

PERSPECTIVE ON RESISTANCE TO CAR-T: LESSONS FROM BLOOD CANCER

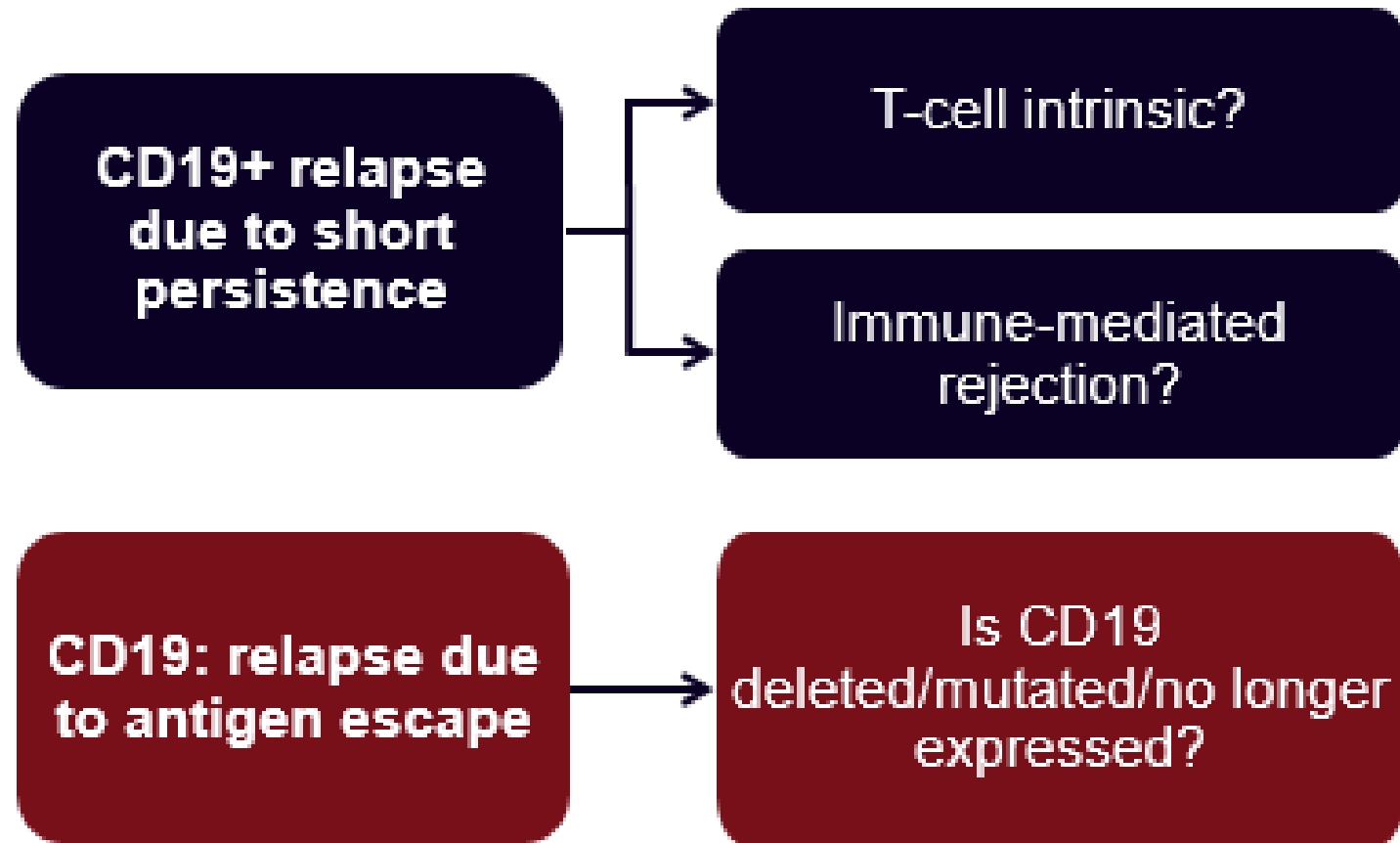
Stephan Grupp, MD, PhD



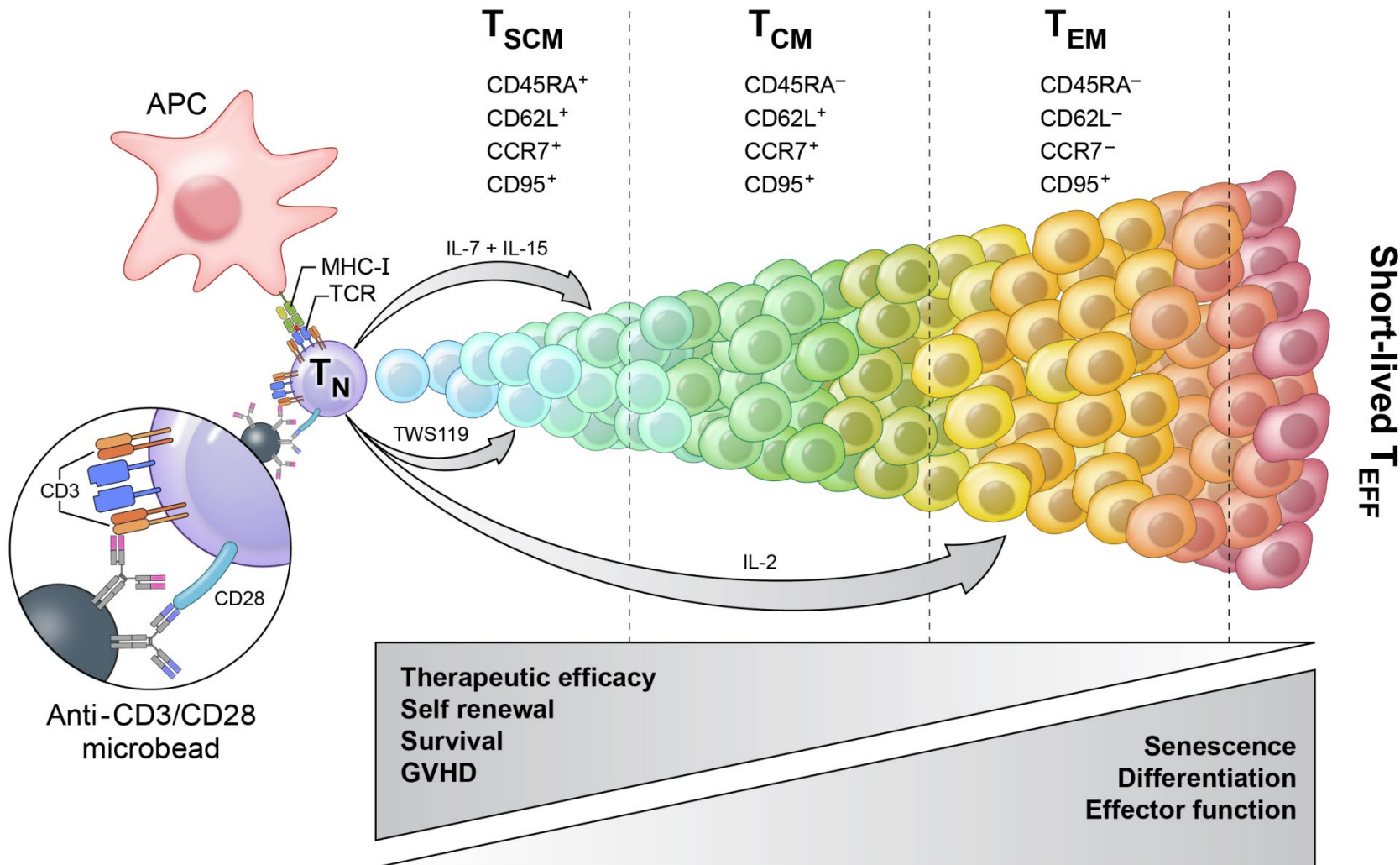
DISCLOSURES

- Research and/or clinical trial support from Novartis, Servier, Vertex, and Kite
- Study steering committees, consulting, DSMBs, or scientific advisory boards: Novartis, Allogene, Adaptimmune, Juno, CBMG, GlaxoSmithKline, Cellectis, J&J/Janssen, CRISPR/Vertex, Jazz, TCR2, and Cabaletta
- Toxicity management patent managed by U Penn policies

MECHANISMS OF RELAPSE IN ALL AFTER PERSISTENT CD19 CAR



T CELL STATE-FUNCTION RELATIONSHIP



TCF7 gene:

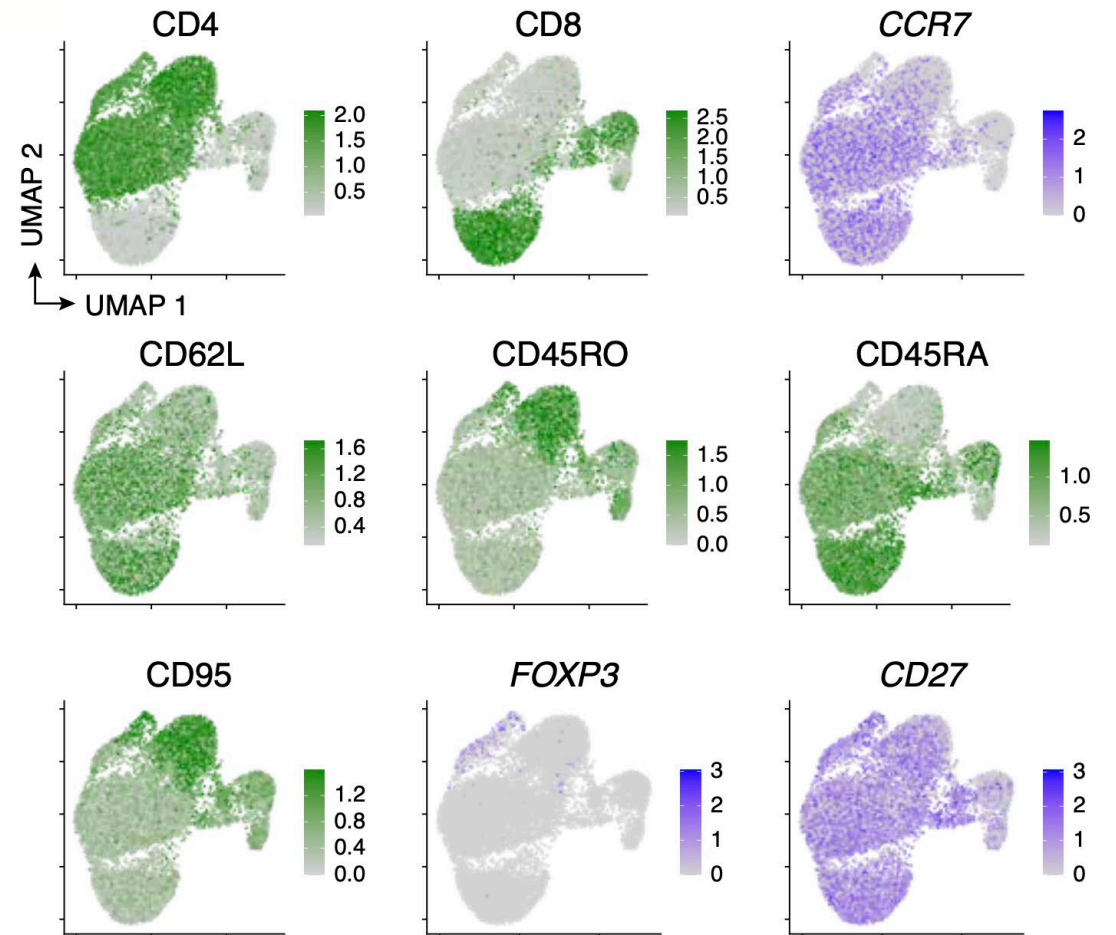
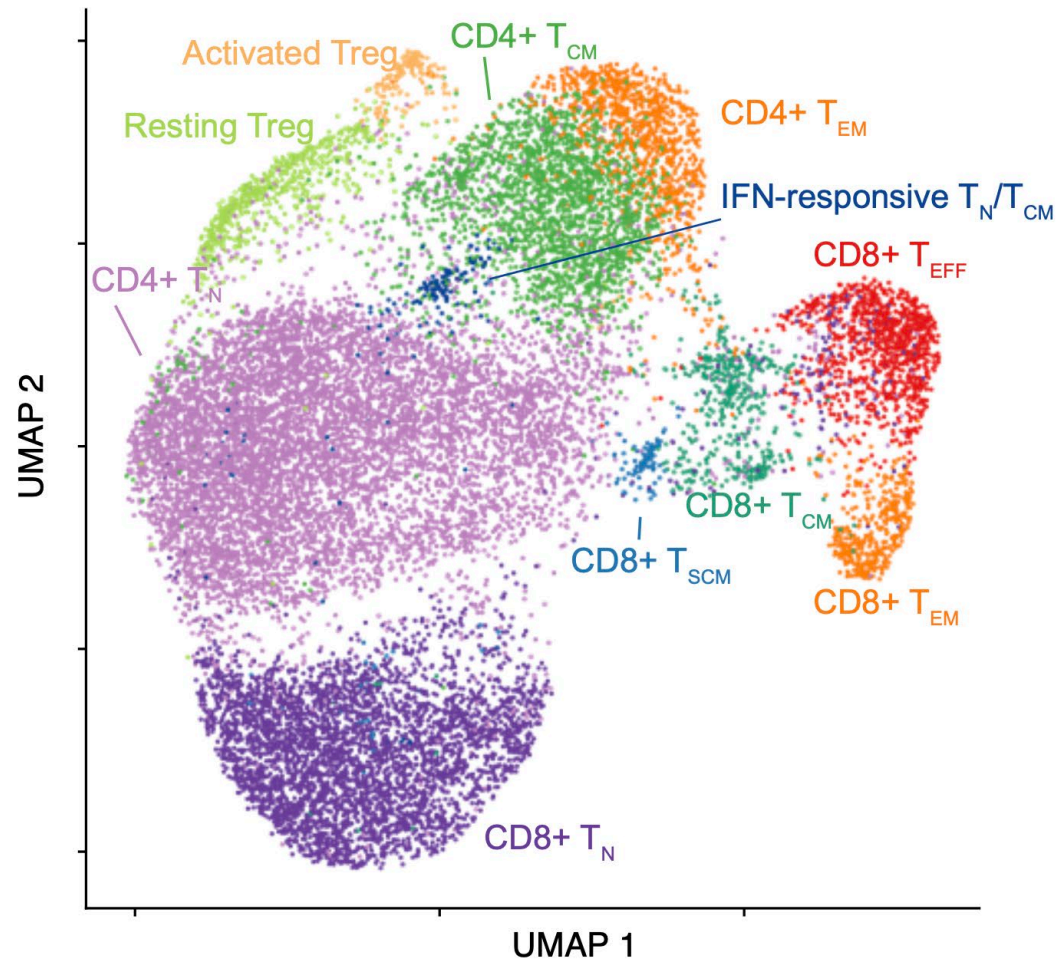
- Encodes for TCF1 transcription factor
- Key in early thymocyte development
- Highly expressed in T_N and T_{SCM} cells
- Role in maintaining stemness in exhausted T cells

