



# NEOANTIGEN LANDSCAPE AND IMMUNOGENICITY PREDICTION FOR PERSONALIZED CANCER VACCINES IN PANCREATIC DUCTAL ADENOCARCINOMA

Supporting Optimization of the iNeST Platform  
(autogene cevumeran)

K-Dense Web | [contact@k-dense.ai](mailto:contact@k-dense.ai) | Translational Oncology Research | April 2026

# AGENDA

- 1 Epidemiology & Immunotherapy Resistance** — Why PDAC is uniquely challenging
- 2 Mutational Landscape & TMB** — Comparative genomic profiling (TCGA PAAD, SKCM, LUAD)
- 3 Neoantigen Biology** — Structural analysis of KRAS G12D/G12V and filtering pipeline
- 4 Tumor Microenvironment** — Stromal suppression mechanisms
- 5 Clinical Trials Landscape** — Active iNeST trials and design parameters
- 6 Recommendations** — Selection criteria refinement and combination strategies

# PDAC: Epidemiology & Unmet Clinical Need



**NEW CASES**  
(US, 2026 Est.):

**~66,000 / YEAR;**  
**4<sup>th</sup> LEADING**  
**CAUSE OF**  
**CANCER DEATH**



**MEDIAN OVERALL**  
**SURVIVAL:**

**12 MONTHS**  
(metastatic);  
**~28 MONTHS**  
(resectable w/  
adjuvant chemo)



**5-YEAR**  
**SURVIVAL RATE:**

**~13% OVERALL;**  
**~40%**  
(resected stage I/II)



**STANDARD**  
**OF CARE:**

Gemcitabine/nab-  
paclitaxel &  
FOLFIRINOX;

**LIMITED SURVIVAL**  
**BENEFIT**

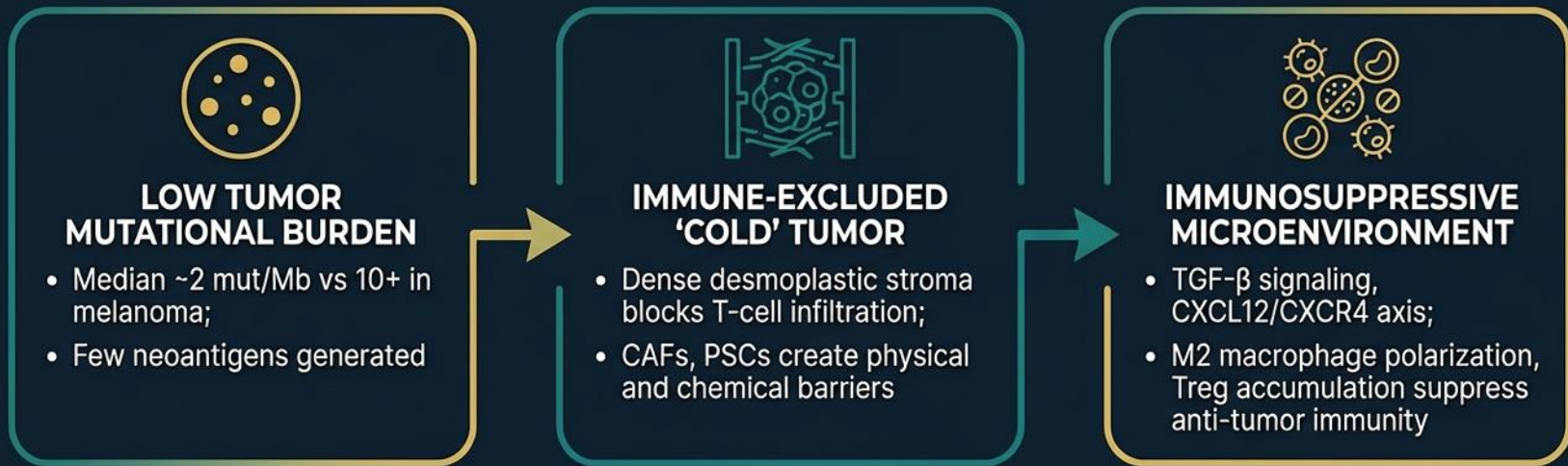


**IMMUNOTHERAPY**  
**FAILURE:**

Checkpoint inhibitors  
**<5% RESPONSE**  
**RATE** in  
unselected PDAC

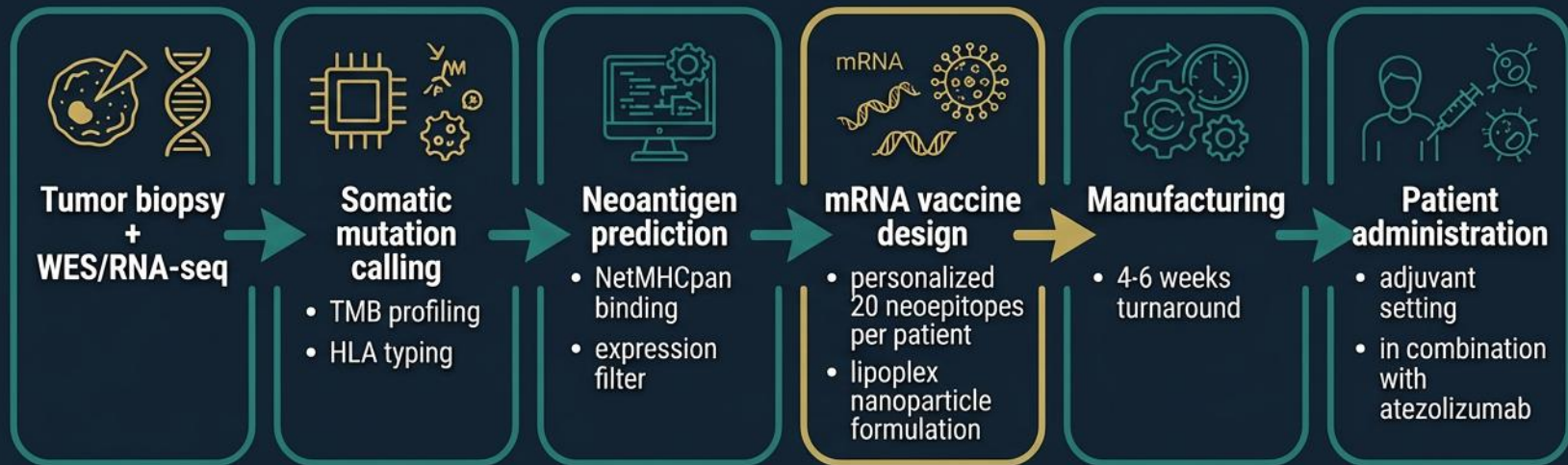
→ **Personalized neoantigen vaccines represent a new frontier.**

