

Discovering driver mutations in chronic lymphocytic leukemia

Catherine J. Wu, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA

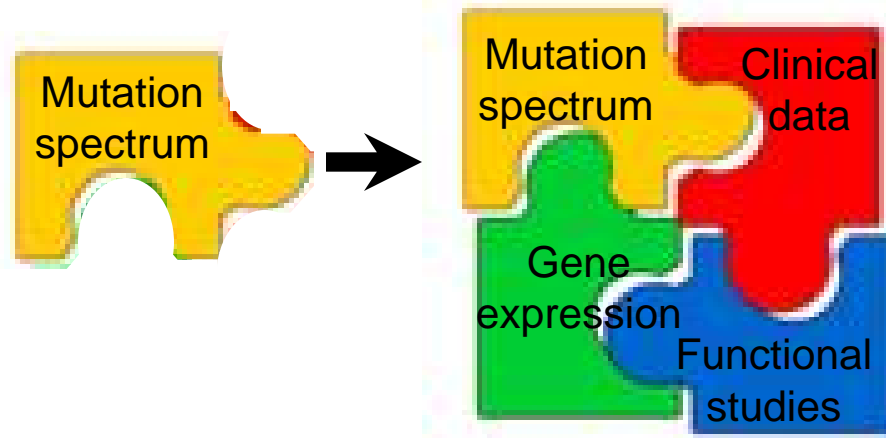




What is heterogeneity in CLL?

Clinical heterogeneity?
Morphologic heterogeneity?
Functional heterogeneity?
Genomic heterogeneity?
 intersample?
 intrasample?
 genetic?
 epigenetic?

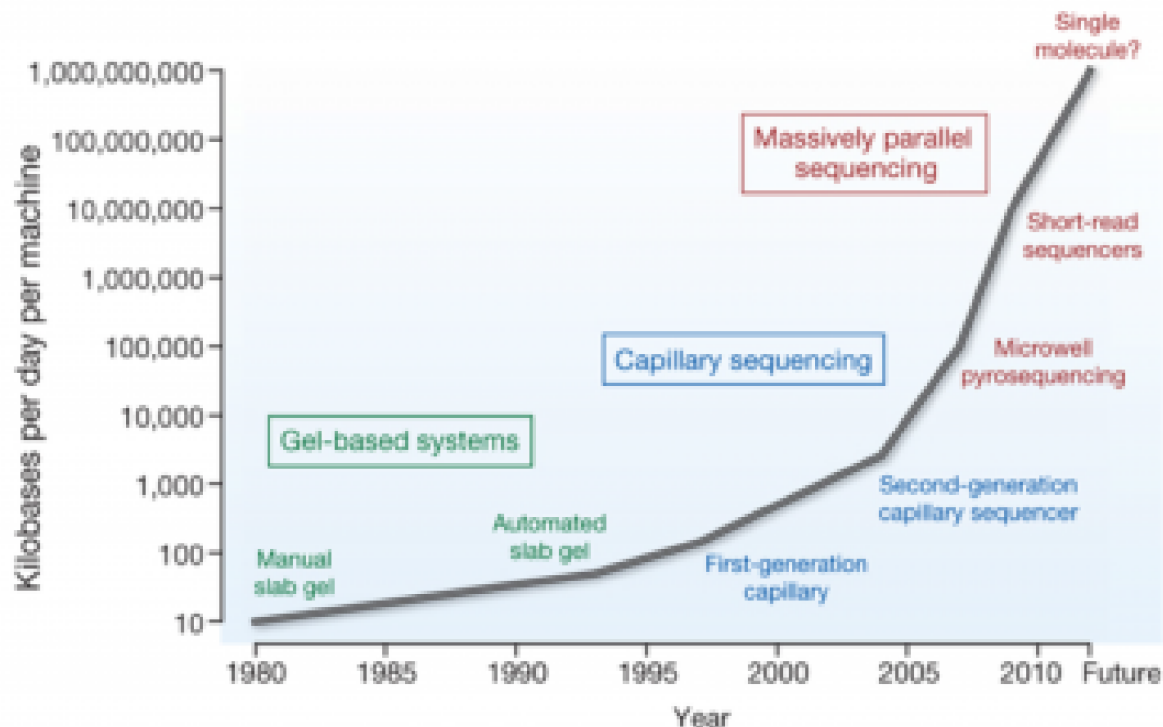
A path to understanding CLL biology



How do we identify drivers?

- Functional characterization
- Statistical inference

Improvements in the Rate of DNA Sequencing

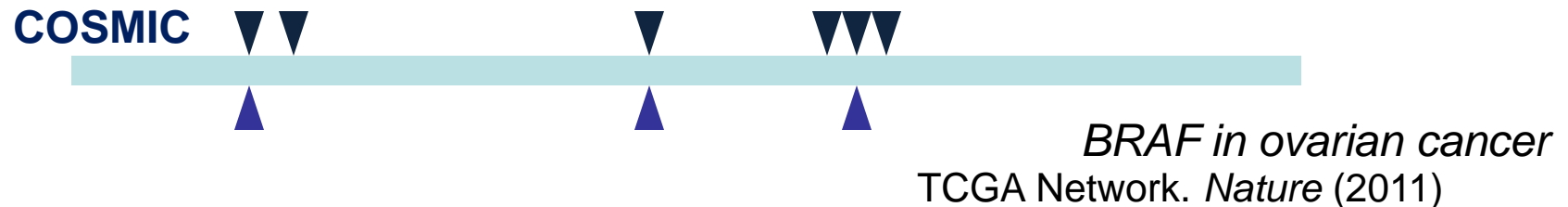


Identification of candidate drivers based on statistical frequency

1. Based on *positional configuration* of mutations



2. Based on *prior knowledge* on sites in gene (COSMIC, predicted fxn, conservation)

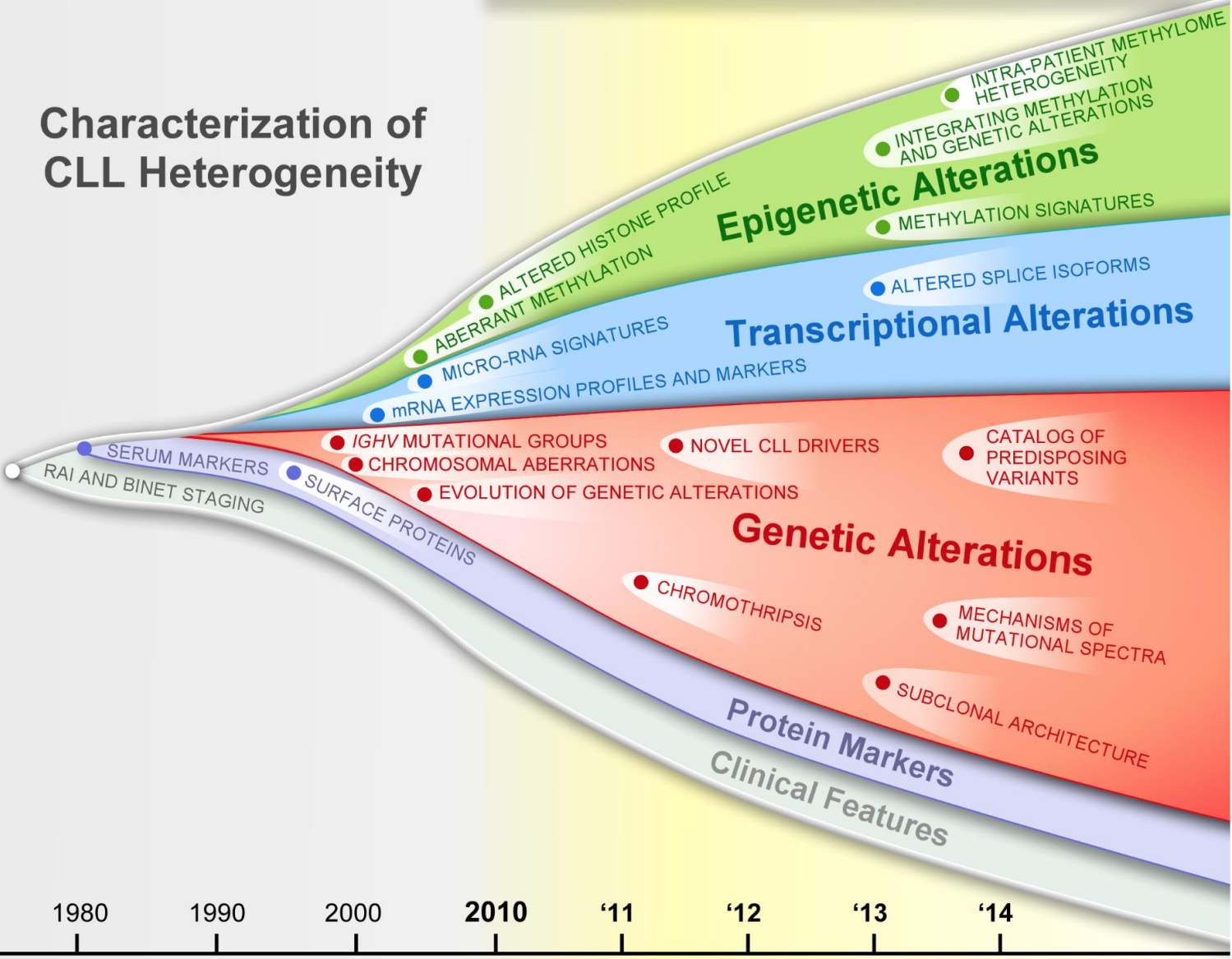


3. Based on *gene sets / pathways* (different genes mutated/tumor in a pathway)



Characterization of CLL Heterogeneity

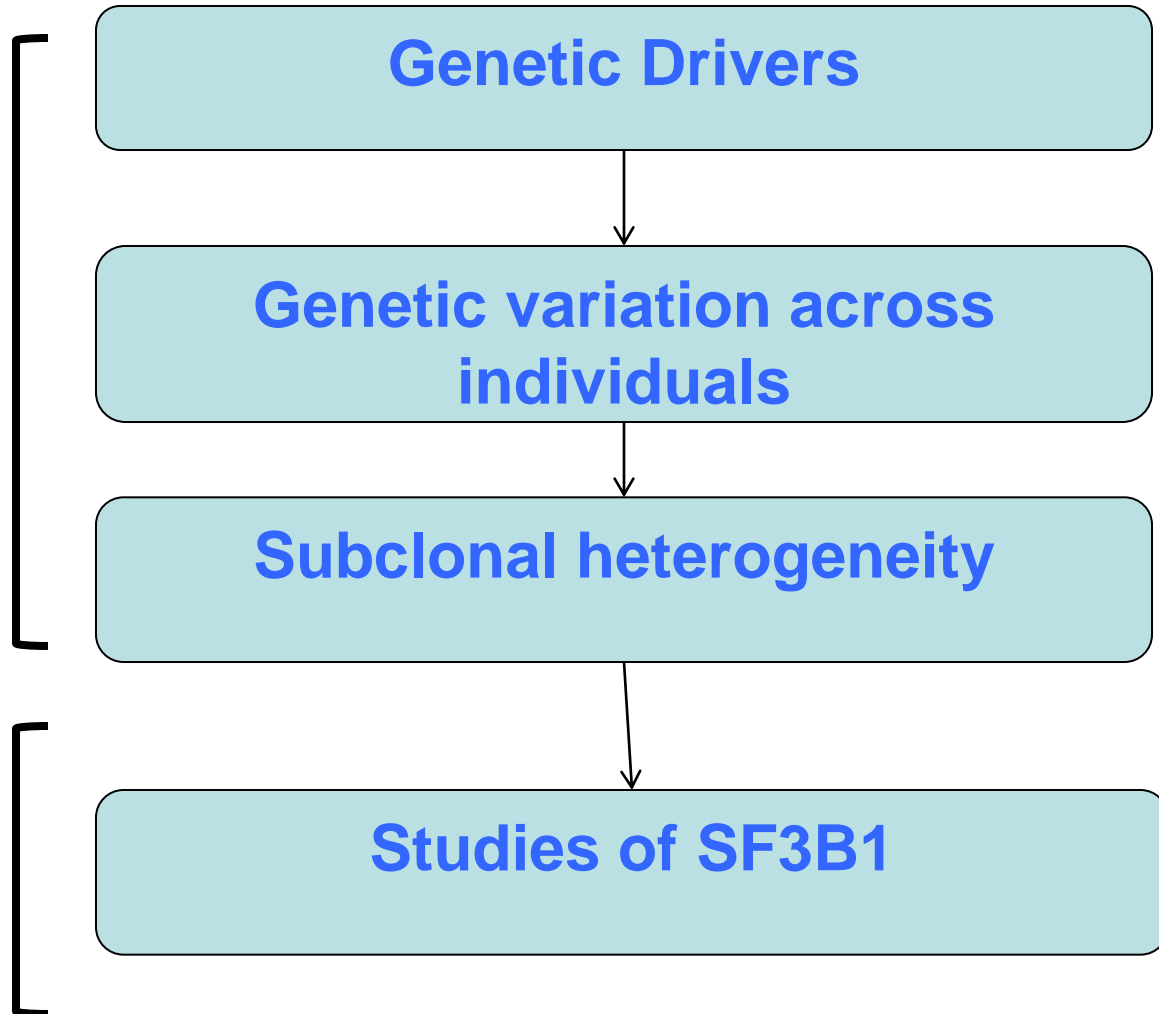
NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING



Genomic analysis of CLL

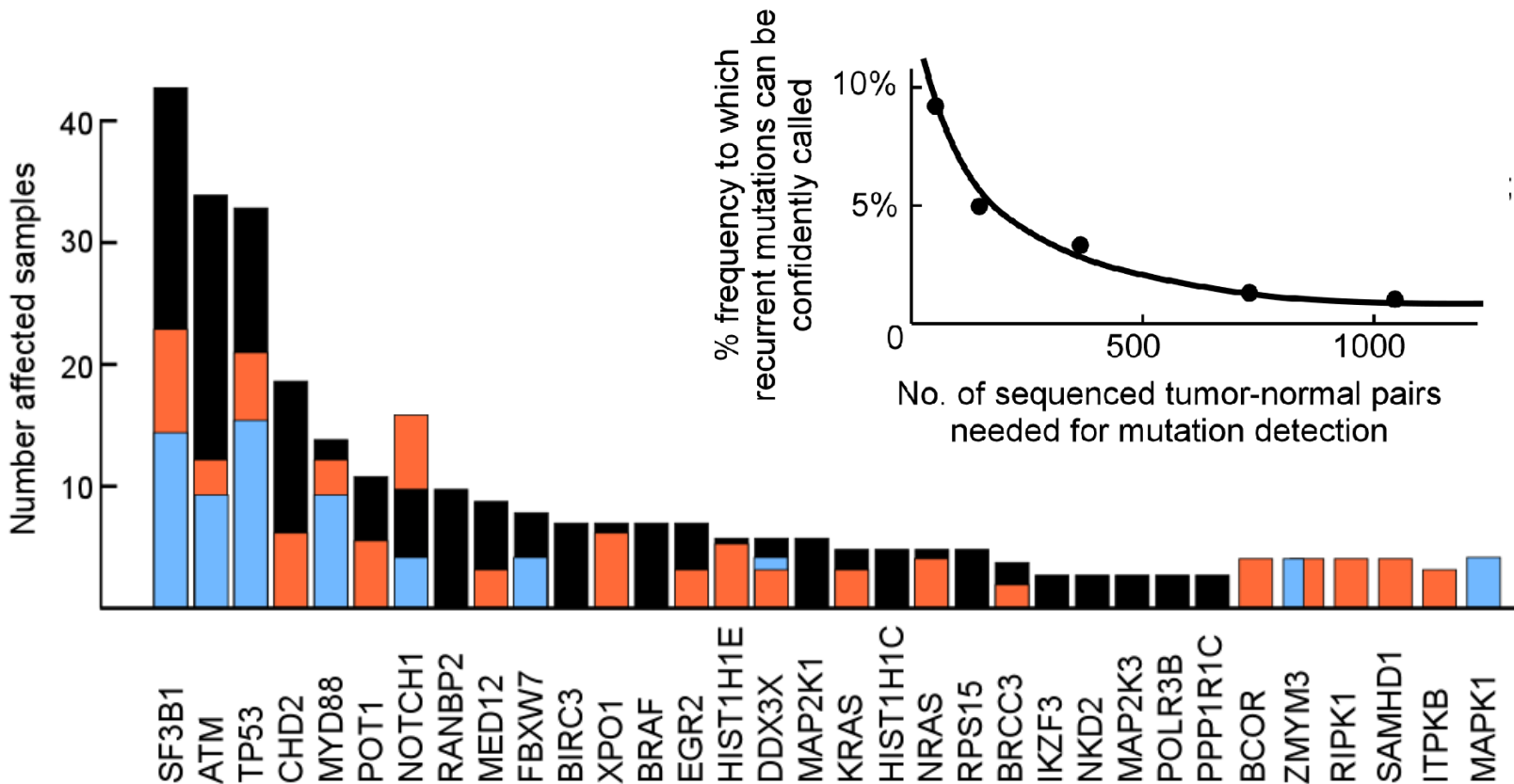
1. What can we learn from unbiased analyses of somatic mutations?

