#### First-in-human trial of M9140, an anti-CEACAM5 antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) with exatecan payload, in patients (pts) with metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC)

**Scott Kopetz**<sup>1</sup>(SKopetz@mdanderson.org)</sup>, Valentina Boni<sup>2</sup>, Ken Kato<sup>3</sup>, Kanwal Pratap Singh Raghav<sup>1</sup>, Athanasios Pallis<sup>4</sup>, Christina Habermehl<sup>5</sup>, Srikanth Galipelli<sup>6</sup>, Perrine Courlet<sup>7</sup>, Ildefonso Rodriguez Rivera<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX; <sup>2</sup>NEXT Oncology, Universitary Hospital Quiron Salud, Madrid, Spain; <sup>3</sup>National Cancer Center Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; <sup>4</sup>Merck Santé S.A.S., Lyon, France, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany; <sup>5</sup>the healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany; <sup>6</sup>Merck Specialities Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, India, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany; <sup>7</sup>Merck Institute of Pharmacometrics, Ares Trading S.A, Lausanne, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany; <sup>8</sup>NEXT Oncology, San Antonio, TX

Presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting (ASCO) | May 31 – June 4, 2024 | Chicago, IL, USA and virtual | Abstract number 3000

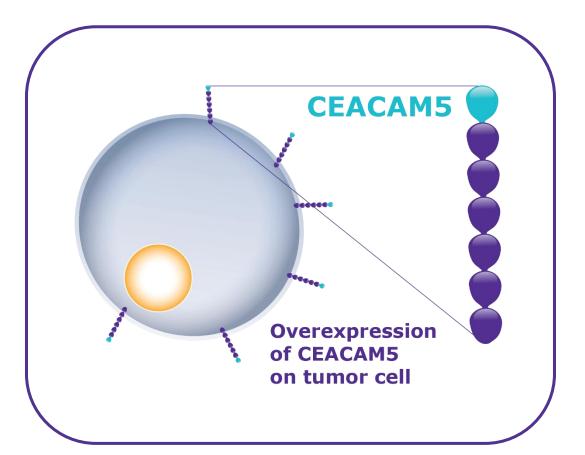


#### **Disclosures for Dr Kopetz**

Dr. Kopetz reports consulting or advisory role in Genentech, EMD Serono, the healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Holy Stone Healthcare, Novartis, Lilly, AstraZeneca/MedImmune, Bayer Health, Redx Pharma, Ipsen, HalioDx, Lutris, Jacobio, Pfizer, Repare Therapeutics, Inivata, GlaxoSmithKline, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Iylon, Xilis, Abbvie, Amal Therapeutics, Gilead Sciences, Mirati Therapeutics, Flame Biosciences, Servier, Carina Biotech, Bicara Therapeutics, Endeavor BioMedicines, Numab, Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, Genomic Health, Frontier Medicines, Replimune, Taiho Pharmaceutical, Cardiff Oncology, Ono Pharmaceutical, Bristol-Myers Squibb/Medarex, Tempus, Foundation Medicine, Harbinger Oncology, Inc, Takeda, CureTeq, Black Diamond Therapeutics, NeoGenomics Laboratories, Accademia, Nazionale Di Medicina (ACCMED), Boehringer Ingelheim, AVEO, Amgen, Tachyon Therapeutics, Zentalis, Roche, and Sanofi; stock and other ownership interests in Lutris, Iylon, Frontier Medicines, Xilis, and Navire; has received research funding from Sanofi, Biocartis, Guardant Health, Array BioPharma, Genentech/Roche, EMD Serono, MedImmune, Novartis, Amgen, Lilly, and Daiichi Sankyo.



#### **Carcinoembryogenic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule 5** (CEACAM5) as an attractive ADC target