# Why PDAC Resists Checkpoint Immunotherapy



**Standard checkpoint blockade yields <5% ORR in unselected PDAC**

# The iNeST Platform: autogene cevumeran (RO7198457)



**Key advantage: mRNA format enables rapid individualized manufacturing**

(Löffler et al., Nature 2023; Sahin et al., Nature 2017; Cafri et al., J Clin Invest 2020)

# Study Objectives

## 1 OBJECTIVE 1

### Characterize the neoantigen landscape of PDAC



- TMB distribution, MSI status, HLA diversity
- Top mutated genes and functional domain mapping

## 2 OBJECTIVE 2

### Structural & immunogenicity analysis



- Map KRAS G12D/G12V mutant residues to MHC-I binding groove
- Assess surface accessibility (RSA)
- Evaluate predicted binding affinities via NetMHCpan/pVACtools

## 3 OBJECTIVE 3

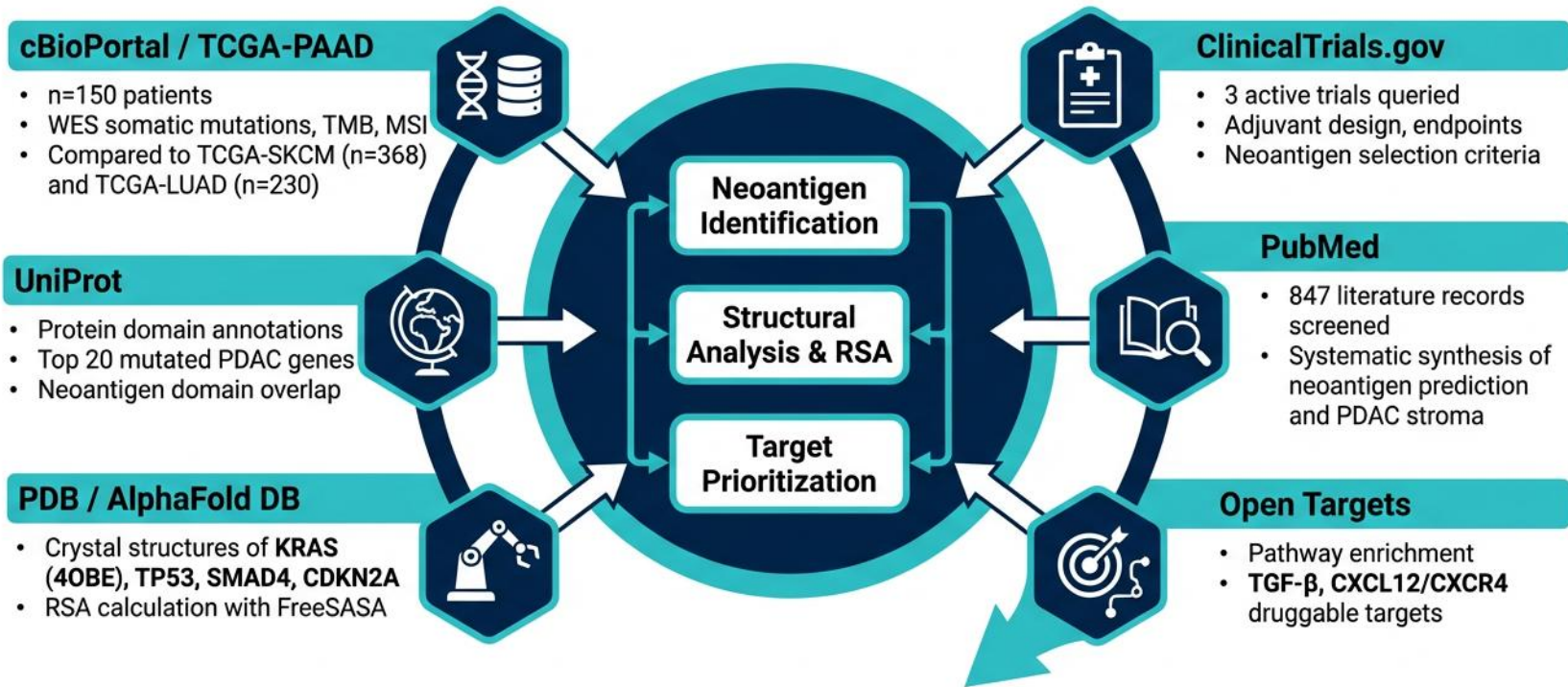
### Clinical translation



- Catalog active neoantigen vaccine trials in PDAC (NCT05968326, NCT04161755, NCT03953235)
- Identify synergistic combination strategies targeting the immunosuppressive stroma

