



**UNIVERSITEIT  
GENT**

# **GMP MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS FOR SMALL-BATCH AND PERSONALIZED CANCER VACCINES**



*Taking your cell and gene therapy from bench to bedside  
with a flexible and adaptable approach*











## PRODUCTION CLEAN ROOMS





## QC AND STORAGE ROOMS





## TECHNOLOGIES



Dendritic cells



lipid nano-particles



*In-vitro* transcribed  
RNA



Stromal vascular  
fraction (SVF)



Multivirus-specific T-  
cells

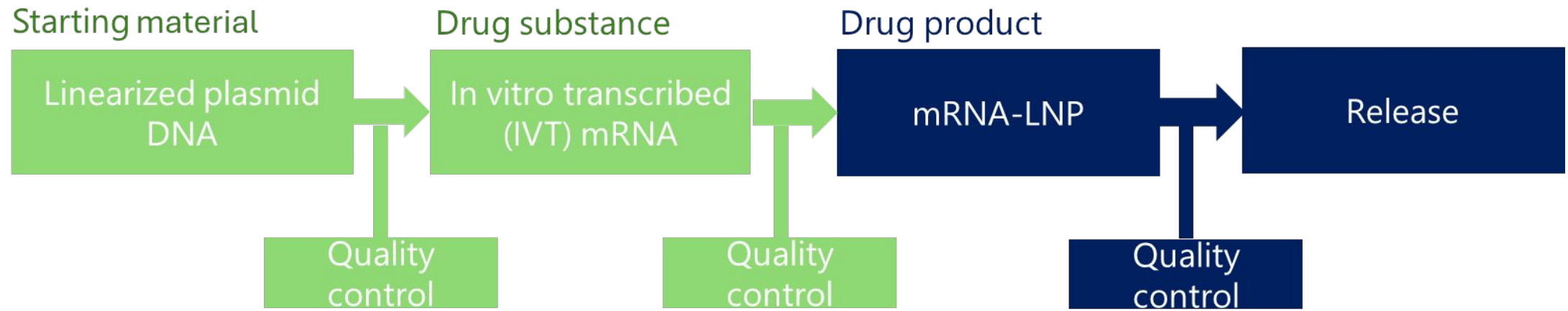


Point-of-care CAR-T  
cells (starting 2024)



