

XXIV Encuentro de Cooperación Farma-Biotech

23 de octubre de 2024

Aurkines: novel chemical entities with marked polyelectrophilic properties, specifically designed to induce double-strand DNA breaks



Fernando Cossío



Content

1. The Institution
2. The Product
 - a) Target Indications
 - b) Innovative mechanisms of action
 - c) Differential features facing the market
 - d) Current status of development
 - e) IPR protection
 - f) Pitfalls & Risks to be considered
3. Partnering Opportunities

The Institution



Prof. Fernando
Cossío



Dr. Iván Rivilla
de la Cruz



Prof. Jesús
Bañales



Dra. Irene
Olaizola



Prof. José Juan
García Marín



The Institution



More than **250** scientific papers

14 Patents

30 Ph. D. dissertations

70 Conference talks

18 Private/Public Research Projects

IkerChem (2006-2016)

Was a UPV/EHU spin-off focused on the design and development of new oncology drugs in the field of epigenetics. The company had a solid portfolio of products under development in the main areas of action of DNA methyltransferase (DNMT) inhibitors with a new mode of action, potent new-generation histone deacetylase 6 (HDAC6) inhibitors and the GASC1 target within the JMJ histone demethylase family.

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New drugs
against epigenetic targets

Scientific Advisory Board

The Institution



Universidad
del País Vasco

Euskal Herriko
Unibertsitatea



弘星相和生物科技有限公司
HiDiamond Biotechnology Co.,Ltd

<http://en.hidiamondbio.com/>

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WO2011039353 - New Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors Based Simultaneously On Trisubstituted 1*h*-pyrroles And Aromatic And Heteroaromatic Spacers

WO2012136722 - Hydroxyphenyl Pyrrole Compounds Containing An Hydroxamic Acid As HDAC Inhibitors And Medicinal Applications Thereof

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QUIMATRX

New drugs
against epigenetic targets

Scientific Advisory Board

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More than **150** conference talks

67 Competitive Research Projects

49 (as PI: **4.07M €**)

18 (as AI: **1.97M €**)

9 Contracts with Pharmaceutical Industry (**1.15M €**)

5 Industry – Sponsored Clinical Trials

3 Academically led Clinical Trials

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Ursodeoxycholic Acid Derivatives For The Treatment Of Polycystic Diseases



Methods Of Treating Cancer



Use Of Metalloprotease Inhibitors For The Treatment Of Polycystic Liver Diseases



Use Of 5' -Methylthioadenosine For The Inhibition Of The Epithelial-mesenchymal Transition



The Institution



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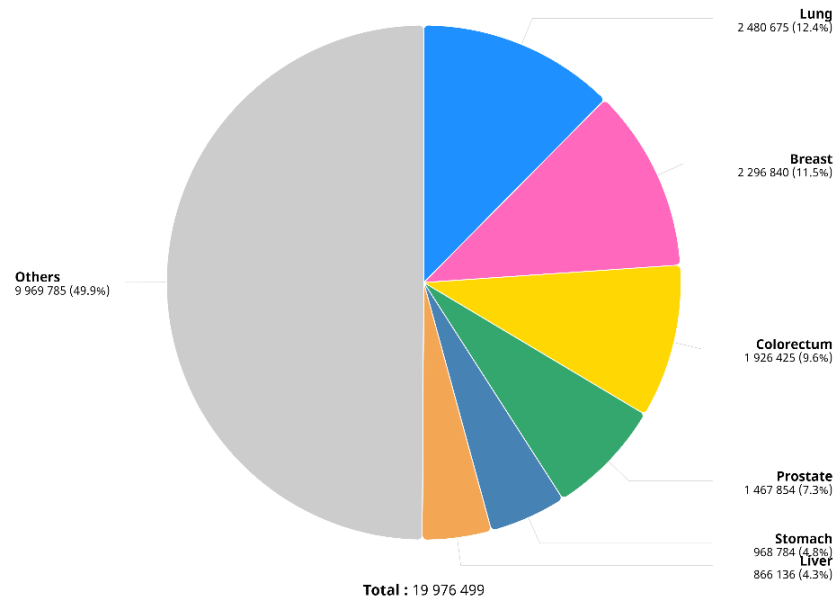
ESTAHEP-2010 (NCT01418729) – Phase II

CURSOPOL, PLD11-01 (NCT02021110) – Phase II

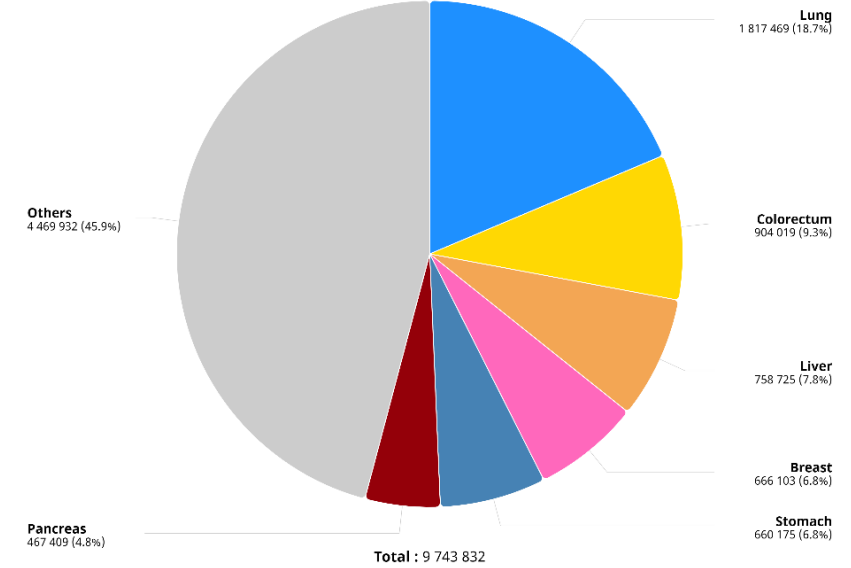
URSOPOL (nº EUCT 2024-513644-28-00)

Target Indications

Number of cases in 2022
(both sexes, all ages)

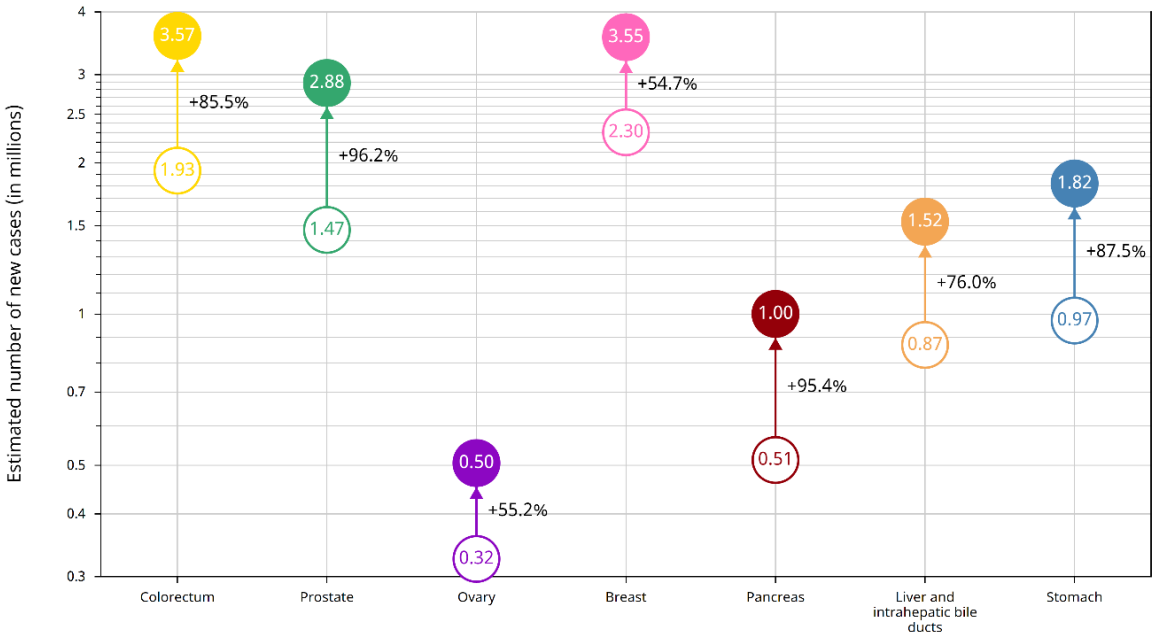
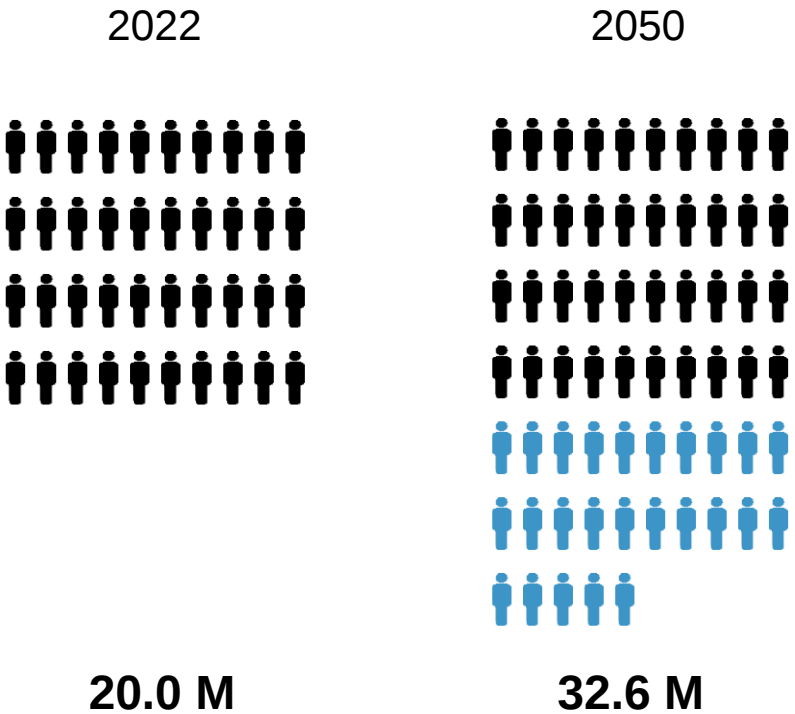


Number of deaths in 2022
(both sexes, all ages)



Target Indications

Number of new cases 2022-2050
(both sexes, all ages)



Target Indications

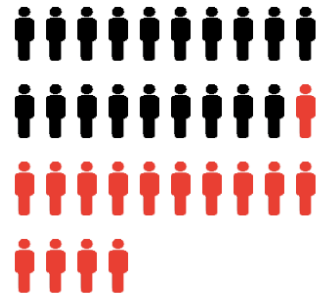
Number of deaths 2022-2050
(both sexes, all ages)

2022

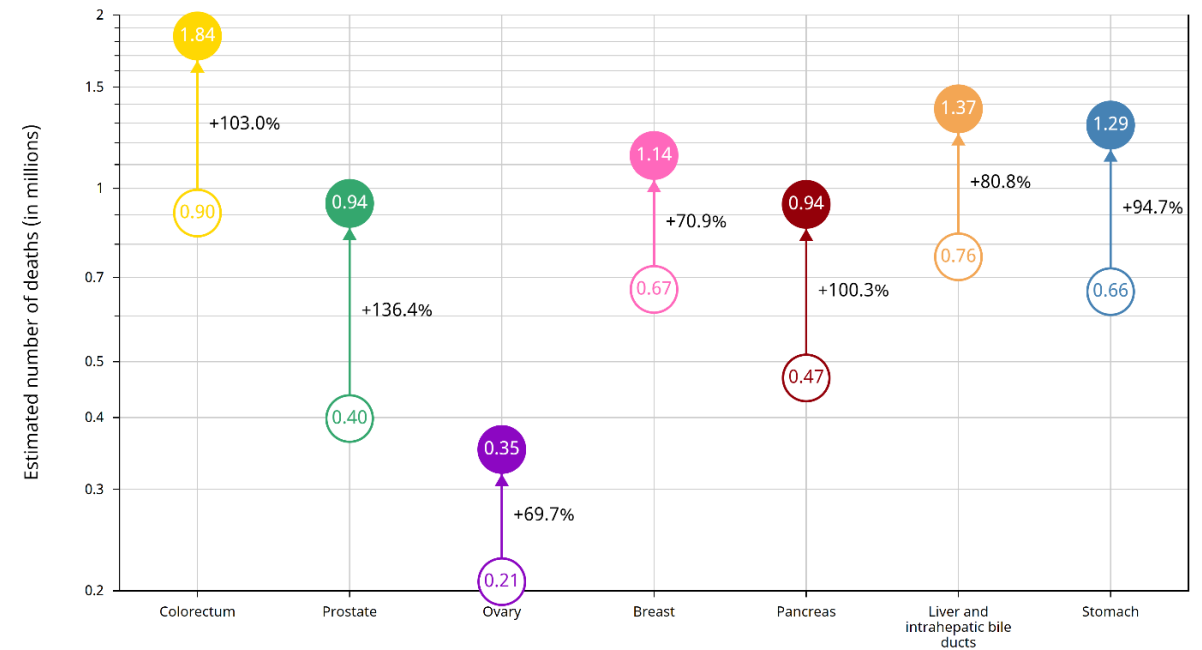


9.74 M

2050

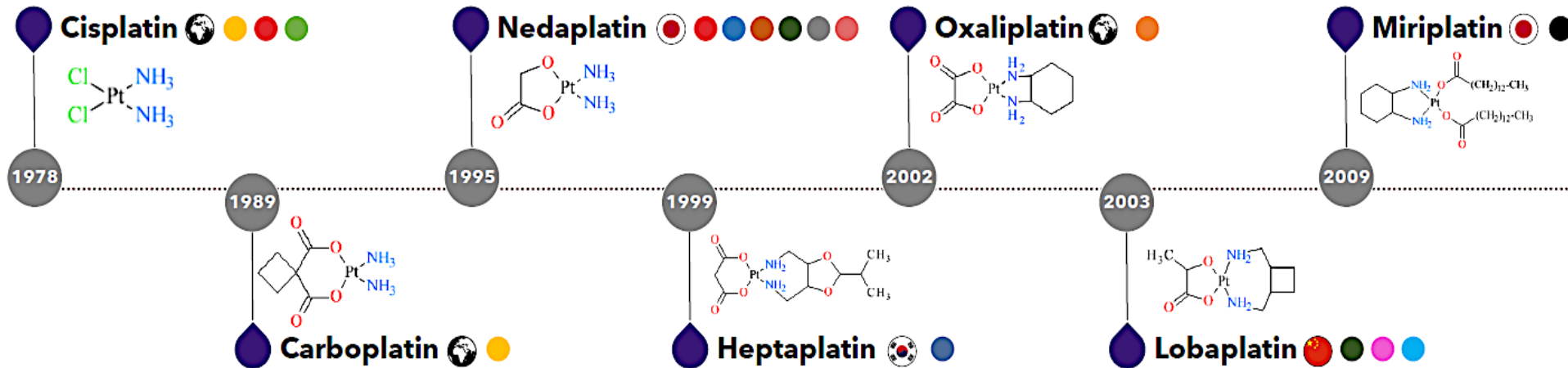


16.9 M



Target Indications

Evolution of approved platinum-based drugs over time



Approved indications (no off-label included)

