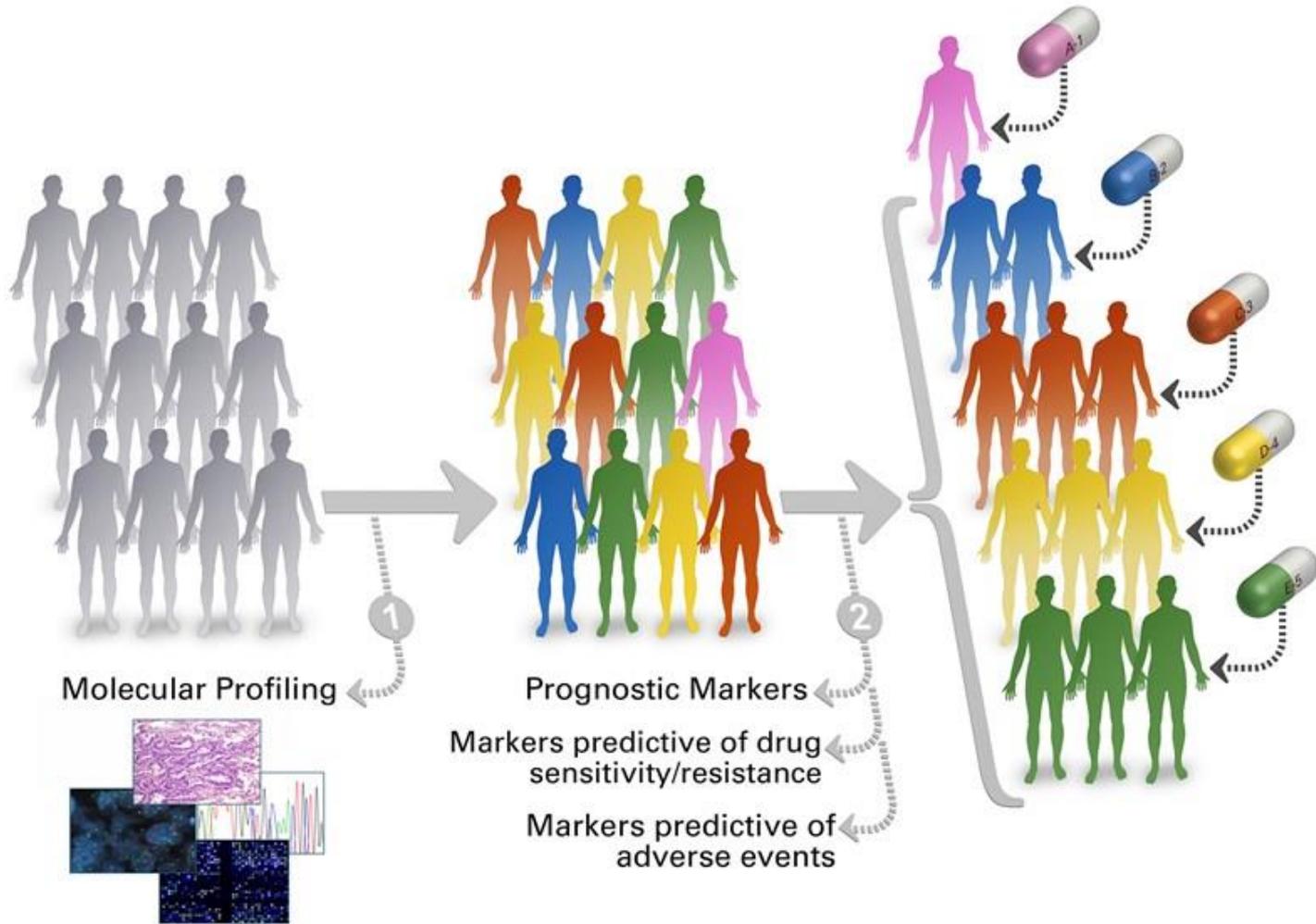


# Genomics-Driven Precision Oncology in Rare Cancers

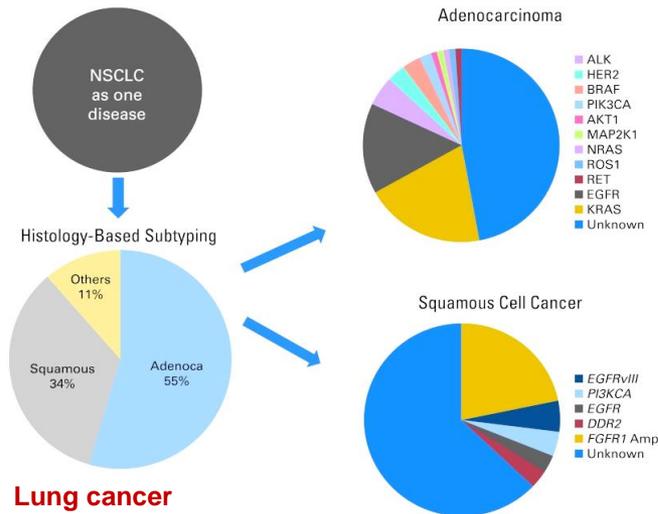
## Lessons From DKTK MASTER

Daniela Richter, NCT Heidelberg  
TMF Workshop | Omics in Medical Research

# Precision Oncology



# Clinical Impact of Cancer Genomics

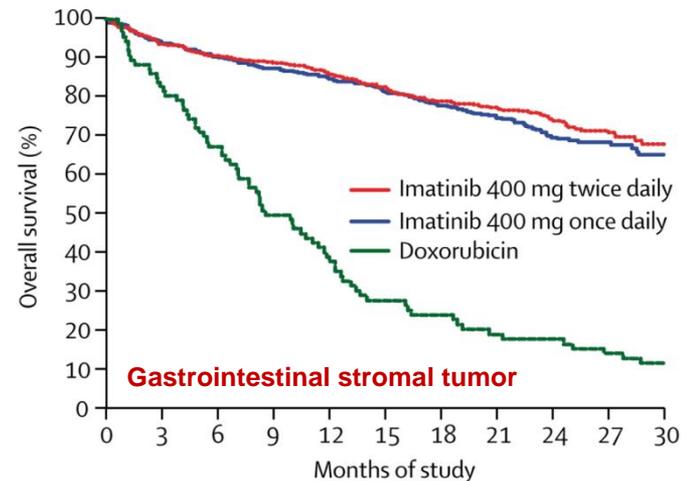


**Common cancers as multiple rare diseases of the same organ, demanding unique therapies**

*Li et al. J Clin Oncol 2013*

**Distinct mutations shared across multiple cancers**

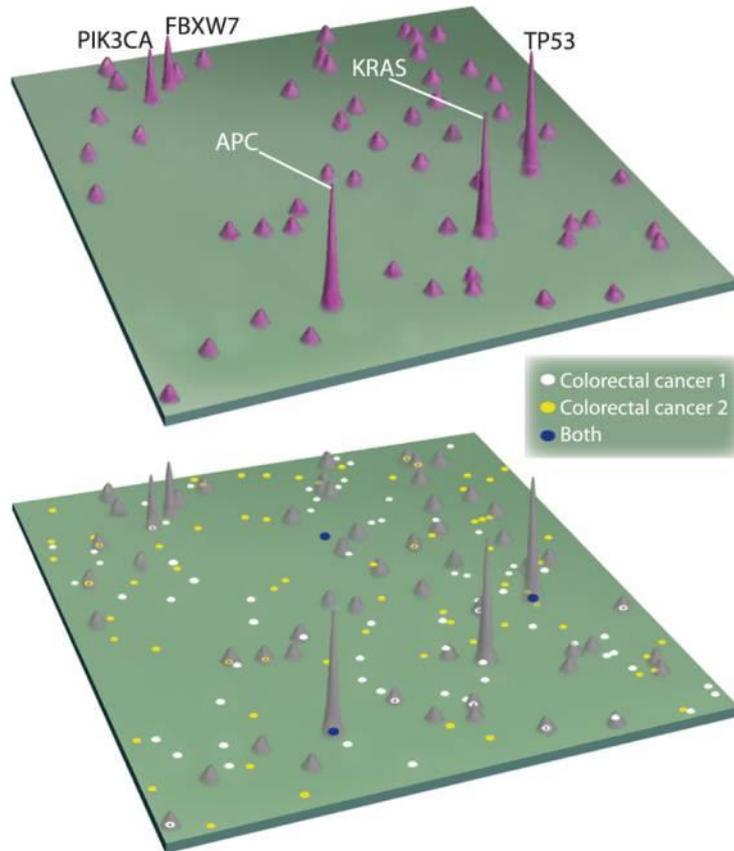
BRAF<sup>V600E/K</sup> in melanoma; thyroid, lung, colorectal, ovarian, gastric, esophageal, head and neck cancer; gastrointestinal stromal tumor; glioma; hairy-cell leukemia; multiple myeloma; etc.



**Improved clinical outcome through genotype-directed therapy**

*Verweij et al. Lancet 2004*

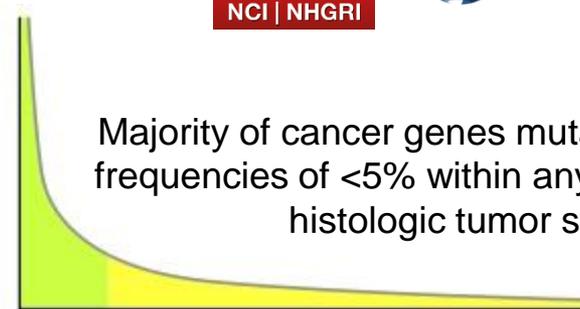
# Genomic Landscape of Cancer



TCGA



NCI | NHGRI



Majority of cancer genes mutated at frequencies of <5% within any given histologic tumor subtype

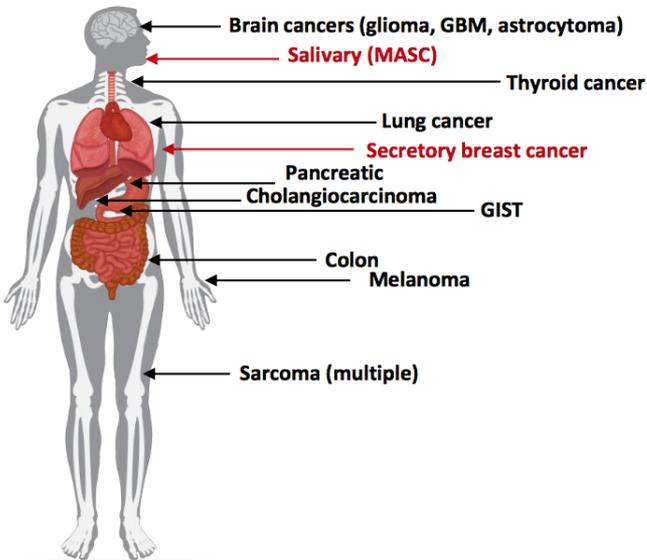
