



Katz

Katz School of Science and Health

Opportunity Assessment of Novel Peptide Antagonist cJun

Christine Chery, M.S. in Biotechnology Management & Entrepreneurship

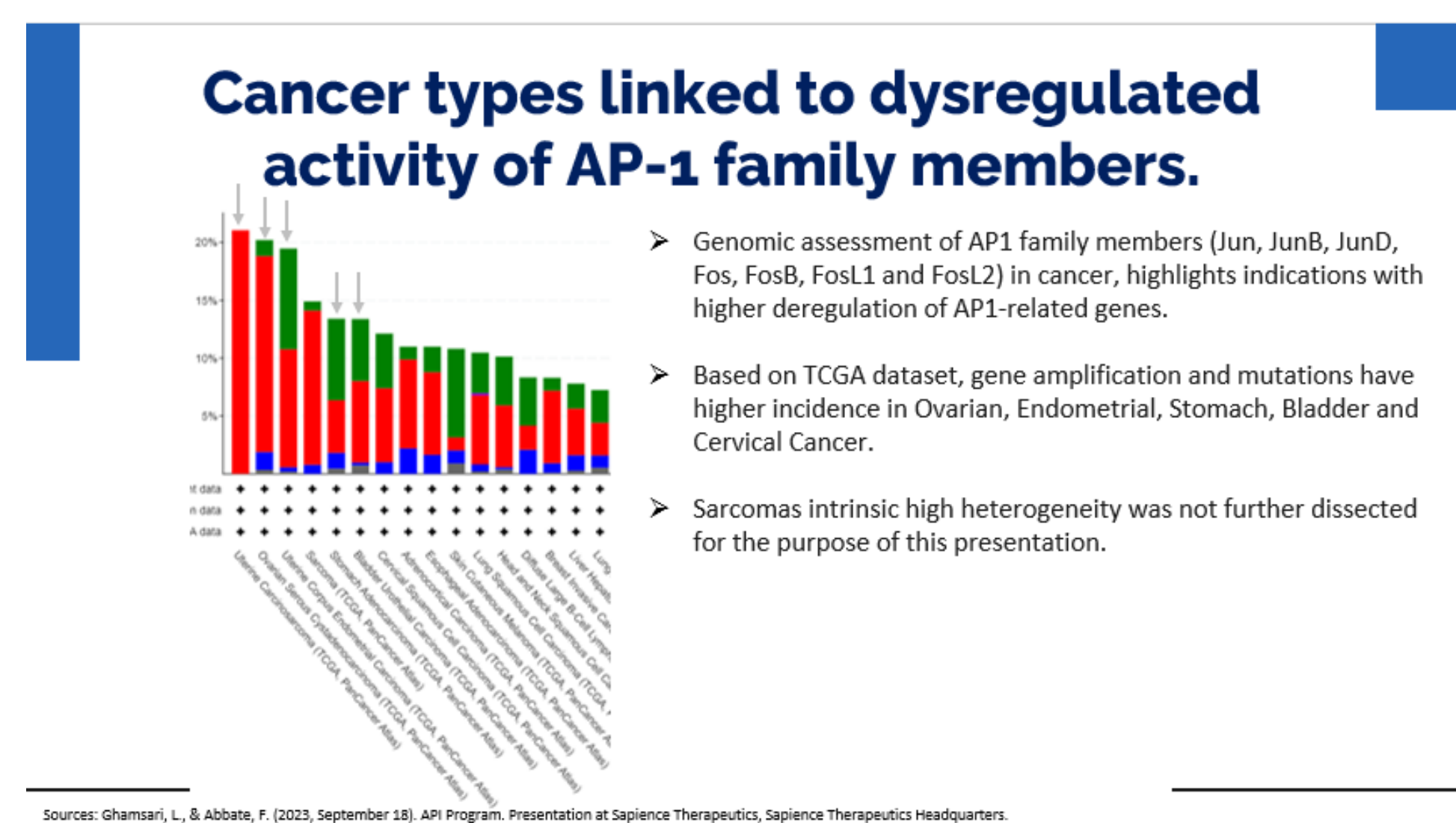
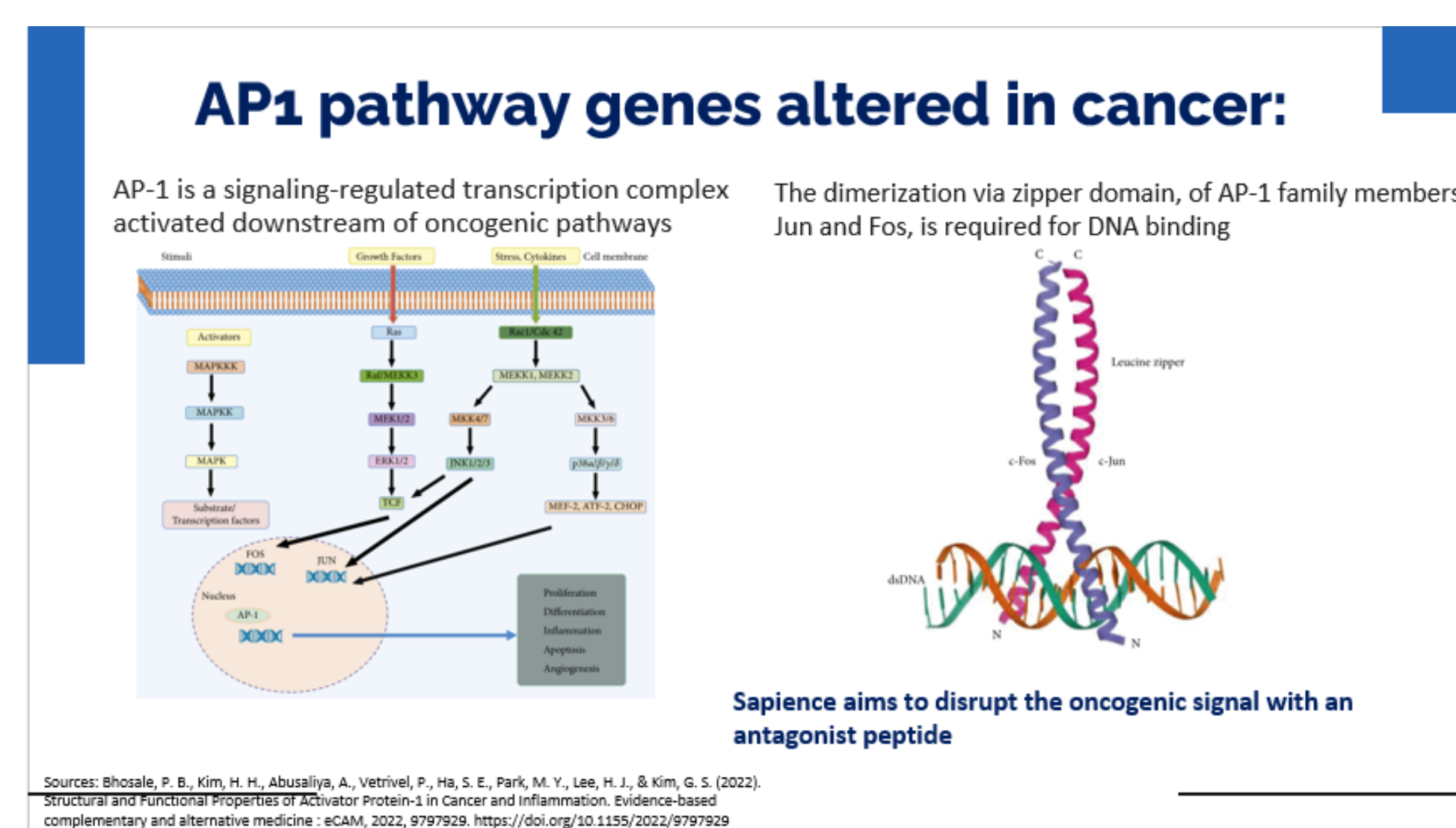
Faculty Advisors: Rana Khan, Ph.D. and Robert Friedman, MBA

