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

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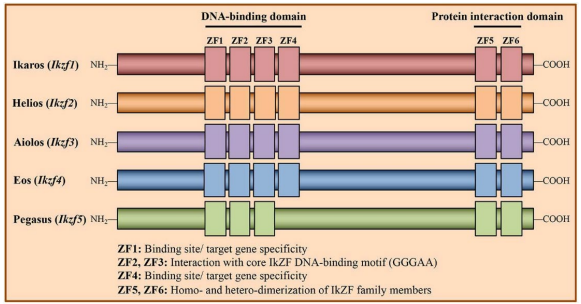
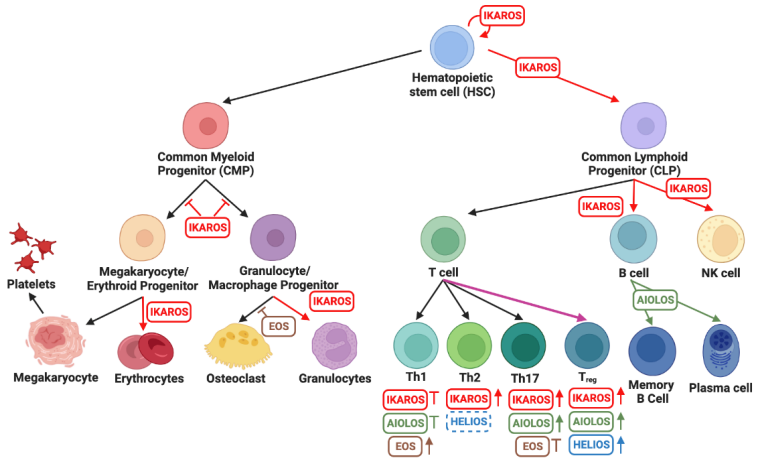
Courtney G. Havens

Proteovant Therapeutics

A subsidiary of SK Biopharmaceuticals

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

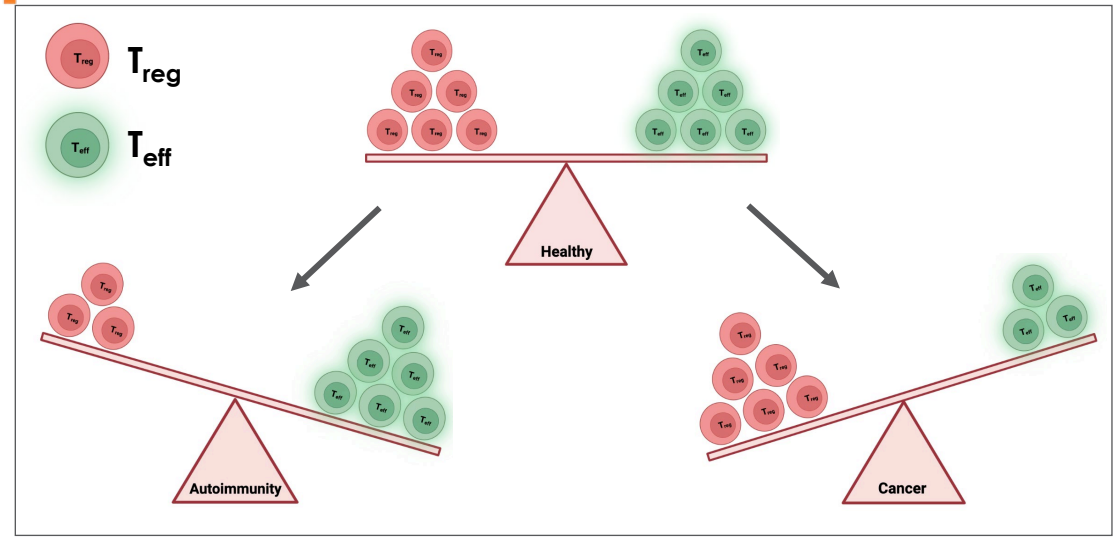


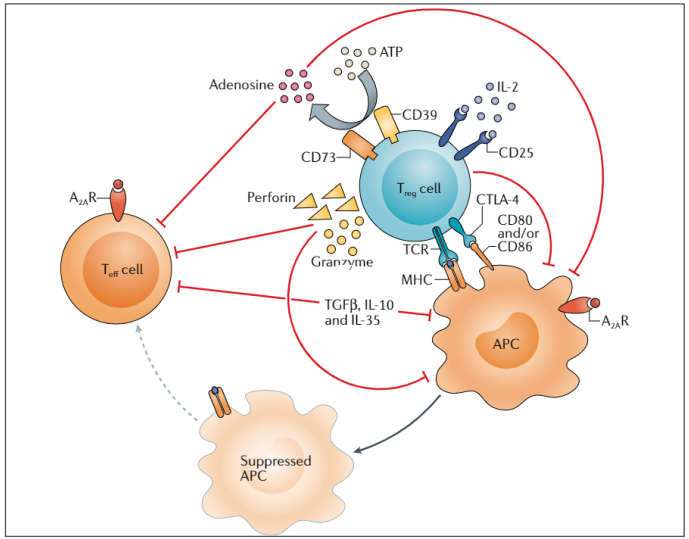


- IKZF2 (Helios) is a member of a family of five transcriptional regulators that include IKZF1, IKZF3, IKZF4, and IKZF5
- IKZF2 is comprised of four N-terminal zinc finger (ZF) DNA-binding domains and two C-terminal ZF protein-protein interaction domains
- IKZF2 expression is largely restricted to select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

Shahin, et al. Sci Immunol, 2021
John & Ward, *Mol Immunol*, 2011
Schematic created with biorender.com
Powell, et al., *Front Immunol*, 2019
Cai, et al., J Immunol, 2009
Kim, et al. Science, 2015

