

# Molecular Testing for Precision Medicine

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@VivekSubbiah

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# DISCLOSURES

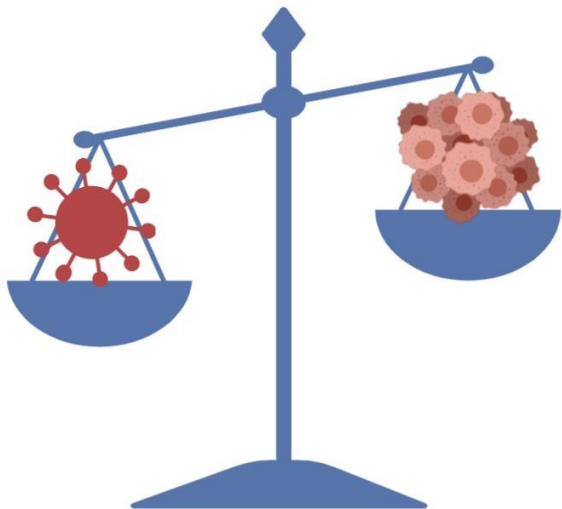
Relationship(s)	Support
National Institutes of Health grant R01CA242845, Loxo Oncology/Eli Lilly, Novartis, Bayer, Berghealth, Incyte, Fujifilm, Phamamar, D3, Pfizer, Multivir, Amgen, Abbvie, Alfa-sigma, Agensys, Boston Biomedical, Idera Pharma, Inhibrx, Exelixis, Blueprint Medicines, Medimmune, Altum, Dragonfly Therapeutics, Takeda, National Comprehensive Cancer Network, NCI-CTEP, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Turning Point Therapeutics, and Boston Pharmaceuticals	<b>Grant/Research support</b>
Helsinn, Loxo Oncology/Eli Lilly, R-Pharma US, INCYTE, QED Pharma, Medimmune, and Novartis	<b>Advisor/Board Member</b>

# Agenda

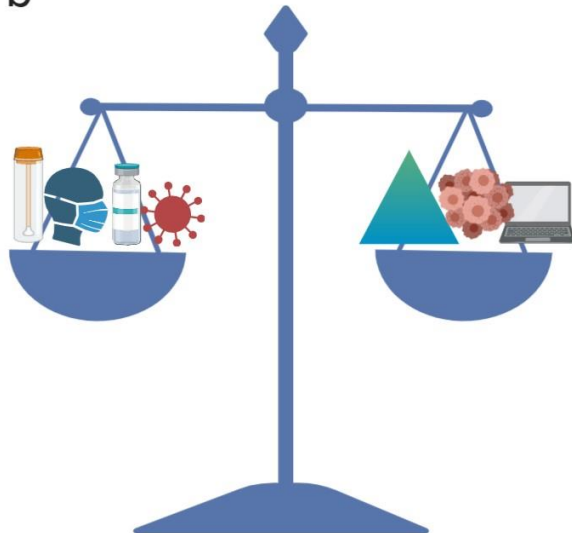
- Precision Medicine
- Tumor Agnostic Medicine
- Story of BRAF and RET
- N-of-One
- Resistance mechanisms
- Patient driven precision medicine in the era of social media
- Future outlook

# Restoring the balance for cancer care in the COVID-19 era

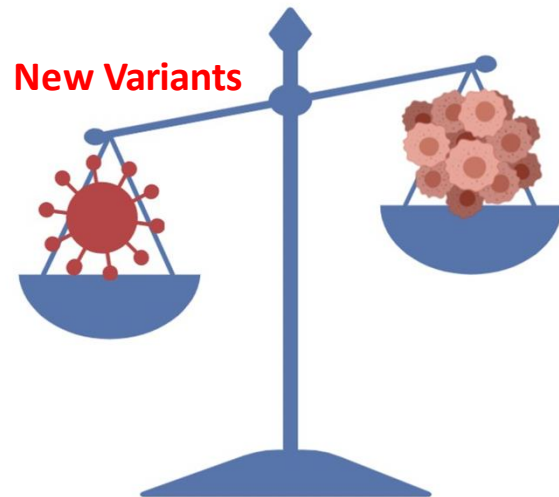
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b

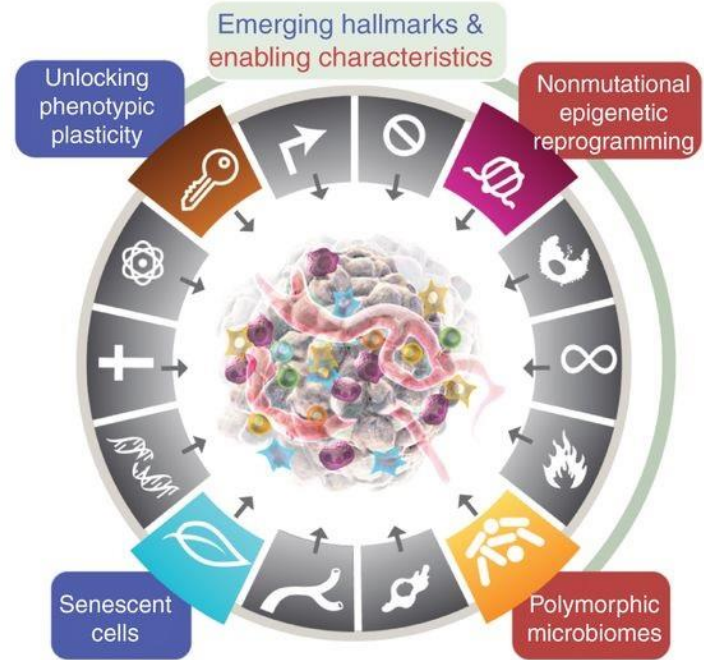
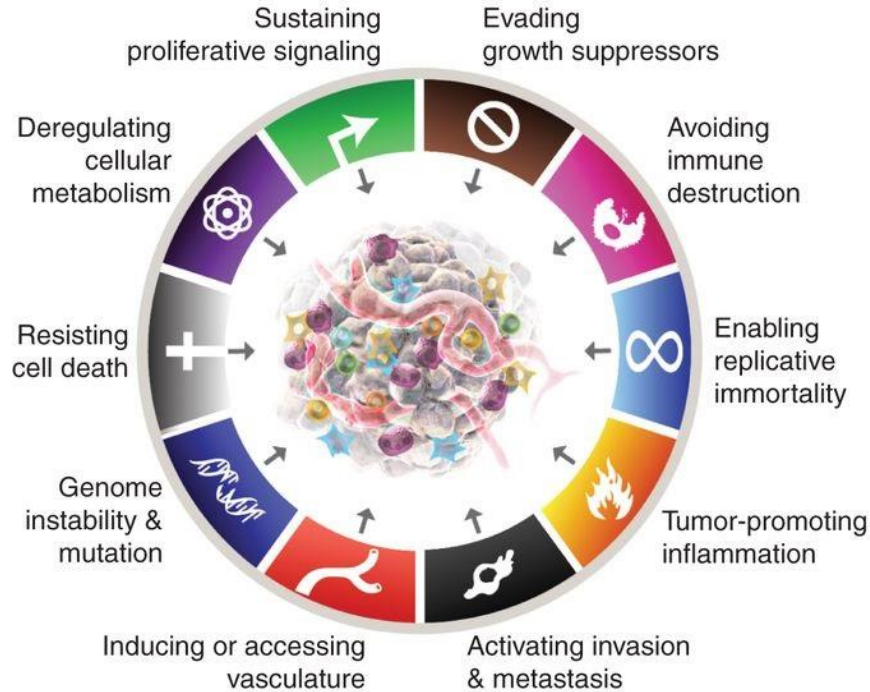


c



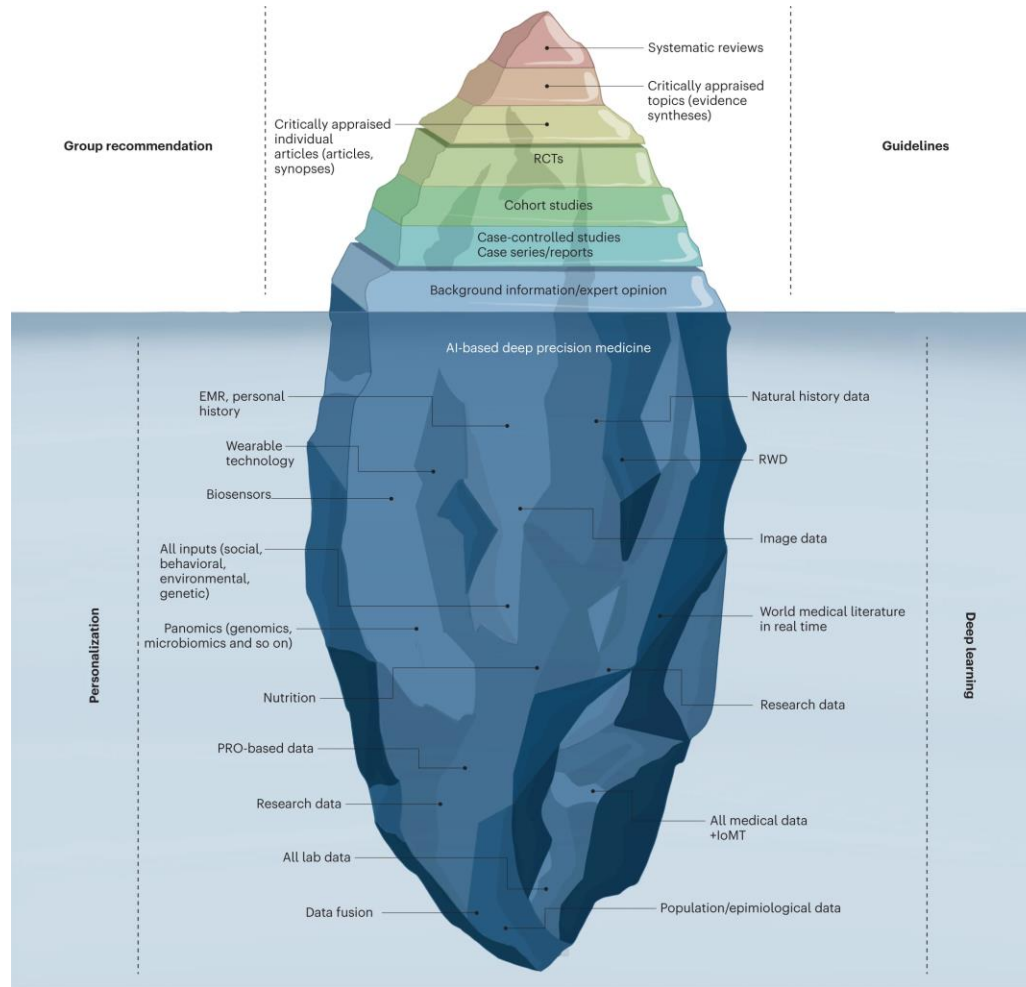
@VivekSubbiah

# Hallmarks of Cancer: New Dimensions



*Hanahan D. Cancer Discov. 2022 Jan;*

# Evidence-based deep medicine iceberg



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# HOW DID WE TREAT ADVANCED and METASTATIC CANCERS?



**Palmistry**



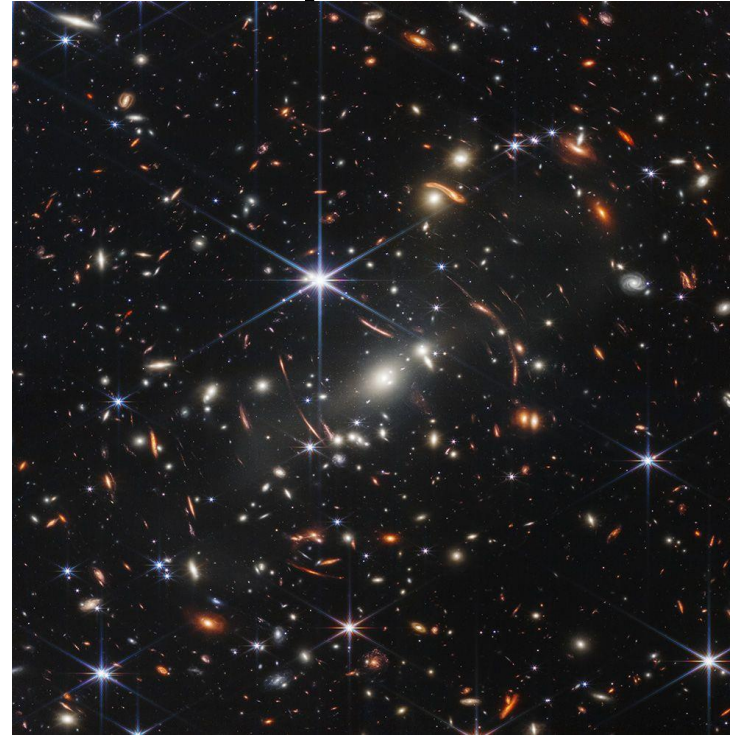
**Crystal Ball**

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# Gallileo Telescope to James Webb telescope



*Jupiters moons – similar to what Galileo saw using an amateur telescope*



*The telescope's first public image shows a cluster of galaxies called SMACS 0723, which is so heavy it warps and magnifies the light from distant galaxies beyond it.*

*Credit:*

NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI





**Cartwheel Galaxy - alongside two smaller companion galaxies - which was created as the result of an intergalactic collision Pic: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI**

# Light microscope



# Molecular microscope

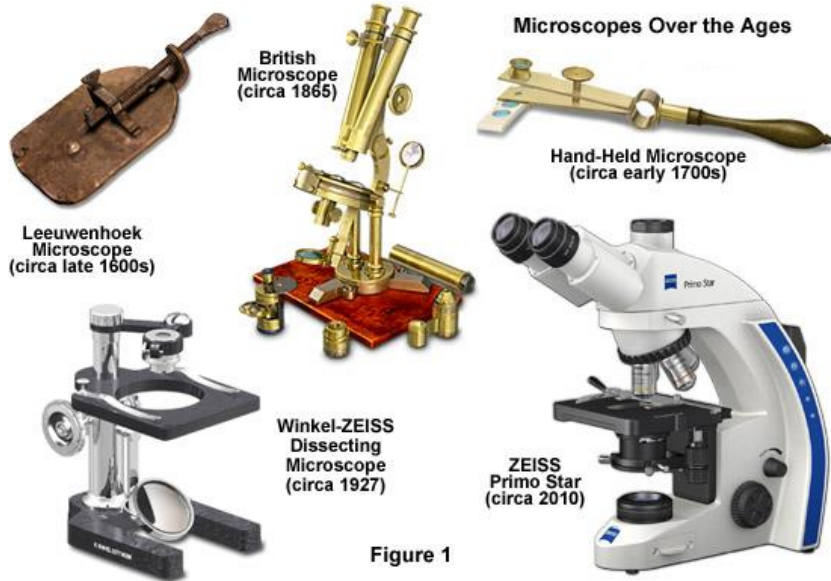
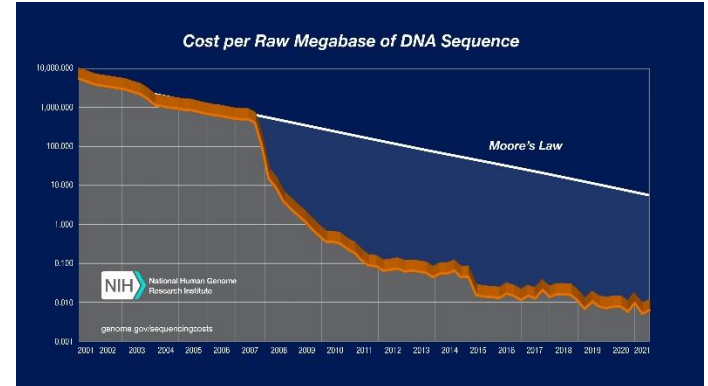
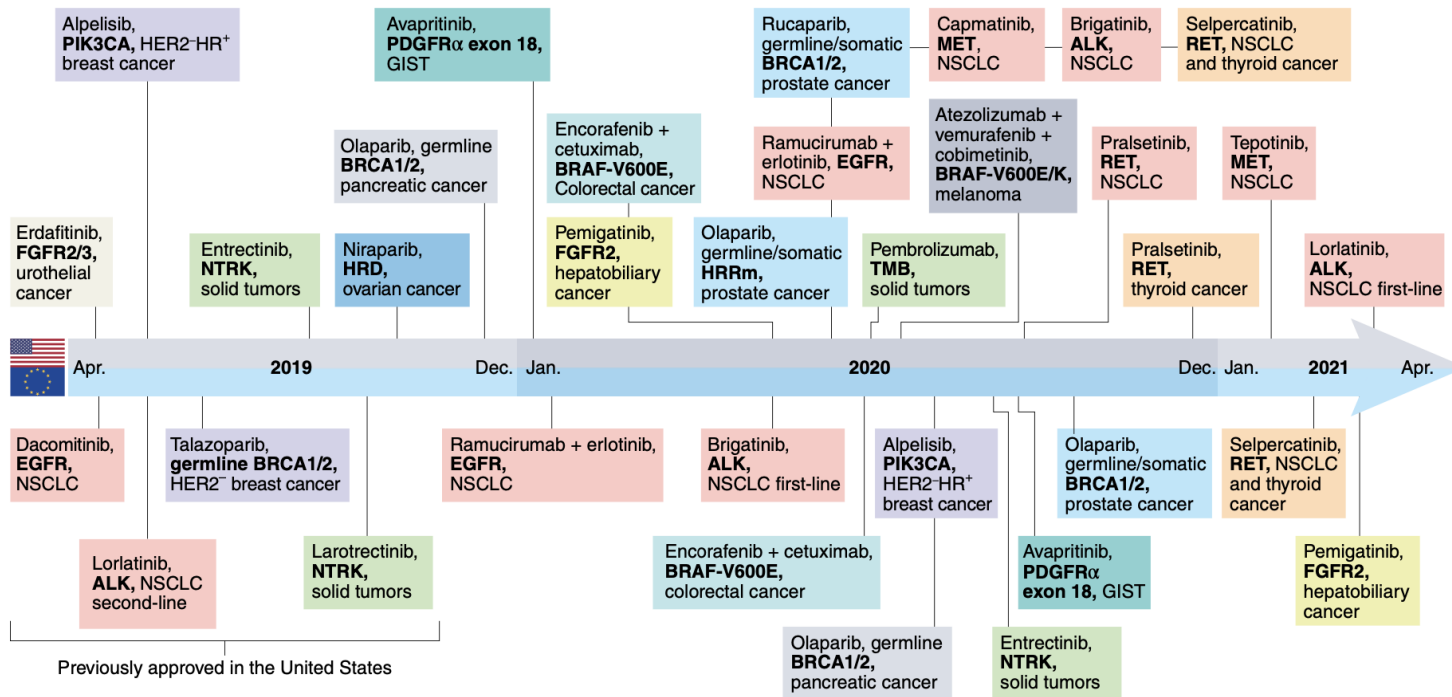


Figure 1



# Precision Medicines in Cancer



# Tumor Agnostic Treatment

- ❖ A **tumor-agnostic treatment** is a drug treatment that is used to treat any kind of cancer, regardless of where in the body it started or the type of tissue from which it developed.
- ❖ This type of treatment can be used when the tumor has a very specific molecular alteration that is targeted by a drug likely to work
- ❖ Most cancer treatments are developed to treat a cancer that has developed in a specific organ or tissue eg. breast cancer or lung cancer.
- ❖ A **tumor-agnostic** treatment treats any kind of cancer as long as the cancer has the specific molecular alteration targeted by the drug.

## New Era of Tissue-agnostic approvals driven by genomics: A Marriage of Genomics and Immunotherapy

- FDA approves pembrolizumab (anti-PD1)
- for solid tumors based on MSI-H (RR ~45%)
- May 23, 2017
- Tissue agnostic approval
- Approval based on genomic marker
- **Approval based on retrospective/real-world data**



# The NTRK fusion story: Picking needles in Haystacks

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- **Larotrectinib for *NTRK* fusion adult and pediatric solid tumors**
- FDA approval November 26, 2018
  
- **Entrectinib for *NTRK* fusion adult and pediatric solid tumors**
- FDA approval August 16, 2019

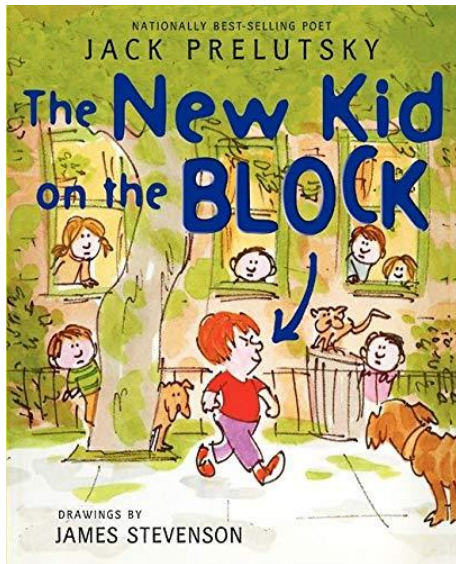


# The Marriage of Genomics & Immunotherapy: Story continues

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- Pembrolizumab for TMB $\geq$ 10 mutations/mb
- adult and pediatric solid tumors
- FDA approval June 16, 2020
  
- Dostarlimab (anti-PD1) for
- adult dMMR solid tumors
- FDA approved August 17 2021





And the story  
continues.....

