VTP-50469 is a novel, orally-available Menin-MLL1 inhibitor effective against *MLL*-rearranged and *NPM1c*$^{+}$ leukemia

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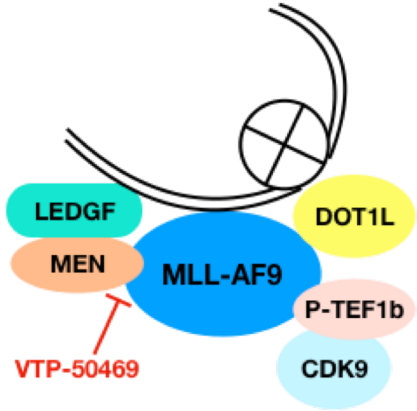
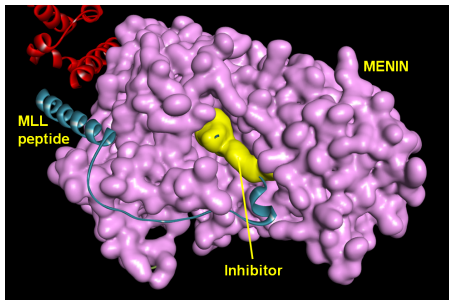
Introduction:

- *MLL*-rearrangements are found approximately 5-10% of AML and B-ALL cases, also >70% of infant leukemias (Krivtsov and Armstrong 2007). *NPM1c*$^{+}$ mutations are found in about 25-30% of all adult AML (Ley T et al., 2013).

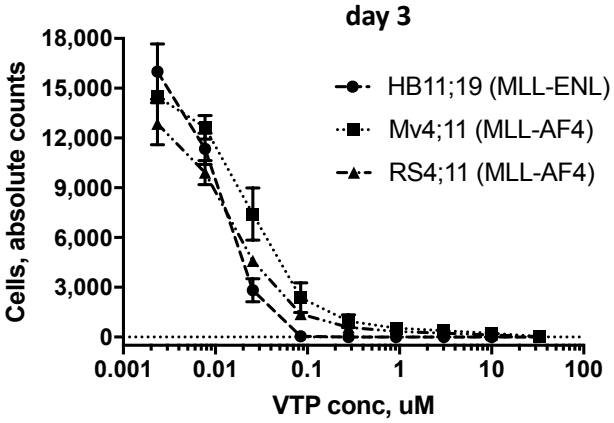
- Therapeutic targeting of MEN:MLL1/MLL-fusion interaction in *MLL*-rearranged and *NPM1c*$^{+}$ AML inhibits cell proliferation. (Yokoyama et al 2005; Borkin et al., 2015; Kuhn et al., 2015)

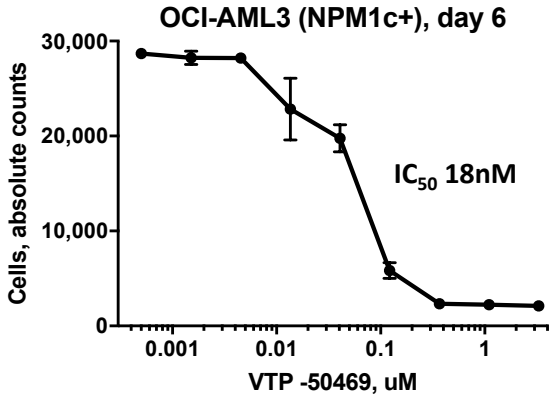
- Currently available MEN:MLL interaction inhibitors have modest drug like properties. Therefore, VTP-50469 was developed as a novel orally available MEN:MLL1 inhibitor.





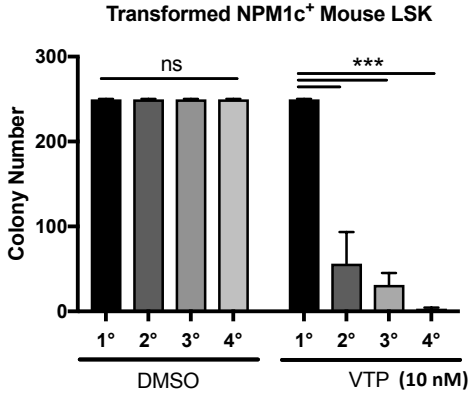
VTP-50469 selectively kills cell lines with *MLL*-rearrangements and *NPM1c*$^{+}$ mutations





