

# Best of SABCS 2022



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# Biology of breast cancer

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# Disclosures

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- Speaker's fee Lilly
- I had to make selections and could not present everything

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# Outline

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- Predictive and resistance markers for:
  - Antibody-drug conjugates
  - Immunotherapy
  - Endocrine therapy
- Immune landscape & microenvironment
- Liquid biopsies
- Lobular breast cancer



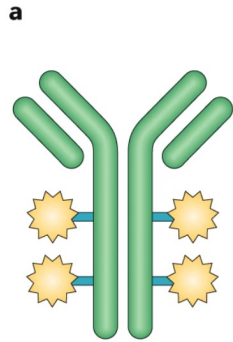
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## Predictive and resistance markers for:

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- Antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs)
- Immunotherapy
- Endocrine therapy

# ADCs



b

	IgG1	IgG2	IgG3	IgG4
<b>Antibodies</b>				
<b>Serum half-life</b>	21 days	21 days	7–21 days	21 days
<b>C1q binding</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Fcγ avidity</b>	High	Low	High	Moderate

Linkers	Cleavable			Non-cleavable	
	Hydrazide	Disulfide	Dipeptide	MC*	MCC*
	Acid cleavable	Reducible	Protease cleavable		

Payloads				
		Auristatins	Maytansinoids	Calicheamicins
	Anti-microtubule	Anti-microtubule	DNA cleavage	Topoisomerase 1 inhibition

- Target/antigen density
- Effective internalization of the antibody
- Heterogeneity of expression  
➔ can be overcome with bystander effect
- Normal tissue expression
- Good target does not guarantee good ADC

# Open questions

- Is expression of target associated with biological differences (many abstracts re HER2-low)?
- Heterogeneity of expression of the targets in the metastatic setting?
- Predictors of therapeutic response and mechanisms of *de novo* and acquired resistance?

# Low HER2- A separate entity? Published Data and SABCS News: a pathologist's perspective

David L. Rimm MD-PhD  
Anthony N Brady Professor of Pathology  
Departments of Pathology and Medicine (Oncology)

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San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium®, December 6-10, 2022

## HER2 Low: A separate entity? PRO

**Giuseppe Curigliano, MD PhD**  
Istituto Europeo di Oncologia, IRCCS and University of Milano,  
Milan, Italy



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# Recommended presentations!

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium®, December 6-10, 2022



## HER2-LOW: A SEPARATE ENTITY?

**NO**

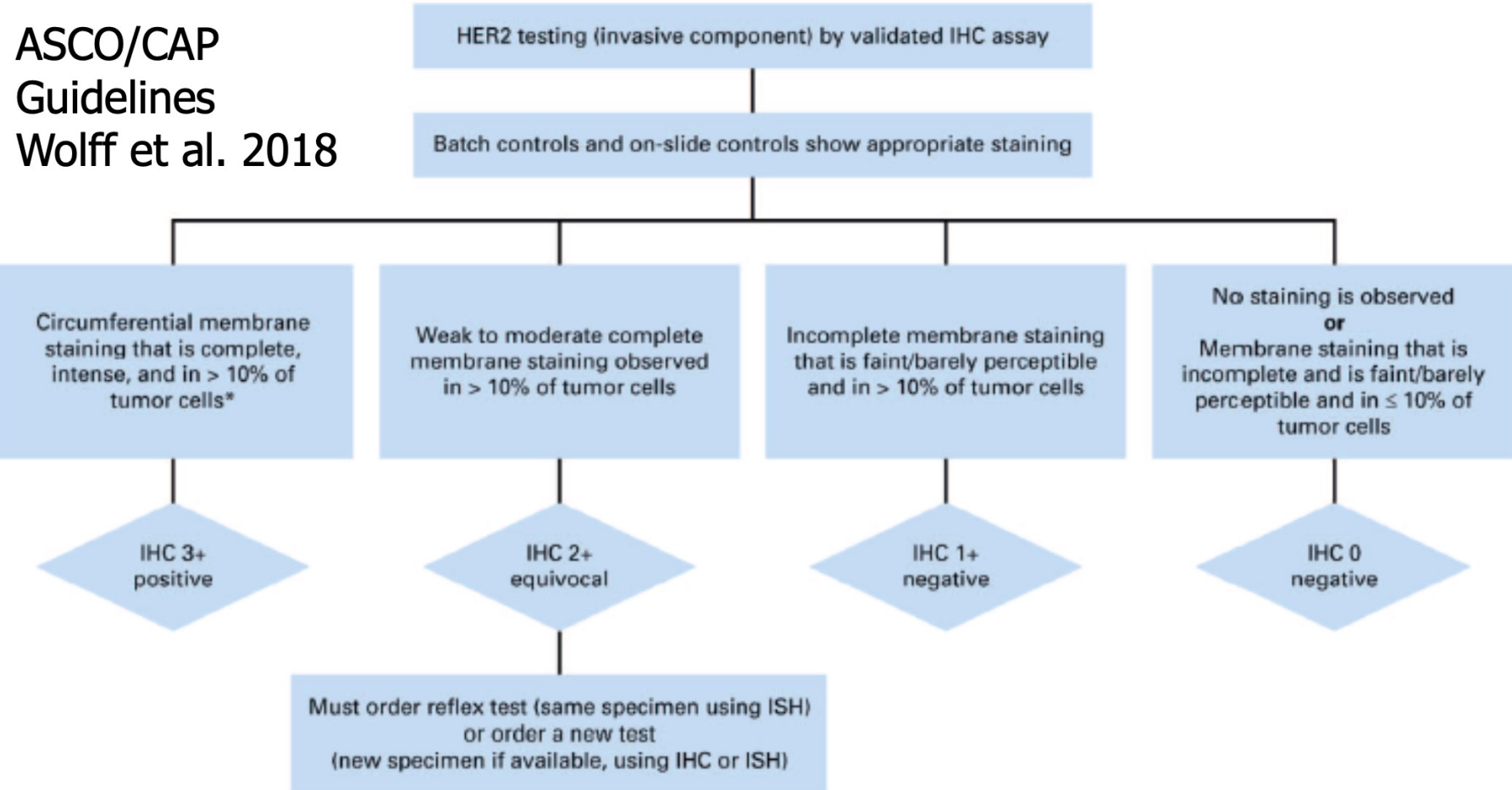
**Sara M. Tolaney**  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

SUSAN F. SMITH  
CENTER FOR  
WOMEN'S CANCERS

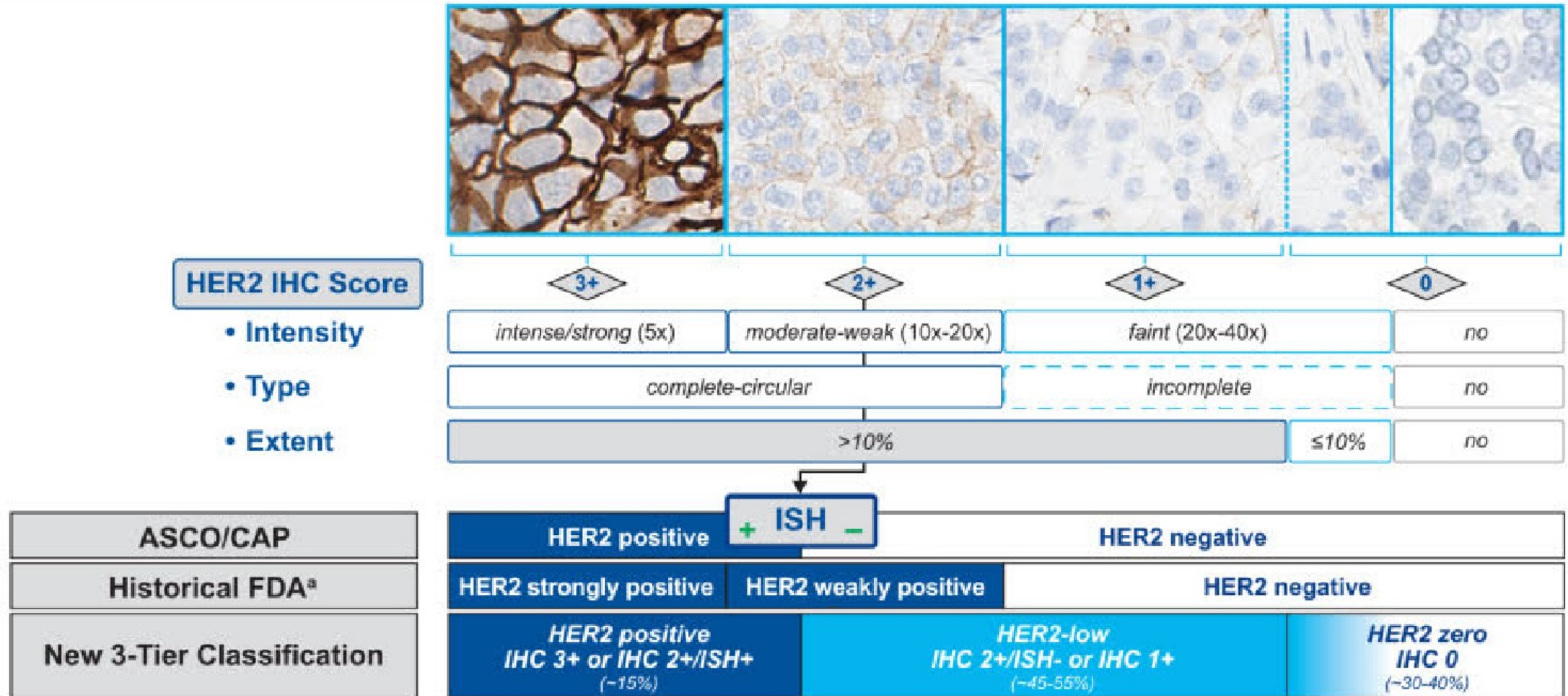


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# Assesment of HER2-low



# Assesment of HER2-low



Rüschoff G et al. (HER2-13)



# Assesment of HER2-low

**77 pathologists** completed pre-training or real-world scoring in 14 countries  
(n = 49 for 4B5, n = 28 for HcT)

**74 pathologists** completed post-training scores  
(n = 48 for 4B5, n = 26 for HcT).

**Table. Summary of Pathologist Concordance and Interobserver Variability**

Test: Scoring Criteria	Concordance $\kappa$ analysis and ORA (%)	
	Baseline	After training
<b>Ventana 4B5:</b>		
<b>ASCO/CAP<sup>a</sup></b>	0.96 (98.9)	0.97 (99.4)
<b>Historical FDA<sup>b</sup></b>	0.82 (92.4)	0.81 (92.2)
<b>New Class<sup>c</sup></b>	0.75 (82.8)	0.79 (84.9)
<b>HercepTest:</b>		
<b>ASCO/CAP<sup>a</sup></b>	0.84 (94.3)	0.85 (94.7)
<b>Historical FDA<sup>b</sup></b>	0.72 (88.3)	0.75 (89.8)
<b>New Class<sup>c</sup></b>	0.81 (84.1)	0.82 (85.3)

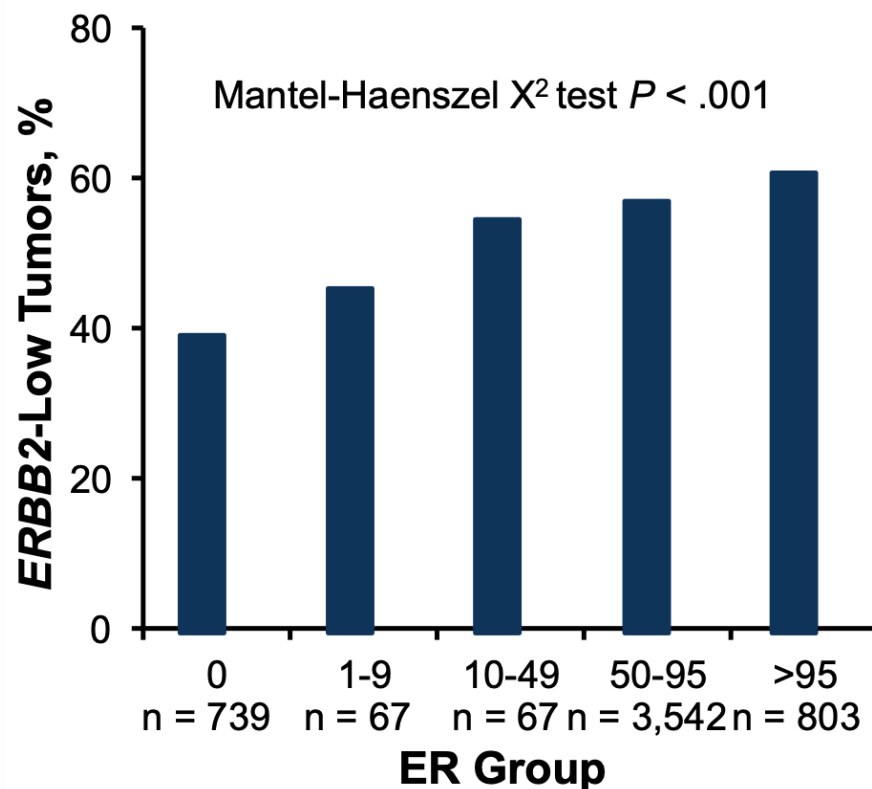
Overall score concordance with a new category of HER2-low was above the 80% ORA benchmark for both 4B5 and HcT and is higher than previously reported (Fernandez et al. JAMA Oncol 2022)

Debate is still open, but many reasons to suggest that HER2low is NOT a separate clinical or biological entity (S. Tolaney)

- Does not have unique clinical-pathologic features
- Not associated with a different prognosis
- Not associated with different benefit to therapy
- Not biologically distinct
- Not biologically stable or consistent



# Differences that have been reported are mainly related to ER expression since % of HER2-low is associated with ER



Tarantino P et al. JAMA Oncol. 2022;8:1177-1183.

+ also shown in:

Peiffer D et al. (HER2-11)

Geukens G et al. (HER2-16)

# No differences in clinical characteristics seen when considering HR+ and HR- BC separately

	HR-positive		HR-negative		Total <sup>a</sup> (N=789)
	HER2-low (n=394)	HER2 IHC 0 (n=160)	HER2-low (n=84)	HER2 IHC 0 (n=75)	
Female, n (%)	394 (100.0)	159 (99.4)	83 (98.8)	75 (100.0)	787 (99.7)
Age at index date, median (range), years <sup>b</sup>	60 (31-97)	59 (28-90)	57 (31-80)	52 (35-92)	58 (28-97)
Age ≥45 years at index date, n (%)	271 (68.8)	116 (72.5)	53 (63.1)	45 (60.0)	491 (62.2)
Race, n (%)					
Asian	97 (24.6)	42 (26.3)	17 (20.2)	28 (37.3)	185 (23.4)
White	158 (40.1)	59 (36.9)	49 (58.3)	35 (46.7)	366 (46.4)
Other <sup>c</sup> /not reported/missing	139 (35.3)	59 (36.9)	18 (21.4)	12 (16)	238 (30.1)
Time from initial BC diagnosis to index date, median (range), years <sup>b</sup>	2 (0-33)	2 (0-21)	2 (0-17)	1.5 (0-22)	2 (0-33)
Metastatic/locally advanced at index date, n (%) <sup>b</sup>					
Locally advanced	7 (1.8)	2 (1.3)	0	2 (2.7)	11 (1.4)
Metastatic	293 (74.4)	129 (80.6)	60 (71.4)	62 (82.7)	550 (69.7)
Both	10 (2.5)	6 (3.8)	2 (2.4)	2 (2.7)	20 (2.5)
Not reported/missing	84 (21.3)	23 (14.4)	22 (26.2)	9 (12.0)	208 (26.4)

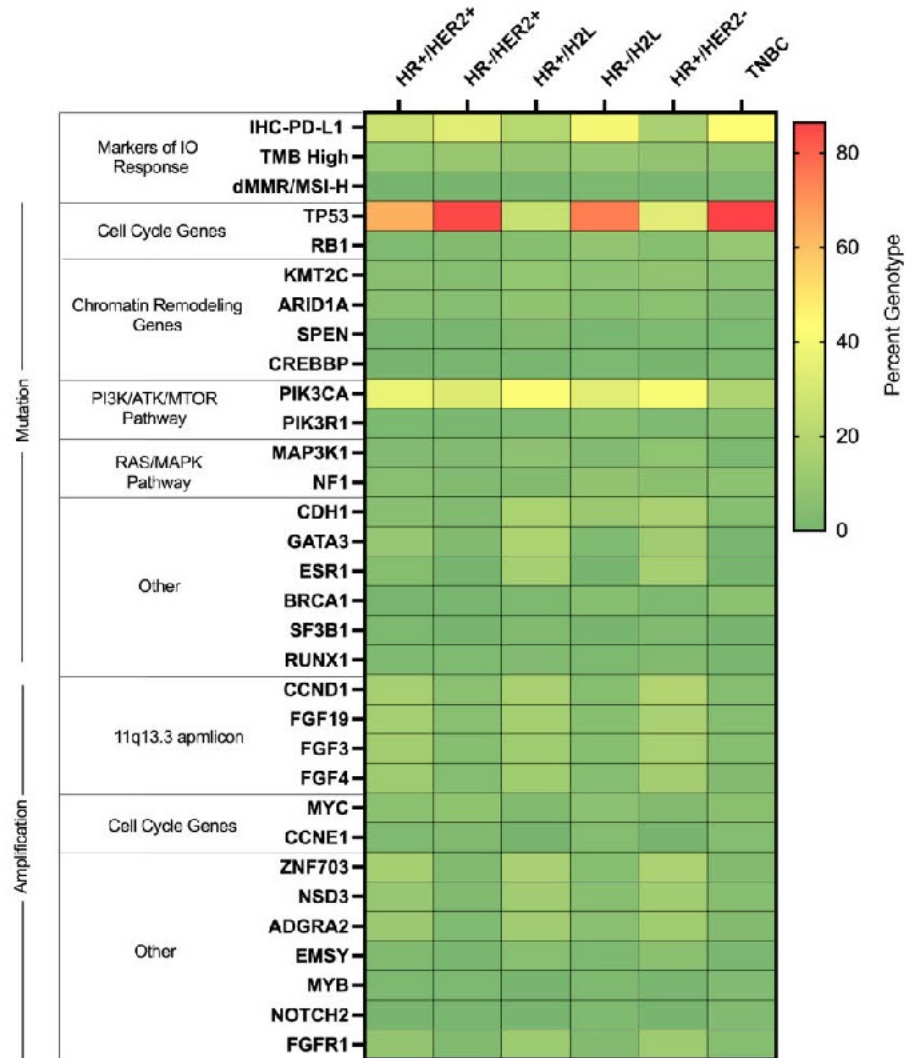
BC, breast cancer; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; HR, hormone receptor; IHC, immunohistochemistry.

<sup>a</sup>Includes patients with missing HR status; <sup>b</sup>Index date was the date of earliest metastatic BC diagnosis identified during the patient selection period. For patients without metastasis during the patient selection period, the earliest date of unresectable diagnosis during patient selection period was used as the index date; <sup>c</sup>Includes Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, and other.

# No differences in genomics seen (3 concordant abstracts)

Caris Life Science Database (> 11,000 pts):

- mutations/amplifications/TMB based on targeted seq
- PD-L1 by IHC



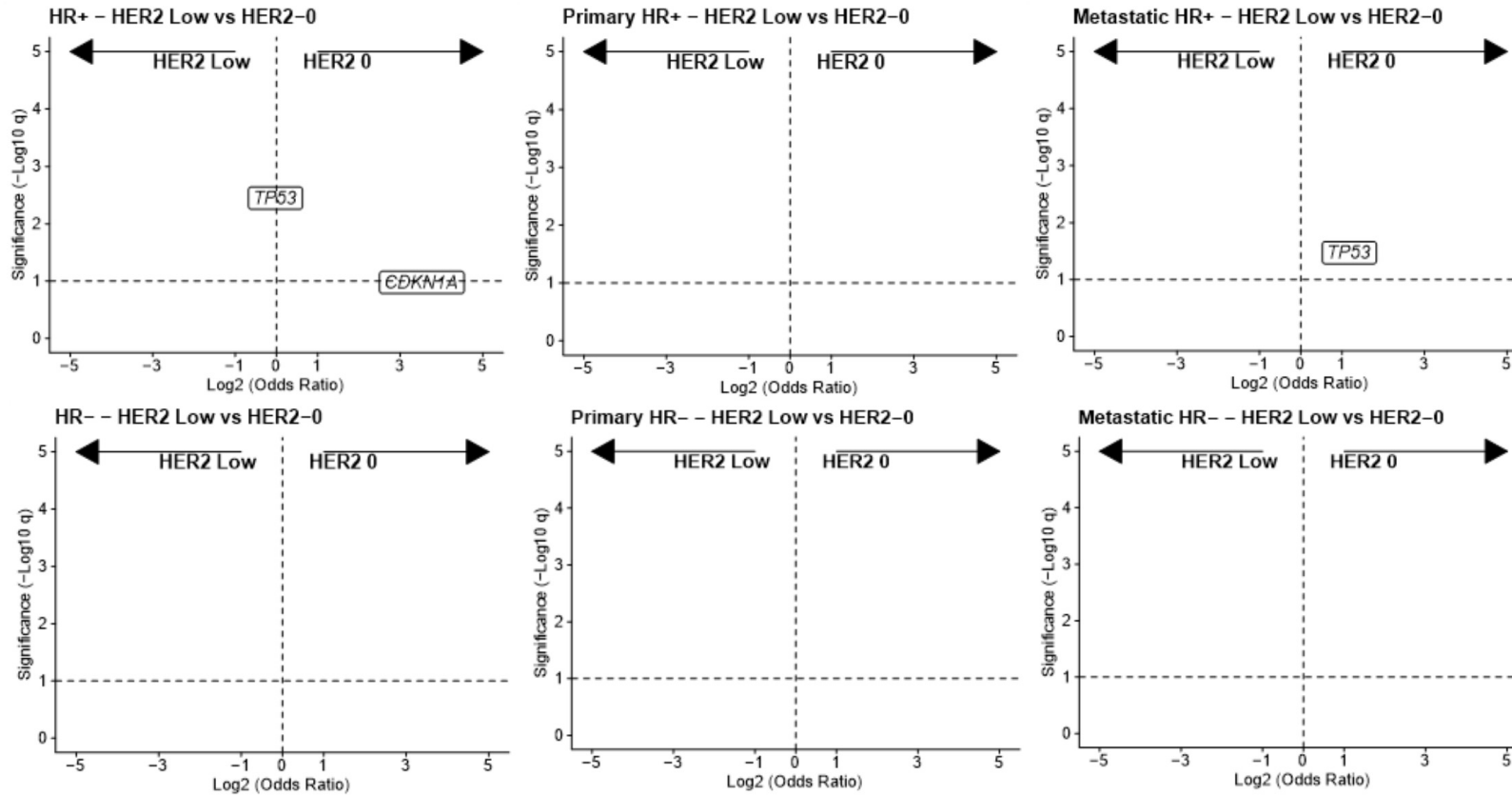
# No differences in genomics seen (3 concordant abstracts)