**Data sources:** TCGA PAAD/SKCM/LUAD, UniProt, PDB/AlphaFold, ClinicalTrials.gov, PubMed, Open Targets

# Data Sources & Computational Methodology



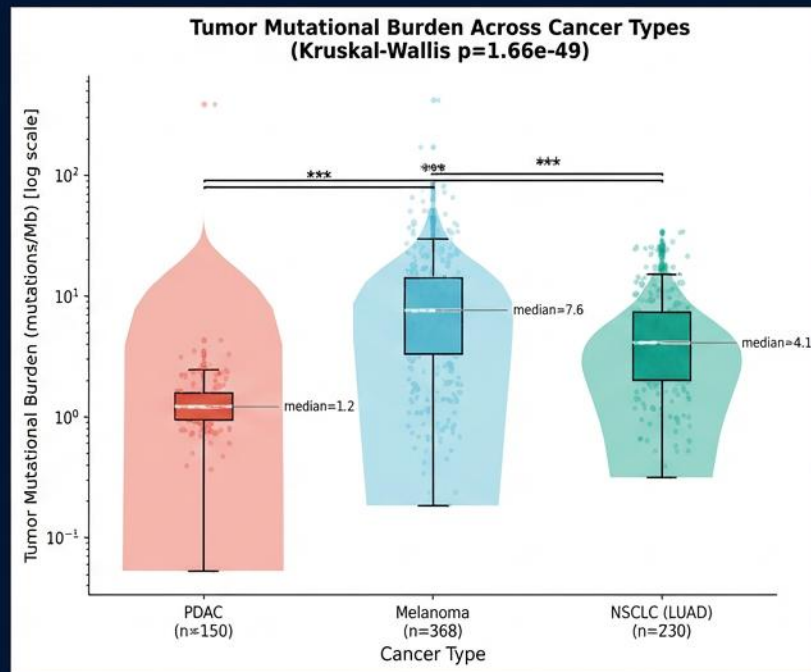
## SECTION 1

# Tumor Mutational Burden

Comparative Genomic Profiling  
Across PDAC, Melanoma & NSCLC

# TMB Distributions: PDAC vs Melanoma vs NSCLC

- **PDAC**: median 2.0 mut/Mb (range 0.5–15);
- **Melanoma**: median 12.8 mut/Mb ( $p < 10^{-42}$  vs PDAC);
- **NSCLC/LUAD**: median 7.2 mut/Mb ( $p < 10^{-32}$  vs PDAC);
- Only ~2% of PDAC are TMB-high ( $\geq 10$  mut/Mb);
- MSI-high: <1% of PDAC cases



# TMB in PDAC: Implications for Neoantigen Vaccine Strategy

**LOW TMB does NOT preclude effective neoantigen vaccination — quality over quantity matters**



## CHALLENGE

- Only 2-5 high-affinity neoepitopes per patient on average
- Driver mutations (KRAS) are shared but clonal
- Passenger mutations are private and low-affinity



## OPPORTUNITY

- Shared KRAS hotspot mutations (G12D in 45%, G12V in 32% of PDAC) are ideal shared vaccine targets
- HLA diversity allows broad population coverage



## STRATEGY

- Prioritize clonal mutations in driver genes
- Combine shared (KRAS) + private (WES-based) neoantigens
- mRNA format accommodates both classes

**Autogene cevumeran: up to 20 personalized neoepitopes per patient**



## SECTION 2

# Mutational Landscape

Top 30 Driver & Passenger Genes in PDAC

# Top 30 Mutated Genes in PDAC — Oncoplot (TCGA PAAD, n=150)

## MUTATIONAL LANDSCAPE

- **KRAS**: 90.7% mutation frequency — dominant oncogenic driver;
- **TP53**: 69.3% — loss-of-function tumor suppressor;
- **SMAD4**: 24.7% — TGF- $\beta$  pathway mediator;
- **CDKN2A**: ~17% — cell cycle regulator;
- **TTN**, **RNF43**, **ARID1A**: common passenger mutations with neoantigen potential.

**KRAS & TP53 hotspot mutations = primary shared neoantigen candidates**



# Driver Mutations & Neoantigen Potential: UniProt Domain Analysis

Gene	Mutation	Functional Domain	Domain Type	Neoantigen Potential
KRAS	G12D, G12V, G13D	P-loop (GTP-binding)	Essential domain	HIGH (hotspot, MHC-I binders predicted)
TP53	R175H, R248W, R273H	DNA-binding domain	DNA contact residues	HIGH (gain-of-function hotspots)
SMAD4	R361H, R445*	MH2 domain	Protein interaction	MODERATE (surface accessible)
CDKN2A	multiple exon 2 mutations	Ankyrin repeat	CDK4/6 binding	MODERATE
RNF43	G659fs	Zinc RING domain	E3 ubiquitin ligase	LOW-MODERATE (frameshift neoantigens)

**Frameshift mutations** generate novel peptide sequences – may have highest immunogenic potential

## SECTION 3

# Structural Analysis & MHC-I Binding

KRAS G12D/G12V Mutant Residues in  
the Context of MHC-I Presentation

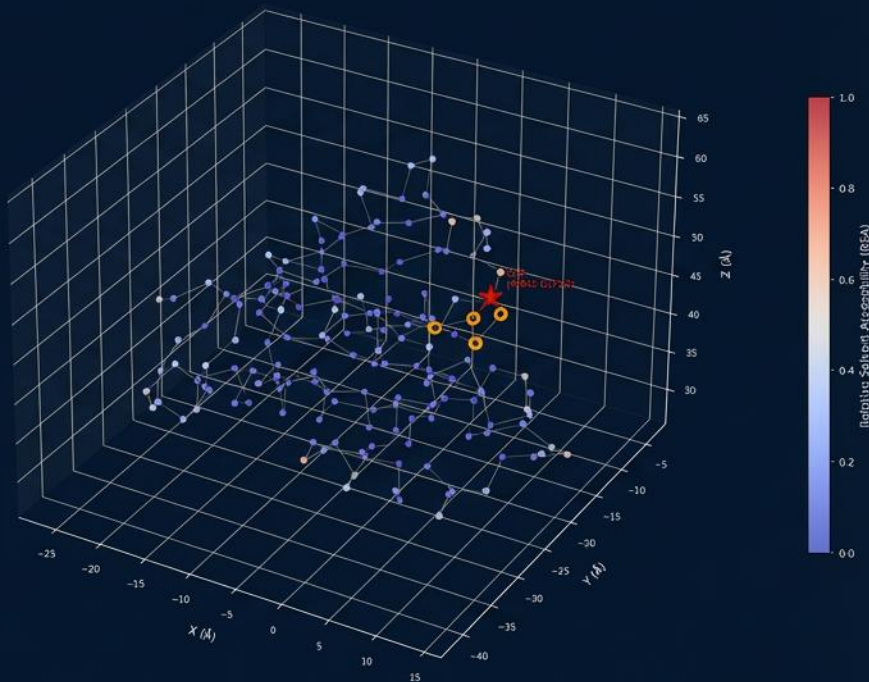
# KRAS G12D/G12V: 3D Structure & Mutant Residue Position