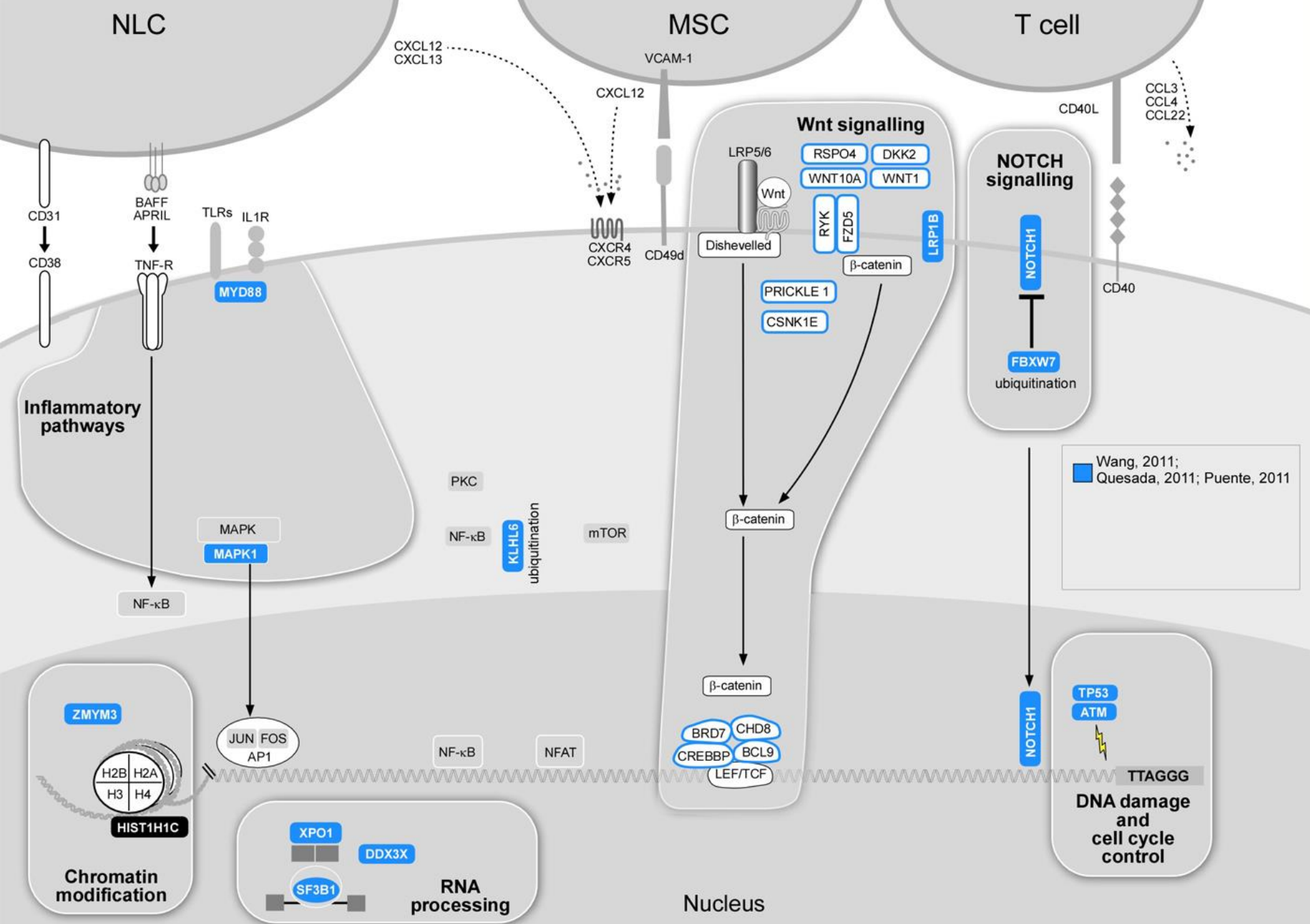
2. How are putative drivers related to functional cancer driving mutations?

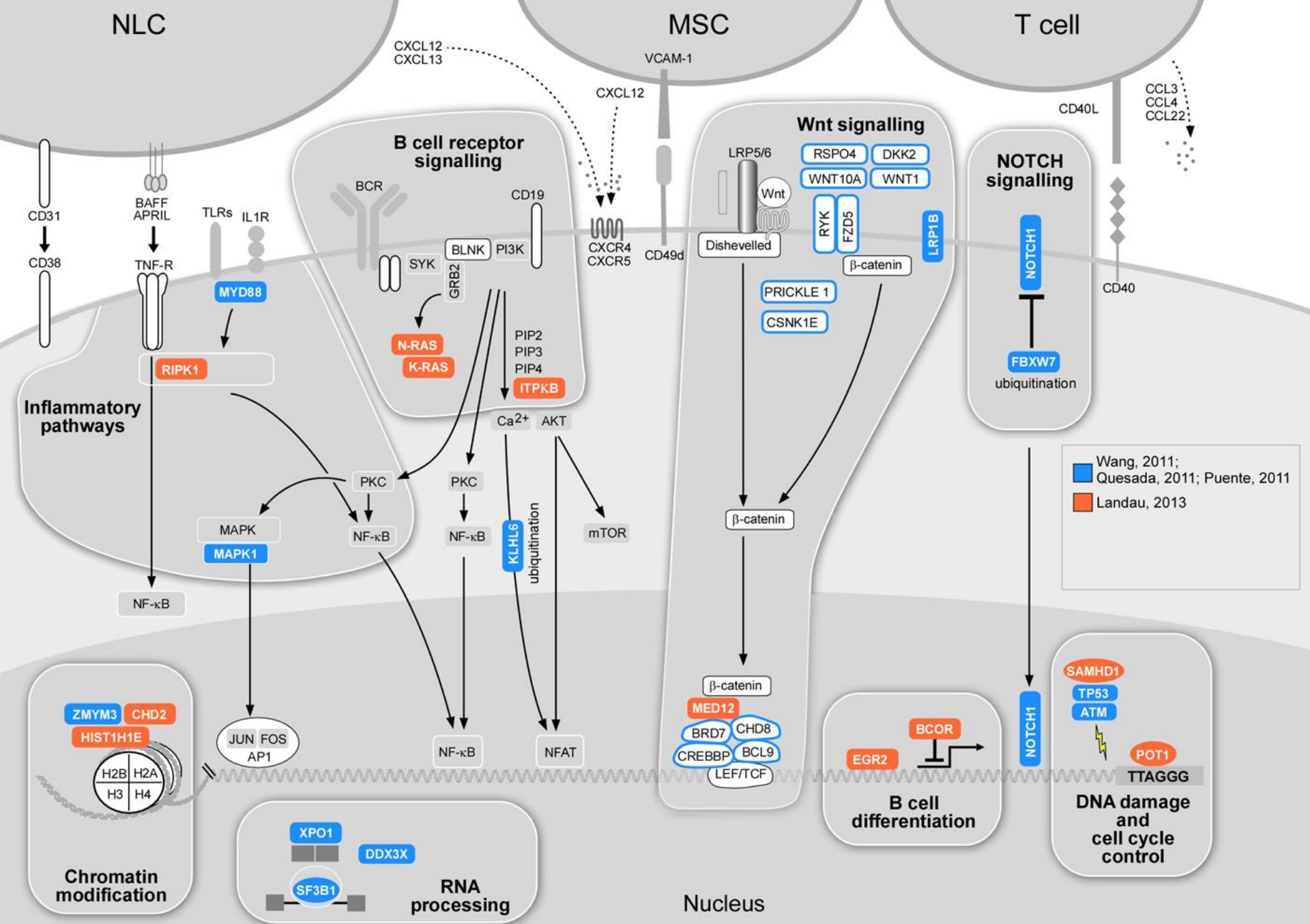


***What can we learn from
unbiased analyses of
somatic mutations?***

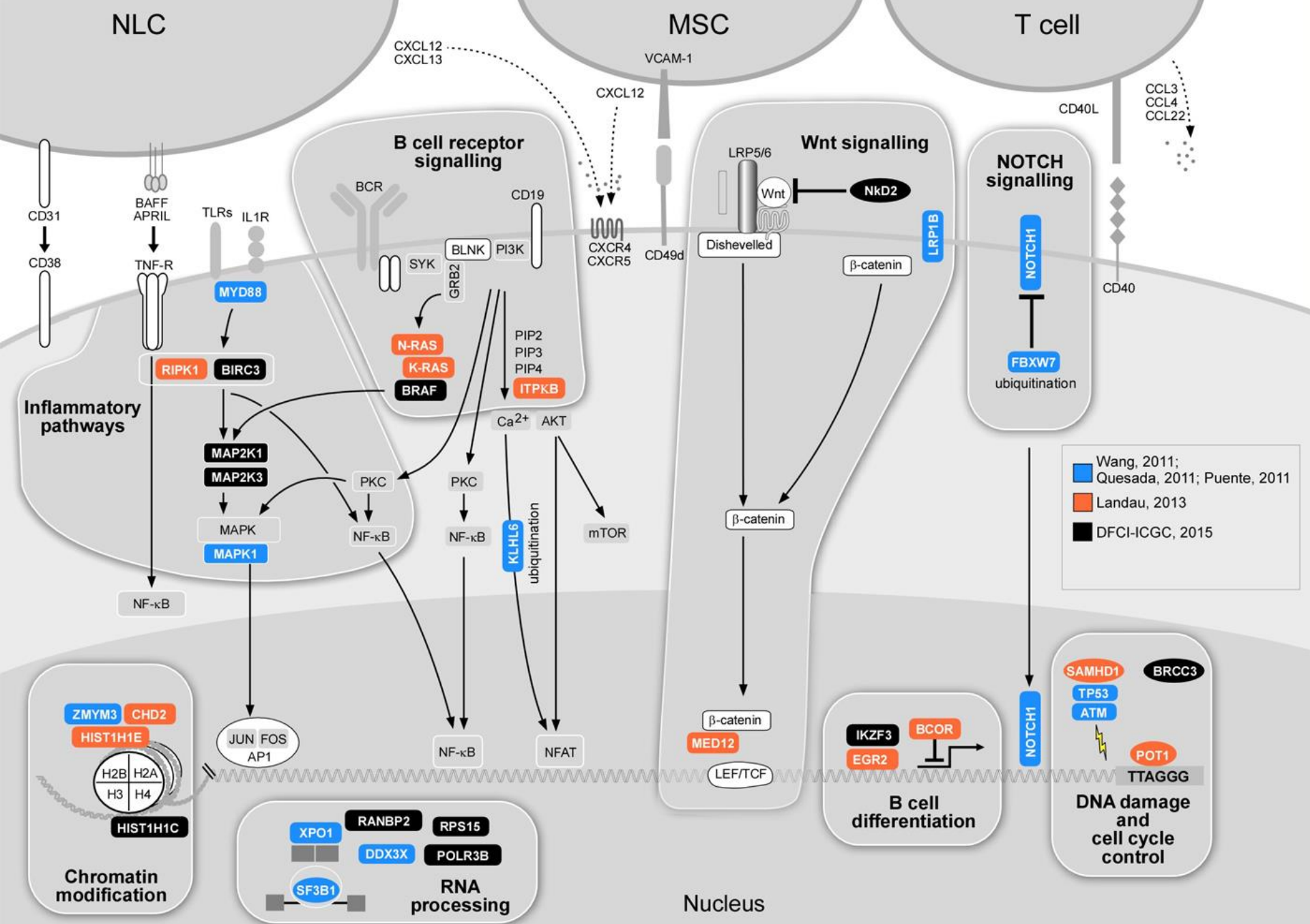
Discovery of drivers in CLL: impact of cohort size







■ Wang, 2011;
■ Quesada, 2011; Puente, 2011
■ Landau, 2013

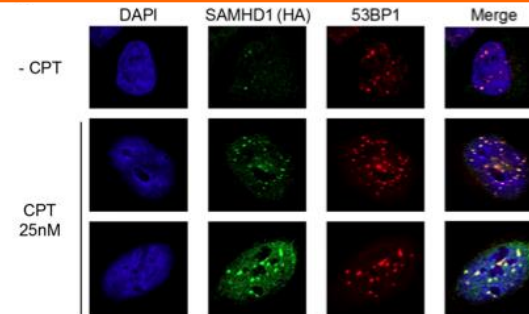


FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS-I

Impairment in the DNA damage response

SAMHD1

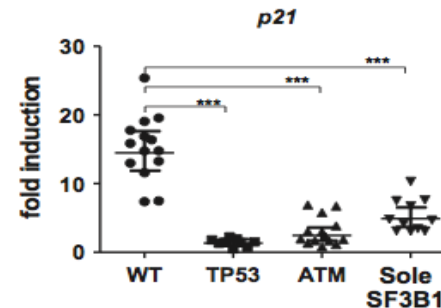
involved in the response to DNA DSBs and engages in specific protein interactions on DNA damage



Clifford *Blood*
2014

SF3B1

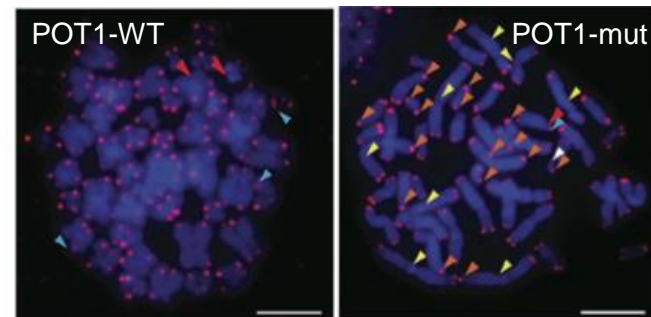
Mutations associated with increased DNA damage and/or an aberrant response to DNA damage



Te Raa
Leukemia
2014

POT1

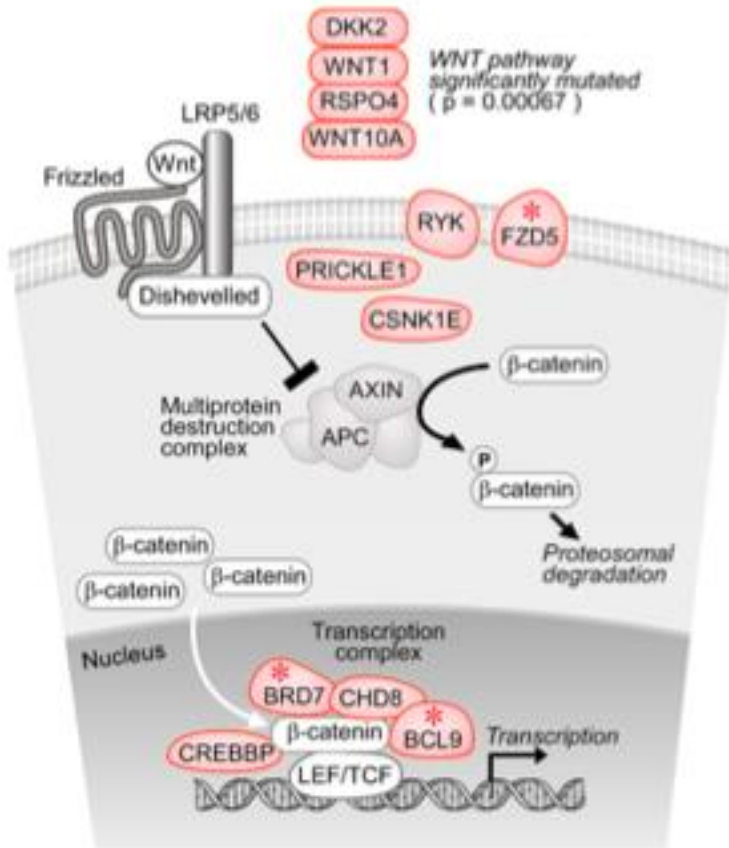
Mutations affect key residues for binding of telomeric DNA → telomeric and chromosomal abnormalities



