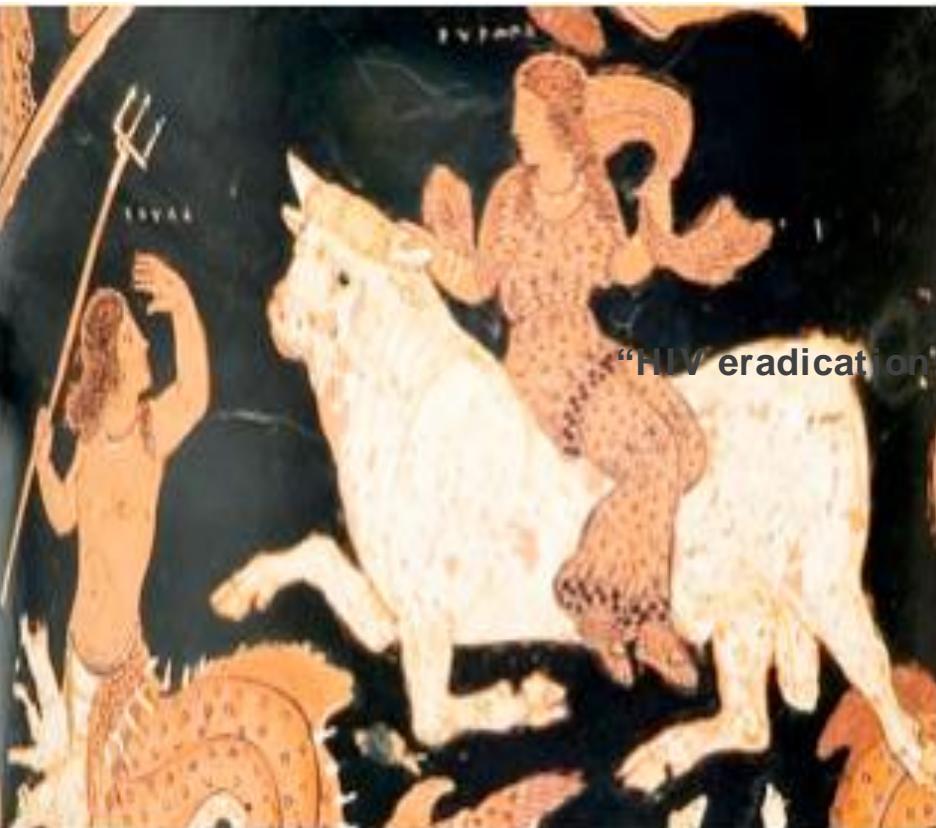


# **“L’infettivologia del 3° millennio: AIDS ed altro”**



“HIV eradication: presente e futuro”

## **HIV eradication presente e futuro**

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**Antonella Castagna  
IRCCS San Raffaele**

**VI Convegno Nazionale**

Centro Congressi dell’Hotel Ariston di Paestum (SA)

15- 16 -17 maggio 2014

# Definitions

- Functional cure

Permanent control of HIV replication  
without eradicating it

- Sterilising cure

Elimination of all HIV infected cells

# Barriers to a cure for HIV: new ways to target and eradicate HIV-1 reservoirs

Christine Katlama, Steven G Deeks, Brigitte Autran, Javier Martinez-Picado, Jan van Lunzen, Christine Rouzioux, Michael Miller, Stefano Vella, Joern E Schmitz, Jeffrey Ahlers, Douglas D Richman, Rafick P Sekaly

| Intervention  | Study population (patients chronically infected with HIV-1)                                     |  |   | ClinicalTrials.gov |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------|
|   |   | Study population   | Main endpoint   |                    |
| ERAMUNE 01  | Interleukin 7+ART intensification with raltegravir and maraviroc                                | 29 patients with HIV RNA <50 copies per mL on ART and HIV DNA between 10 and 1000 copies per $10^6$ PBMC | Decrease of 0.5 log <sub>10</sub> HIV DNA from baseline at 56 weeks                         | NCT01019551        |
| ERAMUNE 02  | HIV rAD5 vaccine+ART intensification with raltegravir and maraviroc                             | 28 patients with HIV RNA <50 copies per mL on ART and HIV DNA 10-1000 $10^6$ PBMC; negative AD5 antibody | Decrease of 0.5 log <sub>10</sub> HIV DNA from baseline at 56 weeks                         | NCT00976404        |
| Disulfiram  | Disulfiram: 500 mg/day for 14 days  | 20 patients on ART with HIV RNA <50 copies per mL  | 2 weeks frequency of replication, competent HIV-1 in resting CD4 T cells                    | NCT01286259        |
| Vorinostat  | Vorinostat: 200-600 mg per day  | 30 patients with HIV RNA <30 copies per mL   | HIV expression in resting CD4 T cells   | NCT01319383        |
| Vorinostat  | Vorinostat: 400 mg/day  | 20 patients with HIV RNA <50 copies per mL and CD4 cell >500 per mL                                      | HIV unspliced RNA in resting CD4 T cells at 28 days   | NCT01365065        |
| Panobinostat  | Panobinostat: 20 mg three times a week, every other week for 8 weeks                            | 16 patients with suppressed viraemia and CD4 cell count >500 per mL                                      | HIV unspliced RNA in resting CD4 T cells change from baseline                               | NCT01680094        |
| CD4 T cells modified at CCR5 by zinc-finger nuclease                            | Autologous CD4 T cells modified at CCR5 gene by zinc-finger nuclease SB-728-T                   | 30 patients with suppressed viraemia and CD4 cell count <300 per mL or failing ART                       | Safety; persistence and activation of CCR5-zinc-finger nuclease-modified autologous T cells | NCT01252641        |
| CD4 T cells modified at CCR5 by zinc-finger nuclease                            | Autologous CD4 T cells modified at CCR5 gene by zinc-finger nuclease                            | 18 patients: three cohorts of HIV-positive patients, either failing ART or with suppressed viraemia      | Safety  | NCT00842634        |
| Lentivirus vector rHIV7-shL-TAR-CCR5R2-transduced haemopoietic progenitor cells | Autologous CD34+haemopoietic cells modified by lentivirus-transduced non-functional CCR5R2 gene | 10 patients with AIDS-related lymphoma undergoing haemopoietic stem-cell transplantation                 | Safety and durability of transduced cells   | NCT00569985        |
| Interferon alfa-2b  | Interferon alfa-2b intensification  | Recruiting, non-randomised, one-group assignment   | Efficacy: viral RNA levels in blood and sequence diversification                            | NCT01295515        |

ART=antiretroviral therapy. PBMC=peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

Table 1: CURE-related clinical pilot trials in progress in 2012

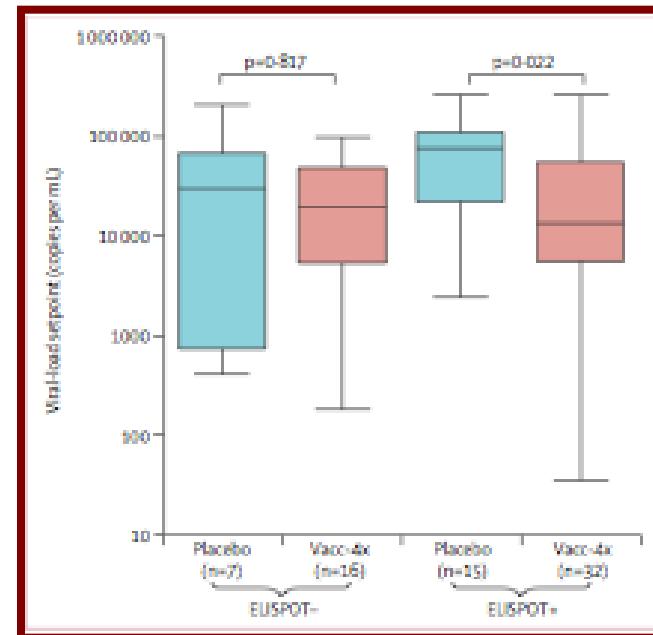
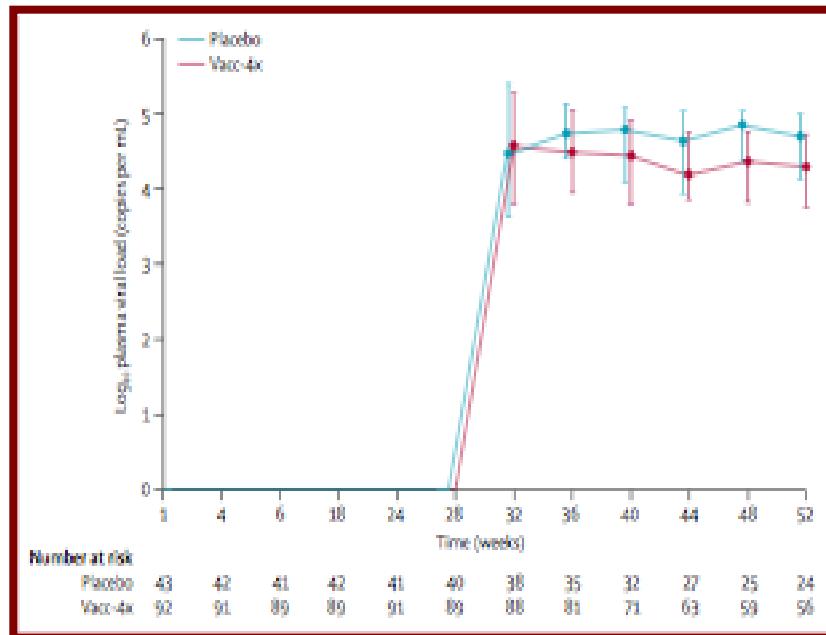
# HIV eradication: key points

