

# Development of IRAK4 Kinase Inhibitor CA-4948 for NHL

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*4<sup>th</sup> Waldenstrom Roadmap Symposium*  
April 07, 2019



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Robert Booher, Ph.D.

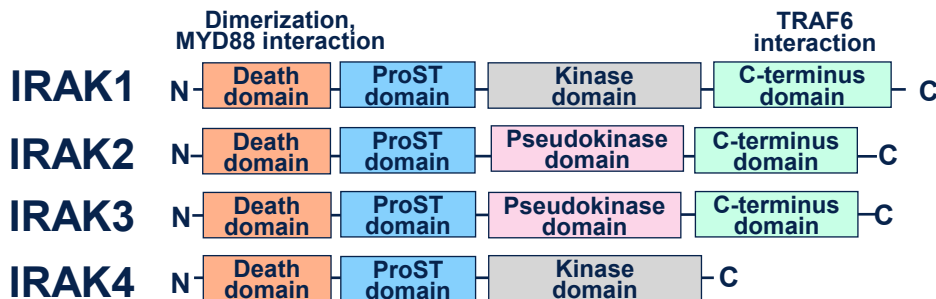
Receives direct remuneration from Curis

Dena Grayson, M.D., Ph.D.

Receives direct remuneration from Curis

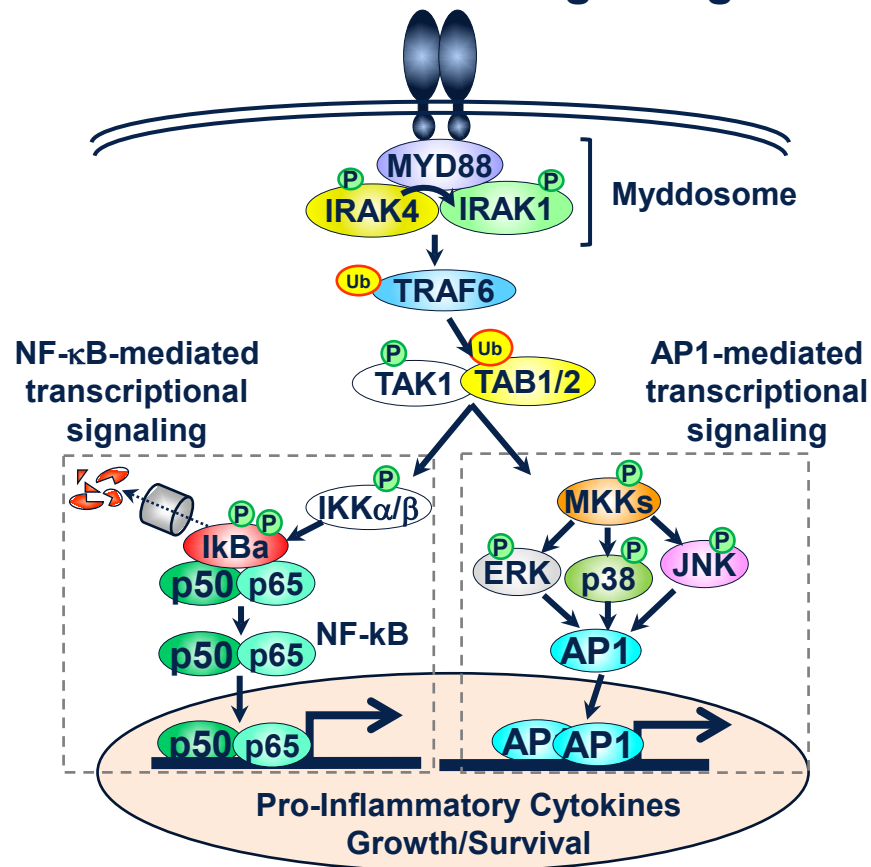
# Interleukin-1 Receptor-Associated Kinase-4 (IRAK4)