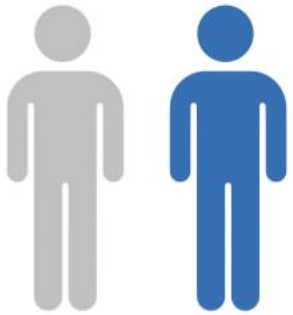
- | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| ● Ovarian cancer | ● Head & Neck cancer | ● Cervical cancer | ● Colorectal cancer | ● Liver cancer |
| ● Testicular cancer | ● Oesophagus cancer | ● Prostate cancer | ● Breast cancer | |
| ● Bladder cancer | ● Lung cancer | ● Gastric cancer | ● Leukaemia | |

Cisplatin, Carboplatin & Oxiplatin (worldwide approval)

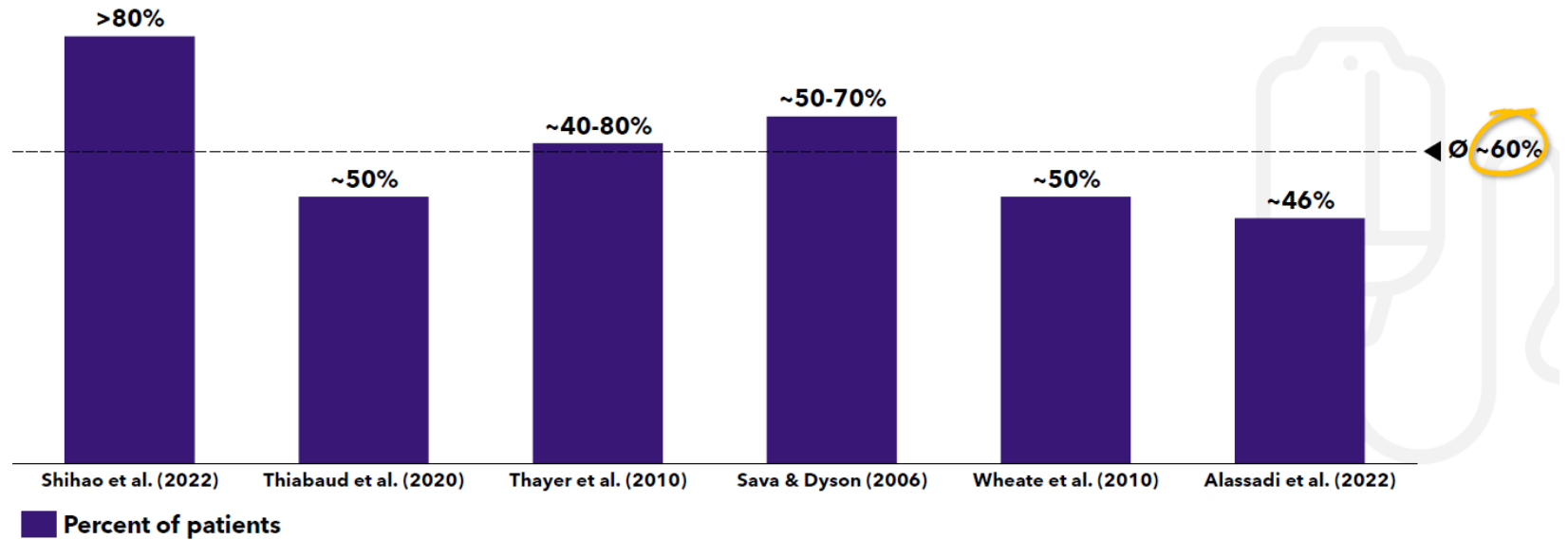
Nedaplatin (Japan), Lobaplatin (China), Heptaplatin (Korea, iriplatin (Japan)

Target Indications

Use of platinum-based drugs in cancer treatment



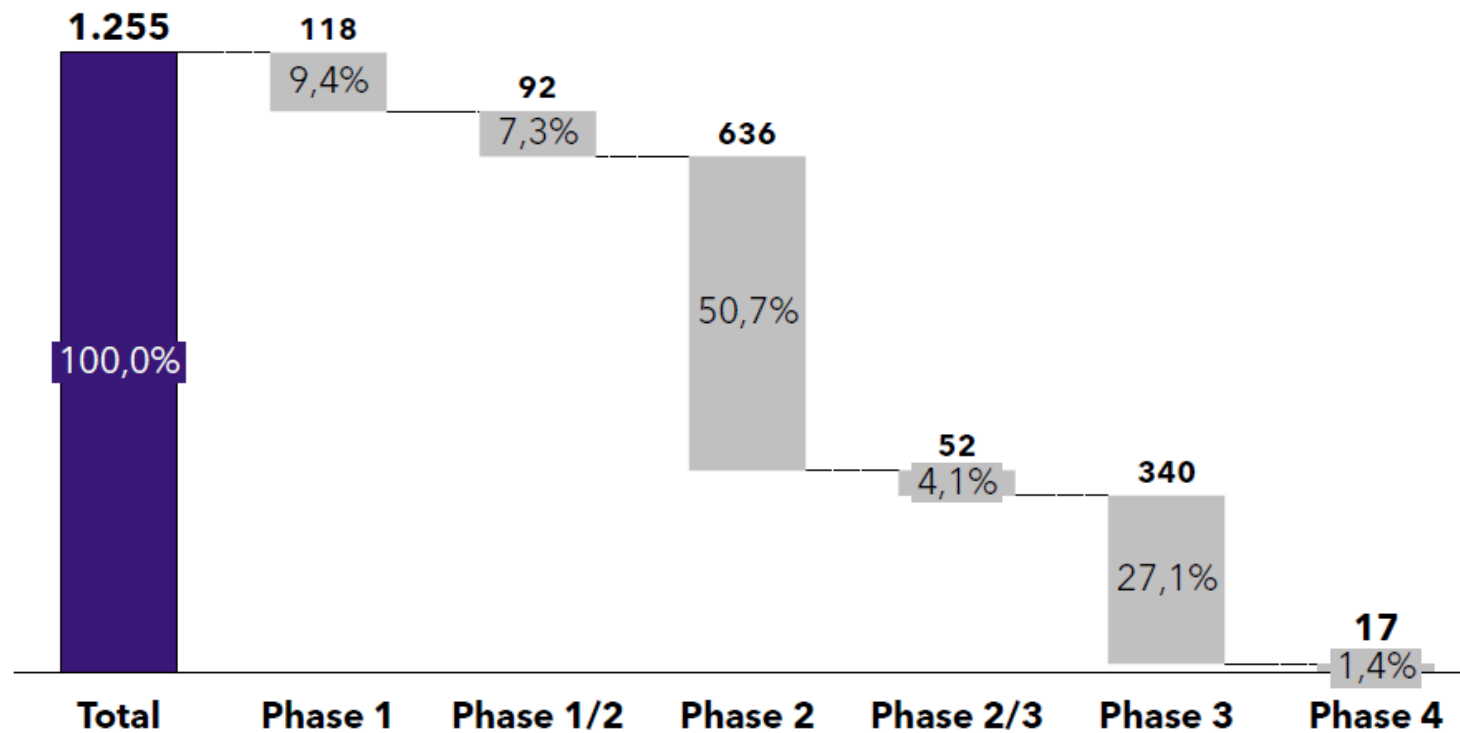
1 in every 2 patients with **cancer** is currently being treated with platinum derivatives



Target Indications

Cisplatin: *clinical trials (in 2024)*

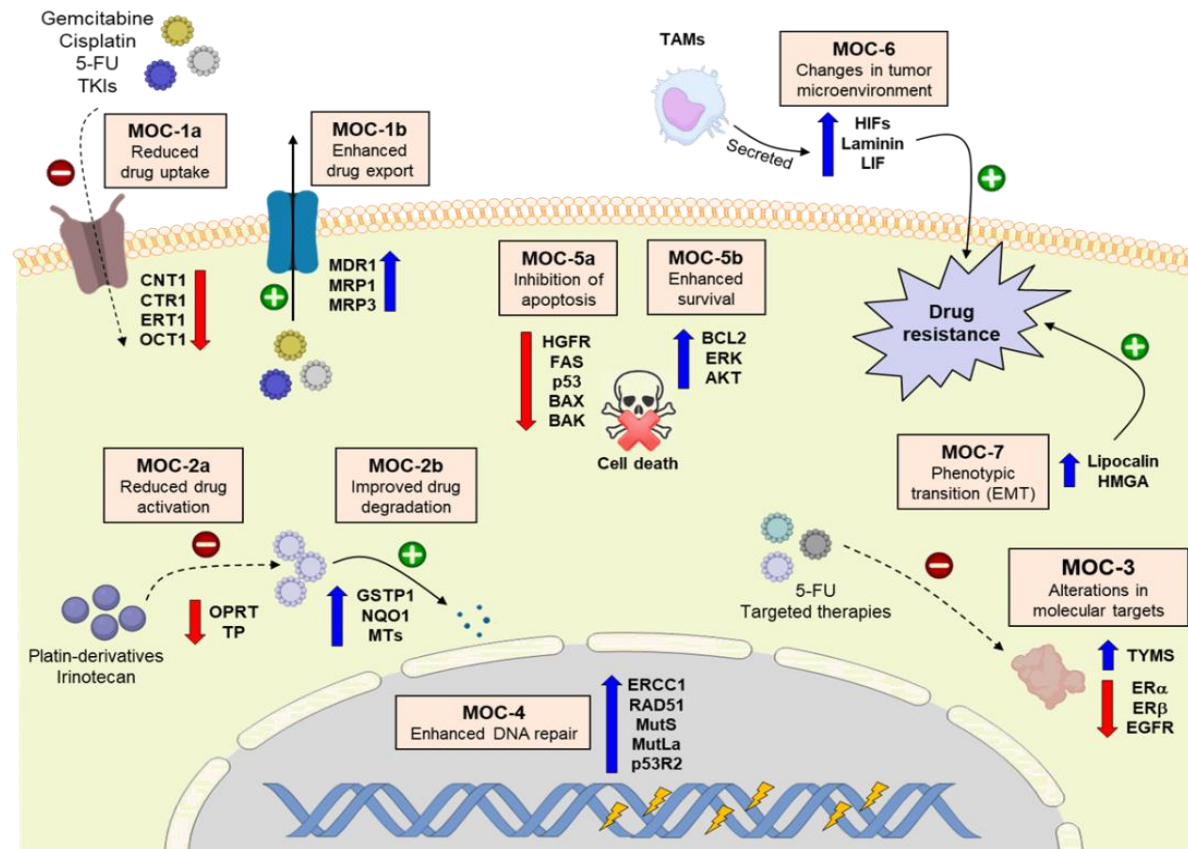
- Cisplatin is being used in clinical trials: **1.255** (mostly Phase 2)



Target Indications

Cisplatin: *resistance*

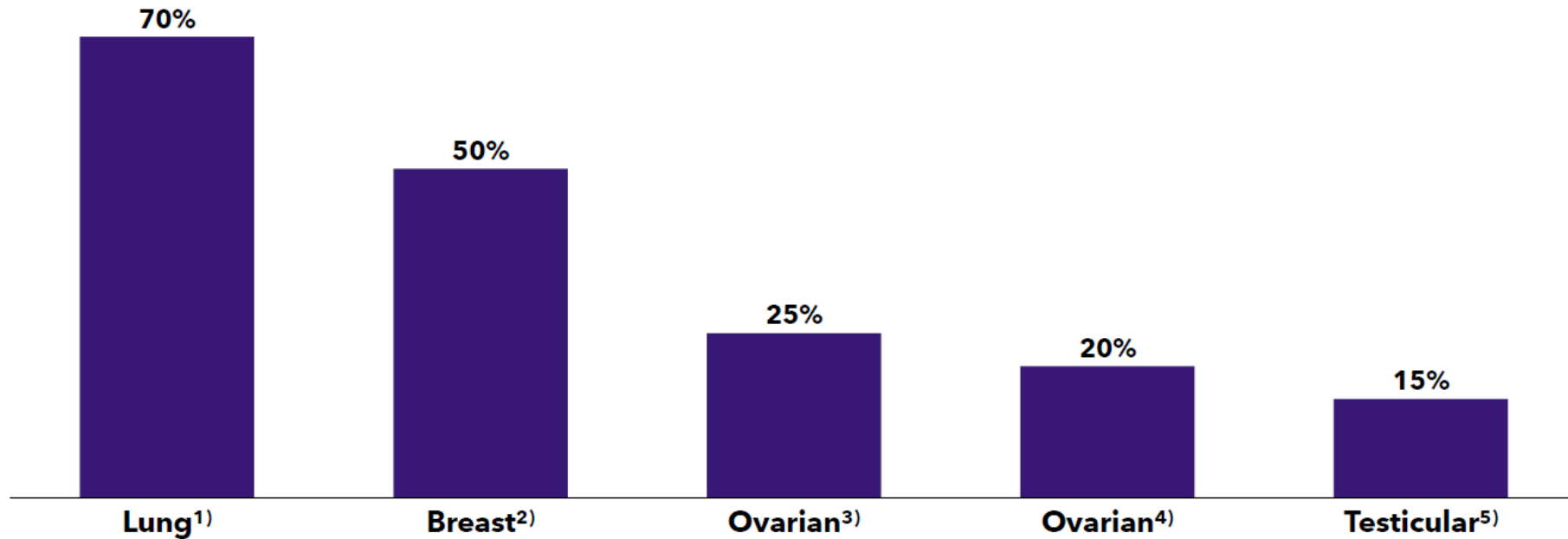
- Intrinsic or Acquired molecular mechanisms of chemoresistance (MOCs)