HR+

HR-

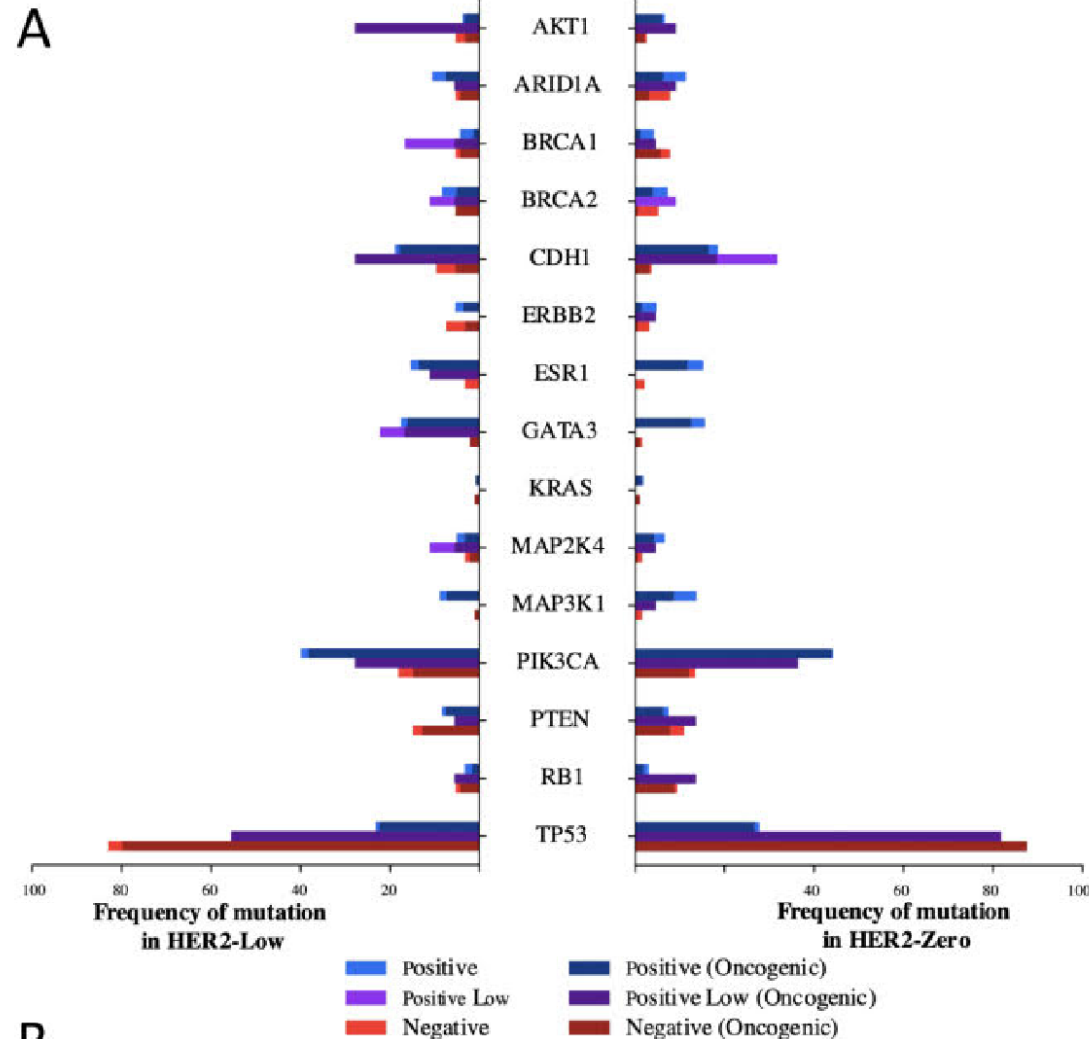
Primary

Mets



# No differences in genomics seen (3 concordant abstracts)

> 1,000 pts with MBC treated at Da-Farber for which NGS data were available



No difference seen in TMB neither

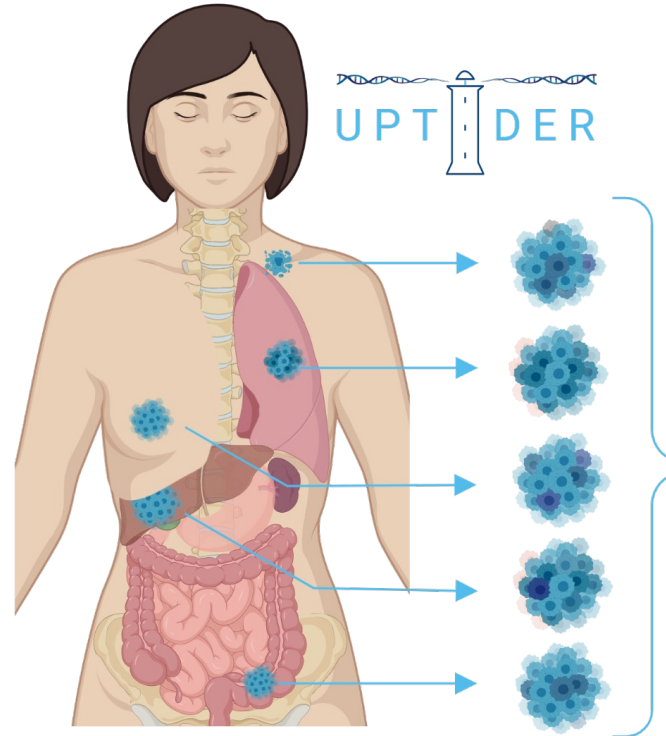
Tarantino P et al. (HER2-05)

# Open questions

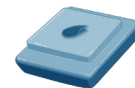
- Is expression of target associated with biological differences?
- Heterogeneity of expression of the targets in the metastatic setting?
- Predictors of therapeutic response and mechanisms of *de novo* and acquired resistance?

### Tissue donation

10 patients with *HER2*-non-amplified metastatic breast cancer



Clinical archives



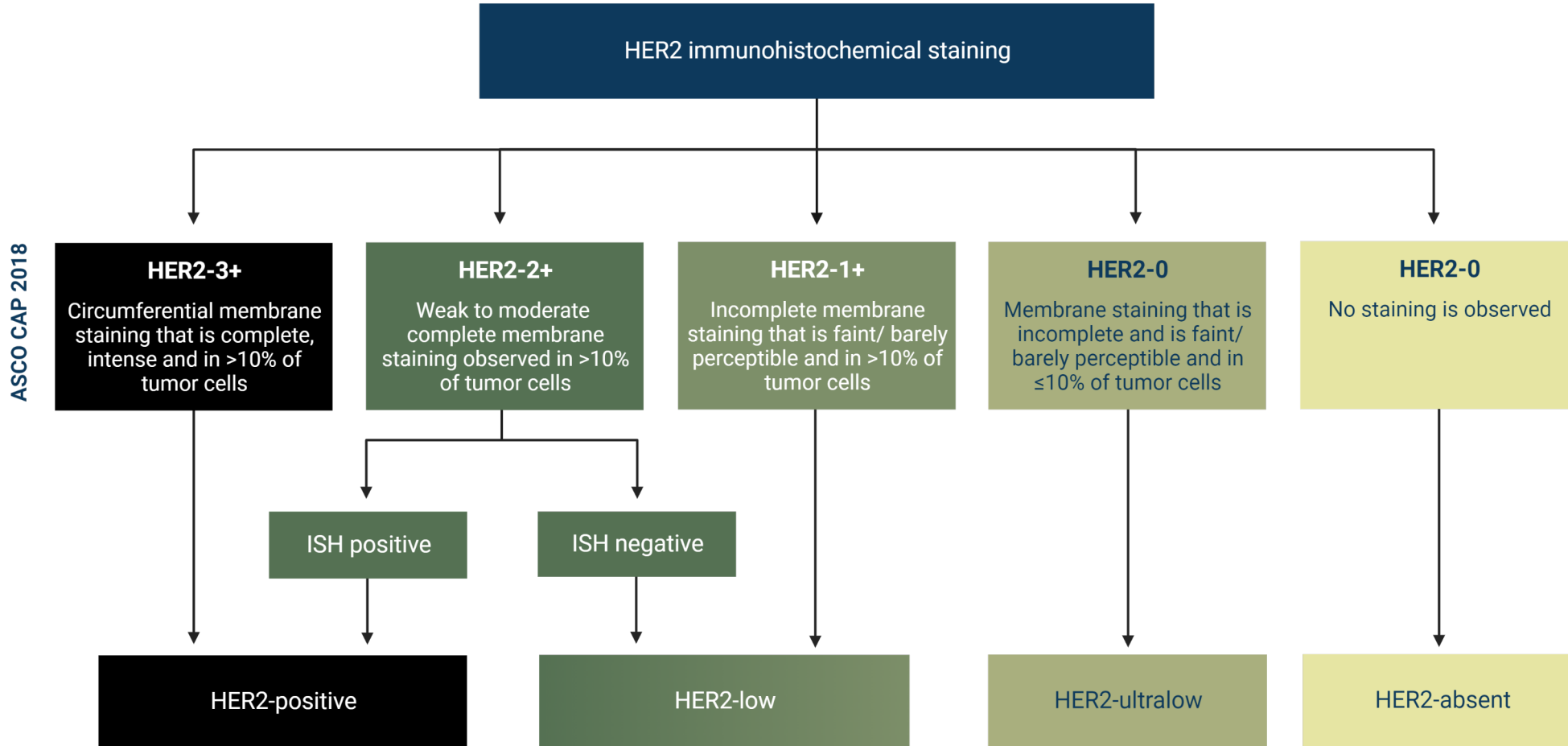
Does *HER2*-status on one metastatic or primary biopsy reflect a patient's *HER2*-profile?

**At autopsy**  
257 metastases  
(median: 25/patient, range: 9-41)  
8 breast tumour samples

**Longitudinal/during life**  
5 metastases  
30 breast tumour samples  
6 axillary lymph node samples

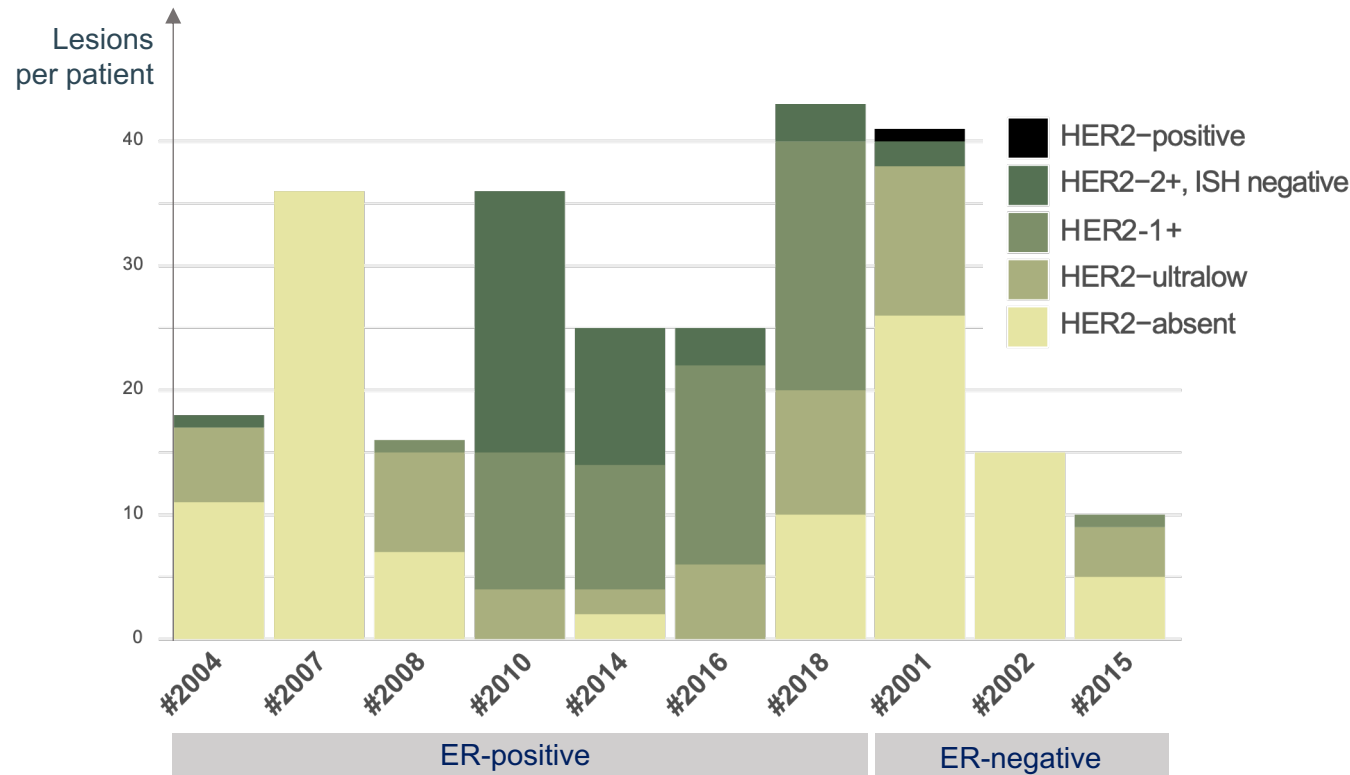
**306 samples**  
HER2-scoring  
ER-scoring





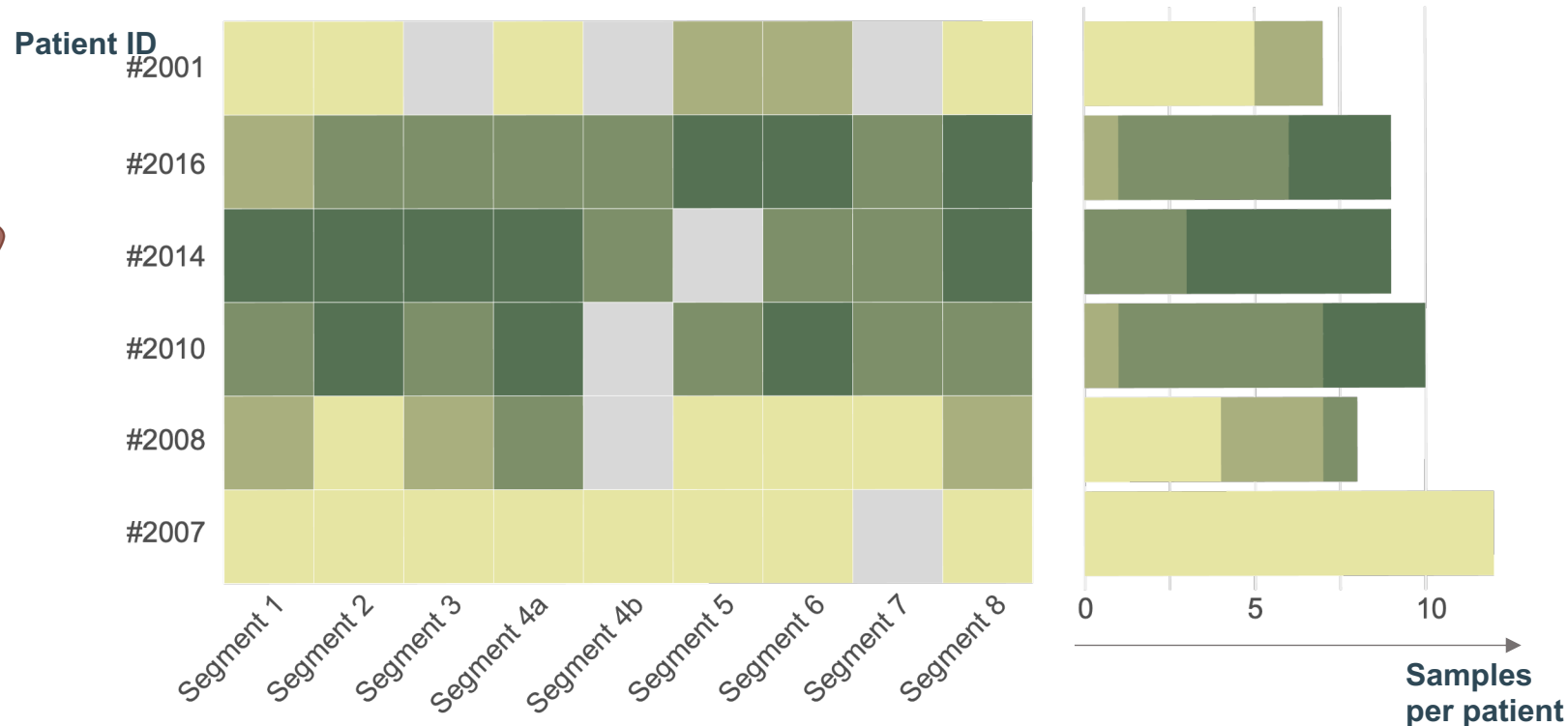
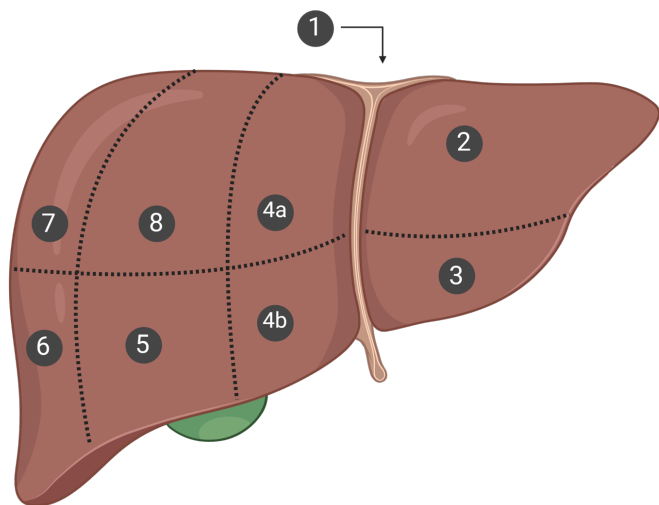
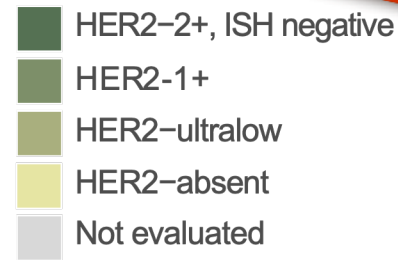


# Intra-patient heterogeneity of HER2 scores



1. HER2-low and HER2-zero lesions coincide in 8/10 patients
2. HER2-status of different metastases was highly variable within one patient
3. Half of HER2-zero lesions observed was HER2-ultralow

# Intra-organ heterogeneity



These results put into question the assessment of a patient's HER2-low status from a single biopsy at any point in time for benefit of T-DXd

# Open questions

- How to best assess the presence of the antibody target?
- Heterogeneity of expression of the targets in the metastatic setting?
- Predictors of therapeutic response and mechanisms of *de novo* and acquired resistance?

## RESEARCH BRIEF

# Parallel Genomic Alterations of Antigen and Payload Targets Mediate Polyclonal Acquired Clinical Resistance to Sacituzumab Govitecan in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

James T. Coates<sup>1,2</sup>, Sheng Sun<sup>1,2</sup>, Ignaty Leshchiner<sup>3</sup>, Nayana Thimmiah<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth E. Martin<sup>3</sup>, Daniel McLoughlin<sup>1</sup>, Brian P. Danysh<sup>3</sup>, Kara Slowik<sup>3</sup>, Raquel A. Jacobs<sup>3</sup>, Kahn Rhrissorrakrai<sup>4</sup>, Filippo Utro<sup>4</sup>, Chaya Levovitz<sup>4</sup>, Elyssa Denault<sup>1</sup>, Charlotte S. Walmsley<sup>1</sup>, Avinash Kambadakone<sup>2,5</sup>, James R. Stone<sup>2,5</sup>, Steven J. Isakoff<sup>1,2</sup>, Laxmi Parida<sup>4</sup>, Dejan Juric<sup>1,2</sup>, Gad Getz<sup>1,2,3,6</sup>, Aditya Bardia<sup>1,2</sup>, and Leif W. Ellisen<sup>1,2,7</sup>

**ABSTRACT**

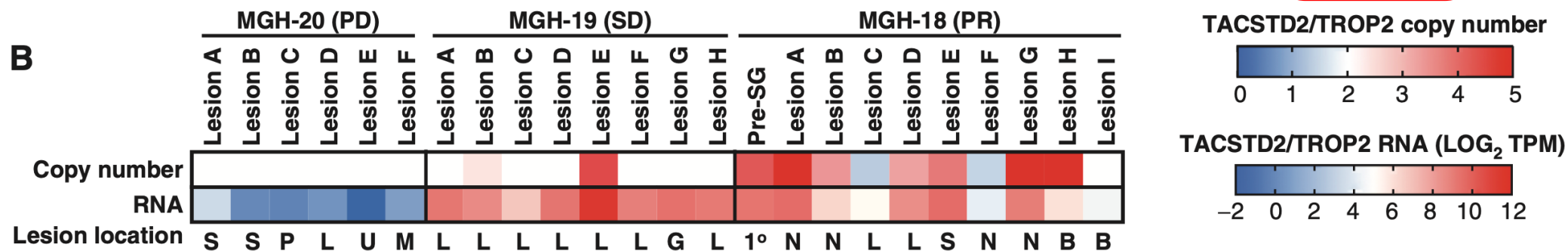
Sacituzumab govitecan (SG), the first antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) approved for triple-negative breast cancer, incorporates the anti-TROP2 antibody hRS7 conjugated to a topoisomerase-1 (TOP1) inhibitor payload. We sought to identify mechanisms of SG resistance through RNA and whole-exome sequencing of pretreatment and postprogression specimens. One patient exhibiting *de novo* progression lacked TROP2 expression, in contrast to robust TROP2 expression and focal genomic amplification of *TACSTD2/TROP2* observed in a patient with a deep, prolonged response to SG. Analysis of acquired genomic resistance in this case revealed one phylogenetic branch harboring a canonical *TOP1*<sup>E418K</sup> resistance mutation and subsequent frameshift *TOP1* mutation, whereas a distinct branch exhibited a novel *TACSTD2/TROP2*<sup>T256R</sup> missense mutation. Reconstitution experiments demonstrated that *TROP2*<sup>T256R</sup> confers SG resistance via defective plasma membrane localization and reduced cell-surface binding by hRS7. These findings highlight parallel genomic alterations in both antibody and payload targets associated with resistance to SG.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** These findings underscore TROP2 as a response determinant and reveal acquired SG resistance mechanisms involving the direct antibody and drug payload targets in distinct metastatic subclones of an individual patient. This study highlights the specificity of SG and illustrates how such mechanisms will inform therapeutic strategies to overcome ADC resistance.