## IRAK Kinase Family

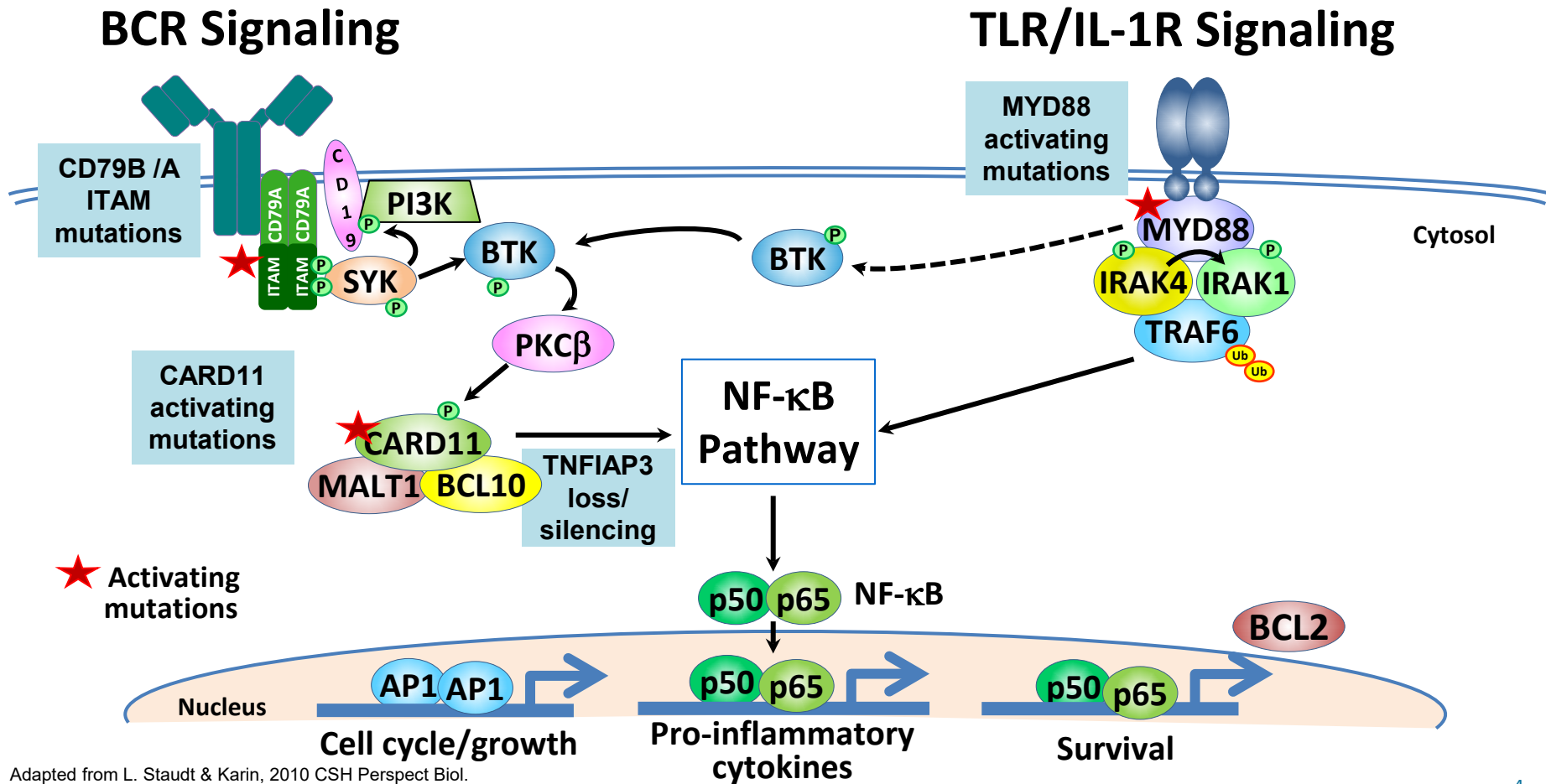


- IRAK4 is a serine/threonine kinase that is a key component in the signal transduction pathways mediated by Toll-like receptors (TLRs) and interleukin-1 receptor (IL-1R)
- Ligand-bound TLR/IL1R recruits the MYD88 adaptor protein, followed by IRAK4 and IRAK1, forming the Myddosome with activated IRAK4, leading to phosphorylation and activation of IRAK1

## TLR and IL-1R Signaling



# Activating Mutations in TLR/IL-1R and BCR Signaling Pathways Resulting in NF- $\kappa$ B Induction

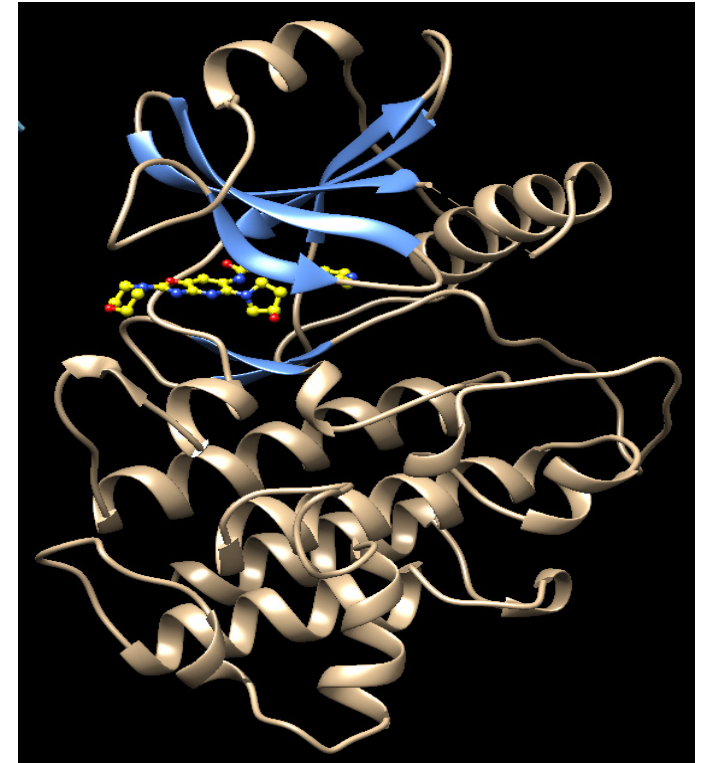


# CA-4948, A Selective Oral Inhibitor of IRAK4 for the Treatment of NHL

## CA-4948:

- Selective, small molecule inhibitor of IRAK4
- ATP-competitive, type 1 inhibitor, reversible
- Excellent drug-like properties:
  - Orally bioavailable (>100% dog/mouse)
  - Moderate plasma binding (77% human)
  - Stable in plasma, liver microsomes, hepatocytes
  - No inhibition of 7 major CYP450s
  - No significant metabolism *in vitro*
  - Humans: rapid absorption/clearance,  $T_{1/2}$  6 hr, no accumulation with QD dosing

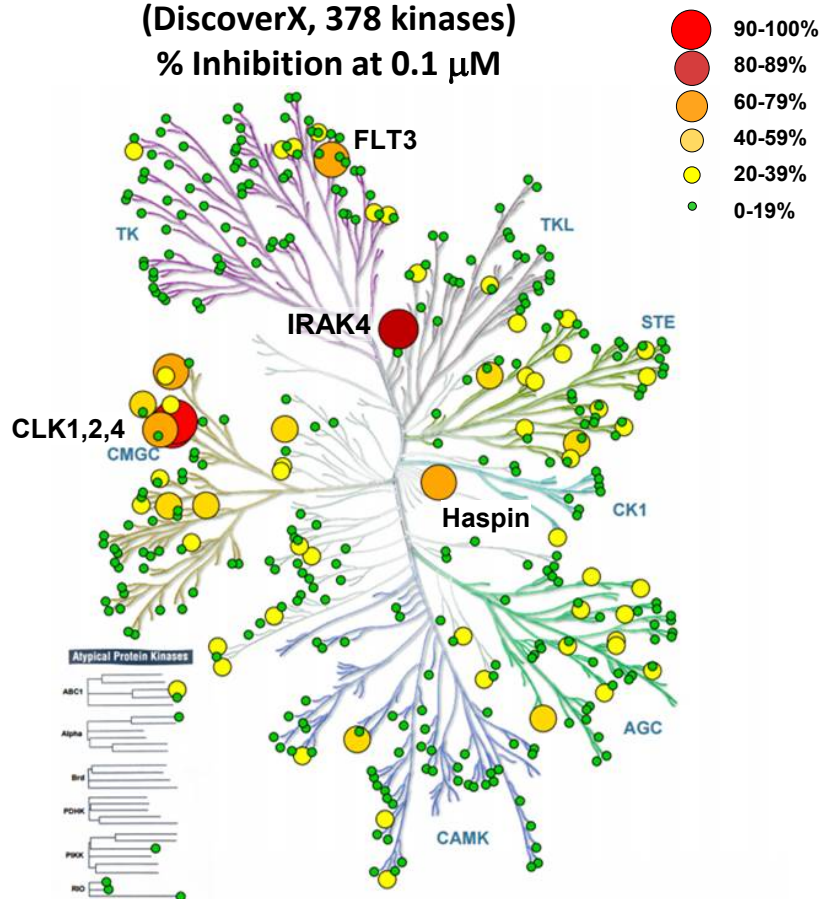
IRAK4/CA-4948 Co-crystal Structure



2.4Å resolution

# CA-4948 Kinase Selectivity Profile

Active-site binding  
(DiscoverX, 378 kinases)  
% Inhibition at 0.1  $\mu$ M



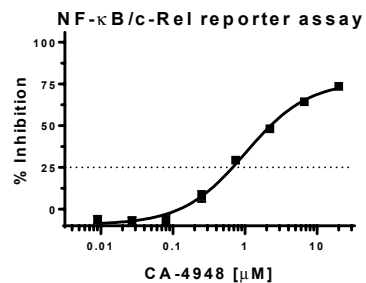
CA-4948 Binding  
Affinity Activity

	DiscoverX
Kinase	$K_d$ (nM)
IRAK4	23
IRAK1	12,000
IRAK2	>20,000
IRAK3	8,500

Other top hits:

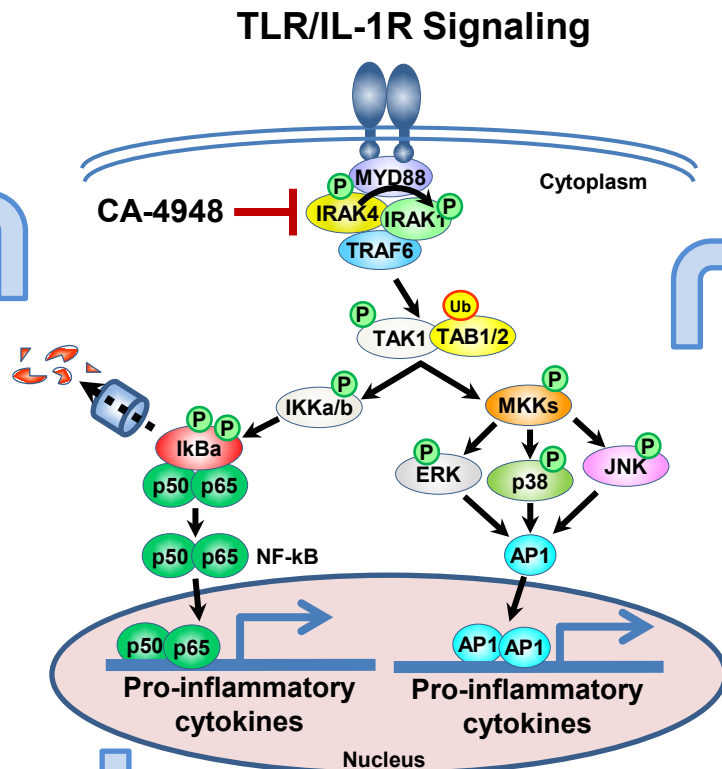
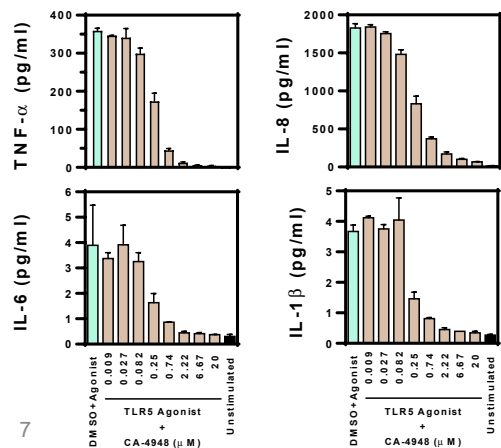
CLK1	10
CLK4	14
CLK2	20
FLT3	31
DYRK1A	25
Haspin (GSG2)	32
TrkA	130

# CA-4948 IRAK4 Kinase Inhibitor Blocks the TLR/IL-1R Induced Canonical NF- $\kappa$ B Signaling Pathway



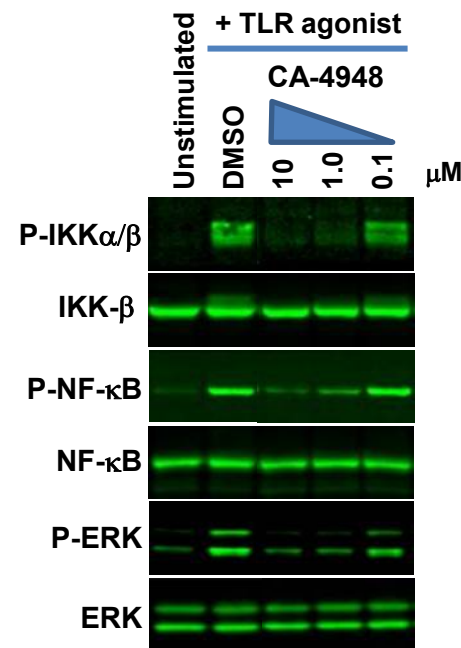
TLR and IL-1R-induced NF- $\kappa$ B reporter assays (IC<sub>50</sub> = 502-520 nM, THP1)

## Meso Scale Discovery: 4-Plex



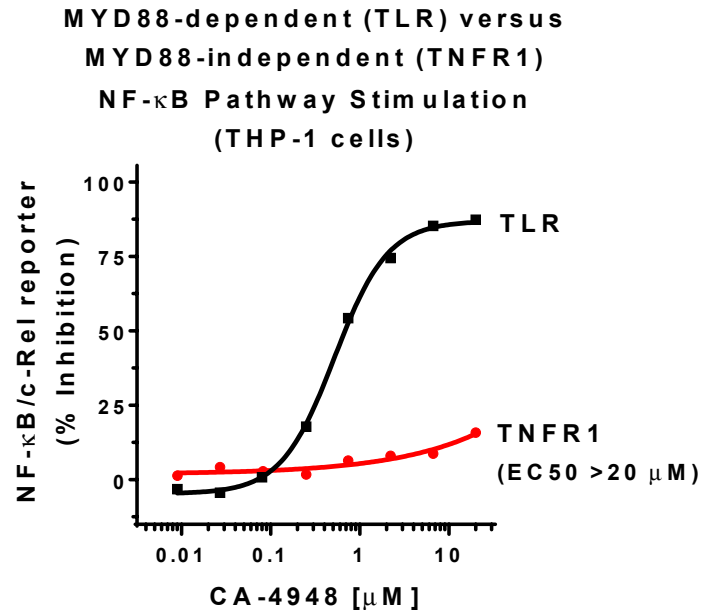
TLR-induced cytokine release assays (IC<sub>50</sub> = 201-242 nM, THP1)

## In vitro THP1 monocytic cell assays



- Good correlation between inhibition of phospho-signals, TLR/IL-1R signaling pathway, NF- $\kappa$ B reporter and secreted cytokine levels

