



VACCINES AND VACCINATION DURING AND POST COVID PANDEMICS "VAC&VAC 2022"

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Therapeutic vaccines for perinatally HIV-1 Infected patients, update from update from the HVRRICAN study

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A CARATTERE SCIENTIFICO



Bambino Gesù
OSPEDALE PEDIATRICO

EPIICAL

The HIV CLINICAL & EXPERIMENTAL PLATFORM

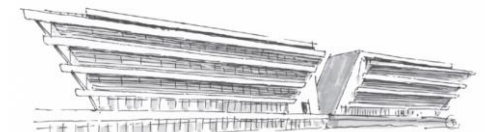


Penta

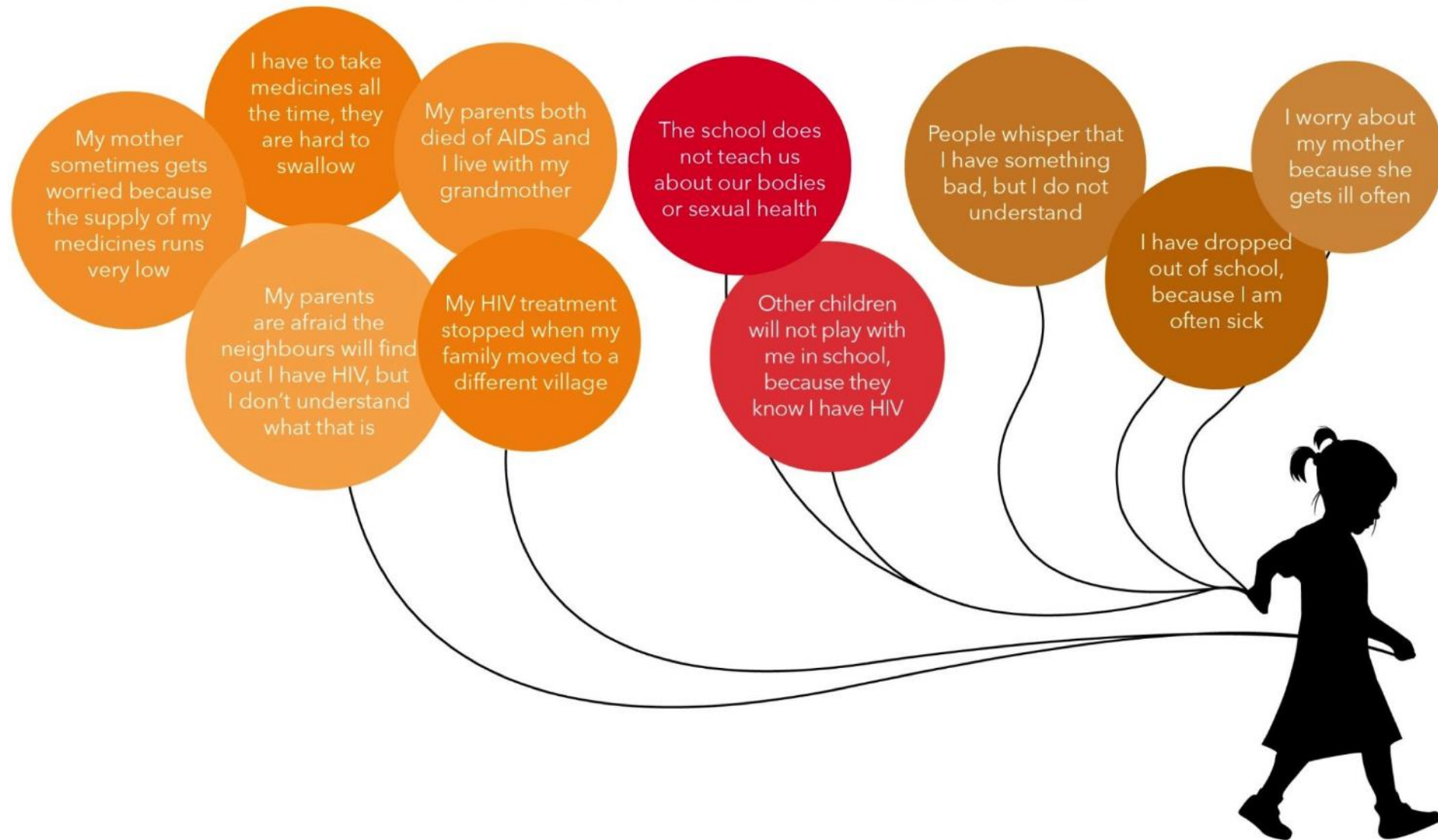
Child Health Research



TOR VERGATA
UNIVERSITY OF ROME

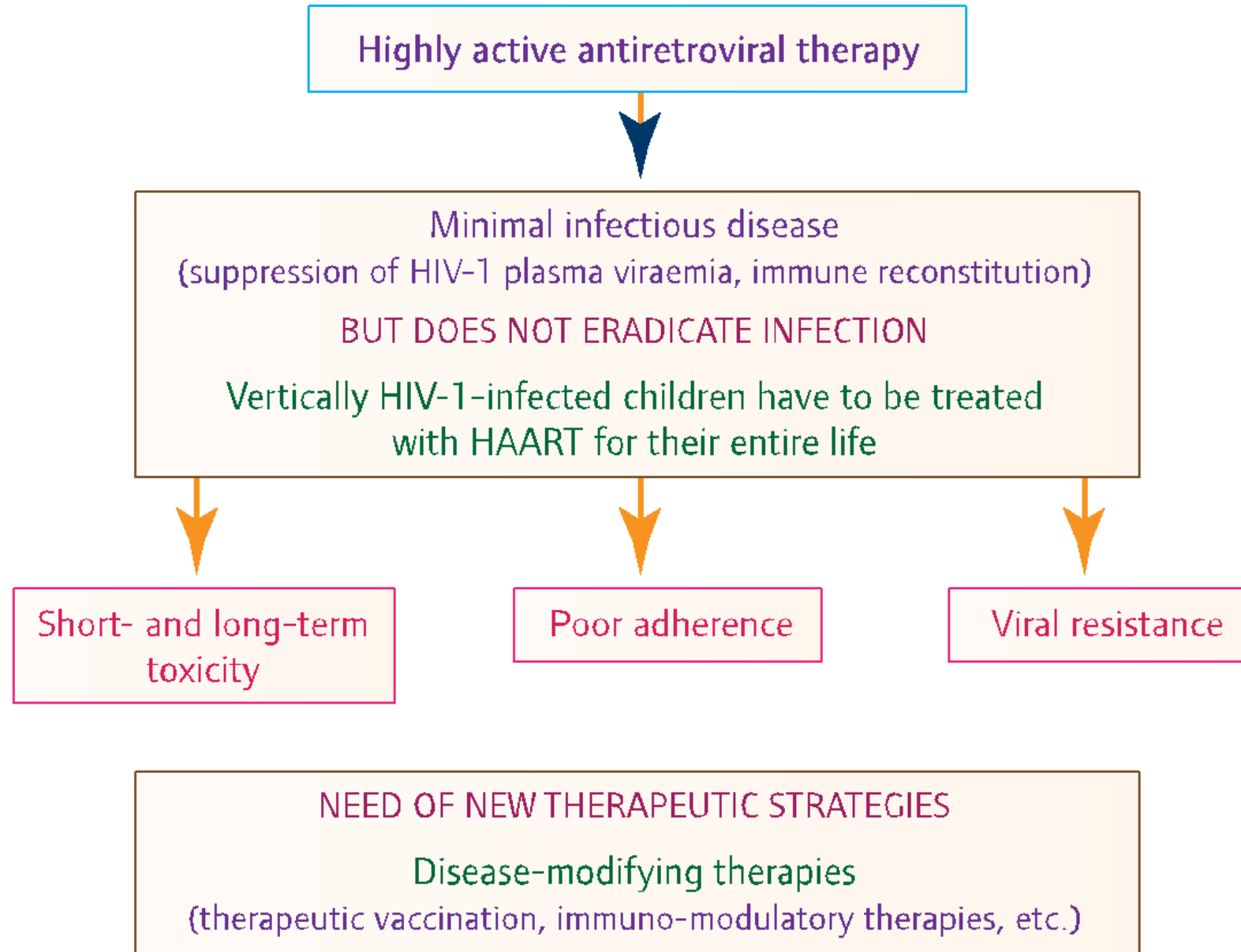


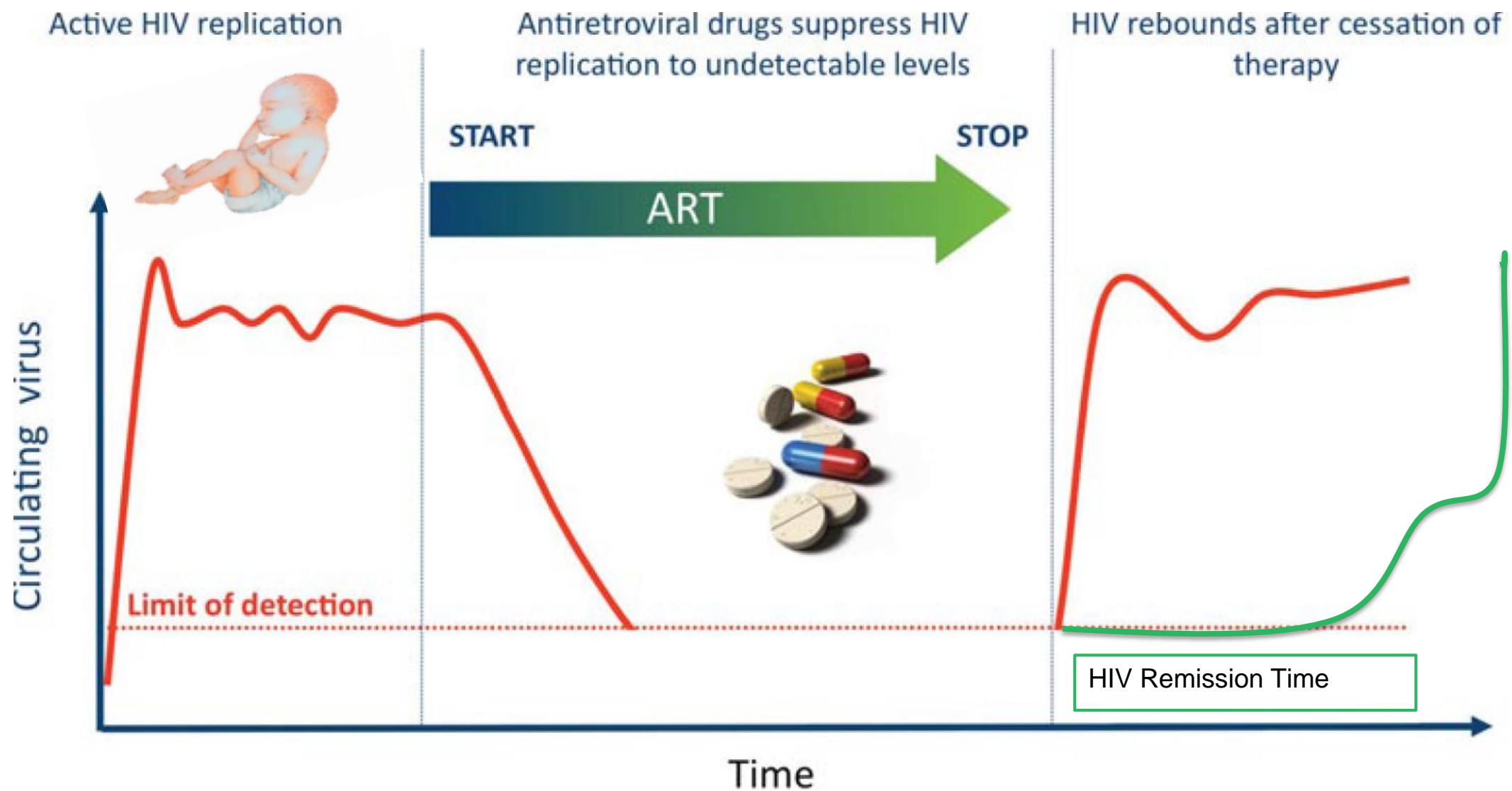
I AM A CHILD LIVING WITH HIV. I FACE THESE ISSUES