Target Indications

Cisplatin: *resistance*

- Major limitation in cancer treatment

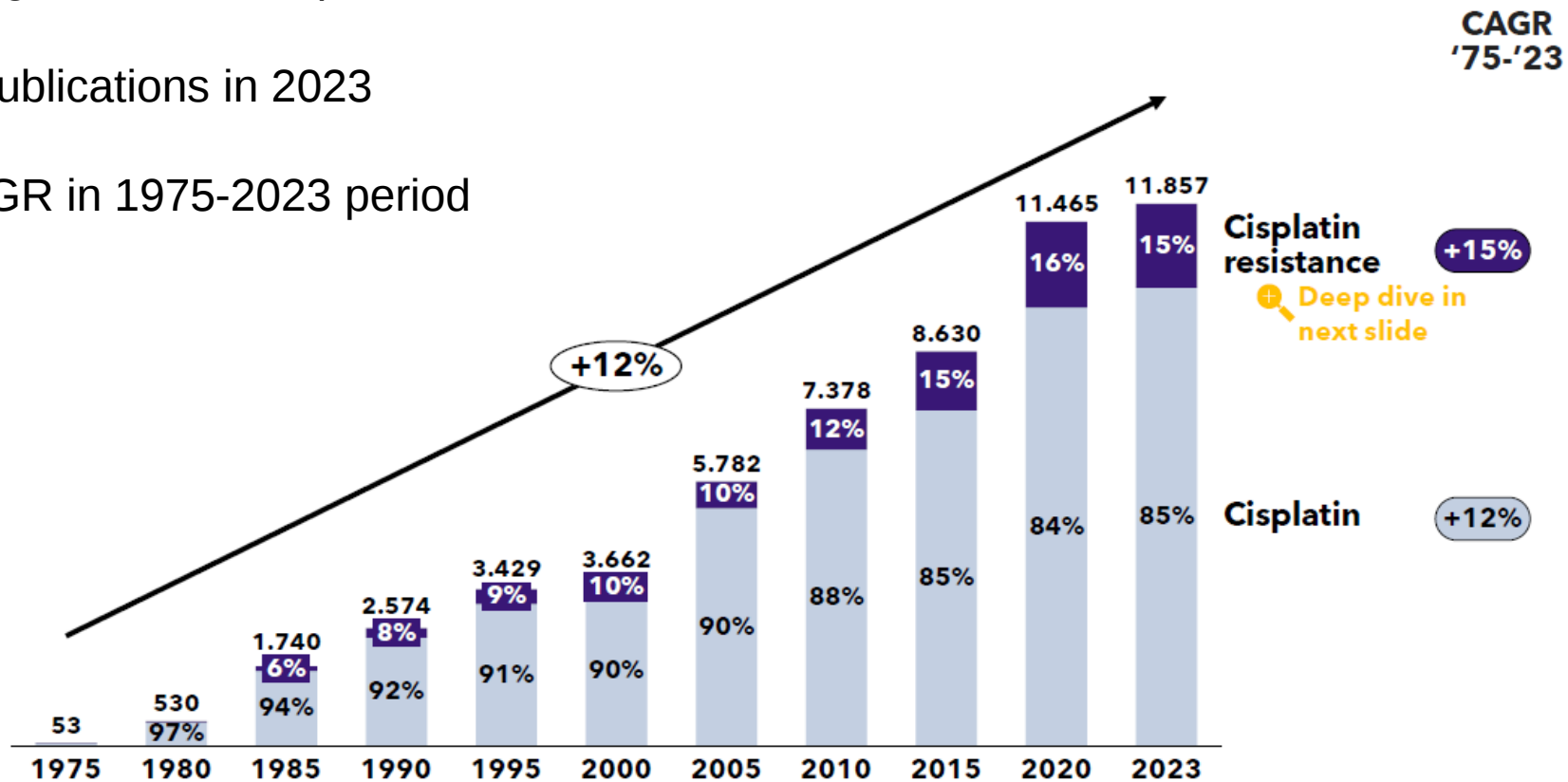


1. Gonzalez Rajal A, et al. *Elife*. 2021; 2. Pogribny PI, et al. *Cancer Cell Biology*. 2010; 3. Atallah GA, et al. *Int. J. Mol. Sci*. 2023; 4. Pothuri B. *Clin. Adv. Hematol. Oncol*. 2023; 5. González-Barrios R, et al. *Cancers*. 2022.

Target Indications

Cisplatin: *research*

- Increasing scientific and pharmaceutical interest
- 12.000 publications in 2023
- 12% CAGR in 1975-2023 period



SOURCE: SCOPUS

CAGR: compounded annual growth rate

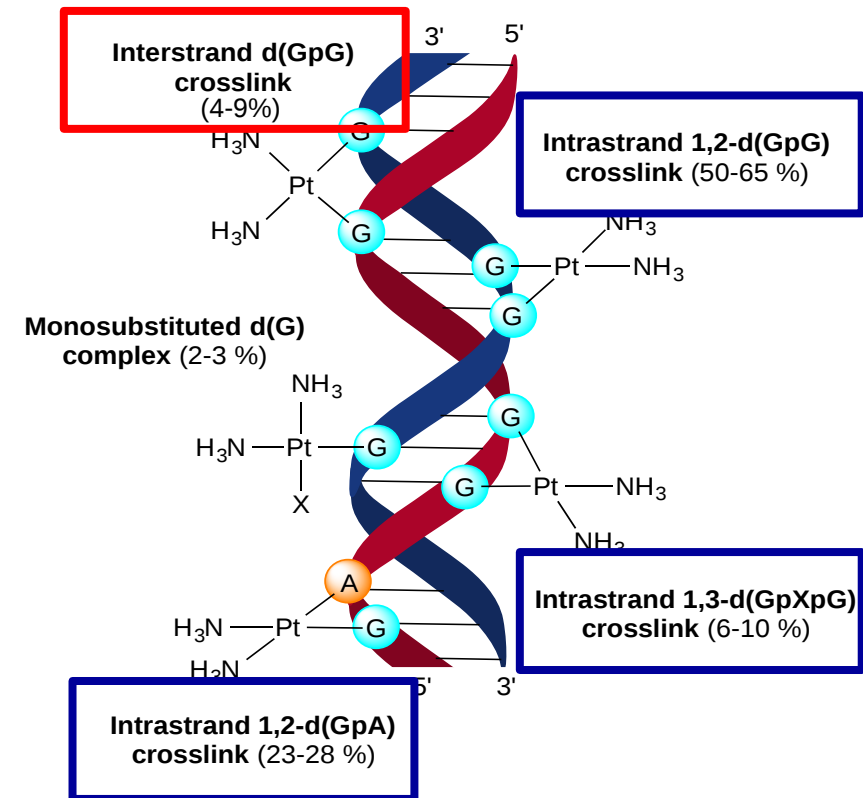
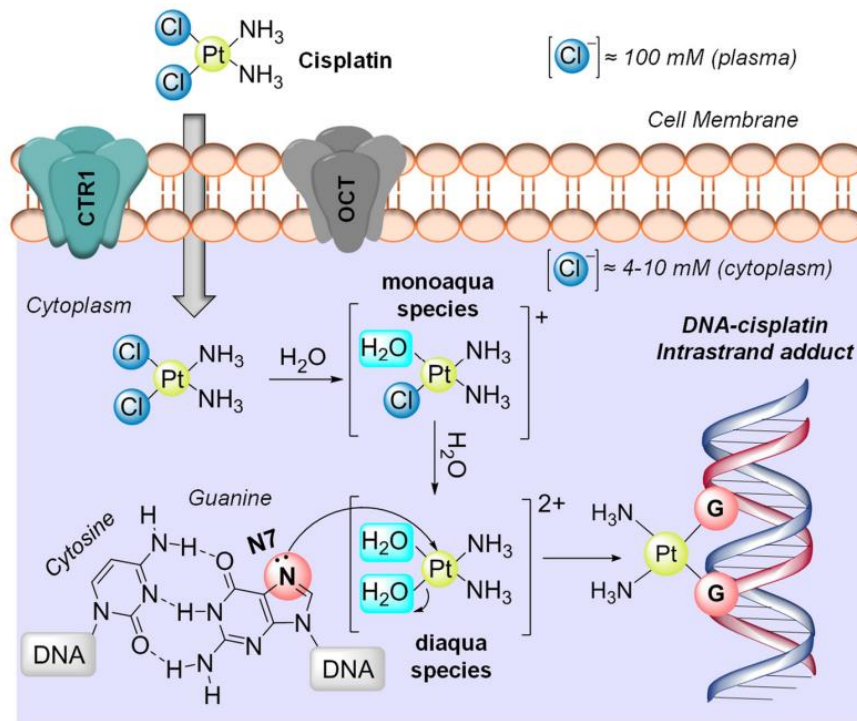
Target Indications

URGENT NEED TO DEVELOP NEW
CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS TO OVERCOME
CISPLATIN RESISTANCE

Innovative mechanism of action

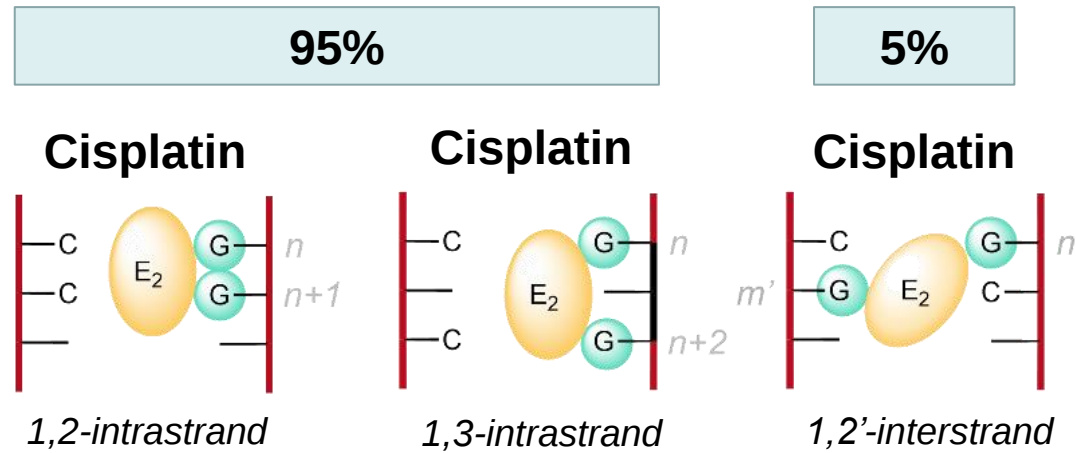
Cisplatin: *mechanism of action*

- Platinum (Pt) derived compound
- Single-strand DNA breaks
- Cancer cell death



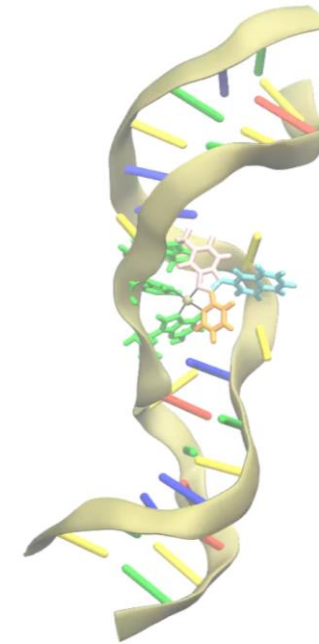
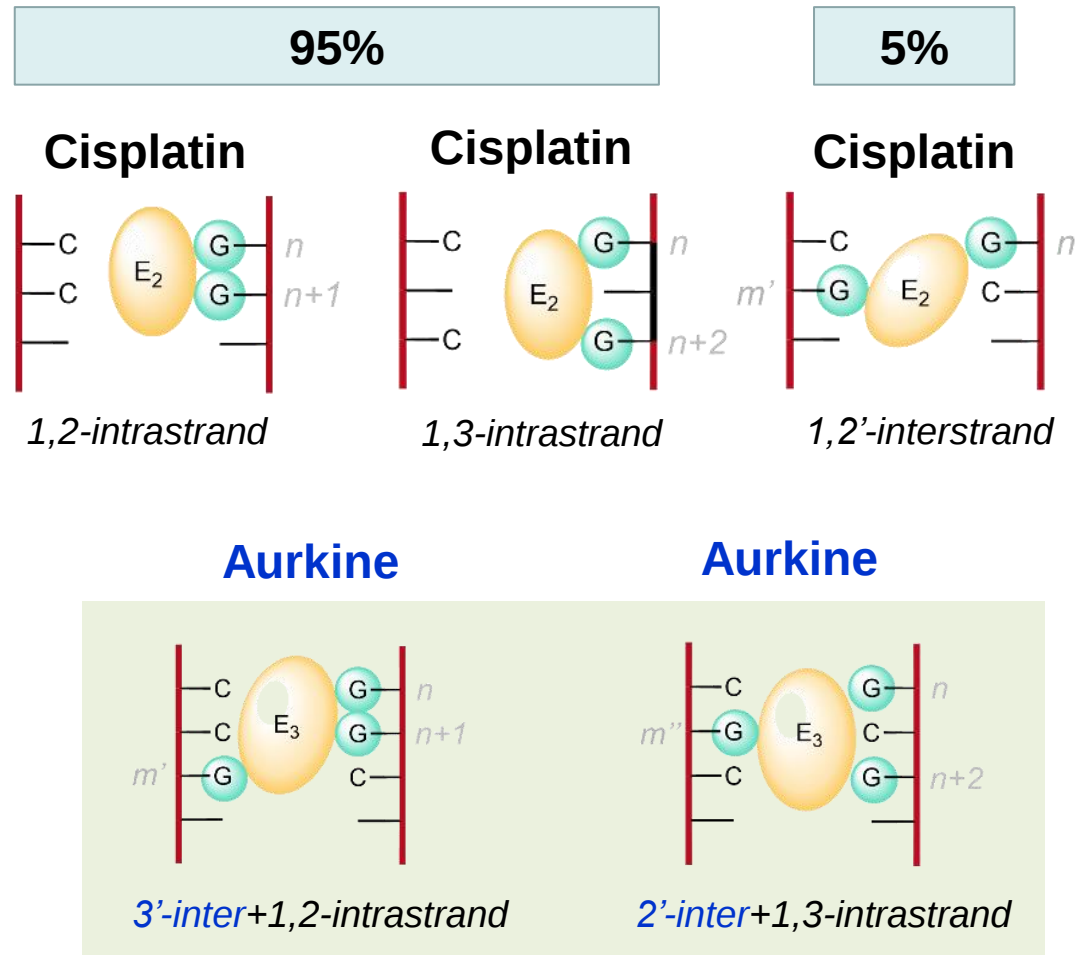
Innovative mechanism of action

