

# Molecularly Targeted Therapies in Pediatric Cancer

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 - Washington, D.C.

**#ProgressForPatients**

**FRIENDS**  
of CANCER  
RESEARCH

**WiFi Code: frc18**

# **Pediatric Development of Molecularly Targeted Cancer Drugs and FDARA 2017**

Gregory H. Reaman, M.D.  
Associate Director for Pediatric Oncology  
Oncology Center of Excellence, OC  
Associate Director, Oncology Sciences  
Office of Hematology and Oncology Products, CDER, OND  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

# Cancer Drug Development for Children and Adolescents

- Well recognized, long-standing unique considerations- scientific, societal, economic
- Accepted off label use as part of standard of care and research
- Improved outcomes and misperception of unmet clinical need for new drugs
- Unique practice model- integration of clinical research and management
- Lag in evolution of cancer drug development paradigm in pediatrics
- Broadly leverages adult drug discovery/development- highly regulated, limited opportunities for extrapolation and limited pre-clinical testing in pediatric models



# FDA Advisory Committee Consensus Statement

*Pediatric oncology drug development should generally be **coordinated** with oncology drug development for **adults**, as part of an **overall drug development plan***

# U.S. Legislation and Pediatric Drug Development

## PREA

- Drugs and biologics
- Mandatory** studies
- Requires studies **only on indication(s) under review**
- Orphan indications exempt** from studies
- Pediatric studies must be labeled

## BPCA

- Drugs and biologics
- Voluntary** studies
- Studies relate to entire moiety and **may expand indications**
- Studies may be requested for orphan indications
- Pediatric studies must be labeled

# Current FDA Initiatives

- Increased role in promoting **collaborative** approach to timely pediatric drug development
- Optimizing regulatory authority of **BPCA**: Written Requests (WR) only since **PREA** of no relevance to oncology: 62 WRs
  - 21 exclusivity, 7 approvals, 17 labeling info., 25 current
  - Multiple novel drugs approved in past 5 years for indications common to adults and children delayed due to Orphan designation
- **Proactive** identification of promising new treatments and engagement with industry/academia/advocacy groups to study these products earlier: BPCA Pediatric Oncology Working Group and Pediatric Subcommittee of ODAC
- Providing technical advice on key legislative initiatives
- Harnessing regulatory science to meet drug development challenges: design, age eligibility, pediatric cohorts in appropriate trials

# Evolving Landscape of Cancer Drug Development

- Result of expanded understanding of the genetic epidemiology and molecular etiology of cancer
- Genomic/proteomic profiling of human cancers and identification of highly specific targeted agents
- Large treatment effects observed in small subsets of patients; seamless, adaptive study designs leading to drug approvals in defined cohorts
- **Precision Cancer Medicine**
- Transformative: NSCLC, Breast, Melanoma, AML

# Opportunities for Pediatrics

- Embryonal tumors with low mutation frequency
- Genetic and epigenetic evidence base for driver gene mutations differ between adult and pediatric cancers
- Multiple demonstrations of actionable gene aberrations in pediatric tumors provide proof of principle that inhibition of some of the same molecular targets may result in vulnerability of select childhood cancers
- Insufficient development opportunities in children requires a paradigm shift in approaches to early pediatric evaluation of potentially promising new agents



# RACE for Children Act:

- Incorporated as Title V of the **FDA Reauthorization Act (FDARA)**, enacted August 18, 2017
- **Requires** evaluation of new molecularly targeted drugs and biologics “intended for the treatment of adult cancers and directed at a **molecular target** substantially relevant to the growth or progression of a pediatric cancer.”
- **Molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigation:** clinically meaningful study data, “using appropriate formulations, regarding dosing, safety and preliminary efficacy to inform potential pediatric labeling.” [FDARA Title V Sec 504 (a)(3)(A) or FD&C Act Sec. 505B (a)(3)(A)].
- Elimination of **orphan exemption for pediatric studies** for cancer drugs directed at relevant molecular targets.

