



## **Lenalidomide – meccanismo d'azione: è tutto chiaro?**

**Stefano Fogli**

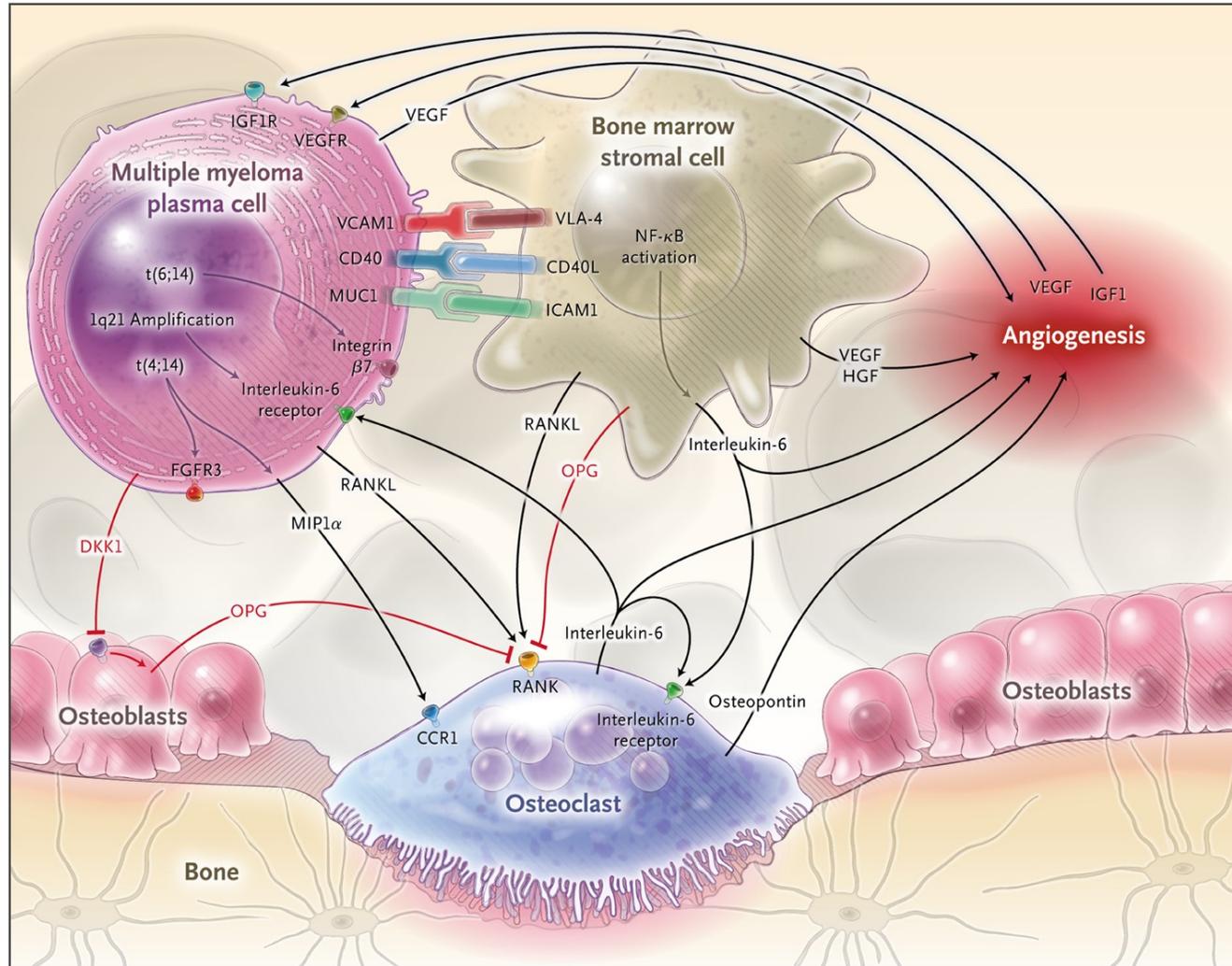
UO Farmacologia clinica e Farmacogenetica

