

former employee). Lexington, MA 02421, USA



# Characterization of The Pharmacodynamic Activity of AGEN1181, an Fc-enhanced CTLA-4 Antibody, Alone and in Combination With the PD-1 Antibody Balstilimab

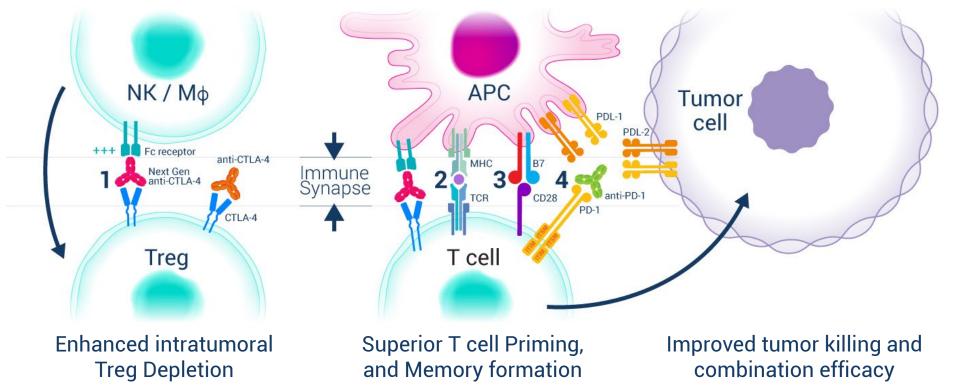
Irina Shapiro<sup>1</sup>, Min Lim<sup>1</sup>, Simarjot Pabla<sup>1</sup>, Steven O'Day<sup>1</sup>, Anthony El-Khoueiry<sup>2</sup>, Chethan Ramamurthy<sup>3</sup>, Andrea Bullock<sup>4</sup>, Michael Gordon<sup>5</sup>, Jennifer Buell<sup>1</sup>, Dhan Chand<sup>1</sup>, Anna Wijatyk<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Agenus Inc., Lexington MA • <sup>2</sup>University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA • <sup>3</sup>UT Health San Antonio, TX • <sup>4</sup>Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA • <sup>5</sup>HonorHealth Research Institute, Scottsdale, AZ

# Background

#### AGEN1181 leverages a novel Fc-mechanism of action to promote:

- ✓ Superior efficacy: Enhanced T cell priming, Treg depletion and T cell memory formation for durable anti-tumor immune response
- ✓ Improved safety: Avoid complement mediated toxicity associated with many current immune checkpoint inhibitors
- Expand therapeutic reach: by improved binding to CD16 (FcγRIIIA) for both low and high affinity allele - expressing patients



AGEN1181 mechanism of action

- 1. Optimized Fc to enhance Treg depletion
- 2. Optimized Fc to enhance immune synapse quality and T cell priming & activation
- 3. Reverse T cell dysfunction and restore tumor targeting T cell responses
- 3. Superior T cell memory responses & improve durability of response

# **Study Design**

Phase I study assessing the safety and efficacy of AGEN1181 (anti-CTLA-4), both as monotherapy and in combination with balstilimab (anti-PD-1), in patients with advanced solid tumors (NCT03860272)

#### **End Points**

**Primary:** Safety and tolerability

Secondary: Pharmacokinetics profile, ORR per RECIST 1.1

**Exploratory:** Pharmacodynamics, CD16/FcyR polymorphism expression

## AGEN1181 Exhibits Single-Agent and Combination Clinical Activity in Patients With Advanced Solid Tumors

**Table 1.** Responses observed in Phase I trial of AGEN1181as monotherapy and in
 combination with balstilimab

Subject #	Cancer Diagnosis	Dose and Schedule	Best Overall Response
Subject I	Ovarian	AGEN1181 2 mg/kg Q6W + balstilimab 3 mg/kg Q2W	PR, CR*
Subject E	Ovarian	AGEN1181 0.1 mg.kg Q3W then AGEN1181 1 mg/kg Q6W + balstilimab 3 mg/kg Q2W	PR
Subject J	Melanoma	AGEN1181 2 mg/kg Q3W	PR*
Subject F	Endometrial (MSS, PD-L1 <sup>-</sup> )	AGEN1181 1 mg/kg Q3W	CR
Subject C	Endometrial (MSS, PD-L1 <sup>-</sup> )	AGEN1181 0.1 mg/kg Q6W + balstilimab 3 mg/kg Q2W	PR (CR by PET)
Subject H	Colorectal cancer (MSS)	AGEN1181 1 mg/kg Q6W + balstilimab 3 mg/kg Q2W	PR
Subject G	Colorectal cancer- MANEC (MSS)	AGEN1181 1 mg/kg Q6W + balstilimab 3 mg/kg Q2W	PR

