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(57) cance	Abstract: Provided herein, in some embodiments, er.	are methods	and compositions (<i>e.g.</i> , cell compositions) for the treatment

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METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR TREATING CANCER

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No.
62/670,417 filed May 11, 2018; U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 62/701,340 filed July 20, 2018; U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 62/756,643 filed November 7, 2018; U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 62/773,658 filed November 30, 2018; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 62/826,600 filed March 29, 2019. The entire contents of the above-referenced patent applications are incorporated herein by this reference.

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BACKGROUND

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy uses genetically-modified T cells to more specifically and efficiently target and kill cancer cells. After T cells have been collected from the blood, the cells are engineered to include CARs on their surface. The CARs may be introduced into the T cells using CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology. When these allogeneic

CAR T cells are injected into a patient, the receptors enable the T cells to kill cancer cells.

SUMMARY

In some aspects, the present disclosure provides engineered immune cells (*e.g.*, T cells) and methods of producing immune cells that have been edited using CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology to disrupt endogenous CD70 expression (knockout CD70).

In some aspects of the present disclosure provide an engineered immune cell (*e.g.*, T cell) comprising a disruption in the *CD70* gene. In some embodiments, the engineered immune cells are allogeneic T cells comprising a disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR. In

- some embodiments, the engineered immune cells are allogeneic T cells comprising a *TRAC* gene disrupted by insertion of a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene, and a disrupted *CD70* gene. In some embodiments, the T cells are human T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered immune cells (*e.g.*, T cells) comprise a disrupted *TRAC* gene, a disrupted *B2M* gene, a disrupted *CD70* gene, and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR. In some embodiments, the
- 30 disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR. In some embodiments the engineered immune cell (*e.g.*, T cell) further comprises a disrupted *PD-1* gene. In some embodiments the nucleic acid encoding a CAR target a tumor antigen (*e.g.*, BCMA, CD19, CD33 or CD70).

In some aspects the engineered immune cell (*e.g.*, T cell) provided exhibits improved T 35 cell function including the prevention of premature exhaustion, enhanced CAR T cell expansion,

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and increased efficiency of cancer cell killing. In some aspects the engineered immune cell (*e.g.*, T cell) provided exhibit continued, steady cell growth, relative to unedited T cells or relative to edited T cells that express CD70, as well as showing increased cytotoxicity and cytokine (*e.g.*, IL-2 and/or IFN-gamma) secretion.

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In some aspects, the disclosure provides an engineered T cell comprising a disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that does not bind CD70. In some aspects, the engineered T cell comprises a disrupted T cell receptor alpha constant region (TRAC) gene. In some aspects, the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR that does not bind CD70. In some aspects, the engineered T cell comprises a disrupted T cell comprises a disrupted zero.

10 microglobulin (β 2M) gene.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides an engineered T cell comprising: (i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene; (ii) a disrupted *B2M* gene; (iii) a disrupted *CD70* gene; and (iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that does not bind CD70.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a population of cells comprising engineered T 15 cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise a disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that does not bind CD70.

In some aspects, the engineered T cell in the population of cells comprises a disrupted T cell receptor alpha constant region (TRAC) gene. In some aspects, the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR that does not bind CD70. In some aspects, the

20 engineered T cell in the population of cells comprises a disrupted beta-2-microglobulin (β2M) gene.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise: (i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene; (ii) a disrupted *B2M* gene; (iii) a disrupted *CD70* gene; and (iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that does not bind CD70.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds i-B cell maturation antigen (BCMA). In some aspects, the ectodomain comprises an anti-BCMA antibody. In some aspects, the ectodomain comprises an anti-BCMA single-chain variable fragment (scFv). In some aspects, the anti-BCMA scFv comprises variable heavy (VH) chain

30 complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same variable light (VL) chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 60 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 61. In some aspects, the anti-BCMA scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 60 and 61, respectively. In some aspects, the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ

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ID NO: 59. In some aspects, the anti-BCMA scFv is encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 57.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA scFv comprises a VH comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 60. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA scFv comprises a VL comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA scFv comprises a VH comprising CDR amino acid sequences of (i) SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 82, and/or SEQ ID NO: 84 or (ii) SEQ ID NO: 81, SEQ ID NO: 83, or SEQ ID NO: 85; and/or the anti-BCMA scFv comprises a VL sequence comprising

 CDR amino acid sequences of (i) SEQ ID NO: 74, SEQ ID NO: 76, and/or SEQ ID NO: 78. In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds CD33. In some the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD33 antibody. In some aspects, the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD33 scFv. In some aspects, the anti-CD33 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference
 antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEO ID NO: 140 and a VL set forth as SEO ID NO: 141.

- In some aspects, the anti-CD33 scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 140 and 141, respectively. In some aspects, the anti-CD33 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137.
- In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds 20 CD19. In some aspects, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD19 antibody. In some aspects, the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD19 scFv. In some aspects, the anti-CD19 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 152 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 153. In some aspects, the anti-CD19 scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 152 and 153, respectively. In some aspects, the anti-CD19 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 151.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides an engineered T cell comprising: (i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene; (ii) a disrupted *B2M* gene; (iii) a disrupted *CD70* gene; and (iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that binds CD70. In some aspects, the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR.

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In some aspects, the disclosure provides a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise: (i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene; (ii) a disrupted *B2M* gene; (iii) a disrupted *CD70* gene; and (iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that binds CD70.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

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(i) a disrupted TRAC gene;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene;

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene

(iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising (a) an ectodomain that comprises an anti CD70 scFv, (b) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (c) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain and a CD3z signaling domain.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the CAR that binds CD70 comprises an ectodomain comprising an anti-CD70 antibody. In some aspects, CAR comprises an ectodomain comprising an anti-CD70 scFv. In some aspects, the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody

same VH CDRs and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 51 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 52. In some aspects, the anti-CD70 scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 51 and 52, respectively. In some aspects, the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50. In some aspects, the anti-CD70
scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the anti-CD70 scFv comprises a VH comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 51. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 scFv comprises a VL comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 52. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 scFv comprises a VH comprising CDR amino acid sequences of (i)

- SEQ ID NO: 68, SEQ ID NO: 70, and/or SEQ ID NO: 72 or (ii) SEQ ID NO: 69, SEQ ID NO: 71, and/or SEQ ID NO: 73; and/or the anti-CD70 scFv comprises a VL sequence comprising CDR amino acid sequences of (i) SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, and/or SEQ ID NO: 66 or (ii) SEQ ID NO: SEQ ID NO: 63, SEQ ID NO: 65, and/or SEQ ID NO: 67.
- In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the CAR comprises a CD28 or 41BB co stimulatory domain. In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the CAR comprises a CD3ζ
 signaling domain. In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the CAR comprises a CD8
 transmembrane domain.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, there is a deletion in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some aspects, the deletion is 15-30 base pairs. In some aspects, the deletion is 20 base pairs. In some aspects, the deletion comprises SEQ ID NO: 86. In some aspects, the deletion is of SEQ ID NO: 86.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides an engineered T cell comprising a disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that binds CD70, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46. In some aspects, the disclosure provides

35 an engineered T cell comprising a disrupted CD70 gene, and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that

binds CD70, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 45. In some aspects, the disclosure provides an engineered T cell comprising a disrupted CD70 gene, and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that binds CD70, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 45.

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In some embodiments, the *CD70* gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing. In some embodiments, the *B2M* gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing. In some embodiments, the *PD-1* gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides an engineered T cell comprising:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46;

(ii) a disrupted B2M gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding the CAR comprises a sequence at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98% or at least 99% identical to SEO ID NO: 45.

In other aspects, the disclosure provides an engineered T cell comprising:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 45;

(ii) a disrupted B2M gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene. In some embodiments, the disrupted TRAC gene comprises
 a donor sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45 or SEQ ID
 NO: 44.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides an engineered T cell comprising:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene comprising a nucleic acid sequence at least 90% identical to

25 SEQ ID NO: 44;

(ii) a disrupted B2M gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides an engineered T cell comprising:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 44;

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(ii) a disrupted B2M gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the engineered T cell comprises a disrupted

PD-1 gene. In some aspects, the engineered immune cells are allogeneic T cells comprising a *TRAC* gene disrupted by insertion of a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, a disrupted β 2M gene, and

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a disrupted PD-1 gene. In some embodiments the engineered immune cell (*e.g.*, T cell) further comprises a disrupted CD70 gene.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the engineered T cell maintains cytotoxicity 5 following 5 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen specific for the CAR. In some aspects, the engineered T cell maintains cytotoxicity following 10 rechallenges with the target cell. In some aspects, the target cell is a cancer cell. In some aspects, the target cell is a cancer cell of a hematological cancer or solid tumor.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the engineered T cell or population of cells comprises a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57. In some aspects, the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 56.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the engineered T cell or population of cells comprises a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139. In some aspects, the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 136.

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In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the engineered T cell or population of cells comprises a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 149. In some aspects, the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 148.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the engineered T cell or population of cells comprises a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46. In some aspects, the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 45.

Other aspects of the present disclosure provide a population of cells comprising any of the engineered immune cells (*e.g.*, T cells) described herein. In some embodiments, a population of cells comprise T cells that comprise a *TRAC* gene disrupted by insertion of a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, a disrupted β 2M gene, and a disrupted *CD70* gene. In some embodiments, a population of cells comprise T cells that comprise a disrupted *TRAC* gene, a disrupted *B2M* gene, a disrupted *CD70* gene, and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR. In some embodiments, a population of cells comprise T cells that comprise a disrupted *TRAC* gene, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, a disrupted *B2M* gene, and a disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, a disrupted *B2M* gene, and a disrupted *CD70* gene.

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In some aspects, the disclosure provides a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising (a) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antigen-binding fragment, (b) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (c) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-

35 stimulatory domain and a CD3z signaling domain;

(ii) a disrupted beta-2-microglobulin (B2M) gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

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(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.

In other aspects, the disclosure provides a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 45;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted *CD70* gene. In some aspects, the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises thenucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene comprising a nucleic acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 44;

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(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted *CD70* gene. In some aspects, the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44.

In some embodiments, the CAR comprises a CD3z signaling domain. In some embodiments, the CAR comprises a CD8 transmembrane domain. In some embodiments, the CAR comprises a CD28 or 41BB co-stimulatory domain.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects of the population of cells, the disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene comprises at least one nucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NOS: 9-14. In any of the foregoing or related aspects of the population of cells, the disrupted *CD70* gene comprises at least one nucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NOS: 129-134.

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In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 and/or the nucleic acid encoding the anti-CD70 CAR comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 44. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 44.

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SEQ ID NO: 56 and/or the nucleic acid encoding the anti-BCMA CAR comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 56. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 56. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 55.

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In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 156 and/or the nucleic acid encoding the anti-CD19 CAR comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 156. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide

10 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 and/or the nucleic acid encoding the anti-CD33 CAR comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136. In some embodiments, the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135.

In any of the foregoing aspects, the engineered T cells:(a) exhibit increased cellular proliferative capacity;

(b) exhibit increased cell lysis;

(c) exhibit reduced cellular exhaustion;

(d) maintain cytokine-dependent proliferation;

(e) exhibit increased cytokine secretion; or

20 (f) any combination of (a) - (e),

relative to control T cells, wherein control T cells express endogenous CD70 protein. In some embodiments, at least 50%, optionally 50%-65%, of the engineered T cells do

not express a detectable level of TCR surface protein, do not express a detectable level of β 2M surface protein, do not express a detectable level of CD70 surface protein, and/or express a

25 detectable level of the CAR.

In some embodiments, at least 90%, optionally 90%-100%, of the engineered T cells do not express a detectable level of TCR surface protein. In some embodiments, greater than 99.5% of the engineered T cells do not express a detectable level of TCR surface protein.

In some embodiments, at least 60%, optionally 60%-75%, of the engineered immune
cells (*e.g.*, T cells) do not express a detectable level of β2M surface protein.

In some embodiments, at least 80%, optionally 80%-100%, of the engineered immune cells (*e.g.*, T cells) do not express a detectable level of CD70 surface protein.

In some embodiments, at least 80%, optionally 80%-95%, of the engineered immune cells (*e.g.*, T cells) express a detectable level of the CAR (*e.g.*, an anti-CD70 CAR or an anti-

35 BCMA CAR).

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In some embodiments, the engineered immune cells (*e.g.*, T cells) further comprise a disrupted *PD-1* gene.

In some embodiments, at least 50%, optionally 50%-70%, of the engineered T cells do not express a detectable level of TCR surface protein, do not express a detectable level of β 2M surface protein, do not express a detectable level of PD-1 surface protein, do not express a

detectable level of CD70 surface protein, and/or express a detectable level of the CAR.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a method for producing an engineered T cell, the method comprising:

(a) delivering to a T cell

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an RNA-guided nuclease,

a gRNA targeting a CD70 gene, and

a vector comprising a donor template that comprises a nucleic acid encoding a

CAR; and

(b) producing an engineered T cell comprising a disrupted CD70 gene and expressing the CAR.

In some aspects, the method further comprises delivering to the T cell a gRNA targeting a *TRAC* gene; wherein the engineered T cell further comprises a disrupted *TRAC* gene. In some aspects, the nucleic acid encoding the CAR is flanked by left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene; and wherein the engineered T cell comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR in

20 the *TRAC* gene. In some aspects, the method further comprises delivering to the T cell a gRNA targeting a $\beta 2M$ gene; wherein the engineered T cell of further comprises a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene.

Also provided herein are methods for producing an engineered T cell, the method comprising (a) delivering to a T cell an RNA-guided nuclease, a gRNA targeting a *TRAC* gene, a gRNA targeting a $\beta 2M$ gene, a gRNA targeting a *CD70* gene, and a vector comprising a donor template that comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, optionally wherein the nucleic acid encoding the CAR is flanked by left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene locus, and (b) producing an engineered T cell.

In some embodiments, the RNA-guided nuclease is a Cas9 nuclease, optionally a *Streptococcus pyogenes* Cas9 nuclease. Other RNA-guided nucleases may be used and are described below.

In some embodiments, wherein the gRNA targeting the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 98 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30. In some embodiments, the gRNA targeting the $\beta 2M$ gene comprises the

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nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 99 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 119, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the $\beta 2M$ gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 31. In some embodiments, the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 94 or 95 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID

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NO: 114 or 115, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 26 or 27.

In any of the foregoing aspects, the RNA-guided nuclease and gRNA are complexed in a ribonucleorotein particle (RNP).

In some embodiments, the methods further comprise delivering to the T cell a gRNA targeting a *PD-1* gene.

In some embodiments, the gRNA targeting the *PD-1* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 100 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 120, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *PD-1* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

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In some aspects, the disclosure provides a method for producing an engineered T cell for immunotherapy against a target cell, comprising:

(a) disrupting a *CD70* gene in a T cell, and

(b) expressing a CAR that binds to an antigen expressed on the target cell, wherein the antigen is not CD70. In some aspects, the target cell is a cancer cell. In some aspects, the method is ex

20 *vivo*. In some aspects, the method further comprises comprising disrupting a *TRAC* gene in the T cell. In some aspects, the method further comprises disrupting a $\beta 2M$ gene in the T cell. In some aspects, the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid in the disrupted *TRAC* gene. In some aspects, the CAR is any one of the CARs described herein.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a population of engineered T cells produced by any one of the methods described herein.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a method of increasing proliferation of T cells, comprising disrupting the *CD70* gene in the T cells. In some aspects, the disclosure provides a method of reducing exhaustion of T cells, comprising disrupting the *CD70* gene in the T cells. In any of the foregoing aspects, the *CD70* gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas gene editing. In

30 some aspects, the method further comprises disrupting the *TRAC* gene, the $\beta 2M$ gene, or both the *TRAC* and $\beta 2M$ genes in the T cells. In some aspects, the *TRAC* gene, $\beta 2M$ gene or both *TRAC* and $\beta 2M$ gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas gene editing.

In some embodiments, the vector comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46. In some embodiments, the vector

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comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEO ID NO: 57. In some embodiments, the vector comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 149. In some embodiments, the vector comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139.

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In some aspects, the disclosure provides methods for administering the population of cells or an engineered T cells described herein to a subject. In some aspects, the engineered T cells are engineered human T cells. In some aspects, the subject has cancer. In some aspects, the cancer expresses CD70, BMCA, CD19, CD33 or combinations thereof. In some aspects, the

- 10 population of cells is administered to the subject in an amount effective to treat the cancer. In some aspects, the cancer is a solid tumor malignancy or a hematological malignancy. In some aspects, the solid tumor malignancy is selected from the group consisting of: ovarian tumor, pancreatic tumor, kidney tumor, lung tumor, and intestinal tumor. In some aspects, the population of cells is administered to the subject in an amount effective to reduce the volume of
- 15 a tumor in the subject.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a method for treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering the population of cells or an engineered T cells described herein to a subject.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a method for treating cancer in a subject, 20 comprising administering to the patient a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise a disrupted CD70 gene and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, thereby treating cancer in the subject. In some embodiments, the CAR binds CD70. In some embodiments, the CAR does not bind CD70.

In other aspects, the disclosure provides a method for treating cancer in a subject, 25 comprising administering to the patient a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene;;

(ii) a disrupted B2M gene;

- (iii) a disrupted CD70 gene; and
- (iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR;

thereby treating the cancer in the subject.

In yet other aspects, the disclosure provides a method for treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the patient a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene; 35

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(ii) a disrupted B2M gene;

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene; and

(iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising (a) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antigen-binding fragment, (b) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (c) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain and a CD3z signaling domain,

thereby treating the cancer in the subject. In some embodiments, the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding the CAR comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45. In some embodiments, the disrupted TRAC gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or SEQ ID NO: 44.

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In some aspects, the disclosure provides a method of treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the subject a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46;

15 (ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene,

thereby treating the cancer in the subject.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a method of treating cancer in a subject,

comprising administering to the subject a population of cells comprising engineered T cells,

20 wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 45;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene,

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thereby treating the cancer in the subject. In some aspects, the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45.

In some aspects, the disclosure provides a method of treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the subject a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

30 (i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene comprising a nucleic acid sequence at least 90% identical to
 SEQ ID NO: 44;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene,

thereby treating the cancer in the subject. In some aspects, the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44.

In any of the foregoing or related aspects, the engineered T cells are engineered human T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells are engineered allogeneic T cells.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 includes a graph showing highly efficient multiple gene editing in TRAC-/ β 2M-/PD-1-/CD70- (quadruple knockout) T cells.

FIG. 2 includes a graph showing similar expansion among multigene-edited cells.

FIG. 3 includes graphs showing efficient multiple gene editing in TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (i.e., 3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺) T cells.

FIG. 4 includes a graph showing that normal proportions of CD4+ and CD8+ T cells are maintained among the TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺T cell population.

FIG. 5 includes a graph showing efficient multiple gene editing in TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻ 15 /CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺T cells.

FIG. 6 includes a graph showing that normal proportions of CD4+ and CD8+ T cells are maintained among the TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (i.e., 4X KO, CD70 CAR⁺) T cell population.

FIGS. 7A-7C include graphs showing data relating to the characterization of anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells with multi-gene edits. Double knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells and quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells were stained for TRAC and β2M (FIG. 7A), PD-1 and CD70 (FIG. 7B), and BCMA CAR (FIG. 7C) expression. The anti-BCMA CAR was expressed at approximately 80% in both the double and quadruple knockout CAR T cells.

FIG. 8 includes flow cytometry plots showing prevention of loss of CD4+ cells in 3X
 KO (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) anti-CD33 CAR T cells compared 2X KO (TRAC-/β2M-) anti-CD33 CAR T cells over three weeks.

FIG. 9 includes a graph showing CD70 KO enhanced cell proliferation in anti-CD33 CAR T cells over two weeks. The total number of viable cells was quantified in 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) and 2X KO (TRAC-/β2M-) anti-CD33 CAR T cells.

FIG. 10 includes a graph showing CD70 KO enhanced cell proliferation in anti-CD19 CAR T cells over two weeks. The total number of viable cells was quantified in 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) and 2X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-) anti-CD33 CAR T cells.

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FIG. 11 includes graphs showing CD70 KO enhanced cell proliferation in anti-BCMA CAR T cells and rescued the detrimental effect of PD1 KO on BCMA CAR cell proliferation. The total number of viable cells was quantified in 4X KO (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-/PD1-), 3X KO (CD70) (TRAC-/\beta2M-/CD70-), 3X KO (PD1) (TRAC-/\beta2M-/PD1-) and 2X KO (TRAC-/\beta2M-) anti-CD33 CAR T cells.

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FIG. 12 includes graphs showing CD70 KO enhanced cell proliferation in anti-BCMA CAR T cells and rescued the detrimental effect of PD1 KO on BCMA CAR cell proliferation. The total number of viable cells was quantified in 4X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/PD1-), 3X KO (CD70) (TRAC-/\beta2M-/CD70-), 3X KO (PD1) (TRAC-/\beta2M-/PD1-) and 2X KO (TRAC-/\beta2M-) anti-CD33 CAR T cells. The anti-BCMA CAR T cells were derived from a different donor T cells as the CAR T cells shown in FIG. 11.

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FIG. 13 includes a graph showing a comparison of apoptotic cell death due to antigen exposure in 2X KO (TRAC-/B2M-) anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells and 3X KO (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-) anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells. CAR+ T cells were exposed to plate-bound BCMA antigen

for 24 hours with a re-challenge every 24 hours and apoptosis was assessed following each 15 antigen challenge by flow cytometry. Induction of apoptosis due to antigen challenge was lower in anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells with a CD70 KO compared to those without.

FIG. 14 includes a graph showing a comparison of CAR T cell expansion following antigen exposure in 2X KO (TRAC-/B2M-) anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells and 3X KO (TRAC-

- 20 /B2M-/CD70-) anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells. CAR+ T cells were exposed to plate-bound BCMA antigen for 24 hours with a re-challenge every 24 hours and cell expansion was assessed following each antigen challenge and normalized to the population at time 0h. Population expansion following antigen challenge was higher in anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells with a CD70 KO compared to those without.
- 25 FIG. 15 includes a graph showing robust cell expansion in TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺T cells. The total number of viable cells was quantified in 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) and 2X KO (TRAC-/\beta2M-) anti-CD70 CAR T cells. 3X KO cells were generated with either CD70 sgRNA T7 or T8.

FIG. 16 includes a graph showing robust cell expansion of TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻ 30 /anti-CD70 CAR+T cells. The total number of viable cells was quantified in 4X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-), 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-) and 2X KO (TRAC-/β2M-) anti-CD70 CAR T cells.

FIG. 17 includes graphs showing robust cell killing of both Nalm6 (top panel) cells and Raji (bottom panel) cells by anti-CD19 CAR T cells (TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD19 CAR⁺ or TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/anti-CD19 CAR⁺ T cells).

FIG. 18 includes a graph showing robust cell killing of MV411 cells by anti-CD33 CAR
5 T cells (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD33 CAR⁺ or TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD33 CAR⁺ T cells).

FIG. 19 includes a graph showing robust cell killing of A498 cells by 3X KO (TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻) anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells compared to 2X KO (TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻) anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells.

FIG. 20 includes a graph showing cell expansion of 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) or 2X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-) anti-CD33 CAR T cells after challenge with MV411 target cells.

FIG. 21 includes a graph showing cell expansion of 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) or 2X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-) anti-CD70 CAR T cells after challenge with Nalm6 target cells.

FIG. 22A includes a graph showing A498 cell killing by anti-CD70 CAR T cells after serial rechallenge. 4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/PD1⁻), 3X KO (CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻),

15 3X KO (PD1) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻) and 2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells were utilized. 3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells, and 4X KO, CD70 CAR+ T cells were the most effective. FIG. 22B includes a graph showing ACHN cell killing by anti-CD70 CAR T cells after serial rechallenge. The same cells as FIG. 22A were utilized. 3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and 4X KO, CD70 CAR⁺ T cells were the most effective.

FIG. 23A includes a graph showing ACHN cell killing by anti-CD70 CAR T cells at various effector:target ratios. 4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/PD1⁻), 3X KO (CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻), 3X KO (PD1) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻) and 2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells were utilized. 3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and 4X KO, CD70 CAR⁺ T cells were superior killers following multiple serial rechallenges. FIG. 23B includes a graph showing
LAG3 (left) and PD1 (right) expression in the cells from FIG. 23A following eight rechallenges.

FIGS. 24A-24C include graphs showing that knockout of PD-1 and CD70 enhances cell killing activity of anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells as measured through serial rechallenges with a multiple myeloma cell line (MM.1S). Double knockout (2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻) anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells (circles) began to lose their potency towards MM.1S cells after approximately 4
rechallenges, while quadruple knockout (4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/PD1⁻) anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells (squares) were capable of killing 100% of the MM.1S cells after 10 rechallenges (FIG. 24A). Consistent with this, the quadruple knockout anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells continued to secrete IFN-g in response to target cells after 10 rechallenges, while the double knockout anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells showed reduced IFN-g secretion after the third rechallenge (FIG. 24B).

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The quadruple knockout anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells also showed higher proliferation in response to exposure to target cells than the double knockout anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells (FIG. 24C).

FIGS. 25A-25C include graphs showing highest cell kill activity in A498 PD-L1 kidney cancer cells (which overexpress PD-L1) using quadruple knockout (4X KO) TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻ /CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and triple knockout (3X KO (CD70)) TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-5 CD70 CAR⁺ T cells, relative to double knockout (2X KO) TRAC⁻/B2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and triple knockout (3X KO (PD1) TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells. A CAR T cell:A498-PD-L1 cell ratio of 2:1 was used in FIG. 25A, a CAR T cell:A498-PD-L1 cell ratio of 1:1 was used in FIG. 25B, and a CAR T cell:A498-PD-L1 cell ratio of 0.5:1 was used in FIG. 25C.

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FIG. 26A and FIG. 26B include graphs showing that quadruple knockout (4X KO) TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells secrete the highest levels of cytokines IFNgamma (FIG. 26A) and IL-2 (FIG. 26B), relative to triple knockout (3X KO (CD70) TRAC⁻ /β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells, double knockout (2X KO) TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70

CAR⁺ T cells and triple knockout (3X KO (PD1) TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells. 15 A CAR T cell:A498-PD-L1 cell ratio of 1:1 was used.

FIG. 27A includes a graph showing results from an experiment designed to assess tumor volume reduction in a subcutaneous A498 renal cell carcinoma model exposed to: 2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells; 3X KO (PD-1) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells;

- 3X KO (CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells; or 4X KO (PD-1, CD70) (TRAC⁻ 20 /\beta2M^-/PD1^-/CD70^-), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells. FIG. 27B includes a graph showing results from an experiment designed to assess prevention of tumor growth in a subcutaneous A498 renal cell carcinoma rechallenge model. Mice from FIG. 27A were rechallenged with A498 tumor cells on day 25 and tumor volume was assessed over time. FIG. 27C includes a graph showing results
- 25 from an experiment designed to assess tumor volume reduction in a subcutaneous A498 renal cell carcinoma model (large tumor of ~150mm3 at time of CAR-T injection) exposed to: 3X KO (CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells; 4X KO (PD-1, CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻ /CD70⁻), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells; 2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells; or 3X KO (PD-1) $(TRAC^{-}/\beta 2M^{-}/PD1^{-})$, CD70 CAR⁺ T cells.
- 30 FIG. 28A includes a graph showing tumor volume reduction in a subcutaneous MM.1S model exposed to: 2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells; 3X KO (PD-1) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻ /PD1⁻), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells; 3X KO (CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells; or 4X KO (PD-1, CD70) (TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD1⁻/CD70⁻), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells.

FIG. 28B includes a graph showing tumor volume reduction in a subcutaneous MM.1S model following a tumor cell re-challenge. Mice from FIG. 28A were re-challenged with a second inoculation of MM.1S cells on day 45 and tumor volume was assessed over time.

FIG. 29 includes graphs showing the number of human CD45⁺ 2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻),
BCMA CAR⁺ T cells; human CD45⁺ 3X KO (PD-1) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells; human CD45⁺ 3X KO (CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells; and human CD45⁺ 4X KO (PD-1, CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻/CD70⁻), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells 1 week (right graph), 2 weeks (middle graph), and 3 weeks (left graph) post dosing.

FIG. 30 includes graphs showing the results from an experiment designed to assess tumor volume reduction in a subcutaneous RPMI-8226 tumor xenograft model exposed to: TRAC⁻/β2M/-anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells (2X KO, BCMA CAR⁺ T cells); TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻ /anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells (3X KO (PD-1), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells); TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells (3X KO (CD70), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells); or TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻/CD70⁻ /anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells (4X KO (PD-1, CD70), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells), at doses of 1x10⁵,

15 $3x10^5$, $1x10^6$, or $3x10^6$ cells/mouse.

FIG. 31 includes a graph showing that TRAC⁻ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺T cell maintain cytokine-dependent proliferation.

FIG. 32 shows cytokine-dependent growth of the TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells.

20 **FIG. 33** includes a graph showing 4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻), BCMA CAR⁺ T cells maintain cytokine dependency.

FIG. 34 includes a graph showing enhanced cytokine (IL-2) release by 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells compared to 2X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-) anti-CD70 CAR + T cells when co-cultured with A498 kidney cancer cells at various ratios for 24 hours.

FIG. 35 includes a graph showing robust cell killing of A498 cells by anti-CD70 CAR T cells (2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻), CD70 CAR+; 3X KO (PD-1) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻), CD70 CAR+; and 4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻) CD70 CAR⁺) relative to TCR+ T cells. T cells were co-cultured with A498 cells at various ratios for 24 hours and percentage of cell lysis was measured.

30 FIG. 36 includes a graph showing highest cell kill activity in A498 kidney cancer cells using quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (4X KO, CD70 CAR⁺) and triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺), relative to double knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (i.e., 2X KO, CD70 CAR⁺) T cells and triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (i.e., 3X KO (PD-1),

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CD70 CAR⁺) T cells. A CAR T cell:A498 cell ratio of 0.25:1 was used. Percentage of cell lysis of A498 cells was measured 24 hours after co-culture.

FIGS. 37A and 37B include graphs showing that quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (4X KO, CD70 CAR+) and triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻

- 5 /CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR+) secrete the highest levels of cytokines IFN-gamma (FIG. 37A) and IL-2 (FIG. 37B), relative to double knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (2X KO, CD70 CAR+) and triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (3X KO (PD-1), CD70 CAR+). A CAR T cell:A498 cell ratio of 0.25:1 was used. IFN-gamma and IL-2 secretion was measured 24 hours are co-culture.
- FIG. 38 includes a graph showing that knocking out CD70 in anti-CD70 CAR T cells
 (3X KO (CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻), CD70 CAR+; 3X KO (PD-1) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻),
 CD70 CAR+; and 4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/PD-1⁻), CD70 CAR+) decreased levels of PD-1 expression in CD4+ T cells relative to anti-CD70 CAR T cells expressing endogenous CD70 (2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻) CD70 CAR+).
- FIG. 39A and FIG. 39B include graphs showing that knocking out CD70 in anti-CD70 CAR T cells (3X KO (CD70) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻), CD70 CAR+; 3X KO (PD-1) (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻), CD70 CAR+; and 4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/PD-1⁻), CD70 CAR+) decreased levels of exhaustion marker LAG3 in CD8+ T cells (FIG. 39A) and CD4+ T cells (FIG. 39B) relative to anti-CD70 CAR T cells expressing endogenous CD70 (2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻) CD70
 20 CAR+).

FIG. 40A includes graphs showing relative CD70 expression in five different cancer cell lines (left panel) and relative CD70 expression in three different cancel cell lines (right panel).
FIG. 40B includes graphs showing relative CD70 expression in nine different cancer cell lines.
FIGS. 40C-40D include graphs showing highest cell kill activity in ACHN (ATCC® CRL-

- 25 1611TM) kidney cancer cells (which express low levels of CD70) using quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (4X KO, CD70 CAR+) and triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR+), relative to double knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (2X KO, CD70 CAR+) and triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (3X KO (PD-1), CD70 CAR+). A CAR T
- 30 cell:ACHN cell ratio of 0.5:1 was used in FIG. 40C and a CAR T cell:ACHN cell ratio of 0.25:1 was used in FIG. 40D. FIG. 40E and FIG. 40F include graphs showing cell kill activity using quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (FIG. 40E) and triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (FIG. 40F) against additional solid tumor cell lines with varying levels of CD70 expression (4:1, 1:1, or 0.25:1 effector:target cell

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ratio). **FIG. 40G** includes a graph showing cell kill activity using the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells against solid tumor cell lines after a co-culture period of 24 hours or 96 hours. **FIGs. 40H-40J** include graphs showing cell kill activity using the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (3KO (CD70), CD70 CAR+) against CD70-deficient chronic myelogenous leukemia (K562) cells (**FIG. 40H**), CD70-expressing multiple myeloma (MM.1S) cells (**FIG. 40I**), and CD70-expressing T cell lymphoma (HuT78)

cells (FIG. 40J) at various effector:target ratios.

FIG. 41A and FIG. 41B include graphs showing that quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻
/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (4X KO, CD70 CAR+) and triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻
/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR+) secrete the highest levels of cytokines IFN-gamma (FIG. 41A) and IL-2 (FIG. 41B), relative to double knockout TRAC⁻
/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (2X KO, CD70 CAR+) and triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻
/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (3X KO (PD-1), CD70 CAR+). A CAR T cell:ACHN cell ratio of 0.25:1 was used.

- 15 FIG. 42A includes a graph showing results from an experiment designed to assess tumor volume reduction in a human ovarian tumor xenograft model (e.g., SKOV-3 tumor cells) exposed to 3X KO (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR T cells. FIG. 42B includes a graph showing results from an experiment designed to assess tumor volume reduction in a human non-small cell lung tumor xenograft model (e.g., NCI-H1975 tumor cells) exposed to 3X KO
- 20 (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR T cells. FIG. 42C includes a graph showing results from an experiment designed to assess tumor volume reduction in a human pancreatic tumor xenograft model (e.g., Hs766T tumor cells) exposed to 3X KO (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR T cells. FIG. 42D includes graphs showing results from an experiment designed to assess tumor volume reduction in a human T-cell lymphoma xenograft model (e.g., HuT78
 25 tumor cells) exposed to 3X KO (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR T cells. Tumor volumes of individual mice (left) and mean tumor volumes (right) are shown.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present disclosure is based, at least in part, on the discovery that disrupting the CD70 30 gene in immune cells engineered to express an antigen targeting moiety (*e.g.*, a CAR) enhances several characteristics important for cell-based immunotherapy, including anti-tumor efficacy. Specifically, such engineered immune cells showed unexpected superior features, including extended proliferation and *in vivo* persistence resulting in long-term, enhanced anti-tumor

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efficacy. Notably, these unexpected features have been demonstrated with targeting moieties specific for various antigens, including BCMA, CD19, CD33 and CD70.

As demonstrated herein, disrupting the CD70 gene resulted in maintenance of cytotoxicity of immune cells engineered to express an antigen targeting moiety after multiple 5 rounds of challenges by cancer cells *in vitro*. Without wishing to be bound by theory, this maintenance of cytotoxicity indicates disrupting the CD70 gene makes the engineered immune cells resistant to exhaustion and may result in cells that live longer.

It was also found that disrupting the CD70 gene in immune cells engineered to express an antigen targeting moiety enhanced anti-tumor efficacy against large tumors and induced a durable anti-cancer memory response. Specifically, the anti-cancer memory response prevented tumor growth upon re-challenge. Further, it has been demonstrated disrupting the CD70 gene results in enhanced cytotoxicity of immune cells engineered to express an antigen targeting moiety at lower ratios of engineered immune cells to target cells, indicating the potential efficacy of low doses of engineered immune cells.

15 It has also been shown disruption of the CD70 gene enhances cell proliferation and *in vivo* persistence of engineered immune cells. Without wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed the superior features of the engineered immune cells described herein allow for more consistent cell populations, larger scale production due to the cells' ability to survive more cell division, and fewer starting cells required to produce the engineered cells. Such features may also prove beneficial in a clinical setting. For example, increased expansion and decreased exhaustion indicates increased efficacy per dose and the ability to obtain efficacy with lower doses.

It has also been demonstrated that disrupting the CD70 gene in immune cells engineered to express an antigen targeting moiety maintains cytotoxicity against cancer cells expressing highly immune suppressive molecules, *i.e.*, PD-L1. Without wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed the internal negative signal of PD-1 expressed on immune cells when bound to PD-L1 expressed on cancer cells, is overcome by disrupting CD70.

Accordingly, provided herein are methods and compositions (*e.g.*, cell compositions) for the treatment of cancer, such as BCMA⁺, CD19⁺, CD33⁺, and CD70⁺ malignancies, involving the use of the engineered immune cells with increased efficacy and persistence.

CD70 Gene Edit

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Cluster of Differentiation 70 (CD70) is a member of the tumor necrosis factor superfamily and its expression is restricted to activated T and B lymphocytes and mature

35 dendritic cells. CD70 is implicated in tumor cell and regulatory T cell survival through

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interaction with its ligand, CD27. CD70 and its receptor CD27 have multiple roles in immune function in multiple cell types including T cells (activated and T regs), and B cells. It is unclear exactly how CD70 functions in all of these cell types to control functions such as apoptosis, with publications indicating contradicting roles. For example, it has been reported that CD70 induces apoptosis or survival of T cells depending on the antigenic load (Wensveen, F., et al. J.

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Immunol, Vol 188: 4256-4267, 2012).

While CAR T cells have proved to be an effective immunotherapeutic, various challenges remain. For example, over time CAR T cells become exhausted and become ineffective *in vivo*. With regards to manufacturing, it takes significant time to produce enough cells to dose a patient. To address these limitations, the present disclosure provides CAR T cells that have been engineered to disrupt endogenous CD70 expression while at the same time

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expressing an antigen targeting moiety (e.g., an scFv).

Surprisingly, the present disclosure shows disrupting the CD70 gene enables increased CAR T health and function (e.g., extended proliferation, reduced exhaustion) regardless of the

- 15 antigen being targeted by the scFv in the CAR T. This applies even to antigens expressed on T cells such as CD33 and CD70 where the effects of the disrupted CD70 gene retain CAR T function even where fratricide may be expected. That is, these CD70 knockout cells (*e.g.*, in which the *CD70* gene has been edited using CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology), independent of the CAR insertion, exhibit continued, steady cell growth, relative to unmodified
- 20 T cells (or edited T cells that express CD70) and express lower levels of exhaustion markers, such as LAG3. The CAR T cells of the present disclosure, may include any antibody (including whole antibodies and antibody fragments) or other molecule (*e.g.*, receptor or ligand) that specifically binds to a cancer antigen to guide the CAR T cell to a cancer cell. In some embodiments, the antibody is an anti-CD70 antibody (*e.g.*, an anti-CD70 scFv). In other
- 25 embodiments, the antibody is an anti-CD19 antibody (*e.g.*, an anti-CD19 scFv). In yet other embodiments, the antibody is an anti-BCMA antibody (*e.g.*, an anti-BCMA scFv). In other embodiments, the antibody is an anti-CD33 antibody (*e.g.*, an anti-CD33 scFv). Other cancer antigens are encompassed by the present disclosure.

It should be understood that gene disruption encompasses gene modification through 30 gene editing (*e.g.*, using CRISPR/Cas gene editing to insert or delete one or more nucleotides). In some embodiments, a disrupted gene is a gene that does not encode functional protein. In some embodiments, a cell that comprises a disrupted gene does not express (*e.g.*, at the cell surface) a detectable level (*e.g.* by antibody, *e.g.*, by flow cytometry) of the protein encoded by the gene. A cell that does not express a detectable level of the protein may be referred to as a

35 knockout cell. For example, a cell having a CD70 gene edit may be considered a CD70 knockout

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cell if CD70 protein cannot be detected at the cell surface using an antibody that specifically binds CD70 protein.

Provided herein, in some embodiments, are populations of cells in which a certain percentage of the cells has been edited (*e.g.*, *CD70* gene edited), resulting in a certain percentage
of cells not expressing a particular gene and/or protein. In some embodiments, at least 50% (*e.g.*, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, or 85%) of the cells of a gene-edited population of cells are CD70 knockout cells. In some embodiments, at least 50% of the cells (*e.g.* T cells) of the population do not express detectable levels of CD70 protein. In some embodiments, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 65%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%,

 at least 85%, at least 90%, or at least 95% of the cells of a gene-edited population of cells may be CD70 knockout cells.

In some embodiments, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35% or 40% of the engineered T cells of a population do not express a detectable level of CD70 surface protein. In some embodiments, the percent of engineered T cells that do not express a detectable level of CD70

- 15 surface protein increases over time. Thus, in some embodiments, at least 50% of the engineered T cells of a population of engineered T cells does not express a detectable level of CD70 surface protein. For example, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, or at least 95% of the engineered T cells of a population may not express a detectable level of CD70 surface protein. In some embodiments, 50%-100%, 50%-90%, 50%-
- 20 80%, 50%-70%, 50%-60%, 60%-100%, 60%-90%, 60%-80%, 60%-70%, 70%-100%, 70%-90%, 70%-80%, 80%-100%, 80%-90%, or 90%-100% of the engineered T cells of a population does not express a detectable level of CD70 surface protein.

Non-limiting examples of modified and unmodified CD70 gRNA sequences that may be used as provided herein to create a genomic alteration (*e.g.*, disruption, *e.g.*, deletion, insertion,

substitution) in the *CD70* gene are listed in **Table 5** (*e.g.*, SEQ ID NOS: 23-29 and 33-39). Other gRNA sequences may be designed using the CD70 gene sequence located on Chromosome 19 (GRCh38 coordinates: Chromosome 19: 6,583,183-6,604,103; Ensembl: ENSG00000125726). In certain embodiments, gRNAs targeting the CD70 genomic region create Indels (*e.g.*: insertions, deletions or substitutions) in, or around, the CD70 gene disrupting expression of the

30 CD70 mRNA and/or protein.

In some embodiments, a ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP) containing an RNA-guided nuclease (*e.g.*, a Cas nuclease, such as a Cas9 nuclease) and a gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene (or any other gene of interest) are delivered to T cells (*e.g.*, primary T cells). In other embodiments, the RNA-guided nuclease and gRNA are delivered separately to T cells. A

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ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP) is simply an RNA-guided nuclease (*e.g.*, Cas9) precomplexed/complexed with (bound to) a gRNA.

In some embodiments, the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene is a synthetic modified gRNA such as but not limited to any one of the gRNAs comprising SEQ ID NO: 33-39. In some embodiments, the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene is a synthetic unmodified gRNA such as but

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not limited to any one of the gRNAs comprising SEQ ID NO: 23-29.

In some embodiments, gRNAs targeting the *CD70* genomic region and RNA-guided nuclease create double stranded breaks in the *CD70* gene. Repair of the break results in Indels in the *CD70* gene wherein the *CD70* gene sequence may comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOs: 129-134.

Multi-Gene Editing

The engineered T cells of the present disclosure, in some embodiments, include more than one disrupted gene (*e.g.*: more than one gene edit), for example, in more than one gene. For
example, an engineered T cell may comprise a disrupted *CD70* gene, a disrupted T cell receptor alpha chain constant region (*TRAC*) gene, a disrupted beta-2-microglobulin (*β2M*) gene, a disrupted programmed cell death-1 (*PD-1* or *PDCD1*) gene, or any combination of two or more of the foregoing disrupted genes. In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a disrupted *TRAC* gene, a disrupted *β2M* gene, and a disrupted *CD70* gene. In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a disrupted *TRAC* gene, and a disrupted *RAC* gene, and a

PD-1 gene. In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a disrupted *TRAC* gene, a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene, a disrupted *CD70* gene and a disrupted *PD-1* gene.

TRAC Gene Edit

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In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a disrupted TRAC gene. This disruption leads to loss of function of the TCR and renders the engineered T cell non-alloreactive and suitable for allogeneic transplantation, minimizing the risk of graft versus host disease. In some embodiments, expression of the endogenous TRAC gene is eliminated to prevent a graft-versus-host response.

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In some embodiments, a disruption in the TRAC gene expression is created by knocking a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) into the TRAC gene (*e.g.*, using an adeno-associated viral (AAV) vector and donor template). In some embodiments, a disruption in the *TRAC* gene expression is created with a nuclease and gRNAs targeting the TRAC genomic region. In some embodiments, a genomic deletion in the TRAC gene is created by HDR, wherein a chimeric

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antigen receptor (CAR) replaces a segment of the TRAC gene (*e.g.*, using an adeno-associated viral (AAV) vector and donor template). In some embodiments, a disruption in the TRAC gene expression is created with a nuclease and gRNAs targeting the TRAC genomic region, and knocking a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) into the TRAC gene.

Non-limiting examples of modified and unmodified TRAC gRNA sequences that may be used as provided herein to create a genomic in the TRAC gene are listed in Table 7 (e.g., SEQ ID NOS: 30 and 40). See also International Application No. PCT/US2018/032334, filed May 11, 2018, incorporated herein by reference. Other gRNA sequences may be designed using the TRAC gene sequence located on chromosome 14 (GRCh38: chromosome 14: 22,547,506-

10 22,552,154; Ensembl; ENSG00000277734). In some embodiments, gRNAs targeting the TRAC genomic region and RNA-guided nuclease create breaks in the TRAC genomic region resulting Indels in the *TRAC* gene disrupting expression of the mRNA or protein.

In some embodiments, at least 50% of the engineered T cells of a population do not express a detectable level of T cell receptor (TCR) surface protein. For example, at least 55%, at

least 60%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, or at least 95% of the engineered T cells of a population may not express a detectable level of TCR surface protein. In some embodiments, 50%-100%, 50%-90%, 50%-80%, 50%-70%, 50%-60%, 60%-100%, 60%-90%, 60%-70%, 70%-100%, 70%-90%, 70%-80%, 80%-100%, 80%-90%, or 90%-100% of the engineered T cells of a population do not express a detectable level of TCR

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20 surface protein.
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In some embodiments, a ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP) containing an RNA-guided nuclease (*e.g.*, a Cas nuclease, such as a Cas9 nuclease) and a gRNA targeting the *TRAC* gene (or any other gene of interest) are delivered to T cells (*e.g.*, primary T cells). In other embodiments, the RNA-guided nuclease and gRNA are delivered separately to T cells. A

25 ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP) is simply an RNA-guided nuclease (*e.g.*, Cas9) precomplexed/complexed with a gRNA.

In some embodiments, gRNAs and RNA-guided nuclease targeting the *TRAC* genomic region result Indels in the *TRAC* gene comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the following sequences in **Table 1**:

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Table 1.

Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
AAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	1
AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	2
AAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	

AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	3
AAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	
AAGAGCAACAGTGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	4
AAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	
AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGACTAAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	5
AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGGGGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	6
AAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	
AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	7
AAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	
AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGTGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	8
AAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT	

In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a deletion in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a deletion of 15-30 base pairs in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an

- 5 engineered T cell comprises a deletion of 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30 base pairs in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a deletion of more than 30 base pairs in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cells and the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cells and the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cells are pairs in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cells are pairs in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cells are pairs in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cells.
- 10 cell comprises a deletion of SEQ ID NO: 86 in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a deletion comprising SEQ ID NO: 86 in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a deletion of SEQ ID NO: 118 in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells. In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a deletion comprising SEQ ID NO: 118 in the TRAC gene relative to unmodified T cells.

15 the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells.

β2M Gene Edit

In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene. $\beta 2M$ is a common (invariant) component of MHC I complexes. Disrupting its expression by gene editing will prevent host versus therapeutic allogeneic T cells responses leading to increased allogeneic T cell persistence. In some embodiments, expression of the endogenous $\beta 2M$ gene is eliminated to prevent a host-versus-graft response.

Non-limiting examples of modified and unmodified β2M gRNA sequences that may be used as provided herein to create a genomic deletion in the β2M gene are listed in Table 7 (e.g.,
SEQ ID NOS: 31 and 41). See also International Application No. PCT/US2018/032334, filed May 11, 2018, incorporated herein by reference. Other gRNA sequences may be designed using

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the β2M gene sequence located on Chromosome 15 (GRCh38 coordinates: Chromosome 15: 44,711,477-44,718,877; Ensembl: ENSG00000166710).

In some embodiments, gRNAs targeting the β 2M genomic region and RNA-guided nuclease create breaks in the β 2M genomic region resulting in Indels in the β 2M gene disrupting expression of the mRNA or protein.

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In some embodiments, at least 50% of the engineered T cells of a population do not express a detectable level of B2M surface protein. For example, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, or at least 95% of the engineered T cells of a population may not express a detectable level of B2M surface protein. In

some embodiments, 50%-100%, 50%-90%, 50%-80%, 50%-70%, 50%-60%, 60%-100%, 60%-90%, 60%-80%, 60%-70%, 70%-100%, 70%-90%, 70%-80%, 80%-100%, 80%-90%, or 90%-100% of the engineered T cells of a population do not express a detectable level of B2M surface protein.

In some embodiments, less than 50% of the engineered T cells of a population of cells 15 express a detectable level of $\beta 2M$ surface protein. In some embodiments, less than 30% of the engineered T cells of a population of cells express a detectable level of β 2M surface protein. For example, less than 50%, less than 30%, less than 25%, less than 20%, less than 15%, less than 10%, or less than 5% of the engineered T cells of a population of cells express a detectable level of β2M surface protein. In some embodiments, 40% - 30%, 40%-20%, 40% - 10%, 40%-5%,

30%-20%, 30%-10%, 30%-5%, 20%-10%, 20%-5%, or 10%-5% of the engineered T cells of a 20 population of cells express a detectable level of $\beta 2M$ surface protein.

In some embodiments, a ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP) containing an RNA-guided nuclease (e.g., a Cas nuclease, such as a Cas9 nuclease) and a gRNA targeting the B2M gene (or any other gene of interest) are delivered to T cells (*e.g.*, primary T cells). In other embodiments, the RNA-guided nuclease and gRNA are delivered separately to T cells. A ribonucleoprotein

25 particle (RNP) is simply a RNA-guided nuclease (e.g., Cas9) pre-complexed/complexed with a gRNA.

In some embodiments, an edited $\beta 2M$ gene comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the following sequences in Table 2.

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Table 2.

Sequences	SEQ ID NO:
CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTTCTGCCTGGA	9
GGCTATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT	
CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTCGCCTGGAG	10
GCTATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT	

CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTTCTGGAGGCT	11
ATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT	
CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTTCTGGATAGC	12
CTGGAGGCTATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT	
CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCGCTATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCT	13
ACCCTCCCGCT	
CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTTCTGTGGCCT	14
GGAGGCTATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT	

PD-1 Gene Edit

PD-1 is an immune checkpoint molecule that is upregulated in activated T cells and serves to dampen or stop T cell responses. Disrupting PD-1 by gene editing could lead to more persistent and/or potent therapeutic T cell responses and/or reduce immune suppression in a subject. In some embodiments, an engineered T cell comprises a disrupted *PD-1* gene. In some embodiments, expression of the endogenous *PD-1* gene is eliminated to enhance anti-tumor efficacy of the CAR T cells of the present disclosure.

Non-limiting examples of modified and unmodified PD-1 gRNA sequences that may be
used as provided herein to create a genomic deletion in the *PD-1* gene are listed in **Table 5** (e.g., SEQ ID NOS: 32 and 42). See also International Application No. PCT/US2018/032334, filed
May 11, 2018, incorporated herein by reference. Other gRNA sequences may be designed using the *PD-1* gene sequence located on Chromosome 2 (GRCh38 coordinates: Chromosome 2: 241,849,881-241,858,908; Ensembl: ENSG00000188389).

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In some embodiments, gRNAs targeting and RNA-guided nuclease the PD-1 genomic region create breaks in the TRAC genomic region resulting in Indels in the *PD-1* gene disrupting expression of the PD-1 mRNA or protein.

In some embodiments, at least 50% of the engineered T cells of a population do not express a detectable level of PD-1 surface protein. For example, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, or at least 95% of the engineered T cells of a population may not express a detectable level of PD-1 surface protein. In some embodiments, 50%-100%, 50%-90%, 50%-80%, 50%-70%, 50%-60%, 60%-100%, 60%-90%, 60%-80%, 60%-70%, 70%-100%, 70%-90%, 70%-80%, 80%-100%, 80%-90%, or 90%-100% of the engineered T cells of a population do not express a detectable level of PD-1 surface

In some embodiments, a ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP) containing an RNA-guided nuclease (*e.g.*, a Cas nuclease, such as a Cas9 nuclease) and a gRNA targeting the *PD-1* gene (or any other gene of interest) are delivered to T cells (*e.g.*, primary T cells). In other embodiments, the RNA-guided nuclease and gRNA are delivered separately to T cells. A ribonucleoprotein

²⁵ protein.

particle (RNP) is simply an RNA-guided nuclease (*e.g.*, Cas9) pre-complexed/complexed with a gRNA.

Cellular Phenotypes

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In some embodiments, one or more gene edits within a population of cells results in a phenotype associated with changes in cellular proliferative capacity, cellular exhaustion, cellular viability, cellular lysis capability (*e.g.*, increase cytokine production and/or release), or any combination thereof.

In some embodiments, engineered T cells of a population comprise a CAR that includes an anti-CD70 scFv ectodomain. In some embodiments, engineered T cells of a population comprise a CAR that includes an anti-BCMA scFv ectodomain. In some embodiments, engineered T cells of a population comprise a CAR that includes an anti-CD19 scFv ectodomain. In some embodiments, engineered T cells of a population comprise a CAR that includes an anti-CD33 scFv ectodomain. Any of the foregoing engineered T cells may also comprise a disruption

15 in one or more of the following genes: TRAC, β 2M, PD-1, and/or CD70 (*e.g.*, TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻; TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻; or TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻).

In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure exhibit increased cellular proliferative capacity relative to control cells. In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure exhibit at least 20% greater cellular proliferative capacity, relative to

- 20 control T cells. For example, engineered T cells (*e.g.*, TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻; TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻; or TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻; with or without a CAR) may exhibit at least 25%, at least 30%, at least 35%, at least 40%, at least 45%, at least 50%, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 65%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, or at least 90% greater cellular proliferative capacity, relative to control T cells. In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure
- exhibit 20%-100%, 20%-90%, 20%-80%, 20%-70%, 20%-60%, 20%-50%, 30%-100%, 30%-90%, 30%-80%, 30%-70%, 30%-60%, 30%-50%, 40%-100%, 40%-90%, 40%-80%, 40%-70%, 40%-60%, 40%-50%, 50%-100%, 50%-90%, 50%-80%, 50%-70%, or 50%-60% greater cellular proliferative capacity, relative to control T cells. Methods of measuring cell proliferation are known to those of skill in the art and described herein.
- 30 In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure exhibit reduced exhaustion, relative to control T cells. For example, the engineered T cells may express reduced levels of LAG3 (or other exhaustion markers), relative to control T cells. In some embodiments, the levels of LAG3 expression are reduced by at least 20%, relative to control T cells. For example, the levels of LAG3 expression may be reduced by at least 25%, at least 30%, at least
- 35 35%, at least 40%, at least 45%, at least 50%, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 65%, at least

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70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, or at least 90%, relative to control T cells. In some embodiments, the levels of LAG3 expression are reduced by 20%-100%, 20%-90%, 20%-80%, 20%-70%, 20%-60%, 20%-50%, 30%-100%, 30%-90%, 30%-80%, 30%-70%, 30%-60%, 30%-50%, 40%-100%, 40%-90%, 40%-80%, 40%-70%, 40%-60%, 40%-50%, 50%-100%, 50%-

90%, 50%-80%, 50%-70%, or 50%-60%, relative to control T cells. In some embodiments, 5 reduced exhaustion is determined by measuring decreased surface expression of exhaustion markers, including TIGIT, PD-1, LAG-3 or combinations thereof. Methods for measuring surface expression are known to those of skill in the art and described herein.

In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure exhibit increased cellular viability relative to control cells. In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the 10 present disclosure exhibit an at least 20% increase in cellular viability, relative to control cells. For example, engineered T cells of the present disclosure may exhibit at least 25%, at least 30%, at least 35%, at least 40%, at least 45%, at least 50%, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 65%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, or at least 90% increase in cellular viability, relative to 15 control cells. In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure exhibit a 20%-100%, 20%-90%, 20%-80%, 20%-70%, 20%-60%, 20%-50%, 30%-100%, 30%-90%, 30%-80%, 30%-70%, 30%-60%, 30%-50%, 40%-100%, 40%-90%, 40%-80%, 40%-70%, 40%-60%, 40%-50%, 50%-100%, 50%-90%, 50%-80%, 50%-70%, or 50%-60% increase in cellular viability, relative to control cells. Methods of measuring cell viability are known to those of 20 skill in the art and described herein.

In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure exhibit increased cellular lysis capability relative to control cells. In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure exhibit an at least 20% increase in cellular lysis capability (kill at least 20% more target cells), relative to control cells. For example, engineered T cells of the present

- 25 disclosure may exhibit an at least at least 25%, at least 30%, at least 35%, at least 40%, at least 45%, at least 50%, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 65%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, or at least 90% increase in cellular lysis capability, relative to control cells. In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure exhibit a 20%-100%, 20%-90%, 20%-80%, 20%-70%, 20%-60%, 20%-50%, 30%-100%, 30%-90%, 30%-80%, 30%-70%, 30%-60%,
- 30%-50%, 40%-100%, 40%-90%, 40%-80%, 40%-70%, 40%-60%, 40%-50%, 50%-100%, 30 50%-90%, 50%-80%, 50%-70%, or 50%-60% increase in cellular lysis capability, relative to control cells.

In some embodiments, engineered T cells of the present disclosure exhibit increased cytokine secretion relative to control cells. For example, in some embodiments the level of

cytokines (e.g., IL-2 and/or IFN-gamma) secreted by the engineered T cells is at least 2-fold 35

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(*e.g.*, at least 3-fold, at least 4-fold, or at least 5-fold) greater than the level of cytokines secreted by control T cells.

Control T cells, in some embodiments, are engineered T cells (*e.g.*, gene edited T cells) that express endogenous CD70 protein (CD70 normally expressed by T cells). In some
embodiments, control T cells are engineered T cells that express endogenous CD70 protein and comprise a *TRAC* gene disrupted by insertion of a nucleic acid encoding a CAR (*e.g.*, an anti-CD70 CAR or anti-BCMA CAR), a disrupted *β2M* gene, a disrupted *PD-1* gene, or any combination of the foregoing disrupted genes. In some embodiments, control T cells are unedited T cells.

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Surprisingly, the multi-gene edited CAR T cells of the present disclosure (*e.g.*, TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻ cells) maintain cytotoxicity (ability to kill cancer cells), following multiple challenges (also referred to as rechallenges(s)) with cancer cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following at least 1 rechallenge with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells. In some

- 15 embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following at least 2 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following at least 1 rechallenge with a cancer cell. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following at least 2 rechallenges with a cancer cell. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells
- 20 maintain cytotoxicity following 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells.
- 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 rechallenges with a cancer cell. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 10 or more rechallenges with a a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen recognized by the CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 10 or more rechallenges with a cancer cell. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 10 or more rechallenges with a cancer cell.
- 30 cell (e.g., cancer cell) expresses CD70. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells express a CAR specific for CD19 and the target cell (e.g., cancer cell) expresses CD19. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells express a CAR specific for CD33 and the target cell (e.g., cancer cell) expresses CD33. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells express a CAR specific for BCMA and the target cell (e.g., cancer cell) expresses BCMA.

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Gene Editing Methods

- Gene editing (including genomic editing) is a type of genetic engineering in which
 nucleotide(s)/nucleic acid(s) is/are inserted, deleted, and/or substituted in a DNA sequence, such as in the genome of a targeted cell. Targeted gene editing enables insertion, deletion, and/or substitution at pre-selected sites in the genome of a targeted cell (*e.g.*, in a targeted gene or targeted DNA sequence). When a sequence of an endogenous gene is edited, for example by deletion, insertion or substitution of nucleotide(s)/nucleic acid(s), the endogenous gene
- comprising the affected sequence may be knocked-out or knocked-down due to the sequence alteration. Therefore, targeted editing may be used to disrupt endogenous gene expression.
 "Targeted integration" refers to a process involving insertion of one or more exogenous sequences, with or without deletion of an endogenous sequence at the insertion site. Targeted integration can result from targeted gene editing when a donor template containing an exogenous
- 15 sequence is present. As used herein, a "disrupted gene" refers to a gene comprising an insertion, deletion or substitution relative to an endogenous gene such that expression of a functional protein from the endogenous gene is reduced or inhibited. As used herein, "disrupting a gene" refers to a method of inserting, deleting or substituting at least one nucleotide/nucleic acid in an endogenous gene such that expression of a functional protein from the endogenous gene is reduced or a functional protein from the endogenous gene is 20 reduced or inhibited. Methods of disrupting a gene are known to those of skill in the art and

described herein.

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Targeted editing can be achieved either through a nuclease-independent approach, or through a nuclease-dependent approach. In the nuclease-independent targeted editing approach, homologous recombination is guided by homologous sequences flanking an exogenous polynucleotide to be introduced into an endogenous sequence through the enzymatic machinery of the host cell. The exogenous polynucleotide may introduce deletions, insertions or replacement of nucleotides in the endogenous sequence.

Alternatively, the nuclease-dependent approach can achieve targeted editing with higher frequency through the specific introduction of double strand breaks (DSBs) by specific rare-

- 30 cutting nucleases (*e.g.*, endonucleases). Such nuclease-dependent targeted editing also utilizes DNA repair mechanisms, for example, non-homologous end joining (NHEJ), which occurs in response to DSBs. DNA repair by NHEJ often leads to random insertions or deletions (indels) of a small number of endogenous nucleotides. In contrast to NHEJ mediated repair, repair can also occur by a homology directed repair (HDR). When a donor template containing exogenous
- 35 genetic material flanked by a pair of homology arms is present, the exogenous genetic material

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can be introduced into the genome by HDR, which results in targeted integration of the exogenous genetic material.

Available endonucleases capable of introducing specific and targeted DSBs include, but not limited to, zinc-finger nucleases (ZFN), transcription activator-like effector nucleases (TALEN), and RNA-guided CRISPR-Cas9 nuclease (CRISPR/Cas9; Clustered Regular

- 5 (TALEN), and RNA-guided CRISPR-Cas9 nuclease (CRISPR/Cas9; Clustered Regular Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats Associated 9). Additionally, DICE (dual integrase cassette exchange) system utilizing phiC31 and Bxb1 integrases may also be used for targeted integration.
- ZFNs are targeted nucleases comprising a nuclease fused to a zinc finger DNA binding domain (ZFBD), which is a polypeptide domain that binds DNA in a sequence-specific manner through one or more zinc fingers. A zinc finger is a domain of about 30 amino acids within the zinc finger binding domain whose structure is stabilized through coordination of a zinc ion. Examples of zinc fingers include, but not limited to, C2H2 zinc fingers, C3H zinc fingers, and C4 zinc fingers. A designed zinc finger domain is a domain not occurring in nature whose
- 15 design/composition results principally from rational criteria, *e.g.*, application of substitution rules and computerized algorithms for processing information in a database storing information of existing ZFP designs and binding data. See, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,140,081; 6,453,242; and 6,534,261; see also WO 98/53058; WO 98/53059; WO 98/53060; WO 02/016536 and WO 03/016496. A selected zinc finger domain is a domain not found in nature whose production
- 20 results primarily from an empirical process such as phage display, interaction trap or hybrid selection. ZFNs are described in greater detail in U.S. Pat. No. 7,888,121 and U.S. Pat. No. 7,972,854. The most recognized example of a ZFN is a fusion of the FokI nuclease with a zinc finger DNA binding domain.

A TALEN is a targeted nuclease comprising a nuclease fused to a TAL effector DNA binding domain. A "transcription activator-like effector DNA binding domain", "TAL effector DNA binding domain", or "TALE DNA binding domain" is a polypeptide domain of TAL effector proteins that is responsible for binding of the TAL effector protein to DNA. TAL effector proteins are secreted by plant pathogens of the genus *Xanthomonas* during infection. These proteins enter the nucleus of the plant cell, bind effector-specific DNA sequences via their

- 30 DNA binding domain, and activate gene transcription at these sequences via their transactivation domains. TAL effector DNA binding domain specificity depends on an effector-variable number of imperfect 34 amino acid repeats, which comprise polymorphisms at select repeat positions called repeat variable-diresidues (RVD). TALENs are described in greater detail in US Patent Application No. 2011/0145940. The most recognized example of a TALEN in the art is a fusion
- 35 polypeptide of the FokI nuclease to a TAL effector DNA binding domain.

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Additional examples of targeted nucleases suitable for use as provided herein include, but are not limited to, Bxb1, phiC31, R4, PhiBT1, and W β /SPBc/TP901-1, whether used individually or in combination.

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Other non-limiting examples of targeted nucleases include naturally-occurring and recombinant nucleases, *e.g.*, CRISPR/Cas9, restriction endonucleases, meganucleases homing endonucleases, and the like.

CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing

- The CRISPR-Cas9 system is a naturally-occurring defense mechanism in prokaryotes that has been repurposed as an RNA-guided DNA-targeting platform used for gene editing. It relies on the DNA nuclease Cas9, and two noncoding RNAs, crisprRNA (crRNA) and trans-activating RNA (tracrRNA), to target the cleavage of DNA. CRISPR is an abbreviation for <u>C</u>lustered <u>Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats</u>, a family of DNA sequences found in the genomes of bacteria and archaea that contain fragments of DNA (spacer DNA) with similarity to
- 15 foreign DNA previously exposed to the cell, for example, by viruses that have infected or attacked the prokaryote. These fragments of DNA are used by the prokaryote to detect and destroy similar foreign DNA upon re-introduction, for example, from similar viruses during subsequent attacks. Transcription of the CRISPR locus results in the formation of an RNA molecule comprising the spacer sequence, which associates with and targets Cas (CRISPR-associated) proteins able to
- 20 recognize and cut the foreign, exogenous DNA. Numerous types and classes of CRISPR/Cas systems have been described (see e.g., Koonin et al., (2017) Curr Opin Microbiol 37:67-78).

crRNA drives sequence recognition and specificity of the CRISPR-Cas9 complex through Watson-Crick base pairing typically with a 20 nucleotide (nt) sequence in the target DNA. Changing the sequence of the 5' 20nt in the crRNA allows targeting of the CRISPR-Cas9

25 complex to specific loci. The CRISPR-Cas9 complex only binds DNA sequences that contain a sequence match to the first 20 nt of the crRNA, single-guide RNA (sgRNA), if the target sequence is followed by a specific short DNA motif (with the sequence NGG) referred to as a protospacer adjacent motif (PAM).

TracrRNA hybridizes with the 3' end of crRNA to form an RNA-duplex structure that is bound by the Cas9 endonuclease to form the catalytically active CRISPR-Cas9 complex, which can then cleave the target DNA.

Once the CRISPR-Cas9 complex is bound to DNA at a target site, two independent nuclease domains within the Cas9 enzyme each cleave one of the DNA strands upstream of the PAM site, leaving a double-strand break (DSB) where both strands of the DNA terminate in a

35 base pair (a blunt end).

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After binding of CRISPR-Cas9 complex to DNA at a specific target site and formation of the site-specific DSB, the next key step is repair of the DSB. Cells use two main DNA repair pathways to repair the DSB: non-homologous end-joining (NHEJ) and homology-directed repair (HDR).

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as described further herein.

NHEJ is a robust repair mechanism that appears highly active in the majority of cell types, including non-dividing cells. NHEJ is error-prone and can often result in the removal or addition of between one and several hundred nucleotides at the site of the DSB, though such modifications are typically < 20 nt. The resulting insertions and deletions (indels) can disrupt coding or noncoding regions of genes. Alternatively, HDR uses a long stretch of homologous donor DNA, provided endogenously or exogenously, to repair the DSB with high fidelity. HDR is active only in dividing cells, and occurs at a relatively low frequency in most cell types. In many embodiments of the present disclosure, NHEJ is utilized as the repair operant.

In some embodiments, the Cas9 (CRISPR associated protein 9) endonuclease is from *Streptococcus pyogenes*, although other Cas9 homologs may be used. It should be understood, that wild-type Cas9 may be used or modified versions of Cas9 may be used (*e.g.*, evolved versions of Cas9, or Cas9 orthologues or variants), as provided herein. In some embodiments, Cas9 may be substituted with another RNA-guided endonuclease, such as Cpf1 (of a class II CRISPR/Cas system).

In some embodiments, the CRISPR/Cas system comprise components derived from a
Type-I, Type-II, or Type-III system. Updated classification schemes for CRISPR/Cas loci define
Class 1 and Class 2 CRISPR/Cas systems, having Types I to V or VI (Makarova et al., (2015) Nat
Rev Microbiol, 13(11):722-36; Shmakov et al., (2015) Mol Cell, 60:385-397). Class 2
CRISPR/Cas systems have single protein effectors. Cas proteins of Types II, V, and VI are singleprotein, RNA-guided endonucleases, herein called "Class 2 Cas nucleases." Class 2 Cas nucleases
include, for example, Cas9, Cpf1, C2c1, C2c2, and C2c3 proteins. The Cpf1 nuclease (Zetsche et al., (2015) Cell 163:1-13) is homologous to Cas9, and contains a RuvC-like nuclease domain.

In some embodiments, the Cas nuclease is from a Type-II CRISPR/Cas system (e.g., a Cas9 protein from a CRISPR/Cas9 system). In some embodiments, the Cas nuclease is from a Class 2 CRISPR/Cas system (a single-protein Cas nuclease such as a Cas9 protein or a Cpf1 protein). The Cas9 and Cpf1 family of proteins are enzymes with DNA endonuclease activity, and they can be directed to cleave a desired nucleic acid target by designing an appropriate guide RNA,

In some embodiments, a Cas nuclease may comprise more than one nuclease domain. For example, a Cas9 nuclease may comprise at least one RuvC-like nuclease domain (e.g. Cpf1) and

at least one HNH-like nuclease domain (e.g. Cas9). In some embodiments, the Cas9 nuclease

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introduces a DSB in the target sequence. In some embodiments, the Cas9 nuclease is modified to contain only one functional nuclease domain. For example, the Cas9 nuclease is modified such that one of the nuclease domains is mutated or fully or partially deleted to reduce its nucleic acid cleavage activity. In some embodiments, the Cas9 nuclease is modified to contain no functional

- 5 RuvC-like nuclease domain. In other embodiments, the Cas9 nuclease is modified to contain no functional HNH-like nuclease domain. In some embodiments in which only one of the nuclease domains is functional, the Cas9 nuclease is a nickase that is capable of introducing a single-stranded break (a "nick") into the target sequence. In some embodiments, a conserved amino acid within a Cas9 nuclease nuclease domain is substituted to reduce or alter a nuclease activity. In
- 10 some embodiments, the Cas nuclease nickase comprises an amino acid substitution in the RuvC-like nuclease domain. Exemplary amino acid substitutions in the RuvC-like nuclease domain include D10A (based on the *S. pyogenes* Cas9 nuclease). In some embodiments, the nickase comprises an amino acid substitution in the HNH-like nuclease domain. Exemplary amino acid substitutions in the HNH-like nuclease domain include E762A, H840A, N863A, H983A, and D986A (based on the *S. pyogenes* Cas9 nuclease).

In some embodiments, the Cas nuclease is from a Type-I CRISPR/Cas system. In some embodiments, the Cas nuclease is a component of the Cascade complex of a Type-I CRISPR/Cas system. For example, the Cas nuclease is a Cas3 nuclease. In some embodiments, the Cas nuclease is derived from a Type-III CRISPR/Cas system. In some embodiments, the Cas nuclease is derived

20 from Type-IV CRISPR/Cas system. In some embodiments, the Cas nuclease is derived from a Type-V CRISPR/Cas system. In some embodiments, the Cas nuclease is derived from a Type-VI CRISPR/Cas system.

Guide RNAs

25 The present disclosure provides a genome-targeting nucleic acid that can direct the activities of an associated polypeptide (*e.g.*, a site-directed polypeptide) to a specific target sequence within a target nucleic acid. The genome-targeting nucleic acid can be an RNA. A genome-targeting RNA is referred to as a "guide RNA" or "gRNA" herein. A guide RNA comprises at least a spacer sequence that hybridizes to a target nucleic acid sequence of interest,

- 30 and a CRISPR repeat sequence. In Type II systems, the gRNA also comprises a second RNA called the tracrRNA sequence. In the Type II gRNA, the CRISPR repeat sequence and tracrRNA sequence hybridize to each other to form a duplex. In the Type V gRNA, the crRNA forms a duplex. In both systems, the duplex binds a site-directed polypeptide, such that the guide RNA and site-direct polypeptide form a complex. In some embodiments, the genome-targeting nucleic
- 35 acid provides target specificity to the complex by virtue of its association with the site-directed
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polypeptide. The genome-targeting nucleic acid thus directs the activity of the site-directed polypeptide.

As is understood by the person of ordinary skill in the art, each guide RNA is designed to include a spacer sequence complementary to its genomic target sequence. See Jinek *et al.*,

5 Science, 337, 816-821 (2012) and Deltcheva *et al.*, Nature, 471, 602-607 (2011).

In some embodiments, the genome-targeting nucleic acid (e.g., gRNA) is a doublemolecule guide RNA. In some embodiments, the genome-targeting nucleic acid (e.g., gRNA) is a single-molecule guide RNA.

A double-molecule guide RNA comprises two strands of RNA. The first strand comprises in the 5' to 3' direction, an optional spacer extension sequence, a spacer sequence and a minimum CRISPR repeat sequence. The second strand comprises a minimum tracrRNA sequence (complementary to the minimum CRISPR repeat sequence), a 3' tracrRNA sequence and an optional tracrRNA extension sequence.

A single-molecule guide RNA (referred to as a "sgRNA") in a Type II system comprises, 15 in the 5' to 3' direction, an optional spacer extension sequence, a spacer sequence, a minimum CRISPR repeat sequence, a single-molecule guide linker, a minimum tracrRNA sequence, a 3' tracrRNA sequence and an optional tracrRNA extension sequence. The optional tracrRNA extension may comprise elements that contribute additional functionality (*e.g.*, stability) to the guide RNA. The single-molecule guide linker links the minimum CRISPR repeat and the 20 minimum tracrRNA sequence to form a hairpin structure. The optional tracrRNA extension

minimum tracrRNA sequence to form a hairpin structure. The optional tracrRNA extension comprises one or more hairpins.

A single-molecule guide RNA in a Type V system comprises, in the 5' to 3' direction, a minimum CRISPR repeat sequence and a spacer sequence.

In some embodiments, the sgRNA comprises a 20 nucleotide spacer sequence at the 5' end of the sgRNA sequence. In some embodiments, the sgRNA comprises a less than 20 nucleotide spacer sequence at the 5' end of the sgRNA sequence. In some embodiments, the sgRNA comprises a more than 20 nucleotide spacer sequence at the 5' end of the sgRNA sequence. In some embodiments, the sgRNA comprises a variable length spacer sequence with 17-30 nucleotides at the 5' end of the sgRNA sequence (see **Table 3**).

30 In some embodiments, the sgRNA comprises comprise no uracil at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence. In some embodiments, the sgRNA comprises comprise one or more uracil at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence. For example, the sgRNA can comprise 1 uracil (U) at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence. The sgRNA can comprise 2 uracil (UU) at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence. The sgRNA can comprise 3 uracil (UUU) at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence. The

35 sgRNA can comprise 4 uracil (UUUU) at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence. The sgRNA can

comprise 5 uracil (UUUUU) at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence. The sgRNA can comprise 6 uracil (UUUUUU) at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence. The sgRNA can comprise 7 uracil (UUUUUUUU) at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence. The sgRNA can comprise 8 uracil (UUUUUUUU) at the 3' end of the sgRNA sequence.

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The sgRNA can be unmodified or modified. For example, modified sgRNAs can comprise one or more 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate nucleotides.

Table 3.

SEQ ID NO.	sgRNA sequence
15	nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuaguccg
	uuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcuuuu
16	nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuaguccg
	uuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugc
17	n ₍₁₇₋₃₀₎ guuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaa
	aaguggcaccgagucggugcu ₍₁₋₈₎

- 10 By way of illustration, guide RNAs used in the CRISPR/Cas/Cpf1 system, or other smaller RNAs can be readily synthesized by chemical means, as illustrated below and described in the art. While chemical synthetic procedures are continually expanding, purifications of such RNAs by procedures such as high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC, which avoids the use of gels such as PAGE) tends to become more challenging as polynucleotide lengths increase
- significantly beyond a hundred or so nucleotides. One approach used for generating RNAs of greater length is to produce two or more molecules that are ligated together. Much longer RNAs, such as those encoding a Cas9 or Cpf1 endonuclease, are more readily generated enzymatically. Various types of RNA modifications can be introduced during or after chemical synthesis and/or enzymatic generation of RNAs, *e.g.*, modifications that enhance stability, reduce the likelihood

or degree of innate immune response, and/or enhance other attributes, as described in the art.

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In some embodiments, indel frequency (editing frequency) may be determined using a TIDE analysis, which can be used to identify highly efficient gRNA molecules. In some embodiments, a highly efficient gRNA yields a gene editing frequency of higher than 80%. For example, a gRNA is considered to be highly efficient if it yields a gene editing frequency of at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or 100%.

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In some embodiments, gene disruption may occur by deletion of a genomic sequence using two guide RNAs. Methods of using CRISPR-Cas gene editing technology to create a genomic deletion in a cell (*e.g.*, to knock out a gene in a cell) are known (Bauer DE *et al. Vis. Exp.* 2015;95;e52118).

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Spacer Sequence

In some embodiments, a gRNA comprises a spacer sequence. A spacer sequence is a sequence (*e.g.*, a 20 nucleotide sequence) that defines the target sequence (*e.g.*, a DNA target sequences, such as a genomic target sequence) of a target nucleic acid of interest. In some embodiments, the spacer sequence is 15 to 30 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the spacer sequence is 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 29, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, or 30 nucleotides. In some embodiments, a spacer sequence is 20 nucleotides.

The "target sequence" is adjacent to a PAM sequence and is the sequence modified by an RNA-guided nuclease (*e.g.*, Cas9). The "target nucleic acid" is a double-stranded molecule: one strand comprises the target sequence and is referred to as the "PAM strand," and the other complementary strand is referred to as the "non-PAM strand." One of skill in the art recognizes that the gRNA spacer sequence hybridizes to the reverse complement of the target sequence, which is located in the non-PAM strand of the target nucleic acid of interest. Thus, the gRNA spacer sequence is the RNA equivalent of the target sequence. For example, if the target sequence is 5′-AGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGGCC-3′ (SEQ ID NO: 86), then the gRNA spacer of a gRNA interacts with a target nucleic acid of interest in a sequence-specific manner via hybridization

(*i.e.*, base pairing). The nucleotide sequence of the spacer thus varies depending on the target sequence of the target nucleic acid of interest.
 In a CRISPR/Cas system herein, the spacer sequence is designed to hybridize to a region

of the target nucleic acid that is located 5' of a PAM of the Cas9 enzyme used in the system. The spacer may perfectly match the target sequence or may have mismatches. Each Cas9 enzyme has a particular PAM sequence that it recognizes in a target DNA. For example, *S. pyogenes* recognizes in a target nucleic acid a PAM that comprises the sequence 5'-NRG-3', where R

25 comprises either A or G, where N is any nucleotide and N is immediately 3' of the target nucleic acid sequence targeted by the spacer sequence.

In some embodiments, the target nucleic acid sequence comprises 20 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the target nucleic acid comprises less than 20 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the target nucleic acid comprises more than 20 nucleotides. In some

the target nucleic acid comprises the sequence that corresponds to the Ns, wherein N is any nucleotide, and the underlined NRG sequence is the S. pyogenes PAM.

Non-limiting examples of gRNAs that may be used as provided herein are provided in PCT/IB2018/001619, filed May 11, 2018, herein incorporated by this reference.

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Methods of Making gRNAs

The gRNAs of the present disclosure are produced by a suitable means available in the art, including but not limited to in vitro transcription (IVT), synthetic and/or chemical synthesis methods, or a combination thereof. Enzymatic (IVT), solid-phase, liquid-phase, combined synthetic methods, small region synthesis, and ligation methods are utilized. In one embodiment, the gRNAs are made using IVT enzymatic synthesis methods. Methods of making polynucleotides by IVT are known in the art and are described in International Application PCT/US2013/30062. Accordingly, the present disclosure also includes polynucleotides, e.g., DNA, constructs and vectors are used to in vitro transcribe a gRNA described herein.

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In some embodiments, non-natural modified nucleobases are introduced into polynucleotides, e.g., gRNA, during synthesis or post-synthesis. In certain embodiments, modifications are on internucleoside linkages, purine or pyrimidine bases, or sugar. In some embodiments, a modification is introduced at the terminal of a polynucleotide; with chemical synthesis or with a polymerase enzyme. Examples of modified nucleic acids and their synthesis 20 are disclosed in PCT application No. PCT/US2012/058519. Synthesis of modified polynucleotides is also described in Verma and Eckstein, Annual Review of Biochemistry, vol. 76, 99-134 (1998).

In some embodiments, enzymatic or chemical ligation methods are used to conjugate polynucleotides or their regions with different functional moieties, such as targeting or delivery agents, fluorescent labels, liquids, nanoparticles, etc. Conjugates of polynucleotides and modified polynucleotides are reviewed in Goodchild, Bioconjugate Chemistry, vol. 1(3), 165-187 (1990).

Certain embodiments of the invention also provide nucleic acids, e.g., vectors, encoding gRNAs described herein. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid is a DNA molecule. In other embodiments, the nucleic acid is an RNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a crRNA. In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence encoding the crRNA comprises a spacer flanked by all or a portion of a repeat sequence from a naturally-occurring CRISPR/Cas system. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a tracrRNA. In some embodiments, the crRNA and the tracrRNA is encoded by two separate nucleic acids. In other embodiments, the crRNA and the tracrRNA is

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encoded by a single nucleic acid. In some embodiments, the crRNA and the tracrRNA is encoded by opposite strands of a single nucleic acid. In other embodiments, the crRNA and the tracrRNA is encoded by the same strand of a single nucleic acid.

In some embodiments, the gRNAs provided by the disclosure are chemically synthesized by any means described in the art (see e.g., WO/2005/01248). While chemical synthetic 5 procedures are continually expanding, purifications of such RNAs by procedures such as high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC, which avoids the use of gels such as PAGE) tends to become more challenging as polynucleotide lengths increase significantly beyond a hundred or so nucleotides. One approach used for generating RNAs of greater length is to produce two or more molecules that are ligated together.

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In some embodiments, the gRNAs provided by the disclosure are synthesized by enzymatic methods (e.g., in vitro transcription, IVT).

Various types of RNA modifications can be introduced during or after chemical synthesis and/or enzymatic generation of RNAs, e.g., modifications that enhance stability, reduce the likelihood or degree of innate immune response, and/or enhance other attributes, as described in the art.

In certain embodiments, more than one guide RNA can be used with a CRISPR/Cas nuclease system. Each guide RNA may contain a different targeting sequence, such that the CRISPR/Cas system cleaves more than one target nucleic acid. In some embodiments, one or more

20 guide RNAs may have the same or differing properties such as activity or stability within the Cas9 RNP complex. Where more than one guide RNA is used, each guide RNA can be encoded on the same or on different vectors. The promoters used to drive expression of the more than one guide RNA is the same or different.

The guide RNA may target any sequence of interest via the targeting sequence (e.g., spacer 25 sequence) of the crRNA. In some embodiments, the degree of complementarity between the targeting sequence of the guide RNA and the target sequence on the target nucleic acid molecule is about 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, or 100%. In some embodiments, the targeting sequence of the guide RNA and the target sequence on the target nucleic acid molecule is 100% complementary. In other embodiments, the targeting sequence of

30 the guide RNA and the target sequence on the target nucleic acid molecule may contain at least one mismatch. For example, the targeting sequence of the guide RNA and the target sequence on the target nucleic acid molecule may contain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 mismatches. In some embodiments, the targeting sequence of the guide RNA and the target sequence on the target nucleic acid molecule may contain 1-6 mismatches. In some embodiments, the targeting sequence

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of the guide RNA and the target sequence on the target nucleic acid molecule may contain 5 or 6 mismatches.

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The length of the targeting sequence may depend on the CRISPR/Cas9 system and components used. For example, different Cas9 proteins from different bacterial species have varying optimal targeting sequence lengths. Accordingly, the targeting sequence may comprise 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 nucleotides in length. In some embodiments, the targeting sequence may comprise 18-24 nucleotides in length. In some embodiments, the targeting sequence may comprise 19-21 nucleotides in length. In some embodiments, the targeting sequence may comprise 20 nucleotides in length.

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In some embodiments of the present disclosure, a CRISPR/Cas nuclease system includes at least one guide RNA. In some embodiments, the guide RNA and the Cas protein may form a ribonucleoprotein (RNP), e.g., a CRISPR/Cas complex. The guide RNA may guide the Cas protein to a target sequence on a target nucleic acid molecule (e.g., a genomic DNA molecule), where the

15 the Cas protein cleaves the target nucleic acid. In some embodiments, the CRISPR/Cas complex is a Cpf1/guide RNA complex. In some embodiments, the CRISPR complex is a Type-II CRISPR/Cas9 complex. In some embodiments, the Cas protein is a Cas9 protein. In some embodiments, the CRISPR/Cas9 complex is a Cas9/guide RNA complex.

20 Delivery of guide RNA and Nuclease

In some embodiments, a gRNA and an RNA-guided nuclease are delivered to a cell separately, either simultaneously or sequentially. In some embodiments, a gRNA and an RNAguided nuclease are delivered to a cell together. In some embodiments, a gRNA and an RNAguided nuclease are pre-complexed together to form a ribonucleoprotein (RNP).

RNPs are useful for gene editing, at least because they minimize the risk of promiscuous interactions in a nucleic acid-rich cellular environment and protect the RNA from degradation. Methods for forming RNPs are known in the art. In some embodiments, an RNP containing an RNA-guided nuclease (e.g., a Cas nuclease, such as a Cas9 nuclease) and a gRNA targeting a gene of interest is delivered a cell (e.g.: a T cell). In some embodiments, an RNP is delivered to a T cell by electroporation.

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As used herein, a "TRAC targeting RNP" refers to a gRNA that targets the TRAC gene pre-complexed with an RNA-guided nuclease. As used herein, a " $\beta 2M$ targeting RNP" refers to a gRNA that targets the $\beta 2M$ gene pre-complexed with an RNA-guided nuclease. As used herein, a "CD70 targeting RNP" refers to a gRNA that targets the CD70 gene pre-complexed

with an RNA-guided nuclease. As used herein, a "*PD-1* targeting RNP" refers to a gRNA that targets the *PD-1* gene pre-complexed with an RNA-guided nuclease.

In some embodiments, a *TRAC* targeting RNP is delivered to a cell. In some embodiments, a $\beta 2M$ targeting RNP is delivered to a cell. In some embodiments, a *CD70* targeting RNP is delivered to a cell. In some embodiments, a *PD-1* targeting RNP is delivered to

a cell.

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In some embodiments, more than one RNP is delivered to a cell. In some embodiments, more than on RNP is delivered to a cell separately. In some embodiments, more than one RNP is delivered to a cell simultaneously. In some embodiments, at least one of the following RNPs is delivered to a cell:

10 is delivered to a cell:

(i) a *TRAC* targeting RNP;

(ii) a $\beta 2M$ targeting RNP;

(iii) a CD70 targeting RNP; or

(iv) a *PD-1* targeting RNP. In some embodiments, at least two of the following RNPs are delivered to a cell:

(i) a TRAC targeting RNP;

(ii) a $\beta 2M$ targeting RNP;

(iii) a CD70 targeting RNP; or

(iv) a PD-1 targeting RNP.

20 In some embodiments, an RNA-guided nuclease is delivered to a cell in a DNA vector that expresses the RNA-guided nuclease, an RNA that encodes the RNA-guided nuclease, or a protein. In some embodiments, a gRNA targeting a gene is delivered to a cell as an RNA, or a DNA vector that expresses the gRNA.

Delivery of an RNA-guided nuclease, gRNA, and/or an RNP may be through direct injection or cell transfection using known methods, for example, electroporation or chemical transfection. Other cell transfection methods may be used.

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells

A chimeric antigen receptor refers to an artificial immune cell receptor that is engineered 30 to recognize and bind to an antigen expressed by tumor cells. Generally, a CAR is designed for a T cell and is a chimera of a signaling domain of the T-cell receptor (TCR) complex and an antigen-recognizing domain (*e.g.*, a single chain fragment (scFv) of an antibody or other antibody fragment) (Enblad et al., Human Gene Therapy. 2015; 26(8):498-505). A T cell that expresses a CAR is referred to as a CAR T cell. CARs have the ability to redirect T-cell

35 specificity and reactivity toward a selected target in a non-MHC-restricted manner. The non-

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MHC-restricted antigen recognition gives T-cells expressing CARs the ability to recognize an antigen independent of antigen processing, thus bypassing a major mechanism of tumor escape. Moreover, when expressed in T-cells, CARs advantageously do not dimerize with endogenous T-cell receptor (TCR) alpha and beta chains. CARs are often referenced to by the antigen they

5 bind. For example, a "CD19 CAR", a "CD70 CAR", a "CD33 CAR" and a "BCMA CAR" are CARs comprising antigen binding domains that specifically bind to CD19, CD70, CD33 or BCMA, respectively. Accordingly, such terms are interchangeable with anti-CD19 CAR, anti-CD70 CAR, anti-CD33 CAR and anti-BCMA CAR. It will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that a CAR that specifically binds an antigen can be referred to with either

10 terminology.

There are four generations of CARs, each of which contains different components. First generation CARs join an antibody-derived scFv to the CD3zeta (ζ or z) intracellular signaling domain of the T-cell receptor through hinge and transmembrane domains. Second generation CARs incorporate an additional domain, *e.g.*, CD28, 4-1BB (41BB), or ICOS, to supply a

- 15 costimulatory signal. Third-generation CARs contain two costimulatory domains fused with the TCR CD3ζ chain. Third-generation costimulatory domains may include, *e.g.*, a combination of CD3ζ, CD27, CD28, 4-1BB, ICOS, or OX40. CARs, in some embodiments, contain an ectodomain, commonly derived from a single chain variable fragment (scFv), a hinge, a transmembrane domain, and an endodomain with one (first generation), two (second)
- 20 generation), or three (third generation) signaling domains derived from CD3Z and/or costimulatory molecules (Maude et al., *Blood.* 2015; 125(26):4017-4023; Kakarla and Gottschalk, *Cancer J.* 2014; 20(2):151-155).

CARs typically differ in their functional properties. The CD3ζ signaling domain of the T-cell receptor, when engaged, will activate and induce proliferation of T-cells but can lead to
anergy (a lack of reaction by the body's defense mechanisms, resulting in direct induction of peripheral lymphocyte tolerance). Lymphocytes are considered anergic when they fail to respond to a specific antigen. The addition of a costimulatory domain in second-generation CARs improved replicative capacity and persistence of modified T-cells. Similar antitumor effects are observed *in vitro* with CD28 or 4-1BB CARs, but preclinical *in vivo* studies suggest

30 that 4-1BB CARs may produce superior proliferation and/or persistence. Clinical trials suggest that both of these second-generation CARs are capable of inducing substantial T-cell proliferation *in vivo*, but CARs containing the 4-1BB costimulatory domain appear to persist longer. Third generation CARs combine multiple signaling domains (costimulatory) to augment potency.

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In some embodiments, a chimeric antigen receptor is a first generation CAR. In other embodiments, a chimeric antigen receptor is a second generation CAR. In yet other embodiments, a chimeric antigen receptor is a third generation CAR.

A CAR, in some embodiments, comprises an extracellular (ecto) domain comprising an
antigen binding domain (*e.g.*, an antibody, such as an scFv), a transmembrane domain, and a cytoplasmic (endo) domain.

Ectodomain

The ectodomain is the region of the CAR that is exposed to the extracellular fluid and, in some embodiments, includes an antigen binding domain, and optionally a signal peptide, a spacer domain, and/or a hinge domain. In some embodiments, the antigen binding domain is a single-chain variable fragment (scFv) that includes the VL and VH of immunoglobulins connected with a short linker peptide. The linker, in some embodiments, includes hydrophilic residues with stretches of glycine and serine for flexibility as well as stretches of glutamate and

- 15 lysine for added solubility. A single-chain variable fragment (scFv) is not actually a fragment of an antibody, but instead is a fusion protein of the variable regions of the heavy (VH) and light chains (VL) of immunoglobulins, connected with a short linker peptide of ten to about 25 amino acids. The linker is usually rich in glycine for flexibility, as well as serine or threonine for solubility, and can either connect the N-terminus of the VH with the C-terminus of the VL, or
- 20 vice versa. This protein retains the specificity of the original immunoglobulin, despite removal of the constant regions and the introduction of the linker. In some embodiments, the scFv of the present disclosure is humanized. In other embodiments, the scFv is fully human. In yet other embodiments, the scFv is a chimera (*e.g.*, of mouse and human sequence).
- In some embodiments, the scFv is an anti-CD70 scFv (binds specifically to CD70). Non-25 limiting examples of anti-CD70 scFv proteins that may be used as provided herein may include the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or SEQ ID NO: 50.

In some embodiments, the scFv is an anti-BCMA scFv (binds specifically to BCMA). Non-limiting examples of anti-BCMA scFv proteins that may be used as provided herein may include the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59.

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In some embodiments, the scFv is an anti-CD19 scFv (binds specifically to CD19). Nonlimiting examples of anti-CD19 scFv proteins that may be used as provided herein may include the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 151.