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



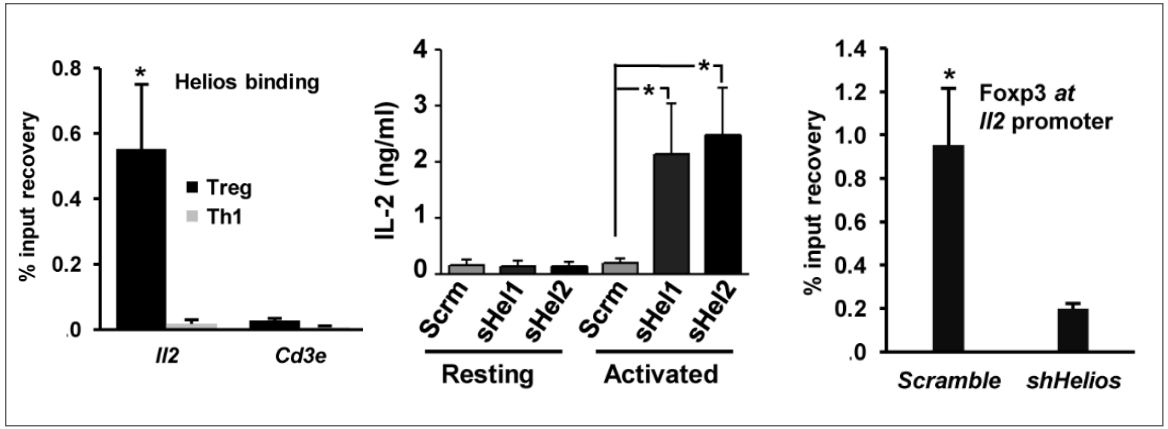


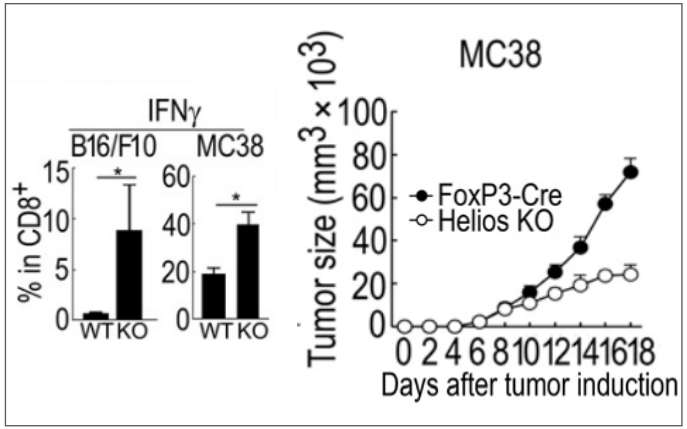
- T_{reg} cells are an immunosuppressive subset of CD4+ T cells that play essential roles in self-tolerance
- High relative abundance of T_{reg} cells in the tumor microenvironment (TME) is associated with poor prognosis in various cancer types
- Evading immune surveillance and destruction is fundamental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

Rakebrandt, et al., Swiss Med Wkly, 2016; Togashi, et al., *Nat Rev Clin Oncol,* 2019; Schematic created with biorender.com

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



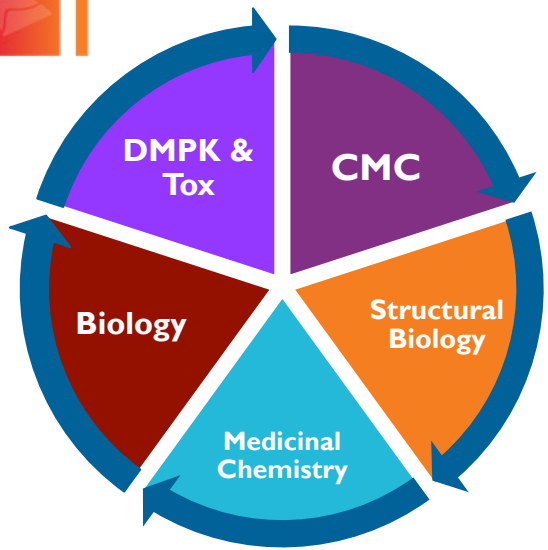


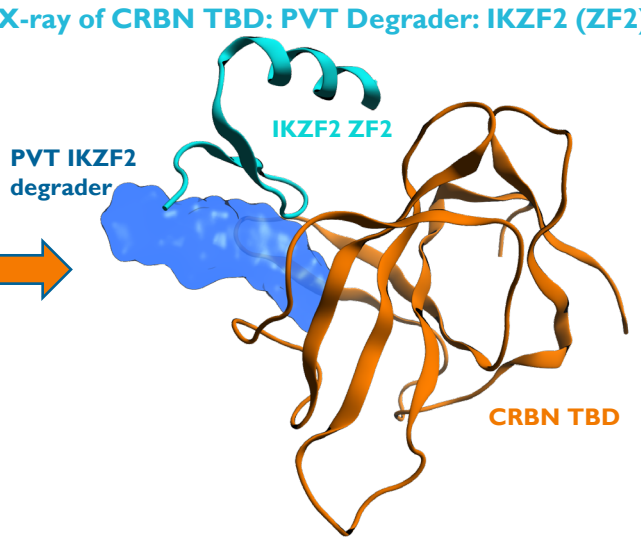
- Stable inhibitory activity of Tregs is linked to IL-2 repression
- IKZF2 binds to the IL-2 promoter in Treg cells and suppresses transcriptional activation
- IKZF2 KD results in higher IL-2 expression upon stimulation
- IKZF2 KD suppresses FoxP3 binding to IL-2 promoter

- IKZF2 KO leads to an unstable CD4 Treg phenotype marked by production of effector cytokines
- IKZF2 KO in Tregs suppresses tumor growth

Baine, et al., J Immunol, 2013; Nakagawa, et al., Proc National Acad Sci, 2016; Yates, et al., Proc National Acad Sci, 2018

Discovery of Selective IKZF2 Molecular Glue Degraders

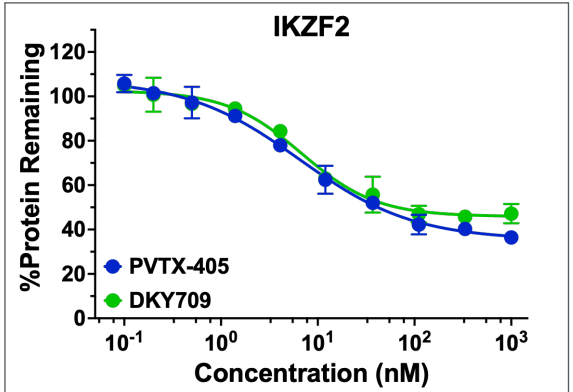




PVTX-405

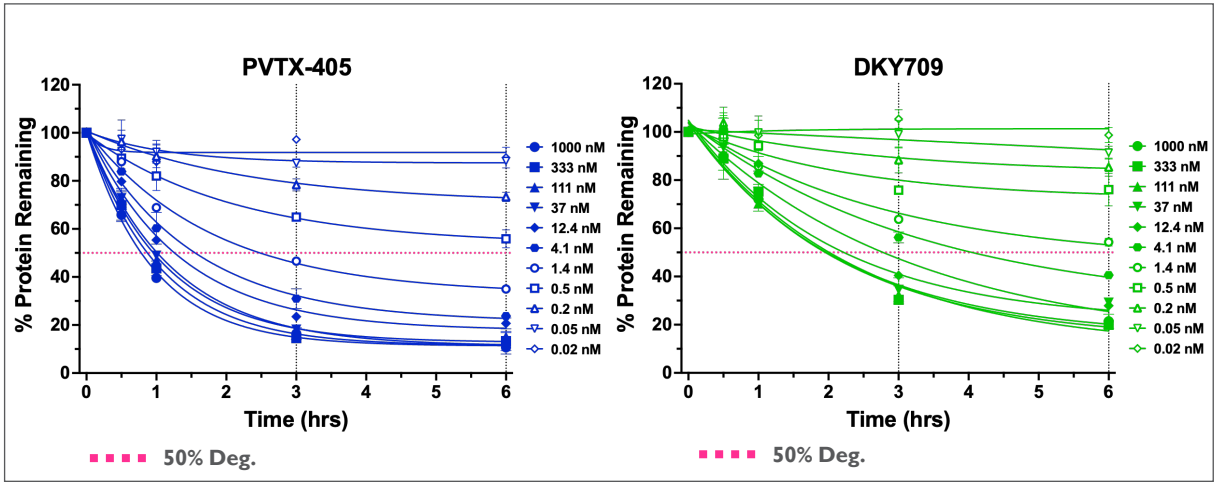
- Fully integrated discovery team applying a multi-disciplinary approach to drug hunting
- Multiple cycles of SBDD using ternary complex structures to guide lead optimization

