



# Case Study: il tumore alla prostata

*Dalla caratterizzazione molecolare allo sviluppo di  
un test clinico non-invasivo  
per l'identificazione di una forma letale*

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University of Trento





# Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program

Turning Cancer Data Into Discovery

Common Types of Cancer	Estimated New Cases 2015	Estimated Deaths 2015
1. Breast Cancer (Female)	231,840	40,290
2. Lung and Bronchus Cancer	221,200	158,040
<b>3. Prostate Cancer</b>	<b>220,800</b>	<b>27,540</b>
4. Colon and Rectum Cancer	132,700	49,700
5. Bladder Cancer	74,000	16,000
6. Melanoma of the Skin	73,870	9,940
7. Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	71,850	19,790
8. Thyroid Cancer	62,450	1,950
9. Kidney and Renal Pelvis Cancer	61,560	14,080
10. Endometrial Cancer	54,870	10,170

Prostate cancer represents 13.3% of all new cancer cases in the U.S.



# Prostate Cancer, long follow-up

## 5-year relative survival, 2005-2011

For the most common cancers

Among cases diagnosed from 2005 to 2011, followed through 2012

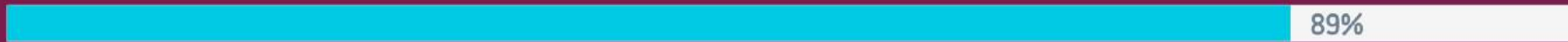
### Prostate



### Melanoma of the skin



### Breast (female)



### Urinary bladder



### Colorectum



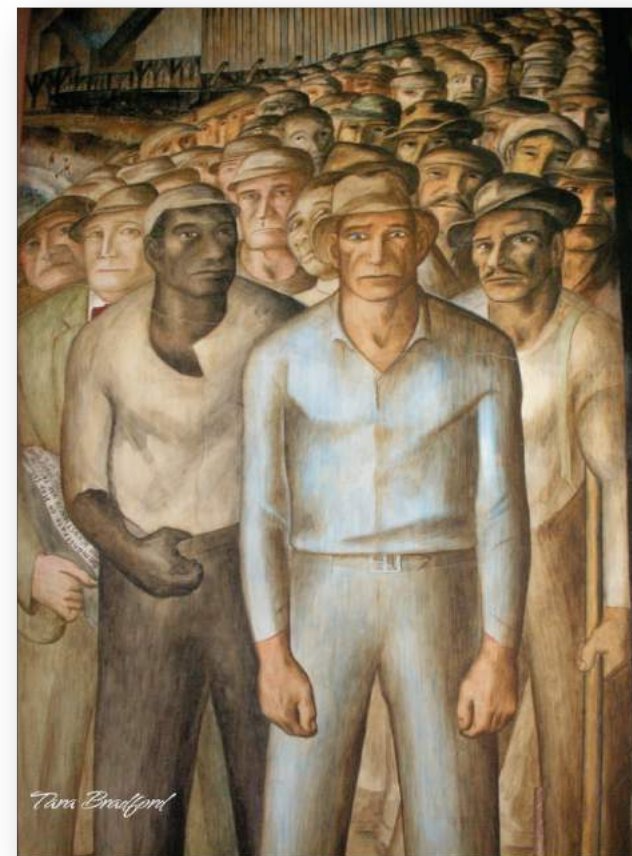
### Lung and bronchus



# Prostate Cancer

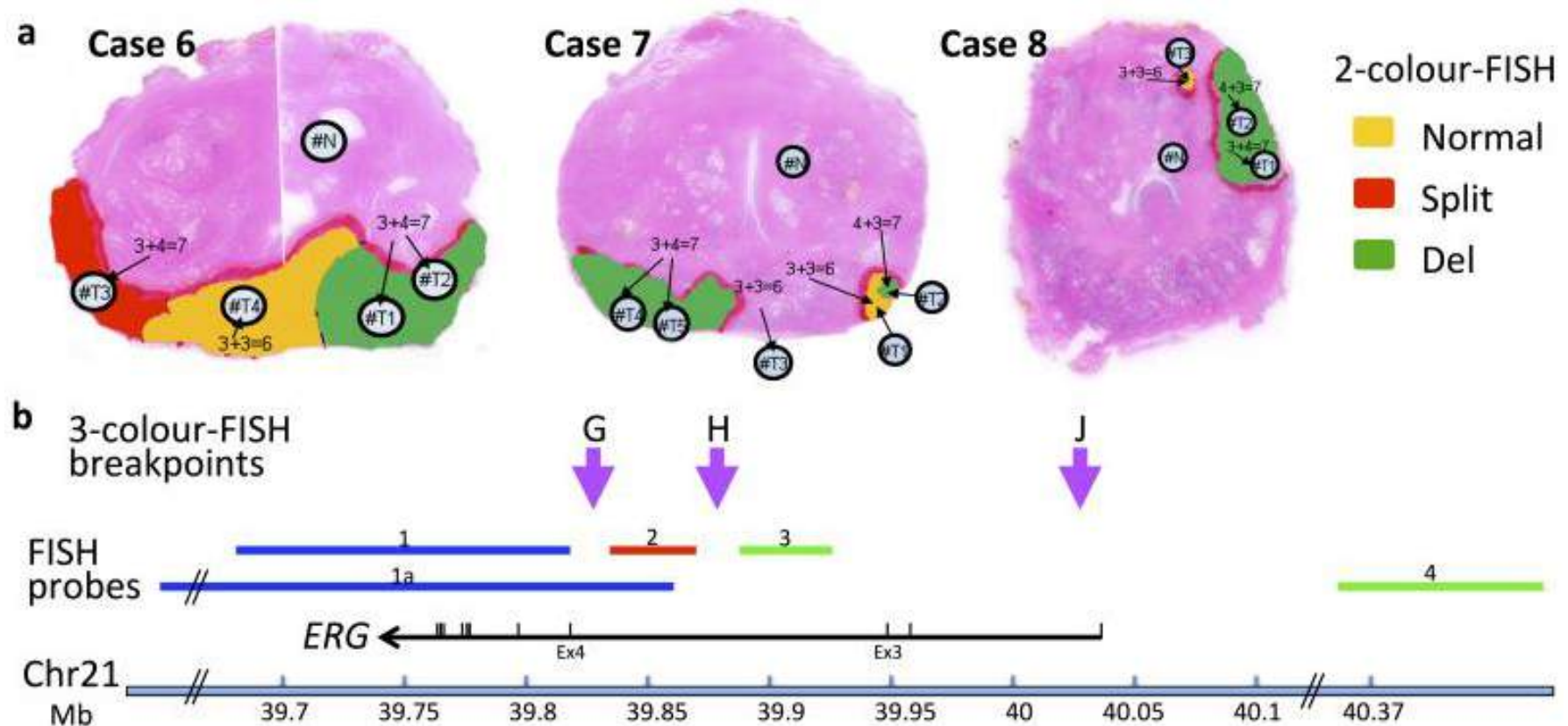
- 1 in 7 lifetime risk diagnosis\*
- 1 in 39 lifetime risk of dying\*

Understanding the transition from indolent to aggressive disease is critical.



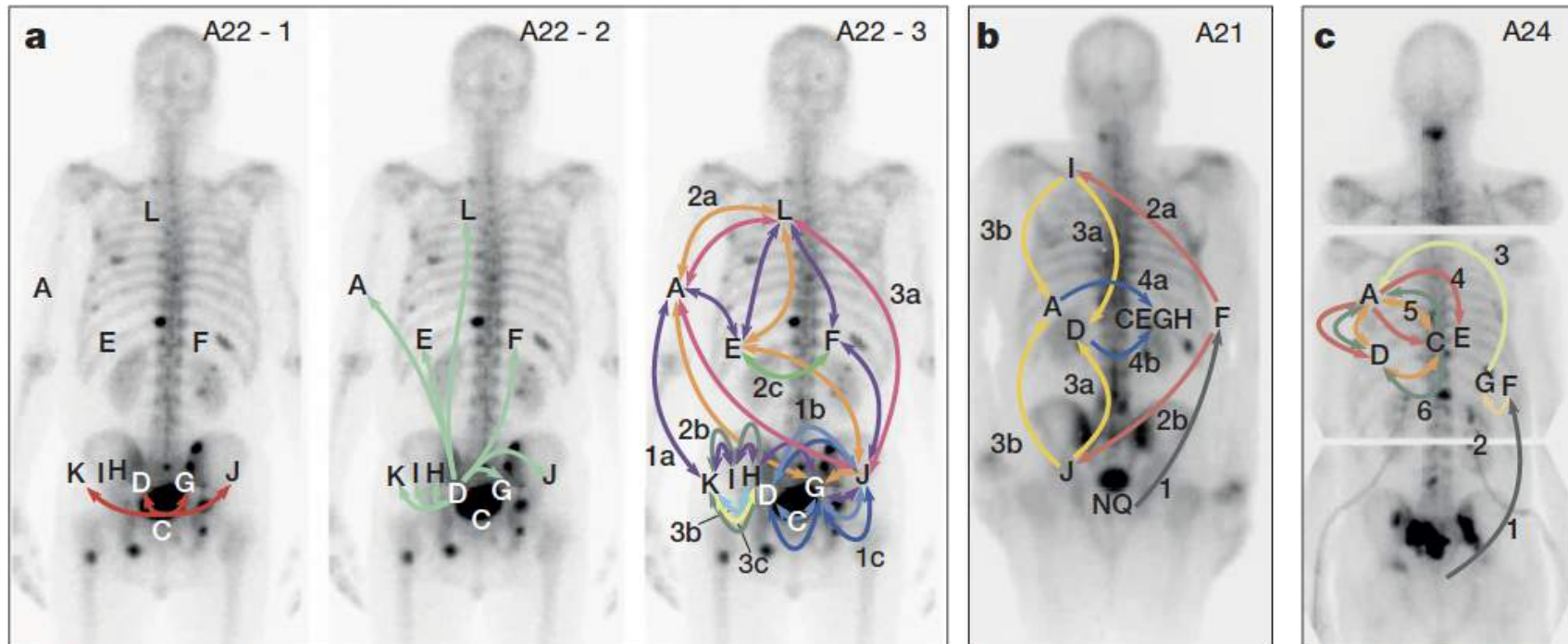
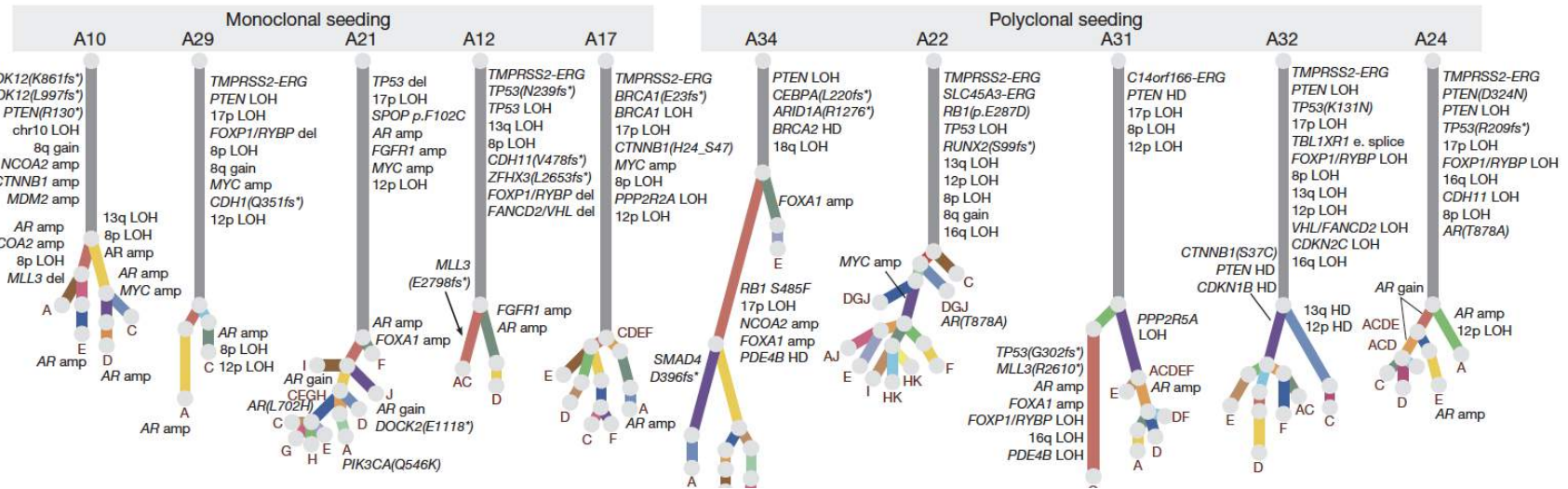
\*US National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Database, and is based on incidence and mortality data for the United States from 2010 through 2012 (most recent data)

# Prostate Cancer is a multi-focal disease



# Metastasis-to-metastasis seeding occurs either by a linear or by a branching pattern of spread

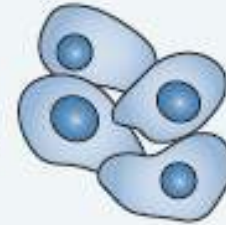
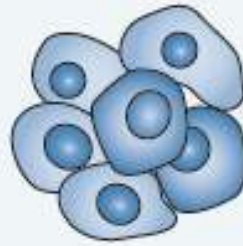
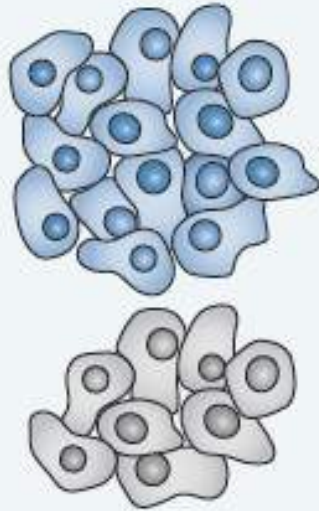
Gundem et al, Nature 2015



Multifocal prostate cancer

Metastases

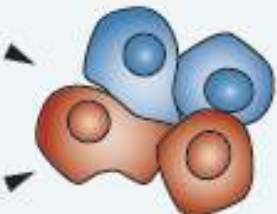
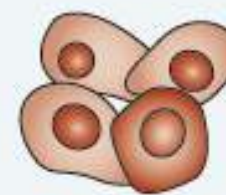
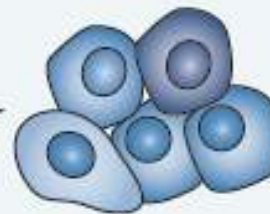
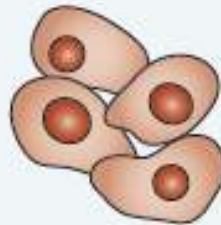
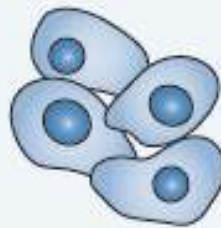
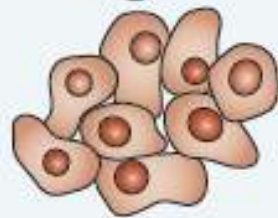
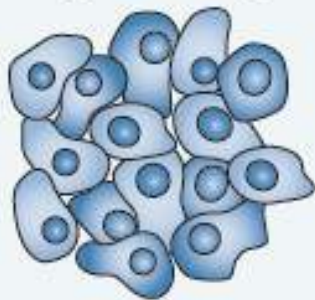
**a** Monoclonal origin



