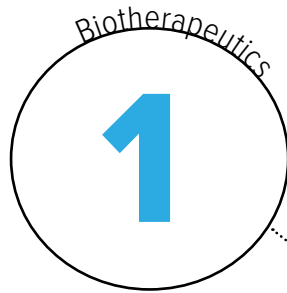


Developing T cells that target antigens specific to lymphoid cancers

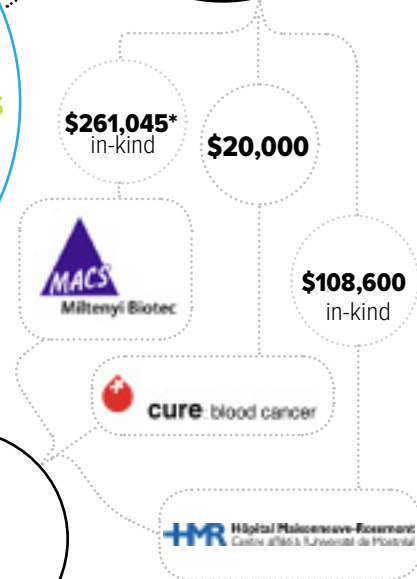
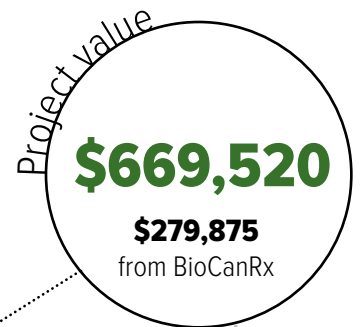
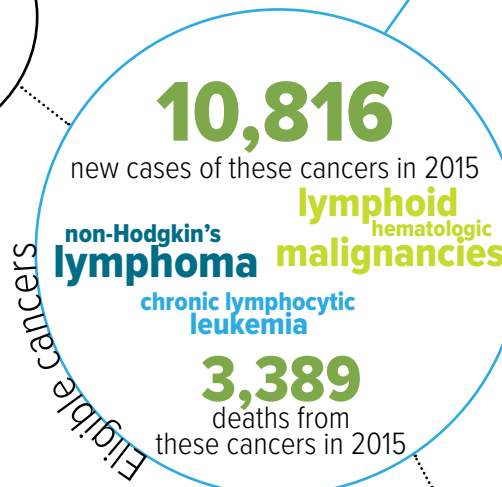
October 1, 2015 to March 31, 2017

Highlights

- This therapeutic approach involves isolating and propagating T cells that can recognize and attack specific antigens in blood cancers
- This is the first time a proteomic approach has been used to discover and validate MiHAs in human lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)
- Success would lead to more consistent, more effective and safer treatment of blood cancers compared to allogeneic transplantation



MiHA T cells
 T cells targeted to minor histocompatibility antigens (MiHAs)



About the project

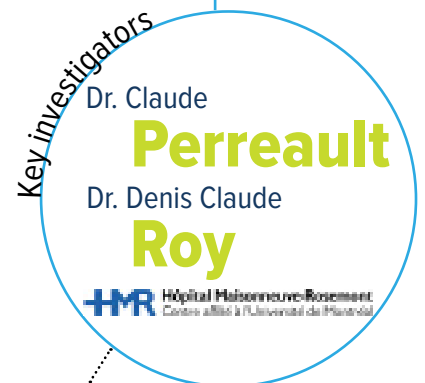
In Canada, approximately half of the 16,000 people diagnosed with hematologic cancers (HCs) every year develop resistance to chemotherapy and die, representing an estimated 60,000 years of potential life lost.

For these patients, allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (AHCT) is the sole curative treatment. However, there are two major problems with traditional ACHT: it has variable anti-cancer effects and comes with the risk of a devastating complication called graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), in which the donor cells attack the patient.

Research has shown that the curative effects of AHCT result from immune cells that are able to recognize and target the cancer cell's minor histocompatibility antigens (MiHAs), which are small cell-surface proteins that function as signals for cells of the immune system. Preclinical and clinical studies suggest that the injection of T cells primed against a single MiHA can cure HCs without causing any GVHD.

The project team has identified 39 MiHAs expressed by hematopoietic cells using samples from 1,000 patients with hematologic cancers (e.g., non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), but not acute leukemias). They want to identify and validate the best candidates for a clinical trial, and develop a protocol for submission the Health Canada.

Using T cells that target specific MiHAs has the potential to transform care for patients with blood cancers.



Enabling Study investigators



Vancouver
 BC Cancer Agency,
 University of British Columbia
Clinical advisor
 Dr. Raewyn Broady

Calgary
 Tom Baker Cancer Centre,
 University of Calgary
Clinical advisor
 Dr. Andrew Daly

Montreal
 Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemount, Université de Montréal
Scientific investigators
 Dr. Denis Claude Roy
 Dr. Claude Perreault
 Dr. Jean-Sebastien Delisle

Ottawa
 The Ottawa Hospital, University of Ottawa
Clinical advisor
 Dr. David Allan

Hamilton
 McMaster University
Scientific investigator
 Dr. Jonathan Bramson

BioCanRx
\$279,875
 approved on
 Sept. 29, 2015

Partner contributions

<p>Cure: Blood Cancer \$20,000 To fund any part of the project</p>	<p>Miltenyi Biotec \$261,045* To provide reagents for the isolation of MiHA peptide responding T cells</p>	<p>Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemount \$108,600 To provide access to a validated cGMP cell manufacturing facility</p>
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* US\$200,000 using the median Bank of Canada rate of exchange of CA \$1.305 for October 2015

October 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

- Test shipping conditions with cells collected from donors
- Generate cytotoxic cell lines with anti-MiHA activity (fresh and frozen)
- Identify primary NHL, CLL and peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC) samples

April 1 to September 30, 2016

- Evaluate shipping samples for identity and purity
- Transcriptome analysis of samples (MAP identification and quantification)
- Start development of clinical trial protocol

October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

- Measure polyfunctionality of fresh versus frozen initial and final blood products
- Select best MiHA profiles
- Perform dry and wet runs
- Finalize clinical trial protocol
- File Clinical Trial Application

The power to kill cancer lies within us.
 Let's tell our bodies how.

