

A Novel and Non-toxic Immunotherapy Device Priming the Immune System to Enhance Immunotherapy Response Rates

May 2025

CSE: SONA | OTCQB: SNANF

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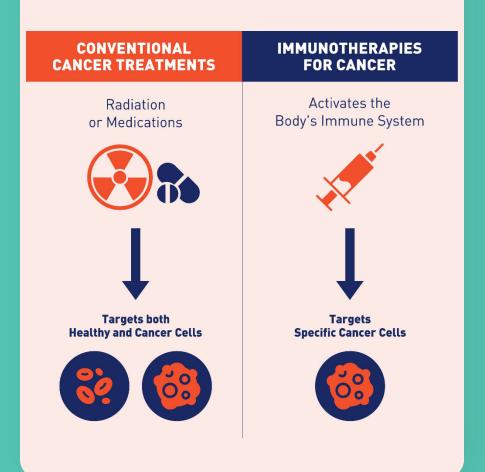
Investment Highlights

A New Treatment for Solid Cancer Tumors Leveraging Nanotechnology That Is **Powerful**, **Precise** and **Non-toxic**

- Gentle but powerful therapy elegant and strong immune system activator
 - Heating tumors from the inside, out to elicit neo-antigens that engage the immune system and enhance immunotherapy drug response rates
- > Uniquely biocompatible, patented and vetted nanotechnology platform
 - Ideal nanoparticle for many 'in vivo' applications
- > Compelling pre-clinical efficacy data in three cancer models
 - Multiple therapeutic targets in cancers with immunogenically 'cold' tumors
- > On the cusp of first-in-human 'Early Feasibility Study'
 - Initial readouts expected this summer
 - FDA-vetted plan for safety studies to support subsequent Pilot Study
- Strong and growing patent portfolio
- Experienced team and connected board



Immunotherapy has provided a 'step change' in cancer treatment



Immunotherapy Checkpoint Inhibitors *Release The Brakes* For The Immune System To More Readily Recognize and Attack Cancer

Immunotherapy treatments harness the immune system to fight cancer on its own

However, immunotherapy still has:

Limited response ratesTypical response rate is 15-30%

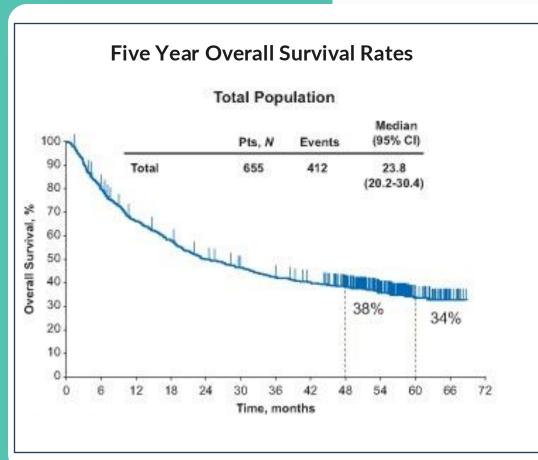
≻Toxicity

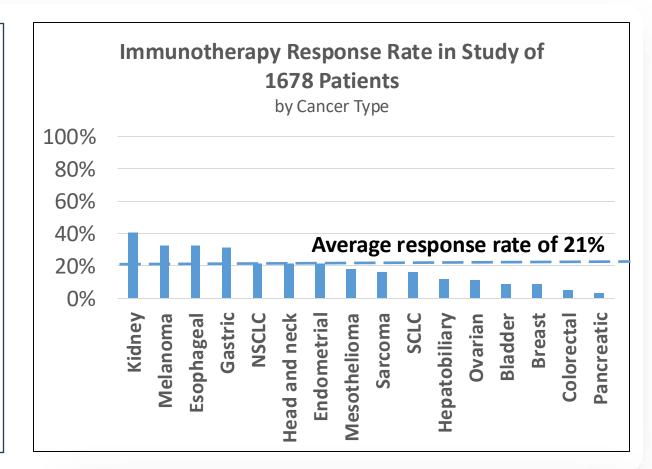
Severe toxicity is experienced in 16% - 20% of patients on an immunotherapy

Combining immunotherapies can enhance response rates but also increases toxicity

Sales of immunotherapy drugs were estimated to be USD \$284.4 billion in 2024

For Instance, Pembrolizumab's Five-Year Overall Survival And Average Response Rates Were Shown To Be Just 34%⁽¹⁾ and 21%⁽²⁾, Respectively