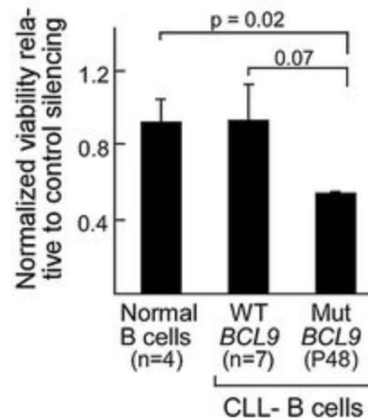
Ramsay
Nat Genet
2013

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS-II

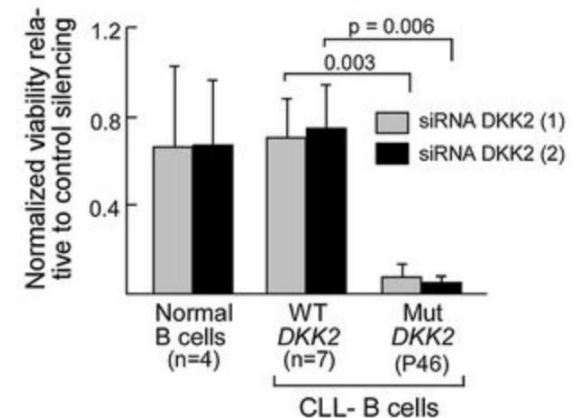
Low frequency mutated genes may affect key CLL nodes



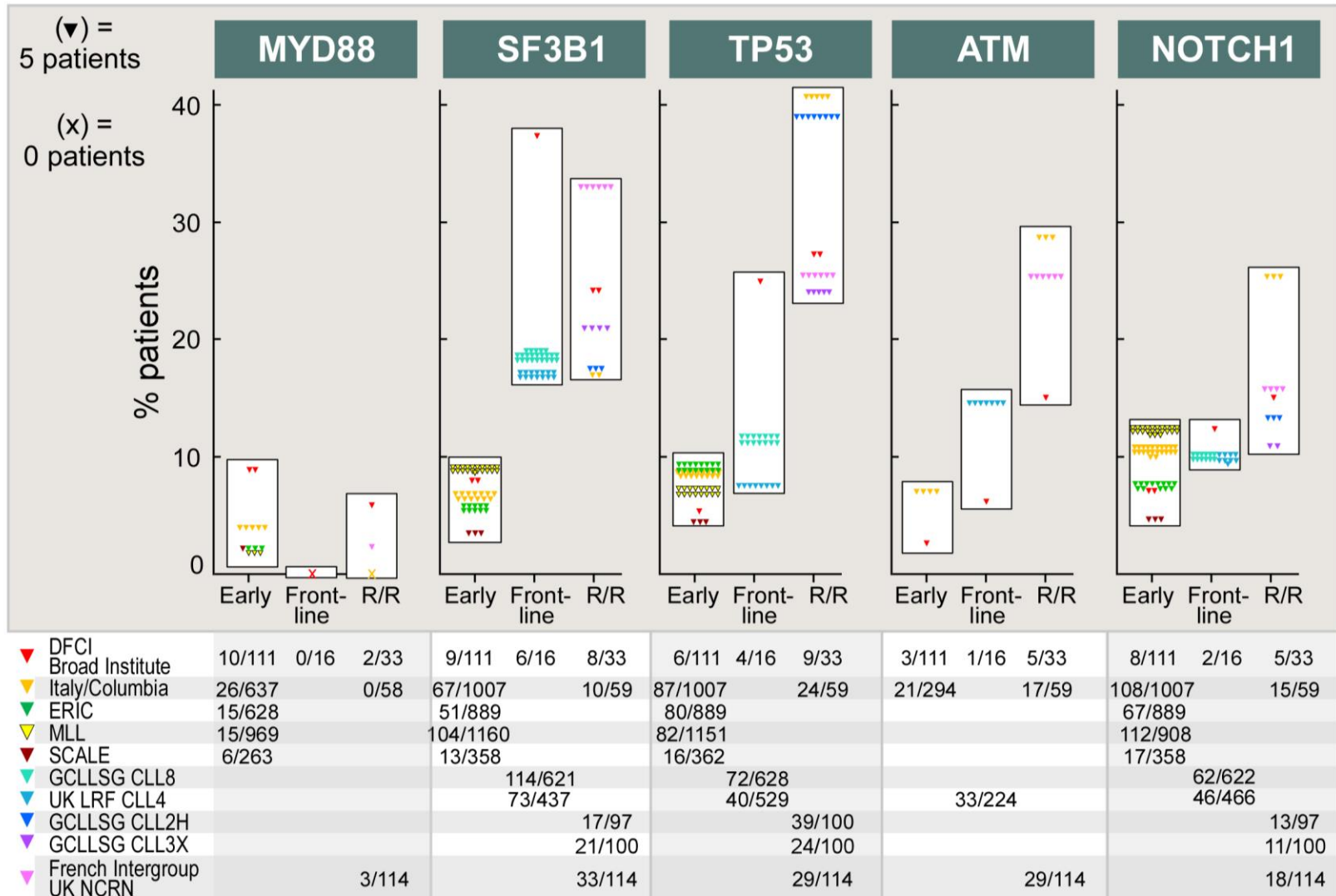
BCL9



DKK2



Discovery of drivers in CLL: impact of cohort composition



How can we better understand the genetic heterogeneity of CLL in 2016?

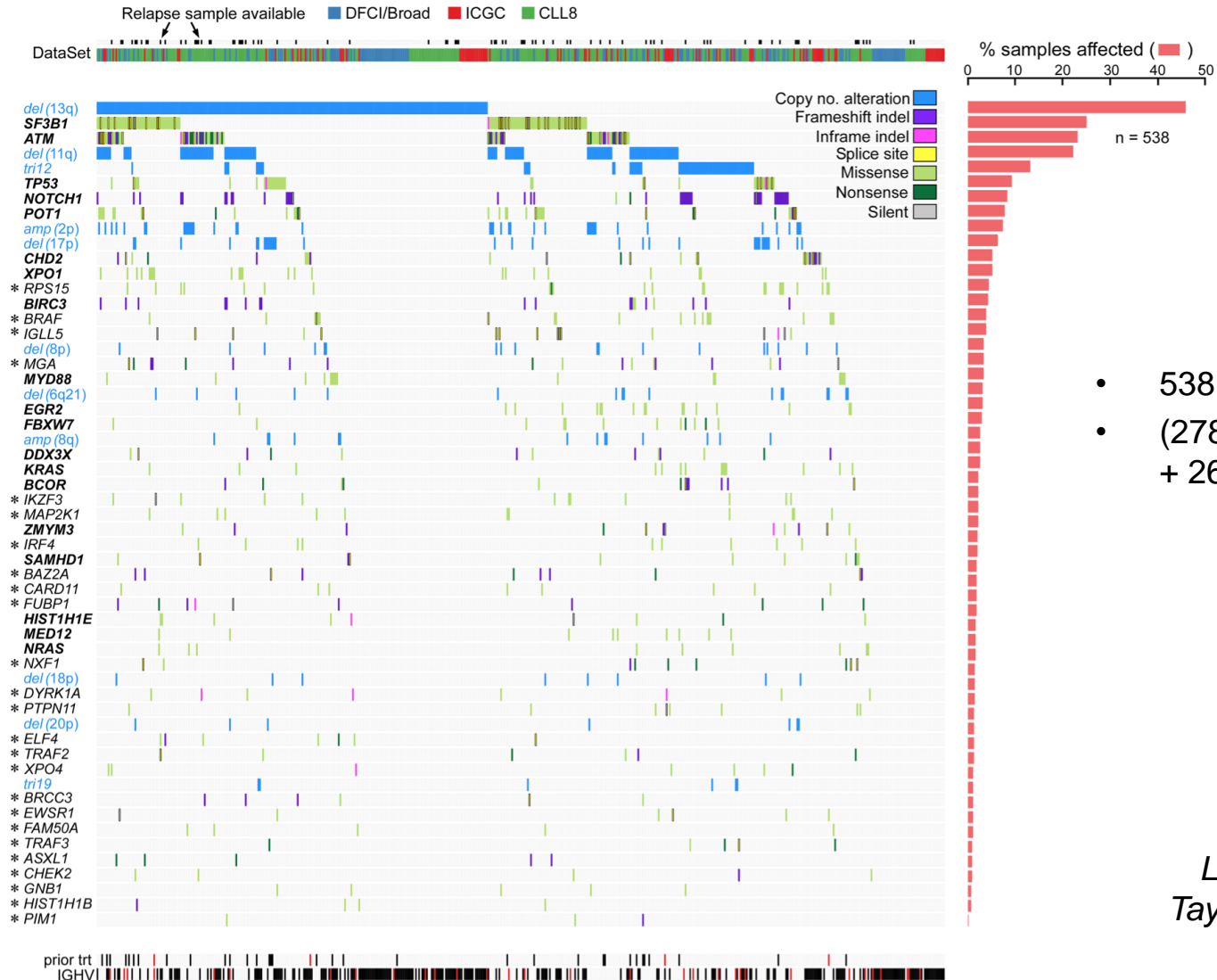
- **Cohort composition:** WES of uniform cohort (278 cases from GCLLSG-CLL8)
 - Hallek Lancet 2010: phase III study that established std of care chemotherapy
- **Cohort size:** Increased sensitivity by combining cohorts → 538 cases (278 GCLLSG-CLL8 + 260 DFCI-ICGC)
 - Expected to saturate genes mutated in 5% pts
 - 94% power to detect genes mutated in 3%
 - 61% power to detect genes mutated in 2%

Can we find new drivers? Pathways?

Can we better reconstruct CLL phylogeny?

Can we better characterize clonal evolution in relationship to therapy?

Intertumoral heterogeneity in CLL: independent evolutionary events



- 538 cases, WES
- (278 GCLLSG-CLL8 + 260 DFCI-ICGC)

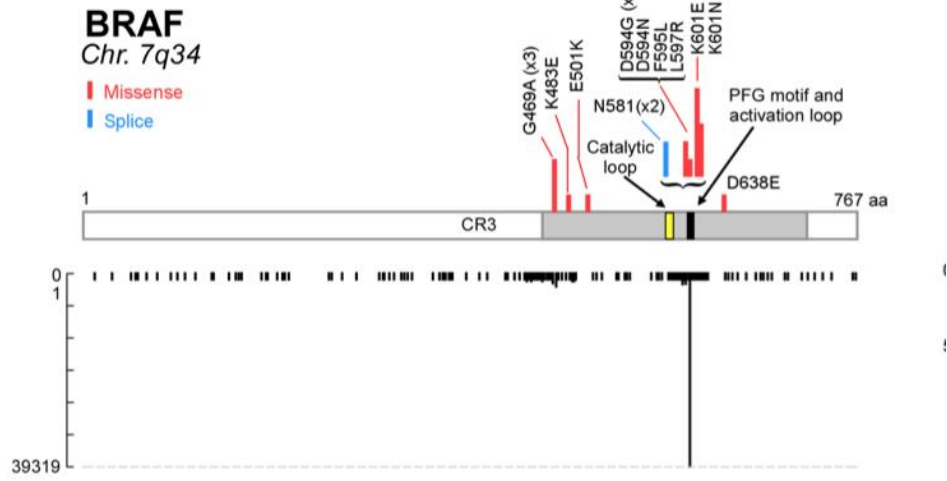
Landau Tausch &
Taylor Weiner, *Nature*
2015

Quick numbers

- 55 driver events: 44 sSNVs, 11 sCNVs
 - 26 additional candidate CLL genes
- Median of 2 drivers per sample
 - 91% with at least one driver
 - 65% with at least 2 drivers (56% if without the new 26)
 - 44% with at least 3 drivers (32%)

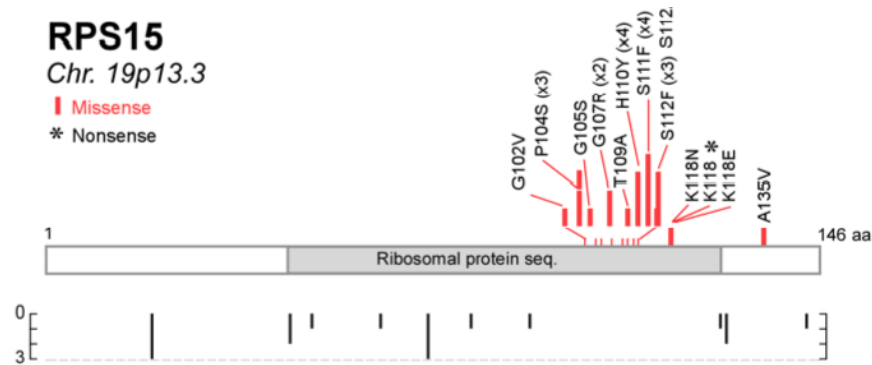
What are the new genes? Pathways?

