



• CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA •

CLL RESEARCH

2024 Year In Review

CLL Global Research Foundation has provided over \$40.6 million in research funding (2005 – 2024).

Greetings!

It's hard to believe another year is nearly complete! Time flies when you're dedicated to work you love. This year has been remarkable, and we're thrilled to share our accomplishments with you. Our annual Alliance Meeting was the best attended yet, and CLL Global-funded research took center stage at major national and international conferences and in scientific publications.

A highlight was sharing this groundbreaking research with the broader CLL community at our two town hall events. Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission—you inspire us to aim even higher in the year ahead.



Dr. Michael Keating (right) and Dr. Bill Plunkett commemorate a lifetime of pioneering achievements in CLL treatment.

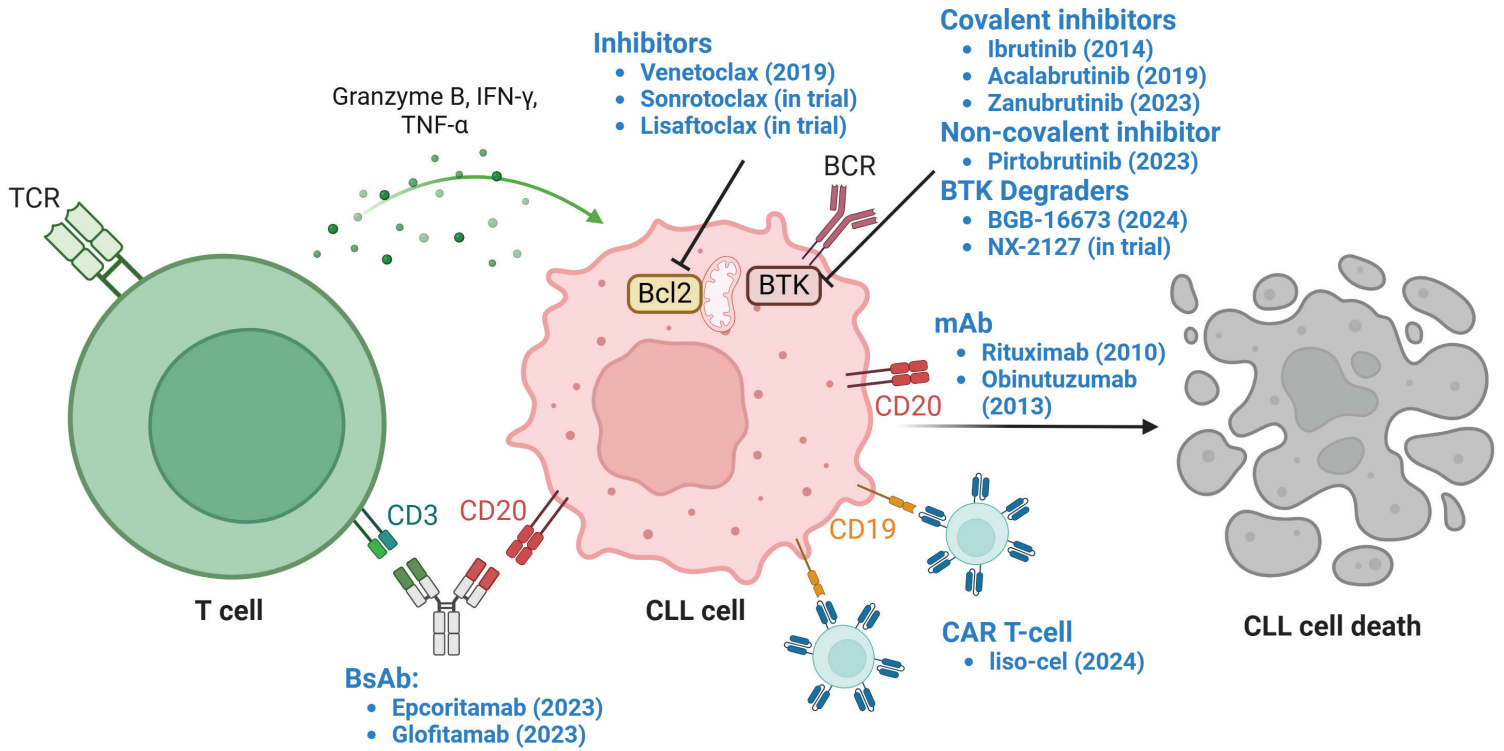
CLL Global Alliance Meeting



CLL Global president, Dr. Bill Wierda, talks with attendees at the Alliance Meeting.

In April, over 50 CLL experts from around the world gathered in Houston, Texas, to share updates on their CLL Global-funded research and to discuss critical unmet needs in CLL care. Topics included promising targeted therapies in early development, methods to predict which patients may develop Richter transformation (RT), and innovative therapies to treat RT. Researchers also presented studies on the immune dysfunction common in CLL patients and strategies to restore immune health.

Another priority was identifying causes of treatment-resistant CLL and overcoming resistance to targeted therapies. Our Alliance Meeting serves as a cornerstone for CLL Global, motivating us to push forward with even greater dedication.