- ART does not eliminate HIV-1 from latently infected reservoir
- An effective vaccine againsts HIV is still elusive
- HIV eradication will likely require multiple approaches
  - Limiting HIV reservoir
  - Disrupting the state of virological latency
  - Clearing residual HIV

# Safety and efficacy of the peptide-based therapeutic vaccine for HIV-1, Vacc-4x: a phase 2 randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial



Richard B Pollard, Jürgen K Rockstroh, Giuseppe Pantaleo, David M Asmuth, Barry Peters, Adriana Lazzarin, Felipe Garcia, Kim Ellefsen, Daniel Podzamczer, Jan van Lunzen, Kelkawus Avasteh, Dirk Schürmann, Bonaventura Clotet, W David Hardy, Ronald Mitsuyasu, Graeme Mayle, Andreas Plettenberg, Martin Fisher, Gerd Fätkenheuer, Margaret Fischl, Babafemi Taiwo, Ingebjørg Baksaas, Damon Jalliffe, Stefan Persson, Øyvind Jelmer, Arnt-Ove Hovden, Moja A Sommerfelt, Vidar Wendel-Hansen, Birger Sørensen

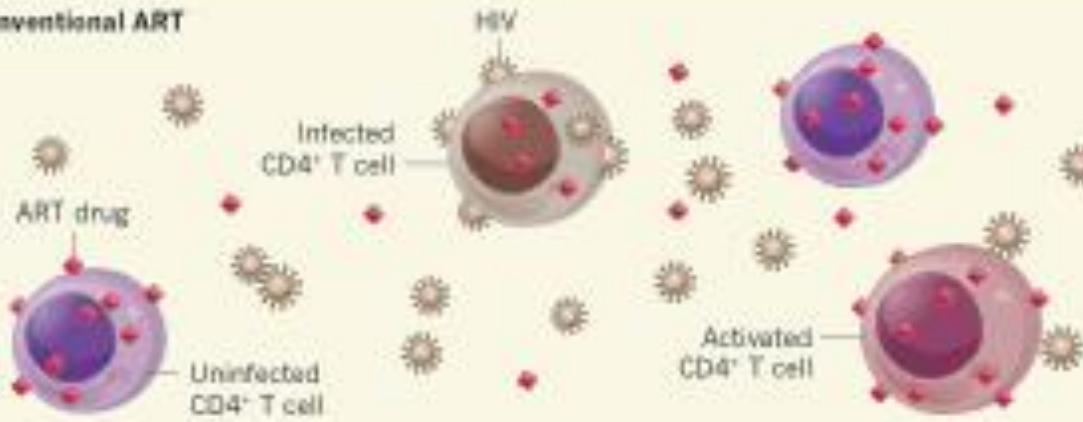


136 patients : coprimary end-points: ART resumption and CD4 change during TI

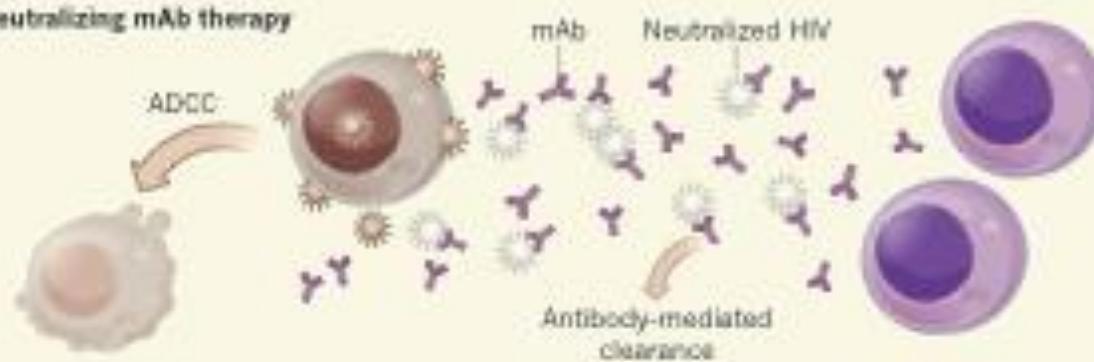
# Antibodies advance the search for a cure

Efforts to make a prophylactic HIV vaccine have identified monoclonal antibodies that potently suppress viral replication. Studies in monkeys show that these reagents effectively treat HIV infection. SEE ARTICLE p.224 & LETTER p.277