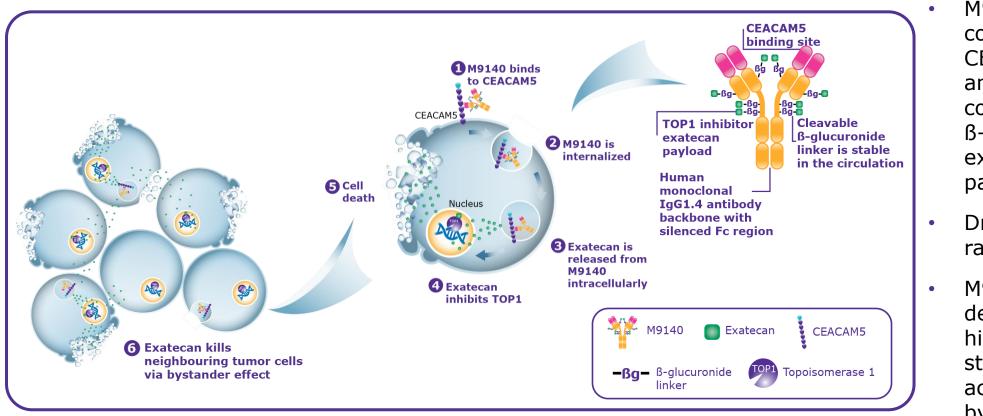
- CEACAM5 is a cell surface glycoprotein that modulates cell adhesion, differentiation, and proliferation<sup>1</sup>
- CEACAM5 has limited expression in adult healthy tissues but is overexpressed in various adenocarcinomas, particularly in CRC (>90% of patients)<sup>2,3</sup>
- Exploiting CEACAM5 overexpression in certain cancers has the potential to offer a promising approach for ADC-based therapy



ADC, antibody-drug conjugate; CRC, colorectal cancer

1. Beauchemin N, Arabzadeh A. Cancer Metastasis Rev. 2013;32(3-4):643-671; 2. Zhang X, et al. J Int Med Res. 2020;48(9):300060520959478; 3. Decary S, et al. Clin Cancer Res. 2020;26(24):6589-6599.

### M9140 is the first anti-CEACAM5 ADC with a Top1 inhibitor payload (exatecan)



M9140 is composed of a CEACAM5-specific antibody conjugated to ß-glucuronide exatecan linker payload<sup>1</sup>

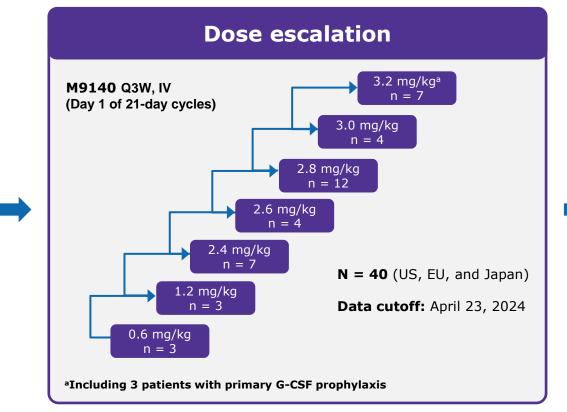
- Drug-to-antibody ratio (DAR): 8<sup>1</sup>
- M9140 has demonstrated high potency, strong antitumor activity, and bystander effect in preclinical efficacy models<sup>1</sup>

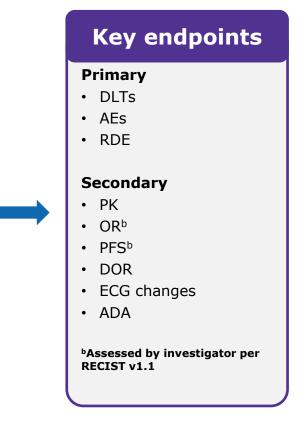
ADC, antibody-drug conjugate; CEACAM5, Carcinoembryogenic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule 5; Top1, topoisomerase 1 1. Raab-Westphal S, et al. AACR 2024 (abstract 2362).

#### **PROCEADE-CRC-01: A Phase 1, open-label, multicenter trial of M9140** in patients with mCRC (NCT05464030)

#### Key eligibility criteria

- Patients with confirmed LA/M CRC intolerant/refractory to or progressing after standard systemic therapies
- ECOG PS  $\leq 1$
- Patients with archived FFPE tumor tissue available. If archived tumor material not available, fresh biopsy required
- Patients were not selected on the basis of CEACAM5 expression





**PROCEADE-CRC-01** 

ADA, anti-drug antibody; AE, adverse event; CEACAM5, Carcinoembryogenic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule 5; DLT, dose-limiting toxicity; DOR, duration of response; ECG, electrocardiogram; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; FFPE, formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded; G-CSF, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; IV, intravenous; LA/M, locally advanced or metastatic; mCRC, metastatic colorectal cancer; MSI-H, microsatellite instability high; MTD, maximum tolerable dose; OR, objective response; PFS, progression-free survival; PK, pharmacokinetics; Q3W, every three weeks; RDE, recommended dose for expansion; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors

Refer to ClinicalTrials.gov (<u>NCT05464030</u>) for additional information (accessed May 28, 2024).