- Previously suggested
 - *IRF4, MGA*
- Noted in B cell malignancies
 - *CARD11, GNB1, PTPN11, TRAF2 and TRAF3*
- New pathways/cellular processes
 - MYC related proteins: *MGA, PTPN11, FUBP1*
 - MAPK-ERK pathway (5.6% patients)
 - NRAS, n=9; KRAS n=14, BRAF, n=20; MAP2K1 n=11)
- Novel genes
 - *RPS15* – previously identified as candidate tumor suppressor
 - *IKZF3* – transcription factor in B cell development



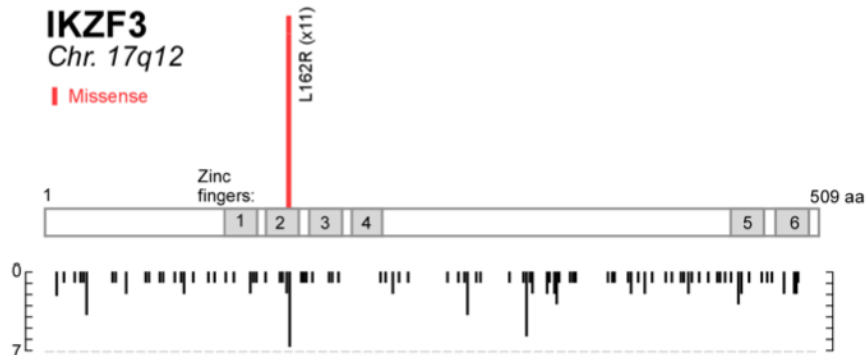
RPS15
Chr. 19p13.3

■ Missense
* Nonsense



IKZF3
Chr. 17q12

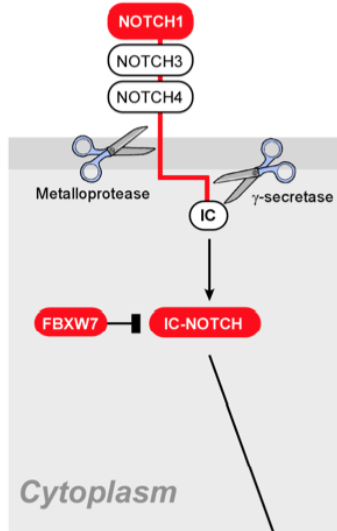
■ Missense



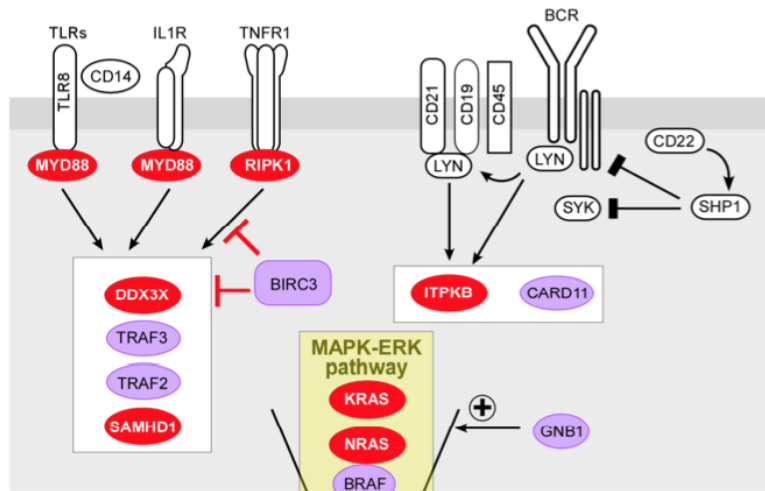
Ljungstrom
Blood 2015

old
new

Notch signalling

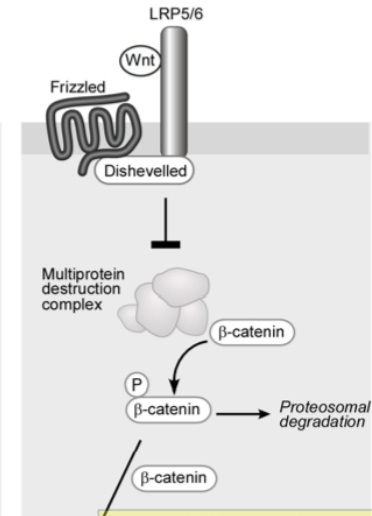


Inflammatory pathways

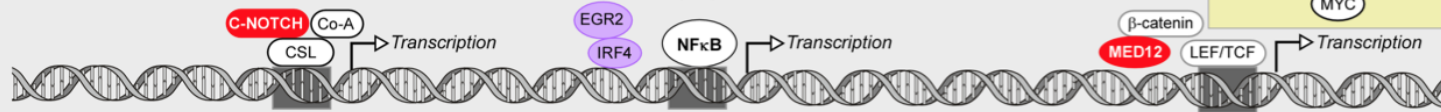


B cell receptor signalling and differentiation

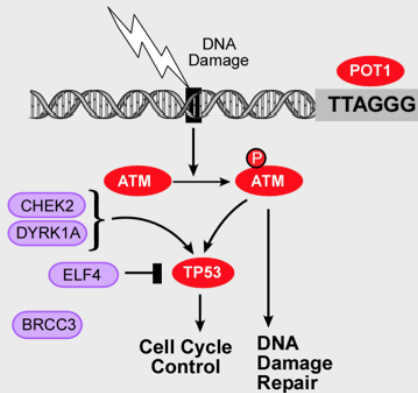
Wnt signalling



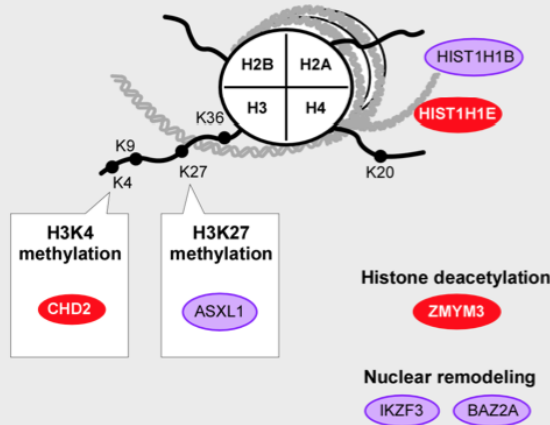
Nucleus



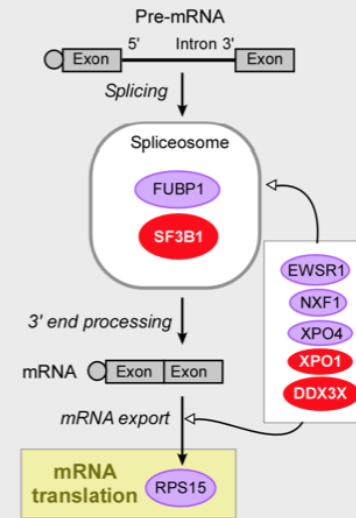
DNA damage and cell cycle control



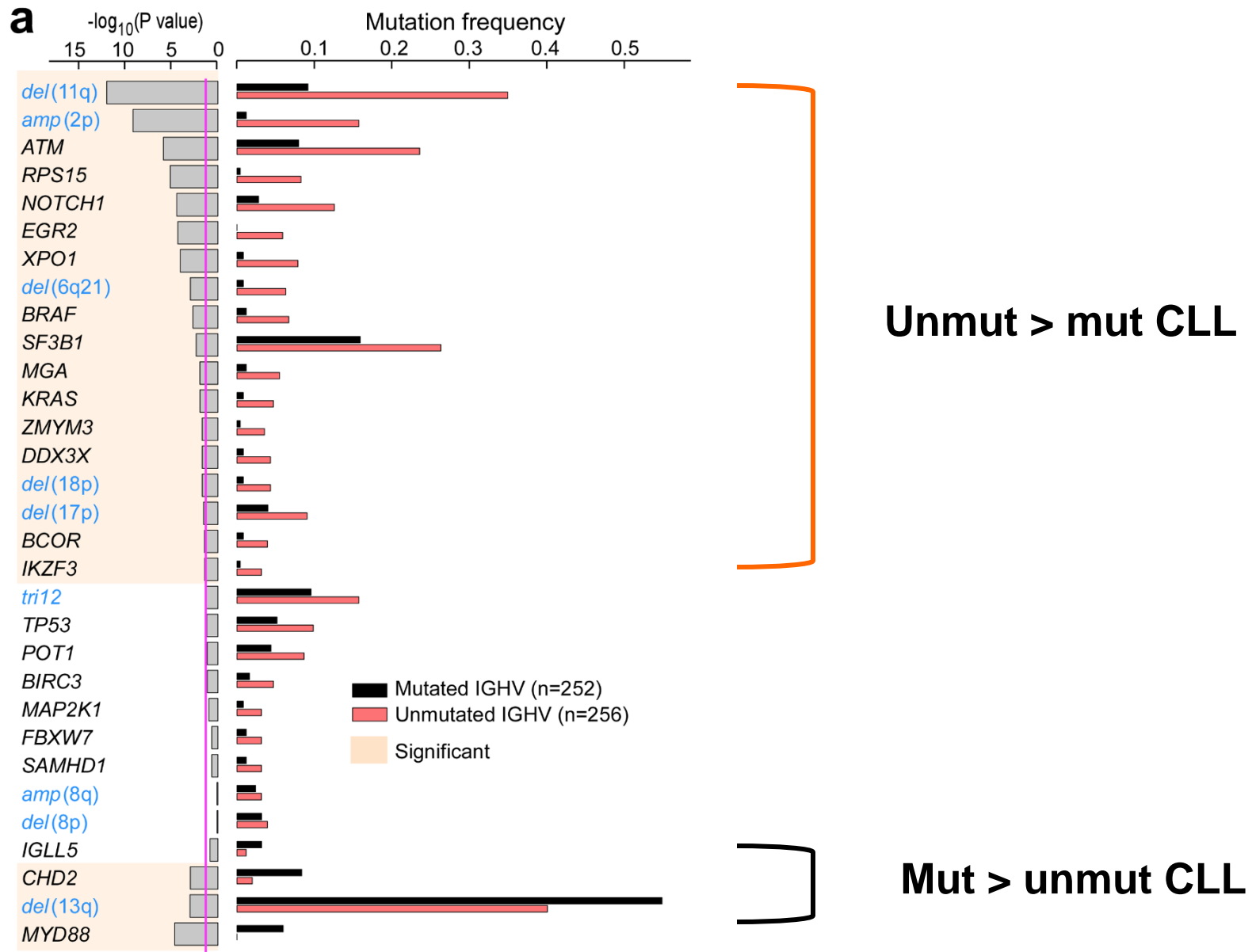
Chromatin modification



RNA and ribosomal processing

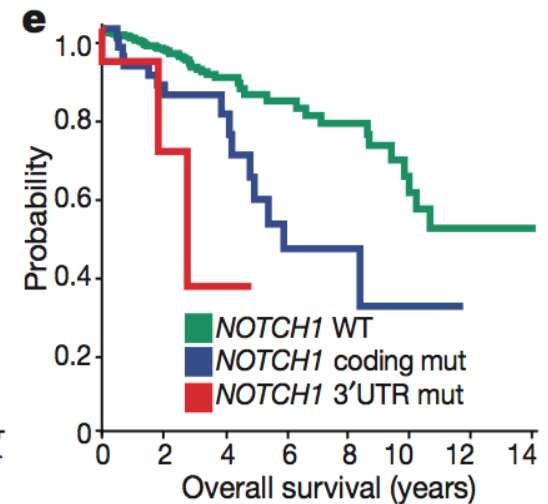
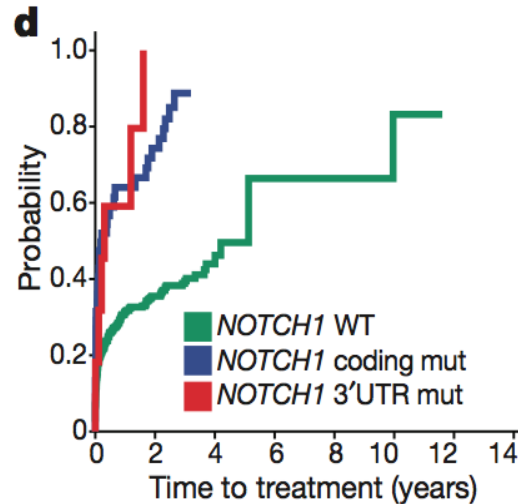
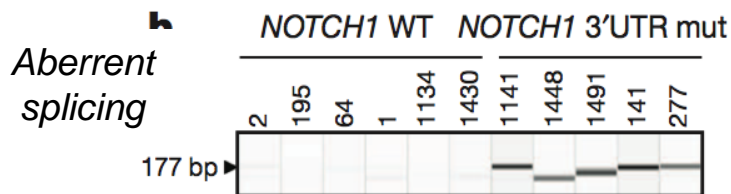
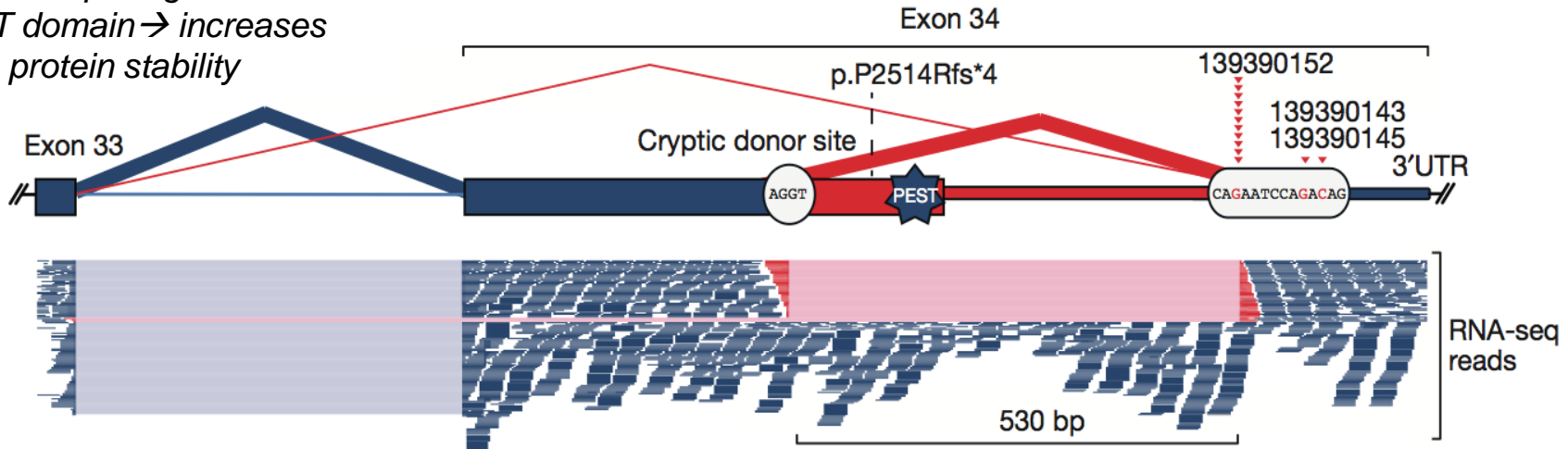


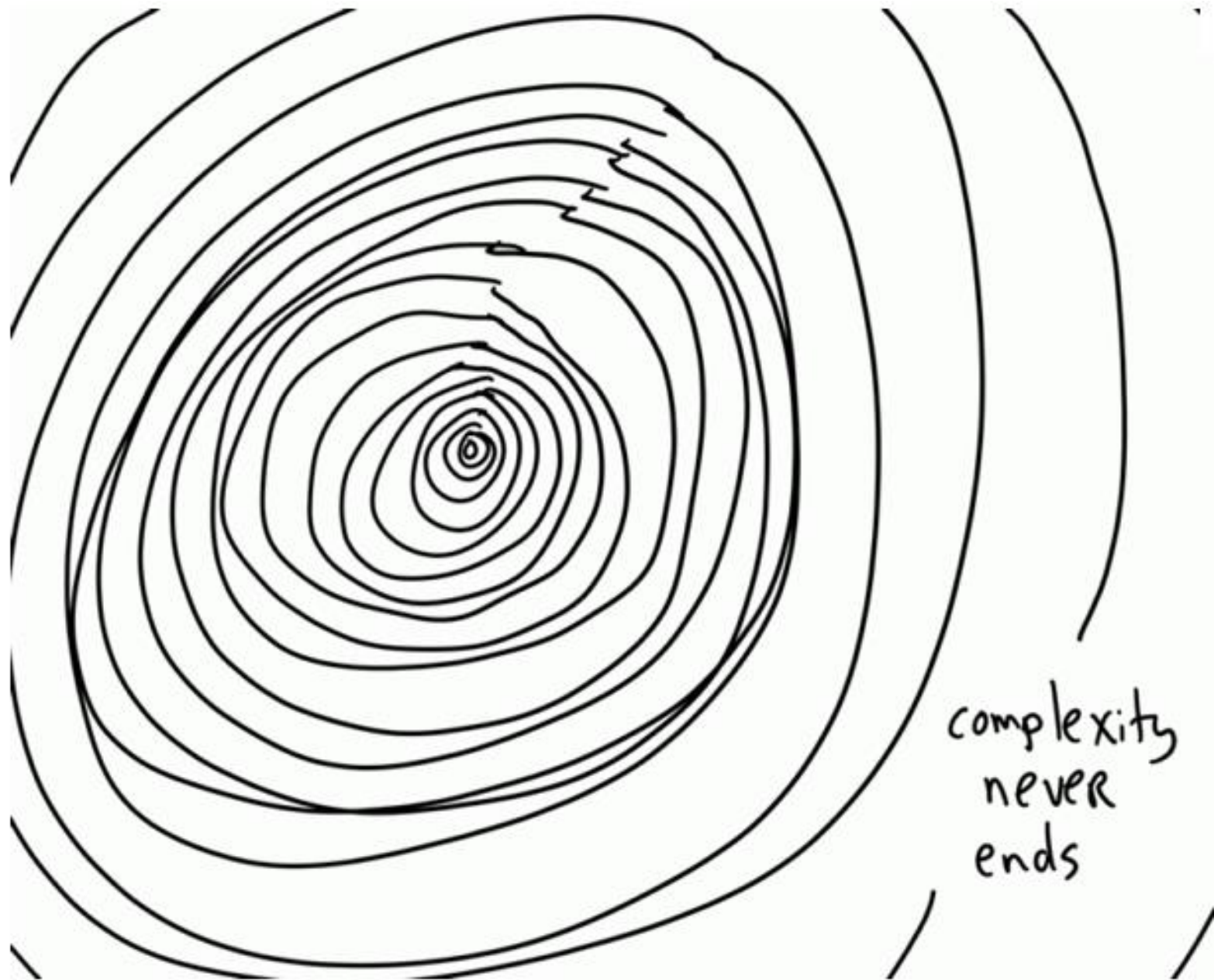
Unmutated vs mutated CLL



Activating non-coding recurrent mutations in NOTCH1

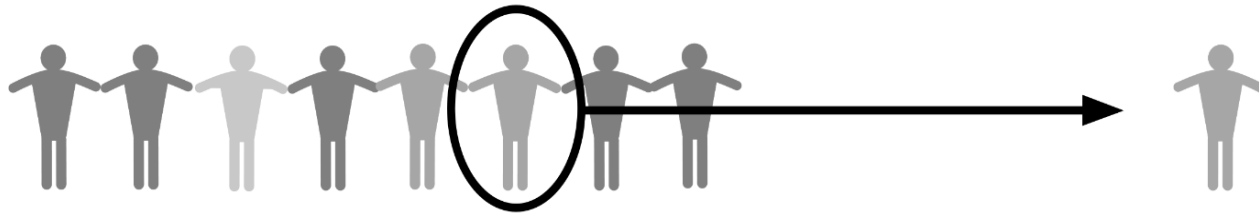
Intraexonic splicing → removes PEST domain → increases protein stability