Università di Pisa

# Disclosure

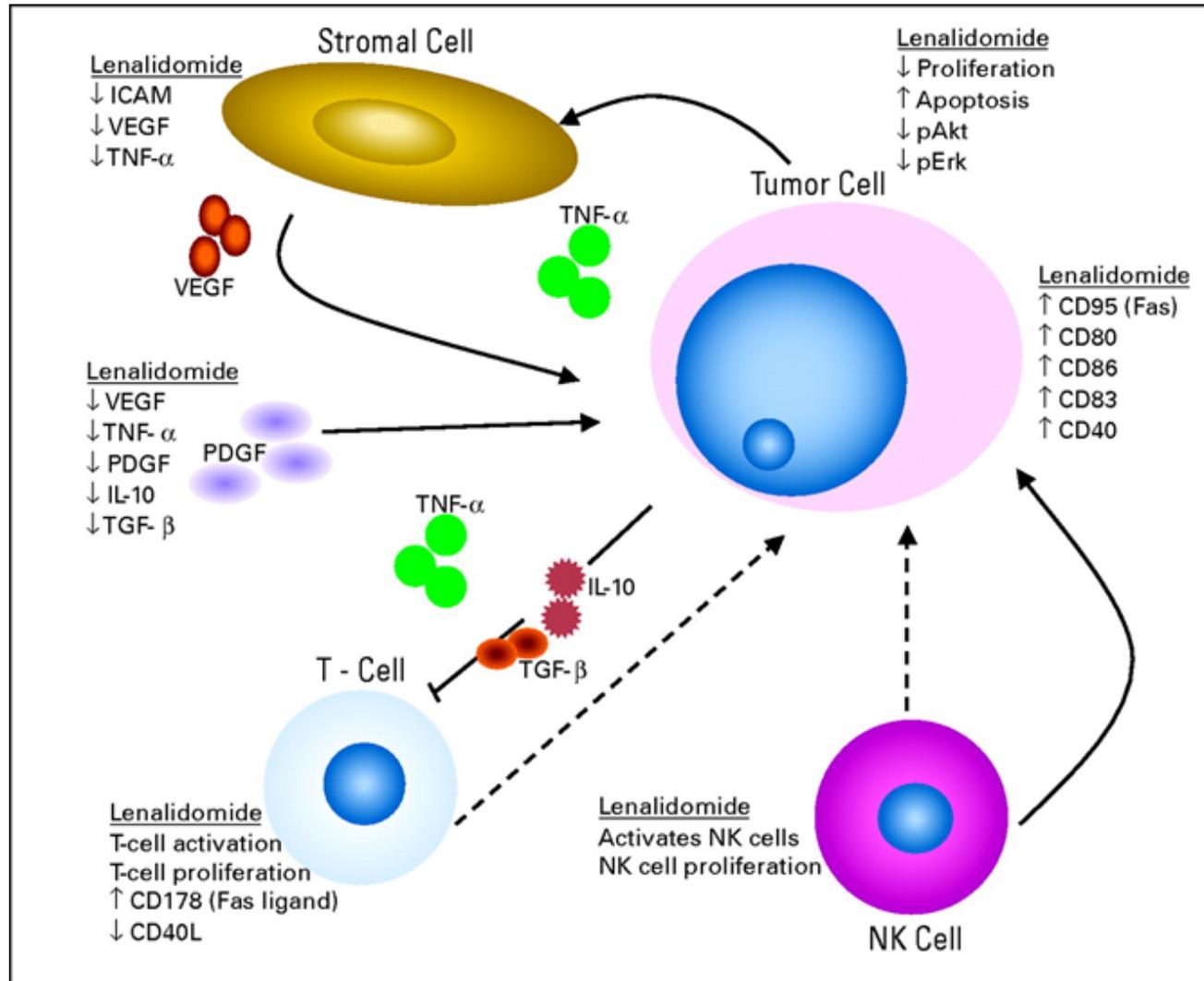
- Board member/Advisory panel
  - Teva, Pfizer
- Consultant
  - Gilead, Roche, Pfizer, Lilly

