

La LMC oltre i TKIs

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Background

- Thanks to TKIs, in our days the OS of most CML patients is expected to be similar to that of a control population without leukemia
- The majority of them however is bound to a life-long therapy with TKIs

The Goal of CML therapy is moving (?)

Disease control- Best OS

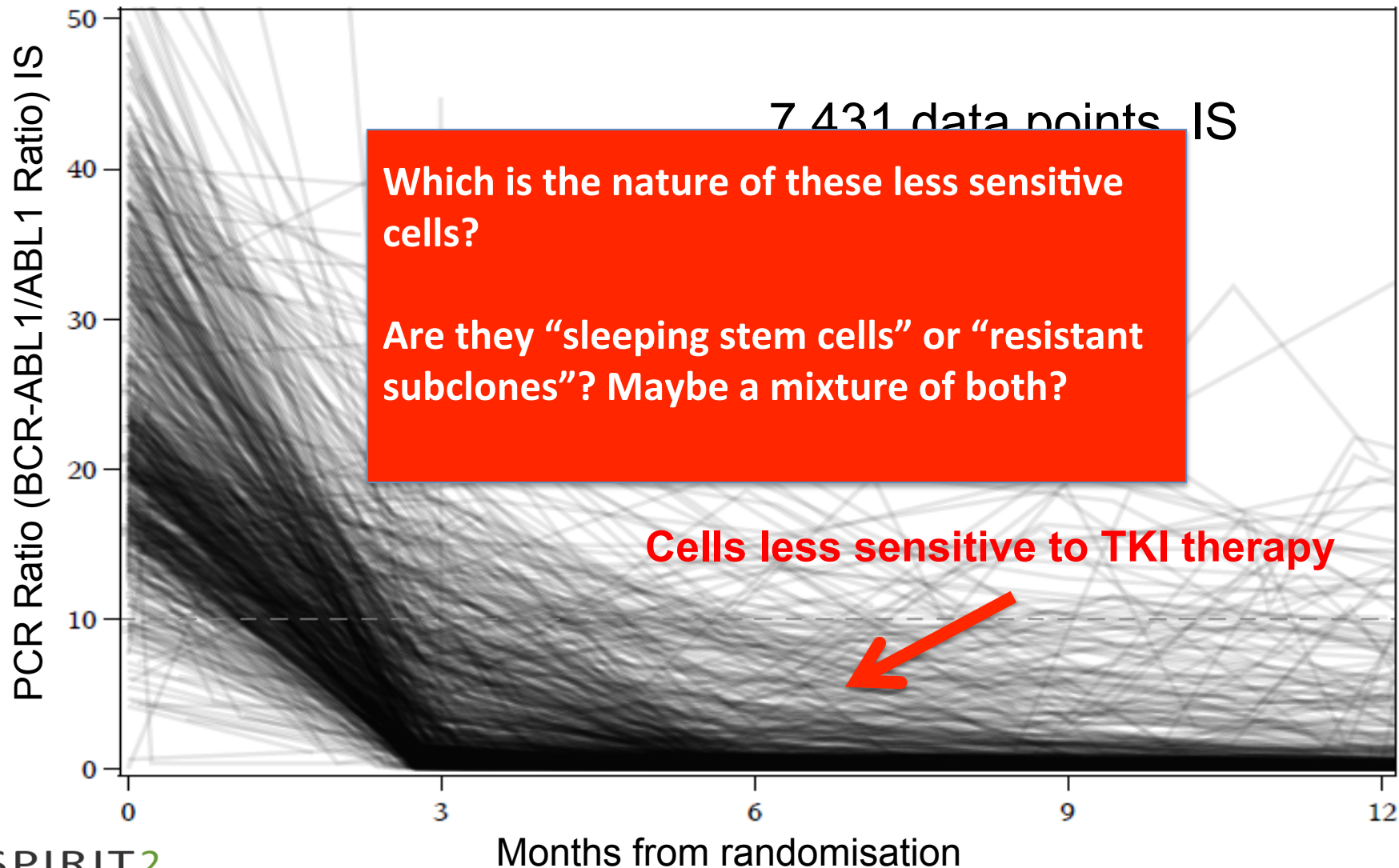
- A return to your normal life expectancy in the presence of on-going treatment?



Operational cure

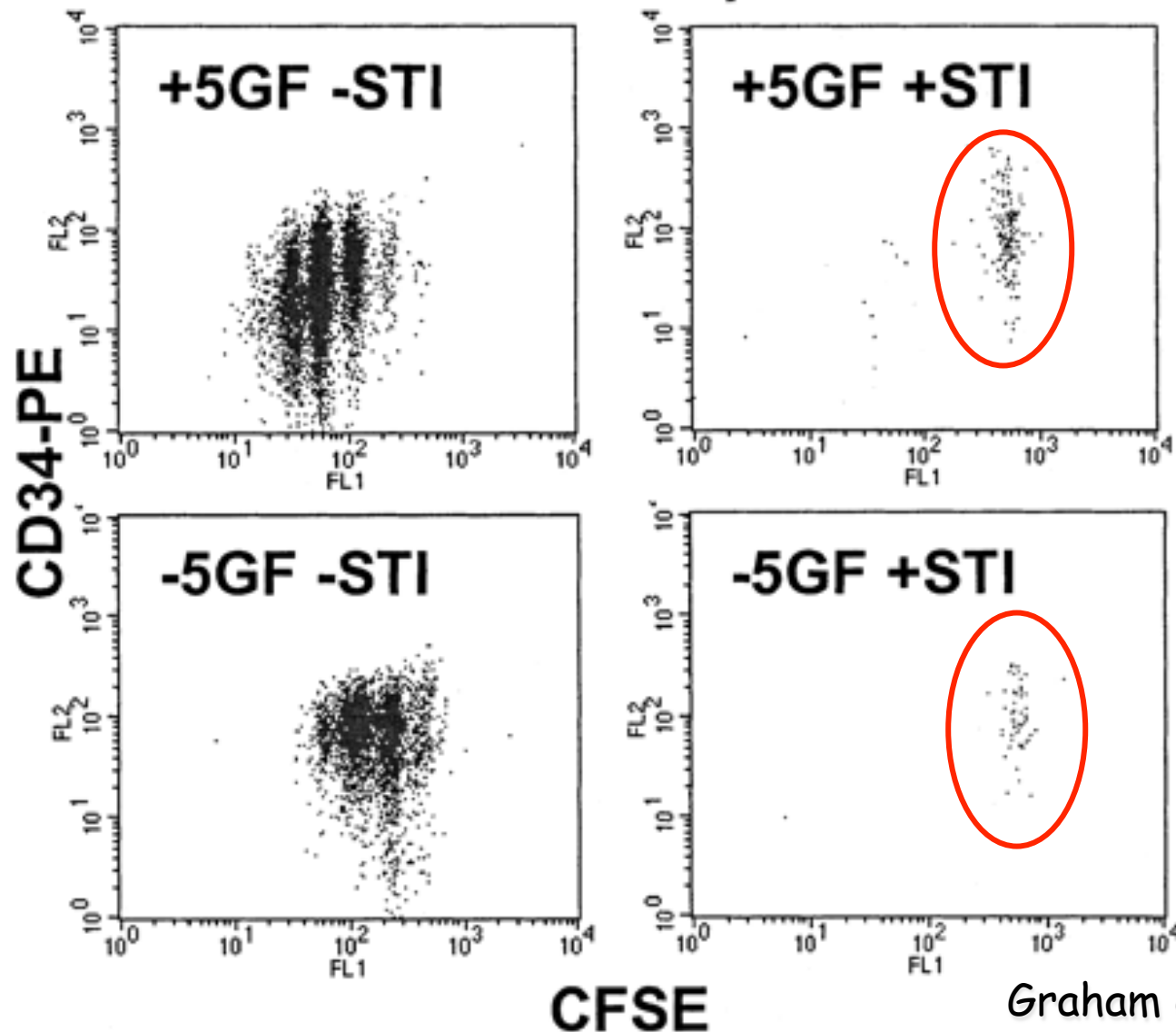
- No evidence of disease in the absence of treatment – treatment free remission (TFR)

PCR data: all patients, both arms

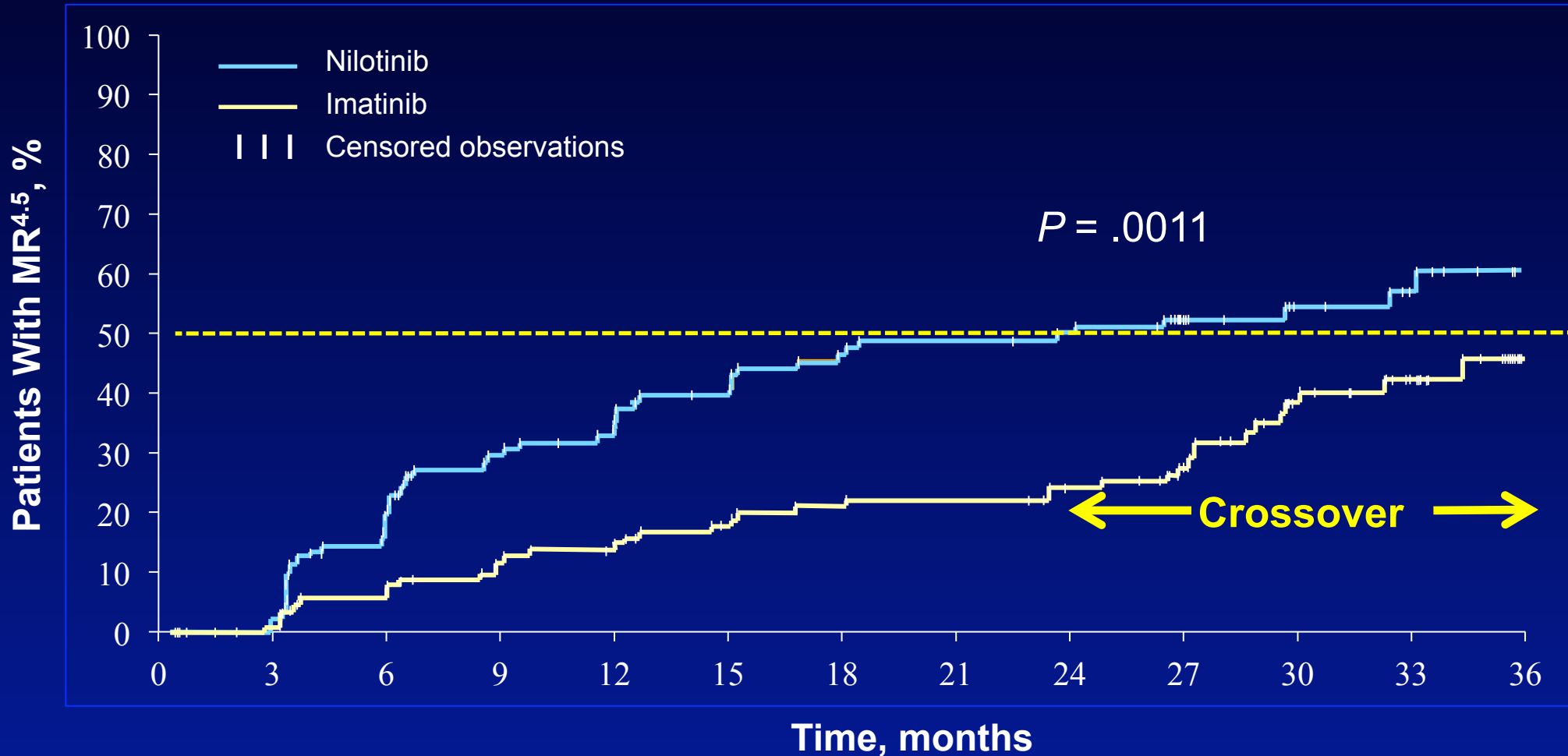


Primitive quiescent BCR-ABL+ leukemic stem cells are less sensitive to imatinib

CML 7 - example 1



ENESTcmr - Time to Achievement of First MR^{4.5}



- Median time to MR^{4.5} was accelerated by more than 1 year in the nilotinib arm (24 months versus not reached in the imatinib arm; $P = .0011$)