New chemotherapeutic agents: *Aurkines*



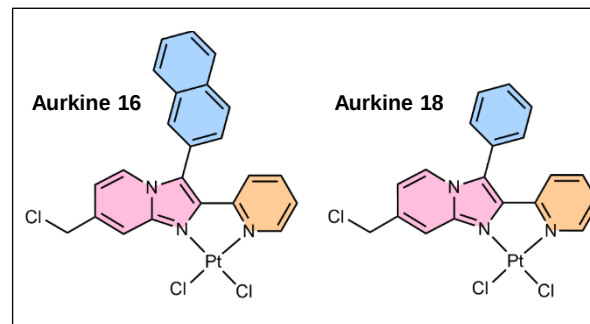
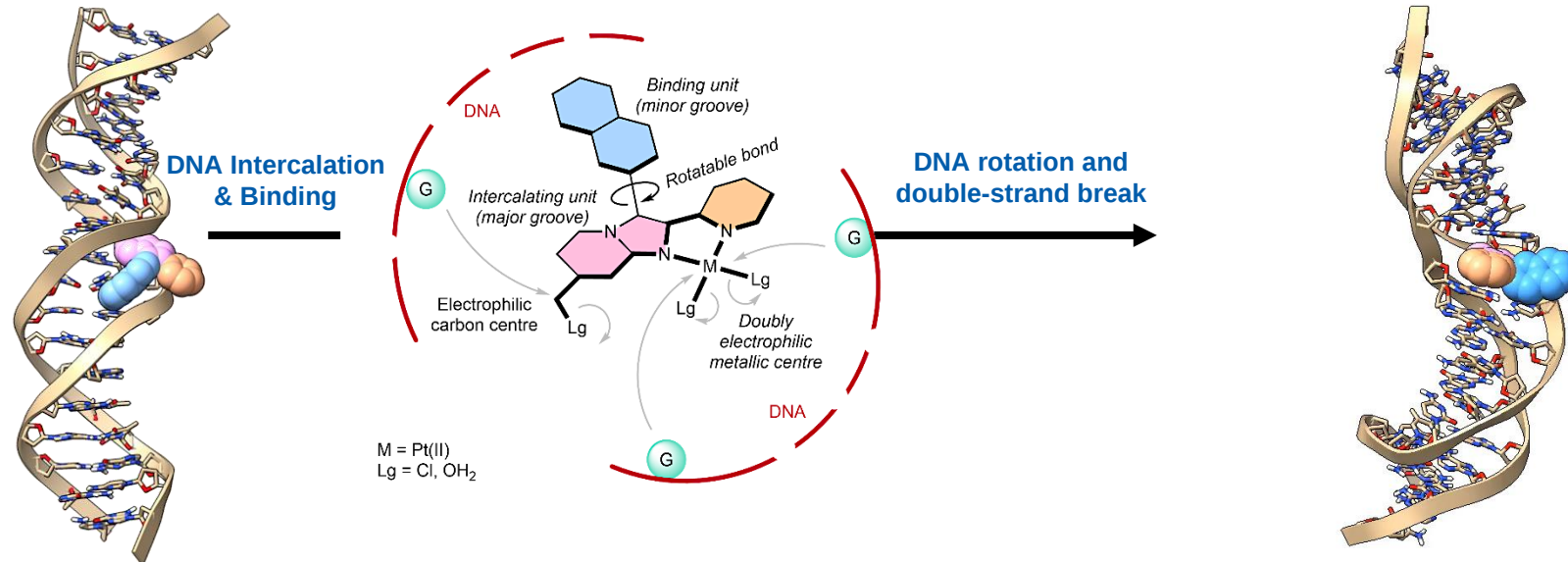
Innovative mechanism of action

New chemotherapeutic agents: *Aurkines*



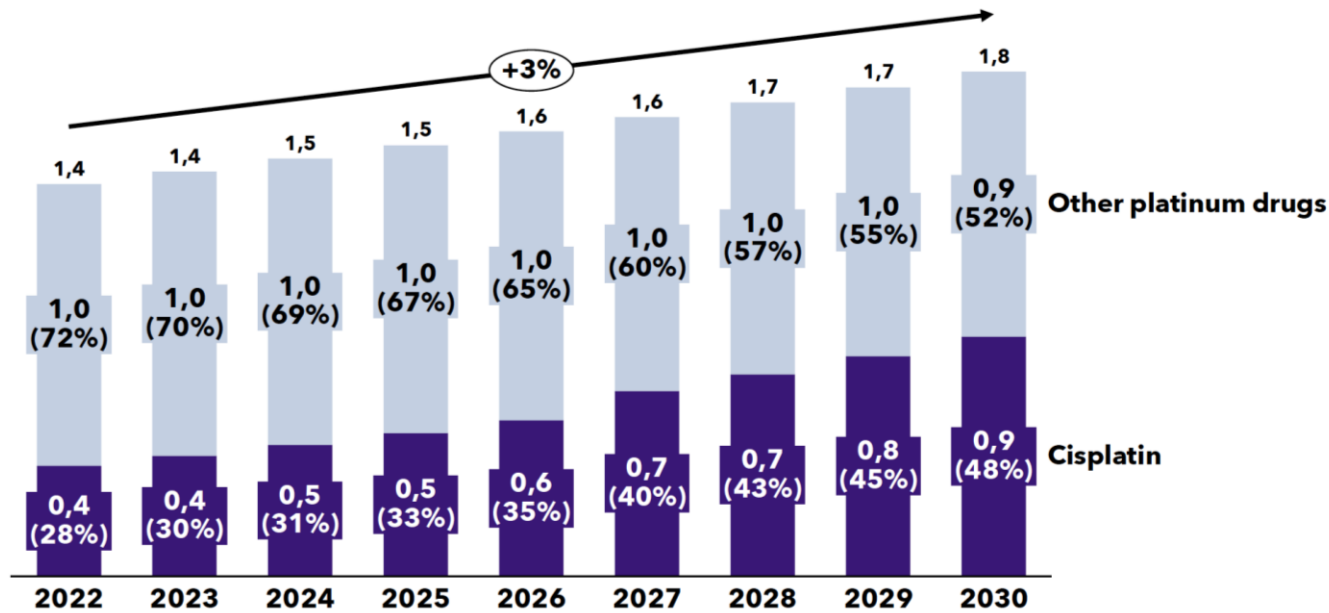
Innovative mechanism of action

New chemotherapeutic agents: *Aurkines*



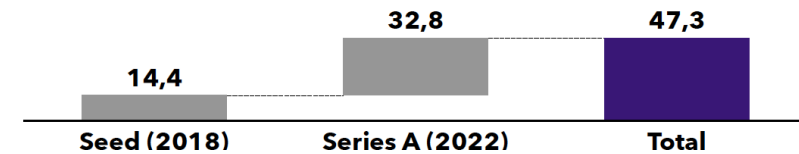
Differential features facing the market

Platinum-based drugs market size, 2022-2030



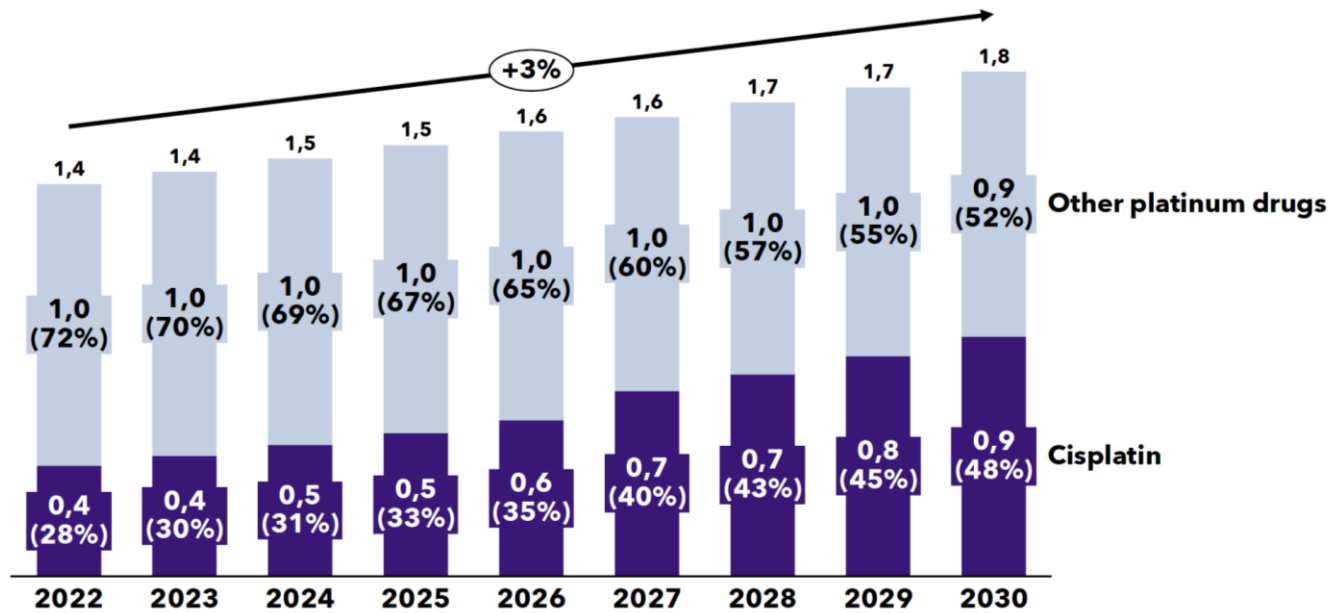
- Founded in 2010, **Promontory Therapeutics (formerly Phosplatin Therapeutics)** is a private, clinical-stage drug development company focusing on oncology therapeutics, running multiple clinical trials in the US and Europe.
- **PT-112** is a novel platinum-pyrophosphate conjugate under clinical development for cancer therapy. PT-112 mediates cytostatic and cytotoxic effects against a variety of human and mouse cancer cell lines in vitro
 - PT-112 has demonstrated evidence of clinical benefit and pre-clinical proof of immunogenic cell death (ICD).
 - In 2014, Promontory launched its First-in-Human Phase I Clinical Trial of PT-112 in Solid Tumors.
 - In 2017, PT-112 received FDA **Orphan Drug Designation** for use in relapsed or refractory **multiple myeloma**
 - In 2018, PT-112 received FDA **Orphan Drug Designation** for use in **thymoma** and **thymic carcinoma**.
- The company is currently in **Phase 2 clinical development** with two ongoing studies in solid tumors and has completed a Phase 1 study in hematological oncology.

Financing activity [EUR m]



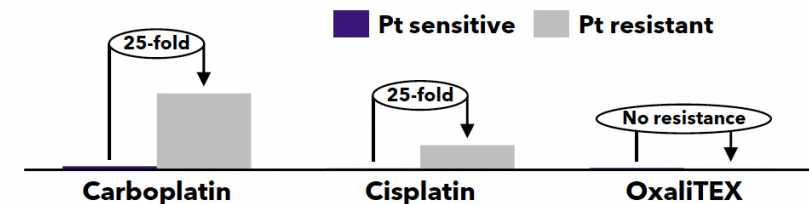
Differential features facing the market

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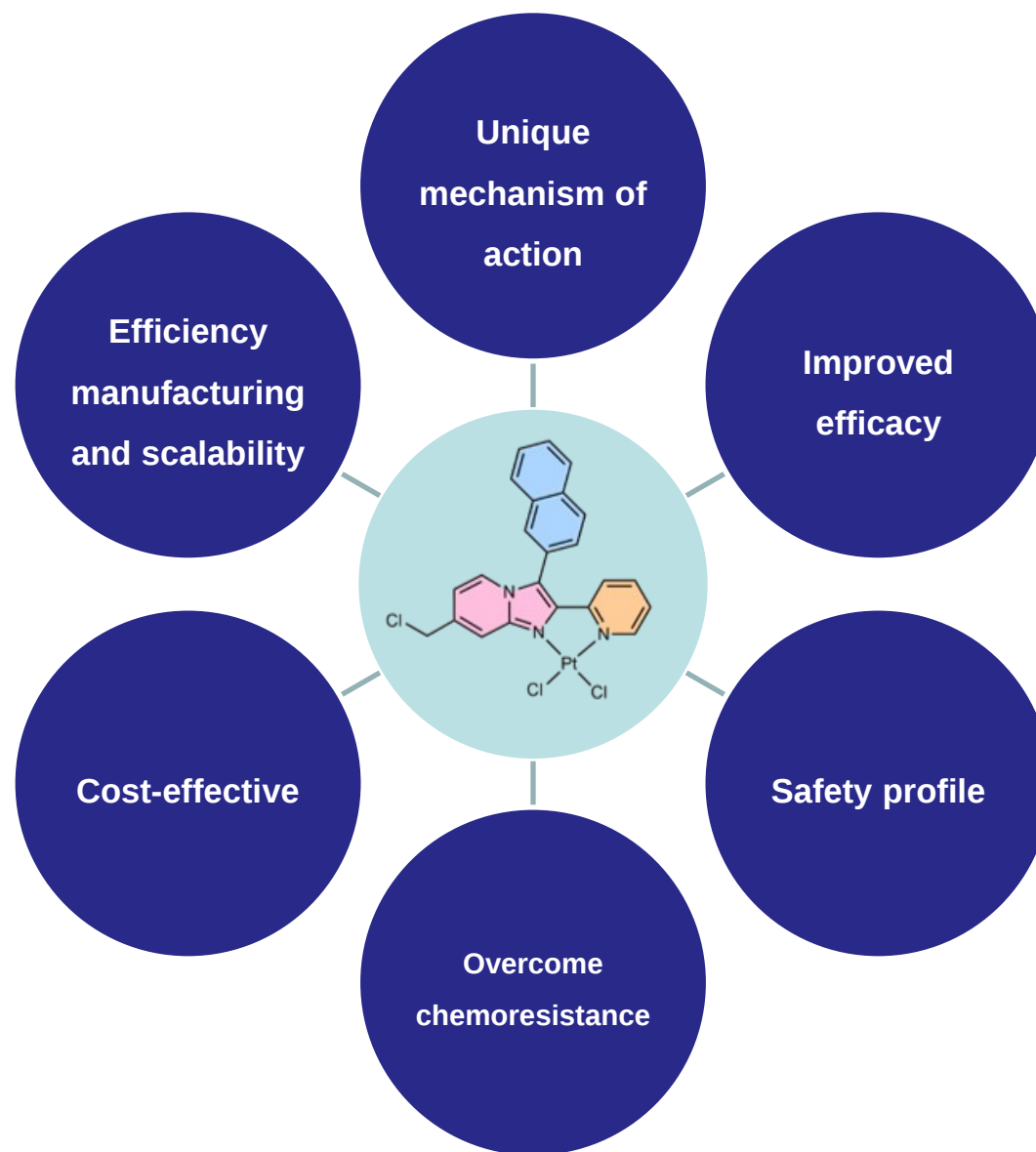


- Founded in 2022, **InnovoTEX Inc.** is a mid-stage pharmaceutical company developing the TEX Core portfolio of novel therapeutics capable of targeting multiple solid tumor
- OxaliTEX-Pt(IV) is the first product candidate being developed from the TEX CORE platform. Initial indication is **platinum-resistant ovarian cancer**
- The drug candidate, called **OxaliTEX**, is made of two parts: a star-shaped molecule called texaphyrin that acts like a kind of delivery truck, and a **modified version of a platinum drug** that acts like a toxic package for cancer cells.
- A **patent** on the drug candidate OxaliTEX is held jointly by UT Austin and MD Anderson. The drug is licensed to the iQ Group Global and planned for further development by its subsidiary, OncoTEX. Sessler serves as a nonexecutive board member and scientific adviser for OncoTEX.