# Molecular/cellular pathogenesis of multiple myeloma



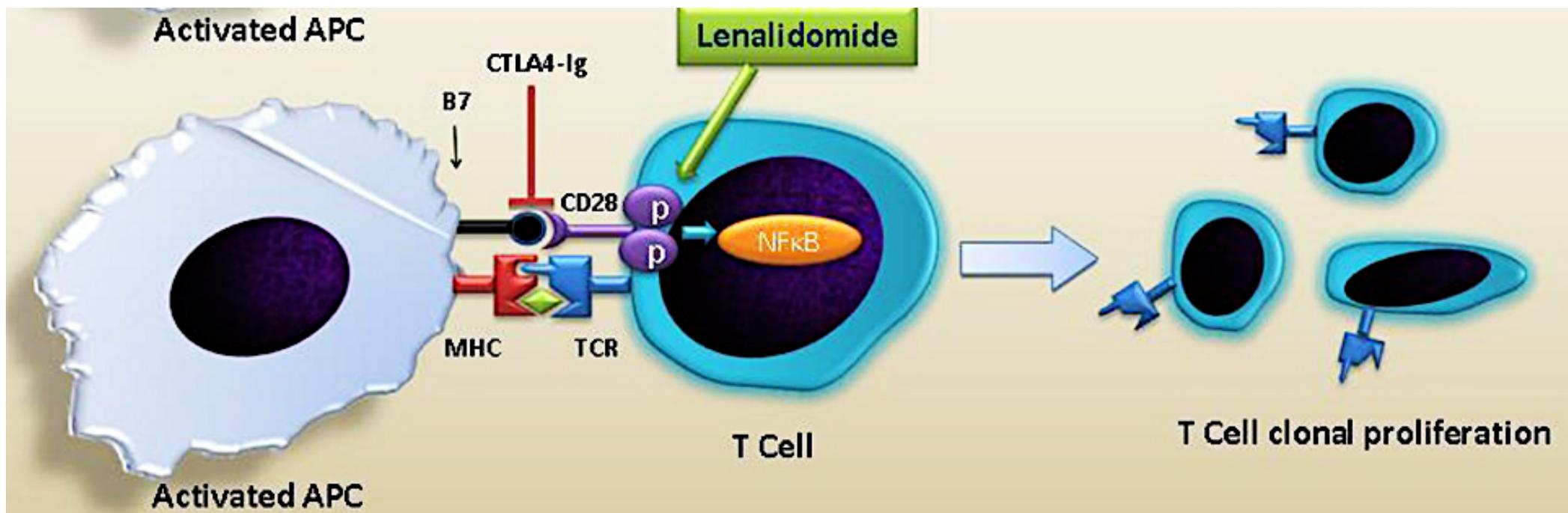
Palumbo and Anderson. NEJM 2011

# What lenalidomide does



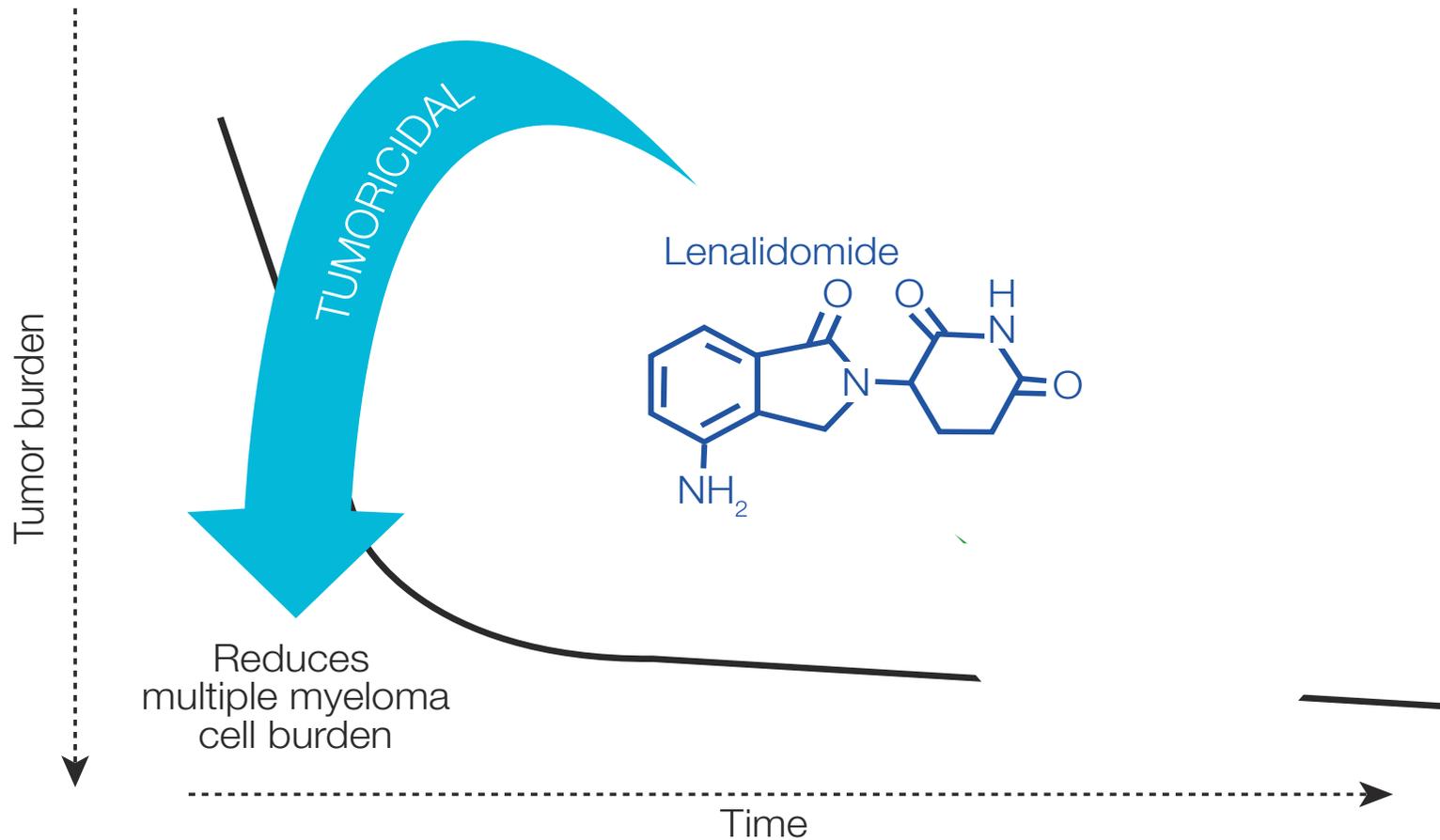
Chanan-Khan, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2008

# Tyrosine phosphorylation of CD28 on T cells by lenalidomide activates downstream targets (eg, PI3K, GRB-2-OS, and NF- $\kappa$ b) leading to T cell clonal proliferation



