



**BIO 302: 23 April 2018**

**Cancer: A Multi-Dimensional Problem**  
**Science, Medicine, Economics, Ethics, Fear & Emotion**

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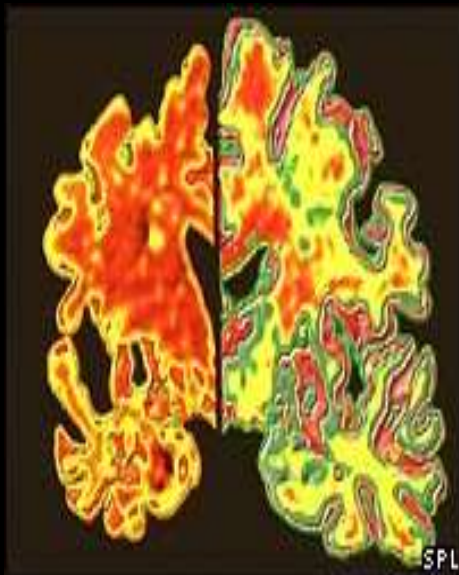
# **Infinite Demand Versus Finite Resources (Clinical and Economic)**

- **public expectancy for unlimited care and access to latest advances**

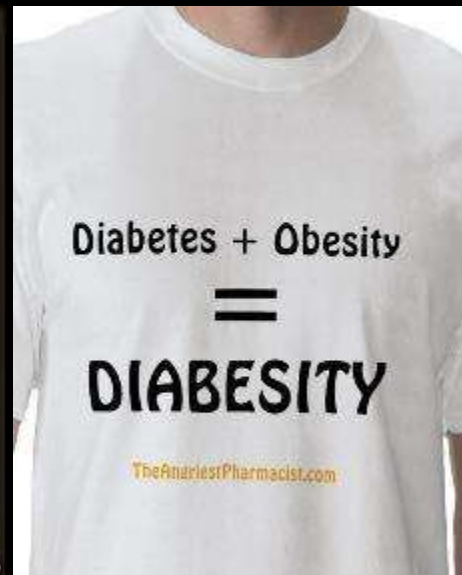
# **Disease Burden: Confronting the Largest Clinical Economic Disruptions and Threats to Sustainable Healthcare**



**cancer**



**neurodegeneration**



**cardio-vascular/  
metabolic disease**



**mental illness**

**health versus illness**

**value versus volume**

**integrated systems versus disconnected silos  
in access and effectiveness of care delivery**

# Demographics and the Clinical and Economic Challenges to U.S. Healthcare



**wellness with longevity  
and high QOL**

**?**

**OR**



**multiple co-morbidities  
and low QOL**

**?**

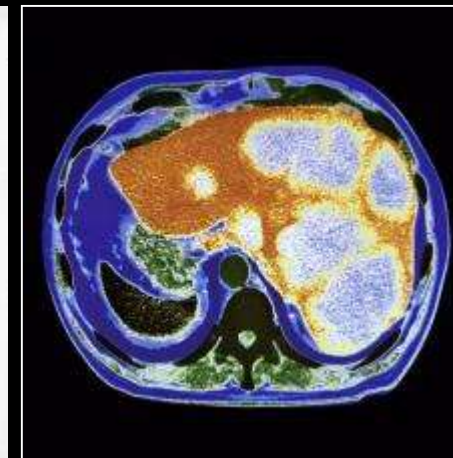
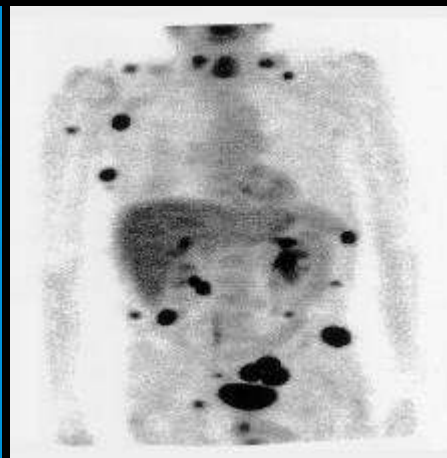


# Confronting the Clinical, Economic and Human Toll of Cancer



**New Diagnoses: 1.68 million 2017**

**Deaths: 600,920 (2017)**



# **Cancer Care: 7 C's**

- **clonal heterogeneity (cancer biology)**
- **clinical care (outcomes)**
- **consistency of care (guidelines)**
- **communication (patient-physician relationships)**
- **choice (intervention versus palliation)**
- **cost (sustainability and value)**
- **culture (expectations, motivations, incentives)**

# Cancer Care: 7 C's

- clonal heterogeneity (cancer biology)
- clinical care (outcomes)
- consistency (guidelines)
- communication (relationships)
- cost (supply and value)
- context (expectations, motivations, incentives)

complexity

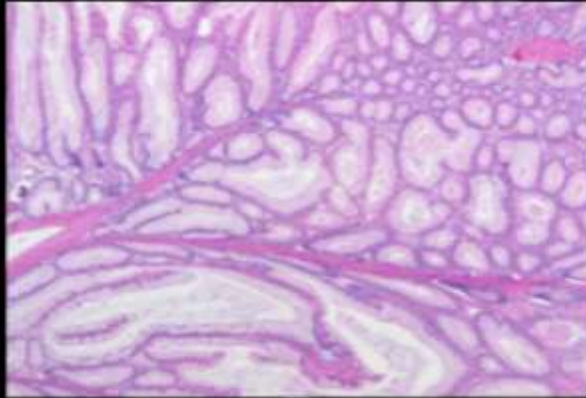
data and decisions

value



# The Complex Biology of Cancer Progression and Treatment Resistance

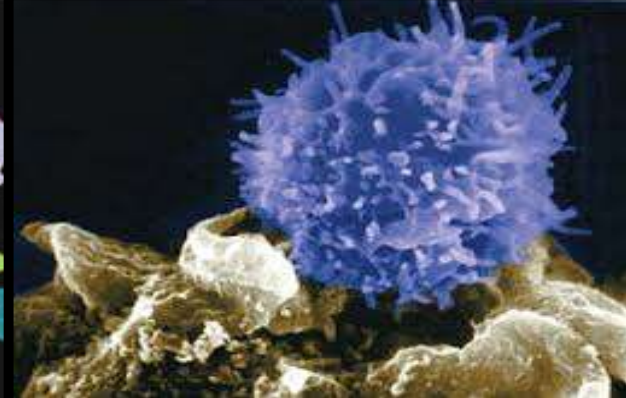
**Escape From Controls  
for Normal  
Tissue Architecture**



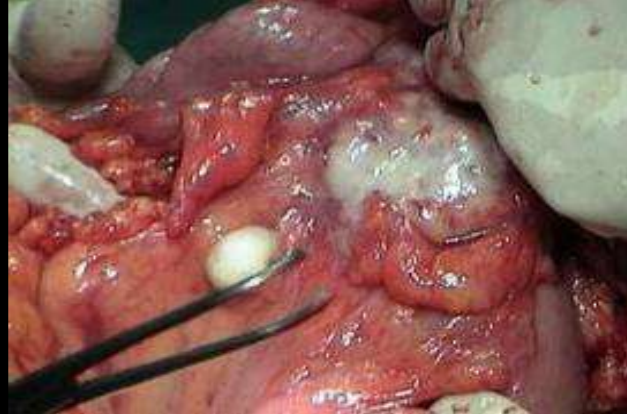
**Genome Instability  
and Emergence of  
Clonal Variants**



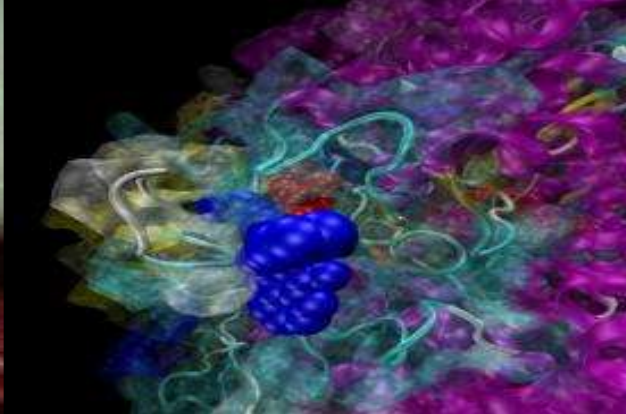
**Evasion of Detection/  
Destruction by Host  
Immune System**



**Use of Host  
Systems to  
Promote Progression**



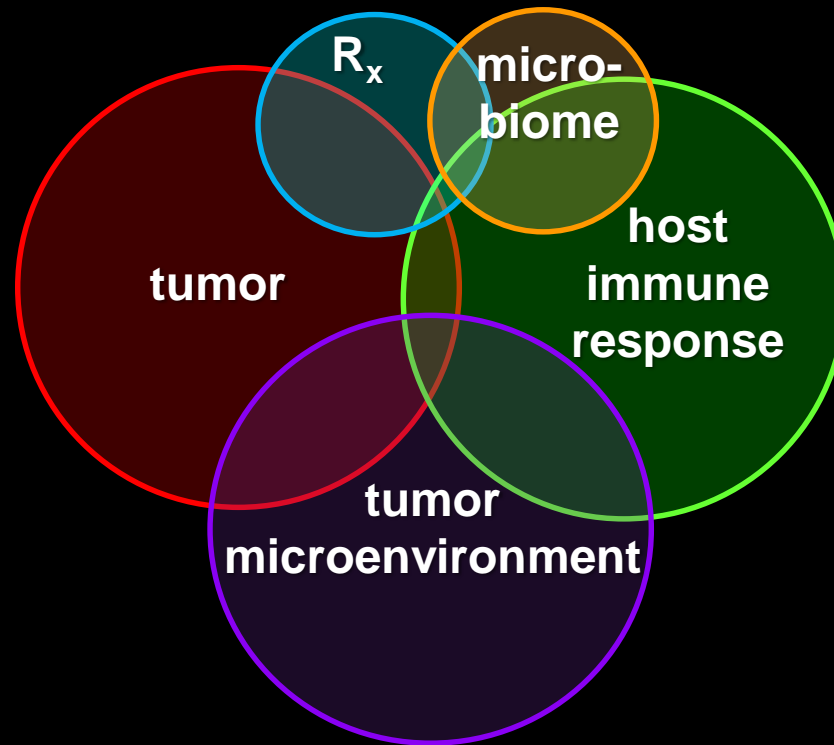
**Invasion  
and  
Metastasis**



**Emergence  
of Drug-Resistant  
Clones**

# Understanding the Complex Ecosystem of Constantly Changing Tumor and Host Interactions

- lineage and subtype
- clonal heterogeneity
- mutagen burden
- neoantigen profile



balance of  
stimulatory  
and  
suppressive  
factors

localization of immune cells/soluble mediators and impact of  $R_x$



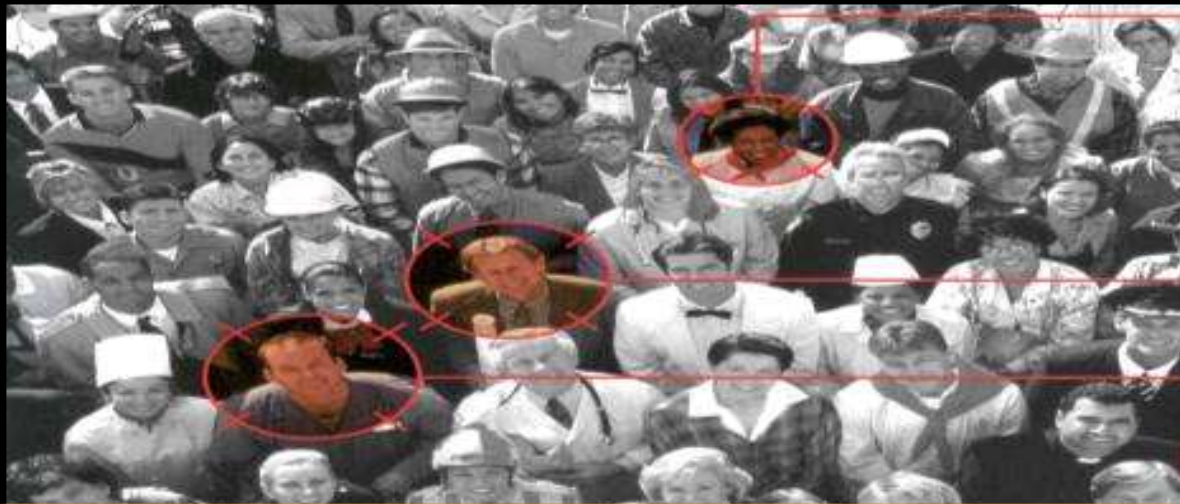
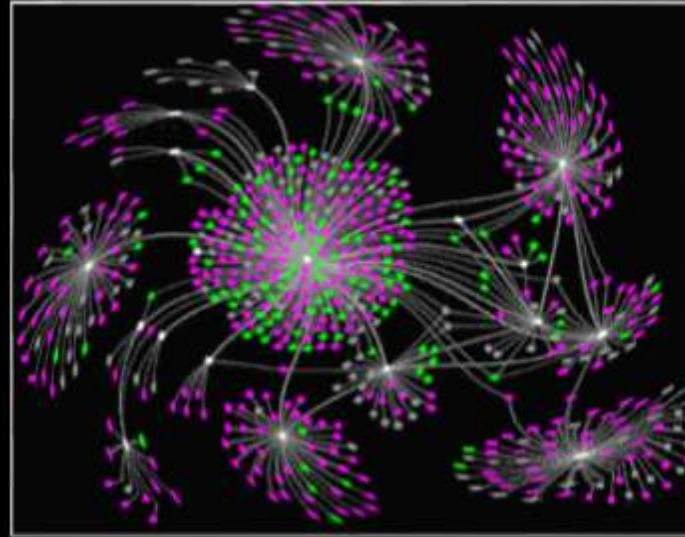