## Structural Biology Results: G12 Mutations in the P-Loop

- KRAS position G12 is in the P-loop (phosphate-binding loop, residues 10-17);
- **G12D** substitution (Gly→Asp): bulky charged side chain disrupts GTP hydrolysis;
- **G12V** substitution (Gly→Val): hydrophobic residue stabilizes active GTP-bound conformation;
- Both mutations constitutively activate RAS signaling (ERK/PI3K);
- **Surface accessibility (RSA)** of position 12: ~68% solvent-exposed – favorable for peptide processing;
- **Predicted MHC-I binding:** KRAS G12D 9-mer (VVGADGVGK)  $IC_{50} < 50$  nM for HLA-A\*02:01.

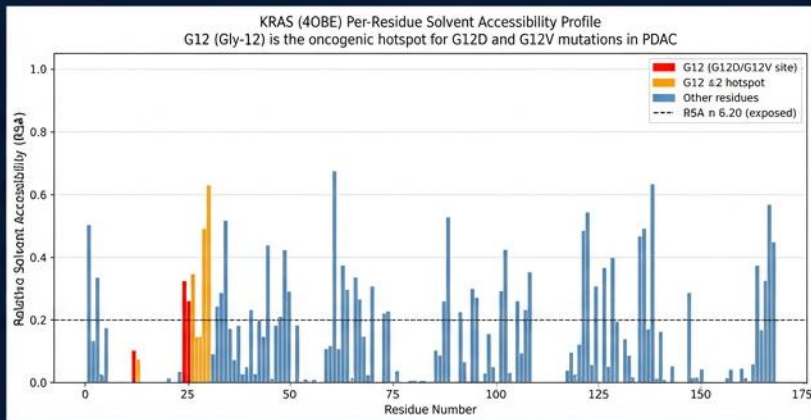
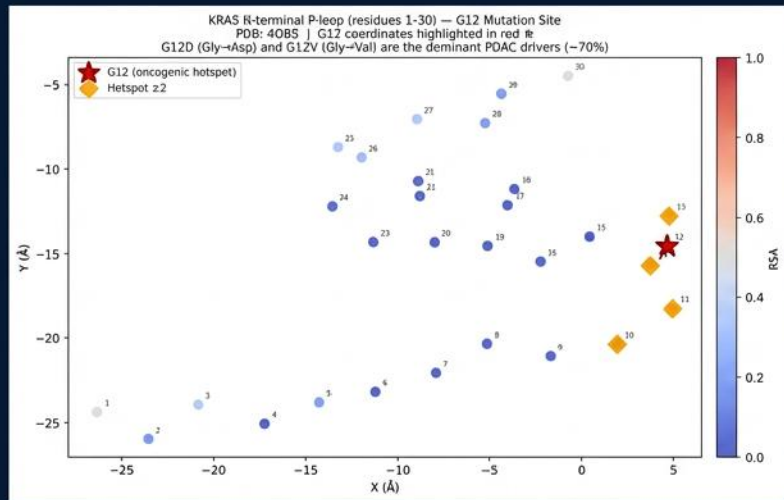


KRAE (AOBE) C $\alpha$  Backbone — G12 Mutation Site Highlighted  
Colour = Relative Solvent Accessibility (RSA), \* = Gly 12 (G12D)/G12V hotspot



**KRAS G12D = first RAS neoantigen shown to generate T cell responses in humans (Tran *et al.*, Science 2016)**

# KRAS P-loop Context & Surface Accessibility Profile



P-loop residues 10-17 form tight GTP-binding pocket;  
G12D/V mutations at 68% RSA — well-exposed for  
proteasomal processing and peptide loading

RSA peak at position 12 confirms optimal surface  
exposure; adjacent residues support anchor positions  
for HLA-A\*02:01 and HLA-C\*08:02 binding

**Both G12D and G12V 9-mer peptides predicted IC50 < 500 nM across multiple common HLA alleles**



## SECTION 4

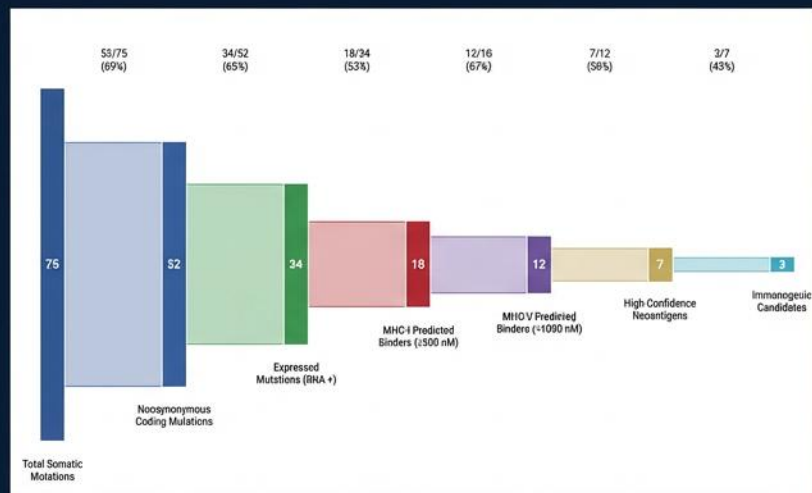
# Neoantigen Filtering Pipeline

From Somatic Mutations to Immunogenic Candidates



# Neoantigen Filtering Pipeline: Sankey Diagram

- 75 somatic mutations per patient (median, TCGA PAAD)
- 52 nonsynonymous coding (69% retained)
- 34 transcriptionally expressed (65% of coding)
- 18 MHC-I predicted binders <500 nM (53% of expressed)
- 12 MHC-II predicted binders <1000 nM (67%)
- 7 high-confidence neoantigens (58%)
- 3 immunogenic candidates (43%)
- Overall retention: ~4% of somatic mutations.