\*, unconfirmed response (as of March 26, 2021)

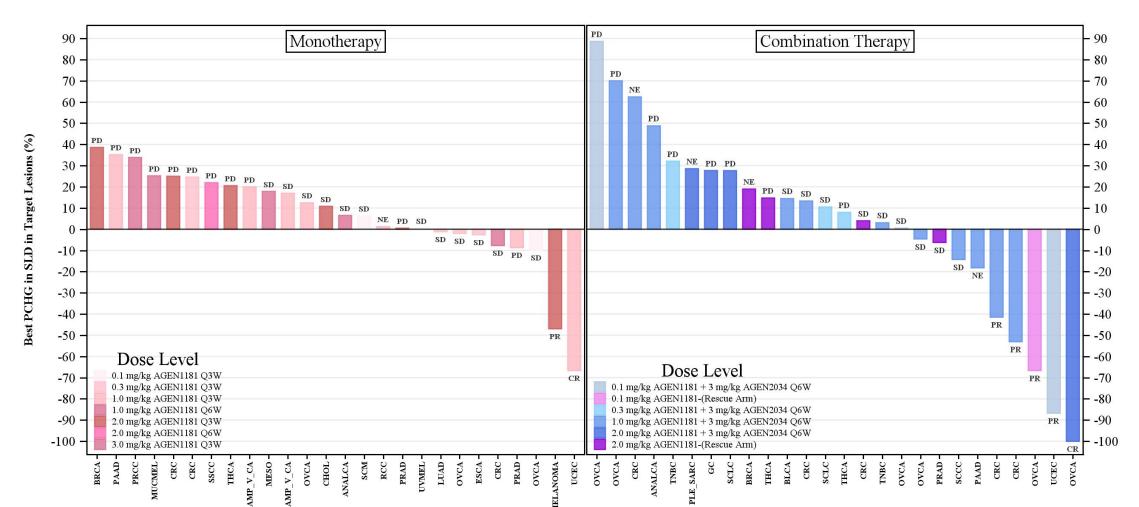
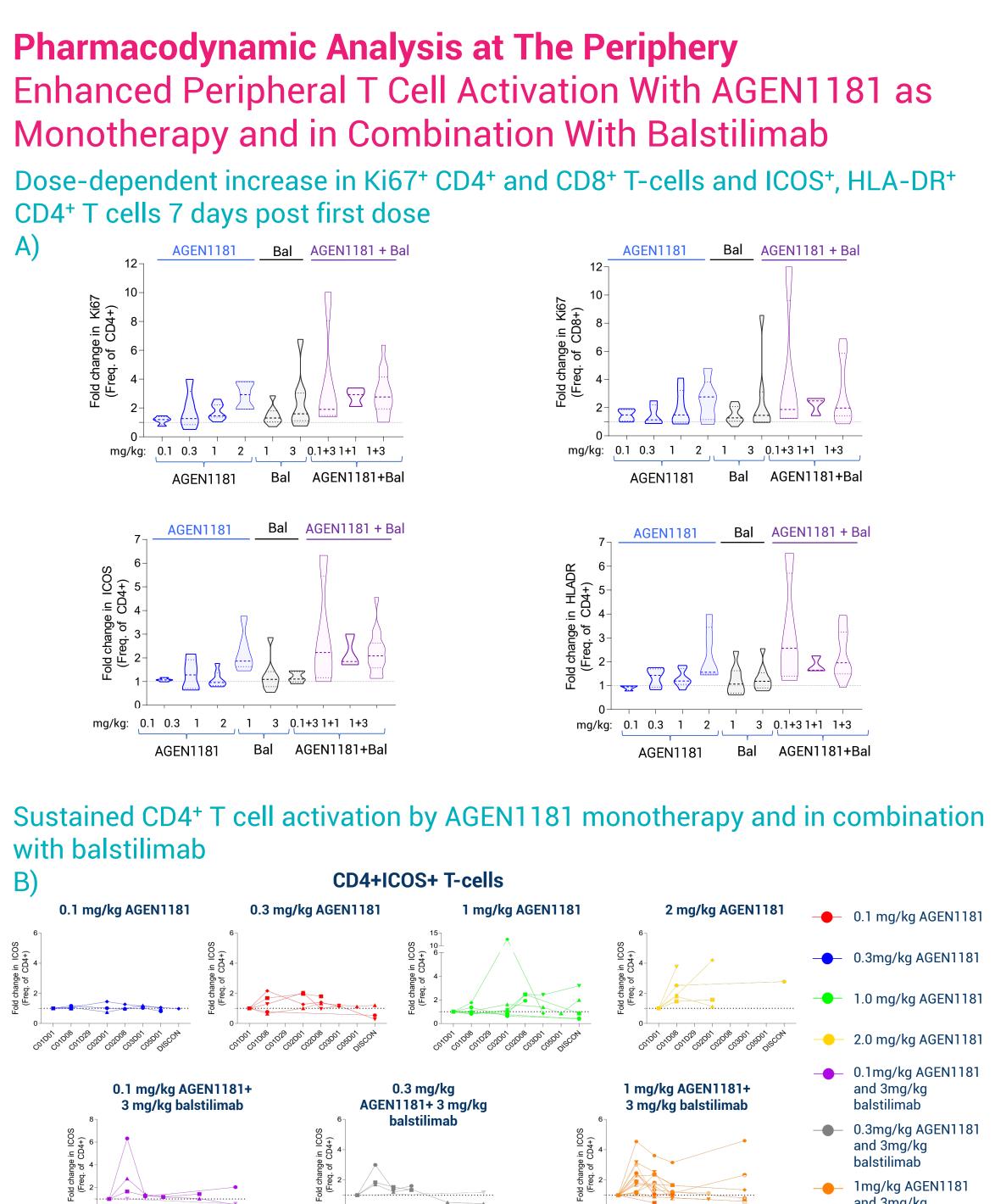


