

**Therapeutic approaches for a
sustainable remission and cure
for HIV**

Steven Deeks, MD
Professor of Medicine
Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases and Global
Medicine
University of California, San Francisco



This activity is jointly provided by Physicians' Research Network and the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Therapeutic approaches for a sustainable remission and cure

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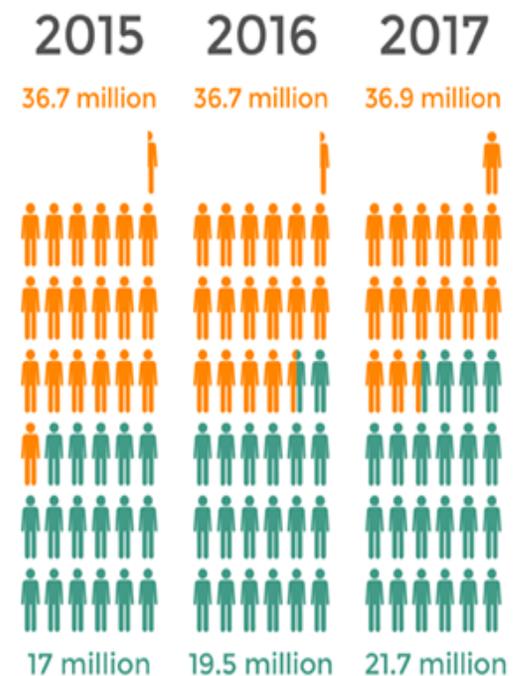
Zuckerberg San Francisco General

University of California, San Francisco



Why do we need a cure in an era of effective ART?

- Human costs
 - Stigma/discrimination
 - Long-term health: Obesity, co-morbidities, polypharmacy
- Public health costs
 - ART is lifelong and expensive:
Total spent on HIV/AIDS: ~ \$50 billion/year
 - Social disruptions affect access (COVID)
 - Despite massive global investments, many (~50%) not



What will a cure need to do?

Optimal (aspirational) target product profile

From a public health perspective, the ideal curative intervention will be readily scalable, safe, effective in everyone – including those not on ART – and protect against re-infection



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nature Review
Why and where an HIV cure is needed and how it might be achieved

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1841-8> Thumbi Ndung'u^{1,2,3}, Joseph M. McCune⁴ & Steven G. Deeks^{1*}

What will a cure need to do?

Optimal (aspirational) target product profile

A cure is not needed for those who are doing well on ART and can access these drugs indefinitely but for everyone else, including those who are untreated



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Why does HIV persist indefinitely?

The Problem: Latent Reservoir



- HIV persists as fully integrated genome in largely tissue-based memory T cell population
- Only ~1% of genomes are fully intact and only a subset of these proviruses are “rebound-competent”, making reservoir hard to measure

T cell proliferation is the main cause of persistence



Specific HIV integration sites are linked to clonal expansion and persistence of infected cells

F. Maldarelli,^{1*} X. Wu,^{2*} L. Su,² F. R. Simonetti,^{1,3} W. Shao,² S. Hill,¹ J. Spindler,¹ A. L. Ferris,¹ J. W. Mellors,⁴ M. F. Kearney,¹ J. M. Coffin,⁵ S. H. Hughes^{1†}



Proliferation of cells with HIV integrated into cancer genes contributes to persistent infection

Thor A. Wagner,^{1,2*} Sherry McLaughlin,^{1,2*} Kavita Garg,³ Charles Y. K. Cheung,³ Brendan B. Larsen,² Sheila Styrchak,¹ Hannah C. Huang,¹ Paul T. Edlefsen,^{2,3} James I. Mullins,^{2*} Lisa M. Frenkel^{1,2*†}



HIV-1 Integration Landscape during Latent and Active Infection

Lillian B. Cohn,¹ Israel T. Silva,^{1,2} Thiago Y. Oliveira,¹ Rafael A. Rosales,³ Erica H. Parrish,⁴ Gerald H. Learn,⁴ Beatrice H. Hahn,⁴ Julie L. Czartoski,⁵ M. Juliana McElrath,⁵ Clara Lehmann,^{6,7} Florian Klein,¹ Marina Caskey,¹ Bruce D. Walker,^{8,9} Janet D. Siliciano,¹⁰ Robert F. Siliciano,^{9,10} Mila Jankovic,¹ and Michel C. Nussenzweig^{1,9,*}

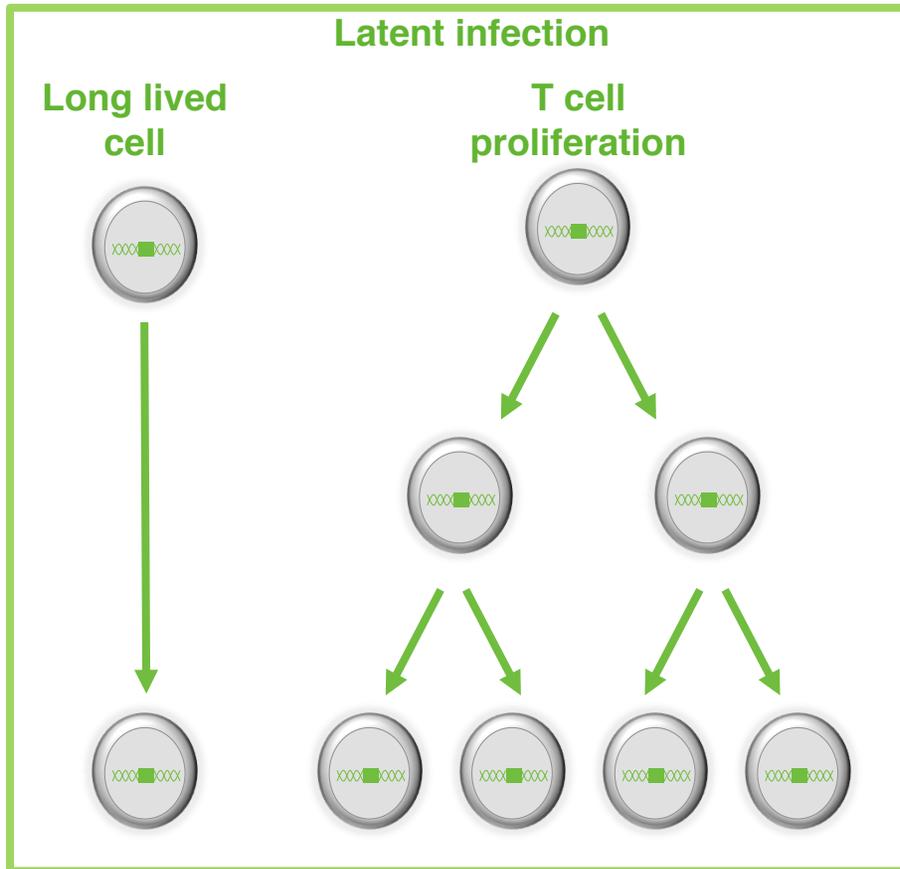


Longitudinal Genetic Characterization Reveals That Cell Proliferation Maintains a Persistent HIV Type 1 DNA Pool During Effective HIV Therapy