**A**

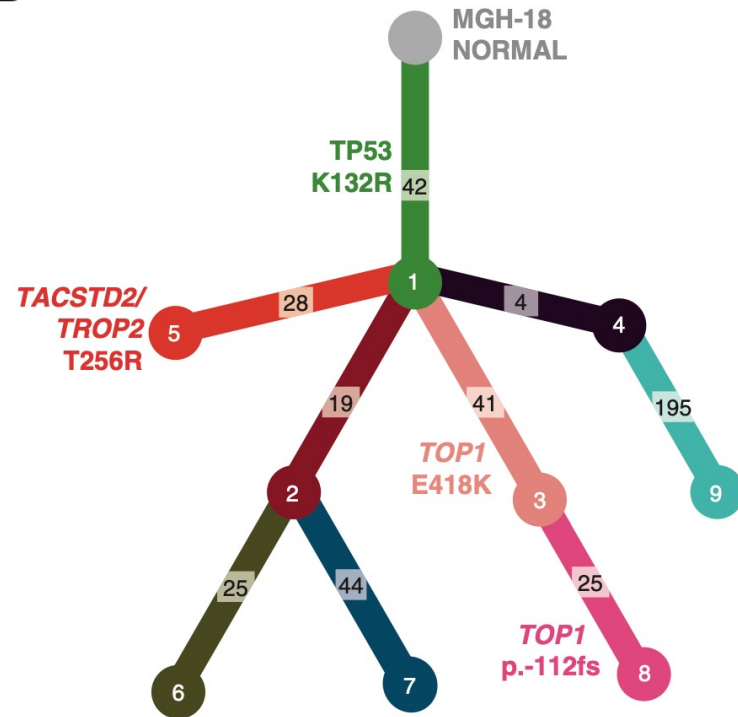
Participant ID	Molecular subtype	Age at diagnosis	Days on IMMU-132	Days from last dose SG to death	Treatments before SG	Treatments after SG	Lesions sequenced at autopsy	Best response (per RECIST)	Extent of best response (%)
MGH-18	TNBC	41	253	138	2	2	9	PR	-45.0
MGH-19	TNBC	59	150	305	5	4	8	SD	-21.9
MGH-20	TNBC	62	34	56	4	1	6	PD	+78.0

**B**

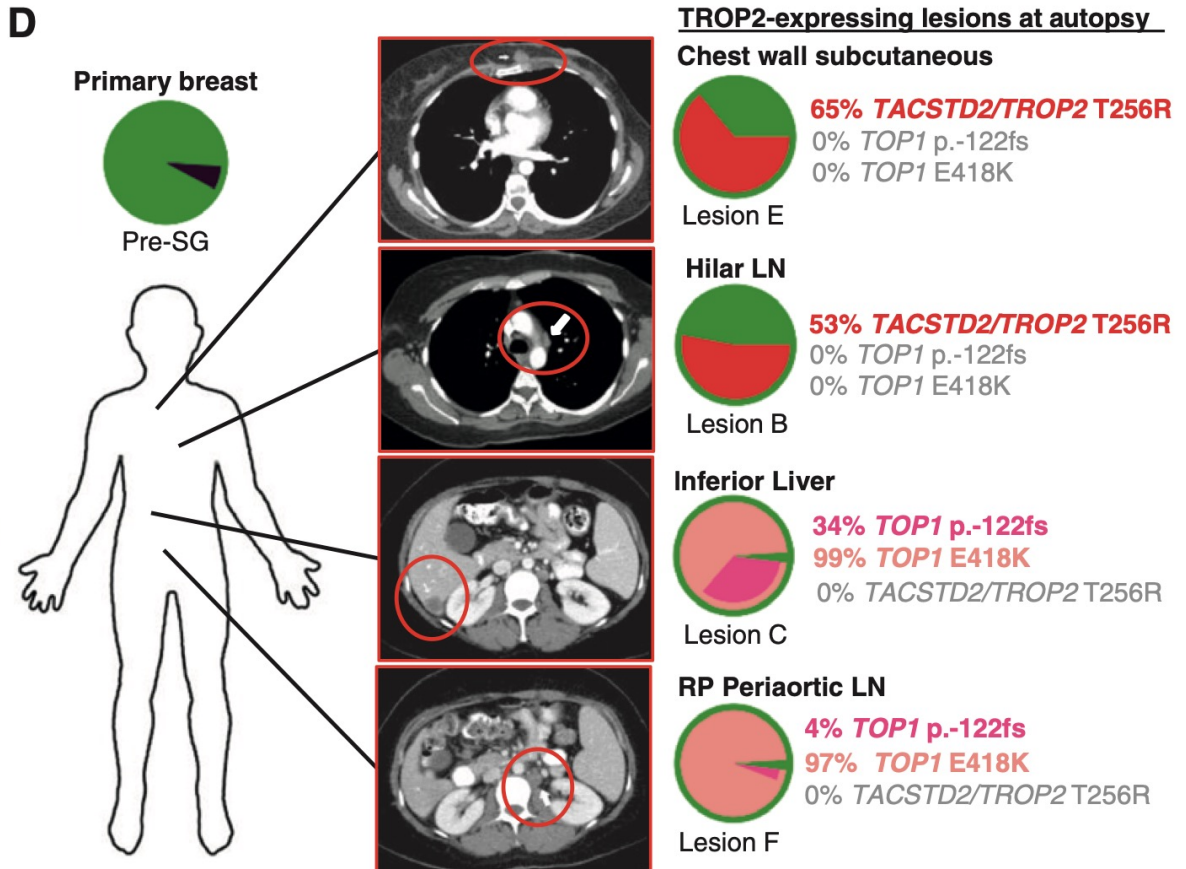


- 3 patients with metastatic TNBC treated with SG and heterogeneous responses
- All eventually died and autopsy was performed
- Pt with de novo resistance (MHG-20) → NO expression of TROP2 (mRNA & IHC)

B

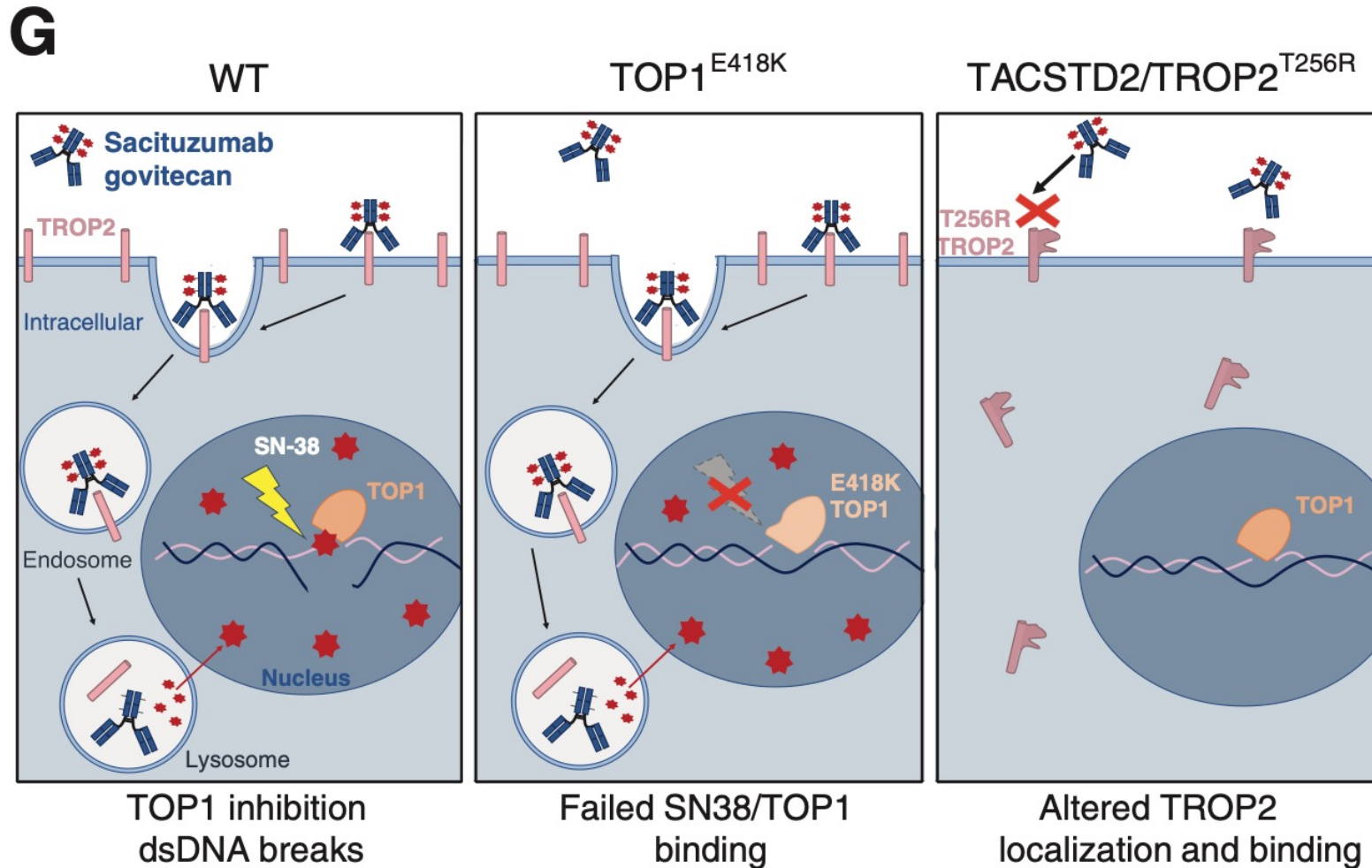


D



**Mutually-exclusive genomic alterations of *TACSTD1/TROP2* and *TOP1***





- Which is the frequency of these mechanisms of resistance?
- One metastatic biopsy is not enough → intra-patient inter-metastasis heterogeneity
- Will we see similar mechanisms of resistance to other ADCs?

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## Predictive and resistance markers for:

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- Antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs)
- Immunotherapy
- Endocrine therapy

**PD4-05** (Wu SY et al.): Integrated multi-cohort profiling identifies CCL19+ dendritic cells to potentiate It efficacy in TNBC



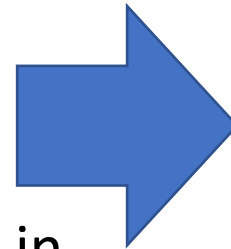
# It's not only about CD4 or CD8 cells

- ICI only benefit a subset of patients with early and metastatic TNBC

→ **biomarkers needed**

- **Dendritic cells (DCs):**

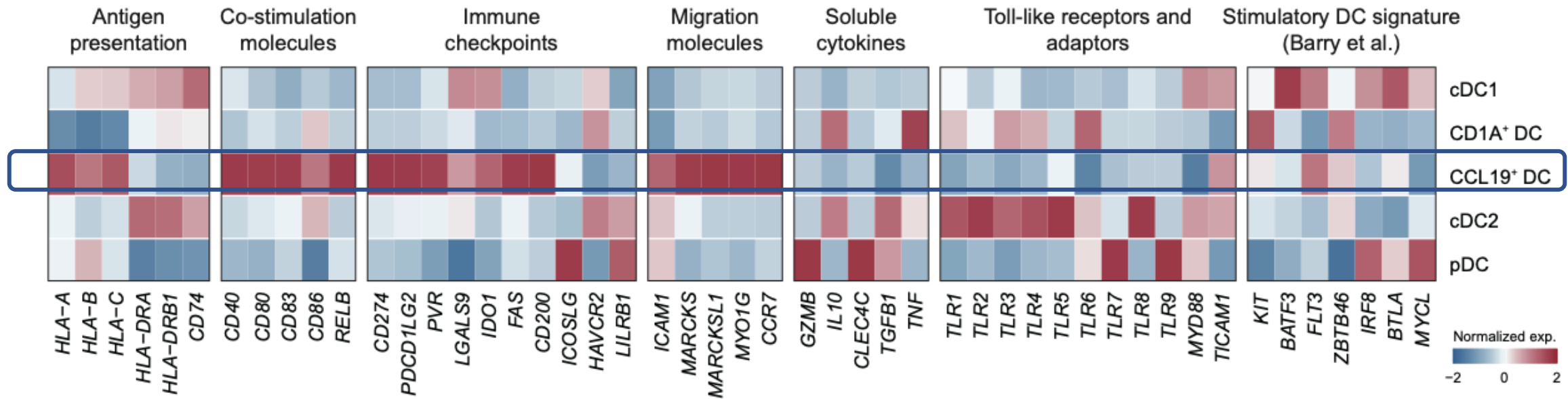
- Key antigen-presenting cells specialized in orchestrating adaptive T cell response
- Heterogeneous group of cells
- Understudied in BC in the context of ICI



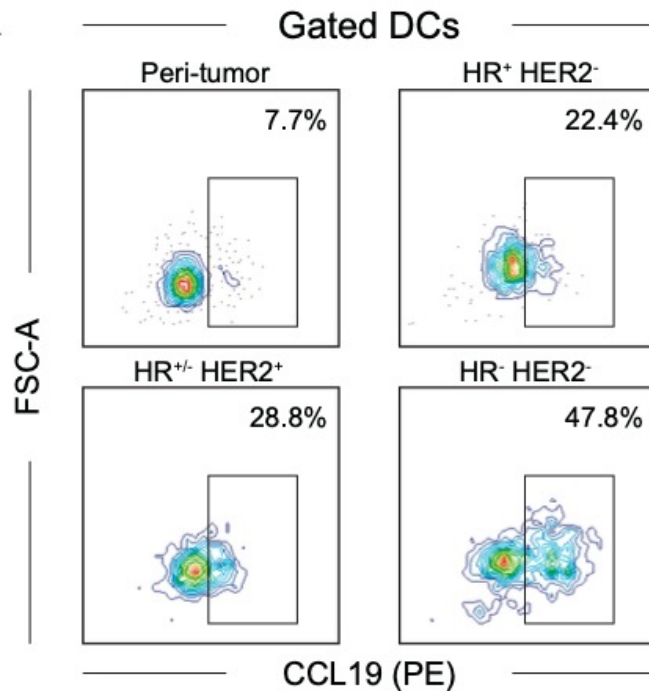
## **Aims:**

- 1) Exploring **DC diversity** in TNBC
- 2) Investigate whether a DC subpopulation could be associated with the **efficacy of ICI**

# Identification of DC clusters through re-analysis of existing scRNA-seq data



# Prevalence of CCL19+ DC: higher in TNBC

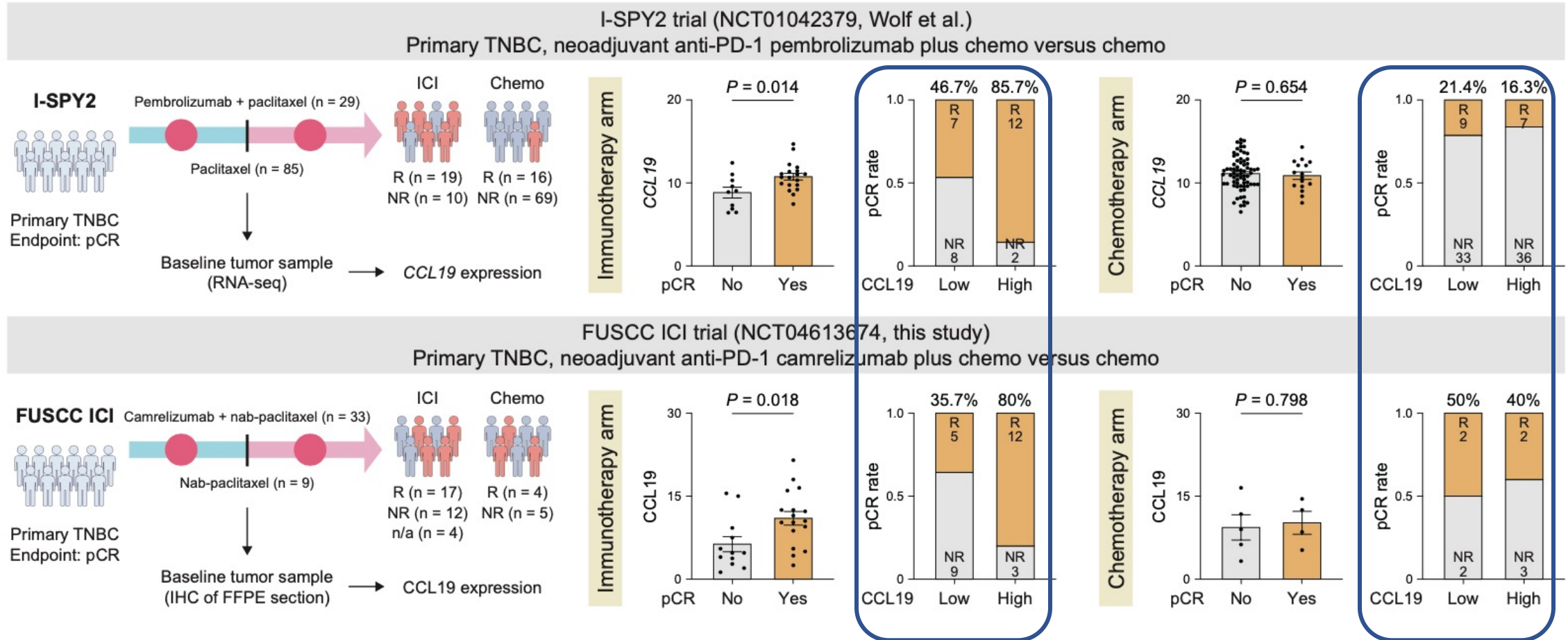


FUSCC mRNA (n = 360)	CCL19 <sup>+</sup> DC sig.		P value
	Low	High	
<b>Tumor size (mm)</b>			
≤ 20	64 (35.8)	67 (37.2)	0.773
> 20	115 (64.2)	113 (62.8)	
<b>Lymph nodes</b>			
none	113 (62.8)	102 (57.3)	0.844
1-3	42 (23.3)	53 (29.8)	
4-9	13 (7.2)	16 (9.0)	
> 9	12 (6.7)	7 (3.9)	
<b>Molecular subtype</b>			
IM	8 (4.4)	79 (43.9)	< 0.001***
MES	18 (10.0)	20 (11.1)	
LAR	61 (33.9)	35 (19.5)	
BLIS	93 (51.7)	46 (25.6)	

FUSCC mIHC (n = 186)	CCL19 <sup>+</sup> DC IHC		P value
	Low	High	
<b>Tumor size (mm)</b>			
≤ 20	24 (25.8)	35 (37.6)	0.083
> 20	69 (74.2)	58 (62.4)	
<b>Lymph nodes</b>			
none	58 (62.4)	50 (53.8)	0.323
1-3	22 (23.7)	29 (31.2)	
4-9	9 (9.7)	6 (6.5)	
> 9	4 (4.3)	8 (8.6)	
<b>Molecular subtype</b>			
IM	7 (7.5)	33 (35.5)	< 0.001***
MES	9 (9.7)	10 (10.8)	
LAR	25 (26.9)	18 (19.4)	
BLIS	52 (55.9)	32 (34.4)	

- Higher prevalence of CCL19+ DCs in TNBC as compared to other molecular subgroups.
- Within TNBC, higher prevalence within the immunomodulatory subtype.

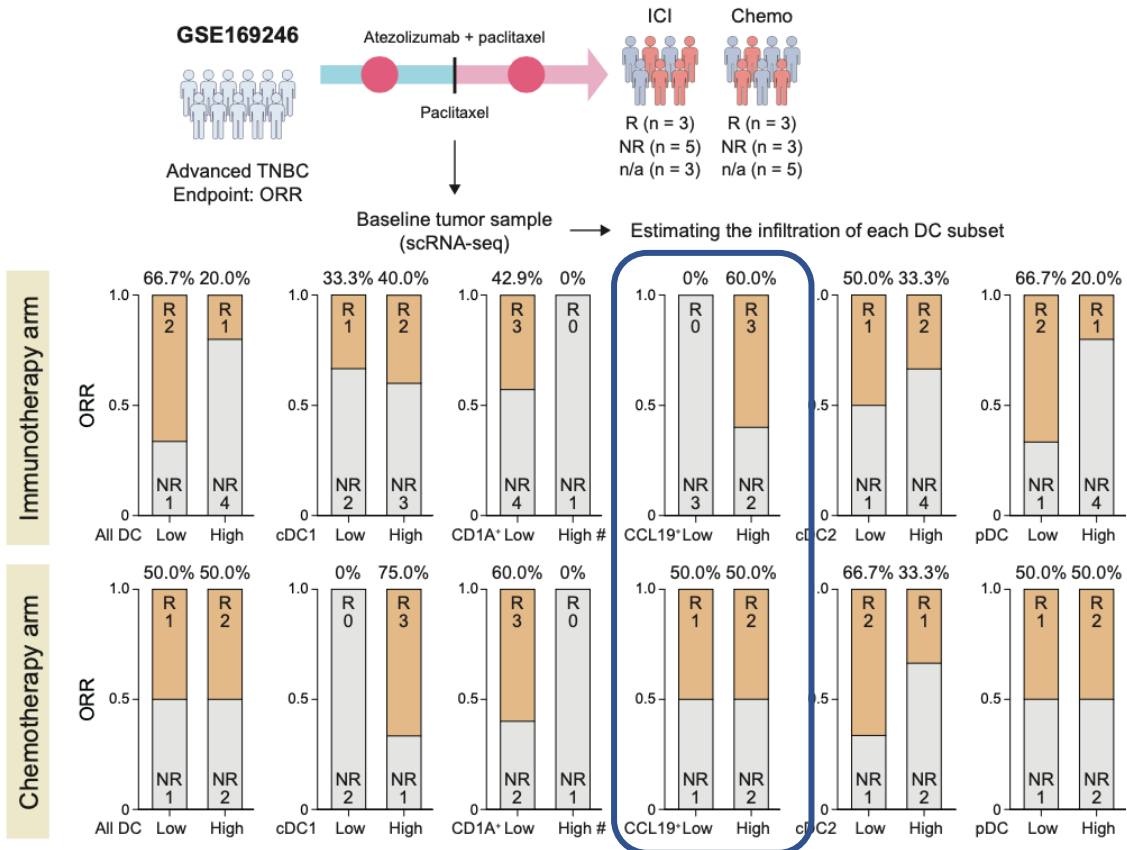
# Response to IT (early setting)



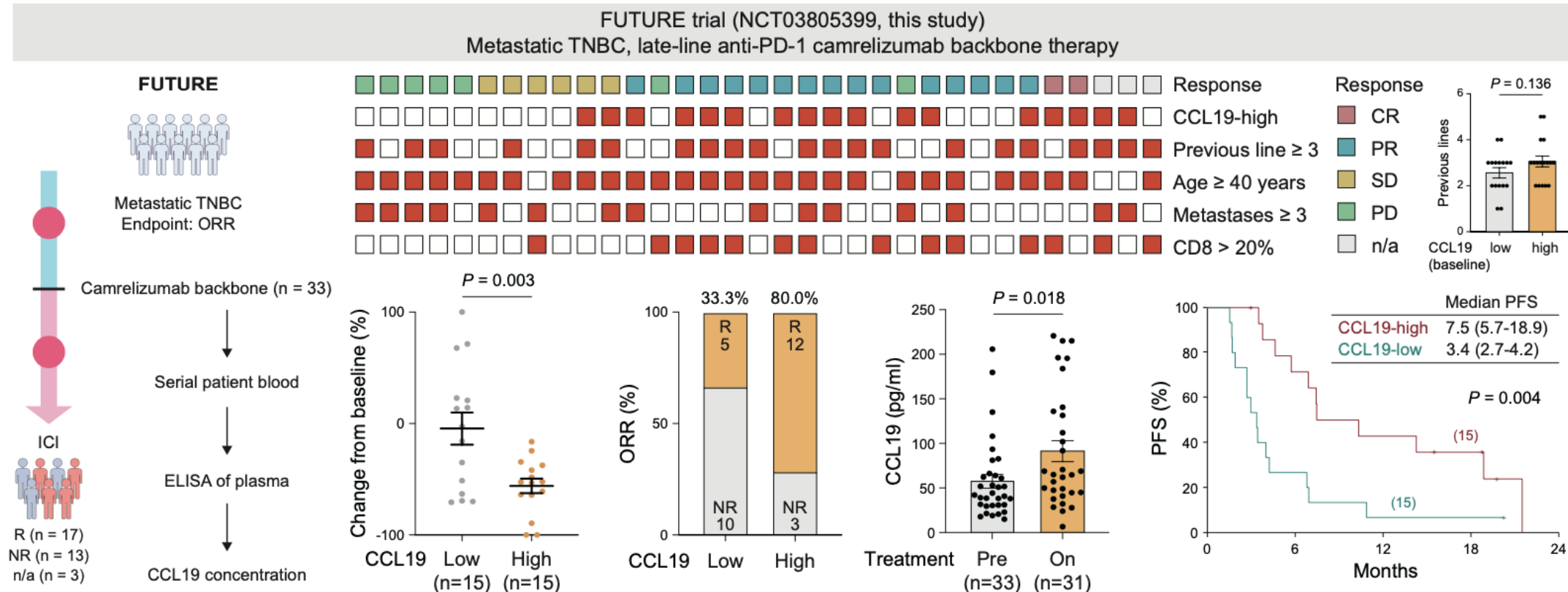
CCL19 is associated with response to neoadjuvant ICI +chemotherapy but not with response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy alone.