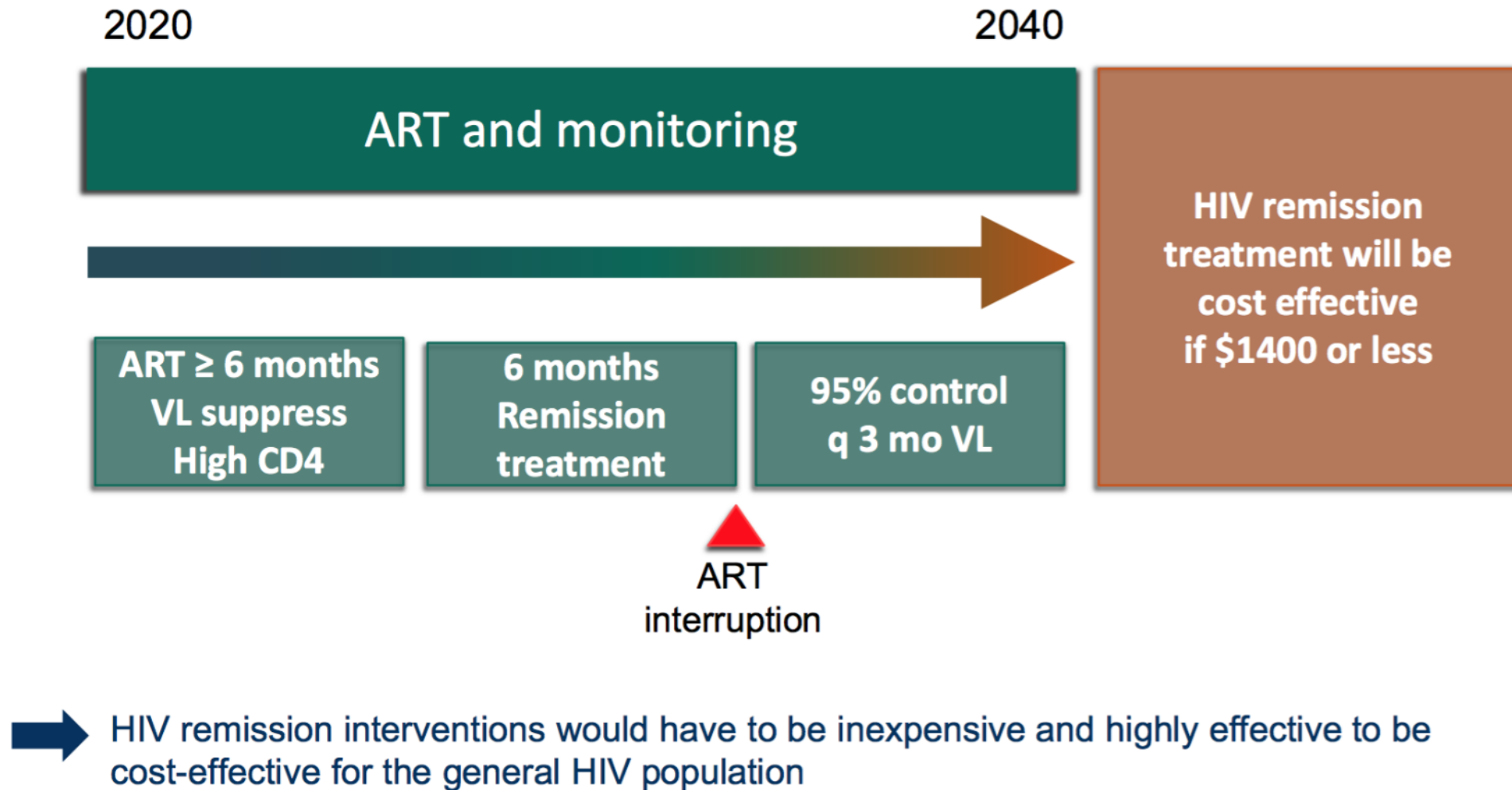
THE TREATMENT GAP IN CHILDREN



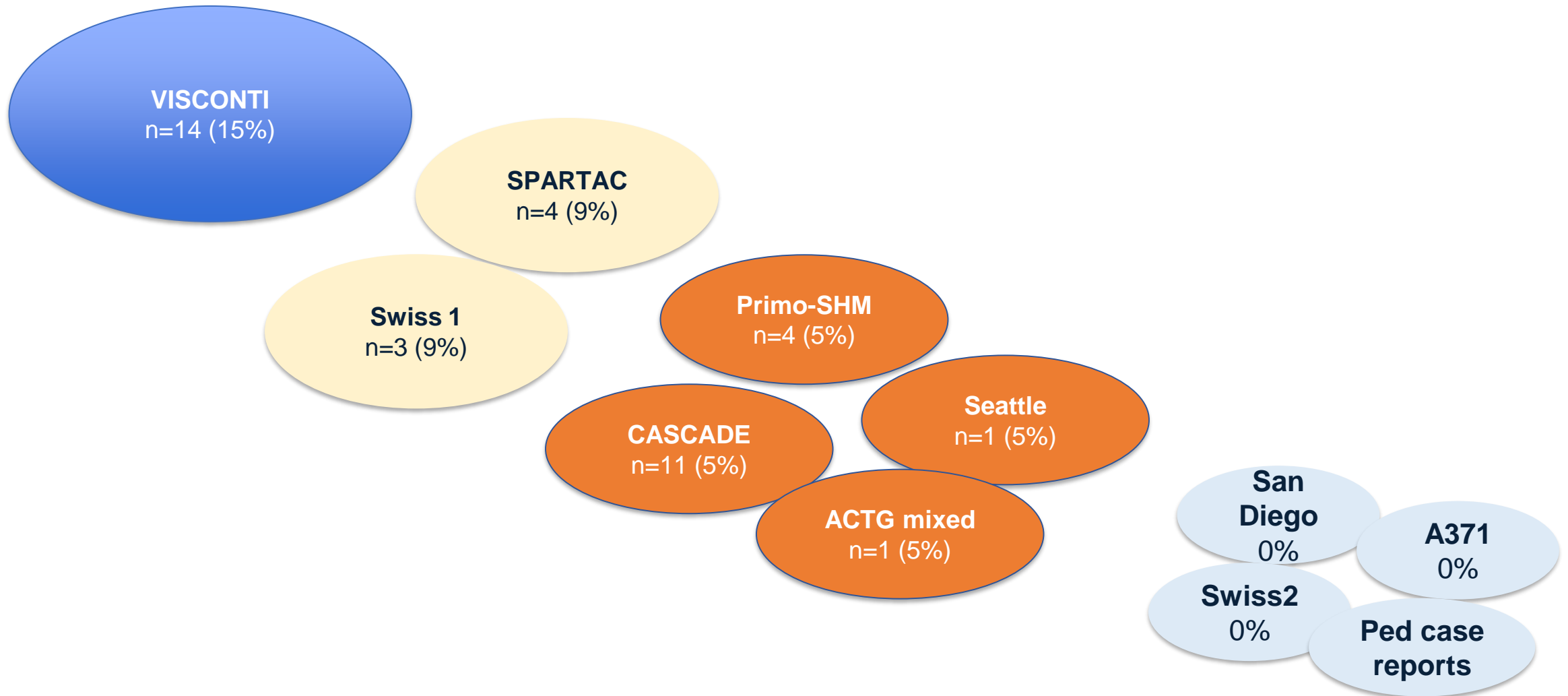




Cost-effectiveness of HIV Remission Treatment



HIV remission is uncommon even in early treated people

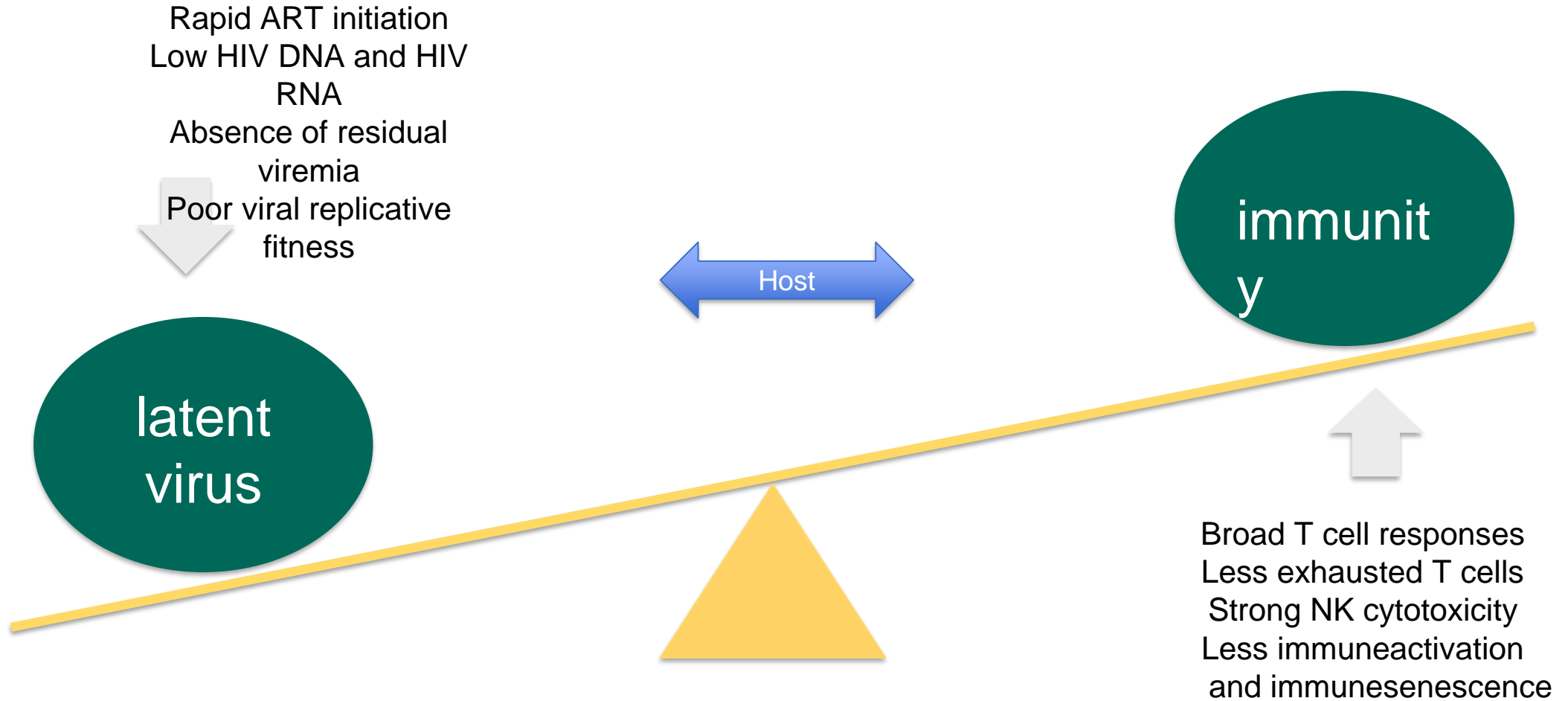


VISCONTI (Hocqueloux L, 2010; Saez-Cirion A, 2013); SPARTAC (Fidler S, 2013, Stohr 2013); Swiss 1 (Gianella S, 2011)