## a Conventional ART

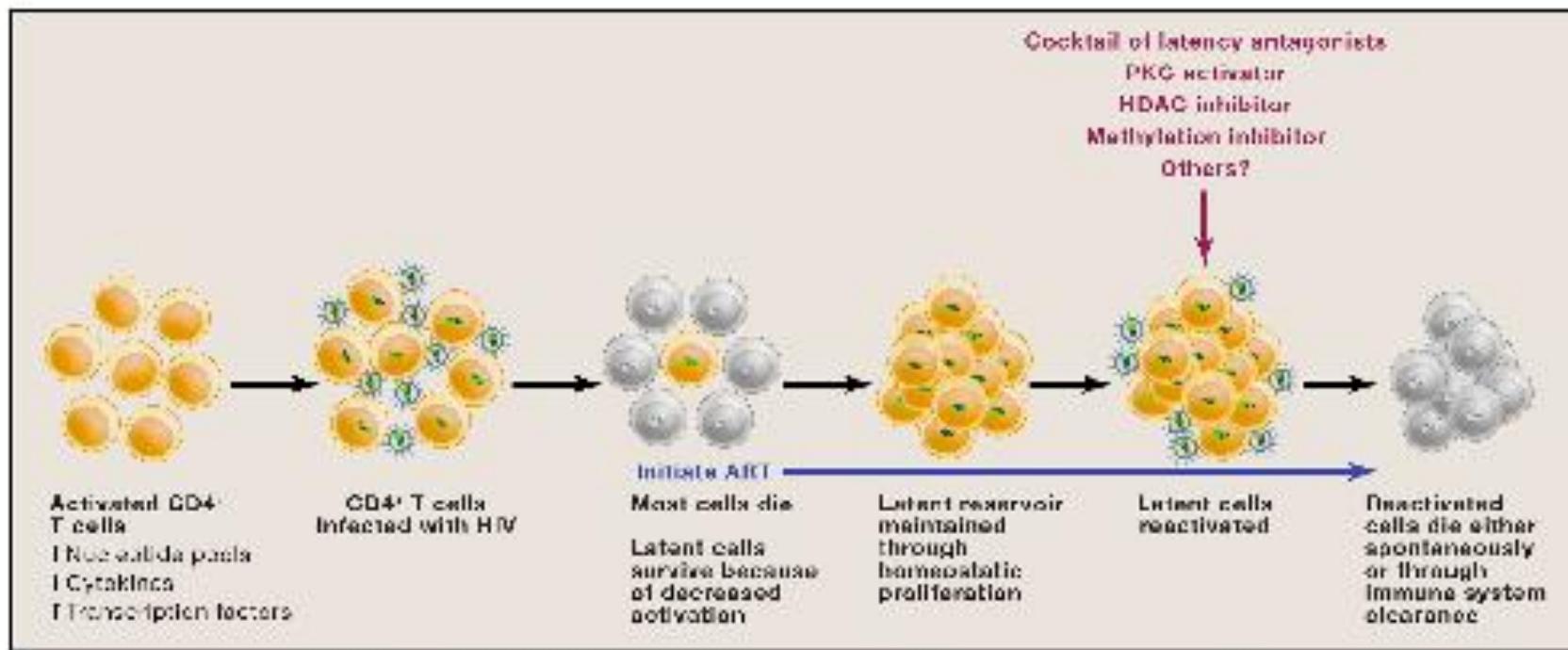


## b Neutralizing mAb therapy

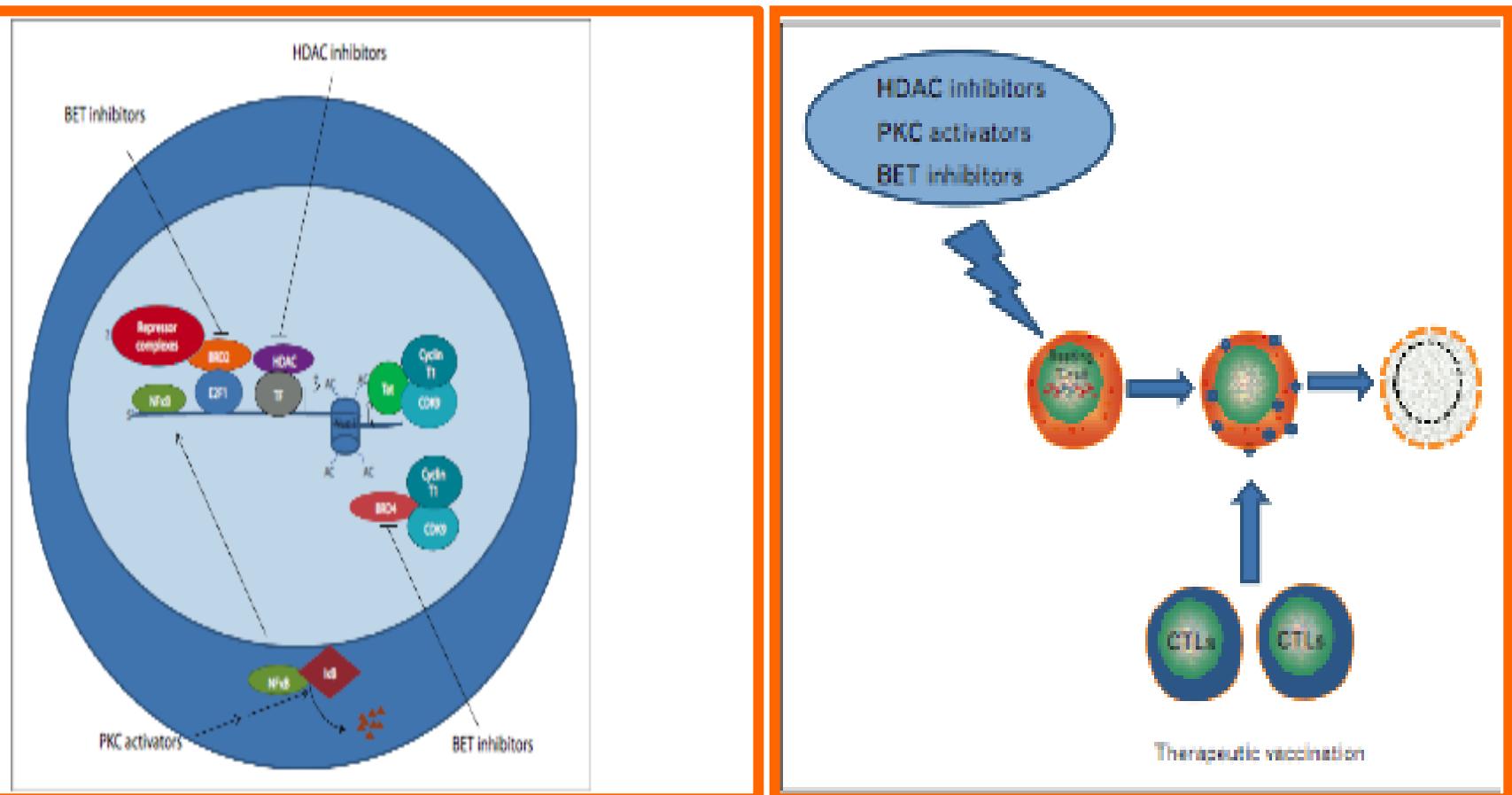


# An Integrated Overview of HIV-1 Latency

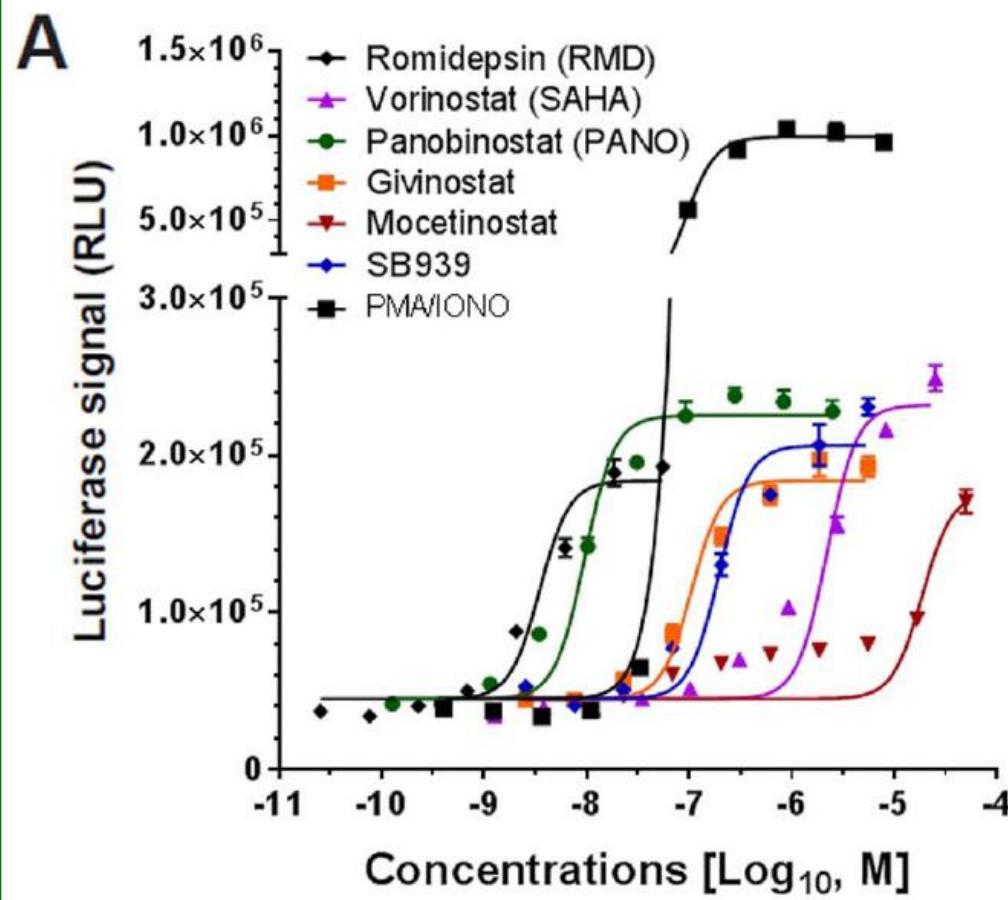
Debbie S. Ruelas<sup>1,2</sup> and Warner C. Greene<sup>1,3,4,\*</sup>



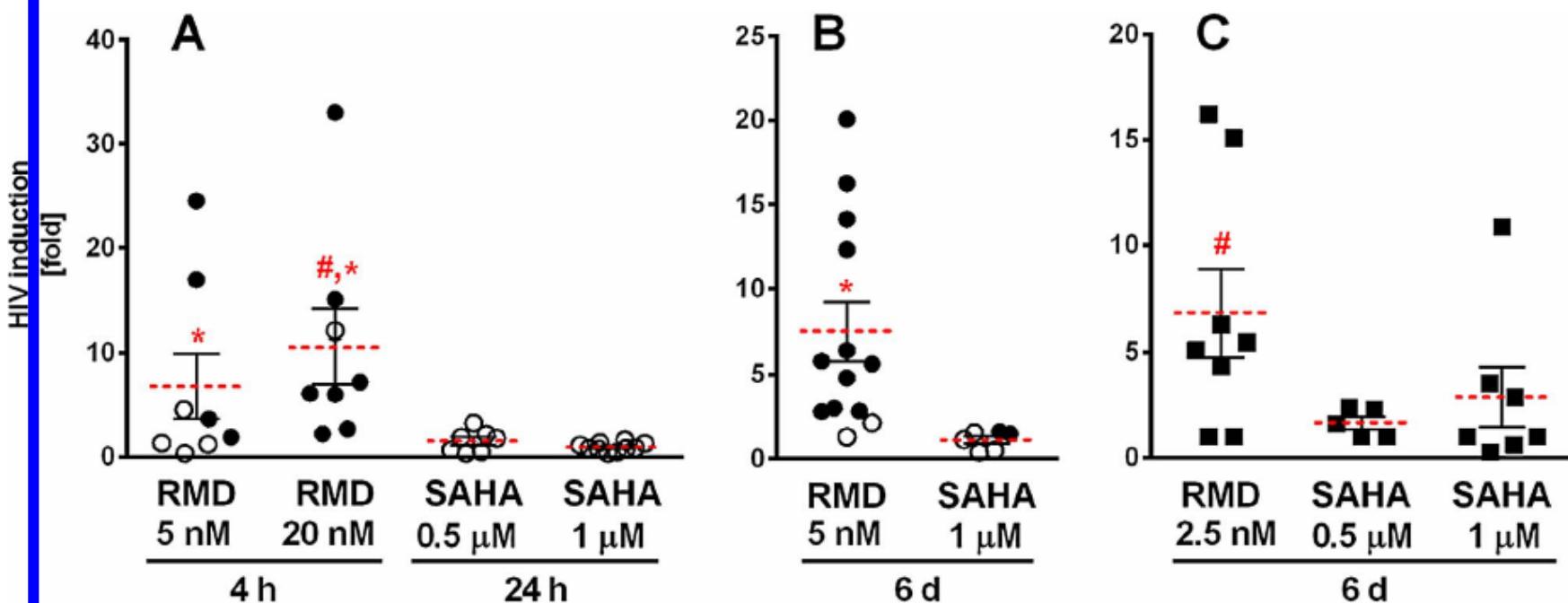
# Pharmacologic reactivation of the virus as a cure therapy