IFN γ signaling and response genes:

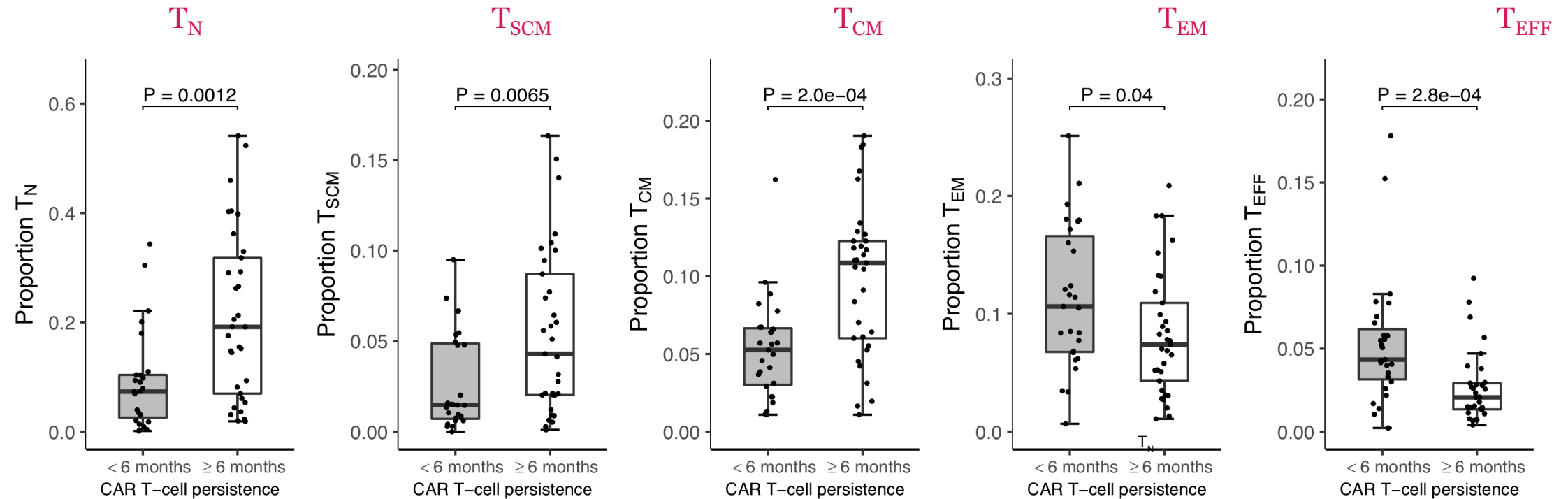
- Short term stimulation of T cell responses
- Chronic IFN γ may drive T cell exhaustion (Wherry)
- **IRF7** is an important regulator of type 1 IFN response