Metastatic cells share lesions from founding clone

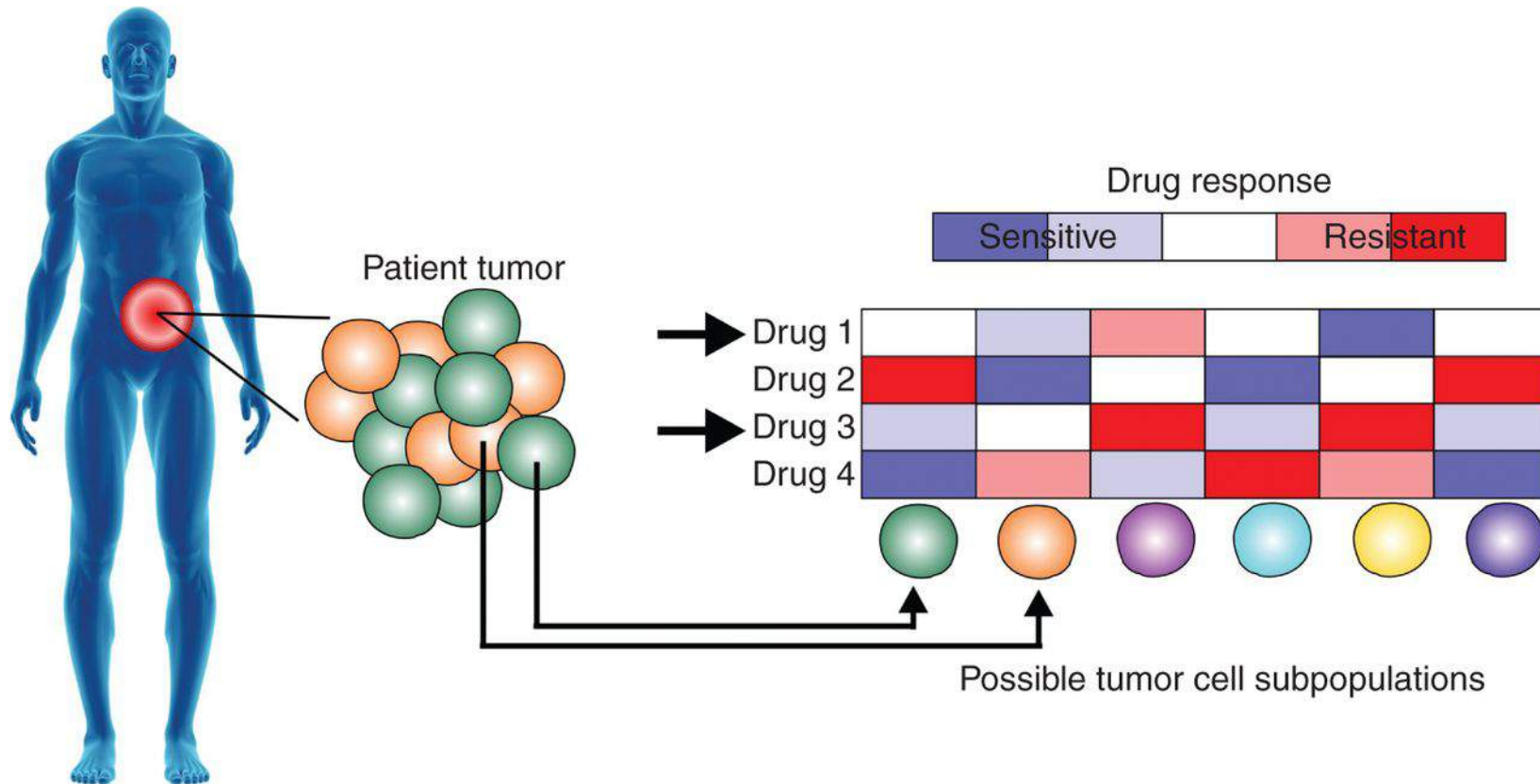


**b** Polyclonal origin



Higher genomic diversity in metastatic cells

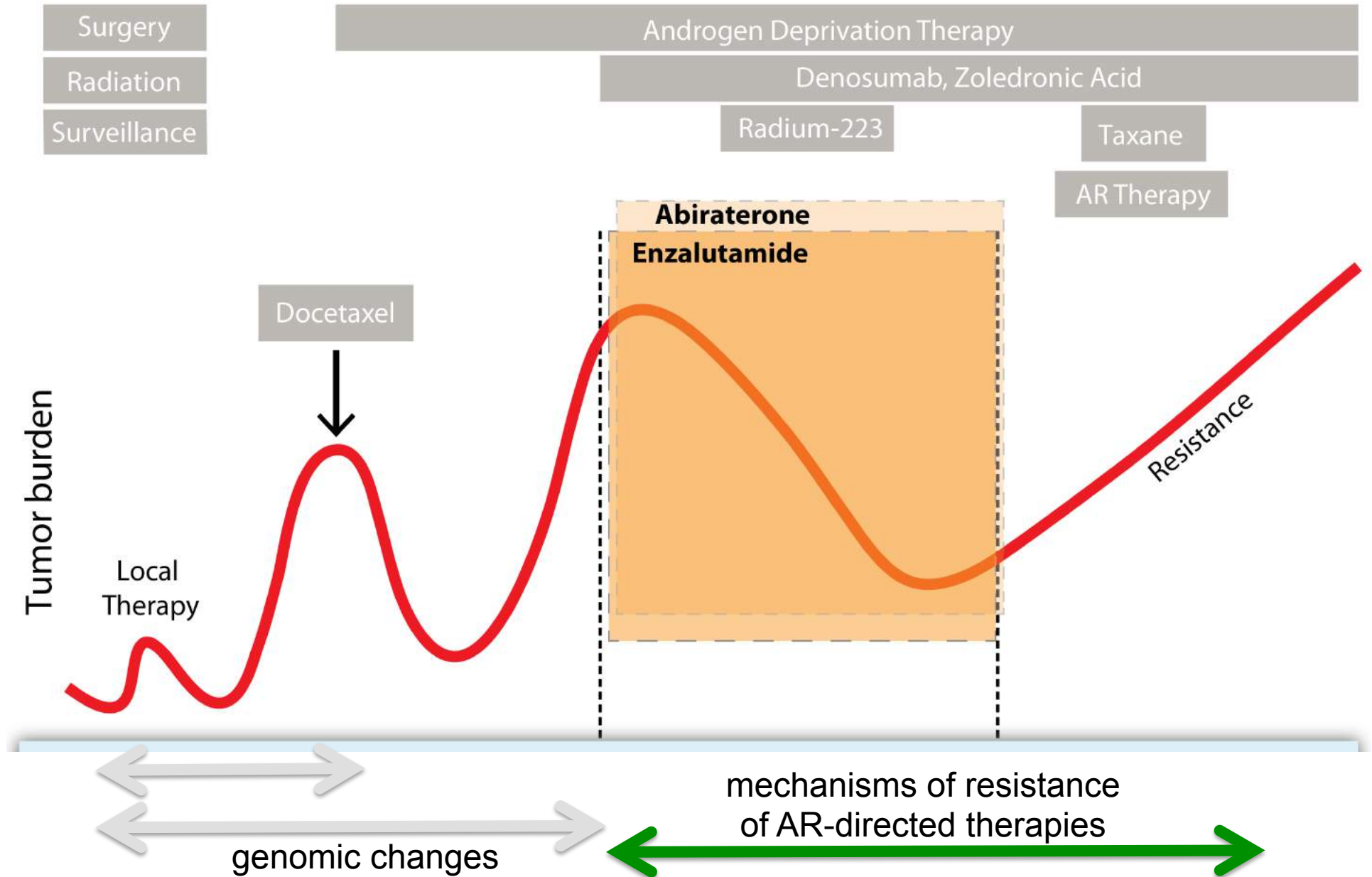
# Cancer heterogeneity And Treatment response



Clare Fedele et al. *Cancer Discovery* 2014.



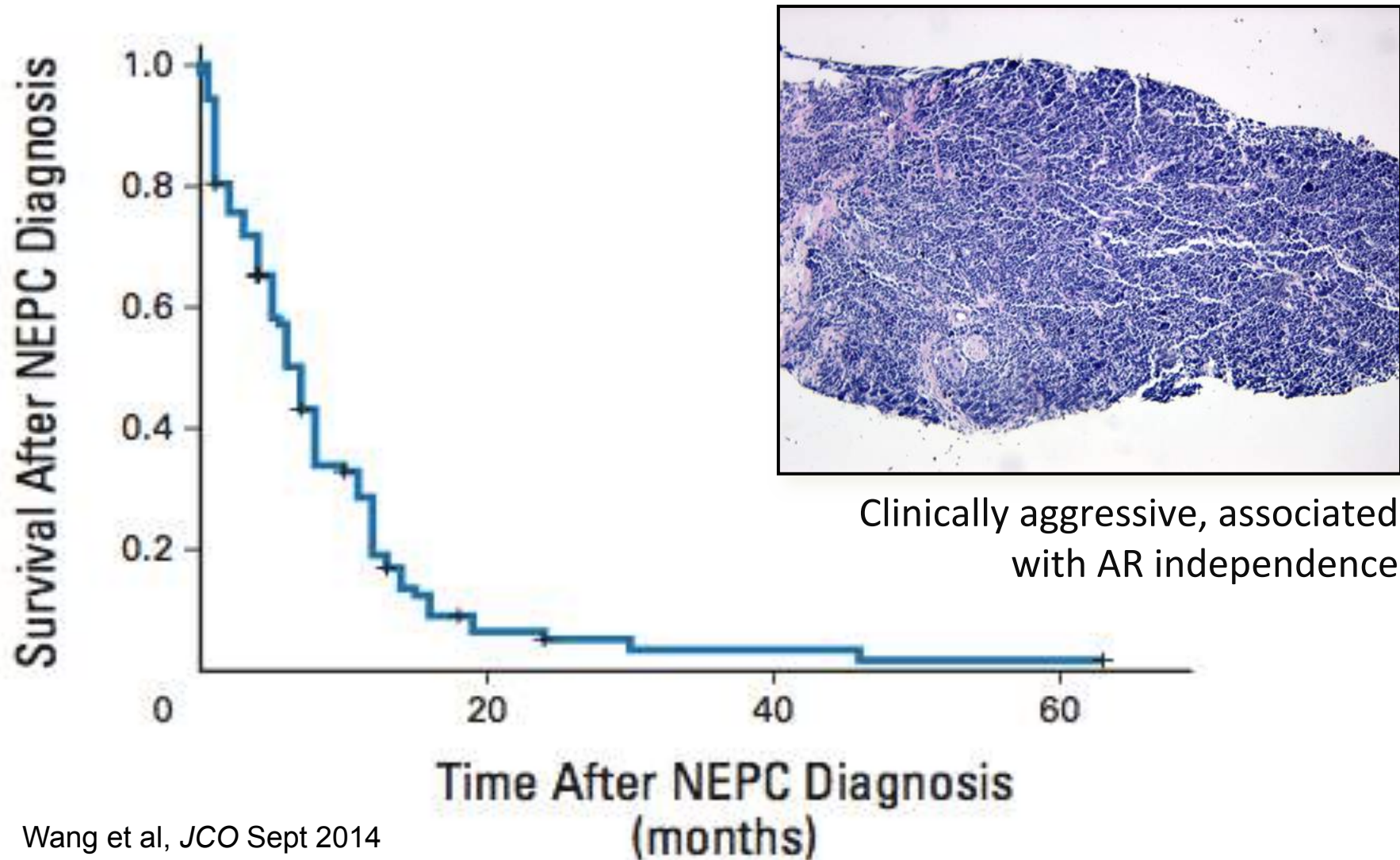
# The genomics of resistance



# Case study

Divergent clonal evolution of  
castration-resistant neuroendocrine  
prostate cancer

Small Cell/Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer (NEPC)  
Meta-analysis, 54 studies, 123 pts  
Average Survival = 7 months

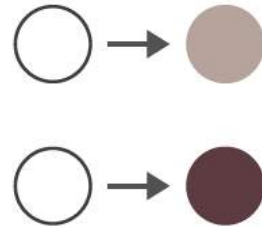


# Clinical Challenges: How is “NEPC” defined?

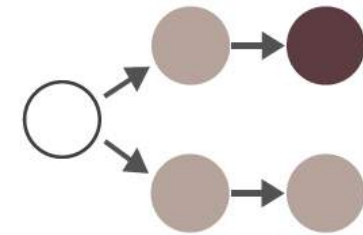
- **Histology** – there is pathologic heterogeneity within NEPC, mixed phenotypes
- **NE markers in tissue or serum-** not always positive, can also be present in adenocarcinoma
- **Clinical criteria-** not well defined, have been used in Phase 2 trials (Aparicio, MD Anderson; Beltran, WCMC)
- **Molecular criteria?**