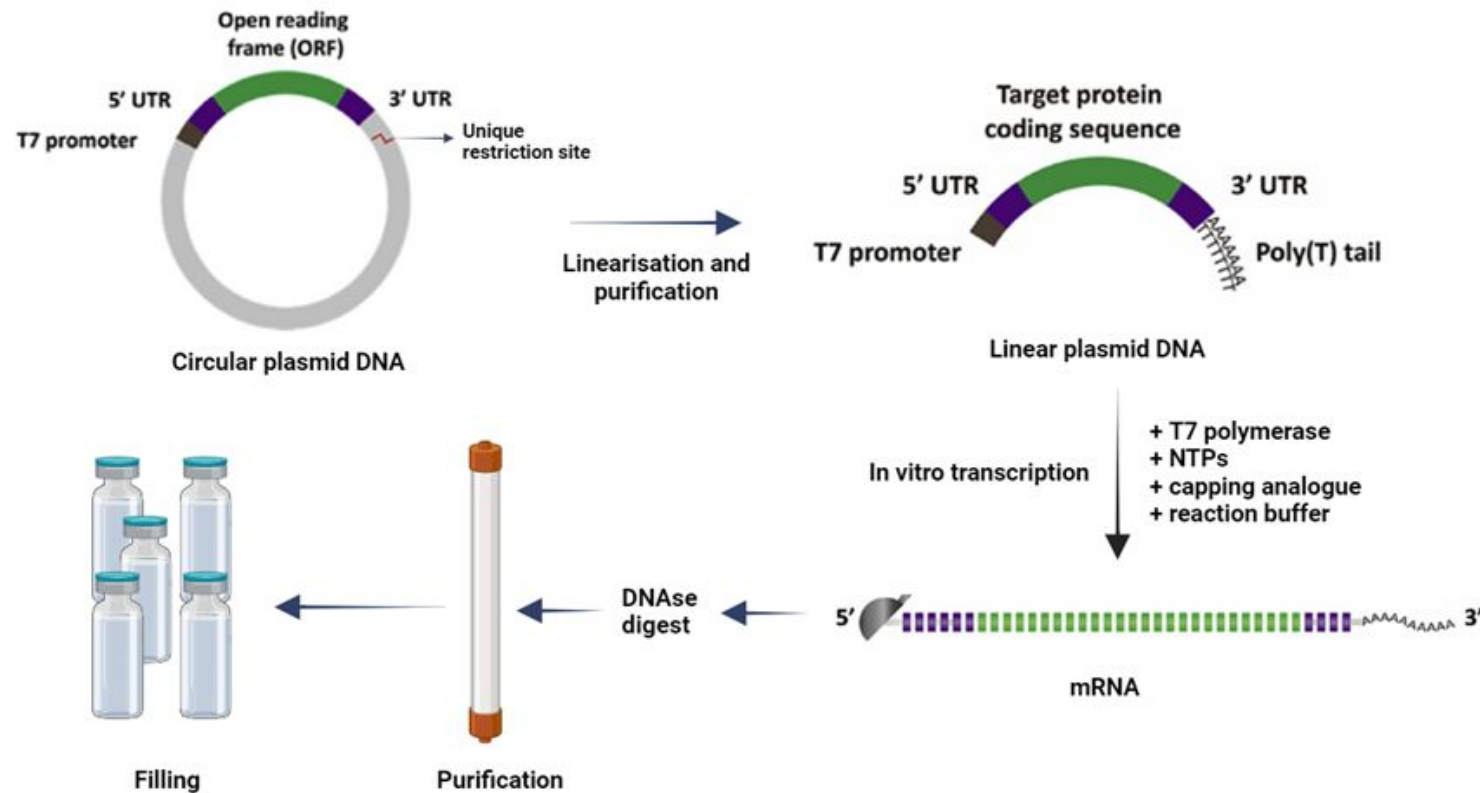


## RNA PRODUCTION FLOW



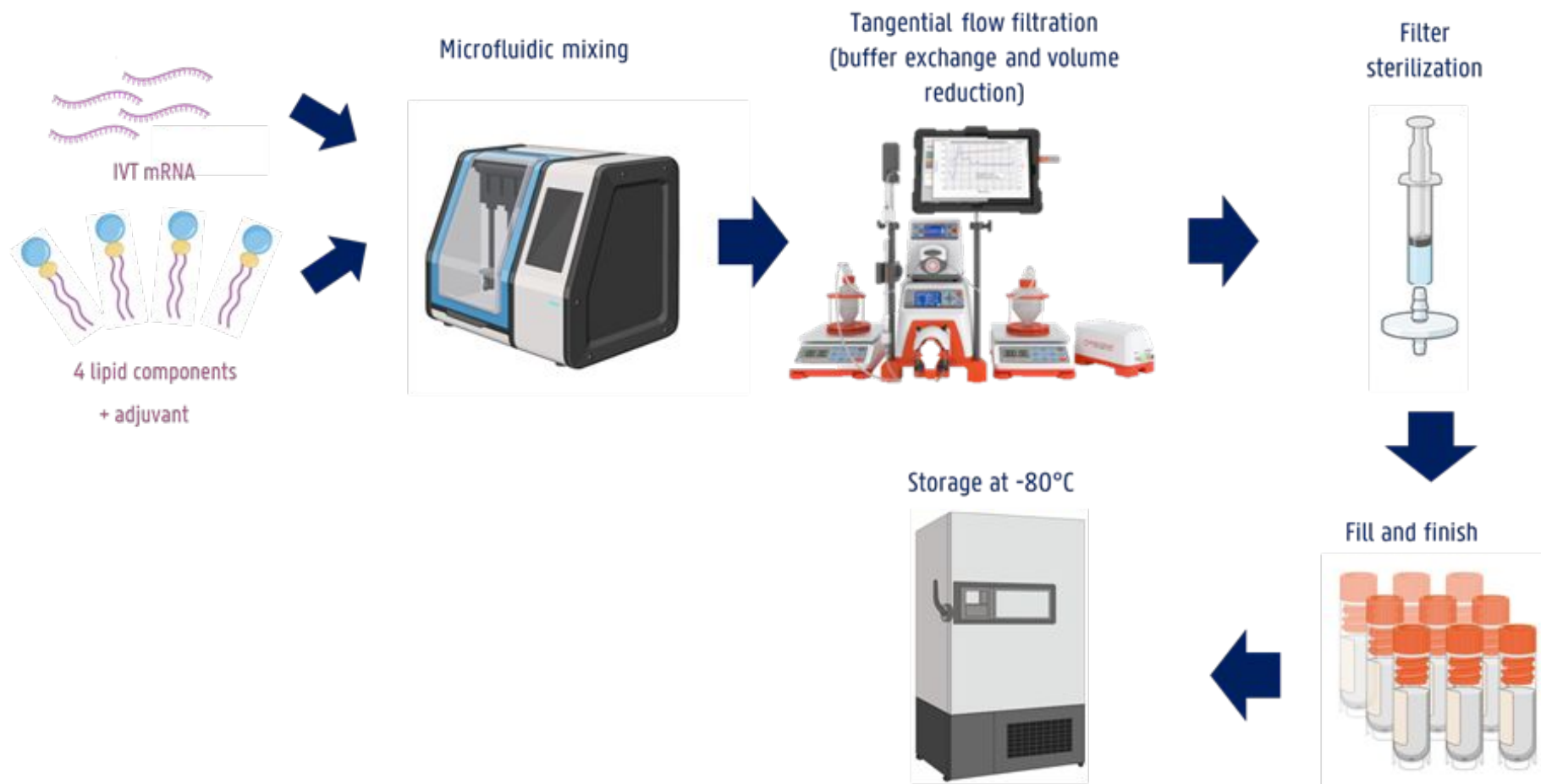


## RNA PRODUCTION FLOW





## RNA PRODUCTION FLOW

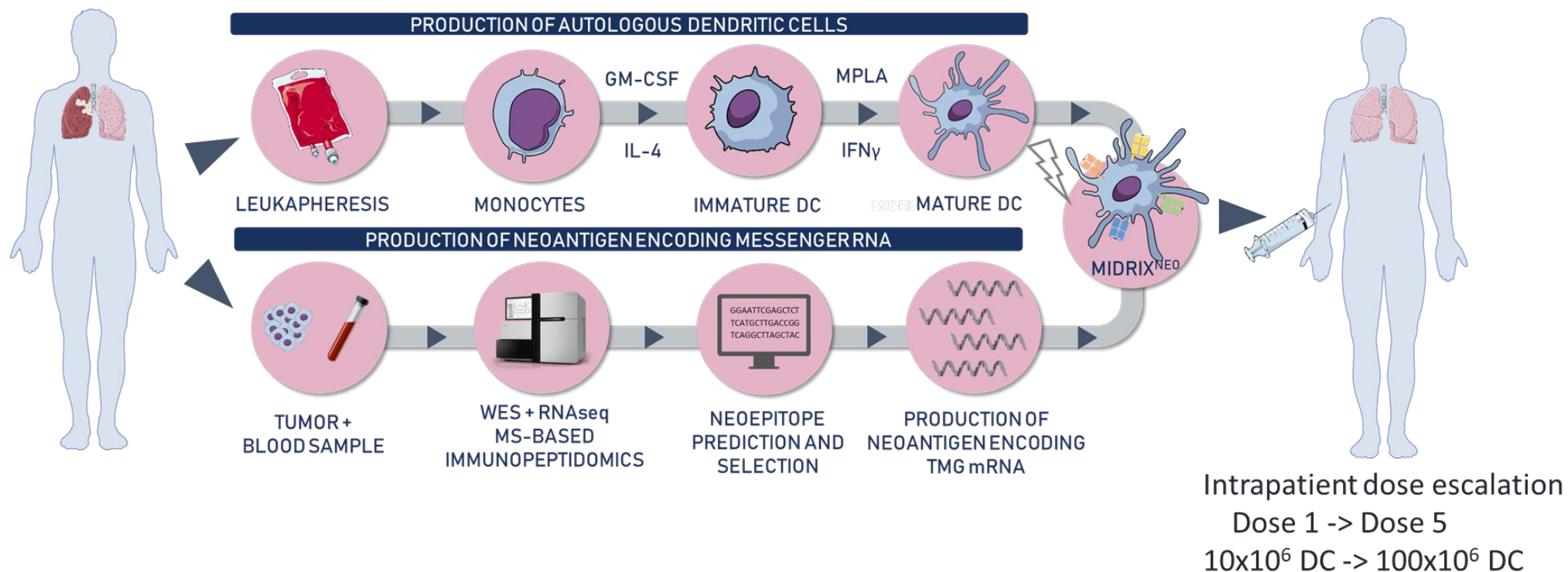