Primo SHM (Grijzen ML, 2012); Cascade (Lodi S, 2012) Seattle (Maenza J, 2015); ACTG mixed (Li J, CROI 2015)

San Diego (Gianella S, 2015); Swiss 2 (von Wyl V, 2011); A371 (Volberding P, 2009); Ped (Ananworanich J, 2015);

HIV Remission: Complex Interplay between Reservoir and Immunity

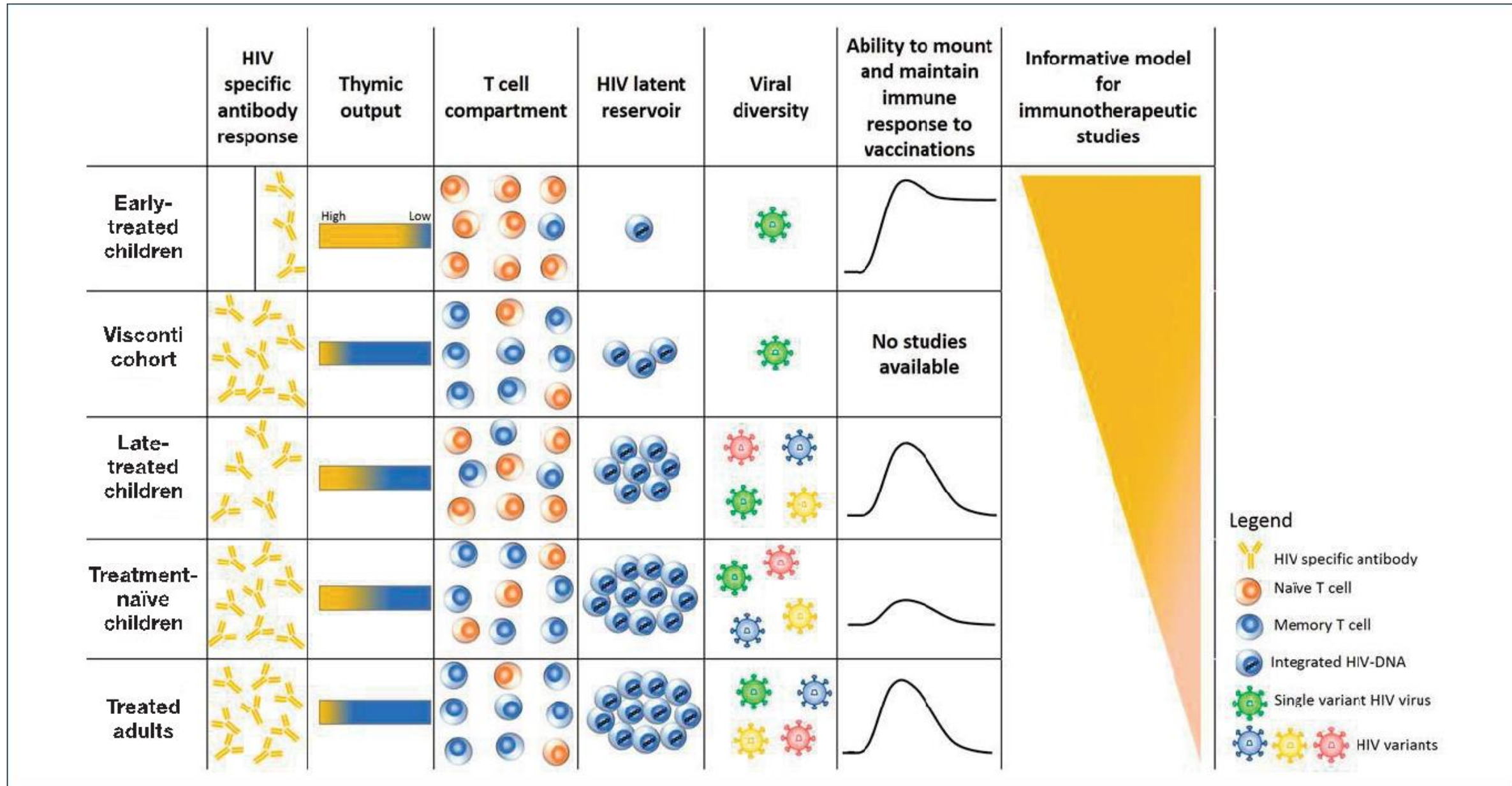


A group of African children are shown outdoors, smiling and looking towards the camera. The children are of various ages, with some in the foreground and others slightly blurred in the background. They are wearing casual clothing, and the background shows some greenery and a bright sky.

WHY CHILDREN FIRST

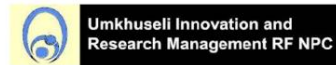
Are there unique virologic features
in perinatally HIV infected
eART treated children that could be leveraged
to develop an effective immunotherapy?

The uniqueness of the early treated children model



EPIICAL

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RV534: HVRRICANE

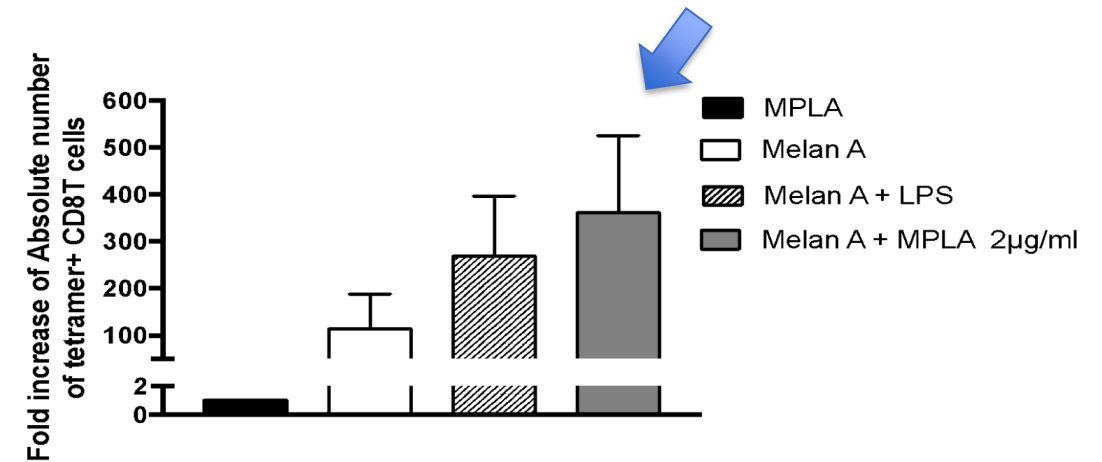
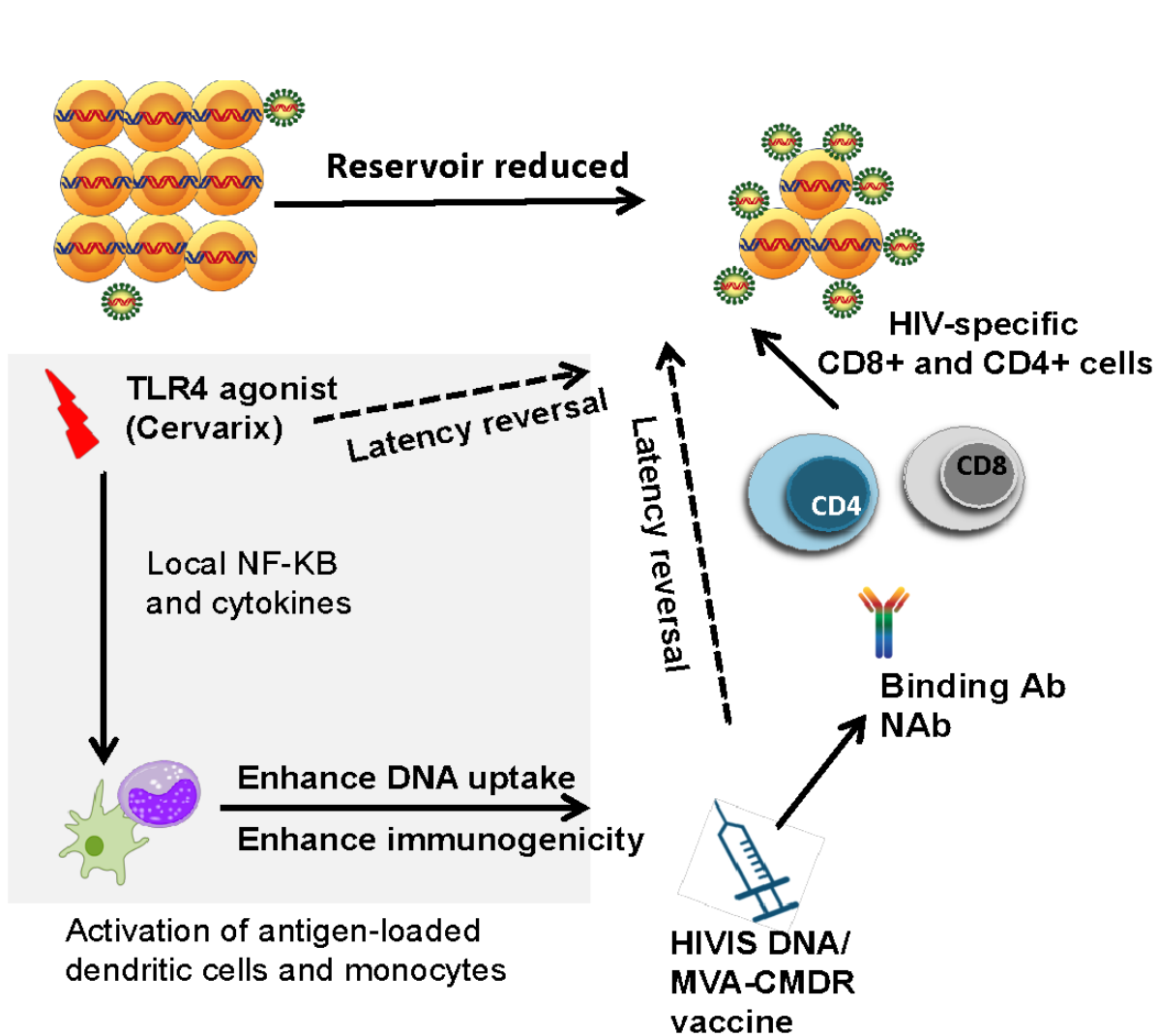
**HIV Vaccine to Reduce Reservoir in Children & Adolescents
Network (EPIICAL)**

**Protocol Title: Phase I, Proof of Concept, Open-Label, Randomized Clinical Trial to
Evaluate the Safety and Effects of Using Prime-boost HIVIS DNA and MVA-CMDR
Vaccine Regimens with or without Toll-like Receptor 4 Agonist on HIV Reservoirs in
Perinatally HIV Infected Children and Youth**

