

# Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies for HIV Prevention

Nyaradzo M. Mgodi (MBChB, MMed) AMP protocol co-chair

University of Zimbabwe
College of Health Sciences
Clinical Trials Research Centre

MTN Regional Meeting
Cape Town
10 September 2019



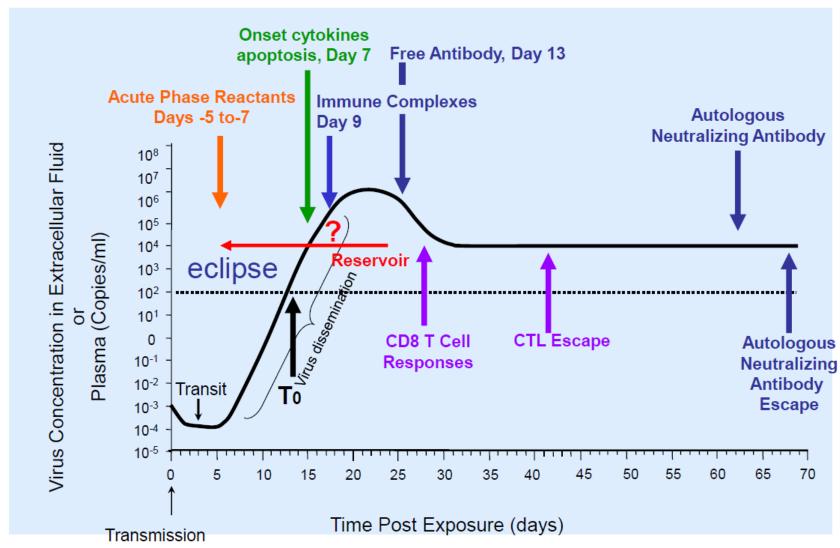
## Conflict of interest declaration

I have no conflicts of interest to declare

# Presentation outline

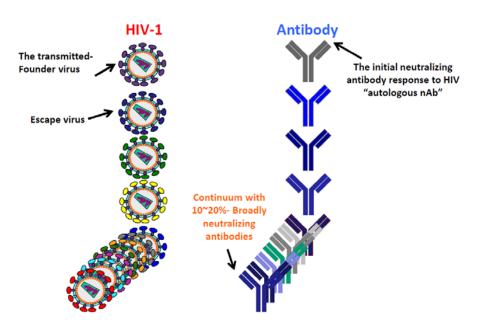
- The biology of HIV infection
  - transmission, eclipse, peak viraemia, viral set point
- Immune response to HIV infection
- Broadly neutralising antibodies (bnAbs)
- The AMP studies
- Next generation bnAbs
  - Combination/tri-specific antibodies
- Summary

# The biology of HIV infection



## Immune response to HIV

- B-cell responses to HIV-1 develop within approx. 1 week of detectable viraemia
- Initially, Ag-Ab complexes
- Circulating anti-gp41 antibodies within days
- Circulating anti-gp120 antibodies weeks later
- bnAbs against the infecting strain appear months later in ~20% of infected people, are not able to neutralise more divergent viruses
- Autologous bnAbs drive immune escape contemporaneous viruses are less sensitive to autologous bnAbs than earlier strains
- "Today's antibodies can neutralize yesterday's virus." AVAC



## Broadly neutralising antibodies

# Broadly neutralizing bnAbs to 5 major regions of Env

- V1V2-Glycan binds to trimer cap
- V3-glycan, N332 supersite
- gp41 MPER near membrane
- gp120/41 interface bind to parts of both gp120 and gp41
- CD4 binding site of gp120 where the virus attaches to CD4