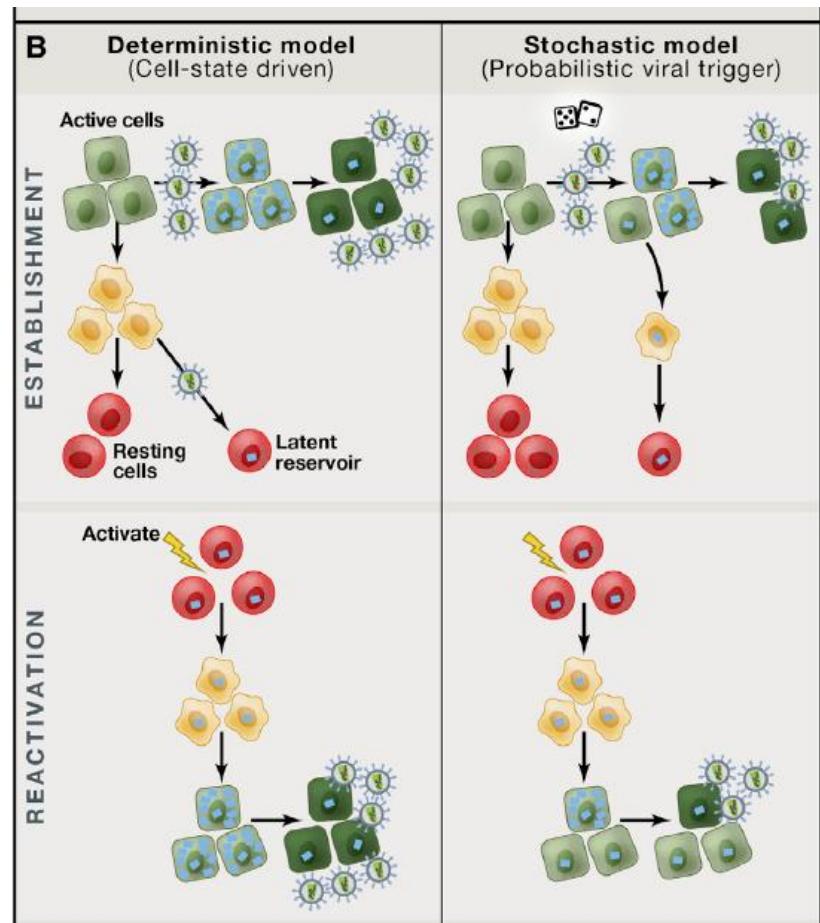
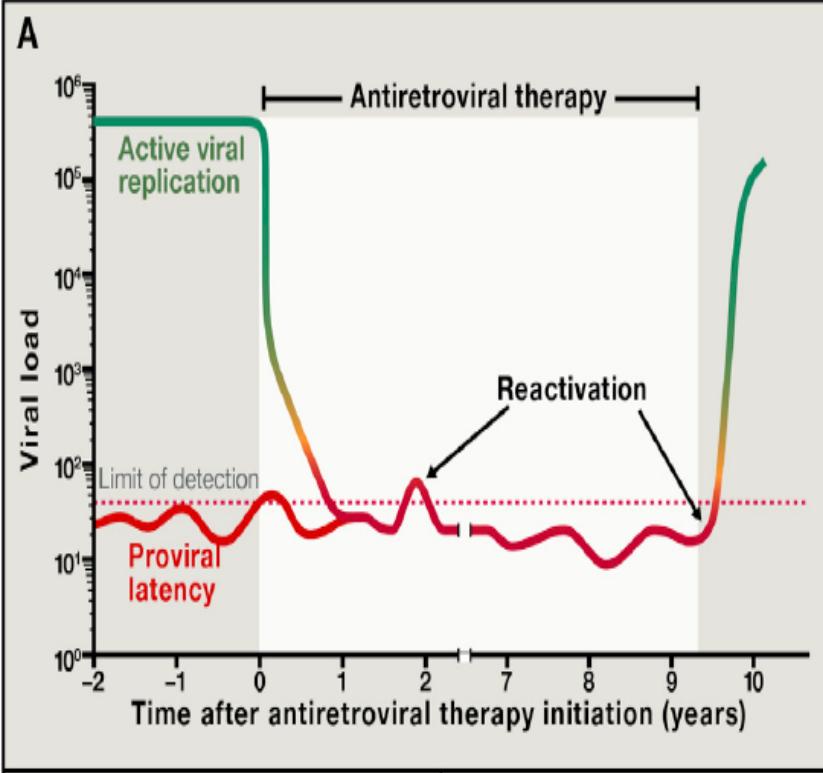
# Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor Romidepsin Induces HIV Expression in CD4 T Cells from Patients on Suppressive Antiretroviral Therapy at Concentrations Achieved by Clinical Dosing



# ROMIDEPSIN

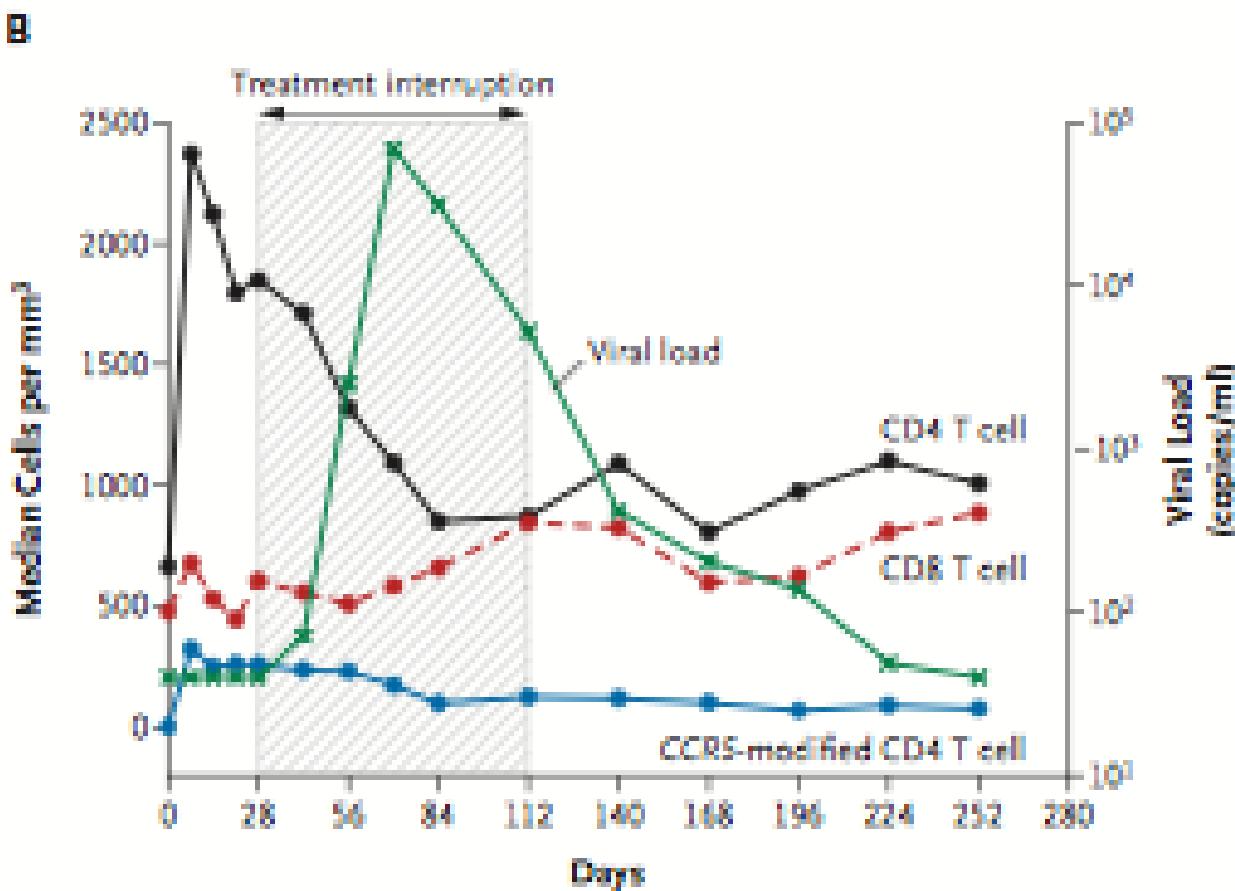


# Stochastic Fate Selection in HIV-Infected Patients

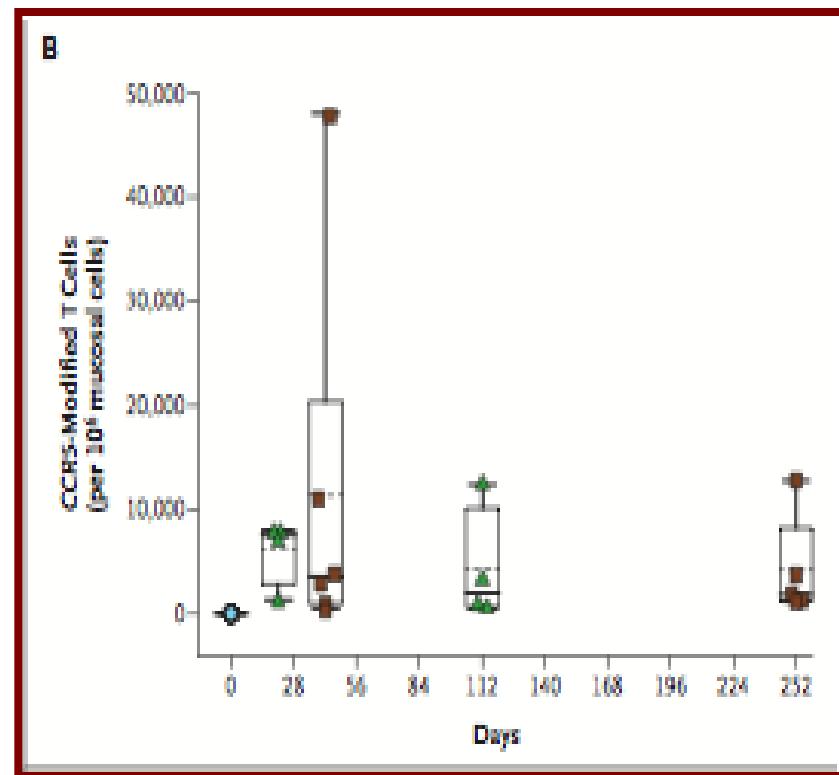
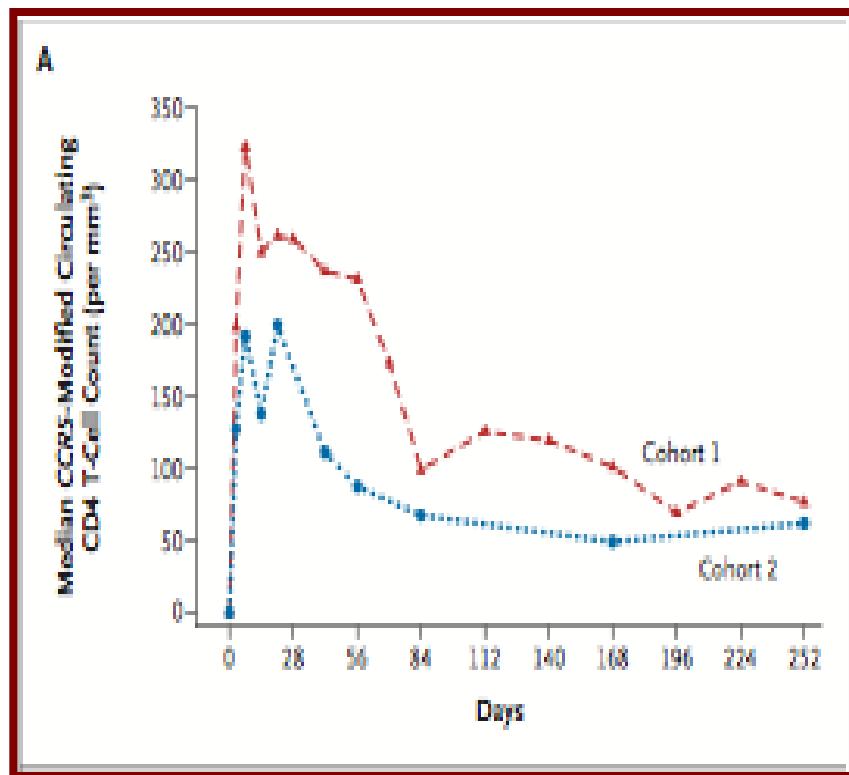