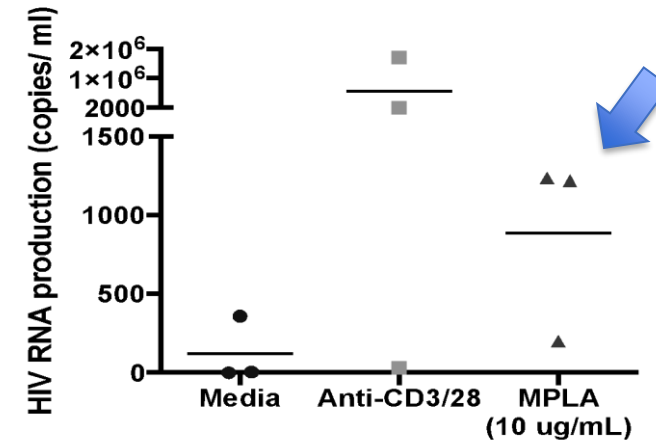


**National Institutes
of Health**

Conceptual Framework

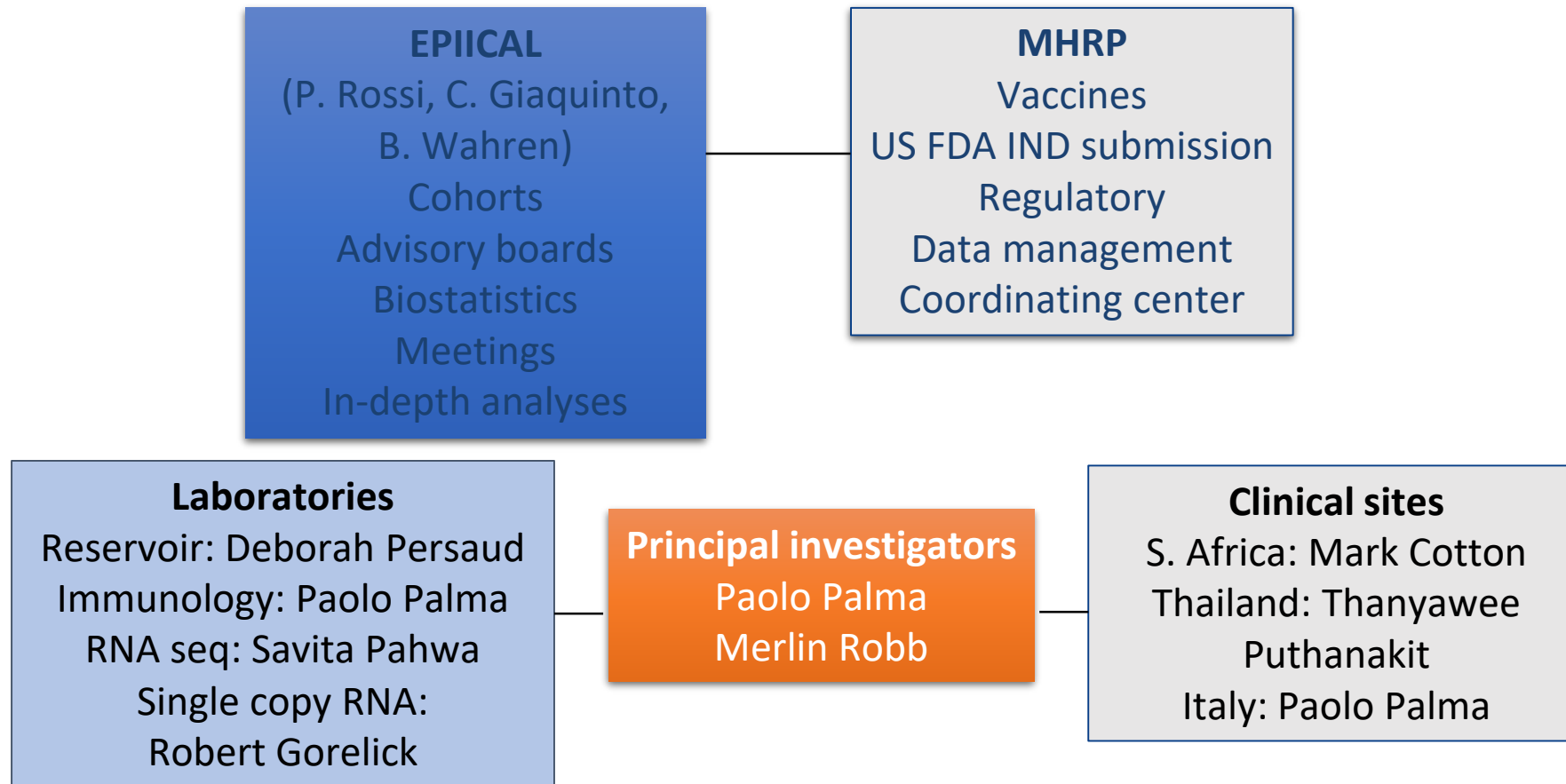


MPLA boosts CD8+ T cell priming

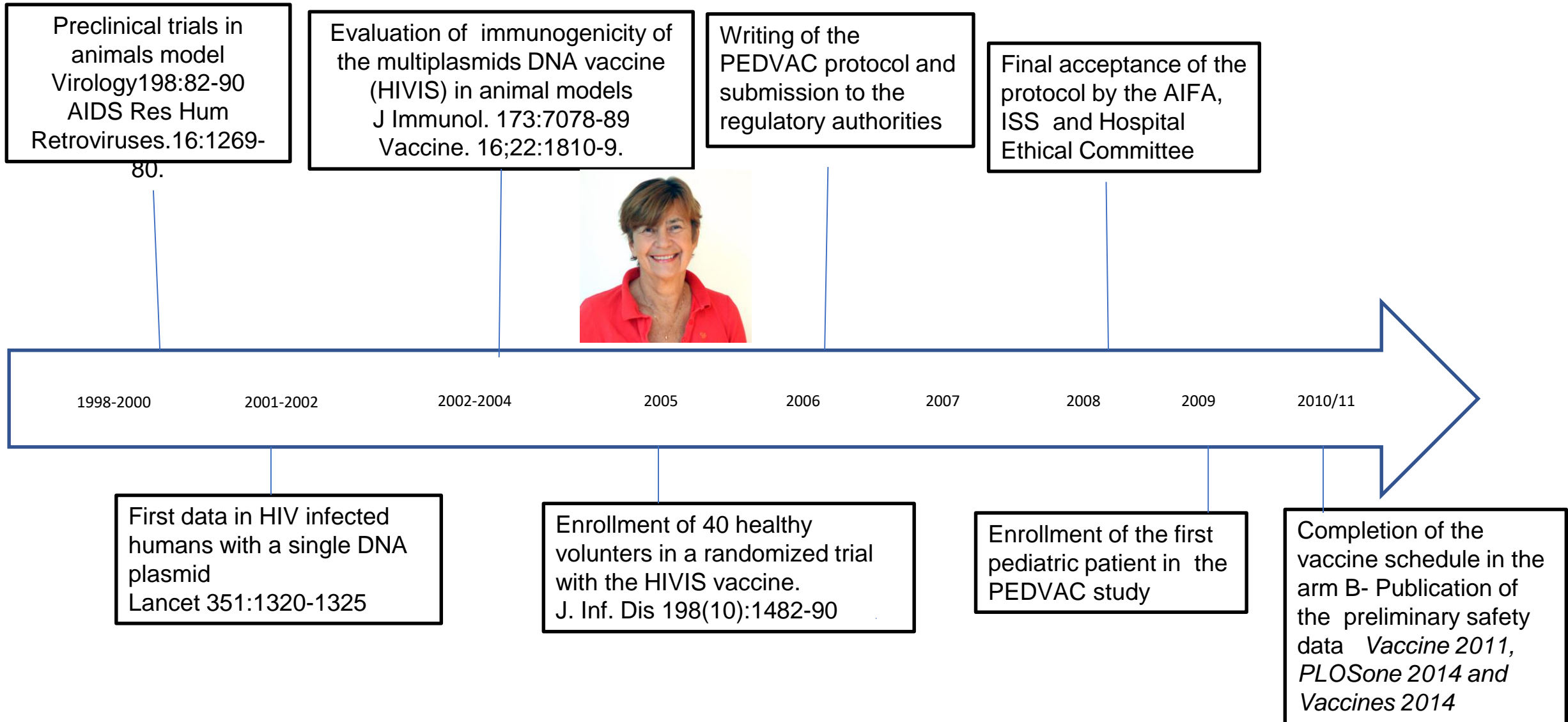


MPLA reactivates latent HIV reservoir

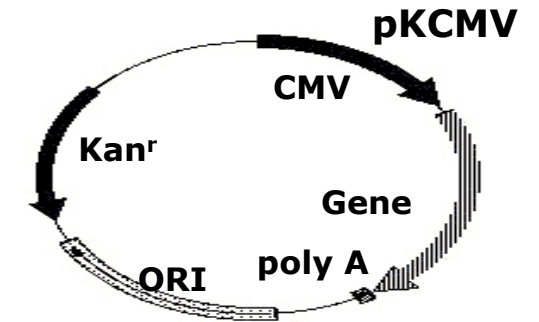
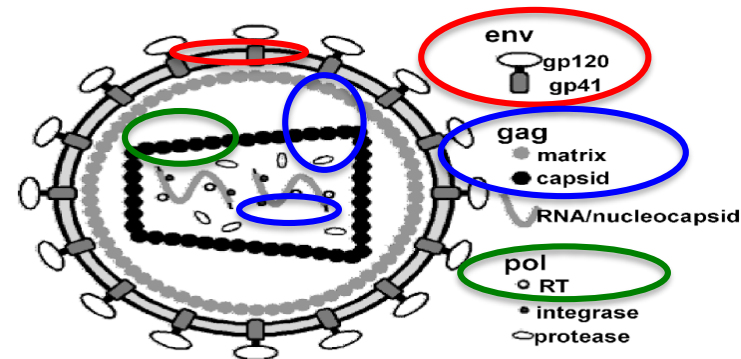
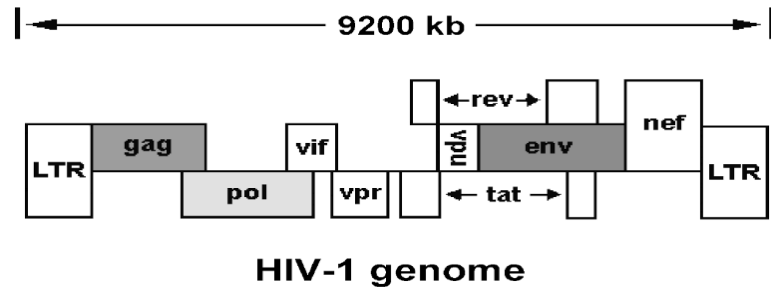
Collaborative Study



The PEDVAC trial TIME LINE



The PEDVAC trial: Preliminary data from the first therapeutic DNA vaccination in HIV-infected children