Methods to Overcome the Resistance of Ph⁺ Progenitors

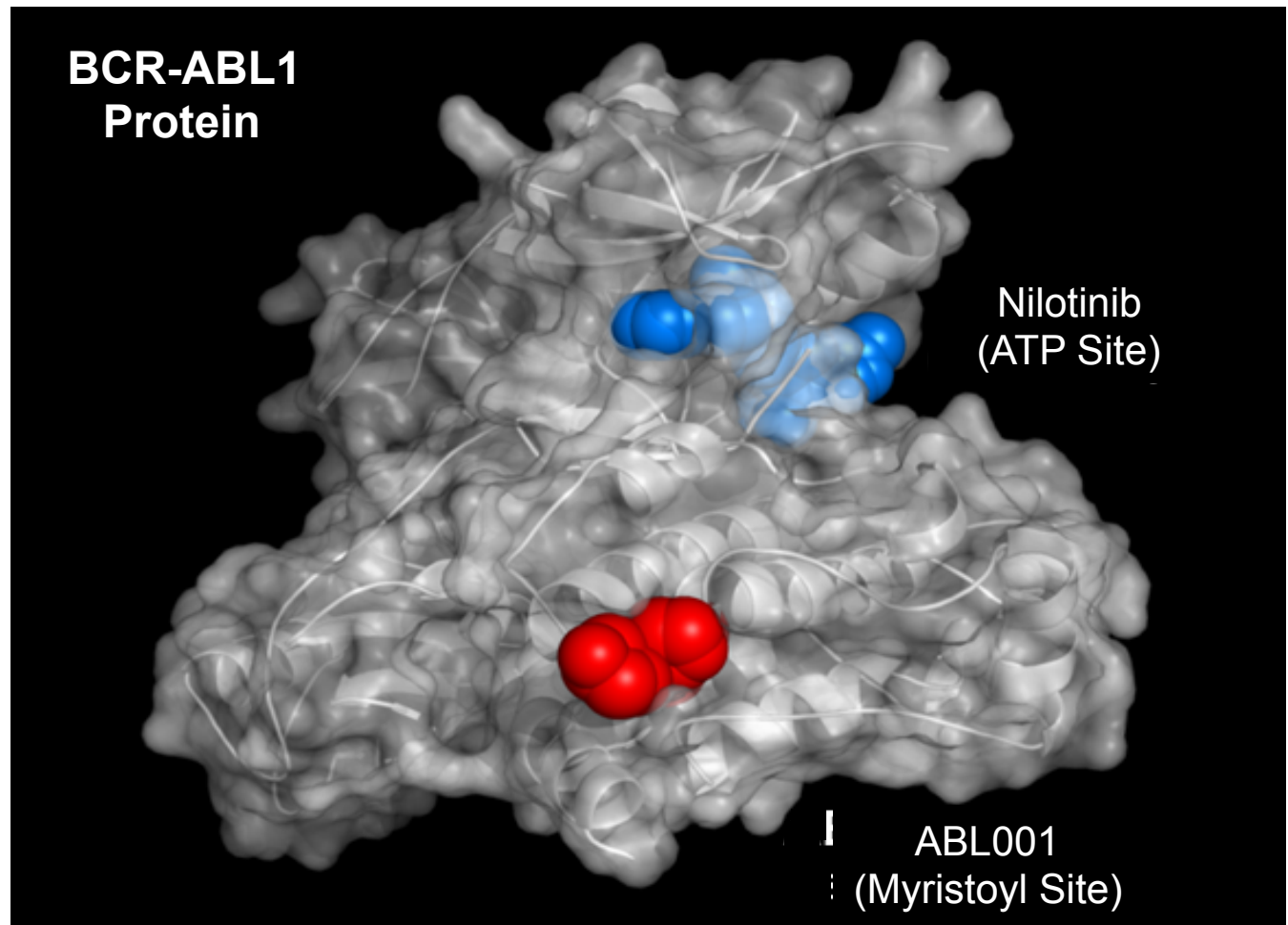
- To hit the molecular pathways implicated in their resistance
- To change the natural environment in which they can survive
- To exploit some phenotype differences with respect to their normal counterpart

Combination therapy

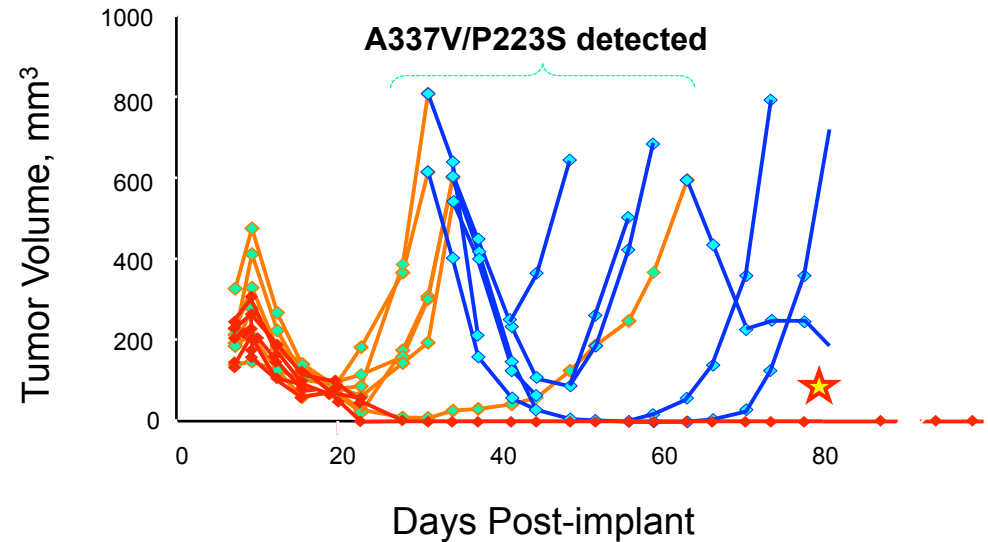
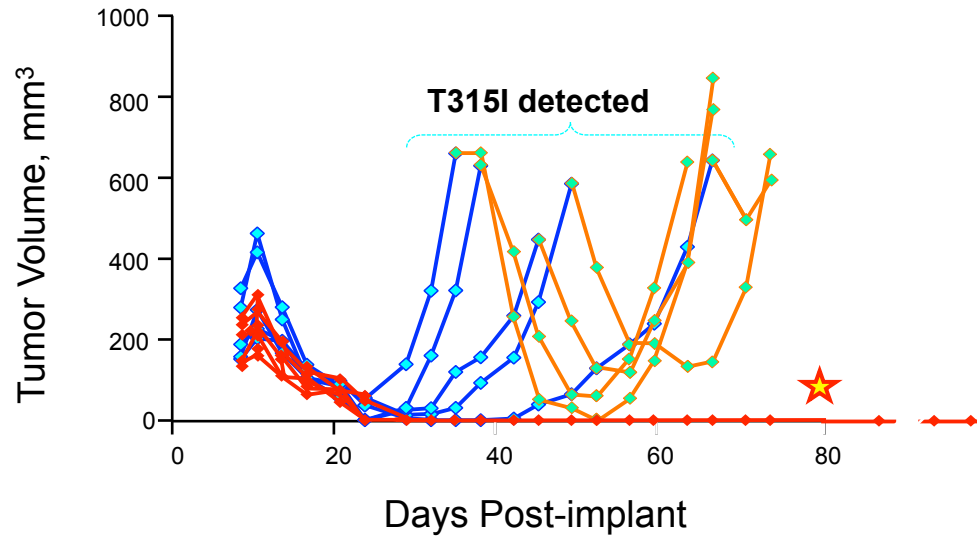
- TKIs of BCR-ABL with different mechanisms of action
- Drugs affecting molecular pathways other than BCR-ABL

ABL001 Is a Potent, Specific Inhibitor of BCR-ABL1 With a Distinct Allosteric Mechanism of Action

- Developed to gain greater BCR-ABL1 inhibition, with activity against BCR-ABL1 mutations conferring resistance to TKIs
- Potential to combine with TKIs for greater pharmacological control of BCR-ABL1



Combination of ABL001 and Nilotinib Prevents the Emergence of Resistance (KCL-22 CML Xenograft)^a



