

# Pancreatic Cancer and Molecular/Genetic Testing: Challenges and Opportunities



Supported by RevMed, OMNI Oncology, and The Personalized  
Medicine Foundation.

# VMTB Chair



## **John Strickler, MD**

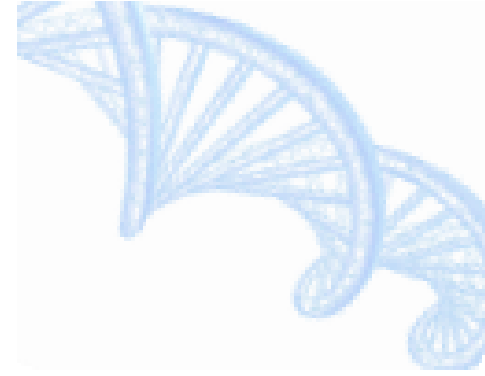
Professor of Medicine  
Co-leader, Duke Cancer Institute  
Molecular Tumor Board  
Duke University

# Panelist

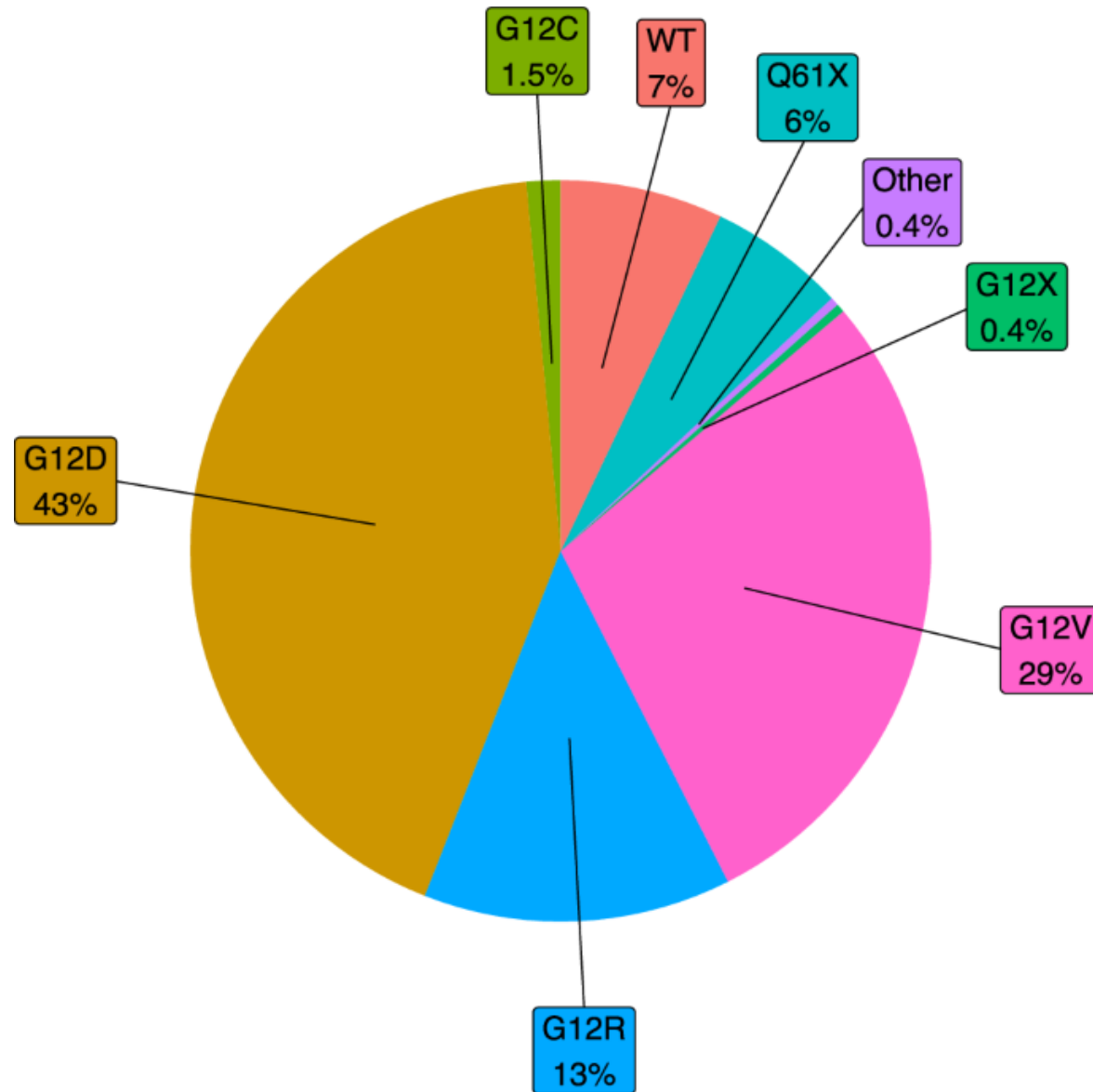


## **Tanios S. Bekaii-Saab, MD**

David F. and Margaret T. Grohne Professor of Novel  
Therapeutics for Cancer Research  
Chair and Consultant, Division of Hematology and  
