

## **Discovery of TNG348**

A selective and potent inhibitor of USP1 for treatment of BRCA1, BRCA2-mutant and other HRD+ cancers

> Scott Throner March 20, 2024 ACS National Meeting, New Orleans

## **USP1** inhibition is synthetic lethal with BRCA1/2 mutations



- BRCA1/2 mut and other HRD+ cancers include ~50% ovarian, 25% breast, 10% prostate and 5% pancreatic cancers
- Loss of USP1 results in impaired DNA replication in BRCA1/2 mutant and other HRD deficient cells
- USP1 or related genes are not pan lethal in Achilles CRISPR

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Simoneau et al, Mol. Cancer Ther. 2023, 22, 215-226

USP1 and BRCA1 mutant synthetic lethality independently discovered by D'Andrea group at DFCI - Lim et al, Molecular Cell, 2018, 73, 925-941

## **USP1** inhibition is synthetic lethal with BRCA1/2 mutations

#### Multiple mechanisms exist to repair damaged DNA

#### **BRCA1/2 mutations (HRD+)**

Prevent repair of double strand breaks (homologous recombination repair)



#### **USP1** inhibitors

Prevent efficient repair of single strand breaks (translesion synthesis)

## 

PARP inhibitors Prevent efficient repair of single strand breaks (base excision repair)



#### Blocking DNA damage repair causes cell death

- Normal cells have multiple mechanisms to repair damaged DNA and prevent cell death (or cancer)
- BRCA1/2 mutant cells rely on translesion synthesis and base excision repair
- Both USP1 and PARP inhibition severely impair DNA damage repair in BRCA1/2 mutant cells
- Combining USP1 and PARP inhibition largely eliminates DNA damage repair in BRCA1/2 mutant cells



## **USP1** inhibition blocks an important DNA damage repair pathway

#### **USP1** inhibition blocks translesion synthesis



BRCA1/2 mutant cells rely on translesion synthesis because they lack efficient double-strand break repair

- USP1 is a de-ubiquitinating enzyme (DUB) in complex with UAF1
- USP1•UAF1 is required to complete single stranded DNA break repair via translesion synthesis
- Mono-ubiquitinated PCNA is required to read through damaged DNA
- USP1 inhibition causes accumulation of poly-Ub PCNA
- poly-UB PCNA blocks translesion synthesis mediated DNA repair



## Assays to measure biochemical and cellular selectivity

#### **Biochemical**

USP1-UAF1 Ubiquitin Rho110-glycine cleavage fluorescence assay



#### **Cellular PD**

AlphaLISA detection of ub-PCNA in BRCA1 mut cell line



#### **Cellular viability**

10-day viability assay assessed by CellTiter-Glo in BRCA1 mut and WT cell lines





# Known USP1 inhibitors and examples of scaffolds investigated at program initiation



(a) Chen et al. *Chem. Biol.* **2011**, 18(11), 1390-1400; (b) Mistry et al. *Mol. Cancer Ther.* **2013**, 12(12), 2651-2662; (c) Liang et al. *Nat. Chem Biol.* **2014**, 10(4), 298-304 and Dexheimer et al. *J Med Chem.* **2014**, 57(19), 8099-8110; (d) Buckmelter et al. WO2017087837

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## Initial medchem focus on lipophilicity, metabolism, potency



#### Early pharmacophore anchors

- Broad exploration
- Good balance of attributes

Oxidative blocking groupsConformational restrictions

Underexplored space

## Side chain ring modification has high impact on potency



- Phenyl preferred, small ortho substituents tolerated
- Small benzylic substitution can decrease CLint
- Constrained linkers give significant decrease in potency

Other linkers in separate contexts unproductive, e.g.