◆ Nilotinib (75 mg/kg) BID

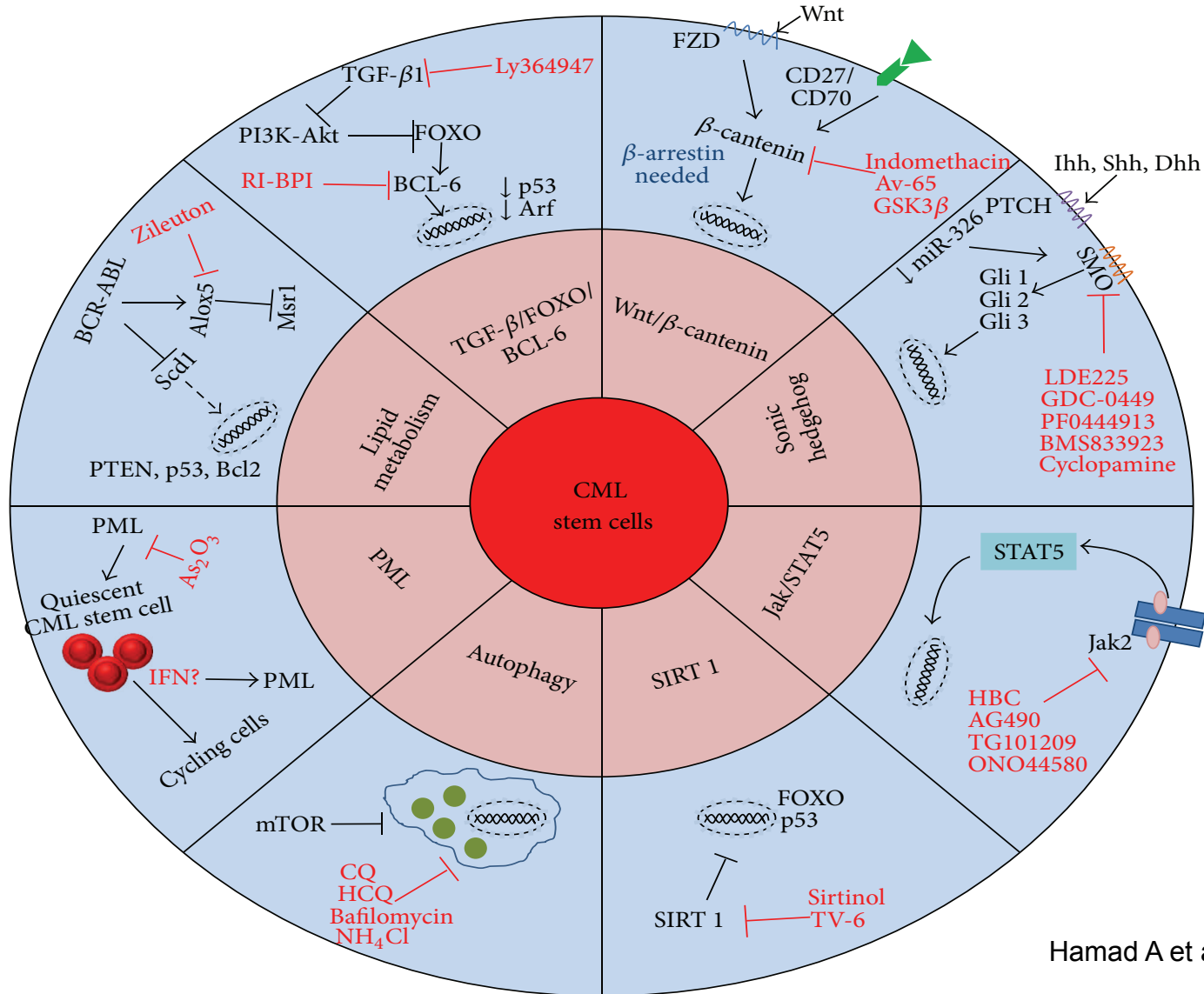
◆ ABL001 (30 mg/kg) BID

◆ Nilotinib (75 mg/kg) BID + ABL001 (30 mg/kg) BID

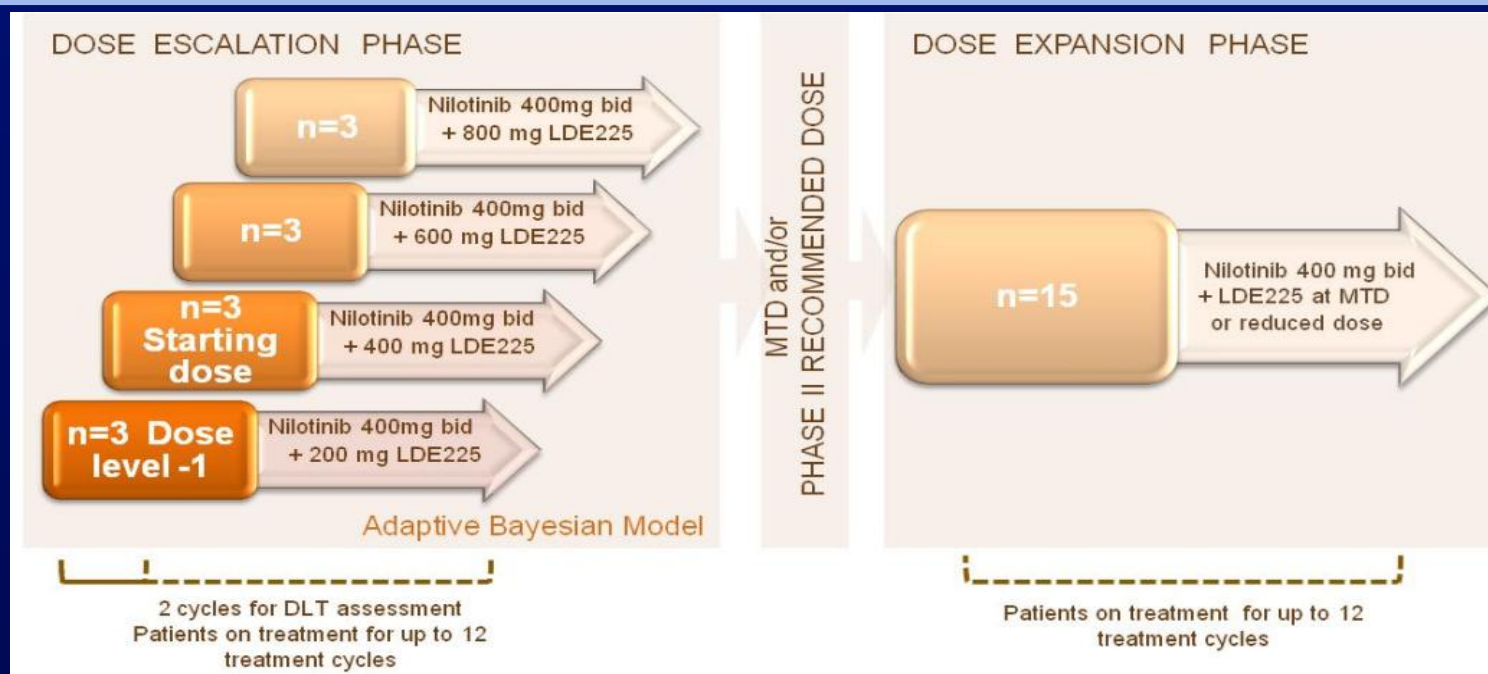
★ Dosing stopped on day 77, all mice remain disease free > 176 days

^a Each line represents individual animals.

Several strategies to hit pathways preferentially activated in LSCs with respect to NSCs

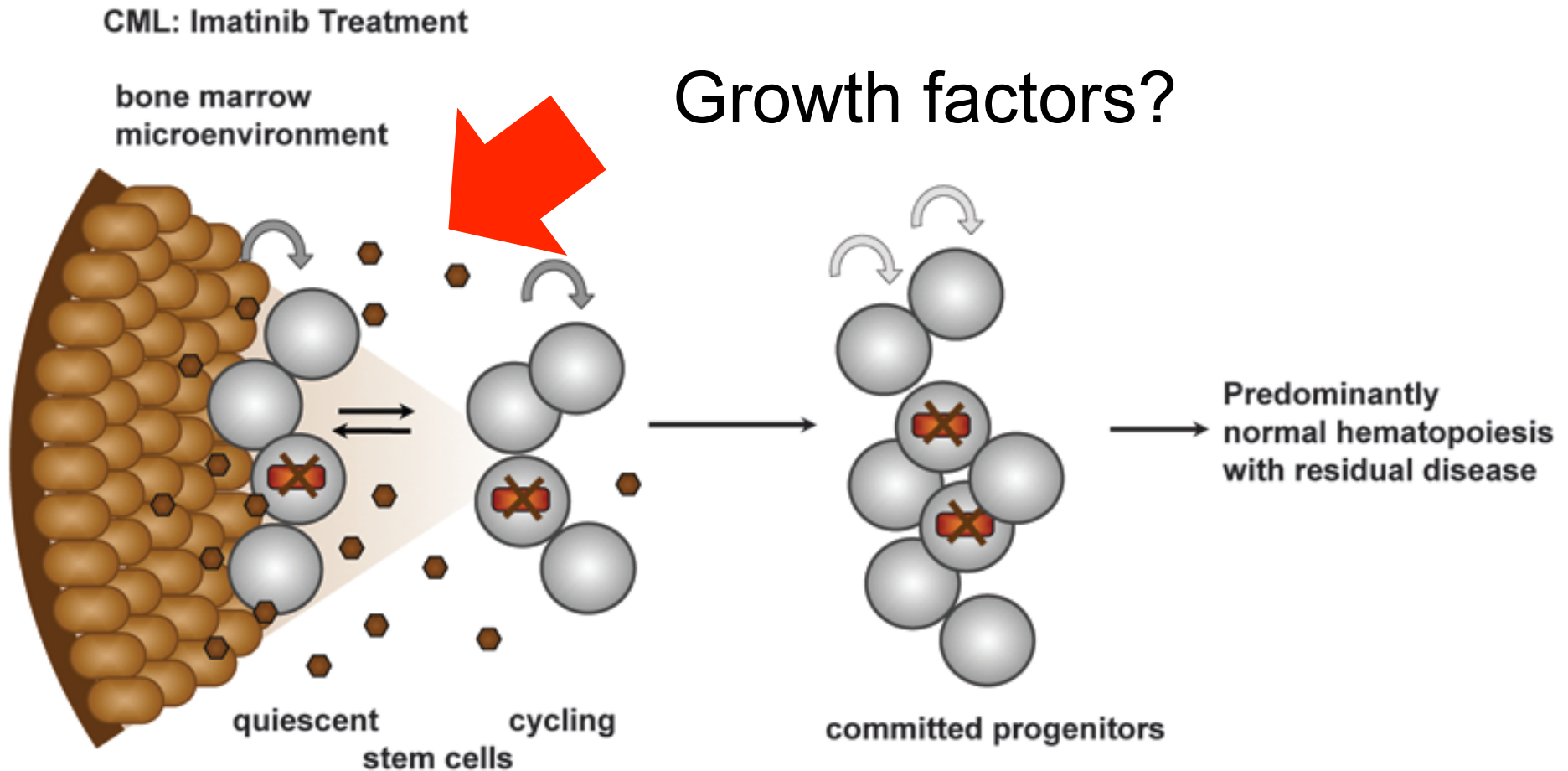


Single-arm Dose-finding Phase Ib Multicenter Study of the Oral Smoothened Antagonist LDE225 in Combination With Nilotinib in CML-CP Patients Who Have Failed Other TKIs (CAMN107Y2101)

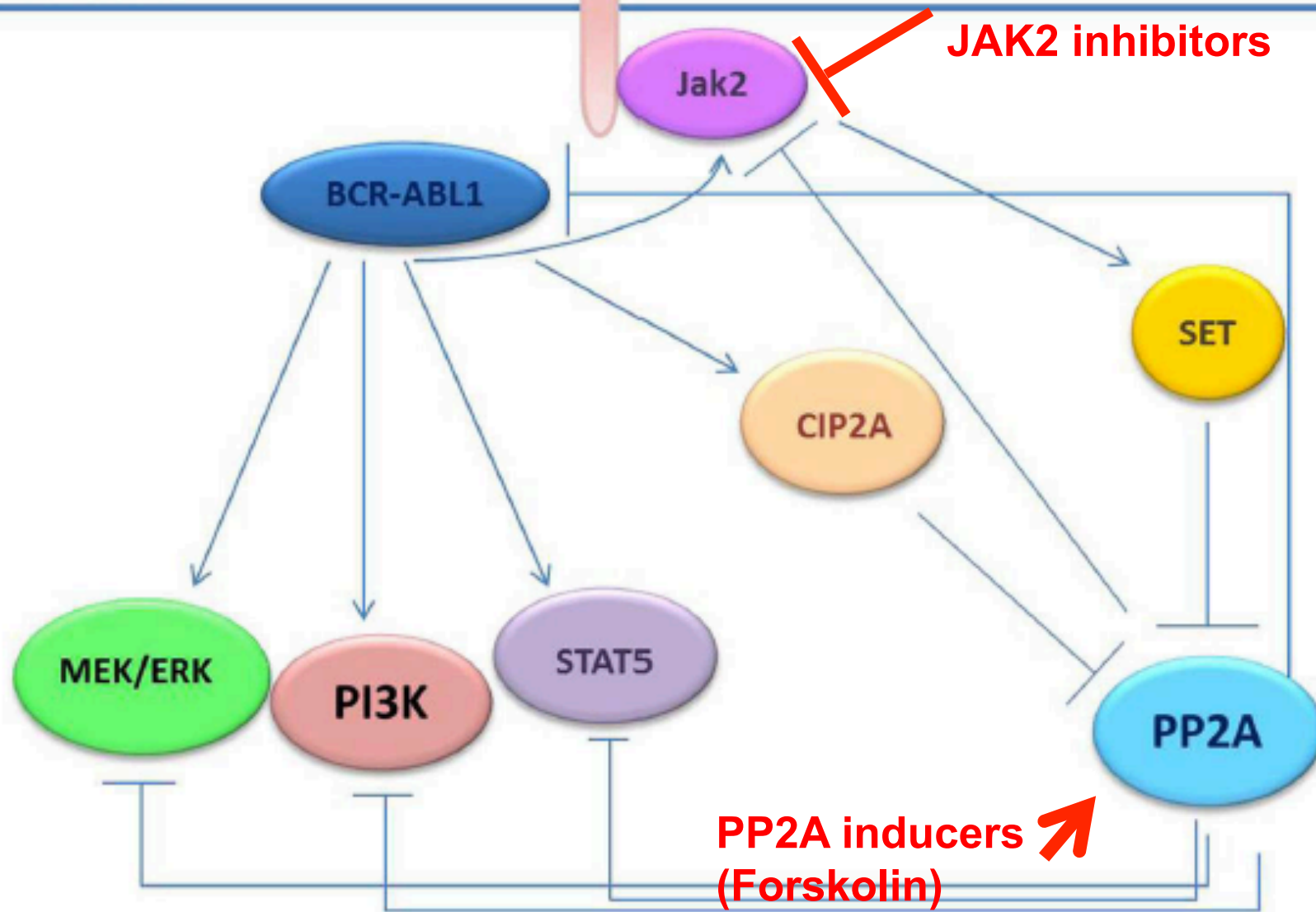


- CML-CP patients who failed prior therapy with other BCR-ABL inhibitors
- Primary outcomes:
 - Incidence rate and category of DLTs
 - Determination of MTD and/or recommended Phase II dose combinations of nilotinib with LDE225
- Secondary outcomes:
 - Rate of MMR, CMR, MCyR, CCyR
 - PK