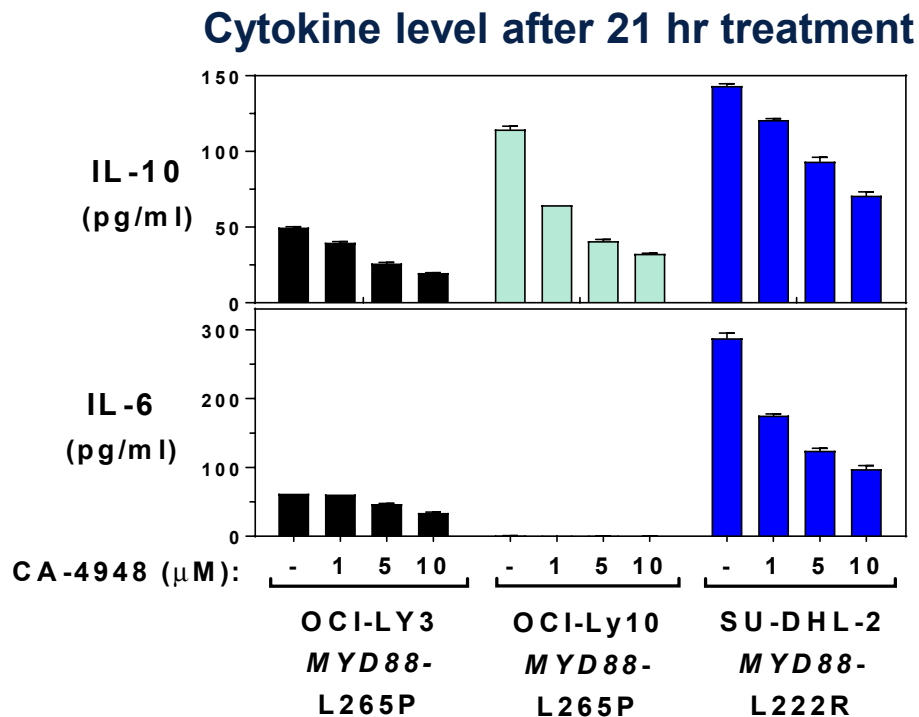
# CA-4948 Selectively Inhibits NF- $\kappa$ B Signaling Pathways that are MYD88-Dependent



CA-4948 exhibits minimal inhibition of MYD88-independent NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway



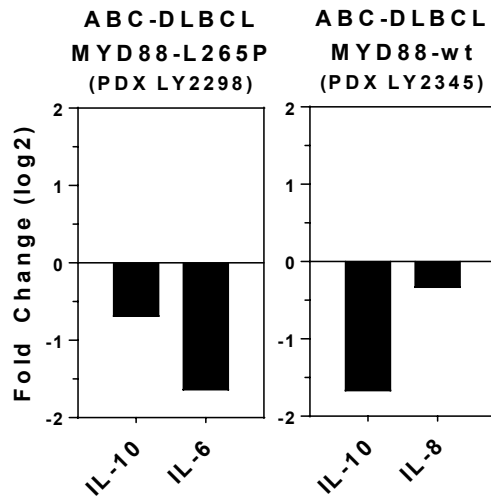
# CA-4948 Inhibits Constitutive Cytokine Production in MYD88mut ABC-DLBCL Cell Lines



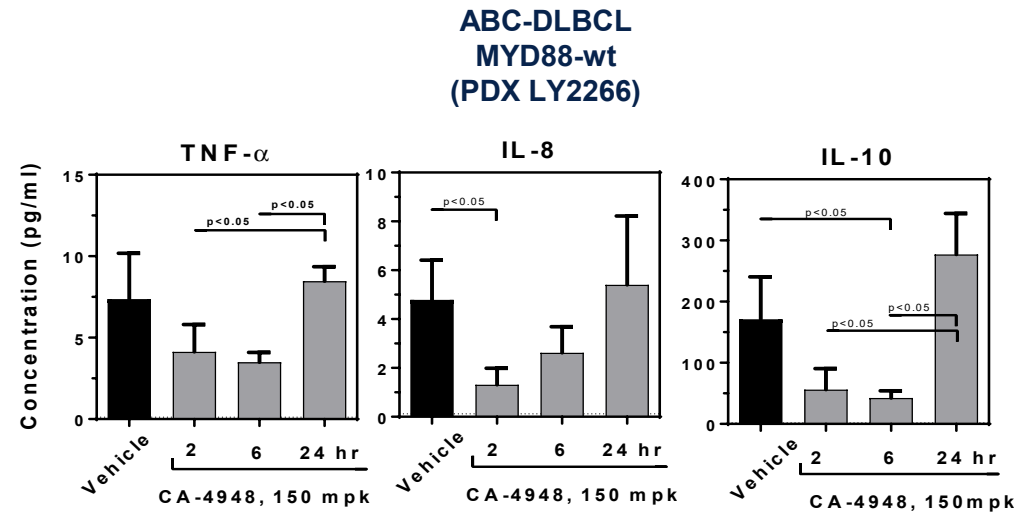
In vitro cytokine production

# CA-4948 Inhibits Cytokine RNA and Protein Production in DLBCL PDX Tumors

## CA-4948 Inhibition of Cytokine RNA Expression in DLBCL PDX Tumors



## CA-4948 Inhibition of Tumor-Derived Cytokines in Plasma From DLBCL PDX-Tumor Bearing Mouse



- 150 mg/kg CA-4948, QDx4
- Tumors were harvested 6 hr post final dose
- RNA-Seq analysis (n=3)
- Fold change is relative to vehicle
- p < 0.05 after Benjamini-Hochberg correction

- 150 mg/kg CA-4948, QDx1
- Plasma collected 2, 6, and 24 hr post dose (n=3)

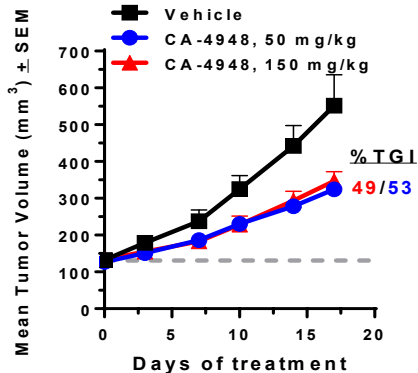
# CA-4948 Shows Enhanced Efficacy in ABC vs. GCB DLBCL Tumors



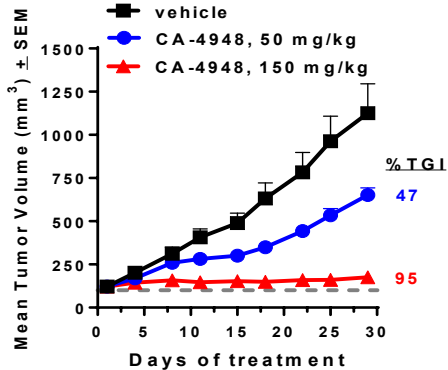
## ABC DLBCL

## GCB DLBCL

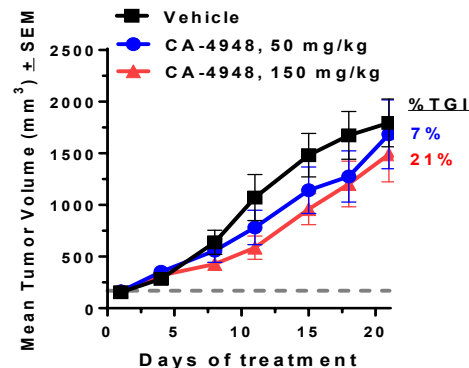
**OCI-LY3**  
(MYD88-L265P)



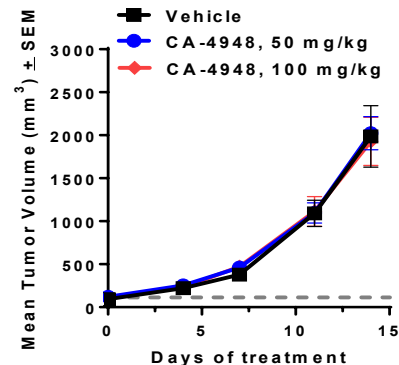
**OCI-Ly10**  
(MYD88-L265P)



