

Vías de señalización del cáncer: Oncogenes

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Cáncer: Uno de los grandes retos del Siglo XXI



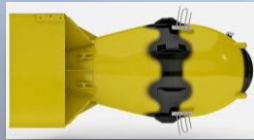
AGENDA: Historical view

- Therapeutic Paradigms in Oncology:
 - Chemotherapy
 - Targeted Therapies
- Personalized Medicine
- Cases Studies
- Problems:
 - Tumor heterogeneity
 - Complex pattern of metastases
- How to overcome problems?
- Conclusions

Therapeutic Paradigms in Oncology

Paradigms in Cancer Treatments

Cytotoxics



Targeted therapies



Immune therapies

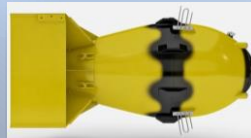


Epigenetics



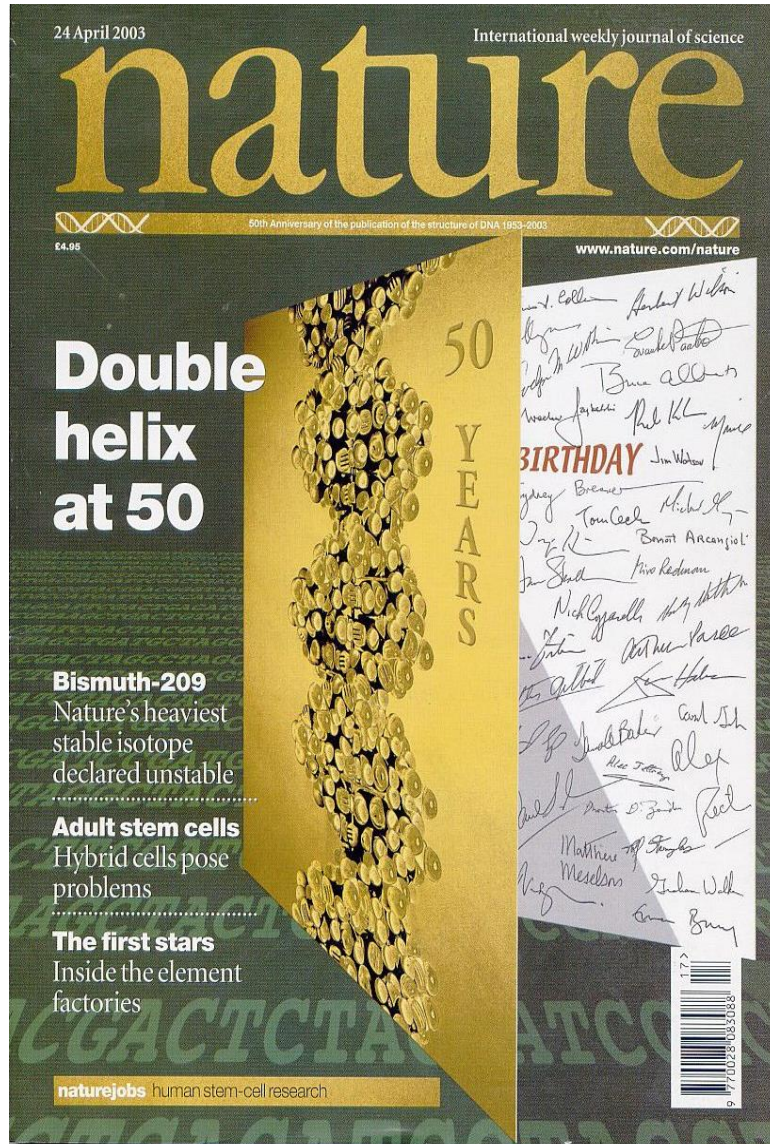
Cytotoxic agents

Cytotoxics

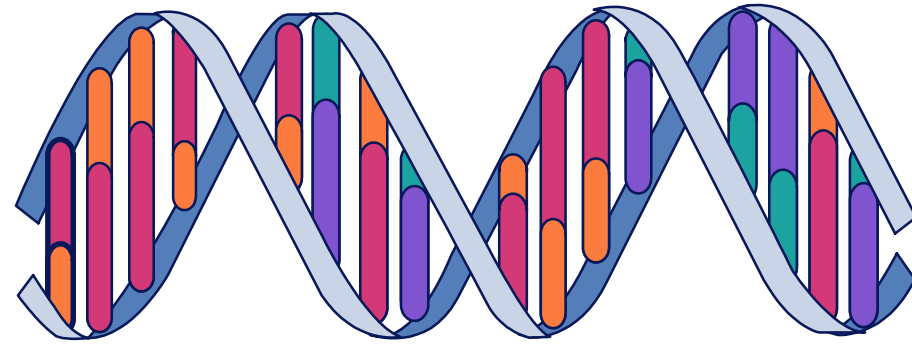


Cáncer

Año 1953



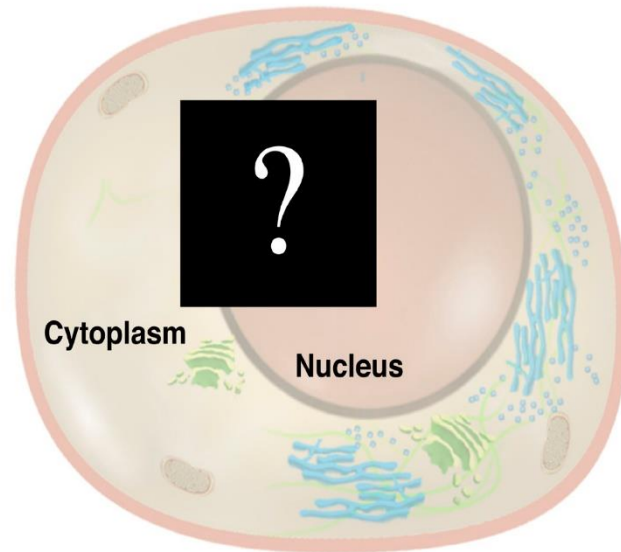
1. Descubrimiento del DNA “ la hélice de la vida”



Adenine (A) Cytosine (C)
Thymine (T) Guanine (G)

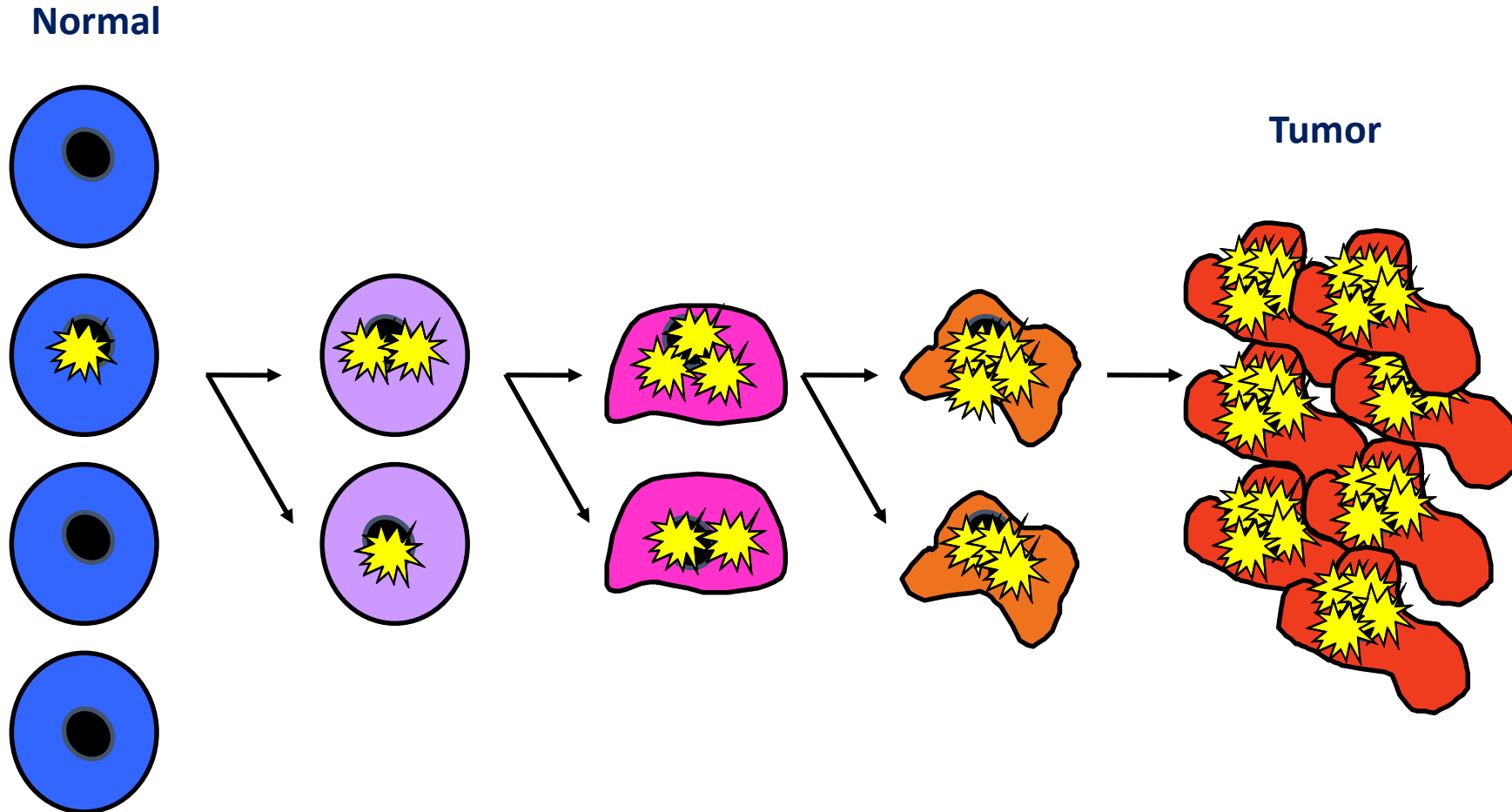
Cáncer

Año 1953

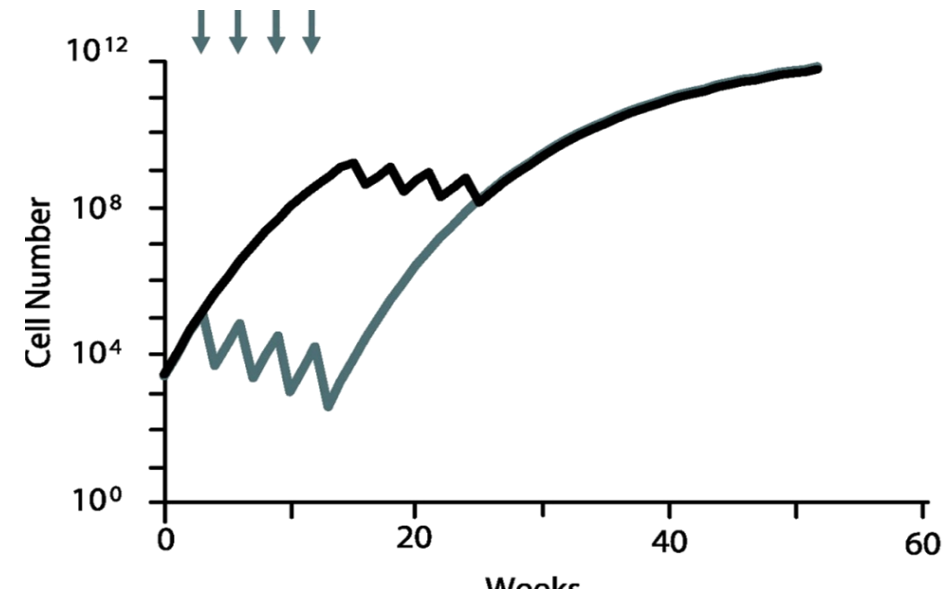
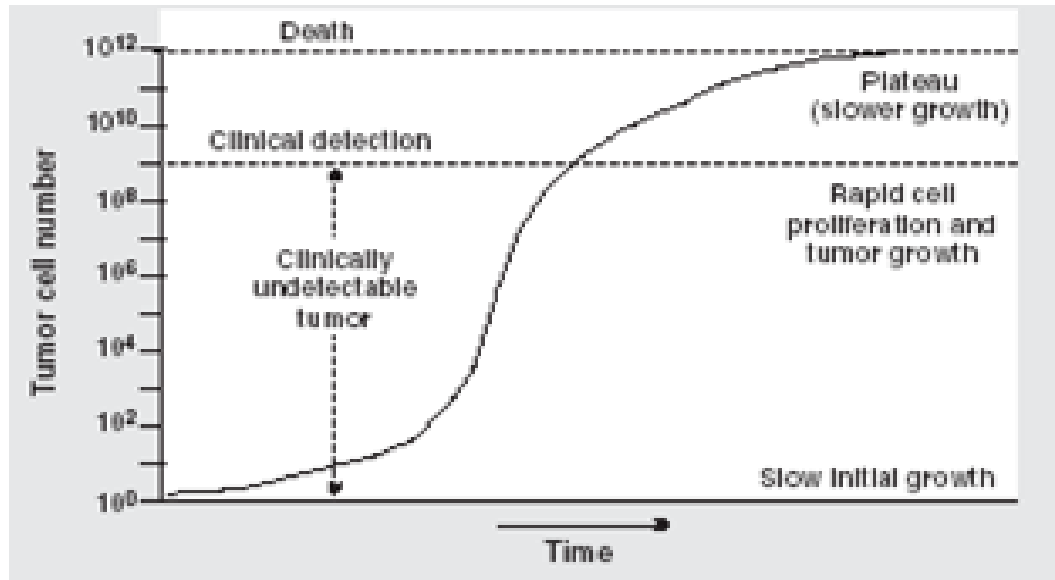


- Conocimiento muy limitado de los mecanismos responsables del cáncer
- Tratamientos poco eficaces

Cáncer: crecimiento celular incontrolado a partir de una célula que se transforma



Growth and Norton–Simon hypothesis



The Norton-Simon hypothesis states that the rate of cancer cell death in response to treatment is directly proportional to the tumor growth rate at the time of treatment.

Chemotherapy: classification based on the mechanism of action

Antimetabolites: Drugs that interfere with the formation of key biomolecules including nucleotides, the building blocks of DNA.

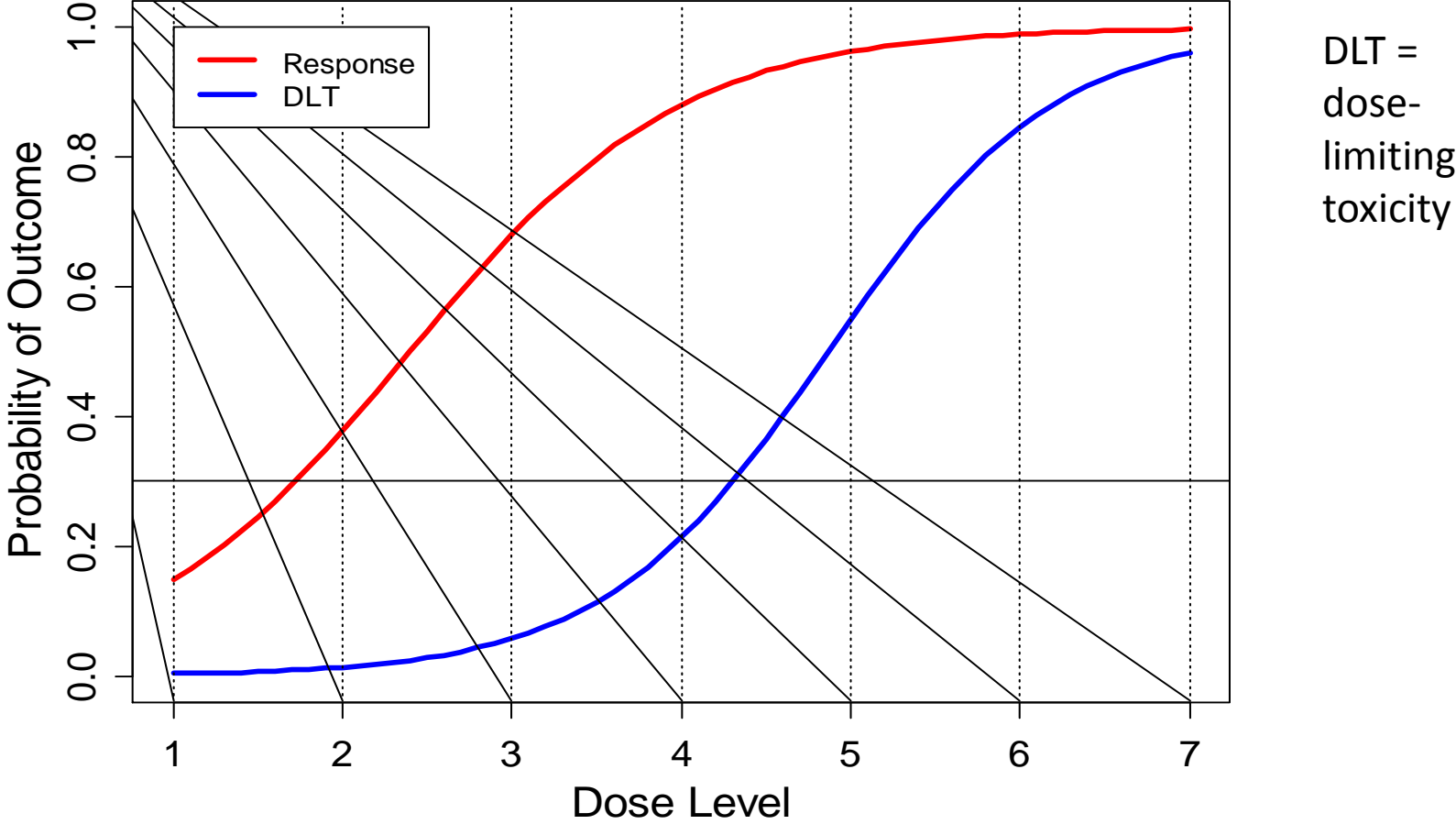
Genotoxic Drugs: Drugs that alkylate or intercalate the DNA causing the loss of its function.

Plant-derived inhibitors of mitosis: These agents prevent proper cell division by interfering with the cytoskeletal components that enable the cell to divide.

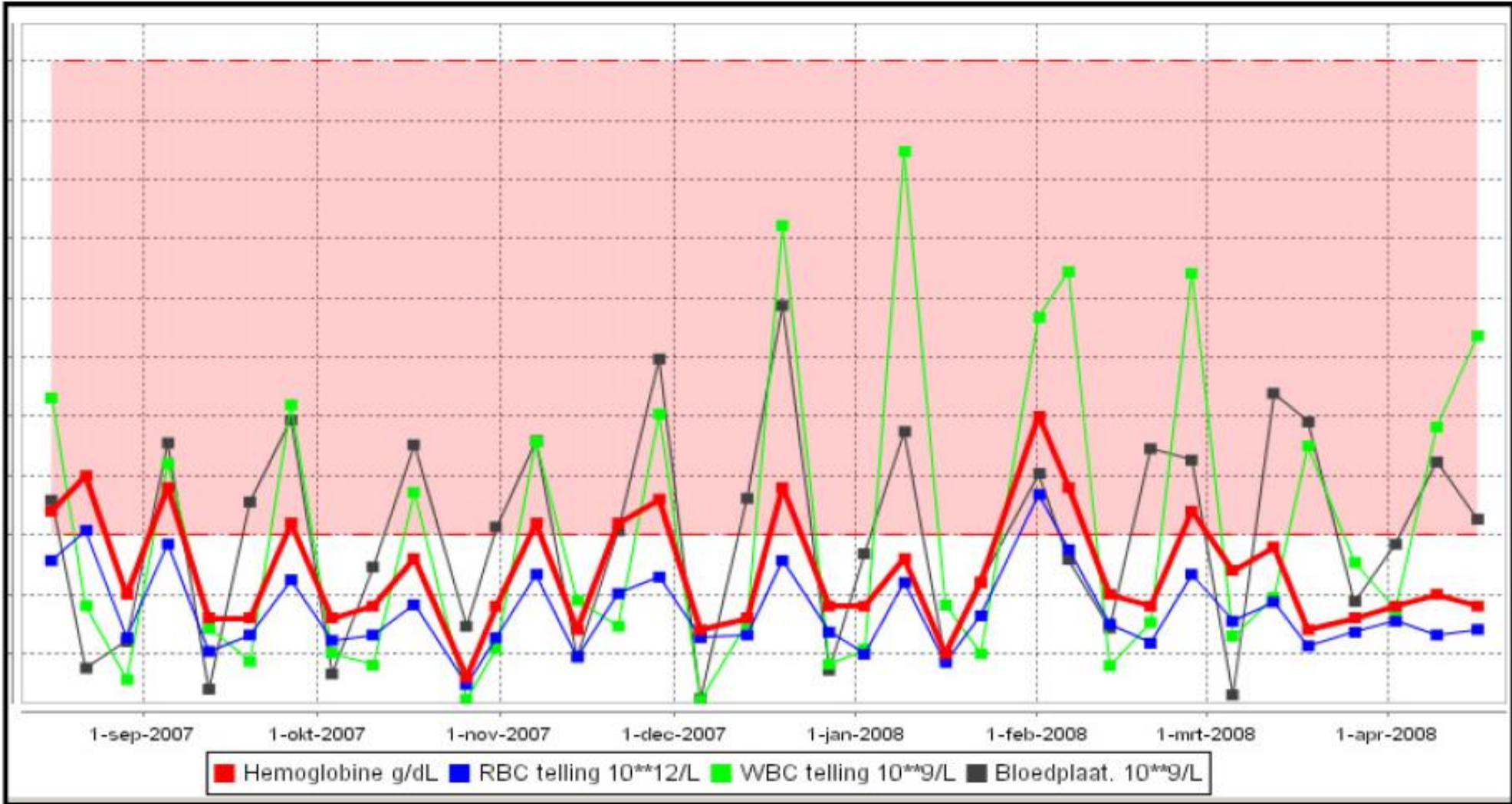
Plant-derived topoisomerase inhibitors: Topoisomerases unwind or religate DNA during replication.

Other Chemotherapy Agents: These agents inhibit cell division by mechanisms that are not covered in the categories listed above.

Efficacy and toxicity both increase with dose



Hematological toxicity in a clinical trial with intermittent dosing of a cytotoxic



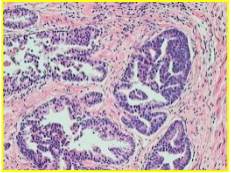
The classical approach of non-individualized treatment



Patient



Conventional Pathology



Tumour location +/- histologic subtype dx.



Treatment Decision (1st)



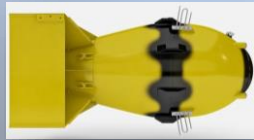
Conventional Rx evaluation



Treatment Decision (2nd, 3rd, 4th, ...)

Paradigms in Cancer Treatments

Cytotoxics



Targeted therapies



Immune therapies



Epigenetics



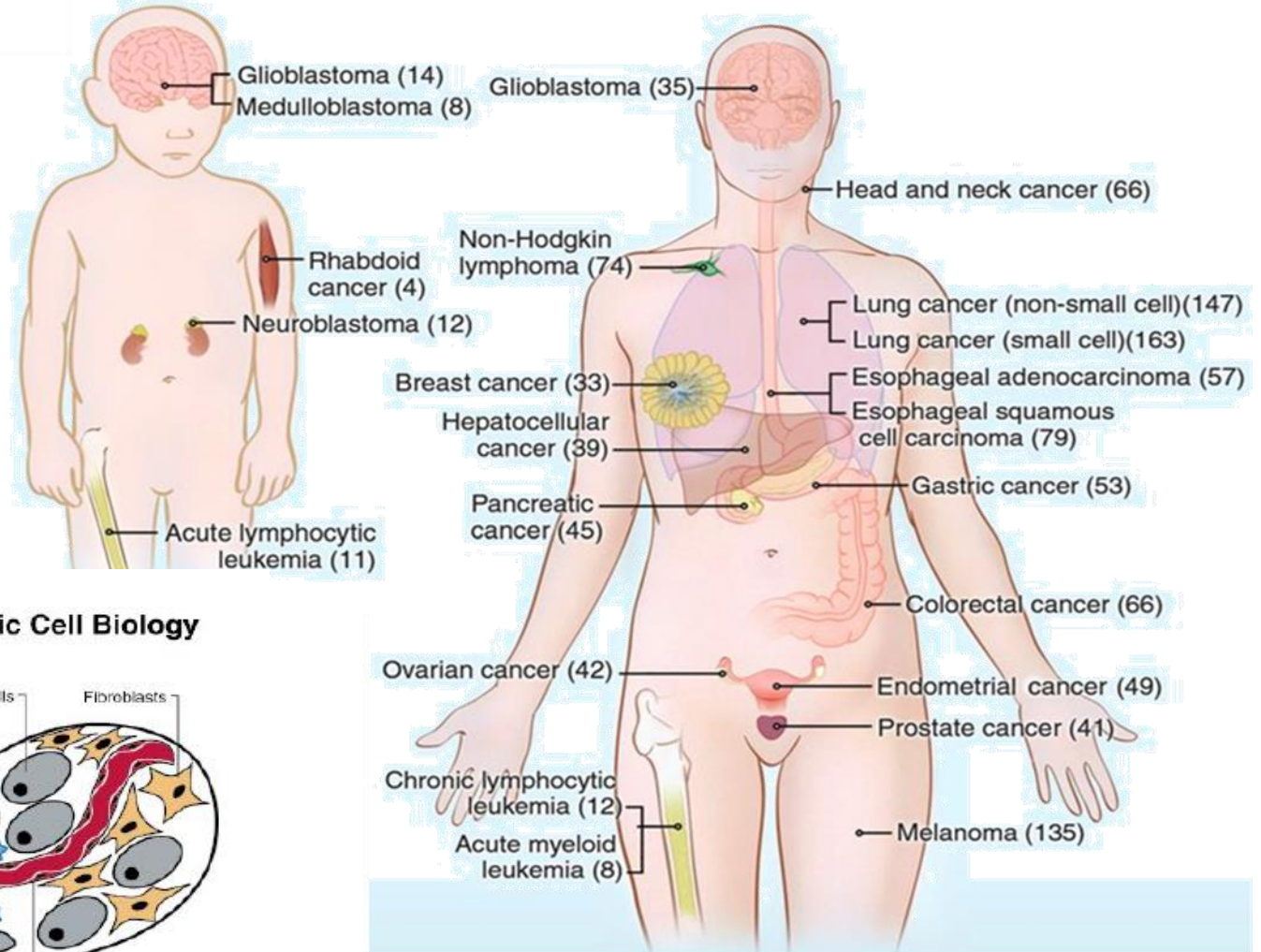
Targeted therapy



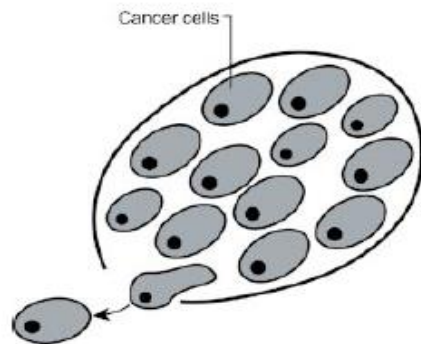
Targeted
therapies

Biology of cancer

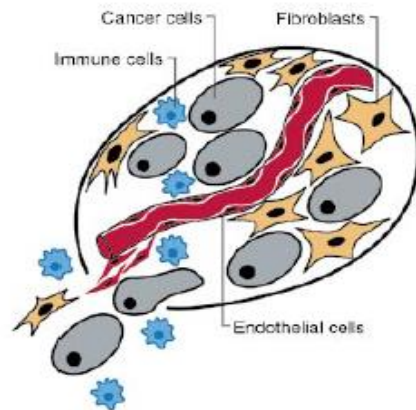
Number of Mutations in Human Cancers



The Reductionist View

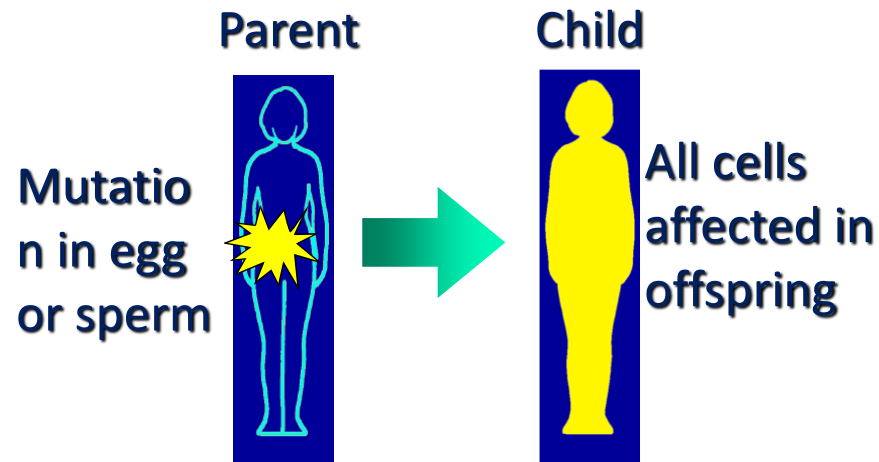


A Heterotypic Cell Biology



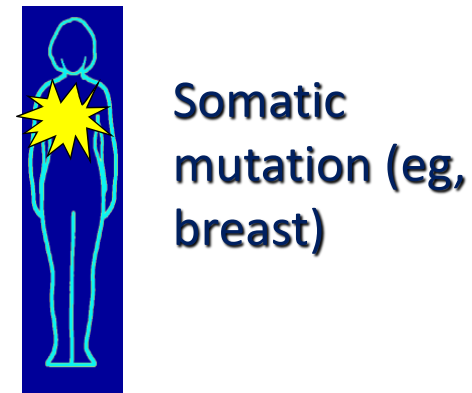
Cancer Arises From Gene Mutations

Germline mutations



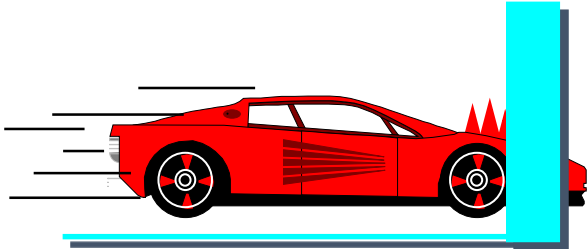
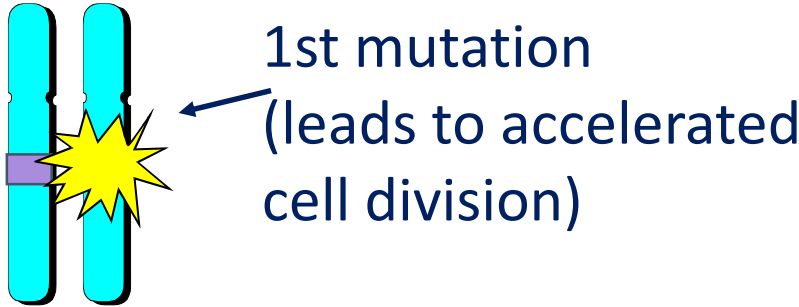
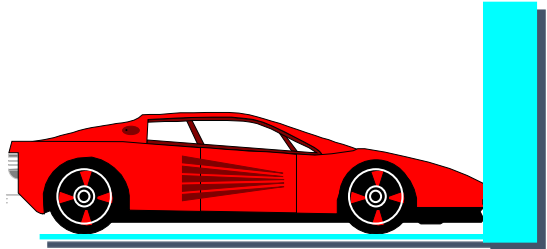
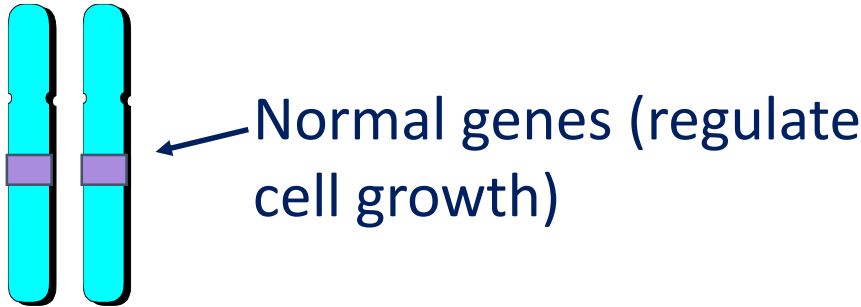
- Present in egg or sperm
- Are heritable
- Cause cancer family syndromes