In some embodiments, the scFv is an anti-CD33 scFv (binds specifically to CD33). Nonlimiting examples of anti-CD33 scFv proteins that may be used as provided herein may include the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137.

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Other scFv proteins may be used.

The signal peptide can enhance the antigen specificity of CAR binding. Signal peptides can be derived from antibodies, such as, but not limited to, CD8, as well as epitope tags such as, but not limited to, GST or FLAG. Examples of signal peptides include

5 MLLLVTSLLLCELPHPAFLLIP (SEQ ID NO: 88) and MALPVTALLLPLALLLHAARP (SEQ ID NO: 89). Other signal peptides may be used.

In some embodiments, a spacer domain or hinge domain is located between an extracellular domain (comprising the antigen binding domain) and a transmembrane domain of a CAR, or between a cytoplasmic domain and a transmembrane domain of the CAR. A spacer

- 10 domain is any oligopeptide or polypeptide that functions to link the transmembrane domain to the extracellular domain and/or the cytoplasmic domain in the polypeptide chain. A hinge domain is any oligopeptide or polypeptide that functions to provide flexibility to the CAR, or domains thereof, or to prevent steric hindrance of the CAR, or domains thereof. In some embodiments, a spacer domain or a hinge domain may comprise up to 300 amino acids (*e.g.*, 10
- 15 to 100 amino acids, or 5 to 20 amino acids). In some embodiments, one or more spacer domain(s) may be included in other regions of a CAR. In some embodiments, the hinge domain is a CD8 hinge domain. Other hinge domains may be used.

Transmembrane Domain

The transmembrane domain is a hydrophobic alpha helix that spans the membrane. The transmembrane domain provides stability of the CAR. In some embodiments, the transmembrane domain of a CAR as provided herein is a CD8 transmembrane domain. In other embodiments, the transmembrane domain is a CD28 transmembrane domain. In yet other embodiments, the transmembrane domain is a chimera of a CD8 and CD28 transmembrane
 domain. Other transmembrane domains may be used as provided herein. In some embodiments, the transmembrane domain is a CD8a transmembrane domain: FVPVFLPAKPTTTPAPRPPTPAPTIASQPLSLRPEACRPAAGG

AVHTRGLDFACDIYIWAPLAGTCGVLLLSLVITLYCNHRNR (SEQ ID NO: 90). Other transmembrane domains may be used.

30 In some embodiments, the transmembrane domain is a CD8a transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence: IYIWAPLAGTCGVLLLSLVITLY (SEQ ID NO: 126).

Endodomain

The endodomain is the functional end of the receptor. Following antigen recognition, receptors cluster and a signal is transmitted to the cell. The most commonly used endodomain

component is CD3-zeta, which contains three (3) immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motif (ITAM)s. This transmits an activation signal to the T cell after the antigen is bound. In many cases, CD3-zeta may not provide a fully competent activation signal and, thus, a co-stimulatory signaling is used. For example, CD28 and/or 4-1BB may be used with CD3-zeta

- 5 (CD3ζ) to transmit a proliferative/survival signal. Thus, in some embodiments, the co-stimulatory molecule of a CAR as provided herein is a CD28 co-stimulatory molecule. In other embodiments, the co-stimulatory molecule is a 4-1BB co-stimulatory molecule. In some embodiments, a CAR includes CD3ζ and CD28. In other embodiments, a CAR includes CD3-zeta and 4-1BB. In still other embodiments, a CAR includes CD3ζ, CD28, and 4-1BB. Table 4
- 10 provides examples of signaling domains derived from 4-1BB, CD28 and CD3-zeta that may be used herein.

Table 4

Name	Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
4-1BB	AAACGGGGCAGAAAGAAACTCCTGTATATATTCAAACAACCATT TATGAGACCAGTACAAACTACTCAAGAGGAAGATGGCTGTAGCT GCCGATTTCCAGAAGAAGAAGAAGGAGGAGGATGTGAACTG	18
	KRGRKKLLYIFKQPFMRPVQTTQEEDGCSCRFPEEEEGGCEL	19
CD28	TCAAAGCGGAGTAGGTTGTTGCATTCCGATTACATGAATATGACT CCTCGCCGGCCTGGGCCGACAAGAAAACATTACCAACCCTATGC CCCCCCACGAGACTTCGCTGCGTACAGGTCC	121
	SKRSRLLHSDYMNMTPRRPGPTRKHYQPYAPPRDFAAYRS	20
CD3-zeta	CGAGTGAAGTTTTCCCGAAGCGCAGACGCTCCGGCATATCAGCA AGGACAGAATCAGCTGTATAACGAACTGAATTTGGGACGCCGCG AGGAGTATGACGTGCTTGATAAACGCCGGGGGAGAGAGCCCGGAA ATGGGGGGTAAACCCCGAAGAAGAATCCCCAAGAAGGACTCTA CAATGAACTCCAGAAGGATAAGATGGCGGAGGCCTACTCAGAAA TAGGTATGAAGGGCGAACGACGACGACGGGGAAAAGGTCACGATGG CCTCTACCAAGGGTTGAGTACGGCAACCAAAGATACGTACG	21
	RVKFSRSADAPAYQQGQNQLYNELNLGRREEYDVLDKRRGRDPEM GGKPRRKNPQEGLYNELQKDKMAEAYSEIGMKGERRRGKGHDGL YQGLSTATKDTYDALHMQALPPR	22

15 Cancer Antigens

<u>CD70</u>

In some embodiments, the T cells of the present disclosure are engineered with a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) designed to target CD70. CD70 was initially identified as the ligand for CD27, a co-stimulatory receptor involved in T cell proliferation and survival. CD70 is

20 only found on a small percentage of activated T cells and antigen presenting cells in draining lymph nodes during viral infection. Many human tumors also express CD70 including, but not limited to, solid cancers such as clear cell renal cancer, breast cancer, gastric cancer, ovarian

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cancer, glioblastoma, and hematological malignancies. Due to its restricted expression pattern on normal tissues and overexpression in numerous cancers, CD70 is an attractive therapeutic target.

Thus, in some embodiments, T cells of the present disclosure are engineered to express a CAR comprising an anti-CD70 antibody (e.g., anti-CD70 scFv). In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv encoded by the sequence of SEO ID NO: 47 or 49. In some 5 embodiments, the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv comprising a VH comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 51. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv comprising a VL comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 52. In some 10 embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD70 antibody is encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD70 antibody comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46.

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In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEO ID NO: 47 or 49. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%,

92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv comprising a VH comprising an 20 amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%,

- 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 51. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv comprising a VL comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 52. In some
- 25 embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD70 antibody is encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 45. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD70 antibody comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%
- 30 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 46.

BCMA

In some embodiments, the T cells of the present disclosure are engineered with a CAR designed to target BCMA. B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA, CD269) is a member of the tumor necrosis factor receptor (TNF) superfamily. BCMA binds B-cell activating factor (BAFF) and a

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proliferation inducing ligand (APRIL). Among nonmalignant cells, BCMA is expressed primarily by plasma cells and subsets of mature B cells. BCMA is selectively expressed by Blineage cells including multiple myeloma cells and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, thus BCMA is also an attractive therapeutic target.

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Thus, in some embodiments, T cells of the present disclosure are engineered to express a CAR comprising an anti-BCMA antibody (*e.g.*, anti-BCMA scFv). In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 58. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv.

- 10 comprising a VH comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 60. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv comprising a VL comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 61. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-BCMA antibody is encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 56. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-BCMA antibody comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.
- In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 58. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%,
- 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 59. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv comprising a VH comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 60. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv comprising a VL comprising an
- amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 61. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-BCMA antibody is encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 56. In some embodiments, a CAR
- 30 comprising an anti-BCMA antibody comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 57.

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<u>CD19</u>

In some embodiments, the T cells of the present disclosure are engineered with a CAR designed to target CD19. Cluster of Differentiation 19 (CD19) is an antigenic determinant detectable on leukemia precursor cells. The human and murine amino acid and nucleic acid

- 5 sequences can be found in a public database, such as GenBank, UniProt and Swiss-Prot. For example, the amino acid sequence of human CD19 can be found as UniProt/Swiss-Prot Accession No. P15391 and the nucleotide sequence encoding of the human CD19 can be found at Accession No. NM—001178098. CD19 is expressed on most B lineage cancers, including, e.g., acute lymphoblastic leukemia, chronic lymphocyte leukemia and non-Hodgkin's
- 10 lymphoma. It is also an early marker of B cell progenitors. See, e.g., Nicholson et al. Mol. Immun. 34 (16-17): 1157-1165 (1997).

Thus, in some embodiments, T cells of the present disclosure are engineered to express a CAR comprising an anti-CD19 antibody (*e.g.*, anti-CD19 scFv). In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 150. In some

- 15 embodiments, the anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 151. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv comprising a VH comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 152. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv comprising a VL comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 153. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD19 antibody is encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID
- 20 NO: 148. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD19 antibody comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 149.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 150. In some

- embodiments, the anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 151. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv comprising a VH comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%,
- 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 152. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv comprising a VL comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 153. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD19 antibody is encoded by a nucleotide having at least 80%, 81%, 82%,
- 35 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or

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99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 148. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD19 antibody comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 149.

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<u>CD33</u>

In some embodiments, the T cells of the present disclosure are engineered with a CAR designed to target CD33. CD33, also known as Siglec3, is a transmembrane receptor expressed on cells of myeloid lineage that is known to bind sialic acids. As CD33 is expressed in cancer cells (*e.g.*, acute myeloid leukemia), it is thought that CD33 represents a cell surface marker for targeting these malignancies.

Thus, in some embodiments, T cells of the present disclosure are engineered to express a CAR comprising an anti-CD33 antibody (*e.g.*, anti-CD33 scFv). In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD33 scFv encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138. In some

- embodiments, the anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD33 scFv comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137. In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv comprising a VH comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140. In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD33 scFv comprising a VL comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD33 antibody is encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD33 antibody comprises the
- sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD33 scFv encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 138. In some

- embodiments, the anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD33 scFv comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 137. In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv comprising a VH comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%,
- 30 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 140. In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD33 scFv comprising a VL comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 141. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD33 antibody is encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%,
- 35 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%,

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97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 136. In some embodiments, a CAR comprising an anti-CD33 antibody comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97% 98% or 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 139.

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Antibodies

An antibody (interchangeably used in plural form) is an immunoglobulin molecule capable of specific binding to a target, such as a carbohydrate, polynucleotide, lipid, polypeptide, etc., through at least one antigen recognition site, located in the variable region of the immunoglobulin molecule. As used herein, the term "antibody" encompasses not only intact (i.e., full-length) monoclonal antibodies, but also antigen-binding fragments (such as Fab, Fab', F(ab')2, Fv), single chain variable fragment (scFv), mutants thereof, fusion proteins comprising an antibody portion, humanized antibodies, chimeric antibodies, diabodies, linear antibodies, single chain antibodies, single domain antibodies (*e.g.*, camel or llama V_HH antibodies),

15 multispecific antibodies (*e.g.*, bispecific antibodies) and any other modified configuration of the immunoglobulin molecule that comprises an antigen recognition site of the required specificity, including glycosylation variants of antibodies, amino acid sequence variants of antibodies, and covalently modified antibodies.

A typical antibody molecule comprises a heavy chain variable region (VH) and a light chain variable region (VL), which are usually involved in antigen binding. These regions/residues that are responsible for antigen-binding can be identified from amino acid sequences of the VH/VL sequences of a reference antibody (e.g., an anti-CD70 antibody or an anti-BCMA antibody as described herein) by methods known in the art. The VH and VL regions can be further subdivided into regions of hypervariability, also known as "complementarity

25 determining regions" ("CDR"), interspersed with regions that are more conserved, which are known as "framework regions" ("FR"). Each VH and VL is typically composed of three CDRs and four FRs, arranged from amino-terminus to carboxy-terminus in the following order: FR1, CDR1, FR2, CDR2, FR3, CDR3, FR4. The extent of the framework region and CDRs can be precisely identified using methodology known in the art, for example, by the Kabat definition,

- 30 the Chothia definition, the AbM definition, and/or the contact definition, all of which are well known in the art. As used herein, a CDR may refer to the CDR defined by any method known in the art. Two antibodies having the same CDR means that the two antibodies have the same amino acid sequence of that CDR as determined by the same method. See, e.g., Kabat, E.A., et al. (1991) Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, Fifth Edition, U.S. Department of
- 35 Health and Human Services, NIH Publication No. 91-3242, Chothia et al., (1989) Nature

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342:877; Chothia, C. et al. (1987) J. Mol. Biol. 196:901-917, Al-lazikani et al (1997) J. Molec. Biol. 273:927-948; and Almagro, J. Mol. Recognit. 17:132-143 (2004). See also hgmp.mrc.ac.uk and bioinf.org.uk/abs.

In some embodiments, an antibody is an scFv, such as an anti-CD70 scFv, an anti-5 BCMA scFv, an anti-CD19 scFv or an anti-CD33 scFv. An antibody includes an antibody of any class, such as IgD, IgE, IgG, IgA, or IgM (or sub-class thereof), and the antibody need not be of any particular class. Depending on the antibody amino acid sequence of the constant domain of its heavy chains, immunoglobulins can be assigned to different classes. There are five major classes of immunoglobulins: IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, and IgM, and several of these may be further

- 10 divided into subclasses (isotypes), *e.g.*, IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgA1 and IgA2. The heavychain constant domains that correspond to the different classes of immunoglobulins are called alpha, delta, epsilon, gamma, and mu, respectively. The subunit structures and three-dimensional configurations of different classes of immunoglobulins are well known.
- The antibodies to be used as provided herein can be murine, rat, human, or any other origin (including chimeric or humanized antibodies). In some examples, the antibody comprises a modified constant region, such as a constant region that is immunologically inert, *e.g.*, does not trigger complement mediated lysis, or does not stimulate antibody-dependent cell mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC).

In some embodiments, an antibody of the present disclosure is a humanized antibody. 20 Humanized antibodies refer to forms of non-human (*e.g.*, murine) antibodies that are specific chimeric immunoglobulins, immunoglobulin chains, or antigen-binding fragments thereof that contain minimal sequence derived from non-human immunoglobulin. For the most part, humanized antibodies are human immunoglobulins (recipient antibody) in which residues from a complementary determining region (CDR) of the recipient are replaced by residues from a CDR

- 25 of a non-human species (donor antibody) such as mouse, rat, or rabbit having the desired specificity, affinity, and capacity. In some instances, Fv framework region (FR) residues of the human immunoglobulin are replaced by corresponding non-human residues. Furthermore, the humanized antibody may comprise residues that are found neither in the recipient antibody nor in the imported CDR or framework sequences, but are included to further refine and optimize
- 30 antibody performance. In general, the humanized antibody will comprise substantially all of at least one, and typically two, variable domains, in which all or substantially all of the CDR regions correspond to those of a non-human immunoglobulin and all or substantially all of the FR regions are those of a human immunoglobulin consensus sequence. A humanized antibody optimally also will comprise at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region or domain
- 35 (Fc), typically that of a human immunoglobulin. Other forms of humanized antibodies have one

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or more CDRs (one, two, three, four, five, or six) which are altered with respect to the original antibody, which are also termed one or more CDRs "derived from" one or more CDRs from the original antibody. Humanized antibodies may also involve affinity maturation.

In some embodiments, an antibody of the present disclosure is a chimeric antibody, which can include a heavy constant region and a light constant region from a human antibody. Chimeric antibodies refer to antibodies having a variable region or part of variable region from a first species and a constant region from a second species. Typically, in these chimeric antibodies, the variable region of both light and heavy chains mimics the variable regions of antibodies derived from one species of mammals (*e.g.*, a non-human mammal such as mouse, rabbit, and 10 rat), while the constant portions are homologous to the sequences in antibodies derived from

another mammal such as human. In some embodiments, amino acid modifications can be made in the variable region and/or the constant region.

In some embodiments, an antibody of the present disclosure specifically binds a target antigen, such as human CD70, human BCMA, human CD19 or human CD33. An antibody that "specifically binds" to a target or an epitope is a term well understood in the art, and methods to determine such specific binding are also well known in the art. A molecule is said to exhibit "specific binding" if it reacts or associates more frequently, more rapidly, with greater duration and/or with greater affinity with a particular target antigen than it does with alternative targets. An antibody "specifically binds" to a target antigen if it binds with greater affinity, avidity, more

- 20 readily, and/or with greater duration than it binds to other substances. For example, an antibody that specifically (or preferentially) binds to a CD70, BCMA, CD19 or CD33 epitope is an antibody that binds this CD70, BCMA, CD19 or CD33 epitope with greater affinity, avidity, more readily, and/or with greater duration than it binds to other CD70, BCMA, CD19 or CD33 epitopes. It is also understood by
- 25 reading this definition that, for example, an antibody that specifically binds to a first target antigen may or may not specifically or preferentially bind to a second target antigen. As such, "specific binding" or "preferential binding" does not necessarily require (although it can include) exclusive binding. Generally, but not necessarily, reference to binding means preferential binding.

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In some embodiments, the equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D) between the antibody and CD70 is 100 pM to 1 μ M. In some embodiments, the K_D between the antibody and CD70 is 1 nM to 100 nM.

In some embodiments, the equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D) between the antibody and BCMA is 100 pM to 1 μ M. In some embodiments, the K_D between the antibody and BCMA is 1 nM to 100 nM.

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In some embodiments, the equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D) between the antibody and CD19 is 100 pM to 1 μ M. In some embodiments, the K_D between the antibody and CD19 is 1 nM to 100 nM.

In some embodiments, the equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D) between the antibody and CD33 is 100 pM to 1 µM. In some embodiments, the K_D between the antibody and CD33 is 1 nM to 100 nM.

Also within the scope of the present disclosure are functional variants of any of the exemplary antibodies as disclosed herein. A functional variant may contain one or more amino acid residue variations in the VH and/or VL, or in one or more of the VH CDRs and/or one or more of the VL CDRs as relative to a reference antibody, while retaining substantially similar binding and biological activities (e.g., substantially similar binding affinity, binding specificity, inhibitory activity, anti-tumor activity, or a combination thereof) as the reference antibody.

In some examples, an antibody disclosed herein comprises a VH CDR1, a VH CDR2, and a VH CDR3, which collectively contains no more than 10 amino acid variations (e.g., no

15 more than 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 amino acid variation) as compared with the VH CDR1, VH CDR2, and VH CDR3 of a reference antibody such as Antibody A (VH: SEQ ID NO: 51; VL: SEQ ID NO: 52) or Antibody B (VH: SEQ ID NO: 60; VL: SEQ ID NO: 61). "Collectively" means that the total number of amino acid variations in all of the three VH CDRs is within the defined range. Alternatively or in addition, antibody may comprise a VL CDR1, a VL CDR2,

20 and a VL CDR3, which collectively contains no more than 10 amino acid variations (e.g., no more than 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1 amino acid variation) as compared with the VL CDR1, VL CDR2, and VL CDR3 of the reference antibody.

In some examples, an antibody disclosed herein may comprise a VH CDR1, a VH CDR2, and a VH CDR3, at least one of which contains no more than 5 amino acid variations

25 (e.g., no more than 4, 3, 2, or 1 amino acid variation) as the counterpart VH CDR of a reference antibody such as Antibody A (VH: SEQ ID NO: 51; VL: SEQ ID NO: 52) or Antibody B (VH: SEQ ID NO: 60; VL: SEQ ID NO: 61). In specific examples, the antibody comprises a VH CDR3, which contains no more than 5 amino acid variations (e.g., no more than 4, 3, 2, or 1 amino acid variation) as the VH CDR3 of a reference antibody such as Antibody A (VH: SEQ

30 ID NO: 51; VL: SEQ ID NO: 52) or Antibody B (VH: SEQ ID NO: 60; VL: SEQ ID NO: 61). Alternatively or in addition, an antibody may comprise a VL CDR1, a VL CDR2, and a VL CDR3, at least one of which contains no more than 5 amino acid variations (*e.g.*, no more than 4, 3, 2, or 1 amino acid variation) as the counterpart VL CDR of the reference antibody. In specific examples, the antibody comprises a VL CDR3, which contains no more than 5 amino acid

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variations (*e.g.*, no more than 4, 3, 2, or 1 amino acid variation) as the VL CDR3 of the reference antibody.

In some instances, the amino acid residue variations can be conservative amino acid residue substitutions. As used herein, a "conservative amino acid substitution" refers to an amino acid substitution that does not alter the relative charge or size characteristics of the protein in which the amino acid substitution is made. Variants can be prepared according to methods for altering polypeptide sequence known to one of ordinary skill in the art such as are found in references which compile such methods, e.g. Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, J. Sambrook, et al., eds., Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring
Harbor, New York, 1989, or Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, F.M. Ausubel, et al., eds., John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. Conservative substitutions of amino acids include substitutions made amongst amino acids within the following groups: (a) A → G, S; (b) R → K, H; (c) N → Q, H; (d) D → E, N; (e) C → S, A; (f) Q → N; (g) E → D, Q; (h) G → A; (i) H → N, Q; (j) I → L, V; (k) L → I, V; (l) K → R, H; (m) M→ L, I, Y; (n) F → Y, M, L; (o) P → A;

15 (p) $S \rightarrow T$; (q) $T \rightarrow S$; (r) $W \rightarrow Y$, F; (s) $Y \rightarrow W$, F; and (t) $V \rightarrow I$, L.

In some embodiments, an antibody disclosed herein may comprise VH CDRs that collectively are at least 80% (*e.g.*, 85%, 90%, 95%, or 98%) identical to the VH CDRs of a reference antibody such as Antibody A (VH: SEQ ID NO: 51; VL: SEQ ID NO: 52) or Antibody B (VH: SEQ ID NO: 60; VL: SEQ ID NO: 61). Alternatively or in addition, the antibody may

- comprise VL CDRs that collectively are at least 80% (*e.g.*, 85%, 90%, 95%, or 98%) identical to the VL CDRs of the reference antibody. In some embodiments, an antibody may comprise a VH that is at least 80% (e.g., 85%, 90%, 95%, or 98%) identical to the VH of a reference antibody such as Antibody A (VH: SEQ ID NO: 51; VL: SEQ ID NO: 52) or Antibody B (VH: SEQ ID NO: 60; VL: SEQ ID NO: 61) and/or a VL that is at least 80% (e.g., 85%, 90%, 95%, or 98%)
- 25 identical to the VL of the reference antibody.

In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody (e.g., anti-CD70 scFv) comprises a VH and a VL comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 51 and 52, respectively. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody (e.g., anti-CD70 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51, and three CDRs

- 30 (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody (e.g., anti-CD70 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52, wherein the CDRs are determined according to Kabat. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody (e.g., anti-CD70 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR1, CDR2) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52, wherein the CDRs are determined according to Kabat. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody (e.g., anti-CD70 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2)
- 35 CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and

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CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52, wherein the CDRs are determined according to Chothia. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody (e.g., anti-CD70 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52, wherein the CDRs are

- determined according to AbM. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody (e.g., anti-CD70 scFv) comprises heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 68, 70 and 72, respectively, and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 62, 64 and 66. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody (e.g., anti-CD70 scFv) comprises heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 69, 71 and
- 73, respectively, and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:
 63, 65 and 67. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 50. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48. In some embodiments, an anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47.

In some embodiments, an anti-BCMA antibody (e.g., anti-BCMA scFv) comprises a VH and a VL comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 60 and 61, respectively. In some embodiments, an anti-BCMA antibody (e.g., anti-BCMA scFv) comprises

- 20 three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 60, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 61. In some embodiments, an anti-BCMA antibody (e.g., anti-BCMA scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 60, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 61, wherein the CDRs are determined according to Kabat. In some
- 25 embodiments, an anti-BCMA antibody (e.g., anti-BCMA scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 60, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 61, wherein the CDRs are determined according to Chothia. In some embodiments, an anti-BCMA antibody (e.g., anti-BCMA scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 60, and three CDRs
- 30 (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 61, wherein the CDRs are determined according to AbM. In some embodiments, an anti-BCMA antibody (e.g., anti-BCMA scFv) comprises heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 80, 82 and 84, respectively, and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 74, 76 and 78. In some embodiments, an anti-BCMA antibody (e.g., anti-BCMA
- 35 scFv) comprises heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 81,

83 and 85, respectively, and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEO ID NOs: 75, 77 and 79. In some embodiments, an anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 59 In some embodiments, an anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA scFv encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 58.

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In some embodiments, an anti-CD19 antibody (e.g., anti-CD19 scFv) comprises a VH and a VL comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 152 and 153, respectively. In some embodiments, an anti-CD19 antibody (e.g., anti-CD19 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 152, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 153. In some embodiments, an anti-CD19 antibody (e.g., anti-CD19 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 152, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set

15 CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 152, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 153, wherein the CDRs are determined according to Chothia. In some embodiments, an anti-CD19 antibody (e.g., anti-CD19 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 152, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 153, wherein the CDRs are

forth in SEQ ID NO: 153, wherein the CDRs are determined according to Kabat. In some

embodiments, an anti-CD19 antibody (e.g., anti-CD19 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1,

- 20 determined according to AbM. In some embodiments, an anti-CD19 antibody (e.g., anti-CD19 scFv) comprises heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 169, 170 and 171, respectively, and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 166, 167 and 168, respectively. In some embodiments, an anti-CD19 antibody (e.g., anti-CD19 scFv) comprises heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID
- 25 NOs: 175, 176 and 177, respectively, and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 172, 173 and 174, respectively. In some embodiments, an anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 151. In some embodiments, an anti-CD19 antibody is an anti-CD19 scFv encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 150.
- 30 In some embodiments, an anti-CD33 antibody (e.g., anti-CD33 scFv) comprises a VH and a VL comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 140 and 141, respectively. In some embodiments, an anti-CD33 antibody (e.g., anti-CD33 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 140, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141. In some embodiments, an
- anti-CD33 antibody (e.g., anti-CD33 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of 35

the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 140, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141, wherein the CDRs are determined according to Kabat. In some embodiments, an anti-CD33 antibody (e.g., anti-CD33 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 140, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and

- 5 CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141, wherein the CDRs are determined according to Chothia. In some embodiments, an anti-CD33 antibody (e.g., anti-CD33 scFv) comprises three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR2) of the VH set forth in SEQ ID NO: 140, and three CDRs (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the VL set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141, wherein the CDRs are determined according to AbM. In some embodiments, an anti-CD33 antibody (e.g., anti-CD33
- 10 scFv) comprises heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 142, 143 and 144, respectively, and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 145, 146 and 147. In some embodiments, an anti-CD33 antibody (e.g., anti-CD33 scFv) comprises heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 178, 179 and 180, respectively, and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences set forth in SEQ ID
- 15 NOs: 145, 146 and 147. In some embodiments, an anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD33 scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 137. In some embodiments, an anti-CD33 antibody is an anti-CD33 scFv encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 138.

20 Antigen Targeting Chimeric Antigen Receptor Construct

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein comprise a tumor antigen targeting CAR. In some embodiments, a tumor antigen is a "tumor associated antigen," referring an immunogenic molecule, such as a protein, that is generally expressed at a higher level in tumor cells than in non-tumor cells, in which it may not be expressed at all, or only at low levels. In some embodiments, tumor-associated structures which are recognized by the immune system of the tumor-harboring host are referred to as tumor-associated antigens. In some embodiments, a

- tumor-associated antigen is a universal tumor antigen if its broadly expressed by most tumors. In some embodiments, tumor-associated antigens are differentiation antigens, mutational antigens, overexpressed cellular antigens or viral antigens. In some embodiments, a tumor antigen is a
- 30 "tumor specific antigen" or "TSA," referring to an immunogenic molecule, such as a protein, that is unique to a tumor cell. Tumor specific antigens are exclusively expressed in tumor cells. In some embodiments, the tumor antigen is not CD70.

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein comprise a non-CD70 targeting CAR (e.g., a CAR that does not bind CD70).

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CD19 CAR

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein comprise a CD19 targeting CAR, also referred to herein as CD19 CAR, anti-CD19 CAR or anti-CD19 CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an

anti-CD19 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain

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comprising at least one co-stimulatory domain.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD19 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a CD28 or 41BB co-stimulatory domain, and a CD3-zeta signaling domain. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises

domain. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD19 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a CD28 co-stimulatory domain and a CD3-zeta signaling domain. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD19 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that
 comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain and a CD3-zeta signaling domain.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD19 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a CD28 co-

stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20 and a CD3zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD19 scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 151, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a CD28 co-stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid

25 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20 and a CD3-zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD19 scFv comprising variable heavy and light chain regions comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 152 and 153, respectively, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane

30 domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a CD28 co-stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20 and a CD3-zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR is encoded by the nucleotide

sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 148. In some embodiments, the anti-CD19 CAR is encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 148.

<u>CD33 CAR</u>

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein comprise a CD33 targeting CAR, also referred to herein as CD33 CAR, anti-CD33 CAR or anti-CD33 CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD33 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain comprising at least one co-stimulatory domain.

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In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD33 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a CD28 or 41BB co-stimulatory domain, and a CD3-zeta signaling domain. In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises

- 15 an anti-CD33 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a CD28 co-stimulatory domain and a CD3-zeta signaling domain. In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD33 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain and a CD3-zeta signaling domain.
- In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD33 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB costimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 and a CD3zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.
 - In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD33 scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 137, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 and a CD3-zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

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In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD33 scFv comprising variable heavy and light chain regions comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 140 and 141, respectively, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an

35 endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence

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set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 and a CD3-zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 139. In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR is encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 136. In some embodiments, the anti-CD33 CAR is encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 136.

BCMA CAR

- In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein comprise a BCMA targeting CAR, also referred to herein as BCMA CAR, anti-BCMA CAR or anti-BCMA CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA antigen-binding domain, (ii) a transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain comprising at least one co-stimulatory domain.
- 15 In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a CD28 or 41BB co-stimulatory domain, and a CD3-zeta signaling domain. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii)
- an endodomain that comprises a CD28 co-stimulatory domain and a CD3-zeta signaling domain.
 In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain and a CD3-zeta signaling domain.
- In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 and a CD3-zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.
- 30 In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 59, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 and a CD3-zeta signaling domain comprising the amino
- acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

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In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA scFv comprising variable heavy and light chain regions comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 60 and 61, respectively, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an

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endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 and a CD3-zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 57. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR is encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 56. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA CAR is encoded by a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 56.

CD70 CAR

- 15 In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein comprise a CD70 targeting CAR, also referred to herein as CD70 CAR, anti-CD70 CAR or anti-CD70 CAR T cells. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain comprising at least one co-stimulatory domain.
- 20 In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a CD28 or 41BB co-stimulatory domain, and a CD3-zeta signaling domain. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an
- 25 endodomain that comprises a CD28 co-stimulatory domain and a CD3-zeta signaling domain. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain and a CD3-zeta signaling domain.
- In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antigen-binding domain, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB costimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 and a CD3zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 scFv comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 50, (ii) a CD8

transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 and a CD3-zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

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In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR comprises (i) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 scFv comprising variable heavy and light chain regions comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 51 and 52, respectively, (ii) a CD8 transmembrane domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126, and (iii) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ

10 ID NO: 19 and a CD3-zeta signaling domain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR is encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45. In some embodiments, the anti-CD70 CAR is encoded by

a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100%identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45.

Expression of Chimeric Antigen Receptor Construct

Donor Template

20 The nucleic acid encoding a CAR may be delivered to a T cell that comprises what is referred to herein as a donor template (also referred to as a donor polynucleotide). A donor template can contain a non-homologous sequence, such as the nucleic acid encoding a CAR, flanked by two regions of homology to allow for efficient HDR at a genomic location of interest. Alternatively, a donor template may have no regions of homology to the targeted location in the 25 DNA and may be integrated by NHEJ-dependent end joining following cleavage at the target site.

A donor template can be DNA or RNA, single-stranded and/or double-stranded, and can be introduced into a cell in linear or circular form. If introduced in linear form, the ends of the donor sequence can be protected (*e.g.*, from exonucleolytic degradation) by methods known to those of skill in the art. For example, one or more dideoxynucleotide residues are added to the 3' terminus of a linear molecule and/or self-complementary oligonucleotides are ligated to one or both ends. See, for example, Chang et al., (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84:4959-4963; Nehls et al., (1996) Science 272:886-889. Additional methods for protecting exogenous polynucleotides from degradation include, but are not limited to, addition of terminal amino

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group(s) and the use of modified internucleotide linkages such as, for example, phosphorothioates, phosphoramidates, and O-methyl ribose or deoxyribose residues.

A donor template can be introduced into a cell as part of a vector molecule having additional sequences such as, for example, replication origins, promoters and genes encoding antibiotic resistance. Moreover, a donor template can be introduced as naked nucleic acid, as nucleic acid complexed with an agent such as a liposome or poloxamer, or can be delivered by viruses (*e.g.*, adenovirus, AAV, herpesvirus, retrovirus, lentivirus and integrase defective lentivirus (IDLV)).

A donor template, in some embodiments, is inserted so that its expression is driven by
 the endogenous promoter at the integration site, namely the promoter that drives expression of
 the endogenous gene into which the donor is inserted. However, in some embodiments, the
 donor template comprises an exogenous promoter and/or enhancer, for example a constitutive
 promoter, an inducible promoter, or tissue-specific promoter. In some embodiments, the
 exogenous promoter is an EF1α promoter comprising a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 123. Other
 promoters may be used.

Furthermore, exogenous sequences may also include transcriptional or translational regulatory sequences, for example, promoters, enhancers, insulators, internal ribosome entry sites, sequences encoding 2A peptides and/or polyadenylation signals.

In some embodiments, the donor template comprises a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 98% identity to SEQ ID NO: 44. In some embodiments, the donor template comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 44.

In some embodiments, the donor template comprises a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 98% identity to SEQ ID NO: 55. In some embodiments, the donor template comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 55.

In some embodiments, the donor template comprises a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 98% identity to SEQ ID NO: 135. In some embodiments, the donor template comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135.

In some embodiments, the donor template comprises a nucleotide sequence having at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 98% identity to SEQ ID NO: 156. In some embodiments, the donor template comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 156.

Other Methods

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In some embodiments, a nucleic acid encoding a CAR is introduced into an engineered cell by methods known to those of skill in the art. For example, a CAR may be introduced into an engineered cell by a vector. A variety of different methods known in the art can be used to

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introduce any of the nucleic acids or expression vectors disclosed herein into an immune effector cell. Non-limiting examples of methods for introducing nucleic acid into a cell include: lipofection, transfection (e.g., calcium phosphate transfection, transfection using highly branched organic compounds, transfection using cationic polymers, dendrimer-based

5 transfection, optical transfection, particle-based transfection (e.g., nanoparticle transfection), or transfection using liposomes (e.g., cationic liposomes)), microinjection, electroporation, cell squeezing, sonoporation, protoplast fusion, impalefection, hydrodynamic delivery, gene gun, magnetofection, viral transfection, and nucleofection.

10 **Delivery Methods and Constructs**

Nucleases and/or donor templates may be delivered using a vector system, including, but not limited to, plasmid vectors, DNA minicircles, retroviral vectors, lentiviral vectors, adenovirus vectors, poxvirus vectors; herpesvirus vectors and adeno-associated virus vectors, and combinations thereof.

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Conventional viral and non-viral based gene transfer methods can be used to introduce nucleic acids encoding nucleases and donor templates in cells (e.g., T cells). Non-viral vector delivery systems include DNA plasmids, DNA minicircles, naked nucleic acid, and nucleic acid complexed with a delivery vehicle such as a liposome or poloxamer. Viral vector delivery systems include DNA and RNA viruses, which have either episomal or integrated genomes after delivery to the cell.

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Methods of non-viral delivery of nucleic acids include electroporation, lipofection, microinjection, biolistics, virosomes, liposomes, immunoliposomes, polycation or lipid:nucleic acid conjugates, naked DNA, naked RNA, capped RNA, artificial virions, and agent-enhanced uptake of DNA. Sonoporation using, e.g., the Sonitron 2000 system (Rich-Mar) can also be used for delivery of nucleic acids. Some specific examples are provided below.

Adeno-Associated Viral Delivery

The donor nucleic acid encoding a CAR construct can be delivered to a cell using an adeno-associated virus (AAV). AAVs are small viruses which integrate site-specifically into the 30 host genome and can therefore deliver a transgene, such as CAR. Inverted terminal repeats (ITRs) are present flanking the AAV genome and/or the transgene of interest and serve as origins of replication. Also present in the AAV genome are rep and cap proteins which, when transcribed, form capsids which encapsulate the AAV genome for delivery into target cells. Surface receptors on these capsids which confer AAV serotype, which determines which target

organs the capsids will primarily bind and thus what cells the AAV will most efficiently infect. 35

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There are twelve currently known human AAV serotypes. In some embodiments, the AAV is AAV serotype 6 (AAV6).

Adeno-associated viruses are among the most frequently used viruses for gene therapy for several reasons. First, AAVs do not provoke an immune response upon administration to
mammals, including humans. Second, AAVs are effectively delivered to target cells, particularly when consideration is given to selecting the appropriate AAV serotype. Finally, AAVs have the ability to infect both dividing and non-dividing cells because the genome can persist in the host cell without integration. This trait makes them an ideal candidate for gene therapy.

10 Homology-Directed Repair (HDR)

The donor nucleic acid encoding a CAR is inserted by homology directed repair (HDR) into the target gene locus. Both strands of the DNA at the target locus are cut by a CRISPR Cas9 enzyme. HDR then occurs to repair the double-strand break (DSB) and insert the donor DNA. For this to occur correctly, the donor sequence is designed with flanking residues which are

15 complementary to the sequence surrounding the DSB site in the target gene (hereinafter "homology arms"). These homology arms serve as the template for DSB repair and allow HDR to be an essentially error-free mechanism. The rate of homology directed repair (HDR) is a function of the distance between the mutation and the cut site so choosing overlapping or nearby target sites is important. Templates can include extra sequences flanked by the homologous 20 regions or can contain a sequence that differs from the genomic sequence, thus allowing sequence editing.

The target gene can be associated with an immune response in a subject, wherein permanently deleting at least a portion of the target gene will modulate the immune response. For example, to generate a CAR T cell, the target gene can be the TCR α constant region

25 (TRAC). Disruption of TRAC leads to loss of function of the endogenous TCR.In some embodiments, the target gene is in a safe harbor locus.

Engineered T cells

Engineered (gene edited) CAR T cells of the present disclosure may be autologous 30 ("self") or non-autologous ("non-self," *e.g.*, allogeneic, syngeneic or xenogeneic). "Autologous" refers to cells from the same subject. "Allogeneic" refers to cells of the same species as a subject, but that differ genetically to the cells in the subject. In some embodiments, the T cells are obtained from a mammal. In some embodiments, the T cells are obtained from a human.

T cells can be obtained from a number of sources including, but not limited to, peripheral blood mononuclear cells, bone marrow, lymph nodes tissue, cord blood, thymus issue, tissue

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from a site of infection, ascites, pleural effusion, spleen tissue, and tumors. In certain embodiments, T cells can be obtained from a unit of blood collected from a subject using any number of techniques known to the skilled person, such as sedimentation, *e.g.*, FICOLLTM separation.

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In some embodiments, an isolated population of T cells is used. In some embodiments, after isolation of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), both cytotoxic and helper T lymphocytes can be sorted into naive, memory, and effector T cell subpopulations either before or after activation, expansion, and/or genetic modification.

A specific subpopulation of T cells, expressing one or more of the following cell surface
markers: TCRab, CD3, CD4, CD8, CD27 CD28, CD38 CD45RA, CD45RO, CD62L, CD127, CD122, CD95, CD197, CCR7, KLRG1, MCH-I proteins and/or MCH-II proteins, can be further isolated by positive or negative selection techniques. In some embodiments, a specific subpopulation of T cells, expressing one or more of the markers selected from the group consisting of TCRab, CD4 and/or CD8, is further isolated by positive or negative selection
techniques. In some embodiments, the engineered T cell populations do not express or do not substantially express one or more of the following markers: CD70, CD57, CD244, CD160, PD-1, CTLA4, HM3, and LAG3. In some embodiments, subpopulations of T cells may be isolated by positive or negative selection prior to genetic engineering and/or post genetic engineering.

In some embodiments, an isolated population of T cells expresses one or more of the 20 markers including, but not limited to a CD3+, CD4+, CD8+, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the T cells are isolated from a donor, or subject, and first activated and stimulated to proliferate *in vitro* prior to undergoing gene editing.

To achieve sufficient therapeutic doses of T cell compositions, T cells are often subjected to one or more rounds of stimulation, activation and/or expansion. T cells can be activated and

expanded generally using methods as described, for example, in U.S. Patents 6,352,694;
6,534,055; 6,905,680; 6,692,964; 5,858,358; 6,887,466; 6,905,681; 7,144,575; 7,067,318;
7,172,869; 7,232,566; 7,175,843; 5,883,223; 6,905,874; 6,797,514; and 6,867,041. In some embodiments, T cells are activated and expanded for about 1 day to about 4 days, about 1 day to about 3 days, about 1 day to about 2 days, about 2 days to about 3 days, about 2 days to about 4 days, or about 4 days

prior to introduction of the genome editing compositions into the T cells.

In some embodiments, T cells are activated and expanded for about 4 hours, about 6 hours, about 12 hours, about 18 hours, about 24 hours, about 36 hours, about 48 hours, about 60 hours, or about 72 hours prior to introduction of the gene editing compositions into the T cells.

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In some embodiments, T cells are activated at the same time that genome editing compositions are introduced into the T cells. T cell populations or isolated T cells generated by any of the gene editing methods described herein are also within the scope of the present disclosure.

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In some embodiments, provided herein is a population of T cells comprising genetically engineered T cells, which comprise a disrupted endogenous CD70 gene and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR), e.g., those described herein. In some embodiments, the CAR binds an antigen expressed on a pathological cell. In some embodiments, the CAR binds CD70. In other embodiments, the CAR does not bind CD70.

10 Such a T cell population may further comprise genetically engineered T cells having one or more of the following gene edits: a disrupted endogenous programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) gene, a disrupted endogenous T cell receptor alpha chain constant region (TRAC) gene, and a disrupted endogenous beta-2-microglobulin ($\beta 2M$) gene. In some examples, the nucleic acid encoding the CAR may be inserted into the TRAC locus.

- 15 In some embodiments, the population of T cells disclosed herein comprises genetically engineered T cells, which comprise a disrupted CD70 gene and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) that binds an antigen expressed on a pathological cell. In some embodiments, the population of T cells disclosed herein comprises genetically engineered T cells, which comprise a disrupted CD70 gene and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen
- 20 receptor (CAR), wherein the CAR binds CD70. In other embodiments, the population of T cells disclosed herein comprises genetically engineered T cells that comprise a disrupted CD70 gene and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, wherein the CAR does not bind CD70. In some embodiments, the population of T cells disclosed herein comprises genetically engineered T cells, which comprise a disrupted CD70 gene and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen
- 25 receptor (CAR) that binds an antigen expressed on a pathological cell, and further comprises a disrupted PD1 gene. In some embodiments, the CAR binds CD70. In some embodiments the CAR does not bind CD70. In some aspects, the CAR binds CD19. In some embodiments, the CAR binds CD33. In some aspects, the CAR binds BCMA. Any of the just-noted engineered T cells may further comprise a disrupted T cell receptor alpha chain constant region (TRAC) gene and/or a disrupted beta-2-microglobulin ($\beta 2M$) gene.
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In particular examples, provided herein is a population of T cells comprising genetically engineered T cells, which comprise a disrupted CD70 gene, a disrupted T cell receptor alpha chain constant region (TRAC) gene, a disrupted beta-2-microglobulin ($\beta 2M$) gene, a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR), e.g., an anti-BCMA CAR, anti-CD19 CAR,

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anti-CD33 CAR, or anti-CD70 CAR as described herein, and optionally a disrupted programmed cell death-1 (*PD-1*) gene. Any of the engineered T cells disclosed herein may contain native (undisrupted) HLA genes.

- In some examples, at least 50% (*e.g.*, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, or 95%) of the population
 of T cells express the CAR as disclosed herein and do not express a detectable level of surface
 CD70. Such cells may further possess the features of not expressing a detectable level of surface
 TCR, a detectable level of surface β2M, and/or a detectable level of surface PD-1. For example,
 at least 50% (*e.g.*, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, or 95%) of the population of T cells express the CAR
 as disclosed herein and do not express a detectable level of surface CD70, a detectable level of
 surface TCR, and a detectable level of surface β2M. In some instances, at least 50% (*e.g.*, 60%,
- 70%, 80%, 90%, or 95%) of the population of T cells express the CAR as disclosed herein and do not express a detectable level of surface CD70, a detectable level of surface TCR, a detectable level of surface β 2M, and a detectable level of PD-1.
- An isolated cell expressing the CAR as described herein and does not express a
 detectable level of surface CD70 is also within the scope of the present disclosure. Such an isolated cell may not express a detectable level of surface TCR, a detectable level of surface β2M, and/or a detectable level of surface PD-1. In some examples, the isolated cell comprises a nucleic acid encoding the CAR, which is inserted into the *TRAC* locus.
- Also provided herein are an engineered T cell population comprising engineered T cells
 comprising an RNA-guided nuclease, *e.g.*, those described herein (for example, a Cas9 nuclease), and a guide RNA (gRNA) targeting a *CD70* gene (*e.g.*, those described herein). In some instances, at least 50% (*e.g.*, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, or 95%) of the T cells in the T cell population comprise the RNA-guided nuclease and the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene. Such an engineered T cell population may further comprise engineered T cells comprising a gRNA
- 25 targeting a *PD-1* gene, a gRNA targeting a *TRAC* gene, a gRNA targeting a β2M gene, and/or a nucleic acid (*e.g.*, a vector) comprising a donor template that comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a CAR (*e.g.*, those described herein), which optionally is flanked by left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene locus. In some examples, at least 50% (*e.g.*, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, or 95%) of the T cells in the T cell population comprise the RNA-guided nuclease, the
- 30 gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene, and the nucleic acid coding for the CAR. When the nucleic acid coding for the CAR further comprises the left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene locus, the T cells may also comprise a gRNA targeting the *TRAC* gene. In addition, the T cells may further comprise a gRNA targeting a *PD-1* gene, a gRNA targeting a $\beta 2M$ gene, or a combination thereof.

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Also within the scope of the present disclosure is an isolated engineered T cell comprising the RNA-guided nuclease, the gRNA targeting the CD70 gene, and optionally one or more of a gRNA targeting a *PD-1* gene, a gRNA targeting a *TRAC* gene, a gRNA targeting a $\beta 2M$ gene, and a nucleic acid (*e.g.*, a vector) comprising a donor template that comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a CAR (*e.g.*, those described herein). The nucleotide sequence encoding the CAR may be flanked by left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene locus.

Generating CAR-T Cells

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated by modifying the genome of the cells. In some embodiments, a double stranded break (DSB) at a site in a target gene is induced. In some embodiments, the DSB is repaired using one or more endogenous DNA repair pathways. In some embodiments, a DNA repair pathway does not require a homologous sequence (e.g., the non-homologous end joining pathway or NHEJ pathway). In some embodiments, a repair pathway requires a homologous sequence (e.g., the homology-directed pathway or HDR pathway).

