Discovery & Characterization of an IKZF2 Selective Molecular Glue Degrader with Best In-Class Potential

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Degrading Proteins, Defeating Disease

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IKZF2 is an Ikaros Zinc Finger Family Transcription Factor Highly Expressed in Regulatory T-Cells



- IKZF2 (Helios) is a member of a family of five transcriptional regulators that include IKZF1, IKZF3, IKZF4, and IKZF5
- IKZF2 is comprised of four N-terminal zinc finger (ZF) DNA-binding domains and two C-terminal ZF protein-protein interaction domains
- IKZF2 expression is largely restricted to select lymphoid cells including T Helper 2 (T_H2) cells and regulatory T-cells (T_{regs})

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Regulatory T-cells are Key Contributors to Immune Evasion by Cancer Cells



- T_{reg} cells are an immunosuppressive subset of CD4+ T cells that play essential roles in self-tolerance
- High relative abundance of T_{reg} cells in the tumor microenvironment (TME) is associated with poor prognosis in various cancer types
- Evading immune surveillance and destruction is fundamental to progression of many cancers

- T_{reg} cells exert their immunosuppressive activity through various mechanisms
 - serving as an IL-2 sink in the TME
 - suppressing inflammatory response



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IKZF2 is Important for Immunosuppressive Activity of T_{regs}, Making it an Attractive Immuno-oncology Target



- Stable inhibitory activity of T_{reas} is linked to IL-2 repression
- IKZF2 binds to the IL-2 promoter in T_{reg} cells and suppresses transcriptional activation
 - IKZF2 KD results in higher IL-2 expression upon stimulation
- IKZF2 KD suppresses FoxP3 binding to IL-2 promoter

- IKZF2 KO leads to an unstable CD4 T_{reg} phenotype marked by production of effector cytokines
- IKZF2 KO in T_{regs} suppresses tumor growth



Discovery of Selective IKZF2 Molecular Glue Degraders



- Fully integrated discovery team applying a multi-disciplinary approach to drug hunting
- Multiple cycles of SBDD using ternary complex structures to guide lead optimization



PVTX-405 Induces Potent and Rapid IKZF2 Degradation



 PVTX-405 shows similar potency as DKY709 with higher D_{max}



- PVTX-405 shows more rapid degradation kinetics than DKY709
- PVTX-405 achieves maximal degradation by 6 hrs while DKY709 requires 18 hours to reach D_{max} plateau



PVTX-405 Demonstrates Robust CRBN/IKZF2 Ternary Complex Formation





PVTX-405 Mediated IKZF2 Degradation is CRBN Dependent



CRISPR/Cas9 was utilized to engineered CRBN knockout in Jurkat cells

CRBN KO abrogates IKZF2 degradation by PVTX-405



PVTX-405 Shows Selectivity Against Neosubstrates of Concern



THERAPEUTICS

Proteomics Confirms Selective Degradation of IKZF2 by PVTX-405



- Relative protein abundance was determined using shotgun-MS proteomics
- PVTX-405 demonstrates high selectivity for IKZF2 relative to other IKZF family members, GSPT1, and other CRBN neo-substrates



IKZF2 Depletion in T_{regs} Should Lead to Increases in Effector Cytokine Production



- T_{regs} reduce inflammatory responses by consuming IL-2 and suppressing effector T-Cell (T_{eff}) proliferation
- IKZF2 depletion should destabilize T_{regs} and induce production of effector cytokines IL-2 and IFNγ
- Increased effector cytokine production can induce T_{eff} cell proliferation and antitumor immunity



IKZF2 Degradation Results in Increased IL-2 Production



- PVTX-405 treatment of Jurkat cells results in increased IL-2
- IL-2 induction is comparable to DKY709
- Increased IL-2 production demonstrates functional consequence associated with predicted increased anti-tumor immunity



PVTX-405 Induces Rapid, Potent, and Selective IKZF2 Degradation in Primary Human T_{regs}



Human PBMC cells were assessed using multiparameter FACS to measure effects on T_{reas}

• PVTX-405 demonstrates more rapid and potent degradation of IKZF2 than DKY709



Suppression of T_{regs} by IKZF2 Enhances T_{eff} Cell Proliferation



- Impact of PVTX-405 and DKY709 on $T_{\rm reg}$ induced suppression of effector T cell ($T_{\rm eff}$) proliferation was evaluated in 6 donors
- PVTX-405 treatment showed significant increases in T_{eff} cell proliferation in T_{reg}:T_{eff} cell coculture assays



PVTX-405 Shows Robust IKZF2 Degradation in Cyno In Vivo



- Non naïve cynomolgus monkeys were treated with either a single dose of PVTX-405 or DKY709
- Whole blood was analyzed using multiparameter FACS assay to measure IKZF2 degradation in T_{regs}

 PVTX-405 shows >90% suppression of IKZF2⁺ T_{regs} in Cyno



PVTX-405 and DKY709 Share Similar Oral Exposure Profiles in Cyno

Cyno Pharmacokinetics



Compound	PO Dose, QD	Mean AUC ₀₋₂₄ ng*hr/mL	Mean C _{max} ng/mL
PVTX-405	Dose A	2200	440
DKY709	Dose A	4200	450



PVTX-405 and DKY709 Show Similar Oral Exposure Profiles in Mice

Mouse Pharmacokinetics

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Compound	PO Dose, QD	Mean AUC ₀₋₂₄ ng*hr/mL	Mean C _{max} ng/mL
PVTX-405	Dose A	3400	880
	Dose B	38000	5900
	Dose C	171000	18000
DKY709	Dose A	590	270
	Dose B	24600	9080
	Dose C	120000	31000

Mouse CRBN is Resistant to PVTX-405 Glue Activity



- Neither PVTX-405 or DKY709 treatment induces degradation of IKZF2 in mouse cells
- A single amino acid difference within the CRBN– Immunomodulatory drug (IMiD) binding region renders mouse CRBN resistant to degradation by IMiDs
- A change from Ile 391 to Val in mouse CRBN restores IMiD-induced degradation of IKZF3



PVTX-405 Administration Leads to Robust IKZF2 Degradation in CRBN^{1391V} Mice



- CRBN^{1391V} mice were administered a single oral dose of PVTX-405
- PVTX-405 shows dose dependent degradation of IKZF2 in spleen and thymus of CRBN^{I391V} mice

PVTX-405 Shows Significant Suppression of MC38 Tumor Growth in Immune-competent Mice

- MC38 xenograft model was established in CRBN^{1391V} mice
- PVTX-405 inhibits MC38 tumor growth in vivo

PVTX-405 is a Development Candidate Stage Molecular Glue Degrader of IKZF2 with Potential to be Best-in-Class

Development Candidate	 A potent, selective molecular glue degrader of IKZF2 Demonstration of target pharmacology including IL-2 induction In vivo degradation in multiple species 	
Developability	 Low hERG liability; 5-fold improvement in hERG IC₅₀ compared to DKY709 Low plasma clearance and good oral bioavailability across preclinical species Low risk for DDI Excellent in vitro safety profile: AMES and micronucleus negative, low potential for CV and DILI risk, no reactive metabolite formation, no human-specific metabolites Good off-target and neo-substrate profile Non-GLP rat and cyno toxicology studies completed 	
Efficacy	 Single agent efficacy against novel MC38 syngeneic model in vivo 	

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