Medical Oncology  
Professor, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science  
Mayo Clinic in Arizona

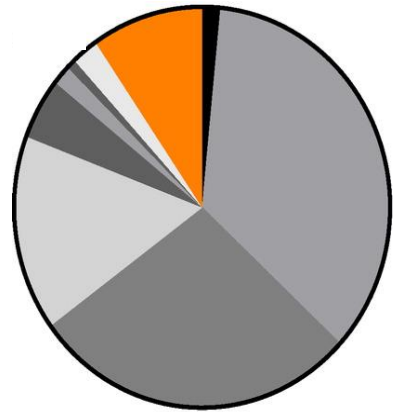
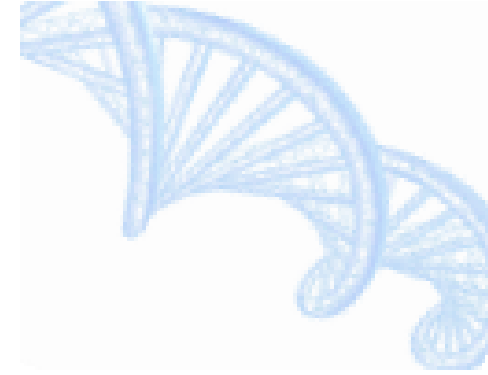


# KRAS Mutational Spectrum in PDAC

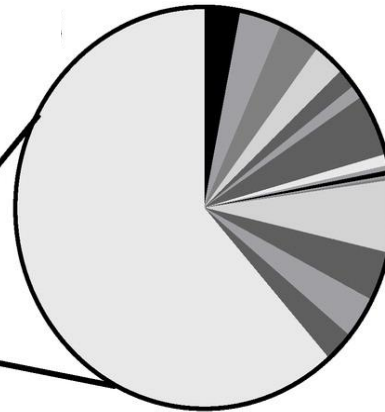


# $KRAS^{WT}$ PDAC (~5%-8%)

Rare Important Oncogenic Drivers beyond *RAS*



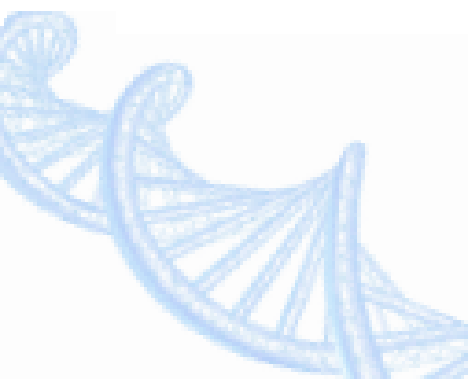
- G12C - 1.6%
- G12D - 35.5%
- G12V - 28.2%
- G12R - 15.9%
- Q61H - 5.0%
- codon 13 - 1.6%
- Q61R - 0.8%
- Others - 2.3%
- Wild-Type - 9.4%