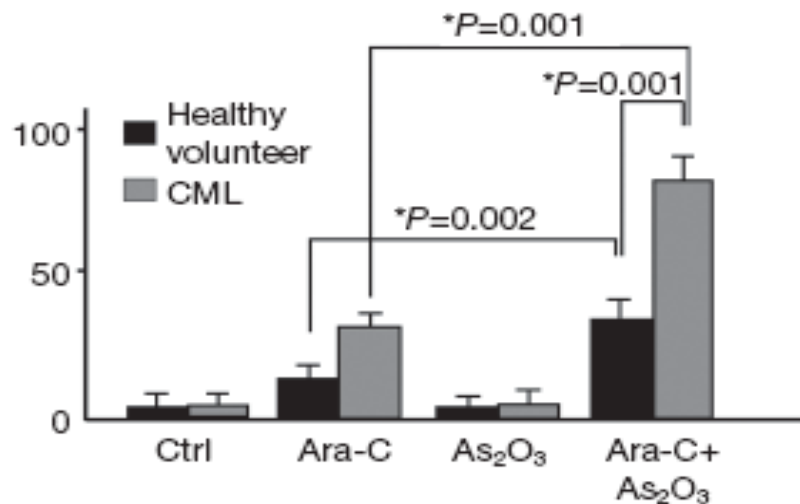
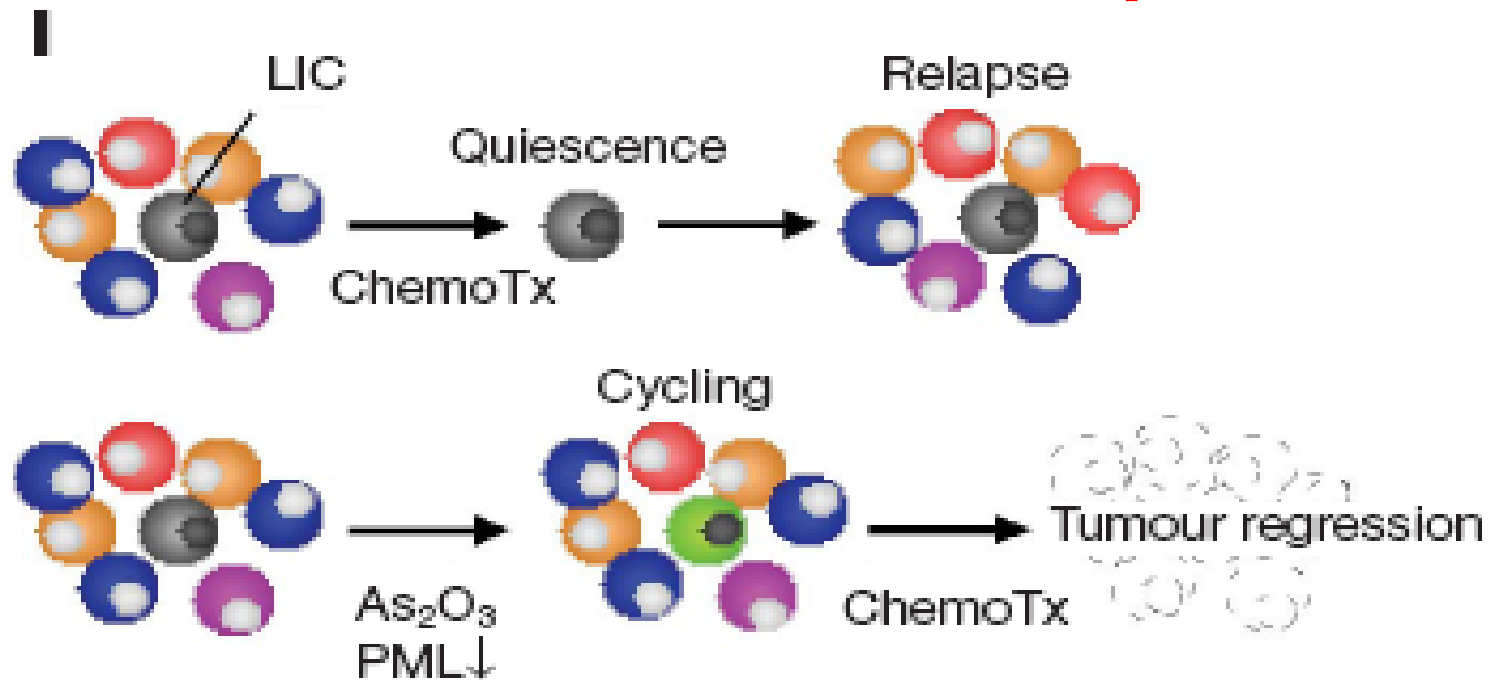
The Hematopoietic Niche Can Provide Support to CML Progenitor Cells Survival