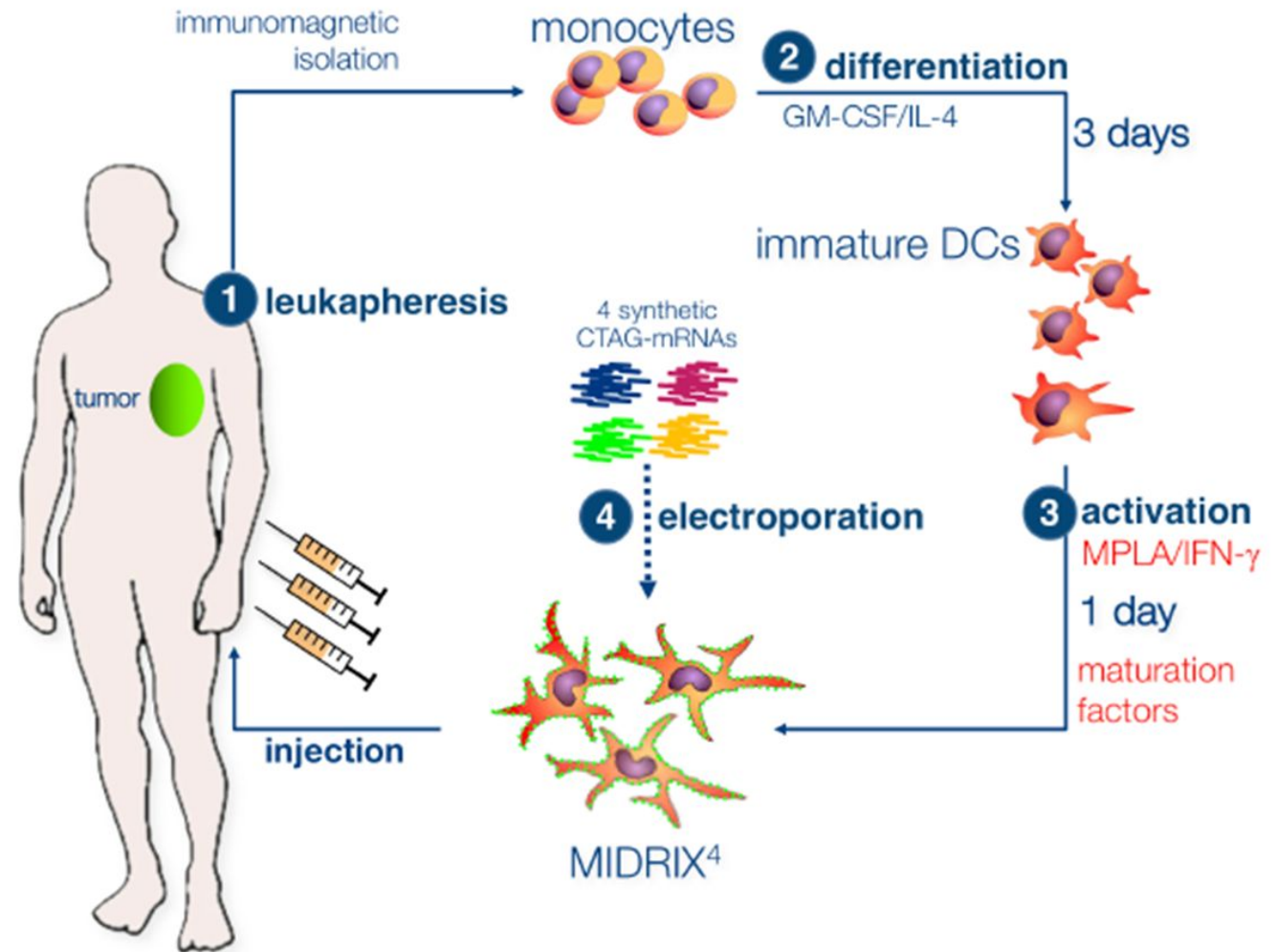
## MIDRIX NEO



Brabants *et al.* Cytotherapy 2018

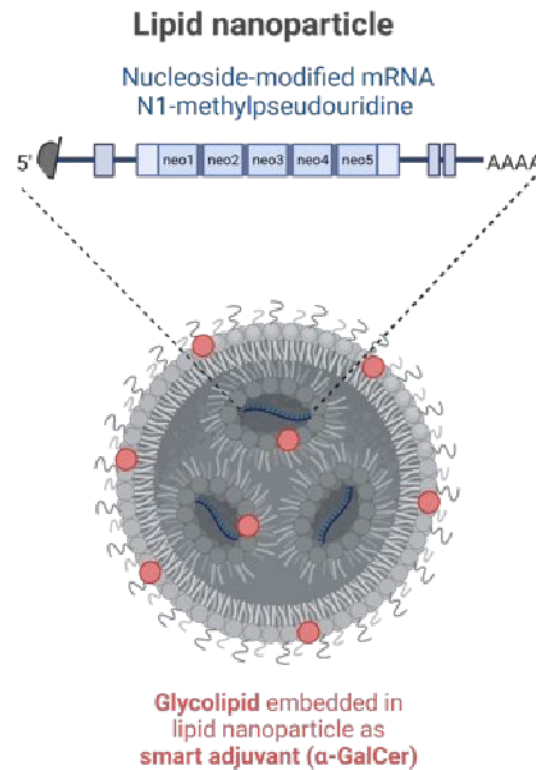


## MIDRIX 4 LUNG





# GALSOME-NEO



