



# BIO 302: APRIL 30, 2015

WEEK 15, LECTURE 2:  
THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE: ECONOMIC OUTLOOK; CARE  
DELIVERY SYSTEMS; TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION; PREVENTION;  
PATIENT PARTICIPATION

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# The Future of Cancer Care

- **new technologies**
- **new treatments**
- **standards and quality of care**
- **cost of care**
- **quality of life**

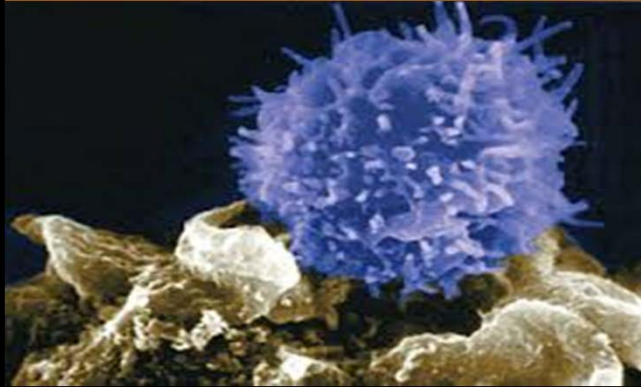
# The Future of Cancer Care

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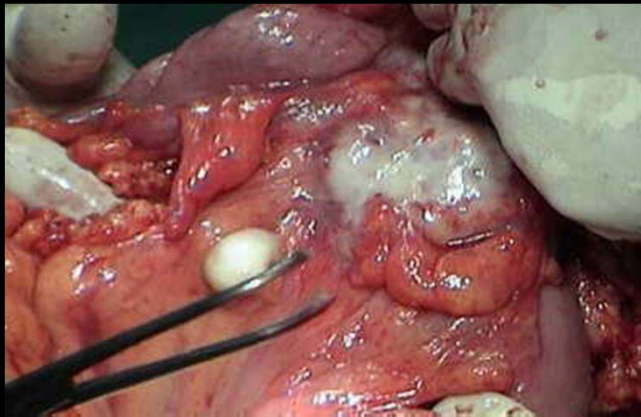
**We Can No Longer Afford (Economically and Ethically) to Avoid Asking Tough Questions About The Adequacy of Current Approaches to Cancer Treatment and Care and the Urgent Need for Radical Change**

## Dynamic Clonal Heterogeneity in Tumor Progression: The Most Clinically Dangerous Phenotypes

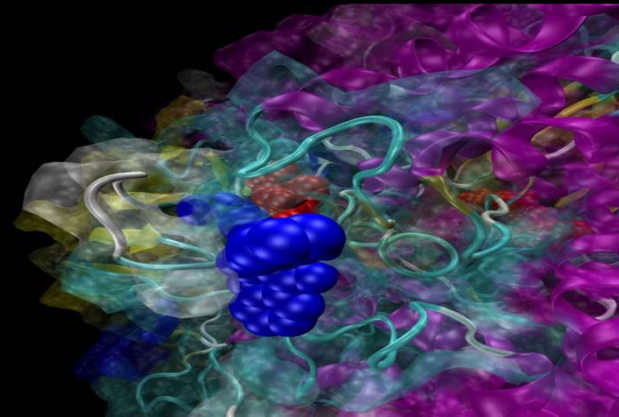
**Evasion of Detection/Destruction  
by Host Immune System**



**Use of Host Systems to  
Promote Progression**



**Invasion and Metastasis**



**Emergence of  
Drug-Resistant Clones**



**The Biological Complexity of Cancer:  
the Urgent Need to Improve Effectiveness of  
Current Therapy and the Design of  
New Treatment Strategies**



- cancer as a complex adaptive system
- dynamics of clonal evolution during tumor progression and treatment
- clonal evolutionary dynamics as a complex interplay between tumor (evasion) and host (detection/ destruction) activities
- the evolution of clonal heterogeneity is the core problem in effective therapy

# A Hierarchy of Knowledge and Ignorance



Hon. D. Rumsfeld  
US Secretary  
of Defense

## **“known knowns”**

- **validated knowledge**
- **decisions with high degree of predictability of success**

## **“known unknowns”**

- **known knowledge gaps (complete or incomplete) about relevant factors**
- **limitations of predictability and accuracy of decisions**

## **“unknown unknowns”**

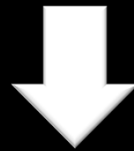
- **conceptual and cognitive blank spaces**
- **rude shocks/disruption by unanticipated interactions between known factors or more likely completely new interactions between unknown/unrecognized factors**

## Rumsfeld's Rules and the Cancer Problem

- “known knowns”**
  - genome mutations and genomic instability
  - role of host microenvironment in tumor progression
  - pattern and timing of metastatic spread
  - treatment resistance patterns
- “known unknowns”**
  - epistasis and phenotypic diversity
  - RNA-mediated gene regulation
  - triggers of altered molecular signaling networks in different cancer subtypes in the same cell type
  - dynamics of evolution of metastatic and drug-resistant clones
  - roles of cancer stem cells (CSCs) and progenitor/differentiated (P/D) cell fractions in tumor behavior
  - plasticity of CSCs and P/D cells and reacquisition of CSC properties by P/D cells
- “unknown unknowns”**
  - by definition a black box with potential for rude surprises

## Cancer Treatment

- **molecular profiling (panOmics) and a new taxonomy for the classification of tumor subtypes**
- **understanding the dynamics of clonal diversification in tumor progression**