# Evolution Models towards NEPC

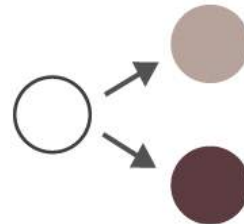
I. **INDEPENDENT**  
from PRIMARY



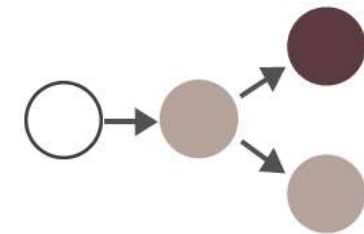
II. **INDEPENDENT**  
from CRPC



III. **DIVERGENT**  
from PRIMARY



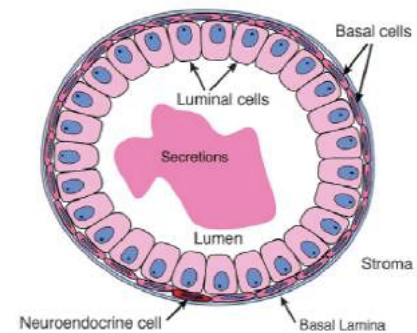
IV. **DIVERGENT**  
from CRPC



V. **LINEAR**



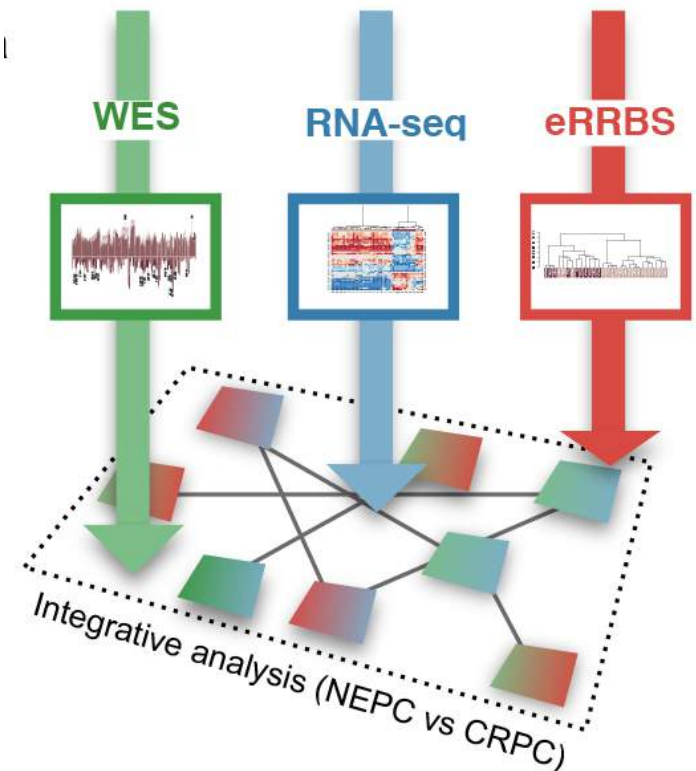
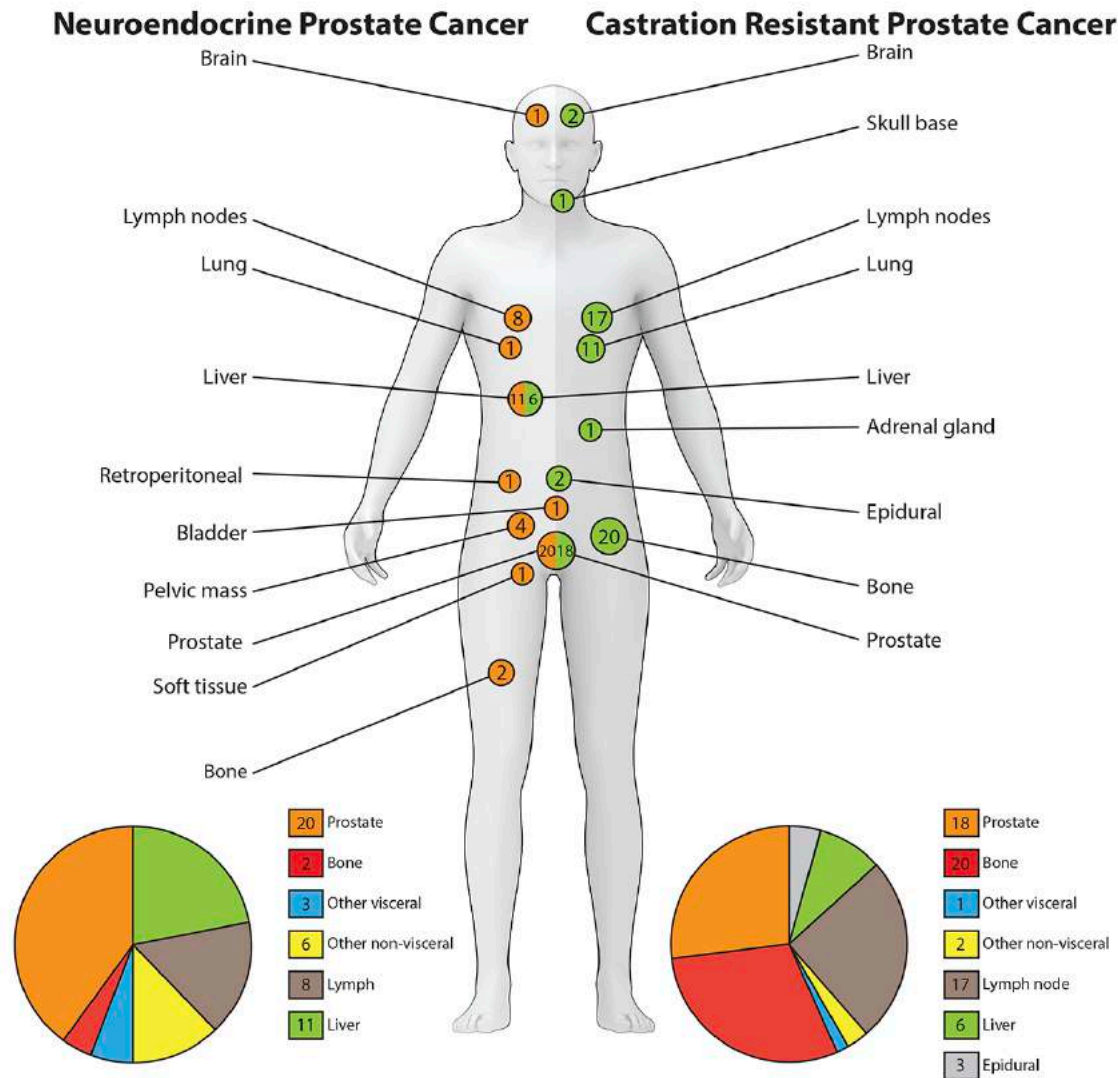
V. **FROM**  
**NEUROENDOCRINE**  
**CELL**



Abate-Shen and Shen,  
Genes Dev 2000



# NEPC is associated with distinct molecular features



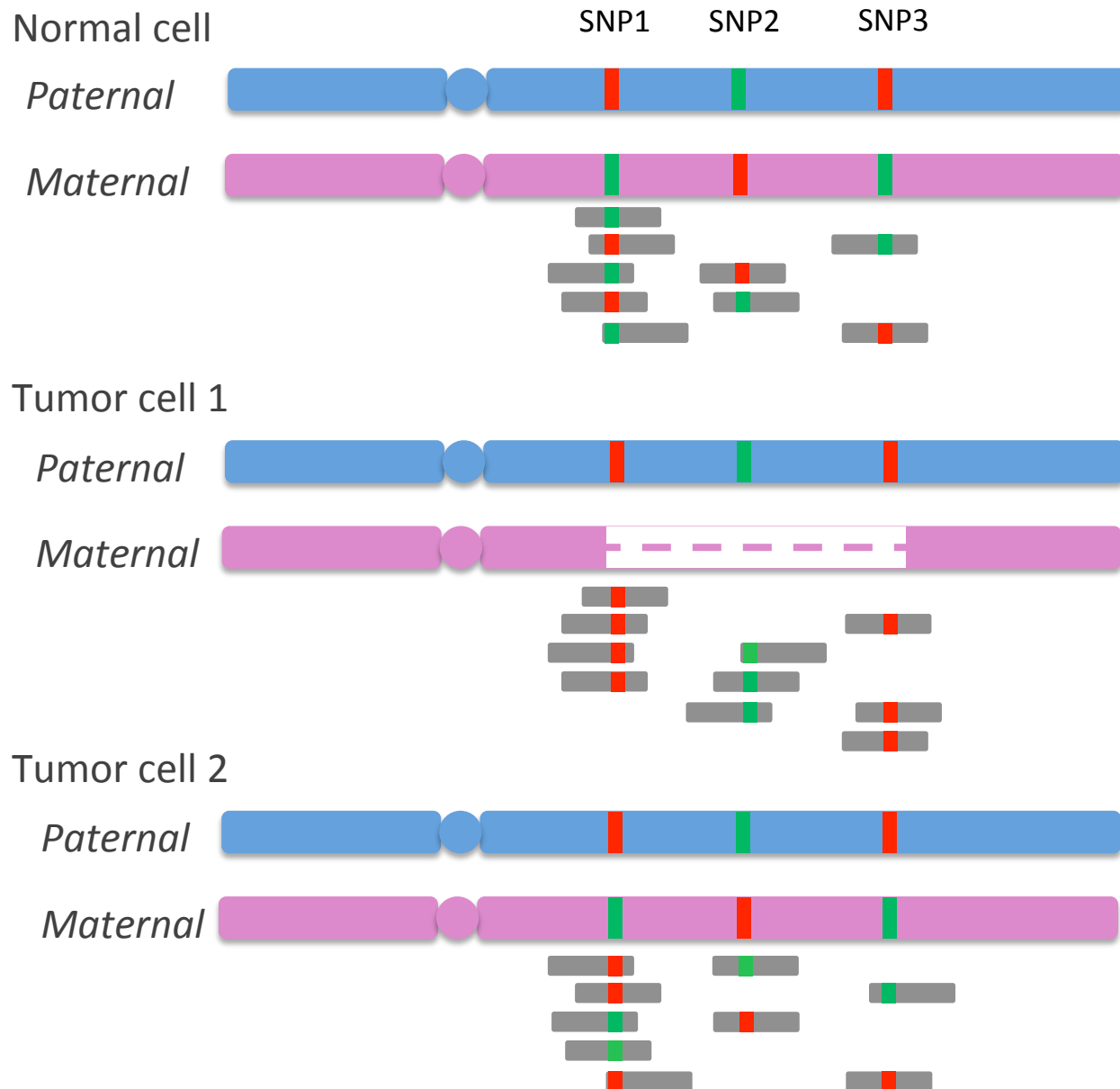
114 samples from 81 patients with metastatic CRPC (35 NEPC)

Blinded Path Review (Epstein et al, AJSP 2014)

Collaboration with H Beltran, MA Rubin (WCM) and L Garraway (Broad Institute)