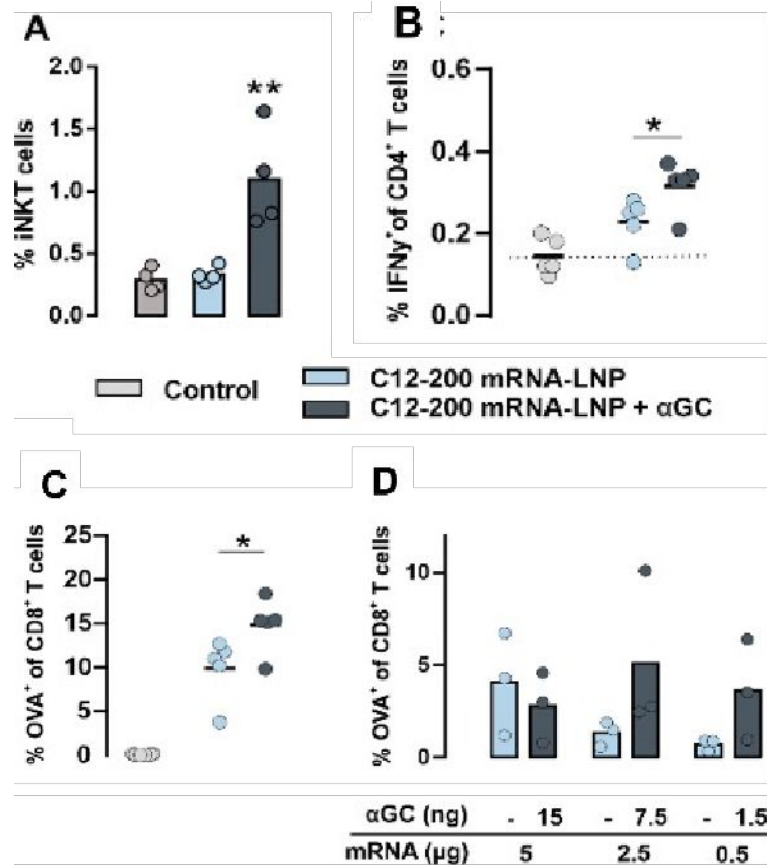
## Lipid nanoparticle (LNP) for co-delivery of:

- **nucleoside modified neo-epitope-encoding mRNA**  
immunosilent -> Limited type I IFN activity  
Increased stability and translation capacity
- **$\alpha$ -galactosylceramide** (adjuvant)  
Glycolipid antigen presented in CD1d pathway  
Recognized by Natural Killer T cells (iNKT cells)