**“Long tail” pattern of actionable cancer gene alterations**

*TCGA Pan-Cancer Analysis  
Lawrence et al. Nature 2013*

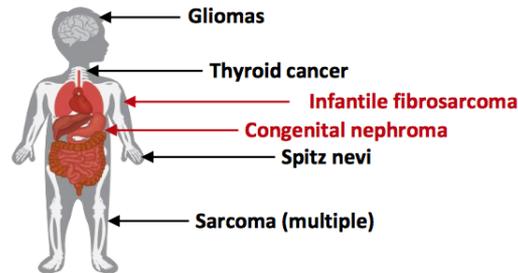
**Gene “mountains” and “hills”**

*Wood et al. Science 2007*

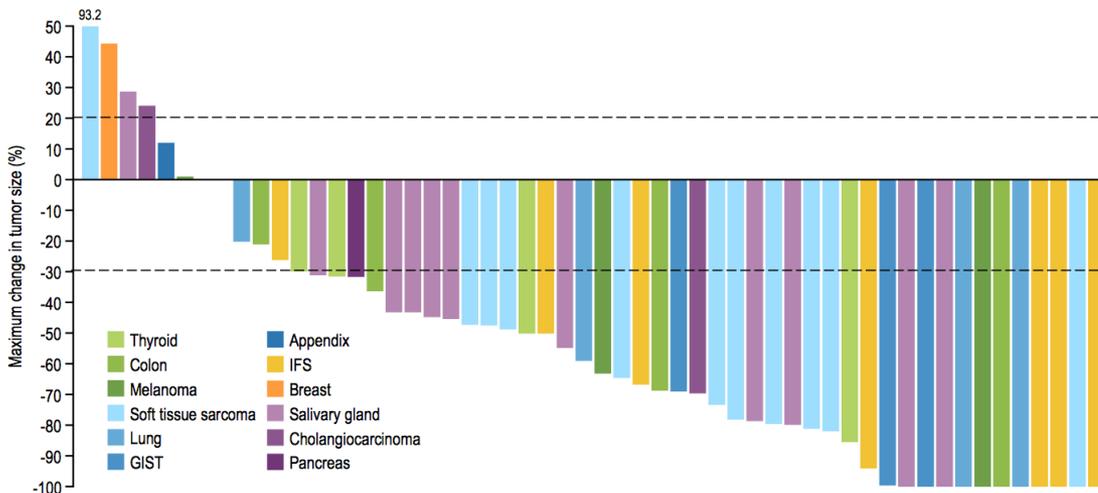
# Rare Driver Mutations | NTRK Fusions



- Common cancer with low TRK fusion frequency
- Rare cancer with high TRK fusion frequency



- Estimated 1,500-5,000 NTRK fusion-positive cancers in the US annually
- Constitutively active receptor tyrosine kinases
- Small-molecule inhibitors
  - Larotrectinib
  - Entrectinib



- Pooled analysis of 3 larotrectinib basket trials
- 55 NTRK fusion-positive patients (pediatric, adult)
- Overall response rate, 76%
  - Complete, 12%
  - Partial, 64%
- Efficacy across age groups and histologies
- Median response duration not reached (median follow-up, 5.8 months)

# Complex Biomarkers | Benefit from Immunotherapy

## Overall mutational load and neoantigen burden

Snyder et al. *N Engl J Med* 2014, Van Allen et al. *Science* 2015, Rizvi et al. *Science* 2015, Le et al. *N Engl J Med* 2015