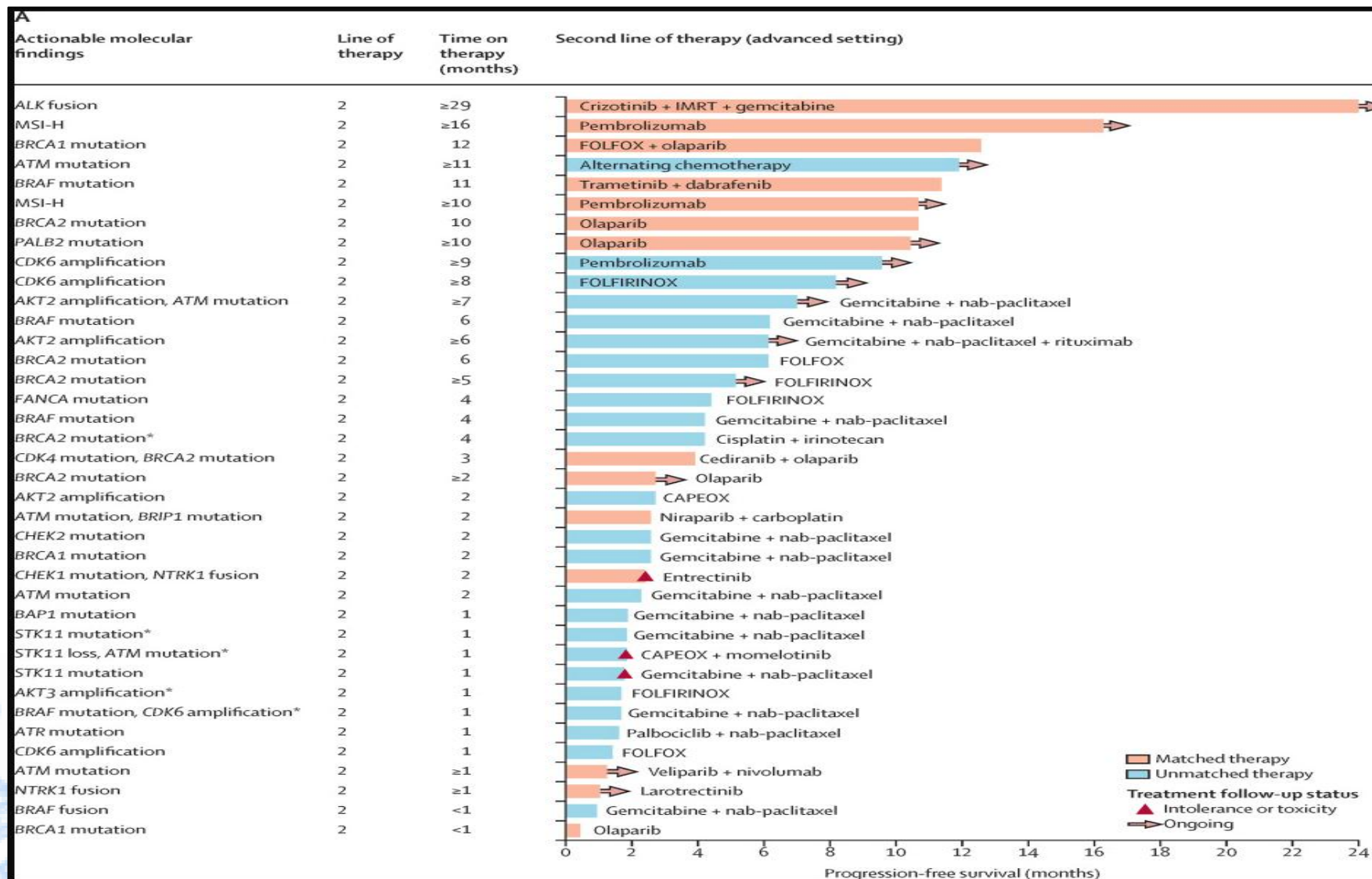
- *BRAF* mutation
- *BRAF* activating deletion
- *BRAF* fusion
- *FGFR2* fusion
- *RAF1* fusion
- *ALK* fusion
- *NRG1* fusion
- *RET* fusion
- *MET* fusion
- *NTRK1* fusion
- *ERBB4* fusion
- *FGFR3* fusion
- *GNAS* mutation
- *EGFR* amplification/mut
- *ERBB2* amplification
- *MET* amplification
- Other/None

38.5%

Singhi AD et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2019;156(8):2242-2253.e4;  
 Varghese AM et al. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2021;113(9):1194-1202;  
 Lee MS and Pant S. *Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book*. 2021;41:1-13;  
 Philip PA et al. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2022;28(12):2704-2714;  
 Singh H et al. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2023;29(22):4627-4643;  
 Varghese AM et al. *Nat Med*. 2025;31(2):466-477.





