

# Novel Combinations Leveraging RAR $\alpha$ Targeting with SY-1425 in AML and MDS

**Joseph G. Jurcic, MD**

Professor of Medicine at CUIMC

Director, Hematologic Malignancies

Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY

E-mail: [jjgj2110@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:jgj2110@cumc.columbia.edu)

# Disclosures

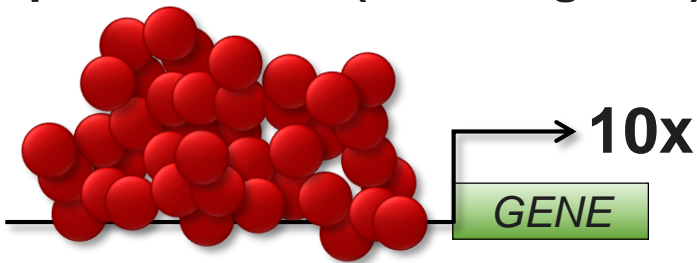
Company Name	Research Support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers Bureau	Advisory Board	Other
Actinium Pharmaceuticals	×					×	
AbbVie	×						
Astellas	×						
AstraZeneca			×				
Celgene	×						
Daiichi Sankyo	×						
Forma Therapeutics	×						
Genentech	×						
Kura Oncology	×						
Novartis			×				
Syros Pharmaceuticals	×						

- SY-1425 (tamibarotene) is an investigational drug in development for use in AML and MDS in the US and EU
- This presentation includes no reference to off-label or investigational use of an approved product in the US or EU

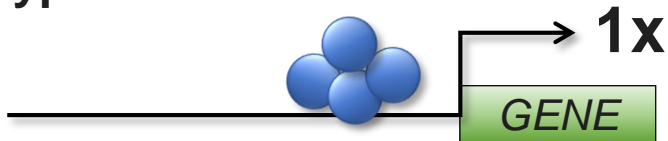


# In a subset of tumors, a super-enhancer drives the *RARA* gene

Super-Enhancer (1-5% of genes)



Typical Enhancer



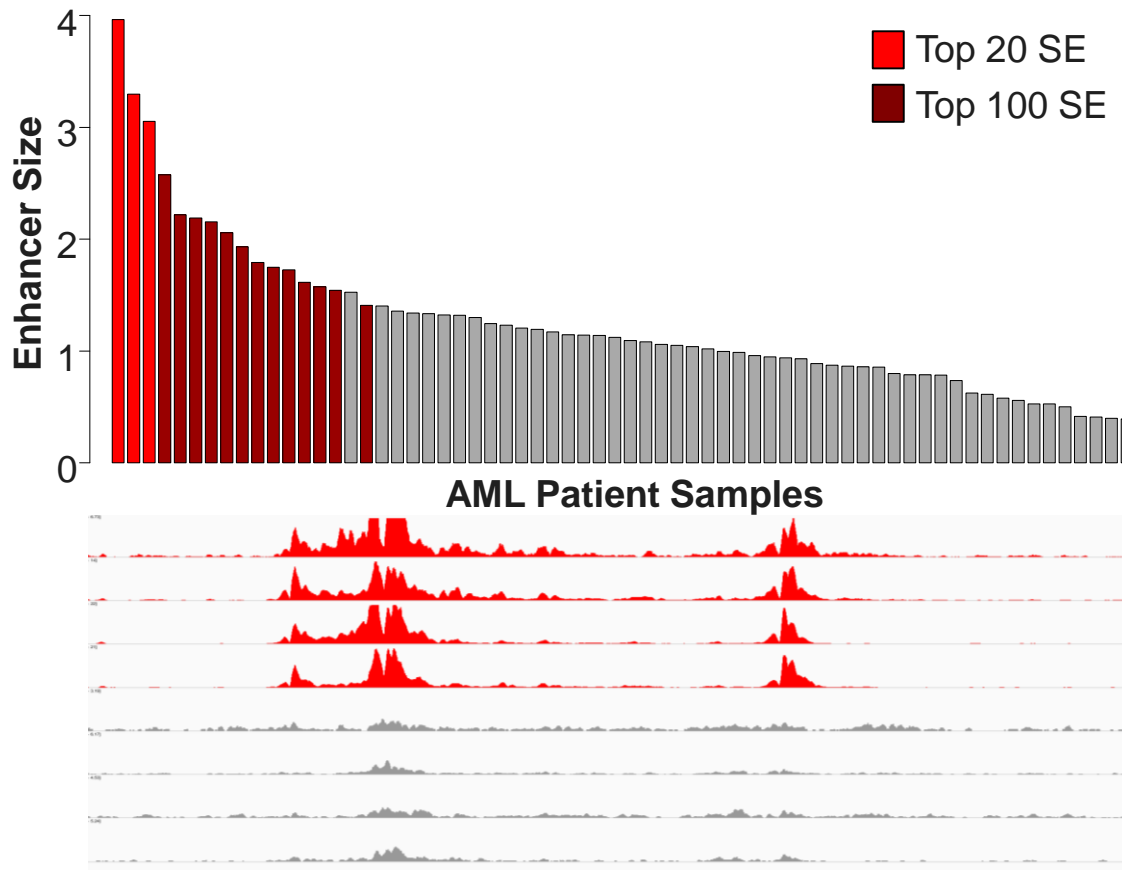
- Super-enhancers (SE) are large clustered enhancer regions in the human genome
- Control expression of genes critical for determining cell fate, differentiation, and malignant transformation
- Genome-wide profiling identified a SE at the *RARA* gene locus regulating *RARA* expression in ~1/3 of 1° AML patient samples

Data presented in June 2016 at the 21<sup>st</sup> Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA)  
McKeown MR *et al.* *Cancer Discov* 2017; 7:1136-1153.

