CLD-501, An In Situ T Cell Engager Targeting TROP2: Reprogramming Solid Tumors to Generate Their Own Immunotherapy

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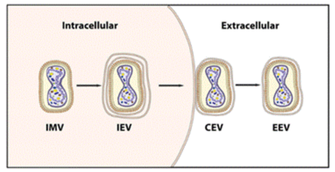
Abstract

T cell engagers (TCEs) have transformed hematologic cancer treatment but remain limited in solid tumors by off-tumor toxicity, poor tumor exposure, and an immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment (TME). To overcome these barriers, we developed **In Situ TCE**, a tumor-selective viral platform that drives local TCE production and TME remodeling.

- **CLD-401** expresses an **IL-15 superagonist** (IL-15 SA) to promote antitumor immunity and TME remodeling.
- **CLD-501** extends CLD-401 by adding a **TROP2-targeted TCE**, combining:
  - Tumor-selective oncolysis
  - IL-15-mediated immune activation
  - T-cell redirection against TROP2+ tumor cells

Novel Extracellular Enveloped Vaccinia Virus Designed For Systemic Delivery



Adapted from Yu X. et al Viruses 2023
Vaccina Viral Cycle: Intracellular and Extracellular Stages

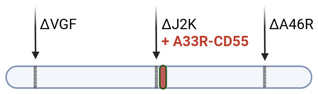
During infection, >99% of virus is Intracellular Mature Virus (IMV), <1% the Extracellular Enveloped Virus (EEV)

RedTail vaccinia virus is selected for:

High production of extracellular enveloped virus (EEV), which resists complement-mediated neutralization and is crucial for long-range viral spread.

The host cell line in which the virus is produced can affect its level of protection.

Generation of Tumor selective RedTail Virus with Triple Knockout and CD55

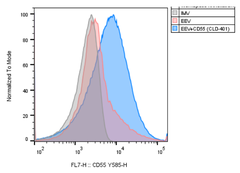


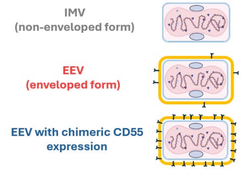
- Vaccinia virus is tumor tropic, has a rapid and potent lytic cycle, and replicates only in the cytoplasm
- RedTail VV has three knockouts (TK-, A46R-, VGF-) that restrict replication to tumor cells
- Engineered to express high levels of chimeric A33RxCD55 in the extracellular envelop of the viral vector to avoid complement and neutralizing antibodies and enable systemic delivery
- Large capacity for genetic payload (s)

Chimeric A33R-CD55 expression enables evasion of complement and neutralizing antibodies (nAbs)

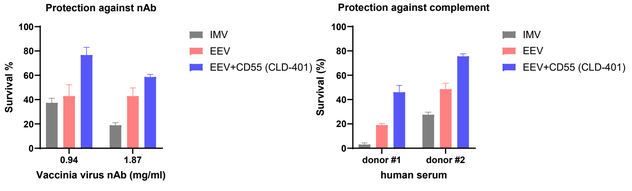
CD55 expression on CLD-401 membrane

Flow virometry analysis shows CD55 expression on EEV membrane of CLD-401



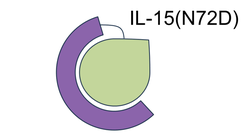


Overexpression of CD55 on CLD-401 EEV membrane protects against complement inactivation and neutralizing antibodies and enhances immune evasion.



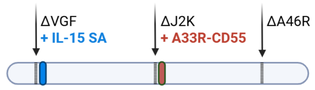
CLD-401: Tumor-Localized Expression of an IL-15 Superagonist

IL-15 Superagonist: Proven Activator of Immunity

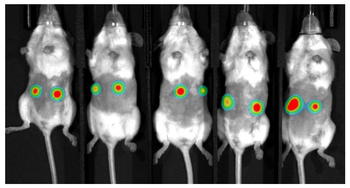


IL-15 is a powerful growth factor for NK cells (innate) CD8+ T-cells (adaptive)

