1 Supplementary Data

2 Cell lines and primary cells

3 Human myeloma cell lines (HMCL) from ATCC were maintained in RPMI 1640 (Lonza)/10%

4 fetal calf serum (FCS, Labtech).

5 Patients gave informed consent using a protocol approved by the UCL/UCLH Committee for

6 Ethics of Human Research. Patients had a bone marrow (BM) biopsy taken prior to therapy.

7 Mononuclear cells (MNCs) from BM aspirates were obtained by density gradient centrifugation

8 (Ficoll Paque, GE lifesciences) and stained directly for BCMA and TACI. BM MNCs were also

9 CD138 selected (Miltenyl Microbeads) for cytotoxicity and co-culture assays.

10 Cytogenetic analysis of primary MM cells

Patients had iFISH analysis on CD138-selected cells at the time of bone marrow (BM)
sampling. Adverse genetics was defined as the presence of t(4;14), t(14;16), t(14;20), 1q
gain, 1p loss and/or del(17p)(>50%).

14

15 Flow cytometry

16 BCMA/TACI quantification: 2.5x10⁵ cells were incubated with rat serum (Sigma) and anti-17 CD16/CD32 (in-house hybridoma supernatant clone 2.4G2) to reduce background staining. 18 CD138 APC (Clone MI15) was then added with one of murine IgG2a PE Isotype control (clone 19 MOPC-173), rat IgG2a PE Isotype control (clone RTK2758), anti-BCMA PE (clone 19F2) or 20 anti-TACI PE (clone 1A1) at 4°C for 30 minutes before washing, resuspension in 21 PBS/0.1%BSA/0.1%PFA (Santa Cruz) and analysis with BD QuantiBRITE[™] beads. All antibodies from BioLegend unless otherwise specified. BD Fortessa was used for cell 22 23 acquisition and data was analysed using FlowJo_V10. Antibodies bound per cell (ABC) was 24 then calculated by subtracting ABC of relevant isotype control. Calculated expression levels 25 of greater than 100 ABC was taken as positive.

26

CAR T-cells: Transduced cells were stained with CD34 PE (clone QBEnd10, R&D) to detect
RQR8 and APRIL biotin (clone 53E11, BioLegend) followed by Streptavidin APC (AbD
Serotec) and transduction efficiency refer to RQR8+APRIL+ events.

30

FACS based cytotoxicity assays: Targets were stained with Efluor780 viability dye
(eBioscience) and CD4 PE, CD8 PB and CD3 APC for SUPT1 targets or CD138 APC for
myeloma cells with Flow-Check[™] beads (Beckman Coulter). Viable SUPT1 or myeloma cells
determined as live/single/CD3-/CD4+/CD8+ or live/single/CD138+ events respectively.
Effector proliferation was determined by staining for RQR8.

1

2 Real-time qPCR to quantitate BCMA and TACI transcript copies

Gene expression was performed by Asterand Bioscience (XpressWay® profile) testing 72
non-diseased tissue types, each from 3 different donors. Beta-actin cDNA quantification
served as a control. Primers listed in Table S2.

6

7 Assessing BCMA and TACI binding to membrane bound APRIL

SUPT1 cells were transduced with RD114-pseudotyped viral supernatant to express truncated
APRIL and CD34 separated by an autocatalytic 2A peptide (ie APRIL.2A.CD34)¹. Then
0.5x10^6 SUPT1 cells were washed and incubated with 500µl of supernatant from 293T cells
transfected with GeneJuice® (Novagen) to secrete BCMA-muFc or TACI-muFc. After 30
minutes at room temperature, cells were washed and stained with anti-muFc FITC (Jackson)
and CD34 APC (clone QBend10 R&D).