Somatic mutations



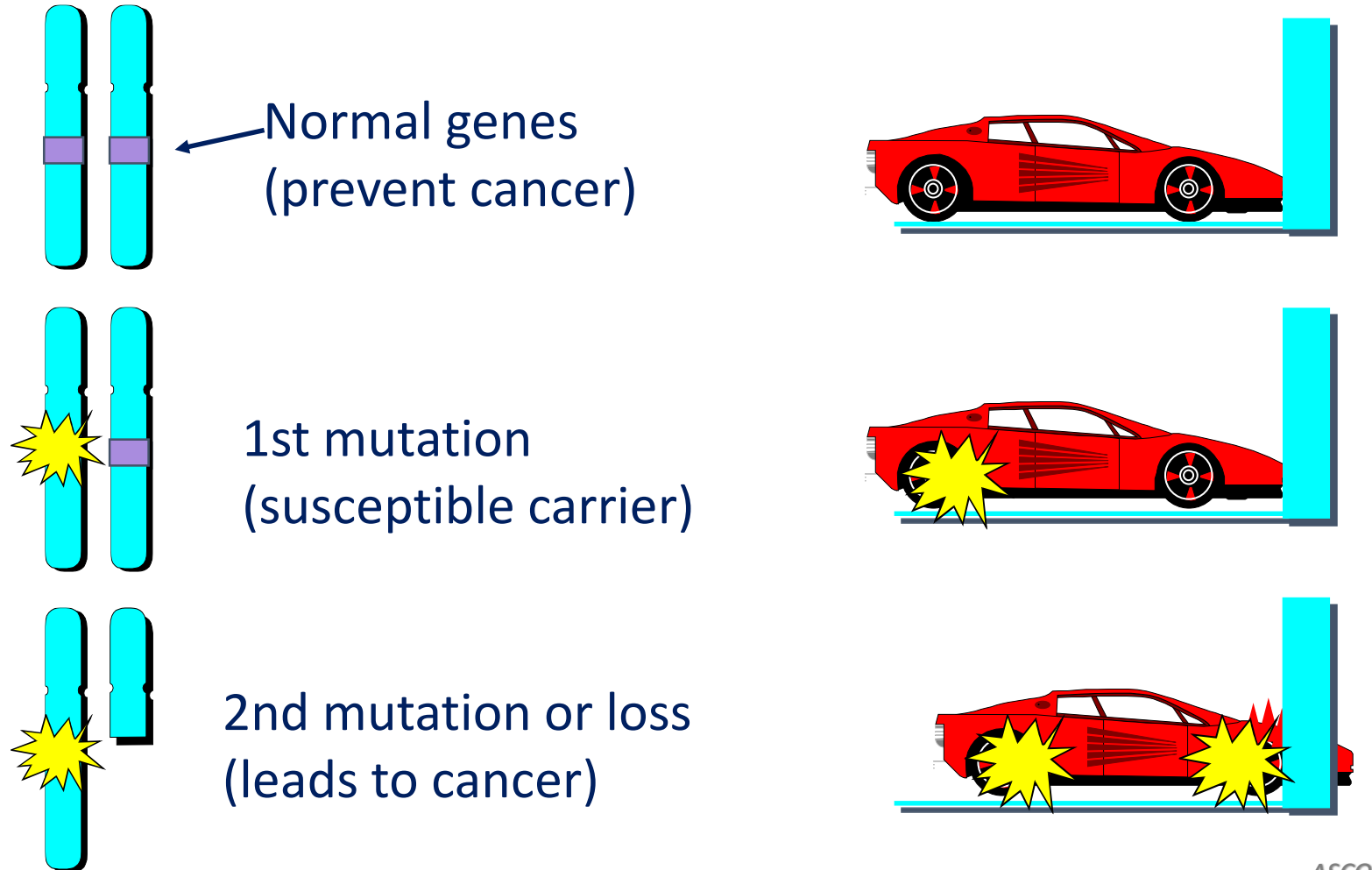
- Occur in nongermline tissues
- Are nonheritable

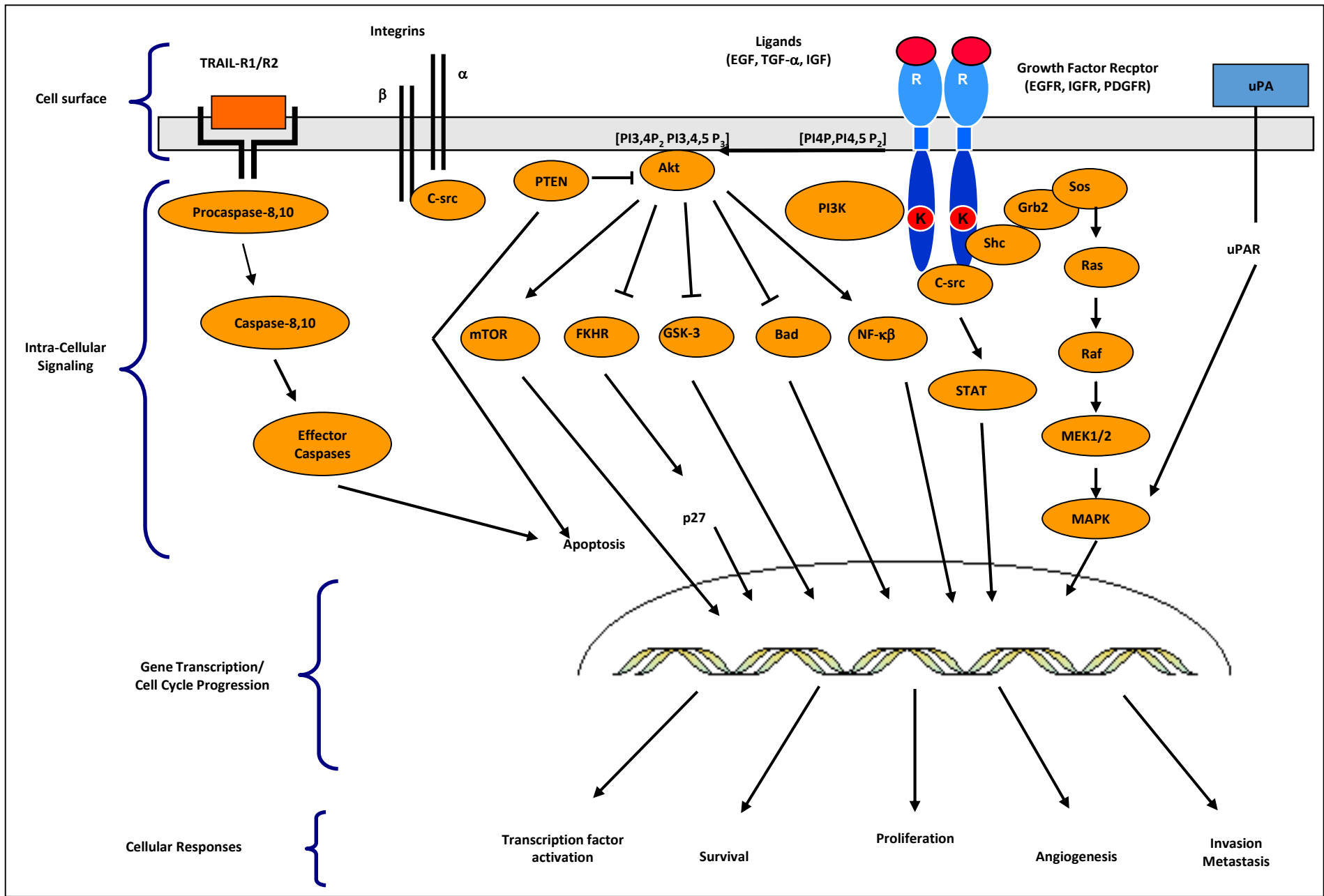
Oncogenes



1 mutation sufficient for role in cancer development

Tumor Suppressor Genes





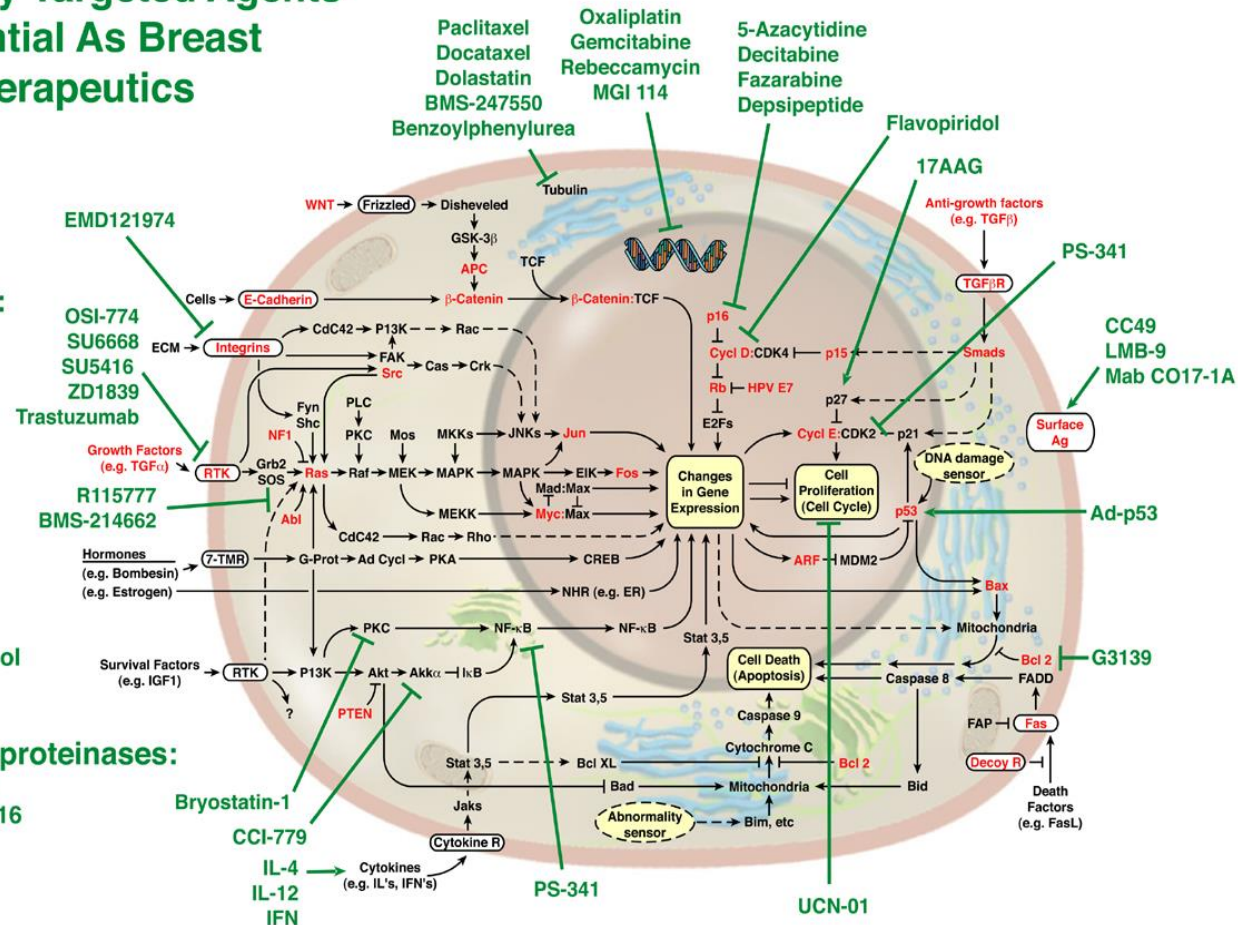
Biology of cancer

From biology to target and from target to drug

Molecularly Targeted Agents With Potential As Breast Cancer Therapeutics

Angiogenesis:
 OSI-774
 SU6668
 SU6668
 SU5416
 ZD1839
 Trastuzumab
 Bevacizumab
 HuMV833
 EMD 121974
 Vitaxin 2
 CAI
 Endostatin
 Angiostatin
 Thalidomide
 Neovastat
 2-Methoxy Estradiol

Matrix Metalloproteinases:
 Batimastat BB-94
 Marimastat BB-2516
 BMS-275291
 BAY 12-9566
 COL3



Cytopla

ECM

Growth Factors
(e.g. TGF α)

Hormones
(e.g. Bombesin)
(e.g. Estrogen)

Survival Factor
(e.g. IGF1)

First draft of human genome

2nd generation instruments

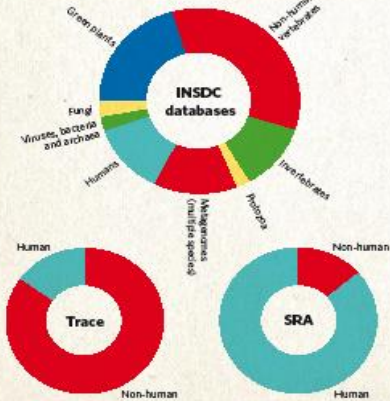


THE SEQUENCE EXPLOSION

At the time of the announcement of the first drafts of the human genome in 2000, there were 8 billion base pairs of sequence in the three main databases for 'finished' sequence: GenBank, run by the US National Center for Biotechnology Information; the DNA Data Bank of Japan; and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Nucleotide Sequence Database. The databases share their data regularly as part of the International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (INSDC). In the subsequent first post-genome decade, they have added another 270 billion bases to the collection of finished sequence, doubling the size of the database roughly every 18 months. But this number is dwarfed by the amount of raw sequence that has been created and stored by researchers around the world in the Trace archive and Sequence Read Archive (SRA). See Editorial, page 649, and human genome special at www.nature.com/humangenome

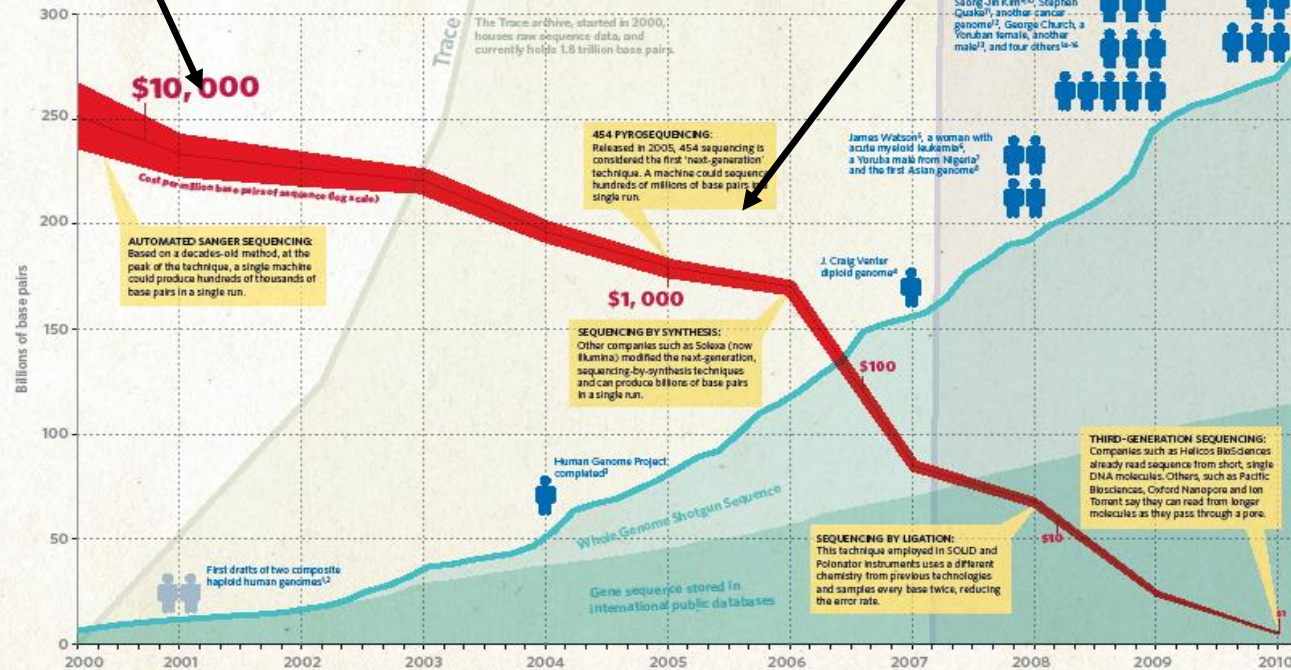
DNA SEQUENCES BY TAXONOMY

International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration: The main repositories of 'finished' sequence span a wide range of organisms, representing the many priorities of scientists worldwide.



Trace Archive: Developed to house the raw output of high-throughput sequencers built in the late 1990s, the trace archive spans a wide range of taxa.

Sequence Read Archive: Houses raw data from next-generation sequencers. Dominated by human sequence, including multiple coverage for more than 170 people.

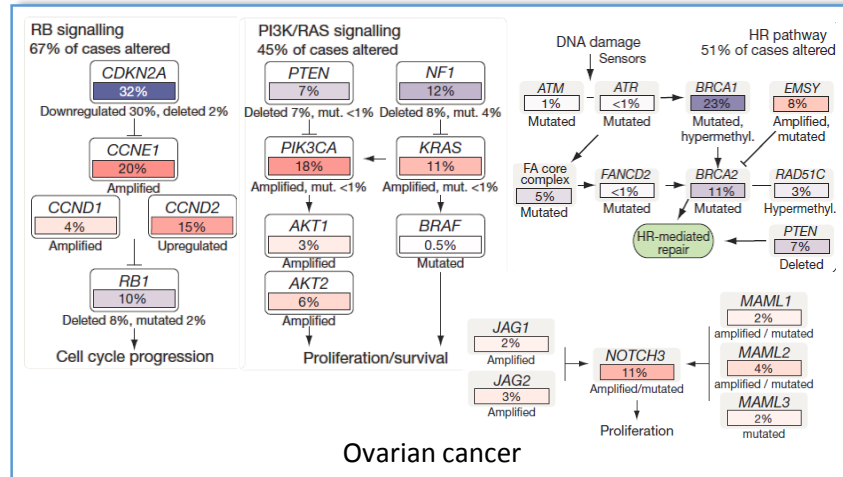
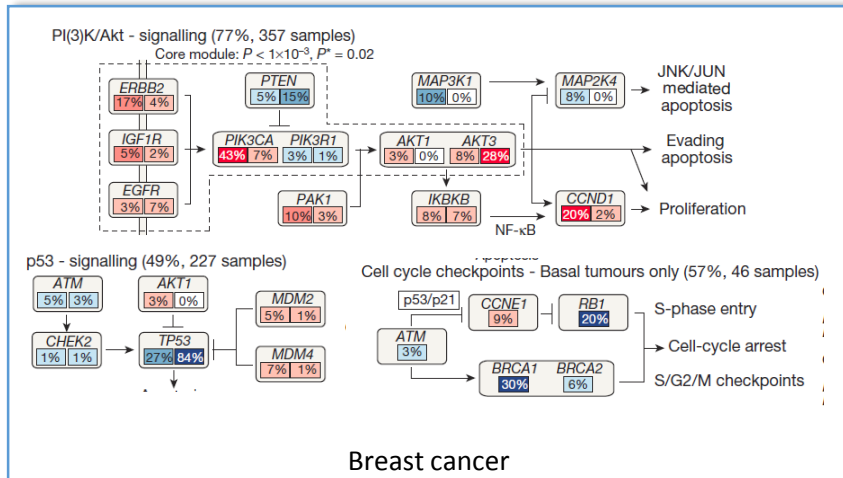


HOW MANY HUMAN GENOMES?

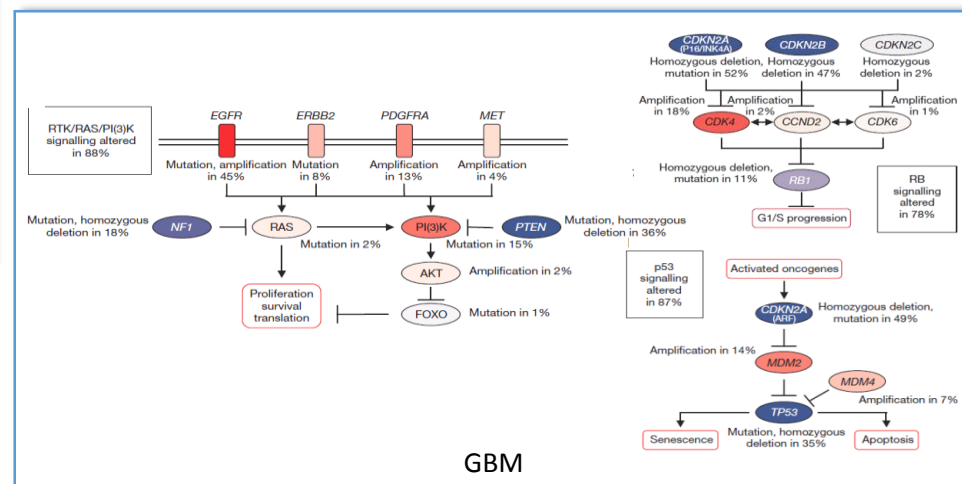
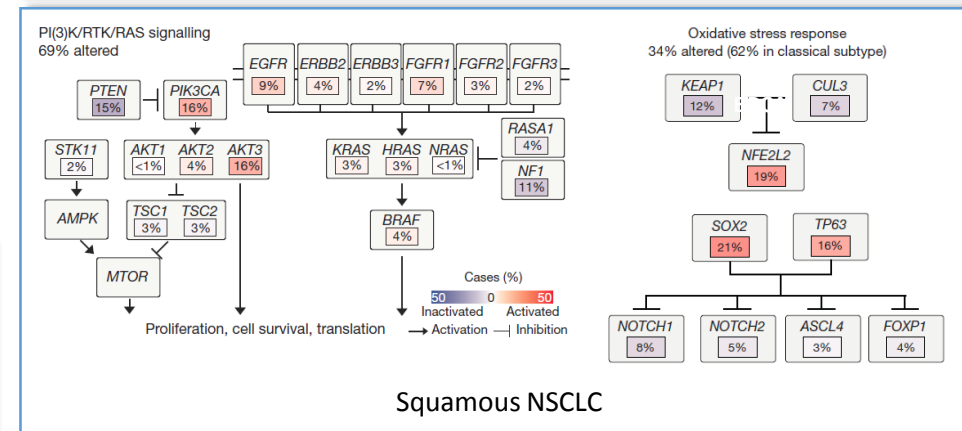
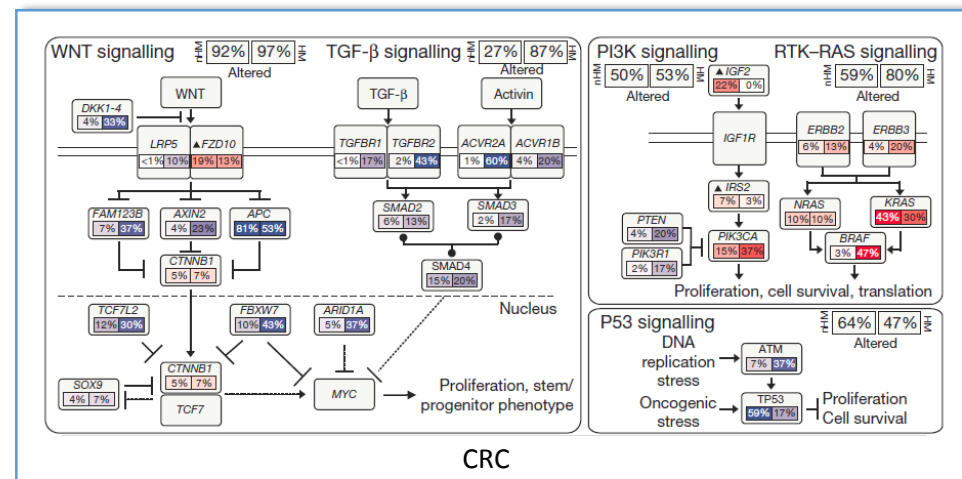
The graphic shows all published, fully sequenced human genomes since 2000, including nine from the first quarter of 2010. Some are resequencing efforts on the same person and the list does not include unpublished completed genomes.

- Venter, J. C. et al. *Science* 291, 1304-1351 (2000).
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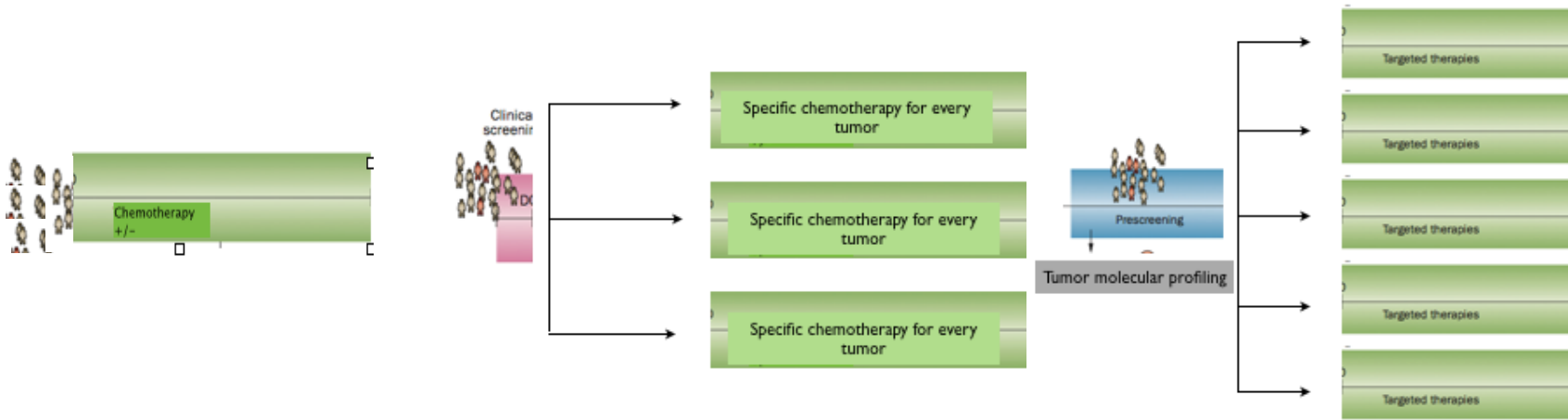
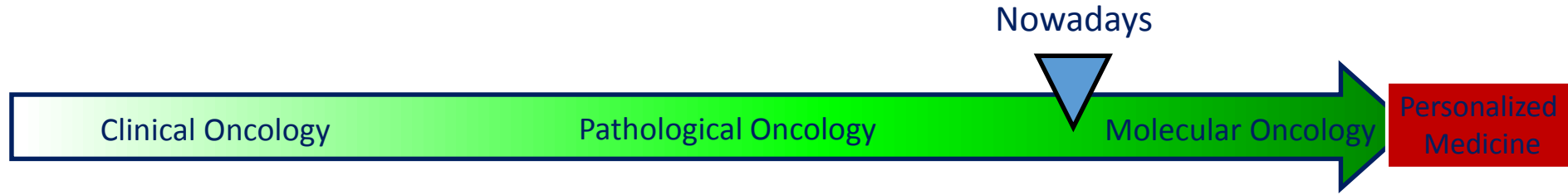
Page size by comparison



Nature, October 2008
 Nature, June 2011
 Nature, July 2012
 Nature, September 2012
 Nature, October 2012



Conceptual evolution of Cancer treatment



Few therapeutic options combined to treat tumors:

- Surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Few chemotherapies

Increase on therapeutic options allowed specific treatments for different tumor types:

- Combined chemo-radiation
- Specific protocols (NCCN guidelines)

Targeted agents that work in specific molecular alterations:

- Broad knowledge of molecular tumor biology
- Development of molecular analysis and targeted therapies

Disease guided approach

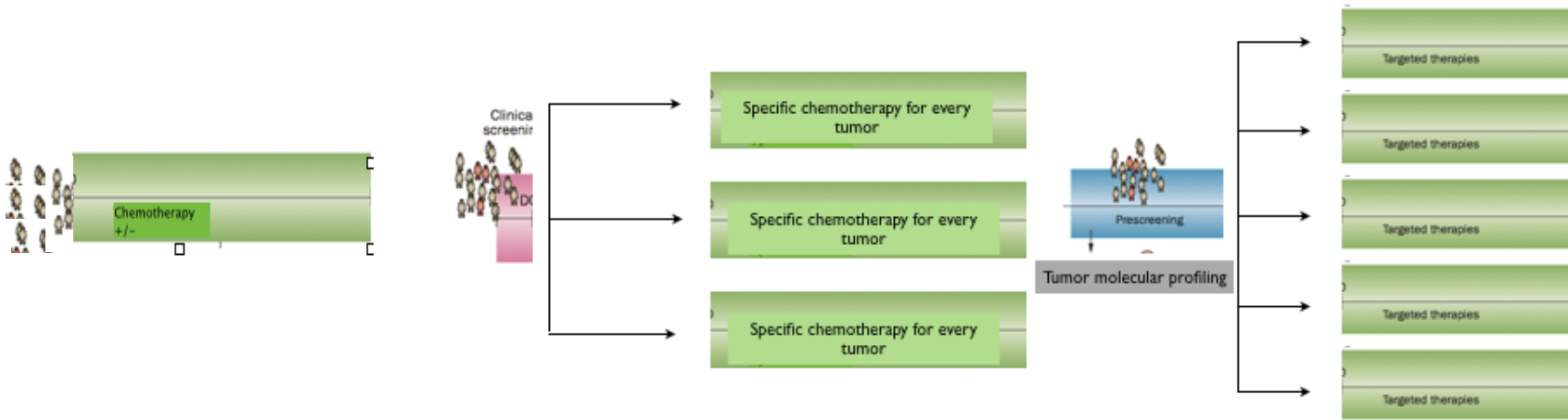


Pathological guided approach



Molecular approach

Conceptual evolution of Cancer treatment



Few therapeutic options combined to treat tumors:

- Surgery
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- Combined chemo-radiation
- Specific protocols (NCCN guidelines)

Targeted agents that work in specific molecular alterations:

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Conceptual evolution of Cancer treatment



First “magic bullets”:

- BCR/ABL Translocation-imatinib
- HER 2 Amplification –Trastuzumab

Push in Molecular Biology of Cancer

ARTICLE

doi:10.1038/nature12477

Signatures of mutational processes in human cancer

A list of authors and their affiliations appears at the end of the paper

Social attention (Nixon declares war on cancer)



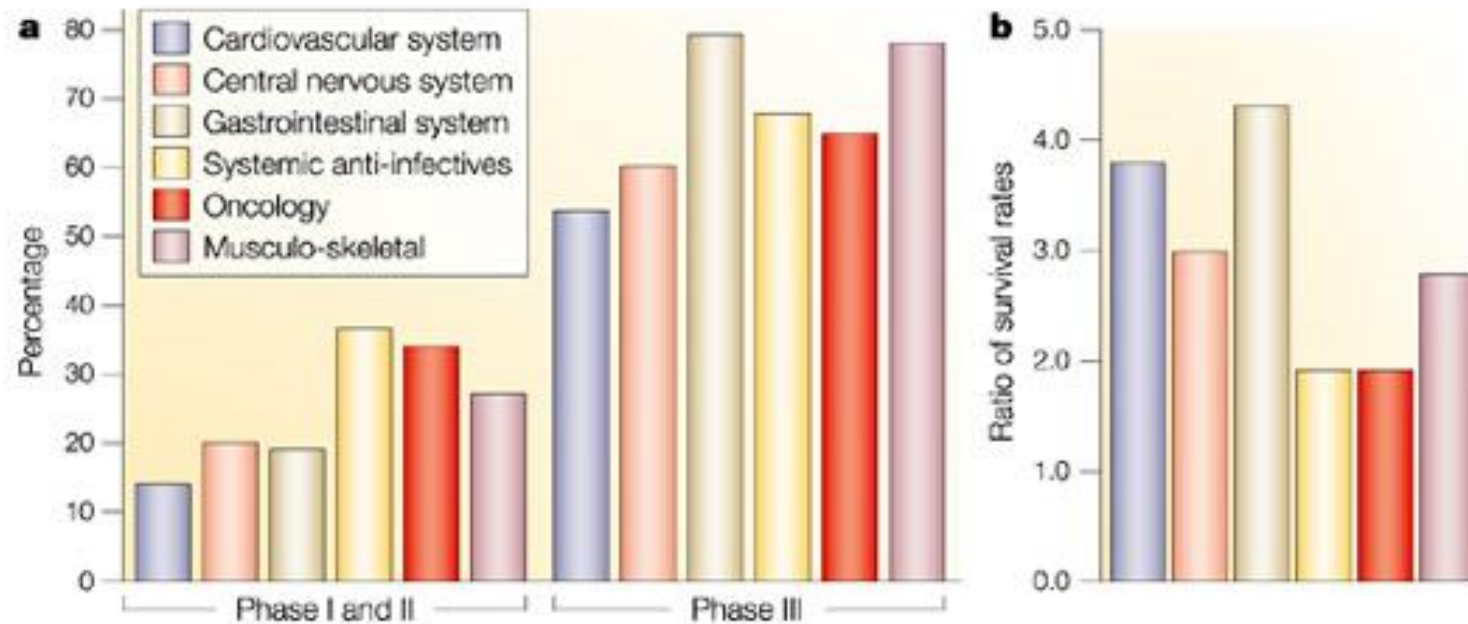
Pharma expands the pipeline



Personalized medicine: a myth?