Notes: 1) In a study of overall survival in advanced melanoma

2) Patients treated with anti-programmed cell death 1 or programmed cell death ligand-1 immunotherapy

Sources: Melanoma Volume 30, Issue 4 p582-588; CA A Cancer J Clinicians, Volume: 73, Issue: 1, Pages: 17-48, First published: 12 January 2023, DOI: (10.3322/caac.21763)

Response Rates to Anti-PD-1 Immunotherapy in Microsatellite-Stable Solid Tumors With 10 or More Mutations per Megabase Cristina Valero, MD, PhD, 1 et al

A therapy is needed that can increase response rates, without inducing toxicity

Immunotherapy Response Rates Are Low Because Tumor Antigens Presented Are *Too Weak To Elicit An Immune Response*

Sources of Immunotherapy Resistance

- 1. Weak tumor antigen expression
- 2. Upregulation of immune-checkpoint molecules (immune fatigue)
- 3. Activation of alternative signaling pathways
- 4. Immunoediting

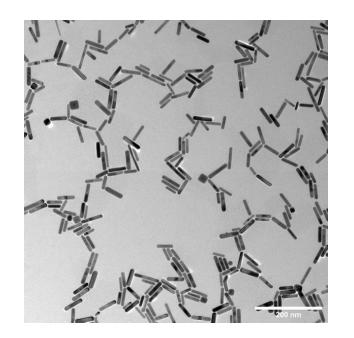
More of a good thing isn't necessarily better:

Addressing a weak antigen tumor microenvironment with stronger/more IO drugs risks triggering autoimmunity and toxicity

How to reveal fresh and stronger tumor antigens to activate and engage the innate immune system, without toxicity?



Sona's Patented Gold Nanorods Heat Tumors Gently From The Inside, Causing Selective **Apoptotic Cell Death*** Which Reveals Neoantigens



Sona's Gold Nanorod's ("GNR") Advantages

Functional:

- Optimal nanoparticle for thermal conversion
- Can be 'tuned' to react to set wavelengths
- Can be conjugated to molecules

Uniquely Biocompatible: Sona uniquely uses no toxin to make its 'GNRs'

Validated by:



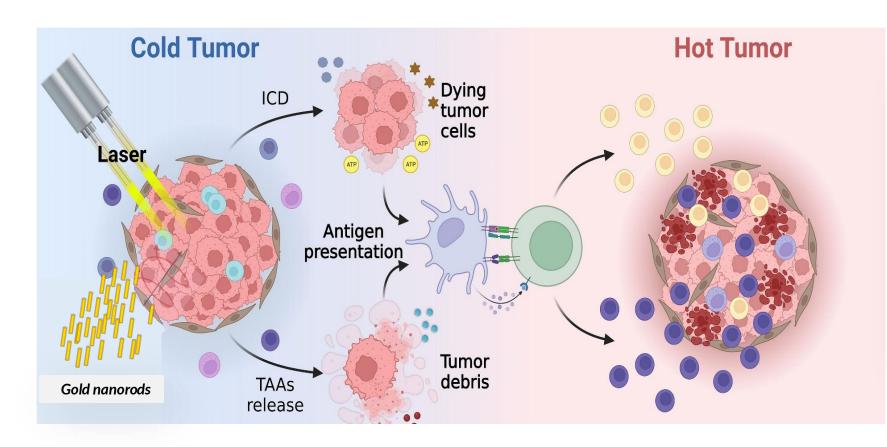
*Apoptotic Cell Death:

When a cell actively selfdestructs in a controlled manner. In so doing, the dying cells become more "visible" to immune cells due to the altered antigen presentation which can cause the immune system to engage and attack the cancer

Sona's 'Targeted Hyperthermia Therapy' ("THT") primes the innate immune system to engage without toxicity



Sona's THT Heats Tumors With Near-infrared-activated GNRs Turning Immunogenetically 'Cold' Tumors^{*}, 'Hot'



*Cold Tumors:

Describes a tumor that is not likely to trigger a strong immune response. Cold tumors tend to be surrounded by cells that are able to suppress the immune response and keep T cells (a type of immune cell) from attacking the tumor cells and killing them. Cold tumors usually do not respond to immunotherapy. Most cancers of the breast, ovary, prostate, pancreas, and brain (glioblastoma) are considered cold tumors.