## Gene Editing of CCR5 in Autologous CD4 T Cells of Persons Infected with HIV

Pablo Tebas, M.D., David Stein, M.D., Winson W. Tang, M.D., Ian Frank, M.D., Shelley Q. Wang, M.D., Gary Lee, Ph.D., S. Kaye Spratt, Ph.D., Richard T. Surosky, Ph.D., Martin A. Giedlin, Ph.D., Geoff Nichol, M.D., Michael C. Holmes, Ph.D., Philip D. Gregory, Ph.D., Dale G. Ando, M.D., Michael Kalos, Ph.D., Ronald G. Collman, M.D., Gwendolyn Binder-Scholl, Ph.D., Gabriela Plesa, M.D., Ph.D., Wei-Ting Hwang, Ph.D., Bruce L. Levine, Ph.D., and Carl H. June, M.D.

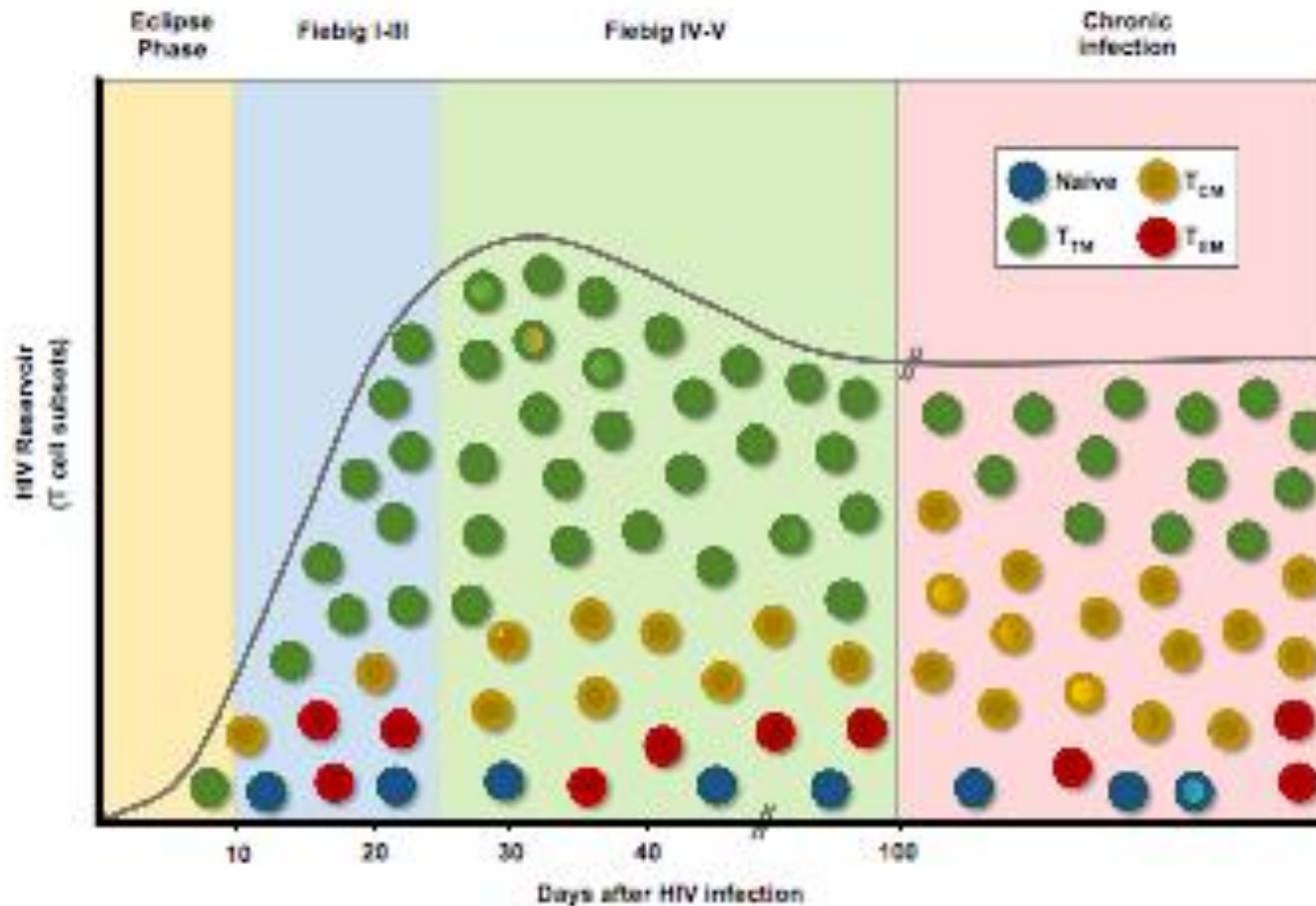


# CCR5-modified T cells



Tebas P, et al , NEJM 2014

# Very early ART limit the seeding of the HIV reservoir in long-lived TCM



# The first case of “functional cure” in an infant

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

## BRIEF REPORT

### Absence of Detectable HIV-1 Viremia after Treatment Cessation in an Infant

Deborah Persaud, M.D., Hannah Gay, M.D., Carrie Ziemniak, M.S., Ya Hui Chen, B.A., Michael Piatak, Jr., Ph.D., Tae-Wook Chun, Ph.D., Matthew Strain, M.D., Ph.D., Douglas Richman, M.D., and Katherine Luzuriaga, M.D.

# What do you think about the baby?

**Table 1. Laboratory Testing and Antiretroviral Therapy Received by Mother and Child.\***

| Test  | Result                         | Antiretroviral Therapy                                  |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Mother</b>                                     |                                |   |
| Rapid HIV antibody, at delivery                   | Positive                       | None  |
| HIV ELISA and confirmatory Western blot, at 24 hr | Positive                       | None  |
| Viral load, at 24 hr                              | 2423 copies/ml                 | None  |
| CD4+ T-cell count, at 14 days                     | 644 cells/mm <sup>3</sup>      | None  |
| HIV-1 genotype and subtype, at 14 days            | Wild-type, subtype B           | None  |
| CD4+ T-cell count, at 26 mo                       | 513 cells/mm <sup>3</sup>      | None  |
| HIV-1 viral load, at 26 mo                        | 6763 copies/ml                 | None  |
| HLA typing, at 26 mo                              | A3, A23, B7, B14, Cw7, and Cw8 | None  |
| Mutation status in CCR5 delta32, at 26 mo         | Nonmutated                     | None  |
| Frequency of infected cells, at 28 mo             | 137 IUPM                       | None  |
| <b>Child</b>                                      |                                |   |
| HIV-1 DNA, at 30 hr                               | Positive                       | Zidovudine  |
| HIV-1 RNA, at 31 hr                               | 19,812 copies/ml               | Zidovudine, lamivudine, and nevirapine                  |
| HIV-1 RNA, at 6 days                              | 2617 copies/ml                 | Zidovudine, lamivudine, and nevirapine                  |
| HIV-1 RNA, at 11 days                             | 516 copies/ml                  | Zidovudine, lamivudine, and ritonavir-boosted lopinavir |
| HIV-1 RNA, at 19 days                             | 265 copies/ml                  | Zidovudine, lamivudine, and ritonavir-boosted lopinavir |
| HIV-1 RNA, at 29 days                             | <48 copies/ml                  | Zidovudine, lamivudine, and ritonavir-boosted lopinavir |
| CD4+ T-cell percentage, at 8 days                 | 69%                            | Zidovudine, lamivudine, and ritonavir-boosted lopinavir |
| HLA typing, at 26 mo                              | A3, A68, B7, B39, and Cw7      | None  |
| Mutation status in CCR5 delta32, at 26 mo         | Nonmutated                     | None  |

All specified time points are post partum. CCR5 denotes chemokine receptor 5 gene, ELISA enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent assay, HIV human immunodeficiency virus, HIV-1 HIV type 1, and IUPM infectious units per 1 million resting CD4+ T cells.

