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## **Nitric Oxide Lung Cancer Active Vaccination**

Hila Confino<sup>2</sup>, Shay Yarkoni<sup>2</sup>, Matan Goldshtein<sup>2</sup>, Elya Dekel<sup>2</sup>, Omer Lerner<sup>2</sup>, Shani Puyesky<sup>2</sup>, Steve Lisi<sup>1</sup>, Rinat Kalaora<sup>2</sup>, Pam Golden<sup>1</sup>, Amir Avniel<sup>2</sup>, Prof. Ido Wolf<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Beyond Air Inc., <sup>2</sup>Beyond Air Ltd., <sup>3</sup>Oncology Division, Sourasky Medical Center



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## **DISCLOSURES – Prof. Ido Wolf**

Commercial Interest	Relationship(s)
MSD	Honorarium, research support, lectures
BMS	Honorarium, research support, lectures
Novartis	Honorarium, research support, lectures
Roche	Honorarium, research support, lectures



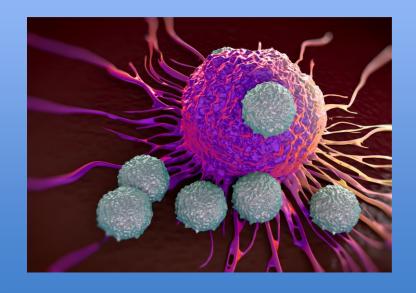
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Metastases are responsible for ~90% of all cancer-related deaths.



Anti-tumor immunity may destroy metastases and prevent new metastatic growth.





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### Endogenous Nitric Oxide (NO) at Physiologic Concentrations

- Endogenous NO at physiologic concentrations has been shown to activate innate and adaptive responses of the immune system against tumors<sup>1</sup>
- Endogenous NO affects the immune system by multiple pathways, including selective enhancement of Type 1 T-cell differentiation and induction of CD4+CD25+ Treg cells<sup>2</sup>
- Interaction of endogenous NO with O<sub>2</sub> or O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> in situ results in reactive oxygen species formation, resulting in nitrosative and oxidative chemical stressors on cells<sup>3,4</sup>
- Exogenous, high-concentration (>10,000 ppm), local delivery of gaseous NO may cause tumor cell death, resulting in release of tumor-specific antigens

- 3. Shang ZJ et al., Effects of exogenous nitric oxide on oral squamous cell carcinoma: an in vitro study. J Oral Maxillofac Surg 60: 905-910, 2002.
- 4. Harada K et al., Overexpression of iNOS gene suppresses the tumorigenicity and metastasis of oral cancer cells. In Vivo 18: 449-455, 2004.

<sup>1.</sup> Vannini F et al., The dual role of iNOS in cancer. Redox Biol 6:334-343, 2015.

<sup>2.</sup> Niedbala W et al., Role of nitric oxide in the regulation of T cell functions. Ann Rheum Dis 65: iii37-iii40, 2006.



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### Exogenous High-Concentration NO (>10,000 ppm)

- Here we present a novel treatment paradigm that involves *in situ* tumor destruction with high-concentration gaseous NO.
- Our research group has developed an innovative NO-based tumor ablation method, in which high-concentration NO gas is delivered locally to solid tumors
- To our understanding, this is the first time a concept of injecting gas to a tissue, and specifically high-concentration NO gas to tumors, is reported.