OxaliTEX overcomes resistance in ovarian cancer cells (in vitro)



Differential features facing the market

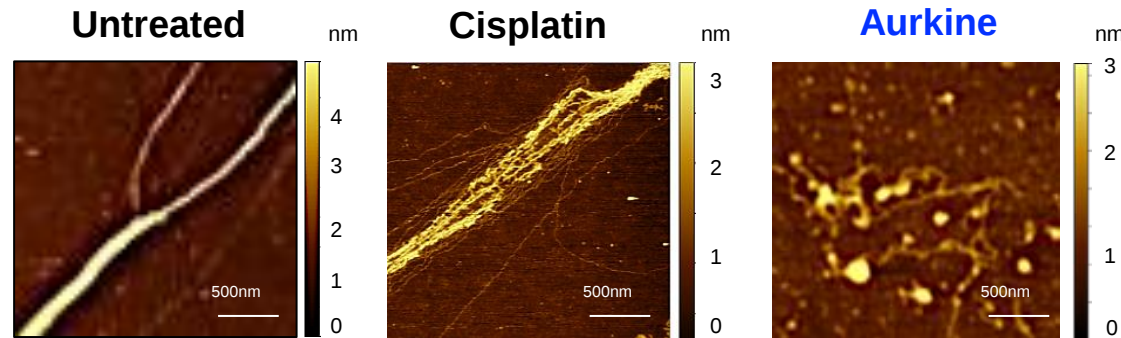


Current status of development

Aurkines completely disrupt isolated DNA structure

- Isolated DNA from *Escherichia Coli*

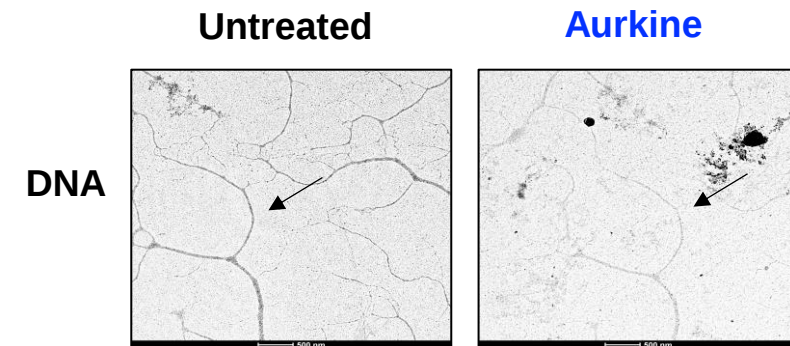
AFM studies (Atomic Force Microscopy)



DNA bending

↑ ↑ DNA destruction

TEM studies (Transmission Electron Microscopy)



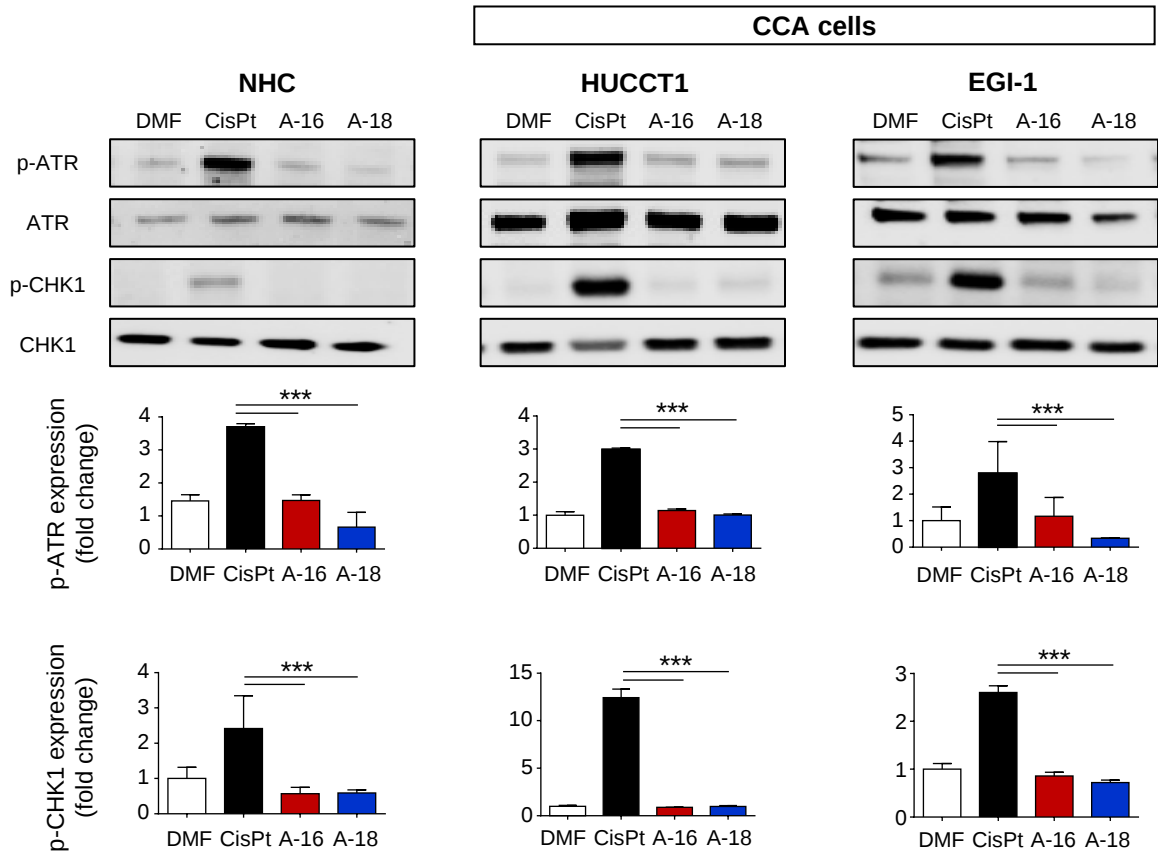
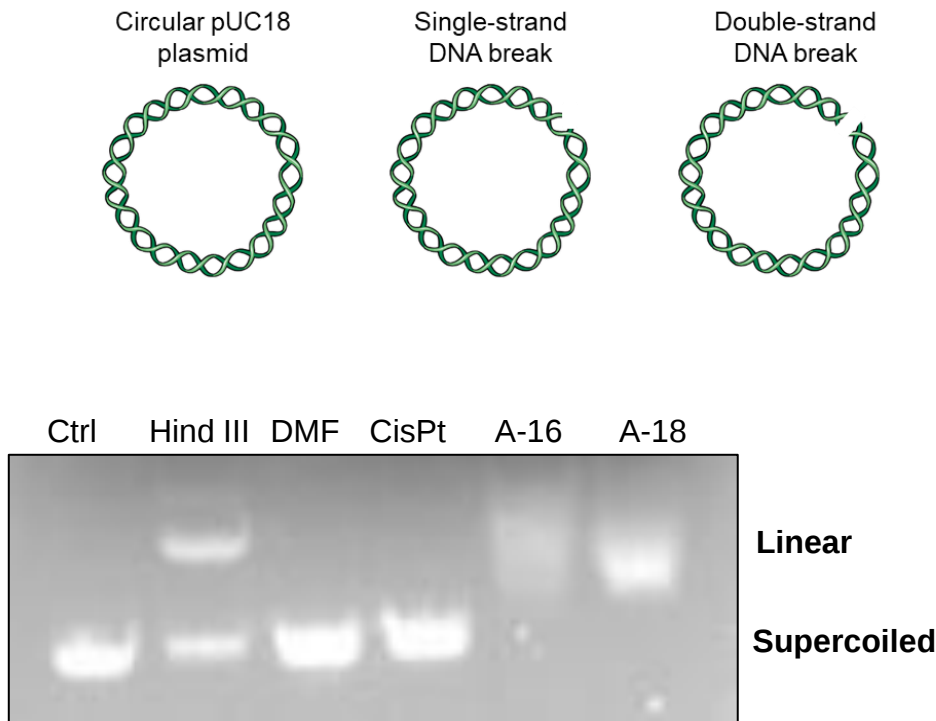
DNA

↓ ↓ DNA density

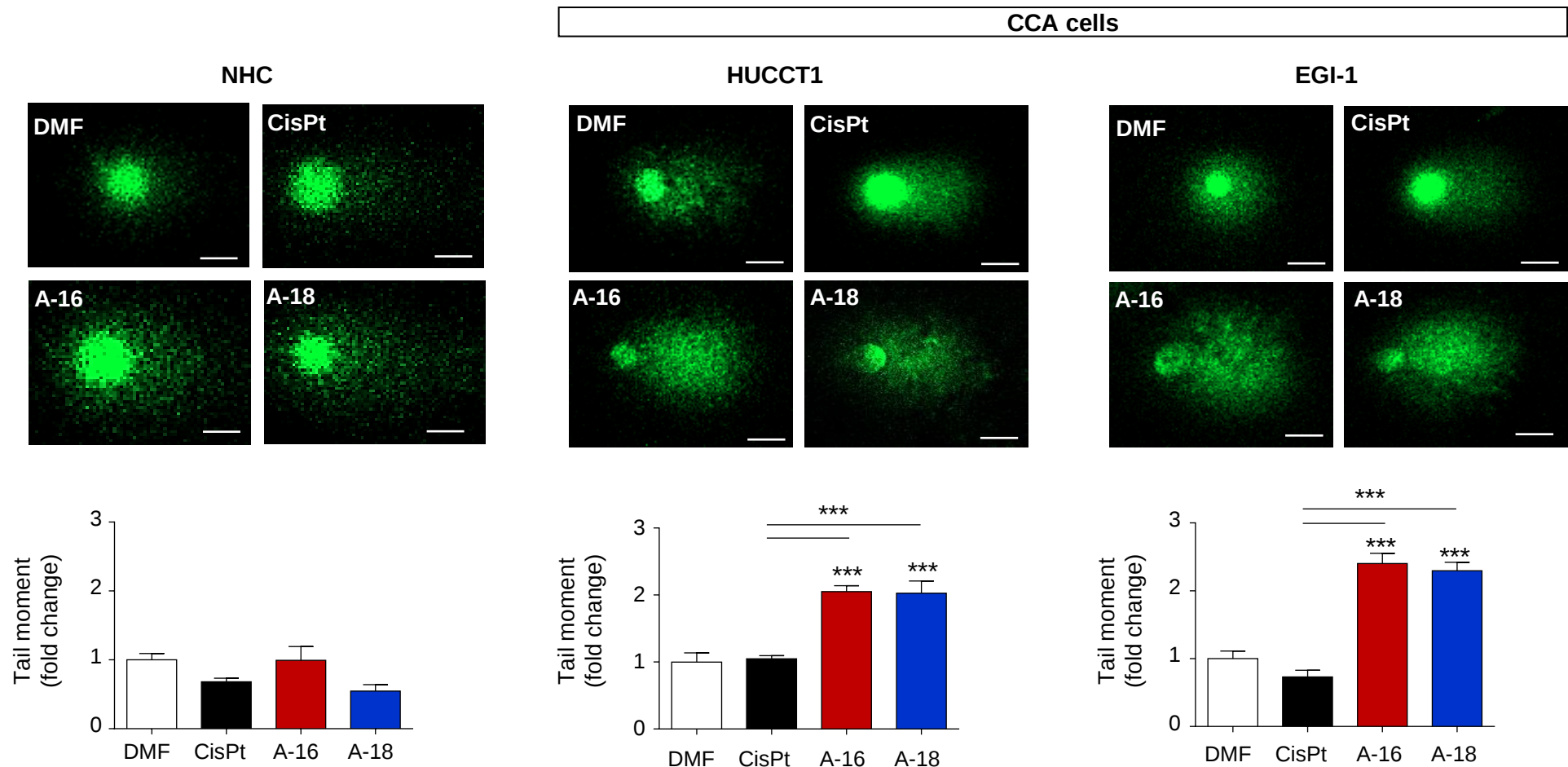
Current status of development

Aurkines induce double-strand DNA breaks, contrary to CisPt

Electrophoretic mobility: pUC18 plasmid



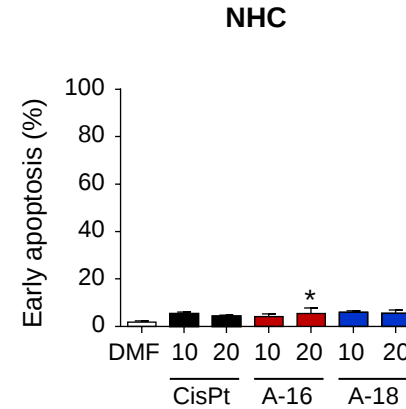
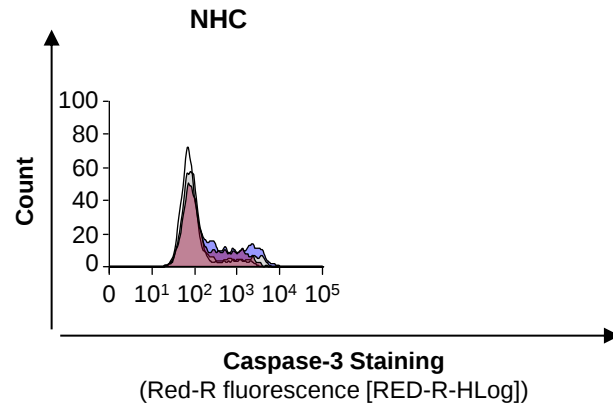
CCA, cholangiocarcinoma; NHC, normal human cholangiocytes



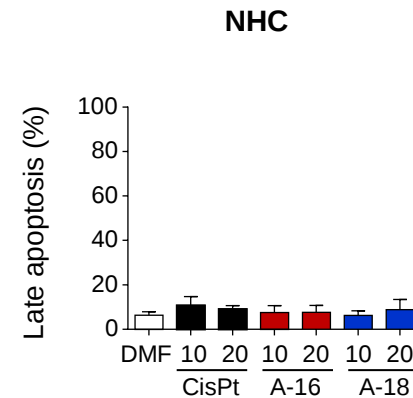
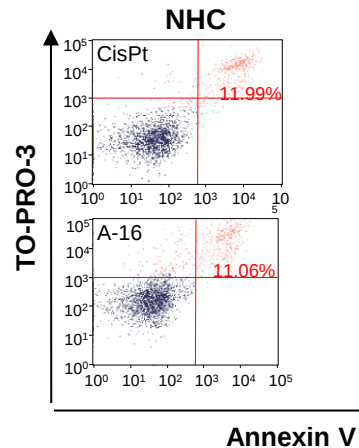
Current status of development

Aurkines promote apoptosis specifically in CCA cells

Early cell death (caspase-3)



