

# **Novel combination therapies for the treatment of relapsed/refractory Multiple Myeloma: Current Phase I/II combinations**

Paul Richardson, Jacob Laubach, Robert Schlossman, Irene Ghobrial,  
Constantine Mitsiades, Teru Hideshima, Dharminder Chauhan, Noopur  
Raje, Nikhil Munshi, Kenneth C. Anderson

Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute;  
Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

# Integration of Novel Therapy Into Myeloma Management

Bortezomib, Lenalidomide,  
Thalidomide, Doxil

Treatment of Relapsed/Refractory MM  
(single agent/combinations)

Induction/First-line Therapy

Transplant/Maintenance

# New Drug Approvals in Multiple Myeloma

Six FDA/EMA Drug Approvals  
in Last Five Years

Median survival prolonged from 3-7 years (especially  
in younger patients)

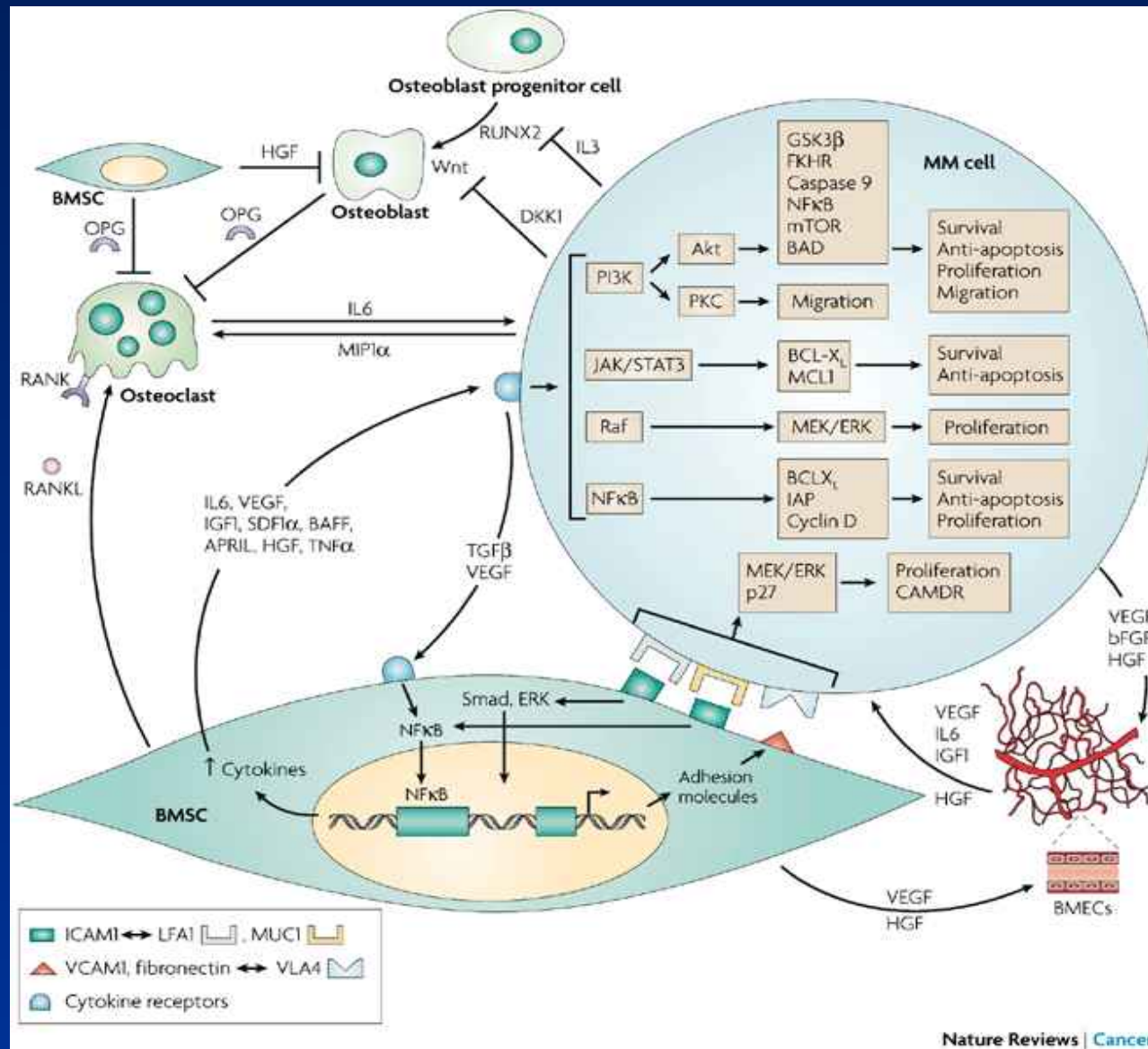
Three additional drug combinations in phase III  
clinical trial for new drug approval