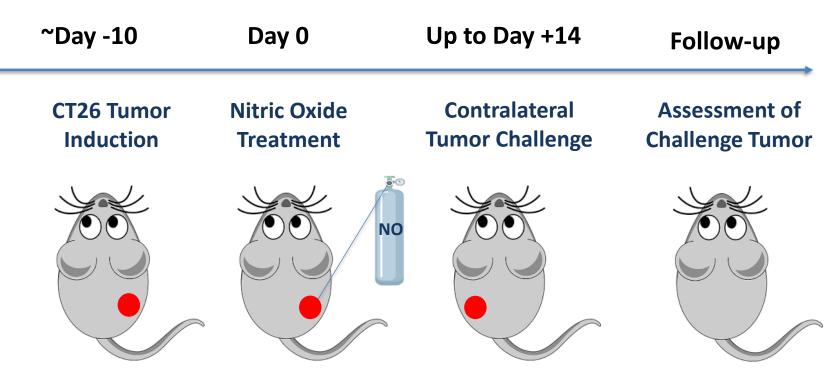
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### **Background**

Gaseous NO stimulates apparent immune response against murine CT26 colon cancer in vivo

### Assay Scheme



Data presented at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) June 22, 2020



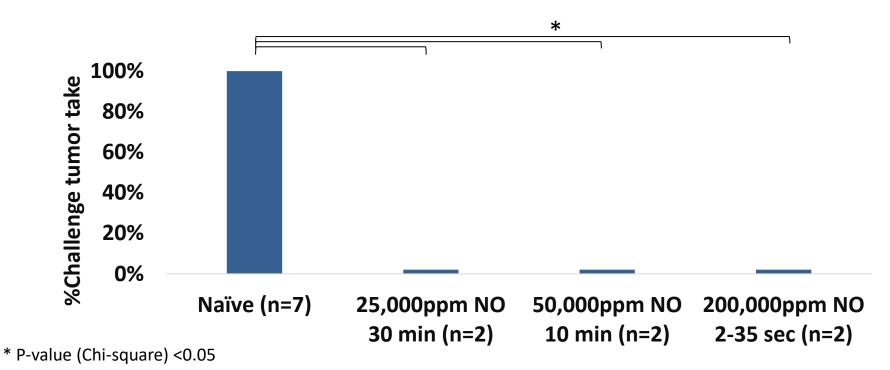
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## **Background**

Gaseous NO stimulates apparent immune response against murine CT26 colon cancer in vivo

 In vivo results showed that all treated colon tumor-bearing mice were resistant to a second ("challenge") CT26 cancer cell inoculation



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## Hypothesis

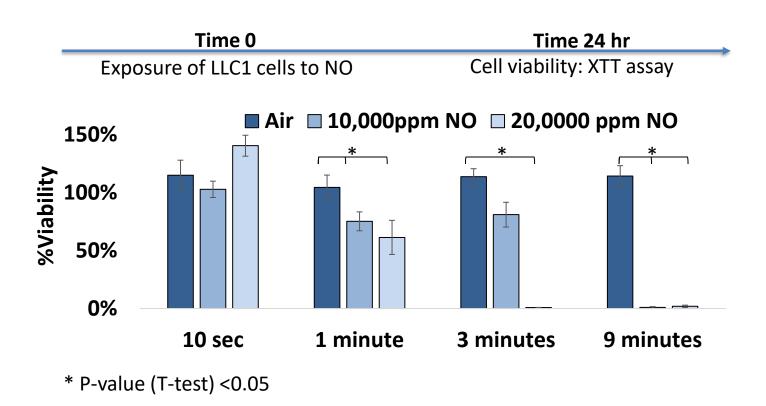
- **Endogenous** NO at physiologic concentrations has a known role in increasing immune response.
- Exogenous high-concentration gaseous NO administered directly to a solid tumor may result in local cell death resulting in systemic exposure to tumor antigens
- Tumor antigens may trigger a systemic immune response, thereby creating a memory immune bank that will recognize and attack subsequent primary tumor regrowth as well as distal metastases.



