

# Session – New Advancements and Initiatives in the Treatment of Cancer

**Roxana Dronca, M.D., Medical Oncologist**

Mayo Clinic



Comprehensive  
Cancer Center

# TRANSFORMING CANCER CARE: Innovation, Access, and the Future of Treatment

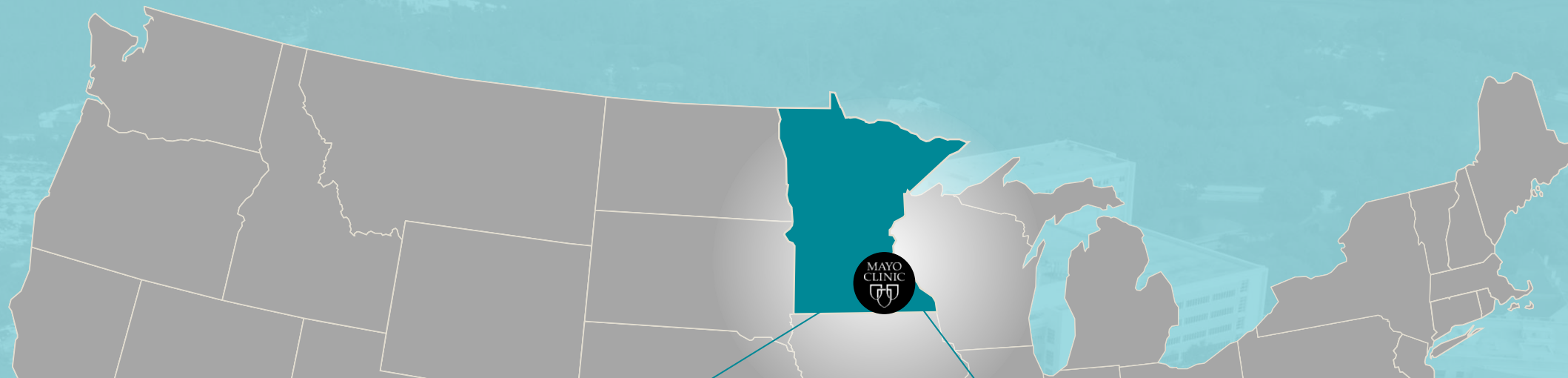
***Roxana S. Dronca, M.D***

*Site Director, Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center in Florida*

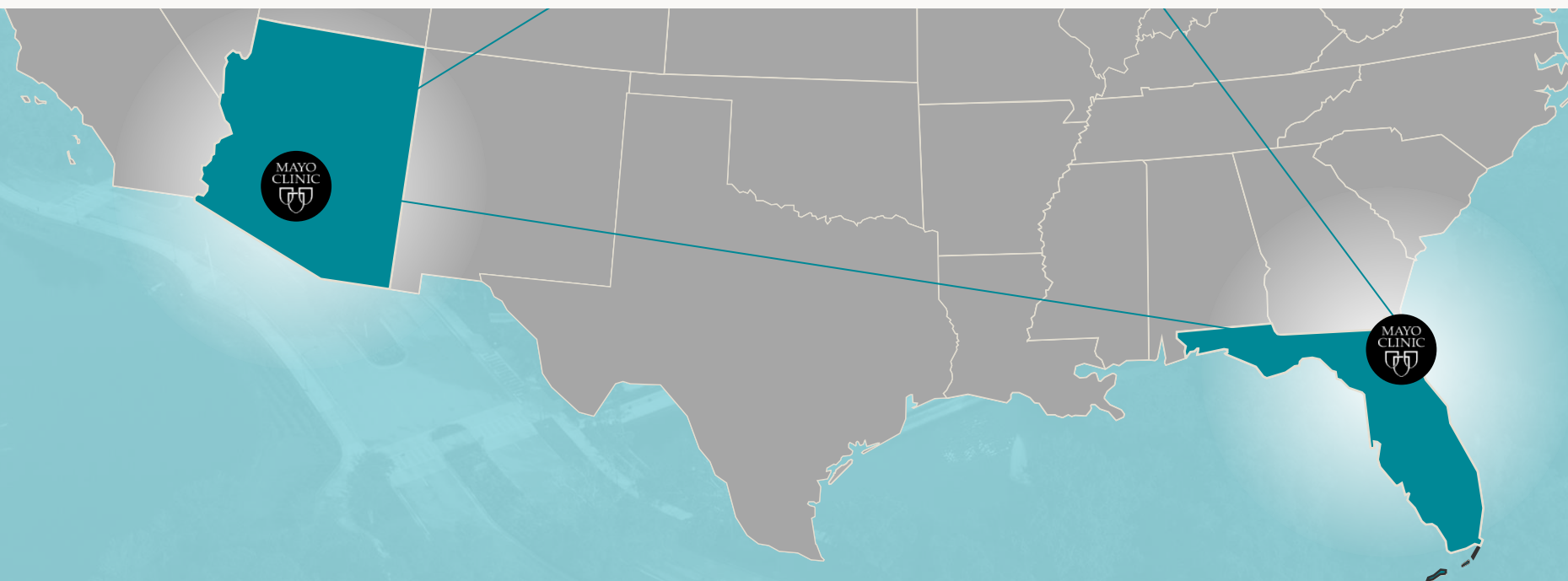
*Director, Mayo Clinic Cancer CARE Beyond Walls Program*

*Professor of Oncology*





**ONLY NCI NATIONAL CANCER CENTER**





# MAYO CLINIC / COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

**#1 Health System in U.S. & World**  
**#1 Cancer Hospital-MN / #3 USNWR**  
Highest Volume Proton Beam and  
Radiopharmaceutical Practice in U.S.  
1.3 M Patients Annually (System)  
83,000 Faculty & Staff (System)



**Mayo Clinic in Minnesota (MCR)**  
Rochester (Two Campuses)



**Mayo Clinic in Arizona (MCA)**  
Phoenix and Scottsdale

**#1 Hospital; #1 Cancer Hospital in Arizona**  
Highest Volume Solid Organ Transplant in U.S.  
**Cancer Focus:** Early Detection; Cellular Engineering;  
Novel Therapeutics; Disparities; ASU Partnership