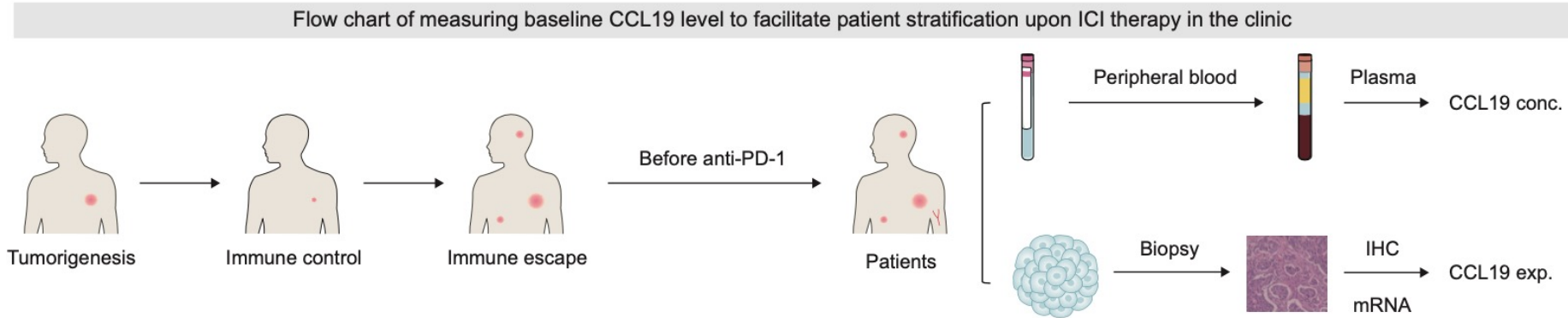
# Response to IT (metastatic setting)

Metastatic TNBC (GSE169246, Zhang et al.)  
First-line atezolizumab plus chemo versus chemo



# Response to IT (metastatic setting- CCL19 in plasma)





- Distinct population of CCL19+ DCs potentiates ICI-response in TNBC
- Baseline CCL19, as measured in tumor or plasma, is associated with efficacy of ICI in patients with early and metastatic TNBC



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## Predictive and resistance markers for:

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- Antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs)
- Immunotherapy
- Endocrine therapy

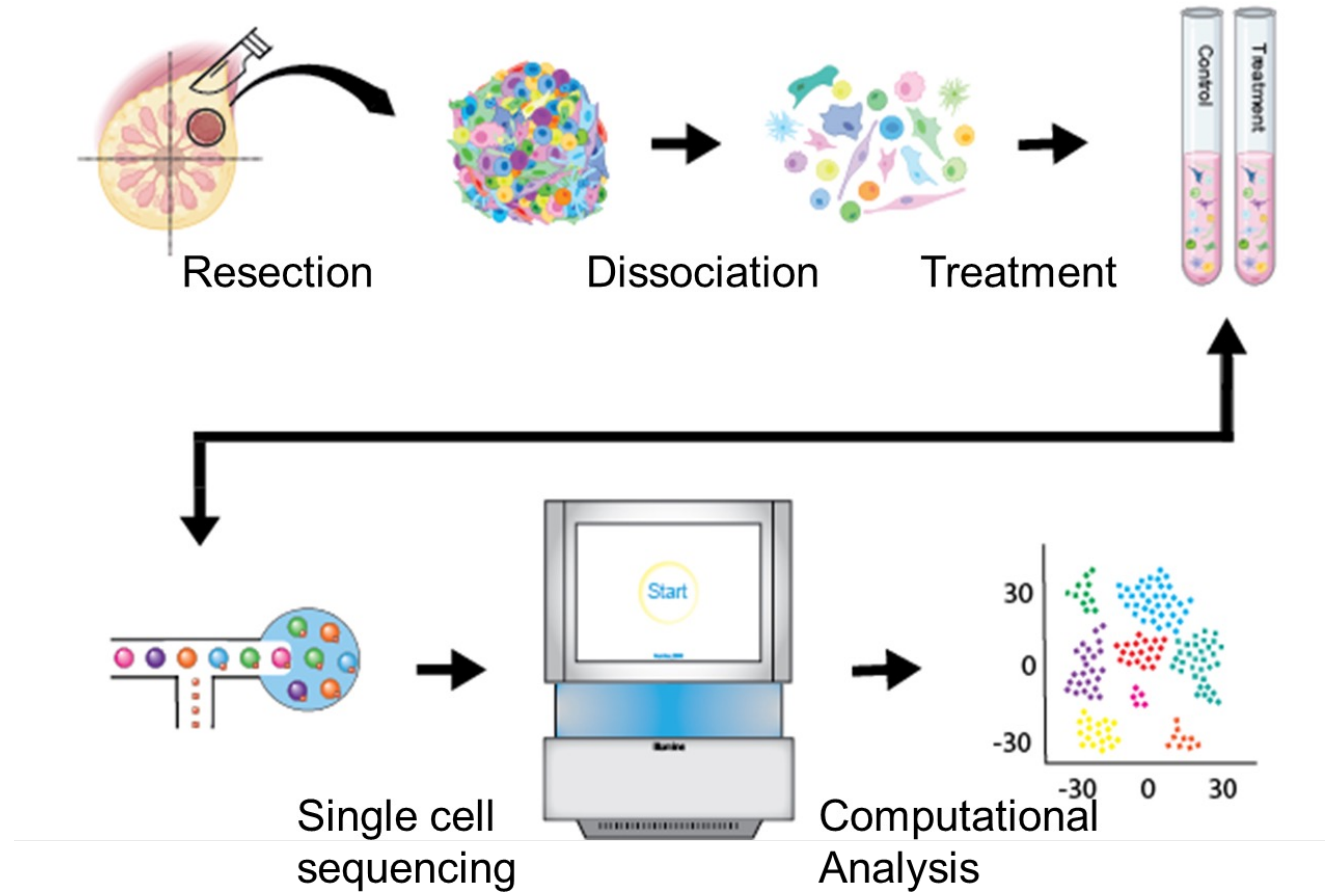
**PD4-08** (Kim H et al.): A novel single cell model of Tamoxifen response in primary human breast tumors



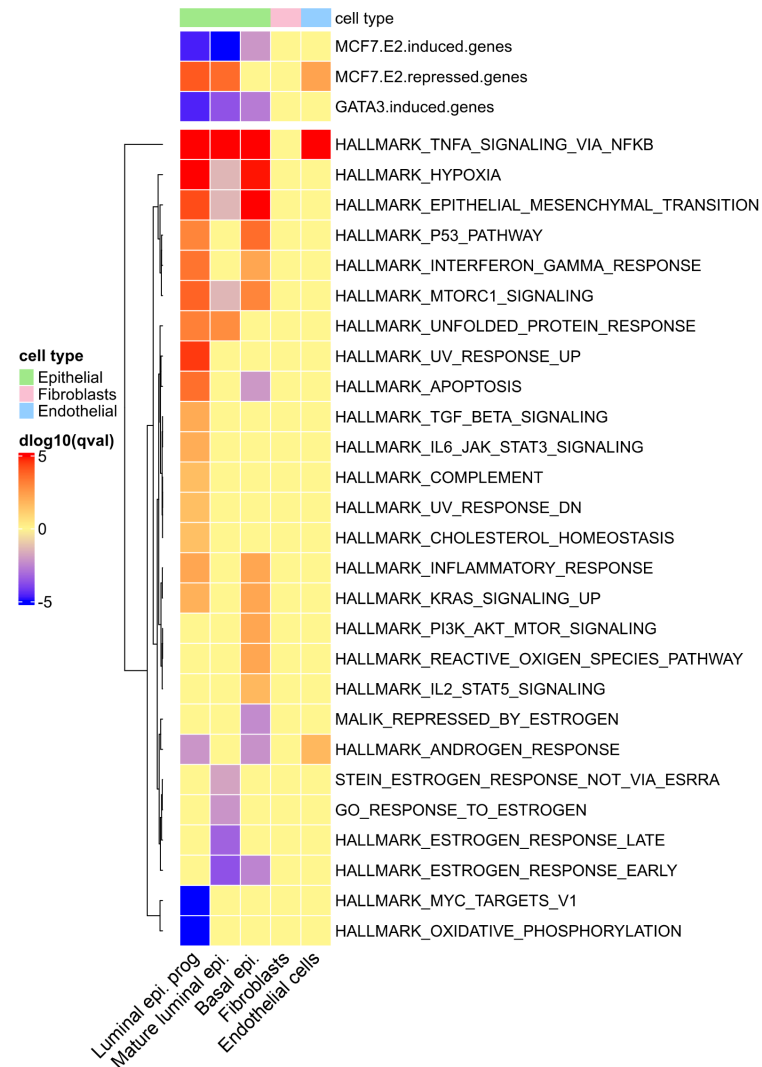
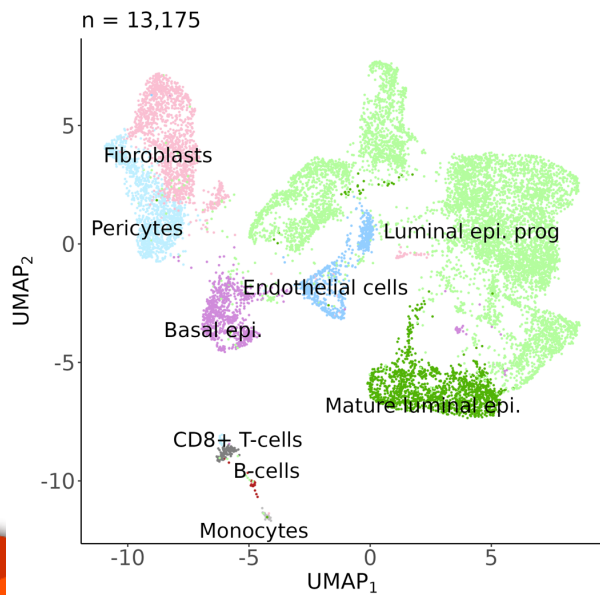
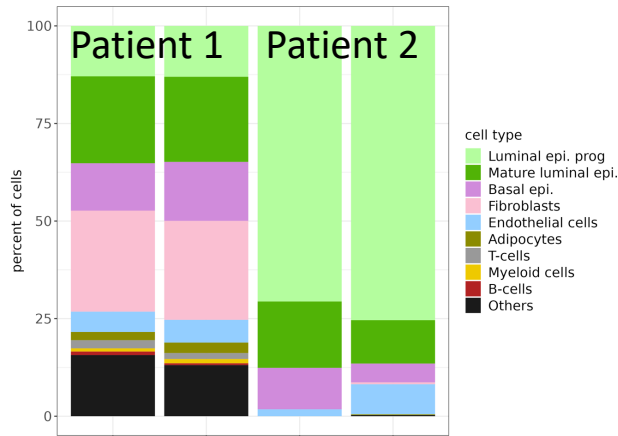
# OR-to-lab pipeline to test drug sensitivity

## Aims:

- 1) To create an OR-to-lab pipeline to test treatment effect
- 2) To identify mechanisms of resistance/sensitivity to Tamoxifen

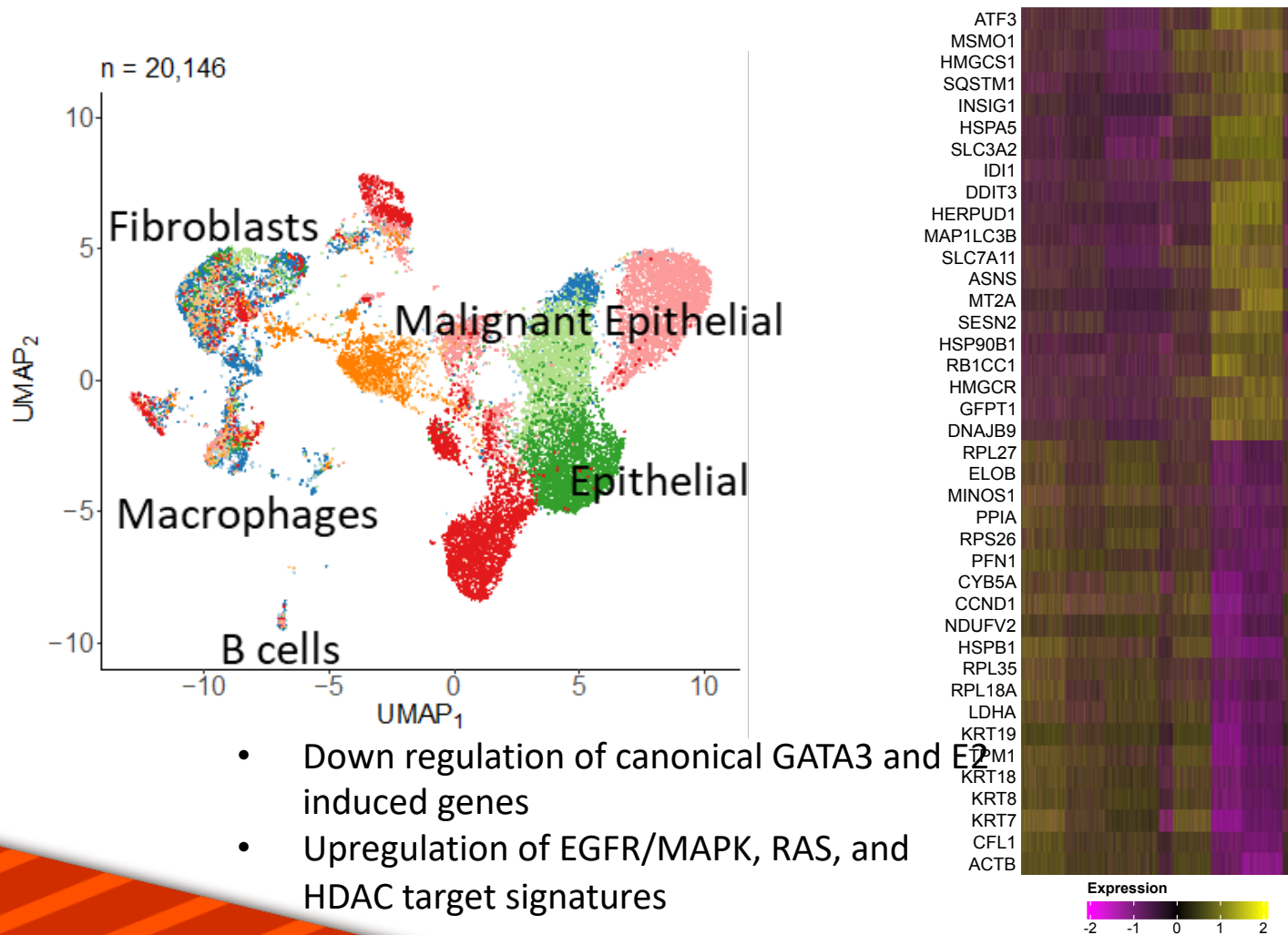


# Results on two normal breast samples



- Changes mainly seen in the **epithelial cells** (especially in luminal progenitor cells)
- With Tamoxifen: robust depletion of estrogen- induced genes & enrichment of estrogen-repressed genes

# Results on two breast cancer samples



- OR-to-lab pipeline developed to test effect of tamoxifen on human normal breast and ER+ breast cancer samples.
- Single-cell analyses have the potential to identify cell subpopulations in human samples from patients with ER+ breast cancer.
- Changes mainly visible in tumor epithelial cells, highlighting changes in different processes.
- Approach could be expanded to other tumor types & therapies.

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# Immune landscape & microenvironment

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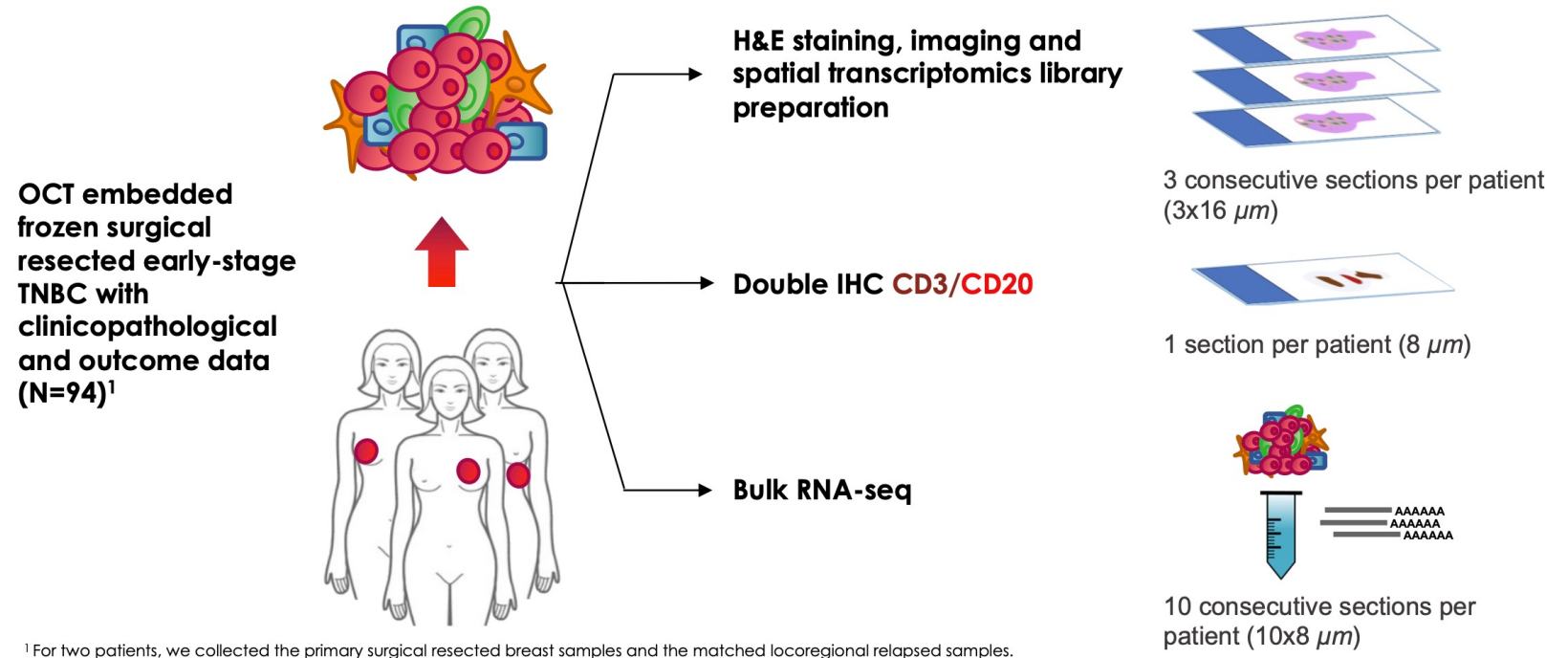
- TNBC
- HER2-/Immune-/DR- subtype

**PD4-01** (Wang X et al.): Spatial transcriptomics reveals a substantial heterogeneity in TNBC tumor and stroma compartments with potential clinical implications

# TNBC characterization & re-classification using ST

## Aims


















- To characterize the **spatially resolved transcriptome** of cancer cells, their nearby and distant microenvironment and **their interactions**;
- To assess the role of **intratumor heterogeneity** and tumor **microenvironment** in predicting **clinical outcomes**

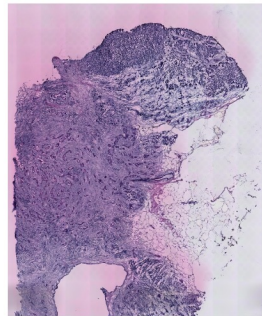


# Morphological annotations & association with subtypes

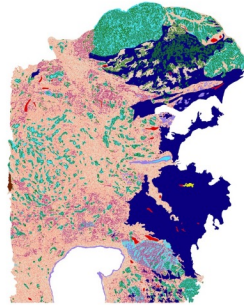
## Morphological annotations

### 17 morphological annotations

 Tumor	 Lymphoid nodule
 Stroma cell	 Vessels
 Lymphocyte	 Lactiferous duct
 Low TILs (<30%) stroma	 Nerve
 High TILs (≥30%) stroma	 Heterologous element
 Acellular stroma	 Tumor region
 Fat tissue	 Whitespace
 Necrosis	 Artefact
 In situ	

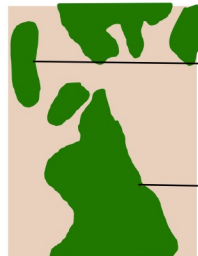
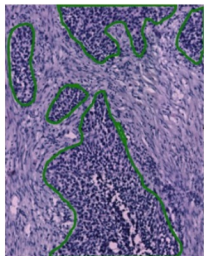


Manual delineation +/- machine learning using QuPath version 0.2.3.