**Table 2. Specialized Studies to Assess Persistence of HIV-1 Infection in the Child.\***

| Sample Type                               | Quantity                           | Cells Tested                              |      |
|---|------------------------------------|---|------|
| Total proviral DNA                        |                                    |   |      |
| PBMCs                                     |                                    |   |      |
| At 24 mo                                  | <2.7 copies/10 <sup>6</sup> cells  | 122,000                                   | 0/2  |
| At 26 mo                                  | 4.2 copies/10 <sup>6</sup> cells†  | 113,000                                   | 1/6  |
| Resting CD4+ T cells                      |                                    |   |      |
| At 24 mo                                  | <3.5 copies/10 <sup>6</sup> cells  | 96,500                                    | 0/3  |
| At 26 mo                                  | <2.5 copies/10 <sup>6</sup> cells  | 134,000                                   | 0/6  |
| PBMCs enriched for activated CD4+ T cells |                                    |   |      |
| At 24 mo                                  | <2.2 copies/10 <sup>6</sup> cells  | 154,000                                   | 0/6  |
| At 26 mo                                  | <2.6 copies/10 <sup>6</sup> cells  | 130,000                                   | 0/6  |
| Monocyte-derived adherent cells           |                                    |   |      |
| At 24 mo                                  | 37.6 copies/10 <sup>6</sup> cells‡ | 14,300                                    | 1/3  |
| At 26 mo                                  | <11.5 copies/10 <sup>6</sup> cells | 29,000                                    | 0/6  |
| Residual viremia in plasma                |                                    |   |      |
| At 24 mo                                  | 1 copy/ml                          | 4 ml                                      | 3/3  |
| At 26 mo                                  | <2 copies/ml                       | 4 ml                                      | 0/4  |
| Infectious virus recovery at 24 mo        | <0.05 IUPM§                        | 22 × 10 <sup>6</sup> resting CD4+ T cells | 0/22 |

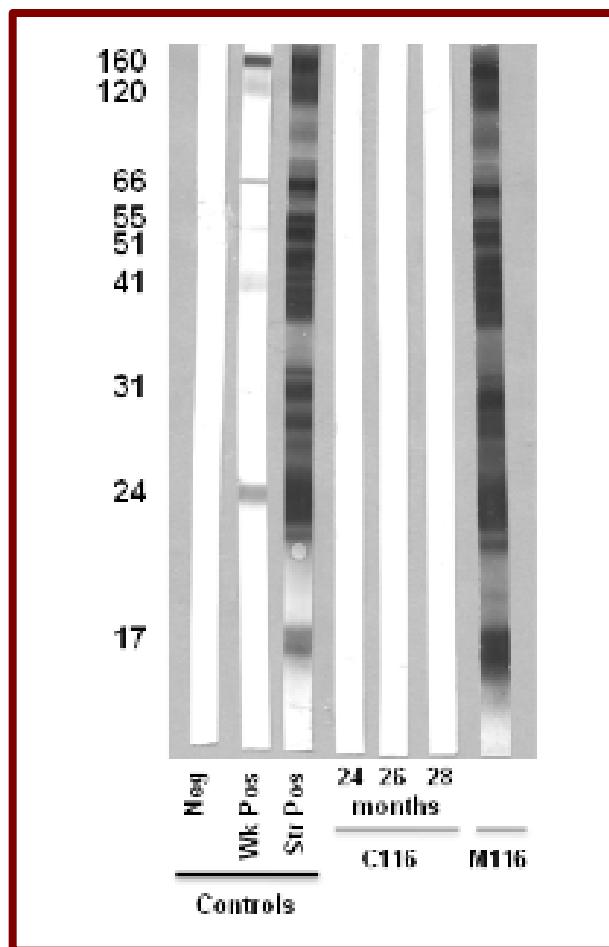
\* PBMCs denotes peripheral-blood mononuclear cells.

† The limit of detection was 2.9 copies per 10<sup>6</sup> cells.

‡ The limit of detection was 23.3 copies per 10<sup>6</sup> cells.

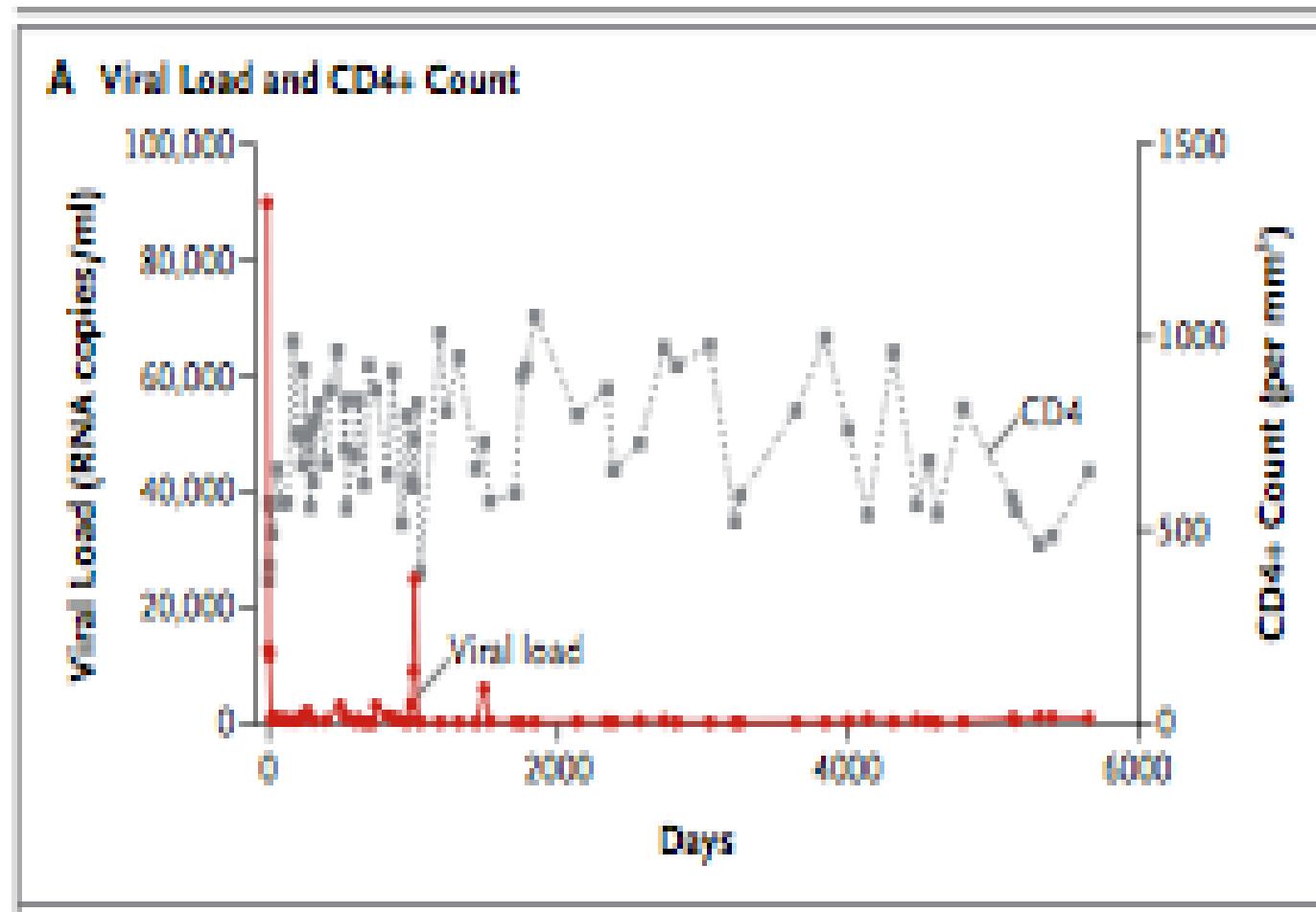
§ No replication-competent HIV-1 was recovered.

# C116: HIV antibodies are not detected by WB

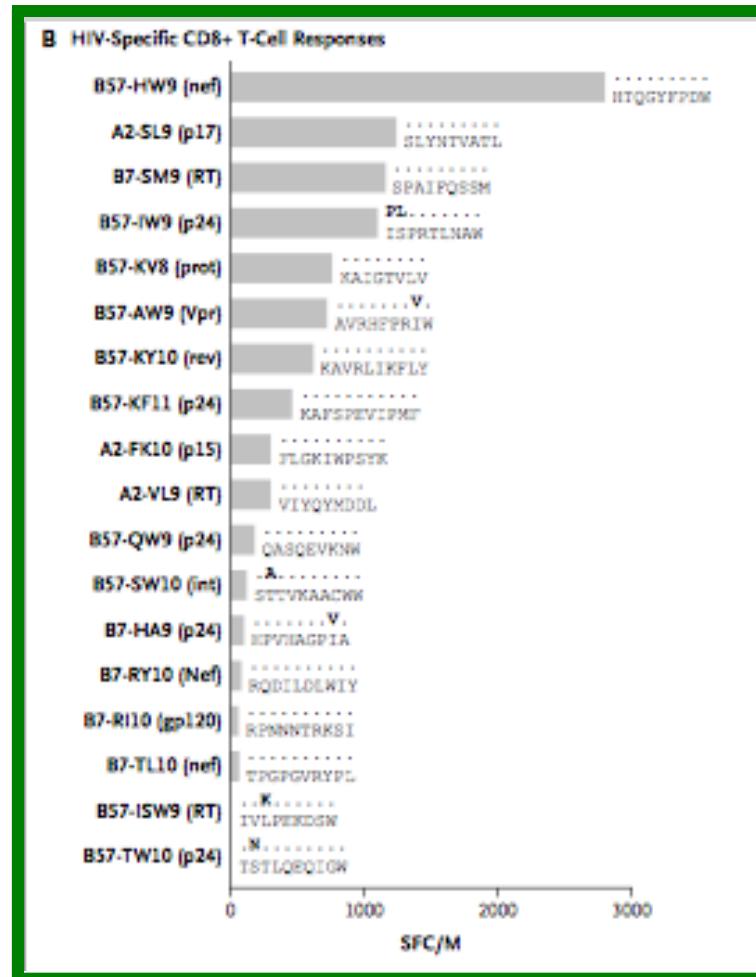


Persaud D, NEJM 2013

# How a Single Patient Influenced HIV Research — 15-Year Follow-up



# The genetic background...



He carried the highly protective HLA -B\*57

# Long-Term Reduction in Peripheral Blood HIV Type 1 Reservoirs Following Reduced-Intensity Conditioning Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation

Timothy J. Henrich,<sup>1,2</sup> Zixin Hu,<sup>1,2</sup> Jonathan Z. Li,<sup>1,2</sup> Gaia Sciaranghella,<sup>1,3</sup> Michael P. Busch,<sup>1,2</sup> Sheila M. Keating,<sup>1,2</sup> Sébastien Gallien,<sup>1,2</sup> Nina H. Lin,<sup>2,4</sup> Francoise F. Giguel,<sup>4</sup> Laura Lavoie,<sup>4</sup> Vincent T. Ho,<sup>2,5</sup> Philippe Armand,<sup>2,5</sup> Robert J. Soiffer,<sup>2,5</sup> Manish Seger,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Ann S. LeCasce,<sup>1,5</sup> and Daniel R. Kuritzkes<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Infectious Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital, <sup>2</sup>Harvard Medical School, <sup>3</sup>Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT, Harvard, <sup>4</sup>Division of Infectious Diseases, Massachusetts General Hospital, and <sup>5</sup>Department of Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts; <sup>\*Blood Systems Research Institute, and <sup>7</sup>University of California—San Francisco, San Francisco; and <sup>8</sup>Hôpital Saint-Louis, Paris, France</sup>

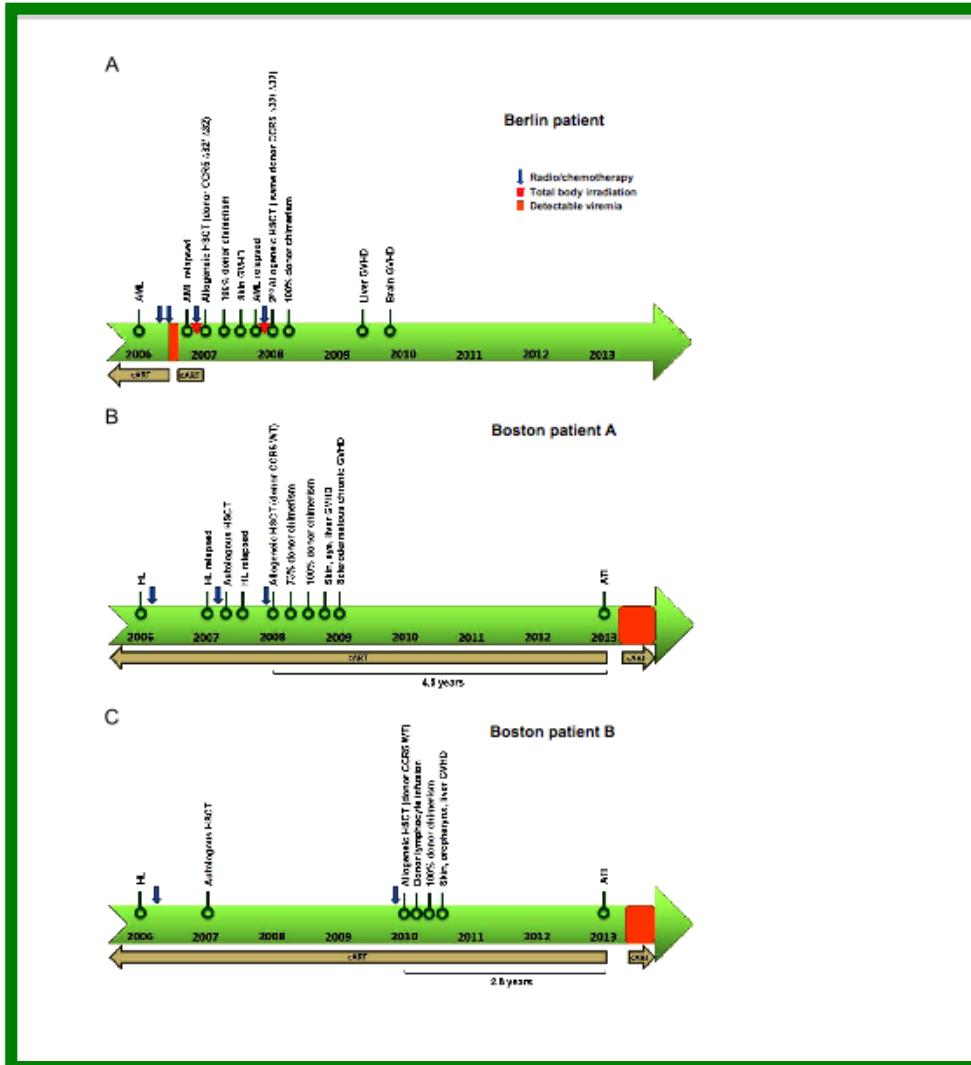
**Background.** The long-term impact of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) on human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) reservoirs in patients receiving combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) is largely unknown.

**Methods.** We studied the effects of a reduced-intensity conditioning allogeneic HSCT from donors with wild-type-CCR5<sup>+</sup> cells on HIV-1 peripheral blood reservoirs in 2 patients heterozygous for the *ccr5Δ32* mutation. In-depth analyses of the HIV-1 reservoir size in peripheral blood, coreceptor use, and specific antibody responses were performed on samples obtained before and up to 3.5 years after HSCT receipt.

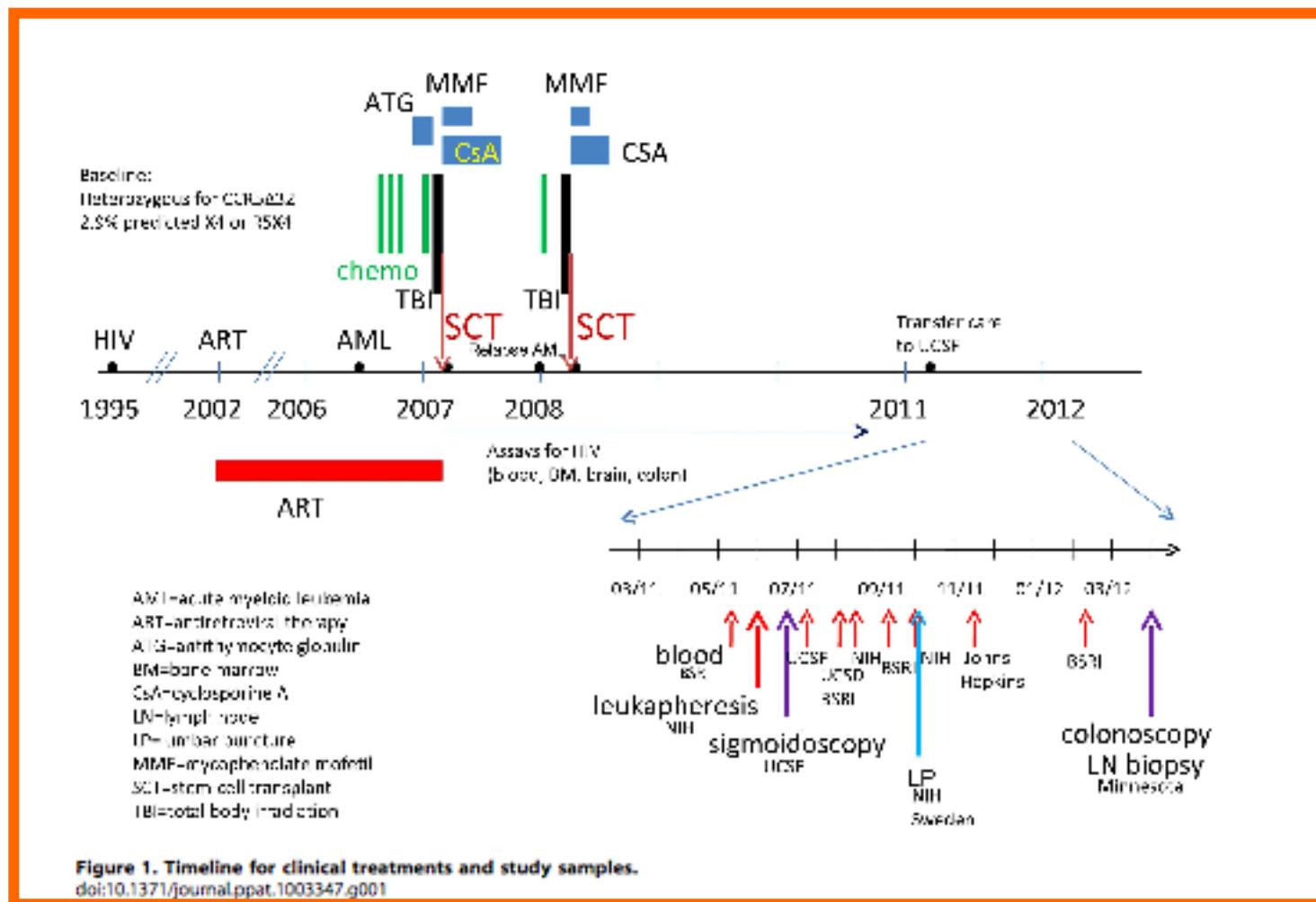
**Results.** Although HIV-1 DNA was readily detected in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) before and 2–3 months after HSCT receipt, HIV-1 DNA and RNA were undetectable in PBMCs, CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells, or plasma up to 21 and 42 months after HSCT. The loss of detectable HIV-1 correlated temporally with full donor chimerism, development of graft-versus-host disease, and decreases in HIV-specific antibody levels.