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated by inducing a DSB with CRISPR-Cas9 as an endonuclease, and one or more non-coding RNAs, and repairing the DSB using HDR and a donor polynucleotide template described herein.

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a 20 gRNA complimentary to a sequence of a target gene that is a TRAC. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a TRAC gRNA spacer comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 98. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 30. In some embodiments, the TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 98

25 targets the TRAC sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 118. In some embodiments, the TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 30 targets the TRAC sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 118.

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a TRAC gRNA spacer comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 108. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40. In some embodiments, the TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 108 targets the TRAC sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 118. In some embodiments, the TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 108 targets the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 118. In some embodiments, the TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 108 targets the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 118.

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In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a gRNA complimentary to a sequence of a target gene that is a $\beta 2M$. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a B2M gRNA spacer comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 99. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described

- 5 herein are generated using a β2M gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 31. In some embodiments, the β 2M gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEO ID NO: 99 targets the B2M sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 119. In some embodiments, the B2M gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 31 targets the β 2M sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 119.
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In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a β 2M gRNA spacer comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 109. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a β2M gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41. In some embodiments, the β2M gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 109 targets the β 2M sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 119. In some 15 embodiments, the β 2M gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41 targets the β 2M sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 119.

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a gRNA complimentary to a sequence of a target gene that is a CD70. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a CD70 gRNA spacer comprising the

20 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 94. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26. In some embodiments, the CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 94 targets the CD70 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 114. In some embodiments, the CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 targets the CD70 sequence set forth

25 in SEQ ID NO: 114.

> In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a CD70 gRNA spacer comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 104. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEO ID NO: 36. In some embodiments, the CD70 gRNA

30 comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 104 targets the CD70 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 114. In some embodiments, the CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 36 targets the CD70 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 114.

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a gRNA complimentary to a sequence of a target gene that is a CD70. In some embodiments, the
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engineered T cells described herein are generated using a CD70 gRNA spacer comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27. In some embodiments, the CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95

5 targets the CD70 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 115. In some embodiments, the CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27 targets the CD70 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 115.

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a CD70 gRNA spacer comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 105. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a CD70 gRNA

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- embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 37. In some embodiments, the CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 105 targets the CD70 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 115. In some embodiments, the CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 37 targets the CD70 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 115.
- In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a gRNA complimentary to a sequence of a target gene that is a PD-1. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a PD-1 gRNA spacer comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 100. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 32.
- 20 In some embodiments, the PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 100 targets the β2M sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 120. In some embodiments, the PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 32 targets the PD-1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 120.
- In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a PD1 gRNA spacer comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 110. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42. In some embodiments, the PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 110 targets the PD-1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 120. In some embodiments, the PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42
 30 targets the PD-1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 120.
 - In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 98, a β2M gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 99, a CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 94 or 95, and/or a PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:
- 35 100. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a TRAC

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gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 108, a β 2M gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 109, a CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 104 or 105, and/or a PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 110.

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a

- 5 TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 30, a β2M gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 31, a CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 or 27, and/or a PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 32. In some embodiments, the engineered T cells described herein are generated using a TRAC gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40, a β2M gRNA comprising the
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sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41, a CD70 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 36 or 27, and/or a PD-1 gRNA comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42.

In some embodiments, the engineered T cells are generated using a donor template comprising a non-homologous sequence that is a nucleic acid encoding a CAR. In some embodiments, a donor template is comprised of homology arms that correspond to sequences in a target gene that is a TRAC. In some embodiments, a 5' homology arm (left homology arm) of

the donor template comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 122. In some embodiments, a 3' homology arm of the donor template comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 125.

In some embodiments, an exogenous promoter is an EF1a promoter comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 123. In some embodiments, a donor template comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 135. In some embodiments, a donor template comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 156. In some embodiments, a donor template comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44. In some embodiments, a donor template comprises the

sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 55.

In some embodiments, polynucleotides encoding gRNAs, nucleases, and donor templates are introduced into cells (e.g., T cells) using conventional viral and non-viral based gene transfer methods.

In some embodiments, a polynucleotide such as a gRNA, a sgRNA, an mRNA encoding a nuclease, or a donor template are delivered to a cell using a non-viral vector delivery system. Examples of a non-viral vector delivery system include, but are not limited to, a DNA plasmid, a

30 DNA minicircle, a naked nucleic acid, a liposome, a ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP) or a poloxamer. In some embodiments, a method of introducing polynucleotides to a cell using a non-viral vector delivery system includes electroporation, lipofection, microinjection, biolistics, or agent-enhanced uptake.

associated virus (AAV) vectors.

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In some embodiments, a polynucleotide such as a gRNA, a sgRNA, an mRNA encoding a nuclease, or a donor template are delivered to a cell using a viral vector delivery system. Examples of a viral vector delivery system include, but are not limited to, retroviral vectors, lentiviral vectors, adenovirus vectors, poxvirus vectors, herpesvirus vectors, and adeno-

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In some embodiments, a donor template encoding a CAR construct is delivered to a cell as one or more polynucleotides. In some embodiments, a donor template encoding a CAR construct is delivered by a viral delivery vehicle. In some embodiments, a viral delivery vehicle is an adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector.

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In some embodiments, an endonuclease (e.g., Cas9) is delivered to a cell as a polypeptide. In some embodiments, an endonuclease (e.g., Cas9) is delivered to a cell separately from a genome-targeting nucleic acid (e.g., a gRNA, a sgRNA). In some embodiments, an endonuclease (e.g., Cas9) is delivered to a cell as a complex with one or more genome-targeting polynucleotides (e.g., a gRNA, a sgRNA). In some embodiments, a endonuclease or a pre-15 complexed endonuclease is delivered by a non-viral delivery vehicle that includes, but is not limited to, a nanoparticle, a liposome, a ribonucleoprotein, a positively charged peptide, a small molecule RNA-conjugate, an aptamer-RNA chimeras, or an RNA-fusion protein complex. In some embodiments, a method of introducing an endonuclease polypeptide or a pre-complexed

endonuclease polypeptide to a cell includes electroporation, lipofection, microinjection,

20 biolistics, or agent-enhanced uptake.

> In some embodiments, a Cas9 polypeptide is pre-complexed with one or more sgRNAs to form a ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP). In some embodiments, a Cas9/sgRNA RNP is formulated using a lipid nanoparticle. In some embodiments, a donor template is formulated using an AAV vector. In some embodiments, delivery to a cell of a formulated Cas9/sgRNA

25 RNP is performed by electroporation of the cell. In some embodiments, a donor template formulated as an AAV vector is delivered prior to electroporation. In some embodiments, a donor template formulated as an AAV vector is delivered during electroporation. In some embodiments, a donor template formulated as an AAV vector is delivered following electroporation.

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In some embodiments, a gene edit performed using a CRISPR/Cas9 endonuclease results in an engineered T cell with a disrupted TRAC gene. In some embodiments, a disruption of a TRAC gene results in eliminated or decreased expression of the TRAC gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption of a TRAC gene disrupts or inhibits transcription and translation of an encoded gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption of a TRAC gene results in

eliminated or decreased expression of a TRAC gene product. In some embodiments, eliminated 35

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or decreased expression of the TRAC gene is associated with loss of function of the TCR. In some embodiments, loss of TCR function renders an engineered T cell suitable to allogeneic transplantation (i.e., minimizing the risk of inducing GvHD). In some embodiments, a disruption of a TRAC gene is created by knocking in a CAR into the TRAC gene (e.g., using an AAV vector and a donor template). In some embodiments, a disruption in the TRAC gene expression

- 5 vector and a donor template). In some embodiments, a disruption in the TRAC gene expression is created by gRNAs targeting the TRAC genomic region and knocking in a CAR into the CAR gene. In some embodiments, a knock-in CAR is provided by a donor template with homology arms that correspond to sequences of the TRAC surrounding the site of a DSB.
- In some embodiments, a gene edit performed using a CRISPR/Cas9 endonuclease results in an engineered T cell with a disrupted β2M gene. In some embodiments, gRNAs targeting the B2M genomic region create indels in the β2M gene that disrupt or inhibit transcription and translation of an encoded gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption of a β2M gene results in eliminated or decreased expression of the β2M polypeptide. In some embodiments, eliminated or decreased expression of the B2M polypeptide is associated with loss of function of
- 15 the MHC I complex. In some embodiments, loss of MHC I function renders an engineered T cell suitable to allogeneic transplantation (i.e., minimizing the risk of a host versus allogeneic T cell response). In some embodiments, loss of MHC I function results in increased persistence of an engineered T cell in an allogeneic recipient.
- In some embodiments, a gene edit performed using a CRISPR/Cas9 endonuclease results 20 in an engineered T cell with a disrupted CD70 gene. In some embodiments, gRNAs targeting the CD70 genomic region create indels in the CD70 gene that disrupt or inhibit transcription and translation of an encoded gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption of a CD70 gene results in eliminated or decreased expression of the CD70 polypeptide. In some embodiments, eliminated or decreased expression of the CD70 polypeptide is associated with enhanced cell
- 25 proliferation, enhanced *in vivo* persistence, decreased exhaustion, and/or enhanced anti-tumor efficacy.

In some embodiments, a gene edit performed using a CRISPR/Cas9 endonuclease results in an engineered T cell with a disrupted PD-1 gene. In some embodiments, gRNAs targeting the PD-1 genomic region create indels in the PD-1 gene that disrupt or inhibit transcription and

30 translation of an encoded gene product. In some embodiments, a disruption of a PD-1 gene results in eliminated or decreased expression of the PD-1 polypeptide.

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Methods and Compositions

Provided herein, in some embodiments, are methods for treating cancer. Non-limiting examples of cancers that may be treated as provided herein include multiple myeloma, leukemia (*e.g.*, T cell leukemia, B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL), and/or chronic

lymphocytic leukemia (C-CLL)), lymphoma (*e.g.*, B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (B-NHL), Hodgkin's lymphoma, and/or T cell lymphoma), and/or clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC). In some embodiment, the methods comprise delivering the CAR T cells (*e.g.*, anti-BCMA, anti-CD19, anti-CD33 and/or anti-CD70 CAR T cells) of the present disclosure to a subject having multiple myeloma, leukemia, or lymphoma. Other non-limiting examples of cancers (*e.g.*, solid

10 tumors) that may be treated as provided herein include pancreatic cancer, gastric cancer, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer, breast cancer, renal cancer, thyroid cancer, nasopharyngeal cancer, non-small cell lung (NSCLC), glioblastoma, and/or melanoma.

CD70 has also been detected on hematological tumors and on carcinomas. The restricted expression pattern of CD70 in normal tissues and its widespread expression in various

- 15 malignancies makes it an attractive target for antibody-based therapeutics. The use of CAR T cell therapy to target CD70⁺ cancers, however, is potentially problematic because of CD70 expression in the T cells. To address this potential problem, the present disclosure also provides CAR T cells that have been engineered to disrupt endogenous CD70 expression while at the same time expressing an anti-CD70 binding moiety (*e.g.*, an anti-CD70 scFv).
- 20 In some embodiments, the cancer is a CD70⁺ cancer. In other embodiments, the cancer is a BCMA⁺ cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a CD19+ cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a CD33+ cancer. It should be understood that other cancers, expressing other cancer antigens, may be treated using the engineered CD70 knockout CAR T cells of the present disclosure.

The methods, in some embodiments, comprise administering to a subject (*e.g.*, a patient having a CD70⁺ cancer, a BCMA⁺ cancer, a CD19+ cancer or a CD33+ cancer) a population of CAR T cells as provided herein. In some embodiments, the methods comprise administering to a subject a population of CAR T cells comprising a CD70 gene knockout. In some embodiments, the methods comprise administering to a subject a population of CAR T cells comprising a

30 CD70 gene knockout and a PD1 gene knockout. In some embodiments, the methods comprise implanting the cells into subject. This implanting step may be accomplished using any method of implantation known in the art. For example, the engineered cells may be injected directly in a subject's blood or otherwise administered to the subject.

As demonstrated herein, CAR T cells comprising a CD70 gene knockout exhibit 35 extended proliferation and increased *in vivo* persistence. In some embodiments, CAR T cells

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comprising a CD70 gene knockout exhibit increased anti-tumor efficacy relative to CAR T cells expressing endogenous CD70. In some embodiments, CAR T cells comprising a CD70 gene knockout exhibit increased anti-tumor efficacy in solid tumors relative to CAR T cells expressing endogenous CD70. Without wishing to be bound by theory, the increased in vivo

persistence of CAR T cells comprising a CD70 gene knockout may allow for expansion in solid 5 tumors and therefore provide enhanced anti-tumor efficacy in such tumors relative to CAR T cells expressing endogenous CD70.

In some embodiments, the disclosure provides a method for treating a solid tumor with the CAR T cells described herein. In some embodiments, the disclosure provides a method for treating a solid tumor with the anti-CD70 CAR T cells described herein.

The step of administering may include the placement (e.g., transplantation) of cells, e.g., engineered T cells, into a subject, by a method or route that results in at least partial localization of the introduced cells at a desired site, such as tumor, such that a desired effect(s) is produced. Engineered T cells can be administered by any appropriate route that results in delivery to a

15 desired location in the subject where at least a portion of the implanted cells or components of the cells remain viable. The period of viability of the cells after administration to a subject can be as short as a few hours, e.g., twenty-four hours, to a few days, to as long as several years, or even the life time of the subject, *i.e.*, long-term engraftment. For example, in some aspects described herein, an effective amount of engineered T cells is administered via a systemic route 20 of administration, such as an intraperitoneal or intravenous route.

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A subject may be any subject for whom diagnosis, treatment, or therapy is desired. In some embodiments, the subject is a mammal. In some embodiments, the subject is a human.

A donor is an individual who is not the subject being treated. A donor is an individual who is not the patient. In some embodiments, a donor is an individual who does not have or is not suspected of having the cancer being treated. In some embodiments, multiple donors, e.g., two or more donors, are used.

In some embodiments, an engineered T cell population being administered according to the methods described herein comprises allogeneic T cells obtained from one or more donors. Allogeneic refers to a cell, cell population, or biological samples comprising cells, obtained from

- one or more different donors of the same species, where the genes at one or more loci are not 30 identical to the recipient (e.g., subject). For example, an engineered T cell population, being administered to a subject can be derived from one or more unrelated donors, or from one or more non-identical siblings. In some embodiments, syngeneic cell populations may be used, such as those obtained from genetically identical donors, (e.g., identical twins). In some
- embodiments, the cells are autologous cells; that is, the engineered T cells are obtained or 35

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isolated from a subject and administered to the same subject, *i.e.*, the donor and recipient are the same.

An effective amount refers to the amount of a population of engineered T cells needed to prevent or alleviate at least one or more signs or symptoms of a medical condition (e.g., cancer), and relates to a sufficient amount of a composition to provide the desired effect, e.g., to treat a 5 subject having a medical condition. An effective amount also includes an amount sufficient to prevent or delay the development of a symptom of the disease, alter the course of a symptom of the disease (for example but not limited to, slow the progression of a symptom of the disease), or reverse a symptom of the disease. It is understood that for any given case, an appropriate

10 effective amount can be determined by one of ordinary skill in the art using routine experimentation.

For use in the various aspects described herein, an effective amount of cells (e.g., engineered T cells) comprises at least 10^2 cells, at least 5 X 10^2 cells, at least 10^3 cells, at least 5 X 10^3 cells, at least 10^4 cells, at least 5 X 10^4 cells, at least 10^5 cells, at least 2 X 10^5 cells, at

least 3 X 10⁵ cells, at least 4 X 10⁵ cells, at least 5 X 10⁵ cells, at least 6 X 10⁵ cells, at least 7 X 15 10⁵ cells, at least 8 X 10⁵ cells, at least 9 X 10⁵ cells, at least 1 X 10⁶ cells, at least 2 X 10⁶ cells, at least 3 X 10⁶ cells, at least 4 X 10⁶ cells, at least 5 X 10⁶ cells, at least 6 X 10⁶ cells, at least 7 X 10⁶ cells, at least 8 X 10⁶ cells, at least 9 X 10⁶ cells, or multiples thereof. The cells are derived from one or more donors, or are obtained from an autologous source. In some examples described herein, the cells are expanded in culture prior to administration to a subject in need 20 thereof.

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Modes of administration include injection, infusion, instillation, or ingestion. Injection includes, without limitation, intravenous, intramuscular, intra-arterial, intrathecal, intraventricular, intracapsular, intraorbital, intracardiac, intradermal, intraperitoneal,

25 transtracheal, subcutaneous, subcuticular, intraarticular, sub capsular, subarachnoid, intraspinal, intracerebro spinal, and intrasternal injection and infusion. In some embodiments, the route is intravenous.

In some embodiments, engineered T cells are administered systemically, which refers to the administration of a population of cells other than directly into a target site, tissue, or organ, such that it enters, instead, the subject's circulatory system and, thus, is subject to metabolism and other like processes.

The efficacy of a treatment comprising a composition for the treatment of a medical condition can be determined by the skilled clinician. A treatment is considered "effective treatment," if any one or all of the signs or symptoms of, as but one example, levels of functional

target are altered in a beneficial manner (e.g., increased by at least 10%), or other clinically 35

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accepted symptoms or markers of disease (*e.g.*, cancer) are improved or ameliorated. Efficacy can also be measured by failure of a subject to worsen as assessed by hospitalization or need for medical interventions (*e.g.*, progression of the disease is halted or at least slowed). Methods of measuring these indicators are known to those of skill in the art and/or described herein.

- 5 Treatment includes any treatment of a disease in subject and includes: (1) inhibiting the disease, *e.g.*, arresting, or slowing the progression of symptoms; or (2) relieving the disease, *e.g.*, causing regression of symptoms; and (3) preventing or reducing the likelihood of the development of symptoms.
- Combination therapies are also encompassed by the present disclosure. For example,
 10 CD70 and/or CD27 antibodies can be used to bind and/or modulate the activity of CD70 and/or
 CD27 on CAR T cells and promote a decrease in exhaustion, enhanced CAR T cell expansion
 and increase efficacy of cancer cell killing. Thus, CD70 and/or CD27 antibodies can be
 administered with any CAR T cell known in the art to improve the CAR T cell function. For
 example, any of the engineered T cells provided herein may be administered in combination
 15 with anti-CD70 antibodies, anti-CD27 antibodies, or a combination of anti-CD70 antibodies and
- anti-CD27 antibodies. In some embodiments, $TRAC^{-}/\beta 2M^{-}$ CAR⁺ T cells (*e.g.*, anti-CD70 CAR or anti-BCMA CAR) are administered in combination with anti-CD70 and/or anti-CD27 antibodies. In some embodiments, $TRAC^{-}/\beta 2M^{-}/PD^{-1^{-}}/CD70^{-}$ CAR⁺ T cells (*e.g.*, anti-CD70 CAR or anti-BCMA CAR) are administered in combination with anti-CD70 and/or anti-CD27
- antibodies. In some embodiments, *TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻* CAR⁺ T cells (*e.g.*, anti-CD70 CAR or anti-BCMA CAR) are administered in combination with anti-CD70 and/or anti-CD27 antibodies. In some embodiments, *TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻* CAR⁺ T cells (*e.g.*, anti-CD70 CAR or anti-BCMA CAR) are administered in combination with anti-CD70 and/or anti-CD27 antibodies. In some embodiments, the antibodies administered in combination can be
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- 25 Varlilumab.

In some embodiments, the disclosure provides a method of reducing exhaustion of T cells comprising disrupting the CD70 gene in the T cells. In some embodiments, the disclosure provides a method of increasing proliferation of T cells comprising disrupting the CD70 gene in the T cells. In some embodiments, the disclosure provides a method of increasing cytotoxicity

of T cells comprising disrupting the *CD70* gene in the T cells. In some embodiments, the disclosure provides a method of overcoming inhibitory effect of an immune checkpoint (e.g., PD-1) in T cells comprising disrupting the *CD70* gene in the T cells.

Other Embodiments

The disclosure relates to the following embodiments. Throughout this section, the term embodiment is abbreviated as 'E' followed by an ordinal. For example, E1 is equivalent to Embodiment 1.

5 E1. An engineered T cell comprising a disrupted *CD70* gene, a disrupted programmed cell death-1 (*PD-1*) gene, and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR).

E2. An engineered T cell comprising a disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) that binds CD70.

E3. An engineered T cell comprising a disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) that does not bind CD70.

E4. The engineered T cell of embodiment 2 or 3, further comprising a disrupted *PD-1* gene.

E5. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 1-4 further comprising a disrupted T cell receptor alpha chain constant region (*TRAC*) gene.

E6. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 1-5 further comprising a disrupted

15 beta-2-microglobulin ($\beta 2M$) gene.

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E7. An engineered T cell, comprising

a disrupted T cell receptor alpha chain constant region (TRAC) gene;

a disrupted beta-2-microglobulin (β 2M) gene;

a disrupted CD70 gene; and

20 a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR).

E8. The engineered T cell of embodiment 7, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the CAR is inserted into the *TRAC* gene.

E9. The engineered T cell of embodiment 7 or 8, further comprising a disrupted *PD-1* gene.

E10. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 1-9, wherein the CAR comprises an

25 ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antibody, optionally wherein the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 single-chain variable fragment (scFv).

E11. The engineered T cell of embodiment 10, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same heavy chain variable region (VH) complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same light chain variable region (VL) CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference

antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 51 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 52.
 E12. The engineered T cell of embodiment 11, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

E13. The engineered T cell of embodiment 11, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50.

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E14. The engineered T cell of embodiment 11, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50.

E15. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 1-9, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA antibody, optionally wherein the anti-BCMA

- antibody is an anti-BCMA single-chain variable fragment (scFv).
 E16. The engineered T cell of embodiment 15, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the same VH complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH) set forth as SEQ ID NO: 60 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 61.
- 10 E17. The engineered T cell of embodiment 16, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

E18. The engineered T cell of embodiment 16, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59.

E19. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 1-18, wherein the CAR comprises a

15 CD28 or 41BB co-stimulatory domain and optionally a CD3ζ signaling domain.

E20. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 5-19, wherein the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 44 or 55 and/or the nucleic acid encoding the CAR comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 56.

E21. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 6-20, wherein the disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene comprises gene at least one nucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NOS: 9-14.

E22. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 1-21, wherein the engineered T cell maintains cytotoxicity following 5 rechallenges with a cancer cell.

E23. The engineered T cell of embodiment 22, wherein the engineered T cell maintains cytotoxicity following 10 rechallenges with a cancer cell.

25 E24. A population of cells comprising engineered T cells that comprise a disrupted *CD70* gene, a disrupted programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) gene, and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR).

E25. A population of cells comprising engineered T cells that comprise a disrupted *CD70* gene, and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) that binds CD70.

E26. A population of cells comprising engineered T cells that comprise a disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) that does not bind CD70.
 E27. The population of cells of embodiment 25 or 26 further comprising a disrupted programmed cell death-1 (*PD-1*) gene.

E28. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-27 further comprising a disrupted T cell receptor alpha chain constant region (*TRAC*) gene.

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E29. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-28 further comprising a disrupted beta-2-microglobulin (β 2M) gene.

E30. A population of cells comprising engineered T cells that comprise

a disrupted T cell receptor alpha chain constant region (TRAC) gene;

a disrupted beta-2-microglobulin (β 2M) gene;

a disrupted CD70 gene; and

a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR).

E31. The population of cells of embodiment 30, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the CAR isinserted into the *TRAC* gene.

E32. The population of cells of embodiment 30 or 31, wherein the engineered T cells further comprise a disrupted programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) gene.

E33. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24 or 27-32, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antibody, optionally wherein the anti-

15 CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 single-chain variable fragment (scFv).

E34. The population of cells of embodiment 33, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 51 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 52.

20 E35. The population of cells of embodiment 34, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

E36. The population of cells of embodiment 35, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50.

E37. The population of cells of embodiment 35, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50.

E38. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-32, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA antibody, optionally wherein the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA single-chain variable fragment (scFv).

E39. The population of cells of embodiment 38, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the
same VH complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same VL CDRs as a reference
antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 60 and a VL

set forth as SEQ ID NO: 61.

E40. The population of cells of embodiment 39, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

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E41. The population of cells of embodiment 39, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59.

E42. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 28-41, wherein the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 44 or 55 and/or the nucleic acid encoding the CAR comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45 or 56.

E43. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 29-42, wherein the disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene comprises gene at least one nucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NOS: 9-14.

E44. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-43, wherein at least 50% of the

10 engineered T cells do not express a detectable level of TCR surface protein, do not express a detectable level of β 2M surface protein, do not express a detectable level of CD70 surface protein, do not express a detectable level of PD-1 surface protein, and/or express a detectable level of the CAR.

E45. The population of cells of embodiment 44, wherein 50%-70%, of the engineered T cells

do not express a detectable level of TCR surface protein, do not express a detectable level of β2M surface protein, do not express a detectable level of CD70 surface protein, do not express a detectable level of PD-1 surface protein, and/or express a detectable level of the CAR.
 E46. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 28-45, wherein at least 90%,

optionally 90%-100%, of the engineered T cells do not express a detectable level of TCR surface protein.

E47. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 29-46, wherein at least 60%, optionally 60%-75%, of the engineered T cells do not express a detectable level of β 2M surface protein.

E48. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-47, wherein at least 80%,

25 optionally 80%-100%, of the engineered T cells do not express a detectable level of CD70 surface protein.

E49. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 1-48, wherein at least 80%, optionally 80%-95%, of the engineered T cells express a detectable level of the CAR.

E50. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-49, wherein the engineered T cells30 exhibit at least 20% greater cellular proliferative capacity, relative to control T cells.

E51. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-50, wherein the engineered T cells exhibit at least 20% greater cellular lysis capability, relative to control T cells.

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E52. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-51, wherein the level of cytokines secreted by the engineered T cells are at least 2-fold greater than the level of cytokines secreted by control T cells.

E53. The population of any one of embodiments 24-52, wherein the engineered T cells exhibit reduced cellular exhaustion, relative to control T cells.

E54. The population of cells of embodiment 53, wherein the engineered T cells express reduced levels of LAG3, relative to control T cells.

E55. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 54, wherein the control T cells are engineered T cells that express endogenous CD70 protein.

10 E56. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-55, wherein the engineered T cells maintain cytokine-dependent proliferation.

E57. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-56, wherein the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 5 rechallenges with a cancer cell.

E58. The population of cells of embodiment 47, wherein the engineered T cells maintain cytotoxicity following 10 rechallenges with a cancer cell.

E59. A method comprising administering to a subject the population of cells of any one of embodiments 24-58.

E60. The method of embodiment 59, wherein the engineered T cells are engineered human T cells.

- 20 E61. The method of embodiment 59 or 60, wherein the subject has a cancer.
 - E62. The method of embodiment 61, wherein the cancer expresses CD70 and/or BCMA.
 - E63. The method of any one of embodiments 59-62, wherein the population of cells is administered to the subject in an amount effective to treat the cancer.

E64. The method of any one of embodiments 59-63, wherein the cancer is a solid tumor

25 malignancy or a hematological malignancy.

E65. The method embodiment 64, wherein the solid tumor malignancy is selected from the group consisting of: ovarian tumor, pancreatic tumor, kidney tumor, lung tumor, and intestinal tumor.

E66. The method of embodiment 63, wherein the population of cells is administered to the

- 30 subject in an amount effective to reduce the volume of a tumor in the subject.
 - E67. A method for producing an engineered T cell, the method comprising
 - (a) delivering to a T cell

an RNA-guided nuclease,

a gRNA targeting a CD70 gene, and

a vector comprising a donor template that comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR; and

- (b) producing an engineered T cell comprising a disrupted CD70 gene and expressing the CAR.
- 5 E68. The method of embodiment 67, further comprising in step (a) delivering to the T cell a gRNA targeting a *PD-1* gene; wherein the engineered T cell of step (b) further comprises a disrupted *PD-1* gene.

E69. The method of embodiment 67 or embodiment 68, further comprising in step (a) delivering to the T cell a gRNA targeting a *TRAC* gene; wherein the engineered T cell of step (b)

10 further comprises a disrupted *TRAC* gene.

E70. The method of embodiment 69, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the CAR is flanked by left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene locus; and wherein the engineered T cell of step (b) comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR inserted into the *TRAC* gene locus.

E71. The method of any one of embodiments embodiment 67-70, further comprising in step

- (a) delivering to the T cell a gRNA targeting a β2M gene; wherein the engineered T cell of step
 (b) further comprises a disrupted β2M gene.
 - E72. A method for producing an engineered T cell, the method comprising
 - (a) delivering to a T cell
 - an RNA-guided nuclease,
- 20 a gRNA targeting a *TRAC* gene,

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- a gRNA targeting a $\beta 2M$ gene,
 - a gRNA targeting a CD70 gene, and
 - a vector comprising a donor template that comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR; and
 - (b) producing an engineered T cell.
- 25 E73. The method of embodiment 72, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the CAR is flanked by left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene locus.

E74. The method of embodiment 72 or 73 further comprising delivering to the T cell a gRNA targeting a *PD-1* gene.

E75. The method of any one of embodiments 67-74, wherein the RNA-guided nuclease is a Cas9 nuclease, optionally a *S. pyogenes* Cas9 nuclease.

E76. The method of any one of embodiments 69-75, wherein the gRNA targeting the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 98 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30.

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E77. The method of any one of embodiments 71-76, wherein the gRNA targeting the $\beta 2M$ gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 99 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 119, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the $\beta 2M$ gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 31.

5 E78. The method of any one of embodiments 67-77, wherein the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 94 or 95 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 114 or 115, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 26 or 27.

E79. The method of any one of embodiments 68-71 and 74-78, wherein the gRNA targeting

10 the PD-1 gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 100 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 120, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the PD-1 gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

E80. The method of any one of embodiments 67-79, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antibody, optionally wherein the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 single-chain variable fragment (scFv).

- E81. The method of embodiment 80, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 51 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 52.
- 20 E82. The method of embodiment 81, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

E83. The method of embodiment 81, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50.

E84. The method of embodiment 81, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50.

E85. The method of any one of embodiments 67-79, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA antibody, optionally wherein the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA single-chain variable fragment (scFv).

E86. The method of embodiment 85, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the same VH
30 complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 60 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 61.

E87. The method of embodiment 86, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

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E88. The method of embodiment 86, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59.

E89. The method of any one of embodiments 67-88, wherein the CAR further comprises a CD28 or 41BB co-stimulatory domain and optionally a CD3z signaling domain.

5 E90. The method of embodiment 72, wherein the vector comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46.

E91. The method of embodiment 72, wherein the vector comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.

E92. An engineered T cell comprising an RNA-guided nuclease and a gRNA targeting a CD70

10 gene, optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 94 or 95 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 114 or 115, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 26 or 27.

E93. The engineered T cell of embodiment 92 further comprising a gRNA targeting a *PD-1*

15 gene, optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *PD-1* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 100 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 120, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *PD-1* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

E94. The engineered T cell of embodiment 92 or 93 further comprising a gRNA targeting a

20 TRAC gene, optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the TRAC gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 98 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the TRAC gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30.

E95. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 92-94 further comprising a gRNA

25 targeting a $\beta 2M$ gene, optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the $\beta 2M$ gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 99 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 119, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the $\beta 2M$ gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 31.

E96. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 92-95, wherein the RNA-guided nuclease is a Cas9 nuclease, optionally a *S. pyogenes* Cas9 nuclease.

E97. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 92-96 further comprising a vector comprising a donor template that comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, optionally wherein the nucleic acid encoding the CAR is flanked by left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene locus.

E98. The engineered T cell of embodiment 97, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antibody, optionally wherein the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 single-chain variable fragment (scFv).

E99. The engineered T cell of embodiment 98, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the

5 same VH complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 51 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 52.

E100. The engineered T cell of embodiment 99, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

10 E101. The engineered T cell of embodiment 99, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50.

E102. The engineered T cell of embodiment 99, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50.

E103. The engineered T cell of embodiment 97 wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that

- 15 comprises an anti-BCMA antibody, optionally wherein the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA single-chain variable fragment (scFv).
 - E104. The engineered T cell of embodiment 103, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the same VH complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 60 and a VL
- 20 set forth as SEQ ID NO: 61.

E105. The engineered T cell of embodiment 104, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

E106. The engineered T cell of embodiment 104, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59.

E107. The engineered T cell of embodiment 97, wherein the vector comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46 or 57.
E108. A method of increasing proliferation or reducing exhaustion of T cells, the method comprising disrupting the *CD70* gene in the T cells.

E109. The method of embodiment 108 further comprising disrupting in the T cells at least one

30 gene selected from the group consisting of: programmed cell death-1 (*PD-1*) gene, T cell receptor alpha chain constant region (*TRAC*) gene, and beta-2-microglobulin (β2M) gene.
 E110. The method of any one of embodiments 108-109 further comprising expressing in the T cells a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR).

E111. The method of any one of embodiments 108-110, wherein the *CD70* gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas gene editing.

E112. The method of any one of embodiments 110-111, wherein the *PD-1*, *TRAC*, and/or $\beta 2M$ gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas gene editing.

E113. A method for treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the patient a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise a

disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, thereby treating cancer in the subject.E114. The method of embodiment 113, wherein the CAR binds CD70.

E115. The method of embodiment 113, wherein the CAR does not bind CD70.

E116. The method of any one of embodiments 113-115, wherein the engineered T cells further comprise a disrupted TRAC gene.

10 E117. The method of any one of embodiments 113-116, wherein the engineered T cells further comprise a disrupted B2M gene.

E118. The method of any one of embodiments 113-116, wherein the engineered T cells further comprise a disrupted PD-1 gene.

E119. A method for treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the patient a

- 15 population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:
 - (i) a disrupted TRAC gene;;
 - (ii) a disrupted B2M gene;
 - (iii) a disrupted CD70 gene; and
 - (iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR;
- 20 thereby treating the cancer in the subject.

E120. The method of any one of embodiments 113-114 and 116-119, wherein the CAR comprises (a) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antigen-binding fragment, (b) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (c) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain and a CD3z co-stimulatory domain.

25 E121. The method of embodiment 119 or 120, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR.

E122. The method of any one of embodiments 120-121, wherein the anti-CD70 antibody is an anti-CD70 scFv.

E123. The method of embodiment 122, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same heavy

chain variable region (VH) complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same light chain variable region (VL) CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 51 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 52.
 E124. The method of embodiment 123, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

E125. The method of embodiment 122, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50.

E126. The method of embodiment 122, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50.

5 E127. The method of any one of embodiments 113 and 115-118, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that comprises an anti-BCMA antibody, optionally wherein the anti-BCMA antibody is an anti-BCMA single-chain variable fragment (scFv).

E128. The method of embodiment 127, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the same VH complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody,

10 wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH) set forth as SEQ ID NO: 60 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 61.

E129. The method of embodiment 128, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the same VH and VL chains as the reference antibody.

E130. The method of embodiment 127, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59.

E131. The method of any one of embodiments 113-130, wherein the engineered T cells are engineered human T cells.

E132. The method of any one of embodiments 113-131, wherein the cancer expresses CD70 and/or BCMA.

20 E133. The method of any one of embodiments 113-132, wherein the population of cells is administered to the subject in an amount effective to treat the cancer.

E134. The method of any one of embodiments 113-133, wherein the cancer is a solid tumor malignancy or a hematological malignancy.

E135. The method embodiment 134, wherein the solid tumor malignancy is selected from the

25 group consisting of: ovarian tumor, pancreatic tumor, kidney tumor, lung tumor, and intestinal tumor.

E136. A population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene;;

30

15

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene

(ii) a disrupted beta-2-microglobulin (B2M) gene;

(iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising (a) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 antigen-binding fragment, (b) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (c) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain and a CD3z co-stimulatory domain.

E137. The population of cells of embodiment 136, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR.

E138. The population of cells of any one of embodiments 136-137, wherein the engineered T cells are human T cells.

5 E139. An engineered T cell comprising:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46;

(ii) a disrupted B2M gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.

10 E140. The engineered T cell of embodiment 139, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the CAR comprises a sequence at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98% or at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO: 45.

E141. An engineered T cell comprising:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises a nucleic acid

15 encoding a CAR, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 45;

(ii) a disrupted B2M gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.

E142. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 139-141, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises a donor sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:

20 45 or SEQ ID NO: 44.

E143. An engineered T cell comprising:

(i) a disrupted TRAC gene comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 44;

(ii) a disrupted B2M gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.

E144. The engineered T cell of any one of embodiments 139-143, wherein the T cell is a human T cell.

EXAMPLES

Example 1. Efficient Knockout of CD70 by Cas9:sgRNA RNPs in T cells

- 30 This example describes efficient editing of the *CD70* gene in primary human T cells *ex vivo* using CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing. Genomic segments of the *CD70* gene containing the first three (3) protein coding exons were used as input in gRNA design software. The genomic segments also included flanking splice site acceptor/donor sequences. Desired gRNAs were those that would lead to insertions or deletions in the coding sequence, disrupting the amino acid
- 35 sequence of CD70, leading to out of frame/loss of function allele(s) (referred to as "CD70

knockout" alleles). All seven (7) *in silico*-identified gRNA spacer sequences targeting the *CD70* gene were synthesized, and the gRNAs were specifically modified, as indicated in **Table 5**. While the gRNAs in **Table 5** were modified with 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate modifications, unmodified gRNAs, or gRNAs with other modifications, may be used. See also

5 PCT/IB2018/001619, filed May 11, 2018, herein incorporated in its entirety by this reference.

gRNA Sequences		
Name	Unmodified Sequence	Modified Sequence
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T1)	UCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAUg	U*C*A*CCAAGCCCGCGACCA
	uuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaaua	AUguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaa
	aggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaagug	aauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaa
	gcaccgagucggugcUUUU	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(SEQ ID NO: 23)	(SEQ ID NO: 33)
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T1) spacer	UCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAU	U*C*A*CCAAGCCCGCGACCA
	(SEQ ID NO: 91)	AU (SEQ ID NO: 101)
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T3)	AUCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAg	A*U*C*ACCAAGCCCGCGACC
	uuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaaua	AAguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaa
	aggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaagug	aauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaa
	gcaccgagucggugcUUUU	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(SEQ ID NO: 24)	(SEQ ID NO: 34)
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T3) spacer	AUCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAA	A*U*C*ACCAAGCCCGCGACC
	(SEQ ID NO: 92)	AA (SEQ ID NO: 102)
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T4)	CGGUGCGGCGCAGGCCCUAU	C*G*G*UGCGGCGCAGGCCCU
	guuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaau	AUguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaa
	aaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaagu	aauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaa
	ggcaccgagucggugcUUUU	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(SEQ ID NO: 25)	(SEQ ID NO: 35)
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T4) spacer	CGGUGCGGCGCAGGCCCUAU	C*G*G*UGCGGCGCAGGCCCU
	(SEQ ID NO: 93)	AU (SEQ ID NO: 103)
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T7)); also	GCUUUGGUCCCAUUGGUCGC	G*C*U*UUGGUCCCAUUGGUC
referred to as: T7	guuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaau	GCguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaa
	aaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaagu	aauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaa
	ggcaccgagucggugcUUUU	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(SEQ ID NO: 26)	(SEQ ID NO: 36)
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T7) spacer	GCUUUGGUCCCAUUGGUCGC	G*C*U*UUGGUCCCAUUGGUC
	(SEQ ID NO: 94)	GC (SEQ ID NO: 104)
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T8); also	GCCCGCAGGACGCACCCAUAg	G*C*C*CGCAGGACGCACCCA
referred to as: T8	uuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaaua	UAguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaa
	aggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaagug	aauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaa
	gcaccgagucggugcUUUU	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(SEQ ID NO: 27)	(SEQ ID NO: 37)
CD/0 sgRNA (E1_18) spacer	GCCCGCAGGACGCACCCAUA	G*C*C*CGCAGGACGCACCCA
	(SEQ ID NO: 95)	UA (SEQ ID NO: 105)
$CD/0 \text{ sgRNA} (E1_T10)$	GUGCAUCCAGCGCUUCGCAC	G*U*G*CAUCCAGCGCUUCGC
	guuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaau	ACguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaa
	aaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaaagu	aauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaa
	ggcaccgagucggugcUUUU	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
CD70 acDNA (E1, T10) = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =	(SEQ ID NO: 28)	(SEV ID NU: 38)
CD/U sgKNA (E1_110) spacer	(SEO ID NO. 06)	
CD70 arDNA (E2, T1)		AC (SEV ID NO: 100)
$ $ CD/U sgKNA (E3_11)		
	guuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaau	
	aaggeuagueeguuaueaaeuugaaaaagu	
	(SEO ID NO: 20)	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(SEQ ID NO. 29)	(SEQ ID NO. 39)

Table 5. CD70 gRNA Sequences/Target Sequences

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CD70 sgRNA (E3_T1) spacer	CAGCUACGUAUCCAUCGUGA	C*A*G*CUACGUAUCCAUCGU		
	(SEQ ID NO: 97)	GA (SEQ ID NO: 107)		
Target Sequences				
Name	Target Sequence (PAM)			
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T1)	TCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAT (G	GG) (SEQ ID NO: 111)		
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T3)	ATCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAA (TGG) (SEQ ID NO: 112)			
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T4)	CGGTGCGGCGCAGGCCCTAT (G	GG) (SEQ ID NO: 113)		
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T7)	GCTTTGGTCCCATTGGTCGC (GC	GG) (SEQ ID NO: 114)		
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T8)	GCCCGCAGGACGCACCCATA (C	GGG) (SEQ ID NO: 115)		
CD70 sgRNA (E1_T10)	GTGCATCCAGCGCTTCGCAC (A	GG) (SEQ ID NO: 116)		
CD70 sgRNA (E3_T1)	CAGCTACGTATCCATCGTGA (T	GG) (SEQ ID NO: 117)		
TRAC sgRNA	AGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGGCC (T	'GG) (SEQ ID NO: 118)		
β2M sgRNA	GCTACTCTCTCTTTCTGGCC (TG	G) (SEQ ID NO: 119)		
PD-1 sgRNA	CTGCAGCTTCTCCAACACAT (CO	GG) (SEQ ID NO: 120)		

*: 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate residue

Primary human T cells were transfected (electroporated) with a ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP) containing Cas9 nuclease and a synthetic modified sgRNA targeting the *CD70*

gene (sequences in Table 5) or controls (no Cas9, no gRNA). Four to six (4-6) days post transfection, cells were (1) subjected to a TIDE analysis to assess indel frequency and (2) processed by flow cytometry (primary antibody: FITC anti-human CD70 antibody, clone 113-16, Biolegend) to assess CD70 expression levels at the cell surface.

Seven (7) gRNAs yielded measurable data by TIDE analysis, as indicated in Table 6.

10 Four (4) gRNA sequences yielded indel percentages (editing frequencies) above 85% with protein expression knockdown above 80% (SEQ ID NOS: 23, 26, 27 and 29), indicating highly efficient gene editing. The data in **Table 6** are from one (1) donor. The level of CD70 protein expression (assessed by median fluorescent intensity (MFI)) per test sample was normalized to the level of CD70 protein expression present in control cells.

15

Table 6. CD70 gRNA sequences, cutting efficiencies, and CD70 surface protein expression in gene edited T cells

gRNA Name	gRNA Spacer Sequence	Indel %	R ²	Protein expression knockdown %
CD70 EXON1_T1 (E1_T1)	UCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAU (SEQ ID NO: 91)	89.3%	0.97	84.8%
CD70 EXON1_T3 (E1_T3)	AUCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAA (SEQ ID NO: 92)	65.2%	0.93	84.0%
CD70 EXON1_T4 (E1_T4)	CGGUGCGGCGCAGGCCCUAU (SEQ ID NO: 93)	81.6%	0.83	87.5%
CD70 EXON1_T7 (E1_T7)	GCUUUGGUCCCAUUGGUCGC (SEQ ID NO: 94)	97.8%	0.98	87.7%
CD70 EXON1_T8 (E1_T8)	GCCCGCAGGACGCACCCAUA (SEQ ID NO: 95)	90.1%	0.94	88.1%
CD70 EXON1_T10 (E1_T10)	GUGCAUCCAGCGCUUCGCAC (SEQ ID NO: 96)	28.3%	0.30	83.9%
CD70 EXON3_T1 (E3_T1)	CAGCUACGUAUCCAUCGUGA (SEQ ID NO: 97)	85.6%	0.93	87.2%

Analysis of on-target indel profiles in T cells

On-target amplicon analysis was conducted at the CD70 locus following gene editing using the T7 guide (SEQ ID NO: 26; SEQ ID NO: 36), targeting the CD70 gene: GCTTTGGTCCCATTGGTCGC (SEQ ID NO: 160; target sequence, with PAM SEQ ID NO:

5 114).

Following gene editing, on-target amplicon analysis was conducted around the CD70 locus in TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-CD70 CAR+ cells (generated as described in Example 3).

An initial PCR was performed using the KAPA HiFi PCR kit (Kapa Biosystems, Wilmington, MA). 100 ng of input gDNA was combined with 10 uM of each primer. The

10 CD70_F and CD70_R primers were paired to amplify the CD70 locus (**Table 7**).

Table 7.	Primers f	for CD	70 amplicon	library	preparation
			1	•	1 1

CD70_F	TCGTCGGCAGCGTCAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGcccaacttttccatctcaactcaccccaagtg
	(SEQ ID NO: 127)
CD70_R	GTCTCGTGGGGCTCGGAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGcccctcctgcgctagcgga (SEQ ID
	NO: 128)

Analysis of the CD70 locus in a population of T cells following CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing to produce TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells results in specific indel frequencies and edited gene sequences at the CD70 locus (**Table 8**; deletions as dashes and insertions in bold). Two cell populations of edited cells were generated from two different donor T cells (1 and 2). The populations of edited T cells from each donor were analyzed in replicate: 1A/1B and 2A/2B.