2 Ampoules 1

Plasmids
Env A, B, C e revB

Left arm



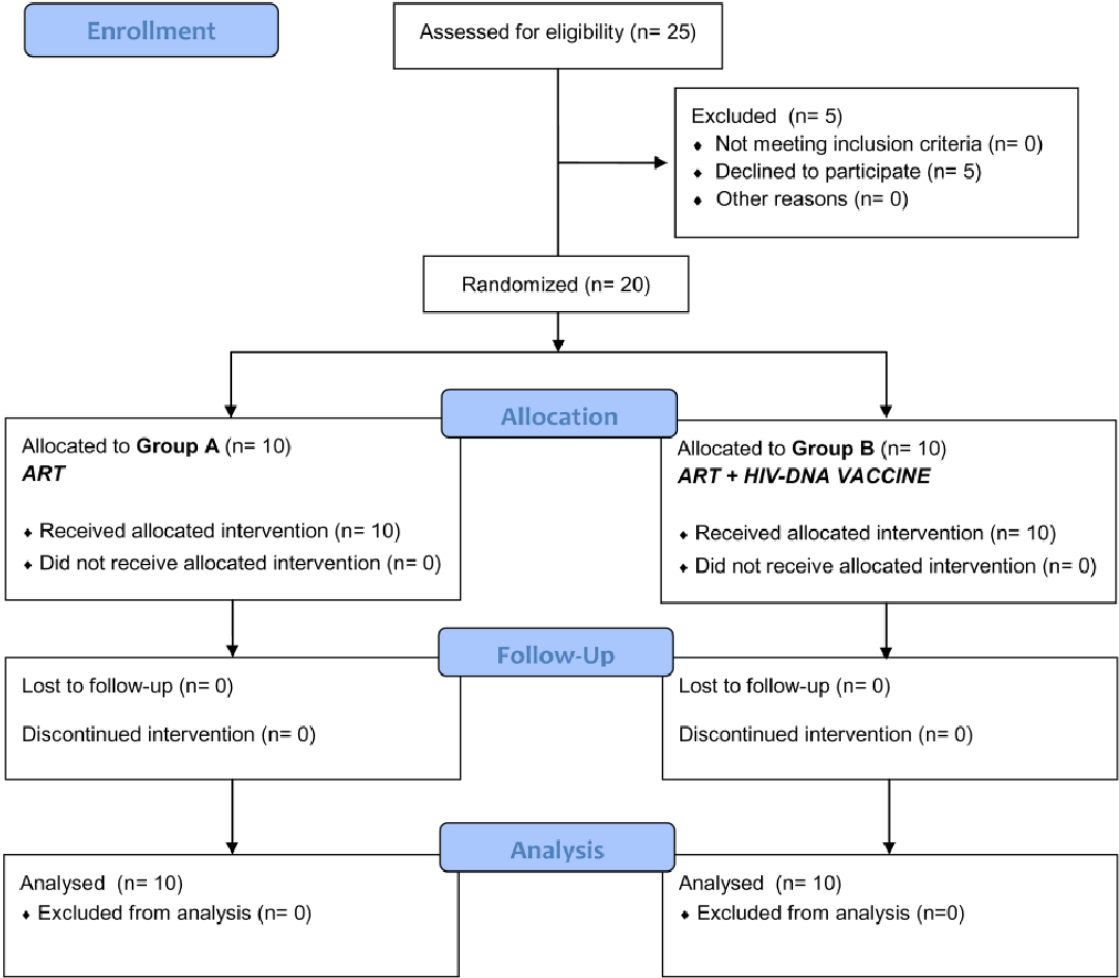
2 Ampoules 2

Plasmids:
Gag A, B e mutRT

Right arm

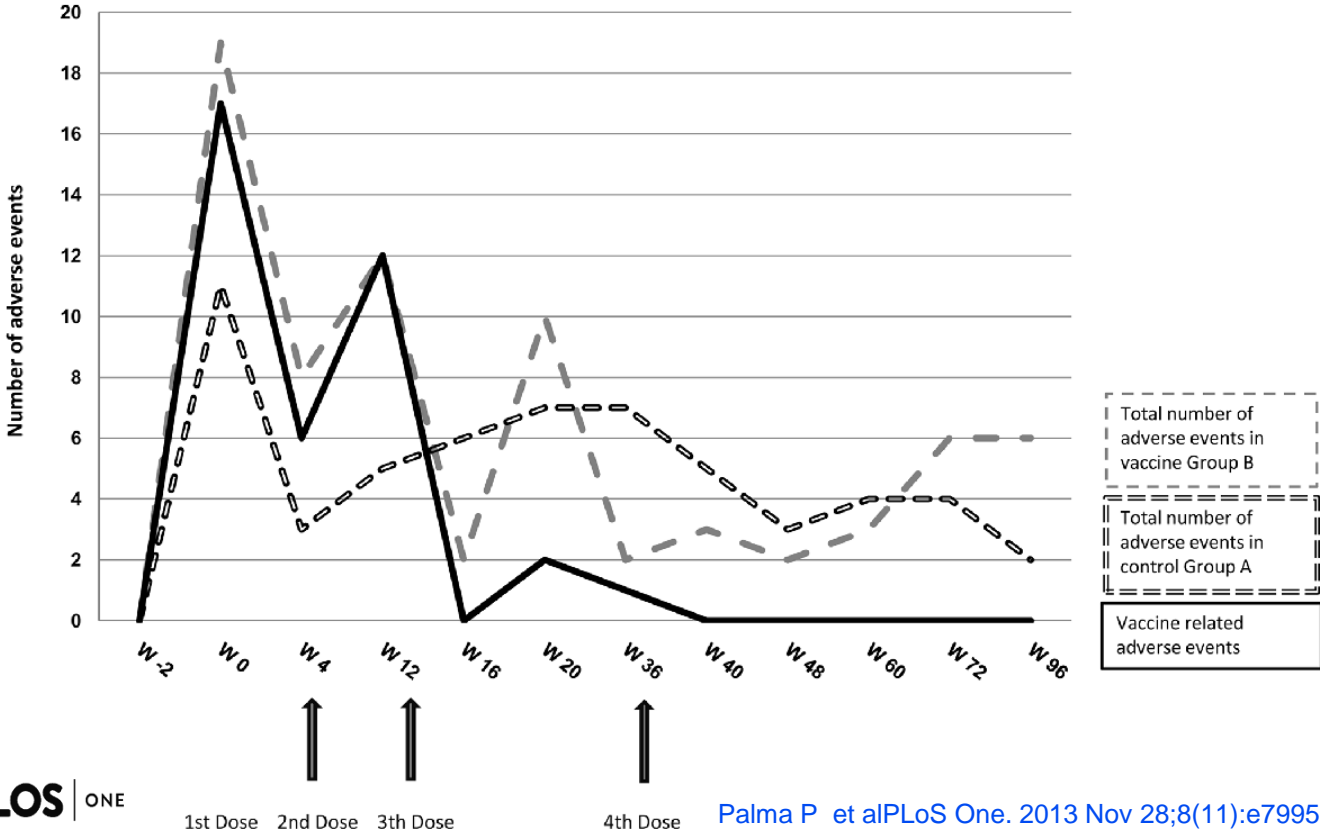
4 mg DNA i.m injected

Therapeutic DNA Vaccination of Vertically HIV-Infected Children: Report of the First Pediatric Randomised Trial (PEDVAC)



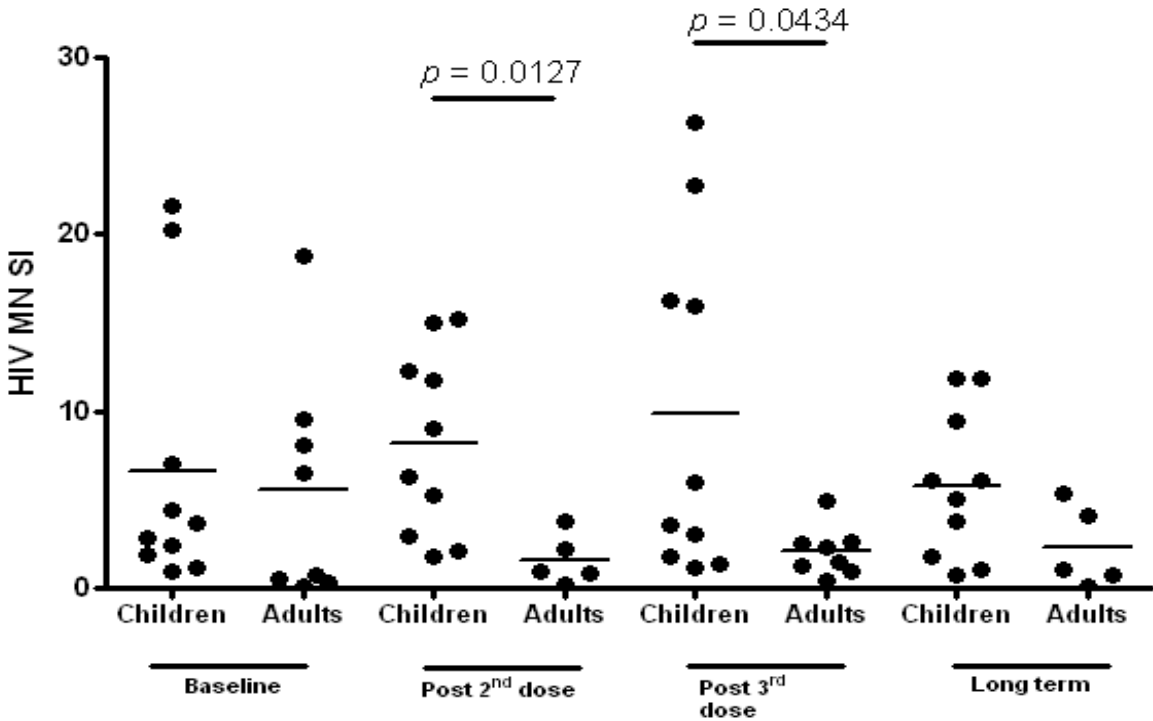
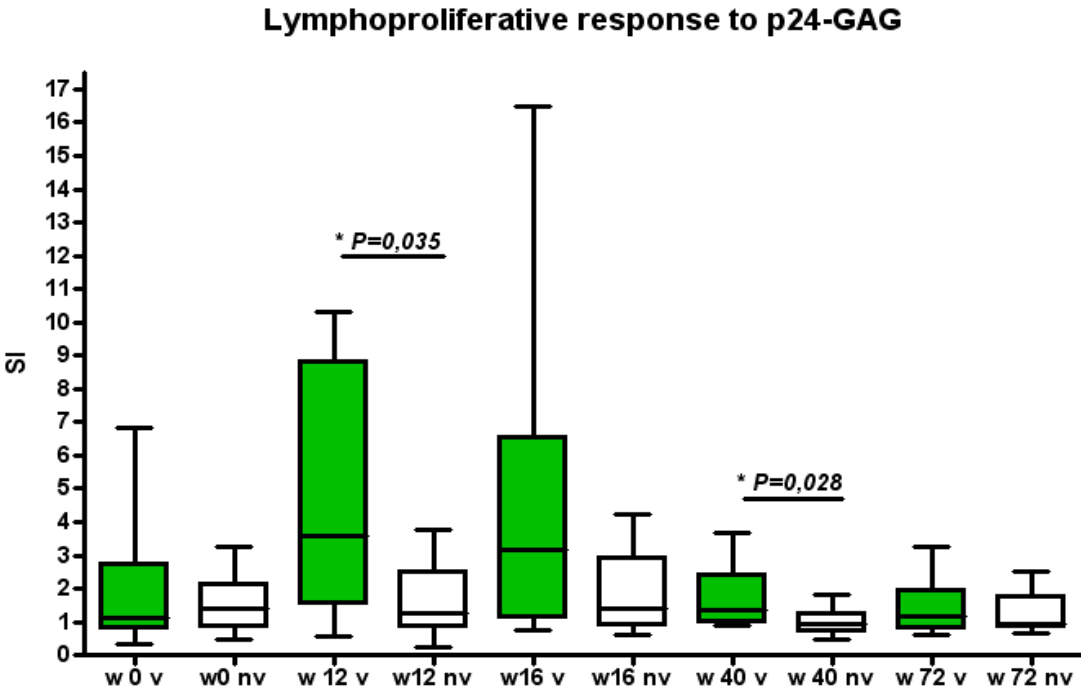
	GROUP A Controls	GROUP B Vaccinees
Female/Male	6/4	6/4
Age (years) median (range)	12,0 (8,1–16,3)	11,5 (6,3–14,3)
CD4+ percentage median (range)	35,5 (28–47)	34 (28–42)
CD4+ no. of cells/mm ³ , median (range)	748,5 (423–1188)	798 (497–1094)
Median time in months with HIV<50 copies/ml before study entry (range)	101 (13–156)	69 (12–137)
ART: 2 NRTI/PI	5/10	4/10
ART: 2 NRTI/NNRTI	5/10	6/10
Median time in months with the same ART (range)	12 (12–42)	16,5 (9–46)
Early ART treated children within the first year of life	2/10	2/10