**Mayo Clinic in Florida (MCF)**  
Jacksonville

**#1 Hospital; #1 Cancer Hospital in Florida**  
**Cancer Focus:** First Carbon Ion Site in Americas,  
Heavy Particle Therapies, Cancer Vaccines/mRNA  
Therapeutics, Advanced Care@Home; Disparities



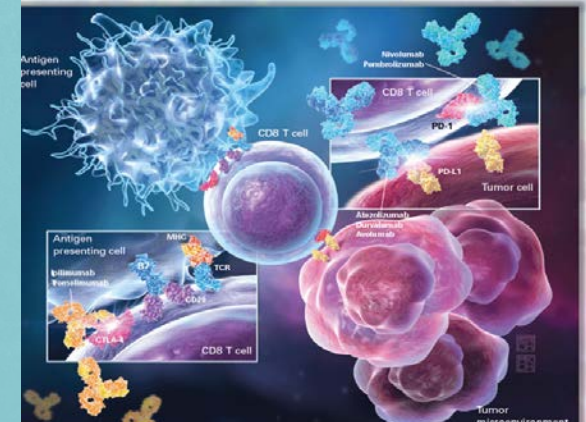
# OVER A CENTURY OF HEALING AND DISCOVERY

“The glory of medicine is that it is constantly moving forward, that there is always more to learn. The ills of today do not cloud the horizon of tomorrow, but act as a spur to greater effort..”

*William J. Mayo, M.D.*



Haidong Dong, PhD  
Professor of Immunology  
Co-discoverer of PD-L1 protein





Antigen  
presenting  
cell

CD8 T cell

Nivolumab  
Pembrolizumab

CD8 T cell

PD-1

PD-L1

Tumor cell

Antigen  
presenting cell

MHC

TCR

Ipilimumab  
Tremelimumab

CD28

CTLA-4

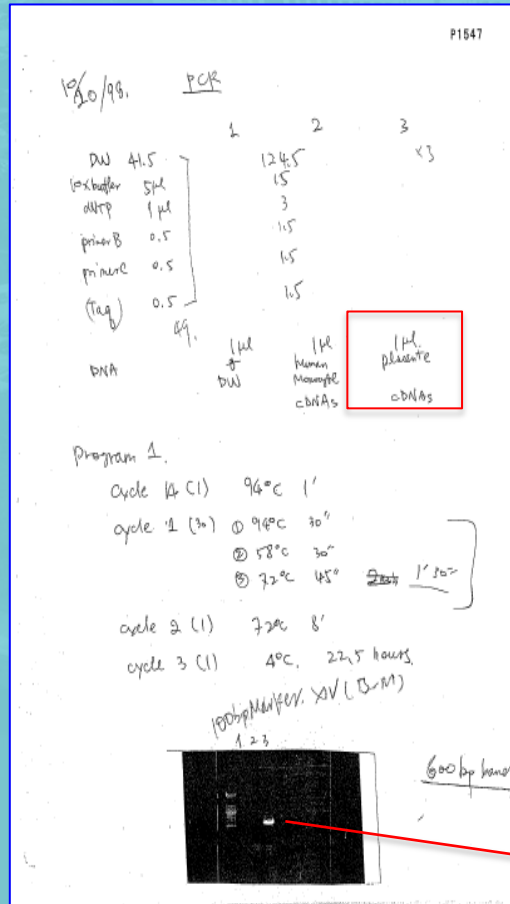
CD8 T cell

Atezolizumab  
Durvalumab  
Avelumab

Tumor  
microenvironment



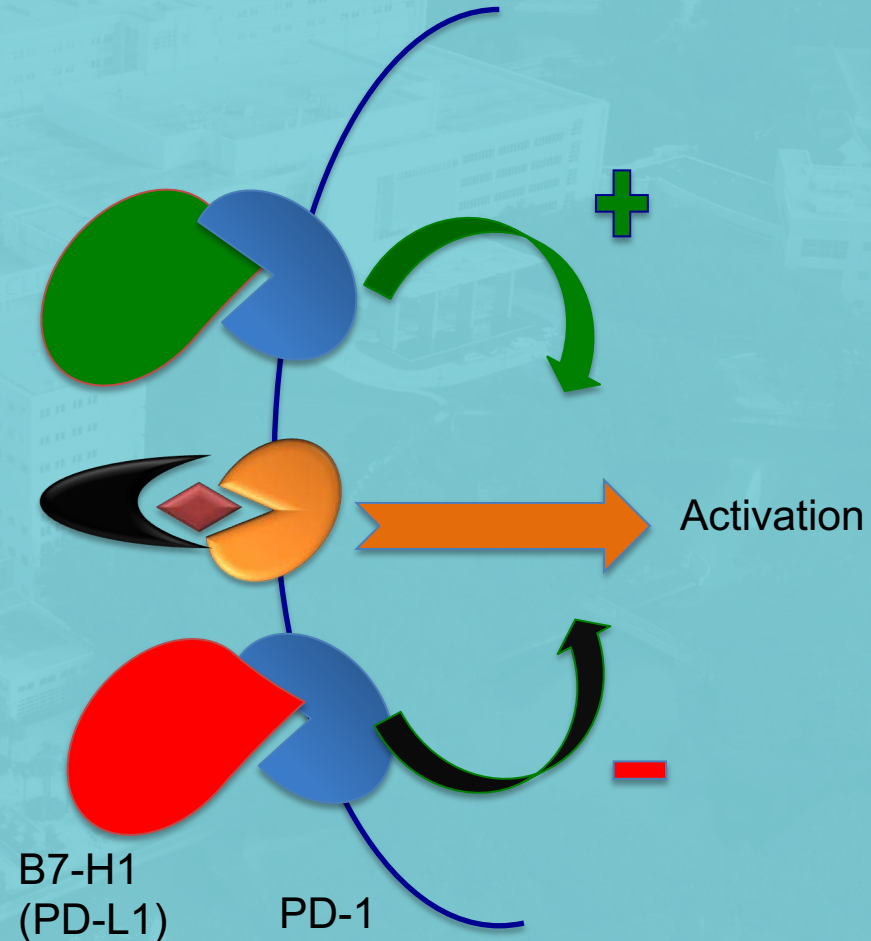
# PD-L1 WAS DISCOVERED AT MAYO CLINIC IN 1998