This image illustrates key targets that distinguish CLL cells and support their survival and growth, alongside novel therapies designed to disrupt them. These advancements have transformed the landscape of CLL treatment. Dates in parentheses indicate initial FDA approval (list not exhaustive). Abbreviations: TCR – T-cell receptor; BCR – B-cell receptor; BTK – Bruton’s tyrosine kinase; Bcl-2 – B-cell lymphoma-2; mAb – monoclonal antibody; BsAb – bispecific antibody. Image created with BioRender.com.



UPDATES FROM EHA

At the European Hematology Association Meeting in Madrid this June, several CLL Global-supported researchers shared notable findings:

- Dr. William G. Wierda from MD Anderson Cancer Center presented an analysis of factors impacting treatment efficacy from the TRANSCEND CLL 004 trial which led to the approval of the CAR T-cell therapy liso-cel for relapsed / refractory (R/R) CLL. The absence of bulky disease and treatment with fewer prior

therapies predicted a better response to treatment regardless of high-risk features. (Abstract S158)

- Dr. Constantine Tam from Monash University led a Phase 1 study of Zanubrutinib with the novel BCL-2 inhibitor sonrotoclax in R/R patients, reporting a 97% response rate and 100% undetectable minimal residual disease (uMRD) at week 48 of treatment (Abstract S156).

- Dr. Nitin Jain from MD Anderson Cancer Center shared early results from a Phase II study of pirtobrutinib, venetoclax, and obinutuzumab in untreated CLL, achieving 76% and 88% uMRD in bone marrow and blood, respectively, after six months of therapy (Abstract S164).

- Dr. Davide Rossi from Switzerland’s Institute of Oncology Research presented findings on the safety and efficacy of venetoclax combined with rituximab (VenR) or obinutuzumab (VenO) in treatment-naïve (TN) and (R/R) patients. Both combinations were well tolerated, with median progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) not yet reached at the 24-month mark. At 24 months, estimated rates were 88.5% for PFS and OS with VenO, and 83.5% for PFS and 85.8% for OS with VenR. (Abstract P1848)



CLL GLOBAL TOWN HALL



William Wierda, MD, PhD
President & CEO
CLL Global Research
Foundation



Constantine Tam,
MBBS, MD,
Professor of
Haematology



Jeff Folloder
Moderator
CLL Patient Advocate

Each year, CLL Global hosts two town hall events to share the latest in clinical trial results and promising new therapies. These events are scheduled shortly after major scientific conferences—the American Society of Hematology Meeting (ASH) in December, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology and European Society of Hematology Meetings in June/July. The second half of each town hall is dedicated to answering audience questions, giving CLL experts a chance to hear from the broader CLL community. Our next town hall is scheduled for *Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 3 - 4 PM CT*, with Dr. Constantine Tam from Monash University joining CLL Global President Dr. Bill Wierda as co-host. Join us for this informative and inspiring event! Registration is free and open to all—visit <https://tinyurl.com/Jan30CLL> to register and also view previous town hall recordings.



OUR IMPACT

\$40.6 M
 invested in CLL
 research

205 Grants
 Awarded

90 Principal
 Investigators
 and Fellows

36 Institutions
 Worldwide

278
 Publications
 cited 29,499
 times (SCOPUS)

Since 2005, CLL Global has invested over \$40.6 million in the search for a cure for CLL—an investment that has directly translated into lifesaving advancements. From the groundbreaking approval of adding rituximab to fludarabine and cyclophosphamide (FCR) in 2010, marking the first regimen to improve overall and progression-free survival for CLL patients, to the transformative rise of targeted therapies, CLL Global has remained committed to supporting the most promising ideas and talent in the field. Reflecting on this past year, we are excited by the positive results seen in novel combinations, cellular therapies, and bispecific antibodies, bringing new hope to patients who have faced limited options.



Thank You

The transformation in CLL therapy over the past decade has renewed hope for patients and their families, with many now able to anticipate a normal lifespan. However, critical unmet needs remain, including challenges in relapsed and refractory disease, Richter transformation, immune dysfunction, and developing effective therapies for those with high-risk genomic features.

As we close out this remarkable year, we reflect with gratitude on the strides we've made together and look forward with optimism for the future. Continued advances in CLL research are opening new treatment pathways, enhancing our understanding, and improving patients' quality of life. But our mission is far from over.

With your enduring support, we are driven to meet the challenges ahead and work tirelessly toward a cure. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey—your resilience and strength inspire us every day. Here's to a hopeful and impactful year for the entire CLL community.

Our mission is to abolish CLL as a threat to the life and health of patients by accelerating CLL research. Find out more about us by visiting our website at www.clglobal.org.



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Please consider making a donation today and help us turn our passion for finding a cure for CLL into a reality for patients around the world. To donate online, visit our website at clglobal.org/donate. Donations may also be mailed to CLL Global Research Foundation, c/o Dr. Michael Keating, P.O. Box 301402, Unit 428, Houston, Texas 77230.

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