Contribution of each morphological annotation

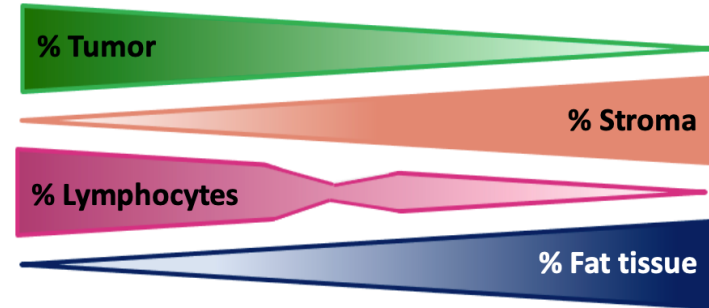
## Tumor patches



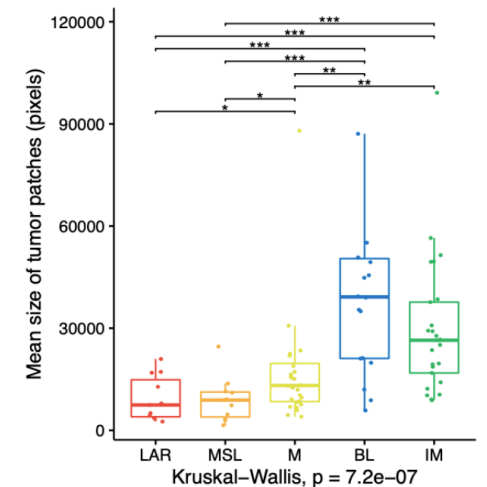
A small tumor patch

A large tumor patch

Number, size (pixels), diversity of size (described by evenness)



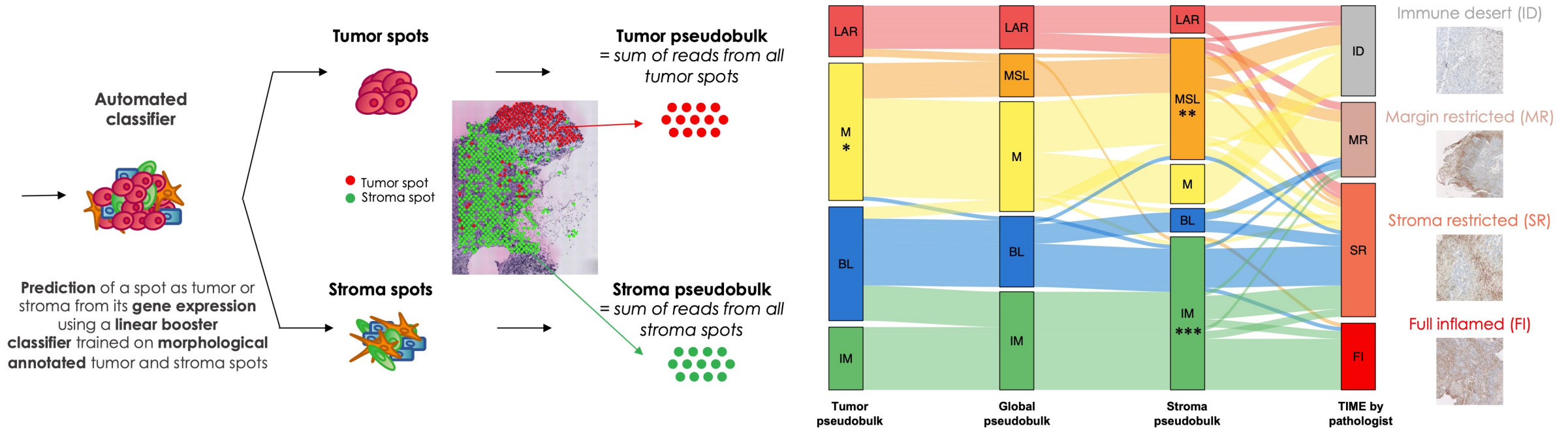
IM BL M MSL LAR



Basal like (BL), Immunomodulatory (IM), Luminal Androgen Receptor (LAR), Mesenchymal (M), Mesenchymal stem like (MSL)



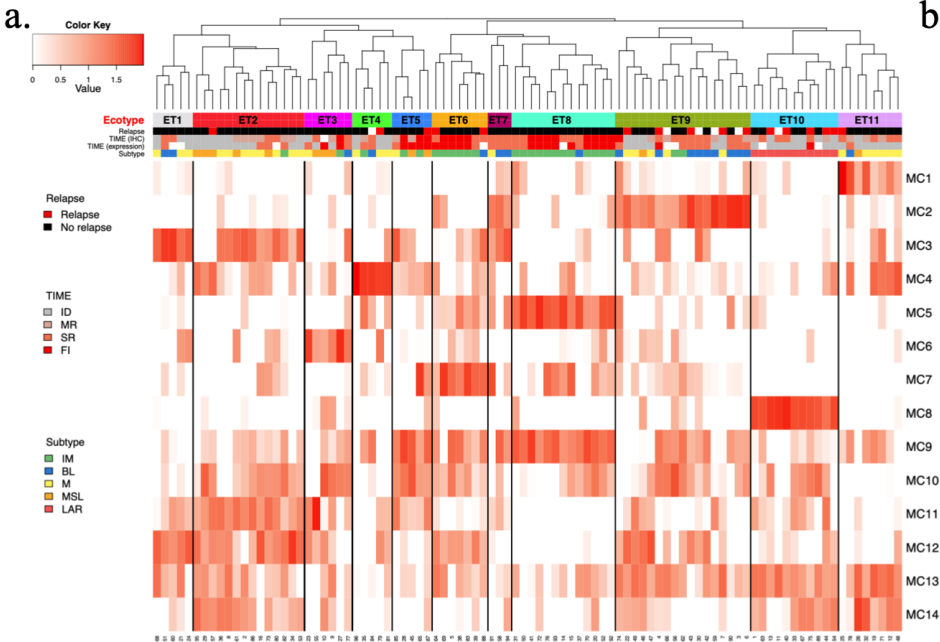
# Separate tumor & stroma classification of TNBC



Basal like (BL), Immunomodulatory (IM), Luminal Androgen Receptor (LAR), Mesenchymal (M), Mesenchymal stem like (MSL)



# New classification of TNBC- “11 ecotypes”



**b.**

Ecotype	Name	Characteristics
ET1	Proliferative	High proliferation, ERBB2 expression
ET2	Mesenchymal stromal	EMT, angiogenesis, low proliferation
ET3	Mixed	Stroma, moderate immune infiltration (NKT cells), low proliferation
ET4	Immuno-depleted	Low immune infiltration, low apoptosis, low stroma (CAF)
ET5	Immuno-angiogenic	High immune infiltration, apoptosis, angiogenesis, low proliferation
ET6	Immuno-proliferative	Th1 cells enriched immune infiltration, EMT
ET7	Stromal proliferative	High proliferation, PI3K/AKT/mTOR, EMT
ET8	Pure immunogenic	High immune infiltration
ET9	Basal cycling	Moderate proliferation, EMT, MYC target, NECTIN4 expression
ET10	LAR	AR expression, ER signaling, fatty metabolism
ET11	Mesenchymal proliferative	High proliferation, low immune infiltration, GPNMB expression

- Substantial morphological differences across the five TNBC subtypes.
- Different contribution of stroma/tumor compartments to molecular subtypes.
- Different contribution of pairs of molecular subtypes from stroma/tumor compartment to TIME classification.
- Definition of new ‘ecotypes’.
- Potential clinical relevance to be further investigated.

## Liquid biopsies

- Marker of disease recurrence
- ctDNA evaluation in other body liquids

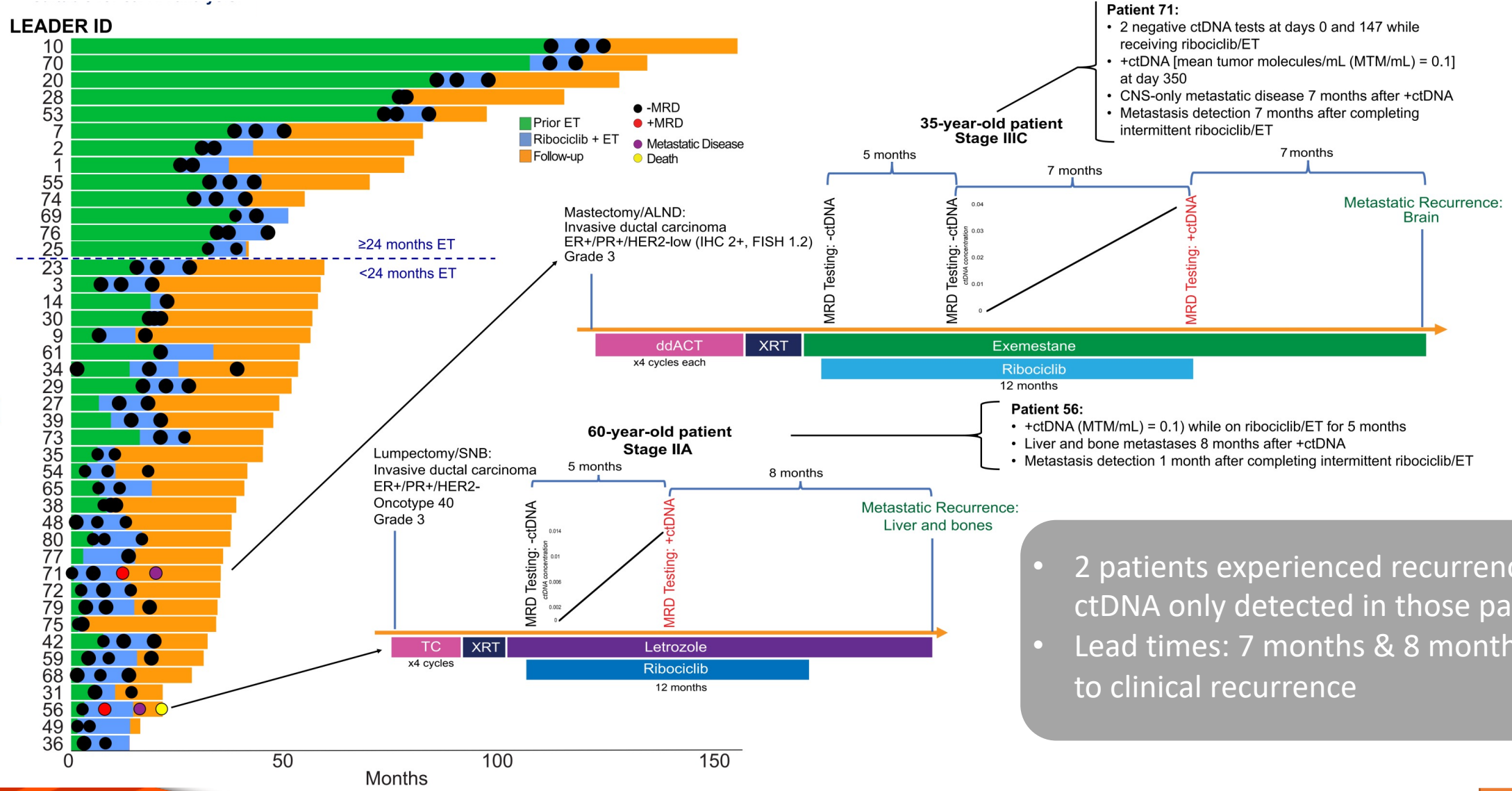
**PD17-03** (Medford *et al.*): Cell-free DNA monitoring in a phase II study of adjuvant endocrine therapy with CDK 4/6 inhibitor ribociclib for *localized HR+/HER2- breast cancer* (LEADER)

**PD17-02** (Bailleux *et al.*): ctDNA Molecular Response based on breast cancer driver mutations predicts progression in aromatase inhibitor-sensitive first line treatment of oestrogen receptor-positive (*ER+*) *HER2-negative (HER2-)* advanced breast cancer

**PD17-01** (Ma *et al.*): Genomic analysis of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) from patients with HR+, *HER2-mutant metastatic breast cancer* (MBC) enrolled in SUMMIT: mechanisms of acquired resistance to neratinib + fulvestrant + trastuzumab (N+F+T)

# Monitoring of recurrence in pts with early BC

- Patients with **stage 1-3 ER+ BC**
- **LEADER trial:** prospective phase II trial evaluating the addition of the CDK4/6 inhibitor ribociclib in patients with 1 remaining year of adjuvant ET
- **Translational objective:** ctDNA monitoring to predict recurrences
- **Signatera™ assay** (WES of primary tumor and then selection of 16 genes to be evaluated in blood)- 42 patients.



**Patient 71:**

- 2 negative ctDNA tests at days 0 and 147 while receiving ribociclib/ET
- +ctDNA [mean tumor molecules/mL (MTM/mL) = 0.1] at day 350
- CNS-only metastatic disease 7 months after +ctDNA
- Metastasis detection 7 months after completing intermittent ribociclib/ET

**Patient 56:**

- +ctDNA (MTM/mL) = 0.1) while on ribociclib/ET for 5 months
- Liver and bone metastases 8 months after +ctDNA
- Metastasis detection 1 month after completing intermittent ribociclib/ET

• 2 patients experienced recurrence: ctDNA only detected in those patients

• Lead times: 7 months & 8 months prior to clinical recurrence

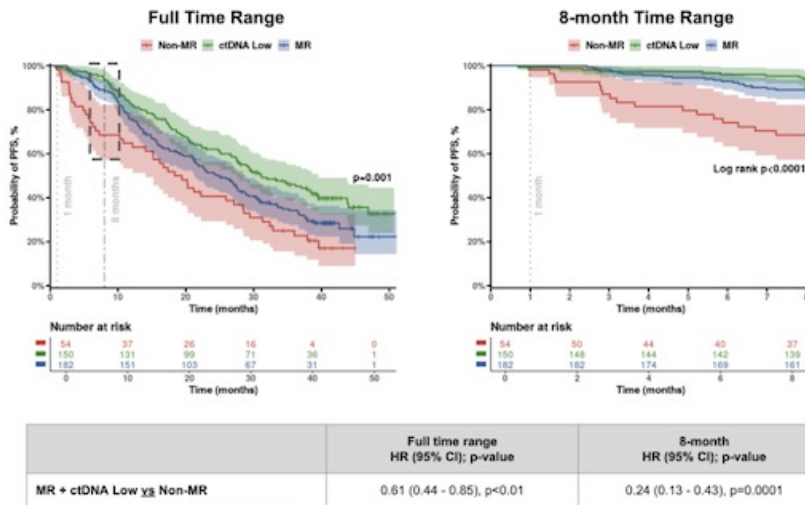
# Monitoring of recurrence in pts with advanced BC

- Patients with **advanced ER+ BC**
- **PADA-1 trial:** to assess clinical utility of sequential analysis of ctDNA for emerging *ESR1* mutations to trigger an early switch from AI plus palbociclib to fulvestrant plus palbociclib treatment. The study included 1,017 patients and was positive on its primary end-point.
- **Translational objective:** analyze the predictive value of 4-week molecular response (MR) for patient progression.
- **Guardant360 Response:** (1) evaluation of alterations in 74 genes, (2) restriction to 11 BC driver genes- 372/1,017 (37%) patients

- 1) ctDNA low: responders
- 2) Molecular responders (MR)
- 3) Non-MR

## All genes

### Guardant360 Response Predicts Patient Progression



**Conclusion**

PFS was statistically significant within 8-month window, but separation diminishes over time.

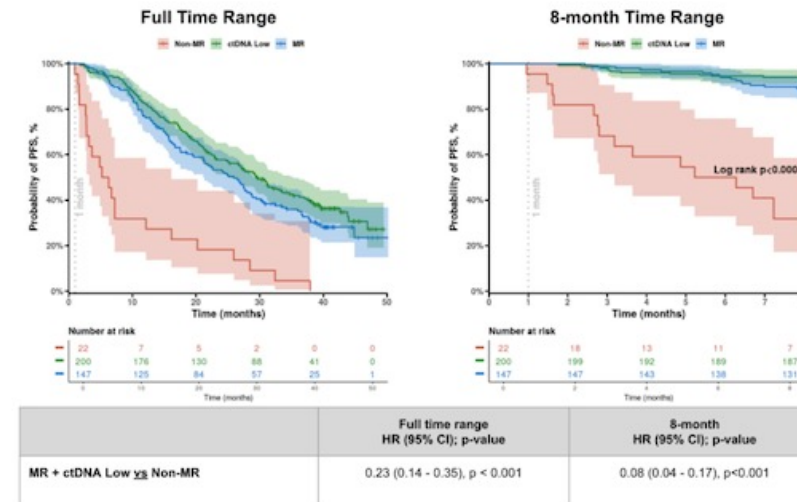
HR of 0.24 indicates that non-responders (MR score >0.5) have shorter PFS and higher rates of early progression.

ctDNA low subjects behave like molecular responders (MR) and were lumped together for HR analysis shown in table. Data suggests that treating ctDNA low subjects as molecular responders improves performance for predicting patient progression.

**Figure:** Molecular responders (MR) defined by a cutoff of 50% decrease in ctDNA (MR < 0.5) and molecular non-responders (Non-MR) by MR > 0.5. Cut-off optimization based on prior publications and verified to perform well/optimally in this cohort. ctDNA Low is defined by no somatic mutations at either timepoint, or somatic mutations detected at levels below the limit for quantifying change in ctDNA level.

## 11 BC driver genes

### Predictive Ability of Custom Breast Cancer Gene List to Identify Non-Responders by ctDNA



**Conclusion**

When MR is calculated with a curated list of breast cancer driver mutations only, the number of molecular non-responders identified decreased from 55 to 22, but that sub-group has a higher chance of early progression (PPV=68%) compared to the original MR algorithm (PPV = 31%).

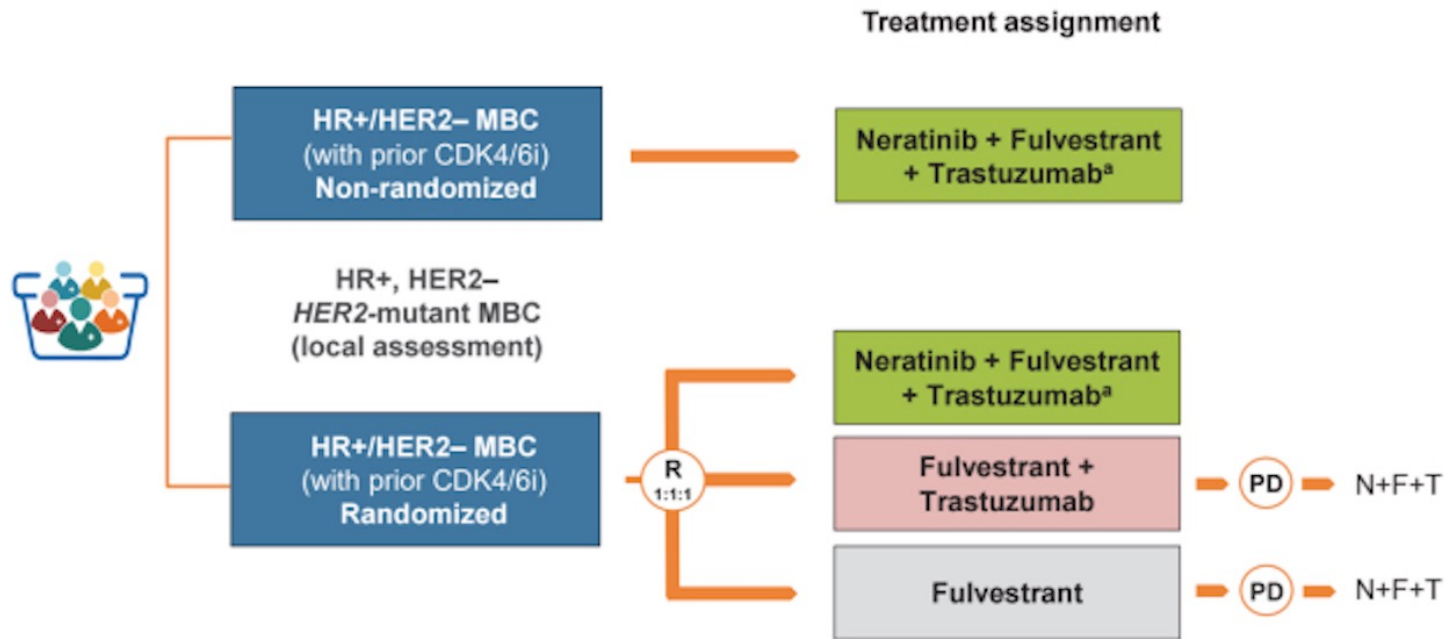
HR of 0.08 indicates that non-responders (MR score >0.5) have shorter PFS and higher rates of early progression.

**Figure:** Molecular responders (MR) defined by a cutoff of 50% decrease in driver-only ctDNA (MR < 0.5) and molecular non-responders (Non-MR) by MR > 0.5. Cut-off optimization based on prior publications and verified to perform well/optimally in this cohort. ctDNA Low is defined by no somatic mutations at either timepoint, or somatic mutations detected at levels below the limit for quantifying change in ctDNA level. Driver mutations selected based on known breast cancer driver mutations (PIK3CA, GATA3, TP53, AKT1, ERBB2, BRCA2, BRCA1, ATM, ESR1, PALB2, RB1).

- Changes in ctDNA fraction during the first weeks of treatment are predictive of long term clinical benefit on an individual patient basis, particularly during the first year of therapy.
- The identification of patients at high risk for early clinical failure at the onset of treatment may allow for therapy escalation and/or change.

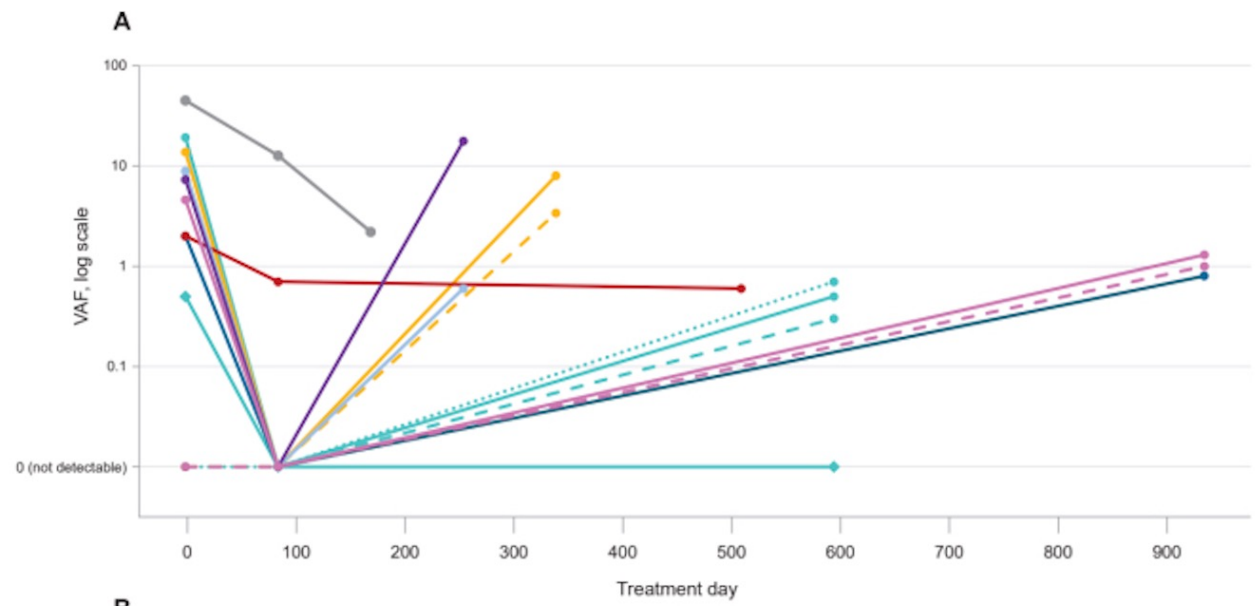


# Mechanisms of acquired resistance to neratinib, fulvestrant & trastuzumab



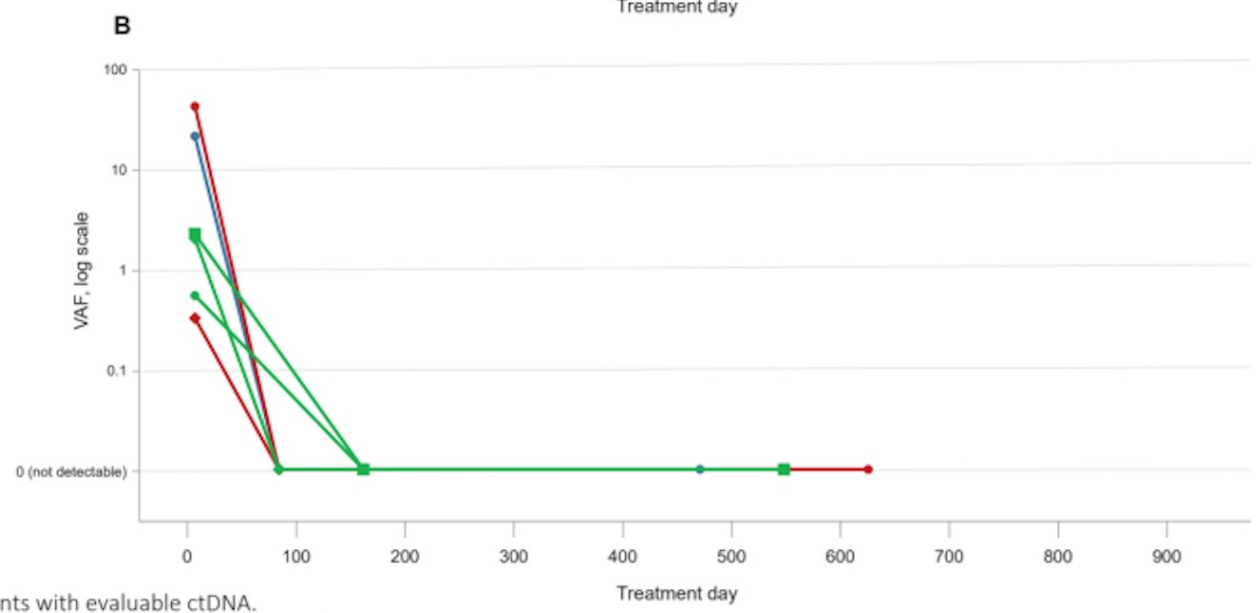
**Objective:** to evaluate VAF of *HER2* mutations at 3 timepoints, as well as genomic landscape in patients who responded to NFT





- Patient 1 (PR) — D769H
- D873N
- L786V
- S728Y
- Patient 2 (PR) — D582N
- S310F
- Patient 3 (PR) — G778\_P780dup
- Patient 4 (PR) — L755S
- Patient 5 (PR) — V777L
- Patient 6 (PR) — Y772\_A775dup
- Patient 7 (PR) — L755S
- Patient 8 (PR) — V777L
- T798I