Figure 1: Best percentage change in sum of largest diameter (SLD) in target lesion in the AGEN1181 monotherapy and balstilimab combination arms. BOR is marked above or below the bars. CR- complete response; PR- partial response; SD – stable disease; PD – partial disease.



CNOR CHOR CHUR CHOR CHOR CHORE CHORE

CNDO, CNDO, DO, DO, CNDO, CNDO

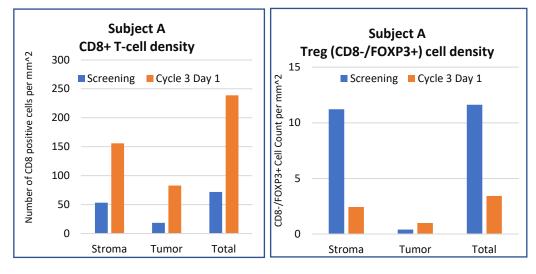
and 3mg/kg

balstilimab

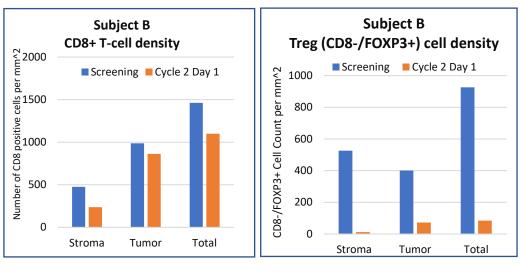
Figure 2: Peripheral flow cytometry analysis using PBMCs from patients treated with AGEN1181 monotherapy or in combination with balstilimab collected at Day 7 after the first dose A) or at various timepoints, as indicated. B) Data is represented as a fold change over baseline (pre-treatment, Day 1) of frequency of activated CD4+ or CD8+ T cells out of total CD4+ or CD8+ cells (frequency of parent)