Susanne von Stockenstrom,^{1,2} Lina Odevall,¹ Eunok Lee,^{3,4} Elizabeth Sinclair,⁵ Peter Bacchetti,⁶ Maudi Killian,⁵ Lorrie Epling,⁵ Wei Shao,⁵ Rebecca Hoh,⁵ Terence Ho,⁵ Nuno R. Faria,⁵ Philippe Lemey,³ Jan Albert,^{1,2} Peter Hunt,⁵ Lisa Loeb,⁵ Christopher Pilcher,⁵ Lauren Poole,⁵ Hiroyu Hatano,⁵ Ma Somsouk,⁵ Daniel Douek,⁸ Eli Boritz,⁸ Steven G. Deeks,⁵ Frederick M. Hecht,^{5,8} and Sarah Palmer^{1,3,4,*}

Cells maintained by homeostatic proliferation; designed to persist indefinitely

Proliferation: latently infected cells clonally expand



- Clonally expanded cells make up most of the reservoir
- Expanded cells can produce virus resulting in low level viremia and/or viral rebound
- Drivers for proliferation
 - Antigen specific expansion
 - Homeostatic proliferation
 - Site of integration

Wang Z, et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2018; Lorenzo G, et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2016; Huang J *Exp Med* 2017; Bui *Plos Path* 2017; McManue *J Clin Inv* 2019; De Scheerder et al., *Cell Host Microbe* 2019

Slide: Nicolas Chomont

How will it be defined and measured?

Goal of therapy: Cure (eradication)

- Complete removal of all replication-competent HIV
- No residual stigma (key outcome in surveys)
- May have been achieved with Berlin Patient but impossible to prove
 - People may never really know if they are cured
- Will likely require gene modifications therapies

Goal of therapy: Remission (control)

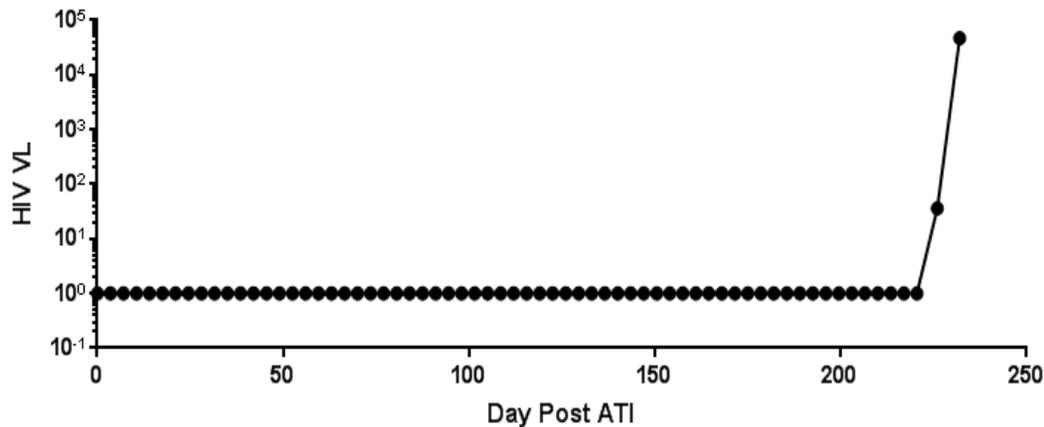
- Durable control of a residual population
 - Elite/exceptional control
 - Post-treatment controllers
 - Long-term ART (depot formulations)
- Antibody positive, persistent inflammation, possible risk of rebound
- Readily achieved in monkey models with various combination approaches (immunotherapy)



HIV-1 persistence following extremely early initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) during acute HIV-1 infection: An observational study



Timothy J. Henrich^{1*}, Hiroyu Hatano², Oliver Bacon^{2,3}, Louise E. Hogan¹, Rachel Rutishauser^{1,2}, Alison Hill⁴, Mary F. Kearney⁵, Elizabeth M. Anderson⁵, Susan P. Buchbinder^{2,3}, Stephanie E. Cohen^{2,3}, Mohamed Abdel-Mohsen^{2,6}, Christopher W. Pohlmeier⁷, Remi Fromentin⁸, Rebecca Hoh², Albert Y. Liu^{2,3}, Joseph M. McCune¹, Jonathan Spindler⁵, Kelly Metcalf-Pate⁷, Kristen S. Hobbs¹, Cassandra Thanh¹, Erica A. Gibson¹, Daniel R. Kuritzkes^{9,10}, Robert F. Siliciano^{11,12}, Richard W. Price¹³, Douglas D. Richman^{14,15}, Nicolas Chomont⁸, Janet D. Siliciano¹⁰, John W. Mellors¹⁶, Steven A. Yukl^{17,18}, Joel N. Blankson⁷, Teri Liegler², Steven G. Deeks²



Initiation of ART as PrEP (“Fiebig 0”) resulted in multi-log reduction in reservoir, but at least one virus had established latency

- Carefully performed treatment interruptions often the only interpretable way to answer the question
 - No validated biomarker of the systemic rebound-competent reservoir
 - No validated immunologic correlates of post-ART control
- Can it be done safely?
 - Exclude those with low nadir, history of cancer/CAD
 - High baseline CD4+ T cell count
 - Age limits
 - Partner engagement (PrEP)
 - Conservative restart criteria: Symptoms, CD4+ T cell decline, sustained viremia

How will HIV be cured?

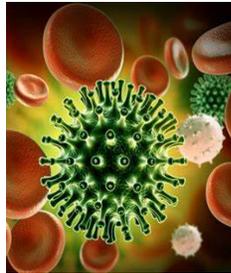
HIV cure strategies

Most approaches involve combination of reservoir reduction and immune enhancement (“reduce and control”), with growing interest in gene therapy and eventually “one shot” cures

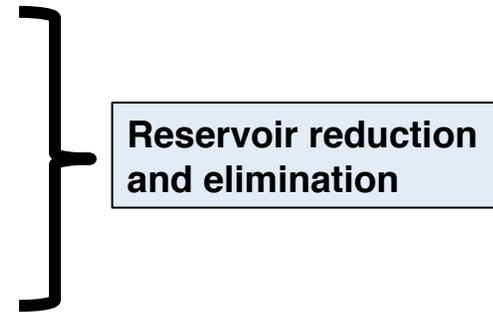
Early ART



**Latency reversal
Latency silencing**



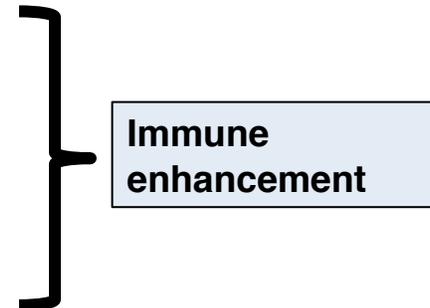
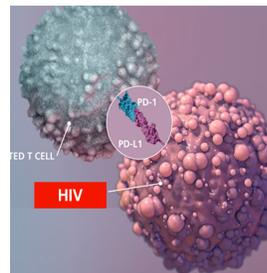
Gene therapy



