# Stem cell transplants and cell therapies for MDS

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## Liam 7/9/24





### **Outline**

1. History of stem cell transplants

2. Current clinical practice in the world and at UCH

3. Future cell therapies?

## First attempts at transplants

Aplasia noted after lethal irradiation by atomic bombs



### Early clinical studies

1957-1967: 200 patients received bone marrow transplants after lethal irradiation

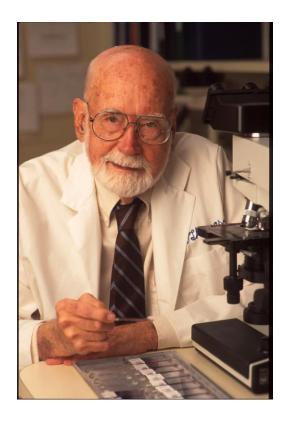


> Cancer Res. 1965 Oct;25(9):1525-31.

## Adoptive immunotherapy of acute leukemia: experimental and clinical results

G Mathé, J L Amiel, L Schwarzenberg, A Cattan, M Schneider

PMID: 5323965



onnall Thomas (1920-2012):

Professor at U Washington, then director of emeritus of clinical research division at Fred Hutch

-1990: Nobel Prize, shared with Joseph Murray (Harvard, first renal transplant)

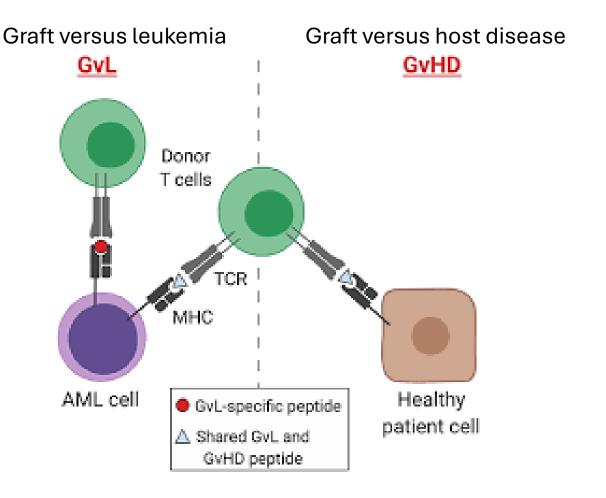
## HLA system: crucial to transplant success

- Human leukocyte antigens (HLA)
  - Aka Major histocompatibility complex (MHC) in humans
- Set of genes on chromosome 6 that code for proteins that present antigens crucial for immune recognition and function
  - Individuals inherit one set of HLA genes (haplotype) from each parent
- 10 Most clinically relevant HLA genes:
  - HLA A, B, C
  - HLA DR, DQ, (and DP)
- Mismatch: causes graft rejection and graft-versus-host disease

