# Trial in Progress: A Phase 1-2, First-in-Human, Open Label, Dose Escalation and Expansion Study of AU-007, A Monoclonal Antibody That Binds to IL-2 and Inhibits IL-2Rα Binding, in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors

James Vasselli<sup>1</sup>, Paul De Souza<sup>2</sup>, Sophia Frentzas<sup>3</sup>, Andrew Weickhardt<sup>4</sup>, Tim Wyant<sup>1,5</sup>, Jenny Tang<sup>1</sup>, Aron Knickerbocker<sup>1</sup>, Inbar Amit<sup>1,5</sup>, Yanay Ofran<sup>1,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Aulos Bioscience, Larkspur, CA; <sup>2</sup>St. George Private Hospital, Sydney, Australia; <sup>3</sup>Monash Health; School of Medical and Health Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia; <sup>4</sup>Austin Health, Heidelberg, Australia; <sup>5</sup>Biolojic Design, Rehovot, Israel

# **Abstract TPS2671**

NCT05267626



james@aulosbio.com

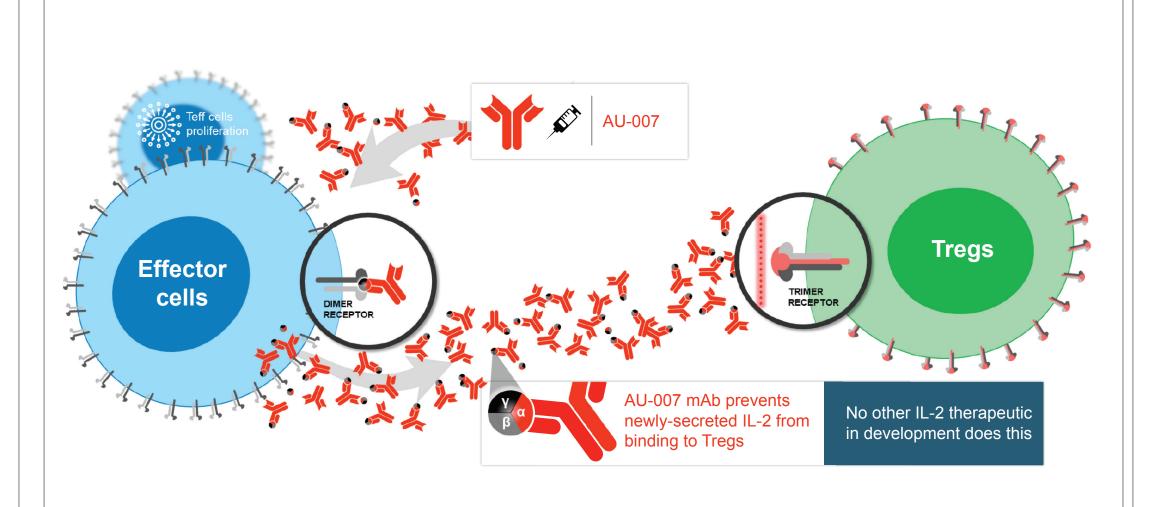
# **AU-007 Background**

#### Redirects IL-2 to Teff / NK Cells and Away from Tregs and Vascular Endothelium • AU-007 is a computationally designed (Biolojic Design), human IgG1 monoclonal antibody. • AU-007 binds interleukin-2 (IL-2) with pM affinity and completely inhibits its binding to CD25, without hindering its binding to CD132/CD122. **AU-007 Bound to IL-2 Signaling Through IL-2R** Normal IL-2 Signaling Through IL-2R CD25 Binding Site (α) CD122 (β) CD132 (γ) CD132 (y) CD122 (β) **IL-2R Dimer IL-2R Dimer** Naïve Teff cells Naïve Teff cells Treg cells Treg cells NK cells Pulmonary and NK cells Pulmonary and NKT cells vascular endothelial cells endothelial cells **Unique MOA Addresses the IL-2 Negative Feedback Loop**