**Vaccines
Antibodies**

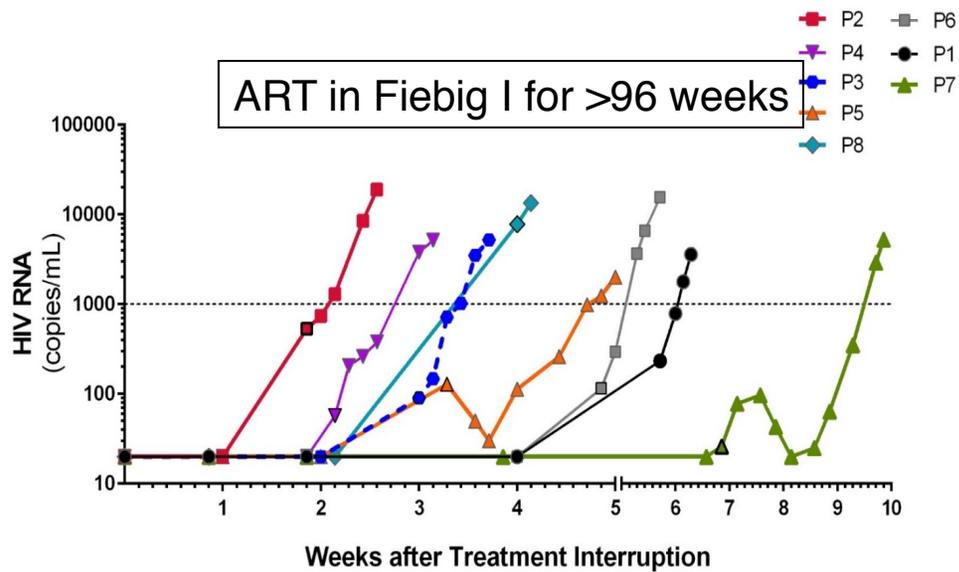


Immunotherapy



Early ART

Very early ART is not curative

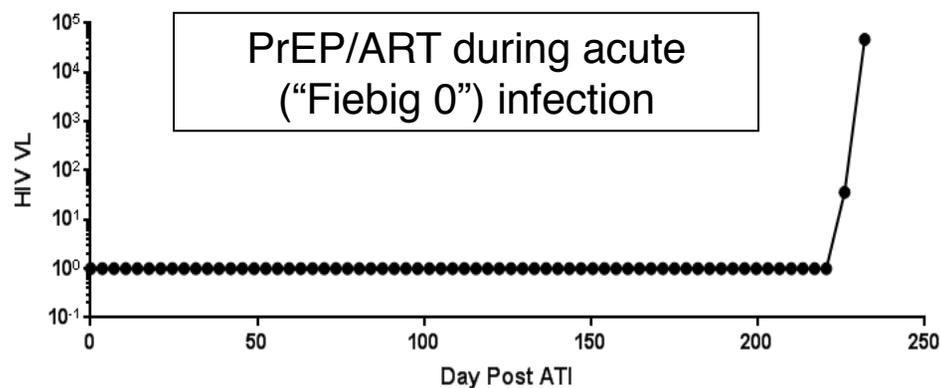
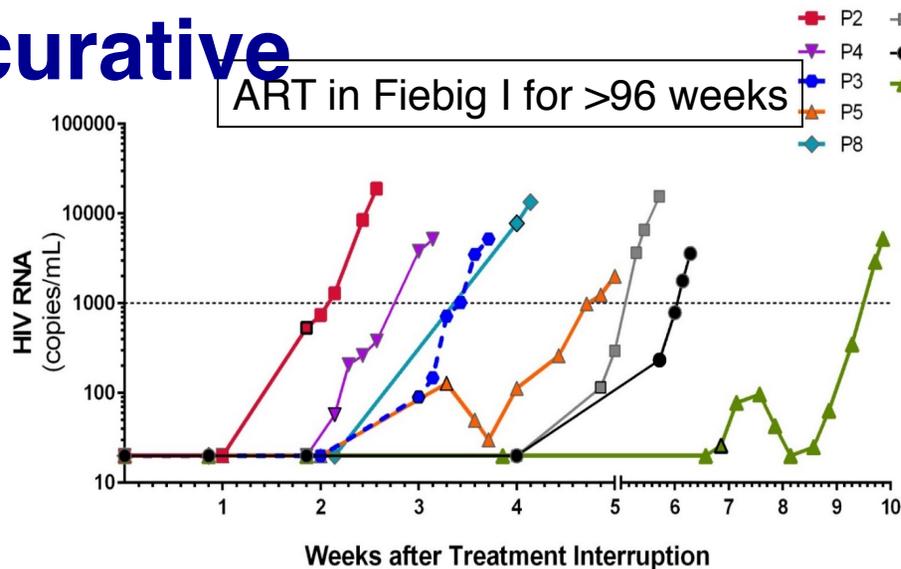


nature
medicine

Rapid HIV RNA rebound after antiretroviral treatment interruption in persons durably suppressed in Fiebig I acute HIV infection

Donn J. Colby¹, Lydie Trautmann^{2,3}, Suteeraporn Pinyakorn^{2,3}, Louise Leyre⁴, Amélie Pagliuzza⁴, Eugène Kroon¹, Morgane Rolland^{2,3}, Hiroshi Takata^{2,3}, Supanee Buranapraditkun^{2,3,5,6}, Jintana Intasan¹, Nitiya Chomchey¹, Roshell Muir⁷, Elias K. Haddad⁷, Sodsai Tovanabutra^{2,3}, Sasiwimol Ubolyam⁸, Diane L. Bolton^{2,3}, Brandie A. Fullmer⁹, Robert J. Gorelick⁹, Lawrence Fox¹⁰, Trevor A. Crowell^{2,3}, Rapee Trichavaroj¹¹, Robert O'Connell¹¹, Nicolas Chomont¹², Jerome H. Kim^{2,13}, Nelson L. Michael², Merlin L. Robb^{2,3}, Nittaya Phanuphak¹, Jintanat Ananworanich^{1,2,3,12*} and The RV411 study group

Very early ART (including “Fiebig 0”) is not curative



nature
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Rapid HIV RNA rebound after antiretroviral treatment interruption in persons durably suppressed in Fiebig I acute HIV infection