#### Pharmacodynamic Analysis in the TME Selective Depletion of Intratumoral Treqs With AGEN1181 Monotherapy Pre-treatment (Screening)

Subject A: Thyroid cancer



#### Subject B: Sinonasal SCC



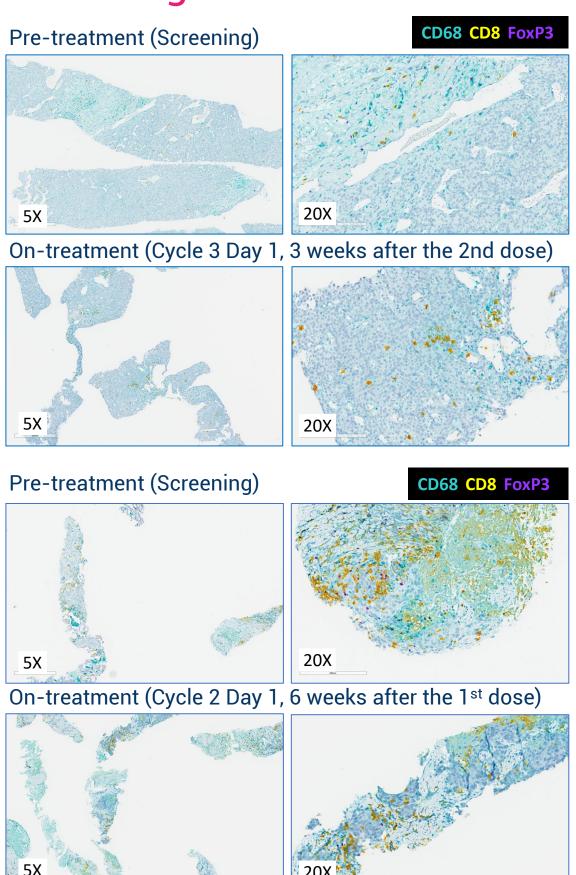
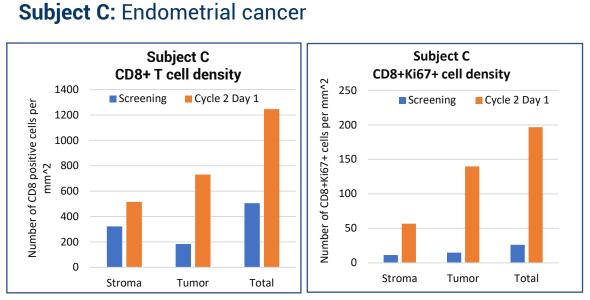
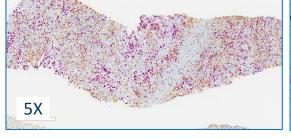


Figure 3: CD8 (yellow)/ FOXP3 (purple) /CD68 (turquoise) triplex chromogenic IHC of FFPE tumor biopsy samples collected at screening and on-treatment (cycle 2 Day 1 for Q6W cohort; cycle 3 Day 1 for Q3W cohort). Images were analyzed using Flagship Biosciences image analysis software for quantification of CD8+, FoxP3+, CD68+ cells as positive or negative. Tregs were defined as FoxP3+/CD8- cells. Machine learning algorithms were implemented to separate out lymphocyte-like cells and to stratify all cells as belonging to the 'tumor' or 'stromal' compartments. Outputs of the digital analysis included CD8+, FoxP3+, CD68+ cell density (cells per mm2) depicted on the graphs in A) and B).