CellTiter-Glo assay

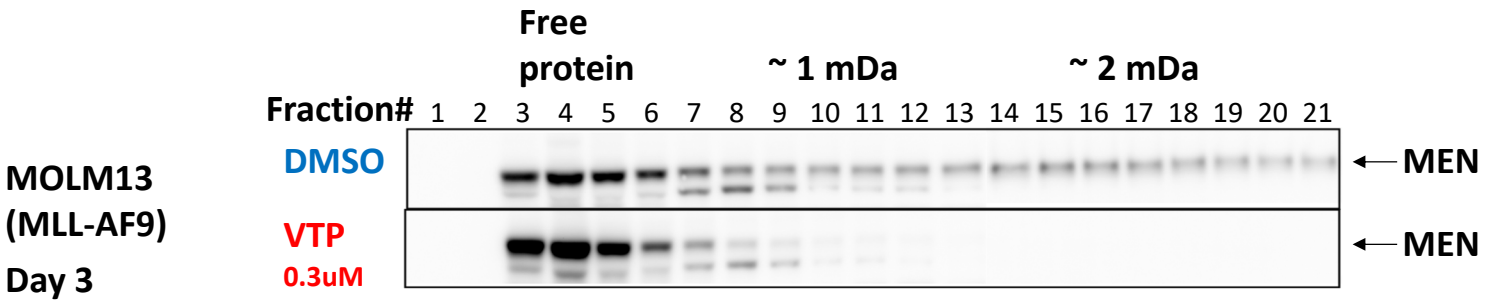
CELL LINE	FUSION	IC_{50} nM
MV4;11	MLL-AF4	17
SEM-K2	MLL-AF4, AF4-MLL	27
RS4;11	MLL-AF4, AF4-MLL	25
MOLM-13	MLL-AF9	13
KOPN-8	MLL-ENL	15
HB11;19	MLL-ENL	36
REH	NONE	>>2000
HL-60	NONE	>>2000

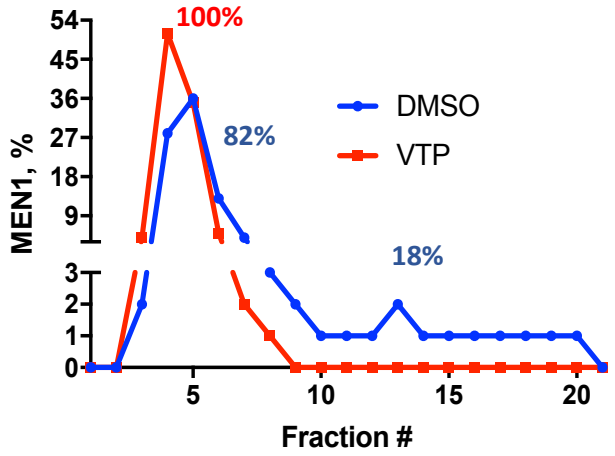


Colony forming assay in semi-solid media

VTP-50469 dissociates MEN from nuclear complexes, in cells

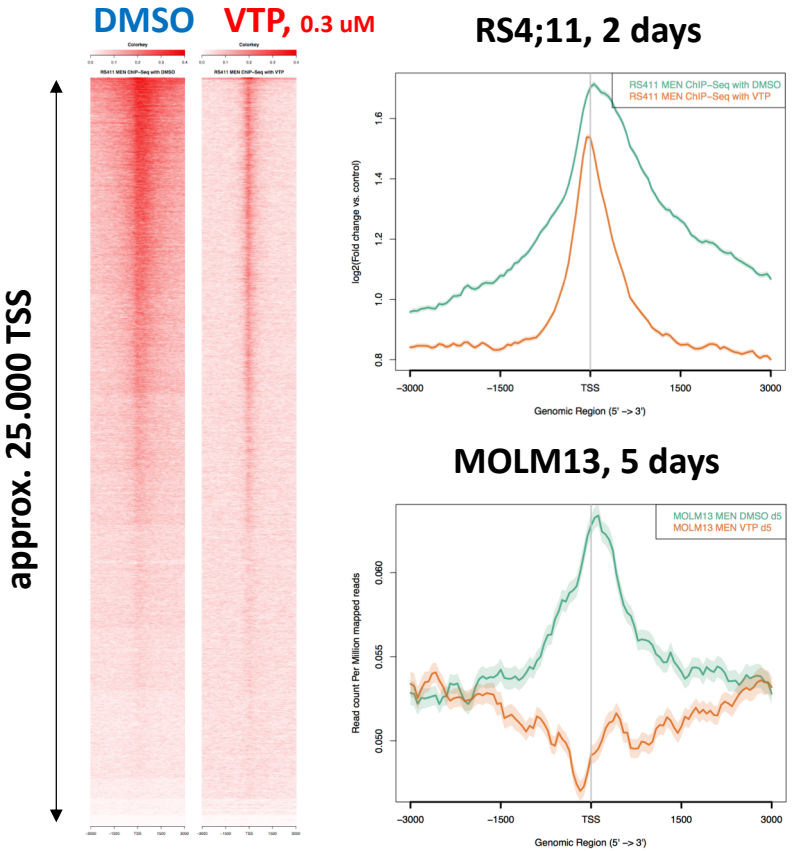
Glycerol gradient (10%-20%) fractionation of nuclear extracts, 300mM NaCl