CML cells

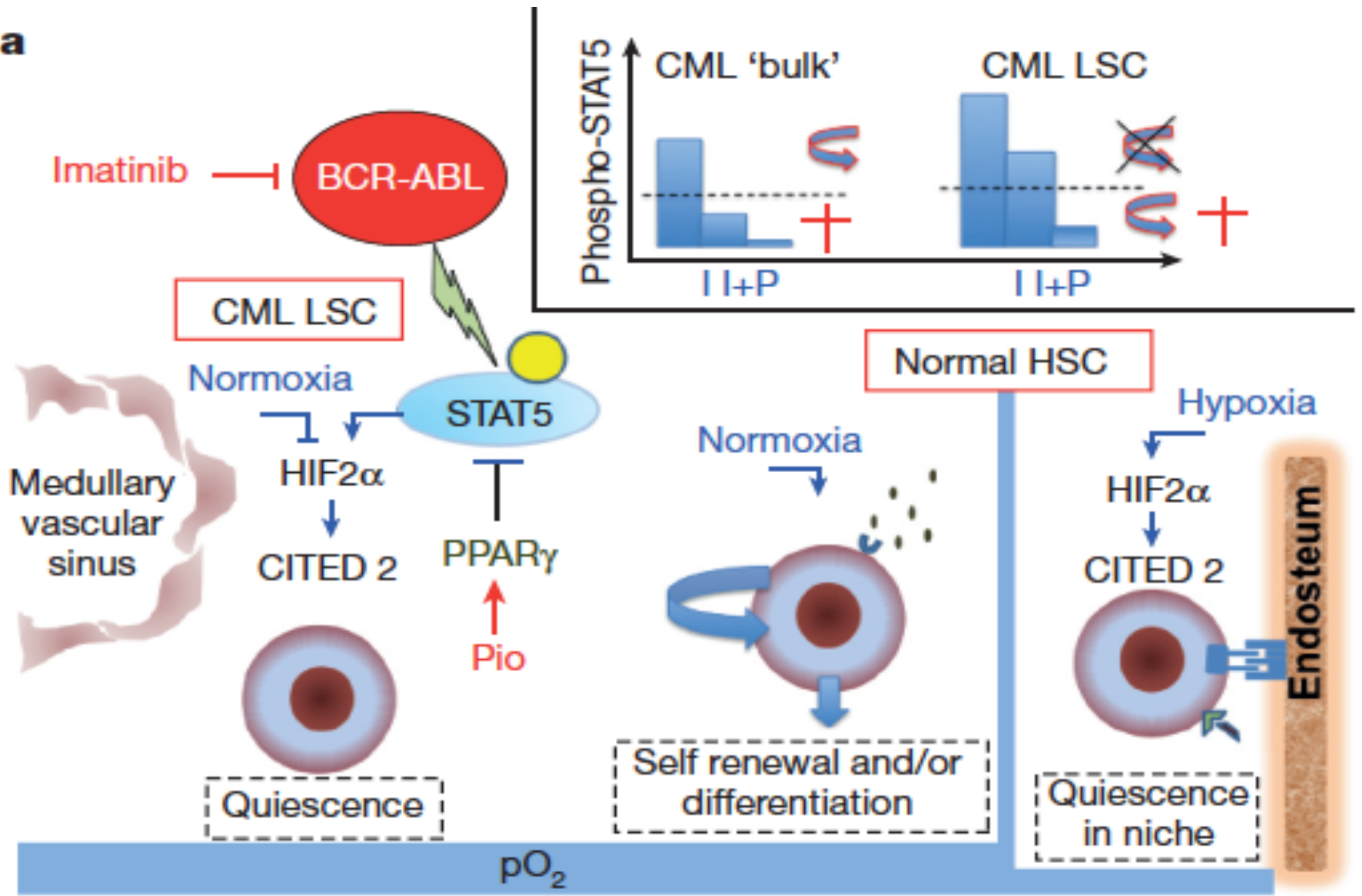


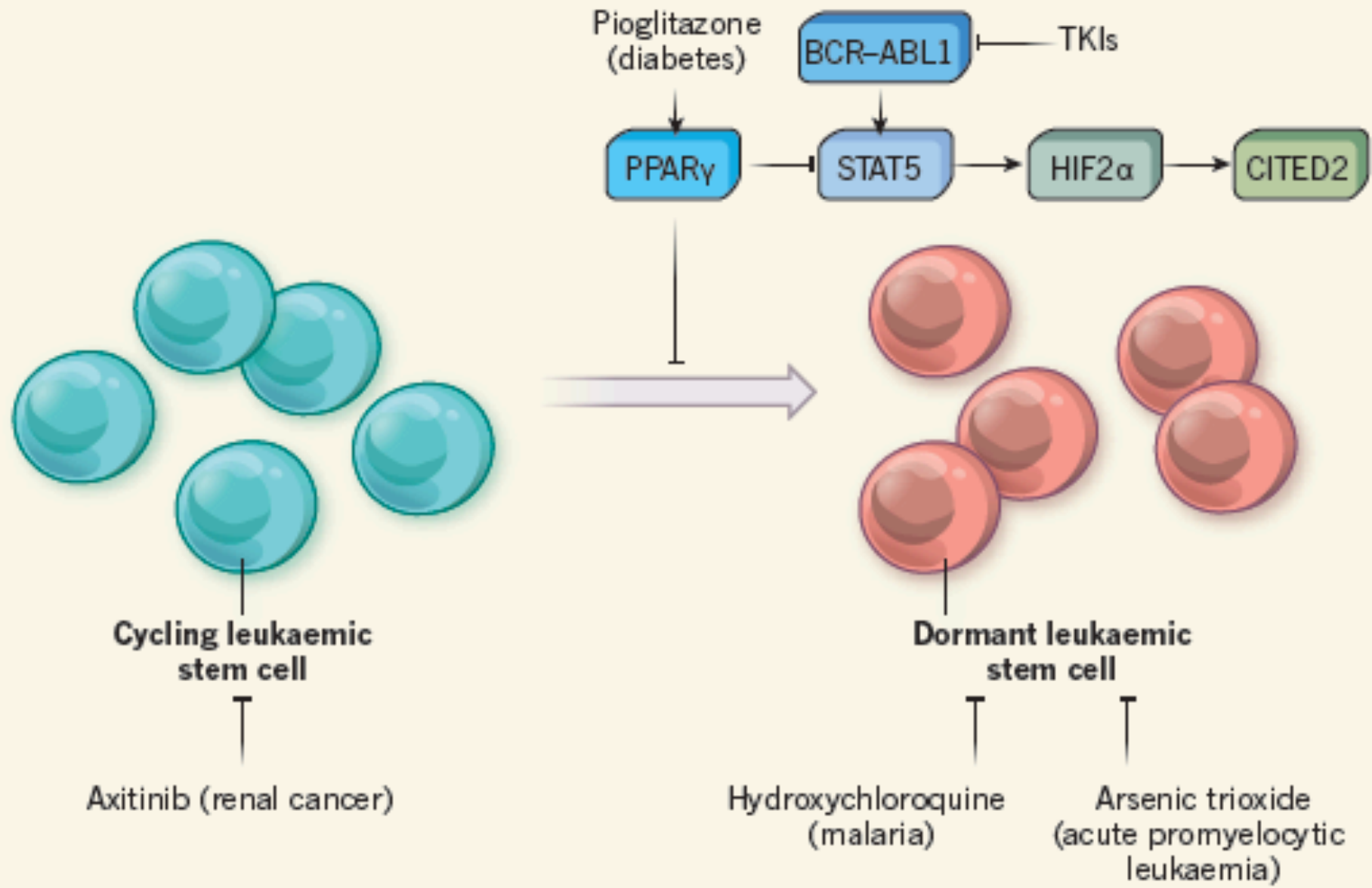
ATO decreases PML expression



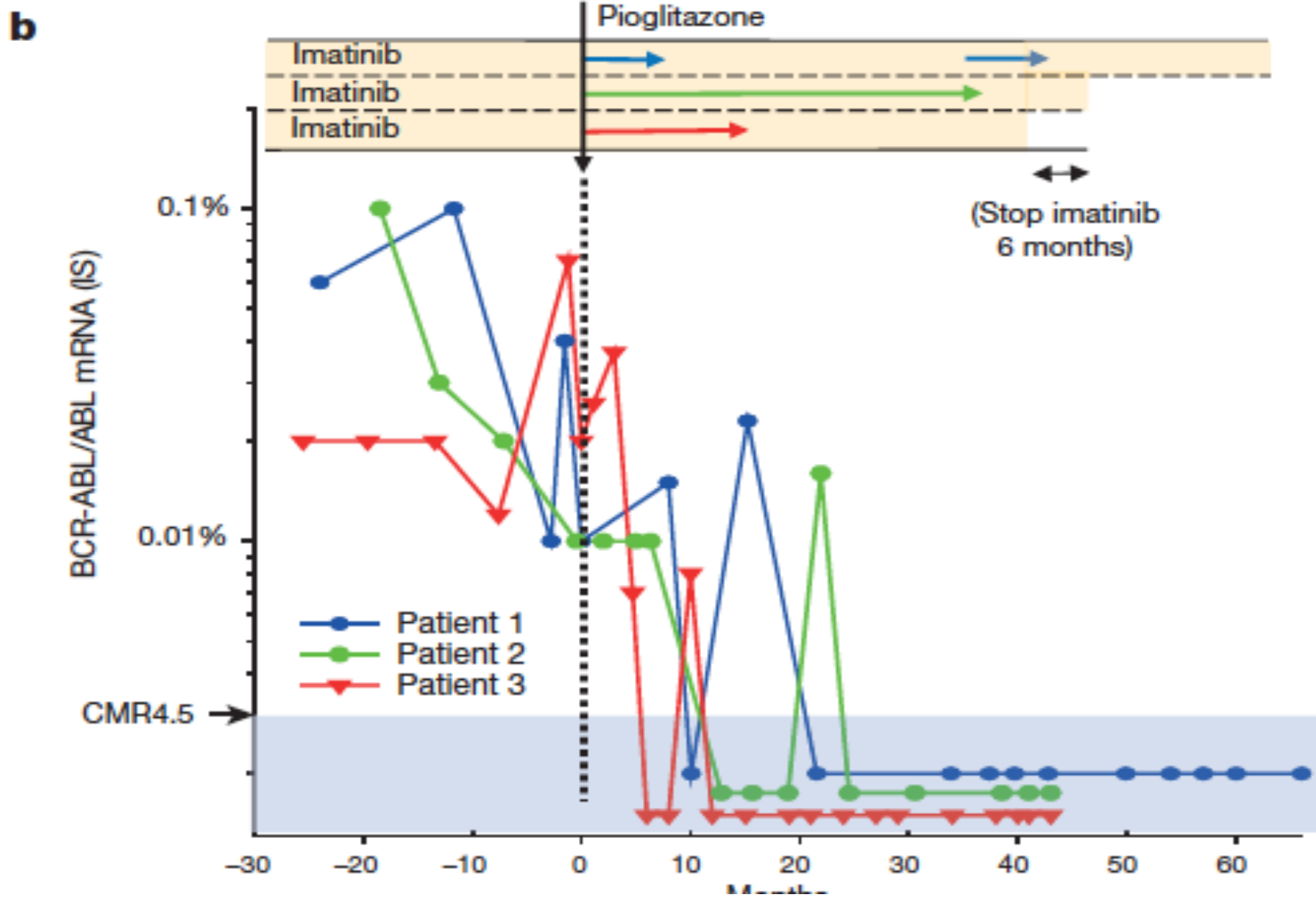
Ito et al: Nature 2008

a





Tessa Holyoake & David Vetrie, Nature 2015



Ph-positive cells are very sensitive to immuno-mediated suppression

BMT and SCT data

- clear GVL effect (less GVL in “twins” transplant)
- efficacy of DLI therapy in patients who relapsed
- long-term relapses in patients who became apparently PCR-negative

IFN- α therapy

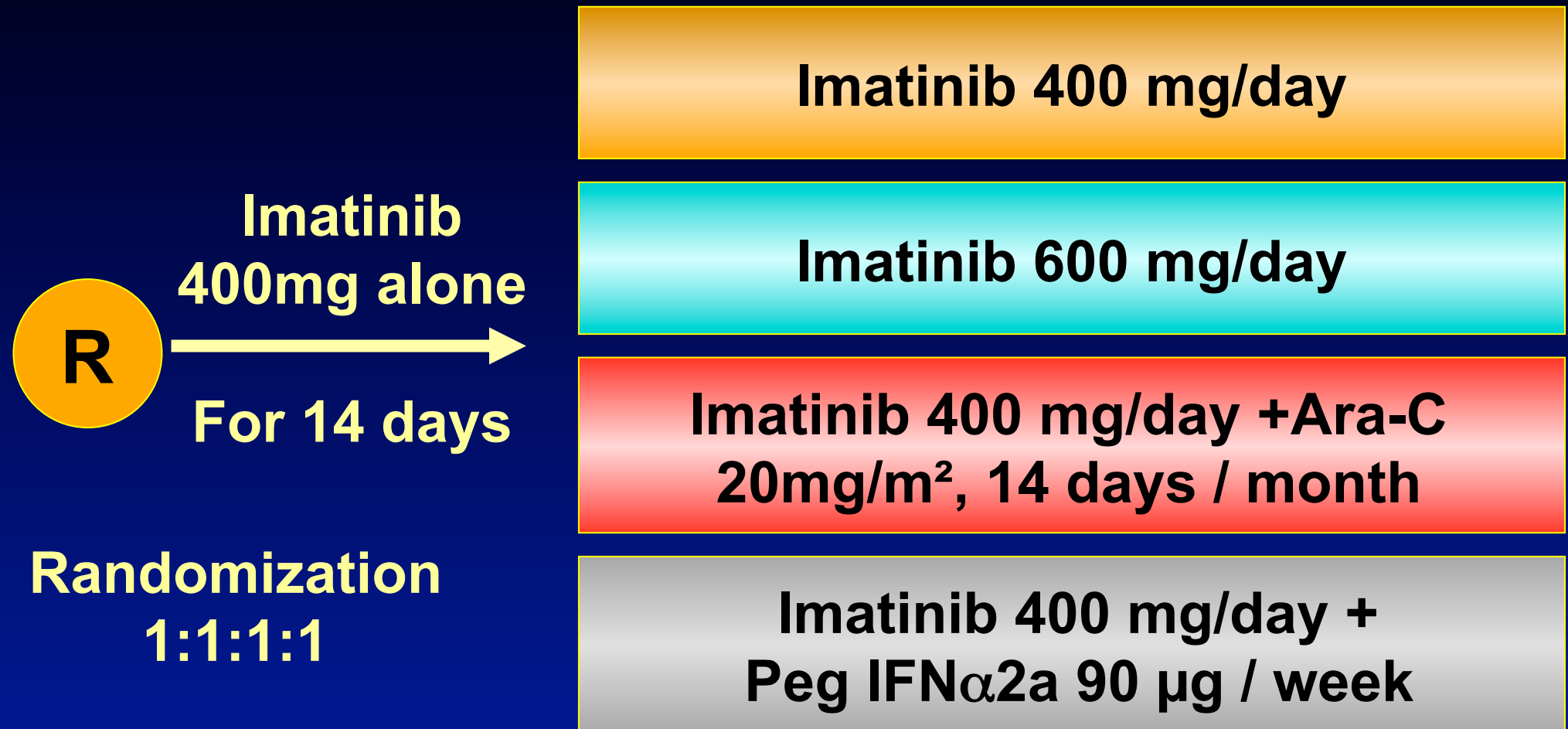
- Anti-proliferative effect?
- Immuno-mediated suppression?
- Combination of the two mechanisms?

Interferon + Imatinib combination studies

	FRENCH SPIRIT ¹	NORDIC ³	Ger-CML Study IV ²	MDAnderson ⁴
IFN type	PEG	PEG	No PEG	PEG + G-CSF (IMA 800)
MMR	Yes	Yes	No	No
CCyR	No	No	No	No
Survival	No	NA	No	No
Toxicity	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

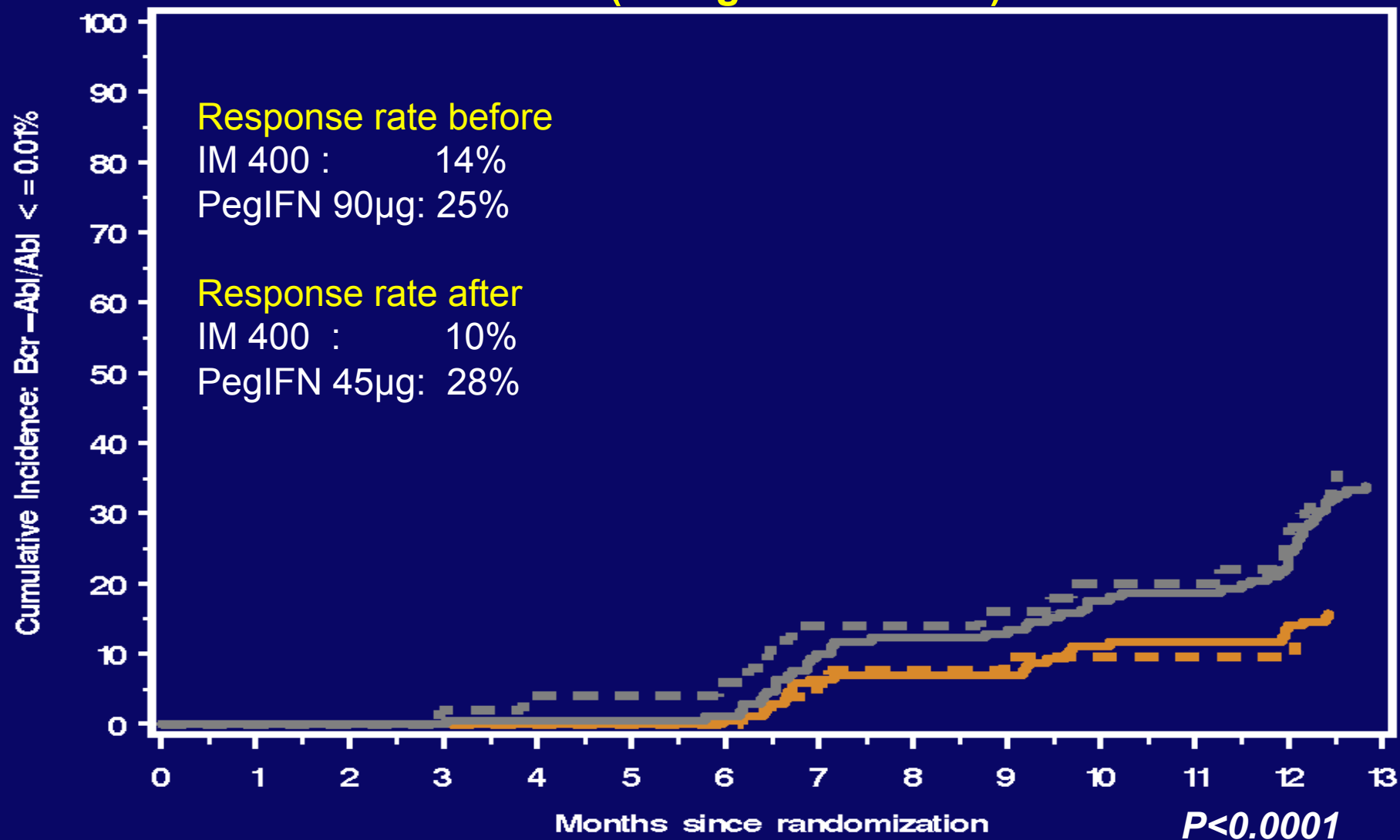
1. Preudhomme C et al., *N Engl J Med.* 2010;363(26):2511-21.
2. Hehlmann R et al., *JCO* 2011;29:1634-1642.
3. Simonsson B, et al. *Blood* 2011;118(12):3228-3235
4. Cortes J et al. *Cancer.* 2011;117(3):572-80.

