

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

Current Report
Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

September 7, 2022
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

MAIA Biotechnology, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	001-41455 (Commission File Number)	83-1495913 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
444 West Lake Street, Suite 1700 Chicago, IL (Address of principal executive offices)		60606 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(312) 416-8592**

N/A
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock	MAIA	NYSE American

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On September 7, 2022, MAIA Biotechnology, Inc. (the “Company”) made available management’s updated investor presentation materials. Pursuant to Regulation FD, the presentation materials are furnished with this Current Report as Exhibit 99.1.

The information set forth in Item 7.01 of this Current Report on Form 8-K and in the attached Exhibit 99.1 is deemed to be “furnished” and shall not be deemed to be “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section. The information set forth in Item 7.01 of this Current Report on Form 8-K, including Exhibit 99.1, shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Exchange Act or the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Management Presentation.
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File - the cover page XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: September 7, 2022

MAIA BIOTECHNOLOGY, INC.

By: /s/ Vlad Vitoc

Name: Vlad Vitoc

Title: Chief Executive Officer



MAIA
BIOTECHNOLOGY

**TELOMERE TARGETING IMMUNOTHERAPIES FOR
CANCER NYSE AMERICAN: MAIA**

September 2022

All statements in this presentation, other than those relating to historical facts, are "forward-looking statements." These forward-looking statements may include, but are not limited to, statements relating to our objectives, plans, and strategies; statements that contain projections of results of operations or of financial condition; statements relating to the industry and government policies and regulations relating to our industry; and all statements (other than statements of historical facts) that address activities, events, or developments that we intend, expect, project, believe, or anticipate will or may occur in the future. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks and uncertainties. We have based these forward-looking statements on assumptions and assessments made by our management in light of their experience and their perception of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments, and other factors they believe to be appropriate. Important factors that could cause actual results, developments, and business decisions to differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements include, among other things: the overall global economic environment; general market, political, and economic conditions in the countries in which we operate; projected capital expenditures and liquidity; changes in our strategy, government regulations and approvals; the application of certain service license; and litigation and regulatory proceedings. Additional factors that could cause or contribute to differences between the Company's actual results and forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those risks discussed in the Company's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including, but not limited to, the risks detailed in the Company's registration statement on Form S-1, as amended (Registration No.: 333-264225), and any subsequent filings with the SEC. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the Commission's website at www.sec.gov. We caution you that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and that our actual results of operations, financial condition and liquidity, and the development of the industry in which we operate may differ materially from the forward looking statements contained in this presentation as a result of, among other factors, the factors referenced in the "Risk Factors" section of the Registration Statement. In addition, even if our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity, and the development of the industry in which we operate are consistent with the forward-looking statements contained in this presentation, they may not be predictive of results or developments in future periods. These statements are only current predictions and are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause our or our industry's actual results, levels of activity, performance, or achievements to be materially different from those anticipated by the forward-looking statements. You should not rely upon forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance, or achievements. Except as required by law, we are under no duty to update or revise any of the forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, after the date of this prospectus. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this presentation, and we assume no obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements for any reason.

PIPELINE

- ✓ **THIO-101: Phase 2 Trial of THIO + LIBTAYO® (cemiplimab) in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) enrolling**
 - Ex-US strategy initially: Australia and Europe
 - Evolve into pivotal trial; to include US sites
 - Planned second-line therapy
 - Regeneron clinical supply agreement for Libtayo
 - Plan to readout & file in 2024 for accelerated approval in 2025
- ✓ **THIO-102: Basket/Umbrella Design**
 - Plan to initiate pivotal Phase 2 trial in CRC, HCC, SCLC in 1H2023
 - Sequence with Libtayo (Regeneron), Keytruda (Merck), Tecentriq (Genentech)
 - Nine additional market entry strategies
- ✓ **Pre-Clinical Next Generation Telomere Targeting Candidates**
 - Orphan indication targets for market entry
 - Major tumor types for expansion

SCIENCE

- ✓ **THIO (6-thio-dG) Telomere Targeting Agent**
 - Small molecule eligible for NCE marketing exclusivity
 - THIO activity shown to be cancer-specific in tumor types with active telomerase
 - Dual mechanism of action
 - Complete response with no recurrence during study period
 - *In vivo* in lung, colorectal¹, and liver cancers
 - Safety assessment data based on prior human studies:
 - 600+ subjects (adult and pediatric) at significantly higher doses than in THIO-101 trial
 - Intellectual Property Portfolio expected to provide protection out to 2041, not including any potential PTA or PTE
 - FDA Orphan Drug Designations granted for Liver Cancer and Small Cell Lung Cancer
- ✓ **Nobel Prize**
 - Awarded to scientists who discovered telomeres and telomerase²

¹Published in Cancer Cell, see slides 28-30, below
²Nobel Prize awarded in 2009 to Jack Szostak, Elizabeth Blackburn and Carol Greider

Telomerase is an enzyme that is present in a majority of human cancer cells (over 85% in the aggregate), across various tumor types

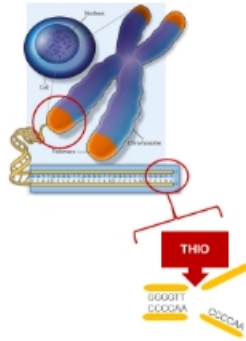
Direct Telomere-Targeting:

Lead to Cancer Cell Death¹

- 1 THIO metabolized and utilized telomerase in cancer cells
- 2 THIO metabolite was observed to incorporate into telomeres by telomerase
- 3 Telomeric structure and function were compromised
- 4 Followed by fast and efficient cancer cell death.