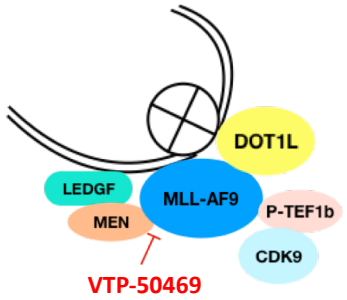




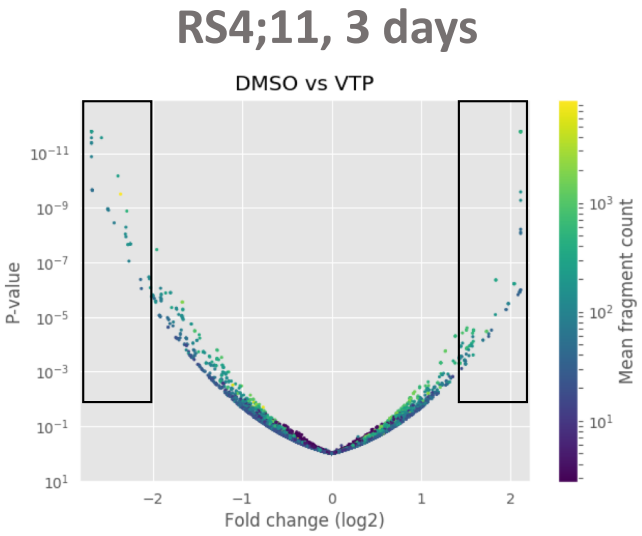
Identical fractionation results obtained from RS4;11 (MLL-AF4), ML-2 (MLL-AF6) and OCI-AML3 (NPM1c+) Cells

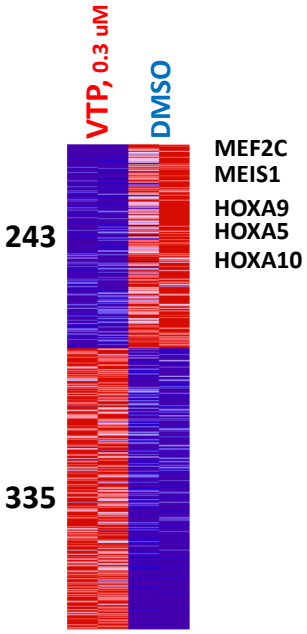
VTP-50469 treatment leads to MEN loss from TSS in *MLL*-rearranged cell lines



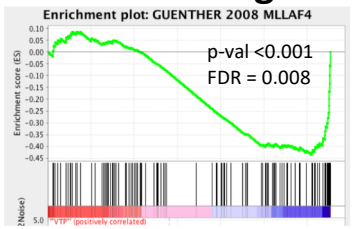


Treatment with VTP-50469 suppresses MLL-fusion target and DOT1L inhibitor sensitive genes

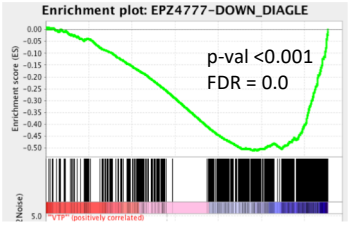




MLL-AF4 targets



DOT1L inhibitor (EPZ4777)



Gene lists:
Tags > 10
p-val < 0.05

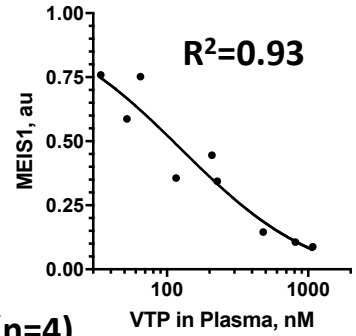
VTP-50469 treatment changes expression of MLL-target and DOT1L inhibitor sensitive genes faster as compared to EPZ4777