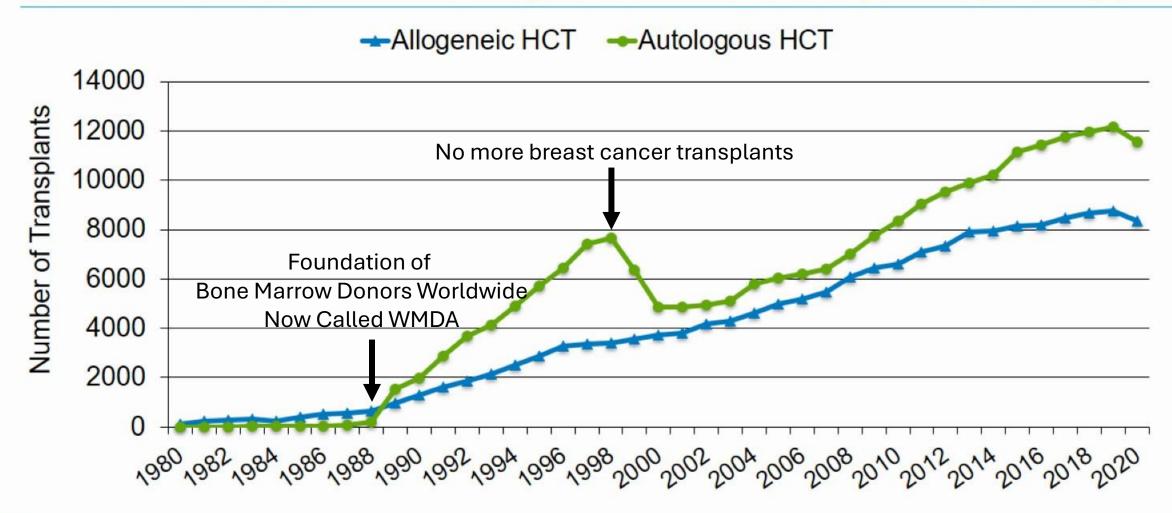
### Importance of HLA: GVHD and GVL

Graft versus leukemia effect: Thought to be how transplants actually cure people

Full match now: 10/10 HLA genes

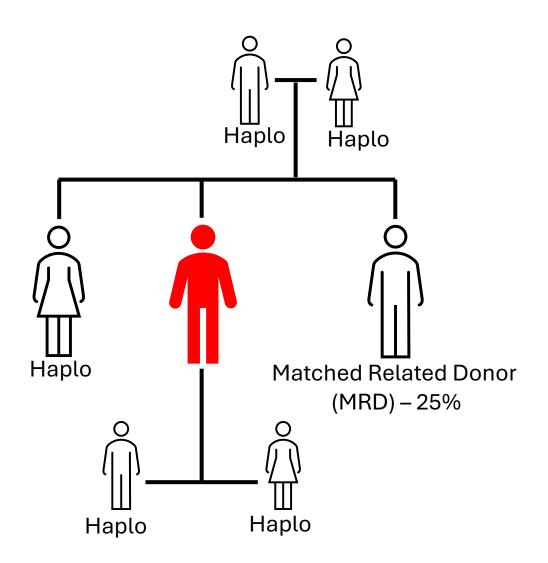


### Number of HCTs in the US Reported to CIBMTR by Transplant Type

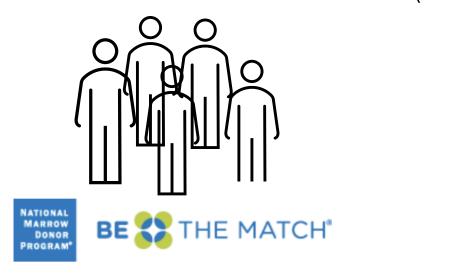


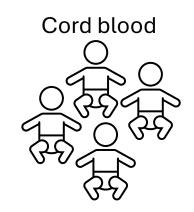


## Types of stem cell transplants

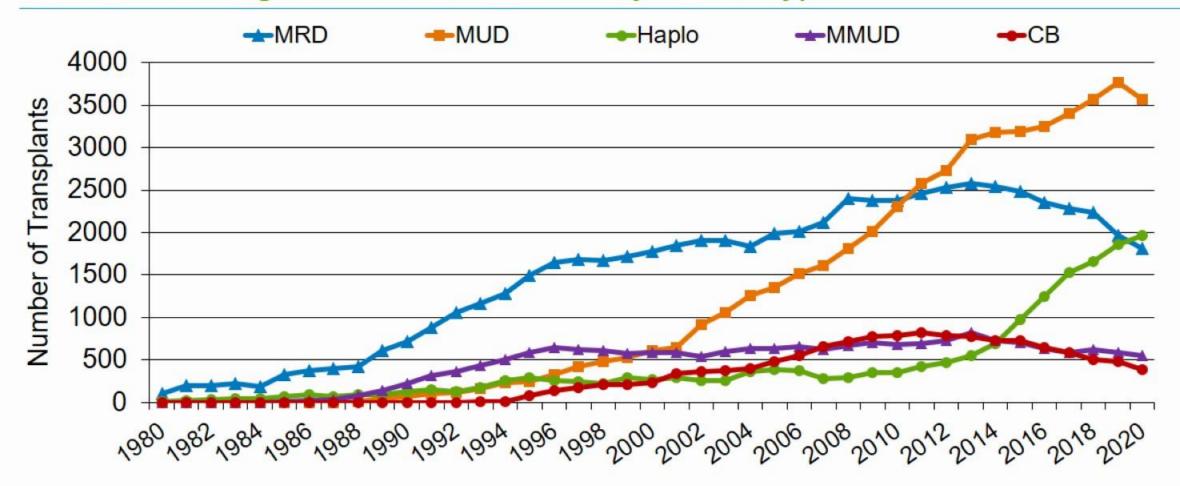


Matched Unrelated Donor (MUD) or mismatched unrelated donor (MMUD)