**SU-DHL-4**



**OCI-Ly19**



CA-4948	%TGI	n
50 mg/kg	53*	8/8
150 mg/kg	49*	7/8

\*p<0.05

CA-4948	%TGI	n
50 mg/kg	47*	9/9
150 mg/kg	95**	9/9

\*p<0.02  
\*\*p<0.0001

CA-4948	%TGI	n
50 mg/kg	7*	7/8
150 mg/kg	20*	8/8

\*p = ns

CA-4948	%TGI	n
50 mg/kg	0	8/8
100 mg/kg	0	7/7

Once-daily, oral CA-4948 dosing

# CA-4948 Efficacy in 6 DLBCL PDX Models



DLBCL PDX Model	Cell of Origin	Mutations/Expression			CA-4948 Efficacy
		MYD88 Mutation	B-Cell Receptor Mutation	BCL6 Expression (IHC)	100 mg/kg, QD %TGI
LY2345	ABC	WT	CARD11, TNFAIP3	2%	71**
LY2264	ABC	L265P	CD79B	60%	70**
LY2298	ABC	L265P	CD79B	20%	54*
LY2214	GCB	WT	WT	95%	38
LY2266	ABC	WT	WT	0%	30*
LY0257	ABC	L265P	WT	95%	0

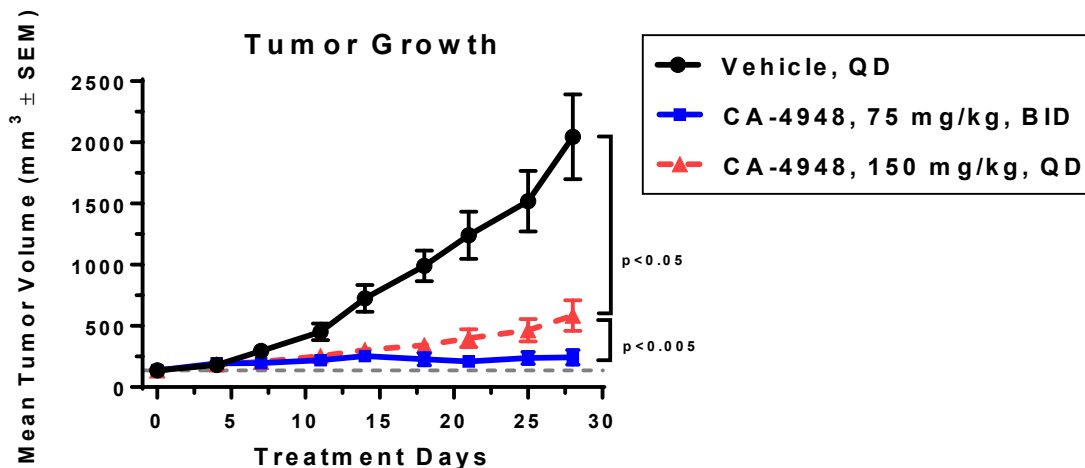
\*p<0.05

\*\*p≤0.001

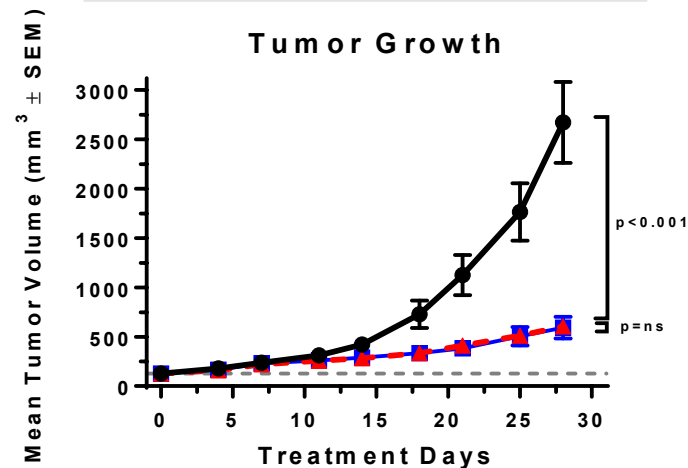
# CA-4948 BID Dosing Exhibits Improved/ Equivalent Efficacy Compared to QD Dosing