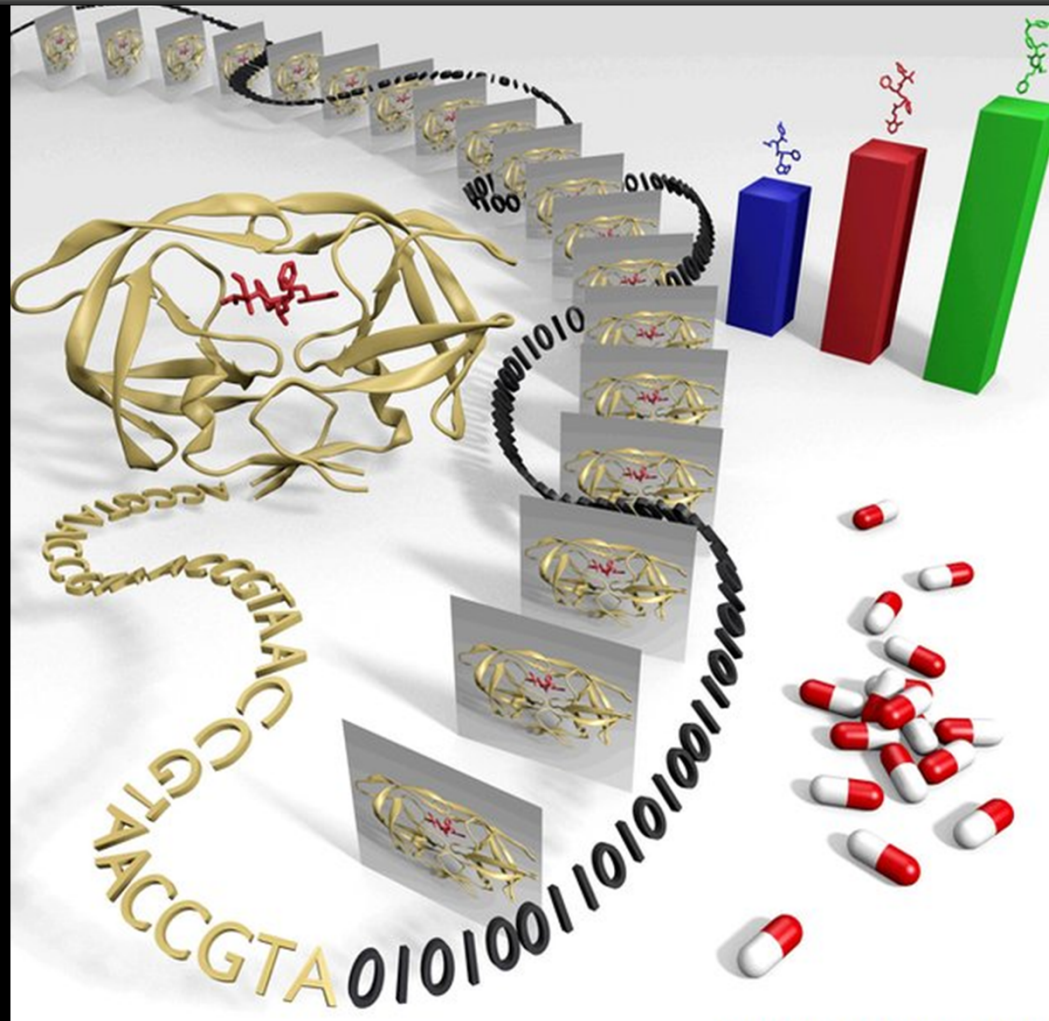


- **implications for future drug discovery**
- **need for new clinical trial designs and regulatory policies based on molecular profiling of patients and monitoring of clonal dynamics during tumor progression**

# The Problem and The Challenge

- **how to hit multiple tumor clones?**
- **how to hit multiple tumor clones at multiple anatomic sites of metastatic disease?**
- **how to hit each new variant clone that may emerge as an escape variant driven by the selection pressure of treatment?**

# Molecular Profiling and Identification of New Targets for Rx Action



multi-line  
Rx



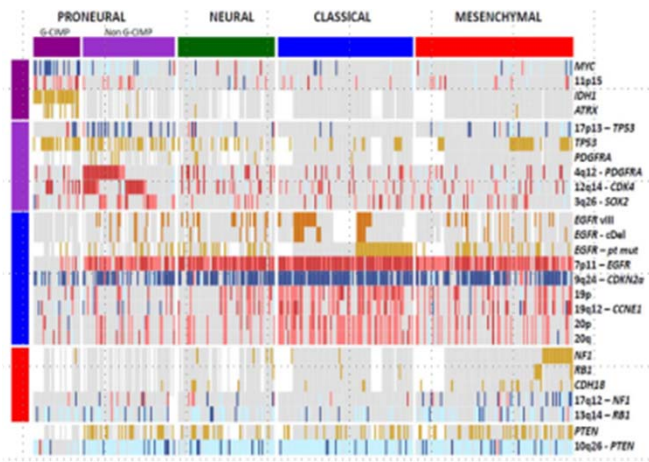
# Monitoring Treatment Responses in Cancer

- **earlier detection of lack of Rx efficacy**
  - **faster switch of Rx regimen(s)**
- **earlier detection of emergence of treatment-resistant clones**
  - **agile, anticipatory treatment to hit new resistant clones**
  - **greater current feasibility with ‘liquid’ hematopoietic tumors (leukemias, lymphomas) than solid tumors**
  - **new technologies and ‘liquid biopsy’ for solid tumors**

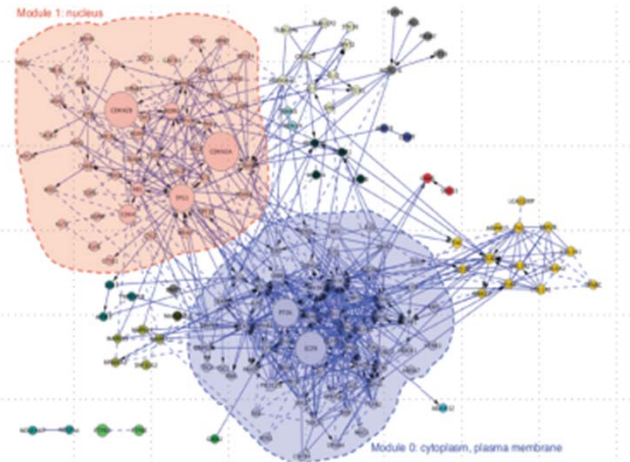
## Cancer Treatment

- are current 'chemo' approaches doomed to inevitable therapeutic failure due to failure to address the complex biology of cancer?
  - clonal heterogeneity and need for broad Rx coverage
  - 'escape' pathways for Rx-resistant cells due to compensatory (redundant) molecular pathways
  - role of cancer stem cells as the critical, but elusive, target?

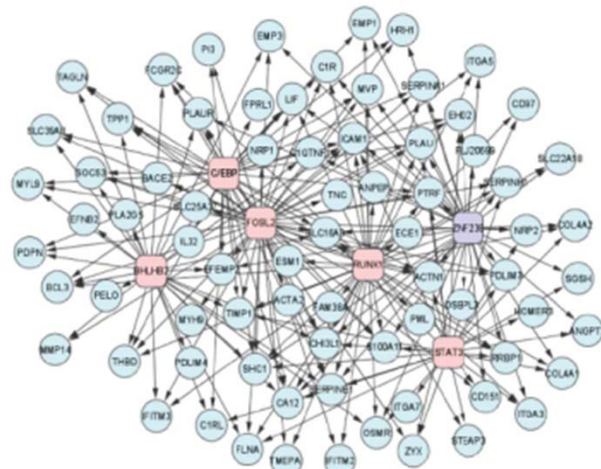
# GBM Expression Subtypes and TF and miRNA-TF Regulatory Networks



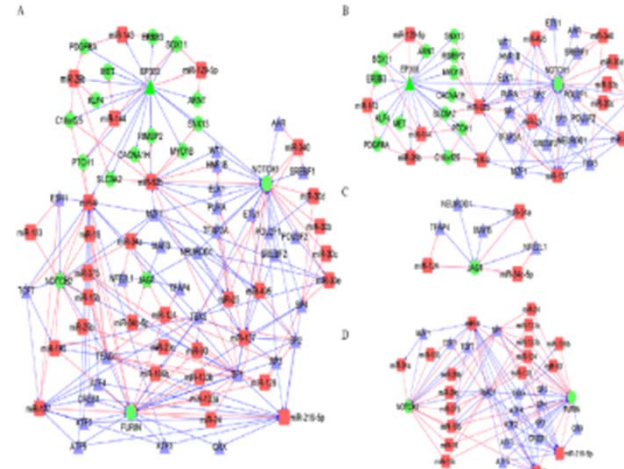
From: 2<sup>nd</sup> TCGA Scientific Symposium. R. Verhaak UT/MD Anderson