14

Assessing BCMA and TACI binding to truncated APRIL by surface plasmon resonance 15 16 Protein production and purification: Recombinant APRIL containing an N terminal FLAG[™] 17 Tag and a C-terminal hinge was expressed in 293T cells. Both constructs contained a poly-18 histidine tag at the extreme C-terminus. Supernatant from transfected 293T cells were purified 19 using TALON[™] metal affinity chromatography. A Hi-trap crude TALON column was 20 equilibrated in binding buffer, 300 mM NaCl, 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.4. Supernatant 21 was applied to the column using an Akta[™] Purifier system at a flow rate of 1 ml/min⁻¹. 22 Following application of supernatant, the column was washed with 10 column volumes of wash buffer 1, 5 mM imidazole, 300 mM NaCl, 50 mM sodium phosphate, followed by 10 column 23 24 volumes of wash buffer 2, 10 mM imidazole, 300 mM NaCl, 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.4. Bound protein was eluted using elution buffer, 150 mM imidazole, 300 mM NaCl, 50 mM 25 26 sodium phosphate, pH 7.4. The desired fractions were pooled and dialysed against PBS (Sigma) overnight. All purification steps were carried out at 4°C. 27

28 Surface plasmon resonance: Sensograms were obtained on a BIAcore[™] T200 instrument by capturing His tagged APRIL on a CM5 Chip (GE Healthcare: 29104988) functionalised with 29 30 an anti-His antibody (GE Healthcare). BCMA and TACI (Peprotech) were injected over the sensor surface at concentrations ranging from 1 - 300 nM. The sensor surface was 31 regenerated between each injection with a short pulse of 3M MgCl2. In each experiment flow 32 33 cell 1 was unmodified and used as a reference subtraction. A sensogram of buffer alone was 34 used as a double reference subtraction to factor for drift. Data were fit to a 1:1 langmuir binding 35 model.

36

1 Cytotoxicity assays

All effector cells were CD56 depleted (Miltenyl) prior to co-culture. Effector to target (E:T) ratios refer to ratio of ACAR+ T-cells to targets throughout. Four hour ⁵¹Cr release assays were performed by incubating 5x10^3 chromium-labelled targets with ACAR T-cells at E:T ratios indicated.

6 With cell lines, FACS based cytotoxicity assays were performed by plating targets at 7 0.5x10^6/ml and adding equal volumes of ACAR T-cells at the relevant concentration. 8 Percentage cytolysis was calculated relative to viable targets in media control. Interferon 9 gamma (IFNG) release was assessed using a BioLegend IFNG ELISA Max kit. FACS analysis 10 at 48 hours.

- ACAR transduced PBMCs were labelled with 5uM Cell Trace Violet (Thermo Fisher) according to the manufacturer's instructions and co-cultured 1:1 ratio with SUPT1 targets. The cells were harvested at D+4 and stained with CD3, CD8 and RQR8 as well as 7-AAD before analysis by FACS. Percentage of ACAR cells proliferated determined gating on live/CD3+/RQR8+ cells compared to on co-culture with SUPT1^{NT}.
- 16 CD138-selected primary myeloma cells were cultured in RPMI 1640/20% pooled patient 17 plasma (PPP)². Percentage cytolysis was calculated relative to viable tumour cells on co-18 culture with PBMC NT. Blocking experiments were performed using anti-BCMA antibody 19 S307118G03, mulgG2a Fc Protein (AcroBiosystems).
- 20

21 Engineering BCMA and TACI expressing SUPT1 targets

SUPT1 cells were transduced to express BCMA or TACI and green fluorescent protein (GFP) separated by an in-frame foot-and-mouth–like 2A peptide, TaV¹ (ie BCMA.2A.GFP or TACI.2A.GFP). SUPT1^{BCMA} and SUPT1^{TACI} were then sorted into discrete populations on a BD FACSAria Fusion. For the in vivo escape model, SUPT1-BCMA3 and SUPT1-TACI2 were the retrovirally transduced with SFG.FLuc.2A.RQR8 and SFG.FLuc.2A.HA in a second reaction respectively and then FACS sorted to a minimum of 90% FLuc purity.

28 **Production of S307118G03**

Variable Heavy and light domains of anti-BCMA antibody S307118G03 have been previously
described³. Variable sequences were cloned into the AbVec-mlgG2a and AbVec-mlgK
vectors⁴. ExpiCHO[™] cells (Thermo Fisher) were split to a density of 6x10⁶ cells/ml in ExpiCHO
medium four hours before transfection with Expifectamine reagent (Thermo Fisher). Secreted
antibodies were purified by affinity chromatography, HiTRAP[™] MabSelect SuRe[™] (GE
Healthcare), followed by size exclusion chromatography, Superdex S200 (GE Healthcare).
Protein purity was confirmed by SDS PAGE electrophoresis.