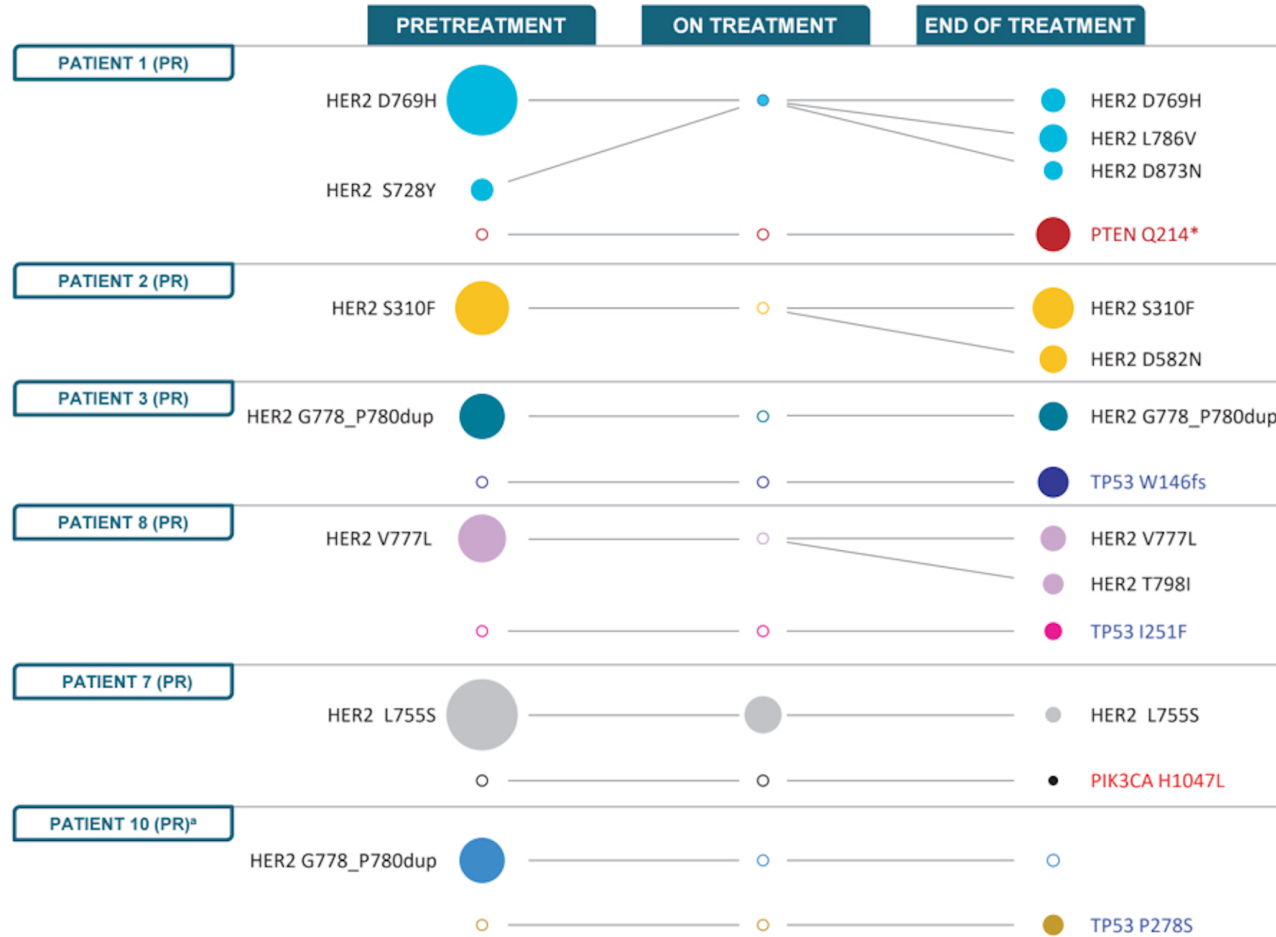
- Patients with Partial Response (PR) who progressed after treatment
- Blood draw at inclusion, on treatment & at progression



- Patient 10 (PR) — G778\_P780dup
- Patient 13 (PR) — T862A
- I767M
- Patient 14 (CR) — G776V
- L1109I
- S310F

- Patients who remained on treatment
- Blood draw at inclusion, on treatment & at last FU

<sup>a</sup>Patients with evaluable ctDNA.  
Dashed lines indicate emergent mutations.



\*Patient still on treatment.  
Empty circle indicates mutation not detectable.

- *HER2* mutation VAF in ctDNA decreases upon treatment and increase upon progression
- Mutations that emerged upon progression: novel *HER2* mutations, and mutations in *PIK3CA*, *TP53* and *PTEN*
- Dual *HER2* targeting + endocrine treatment cannot prevent the emergence of novel *HER2* mutations

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## Liquid biopsies

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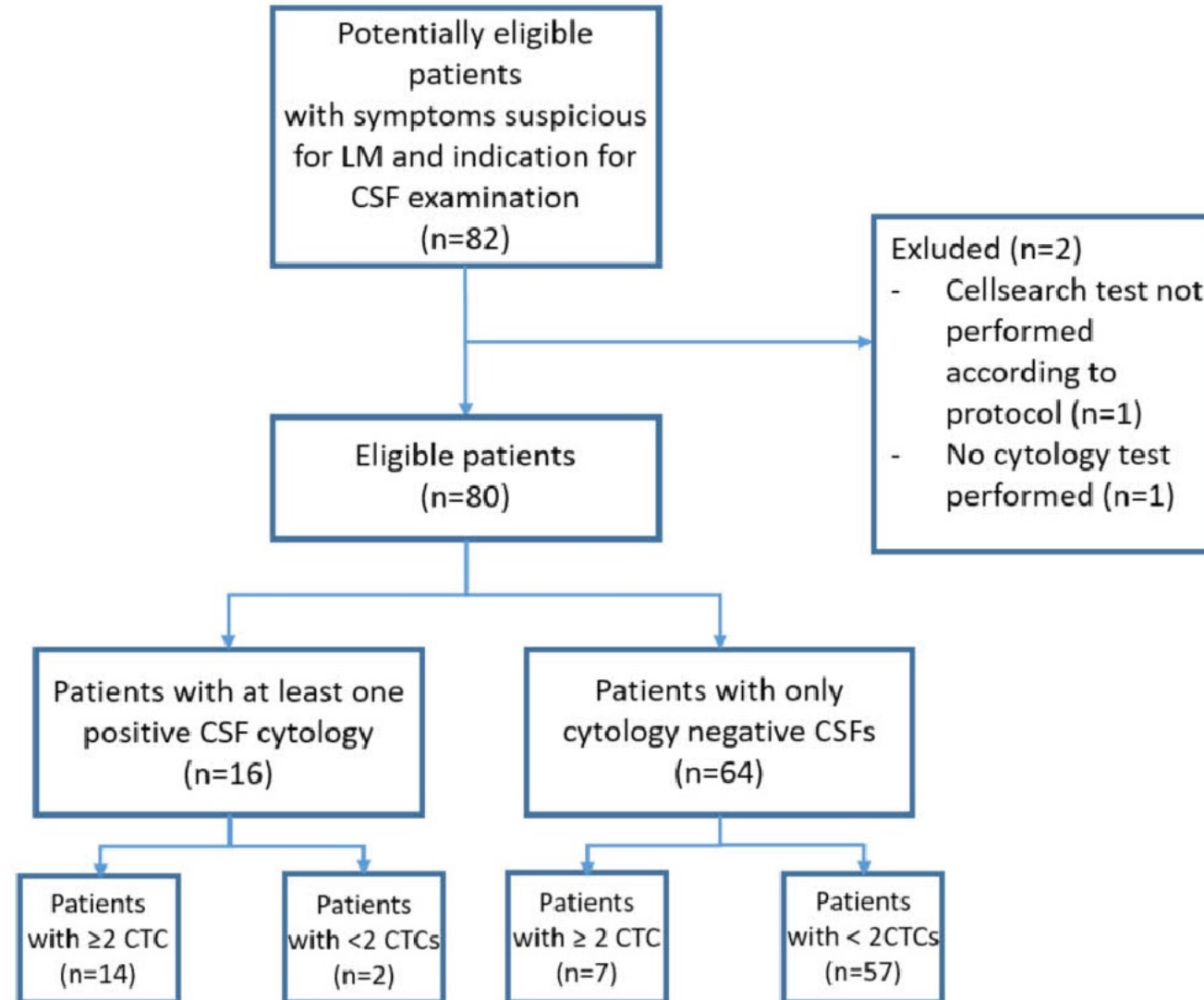
- Marker of disease recurrence
- ctDNA evaluation in other body liquids

**P1-05-03** (Jongbloed *et al.*): Optimizing detection of leptomeningeal metastases in breast cancer

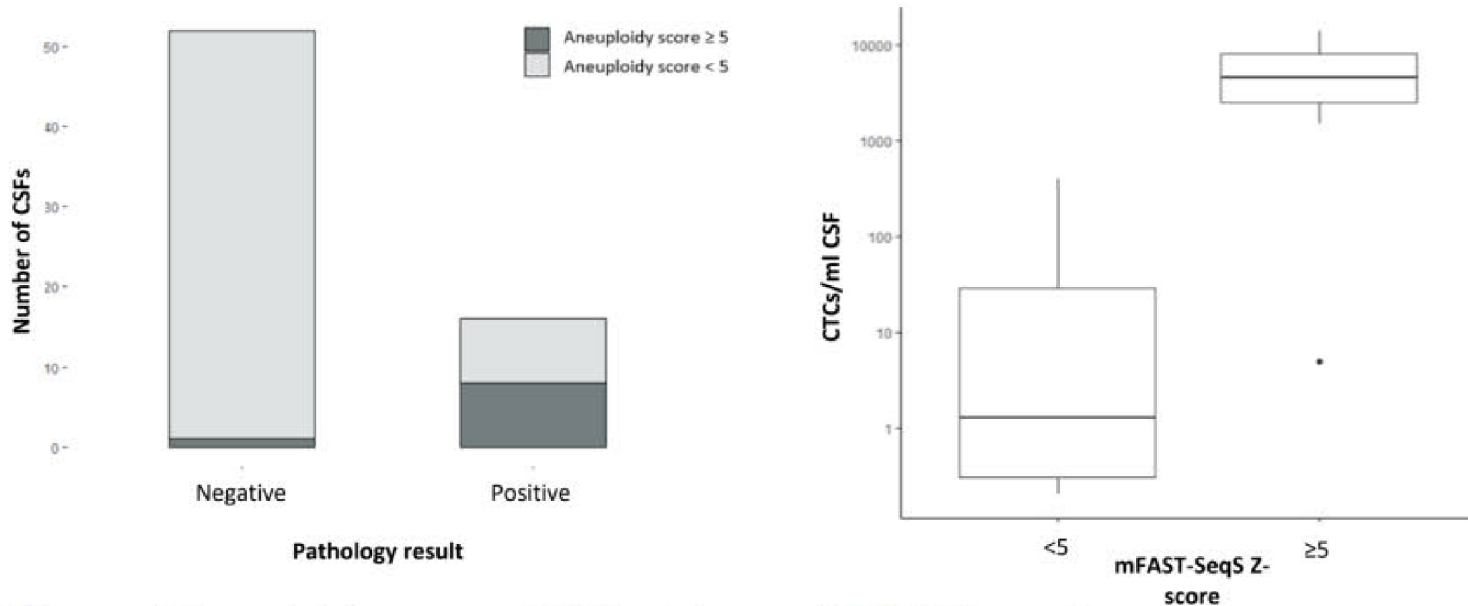
**P5-05-06** (Richard *et al.*): ctDNA detection in seven different types of body liquids in patients with metastatic breast cancer

# Optimizing detection of leptomeningeal metastases (LM)

**Aim:**  
To prospectively compare cytology (current gold standard for CSF analysis in diagnosing LM) with CTC enumeration and ctDNA detection in CSF



# Optimizing detection of leptomeningeal metastases



- CTC detection could even improve timely diagnosis of LM in patients with breast cancer.
- However, the added value of ctDNA seems less evident (maybe aneuploidy only is not enough?).

**Figure 5** Aneuploidy score and CSF cytology and CSF CTCs results.

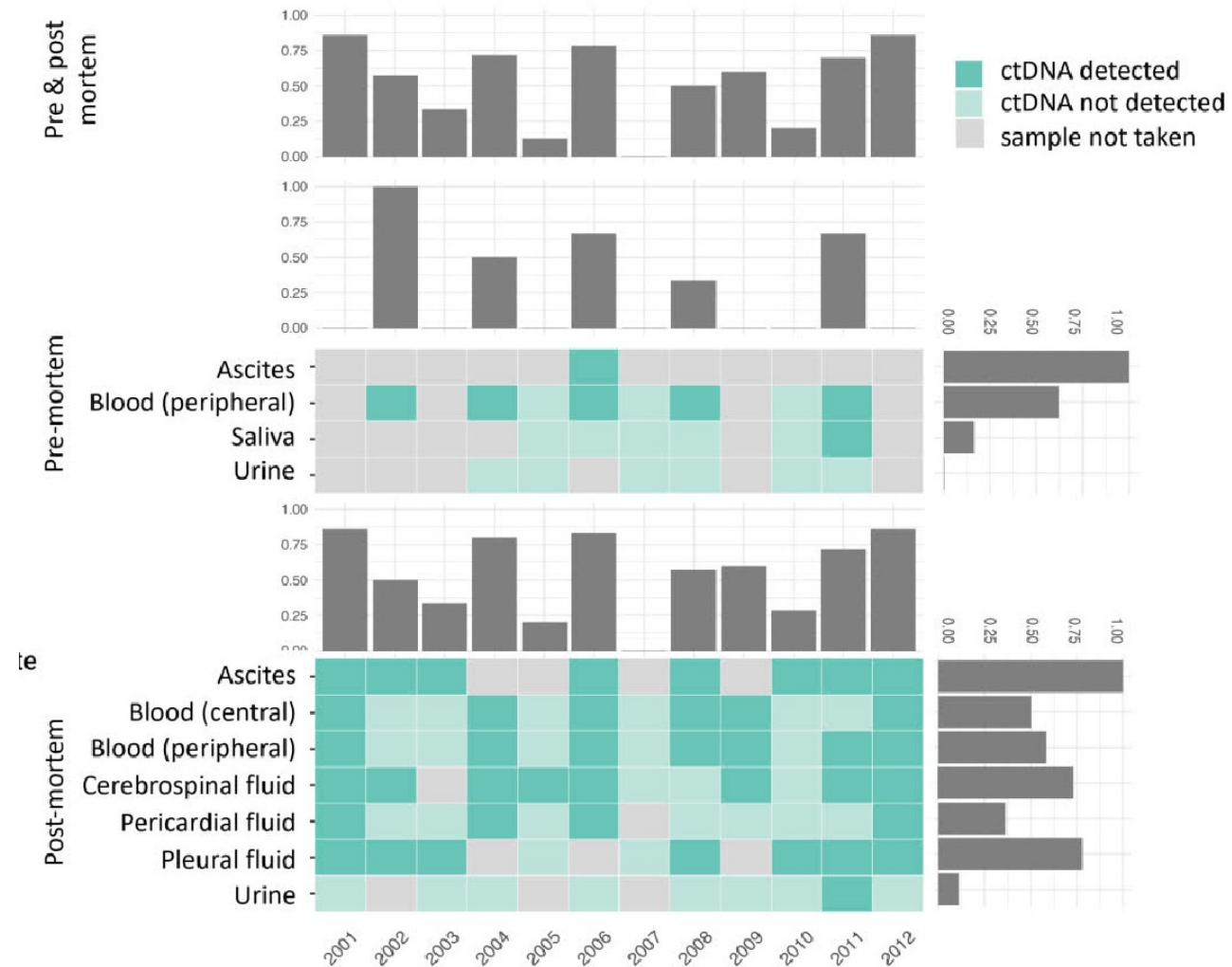
Left: mFAST-SeqS (aneuploidy) Z-score per cytology result.

Right: Number of CTCs in CSF with mFAST-SeqS (aneuploidy) Z-score  $\geq 5$  vs. mFAST-SeqS (aneuploidy) Z-score  $< 5$ .

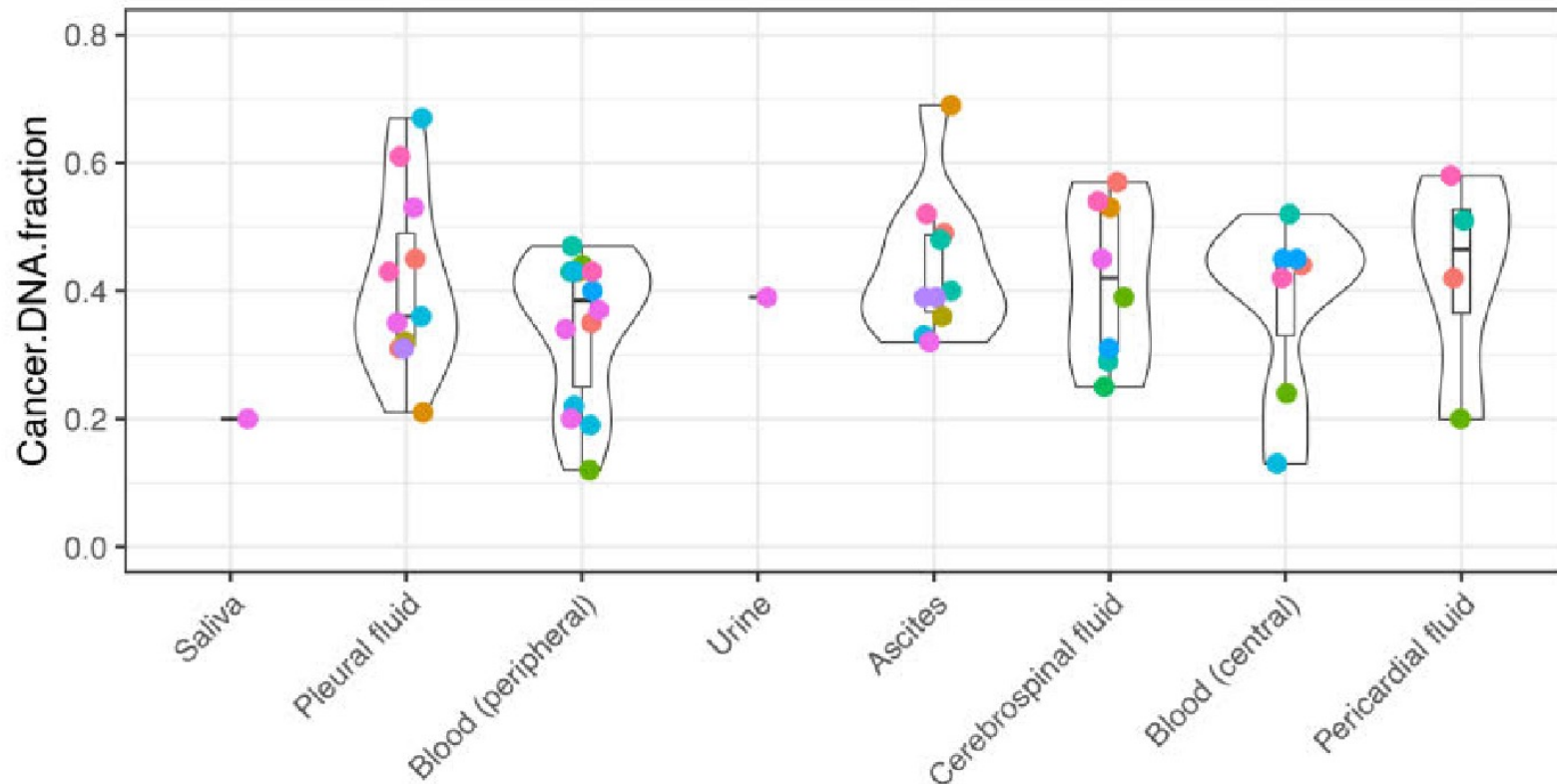
# Detecting ctDNA in multiple body liquids

## Aims:

- (i) Investigate whether ctDNA can be detected in different types of body liquids,
- (ii) Assess whether the levels of ctDNA in a given liquid are associated with metastases in specific organs.



# Detecting ctDNA in multiple body liquids



- ctDNA was detected in all liquid types, but not in all patients.
- Presence of ctDNA in a given liquid associated with metastases in surrounding organs.
- For some patients, ctDNA not detected in blood while detected in other liquid(s)



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## Lobular breast cancer (ILC)

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**P2-21-01** (Serra M et al.): Decoding Inter- and Intra-Tumor Heterogeneity in Lobular Breast Cancer Using Spatial Transcriptomics and Clustering Analysis

**PD04-07** (Shah OS et al. ): Uncovering molecular heterogeneity of mixed ductal and lobular carcinoma using digital spatial profiling

**P3-05-08** (Hensing WL et al.): Prevalence and prognosis of ER-loss in advanced invasive lobular carcinoma

**P3-05-40** (Van Baelen et al.): Association of BMI with clinicopathological features and survival in patients with primary invasive lobular breast cancer

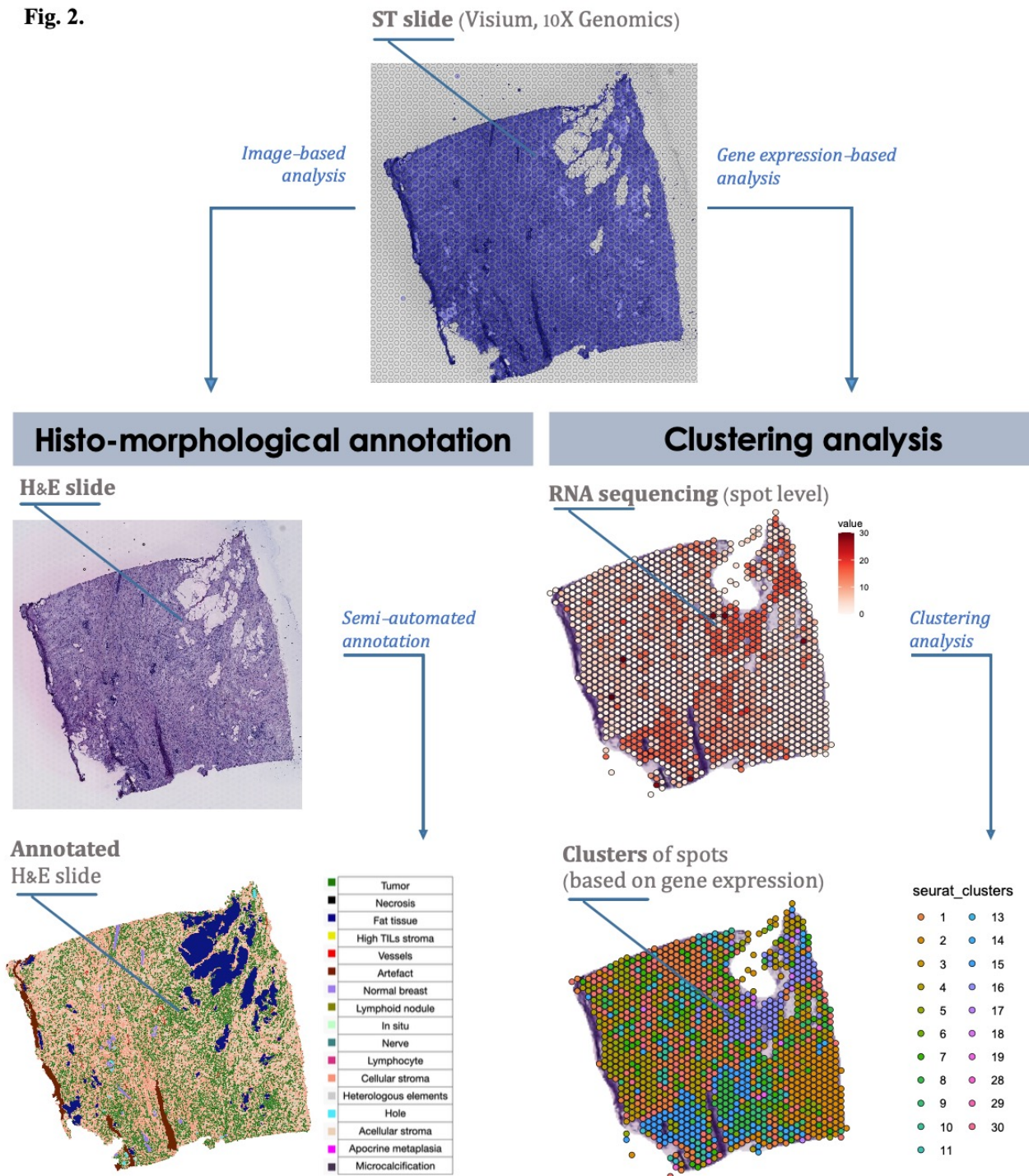
**P5-14-01** (Desmedt et al.): Transcriptomic insights into lobular breast cancer biology: a retrospective analysis of the MINDACT clinical trial

# Intra and inter-tumor ILC heterogeneity

## Aims:

1. To characterize spatial heterogeneity of ILC
2. To investigate the potential prognostic relevance

Fig. 2.

