FLIPPING THE SWITCH ON IMMUNE CELLS

LUNG CANCER TRICKS T CELLS
When cancer invades lung tissue, T cells come to the rescue. But some cancer cells know how to produce a protein (PD-L1) that bonds with the T cells’ PD-1 receptors and turns off the immune response. Exhausted T cells stand down and let the cancer grow.

CHECKPOINT INHIBITION
PD-1 and PD-L1 inhibitors block this interaction and cause the body’s immune cells to recognize the cancer as an invader.

IMMUNE CELLS DESTROY CANCER
Taking the brake off the T cells reactivates their immune response, allowing them to attack and destroy the cancer.