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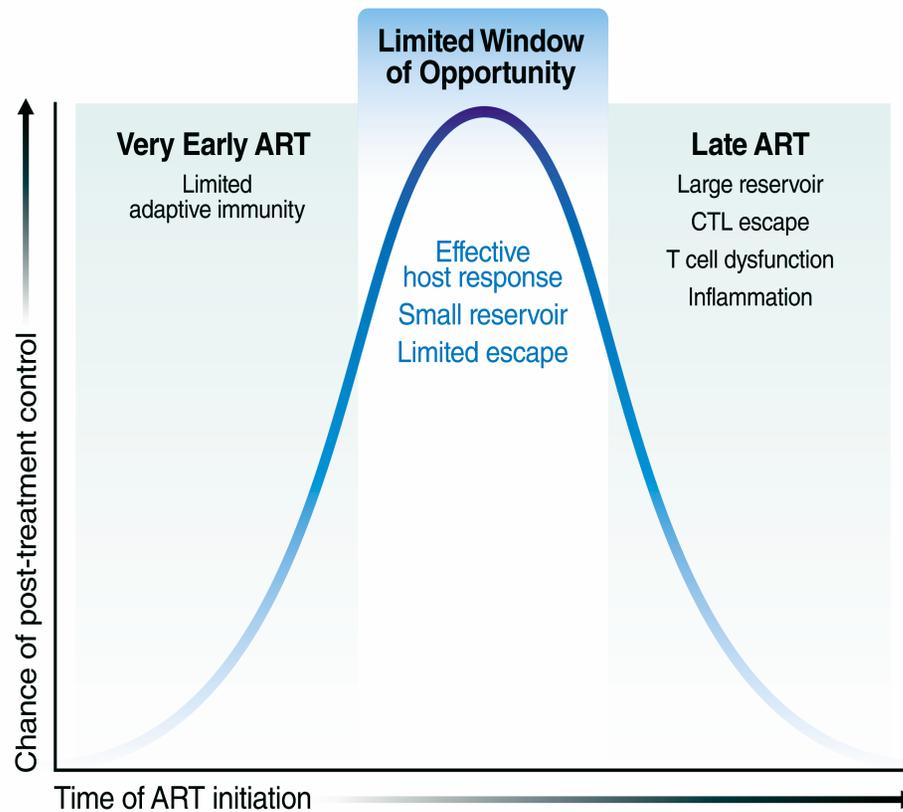
HIV-1 persistence following extremely early initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) during acute HIV-1 infection: An observational study

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- Some (~10%) of people who start therapy early (but not too early) and remain on therapy for years exhibit at least partial control after ART is interrupted
 - May occur in chronic infection (rare)
- No biomarker available
- Mechanism unknown
 - Elite controllers: Adaptive immunity (CD8+ T cells)
 - PTCs: Innate immunity (NK cells)

HIV control: Is getting there the same as staying there?

Philip Goulder^{1,2*}, Steven G. Deeks³

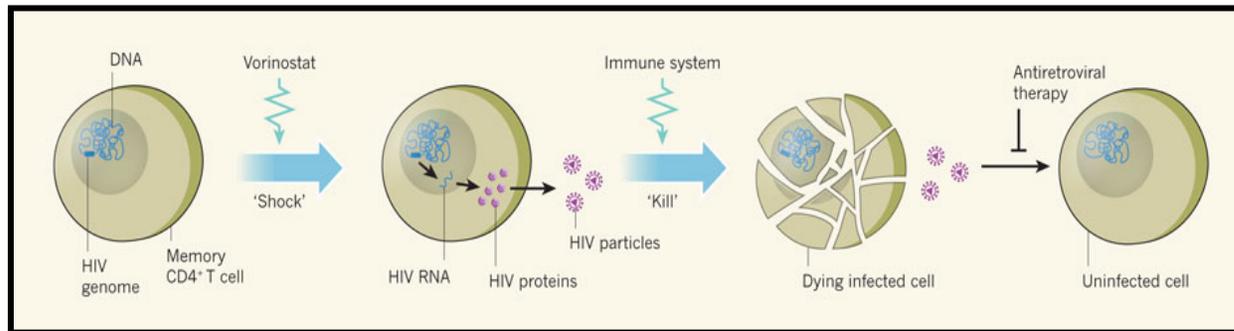


Most PTCs started ART early, but not too early

Some host response likely needs to be primed (but not overwhelmed) during acute infection to set the stage for post-treatment control

Latency reversal (shock and kill)

Shock and kill



- Multiple latency reversing agents (LRAs) tested: effect in humans is modest at best and inconsistent, and has rarely associated with reservoir reduction
- Basic discovery aimed at identifying novel pathways or combinations

SMAC-mimetics routinely induce latency reversal in animal models

nature Systemic HIV and SIV latency reversal via non-canonical NF- κ B signalling in vivo

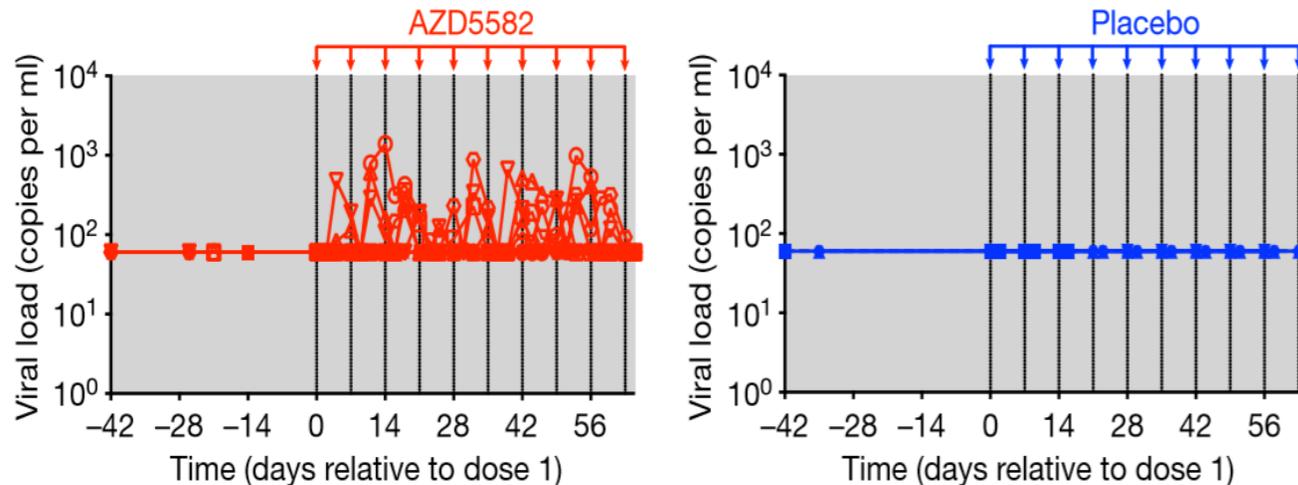
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-1951-3>

