

# RECENT CANCER PRODUCT APPROVALS: CENTER FOR BIOLOGICS EVALUATION AND RESEARCH (CBER)

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Partners in Progress: Cancer Patient Advocates and FDA

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# Disclosures

I have no financial relationships to disclose.

# FDA Regulation of Oncology Products\*

## CDER

Office of Hematology and  
Oncology Drug Products  
(OHOP)

- Drugs (small molecules)
- Biologics
  - Monoclonal Antibodies
  - Therapeutic Proteins
  - Cytokines

## CDRH

Office of In Vitro  
Diagnostics and  
Radiological  
Health (OIR)

- Companion Diagnostics

## CBER

Office of Tissues  
and Advanced  
Therapies (OTAT)

- Cell therapies
- Gene Therapies
- Oncolytic viruses
- Therapeutic vaccines and immunotherapies

*\*Clinical reviews of the Biologics License Applications are conducted under the auspices of Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)*

# Science

20 December 2013 | \$10

FDA

Breakthrough of the Year

## Cancer Immunotherapy

T cells on the attack

**The New York Times** (OCT. 15, 2014)  
**Cell Therapy Puts Leukemia Patients  
in Extended Remission**

**The Washington Post**

Aug 30, 2017

**FDA clears first gene-  
altering therapy — ‘a living  
drug’ — for childhood  
leukemia**

Oct 18, 2017

**US regulators approve 2nd  
gene therapy for blood  
cancer**

# What is Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell Therapy?



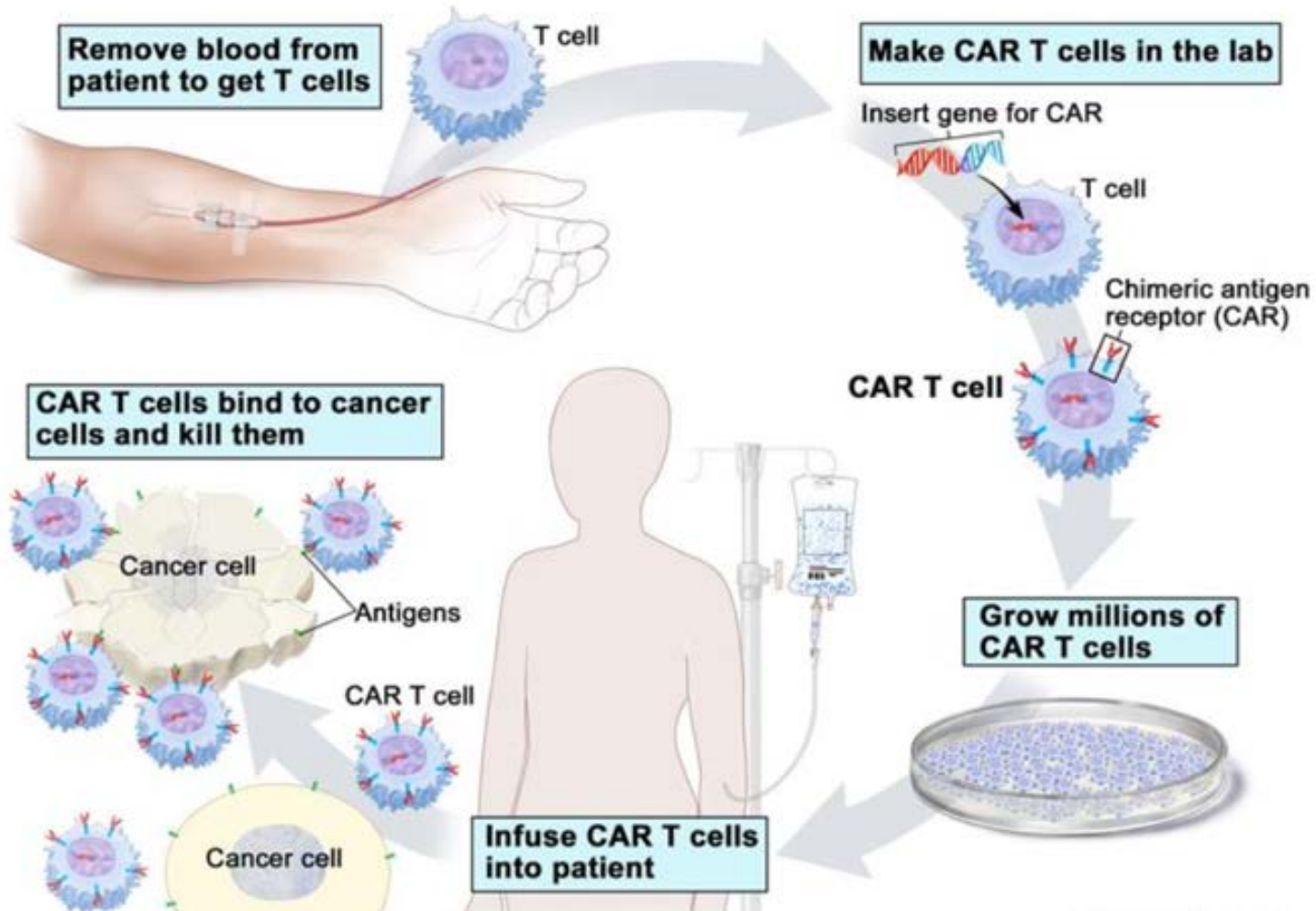
- Novel type of cancer immunotherapy
- Involves training patients' own immune cells (T-cells) to attack cancer cells

*The Washington Post*



Emily Whitehead, shown with her parents, was the first child treated with CAR T-cell therapy

# CAR T-Cell Therapy



Source: National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health



# Reviews Require Multidisciplinary Input



Pharmacology & Toxicology



Project Management

Statistics



Clinical Pharmacology & Biopharmaceutics



Product Quality



Clinical

# Recent FDA Approvals

- **August 2017**
  - **Tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah)**
    - Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.
    - **Developed under FDA's expedited programs**
    - Approved for the treatment of pediatric and young adult patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)
    - The safety and efficacy were demonstrated in one multicenter clinical trial of 63 pediatric and young adult patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor ALL
    - Oncology Drugs Advisory Committee meeting



# Recent FDA Approvals

- **October 2017**

- **Axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta)**

- Kite Pharma, Inc.
    - **Developed under FDA's expedited programs**
    - Approved for adult patients with certain types of large B-cell lymphoma after failing at least two other treatments
    - The safety and efficacy were established in a multicenter clinical trial of more than 100 adults with refractory or relapsed large B-cell lymphoma

# CAR T-Cell Therapy Can Cause Severe Side Effects

- Side effects can be fatal or life-threatening
- Majority of patients experienced:
  - Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS):
    - Systemic response to T-cell activation: flu-like symptoms, difficulty breathing, body organ toxicities
    - **FDA expanded the approval of Actemra (tocilizumab) to treat CRS**
  - Neurologic toxicities:
    - Confusion, inability to talk, seizures

# FDA's Measures To Mitigate The Risks of CAR T-Cell Products

- Boxed warning for CRS and neurologic toxicities
- Approval with a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (**REMS**)
  - CAR T-cell therapy is a novel therapy
  - Protective measures in place to ensure patients' safety:
    - Hospitals and their associated clinics must be certified
    - Education of physicians, hospital staff and patients about the recognition and management of CRS and neurotoxicity
- Post-marketing requirement studies:
  - Long-term safety follow-up

# Questions?