# Implications for FDA

- Establish with NCI, update regularly, and post on FDA website a **list of “relevant” targets** (1 year)
- Establish and post a **list of non-relevant targets leading to waivers** for pediatric studies (1 year)
- Work with NCI, Pediatric Subcommittee of ODAC, PeRC, investigators, sponsors, experts, and advocates
- Convene an open public meeting to refine/generate lists (1 year)
- Issue guidance on implementation (2 years)

# Current FDA Planning

- Open Public meetings:
  - 1) April 20, 2018 at FDA - Review molecular target lists.
  - 2) Pediatric Subcommittee of ODAC, June 18/19, 2018 - review/comment on lists and considerations for application of target lists; process for prioritizing including same in class agents- working with external constituents ( multi-stakeholder)
- International collaboration/coordination in light of global drug development and non-alignment of international regulatory agency requirements/processes/timelines
  - avoid duplication and competition
- Planning and implementation coordinated with internal FDA programs- OPT, DPMH, ORP, and OCC
- Advising sponsors of new conditions and requirements for iPSPs for **new** applications with planned submission dates after 8/18/2018

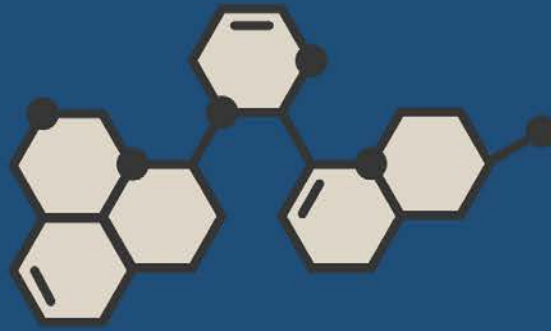
# Successful Implementation

- Recognize/address anticipated, potentially adverse consequences
- Transparency with all stakeholders in implementation
- Expand pediatric pre-clinical testing initiatives - effective Industry-Academic collaboration when necessary
- Recognize/anticipate emerging scientific discovery
- Focus on early investigation of novel agents rather than individual patient access
- International collaboration in designation of relevance and prioritization

# Today



- Forum for scientific **discussion** and multi-stakeholder **exchange**
- **Consider a framework for defining pediatric “relevance” for current and future molecular targets**
- **Address additional factors and some anticipated consequences which may impact decision-making**
- Discussions not focused on specific diseases or strategies for therapeutic investigation in a single disease area
- No regulatory policy decisions
- Anticipate and respect disparate perspectives
- Focus on objective: **accelerating pediatric research**



**Panel 1 Discussion:  
Molecular Targets in Pediatric Cancers: Classification and Criteria**

**#ProgressForPatients**

**FRIENDS**  
of CANCER  
RESEARCH

**WiFi Code: frc18**

# Framework to Define Potential Relevance of Molecular Targets

*Malcolm A. Smith, MD, PhD*

# Molecular targets

## Molecular target

Refers to a molecule in human cells that is intrinsically associated with a particular disease process, such as etiology, progression, and/or drug resistance, and for which there is evidence that the resulting disease process might be addressed by a targeted, small molecule, biologic product, or other treatment intervention to produce a desired therapeutic effect.

## Molecular target lists

- ❖ Molecular targets considered on the basis of data the Agency determines to be adequate, to be “substantially relevant” to the growth or progression of pediatric cancers: 21 USC 355c (m)(1)(A)
- ❖ Molecular targets considered “not relevant”
- ❖ There will be molecular targets awaiting determination that are not on either list