## Neoantigen intratumoral heterogeneity

McGranahan et al. *Science* 2016

## Immunogenic insertion/deletion mutations

Turajlic et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2017

## PDL1 amplification and/or overexpression

Ansell et al. *N Engl J Med* 2015

## Structural rearrangements of *PDL1/2* and *CIITA*

Steidl et al. *Nature* 2011, Chong et al. *Blood* 2016

## Disruption of *PDL1* 3' untranslated region

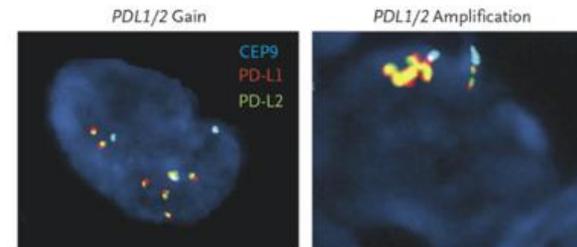
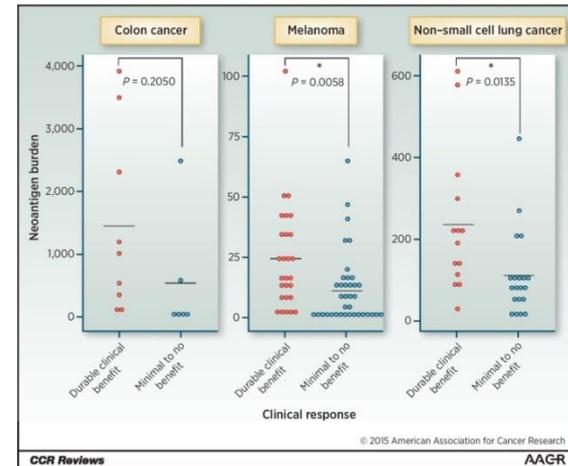
Kataoka et al. *Nature* 2016

## Innate and acquired resistance to PD1 blockade due to inactivating mutations in JAK family members and B2M

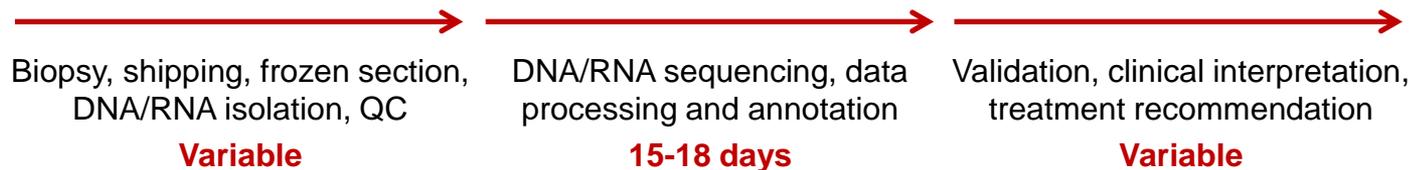
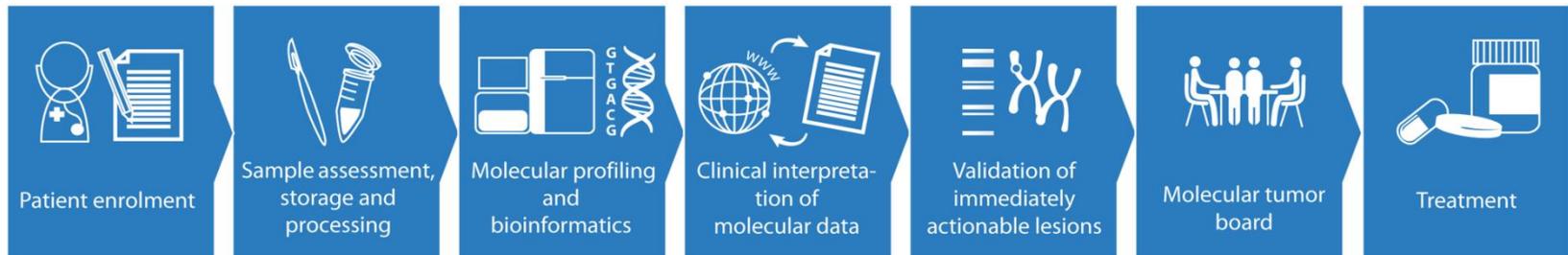
Zaretsky et al. *N Engl J Med* 2016, Shin et al. *Cancer Discov* 2016, Marabelle et al. *Cancer Discov* 2017

## Association of MDM2/4 amplification with hyperprogression after PD1/PDL1 blockade

Kato et al. *Clin Cancer Res* 2017, Champiat et al. *Clin Cancer Res* 2017, Forscher et al. *Clin Cancer Res* 2017 (DKTK MASTER Program)



# Molecularly Aided Stratification for Tumor Eradication Research



- Young adults with advanced-stage cancer
- Patients with rare tumors
- ~100 external partners, including all DTK sites