SPIRIT trial: Study design



Superior Molecular Responses by 12 months

(≤ 4 log reduction IS)



IM+ IFN Peg

Pre (171)

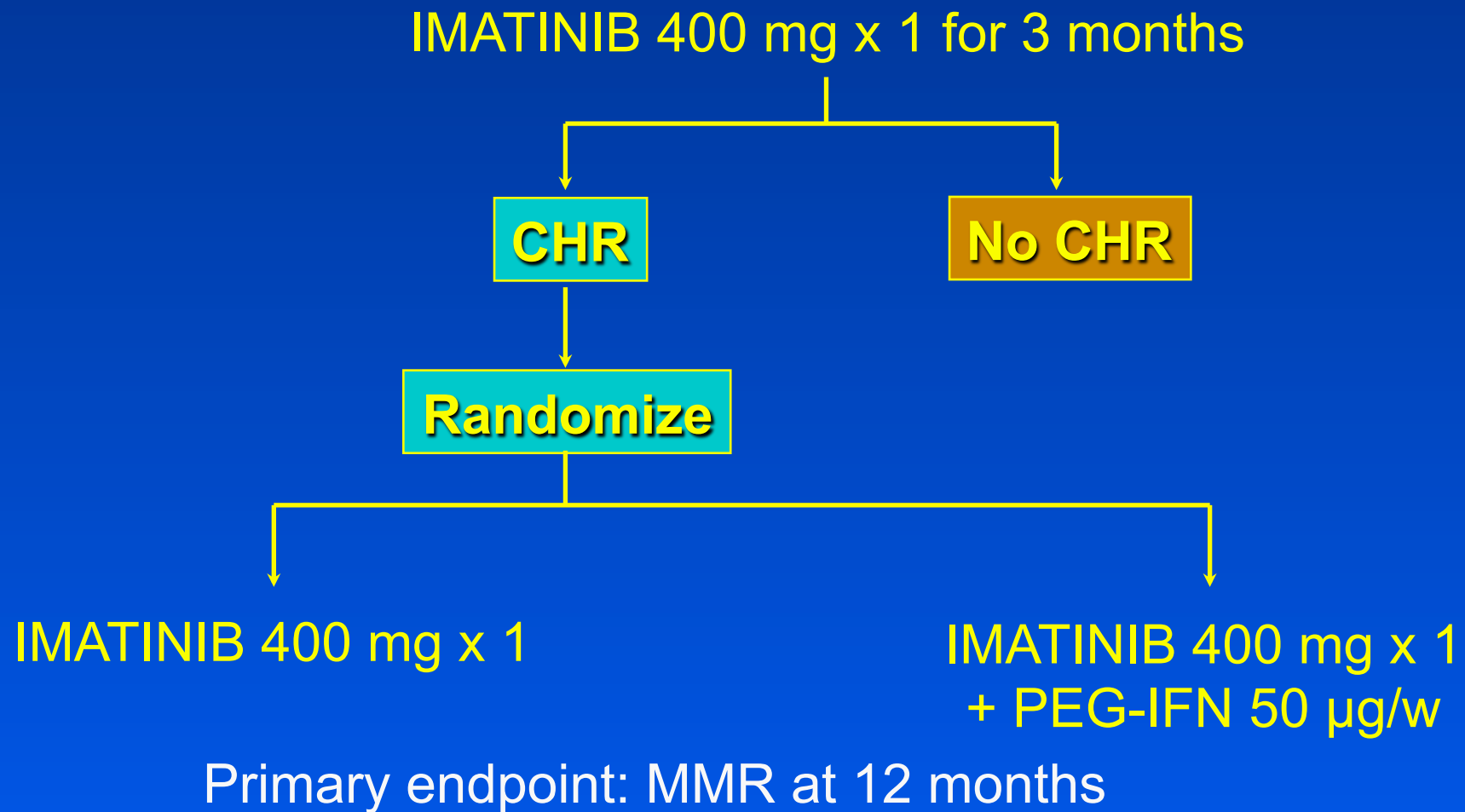
Post (50)

IM Pre (171)

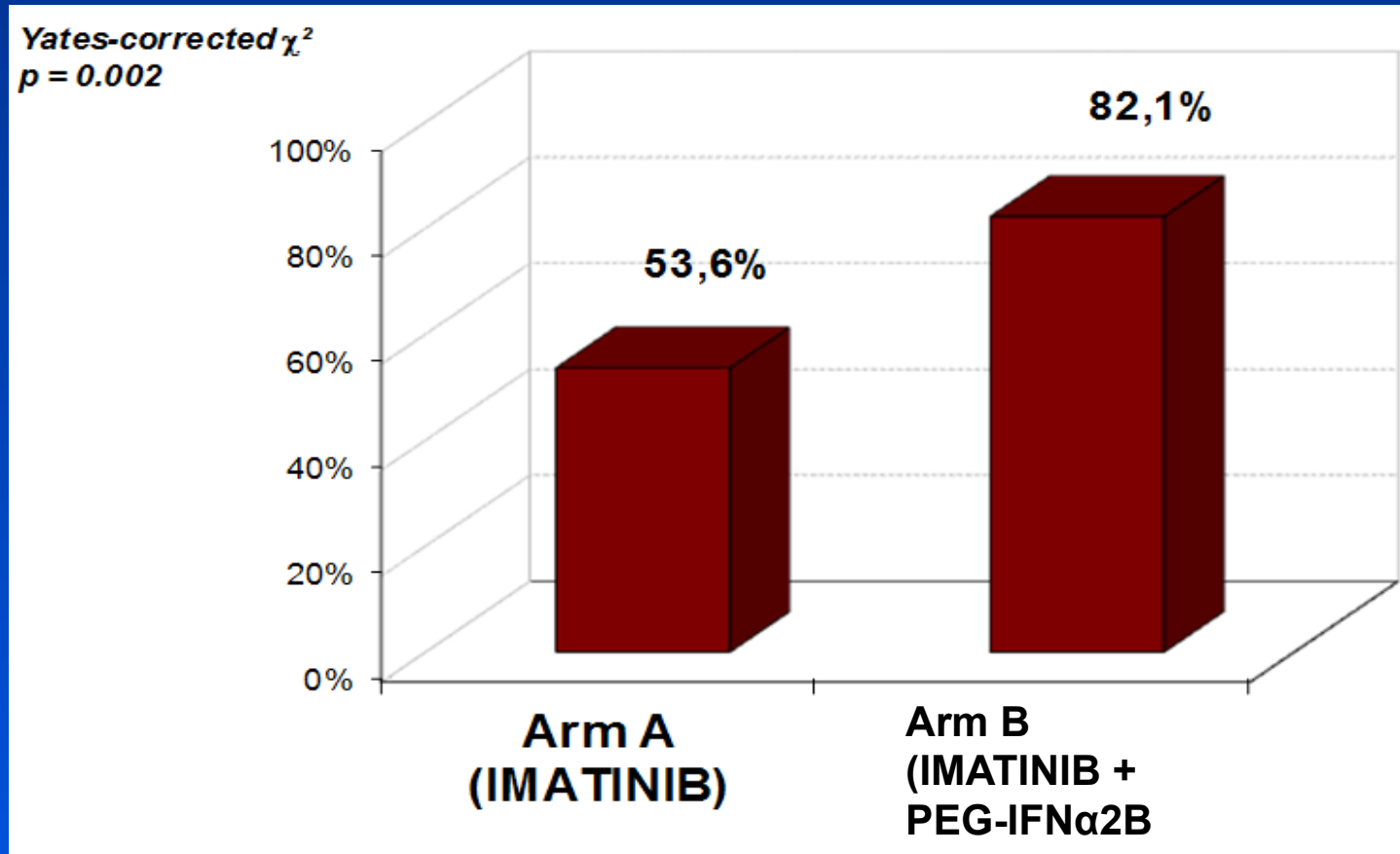
Post (52)

Johnson-Ansah H, et al. Blood 2011;118(21): [abstract 456] Oral Presentation

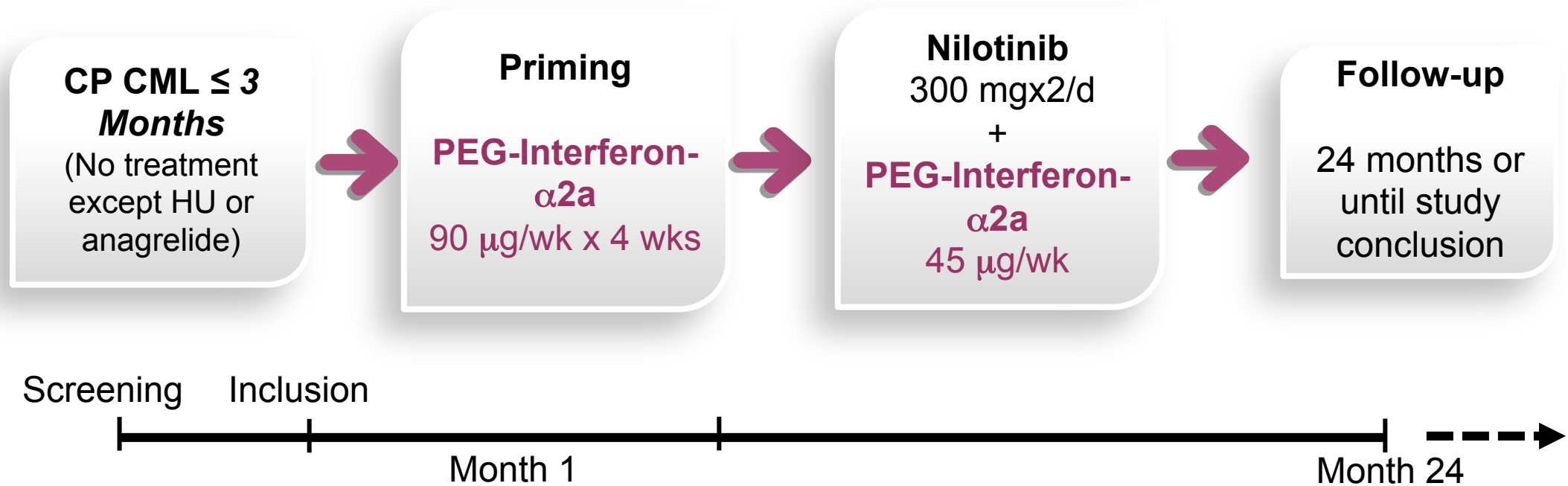
NordCML002 (Sokal IR/LR)



MMR at week 52 per treatment arm (ITT)