PVTX-405 Induces Potent and Rapid IKZF2 Degradation



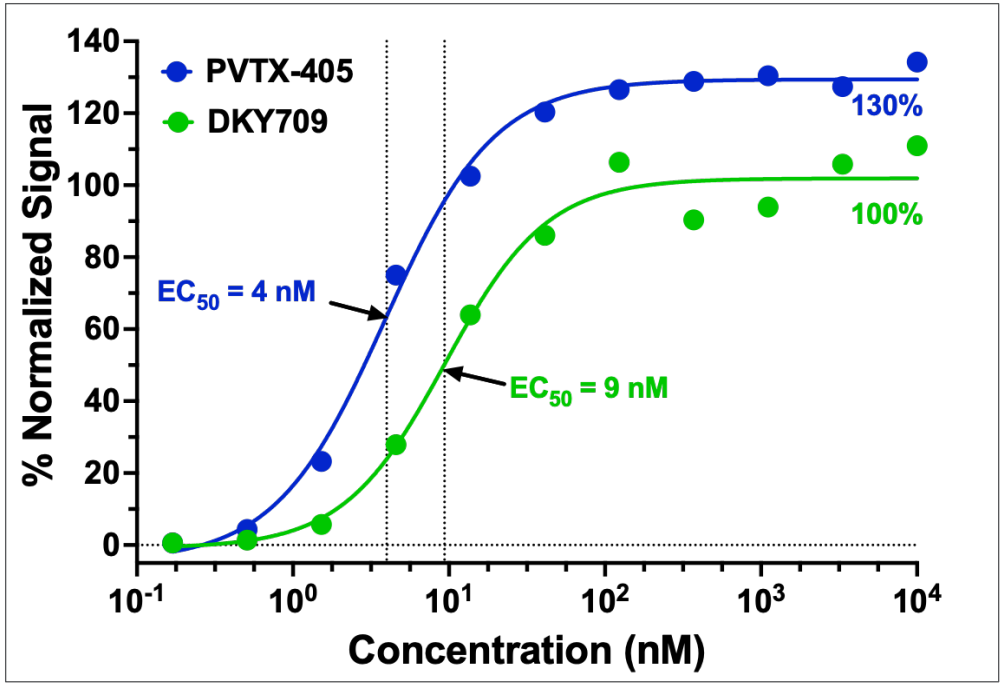
Compound	DC_{50} (nM)	D_{max} (%)
PVTX-405	6.3	65
DKY709	8.1	59

- PVTX-405 shows similar potency as DKY709 with higher Dmax



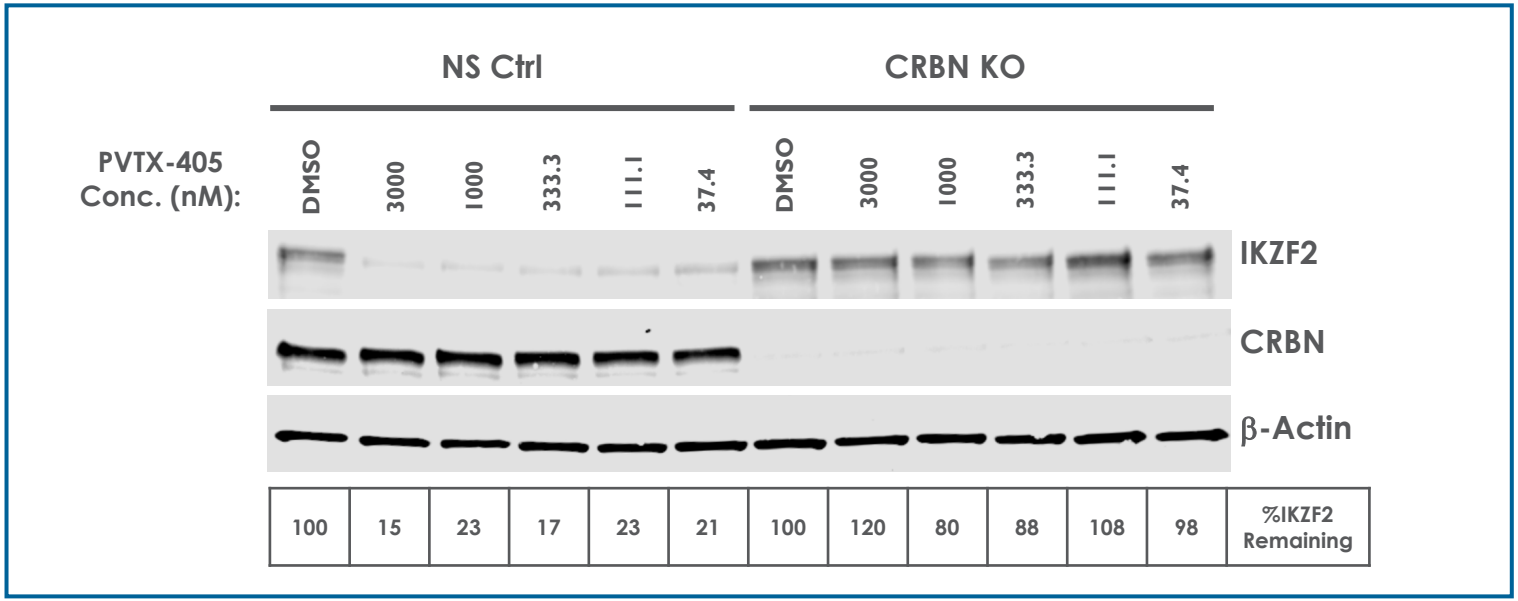
- PVTX-405 shows more rapid degradation kinetics than DKY709
- PVTX-405 achieves maximal degradation by 6 hrs while DKY709 requires 18 hours to reach Dmax plateau

PVTX-405 Demonstrates Robust CRBN/IKZF2 Ternary Complex Formation



- A greater level of ternary complex is formed in the presence of PVTX-405 than DKY709
- Higher max signal and higher signal at each concentration of PVTX-405 than DKY709 are evident
- EC50 values are similar for the two compounds suggesting similar stability of the complex

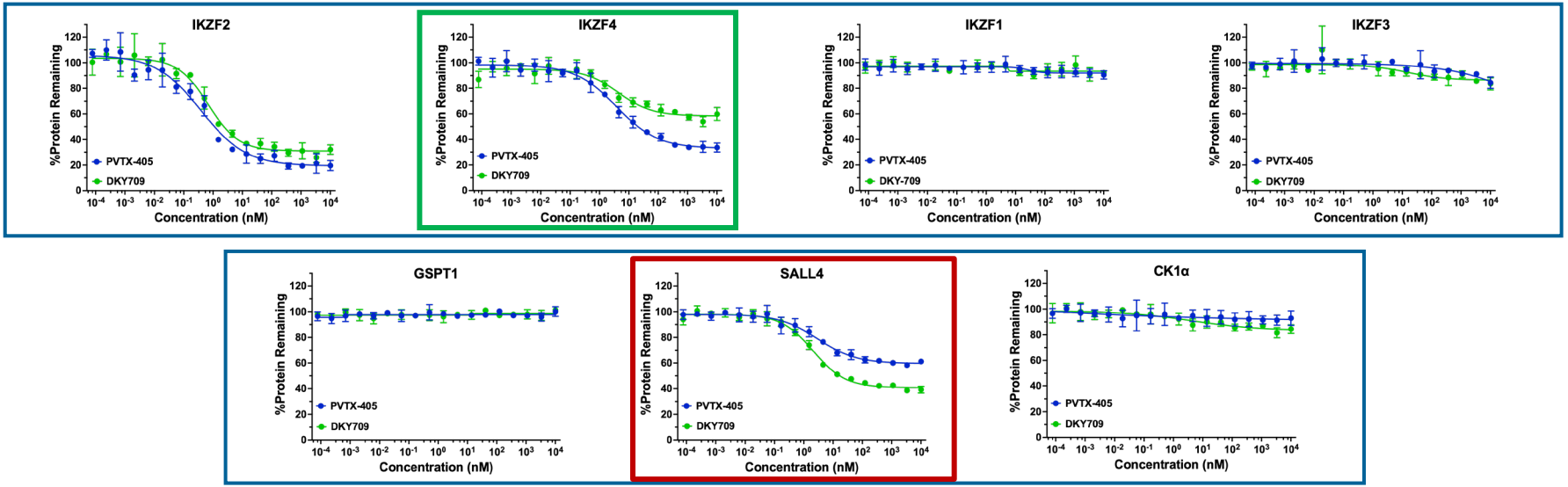
PVTX-405 Mediated IKZF2 Degradation is CRBN Dependent



