

# **VS-4718 FAK INHIBITOR**

**NON-CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY** 

**DECEMBER 2015** 

## **Verastem Company Summary**

- Verastem (VSTM) is a publically traded Biotechnology company based in Boston, MA
  - —Founded in 2010 by Robert Weinberg (MIT) & Eric Lander (Broad Institute)
- Focused on development of small molecule anticancer drugs that target the tumor microenvironment for durable response
  - –Cancer Stem Cells (CSCs)
  - -Immune cell modulation
  - Tumor stromal density



# **VS-4718 Objectives for CRUK Combinations Alliance**

- Update on VS-4718 Development path
  - -VS-4718 is an oral small molecule FAK/PYK2 kinase inhibitor
  - Phase 1 dose finding study nearing completion to define RP2D
  - Phase 1 combination study of VS-4718 with gemcitabine/Nab-paclitaxel in 1<sup>st</sup> line pancreatic cancer in progress
- Explore selected combinations of interest with VS-4718
  - —Immune checkpoint inhibitors
  - Other immuno-oncology agents
  - -Targeted agents of other classes
- Open to additional novel combinations and indications with strong scientific rationale

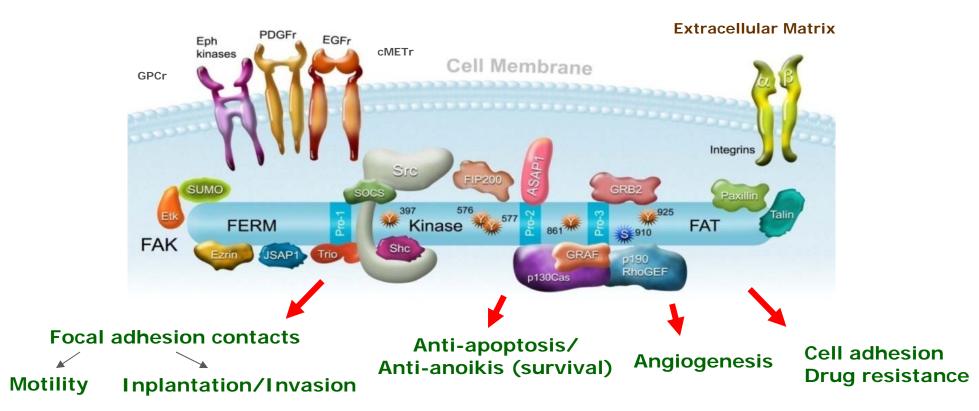


# **VS-4718 Scientific Rationale**



## **FAK as an Anti-Cancer Target**

- FAK (Focal Adhesion Kinase) is a non-receptor tyrosine kinase activated in response to Integrin and Growth Factor receptor stimulation
- FAK activation triggers signaling pathways essential for tumor cell proliferation, survival, migration, invasion, angiogenesis and resistance to chemo- & radiation therapy
- FAK inhibition blocks both primary tumor growth & metastasis



Brunton VG & Frame MC. *Curr Opin Pharmacol.* 2008;8:427 Schlaepfer DD et al. *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 2004;1692:77



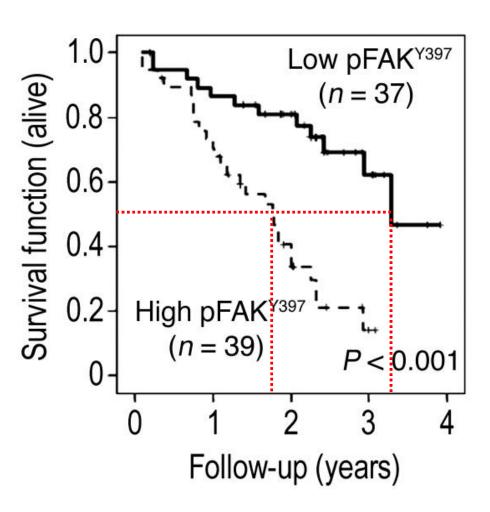
# **FAK is Highly Expressed in Advanced Stages of Cancer**