# Allelic Fraction (AF) Properties

NGS



## **Informative SNPs**

- reference base
- alternative base

## **Allelic Fraction**

Proportion of reads supporting the reference base

## **Neutral Reads**

Equally representing parental chromosomes

## **Beta**

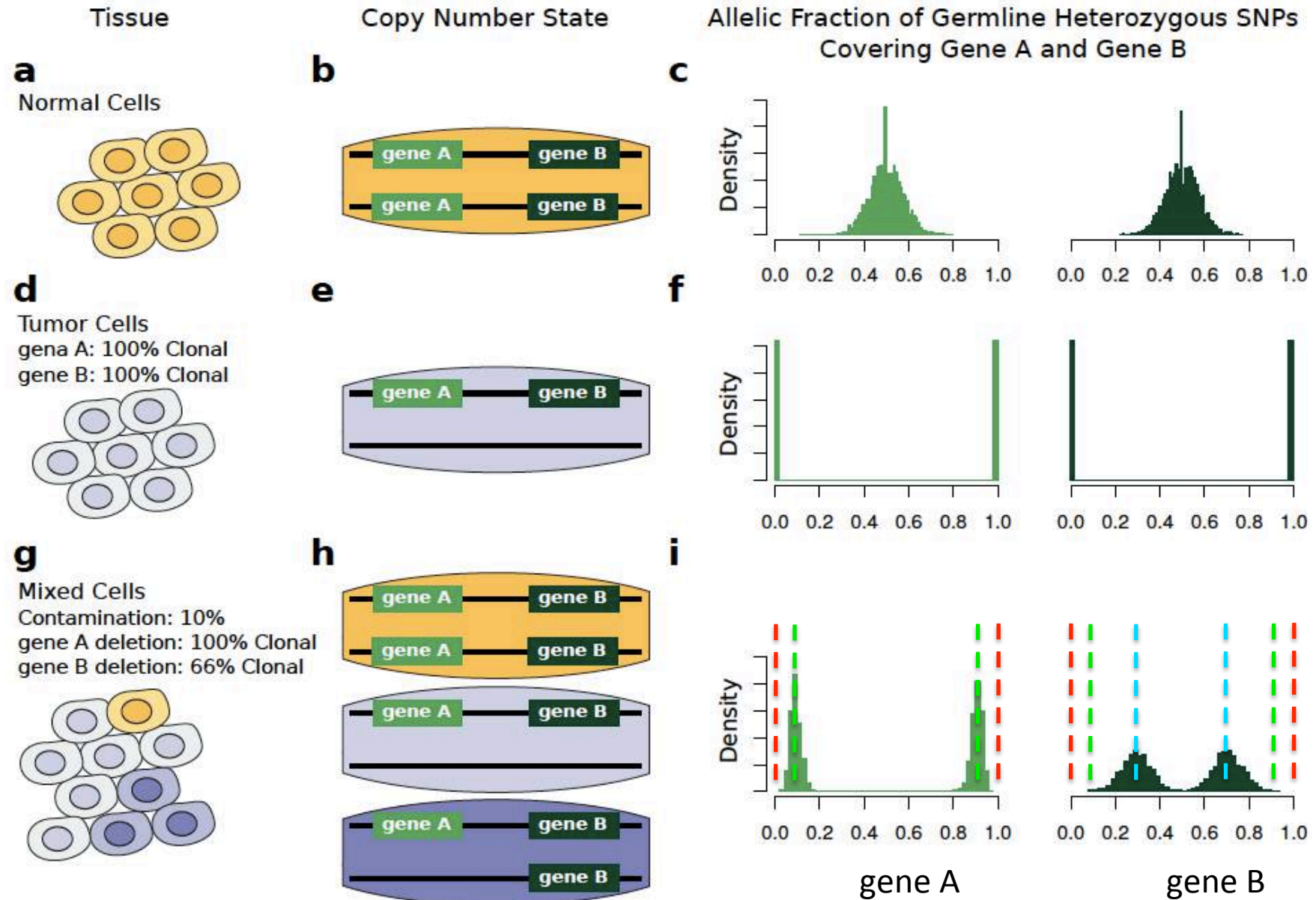
Percentage of neutral reads

## **Nref**

Percentage of reference base in the not deleted allele

# Allelic Fraction (AF) Distribution

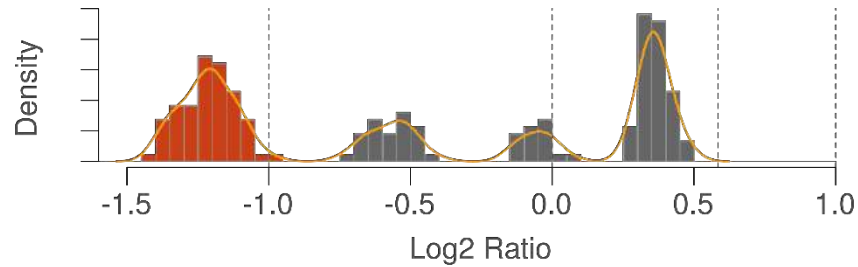
NGS





# Allele specific copy number space CLONET 2.0

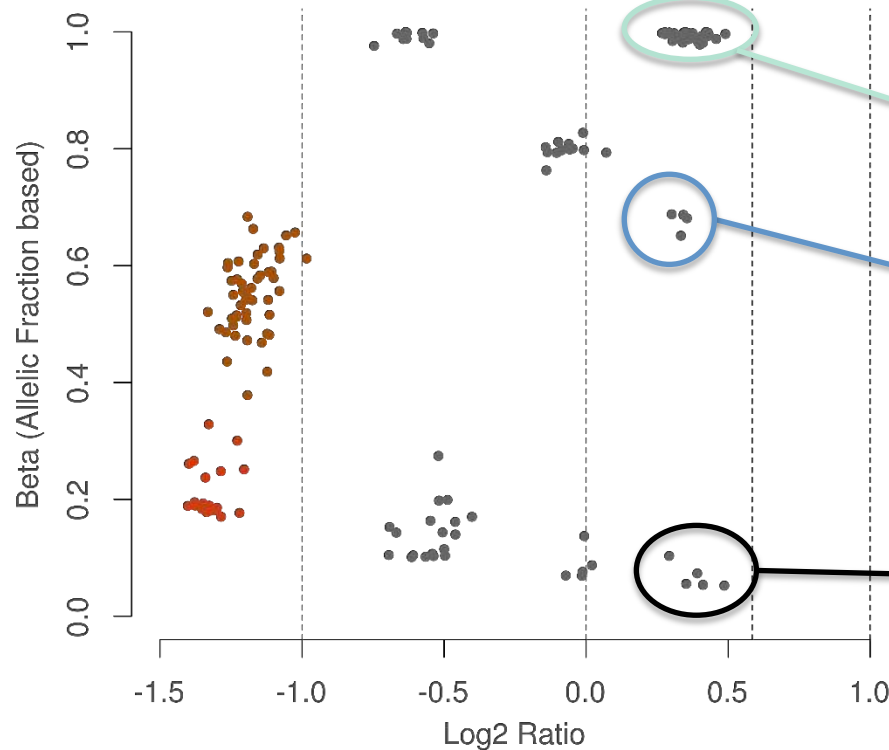
NGS



$$CN B = \frac{\beta 2^{Log2R} - G}{1 - G}$$

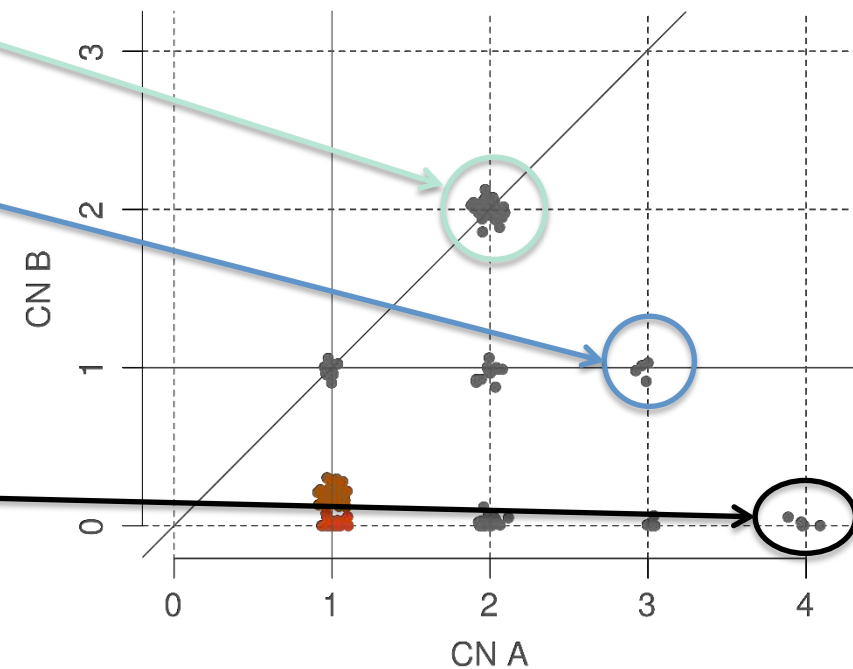
$$CN A = \frac{(2 - \beta)(\beta 2^{Log2R} - G) + 2G(1 - \beta)}{(1 - G)\beta}$$

Estimated  
CNA+CNB

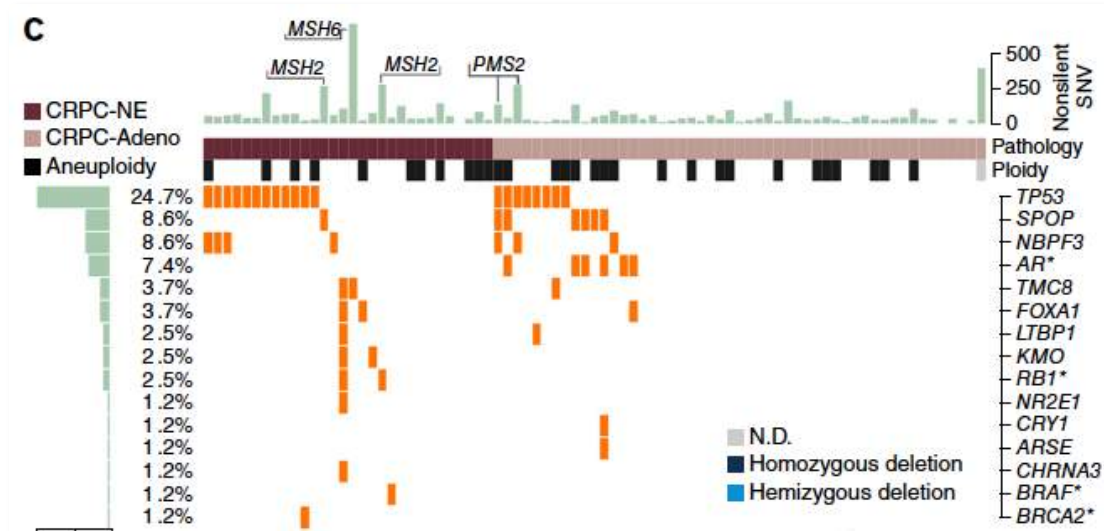
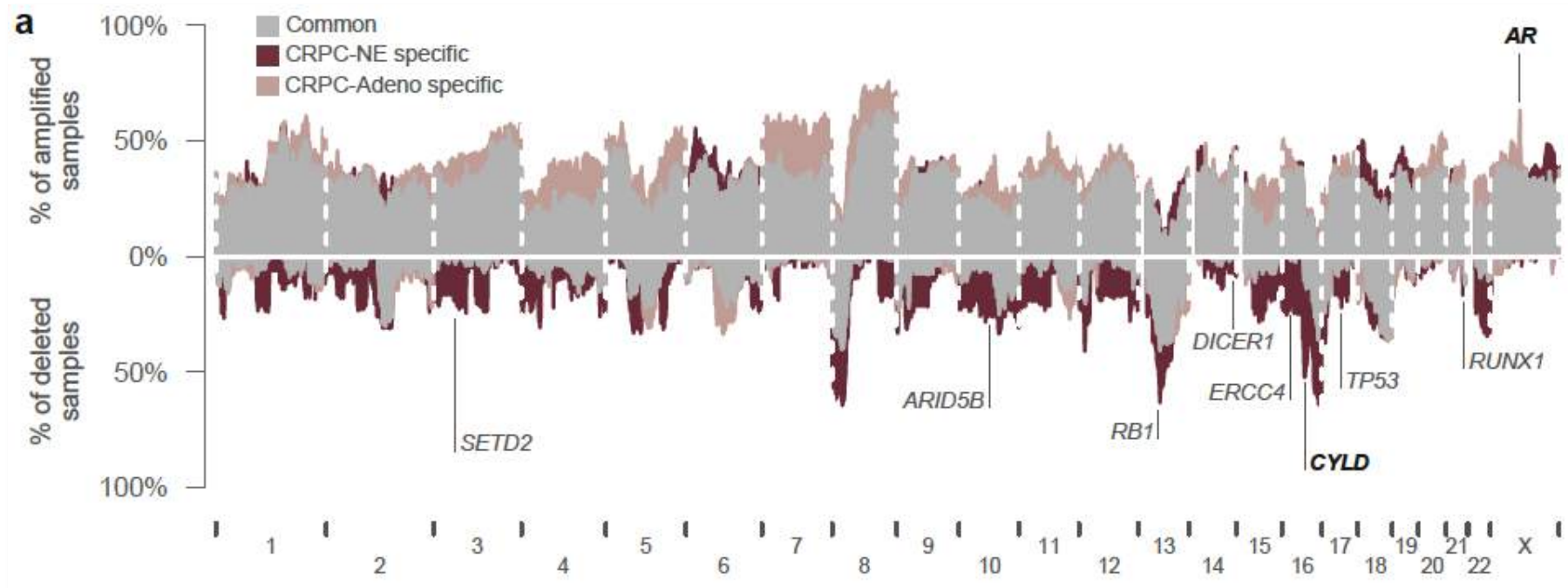


where:  $G = 1 - \text{Purity}$  (CLONET)

$CN A \geq CN B$ , arbitrarily



# CRPC-Adeno and NEPC profiles show extended overlap

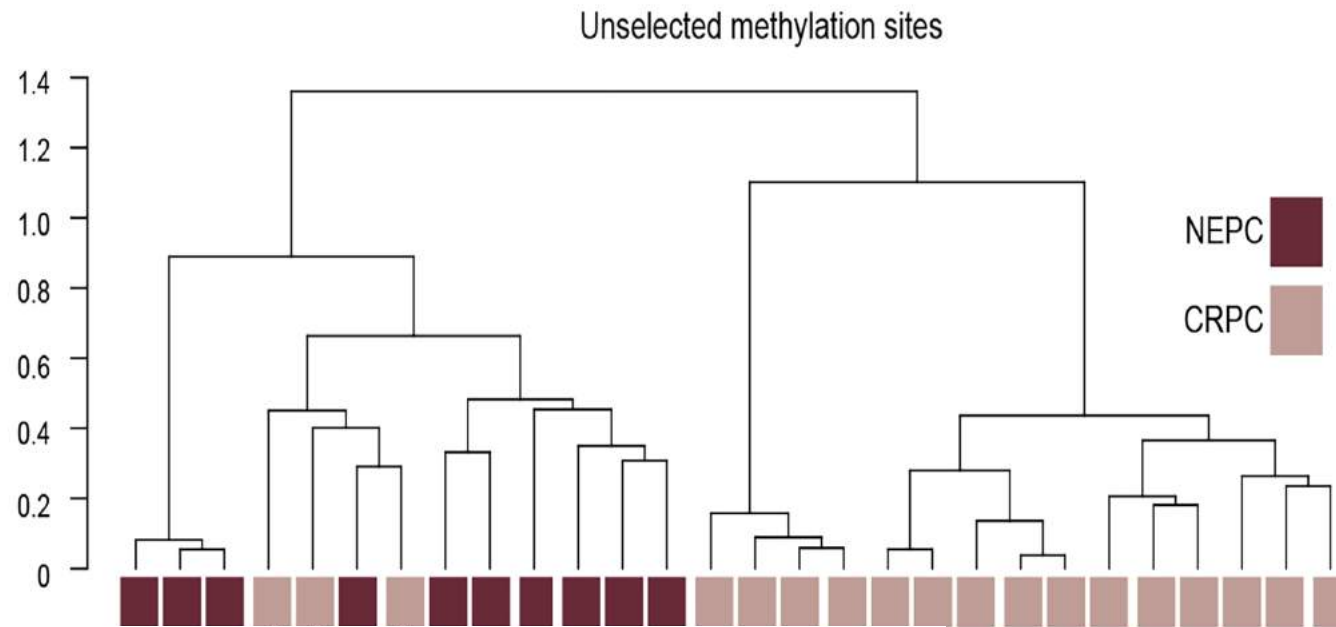


Mut. rates are no significant different

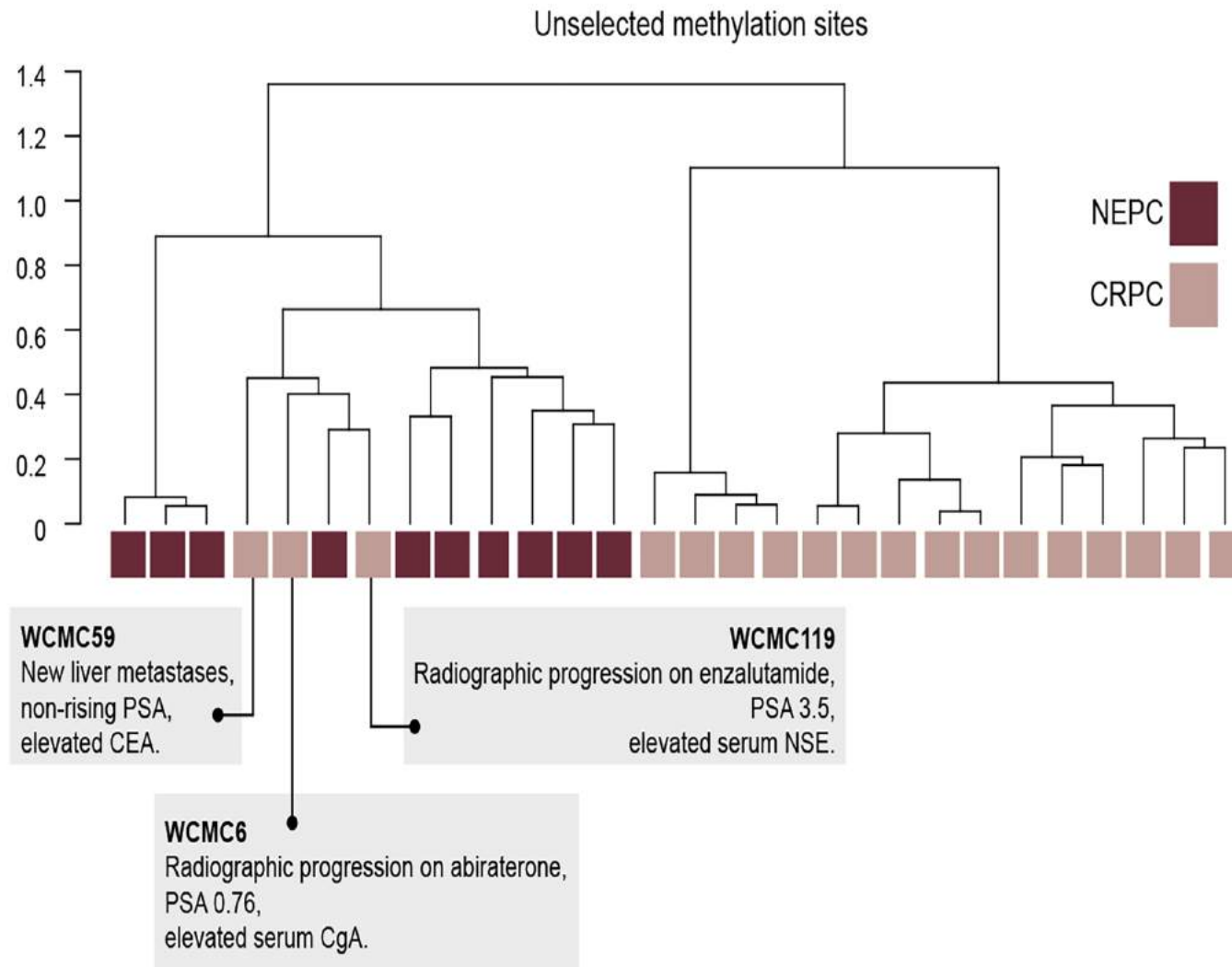
*RB1* del: 70% CRPC-NE, 32% CRPC-Adeno,  $p=0.003$

