

# **UPDATE ON LIVER CANCER TRIALS IN HAWAII**

Jared Acoba

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# DISCLOSURE

- Research funding from GSK

- Hepatocellular cancer (HCC) is not a common cancer in the US, **however**
  - Hawaii has the second highest incidence of HCC in the US
  - HCC is a leading cause of cancer death despite not being a common cancer

<b>Mortality</b>			
<b>Average Number &amp; Percent of Deaths Per Year</b>			
<b>Male</b>		<b>Female</b>	
<b>No. Deaths</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. Deaths</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Lung &amp; Bronchus</b>		<b>Lung &amp; Bronchus</b>	
314	24.1%	230	21.1%
<b>Prostate</b>		<b>Breast</b>	
125	9.6%	155	14.2%
<b>Colon &amp; Rectum</b>		<b>Pancreas</b>	
118	9.1%	101	9.3%
<b>Liver &amp; Intrahepatic Bile Duct</b>		<b>Colon &amp; Rectum</b>	
103	7.9%	98	9.0%
<b>Pancreas</b>		<b>Liver &amp; Intrahepatic Bile Duct</b>	
100	7.7%	49	4.5%

- TSR-022 (Anti-TIM-3 Antibody) and TSR-042 (Anti-PD-1 Antibody) in Patients With Liver Cancer  
PI: Acoba
- Evaluation of Treatment Predictors Reflecting Beta-catenin Activation in Hepatocellular Carcinoma (ExTRACT-HCC)  
PI: Kwee

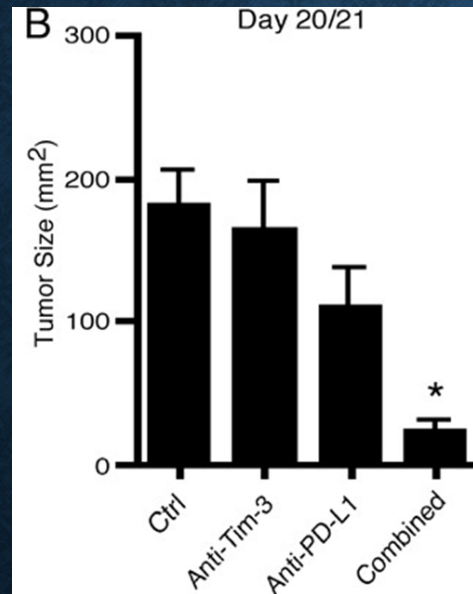
**TSR-022 (ANTI-TIM-3 ANTIBODY) AND  
TSR-042 (ANTI-PD-1 ANTIBODY) IN  
PATIENTS WITH LIVER CANCER**

# SYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR HCC

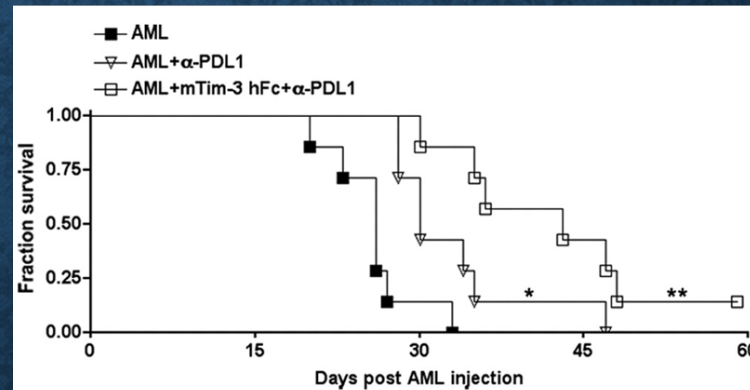
<b>Drug(s)</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Survival</b>
<b>Sorafenib</b>	2%	10.7 mo
<b>Lenvatinib</b>	19%	13.6 mo
<b>Nivolumab</b>	15%	16.4 mo
<b>Atezolizumab + Bevacizumab</b>	27%	19.2 mo
<b>Durvalumab + Tremelimumab</b>	20%	16.4 mo

# TARGETING TIM-3 AND PD-1

- Targeting TIM-3 might have additive or synergistic effects with those induced by anti-PD-1 antibodies



5 × 10<sup>5</sup> CT26 cells were implanted into wild-type BALB/c mice. Mice were then treated with anti-Tim-3, anti-PD-L1, anti-Tim-3 + anti-PD-L1, or control immunoglobulins



B6 mice (10 mice/group) were injected iv with 1 × 10<sup>6</sup> C1498FFDsR cells. Ten days after AML injection, mice were treated with mTim-3 hFc (100 µg/dose), anti-PD-L1 (200 µg/dose) or combination of both every other day for total of 5 doses.