From: G. Wu et al. (2010) Genome Biology 11:R53 pg. 10



From: M. S. Carro et al. (2010) Nature 463, 318

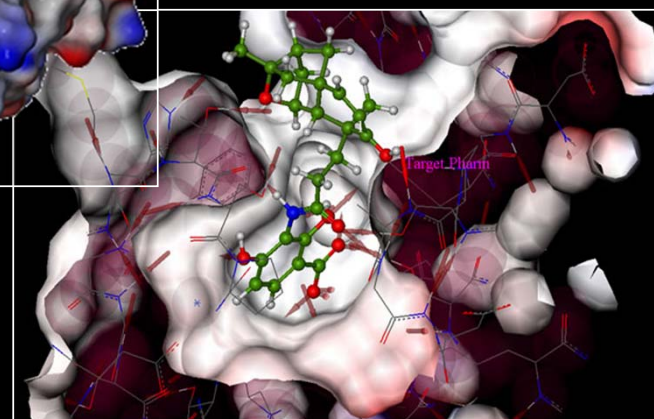
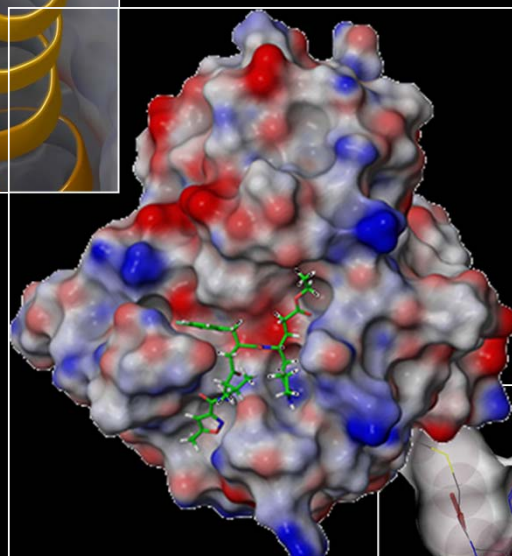
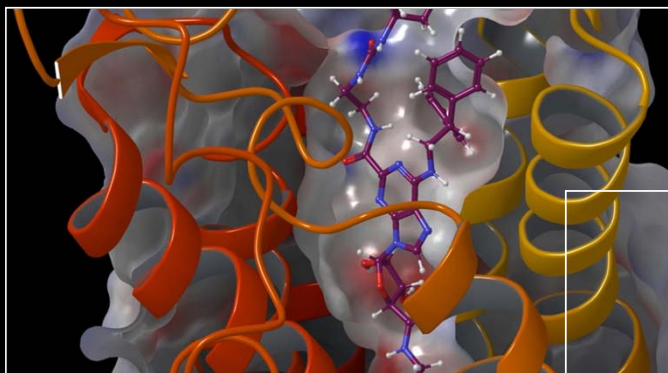


From: PLoS Computational Biology (2012) Vol. 8, 7 e1002488

## Cancer Treatment

- **is the scale of disruption of molecular signaling networks in tumor clones in metastatic disease too large to be reversed by drugs that act on a single target?**
  - **role of by-pass signaling pathways in generation of drug-resistance**
- **technical, clinical and economic challenges of hitting multiple targets to limit compensatory by-pass resistance/escape pathways**

## Design of Candidate Rx via Detailed Structural Knowledge of 'Active Site' in the Target Molecule



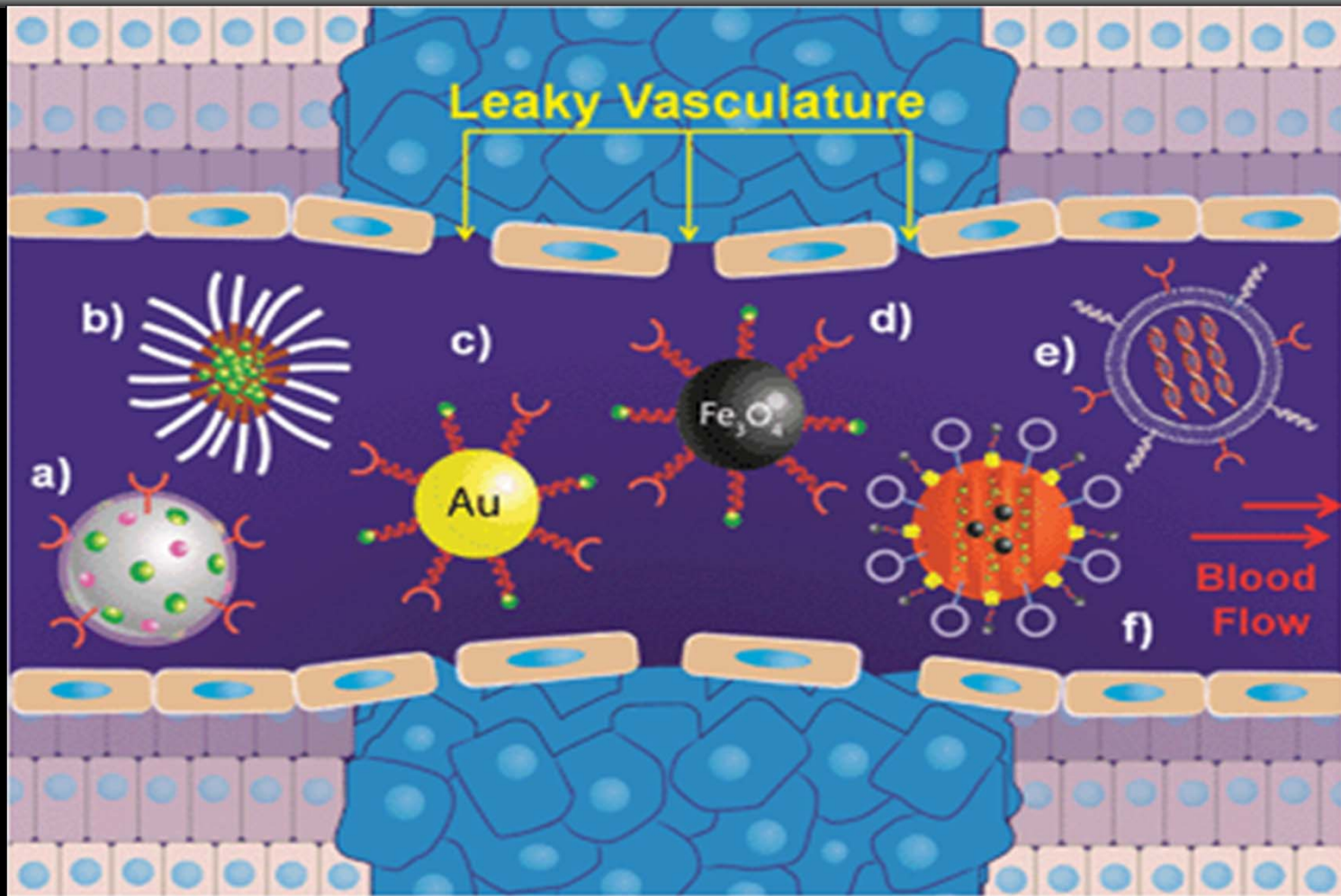
- specificity
- one target: no promiscuity
- limit off-target effects (side effects)

## **The Elusive Quest for Magic Bullets!**

**The Design of Drug Delivery Systems that Selectively  
'Home-In' on Tumor Cells Based on Recognition of  
Surface Markers Expressed Selectively by Tumor Cells**

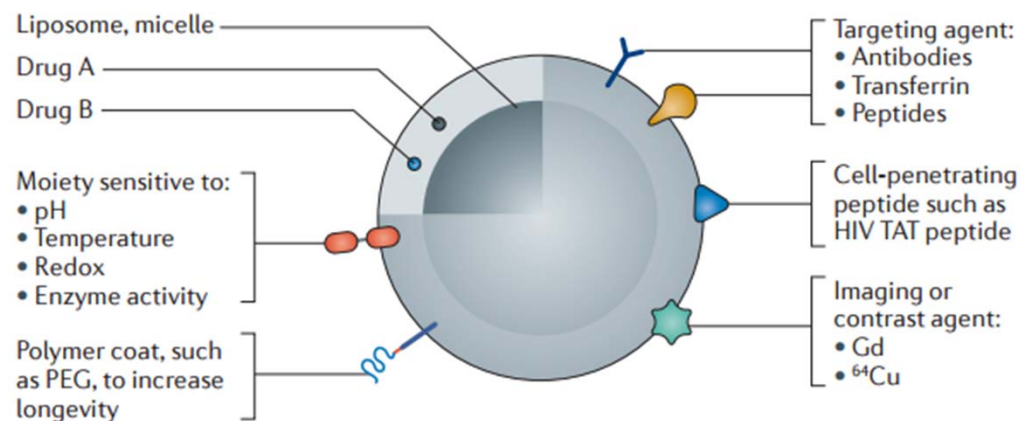


# Targeted Particulate Drug Carriers





# Multifunctional Environment-Sensitive Nanoparticulate -Systems for Drug Delivery



From: V. P. Torchilin (2015) Nat. Rev. Drug Disc. 13, 813

# Targeted Drug Delivery Systems

- elegant molecular biology to ID targets for selective 'homing-in' on cancer cells

but

- target cell heterogeneity will likely require a spectrum of different 'homing' molecules to detect different clones

plus

- even if multiple clones can be recognized by using multiple 'homing' recognition molecules the problem of Rx-resistant clones (intrinsic or acquired) still looms