Supplementary Data Lee et al

1 Immunohistochemistry

Immunohistochemistry was performed on a Leica BOND-III platform and used the
BOND Polymer Refine Detection kit. CD138 (Clone MI15, Dako) was diluted 1/200 in Primary
Antibody Diluent BOND. The tissue was incubated in Epitope Retrieval Solution 1
(ER2) BOND for 20 minutes and stained using the 15, 8, 8 protocol. Sections were examined
using an Olympus BX51 microscope and photographed using an Olympus DP20 microscope
camera.

8

9 BM Sera levels of APRIL, BCMA and TACI

10 Sera from the BM aspirates from patients with myeloma were obtained. BM sera non-myeloma patients were obtained from 7 further patients. Four of these served as controls for sAPRIL 11 and sTACI assays and were obtained from patients being investigated for myeloproliferative 12 disease (n=2, JAK2 mutation V617F, calreticulin negative) or myelodysplasia (n=1) or mild 13 neutropenia (n=1). A further 3 samples served as controls for the sBCMA assays and were 14 BM aspirates obtained to investigate myeloproliferative disease (n=1) or myelodysplasia 15 (n=2). These BM sera samples were then analysed by ELISA for sAPRIL (BioLegend), sTACI 16 17 (Raybio) and sBCMA (R&D) as per manufacturer's instructions.

18

19 ACAR blocking or activation by soluble APRIL, BCMA and TACI

Blocking of ACAR mediated cytolysis assessed by performing FACS based cytolysis as described above in the presence or absence of soluble APRIL, BCMA or TACI (all from Peprotech). Activation was performed by incubating T-cells at a concentration of 2.5x10^5/ml in the presence of soluble APRIL/BCMA/TACI and measuring IFNG release at 24 hours by ELISA.

25

26 In vivo model

27 This work was performed under a United Kingdom Home Office-approved project license and in accordance with institutional policies. Six to eight-week-old, female, NSG mice (NOD.Cg-28 Prkdc^{scid} Il2rg^{tm1Wjl}/SzJ) were purchased from Charles River. 10x10⁶ or 3.5x10⁶ Firefly 29 luciferase (Fluc) expressing MM.1s cells or SUPT1 cells (comprising a mix of SUPT1^{BCMA} and 30 SUPT1^{TACI} at 4:1 ratio), respectively, were injected by tail vein injection at D0. Disease burden 31 was assessed by bioluminescence imaging (BLI) where mice were anesthetized, and then 32 imaged using a Xenogen IVIS Imaging System (Perkin Elmer Life Sciences) following 33 34 intraperitoneal injection of D-luciferin.

- 35
- 36
- 37

1 In vivo screen for ACAR toxicity

After sacrifice of NSG mice (NOD.Cg-Prkdc^{scid} Il2rg^{tm1Wjl}/SzJ), organs were resected from 6/6 2 3 tumour only mice, 6/6 animals who received ACAR T-cells and 5 control animals (Charles River), formalin fixed and paraffin embedded before sections stained with haematoxylin and 4 5 eosin and examined by an independent histopathologist. Tissues examined were eyes, optic nerves, harderian glands, skin, mammary gland, skeletal muscle, femur with BM and stifle 6 7 joint, sternum with BM, sciatic nerves, liver, spleen, pancreas, mesenteric lymph nodes, stomach, duodenum, jejunum, ileum, gut-associated lymphoid tissue (GALT), caecum, colon, 8 rectum, gall bladder, adrenal gland, kidney, ureters, urinary bladder, ovaries, uterus including 9 10 cervix, oviducts, vagina, clitoral, salivary gland, mandibular lymph nodes, thymus, lungs with bronchi/bronchioles, heart, aorta, trachea, oesophagus, thyroids, parathyroids, larynx, tongue, 11 pituitary gland, brain, spinal cord cervical, thoracic and lumbar, lacrimal glands. 12

13

14 Statistics

P values <0.05 were considered significant. Statistical tests were used as indicated and
 calculated using Prism version 6.0 (Graphpad Software).