Unlike IL-2, IL-15 does not expand Tregs or induce activation-induced T-cell death



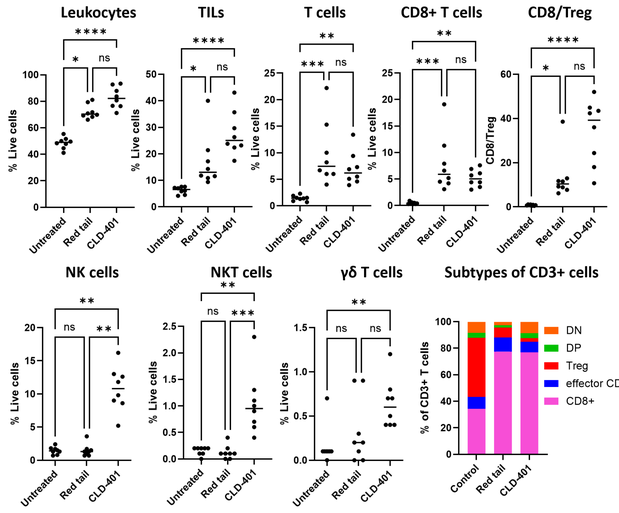
Specific tumor targeting and viral amplification via i.V administration



Preferential Tumor Targeting and amplification of CLD-401 in EMT6 breast cancer model. A single dose selectively accumulates and amplifies in bilateral subcutaneous EMT6 tumors (TurboFP635, top). qPCR confirmed strong viral amplification and IL-15 SA transgene accumulation in tumors, with negligible levels in liver and lung and trace amounts in ovary (bottom).

	Tumor		Liver		Ovary		Lung		Plasma	
Timepoint	DNA copies/µg	IL-15 SA (pM)	DNA copies/µg	IL-15 SA (pM)	DNA copies/µg	IL-15 SA (pM)	DNA copies/µg	IL-15 SA (pM)	DNA copies/µg	IL-15 SA (pM)
Day 6	96,436	**62,074**	–	**14**	121	**51**	–	**13**	NA	**15**
Day 17	10,489	**265**	–	**3**	–	–	–	–	NA	–
Day 21	5,085	**36**	–	**2**	–	–	–	–	NA	–

Tumor immune microenvironment change by CLD-401 treatment



CLD-401 enhances NK and innate-like lymphocyte infiltration in EMT6 breast tumor model. EMT6 breast tumor-bearing BALB/c mice were treated systemically with Redtail parent (no Payload) or CLD-401 vaccinia virus (encoding for hIL-15 SA). Tumors were collected 7 days post-treatment and analyzed for immune cell infiltration. Redtail virus increased leukocyte, TIL, CD3⁺ T cell, and neutrophil infiltration and reduced Treg frequency. CLD-401 treatment further suppressed intratumoral Tregs and significantly promoted NK cells and innate-like lymphocytes, including γδ T cells and NKT cells, reflecting the immunostimulatory effects of the IL-15 superagonist payload. (DN, double negative; DP, double positive, Treg, regulatory T cells; * P<0.05 ** P<0.01 *** P<0.001,**** P<0.0001).

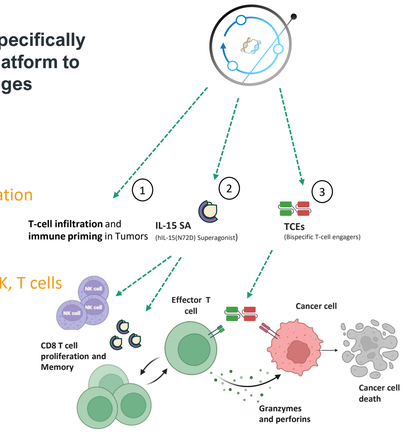
CLD-501: Tumor-localized Expression Of Dual Payloads IL-15 Superagonist and TCEs

T-cell engagers (TCEs) have faced obstacles in the treatment of solid tumors

- ❑ On-target, off-tumor binding drives toxicity
- ❑ Insufficient TCE accumulation in the TME limits efficacy
- ❑ Low quantity and dysfunction of T cells within the TME