**Start:** 06/2013  
Fast-track exome and RNA sequencing

**Since 10/2016:**  
Genome sequencing (60-80x) and RNA sequencing

# Genomics-Driven Oncology Within DKTK



## Joint DKTK activity since March 2016

### Institutional Review Board approval

8 Partner Sites (11 Comprehensive Cancer Centers)

### Internet-based clinical data repository

8 Partner Sites (11 Comprehensive Cancer Centers)

### Access to sequencing data

8 Partner Sites (11 Comprehensive Cancer Centers)

### DKTK MASTER Molecular Tumor Board

Weekly videoconference

### DKTK MASTER Scientific Board

Monthly videoconference

### Joint publications

*Forschner et al. Clin Cancer Res 2017*

*Ugurel et al. Eur J Cancer 2017*

*Czink et al. Cold Spring Harb Mol Case Stud 2017*

*Dieter, Heining et al. Ann Oncol 2017*

*Chudasama et al. Clin Cancer Res 2017*

*Gröschel, Bommer et al. Cold Spring Harb Mol Case Stud 2016*

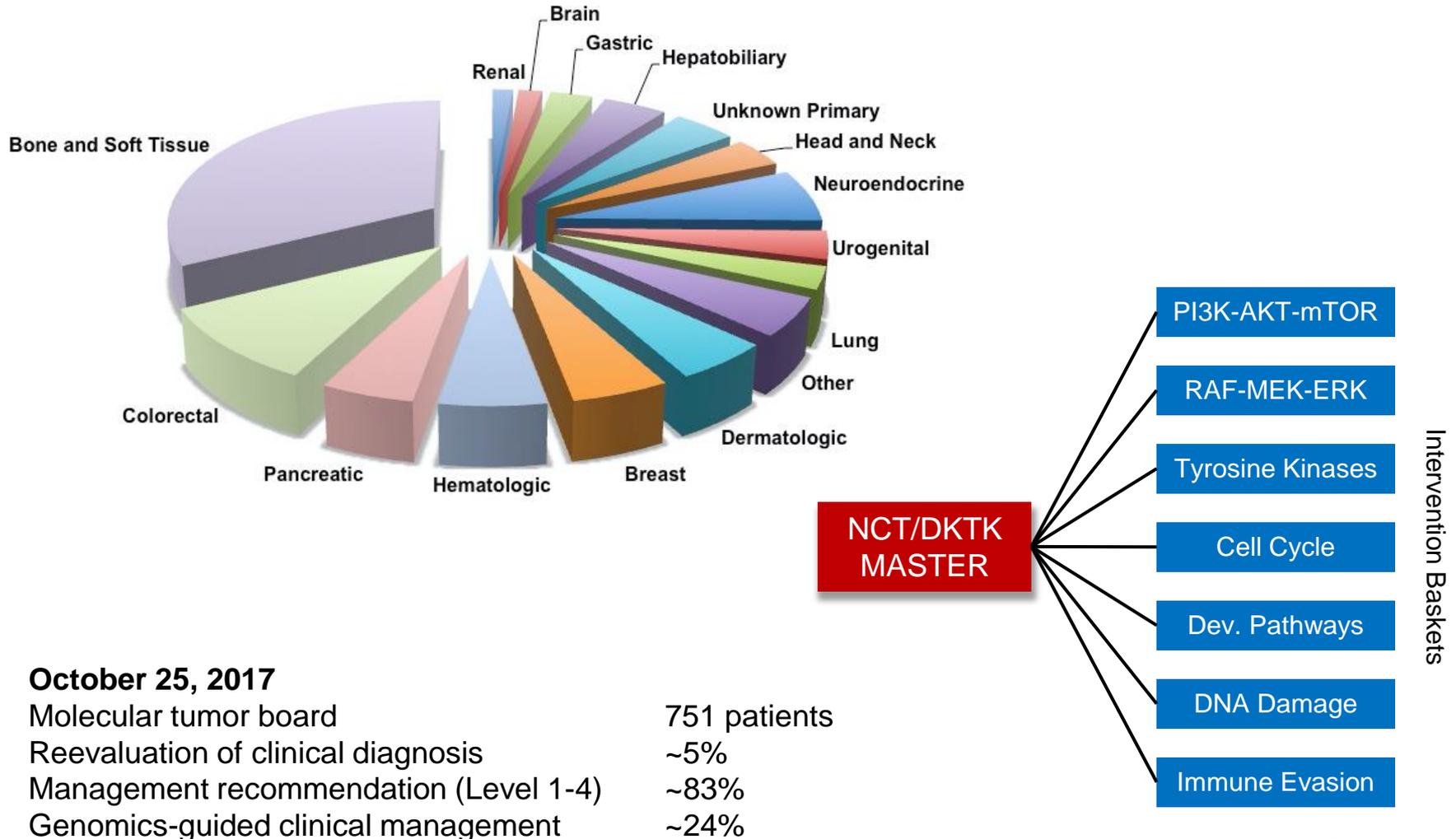
*Bochtler et al. Cold Spring Harb Mol Case Stud 2016*

*Czink et al. Z Gastroenterol 2016*

*Kordes, Röring, Heining et al. Leukemia 2016*



# Workflow, Patient Accrual, and Current Results



# Diagnostic Implications and Germline Predisposition

## Reevaluation of clinical diagnosis in ~5% of cases

Diagnosis	Mutation(s)	Differential Diagnosis	Potential Clinical Action
Sarcoma NOS	CDK4/MDM2 amplification MYOD1 p.V125L/p.L122R PDGFRA p.D842V COL1A1-PDGFB TPM3-ALK	Liposarcoma Rhabdomyosarcoma GIST DFSP IMT	→ CDK4/MDM2 inhibition → CWS Guidance → Crenolanib*, BLU-285* → Imatinib* → Crizotinib*
Carcinoma of unknown primary site	EWSR1-WT1 NUTM1-NSD3	DSRCT NUT midline carcinoma	→ EWING 2008 → BET inhibitor
Thymic carcinoma	NUTM1-BRD3	NUT midline carcinoma	→ BET inhibitor
Urothelial carcinoma	NUTM1-BRD4	NUT midline carcinoma	→ BET inhibitor

\*Not approved for this indication in Germany

## Clinically actionable germline alterations

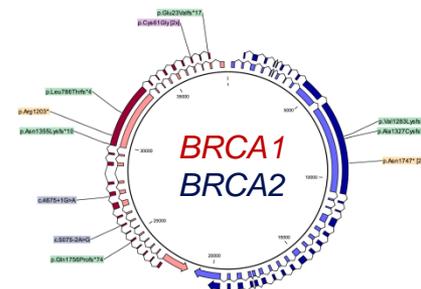
- Pathogenic variants in 23 tumor predisposition genes (*BRCA1/2*, *PALB2*, *ATM*, *NF1*, *MEN1*, *RB1*, *APC*, *SDHB*, *PTEN*, *CDH1*, *MSH2*, etc.) in 11% of cases
- Carrier status for autosomal recessive disorders (Fanconi anemia, Bloom syndrome, xeroderma pigmentosum, etc.) in 4% of cases



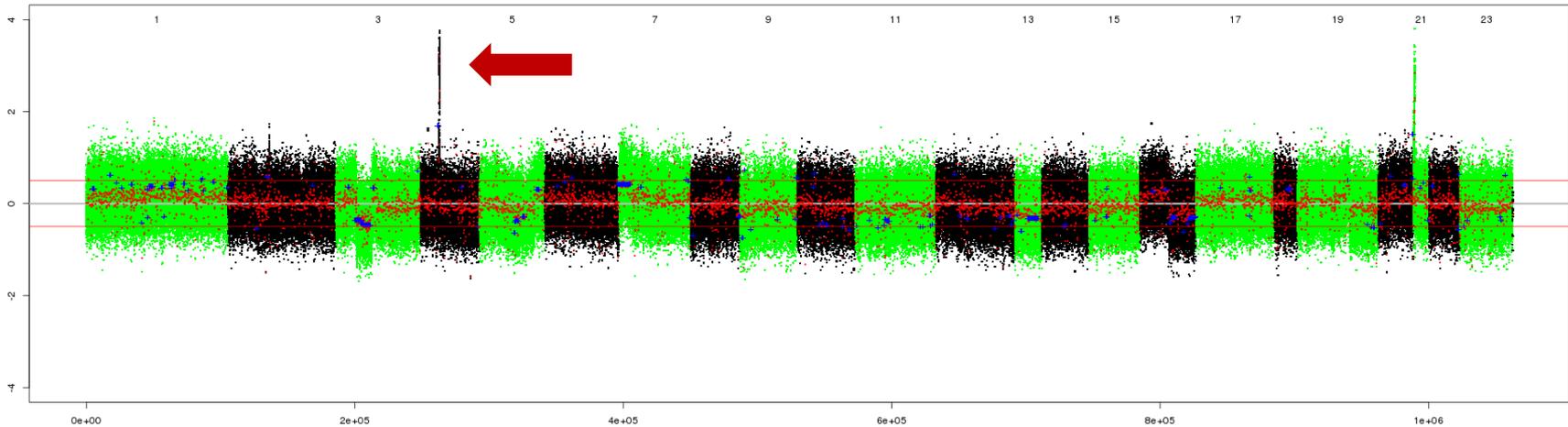
E. Schröck



B. Klink



# Therapeutic Implications – single biomarker



## Metastatic pulmonary epithelioid hemangioendothelioma

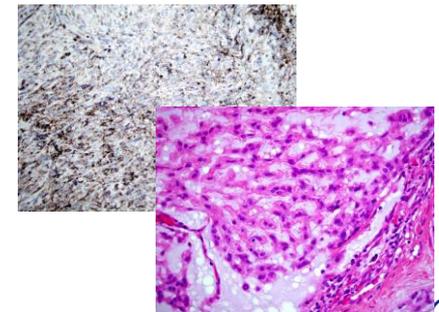
- Refractory to temozolomide/bevacizumab
- Refractory to lenalidomide

