

# CriPec® Nanomedicines for Superior Therapeutic Performance

Dr. Cristianne Rijcken, founder and CSO

8 April 2018



#### Introduction

- Pharmaceutical company developing nanomedicines
- Founded in April 2011 in Utrecht
- Since October 2013 located in Maastricht























 Dr. Joost Holthuis (CEO and co-founder, former CEO/founder of OctoPlus)



Dr. Cristianne Rijcken (CSO and founder)



 Dr. Jeroen Tonnaer (CBO, former Executive Director, Worldwide Licensing, Merck Sharp & Dohme)

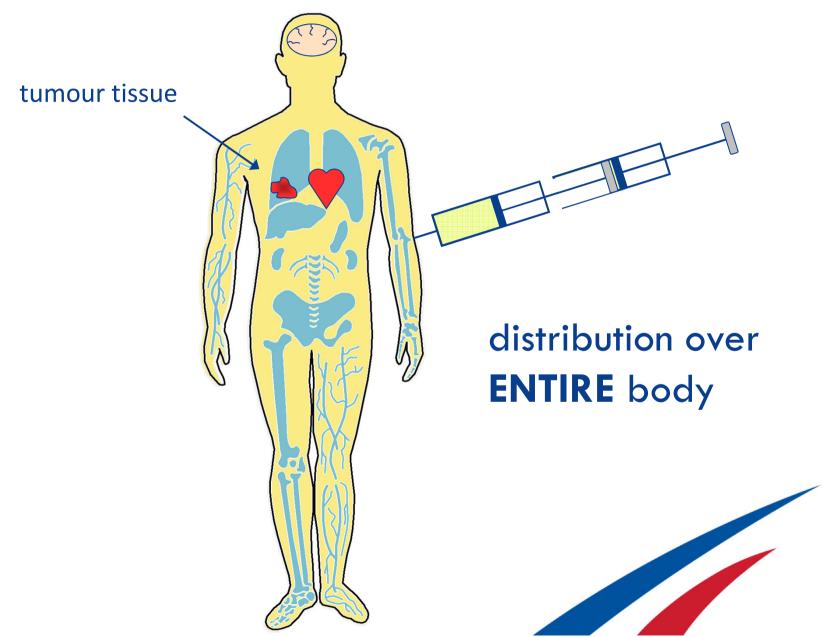


 Dr. Istvan Udvaros (Former Medical & Project Director Oncology at SGS Clinical Research)



# **Antitumour Drugs**







## **Current Need in Oncology**

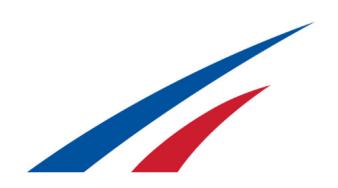
Toxicity of chemotherapeutics to healthy cells

⇒ side effects ⇒ restrict dose ⇒ therapeutic effect ↓

**⇒** Risk-benefit ratio is to be improved



Solution: Entrapment drugs in nanoparticles

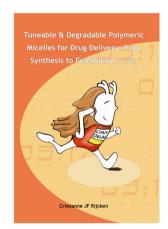




# **From Finding To Spinoff**

Start PhD 2003

Thesis 2007

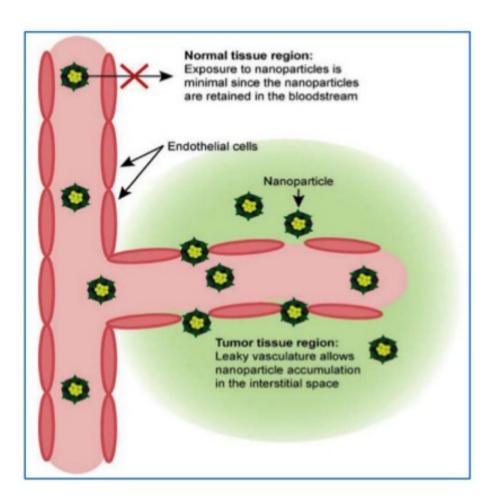




Grants & awards 2007 - 2011

Establishment Cristal Delivery B.V. 11-4-2011

# Cristal CriPec® Nanoparticles in Oncology Therapeutics



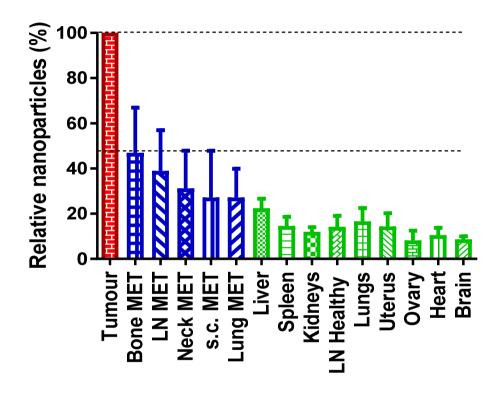
EPR: enhanced permeability and retention