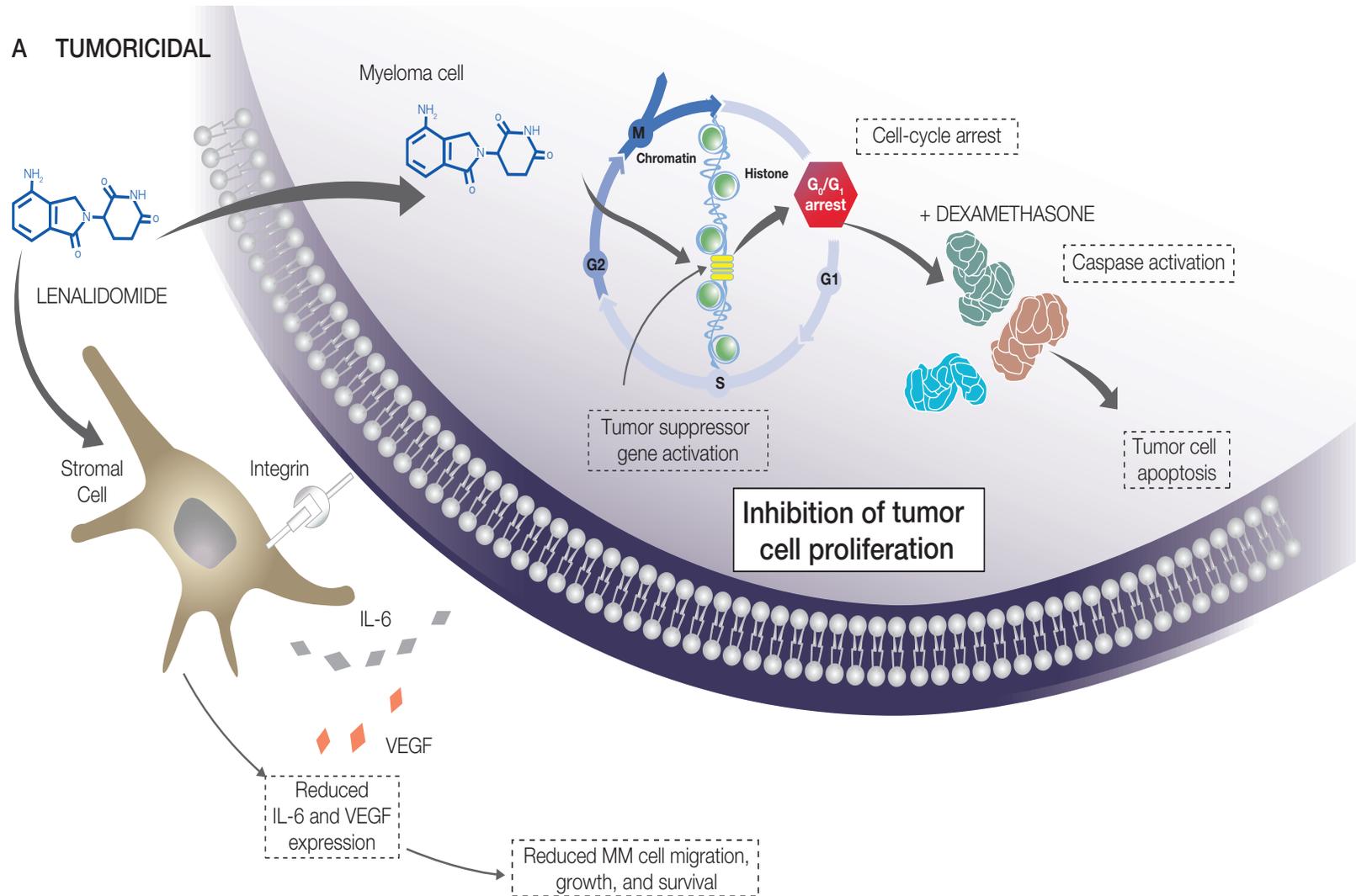
Kotla V et al. Journal of Hematology & Oncology 2009

# Lenalidomide has tumoricidal activity

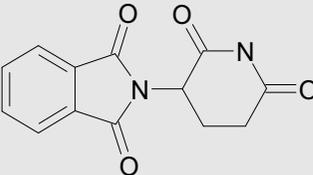
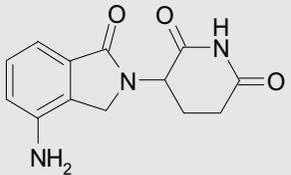
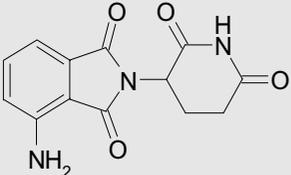