Tissue	Normal	Benign	Pre-Invasive	Invasive	Metastatic	Reference
Breast		-		+++	++++	Lancet 342:1024, 1993.
	+/-			+++	++++	Cancer Res 55: 2752, 1995.
		+	+++	+++		Clin Cancer Res 6: 2417, 2000.
	+/-			+/+++		J Gastroenterol 8: 613, 2002.
Colon	-	+		++++	+++++	Lancet 342:1024, 1993.
	+	-	+++	+++	+++	Cancer Res 55: 2752,1995.
	+				+++	Ann Surg Oncol 4: 264, 1997.
		+	+++	+++		Clin Cancer Res 6: 2417, 2000.
	+			+++	++	Clin Cancer Res 7: 3106, 2001.
	+/-			++/+++		J Gastroenterol 8: 613, 2002.
Thyroid	+	+		+/+++	++++	Ann Surg Oncol 3: 100, 1996.
Prostate	+/-	+		+	+++	Int J Cancer 68: 164, 1996.
	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	Prostate 53: 124, 2002.
Head-Neck	-/++		+++	+/++++		Head Neck 20: 634, 1998.
Liver	-			+++		Clin Cancer Res 10: 2812, 2004
	+			+++++		Br J Cancer 85: 228, 2001.
	+/-			++/+++		J Gastroenterol 8: 613, 2002.
Stomach	+/-			++/+++		J Gastroenterol 8: 613, 2002.
Ovary	+			++++		Cancer 86: 1551, 1999.
Glioma	-	-	+	-	+++++	Pediatr Neurosurg 33: 49, 2000.
	-		-	+	++	J Cell Sci 113: 421, 2000.
		-	++	++	++	Cancer Res 61: 5688, 2001.
	+			+++		Cancer Res 62: 2699, 2002.



## **High pFAK Correlates with Poor Prognosis in Ovarian Cancer**

 High tumor FAK and pFAK expression correlate with poor survival (Sood et al., J Clin Invest 2010)





# VS-4718 is a potent FAK/PYK2 inhibitor

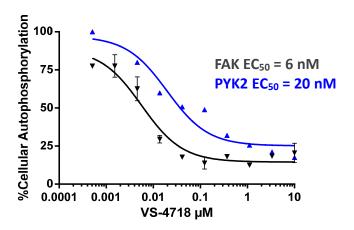
VS-4718 FAK/PYK2 dual kinase inhibitor (orally available)

#### Biochemical Assay:

In vitro Inhibition of:	IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)
Recombinant Focal Adhesion Kinase <sup>1</sup>	22

<sup>1</sup>Z-Lyte Kinase Assay

#### Cellular Assay:



- Preferentially targets cancer stem cells in vitro & in vivo
- Strong preclinical rationale for an Immuno-oncology role
- Broad, robust anti-tumor efficacy in xenograft, PDX & syngeneic models
- Phase I dose escalation nearing completion to define RP2D
  - Generally well tolerated to date and the expected on-target effects are clinically manageable

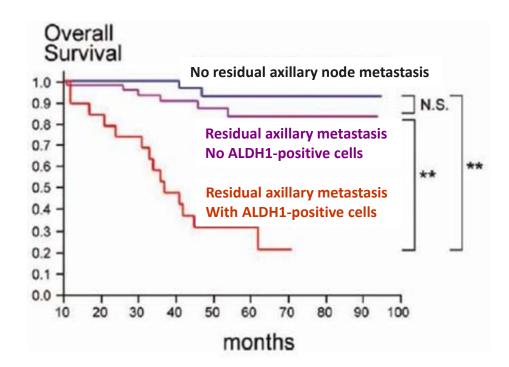


VS-4718 Preferentially Targets Cancer Stem Cells (CSCs)



# Cancer Stem Cells (CSCs) in the tumor microenvironment

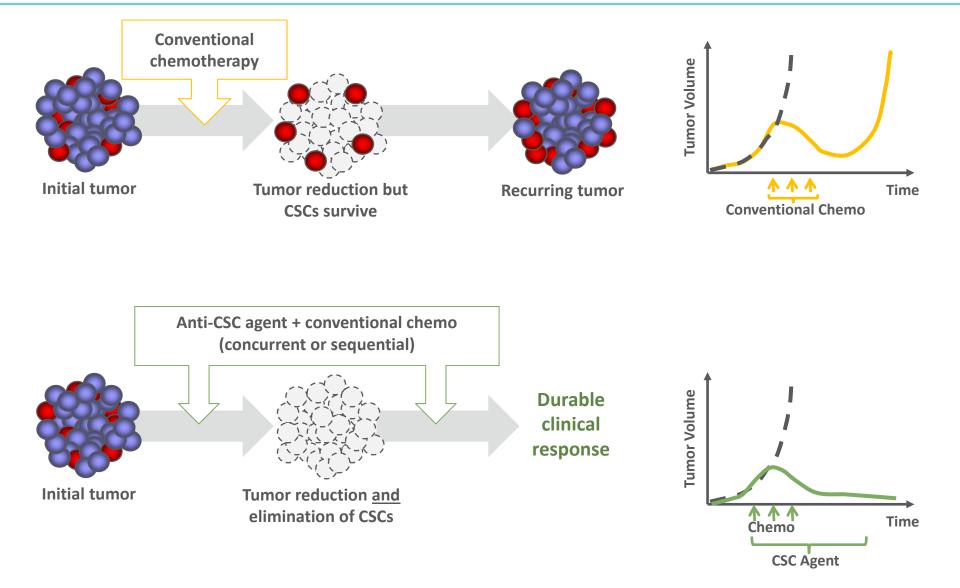
- Tumors are heterogeneous in composition
  - Bulk tumor (may be effectively targeted by chemotherapy)
  - –Cancer stem cells (CSCs)
    - Resistant to chemotherapy and enriched by chemotherapy
    - Mediate cancer recurrence & metastasis
    - Functionally defined by their tumor-initiating capability
    - May be identified by specific markers (e.g. ALDH; CD133; SOX2)
  - -Absence of CSC markers in residual tumor are indicators of good prognosis