Distribution of adverse events in the Pedvac study

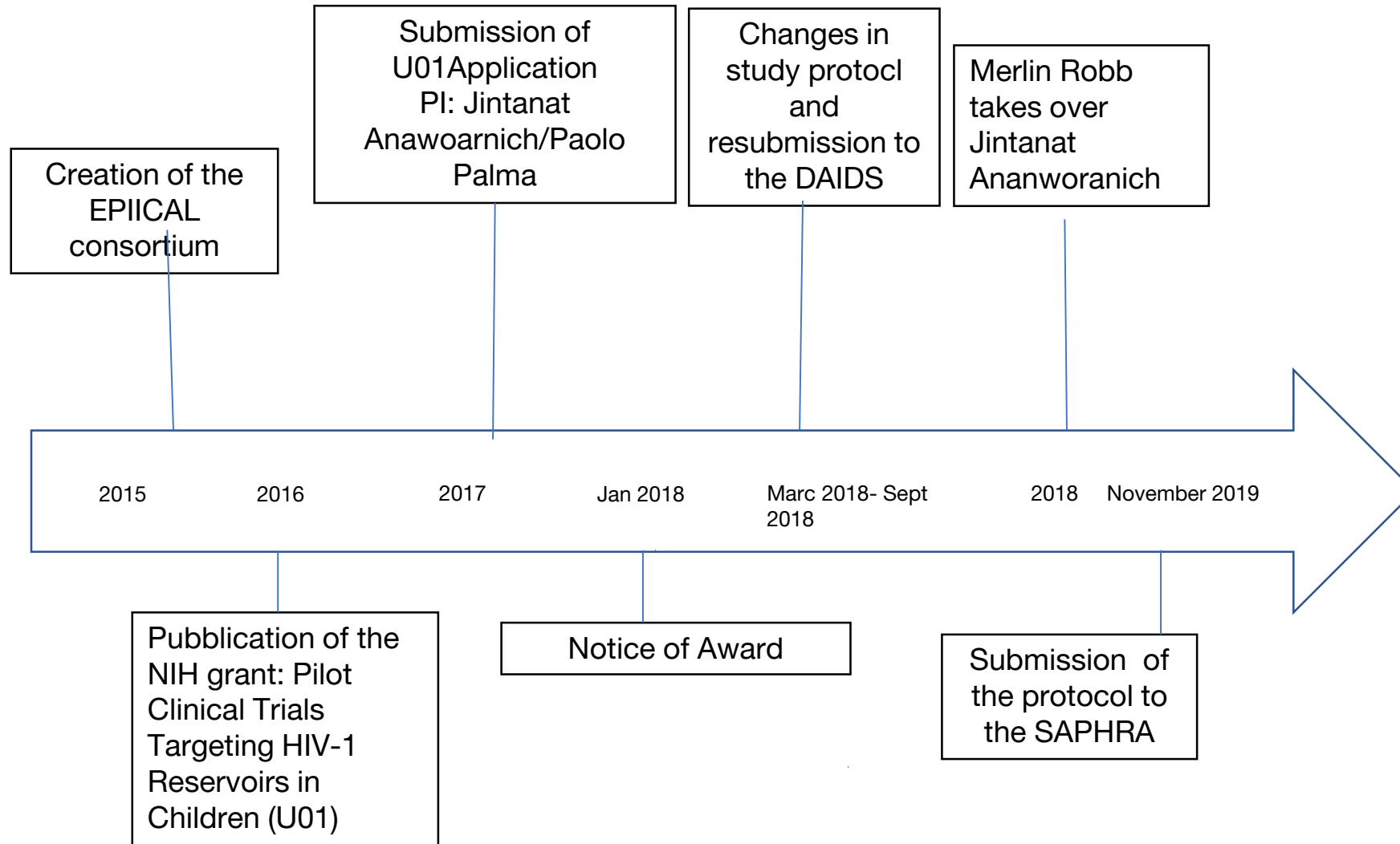




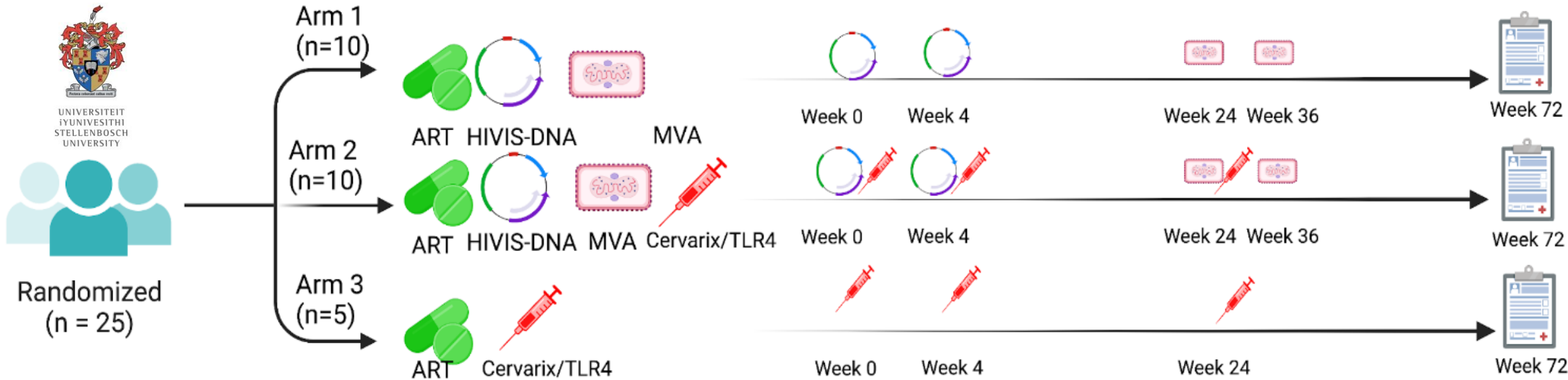
Therapeutic DNA Vaccination of Vertically HIV-Infected Children: Report of the First Pediatric Randomised Trial (PEDVAC)



HURRICANE Time line



HVRRICANE STUDY DESIGN

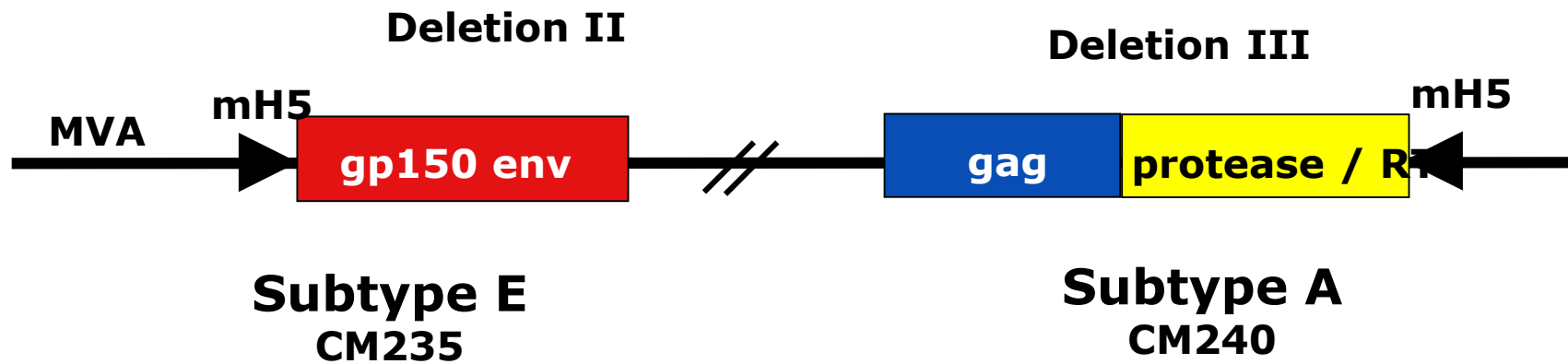


Enrollment Criteria

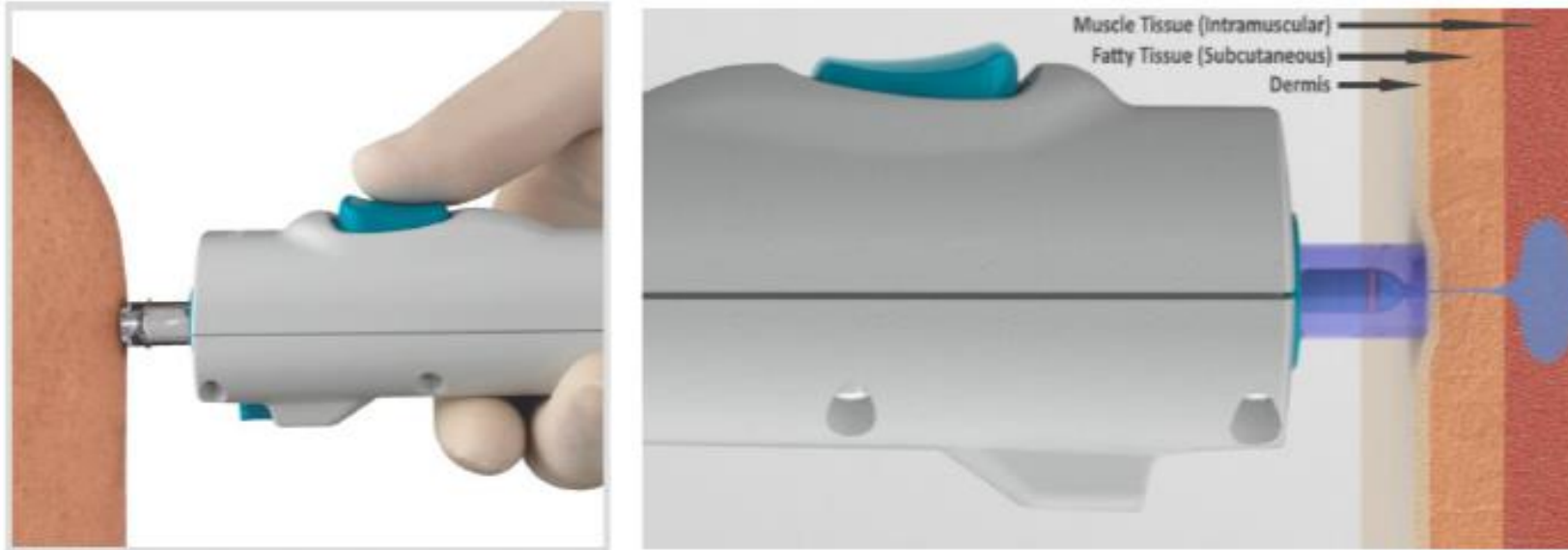
1. HIV perinatally infected
2. Know their HIV+ status
3. Initiated ART prior to 6 months of age
4. Male and female ≥ 9 years old
5. In generally good health
6. Plasma viral load < 200 copies/ml on ART at screening
7. CD4 count above 400 cells/mm^3 at screening
8. Participants of childbearing potential who are sexually active must be willing to practice effective contraception during the study
9. Negative urine β -HCG (human chorionic gonadotropin) pregnancy test for any female of childbearing age (post-menarche)
10. Availability for follow-up for planned duration of the study
11. Passing a test of understanding is required for participants ≥ 18 years old or the parent(s)/legal representative of participants < 18 years old before consent.
12. Written informed consent from participants ≥ 18 years old or parent(s)/legal representative of participants < 18 years old. Assent by participants aged 9-17 years old will also be required.
13. Laboratory criteria within 8 weeks prior to enrollment

MVA* / CMDR boost

Developed by P Earl and B Moss, Laboratory of Viral Diseases, NIAID, NIH
Produced by Walter Reed Army Institute of Research



Needle-free Injection: How does it work?