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- **Belzutifan** Adults with von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease (VHL germline mutations) with renal cell carcinoma (RCC), central nervous system (CNS) hemangioblastomas, or pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (pNET)
  - FDA approval August 13, 2021
- **Dabrafenib and trametinib** for adult + pediatric patients 6 years or older with unresectable or metastatic BRAF V600E-mutant solid tumors – FDA approved – June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022

**NEW**



# Precision Oncology Paradigm and Rare Cancers- Story of BRAF and RET

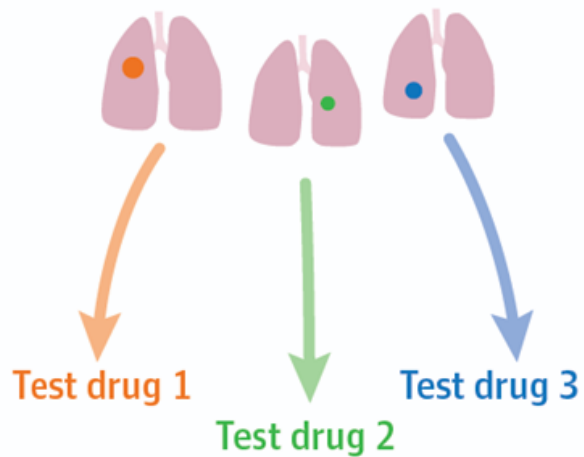
- Vemurafenib Basket
- Rare Cancers Oncology Agnostic Research
- RET+ Cancers

## Novel precision medicine trial designs

### Umbrella trial

1 type of cancer

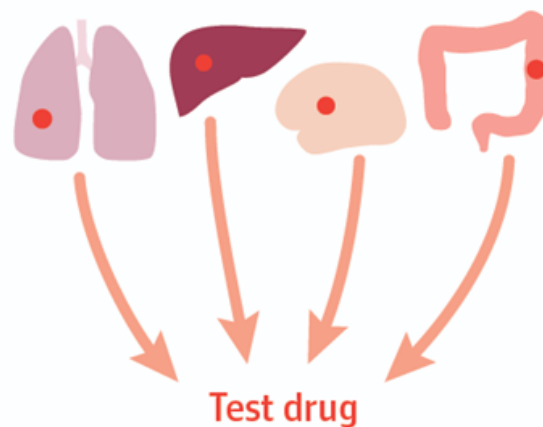
Different genetic mutations (●●●)



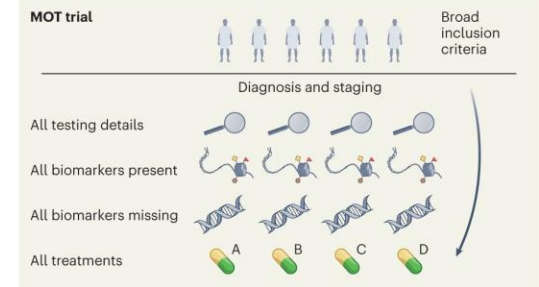
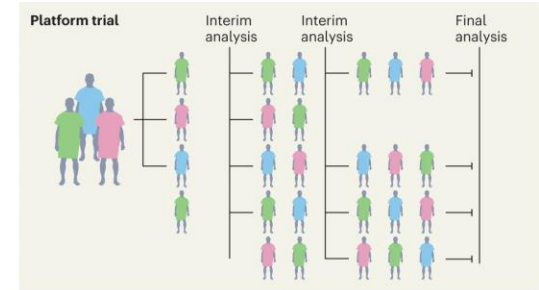
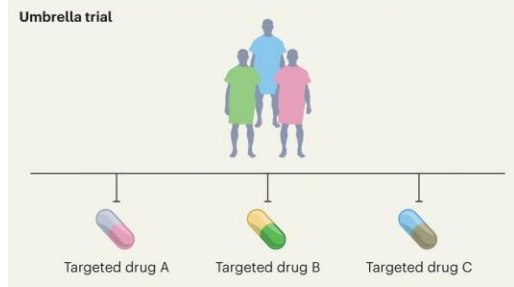
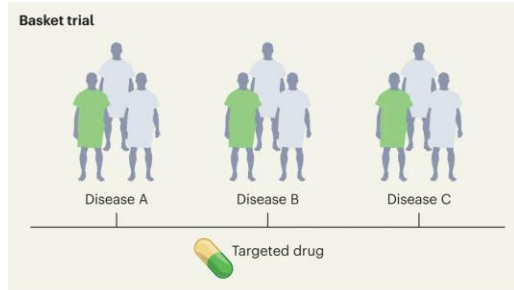
### Basket trial

Multiple types of cancer

1 common genetic mutation (●)



# Classes of Master Protocols



# BRAF in Cancer beyond Melanoma

- ❖ BRAFmut oncogene - 5-10% of all human malignancies; Most of the tumors that express BRAF V600E mutations are rare or ultra-rare cancers.
- ❖ Constitutive activation of the MAPK pathway
- ❖ Most common mutation of BRAF valine-to-glutamic acid substitution at codon 600 (V600E)

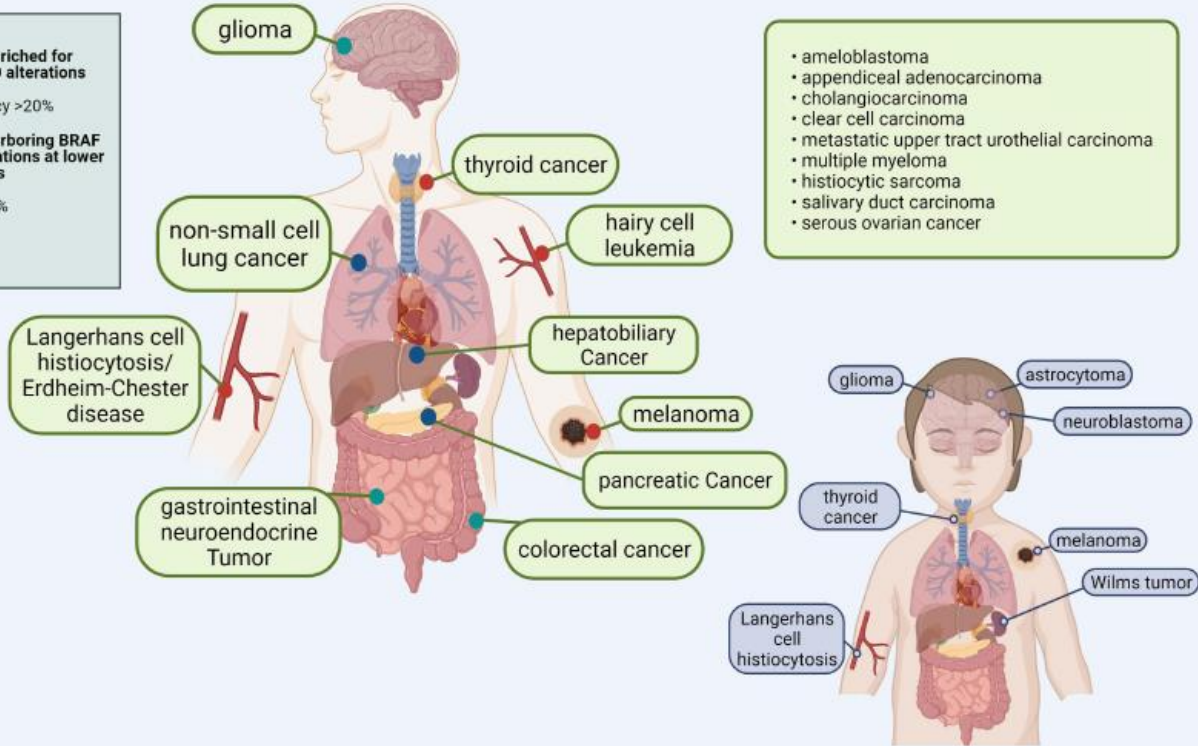
## Distribution of BRAF V600 alterations in adult and pediatric tumors

### Cancers enriched for BRAF V600 alterations

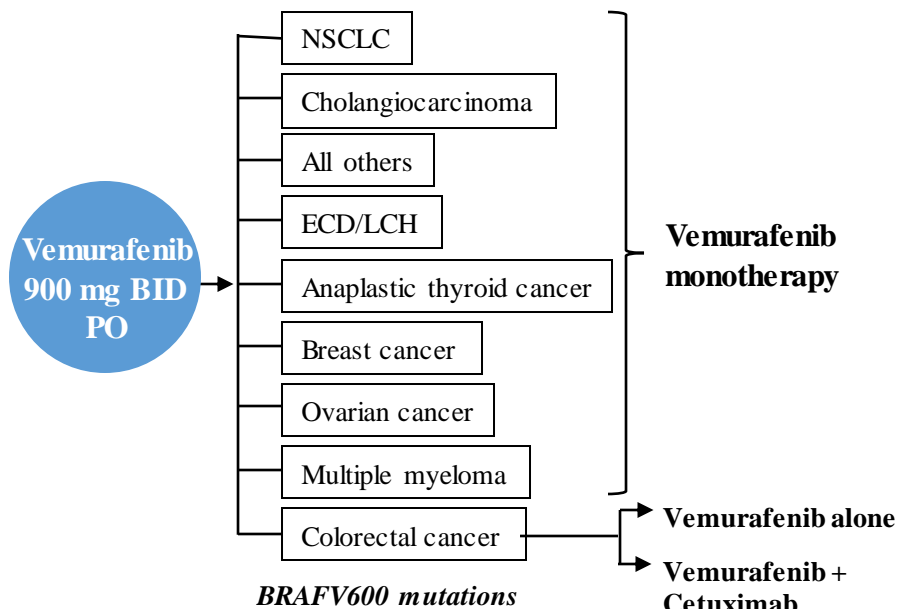
- Frequency >20%

### Cancers harboring BRAF V600 alterations at lower frequencies

- 4% to 10%
- <4%

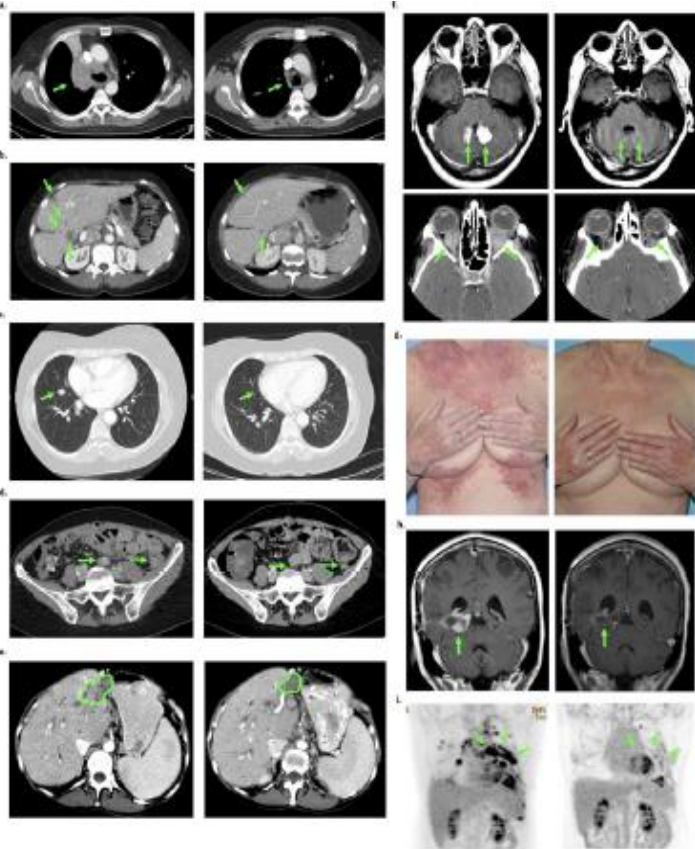


# Vemurafenib Basket Trial



- ❖ In NSCLC, the response rate was 42%
- ❖ **In Erdheim–Chester disease or Langerhans’-cell histiocytosis, the response rate was 43% (FDA approval)**
- ❖ Responses in pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma, anaplastic thyroid cancer, cholangiocarcinoma, salivary-duct cancer, ovarian cancer, and clear-cell sarcoma
- ❖ Among patients with colorectal cancer who received vemurafenib and cetuximab.
- ❖ Validated BRAF V600 as a therapeutic target beyond melanoma
- ❖ Lead to tumor-agnostic sensitivity to vemurafenib with the exception of colorectal cancer

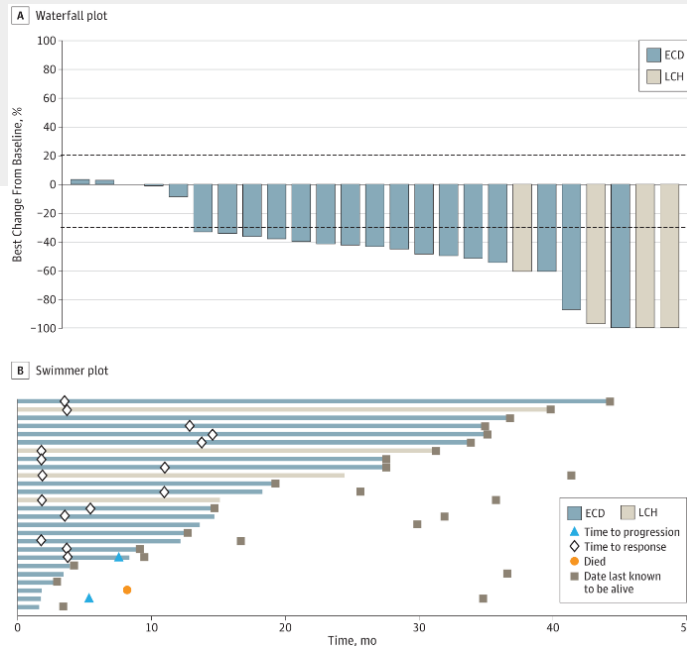
# BRAF as a Therapeutic Target



- In NSCLC, the response rate was 42%
- In Erdheim–Chester disease or Langerhans’-cell histiocytosis, the response rate was 43% **\*\* (FDA approval)**
- Responses in pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma, anaplastic thyroid cancer, **cholangiocarcinoma**, salivary-duct cancer, ovarian cancer, and clear-cell sarcoma and among patients with colorectal cancer who received vemurafenib and cetuximab.

# Vemurafenib for BRAF V600–Mutant Erdheim-Chester Disease and Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis: Analysis of Data From the Histology-Independent, Phase 2, Open-label VE-BASKET Study

JAMA Oncol. 2018;4(3):384-388. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2017.5029

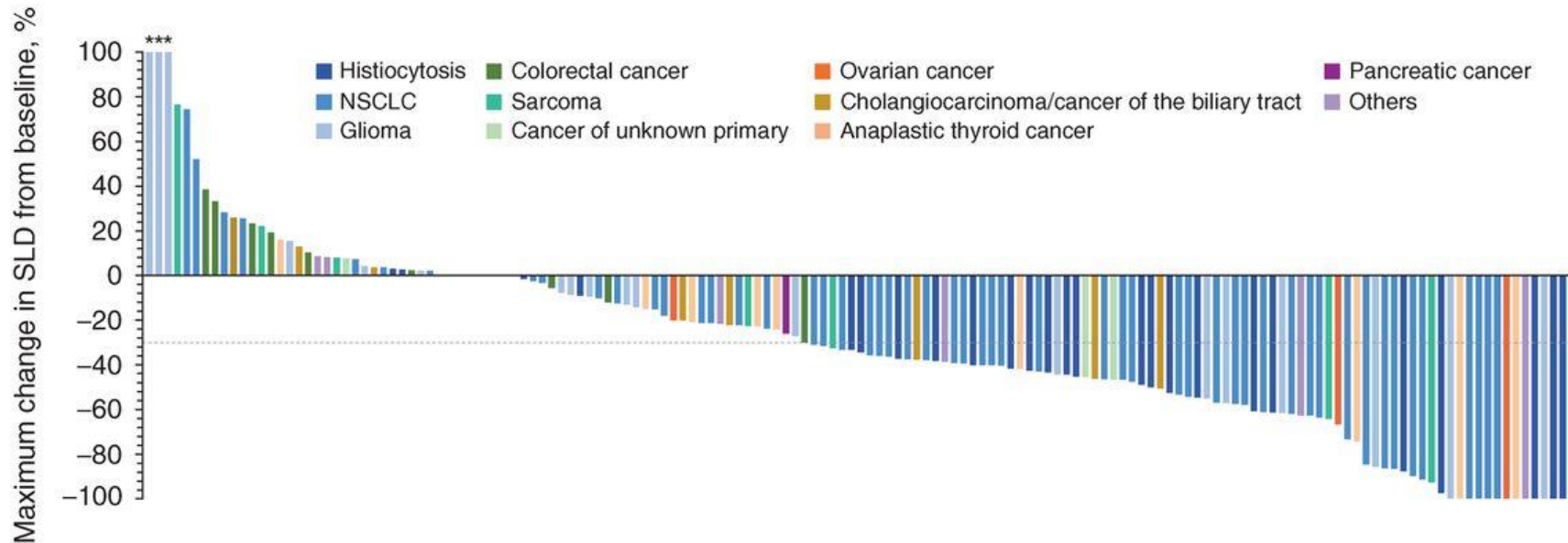


Efficacy of Vemurafenib in Individual Patients With BRAF V600–Mutant Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD) or Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) One patient did not have measurable disease at baseline and was thus not evaluable for response but was included in the intention-to-treat analysis as a nonresponder. The line at –30% represents the cutoff for partial response by RECIST criteria (Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors); the line at +20% demarcates disease progression, which did not occur in any of the patients in this study.



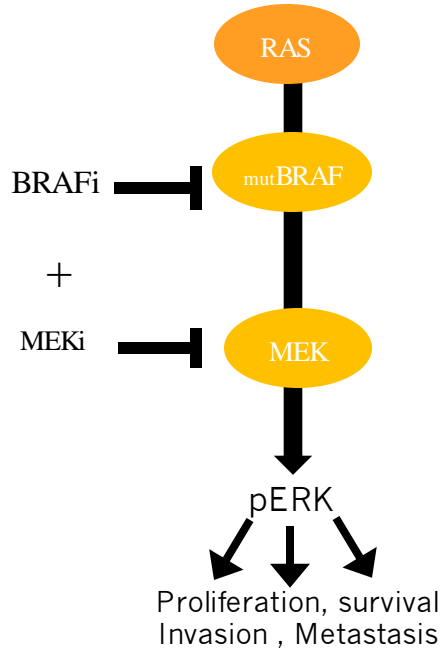
# Pan-Cancer Efficacy of Vemurafenib in *BRAF*<sup>V600</sup>-Mutant Non-Melanoma Cancers

A

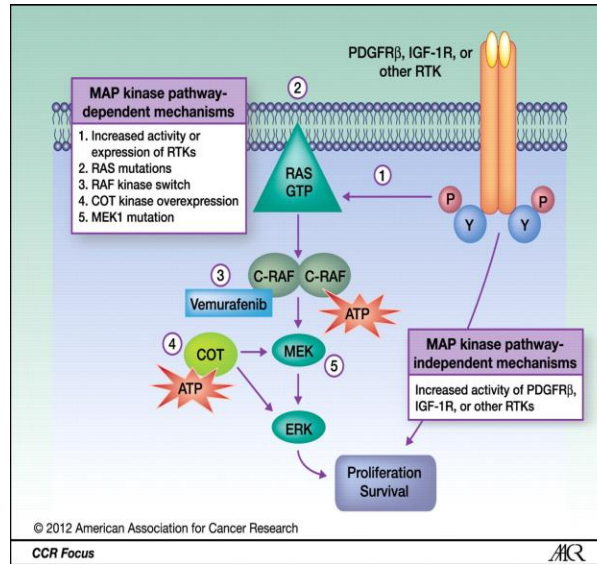


# Rationale for the BRAF+ MEK Combination

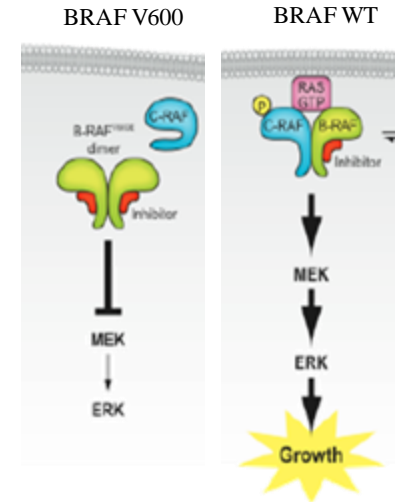
Sustained target inhibition to observe more prolonged and durable anti-tumor effect



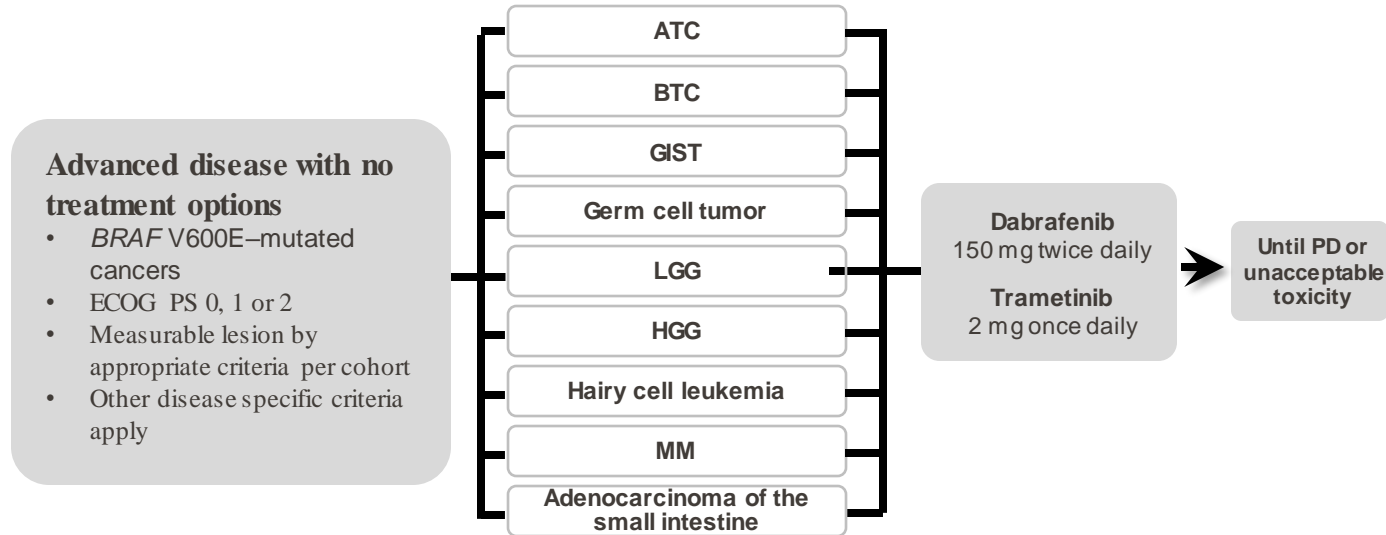
Delay and potentially prevent the development of resistance