- N = 115 patients with confirmed lymph node metastases at diagnosis
- Standard neoadjuvant chemotherapy: AC x 4 followed by weekly PTX x 12
- ALDH1 assessed by IHC
- \*\* p<0.001</li>



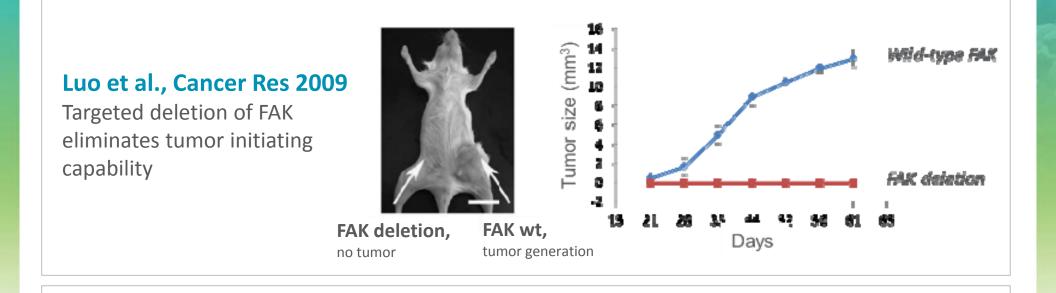
# **Targeting Cancer Stem Cells for a Durable Clinical Response**



VS-4718 combinations are potentially important to target both cancer stem cells & bulk tumor for a more durable clinical response

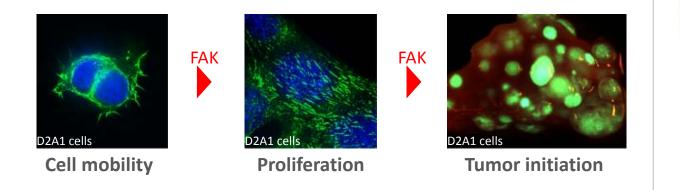


# FAK is critical for Cancer Stem Cell tumor-initiating capability



# Shibue et al. Cancer Discovery 2012

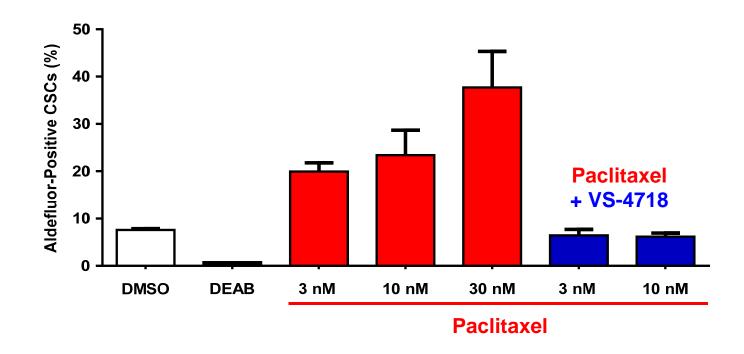
FAK is critical for cancer cells undergoing EMT (epithelialmesenchymal transition) to become CSCs capable of generating macrometastases





# VS-4718 blocks enrichment of CSCs by standard of care chemotherapy

#### MDA-MB-231 TNBC cell line:

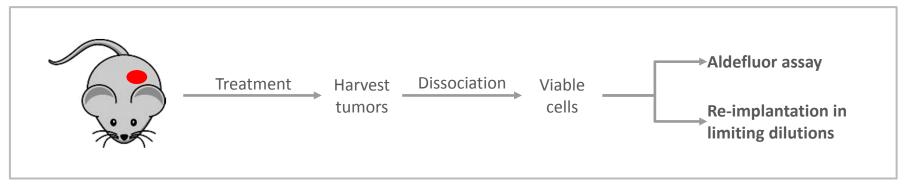


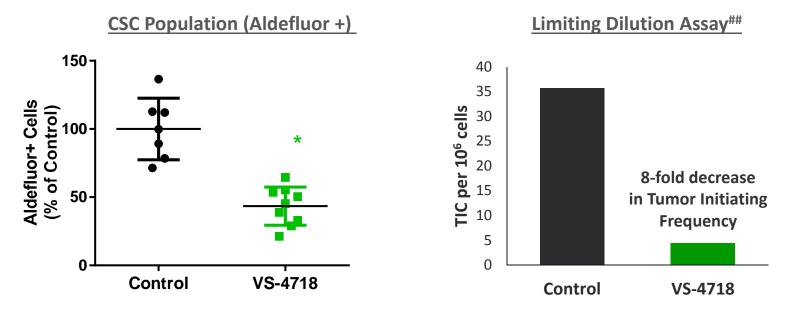
- Standard of care (SoC) chemotherapy agents enrich CSCs
- Single agent FAK inhibitor decreases the proportion of CSCs
- FAK inhibitor in combination with SoC chemotherapy blocks CSC enrichment