# Precision Oncology:

(Epi)Genomics

Causal Relationships Between Disruption of  
Molecular Signaling Networks and Disease

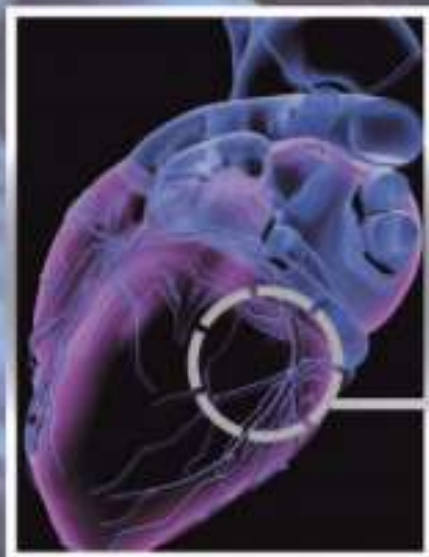


- terabytes per individual
- zettabyte – yottabyte population databases

Patient-Specific Signatures of Disease  
or Predisposition to Disease

Big (Messy) Data





# **Molecular Diagnostics and Biomarkers as the Intellectual Drivers of Precision Medicine**

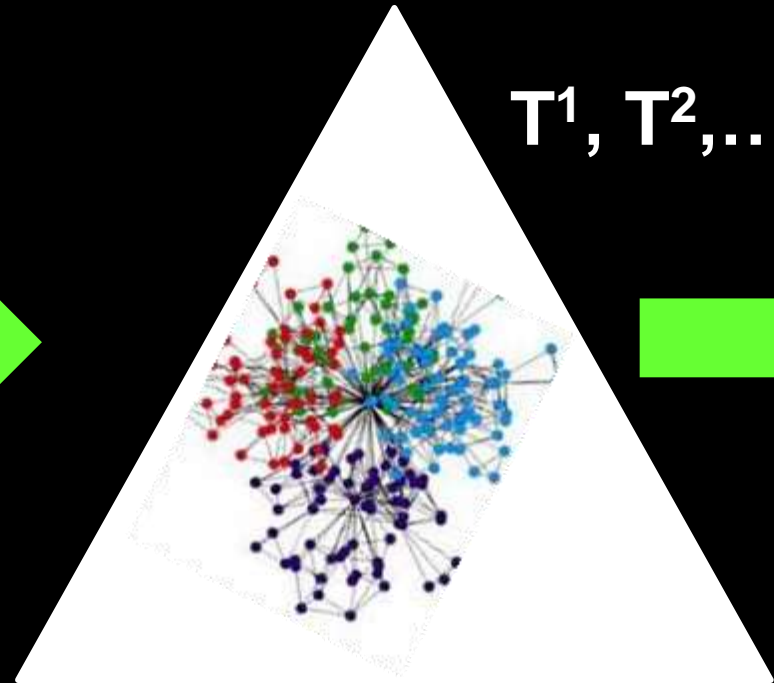
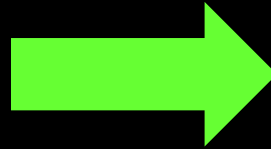
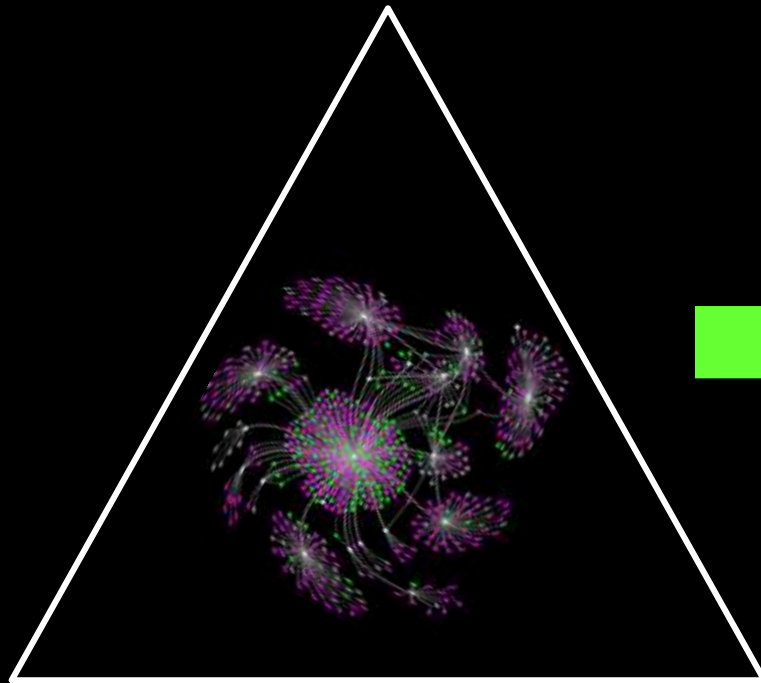
- **disease predisposition risk**
- **increased accuracy of disease classification (molecular subtypes) and staging**
- **more rational treatment selection based on presence/absence of specific molecular targets for R<sub>x</sub> action**
- **pharmacogenetic profiling to avoid R<sub>x</sub> adverse events**
- **monitoring R<sub>x</sub> efficacy**
- **detection of emergence of R<sub>x</sub> resistance (microbiology; oncology)**
- **earlier alert of pending relapse and detection minimal residual disease**



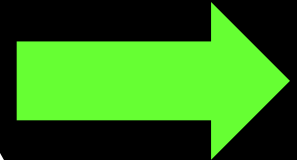
# Understanding System State Shifts and Emergent Perturbations in Molecular Signaling Networks in the Health to Disease Continuum

network topology

evolution of new network topologies  
and 'state spaces'

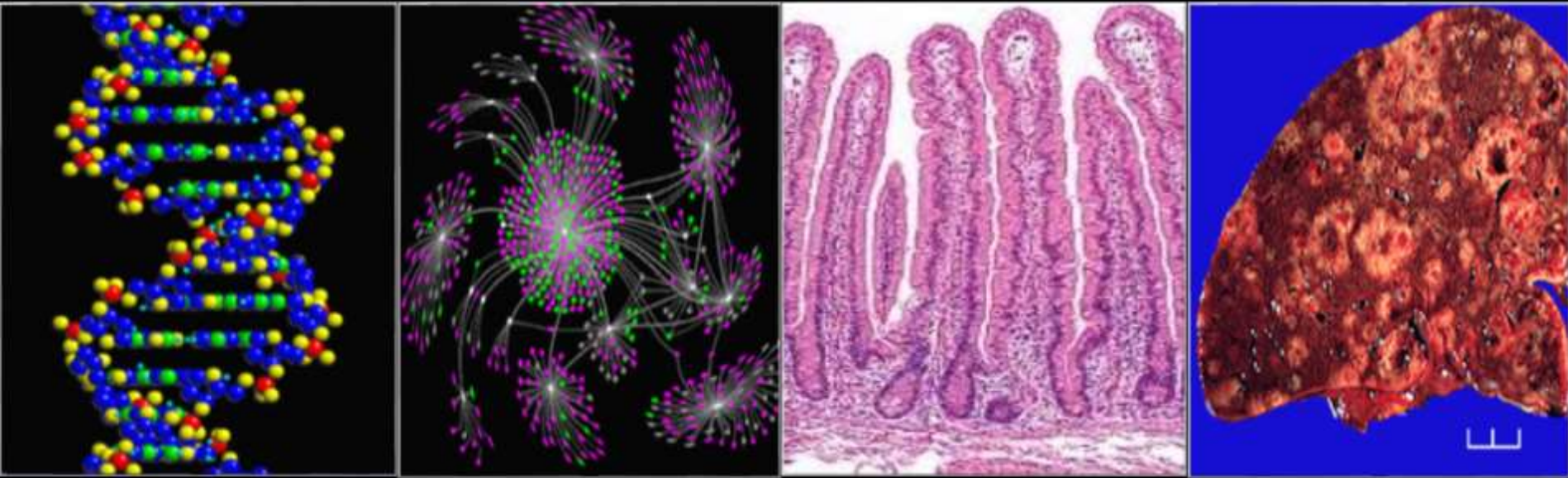


$T^1, T^2, \dots, T^n$



- (epi) genomic, transcriptomic and protein expression networks
- gene-gene interactions (epistasis)
- multi-omic network- environmental interactions
- context: multicellular signaling interactions across multiple levels of biological scale

# Precision Medicine: Understanding the Disruption of Molecular Information Networks in Disease



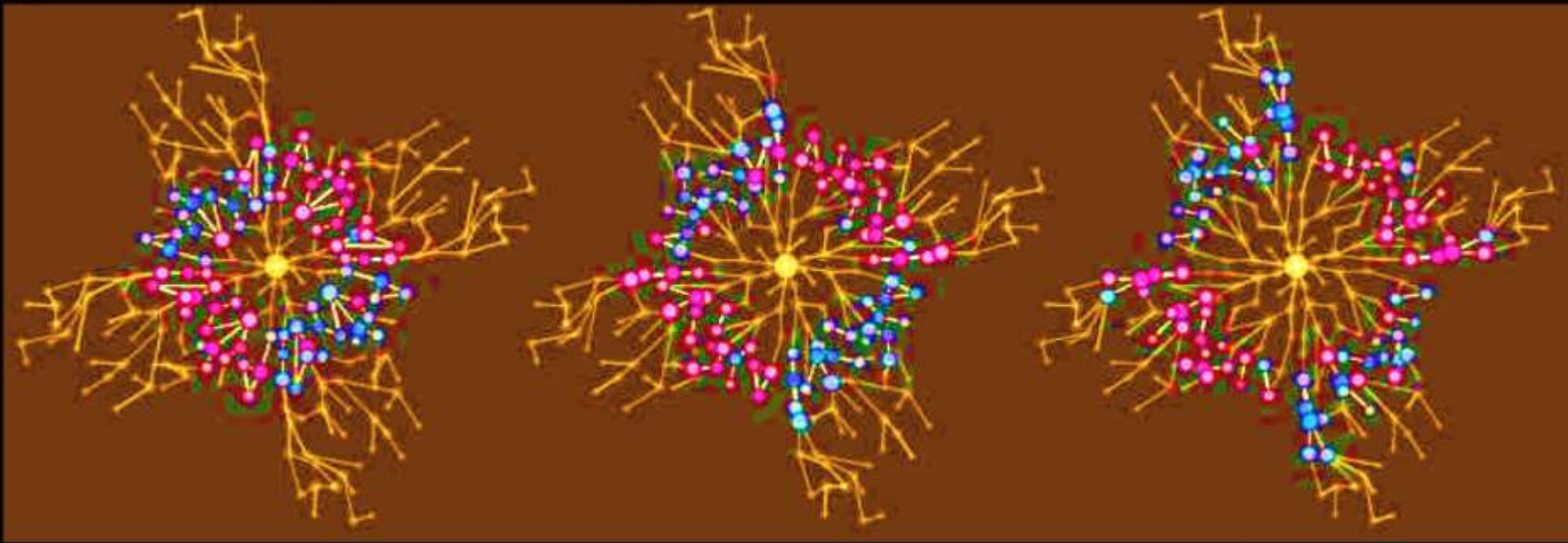
**encoded information  
and expression as  
cell-specific signaling  
networks**