Industry Mentor: Barry Kappel, MBA, Ph.D. – Sapience Therapeutics

ABSTRACT

Sapience Therapeutics, Inc. has developed a novel peptide antagonist (JunAP) that targets the AP-1 transcription factor complex, which plays a crucial role in oncogenesis and immune suppression. An analysis of The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) data found higher incidence of AP-1 gene alterations in ovarian, endometrial, stomach, bladder and cervical cancers. This research used a comprehensive three-pronged approach to inform cJun's clinical development strategy. The opportunity assessment encompassed population analysis, competitive landscape evaluation, and revenue potential estimation across the relevant indications. The population analysis utilized SEER data to characterize the U.S. patient population. Assessment of ongoing trials identified obstacles and openings for cJun's in the cancer drug landscape. A revenue forecast model provided indication-specific sales projections. Together, this opportunity assessment supports advancing cJun for bladder and endometrial cancers. Notably, the analysis uncovered cJun's potential in HPV-driven malignancies, an unexpected opportunity for significant patient benefit. The integrated analysis has strategically informed the indication prioritization and clinical advancement of this highly innovative AP-1-targeting peptide therapeutic.

INTRODUCTION



Objectives:

- 1) Analyze patient population data including incidence and mortality across 5 cancer types
- 2) Review currently approved and developmental therapies to reveal limitations and openings for the cJun antagonist
- 3) Develop revenue forecast models to predict market potential of cJun antagonist over 10-year period
- 4) Synthesize findings regarding optimal target indications from these analyses to inform strategic clinical advancement

APPROACH

Selection of Indications for Treatment with cJun Antagonist Peptide

- Following detailed discussions with Sapience's translational medical team and an assessment of prevalence rates and potential therapeutic benefit, five cancer indications were selected for treatment with the cJun antagonist peptide: bladder, endometrial, gastric, cervical and ovarian.
- Indications were further narrowed to stage of disease chosen based on prognosis outcomes with current available lines of therapy within each indication.

Population Analysis

- Prevalence, incidence, annual growth, and percentage of cancers diagnosed in the advanced stages were assessed for each cancer population.

Competitive Landscape Analysis

- Therapies available for each cancer type were assessed based on their therapeutic category and mechanism of operation.
- Competitive risk of prospective therapeutics targeting the cJun pathway were evaluated.

Revenue Projection Model

- Revenue projections were generated for individual cancer types, taking into consideration population analysis.