### VS-4718 preferentially targets CSCs in vivo

#### VS-4718 treatment, MDA-MB-231 TNBC model:

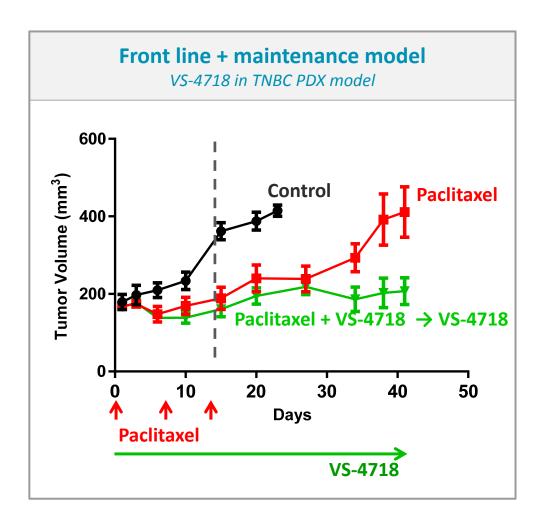




\*\*\* The Limiting Dilution assay is a gold-standard functional assay for cancer stem cells



# VS-4718 extends efficacy after discontinuation of chemotherapy

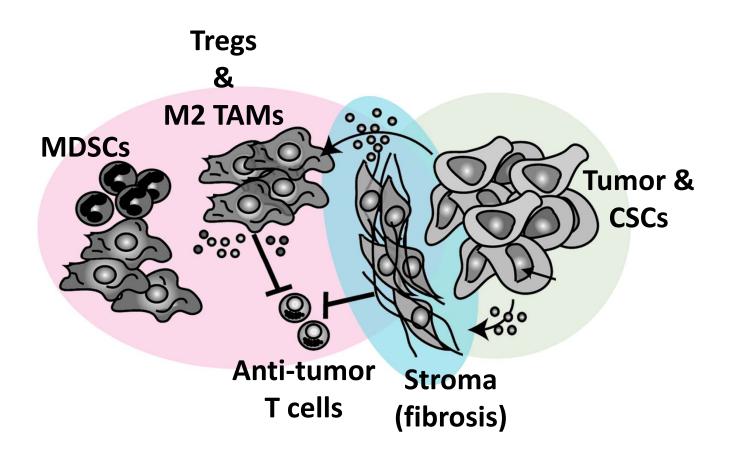




# Immuno-Oncology role for VS-4718



# Potential modulation of the immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment by FAK inhibitors



# Modulate Tumor Immune Cell Populations

to enhance efficacy of immuno-therapeutics

#### **Reduce Stromal Density**

to improve drug & CD8+ T cell penetration To tumor

#### **Reduce Cancer Stem Cells**

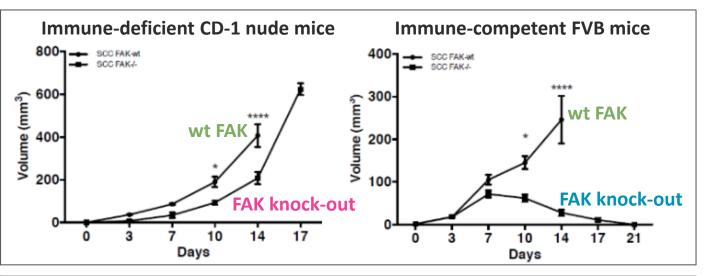
in addition to bulk tumor for more durable response



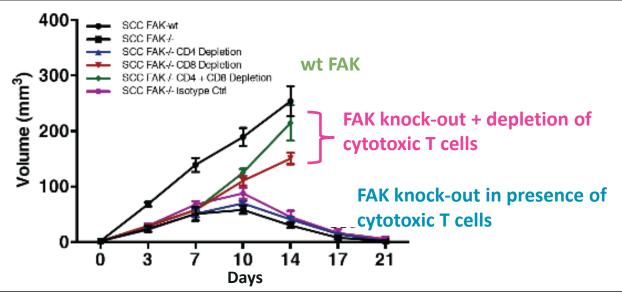
# FAK knockout-induced bulk tumor regression is dependent on the presence of CD8+ T cells

#### FAK knockout, SCC 7.1 cell line:

Tumor reduction through FAK knock-out is dependent on the presence of an immunocompetent setting