Table	8.
-------	----

SEQ ID							Std.
NO:	Gene Edited Sequence	1A	1B	2A	2B	Mean	Dev.
129	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCAAGCCCGCG CAATGGGACCAAAGCAGCCCGCAGGACG	10.4%	11.1%	14.4%	14.8%	12.7%	0.022
130	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCAAGCCCGCGA ACCAATGGGACCAAAGCAGCCCGCAGGACG	8.7%	10.0%	11.3%	11.1%	10.3%	0.012
131	CACACCACGAGGCAGATC ACCAATGGGACCAAAGCAGCCCGCAGGACG	8.2%	7.8%	7.1%	6.8%	7.5%	0.006
132	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCAAGCCCGCG- CCAATGGGACCAAAGCAGCCCGCAGGACG	3.9%	4.5%	4.2%	4.3%	4.2%	0.002
133	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCAAGCCCGC- ACCAATGGGACCAAAGCAGCCCGCAGGACG	2.2%	2.5%	2.4%	2.6%	2.4%	0.002
134	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCA AGCCCGCAGGACG	2.9%	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%	2.3%	0.004

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Example 2. Generation of T cells with multiple gene knockouts

This example describes the use of CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology to produce human T cells that lack expression of two, three or four genes simultaneously. Specifically, the T cell receptor (TCR) gene (gene edited in the TCR Alpha Constant (TRAC) region), the β 2-

5 microglobulin (β2M) gene, the Cluster of Differentiation 70 (CD70) gene and/or the programmed cell death 1 (PD-1 or PD1) gene were edited by CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing to produce T cells deficient in two or more of the listed genes. The following abbreviations are used in the Figures for brevity and clarity:

2X KO: TRAC⁻/β2M⁻

10

3X KO (PD-1): TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻

3X KO (CD70): TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻

4X KO: TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻

Activated primary human T cells were electroporated with Cas9:gRNA RNP complexes. The nucleofection mix contained the Nucleofector[™] Solution, 5x10⁶ cells, 1 µM Cas9, and 5

- µM gRNA (as described in Hendel *et al.*, *Nat Biotechnol*. 2015; 33(9):985-989, PMID:
 26121415). For the generation of double knockout T cells (2X KO), the cells were electroporated with two different RNP complexes, each containing Cas9 protein and one of the following sgRNAs: TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40) and β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41) at the concentrations indicated above. For the generation of triple knockout T cells (3X KO), the cells were
- electroporated with three different RNP complexes, each RNA complex containing Cas protein and one of the following sgRNAs: (a) TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), and PD-1 (SEQ ID NO: 42) at the concentrations indicated above; or (b) TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), and CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37) at the concentrations indicated above. For the generation of quadruple knockout T cells (4X KO), the cells were electroporated
- 25 with four different RNP complexes, each RNA complex containing Cas9 protein and one the following sgRNAs: TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), PD-1 (SEQ ID NO: 42), and CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37) at the concentrations indicated above. The unmodified versions (or other modified versions) of the gRNAs may also be used (*e.g.*, SEQ ID NOS: 30, 31, 32, 26, and/or 27). Sequences in **Tables 5 and 9**.

30

Name	Unmodified Sequence	Modified Sequence
TRAC sgRNA	AGAGCAACAGUGCUGUGGCC	A*G*A*GCAACAGUGCUGUGG
	guuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaau	CCguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaa
	aaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaagu	aauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaa
	ggcaccgagucggugcUUUU	

Table 9. gRNA Sequences/Target Sequences

	(SEQ ID NO: 30)	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
		(SEQ ID NO: 40)
TRAC sgRNA spacer	AGAGCAACAGUGCUGUGGCC	A*G*A*GCAACAGUGCUGUGG
	(SEQ ID NO: 98)	CC (SEQ ID NO: 108)
β2M sgRNA	GCUACUCUCUUUUCUGGCC	G*C*U*ACUCUCUUUUCUGG
	guuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaau	CCguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaa
	aaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaagu	aauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaa
	ggcaccgagucggugcUUUU	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(SEQ ID NO: 31)	(SEQ ID NO: 41)
β2M sgRNA spacer	GCUACUCUCUUUUCUGGCC	G*C*U*ACUCUCUUUUCUGG
	(SEQ ID NO: 99)	CC (SEQ ID NO: 109)
PD-1 sgRNA	CUGCAGCUUCUCCAACACAU	C*U*G*CAGCUUCUCCAACAC
	guuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaau	AUguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaa
	aaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaagu	aauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaaa
	ggcaccgagucggugcUUUU (SEQ ID	aguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	NO: 32)	(SEQ ID NO: 42)
PD-1 sgRNA spacer	CUGCAGCUUCUCCAACACAU	C*U*G*CAGCUUCUCCAACAC
	(SEQ ID NO: 100)	AU (SEQ ID NO: 110)

About one (1) week post electroporation, cells were either left untreated or treated with phorbol myristate acetate (PMA)/ionomycin overnight. The next day cells were processed for flow cytometry (see, *e.g.*, Kalaitzidis D et al. J Clin Invest 2017; 127(4): 1405-1413) to assess TRAC, β 2M, PD-1, and CD70 expression levels at the cell surface of the edited cell population. The following primary antibodies were used (**Table 10**):

Table 10. Antibodies

Antibody	Clone	Fluor	Catalogue #	Dilution	For 1
TCR	BW242/412	PE	130-091-236 (Miltenyi)	1:100	1 µL
β2Μ	2M2	PE-Cy7	316318 (Biolegend)	1:100	1 μL
PD-1	EH12.2H7	PE	329906 (Biolegend)	1:100	1 µL
CD70	113-16	FITC	355105 (Biolegend)	1:100	1 µL

10

5

Tables 11 and 12 show highly efficient multiple gene editing. For the double-knock cells (2X KO; TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻), 83% of viable cells lacked expression of TCR and β 2M (**Table 11; 3X KO (PD1)**). For the triple knockout cells, 70% of viable cells lacked expression of TCR, β 2M, and PD-1 (**Table 11**); and 80% of viable cells lacked expression of TCR, β 2M, and CD70 irrespective of the CD70 gRNA used (**Table 12**). For the quadruple knockout cells (4X KO),

15 78% of viable cells lacked expression of TCR, β 2M, PD-1, and CD70 (**FIG. 1**).

Table 11. $\,\%\,$ of viable cells lacking expression in 2KO and 3KO (PD1) cell populations

	TRAC KO	β2М КО	PD1 KO	2 KO	3 KO (PD1)
2KO	98%	85%	NA	83%	NA
3 KO (PD1)	98%	73%	99%	NA	70%

Table 12. % of viable cells lacking expression in 3KO (CD70) cell populations

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	TRAC KO	β2Μ ΚΟ	CD70 KO	3KO (CD70)
3KO (CD70)	99%	79%	99%	80%
(T7)				
3KO (CD70)	99%	82%	99%	80%
(T8)				

To assess whether triple and quadruple gene editing in T cells affects cell expansion, cell numbers were enumerated among double, triple, and quadruple gene edited T cells (unedited T cells were used as a control) over a two week period of post editing. 5×10^6 cells were generated and plated for each genotype of T cells.

5

As shown in **FIG. 2**, cell proliferation (expansion) continued over the postelectroporation window test. Similar cell proliferation was observed among the double (β2M-/TRAC-), triple (β2M-/TRAC-/PD-1-, or β2M-/TRAC-/CD70-), and quadruple (β2M-/TRAC-/PD-1-/CD70) knockout T cells, as indicated by the number of viable cells. These data suggest

10 that multiple gene editing (up to triple and quadruple, with *CD70* and *PD-1* genes) does not impact T cell health as measured by T cell proliferation.

Example 3. Generation of CAR T cells lacking CD70 and/or PD1

Generation of anti-CD70 CAR T Cells with multiple knockouts

- 15 This example describes the production of allogeneic human T cells that lack expression of the *TCR* gene, β2M gene, CD70 gene and/or PD1 gene, and express a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) targeting CD70. These cells are designated TCR⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ or 3X KO (CD70) CD70 CAR⁺; TCR⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ or 3X KO (PD1) CD70 CAR⁺; TCR⁻/β2M⁻/PD1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ or 4X KO CD70 CAR⁺ in the Figures.
- A recombinant adeno-associated adenoviral vector, serotype 6 (AAV6) (MOI 50, 000)
 comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 43 (comprising the donor template in SEQ ID NO: 44, encoding anti-CD70 CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46)
 was delivered with Cas9:sgRNA RNPs (1 μM Cas9, 5 μM gRNA) to activated allogeneic
 human T cells. The following sgRNAs were used: TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO:
- 41), CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37) and PD1 (SEQ ID NO: 42). The unmodified versions (or other modified versions) of the gRNAs may also be used (*e.g.*, SEQ ID NOS: 30, 31, 32, 26, and/or 27). About one (1) week post electroporation, cells were processed for flow cytometry to assess TRAC, β2M, CD70, and PD1 expression levels at the cell surface of the edited cell population. The following primary antibodies were used (**Table 13**):

Antibody	Clone	Fluor	Catalogue #	Dilution
TCR	BW242/412	PE	130-091-236 (Miltenyi)	1:100
β2Μ	2M2	PE-Cy7	316318 (Biolegend)	1:100
CD70	113-16	FITC	355105 (Biolegend)	1:100
PD-1	EH12.2H7	PE	329906 (Biolegend)	1:100

Table 13. Antibodies

T cell Proportion Assay. The proportions of CD4+ and CD8+ cells were then assessed in the edited T cell populations by flow cytometry using the following antibodies (**Table 14**):

Table 14. Antibodies

5

Antibody	Clone	Fluor	Catalogue #	Dilution
CD4	RPA-T4	BV510	300545 (Biolegend)	1:100
CD8	SK1	BV605	344741 (Biolegend)	1:100

High efficiency gene editing and CAR expression was achieved in the edited anti-CD70 CAR T

- cell populations. In addition, editing did not adversely alter CD4/CD8 T cell populations. FIG.
 3 shows highly efficient gene editing and anti-CD70 CAR expression in the triple knockout
 CAR T cell. More than 55% of viable cells lacked expression of TCR, β2M, and CD70, and also
 expressed the anti-CD70 CAR. FIG. 4 shows that normal proportions of CD4/CD8 T cell
 subsets were maintained in the TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-CD70 CAR+ cells, suggesting that
- 15 these multiple gene edits do not affect T cell biology as measured by the proportion of CD4/CD8 T cell subsets.

FIG. 5 shows show highly efficient gene editing and anti-CD70 CAR expression in the quadruple knockout CAR T cell. Greater than 60% of viable cells lacked expression of TCR, β2M, PD-1, and CD70, and expressed the anti-CD70 CAR. **FIG. 6** shows that normal

20 proportions of CD4/CD8 T cell subsets were maintained in the TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells, suggesting that these multiple gene editing do not affect T cell biology as measured by the proportion of CD4+/CD8+ T cell subsets.

Generation of anti-BCMA CAR T Cells with multiple knockouts

25 This example describes the production of allogeneic human T cells that lack expression of the *TCR* gene, the $\beta 2M$ gene, the *PD-1* gene, and/or the *CD70* gene, and also express a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) targeting B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA). 15

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A recombinant adeno-associated adenoviral vector, serotype 6 (AAV6) comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 54 (comprising the donor template in SEQ ID NO: 55, encoding anti-BCMA CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57) was delivered with Cas9:gRNA RNPs (1 µM Cas9, and 5 µM gRNA) to activated allogeneic human

- 5 T cells. The following gRNAs were used: TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41),
 PD-1 (SEQ ID NO: 42), and CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37). The unmodified versions (or other modified versions) of the gRNAs may also be used (*e.g.*, SEQ ID NOS: 30, 31, 32, 26 and/or 27). About one (1) week post electroporation, cells were processed for flow cytometry as described above for anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells, with the following difference. Anti-BCMA CAR
 10 expression was detected using biotinylated recombinant human BCMA (ACROS Cat# BC7-
- H82F0). The double and quadruple knockout anti-BCMA CAR⁺ cells were then characterized as described herein.

FIGs. 7A-7B shows highly efficient gene editing of the *TRAC* gene, $\beta 2M$ gene, the *CD70* gene and the *PD-1* gene. **FIG. 7C** shows high expression of the anti-BCMA CAR+ cells in double knockout and quadruple knockout cells.

Generation of anti-CD19 CAR T Cells with multiple knockouts

Allogeneic human T cells were generated that express a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) targeting CD19 and lack the expression of the *TCR* gene, the $\beta\beta 2M$ gene, and optionally the *CD70* gene.

To generate the allogeneic T cells, activated primary human T cells were electroporated with Cas9:gRNA RNP complexes and infected with adeno-associated adenoviral vectors (AAVs) containing anti-CD19 CAR donor template with homology to the TRAC locus. Recombinant AAV serotype 6 (AAV6) comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 155 (comprising the donor template in SEQ ID NO: 156, encoding anti-CD19 CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 149) was delivered with Cas9:sgRNA RNPs (1 μ M Cas9, 5 μ M gRNA) to activated human T cells. The following sgRNAs were used to knock-out the

respective genes: TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36).

The unmodified versions (or other modified versions) of the gRNAs may also be used (*e.g.*, SEQ
30 ID NOs: 30, 21 or 27). About one (1) week post electroporation, cells were processed for flow cytometry as described above for anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells, with the following difference. Anti-CD19 CAR expression was detected using biotinylated recombinant human CD19 (ACROBIOSYSTEMS INC; CD9-H825). The CD70 deficient anti-CD19 CAR⁺ T cells were then characterized as described herein.

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Generation of anti-CD33 CAR T Cells with multiple knockouts

Allogeneic human T cells were generated that express a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) targeting CD33 and lack the expression of the T cell receptor (TCR) gene (gene edited in the TCR Alpha Constant (TRAC) region), the β 2-microglobulin (β 2M) gene, and optionally the CD70

5 CD70 gene.

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To generate the allogeneic T cells, activated primary human T cells were electroporated with Cas9:gRNA RNP complexes and infected with adeno-associated adenoviral vectors (AAVs) containing anti-CD33 CAR donor template with homology to the TRAC locus. Recombinant AAV serotype 6 (AAV6) comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 87 (comprising the donor template in SEQ ID NO: 135, encoding anti-CD33 CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139was delivered with Cas9:sgRNA RNPs (1 μ M Cas9, 5 μ M gRNA) to activated human T cells. The following sgRNAs were used to knock-out the respective genes: TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β 2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36). The unmodified versions (or other modified versions) of the gRNAs may also be used (*e.g.*, SEQ

15 ID NOs: 30, 21 or 27).

Populations of TCR+ T cells (no RNP) and TRAC-/ β 2M- T cells (TCR and β 2M deficient cells without a CAR) were similarly generated for use as controls. About one (1) week post electroporation, cells were processed for flow cytometry as described above for anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells, with the following difference. Anti-CD33 CAR expression was detected

using biotinylated recombinant human CD33 (data not shown). The CD70 knockout anti-CD33
 CAR⁺ T cells were then characterized as described herein.

Characterization of CD4/CD8 cell populations in anti-CD33 CAR T cells with CD70 knock-out

CD33 can be expressed on T cells with higher levels observed on cultured CD4 cells
than CD8 cells. During the course of producing anti-CD33 CAR-T cells CD4 cells become substantially reduced due to fratricide. As shown in FIG. 8, anti-CD33 CAR-T cell cultures with intact CD70 displayed a 97% reduction in CD4+ cells over a 3 week culture period, while cultures of cells with disrupted CD70 showed only a 61% reduction over this time course. Thus disrupting the CD70 gene appears to reduce the fratricide observed in the anti-CD33 CAR-T cell

30 cultures. Without wishing to be bound by theory, this effect may occur through an immune stimulatory function which could be potentiated by CD70/CD27 interactions, and genetic disruption of CD70 results in more balanced CD4/CD8 ratios that may be more optimal for therapeutic benefit in malignancy.

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Example 4: CD70 KO Improves Cell Proliferation

Effect of CD70 KO on cell proliferation of anti-CD33 CAR T cells in vitro

To assess the ability of cells to expand in cytokine containing media (IL-2+IL-7), anti-CD33 CAR T cells were utilized. Specifically, 5x10⁶ total anti-CD33 CAR T cells comprising a double knockout (TRAC-/B2M-) or triple knockout (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-) were generated as described in Example 3, plated and allowed to grow in a 10 mL volume of cytokine containing media. After 1 week cells were counted. 5x10⁶ cells from the previous culture were then replated in 10 mL volume (fresh cytokine containing media) and 1 week later the total number of cells were enumerated. Allogeneic anti-CD33 CAR-T cells containing a disruption in the CD70 gene expanded to greater levels on the first and second week of replating (FIG. 9). These

data show that CD70 knockout can result in greater cell yields in culture.

Effect of CD70 KO on cell proliferation of anti-CD19 CAR T cells in vitro

- To further assess the ability of cells to expand in cytokine containing media (IL-2+IL-7), anti-CD19 CAR T cells were utilized. Specifically, 5x10⁶ total anti-CD19 CAR T cells comprising a double knockout (TRAC-/B2M-) or triple knockout (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-) were generated as described in Example 3, plated and allowed to grow in a 10 mL volume of cytokine containing media. After 1 week cells were counted. 5x10⁶ cells from the previous culture were then replated in 10 mL volume (fresh cytokine containing media) and 1 week later the total
- 20 number of cells were enumerated. Allogeneic anti-CD19 CAR-T cells containing a disruption in the CD70 gene expanded to greater levels on the first and second week of replating as compared to control cells without a CD70 gene distruption (FIG. 10). These data show that CD70 knockout can result in greater cell yields in culture.

25 *Effect of CD70 KO on cytokine driven proliferation and apoptosis of anti-BCMA CAR T cells in vitro*

Cytokine driven proliferation. To evaluate the effect of CD70 and/or PD1 knockout on cell proliferation, anti-BCMA CAR T cells were utilized. Anti-BCMA CAR T cells were generated as described in Example 3. The following groups of edited T cells were generated:

30 TRAC-/B2M-/anti-BCMA CAR+ (Control; 2KO, BCMA CAR+) TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA CAR+ (3KO (CD70), BCMA CAR+) TRAC-/B2M-/PD1-/anti-BCMA CAR+ (3KO (PD1), BCMA CAR+) TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-/PD1-/anti-BCMA CAR+ (4KO, BCMA CAR+)

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Edited cells were enriched for TRAC-/B2M- cells by magnetic depletion of CD3+B2M+ cells. Briefly, cells were labelled with anti-CD3 Biotin (Biolegend Cat# 300404) anti- β 2M Biotin (Biolegend Cat# 316308) antibodies, each at 0.5 µg per 1 x10⁶ cells in 100 µl volume at 4°C for 15min, washed and incubated with Streptavidin labelled magnetic microbeads (Miltenyi

Biotech, *130-048-101*) for 15min at 4°C. Cells were resuspended in buffer and passed through LS columns (Miltenyi Biotech, 130-042-401) according to the manufacturer's protocol. To determine the effect of CD70 or PD1 on IL-2/IL-7 driven T cell proliferation, the edited T cells (1E6 cells/ml) were cultured in growth medium (X-vivo medium (04-744, Lonza), supplemented with 5% human AB serum (HP1022, Valley Biomedical)), 50 ng/ml IL-2 (rhIL-2;

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130-097-745, Miltenyi Biotech) and 10 ng/ml IL-7 (rhIL-7; Cellgenix 001410-050) for up to four weeks. At indicated days, the cells were counted and re-seeded in fresh medium at 1.5E6 cells/ml in appropriate culture dishes.

FIGs. 11 and 12 show that knockout of CD70 improved IL-2/IL-7 driven proliferation of anti-BCMA CAR T cells *in vitro*, as compared to CD70 sufficient controls (*i.e.* anti-BCMA

- 15 CAR T cells comprising endogenous CD70). FIG. 11 also shows the CD70 KO can improve health and proliferation competence of anti-BCMA CAR T cells even when the T cells from this donor appear to be in significant decline after 17 days when the CD70 gene is intact (as shown by the reduced cell numbers of donor 1(FIG. 11) compared to donor 2 (FIG. 12)). This property of maintaining T cell health (enabled by KO of the *CD70* gene) is broadly applicable to many
- aspects of CAR T development including: extended expansion during manufacturing increasing yield and consistency, rescue of exhausted/unhealthy T cells enabling potentially lower doses in patients and more robust responses, combination with other KOs that may be more detrimental to T cell health but have other advantages such as overcoming suppression of T cell activity (e.g. PD1 KO). As shown in FIGs. 11 and 12, deleting the PD1 gene by itself shows no benefit
 to CAR T cell expansion but when combined with a CD70 KO shows synergistic effects.

Apoptosis. The effect of CD70 KO on apoptotic cell death of anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells following exposure to antigen was evaluated in an antigen rechallenge assay. Briefly, to achieve antigen exposure, anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells were exposed to plate-adhered recombinant BCMA protein. Plates with adhered antigen were prepared by coating 24 well plates with

- 30 recombinant BCMA protein in 1x PBS (1µg/ml; biotinylated Human BCMA Protein, ACRO Biosystems) overnight at 4°C and then washing away unbound antigen. Following the wash, antigen-bound plates were then used to challenge anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells either with or without a CD70 knockout. The 2X KO (TRAC-/B2M-) anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells and 3X KO (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-) anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells (1x10⁶ cells/ml) were exposed to plate-bound
- 35 recombinant BCMA protein (1µg/ml) for 24 hours in growth medium (X-vivo medium (04-744,

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Lonza), 5% human AB serum (HP1022, Valley Biomedical)) supplemented with IL-2 (rhIL-2; 130-097-745, Miltenyi Biotech). Cells were then washed, counted and re-challenged ($1x10^{6}$ cells/ml) with fresh plate-bound antigen every 24 hours for a total of three consecutive re-challenges (24hr, 48hr, and 72hr). At the end of each re-challenge, an aliquot of cells was

- 5 washed and stained with fluorochrome-conjugated annexin V along with propidium iodide in annexin V binding buffer (BioLegend) for 15 minutes at room temperature. Cells were then washed and resuspend in annexin V binding buffer for analysis by flow cytometry. The cells were counted at each time point and the cell count per ml was derived. For the calculation of fold-expansion at each time point, the initial fold-expansion at time 0 was set at 1. Fold-
- 10 expansion for all other time points were calculated by multiplying the cell count per ml at each time point by the fold-expansion per ml for the prior time point. For example, the fold expansion at 72 hr was calculated by multiplying the cell count per ml at 72 hr by the fold expansion per ml at 48 hr.
- FIG. 13 demonstrates that the deletion of CD70 (CD70 KO) rescues anti-BCMA CAR+
 T cells from apoptosis, as shown by the decrease in the percentage of apoptotic cells following the second (48hr) and third (72hr) rechallenge. Furthermore, the absence of CD70 expression in anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells surprisingly enhances the expansion of the anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells in response to antigen exposure (FIG. 14).

20 Effect of CD70 KO on cell proliferation of anti-CD70 CAR T cells in vitro

To further assess the impact of disrupting the CD70 gene in CAR T cells, anti-CD70 CAR T cells were generated as described in Example 3. Specifically, 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR T cells were generated using two different gRNAs (T7 (SEQ ID NO: 36 and T8 (SEQ ID NO: 37)). After electroporation, cell expansion was assessed as described in Example 2 by counting viable cells. **FIG. 15** shows that triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells generated with either T7 or T8 gRNAs exhibited greater cell expansion relative to double knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells. These data suggest that knocking-out the *CD70* gene gives a cell proliferation advantage to anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells.

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Cell expansion was also assessed in the quadruple knockout, TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻ /anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells. These cells exhibited greater expansion relative to triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and to double knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (**FIG. 16**).

Example 5. CD70 KO increases durability and potency of CAR T cells in vitro Cell killing function of anti-CD19 CAR T cells with CD70 knock-out

Following preparation of edited anti-CD19 CAR T cells as described in Example 3, the functional activity of the CAR T cells was verified using a flow cytometry-based cytotoxicity

- assay. The anti-CD19 CAR T cells (TRAC-/β2M-/CD19 CAR+ and TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/CD19 CAR+) were co-cultured with one of two CD19-expressing cancer cell lines (target cells): Nalm6 (ATCC crl3273) or Raji (ATCC ccl-86). The target cells were labeled with 5 μM efluor670 (eBiosciences), washed and incubated in co-cultures with the TRAC-/β2M-/anti-CD19 CAR+, or TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-CD19 CAR+ at varying ratios (0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.5,
- 10 1:1 T cells:target cells). The target cells were seeded at 50,000 cells per well in a 96-well, U-bottom plate. The co-culture was incubated overnight. After incubation, wells were washed and media was replaced with 200 µL of media containing a 1:500 dilution of 5 mg/mL DAPI (Molecular Probes). 25 µL of CountBright beads (Life Technologies) were then added to each well and the cell cultures were analyzed for cell viability by flow cytometry (i.e., viable cells
 15 heine negative for DAPI staining)
- 15 being negative for DAPI staining).

Percent cell lysis of the target cells (e.g.: Nalm6 or Raji cells) was then determined using the following formula:

Percent cell lysis = $(1-((\text{total number of target cells in a test sample}) \div (\text{total number of target cells in a control sample})) X 100;$

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wherein a test sample was target cells (e.g.: Nalm6 or Raji cells) co-cultured with 1) TRAC-/β2M-/CD19 CAR+ T cells or 2) TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/CD19 CAR+ T cells; and a control sample was target cells alone that had not been co-cultured.

Disruption of the CD70 gene led to enhanced cytolytic activity of the anti-CD19 CAR-T cells against the Raji cell line at low CAR-T to target ratios (**FIG. 17**, bottom panel). Disruption

- of CD70 did not enhance anti-CD19 CAR-T activity against the Nalm6 cell line (FIG. 17, top panel). Of note, the Nalm6 cell line is relatively easier to lyse by these CAR-T cells (>80% lyses at 0.1:1 CAR-T cell to target ratio for Nalm6 vs 0% for Raji at this ratio for the wild-type cells) likely explaining the lack of resulting increased efficacy due to CD70 disruption in this assay against Nalm6 cells. The increased activity conferred by CD70 loss against the Raji cell line
- 30 indicates that in challenging tumor environments, particularly when CAR-T to tumor ratios are low, CD70 loss may have substantial benefit to the CAR-T cells in eradicating tumor cells.

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Cell killing function of anti-CD33 CAR T cells with CD70 knock-out

Following preparation of the edited anti-CD33 CAR+ T cells as described in Example 3, the functional activity of the CAR T cells was verified using a flow cytometry-based cytotoxicity assay. The anti-CD33 CAR T cells (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD33 CAR+ and TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-/CD33 CAR+) or control T cells (no RNP) were co-cultured with the CD33-expressing

- /CD70-/CD33 CAR+) or control T cells (no RNP) were co-cultured with the CD33-expressing cancer cell line MV4-11 (ATCC CRL-9591). The target cells were labeled with 5 μM efluor670 (eBiosciences), washed and incubated in co-cultures with the TRAC-/B2M-/anti-CD33 CAR+, TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-CD33 CAR+, or controls at varying ratios (0.01:1, 0.03:1, 0.06:1, 0.125:1, 0.25:1, 0.5:1, or 1:1 T cells:target cells). The target cells were seeded at 50,000 cells per
- 10 well in a 96-well, U-bottom plate. The co-culture was incubated overnight. After 48 hrs, wells were washed and media was replaced with 200 µL of media containing a 1:500 dilution of 5 mg/mL DAPI (Molecular Probes). 25 µL of CountBright beads (Life Technologies) were then added to each well and the cell cultures were analyzed for cell viability by flow cytometry (i.e., viable cells being negative for DAPI staining).
- 15

Percent cell lysis of the target cells (e.g.: MV4-11) was then determined using the following formula:

Percent cell lysis = $(1-((\text{total number of target cells in a test sample}) \div (\text{total number of target cells in a control sample})) X 100;$

wherein a test sample was target cells (e.g.: MV4-11 cells) co-cultured with 1) TRAC-

20 /B2M-/CD33 CAR+ T cells; or 2) TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-/CD33 CAR+ T cells, and

a control sample was target cells alone that had not been co-cultured.

Although both populations of anti-CD33 CAR T cells effectively killed MV4-11 cells, reaching nearly 100% cells kill at ratios of 0.5 CAR T cell: MV4-11 cell, the TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-/CD33 CAR+ T cells demonstrated higher cell killing at lower CAR T to cancer cell

25 rations (**FIG. 18**). These data demonstrate that allogeneic anti-CD33 CAR T cells with the additional CD70 knock-out are more efficacious at lower CAR T cell to target cell ratios.

Cell killing function of anti-CD70 CAR T cells with CD70 knock-out

A cell killing assay was used to assess the ability of the TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70
 CAR⁺ cells and TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells to kill a CD70⁺ adherent renal cell carcinoma (RCC)-derived cell line (A498 cells). Adherent cells were seeded in 96-well plates at 50,000 cells per well and left overnight at 37 °C. The next day edited anti-CD70 CAR T cells were added to the wells containing target cells at the indicated ratios. After the indicated incubation period, CAR T cells were removed from the culture by aspiration and 100

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μL Cell titer-Glo (Promega) was added to each well of the plate to assess the number of remaining viable cells. The amount of light emitted per well was then quantified using a plate reader. The cells exhibited potent cell killing of RCC-derived cells following 24-hour co-incubation (**FIG. 19**). The anti-CD70 CAR T cells demonstrated higher potency when CD70

5 was knocked out, which is clearly visible at low T cell: A498 ratios (1:1 and 0.5:1) where cell lysis remains above 90% for TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺, while cells lysis drops below 90% for the TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺. This suggests that knocking-out the *CD70* gene gives a higher cell kill potency to anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells.

10 Example 6. Rechallenge of CD70 deficient CAR T Cells in vitro

CD70 knockout improves anti-CD33 CAR+ T Cell Killing upon Serial Rechallenge

To assess the ability of cells to expand after challenge and rechallenge with antigenexpressing cells (e.g.: target cells) anti-CD33 CAR T cells were generated as described in Example 3 and utilized. Specifically, 5×10^6 total T cells were plated in the presence of 5×10^6

- 15 irradiated target cells (MV-4-11) and allowed to grow in a 10 mL volume. After 1 week, cells were counted, $5x10^6$ cells from the previous culture were then replated in 10 mL volume along with a fresh aliquot of $5x10^6$ irradiated target cells and 1 week later the total number of cells were enumerated. The process was repeated as indicated, each rechallenge started with $5x10^6$ cells. The number of viable cells were counted as described in Example 2. Allogeneic anti-
- 20 CD33 CAR-T cells containing a disruption in the CD70 gene expanded to greater levels on the second week of after 2 challenges with MV-4-11 cells (**FIG.20**). These data show that CD70 can limit T-cell expansion in the presence of antigen expressing cells and its loss can result in greater cell expansion after antigen stimulation.

25 <u>CD70 knockout improves anti-CD19 CAR+ T Cell Killing upon Serial Rechallenge</u>

To further assess the ability of cells to expand after challenge and rechallenge with antigen-expressing cells (e.g.: target cells) anti-CD19 CAR T cells were generated as described in Example 3 and utilized. Specifically, $5x10^6$ total T cells were plated in the presence of $5x10^6$ irradiated target cells (Nalm6) and allowed to grow in a 10 mL volume. After 1 week, cells were

- counted, 5x10⁶ cells from the previous culture were then replated in 10 mL volume along with a fresh aliquot of 5x10⁶ irradiated target cells and 1 week later the total number of cells were enumerated. The process was repeated as indicated, each rechallenge started with 5x10⁶ cells. The number of viable cells were counted as described in Example 2. Allogeneic anti-CD19 CAR-T cells containing a disruption in the CD70 gene expanded to similar amounts during the
- 35 first 2 challenges. However, at three challenges allogeneic anti-CD19 CAR-T cells containing a

disruption in the CD70 gene expanded to greater level on the third challenge with Nalm6 cells (**FIG. 21**). These data show that the presence of CD70 can limit T-cell expansion in the presence of antigen expressing cells and its loss can result in greater cell expansion after repeated antigen stimulation.

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<u>Knockout of CD70, or PD-1 plus CD70, Maintain Anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T Cell Killing Upon Serial</u> <u>Rechallenge</u>

The anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells generated above were serially rechallenged with CD70+ kidney cancer cell line, A498, and evaluated for their ability to kill the CD70+ kidney cancer cell lines A498 or ACHN.

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A498 cells were plated in a T25 flask and mixed at a ratio of 2:1 (T-cell to A498) with $10x10^{6}$ anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells containing either two (TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻), three (TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻) or (TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻)), or four (TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻) gRNA edits.

- Two or three days after each challenge, cells were counted, washed, resuspended in fresh T cell media, and re-challenged the next day with the same ratio of two anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cell per one A498 cell (2:1, CAR⁺ T:target). Challenging of anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells with CD70+ A498 cells was repeated 13 times. Three to four days following each exposure to A498 cells (and prior to the next rechallenge), aliquots of the culture were taken and analyzed for the ability of the CAR T Cells to kill A498 or ACHN target cells at a ratio of 2:1 (CAR T cell: Target cell).
- 20 Cell kill was measured using Cell titer-glo (Promega). Prior to the first challenge with A498, anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells with 2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻), 3X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70), 3X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻), and 4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻) each exhibited a target cell killing of A498 cells approaching 100%. By challenge nine however, the 2X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻) and 3X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻) anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells induced target cell killing of A498
- 25 cells below 40%, while 3X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70) and 4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻) anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells exhibited target cell killing above 60% (FIG. 22A). The target cell killing for 3X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70) and 4X KO (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻) anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells remained above 60% even following 13 re-challenges with A498 cells, demonstrating that these CAR+ T cells were resistant to exhaustion.
- Anti-CD70 CAR T cells were also evaluated for their ability to kill ACHN cells at a ratio of 2:1 (T-cell to ACHN) following serial rechallenge with A498 renal carcinoma cells (FIG. 22B). Prior to the first challenge with A498, the double knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells, the triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T, the triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻
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/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T exhibited a cell kill efficiency above 62%, 47 %, 73% and 81%, respectively.

After challenge five, the triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and the quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells still efficiently
killed above 55% of ACHN cells at a ratio of 2:1 (T-cell to ACHN), while the double knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and the triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and the triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻//Anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells failed to survive beyond 10 rechallenges. In contrast, the triple

10 knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and the quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells continued to expand in culture and to kill greater than 30% of ACHN cells at a ratio of 2:1 (T-cell to ACHN) following two rechallenges.

The data demonstrate that the 4x KO, CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and the 3xKO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺ cells are more potent than the 2X KO, CD70 CAR⁺ T or 3X KO (PD1), CD70 CAR⁺ T

15 cells. In addition, the 3X (CD70) KO and 4X KO prevents T cell exhaustion.

After 5 rechallenges the cells were evaluated for their ability to kill cancer cells. Surprisingly, the 3KO and 4KO anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells remained highly effective at killing cancer cells (**FIG. 23A**) even after multiple cancer cell challenges. The cell killing effect of the anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells on ACHN cells is reproducible at even at reduced effector to target cell ratios of 1:1, 0.5:1, and 0.25:1. (**FIG. 23A**).

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To ensure long-term benefit upon CAR T treatment, CAR T cells should be able to identify and eradicate their target cells over a long period of time, to rule out the possibility of cancer cell escape from CAR-T mediated cell kill. The *in vitro* re-challenge assay mimics a recurrent encounter of CAR-T cells with target cells over several cycles of CAR-T cell activation. These data demonstrate the superiority of the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻ /anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and of the quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells, in sustaining multiple challenges with kidney cancer cells, without showing reduction of their target cell killing ability, as compared to the double knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻ /anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells.

30 Exhaustion and activation markers were also measured by flow cytometry in the anti-CD70 CAR+T cells following rechallenge. After 8 challenges, the Triple (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) and Quadruple (TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-) KO anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells exhibited higher activation marker LAG3 expression than the Double (TRAC-/β2M-) and Quadruple (TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-) KO anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells, consistent with their level of high cell kill

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activity. It was observed that PD1 expression was lower in the Triple (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+T cells (similar to Triple (TRAC-/ β 2M-/PD1-) and Quadruple (TRAC-/ β 2M-/PD1-/CD70-) KO anti-CD70 CAR+T cells) compared to the Double (TRAC-/ β 2M-) anti-CD70 CAR+T cells, suggesting that knocking-out CD70 has an effect on the downregulation of the exhaustion marker PD1 expression in the Anti-CD70 CAR+T cells . (**FIG. 23B**).

Knockout of PD-1 and CD70 Maintains Anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T Cell Killing Upon Serial <u>Rechallenge</u>

- The anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells generated as described in Example 3 were serially
 rechallenged with and evaluated for their ability to kill the BCMA+ multiple myeloma cell line
 MM.1S (ATCC CRL-2974). The ability to secrete cytokines upon serial T cell activation
 through CAR engagement was also measured after each rechallenge. MM.1S cells were labeled
 with 5 µM eFlour670 and mixed at a ratio of 2:1 (MM.1S to T-cell) in a 6 well tissue culture
 dish with 1x10⁶ anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells containing either two (TRAC⁻/β2M⁻) or four ((TRAC⁻
- 15 /β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻) gRNA edits. One day following exposure to MM.1S cells, an aliquot of the culture was taken and analyzed for both target cell kill & IFN-g secretion by CAR-T cells. To measure cytokine release, T cells and target cells were co-incubated for 24 hours at the ratios indicated. Supernatant media was collected for use in IL-2 or IFNγ ELISAs (RD Systems) on a new plate following the manufacturer's instructions (RD Systems). To quantify cell killing,
- 20 cells were washed, media was replaced with 200 mL of media containing a 1:500 dilution of 5 mg/mL DAPI (Molecular Probes) (to enumerate dead/dying cells). Finally, 25 mL of CountBright beads (Life Technologies) was added to each well. Cells were then processed by flow cytometry.
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1) Cells/mL = ((number of live target cell events)/(number of bead events)) x ((Assigned bead count of lot (beads/50 μ L))/(volume of sample))

- 2) Total target cells were calculated by multiplying cells/mL x the total volume of cells.
- 3) The percent cell lysis was then calculated with the following equation:
 % Cell lysis = (1-((Total Number of Target Cells in Test Sample)/ (Total Number of Target Cells in Control Sample)) x 100
- 30 Two or three days after each challenge, cells were counted, washed, resuspended in fresh T cell media, and rechallenged with the same ratio of one anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cell per two eFlour670 labeled MM.1S cells. Challenging of anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells with BCMA+ MM.1S cells was repeated 10 sequential times. Prior to any challenge with MM.1S cells, coincubation of either 2X KO (TRAC-/B2M-) or 4X KO (TRAC-/B2M-/CD70-/PD-1-) anti-
- 35 BCMA CAR+ T cells with MM.1S cells resulted in complete killing of target cells.

Additionally, IFNγ production by both 2X KO and 4X KO anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells was similar. Following a 4th rechallenge with MM.1S cells however, target cell killing and IFNγ production by 2X KO anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells decreased relative to that induced by 4X KO anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells. By the 8th rechallenge, target cell killing was only approximately

- 5 20% for 2X KO anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells, while both IFNg and target cell killing by 4X KO anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells remained comparable to that seen prior to any challenge with MM.1S cells (**FIGs. 24A-24B**). In addition, the quadruple knockout anti-BCMA CAR T cells showed higher proliferation in response to exposure to target cells (**FIG. 24C**).
- To ensure long-term benefit upon CAR T treatment, CAR T cells should be able to 10 identify and eradicate their target cells over long period of time, to rule out the possibility of cancer cell escape from CAR-T mediated cell killing. The *in vitro* rechallenge assay mimics a recurrent encounter of CAR-T cells with target cells over several cycles of CAR-T cell activation, therefore demonstrating the superiority of the 4X knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻ /CD70⁻/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells, in sustaining multiple challenges with target cells, without
- 15 showing reduction of cell killing ability, as compared to the double knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells (**FIGs. 24A-24C**).

Example 7. CD70 KO overcomes challenge of excess inhibitory molecules

20 Comparison of the Effects of Multi-Knockout Anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells on A498-PD-L1 Renal Carcinoma Cells

Cell Kill Assay. The ability of multi-gene edited anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells to kill A498 renal carcinoma cells overexpressing PD-L1 was determined using the cell kill assay described herein. To create cells overexpressing PD-L1 (CD274), A498 cells were infected with lentivirus
encoding a PD-L1 cDNA and a puromycin resistance gene (Genecopoeia). After selection with puromycin, cells were stained with an anti-PD-L1 antibody to assess expression of PD-L1. The A498 cells expressing PD-L1 are referred to as A498-PD-L1 and were used in the functional assays described.

The TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (2X KO, CD70 CAR⁺), TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/antiCD70 CAR⁺ (3X KO (PD-1), CD70 CAR⁺), TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺) and TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (4X KO, CD70 CAR⁺) T cells were incubated with the A498-PD-L1 cells at a CAR T cell:A498-PD-L1 target cells ratio of 2:1 (FIG. 25A), 1:1 (FIG. 25B), or 0.5:1 (FIG. 25C). The CD70 knockout cells exhibited potent cell killing of RCC-derived cells following 24-hour co-incubation (FIGs. 25A-

35 **25C**). The cells with PD1 knockout alone did not effectively lyse cells in the presence of PD-L1

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overexpression. However, the CD70 knockout was able to rescue the PD1 knockout and enhanced cell lysis was observed in the CART cells with CD70 KO and PD1 KO. These data demonstrate that the loss of CD70 on the surface of these CAR-T cells enhances their function even in the presence of highly immune suppressive molecules expressed by tumor cells such as PD-L1.

5 PD-L

Cytokine Release Assay. A cytokine release assay was performed as described herein. The ability of the double knockout, triple knockout, and quadruple knockout anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells to produce IL-2 and IFN-g when co-cultured in the presence of A948-PD-L1 cells following 24-hour co-incubation at a ratio (CAR T cell:A948-PD-L1 target cell) of 1:1 was

- 10 assessed using an ELISA assay. IL-2 and IFN-g from supernatants of cell co-cultures were measured. The quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells secreted the highest levels of IFN-g (FIG. 26A) and IL-2 (FIG. 26B) when cultured with A948-PD-L1 cells. These data demonstrate the knock-out of CD70 enhances CAR-T cells secretion of cytokines even in the presence of highly immune suppressive molecules expressed by tumor
- 15 cells such as PD-L1. The knockout of CD70 together with a knockout of PD-1 in CAR-T cells further enhances the effect. Without wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed knocking-out CD70 in anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells can rescue the detrimental phenotypes of other cell knockouts (*e.g.*: PD1). These data demonstrate that knocking-out CD70 in CAR T cells enhances target cell killing and CAR T cell function in a highly immune suppressive context.
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Example 8. CD70 Knockout Improves in vivo efficacy

<u>Efficacy of CD70 and PD1 knockout in Anti-CD70 CART cells: the Subcutaneous Renal Cell</u> <u>Carcinoma Tumor Xenograft Model in NOG Mice</u>

Treatment in small tumor model

The ability of T cells expressing a CD70 CAR to eliminate kidney carcinoma cells that express high levels of CD70 was evaluated in in vivo using a subcutaneous renal cell carcinoma (A498) tumor xenograft model in mice.

CRISPR/Cas9 and AAV6 were used as above (see for example, Example 3) to create
human T cells that lack expression of the TCR, β2M, CD70 and/or PD1 with concomitant
expression from the TRAC locus using a CAR construct targeting CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 45; SEQ ID NO: 46). In this example activated T cells were first electroporated with 2, 3 or 4 distinct
Cas9:sgRNA RNP complexes containing sgRNAs targeting TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M
(SEQ ID NO: 41), PD1 (SEQ ID NO: 42), and CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37). The DNA double stranded break at the TRAC locus was repaired by homology directed repair with an AAV6-

delivered DNA template comprising a donor template (SEQ ID NO: 44; SEQ ID NO: 45) (encoding anti-CD70 CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45) containing right and left homology arms to the TRAC locus flanking a chimeric antigen receptor cassette (-/+ regulatory elements for gene expression).

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The resulting modified T cells are 2X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-), 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/PD1or TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) and 4X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/PD1-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ (with 41BB costimulatory domain) T cells. The ability of these anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells to ameliorate disease caused by a CD70+ renal carcinoma cell line was evaluated in NOG mice using methods employed by Translational Drug Development, LLC (Scottsdale, AZ). In brief, 12, 5-8 week old

- 10 female, CIEA NOG (NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid}I12rg^{tm1Sug}/ JicTac) mice were individually housed in ventilated microisolator cages, maintained under pathogen-free conditions, 5-7 days prior to the start of the study. Mice received a subcutaneous inoculation of 5x10⁶ A498 renal carcinoma cells/mouse in the right hind flank. When mean tumor size reached 25-75 mm³ (target of ~50 mm³), the mice were further divided into 5 treatment groups as shown in **Table**
- 15 15. On Day 1, treatment group 2 to 5 received a single 200 μl intravenous dose of anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells according to Table 15.

Group	CAR-T	A498 cells	T cell treatment (<i>i.v.</i>)	Ν
1	None	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	None	5
2	2X KO, anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
3	3X KO (PD1), anti-CD70 CAR+ T	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
	cells			
4	3X KO (CD70,) anti-CD70 CAR+	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
	T cells			
5	4X KO (CD70, PD1), anti-CD70	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
	CAR+ T cells			

Table 15. Treatment groups

20 Tumor volume was measured 2 times weekly from day of treatment initiation. By day 5 treatment with all four types of anti-CD70 CAR T cells began to show a decrease in tumor volume and by day 22, all four types of anti-CD70 CAR T cells completely eliminated CD70+ kidney cancer tumors during the duration of the study until day 91 (FIG. 27A). These data demonstrate that all four anti-CD70 CAR T cells can regress CD70+ kidney cancer tumors *in vivo*.

To test the activity of the anti-CD70 CAR T cells after rechallenge, surviving mice were inoculated in the subcutaneous left hind flank with 5×10^6 A498 renal carcinoma cells/mouse on day 25. (**Table 16**). Sustained efficacy was evaluated from day 46 onward. Results are shown in **FIG. 27B**. At day 56, 5 out of 5 mice treated with 2X, CD70 CAR+ T cells exhibited tumors

regrowth post rechallenge, 4 out of 5 mice treated with 3X (PD1), CD70 CAR+ T cells exhibited tumors regrowth post rechallenge, 2 out of 5 mice treated with 4X (CD70,PD1), CD70 CAR+ T cells exhibited tumors regrowth post rechallenge, while none of the mice treated with 3X (CD70), CD70 CAR+ T cells exhibited tumors regrowth post rechallenge. This trend continued,

- at day 70, 4 out of 5 mice treated with 3X (PD1), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells exhibited tumors regrowth post rechallenge, 4 out of 5 mice treated with 4X (CD70, PD1), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells exhibited tumors regrowth post rechallenge, while only one of the mice treated with 3X (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells exhibited a small tumor regrowth that began to appear at 34 days post rechallenge. Even out to day 91, only 1 of 5 mice treated with 3X (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺ T cells was starting
- 10 to exhibit tumor regrowth, indicating that TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells retain a higher *in vivo* efficacy after re-exposure to tumor cells.