### Number of Allogeneic HCTs in the US by Donor Type





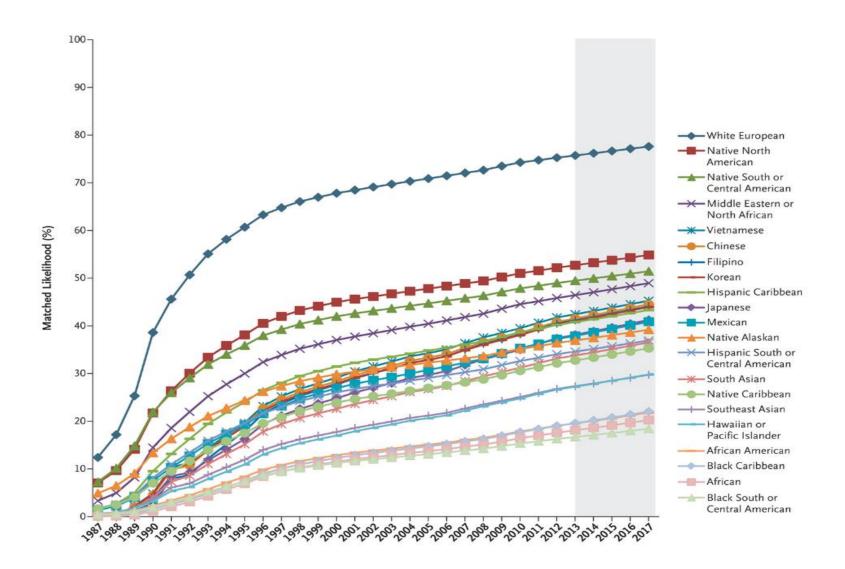
## NMDP WMDP – donor programs



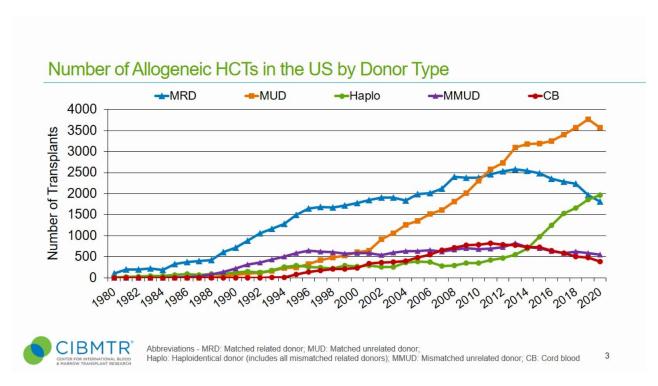


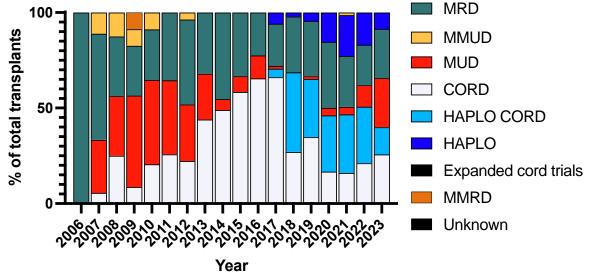


### Donor Selection: Odds of match by ethnicity

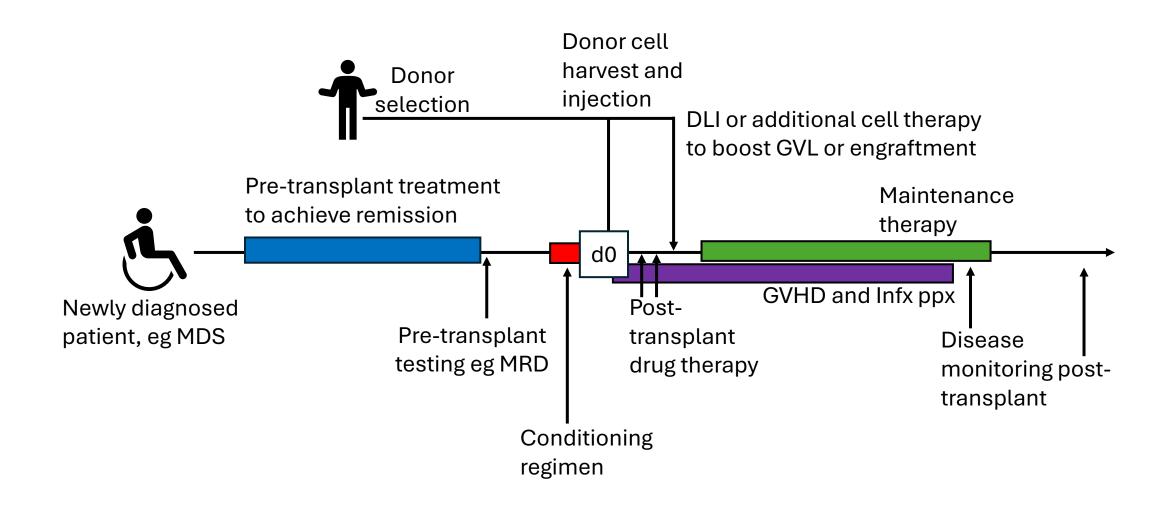


## Allo transplant types by year at CU

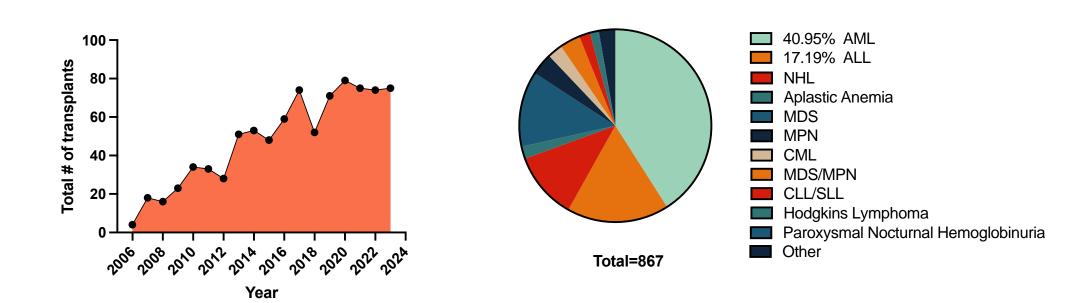




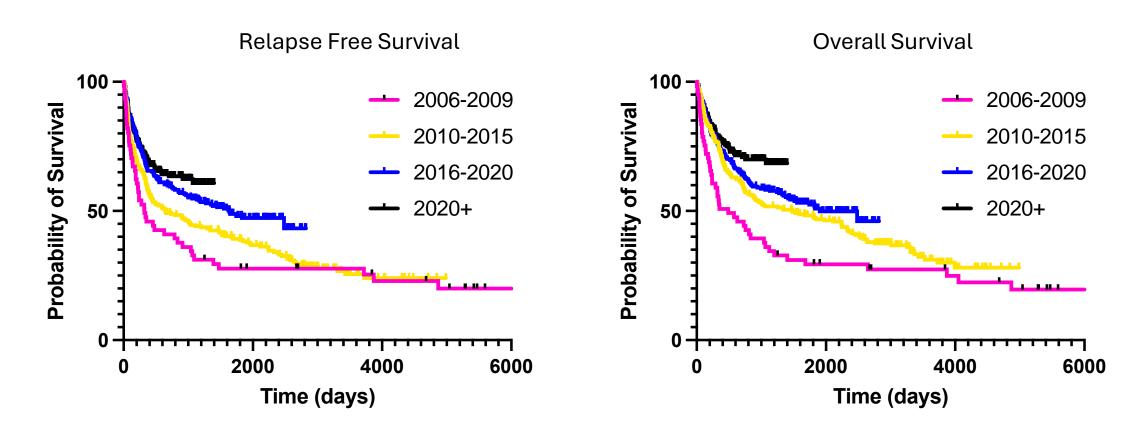
## Typical transplant course



## Total allo transplants and diseases that get transplants at UCH



### Transplant outcomes over time at CU





### **National Metrics 2023**



Performance metric: actual outcomes/expected outcomes based on disease classification

Table 6c. Summary of transplant center performance status from 2014-2023 analyses among the centers that were identified as over-performing in the 2023 analysis