Davies F, Baz R. Blood Reviews 2010

# Mechanism of tumor cell death and disruption of stromal support by lenalidomide



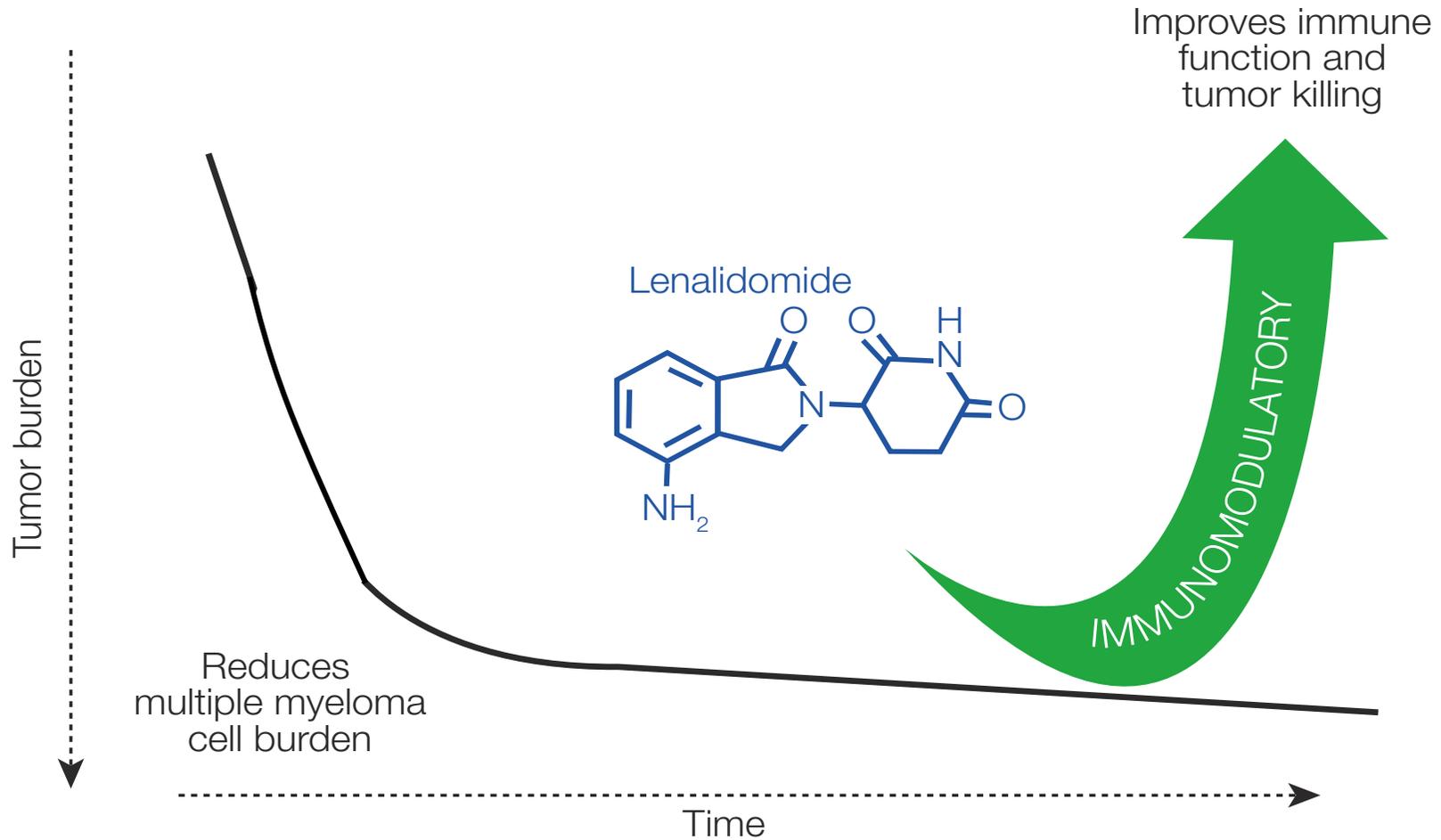
# Characteristics of thalidomide and the IMiDs lenalidomide and pomalidomide