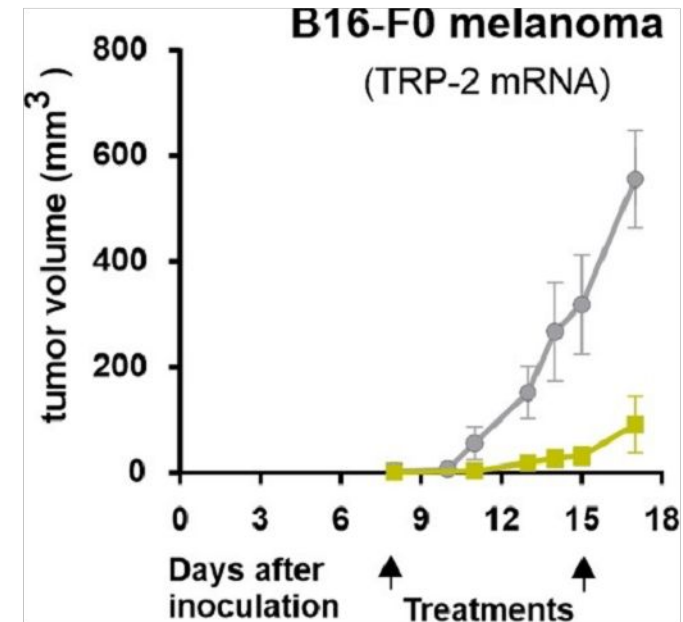


## GALSOME-NEO



Dose-sparing effect

Therapeutic vaccination with relevant mRNA encoded antigen (TRP-2) results in strong tumor growth reduction





## RNA CAR T



- Academic developed CAR T product
- Ex vivo preparation of CAR Ts – autologous – but with RNA in LNPs
- The GMP unit produced the RNA / LNP formulation for this partner
- Clinical trial ongoing 2025-2027





CellGENTherapies



# VIB-KUL COLLABORATION

See presentation Prof. Dr. Dieter Lambrechts



# CellGENTherapies



**ZIPHIUS**  
VACCINES



**OncoRNA**  
PERSONALIZED CANCER VACCINE

Taking your cell and gene therapy from bench to bedside with a flexible and adaptable approach – [www.gmp-unit.be](http://www.gmp-unit.be)



**OncoRNA**  
PERSONALIZED CANCER VACCINE

- IPCEI Med4Cure selected project
- Head and neck cancer
- Synthetic DNA
- RNA production is individualised as a pool (compared to concatenated)
- Because there is no limitation in terms of neoantigens numbers, the patented technology enables the production of more than 100 neoantigens (vs. max 20/30 with Plasmids)
- Phase 1 expected 2026