#### **Baseline and demographic characteristics**

<b>Baseline characteristics</b>		All patients (N = 40)
Age, mean (SD), years		58.2 (10.98)
Sex, n (%)	Male Female	20 (50.0) 20 (50.0)
Race, n (%)	White Asian Black or	26 (65.0) 11 (27.5)
	African American Other	2 (5.0) 1 (2.5)
Site of primary tumor <sup>a</sup> , n (%)	Colon Rectum	31 (77.5) <sup>b</sup> 8 (20.0)
ECOG PS	0 1	15 (37.5) 25 (62.5)
Time since initial cancer diagnosis, median (min, max), years		3.4 (0.9, 12.0)

<b>Baseline characteristics</b>		All patients (N = 40)
Number of previous systemic anticancer therapies, n (%)	2 3 ≥4	8 (20.0) 16 (40.0) 16 (40.0)
Major treatments before trial initiation, n (%)	Cetuximab Panitumumab Bevacizumab Fluorouracil Oxaliplatin Irinotecan	8 (20.0) 15 (37.5) 37 (92.5) 38 (95.0) 39 (97.5) 40 (100.0)
KRAS mutation status	Yes No Unknown	19 (47.5) 17(42.5) 4 (10.0)
NRAS mutation status	Yes No Unknown	3 (7.5) 31(77.5) 6 (15.0)
BRAF mutation status	Yes No Unknown	5 (12.5) 28 (70.0) 7 (17.5)

#### PROCEADE-CRC-01



<sup>a</sup>Data for 1 patient was missing; <sup>b</sup>Left colon: n = 19 (47.5%), Right colon: n = 8 (20.0%), Sigmoid colon: n = 2 (5.0%) ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; SD, standard deviation

#### **Dose-limiting toxicities (DLTs)**

DLT event (SMC decision)	0.6 mg/kg (n = 3)	1.2 mg/kg (n = 3)	2.4 mg/kg (n = 7)	2.6 mg/kg (n = 4)	2.8 mg/kg (n = 12)	3.0 mg/kg (n = 4)	3.2 mg/kgª (n = 7)	Total (N = 40)
Total, n (%)	0	0	1 (14.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (8.3)	1 (25.0)	4 (57.1)	7 (17.5)
Anemia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (14.3)	1 (2.5)
Febrile neutropenia	0	0	1 (14.3)	0	0	0	2 (28.6)	3 (7.5)
Neutrophil count decreased	0	0	0	0	0	1 (25.0)	1 (14.3)	2 (5.0)
Platelet count decreased	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (28.6)	2 (5.0)
Sepsis	0	0	0	0	1 (8.3)	0	0	1 (2.5)
Thrombocytopenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (14.3)	1 (2.5)

Overall, 7 patients experienced DLTs; the majority were hematological adverse events at DLs 3.0 and 3.2 mg/kg; 1 patient (at 2.8 mg/kg) experienced a Grade 5 sepsis

PROCEADE-CRC-01



<sup>a</sup>Including 3 patients with primary G-CSF prophylaxis DL, dose level; G-CSF, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor Kopetz S, et al. Abstract number 3000 at ASCO Annual Meeting 2024 | May 31 – June 4, 2024 | Chicago, IL, USA and virtual

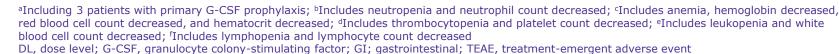
#### Safety profile

#### Grade $\geq$ 3 TEAEs

	0.6 mg/kg (n = 3)	1.2 mg/kg (n = 3)	2.4 mg/kg (n = 7)	2.6 mg/kg (n = 4)	2.8 mg/kg (n = 12)	3.0 mg/kg (n = 4)	3.2 mg/kgª (n = 7)	Total (N = 40)
Patients with ≥1 Grade ≥3 TEAE, n (%)	1 (33.3)	1 (33.3)	3 (42.9)	3 (75.0)	8 (66.7)	3 (75.0)	7 (100.0)	26 (65.0)
Grade ≥3 TEAEs repo	orted in ≥10% c	of patients (total)	, n (%)					
Neutropenia <sup>b</sup>	0	0	3 (42.9)	2 (50.0)	6 (50.0)	2 (50.0)	6 (85.7)	19 (47.5)
Anemia <sup>c</sup>	0	0	2 (28.6)	1 (25.0)	6 (50.0)	1 (25.0)	6 (85.7)	16 (40.0)
Thrombocytopeniad	0	0	2 (28.6)	1 (25.0)	3 (25.0)	2 (50.0)	5 (71.4)	13 (32.5)
Leukopenia <sup>e</sup>	0	0	1 (14.3)	1 (25.0)	4 (33.3)	1 (25.0)	5 (71.4)	12 (30.0)
Lymphopenia <sup>f</sup>	0	1 (33.3)	1 (14.3)	0	2 (16.7)	2 (50.0)	3 (42.9)	9 (22.5)