Desarrollo de nuevos fármacos

- Alto % de fracaso tardío en desarrollo de drogas anticancerígenas:
 - Alta tasa de éxito en early stage (<20% rechazo de solicitud de IND)
 - 10% de drogas en trials entre 1975-1994, aprobadas por FDA



Two contrasting drug-discovery “philosophies”

“EMPIRICAL”: Recognize initial drug lead by functionally useful effect

-E.g. : penicillin (anti-bacterial effect)

rauwolfia (anti-hypertensive)

taxol (anti-tumor)

digoxin (cardiotonic / antiarrhythmic)

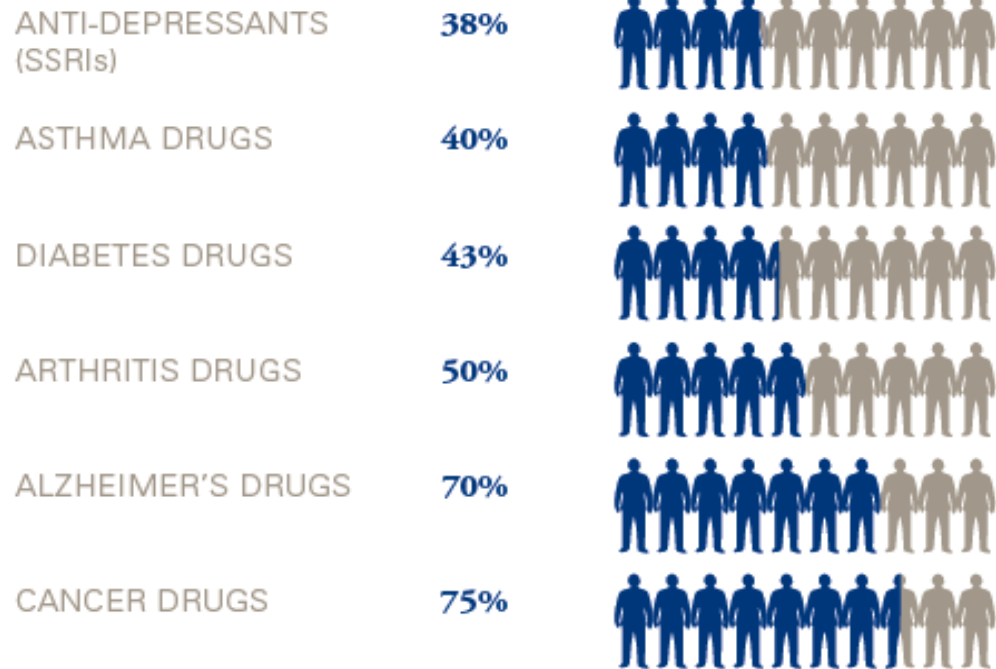
“RATIONAL”: Recognize drug by design or screen against biochemical target’s function

-E.g.: HIV-protease inhibitor (anti-infection)

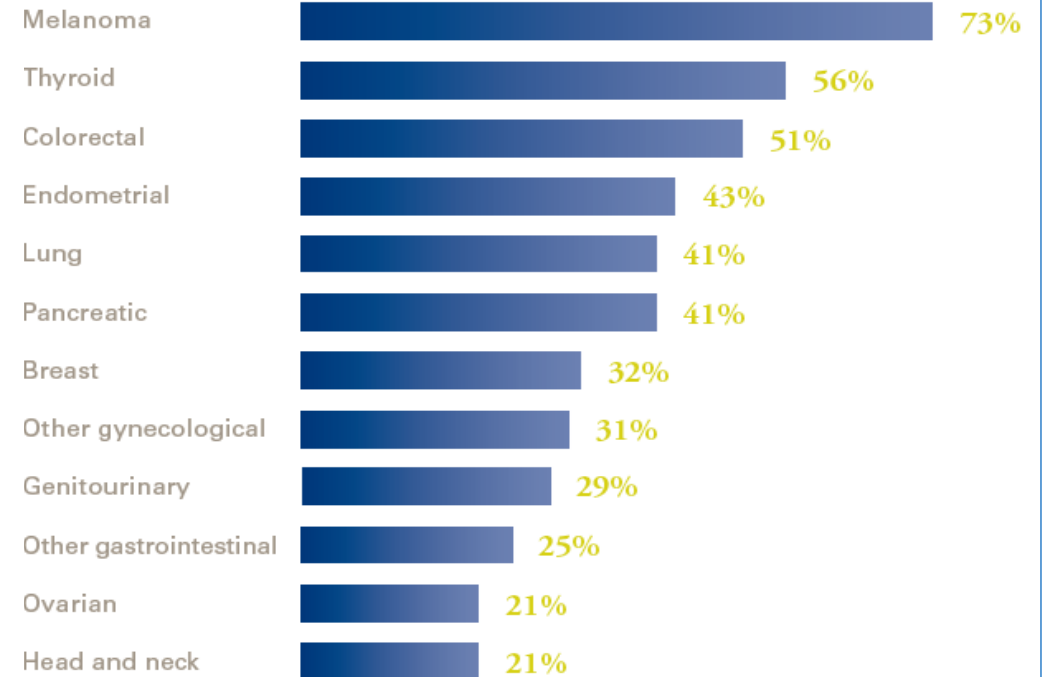
metoprolol (anti-hypertensive)

methotrexate (anti-tumor)

Some data



Percentage of the patient population for which a particular drug is ineffective, on average



Percentage of patients whose tumors were driven by certain genetic mutations that could be targets for specific drugs, by type of cancer

Biology of cancer

Hallmarks of cancer

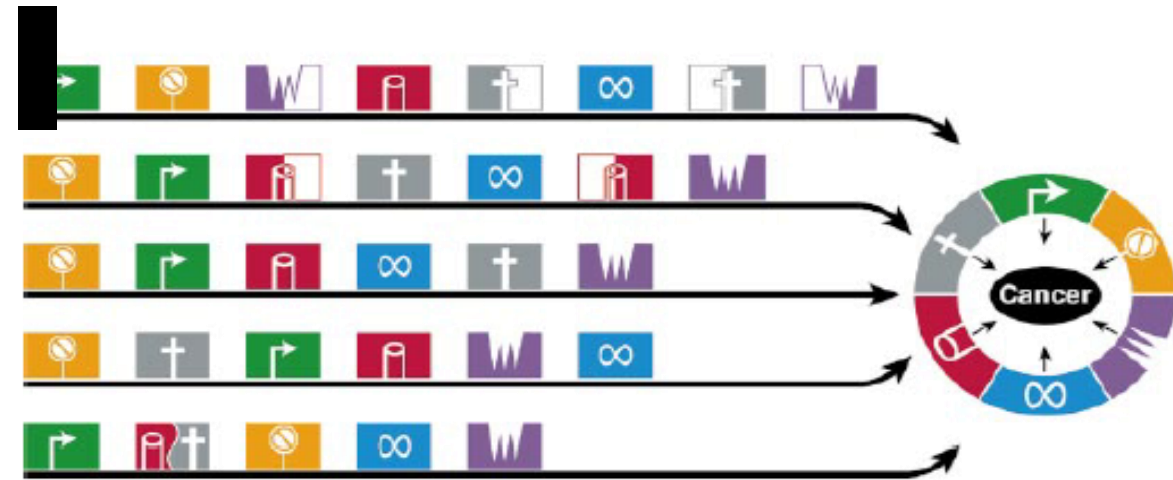
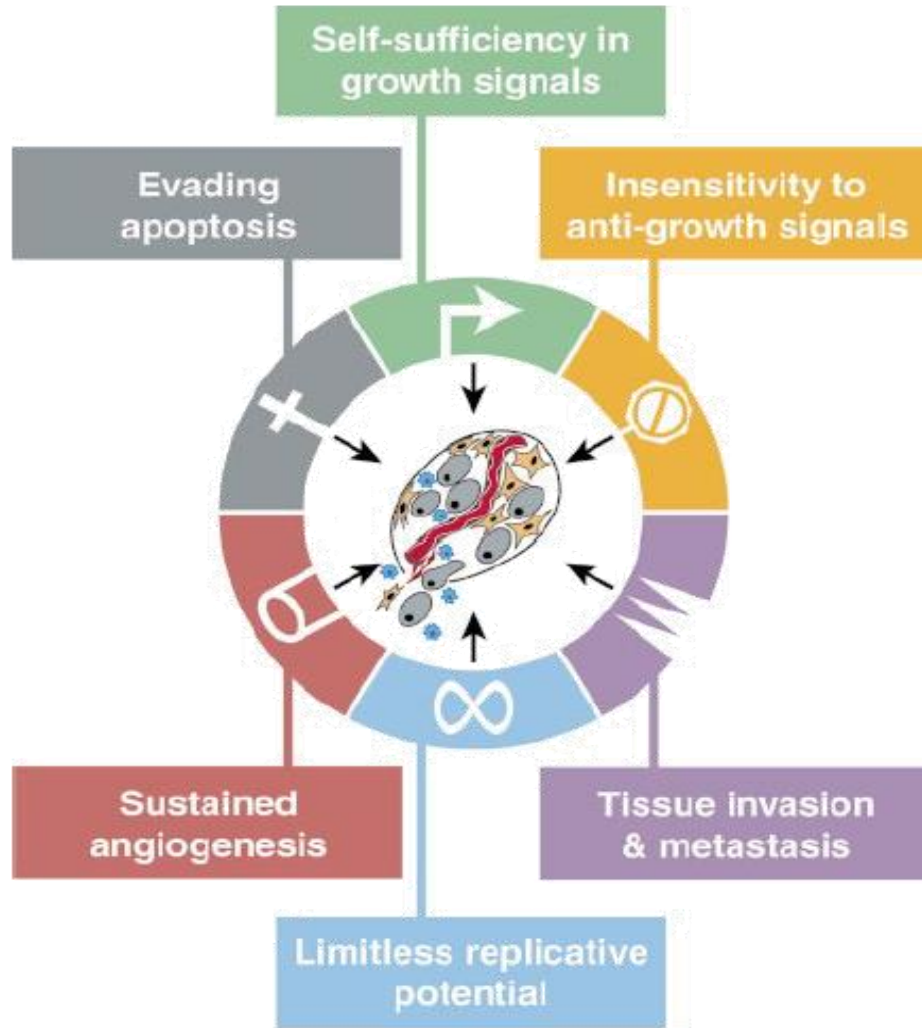
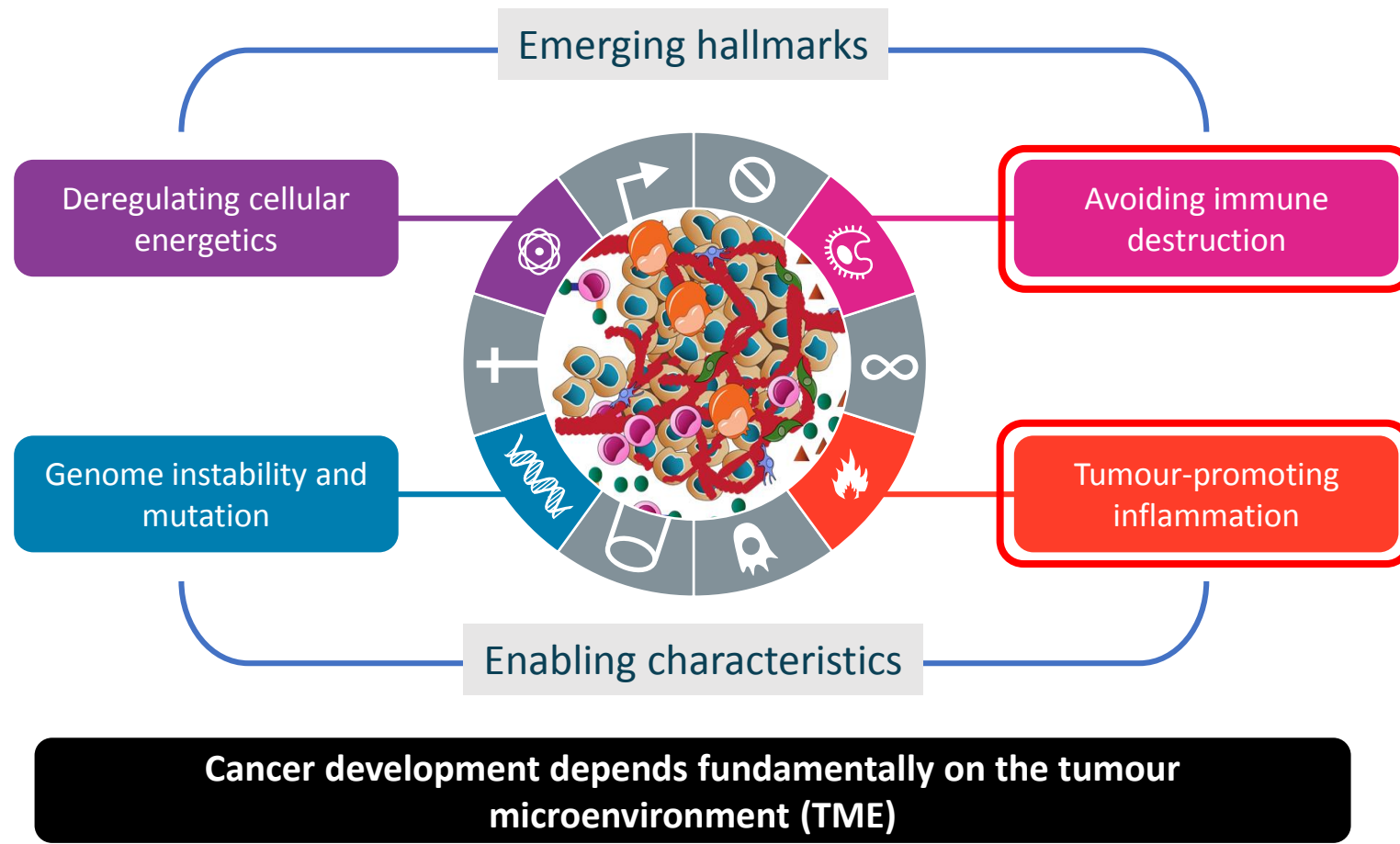
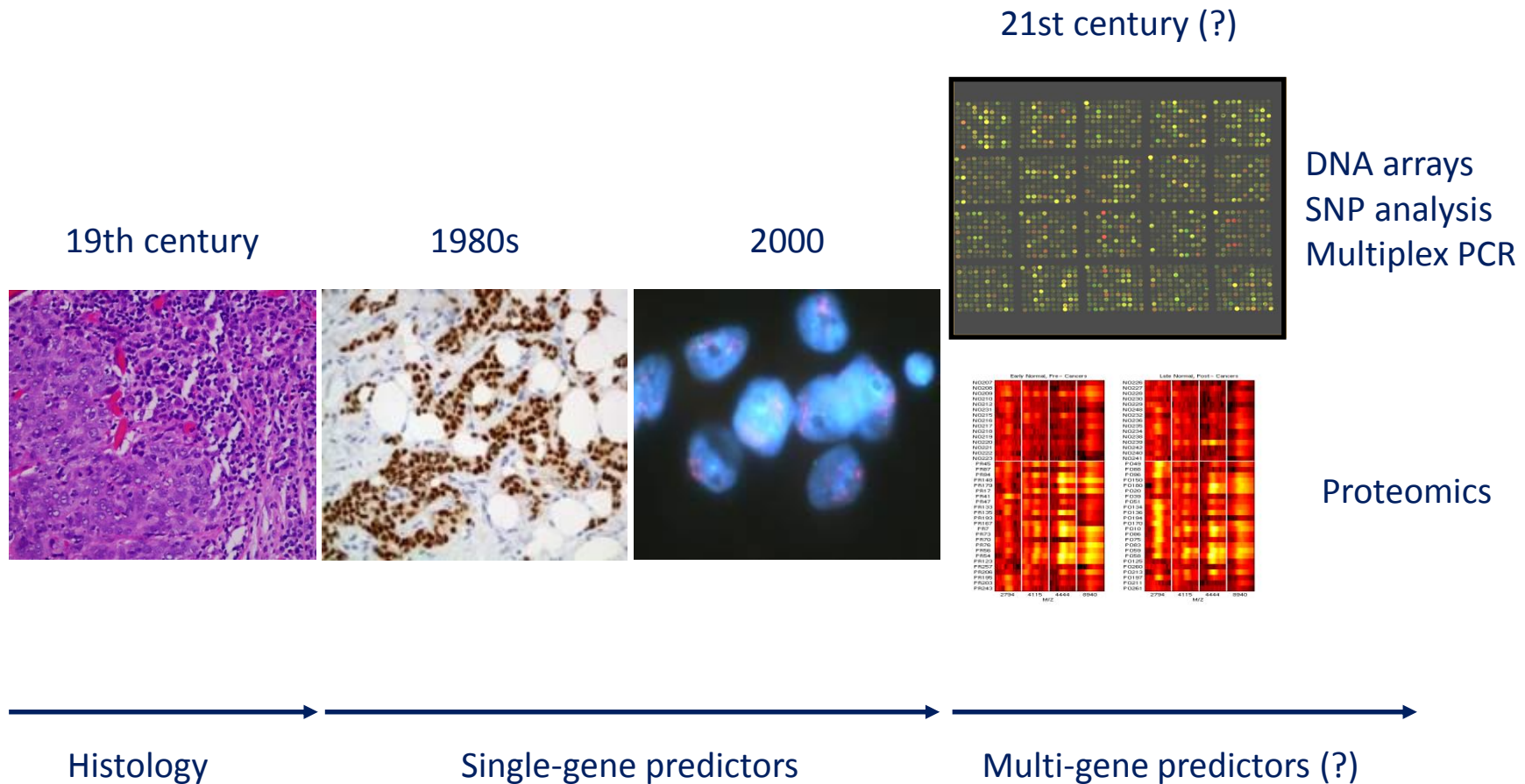


Figure 1. Acquired Capabilities of Cancer

10-years on: Avoiding immune destruction is recognised as an emerging hallmark of cancer



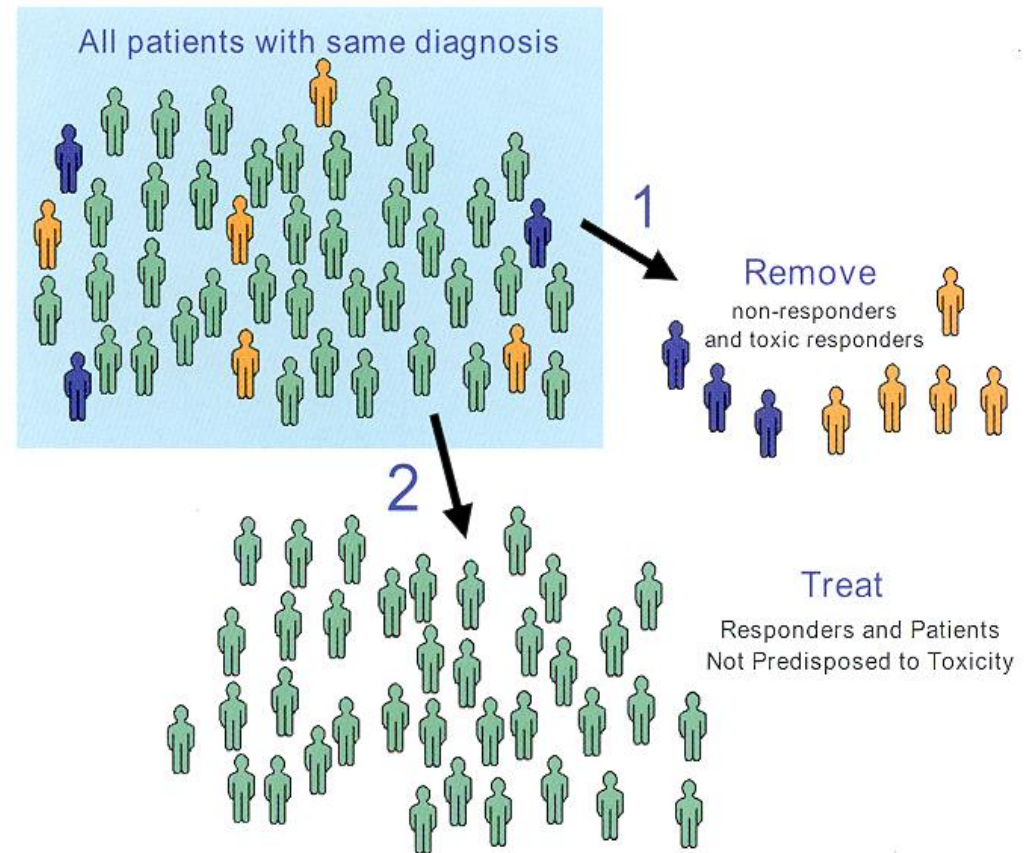
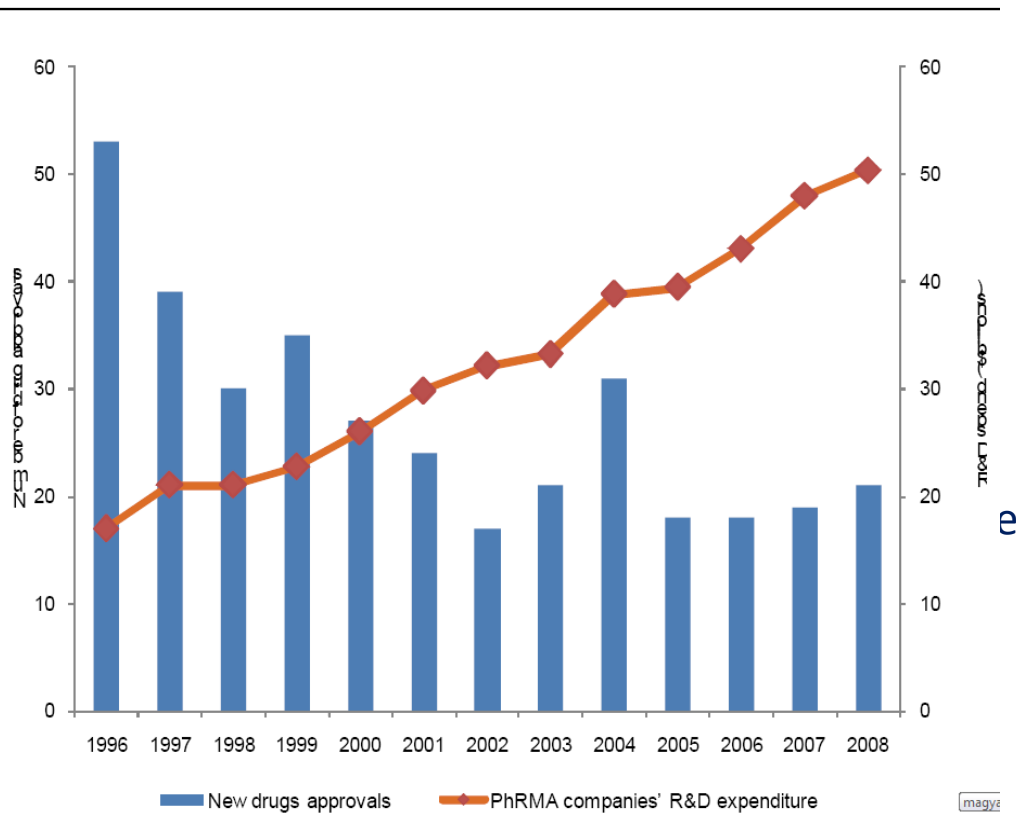
Diagnóstico Molecular del Cáncer: Nuevas Tecnologías



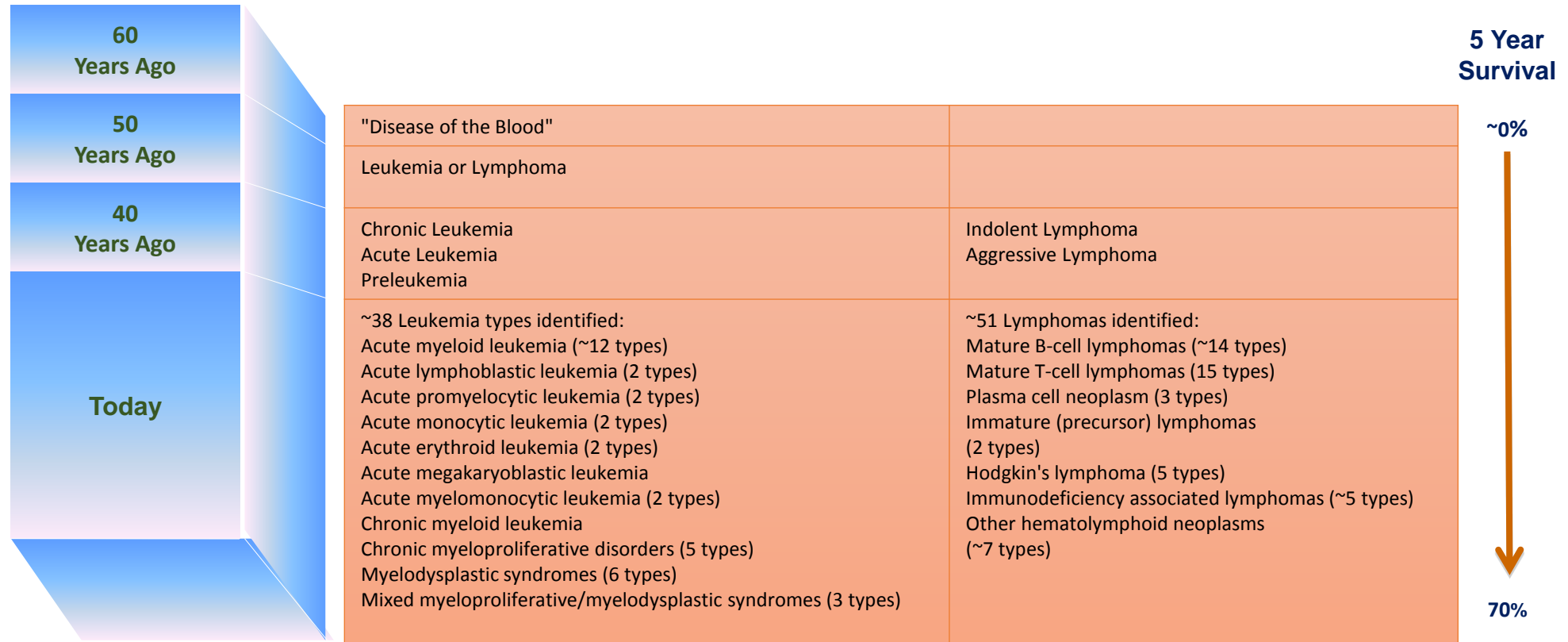
Social expectations

Cheaper, more effective drug development

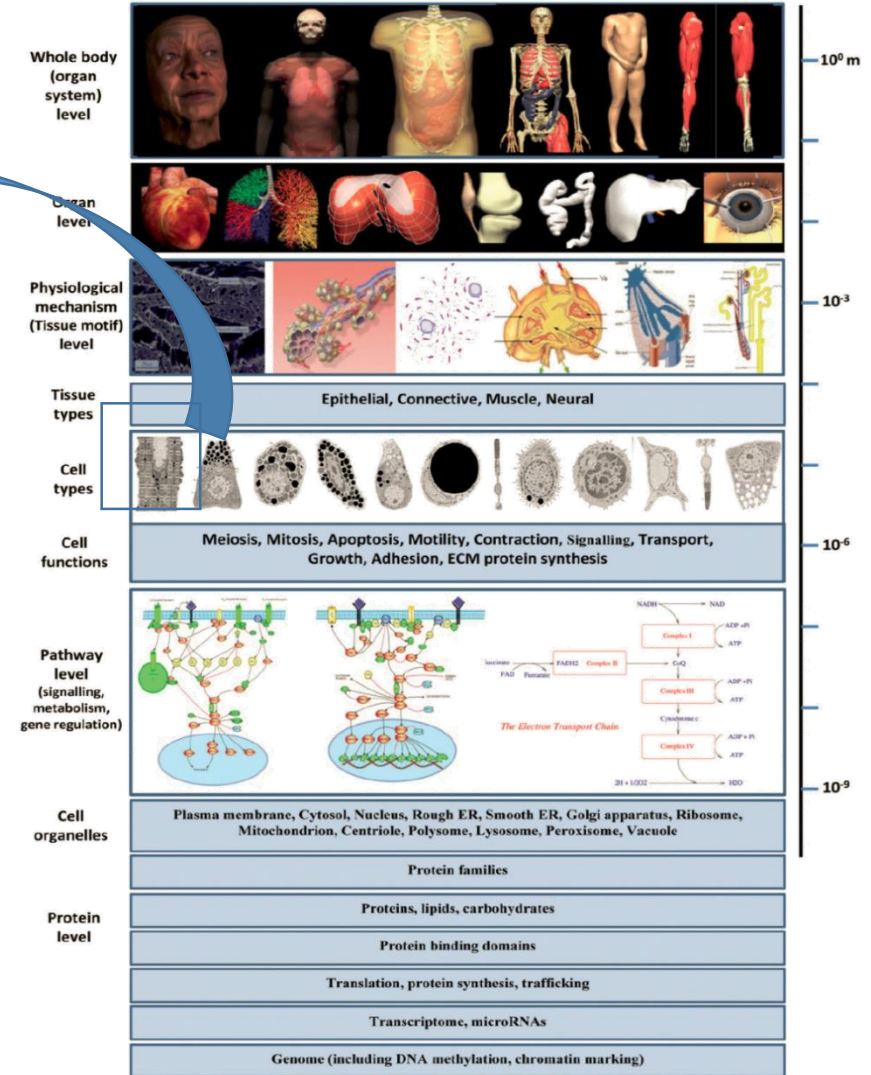
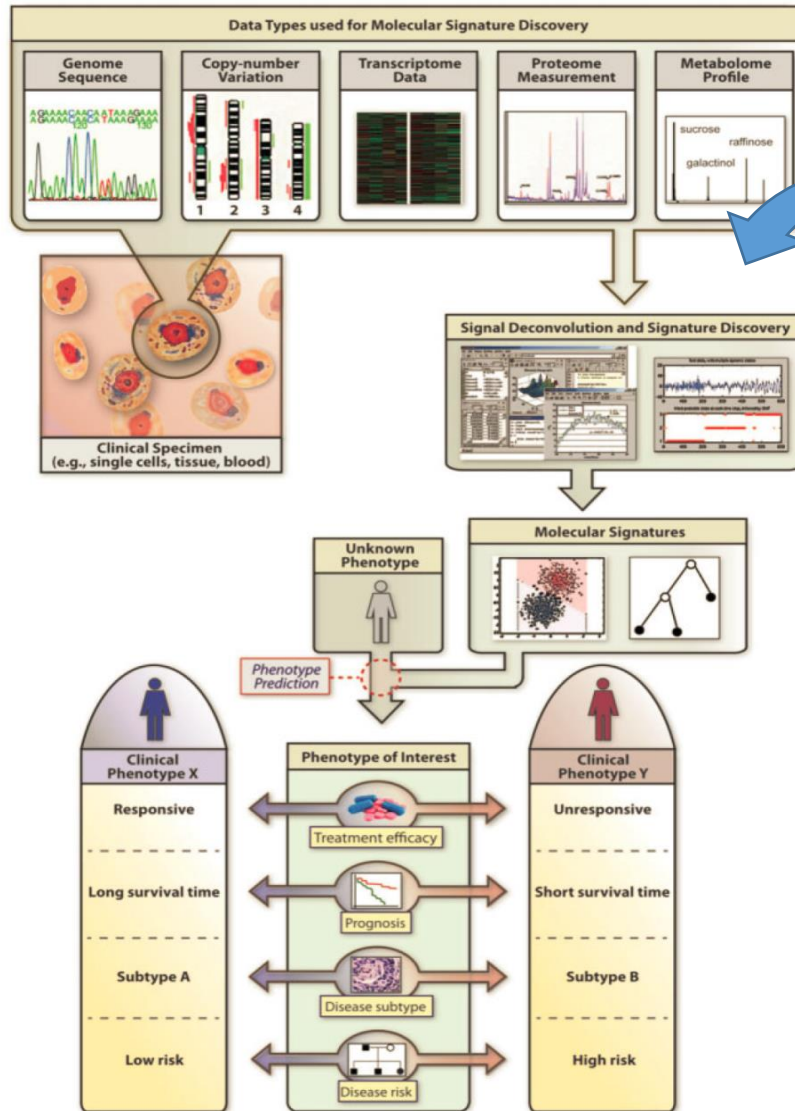
Figure 1.3: New drug approvals and R&D spending, 1996-2008, US



Personalized Medicine: Impacts Patient Care



Who am I?