## High-level amplification of chromosome 4q12, including *PDGFRA*

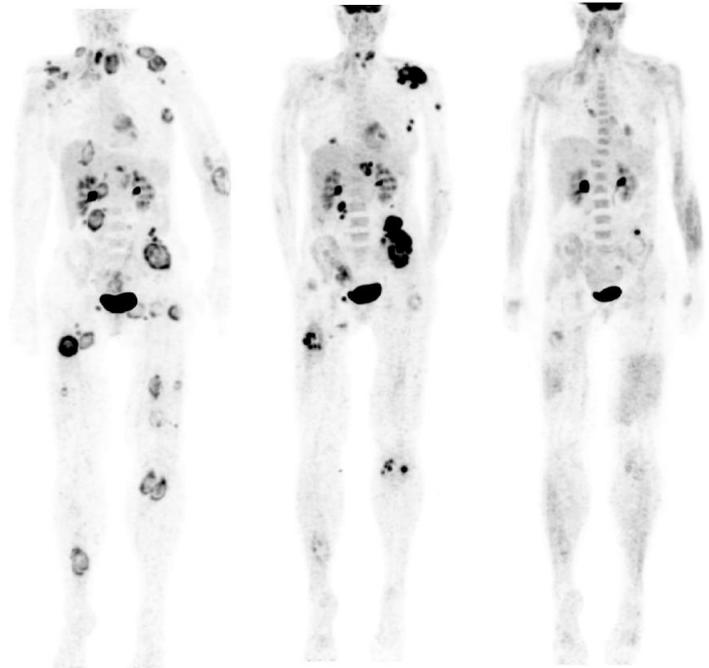
- Outlier *PDGFRA* mRNA expression
- *PDGFRA* protein expression by immunohistochemistry

## Elevated *PDGFA* mRNA expression

Treatment with pazopanib, partial remission for >6 months



# Therapeutic Implications – multifactorial biomarker

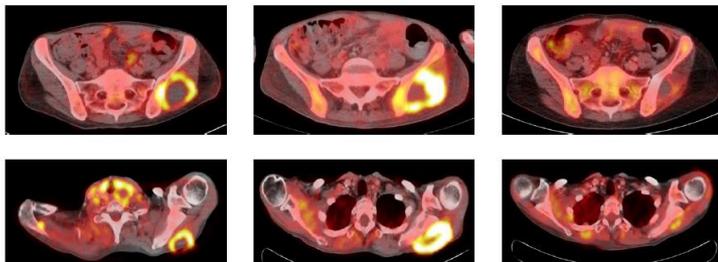


## Undifferentiated cancer of unknown primary

- Initially categorized as soft-tissue sarcoma, no response to doxorubicin/ifosfamide and trabectedin
- Histology and immunohistochemistry suggestive of triple-negative breast cancer

## High mutational load and *PDL1* amplification

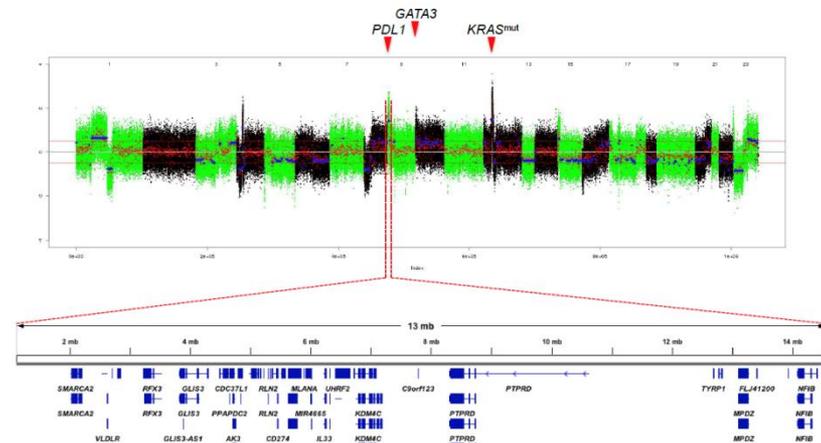
- 380 single-nucleotide variants and insertions/deletions
- Outlier *PDL1* mRNA expression
- *PDL1* protein expression by immunohistochemistry
- Immune checkpoint blockade with pembrolizumab\*
- Near-complete remission for >18 months



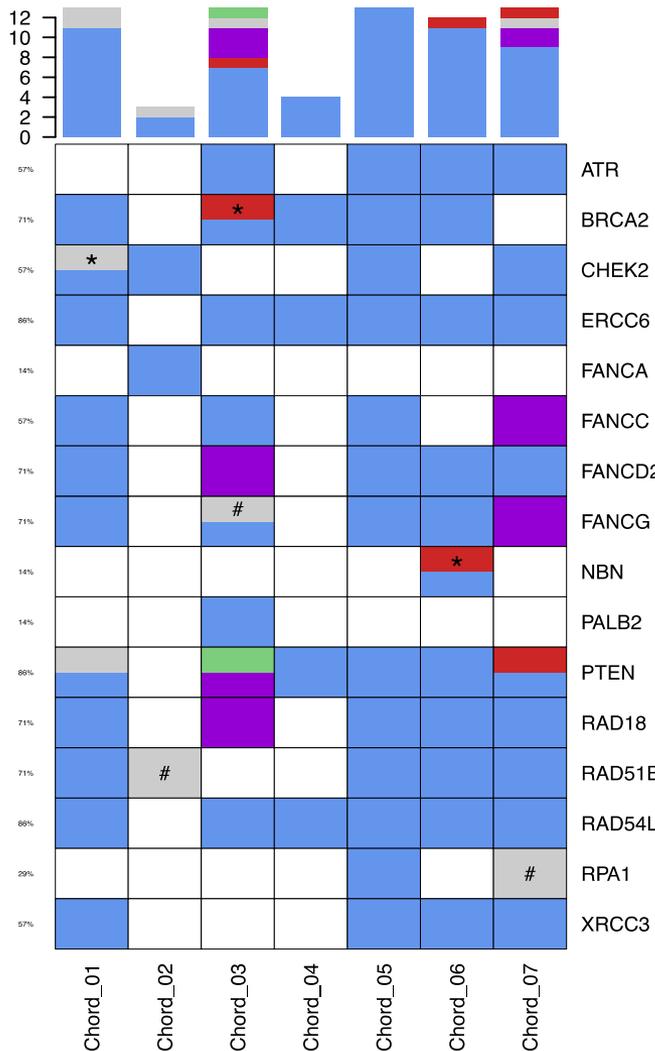
Baseline

2 months

6 months



# Therapeutic Implications – multifactorial biomarker



## CHORDOMA

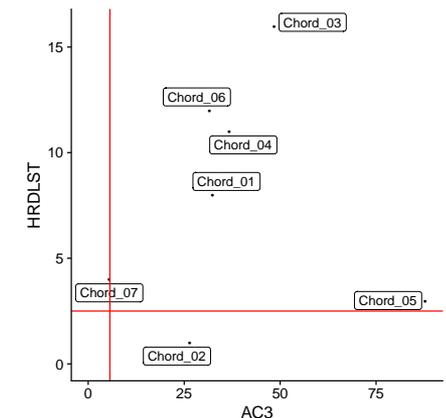
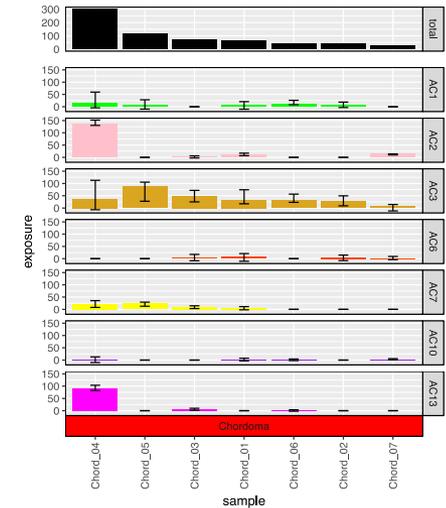