**patterns of  
information flow in  
signaling networks  
(network topology)**

**stable  
networks and  
information fidelity  
(health)**

**dysregulated  
networks and  
altered information  
patterns (disease)**

# Understanding System State Shifts and Emergent Perturbations in Molecular Signaling Networks In the Health to Disease Continuum



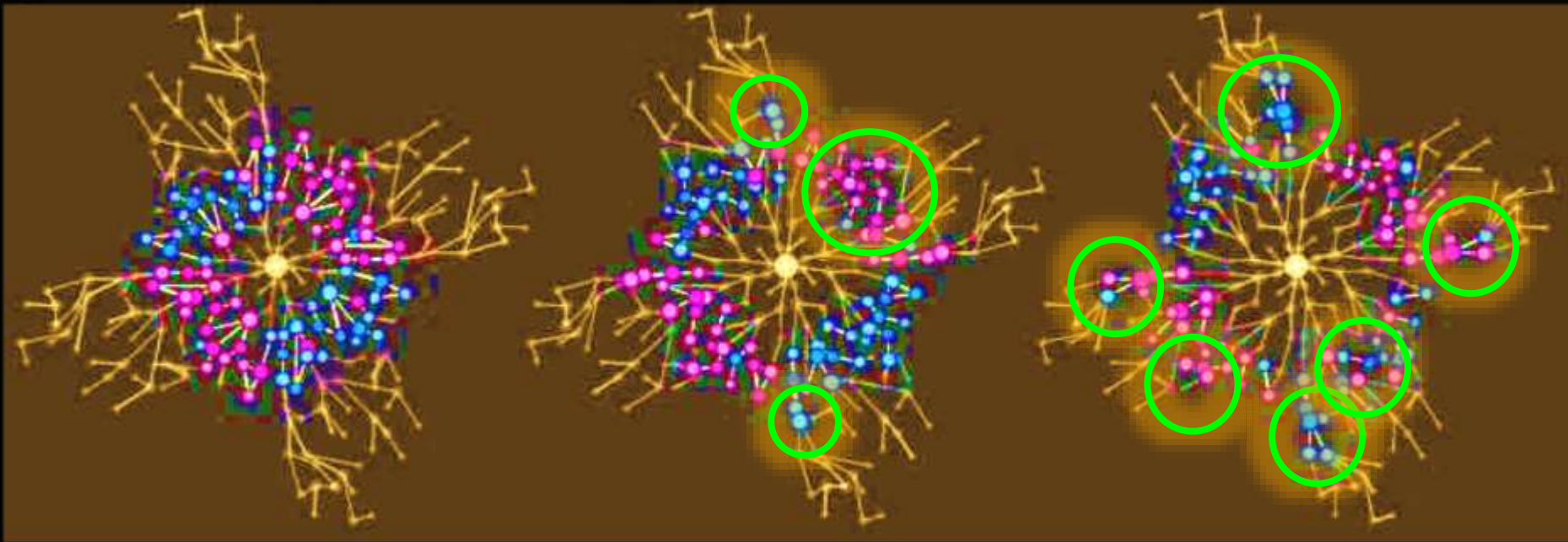
$T_1$

$T_2$

$T_3$



# Understanding System State Shifts and Emergent Perturbations in Molecular Signaling Networks In the Health to Disease Continuum



$T_1$

health

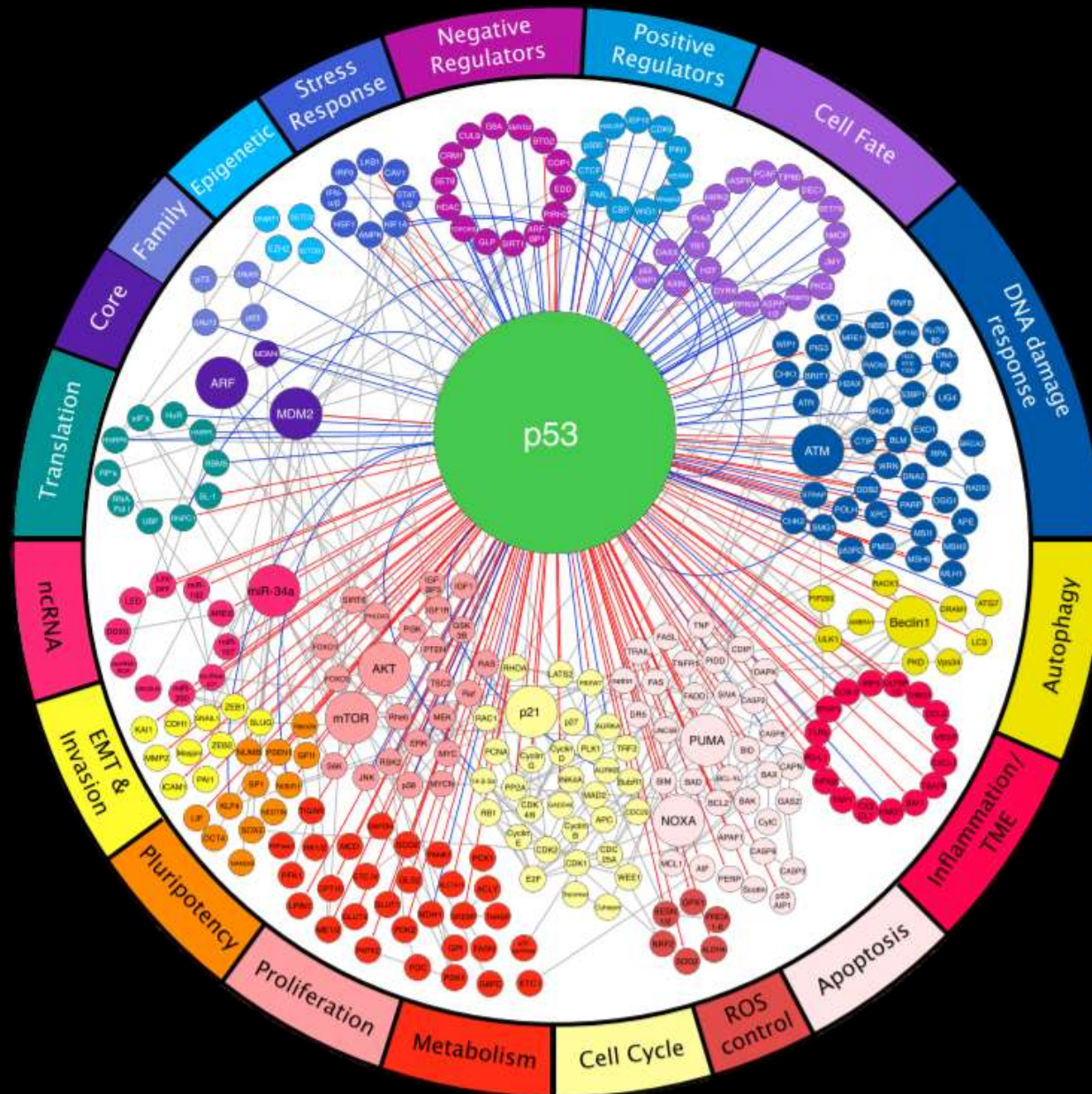
$T_2$

subclinical  
disease

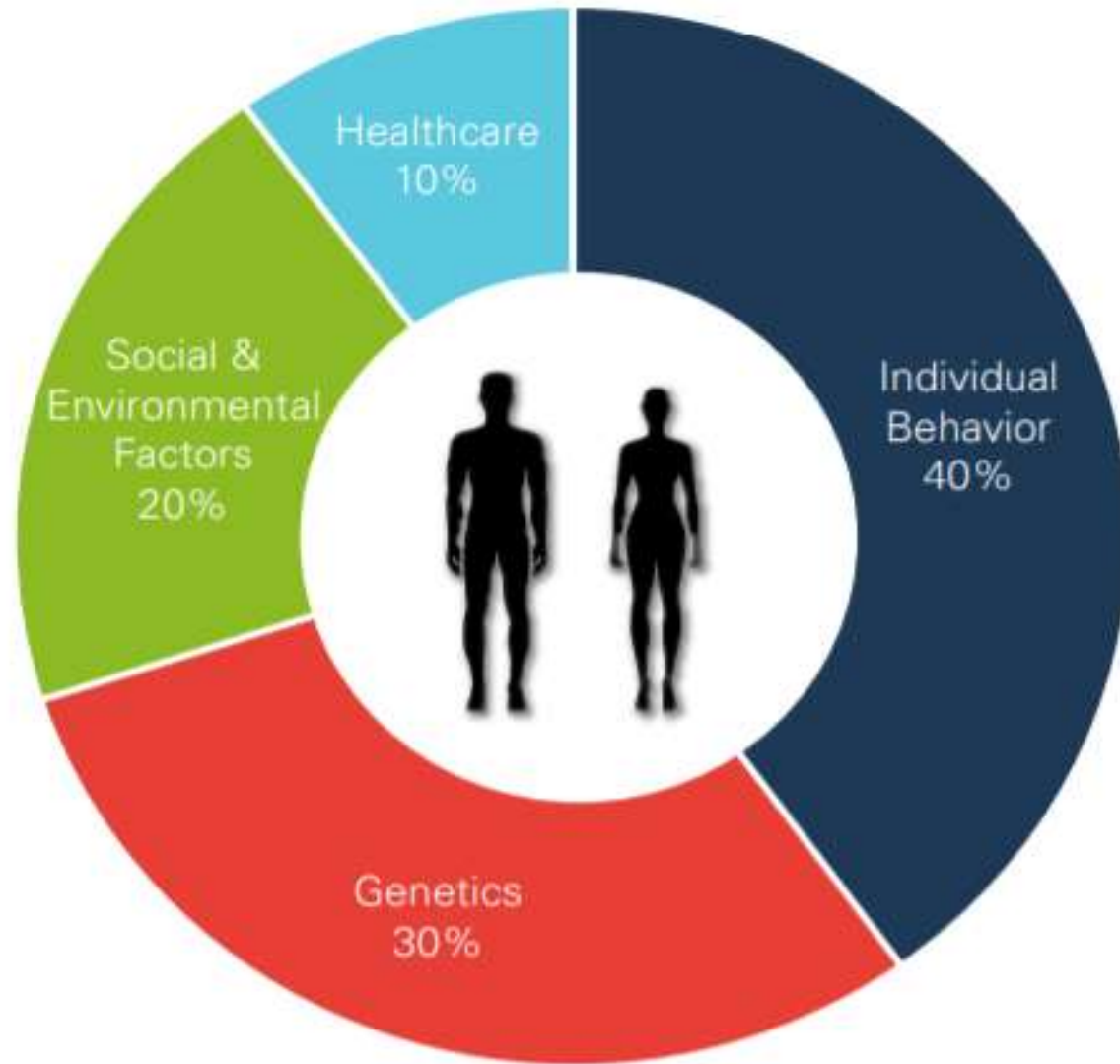
$T_3$

overt  
disease

# The p53 Network



# Impact of Different Factors On The Risk of Premature Death



Source: Beyond Health Care: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health and Health Equity. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2015.