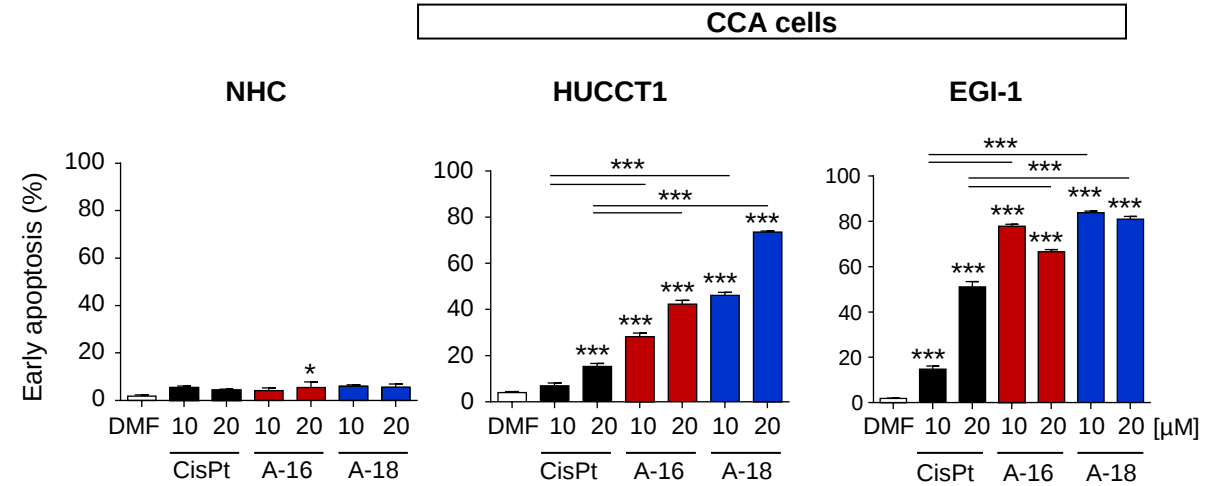
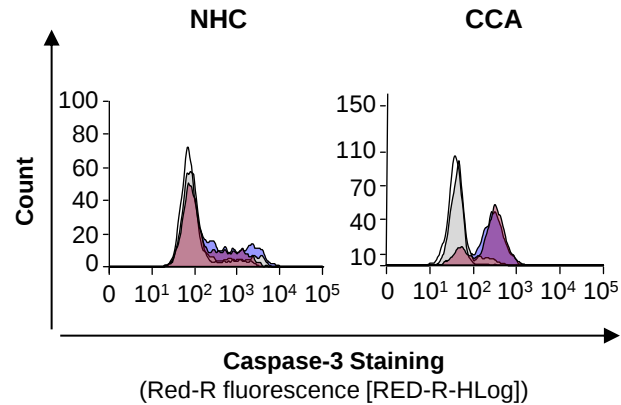
Late cell death (annexin-V – TO-PRO-3)



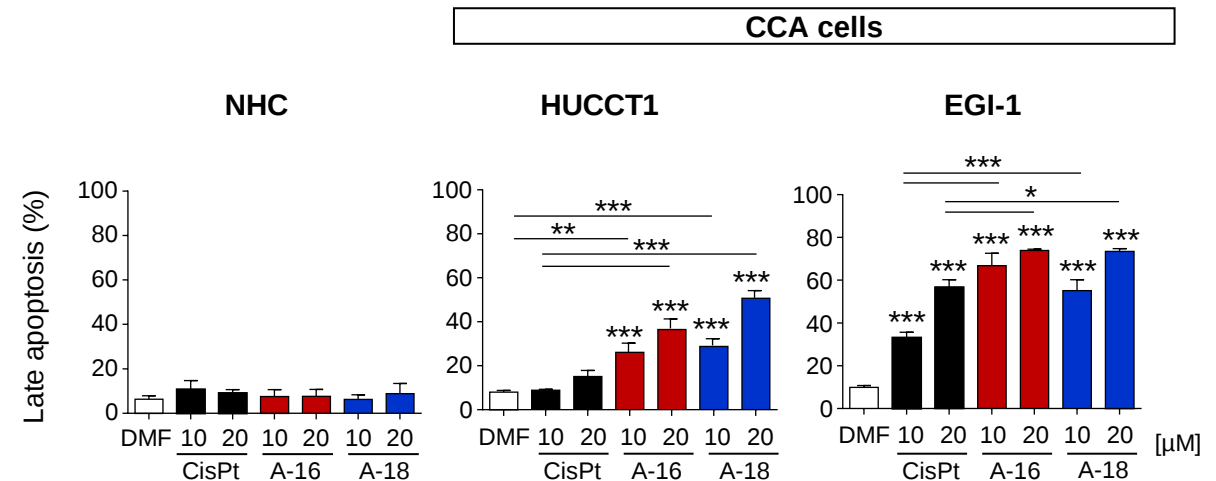
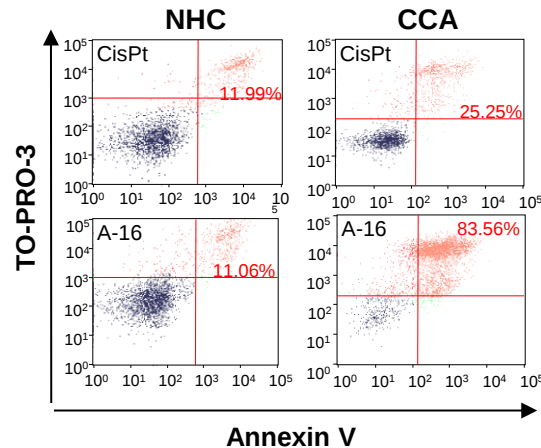
Current status of development

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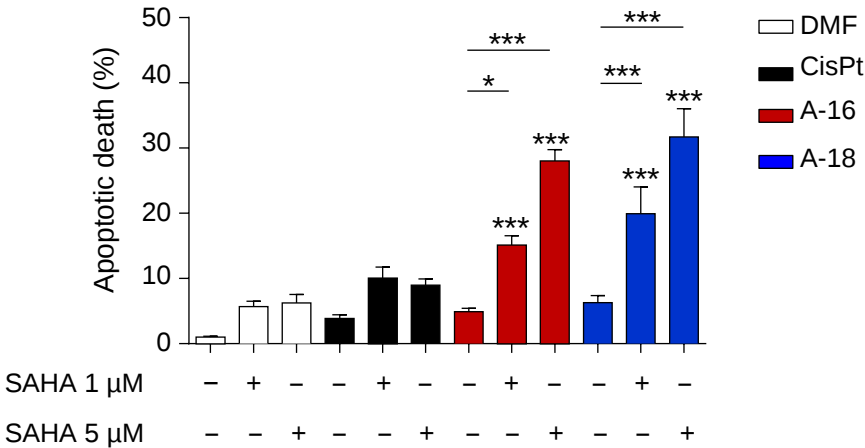
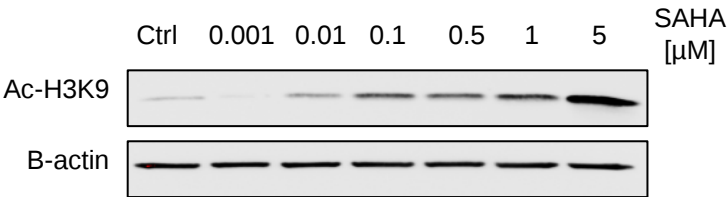
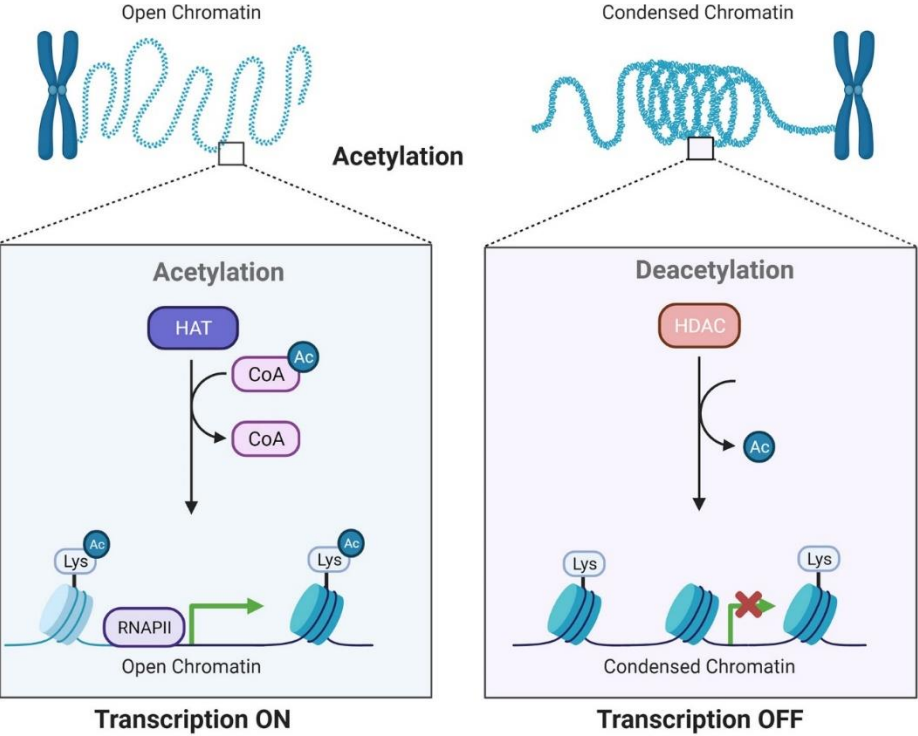


Late cell death (annexin-V – TO-PRO-3)



Unpacking NHC chromatin structure enables Aurkine cytotoxic effect

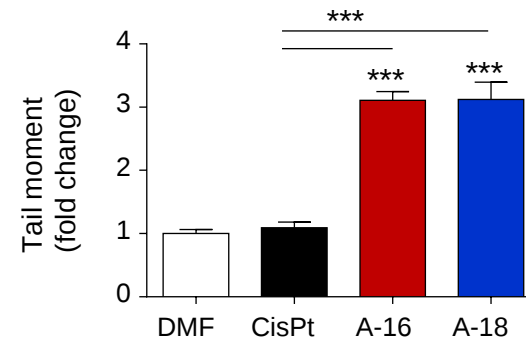
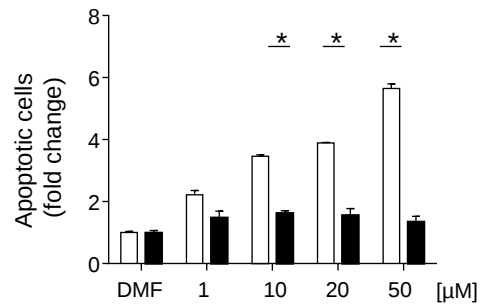
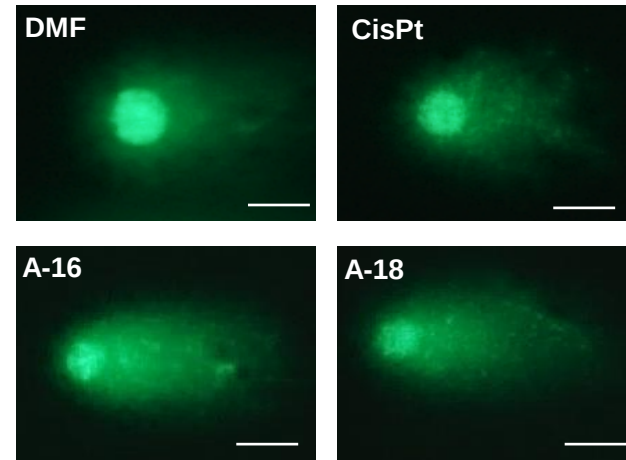
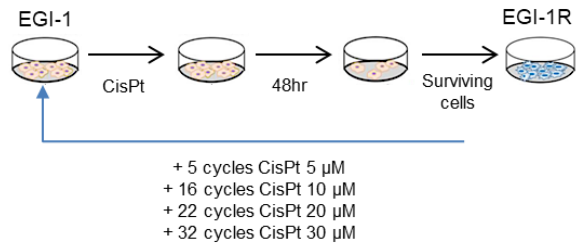
NHC: Normal human cholangiocytes



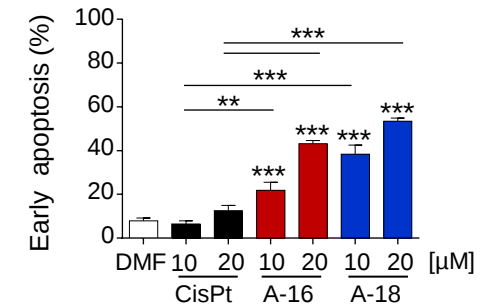
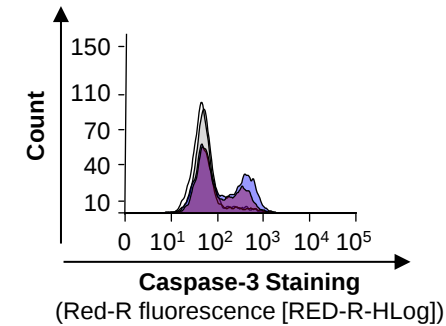
Current status of development

Aurkines promote DNA damage and induce apoptosis in CisPt-resistant CCA cells

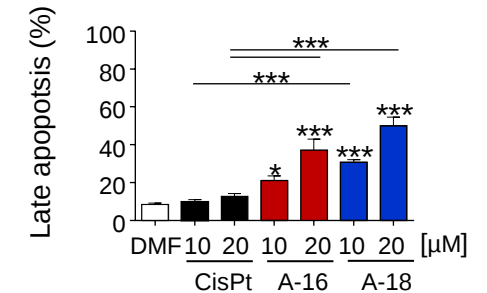
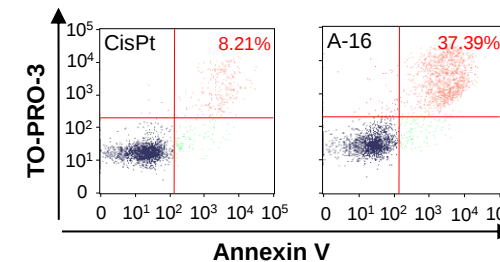
Comet assay



Early cell death (caspase-3)