*TP53* mut/del: 66.6% NEPC, 31.4% CRPC,  $p=0.04$

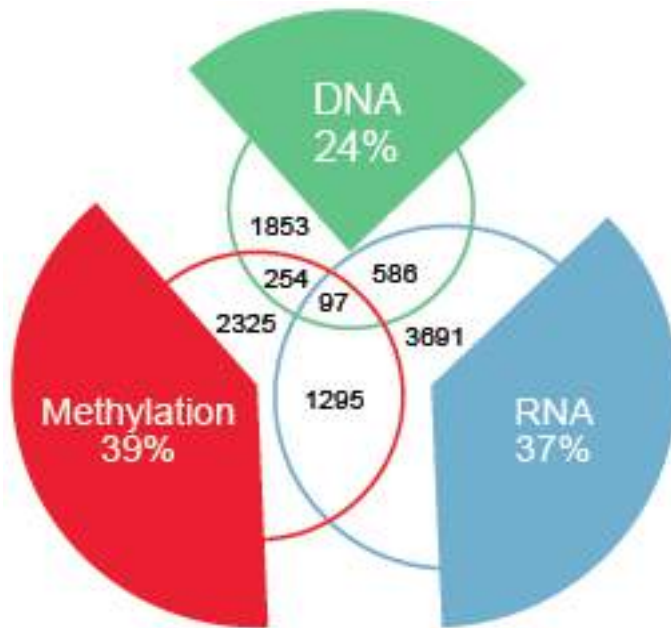
# Unsupervised Analysis of Genome-wide CpG Methylation



# Unsupervised Analysis of Genome-wide CpG Methylation

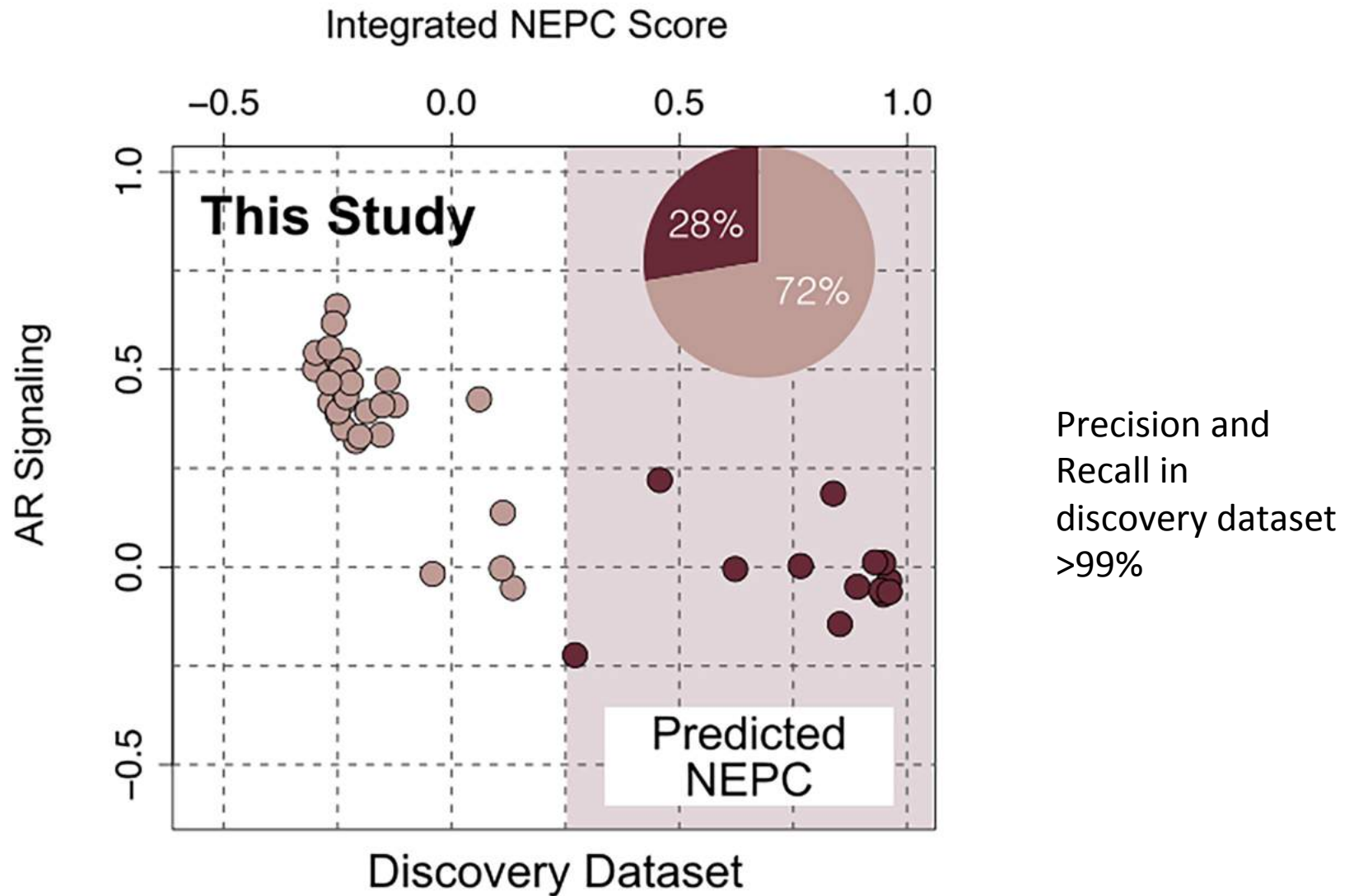


# Development of a Molecular Classifier

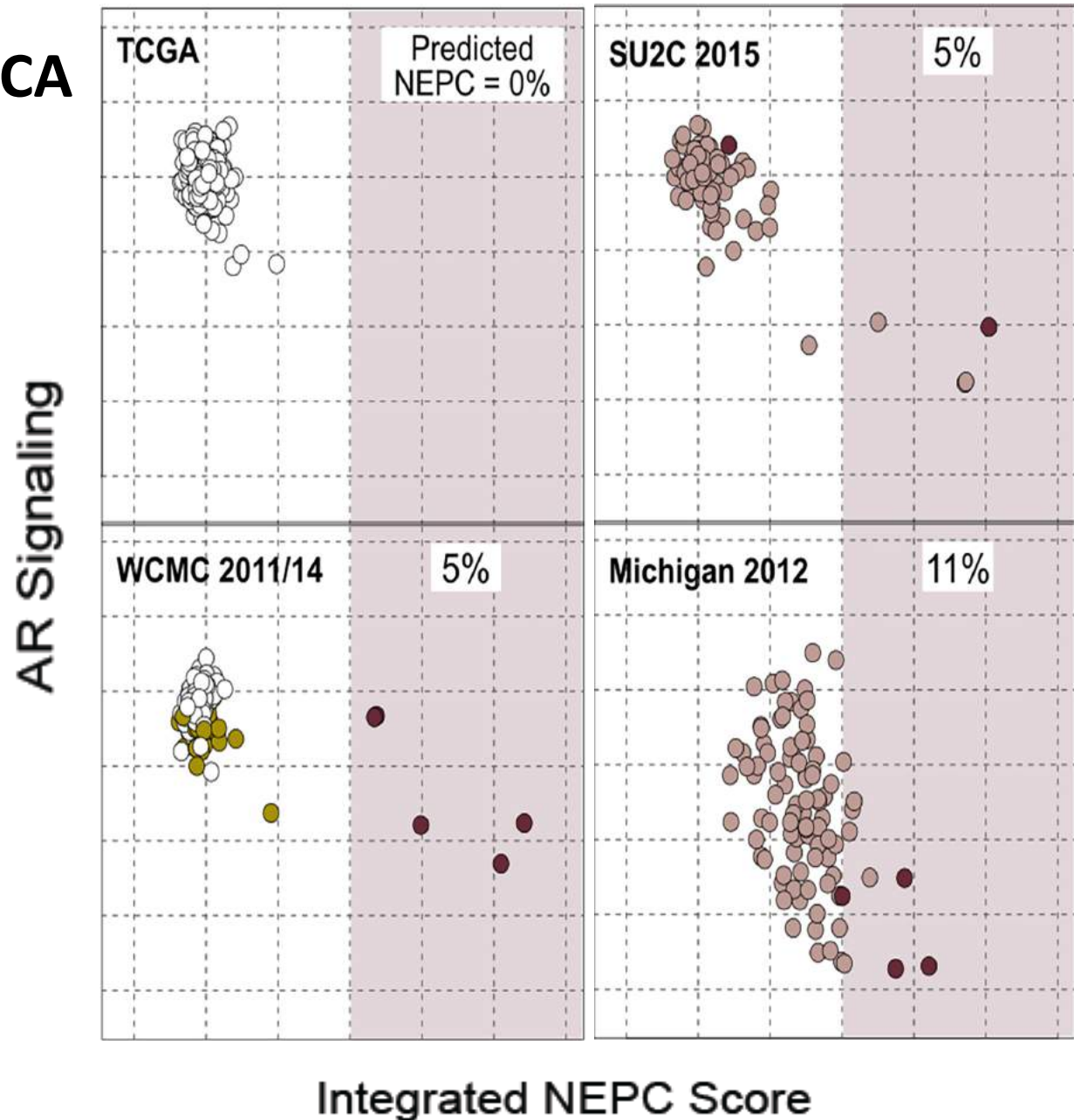


- By integration of key distinguishing features at DNA, methylation, mRNA level, we identified a 70 gene classifier of NEPC
- Validation cohort: TCGA, Michigan, Weill Cornell (WCMC), SU2C datasets

# Development of a NEPC Classifier



# Application of Classifier to other PCA Datasets (500 samples)



TCGA-PRAD, Cell 2015

SU2C, Robinson D, Van Allen E, Cell 2015

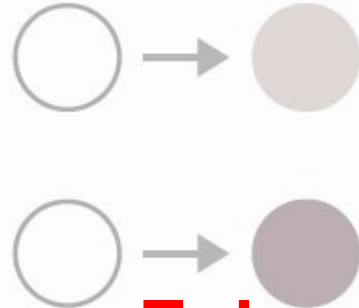
WCMC, Cancer Discovery 2011/Nat Comm 2014

Michigan, Grasso C et al, Nature 2012

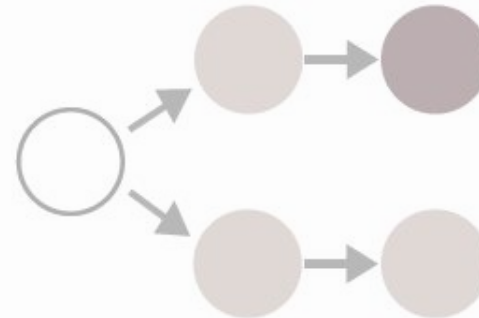
# Evolution from CRPC-Adeno to CRPC-NE



I. INDEPENDENT  
from PRIMARY

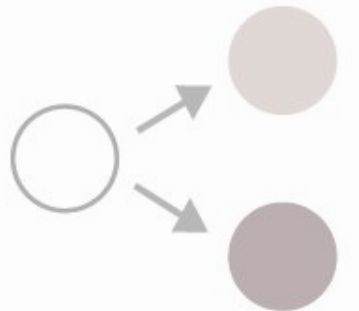


II. INDEPENDENT  
from CRPC



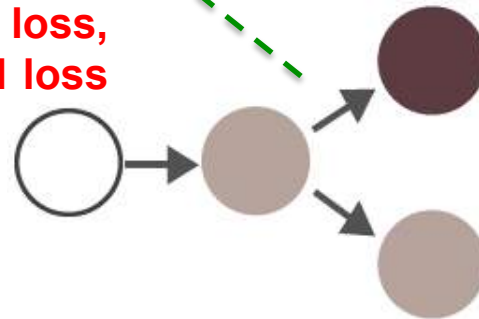
**Epigenetic reprogramming**

III. DIVERGENT  
from PRIMARY



AR-wild-type,  
TP53 loss,  
RB1 loss

IV. DIVERGENT  
from CRPC



V. LINEAR

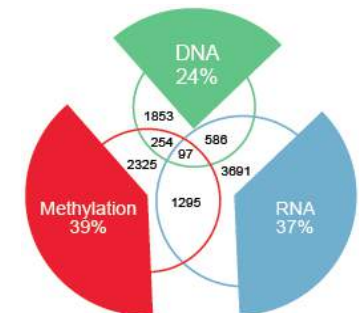
Overall, our data supports **Divergent Clonal Evolution** rather than linear progression or independent clonal evolution



# Conclusions

NGS

- emerging subclass of advanced prostate cancer that undergoes neuroendocrine reprogramming during AR targeted therapy (“class switch” from CRPC to NEPC). **Cell Plasticity**
- clinical evaluation of the NEPC classifier should be tested as potential biomarker for early detection of AR independence and patient selection for co-targeting approaches in the advanced cancer setting. **Co-targeting**
- Further testing of the reversibility of the NEPC state with early intervention or genetic/epigenetic modifiers possibly with EZH2 inhibitors. **Epigenetic modifiers**
- larger prospective clinical evaluation to verify whether this classifier could be useful as **Non-Invasive potential prognostic or predictive biomarker** (associated with lack of response to AR therapies).



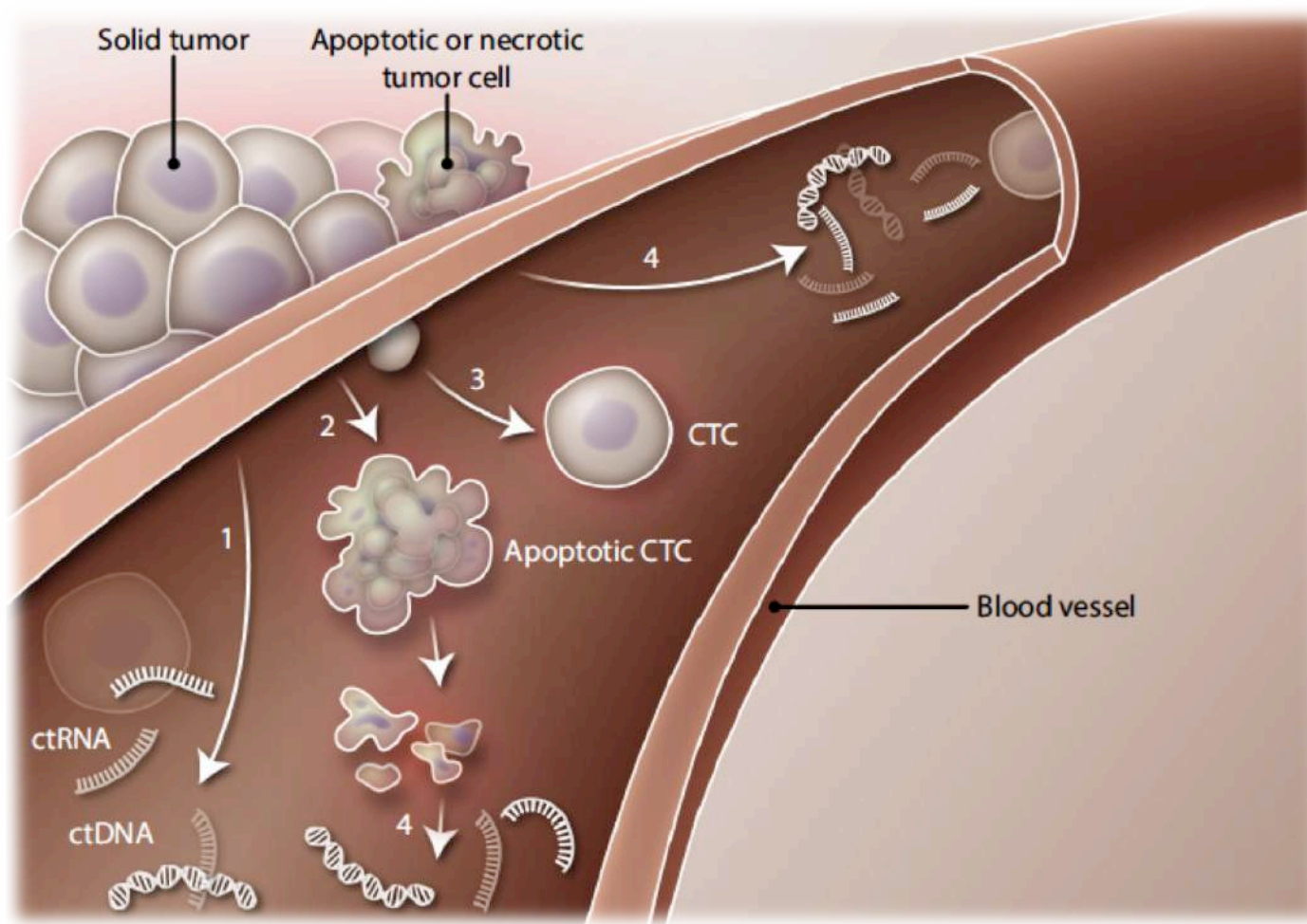
# What is next

- **Early detection of trans-differentiation from circulating material (genomics + epigenetics)**
- **Non invasive test (LIQUID BIOPSY)**

Funded through Challenge Award with Misha Beltran (WCM) and Gert Attard (ICR)

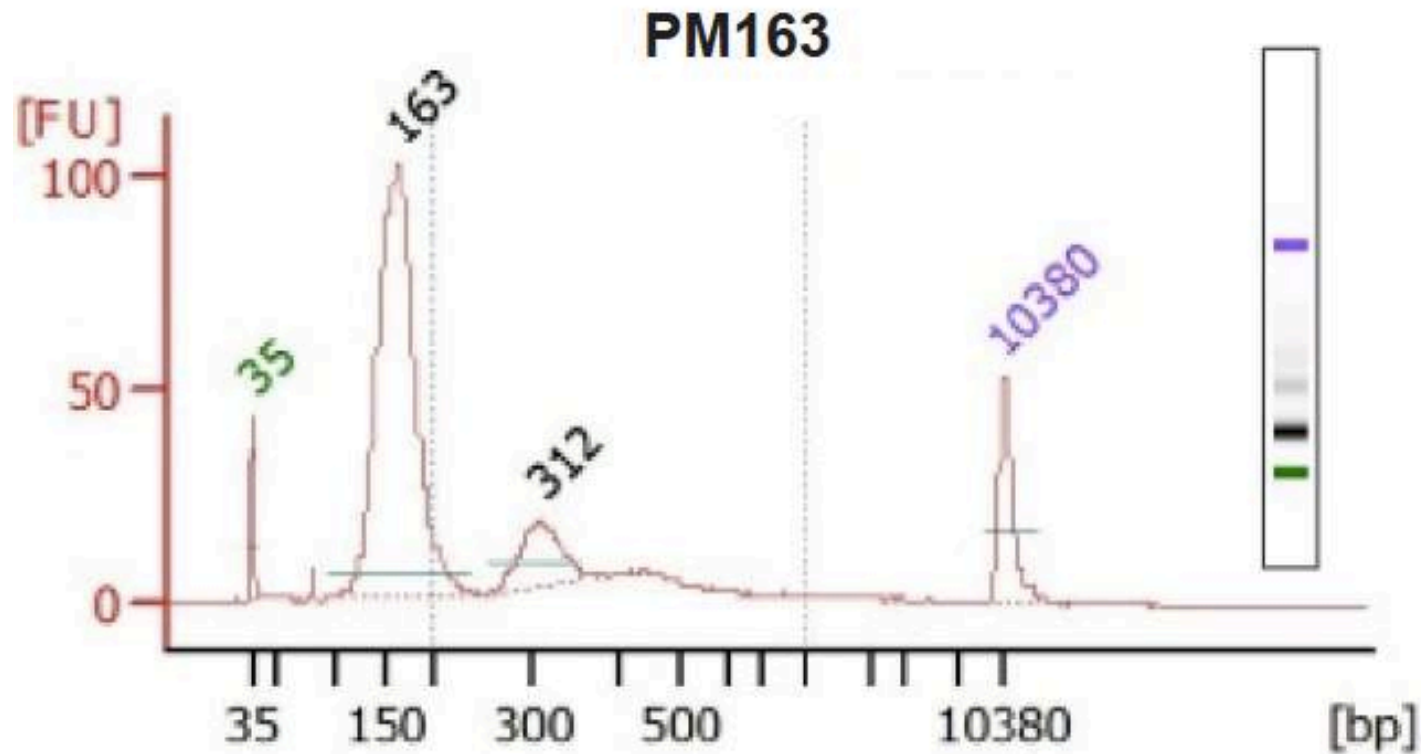


# What is next



Liquid biopsy to overcome limits of multiple metastasis biopsies to capture heterogeneity and/or serial biopsies

# Bioanalyzer of plasma DNA from CRPC patient



DNA amount ranges between 5 and 300ng (per ml)

Jenny Xiang WCM

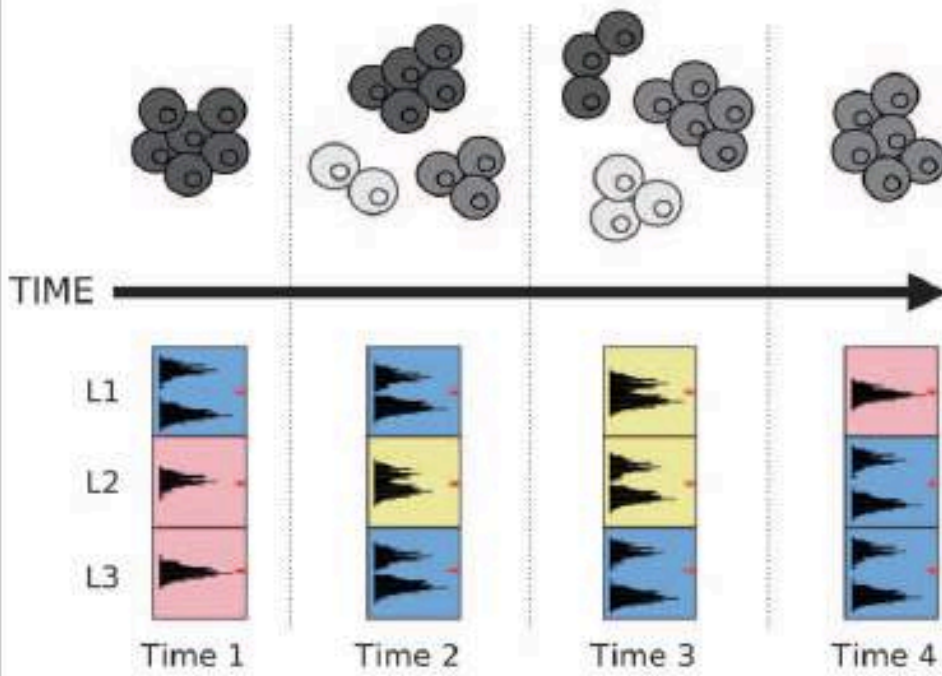


### Different tumor clones releasing DNA in plasma

● L1.del/L2.no.del/L3.no.del

● L1.no.del,L2.del,L3.del

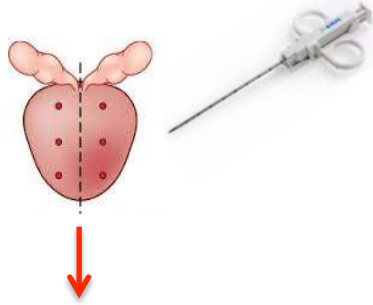
○ L1.no.del,L2.no.del,L3.del



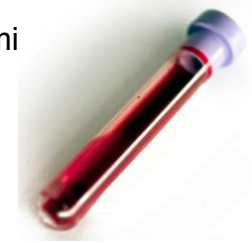
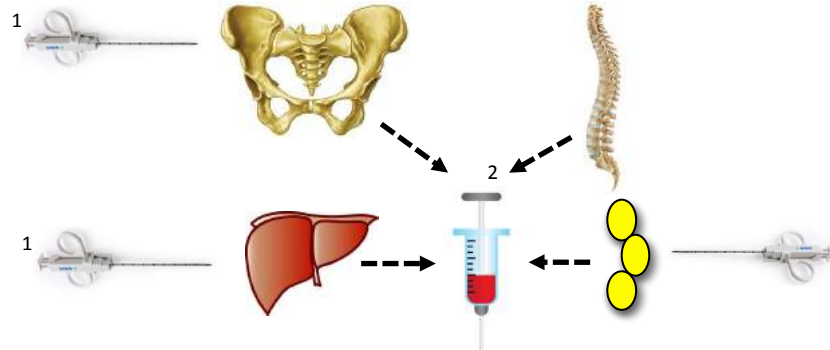
RT  
ANT

LT

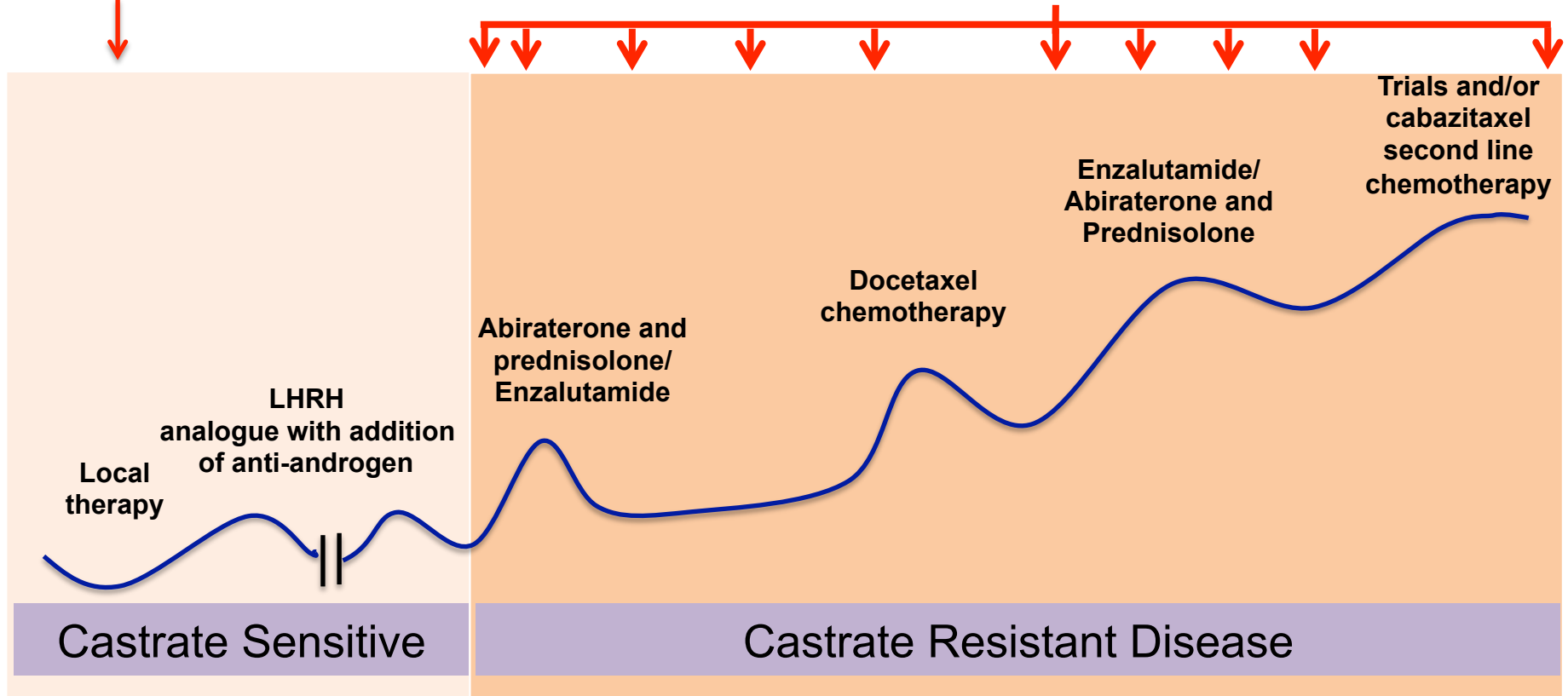
Pre-Castration samples  
(TRBP or cores from prostatectomy samples)



CRPC samples (Tumor biopsies or plasma containing genomic material from multiple metastases)