¹ In Preclinical Studies

Basis for New Treatment Approach



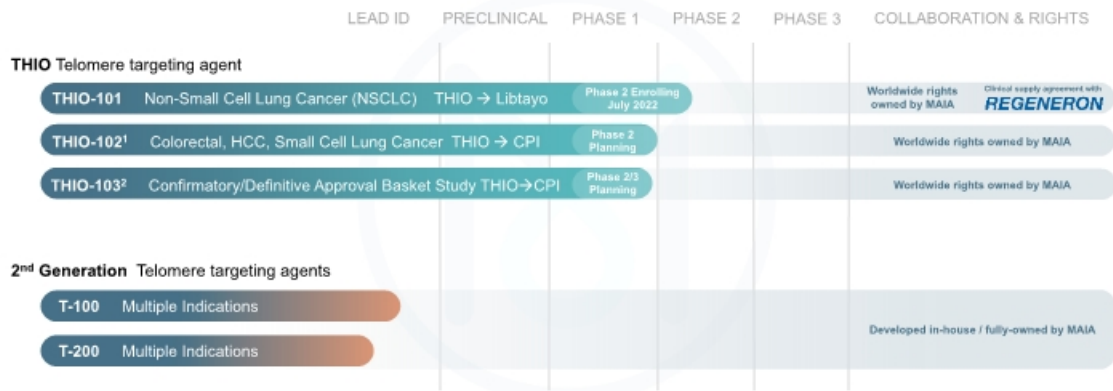
Immunogenic Effect:

Anti-Tumor Immune Activation (in vivo²)

- 1 Produced micronuclei containing THIO-modified telomeric DNA fragments, which were then observed extracellularly and reached immune cells
- 2 These neoadjuvant DNA fragments specifically activated cGAS/STING pathway in the cancer and dendritic cells
- 3 Induced innate & adaptive immune responses that eliminated remaining cancer cells
- 4 Generated anti-tumor specific immunological memory and prevented tumor recurrence

² In Rodent Preclinical Studies

Robust pipeline includes several targeted immuno-oncology therapies for difficult-to-treat cancers



¹ Phase 2 Basket / Umbrella design – for accelerated approval in U.S.

² Phase 2/3 Basket study – for confirmatory / definitive approval in: Colorectal Cancer (CRC), Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC), Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC), Glioblastoma (GBM), Melanoma, Ovarian, Pancreatic, Breast, Prostate, and Gastric cancers.

Goal of Study:

New Standard of Care for Treatment of NSCLC

Phase 2 dose optimization study, to evolve into a pivotal study for US approval:

Safety lead-in

Select optimal dose for planned pivotal study

Contribute Drug Supply

LIBTAYO® (cemiplimab; anti-PD1)

Development exclusivity only for NSCLC for study period

All other tumor types remain open



Established Joint Development Collaboration Committee to maximize success

MAIA Biotechnology, Inc. Announces Clinical Supply Agreement with Regeneron for Phase 1/2 Clinical Trial Evaluating THIO in Sequential Administration with Libtayo® (cemiplimab) in Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

February 02, 2021 09:03 AM Eastern Standard Time

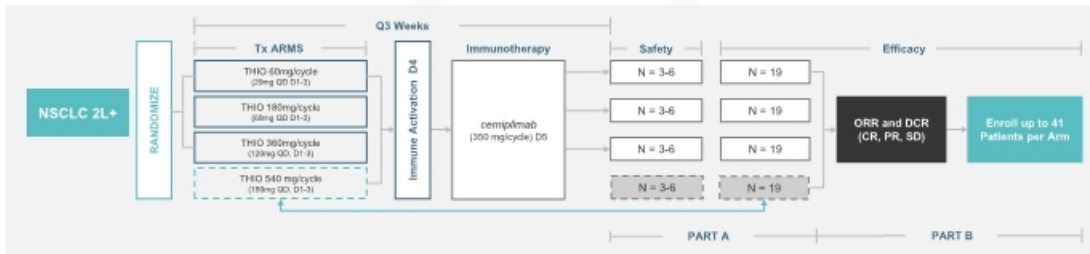
CHICAGO—(BUSINESS WIRE)—MAIA Biotechnology, Inc., a targeted therapy, immuno-oncology company focused on development of first-in-class oncology drugs, today announced a clinical supply agreement with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (REGN) to evaluate THIO (aka 6-thio-20) followed by the PD-1 inhibitor Libtayo® (cemiplimab), in a Phase 1/2 clinical trial in second-line or later advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients who have progressed following treatment with standard-of-care regimen that includes a checkpoint inhibitor. This clinical trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of four dose levels of THIO, the only telomere-by-telomerase targeting agent in development for the treatment of cancer, followed by Libtayo. The lead-in portion of the study will initially assess the safety and immunogenic effects of each of the THIO doses and overall response rate (ORR) as the basis for potentially expanding individual patient cohorts and evaluation in other cancer types. The Phase 1/2 clinical trial is expected to begin enrolling patients in 2021.