- Calibrated spring force allows for injection of vaccine or therapeutic into intramuscular tissue
 - Single use, sterile, disposable needle free syringe
 - Reusable injector (validated to 20,000 uses)
 - Vial adapter

Specific Aims

- **Aim 1:** To quantitate and characterize the **HIV reservoirs** before and after HIVIS DNA \pm TLR4 agonist and MVA-CMDR vaccination
- **Aim 2:** To characterize **HIV-specific cellular and humoral immune responses** before and after vaccination and assess their relationship to the HIV reservoir endpoints

To do list for the HVRICANE (RV534) STUDY

first

HIV-specific CD8+ and CD4+ T cell responses:

- Multicolor flow cytometry (BD FACSymphony A3) and ICS upon *in vitro* stimulation with HIV peptide pools
- Fluorospot T upon *in vitro* stimulation with HIV peptide pools

Immunophenotyping (BD FACSymphony A3) and plasma protein profiling (Olink)

second

third

Antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (BD FACSymphony A3):

- Infected cell elimination assays against HIV-1 infected 8E5_LAV cells
- Antibody- dependent NK cell activation assays against HIV-1 infected 8E5_LAV cells

HIV antibodies and neutralization activity

fourth

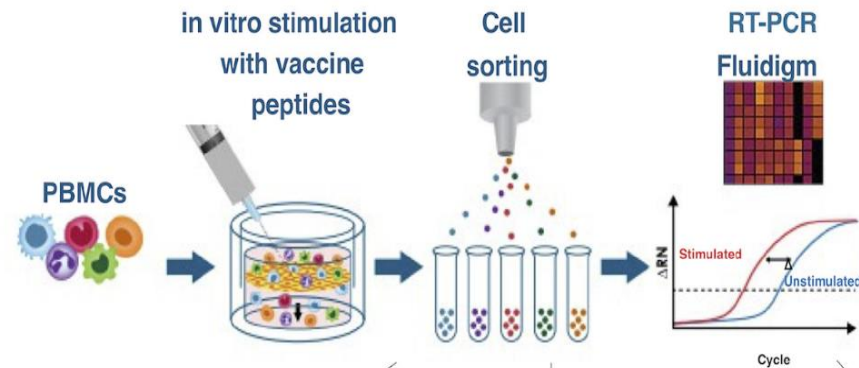
fifth

Global gene expression on PBMCs (RNAseq)

Gene expression of HIV-specific CD8+ (identified as mICAM+ upon *in vitro* stimulation with HIV peptide pools) and CD4+ (identified as CD40L+ upon *in vitro* stimulation with HIV peptide pools) T cells (Fluidigm)

sixth

Detection and sorting of HIV specific B and T cell responses and evaluation of their Transcriptomic profile .



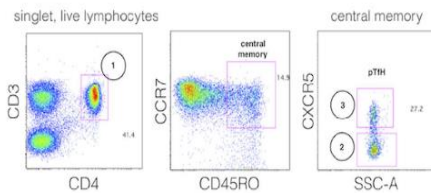
FACS-Cell sorting strategies

Sorted subsets for multiplexed PCR (Fluidigm) in multiple exp. conditions

Gene Expression in multiple subsets/conditions

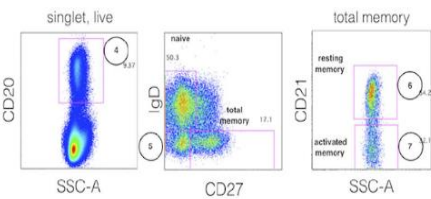
T cell subsets

w/o in vitro H1N1 stimulation



B cell subsets

w/o in vitro H1N1 stimulation



○ Unstimulated
● H1N1 Stimulated

- 1 1 CD4 T cells
- 2 2 non pTfH
- 3 3 pTfH
- 4 4 B cells
- 5 5 DN B cells
- 6 6 Resting memory (RM)
- 7 7 Activated Memory

Differentially Induced Genes (DIGs)

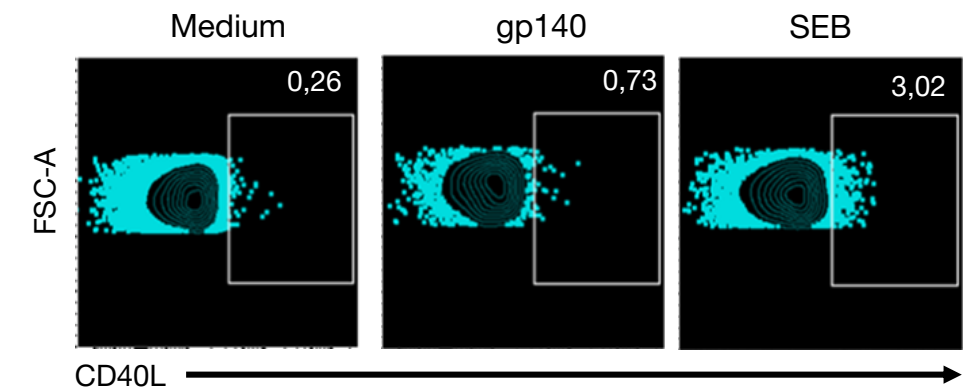
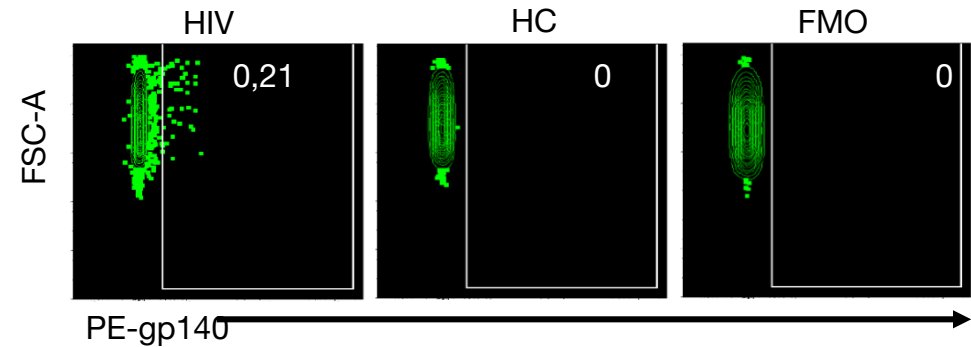
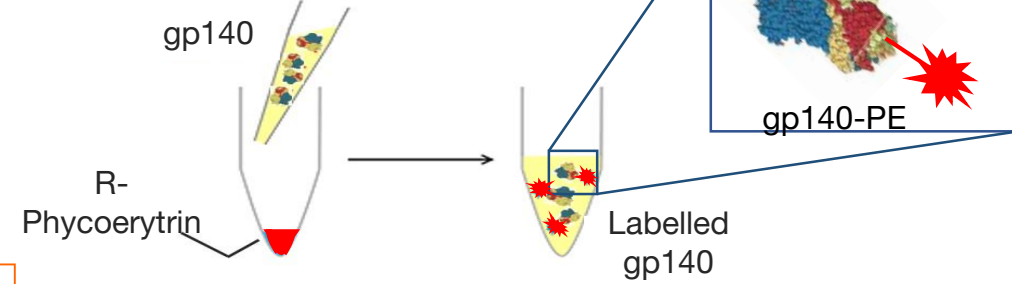
Differentially Expressed Genes (DEGs)

Differentially Expressed Genes (DEGs)

gated on live B cells

gated on live T cells

Lightning-Link ® conjugation kit



Cotugno N et al AIDS. 2020 Apr 1;34(5):669-680.

Rinaldi S et al J Immunol. 2020 Feb 1;204(3):540-549.

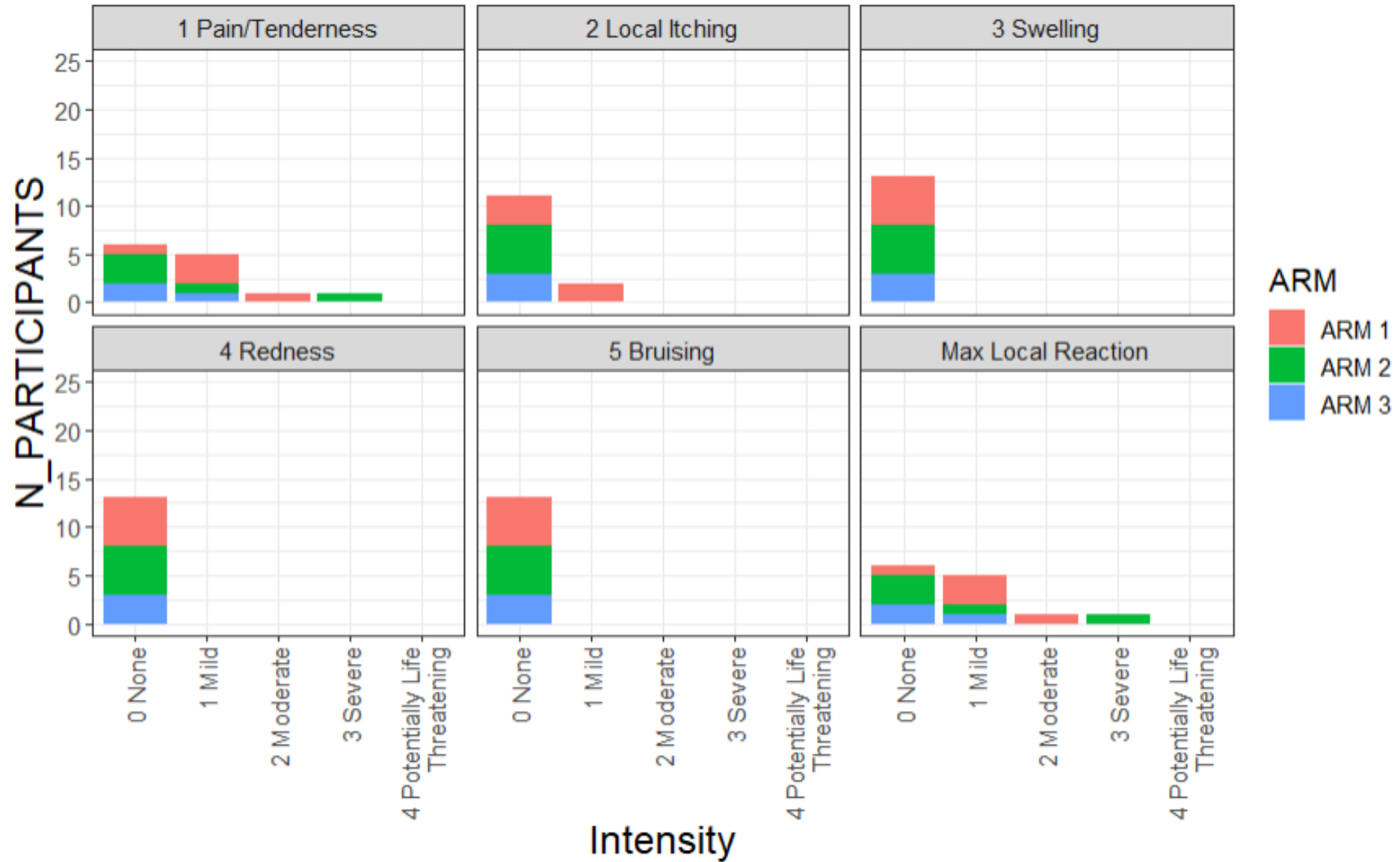
Study Product Administration Summary

(Data as of EOD 26OCT2022)