# AGEN1181 in Combination With Balstilimab Promotes Intra-Tumoral Recruitment and Activation of CD8 T Cells

AGEN1181 Q6W 0.1mg/kg + balstilimab Q2W 3 mg/kg

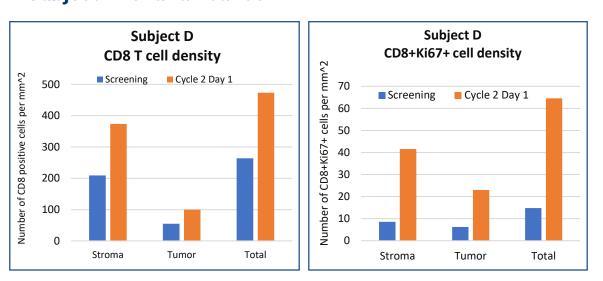




Pre-treatment (Screening



AGEN1181 Q6W 1mg/kg + balstilimab Q2W 3 mg/kg Subject D: Ovarian cancer



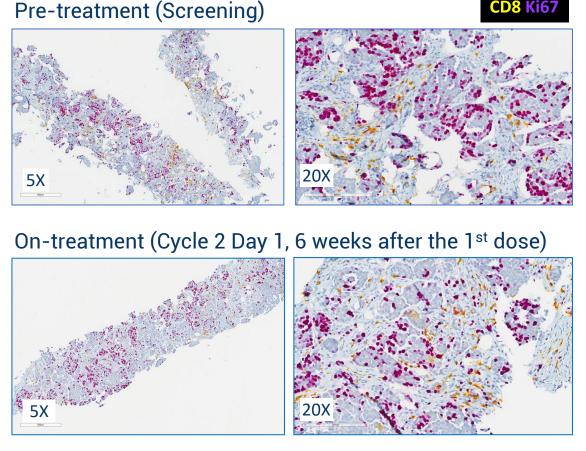


Figure 4: CD8 (yellow)/ Ki67(purple) duplex chromogenic IHC of FFPE tumor biopsy samples collected at screening and ontreatment (cycle 2 Day 1, 6 weeks after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose). Images were stained and analyzed as described in Figure 3.

# Enhanced Fc Design of AGEN1181 Induces Clinical Activity in Patients With Low Affinity or Heterozygous FC<sub>Y</sub>R SNP Responses observed in patients with low affinity or heterozygous FC<sub>y</sub>RIIIA SNP genotype

• 43 PGx blood samples evaluated for FCgRIIIa SNP

• 6 responders: 2 low affinity, 3 heterozygous, 1 high affinity FCgRIIIA SNP

Subject	Genotype	FCγRIIIA affinity	BOR	FCγR	FCγRIIIA	FCγRIIIA
Subject E	F/F	low affinity	PR	affinity	rs396991	V158F
Subject F	F/F	low affinity	CR	High	C/C	V/V
Gubjeet i	1 / 1			Mixed	C/A	V/F
Subject C	V/F	heterozygous	PR			
Subject G	V/F	heterozygous	PR	Low	A/A	F/F
Subject II		hotorozygoup				
Subject H	V/F	heterozygous	PR			
Subject I	$\vee/\vee$	high affinity	PR			

Figure 5: FCgRIIIA genotype was assessed in the whole blood samples collected from patients treated with AGEN1181 monotherapy or in combination with balstilimab. Validated real-time SNP genotyping assay specific to human FCGR3A rs396991 V158F SNP was used. Pharmacogenomics consent was obtained from all patients included in this analysis.

# Cytokine Expression is Not Significantly Induced By Single Agent or Combination AGEN1181 Treatment

### Cytokine expression levels were low overall (0.1 up to 100 pg/ml) for most cytokines and overall did not change longitudinally

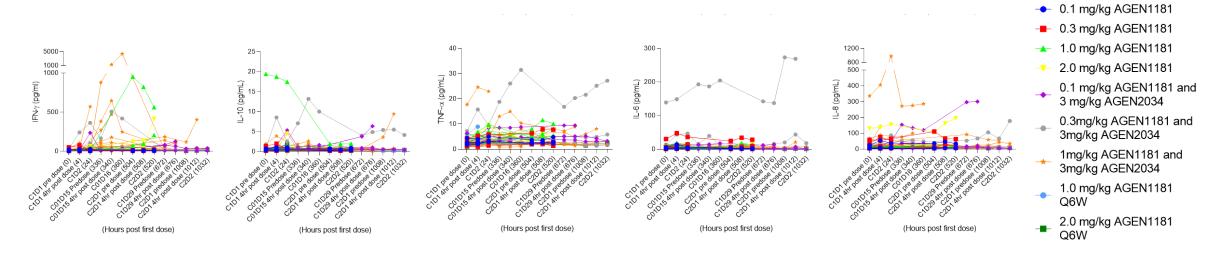


Figure 6: Cytokine expression in the longitudinal plasma samples from patients treated with AGEN1181 monotherapy and in combination with balstilimab was tested using Mesoscale Discovery (MSD) Technologies' V-Plex Plus Proinflammatory Panel to quantify the following cytokines: IFN-γ, IL-10, IL-12p70, IL-13, IL1β, IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, IL-8 and TNF-α. Graphs depict absolute cytokine levels (pg/ml) over time.