Converting tumors 'hot' enables immunotherapies to work more often thereby achieving higher response rates



Sources: Frontiers In Immunology; https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/cold-tumor

Recent Study Demonstrates Sona's THT's Ability To Shrink Tumors, **Engage The Immune System And Enable Immunotherapy**

> **Recent Preclinical Study Shows** THT's Strong Efficacy in Melanoma and Triple Negative Breast Cancer, With Pronounced Abscopal Effect

4,151

(∙nanotech•)

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Frontiers | Frontiers in Immunology

Impact Score of 5.7 – top 10 of Immunology Journals

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Frontiers in Immunolog

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Targeted intra-tumoral hyperthermia using uniquely biocompatible gold nanorods induces strong immunogenic cell death in two immunogenically 'cold' tumor models

Barry E. Kennedy¹, Erin B. Noftall¹, Cheryl Dean¹, Alexander Roth¹, Kate N. Clark¹, Darren Rowles², Kulbir Singh³, Len Pagliaro³ and Carman A. Giacomantonio^{13,4}

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Introduction: Hyperthermia is an established adjunct in multimodal cancer treatments, with mechanisms including cell death, immune modulation, and vascular changes. Traditional hyperthermia applications are resource-intensive and often associated with patient morbidity, limiting their clinical accessibility. Gold nanorods (GNRs) offer a precise, minimally invasive alternative by leveraging near-infrared (NIR) light to deliver targeted hyperthermia therapy (THT). THT induces controlled tumor heating, promoting immunogenic cell death (ICD) and modulating the tumor microenvironment (TME) to enhance immune engagement. This study explores the synergistic potential of GNR-mediated THT with immunotherapies in immunogenically 'cold' tumors to achieve durable anti-tumor immunity.

Methods: GNRs from Sona Nanotech Inc.[™] were intratumorally injected and activated using NIR light to induce mild hyperthermia (42-48°C) for 5 minutes. Tumor responses were analyzed for cell death pathways and immune modulation. The immunogenic effects of THT were assessed alone and in combination with intratumoral interleukin-2 (i.t. IL-2) or systemic PD-1 immune checkpoint blockade. Immune cell infiltration, gene expression changes, and tumor growth kinetics were evaluated.

Results: THT reduced tumor burden through cell death mechanisms, including upregulated ICD marked by calreticulin exposure within 48 hours. By 48 hours, CD45+ immune cell levels were increased, including increased levels of immunosuppressive M2 macrophages. While THT led to innate immune cell stimulations highlighted by gene expression upregulation in the STING cGAS pathway and enhanced M1 and dendritic cell levels, turnor regrowth was observed within six days post-treatment. To enhance THT's immunogenic effects, the therapy was combined with intratumoral interleukin-2 (i.t. IL-2) or systemic PD-1 immune checkpoint blockade. Sequential administration of i.t. IL-2 post-THT induced robust CD8+ T-cell infiltration and led to sustained tumor