Co-stimulation  
signals  
(Accelerator)

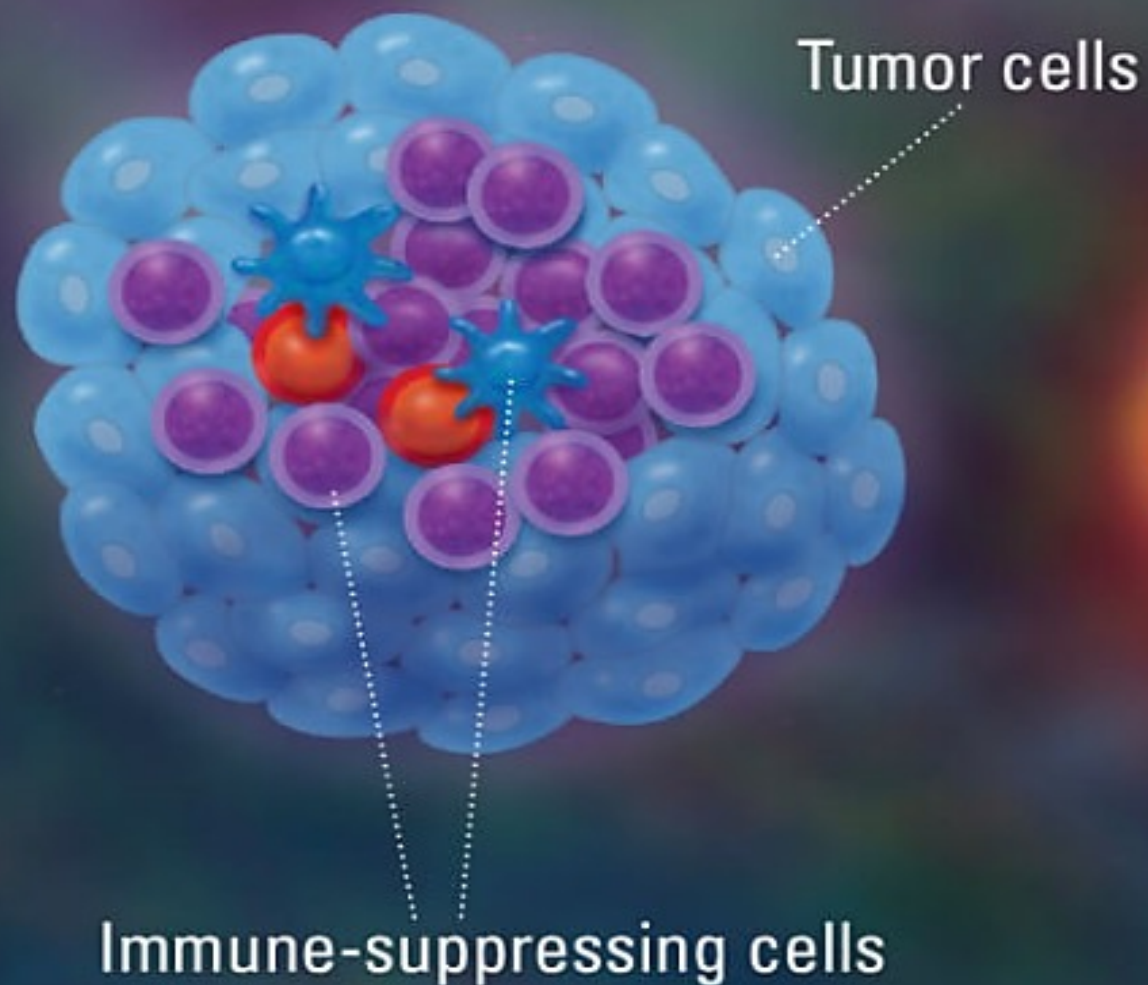
Antigen/MHC  
(Engine switch)

Checkpoint signals  
(Brakes )