The lasting health toll of  
chemical warfare p. 20

Hidden impacts of  
air pollution p. 39

Flying through Saturn's  
ionosphere p. 66

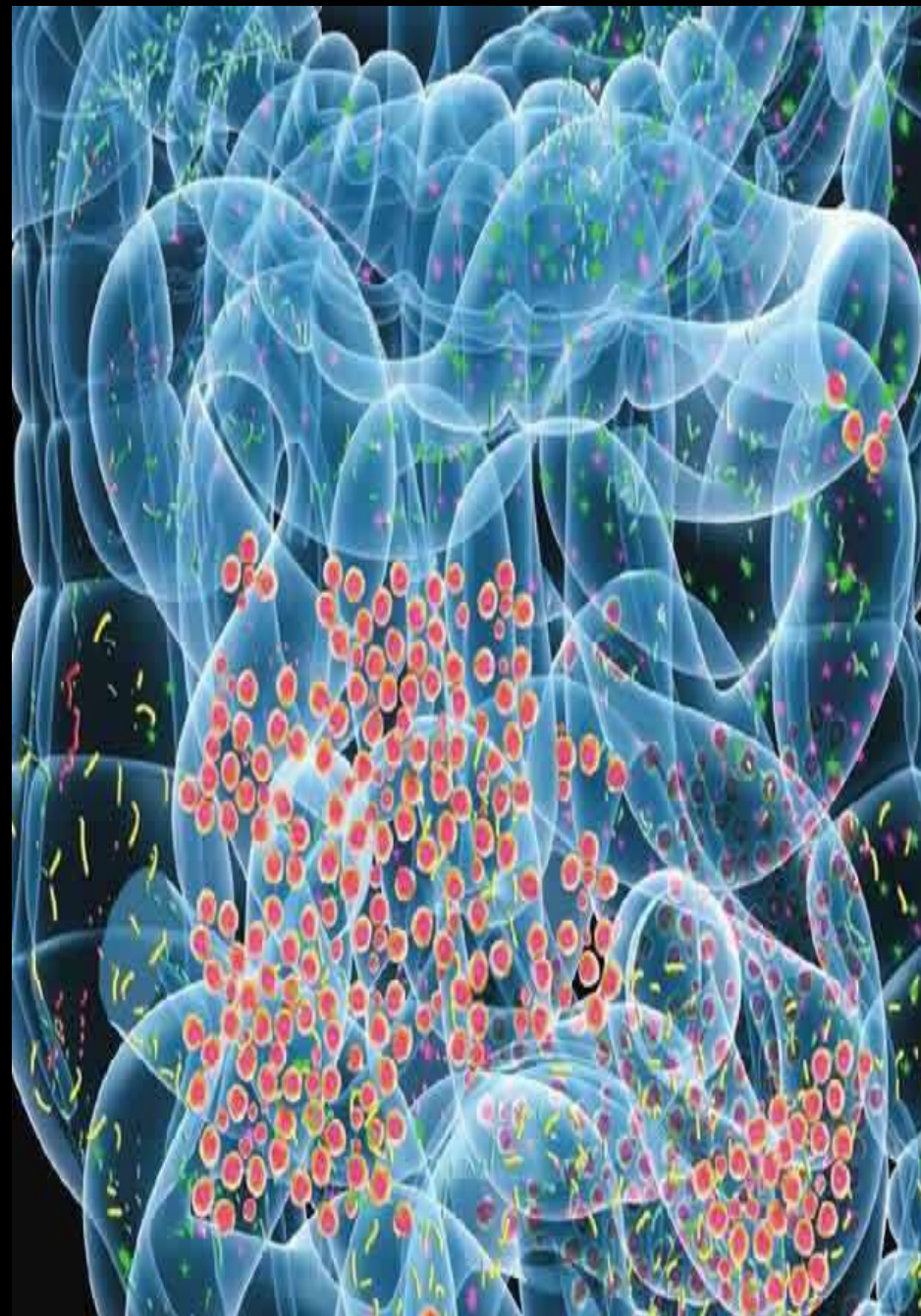
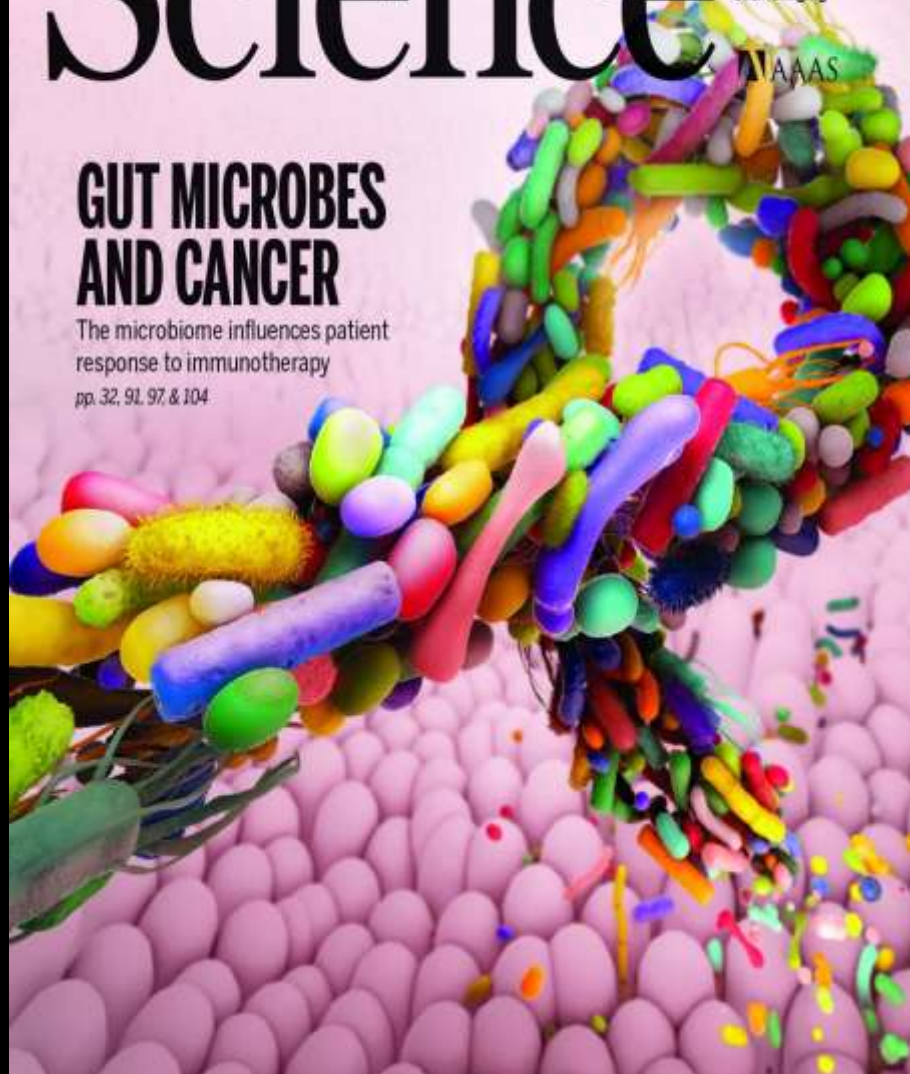
# Science

\$15  
5 JANUARY 2018  
sciencemag.org

## GUT MICROBES AND CANCER

The microbiome influences patient  
response to immunotherapy

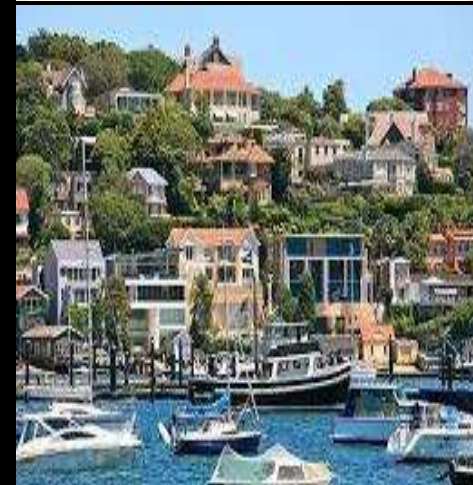
pp. 32, 91, 97 & 104





# Most Events That Affect Our Health Occur Outside of the Healthcare System And Are Not Monitored

**Need for Continuity of Care Record: From Womb to Tomb**



**Behavior**

**Environment**

# **“People Analytics”**

## **Social Activities and Behavior Become Quantifiable**

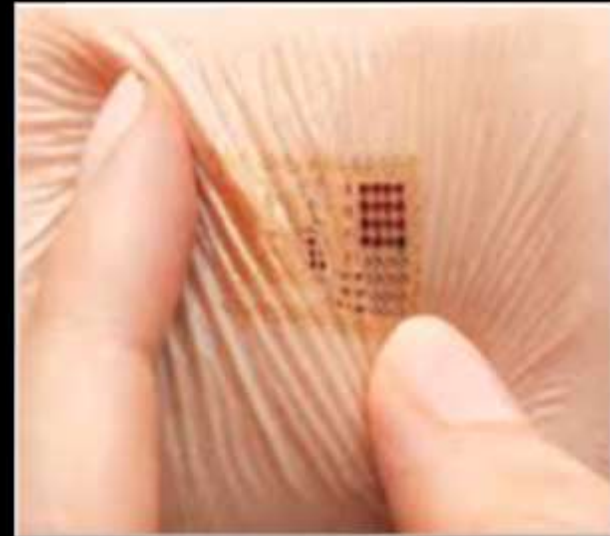
- **who knows why people do what they do?**
  - **the fact is that they do!**
- **these actions can now be traced and measured with unprecedented precision**
- **with sufficient data, the numbers reveal increasingly predictable behavior and individual risk patterns**
- **the confessional of social media**
- **the blurring of private and public spaces**
- **complex ethical and legal issues**
  - **consent, privacy, security, surveillance**

# Wellness Apps for Fitness, Diet and Exercise





# Remote Monitoring of Health Status



# **Gray Technologies and Ageing in Place: The Rapid Expansion of Telemedicine for Remote Health Monitoring**



**Rx adherence**



**cognitive stimulation**



**in home support and reduced  
readmissions**



**reduced office visits**



# Chatbots and Support Robots in Healthcare



# Mobile Apps, Wearables, Sensors and Continuous Health Status Monitoring

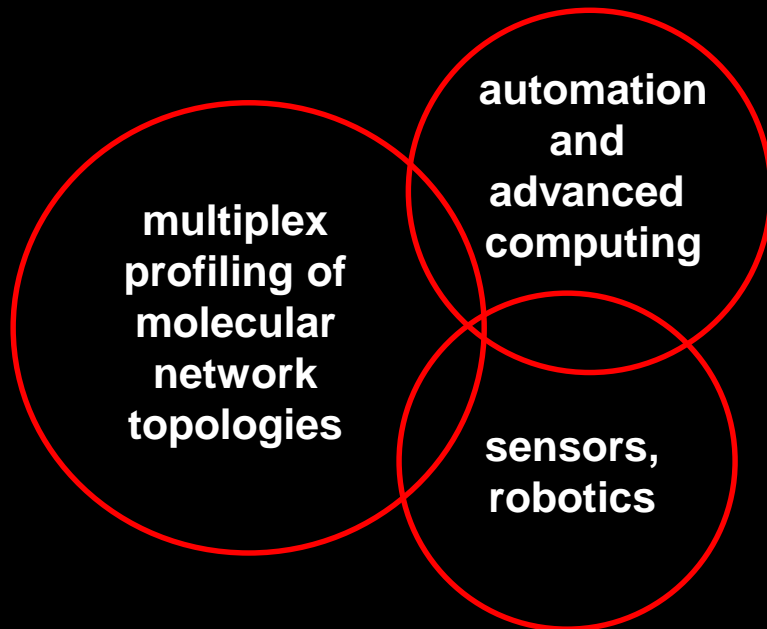
- who sets the standards?
- who integrates and interprets the data?
- who pays?
- who consents?
- who owns the data?

# Epic fail



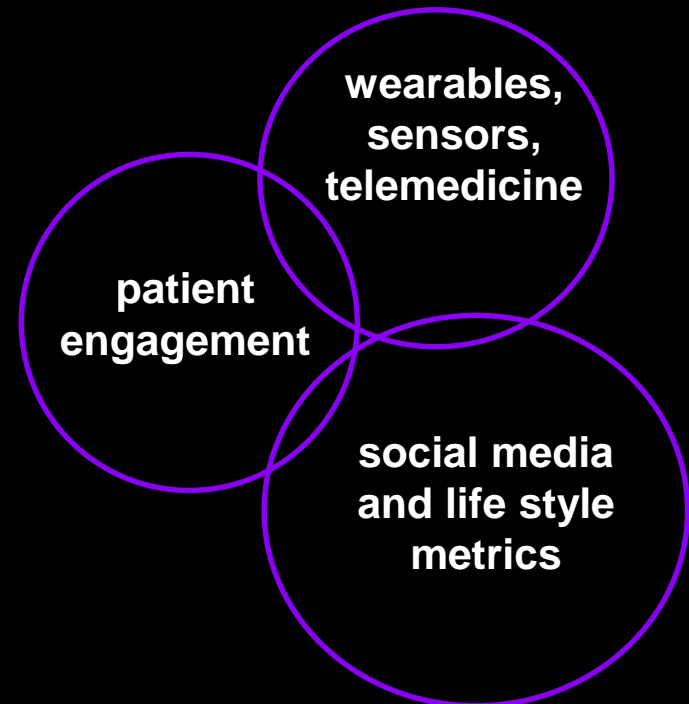
# The Future of Healthcare: Precision Medicine and Digital Medicine