# Framework Factors for Substantially Relevant

Factors	Considerations
Presence of target	The target has been identified in at least one case of a pediatric cancer
Target class: Gene abnormality	The gene abnormality has been identified in at least one case of a pediatric cancer
Target class: Cancer cell lineage	The target is intrinsically and differentially expressed in the cancer of interest compared to normal site-specific tissues.
Function/Mechanism	The biological function of the target is relevant to the etiology and growth of the childhood cancer
Target class: Gene abnormality	Modulation of the affected gene product or of a critical downstream pathway or correction/deletion of the affected gene defect adversely affects cancer cells
Target class: Cancer cell lineage	The presence of the gene abnormality creates a synthetic lethal relationship with another cellular pathway
	The target is associated to cancer cell development, growth and survival
Non-clinical evidence	Non-clinical evidence supports relevance of target in one or more pediatric cancers
<i>In vitro</i> activity	Target modulation shows <i>in vitro</i> selectivity for cancer cell lines containing/expressing the molecular target (pediatric or adult cell lines if target is known to be shared by multiple cancer types regardless of patient population) compared to the sensitivity of cell lines not containing/expressing the target
<i>In vivo</i> activity <sup>1</sup>	Target modulation shows <i>in vivo</i> activity manifested as tumor stabilization or regression in models of pediatric cancers with the molecular target of interest (or adult cancer models containing/expressing the target)
Lack of <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> activity	For targets for which target modulation does not show <i>in vivo</i> or <i>in vitro</i> activity, support for relevance may be found in evidence for supra-additive or synergistic activity when target modulation is used in biologically rational combinations
Adult clinical experience	Target modulation by investigational agents known to affect the target, shows clinical activity in specific cancers in adults
Predictive biomarkers	Biomarkers that predict responses to target modulation may be useful in the selection of appropriate pediatric study populations
Location	For immunotherapy targets, the target is expressed on the cell surface (excepting immunotherapies that target intracellular antigens that are displayed as peptides by MHC proteins on the cell surface)
Agent under development	There is an agent in development or proceeding to development that addresses the specific target

# Framework Factors for Not Relevant

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Considerations</b>
Biologically implausible	Molecular targets for which available evidence supports no role for the targets in pediatric cancers (e.g. endocrine/autocrine sex steroid hormonal pathways that are known to be drivers of specific adult cancer types but are very rarely to never observed in pediatric cancers)
Non-clinical evidence	Evidence of lack of activity of an agent in development against a specific target in non-clinical systems could be a component of the evidence base used to determine that a specific molecular target may not be relevant to the growth or progression of a pediatric cancer.
Adult clinical evidence	Evidence of lack of clinical activity of an agent in development against a specific target could be a component of the evidence base used to determine that a specific molecular target may not be relevant to the growth or progression of a pediatric cancer.

# Use of framework structure

- Not a checklist
- A tool to organize the totality of evidence available
- Final determination of whether a target is substantially relevant to pediatric cancer is the responsibility of FDA in consultation with
  - National Cancer Institute
  - Pediatric Oncology Subcommittee of the Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee



# Suggested categorization of molecular targets

- ❖ Gene abnormality-based targets
- ❖ Cancer cell lineage-based targets
- ❖ Non-cancer cell targets (e.g., immune cell targets)
- ❖ Other targets

# Gene abnormality-based targets

# Gene abnormality-based targets

- Highly credentialed molecular targets
- Examples of targets with drugs available
  - *ALK* fusion genes (lung cancer, anaplastic large cell lymphoma)
  - *EGFR* activating mutations (lung cancer)
  - *NTRK* fusion genes (multiple histologies)
- Examples of targets without drugs available
  - *MLL* fusion genes (ALL and AML)
  - *EWS* fusion genes (Ewing sarcoma and other pediatric cancers)
  - *PAX-FOXO1* fusion (rhabdomyosarcoma)

# Gene abnormality-based targets

- *Presence of target*
  - Ubiquitously present in all cancer cells of a specific pediatric cancer because it is the initiating genomic alteration (note exceptions)
- *Function/mechanism* and *non-clinical evidence*
  - Modulation leads to reduced cancer cell growth and survival
  - Agents directed at target show selective activity dependent upon target presence
- *Predictive biomarkers*
  - Presence of gene abnormality
  - Genomic databases support evaluations for the presence of genomic abnormalities within childhood cancers (e.g., NCI Genomic Data Commons and SJCRH PeCan Data Portal)

