

Optimizing Allogeneic Cell Therapy Manufacturing Processes

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Challenges for Off-the-Shelf, Allogeneic CAR αβ T Cell Therapy

- Recently, industry has increasingly focused on the manufacture and advancement of allogeneic cell ۲ therapies
 - Off-the-shelf availability
 - Significantly lower manufacturing cost per dose
- However, there are several challenges with the manufacturing of allogeneic cell therapies





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Poseida Manufacturing Facility



Facility Highlights				
Manufact	uring Area	Process Support	Laboratory Spaces	Office Space
 GMP manufact Flexible manufact Flexible manufact pre-IND through activities Dedicated are transfer into a second second	cturing suite facturing suite for igh IND-enabling ea for materials cleanrooms	 Final product storage and distribution GMP storage for raw materials and consumables with quarantined and released dedicated areas 	 QC Analytical lab to support product specific in-process and release testing assays QC Micro lab to support environmental monitoring program activities 	 Main lobby entrance Large conference room Huddle rooms Open seating concept Work center team area



Gene Editing to Mitigate GvHD and HvG

Poseida utilizes Cas-CLOVER[™] gene editing technology to knock out endogenous T cell receptor and MHC class I molecules to address GvHD and HvG





Gene Editing and Delivery Technologies



*Reference: Atsavapranee, E., et al., Billingsley, M. Mitchel, M., Delivery Technologies for T cell gene editing: Applications in cancer immunotherapy; EBioMedicine, 67 (2021), 1-12

Transposons



Zinc finger nucleases (ZFN)



Low genotoxicity
 Cost-effective
 Less toxic than viral transduction
 Suitable for co-delivery of multiple genes
 Inefficient plasmid delivery into human cells
 Not suitable for gene disruption or replacement

Specific editing with few off-target effects
 Efficient delivery due to their small size

Substantial protein engineering required for different gene targets



• Specific editing with few off-target effects • More simple design than ZFN

Inefficient delivery due to their large size
Substantial protein engineering required for different gene targets

Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR)/Cas9



- Minimal alteration to reach new targets
- Efficient and scalable manufacturing
- Suitable for a variety of delivery platforms

Less specific editing than ZFN and TALEN

- Risks of off-target mutagenesis and
- immunogenicity
- Inefficient in vivo delivery





Introduction to Poseida's Gene Editing Platforms

Editing T_{SCM} population



Gene Editing and Gene Insertion



Cas-CLOVER[™]: High-fidelity Gene Editing Technology

Insertion: piggyBac[®]



- Extensively vetted for Off-Target effects in peer-reviewed publication¹
- Key ability to efficiently edit single or multiple genes
- Fully non-viral approach for in vivo gene editing
- Diverse toolbox of variants for expanded targeting (e.g. PAM diversity)

- Low to No Off-Target cutting
- Ease of use/design
- Multiplexing ability
- High specificity
- Lower potential costs
- Greater Knock-in rate than Cas9



Reference: Madison et al., Molecular Therapy – Nucleic Acids, 2022. (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S216225312200155X)

Poseida's piggyBac[®] Preferentially Transposes T_{SCM} Cell and Naïve Precursors

Precursor cells correlate with better clinical responses, including better duration of response



Lentivirus transduces fewer T_{SCM}





Booster in Action: Increased Expansion and High CAR-T_{SCM}

Preclinical and clinical products exhibit favorable expansion and phenotype





Impact of Gene Editing Efficiency on Purity and Recovery of Target Cells

Introduced challenges with gene editing choices and their impact on the product recovery and quality

- The editing tools can introduce residual impurities (*e.g.* plasmids, Nucleic acids, Viral vectors)
- Genotoxicity/Fidelity of editing
 - Replication Competent Viruses
 - Off target editing
- Editing Efficiency (unedited cells)
 - Expansion of unedited (TCR⁺ and CAR⁻)
 - Impact of Electroporation on Cell recovery, health and expansion





Gene Editing Optimization



Remaining Challenge:

Variable TCRαβ knock out efficiency has been observed after gene editing



Final Product Specifications for TCR/CD3+ Cells < 3% What unit operation in the process will ensure meeting the tight specification?

Harvest Fold Expansion



Harvest Fold Expansion



Harvest Fold Expansion







Cell Expansion (Productivity per Batch) Preservation of Phenotypes



Scale Up/Out and Seeding Density Optimization



$GRex6M = 10cm^2$



 $GRex100M = 100cm^2$





 $GRex500M = 500cm^2$

- Highest fold expansion achieved with lowest seeding density in Poseida's process
- The scale out along with scale up resulted in a three-fold increase in the final product cells compared to historical benchmark (*e.g.* vendor recommended seeding densities)
- No cytokine additives are used throughout the process in order to preserve phenotyping
- At least a couple hundred doses can be manufactured from single donor
- All improvements were achieved while preserving the stemness of the final product



Seeding density per surface area is the scaling factor

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TCR⁺ Depletion Cell Expansion



TCRαβ+ Depletion Process Overview

- Initial depletion process resulted in low purity and low product recovery
- Manufacturer recommendations were initially utilized; however, significant development work has been required to identify critical process parameters and optimize the process to maximize purity and recovery



Impact of Labeling Reagent: Cell Ratio on Purity

- Labeling saturation studies were performed to identify **optimal bead: cell ratio**
- Decreased depletion performance at non saturating labeling conditions was confirmed
- Reagent lot to lot variability, reagent stability, reagent concentrations and other factors are not well understood and can
 influence final product purity
 - The concentration of the magnetic beads are not known which introduces a challenge on controlling the bead/cell ratio
 - TCR measurement on the depletion day is not currently performed in manufacturing set up







Impact of TCRαβ+ Column Capacity and Residence Time On Purity

- Depletion parameters such as TCRαβ+ column loading capacity and column residence time are critical process parameters for efficient depletion performance
- Depletion scale down model and offline labeling model have been used to perform optimization studies to identify acceptable operating ranges





Control Strategy for Final Depletion

- Controlled Labeling with increased ratio of beads to cell (based on total cells) and other parameters (*e.g.* incubation time) improved the depletion performance
 - In process measurement of TCR prior to depletion day for optimal labeling is in progress
- Controlled and limit the number of TCR positive loaded to Prodigy
- Operating flowrate/residence time can make an impact on the TCR+ clearance



Significant changes in final product purity across depletion cycles have been observed



Conclusions

- Poseida utilizes a unique and proprietary gene editing tool and technologies which have the potential for significant benefits over other common available technologies
 - Cost
 - Speed of manufacturing
 - Safety
 - Fidelity
 - Favorable Phenotyping
- Many process variables and parameters can have significant impact on product attributes and yield; little information is available from manufacturers so optimization by the company is required
- Poseida has a continuous productivity improvement mindset that has already led to improvements in multiple areas; for example nucleic acid delivery, cell seeding density, downstream purification
 - Gene editing performance and critical parameters for EP in combination with the equipment of choice
 - Process Scale up and out were performed in Grex flasks with optimized seeding density to increase process productivity
 - Critical parameters and their impact on depletion performance has been studied:
 - Labeling, flowrate, TCR⁺ loading, etc.
 - Alternative technologies for cell separation



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- Manufacturing and Sciences Technology Teams
- Manufacturing team





Q&A

A New Class of Cell & Gene Therapies with the Capacity to Cure