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

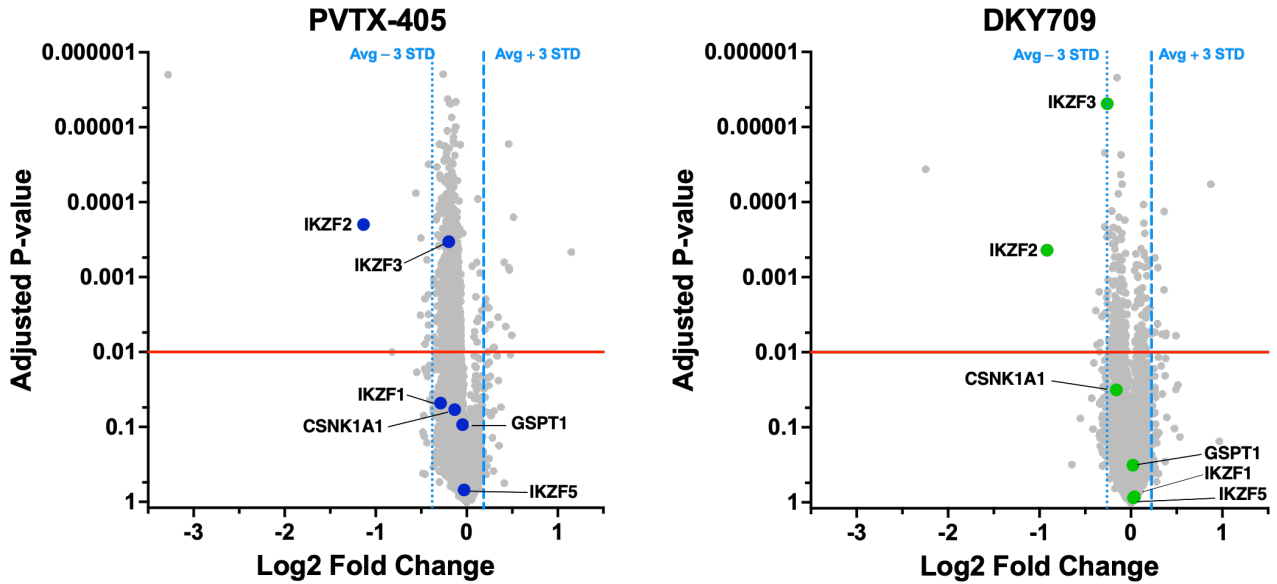
CRBN KO abrogates IKZF2 degradation by PVTX-405

PVTX-405 Shows Selectivity Against Neosubstrates of Concern



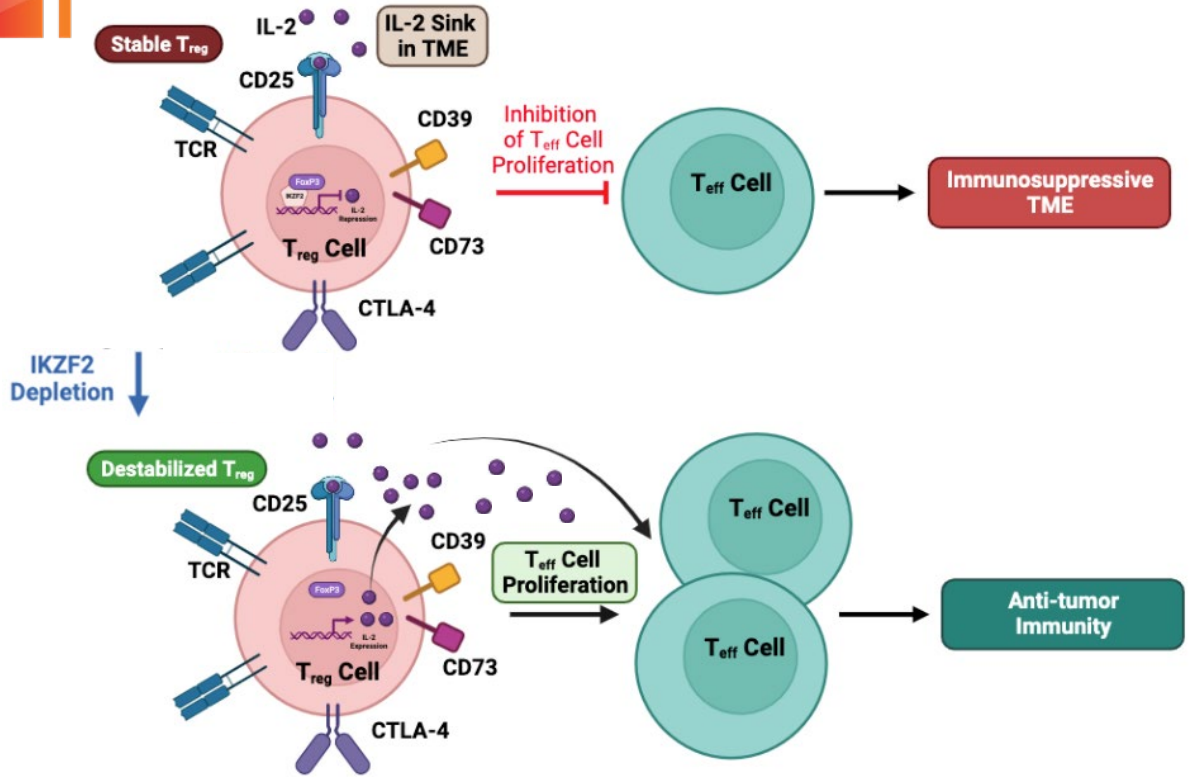
Compound	DC_{50} in nM ($\%D_{max}$)						
	IKZF2 HiBit	IKZF4 HiBit	IKZF1 HiBit	IKZF3 HiBit	SALL4 HiBit	GSPT1 HiBit	CK1a HiBit
PVTX-405	1.0 (84)	3.8 (66)	>10000 (ND)	>10000 (ND)	45 (30)	>10000 (ND)	>10000 (ND)
DKY709	1.5 (73)	4.4 (39)	>10000 (ND)	>10000 (ND)	4.9 (55)	>10000 (ND)	>10000 (ND)