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### NO Blocks Lung Cancer Cell Proliferation In Vitro

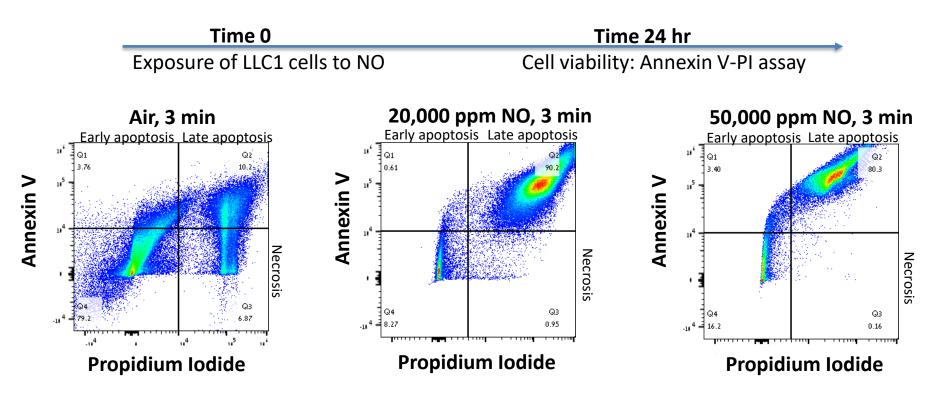




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#### Most Lung Cancer Cells are at Late Apoptosis after Exposure to NO

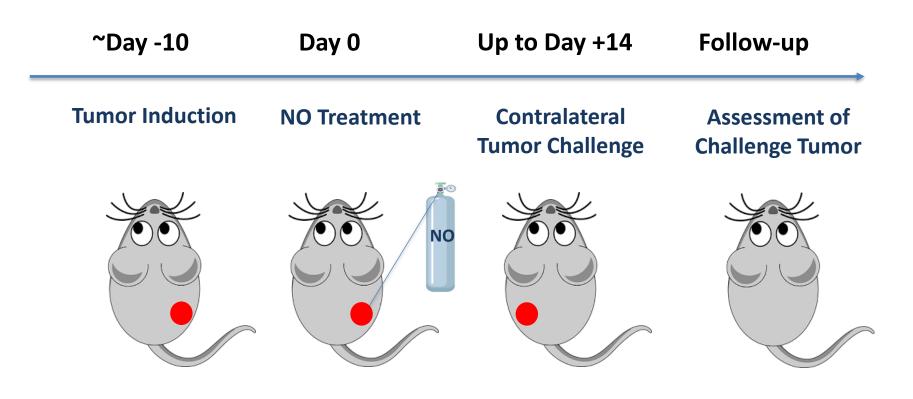




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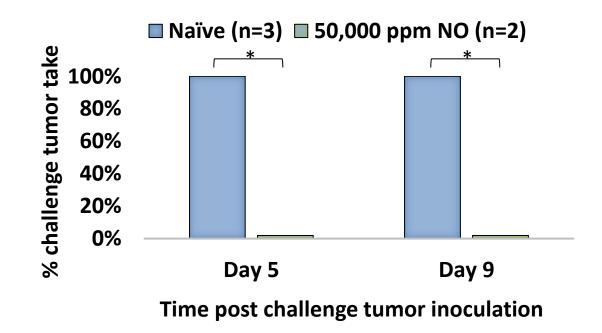
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## Gaseous Nitric Oxide Vaccinates Against Lung Cancer In Vivo Assay Scheme





#### Gaseous Nitric Oxide Vaccinates Against Lung Cancer In Vivo



\* P-value (chi-square) < 0.05

Treatment: 50,000 ppm NO for 10 minutes



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## Conclusions

- Gaseous NO treatment results in dose- and time-dependent inhibition of lung cancer cell proliferation and reduced viability *in vitro*.
- Treatment of primary LLC1 lung tumors in mice with gaseous NO at a dose of 50,000 ppm for 10 minutes results in no uptake of a challenge tumor implanted up to 14 days later.
- No unanticipated mortality or signs indicating distress were noted in the animals.
- These preliminary data suggest that our innovative gaseous NO-based treatment may treat lung tumors locally and their distant metastases systemically, potentially via stimulation of an anti-tumor immune response.