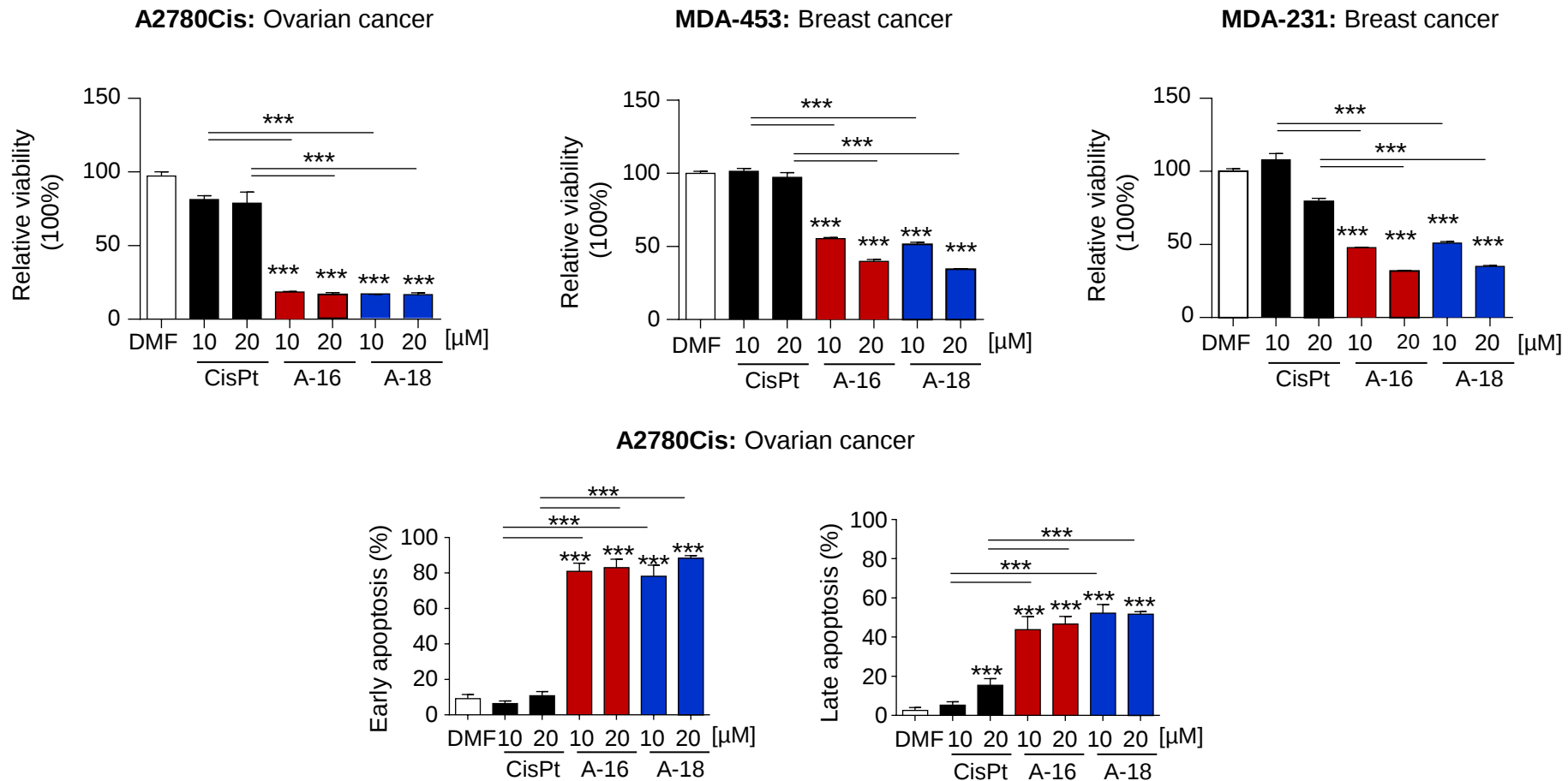


Late cell death (annexin-V – TO-PRO-3)



Current status of development

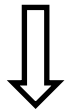
Aurkines reduce cell viability in other CisPt-resistant human cancer cell lines



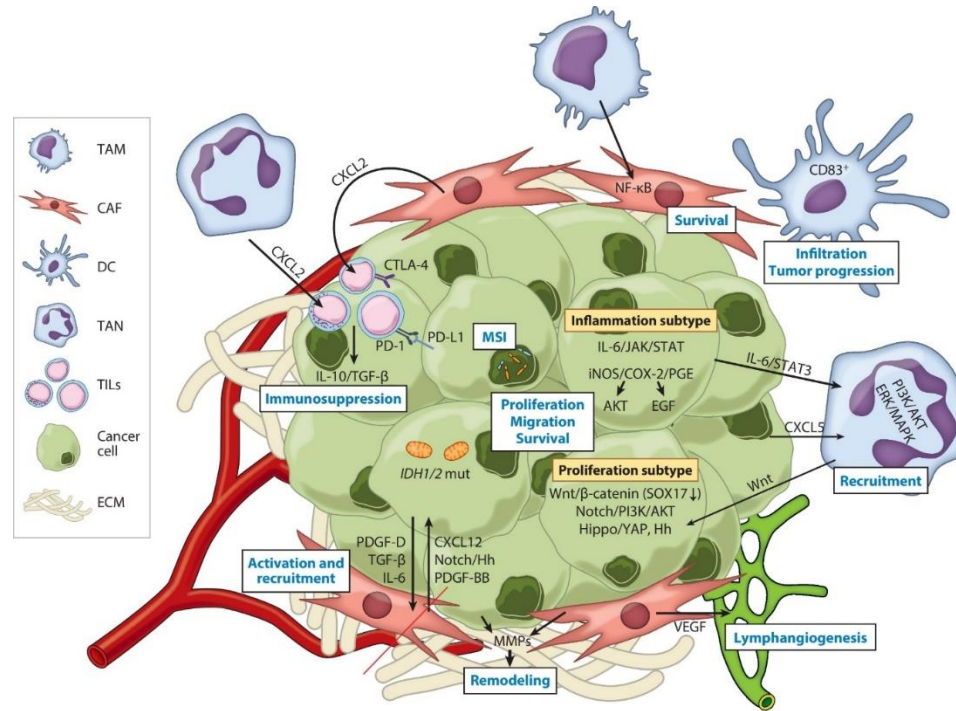
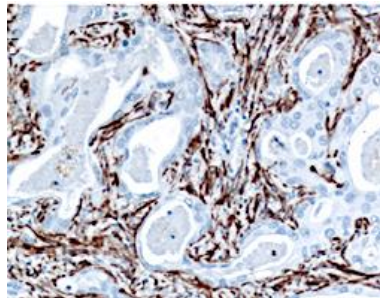
Current status of development

Tumour microenvironment of CCA

Desmoplastic tumours

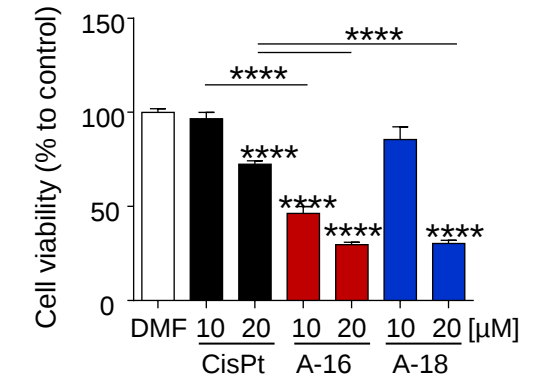


Growth
Dissemination
Chemoresistance

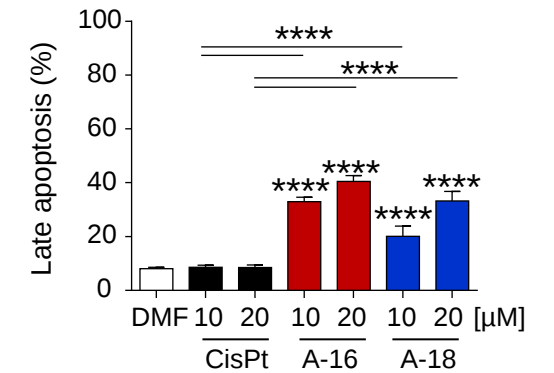


CAFs: cancer-associated fibroblasts

Cell viability (WST-1)

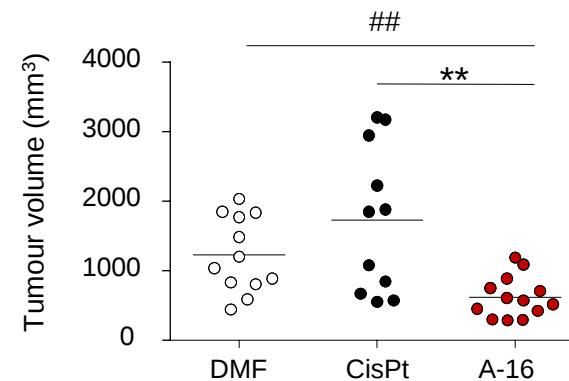
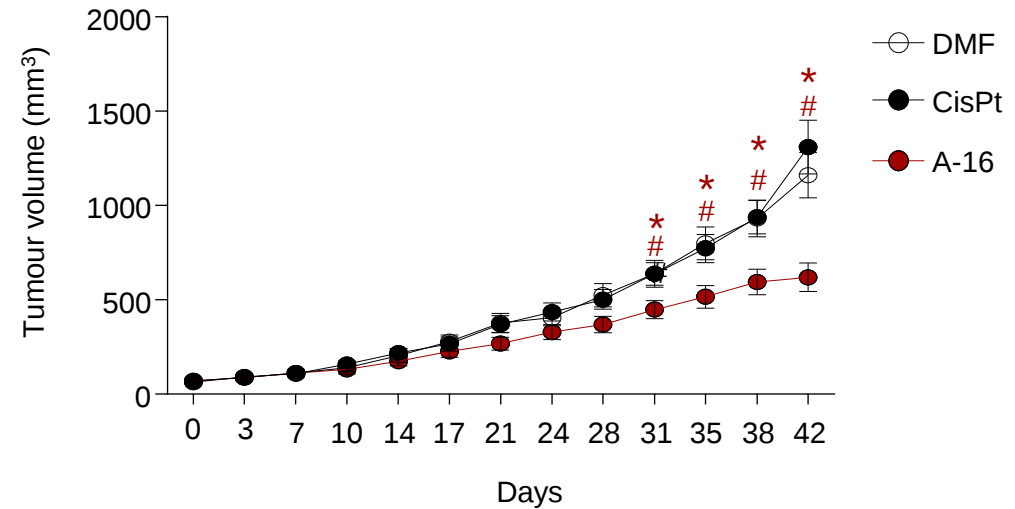
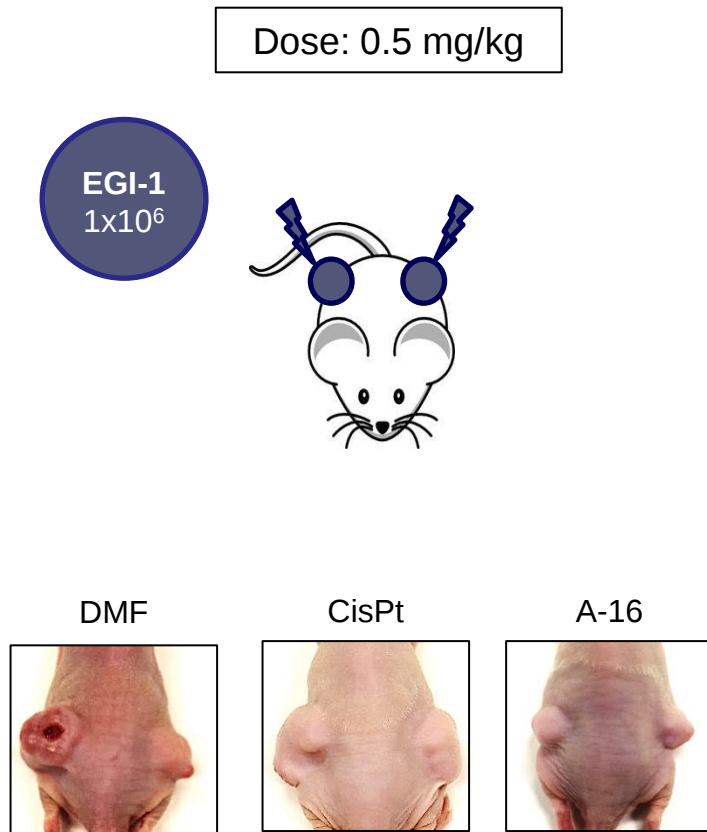


Cell death (Annexin-V/TO-PRO-3)