Prevent/delay hyperproliferative lesions and secondary malignancies



# ROAR Study Design= Rare Oncology Agnostic Research



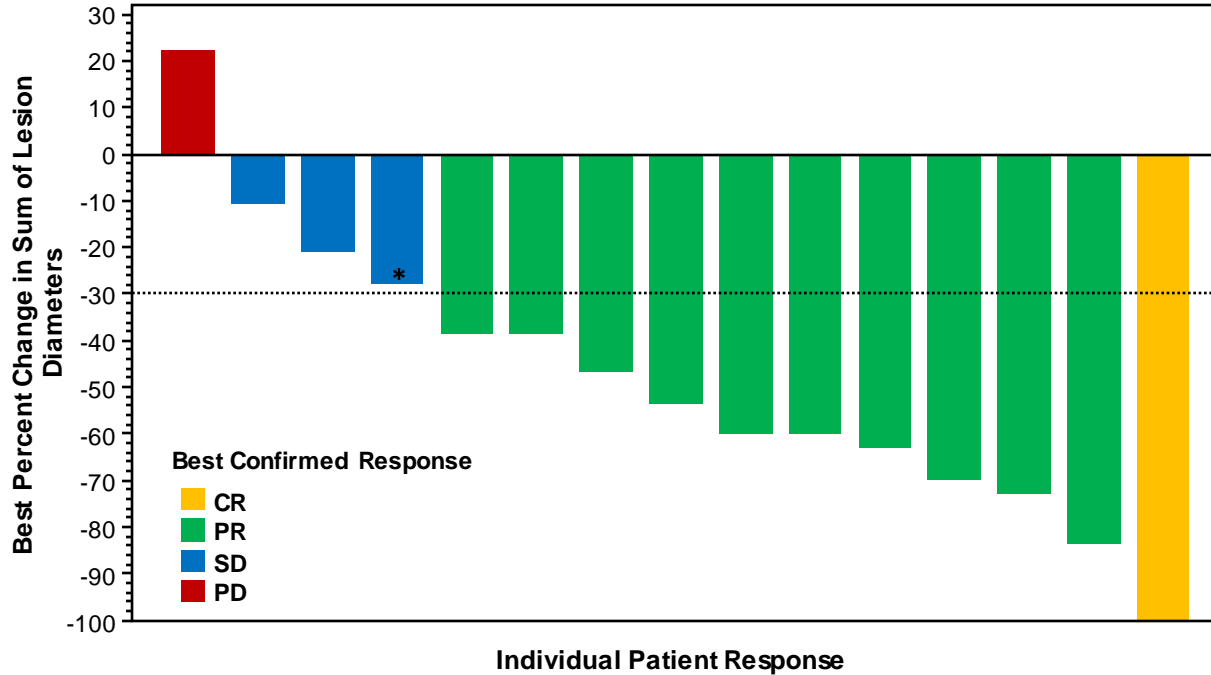
**Primary endpoint:** Investigator assessed ORR

**Secondary endpoints:** DOR, PFS, OS, safety

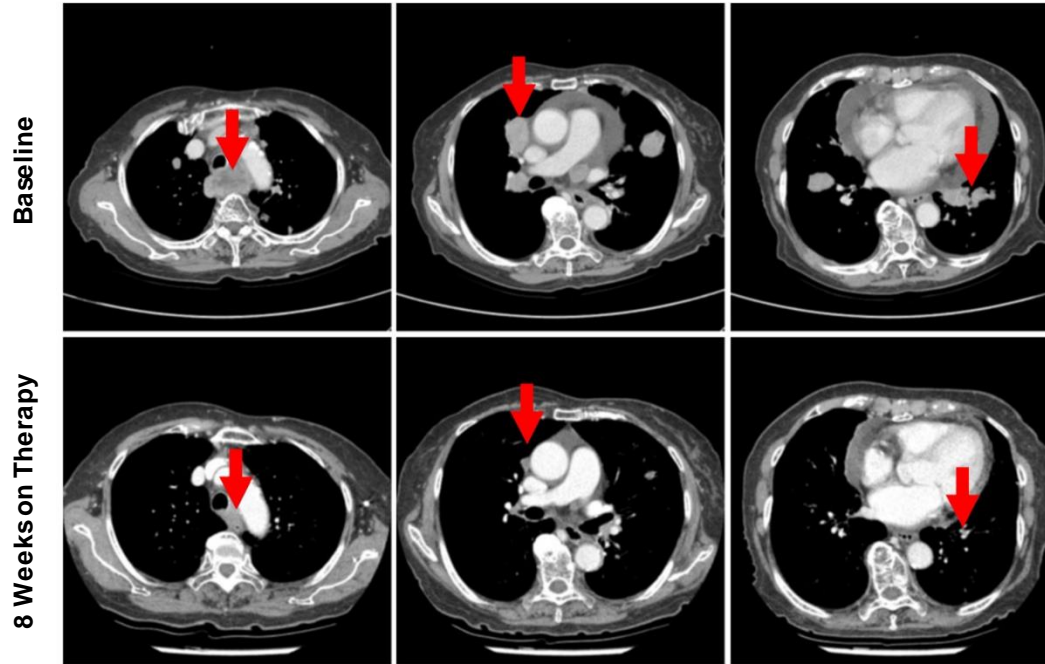
**Other endpoints:** Exploratory Biomarkers, changes from baseline in HRQOL

# Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer BRAF V600 +

69 % ORR



## CT scans – Pt with anaplastic thyroid cancer



FDA News Release

# FDA approves new uses for two drugs administered together for the treatment of BRAF-positive anaplastic thyroid cancer



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For Immediate Release

May 4, 2018

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## Release

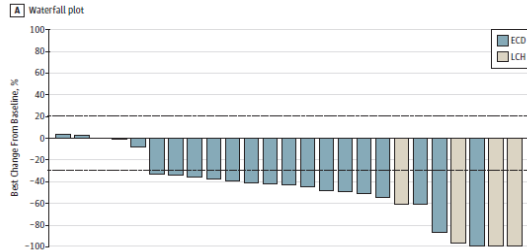
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Tafinlar (dabrafenib) and Mekinist (trametinib), administered together, for the treatment of anaplastic thyroid cancer (ATC) that cannot be removed by surgery or has spread to other parts of the body (metastatic), and has a type of abnormal gene, BRAF V600E (BRAF V600E mutation-positive).

“This is the first FDA-approved treatment for patients with this aggressive form of thyroid cancer, and the third cancer with this specific gene mutation that this drug combination has been approved to treat,” said Richard Pazdur, M.D., director of the FDA’s Oncology Center of Excellence and acting director of the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products in the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. “This approval demonstrates that targeting the same molecular pathway in diverse diseases is an effective way to expedite the development of treatments that may help

# Successes in Precision Oncology Basket Trials in Rare Cancers

## BRAF V600E Erdheim-Chester Disease and Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis

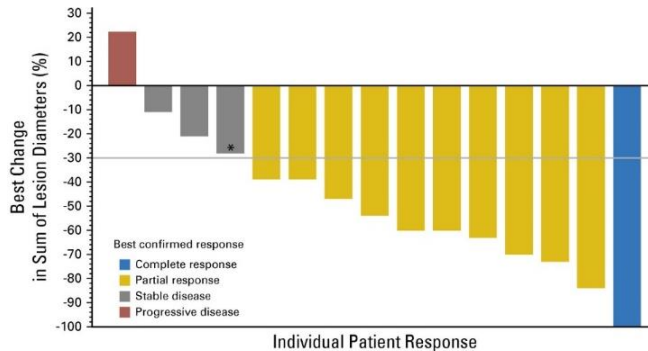
Diamond E, Subbiah V et al, JAMA Oncology 2017



### Vemurafenib in Erdheim-Chester



## BRAF V600E Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer

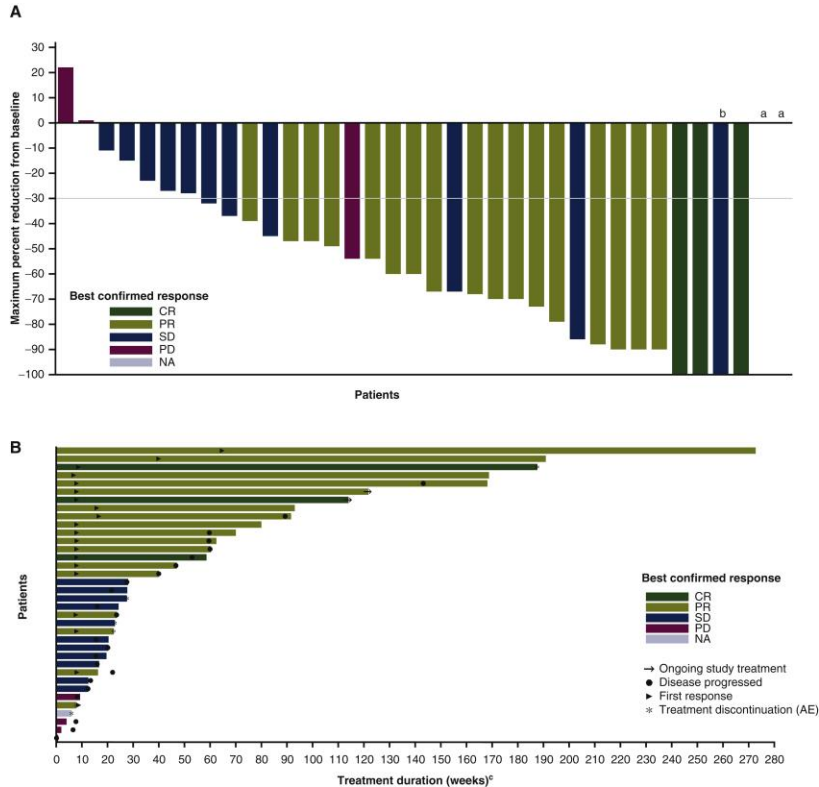


- **Dabrafenib/trametinib**
- **Sixteen patients with BRAF V600E-mutated anaplastic thyroid cancer were evaluable**
- **Overall response rate was 69%**



Subbiah V, JCO 2018

# Dabrafenib plus trametinib in patients with *BRAF* V600E–mutant anaplastic thyroid cancer: updated analysis from the phase II ROAR basket study



Investigator-assessed responses were observed in 56% of patients, with 50% of responders still in response at 12 months

Median OS was 15 months, with the 12-month rate of 52% notable given historic median OS of < 6 months

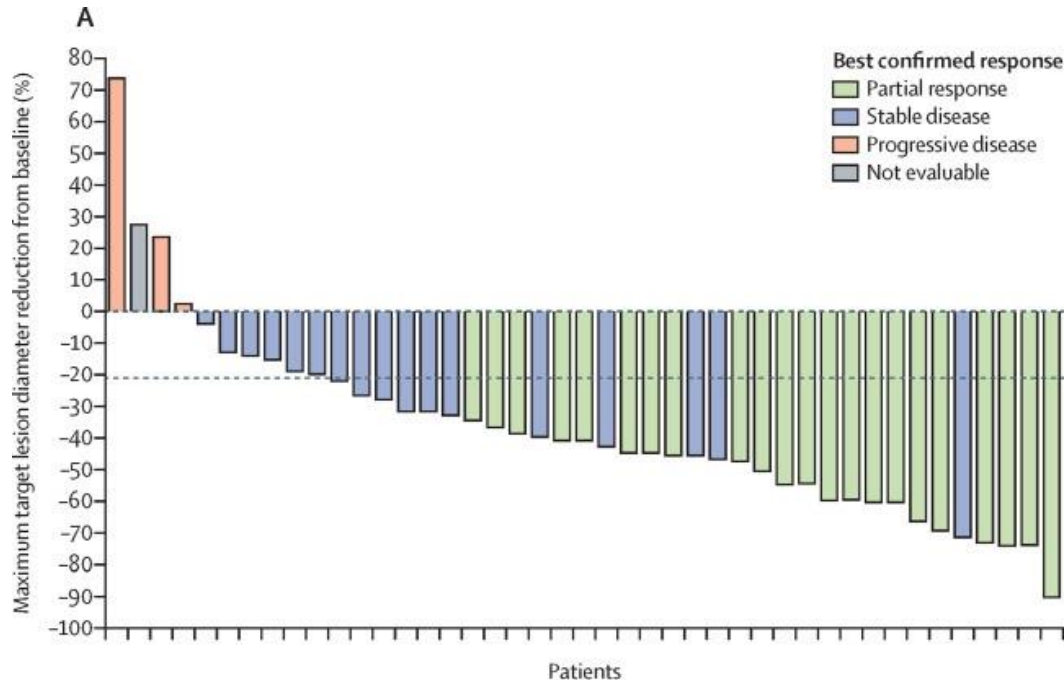
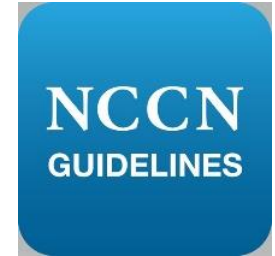
This updated analysis **confirms the definitive benefit**





# Dabrafenib plus trametinib in patients with $BRAF^{V600E}$ -mutated biliary tract cancer (ROAR): a phase 2, open-label, single-arm, multicentre basket trial

Vivek Subbiah, Ulrik Lassen, Elena Élez, Antoine Italiano, Giuseppe Curigliano, Milind Javle, Filippo de Braud, Gerald W Prager, Richard Greil, Alexander Stein, Angelica Fasolo, Jan H M Schellens, Patrick Y Wen, Kert Viele, Aislyn D Boran, Eduard Gasal, Paul Burgess, Palanichamy Ilankumaran, Zev A Wainberg



ORR = 51%, 95% CI 36-67

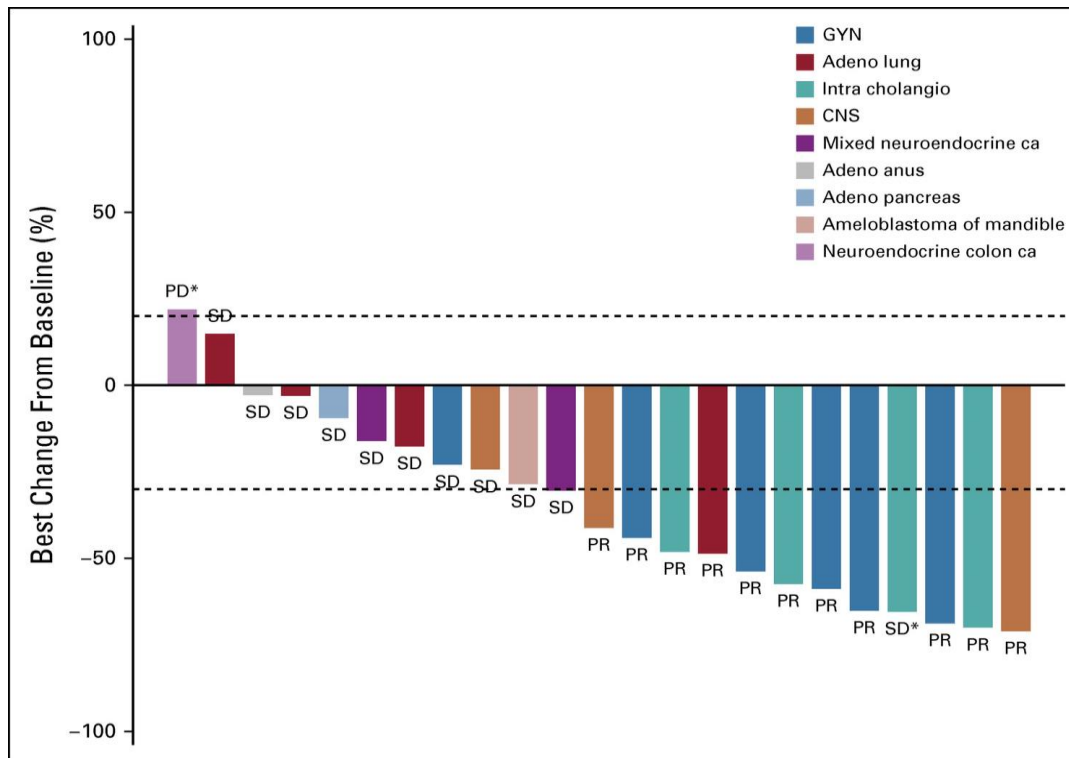
**Implications of all the available evidence**  
The clinical benefit of dabrafenib plus trametinib supports the use of this combination therapy as a treatment option for patients with  $BRAF^{V600E}$ -mutated biliary tract cancer. Routine testing for  $BRAF^{V600E}$  mutations should be considered for all patients with biliary tract cancer.

# ROAR: dabrafenib plus trametinib in *BRAF* V600E-mutant high-grade + low-grade glioma

	HGG Cohort <sup>1</sup> (n = 45)		LGG Cohort <sup>2</sup> (n = 13)	
	Investigator-Assessed Total (n = 45)	Independent Radiology Review (n = 45)	Investigator-Assessed Total (n = 13)	Independent Radiology Review (n = 13)
<b>Best response, n (%)</b>				
Complete response	3 (7)	3 (7)	1 (8)	1 (8)
Partial response	12 (27)	11 (24)	6 (46)	6 (46)
Minor response	–	–	2 (15)	2 (15)
Stable disease	10 (22)	5 (11)	3 (23)	2 (15)
Progressive disease	19 (42)	20 (44)	1 (8)	0
Not evaluable	1 (2)	6 (13)	0	2 (15)
<b>ORR (CR + PR), % (95% CI)</b>	<b>33 (20.0-49.0)</b>	31 (18.2-46.6)	–	–
<b>ORR (CR + PR + MR), % (95% CI)</b>	–	–	<b>69 (38.6-90.9)</b>	69 (38.6-90.9)

- In the HGG cohort:
  - The median duration of investigator-assessed response was 36.9 months (95% CI, 7.4-44.2 months)
  - The 24-month DOR rate was 68.8% (95% CI, 36.4%-87.1%)
- In the LGG cohort:
  - The median duration of investigator-assessed response was not reached
  - The estimated 24-month DOR rate was 76.2% (95% CI, 33.2%-93.5%)

# Dabrafenib and Trametinib in Patients With Tumors With *BRAF*<sup>V600E</sup> Mutations: Results of the NCI-MATCH Trial Subprotocol H



**NEW****FDA  
APPROVED**

# BRAF+ MEK Tissue Agnostic Approval !

ROAR +  
NCI-MATCH Arm H  
+ Study X2101  
study in pediatric  
patients with  
refractory or  
recurrent solid  
tumors.

Tumor Type <sup>a</sup>	N	Objective Response Rate (ORR)		Duration of Response (DoR)
		%	95% CI	Range (months)
Biliary tract cancer <sup>b</sup>	48	46	(31, 61)	1.8 <sup>d</sup> , 40 <sup>d</sup>
High grade glioma <sup>c</sup>	48	33	(20, 48)	3.9, 44
Glioblastoma	32	25	(12, 43)	3.9, 27
Anaplastic pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma	6	67	(22, 96)	6, 43
Anaplastic astrocytoma	5	20	(0.5, 72)	15
Astroblastoma	2	100	(16, 100)	15, 23 <sup>d</sup>
Undifferentiated	1	PR	(2.5, 100)	6
Anaplastic ganglioglioma	1	0	NA	NA
Anaplastic oligodendroglioma	1	0	NA	NA
Low grade glioma	14	50	(23, 77)	6, 29 <sup>d</sup>
Astrocytoma	4	50	(7, 93)	7, 23
Ganglioglioma	4	50	(7, 93)	6, 13
Pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma	2	50	(1.3, 99)	6
Piloicytic astrocytoma	2	0	NA	NA
Choroid plexus papilloma	1	PR	(2.5, 100)	29 <sup>d</sup>
Gangliocytoma/Ganglioglioma	1	PR	(2.5, 100)	18 <sup>d</sup>
Low grade serous ovarian carcinoma	5	80	(28, 100)	12, 42 <sup>d</sup>
Adenocarcinoma small intestine	4	50	(7, 93)	7, 8
Adenocarcinoma pancreas	3	0	NA	NA
Mixed ductal / adenoneuroendocrine carcinoma	2	0	NA	NA
Neuroendocrine carcinoma of colon	2	0	NA	NA
Ameloblastoma of mandible	1	PR	(2.5, 100)	30
Combined small cell-squamous carcinoma of lung	1	PR	(2.5, 100)	5
Mucinous-papillary serous adenocarcinoma of peritoneum	1	PR	(2.5, 100)	8
Adenocarcinoma of anus	1	0	NA	NA
Gastrointestinal stromal tumor	1	0	NA	NA

Abbreviations: PR, partial response.