**new technology  
platforms**



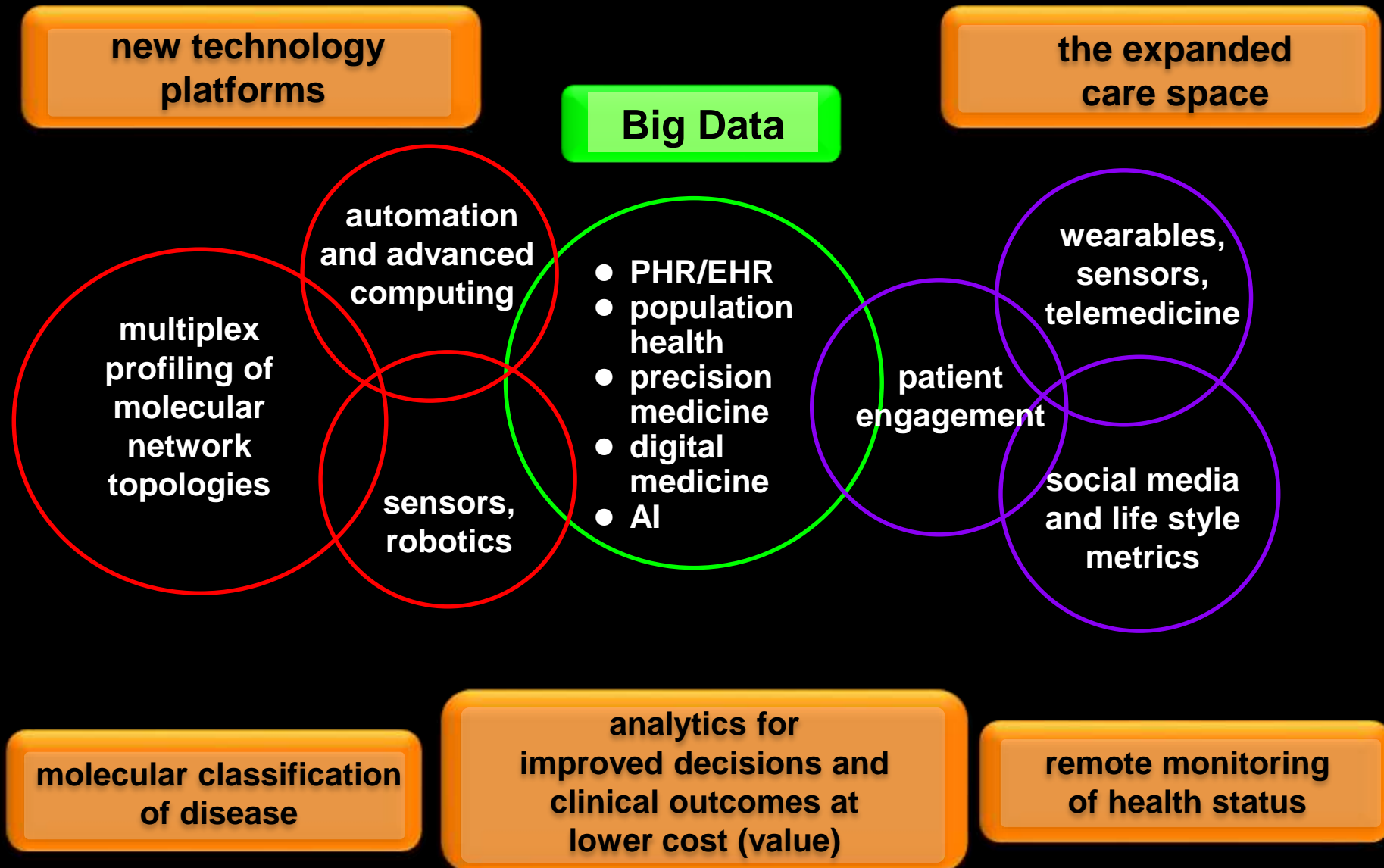
**molecular classification  
of disease**

**the expanded  
care space**



**remote monitoring of  
health status**

# The Future of Healthcare: Precision Medicine and Digital Medicine



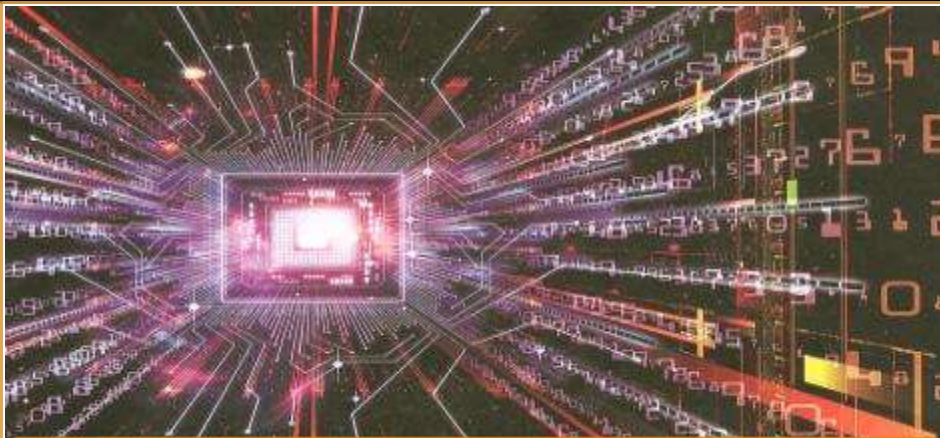
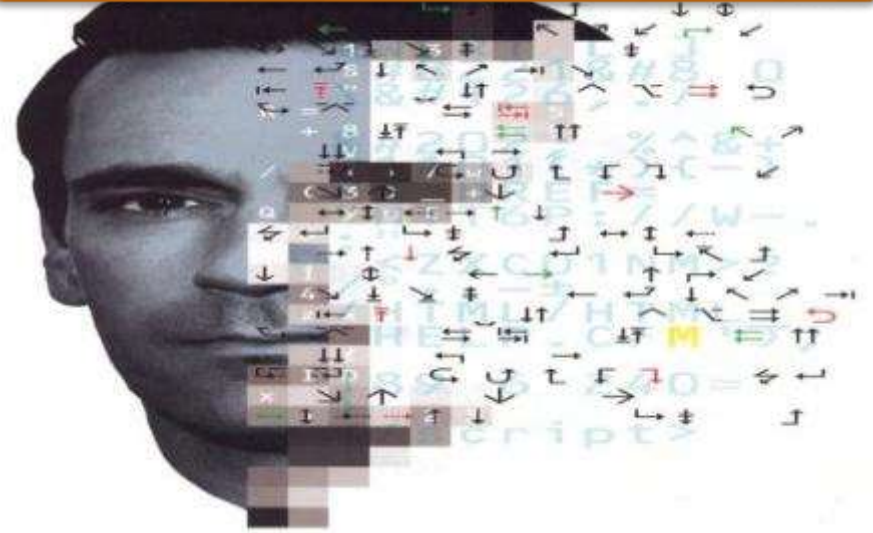


# **Technology Acceleration and Convergence: The Escalating Challenge for Professional Competency, Decision-Support and Future Medical Education**

**Data Deluge**



**Cognitive Bandwidth Limits**



**Automated Analytics and Decision Support**



**Facile Formats for Actionable Decisions**



# Machine Learning and Image Analysis in Clinical Medicine

pathology



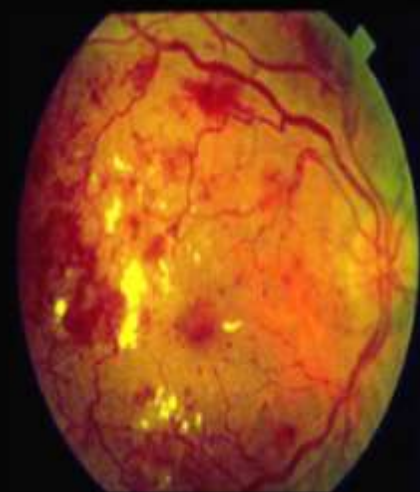
radiology



dermatology



ophthalmology



- large scale training sets and classification parameters
- standardized, reproducible and scalable
- 260 million images/day for \$1000 GPU

# **Complexity: Delivery of Care**

- **multiple clinical specialties**
  - **pathology, radiology, surgery, clinical oncology,**
  - **lab testing**
  - **supportive care clinical services**
- **multiple delivery sites**
  - **hospital (OP, IP, ICU), nursing home, at home, hospice**
  - **academic medical centers (20%), community practice (80%)**
- **multiple participants**
  - **academia, industry regulators, providers**
  - **pharmacy benefit management companies**
  - **payers: private (insurance companies) and public (governments)**

A close-up, high-resolution portrait of a woman with dark skin and curly hair, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The lighting is soft, highlighting her facial features. The background is dark and out of focus.

# **CANCER STARTED IN MY CELLS, BUT QUICKLY SPREAD TO MY WALLET, LIVELIHOOD, AND PSYCHE.**

A cancer diagnosis affects every part of your life. Which is why the American Cancer Society does much more than breakthrough research. We also provide free rides to chemo, a live 24/7 helpline, and free lodging near hospitals. Beating cancer takes more than medicine, which is why we're attacking from every angle.

Please give what you can today at [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).



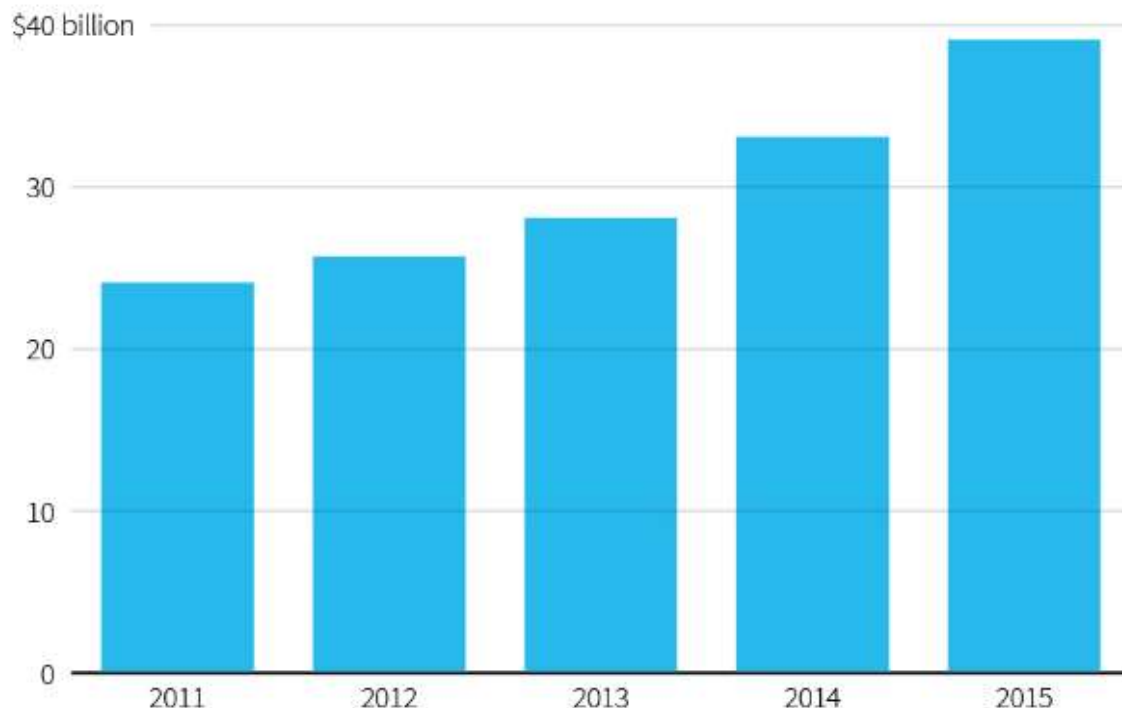
Attacking From Every Angle™



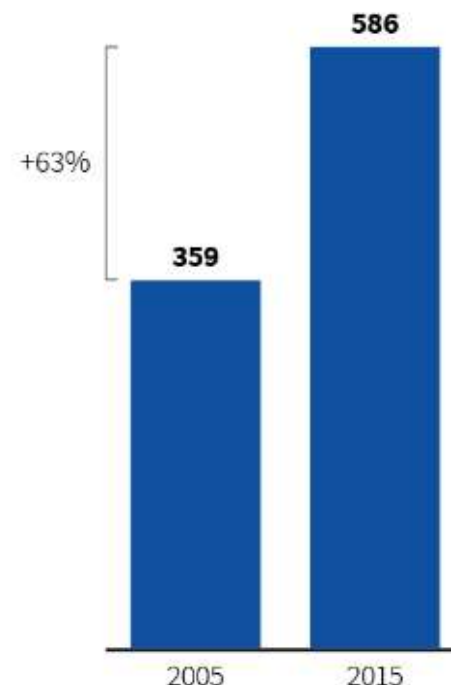
# **Complexity: Moral, Ethical and Legal Issues**

- **access to care**
- **cost of care**
- **outcomes of care**
- **limits to care**
- **transparency in care decisions**
- **end-of-life care**
- **assisted death**
- **public policy from prevention to EOL**
- **personal responsibility for risk reduction**

## U.S. SPENDING ON ONCOLOGY MEDICINES



## NUMBER OF CANCER DRUGS IN CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT



## PD1/PDL1 CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR PRICES

Estimated average per month\*

Opdivo BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB \$13,100	Keytruda MERCK \$13,000	Bavencio** PFIZER \$13,000	Tecentriq ROCHE HOLDING \$12,500
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\* Drug price is based on the milligrams of medicine used and varies with the weight of the individual patient.