Antibodies (VRC01, 3BNC117) and others in early phase clinical trials

#### Many isolated 2009 - present

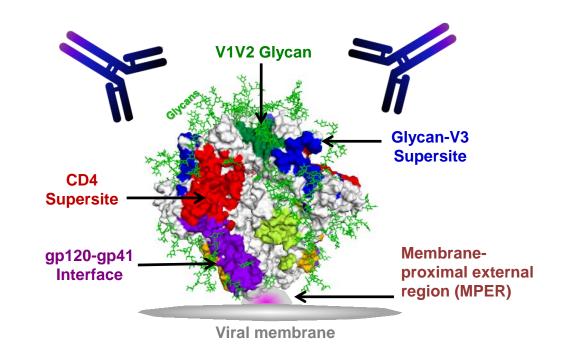


Image by Stewart-Jones, Doria-Rose, Stuckey Adapted from Stewart-Jones et al Cell 2016 and Pancera et al Nature 2014

#### $AMP = \underline{A}ntibody \underline{M}ediated \underline{P}revention$



# Can a passively infused monoclonal antibody (VRC01) prevent HIV-1 infection in high risk adults?



#### Two harmonized protocols:

The AMP Studies:

HVTN 704/HPTN 085
( 2700 MSM and TG in the Americas, Europe)
HVTN 703/HPTN 081
( 1900 Women in sub-Saharan Africa)

Chairs – L Corey, M Cohen Co-Chairs – S Edupuganti, N M Mgodi





# AMP Study design

HVTN 704/ HVTN 703/ HPTN 085 HPTN 081

REGIMEN	MSM & TG in the Americas	Women in sub-Saharan Africa	TOTAL	
VRC01 10 mg/kg	900	634	1534	10 infusions total
VRC01 30 mg/kg	900	634	1534	& Infusions every 8 weeks
Control	900	634	1534	
Total	2700	1900	4600	Study duration: ~22 months

- All subjects provided an HIV prevention package
- Two different infusion doses: important to know if lower dose of 10 mg/kg can protect
  - Powered to associate mAb serum level with protection

PRIMARY

## AMP Study: Objectives and endpoints

- Safety & Tolerability of VRC01 infusion
  - Reactogenicity, AEs, SAEs, discontinuation rates
- Efficacy to prevent HIV infection
  - HIV infection by week 80 in those HIV-negative at enrollment

- Develop a marker(s) of VRC01 that correlates with the level and antigenic specificity of efficacy
  - Serum VRC01 concentration
  - Serum mAb effector functions
  - Breakthrough HIV viral sequences in infected people
  - VRC01 neutralization sensitivity of, & effector functions against, HIV strains from infected trial participants