• The most frequently reported Grade  $\geq$ 3 TEAEs were neutropenia, anemia, thrombocytopenia, and leukopenia

- Grade 5 TEAEs were gastrointestinal hemorrhage and sepsis, both occurring at DL 2.8 mg/kg (n = 1 each)
- No events of ocular toxicity or interstitial lung disease were reported
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea were predominantly Grade 1; no Grade ≥3 events were observed for these GI TEAEs

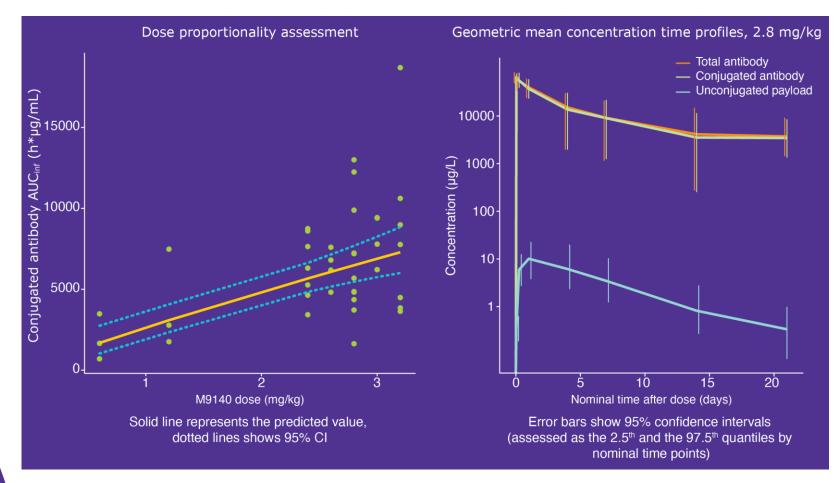


Kopetz S, et al. Abstract number 3000 at ASCO Annual Meeting 2024 | May 31 - June 4, 2024 | Chicago, IL, USA and virtual



**PROCEADE-CRC-01** 

#### **Clinical pharmacokinetics of M9140**



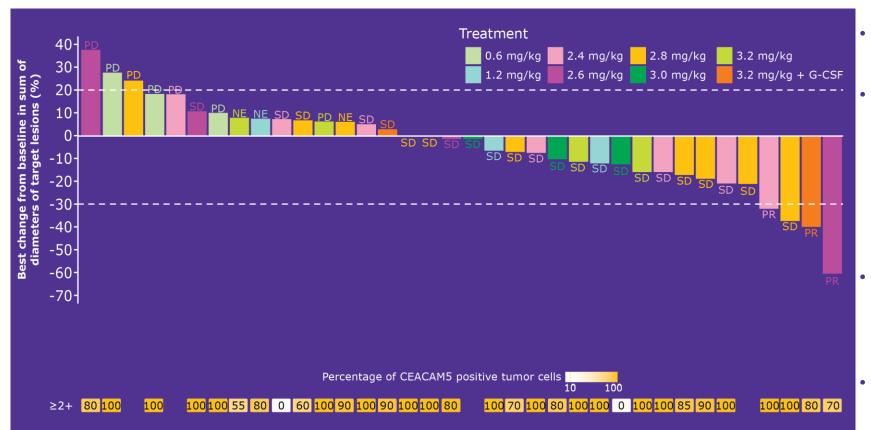
- At doses 0.6–3.2 mg/kg (Q3W; IV), the conjugated antibody and exatecan exhibit linear and dose-proportional PK
- M9140 shows systemic stability
- t<sub>1/2</sub> was 6.8 days for M9140 and 5.1 days for exatecan
- M9140 systemic exposures at the RDE (range: 2.4–2.8 mg/kg Q3W) are pharmacologically relevant for antitumor activity based on modeling and simulation
- Minimal accumulation of exatecan upon repeated dosing, consistent with manageable multi-cycle tolerability