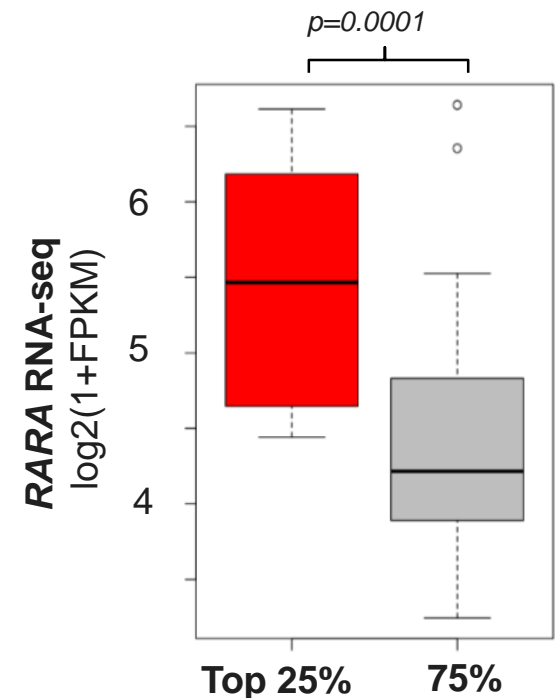


# A subset of non-APL AML patients have an *RARA* SE

## *RARA* Enhancer Distribution



## Increased *RARα* mRNA in top 25%

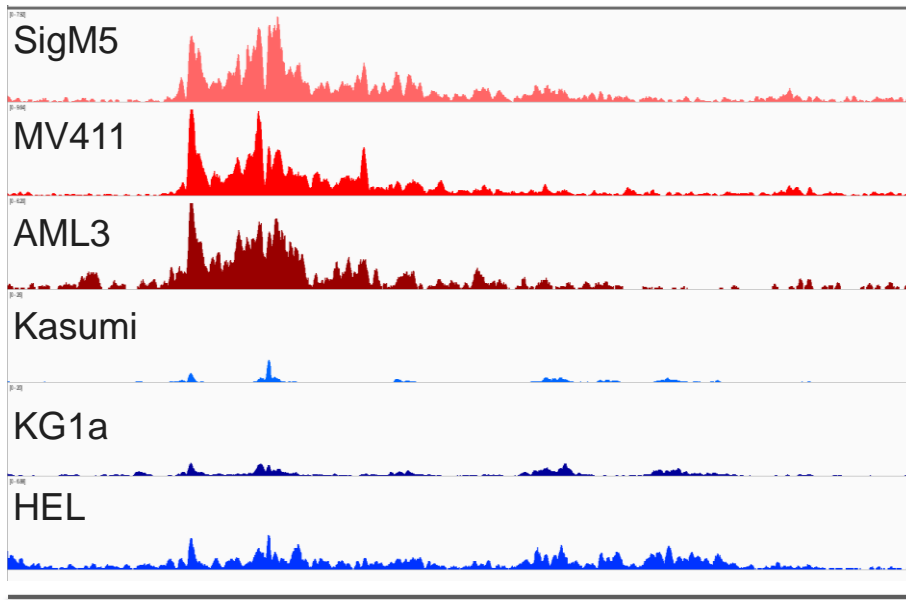


Data presented in June 2016 at the 21<sup>st</sup> Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA)  
McKeown MR *et al.* *Cancer Discov* 2017; 7:1136-1153.



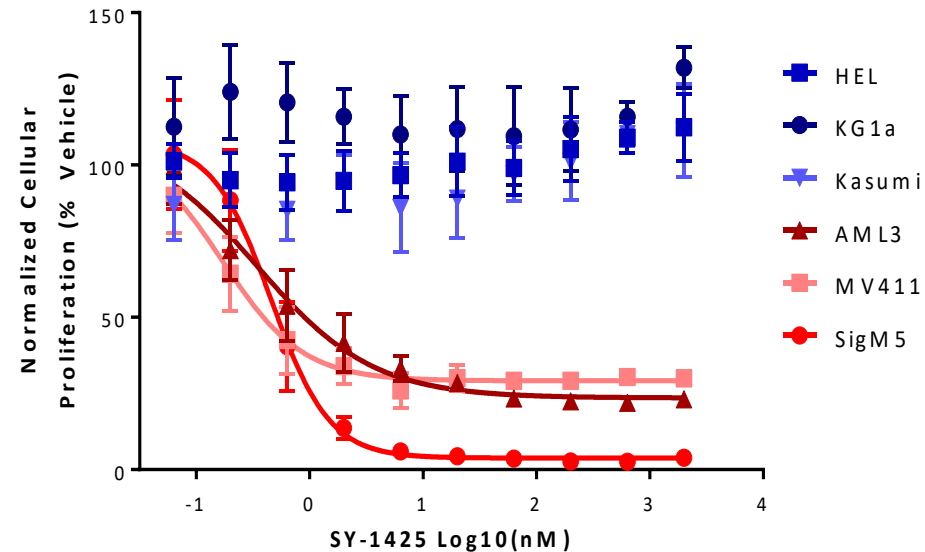
# *RARA* SE predicts sensitivity to an *RARα* agonist in non-APL AML cell line models