Peerreviewed

Study

THE Original Research

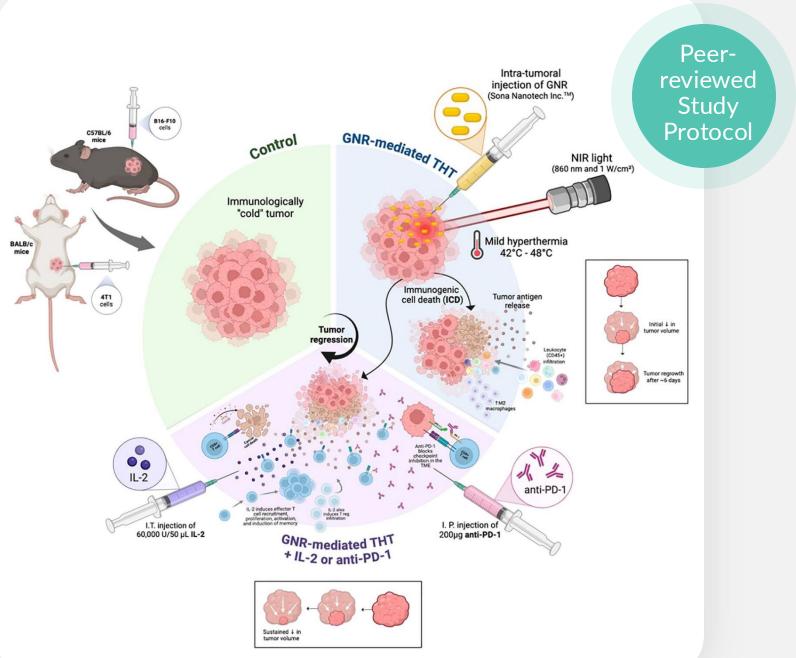
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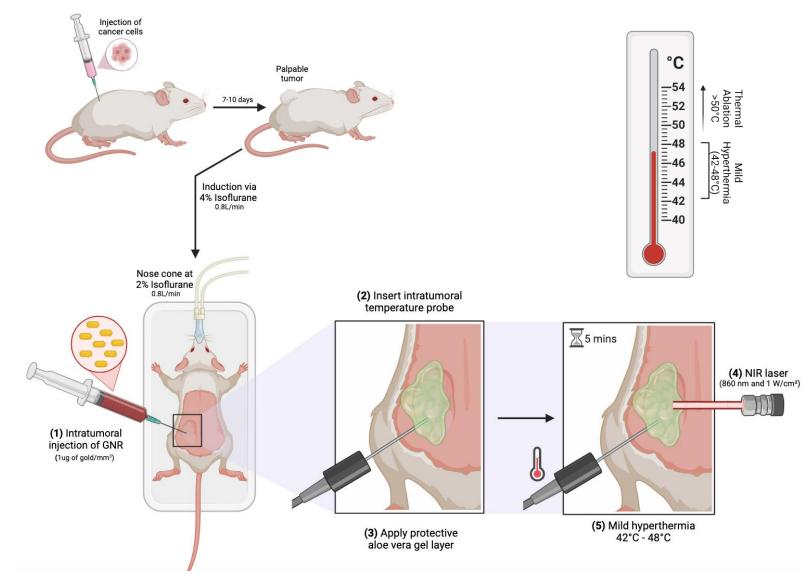
Sona's Studies Examined The Impact Of Causing Hyperthermic Heat In Tumors With, And Without Immunotherapy

Sona used three different treatment groups in its peerreviewed study:

- 1. Control
- 2. THT alone
- 3. THT + immunotherapy (IL-2)
- 4. THT + immunotherapy (PD-1)

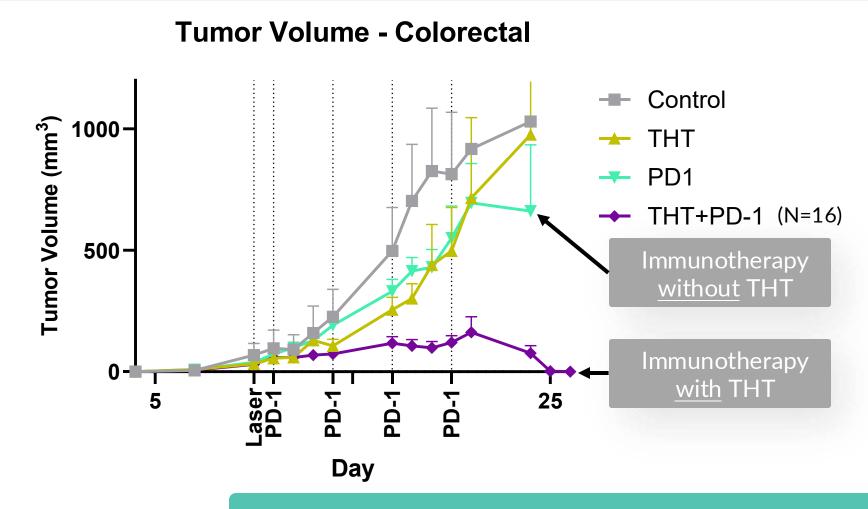


Sona's THT Involves Two Injections Of GNRs Followed By ~5 Minutes Of Sona's Near-infrared Laser Energy Which GNRs Convert To Heat



Maintaining 'hyperthermic' heat (42-48C) destroys cancer cells, which have a lower tolerance to heat, while not harming healthy cells

The laser energy passes harmlessly through tissue and into the tumor where the GNRs convert that nonthermal energy into heat Sona's Studies Demonstrated THT's Ability To Make Immunotherapies Work In Colorectal 'Cold' Tumors....