Proteomics Confirms Selective Degradation of IKZF2 by PVTX-405



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

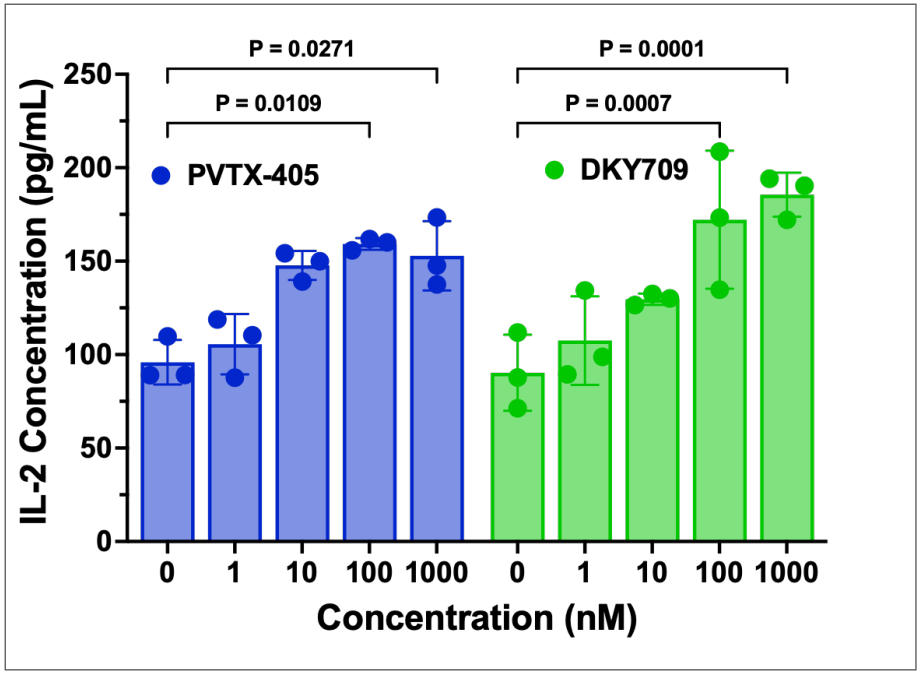
IKZF2 Depletion in T_{regs} Should Lead to Increases in Effector Cytokine Production



- 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 anti-tumor immunity

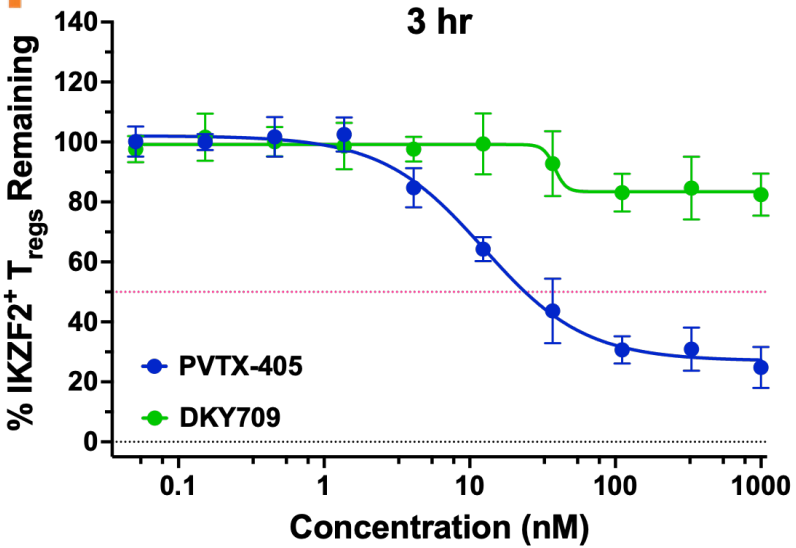
Schematic created with biorender.com

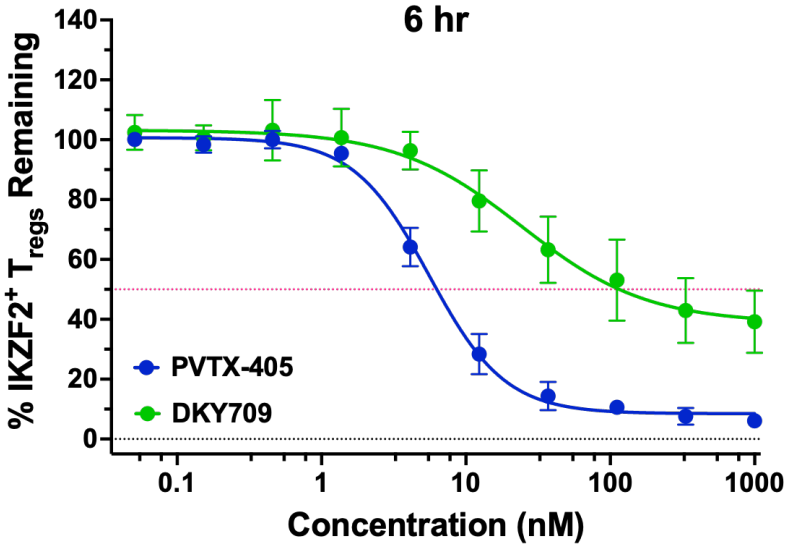
IKZF2 Degradation Results in Increased IL-2 Production



- 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

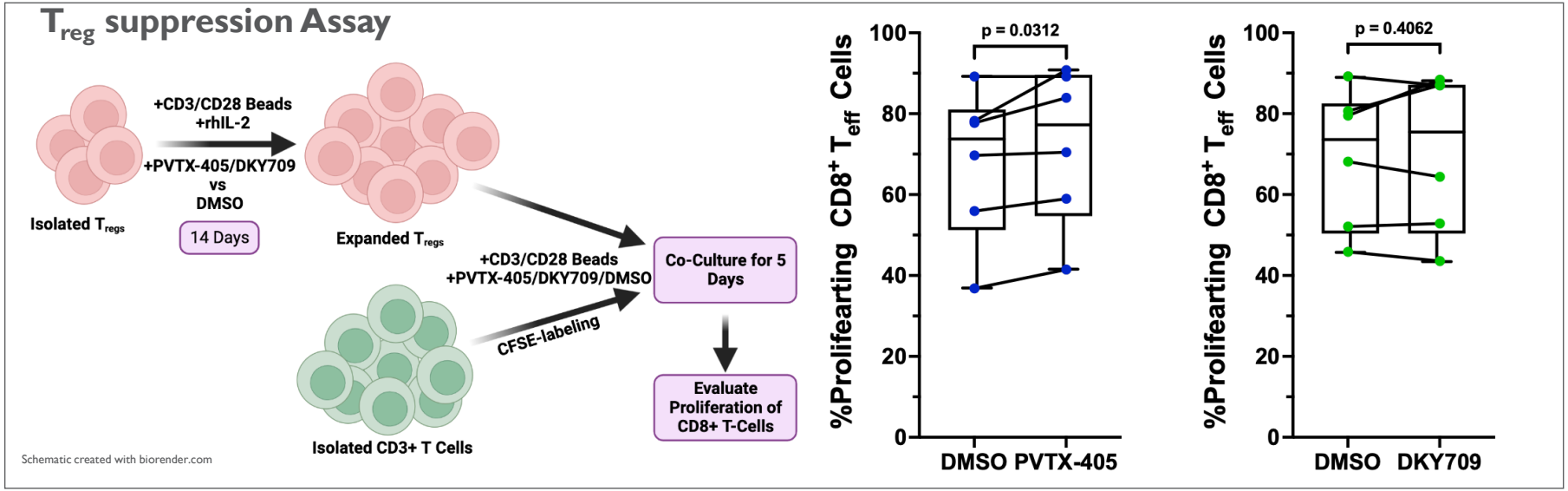
PVTX-405 Induces Rapid, Potent, and Selective IKZF2 Degradation in Primary Human T_{regs}