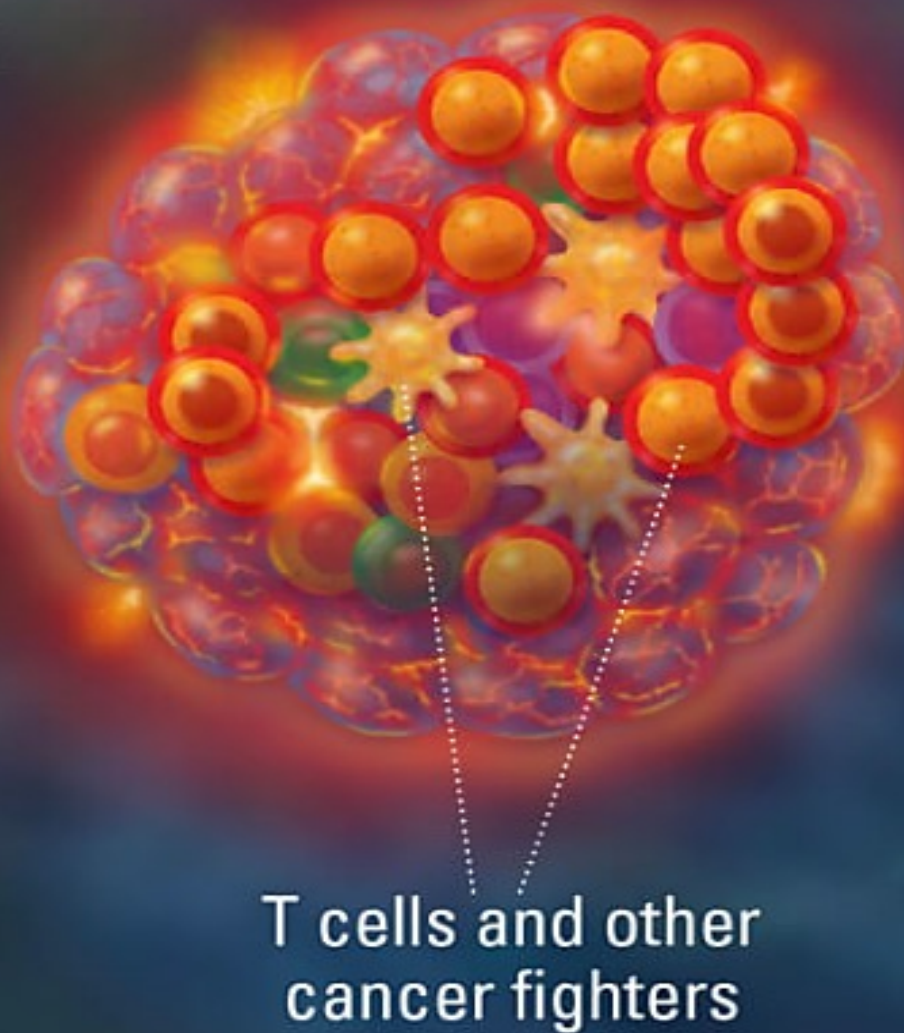


Courtesy of Dr. Haidong Dong

## Cold Tumor



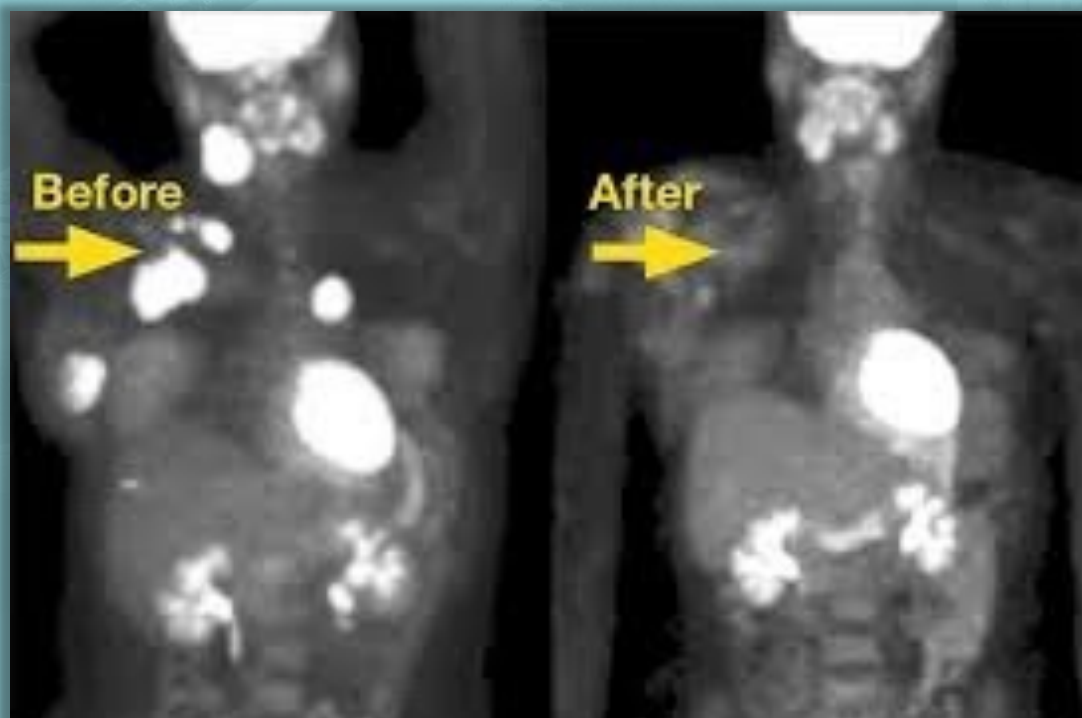
## Hot Tumor





# FIGHTING CANCER WITH IMMUNOTHERAPY

## BRIDGET'S STORY



2011

2012

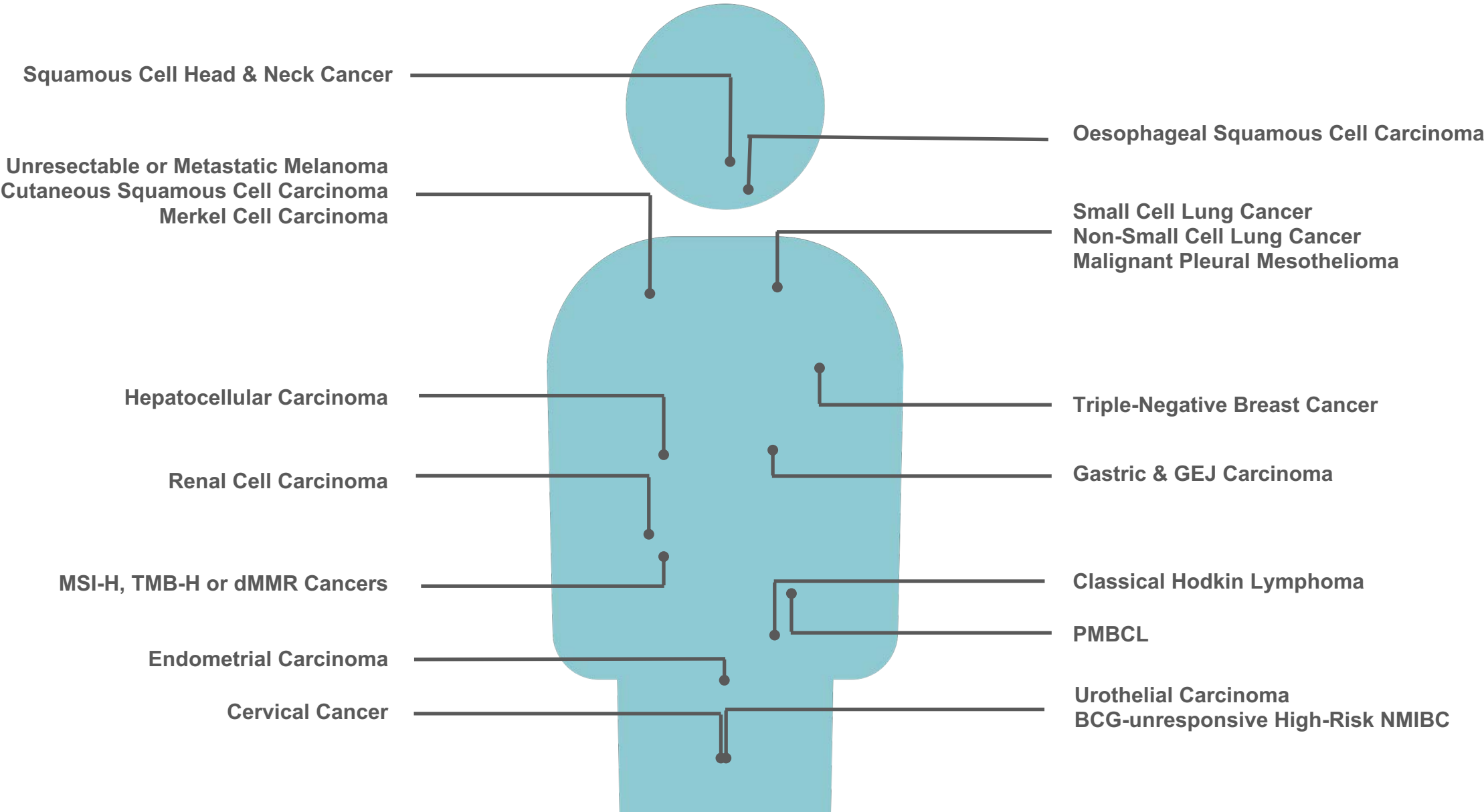
Successful Treatment in a Clinical Trial Means More Celebrations for Bridget Clausen