## The Problem and The Challenge

- moving from limited narrow spectrum 'chemo' strategies to devise new ways to attack every clone
- harnessing the cognate (detection) and destruction (killing) of cancer cells by the body's immune system
- how do cancers escape the immune system?
  - to allow initial tumor formation and subsequent metastatic spread?
  - clones that are not killed by immunotherapeutic Rx

# The Need for Rethinking Therapeutic Strategies to Combat Cancer



**Are We Looking at the Right Cellular and Molecular Target(s)  
in the Design of New Cancer Treatment Strategies?**

## **Are We Looking at the Right Cellular Target(s) in the Design of New Cancer Therapeutic Strategies?**

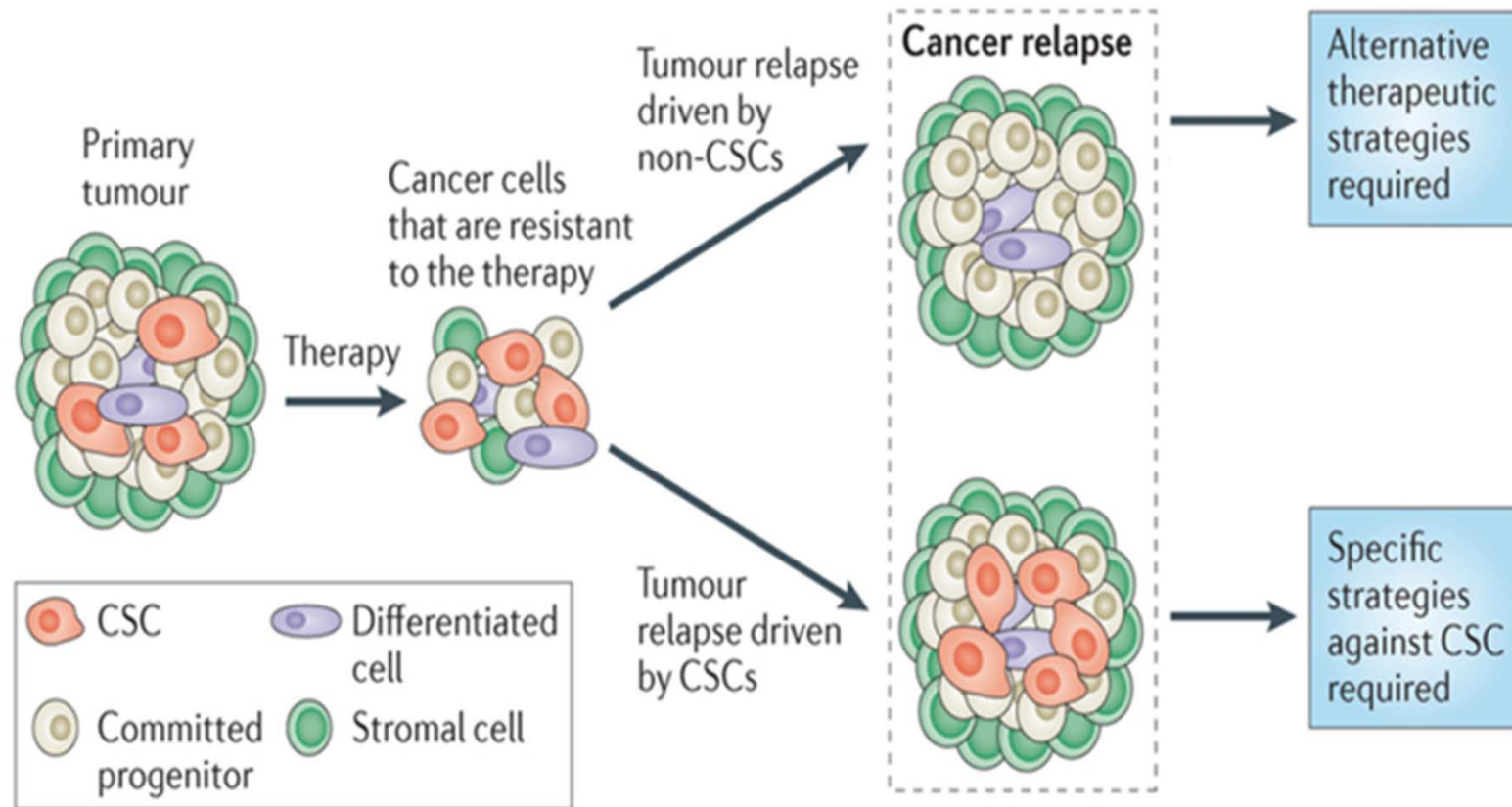
- **what is/are the biologically relevant target/targets for effective destruction of cancer?**
- **cancer stem cells (constant renewal, Rx resistance and metastasis)?**

or

- **non-stem cell progeny (limited proliferative capacity) but which produce tumor bulk?**



## Implications of Different Cell-of-Origin Models for Cancer on Therapeutic Strategies



Adapted From: B. Beck and C. Blanpain (2013) Nature Rev. Cancer 13, 734

## Shutting Down the Clonal Diversification Engine

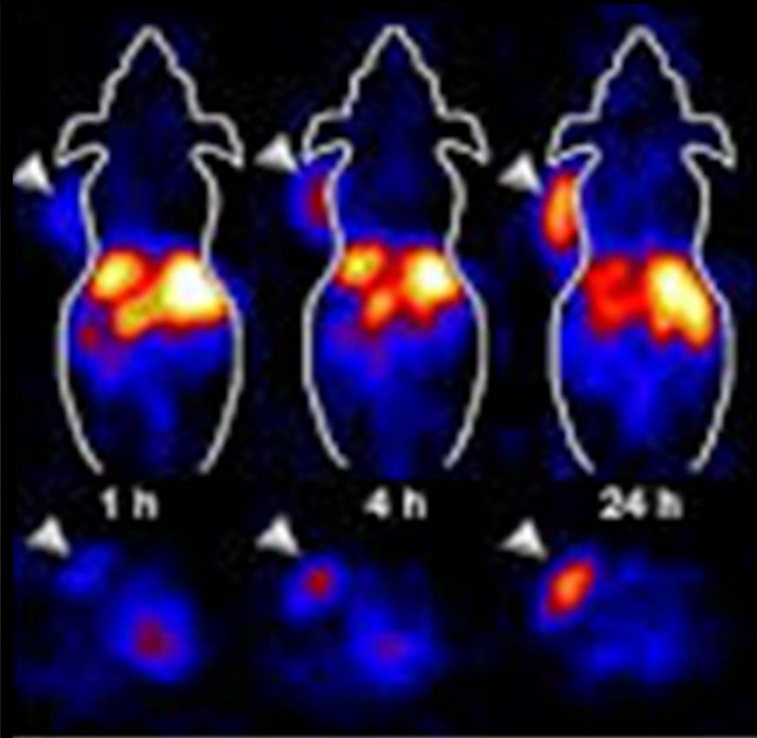
- **better ID of cancer stem cells and therapies targeted to stem cells**
- **blockade of cell signaling pathways promoting clonal diversification and metastasis**
- **new findings of cross-communication between tumor clones that slow/accelerate clonal diversification**
  - **potential site Rx target?**

# Clinical Trials

- **drug development is struggling**
- **high costs(>\$1 billion)**
- **slow progress (5-12 years)**
- **high failure rates (75-95%)**
- **unsustainable business model in an era of economic constraint and mostly limited gains in PFS/OS**

**The Need for Better Preclinical/Laboratory Models  
That More Accurately Reflect the  
Genotypic/Phenotypic Properties of  
Human Cancer Cells for Selection of New Rx Agents**