Nilotinib + (Peg)IFN- α 2a: NiloPeg trial design

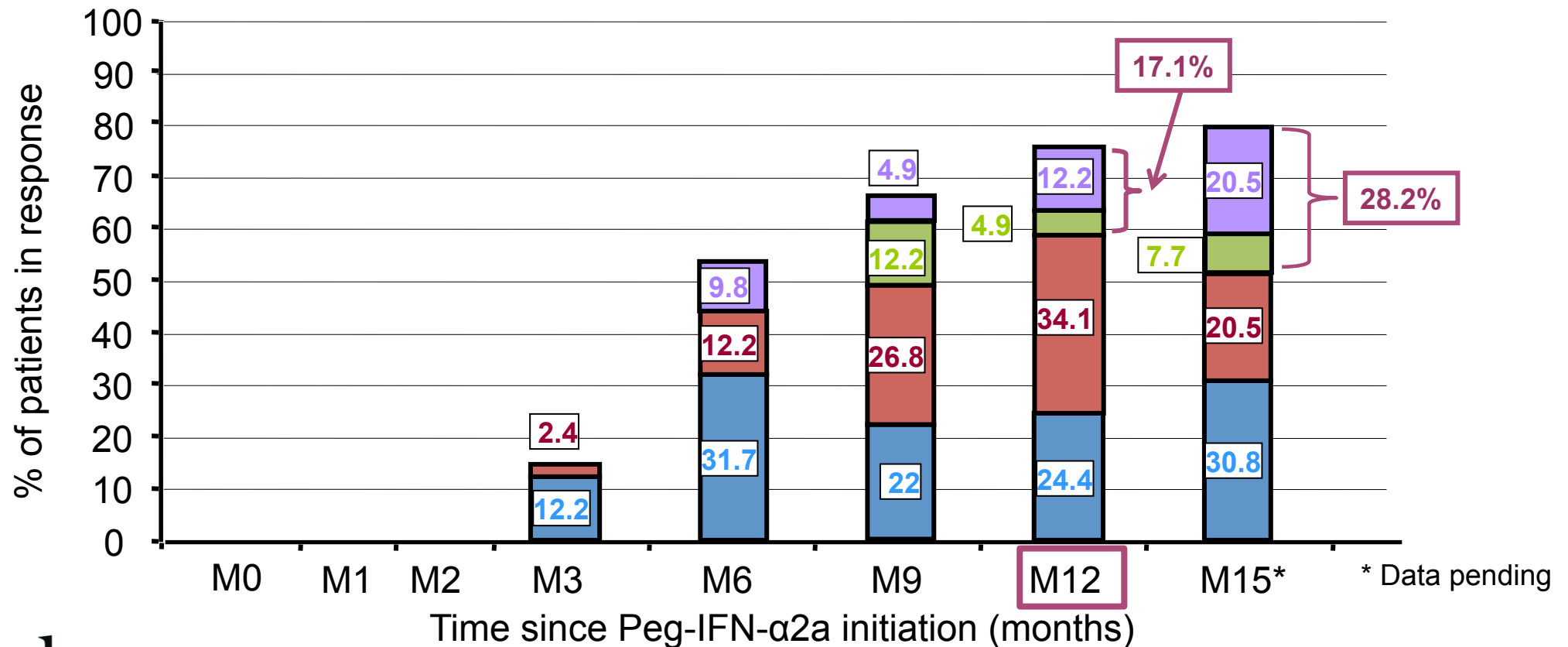


- 42 patients enrolled
- All Sokal risk scores

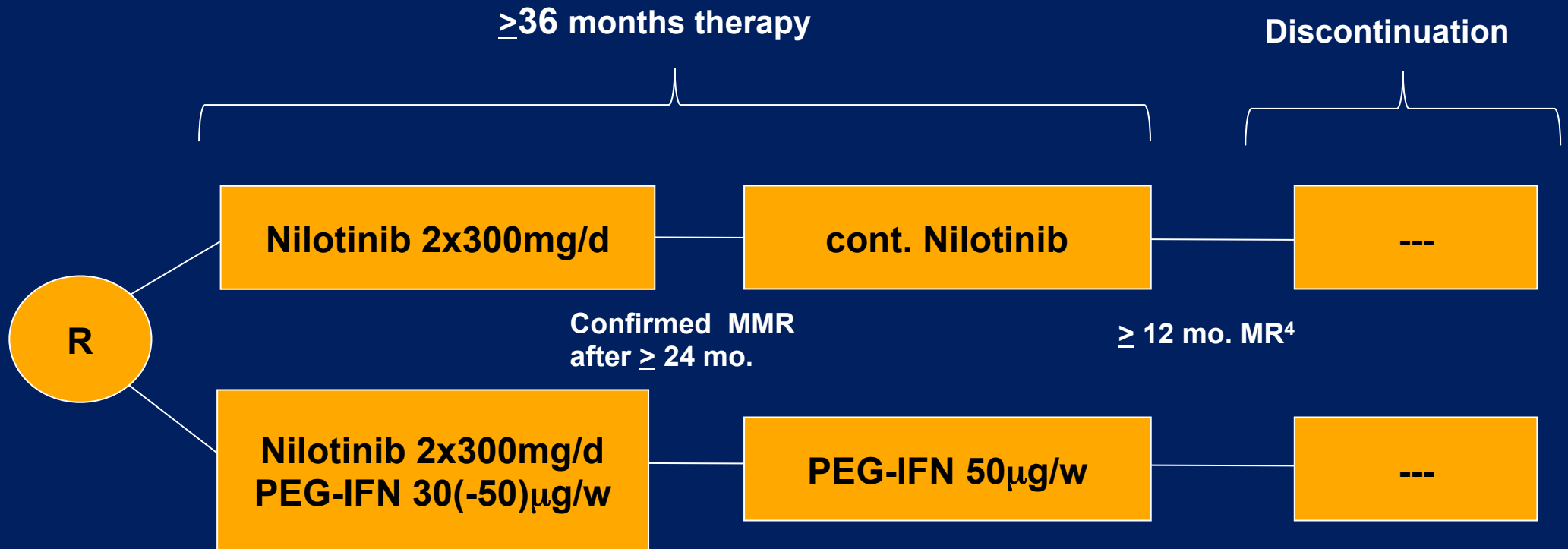
Nilotinib + (Peg)IFN- α 2a: NiloPeg trial results

• Molecular responses [Intention To Treat analysis]

- MMR (BCR-ABL $\leq 0.1\%$)
- MR⁴ (BCR-ABL $\leq 0.01\%$)
- MR^{4.5} (BCR-ABL $\leq 0.0032\%$)
- MR⁵ (BCR-ABL $\leq 0.001\%$)



CML V (TIGER) study



Nilotinib Intolerance → Imatinib

Nilotinib Resistance → Transplantation/Dasatinib

Suboptimal Response → Nilotinib 400 mg BID

Induction

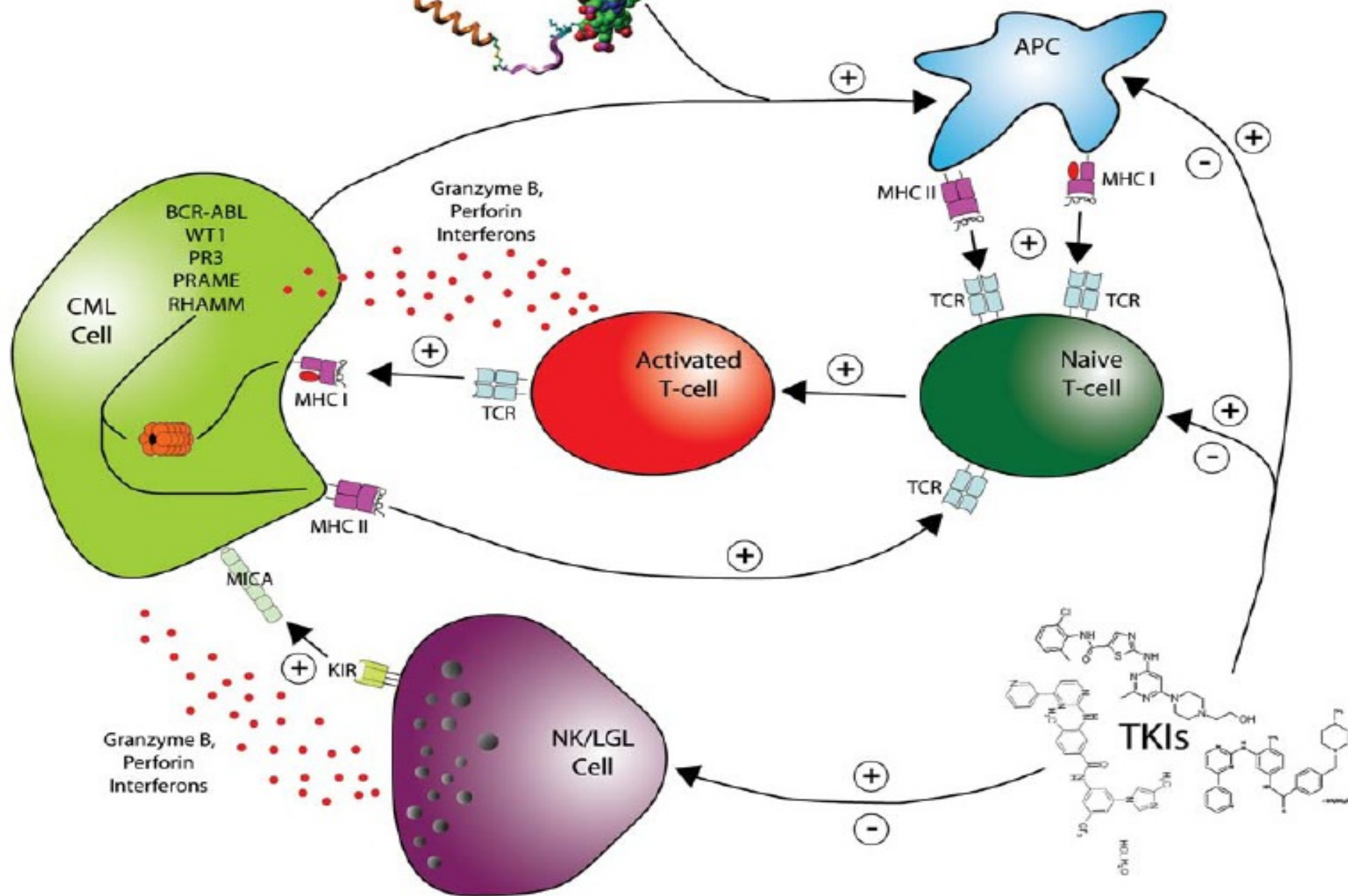
Maintenance

Cure?

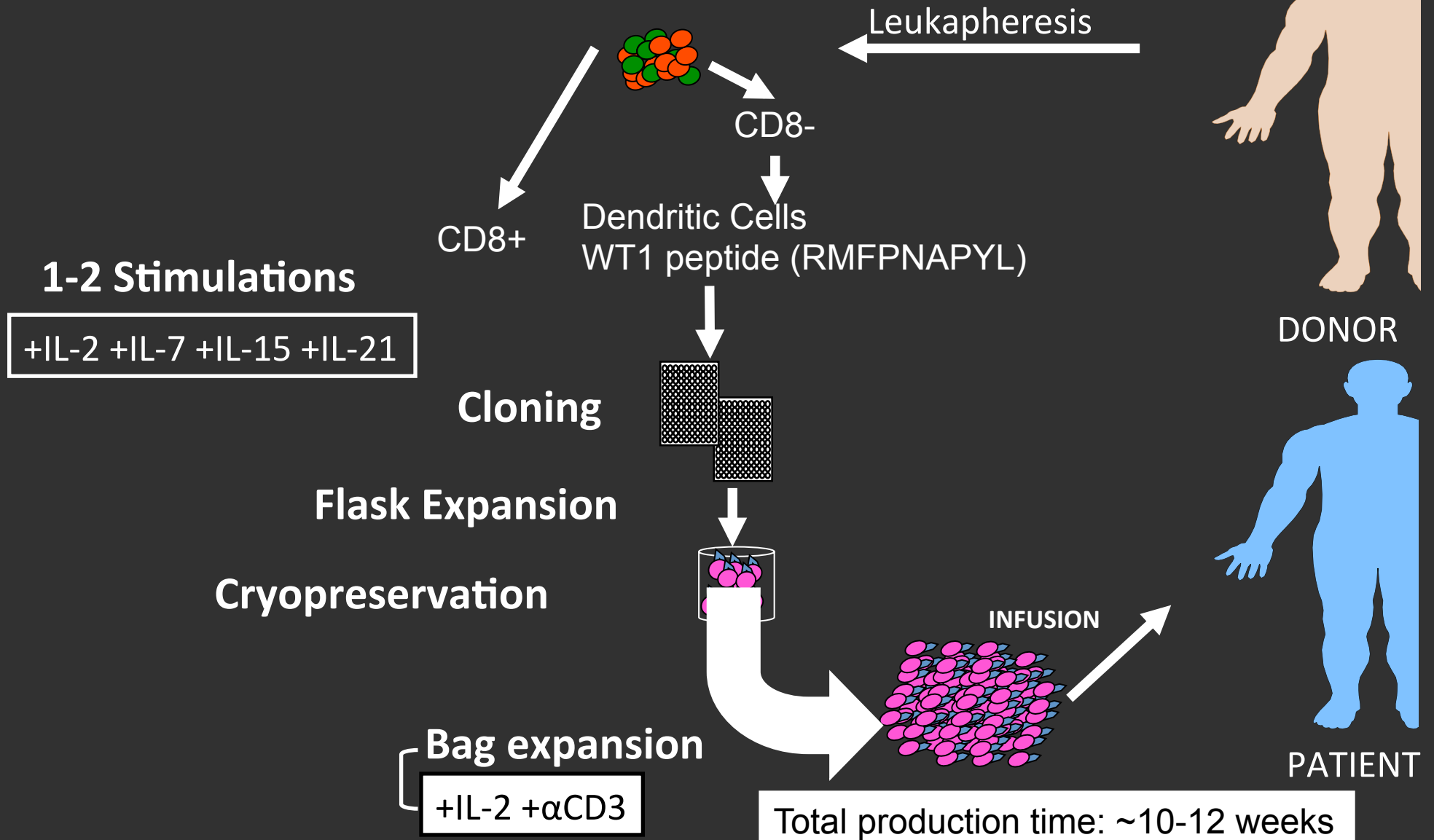
Immuno-adoptive therapy approaches to try to eradicate Ph+ stem cells