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Christopher C. Nixon^{1,2,3,9}, Maud Mavigner^{4,5,9}, Gavin C. Sampson^{2,5,6}, Alyssa D. Brooks⁴, Rae Ann Spagnuolo^{1,2}, David M. Irlbeck^{4,7}, Cameron Mattingly⁴, Phong T. Ho^{1,2}, Nils Schoof⁴, Corinne G. Cammon^{1,2}, Greg K. Tharp⁴, Matthew Kanke^{8,9}, Zhang Wang⁴, Rachel A. Cleary^{1,2}, Amit A. Upadhyay⁴, Chandrav De^{1,2}, Sainredym R. Wills^{2,5,6}, Shane D. Falciani^{1,2,5,6}, Cristin Galardi⁴, Hasee Walum⁴, Nathaniel J. Schramm^{1,5}, Jennifer Deutsch^{1,2}, Jeffrey D. Lifson⁴, Christine M. Fennessey⁴, Brandon F. Keele⁴, Sherrie Jean⁴, Sean Maguire⁴, BaoLin Liao^{2,5,6}, Edward P. Browne^{2,5}, Robert G. Ferris^{4,7}, Jessica H. Brehm^{4,7}, David Favre^{8,9}, Thomas H. Vanderford⁴, Steven E. Bosinger^{4,8}, Corbin D. Jones^{3,9}, Jean-Pierre Routy^{1,2}, Nancie M. Archibald^{1,2}, David M. Margolis^{2,5,6,10,11}, Angela Wahl^{1,2}, Richard M. Dunham^{2,5,6,12,13}, Guido Silvestri^{1,5}, Ann Chahrouh^{4,5,9,14} & J. Victor Garcia^{1,2,5,14}



- No change in reservoir or delay in rebound
 - Why do productive, virus-producing cells persist?
- Toxicity may prevent rapid clinical development

Latency silencing (block and lock)

Natural cures and exceptional control

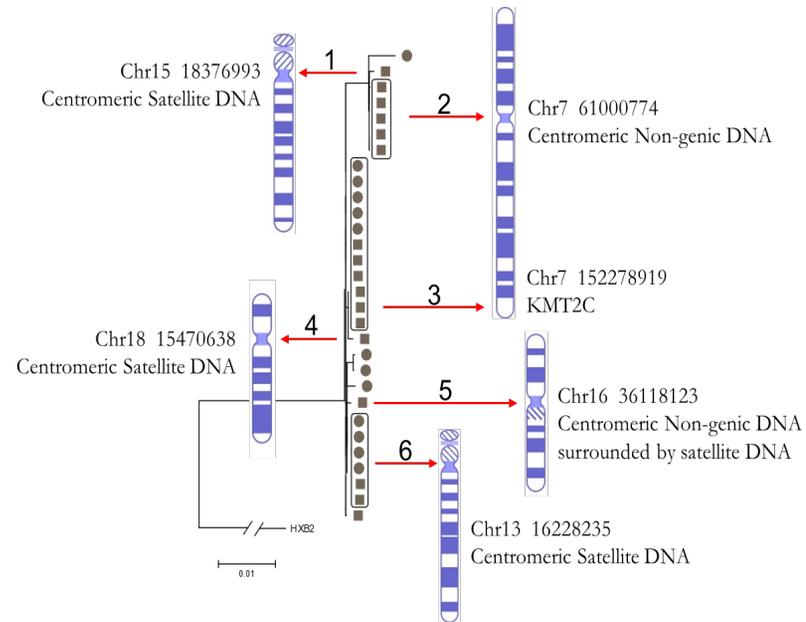
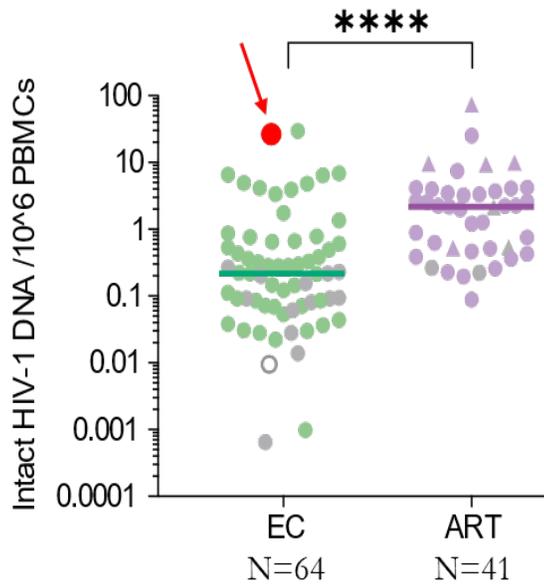
Intact proviral genomes accumulate in “gene deserts”, which is associated with deep and possibly irreversible latency

nature

Distinct viral reservoirs in individuals with spontaneous control of HIV-1

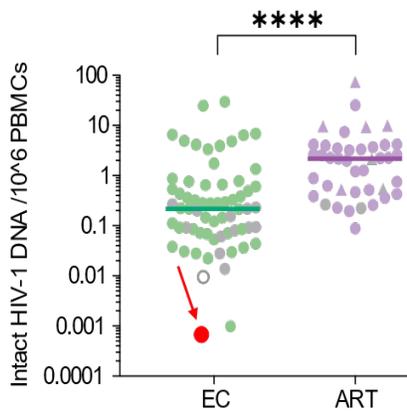
[/doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2651-8](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2651-8)
 Published online: 2 October 2019
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 First online: 26 August 2020
 Check for updates

Chenyang Jiang^{1,2*}, Xiaodong Lian^{1,2,3*}, Ce Gao^{1,2}, Xiaoming Sun¹, Kevin B. Einkauff², Joshua M. Chevalier^{1,2}, Samantha M. Y. Chen¹, Stephane Hua¹, Ben Rhee^{1,2}, KayLee Chang¹, Jane E. Blackmer¹, Matthew Osborn¹, Michael J. Peluso¹, Rebecca Hoh¹, Ma Somsouk¹, Jeffrey Milush¹, Lynn N. Bertagnoli¹, Sarah E. Sweet¹, Joseph A. Varriale¹, Peter D. Burbelo¹, Tae-Wook Chun¹, Gregory M. Laird¹, Erik Serrao^{1,2}, Alan N. Engelman^{1,2}, Mary Carrington^{1,2}, Robert F. Siliciano^{1,2}, Janet M. Siliciano^{1,2}, Steven G. Deeks¹, Bruce D. Walker^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}, Mathias Lichterfeld^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100} & Xu G. Yu^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}



Natural Cure

HIV diagnosed in 1992, no ART, undetectable virus 24 years (39 viral loads; one blip), no intact HIV DNA, low and declining HIV antibody levels; lowest level of HIV ever recorded



Test	Cell number	Cell type
Sequencing	>1.5b	PBMC
Intact DNA (PCR)	14m	Resting CD4
Viral outgrowth	340m	Resting CD4

Exceptional Controllers and “Block and Lock”

- Rare clinical phenotype
- Mechanism unknown
- Are we treating too many elite controllers?
- Can we recapitulate this phenotype therapeutically?
 - Lock-and-block strategies: mTOR inhibitors
 - Long-term ART

Gene therapy

Gene editing for an HIV Cure: Proof of Concept



**“It’s great that I finally
have someone added
to my family. It’s been
too long”**

Timothy Brown, Science
March 2019

The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Long-Term Control of HIV by CCR5 Delta32/ Delta32 Stem-Cell Transplantation

Gero Hütter, M.D., Daniel Nowak, M.D., Maximilian Mossner, B.S.,
Susanne Ganepola, M.D., Arne Müßig, M.D., Kristina Allers, Ph.D.,
Thomas Schneider, M.D., Ph.D., Jörg Hofmann, Ph.D., Claudia Kücherer, M.D.,
Olga Blau, M.D., Igor W. Blau, M.D., Wolf K. Hofmann, M.D.,
and Eckhard Thiel, M.D.