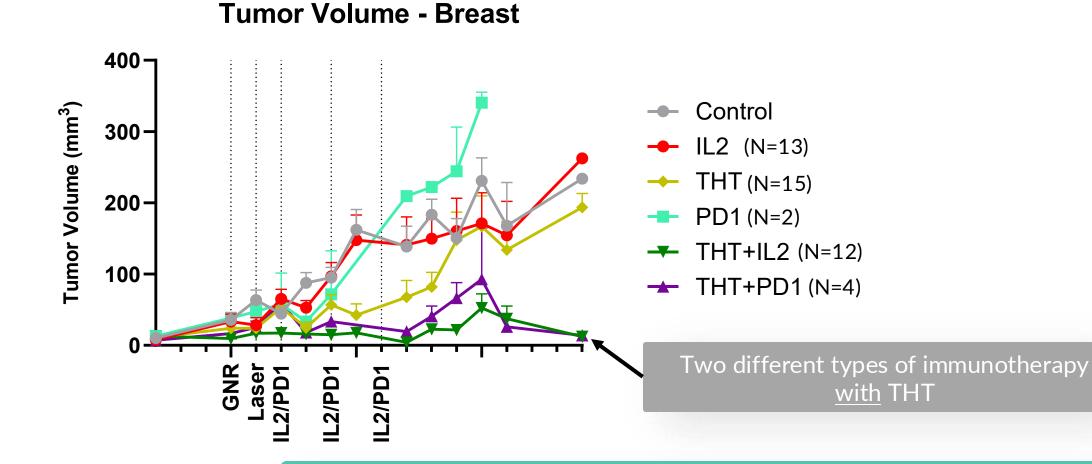


New Data

Sona's THT enabled tumor elimination by 26 days (N=4) with world class immunotherapy which had little effect on its own

...And Breast Cancer 'Cold' Tumors

Source: Frontiers in Immunology



Sona's THT enabled tumor near elimination (N=2) with world class immunotherapies which had little effect on their own



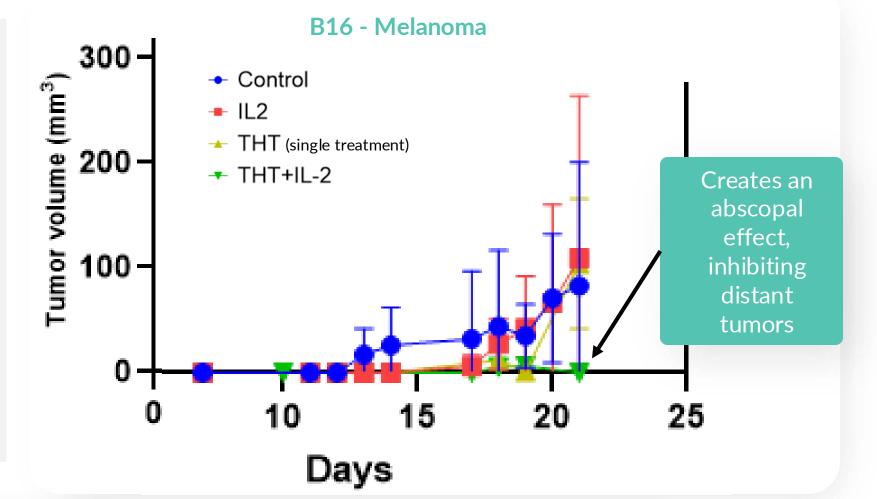
Most Remarkably, THT With Immunotherapy Prevented Growth In Distant, Untreated Tumors In The Melanoma Model

THT Showed A Vaccine-like Effect

In mice with one tumor treated with THT and IL-2, an abscopal effect was seen whereby distant, untreated tumors shrunk.

Further, newly implanted tumors did not grow, evidence of a vaccine-like effect.