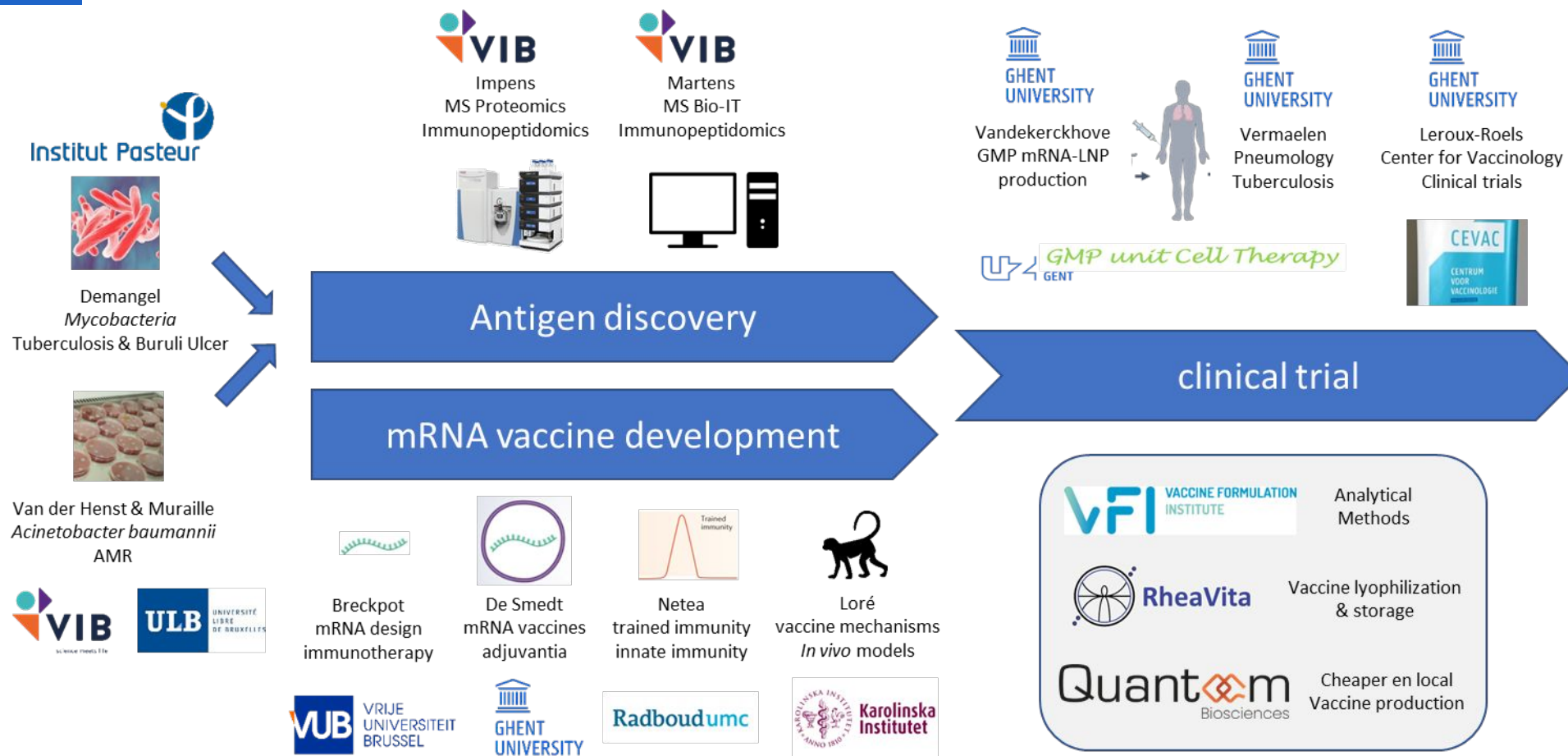




## SIDE NOTE ON PROPHYLACTIC VACCINES

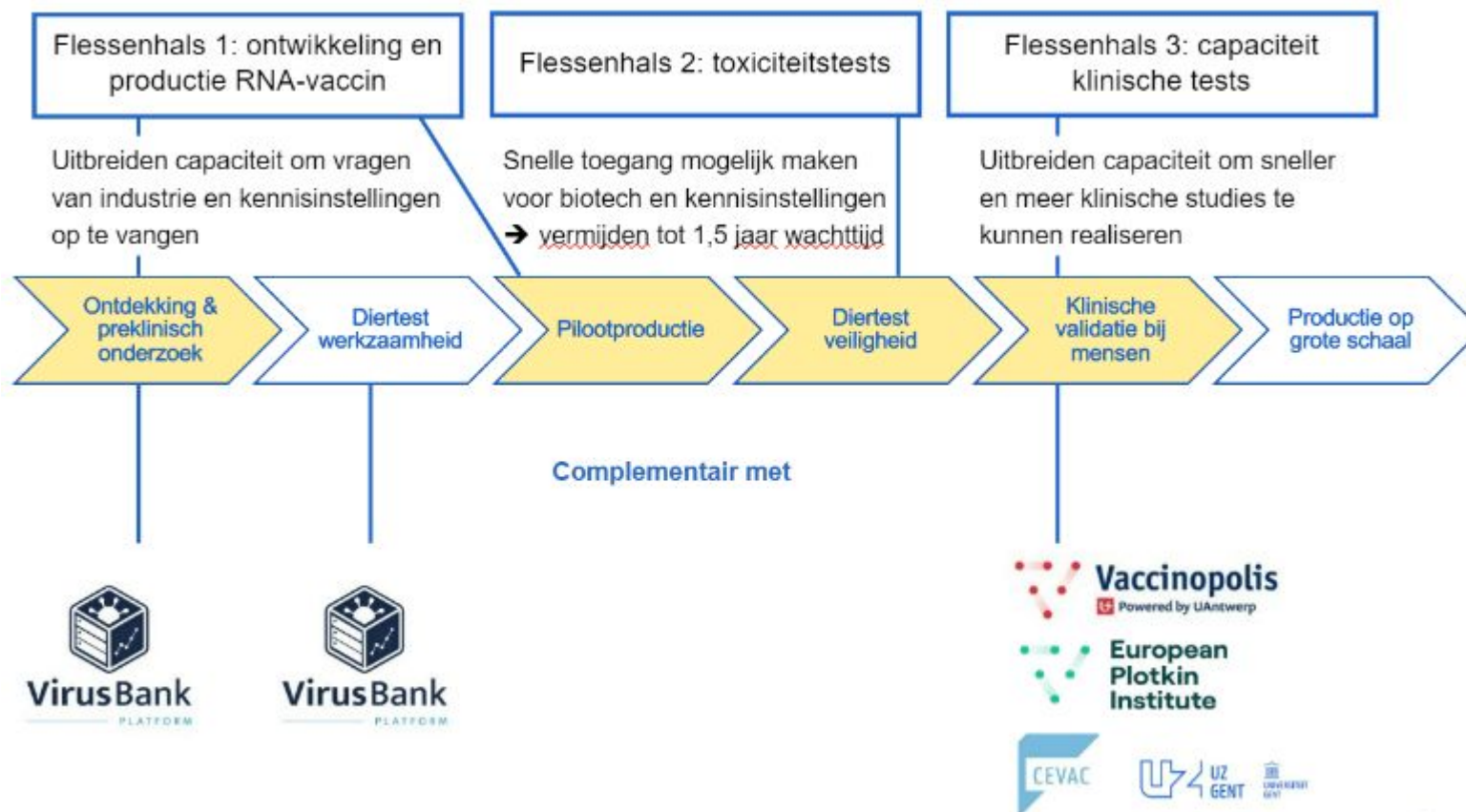


## BAXERNA





## VAXADVANCE



- Enable fast and local vaccine production in case of pandemic situations and bio-safety
- Public setting
- Warm-ready facilities
- Build-on and enforce existing infrastructures and expertise

<https://vaxadvance.com/>















## Ecosystem

- cover academic needs
- cover patient needs
- integration in Flemish ecosystem
- UZGent (Prof. Verhasselt and Prof. Rottey)
- External parties

Advisory board





## Conclusions

- Small batch GMP production is possible in a hospital setting
- RNA-derived products – vaccines and ATMPs - are a focus on UZ Ghent
- Bringing innovations faster and cost-effective to patients
- On-site production of lentivirus and CAR T in the coming years
- Important expansion of the facility expected by end 2026
- Challenging to do this within the constraints of funding channels





# CellGENTherapies

Collaborators and Team



**Business Developer**  
**Tim Desmet**

**Joline Ingels**  
**Killian Raes**  
**Stijn De Munter**  
**Eva Pascal**

**Eva Van Houtte**  
**Saskia Desmet**  
**Sofie Leyman**  
**Nele Lootens**  
**Liselotte Willems**  
**Marieke Brusseel**

**Bjorn Menten**  
**Laurenz De Cock**

**Stefaan De Smedt**  
**Heleen Dewitte**  
**Ine Lentacker**  
**Rein Verbeke**



**Karim Vermaelen**  
**Sandra Van Lint**  
**Kelly Heyns**



**Tessa Kerre**

**B Depypere**  
**P Blondeel**

**Linos Vandekerckhove**  
**Wojciech Witkowski**

**Francis