

## **Conditional Cytokine Therapeutics for Tumor-Selective Biological Activity** Preclinical characterization of a dual-masked IFNα-2b **Erwan Le Scolan**, Ph.D.

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#### **Presentation Outline**

**Promise of Conditional Cytokines** 

**Overview of Probody® Therapeutic Technology Platform** 

In vitro Characterization of a Conditional IFN $\alpha$ -2b With a Dual Masking Strategy

**Preclinical Activity and Tolerability** 



## Cytokine Therapeutics Are Potent, But Associated With Safety Issues

Cytokines and Cytokine Therapeutics	<ul> <li>Major regulators of innate and adaptive immune system</li> <li>Broad anti-tumor activity in preclinical models</li> <li>Clinical success to date limited by systemic toxicity or poor exposure</li> </ul>	Conditional-Cytokines
Potential advantages for Conditional Cytokine Therapeutics	<ul> <li>Less systemic toxicity</li> <li>Better exposure (reduced TMDD)</li> <li>Systemic delivery versus intra-tumoral injection</li> <li>Increased therapeutic index</li> <li>Improved combination therapies</li> </ul>	



## Activated Proteases Are Prevalent in Tumors but not in Healthy Tissue



1. Sevenich, et. al. Gene & Dev., 2014; 2. Deu, et.al., Nature Struct Mol Biol 2012; 3. Matriptase: LeBeau, et al., PNAS 2012



# The Probody Therapeutic Platform Localizes Biologics to the Tumor Microenvironment (TME)



- "Masked" to limit binding to normal tissue
- "Un-masked" by tumor-associated proteases
- Linkers cleaved by multiple proteases for utility across tumor types

#### CYTOMX PROBODY PLATFORM IS DESIGNED TO LOCALIZE TARGET BINDING TO TUMOR

- Maintaining potency
- Reducing side effects
- Enabling new target opportunities

#### PROBODY PLATFORM IS APPLICABLE ACROSS MULTIPLE TARGETS AND MODALITIES

- Improve therapeutic window for validated targets
- Create therapeutic window for undruggable targets
- Applicable to multiple binding modalities





## The Probody Platform is Applicable Across Multiple Modalities



# Pre-Clinical Proof of Concept With Conditional IFN $\alpha$ -2b Target Biology and Opportunity

#### TARGET BACKGROUND

- Single chain polypeptide of Type I IFN
- Virtually all nucleated cells express receptors for IFN $\alpha/\beta$
- Pleiotropic activities:
  - Antiviral activity
  - Immunomodulatory
  - Antiproliferative/Pro-apoptotic activity
- Approved for use for antiviral and cancer therapy
- Systemic administration is accompanied by dose dependent toxicities
- Local delivery is safe and effective in BCG unresponsive bladder cancer
   CYTOMX





• ORR: 60.5%

• 49% G3/4 AEs

Room to improve therapeutic indexPotential for tumor localized activity

Exploring Probody Technology for Steric Masking of IFN $\alpha$ 2b IFN $\alpha$ 2b-Fc fusion is masked compared to monomeric IFN $\alpha$ 2b





## Exploring Probody Technology for Dual Masking of IFN $\alpha$ 2b



CYTOMX THERAPEUTICS



	Single Mask	Dual Mask
Masking strategy	Steric	Steric + Affinity
Masking efficiency	~1,000X	>5,000X





- Single Masked IFNα-2b/Fc induces tumor regression at dose as low at 0.1mg/kg
- Single Masked IFN $\alpha$ -2b/Fc is as active as peginterferon



### **Pilot Tolerability Study in Hamster**



#### Test Articles:

- Single MaskIFNα-2b/Fc
- Dual Mask IFNα-2b/Fc
- Unmasked IFNα2b/Fc (peginterferon)
- IgG4





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#### Masked IFNα-2b/Fc are Well Tolerated in Hamster up to 15 mg/kg Single dose escalation study



- Evidence of INF $\alpha$ -2b mediated toxicity in animals dosed with unmasked IFN $\alpha$ -2b/Fc (Increased ALP detected at 0.4mpk)
- Increased therapeutic index for dual and single masked IFN $\alpha$ -2b/Fc



# Summary: The Probody Platform can be Applied to Create Conditionally Active Cytokine Therapeutics

Probody Technology	<ul> <li>Designed to be minimally active systemically, until activated in the protease- enriched diseased microenvironment</li> </ul>
Conditional IFNα-2b characteristics	<ul> <li>Conditionally active dual mask strategy reduces IFNα-2b activity in vitro (&gt;5,000X)</li> <li>Highly potent in xenograft in vivo studies – comparable to peginterferon</li> <li>Reduced systemic IFNα-2b mediated toxicity in Hamster</li> </ul>
Conditional Cytokine opportunities	<ul> <li>Broad opportunity for Probody platform to create conditional cytokines leveraging deep expertise in protease biology and masking strategies</li> </ul>