\*\* Bavencio's price is the wholesale acquisition cost for an average patient.

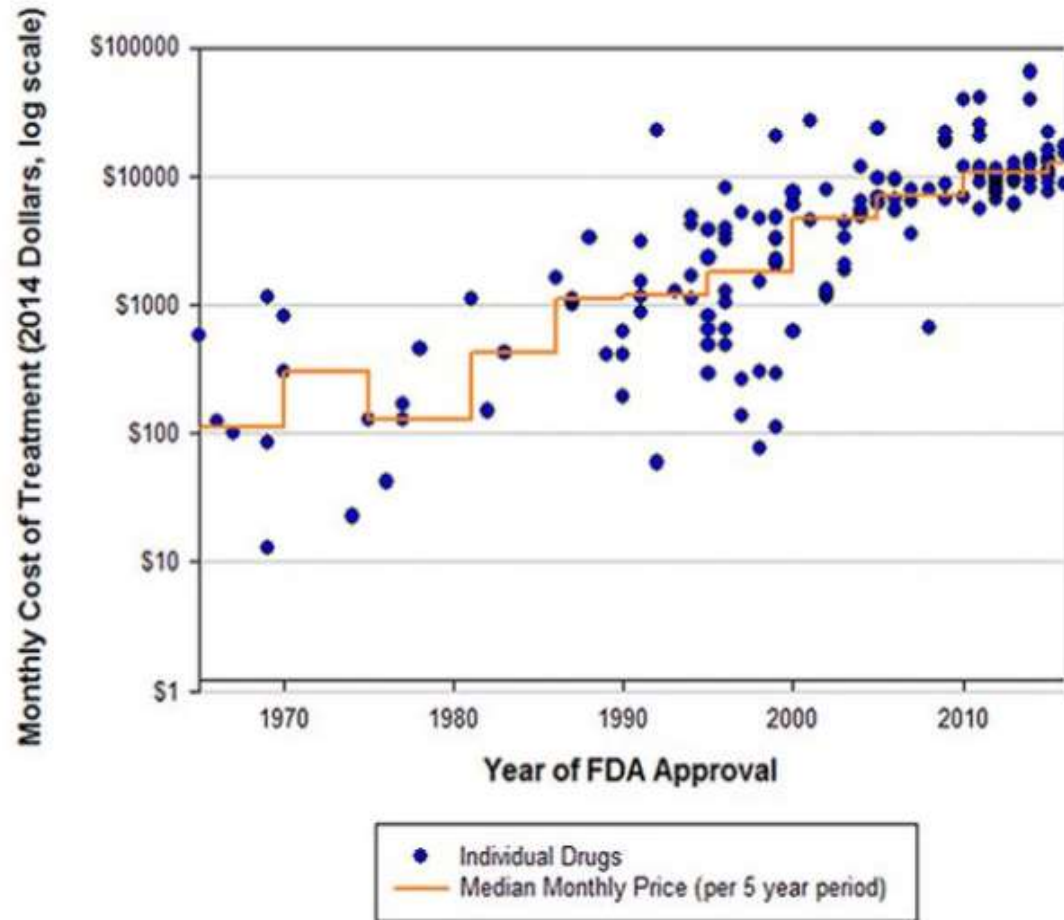
Sources: QuintilesIMS Institute ; Reuters

# Monthly and Median Costs of Cancer Drugs at FDA Approval 1965-2016

## Navigating the Coverage Experience and Financial Challenges for Cancer Patients:

Affordable Care Act Brings Improvements, But Challenges Remain

By JoAnn Volk and Sandy Ahn



Source: Peter B. Bach, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

**What Constitutes a Meaningful Clinical Benefit?**

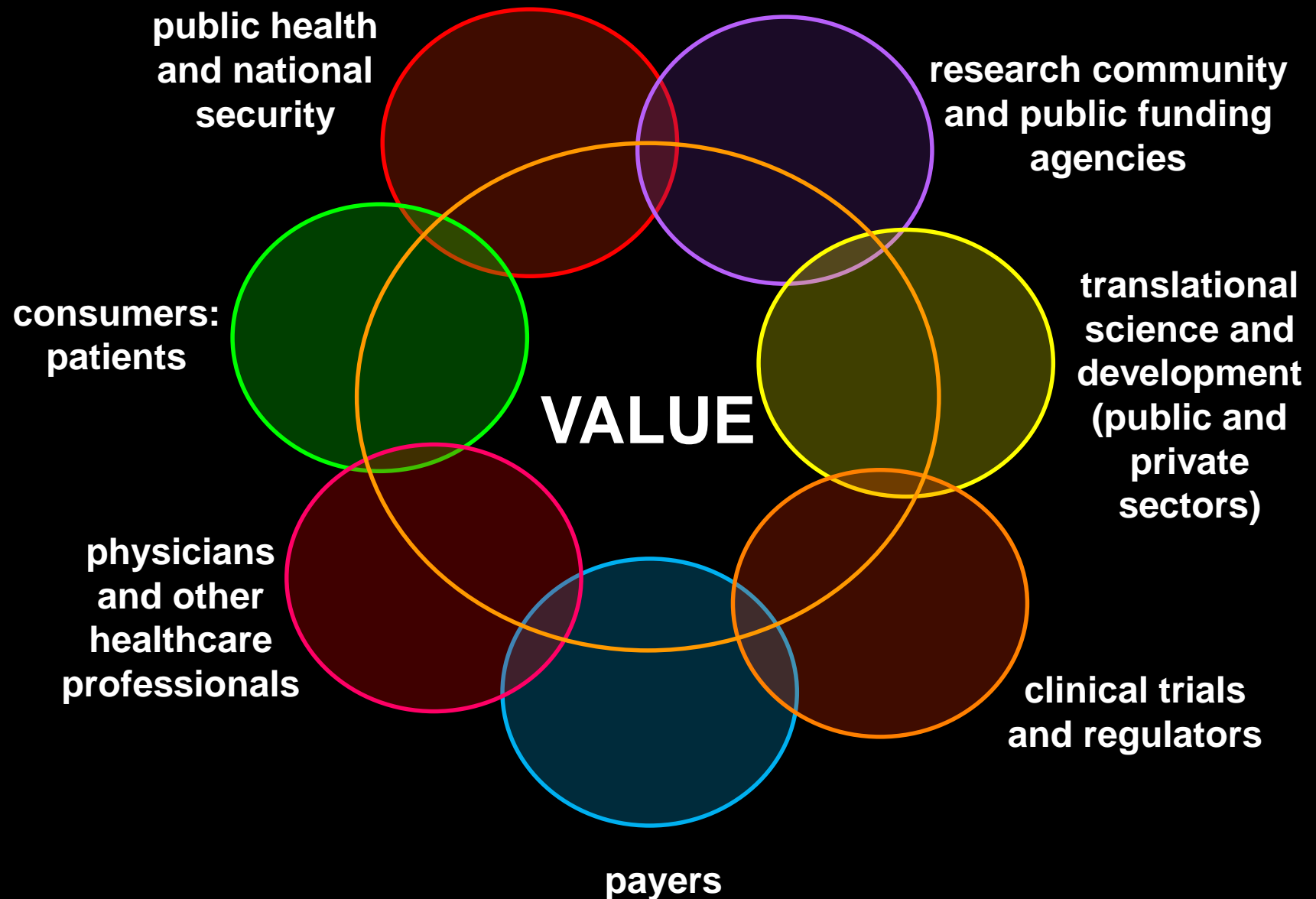




**“Price is what you pay.  
Value is what you want.”**

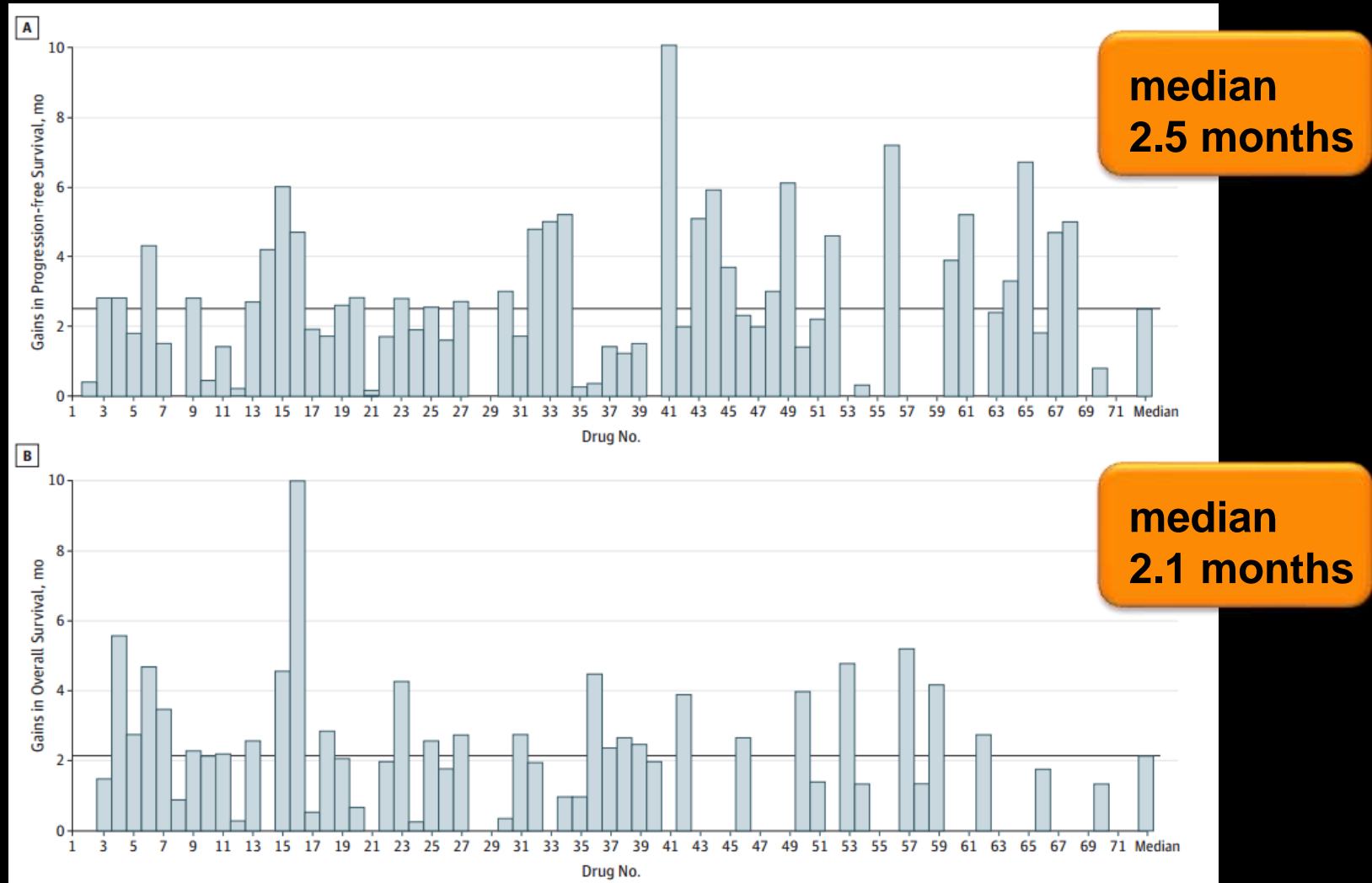
**Warren Buffet**

# The Complex Ecosystem of Biomedical Research and Clinical Care: Different Perceptions of Value By Different Constituencies



# Performance Comparison for New Anti-Cancer Drugs Approved 2002-2014 for Top Ten Pharmaceutical Companies

Gains in Progression-Free Survival (PFS) and Overall Survival (OS) for 71 Drugs Approved by the FDA From 2002 to 2014 for Metastatic and/or Advanced and/or Refractory Solid Tumors