Specifically, FAK knock-out mediated tumor reduction is dependent on the presence of cytotoxic (CD8+) T cells

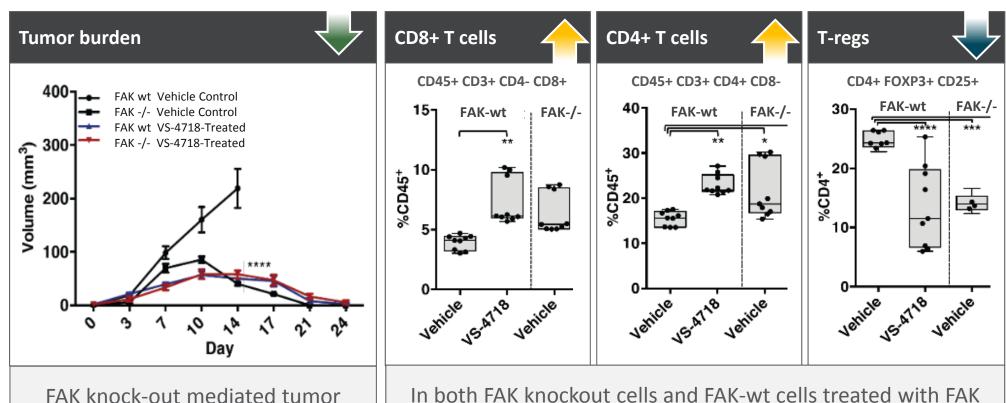


Serrels et al. (2015) Cell 163: 160



# Treatment with FAK inhibitor replicates tumor regression, and correlates with increase in cytotoxic T cells & reduction in immunosuppressive Tregs

FAK knockout vs. FAK inhibitor treatment, SCC 7.1 cell line:



In both FAK knockout cells and FAK-wt cells treated with FAK inhibitor, reduction in tumor burden is correlated with increase in T cells and reduction in immunosuppressive T-regs

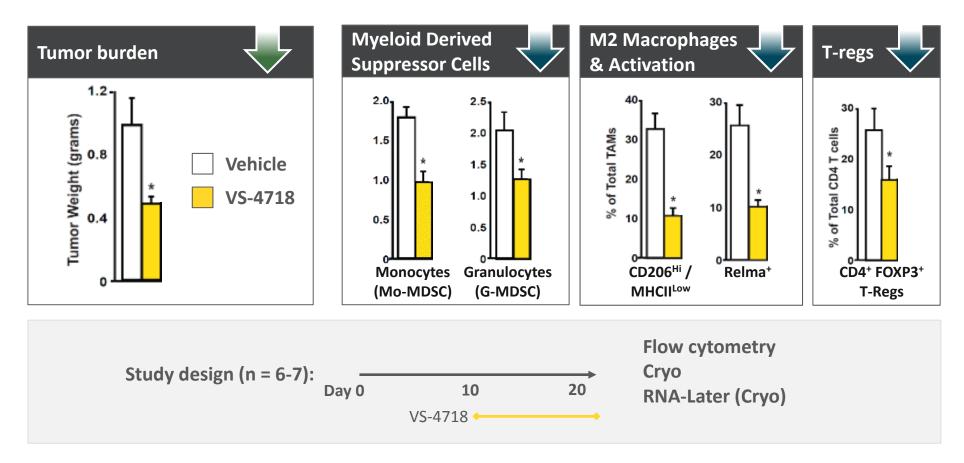
Serrels et al. (2015) *Cell* <u>163</u>: 160

regression is replicated with FAK

inhibitor treatment

# VS-4718 treatment reduces immunosuppressive MDSCs, M2 Macrophages & Tregs in tumor microenvironment

VS-4718 treatment, KRas-INK orthotopic pancreatic cancer model\*\*:



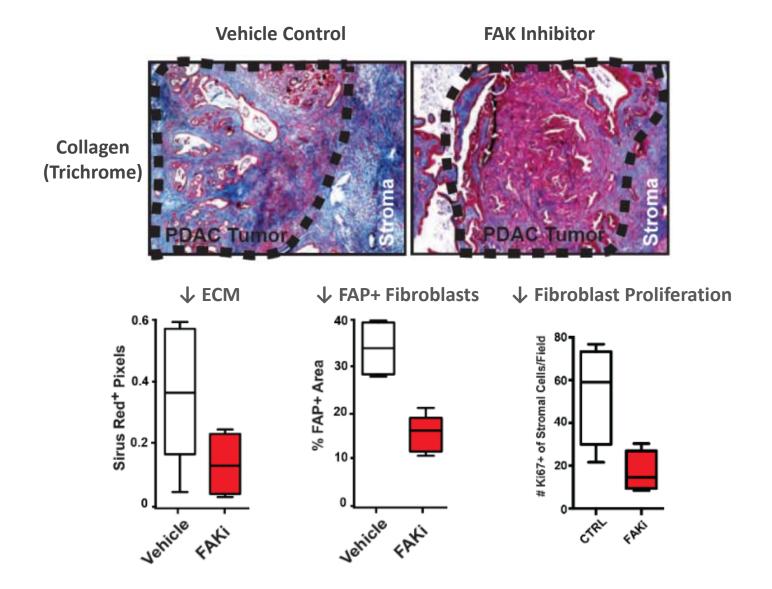
<sup>\*\*</sup> Similar reductions in tumor MDSCs, TAMs & T-regs observed in skin, lung & breast cancer models