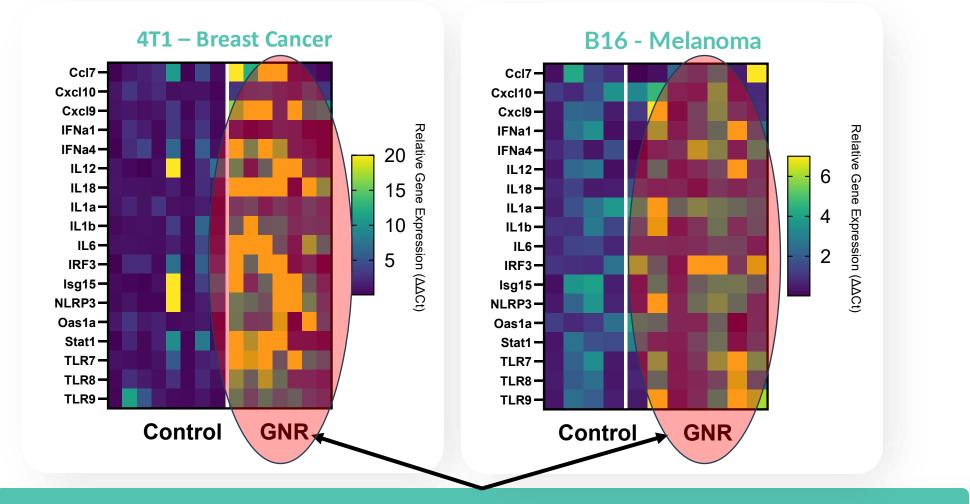
Gene expression data suggests that this immunity **is lasting** and can provide for **future protection**.



"This type of abscopal effect is **rare and highly sought after in cancer treatment protocols**." Dr. Carman Giacomantonio, Principal Investigator and Sona CMO



Gene Expression Analysis Provides Strong Evidence That THT Alone Causes Innate Immune System Stimulation



Post-THT biopsies show greater infiltration of immune cells, providing evidence of an immune response attack on the tumor



Notes: 1) Upregulation of Inflammatory Gene Expression in STING/cGAS/TLR Path way Following GNR-Induced Hyperthermia in 4T1 and B16 Tumors Source: The Giacomantonio Immuno-Oncology Research Group at Dalhousie University

Preclinical Studies Have Established Efficacy, Safety And Potential Applicability To Three Solid Cancer Types, So Far

Conclusions From Sona's Preclinical THT Efficacy And Safety Studies

- 1. When immunotherapies haven't worked, THT has made it work
- 2. THT causes apoptotic cancer cell death, resulting in 'neoantigen' expression
 - New antigen expression 'wakes up' the immune system
- 3. Safety profile is enhanced as only inert gold is injected directly into tumors
- 4. Gene expression analysis supports THT as causing a strong immunogenic response, creating a lasting change to the immune system
- 5. THT created an *abscopal effect* whereby distant, untreated tumors shrunk

Sufficient preclinical data now exists to support a human clinical study



First-in-human, Early Feasibility Study Start Targeted For Q2

Early Feasibility Study Objectives

- **Primary:** Evaluate the safety of THT treatment in patients with late-stage metastatic melanoma who have failed/partially responded to current standard of care melanoma immunotherapy.
- *Secondary*: Evaluate the efficacy (reduction/change tumor size) of THT treatment in melanoma patients.

Exploratory: To explore changes in immune cell infiltration and impact of THT GNR-induced hyperthermia on cytokine production.

Key Protocol Elements

- Two applications of THT, on day one and day eight, to create hyperthermia in superficial tumors, up to 2.5 cm in diameter, as an adjunctive treatment.
- Quantification and characterization of tumor-infiltrating immune cell populations in tumor biopsies pre- and post-treatment, and measurement of serum cytokine levels preand post-treatment.

Key Enrolment Criteria

- Up to 10 participants with stable or progressive cutaneous and/or subcutaneous skin lesions at stages 3C/3D/4M1
- All sites with visible/palpable otherwise unresectable melanoma, mucosal melanoma, and regions with extensive cutaneous and subcutaneous metastasis *e.g.* numerous in-transit lesions.



Sona's THT Therapy is Proprietary And Benefits From IP Protection

Sona's Four Sources of IP Advantage

Patents:

- Method for Manufacture of Biocompatible Gold Nanorods
 - Issued: USA, Canada and South Korea. Pending: PCT, EU.
- Photothermal Near-Infrared LED Light Device
 - Issued on Dec. 11, 2014, as US patent #10,064,940
- Gold Nanoparticle Conjugates and Uses Thereof
 - US patent #9,175,015 filed Aug. 22, 2008
- Combination Therapies for THT and Immunotherapies⁴
 - Patent pending
- Provisional Filings:
 - An Endoscopic Near-Infrared Laser Light Device
 - A GNR tri-conjugation concept for targeted drug delivery

Time Advantage:

• Moving quickly to maintain Sona's lead to be the first to be approved by regulators

Trade Secrets:

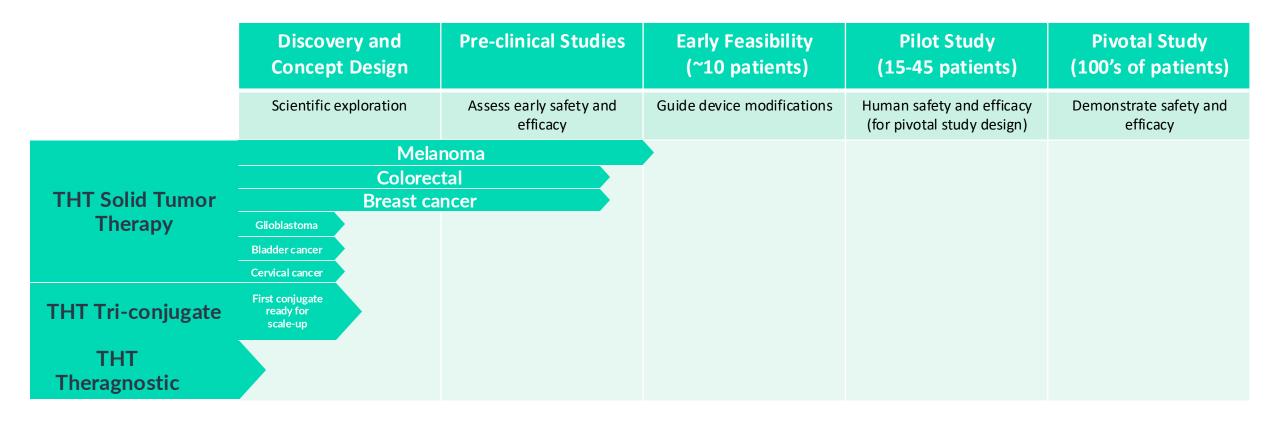
- Techniques for delivery of GNRs in vivo and application of laser
- Protocols for immunotherapy agent combinations

- THT + drug combination:
 - Full patent filed and now pending. It is a combination of THT and immunotherapy and also covers the research Sona conducted and published in Frontiers in Immunology

THT Tri-conjugate concept:

• Leveraging both the biocompatibility and functionality of Sona's GNRs to develop a conjugate to direct therapeutic components directly to a specific cancer and treat by applying THT with NIR Sona Is Leveraging On Its Uniquely Biocompatible GNR Platform Technology To Develop Further Applications

Sona's Product Pipeline – By Stage Of Development





Sona Is Investing In Building On Its Uniquely Biocompatible GNR Platform Technology

Sona's Product Pipeline - Milestones

	2025			2026	
Program	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2
THT Therapy (as adjuvant to immunotherapies)	Biocompatibility EFS First-in- Feasibility Study human Study Firs Results Dosing ⁽¹⁾	t EFS Initial Readouts ⁽¹⁾	F		et Study Initial Readouts ⁽¹⁾
THT Tri-conjugate			Internal Enablement Experiment Results		
THT Theragnostic				Internal Enablement Experiment Results	



A Team That Hits Above The Company's Market Capitalization Weight

Board



Mark Lievonen Chairman

 Led vaccine maker Sanofi-Pasteur to a billion-dollar value



Walter Strapps PhD Director

 CEO of Khosla Ventures CRISPR/Cas13 biotech



Neil Fraser Director • Led Medtronic Canada for ~20 years



Jim Megann Director • 25 years of experience in capital markets



 Wayne Myles, KC
 Director
 Entrepreneur & lawyer closing transactions at \$billions in value

Management



David Regan, MBA Chief Executive Officer • Capital markets professional • Former strategy consultant

Dr. Carman Giacomantonio
Chief Medical Officer
Surgical oncologist & researcher





Len Pagliaro, PhD Chief Scientific Officer

• Developer of Targeted Hyperthermia Therapy



Kulbir Singh, PhD Head of R&D • Co-Developer of CTABfree gold nanorods



Darren Rowles, MBA
Head of Diagnostics
17 years' experience with nanoparticle diagnostics



