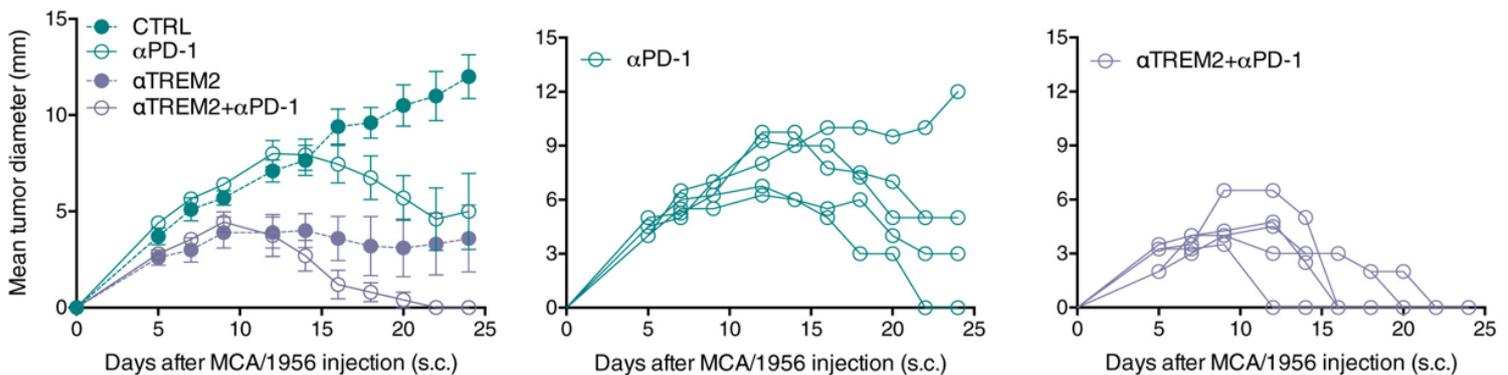
**Disease indication** – In combination with anti-PD-1 therapy for cancer. Anti-PD-1 therapy is currently approved for:

- Melanoma
- Non-small cell lung cancer
- Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- Renal cell carcinoma
- Head & neck squamous cell carcinoma
- Squamous cell lung cancer
- Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

**Drug format** – Monoclonal antibody

**Drug class** – First-in-class

**Target** – TREM2



**Research stage and preliminary data** – The inventors performed initial *in vivo* proof-of-concept experiments using an MCA-induced sarcoma model in wild type mice. While mice treated with anti-PD-1 therapy saw a marked reduction in tumor size, the addition of anti-TREM2 resulted in complete tumor regression in all mice studied.

**Background** – Checkpoint inhibitor therapies have proved successful in a broad variety of cancer types. However, the efficacy is limited by both normal and tumor-mediated mechanisms of immunosuppression. Checkpoint inhibitor efficacy can be restored by blocking that immunosuppression or by overwhelming the suppressive signals with stimulatory signals.

**Mode of action** – Blocking TREM2 curbs cancer growth and induces expansion of immunostimulatory myeloid cells in the tumor microenvironment. The resulting immune stimulation increases the efficacy of anti-PD-1 immunotherapy.

**Competitive edge** – Currently, the only TREM2 antibody in clinical trials is a TREM2 agonist being studied in Alzheimer’s disease (AL002 from Alector).

## Publication

- Molgora M, Esaulova E, Vermi W, Hou J, Chen Y, Luo J, ... Colonna M. (2020). [TREM2 modulation remodels the tumor myeloid landscape enhancing anti-PD-1 immunotherapy](#). *Cell*, 182(4):886-900.
- Bhandari T. [Immunotherapy-resistant cancers eliminated in mouse study](#). *The Source from Washington University in St. Louis*. August 11, 2020.

**Patent status** – Pending

**Web Links** – Colonna [Profile](#) & [Lab](#)