- Ph-pos cells specific antigens?
 - BCR-ABL junction peptides (Bocchia M et al.)
- Antigens preferentially expressed by Ph-positive cells:
 - IL1R1 (Järås M et al., PNAS 2010)
 - WT1 (David Scheinberg, Baltimore 2012)
 - PR1 antigens (Kanodia S et al., PLoSOne 2010)

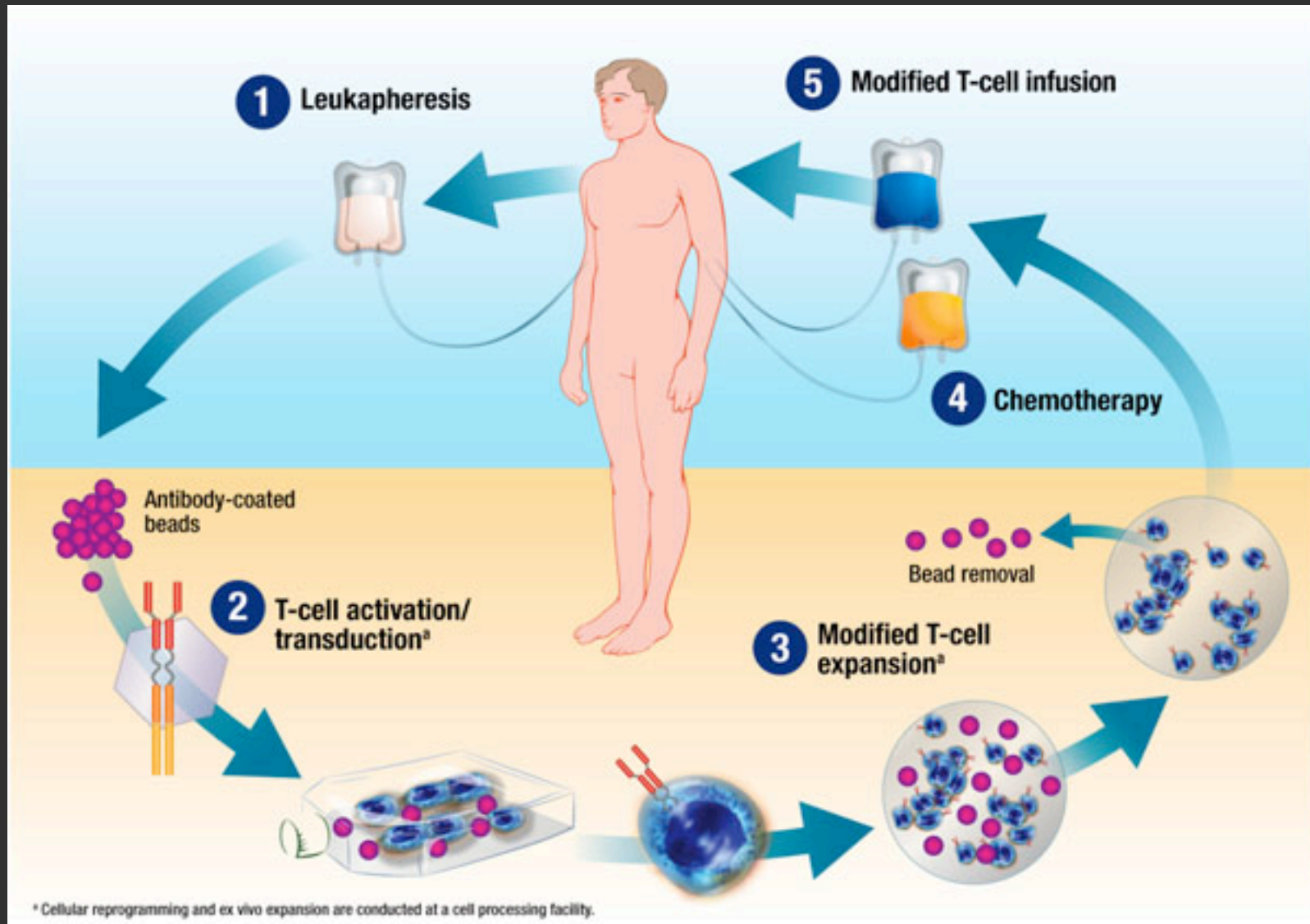
Peptide or Cellular Vaccines



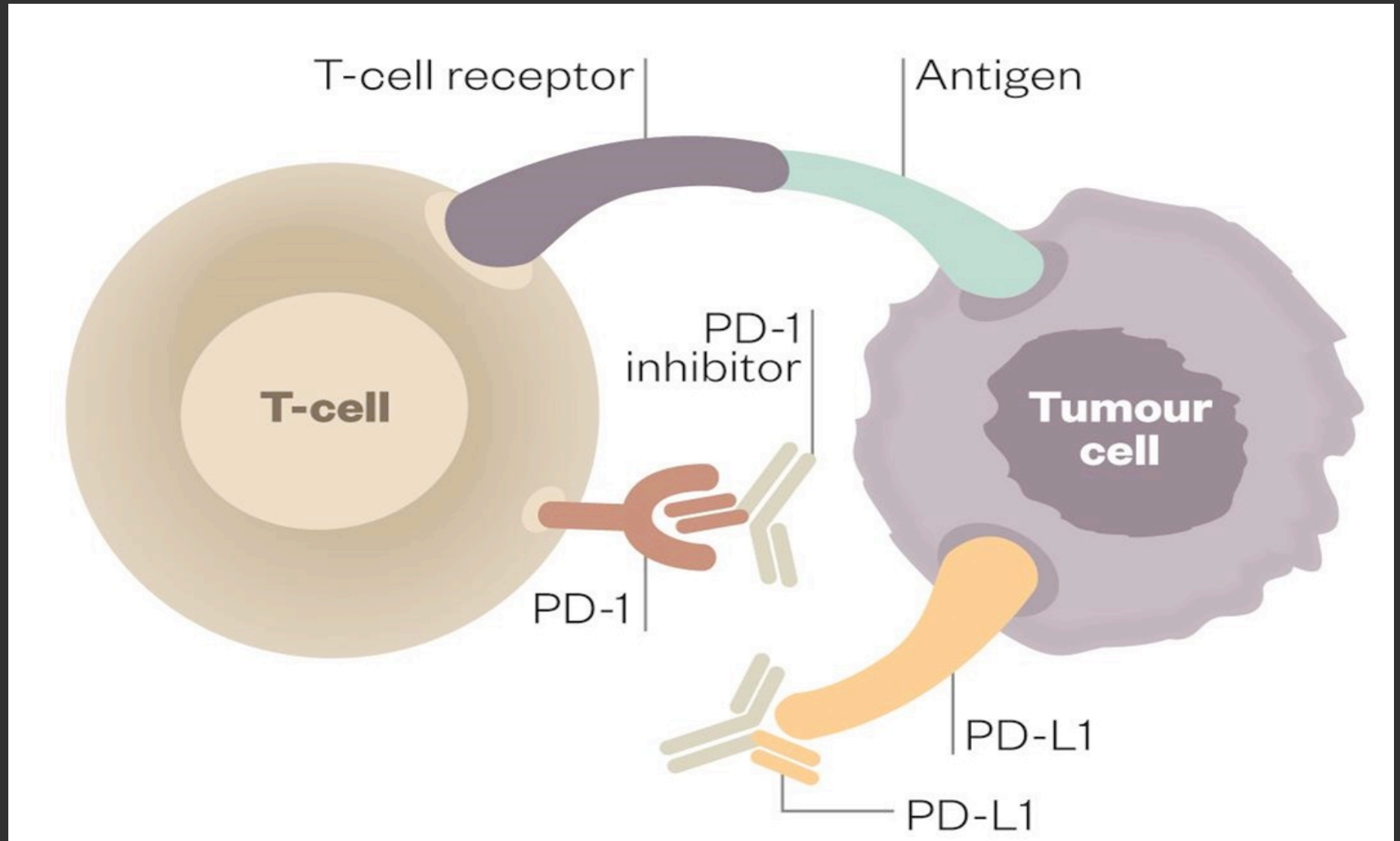
“Adoptive immunotherapy”: Generation of WT1-specific clones



CAR-T cell?



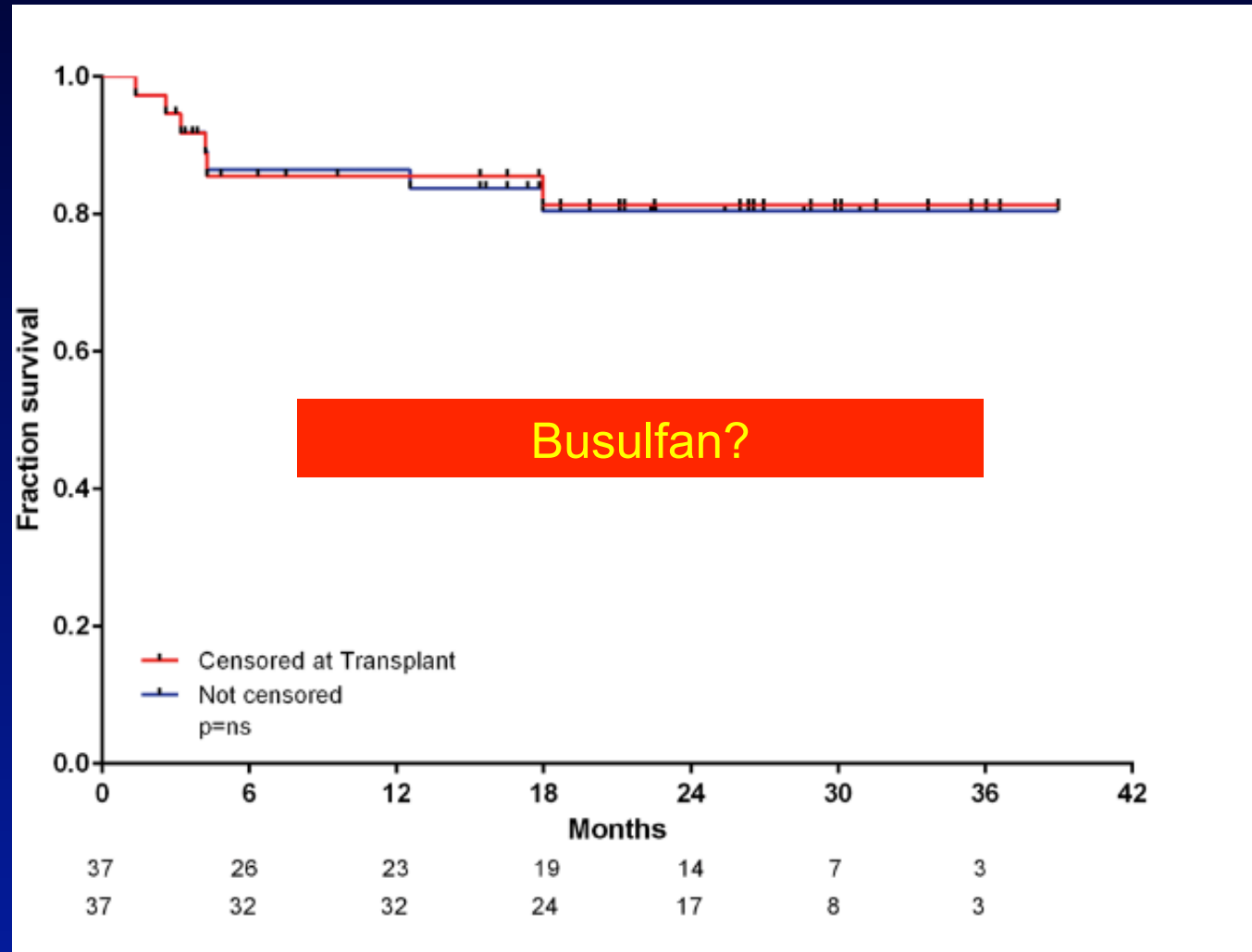
Check-point inhibitors?



Conclusion: Major Questions Are Still Unanswered

- Does the immune system still play a role in CML in the TKI era?
- To which extent could we use drugs that will target not only the leukaemic stem cells but also other stem cells?

Chemotherapy?



Thank you!

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Discussion