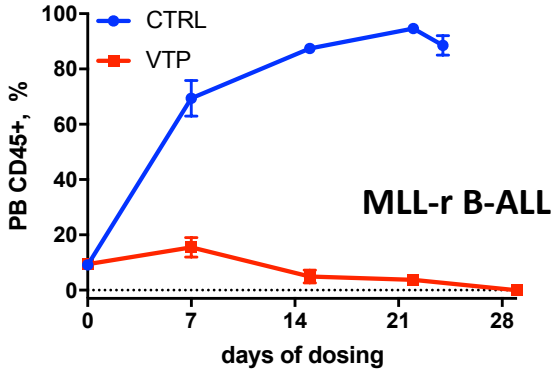
VTP-50469 treatment reduces leukemia burden in PDX models of MLL-r and NPM1 mutant leukemia

PDX (n=9)

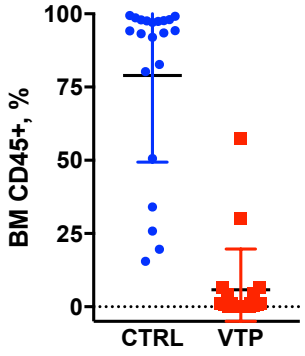
1-10% Leukemia in PB

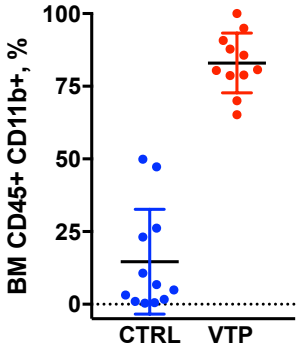
0.1% VTP, 100 mpk (IC_{90})
Plasma conc. 1-2 uM

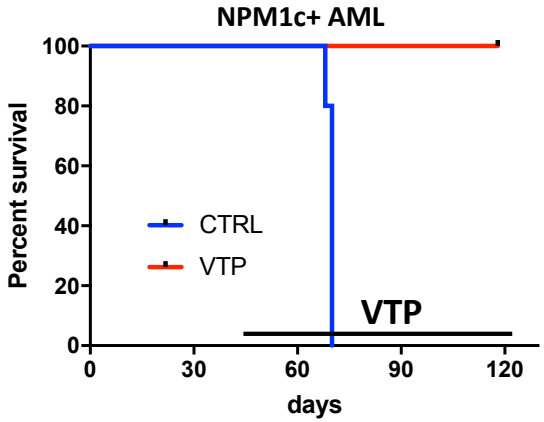


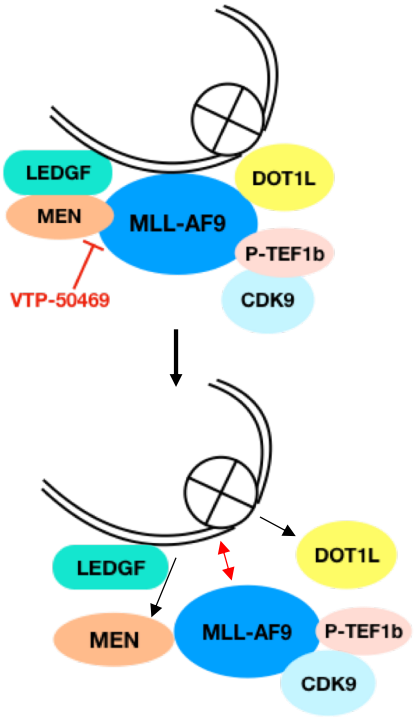


MLL-r B-ALL (n=3) and AML (n=2); NPM1c⁺ AML (n=4)







Conclusions:

- VTP-50469 specifically inhibits proliferation of cell lines carrying *MLL*-rearrangements or *NPM1c*$^{+}$ mutations with an IC_{50}<40 nM.
- VTP-50469 facilitates dissociation of MEN from high molecular weight complexes and leads to eviction of MEN and reverses MLL-fusion driven gene expression.
- Treatment of *MLL*-r and *NPM1c*$^{+}$ PDX models with VTP-50469 leads to differentiation and significant reduction of leukemia burden.
- Similar results in *MLL*-r B-ALL PDX presented by our collaborators Richard Lock, Malcolm Smith in abstract #3187