Albumin

Concentration

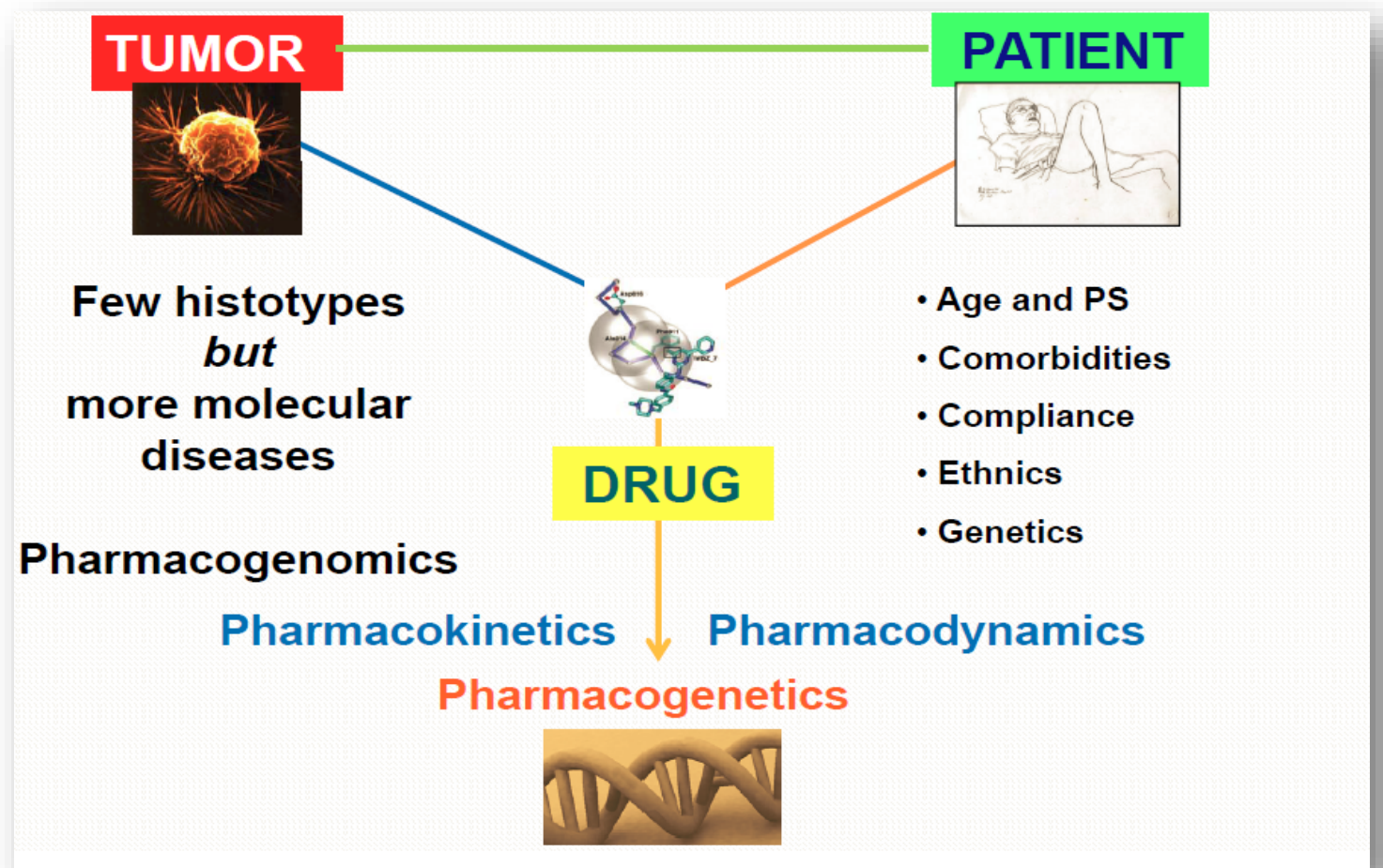
Risk

Factor

Level

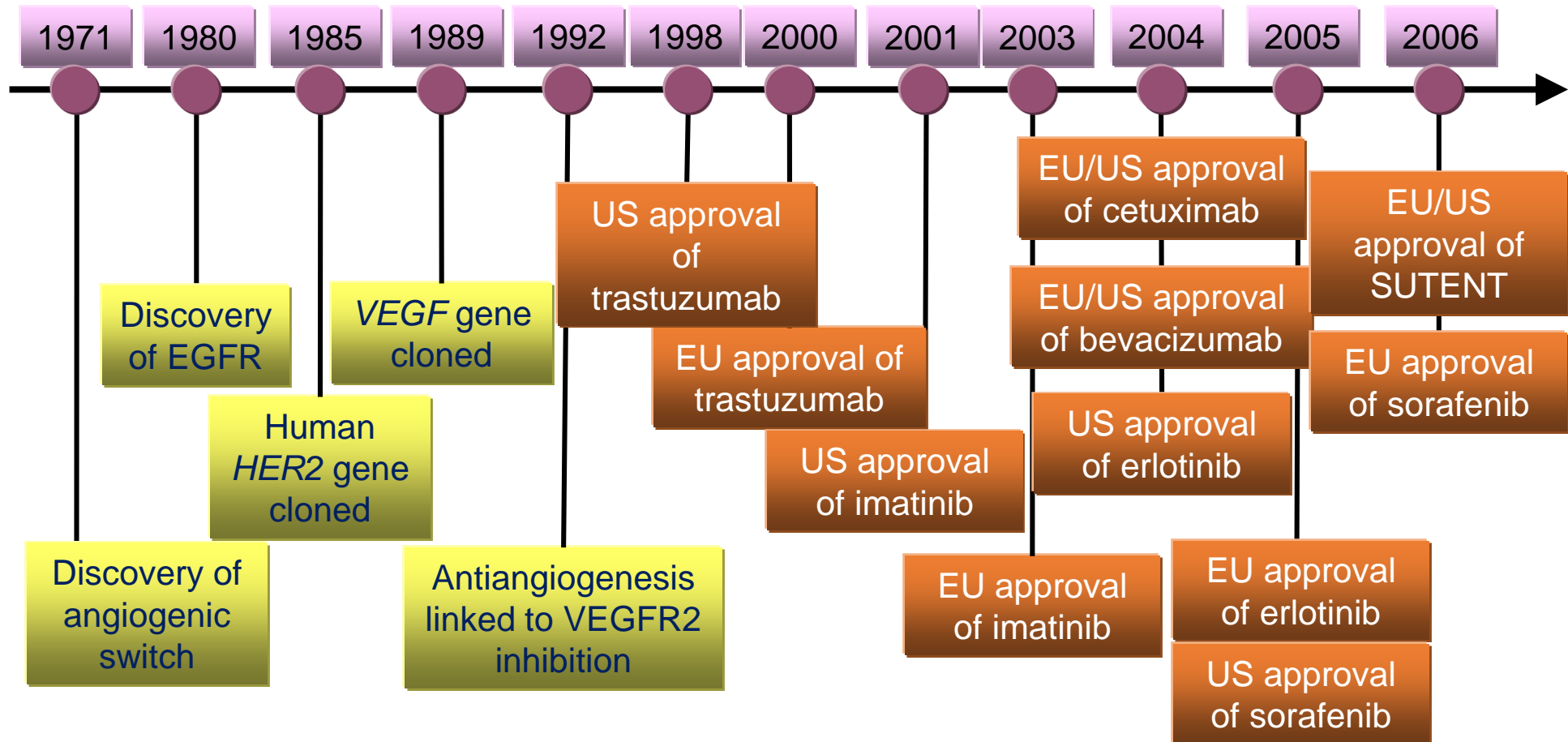
The Goal of Personalized Medicine

- The **Right** Dose of
- The **Right** Drug for
- The **Right** Indication for
- The **Right** Patient at
- The **Right** Time.



... To Patients

Key milestones in the pathway



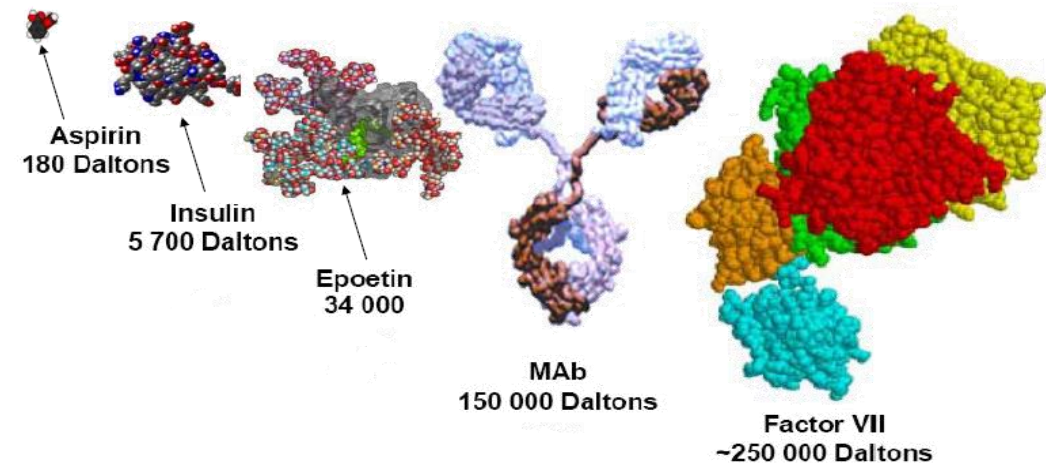
New types of cancer treatment

Hormonal Treatments: These drugs are designed to prevent cancer cell growth by preventing the cells from receiving signals necessary for their continued growth and division. E.g., Breast cancer – tamoxifen after surgery and radiation

Small molecule specific inhibitors: Drugs targeting specific proteins and processes that are limited primarily to cancer cells or that are much more prevalent in cancer cells.

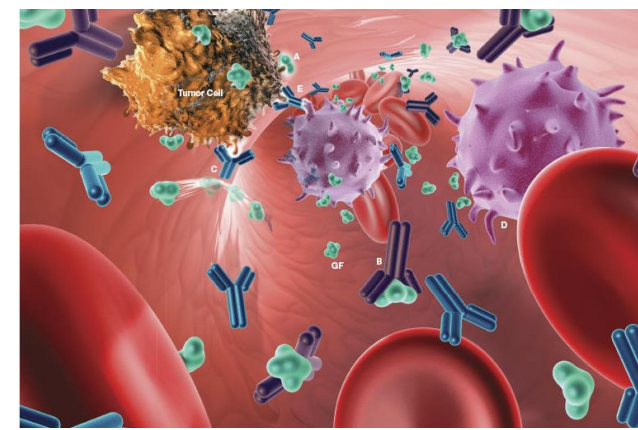
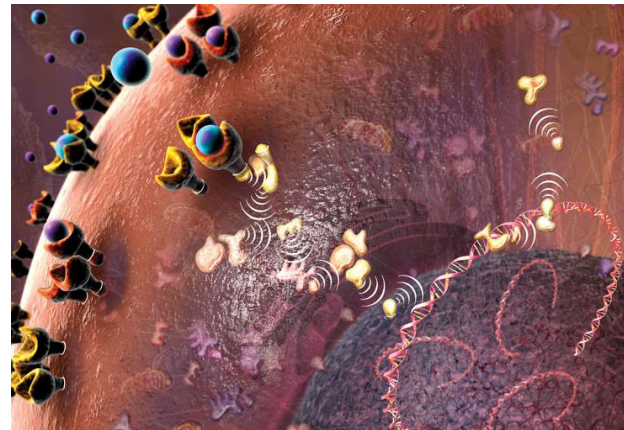
Antibodies: The antibodies used in the treatment of cancer have been manufactured for use as drugs. E.g., Herceptin, avastin

Vaccines: Stimulate the body's defenses against cancer. Vaccines usually contain proteins found on or produced by cancer cells. By administering these proteins, the treatment aims to increase the response of the body against the cancer cells.

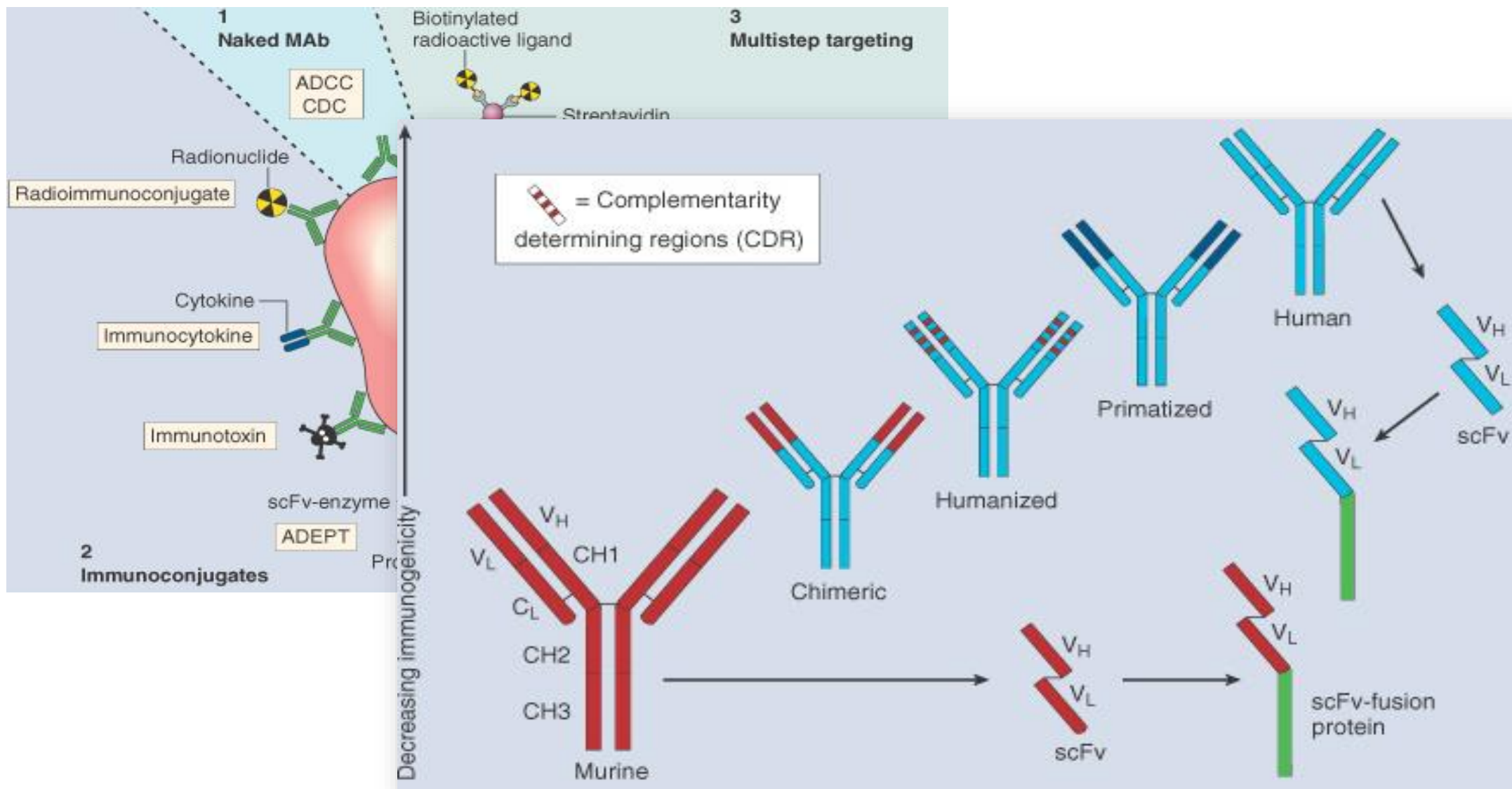


Antitumor Agents Working through Cell Signaling

| | Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Cell Signaling | Therapeutic Monoclonal Antibodies |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Production | Chemical synthesis | Extracted from biological source or recombinant DNA technology |
| Molecular weight | < 10 kDa | > 10 kDa |
| Administration route | Mainly oral route | Mainly parenteral route |
| Immunogenicity | Not an issue | Could elicit immunological response |
| Follow-up molecules | Generics | Biosimilars |



Monoclonal Antibodies



Monoclonal Antibodies

FDA-Approved “Naked” (Non-Conjugated) MoAbs

| Generic Name | Brand Name | Target | Cancer(s) |
|--------------|------------|--------|------------|
| Alemtuzumab | Campath | CD52 | CLL |
| Bevacizumab | Avastin | VEGF | Multiple |
| Cetuximab | Erbitux | EGFR1 | Colon, H&N |
| Panitumumab | Vectibix | EGFR1 | Colon |
| Rituximab | Rituxan | CD20 | Lymphomas |
| Trastuzumab | Herceptin | HER-2 | Breast |

Small molecules

Small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitors (or TKIs) – generic names end in “-nib”

Generally oral

Side effects vary, depending on which enzymes they inhibit (what their target is)

Eight are FDA-approved, numerous others are in development

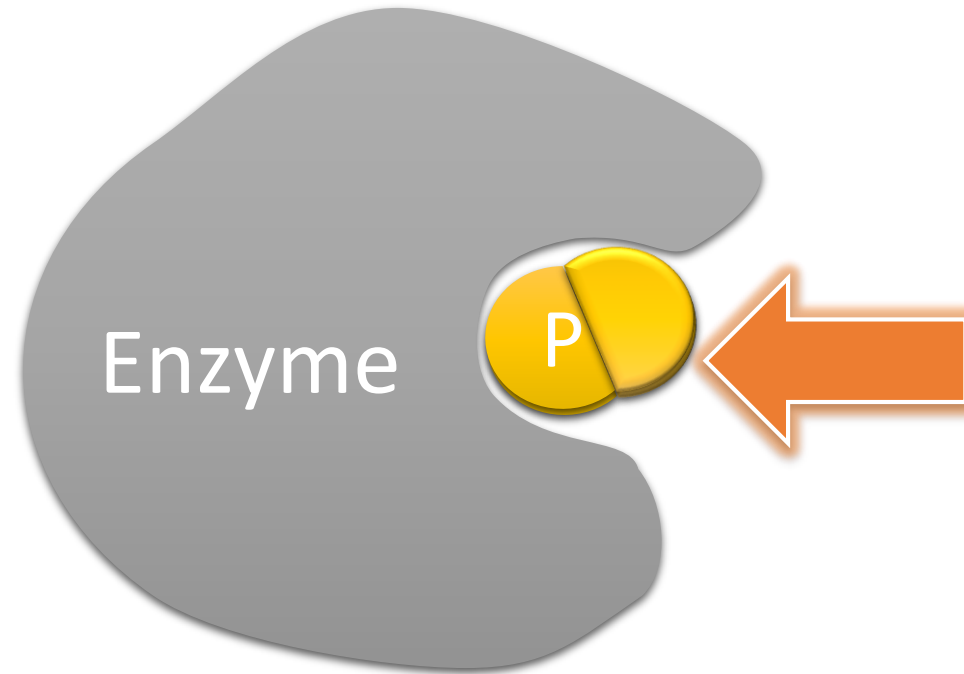
Several are effective against cancers resistant to most previous therapies

Small molecules TKs: Inhibiting Enzyme-Substrate Interactions

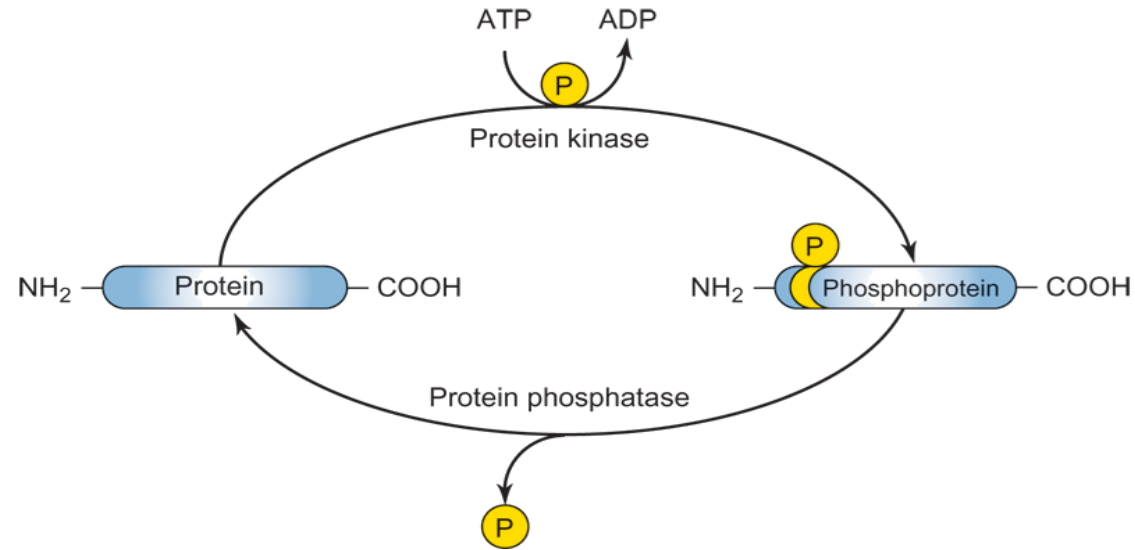
Enzyme with a defined substrate-binding site

Substrate binds and is converted to product(s)

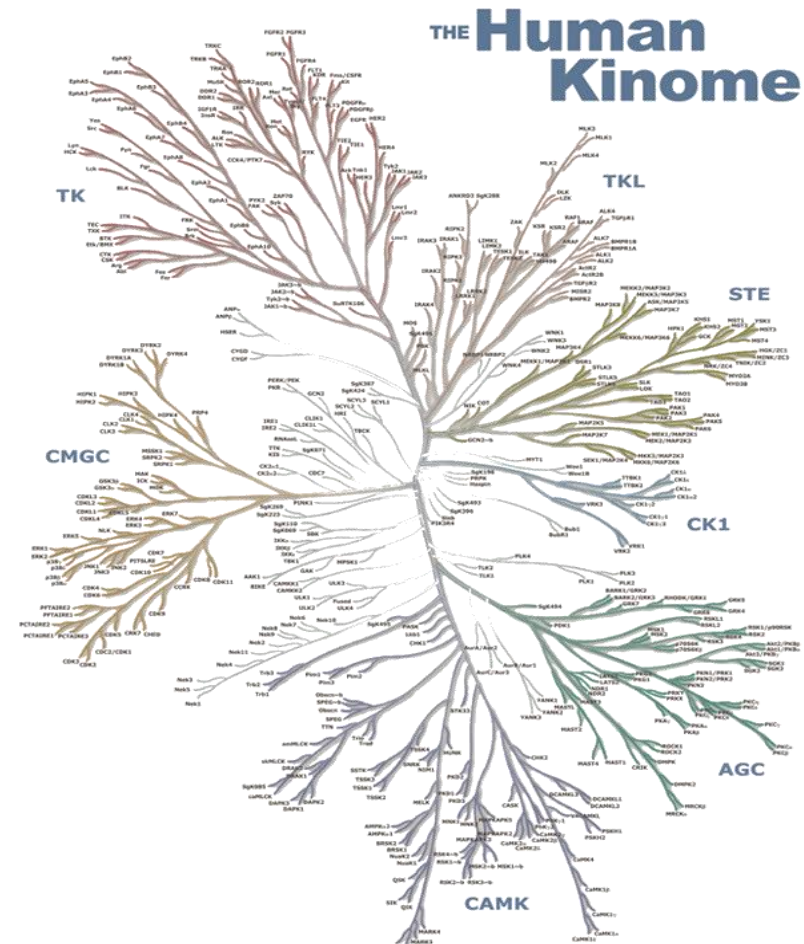
Inhibitor blocks substrate binding

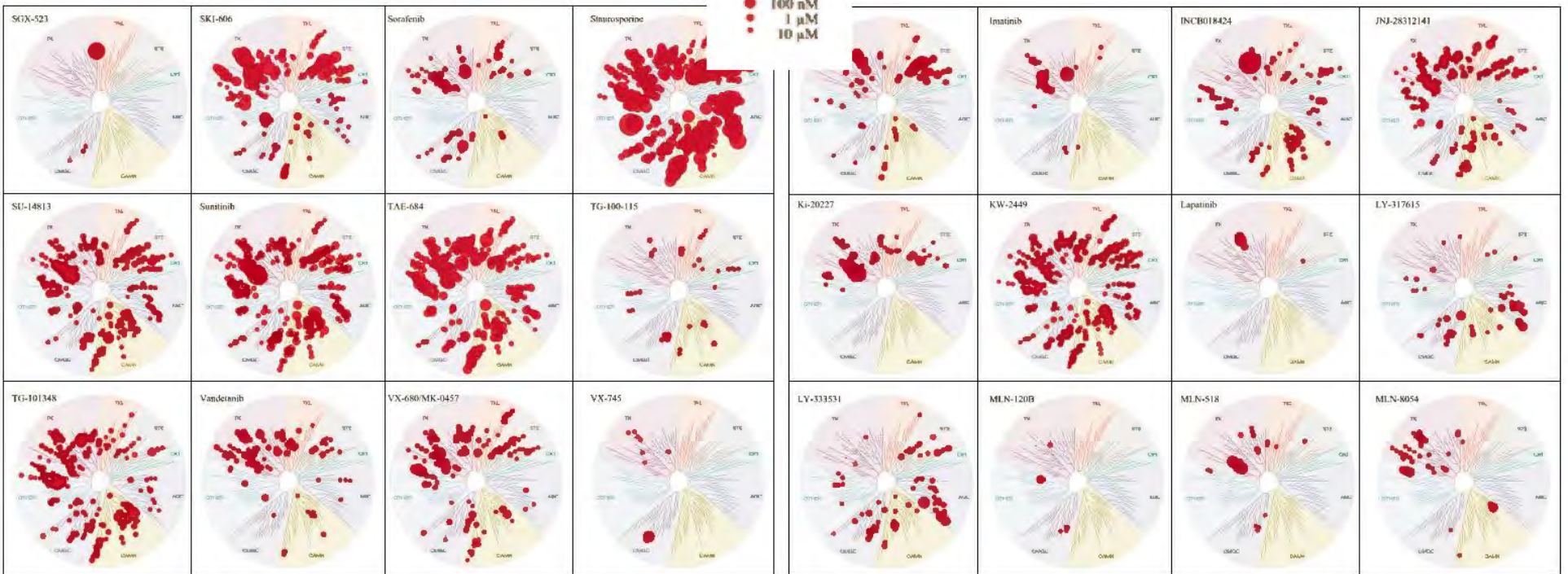
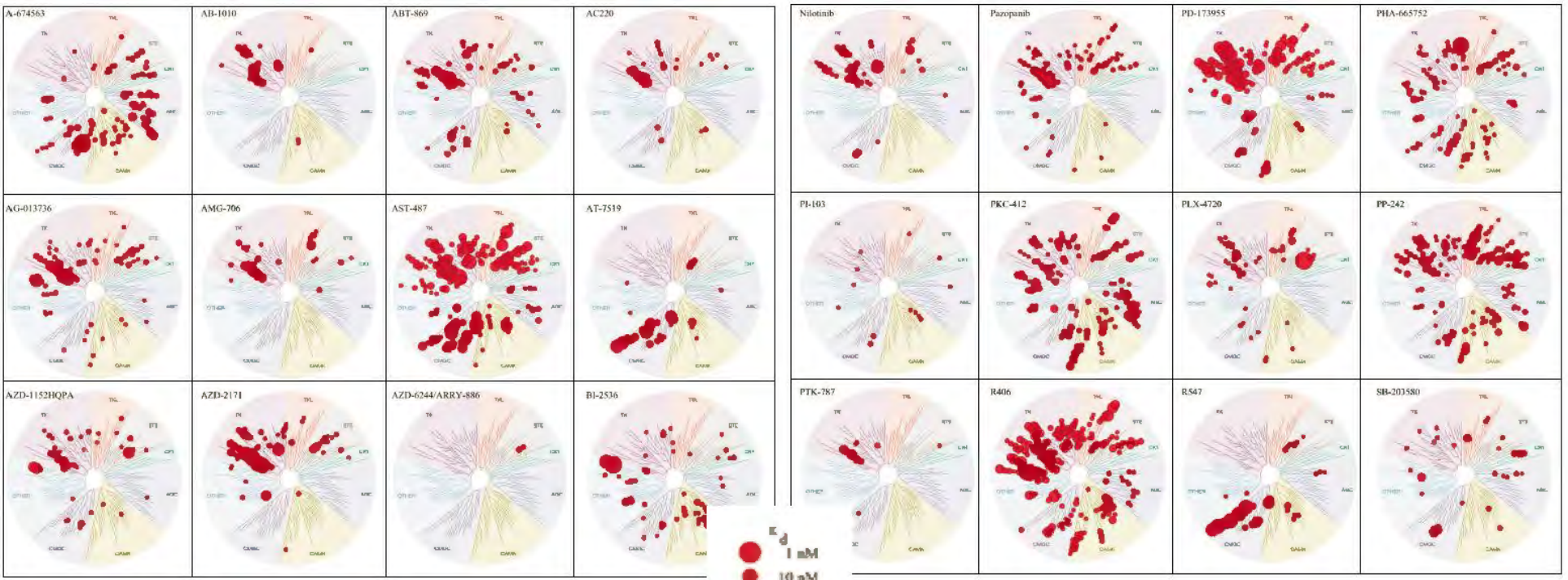


Small molecules: kinase inhibitors

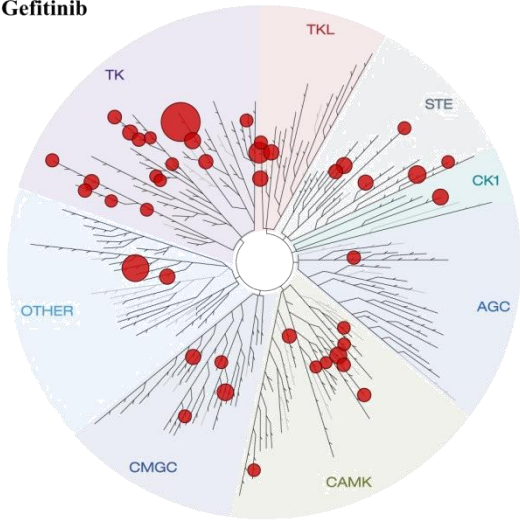


- ✓ **30%** of all proteins may be modified
- ✓ **518** protein kinase genes=human kinome space
- ✓ **20%** of all eukaryotic genes(human genome project)
- ✓ **218** genes=human diseases
- ✓ Approx **30**=tumor suppressor
- ✓ Approx **100** dominant oncogenes