"Priming tumors with THIO before Libtayo treatment is a novel approach that may enhance and extend the potential benefits of immunotherapy for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer, and we look forward to seeing if the positive pre-clinical results that MAIA has published will translate to the clinic."

[Tweet this](#)

"We are excited for the opportunity to partner with Regeneron on our planned clinical trial of THIO and believe this collaboration to be validating of the program's potential to transform both the immuno-oncology landscape and the cancer treatment paradigm," stated Vlad Vitoz, MD, MAIA's Chief Executive Officer and President. "Notably, THIO has a well-demonstrated clinical safety profile at varying dosage levels and in preclinical results, low-dose THIO followed by immunotherapy has shown complete elimination of advanced tumors with no indication of treatment limiting toxicity. The efficacy results of this trial are expected to support the continued development of THIO in NSCLC and potentially its expansion to treat a vast array of other cancers. Based on our extensive preclinical experience, we believe that THIO may transform immunologically 'cold' tumors into 'hot', rendering them responsive to standard-of-care immuno-oncology therapies, and potentially improving their effectiveness."

A Multicenter, Open-Label, Dose-Finding Phase 2 Study Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of THIO Administered in Sequence with LIBTAYO® (*cemiplimab*)



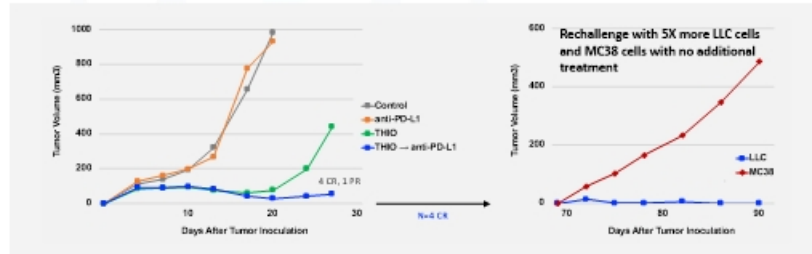
Primary Endpoints	Overall Response Rate (ORR)
Secondary Endpoints	ORR in telomerase positive patients; Complete Response (CR), Partial Response (PR), Stable Disease (SD), Disease Control Rate (DCR), Duration of Response (DoR), Progression-Free Survival (PFS), Overall Survival (OS), Safety
Exploratory Endpoints	Activity of THIO in circulating tumor cells, measured by Telomere-dysfunction Induced Foci (TIFs) and genomic gamma-H2AX; blood biomarkers

ClinicalTrials.gov: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT05208944?term=05208944&draw=2&rank=1>

Catalyst	Timing	Current SOC (chemo)	THIO → LIBTAYO (expected)
Safety	Q3-Q4 2022	72-79% Grd ≥3	10-20% Grd ≥3
Preliminary Efficacy (ORR in first 30-40 pts)	Q4 2022 – Q1 2023	11-23%	30-60%
PFS	H2 2023	4-4.5 months	6-12 months
OS	H1 2024	8.1-10.5 months	14-20 months

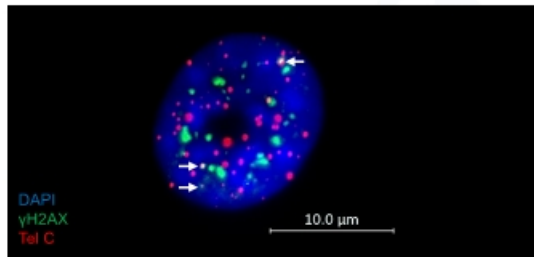
- ✔ Demonstrated complete response of tumor with no observed recurrence in Lewis Lung Carcinoma (LLC) in murine models

- ✔ Development of immunological **tumor-specific** directed memory – no tumor development upon rechallenge



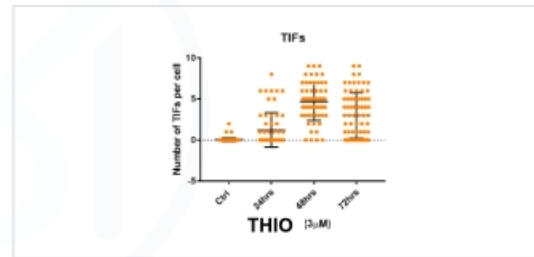
THIO induced telomere dysfunction in Lewis Lung Carcinoma (LLC) cells: in vitro NSCLC model