#### AMP timelines and successes

**Sep 2019** 

F-up continues

98% Adherence

96% Retention

No safety concerns



Q1 2021

Database lock then

Primary results



April/May 2016

Both trials

started

**Sep/Oct 2018** 

**Enrolment complete** 

**1,924** in SSA

99% Black

50% <25 years

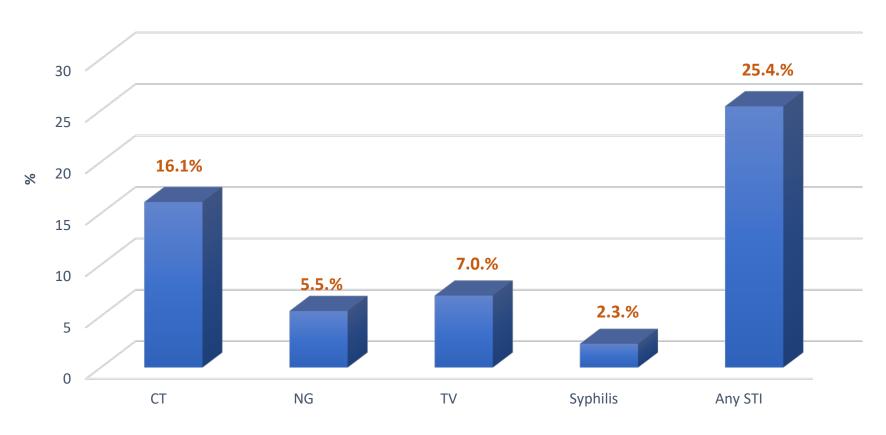


Q4 2020

LPV

Sometime
in the future
Effective preventive
HIV vaccine

# AMP SSA Baseline Sexually Transmitted Infections



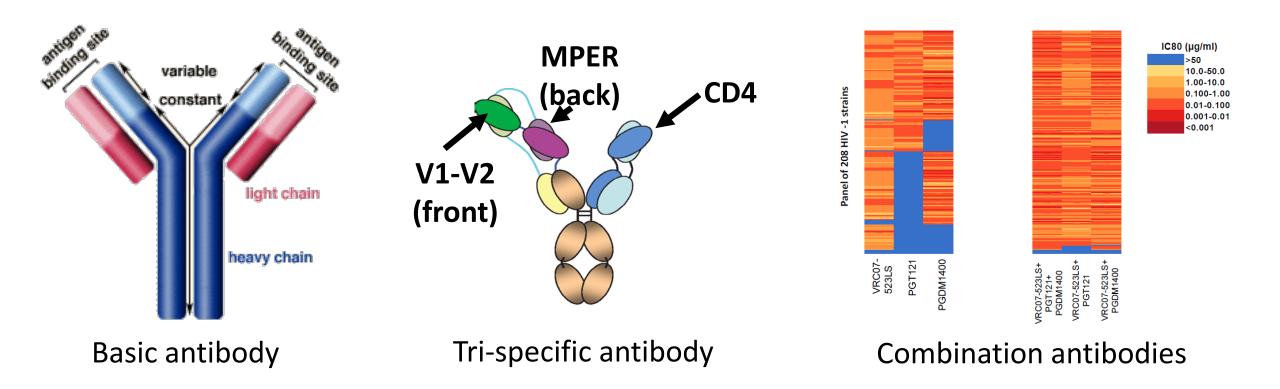
**Sexually Transmitted Infection** 

### Lessons learnt - STIs

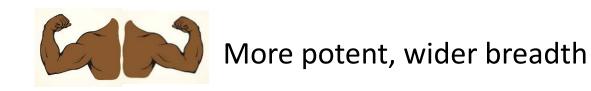
- Prevalence of treatable STIs high among African women at substantial risk for HIV infection
- Majority are asymptomatic
- The prevention and control of STIs should be an integral part of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and HIV prevention services.







## Next generation broadly neutralising antibodies

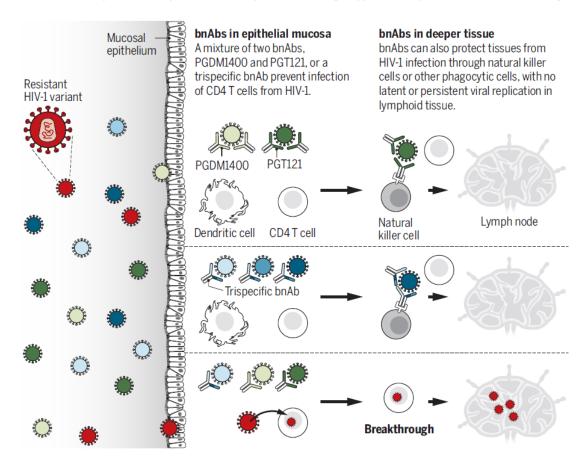


### Lessons learnt from ART – combination bnAbs

- HIV-1 exhibits genetic diversity and viral escape mechanisms
- Prudent to consider using a combination approach
- Like antiretroviral therapy, combinations of mAbs may reduce the likelihood of viral escape, and increase neutralization breadth
- Combining multiple bnAbs with specificities against different epitopes into a single molecule has the potential to:
  - improve efficacy
  - simplify prevention and treatment regimens
  - streamline the regulatory pathway to a licensed drug
- Trispecific mAbs derived from bnAbs with CD4bs, MPER, and V1V2 glycan specificities demonstrate remarkable breadth and potency in vitro and in vivo

#### bnAbs prevent HIV-1

Combinations of bnAbs and a trispecific antibody can bind to virions and prevent HIV-1 mucosal infection and elicit antiviral responses in deeper tissue. It is hoped this multitarget approach will prevent resistant breakthrough.