By SharingMayoClinic @SharingMayoClinic



2018: Cancer Free

# U.S. FDA APPROVED IMMUNE-CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS





# CANCER VACCINE PROGRAM

## Areas of Development



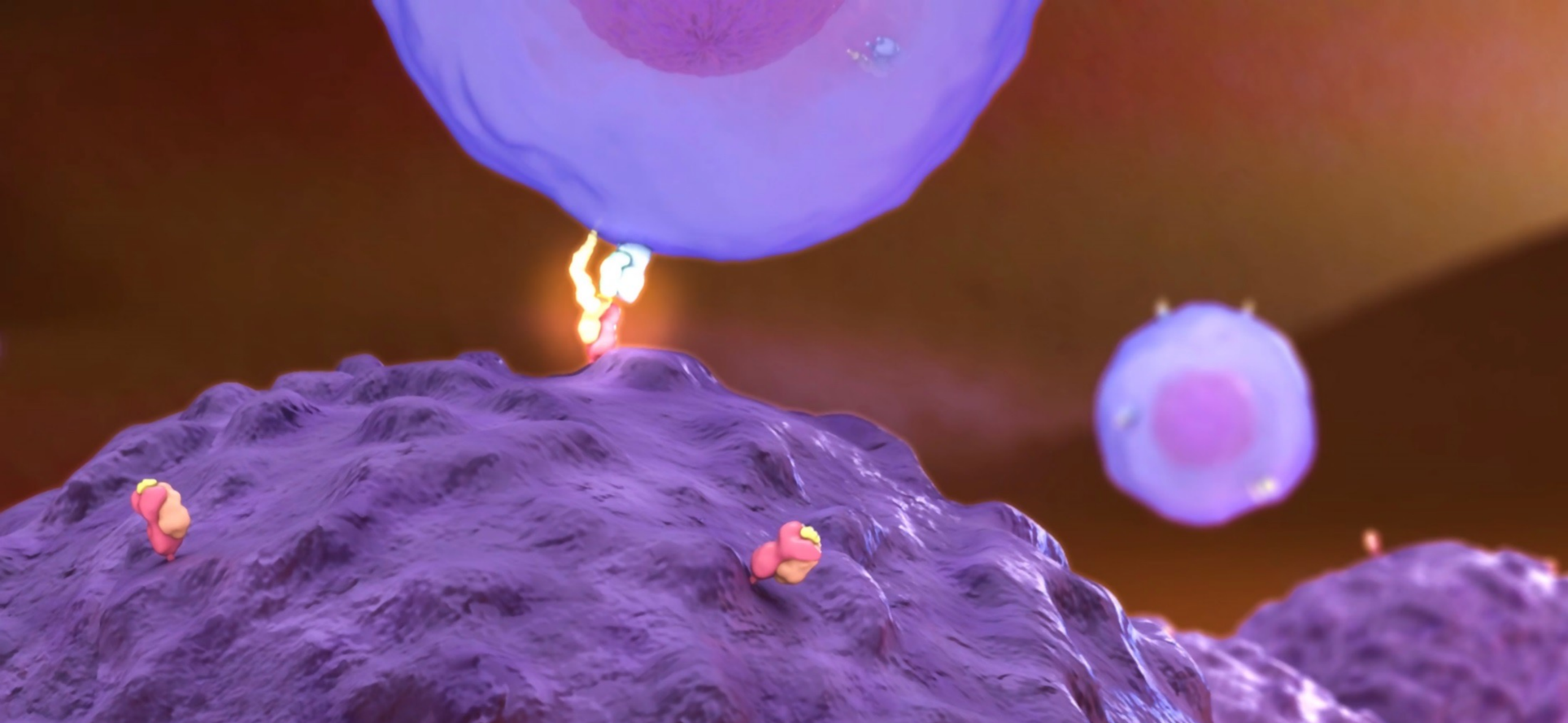
Primary Prevention  
Cancer Interception



