

BIOCAIR

Biomarkers of T-Cell Activity in tumors and Immunotherapy Response

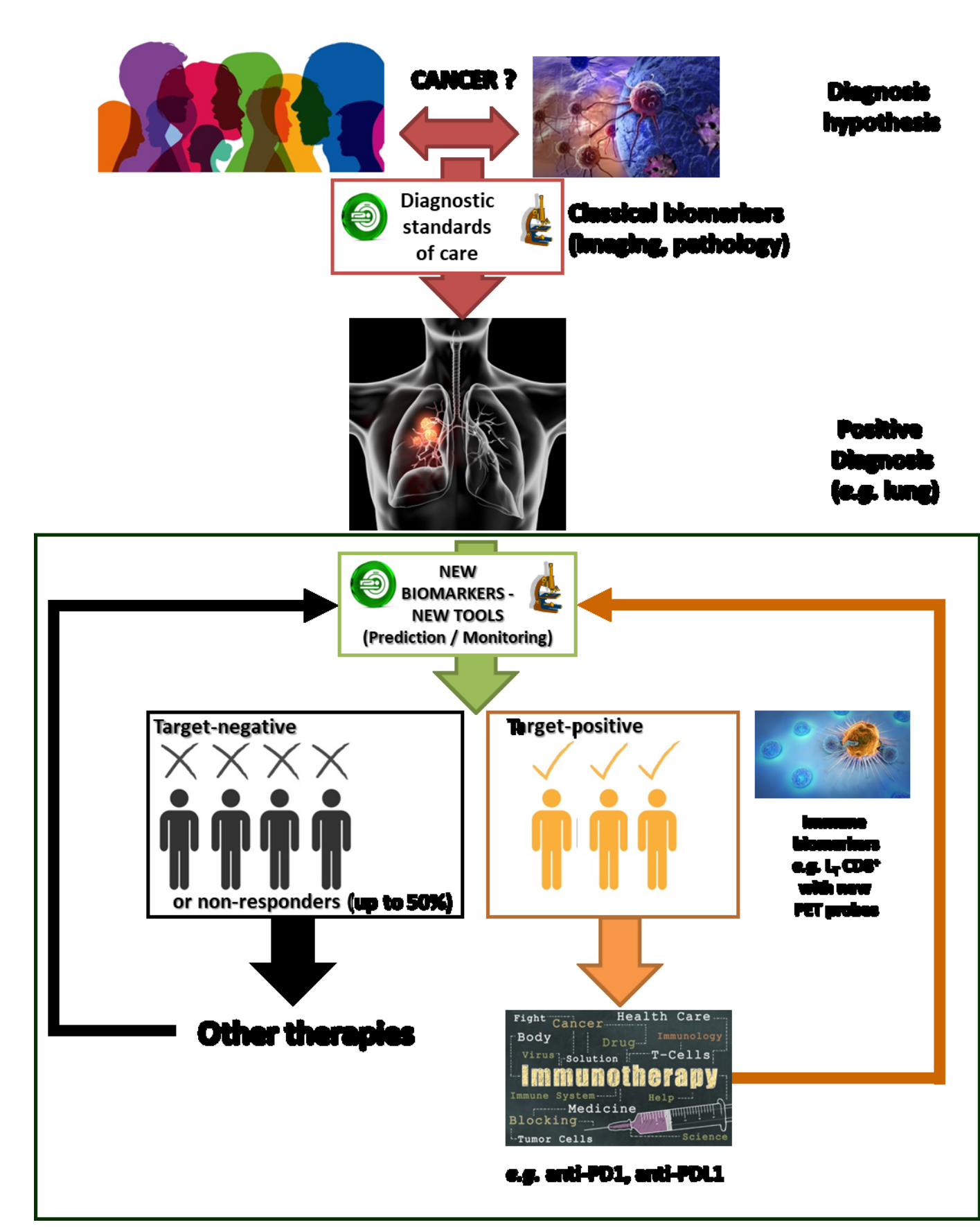
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CLINICAL CONTEXT