**Conclusions.** The ability of donor cells to engraft without evidence of ongoing HIV-1 infection suggests that HIV-1 replication may be fully suppressed during cART and does not contribute to maintenance of viral reservoirs in peripheral blood in our patients. HSCTs with wild-type-CCR5<sup>+</sup> donor cells can lead to a sustained reduction in the size of the peripheral reservoir of HIV-1.

# The first case of “steriling cure”



# Challenges in Detecting HIV Persistence during Potentially Curative Interventions: A Study of the Berlin Patient



# QUANTIFYING HIV PERSISTENCE

**Table 3.** HIV in tissues.

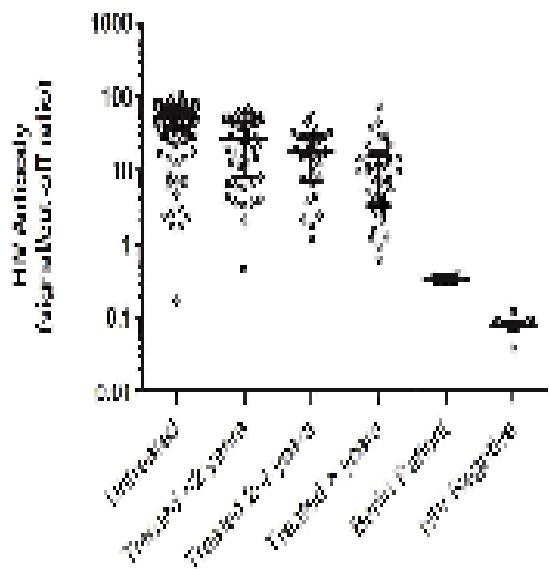
| Sample                                | Date    | Lab                     | Measure | Input   | Assay   | Detection Limit        | False Positive Rate <sup>1</sup> | Result                                    |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|---|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| CSF cells                             | 10/3/11 | NIH                     | HIV DNA | 8,400 cells   | qPCR [19] for LTR                                 | 0.5–2.6 copy/µg        | 0/72 (<1.4%)                     | ND <sup>2</sup>                           |
| CSF                                   | 10/3/11 | Sweden                  | HIV RNA | 7 ml  | SCA [7]   | 0.3 copy/ml [7]        |                                  | ND ( $\geq 0.1$ copy/ml)                  |
| CSF                                   | 10/3/11 | NIH                     | HIV RNA | 10 ml   | Roche Amplicon [19]                               | 1–2 copy/ml            | 1/179 (0.6%)                     | ND ( $\geq 0.1$ copy/ml)                  |
| Lymph Node                            | 3/27/12 | Vaccine Research Center | HIV DNA | No cell counts available  | Fluorescence-assisted clonal amplification of Env | 1 copy/reaction        |                                  | ND  |
| Lymph Node                            | 3/27/12 | Vaccine Research Center | HIV RNA | No cell counts available  | RNA sequencing                                    | 1 read/sample          |                                  | ND  |
| Lymph Node                            | 3/27/12 | Univ. of Minnesota      | HIV RNA |   | ISH [13]  | $10^{3–4}$ cells/g     |                                  | ND  |
| Rectal biopsy                         | 6/20/11 | SFVA/UCSF               | HIV DNA | DNA from $2.7 \times 10^6$ cells (from $3 \times 2$ biopsies)         | qPCR for LTR [24,56]                              | 1–2 copy/reaction [56] | 1/130 (0.8%)                     | 2 of 15 wells positive in $10^5$ cells    |
| Rectal cells (collagenase digestion)  | 6/20/11 | SFVA/UCSF               | HIV DNA | DNA from $1.5 \times 10^6$ cells (out of $2 \times 2.4 \times 10^6$ ) | qPCR for LTR [24,56]                              | 1–2 copy/reaction [56] | 1/130 (0.8%)                     | 1 of 10 wells positive in $10^5$ cells    |
| 4 sorted cell populations from rectum | 3/27/12 | Vaccine Research Center | HIV DNA | $3.1 \times 10^5$ CD45 <sup>+</sup> cells                             | Fluorescence-enabled clonal amplification of Env  | 1 copy/reaction        |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $3.1 \times 10^5$ CD45 <sup>+</sup> non-T cells                       |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $1.3 \times 10^5$ CD4 <sup>+</sup> T cells                            |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $3.7 \times 10^4$ other T cells                                       |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
| 4 sorted cell populations from rectum | 3/27/12 | Vaccine Research Center | HIV RNA | $8.5 \times 10^5$ CD45 <sup>+</sup> cells                             | RNA sequencing                                    | 1 read/sample          |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $3.2 \times 10^6$ CD45 <sup>+</sup> non-T cells                       |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $1.3 \times 10^6$ CD4 <sup>+</sup> T cells                            |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $3.8 \times 10^5$ other T cells                                       |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
| Rectal biopsy                         | 6/20/11 | SFVA/UCSF               | HIV RNA | RNA from $7.8 \times 10^6$ cells (from $3 \times 2$ biopsies)         | qRT-PCR for LTR [24,56]                           | 1–2 copy/reaction [56] | 0/83 (<1.2%)                     | ND ( $\leq 1$ in $7.8 \times 10^6$ cells) |
| Rectal cells (collagenase digestion)  | 6/20/11 | SFVA/UCSF               | HIV RNA | RNA from $2.5 \times 10^6$ cells (out of $2 \times 2.4 \times 10^6$ ) | qRT-PCR for LTR [24,56]                           | 1–2 copy/reaction [56] | 0/83 (<1.2%)                     | ND ( $\leq 1$ in $2.5 \times 10^6$ cells) |
| Rectal Biopsy                         | 3/27/12 | Univ. of Minnesota      | HIV RNA |   | ISH [13]  | $10^{3–4}$ cells/g     |                                  | Weak signal, artifact                     |
| 4 sorted cell populations from ileum  | 3/27/12 | Vaccine Research Center | HIV DNA | $8.6 \times 10^5$ CD45 <sup>+</sup> cells                             | Fluorescence-enabled clonal amplification of Env  | 1 copy/reaction        |                                  | ND ( $\leq 1$ in $10^6$ cells)            |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $4.9 \times 10^6$ CD45 <sup>+</sup> non-T cells                       |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $2.9 \times 10^6$ CD4 <sup>+</sup> T cells                            |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $1.0 \times 10^5$ other T cells                                       |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
| 4 sorted cell populations from ileum  | 3/27/12 | Vaccine Research Center | HIV RNA | $8.8 \times 10^5$ CD45 <sup>+</sup> cells                             | RNA sequencing                                    | 1 read/sample          |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $5.0 \times 10^6$ CD45 <sup>+</sup> non-T cells                       |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $3.0 \times 10^6$ CD4 <sup>+</sup> T cells                            |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
|                                       |         |                         |         | $1.1 \times 10^5$ other T cells                                       |   |                        |                                  | ND  |
| Ileal Biopsy                          | 3/27/12 | Univ. of Minnesota      | HIV RNA |   | ISH [13]  | $10^{3–4}$ cells/g     |                                  | ND  |

<sup>1</sup>Historical, as determined from the number of positive wells out of all wells containing samples from HIV+ subjects/donors that had been processed and run along with positive samples.

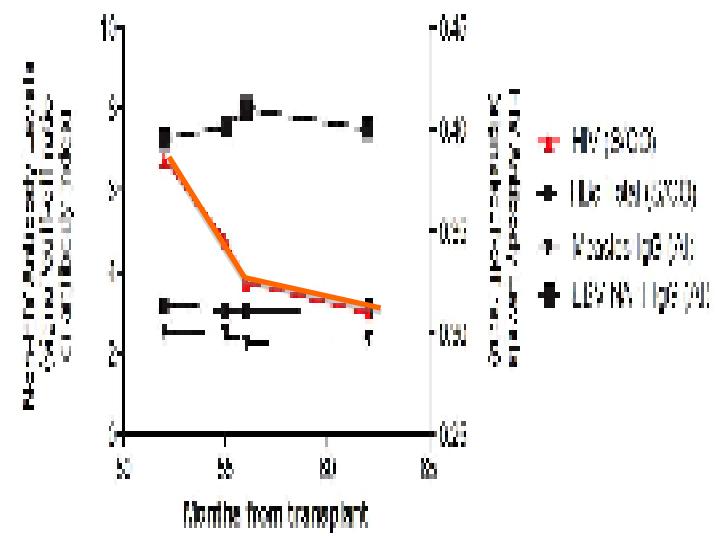
<sup>2</sup>ND = not detected.

# The Berlin patient

D. HIV Antibody (Detuned)



E. Non-HIV Antibodies



*“Ogni grande viaggio inizia con un singolo  
passo”*

Lao-tzu