Confocal microscopy image of LLC cell nucleus after treatment with 3 μ M of THIO



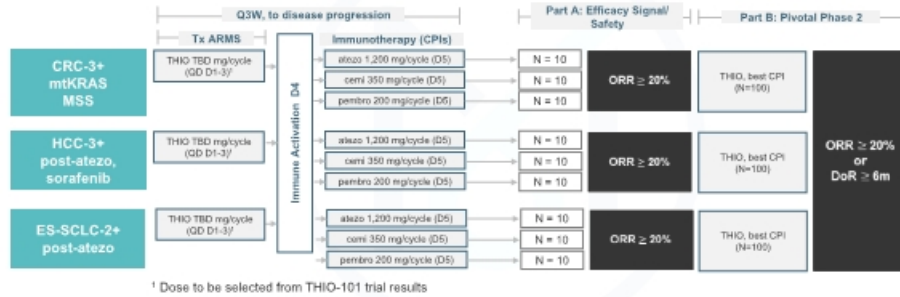
Yellow dots (marked by triangles) indicated telomere damage induced foci (TIFs) by THIO
Green dots - gH2AX
Red dots - telomeres

Quantification of TIFs induced in LLC cell by 3 μ M of THIO



TIFs induction reached maximum after approx. 48 hours of exposure
 Formation of TIFs indicated on-target Mechanism of Action (MOA) of THIO

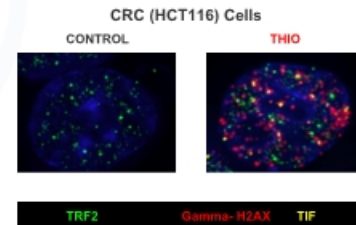
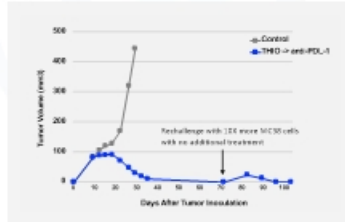
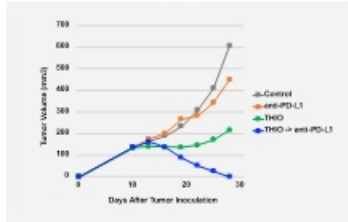
A Multicenter, Open-Label, Phase 2 Study Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of THIO Administered in Sequence with Anti-PD-1 or Anti-PD-L1 in Patients with Telomerase Positive Cancers



Primary Endpoints	Overall Response Rate (ORR), Duration of Response (DoR)
Secondary Endpoints	Complete Response (CR), Partial Response (PR), Stable Disease (SD), Disease Control Rate (DCR), Progression-Free Survival (PFS), Overall Survival (OS), Safety

Catalyst	Timing	Current SOC (chemo)	THIO → CPI (expected)
Safety	Early H1 2023	50-60% Grd ≥3	10-20% Grd ≥3
ORR	Late H1 2023	1-1.6%	10-20%
PFS	H2 2023	1.9-2.0 months	3-6 months
OS	H1 2025	6.4-7.2 months	9-12 months

THIO followed by PD-L1 blockade resistance in MC38 cells in murine model turns immunologically cold tumors to hot and results in complete response and no recurrence by the end of study.



MULTIPLE VALUE-DRIVING MILESTONES



#1 Worldwide: NSCLC/ #2 Worldwide: CRC

Mortality: 1.6M in 2021
Sales: \$23B in 2021

Mortality 943,000 in 2021
Sales \$8B in 2021

Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors Market



Checkpoint Inhibitors

Five approved for NSCLC (Keytruda, Opdivo, Tecentriq, Imfinzi, Libtayo)

- \$12B of \$23B total NSCLC drug sales in 2021
- \$12B of \$34B total checkpoint inhibitor sales in 2021

Keytruda: \$7.5B source of business in NSCLC of \$17.2B total (>20 other tumor types)

Libtayo

Entrant #5
Needs superior efficacy to Keytruda to take over in first line

Profile similar to Keytruda
Sequential combination with THIO is key

Keytruda®/ pembrolizumab MERCK	Opdivo®/ nivolumab Bristol Myers Squibb	Tecentriq®/ atezolizumab Eli Lilly	Imfinzi®/ durvalumab AstraZeneca	Libtayo®/ cemiplimab REGENERON
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EXCLUSIVITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SUMMARY



Goal: NCE Marketing Exclusivity

- THIO (6-thio-2'-deoxyguanosine) has never been previously approved by the FDA
- NCE exclusivity if granted blocks submission of competing ANDAs and 505(b)(2) NDAs for 5 years

Robust and Growing Patent Portfolio for THIO

- 1 issued US patent
- 3 issued foreign patents
- 5 pending US patent applications
- 8 pending foreign patent applications

Current patents/provisionals broadly cover the following key areas:

- Telomerase mediated telomere altering compounds
- THIO's immunogenic treatment strategy: sequential combination with checkpoint inhibitors
- Treatment of therapy-resistant cancers