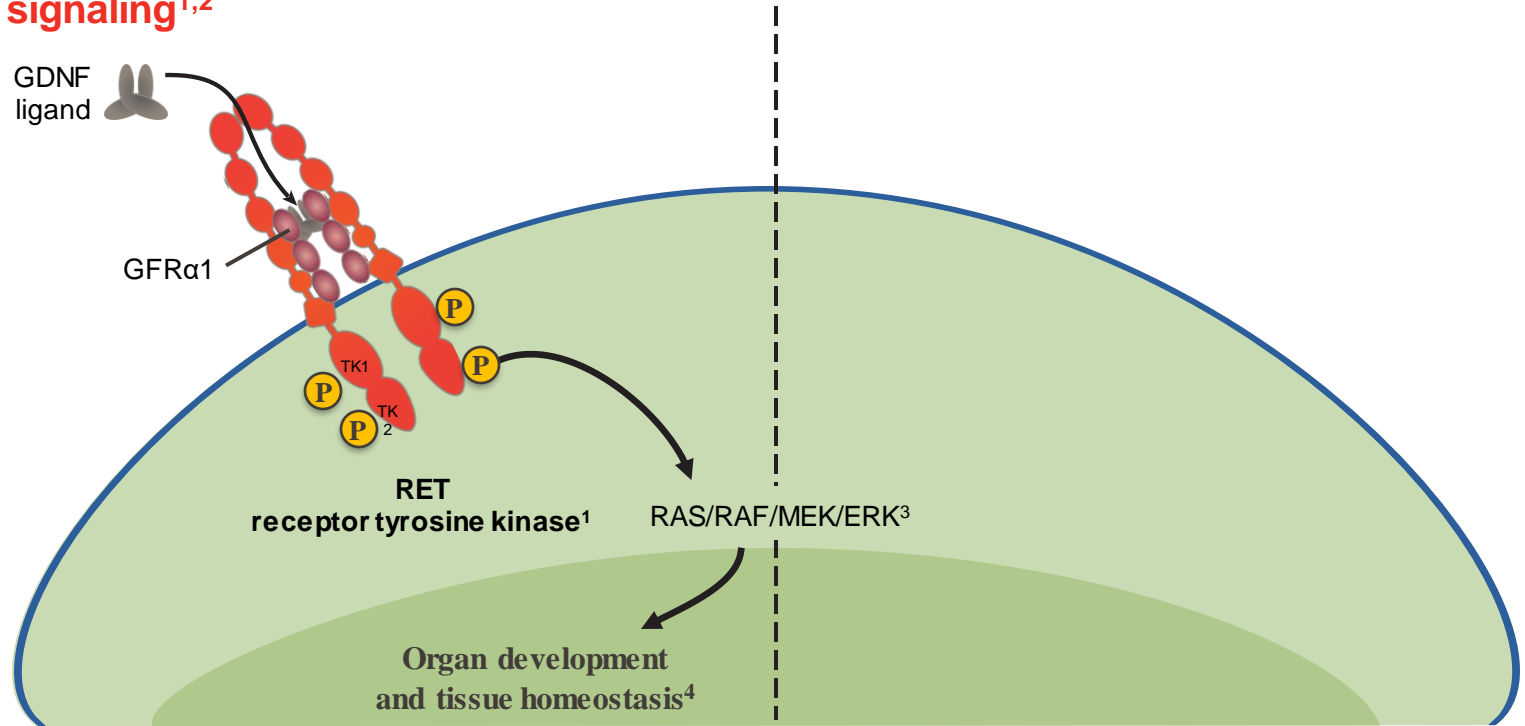
<sup>a</sup> Excludes NSCLC (n=6) and ATC (n=36) (previously approved tumor types for MEKINIST in combination with dabrafenib).<sup>b</sup> Median DoR 9.8 months (95% CI: 5.3, 20.4).<sup>c</sup> Median DoR 13.6 months (95% CI: 5.5, 26.7).<sup>d</sup> Denotes a right-censored DoR.

## **RET inhibitor from Bench → Phase 1/2 → FDA approval**

- ❖ **RET aberrations in oncology**
- ❖ **RET alterations in NSCLC, RET alterations in MTC and other cancers**
- ❖ **Selective RET inhibitors**
- ❖ **Selpercatinib**
- ❖ **Pralsetinib**

# RET is an RTK required for normal development<sup>1</sup>

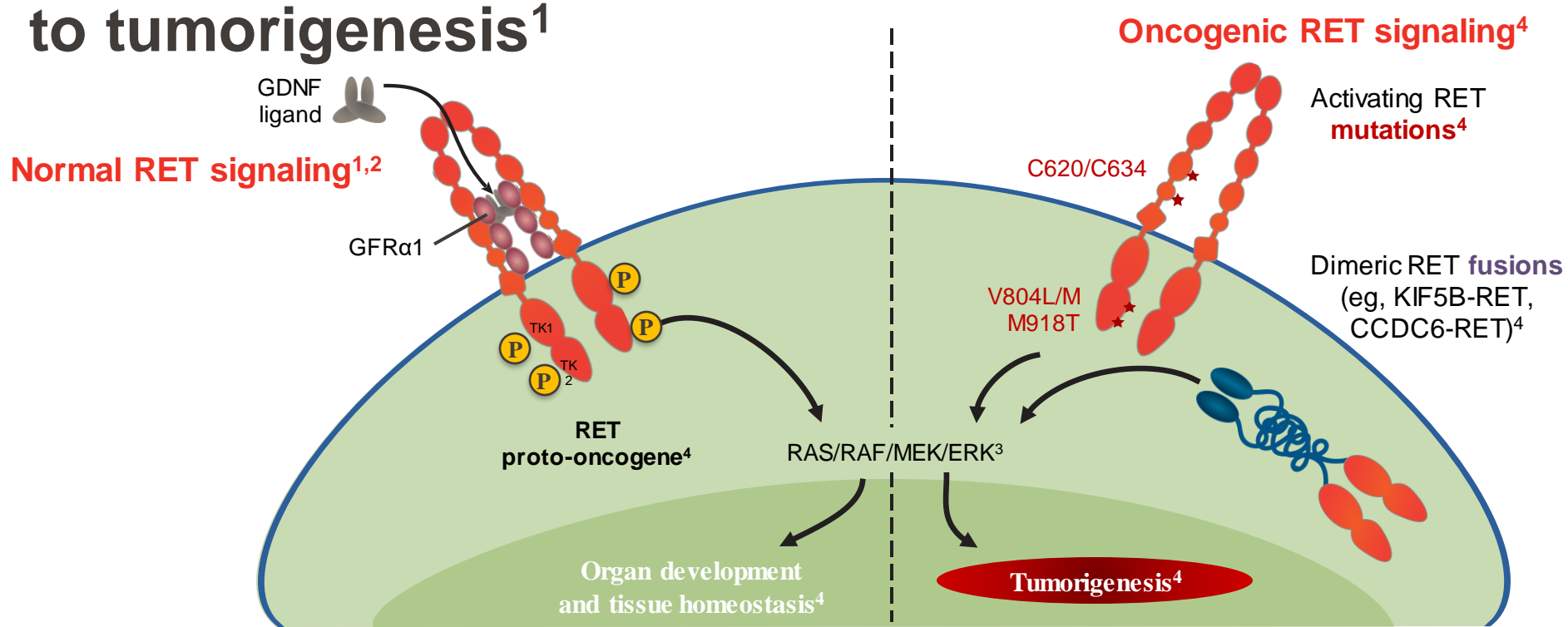
## Normal RET signaling<sup>1,2</sup>



ERK, extracellular signal-regulated kinase; GDNF, glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor; GFR, GDNF family receptor; MAPK, mitogen-activated protein kinase; MEK, MAPK/ERK kinase; P, phosphorylation; RAF, rapidly accelerated fibrosarcoma; RAS, rat sarcoma; RET, rearranged during transfection; RTK, receptor tyrosine kinase; TK, tyrosine kinase.

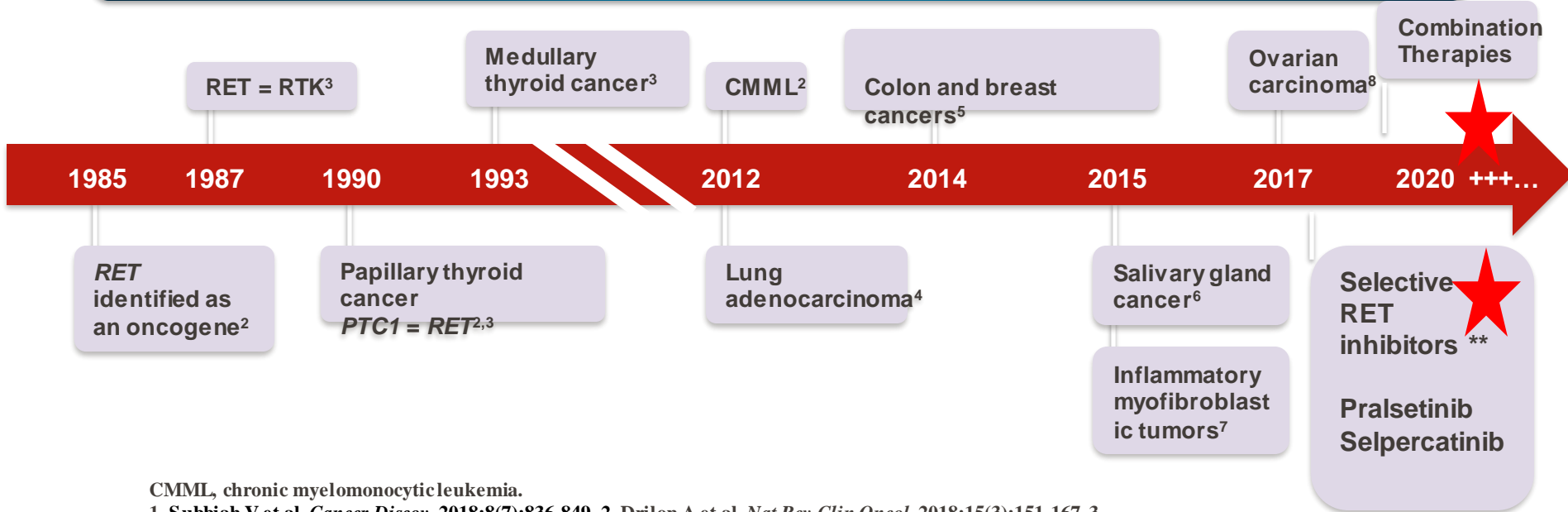
1. Mulligan LM. *Nat Rev Cancer*. 2014;14(3):173-186.
2. Pützer BM et al. In: Diamanti-Kandarakis E, ed. *Contemporary Aspects of Endocrinology*. IntechOpen; 2011. <https://www.intechopen.com/books/contemporary-aspects-of-endocrinology/molecular-diagnostics-in-treatment-of-medullary-thyroid-carcinoma>. Accessed August 23, 2018.
3. Pratilas CA et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2009;106(11):4519-4524.
4. Drilon A et al. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol*. 2018;15(3):151-167.

# Alterations in RET structure and function can lead to tumorigenesis<sup>1</sup>



# Oncogenic *RET* alterations have been identified in numerous cancers<sup>1</sup>

*RET* is one of the first oncogenic kinase fusions cloned from an epithelial tumor, and has since been found to be an oncogenic driver primarily in solid tumors<sup>1,2</sup>



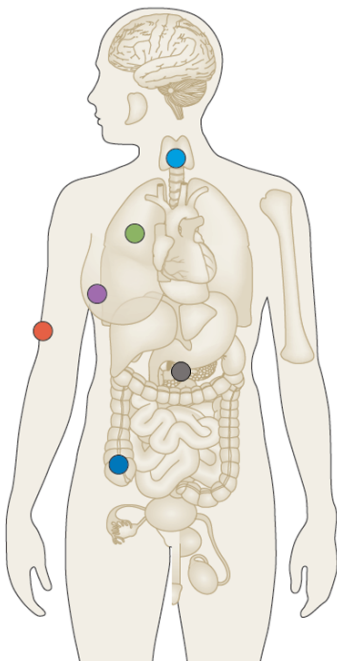
CMML, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia.

1. Subbiah V et al. *Cancer Discov.* 2018;8(7):836-849. 2. Drilon A et al. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol.* 2018;15(3):151-167. 3. Ibáñez CF. *Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol.* 2013;5(2):a009134. 4. Ju YS et al. *Genome Res.* 2012;22(3):436-445. 5. Stransky N et al. *Nat Commun.* 2014;5:4846. 6. Grünewald I et al. *Oncotarget.* 2015;6(20):18224-18237.



# RET is activated by two major mechanisms in cancer

## RET fusions



Non-small cell lung cancer (2%)

Papillary and other thyroid cancers (10–20%)

Pancreatic cancer (<1%)

Salivary gland cancer (<1%)

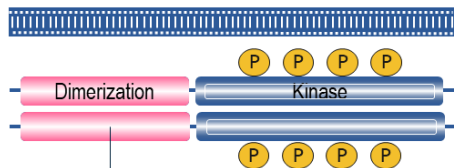
Spitz tumors (<1%)

Colorectal cancer (<1%)

Ovarian cancer (<1%)

Myeloproliferative disorders (<1%)

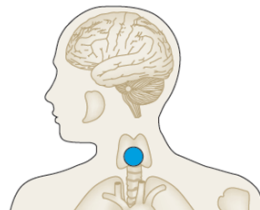
Many others (<1%)



**KIF5B** (most common in lung cancer)

**CCDC6 or NCOA4** (most common in thyroid cancer)

## RET mutations



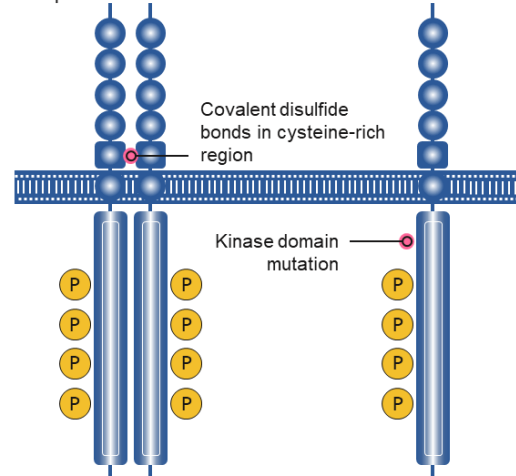
Medullary thyroid cancer

sporadic (>60%)

hereditary (>90%)

Activation by ligand-independent dimerization

Direct kinase activation



Common mutation: **RET M918T**

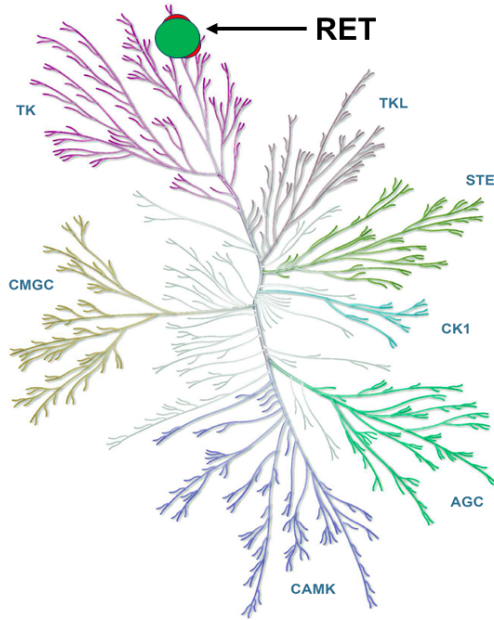
## Sporadic RET M918T/V804M-mutant N-of-1 trial

- ❖ 49-year old man with advanced MTC s/p total thyroidectomy with RET M918T mutation
- ❖ Progressive disease after six MKI treatments over 7 years.
- ❖ MKI regimens: **sorafenib** [best response of progressive disease (PD)], **vandetanib** [stable disease (SD)], **cabozantinib** (SD), **MGCD-516** (PD), **RXDX-105** [partial response (PR)], and **vandetanib plus everolimus** (PD).
- ❖ Each treatment was discontinued for disease progression in the liver, most recently with hepatomegaly, large-volume ascites, severe fatigue and markedly decreased performance status.
- ❖ Cachectic, 30 Bowel movements a day, rapidly declining ECOG PS.
- ❖ Molecular analysis of cell-free DNA (Guardant360®) isolated from blood taken before vandetanib plus everolimus treatment identified the founder **RET M918T** mutation together with a **RET V804M** gatekeeper mutation
  
- ❖ **What would you do next ?**

# LOXO-292 or SELPERCATINIB is a potent and selective RET inhibitor

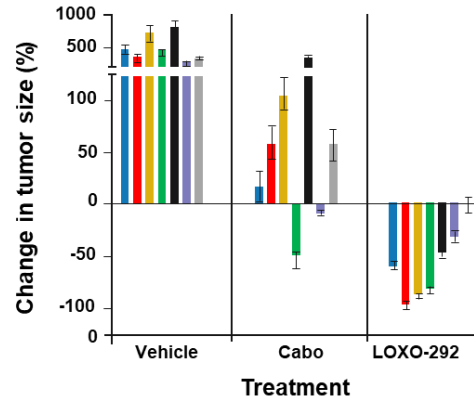
## Kinome selectivity

Highly selective for RET



## Xenograft models

Multiple fusions/mutations/histologies

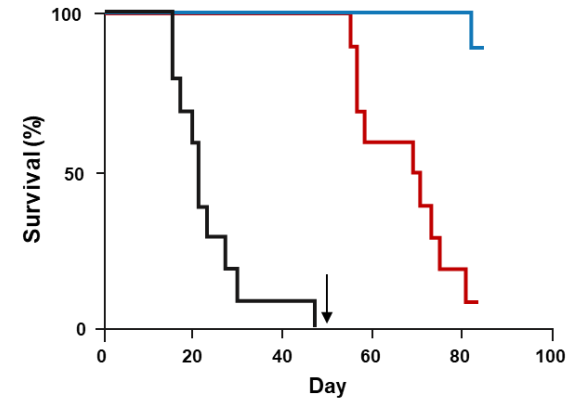


### Tumor models

- KIF5B-RET (PDX-NSCLC)
- CCDC6-RET (PDX-CRCA)
- CCDC6-RET-V804M (PDX-CRCA)
- KIF5B-RET (NIH-3T3)
- KIF5B-RET-V804M (NIH-3T3)
- RET C634W (TT cell line-MTC)
- CCDC6-RET (LC-2/ad cell line-NSCLC)

## Orthotopic brain model

CCDC6-RET orthotopic brain PDX



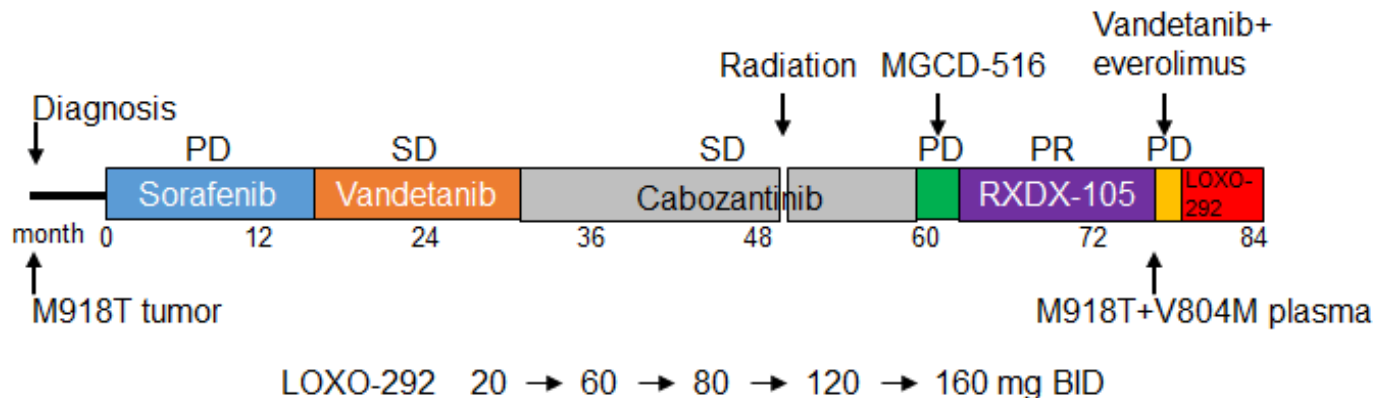
### Treatments

- Vehicle
- LOXO-292 30 mg/kg BID → Day 52 → 3 mg/kg BID
- Ponatinib 20 mg/kg QD → Day 52 → 2 mg/kg QD

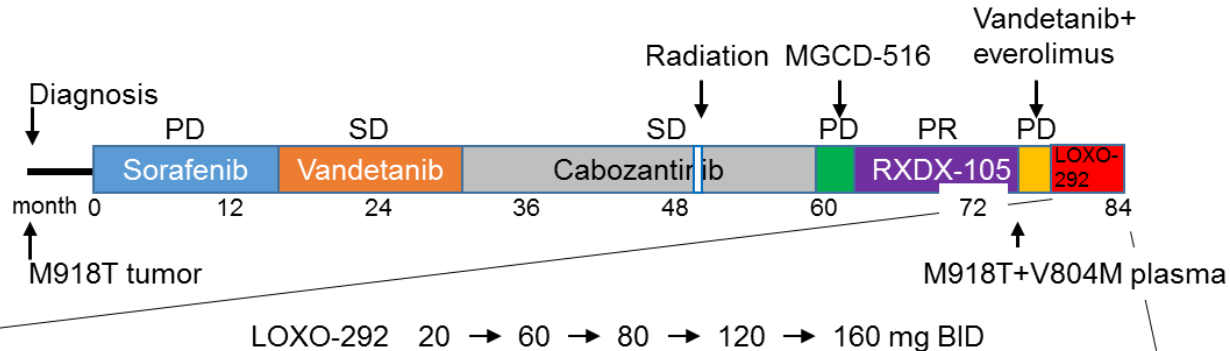
*Subbiah V et al. Ann Oncol 2018*; Cabo = cabozantinib; PDX = patient-derived xenograft; NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer; CRC = colorectal cancer; MTC = medullary thyroid cancer; BID = twice-daily; QD = once-daily

# Sporadic RET M918T/V804M-mutant response to Selpercatinib

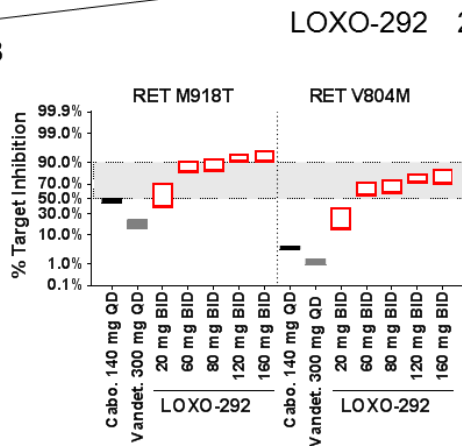
- Treated with LOXO-292/ Selpercatinib by “single patient”, *N of 1 compassionate use protocol*
- Resolution of diarrhea and pain in first week
- Calcitonin (360,000 pg/mL) and CEA (5700 ng/mL) became normal
- Reduction in tumor size by -54% (“confirmed PR”)
- All side effects grade 1 and have not interrupted dosing of LOXO-292