# **Case Study**

### **Durable Partial Response in a Patient With Endometrial Cancer** Treated With AGEN1181 in Combination with Balstilimab

Subject C: AGEN1181 Q6W 0.1mg/kg + balstilimab Q2W 3mg/kg

Upregulation of immune regulatory signaling pathways and central/memory T cell signature

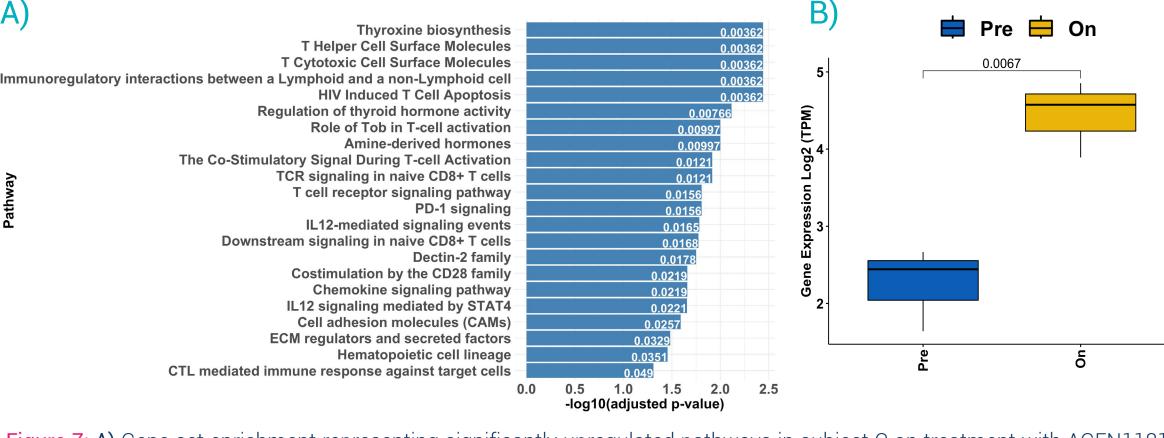
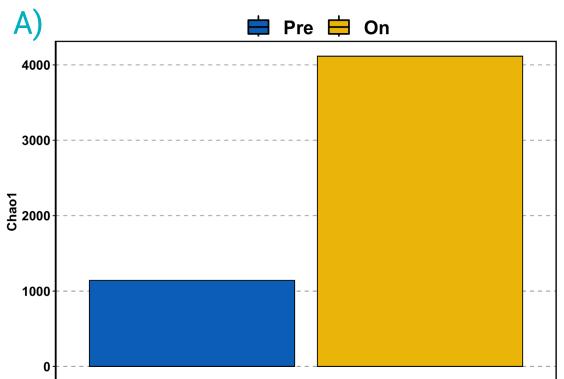


Figure 7: A) Gene set enrichment representing significantly upregulated pathways in subject C on treatment with AGEN1181 in combination with balstilimab. B) Difference in expression of Central Memory T Cell signature upon treatment in Subject C (p-value= 0.0067, calculated using t-test).

#### Increased TCR<sup>β</sup> diversity in the TME and increased tumor-specific TCR<sup>β</sup> diversity in the blood



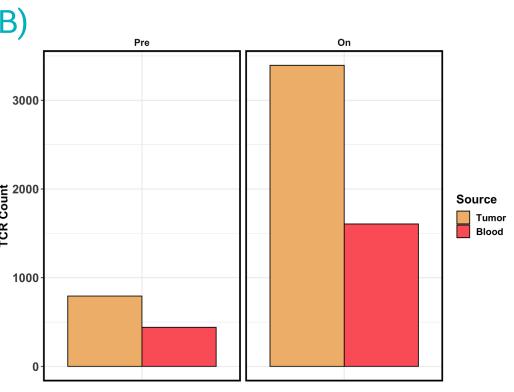


Figure 8: A) Comparison of tumor TCR beta chain diversity index between pre-treatment and on-treatment with AGEN1181 in combination with balstilimab in subject C. B) Differences in frequency of TCR beta chains shared between tumor and blood upon treatment with balstilimab in Subject C.