# Gene abnormality-based targets (3)

- Effective agents may target:
  - The protein product of the genomic abnormality
  - A downstream effector of the genomic abnormality
  - A gene product with a synthetic lethal relationship to the genomic abnormality





# Cancer cell lineage-based targets

# Cell lineage-based targets

- *Presence*: The target is intrinsically and differentially expressed in the cancer of interest because of the cell lineage of the cancer
- Genomic abnormality not required
- Cell lineage-based targets that can be modulated
  - Androgen receptor
  - Estrogen receptor
  - Glucocorticoid receptor
- Cell lineage-based targets that can be therapeutically addressed by immunotherapy agents (e.g., antibody based therapies and cellular-based therapies targeting CD19, CD20, GD2, etc.)

# Framework characteristics for cell lineage-based targets

## Modulated cell lineage targets

- ***Function and Non-clinical evidence:*** Modulation leads to reduced cancer cell growth and survival
- Androgen receptor and estrogen receptor are potential examples of “***biologically implausible***” targets because the cancer cell lineage in which they play oncogenic role is not represented among pediatric cancers.

## Immunotherapy cell lineage targets

- ***Function:*** ideally contributes to growth and survival, which minimizes risk of resistance due to loss of expression
- ***Non-clinical evidence:*** in vitro and in vivo activity in pediatric preclinical models
- ***Location:*** cell surface for antibody-based and CAR T-cell therapies.



# Non-cancer cell targets

# Framework characteristics for non-cancer cell targets (e.g., immune cell targets)

- Checkpoint inhibitors and immune-activating agents
- Other agents targeting tumor microenvironment
- *Predictive biomarkers*: tumor mutational burden, immune cell-infiltrate, PD-L1 expression
- Multiple challenges in assessing pediatric relevance
  - Large number of immuno-oncology targets and agents under development
  - Most childhood cancers have low tumor mutational burden
  - Limited pediatric model systems for *non-clinical testing*



# Other targets



# Applying framework to “other targets”

- Cancer cell targets not associated with genomic abnormality or with specific cell lineage
  - Examples
    - Tubulin
    - Topoisomerases
    - Chaperone proteins (Hsp90)
  - **Function**: Modulation leads to reduced cancer cell growth and survival
- ## Other framework factors
- **Non-clinical evidence** in pediatric models is important
  - **Adult clinical experience** can be informative
  - **Predictive biomarkers** very useful when available

# Framework Factors for Substantially Relevant

Factors	Considerations
Presence of target	The target has been identified in at least one case of a pediatric cancer
Target class: Gene abnormality	The gene abnormality has been identified in at least one case of a pediatric cancer
Target class: Cancer cell lineage	The target is intrinsically and differentially expressed in the cancer of interest compared to normal site-specific tissues.
Function/Mechanism	The biological function of the target is relevant to the etiology and growth of the childhood cancer
Target class: Gene abnormality	Modulation of the affected gene product or of a critical downstream pathway or correction/deletion of the affected gene defect adversely affects cancer cells
Target class: Cancer cell lineage	The presence of the gene abnormality creates a synthetic lethal relationship with another cellular pathway
Target class: Cancer cell lineage	The target is associated to cancer cell development, growth and survival
Non-clinical evidence	Non-clinical evidence supports relevance of target in one or more pediatric cancers
<i>In vitro</i> activity	Target modulation shows <i>in vitro</i> selectivity for cancer cell lines containing/expressing the molecular target (pediatric or adult cell lines if target is known to be shared by multiple cancer types regardless of patient population) compared to the sensitivity of cell lines not containing/expressing the target
<i>In vivo</i> activity <sup>1</sup>	Target modulation shows <i>in vivo</i> activity manifested as tumor stabilization or regression in models of pediatric cancers with the molecular target of interest (or adult cancer models containing/expressing the target)
Lack of <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> activity	For targets for which target modulation does not show <i>in vivo</i> or <i>in vitro</i> activity, support for relevance may be found in evidence for supra-additive or synergistic activity when target modulation is used in biologically rational combinations
Adult clinical experience	Target modulation by investigational agents known to affect the target, shows clinical activity in specific cancers in adults
Predictive biomarkers	Biomarkers that predict responses to target modulation may be useful in the selection of appropriate pediatric study populations
Location	For immunotherapy targets, the target is expressed on the cell surface (excepting immunotherapies that target intracellular antigens that are displayed as peptides by MHC proteins on the cell surface)
Agent under development	There is an agent in development or proceeding to development that addresses the specific target