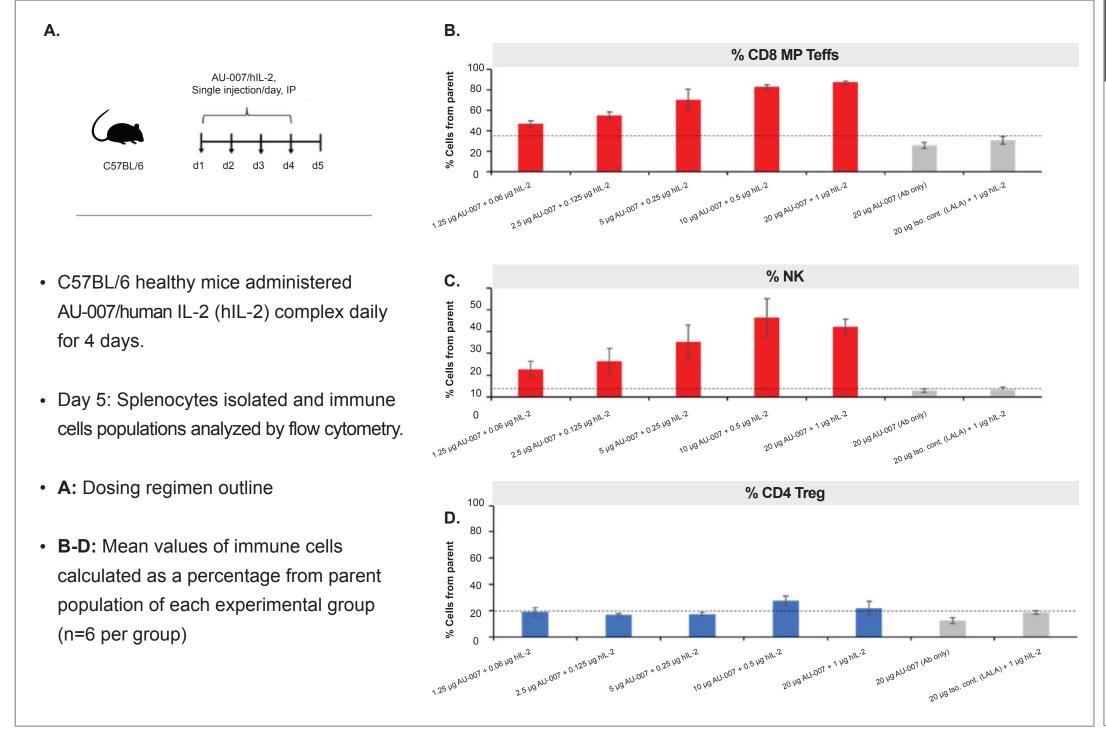
 Treatments activating effector cells against tumors are undermined by an autoinhibitory loop caused by endogenous IL-2 secreted from activated T effector cells • AU-007 can transform the IL-2 negative feedback loop into a positive feedback loop.

Re-engineered IL-2 therapeutics cannot address the negative feedback loop.

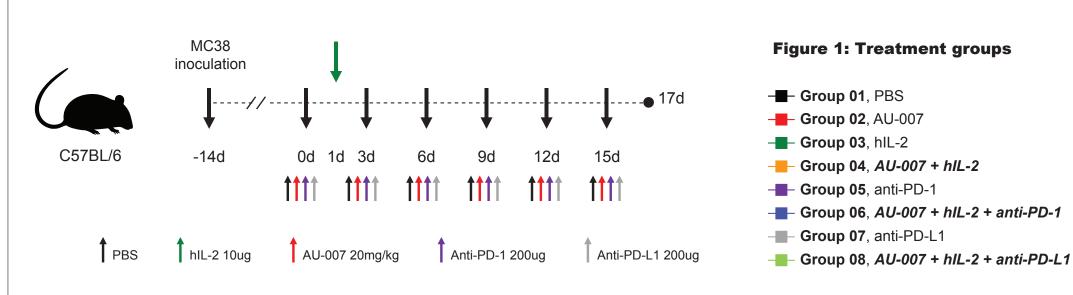
AU-007 Uniquely Tips the Balance Toward Immune Activation, Away from Immune Suppression