**LY2345 PDX: ABC DLBCL  
MYD88-wt, TNFIAP3-mt**



**LY2298 PDX: ABC DLBCL  
MYD88-L265P, CD79B-mut**

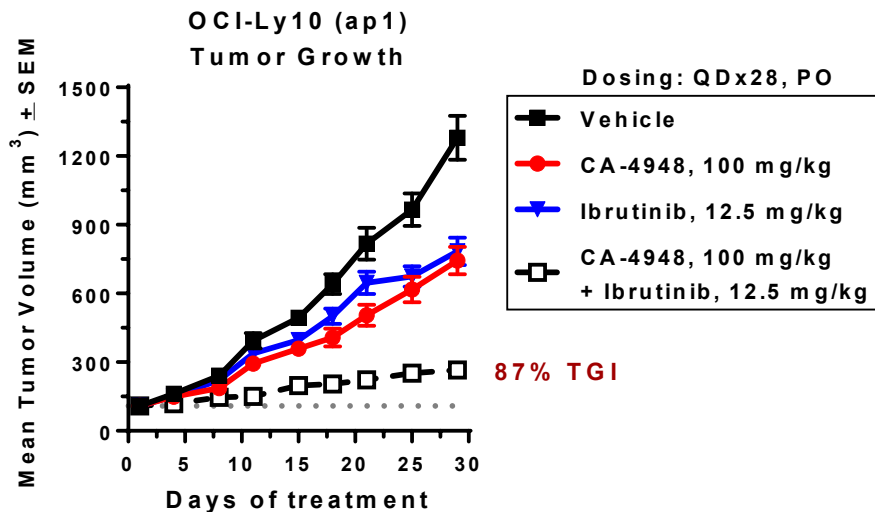


Drug	Dosage (mg/kg)	Schedule	%TGI
CA-4948	75	BID	94
CA-4948	150	QD	77

Drug	Dosage (mg/kg)	Schedule	%TGI
CA-4948	75	BID	82
CA-4948	150	QD	81

# CA-4948 Exhibits Combination Effects with Ibrutinib or Venetoclax in an ABC-DLBCL Xenograft Model

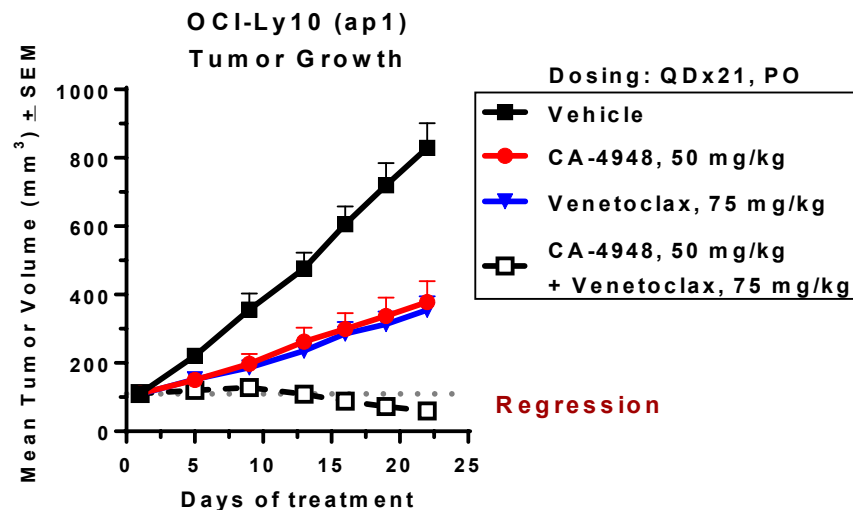
## CA-4948 + Ibrutinib



Drug	Dosage (mg/kg)	%TGI (n=10)
CA-4948	100	46*
Ibrutinib	12.5	42*
CA-4948 + Ibrutinib	100 + 12.5	87*

\*p<0.0005

## CA-4948 + Venetoclax

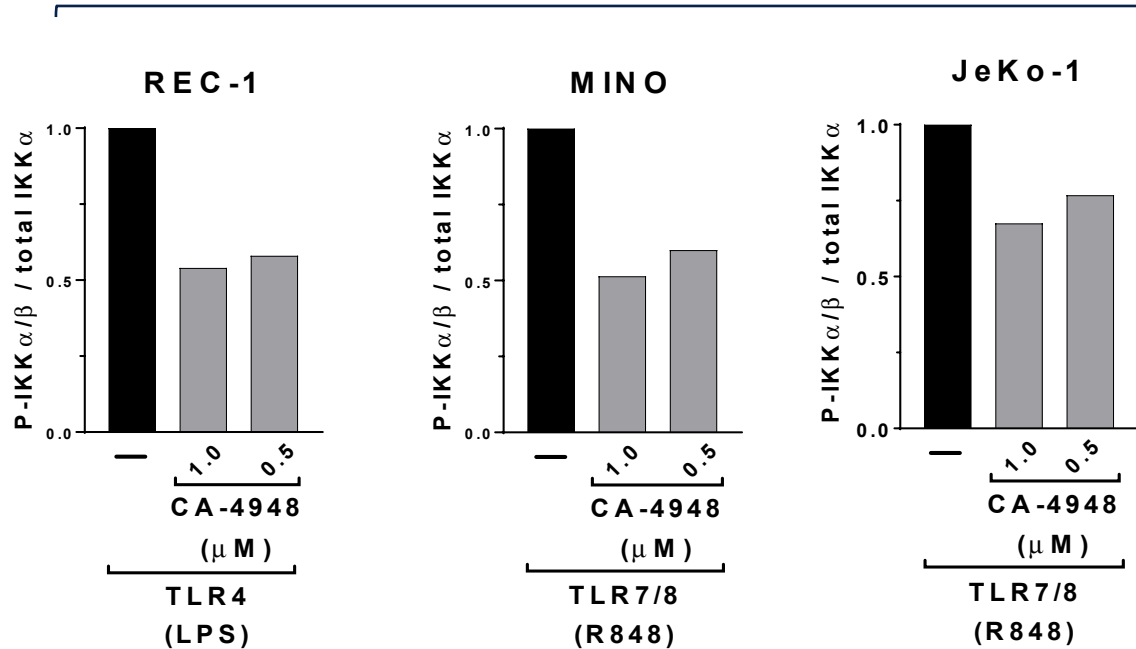


Drug	Dosage (mg/kg)	%TGI (n=9-10)
CA-4948	50	63*
Venetoclax	75	71*
CA-4948 + Venetoclax	50 + 75	regress*

\*p<0.0005

# CA-4948 *In Vitro* Effect on TLR Signaling Pathway in Mantle Cell Lymphoma Lines

## Classical NF- $\kappa$ B pathway



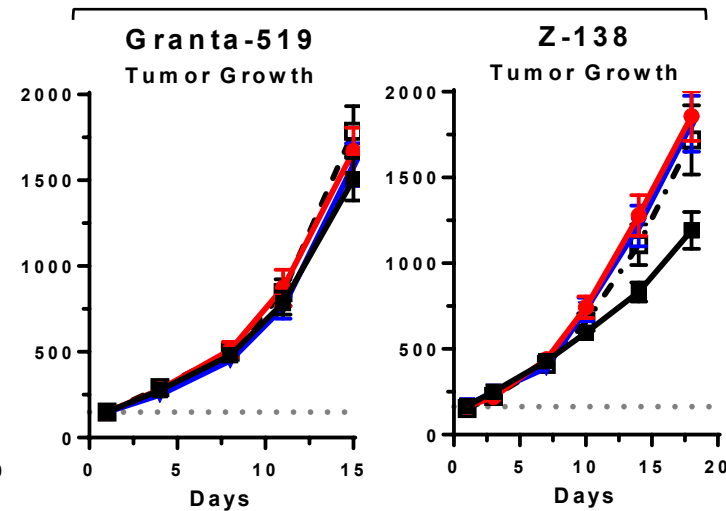
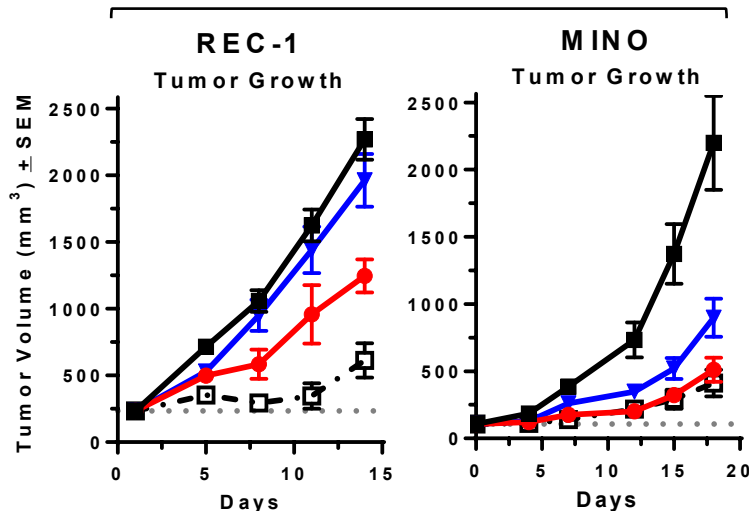
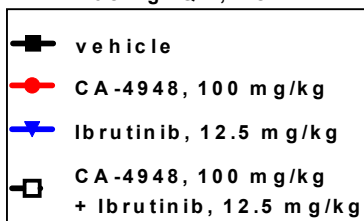
CA-4948 downregulates TLR-stimulated signaling pathway components (P-IKK $\alpha$ / $\beta$ ) in MCL cell lines with classical NF- $\kappa$ B signaling