complexity
never
ends

Studying intratumoral heterogeneity in CLL

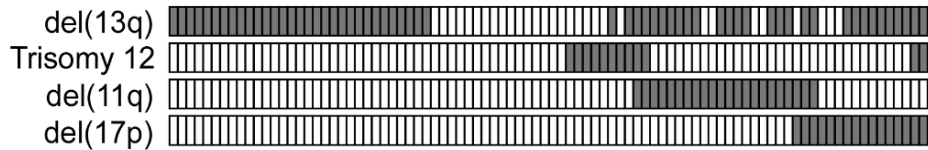


A Inter-patient Heterogeneity

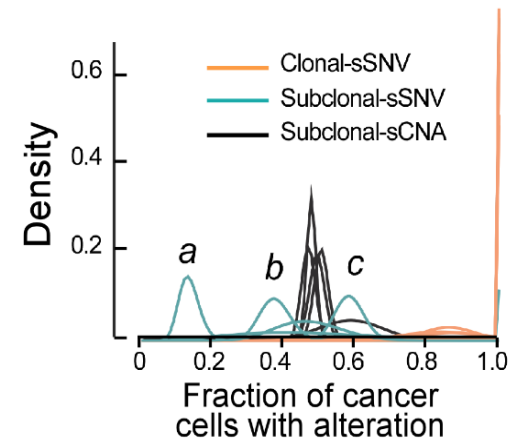
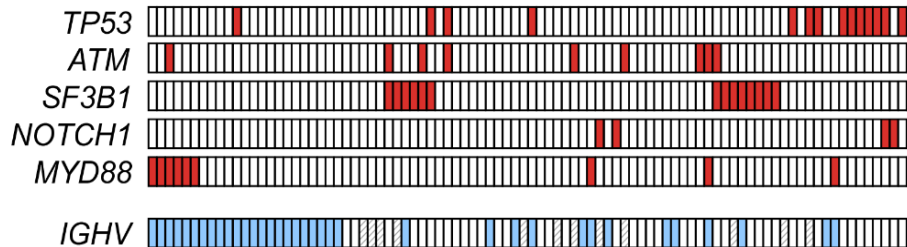
B Intra-sample Heterogeneity

Genetic Alterations

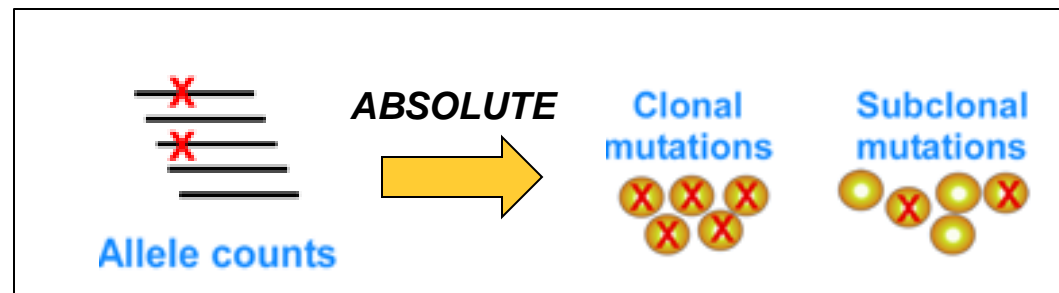
Chromosomal aberrations



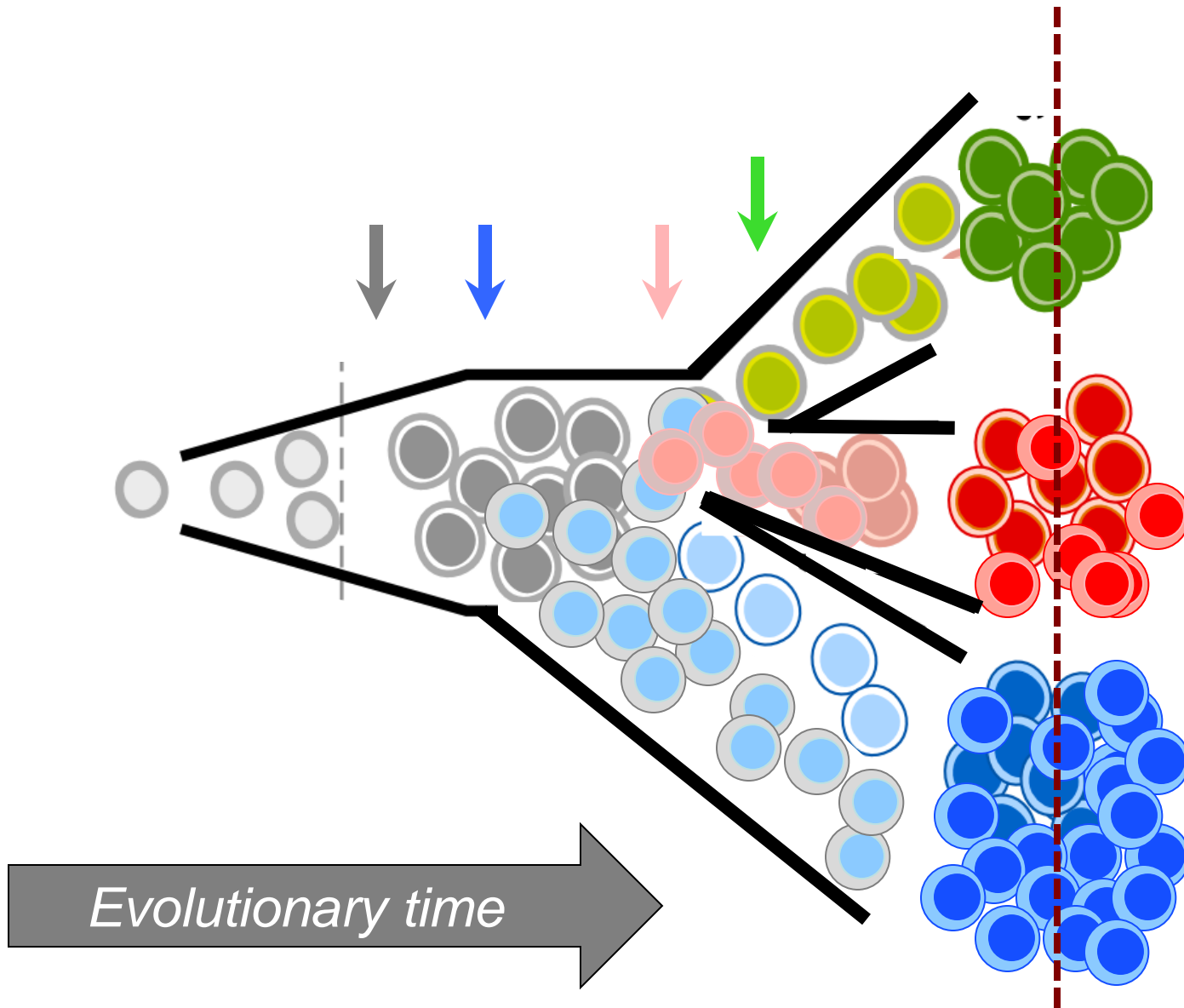
Significantly mutated genes



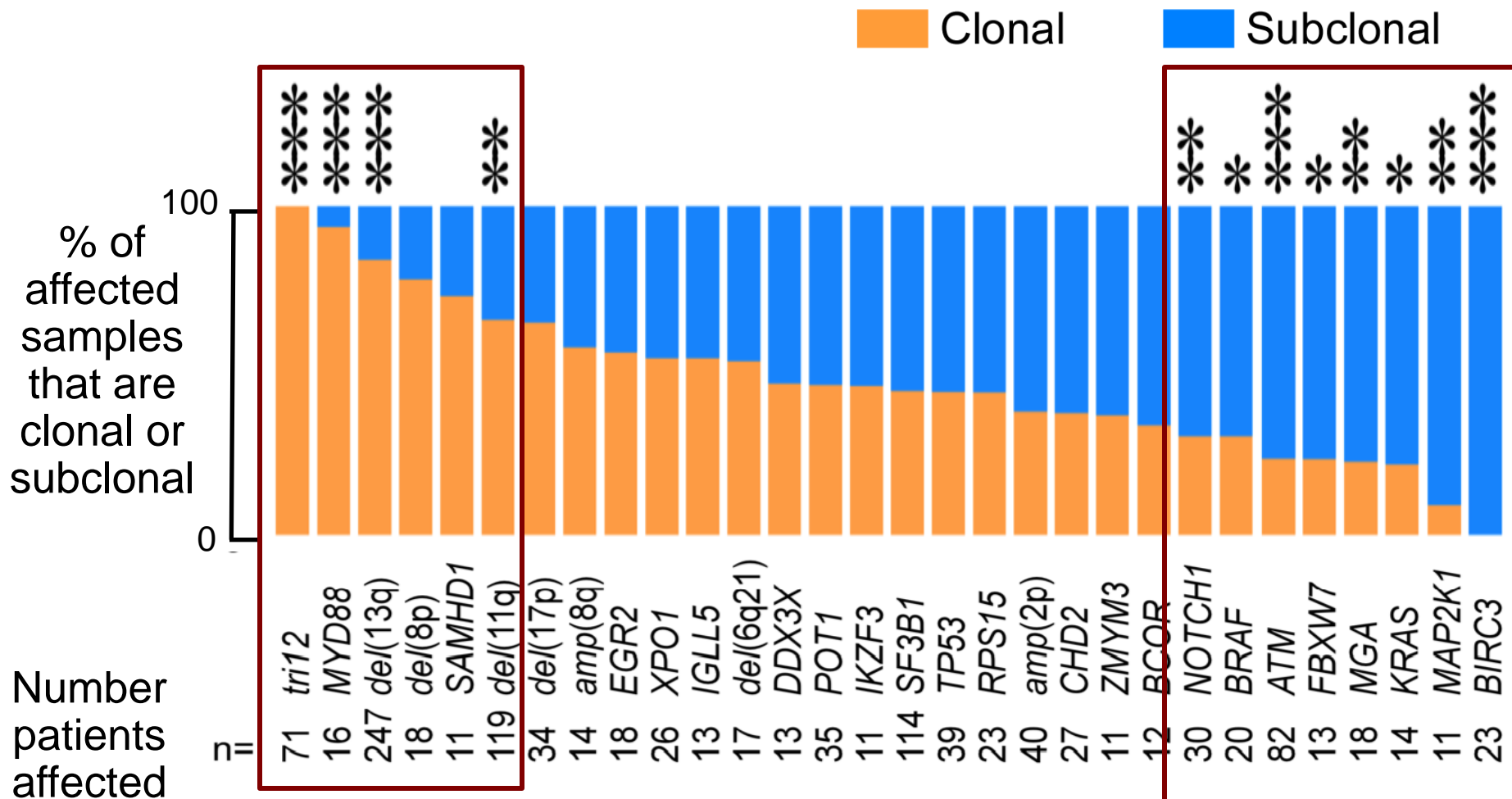
Gruber M & Wu 2014



Subclonal analysis as a temporal snapshot

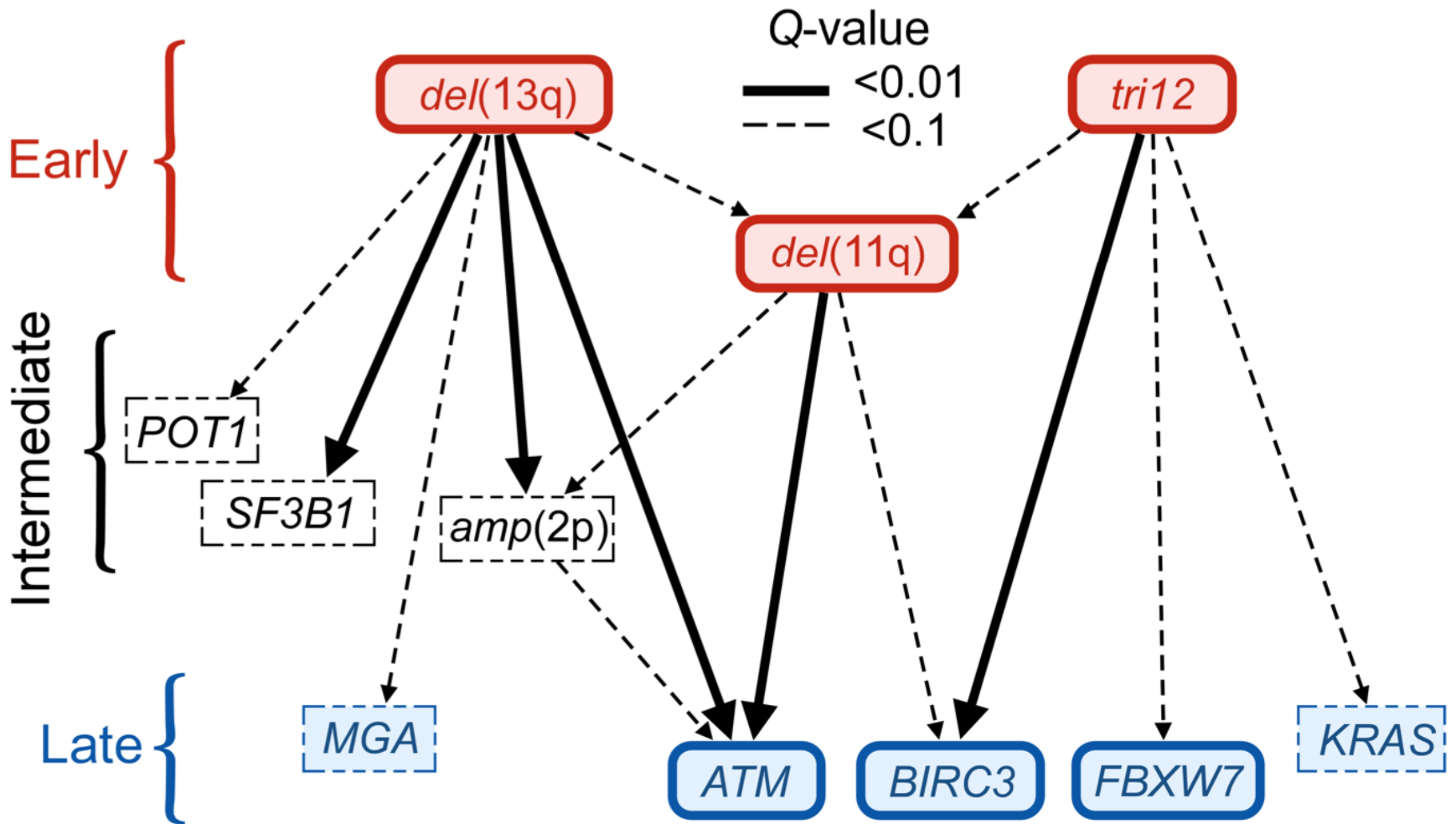


Inferring earlier and later CLL drivers from aggregate frequencies



Generating a network

- Larger cohort size gives the opportunity to infer consistent temporal relationships between pairs of drivers
- 501 treatment-naive samples → 681 pairs with both a clonal and subclonal driver in the same individual: to define a temporally directed 'edge'
- We examined for:
 - Early drivers (enriched in outgoing edges)
 - Late drivers (enriched for ingoing edges)
 - Intermediary (no enrichment) drivers