 Table 16. Size of rechallenge tumors in untreated mice or mice treated with CD70 CAR T cells

		Tumor volume (mm ³) at day post CAR T cell dosing							
CAR T treatment	Subject	Day 77	Day	Day 84	Day 88	Day 91			
			81						
2KO, CD70 CAR T	1	1044	1265	1853	1927	2150			
	2	653	927	1040	1123	1256			
	3	899	1267	1603	1678	2167			
	4	701	1287	1672	1817	2490			
	5	689	1146	1423	1525	1901			
3KO (PD1), CD70	1	385	692	983	1172	1369			
CAR T	2	0	0	0	0	0			
	3	566	738	1030	1537	1740			
	4	712	1111	1337	1482	1832			
	5	632	778	1017	1129	1289			
3KO (CD70), CD70	1	0	0	0	0	0			
CAR T	2	34	56	75	104	135			
	3	0	0	0	0	0			
	4	0	0	0	0	0			
	5	0	0	0	0	0			
4KO, CD70 CAR T	1	66	91	182	215	304			
	2	56	85	119	126	155			
	3	0	0	0	0	0			
	4	76	175	218	256	316			
	5	35	30	51	58	63			
No treatment	1	567	1263	1673	1751	2020			
	2	882	1214	1535	1609	2047			
	3	1158	1304	1676	1924	2389			
	4	295	391	667	789	1078			
	5	707	1213	1676	1766	2056			

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Treatment in large tumor model

The *in vivo* efficacy of anti-CD70 CAR T cells against larger renal cell carcinoma tumors was investigated. As above, CRISPR/Cas9 and AAV6 were used to create human T cells that lack expression of the TCR, β2M, CD70 and/or PD1 with concomitant expression from the TRAC locus using a CAR construct targeting CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 45). In this example activated T cells were first electroporated with 2, 3 or 4 distinct Cas9:sgRNA RNP complexes containing sgRNAs targeting TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), PD1 (SEQ ID NO: 42), and CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37). The DNA double stranded break at the TRAC locus was repaired by homology directed repair with an AAV6-delivered DNA template (SEQ ID NO: 43) (encoding anti-CD70 CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5) containing

right and left homology arms to the TRAC locus flanking a chimeric antigen receptor cassette (-/+ regulatory elements for gene expression).

The resulting modified T cells are 2X KO (TRAC-/β2M-), 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/PD1or TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) and 4X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ (with

- 15 41BB costimulatory domain) T cells. The ability of these anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells to ameliorate disease caused by a CD70+ renal carcinoma cell line was evaluated in NOG mice using methods employed by Translational Drug Development, LLC (Scottsdale, AZ). In brief, 12, 5-8 week old female mice, CIEA NOG (NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid}I12rg^{tm1Sug}/ JicTac) were individually housed in ventilated microisolator cages, maintained under pathogen-free conditions, 5-7 days prior to
- 20 the start of the study. Mice received a subcutaneous inoculation of 5x10⁶ A498 renal carcinoma cells/mouse. When mean tumor size reached 125-175 mm³ (target of ~150 mm³), the mice were further divided into 5 treatment groups as shown in Table 17. On day 1, treatment group 2 to 5 received a single 200 µl intravenous dose of anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells according to Table 17.
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Table 17. Treatment groups

Group	CAR-T	A498 cells	T cell treatment	N
			(<i>i.v.</i>)	
1	None	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	None	5
2	2X KO, CD70 CAR+ T cells	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
3	3X KO (PD1), CD70 CAR+ T cells	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	4
4	3X KO (CD70,) CD70 CAR+ T	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
	cells			
5	4X KO (CD70, PD1), CD70	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
	CAR+ T cells			

Tumor volume was measured 2 times weekly from day of treatment initiation. By day 4 treatment only the 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells and 4X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/PD1-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells began to show a decrease in tumor volume (**FIG. 27C**). In contrast, the tumor growth for animals treated with 2X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-) anti-CD70

- 5 CAR+ T cells or 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells was similar to the no treatment group. By day 23 treatment, the 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells completely eliminated CD70+ kidney cancer tumors *in vivo*. By day 23 treatment, elimination of the tumors in response to the 4X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells was almost complete, with 4 of 5 mice exhibiting no detectable kidney cancer
- 10 tumors in vivo.

These data show that 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells and 4X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells can significantly regress large CD70+ kidney cancer tumors *in vivo*.

15 <u>In Vivo Tumor Model for anti-BCMA CAR in context of PD1, CD70, and PD1 with CD70 knock</u> outs.

The efficacy of TRAC-/β2M-/anti-BCMA (4-1BB co-stim) CAR+ T cells, TRAC-/β2M-/PD-1-/anti-BCMA (4-1BB co-stim), TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA (4-1BB co-stim), and TRAC-/β2M-/PD-1-/CD70-/anti-BCMA (4-1BB co-stim) CAR+ T cells against the

subcutaneous MM.1S tumor xenograft model in NOG mice was evaluated. In brief, 25, 5-8 week old female, CIEA NOG (NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid}I12rg^{tm1Sug}/ JicTac) mice were individually housed in ventilated microisolator cages, maintained under pathogen-free conditions, 5-7 days prior to the start of the study. On day 1, 25 mice received a subcutaneous inoculation in the right flank of 5x10⁶ MM.1S cells in 50% Matrigel/mouse. When the mean tumor volume reached between 75 and 125 mm³, the mice were divided into 5 treatment groups (N=5) and dosed with T cell populations comprising ~ 50% anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells, as indicated in Table 18.

Group	CAR T Cell	# of T Cells injected	Anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells	Ν
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
2	TRAC-/β2M-/anti-BCMA	1×10^7 cells/mouse	5 x10 ⁶ (5 million)	5
3	TRAC-/β2M-/PD-1-/anti-BCMA	1×10^7 cells/mouse	5 x10 ⁶ (5 million)	5
4	TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA	1×10^7 cells/mouse	$5 \text{ x} 10^6$	5

Table 18. Dosing

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Group	CAR T Cell	# of T Cells injected	Anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells	N
			(5 million)	
5	TRAC-/β2M-/PD-1-/CD70-/anti- BCMA	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5 x10 ⁶ (5 million)	5

Tumor volume and body weights were measured twice weekly and individual mice were euthanized when their tumor volume reached $\geq 2000 \text{ mm}^3$.

- By day 16, all treatment groups showed tumor regression from the starting volumes while animals in the control group had tumors averaging greater than 1500 mm³. By day 27, all animals in the control group had reached the tumor volume endpoint of \geq 2000 mm³ while all treatment groups had an average tumor volume less than 20 mm³ (**FIG. 28A**). On day 45, all mice from each treatment group (Groups 2-5) were further subjected to a secondary tumor
- challenge (re-challenge). The mice received a second subcutaneous inoculation in the left
 flank of 5x10⁶ MM.1S cells in 50% Matrigel/mouse. A new group of control mice were
 entered (N=5) and also received an inoculation of 5x10⁶ MM.1S cells in 50% Matrigel/mouse
 in the left flank.

All mice were monitored for tumor growth in both the initial right flank tumor and the rechallenge tumor in the left flank. All treatment groups successfully inhibited tumor
growth in the initial right flank tumor in most subjects (FIG: 28A; Table 19). Tumor growth was inhibited by all treatments both before and after tumor re-challenge for the duration of the experiment to day 77. Only one subject treated with TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/PD1-/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells exhibited tumor growth from the initial cancer cell challenge (Table 19).

- Surprisingly, tumor growth after re-challenge in the left flank was also significantly 20 inhibited by all treatment groups from the date of re-challenge (day 45) to day 77 (**FIG. 28B**; **Table 19**). These data demonstrate that the CAR+ T cells persist *in vivo* to inhibit initial tumor growth, as well as inhibiting growth of new tumors following a re-challenge with additional cancer cells even though no further CAR-T cells were delivered to these mice. For example, three of the four mice initially treated with populations of TRAC-/β2M-/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T
- 25 cells, three of the five mice initially treated with TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells, and three of the five mice initially treated with TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells, exhibited no new tumor growth despite a second challenge (re-challenge) to new cancer cells. These data demonstrate that, unexpectedly, anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells are capable of persisting for long periods of time *in vivo*, *e.g.*, up to at least 77 days following injection, and
- 30 retain their ability to inhibit tumor cell growth and reduce tumor volumes for long periods in

vivo. These surprising results indicate that use of such TRAC-/β2M-/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells would achieve superior long-term anti-cancer effect *in vivo*.

Human CD45+ cells were quantified from mouse blood using BD Trucount tubes following the manufacturers protocol and detected using Brilliant Violet 786 conjugated anti-5 human CD45 (Biolegend Cat# 368528). All groups showed values of less than 100 huCD45+ cells/µl at 1 week. Two weeks post dosing, the number of circulating CD45+ in all groups peaked before falling to pre-week 1 values by week 3 (FIG. 29). Upon re-challenge at Day 45, the anti-BCMA CAR+ T cell treated subjects were able to eliminate or inhibit tumor growth without subsequent expansion of circulating CAR T cells following cancer rechallenge. These data further demonstrate that, unexpectedly, anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells are capable of persisting 10 for long periods of time in vivo, e.g., up to at least 77 days following injection, and retain their ability to inhibit tumor cell growth and reduce tumor volumes for long periods in vivo. These surprising results indicate that use of TRAC-/\beta2M-/anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells, TRAC-/ \beta2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells and TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells would 15 achieve superior long-term anti-cancer effect in vivo.

Treatment	Mouse	Tumor volume at Day 45 (mm ³)	Tumor volu (m	me at Day 77 m ³)
		Right Flank	Right Flank	Left Flank
No Treatment	1	TS	TS	TS
	2	TS	TS	TS
	3	TS	TS	TS
	4	TS	TS	TS
	5	TS	TS	TS
TRAC-/β2M- /anti-BCMA	1	0	0 (MS at Day 59)	0 (MS at Day 59:)
	2	0	0	0
	3	0	0	0
	4	0	0	297
	5	FD-T at day 16	FD-T at day 16	FD-T at day 16
TRAC-/β2M-	1	0	0	1820
/PD1-/anti-	2	0	0	0
DUNIA	3	0	0	487

Table 19. Size of tumors in untreated mice or mice treated with anti-BCMA CAR T cells

Treatment	Mouse	Tumor volume at Day 45 (mm ³)	Tumor volume at Day (mm ³)		
		Right Flank	Right Flank	Left Flank	
	4	0	0	0	
	5	0	0	0	
TRAC-/β2M-	1	10	0	0	
/CD70-/anti-	ti- 2	0	0	0	
DCMA	3	0	0 (TS at day 77)	2349 (TS at day 77)	
	4	0	0	0	
	5	0	0	258	
TRAC-/β2M-	1	0	0	1157	
/PD1-/CD70-	2	0	0	1842	
/anti-DCIMA	3	0	0	1664	
	4	0	0	0	
	5	89	1583 (TS at day 73)	1560 (TS at day 73)	

TS=sacrificed because of tumor volume; MS=Moribund sacrifice; FD-T=animal found dead.

In vivo Tumor Model for anti-BCMA CAR in context of CD70 Knockout: effect of CD70 KO on moderate CAR T dosing

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The efficacy of several anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cell genotypes, both with and without CD70 knockouts, was evaluated against the subcutaneous RPMI-8226 tumor xenograft model in NOG mice. In brief, eighty five (85), 5-8 week old female, CIEA NOG (NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid}I12rg^{tm1Sug}/ JicTac) mice were individually housed in ventilated microisolator cages, maintained under pathogen-free conditions, 5-7 days prior to the start of the study. On day 1 mice received a

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subcutaneous inoculation of 10x10⁶ RPMI-8226 cells/mouse. Ten (10) days post inoculation with RPMI-8226 cells, the mice were divided into 17 treatment groups (N=5) and dosed with T cell populations comprising ~80% anti-BCMA CAR⁺ T cells, as indicated in Table 20.

Table 20.

Group	Anti-BCMA CAR T Cell	# of T Cells injected	Anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells	N
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
		3x10 ⁶	$2.4 \text{ x} 10^6$	5
2	TRAC-/p2M-/anti-BCMA	cells/mouse	(2.4 million)	5
2	TDAC (20M /	$1x10^{6}$	8 x10 ⁵	5
3	TRAC-/p2M-/anti-BCMA	cells/mouse	(0.8 million)	3
4	TRAC-/β2M-/anti-BCMA	$3x10^{5}$	$2.4 \text{ x} 10^5$	5
		cells/mouse	(0.24 million)	
5	TRAC-/β2M-/anti-BCMA	$1x10^{5}$	8 x10 ⁴	5
		cells/mouse	(0.08 million)	
6	TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/anti-BCMA	$3x10^{6}$	$2.4 \text{ x} 10^6$	5
		cells/mouse	(2.4 million)	
7	TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/anti-BCMA	1×10^{6}	8×10^5	5
		cells/mouse	(0.8 million)	
8	TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/anti-BCMA	$3x10^{5}$	$2.4 \text{ x} 10^5$	5
		cells/mouse	(0.24 million)	
9	TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/anti-BCMA	1×10^5	$8 \text{ x} 10^4$	5
		cells/mouse	(0.08 million)	
10	TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA	$3x10^{6}$	2.4×10^6	5
		cells/mouse	(2.4 million)	
11	TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA	1×10^{6}	8×10^5	5
		cells/mouse	(0.8 million)	
12	TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA	$3x10^{5}$	$2.4 \text{ x} 10^5$	5
		cells/mouse	(0.24 million)	
13	TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA	1×10^5	$8 \text{ x} 10^4$	5
		cells/mouse	(0.08 million)	
14	TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-/anti-BCMA	$3x10^{6}$	2.4×10^{6}	5
		cells/mouse	(2.4 million)	
15	TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-/anti-BCMA	1×10^{6}	8 x10 ⁵	5
		cells/mouse	(0.8 million)	
16	TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-/anti-BCMA	$ 3x10^{5}$	2.4×10^{5}	5
		cells/mouse	(0.24 million)	
17	TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-/CD70-/anti-BCMA	$ 1x10^5$	8×10^4	5
		cells/mouse	(0.08 million)	

Tumor volume and body weight was measured twice weekly, and individual mice were euthanized when tumor volume was ≥ 2000 mm³. By day 22, the data show a statistically significant decrease in the tumor volume in response to higher doses of anti-BCMA CAR T cells (1x10⁵-3x10⁶ cell doses) compared to any anti-BCMA CAR T cell genotype dosed at 100,000 cells (groups 5, 9, 13 and 17) (**FIG. 30; Table 21**).

At day 36, the TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-/anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells dosed at a moderate dose
 of 3x10⁵ cells exhibited a greater effect on decreasing tumor volume than the anti-BCMA CAR+
 T cells without a CD70 KO (e.g., TRAC-/β2M-/anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells, TRAC-/β2M-/PD1-

/anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells, or TRAC-/ β 2M-/PD1-/CD70-/anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells) (**FIG. 30**). All of the higher doses of 1x10⁶ or greater all anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells (**FIG. 30**; 1 Mil, 3 Mil), showed complete regression in tumor volume. This trend continued out to Day 57 of the study.

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These results demonstrate that inhibiting the activity of CD70 (e.g., by knocking out CD70) increases the efficacy and potency of CAR⁺ T cells *in vivo*. This effect is independent of the presence of an anti-CD70 CAR.

Table 2	21.
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Group	Treatment	Anti- BCMA CAR+ T cells/ dose	Tumor Volume (mm ³) at Day 36			1	`umor a	Volum t Day 5	e (mm [*] 57	3)		
1	No Treatment	N/A	220	220	186	173	278	179 0	179 4	938	205 5	202 9
2		2.4 x10 ⁶ (2.4 million)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	TRAC-	8 x10 ⁵ (0.8 million)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	BCMA	2.4 x10 ⁵ (0.24 million)	65	65	77	56	0	516	441	257	97	337
5		8 x10 ⁴ (0.08 million)	264	264	386	276	185	239 1	228 3	205 8	214 7	235 9
6		2.4 x10 ⁶ (2.4 million)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	TRAC- /β2M- /PD1-/anti- BCMA	8 x10 ⁵ (0.8 million)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8		$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	135	135	59	57	28	764	518	280	181	79

Group	Treatment	Anti- BCMA CAR+ T cells/ dose	Tumor Volume (mm ³) at Day 36				ר	`umor a	Volum t Day 5	e (mm ⁻ 57	3)	
9		8 x10 ⁴ (0.08 million)	261	261	265	287	312	153 2	155 7	221 8	201 0	209 8
10		2.4 x10 ⁶ (2.4 million)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	TRAC- /β2M- /CD70-	8 x10 ⁵ (0.8 million)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	/anti- BCMA	2.4 x10 ⁵ (0.24 million)	47	47	0	0	0	526	58	47	0	0
13		8 x10 ⁴ (0.08 million)	292	292	267	313	235	207 5	212 7	209 6	136 5	235 4
14	TRAC- /β2M- /PD1- /CD70-	2.4 x10 ⁶ (2.4 million)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	/anti- BCMA	8 x10 ⁵ (0.8 million)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16		2.4 x10 ⁵ (0.24 million)	100	100	91	19	20	478	576	82	131	289
17		8 x10 ⁴ (0.08 million)	310	310	319	345	451	152 8	216 0	284 3	255 7	149 9

Example 9. Multi knockout CAR T cells retain cytokine dependency

<u>Cytokine Dependency</u>. To determine whether gene editing resulted in unwanted offtarget editing that could generate cells with adverse properties, such as uncontrolled cell growth, the ability gene edited CAR T cells to grow in the absence of cytokines and/or serum was assessed. to any off-target genome editing.

Anti-CD70 CAR T cells: The ability of TRAC'/ β 2M'/CD70'/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells to grow in the absence of cytokines and/or serum was assessed. $5x10^{6}$ TRAC'/ β 2M'/CD70'/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells were plated ~ 2 weeks post cell production (Day 0). The number of viable cells were enumerated 7 and 14 days post plating in either full media, 5% human serum without cytokines (IL-2 and IL-7), or base media lacking serum and cytokines. No cells were detected at 14 days plated in the cultures that lacked cytokines, suggesting that any potential off-target effects due to genome editing did not induce growth factor independent growth/proliferation to the cells (**FIG. 31**). The cells only proliferated in the presence of cytokines (full media that contains cytokines) and did not proliferate in the presence of serum alone. Thus, *in vivo*, the cells would likely not grow in the absence of cytokine, growth factor or antigen stimulation due

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The ability of TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/PD1⁻ anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells to grow in the absence of cytokines and/or serum was also assessed. 2x10⁶ cells were plated ~ 2 weeks post cell production (Day 0). The number of viable cells were enumerated until 26 days post plating in either full media, 5% human serum without cytokines (IL-2 and IL-7), or base media lacking serum and cytokines. No cells were detected at 26 days plated in the cultures that lacked cytokines, suggesting that any potential off-target effects due to genome editing did not induce growth factor independent growth/proliferation to the cells (**FIG. 32**). The cells only proliferated in the presence of cytokines (full media that contains cytokines) and did not proliferate in the presence of serum alone. Thus, genome editing did not induce any adverse

20 proliferate in the presence of serum alone. Thus, genome editing did not induce any adverse events that allow the cells to grow in the absence of cytokine, growth factor or antigen stimulation.

<u>Anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells:</u> The ability of TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-BCMA CAR⁺ cells to grow in the absence of cytokines and/or serum was assessed. TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/PD-1⁻

- 25 /anti-BCMA CAR⁺ cells are also referred to as 4X KO, BCMA CAR⁺ cells. 1x10⁶ 4X KO, BCMA CAR⁺ cells were plated following the 10 rechallenges described in **Example 6**. The number of viable cells were enumerated 7 and 14 days post plating in either full media, 5% human serum without cytokines (IL-2 and IL-7), or base media lacking serum and cytokines. No cells were detected at 13 days plated in the cultures that lacked cytokines, suggesting that any
- 30 potential off-target effects due to genome editing did not induce growth factor independent growth/proliferation to the cells (**FIG. 33**). The cells only proliferated in the presence of cytokines (full media that contains cytokines) and did not proliferate in the presence of serum alone. Thus, *in vivo*, the cells would likely not grow in an uncontrolled way.

<u>Other CAR T cells</u>: It has previously been shown that the anti-CD33 CAR+ T cells and anti-CD19 CAR+ T cells exemplified herein only proliferated in the presence of cytokines and do not proliferate in the presence of serum alone. Thus, *in vivo*, these cells would likely not grow in an uncontrolled way.

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Cytokine Release Assay. To measure cytokine release, T cells and target cells were coincubated for 24 hours at the ratios indicated. Supernatant media was collected for use in IL-2 or IFNγ ELISAs (RD Systems) on a new plate following the manufacturer's instructions (RD Systems).

The ability of the TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells to produce interleukin-2 (IL-2) when co-cultured in the presence of A498 cells was analyzed using the ELISA assay. Both the triple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and double knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells secreted high levels of IL-2. Strikingly, the TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/ CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells secreted higher levels of IL-2 than the TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells when cultured with A498 cells (**FIG. 34**). These results suggest that knocking-out

15 the *CD70* gene gives an advantage to anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells to secrete more IL-2.

Example 10. Effect of Multiple Knockout on Anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells on A498 Renal Carcinoma Cells

Effect of multi knock-out on the function of anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells.

- 20 Cell Killing Assay. The ability of multi-gene editing to kill A498 renal carcinoma cells was determined using the cell kill assay described above. In brief, the TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (2X KO, CD70 CAR⁺), TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (3X KO (PD-1), CD70 CAR⁺), TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺) and TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (4X KO, CD70 CAR⁺) cells were incubated with a CD70⁺
- adherent RCC-derived cell line (A498 cells) at various CAR T cell:A498 target cells ratios. The TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ cells exhibited potent cell killing of RCC-derived cells following 24-hour co-incubation (FIG. 35). The quadruple TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD- 1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T demonstrated higher cell kill potency than triple knockout TRAC⁻ /β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells that demonstrated higher potency than double knockout
- 30 TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells (visible at low T-cell: A498 Ratio of 0.5:1 and 0.25:1).
 The results demonstrate knocking out both the *CD70* and *PD-1* genes gave the anti-CD70
 CAR+ cells higher cell kill potency.

The gene edited cells also exhibited potent cell killing of RCC-derived cells following 24-hour co-incubation at a CAR T cell:A948 target cell ratio of 0.24:1. (**FIG. 36**). Specifically,

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the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and the quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells demonstrated higher potency than the double knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells or the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells or the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells or the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells or the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells or the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells or the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells or the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells or the triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells.

5 CD70 CAR improved the cell killing ability of the anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells.

Cytokine Release Assay. A cytokine release assay was performed as described above. The ability of the double knockout, triple knockout, and quadruple knockout anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells to produce IL-2 and interferon gamma (IFN-gamma (IFN-g)) when co-cultured in the presence of A498 cells following 24-hour co-incubation at a ratio (CAR T cell:A498 target cell)

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of 0.25:1 was assessed using an ELISA assay. IL-2 and IFN-g from supernatants of cell cocultures were measured. The triple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺T cells and quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺T cells secreted the highest levels of IFN-g (**FIG. 37A**) and IL-2 (**FIG. 37B**) when cultured with A498 cells.

15 Effect of CD70 Knockout on Exhaustion Marker Expression

The levels of the exhaustion markers PD-1 and LAG3 were assessed on the TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (2X KO, CD70 CAR⁺), TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (3X KO (PD-1), CD70 CAR⁺), TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺) and TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (4X KO, CD70 CAR⁺) T cells used in the

20 Examples above. CD4⁺ T cells were assessed for PD-1 expression (FIG. 38) and both CD8⁺ T cells and CD4⁺ T cells were assessed for LAG3 expression (FIG. 39A and FIG. 39B, respectively) by flow cytometry.

The data demonstrate that CD70 KO reduces exhaustion marker expression in CAR T cells. The data in **FIG. 38** shows that PD-1 expression is decreased, as expected, when PD-1 is knocked out, and it is also decreased when CD70 is knocked out.

The data in **FIGs. 39A** and **39B** show that knocking out CD70, reduces the LAG3 expression marker in CD4 and CD8 cells.

The data demonstrate that knocking out CD70, specifically, could reduce the potential exhaustion of the CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ gene edited populations of CAR+ T cells leading to better therapeutics.

Example 11. CD70 KO improves cell kill in multiple cell types

CD70 Expression in Various Cancer Cell Lines. Relative CD70 expression was measured in various cancer cell lines to further evaluate the ability of anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells

to kill various cancer types. CD70 expression was measured by FACS analysis using Alexa Fluor 647 anti-human CD70 antibody (BioLegend Cat. No. 355115). **FIG. 40A** (left graph) shows the relative expression of CD70 in ACHN cells, as measured by FACS, compared to other kidney cancer cell lines A498, 786-O, cacki-1 and Caki-2. Additionally, non-kidney

- 5 cancer cell lines were evaluated for CD70 expression by FACS analysis (Table 22, FIG. 40A and FIG. 40B) using either an Alexa Fluor 647 anti-human CD70 antibody (BioLegend Cat. No. 355115; FIG. 40A, right panel) or a FITC anti-human CD70 antibody (BioLegend Cat. No. 355105) in FIG. 40B. SNU-1 (intestinal cancer cells) exhibited high levels of CD70 expression that were similar to A498 (FIG. 40A, right panel). SKOV-3 (ovarian), HuT78 (lymphoma),
- 10 NCI-H1975 (lung) and Hs-766T (pancreatic) cell lines exhibited levels of CD70 expression that were similar or higher than ACHN but lower than A498 (**Table 22, FIG. 40B**).

Cell Line	Cancer type	Relative CD70 expression			
A498	Kidney Carcinoma	High			
ACHN	Kidney (derived from metastasis)	Medium-Low			
SK-OV-3	Ovarian Adenocarcinoma	Medium			
NCI-H1975	Lung Adenocarcinoma (NSCLC)	Medium			
Calu-1	Lung Carcinoma	Low			
DU 145	Prostate Carcinoma	Low			
SNU-1	Gastric Carcinoma	High			
Hs 766T	Pancreatic Carcinoma	Medium			
MJ	T cell Lymphoma	High			
HuT78	T cell Lymphoma	Medium			
HuT102	T cell Lymphoma	Medium			
PANC-1	Pancreatic Carcinoma	Low			
U937	AML	No expression			
K562	chronic myelogenous leukemia	No expression (Negative			
		Control)			

Table	22.
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15 Cell Kill Assay. The ability of multi-gene edited anti-CD70 CAR+ cells to kill ACHN renal carcinoma cells was determined using the cell kill assay described above. The TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (2X KO, CD70 CAR⁺), TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (3X KO (PD-1), CD70 CAR⁺), TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺) and TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (4X KO, CD70 CAR⁺) cells were incubated
20 with an adherent RCC-derived cell line expressing low levels of CD70 antigen (ACHN cells) (FIG. 40A shows the relative expression of CD70 in ACHN cells, as measured by FACS, compared to other kidney cancer cell lines A498, 786-O, cacki-1 and Caki-2) at a CAR T cell:ACHN target cells ratio of 0.5:1 (FIG. 40C) and 0.25:1 (FIG. 40D). The gene edited cells exhibited potent cell killing of RCC-derived cells following 24-hour co-incubation (FIGS. 40C)

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and 40D). The cells demonstrated higher potency when PD-1 was knocked out, when CD70 was knocked out, and even slightly higher potency when both PD-1 and CD70 were knocked out. In conclusion, knockout of PD-1 or CD70 or of both PD-1 and CD70 together improves the cell killing ability of the anti-CD70 CAR+ cells in ACHN cells.

- Although ACHN cells were found to express moderate to low levels of CD70, they were surprisingly susceptible to killing by 3X KO (PD-1), CD70 CAR+ T cells, 3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR+ T cells, and 4X KO CD70 CAR+ T cells (FIG. 40C and 40D). This indicates that high CD70 expression is not a requirement for effective killing of a target cell by gene-edited T cells that express an anti-CD70 CAR. Additionally, given that the levels of CD70 expression on SNU-1, SK-OV-3, NCI-H1975 and HS-766T cell lines were found to be similar or higher than ACHN, it was expected that anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells would be especially efficient at killing these cancer cell types as well. Indeed, it was found that TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (4X KO, CD70 CAR⁺) and TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ (3X KO (CD70), CD70 CAR⁺) exhibited surprisingly potent cell killing of numerous solid tumor cell lines after
- 15 only 24 hours of co-culture (FIG. 40E shows killing by 4X KO CAR+ T cells and FIG. 40F shows killing by 3X KO CAR+ T cells). Both 3X KO, CD70 CAR+ and 4X KO, CD70 CAR+ T cells killed >60% of kidney, pancreatic, and ovarian tumor cells (A498, ACHN, SK-OV-3, and Hs-766T) at a 4:1 effector:target cell ratio and >50% at a 1:1 effector:target cell ratio. Cell killing of cancer cell lines that had medium to low CD70 expression (NCI-H1975, Calu-1 and
- 20 DU 145) was still effective with >30% killing at an effector:target cell ratio of 4:1 within 24 hours of co-culture (**FIGS. 40E** and **40F**). Longer exposure (i.e., 96 hours) to either 3X KO or 4X KO, CD70 CAR+ T cells resulted in an increase in cancer cell killing across all cell types, particularly for SKOV-3, Hs-766T, and NIC-H1975 cells wherein killing was >80% at an effector:target cell ratio of 1:1 (**FIG. 40G**).

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SNU-1 cell kill by was assessed by visual assessment.

Target cell killing following long exposure to CAR+ T cells was also assessed by microscopy for SNU-1 cancer cells. SNU-1 cells were plated at a density of 1 million cells per well in a 6 well plate and mixed at an effector:target ratio of 4:1 with 3X KO (CD70), anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells. The co-culture was incubated for six (6) days and the presence of viable cancer cells was assessed by microscope. All gastric carcinoma target cells (SNU-1) were eliminated in wells containing TRAC⁻/ β 2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells, as compared to control wells, indicating cancer cells were completely eliminated by anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells with an extended co-culture.

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The ability of anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells to selectively kill CD70-expressing cells was determined. A flow cytometry assay was designed to test killing of cancer cell suspension lines (e.g., K562, MM.1S and HuT78 cancer cells that are referred to as "target cells") by 3X KO (CD70) (TRAC⁻/B2M⁻/CD70⁻) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells. Two of the target cell lines that were

- 5 used were CD70-expressing cancer cells (e.g., MM.1S and HuT78), while a third that was used as negative control cancer cells lack CD70 expression (e.g., K562). The TRAC⁻/B2M⁻/CD70⁻
 /anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells were co-cultured with either the CD70-expressing MM.1S or HuT78 cell lines or the CD70-negative K562 cell line. The target cells were labeled with 5 μM efluor670 (eBiosciences), washed and seeded at a density of 50,000 target cells per well in a 96-
- 10 well U-bottom plate. The target cells were co-cultured with TRAC⁻/B2M⁻/CD70⁻ anti-CD70
 CAR+ T cells at varying ratios (0.5:1, 1:1, 2:1 and 4:1 CAR+ T cells to target cells) and incubated overnight. Target cell killing was determined following a 24 hour co-culture. The cells were washed and 200 µL of media containing a 1:500 dilution of 5 mg/mL DAPI (Molecular Probes) (to enumerate dead/dying cells) was added to each well. Cells were then analyzed by
 15 flow cytometry and the amount of remaining live target cells was quantified.

FIG. 40H, FIG. 40I, and FIG. 40J demonstrate selective target cell killing by TRAC-//B2M-//CD70- anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells. A 24 hour co-culture with 3X KO (CD70) CAR+ T cells resulted in nearly complete killing of T cell lymphoma cells (HuT78), even at a low CAR+ T cell to CD70-expressing target cell ratio of 0.5:1 (**FIG. 40J**). Likewise, a 24 hour co-culture

- 20 resulted in nearly complete killing of multiple myeloma cells (MM.1S) at all CAR+ T cell to target cell ratios tested (FIG. 40I). Killing of target cells was found to be selective in that TRAC-/B2M-/anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells induced no killing of CD70-deficient K562 cells that was above the level of control samples (e.g., either cancer cells alone or co-culture with no RNP T cells) at any effector:target cell ratio tested (FIG. 40H).
- Cytokine Release Assay. A cytokine release assay was performed as described above. The ability of the double knockout, triple knockout, and quadruple knockout anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells to produce IL-2 and IFN-g when co-cultured in the presence of ACHN cells following 24-hour co-incubation at a ratio (CAR T cell:ACHN target cell) of 0.25:1 was assessed using an ELISA assay. IL-2 and IFN-g from supernatants of cell co-cultures were measured. The triple
 knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells and quadruple knockout TRAC⁻/β2M⁻/PD-1⁻/CD70⁻/anti-CD70 CAR⁺ T cells secreted the highest levels of IFN-g (FIG.41) and IL-2 (FIG. 41B) when cultured with ACHN cells. In conclusion, knockout of CD70 or of both PD-1 and CD70 together improves the cell killing ability of the anti-CD70 CAR+ cells in ACHN cells.

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Example 12. Efficacy of CD70 KO in anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells: The Tumor Xenograft Model in NOG Mice

Treatment in the Ovarian Tumor Model

The ability of T cells expressing an anti-CD70 CAR to eliminate ovarian adenocarcinoma cells that express moderate levels of CD70 was evaluated *in vivo* using a subcutaneous ovarian carcinoma (SKOV-3) tumor xenograft model in mice.

CRISPR/Cas9 and AAV6 were used as above (see for example, Example 3) to generate human T cells that lack expression of the TCR, β 2M, CD70 with concomitant expression from the TRAC locus using a CAR construct targeting CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 45; SEQ ID NO: 46. In this example activated T cells were first electroporated with 3 distinct Cas9:sgRNA RNP

- this example activated T cells were first electroporated with 3 distinct Cas9:sgRNA RNP complexes containing sgRNAs targeting TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), and CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37). The DNA double stranded break at the TRAC locus was repaired by homology directed repair with an AAV6-delivered DNA template comprising a donor template (SEQ ID NO: 44; SEQ ID NO: 45) (encoding anti-CD70 CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45) containing right and left homology arms to the TRAC locus
 - flanking a chimeric antigen receptor cassette (-/+ regulatory elements for gene expression).

The resulting modified T cells are 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells. The ability of these anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells to ameliorate disease caused by a CD70+ ovarian carcinoma cell line was evaluated in NOG mice using methods employed by

- Translational Drug Development, LLC (Scottsdale, AZ). In brief, 12 5-8 week old female, CIEA NOG (NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid}I12rg^{tm1Sug}/ JicTac) mice were individually housed in ventilated microisolator cages, maintained under pathogen-free conditions, 5-7 days prior to the start of the study. Mice received a subcutaneous inoculation of 5x10⁶ SKOV-3 ovarian carcinoma cells/mouse in the right hind flank. When mean tumor size reached 25-75 mm³ (target of ~50 mm³), the mice were further divided into two treatment groups as shown in Table 23. On Day 1,
- treatment group 2 received a single 200 μ l intravenous dose of anti-CD70CAR+ T cells according to **Table 23**.

Table 23.	Treatment	groups
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Group	CAR-T	SKOV-3 cells	T cell treatment (<i>i.v.</i>)	N
1	None	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	None	5
2	3X KO (CD70,) anti-CD70 CAR+	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
	T cells			

30

Tumor volume was measured 2 times weekly from day of treatment initiation. By day 9 post-injection, tumors treated with anti-CD70 CART cells began to show a decrease in tumor

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volume relative to tumors in untreated animals. By day 17 post-injection, CD70+ ovarian cancer tumors in mice treated with anti-CD70 CAR T cells were completely eliminated. This complete regression of tumor growth was sustained in treated animals through day 44 post-injection, whereupon 4 out of 5 mice treated with anti-CD70 CART cells remained tumor-free until the end-of-observation (day 69) (**FIG. 42A**). These data demonstrate that 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-

5

/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ cells are highly potent *in vivo* for treating human ovarian tumors.

Treatment in the Non-Small Cell Lung Carcinoma (NSCLC) Tumor Model

The ability of T cells expressing a CD70 CAR to eliminate lung adenocarcionma cells that express moderate levels of CD70 was evaluated in in vivo using a subcutaneous lung carcinoma (NCI-H1975) tumor xenograft model in mice.

CRISPR/Cas9 and AAV6 were used as above (see for example, Example 3) to create human T cells that lack expression of the TCR, β 2M, CD70 with concomitant expression from the TRAC locus using a CAR construct targeting CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 43; SEQ ID NO: 44). In

- this example activated T cells were first electroporated with 3 distinct Cas9:sgRNA RNP complexes containing sgRNAs targeting TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), and CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37). The DNA double stranded break at the TRAC locus was repaired by homology directed repair with an AAV6-delivered DNA template (SEQ ID NO: 43; SEQ ID NO: 44) (encoding anti-CD70 CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45)
 containing right and left homology arms to the TRAC locus flanking a chimeric antigen receptor
- 20 containing right and left homology arms to the TRAC locus flanking a chimeric antigen receptor cassette (-/+ regulatory elements for gene expression).

The resulting modified T cells are 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ (with 41BB costimulatory domain) T cells. The ability of these anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells to ameliorate disease caused by a CD70+ lung carcinoma cell line was evaluated in NOG mice

- 25 using methods employed by Translational Drug Development, LLC (Scottsdale, AZ). In brief, 12, 5-8 week old female, CIEA NOG (NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid}I12rg^{tm1Sug}/ JicTac) mice were individually housed in ventilated microisolator cages, maintained under pathogen-free conditions, 5-7 days prior to the start of the study. Mice received a subcutaneous inoculation of 5x10⁶ NCI-H1975 lung carcinoma cells/mouse in the right hind flank. When mean tumor size
- 30 reached 25-75 mm³ (target of ~50 mm³), the mice were further divided into 2 treatment groups as shown in **Table 24**. On Day 1, treatment group 2 received a single 200 μl intravenous dose of anti-CD70CAR+ T cells according to **Table 24**.

Table 24. Treatment groups

Group	CAR-T	NCI-H1975 cells	T cell treatment (<i>i.v.</i>)	N
1	None	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	None	5
2	3X KO (CD70,) anti-CD70 CAR+	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
	T cells			

Tumor volume was measured 2 times weekly from day of treatment initiation. By day 12 post-injection, tumors treated with anti-CD70 CAR T cells began to show a decrease in tumor

- 5 volume relative to tumors in untreated animals. This complete regression of tumors in treated animals continue through day 33 post injection. Treatment with anti-CD70 CAR T cells resulted in potent activity against established H1975 lung cancer xenografts through 40 days post injection (tumor regrowth was suppressed in all mice up to day 40 with tumor size < 100mm³), whereupon tumors began to grow. (FIG. 42B). These data demonstrate that 3X KO (TRAC-
- 10 /β2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ cells have potent activity against human CD70+ lung cancer tumors in vivo.

Treatment in the Pancreatic Tumor Model

The ability of T cells expressing a CD70 CAR to eliminate pancreatic carcinoma cells that express moderate levels of CD70 was evaluated in in vivo using a subcutaneous pancreatic (Hs 766T) tumor xenograft model in mice.

CRISPR/Cas9 and AAV6 were used as above (see for example, Example 3) to create human T cells that lack expression of the TCR, β 2M, CD70 with concomitant expression from the TRAC locus using a CAR construct targeting CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 43; SEQ ID NO: 44). In

- 20 this example activated T cells were first electroporated with 3 distinct Cas9:sgRNA RNP complexes containing sgRNAs targeting TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), and CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37). The DNA double stranded break at the TRAC locus was repaired by homology directed repair with an AAV6-delivered DNA template (SEQ ID NO: 43; SEQ ID NO: 44) (encoding anti-CD70 CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45)
- 25 containing right and left homology arms to the TRAC locus flanking a chimeric antigen receptor cassette (-/+ regulatory elements for gene expression).

The resulting modified T cells are 3X KO (TRAC-/ β 2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells. The ability of these anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells to ameliorate disease caused by a CD70+ pancreatic carcinoma cell line was evaluated in NOG mice using methods employed by

30 Translational Drug Development, LLC (Scottsdale, AZ). In brief, 12, 5-8 week old female, CIEA NOG (NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid}I12rg^{tm1Sug}/ JicTac) mice were individually housed in ventilated microisolator cages, maintained under pathogen-free conditions, 5-7 days prior to the start

of the study. Mice received a subcutaneous inoculation of 5×10^6 Hs766T pancreatic carcinoma cells in the right hind flank. When mean tumor size reached 25-75 mm³ (target of ~50 mm³), the mice were further divided into 2 treatment groups as shown in **Table 25**. On Day 1, treatment group 2 received a single 200 µl intravenous dose of anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells

5 according to **Table 25**.

Table 25. Treatment groups

Group	CAR-T	Hs766T cells	T cell treatment $(i.v.)$	N
1	None	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	None	5
2	3X KO (CD70,) anti-CD70 CAR+	5x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1x10 ⁷ cells/mouse	5
	T cells			

Tumor volume was measured 2 times weekly from day of treatment initiation. By Day 15
post-injection, tumors treated with anti-CD70 CAR T cells began to show a decrease in tumor volume in all treated mice. Treatment with anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells effectively reduced the size of the CD70+ pancreatic cancer tumors, in all mice tested (<37mm³) with no evidence of further growth for the duration of the study (through Day 67) (FIG. 42C). These data demonstrate that 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ cells induce regression of human CD70+
pancreatic cancer tumors *in vivo*, with potent activity against established Hs766T pancreatic cancer xenografts and durable responses beyond 60 days following treatment initiation.

Treatment in the cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma Tumor Xenograft Model

The ability of T cells expressing an anti-CD70 CAR to eliminate T cell lymphoma was
evaluated in *in vivo* using a subcutaneous T-cell lymphoma (Hu T78) tumor xenograft model in mice.

CRISPR/Cas9 and AAV6 were used as above (see for example, Example 3) to create human T cells that lack expression of the TCR, β 2M, CD70 with concomitant expression from the TRAC locus using a CAR construct targeting CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 43; SEQ ID NO: 44). In

- 25 this example activated T cells were first electroporated with 3 distinct Cas9:sgRNA RNP complexes containing sgRNAs targeting TRAC (SEQ ID NO: 40), β2M (SEQ ID NO: 41), and CD70 (SEQ ID NO: 36 or 37). The DNA double stranded break at the TRAC locus was repaired by homology directed repair with an AAV6-delivered DNA template (SEQ ID NO: 43; SEQ ID NO: 44) (encoding anti-CD70 CAR comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 45)
- 30 containing right and left homology arms to the TRAC locus flanking a chimeric antigen receptor cassette (-/+ regulatory elements for gene expression).

The resulting modified T cells are 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells. The ability of these anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells to ameliorate disease caused by a CD70+ Tcell lymphoma cell line was evaluated in NOG mice using methods employed by Translational Drug Development, LLC (Scottsdale, AZ). In brief, 12, 5-8 week old female, CIEA NOG (NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid}I12rg^{tm1Sug}/ JicTac) mice were individually housed in ventilated microisolator

cages, maintained under pathogen-free conditions, 5-7 days prior to the start of the study. Mice received a subcutaneous inoculation of 3×10^6 HuT78 T-cell lymphoma cells in the right hind flank. When mean tumor size reached 25-75 mm³ (target of ~50 mm³), the mice were further divided into 2 treatment groups as shown in Table 26. On Day 1, treatment group 2 received a single 200 µl intravenous dose of anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells according to Table 26.

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Table 26. Treatment groups

Group	CAR-T	HuT78 cells	T cell treatment (<i>i.v.</i>)	Ν
1	None	$3x10^6$ cells/mouse	None	5
2	3X KO (CD70,) anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells	3x10 ⁶ cells/mouse	1×10^7 cells/mouse	4

- Tumor volume was measured 2 times weekly from day of treatment initiation. By Day 12 15 post-injection, tumors treated with anti-CD70 CAR T cells began to show a decrease in tumor volume in all treated mice. Treatment with anti-CD70 CAR+ T cells effectively reduced the size of the CD70+ T-cell lymphoma tumors, in all mice tested at Day 15 (FIG. 42C). These data demonstrate that 3X KO (TRAC-/β2M-/CD70-) anti-CD70 CAR+ cells induce regression of human CD70+ T-cell lymphoma tumors in vivo, with potent activity against established HuT78
- 20 T-cell lymphoma xenografts.