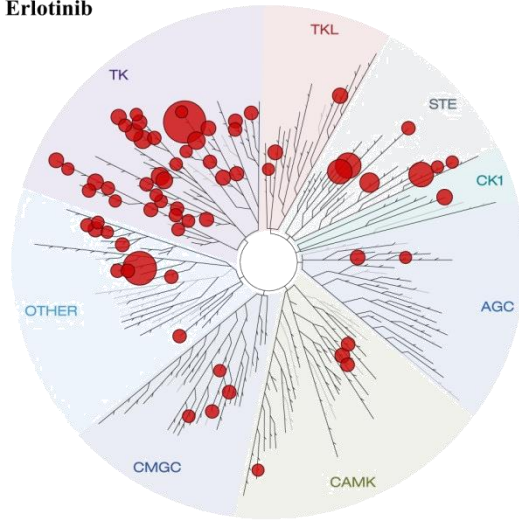




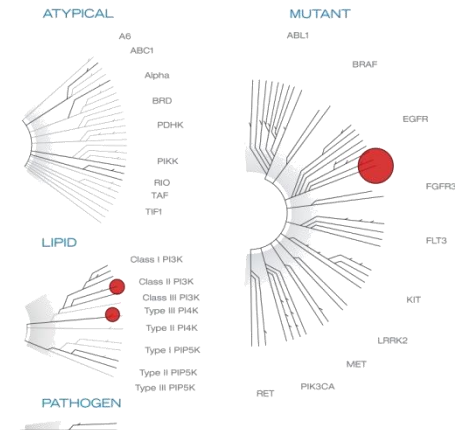
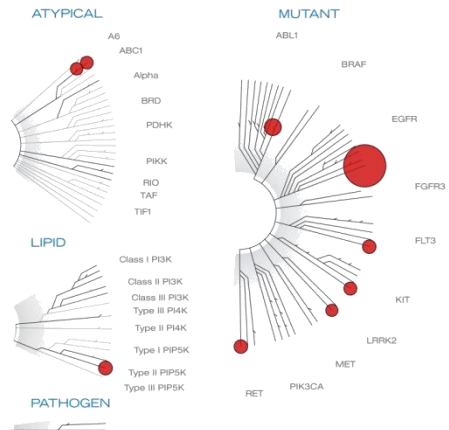
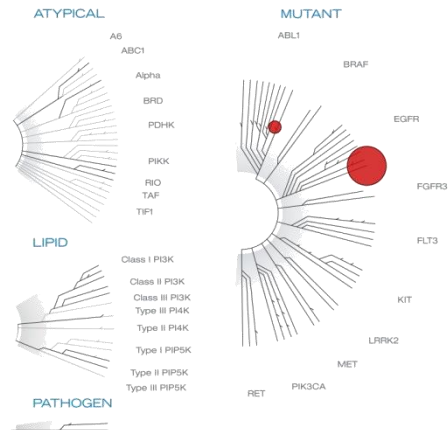
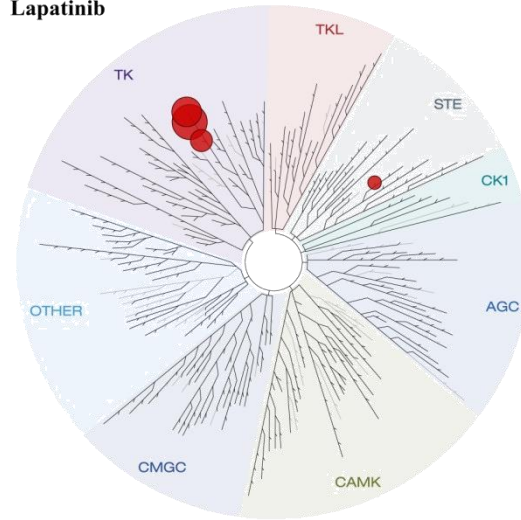
Gefitinib



Erlotinib

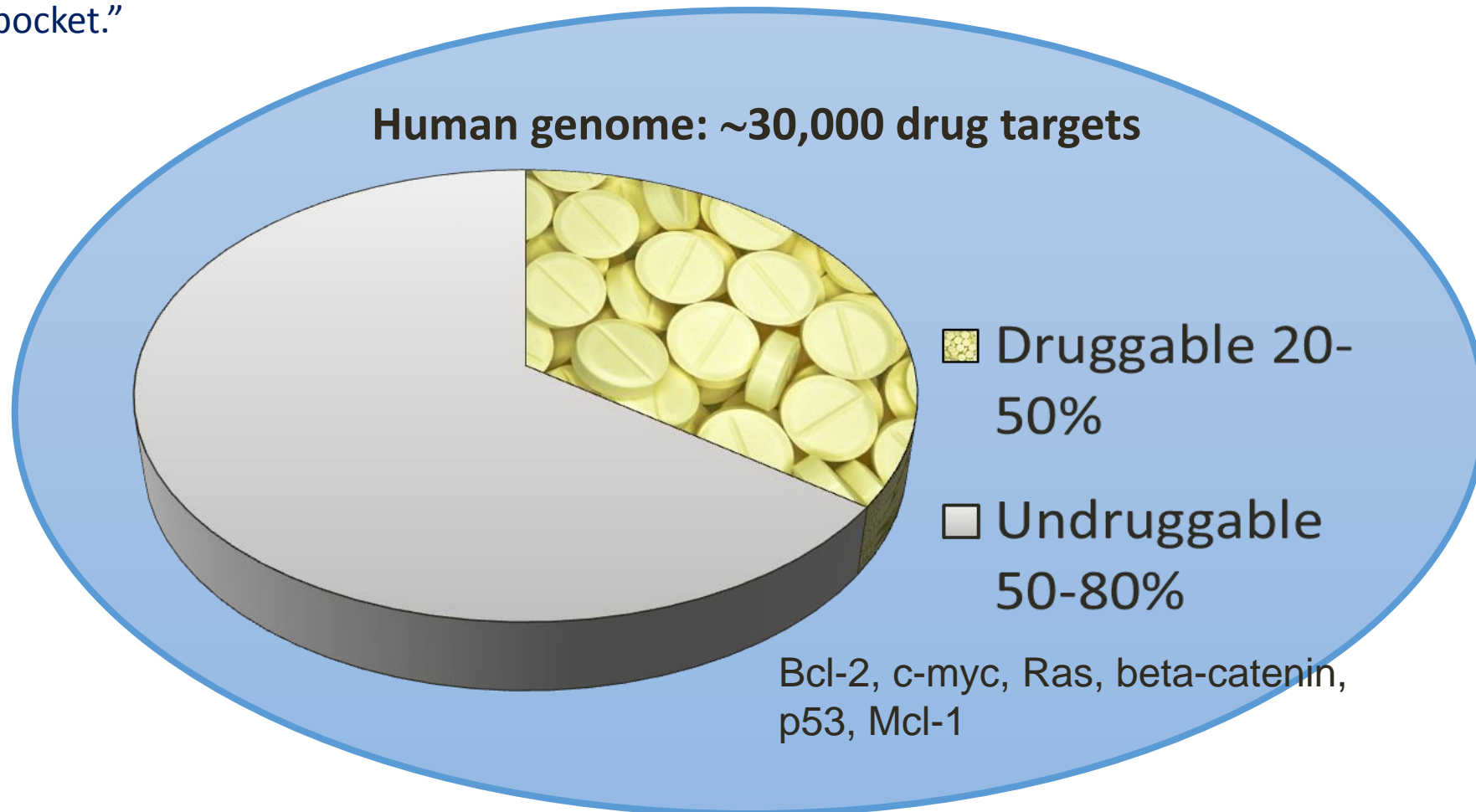


Lapatinib



What proportion of drug targets are druggable?

”Druggable targets are those that have an obvious deep hydrophobic pocket or active site. For example kinases and other enzymes. Undruggable targets are those that have no obvious pocket.”

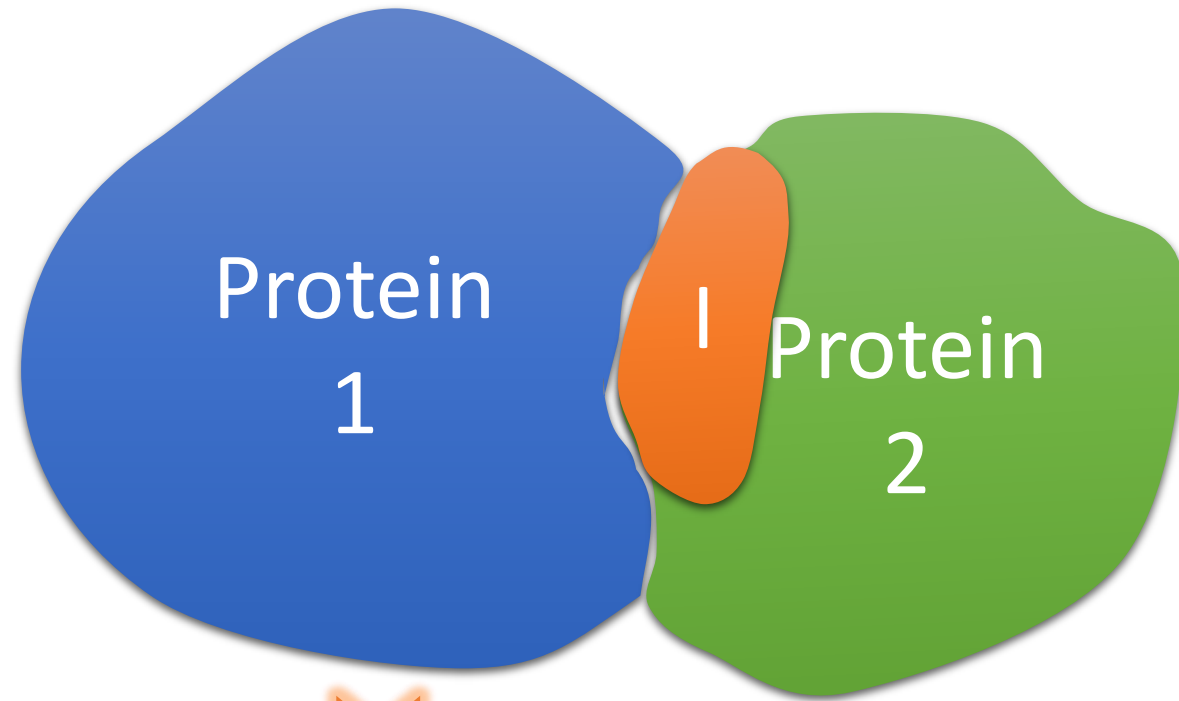


The 'Undruggable?': Inhibiting Protein-Protein Interactions

Protein responsible for biological effect

Effect modulated by protein-protein interaction

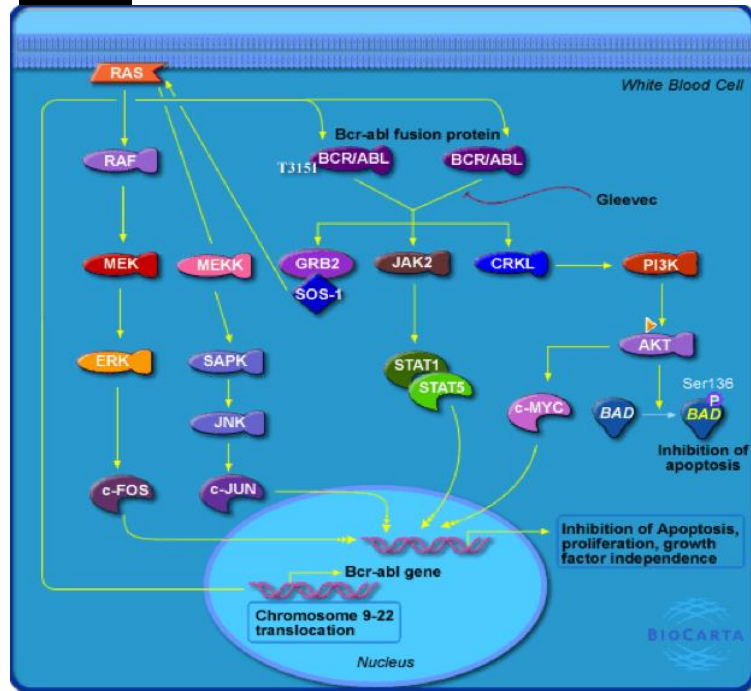
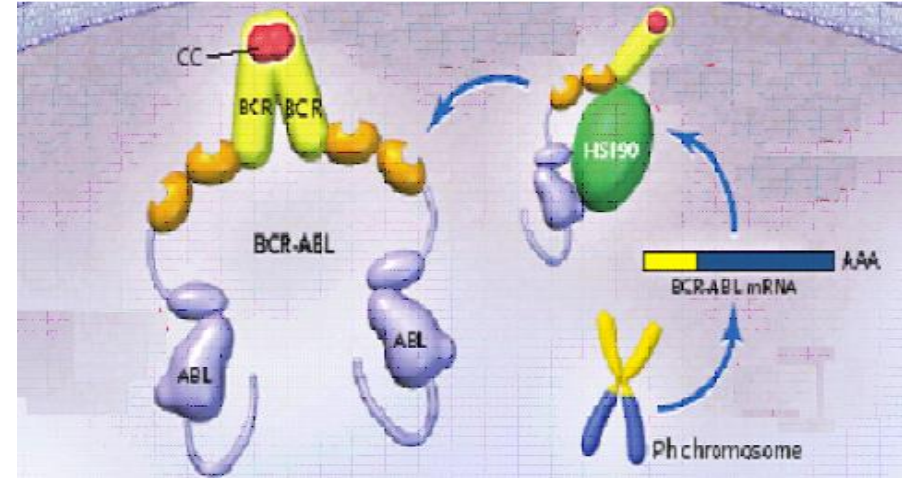
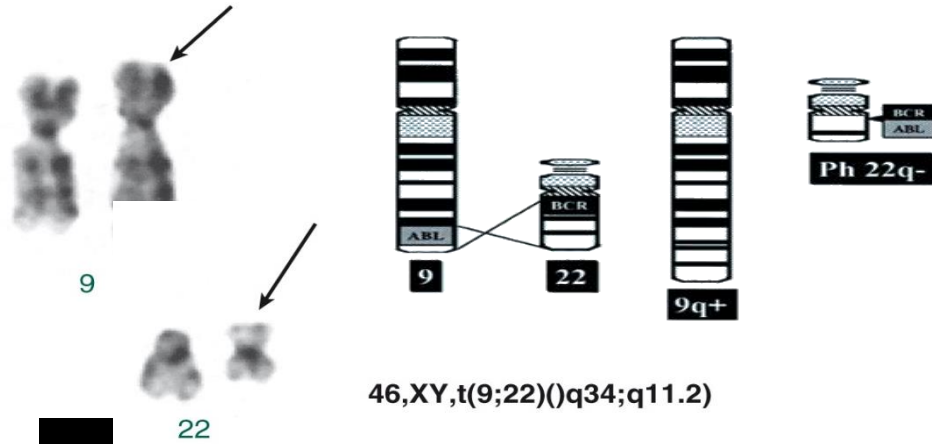
Inhibitor regulates effect by blocking protein-protein interaction



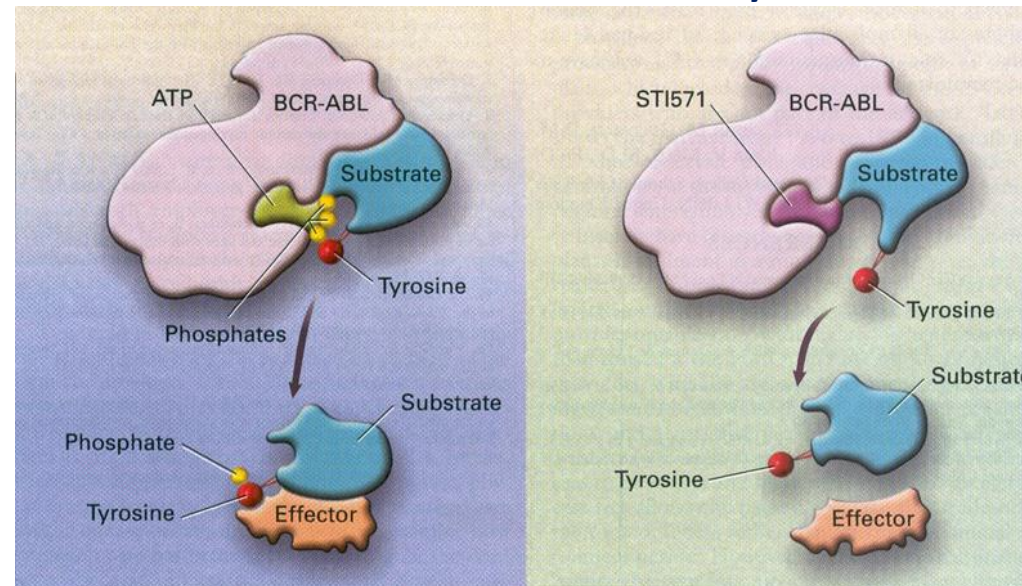
Biological Effect

Case studies

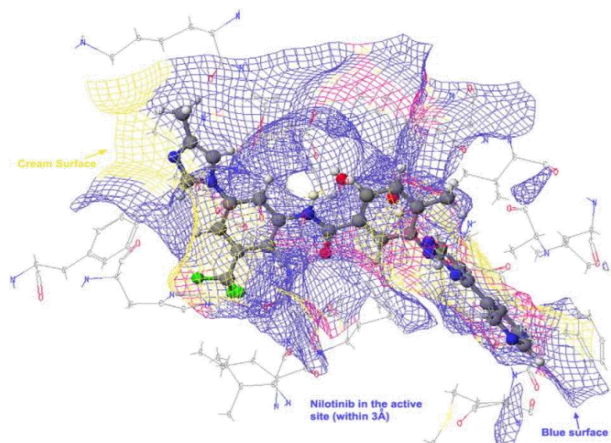
Imatinib: From Philadelphia Chromosome to BCR-ABL



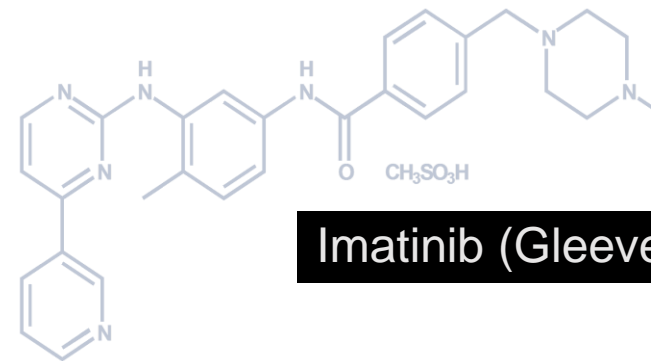
Mechanism of Action of Imatinib Mesylate



Imatinib: From BCR-ABL to a drug

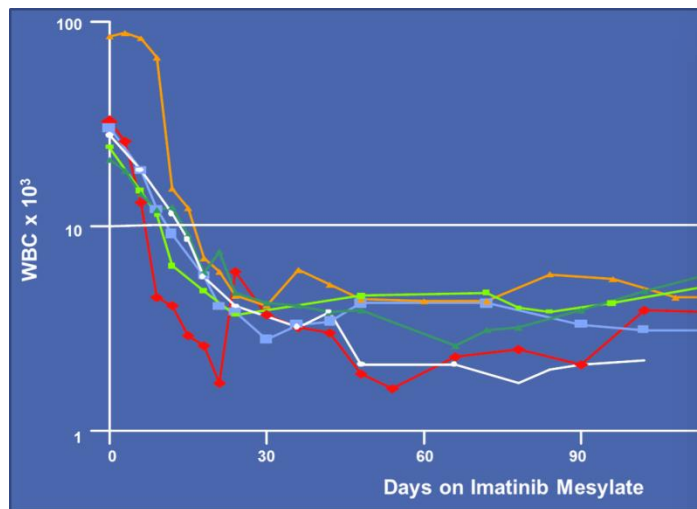


Surface pocket of the active site of the target (BCR-ABL). This surface provides guidance in the process of drug development.



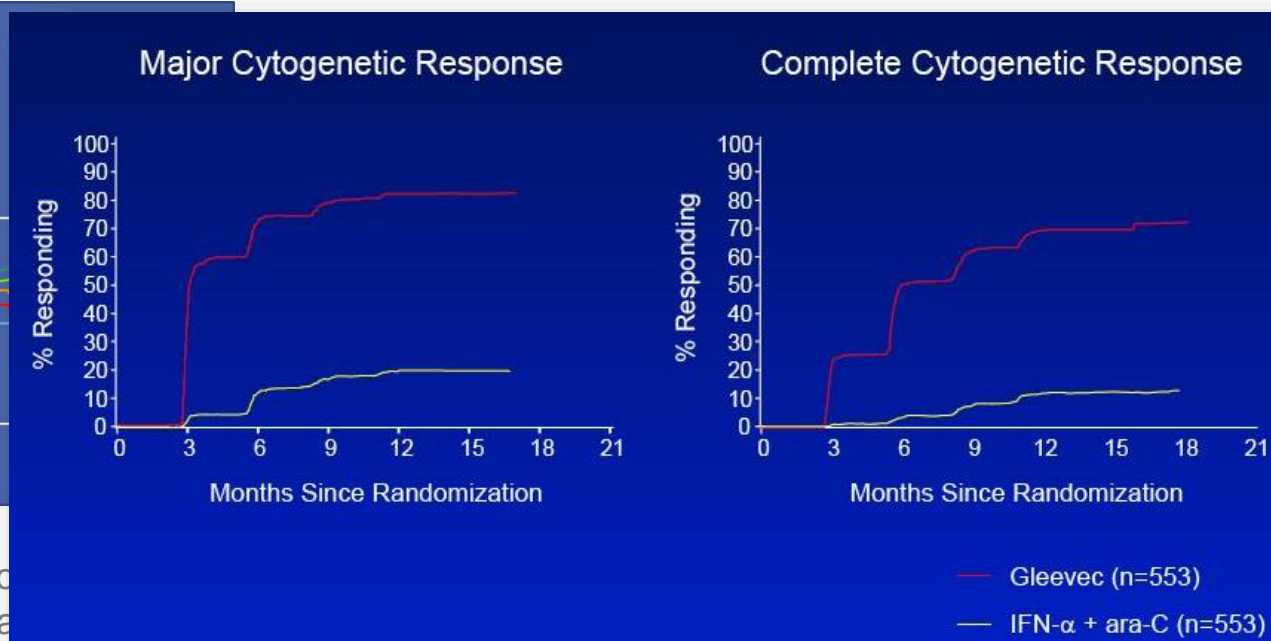
Imatinib (Gleevec™)

A selective inhibitor of BCR-Abl tyrosine kinase in CML or c-Kit in GIST



Clinical Trial Phase I Conclusions:

- Well tolerated with a mild side-effects profile
- In all phases of CML, imatinib mesylate a



— Gleevec (n=553)
— IFN-α + ara-C (n=553)

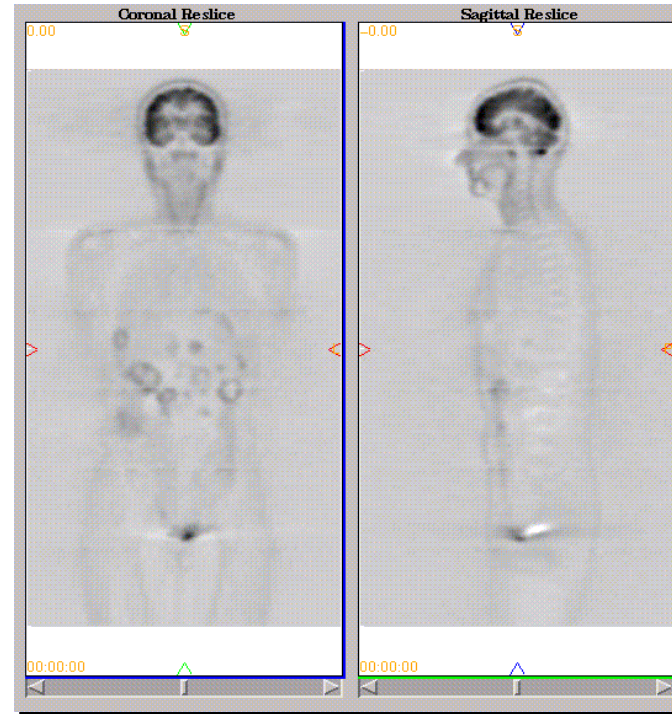
GIST, CKIT and imatinib

Additional molecular targets

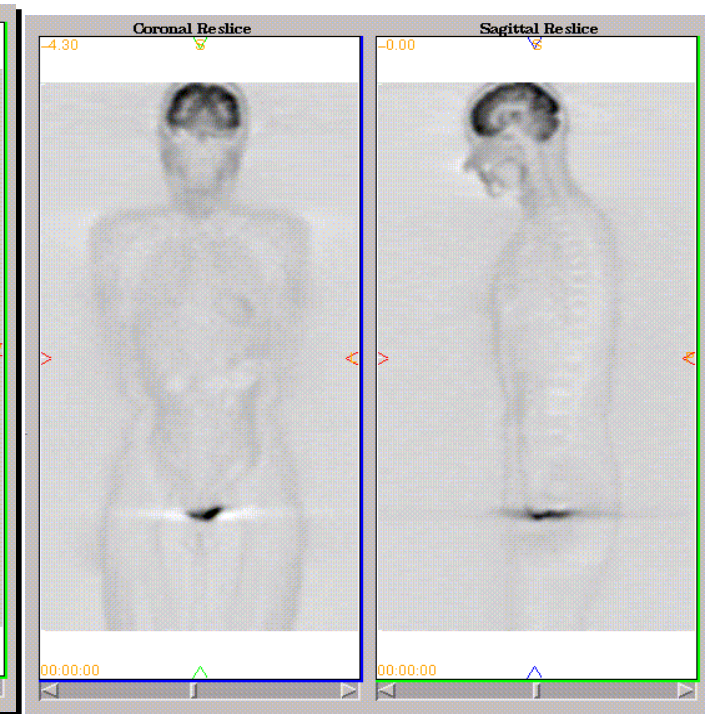
- c-Kit
- PDGF-R

- GIST: 70% mut CKIT
- Infrequent tumor
- Occur primarily in stomach and small intestine
- Surgery was only effective modality. Few respond to chemotherapy
- For unresectable/metastatic disease, estimated time to progression <2 month, and estimated survival <1 year

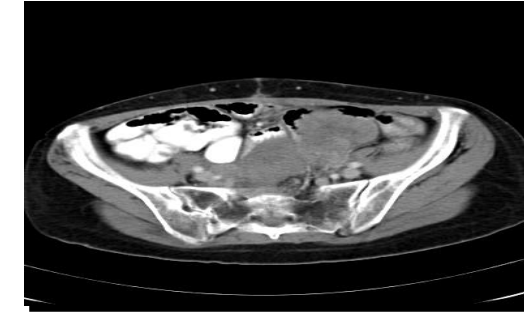
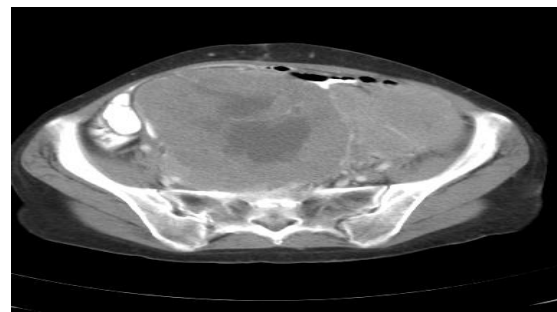
3 Marzo 2000



5 Abril 2000



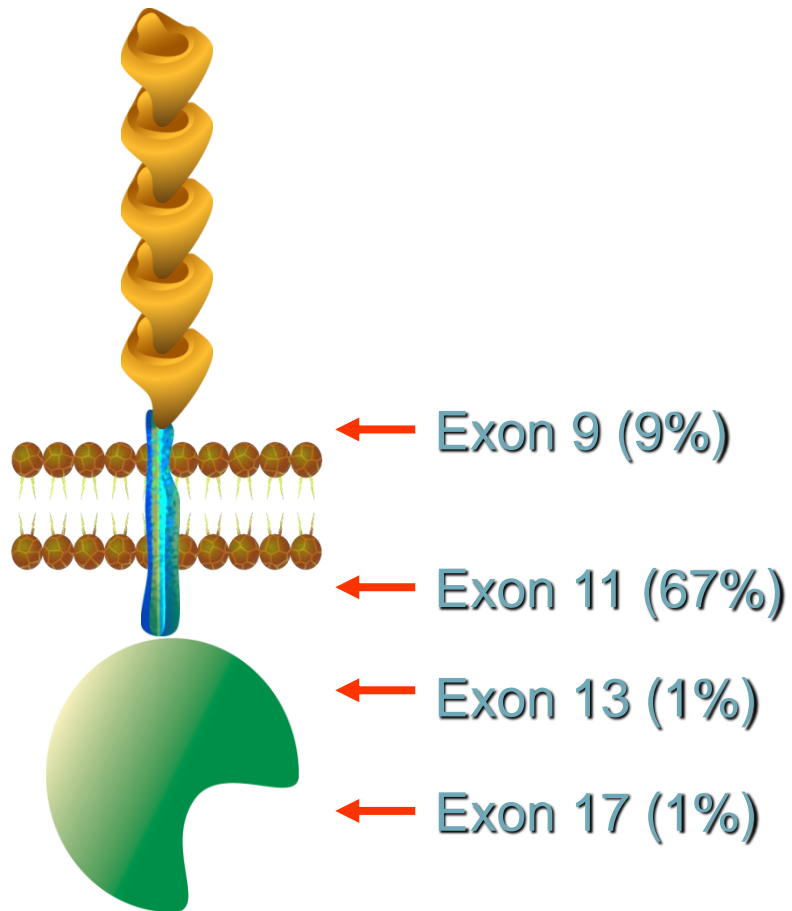
27 Junio 2000



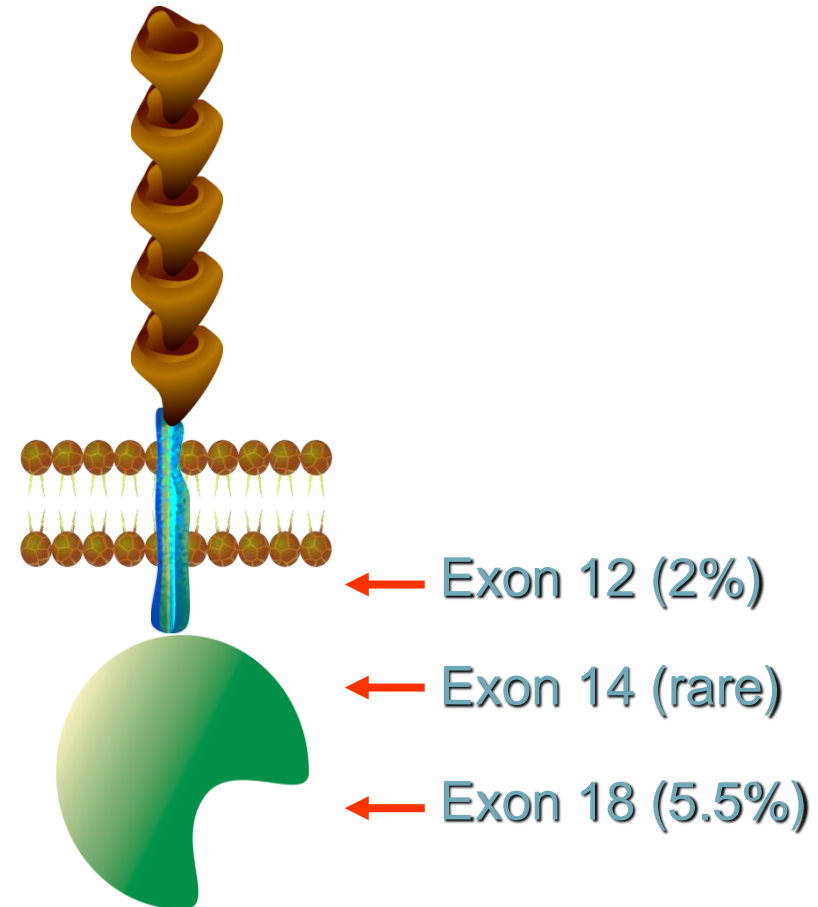
KIT/PDGFRα as primary drivers of oncogenic signal in GIST