#### **PROCEADE-CRC-01**



CI, confidence interval; IV, intravenous; PK, pharmacokinetics; Q3W, every three weeks; RDE, recommended dose for expansion;  $t_{1/2}$ , half-life Kopetz S, et al. Abstract number 3000 at ASCO Annual Meeting 2024 | May 31 – June 4, 2024 | Chicago, IL, USA and virtual

#### **Best overall response**



Reduction in tumor size was observed at DLs  $\geq$ 1.2 mg/kg

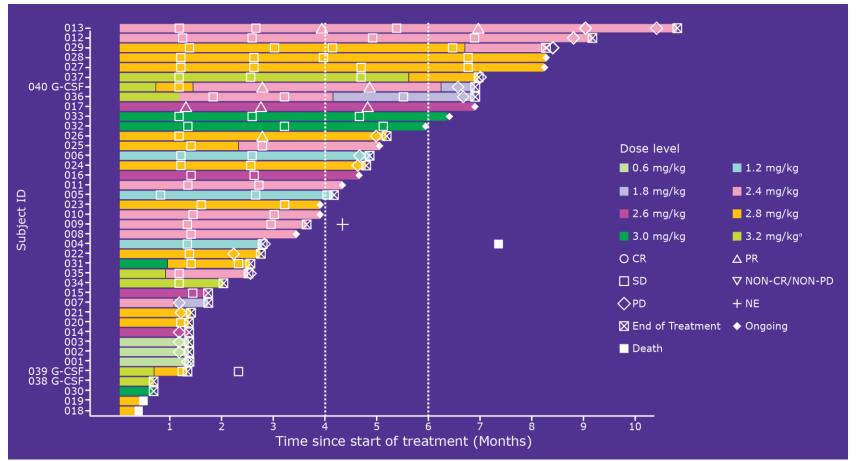
- Four patients had a tumor size reduction of  $\geq$  30%
  - Three of these patients had a confirmed PR
  - All PRs occurred at doses ≥2.4 mg/kg
- DCR was 65% (confirmed PR [n = 3] + SD[n = 23] = 26 of 40patients)
- The majority of patients had high CEACAM5 expression

#### **PROCEADE-CRC-01**



CEACAM5, Carcinoembryogenic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule 5; DCR, disease control rate; DL, dose level; G-CSF, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; NE, not evaluable; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease

#### **Treatment duration and response over time**



- At DLs ≥2.4 mg/kg, 8 of 34 (23.5%) patients stayed on treatment for 6 months, 2 of whom were on treatment for >9 months
- Eleven (27.5%) patients continue with the treatment as of data cutoff (April 23, 2024)
- TEAEs led to dose reductions in 8 (20.0%) patients, all at DL ≥2.8 mg/kg

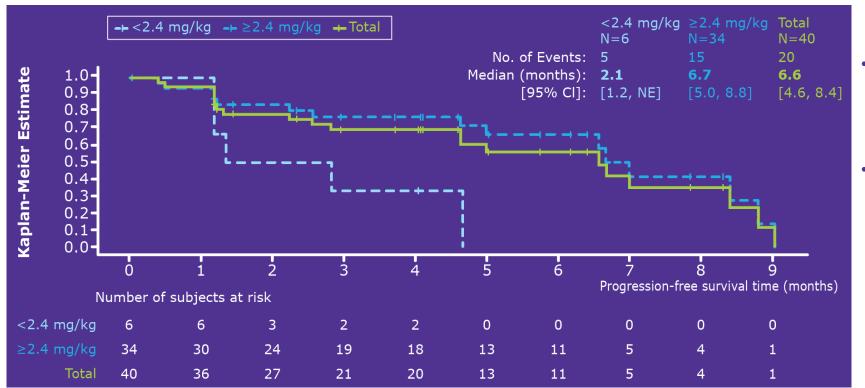
#### PROCEADE-CRC-01



<sup>a</sup>Including 3 patients with primary G-CSF prophylaxis

CR, complete response; DL, dose level; G-CSF, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; NE, not evaluable; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event

#### **Progression-free survival (PFS)**



- The median PFS was 6.6 (95% CI: 4.6, 8.4) months; 11 (27.5%) patients continue on treatment
- PFS was higher for patients treated with M9140 ≥2.4 mg/kg vs. <2.4 mg/kg (6.7 [95% CI: 5.0, 8.8] months vs. 2.1 [95% CI: 1.2, NE] months)