## 2-position aryl moiety significantly impacts potency and properties





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## Basicity, polarity, and steric modifications in approach to attenuate hERG channel inhibition



(a) modeled pKa, (b) hERG [ ${}^{3}$ H]-dofetilide binding IC<sub>50</sub> ( $\mu$ M)

#### **TNG348 preclinical profile**

Select preclinical properties	
MW, LogD <sub>7.4</sub> , TPSA	604, 3.2, 112
Cellular PD IC <sub>50</sub> , viability IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	95, 68
MDCKII P <sub>app</sub> (cm/s x 10 <sup>-6</sup> ), Mdr1 ER	31, 29
Cl <sub>int, hep</sub> h, r, d, c (µL/min/10 <sup>6</sup> )	< 0.9, < 0.9, 1.2, 1.0
CL r, d, c (mL/min/kg)	13, 11, 13.5
T <sub>1/2</sub> r, d, c (hrs)	3.5, 5.8, 1.4
%F r, d, c	74, ≈100, 67
PPB (% unbound) h, r, d, c	21, 30, 21, 20
GLP hERG IC <sub>50</sub> (µM)	19.6
Deubiquitinase panel*	Highly selective
Eurofins safety and kinase panels	No concerns





## **Cryo-EM structure of TNG348 bound to USP1•UAF1•Ub-VS complex**



- Induced fit in cryptic allosteric pocket normally occupied by N-terminus loop
- TNG348 binding induces movement of catalytic triad residues, impeding USP1 peptidase activity

## Non-competitive inhibition negated by V156K point mutation



**Non-competitive inhibition** 

> 100-fold reduced activity with allosteric pocket mutant



**TNG348 Biochemical Potency** 

Ub-Rho110 assay



USP1 WT USP1 V156K DMSO TNG348 300 nM

TNG348 8000 nM



• Lowers apparent Vmax

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• No effect on Km of ubiquitin

Cellular validation of structural and biochemical findings

## TNG348 on-target activity as single agent and combined with PARPi





#### In vivo dose dependent PK/PD relationship observed with TNG348

#### MDA-MB-436 CDX in vivo

(BRCA1 mut triple negative breast cancer)

Mouse PO PK **Ub-PCNA Ub-FANCD2** Unbound plasma conc (ng/mL) 10000-\_\_\_\_\_24h 8h 16h 4h 24h 8h 16h 4h 1000 8-12 ub-PCNA/PCNA levels (fold over vehicle) FANCD2 levels (fold over vehicle) 100 6. 9 Cell IC<sub>50</sub> 10 6 1 0.1 16 Λ 8 24 Time Post Last Dose (hrs) Vehicle **TNG348**, 4 mg/kg, BID TNG348, 20 mg/kg, BID 4 mg/kg BID ----TNG348, 80 mg/kg, BID 20 mg/kg BID 80 mg/kg BID -\*TNG348 saturates modulation of multiple PD markers

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#### TNG348 is active alone and in combination with PARP inhibitors



#### **TNG348**

- Single-agent activity equivalent to olaparib in multiple models
- Synergy with PARP inhibition in both PARPi sensitive and resistant models
- Strong anti-tumor activity in HRD+ BRCA WT xenograft models broadens the potential addressable patient population

#### **USP1** inhibitors can overcome acquired PARP inhibitor resistance



#### Summary

- Acquired resistance to multiple PARP inhibitors induced by consecutive passage in mice with constant olaparib exposure
- TNG348 + olaparib overcomes acquired PARPi resistance

#### Stable form identified during late preclinical evaluation





## Stable form identified during late preclinical evaluation



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#### Form H - monohydrate



- Crystalline
- Thermodynamical stable polymorph
- Omnipresent

## Stable form identified during late preclinical evaluation



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SGF: simulated gastric fluid; FaSSIF: fasted state simulated intestinal fluid Bauer et al. "Ritonavir: An Extraordinary Example of Conformational Polymorphism" *Pharmaceutical Research*, **2001**, 18(6), 859-866

## Challenges of monohydrate overcome with enabling formulation



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SGF: simulated gastric fluid; FaSSIF: fasted state simulated intestinal fluid Bauer et al. "Ritonavir: An Extraordinary Example of Conformational Polymorphism" *Pharmaceutical Research*, **2001**, 18(6), 859-866

#### **Med chem synthesis of TNG348**



Many thanks to Enamine (Anton Tkachenko, Team Lead) and WuXi STA (Qiao Shuo, CSU PM)

#### **TNG348: A novel, selective inhibitor of USP1**

- Potent and selective, reversible allosteric inhibitor of USP1
- Single agent efficacy in BRAC1/2 mutant and HRD+ breast and ovarian cancer models
- Synergistic with PARP inhibition in both PARPi sensitive and resistant models
- Currently in a Phase 1/2 clinical trial (NCT06065059)

Further biological mechanism of action characterization at AACR, abstract #4527



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