CITE-SEQ OF PRE-MANUFACTURE T-CELLS FROM SIX PATIENTS CAPTURES MAJOR CD4⁺ AND CD8⁺ T-CELL SUBTYPES

Green = single-cell protein expression (CITE antibody-derived tag)
Blue = single-cell RNA expression



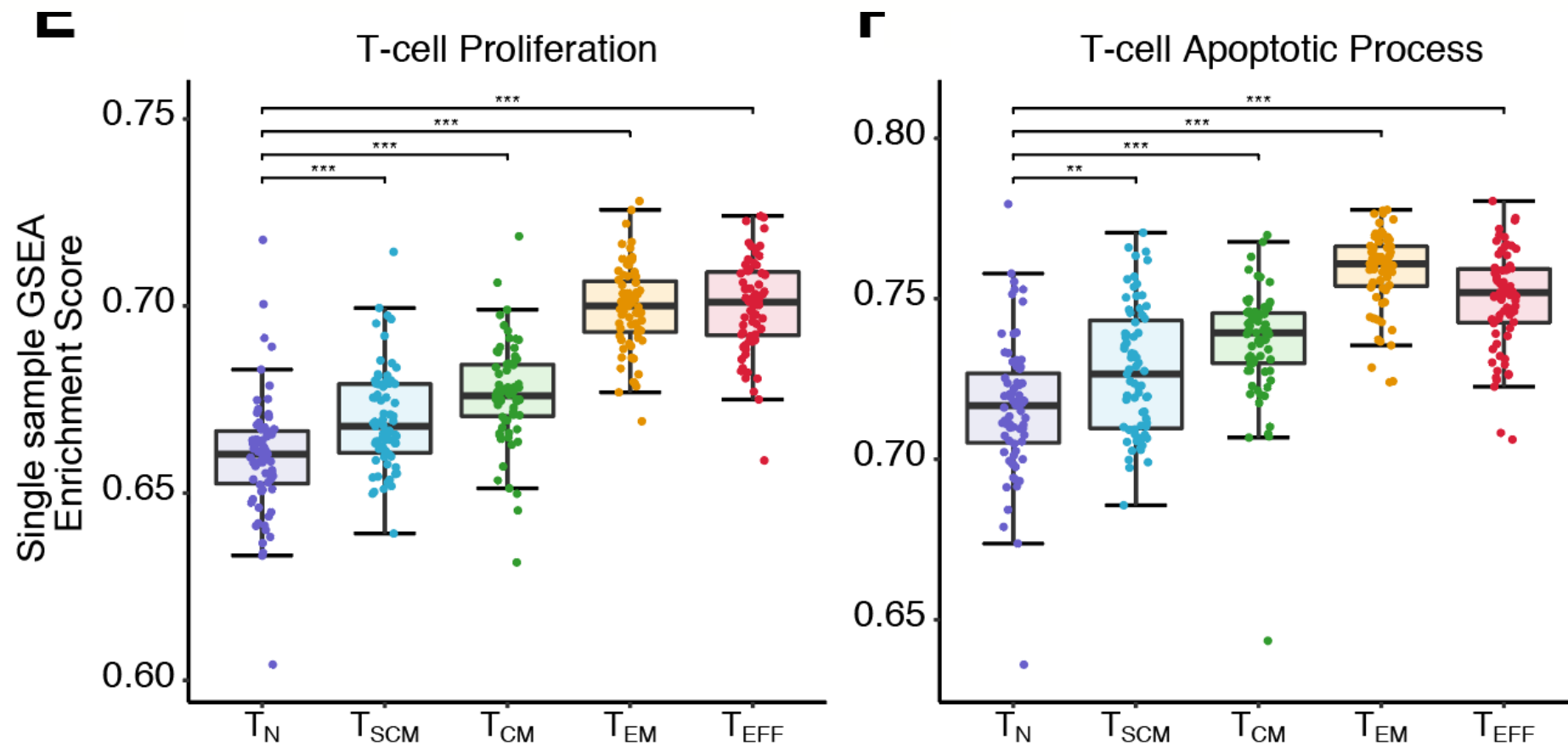
HIGHER PROPORTIONS OF NAIVE AND EARLY MEMORY T-CELLS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH LONGER CAR T-CELL PERSISTENCE