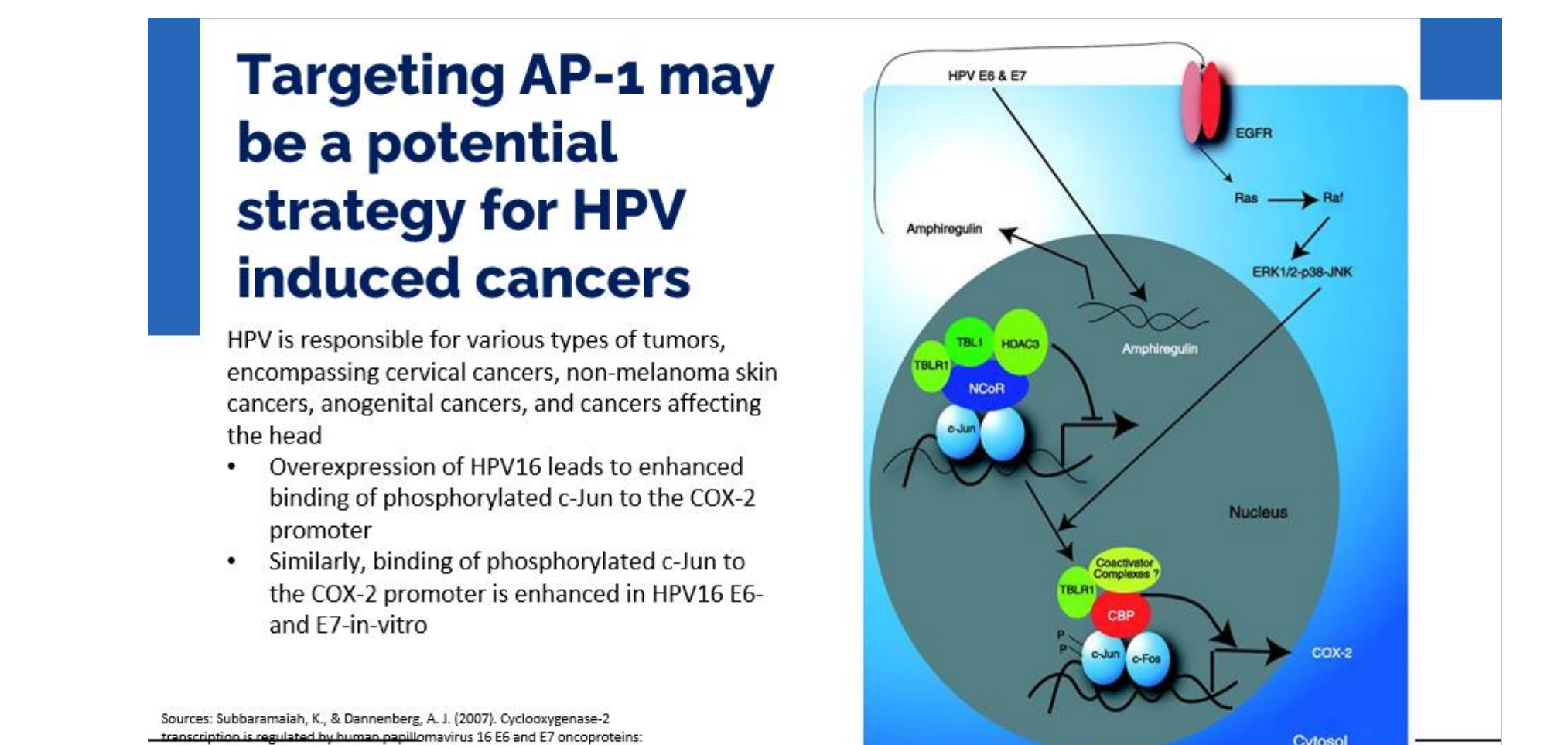
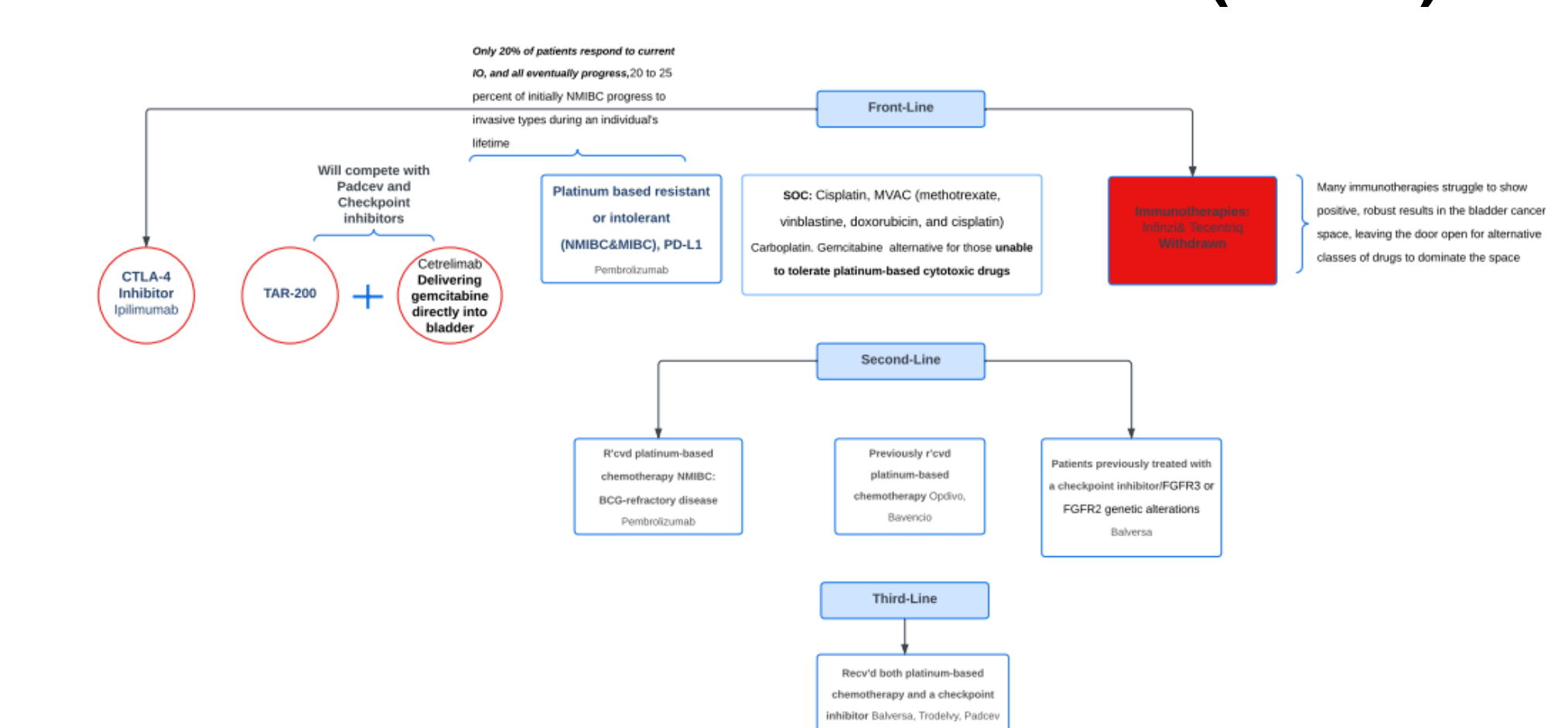
FINDINGS