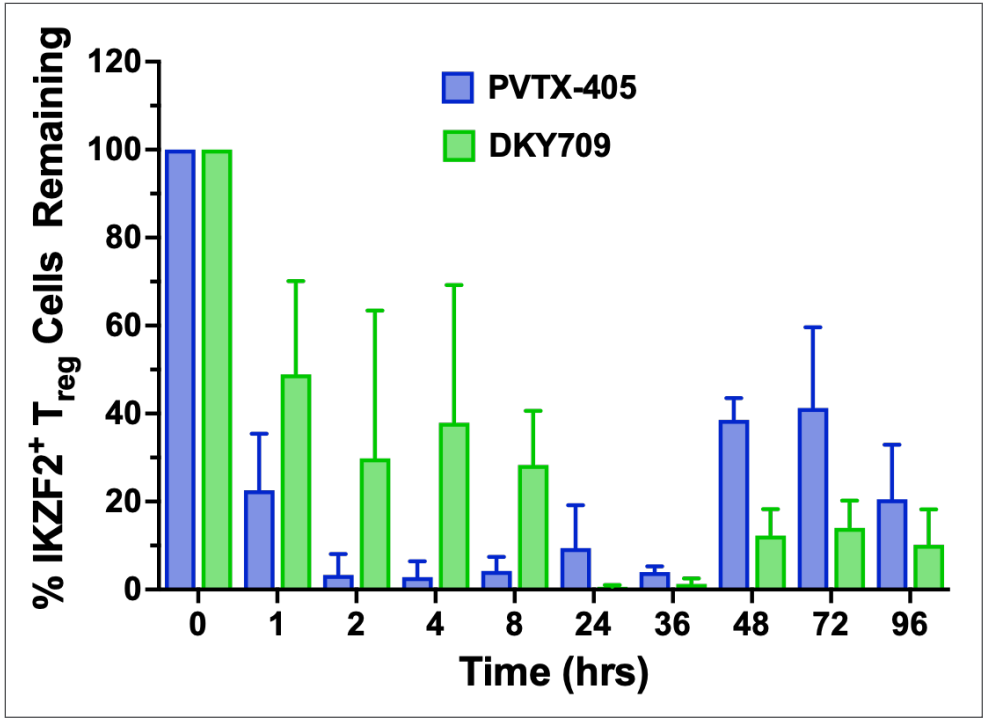
- Human PBMC cells were assessed using multiparameter FACS to measure effects on Tregs
- PVTX-405 demonstrates more rapid and potent degradation of IKZF2 than DKY709

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



- Impact of PVTX-405 and DKY709 on Treg induced suppression of effector T cell (Teff) proliferation was evaluated in 6 donors
- PVTX-405 treatment showed significant increases in Teff cell proliferation in Treg:Teff cell co-culture assays

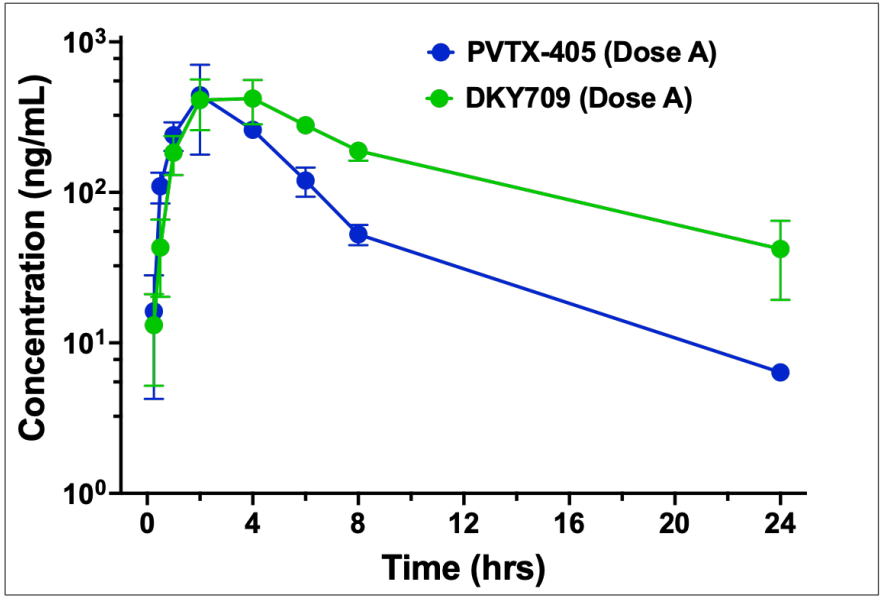
PVTX-405 Shows Robust IKZF2 Degradation in Cyno *In Vivo*



- 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 Tregs
- PVTX-405 shows >90% suppression of IKZF2+ Tregs in Cyno

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

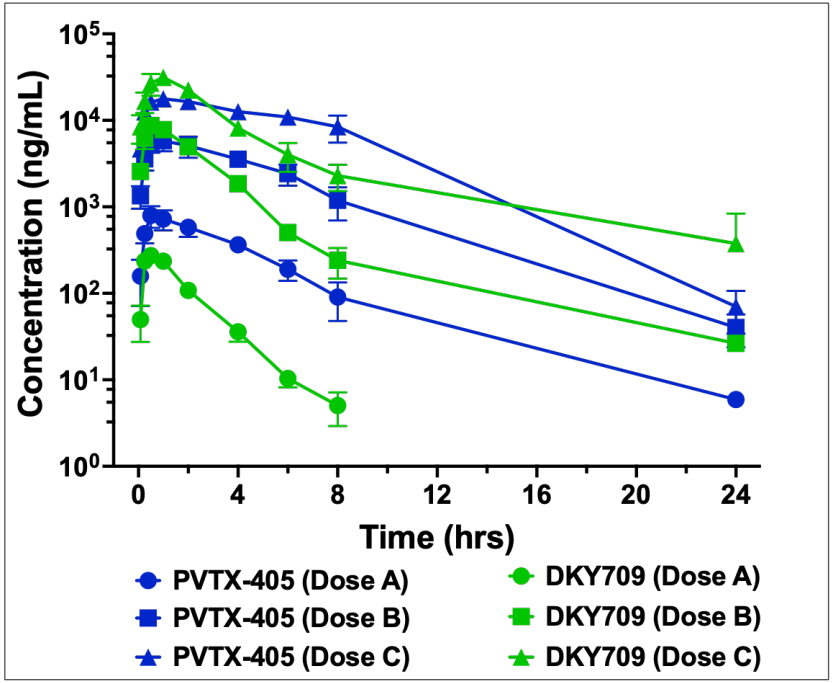
Cyno Pharmacokinetics



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

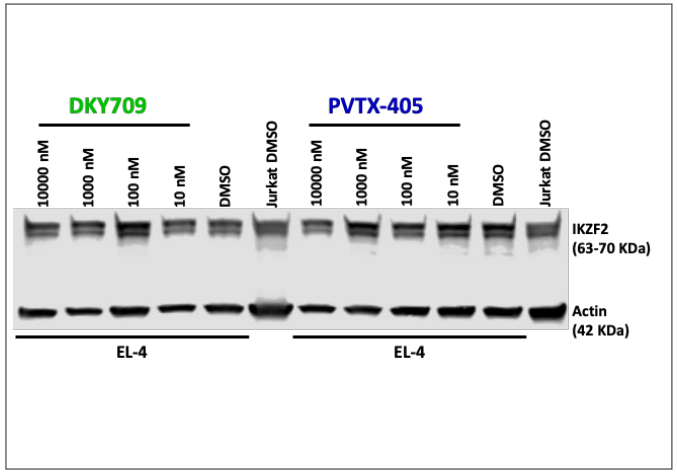
PVTX-405 and DKY709 Show Similar Oral Exposure Profiles in Mice