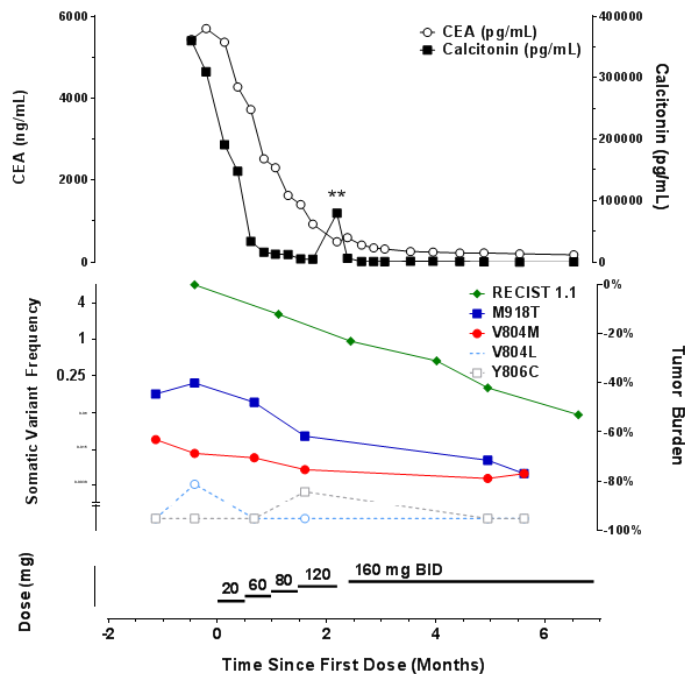
A



B

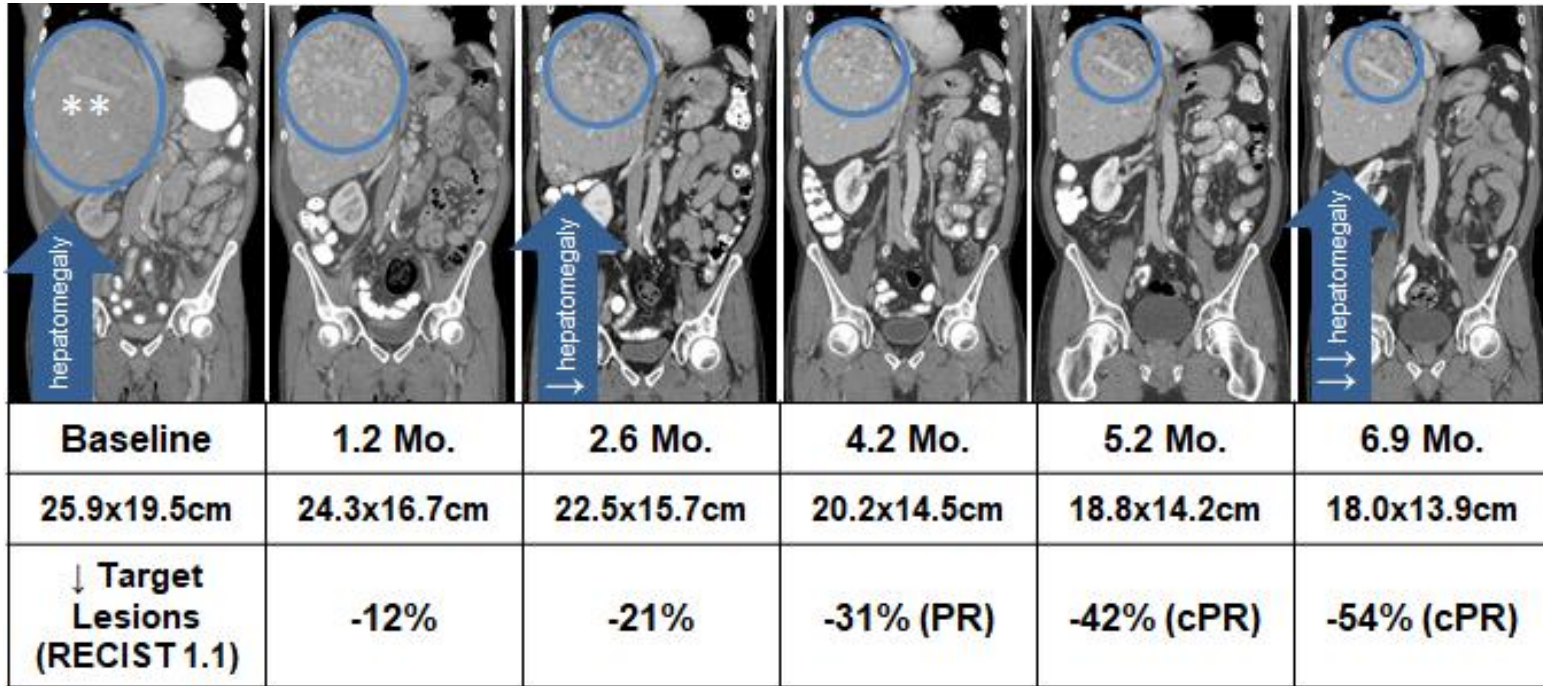


C



# Sporadic RET M918T/V804M- mutant response to Selpercatinib

# Sporadic RET M918T/V804M-mutant response to Selpercatinib



## On First Looking into Chapman's Homer

BY JOHN KEATS

*Then felt I like some watcher of the skies  
When a new planet swims into his ken;  
Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes  
He star'd at the Pacific—and all his men  
Look'd at each other with a wild surmise—  
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.*

ON FIRST LOOKING  
INTO CHAPMAN'S  
HOMER  
by John Keats

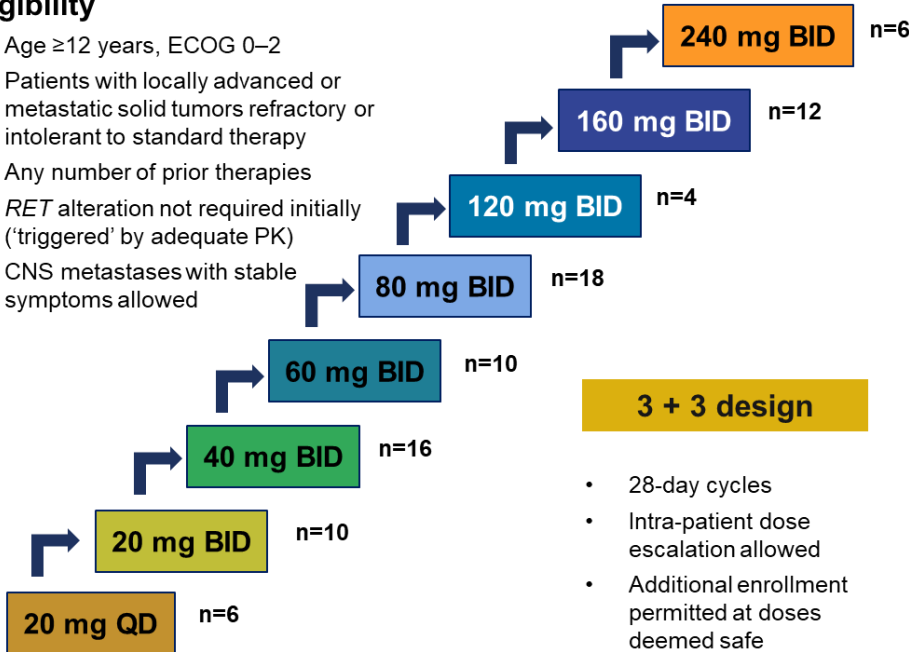


Much have I travell'd in the realms of gold,  
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;  
Round many western islands have I been  
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.

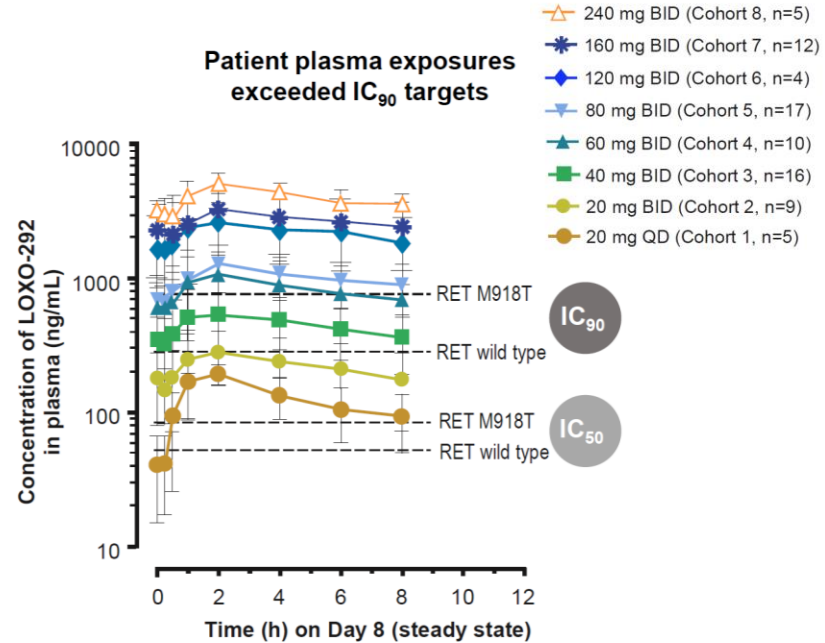
# LIBRETTO-001: Selpercatinib phase I dose escalation and pharmacokinetics

## Eligibility

- Age  $\geq 12$  years, ECOG 0–2
- Patients with locally advanced or metastatic solid tumors refractory or intolerant to standard therapy
- Any number of prior therapies
- *RET* alteration not required initially ('triggered' by adequate PK)
- CNS metastases with stable symptoms allowed

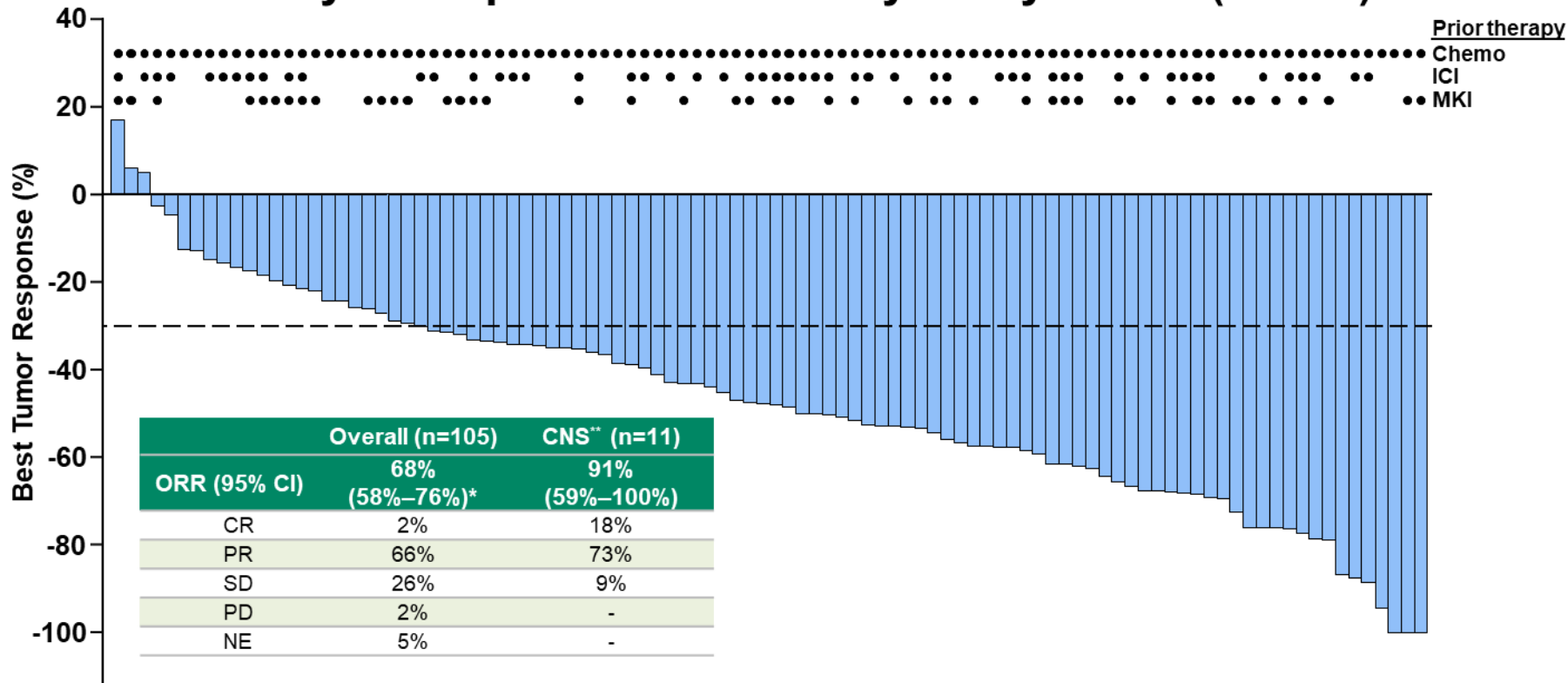


Patient plasma exposures exceeded  $IC_{90}$  targets

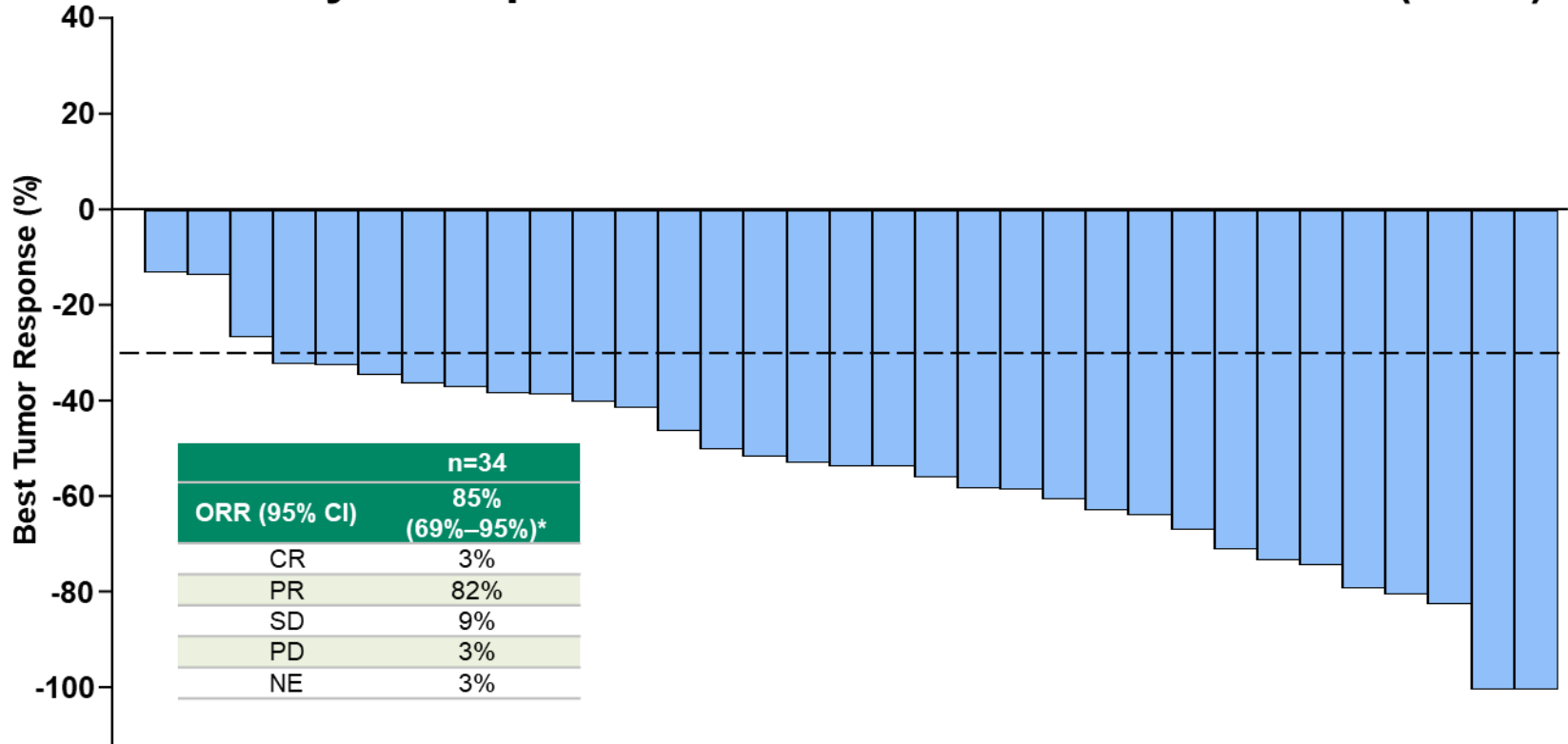




# Efficacy of Selpercatinib: Primary Analysis Set (n=105)



## Efficacy of Selpercatinib: Treatment-naïve Patients (n=34)

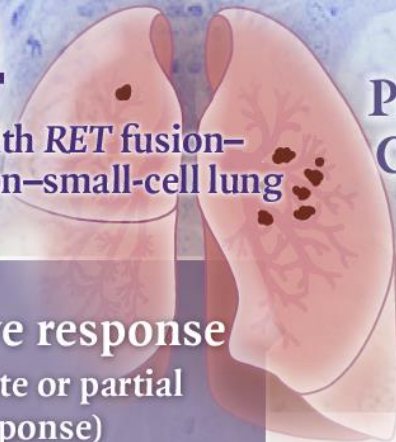


# Efficacy of Selpercatinib in *RET* Fusion-Positive NSCLC

PHASE 1-2 TRIAL

**144**

Patients with *RET* fusion-positive non-small-cell lung cancer



Previous  
Platinum-Based  
Chemotherapy

(N=105)

**64%**

(67 patients)

95% CI, 54 to 73

ENROLLED SEPARATELY

Previously  
Untreated

(N=39)

**85%**

(33 patients)

95% CI, 70 to 94



**Objective response**  
(complete or partial  
response)

**Safety**

Twelve of 531 patients in overall cohort (2%) discontinued because of drug-related adverse events.

**The median duration of response was 17.5 mo.**

# The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

AUGUST 27, 2020

VOL. 383 NO. 9

## Efficacy of Selpercatinib in *RET* Fusion–Positive Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer

A. Drilon, G.R. Oxnard, D.S.W. Tan, H.H.F. Loong, M. Johnson, J. Gainor, C.E. McCoach, O. Gautschi, B. Besse, B.C. Cho, N. Peled, J. Weiss, Y.-J. Kim, Y. Ohe, M. Nishio, K. Park, J. Patel, T. Seto, T. Sakamoto, E. Rosen, M.H. Shah, F. Barlesi, P.A. Cassier, L. Bazhenova, F. De Braud, E. Garralda, V. Velcheti, M. Satouchi, K. Ohashi, N.A. Pennell, K.L. Reckamp, G.K. Dy, J. Wolf, B. Solomon, G. Falchook, K. Ebata, M. Nguyen, B. Nair, E.Y. Zhu, L. Yang, X. Huang, E. Olek, S.M. Rothenberg, K. Goto, and V. Subbiah



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE



## Notable Articles of 2020

A collection of articles from the *New England Journal of Medicine*  
selected by NEJM editors

## Selpercatinib now US FDA Approved and in multiple geographies !!!

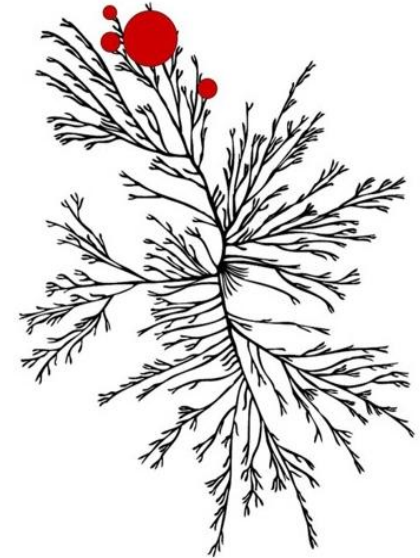
- ❖ For the treatment of patients with metastatic RET-fusion positive non-small cell lung cancer ( **Full FDA approval 2022**)
- ❖ For the treatment of pediatric ( > 12 yrs) and adult patients with RET-mutant medullary thyroid cancer (MTC)
- ❖ For the treatment of pediatric ( > 12 yrs) and adult patients with advanced RET fusion-positive thyroid cancer who require systemic therapy.
- ❖ Line Agnostic approval
- ❖ **EMA approved and approved in multiple geographies**

**BLU-667 OR PRALSETINIB - HIGHLY POTENT  
SELECTIVE RET INHIBITOR**

# Pralsetinib (BLU-667) is designed to treat *RET*-altered cancers

## Pralsetinib potently inhibits *RET* alterations and resistance mutants while sparing *VEGFR2*

	Biochemical IC50 (nM)			
	RET M918T Most common in MTC	RET V804M Gatekeeper resistance in MTC	CCDC6-RET Occurs in PTC	VEGFR2
BLU-667	0.4	0.4	0.4	35
Cabozantinib	8	45	34	2
Vandetinib	7	3597	20	4
Sorafenib	23	32	ND	21
Lenvatinib	3	360	4	0.7