Characteristic	Thalidomide	Immunomodulatory compounds	
		Lenalidomide	Pomalidomide
Structure			
Plasma $C_{max}$ , $\mu M^{7,8}$	5.4	2.2 <sup>a</sup>	0.19
Tumoricidal properties Inhibition of DNA synthesis in MM.1S cell line, $IC_{50}$ , $\mu M^9$	>100	0.1–1	0.01–0.1
Immunomodulation Interleukin-2 enhancement, $EC_{50}$ , $\mu M^{10}$	>100	0.15	0.010
Antiangiogenesis Inhibition of sprout formation from human umbilical artery ring explants, $IC_{50}$ , $\mu M^{11}$	~0.1	~1.0	0.1–1.0

<sup>a</sup>  $C_{max}$  reported in ng/mL.

Davies F, Baz R. Blood Reviews 2010

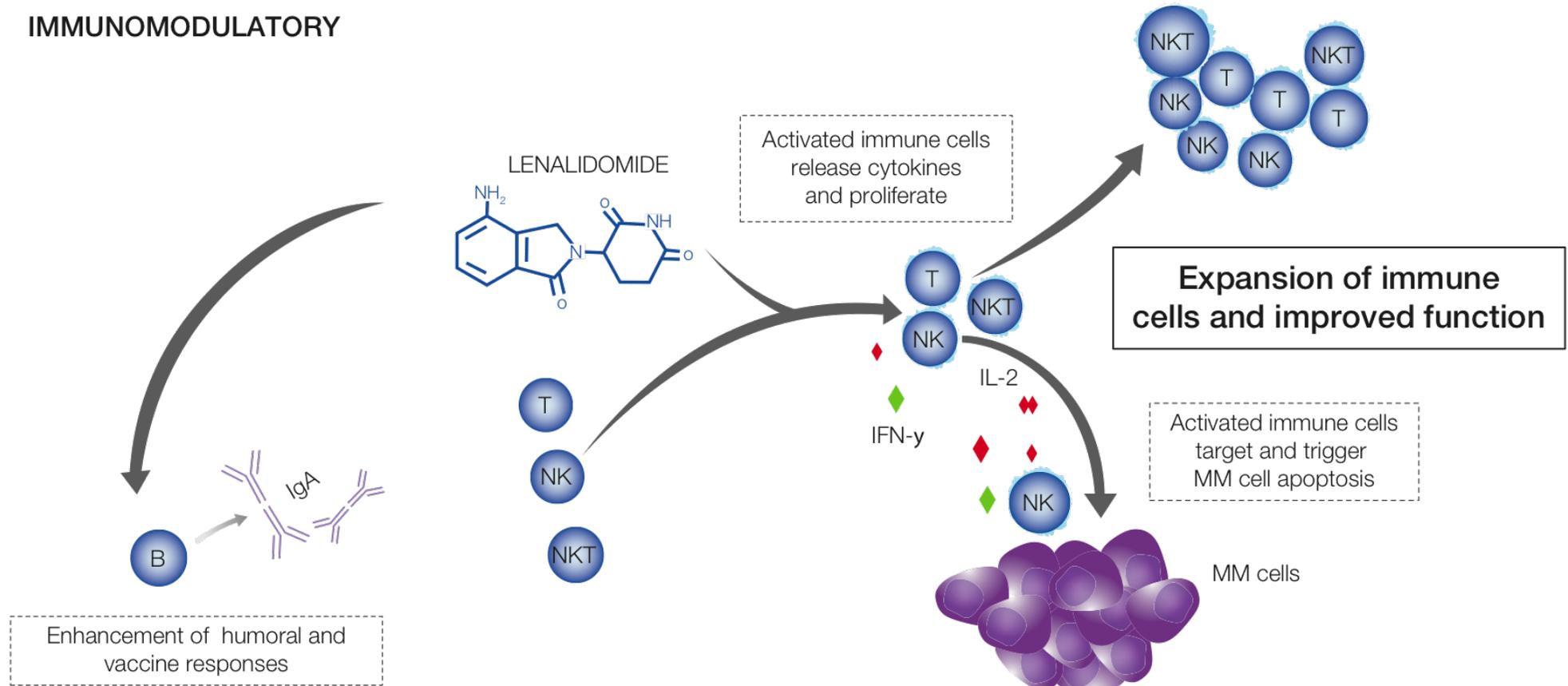
# Lenalidomide has immunomodulatory effect