# Framework Factors for Not Relevant

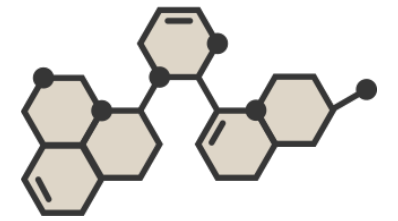
Factors	Considerations
Biologically implausible	Molecular targets for which available evidence supports no role for the targets in pediatric cancers (e.g. endocrine/autocrine sex steroid hormonal pathways that are known to be drivers of specific adult cancer types but are very rarely to never observed in pediatric cancers)
Non-clinical evidence	Evidence of lack of activity of an agent in development against a specific target in non-clinical systems could be a component of the evidence base used to determine that a specific molecular target may not be relevant to the growth or progression of a pediatric cancer.
Adult clinical evidence	Evidence of lack of clinical activity of an agent in development against a specific target could be a component of the evidence base used to determine that a specific molecular target may not be relevant to the growth or progression of a pediatric cancer.



**NATIONAL  
CANCER  
INSTITUTE**

[www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

[www.cancer.gov/espanol](http://www.cancer.gov/espanol)



# Panel 1 Discussion:

## Molecular Targets in Pediatric Cancers: Classification and Criteria

### Panelists:

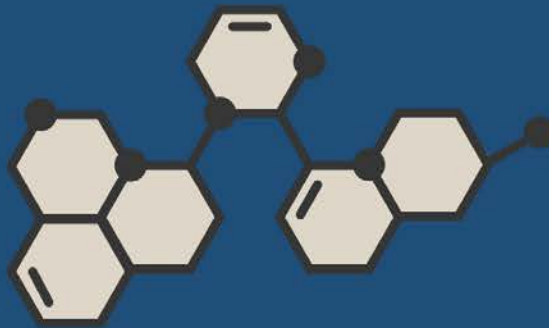
- Malcolm Smith, NCI (moderator)
- Scott Armstrong, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Nancy Goodman, Kids V Cancer
- Katherine Janeway, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Gregory Reaman, U.S. FDA
- Martina Uttenreuther-Fischer, Boehringer Ingelheim



**Molecularly Targeted Therapies in Pediatric Cancer**

**#ProgressForPatients**

**WiFi Code: frc18**



**Panel 2 Discussion:  
Processes for Updating the Molecular Target List**

**#ProgressForPatients**

**FRIENDS**  
of CANCER  
RESEARCH

**WiFi Code: frc18**

## **Panel 2:**

# **Processes for Updating the Molecular Target List**

# Objective

To ensure the molecular targets lists are updated with the most relevant evidence available in light of the rapid pace at which scientific advances occur, three distinct opportunities are discussed

# Opportunity 1

- FDA will convene and preside over a public annual workshop for all stakeholders
  - FDA
  - NCI
  - Industry
  - Academic and clinical investigators
  - Patient advocates
- Input from individual stakeholders on advances in relevant scientific evidence that may impact the inclusion of molecular targets on the current published lists, including potential relevance of unlisted targets
- Final decisions related to the lists will require input from the Pediatric Subcommittee of ODAC