- Increased therapeutic index via entrapment of drug in CriPec® nanoparticles
- Enhanced accumulation of CriPec® nanoparticles in tumour tissue, followed by sustained release in time = increased efficacy
- Drug is inactive as long as entrapped in CriPec® nanoparticle; less drug exposure to normal tissue = improved safety





Biodistribution metastasising breast cancer in mice



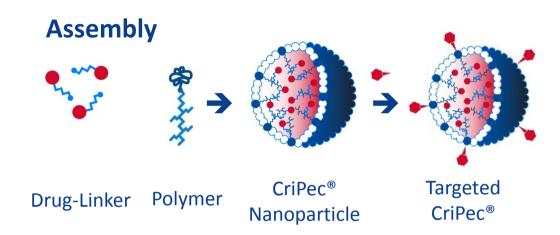
Accumulation upon i.v. administration of CriPec® nanoparticles:

- Significant uptake in primary tumour, metastases and metastasized lymph nodes
- Modest uptake in normal lymph nodes, bladder, lung and kidney



# Advantages CriPec® Platform Rational design & ease of manufacturing





Tailor made nanoparticle size between 30 to 100 nm (PDI< 0.2)

Tuneable release covalently bound drug (hours till days)

1 Step conjugation targeting ligand (small molecule - full antibody)

Plug and Play development of new CriPec® product (≈3 m)

2-3 Step manufacturing process already at clinical scale (40 L)

Robust GMP manufacturing applicable for multiple products

#### **Release and Degradation**

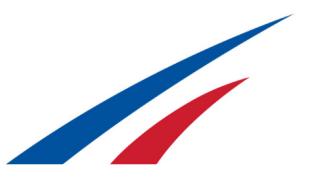


PATENT PROTECTED BY 6 PATENT FAMILIES



# **Pipeline**

	Discovery	Preclinical	Phase 1a	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Milestones	
Proprietary programs - Oncology							
CriPec® docetaxel							
Product development						Ph2 – Q4 2018	
Distribution and uptake						Ph1b - Q4 2018	
CriPec® oligonucleotides						Preclin – Q3 2018	
CriPec® DUO						Preclin – Q2 2018	
Proprietary programs - Inflammation							
CriPec® dexamethasone						Seeking Partner	
Partnered programs							
3 Non-disclosed partnerships							





#### **Business Model**

#### **Partnering-outlicensing**

CriPec® proprietary products

- CriPec<sup>®</sup> docetaxel; preferably after phase 2
- Preclinical stage CriPec® dexamethasone; now available, PoC complete

#### CriPec® platform

- Co-development opportunities available with partners products
  - CriPec® immuno-oncology (small molecules)
  - CriPec® oligonucleotides
  - CriPec® DUO (combination of 2 different compounds)
- Opportunities available for a range of disease indications, including inflammation, cardiovascular, liver...

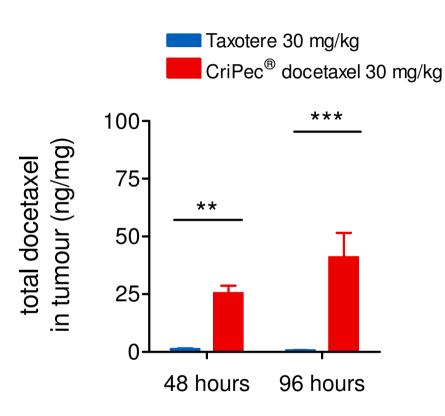


CriPec® docetaxel

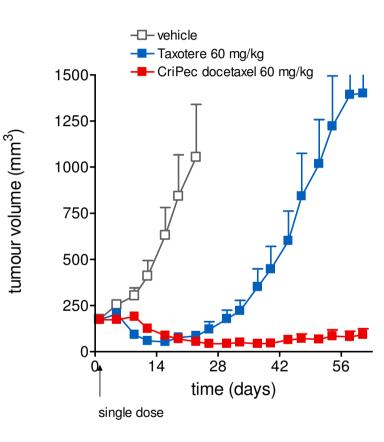
# **Preclinical Uptake & Efficacy**



#### MDA-MB-231 breast xenograft



single i.v. injection to s.c. MDA-MB-231 xenograft in nude mice  $(n = 3 \pm SD)$ 



single i.v. injection to s.c. MDA-MB-231 xenografts in nude mice  $(n=8 \pm SD)$ 

# **Competitive Pharmacokinetics**



#### Phase 1a

Parameter	Total docetaxel (mean)*								
	CriPec DTX 60 mg/m2	CriPec DTX 80 mg/m2	Taxotere 100 mg/m2	BIND-014 60 mg/m2	CRLX301 75 mg/m2				
Cmax (mcg/ml)	24.8	34.0	3.7	24.9	38.4				
AUC (mcg*h/ml)	794	1266	4.6	219	312				
t½ (hours)	31.7	34.8	11.1	6.3	n.d.				
Vd (L/m2)	3.3	3.4	66	7.8	2.2				