Jurisdiction	Status	Number	Title	Expected Expiration Date	Type of Patent Protection
US	Issued	10,463,685	Telomerase Mediated Telomere Altering Compounds	April 8, 2034	Use of 6-Thio-dG to treat lung cancer or colon cancer
MX	Issued	387026	Telomerase Mediated Telomere Altering Compounds	April 8, 2034	Use of 6-Thio-dG to treat lung cancer or colon cancer
NZ	Issued	73228	Telomerase Mediated Telomere Altering Compounds	April 8, 2034	Use of 6-Thio-dG to reduce the size or a tumor or the growth rate of the tumor
Russia	Issued	2713505	Telomerase Mediated Telomere Altering Compounds	April 8, 2034	Use of 6-Thio-dG to treat lung cancer or colon cancer
US	Pending	16450,430	Treatment of Drug Resistant Proliferative Diseases with Telomerase Mediated Telomere Altering Compounds	March 23, 2037	A method of treating NSCLC using a 6-mercaptopyrimine deoxyribonucleoside analogue
US	Pending	16004,538	6-Thio-2'-deoxyguanosine (6-Thio-dG) results in telomerase dependent telomere dysfunction and cell death in various models of therapy-resistant cancer cells	May 26, 2037	A method of treating a subject with cancer comprising 6-thio-dG) wherein cells of said cancer are telomerase-positive and exhibit enriched telomere transcriptional signatures), wherein said subject has had disease progression during or after platinum-based therapy, radiotherapy, or immunotherapy
US	Pending	16982,979	Use of 6-thio-dG to Treat Therapy-Resistant Telomerase Positive Pediatric Brain Tumors	March 22, 2039	A method of treating a brain cancer in a pediatric subject, comprising administering a telomerase substrate precursor analog to a subject in need thereof, thereby treating pediatric brain cancer.
US	Pending	17200,539	Sequential Treatment of Cancers Using 6-Thio-dG, Checkpoint Inhibitors and Radiation Therapy	March 12, 2041	A method of treating a cancer, in a subject comprising administering to said subject 6-thio-2'-deoxyguanosine (6-thio-dG) followed by treatment with an immune checkpoint inhibitor, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of pancreatic, lung, mesothelioma, stomach, esophagus, liver, biliary tract, bladder, head & neck, oral, nasopharyngeal, adult brain, colon, rectum, colorectal, prostate, ovarian, cervical, uterine, testicular, lymphoma, leukemia, skin, breast, kidney, neuroblastoma, Merkel cell carcinoma, myelodysplastic syndrome, myelofibrosis, and multiple myeloma.
US	Pending	63988,686	Dinucleotides and Their Use in Treating Cancer	July 13, 2043	New dinucleotide compounds for treating cancer by targeting telomeres in cancer cells

COMPARABLE COMPANIES



MIRATI
THERAPEUTICS

\$4.18
Billion

zentalis

\$1.49
Billion

IOVANCE
BIOTHERAPEUTICS

\$1.86
Billion

veru

\$1.36
Billion

Turning Point
Therapeutics

\$4.1
Billion*

* On June 3, 2022, Bristol Myers Squibb announced the acquisition of Turning Point Therapeutics in an all-cash transaction for \$4.1 Billion in equity value.



Market Caps as of August 23, 2022. Source: S&P CapitalIQ

Capitalization Table *(as of 8/19/2022)*

Common Stock	10,935,904
Options 6 & 12 month lockup (WAEP: \$2.43)⁽¹⁾	5,927,523
Warrants 6 & 12 month lockup (WAEP: \$6.04)	796,985
Fully Diluted Shares Outstanding	17,660,412
Cash Balance of \$8,150,012 <i>(as of 6/30/2022)</i>	IPO completed on August 1, 2022 Gross proceeds of \$11.5 million

1) 3,881,754 options held by directors and officers

Note: Directors and officers, and their affiliates, own 42% of the 17,660,412 fully diluted shares outstanding

HIGHLY EXPERIENCED MANAGEMENT TEAM



Vlad Vitoc, MD, MBA
 Founder, Chairman, and
 Chief Executive Officer

22+ yrs. Pharma/Biotech: Commercial, Medical, 12 compounds launched, 20+ tumor types, 8 Oncology companies. Served in Oncology leadership roles at Cephalon (Trenda), Astellas (Tarceva, Xtandi), Bayer (Nexavar), Novartis (Zometa), and Incyte (Jakafi)



Sergei Gryaznov, PhD
 Chief Scientific Officer

25+ yrs. Scientist/Expert Drug Discovery and Development, Oncology, 120+ publications and Head of the J&J Oligonucleotide Center of Excellence Worldwide recognized expert of telomeres and telomerase in cancer Co-inventor of THIO



Mihail Obrocea, MD
 Chief Medical Officer

Hematologist/Oncologist executive with over 21 years of drug development experience; cell therapy, active immunotherapy and cancer vaccines, antibodies, antibody drug conjugates (ADCs), small molecules



Joe McGuire
 Chief Financial Officer

30+ yrs. Serving as CFO for privately held and publicly traded companies in the health care, financial services, investment, and manufacturing industries.



Adelina Louie Ngar Yee
 Board Member

30 years of service with HSBC Group in Global Banking and Markets including investment and securities management, asset management, and global research. Held key leadership positions within Group Internal Audit of HSBC in Latin America, Asia Pacific, and United Kingdom.



Steven M. Chaouki
 Board Member

President, U.S. Markets & Consumer Interactive, overseeing two TransUnion business lines. U.S. Markets provides information and insights to business customers across financial services, insurance, public sector, media and diversified markets.



INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 **Two Clinical Programs**
 - Ph 2 THIO-101 in NSCLC: THIO + Libtayo® (cemiplimab) Regeneron; Enrolling
 - Ph 2 THIO-102 in CRC, HCC, and SCLC: THIO + CPis; Planned 2023
- 2 **THIO is a Unique Direct Telomere Targeting Agent**
 - Potential to be used in combination with other anticancer and immune therapies
 - Dual, novel mechanism of action
 - Plan to make existing drugs better
- 3 **Partnership with Major Pharma**
 - Regeneron: relationship started at early stage of THIO development
 - Potentially expand existing relationship and target new companies
- 4 **Strong and Growing IP Portfolio**
 - Potential for receiving NCE marketing exclusivity
 - 4 patents issued, 13 patent applications pending
- 5 **Next Generation Potential Telomere Targeting Therapeutics**
 - Develop two pre-clinical products in new indications
 - Expand beyond immune checkpoint inhibitor combinations
- 6 **Seasoned Management Team**





MAIA
BIOTECHNOLOGY

TELOMERE TARGETING IMMUNOTHERAPIES FOR CANCER

August 2022



David M Ashley, PhD

MBBS (Hon), FRACP, PhD, is Director, The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center, Head, Preuss Laboratory, and Director, Pediatrics Neuro-Oncology, Duke University.

Professor David Ashley's career in cancer research dates more than two decades. He is credentialed in both pediatric and adult neuro-oncology practice and this has been the focus of his efforts in translational research and leadership.



Tudor Ciuleanu, MD

Professor of Oncology at UMF Iuliu Hatieganu, and MD at the Oncology Institute "Prof. Dr. Ion Chircuta," Cluj.

MD Medical Oncology since 1994. PhD at Cluj in 1994 in chemotherapy domain of lung carcinomas. Certified member of ESMO, ASCO member, IASLC, national representative of BUON, RSRMO member, SNOMR.



Z. Gunnur Dikmen, MD, PhD

Professor at Hacettepe University Medical Faculty, Department of Medical Biochemistry

Her research has been focused on the discovery of novel molecules targeting telomeres and telomerase, mainly working on GRN163L (Imetelstat) and 6-thio-2'-deoxyguanosine (6-thio-dG) to show their potent effects on different in vitro and in vivo cancer models.



Thomas F. Gajewski, MD, PhD

Directs the Melanoma Oncology Clinic and leads the Immunology and Cancer Program of the University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center

The focus of Dr. Gajewski's work has been on understanding fundamental aspects of anti-tumor immunity and bringing these concepts forward from the laboratory into clinical trial testing in patients.



David E. Gerber, MD

Professor of Internal Medicine and Population & Data Sciences at UT Southwestern Medical Center

He is an active clinical investigator with more than 180 publications and continuous federal and foundation research funding for more than 10 years



Jerry W. Shay, PhD

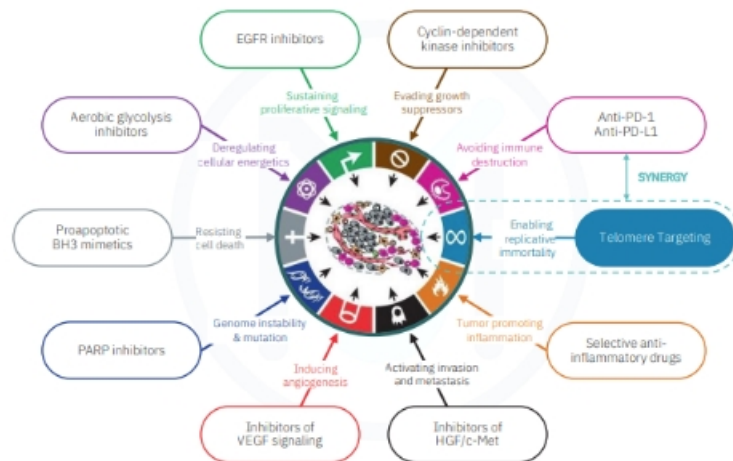
THIO Expert

Dr. Shay has been noted as a highly influential biomedical researcher as noted by the Institute for Scientific Research and Science Watch, with over 30 issued patents, >500 peer reviewed publications and a citation h-index of 112.



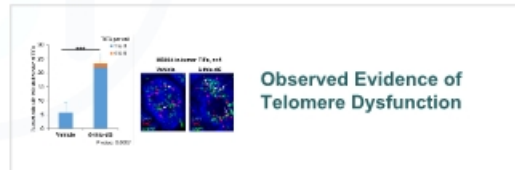
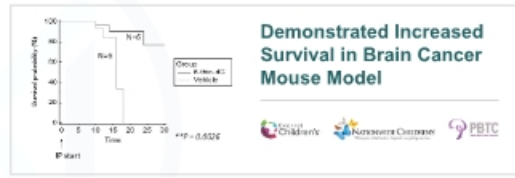
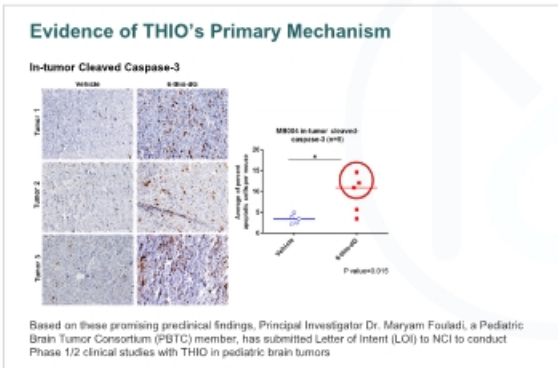
Adam Yopp, MD