nature

HIV-1 remission following CCR5 Δ 32/ Δ 32 haematopoietic stem-cell transplantation

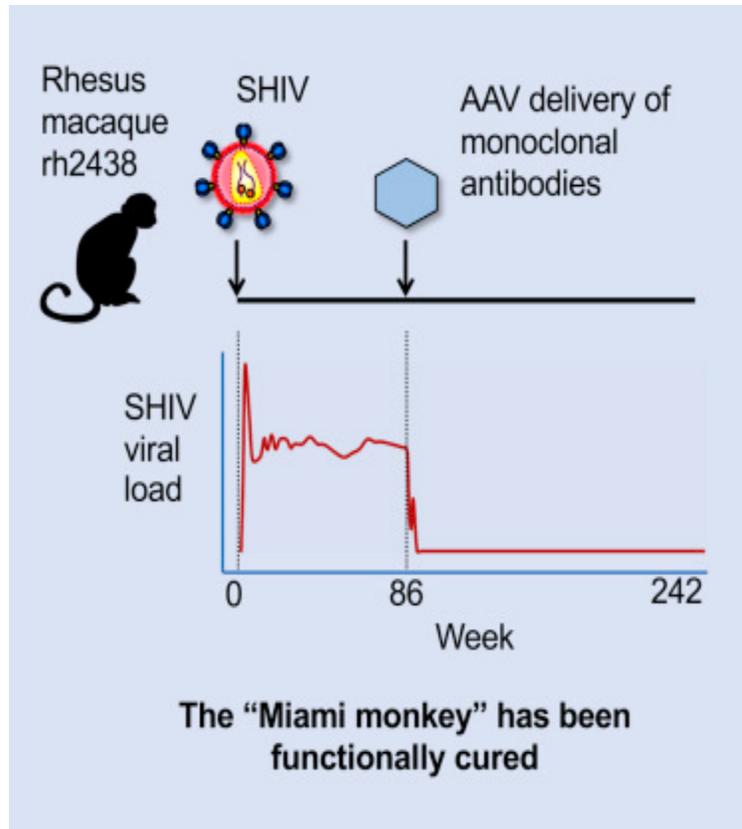
Ravindra K. Gupta^{1,2,3,4,5*}, Sultan Abdul-Jawad¹, Laura E. McCoy¹, Hoi Ping Mok⁴, Dimitra Peppas^{3,6}, Maria Salgado⁷,
Javier Martinez-Picado^{7,8,9}, Monique Nijhuis¹⁰, Annemarie M. J. Wensing¹⁰, Helen Lee¹¹, Paul Grant¹², Eleni Nastouli¹²,
Jonathan Lambert¹³, Matthew Pace⁶, Fanny Salasc⁴, Christopher Monit¹, Andrew J. Innes^{14,15}, Luke Muir¹, Laura Waters³,
John Frater^{6,16}, Andrew M. L. Lever^{4,17}, Simon G. Edwards³, Ian H. Gabriel^{14,15,18,19} & Eduardo Olavarria^{14,15,19}

Gene Therapy: Targets and Strategies



- **Protect:** engineer uninfected cells to be resistant to HIV
 - Proof-of-concept: Berlin, London and Dusseldorf cases
- **Kill:** enhance anti-HIV immune responses (CAR-T cells)
 - Proof-of-concept in people pending
- **Control:** Induce life-long production of antiviral antibodies
 - POC established in monkeys (Miami monkey)
 - POC in people pending (VRC07, CROI LB)
- **Purge:** Selectively disrupt and deactivate provirus
 - POC established in mice

One-shot cure approaches



NATURE COMMUNICATIONS

Sequential LASER ART and CRISPR Treatments Eliminate HIV-1 in a Subset of Infected Humanized Mice

Prasanta K. Dash^{1,4}, Rafal Kaminski^{2,4}, Ramona Belli^{2,4}, Hang Su², Saumi Mathews¹, Taha M. Ahooyi², Chen Chen², Pietro Mancuso², Rabhan Sarjyer², Pasquale Ferrante², Martina Donadoni², Jake A. Robinson², Brady Sillman², Zhen Lin¹, James R. Hillier², Mary Banou², Monoloha Elango², Nagven Gaulam², K. Lee Mosley², Larisa Y. Palakova², Jeffrey McMillan¹, Aditya N. Badi², Sushri Goswami¹, Ilker K. Sarimci², Tricia H. Burd², Won-Bin Youang², Shobreh Amisi², Jennifer Gordon², Jeffrey M. Jacobson², Benson Edagwa², Kamel Khalil² & Howard E. Gendelman¹

Immunity

Adeno-Associated Virus Delivery of Anti-HIV Monoclonal Antibodies Can Drive Long-Term Virologic Suppression

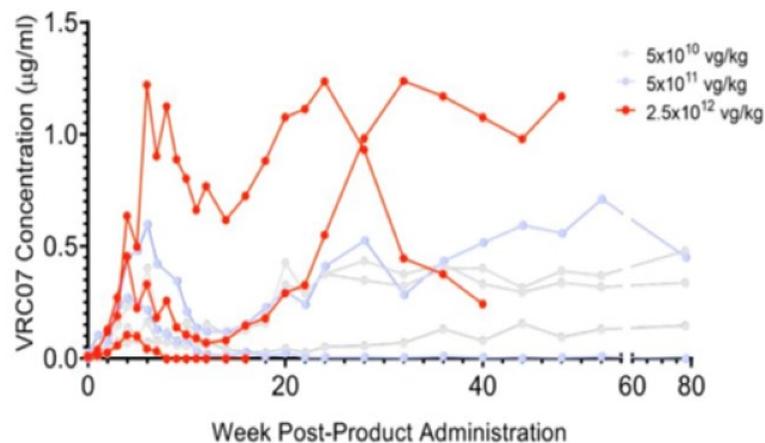
José M. Martínez-Navio,^{1,2} Sebastian P. Fuchs,^{1,2} Shara N. Pantny,¹ William A. Lauer,¹ Natasha N. Duggan,¹ Brandon F. Keele,² Eva G. Rakasz,² Guangping Gao,² Jeffrey D. Lifson,² and Ronald C. Desrosiers^{1,4,12}

Gene delivery of long-acting antiviral (bANb) or direct *in vivo* gene editing (HIV, CCR5) might eventually lead to durable cure for treated and even untreated people

Aspirational, but theoretically possible

Gene editing for an HIV Cure

Can cells be made into antibody factories that persist indefinitely?