Early-Stage  
Disease



Metastatic  
Setting



**CAR-T THERAPY: A LIVING THERAPY**



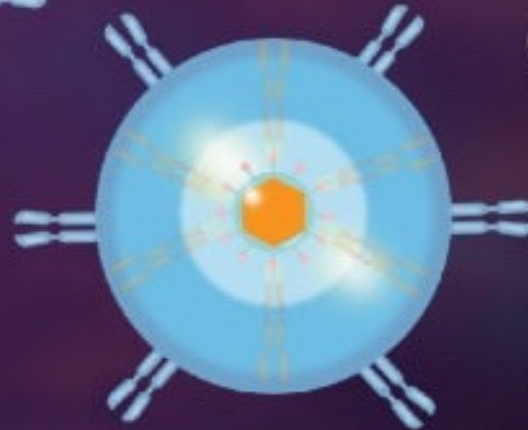
Inactive

Virus

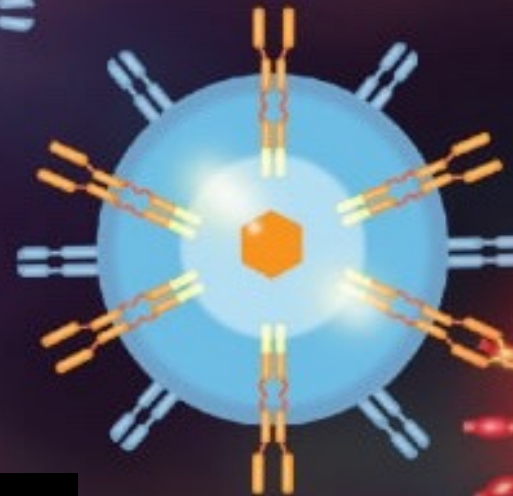
T cell



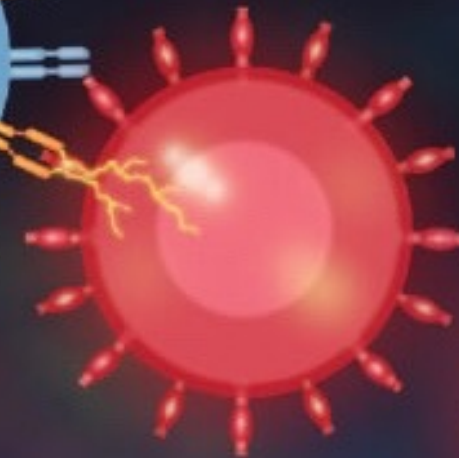
Virus is  
inserted into  
T cell



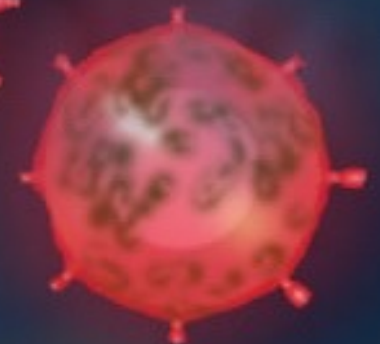
Chimeric  
Antigen Receptor  
(CAR) is created



CAR T cell  
latches onto  
and attacks  
cancer cell



Cancer  
cell dies



**THE MAKING  
OF A CAR-T CELL ATTACK**

# CAR-T THERAPY AT MAYO CLINIC

## Tanis Milicevic's Story







# Carbon Ion Therapy

**A First in the Americas and a  
Bold Step Forward for Cancer Care**



# THE NEED FOR NEW OPTIONS

**50%**

of cancer patients  
require radiotherapy  
during some point of  
their care.

**20+**

cancer types for  
which carbon ion  
therapy has promise for  
improving outcomes.

**~60k**

**patients in the United  
States** who can benefit  
right now from carbon  
ion therapy.



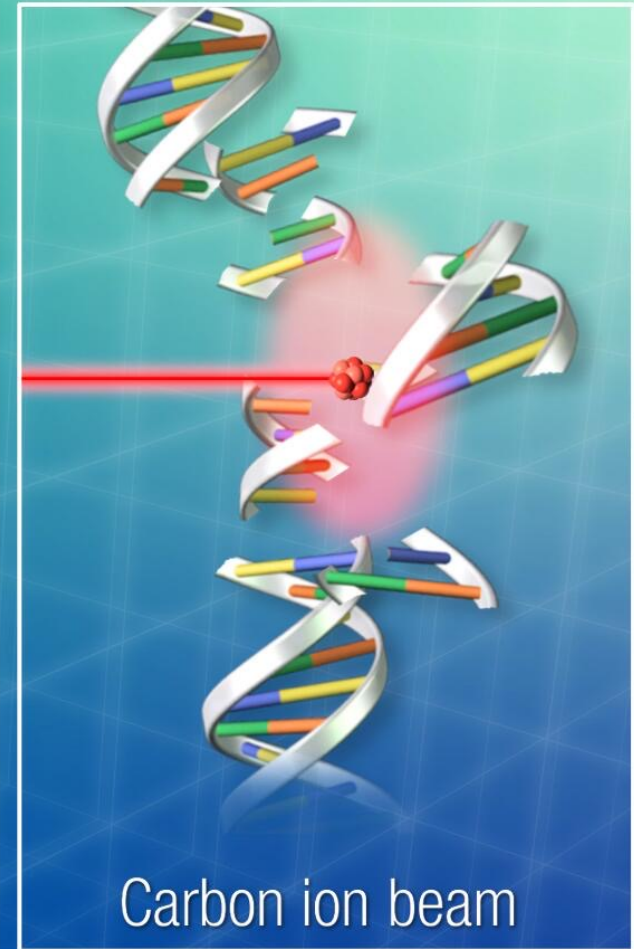
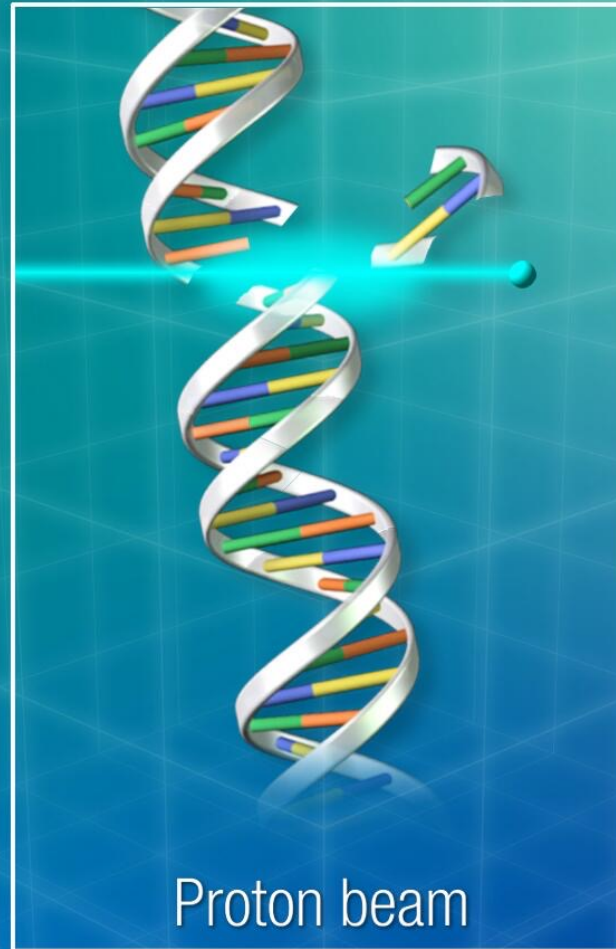
# WHAT IS CARBON ION THERAPY?