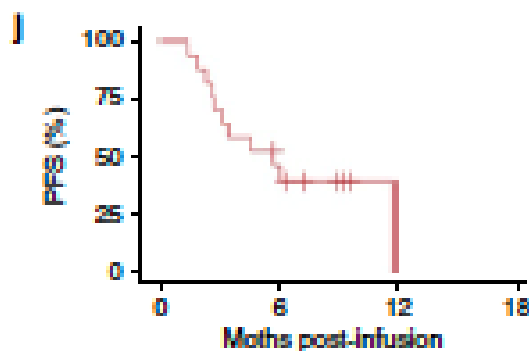
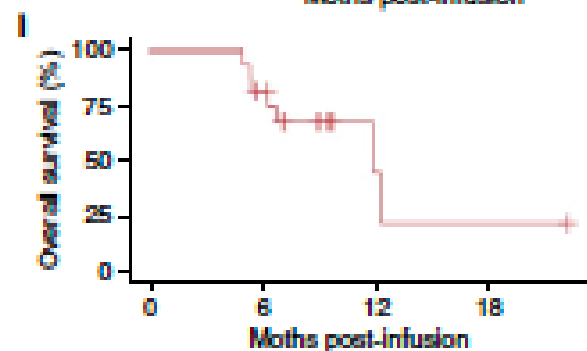
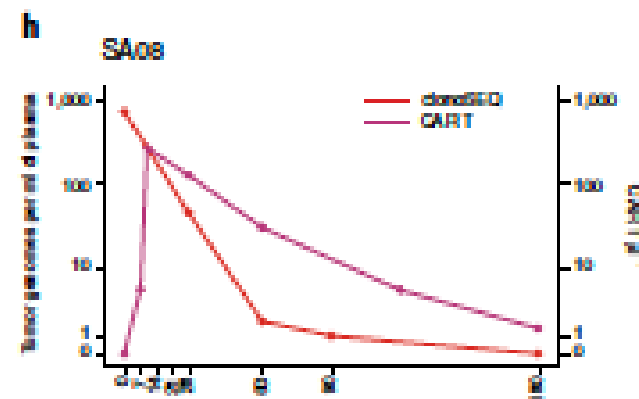
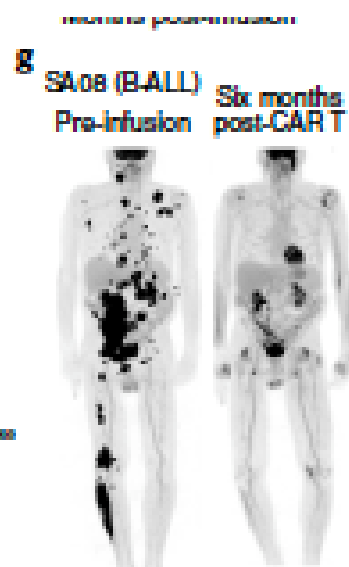
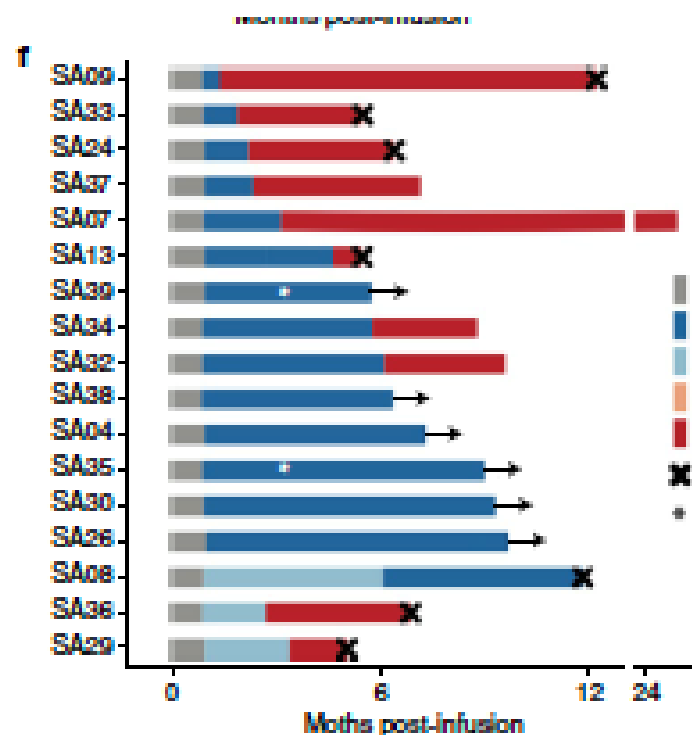
N=60, non-censored patients