Center			Actual	Predicted	95% CI	95% CI										
code	Center name	n	survival (%)	survival (%)	lower	upper	<b>'14</b>	<b>'15</b>	<b>'16</b>	<b>'17</b>	<b>'18</b>	<b>'19</b>	'20	<b>'21</b>	'22	<b>23</b>
17	Orlando Health Cancer Institute Bone Marrow	20	80.0	60.1	38.6	78.3										1
	Transplant and Cellular Therapy															
98	Indiana Blood & Marrow Transplantation	108	87.0	73.7	65.5	81.5	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1	0	0	1
108	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	127	85.8	76.1	68.8	83.1	-1	-1	-1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
121	USC BMT Program	151	89.2	79.0	72.7	85.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
<b>1</b> 48	University of Colorado Hospital	224	79.3	72.7	67.1	78.3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
154	Massachusetts General Hospital	264	82.1	76.5	71.5	81.4	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
157	The Blood and Marrow Transplant Program at Northside	271	81.9	72.4	67.3	77.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hospital															
172	Moffitt Cancer Center	566	78.7	73.3	69.9	76.9	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
174	The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at	649	81.8	78.2	75.2	81.3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
	Johns Hopkins															
175	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center	672	81.9	76.9	73.9	80.0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
176	Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center	759	79.3	74.1	71.2	77.2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
178	City of Hope National Medical Center	1077	79.0	76.0	73.6	78.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1

Note: -1 indicates under-performing; 1 indicates over-performing; 0 indicates performing as predicted. The report year indicated in the header applies to unrelated and related HCTs performed in a 3-year period preceding the report year with a 1-year gap, e.g., 2014 includes unrelated and related HCTs performed in 2010-2012.

30<sup>th</sup> overall in terms of volume of transplants

C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program (CWBYCTP) Stem Cell Therapeutic Outcomes Database (SCTOD)

## Important consideration for transplant, particularly in MDS:

## Does the risk of doing the transplant outweigh the risks of the disease?

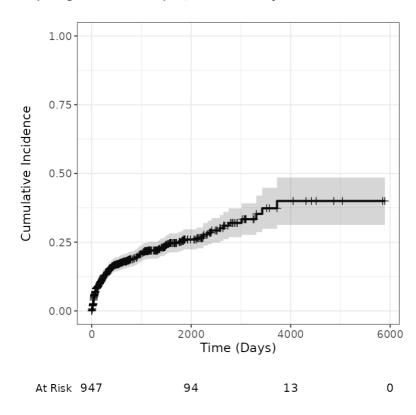
- Older patient, lower risk disease transplant likely will not provide benefit
- 2. Younger, higher risk disease transplant likely will benefit
- 3. Younger, lower risk disease?
- 4. Middle age, moderate risk disease?

### Why don't we do transplants for everyone?

- Significant treatment related mortality (TRM)