Carbon ion therapy uses a process similar to proton therapy.

It sends charged particles to cancer cells, and the particles release their energy when they hit their target, which destroys cancer cells with minimal damage to surrounding tissue.



# RADIATION PHYSICS 101





The advantages of carbon ion therapy underscore why Mayo Clinic is moving ahead of the pack to introduce it to the Americas.

50%

#### LESS DAMAGE

to healthy organs near tumors, compared to X-rays, because carbon ions release their energy when they hit their targets, and their heavier mass makes them less likely to scatter.

UP TO 80%

FEWER REQUIRED TREATMENTS for carbon ion therapy compared to other radiotherapies.

200%-300%

#### DESTRUCTIVE FORCE

of carbon ion therapy against cancer cells, compared to protons and X-rays.

1-2 Punch

#### TO CANCER CELLS

Radiotherapies cause cancer cells to shed antigens, which help a patient's immune system attack other cancer cells. Carbon ion therapy kills more cells via this path than any other radiotherapy and may be an especially powerful companion for immunotherapies.

12x

#### GREATER MASS

compared to a proton. This difference means that carbon ions can destroy cancers that are resistant to protons and X-rays. Many of these "radio-resistant cancers" have much higher mortality rates, compared to other cancers that respond to conventional treatment.



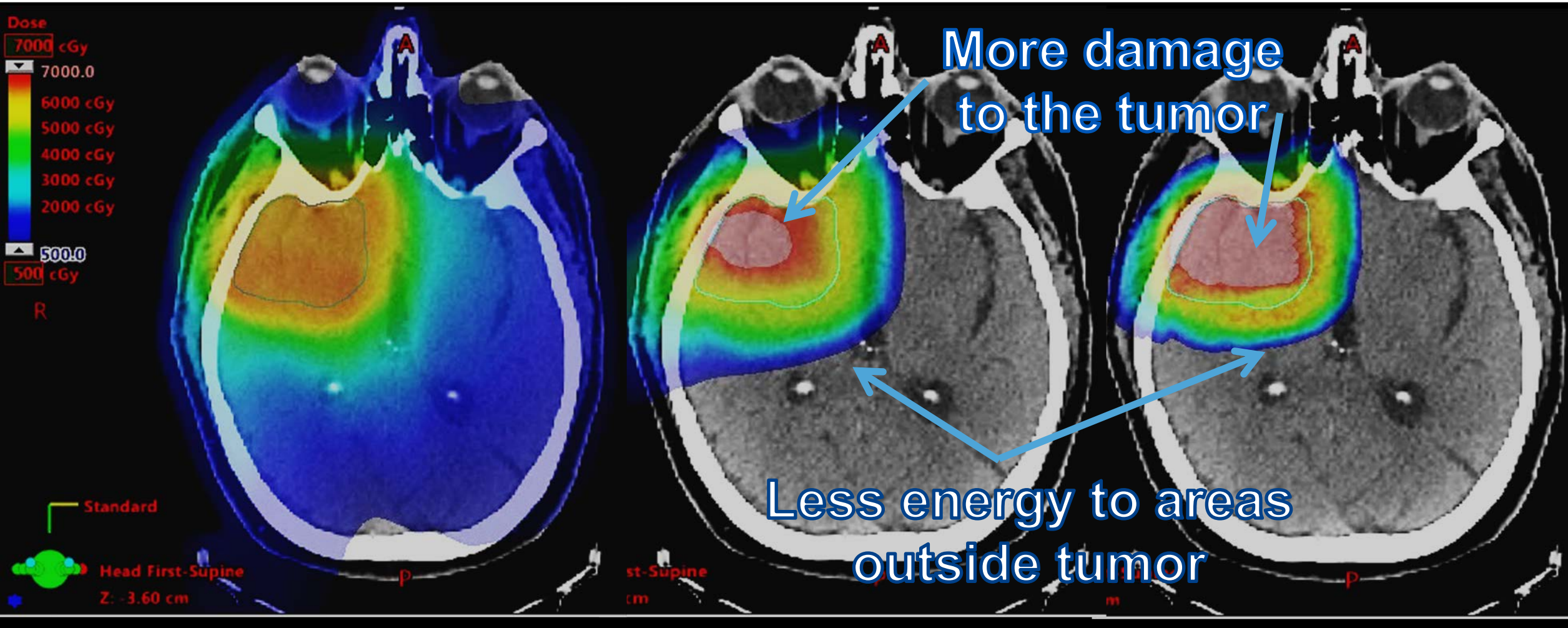
# ADVANTAGES OF CARBON ION THERAPY?