Occidental Chemical Chair of Cancer Research and an Associate Professor and Division Chief of Surgical Oncology and Colorectal Surgery, at Harold C. Simmons NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas

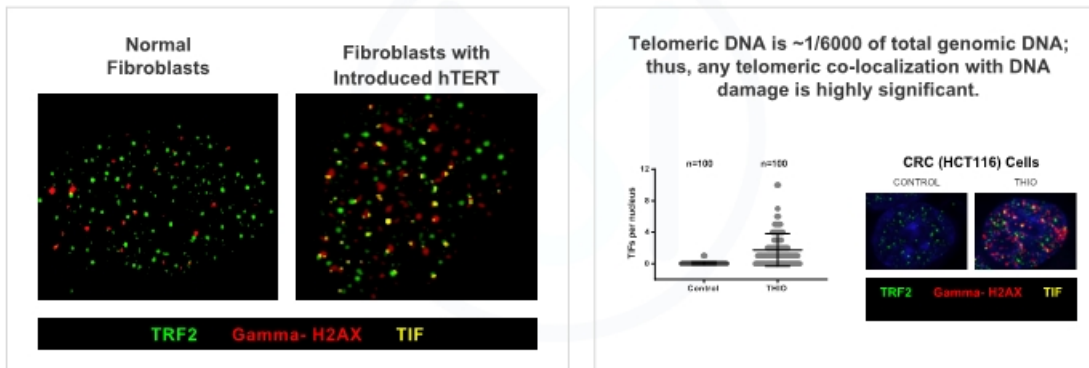


* Source: Adapted from Cell , Volume 144, Issue 5, Pages 646-674 (DOI:10.1016/j.cell.2011.02.013)

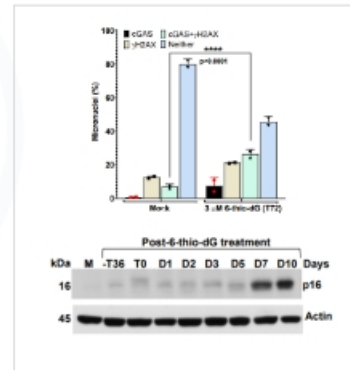
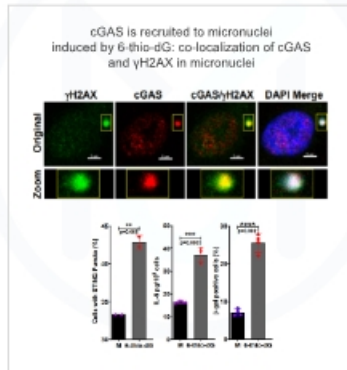
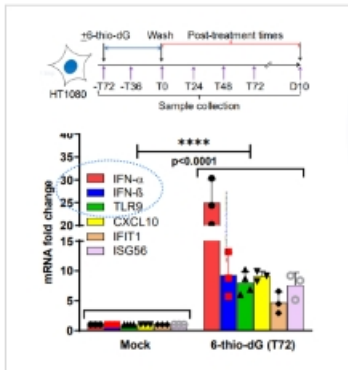
THIO demonstrated penetration of BBB and inhibited tumor growth in in vivo models, inducing in-tumor Telomere dysfunction and cancer cell death in difficult to treat cancer where no therapy exists



THIO led to telomere dysfunction-induced foci (TIFs) in telomerase-positive cancer cells, but not in normal, telomerase-negative cells (in vitro)



Micronuclei generated in response to THIO-induced telomeric DNA modification, replication stress, recruit and activate of cGAS, which leads to cellular senescence in cancer cells





A key peer-reviewed publication released online in the renowned journal Cancer Cell on July 2, 2020.

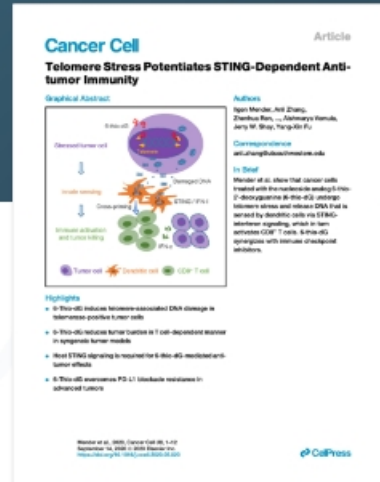
“Telomere Stress Potentiates STING-Dependent Anti-tumor Immunity,” was authored by researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern.

Key Takeaways

Researchers concluded that THIO-targeted telomeres via telomerase and selectively killed cancer cells, without impacting normal cells *in vivo*

When used in sequence with standard-of-care immunotherapy, THIO eliminated tumors in advanced lung and colorectal preclinical models

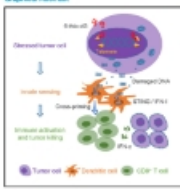
THIO was shown in *in vivo* mouse models to trigger immunogenic effects which produced immune memory that deterred cancer from returning



Cancer Cell Article

Telomere Stress Potentiates STING-Dependent Anti-tumor Immunity

Graphical Abstract



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In Brief
Minhui et al. show that cancer cells treated with telomerase analogs THIO 2 show depletion of telomeric DNA and telomeric stress and release DNA that is sensed by dendritic cells via STING-dependent signaling, which in turn activates CD8⁺ T cells. In vivo THIO synergizes with immune checkpoint inhibitors.