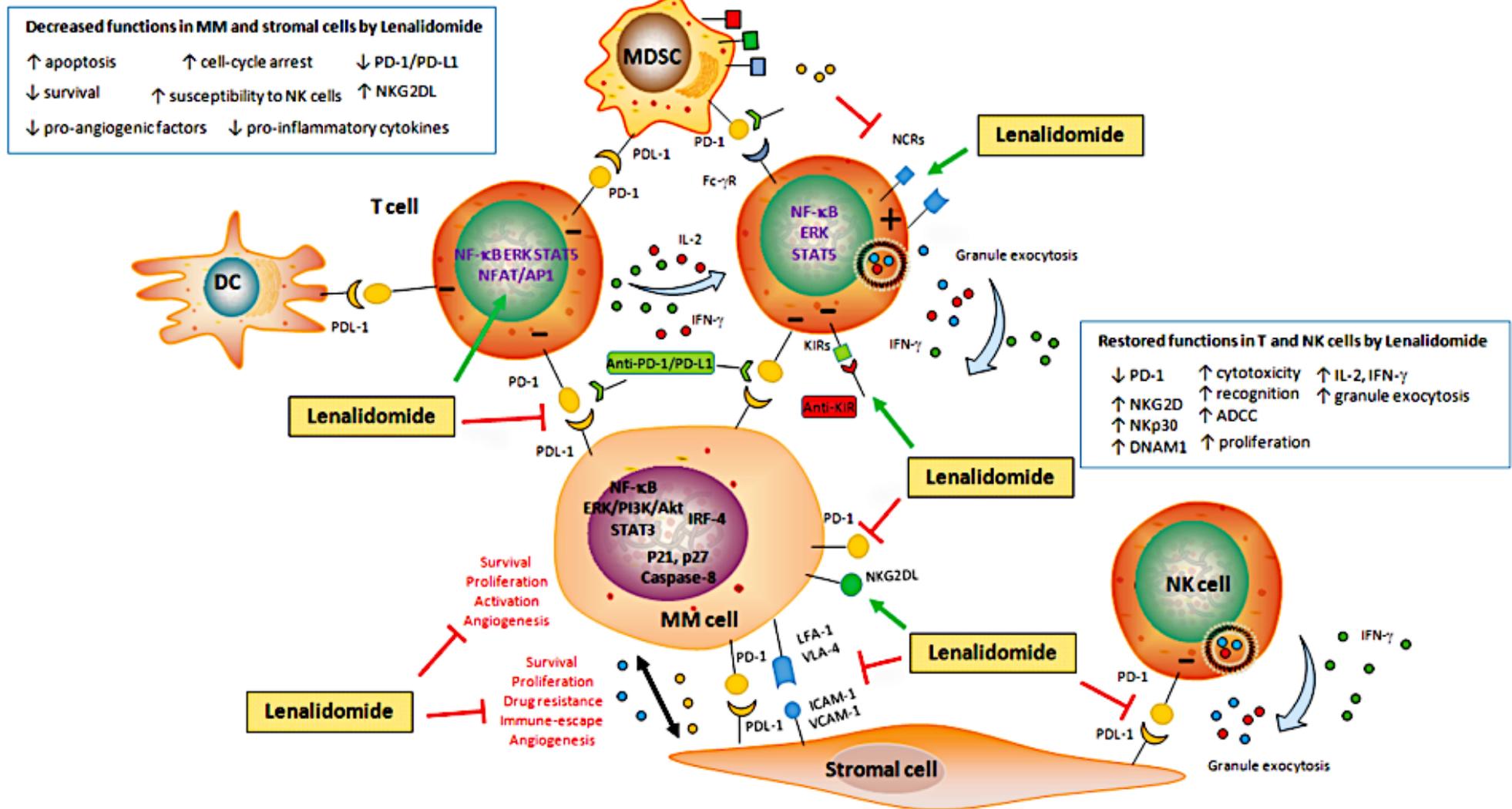
Davies F, Baz R. Blood Reviews 2010

# Lenalidomide increases immune response

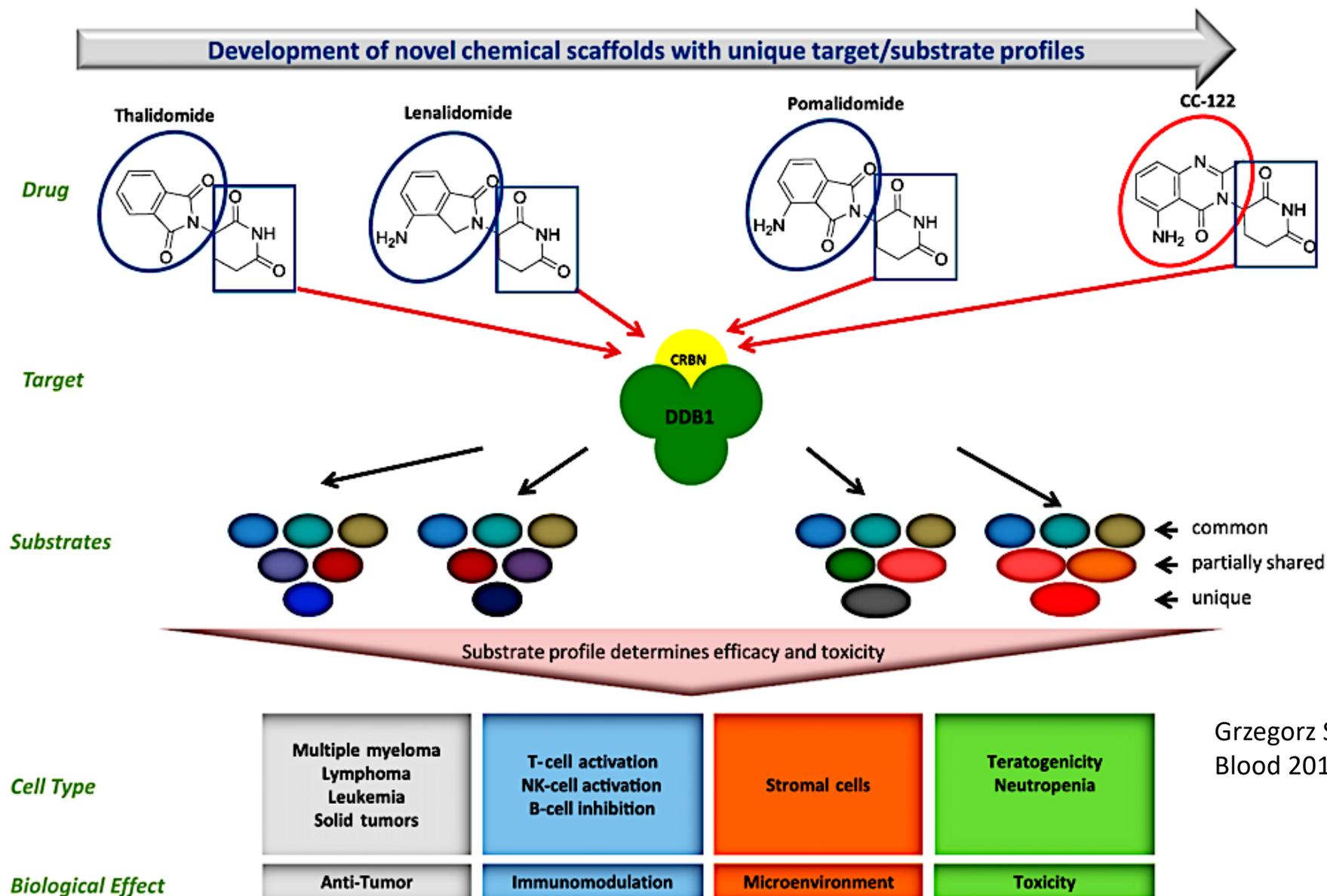
## B IMMUNOMODULATORY



# Lenalidomide down-regulates PD-1 on tumor cells and PD-L1 on both stromal and tumor cells, thus restoring immune response