# CA-4948 ± Ibrutinib Exhibits Efficacy in MCL Xenograft Models with Canonical NF-κB Signaling

## Classical NF-κB pathway

## Alternative NF-κB pathway

Dosing: QD, PO



Drug	Dose (mg/kg)	%TGI* (n=9-10)
CA-4948	100	50*
Ibrutinib	12.5	15**
CA-4948 + Ibrutinib	100 + 12.5	81*

%TGI* (n=11-12)
81
62
85

%TGI (n=10)
0
0
0

%TGI (n=10)
0
0
0

\*p<0001  
\*\*p=ns

\*p<002

CA-4948 exhibits *in vivo* activity in MCL cell lines with chronic activated NF-κB pathway



# **CA-4948-101 Phase 1 First-in-Human Trial (*NCT03328078*)**

## Targeting IRAK4 in NHL: Rationale

### Prevalence of Oncogenic *MYD88*-L265P Mutations

Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL)	29%
Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia (WM)	95-97%
Lymphoplasmacytic Lymphoma (LPL)	79-96%
Orbital and ocular adnexal DLBCL	71%
Immune-privileged DLBCL (IP-DLBCL)	50-80%
Splenic Marginal Zone Lymphoma (SMZL)	6-10%
Mucosa-Associated Lymphoid Tissue (MALT)	9%
Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)	2.9%

## Targeting IRAK4 in AML/MDS: Rationale

### Prevalence of TLR/IL-R1/MYD88 Alterations

- TLR or IL1R alterations
  - TLR1, 2 and 4 overexpression in MDS and AML
  - IL1R alterations in AML
  - 67% of primary AML pt samples exhibited profound IL-1 induced myeloid progenitor cell expansion
  - 40% of MDS pts had increased MYD88 expression in bone marrow CD34+ cells
  - 11% of MDS pts harbored the TLR2-F217S mutation, which induces enhanced NF- $\kappa$ B signaling
- MYD88 alterations
  - Overexpression in AML
- IRAK4 alterations
  - Overexpression in MDS

## Phase 1a: Single Agent Dose Escalation

- 3 + 3 Design
- Dose escalation guided by safety
- Starting dose = 50 mg QD
- N = ~ 30
- R/R NHL, including WM

MTD or RP2D



## Phase 1b: Dose Expansion

- N = 45 ~ 50
- WM
- ABC DLBCL MYD88mut
- ABC DLBCL MYD88wt

### Objectives

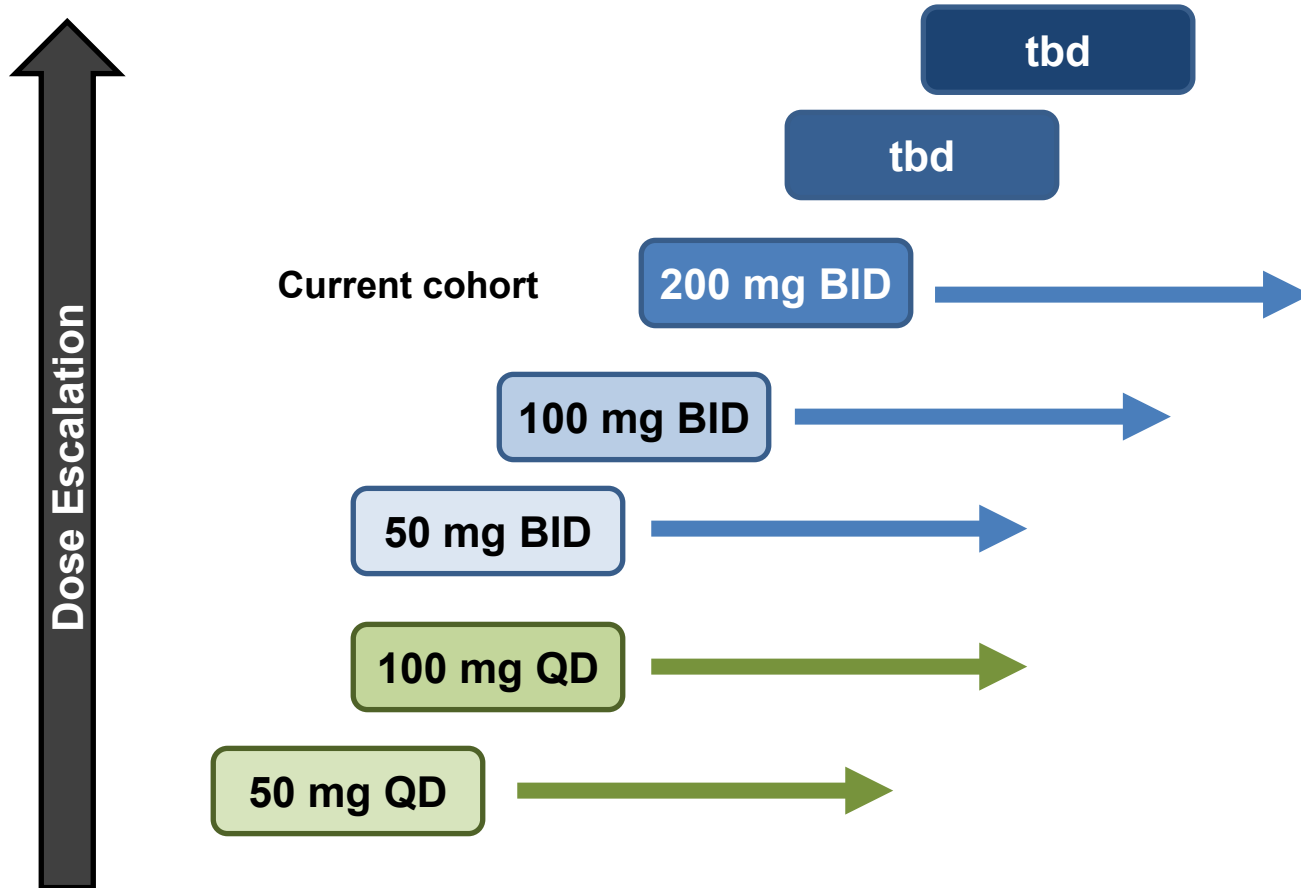
- Primary: MTD or RP2D, Safety
- Secondary: pharmacodynamics, anti-cancer activity
- Exploratory: pharmacodynamics and correlative research