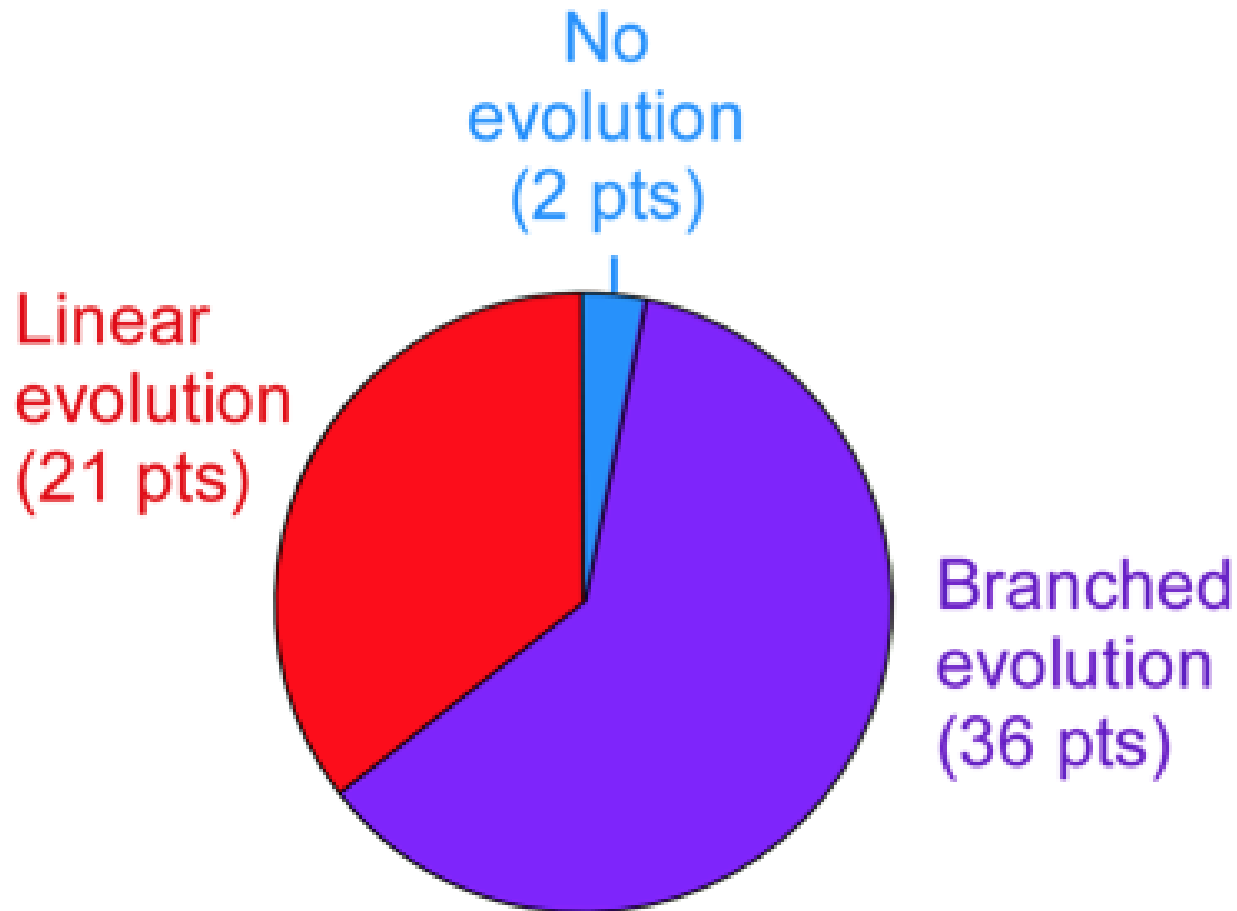
M. Nowak
 Ivana Bozic
 Johannes Reiter
 Dan Landau

***How can we confirm this
network model?***

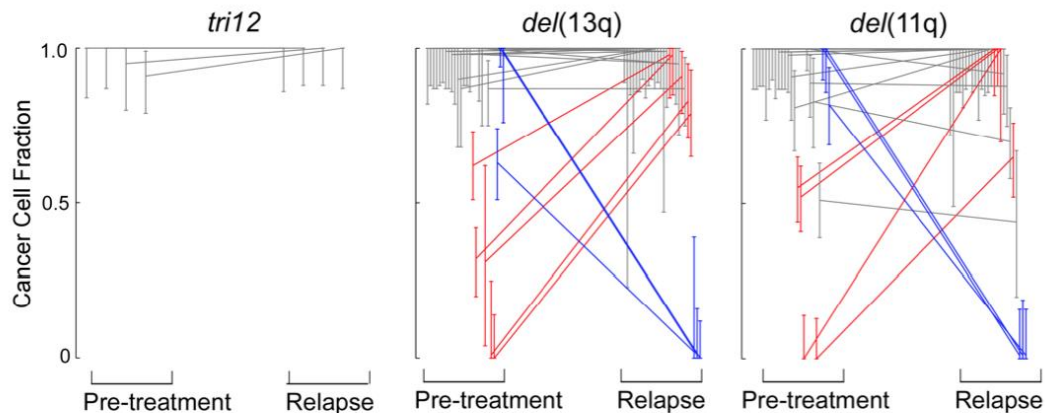
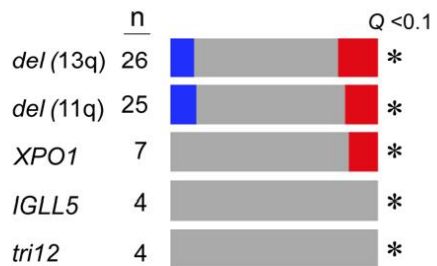
GCLLSG-CLL8: Clinical associations

- Median 6 years followup
- 278 pretreatment samples
- 59 samples at relapse (median 35.1 months)

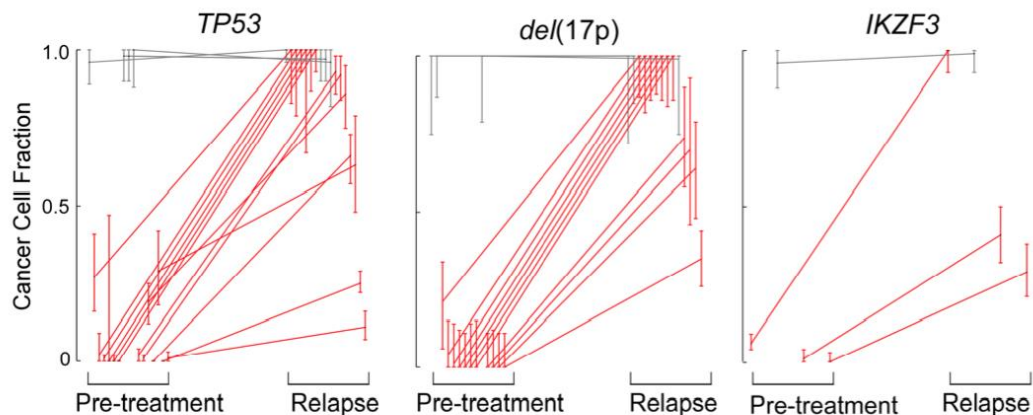
Marked clonal evolution following combination chemotherapy



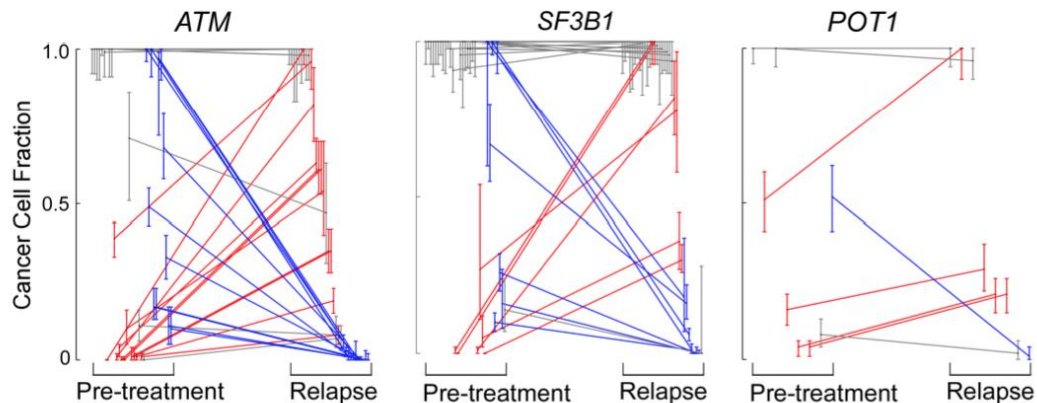
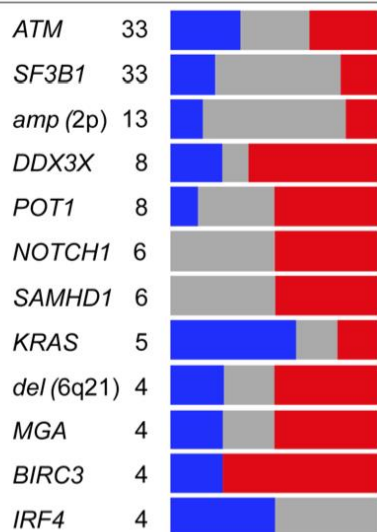
Drivers with predominantly stable CCF



Drivers with increasing CCF

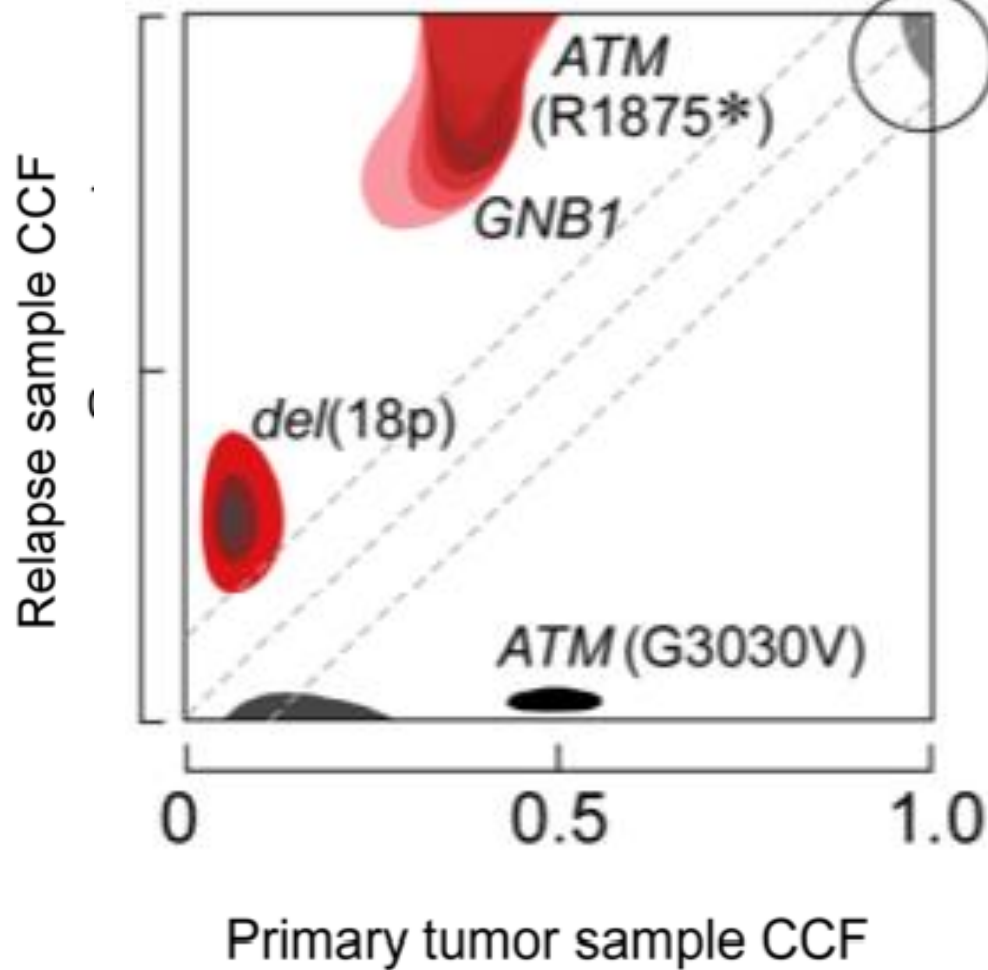


Drivers with shifting CCF

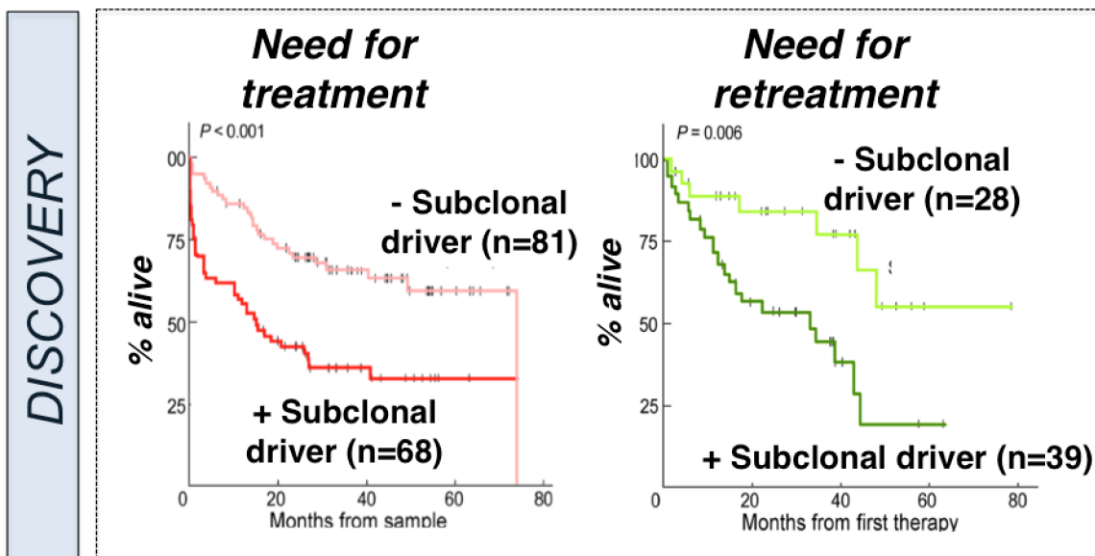


GCLL307

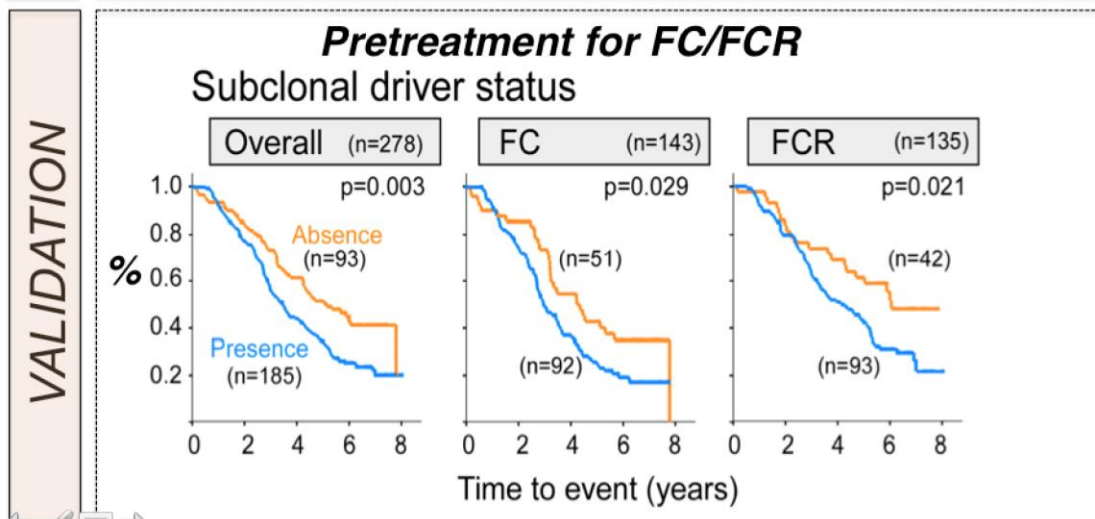
del(11q)
amp(2p)