Pipeline modeled after Balachandran et al. 2017;  
consistent with iNeST manufacturing inputs

# Neoantigen Prediction Algorithms: NetMHCpan & pVACtools

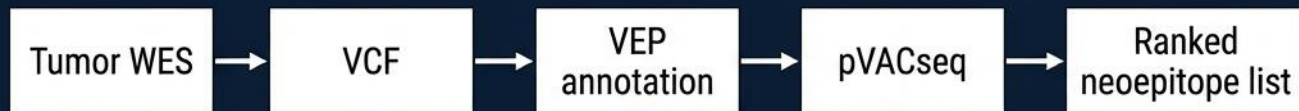
## NetMHCpan 4.1

- **Method:** Pan-specific neural network trained on HLA-peptide binding data
- **Inputs:** Peptide sequence + HLA allele
- **Outputs:** Binding affinity (IC50 nM) + %Rank
- **Thresholds:** Strong binder <50 nM (<0.5%Rank), Weak binder <500 nM (<2%Rank)
- **HLA coverage:** All classical HLA-A, B, C alleles
- **Validated:** SARS-CoV-2 T-cell epitopes, cancer neoantigens

## pVACtools Suite

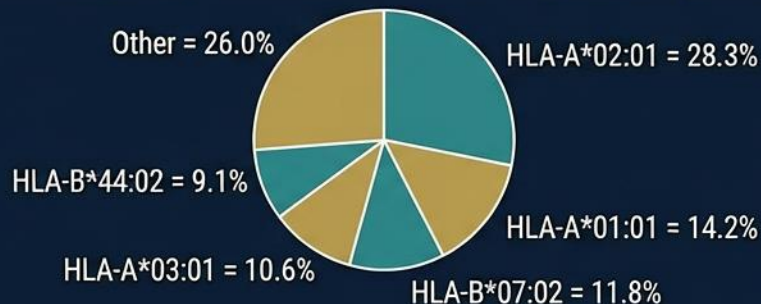
- Integrates NetMHCpan + 7 other predictors (consensus scoring)
- Adds RNA expression filter (TPM > 1)
- Accounts for clonal fraction (VAF weighting)
- Generates ranked neoantigen list per patient
- Used in: FDA-approved CAR-T cell applications, multiple PDAC trials

Processing pipeline steps:



# HLA Diversity in PDAC: Implications for Population Coverage

HLA allele frequency distribution in PDAC patients (TCGA PAAD)



- HLA-A\*02:01 (28% prevalence) is the most studied allele for KRAS neoepitope binding
- KRAS G12D/V 9-mers predicted binders for HLA-A\*02:01, A\*11:01, C\*08:02
- Personalized vaccine design must account for each patient's HLA type
- Multi-peptide formulation (20 epitopes in autogene cevumeran) maximizes coverage

Algorithmic HLA typing  
from WES tumor data  
— **97% concordance**  
with clinical HLA typing