# Opportunity 2

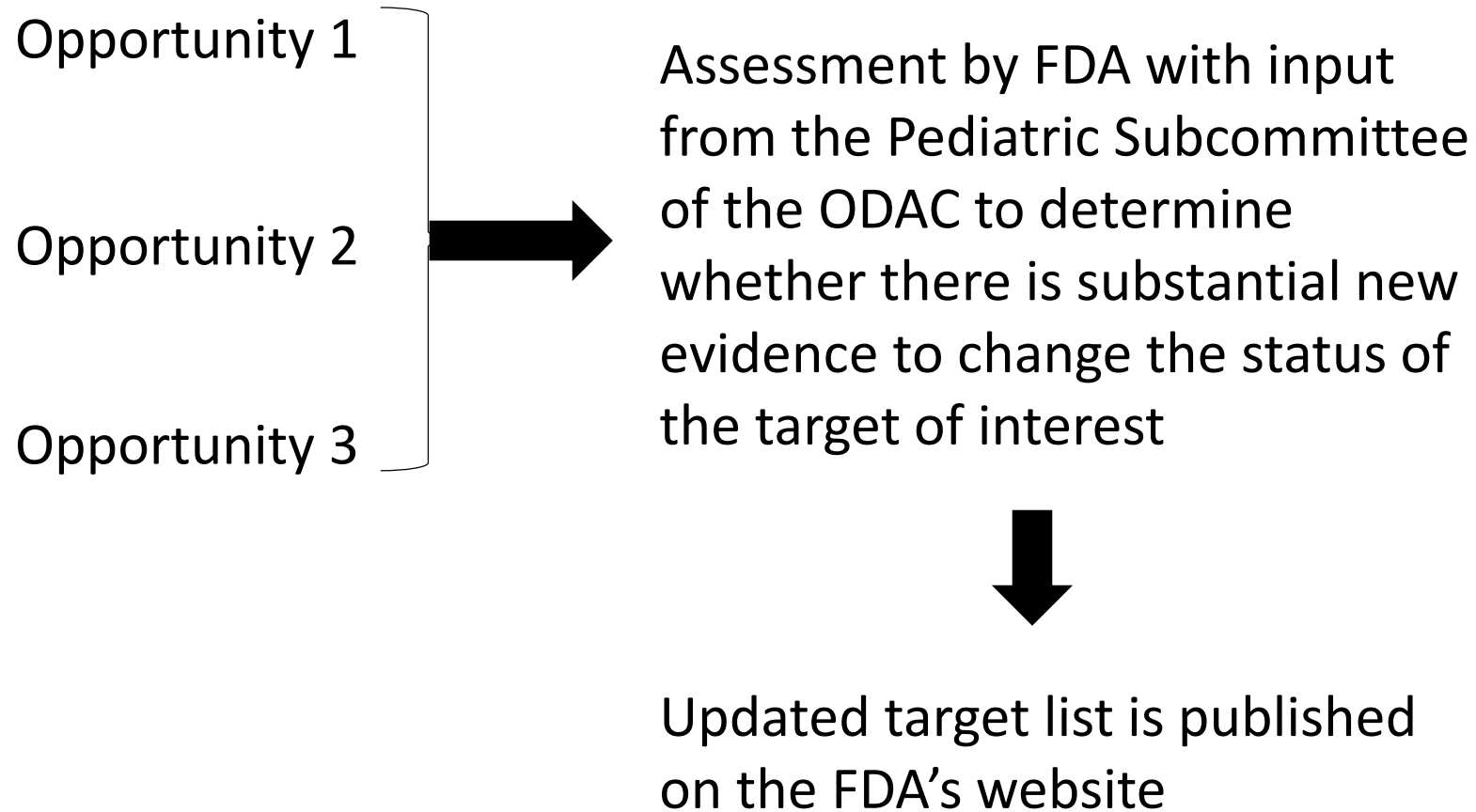
- Nomination mechanism to occur during or prior to meetings of the Pediatric Subcommittee of the ODAC
- Clinical investigators as well as researchers in academia and industry have the opportunity to suggest changes to the list based on substantial scientific evidence that demonstrate:
  - emerging relevant targets, or
  - no relevance in pediatric disease



# Opportunity 3

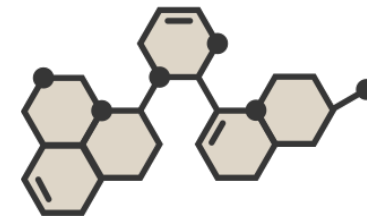
- Clinical investigators or sponsors may request a meeting at any time with the FDA to discuss new scientific data related to a new or existing molecular target which may warrant a change in that target's status as relevant or non-relevant which could result in changes to the lists