	Prevalence	Est Annual Pop.	Est. Incidence Growth	Quantitative evidence of AP-1 Complex Overexpression	Potential US Market	Projected US Cases	Development Pipeline	Expected Market Impact by Sapience	Clinical Trial Feasibility	ALL
Bladder	725,540	82,200	2.58%	++	\$100,200M \$1.5B	24.2%	Multiple PD1/PDL1 Checkpoint inhibitors (2016-18, followed by pembrolizumab). Lack of effective development in MIBC.	Minimal Impact	Several competing trials and challenges with enrollment	Green
Endometrial	789,940	59,580	1.19%	+++	\$1.4B \$1.3B	7.2%	Multiple PD1/PDL1 Checkpoint inhibitors. Promising positive signals from high therapy profile.	Minimal Impact	Low % competitors due to low recurrence rates	Green
Gastric	127,213	26,500	1.21%	+	\$388M \$1.70B	16.2%	Vaccines PD-1 inhibitors. Reported in MIBC covered targeted therapies. Investigated in 2022-23 (response) promising results drug targeting from MIBC. (Stomach)	Minimal Impact	Low recurrence rate, but Long if of competing trials beyond 2020	Green
Cervical	296,981	13,900	-78%	+++	\$306.7 M \$1.5B	17.6%	PD-1/PDL1 & PD-L1 inhibitors reported in domestic market.	Minimal Impact	High recurrence rate due to inclusion restrictions	Yellow
Ovarian	236,511	18,710	-22%	+	\$1.1B \$1.3B	11.9%	Robust pipeline include novel MMR, i.e., Pique. PD-L1 novel inhibitor, targeting high unmet need.	Negative	Very high competition rate due to enrollment	Red

This rating system employs a color-coded scale to indicate level of favorability.

- Green: highest level
- Yellow: mid range favorability
- Light Green: 2nd best
- Red: least favorable rating

Current and Pipeline Treatments for Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (MIBC)



CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This analysis identified muscle invasive bladder and endometrial cancer as optimal initial indications for Sapience's AP-1 antagonist based on high recurrence rates and substantial unmet need for second line therapies. Notably, the research also revealed opportunities to target virally-mediated tumors by disrupting AP-1 signaling. HPV triggers AP-1 to induce overexpression of the tumor-promoting COX-2 enzyme, presenting a prospect for cervical and other HPV-positive cancers lacking treatment options.

Given the central role of AP-1 dysregulation across viral and non-viral malignancies, it is recommended Sapience pursue: 1) Muscle invasive bladder cancer as the lead indication; 2) Endometrial cancer as the secondary indication; 3) Further research into cervical and other HPV-cancers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Barry Kappel, Founder/CEO, Lila Ghamsari, Senior Director of Discovery, Franco Abbate, Director Translational Science, and Abi Vainstein-Haras, M.D, CMO – Sapience Therapeutics. Thank you also to Robert Friedman, MBA.

REFERENCES

Bhosale, P. B., Kim, H. H., Abusaliya, A., Vetrivel, P., Ha, S. E., Park, M. Y., Lee, H. J., & Kim, G. S. (2022). Structural and functional properties of activator protein-1 in cancer and inflammation. *Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, 2022, Article 9797929.

Ghamsari, L., & Abbate, F. (2023, September 18). API Program [Presentation]. Sapience Therapeutics Headquarters, Sapience Therapeutics.

Subbaramaiah, K., & Dannenberg, A. J. (2007). Cyclooxygenase-2 transcription is regulated by human papillomavirus 16 E6 and E7 oncoproteins: Evidence of a corepressor/coactivator exchange. *Cancer Research*, 67(8), 3976-3985.