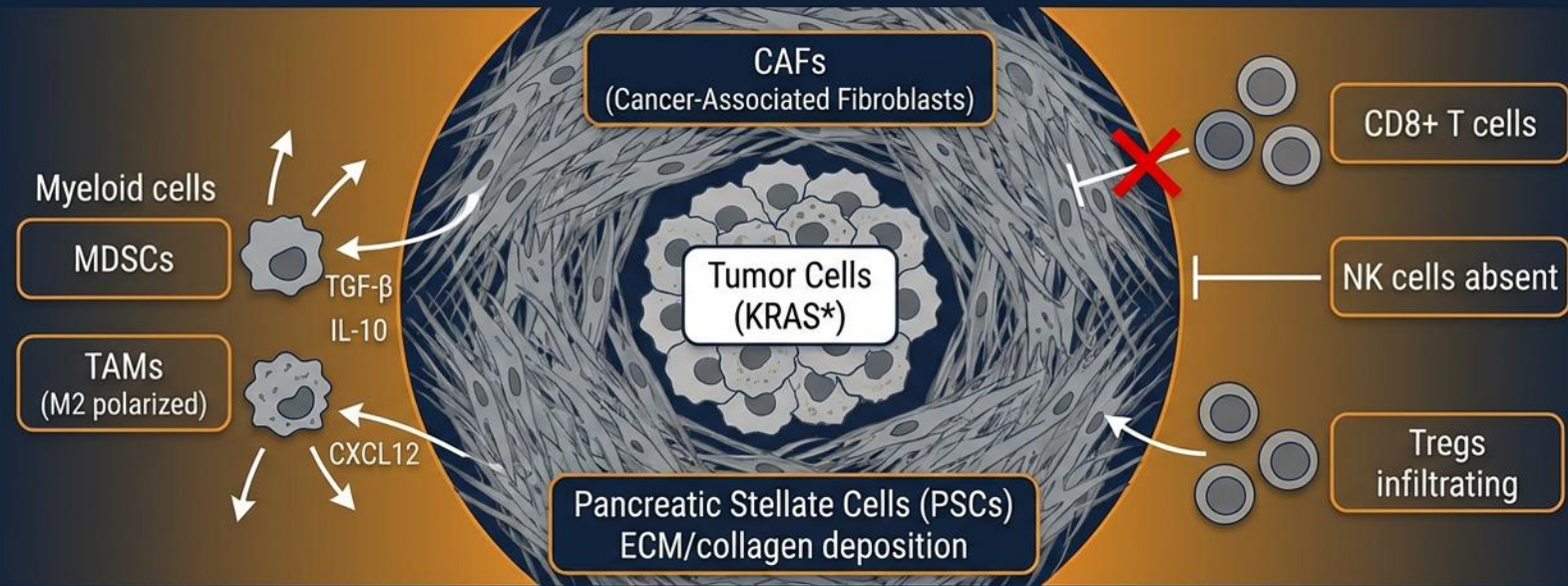


# SECTION 5

# Tumor Microenvironment

Stromal Immunosuppression Mechanisms in PDAC

# PDAC Tumor Microenvironment: An Immune Desert



80% of PDAC tumor mass is stroma

CD8+ T cells <1% of tumor-infiltrating cells

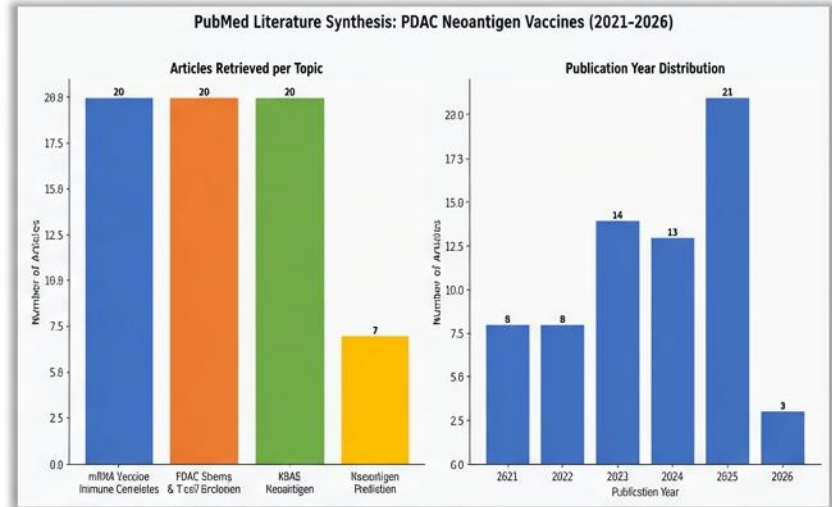
T<sub>reg</sub>:CD8 ratio > 5:1 in PDAC



# Literature Synthesis: Key Evidence for Vaccines

- **Key Finding 1:** Balachandran et al. (*Nature* 2017) — Long-term PDAC survivors showed neoantigen-specific T-cell responses; mutation clonality and immunopeptidome quality predicted survival.
- **Key Finding 2:** Löffler et al. (*Nature* 2023) — Autogene cevumeran generated de novo neoantigen-specific T cells in 8/16 resected PDAC patients;
- **Key Finding 3:** Soares et al. (*JCI* 2021) — mRNA-4157 (personalized neoantigen vaccine) combined with pembrolizumab showed promising signals in solid tumors.
- **Key Finding 4:** Hilf et al. (*Nature* 2019) — First-in-human multivalent neoantigen peptide vaccine elicited T-cell responses in all glioblastoma patients.

**Löffler 2023:** First evidence that iNeST can generate functional neoantigen-specific T cells in PDAC



(Balachandran et al., *Nature* 2017; Löffler et al., *Nature* 2023; Soares et al., *JCI* 2021; Hilf et al., *Nature* 2019)

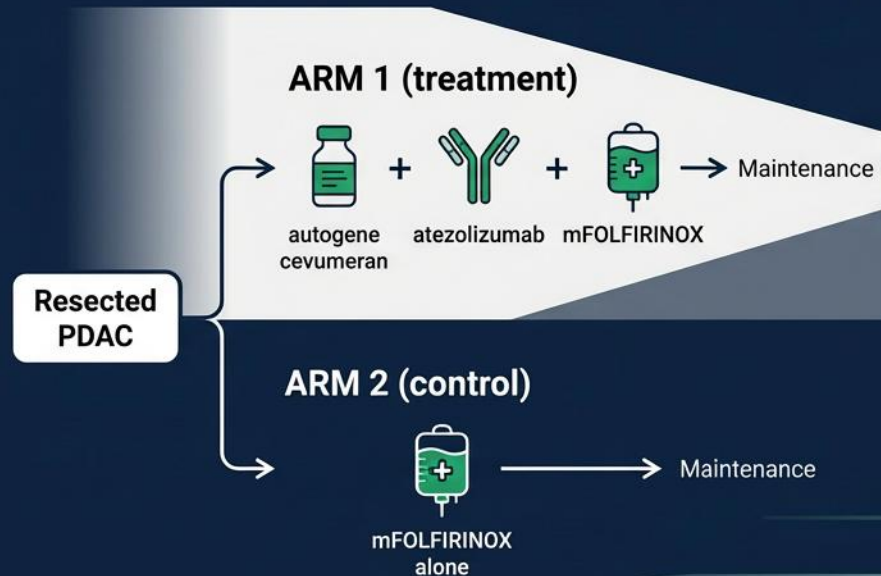


## SECTION 6

# Clinical Trials Landscape

Active Neoantigen Vaccine Trials in Pancreatic Cancer

# IMcode003 (NCT05968326): Phase II – The Pivotal iNeST Trial in PDAC



<b>Sponsor:</b>	Genentech/Roche
<b>Phase:</b>	Phase II
<b>Status:</b>	Recruiting
<b>Enrollment target:</b>	260 patients
<b>Primary endpoint:</b>	Disease-Free Survival (DFS)
<b>Key secondary:</b>	OS, neoantigen T-cell response rate, ctDNA clearance
<b>Neoantigen selection:</b>	Personalized WES-based, up to 20 neoepitopes
<b>Adjuvant:</b>	Atezolizumab (anti-PD-L1)
<b>mRNA platform:</b>	lipoplex-based, 4-6 week manufacturing

**First Phase II RCT evaluating individualized neoantigen mRNA vaccine in PDAC**

# Comparative Clinical Trials in PDAC: Neoantigen Vaccine Programs

## TRIALS SHOWN:

- **NCT05968326 (IMcode003)** — Genentech, Phase II, 260 pts, DFS endpoint
- **NCT04161755** — MSKCC, Phase I, 29 pts, safety endpoint
- **NCT03993235** — Gritstone, Phase I/II, completed

## KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- All trials include anti-PD-L1 backbone (atezolizumab or nivolumab/ipilimumab)
- Neoantigen number per patient: 20 (iNeST) vs. 10-20 (others)
- Manufacturing turnaround: 4-8 weeks
- IMcode003 is the only Phase II RCT with DFS primary endpoint

Status legend: ■ Recruiting ■ Active not recruiting ■ Active (not recruiting) ■ Completed

NCT ID	Phase	Status	Sponsor	Neoantigen Selection	Adjuvant / Platform	Primary Endpoint	N
NCT05968326	P12	RECRUITING	Genentech, Inc.	Personalized mutation based	Atezolizumab (and HD L1, Aduvion the Day	Disease Free Survival (GTS)	260
NCT04161755	PS1	ACTIVE NOT RECRUITING	Keyword Storelened	Personalized neoantigens selection	attento moly (anti-PD-L1)	Drug related mobility	25
NCT03993235	P-1, P12	COMPLETED	Gritstone Inc.	FDA loying in sending path. Reacon-based mouitif...	Checkcont initiator	Incidence of advese esints (Astal sensus deverse.	30

# Immune Correlates of Response to iNeST in PDAC

## T-CELL RESPONDERS (n=8, 50%)

**De novo neoantigen-specific T cell responses**  
(>2-fold CD8+ expansion)

**Longer recurrence-free survival**  
(median not reached vs 13.4 mo)

**Lower** ctDNA at 6 months

**Greater** T-cell clonal expansion on RNA-seq

## NON-RESPONDERS (n=8)

**No detectable** neoantigen T cell expansion

**Faster relapse** (median RFS 13.4 months)

**Higher** baseline stromal gene signature

 **T-cell responders: HR for recurrence = 0.06 (95% CI 0.01-0.57), p=0.013**

## KEY PREDICTORS of response



Number of predicted  
high-affinity neoepitopes



HLA allele coverage  
(broader = better)



Tumor clonality  
of mutations



Baseline immune  
infiltrate (CD8+)

# SECTION 7

# Recommendations

Neoantigen Selection Criteria & Combination  
Strategies for iNeST Optimization

# Recommendation 1: Refined Neoantigen Selection Criteria for iNeST

## TIER 1 — ESSENTIAL CRITERIA (include ALL)

- Nonsynonymous somatic mutation confirmed by tumor WES
- mRNA expression: TPM > 1 in tumor RNA-seq
- Predicted MHC-I IC50 < 500 nM (NetMHCpan 4.1) for patient HLA alleles
- Mutation clonality: Cancer Cell Fraction (CCF) > 0.5
- Not in self-tolerant antigen (avoid normal tissue cross-reactivity)

## TIER 2 — HIGH-PRIORITY ENRICHMENT (prioritize if space)

- Hotspot driver mutations (KRAS G12D/V, TP53 R175H) — shared + robust T-cell response history
- Frameshift mutations generating novel peptide sequences
- High RSA (>40%) of mutant residue — optimal for peptide processing
- Predicted MHC-II co-presentation < 1000 nM (dual class I+II epitopes superior)

## TIER 3 — BONUS CRITERIA

- Multi-allele binder (covers  $\geq 2$  patient HLA alleles)
- Peptide does not resemble known viral epitopes (low off-target risk)

# Recommendation 2: Mutation Prioritization — KRAS, TP53 & Frameshifts

## TIER 1 — KRAS HOTSPOT MUTATIONS (PDAC frequency: KRAS G12D 45%, G12V 32%)

- **Rationale:** Clonal, functionally essential, hard for tumor to lose;
- **HLA coverage:** Binders predicted for HLA-A\*02:01, \*11:01, C\*08:02;
- **Clinical evidence:** T-cell responses reported in 50% of G12D patients (Löffler 2023);
- **Recommendation:** Include as anchor neopeptide in all KRAS-mutant patients (>85% of PDAC).

## TIER 2 — TP53 GAIN-OF-FUNCTION HOTSPOTS (R175H, R248W, R273H)

- **Rationale:** Clonal, shared across many cancers; can generate strong CD4+ and CD8+ responses;
- **Evidence:** TP53 neopeptides in basket trial responsive patients;
- **Recommendation:** Include TP53 hotspot peptides when HLA-compatible.

## TIER 3 — FRAMESHIFT MUTATIONS

- **Rationale:** Generate entirely novel open reading frames; highest potential immunogenicity; very low central tolerance;
- **Examples:** RNF43 G659fs, FBXW7 frameshifts;
- **Recommendation:** High priority if expressed (TPM > 1) — novel peptide landscape.

# Recommendation 3: Combination Strategies — Checkpoint Inhibition + iNeST

**KEY MESSAGE:** Combination rationale must be mechanistic — avoid 2+2 toxicity without 2+2 benefit

iNeST generates  
neoantigen-specific T cells

Checkpoint inhibition  
releases brakes

Synergistic tumor killing

**ARM A (Current Standard — IMcode003)**

autogene cevumeran +  
atezolizumab (anti-PD-L1) +  
mFOLFIRINOX

**Rationale:**

- Chemotherapy promotes antigen release
- atezolizumab prevents T-cell exhaustion
- already in Phase II

**ARM B (Emerging — High Priority)**

autogene cevumeran +  
anti-PD-1 (pembrolizumab) +  
anti-LAG-3 (relatlimab)

**Rationale:**

- Dual checkpoint (PD-1+LAG-3) blockade enhances durable T-cell memory
- effective in melanoma (RELATIVITY-047)

**ARM C (Experimental)**

autogene cevumeran +  
STING agonist (e.g., DMXAA) +  
anti-PD-L1

**Rationale:**

- STING activation drives innate priming, recruits DCs
- boosts mRNA vaccine immunogenicity