- Recently, immunotherapies using monoclonal antibodies targeting checkpoints inhibitors of the immune response, such as PD-1, demonstrated their superiority compared to standard chemotherapies
 - However, despite the strong contribution of anti-PD-1 (nivolumab) in some cancer treatment, this immunotherapy is not effective in all patients
- Predictive biomarkers of treatment efficacy are needed for efficient patient management
- Recent translational studies suggested that the level of tumour infiltrated CD8 T Lymphocytes is a good biomarker to predict immunotherapy efficacy

- In this context, the aims of the BIOCAIR project are:
- WP1** To obtain a proof of concept of the use of radiolabelled anti-CD8 fragments as imaging biomarkers of the efficacy of immunotherapies
 - WP2** To identify at least 3 new biomarkers as potential biomarkers of immunotherapy efficacy
 - WP3** To develop antibodies against these targets and validate them as imaging biomarkers of immunotherapy effectiveness



KEY NUMBERS

2018 6 partners

1.3 Me 6 funded positions

Twice monthly coordination meetings

PHARMIMAGE Platform and competences for pharmacology

WP1: Development of anti-CD8 imaging biomarker as proof-of-concept

CD8 FRAGMENTS PRODUCTION

- Clone sequencing and reformatting in ScFv
- Validation of recombinant format by flow cytometry

SYNTHESIS OF CONJUGATES

- Random or site-specific conjugation with TCO bearing linker
- Inverse Electron Demand Diels-Alder with Tetrazine platform

FLOW CYTOMETRY

BIO-LAYER INTERFEROMETRY

KD : 46 nM

Ga68 PROTOCOL & QC

Purity > 93%

BINDING SPECIFICITY

CD8+ cells affinity, scFv-mal-diNODAGA

$K_D = 20.83 \pm 4.53$ nM
 $B_{max} = 1,364 \pm 0,108$ nM

Immunoreactivity CD8+ cells, scFv-mal-diNODAGA 10nM

CD8+ T CELL PET IMAGING

Selection of model

Immunohistochemistry of CD8 tumor infiltrate

Autoradiography

CD8 score 3+
CD8 score 0

Next Step: *in vivo* PET imaging of Ga68-diNODAGA-scFv-CD8

WP2: Identification of new biomarkers

Properties of validated biomarkers:

- ice
- ues
- response rate

Identification of biomarkers for immunotherapy

14 candidates

1 validated candidate and 2 candidates under investigation

Workflow: Lung cancer cohort (Tumor, Sequencer) and Colorectal cancer cohort (Excise tumor, Mechanical Tumor dissociation, Enzymatic digestion, TUMOR, Peripheral blood, FACS, Survival analysis, Correlation with other biomarkers).

WP3: Development of new imaging biomarkers

Target	Tumor expression	Immunotherapy biomarker	Favorable for imaging	Preclinical model
CD8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lymphocytes T	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survival	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High expression	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humanized model model
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stroma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survival	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selective tumor Expression Expression	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Xenograft
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lymphocytes B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IT response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High expression	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To be identified
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monocytes/ Macrophages Macrophages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survival	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High expression	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To be identified

Workflow: Immunization with recombinant Target¹, Collection of immune cells, Cells fusion, Cytochrome screen, Sequencing and reformatting, Candidates identification, Biopanning selection, Candidates ready for labelling.

WP1 validated process

All partners

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Conclusion

- The BIOCAIR project is a successful combination of translational skills and multidisciplinary know-how of several UBFC laboratories, hospitals, biocluster and biotech companies from the Bourgogne Franche-Comté region
- These developments will be valorized with novel intellectual properties, scientific publications, new commercial opportunities for Diaclone's antibodies, and the preclinical proof of concept of new biomarkers for further clinical application