Summary of Sequences

SEQ ID NO	Description	Sequence
1	TRAC Indel	AAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT
2	TRAC Indel	AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACTAAGAGCA ACAAATCTGACT
3	TRAC Indel	AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACTAAGAGCAACAAAT CTGACT
4	TRAC Indel	AAGAGCAACAGTGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACTAAGAGCAACAAA TCTGACT
5	TRAC Indel	AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGACTAAGAGCAACAAATCTGACT
6	TRAC Indel	AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGGGGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACTAAGAG CAACAAATCTGACT
7	TRAC Indel	AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACTAAGAGCAA CAAATCTGACT
8	TRAC Indel	AAGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGTGCCTGGAGCAACAAATCTGACTAAGAG CAACAAATCTGACT
9	B2M Indel	CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTTCTGCCTGGAGGCT ATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT
10	B2M Indel	CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTCGCCTGGAGGCTA TCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT
11	B2M Indel	CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTTCTGGAGGCTATCC AGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT
12	B2M Indel	CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTTCTGGATAGCCTGG AGGCTATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT
13	B2M Indel	CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACC CTCCCGCT
14	B2M Indel	CGTGGCCTTAGCTGTGCTCGCGCTACTCTCTCTTTCTGTGGCCTGGAG GCTATCCAGCGTGAGTCTCTCCTACCCTCCCGCT
15	sgRNA	nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuaguccguuau caacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcuuuu
16	sgRNA	nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuaguccguuau caacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugc
17	sgRNA	n ₍₁₇₋₃₀₎ guuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuaguccguuaucaacuugaaa aaguggcaccgagucggugcu ₍₁₋₈₎
18	4-1BB nucleotide sequence	AAACGGGGCAGAAAGAAACTCCTGTATATATTCAAACAACCATTTA TGAGACCAGTACAAACTACTCAAGAGGAAGATGGCTGTAGCTGCCG ATTTCCAGAAGAAGAAGAAGAAGGAGGATGTGAACTG

19	4-1BB amino acid sequence	KRGRKKLLYIFKQPFMRPVQTTQEEDGCSCRFPEEEEGGCEL
20	CD28 amino acid sequence	SKRSRLLHSDYMNMTPRRPGPTRKHYQPYAPPRDFAAYRS
21	CD3-z nucleotide sequence	CGAGTGAAGTTTTCCCGAAGCGCAGACGCTCCGGCATATCAGCAAG GACAGAATCAGCTGTATAACGAACTGAATTTGGGACGCCGCGAGGA GTATGACGTGCTTGATAAACGCCGGGGGGAGAGACCCCGGAAATGGGG GGTAAACCCCGAAGAAAGAATCCCCAAGAAGGACTCTACAATGAAC TCCAGAAGGATAAGATGGCGGAGGCCTACTCAGAAATAGGTATGAA GGGCGAACGACGACGGGGGAAAAGGTCACGATGGCCTCTACCAAGG GTTGAGTACGGCAACCAAAGATACGTACGATGCACTGCATATGCAG GCCCTGCCTCCCAGA
22	CD3-z amino acid sequence	RVKFSRSADAPAYQQGQNQLYNELNLGRREEYDVLDKRRGRDPEMGG KPRRKNPQEGLYNELQKDKMAEAYSEIGMKGERRRGKGHDGLYQGLS TATKDTYDALHMQALPPR
23	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T1)	UCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAUguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
24	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T3)	AUCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
25	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T4)	CGGUGCGGCGCAGGCCCUAUguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
26	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T7)	GCUUUGGUCCCAUUGGUCGCguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
27	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T8)	GCCCGCAGGACGCACCCAUAguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
28	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T10)	GUGCAUCCAGCGCUUCGCACguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
29	CD70 sgRNA (E3_T1)	CAGCUACGUAUCCAUCGUGAguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
30	TRAC sgRNA	AGAGCAACAGUGCUGUGGCCguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
31	β2M sgRNA	GCUACUCUCUUUUCUGGCCguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
32	PD-1 sgRNA	CUGCAGCUUCUCCAACACAUguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggcuag uccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcUUUU
33	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T1)	U*C*A*CCAAGCCCGCGACCAAUguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggc uaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
34	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T3)	A*U*C*ACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggc uaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U

35	CD70	C*G*G*UGCGGCGCAGGCCCUAUguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggc
	sgRNA	
	(F1 T4)	
36	CD70	
50		
	Sgrina	
27	(EI_I/)	
31	CD70	G*C*C*CGCAGGACGCACCCAUAguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggc
	sgRNA	uaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(E1_T8)	
38	CD70	G*U*G*CAUCCAGCGCUUCGCACguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggc
	sgRNA	uaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(E1_T10)	
39	CD70	C*A*G*CUACGUAUCCAUCGUGAguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaaggc
	sgRNA	uaguccguuaucaacuugaaaaaguggcaccgagucggugcU*U*U*U
	(E3 T1)	
40	TRAC	A*G*A*GCAACAGUGCUGUGGCCguuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaauaagg
	sgRNA	
	bgittini	euugueeguuuueuuguuuuuguggeueegugueggugee o o o
41	BOM	$G^*C^*U^* \Delta CUCUCUCUUUUCUGGCC$ ouuuuagagcuagaaauagcaaguuaaaguaaggc
11		
	Sgrina	
40	DD 1	
42	PD-1	
	SGRINA	
12	GD 50	
43	CD70	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCCCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC
	rAAV	GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
		CAGAGAGGGAGTGGCCAACTCCATCACTAGGGGTTCCTGCGGCCGC
	(CD70B	ACGCGTGAGATGTAAGGAGCTGCTGTGACTTGCTCAAGGCCTTATAT
	scFV with	CGAGTAAACGGTAGTGCTGGGGGCTTAGACGCAGGTGTTCTGATTTAT
	41BB)	AGTTCAAAACCTCTATCAATGAGAGAGAGCAATCTCCTGGTAATGTGAT
		AGATTTCCCAACTTAATGCCAACATACCATAAACCTCCCATTCTGCT
		AATGCCCAGCCTAAGTTGGGGAGACCACTCCAGATTCCAAGATGTA
		CAGTTTGCTTGCTGGGCCTTTTTCCCATGCCTGCCTTTACTCTGCCA
		GAGTTATATTGCTGGGGTTTTGAAGAAGATCCTATTAAATAAA
		ATAAGCAGTATTATTAAGTAGCCCTGCATTTCAGGTTTCCTTGAGTG
		GCAGGCCAGGCCTGGCCGTGAACGTTCACTGAAATCATGGCCTCTT
		GGCCAAGATTGATAGCTTGTGCCTGTCCCTGAGTCCCAGTCCATCAC
		GAGCAGCTGGTTTCTAAGATGCTATTTCCCGTATAAAGCATGAGACC
		GTGACTTGCCAGCCCCACAGAGCCCCCGCCCTTGTCCATCACTGGCAT
		CTGGACTCCAGCCTGGGTTGGGGCAAAGAGGGAAATGAGATCATGT
		CIAIGGACIICAGGCICCGGIGCCCGICAGIGGGCAGAGCGCACAI
		CGCCCACAGTCCCCGAGAAGTTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
		CGGTGCCTAGAGAAGGTGGCGCGGGGGTAAACTGGGAAAGTGATGTC
		GIGTACTGGCTCCGCCTTTTTCCCGAGGGTGGGGGGAGAACCGTATAT
		AAGTGCAGTAGTCGCCGTGAACGTTCTTTTTCGCAACGGGTTTGCCG
		CCAGAACACAGGTAAGTGCCGTGTGTGGGTTCCCGCGGGCCTGGCCT
		CTTTACGGGTTATGGCCCTTGCGTGCCTTGAATTACTTCCACTGGCT
		GCAGTACGTGATTCTTGATCCCGAGCTTCGGGTTGGAAGTGGGTGG
		GAGAGTTCGAGGCCTTGCGCTTAAGGAGCCCCTTCGCCTCGTGCTTG
		AGTTGAGGCCTGGCCTGGGCGCTGGGGCCGCCGCGTGCGAATCTGG
		TGGCACCTTCGCGCCTGTCTCGCTGCTTTCGATAAGTCTCTAGCCATT
		TAAAATTTTTGATGACCTGCTGCGACGCTTTTTTTCTGGCAAGATAG

	1
	TCTTGTAAATGCGGGCCAAGATCTGCACACTGGTATTTCGGTTTTTG
	GGGCCGCGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGCCCGTGCGTCCCAGCGCACATGTTC
	GGCGAGGCGGGGCCTGCGAGCGCGGCCACCGAGAATCGGACGGGG
	GTAGTCTCAAGCTGGCCGGCCTGCTCTGGTGCCTGGCCTCGCGCCGC
	CGTGTATCGCCCCGCCCTGGGCGGCAAGGCTGGCCCGGTCGGCACC
	AGTTGCGTGAGCGGAAAGATGGCCGCTTCCCGGCCCTGCTGCAGGG
	AGCTCAAAATGGAGGACGCGGCGCGCGCGGGGGGGGGGG
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	ATGTGACTCCACGGAGTACCGGGCGCCGTCCAGGCACCTCGATTAG
	TTCTCGAGCTTTTGGAGTACGTCGTCTTTAGGTTGGGGGGGAGGGGTT
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	TTTTTTTCTTCCATTCACCTCTCACCCCCCCCCCCCCCC
	ATGGATGGGGTGGATAAATACCTACACCGGCGAACCTACATACGCC
	GACGCTTTTAAAGGGCGAGTCACTATGACGCGCGATACCAGCATAT
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	TGTCTACTATTGTGCTCGGGACTATGGCGATTATGGCATGGACTACT
	GGGGTCAGGGTACGACTGTAACAGTTAGTAGTGGTGGAGGCGGCAG
	TGGCGGGGGGGGGAAGCGGAGGAGGGGGGTTCTGGTGACATAGTTATG
	ACCCAATCCCCAGATAGTTTGGCGGTTTCTCTGGGCGAGAGGGCAA
	CGATTAATTGTCGCGCATCAAAGAGCGTTTCAACGAGCGGATATTCT
	TTTATGCATTGGTACCAGCAAAAACCCGGACAACCGCCGAAGCTGC
	TGATCTACTTGGCTTCAAATCTTGAGTCTGGGGTGCCGGACCGATTT
	TCTGGTAGTGGAAGCGGAACTGACTTTACGCTCACGATCAGTTCACT
	GCAGGCTGAGGATGTAGCGGTCTATTATTGCCAGCACAGTAGAGAA
	GTCCCCTGGACCTTCGGTCAAGGCACGAAAGTAGAAATTAAAAGTG
	CTGCTGCCTTTGTCCCGGTATTTCTCCCAGCCAAACCGACCACGACT
	CCCGCCCCGCGCCCTCCGACACCCGCTCCCACCATCGCCTCTCAACC
	TCTTAGTCTTCGCCCCGAGGCATGCCGACCCGCCGCGGGGGGGG
	TTCATACGAGGGGCTTGGACTTCGCTTGTGATATTTACATTTGGGCT
	CCGTTGGCGGGTACGTGCGGCGTCCTTTTGTTGTCACTCGTTATTACT
	TTGTATTGTAATCACAGGAATCGCAAAACGGGGCAGAAAGAA
	TGTATATATTCAAACAACCATTTATGAGACCAGTACAAACTACTCAA
	GAGGAAGATGGCTGTAGCTGCCGATTTCCAGAAGAAGAAGAAGGA
	GGATGTGA ACTGCGAGTGA AGTTTTCCCGA AGCGCAGACGCTCCGG
	GCCTCTACCAAGGGTTGAGTACGGCAACCAAGATACGTACG
	ACTGCATATGCAGGCCCTGCCTCCCAGATAATAATAAAATCGCTATC
	CATCGAAGATGGATGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGGGAGCAACAAAT
	CTGACTTTGCATGTGCAAACGCCTTCAACAACAGCATTATTCCAGAA
	GACACCTTCTTCCCCAGCCCAGGTAAGGGCAGCTTTGGTGCCTTCGC
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	GGTCAATGATGTCTAAAACTCCTCTGATTGGTGGTCTCGGCCTTATC
	CATTGCCACCAAAACCCTCTTTTTACTAAGAAACAGTGAGCCTTGTT
	CTGGCAGTCCAGAGAATGACACGGGAAAAAAGCAGATGAAGAGAA
	GGTGGCAGGAGAGGGCACGTGGCCCAGCCTCAGTCTCTCCAACTGA
	GTTCCTGCCTGCCTGCCTTTGCTCAGACTGTTTGCCCCCTTACTGCTCT

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		GCAGTCACTCATTAACCCACCAATCACTGATTGTGCCGGCACATGA
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		GCTGGGAAAAGTCCAAATAACTTCAGATTGGAATGTGTTTTAACTCA
		GGGTTGAGAAAACAGCTACCTTCAGGACAAAAGTCAGGGAAGGGCT
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		GAGAGGACCCTATAGAGGCCTGGGACAGGAGCTCAATGAGAAAGG
		TAACCACGTGCGGACCGAGGCTGCAGCGTCGTCCTCCCTAGGAACC
		CCTAGTGATGGAGTTGGCCACTCCCTCTCTGCGCGCTCGCT
		CTGAGGCCGGCGACCAAAGGTCGCCCGACGCCCGGGCTTTGCCCG
		GCCGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCGAGCGCGCGCGCTGCCTGCAGG
44	CD70	GAGATGTAAGGAGCTGCTGTGACTTGCTCAAGGCCTTATATCGAGTA
''	L HA to	
	(CD70D	
	SCFV With	
	4188)	
		GIAITATIAAGIAGCCCIGCATIICAGGITICCIIGAGIGGCAGGCC
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		TIGATAGCTIGIGCCIGICCCIGAGTCCCAGICCATCACGAGCAGCT
		GGTTTCTAAGATGCTATTTCCCGTATAAAGCATGAGACCGTGACTTG
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		TGATCCTCTTGTCCCACAGATATCCAGAACCCTGACCCTGCCGTGTA
		CCAGCTGAGAGACTCTAAATCCAGTGACAAGTCTGTCTGCCTATTCA
		CCGATTTTGATTCTCAAACAAATGTGTCACAAAGTAAGGATTCTGAT
		GTGTATATCACAGACAAAACTGTGCTAGACATGAGGTCTATGGACTT
		CAGGCTCCGGTGCCCGTCAGTGGGCAGAGCGCACATCGCCCACAGT
		CCCCGAGAAGTTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
		AGAAGGTGGCGCGGGGTAAACTGGGAAAGTGATGTCGTGTACTGGC
		TCCGCCTTTTTCCCGAGGGTGGGGGGGGGAGAACCGTATATAAGTGCAGTA
		GTCGCCGTGAACGTTCTTTTCGCAACGGGTTTGCCGCCAGAACACA
		GGTAAGTGCCGTGTGTGGGTTCCCGCGGGCCTGGCCTCTTTACGGGTT
		ATGGCCCTTGCGTGCCTTGAATTACTTCCACTGGCTGCAGTACGTGA
		TTCTTGATCCCGAGCTTCGGGTTGGAAGTGGGTGGGAGAGTTCGAGG
		CCTTGCGCTTAAGGAGCCCCCTTCGCCTCGTGCTTGAGTTGAGGCCTG
		Gertegeegeeteereereereereereereereereereereereere
		CCTGTCTCCCTGCTTTCGATAAGTCTCTAGCCATTTAAAAATTTTTGA
		GGCCGGCCTGCTCTGGTGCCTGGCCTCGCGCCGCGTGTATCGCCCC
		GCCC1GGGCGGCAAGGC1GGCCCGGTCGGCACCAGTTGCGTGAGCG
		GAAAGATGGCCGCTTCCCGGCCCTGCTGCAGGGAGCTCAAAATGGA
		GGACGCGGCGCTCGGGAGAGCGGGCGGGGGGGGGGGGCGAGTCACCCACACAAA
		GGAAAAGGGCCTTTCCGTCCTCAGCCGTCGCTTCATGTGACTCCACG
		GAGTACCGGGCGCCGTCCAGGCACCTCGATTAGTTCTCGAGCTTTTG
		GAGTACGTCGTCTTTAGGTTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGTTTTATGCGATGGAGT
		TTCCCCACACTGAGTGGGTGGAGACTGAAGTTAGGCCAGCTTGGCA
		CTTGATGTAATTCTCCTTGGAATTTGCCCTTTTTGAGTTTGGATCTTG
		GTTCATTCTCAAGCCTCAGACAGTGGTTCAAAGTTTTTTTCTTCCATT

		TCAGGTGTCGTGACCACCATGGCGCTTCCGGTGACAGCACTGCTCCT
		CCCCTTGGCGCTGTTGCTCCACGCAGCAAGGCCGCAGGTCCAGTTGG
		TGCAAAGCGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
		GTCCTGTAAGGCGTCCGGTTATACGTTCACGAACTACGGGATGAATT
		GGGTTCGCCAAGCGCCGGGGCAGGGACTGAAATGGATGGGGTGGAT
		AAATACCTACACCGGCGAACCTACATACGCCGACGCTTTTAAAGGG
		CGAGTCACTATGACGCGCGATACCAGCATATCCACCGCATACATGG
		AGCTGTCCCGACTCCGGTCAGACGACACGGCTGTCTACTATTGTGCT
		CGGGACTATGGCGATTATGGCATGGACTACTGGGGTCAGGGTACGA
		ATCAAAGAGCGTTTCAACGAGCGGATATTCTTTTATGCATTGGTACC
		AGCAAAAACCCGGACAACCGCCGAAGCTGCTGATCTACTTGGCTTC
		AAATCTTGAGTCTGGGGTGCCGGACCGATTTTCTGGTAGTGGAAGCG
		GAACTGACTTTACGCTCACGATCAGTTCACTGCAGGCTGAGGATGTA
		GCGGTCTATTATTGCCAGCACAGTAGAGAAGTCCCCTGGACCTTCGG
		TCAAGGCACGAAAGTAGAAATTAAAAGTGCTGCTGCCTTTGTCCCG
		GTATTTCTCCCAGCCAAACCGACCACGACTCCCGCCCCGCGCCCTCC
		GACACCCGCTCCCACCATCGCCTCTCAACCTCTTAGTCTTCGCCCCG
		AGGCATGCCGACCCGCCGGGGGGGGGGGGTGCTGTTCATACGAGGGGGCTT
		GGACTTCGCTTGTGATATTTACATTTGGGCTCCGTTGGCGGGTACGT
		GCGCCTCCTTTTGTCACTCGTTATTACTTTGTATTGTAATCACA
		GGA ATCGCA A ACGGGGCAGA A AGA A ACTCCTGTATATATTCA A ACA
		GACGIGCIIGAIAAACGCCGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGAGACCCCGGAAAIGGGGGGIA
		AACCCCGAAGAAAGAATCCCCCAAGAAGGACTCTACAATGAACTCCA
		GAAGGATAAGATGGCGGAGGCCTACTCAGAAATAGGTATGAAGGGC
		GAACGACGACGGGGAAAAGGTCACGATGGCCTCTACCAAGGGTTGA
		GTACGGCAACCAAAGATACGTACGATGCACTGCATATGCAGGCCCT
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		ACGCCTTCAACAACAGCATTATTCCAGAAGACACCTTCTTCCCCAGC
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		ACTTCAGATTGGAATGTGTTTTAACTCAGGGTTGAGAAAACAGCTAC
		CTTCAGGACAAAAGTCAGGGAAGGGCTCTCTGAAGAAATGCTACTT
		GAAGATACCAGCCCTACCAAGGGCAGGGAGAGGACCCTATAGAGGC
		CTGGGACAGGAGCTCAATGAGAAAGG
45	CD70 CAR	ATGGCGCTTCCGGTGACAGCACTGCTCCTCCCCTTGGCGCTGTTGCT
	nucleotide	CCACGCAGCAAGGCCGCAGGTCCAGTTGGTGCAAAGCGGGGGGGG
	sequence	GTGAAAAAACCCGGCGCTTCCGTGAAGGTGTCCTGTAAGGCGTCCG

		GTTATACGTTCACGAACTACGGGATGAATTCCCCCAACCCCCC
	(CD70B scFV with 41BB)	GTTATACGTTCACGAACTACGGGATGAATTGGGTTCGCCAAGCGCCG GGGCAGGGACTGAAATGGATGGGTGGATAAATACCTACACCGGCC GACACGACAC
46	CD70 CAR amino acid sequence (CD70B scFV with 41BB)	ACGTACGATGCACTGCATATGCAGGCCCTGCCTCCCAGATAA MALPVTALLLPLALLLHAARPQVQLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKVSCKASG YTFTNYGMNWVRQAPGQGLKWMGWINTYTGEPTYADAFKGRVTMT RDTSISTAYMELSRLRSDDTAVYYCARDYGDYGMDYWGQGTTVTVSS GGGGSGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGOIVMTQSPDSLAVSLGERATINCRASKSVSTSG YSFMHWYQQKPGQPPKLLIYLASNLESGVPDRFSGSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQ AEDVAVYYCQHSREVPWTFGQGTKVEIKSAAAFVPVFLPAKPTTTPAP RPPTPAPTIASQPLSLRPEACRPAAGGAVHTRGLDFACDIYIWAPLAGTC GVLLLSLVITLYCNHRNRKRGRKKLLYIFKQPFMRPVQTTQEEDGCSCR FPEEEEGGCELRVKFSRSADAPAYQQGQNQLYNELNLGRREEYDVLDK RRGRDPEMGGKPRRKNPQEGLYNELQKDKMAEAYSEIGMKGERRRGK GHDGLYQGLSTATKDTYDALHMQALPPR
47	CD70A scFv nucleotide sequence	GATATAGTTATGACCCAATCACCCGATAGTCTTGCGGTAAGCCTGGG GGAGCGAGCAACAATAAACTGTCGGGCATCAAAATCCGTCAGTACA AGCGGGTATTCATTCATGCACTGGTATCAACAGAAACCCGGTCAGCC ACCCAAGCTCCTGATTTATCTTGCGTCTAATCTTGAGTCCGGCGTCCC AGACCGGTTTTCCGGCTCCGGGAGCGGCACGGATTTTACTCTTACTA TTTCTAGCCTTCAGGCCGAAGATGTGGCGGTATACTACTGCCAGCAT TCAAGGGAAGTTCCTTGGACGTTCGGTCAGGGCACGAAAGTGGAAA TTAAAGGCGGGGGGGGGATCCGGCGGGGGGGGGG

		CATATCAACAGCCTACATGGAGCTCAGCAGATTGAGGAGTGACGAT ACGGCAGTCTATTACTGTGCAAGAGACTACGGCGATTATGGCATGG ATTACTGGGGCCAGGGCACTACAGTAACCGTTTCCAGC
48	CD70A scFv amino acid sequence (linker underlined)	DIVMTQSPDSLAVSLGERATINC <u>RASKSVSTSGYSFMH</u> WYQQKPGQPP KLLIYLASNLESGVPDRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQAEDVAVYYCQHSREV PWTFGQGTKVEIK <u>GGGGSGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG</u> QVQLVQSGAEVKKPGASV KVSCKASGYTFTNYGMNWVRQAPGQGLKWMGWINTYTGEPTYADAF KGRVTMTRDTSISTAYMELSRLRSDDTAVYYCARDYGDYGMDYWGQ GTTVTVSS
49	CD70B scFv nucleotide sequence	CAGGTCCAGTTGGTGCAAAGCGGGGGGGGGAGGTGAAAAAAACCCGGCG CTTCCGTGAAGGTGTCCTGTAAGGCGTCCGGTTATACGTTCACGAAC TACGGGATGAATTGGGTTCGCCAAGCGCCGGGGCAGGGACTGAAAT GGATGGGGTGGATAAATACCTACACCGGCGAACCTACATACGCCGA CGCTTTTAAAGGGCGAGTCACTATGACGCGCGATACCAGCATATCCA CCGCATACATGGAGCTGTCCCGACTCCGGTCAGACGACAGGGCTGTC TACTATTGTGCTCGGGACTATGGCGATTATGGCATGGACTACTGGGG TCAGGGTACGACTGTAACAGTTAGGCGATTATGGCATGGACGCGGCAGTGGC GGGGGGGGAAGCGGAGGAGGGGGTTCTGGTGAACATAGTTATGACCC AATCCCCAGATAGTTTGGCGGTTTCAACGAGCGGAAGGGCAACGATT AATTGTCGCGCATCAAAGAGCGTTTCAACGAGCGGAAGGGCAACGATT AATTGTCGCGCATCAAAGAGCGTTTCAACGAGCGGACGATATTCTTTTAT GCATTGGTACCAGCAAAAACCCGGACAACCGCCGAAGCTGCTGATC TACTTGGCTTCAAATCTTGAGTCTGGGGTGCCGGACCGATTTCTGG TAGTGGAAGCGGAACTGACTTTACGCTCACGATCAGTTCACTGCAGG CTGAGGATGTAGCGGTCTATTATTGCCAGCACAGTAGAGAAGTCCCC TGGACCTTCGGTCAAGGCACGAACGAAAGTAGAAATTAAA
50	CD70B scFv amino acid sequence (linker underlined)	QVQLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKVSCKASGYTFTNYGMNWVRQAPGQGLK WMGWINTYTGEPTYADAFKGRVTMTRDTSISTAYMELSRLRSDDTAV YYCARDYGDYGMDYWGQGTTVTVSS <u>GGGGSGGGGSGGGGSG</u> DIVMT QSPDSLAVSLGERATINCRASKSVSTSGYSFMHWYQQKPGQPPKLLIYL ASNLESGVPDRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQAEDVAVYYCQHSREVPWTFG QGTKVEIK
51	CD70 VH	QVQLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKVSCKASGYTFTNYGMNWVRQAPGQGLK WMGWINTYTGEPTYADAFKGRVTMTRDTSISTAYMELSRLRSDDTAV YYCARDYGDYGMDYWGQGTTVTVSS
52	CD70 VL	DIVMTQSPDSLAVSLGERATINCRASKSVSTSGYSFMHWYQQKPGQPP KLLIYLASNLESGVPDRFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLQAEDVAVYYCQHSREV PWTFGQGTKVEIK
53	Linker	GGGGSGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
54	BCMA rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG

	CCAAGATTGATAGCTTGTGCCTGTCCCTGAGTCCCAGTCCATCACGA
	GCAGCTGGTTTCTAAGATGCTATTTCCCGTATAAAGCATGAGACCGT
	GACTTGCCAGCCCCAGAGCCCCGCCCTTGTCCATCACTGGCATCT
	GGACTCCAGCCTGGGTTGGGGCAAAGAGGGAAATGAGATCATGTCC
	TAACCCTGATCCTCTTGTCCCACAGATATCCAGAACCCTGACCCTGC
	CGTGTACCAGCTGAGAGAGACTCTAAATCCAGTGACAAGTCTGTCT
	TATTCACCGATTTTGATTCTCAAAACAAATGTGTCACAAAAGTAAGGAT
	TCTCATCTCTATATCACACACAAAAACTCTCTCCTACACATCACCTCTAT
	AATGCGGGCCAAGATCTGCACACTGGTATTTCGGTTTTTGGGGCCGC
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	GTACAAGGTGGGACTGGGACGGCTTCTTTGACCCCTGGGGGCCAGGG
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	GAGGGGCTTGGACTTCGCTTGTGATATTTACATTTGGGCTCCGTTGG

		GTA ATC A CAGGA ATCGCA A ACCGGGGCAGA A AGA A ACTCCTGTATAT
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		CTTCCCCAGCCCAGGTAAGGGCAGCTTTGGTGCCTTCGCAGGCTGTT
		TCCTTGCTTCAGGAATGGCCAGGTTCTGCCCAGAGCTCTGGTCAATG
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		GTTGGCCACTCCCTCTCTGCGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGGGC
		GACCAAAGGTCGCCCGACGCCCGGGCTTTGCCCGGGCGGCCTCAGT
		GAGCGAGCGAGCGCGCAGCTGCCTGCAGG
55	BCMA	GAGATGTAAGGAGCTGCTGTGACTTGCTCAAGGCCTTATATCGAGTA
	RHA to	AACGGTAGTGCTGGGGGCTTAGACGCAGGTGTTCTGATTTATAGTTCA
	LHA	AAACCTCTATCAATGAGAGAGCAATCTCCTGGTAATGTGATAGATTT
		CCCAACTTAATGCCAACATACCATAAACCTCCCATTCTGCTAATGCC
		CAGCCTAAGTTGGGGAGACCACTCCAGATTCCAAGATGTACAGTTTG
		CTTTGCTGGGCCTTTTTCCCATGCCTGCCTTTACTCTGCCAGAGTTAT
		ATTGCTGGGGTTTTTGAAGAAGATCCTATTAAATAAAAGAATAAGCA
		GTATTATTAAGTAGCCCTGCATTTCAGGTTTCCTTGAGTGGCAGGCC
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		GGTTTCTAAGATGCTATTTCCCGTATAAAGCATGAGACCGTGACTTG
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56	BCMA	ATGGCGCTTCCGGTGACAGCACTGCTCCTCCCCTTGGCGCTGTTGCT
	CAR	CCACGCAGCAAGGCCGCAGGTGCAGCTGGTGCAGAGCGGAGCCGAG
	nucleotide	CTCAAGAAGCCCGGAGCCTCCGTGAAGGTGAGCTGCAAGGCCAGCG
	sequence	GCAACACCCTGACCAACTACGTGATCCACTGGGTGAGACAAGCCCC
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	acid	ASTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYYCTRWDWDGFFDPWGQGTTVTVSSGGGG
	sequence	SGGGGSGGGGSEIVMTQSPATLSVSPGERASISCRASQSLVHSNGNTHL

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59	BCMA	QVQLVQSGAELKKPGASVKVSCKASGNTLTNYVIHWVRQAPGQRLEW
	scFv amino	MGYILPYNDLTKYSOKFOGRVTITRDKSASTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYY
	acid	CTRWDWDGFFDPWGOGTTVTVSSGGGGSGGGGGGGGGGGGGEIVMTOSPA
	sequence	TLSVSPGERASISCRASOSLVHSNGNTHLHWYOORPGOAPRLLIYSVSN
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		CTRWDWDGFFDPWGQGITVTVSS
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01	DCIVITY VL	RI I IVSVSNRESEVPARESGSGSGGGGGGGTDETI TISSVESEDEAVYYCSOTSHIP
		VTEGGGTKI EIK
		I II OGOTKELIK
62	CD70 VL	RASKSVSTSGYSFMH
	CDR1	
	(Kabat)	
63	CD70 VL	SKSVSTSGYSF
	CDR1	
	(Chothia)	
64	CD70 VL	LASNLES
	CDR2	
	(Kabat)	
65	CD70 VL	LAS
	CDR2	
	(Chothia)	
66	CD70 VL	QHSREVPWT
	CDR3	
	(Kabat)	
67	CD70 VL	SREVPW
	CDR3	

	(Chothia)	
68	CD70 VH	NYGMN
	CDR1	
	(Kabat)	
69	CD70 VH	GYTFTNYGMN
	CDR1	
	(Chothia)	
70	CD70 VH	WINTYTGEPTYADAFKG
	CDR2	
	(Kabat)	
71	CD70 VH	NTYTGE
	CDR2	
	(Chothia)	
72	CD70 VH	DYGDYGMDY
	CDR3	
	(Kabat)	
73	CD70 VH	CARDYGDYGMDYWG
	CDR3	
	(Chothia)	
74	BCMA VL	RASOSLVHSNGNTHLH
	CDR1	
	(Kabat)	
75	BCMA VL	RASOSLVHSNGNTHLH
	CDR1	
	(Chothia)	
76	BCMA VL	SVSNR
	CDR2	
	(Kabat)	
77	BCMA VL	SVSNR
	CDR2	
	(Chothia)	
78	BCMA VL	SQTSHIPYT
	CDR3	
	(Kabat)	
79	BCMA VL	SQTSHIPYT
	CDR3	
	(Chothia)	
80	BCMA VH	NYVIH
	CDR1	
	(Kabat)	
81	BCMA VH	GNTLTNY
	CDR1	
	(Chothia)	
82	BCMA VH	YILPYNDLTKYSQKFQG
	CDR2	
	(Kabat)	
83	BCMA VH	LPYNDL
	CDR2	
	(Chothia)	
84	BCMA VH	WDWDGFFDP
	CDR3	
	(Kabat)	
85	BCMA VH	WDWDGFFDP
	CDR3	
	(Chothia)	

86	TRAC	AGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGGCC
	target	
	sequence	
87	anti-CD33	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCGCCCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC
	CAR rAAV	GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
		CAGAGAGGGAGTGGCCAACTCCATCACTAGGGGTTCCTGCGGCCGC
		ACGCGTGAGATGTAAGGAGCTGCTGTGACTTGCTCAAGGCCTTATAT
		CGAGTAAACGGTAGTGCTGGGGCTTAGACGCAGGTGTTCTGATTTAT
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		GACTTGCCAGCCCCACAGAGCCCCGCCCTTGTCCATCACTGGCATCT
		GGACTCCAGCCTGGGTTGGGGGCAAAGAGGGAAATGAGATCATGTCC
		TAACCCTGATCCTCTTGTCCCACAGATATCCAGAACCCTGACCCTGC
		CGTGTACCAGCTGAGAGACTCTAAATCCAGTGACAAGTCTGTCT
		TATTCACCGATTTTGATTCTCAAACAAATGTGTCACAAAGTAAGGAT
		TCTGATGTGTATATCACAGACAAAACTGTGCTAGACATGAGGTCTAT
		GGACTTCAggeteeggtgeecgteagtgggeagagegeacategeecacagteecegagaagttgggg
		ggaggggtcggcaattgaaccggtgcctagagaaggtggcgcggggtaaactgggaaagtgatgtcgtgtact
		ggctccgcctttttcccgagggtgggggggagaaccgtatataagtgcagtagtcgccgtgaacgttctttttcgcaac
		gggtttgccgccagaacacaggtaagtgccgtgtgtggttcccgcgggcctggcctctttacgggttatggccctt
		gcgtgccttgaattacttccactggctgcagtacgtgattcttgatcccgagcttcgggttggaagtgggtgg
		gttcgaggccttgcgcttaaggagccccttcgcctcgtgcttgagttgaggcctggcctgggcgctggggccgcc
		gcgtgcgaatctggtggcaccttcgcgcctgtctcgctgctttcgataagtctctagccatttaaaatttttgatgacct
		gctgcgacgctttttttctggcaagatagtcttgtaaatgcgggccaagatctgcacactggtatttcggtttttgggg
		ccgcgggcggcggcggggcccgtgcgtcccagcgcacatgttcggcgaggcggggcctgcgagcgggcc
		accgagaatcggacggggtagtctcaagctggccggcctgctctggtgcctggcctggccgccgtgtatcg
		ccccgccctgggcggcaaggctggcccggtcggcaccagttgcgtgagcggaaagatggccgcttcccggcc
		ctgctgcagggagctcaaaatggaggacgcggcgctcgggagagcgggggggg
		aaaagggcctttccgtcctcagccgtcgcttcatgtgactccacggagtaccgggcgccgtccaggcacctcgat
		tagttctcgagcttttggagtacgtcgtctttaggttgggggggg
		gggtggagactgaagttaggccagcttggcacttgatgtaattctccttggaatttgccctttttgagtttggatcttgg
		ttcattctcaagcctcagacagtggttcaaagtttttttcttccatttcaggtgtcgtgaCCACCATGGCGCT
		TCCGGTGACAGCACTGCTCCTCCCCTTGGCGCTGTTGCTCCACGCAG
		CAAGGCCGGAAATCGTCCTCACACAATCCCCGGGGAGCCTCGCAGT
		CTGCCGATAAGAGTAGCACAACAGCTTACATGCAGCTTTCTTCCCTG
		ACCAGCGAAGATTCAGCAGTTTACTACTGCGCTCGGGAAGTGCGCCT
		GCGATACTTTGATGTCTGGGGGTCAAGGAACTACAGTTACTGTATCAA

		GCAGTGCTGCTGCCTTTGTCCCGGTATTTCTCCCAGCCAAACCGACC
		ACGACTCCCGCCCCGCGCCCTCCGACACCCGCTCCCACCATCGCCTC
		TCAACCTCTTAGTCTTCGCCCCGAGGCATGCCGACCCGCCGCGGGG
		GTGCTGTTCATACGAGGGGCTTGGACTTCGCTTGTGATATTTACATTT
		GGGCTCCGTTGGCGGGTACGTGCGGCGTCCTTTTGTTGTCACTCGTT
		ATTACTTTGTATTGTAATCACAGGAATCGCAAACGGGGCAGAAAGA
		AACTCCTGTATATATTCAAACAACCATTTATGAGACCAGTACAAACT
		ACTCAAGAGGAAGATGGCTGTAGCTGCCGATTTCCAGAAGAAGAAG
		GAGACCCGGAAATGGGGGGTAAACCCCGAAGAAAGAATCCCCAAG
		AAGGACTCTACAATGAACTCCAGAAGGATAAGATGGCGGAGGCCTA
		CTCAGAAATAGGTATGAAGGGCGAACGACGACGGGGAAAAGGTCA
		CGATGGCCTCTACCAAGGGTTGAGTACGGCAACCAAAGATACGTAC
		GATGCACTGCATATGCAGGCCCTGCCTCCCAGATAATAATAAAATCG
		CTATCCATCGAAGATGGATGTGTGTGTGTGTTTTTTGTGTGTG
		CAAATCTGACTTTGCATGTGCAAACGCCTTCAACAACAGCATTATTC
		CAGAAGACACCTTCTTCCCCAGCCCAGGTAAGGGCAGCTTTGGTGCC
		TTCGCAGGCTGTTTCCTTGCTTCAGGAATGGCCAGGTTCTGCCCAGA
		CCTCTCCTC A ATCATCTCT A A A ACTCCTCTCA ATCCCTCTCCCCCC
		TTATCCATTCCCACCAAAACCCTCTTTTTACTAACAAAACACTCACCC
		AGAAGGIGGCAGGAGAGGGCACGIGGCCCAGCCICAGICICICCAA
		CIGAGITCCIGCCIGCCIGCCITIGCICAGACIGITIGCCCCITACIG
		CICITCIAGGCCICATICIAAGCCCCITCICCAAGIIGCCICICCIIA
		TTTCTCCCTGTCTGCCAAAAAATCTTTCCCAGCTCACTAAGTCAGTC
		CACGCAGTCACTCATTAACCCACCAATCACTGATTGTGCCGGCACAT
		GAATGCACCAGGTGTTGAAGTGGAGGAATTAAAAAGTCAGATGAGG
		GGTGTGCCCAGAGGAAGCACCATTCTAGTTGGGGGGAGCCCATCTGT
		CAGCTGGGAAAAGTCCAAATAACTTCAGATTGGAATGTGTTTTAACT
		CAGGGTTGAGAAAACAGCTACCTTCAGGACAAAAGTCAGGGAAGGG
		CTCTCTGAAGAAATGCTACTTGAAGATACCAGCCCTACCAAGGGCA
		GGGAGAGGACCCTATAGAGGCCTGGGACAGGAGCTCAATGAGAAA
		GGT & ACC ACGTCCCG ACCCG ACCCTCC ACCGTCCTCCCT ACGA A
		CCCCTAGTGATGGAGTTGGCCACTCCCTCTCTCCCGCCCCCCCC
00	• 1	
88	signal	MILLEVISELCELPHPAFELIP
	peptide	
89	signal	MALPVTALLLPLALLLHAARP
	peptide	
90	CD8a	FVPVFLPAKPTTTPAPRPPTPAPTIASQPLSLRPEACRPAAGG
	transmembr	AVHTRGLDFACDIYIWAPLAGTCGVLLLSLVITLYCNHRNR
	ane domain	
91	CD70	UCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAU
	sgRNA	
	(E1_T1)	
	spacer	
92	CD70	AUCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAA
	sgRNA	
	(F1 T3)	
	snacer	
02	CD70	
93		CUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU
	sgknA	

	(E1_T4)	
	spacer	
94	CD70	GCUUUGGUCCCAUUGGUCGC
	sgRNA	
	(E1_T7)	
	spacer	
95	CD70	GCCCGCAGGACGCACCCAUA
	sgRNA	
	(E1 T8)	
	spacer	
96	CD70	GUGCAUCCAGCGCUUCGCAC
	soRNA	
	(E1 T10)	
	spacer	
07	CD70	
	sor RNA	
	(F3 T1)	
	(LJ_11)	
08		
90	spacer	
00	ROM	
22		
	sgrina	
100	spacer	
100	PD-1	
	Sgrina	
101	spacer	
101		
	Sgrina	
	(EI_13)	
102	spacer	
102		A*U*C*ACCAAGCCCGCGACCAA
	SgRNA	
	(E1_14)	
102	spacer	
105		
	Sgrina	
	(EI_I/)	
104	spacer	
104		G*C*U*UUGGULLLAUUGGULGL
	Sgrina	
	(EI_18)	
105	spacer	
105		G*L*LUGLAUGALULAULAUA
	sgrina	
	(EI_II0)	
106	spacer	
106		G*U*G*CAUCLAGUGUUUGLAU
	sgrnA	
	(E3_110)	
107	spacer	
107		
	SgKNA	
	(EI_I3)	
100	spacer	
108	TRAC	A*G*A*GCAACAGUGCUGUGGCC
	spacer	

109	β2Μ	G*C*U*ACUCUCUUUCUGGCC
	spacer	
110	PD-1	C*U*G*CAGCUUCUCCAACACAU
	sgRNA	
	spacer	
111	CD70	TCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAT <u>GGG</u>
	sgRNA	
	$(E1_11)$ with PAM	
112	CD70	ATCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAATGG
112	sgRNA	
	(E1_T3)	
	with PAM	
113	CD70	CGGTGCGGCGCAGGCCCTAT <u>GGG</u>
	sgRNA	
	$(E1_14)$	
114	CD70	GCTTTGGTCCCATTGGTCGCGGG
111	sgRNA	
	(Ĕ1_T7)	
	with PAM	
115	CD70	GCCCGCAGGACGCACCCATA <u>GGG</u>
	sgRNA	
	(E1_18)	
116	CD70	GTGCATCCAGCGCTTCGCACAGG
110	sgRNA	onden redence <u>nde</u>
	(E1_T10)	
	with PAM	
117	CD70	CAGCTACGTATCCATCGTGA <u>TGG</u>
	sgRNA	
	with PAM	
118	TRAC	AGAGCAACAGTGCTGTGGCCTGG
	sgRNA with	
	PAM	
119	β2Μ	GCTACTCTCTTTCTGGCC <u>TGG</u>
	sgRNA with	
120	PAM PD 1	
120	soRNA with	CIUCAUCITETECAACACAT <u>COU</u>
	PAM	
121	CD28	TCAAAGCGGAGTAGGTTGTTGCATTCCGATTACATGAATATGACTCC
	nucleotide	TCGCCGGCCTGGGCCGACAAGAAAACATTACCAACCCTATGCCCCC
	sequence	CCACGAGACTTCGCTGCGTACAGGTCC
122		
	LHA	AACGGTAGTGCTGGGGCTTAGACGCAGGTGTTCTGATTTATAGTTCA
		AAACCTCTATCAATGAGAGAGCAATCTCCTGGTAATGTGATAGATTT
		CCCAACTTAATGCCAACATACCATAAACCTCCCATTCTGCTAATGCC
		CAGCCTAAGTTGGGGGAGACCACTCCAGATTCCAAGATGTACAGTTTG
		CTTTGCTGGGCCTTTTTCCCATGCCTGCCTTTACTCTGCCAGAGTTAT

122		TTGATAGCTTGTGCCTGTCCCTGAGTCCCAGTCCATCACGAGCAGCT GGTTTCTAAGATGCTATTTCCCGTATAAAGCATGAGACCGTGACTTG CCAGCCCCACAGAGCCCCGCCCTTGTCCATCACTGGCATCTGGACTC CAGCCTGGGTTGGGGCAAAGAGGGAAATGAGATCATGTCCTAACCC TGATCCTCTTGTCCCACAGATATCCAGAAACCCTGACCCTGCCGTGTA CCAGCTGAGAGACTCTAAATCCAGTGACAAGTCTGTCTGCCTATTCA CCGATTTTGATTCTCAAACAAATGTGTCACAAAGTAAGGATTCTGAT GTGTATATCACAGACAAAACTGTGCTAGACATGAGGTCTATGGACTT CA
123	EF1α promoter	GGCTCCGGTGCCCGTCAGTGGGCAGAGCGCACATCGCCCACAGTCC CCGAGAAGTTGGGGGGGGAGGGGTCGGCAATTGAACCGGTGCCTAGAG AAGGTGGCGCGGGGGAAACTGGGGAAAGTGATGTCGTGTACTGGCTC CGCCTTTTTCCCGAGGGTGGGGGGAGAACCGTATATAAGTGCAGTAGT CGCCGTGAACGTTCTTTTTCGCAACGGGTTTGCCGCCAGAACACAGG TAAGTGCCGTGCGTGGATCCCGCGGGCCTGGCTTTACGGGAACACAGG CAGCCTTGCGTGCGTGGAATTACTTCCACTGGCTGCAGTACGTGATT CTTGATCCCGAGCTTCGGGTTGGAAGTGGGGGGGGGG
124	Synthetic poly(A) signal	AATAAAATCGCTATCCATCGAAGATGGATGTGTGTGTGTTGGTTTTTGTG TG
125	TRAC- RHA	TGGAGCAACAAATCTGACTTTGCATGTGCAAACGCCTTCAACAACA GCATTATTCCAGAAGACACCTTCTTCCCCAGCCCAG

		CCAAGGGCAGGGAGAGGACCCTATAGAGGCCTGGGACAGGAGCTC AATGAGAAAGG
126	CD8a transmembr ane	IYIWAPLAGTCGVLLLSLVITLY
127	CD70 forward primer	TCGTCGGCAGCGTCAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGcccaacttttccatctcaactca ccccaagtg
128	CD70 reverse primer	GTCTCGTGGGCTCGGAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGcccctcctgcgctagcgga
129	CD70 Indel	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCAAGCCCGCG— CAATGGGACCAAAGCAGCCCGCAGGACG
130	CD70 Indel	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCAAGCCCGCGAACCAATGGGACCAAA GCAGCCCGCAGGACG
131	CD70 Indel	CACACCACGAGGCAGATC ACCAATGGGACCAAAGCAGCCCGCAGGACG
132	CD70 Indel	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCAAGCCCGCG- CCAATGGGACCAAAGCAGCCCGCAGGACG
133	CD70 Indel	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCAAGCCCGC- ACCAATGGGACCAAAGCAGCCCGCAGGACG
134	CD70 Indel	CACACCACGAGGCAGATCACCA AGCCCGCAGGACG
135	Anti-CD33	GAGATGTAAGGAGCTGCTGTGACTTGCTCAAGGCCTTATATCGAGT
	CAR	AAACGGTAGTGCTGGGGGCTTAGACGCAGGTGTTCTGATTTATAGTTC
	Donor	AAAACCTCTATCAATGAGAGAGCAATCTCCTGGTAATGTGATAGAT
		TTCCCAACTTAATGCCAACATACCATAAACCTCCCATTCTGCTAATG
	RHA to	
	4100	TATATTGCTGGGGTTTTGAAGAAGATCCTATTAAATAAAAGAATAA
	41BB	GCAGTATTATTAAGTAGCCCTGCATTTCAGGTTTCCTTGAGTGGCAG
	costini.	GCCAGGCCTGGCCGTGAACGTTCACTGAAATCATGGCCTCTTGGCC
		AAGATTGATAGCTTGTGCCTGTCCCTGAGTCCCAGTCCATCACGAGC
		CTTGCCAGCCCCACAGAGCCCCGCCCTTGTCCATCACTGGCATCTGG
		ACTCCAGCCTGGGTTGGGGGCAAAGAGGGAAATGAGATCATGTCCTA
		ACCCTGATCCTCTTGTCCCACAGATATCCAGAACCCTGACCCTGCCG
		TGTACCAGCTGAGAGAGCTCTAAATCCAGTGACAAGTCTGTCT
		GACTTCAggctccggtgcccgtcagtgggcagagcgcacatcgcccacagtccccgagaagttggggg
		gagggtcggcaattgaaccggtgcctagagaaggtggcgcggggtaaactgggaaagtgatgtcgtgtactg
		gctccgcctttttcccgagggtgggggggagaaccgtatataagtgcagtagtcgccgtgaacgttctttttcgcaacg
		ggtttgccgccagaacacaggtaagtgccgtgtgtgtgttcccgcgggcctggcctctttacgggttatggcccttg
		cgrgccrrgaartactrccacrggcrgcagtacgrgattcrrgatcccgagcrtcgggtrggaagtgggggggggg
		acgtgcgaatctggtgcaccttcgcgcctgtctcgctgcttcgataagtctcggcctgggcgctgggggccgcc
		tgetgegacgetttttttetggeaagatagtettgtaaatgegggecaagatetgeacaetggtattteggtttttggg
		ccgcgggcggcggcggggcccgtgcgtcccagcgcacatgttcggcgaggcgggggcctgcgagcggg
		caccgagaatcggacggggtagtctcaagctggccggcctgctctggtgcctggcctggccgcgcgtgtatc

	gccccgccctgggcggcaaggctggcccggtcggcaccagttgcgtgagcggaaagatggccgcttcccgg
	ccctgctgcagggagctcaaaatggaggacgcggcgctcgggagagcgggggggg
	ggaaaagggcettteegteeteageegtegetteatgtgaeteeaeggagtaeeggegeegteeaggeaeete
	gattagttetegagettttggagtaegtegtetttaggttgggggggg
	gagtgggtggagactgaagttaggccagcttggcacttgatgtaattctccttggaatttgccctttttgagtttggat
	cttggttcattctcaagcctcagacagtggttcaaagtttttttcttccatttcaggtgtcgtgaCCACCATGG
	CGCTTCCGGTGACAGCACTGCTCCTCCCCTTGGCGCTGTTGCTCCAC
	GCAGCAAGGCCGGAAATCGTCCTCACACAATCCCCGGGGAGCCTCG
	CAGTCAGTCCTGGGGAACGAGTCACTATGAGCTGCAAATCCAGTCA
	GAGTGTTTTTTTTCTCAAGTAGCCAGAAGAACTACCTCGCATGGTACC
	AACAAATACCGGGGCAATCTCCCCGCTTGCTTATATACTGGGCAAGT
	ACCCGCGAATCCGGCGTACCGGATCGATTCACGGGATCTGGGTCAG
	GTACTGATTTCACTTTGACTATCAGCTCTGTTCAGCCTGAAGATTTG
	GCAATTTACTACTGTCACCAATACTTGAGTAGCCGAACTTTCGGCCA
	GGGCACGAAGCTCGAAATCAAGGGCGGAGGGGGGGGGGG
	GGGCGGTTCTGGCGGTGGAGGAAGCCAAGTACAGTTGCAACAGCCA
	GGGGCGGAGGTCGTAAAACCTGGGGCGTCTGTCAAGATGAGCTGTA
	AAGCAAGTGGATACACCTTCACCTCCTACTATATACATTGGATTAAG
	CAAACTCCGGGTCAGGGGCTGGAATGGGTTGGCGTTATATACCCCG
	GGAACGATGATATATCATACAACCAAAAATTTCAAGGCAAGGCGAC
	TCTGACTGCCGATAAGAGTAGCACAACAGCTTACATGCAGCTTTCTT
	CCCTGACCAGCGAAGATTCAGCAGTTTACTACTGCGCTCGGGAAGT
	GCGCCTGCGATACTTTGATGTCTGGGGTCAAGGAACTACAGTTACTG
	TATCAAGCAGTGCTGCTGCCTTTGTCCCGGTATTTCTCCCAGCCAAA
	CCGACCACGACTCCCGCCCCGCGCCCTCCGACACCCGCTCCCACCAT
	CGCCTCTCAACCTCTTAGTCTTCGCCCCGAGGCATGCCGACCCGCCG
	CCGGGGGTGCTGTTCATACGAGGGGCTTGGACTTCGCTTGTGATATT
	TACATTTGGGCTCCGTTGGCGGGGTACGTGCGGCGTCCTTTTGTTGTC
	ACTCGTTATTACTTTGTATTGTAATCACAGGAATCGCAAACGGGGCA
	GAAAGAAACTCCTGTATATATTCAAACAACCATTTATGAGACCAGT
	ACAAACTACTCAAGAGGAAGATGGCTGTAGCTGCCGATTTCCAGAA
	GAAGAAGAAGGAGGATGTGAACTGCGAGTGAAGTTTTCCCGAAGCG
	CAGACGCTCCGGCATATCAGCAAGGACAGAATCAGCTGTATAACGA
	ACTGAATTTGGGACGCCGCGAGGAGTATGACGTGCTTGATAAACGC
	CGGGGGAGAGACCCCGGAAATGGGGGGGTAAACCCCCGAAGAAAGA
	CCCCAAGAAGGACTCTACAATGAACTCCAGAAGGATAAGATGGCGG
	AGGCCTACTCAGAAATAGGTATGAAGGGCGAACGACGACGGGGAA
	AAGGTCACGATGGCCTCTACCAAGGGTTGAGTACGGCAACCAAAGA
	TACGTACGATGCACTGCATATGCAGGCCCTGCCTCCCAGATAATAAT
	AAAATCGCTATCCATCGAAGATGGATGTGTGTGTGTGTTTTTGTGTGT
	GGAGCAACAAATCTGACTTTGCATGTGCAAACGCCTTCAACAACAG
	CATTATTCCAGAAGACACCTTCTTCCCCAGCCCAGGTAAGGGCAGCT
	TTGGTGCCTTCGCAGGCTGTTTCCTTGCTTCAGGAATGGCCAGGTTC
	TGCCCAGAGCTCTGGTCAATGATGTCTAAAACTCCTCTGATTGGTGG
	TCTCGGCCTTATCCATTGCCACCAAAACCCTCTTTTTACTAAGAAAC
	AGTGAGCCTTGTTCTGGCAGTCCAGAGAATGACACGGGAAAAAAGC
	AGATGAAGAGAAGGTGGCAGGAGAGGGCACGTGGCCCAGCCTCAG
	TCTCTCCAACTGAGTTCCTGCCTGCCTGCCTTGCTCAGACTGTTTGC
	CCCTTACTGCTCTTCTAGGCCTCATTCTAAGCCCCCTTCTCCAAGTTGC
	CICICCTTATTTCTCCCTGTCTGCCAAAAAATCTTTCCCAGCTCACTA
	AGTCAGTCTCACGCAGTCACTCATTAACCCACCAATCACTGATTGTG
	CCGGCACATGAATGCACCAGGTGTTGAAGTGGAGGAATTAAAAAGT
	CAGATGAGGGGTGTGCCCAGAGGAAGCACCATTCTAGTTGGGGGAG
	CCCATCTGTCAGCTGGGAAAAGTCCAAATAACTTCAGATTGGAATG
	TGTTTTAACTCAGGGTTGAGAAAACAGCTACCTTCAGGACAAAAGT
	CAGGGAAGGGCTCTCTGAAGAAATGCTACTTGAAGATACCAGCCCT