# Overall survival in patients with pancreatic cancer receiving matched therapies following molecular profiling: a retrospective analysis of the Know Your Tumor registry trial



# Tumor vs. Liquid biopsy

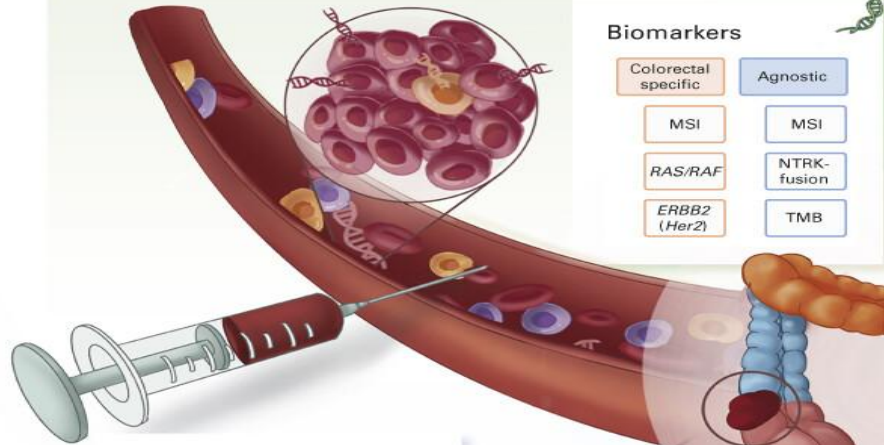


		At metastatic diagnosis	After subsequent lines of therapy
<b>Tumor biopsy</b> 	Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key pathological information</li> <li>• Ability to assess non-DNA biomarkers (protein, RNA, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important for research and discovery</li> <li>• Critical if assessment of non-DNA biomarkers needed</li> </ul>
	Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longer turnaround time for sequencing limits first-line precision-therapy selection</li> <li>• Limited tissue quantities can constrain breadth of testing or cause assay failure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires repeat invasive procedure</li> <li>• Longer turnaround time for sequencing results may hinder rapid selection of therapy</li> </ul>
<b>Liquid-biopsy cfDNA</b> 	Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High concordance with tissue biopsy</li> <li>• Ready sample availability</li> <li>• Rapid turnaround to facilitate first-line precision-oncology therapies</li> <li>• Baseline for subsequent liquid biopsy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-invasive, easy to obtain serial samples</li> <li>• Captures heterogeneous resistance alterations</li> <li>• Rapid turnaround can enhance clinical-trial enrollment</li> </ul>
	Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parallel assessment with tumor testing increases cost</li> <li>• Cannot assess non-DNA biomarkers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot assess non-DNA biomarkers</li> </ul>

Advantages and disadvantages of tumor biopsy versus liquid biopsy at the time of metastasis diagnosis or after subsequent lines of therapy.

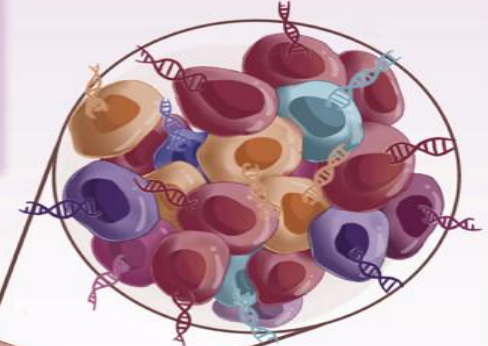
# Liquid Biopsies (ctDNA) in Clinic for Colorectal Cancer

## ① NGS-based platforms for molecular profiling in advanced/metastatic setting



## ② NGS-/panel-based platforms for assessment of acquired resistance mechanisms

- RAS/RAF/EGFR mutations
- ERBB2 (Her2)
- MET
- Fusions



## 3 (a) Tumor-informed platforms

- Tumor tissue biopsy required
- Sequenced to make custom panel of limited genes for individual patient
- PCR-based assays used to detect for presence of ctDNA
- Blood required

Used for early-stage cancers to detect presence of molecular or MRD after curative-intent surgery