Taxotere reference data from SMPC

BIND-014 data from ASCO 2015, CRLX301 data from ASCO 2016

<sup>\*</sup>Total docetaxel = docetaxel entrapped in or bound to nanoparticle matrix + released docetaxel

<sup>\*</sup>Total CriPec docetaxel mean calculated from cycle 1 and cycle 2 (n=3 total)



#### **Phase 1a Conclusions**

- Unique pharmacokinetic and safety profile
- Significant reduction in certain dose limiting toxicities
  - → clinical evidence for altered tissue distribution of CriPec® docetaxel
- Encouraging signs of target response
- Ongoing trials to determine
  - dose and dose frequency for follow-up trials
  - tumour uptake in actual patient setting

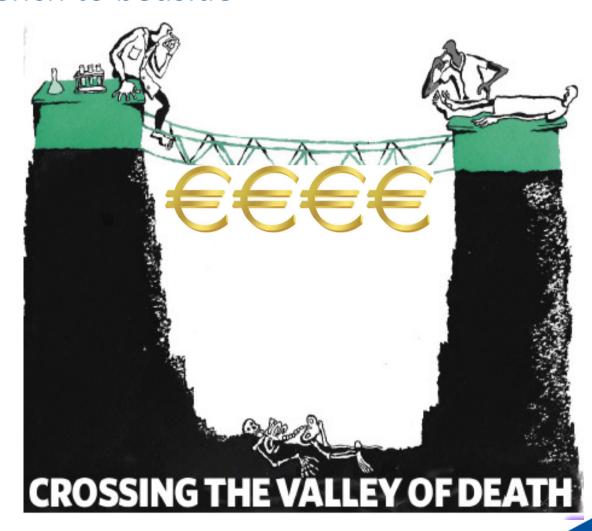


# Financing

# **Pharmaceutical Startup**



From bench to bedside





## **Company Financing**

- Early stage
  - Founders
  - Friends, Family and Fools (FFF)
- Later stage
  - Professional investors
  - Grants and loans (as an extra)





### **Grants Require Often**

- Collaborations, incl. academics (timelines difficult to control)
- Complex IP contracts
- Topic should be within scope of proposals
- Mainly research, not industrial development
- Timelines not matching with own schedules
- •

GRANTS ARE EXCELLENT – BUT NOT BASIS OF A PRODUCT COMPANY

# **Venture Capital (VC)**



#### My Practical Experience

- < 1% of offered plans is funded, based on</li>
  - Trust in management
  - Product status & opportunities
- Often heard arguments not to invest:
  - Too early
  - Not within scope
  - Already invested in similar company
  - Fundraising themselves
- Contribute with money AND knowledge to create significant value

A deal is truly closed if the money is on YOUR account



# Cristal **Cristal** VC: Focus on Exit – Value Creation Therapeutics

#### Value inflection points for Cristal Therapeutics:

- Proprietary product in clinical evaluation
- Validation of flexible, broadly applicable platform
- Manufacturability with robust outcome
- Feasibility and development studies with partners 

  validating deals with pharma companies



### **Pharmaceutical Startup**



From bench to bedside





Cristal Therapeutics raises €12.8 million in new financing round to advance novel medicines against cancer using its CriPec® nanotech platform

Posted on 19 January 2017 by cristaltherapeutics





### **Highlights**

Proprietary Platform

CriPec® enables the rational design of highly competitive nanomedicines with a superior therapeutic performance

Blockbuster Product Candidate

CriPec® docetaxel has preclinically superior efficacy and tolerability as compared to Taxotere. Clinical phase 1a yielded excellent PK and safety results

Broad Applicability

CriPec® can be applied to small molecules, peptides and oligonucleotides, and combinations thereof. CriPec® nanoparticles can be combined with targeting ligands

Business Model The business model is based on own product development, co-development and license agreements

Management Team Experienced management team, supported by strong supervisory and scientific advisory board

Financial Position

Well financed; over € 19 M VC funding raised, plus over € 10 M non-dilutive financing



### **THANK YOU!**

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