17

18 <u>References</u>

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3 Supp Figure Legends

Table S1. BCMA and TACI expression levels on primary myeloma cells from 50 patients
determined by FACS. Bone marrow mononuclear cells were stained with CD138 APC
(displayed on y-axis) and BCMA PE, TACI PE or their respective isotype controls, mIgG2a PE
and rIgG2a PE (x-axis). Antigen densities of BCMA and TACI on CD138+ tumour cells (gated)
were then quantified using QuantiBRITETM beads and subtracting antibodies bound per cell
(ABC) of isotype controls.

10 Table S2. Primers for RT-PCR

11

S1. BCMA and TACI expression of primary myeloma cells (A)Surface Antigen expression 12 13 levels on myeloma tumour cells was determined by staining BM MNCs with CD138 and BCMA PE, TACI PE or their respective isotype controls. Example histogram (Patient #7) showing 14 fluorescence of CD138+ gated cells stained for (i)BCMA (blue) or (ii)TACI (red) compared to 15 their relevant isotype controls (empty) superimposed onto QuantiBRITE[™] beads (grev). (B)In 16 17 a small number of patients, CD138+ tumour cells were stained with TACI streptavidin and 18 BCMA PE to demonstrate co-expression of both receptors on myeloma cells. (C)Expression 19 of BCMA and TACI on primary myeloma cells. The patient samples with a higher antigen 20 density of TACI than BCMA highlighted as empty circles (n=50, r=0.27, p=0.054 by Spearman). (D)Tumour BCMA and TACI expression from patients at diagnosis (D, n=27) or 21 relapsed and refractory (R, n=23) disease. (E)Tumour BCMA and TACI expression in patients 22 23 with standard (S, n=17) and poor risk (P, n=25) genetic lesions. The following were included 24 under the definition of poor genetic risk: t(4;14), t(14;16), t(14;20), 1g gain, 1p loss and/or del(17p)(>50%). Median shown, *=p<0.05 by Mann Whitney. 25

Figure S2. BCMA and TACI transcripts in normal tissue (A)qRT-PCR of BCMA and TACI
 transcripts in normal tissues displayed as mean tissue expression of BCMA and TACI (n=3).
 Mean±SD shown.

Figure S3. Membrane bound APRIL binds BCMA and TACI (A)SUPT1 cells were transduced with APRIL fused to a CD28 transmembrane (tm) domain via an IgG1 hinge, CD8 stalk or Fc spacer (as modified by Hombach⁵) as well as CD34 as a marker gene which was cloned downstream of an internal ribosome entry site (IRES) (ie CD34.IRES.APRIL). (i)These cells were then incubated for 30 mins with supernatant from 293T cells transfected to secrete BCMA-muFc or TACI-muFc. Cells were then washed and stained for anti-CD34 APC (marker gene) and anti-muFc FITC. Membrane bound GD2 served as a negative control. Binding to
(ii)BCMAmuFc and (iii)TACImuFc quantified by the MFI of the gated cells. (B)Kinetic affinity
determination for the binding between truncated APRIL and (i)BCMA and (ii)TACI by surface
plasmon resonance. A multi-cycle-kinetics approach was used for the determination of
association and dissociation rates listed in inset table.

Figure S4. Proliferation of ACAR on co-culture with BCMA and TACI expressing SUPT1
cells. ACAR transduced PMNCs were labelled with Cell Trace Violet prior to co-culture (1:1)
with SUPT1^{NT}, SUPT1^{BCMA} or SUPT1^{TACI} prior to FACS at D+4. Percentage of ACAR positive
cells proliferated determined by gating on live/singlet/CD3+/RQR8+ events (ACAR transduced
PBMCs from 2 donors shown).