Robert Randall, CPA Chief Financial Officer Extensive public company experience



Dr. Catherine J. Murphy

o Inventor of gold nanorods

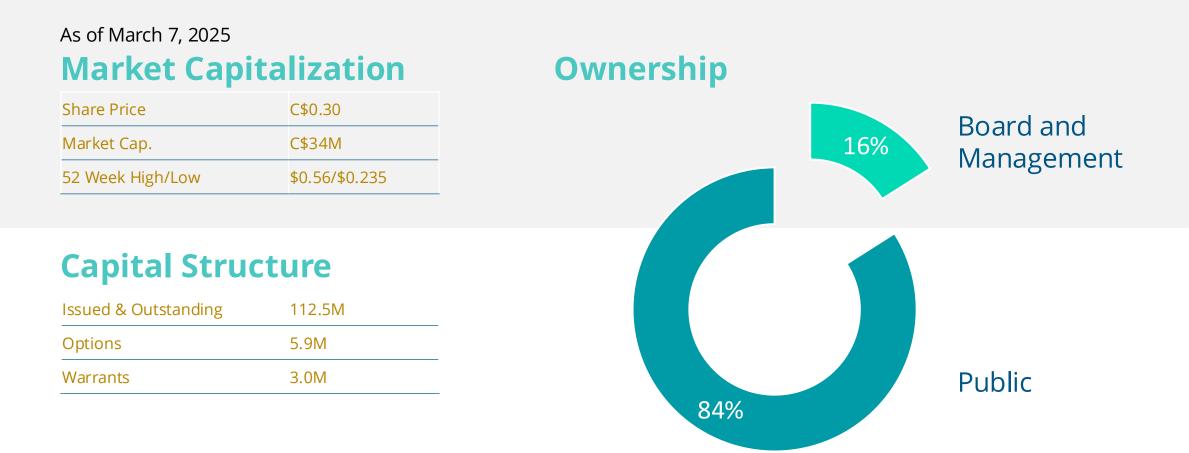


Dr. Gerry Marangoni

• Co-developer of CTAB-free gold nanorods



Capitalization Table







Thank you

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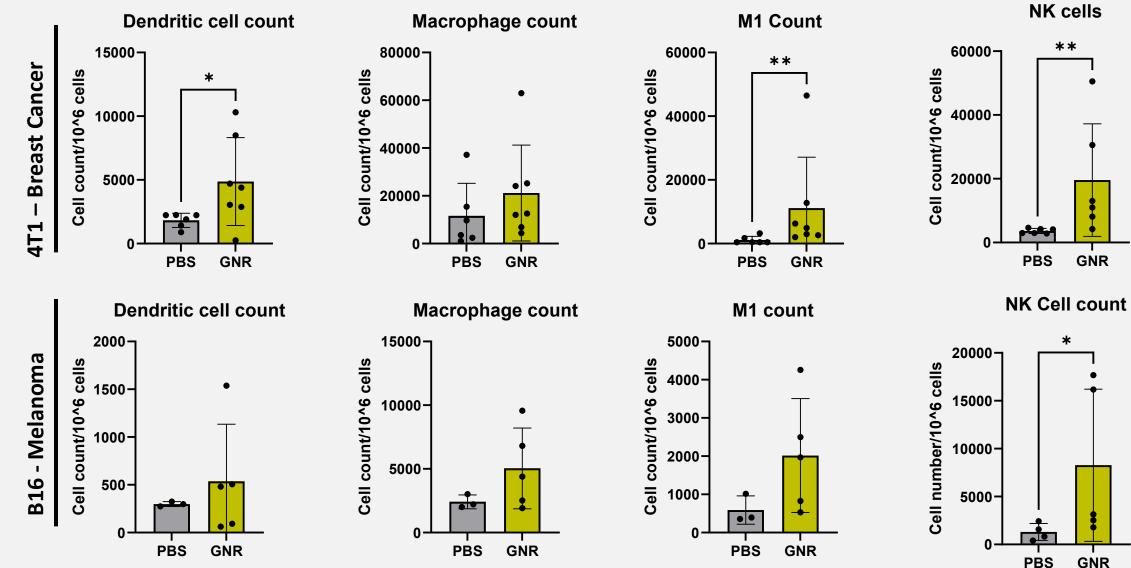
BIOCOMPATIBLE GNR GOLD NANOROD TECHNOLOGY

Appendix

Biomarker data indicating impact and longevity of immune system modulation



GNR-Induced Hyperthermia Upregulates Innate Immune Cells in 4T1 and B16 Tumors





Source: The Giacomantonio Immuno-Oncology Research Group at Dalhousie University

Enhanced infiltration of CD8+ T cells into Tumors Treated with Combination Therapy