#### Dose Dependent *In Vivo* Immune Stimulation with **No Observed Effect on Tregs**

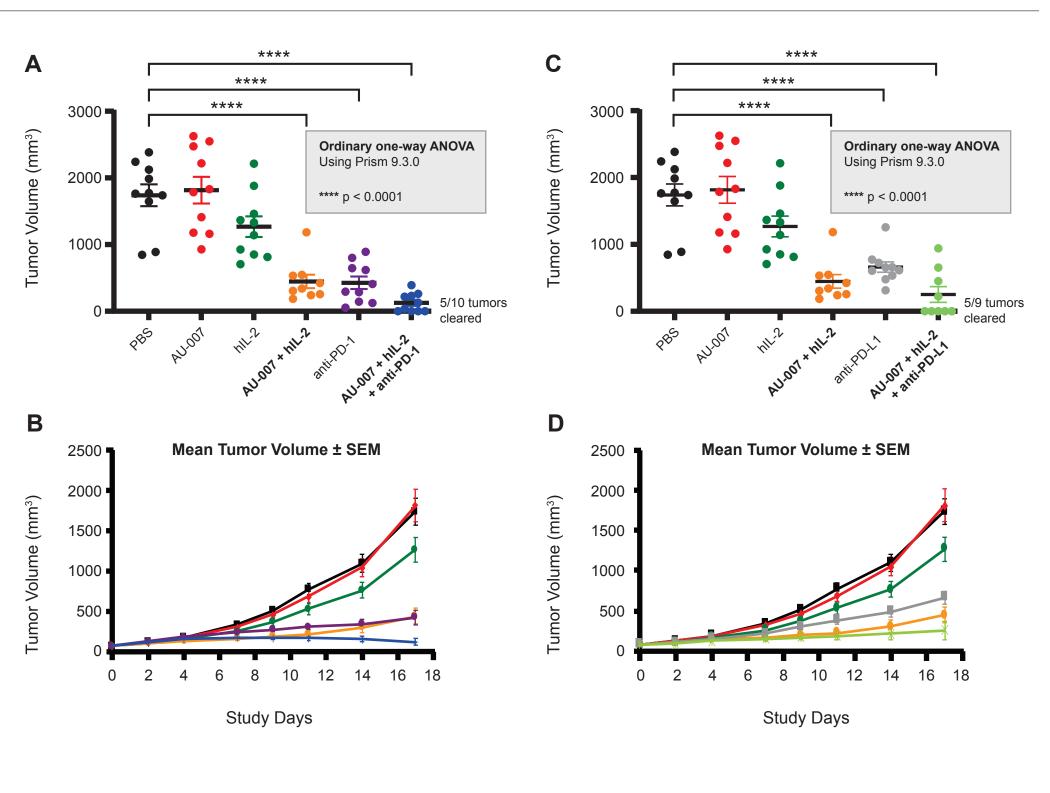


# Redirected IL-2 Signaling by AU-007 Leads to **Tumor Growth Inhibition and Regressions**



Day minus 14: C57BL/6 mice inoculated with 1x10^6 MC38 mouse colorectal tumor cells.

- Day 0: AU-007 treatment begun, dosing every 3 days (groups of 10 mice) IL-2 administered on day 1 only.
- As AU-007 does NOT bind mouse IL-2, hIL-2 is required to be given in these studies.
- Tumor volumes measured on days 0, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11,14, and at termination.
- Study terminated on day 17 as tumor volumes in the hIL-2 GEM mice control arms obtained ethical limits.



Efficacy of AU-007/IL-2 alone or in combination with immune checkpoint treatment of MC38 in C57BL/6 mice.

- A: Terminal tumor volumes in anti-PD-1 cohorts B: Growth curves for anti-PD-1 cohorts
- C: Terminal tumor volumes in anti-PD-L1 cohorts
- **D:** Growth curves for anti-PD-L1 cohorts. Note that the same control arms are in A/B as in C/D. Color coding matches color coding in methods above.

# Safe and Well-Tolerated Preclinical Safety Profile

Repeat dose toxicity study in cynomolgus monkeys: 8 weeks of IV AU-007 dosing 2X per week followed by 4-week recovery

- No significant clinical observations beyond very minor rash that persisted in some animals.
- No unusual necropsy findings.
- No cytokine storm.
- **GLP** immunohistochemistry assessment of tissue cross reactivity
  - No observed cross reactivity on any human tissues.

Key Study Objectives

# • IL-2 (aldesleukin): Approved for melanoma and renal cell carcinoma (RCC), but its therapeutic value is limited by frequent administration of high doses, short half-life and severe toxicity.