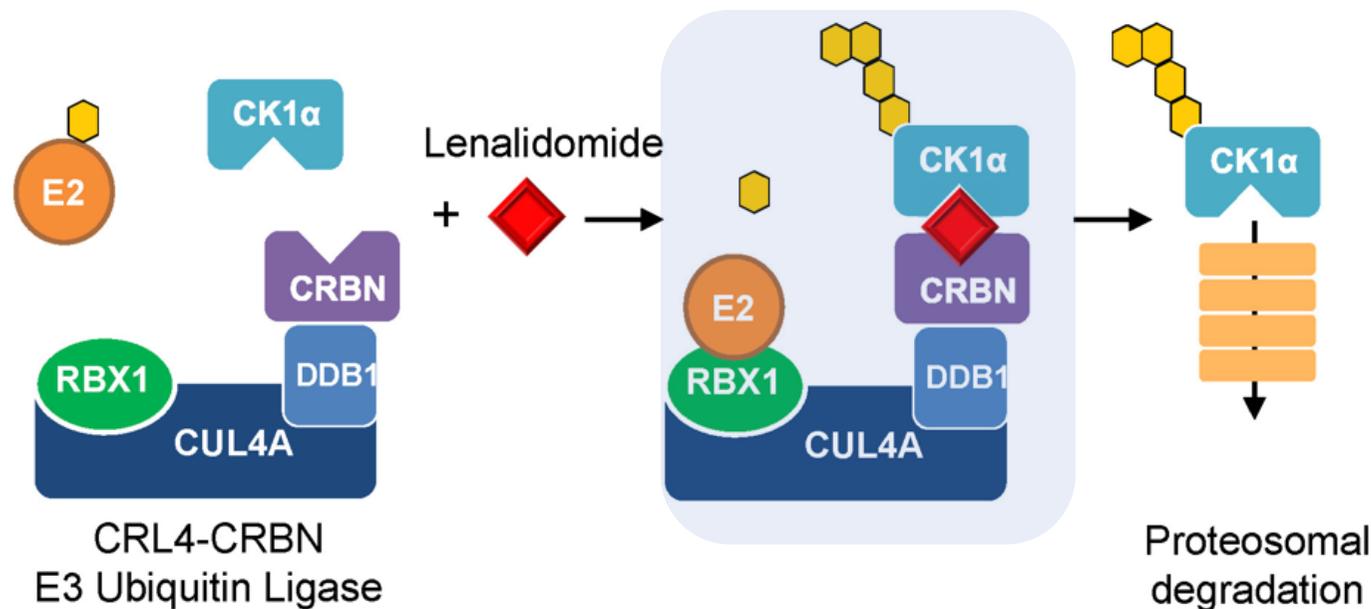
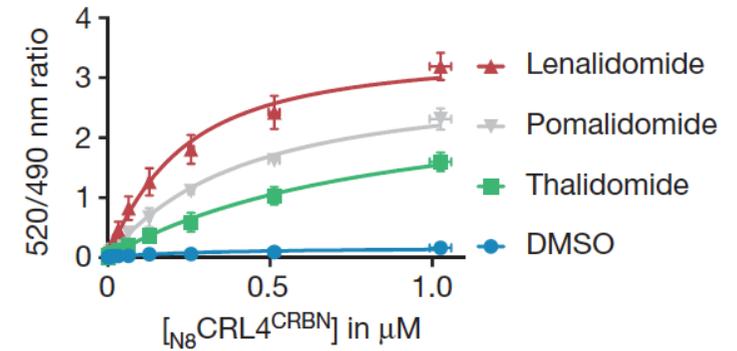
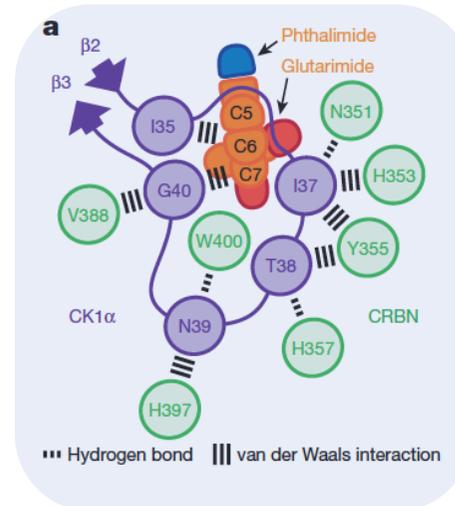
# Schematic model of cereblon (CRBN) binding resulting in pleiotropic activity of novel drugs



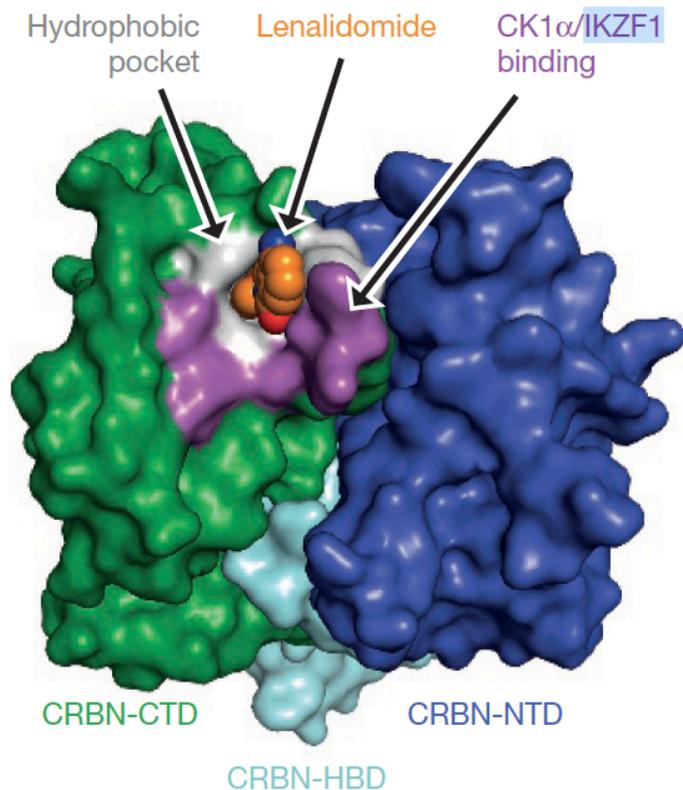
Grzegorz S. Nowakowski  
Blood 2015;126(6):698

# Lenalidomide-induced degradation of casein kinase 1 $\alpha$ (CK1 $\alpha$ )

Petzold et al., Nature 2014  
List et al. 2015



# Degradation of Ikaros family transcription factors provides a mechanism for lenalidomide's effects in multiple myeloma



CK1 $\alpha$  and IKZF1 share a common CRBN interface

IKZF1/3 are essential for B-cell differentiation and multiple myeloma cells survival

Interaction with IKZF1/3 may explain lenalidomide efficacy in mantle cell lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia

IKZF3 regulates expression of IRF4 (positive feedback loop with the oncogene MYC) and induces a transcriptional repression of the IL2 gene

Petzold et al., Nature 2014

# Conclusions

- Lenalidomide has a complex mechanism of action
- Preclinical and clinical studies put forward a dual mechanism of action for lenalidomide: a direct tumoricidal activity and immunomodulation
- Interaction with CRBN and the consequent degradation of endogenous substrates (e.g., Ikaros family transcription factors) may partially account for the mechanism of lenalidomide action in MM