Source: D DeNardo, Washington University



### VS-4718 reduces stromal density in pancreatic cancer transgenic model

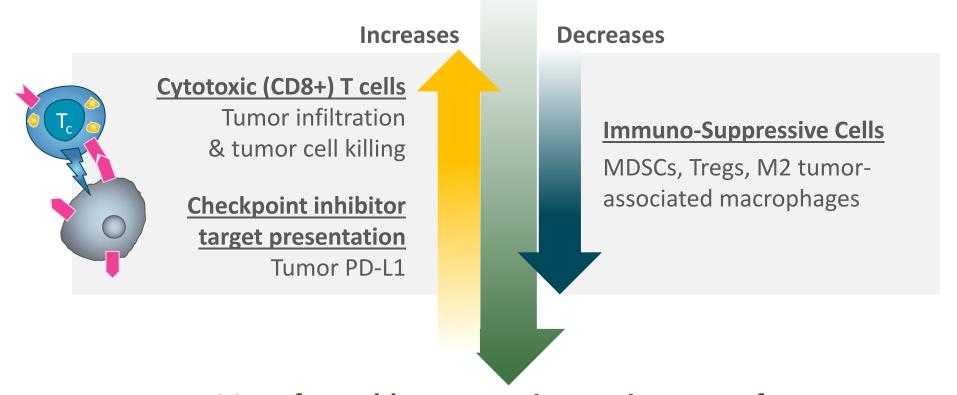
#### VS-4718, PDAC transgenic model:





# FAK inhibitor modulation creates a more favorable tumor immune microenvironment for checkpoint inhibitor efficacy

# Treatment with Verastem FAK inhibitor

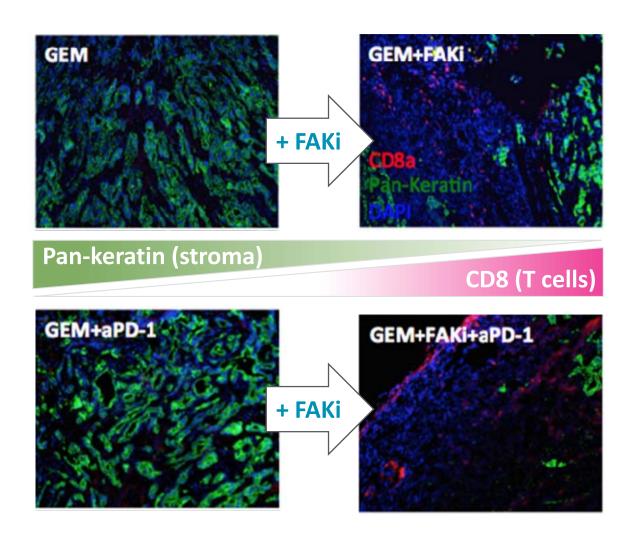


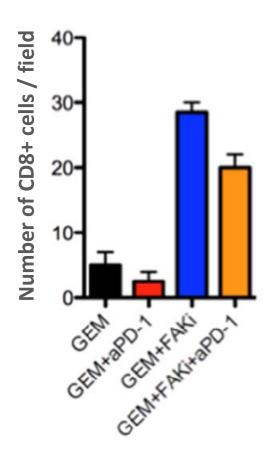
More favorable tumor microenvironment for enhanced efficacy of Immuno-Oncology therapeutics