- 50% OF CASES IN THE BASE OF THE SPINE
- 35% OF CASES IN THE BASE OF THE SKULL
- 15% OF CASES IN THE MAIN LENGTH OF THE SPINE

- nonsynonymous SNV
- stopgain SNV
- frameshift Indel
- DEL
- LOH
- \* germline
- # germline VUS

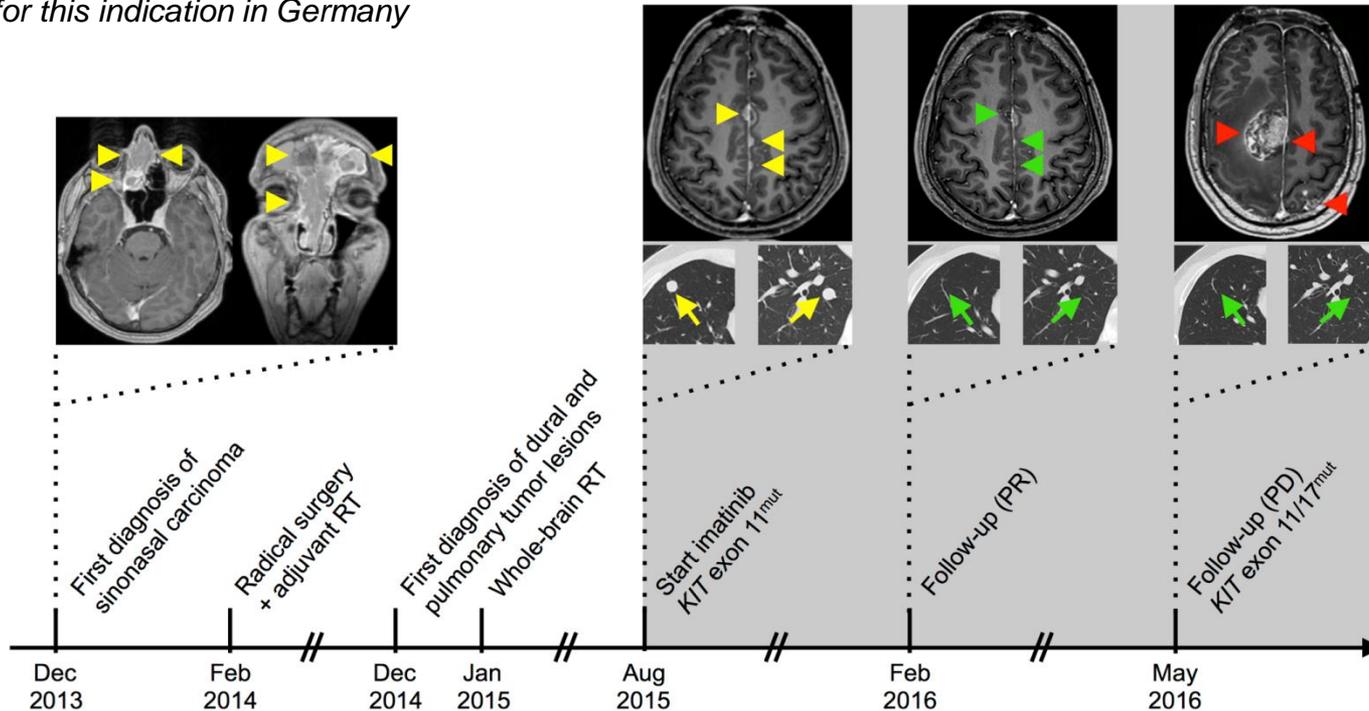
### Locally recurrent and metastatic chordoma ( $n = 7$ )

- Prior irradiation in all cases
- Imprints of defective homologous recombination DNA repair (“BRCAness”) in all cases



# Therapeutic Implications – resistance marker

\* Not approved for this indication in Germany

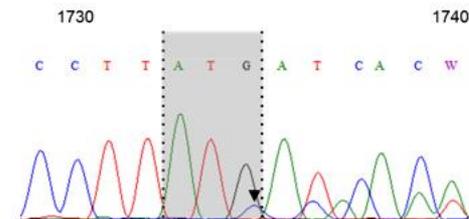


## Undifferentiated sinonasal carcinoma

- Pulmonary and dural metastases

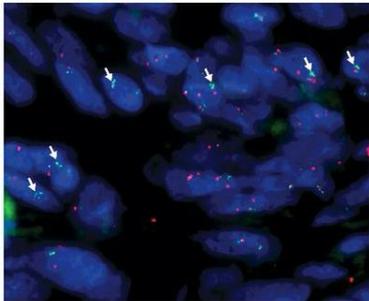
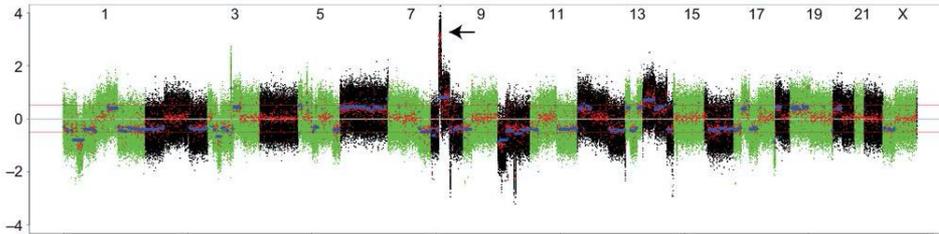
## KIT exon 11 mutation (p.579del)

- Outlier *KIT* mRNA expression
- *KIT* protein expression by immunohistochemistry
- Imatinib\* (400 mg/day) → complete/near-complete resolution of pulmonary and dural lesions
- Secondary resistance due to *KIT* exon 17 mutation (p.D820\_S821delinsG)