Highlights

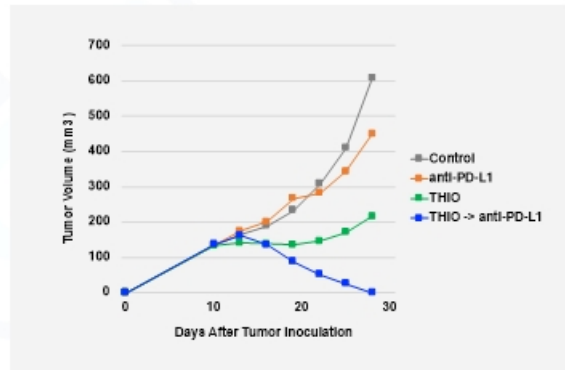
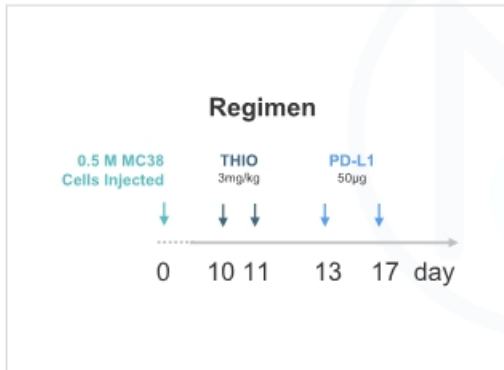
- In THIO-dl, telomeric stress-induced DNA damage in telomerase-positive tumor cells
- In THIO-dl, telomeric stress induced a T cell-dependent manner in syngeneic tumor models
- Most STING signaling is required for 6-thio-dl-mediated anti-tumor effects
- In THIO-dl, overexpression of PD-L1 blockade resistance in advanced tumors

Minhui et al., 2020, Cancer Cell 48, 1-17
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ccr.2020.06.010

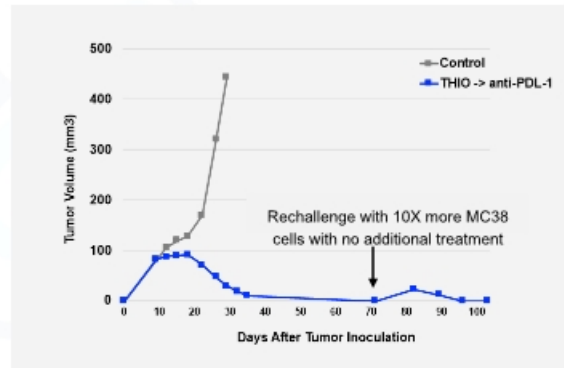
CellPress

* THIO is an investigational agent under development

THIO followed by PD-L1 blockade resistance in MC38 cells in murine model turns immunologically cold tumors to hot and was curative

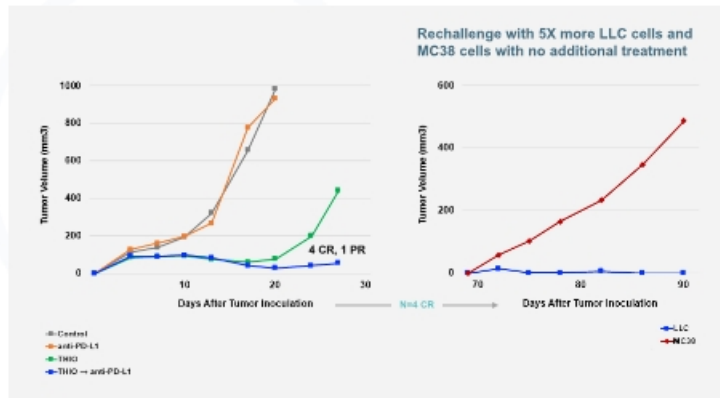


THIO followed by PD-L1 blockade in MC38 cells in murine model was
curative, accompanied by generation of immune memory



✓ Anti-tumor in Lewis Lung Carcinoma (LLC) model: 80% complete response, 20% partial response

✓ Development of immunological tumor-specific directed memory



✔ THIO has been shown to be synergistic *in vivo* with immune checkpoint inhibitors (standard-of-care immunotherapy agents in oncology)

✔ THIO was active in cancer cells that are resistant to tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), checkpoint inhibitors, IL-2, IFN α , YERVOY® (ipilimumab) and chemotherapy

✔ THIO has shown eradication of tumor when administered in sequential combination with checkpoint inhibitors in *in vivo* syngeneic tumor models of lung, colorectal, and liver cancers

✔ THIO has been evaluated and shown high complete response rates and no recurrence in multiple tumor types:

IN VITRO:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Lung | Brain |
| Colorectal | Melanoma |
| Prostate | Liver |
| Breast | Neuroblastoma |
| Ovarian | Pancreatic |
| Head and Neck | |



IN VIVO:



*Detailed data sets for in vivo/in vivo studies are available for further reviews