# Human Tumor Xenografts and Drug Screening

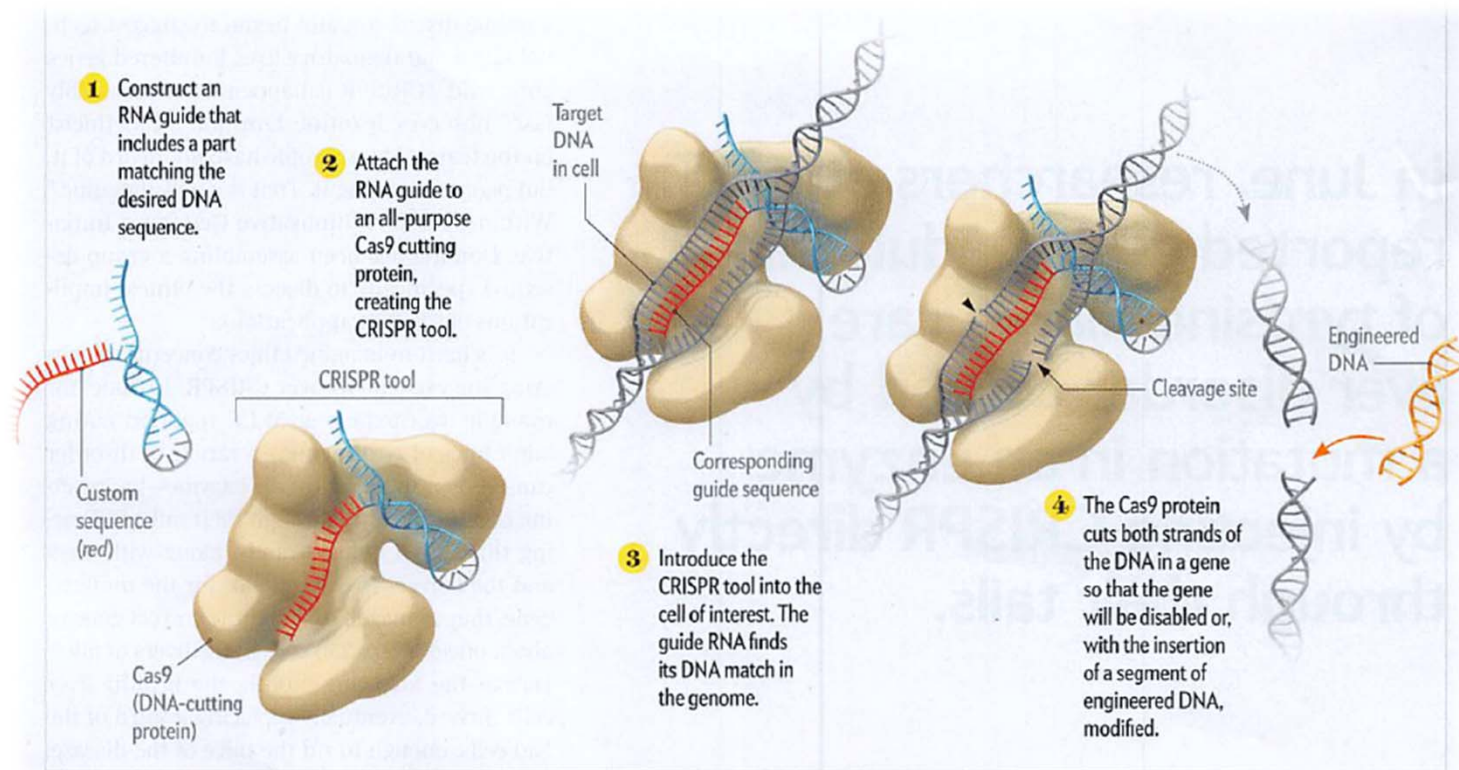


# Targeted Introduction or Excision of Specific Genes or Gene Regulatory Domains



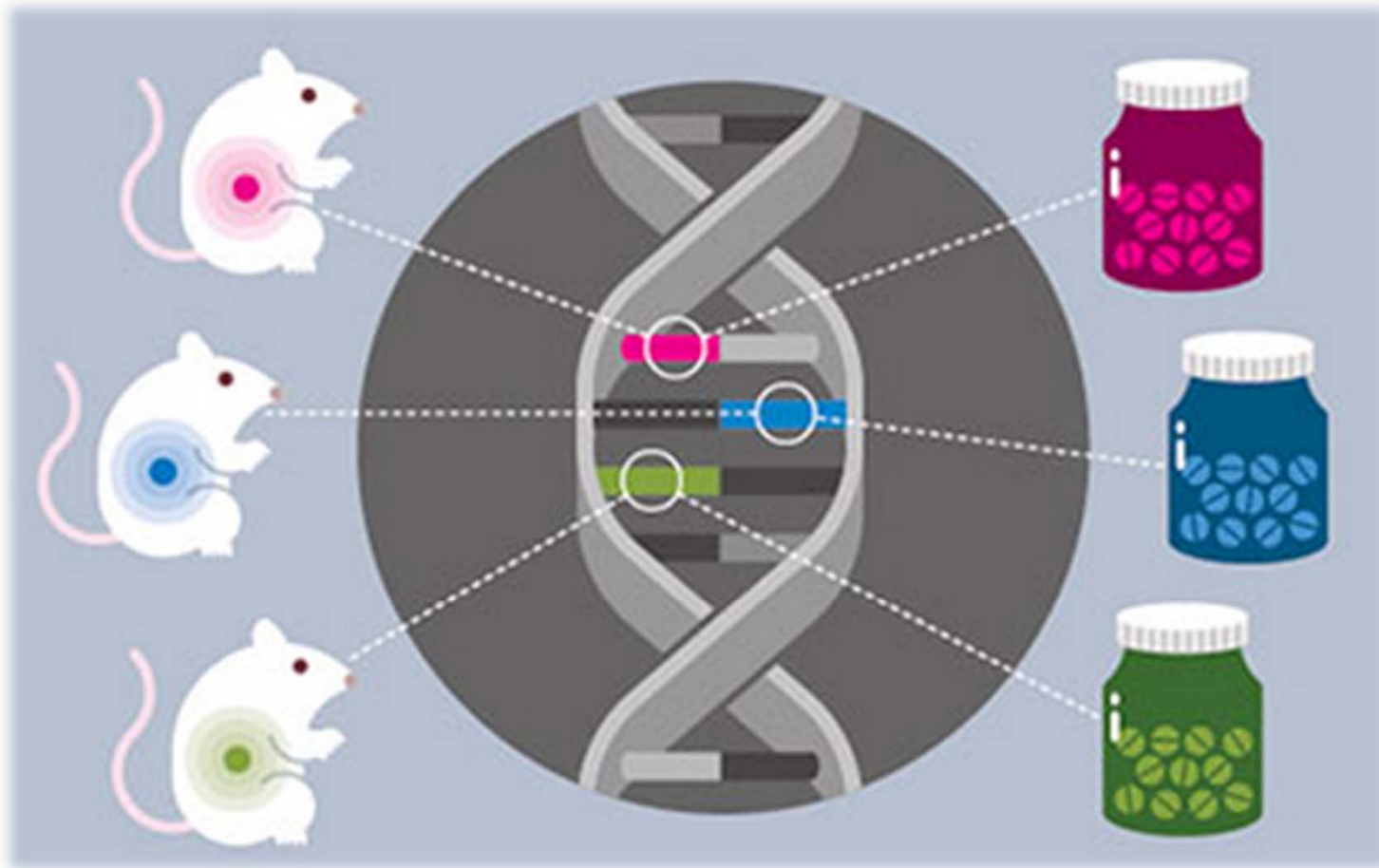


# CRISPR-Cas9 and Genome Editing

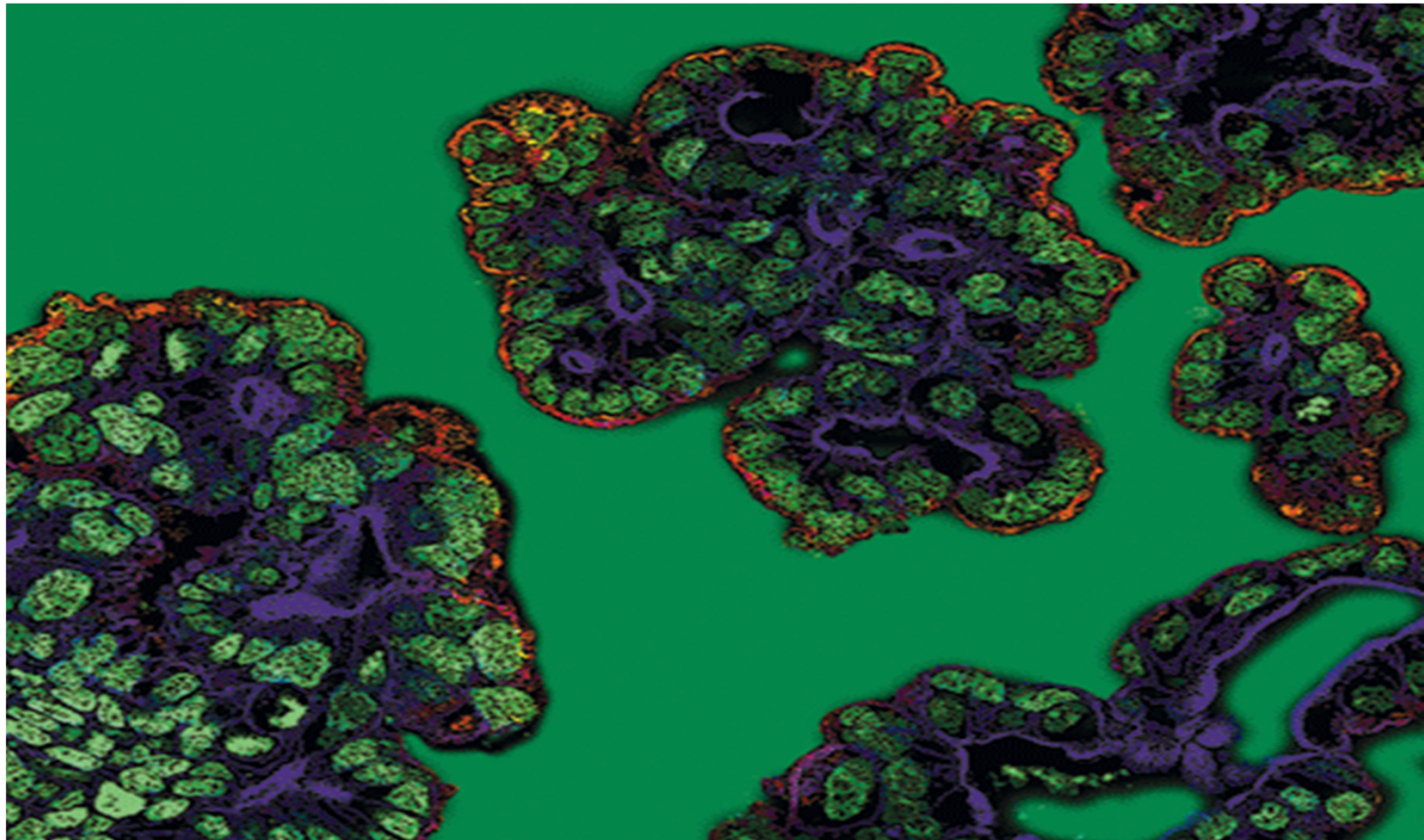




## Cancer Avatars: Engineering Tumor Xenografts That More Accurately Reflect the Molecular Pathway Disruptions of Human Cancers



## CRISPR-Cas9-based Genome Editing to Recreate Human Tumor Organoid Models



From: Nature Medicine (2015) 21 (3) Cover

# **Rethinking Clinical Trial Design**

# Rethinking Clinical Trial Design

## traditional

- randomized trials (RCTs)
- observational trials

## new

- stratified trials
- adaptive trials
- basket trials

## **Will (Can) the Randomized Clinical Trial Design Remain Viable in an Era of Molecular Profiling and Identification of Disease Subtypes?**

- **Rx responder (Rx<sup>+</sup>) and non-responder (Rx<sup>-</sup>) subpopulations**
- **“one-size-fits all” trials must be larger to attain statistically significant difference between responder (Rx<sup>+</sup>) and non-responder (Rx)**