Rationale

- AU-007 MOA addresses the challenges associated with aldesleukin treatment by:
- Reducing Treg activation and enhancing immune effector cell activation • Preventing IL-2 from binding CD25+ vascular endothelium, diminishing vascular leak syndrome
- Prolonging IL-2 T1/2 nearer to a monoclonal antibody's T1/2 through binding to AU-007
- Converting the IL-2 negative feedback loop to a positive feedback loop
- Therefore, AU-007 may substantially increase the therapeutic window of IL-2 potentially allowing the use of far lower amounts of IL-2 to achieve the anti-tumor activity observed with high-dose IL-2, and possibly enhanced efficacy.
- This may be accomplished with the patient's endogenous IL-2, or possibly exogenous IL-2 at doses that are tolerable and easily manageable in an outpatient setting.

# **Primary Objective**

· Safety, tolerability, dose-limiting toxicity (DLT) and maximum tolerated dose (MTD) or recommended Phase 2 dose (RP2D) of AU-007 alone or in combination with IL-2 (aldesleukin).

#### **Secondary Objectives**

• Pharmacokinetics (PK), pharmacodynamic (PD) activity and immunogenicity of AU-007 alone or in combination with IL-2 (aldesleukin). Preliminary anti-tumor activity evaluated conventional / modified RECIST 1.1.

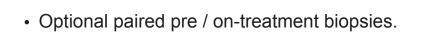
# **Exploratory Objectives**

- Relationships between PK, PD, patient safety and anti-tumor activity of AU-007 alone or in combination with IL-2 (aldesleukin).
- Relationship of serum biomarkers including serum cytokines, soluble CD25 and measures of T-cell activation in peripheral blood and/or tumor biopsy specimens with response to AU-007.

# **Study Design**

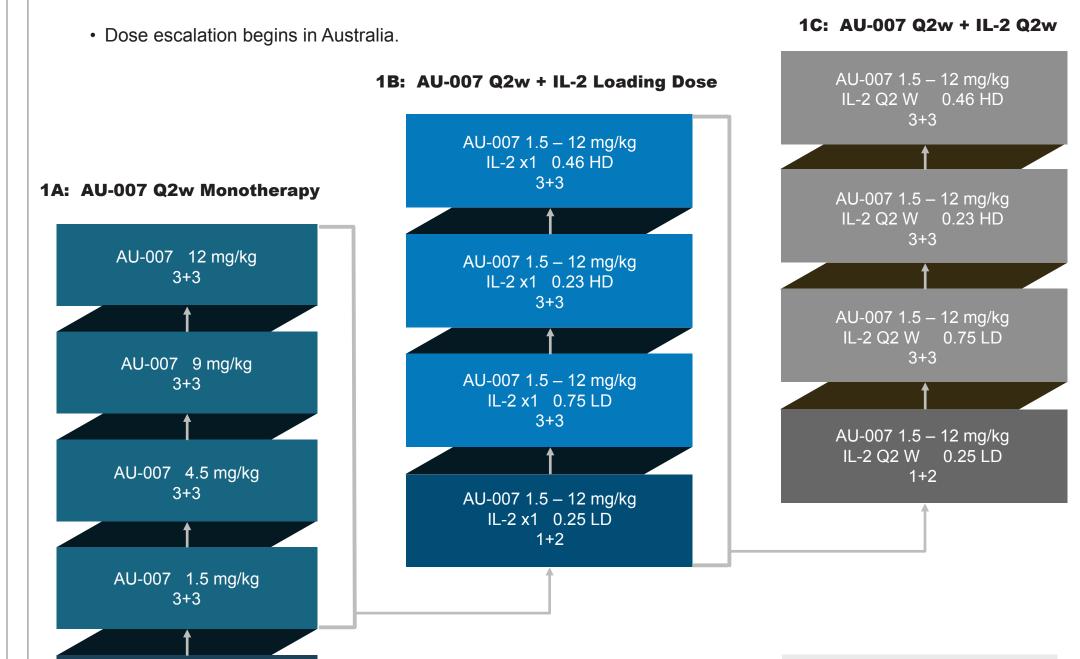
# • AU-007 evaluated as 1A) monotherapy, 1B) in combination with a single loading dose of aldesleukin, or 1C) with both AU-007 and aldesleukin given every 2 weeks (Q2w). • AU-007 monotherapy evaluates doses sufficiently high to ensure enough AU-007 is available to bind all IL-2 molecules: both exogenously administered (aldesleukin) and endogenous IL-2. 19 solid tumor histologies. Adverse events graded by the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events. • Efficacy based on PD markers of immune stimulation, total IL-2 (bound to AU-007 + free IL-2) and

**Dose Escalation** 



objective responses.