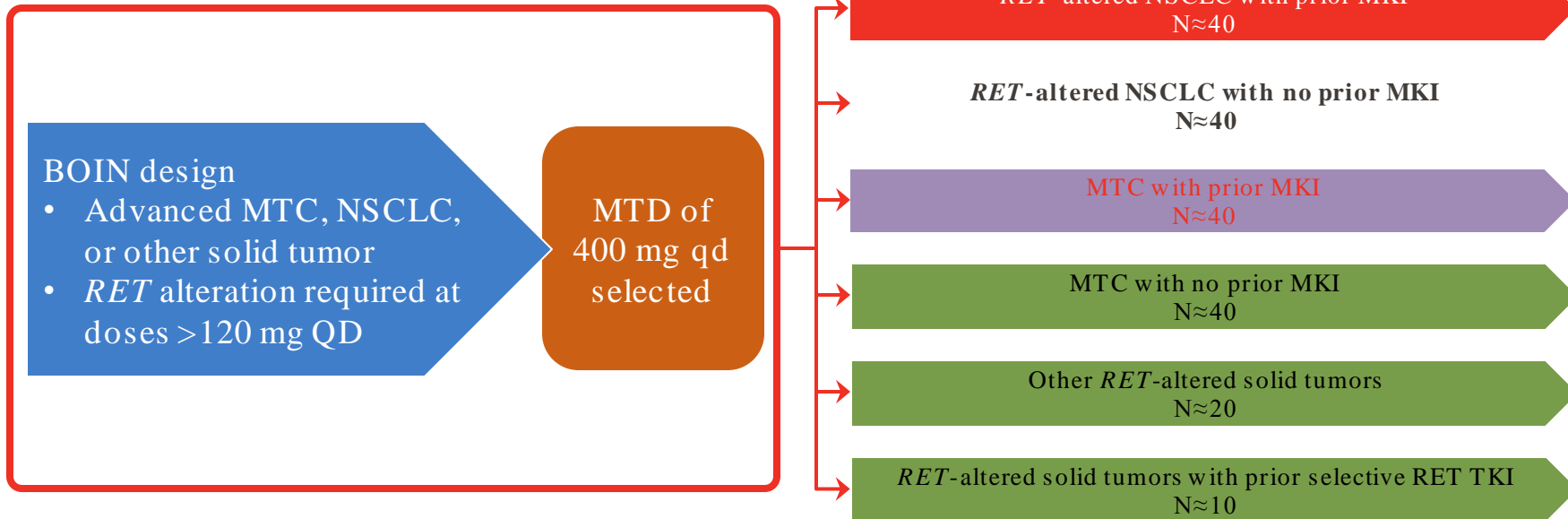
VEGFR, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor; IC50, half maximal inhibitory concentration; MTC, medullary thyroid cancer; CCDC6, coiled-coil domain containing 6; PTC, papillary thyroid cancer; ND, not determined. Kinome illustration reproduced courtesy of Cell Signaling Technology, Inc. ([www.cellsignal.com](http://www.cellsignal.com)) (CSTI). The foregoing website is maintained by CSTI, and the authors and Blueprint Medicines are not responsible for its content

Hu et al. International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG) 2018  
 Subbiah et al. American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) 2018 (clinical trials plenary presentation)  
 Subbiah et al. Precision Targeted Therapy with BLU-667 for *RET*-Driven Cancers. Cancer Discovery, July 2018

# ARROW trial: first-in-human study with Pralsetinib

## Part 1: Dose escalation – *complete*<sup>1,2</sup>

## Part 2: Dose expansion – *ongoing*<sup>2</sup>

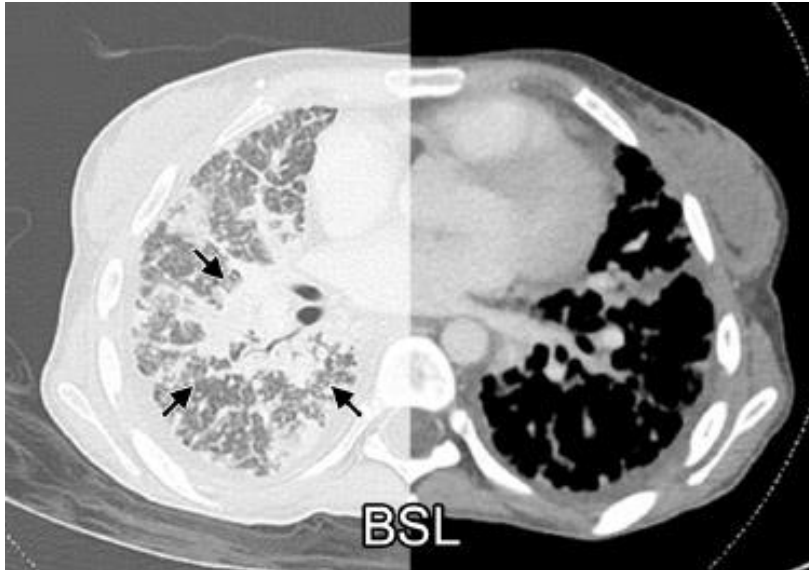


BOIN, Bayesian optimal interval; MTD, maximum tolerated dose.

1. Adapted from data previously presented in April 2018 at AACR Annual Meeting. Data cut-off: April 6, 2018. 2. National Institutes of Health. <https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03037385>. Accessed August 22, 2018.



# Pralsetinib induced dramatic improvement in young PTC patient



- 23-year-old woman with PTC, sclerosing variant (*CCDC6-RET* fusion) who presented 6 years ago with symptomatic diffuse lung metastases requiring supplemental oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) since diagnosis; treated with I-131 (total activity 351 mCi) with subsequent fibrosis
- Progressed on sorafenib and then on lenvatinib (increasing O<sub>2</sub> needs, pleural effusions and intubated 3 times over 6 wks)
- Initiated BLU-667 at 400 mg once daily → RECIST SD (no target lesion/non-target lymphangitic lung metastases)
- Symptomatic response: O<sub>2</sub> weaned monthly to room air within 5 months, baseline BMI 14.8 steadily increased to 22.3 after 6 mos
- Remains on treatment after 3 yrs and started college, completed college, and searching for a job !

# Pralsetinib Phase 1/2 ARROW study

## Phase 2 study design

- Advanced solid tumors
- RET-altered (local testing)
- No other driver mutations
- ECOG PS 0-1

**Pralsetinib dosing:  
400 mg PO QD**

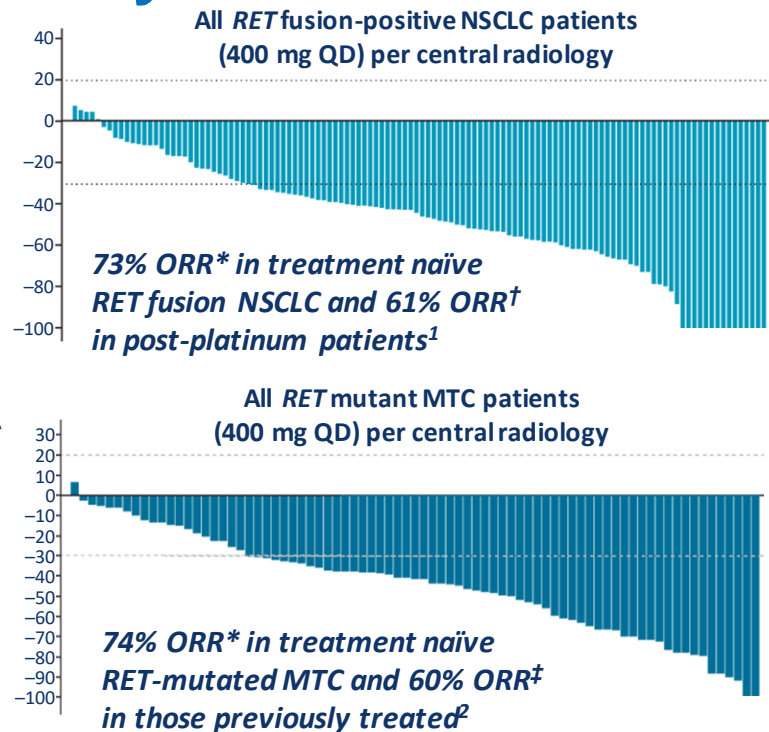
*RET* fusion-positive  
NSCLC

*RET* mutation-positive  
MTC

*RET* fusion-positive  
other tumors

## Primary endpoints

- Centrally reviewed ORR per RECIST v1.1
- Safety



1. Gainor J...**Subbiah V** *The Lancet Oncol* 2021

2. **Subbiah V**, Hu M *The Lancet Diab & Endo* 2021

# Pralsetinib now FDA approved for RET+ NSCLC and RET+ Thyroid Cancers

- ❖ For the treatment of patients with metastatic RET-fusion positive non-small cell lung cancer.
- ❖ For the treatment of pediatric (> 12 yrs) and adult patients with RET-mutant medullary thyroid cancer (MTC)
- ❖ For the treatment of pediatric (> 12 yrs) and adult patients with advanced RET fusion-positive thyroid cancer who require systemic therapy.
- ❖ Line Agnostic approval
- ❖ **FDA, EMA approved and approved in multiple geographies**

# RET inhibitor super heroes have arrived

Discovery, pre-clinical and rapid clinical validation with registrational studies leading to FDA approval directly from Phase 1 trials.

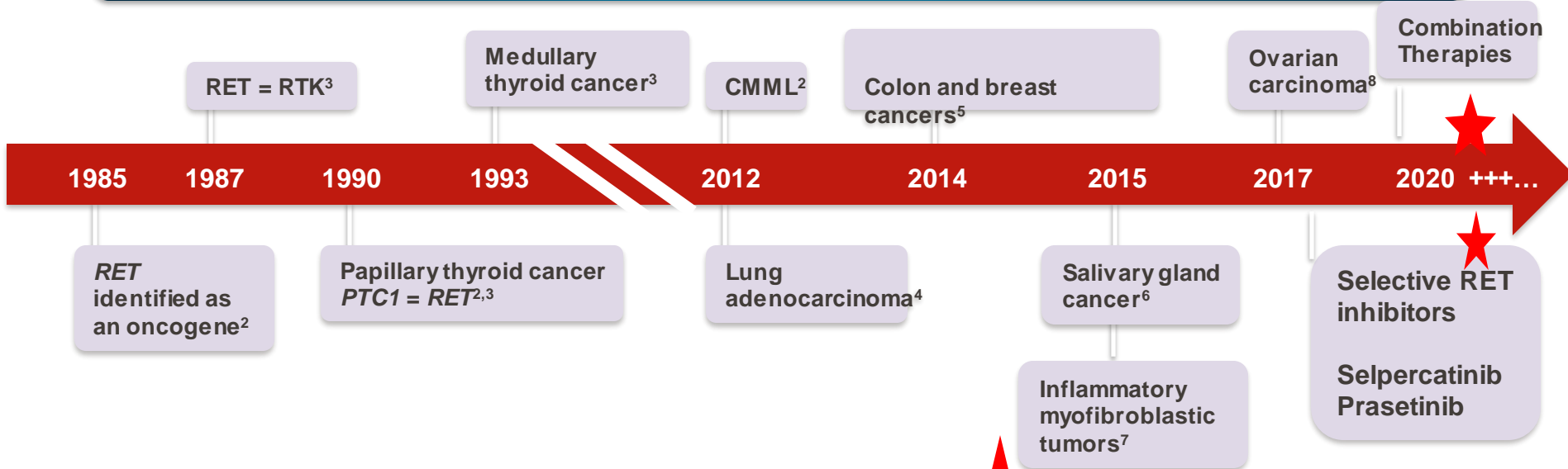
- Responses observed regardless of treatment history, RET fusion partner, RET mutation or CNS involvement and Gatekeeper V804 M coverage.

**US FDA APPROVED**



# RET inhibitor Timeline for FDA approval

*RET* is one of the first oncogenic kinase fusions cloned from an epithelial tumor, and has since been found to be an oncogenic driver primarily in solid tumors<sup>1,2</sup>



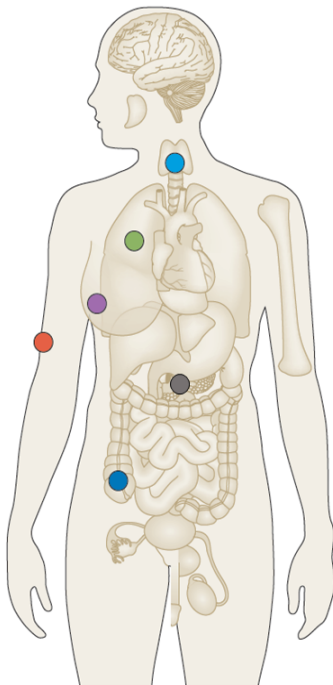
CMML, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia.

1. Subbiah V et al. *Cancer Discov.* 2018;8(7):836-849.
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3. Ibáñez CF. *Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol.* 2013;5(2):a009134.
4. Ju YS et al. *Genome Res.* 2012;22(3):436-445.
5. Stransky N et al. *Nat Commun.* 2014;5:4846.
6. Grünewald I et al. *Oncotarget.* 2015;6(20):18224-18237.

**FDA Approval ~ 3 yrs from FIH Phase 1**

# RET fusions are tissue agnostic targets

## RET fusions



Non-small cell lung cancer (2%)

Papillary and other  
thyroid cancers (10–20%)

Pancreatic cancer (<1%)

Salivary gland cancer (<1%)

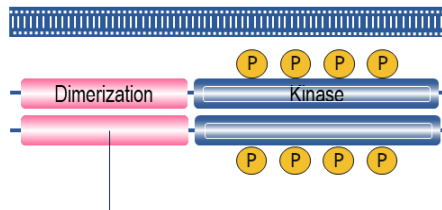
Spitz tumors (<1%)

Colorectal cancer (<1%)

Ovarian cancer (<1%)

Myeloproliferative disorders (<1%)

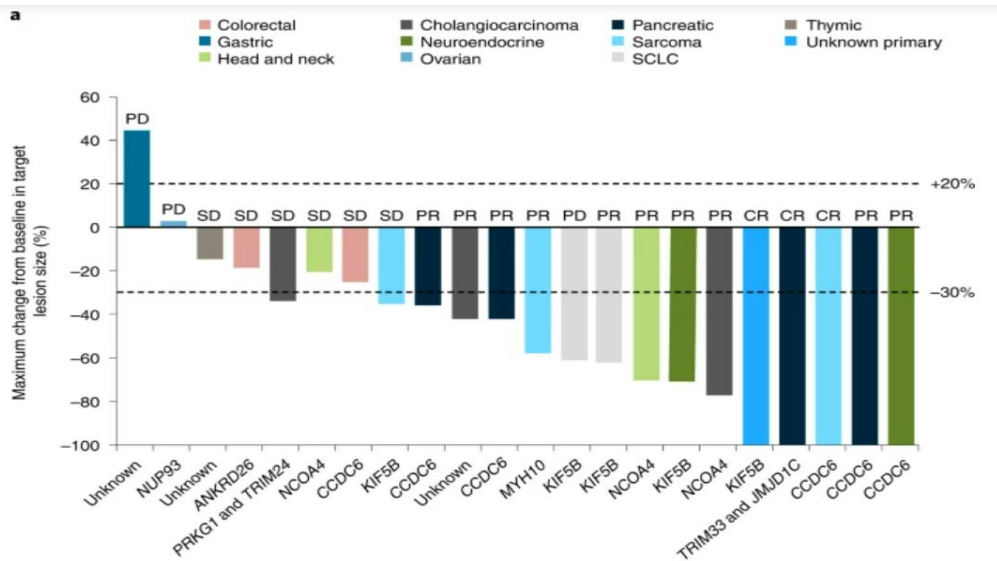
Many others (<1%)



**KIF5B** (most common in lung cancer)

**CCDC6 or NCOA4** (most common in thyroid)

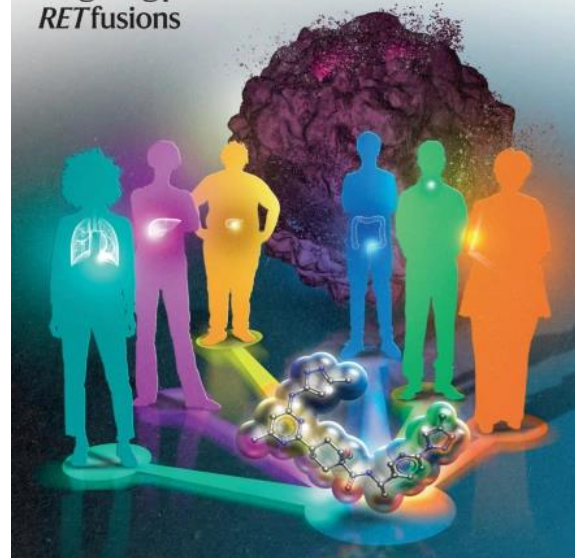
# Pan-cancer activity of Pralsetinib in RET + Cancers



www.nature.com/nm / August 2022 Vol. 28 No. 8

nature medicine

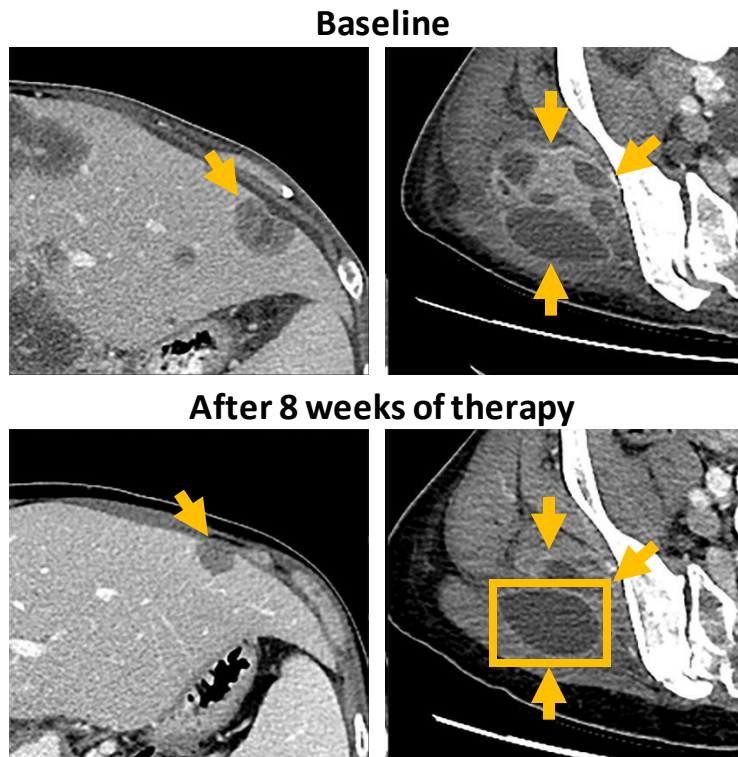
Targeting pan-cancer  
*RET* fusions



Subbiah V et al. Nature Medicine Aug 2022

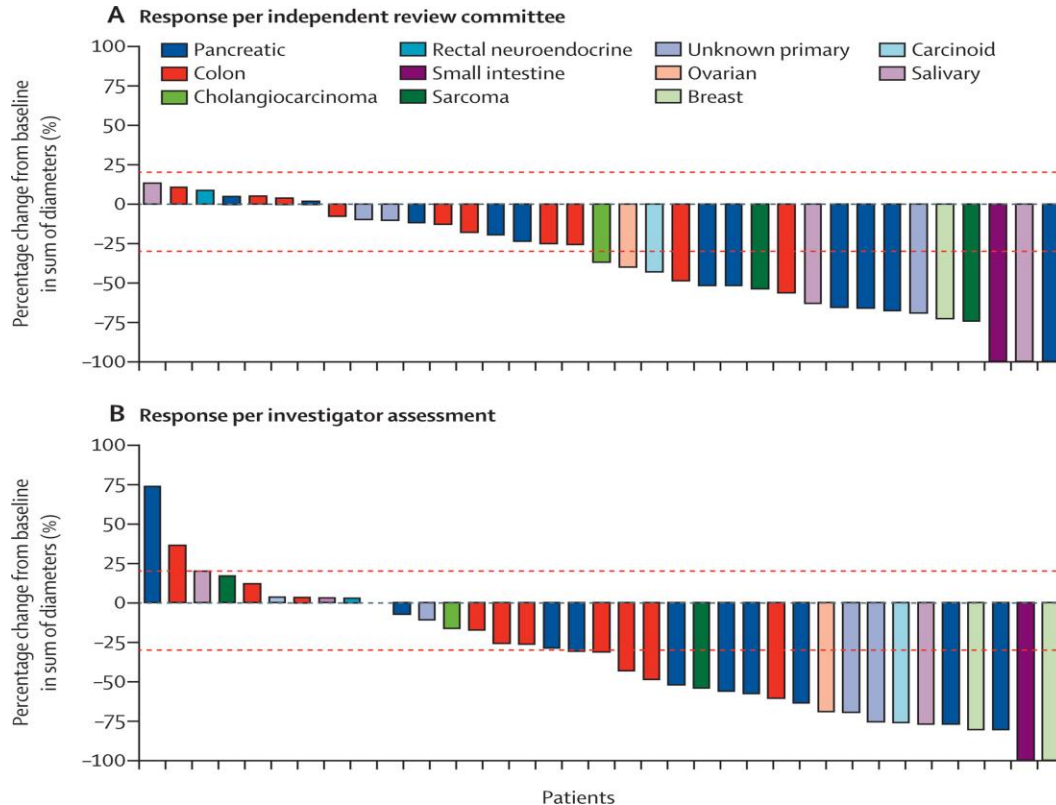
# RET + Cholangiocarcinoma

- NCOA4-RET fusion
- Three previous treatments with PD for all (nab-paclitaxel/ gemcitabine/cisplatin; erlotinib/bevacizumab; osimertinib)
- Deep and durable PR with pralsetinib (20 months duration; 64% shrinkage of target lesions)
- At first disease evaluation (8 weeks on treatment):
  - Left hepatic lobe lesion previously measuring 2 x 3 cm decreased to 1.2 x 1.9 cm
  - Prior heterogeneously enhancing soft tissue mass in the right gluteal muscles with decreased size and enhancement, and increased cystic/necrotic components
- Throughout treatment:
  - CA 19-9 reduced from 1,000,000 to 82 U/mL
  - CA 125 reduced from 1591 to 16.4 U/mL
  - Rapid and near-complete clearance of NCOA4-RET fusion ctDNA