- **continued inefficient and wasteful Rx use post-approval without ability to identify Rx<sup>-</sup> non-responder patients**
- **exposure of non-responder Rx<sup>-</sup> subpopulation(s) to potential toxicity risk**

## Stratified Trials

- **molecular profiling of patients to ID drug target positive (T<sup>+</sup>) versus T-negative (T<sup>-</sup>) cohorts**
- **enroll only T<sup>+</sup> patients into the trials**
- **regulatory Rx approval and labeling only for use in T<sup>+</sup> patients**
- **obligate need for “companion diagnostic” test to profile patients before Rx can be prescribed**

# Healthcare Information Systems



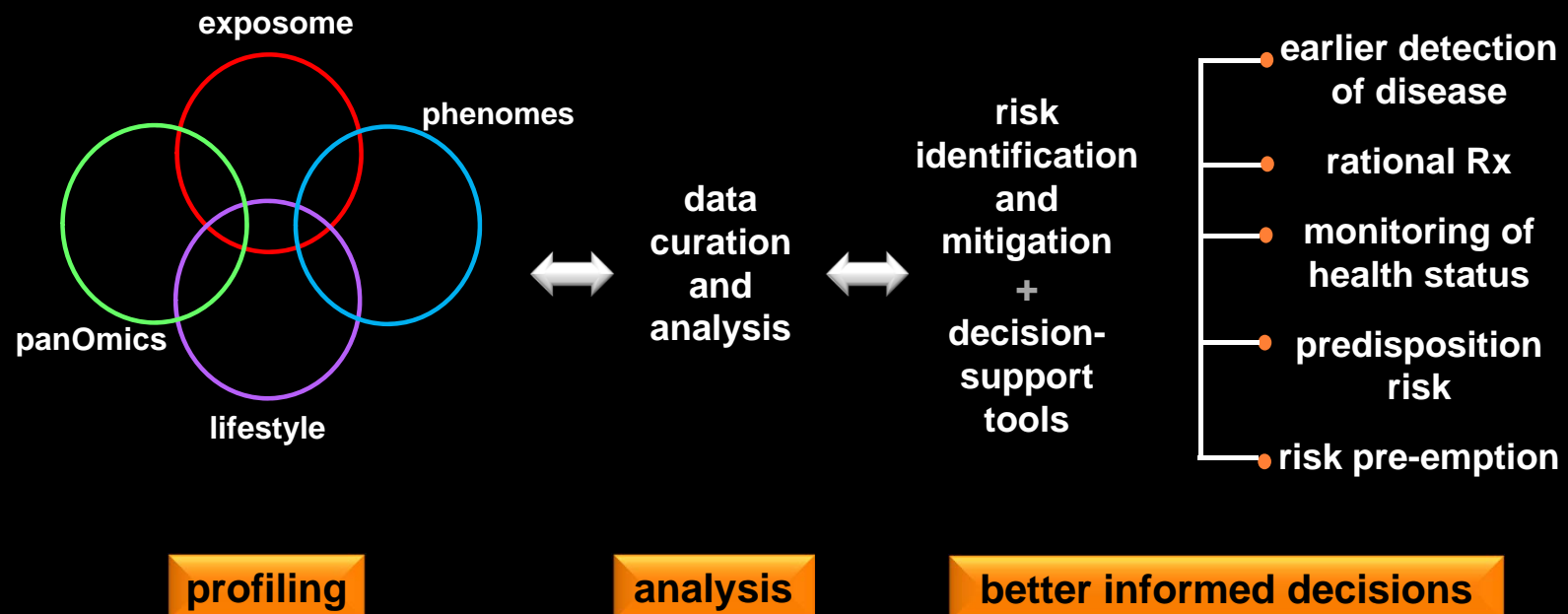
## Improving Healthcare Using Data

- **better data on where money is spent and the results (outcomes)**
- **many MDs don't often know (or care) about the cost of recommended actions**
- **evidence-based tracking of waste, error and failure to adopt best practices**
- **informed patients**
  - **greater awareness and access of patients/families to information on treatment options and performance outcomes of different providers**