Impens**  
**Rupert Mayer**  
**Lennart Martens**



**Sponsors**  
**Kom op tegen Kanker KOTK**  
**Stichting tegen Kanker**  
**Horizon 2020**  
**Industrieel Onderzoeksfonds IOF**  
**Innovatiefonds UZ Gent**

**Thank you – any  
questions?**



## ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS IN ATMP

Projectacronym	Project	status	promotor
ATMP-XB	Vlaams-Nederlande competentiecluster	ingediend	
VaxAdvance	Oprichting instituut voor (pre)-klinisch veiligheidsonderzoek van vaccins in het kader van pandemic preparedness	lopend	
Attract	Europees consortium: CD19 CAR-T (ARI-001) in pediatrische ALL	2 <sup>de</sup> ronde	Susana Rives, Barcelona, Spain
UM-VAC	Therapeutic vaccines targeting multiple shared tumor-specific neoantigens related to the dark transcriptome.	Negotiatie	O Lantz, Institut Curie, Paris France
Mission Europe call 2025	Multinational clinical study targeting Ewing Sarcoma neogenes	negotiatie	Olivier Delattre, Institut Curie
DURACAR	Durability and Upgraded resilience in advanced CAR-T cell Therapies	rebuttal sent	Linos Vandekerckhove
GD2-IL18 CAR-T	GD2 CAR-T Glioblastoma	negotiation	Bart Neyns, Liang Goa Miltenyi, Sandra Tuyaeerts
CD19 CAR-T	CD19 CAR-T in pediatric ALL,	negotiation	Locatelli, Rome Italy; Miltenyi
IRI call FWO	Belgian to become part of the European Research Infrastructure EATRIS - focus on translational medicine	in preparation	VUB, UA, KUL, UGent ...
NKI - TILs	academic development - uterine cancer	after clinical trial - EMA	Nederlands Kanker Instituut
KUL – VIB Dieter Lambrechts			



## TRACE STUDY