		ACCAAGGGCAGGGAGAGGACCCTATAGAGGCCTGGGACAGGAGCT
		CAATGAGAAAGG
136	Anti-CD33 CAR 41BB costim	CAATGAGAAAGG CCACCATGGCGCTTCCGGTGACAGCACTGCTCCTCCCCTTGGCGCTG TTGCTCCACGCAGCAAGGCCGGAAATCGTCCTCACACAATCCCCGG GGAGCCTCGCAGTCAGTCCTGGGGAACGAGTCACTATGAGCTGCAA ATCCAGTCAGAGTGTTTTTTTTCTCAAGTAGCCAGAAGAACTACCTCG CATGGTACCAACAAATACCGGGGCAATCTCCCCGCTTGCTT
137	Anti-CD33	EIVI TOSPOSI AVSPOERVTMSCKSSOSVEESSSOKNYI AWYOOIPOOS
13/	scFv Linker underlined	PRLLIYWASTRESGVPDRFTGSGSGTDFTLTISSVQPEDLAIYYCHQYLS SRTFGQGTKLEIK <u>GGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG</u> QVQLQQPGAEVVKPGASV KMSCKASGYTFTSYYIHWIKQTPGQGLEWVGVIYPGNDDISYNQKFQG KATLTADKSSTTAYMQLSSLTSEDSAVYYCAREVRLRYFDVWGQGTT VTVSS
138	Anti-CD33 scFv	GAAATCGTCCTCACACAATCCCCGGGGAGCCTCGCAGTCAGT

		TATCATACAACCAAAAATTTCAAGGCAAGGCGACTCTGACTGCCGA TAAGAGTAGCACAACAGCTTACATGCAGCTTTCTTCCCTGACCAGCG AAGATTCAGCAGTTTACTACTGCGCTCGGGAAGTGCGCCTGCGATA CTTTGATGTCTGGGGTCAAGGAACTACAGTTACTGTATCAAGC
139	Anti-CD33 CAR 41BB costim.	MALPVTALLLPLALLLHAARPEIVLTQSPGSLAVSPGERVTMSCKSSQS VFFSSSQKNYLAWYQQIPGQSPRLLIYWASTRESGVPDRFTGSGSGTDF TLTISSVQPEDLAIYYCHQYLSSRTFGQGTKLEIKGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG GSQVQLQQPGAEVVKPGASVKMSCKASGYTFTSYYIHWIKQTPGQGLE WVGVIYPGNDDISYNQKFQGKATLTADKSSTTAYMQLSSLTSEDSAVY YCAREVRLRYFDVWGQGTTVTVSSSAAAFVPVFLPAKPTTTPAPRPPTP APTIASQPLSLRPEACRPAAGGAVHTRGLDFACDIYIWAPLAGTCGVLL LSLVITLYCNHRNRKRGRKKLLYIFKQPFMRPVQTTQEEDGCSCRFPEE EEGGCELRVKFSRSADAPAYQQGQNQLYNELNLGRREEYDVLDKRRG RDPEMGGKPRRKNPQEGLYNELQKDKMAEAYSEIGMKGERRRGKGH DGLYQGLSTATKDTYDALHMQALPPR
140	anti-CD33 antibody VH CDRs underlined and in bold	QVQLQQPGAEVVKPGASVKMSCKASGYTFT <u>SYYIH</u> WIKQTPGQGLEW VG VIYPGNDDISYNQKFQG KATLTADKSSTTAYMQLSSLTSEDSAVYY CAR <u>EVRLRYFDV</u> WGQGTTVTVSS
141	anti-CD33 antibody VL CDRs underlined and in bold	EIVLTQSPGSLAVSPGERVTMSC <u>KSSQSVFFSSSQKNYLA</u> WYQQIPGQS PRLLIY <u>WASTRES</u> GVPDRFTGSGSGTDFTLTISSVQPEDLAIYYC <u>HQYLS</u> <u>SRT</u> FGQGTKLEIK
142	anti-CD33 antibody VH CDR1 (Kabat)	<u>SYYIH</u>
143	anti-CD33 antibody ' VH CDR2 (Kabat)	VIYPGNDDISYNQKFQG
144	anti-CD33 antibody VH CDR3 (Kabat)	EVRLRYFDV
145	anti-CD33 antibody VL CDR1 (Kabat & Chothia)	KSSQSVFFSSSQKNYLA
146	anti-CD33 antibody	WASTRES

	VL CDR2	
	(Kabat &	
	Chothia	
	0110 0110	
147	anti-CD33	HQYLSSRT
	antibody	
	VI CDR3	
	(Kabat &	
	(Rabat &	
	Chouna)	
148	Anti-CD19	ATGCTTCTTTTGGTTACGTCTCTGTTGCTTTGCGAACTTCCTCATCCA
	CAR	GCGTTCTTGCTGATCCCCGATATTCAGATGACTCAGACCACCAGTAG
		CTTGTCTGCCTCACTGGGAGACCGAGTAACAATCTCCTGCAGGGCAA
	CD8[tm]-	GTCAAGACATTAGCAAATACCTCAATTGGTACCAGCAGAAGCCCGA
	CD28[co-	CGGAACGGTAAAACTCCTCATCTATCATACGTCAAGGTTGCATTCCG
	stimulatory	GAGTACCGTCACGATTTTCAGGTTCTGGGAGCGGAACTGACTATTCC
	domain]-	TTGACTATTTCAAACCTCGAGCAGGAGGACATTGCGACATATTTTTG
	CD3z)	TCAACAAGGTAATACCCTCCCTTACACTTTCGGAGGAGGAACCAAA
	(2002)	CTCGAAATTACCGGGTCCACCAGTGGCTCTGGGAAGCCTGGCAGTG
		GAGAAGGTTCCACTAAAGGCGAGGTGAAGCTCCAGGAGAGCGGCCC
		CGGTCTCGTTGCCCCCAGTCAAAGCCTCTCTGTAACGTGCACAGTGA
		GTGGTGTATCATTGCCTGATTATGGCGTCTCCTGGATAAGGCAGCCC
		CCGCGAAAGGGTCTTGAATGGCTTGGGGGTAATATGGGGCTCAGAGA
		GATA ACTCCA AGAGTCA AGTTTTCCTTA A A ATGA ACAGTTTGCAGAC
		TGACGATACCGCTATATATTATTGTGCTAAAACATTATTACTACGGCG
		GTAGTTACGCGATGGATTATTGGGGGGCAGGGGACTTCTGTCACAGTC
		GCCGCGAGGAGTATGACGTGCTTGATAAACGCCGGGGGGAGAGACCC
		GGAAATGGGGGGTAAACCCCCGAAGAAGAATCCCCCAAGAAGGACT
		CTACAATGAACTCCAGAAGGATAAGATGGCGGAGGCCTACTCAGAA
		ATAGGTATGAAGGGCGAACGACGACGGGGGAAAAGGTCACGATGGC
		CTCTACCAAGGGTTGAGTACGGCAACCAAAGATACGTACG
		TGCATATGCAGGCCCTGCCTCCCAGA
149	Anti-CD19	MLLLVTSLLLCELPHPAFLLIPDIQMTQTTSSLSASLGDRVTISCRASQDI
	CAR	SKYLNWYQQKPDGTVKLLIYHTSRLHSGVPSRFSGSGSGTDYSLTISNL
		EQEDIATYFCQQGNTLPYTFGGGTKLEITGSTSGSGKPGSGEGSTKGEV
	CD8[tm]-	KLQESGPGLVAPSQSLSVTCTVSGVSLPDYGVSWIRQPPRKGLEWLGVI
	CD28[co-	WGSETTYYNSALKSRLTIIKDNSKSQVFLKMNSLQTDDTAIYYCAKHY
	stimulatory	YYGGSYAMDYWGQGTSVTVSSAAAFVPVFLPAKPTTTPAPRPPTPAPTI
	domain]-	ASQPLSLRPEACRPAAGGAVHTRGLDFACDIYIWAPLAGTCGVLLLSLV
	CD3z)	ITLYCNHRNRSKRSRLLHSDYMNMTPRRPGPTRKHYQPYAPPRDFAAY
	Amino Acid	RSRVKFSRSADAPAYQQGQNQLYNELNLGRREEYDVLDKRRGRDPEM
		GGKPRRKNPQEGLYNELQKDKMAEAYSEIGMKGERRRGKGHDGLYQ
		GLSTATKDTYDALHMQALPPR

1 4 4 0	1 1 0 0 1 0	
150	Antı-CD19	GATATICAGATGACICAGACCACCAGTAGCITGICIGCCICACIGGG
	scFv	AGACCGAGTAACAATCTCCTGCAGGGCAAGTCAAGACATTAGCAAA
		TACCTCAATTGGTACCAGCAGAAGCCCCGACGGAACGGTAAAACTCC
		TCATCTATCATACGTCAACGTTGCATTCCCGGACTACCGTCACGATTT
		TCAGGTTCTGGGAGCGGAACTGACTATTCCTTGACTATTTCAAACCT
		CGAGCAGGAGGACATTGCGACATATTTTTGTCAACAAGGTAATACC
		CTCCCTTACACTTTCGGAGGAGGAGCAACCAAACTCGAAATTACCGGGTC
		GGCGAGGTGAAGCTCCAGGAGAGCGGCCCCGGTCTCGTTGCCCCCA
		GTCAAAGCCTCTCTGTAACGTGCACAGTGAGTGGTGTATCATTGCCT
		GATTATGGCGTCTCCTGGATAAGGCAGCCCCCGCGAAAGGGTCTTG
		AATGGCTTGGGGTAATATGGGGGCTCAGAGACAACGTATTATAACTC
		CAAGITITICCITAAAAIGAACAGITIGCAGACIGACGATACCGCIAI
		ATATTATTGTGCTAAACATTATTACTACGGCGGTAGTTACGCGATGG
		ATTATTGGGGGCAGGGGACTTCTGTCACAGTCAGTAGT
151	CD19 scFv	DIOMTOTTSSI SASI GDRVTISCRASODISKYI NWYOOKPDGTVKI LIY
1.01	emino agid	UTSDI USCUDSDESCEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGEGE
	sequence	GGTKLEIT <u>GSTSGSGKPGSGEGSTKG</u> EVKLQESGPGLVAPSQSLSVTCTV
	Linker	SGVSLPDYGVSWIRQPPRKGLEWLGVIWGSETTYYNSALKSRLTIIKDN
	underlined	SKSQVFLKMNSLQTDDTAIYYCAKHYYYGGSYAMDYWGQGTSVTVSS
152	Anti-CD19	EVKLQESGPGLVAPSQSLSVTCTVSGVSLPDYGVSWIRQPPRKGLEWLG
	VH	VIWGSETTYYNSALKSRL TIIKDNSKSOVELKMNSL OTDDTAIYYCAKH
		VVVCCSVAMDVWCOCTSVTVSS
		1110051AMD1W0Q015V1V55
152	Anti CD10	DIOMTOTTSSI SASI CDDVTISCDASODISKVI NWVOOKDOCTVKI I IV
155	Anti-CD19	
	VL	HTSRLHSGVPSRFSGSGSGTDYSLTISNLEQEDIATYFCQQGNTLPYTFG
		GGTKLEIT
154	Anti-CD19	GSTSGSGKPGSGEGSTKG
	scFv linker	
155		
1 1 5 5	anti-CD19	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCCCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC
155	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCGCCCGGCCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
155	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCGCCCGCCCGCCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
155	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCCCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
155	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
155	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCCCGCCCGCCCGCCCGGCCCG
	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCGCCGCCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCGGCG GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCGCGCCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG
	anti-CD19 CAR rAAV	CCTGCAGGCAGCTGCGCGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGCCCGGGC GTCGGGCGACCTTTGGTCGCCCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCG

	ACTGGCTCCGCCTTTTTCCCGAGGGGGGGGGGGGAGAACCGTATATAAGT
	GCAGTAGTCGCCGTGAACGTTCTTTTTCGCAACGGGTTTGCCGCCAG
	CGGGTTATGGCCCTTGCGTGCCTTGAATTACTTCCACTGCCTGC
	AATGCGGGCCAAGATCTGCACACTGGTATTTCGGTTTTTGGGGCCGC
	GGGCGGCGACGGGGCCCGTGCGTCCCAGCGCACATGTTCGGCGAGG
	CGGGGCCTGCGAGCGCGGCCACCGAGAATCGGACGGGGGTAGTCTC
	AAGCTGGCCGGCCTGCTCTGGTGCCTGGCCTCGCGCCGCCGTGTATC
	GCCCCGCCCTGGGCGGCAAGGCTGGCCCGGTCGGCACCAGTTGCGT
	GAGCGGAAAGATGGCCGCTTCCCGGCCCTGCTGCAGGGAGCTCAAA
	ATGGAGGACGCGGCGCTCGGGAGAGCGGGCGGGTGAGTCACCCACA
	CAAAGGAAAAGGGCCTTTCCGTCCTCAGCCGTCGCTTCATGTGACTC
	CACGGAGTACCGGGCGCCGTCCAGGCACCTCGATTAGTTCTCGAGCT
	TTTGGAGTACGTCGTCTTTAGGTTGGGGGGGGGGGGGTTTTATGCGATG
	GAGTTTCCCCACACTGAGTGGGTGGAGACTGAAGTTAGGCCAGCTT
	GGCACTTGATGTAATTCTCCTTGGAATTTGCCCTTTTTGAGTTTGGAT
	CTTGGTTCATTCTCAAGCCTCAGACAGTGGTTCAAAGTTTTTTTCTTC
	CATTTCAGGTGTCGTGACCACCATGCTTCTTTTGGTTACGTCTCTGTT
	GCTTTGCGAACTTCCTCATCCAGCGTTCTTGCTGATCCCCGATATTCA
	GATGACTCAGACCACCAGTAGCTTGTCTGCCTCACTGGGAGACCGA
	GTAACAATCTCCTGCAGGGCAAGTCAAGACATTAGCAAATACCTCA
	GGC1C1GGGAAGCC1GGCAG1GGAGAAGGT1CCAC1AAAGGCGAGG
	TGAAGCTCCAGGAGAGCGGCCCCGGTCTCGTTGCCCCCAGTCAAAG
	CCTCTCTGTAACGTGCACAGTGAGTGGTGTATCATTGCCTGATTATG
	GCGTCTCCTGGATAAGGCAGCCCCCGCGAAAGGGTCTTGAATGGCTT
	GGGGTAATATGGGGCTCAGAGACAACGTATTATAACTCCGCTCTCA
	AAAGTCGCTTGACGATAATAAAAGATAACTCCAAGAGTCAAGTTTT
	CCTTAAAATGAACAGTTTGCAGACTGACGATACCGCTATATATTATT
	GTGCTAAACATTATTACTACGGCGGTAGTTACGCGATGGATTATTGG
	GGGCAGGGGACTTCTGTCACAGTCAGTAGTGCTGCTGCCTTTGTCCC
	GGTATTTCTCCCAGCCAAACCGACCACGACTCCCGCCCCGCGCCCTC
	CGACACCCGCTCCCACCATCGCCTCTCAACCTCTTAGTCTTCGCCCC
	GAGGCATGCCGACCCGCCGCGGGGGGGGGGTGCTGTTCATACGAGGGGGCT
	TGGACTTCGCTTGTGATATTTACATTTGGGCTCCGTTGGCGGGTACG
	TGCGGCGTCCTTTTGTTGTCACTCGTTATTACTTTGTATTGTAATCAC
	AGGAATCGCTCAAAGCGGAGTAGGTTGTTGCATTCCGATTACATGA
	ATATGACTCCTCGCCGGCCTGGGCCGACAAGAAAACATTACCAACC
	CTATGCCCCCCACGAGACTTCGCTGCGTACAGGTCCCGAGTGAAGT
	TTTCCCGAAGCGCAGACGCTCCGGCATATCAGCAAGGACAGAATCA
	GCTGTATAACGAACTGAATTTGGGACGCCGCGAGGAGTATGACGTG
	GAAGAAAGAATCCCCAAGAAGGACTCTACAATGAACTCCAGAAGGA
	ΤΔΔGΔTGGCGGΔGGCCTΛCTCΛGΛΛΛΤΛGGTΛTGΛΛCCCCCΛΛΛΟΟΛ

		TITIGIGIGIGGAGCAACAAATCIGACTITGCATGIGCAAACGCCIT
		CAACAACAGCATTATTCCAGAAGACACCTTCTTCCCCAGCCCAGGTA
		AGGGCAGCTTTGGTGCCTTCGCAGGCTGTTTCCTTGCTTCAGGAATG
		GCCAGGTTCTGCCCAGAGCTCTGGTCAATGATGTCTAAAACTCCTCT
		GATTGGTGGTCTCGGCCTTATCCATTGCCACCAAAACCCTCTTTTAC
		TAAGAAACAGTGAGCCTTGTTCTGGCAGTCCAGAGAATGACACGGG
		AAAAAAGCAGATGAAGAGAAGGTGGCAGGAGAGGGCACGTGGCCC
		AGCCTCAGTCTCCCAACTGAGTTCCTGCCTGCCTGCCTTGCTCAGA
		CTGTTTGCCCCTTACTGCTCTTCTAGGCCTCATTCTAAGCCCCCTTCTC
		TGGGGGAGCCCATCIGICAGCIGGGAAAAGICCAAAIAACIICAGA
		TTGGAATGTGTTTTAACTCAGGGTTGAGAAAACAGCTACCTTCAGGA
		CAAAAGTCAGGGAAGGGCTCTCTGAAGAAATGCTACTTGAAGATAC
		CAGCCCTACCAAGGGCAGGGAGAGGACCCTATAGAGGCCTGGGACA
		GGAGCTCAATGAGAAAGGTAACCACGTGCGGACCGAGGCTGCAGCG
		TCGTCCTCCCTAGGAACCCCTAGTGATGGAGTTGGCCACTCCCTCTC
		TGCGCGCTCGCTCGCTCACTGAGGCCGGGCGACCAAAGGTCGCCCG
		ACGCCCGGGCTTTGCCCGGGCGGCCTCAGTGAGCGAGCGA
		AGCTGCCTGCAGG
156	Anti-CD19	GAGATGTAAGGAGCTGCTGTGACTTGCTCAAGGCCTTATATCGAGTA
100	CARLHA	AACGGTAGTGCTGGGGCTTAGACGCAGGTGTTCTGATTTATAGTTCA
	to RHA	
		GIAITATTAAGIAGCCCIGCATTICAGGIIICCIIGAGIGGCAGGCC
		AGGCCTGGCCGTGAACGTTCACTGAAATCATGGCCTCTTGGCCAAGA
		TIGATAGCTIGIGCCIGICCCIGAGICCCAGICCATCACGAGCAGCT
		GGTTTCTAAGATGCTATTTCCCGTATAAAGCATGAGACCGTGACTTG
		CCAGCCCCACAGAGCCCCGCCCTTGTCCATCACTGGCATCTGGACTC
		CAGCCTGGGTTGGGGCAAAGAGGGAAATGAGATCATGTCCTAACCC
		TGATCCTCTTGTCCCACAGATATCCAGAACCCTGACCCTGCCGTGTA
		CCAGCTGAGAGACTCTAAATCCAGTGACAAGTCTGTCTGCCTATTCA
		CCGATTTTGATTCTCAAACAAATGTGTCACAAAGTAAGGATTCTGAT
		GTGTATATCACAGACAAAACTGTGCTAGACATGAGGTCTATGGACTT
		CAGGCTCCGGTGCCCGTCAGTGGGCAGAGCGCACATCGCCCACAGT
		CCCCGAGAAGTTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
		AGAAGGTGGCGCGGGGTAAACTGGGAAAGTGATGTCGTGTACTGGC
		TCCGCCTTTTTTCCCGAGGGTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
		GTCGCCGTGAACGTTCTTTTTCGCAACGGGTTTGCCGCCAGAACACA
		GCCIGGGCGCIGGGGCCGCCGCGTGCGAATCTGGTGGCACCTTCGC
		GCCTGTCTCGCTGCTTTCGATAAGTCTCTAGCCATTTAAAATTTTTGA
		TGACCTGCTGCGACGCTTTTTTTCTGGCAAGATAGTCTTGTAAATGC
		GGGCCAAGATCTGCACACTGGTATTTCGGTTTTTGGGGGCCGCGGGCG
		GCGACGGGGCCCGTGCGTCCCAGCGCACATGTTCGGCGAGGCGGGG
		CCTGCGAGCGCGGCCACCGAGAATCGGACGGGGGTAGTCTCAAGCT
		GGCCGGCCTGCTCTGGTGCCTGGCCTCGCGCCGCCGTGTATCGCCCC
		GCCCTGGGCGGCAAGGCTGGCCCGGTCGGCACCAGTTGCGTGAGCG

	GAAAGATGGCCGCTTCCCGGCCCTGCTGCAGGGAGCTCAAAATGGA
	GGACGCGGCGCTCGGGAGAGCGGGCGGGTGAGTCACCCACACAAA
	GGAAAAGGGCCTTTCCGTCCTCAGCCGTCGCTTCATGTGACTCCACG
	GAGTACCGGGCGCCGTCCAGGCACCTCGATTAGTTCTCGAGCTTTTG
	GAGTACGTCGTCTTTAGGTTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGTTTTATGCGATGGAGT
	TTCCCCACACTGAGTGGGTGGAGACTGAAGTTAGGCCAGCTTGGCA
	CTTGATGTAATTCTCCTTGGAATTTGCCCCTTTTTGAGTTTGGATCTTG
	GTTCATTCTCAAGCCTCAGACAGTGGTTCAAAGTTTTTTTCTTCCATT
	TCAGGTGTGTGACCACCATGCTTCTTTTGGTTACGTCTCTGTTGCTT
	TGCGAACTTCCTCATCCAGCGTTCTTGCTGATCCCCGATATTCAGAT
	GACTCAGACCACCAGTAGCTTGTCTGCCTCACTGGGAGACCGAGTA
	GTAATATGGGGCTCAGAGACAACGTATTATAACTCCGCTCTCAAAA
	GICGCTIGACGATAATAAAAGATAACICCAAGAGTCAAGIITTICCTT
	AAAATGAACAGTTTGCAGACTGACGATACCGCTATATTATTGTGC
	GGGAGCCCATCTGTCAGCTGGGAAAAGTCCAAATAACTTCAGATTG

		GAATGTGTTTTAACTCAGGGTTGAGAAAACAGCTACCTTCAGGACA AAAGTCAGGGAAGGGCTCTCTGAAGAAATGCTACTTGAAGATACCA GCCCTACCAAGGGCAGGGAGAGGACCCTATAGAGGCCTGGGACAGG AGCTCAATGAGAAAGG
157	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T1)	TCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAAT
158	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T3)	ATCACCAAGCCCGCGACCAA
159	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T4)	CGGTGCGGCGCAGGCCCTAT
160	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T7)	GCTTTGGTCCCATTGGTCGC
161	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T8)	GCCCGCAGGACGCACCCATA
162	CD70 sgRNA (E1_T10)	GTGCATCCAGCGCTTCGCAC
163	CD70 sgRNA (E3_T1)	CAGCTACGTATCCATCGTGA
164	β2M sgRNA	GCTACTCTCTTTCTGGCC
165	PD-1 sgRNA	CTGCAGCTTCTCCAACACAT
166	anti-CD19 VL CDR1 (Kabat)	RASQDISKYLN
167	anti-CD19 VL CDR2 (Kabat)	HTSRLHS
168	anti-CD19 VL CDR3 (Kabat)	QQGNTLPYT
169	anti-CD19 VH CDR1 (Kabat)	DYGVS
170	anti-CD19 VH CDR2 (Kabat)	VIWGSETTYYNSALKS
171	anti-CD19 VH CDR3 (Kabat)	HYYYGGSYAMDY
172	anti-CD19 VL CDR1 (Chothia)	RASQDISKYLN

173	anti-CD19 VL CDR2	HTSRLHS
	(Chothia)	
174	anti-CD19 VL CDR3 (Chothia)	QQGNTLPYT
175	anti-CD19 VH CDR1 (Chothia)	GVSLPDY
176	anti-CD19 VH CDR2 (Chothia)	WGSET
177	anti-CD19 VH CDR3 (Chothia)	HYYYGGSYAMDY
178	anti-CD33 VH CDR1 (Chothia)	GYTFTSY
179	anti-CD33 VH CDR2 (Chothia)	YPGNDD
180	anti-CD33 VH CDR3 (Chothia)	EVRLRYFDV

All references, patents and patent applications disclosed herein are incorporated by reference with respect to the subject matter for which each is cited, which in some cases may encompass the entirety of the document.

5

The indefinite articles "a" and "an," as used herein in the specification and in the claims, unless clearly indicated to the contrary, should be understood to mean "at least one."

It should also be understood that, unless clearly indicated to the contrary, in any methods claimed herein that include more than one step or act, the order of the steps or acts of the method is not necessarily limited to the order in which the steps or acts of the method are recited.

10

In the claims, as well as in the specification above, all transitional phrases such as "comprising," "including," "carrying," "having," "containing," "involving," "holding," "composed of," and the like are to be understood to be open-ended, i.e., to mean including but not limited to. Only the transitional phrases "consisting of" and "consisting essentially of" shall be closed or semi-closed transitional phrases, respectively, as set forth in the United States

15 Patent Office Manual of Patent Examining Procedures, Section 2111.03.

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The terms "about" and "substantially" preceding a numerical value mean $\pm 10\%$ of the recited numerical value.

Where a range of values is provided, each value between the upper and lower ends of the range are specifically contemplated and described herein.

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What Is Claimed Is:

CLAIMS

An engineered T cell comprising a disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a
 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) that does not bind CD70.

2. The engineered T cell of claim 1, further comprising a disrupted T cell receptor alpha constant region (TRAC) gene.

10 3. The engineered T cell of claim 1 or 2, further comprising a disrupted beta-2microglobulin (β 2M) gene.

4. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 2-3, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR.

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5. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds anti-B cell maturation antigen (BCMA).

6. The engineered T cell of claim 5, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-BCMA20 antibody.

7. The engineered T cell of claim 5, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-BCMA single-chain variable fragment (scFv).

8. The engineered T cell of claim 7, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises variable heavy (VH) chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same variable light (VL) chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 60 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 61.

30 9. The engineered T cell of claim 7, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 60 and 61, respectively.

10. The engineered T cell of claim 7, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59.

35

11. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds CD33.

12. The engineered T cell of claim 11, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD335 antibody.

13. The engineered T cell of claim 11, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD33 scFv.

10 14. The engineered T cell of claim 13, wherein the anti-CD33 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 140 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 141.

15. The engineered T cell of claim 11, wherein the anti-CD33 scFv comprises VH and VL
15 chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 140 and 141, respectively.

16. The engineered T cell of claim 11, wherein the anti-CD33 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137.

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17. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds CD19.

18. The engineered T cell of claim 17, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD1925 antibody.

19. The engineered T cell of claim 17, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD19 scFv.

30 20. The engineered T cell of claim 19, wherein the anti-CD19 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 152 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 153.

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21. The engineered T cell of claim 19, wherein the anti-CD19 scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 152 and 153, respectively.

5 22. The engineered T cell of claim 19, wherein the anti-CD19 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 151.

- 23. An engineered T cell comprising:(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene;
- (ii) a disrupted β2M gene;
 (iii) a disrupted CD70 gene; and
 (iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that binds CD70.

24. The engineered T cell of claim 23, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the15 nucleic acid encoding the CAR.

25. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 23-24, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain comprising an anti-CD70 antibody.

20 26. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 23-24, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain comprising an anti-CD70 scFv.

27. The engineered T cell of claim 26, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody
25 comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 51 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 52.

28. The engineered T cell of claim 26, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 51 and 52, respectively.

30 29. The engineered T cell of claim 26, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50.

30. The engineered T cell of claim 26, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50.

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31. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 1-30, wherein the CAR comprises a CD28 or 41BB co-stimulatory domain.

32. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 1-31, wherein the CAR comprises a CD3ζ
5 signaling domain.

33. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 1-32, wherein the CAR comprises a CD8 transmembrane domain.

10 34. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 2-33, wherein there is a deletion in the *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells.

35. The engineered T cell of claim 34, wherein the deletion is 15-30 base pairs.

15 36. The engineered T cell of claim 34, wherein the deletion is 20 base pairs.

37. The engineered T cell of claim 34, wherein the deletion comprises SEQ ID NO: 86.

38. An engineered T cell comprising:

20 (i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.

25 39. An engineered T cell comprising:

(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 45;
(ii) a disrupted β2M gene; and
(iii) a disrupted *CD70* gene.

30

40. The engineered T cell of claim 39, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45.

41. An engineered T cell comprising:

(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene comprising a nucleic acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 44;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.

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42. The engineered T cell of claim 41, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44.

43. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 1-42, wherein the engineered T cellcomprises a disrupted programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) gene.

44. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 1-43, wherein the engineered T cell maintains cytotoxicity following 5 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen specific for the CAR.

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45. The engineered T cell of claim 44, wherein the engineered T cell maintains cytotoxicity following 10 rechallenges with the target cell.

46. The engineered T cell of any one of claims 40-41, wherein the target cell is a cancer cell.

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47. A population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise a disrupted *CD70* gene and a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that does not bind CD70.

48. The population of cells of claim 47, further comprising a disrupted *TRAC* gene.

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49. The population of cells of claim 47 or 48, further comprising a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene.

50. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-49, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR.

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51. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-50, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds anti-B cell maturation antigen (BCMA).

52. The population of cells of claim 51, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-BCMA35 antibody.

53. The population of cells of claim 51, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-BCMA single-chain variable fragment (scFv).

5 54. The population of cells of claim 53, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises variable heavy (VH) chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same variable light (VL) chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 60 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 61.

10 55. The population of cells of claim 53, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 60 and 61, respectively.

56. The population of cells of claim 53, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59.

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57. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-50, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds CD33.

58. The population of cells of claim 57, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD3320 antibody.

59. The population of cells of claim 57, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD33 scFv.

25 60. The population of cells of claim 59, wherein the anti-CD33 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 140 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 141.

61. The population of cells of claim 59, wherein the anti-CD33 scFv comprises VH and VL
30 chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 140 and 141, respectively.

62. The population of cells of claim 59, wherein the anti-CD33 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137.

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63. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-50, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds CD19.

64. The population of cells of claim 63, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD195 antibody.

65. The population of cells of claim 63, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD19 scFv.

10 66. The population of cells of claim 65, wherein the anti-CD19 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 152 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 153.

67. The population of cells of claim 65, wherein the anti-CD19 scFv comprises VH and VL
15 chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 152 and 153, respectively.

68. The population of cells of claim 65, wherein the anti-CD19 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 151.

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69. A population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene;

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene; and

(iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR that binds CD70.

70. The population of cells of claim 69, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain comprising an anti-CD70 antibody.

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71. The population of cells of claim 69, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain comprising an anti-CD70 scFv.

72. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-71, wherein the CAR comprises a CD2835 or 41BB co-stimulatory domain.

73. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-72, wherein the CAR comprises a CD3 ζ signaling domain.

5 74. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-73, wherein the CAR comprises a CD8 transmembrane domain.

75. A population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

10 (i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene;

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene

(iv) a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising (a) an ectodomain that comprises an anti-CD70 scFv, (b) a CD8 transmembrane domain, and (c) an endodomain that comprises a 41BB co-stimulatory domain and a CD3z signaling domain.

76. The population of cells of any one of claims 69-75, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR.

- 20 77. The population of cells of any one of claims 71-76, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 51 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 52.
- 25 78. The population of cells of claim 77, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 51 and 52, respectively.

79. The population of cells of claim 77, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50.

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80. The population of cells of claim 77, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50.

81. The population of cells of any one of claims 48-80, wherein there is a deletion in the
35 *TRAC* gene relative to unmodified T cells.

	82.	The engineered T cell of claim 81, wherein the deletion is 15-30 base pairs.
5	83.	The engineered T cell of claim 81, wherein the deletion is 20 base pairs.
	84.	The engineered T cell of claim 81, wherein the deletion comprises SEQ ID NO: 86.
	85. compri	A population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells ise:
10		(i) a disrupted TRAC gene, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises a nucleic acid
	encodi	ng a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46;
		(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and
		(iii) a disrupted <i>CD70</i> gene.
15	86.	A population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells
	compri	ise:
		(i) a disrupted TRAC gene, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises a nucleic acid
	encodi	ng a CAR, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 45;
		(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and
20		(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene.
	87.	The population of cells of claim 86, wherein the disrupted TRAC gene comprises the
	nucleic	e acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45.
25	88.	A population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells
	compri	
		(1) a disrupted TRAC gene comprising a nucleic acid sequence at least 90% identical to
	SEQ II	J NU: 44;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

30 (iii) a disrupted *CD70* gene.

89. The population of cells of claim 88, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44.

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90. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-89, wherein the engineered T cell maintains cytotoxicity following 5 rechallenges with a target cell, wherein the target cell expresses an antigen specific for the CAR.

5 91. The population of cells of claim 90, wherein the engineered T cell maintains cytotoxicity following 10 rechallenges with the target cell.

92. The population of cells of any one of claims 90-91, wherein the target cell is a cancer cell.

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93. The population of cells of any one of claims 49-92, wherein the disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene comprises at least one nucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NOS: 9-14.

94. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-93, wherein the disrupted *CD70* gene comprises at least one nucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NOS: 129-134.

95. The population of cells of any one of claims 48-94, wherein at least 90% of the engineered T cells do not express a detectable level of TCR surface protein.

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- 96. The population of cells of any one of claims 47-95, wherein the engineered T cells:(a) exhibit increased cellular proliferative capacity;
 - (b) exhibit increased cell lysis;
 - (c) exhibit reduced cellular exhaustion;
- 25 (d) maintain cytokine-dependent proliferation;
 - (e) exhibit increased cytokine secretion; or
 - (f) any combination of (a) (e),

relative to control T cells, wherein control T cells express endogenous CD70 protein.

- 30 97. A method comprising administering to a subject the population of cells of any one of claims 47-96.
 - 98. The method of claim 97, wherein the engineered T cells are engineered human T cells.
- 35 99. The method of claim 97 or 98, wherein the subject has a cancer.

100. The method of claim 99, wherein the cancer expresses CD70, BMCA, CD19, CD33 or combinations thereof.

5 101. The method of any one of claims 99-100, wherein the population of cells is administered to the subject in an amount effective to treat the cancer.

102. The method of any one of claims 99-101, wherein the cancer is a solid tumor malignancy or a hematological malignancy.

10

103. The method of claim 102, wherein the solid tumor malignancy is selected from the group consisting of: ovarian tumor, pancreatic tumor, kidney tumor, lung tumor, and intestinal tumor.

104. The method of claim 99, wherein the population of cells is administered to the subject inan amount effective to reduce the volume of a tumor in the subject.

105. A method of treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the subject the population of cells of any one of claims 47-96.

20 106. A method of treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the subject a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

25 (iii) a disrupted *CD70* gene,thereby treating the cancer in the subject.

107. A method of treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the subject a population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

30 (i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 45;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene,

thereby treating the cancer in the subject.

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108. The method of claim 107, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45.

109. A method of treating cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the subject a

population of cells comprising engineered T cells, wherein the engineered T cells comprise:

(i) a disrupted *TRAC* gene comprising a nucleic acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 44;

(ii) a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene; and

(iii) a disrupted CD70 gene,

10 thereby treating the cancer in the subject.

110. The method of claim 109, wherein the disrupted *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44.

15 111. A method for producing an engineered T cell, the method comprising:

(a) delivering to a T cell
an RNA-guided nuclease,
a gRNA targeting a *CD70* gene, and
a vector comprising a donor template that comprises a nucleic acid encoding a

20 CAR; and

(b) producing an engineered T cell comprising a disrupted CD70 gene and expressing the CAR.

112. The method of claim 111, further comprising delivering to the T cell a gRNA targeting a
25 *TRAC* gene; wherein the engineered T cell further comprises a disrupted *TRAC* gene.

113. The method of claim 112, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the CAR is flanked by left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene; and wherein the engineered T cell comprises the nucleic acid encoding the CAR in the *TRAC* gene.

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114. The method of any one of claims claim 111-113, further comprising delivering to the T cell a gRNA targeting a $\beta 2M$ gene; wherein the engineered T cell of further comprises a disrupted $\beta 2M$ gene.

115. A method for producing an engineered T cell, the method comprising

(a) delivering to a T cell

an RNA-guided nuclease,

a gRNA targeting a TRAC gene,

a gRNA targeting a β2M gene,
a gRNA targeting a CD70 gene, and
a vector comprising a donor template that comprises a nucleic acid encoding a CAR; and
(b) producing an engineered T cell.

10 116. The method of claim 115, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the CAR is flanked by left and right homology arms to the *TRAC* gene locus.

117. The method of any one of claims 111-116, wherein the RNA-guided nuclease is a Cas9 nuclease, optionally a *S. pyogenes* Cas9 nuclease.

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118. The method of any one of claims 112-117, wherein the gRNA targeting the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 98 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *TRAC* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30.

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119. The method of any one of claims 114-118, wherein the gRNA targeting the $\beta 2M$ gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 99 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 119, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the $\beta 2M$ gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 31.

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120. The method of any one of claims 111-119, wherein the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 94 or 95 or targets the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 114 or 115, and optionally wherein the gRNA targeting the *CD70* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 26 or 27.

30

121. The method of any one of claims 111-120, wherein the RNA-guided nuclease and gRNA are complexed in a ribonucleoprotein particle (RNP).

122. A method for producing an engineered T cell for immunotherapy against a target cell, comprising:

(a) disrupting a CD70 gene in a T cell, and

(b) expressing a CAR that binds to an antigen expressed on the target cell, wherein theantigen is not CD70.

123. The method of claim 122, wherein the target cell is a cancer cell.

124. The method of any one of claims 122-123, wherein the method is ex vivo.

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125. The method of any one of claims 122-124, further comprising disrupting a *TRAC* gene in the T cell.

126. The method of claim 125, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid in the disrupted *TRAC* gene.

127. The method of any one of claims 122-126, further comprising disrupting a $\beta 2M$ gene in the T cell.

20 128. The method of any one of claims 111-127, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds anti-B cell maturation antigen (BCMA).

129. The method of claim 128, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-BCMA antibody.

25 130. The method of claim 128, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-BCMA singlechain variable fragment (scFv).

131. The method of claim 130, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises variable heavy (VH) chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and the same variable light (VL) chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 60 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 61.

132. The method of claim 130, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 60 and 61, respectively.

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133. The method of claim 130, wherein the anti-BCMA scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 59.

134. The method of any one of claims 111-127, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomainthat binds CD33.

135. The method of claim 134, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD33 antibody.

136. The method of claim 134, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD33 scFv.

10

137. The method of claim 136, wherein the anti-CD33 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 140 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 141.

15 138. The method of claim 136, wherein the anti-CD33 scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 140 and 141, respectively.

139. The method of claim 136, wherein the anti-CD33 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137.

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140. The method of any one of claims 111-127, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain that binds CD19.

141. The method of claim 140, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD19 antibody. 25

142. The method of claim 140, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD19 scFv.

143. The method of claim 142, wherein the anti-CD19 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL chain CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 152 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 153.

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144. The method of claim 142, wherein the anti-CD19 scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 152 and 153, respectively.

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145. The method of claim 142, wherein the anti-CD19 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 150.

146. The method of any one of claims 111-127, wherein the CAR comprises an ectodomain5 that binds CD70.

147. The method of claim 146, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD70 antibody.

148. The method of claim 146, wherein the ectodomain comprises an anti-CD70 scFv.

10

149. The method of claim 148, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the same VH CDRs and the same VL CDRs as a reference antibody, wherein the reference antibody comprises a VH set forth as SEQ ID NO: 51 and a VL set forth as SEQ ID NO: 52.

15 150. The method of claim 148, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises VH and VL chains comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 51 and 52, respectively.

151. The method of claim 148, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48 or 50.

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152. The method of claim 148, wherein the anti-CD70 scFv comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50.

153. The method of any one of claims 111-152, wherein the CAR comprises a CD28 or 41BBco-stimulatory domain.

154. The method of any one of claims 111-153, wherein the CAR comprises a CD3 ζ signaling domain.

30 155. The method of any one of claims 111-154, wherein the CAR comprises a CD8 transmembrane domain.

156. A population of engineered T cells produced by the method of any one of claims 111-155.

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157. A method of increasing proliferation of T cells, comprising disrupting the *CD70* gene in the T cells.

158. A method of reducing exhaustion of T cells, comprising disrupting the *CD70* gene in the5 T cells.

159. The method of any one of claims 157-158, wherein the *CD70* gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas gene editing.

10 160. The method of any one of claims 157-159, further comprising disrupting the *TRAC* gene, the $\beta 2M$ gene, or both the *TRAC* and $\beta 2M$ genes in the T cells.

161. The method of claim 160, wherein the *TRAC* gene, $\beta 2M$ gene or both *TRAC* and $\beta 2M$ gene is disrupted by CRISPR/Cas gene editing.

15

162. The engineered T cell of claim 5, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.

163. The engineered T cell of claim 162, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acidsequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 56.

164. The engineered T cell of claim 11, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139.

25 165. The engineered T cell of claim 164, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 136.

166. The engineered T cell of claim 17, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 149.

30

167. The engineered T cell of claim 166, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 148.

168. The population of cells of claim 51, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid35 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.

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169. The population of cells of claim 168, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 56.

5 170. The population of cells of claim 57, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139.

171. The population of cells of claim 170, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 136.

10

172. The population of cells of claim 63, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 149.

173. The population of cells of claim 172, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid15 sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 148.

174. The method of claim 128, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.

20 175. The method of claim 174, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 56.

176. The method of claim 134, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139.

25

177. The method of claim 176, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 136.

178. The method of claim 140, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ30 ID NO: 149.

179. The method of claim 178, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 148.

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180. The method of claim 146, wherein the CAR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46.

- 181. The method of claim 180, wherein the CAR is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence
- 5 having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 45.

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FIG. 8

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Cell Mumber



TRAC-/B2M-/anti-BCMA CAR+ T cells

Antigen re-challenge intervals

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% Apoptotic cells







































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FIG. 22B






















FIG. 26B



LUMOR VOLUME (mm_3)

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Tumor Volume (mm_3)

FIG. 27C







FIG. 28B









FIG. 32





























FIG. 39A













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FIG. 40D



% Cell Lysis

4:1 ratio
1:1 ratio
0.25:1 ratio









1:1 ratio @ 24 hr 1:1 ratio @ 96 hr

















FIG. 41A















FIG. 42D