# Rationally Based Combination Therapies

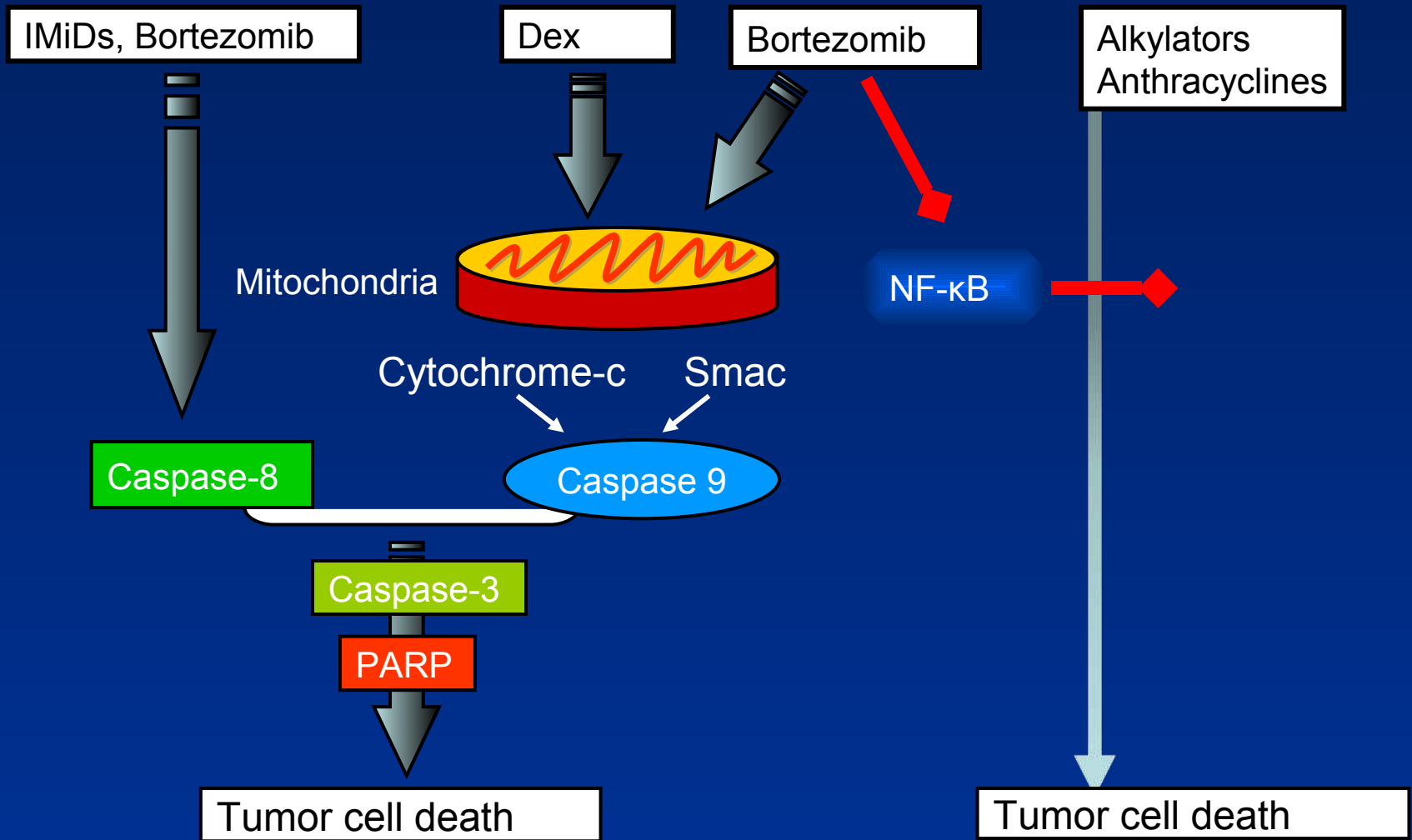
- Bortezomib and Hsp 90 inhibitor
- Bortezomib and doxil
- Bortezomib and NPI-0052
- Bortezomib and perifosine
- Bortezomib and LBH 589
- Bortezomib and Smac peptides
- Bortezomib and Bcl 2 inhibitor
- Bortezomib and p38 MAPK inhibitor
- Bortezomib and HuLuc63
- Lenalidomide and mTOR inhibitor
- Lenalidomide and Anti-CD40 antibody
- Lenalidomide and doxil
- Lenalidomide and HuLuc63
- Lenalidomide and LBH 589
- Lenalidomide and perifosine
- Lenalidomide and Bevacizumab
- Lenalidomide and Vaccine

Lenalidomide and Bortezomib

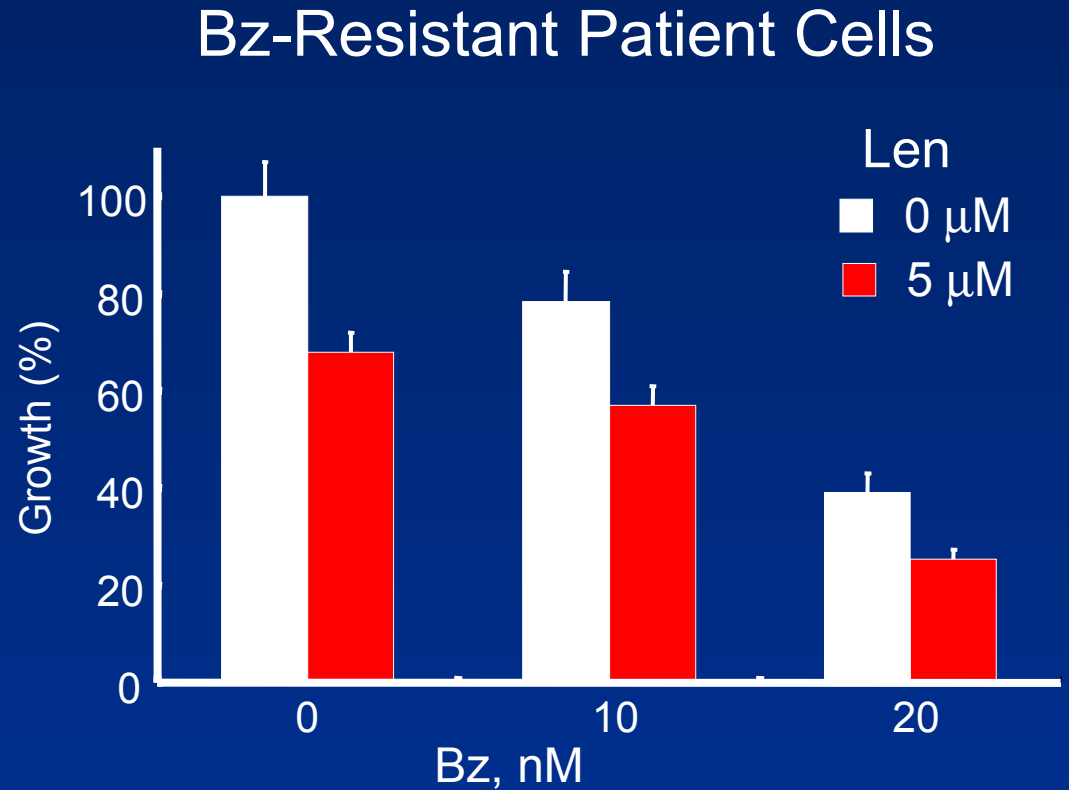
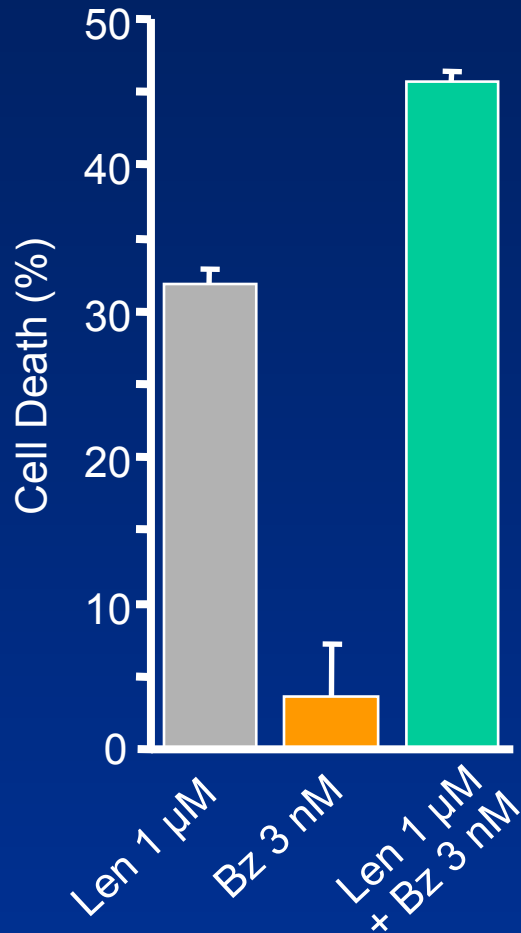
# Pathogenesis of Multiple Myeloma