Figure S5. ACAR mediated cytolysis of SUPT1^{BCMA}, SUPT1^{TACI} and human myeloma cell 11 12 lines. (A)ACAR-H and CD8 spacer variants were also tested against SUPT1 targets 13 expressing a wide range of (i)BCMA and (ii)TACI targets in a 4 hour ⁵¹Cr release assay. E:T 14 ratio of 16:1 shown. Percentage specific cytolysis calculated by subtracting background kill observed on incubation with NT PBMC. (B) Tumour kill(i) was demonstrated on co-culture of 15 ACAR-H and several human myeloma cell lines (1:1) expressing a range of BCMA and TACI 16 levels(ii). (C) PBMCs transduced with ACAR(n=5) and a BCMA targeting CAR (differing to 17 the ACAR in its exodomain consisting of the 11-D-5-3 ScFv^{6,7} and CD8 spacer) were co-18 cultured and tested against (i)MM.1s and (ii)U266 at reducing E:T ratios and target cytolysis 19 determined at 48 hours by FACS. There was no statistical significance between the ACAR 20 and BCMA CAR constructs at any of the E:T ratios tested. Mean±SEM shown, *=p<0.05, 21 22 **=p<0.01, ***=p<0.001 by *t* test.

Figure S6. ACAR mediated cytolysis and activation in the presence of soluble APRIL, 23 24 BCMA and TACI and levels in BM sera: (A)Sera obtained from bone marrow aspirates from myeloma patients (n=10) and control donors (n=4 for sAPRIL and sTACI and n=3 for sBCMA)25 were assayed for soluble APRIL, BCMA and TACI. While BM levels of sBCMA and sTACI 26 were raised in MM patients (median 294 vs 35ng/ml and 27 vs 1.2ng/ml in control BM 27 respectively), levels of sAPRIL were reduced compared to controls (median 6.2 vs 18ng/ml 28 respectively). Medians indicated on dot plots. (B)ACAR-H transduced T-cells from multiple 29 donors were co-cultured with MM1.s cells at low E:T ratios indicated in the presence of soluble 30 APRIL (n=3), BCMA(n=6) and TACI(n=3). Mean kill (at 48 hours)±SEM shown, (C) IFNG 31 32 release by ACAR T-cells on incubation with soluble APRIL (50ng/ml), BCMA(1000ng/ml), TACI(200ng/ml) or co-culture with MM.1s cells (1:1) for 24 hours (n=3). Mean±SEM shown 33 34 *=p<0.05, **=p<0.01, ***=p<0.001 by *t* test.

1 Figure S7. ACAR-H mediated cytolysis of SUPT1 cells expressing murine BCMA and

TACI: (A)SUPT1 cells expressing human and murine isoforms of BCMA and TACI were cocultured with ACAR-H transduced T-cells (E:T ratio 4:1, n=3) and cytolysis at 72 hours determined by FACS. Mean±SEM shown, ***=p<0.001 by *t* test. (B) Haematoxylin & eosin stained sections obtained from mice treated with ACAR failed to show ACAR mediated tissue cytotoxicity. Sections of organs indicated from single mouse from NT, EGFRvIII and ACAR treated cohorts shown.

Figure S8. T-cell persistence in murine model of antigen escape. Twenty-one NSG mice were injected with SUPT1 cells expressing either BCMA or TACI (at a ratio of 80% and 20%) and then treated with NT, ACAR or BCMA CAR T-cells (n=7 in each cohort). At D+13, the experiment was terminated and bone marrow T-cells defined as live/singlet/mCD11b-/CD2+/CD4+ or CD8+ events and normalised with Flow-Check[™] beads.

13



Table S1 Cont'd



Table S1 Cont'd









Table S2

	ТАСІ	ВСМА
Protein Accession	014836	Q02223
Number		
Nucleotide Accession	NM_012452	NM_001192
Number		
Forward primer	GCAAGGAGCAAGGCAAGTTCT	AAGAGCAAACCGAAGGTCGA
Reverse primer	TGAGCTCTGGTGGAAGGTTCAC	GGTTGCGCCTTCCTCCAT
Probe	CTGCATCAGCTGTGCCTCCATCTGTG	TCTGACCATTGCTTTCCACTCCCAGC
SwissProt Name	TNFRSF13B. Synonyms: TACI	TNFRSF17. Synonyms: BCM, BCMA.
SwissProt Description	Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily	Tumor necrosis factor receptor
	member 13B	superfamily member 17



ВСМА

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Α



В





Figure S8