#### CI, confidence interval; NE, not evaluable

#### **Case study of Patient # 017**

Patient characteristics	
Demographics	52-year-old, White, Male
Metastatic sites	Liver Subsite: Hepatic flexure
Biomarker status	KRAS mut, BRAF/NRAS wt, CEACAM5 TPS score ≥2+ was 70
Treatment history	<ul> <li>Adjuvant: oxaliplatin + capecitabine; disease recurrence after 1 year</li> <li>Started FOLFIRI + bevacizumab; best response PR</li> <li>Experimental IO therapy; best response was PD</li> </ul>
Dose of M9140	2.6 mg/kg
Response to M9140; tumor shrinkage	PR; -60.53%
Exposure time	210 days (patient is still on treatment in Cycle 10 at data cutoff with no dose reductions)

# Baseline ~ 5 months

We acknowledge Dr. KPS Raghav for providing patient data

**PROCEADE-CRC-01** 

CEACAM5, Carcinoembryogenic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule 5; mut; mutant; FOLFIRI, folinic acid, fluorouracil, and irinotecan; IO, immuno-oncology; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; TPS, tumor proportion score; wt, wild type

#### Conclusions

- In this Phase 1 dose escalation study in patients with 3L+ CRC:
  - M9140 demonstrated a manageable and predictable safety profile with hematological DLTs consistent with Top1 payload
    - No interstitial lung disease or ocular toxicities were observed
  - The MTD was declared as 2.8 mg/kg:
    - 2.4 mg/kg and 2.8 mg/kg are the doses selected for the ongoing randomized dose optimization
  - M9140 showed encouraging and durable antitumor activity at therapeutic doses ≥2.4 mg/kg (n=34):
    - DCR was 70.5% (confirmed PR [n = 3] + SD [n = 21])
    - PFS was 6.7 months
- Evaluation of M9140 in patients with mCRC as monotherapy as well as in combinations continues in the expansion part of this study

**PROCEADE-CRC-01** 



BOR, best overall response; DCR, disease control rate; DLTs, dose-limiting toxicities; mCRC, metastatic colorectal cancer; MTD, maximum tolerable dose; PFS, progression-free survival; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; Top1, topoisomerase 1

#### Acknowledgments

• The authors would like to thank the patients, their families, study investigators, and study personnel across all sites for participating in this study.

#### **United States**

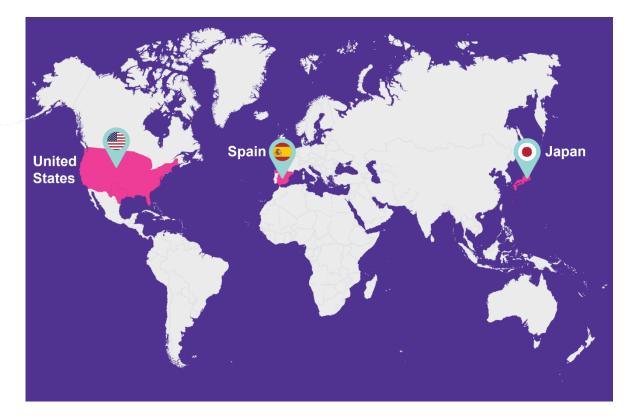
- MD Anderson Cancer Center Oncology, Houston, Texas
   Principal Investigator: Scott Kopetz and Kanwal Raghav
- NEXT Oncology, San Antonio, Texas
   Principal Investigator: Ildefonso Rodriguez Rivera

#### Spain

- Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron VHIR, Barcelona Principal Investigator: Elena Garralda Cabanas
- Hospital Universitario Quironsalud Madrid- NEXT Oncology, Madrid
   Principal Investigator: Valentina Boni

#### Japan

- National Cancer Center Hospital Dept of Gastroenterology, Chuo-ku Principal Investigator: Ken Kato
- The trial was sponsored by EMD Serono (CrossRef Funder ID: 10.13039/100004755).



**PROCEADE-CRC-01** 

Medical writing assistance was provided by Anupama Singh and Gaurav Vijay Jadhav of Merck Specialities Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, India, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany Kopetz S, et al. Abstract number 3000 at ASCO Annual Meeting 2024 | May 31 – June 4, 2024 | Chicago, IL, USA and virtual

## Thank you!

**PROCEADE-CRC-01** 