	Week 0		Week 4		Week 24		Week 36	
Arm (n=planned for each arm)	Visit n	Vaccinated n(%)	Visit n	Vaccinated n(%)	Visit n	Vaccinated n(%)	Visit n	Vaccinated n(%)
Arm 1 (n=10)	10	10 (100%)	10	10 (100%)	5	5 (50.0%)	0	0 (0.0%)
Arm 2 (n=10)	10	10 (100%)	10	10 (100%)	5	5 (50.0%)	0	0 (0.0%)
Arm 3 (n= 5)	5	5 (100%)	5	5 (100%)	3	3 (60.0%)	0	0 (0.0%)
All Arms (N=25)	25	25 (100%)	25	25 (100%)	13	13 (52.0%)	0	0 (0.0%)

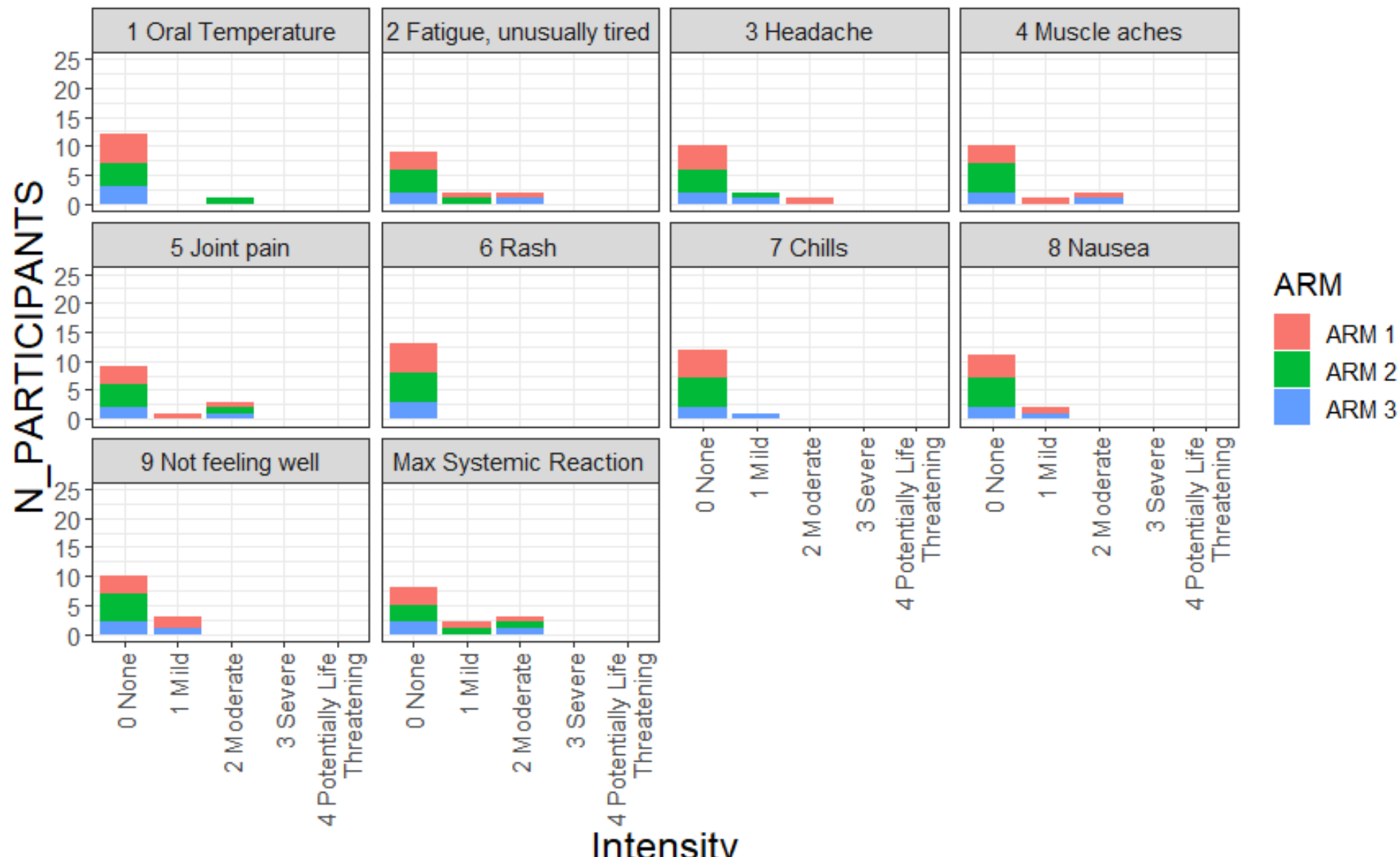
Local Reactions, WK24 (immediate + days 0 to 7)

Data as of EOD 26Oct2022



Systemic Reactions, WK24 (immediate + days 0 to 7)

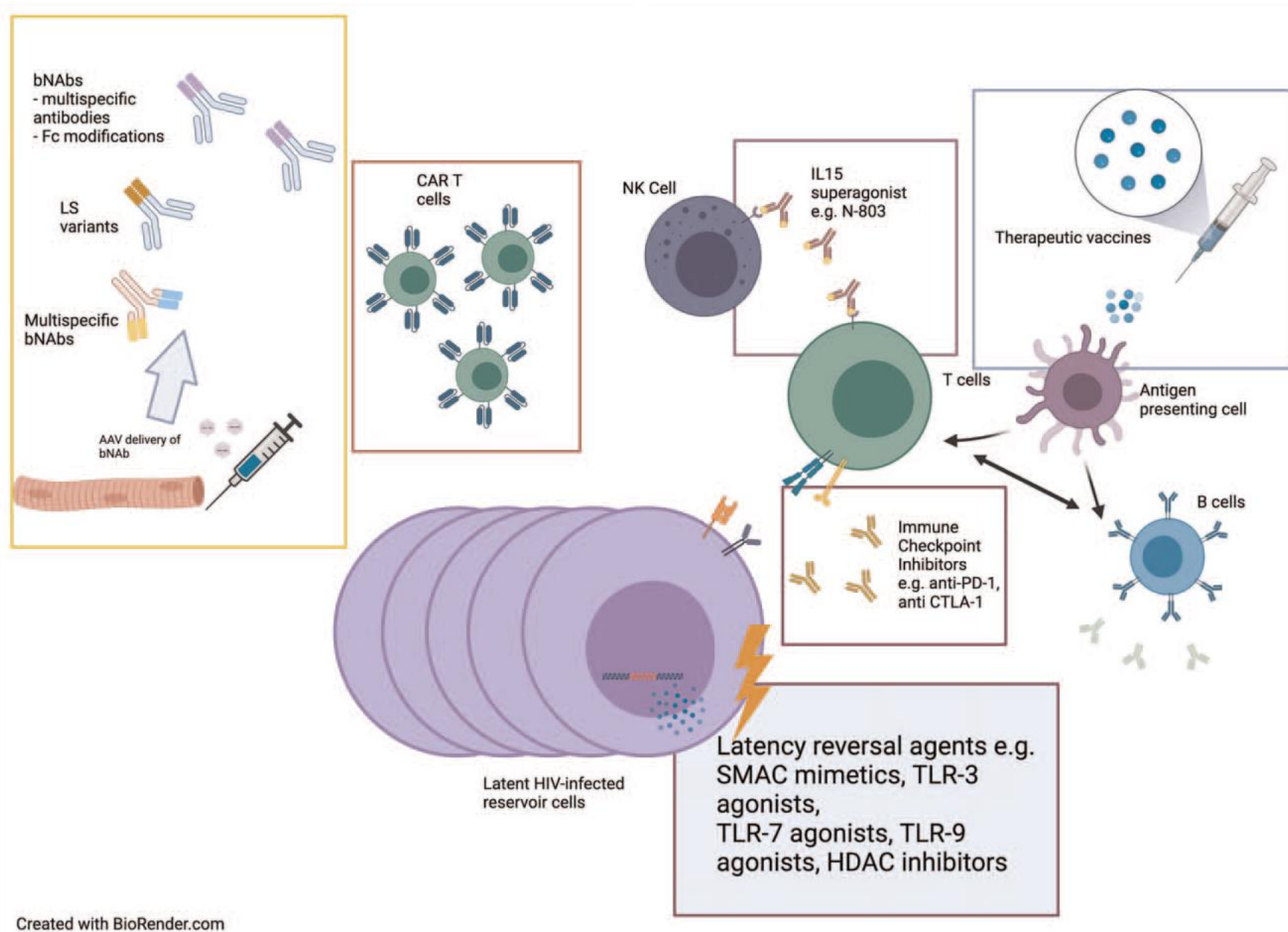
Data as of EOD 26Oct2022



Innovation

- First prime-boost HIVIS DNA/MVA-CMDR therapeutic vaccines in long term virological suppressed children
- First prime-boost HIVIS DNA/MVA-CMDR therapeutic vaccines in children to explore its impact on the reduction of HIV reservoir
- Novel strategy to deliver HIV-DNA vaccine pharmajet stratis needle free device- First time in children
- Novel strategy giving a licensed vaccine to adjuvant HIVIS DNA
 - HPV vaccine, Cervarix with TLR4 agonist
- Support EPIICAL's long-term goal to develop optimized proof of concept vaccine studies in children

Diagram summarising immunotherapeutic strategies targeting the latent HIV reservoir.

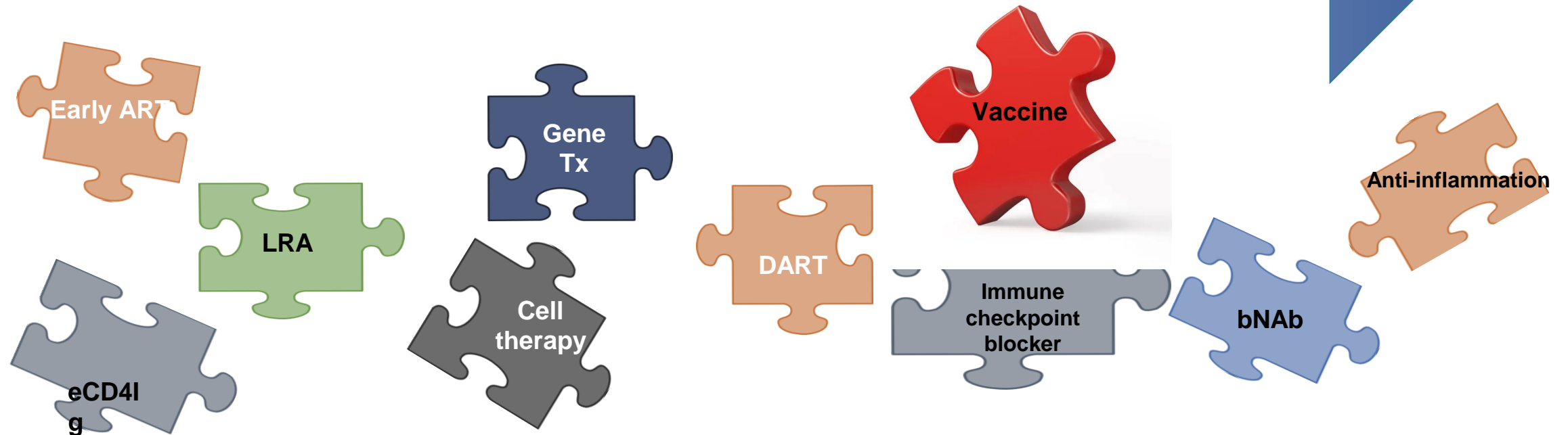


Combination Strategies Towards HIV Remission

**Control
reservoir**

**Persistent immune
surveillance**

**Durable
remission**



Acknowledgements

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Many more

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