# Rationale for Combination Therapy in Multiple Myeloma



# Rationale: Preclinical Combination of Lenalidomide (Len) + Bortezomib (Bz)



# Lenalidomide plus bortezomib: study design

Phase I multicenter dose-escalation study

Relapse and/or refractory MM (N=38)

Bortezomib 1.0 or 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on days 1, 4, 8, 11

Lenalidomide 5, 10, 15, or 20 mg on days 1-14 of 21-day cycle

Dexamethasone (40 mg on day and day after each lenalidomide dose) in patients with PD

NCI CTCAE for toxicity assessment

DLT G  $\geq$ 3 non-hematological toxicity, G4 neutropenia for  $\geq$ 5 days and/or neutropenic fever, or platelets  $<$ 10,000/mm<sup>3</sup> on  $>$ 1 occasion despite transfusion

Response assessed by modified EBMT criteria



## Lenalidomide plus bortezomib: baseline characteristics

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Baseline characteristics, n=28	
Relapse MM, n	12
Relapse/refractory MM, n	26
Male, %	65.8
Median age (range), years	60 (37-79)
Prior therapies, median (range)	5 (1-13)

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# Lenalidomide plus bortezomib: efficacy outcomes

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## Efficacy outcomes

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ORR (95% CI), %	58 (46-75)
CR, %	6
Median DoR, months	6
Therapy $\geq$ 1 yr, %	30
<u>Objective response, n/N (%)*</u>	<u>10/14 (71)</u>

\*in patients receiving dexamethasone

# Lenalidomide plus bortezomib: safety outcomes

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## Safety outcomes

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G3 hyponatremia	bor 1.3 mg/m <sup>2</sup> + len 10 mg
HZV reactivation, G4 neutropenia	bor 1.3 mg/m <sup>2</sup> + len 15 mg
Maximum tolerated dose	bor 1.0 mg/m <sup>2</sup> + len 15 mg
Dose reductions	bort=5, len=6, both=5
Discontinuations	1 with dexamethasone

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# Lenalidomide plus bortezomib: response rates

Len	Bort 1.0 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	Bort 1.3 mg/m <sup>2</sup>
5 mg	2 PR, 1 MR	1 CR, 2 PR
10 mg	1nCR, 2 PR	2 Pr, 2 MR, 1 SD, 1 PD
15 mg	2 PR, 4 MR, 7 SD, 1 PD	2 PR, 5 SD

Lenalidomide plus bortezomib with/without dexamethasone is well tolerated and very active with durable responses in heavily pre-treated patients with relapsed and/or refractory MM

PR, partial response; MR minimal response;  
CR, complete response; nCR, near complete response;  
SD, stable disease; PD, progressive disease

Richardson PG, et al. *Blood*. 2006;108:abstract 405.

# Lenalidomide plus bortezomib plus dexamethasone: baseline demographics

Baseline characteristics	
Relapse MM, n	24
Relapse/refractory MM, n	17
Male, %	66
IgG MM, %	63
Durie-Salmon stage III, %	59
Median age, years	67
Prior therapies, median	2
Subtypes of prior therapies, %	
Lenalidomide	2
Bortezomib	68
Dexamethasone	90
Thalidomide	78
SCT	32
Cycles of treatment, median	7

# Lenalidomide plus bortezomib plus dexamethasone: efficacy outcomes

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## Efficacy outcomes

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ORR (95% CI), %	73 (55.6-85.1)
≥PR, %	55
VGPR/nCR/CR, %	36
Median DoR (95% CI), weeks	39 (13.5-63)
Median TTP, PFS and OS	not yet reached

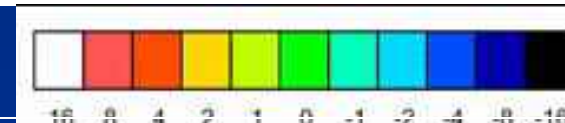
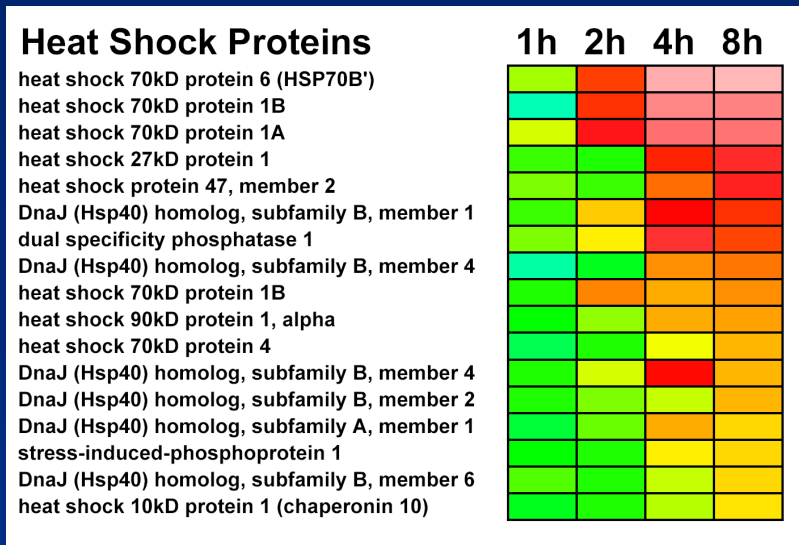
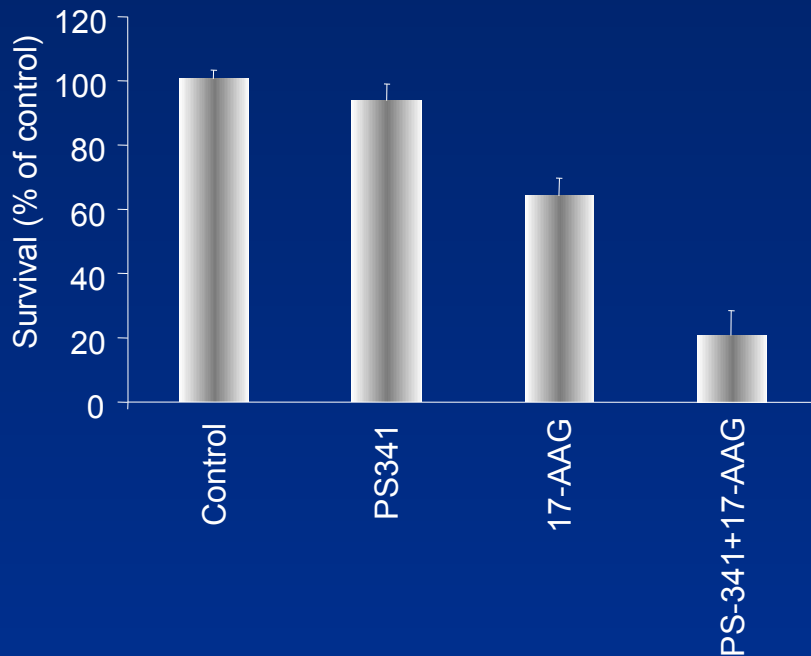
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ORR, overall response rate; PR, partial response; VGPR, very good partial response; nCR, near complete response; CR, complete response; DoR, duration of response; TTP, time to progression; PFS, progression free survival; OS, overall survival

# Tanespimycin + Bortezomib Synergistic Anti-myeloma Activity

*In vitro* cytotoxicity model using myeloma cell lines: *synergy*

Induction of Hsp70 seen at 2 hrs;  
Hsp90 transcription increase occurring  
~4-8 hrs following tanespimycin/BZ



Transcription / Translation Regulation  
Signal Intensity

# Bortezomib plus tanespimycin: study design

Dose escalation and dose confirmation with two different formulations of tanespimycin

Days 1, 4, 8, 11 of every 21-day cycles

Dose escalating phase (n=36):

Tanespimycin 100-340 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as 1-hour infusion plus bortezomib 0.7-1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

Dose confirmation phase (n=27):

Cremophor (n=13) vs suspension formulation without steroid premedication (n=14)



# Bortezomib plus tanespimycin: safety outcomes

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No G3 neurotoxicity with any dose

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Recommended dose	Tanespimycin	Bortezomib
	340 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	1.3 mg/m <sup>2</sup>

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No difference in toxicity between 2 formulations

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G3/4 thrombocytopenia with tanespimycin formulations	Cremophor	Suspension
	15%	12%

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Diarrhea	Dizziness	Nausea	AST	Vomiting	Fatigue	ALT	Peripheral oedema
39%	27%	23%	23%	23%	19%	19%	19%

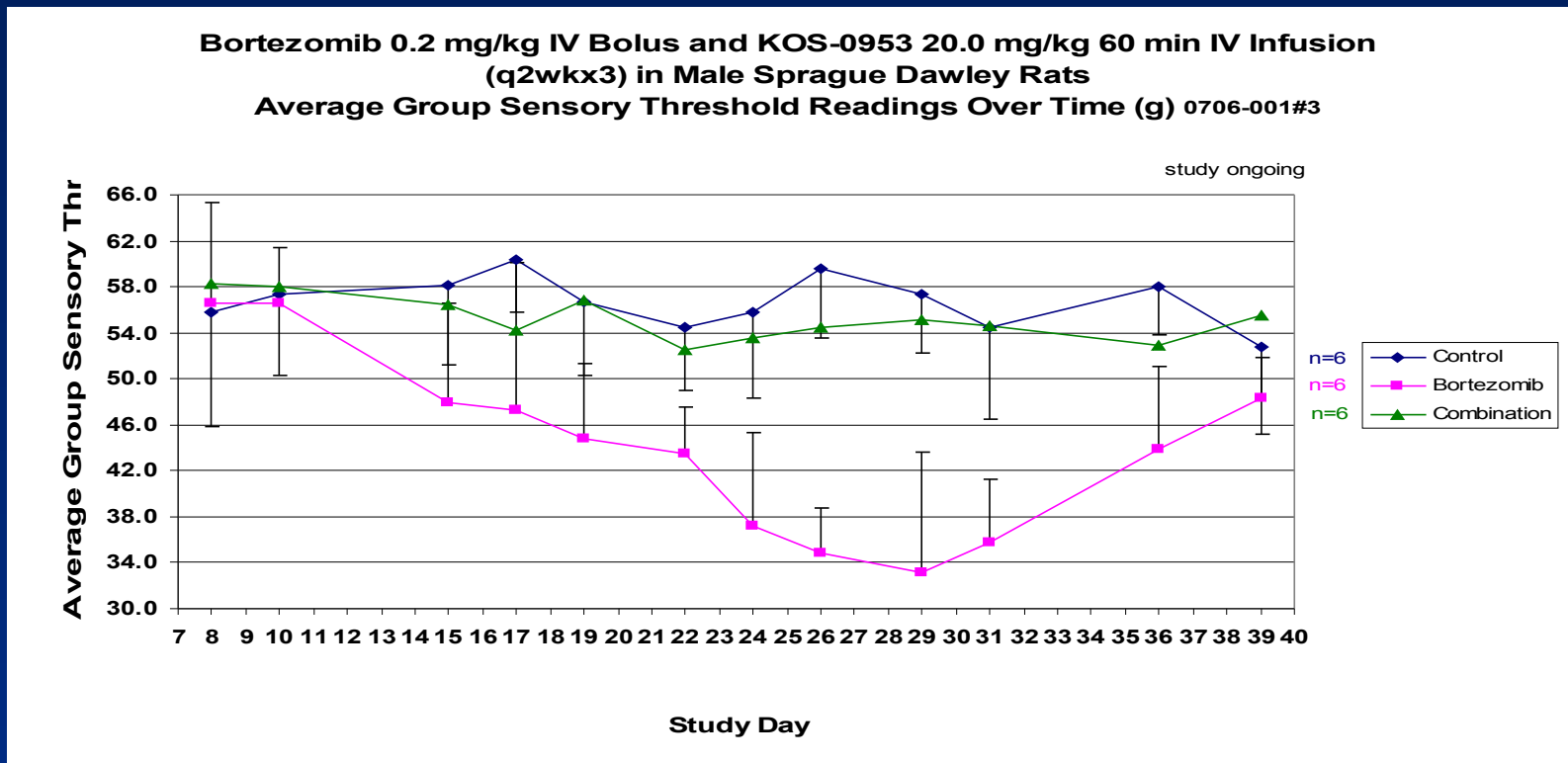
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# Bortezomib plus tanezumycin: response rates

<u>Bortezomib refractory</u>	3 DR
<u>Bortezomib-naïve, Cremophor formulation, n</u>	
CR	2
PR	2
MR	4
<u>Bortezomib-naïve, suspension formulation, n</u>	
CR	1
PR	2
MR	1

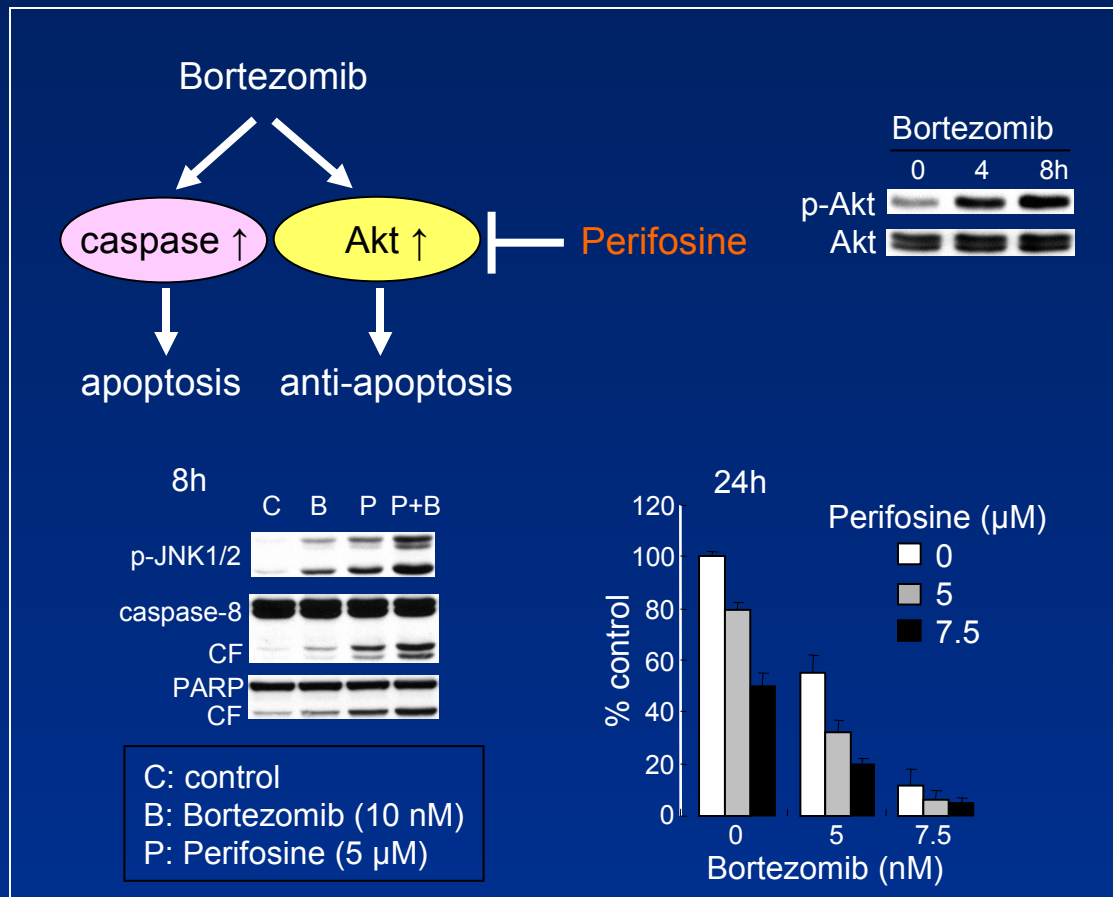
Ongoing Phase 3 trial of Bortezomib plus tanezumycin  
versus Bortezomib in relapsed myeloma

# Rodent Model of Neuropathy



- Rats were treated with saline (control), bortezomib (0.2 mg/kg), or bortezomib (0.2 mg/kg) plus tanespimycin (20 mg/kg). Sensory thresholds were measured using a von Frey Anesthesiometer
- Combination of tanespimycin with bortezomib demonstrated a lack of neurotoxicity compared to bortezomib alone, indicating a neuroprotective effect of tanespimycin

# Akt Inhibitor Perifosine Enhances Bortezomib-Induced Cytotoxicity in MM Cells



# Bortezomib plus perifosine: study design

Phase I/II study

Relapse or relapse/refractory MM previously treated with  
bortezomib (N=18)

Perifosine 50 mg or 100 mg daily

Bortezomib 1.0 or 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on days 1, 4, 8, 11 in 21-day cycles

Dexamethasone 20 mg on days of/after each bortezomib dose in patients with PD

NCI CTCAE v3.0 used for toxicity assessment

DLT any G non-hematologic toxicity, G4 neutropenia for ≥5 days  
and/or neutropenic fever or platelets <10,000/mm<sup>3</sup> on >1 occasion  
despite transfusion

Response assessed by modified EBMT and Uniform criteria

# Bortezomib plus perifosine: baseline characteristics

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Baseline characteristics	
Relapse/refractory MM, n	14
Male, %	61
Median age (range), years	64 (42-87)
Prior therapies, median (range)	5 (2-7)
Subtypes of prior therapies, %	
Bortezomib	100
Dexamethasone	89
Thalidomide	67
Lenalidomide	33
SCT	56

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# Bortezomib plus perifosine: safety

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## Safety outcomes

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### Grade 3/4 AEs, %

Fatigue	6
Thrombocytopenia	25
Anaemia	13

### Dose reductions, n

Perifosine	1
Bortezomib	3

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# Bortezomib plus perifosine: efficacy

Response (n=15)*	N (%)	Duration (weeks)
PR (peri+bor)	2 (13)	24, 13+
MR (peri+bor)	1 (7)	10+
MR (peri+bor+dex)	2** (13)	38+, 18+
SD (peri+bor)	3 (20)	18+, 16+, 13+
SD (peri+bor+dex)	3 (20)	38, 22+, 12+

Perifosine in combination with bortezomib (with/without dexamethasone) was well tolerated and active in mostly relapsed/refractory MM patients

\*Dexamethasone added to 6 patients

\*\*patients refractory to prior bort+dex

SD, stable disease defined as <25% reduction in M-protein



# Perifosine Bortezomib Dexamethasone (n =72)

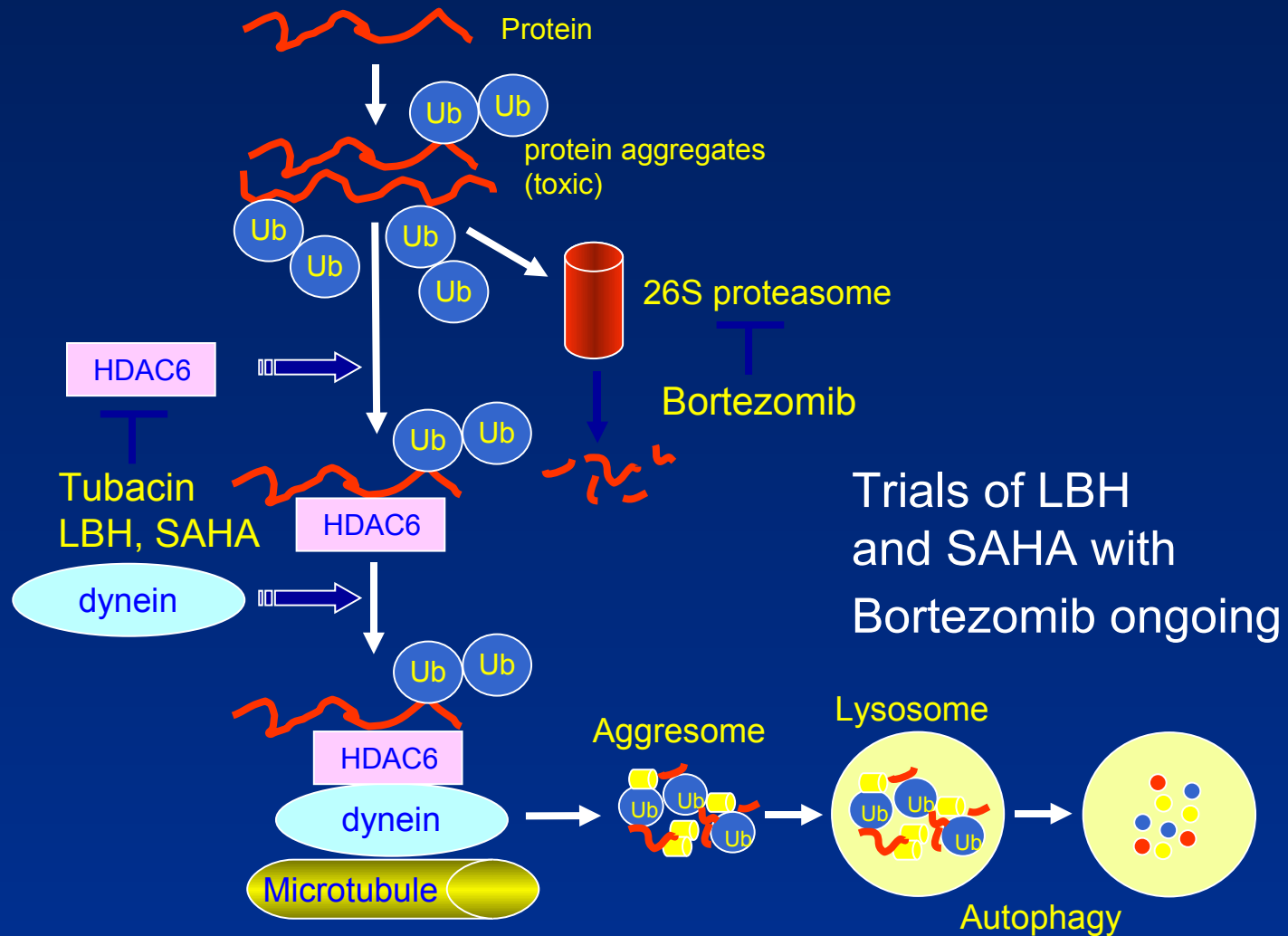
Richardson et al, ASH 2008 Abstr 870

Median 5 prior lines of treatment

- Median # of prior Bz lines of treatment: 2
- Overall Response Rate: 38%
- Median TTP: 6.3 mos
- Bortezomib Refractory Pts (n = 52)
- Overall Response Rate: 31%
- Median TTP: 6.2 mos
- Toxicities manageable

Clinical trial of Bortezomib and perifosine versus Bortezomib in relapsed MM ongoing for FDA approval

# Blockade of Ubiquitinated Protein Catabolism



Hideshima et al, Clin Cancer Res;2005; 11: 8530  
Catley et al, Blood 2006; 108: 3441-9.

# Bortezomib plus vorinostat A: study design

Phase I

Relapsed/refractory MM

Maximum tolerated dose, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics

Bortezomib 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on days 1, 4, 8 and 11 of a 21-day cycle

Vorinostat 100-400 mg days 4-11

## Bortezomib plus vorinostat A: baseline characteristics

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### Baseline characteristics, n=23

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Median age (range), years	54 (39-78)
Median time from diagnosis to study (range), years	5.3 (1.5-9)
IgG, n	11
IgA, n	4
Light chain, n	8
Complex karotype, n	14
Prior therapies, median (range)	7 (3-13)
Prior therapies, n	
Thalidomide	23
Lenalidomide	17
SCT	20

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# Bortezomib plus vorinostat A: safety

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## Safety

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Maximum tolerated dose      bortezomib 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup>  
+ vorinostat 400 mg

### Grade 3/4 AEs, n

Requiring transfusion	13
Growth factors	6
Fatigue	11
Diarrhea	5
Atrial fibrillation	1
Shingles	1
Pneumonia	2

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## Bortezomib plus vorinostat A: response rates

Prior bortezomib	ORR	N=	VGPR	PR	SD	PD
Naïve	42%	4	1	2	1	
Prior treatment		10	1	2	5	1
Refractory		9		3	4	1

# Bortezomib plus vorinostat B: study design

Phase I, multicenter, open-label trial (N=34)

Bortezomib 0.7, 0.9, 1.1 or 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on days 1, 4, 8 and 11 of a 21-day cycle

Vorinostat 200 mg bid or 300-400 mg daily for 14 days

Cycles repeated every 21 days for ≤8 cycles or until PD or intolerable toxicity

Dexamethasone 20 mg (days 1-4 and 17-20) could be added to patients with PD

# Bortezomib plus vorinostat B: safety

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## Safety outcomes

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Highest dose	bort 1.3 mg/m <sup>2</sup> + vorin 400 mg
Maximum tolerated dose	Not determined
Dose limiting toxicities	
G3 transient AST elevation	bort 0.9 mg/m <sup>2</sup> + vorin 400 mg
G4 thrombocytopenia	bort 1.3 mg/m <sup>2</sup> + vorin 400 mg
Drug-related AE, %	
Nausea	62
Diarrhea	59
Thrombocytopenia	50
Vomiting	50

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# Bortezomib plus vorinostat B: efficacy

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## Efficacy outcomes

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### Overall, %

PR	26
MR	21
SD	53

### Prior bortezomib (n=13), %

PR	39
MR	8
SD	54

Median (95% CI) DoR, days	89 (9-369)
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The combination of bortezomib and vorinostat is active for treatment of MM, even among patients with prior exposure to bortezomib

# Vorinostat-Bortezomib

Weber et al ASH  
2008 Abstr 871

## Effective for treatment of relapsed/refractory MM

Overall response (PR + CR) ~38-43%  
≥ SD ~90%

## Effective despite prior bortezomib therapy

Overall response ~29-35%  
SD ~41-53%

Overall response refractory pts ≥ PR ~29-38%  
SD refractory pts ~42-50%

Fatigue, Diarrhea, thrombocytopenia  
~~Well Tolerated~~

Phase III trial of Bortezomib and SAHA versus  
Bortezomib in relapsed MM ongoing for FDA  
approval

# Panobinostat-Bortezomib

Active for treatment of relapsed / refractory MM

- Overall response (PR + VGPR + CR) = 50%

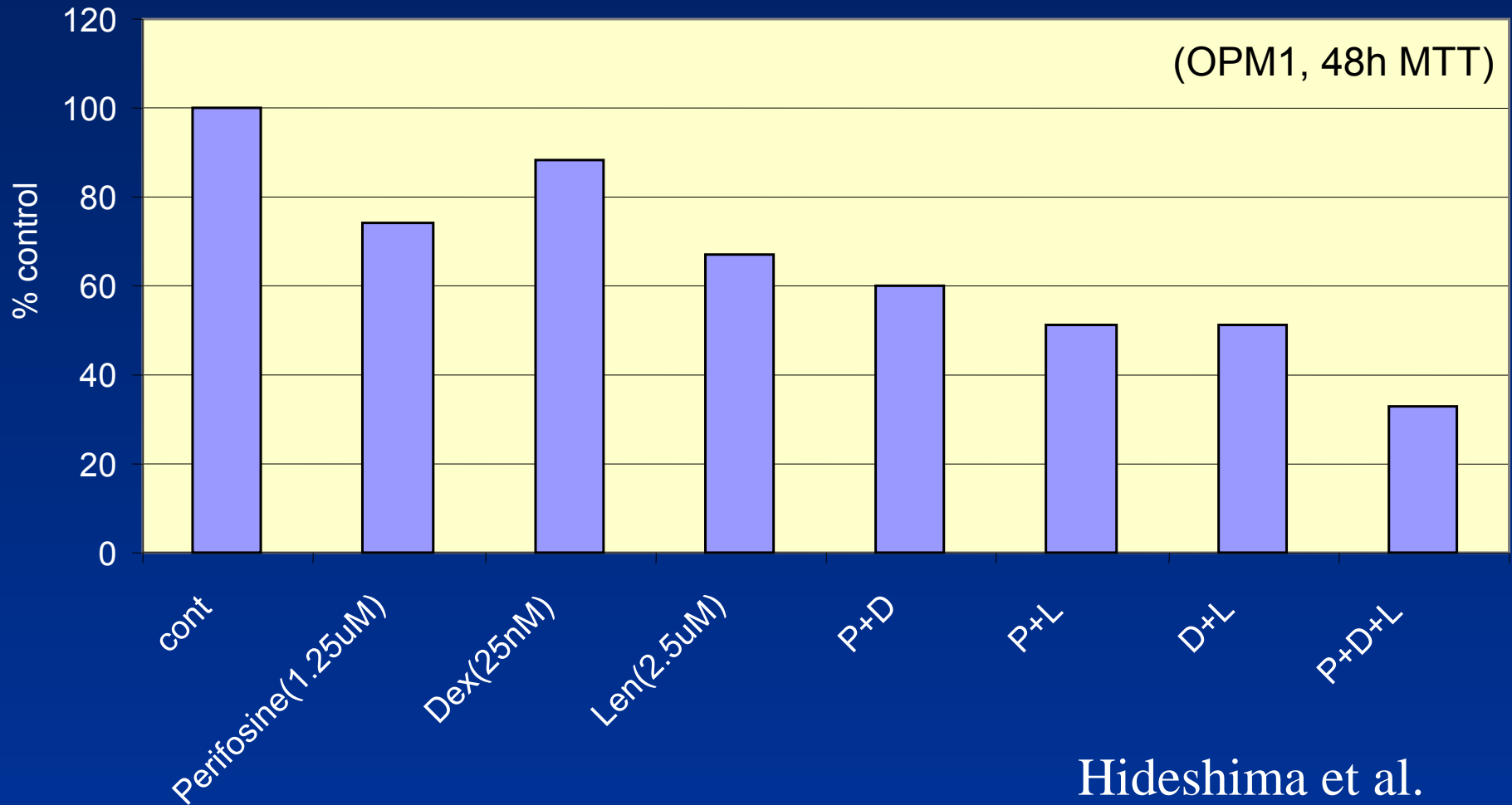
Active despite prior bortezomib therapy

- 7 responses in patients with prior bortezomib
- 5 of these responders were refractory to their last bortezomib based therapy

Well tolerated

- Fatigue, Diarrhea, Thrombocytopenia

# Perifosine Enhances MM Cell Cytotoxicity Induced by Lenalidomide + Dexamethasone



# Phase I MMRC Study of Three Drugs: Perifosine Dexamethasone and Lenalidomide

- Relapsed or Refractory MM (stage  $\geq$  I): 4 - 54 patients
- 4 Week Cycle as follows:
  - Peri 50 mg + Dex 20 mg\* + Len 15 mg\*\* daily – 6 patients
  - Peri 50 mg + Dex 40 mg\* + Len 15 mg\*\* daily – 6 patients
  - Peri 100 mg + Dex 20 mg\* + Len 15 mg\*\* daily – 6 patients
  - Peri 100 mg + Dex 40 mg\* + Len 15 mg\*\* daily – 6 patients
  - Peri 50 mg + Dex 20 mg\* + Len 25 mg\*\* daily – 6 patients
  - Peri 50 mg + Dex 40 mg\* + Len 25 mg\*\* daily – 6 patients
  - Peri 100 mg + Dex 20 mg\* + Len 25 mg\*\* daily – 6 patients
  - Peri 100 mg + Dex 40 mg\* + Len 25 mg\*\* daily – 6 patients

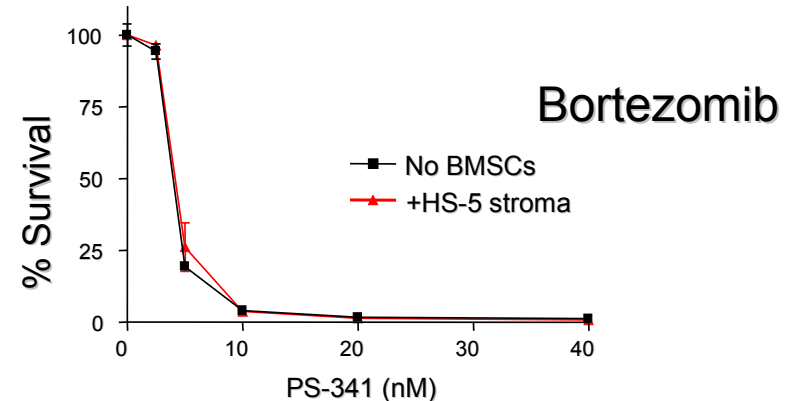
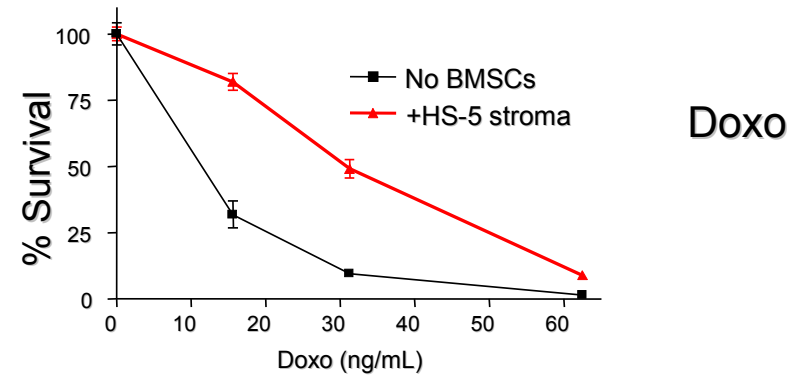
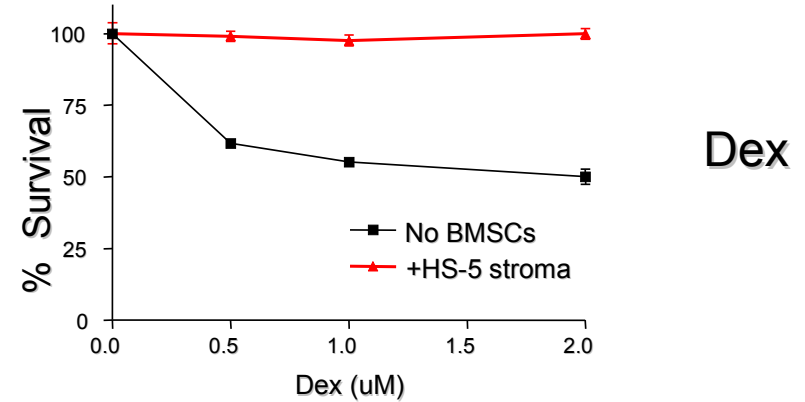
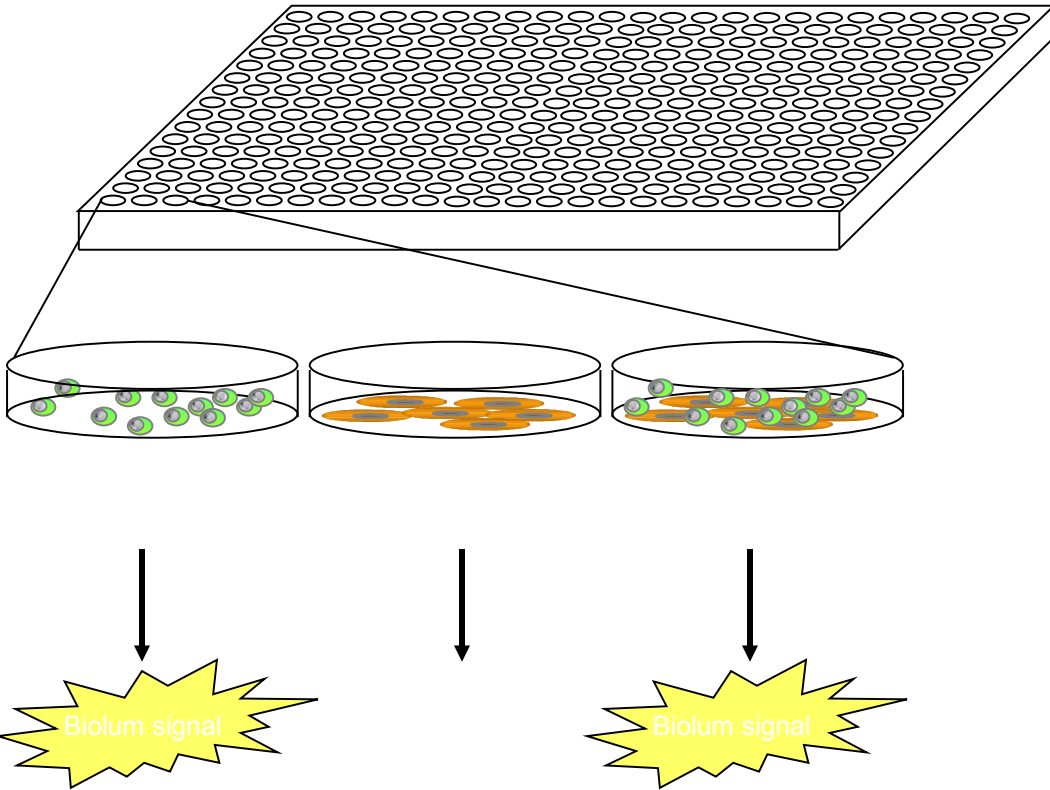
# Phase I MMRC Study of Three Drugs: Perifosine Dexamethasone and Lenalidomide

Relapsed Myeloma

Trial now completed within MMRC

Well tolerated with responses in the majority of patients

# High-Throughput Screening of MM with BMSCs to Define Optimal Combinations



# Conclusions and Future directions

- ▶ **Best combinations are informed by preclinical rationale**
- ▶ **Novel combination therapies result in encouraging results, including high response rates and manageable toxicity**
- ▶ **Further studies are ongoing to further optimize the regimens and ensure that patients receive more effective and well-tolerated treatment**



# United Nations Against Myeloma:

## Jerome Lipper and Lebow Bench to Bedside Research Team



USA

Kenneth Anderson  
Paul Richardson  
Robert Schlossman  
Steven Treon  
Irene Ghobrial  
Jacob Laubach  
Deborah Doss  
Kathleen Colson  
Mary McKenney  
Kim Noonan  
Stacey Chuma  
Kathy McCormick  
Muriel Gannon  
Janet Kunsman  
Diane Warren  
Andrea Freeman  
Farzana Masood  
Laura Lunde  
Bobbie O'Brien  
Edie Weller  
Katie Loftus  
Rachel Loftus  
Renne Leduc  
Sarah Dean  
MeghanRourke  
Shannon Viera  
Christine Rubio  
Lisa Popitz  
Jeffrey Sorrell  
John Feather  
Nicole Carreau



Japan

Nikhil Munshi  
Teru Hideshima  
Constantine Mitsiades  
Dharminder Chauhan  
Noopur Raje  
Klaus Podar  
Ruben Carrasco  
Paola Neri  
Giovanni Tonon  
Marc Raab  
Simona Blotta  
James Bradner  
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Patrick Hayden  
Hiroshi Ikeda  
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Merav Leiba  
Joseph Negri  
Doug McMillian  
Yutaka Okawa  
Iris Breikeutz  
Samantha Pozzi  
Masood Shammas  
Tanyel Kiziltepe  
Yu-Tzu Tai  
Sonia Vallet  
Ajita Singh  
Mohan Brahmandan  
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