From: T. Fojo et al. (2014) JAMA Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery 140, 1225



# What Is a Meaningful Clinical Outcome (Benefit)?

- performance (outcomes) of FDA-approved anti-cancer drugs (excluding immunotherapy)
- 71 Rx for solid tumors 2002 to 2012<sup>a</sup>
  - median PFS (2.1 months) and OS (2.3 months)
- 47 Rx 2014-16<sup>b</sup>
  - only 19% met ASCO modest OS benefit criterion
- ESMO analysis of 226 randomized trials<sup>c</sup>
  - only 31% met meaningful benefit criteria

a = T. Fojo et al. (2012) JAMA Otolaryngol. Head Neck Surg. 140, 1225

b = H. Kumar et al. (2016) JAMA Oncology 2, 1238

c = J. C. Del Paggio et al. (2017) Ann. Oncol. 28, 157

# When 340B Hospitals Buy Oncology Practices Prices Go Up

- price for oncology drugs administered in hospital versus typically double price paid for community clinic
- Herceptin
  - hospital/hospital outpatient \$5,350
  - independent clinic \$2,740
- Avastin
  - clinic (\$6,620), hospital (\$14,100)
- incentive for trend for purchase of community clinics by hospital systems and reclassification as 'hospital outpatient clinics' and eligible for 340B discounts

# **Treatment At All Costs: How Far Should Treatment Go?**

**“Why do they put nails in coffin lids?  
To stop oncologists having one last try.....”**

**C. Chatfield  
Prospect July 2012, p.16**



**Are Oncologists' Financial Incentives  
Aligned with Quality Care?**

# **Are Oncologists Financial Incentives Misaligned with Optimum Treatment?**

- **uncritical payer acceptance of high cost of new oncology drugs (US)**
  - **\$50K-120K/year**
- **estimated 80% annual income for community oncologists tied to  $R_x$  use**
- **no incentives to select less expensive  $R_x$  or palliative care**
- **physician/payer refuge in slow pace of change in SOC guidelines to incorporate obligate molecular diagnostic profiling for  $R_x$  selection**
- **unacceptable levels of use of new  $R_x$  regimen(s) in last two weeks of life**



*An initiative of the ABIM Foundation*

American Society of Clinical Oncology



American Society of Clinical Oncology

**Five Things Physicians  
and Patients Should Question - 2013**

# The Evolving Trajectory for Payer Policy for Cancer Therapeutics



- **performance – based pricing**
- **indication – based pricing**
- **reference – based pricing**



# Hypothetical Scenarios for Indication-Based Drug Pricing

Drug and Indication	Median Survival Gain In Years	Current Monthly Price	Price Based On Indication With Most Value
<b>Abraxane (Celgene)</b>			
Metastatic breast cancer	0.18	\$6,255	\$6,255
Non-small cell lung cancer	0.08	\$7,217	\$2,622
Pancreatic cancer	0.15	\$6,766	\$448
<b>Tarceva (Roche/Astellas)</b>			
First-line treatment metastatic non-small cell lung cancer	0.28	\$6,292	\$6,292
Pancreatic cancer	0.03	\$5,563	\$1,556
<b>Erbitux (BMS/Lilly)</b>			
Locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of head/neck	1.64	\$10,319	\$10,319
First-line treatment recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of head/neck	0.23	\$10,319	\$471
<b>Herceptin (Roche)</b>			
Adjuvant treatment breast cancer	1.99	\$5,412	\$5,412
Metastatic breast cancer	0.40	\$5,412	\$905
<i>Source: JAMA article by Peter Bach, Oct. 3, 2014</i>			

Adapted from: P. B. Bach JAMA (2014) 312, 1629 Pink Sheet 20 Oct. 2014

# The Need for Rethinking Therapeutic Strategies to Combat Cancer



A sobering view of our  
energy future p. 1222

Maternal care alters newborn  
mouse genomes pp. 1330 & 1367

Wet route to phosphorus  
fine chemicals pp. 1333 & 1353

# Science

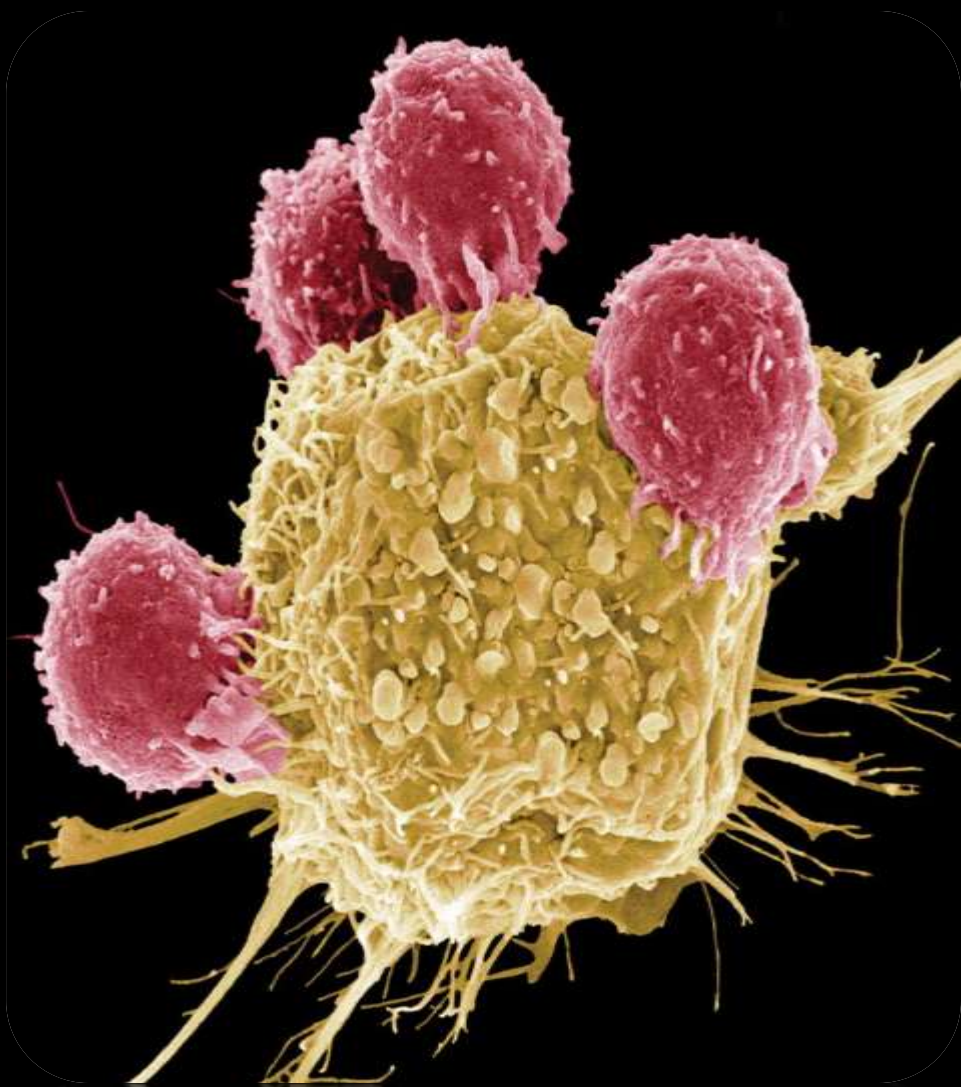
\$15  
23 MARCH 2018  
sciencemag.org

AAAS

SPECIAL ISSUE

## CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

Engineered & personalized





# A Very Expensive DTC Campaign





# The Promise of Immunotherapy: Is Widespread Adoption Economically Feasible?



- unit Rx cost (> \$100K)
- indirect care cost
- escalating cost of combination Rx regimens (> \$200K)
- extravagant cost of cell-based therapies (\$500K - \$1.5 million)
- complex clinical management challenges and compatibility with community oncology services

40-80% patients fail to respond even with I/O – I/O combinations

# A Pricing and Reimbursement Dichotomy

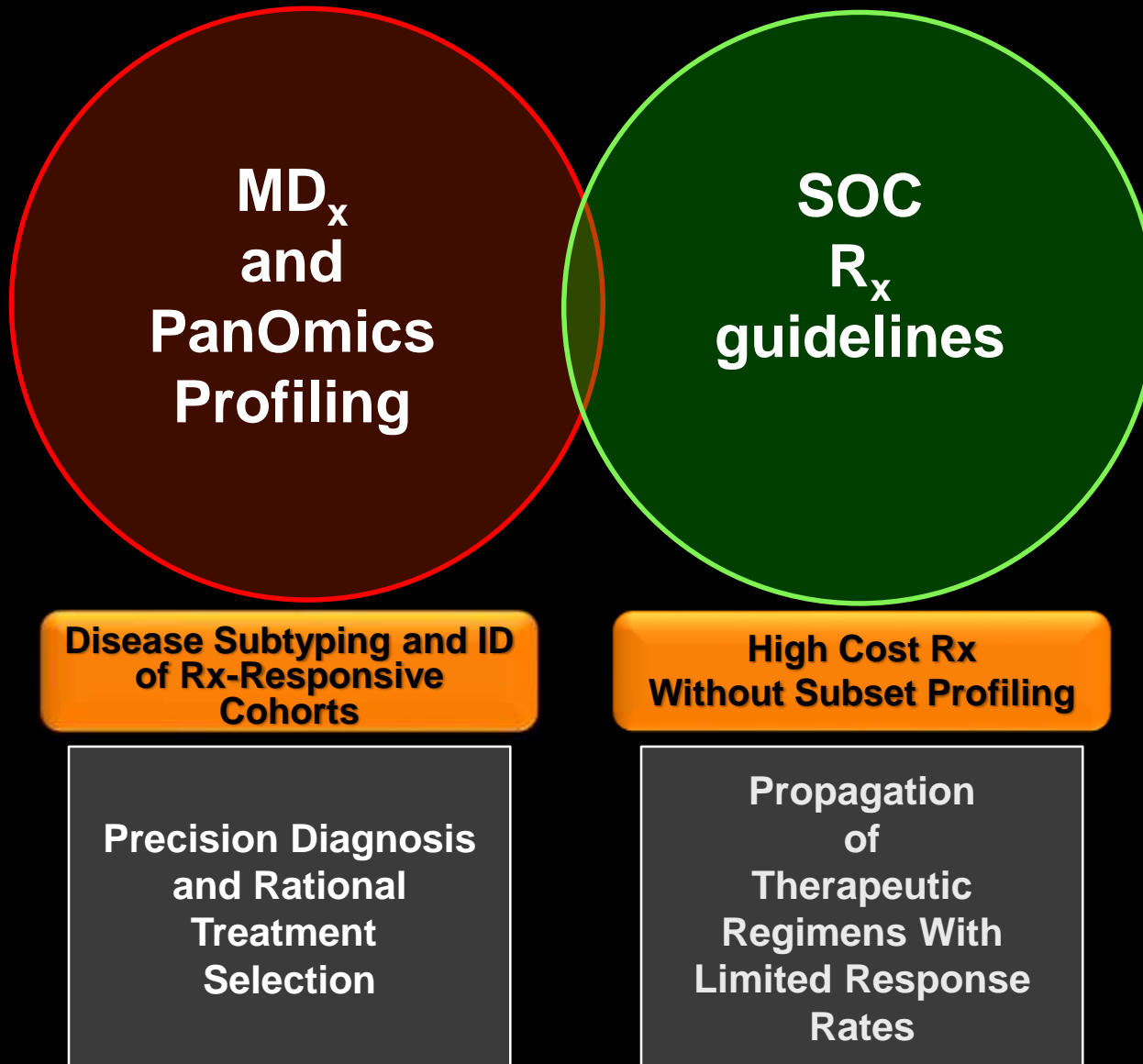


$D_x$



$R_x$

# Conflicts and Contrasts in Reimbursement Policies and Clinical Utilization of Molecular Diagnostics (MD<sub>x</sub>) and Therapeutics (R<sub>x</sub>) in Oncology







# **The Emotional Impact of Terminal Disease**



# **“The Right to Try”**

## **Early Access to Unapproved Investigational Drugs for Patients with Life-Threatening Illness**

- **“nothing to lose” principle**
- **“False hope”: companies aren't required to provide the drug**
- **complex risk: benefit analysis**
- **Phase 1 data insufficient to understand the full efficacy/safety profile**
- **unexperienced adverse events due to advancement disease status of eligible patients**
  - **cannot be considered by FDA in assessing the drug for the intended patient population**
- **liability protections for drug company and physicians**