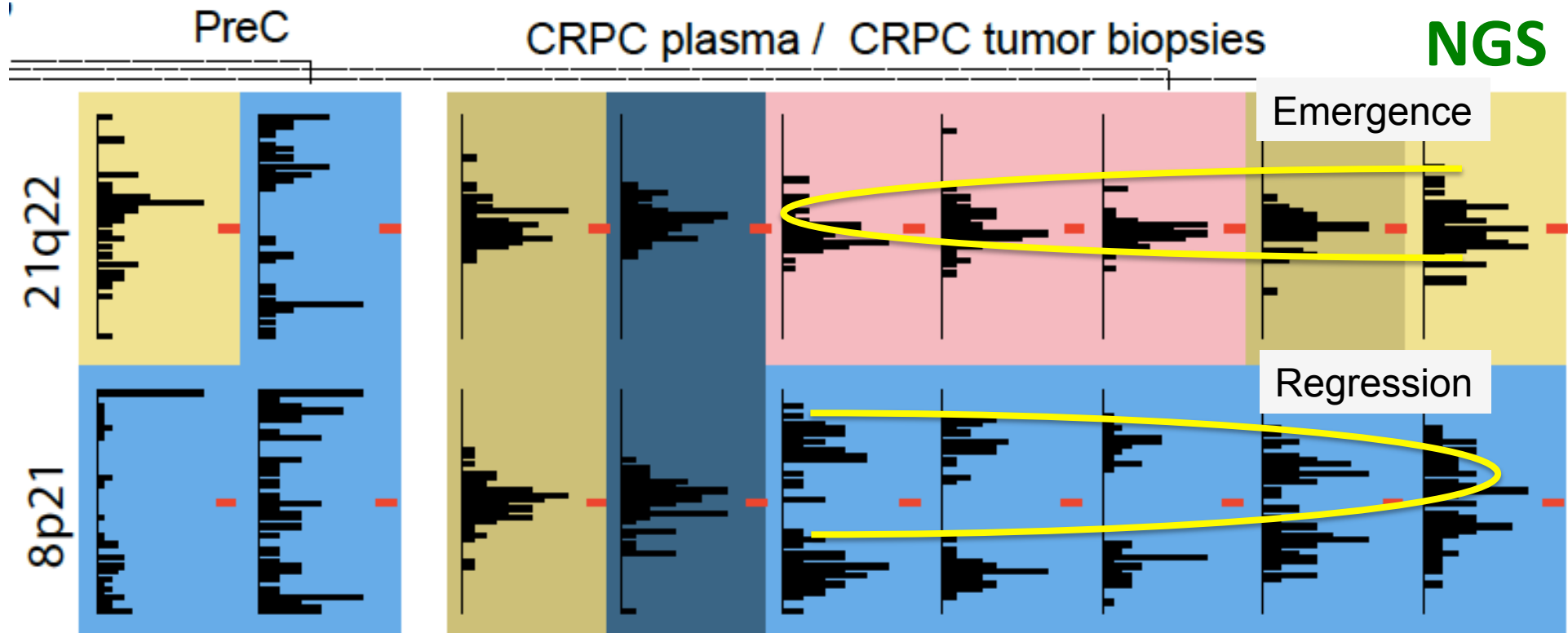


Tumour Volume and Activity



Time

# Following copy number aberrations over time



- Clonal DNA loss with AF bimodality
- Subclonal DNA loss with AF bimodality
- Clonal DNA loss without AF bimodality
- Subclonal DNA loss without AF bimodality
- No evidence of lesion
- CRPC tumor biopsy

Computational framework for plasma DNA based assays

Progression on Abiraterone

Start Cabazitaxel

# Prostate cancer specific targeted assay to study dynamics across serial plasma samples



NGS

- **Design:** Prostate Cancer *ad hoc* design; Adequate coverage **>1,000X**; Capability to quantify presence of aberrations;
- **Test:** Assessment of detection performance as function of lesion allele frequency, sequencing depth, and lesion genomic size;
- **Samples:** ~ **350 plasma samples** from ~ **110 CRPC patients**

Baca S *et al*, Cell 2013

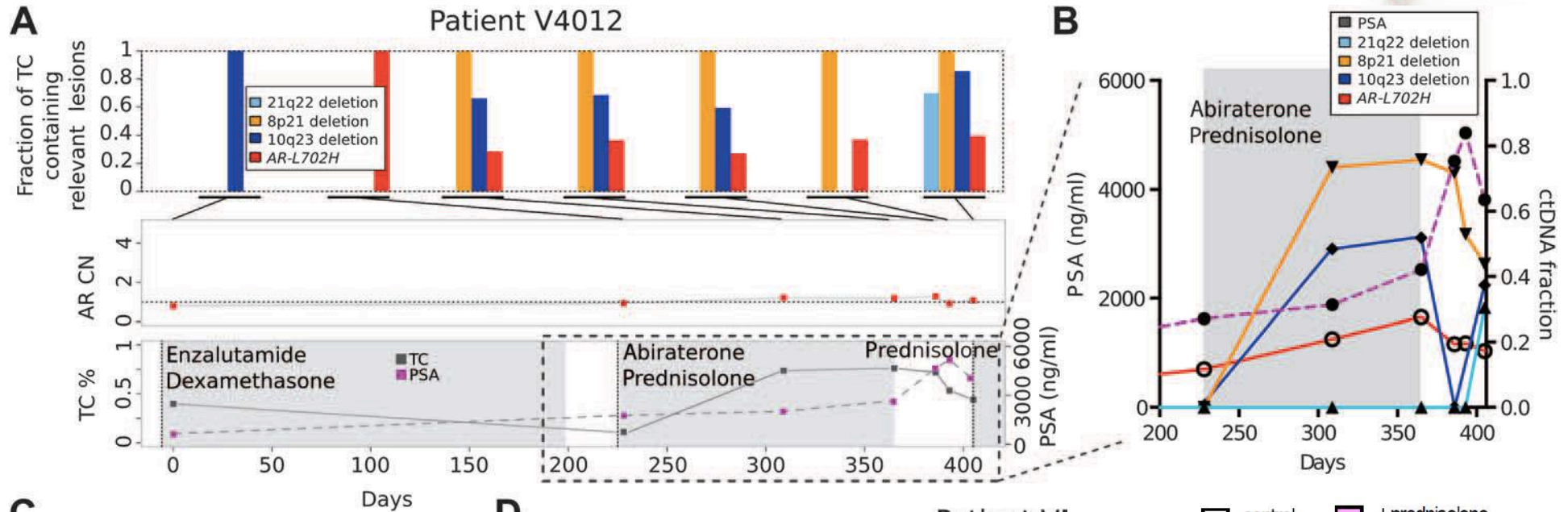
Prandi D *et al*, Genome Biology 2014

TCGA-PRAD, Cell 2015

Collaboration with Gert Attard  
Royal Marsden (London)

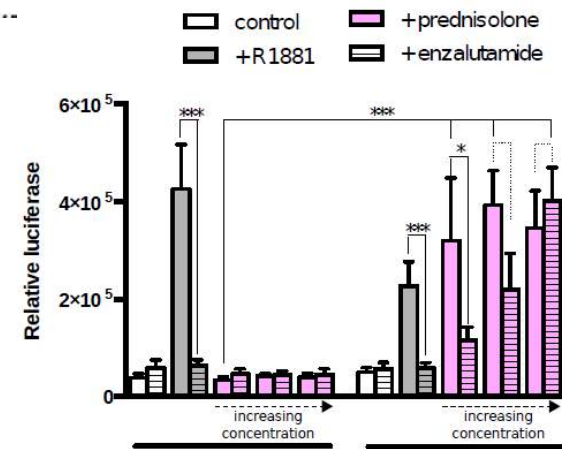


# Result 1: Emergence of AR-L702H on Abiraterone



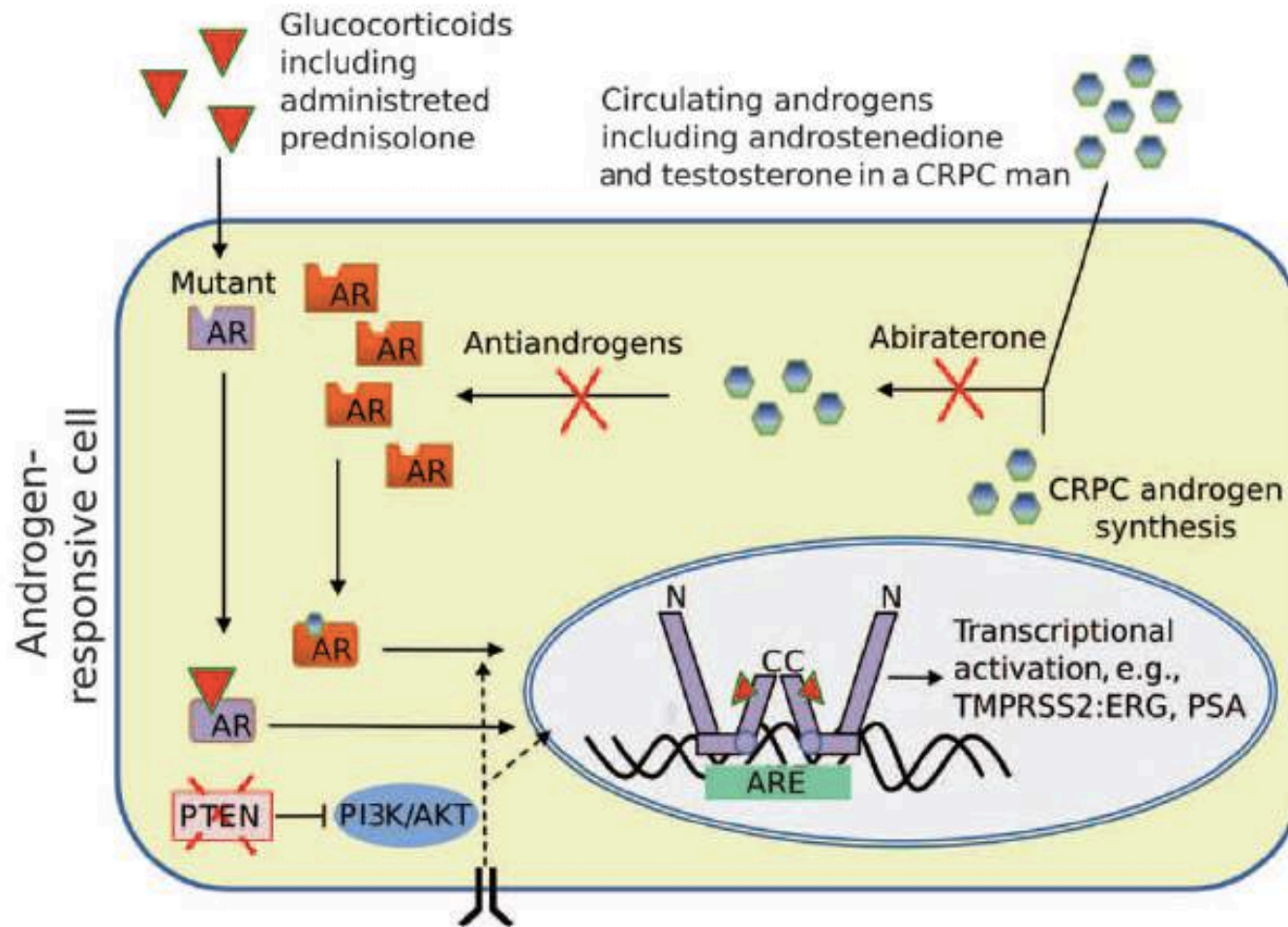
L702H mutation was first detected on treatment with glucocorticoids combined with **enzalutamide**

Subsequent treatment was associated with **primary resistance** and progressive increase of AR-L702H



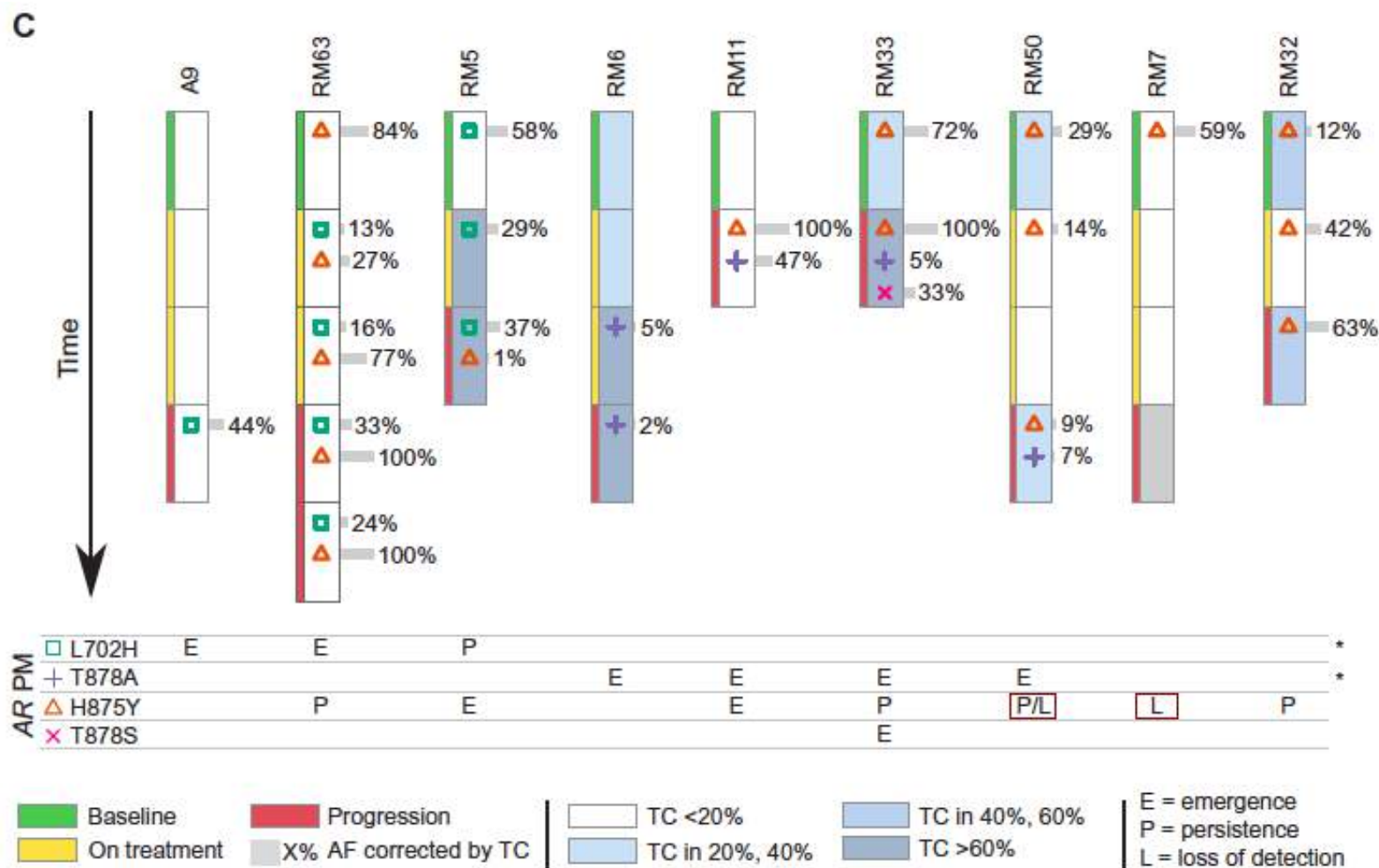
Zhao et al, Nature Med 2000  
Richards et al, Cancer Res 2012

# Result 1: AR-L702H causes resistance to abi/enza when given with prednisolone



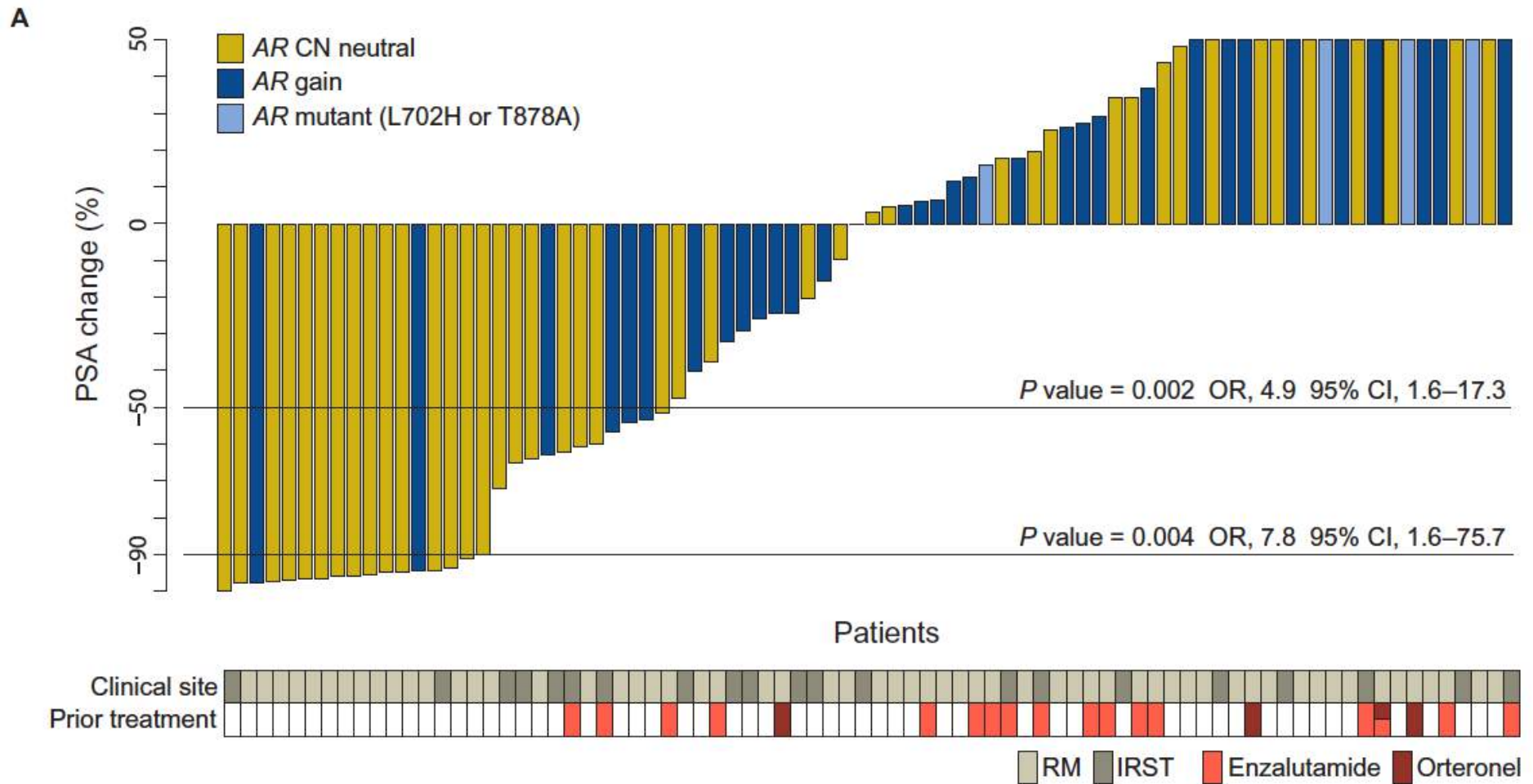
Inhibition of wild-type AR signaling by enzalutamide or abiraterone with bypass activation of mutant AR by glucocorticoids, such as exogenous prednisolone.

# Result 1: AR SNVs on Abiraterone (N=59)

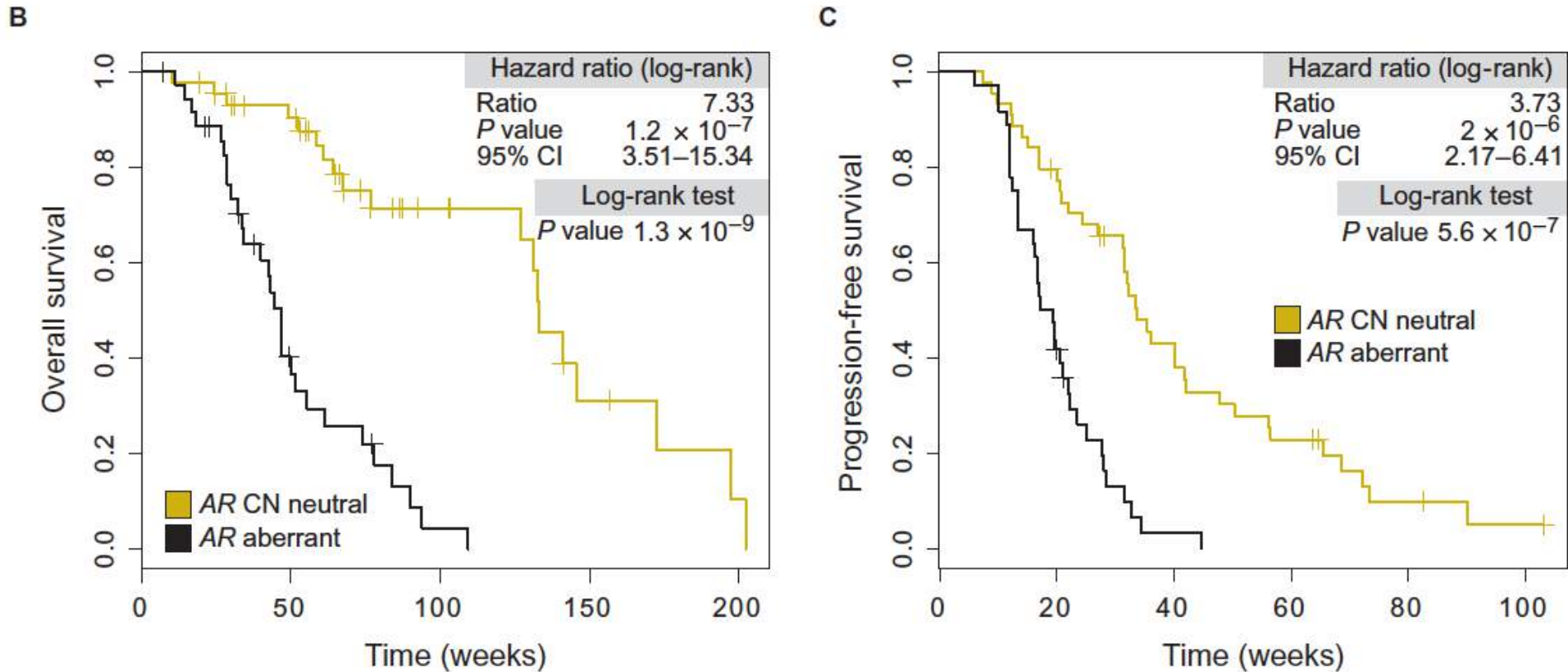


L702H or T878A show a temporal relationship with progression in 16%

# Result 2: Association of AR gene status prior to Abiraterone treatment with outcome (N=80)



# Result 2: Association of AR gene status prior to abiraterone treatment with outcome (N=80)



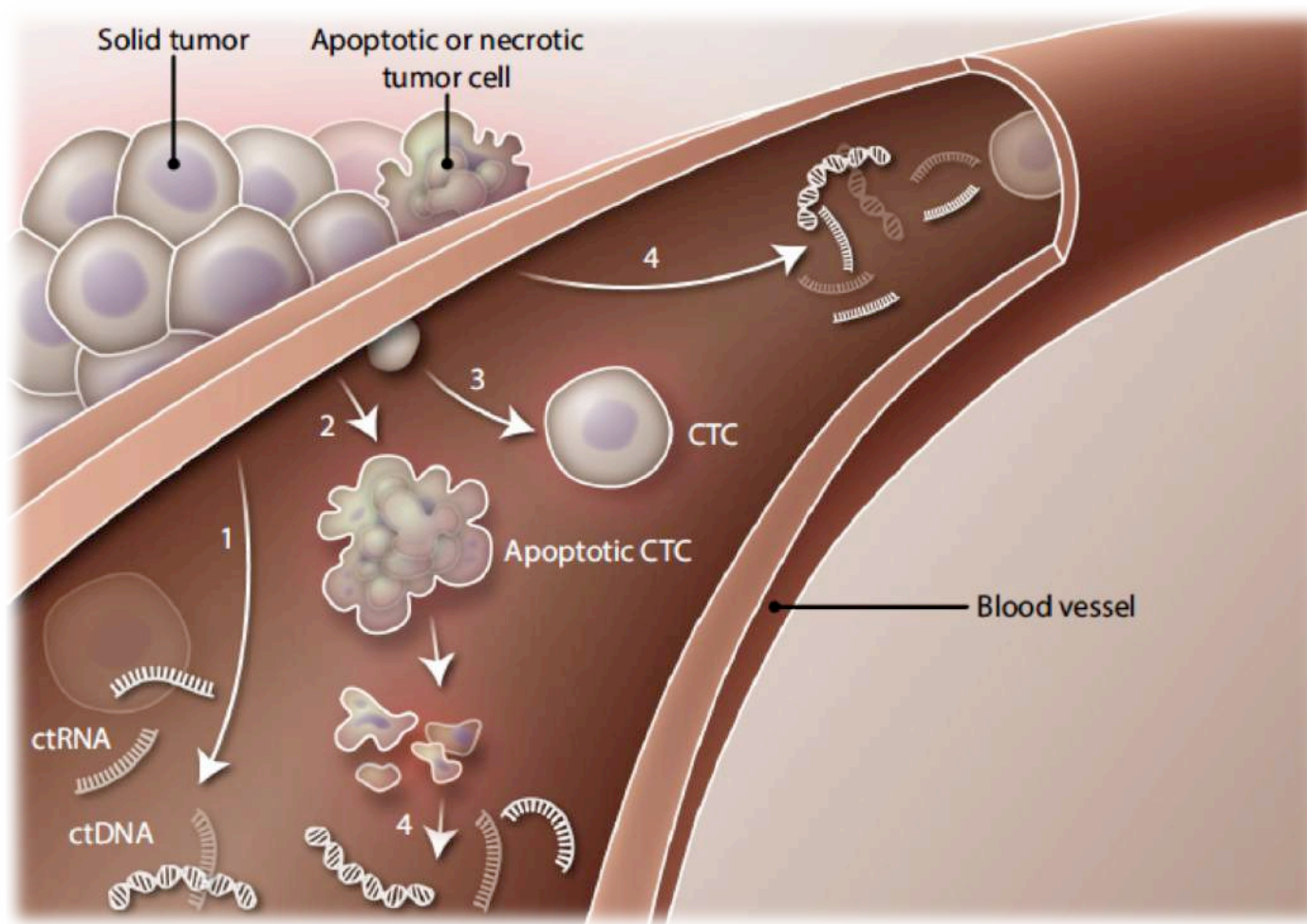
Carreira S, Romanel A, et al. *Sci Transl Med*. 2014 Sep 17;6(254):254ra125.

Romanel A, Gasi Tandefelt D, et al. *Sci Transl Med*. 2015 Nov 4;7(312):312re10.

Wyatt A, *Jama Oncology* 2016

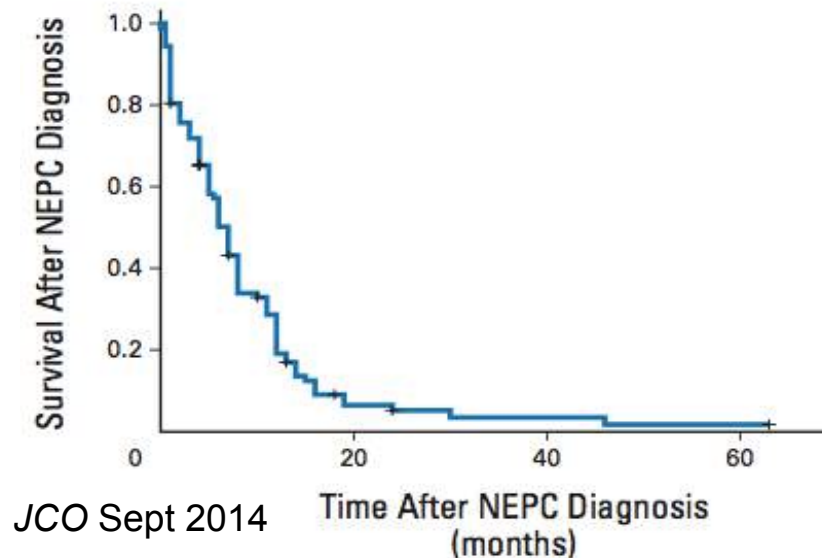


# What is next



Liquid biopsy to overcome limits of multiple metastasis biopsies to capture heterogeneity and/or serial biopsies

- Towards the development of a blood based test for advanced prostate cancer patients as part of a multi-institutional effort
- 1-10ml of blood draw during treatment to promptly detect tumor trans-differentiation



**NGS**

# ctDNA PCF SELECT

A clinically- applicable, custom next generation sequencing plasma DNA assay optimised for treatment selection and response surrogacy in metastatic prostate cancer

## **Anticipated outcomes**

Establishment of an academic-industry partnership to commercialise the ctDNA PCF SELECT assay and design and initiate prospective trials for clinical qualification.

## **Impact of the project**

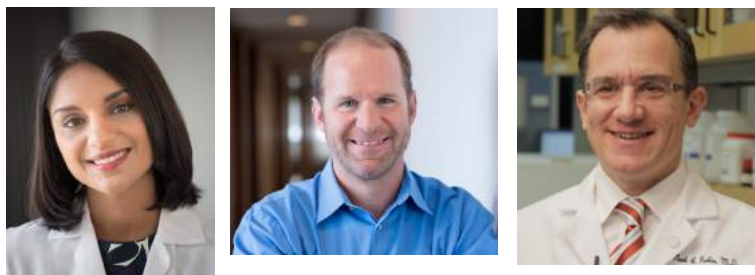
The implementation of a plasma DNA test for metastatic prostate cancer into widespread clinical practice within 5 years.

Funded by Movember/PCF (Attard (The Institute of Cancer Research, London), Beltran and Rubin (Weill Cornell Medicine), Demichelis (University of Trento), Chi and Wyatt (University of British Columbia), Van Allen (Dana Farber Cancer Institute), Maher (Washington University))





## Weill Cornell Medicine



## LaBSSAH (UNITN)

Veronica De Sanctis  
Roberto Bertorelli



## ICR UK

Gert Attard  
Johann De Bono

## INT (Milan)

Nadia Zaffaroni  
Riccardo Valdagni



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### FDA News Release

# FDA approves first blood test to detect gene mutation associated with non-small cell lung cancer



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TWEET



LINKEDIN



PIN IT



EMAIL



PRINT

**For Immediate  
Release**

June 1, 2016

### Release

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved the cobas EGFR Mutation Test v2, a blood-based companion diagnostic for the cancer drug Tarceva (erlotinib). This is the first FDA-approved, blood-based genetic test that can detect epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) gene mutations in non-small cell lung cancer patients. Such mutations are present in approximately 10-20 percent of non-small cell lung cancers (NSCLC).