Subclonal driver status as a marker of active evolution – associated with poorer outcome



Landau Cell 2013



Summary

WES can be used to define clonal heterogeneity in cancer

Higher sample power enables us to better explore the disease subclasses, evolutionary relationships

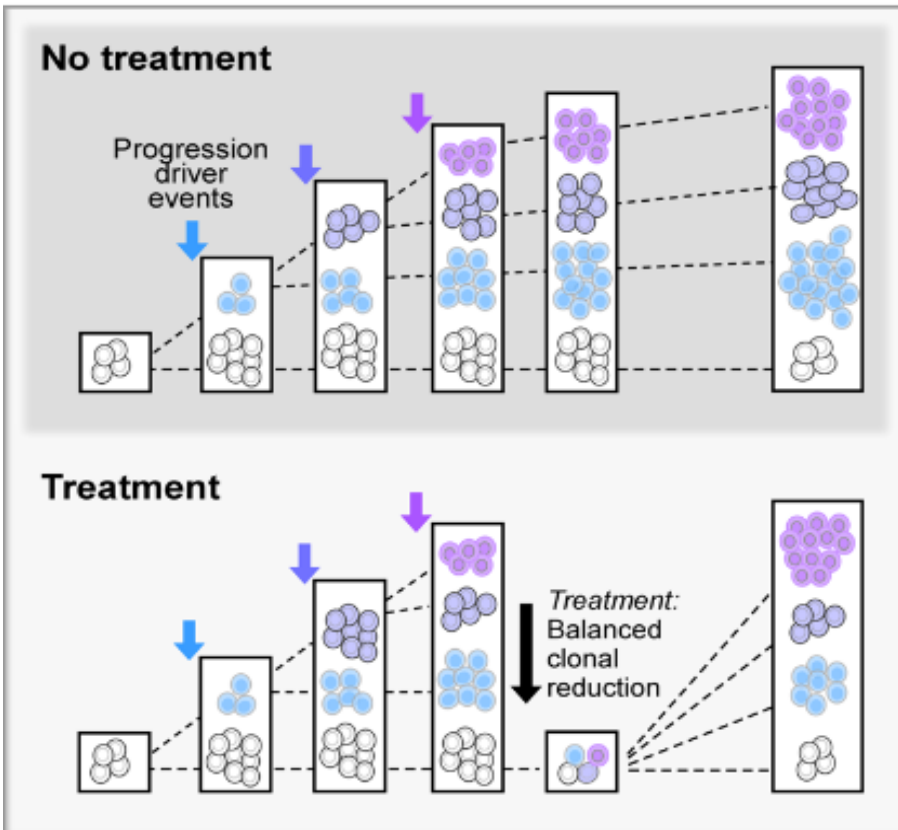
Subclonal drivers are linked to adverse clinical outcome, and are the engine and fuel of resistance and relapse

Multiple genetic escape trajectories following combination chemo(immuno) therapy

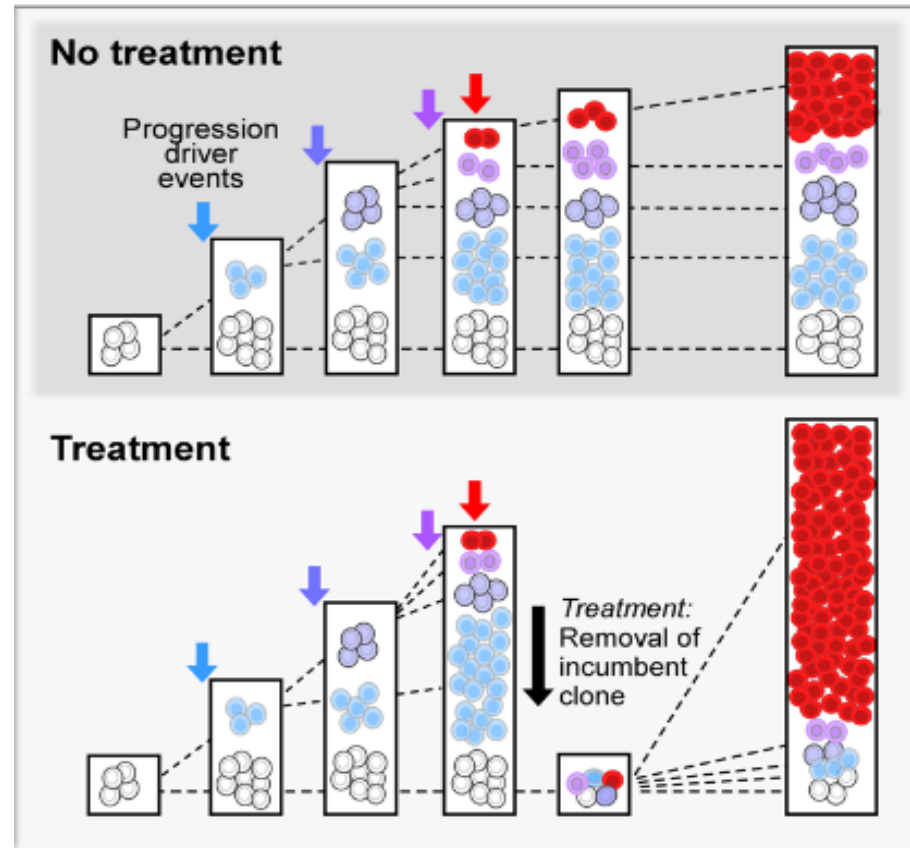
- Mut TP53 is bad

- Other surprises

Stable: clonal equilibrium



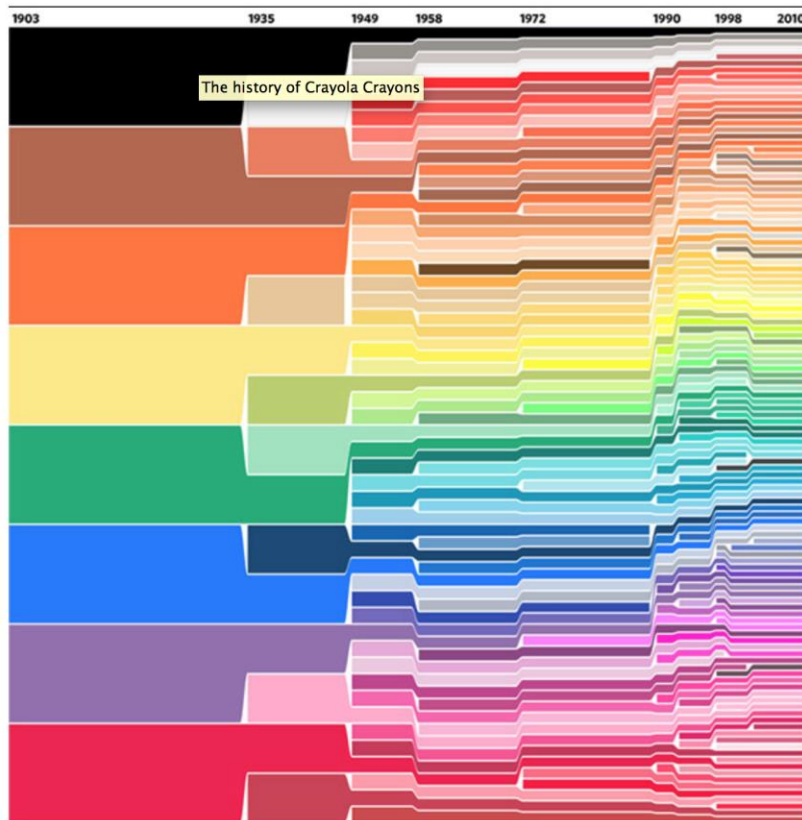
Evolving: fitter subclones emerge with therapy



Drivers?

Not just one thing but different kinds of drivers

Crayola Crayons color history 1903–2010



It is not so monolithic

--there are initiating drivers vs progression drivers

--drivers that are discoverable by large scale studies

Vs –

Drivers that are private to the individual

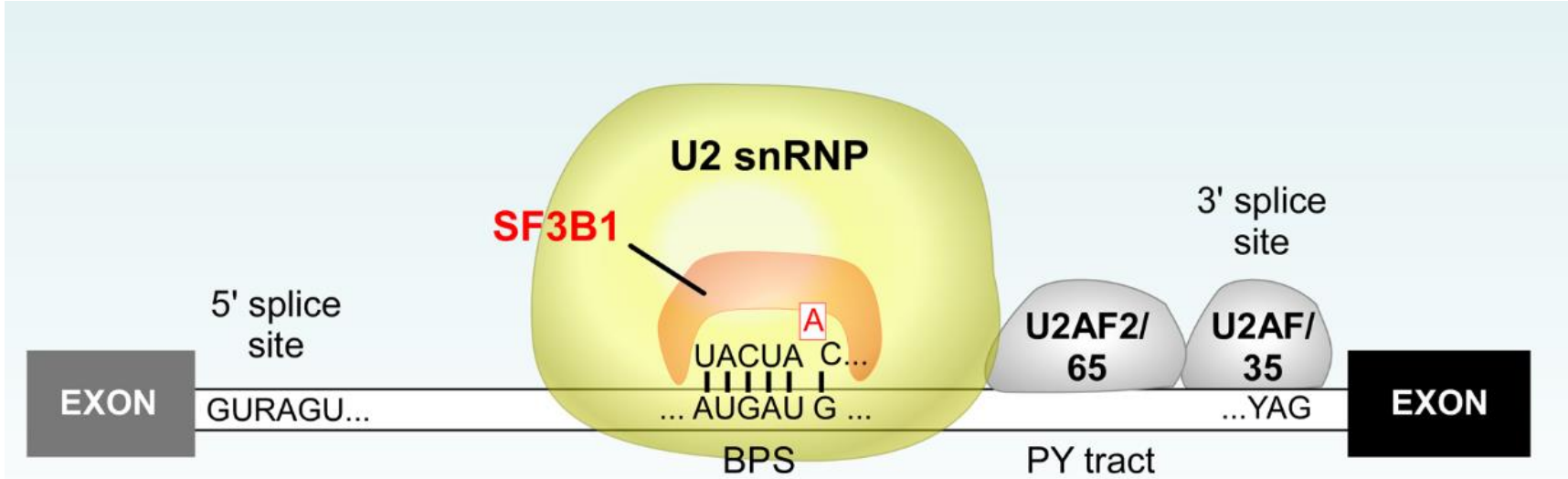
What's next?

1. Better understanding of the subclasses of CLL
 - Assembly of large, well-annotated cohorts
 - We have not saturated discovery yet
2. What selective pressure do specific therapies impose on CLL?
 - What is the basis of resistance and transformation?
 - What is the impact of novel agents?
3. How do genomics and functional behaviour relate?

**Relating genetics to
function:**

***SF3B1* mutation in CLL--
studies in human and mice**

SF3B1 is the catalytic core of the spliceosome



Wan & Wu., *Blood* 2013

MDS/AML

Patnaik *et al.* 2011
 Yoshida *et al.* 2011
 Papaemmanuil *et al.* 2011
 Graubert *et al.* 2011