Overall Mutation Frequency (950 GISTs): **86%**

KIT (78.5%)

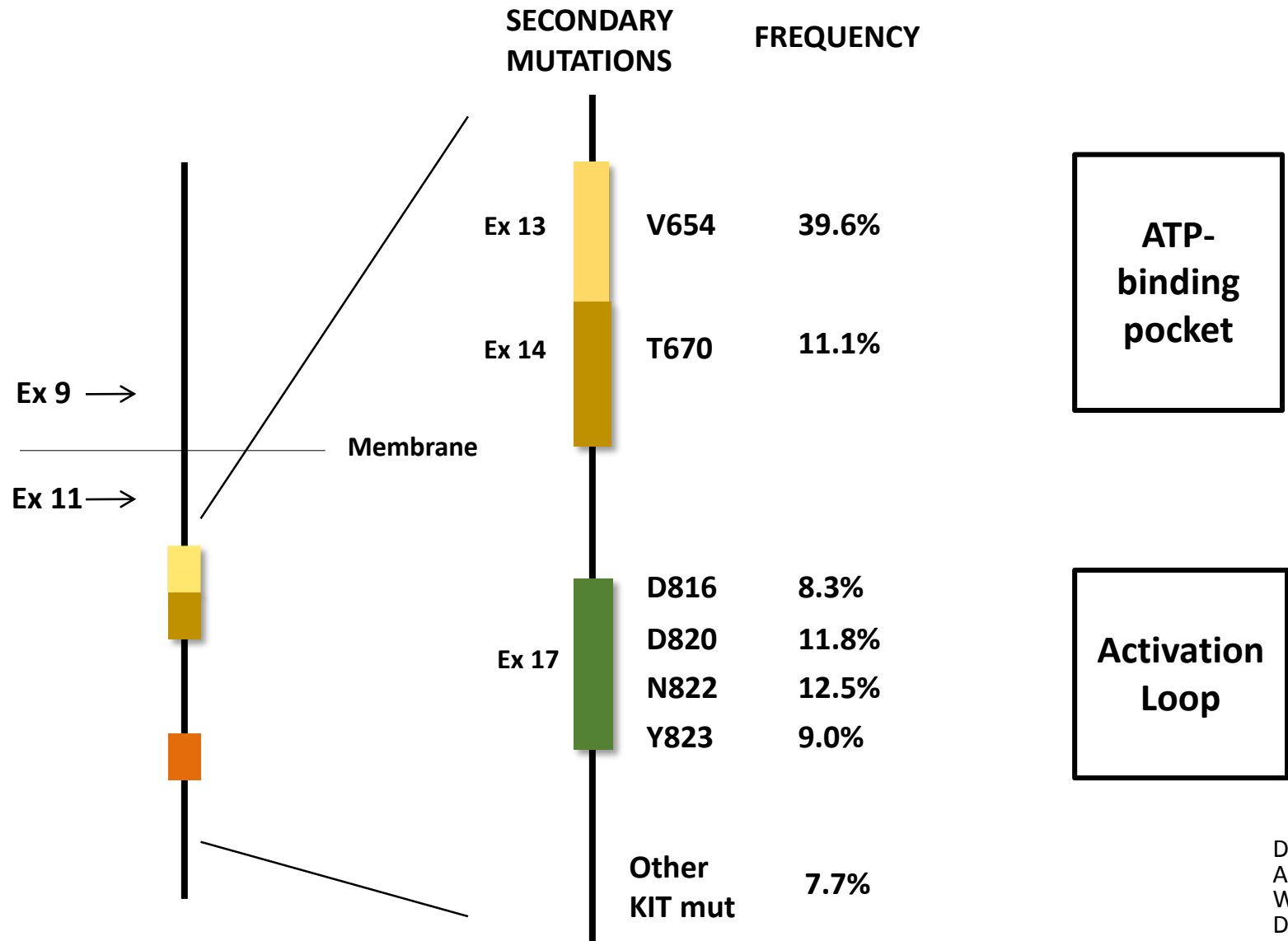


PDGFRα (7.5% total)



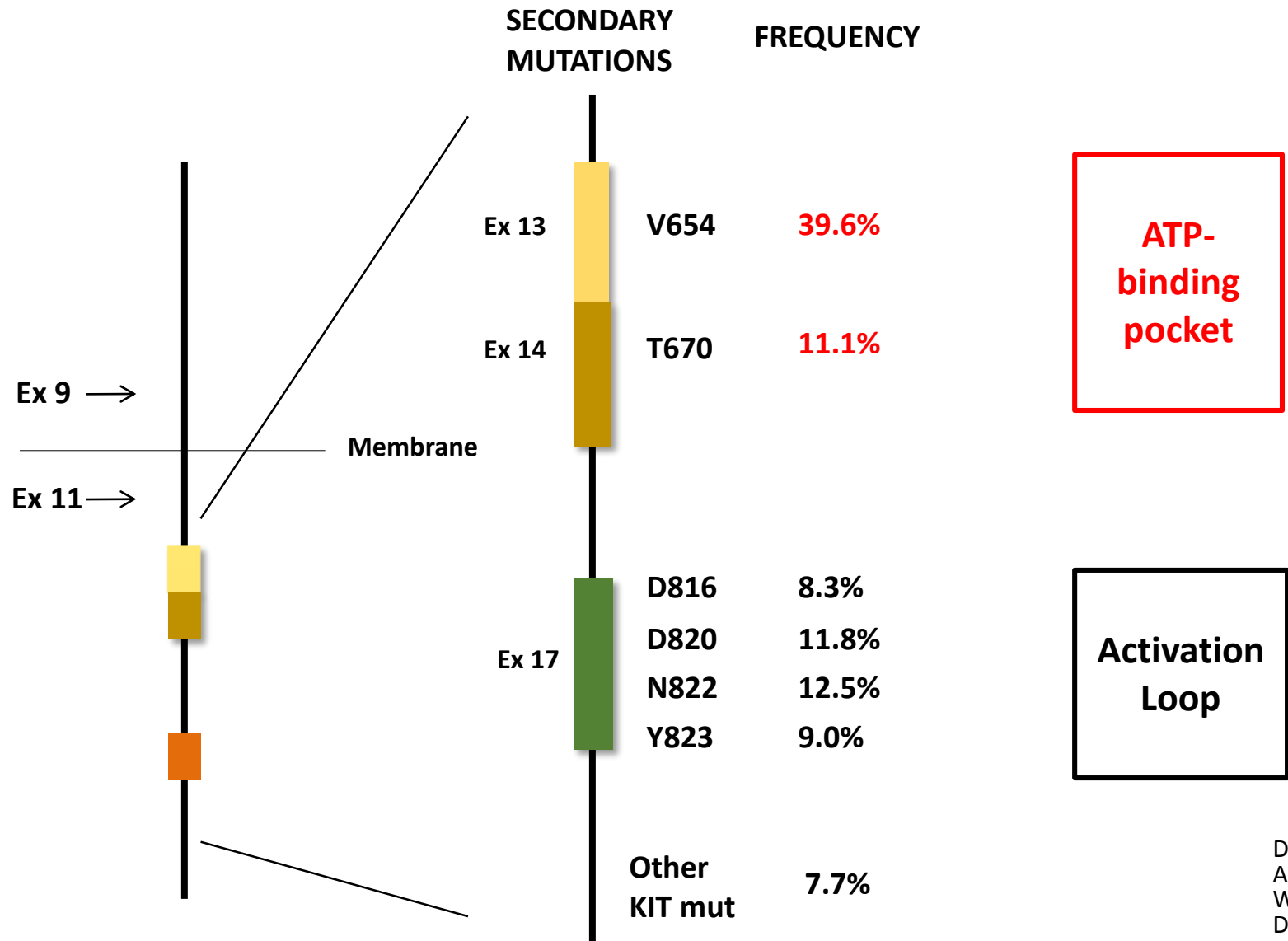
Courtesy of Jonathan A. Fletcher

KIT secondary resistant mutations



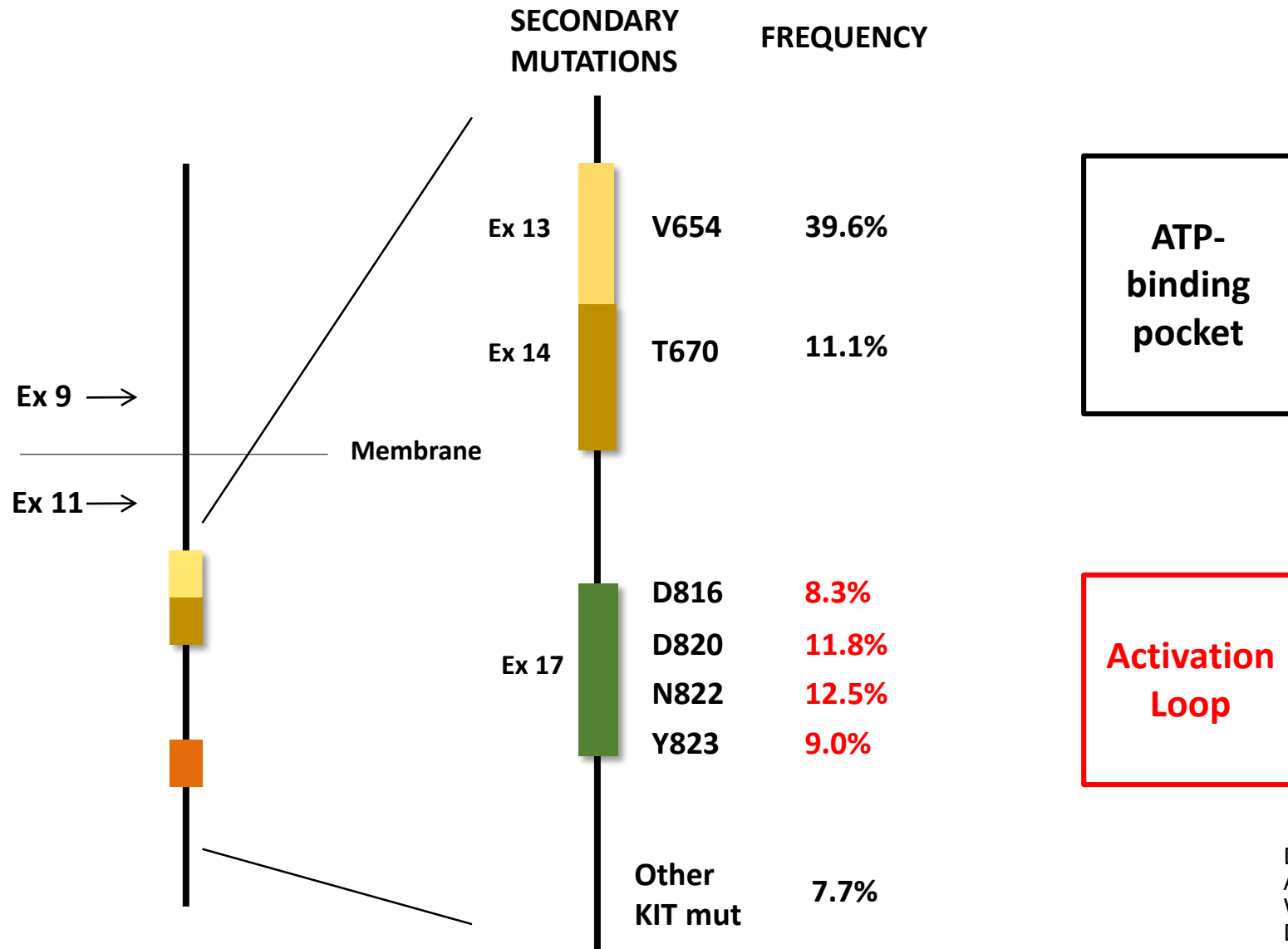
Debiec-Rychter M, 2005
 Antonescu CR, 2005
 Wardelmann E, 2006
 Desai J, 2008
 Heinrich MC, 2008
 Liegl B, 2008

KIT secondary resistant mutations



Debiec-Rychter M, 2005
 Antonescu CR, 2005
 Wardelmann E, 2006
 Desai J, 2008
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 Liegl B, 2008

KIT secondary resistant mutations

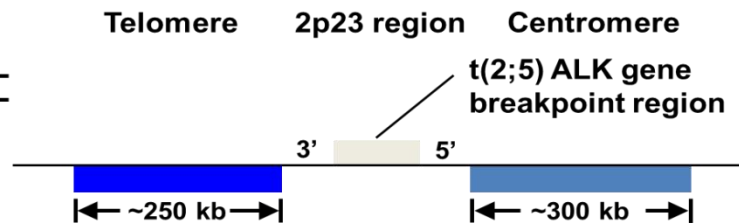
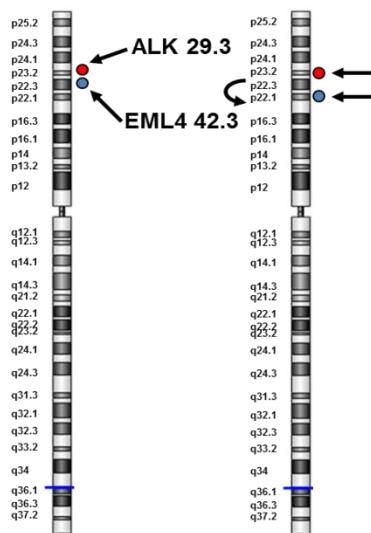


Debiec-Rychter M, 2005
 Antonescu CR, 2005
 Wardelmann E, 2006
 Desai J, 2008
 Heinrich MC, 2008
 Liegl B, 2008

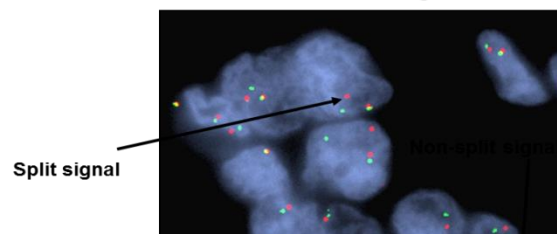
Crizotinib: Rationale for Development

- **c-MET is potentially one of the most frequently genetically altered receptor tyrosine kinases in human cancers**
 - **Activating mutations**
 - Hereditary papillary RCC: 100%, sporadic papillary RCC (13%)
 - HNSCC: 10%
 - NSCLC (8%) and SCLC (13%)
 - **Gene amplification**
 - Gastric carcinoma: 5-10%
 - Colorectal carcinoma: 4% primary tumors, 20% liver metastases
 - Esophageal adenocarcinoma: 5-10%
- **Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase (ALK) (2^o target for crizotinib)**
 - Anaplastic lymphoma is *very* sensitive to chemotherapy
 - ALK point mutations and gene amplification are implicated in neuroblastoma ... a rare tumor
 - ALK translocations in inflammatory myofibroblastic tumors ... a very rare tumor

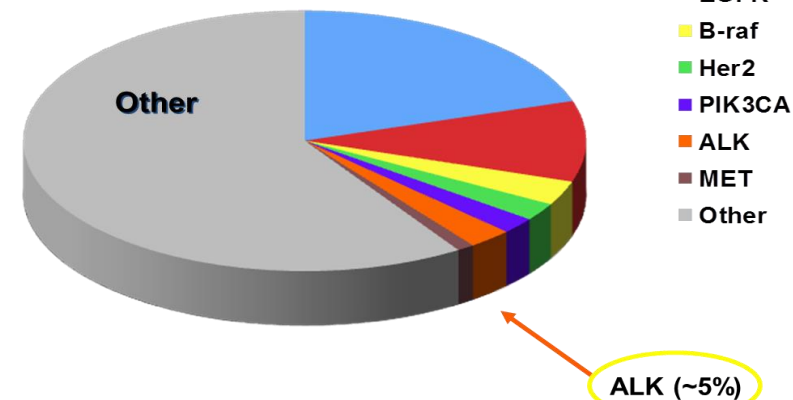
Crizotinib in ALK traslocated NSCLC



Break-apart FISH assay for ALK-fusion genes¹

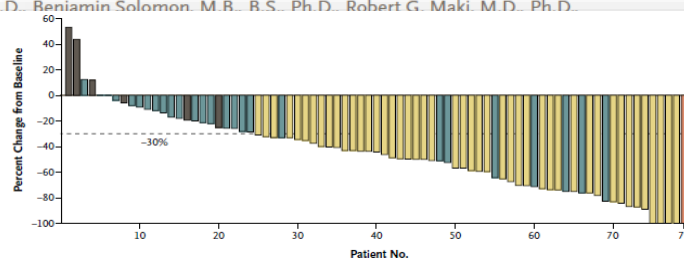


NSCLC Adenocarcinoma

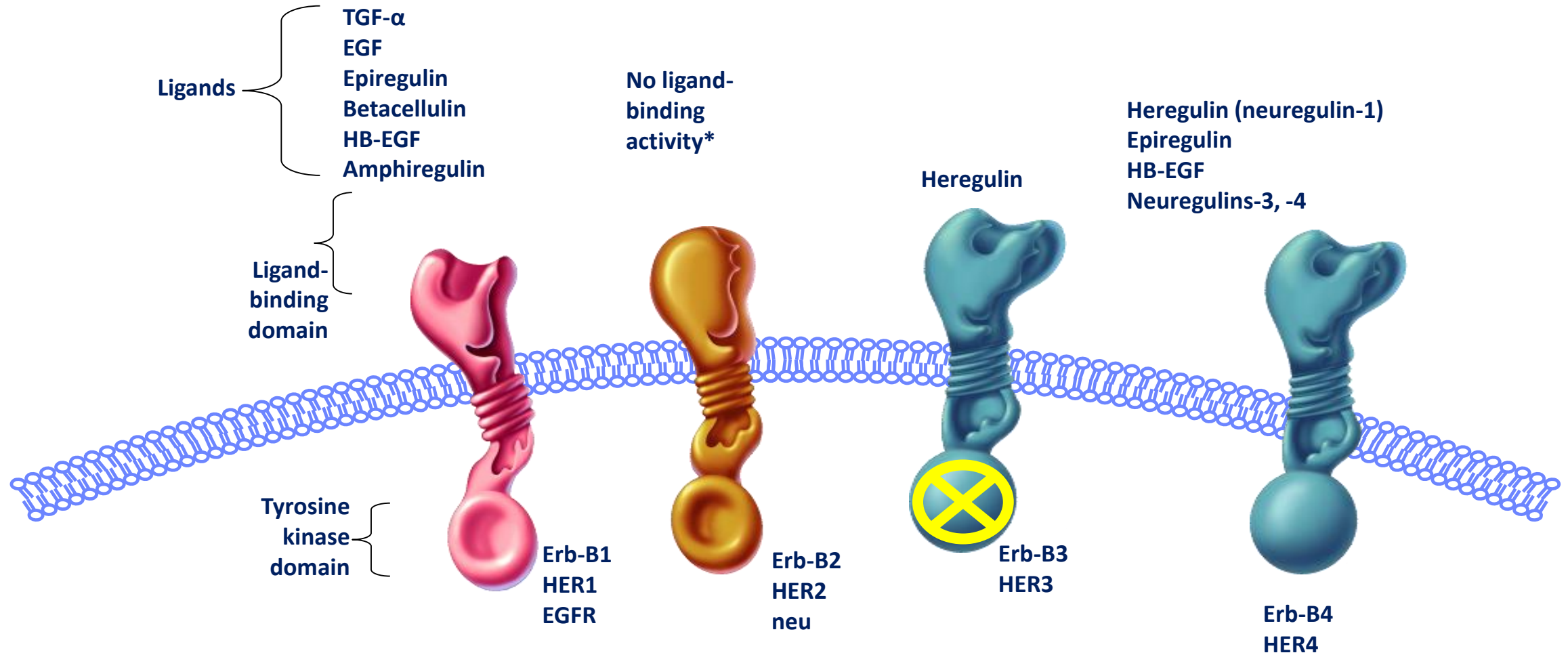


Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase Inhibition in Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer

Eunice L. Kwak, M.D., Ph.D., Yung-Jue Bang, M.D., Ph.D., D. Ross Camidge, M.D., Ph.D., Alice T. Shaw, M.D., Ph.D., Benjamin Solomon, M.B., B.S., Ph.D., Robert G. Maki, M.D., Ph.D., Sai-Hong I. Ou, M.D., Ph.D., Marileila Varella-Garcia, M.D., Hannah Stubbs, M.S., Jennifer Leena Gandhi, M.D., Ph.D., Mark J. Ratain, M.D., Jeffrey A. Roth, M.D., and Keith Wilner, Ph.D., for the ALK Inhibition in NSCLC Study Group



The HER Family of Receptors



*HER2 dimerizes with other members of the HER family.

Roskoski. Biochem Biophys Res Commun. 2004;319:1.

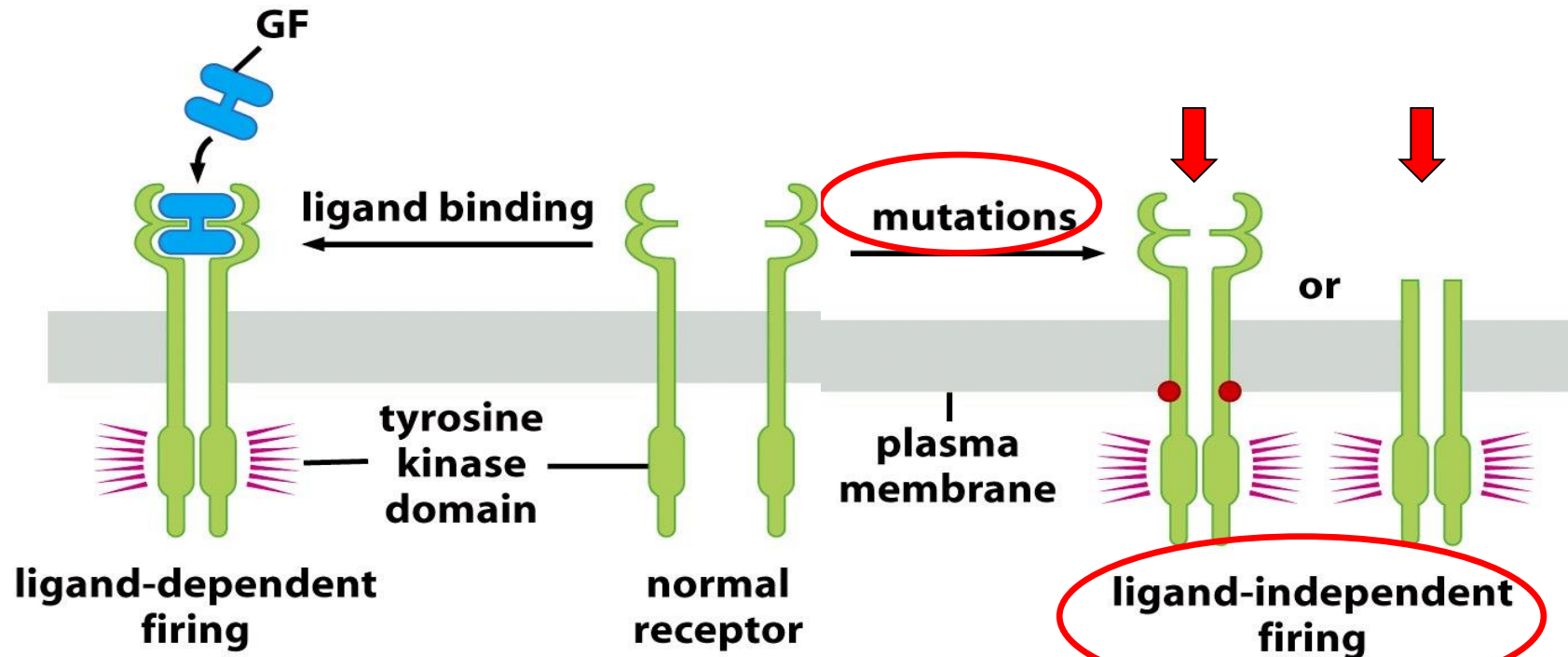
Rowinsky. Annu Rev Med. 2004;55:433.

Epidermal growth factor receptor

EGFR present on many solid tumors. EGFR shows aberrant expression in cancers like lung cancer, breast cancer.

Tyr-kinase type receptors: Ligand binding → kinase cascade → transcription factor synthesis

- increased cell proliferation
- metastasis
- Decreased apoptosis

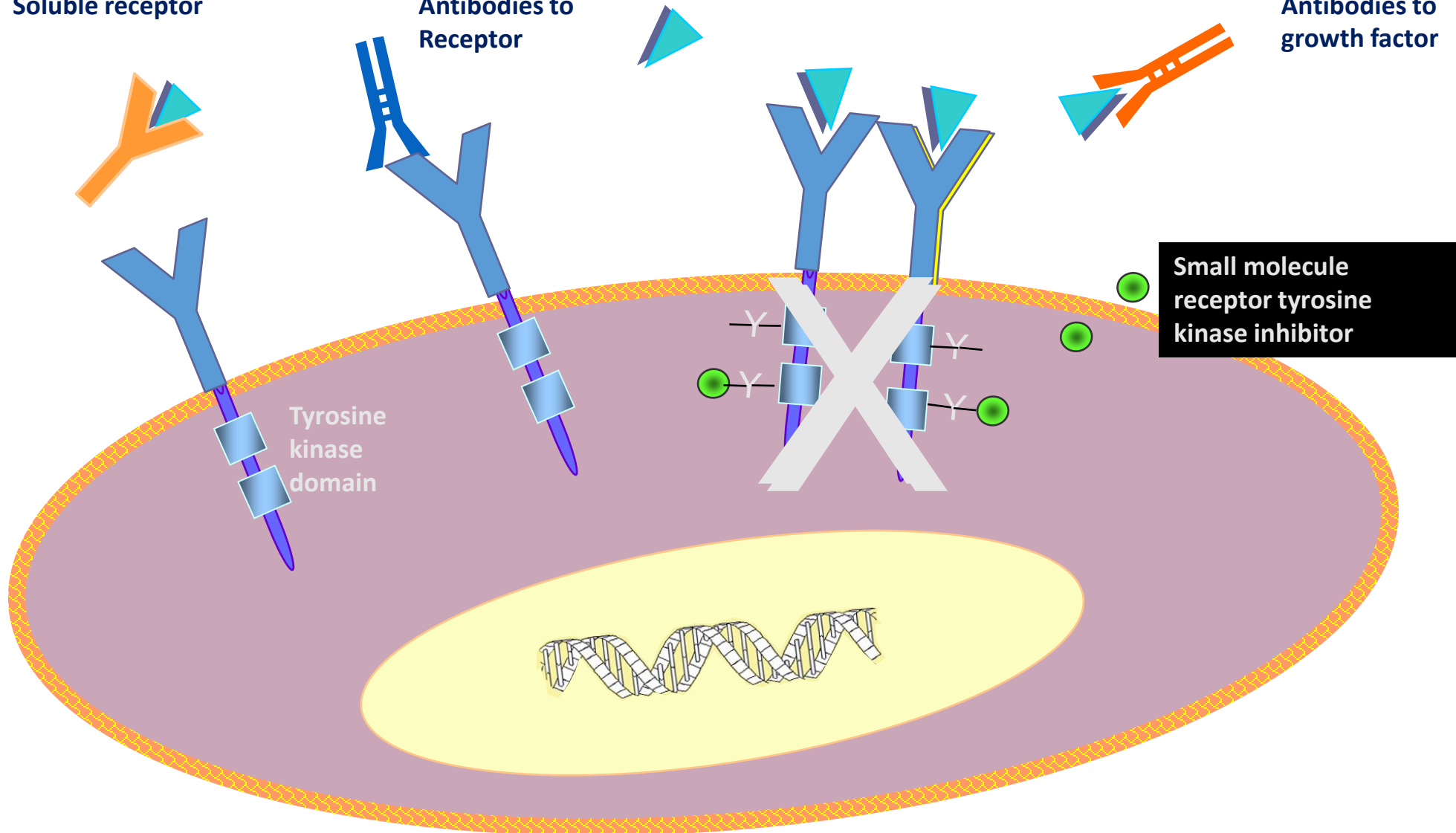


Therapeutic strategies against surface receptors with TK activity

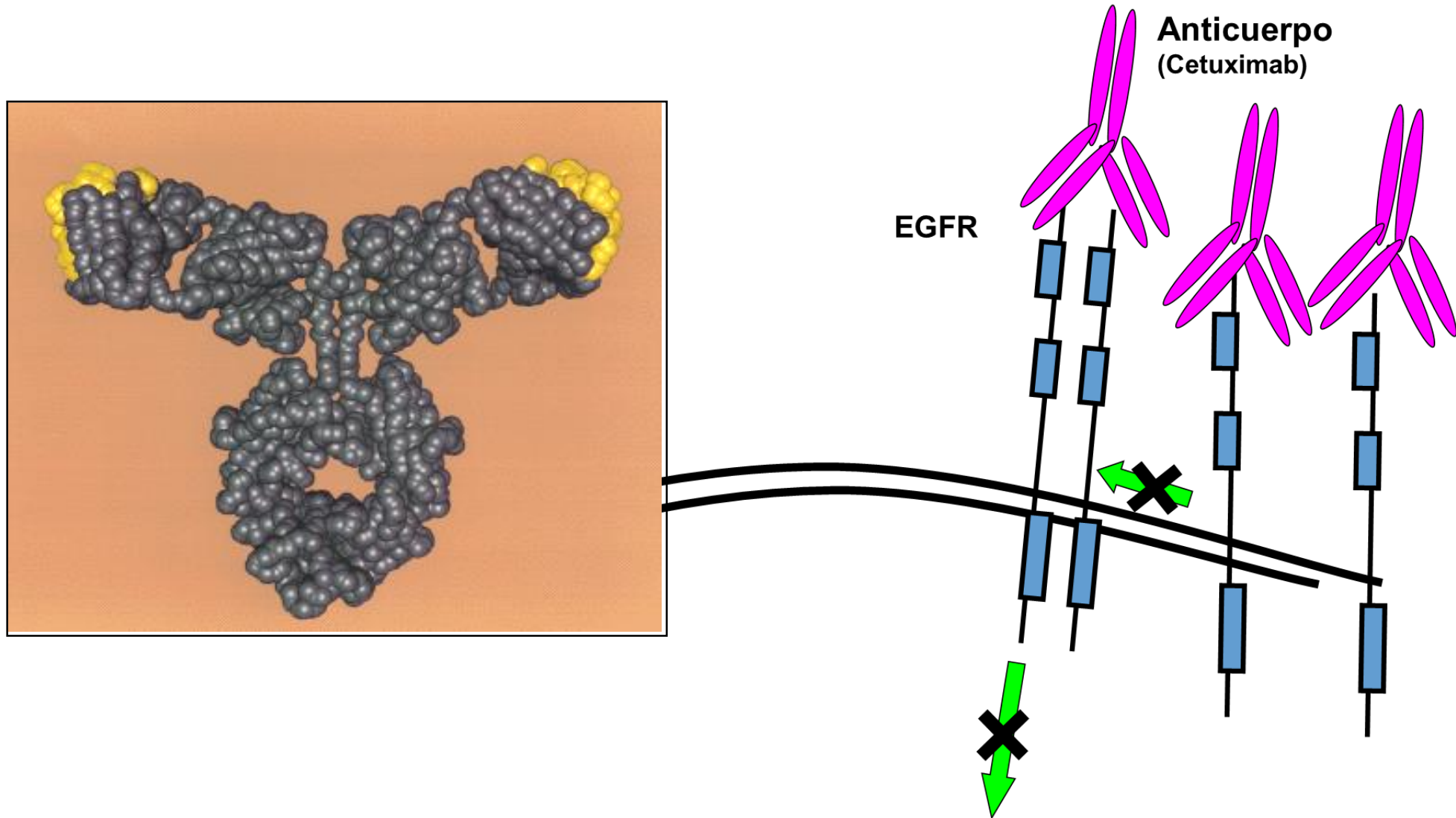
Soluble receptor

Antibodies to Receptor

Antibodies to growth factor



Cetuximab: monoclonal antibody against EGFR

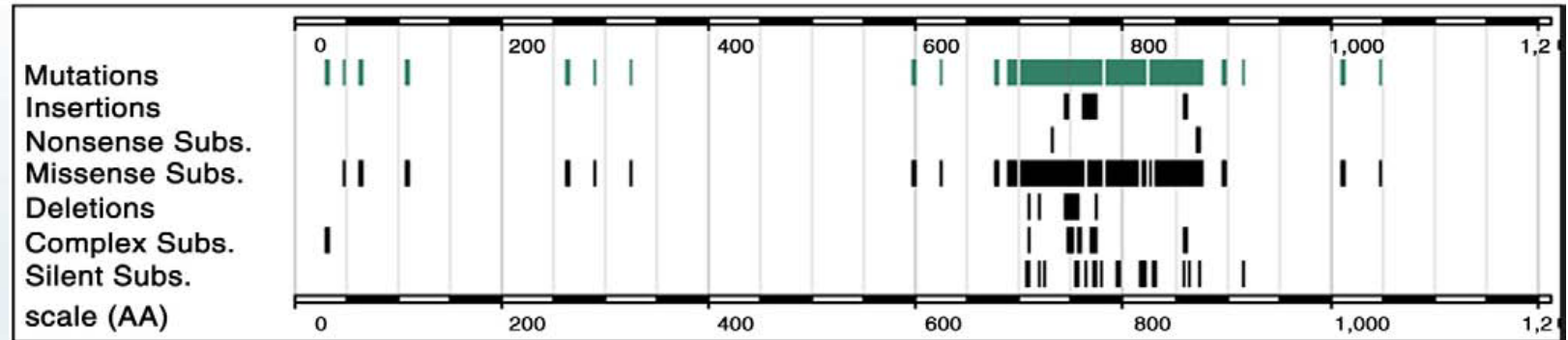
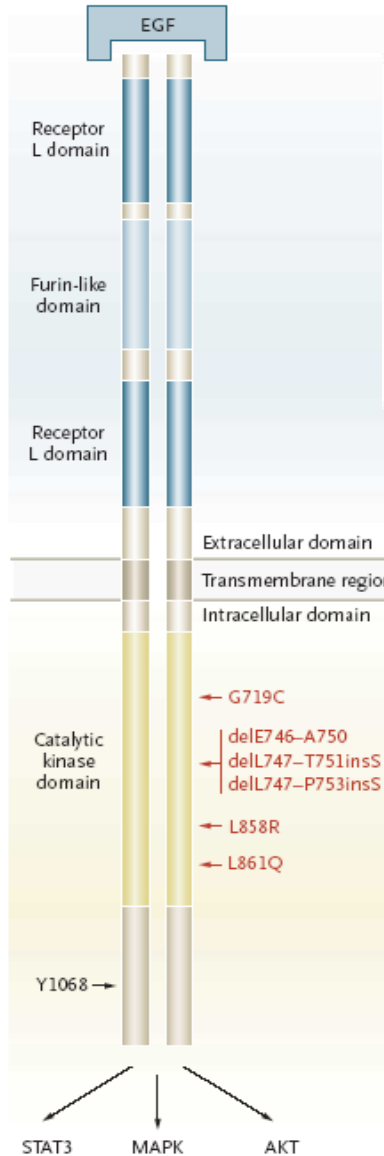


Cetuximab Skin Toxicity

- **80% incidence**
 - Acne like rash
 - Xerosis, Paronychia, Lashes
- **Responds to Antibiotics**
- **Resolves with Interruption**
- **Grade of Acne-Like Rash may Correlate with Response Rate**

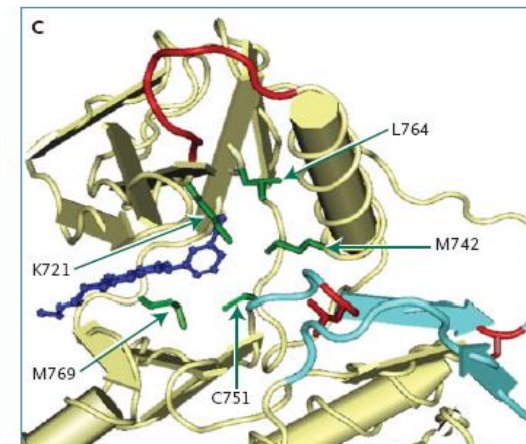
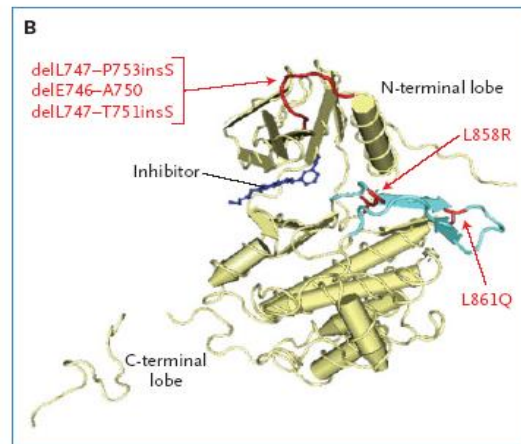


Mutations in EGFR



Types of mutation of EGFR: shows the different types of mutation and their position in the EGFR receptor.

Erlotinib

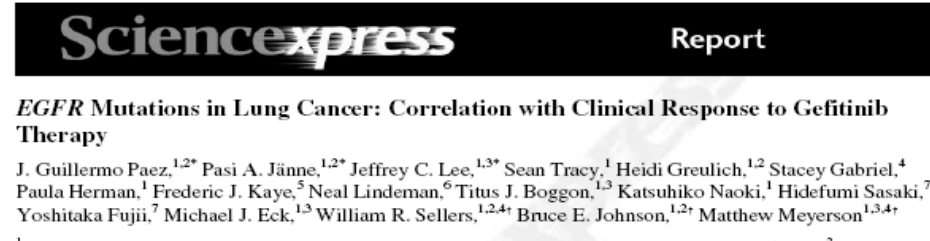


EGFR Mutations and small molecules



Activating Mutations in the Epidermal Growth Factor
Receptor Underlying Responsiveness of Non-Small-Cell
Lung Cancer to Gefitinib

- Gefitinib Response in Caucasians 10%
Prevalence of variants in Boston patients 2/25
(*NEJM*)
- Gefitinib: Response in Japanese 28%
Prevalence of variants in Japanese patients 26%
(*Science*)
- Erlotinib Monotherapy in NSCLS
EGFR Mutratoin prevalence 12%
Response Rate 42%



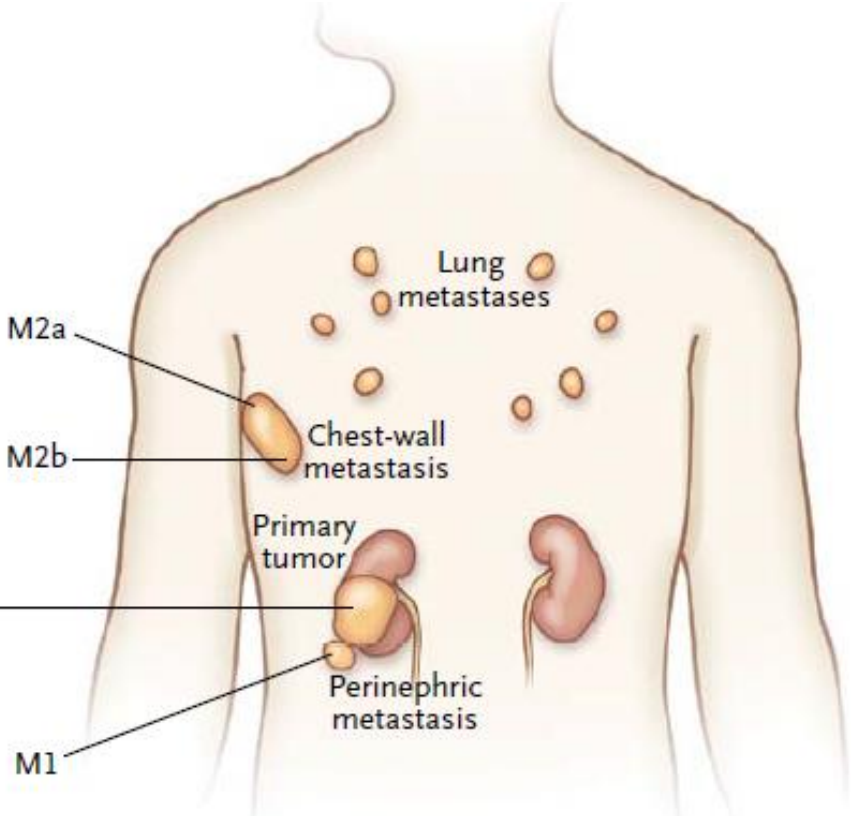
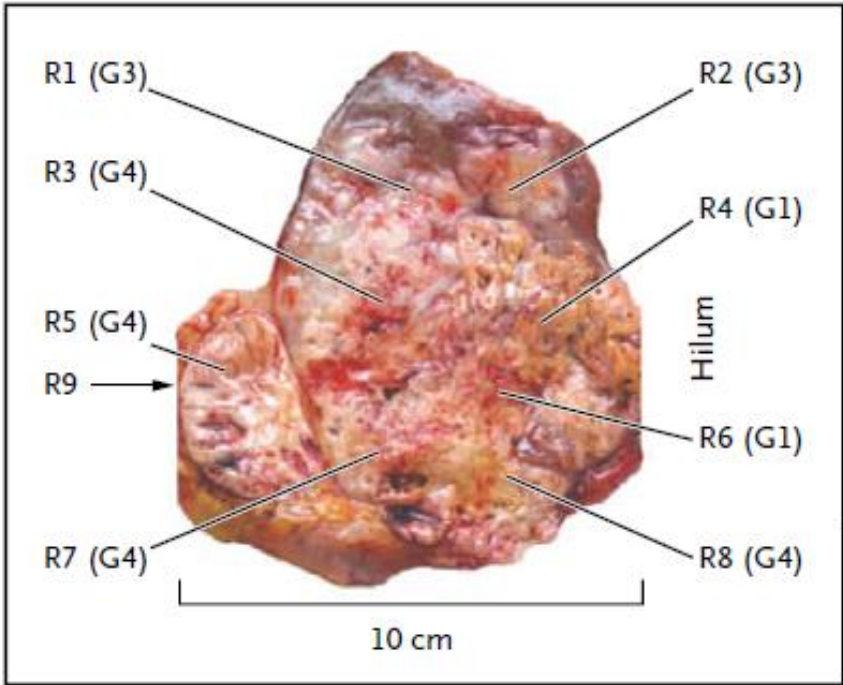
Erlotinib Toxicities

- Rash (75%)
 - Median time to onset 8 days (2-14 days)
- Pulmonary (not life-threatening)
 - Dyspnea (41%), cough (33%)
- Gastrointestinal
 - Diarrhea (54%, onset \approx 12 days), anorexia (52%), nausea/vomiting (33%/23%)
- Fatigue (52%)
- Ocular
 - Irritation, conjunctivitis (12%) and keratoconjunctivitis sicca (12%), corneal ulcerations; reports of NCI CTC grade 3 conjunctivitis and keratitis
- Hepatotoxicity
 - Asymptomatic \uparrow in liver enzymes, including hyperbilirubinemia
- Bleeding events
 - Gastrointestinal bleeds, elevations in INR values in patients receiving concomitant warfarin administration

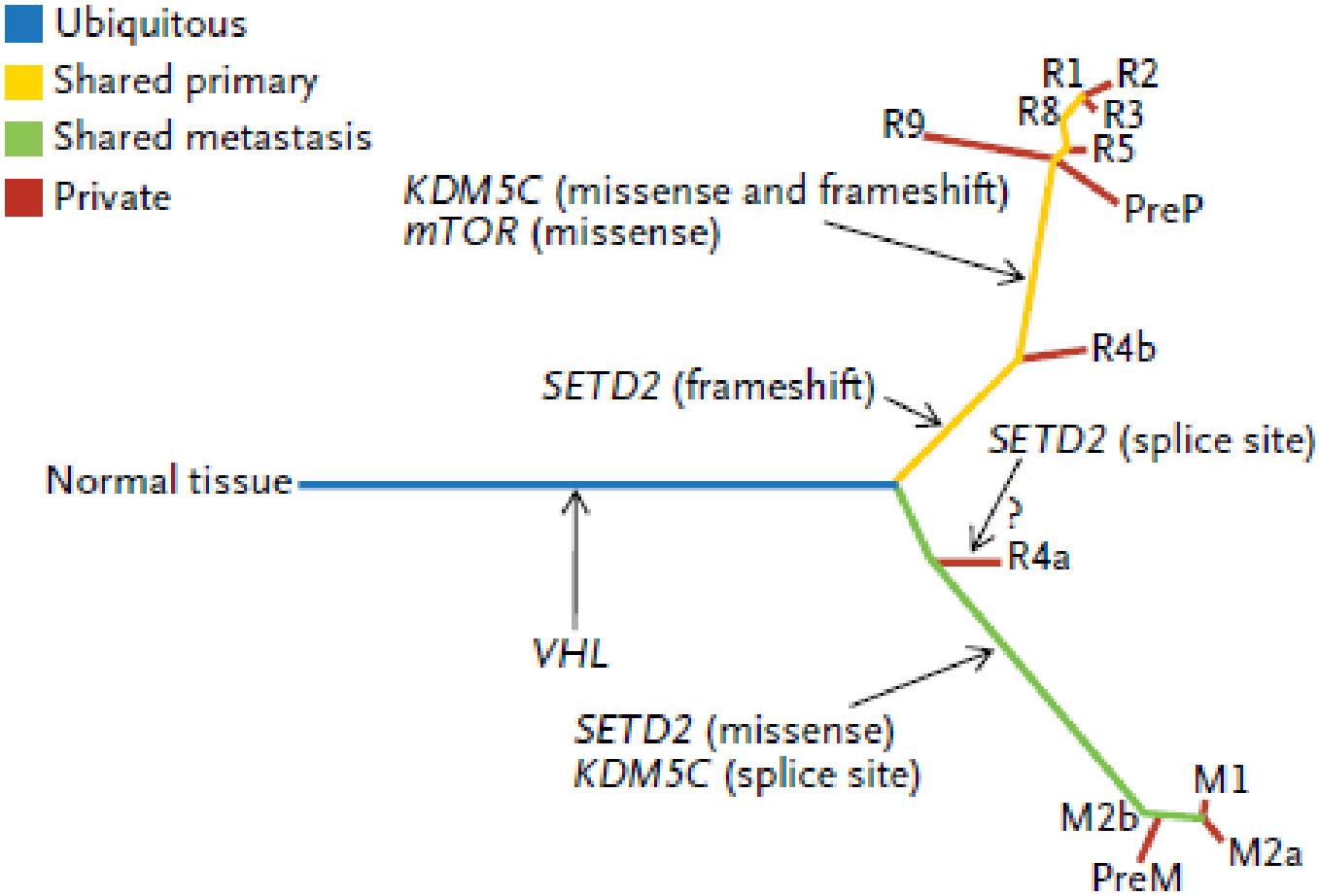
Tumor Heterogeneity

Intratumor heterogeneity: complex genomic landscape

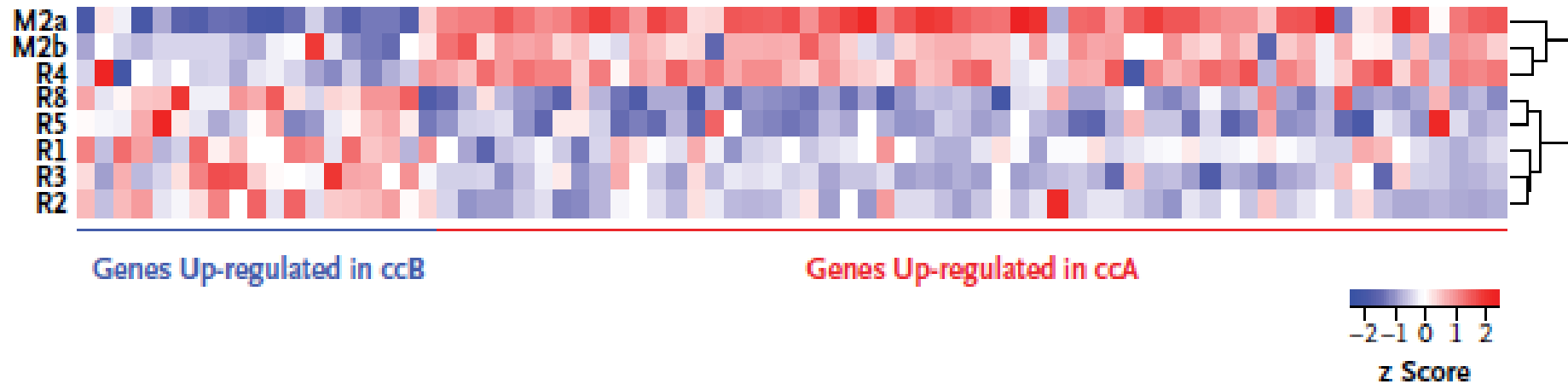
Biopsy Sites



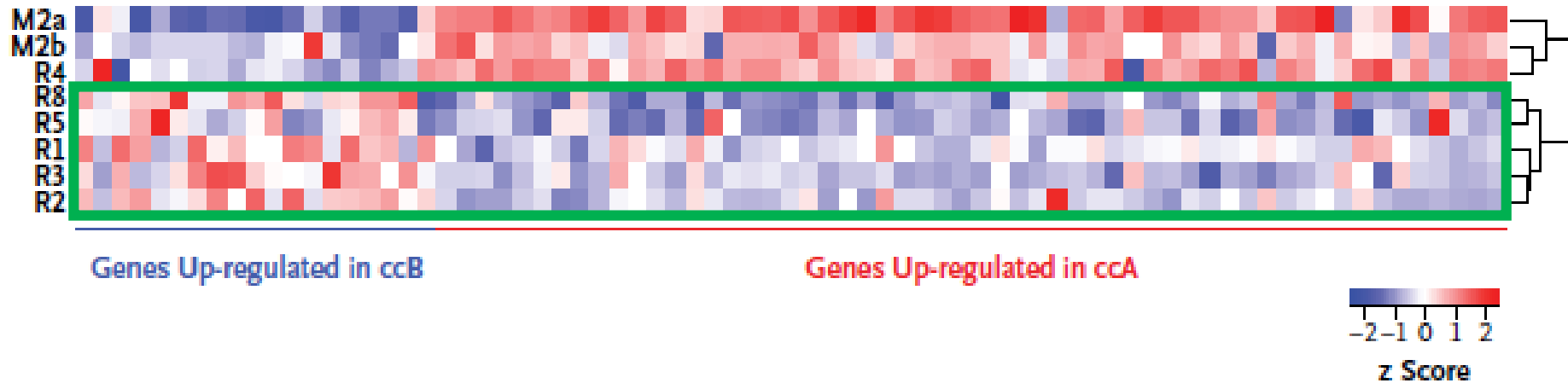
Intratumor heterogeneity: complex genomic landscape



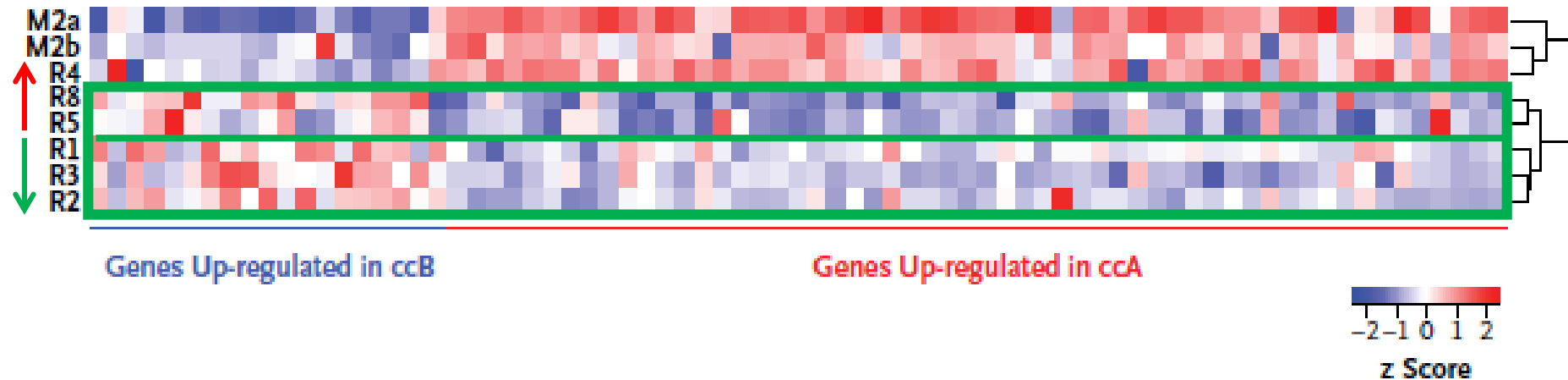
Intratumor heterogeneity: challenges to personalized-medicine and biomarker development



Intratumor heterogeneity: challenges to personalized-medicine and biomarker development

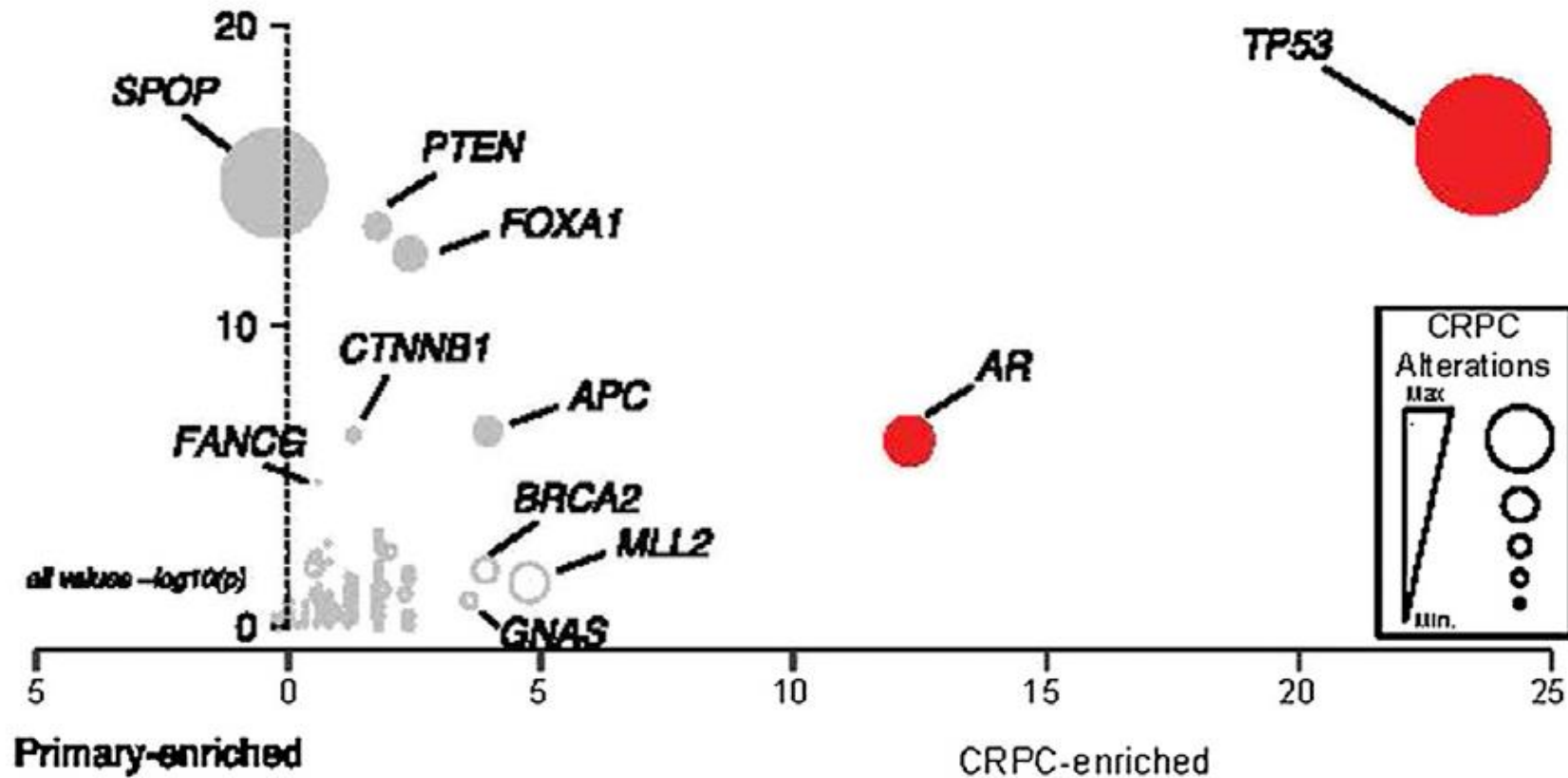


Intratumor heterogeneity: challenges to personalized-medicine and biomarker development

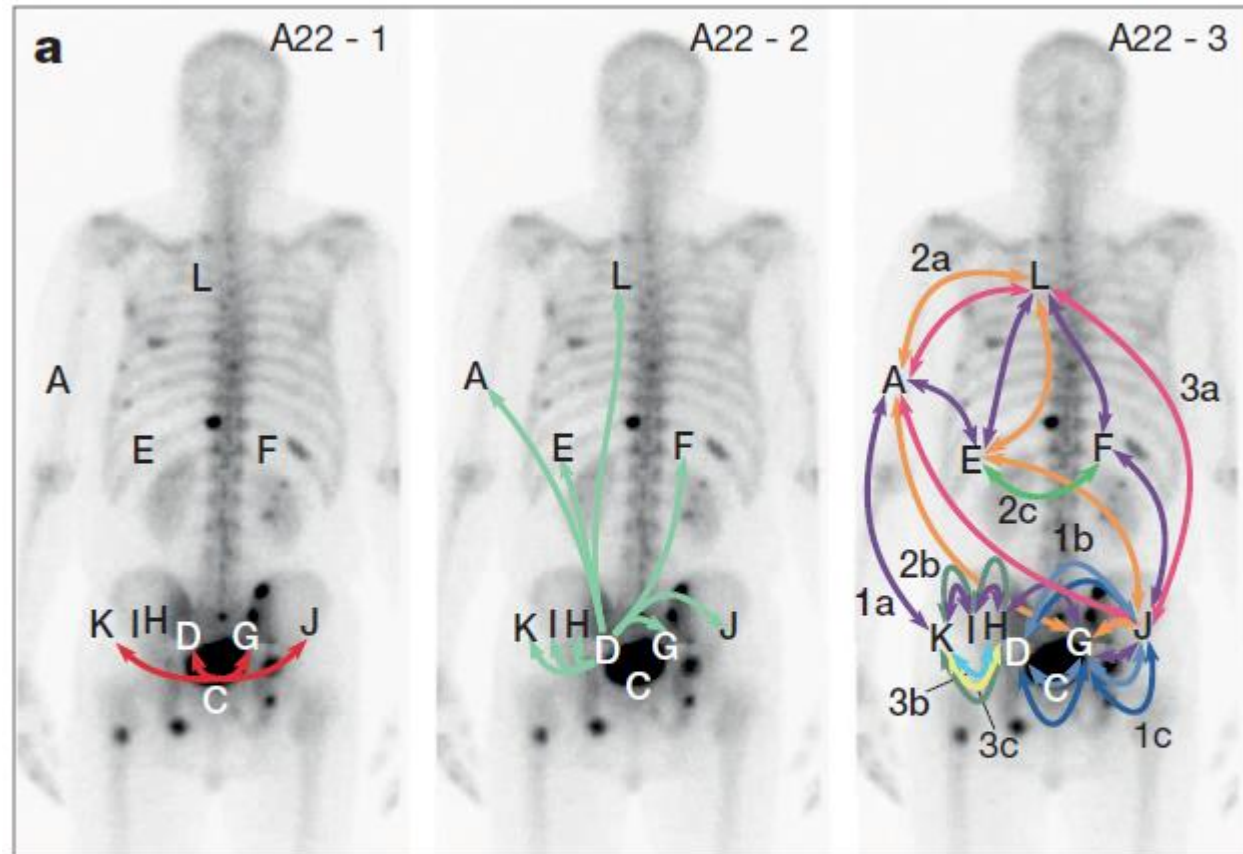


A single tumor-biopsy specimen reveals a minority of genomic aberrations that are present in the entire tumor.

Mutations enriched in mCRPC relative to hormone-naïve primary prostate cancer



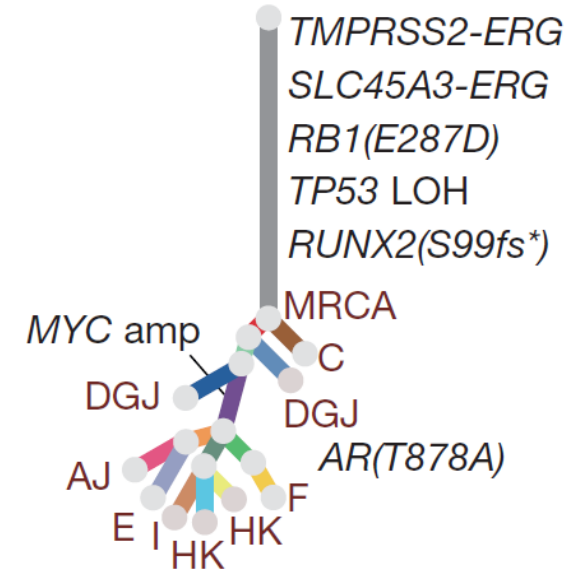
Complex pattern of metastatic spread in prostate cancer



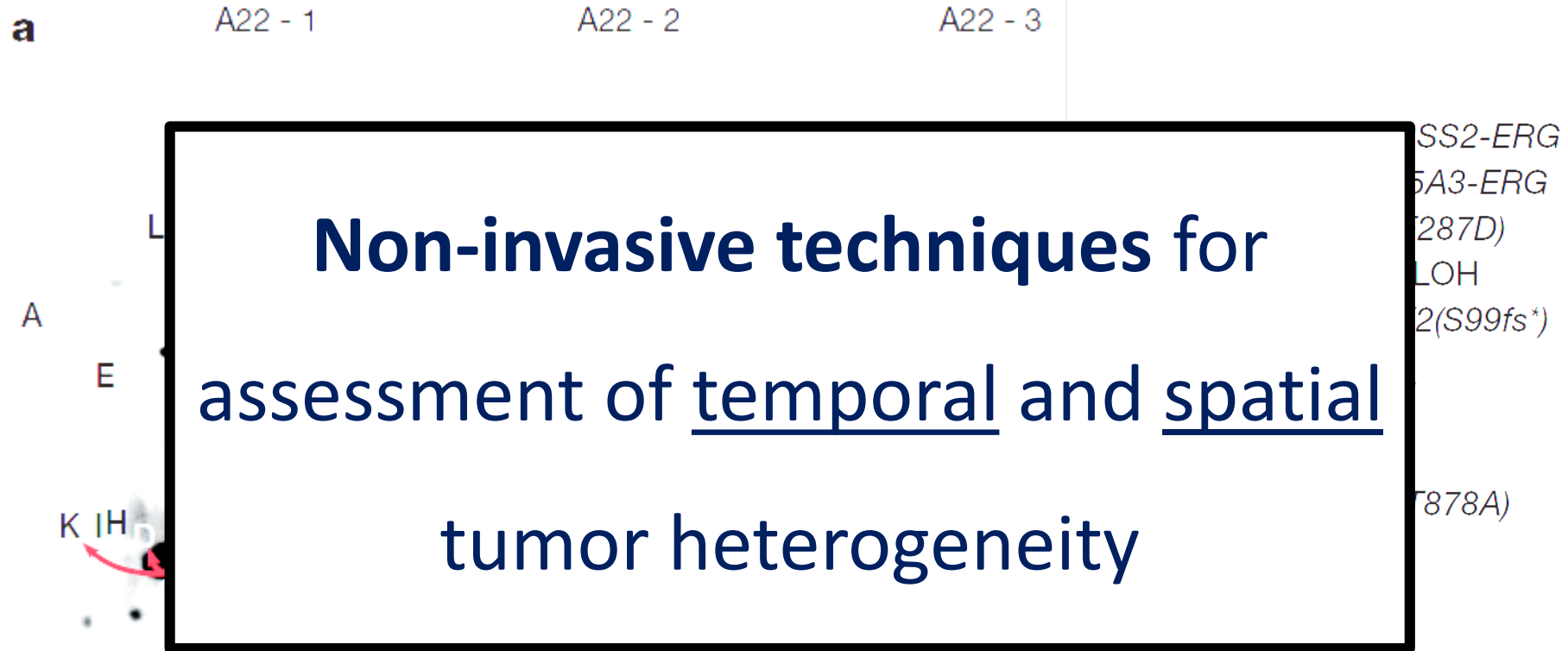
A - L. humerus BM
 D - Sem. vesicle
 C - Prostate
 E - L. adrenal

F - R. adrenal
 G - Bladder
 H - Pelvic LN
 I - L. pelvic LN

J - R. pelvic LN
 K - L. pelvic LN
 L - L. media. LN



Complex pattern of metastatic spread in cancer



A - L. humerus BM
D - Sem. vesicle
C - Prostate
E - L. adrenal

F - R. adrenal
G - Bladder
H - Pelvic LN
I - L. pelvic LN

J - R. pelvic LN
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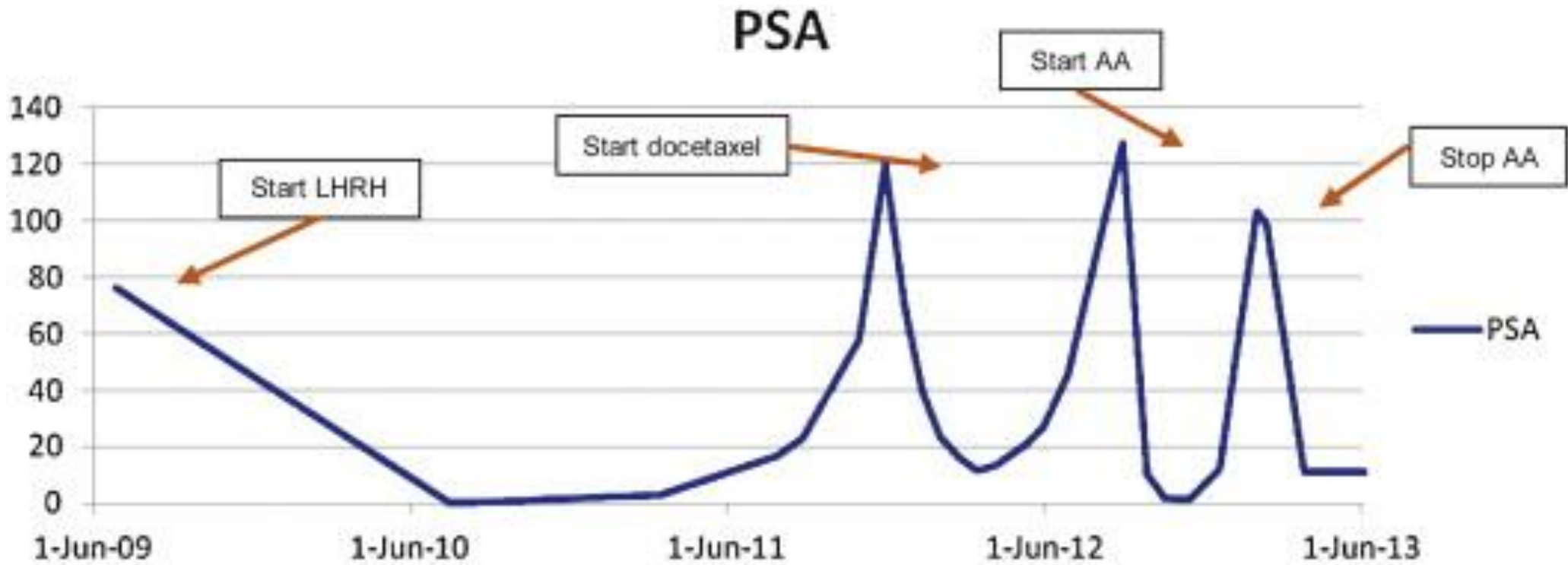
How to overcome these problems?

Blood-based biomarkers in GU cancers

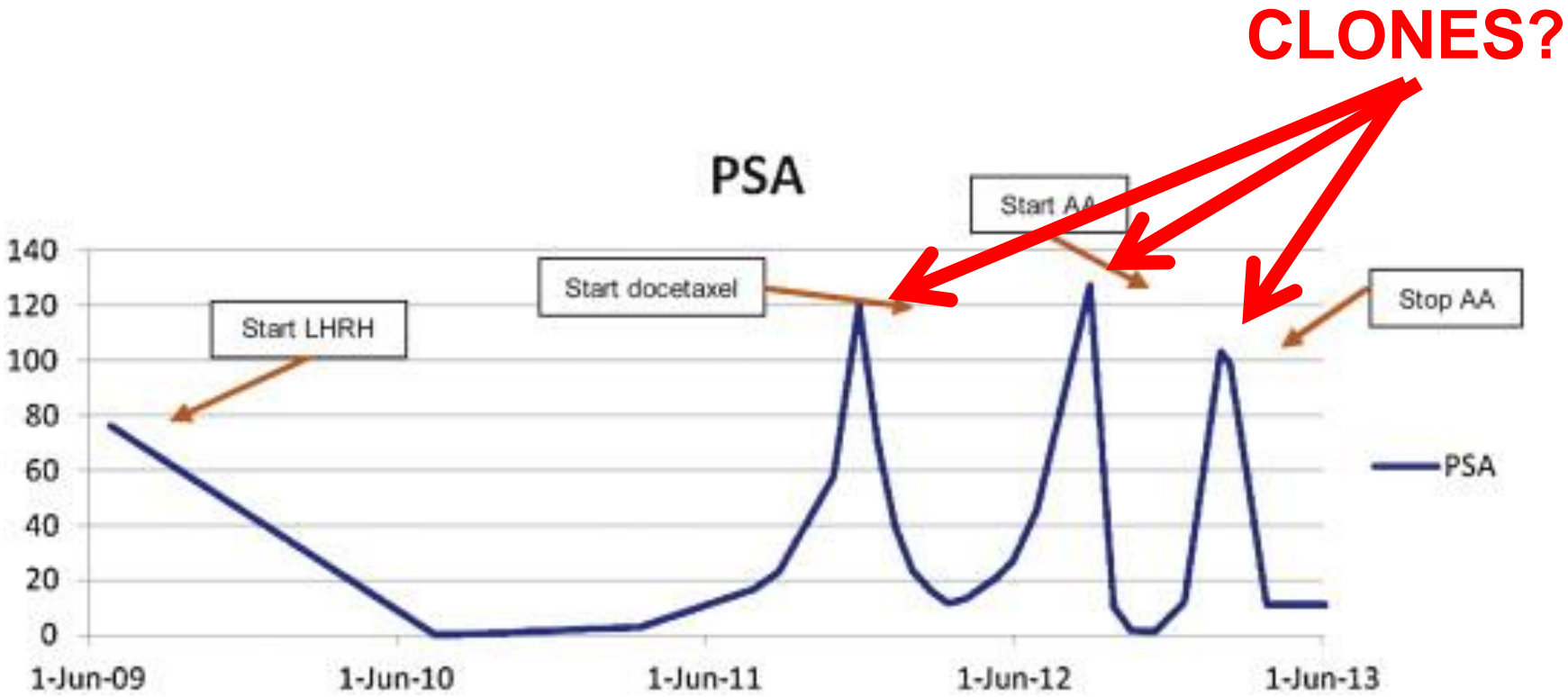


**I think we should invest
in this PSA company.**

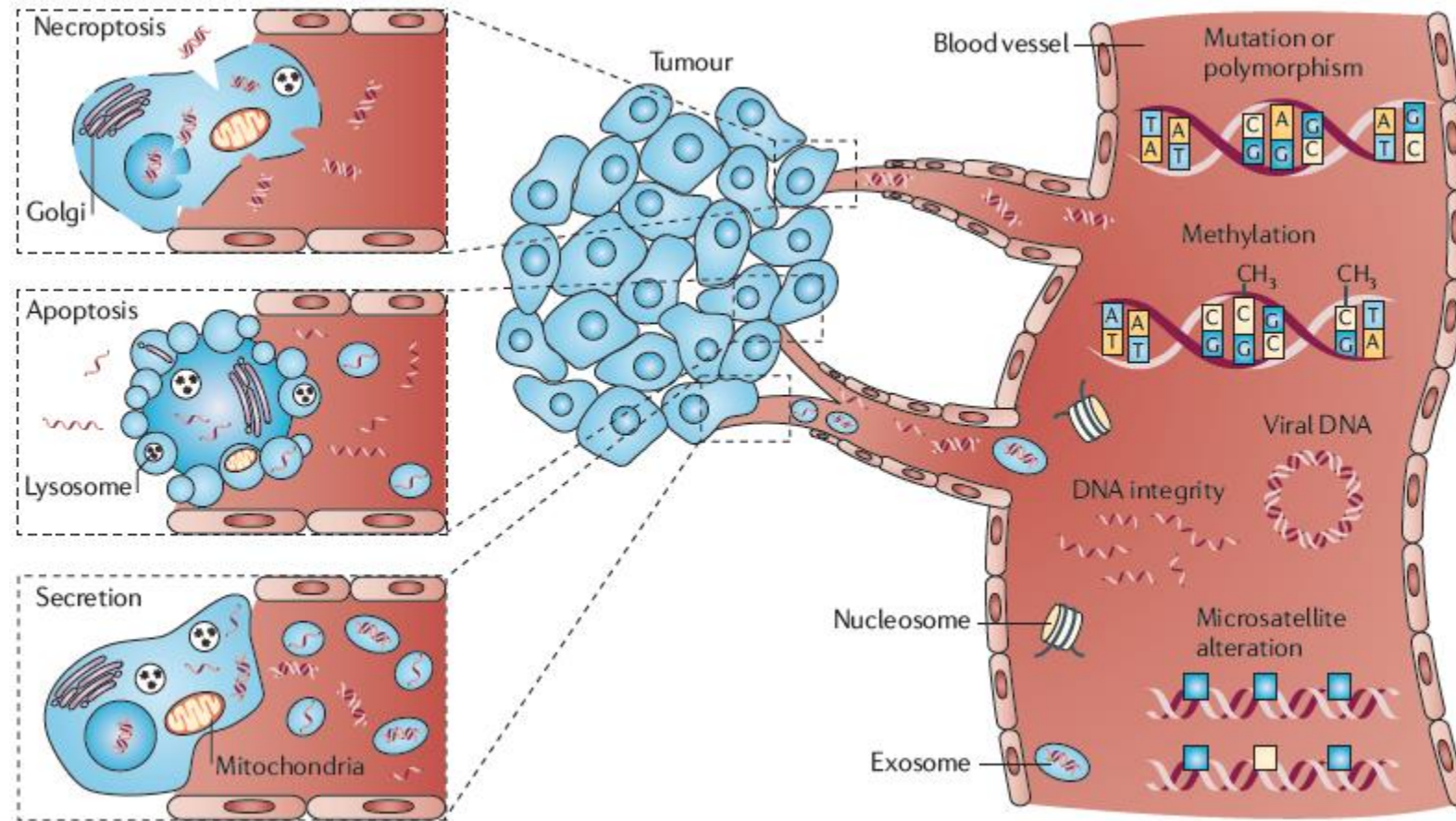
PSA levels and tumor burden evolution



PSA levels and tumor burden evolution



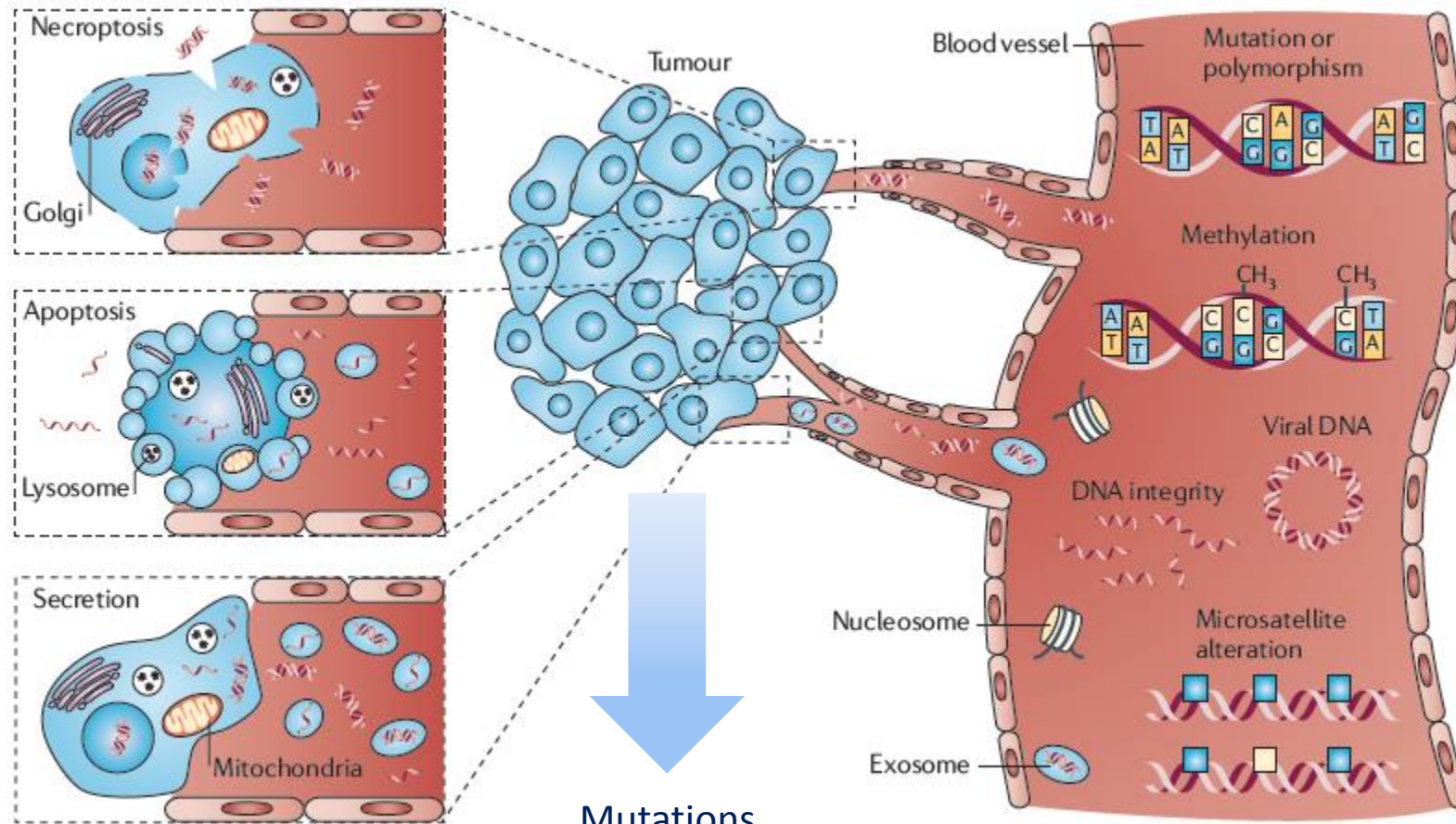
Circulating tumor DNA as a blood-based biomarker in cancer



cfDNA → ctDNA

- Necrosis/apoptosis
- 70-200bp
- Related to tumor burden
- <2h half life

Circulating tumor DNA as a blood-based biomarker in cancer

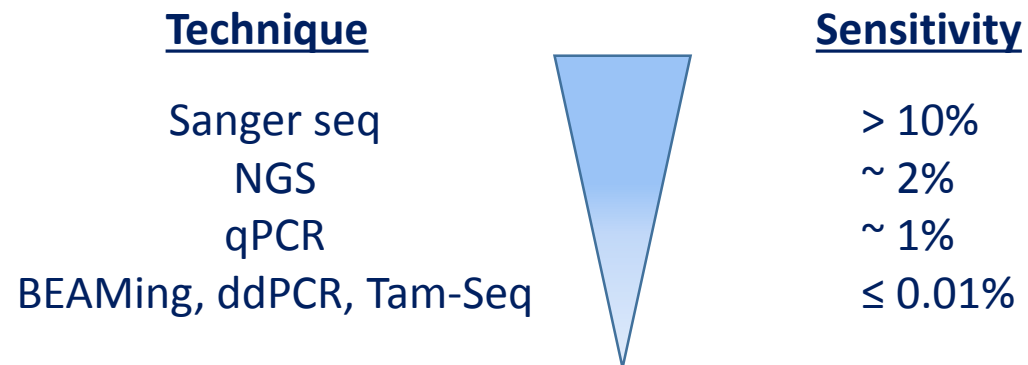


cfDNA → ctDNA (1-10%)

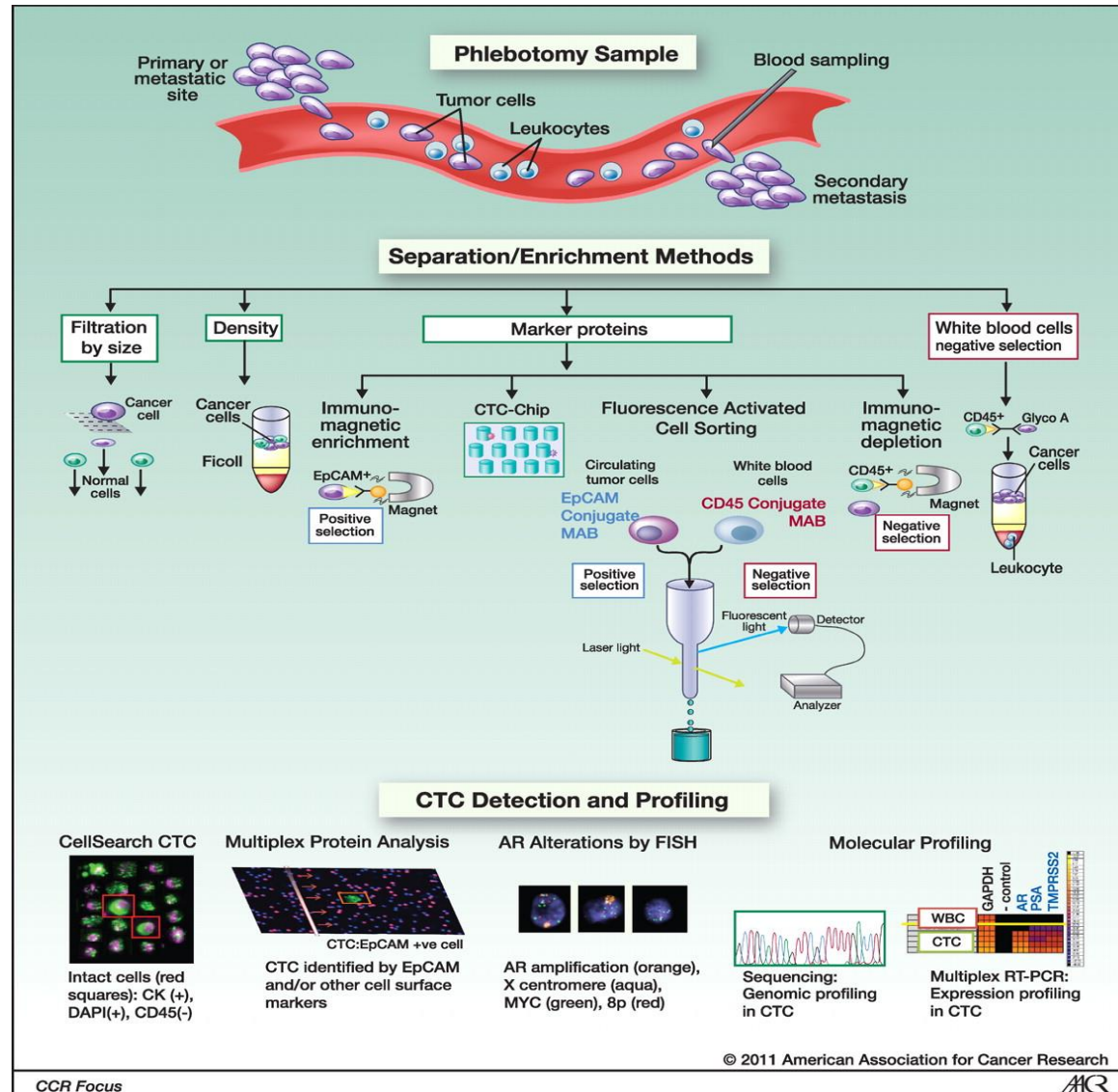
- Mutations
- LOH
- Polymorphisms
- Microsatellite instability
- Integrity (size)
- Methylation

Technologies for ctDNA analysis: platforms

| Underlying technology | Detection strategy (examples) | Type of alteration detected |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| PCR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASPCR • BEAMing • ddPCR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preselected number of preselected mutations (e.g., point mutations) *finite number of alterations |
| Targeted sequencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAm-Seq • SafeSeq • Illumina TrueSeq | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any alteration in preselected genes *finite number of genes/exons *infinite number of alterations |
| Whole genome sequencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital karyotyping • PARE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any alteration in whole genome *infinite number of genes/exons *infinite number of alterations |



CTCs: enrichment and detection



CTCs: methods for detection & characterization

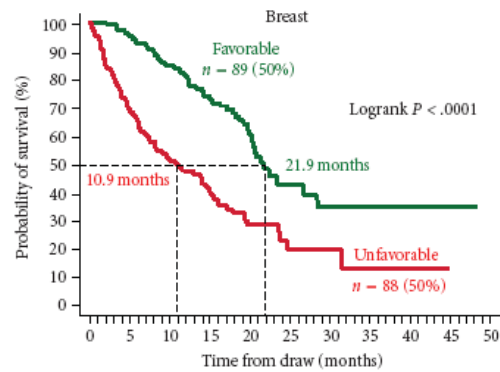
Table 1 Selected platforms for capturing circulating tumor cells

| Company (location) | Product | Feature |
|---|--|--|
| ApoCell | ApoStream | Separation based on dielectric footprint. Cells are recoverable and viable. |
| Biocept (San Diego) | Cell Enrichment and Extraction OncoCell CEE-BR | Biotin-tagged antibodies that target CTCs. Determines HER2 status by FISH. |
| BioFluidica Microtechnologies | CTC Detection System | Polymer based microfluidic chamber with affinity-coated surface, integrated with conductivity sensor for label-free counting. |
| Cynvenio | Integrated System for Molecular Analysis of CTCs | Microfluidic system employing biomagnetic separation from whole blood. Cells are recoverable and viable. |
| CytoTrack (Lyngby, Denmark) | CytoTrack FM3 Scanner | Images fluorescently labeled cells captured by antibody on glass discs. Cells on disc can be further analyzed. |
| Fluxion BioSciences (S. San Francisco, California) | IsoFlux | Magnetic beads coupled to antibodies separate cells from leukocytes in small volume; cells are recoverable and viable. |
| On-Q-Ity | Circulating Cancer Capture and Characterization Chip (C5) | Microfluidic dual capture platform isolates cells based on EpCAM affinity and size. Viable cells are captured with 95% recovery. |
| RareCells Diagnostics (Paris and Austin, Texas) | ISET: Isolation by Size of Epithelial Tumor Cells | Isolation by filtration based on size, not antigen selection. Cells can be further characterized for mutations. |
| ScreenCell (Paris and Westford, Massachusetts) | ScreenCell MB (molecular biology) ScreenCell CC (cell culture) ScreenCell Cyto | Filtration device equipped with different buffers depending on which downstream analysis is to be done. |
| Silicon Biosystems (Bologna, Italy) | DEPArray | Microarray containing dielectrophoretic cages. Image-based selection allows sorting by shape, nucleus-to-cytoplasm ratio, fluorophores co-localization and other morphological features. Viable cells are recoverable. |
| Veridex | CellSearch CTC | Capture based on EpCAM affinity. Next-generation system incorporates open channel allowing assays using additional antibodies. |

CTCs: clinical applications

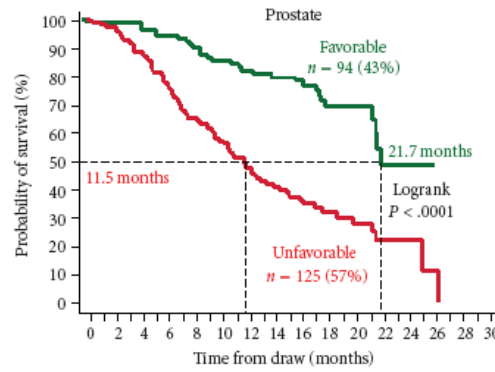
Key studies: prognostic value by CellSearch® in metastatic disease

Breast & prostate cancer : ≥ 5 CTC/7.5mL

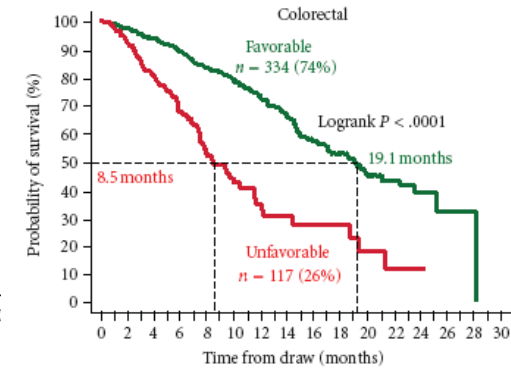


(a)

Colon cancer: ≥ 3 CTC/7.5mL

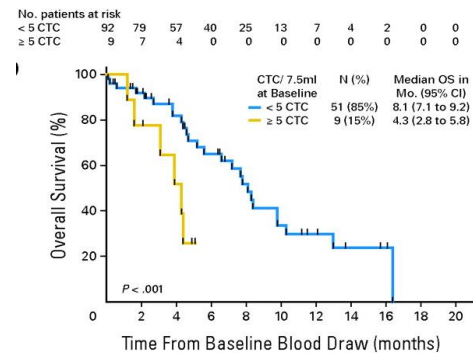


(c)

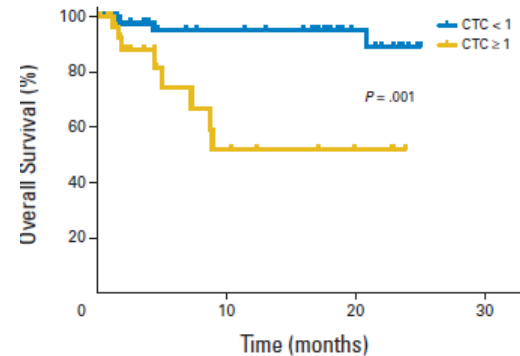


(b)

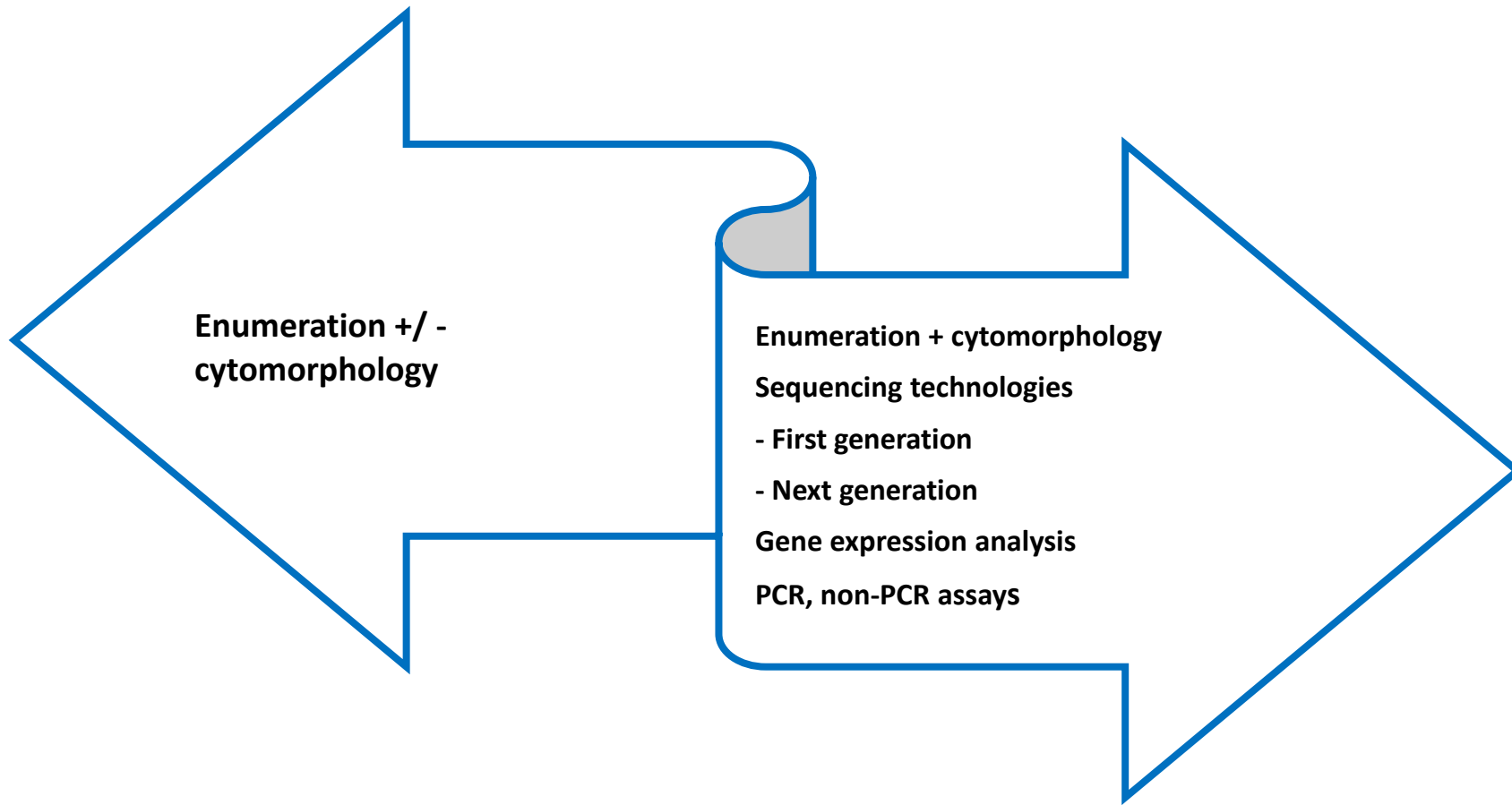
NSCLC: ≥ 5 CTC/7.5mL



Neuroendocrine: ≥ 1 CTC/7.5mL



Different perceptions



ctDNA vs CTC

| | ctDNA | CTC |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Composition | Small fragments of DNA | Viable tumor cells |
| Present in healthy individuals | No | No |
| Lifetime | <2h | Years (dormant state) |
| Isolation | Standard preparation of plasma DNA | Complex CTC isolation |
| Equipment | None | Special instrumentation for cell identification |
| WGA required for DNA analysis | No | Yes |
| Immunophenotype studies | No | Yes |
| Longitudinal monitoring | Yes | Yes |
| Genetic analyses | Yes | Yes |
| Information on heterogeneity | Yes (average of all cells) | Yes, if enough cells |
| <i>In vivo</i> studies | No | Yes (<i>ex-vivo</i> cultures) |

CONCLUSIONS

- Cancer is an heterogeneous disease
- In the last years we have learn about oncogenes and supresor genes as modulators of tumour growth
- But, interactions between cells and tumour microenvironment are equal or more important for cancer treatment
- Personalize medicine or now called precision medicine has to be develop for all cancer patients

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