IMRT

Protons

Carbon





# CARBON THERAPY FACILITIES

- ★ CIRT centers
- ★ CIRT construction







# MAYO CLINIC IN FLORIDA

## First Carbon Ion/Proton Radiation Treatment Center in the Americas





# Built for the Future

The design of the Integrated Oncology Building can support future advancements. For example:

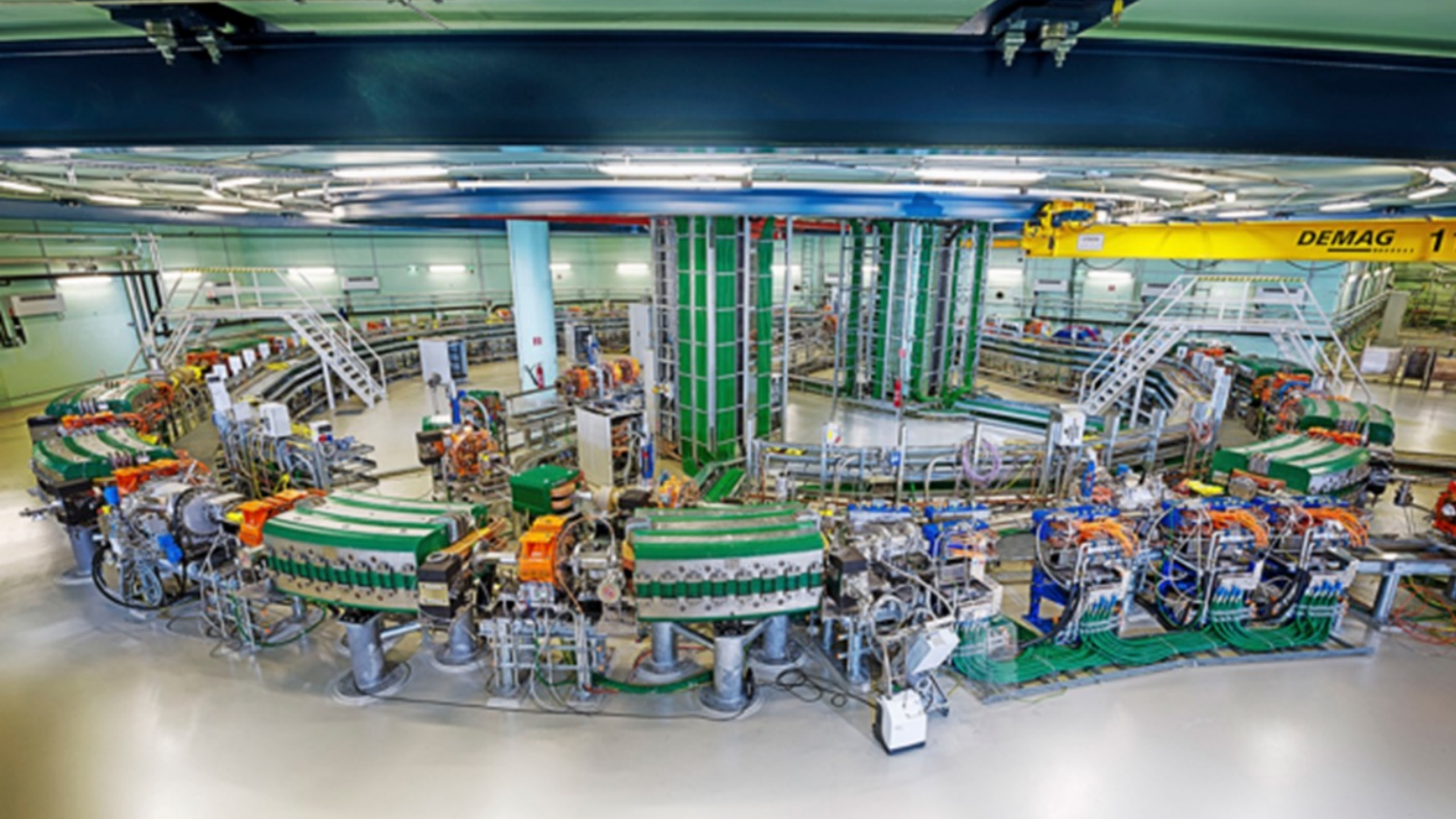
- 01 The building can **grow to twelve stories** to meet future demand for Mayo Clinic's care.
- 02 The building has a **beam line that can seamlessly deliver protons or carbon ions** and is ideal for research to identify new protocols that use both treatments.
- 03 The building can **support future innovations and expansion in carbon ion therapy**. Mayo Clinic has designed the building to accommodate an addition that can hold two carbon ion gantries. The gantry design also includes real-time imaging, which will improve the precision of the treatment.
- 04 The building's technology can **accommodate other heavy ions**, which are now in research studies, should those ions prove beneficial for cancer care.



















# INTEGRATED ONCOLOGY BUILDING (IOB)

## Radiation Oncology Practice Expansion Timeline

**November 2024**

Equipment delivery  
begins

**January  
2025**

Facility  
readiness

**Summer 2025**

First Photon Patient  
(2 Linacs, 1 Leo Chair,  
1 CT, 1 MR)

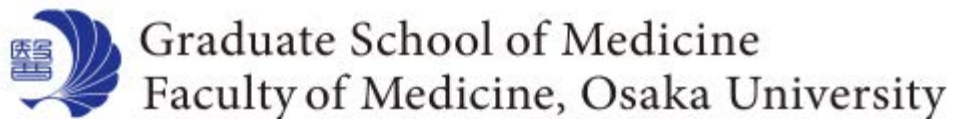
**Q1 2027**

First Proton  
Patient  
(2 Proton  
Gantries)

**Q1 2028**

First Carbon  
Patient  
(1 Fixed  
Beam)

# PARTNERING TO ACOMPLISH OUR GOALS





# Thank You.



**Roxana Dronca, M.D., Medical Oncologist**  
Mayo Clinic