## *RARA* Enhancer



*RARA* gene locus

## SY-1425 Anti-Proliferative Effect

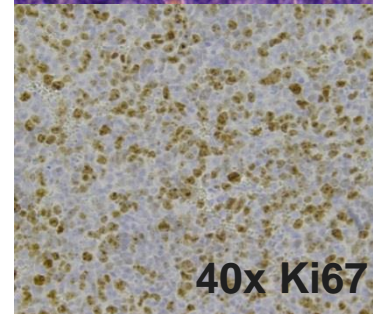
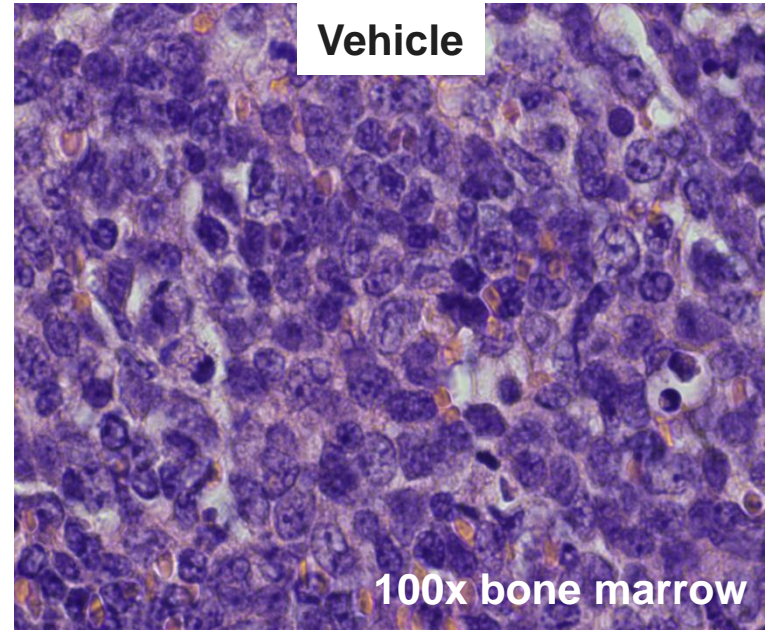
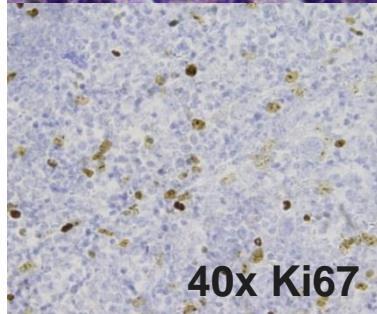
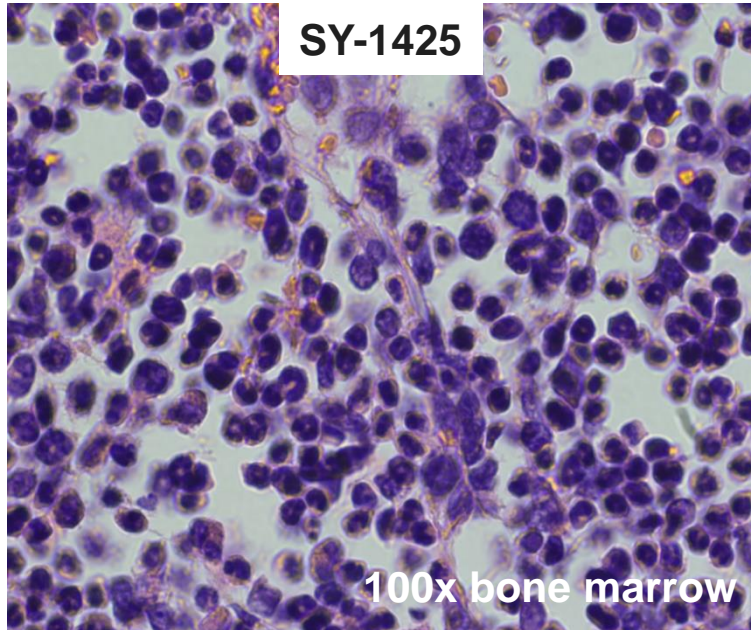


Data presented in June 2016 at the 21st Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA)





# SY-1425 induces differentiation in non-APL AML *RARA*-positive PDX models

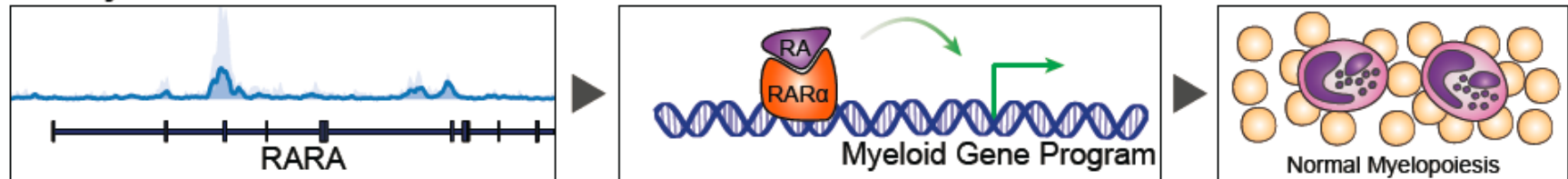


\*Samples obtained after  
14 days of treatment

Data presented in June 2016 at the 21st Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA)  
McKeown MR *et al. Cancer Discov* 2017; 7:1136-1153.