# **Hype versus Hope**



# **Physician (HCP): Patient Communications in Chronic and/or Terminal Illness**

- **clinical challenge of balance between ethical transparency and empathy**
- **the vulnerability of patients: “trust and surrender” to presumed “authoritative knowledge”**
- **physicians/HCPs are rushed and stressed**
- **oncologists know but often deny the limited efficacy of many interventions**
  - **when to move from continued aggressive intervention to palliative care?**
  - **why do so many physicians chose to go gently into the night with their own terminal illness (WSJ)**
- **the syntax of survival (JAMA 2013 310, 1027)**
  - **complex interplay between fear, hope, optimism and reality**
  - **verbal content, tone, facial expression and body language**

# **Physician- Patient Communitations About Terminal Disease**

- **the 15 minute per patient barrier**
- **demonstrated taxing emotional discourse for all parties**
- **value of advanced directives durable power of attorney to transfer third party**
- **value of end – of – life conversations in advanced cancer**
  - **switch from intervention to palliation**
  - **higher QOL**
  - **more and earlier hospice care**

**Palliative Care:  
Treatment With No Longer a Curative Intent**

**Economic (Payors) and Evidence-Based Pressure for  
Increased Use of Palliation versus Repeated  
Aggressive Cycles of Different Rx Without Clinical  
Benefit and Major Impact on QOL**

# **Palliative Care in Advanced Cancer**

## **Clinical Practice Guidelines**

**J. Clin. Oncol. (2017) 35, 96**

- **palliative care available to ALL patients with advanced cancer**
- **alleviate pain and suffering**
- **discussion of bad news**
- **advanced care planning**
- **end- of- life (EOL) care**



# **Increased Emphasis on Training HCPs to Engage in End-of-Life Preparation Discussions**

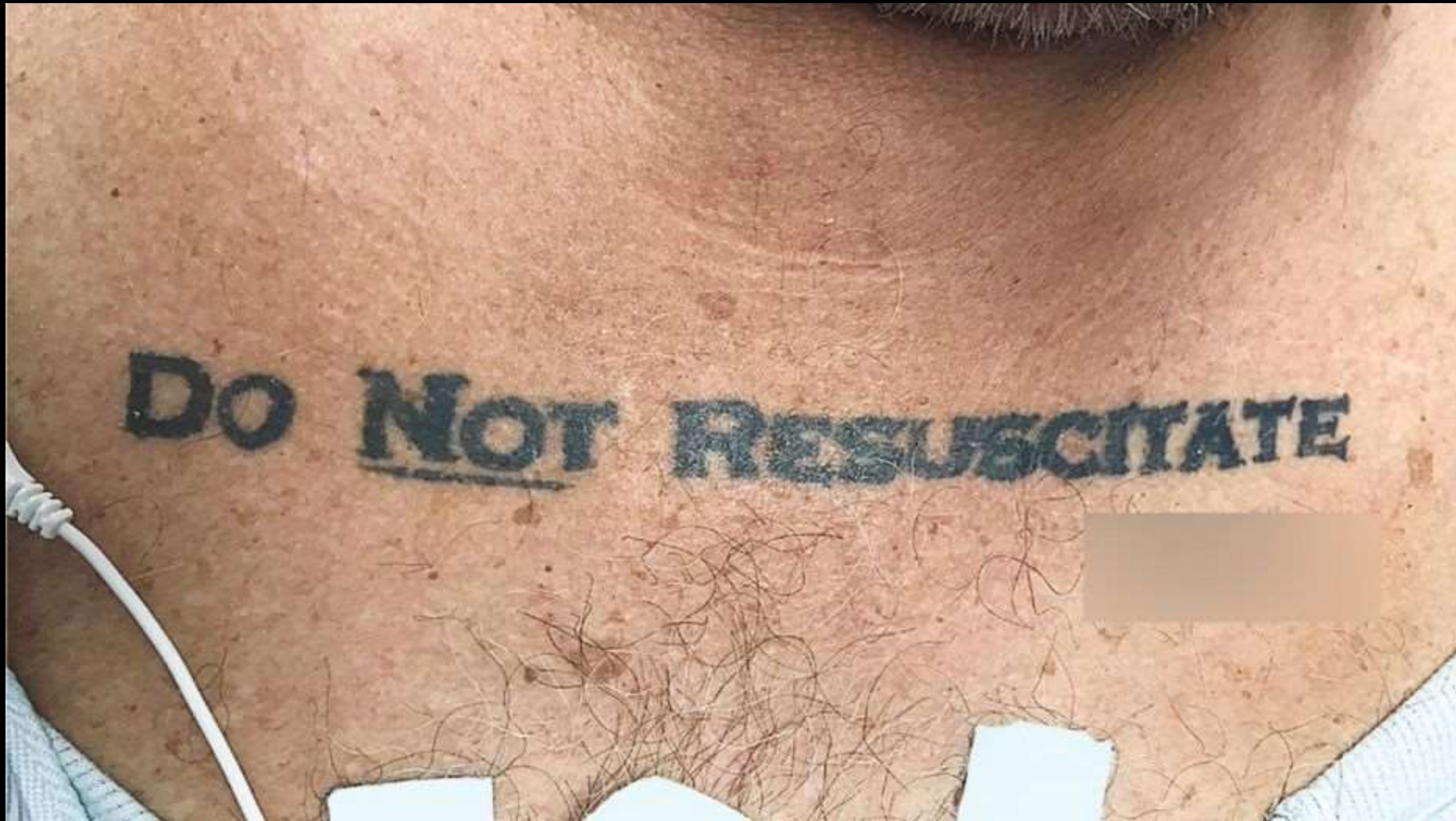
- **scripts to guide the conversation**
- **AMA Serious Illness Conversation Guide**
- **Center to Advance Palliative Care**
  - **allocate the time!**
  - **in general settings MDs let patients on average 18 seconds before interrupting them**
  - **minimum of 30-60 min discussion**
- **emerging role of trainers/ counselors to disseminate these activities**

# **Advance Directives**

- **discussions of death and dying largely avoided in patient management**
- **fewer than half cancer patients who died in 2011 had documented preferences**
  - **end-of-life care, resuscitation**
  - **durable power of attorney for health decisions**
- **typically only discussed in last 30 days of life or even less**
- **less than 15% ambulatory patients with advanced cancer have advanced directives**
- **see J.H. Von Roden (2013) JCO, 31, 663**

# An Unconscious Patient with DNR Tattoo

## University of Miami



# Advance Directive Registry (Arizona)



ARIZONA ADVANCE DIRECTIVE REGISTRY  
GEORGE H POSTE

User ID:

Password:

The person named on the front of this card has an  
advance health care directive registered at:

**[www.azsos.gov/adv\\_dir/](http://www.azsos.gov/adv_dir/)**

To access this directive please go to the above site  
and enter the User ID and Password.

If you have any questions please call  
(602) 542-6187 or toll-free (800) 458-5842.



**Approaching Death: Care At End of Life**

**Dying with Dignity**

**New Expectations for the Level of  
Intervention(s) in Late Stage Terminal Illness**

## MOST CHARACTERISTIC WORDS FOR DYING IN 2015 OBITUARIES, BY STATE



SOURCE: STATE BY STATE BREAKDOWN OF 2015 LEGACY.COM OBITUARIES PROVIDED BY COMPANY.

mental\_floss

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/77544/most-distinctive-obituary-euphemism-died-each-state>

**Physician-Assisted Death**

**Medical Aid in Dying (MAID)**

# Physician-Assisted Death



**Dr. Jack Kevorkian**



**Al Pacino portraying  
Dr. Kevorkian  
in  
*You Don't Know Jack***



**Dr. Jack Kevorkian arrested**







# Physician-Assisted Death

- use of life-ending medications under physician's supervision
- Oregon's Death with Dignity statute passed over 20 years ago
- more recently CA, CO, DC, MT, VT and WA passed similar legislation

# Physician-Assisted Death

- **complex moral ethical and legal issues**
- **voluntary euthanasia vs. involuntary euthanasia**
- **adequacy of protections against abuse**
  - **physician certification**
- **patient advocacy**
  - **incurable pain, loss of autonomy, QOL and dignity**
- **patient consent**
  - **assessment of cognitive competence**
  - **patients unable to advocate for themselves (coma, severe intellectual disabilities)**

# **Summary and Key Points**

# **Infinite Demand Versus Finite Resources (Clinical and Economic)**

- **public expectancy for unlimited care and access to latest advances**
- **prioritized care**
  - **what works and what doesn't (outcomes)?**
  - **what is the cost/benefit/risk calculus (value) ?**
- **rationed care**
  - **who decides?**
  - **what are the criteria and cut-off thresholds?**
  - **risk of multi-tier economic discrimination or utilitarian, equalization, equality**



# **Cancer Care: 7 C's**

- **clonal heterogeneity (cancer biology)**
- **clinical care (outcomes)**
- **consistency of care (guidelines)**
- **communication (patient-physician relationships)**
- **choice (intervention versus palliation)**
- **cost (sustainability and value)**
- **culture (expectations, motivations, incentives)**

# Cancer Care: 7 C's

- clonal heterogeneity (cancer biology)
- clinical care (outcomes)
- consistency (guidelines)
- communication (relationships)
- cost (supply and value)
- context (expectations, motivations, incentives)

complexity

data and decisions

value

# The Most Important Missing 'C' Word in Cancer

- “Cure”
- progress but the morbidity and mortality statistics tell the story of how much remains to be done
- the promise of immunotherapy ( $IR_x$ )
  - hematopoietic cancers versus solid tumors
  - will  $IR_x$  – resistant clones create longer term relapse?
- major gaps in our understanding of the biology of cancer as obstacle to rational treatment

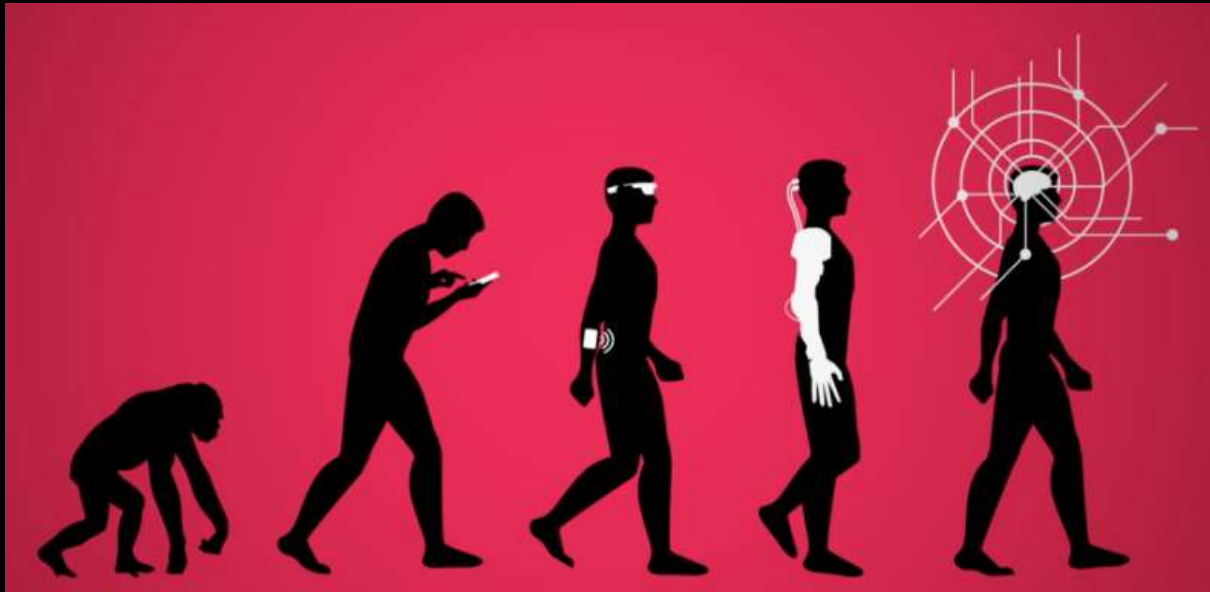
# Careers

# Careers

- **limitless opportunities**
- **academia, industry, government**
- **entrepreneurial startup companies**



# The Co-evolution of Augmented Humans, Robotics and Human-Machine Interactions



# Careers

- **convergence**
  - science, medicine, engineering, computer, law, ethics, public policy
- **acceleration**
  - continuous learning
- **automation**
  - will a robot or a computer replace you?
- **differentiation**
  - adding value: employment, satisfaction, impact