# Process



# For Discussion

1. Develop a transparent mechanism for nominating targets
2. Considerations in ensuring a continuous review process
3. Examples of evidence required for updating target list
4. Mechanisms to request interaction with the FDA
5. Incentives to investigate targets that have insufficient evidence for determination of relevance
  - Open-access crowd-sourcing approaches



## **Panel 2 Discussion:**

### **Processes for Updating the Molecular Target List**

#### **Panelists:**

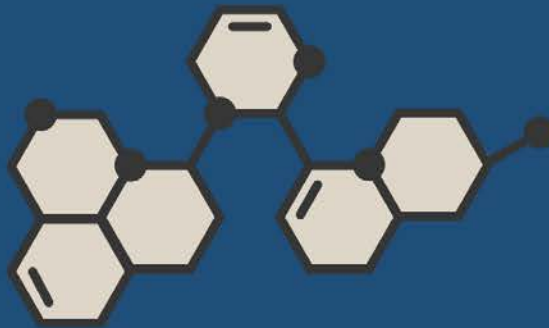
- Peter Ho, Boston Pharmaceuticals (moderator)
- Albert J Allen, Eli Lilly and Company
- Martha Donoghue, U.S. FDA
- Danielle Leach, St. Baldrick's Foundation
- Rajen Mody, University of Michigan School of Medicine
- Nita Seibel, NCI



**Molecularly Targeted Therapies in Pediatric Cancer**

**#ProgressForPatients**

**WiFi Code: frc18**



**Panel 3 Discussion:  
Considerations for the Application of a Molecular Target List to  
Cancer Drug Development for Pediatrics**

**#ProgressForPatients**



**WiFi Code: frc18**

# Applying the Molecular Target List to Cancer Drug Development for Pediatrics

*Brenda Weigel, MSc, MD*

*University of Minnesota*

# Focus on Application

- Once the list is created, what are some other factors (clinical, scientific, etc) that need to be considered?
  - *Key question: **When to start pediatric clinical trial?***
    - Based on pre-clinical data
    - Formulation
    - Clinical information

# Key Considerations

- Clinical benefit: risk analysis
  - Safety and toxicity profile
    - Pre-clinical
    - Clinical



# Key Considerations

- Pediatric formulation requirement
  - Importance and timing of development of these pediatric formulations (early)
  - Impact on administration to children
    - Phased formulation development

# Key Considerations

- Patient population
  - Need for collaboration to increase number of patients
- Impact on trial design
  - Master protocols
  - Adolescent cohorts
  - Age of eligibility

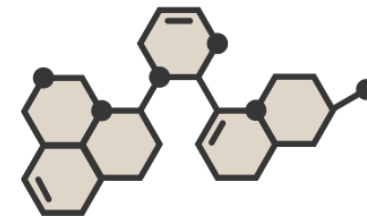
# Key Considerations

- International Collaborations
  - PIP requirements
    - Commitment to phase 2 and 3 development early
  - FDA requirements
    - Early phase development

# Discussion

# Questions

- 1. What is the 'optimal' time to initiate a pediatric phase 1 trial of a targeted agent?
- 2. Are there trial designs that should be considered to expedite pediatric drug development?
- 3. How do we implement international collaborations to meet FDA and EMA/PIP requirements?



## **Panel 3 Discussion:**

### **Considerations for the Application of a Molecular Target List to Cancer Drug Development for Pediatrics**

#### **Panelists:**

- Brenda Weigel, University of Minnesota (moderator)
- Peter Adamson, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Jo Lager, Sanofi
- Charles Mullighan, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Susan Weiner, Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
- Lynne Yao, U.S. FDA



**Molecularly Targeted Therapies in Pediatric Cancer**

**#ProgressForPatients**

**WiFi Code: frc18**