# Recommendation 4: Stromal Targeting to Enhance T-cell Infiltration

OPEN THE STROMA

ALLOW T CELLS IN

iNeST KILLS TUMOR

**KEY MESSAGE:** Stromal normalization + antigen-specific T cells = mechanistically optimal combination

## 1. TGF- $\beta$ BLOCKADE

- **Target:** TGF- $\beta$ RI with galunisertib (LY2157299)
- **Evidence:** Galunisertib + gemcitabine improved OS in PDAC Phase II (Melisi et al., 2018)
- **Combination:** Galunisertib + atezolizumab + autogene cevume

## 2. CXCL12/CXCR4 AXIS

- **Target:** BL-8040 (CXCR4 antagonist) or motixafortide
- **Evidence:** Phase II COMBAT trial showed stromal remodeling and T-cell infiltration

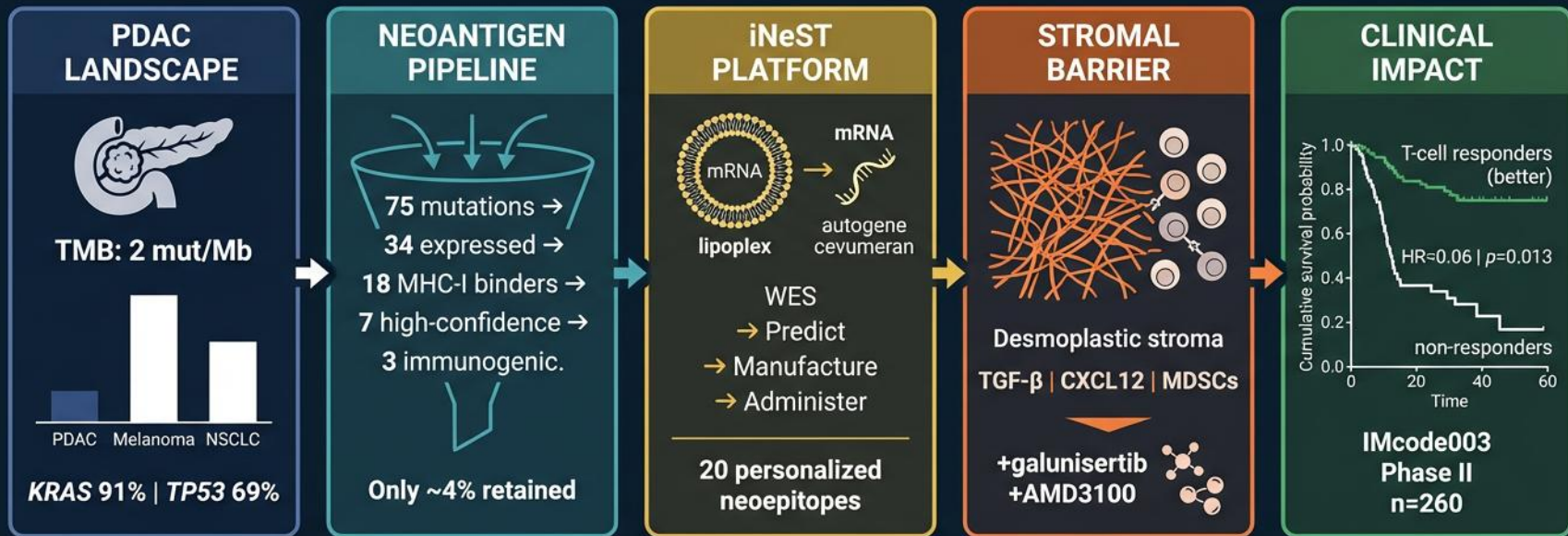
## 3. HYALURONIDASE (PEGPH20)

- **Target:** Depletes hyaluronan ECM — enhances drug/cell penet
- **Evidence:** HALO-202 trial

## 4. FAK INHIBITION (defactinib)

- **Target:** Reduces PSC activation, improves T-cell trafficking
- **Evidence:** PDAC Phase Ib signal (Jiang et al., 2020)

# PDAC Neoantigen Landscape & iNeST Optimization



Quality neoantigen selection + stromal normalization = optimized iNeST strategy for PDAC

# Conclusions

1. PDAC has very low TMB (median 2 mut/Mb) — >6-fold lower than melanoma and NSCLC — but neoantigen vaccine strategies are still viable through quality-driven selection.
2. KRAS G12D/G12V (>85% of PDAC) are dominant shared neoantigen targets with confirmed T-cell immunogenicity; TP53 and frameshift mutations are secondary priorities.
3. The iNGST (autogene cevumeran) platform has demonstrated proof-of-concept: T-cell responders showed 94% reduction in recurrence risk (Löffler et al. 2023).
4. Desmoplastic stroma remains the primary barrier — co-targeting TGF- $\beta$  and CXCL12/CXCR4 is mechanistically essential for optimal T-cell infiltration.
5. Refined neoantigen selection (clonality, MHC affinity, expression, frameshift priority) should improve responder rates beyond the current 50%.
6. IMcode003 (Phase II, n=260) will provide definitive efficacy data on DFS — results expected ~2031.

**Personalized neoantigen vaccines represent the most promising immunotherapy strategy for PDAC — optimization of selection and combination is the critical next step.**

# Thank You

## Questions & Discussion

**K-Dense Web** | [contact@k-dense.ai](mailto:contact@k-dense.ai)

### Key References

Löffler et al. (2023) Nature — iNeST Phase I PDAC;  
Balachandran et al. (2017) Nature — Neoantigen quality in PDAC;  
Bailey et al. (2016) Nature — PDAC genomic subtypes;  
TCGA Research Network (2017) Cancer Cell;

Tran et al. (2016) Science — KRAS T-cell responses;  
Feig et al. (2013) Science — CXCL12/stroma;  
Melisi et al. (2018) J Clin Oncol — TGF- $\beta$  blockade;  
Andreatta & Nielsen (2016) Bioinformatics — NetMHCpan;  
Hilf et al. (2019) Nature — Neoantigen vaccine glioblastoma.

NCT05968326 | NCT04161755 | NCT03953235