# The Progressive Evolution Healthcare as an Information-Intensive Enterprise



## Information-Based Services for Increased Precision in Managing Risk in Healthcare



# The Progressive Evolution Healthcare as an Information-Intensive Enterprise

## Big Data

- **scale**
  - V5: volume, variety, velocity, validity and value
- **security**
  - data privacy and compliance with different national requirements
- **speed**
  - real time collection
- **superior decisions**
  - improved outcomes and lower cost

**Persistent Challenges Before Major  
Innovations in Research and  
Treatments Become Available**

**Demographics and the  
(Global) Cancer Burden**

**Unsustainable Costs and Need for Greater  
Focus on Quality-of-Life**

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

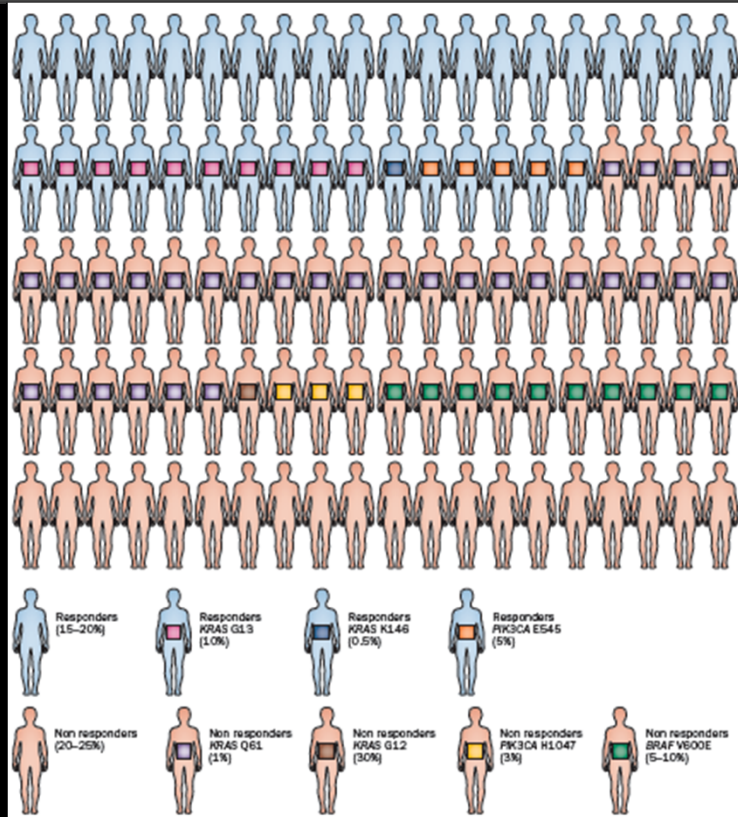
## **Treatment At All Costs: How Far Should Treatment Go?**

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

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



## Molecular Diagnostics and Identification of Responder/Non-Responder Patients for Rational Rx



Frequencies of Molecular Alterations in CRC and Responsiveness to Cetuximab or Panitumumab

From: M. Martini et al. (2012) Nature Rev. Clin. Oncol.

“The problem with all these tests, soon I’ll have nothing (treatments) I can offer my patients”

“Eminent Oncologist”  
(journal’s designation)  
Drug Discovery World.  
Spring 2011, p. 61.

## **Dangerous Arrogance?**

**“The problem with all these tests,  
soon I’ll have nothing (treatments)  
I can offer my patients.”**

**Eminent Oncologist  
(journal’s designation)  
Drug Discovery World, Spring 2011, p.61**

**So is it better to go ahead and  
prescribe Rx of no value?**  
- ethics?, malpractice?  
- financial incentives?

## **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 Rx use**
- **no incentives to select less expensive Rx or palliative care**
- **physician/payer refuge in slow pace of change in SOC guidelines to incorporate obligate molecular diagnostic profiling for Rx selection**
- **unacceptable levels of use of new Rx regimen(s) in last two weeks of life**

## **Reform in Current Oncology Drug Prescribing**

- **create new financial rewards to limit use of expensive drugs (particularly I.V.) and increased use of end-of-life conversations/palliative care recommendations**
- **uncouple relationship between physician prescribing patterns and income**
- **new compensation and incentive schemes for clinical actions and services that enhance/maintain QOL and reflect patient/family preferences**



*An initiative of the ABIM Foundation*

American Society of Clinical Oncology



American Society of Clinical Oncology

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

**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 Cancer Treatment**

- **reduce or eliminate symptoms and complications**
- **non-curative intervention**
- **greater emphasis on quality-of-life (QOL)**



## **Factors Linked to Survival Benefit of Palliative Care in Cancer Patients**

- **limit futile Rx and impact of QOL and cost**
- **limit repeated testing and hospitalizations**
- **reduction of physical symptoms due to disease progression**
  - **pain, nausea, CV complications**
- **reduction of psychological symptoms**
  - **anxiety, depression, impaired cognition**
- **active engagement and education of patients and family members on value**

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

**Dying with Dignity**

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

# Dying with Dignity

## disease-related concerns

- pain and physical impairments
- cognitive and communication deficits

## psychological and spiritual well being

- emotional functioning
- acceptance of disease
- at peace for death
- concern for surviving family members

# Dying with Dignity

## **autonomy, competency and decision-making**

- **performance status**
- **clarity of patient preferences in advanced directive**
- **power of health attorney in place**
- **provider and/or family pressures for actions against patients stated desire**
- **end-of-life (EOL) decisions explained to patients and family in timely fashion**

## 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



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.