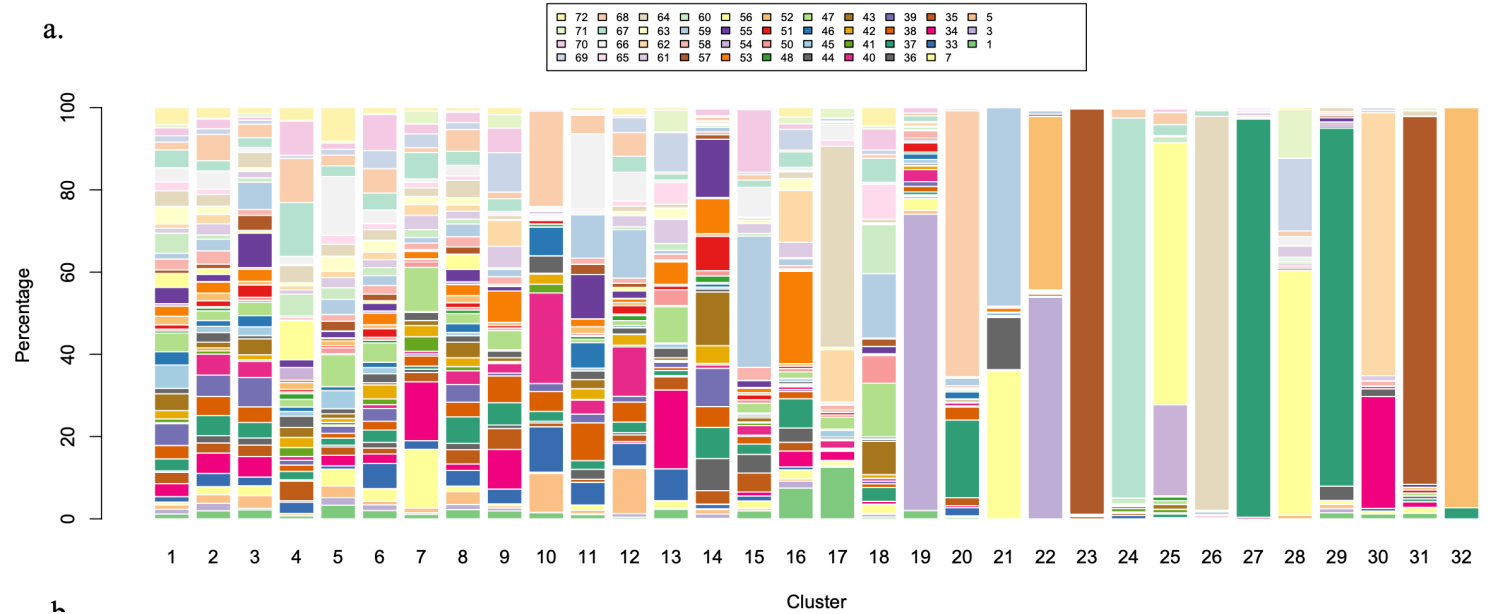


**Table 1.**

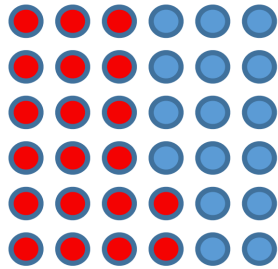
	ST cohort	Grade			Tumor stage	
	Tot	G1	G2	G3	T1	T2-3
N. of samples	43	5	34	4	24	19
	Nodal status			Disease relapse		
	N0	N+		No	Yes	
N. of samples	30	13		34	9	



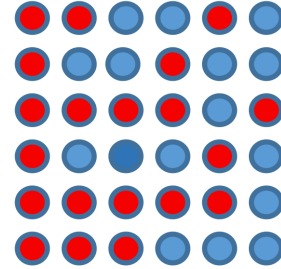
Identification of 32 clusters across all patients



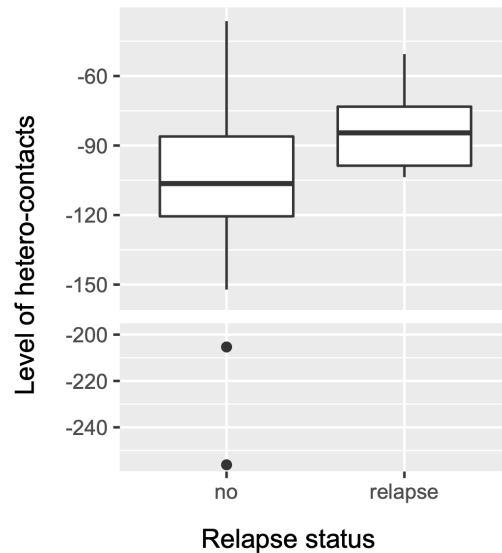
LOW number of hetero-contacts  
**HIGH spatial organisation**



HIGH number of hetero-contacts  
**LOW spatial organisation**

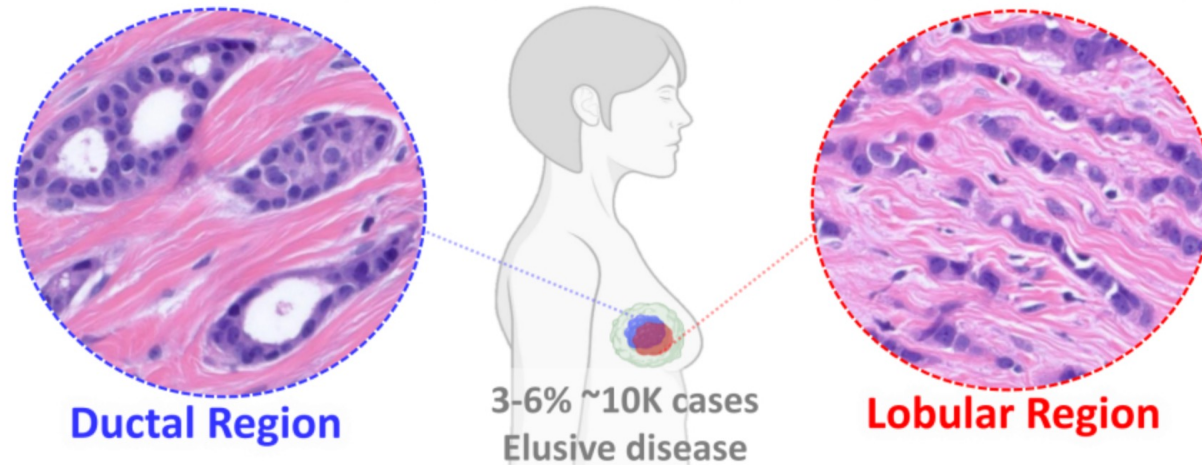


● cluster A    ● cluster B



- Intra-tumor heterogeneity: presence of different clusters represented by different pathway within a patient.
- Inter-ILC heterogeneity.
- Difference in spatial organization of the clusters could have a prognostic relevance, i.e. more disorganized tumors associated with worse prognosis.

# Mixed ductal and lobular breast cancer



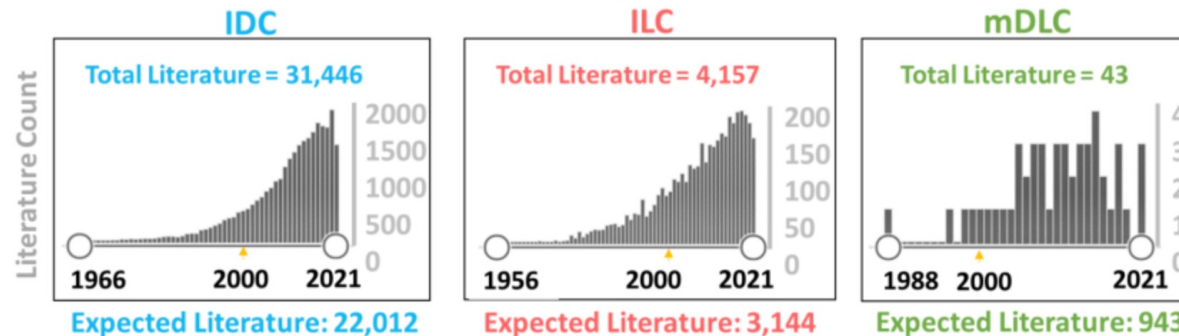
**Ductal Region**

3-6% ~10K cases  
Elusive disease

**Lobular Region**

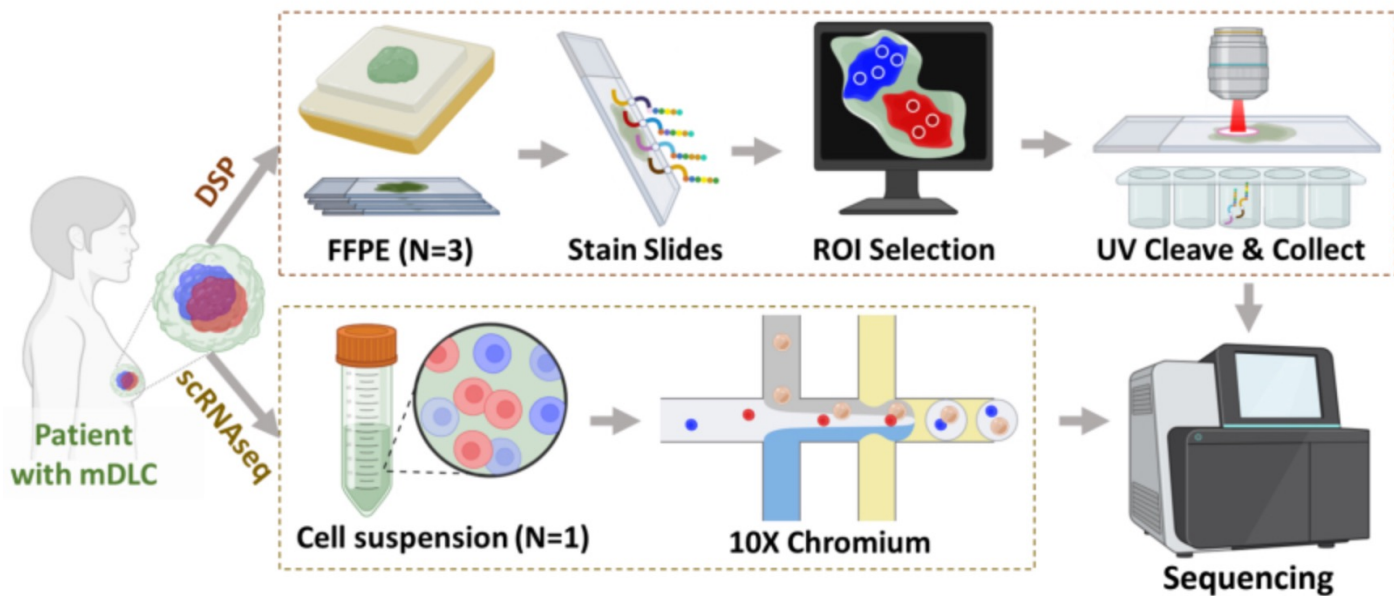
Admix of ductal and lobular regions  
Limited molecular characterization  
Limited clinical management guidelines

**Given disease incidence, mDLC are understudied**

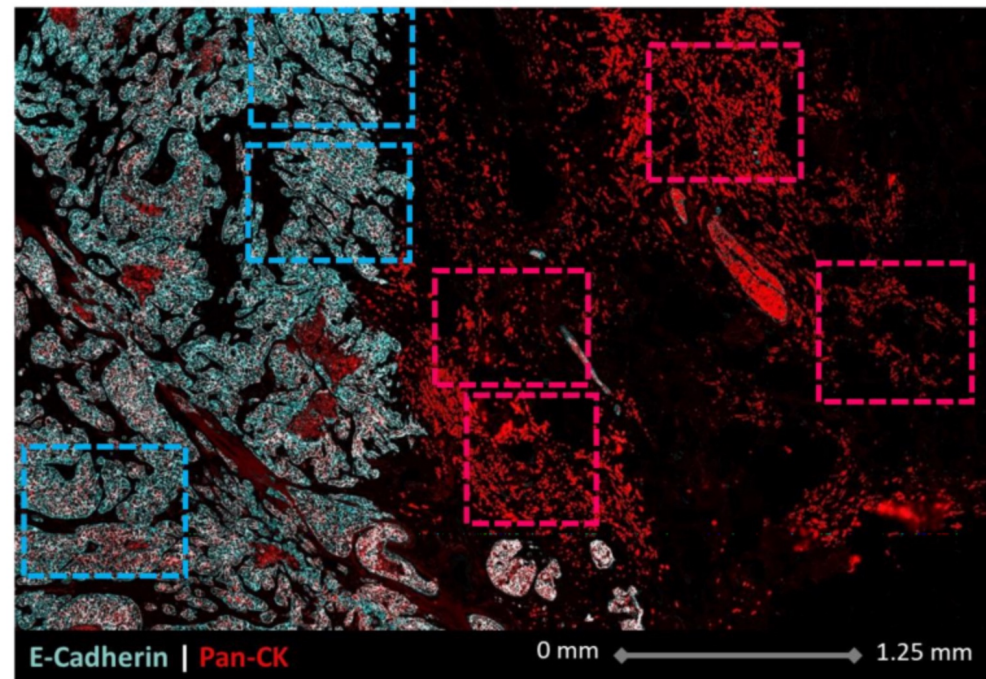




# Mixed ductal and lobular breast cancer

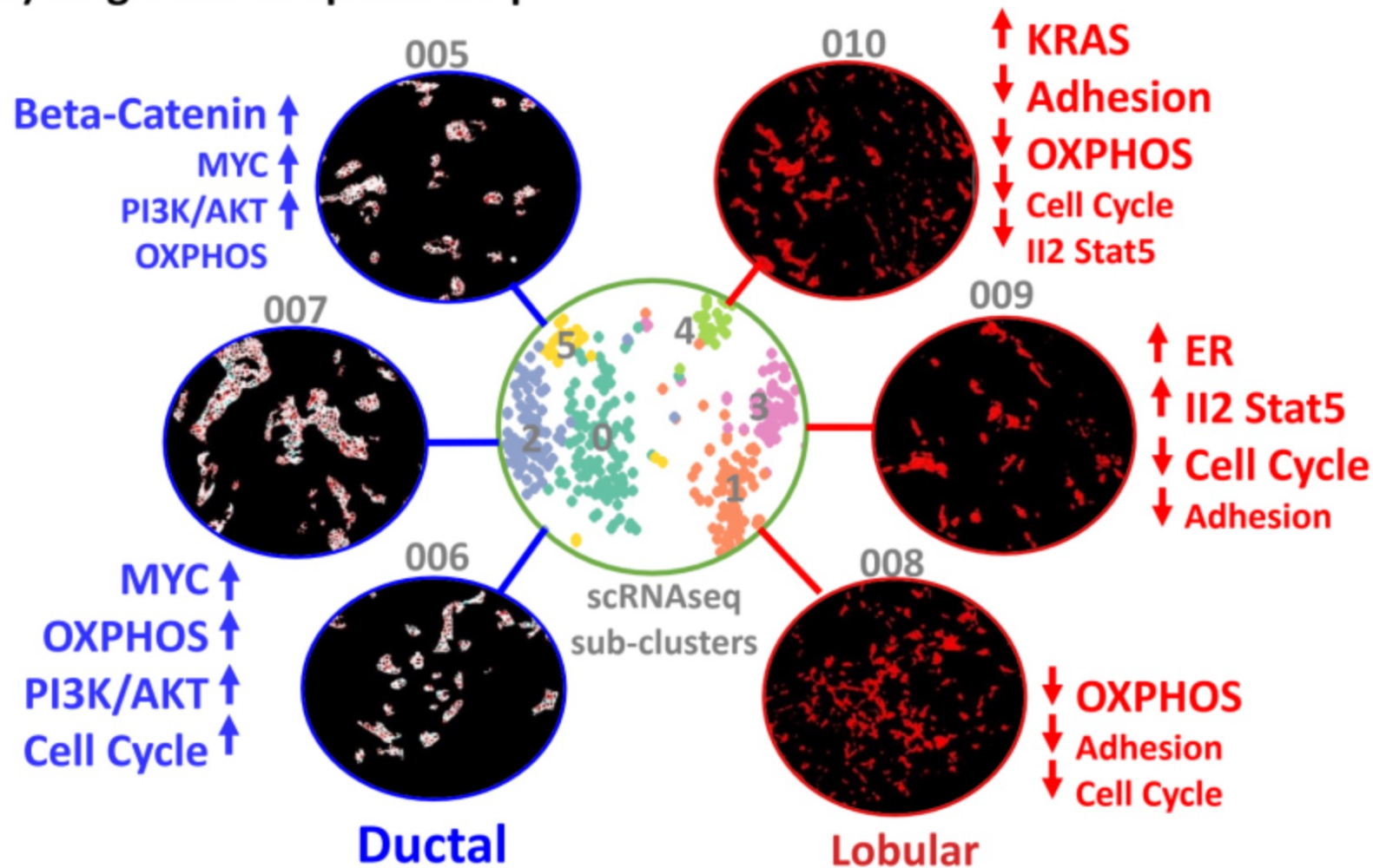


Selecting Regions of Interest (ROI)



# Mixed ductal and lobular breast cancer

## B) Single cell to spatial map



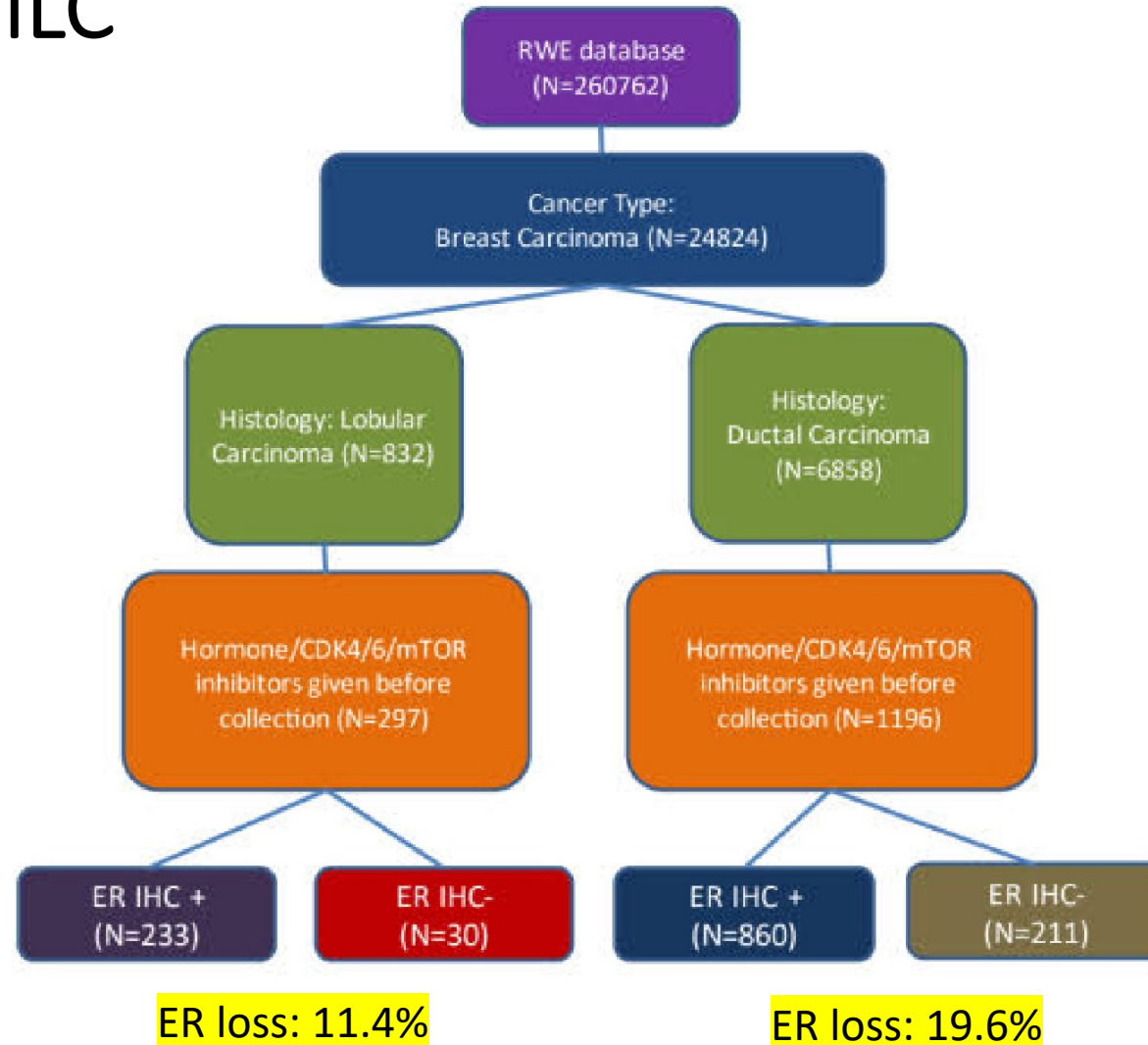
- Many differences observed between the two histologic subtypes, but also within each subtype
- Some findings are counterintuitive to what is known re IDC/ILC
- Results need to be confirmed on a larger nr of samples