# Proposed model of SY-1425 action in *RARA*-positive AML promoting differentiation and restoring myelopoiesis

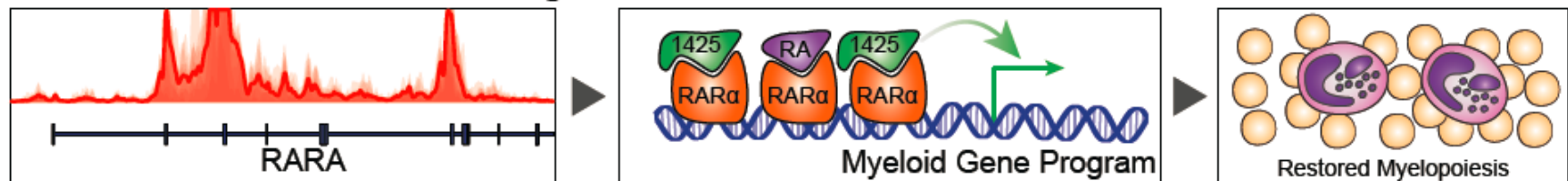
Healthy CD34+ HSPC



Cancer Cell with *RARA* SE

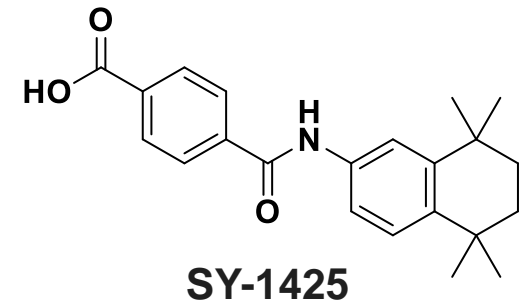


Cancer Cell with *RARA* SE + *RARα* Agonist



# SY-1425 is a first-in-class selective RAR $\alpha$ agonist

- Developed to overcome liabilities associated with ATRA
- Very potent and selective for RAR $\alpha$ 
  - 0.26 nM binding on RAR $\alpha$
  - Greater than 100x selectivity for RAR $\alpha$  over RAR $\beta$  and RAR $\gamma$
- Oral drug with improved pharmacokinetic properties
  - Longer half-life (5 vs. 0.6 hours)
  - Not metabolized by Cyp26A1
  - High sustained blood levels
- In clinical development as an investigational agent in AML and MDS patients selected for *RARA* pathway activation using RARA and/or IRF8 biomarkers (NCT02807558)





# Clinical and biologic activity seen with single-agent SY-1425 in difficult-to-treat AML and high-risk MDS patients

Phase 2 data in biomarker-selected patients showed myeloid differentiation, improved blood counts and reduced bone marrow blasts

- Biomarker status significantly correlated with differentiation of cells treated *ex vivo* with SY-1425, supporting the predictive value of the biomarker test for patient selection
- Clinical activity observed in 43% (10/23) R/R AML and high-risk MDS and 8% (2/25) low-risk MDS patients
  - 9 with hematologic improvement
  - 5 with marrow blast reductions, including 1 with marrow CR meeting IWG criteria
- 57% (13/23) R/R AML and high-risk MDS patients had stable disease
- Myeloid differentiation observed, including induction of CD38 in 85% (11/13) of evaluable patients

Generally well-tolerated with manageable and/or reversible side effects

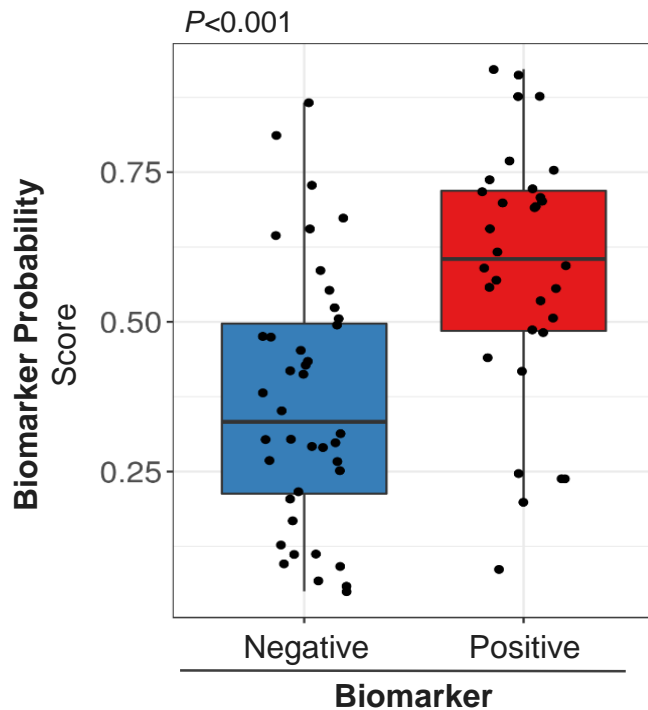
- 58 R/R AML or high-risk MDS and low-risk MDS patients treated for median duration of 80 days; patients treated up to 8 months and remaining on study
- Most common AEs consistent with prior experience:
  - Hypertriglyceridemia
  - Fatigue
  - Dermatologic effects
- Majority of AEs were low-grade

Data presented in December 2017 at the 59th American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting



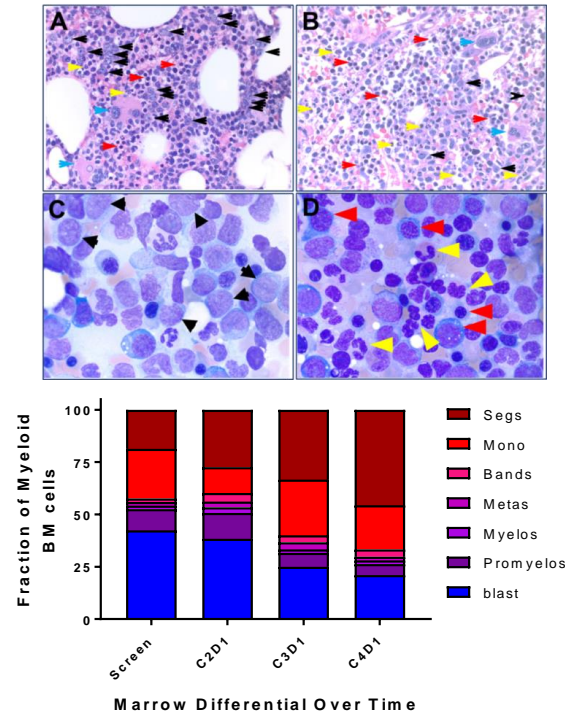
# Differentiation observed in biomarker-positive patient samples and clinical trial patients treated with SY-1425