# Tumor Agnostic activity of Selpercatinib in patients with RET+ Cancers



**NEW**

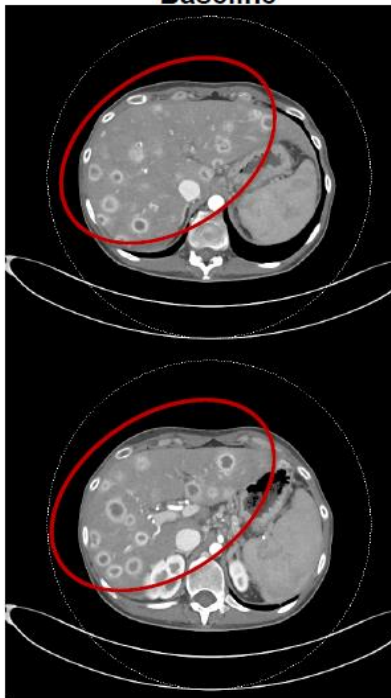
**FDA APPROVED**

Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

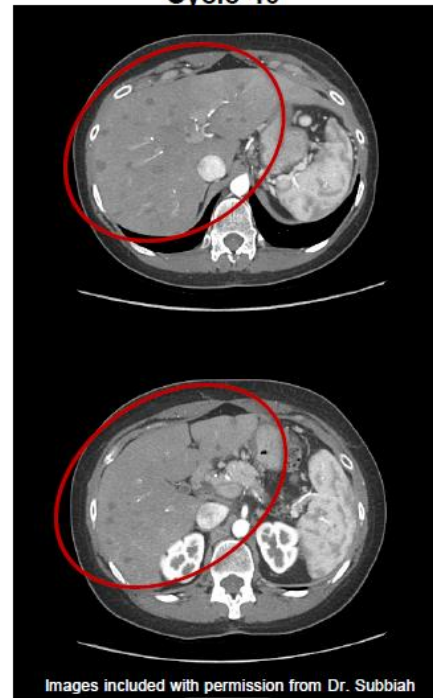
# Pancreatic Cancer RET+

- Pancreatic metastatic ductal adenocarcinoma:
  - *PRKAR1A-RET* fusion
  - Microsatellite stable
  - *KRAS/BRAF* wildtype
- Prior therapy:
  - FOLFIRINOX/FOLFIRI, 6 months
  - Discontinued due to PD
- Selpercatinib started:
  - Partial response (-51%)
  - Manageable low-grade AEs
  - Response ongoing at 37 months

Pre-selpercatinib:  
Baseline

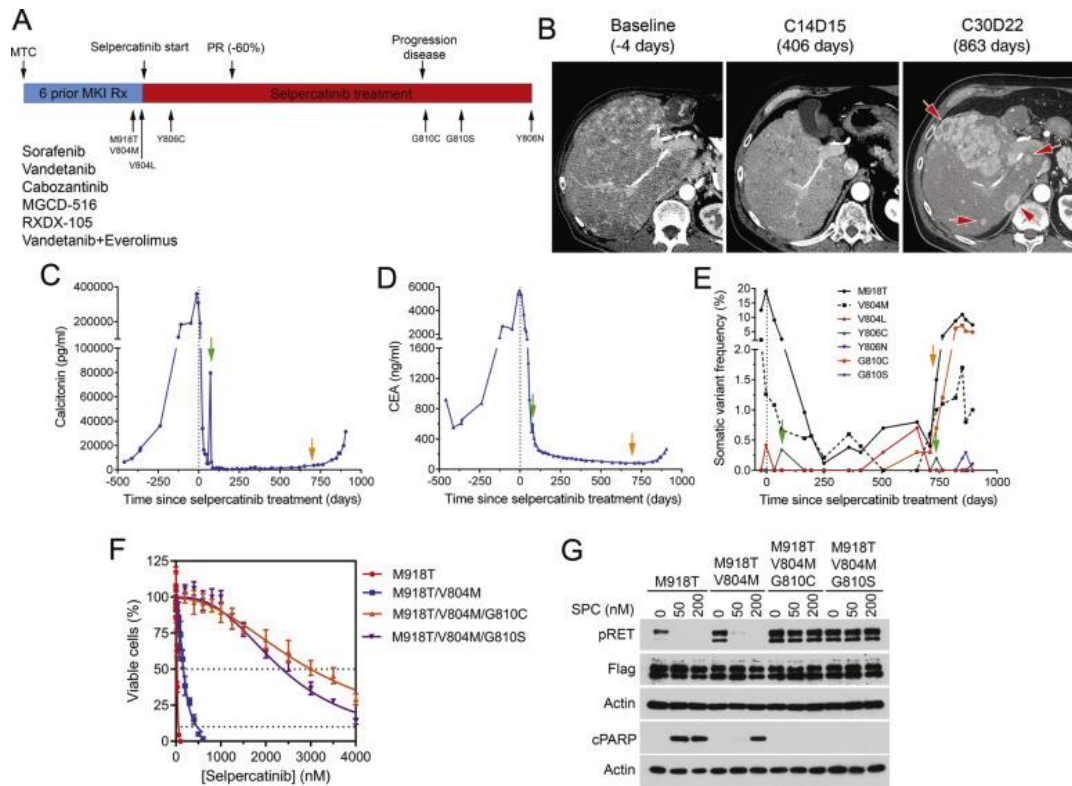


On selpercatinib:  
Cycle 40

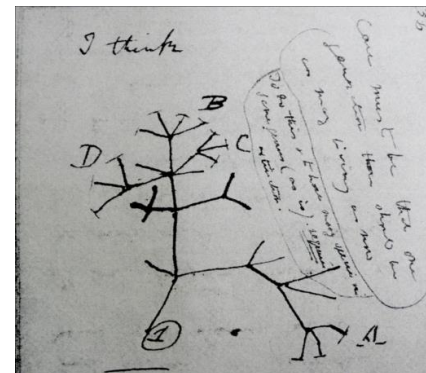


Images included with permission from Dr. Subbiah

# Structural basis of acquired resistance to selpercatinib and pralsetinib mediated by non-gatekeeper RET mutations - On-Target Resistance

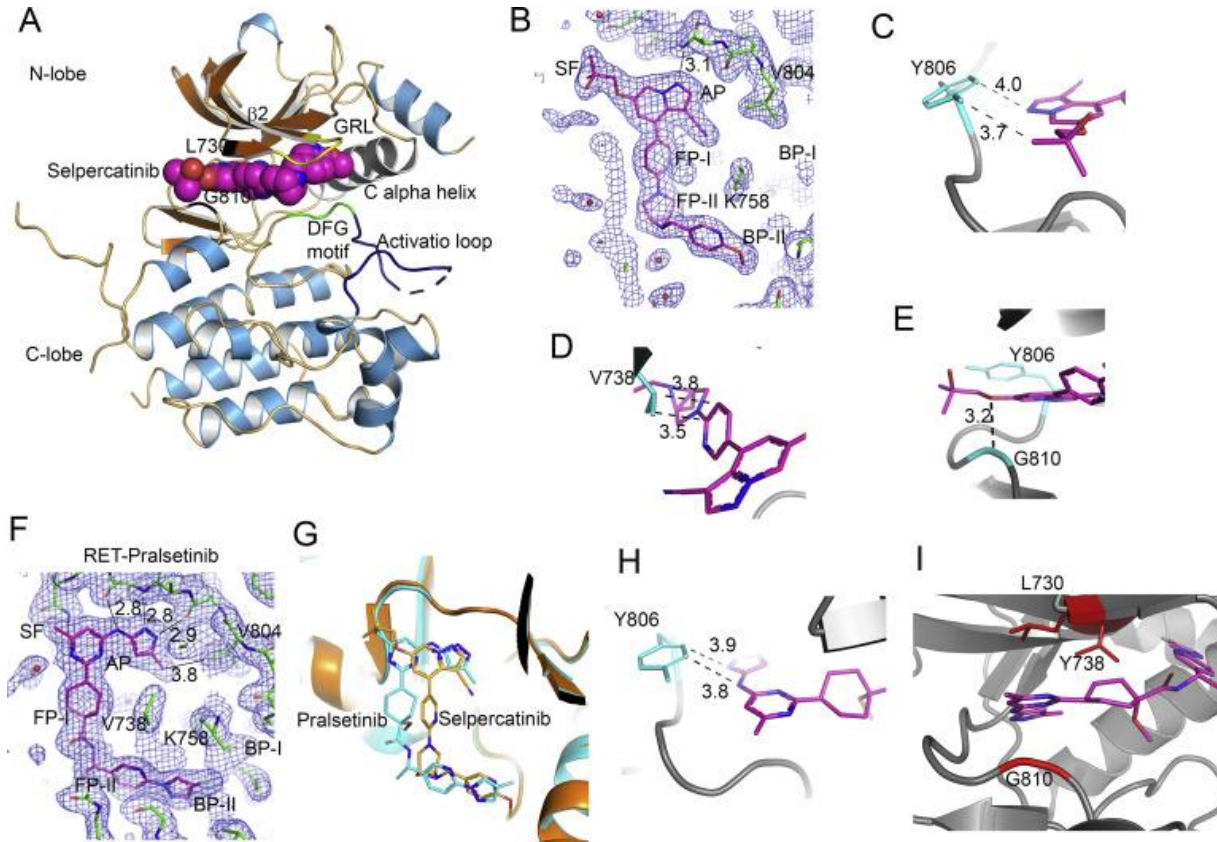


• Resistance to selpercatinib and pralsetinib are found at the **solvent front and hinge sites** of the RET kinase domain.



Charles Darwin's sketch on evolution red notebook 'B' precursor of "On the Origin of Species" (1859)

## Structural basis of acquired resistance to selpercatinib and pralsetinib mediated by non-gatekeeper RET mutations

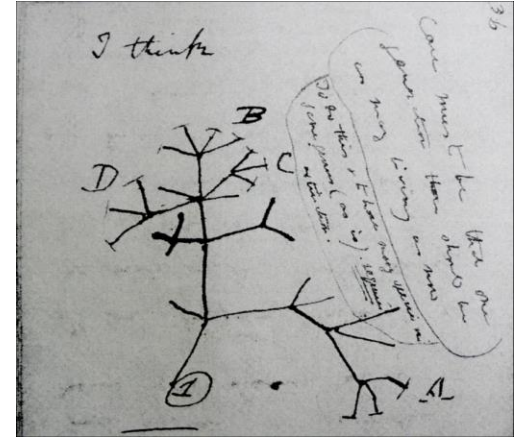
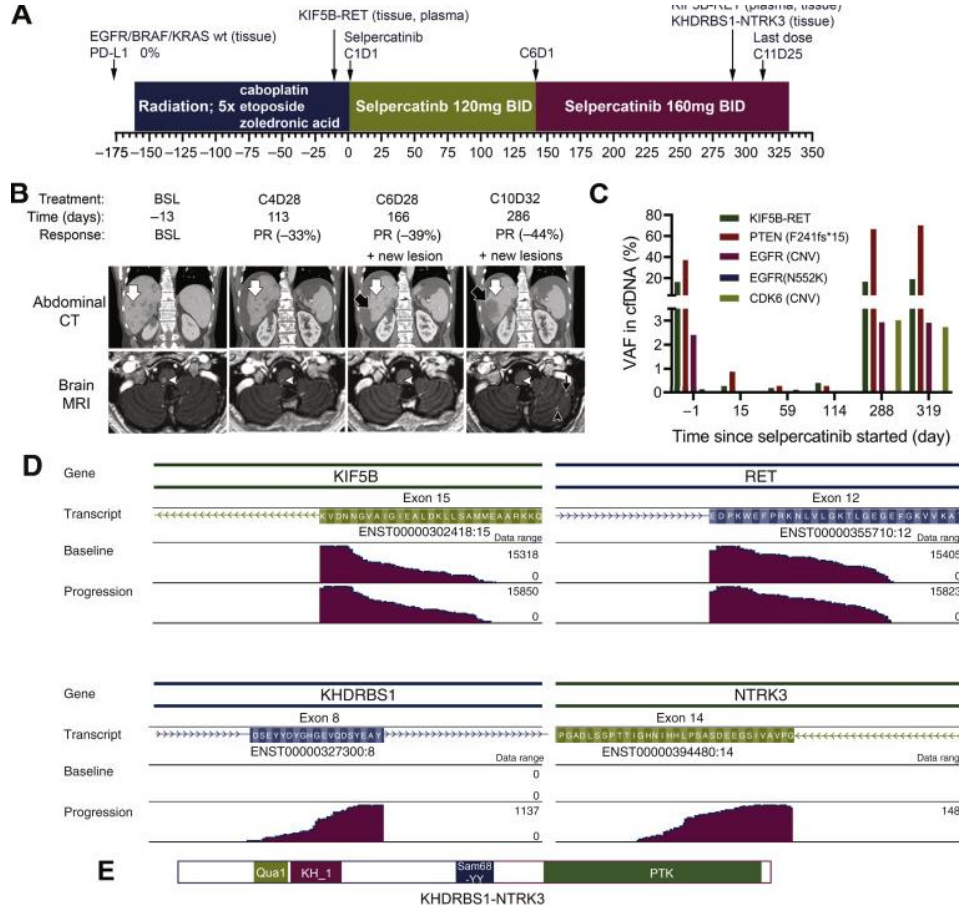


- The identified selpercatinib-resistant RET mutants are cross-resistant to pralsetinib.

- Selpercatinib and pralsetinib use an unprecedented binding mode to dock into the RET kinase.

- Need 2<sup>nd</sup> generation RET inhibitors that cover gatekeeper and new solvent front mutations

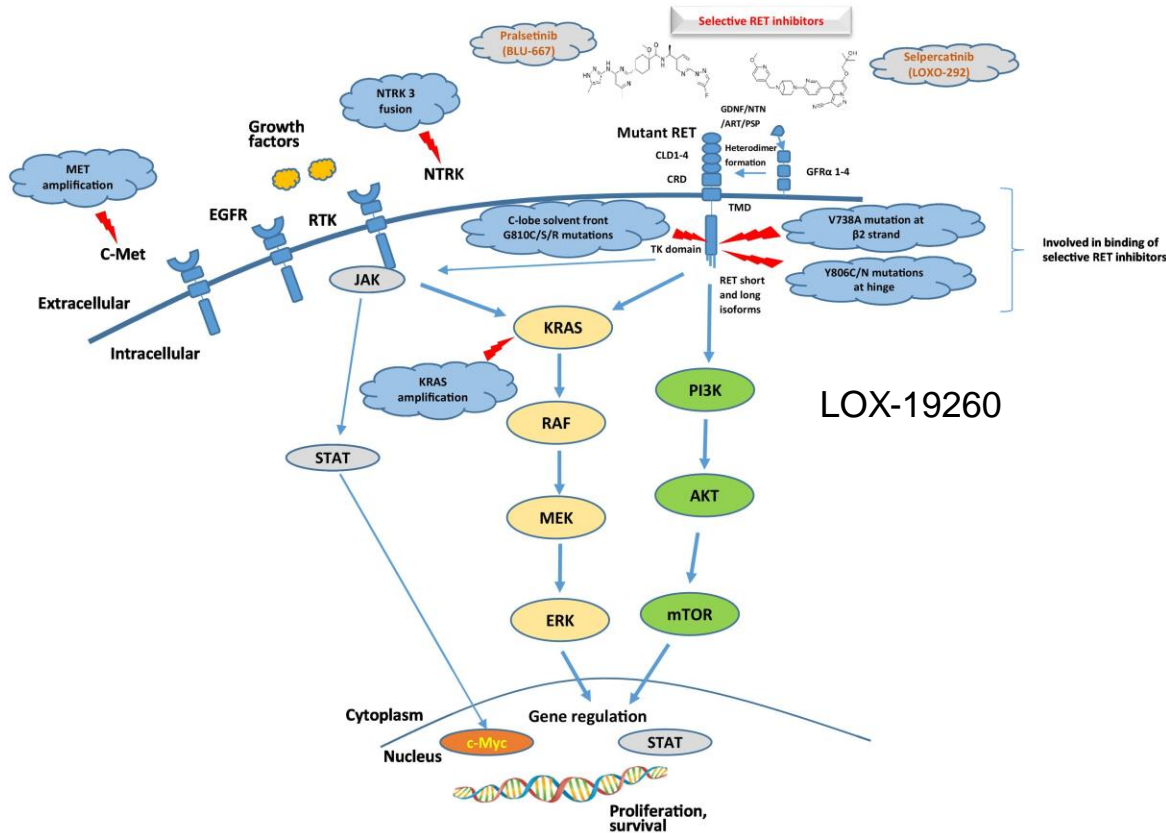
# KHDRBS1–NTRK3 fusion as an acquired resistance mechanism to selpercatinib in RET fusion-positive lung cancer- Off target resistance



Charles Darwin's sketch on evolution red notebook 'B' precursor of "On the Origin of Species" (1859)

Subbiah V... Moers B,..... Wu J  
Annals of Oncology Feb 2021

# Acquired resistance mechanisms (red arrow) to selective RET inhibitors



## Other RET inhibitors in development Clinical- Phase 1 trials

- LOX-260 (LOXO-19260)
- TAS0953/HM06 (NCT04683250)
- EP0031

## Pre-clinical

- Early nonclinical studies with BiDAC™ (bifunctional degradation activating compounds)
- RET inhibitor from C4 therapeutics, and
- 2nd generation selective RET inhibitors from KinaRx and
- 2<sup>nd</sup> gen RET from LOXO Oncology
- (LOX-18228 and LOX-19260) -

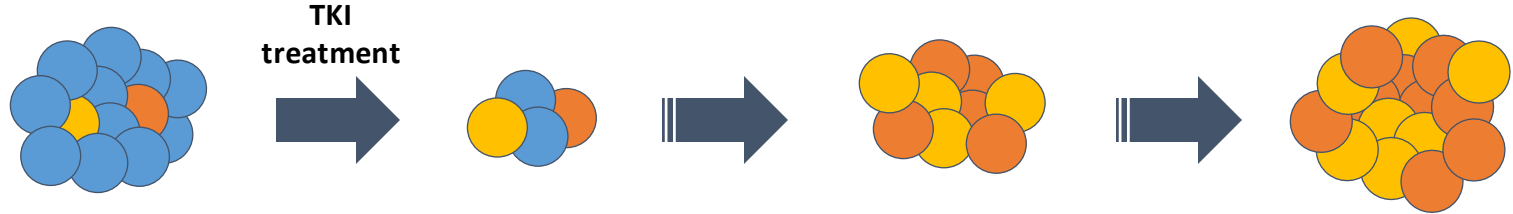


Trends in Cancer DOI: (10.1016/j.trecan.2021.07.003)

Trends in Cancer

# The emergence of resistance mutations severely impacts the durability of TKI's in cancer

*Model of the emergence of TKI-resistant mutant clones<sup>1</sup>*

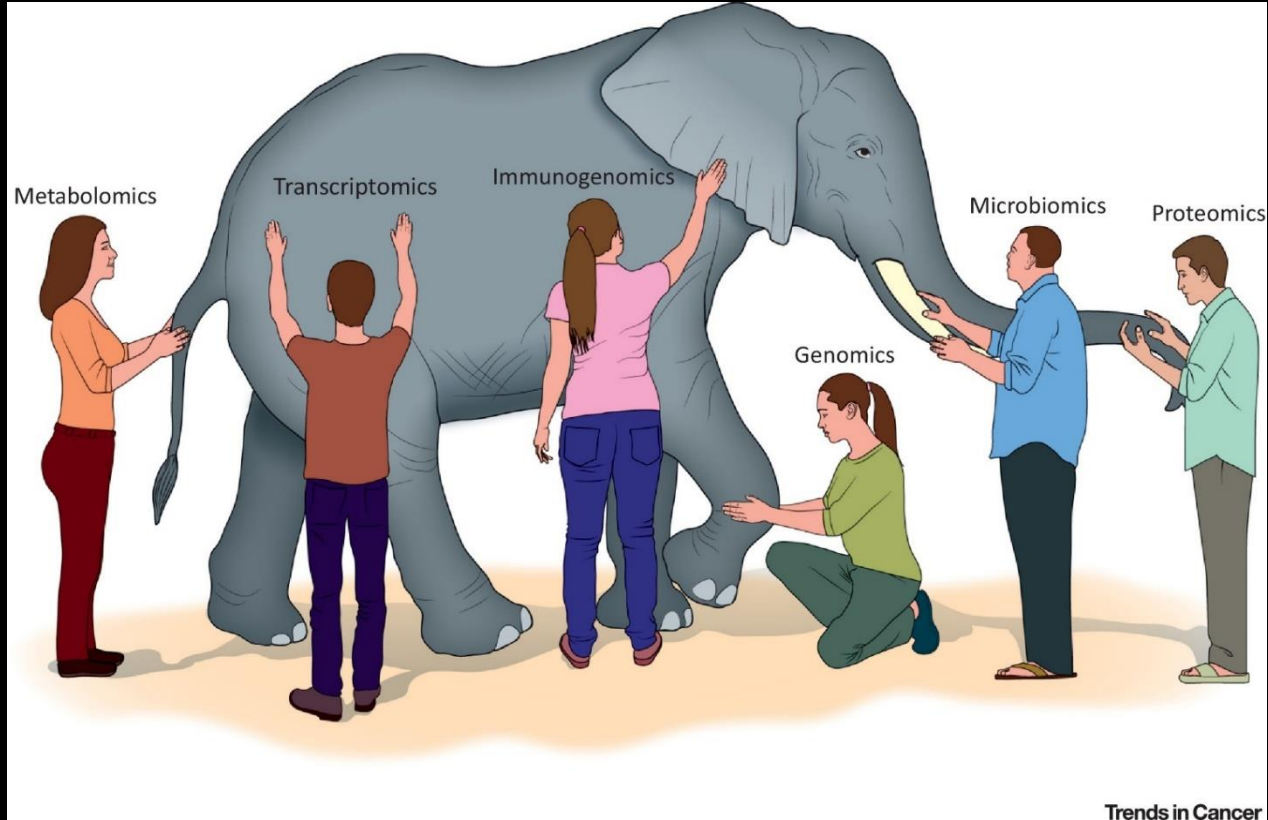


**Overcoming resistance mutations in oncogenic drivers is essential for effective precision therapy**

**Identifying mechanisms of resistance to first generation TKI inhibitors.**

**Combination therapies, Therapies earlier in the disease course and developing 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> generation TKI inhibitors**