# ER-loss in metastatic ILC

## Aims:

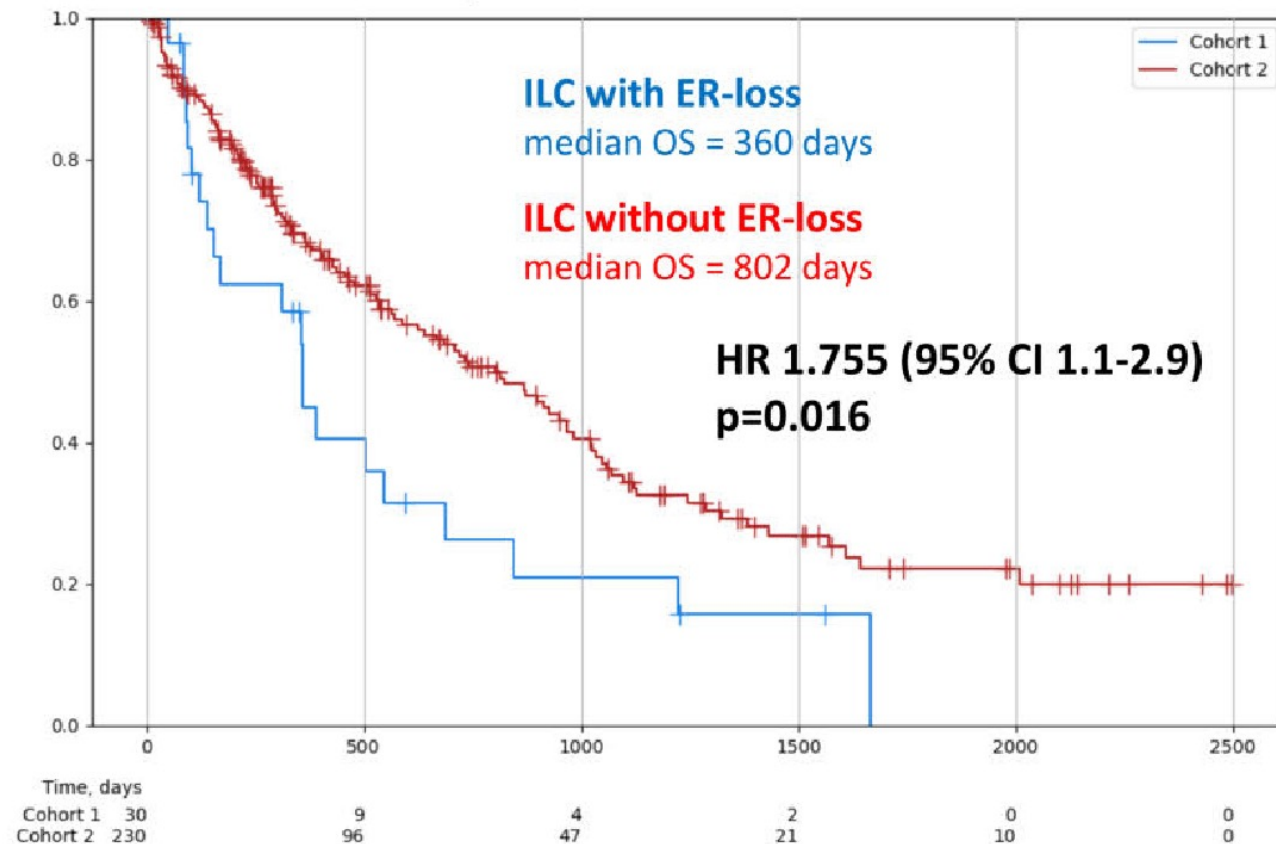
Define prevalence & clinical relevance of ER-loss in patients with metastatic ILC, using large real-world dataset



# ER-loss in metastatic ILC

## Overall Survival for ILC with or without ER loss\*

Time of tissue collection to last patient contact



- ER-loss seems to be less frequent in patients ILC as compared to NST (only 1 met evaluated)
- ER-loss associated with worse OS both in patients with ILC and NST

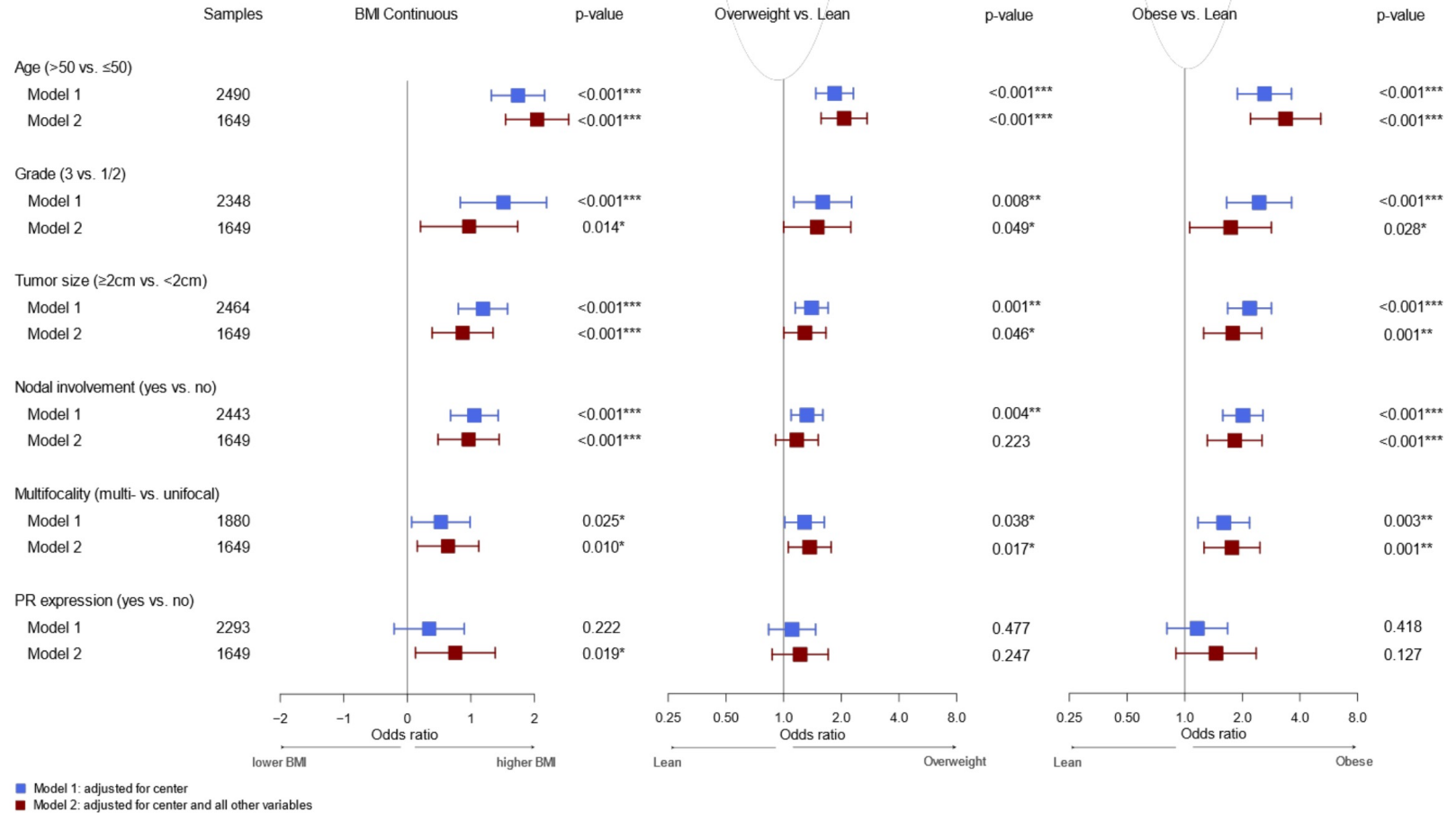
No multivariable analysis provided

# ILC & BMI

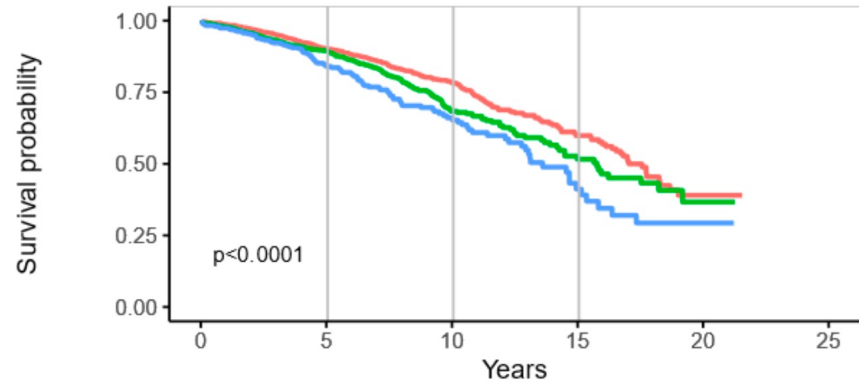
## Aims:

Investigate in large multi-centric retrospective series of 2,900 pts with primary ILC, the association of BMI with:

1. clinicopathological features of ILC
2. prognosis



# ILC & BMI

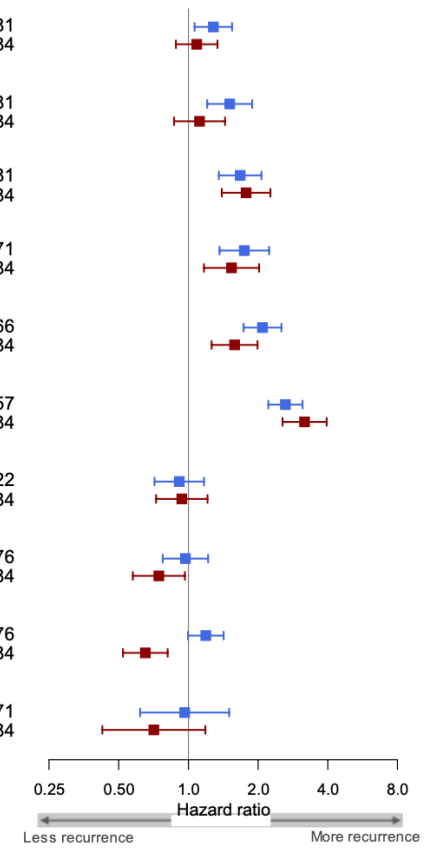


Number at risk (number censored)						
	0	5	10	15	20	25
Lean	384 (0)	969 (294)	390 (778)	89 (1023)	9 (1083)	0 (1092)
Overweight	701 (0)	474 (159)	180 (371)	48 (479)	2 (517)	0 (519)
Obese	356 (0)	215 (92)	84 (188)	20 (234)	3 (246)	0 (249)

Cumulative number of events						
	0	5	10	15	20	25
Lean	3	121	216	272	292	292
Overweight	3	68	150	174	182	182
Obese	1	49	84	102	107	107

	Samples	Events	BMI Categorical	p-value
BMI (overweight vs. lean)	2441	581		0.009**
Model 1	2019	484		0.434
BMI (obese vs. lean)	2441	581		<0.001***
Model 1	2019	484		0.391
Age (>50 vs. ≤50)	2441	581		<0.001***
Model 1	2019	484		<0.001***
Grade (3 vs. 1/2)	2299	571		<0.001***
Model 1	2019	484		0.002**
Tumour size (≥2cm vs. <2cm)	2415	566		<0.001***
Model 1	2019	484		<0.001***
Nodal involvement (yes vs. no)	2397	557		<0.001***
Model 1	2019	484		<0.001***
PR expression (yes vs. no)	2245	522		0.467
Model 1	2019	484		0.614
Radiotherapy (yes vs. no)	2414	576		0.797
Model 1	2019	484		0.026*
Chemotherapy (yes vs. no)	2420	576		0.056
Model 1	2019	484		<0.001***
Endocrine therapy (yes vs. no)	2395	571		0.868
Model 1	2019	484		0.189



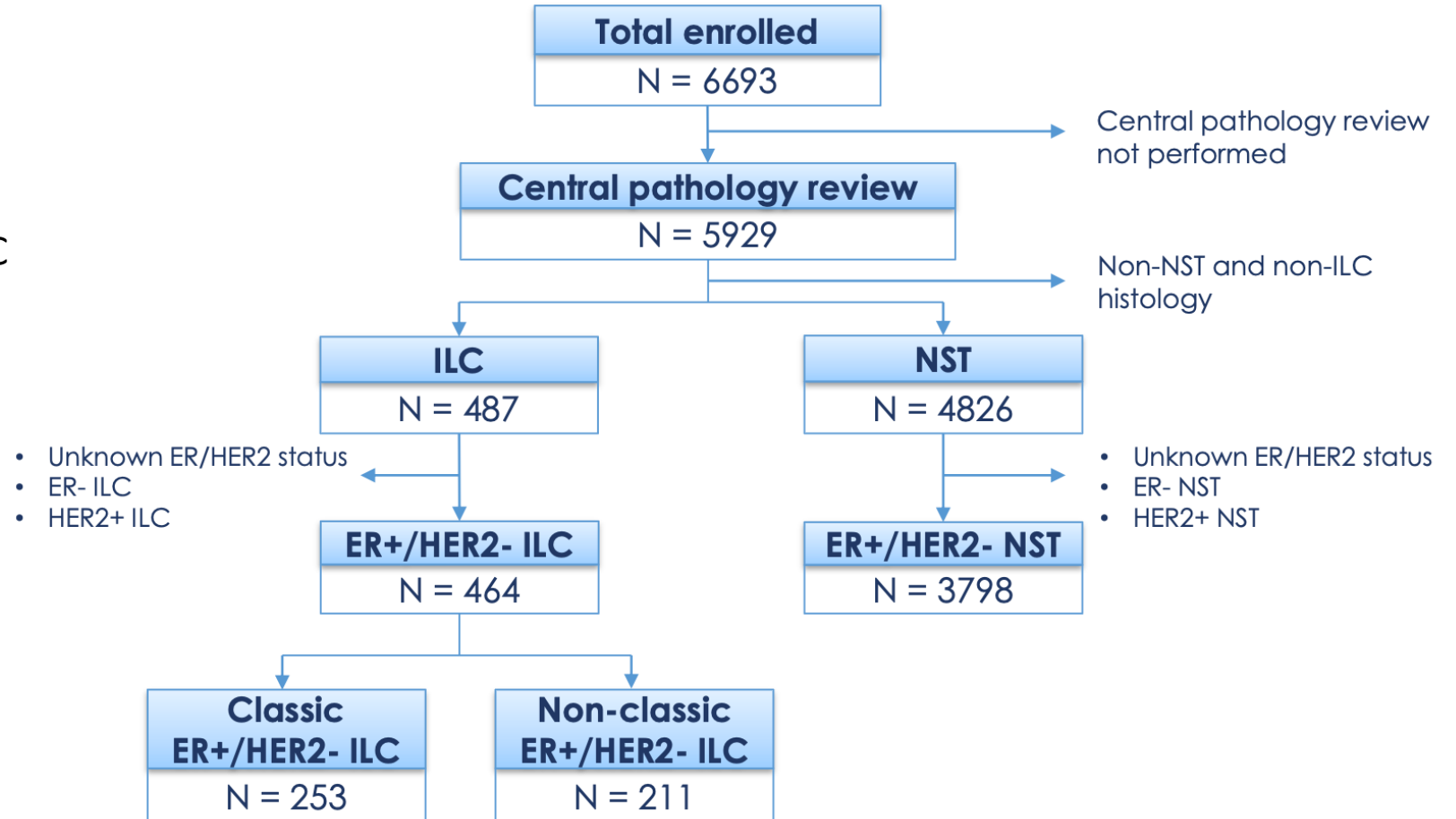
- Association of worse prognostic factors such as higher grade, larger tumour size, nodal involvement with higher BMI.
- No statistical evidence for a prognostic role for BMI in the multivariable analyses.
- Prognostic effect might be mediated through its association with these clinicopathological variables.

# Retrospective analysis transcriptomic data MINDACT

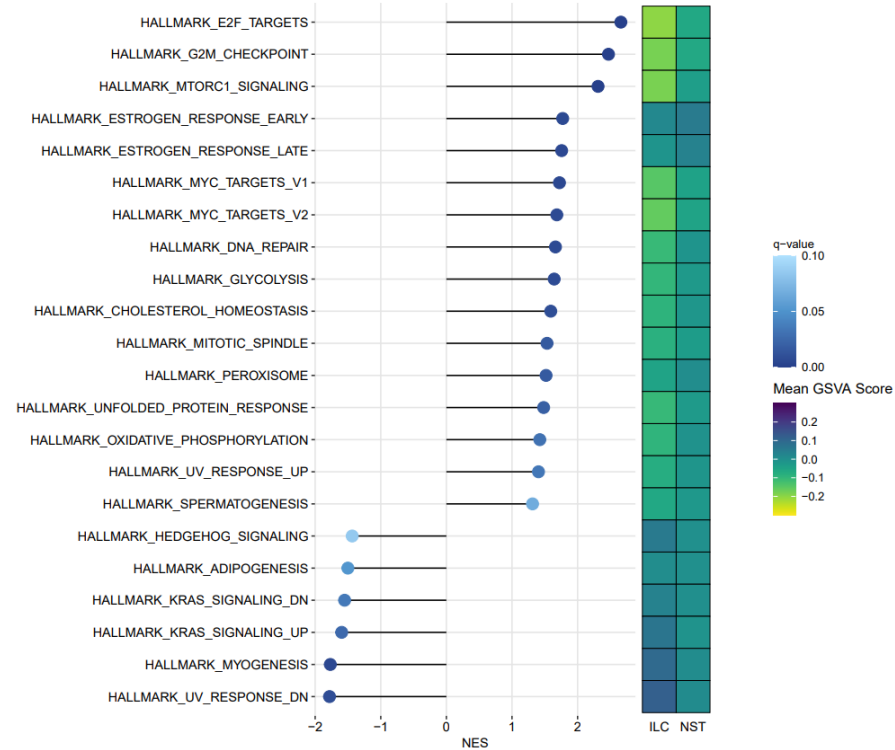
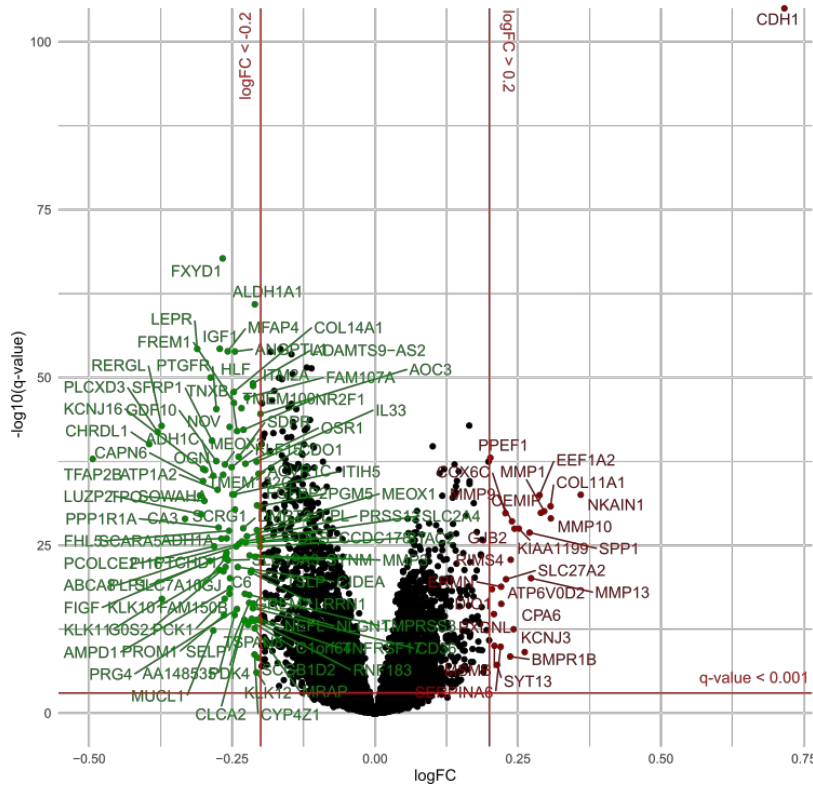
## Aims

Transcriptomic differences between:

1. ER+/HER2- NST versus ER+/HER2- ILC
2. Recurring and non-recurring ER+/HER2- ILC in the subgroup of patients with a low clinical and low genomic (cL/gL) risk







































# Transcriptomic differences ER+/HER2- ILC vs NST



ILC presents differences in lipid metabolism and in the extracellular matrix, a decreased ER- signaling and increased PI3K/Akt signaling.



# ER+/HER2- ILC with low clinical AND genomic risk from pts who did or did not relapse

Hallmark	Samples	Events		HR (95% CI)	P Value	
HALLMARK_APOPTOSIS	Model 1	216	28		13.705 (1.157 - 162.299)	0.038
	Model 2	214	28		11.605 (0.841 - 160.221)	0.067
HALLMARK_COMPLEMENT	Model 1	216	28		5.41 (0.978 - 29.943)	0.053
	Model 2	214	28		5.642 (0.896 - 35.552)	0.085
HALLMARK_DNA_REPAIR	Model 1	216	28		4.965 (0.355 - 69.499)	0.234
	Model 2	214	28		12.864 (0.689 - 240.084)	0.087
HALLMARK_E2F_TARGETS	Model 1	216	28		2.971 (0.615 - 14.343)	0.175
	Model 2	214	28		5.528 (0.982 - 31.12)	0.052
HALLMARK_HYPOXIA	Model 1	216	28		11.149 (0.863 - 144.093)	0.065
	Model 2	214	28		10.303 (0.695 - 152.624)	0.090
HALLMARK_IL2_STAT5_SIGNALING	Model 1	216	28		7.67 (0.954 - 61.666)	0.055
	Model 2	214	28		6.707 (0.761 - 59.142)	0.087
HALLMARK_IL6_JAK_STAT3_SIGNALING	Model 1	216	28		3.706 (0.824 - 16.664)	0.088
	Model 2	214	28		3.822 (0.785 - 18.618)	0.097
HALLMARK_INFLAMMATORY_RESPONSE	Model 1	216	28		4.012 (0.911 - 17.68)	0.066
	Model 2	214	28		3.466 (0.722 - 16.65)	0.121
HALLMARK_INTERFERON_ALPHA_RESPONSE	Model 1	216	28		2.484 (0.881 - 7.005)	0.086
	Model 2	214	28		2.756 (0.905 - 8.394)	0.074
HALLMARK_INTERFERON_GAMMA_RESPONSE	Model 1	216	28		2.85 (0.851 - 9.549)	0.090
	Model 2	214	28		3.089 (0.821 - 11.623)	0.095
HALLMARK_KRAS_SIGNALING_DN	Model 1	216	28		0.013 (0.001 - 0.288)	0.006
	Model 2	214	28		0.012 (0 - 0.316)	0.008
HALLMARK_MTORC1_SIGNALING	Model 1	216	28		7.129 (0.807 - 62.984)	0.077
	Model 2	214	28		9.645 (1.045 - 89.006)	0.046
HALLMARK_MYC_TARGETS_V1	Model 1	216	28		3.694 (0.619 - 22.057)	0.152
	Model 2	214	28		6.005 (0.877 - 41.117)	0.068
HALLMARK_MYC_TARGETS_V2	Model 1	216	28		3.556 (0.918 - 13.777)	0.066
	Model 2	214	28		5.596 (1.317 - 23.769)	0.020
HALLMARK_PI3K_AKT_MTOR_SIGNALING	Model 1	216	28		11.817 (1.24 - 112.613)	0.032
	Model 2	214	28		13.56 (1.337 - 137.498)	0.027
HALLMARK_TNFA_SIGNALING_VIA_NFKB	Model 1	216	28		3.881 (0.952 - 15.822)	0.059
	Model 2	214	28		3.518 (0.816 - 15.16)	0.091
HALLMARK_UNFOLDED_PROTEIN_RESPONSE	Model 1	216	28		6.204 (0.623 - 61.796)	0.120
	Model 2	214	28		8.225 (0.705 - 95.907)	0.093
HALLMARK_UV_RESPONSE_UP	Model 1	216	28		30.916 (2.321 - 411.753)	0.009
	Model 2	214	28		54.236 (3.537 - 831.633)	0.004

■ **Model 1:** Univariable  
 ■ **Model 2:** Adjusted for:  
 Age,  
 Tumor grade,  
 Tumor size,  
 Nodal status,  
 Endocrinotherapy,  
 Radiotherapy

1. Marked transcriptomic differences were identified between ER+/HER2- NST and ILC.
2. Enrichment of hallmarks related to apoptosis, inflammatory response, hypoxia and oncogenic signaling (PI3K/Akt, c-Myc) is associated with worse survival in patients with cL/gL ILC.

# Conclusive remarks

- Research scene dominated by the ADCs (detection of target, prediction of response/resistance, identification of new targets etc)
- Documentation of intra-tumor heterogeneity increases with the use of newer technologies/ clinical implication to be further investigated
- Multitechnical and multidisciplinary approaches to investigate therapy resistance/sensitivity
- Liquid biopsies: still an area under intense clinical investigation (what to look for, which liquids, for which purpose)
- Novel insights into ILC

Thank you very much for  
your attention!

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