Unbiased machine learning approach using Random-Forest analysis



Data presented in October 2017 at the European School of Haematology (ESH) 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on AML

66-year-old male with R/R AML



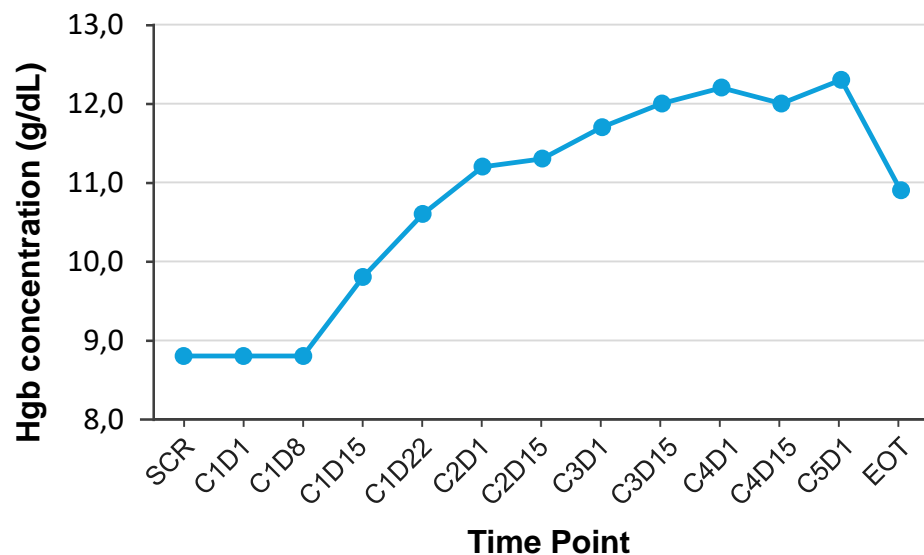
Myeloid differentiation starting after one cycle, with marrow blast reduction >25% beginning after two cycles and continuing to the start of the fourth cycle

Data presented in December 2017 at the 59th American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting



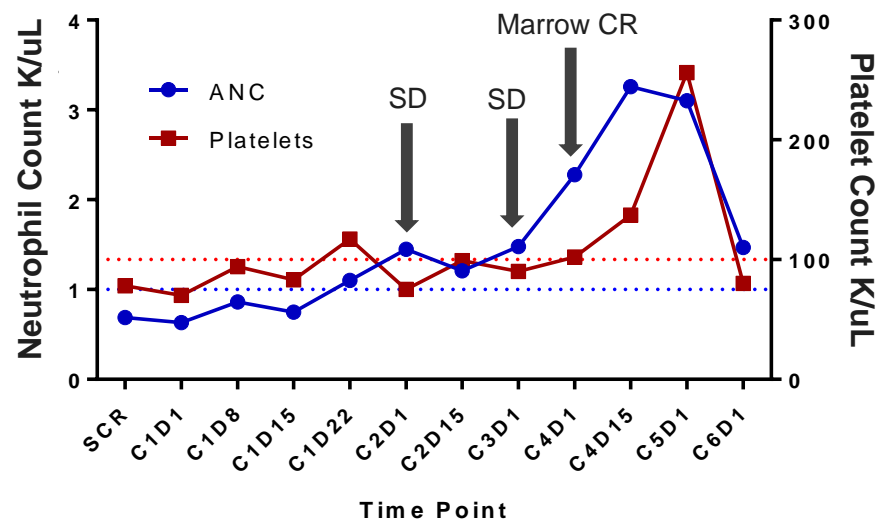
# Clinical activity observed in relapsed/refractory patients

## Erythroid response in R/R HR MDS patient



Initial response observed two weeks after starting treatment and lasting through five months without blood transfusions

## Marrow CR in R/R HR MDS patient



Initial responses (platelet and ANC) observed on cycle 1 day 22, patient remains on treatment past 238 days

Data presented in December 2017 at the 59th American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting



# Ongoing Phase 2 trial evaluating SY-1425 combinations in genomically-defined AML and MDS patients

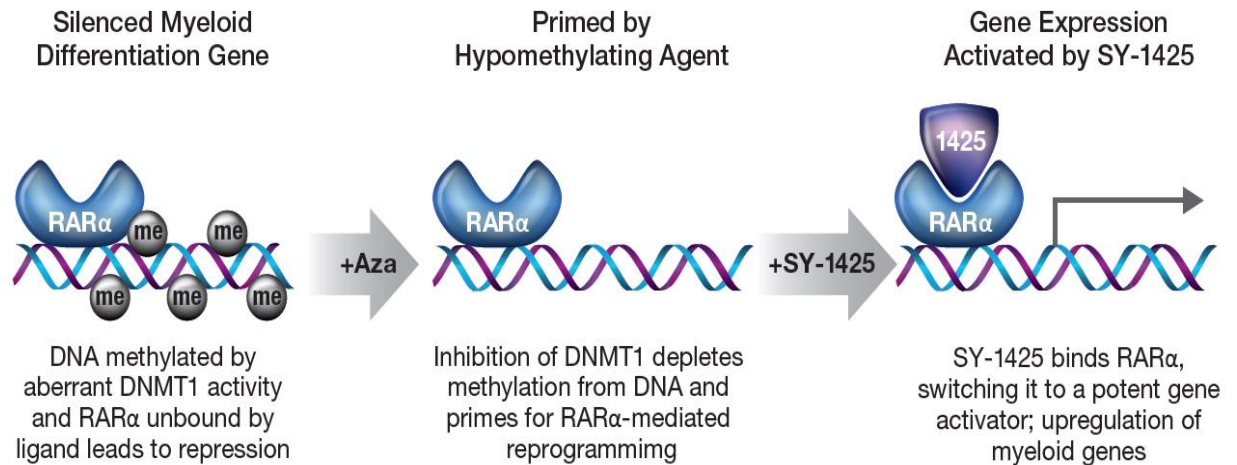
## Phase 2 Clinical Trial Design

Patient Population	Combo Agent		Primary Purpose
Biomarker-positive newly diagnosed, unfit AML (25 patients)	Azacitidine	▶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess safety and efficacy</li></ul>
Biomarker-positive R/R AML and higher-risk MDS (12 patient pilot)	Daratumumab	▶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate CD38 induction</li><li>• Assess safety and efficacy</li></ul>
Biomarker-negative newly diagnosed, unfit AML (25 patients)	Azacitidine	▶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support development of commercial companion diagnostic</li></ul>

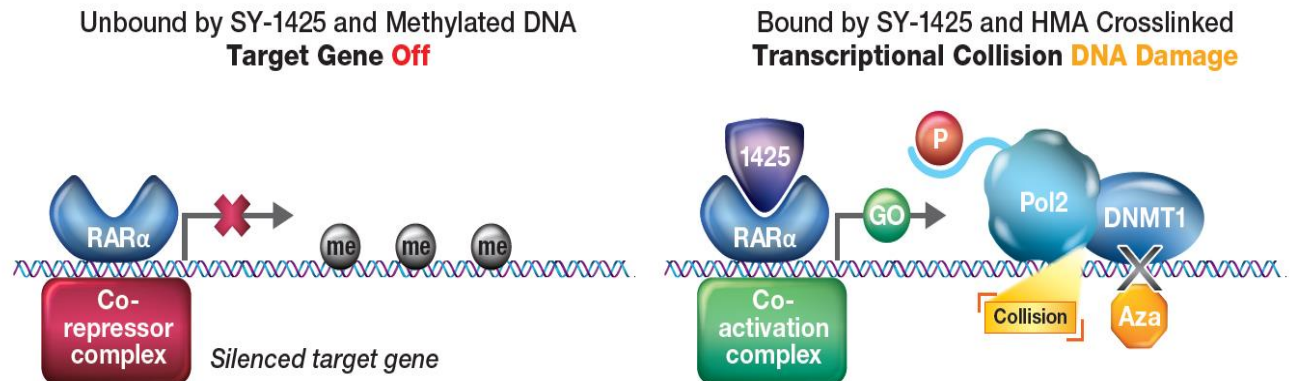


# SY-1425 plus azacitidine leads to tumor cell death: Potential mechanisms for combination synergy

1. Demethylation by AZA could prime SY-1425 agonism of formerly repressed RAR $\alpha$  target genes



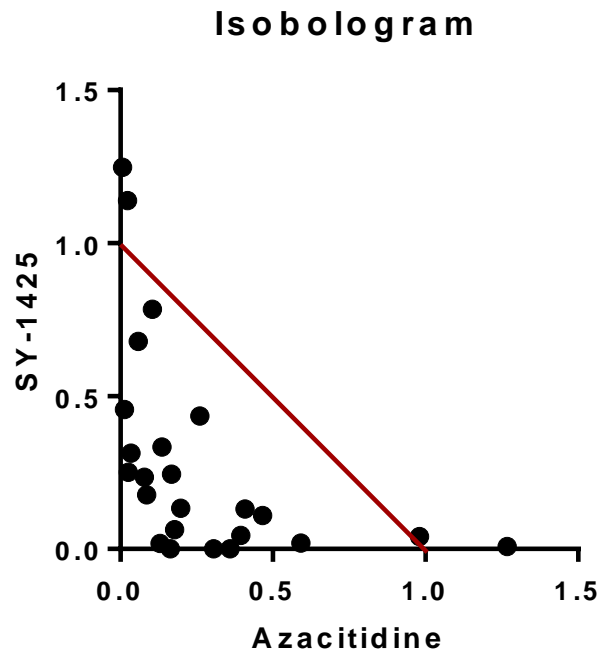
2. SY-1425-mediated gene activation in the context of AZA crosslinked to DNMT1 leads to DNA damage and apoptosis



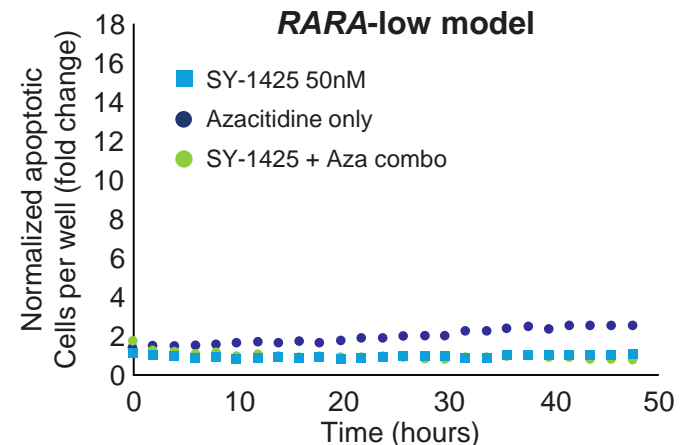
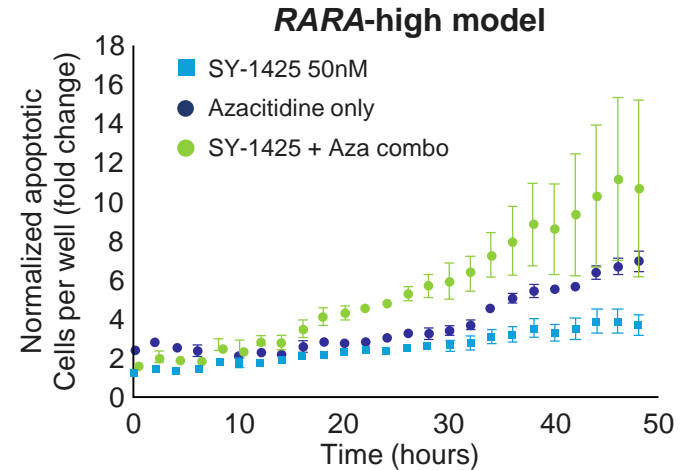