#### Tumor-specific TCR clone frequency expansion at the periphery and in the TME

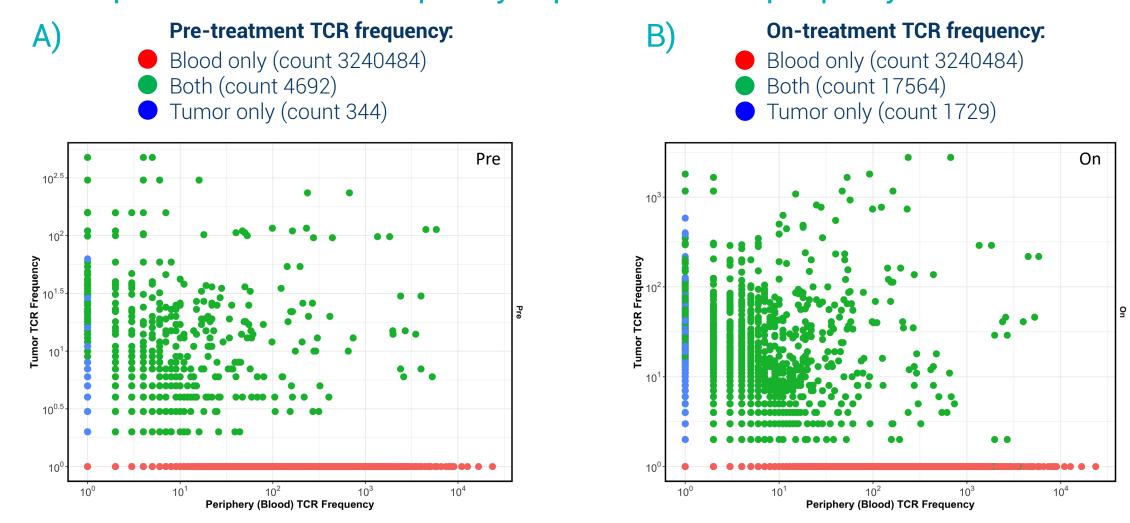


Figure 9: Correlation of TCR beta chains (red: blood only, green: shared in blood and tumor, blue: tumor only) in tumor and periphery in pre-treatment (Cycle 1 Day 1, A)) and on-treatment (Cycle 2 Day 1, B)) samples from Subject C obtained from the comparison of TCRSeq of the tumor biopsy and blood. Note: blood TCR count is the same in the pre-treatment and ontreatment samples and is limited by the maximum capacity of the TCRSeq library (Adaptive Technologies) reached due to abundance of TCRs in the blood.

# Conclusions

#### AGEN1181

- Demonstrates clinical activity in heavily pretreated patients as monotherapy or in combination with balstilimab
- ✓ Induces sustained T cell activation at the periphery
- ✓ Causes selective Treg depletion in the tumor microenvironment (TME)
- Promotes intra-tumoral recruitment of activated TILs in combination with balstilimab
- $\checkmark$  Expands clinical responses to patients with low affinity or heterozygous FC<sub>y</sub>RIIIA
- $\checkmark$  In combination with balstilimab, expands TCR $\beta$  diversity intra-tumorally and at the periphery

References: Waight et al., Cancer Cell 2018; Arce-Vargas et al., Cancer Cell 2018 **Acknowledgment:** We thank the patients and their families in this study and

the clinical caregivers for the dedication to improve their patient's lives. We thank Flagship Biosciences, Precision for Medicine, Adaptive Technologies and Personalis for help with clinical sample testing.

**Correspondence:** Steven.ODay@agenusbio.com Presented at AACR 2021 Virtual Meeting – 2021