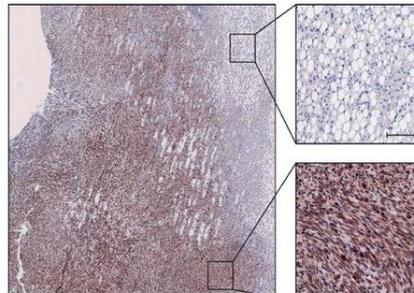


# Therapeutic Implications – functional characterization

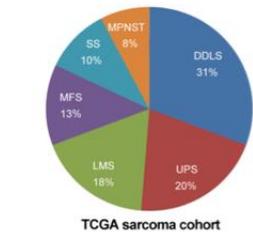
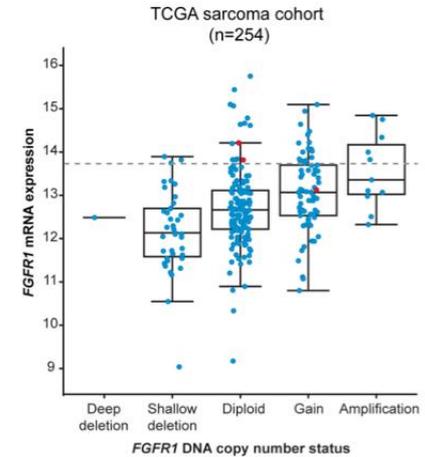
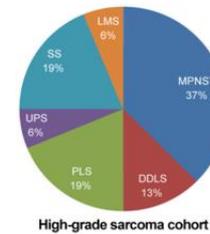
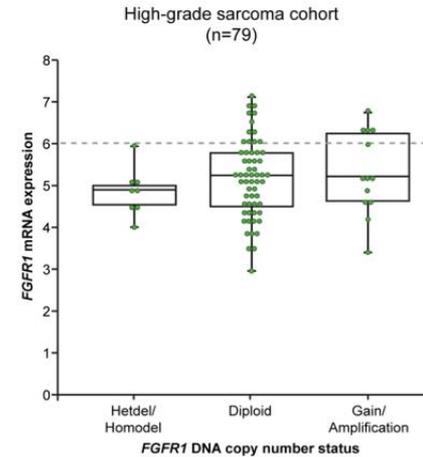
## Whole-exome sequencing



FISH



Immunohistochemistry



## **FGFR1-amplified leiomyosarcoma**

Clinical benefit from small-molecule FGFR inhibitors (BGJ398, nintedanib)\* for >12 months

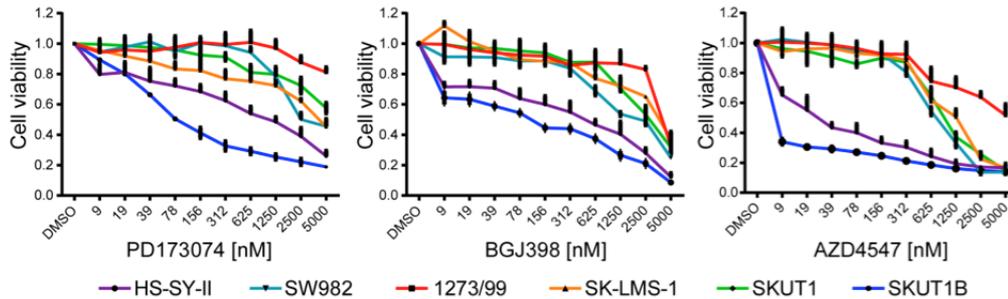
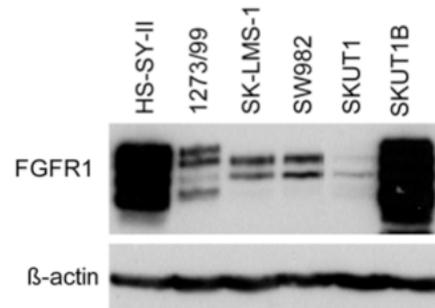
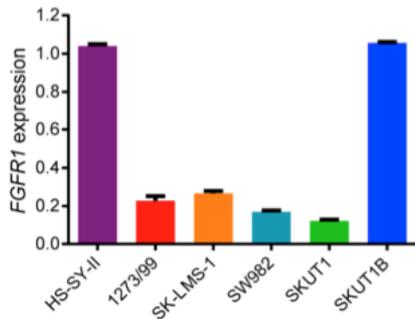
*M. Scheffler & J. Wolf, Cologne*

## **FGFR1 amplification and/or overexpression in various soft-tissue sarcoma subtypes**

FISH, array-based CGH and transcriptome profiling, RNA sequencing

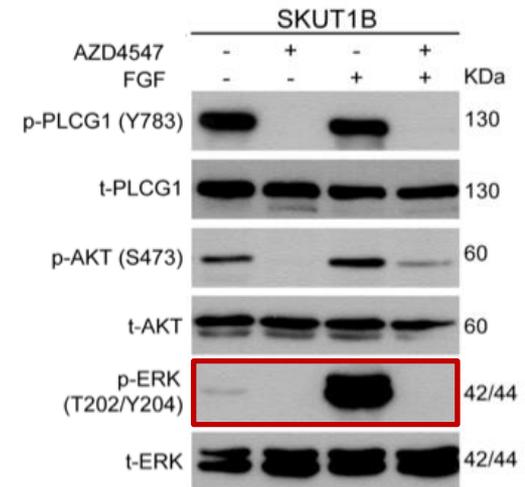
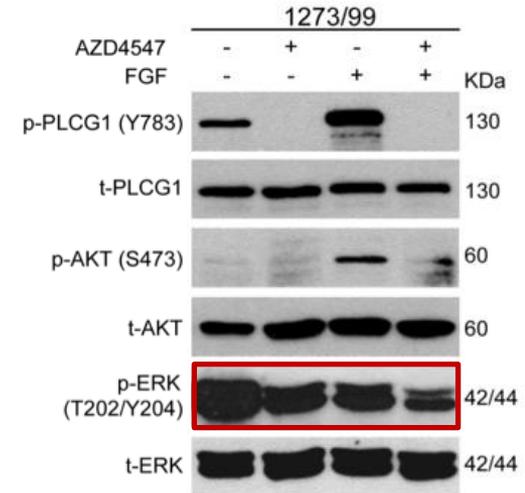
\* Not approved for this indication in Germany