CLL

Wang *et al.* 2011
 Rossi *et al.* 2011
 Quesada *et al.* 2011

Breast Cancer

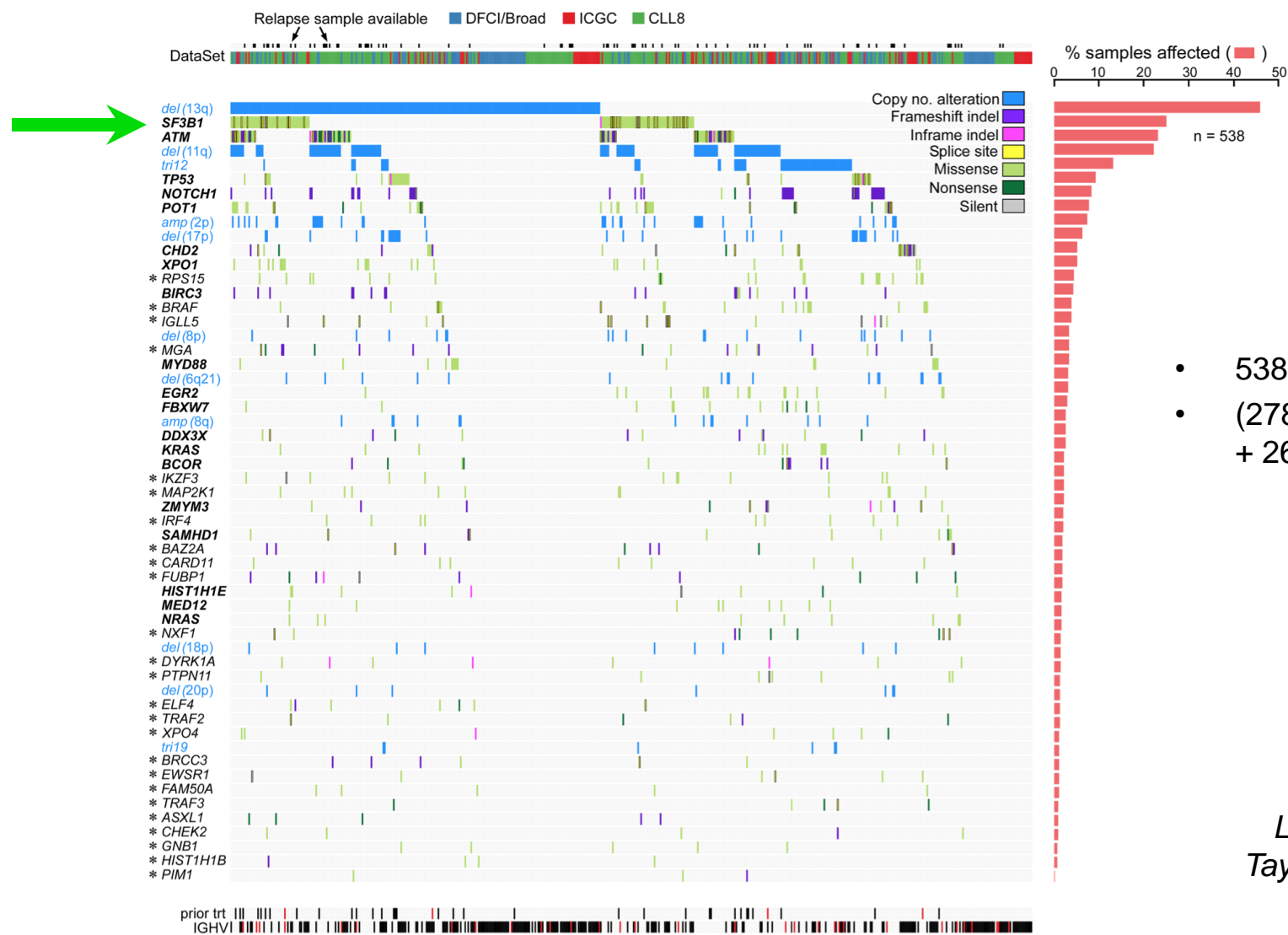
TCGA 2012

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma
 Biankin *et al.* 2012

Uveal Melanoma

Harbour *et al.* 2013

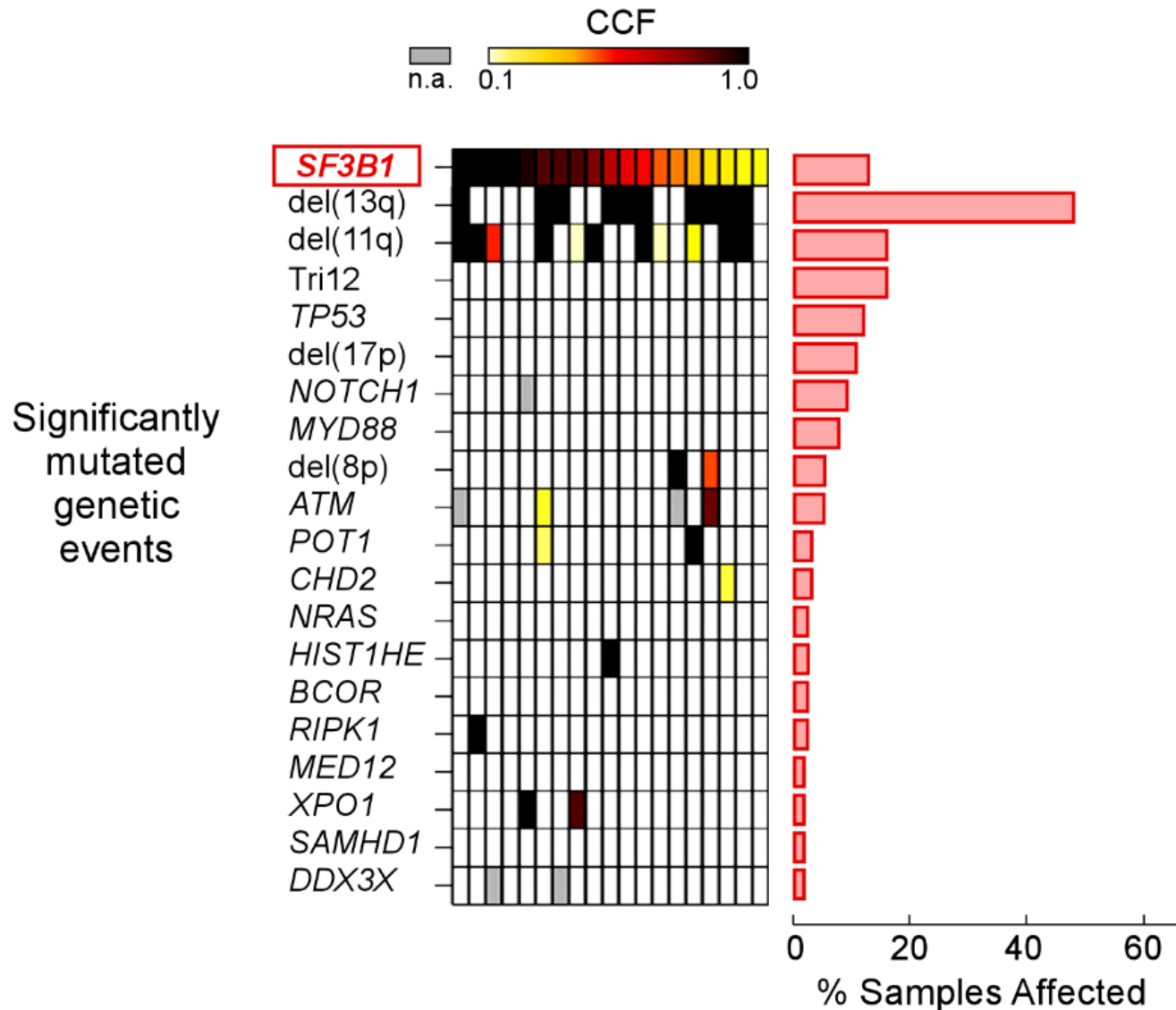
Intertumoral heterogeneity in CLL: independent evolutionary events



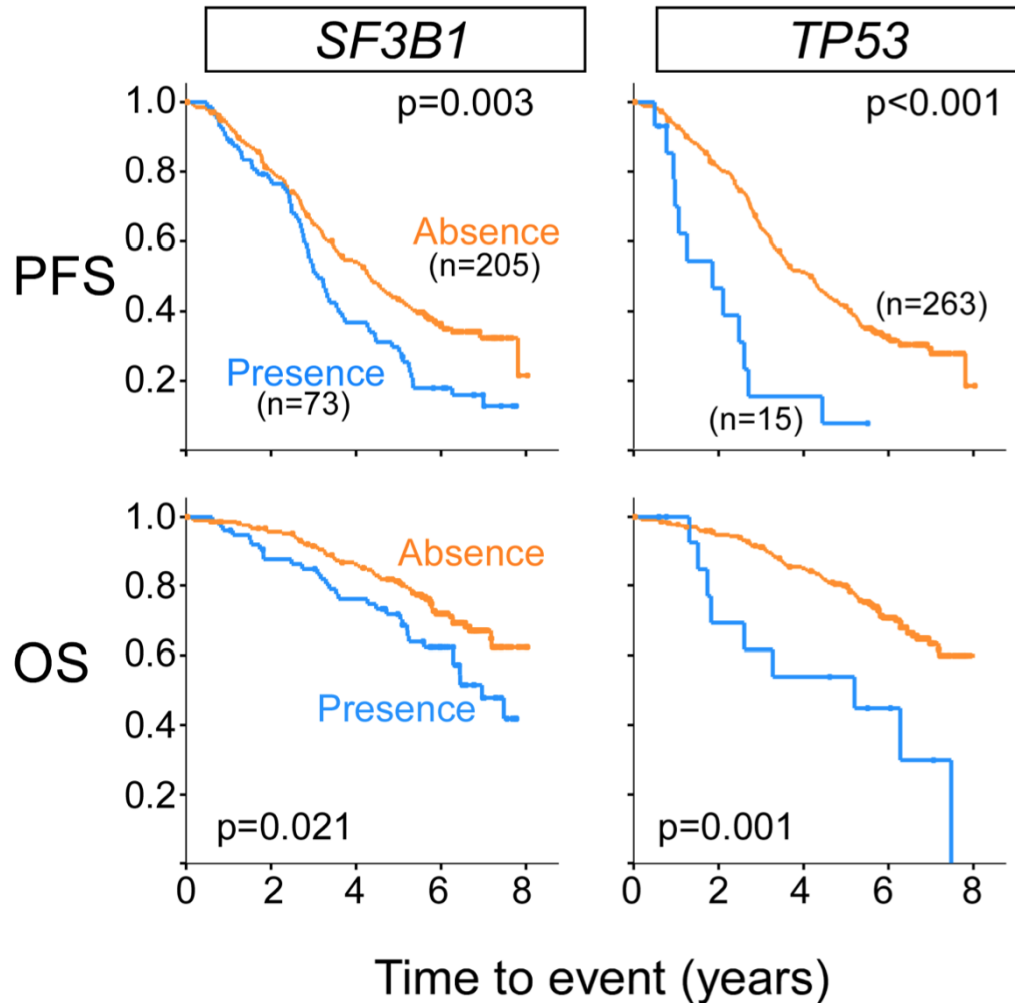
- 538 cases, WES
- (278 GCLLSG-CLL8 + 260 DFCI-ICGC)

Landau Tausch &
 Taylor Weiner, Nature
 2015

Mutated *SF3B1* is a predominantly subclonal event



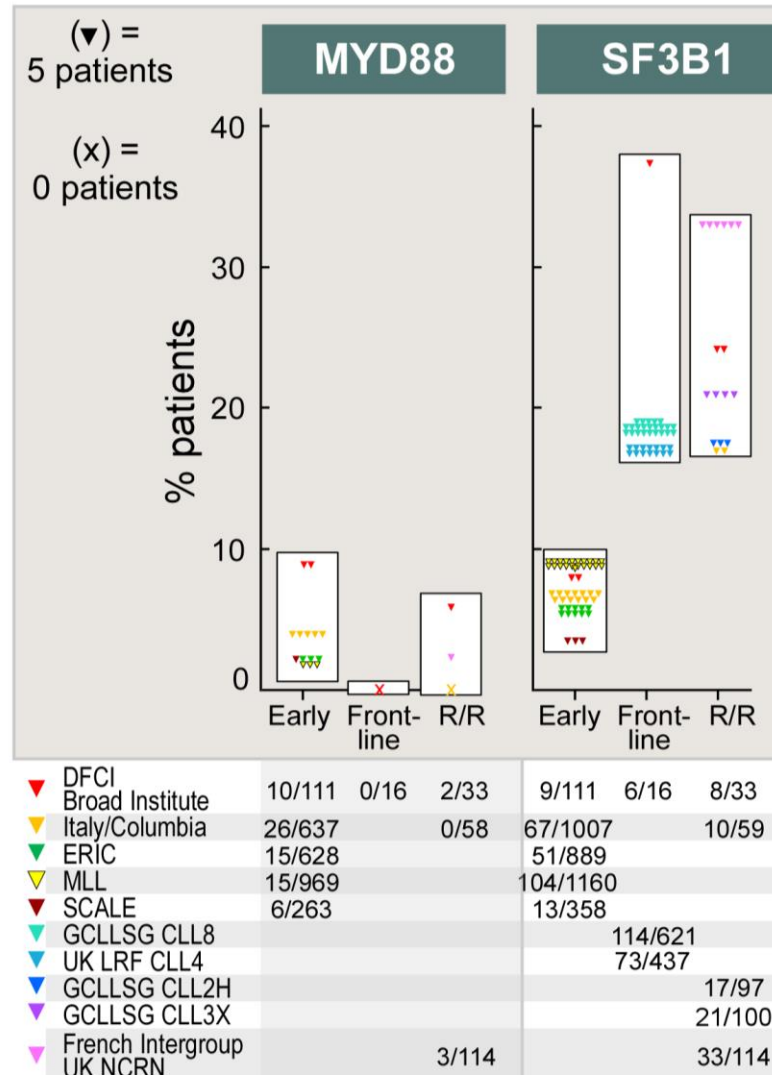
SF3B1 mutation independently predicts poor prognosis



- Observed in earlier studies
 - Wang *NEJM* 2011; Quesada *Nat Gen* 2011
 - Jeromin, *Leukemia* 2014
- GCLLSG-CLL8 cohort:
 - Median 6 years followup
 - 278 pretreatment samples

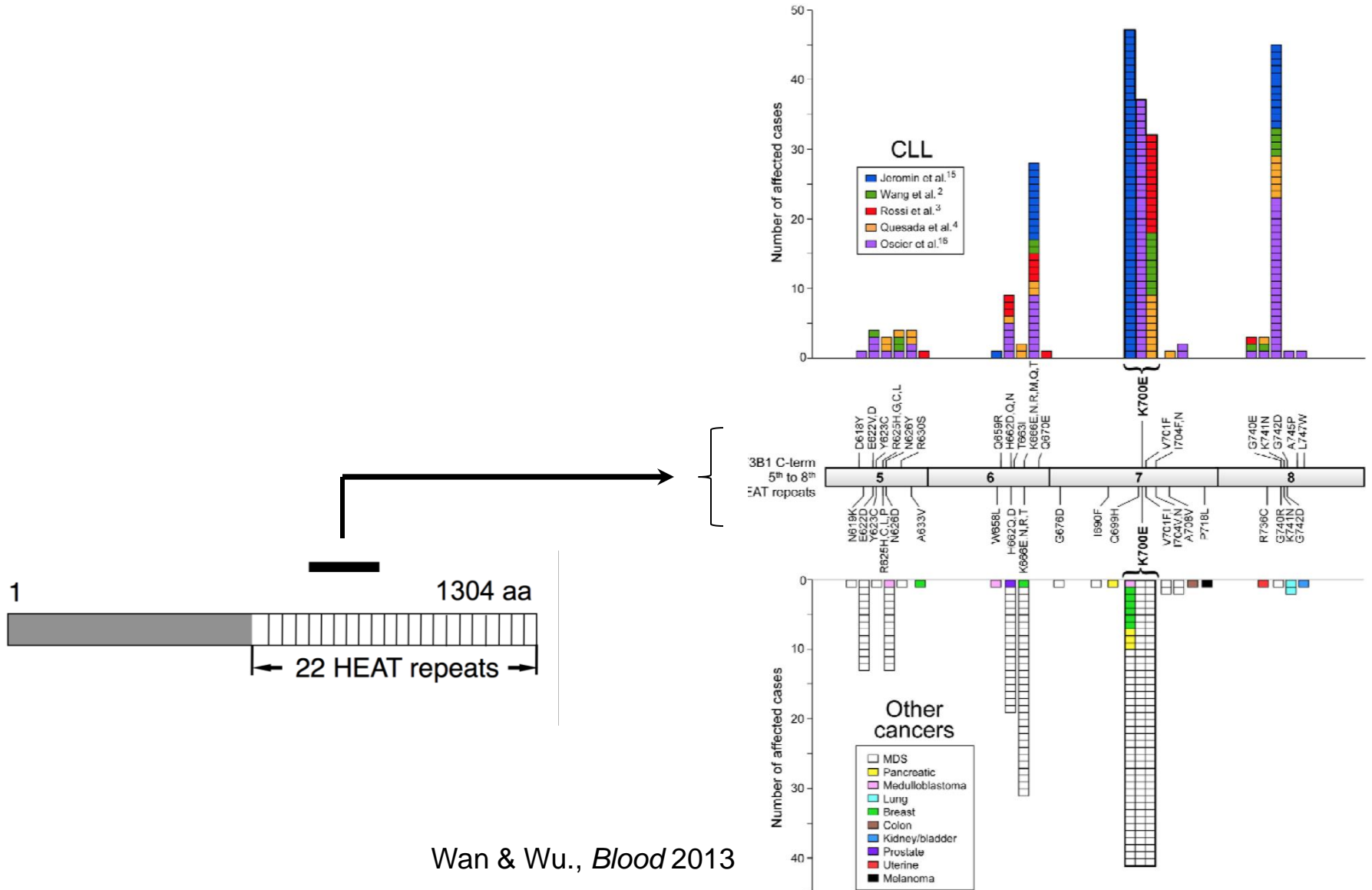
Landau *Nature* 2015

Rising frequency of SF3B1 with progression



***How does mutation in SF3B1
impact CLL?***

SF3B1 mutations localize to a restricted region



2016: What do we know about mut- *SF3B1* in CLL?

Known

- Associated with splicing alterations (DeBoever PLOS Compbio 2015; Ferreira Genome Res 201; Darman Cell Reports 2015)
 - enriched for 3' splice site alterations
- Aberrant 3'ss selection
- Implicated in impaired DNA damage response (te Raa Leukemia 2015)

Unknown

- Does *SF3B1* mutation *cause* the alterations?
 - Technical barrier: overexpressing full-length construct
- Can single cell analysis yield novel insights?
 - Frequently subclonal
- Do splice variants mediate functional activities of *SF3B1* mutation: are there 'driver' vs 'passenger' splice variants?

Acknowledgements

Wu lab, DFCI

Dan-Avi Landau

Lili Wang

Michaela Gruber

Romain Guieze

Wandi Zhang

Sachet Shukla

Youzhong Wan

Ed Fritsch

Jintaek Kim

Jing Sun

Rutendo Gambe

Sarah Hergert

Getz group, Broad Institute

Gad Getz

Scott Carter

Amaro Taylor-Weiner

Mike Lawrence

Carrie Sougnez

Kristian Cibulskis

Chip Stewart

Lihua Zou

Ulm University, Germany & GCLLSG

Stephan Stilgenbauer

Eugen Tausch

Hartmut Dohner

Michael Hallek

Jasmin Bahlo

Sandra Knuth

Sabrina Kless

Daniel Mertens

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Stacey Gabriel

Matthew Meyerson

Angela Brooks

Eric Lander



National Heart
Lung and Blood Institute
People Science Health



National Human
Genome Research
Institute



Blavatnik Family Foundation