# Six Blind Scientists and Elephants



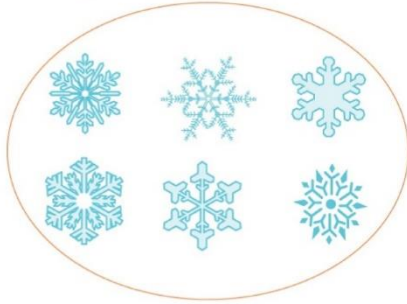


# Snowflake Theory and Changing Drug Development Paradigms

Metastatic cancer = Snowflakes at molecular level

**Current paradigm**

One treatment for all

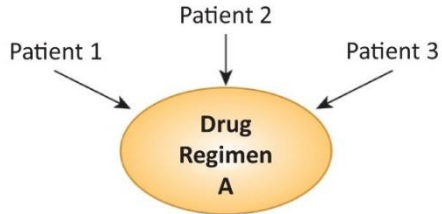


**Future paradigm**

Customized therapy

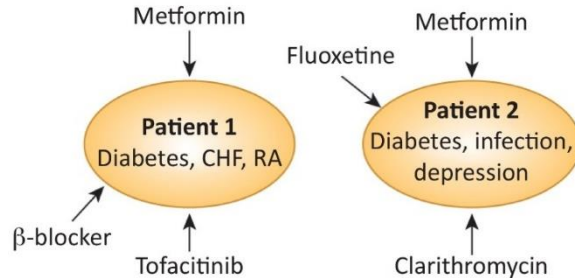


**Drug-centric trial (traditional)**



Strategy: Find common feature between patients (e.g. type of cancer or type of molecular aberration) and place all on same drugs

**Patient-centric therapy**  
We already customize treatment



Trends in Cancer

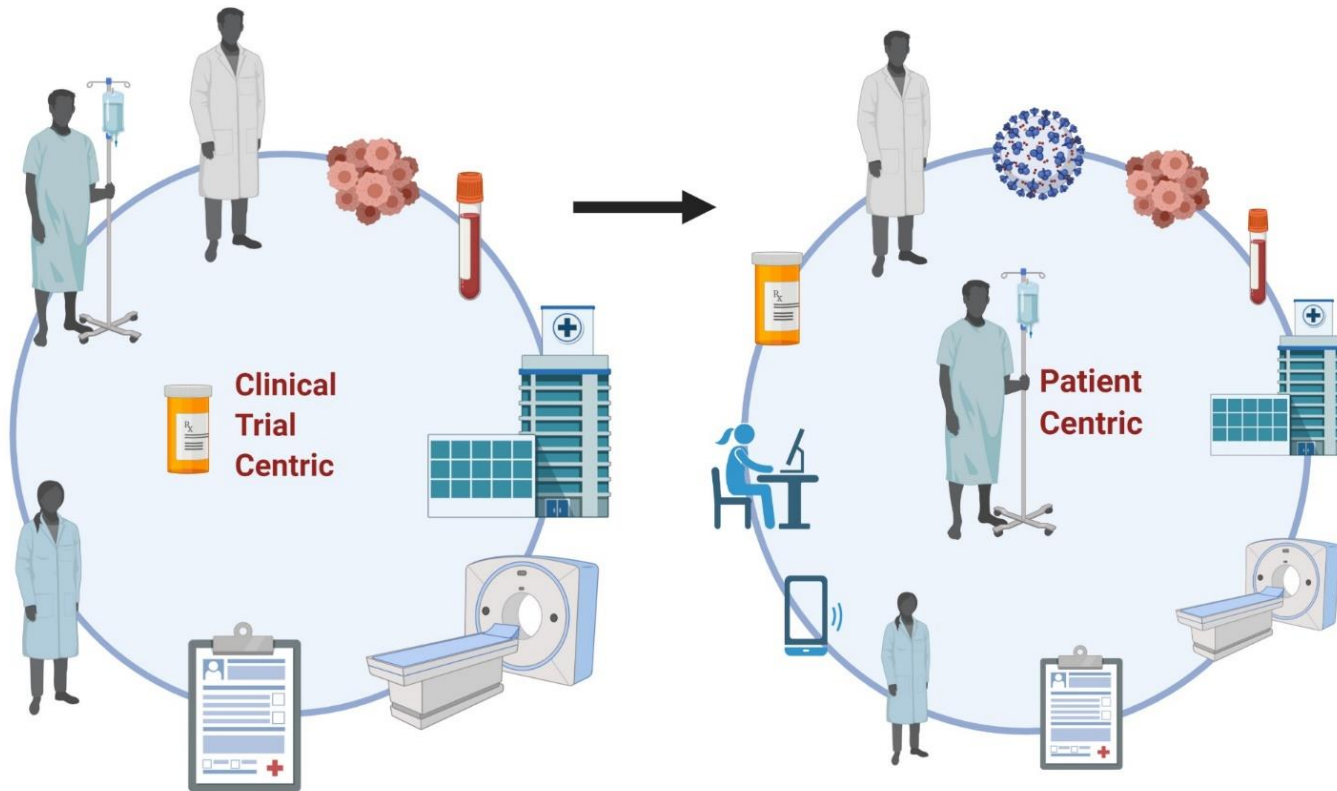
**Subbiah V Kurzrock Trends in Cancer @cellpress**

# 2020

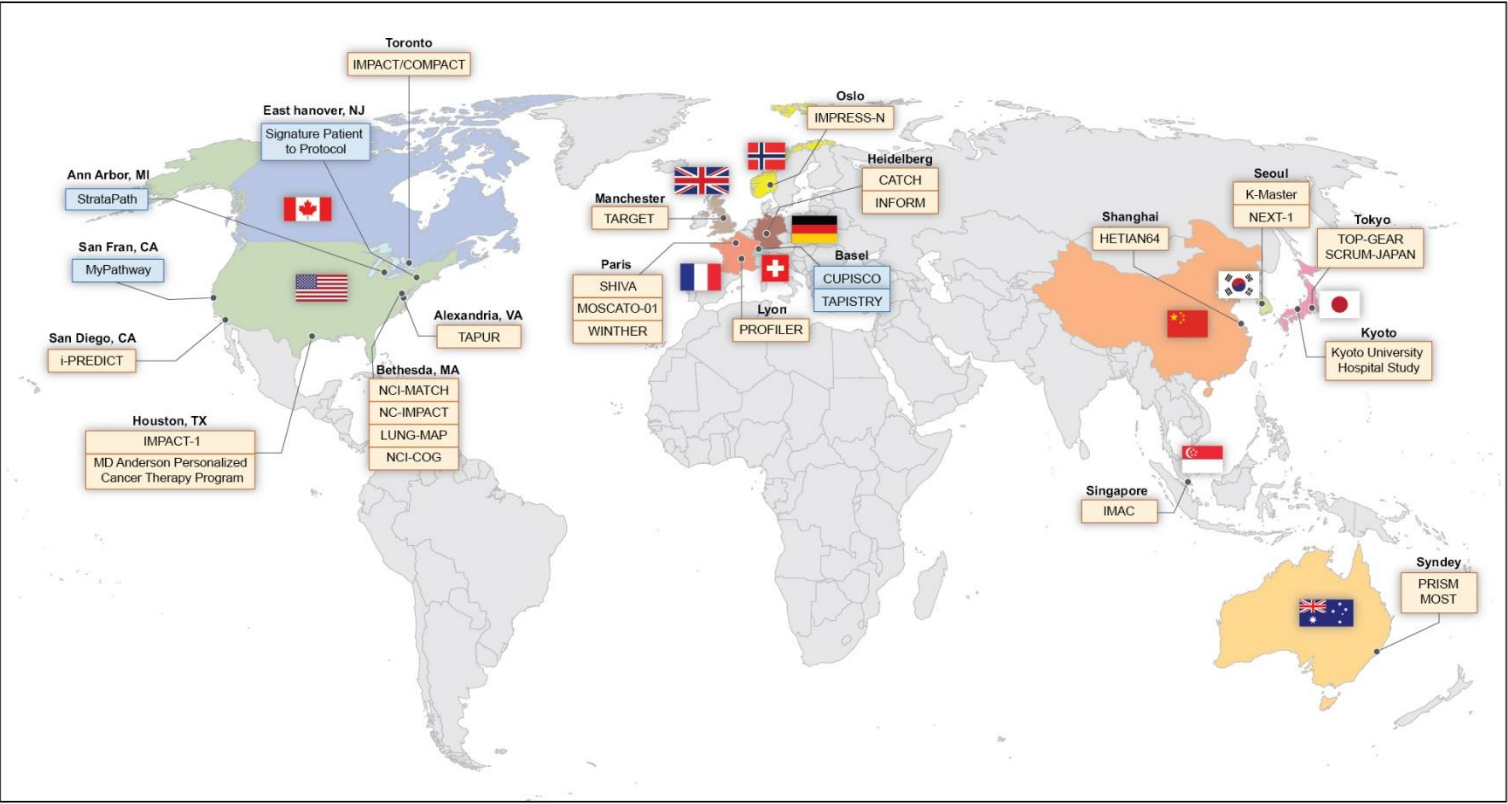
- **The death rate from cancer in the US declined by 29% from 1991 to 2017, including a 2.2% drop from 2016 to 2017, the largest single-year drop ever recorded.**
- **The decline in deaths from lung cancer drove the record drop. Deaths fell from about 3% per year from 2008 - 2013 to 5% from 2013 - 2017 in men and from 2% to almost 4% in women.**



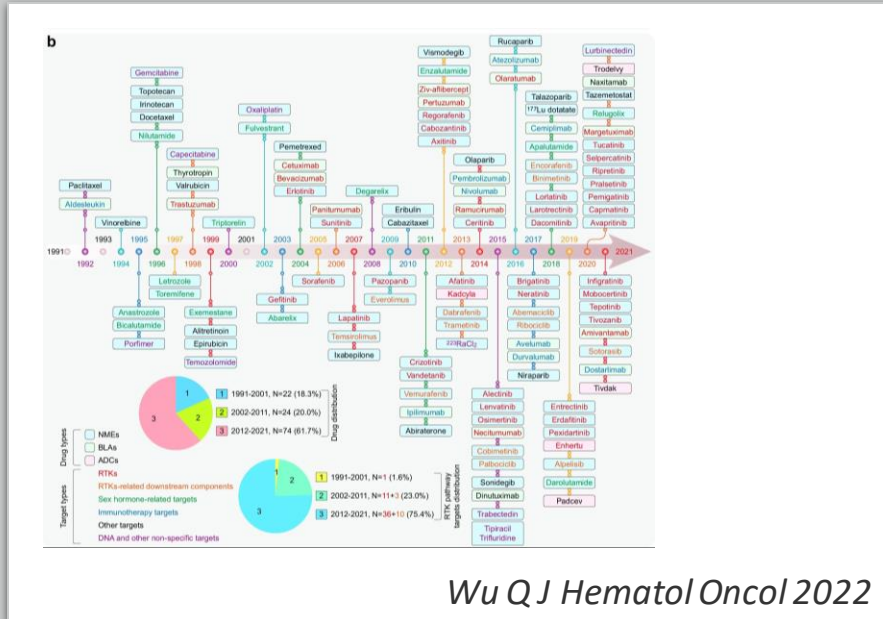
## COVID-19 Pandemic & Cancer Clinical Trial Pandemonium: Finding the Silverlining From Clinical Trial Centric to Patient Centric



# Globalizing Precision Medicine



# FDA-approved novel therapeutic drugs for solid tumors from 1991 to 2021



Wu QJ Hematol Oncol 2022

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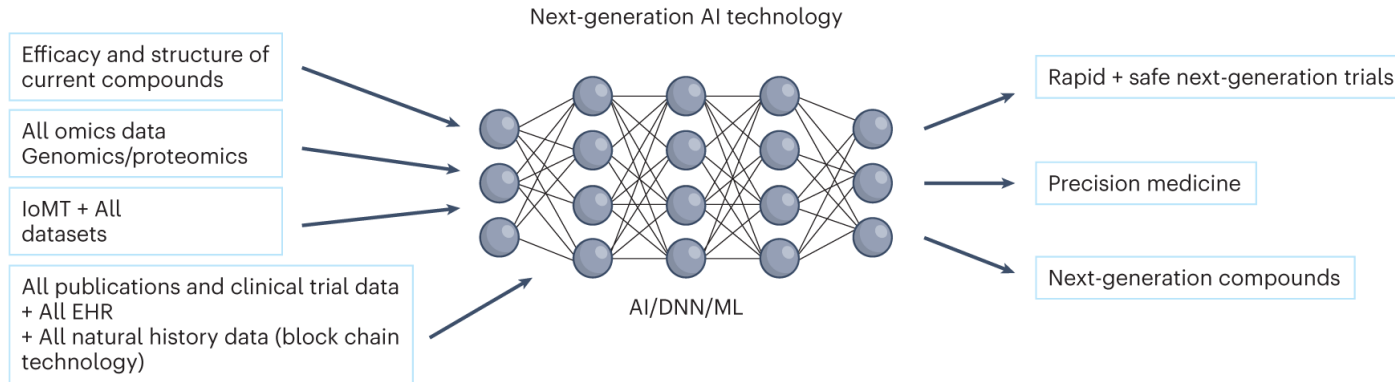
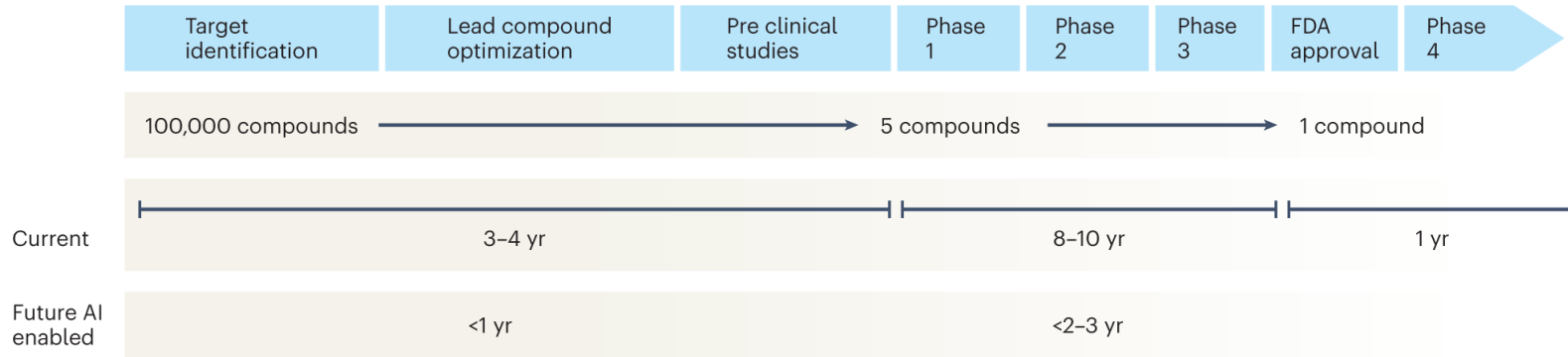
## Accelerated approvals hit the target in precision oncology

Vivek Subbiah , Lori J. Wirth, Razelle Kurzrock, Richard Pazdur, Julia A. Beaver, Harpreet Singh & Gautam U. Mehta 

[Nature Medicine](#) (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

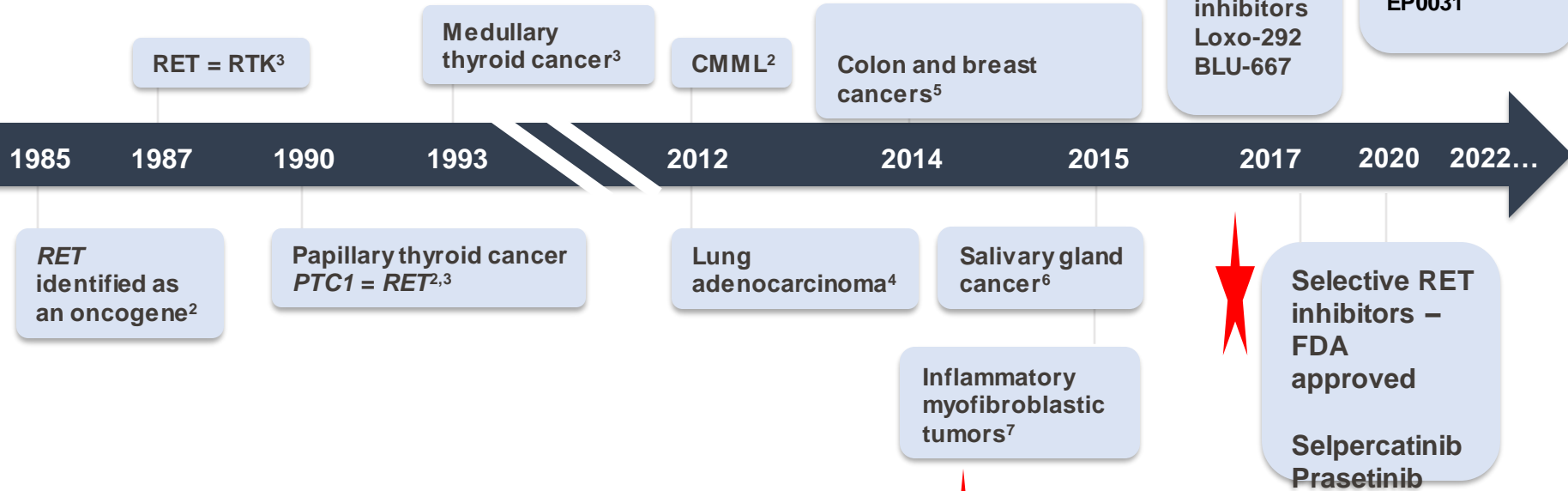
[Metrics](#)

# Timeline of drug development from the present to the future.



# RET inhibitor Timeline

*RET* is one of the first oncogenic kinase fusions cloned from an epithelial tumor, and has since been found to be an oncogenic driver primarily in solid tumors<sup>1,2</sup>



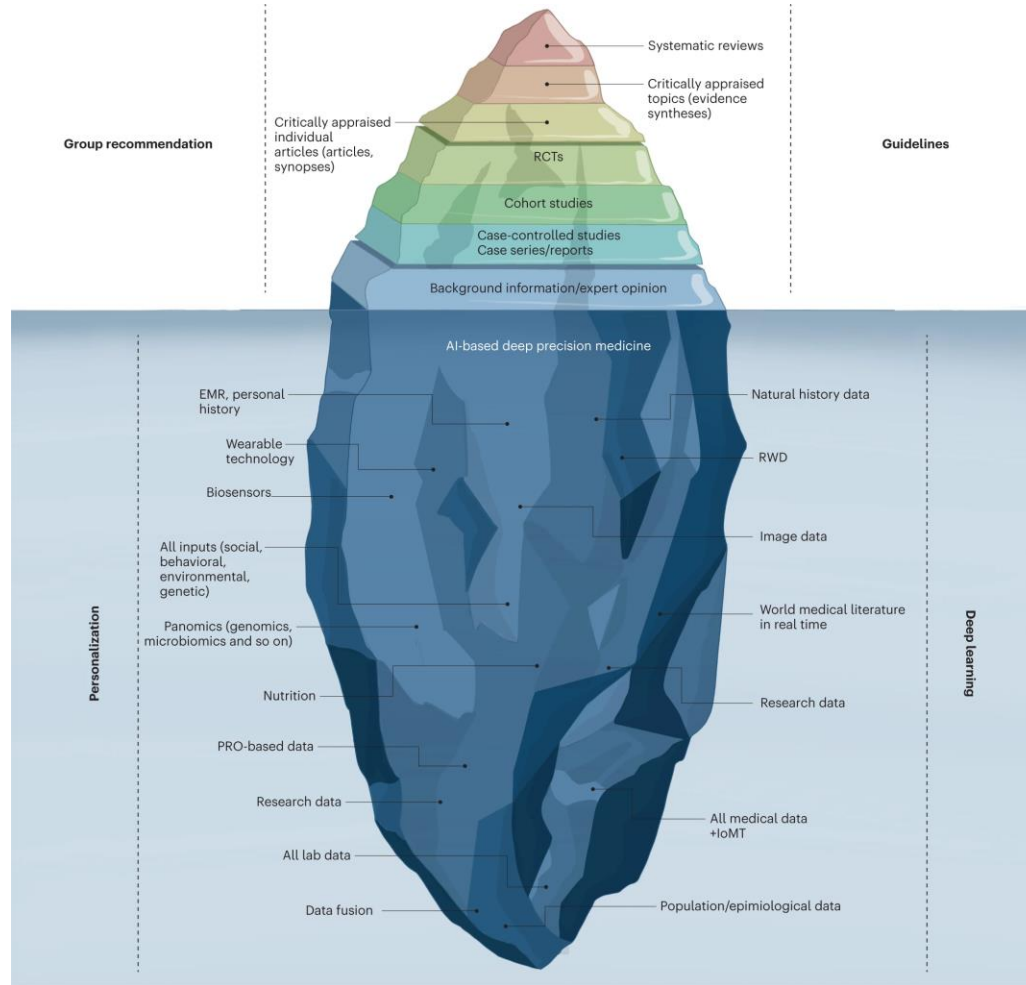
CMML, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia.

1. Subbiah V et al. *Cancer Discov.* 2018;8(7):836-849. 2. Drilon A et al. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol.* 2018;15(3):151-167. 3. Ibáñez CF. *Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol.* 2013;5(2):a009134. 4. Ju YS et al. *Genome Res.* 2012;22(3):436-445. 5. Stransky N et al. *Nat Commun.* 2014;5:4846. 6. Grünewald I et al. *Oncotarget.* 2015;6(20):18224-18237.

**FDA Approval ~ 3 yrs from  
FIH Phase 1**



# Evidence-based deep medicine iceberg



# Summary

- **Revolution in Panomics is here and growing**
- Molecularly driven trials independent of histology
- **Patients will drive clinical trials + drug development**
- **Social Media, Search and self-driven molecular testing**
- **Future clinical research**
  - Next 1–2 years may determine fundamental pivots for how medicines are developed, giving each stakeholder an opportunity not only to adapt but to shape the future clinical trial paradigm.

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