- Miami Monkey: Cured by with a vector (AAV) that introduced bNAb genes into tissues
- VRC 603: 8 people received AAV (three doses); 2/3 at high dose had sustained production of VRC-07

Immunity

Adeno-Associated Virus Delivery
of Anti-HIV Monoclonal Antibodies
Can Drive Long-Term Virologic Suppression

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Brandon F. Keele,² Eva G. Rakasz,² Guangping Gao,¹ Jeffrey D. Lifson,² and Ronald C. Desrosiers^{1,2,7}

Casazza et al., CROI 2020 (LB 41)

**Immunotherapy: Vaccines,
broadly neutralizing
antibodies, adjuvants,
cytokines, and immune
checkpoint blockers**

“Elite” control is most consistently associated with HIV-specific CD8+ T cell responses, although other pathways are likely involved

**Protective Class I Alleles
B*57, B*27, B*13, B*58**

CD8+ T Cell Proliferation

**Gag-specific degranulation, cytokines
(polyfunctional CD8+ T cells)**

**Inhibitory activity (*ex vivo*
autologous CD4+ T cells)**

Perforin and granzyme killing

**Low PD-1,
CTLA-4, TIGIT**

Low CD38

**Vulnerable
epitopes**

TCR diversity

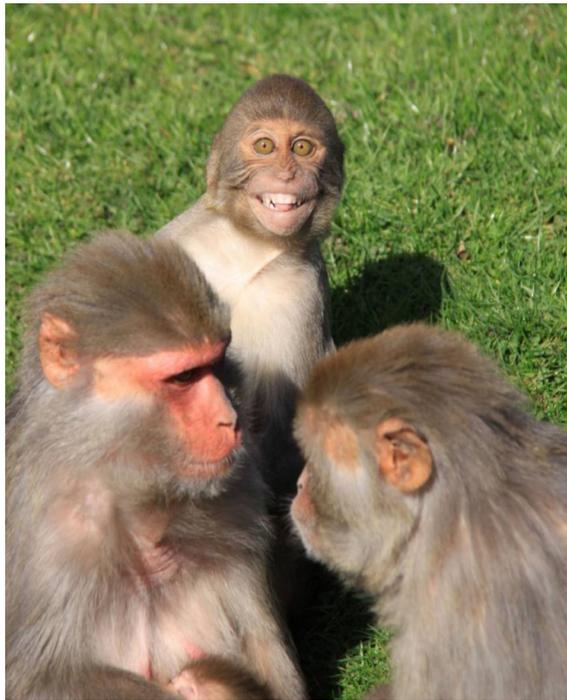
**Polyfunctional
CD4+ T cells**

Public TCR

**Low T reg
function**

LowIDO

Combination Immunotherapy: Proof-of-concept in monkeys



nature Immune clearance of highly pathogenic SIV infection

Scott G. Hansen^{1*}, Michael Piatak Jr.^{2*}, Abigail B. Ventura¹, Colette M. Hughes¹, Roxanne M. Gilbride¹, Julia C. Ford¹, Kelli Oswald², Rebecca Shoemaker², Yuan Li², Matthew S. Lewis², Awbrey N. Gilliam², Guangwu Xu¹, Nathan Whizin¹, Benjamin J. Burwitz², Shannon L. Planer¹, John M. Turner¹, Alfred W. Legasse¹, Michael K. Axthelm¹, Jay A. Nelson¹, Klaus Früh¹, Jonah B. Sacha¹, Jacob D. Estes², Brandon F. Keele², Paul T. Edlefsen³, Jeffrey D. Lifson² & Louis J. Picker¹

nature Ad26/MVA therapeutic vaccination with TLR7 stimulation in SIV-infected rhesus monkeys

Erica N. Borducchi¹, Crystal Cabral¹, Kathryn E. Stephenson¹, Jinyan Liu¹, Peter Abbink¹, David Ng'ang'a¹, Joseph P. Nkolola¹, Amanda L. Brinkman¹, Lauren Peter¹, Benjamin C. Lee¹, Jessica Jimenez¹, David Jetton¹, Jade Mondesir¹, Shanell Mojta¹, Abishek Chandrashekar¹, Katherine Molloy¹, Galit Alter², Jeffrey M. Gerold³, Alison L. Hill³, Mark G. Lewis⁴, Maria G. Pau⁵, Hanneke Schuitemaker³, Joseph Hesselgesser⁶, Romas Geleziunas⁶, Jerome H. Kim^{7†}, Merlin L. Robb⁷, Nelson L. Michael⁷ & Dan H. Barouch^{1,2}

nature Early antibody therapy can induce long-lasting immunity to SHIV

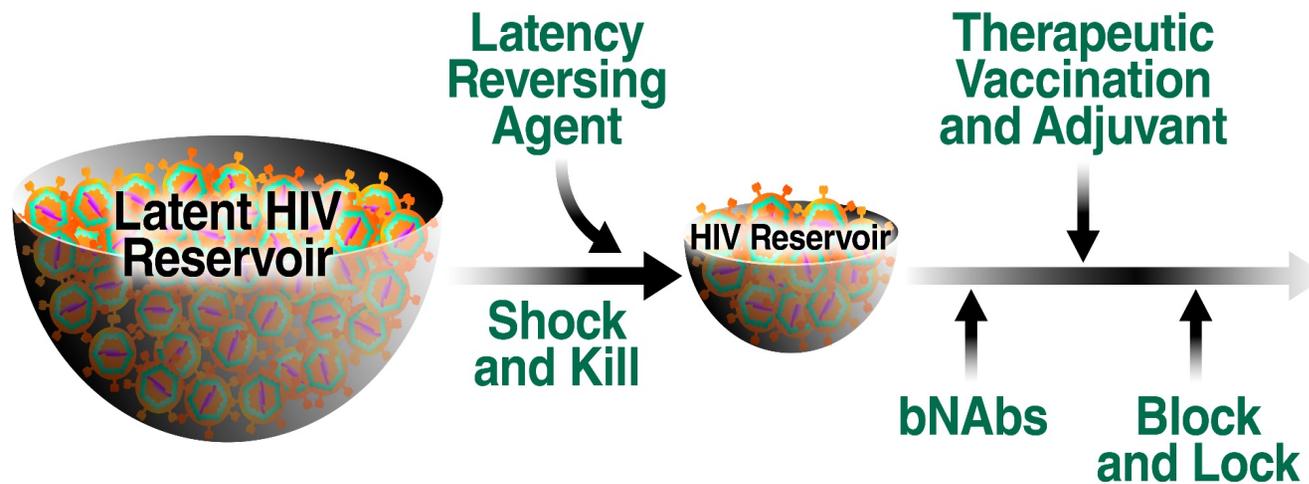
Yoshiaki Nishimura¹, Rajeev Gautam¹, Tae-Wook Chun², Reza Sadjadpour¹, Kathryn E. Foulds³, Masashi Shingai¹, Florian Klein^{4,5}, Anna Gazumyan⁶, Jovana Golijanin⁶, Mitzi Donaldson³, Olivia K. Donau¹, Ronald J. Plishka¹, Alicia Buckler-White¹, Michael S. Seaman⁷, Jeffrey D. Lifson⁸, Richard A. Koup³, Anthony S. Fauci², Michel C. Nussenzweig^{6,9} & Malcolm A. Martin¹