 Patients with failure of CAR T-cell persistence (<6 months)
 Patients with long-term (≥ 6 months) CAR T-cell persistence

EFFECTOR T-CELLS LIVE FAST AND DIE YOUNG



#1 problem in ALL CAR T is CD19 escape: Stanford bispecific CD19/CD22 CAR trial – ALL results



American Society of Hematology: 2021 Annual Meeting

CART22-65s Co-Administered with huCART19 in Adult Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia

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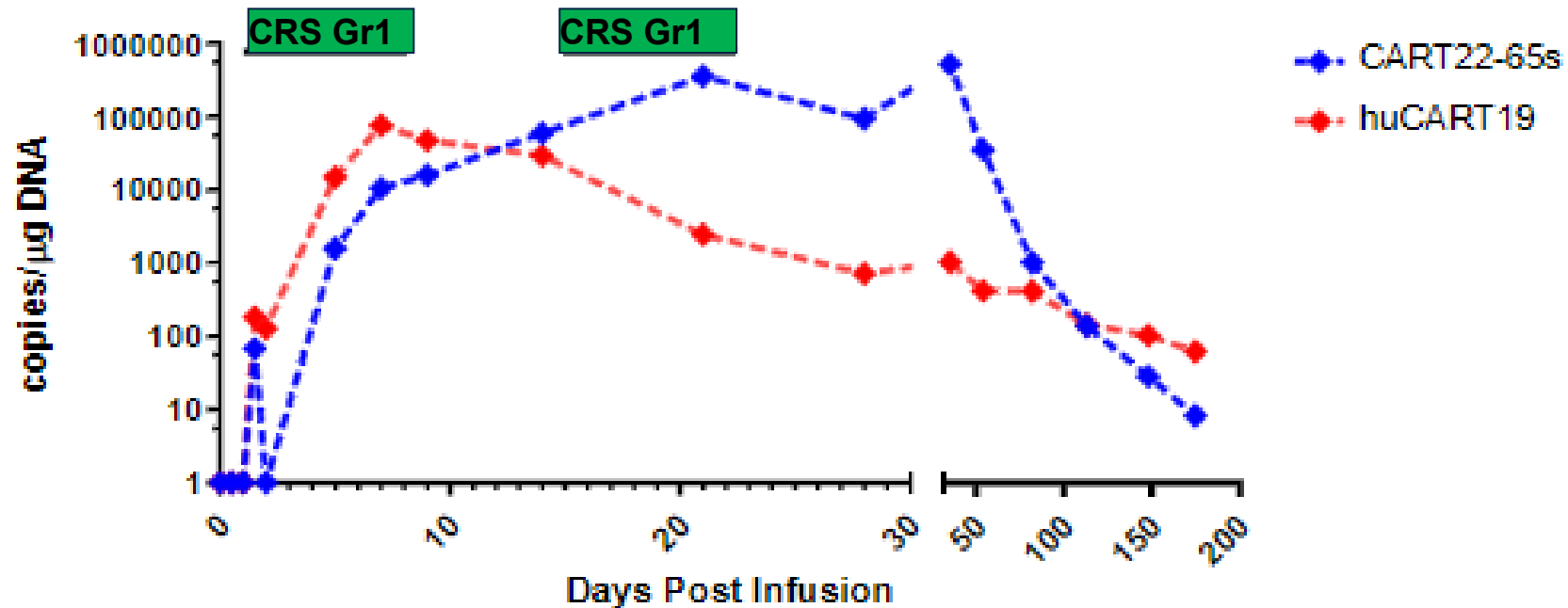
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Different peak expansions correlate with distinct CRS events