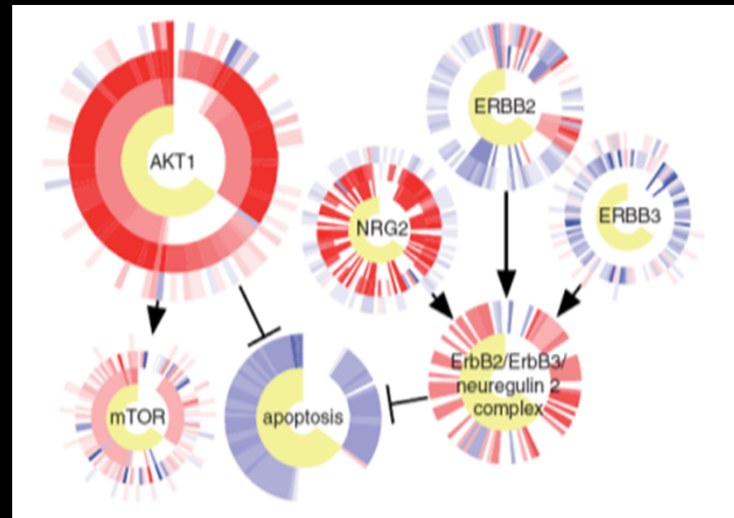
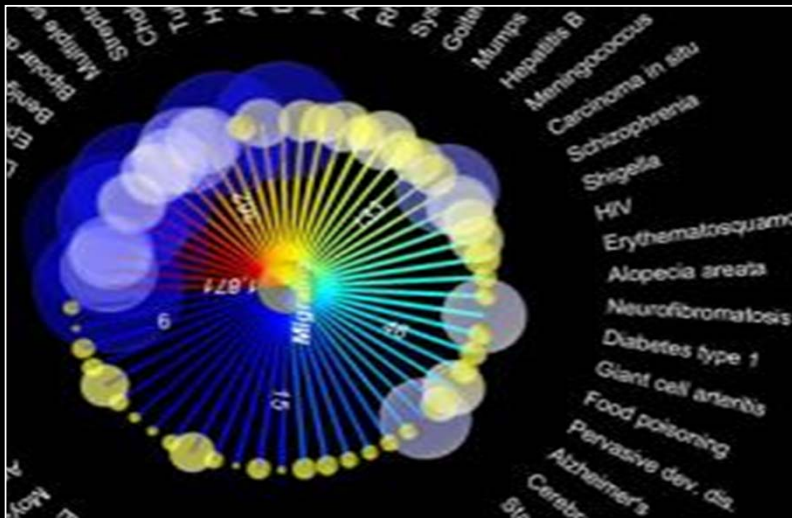
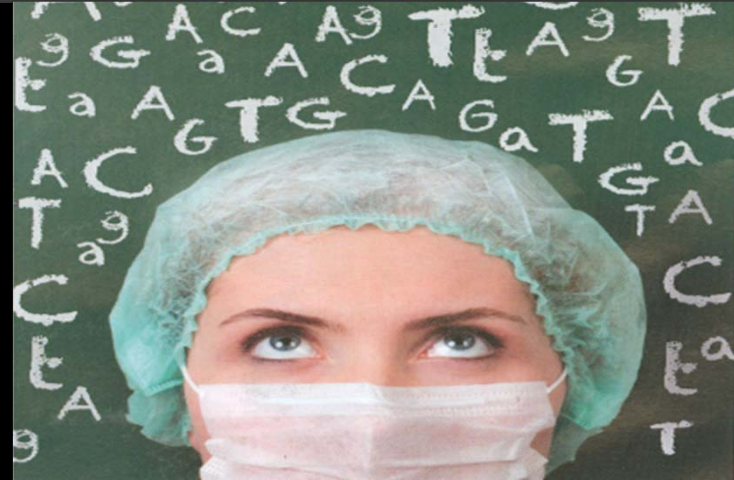
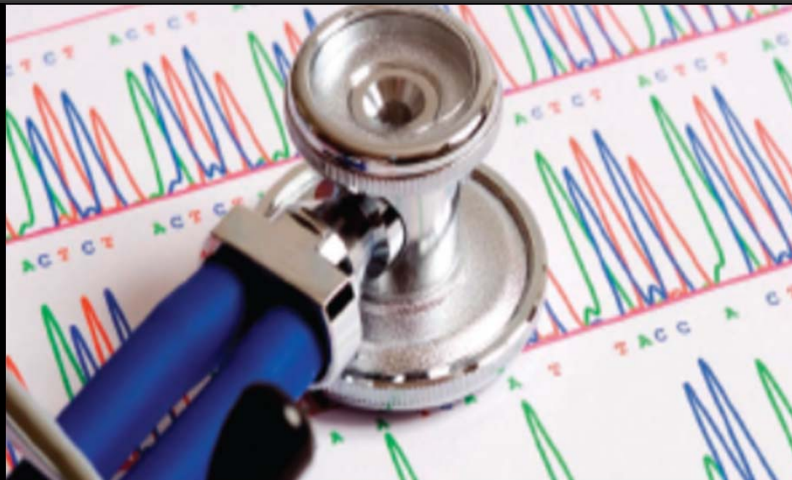
# End-of-Life Care

**Assisted Death:  
the most perplexing issue in medical ethics,  
law and religious discourse**



**Major Education and Competency Gaps in the  
Translation and Clinical Adoption of Molecular  
Profiling for Precision Medicine**

## The Growing Education and Knowledge Gaps in Comprehension of Molecular Medicine Concepts Among Healthcare Professionals

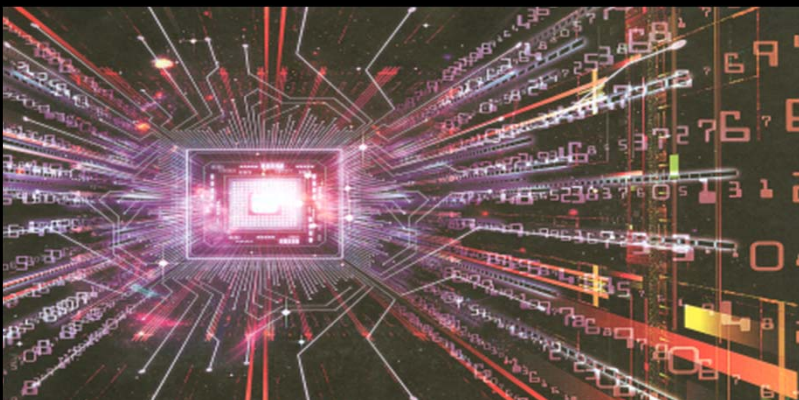
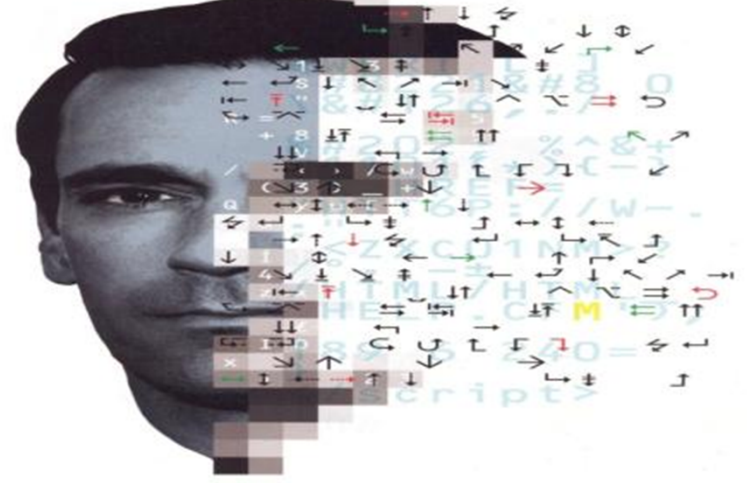


# Technology Acceleration and Convergence: The Escalating Challenge for Professional Competency, Decision-Support and Future Education Curricula

**Data Deluge**



**Cognitive Bandwidth Limits**



**Automated Analytics and Decision Support**



**Facile Formats for Actionable Decisions**



## **New Skills and Professional Specialties in an Era of Molecular Medicine**

- **clinical specialists with panOmics expertise**
  - **molecular genetics, pathology, genetic counseling**
  - **“molecular medicine 101” and CME for healthcare professionals**
- **informaticians**
  - **informatics (analytics)**
  - **database design and curation for optimized data flows for clinical decisions**
  - **data customization and visualization for different end-users**
- **empowered patients social media and medical apps.**

## **Optimizing Palliative Care: A Team-Based Process**

- **physicians, nurse specialists, other HCPs**
- **physical therapists**
- **expertise in psychological support and spiritual care**
- **home-based care services**
- **‘the family unit’**



BioIT World 2011 - by **Sorena Nadaf, M.S. M.M.I**  
Director - Translational Informatics, CIO

## **Healthcare 2030: An Information-Based, Science-Based Enterprise**

- **molecular profiling is routine and enables earlier detection and/or prevention of disease**
- **computerized decision tools dominate, monitoring, diagnosis and treatment selection**
- **healthcare services integrated from cradle to grave and facile use of information to mitigate disease risk/optimize treatment compliance**
- **patients are empowered but are required to take greater responsibility for sustaining their health**
- **most healthcare services not exclusively MD (physician)-centric but provided by multi-disciplinary teams**
- **new business models and incentives for care delivery: the wellness premium**





# BIO 302:

