

#### POLO-LIKE KINASE 1 (PLK1) INHIBITOR, ONVANSERTIB, IN COMBINATION WITH LOW-DOSE CYTARABINE OR DECITABINE IN PATIENTS WITH RELAPSED/REFRACTORY ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA

Amer Zeidan, MBBS, MHS; Alexander Spira, MD; Pamela Becker, MD; Prapti Patel, MD; Gary Schiller, MD; Michaela Tsai, MD; Tara Lin, MD; Eunice Wang, MD; Maya Ridinger, PhD; Peter Croucher, PhD; Sandra Silberman, MD, PhD; Mark Erlander, PhD

#### **Presentation Number 10660**

Lecture Time: 14:57 – 15:09 Speaker: Amer M. Zeidan, MBBS, MHS Yale University, New Haven, CT., USA

28-September-2019

# **DISCLOSURE SLIDE**

- A.M.Z. received research funding (institutional) from Trovagene, Celgene, Abbvie, Astex, Pfizer, Medimmune/AstraZeneca, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Incyte, Takeda, Novartis, Aprea, and ADC Therapeutics.
- A.M.Z had a consultancy with and received honoraria from Trovagene, AbbVie, Otsuka, Pfizer, Celgene, Jazz, Incyte, Agios, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Novartis, Acceleron, Astellas, Daiichi Sankyo, Cardinal Health, Taiho, Seattle Genetics, BeyondSpring, Takeda, Ionis, and Epizyme.
- A.M.Z received travel support for meetings from Pfizer, Novartis, and Trovagene.



•

•

•

### BACKGROUND

#### POLO-LIKE KINASE 1 (PLK1)

- Serine/threonine kinase, master regulator of cell-cycle progression<sup>1</sup>
- Operates at G2/M checkpoint<sup>1</sup>
- Inhibition of PLK1 causes mitotic arrest and subsequent cell death<sup>1</sup>
- Over-expressed in blasts cells from AML patients<sup>2</sup>



- In a phase 2 randomized study volasertib + LDAC showed a significant increase in overall survival in comparison to LDAC alone<sup>3</sup>. However, the Phase 3 study was negative<sup>4</sup>
- Unfavorable features of volasertib may have contributed to this outcome: a long half-life (~5 days), the lack of specificity, the dosing regimen and the absence of biomarker strategy



<sup>1</sup>Zitouni et al., Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol. 2014 Jul;15(7):433-52
<sup>2</sup>Renner et al, Blood 2009 Jul 16;114(3):659-62
<sup>3</sup>Döhner et al, Blood 2014 Aug 28;124(9):1426-33
<sup>4</sup>Döhner et al, 21st Congress of EHA, Volume: Haematologica 101(suppl.1): 185-186, abstract S501



# BACKGROUND

#### ONVANSERTIB

- Orally-bioavailable, highly-selective PLK1 inhibitor, with ~24-hour half-life
- Potent anti-tumor activity in AML preclinical models
  - Induces G2/M arrest and apoptosis in the nanomolar range in leukemic cells
  - Induces tumor growth inhibition in mouse models as a single agent and in combination with LDAC
- PLK1 inhibition by onvansertib can be monitored in-vitro and in-vivo through changes in the phosphorylation of its direct substrate, the translational controlled tumor protein, TCTP <sup>5,6</sup>





<sup>5</sup> Cucchi et al., Anticancer Res. 2010 Dec;30(12):4973-85
 <sup>6</sup> Valsasina et al., Mol Cancer Ther. 2012 Apr;11(4):1006-16

# PHASE 1B TRIAL DESIGN

#### Main eligibility criteria

- □ Relapsed and refractory AML patients who have received ≤3 prior treatment regimens
- Treatment-related AML or APL excluded
- □ ECOG ≤2

#### Dosing schedule:

- Onvansertib for 5 days + decitabine 20mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV for 5days <u>OR</u> low dose cytarabine (LDAC) 20mg/m<sup>2</sup> SC for 10days
- 21-28-day cycles



#### **Primary and Secondary Objectives**

- Assess safety (incidence and severity of AEs)
- Define dose-limiting toxicities (DLTs)
- Define MTD or RP2D
- Evaluate preliminary anti-leukemic activity

#### Dose escalation (3+3 design)

50% incremental dose increase in successive cohorts of 3 patients

Dose limiting toxicities (DLTs) evaluated during the 1st cycle

#### **Exploratory objectives**

- Evaluate predictive biomarkers associated with response to treatment
- Assess PLK1 inhibition in circulating leukemic cells by measuring pTCTP levels



# TREATMENT SUMMARY

Data Cutoff: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

	N or Median [range]	Patients (N=33)	N (%) or Median	
Number of patients treated	33		[range]	
Cleared doses in Decitabine arm	12, 18, 27, 40 and 60mg/m <sup>2</sup>	Male gender	25 (76 1 [0	
Cleared doses in LDAC arm	12, 18, 27 and 40mg/m <sup>2</sup>	ECOG		
Number of DLTs	0	Previous treatments	2 [0	
Number of patients completing ≥1 cycle	27	Cytogenetic Risk Status (N=33)	N (%)	
Number of cycles	2 [1-13] Favorable		3 (9%	
		Intermediate	4 (12%	

**Adverse** 

Unknown

23 (70%)

3 (9%)



# SAFETY SUMMARY

For patients who received  $\geq$  1 dose Data Cutoff: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

- Treatment was well tolerated; no unexpected toxicities were reported
- No DLTs, SAEs or trial-related deaths attributed to onvansertib
- 3 deaths on trial were not attributed to onvansertib (2 due to progression; 1 intracranial hemorrhage due to fall)
- MTD not reached through 60mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose level
- Grade 3/4 AEs possibly related to onvansertib: hematological AEs (n=10; 30%); non-hematological (n=1; 3%)



Table of All Adverse Events Reported in $\geq$ 10% of Patients (N=33)						
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	All Grades	
Fatigue	3	8			11 (33%)	
Thrombocytopenia		2	1	7	10 (30%)	
Febrile Neutropenia			9*		9 (27%)	
Anemia	1		7	1*	9 (27%)	
Neutropenia			1	7	8 (24%)	
Dyspnea	3	3	1		7 (21%)	
Nausea	4	3			7 (21%)	
Constipation	6				6 (18%)	
Rash	2	3	1		6 (18%)	
Cough	3	2			5 (15%)	
Diarrhea	5				5 (15%)	
Dizziness	4				4 (12%)	
Epistaxis	3	1			4 (12%)	
Headache	4				4 (12%)	
Stomatitis	1	2	1		4 (12%)	
WBC Decrease			1	3	4 (12%)	

\*reported as SAE

# PRELIMINARY EFFICACY LDAC ARM

For patients who completed  $\geq$  1 cycle Data Cutoff: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

- 12 patients evaluable for efficacy (treated for ≥1 cycle) at onvansertib
   12 – 40mg/m<sup>2</sup> plus LDAC
- 1 patient achieved objective response
   1 CRi at onvanserib 40mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- LDAC arm discontinued following completion of onvansertib 60mg/m<sup>2</sup> cohort





# PRELIMINARY EFFICACY DECITABINE ARM

For patients who completed  $\geq$  1 cycle Data Cutoff: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

- 12 patients evaluable for efficacy (treated for ≥1 cycle) who received onvansertib
   12 40mg/m<sup>2</sup> plus decitabine
- 3 patients achieved objective responses
   2 CR: 1 at onvansertib 27mg/m<sup>2</sup> and 1 at onvansertib 40mg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - **1 CRi** at onvansertib 27mg/m<sup>2</sup>





### **PRELIMINARY EFFICACY**

#### **Onvansertib + Decitabine Patient Cases of Complete Response**

- 75 year-old male, diagnosed with AML in 2009; treated with induction chemotherapy followed by alloBMT; relapsed in March 2018
- Mutations: RUNX1, GATA2, SF3B1, FLT3-TKD
- Entered trial April 2018 on onvansertib 12mg/m<sup>2</sup> + decitabine
- Onvansertib dose increased to 18mg/m<sup>2</sup> cycle 6; 27mg/m<sup>2</sup> cycle 11
- <sup>D</sup> Patient reached PR at end of cycle 4 and CR at end of cycle 11
- Patient is currently on cycle 14 (as of 01 June 2019)
- % BM blasts decreased from 94% (at screening) to <5% (cycle 11)</li>
- 82 year-old male, diagnosed with AML in 2015; treated with induction and consolidation chemotherapy; relapsed in December 2018
   Mutations: ASXL1, SRSF2, IDH2
- Entered trial in January 2019 on onvansertib 40mg/m<sup>2</sup> + decitabine
- Patient reached CR as of the end of cycle 2. Patient was in cycle 5 (as of 01June 2019) with ongoing CR
- % BM blasts decreased from 22% (at screening) to less than 5% at the end of cycles 2 and 4





# **BIOMARKER STRATEGY**

#### Assessing inhibition of PLK1 in patients

Blood samples collected on day 1hr pre (0h) and 3hr post (3h) dose (corresponding to onvansertib ~Cmax)

- <sup>a</sup> pTCTP and TCTP assessed by capillary Western-Blot in isolated peripheral mononuclear cells
- □ Biomarker+ defined as  $\geq$  50% decrease in pTCTP/TCTP at 3h versus 0h
- Nine of 24 evaluable patients (38%) were biomarker positive for both arms
- Biomarker positivity was not correlated with onvansertib blood concentration (PK), dose level, % blasts, or combination (onvansertib plus LDAC or decitabine)



# **BIOMARKER STRATEGY**

Biomarker positivity is associated with response to treatment

- 20 patients evaluable for anti-leukemic efficacy and biomarker+ (defined as ≥ 50% decrease<sup>1</sup> in pTCTP/TCTP at 3h versus 0h)
- G of 9 biomarker positive patients had a decrease in BM blasts ≥ 50%, versus 1 of 11 in the biomarker negative patients
- Among the 4 patients with OR (CR+CRi), 3 were biomarker positive and 1 was borderline biomarker positive (40% decrease in pTCTP)
- Further biomarker validation is ongoing; development of a more sensitive and quantitative assay



<sup>\*</sup> Patient sample showed a 40% reduction in pTCTP



### CONCLUSIONS

#### **Onvansertib Treatment of Relapsed/Refractory AML**

- Dose escalation as of 01June 2019 demonstrated safety of onvansertib up to 60mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Anti-leukemic activity was observed at the 2 highest evaluable doses: 27 and 40mg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - <sup>2</sup> 2 patients reached a CR (at 27 and 40mg/m<sup>2</sup>) and 2 patients a CRi (at 27 and 40mg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Biomarker positivity was defined as a ≥ 50% decrease in pTCTP (PLK1 substrate) 3h post first dose of onvansertib
  - 40% of patients were biomarker positive
  - Biomarker positivity was associated with an increase in response to treatment, as measured by decrease in BM blasts and rate of OR (CR+CRi)
- Phase 2 will enroll 32 patients to further assess the safety, efficacy, biomarker positivity and correlation with response of onvansertib plus decitabine



### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would also like to extend a special thanks to our patients and their families for participating in this trial

Happy to answer any questions <u>Amer.zeidan@yale.edu</u> Twitter:@Dr\_AmerZeidan