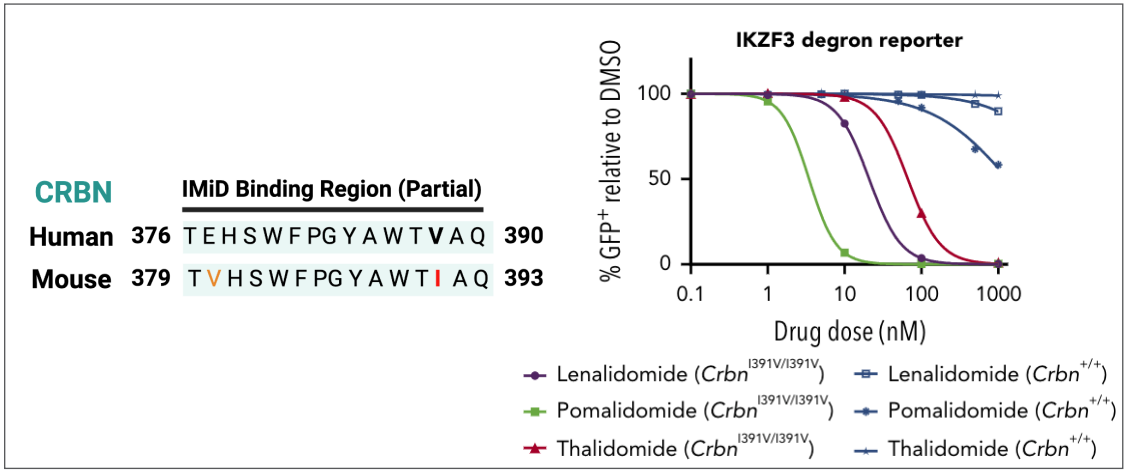
Mouse Pharmacokinetics



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



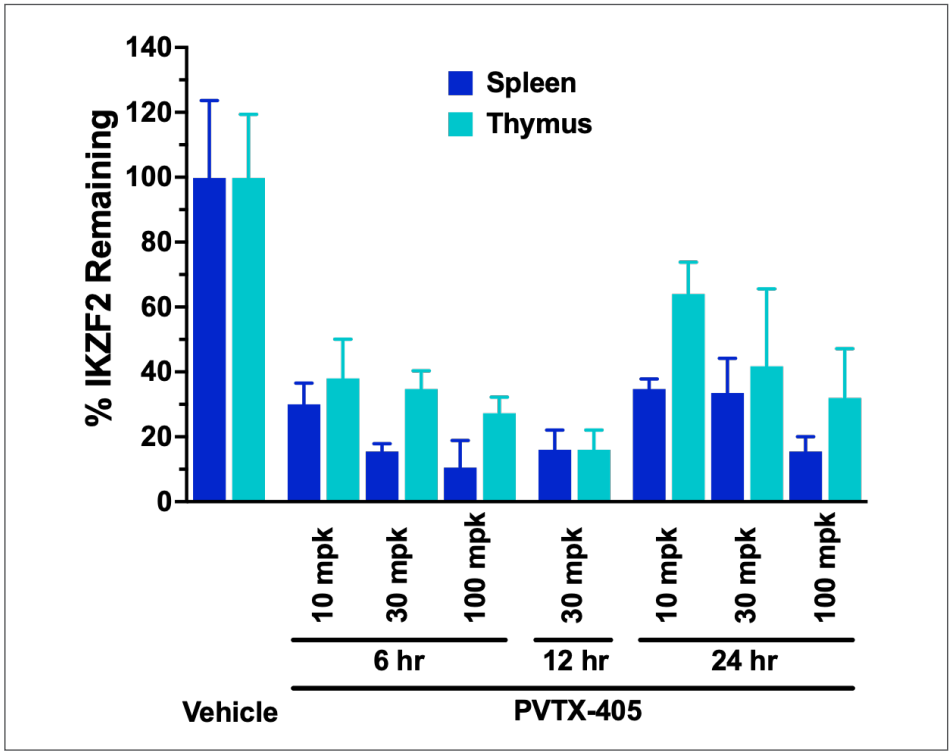


- Neither PVTX-405 or DKY709 treatment induces degradation of IKZF2 in mouse cells

- 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

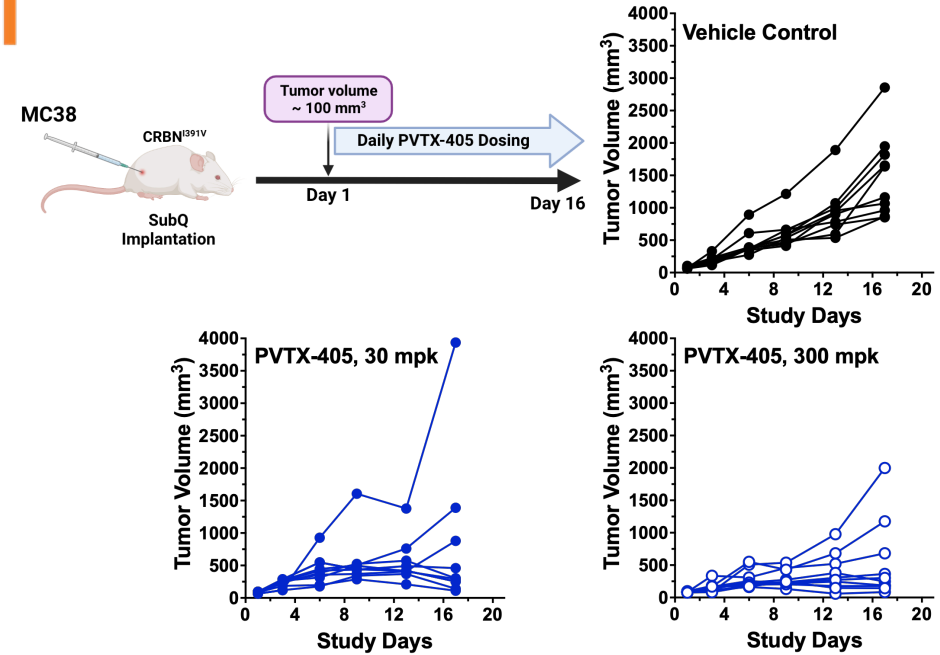
Fink, E. C. et al. Blood 132, 1535–1544 (2018).
Gemechu, Y. et al. P Natl Acad Sci Usa 115, 11802–11807 (2018).

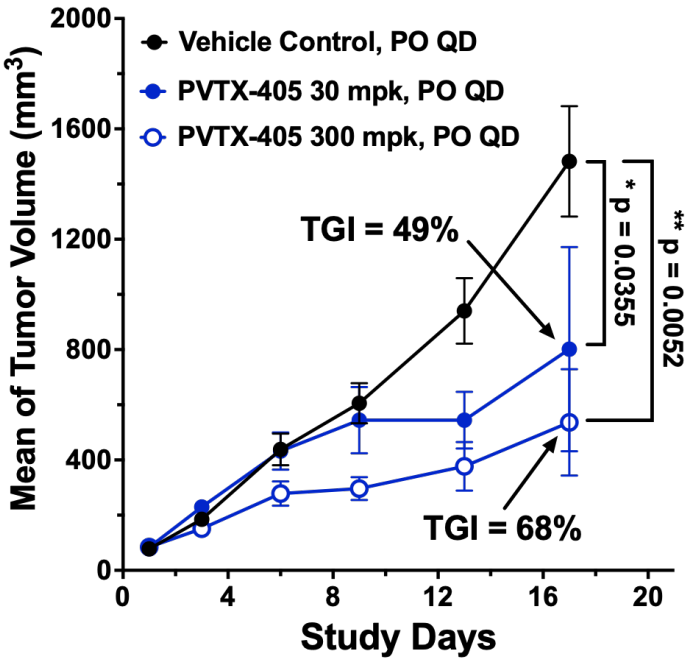
PVTX-405 Administration Leads to Robust IKZF2 Degradation in CRBN^{I391V} Mice