# Therapeutic Implications – functional characterization

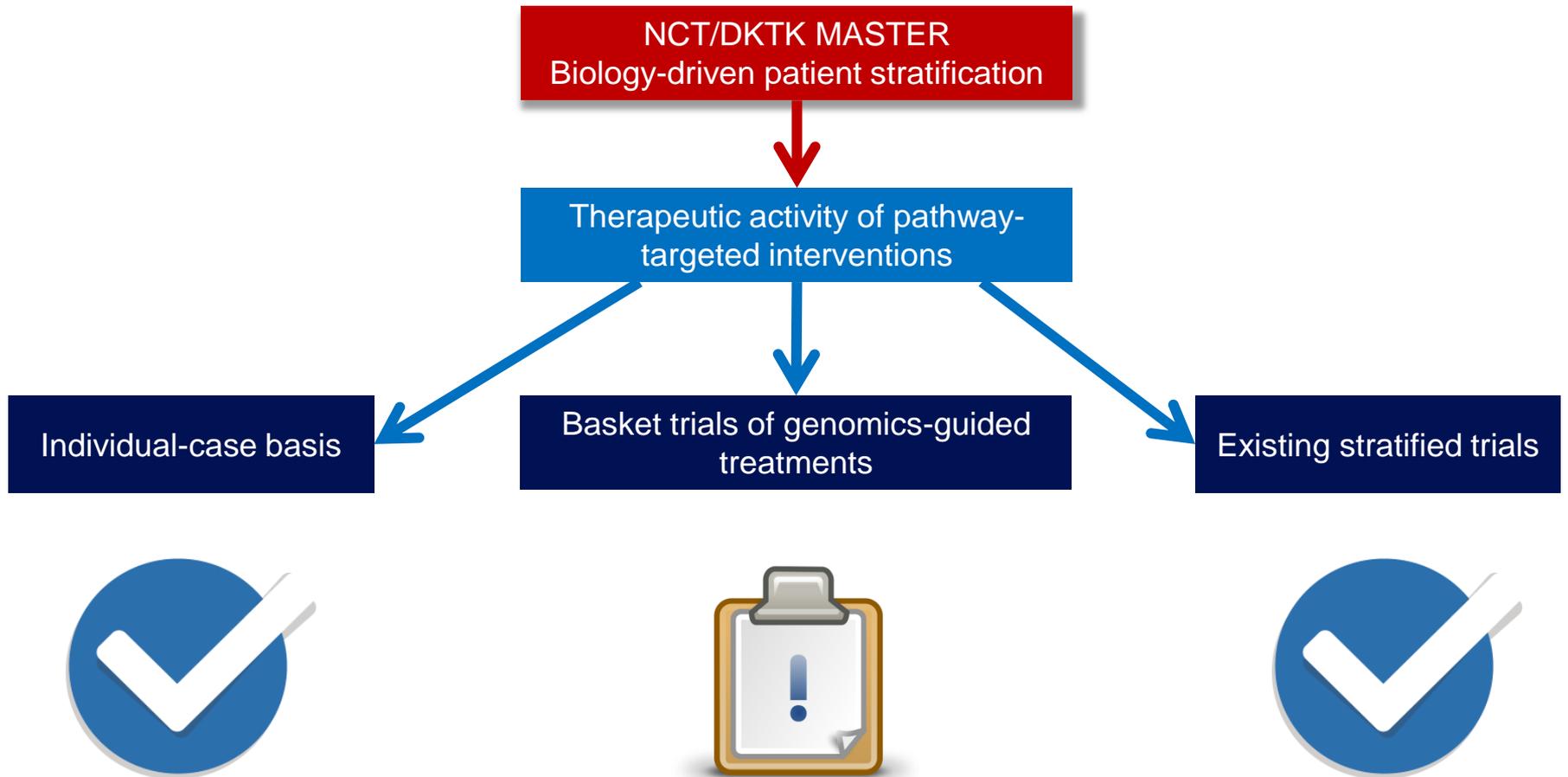


## Determinants of response to FGFR inhibition

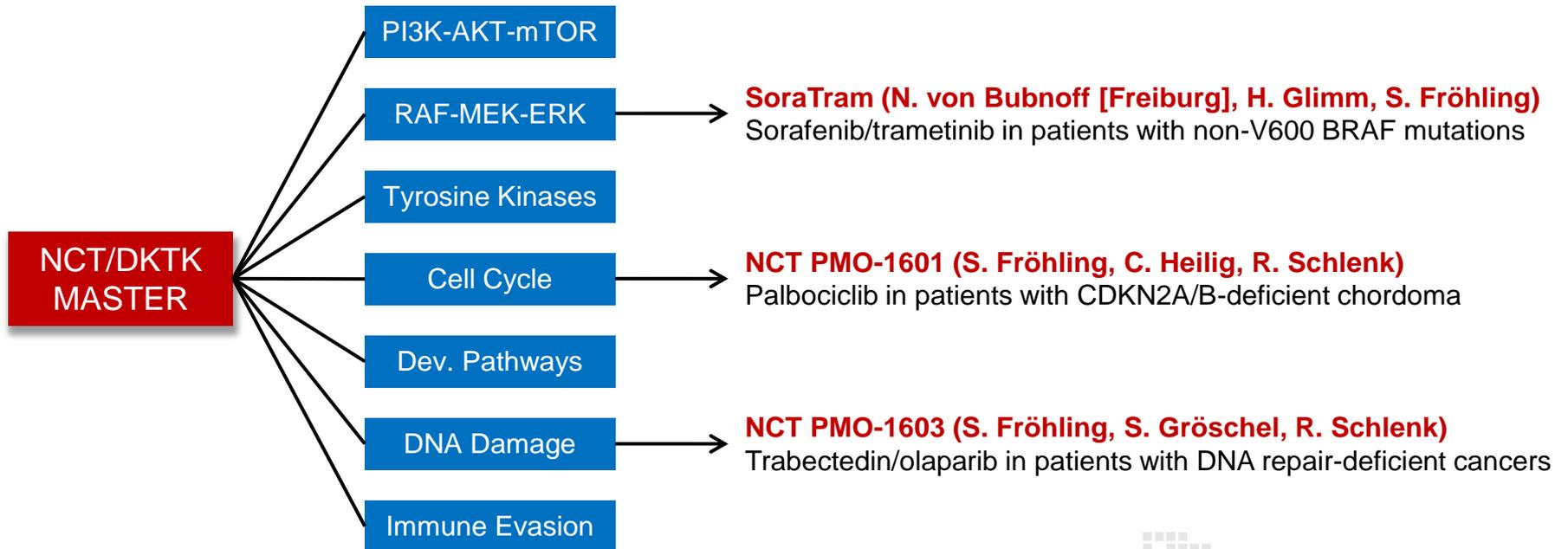
- FGFR1 overexpression with or without underlying *FGFR1* amplification
- Suppression of MAPK-ERK1/2 signaling



# Strategies for Clinical Translation



# Genomics-Guided Basket Studies within DKTK



## Eligibility

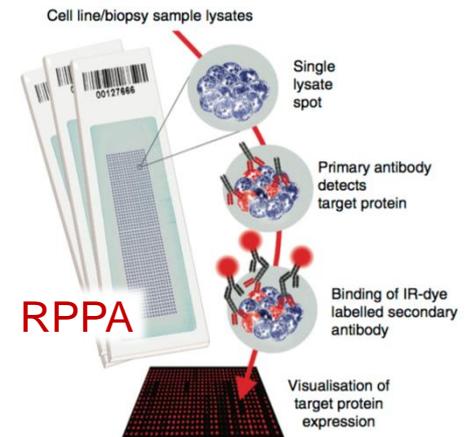
- Advanced-stage cancer
- Prior standard treatment
- Actionable molecular alteration, as determined by analysis within NCT/DKTK MASTER



# Conclusion and Outlook

## Molecular profiling based on whole-exome/genome and RNA sequencing in a multi-institutional clinical setting

- ✓ Is feasible
- ✓ Provides important diagnostic information
- ✓ Creates therapeutic opportunities
  - Younger adults with advanced-stage cancer
  - Patients with rare tumors
- ✓ Needs to be evaluated within controlled clinical trials of genomics-guided therapies
- ✓ Should be complemented by additional layers of patient characterization and additional treatment modalities
  - Proteomics, functional imaging, DNA methylation analysis, immunomonitoring etc.
  - Radiotherapy, surgery, etc.



# NCT MASTER Investigators

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### **Translational Oncology**

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Dirk Jäger and Team

## **DKFZ**

### **High-Throughput Sequencing Unit**

Stephan Wolf and Team

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### **Radiology**

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## **Heidelberg University Hospital**

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## All Partner Sites

Many others

Thank you for the  
attention!