# SY-1425 plus azacitidine demonstrates combination synergy and induces apoptosis preclinically

Combo demonstrates in vitro synergy in *RARA*-high cell line models



Combo induces apoptosis in *RARA*-high cell lines



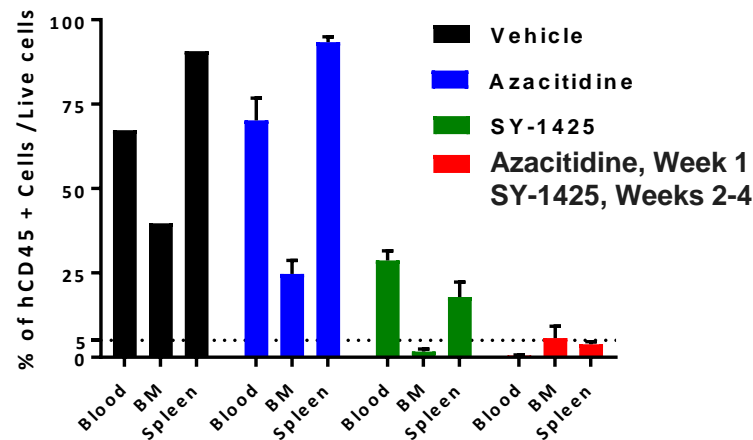
Data presented in April 2017 at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting



# SY-1425 plus azacitidine induces increased tumor reduction and deeper, more durable responses *in vivo*

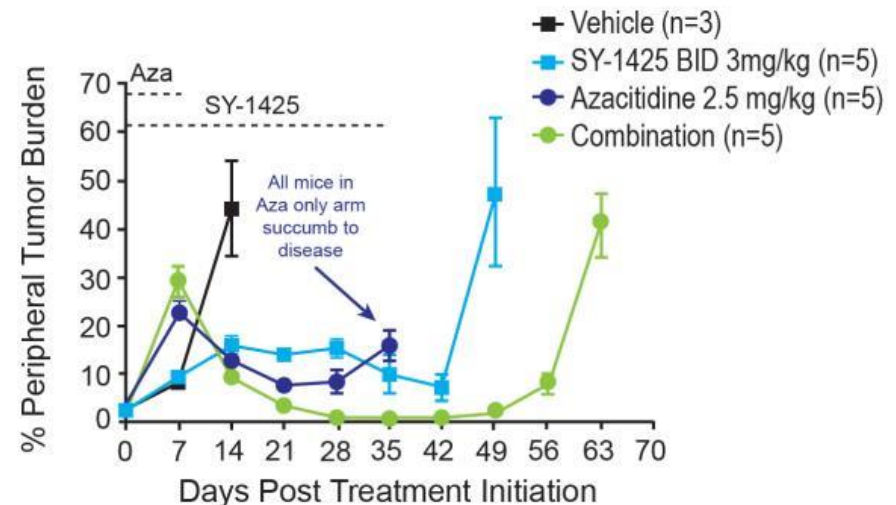
Combo leads to increased reduction in tumor burden in preclinical PDX model

Tumor content in blood, bone marrow and spleen



Data presented in April 2017 at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting

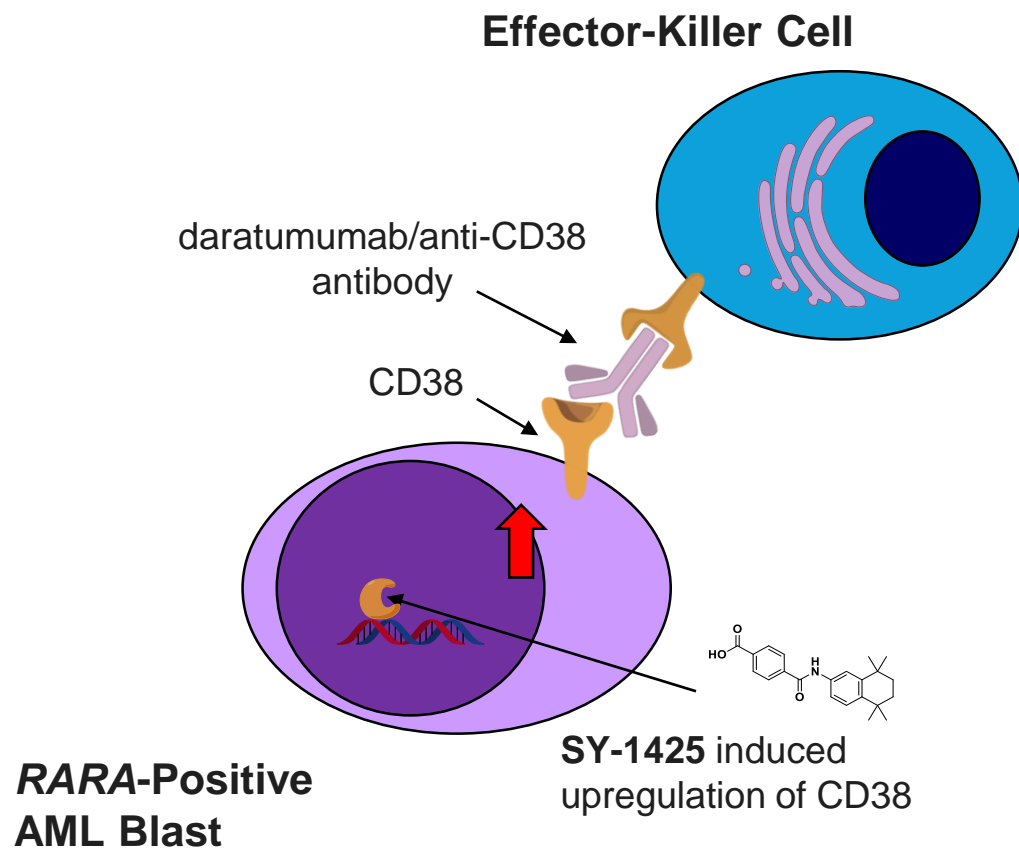
Combo leads to deeper and more durable response in preclinical PDX model