nature Antibody and TLR7 agonist delay viral rebound in SHIV-infected monkeys

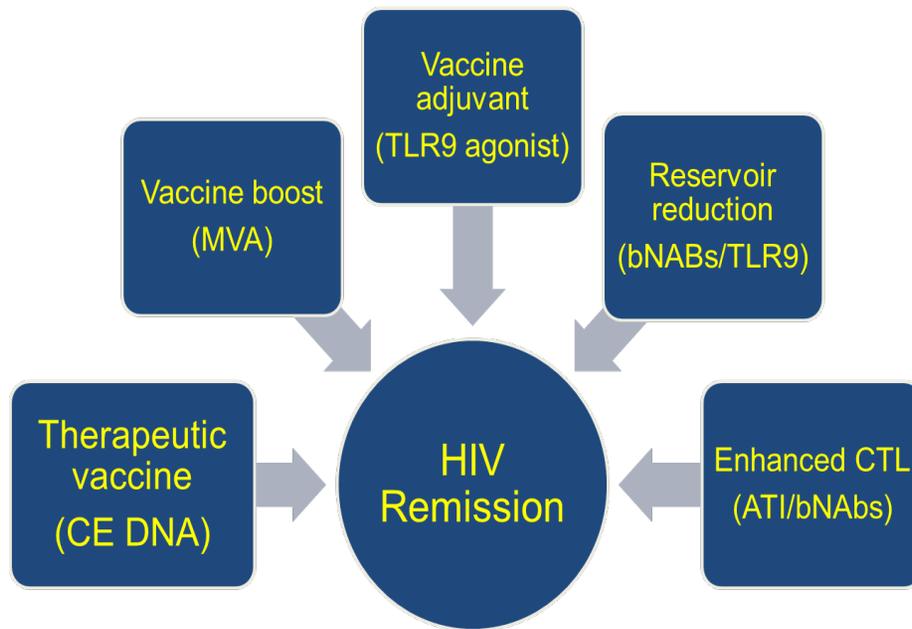
Erica N. Borducchi^{1,6}, Jinyan Liu^{1,6}, Joseph P. Nkolola^{1,6}, Anthony M. Cadena^{1,6}, Wen-Han Yu², Stephanie Fischinger², Thomas Broge², Peter Abbink¹, Noe B. Mercado¹, Abishek Chandrashekar¹, David Jetton¹, Lauren Peter¹, Katherine McMahon¹, Edward T. Moseley¹, Elena Bekerman³, Joseph Hesselgesser³, Wenjun Li⁴, Mark G. Lewis⁵, Galit Alter², Romas Geleziunas³ & Dan H. Barouch^{1,2*}

Reduce and Control

Combining Multiple Modalities To Achieve a Sustained Viral Remission in the Absence of ART



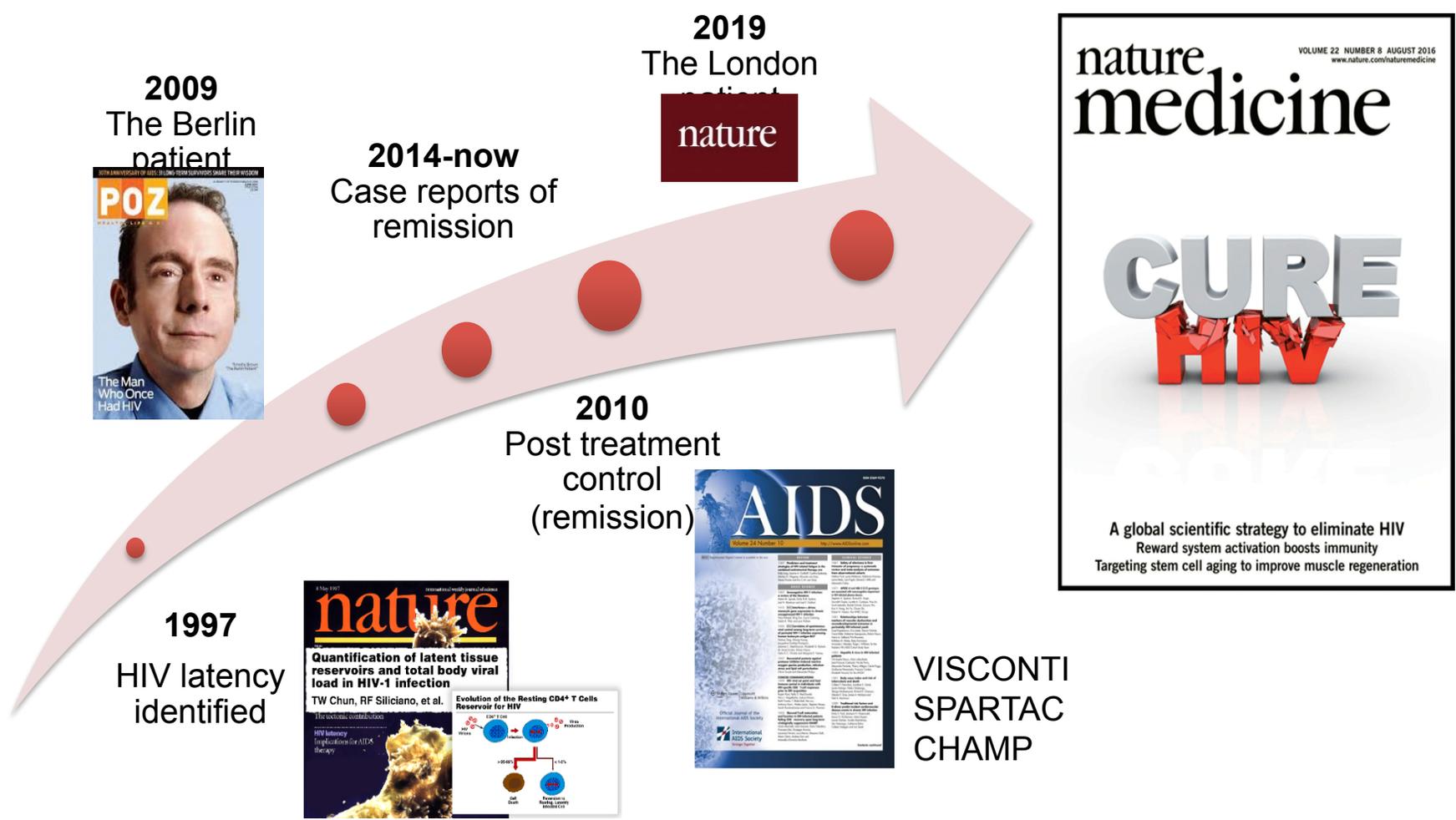
Combinatorial therapy with a therapeutic conserved element DNA/MVA vaccine strategy, a TLR9 agonist and broadly neutralizing antibodies: A pilot study aimed at inducing an HIV remission (IND 18488)



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



A short history of HIV cure research: from cure to remission to cure again



Conclusions

- Progress continues to be made, primarily in animal models
- Multiple approaches are being tested
 - All are likely to initially be less effective than optimally delivered ART
 - Iterative process expected with multiple “shots on goal” and ultimate optimization for addressing the needs of the global pandemic
- Massive synergies exist with HIV prevention (vaccines, bNAbs) and non-HIV immunotherapies (cancer, transplant, autoimmunity)



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