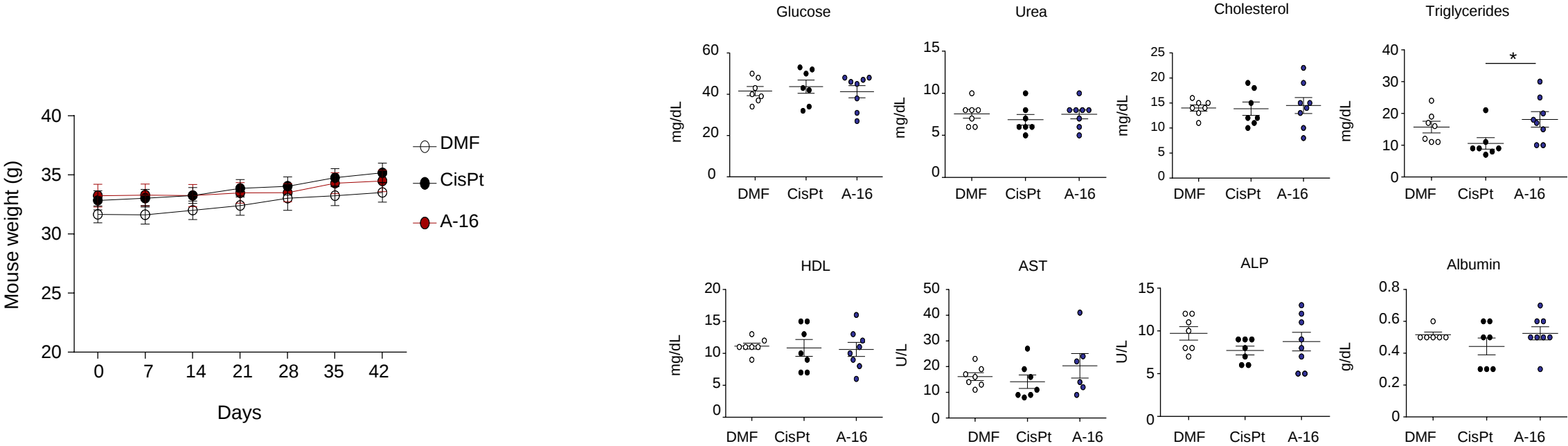
Current status of development

Aurkine 16 halts tumour growth in a subcutaneous mouse model of human CCA



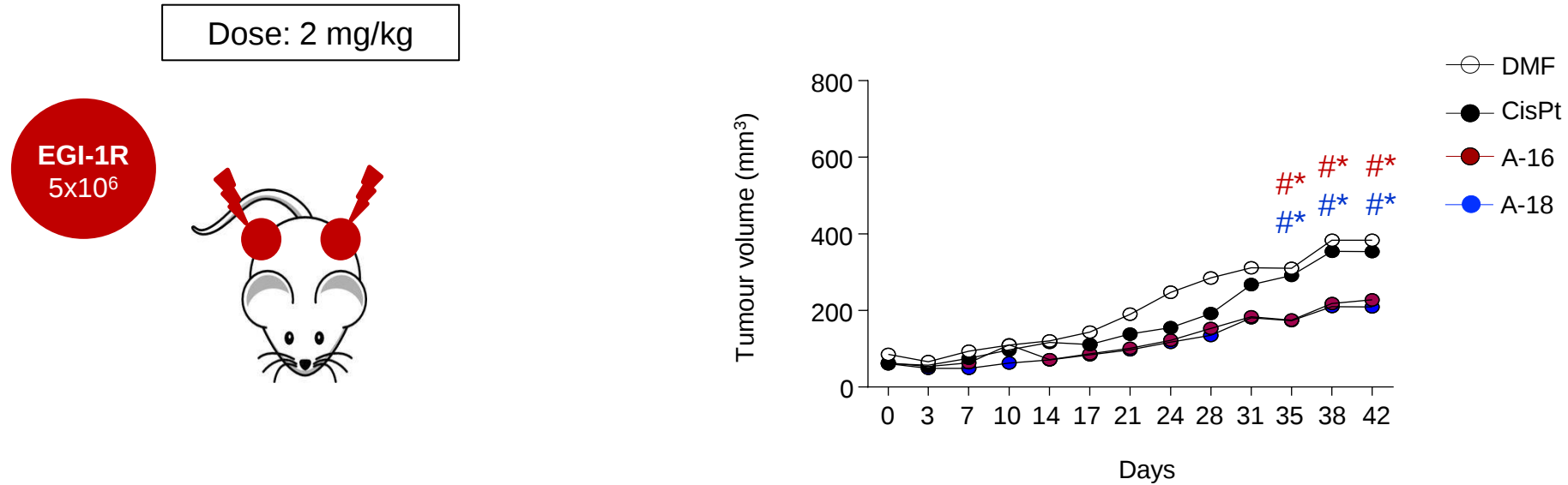
Current status of development

No evidence of toxicity



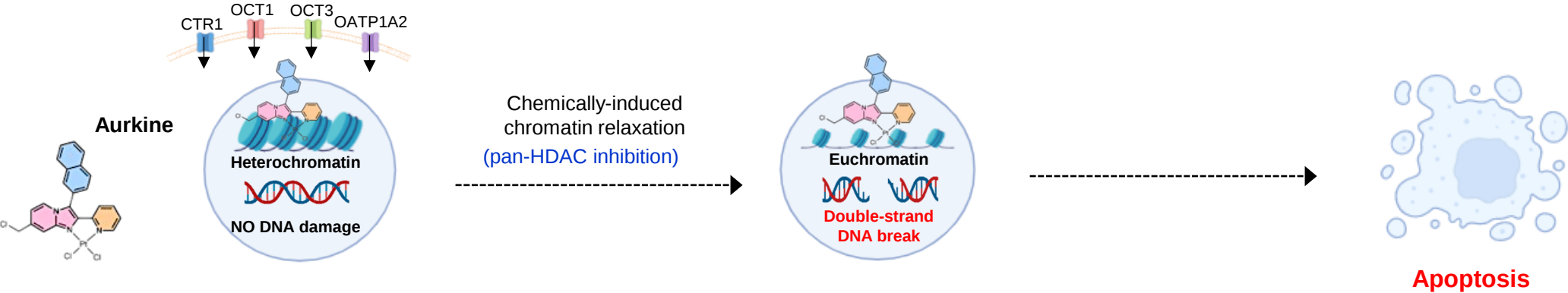
Current status of development

Aurkines halt tumour growth in a subcutaneous mouse model of human CisPt-resistant CCA

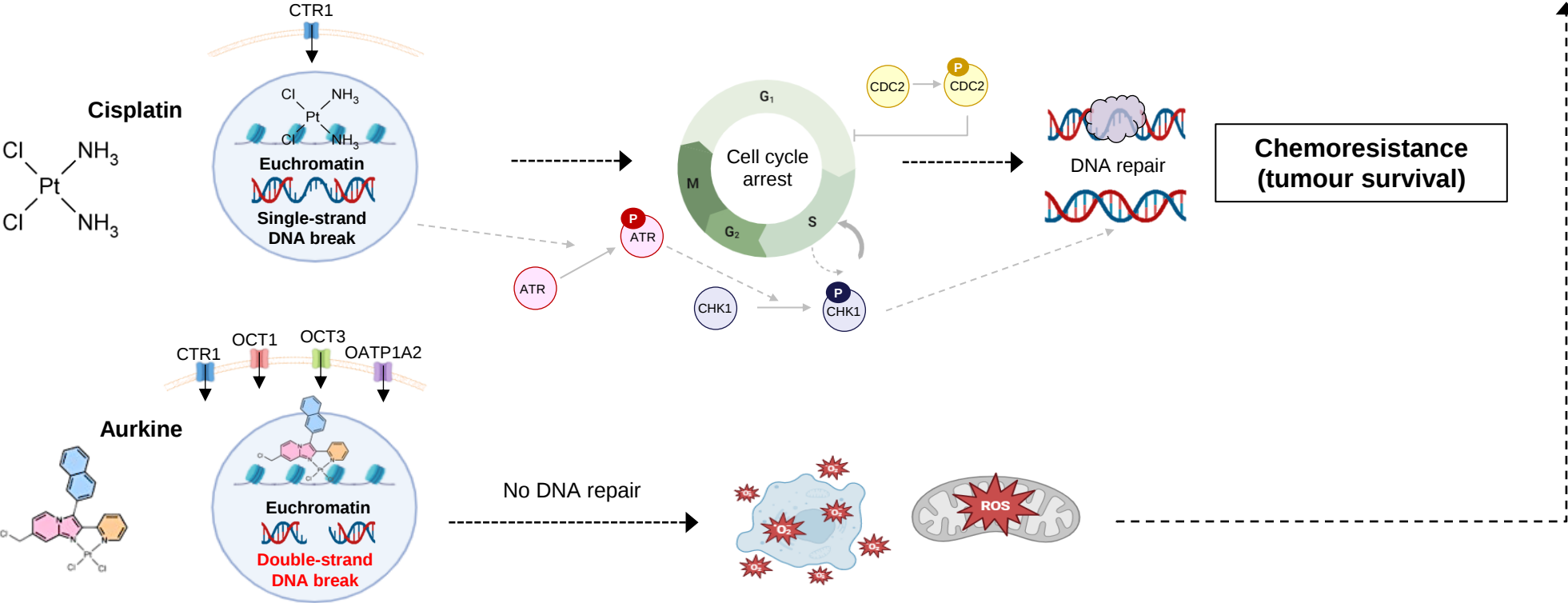


Current status of development

Normal cells



Cancer cells



Current status of development

- **Unique mechanism of action**
- ↑↑ efficacy
- ↓ ↓ toxicity
- ↑↑ selectivity for cancer cells
- **Aurkines** represent a promising therapeutic tool for **naïve or CisPt-resistant cancers**
- **Value in 1st or 2nd line**

IPR protection



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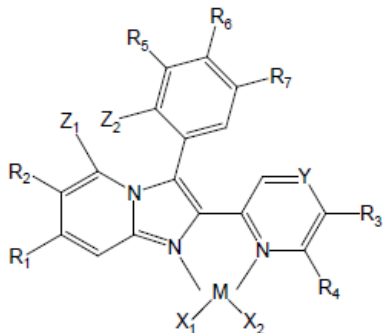
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Pitfalls & Risks to be considered

Platinum:

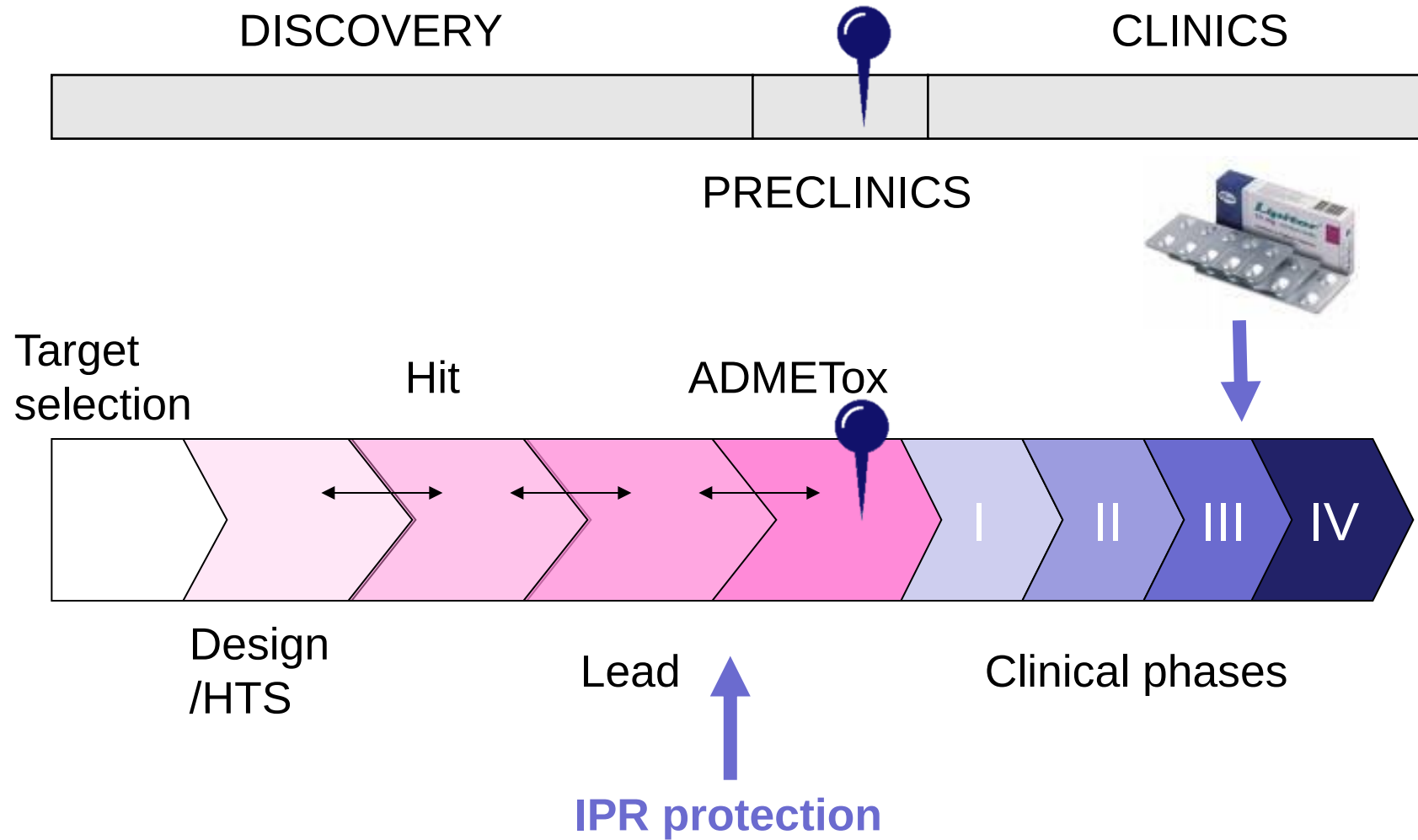
- High toxicity, off-target
- Side effects

Response:

- Triple electrophilicity combining metallic and carbon G-attractors
- Low toxicity
- High selectivity for cancer cells
- Efficacy against CisPt-resistant cells (1st + 2nd line)

Aurkine is more than another platinum drug

Partnering opportunities



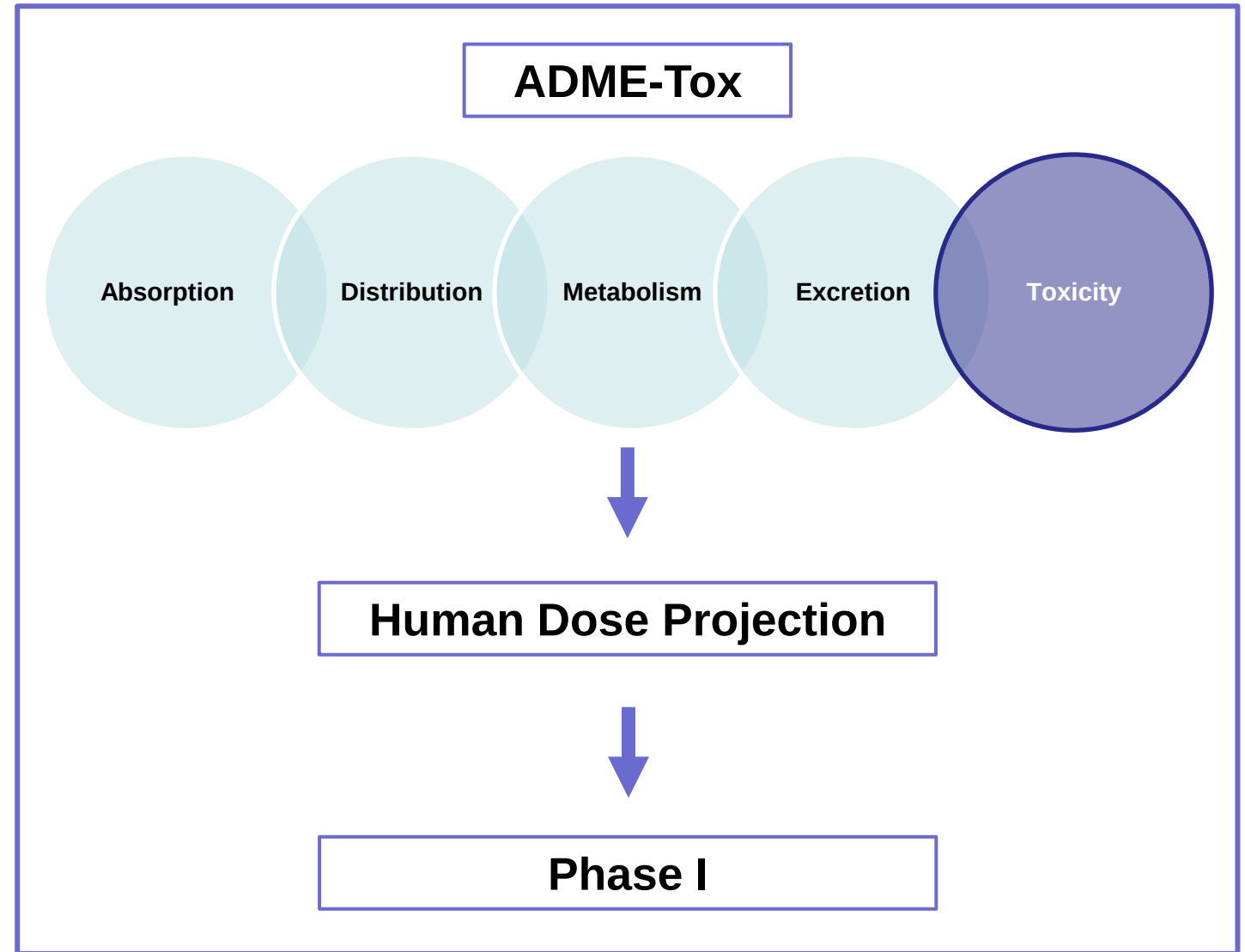
Partnering opportunities

Next milestones



May 2010
EMA/CHMP/ICH/646107/2008

ICH guideline S9 on nonclinical evaluation for anticancer
pharmaceuticals
Step 5



Partnering opportunities



**Partnering and
strategic alliance**



Licensing

Acknowledgements



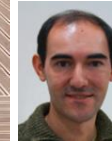
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Cholangiocarcinoma
Alliance

XXIV Encuentro de Cooperación Farma-Biotech

23 de octubre de 2024

Aurkines: novel chemical entities with marked polyelectrophilic properties, specifically designed to induce double-strand DNA breaks



Fernando Cossío