Data presented in December 2016 at the 58th American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting



# SY-1425 induces high levels of CD38 expression in *RARA*-positive AML supporting a CD38 targeting strategy

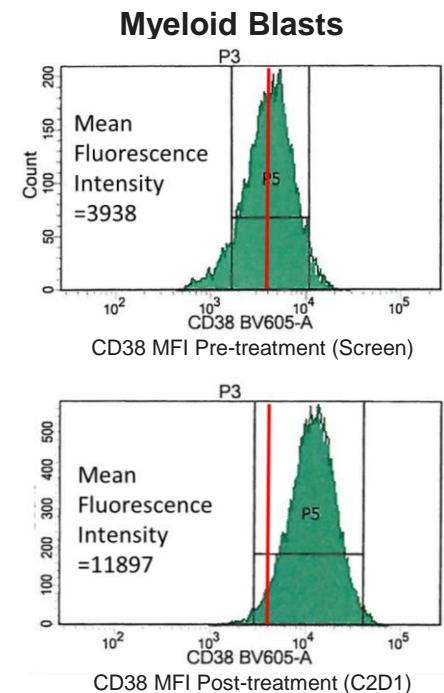
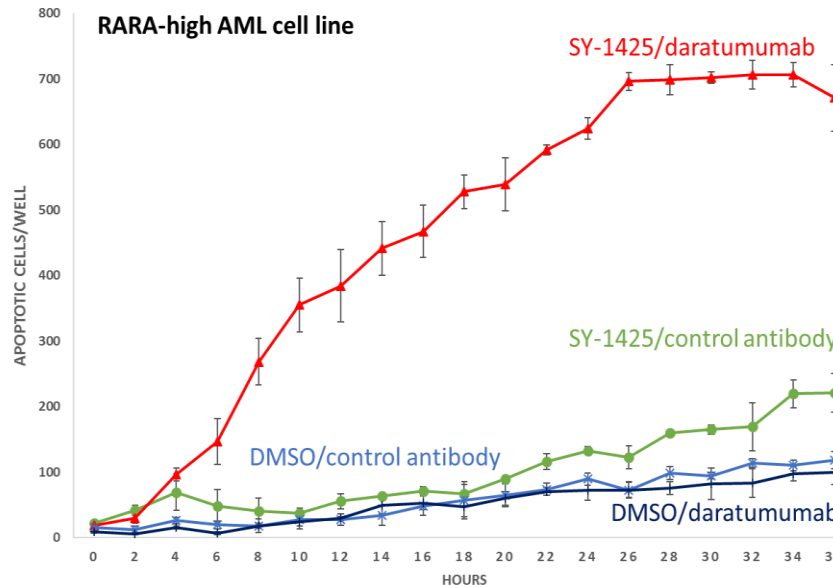
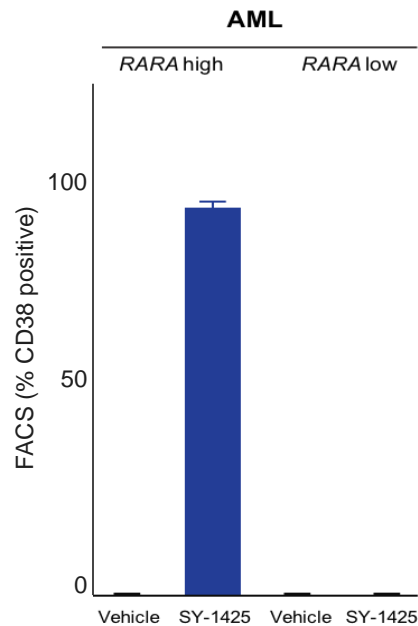


# SY-1425 induces CD38 expression in preclinical models and patients; Anti-CD38 combination induces immune-mediated cell death *in vitro*

SY-1425 induces CD38 cell surface expression

SY-1425 in combination with daratumumab induces immune-mediated cell death

CD38 induction seen in 85% of evaluable clinical trial patients



Data presented in April 2017 at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting

Data presented in December 2017 at the 59th American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting



# Conclusions

- SY-1425 is a first-in-class selective, oral RAR $\alpha$  agonist that has been generally well-tolerated to date in AML and MDS clinical study patients
- SY-1425 demonstrated single-agent clinical and biological activity in novel AML and MDS patient subsets as defined by biomarkers of *RARA* pathway activation
- Preclinical data support multiple mechanisms of combination synergy to induce leukemic cell death in AML models
- An ongoing Phase 2 study is evaluating SY-1425 in combination with azacitidine and with daratumumab