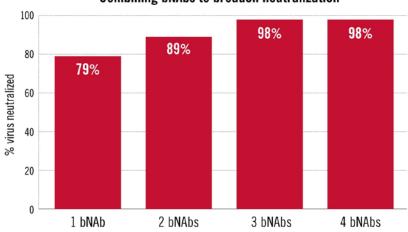
#### **BROADLY NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODY COMBINATIONS**

As with antiretroviral combinations used in treatment to control the virus, passive immunization of broadly neutralizing antibodies to protect against HIV will likely require two or more bNAbs that target different parts of the virus. There are many factors to consider when selecting bNAb combinations, including how many bNAbs and which ones work best together. Here we outline the bNAb combinations being explored in early clinical studies.

bNAb Cocktails: Two or more antibodies in a regimen				
Regimen	Status	Research Institution		
YY	Phase I, Ongoing	Rockefeller University		
YY	Phase I, Planned	NIAID		
YY	Phase I, Suspended	NIAID		
YY	Phase I, Planned	CAPRISA, NIAID		
YY	Phase I, Ongoing	BIDMC, IAVI, NIAID		
YY	Phase I, Planned	CAPRISA, BIDMC, NIAID		
YY	Phase I, Ongoing	BIDMC, IAVI		
<b>YYY</b>	Phase I, Ongoing	BIDMC, IAVI, NIAID		
YYYY	Phase I, Planned	Columbia University		

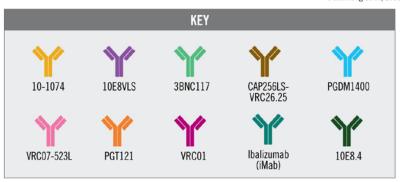
Multispecific: Parts of two or more antibodies on a single antibody				
Regimen	Status	Research Institution		
	Phase I, Planned	Sanofi, NIAID		
	Phase I, Ongoing	Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center (ADARC)		

#### Combining bNAbs to broaden neutralization\*



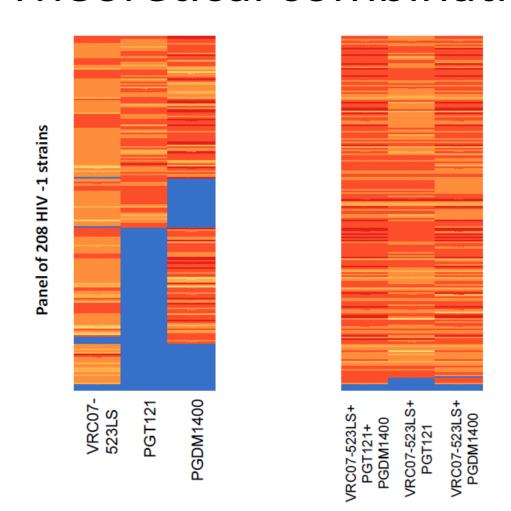
Different antibodies have different neutralizing activities. Modeling and preclinical studies suggest that combining bNAbs may lead to broader neutralization compared to giving bNAbs alone, and multispecific antibodies might perform better than combinations. Clinical trials will validate whether these differences are seen in humans, and guide selection of best antibodies and combinations types.

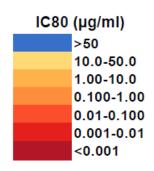
\*Data: Kong et al., 2015

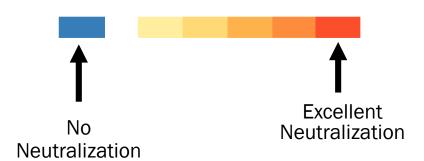




### Theoretical combinations of bnAbs







Adapted from M Cohen and T Gamble

# Next generation bnAbs Summary

- If virus is targeted by multiple or tri-specific bnAbs, then escape is difficult.
- Use of trispecific bnAbs or combinations of bnAbs anticipated to improve efficacy through both better coverage and higher potency.
- Unlike AMP, a proof-of-concept study,
- The goal of these studies is to identify the best regimens for moving to a licensure trial.

## Acknowledgements

- Mike Cohen
- Wafaa el Sadr
- Larry Corey
- Sri Edupuganti
- Nirupama Sista
- Mike Chirenje
- Theresa Gamble
- Lisa Donohue

And the many participants, research communities and researchers who have helped develop studies that will end the HIV epidemic!