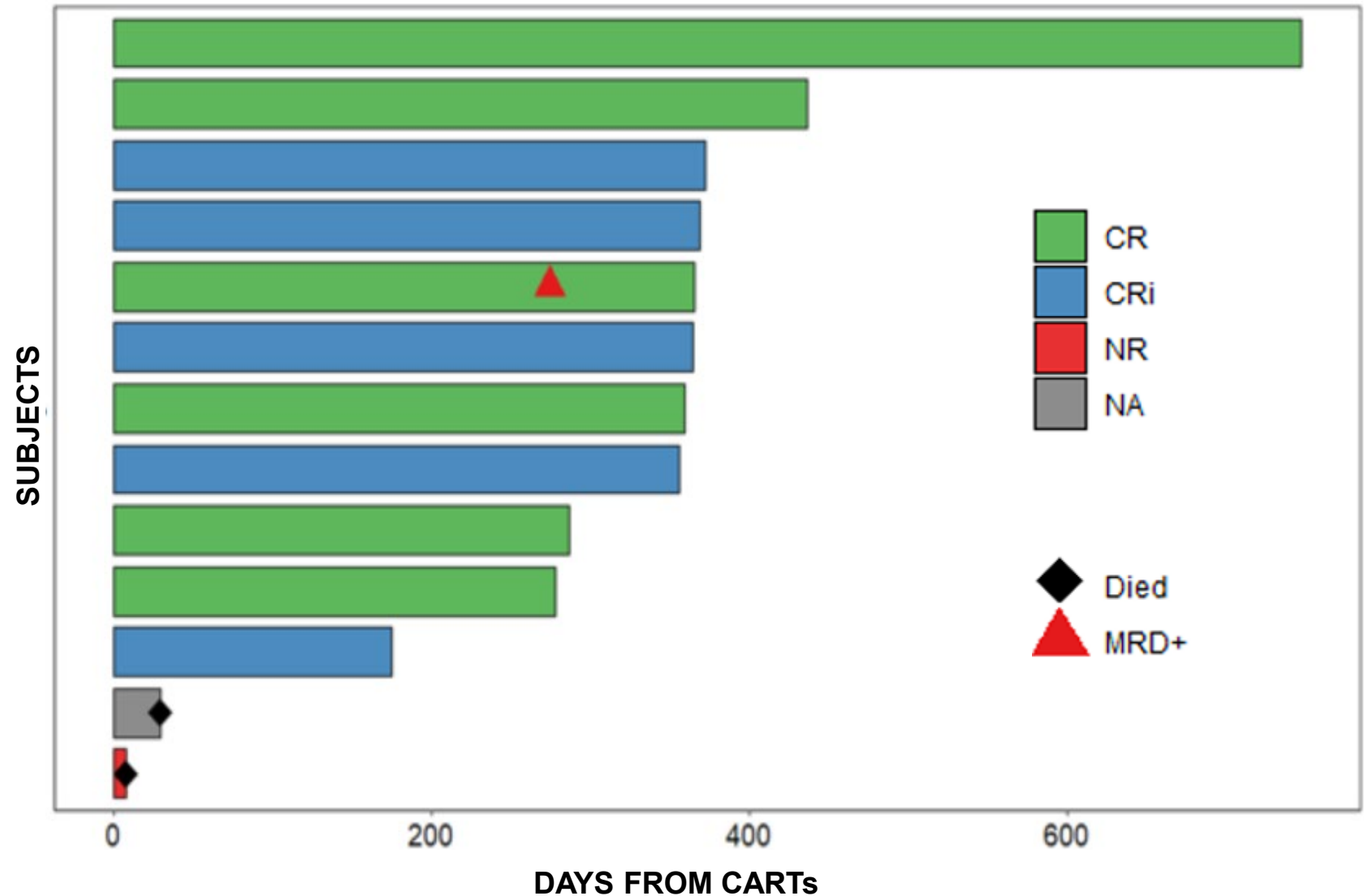
Response

CART19 and CART22: (N=13)

- 13 pts infused
- 11 pts evaluable D28
- 11 CR/CRI (MRD -)

Med follow up 11.8 mo:

- One pt with molecular recurrence
- 10 with ongoing CR/CRI



Penn Medicine



CELL THERAPY & TRANSPLANT

Cancer Discov. 2018;8(8):944-957. doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-17-1417