#### CI of TRM

Competing outcomes: relapse, death from any other cause

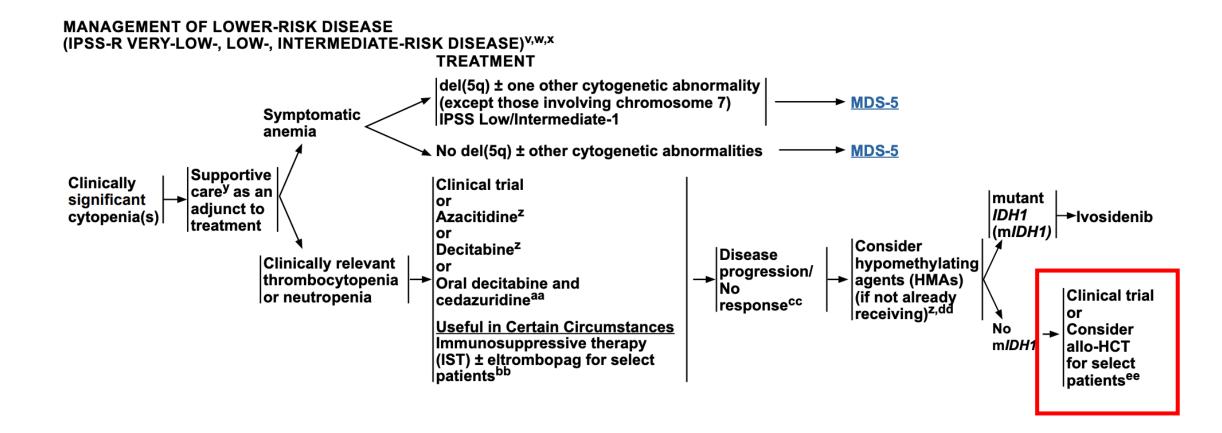


#### Major causes of TRM:

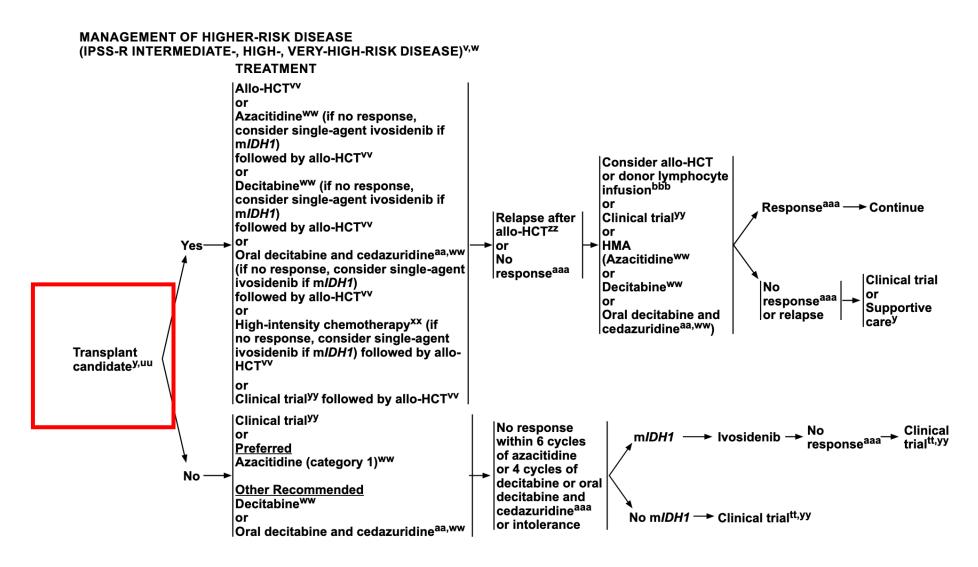
- 1. Infections post-transplant
- 2. GVHD
- 3. Complications due to anemia and low platelets
- 4. Graft failure

Clinical trials: ongoing to reduce TRM, reduce GVHD, improve cure rates - not MDS specific, but could help for patients with MDS

### NCCN guidelines for lower-risk MDS



### NCCN guidelines for higher-risk MDS



## Chasing the cure: Cell therapies?

The graft-versus-leukemic effect of transplanis thought to be the main cure for MDS

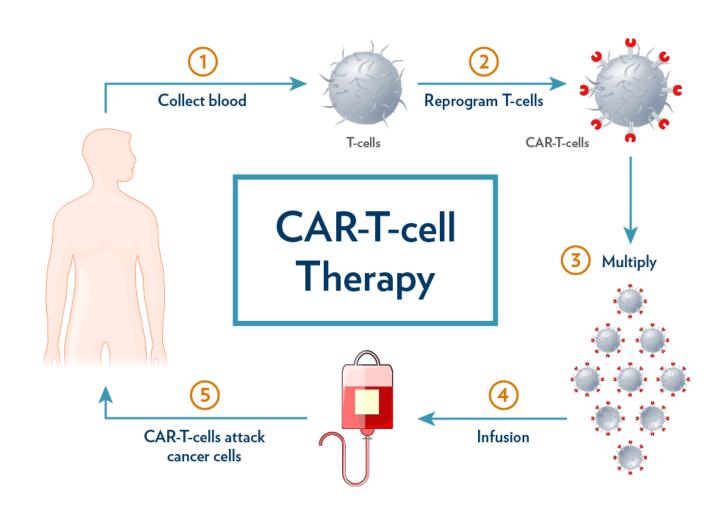
How can we harness this immune effect?

Proof of concept: Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells in Lymphoma and myeloma

 Many FDA approved, hundreds of trials ongoing

Barrier in myeloid diseases: stem cell disease so cell therapies destroy the whole blood/immune system

- Can do this, but have to follow with transplant



### CAR-T clinical trial for MDS

Clinical Trial > Lancet Haematol. 2023 Mar;10(3):e191-e202. doi: 10.1016/S2352-3026(22)00378-7. Epub 2023 Feb 7.

CYAD-01, an autologous NKG2D-based CAR T-cell therapy, in relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndromes or multiple myeloma (THINK): haematological cohorts of the dose escalation segment of a phase 1 trial

25% response rate in r/r AML and MDS (only 1) patients No treatment related deaths

PMCID: PMC9897055

PMID: 36741006

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Emerging issue with CAR-Ts:

High risk-myelodysplastic syndrome following CAR T-cell therapy in a patient with relapsed diffuse large B cell lymphoma: A case report and literature review

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#### **Conclusions:**

- Transplants are not for everyone
  - can be curative but carry significant risk
- Ongoing studies in transplant to reduce relapse and improve safety
- CAR-Ts and other cell therapies might work, but several hurdles to success

**THANKS/Questions?**