### Treatment

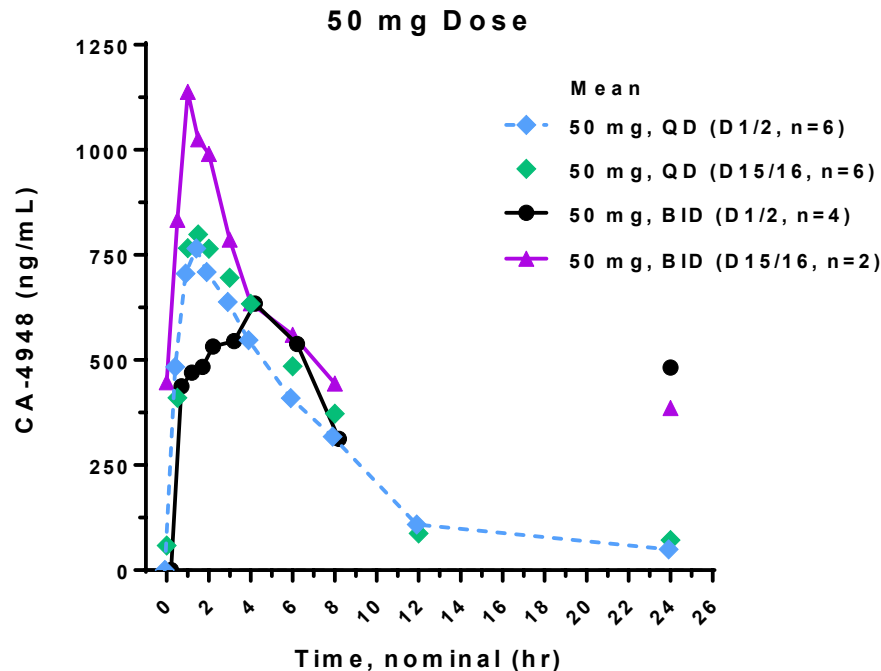
- Oral, once or twice daily, dosing in continuous 21-day cycles until unacceptable toxicity or progression

**Participating country: US**

# CA-4948-101 Study Design and Cohort Accrual



# CA-4948 Plasma Concentration (ng/mL) vs. Time Profile (Cycle 1)



At current sample analysis, CA-4948 exhibits:

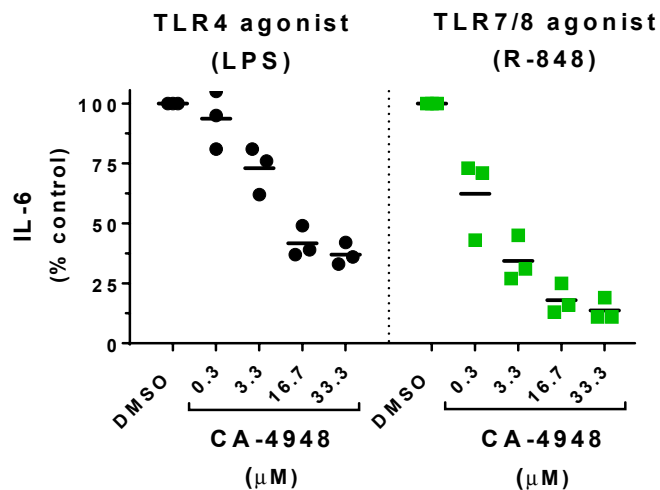
- Rapid absorption and clearance ( $t_{1/2} \sim 6$  hr)
- Dose proportional increase in exposure
- Increased trough levels with BID dosing

# CA-4948 PK/PD Relationship Determined Using an *Ex-Vivo* Whole Blood Assay (Human)

*In whole blood from healthy volunteers, cytokine production dropped when incubated with CA-4948*

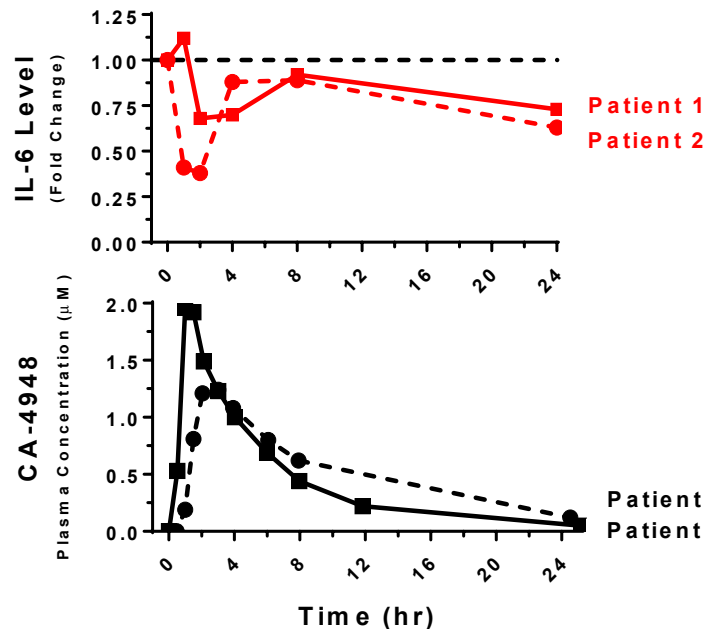
*In whole blood from patients treated with CA-4948 cytokine production dropped, mirroring drug exposure*

### IL-6 Production in TLR-stimulated Whole Blood (healthy volunteers)



Whole Blood Assay Development

### IL-6 Production in TLR-7/8 stimulated Whole Blood (CA-4948, 50 mg, Ph1 patients)



CA-4948 PK/PD (whole-blood TLR inhibitory assays) supports BID dosing

# CA-4948 Development Plan

*Expansion in patients with MYD88 or TLR/IL-1R pathway altered lymphomas*



2019

2020

2021

Dose Escalation

Dose Expansion

Select Regimen for  
Randomized Pivotal Trial

CA-4948  
Monotherapy

NHL

DLBCL, WM, MCL

*MYD88/TLR-altered Lymphoma*

CA-4948  
Combo Therapy

+ BTK inhibitor

*MYD88/TLR-altered Lymphoma*

CA-4948  
Monotherapy

AML and MDS

Selected Population  
in AML and MDS

*AML/MDS*

- CA-4948 is a potent, oral inhibitor of IRAK4 Ser/Thr kinase with >500-fold selectivity vs. IRAK1
- CA-4948 inhibited constitutive or TLR-induced signaling in ABC-DLBCL and MCL cell lines and xenograft tumor models
- CA-4948 exhibited *in vivo* anti-tumor activity in NHL models with intact canonical NF- $\kappa$ B signaling, which was enhanced in combination with ibrutinib or venetoclax treatment
- Samples from patients treated with CA-4948 showed decreased TLR pathway activity when stimulated *ex vivo*
- Phase 1 PK analysis showed CA-4948 dose-dependent  $C_{\max}$  and AUC increases, and higher trough levels with BID dosing
- Phase 1 has initiated the fifth dose cohort with 200 mg BID
- These results underscore the therapeutic potential of targeting IRAK4 kinase with CA-4948 alone and in combination with targeted agents for the treatment of NHL with MYD88 or TLR/IL-1R pathway alterations



- Participating patients and their families
- Investigators, research coordinators, and site personnel
  - Iris Isufi, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
  - Daniel Landsburg, Perelman School of Medicine, Univ. of Penn, Philadelphia, PA
  - Lori Leslie, Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, NJ
  - Matthew A. Lunning, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
  - Grzegorz Nowakowski, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
  - Krish Patel, Swedish Cancer Institute, Seattle, WA
  - Allison Rosenthal, Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, AZ
  - Han Tun, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL
  - Anas Younes, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
- Colleagues at Curis and Aurigene



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