# VS-4718 added to gemcitabine or gemcitabine + anti-PD-1 alters stroma and boosts CD8+ T cell entry

#### VS-4718, Kras/p53 pancreatic tumors:

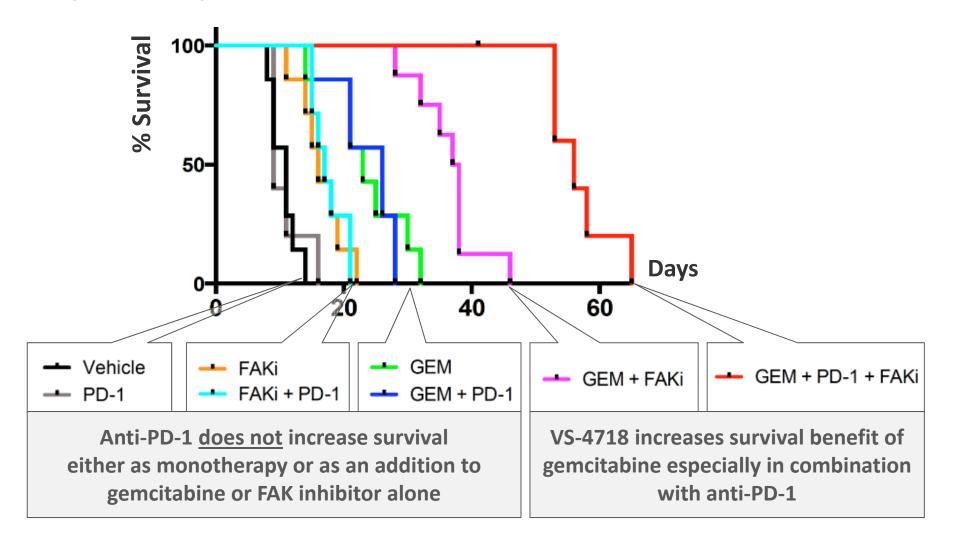






### VS-4718 opens potential for anti-PD-(L)1 in pancreatic cancer

KRas/p53 s.c KPC pancreatic cancer mouse model:

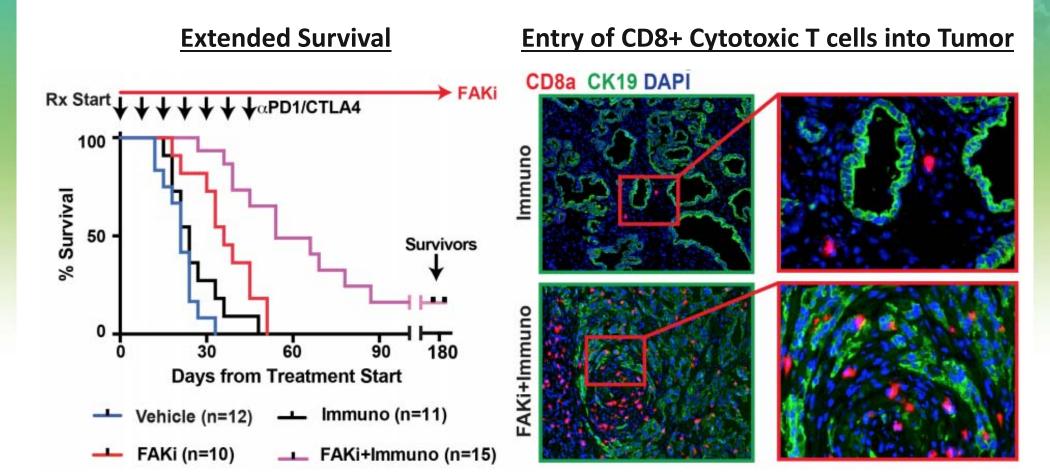


Source: D. DeNardo, Wash U



# Combination benefit retained in difficult-to-treat KPPC transgenic model

FAK inhibitor treatment, KPPC transgenic pancreatic cancer model:

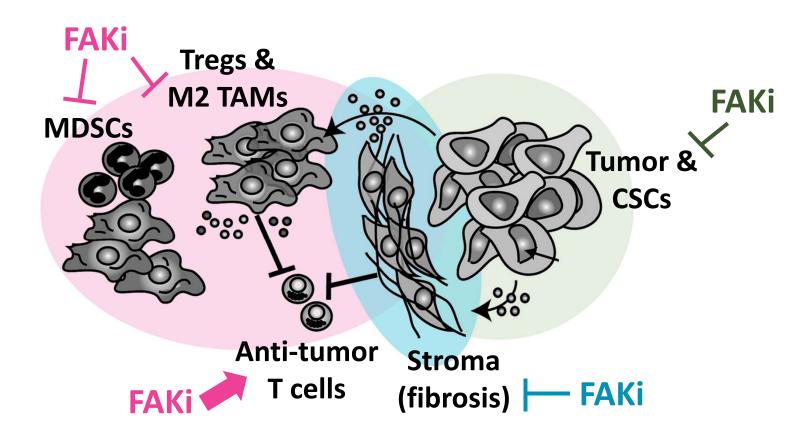


"Immuno" = anti-PD-1 + anti-CTLA-4 + GEM (25 mg/kg)

Source: D DeNardo, Washington University



# The VS-4718 mechanism-of-action creates a favorable tumor microenvironment for increased efficacy of immuno-therapeutics