- CRBNI391V mice were administered a single oral dose of PVTX-405
- PVTX-405 shows dose dependent degradation of IKZF2 in spleen and thymus of CRBNI391V mice

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



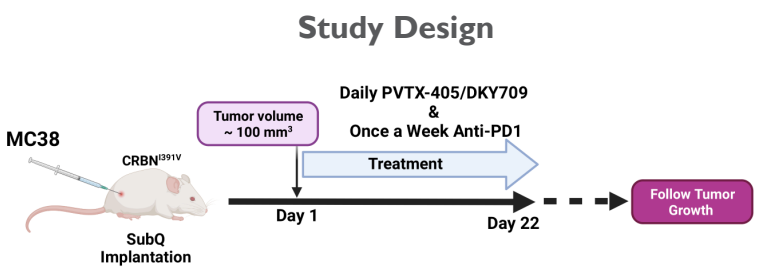


MC38 xenograft model was established in CRBN^{I391V} mice

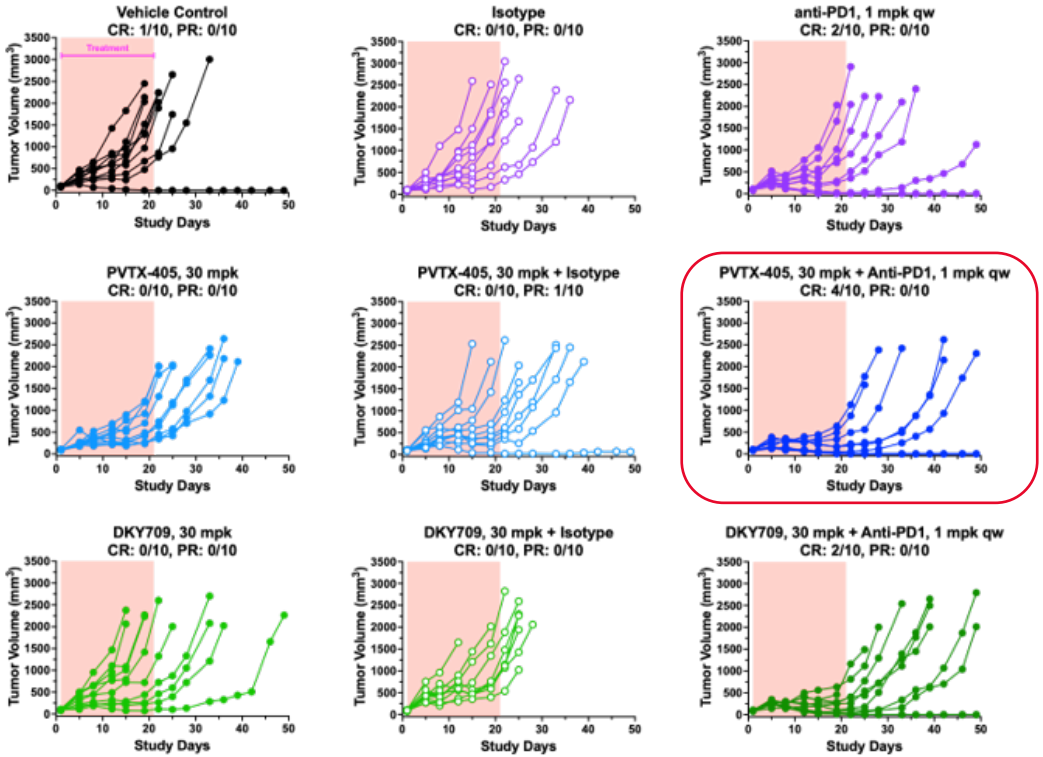
PVTX-405 inhibits MC38 tumor growth in vivo

Schematic created with biorender.com

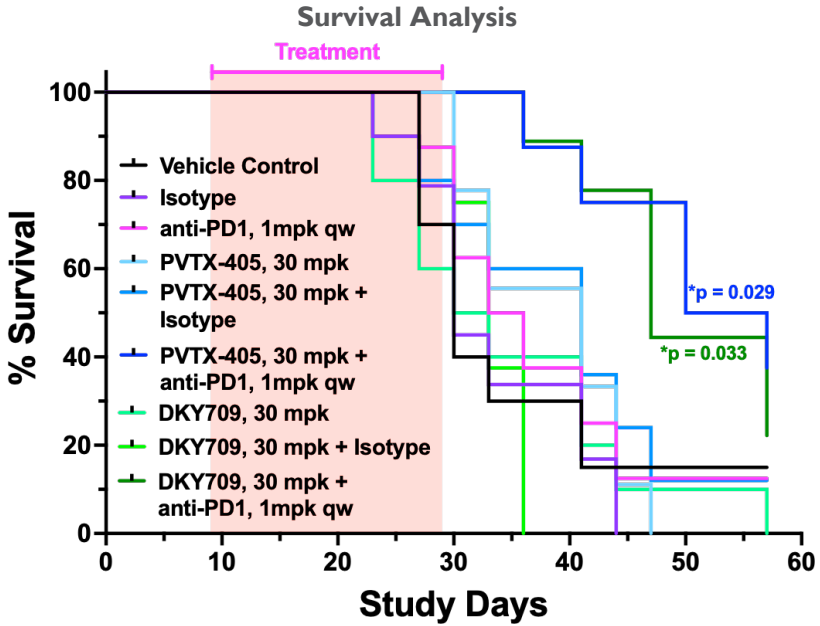
PVTX-405 Improves Tumor Growth Suppression Induced by PD1 Blockade Against MC-38 Tumors in Immune-Competent Mice



- PVTX-405 or DKY709 treatment leads to clear combination benefit with PD1 blockade
- PVTX-405 shows more complete responses in combination with anti-PD1 than anti-PD1 alone or DKY709 in combination with anti-PD1



PVTX-405 Significantly Improves Efficacy of Anti-PD1 Treatment in Immune-Competent Mice



Survival Comparison	p Value
Isotype vs Anti-PD1	0.454
Vehicle Control vs PVTX-405 + Anti-PD1	0.017
Vehicle Control vs DKY709 + Anti-PD1	0.020
Isotype Control vs PVTX-405 + Anti-PD1	0.001
Isotype Control vs DKY709 + Anti-PD1	0.0004
Anti-PD1 vs PVTX-405 + Anti-PD1	0.029
Anti-PD1 vs DKY709 + Anti-PD1	0.033
PVTX-405 + Anti-PD1 vs DKY709 + Anti-PD1	0.545

- PVTX-405 and DKY709 both induce significantly better tumor growth reduction in combination with PD1 blockade as compared to PD1 blockade alone

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 with IKZF4 activity
- Demonstration of target pharmacology including IL-2 induction
- *In vivo* degradation in multiple species

Developability

- **Low hERG liability; 5-fold improvement in hERG IC_{50} 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

- **Efficacy as single agent and in combination with PD1 blockade against novel MC38 syngeneic model *in vivo***

Acknowledgements

proteovant THERAPEUTICS

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Donna McEachern
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partnering@proteovant.com