# RATIONALE FOR ANTI-TIM-3 AND ANTI-PD-1

- UHCC Bioinformatics Team used tissue collected for an HCC PET study and TCGA data to develop a 4-gene signature that had prognostic value in HCC and included TIM-3
- TSR-022 (cobolimab, anti-TIM-3) + TSR-042 (dostarlimab, anti-PD-1) well tolerated, most side effects were Grade 1-2:
  - Fatigue (19%), rash (7%), nausea (7%)
  - Grade  $\geq 3$  – total 11.7%; lipase (1.9%), rash (1.4%)



# OBJECTIVES

- **Primary objective:** response rate
- **Secondary objectives:**
  - Progression free survival
  - Overall survival
  - Alpha-fetoprotein response
  - Safety

# KEY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- $\geq 18$  years of age
- Histologically or cytologically confirmed hepatocellular cancer
- BCLC stage B or C
- Child-Pugh class A or B7 (limited to 6 patients)
- Adequate hematologic and renal function
- Performance status ECOG 0 or 1
- Measurable disease
- No prior systemic therapy for HCC
  - Prior local therapy is allowed

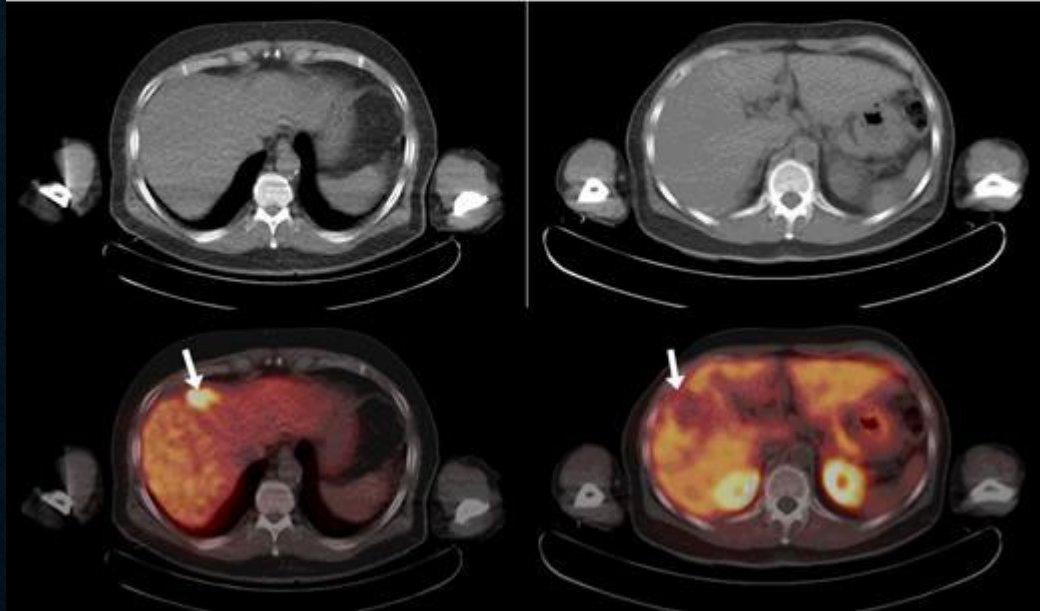
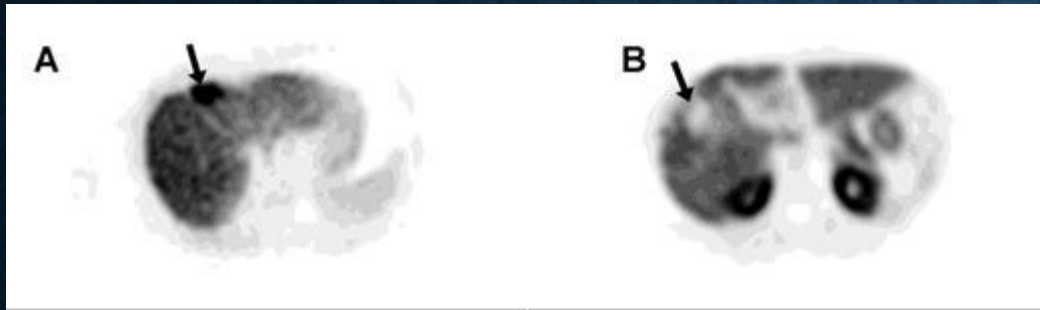
# STUDY DESIGN

- Phase II open-labeled single-arm study
- Cobolimab and dostarlimab administered every 3 weeks
- Study treatment will be stopped upon progression, unacceptable toxicity, patient choice
- Imaging every 9 weeks
- Sample size = 40 pts to show an increase in response rate from 20% to 35%

# INTERIM ANALYSIS

- 16 patients consented and received at least one cycle
- 5 White, 5 Native Hawaiian, 4 Asian, 2 other
- 13 evaluable patients
  - 1 CR, 5 PR (ORR 46%)
  - 3 Stable disease (Disease control rate 67%)
  - 4 Progression (31%)
- 1 grade 4 treatment related AE (neutropenia)
- Grade 1/2 AEs included pruritus, rash, fatigue, hypothyroidism, hypophysitis, and elevated AST and ALT

**EVALUATION OF TREATMENT  
PREDICTORS REFLECTING BETA-CATENIN  
ACTIVATION IN HEPATOCELLULAR  
CARCINOMA (EXTRACT-HCC)**



FCH high

FCH low

- Fluorocholeline PET/CT approved for HCC in the European Union
- $^{18}\text{F}$ -fluorocholeline (FCH) PET/CT detects HCC with  $\sim 95\%$  sensitivity, but there are two imaging phenotypes (FCH low vs. FCH high).

# RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

- High uptake of FCH is associated with activation of the WNT/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway
- Activation of the WNT/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway alters immune cell infiltration into the tumor microenvironment
  - Associated with resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitor
- FCH low tumors are often FDG avid and associated with inflammatory gene signatures
- FCH high tumors may be resistant to immunotherapy, FCH low and FDG avid tumors may be sensitive to immunotherapy

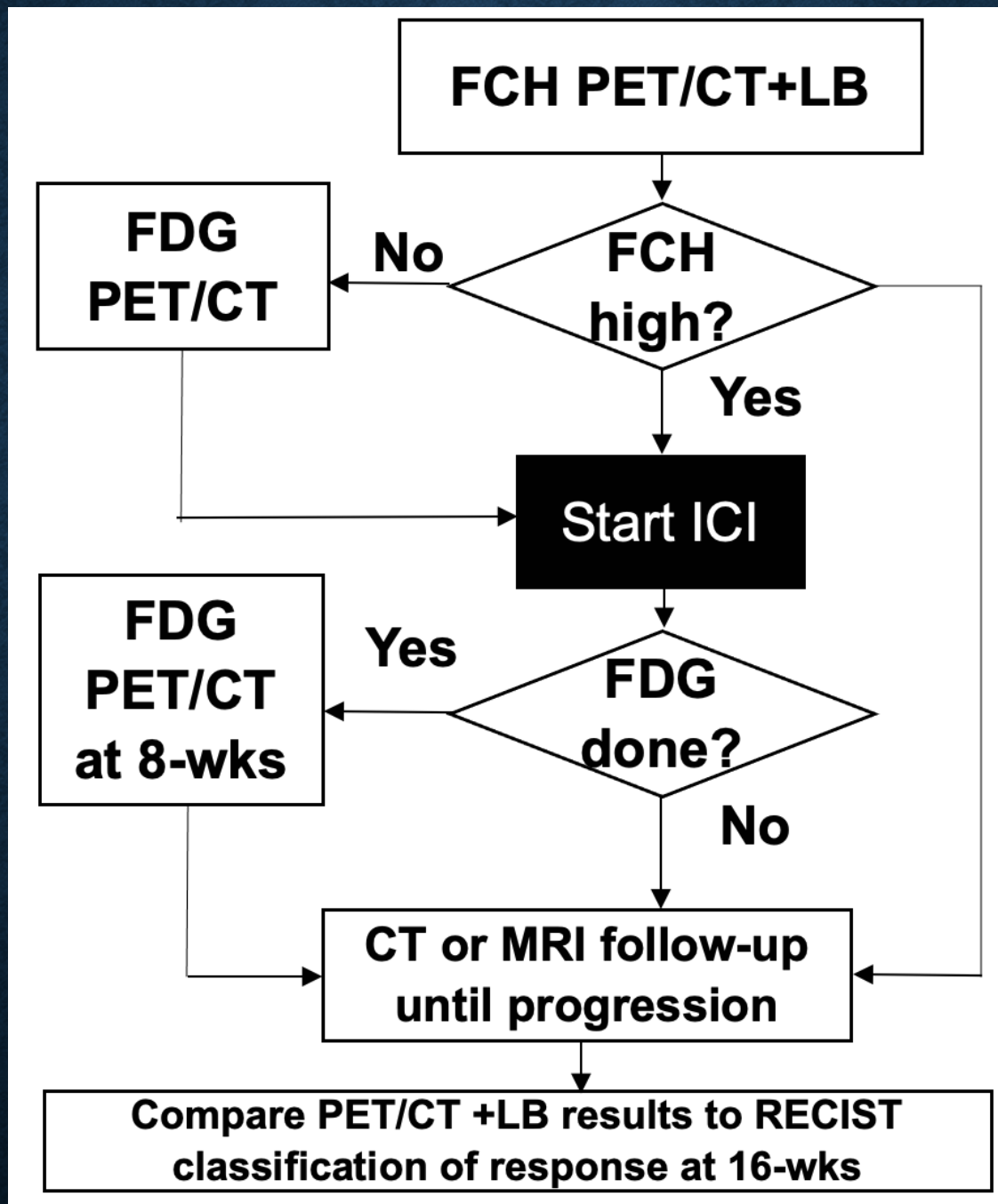
# OBJECTIVES

- **Primary objective:** Association between FCH-PET and response to immunotherapy
- **Secondary objective:** Association between FDG-PET, ctDNA and response



# KEY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Age 18 years or older (no upper limit of age)
- Hepatocellular carcinoma diagnosed histologically or radiographically
- BCLC Stage B or C
- Measurable disease defined as at least one tumor lesion that can be accurately measured by RECIST v1.1
- Eligible for treatment with an immune checkpoint inhibitor agent
- Child-Pugh score of 7 or less
- Adequate hepatic and renal function



# QUESTIONS?