AU-007 0.5 mg/kg

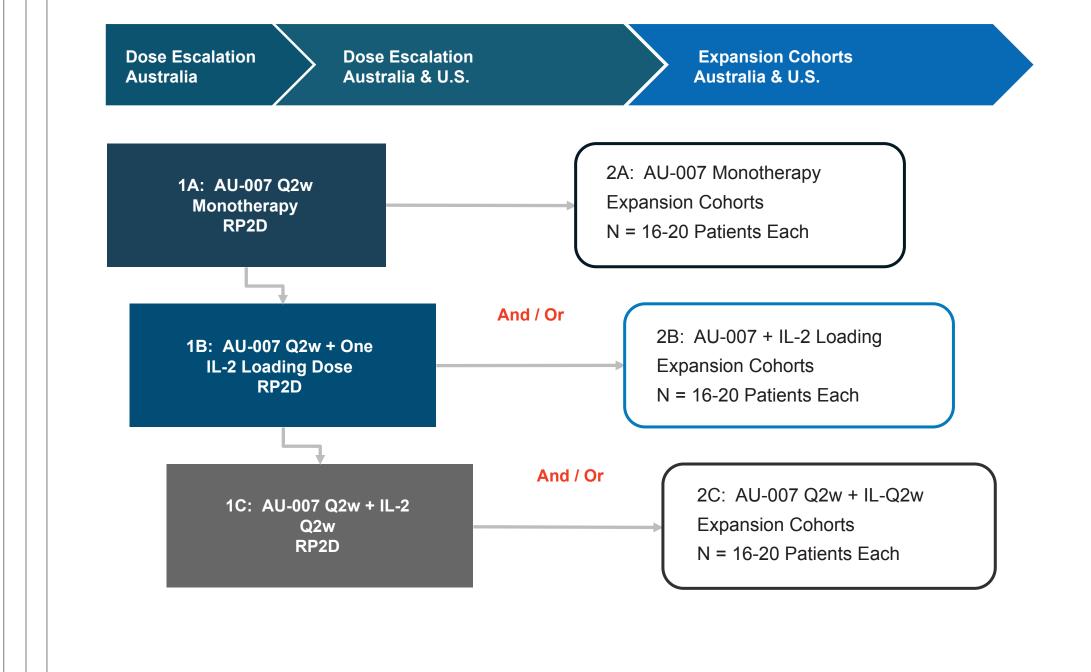


# **Cohort Expansion**

LD IL-2: 60,000 IU/kg

HD IL-2: 600,000 IU/kg

- Design enables further evaluation of the dosing regimen or regimens from Dose Escalation RP2D or MTD.
- Tumor histologies focus on melanoma and RCC before opening to other cancers.
- Mandatory paired pre / on-treatment biopsies.
- Utilize Simon's 2 stage design for decisions on efficacy.



# **Entry Criteria**

# **Key Inclusion Criteria**

- Age ≥ 18 years old
- Histologically / cytologically proven unresectable locally advanced or metastatic cancer for which there is no approved
- therapy available, or patients ineligible or intolerant of standard therapy • Measurable or non-measurable disease per RECIST 1.1 criteria
- Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status 0 or 1
- Previous checkpoint inhibitor therapy allowed
- Symptomatic central nervous system (CNS) metastases (excluding leptomeningeal disease or cord compression) must have been treated and be asymptomatic for ≥ 14 days prior to treatment

# **Key Exclusion Criteria**

- Second primary invasive malignancy not in remission for ≥ 1 year with exceptions
- Clinically significant history of autoimmune disease with exceptions
- Clinically significant pulmonary or cardiovascular compromise
- History of allogeneic bone marrow, stem cell or solid organ transplant
- Treatment with systemic cancer therapy within 4 weeks; radiation within 2 weeks; corticosteroids (greater than or equal to 10 mg prednisone or equivalent per day) or other immune suppressive drugs within 2 weeks

Presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting, June 3-7, 2022 Copies of this poster obtained through Quick Response (QR) Code are for personal use only and may not be reproduced without permission from ASCO® and the author of this poster. © Copyright 2022 Aulos Bioscience. All Rights Reserved.