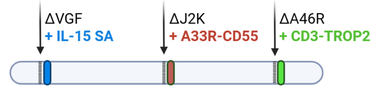
In Situ T-cell Engagers were specifically designed using the RedTail platform to overcome these challenges

- ➢ Targeting and tumor restricted replication
- ➢ High TCEs expression in the TME
- ➢ High Recruitment and activation of NK, T cells



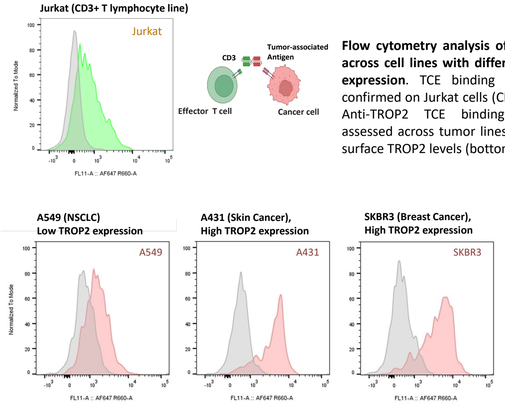
TROP2: A clinically validated tumor antigen for targeted therapies

WHAT IS TROP2	WHY IT'S A GOOD TCE TARGET	KEY CHALLENGES
Cell-surface glycoprotein encoded by the TACSTD2 gene	Extracellular domain is directly accessible to bispecific antibodies	On-target/off-tumor toxicity in normal epithelial tissues (skin, GI tract, lung)
Overexpressed in breast (TNBC, HR+), lung, bladder, ovarian, and pancreatic cancers	ADC approvals (sacituzumab) confirm target biology and clinical benefit	Short serum half-life of traditional TCE formats requires continuous IV infusion
Transmembrane protein involved in cell signaling and proliferation pathways	Strong preclinical evidence of T-cell-mediated tumor killing via TROP2 engagement	Immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment (Tregs, MDSCs) may limit T-cell efficacy



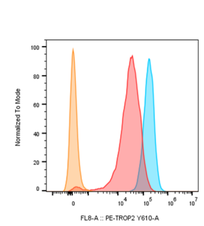
Tumor-Localized TCEs Delivery via Oncolytic Localized TCE Delivery via Oncolytic Vaccinia Virus Enables In Situ Activity and Overcomes Key Challenges of TROP2 TCE

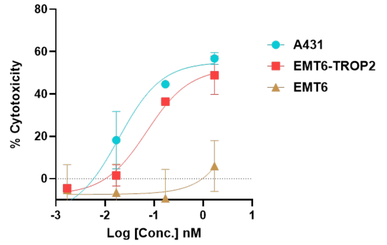
Binding activity of secreted TROP2 TCE across multiple cell lines



Flow cytometry analysis of TCE binding across cell lines with differential TROP2 expression. TCE binding to CD3 was confirmed on Jurkat cells (CD3⁺ line, top). Anti-TROP2 TCE binding was then assessed across tumor lines with varying surface TROP2 levels (bottom).

Expressed TCE mediates t-cell activation and tumor cell killing



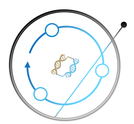


TROP2 expression and TCE-mediated cytotoxicity. TROP2 is expressed on A431 and EMT6-TROP2 cells but not parental EMT6 (left). TCE drives dose-dependent, T-cell–mediated killing of TROP2-positive cells, with minimal activity against TROP2-negative cells (right).

Evolving the Redtail platform

Lead: CLD-401

Next-generation: CLD-501 (anti-TROP2) CLD-502 (anti-EpCAM)



Candidate	Genetic Payload	Indications	Discovery	IND Enabling	Phase 1
Systemically Administered (RedTail)					
CLD-401	In Situ IL-15 Superagonist	Multiple solid tumors			
CLD-501	• TROP-2 In Situ TCE • In Situ IL-15 Superagonist	Multiple TROP2+positive solid tumor			
CLD-502	• EpCAM In Situ TCE • In Situ IL-15 Superagonist	Multiple EpCAM+positive solid tumor			