



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

CANCER CENTER

## Emerging Therapies and Access Issues in Hawaii: Phase I Trials

Diana Martin, MS, RN, CCRP

Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA

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### Outline

- Modern vs. traditional phase I trials
- Impact of phase I trials for cancer patients
- Timelines from discovery to phase I to adoption
- Update on UHCC-HCC phase I trials initiative
- Nursing considerations for early phase clinical trials

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### Definitions – Phase I trials

#### Traditional

- Dose-finding studies with cytotoxic drugs
- Dose escalation until no longer tolerable
- Broad patient eligibility
- Safety and toxicity endpoints
- Anticipate ~5% response rate
- 20-50 patients

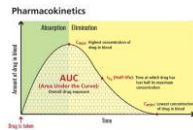
#### Modern

- Targeted agents on well-defined cancer sub-populations
- Focus to understand drug activity
- Dose escalation may not be a feature
- Response rates are ~20-40%
- 20-1000 patients
  - Keynote 001 (1200 patients)

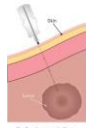
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## Definitions – Phase 0 trials

- Traditional**
- Pharmacokinetics
  - Understand distribution of drug within human systems

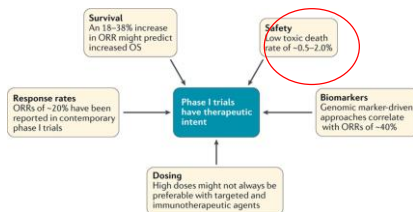


- Modern**
- Define and confirm tumor target effects
  - Often involves on-treatment, sequential tumor biopsies
    - Potential to use "liquid biopsies"



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## New phase 1 paradigms



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## Impact of phase 1 trials for cancer patients

- Early phase trial are increasingly including efficacy endpoints and large expansion cohorts
- Molecularly targeted subgroups allows for therapeutic intent, even in "first-in-human" studies
- FDA may approve drugs for clinical use based on phase I study results
  - Ceritinib for ALK-rearranged NSCLC
  - Pembrolizumab for melanoma

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## Cautionary notes for EPCT

- Molecularly targeted subpopulations can markedly improve response rates but may narrow eligibility to a small percentage of patients with a particular cancer.
- Most phase I trials have fairly strict "performance status" requirements so patient enrollment following progression on standard therapy, but before multiple rounds of ineffective salvage regimens, is desirable.
- Immunotherapy benefits on OS, without appreciable impacts on ORR, complicate end point considerations for phase I trials with these agents.

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## Ethical considerations for Hawaii

- Cancer patients who feel reasonably "well" despite having progressed on standard therapies often want the hope that EPCT provide.
  - Need to balance this with realistic expectations
- Access to EPCT is difficult and expensive for Hawaii patients until we have a program based here in the state.
- Financial Considerations – most trial costs are covered but often not transportation, housing, missed work & other living expenses if patients need to travel outside of Hawaii.

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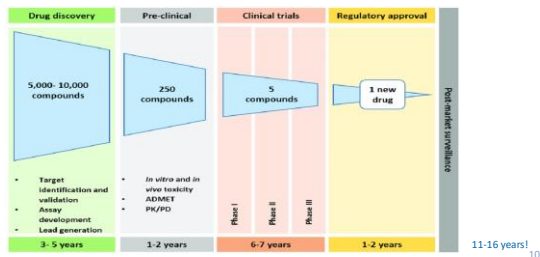
## Ethical considerations for Hawaii

- Most patients who enroll on EPCT are affluent and from urban areas with large academic medical centers.
- Most patients who enroll on EPCT are white.
  - Very important to define if new agents have efficacy in other populations like those in Hawaii.

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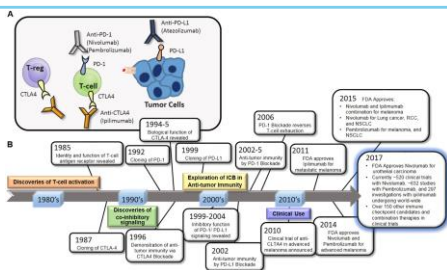
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## Cancer drug development timeline



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## Timeline for development of checkpoint inhibitors ( $\alpha$ PD-1; $\alpha$ PD-L1)



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## EPCRC



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Currently in design phase. Permitting and buildout anticipated for 2021.

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