# Modulate Tumor Immune Cell Populations

to enhance efficacy of immuno-therapeutics

#### **Reduce Stromal Density**

to improve drug & CD8+ T cell penetration To tumor

#### **Reduce Cancer Stem Cells**

in addition to bulk tumor for more durable response



# **VS-4718 Clinical Development**



# VS-4718-101 Phase 1 Dose Finding and Safety Study in Solid Tumors

- VS-4718-101 (NCT01849744) dose finding to define RP2D
- Dose Proportional PK during the dose escalation
  - Exposures are sufficient for sustained target coverage (>target EC<sub>50</sub>)
- Safety & PD
  - Generally well tolerated to date and the expected on-target effects are clinically manageable
- Additional data can be shared under confidentiality



# Combination with Gemcitabine/Nab-paclitaxel in pancreatic cancer

# VS-4718-103 Primary Objectives

- To determine the recommended Phase 2 dose (RP2D) of VS-4718 in combination with nab-paclitaxel and gemcitabine in subjects with advanced cancer and subjects with untreated advanced pancreatic cancer
- To assess the safety and tolerability of VS-4718 in combination with nabpaclitaxel and gemcitabine in subjects with advanced cancer and subjects with untreated advanced pancreatic cancer

#### Status

- -Study initiated in September, 2015
- Dose escalation Cohort 1 underway



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  - —Immune checkpoint inhibitors
  - Other immuno-oncology agents
  - Targeted agents of other classes
- Open to additional novel combinations and indications with strong scientific rationale



#### **Verastem Team**

# **Executive Management**

#### **Robert Forrester**

President/CEO, BOD
CEO/CFO, CombinatoRx/COLY
MeesPierson, Barclays, UBS

#### Christoph Westphal, M.D., Ph.D.

Executive Chairman of BOD, Cofounder Cofounder/CEO: MNTA, ALNY, XLRN, SIRT, VSTM Cofounder: Alnara (now Lilly), OvaScience (OVAS)

#### Jack Green

Chief Financial Officer
CFO, Genzyme Transgenics Corporation (GTC)

#### Lou Vaickus, M.D., FACP

VP, Head of Clinical Development Vertex Tolerx, Sunovion, EMD Serono

### Jonathan Pachter, Ph.D.

VP, Head of Research Head of Cancer Biology, OSI (now Astellas) Schering-Plough (now Merck)

#### **Daniel Paterson**

Chief Operating Officer CEO: The DNA Repair Co. (now On-Q-ity) PharMetrics (now IMS), Axion

# **Board of Directors**

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#### Louise Phanstiel

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BOD: BIIB; NBIX, RIGL



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Co-founder & Chairman of SAB

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Former SVP/Head – R & D, SIRT (now GSK) Millennium (co-developed Velcade®)

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Yale Medical School

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George Daley, M.D., Ph.D.

Director – Stem Cell Program Harvard Medical School/HHMI Max Wicha, M.D.

Director – University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center

Eric Winer, M.D.

Director – Breast Oncology Center Dana Farber Cancer Institute/HMS



## Published information on VS-4718 as a CSC agent

### • Publications:

- Shapiro et al. (2014) Merlin deficiency predicts for FAK inhibitor sensitivity: A synthetic lethal relationship. SCIENCE TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE 6: 237ra68.
- Meads et al. (2015) Targeting PYK2 Mediate Microenvironment-Specific Myeloma Cell Death. ONCOGENE
- Zhang et al. (2015) Proline-rich Tyrosine Kinase (Pyk2) Promotes Tumor Progression in Multiple Myeloma. BLOOD <u>124</u>: 2675.

# AACR, San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, EORTC presentations

- Weaver et al. Minisymposium at AACR 2015; Targeting Cancer Stem Cells to Impede Tumor Progression
- Kolev et al. FAK and PI3K/mTOR inhibitors target cancer stem cells: Implications for SCLC treatment strategies, AACR 2015
- Kolev et al. FAK inhibitors VS-6063 and VS-4718 target cancer stem cells: Implications for TNBC sequential and combination therapies, SABCS 2014
- Kolev et al. Pharmacological and Genetic Inhibition of FAK Attenuates Cancer Stem Cell Function In Vitro and In Vivo , AACR 2013
- Xu et al. The FAK Inhibitors VS-4718 and VS-5095 Attenuate Breast Cancer Stem Cell Function in vitro and Tumor Growth in vivo, AACR 2012



# Published information on VS-4718 in Immuno-Oncology

## • CELL journal publication:

—Serrels et al. (2015) Nuclear FAK Controls Chemokine Transcription, Tregs, and Evasion of Anti-Tumor Immunity. CELL 163: 160.

# • EORTC/AACR/NCI and SITC meetings November, 2015:

- -Jiang et al. (2015) Targeting Focal Adhesion Kinase Reprograms the Pancreatic Tumor Microenvironment and Renders Pancreas Cancer Responsive to Checkpoint Immunotherapy
- Ring et al. (2015) FAK/PYK2 Inhibitor VS-4718 Enhances Immune
   Checkpoint Inhibitor Efficacy