## 3 (b) Plasma-only platforms

- Blood required

ctDNA+ Methylation-epigenomic markers for presence of molecular or MRD after curative-intent surgery

## 4 (a) Colorectal cancer-specific assays

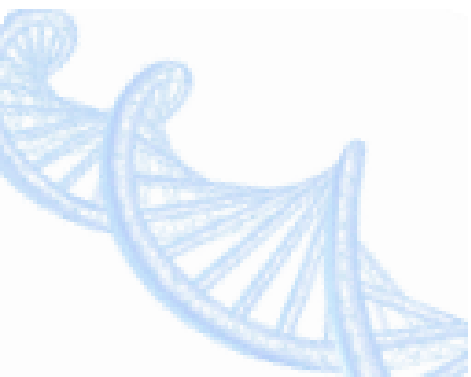
## 4 (b) Multitumor screening assays



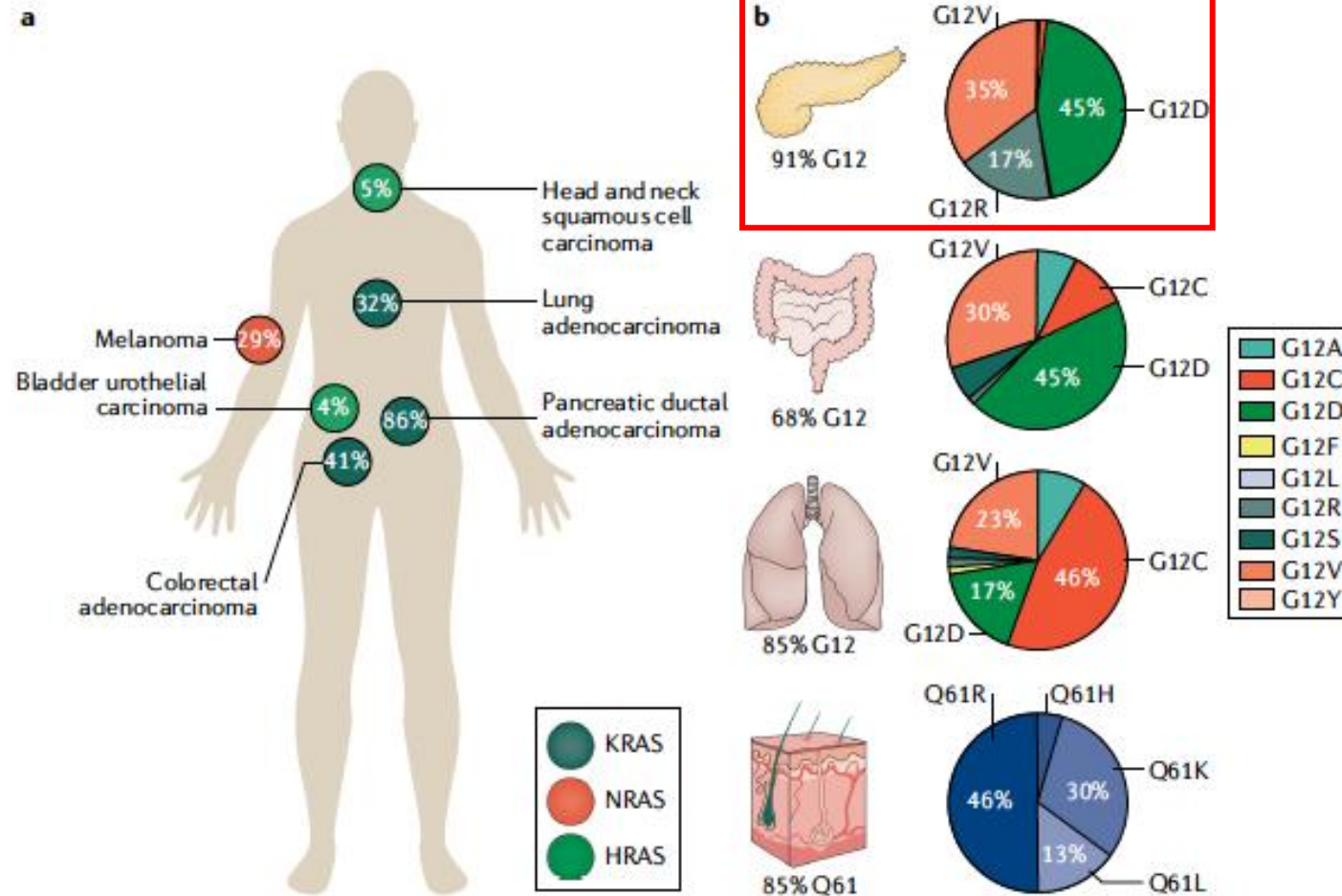
## ③ MRD assessment

## ④ Early detection screening platforms (epigenomics-/methylation-based)

# Targeting RAS mutations



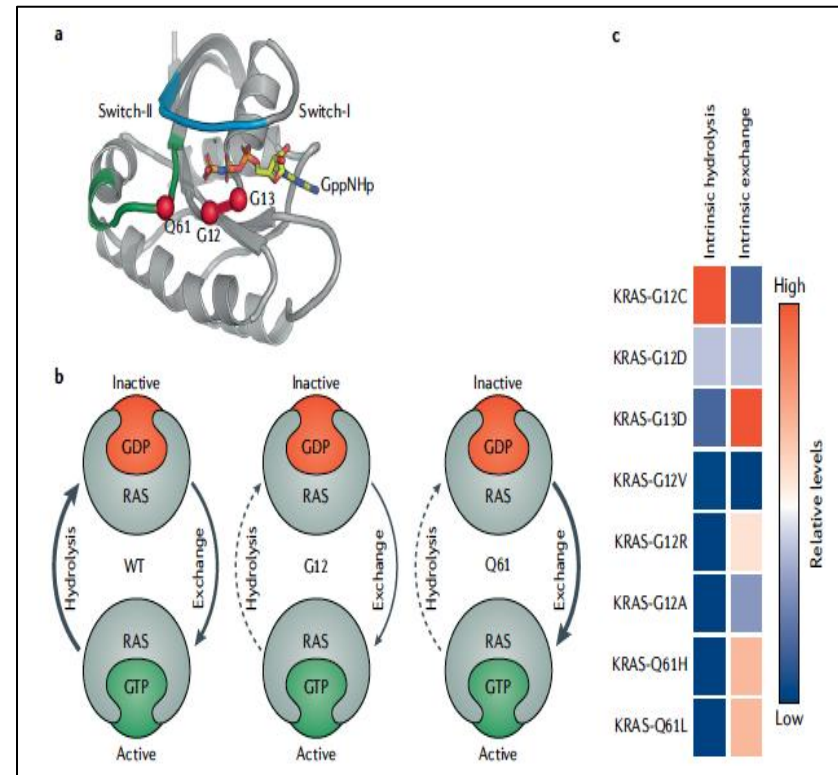
# Frequency and Distribution of RAS mutations in Cancer



- KRAS is the most mutated oncogene in human cancer
- **Directly** inhibiting RAS is a desirable approach for treating RAS- mutant tumors

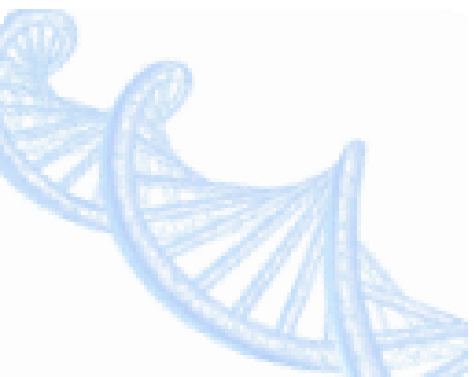
# Why Has KRAS Been Considered Undruggable?

- Efforts to target KRAS have been unsuccessful due to:
  - Its small binding pocket, high affinity for GTP
  - Redundant mechanisms of posttranslational processing.
- The first signs of the dawn appear on the horizon for one specific mutation, KRAS (G12C).
  - Unlike G12D and G12V, G12C can maintain alternative interactions with its downstream effectors through an active cycle between the GDP-bound and GTP-bound states



Intrinsic GTPase and GDP-GTP exchange rates can vary among the different RAS mutants and this observation may offer insight into how to best target each mutant

# Targeting KRAS G12C mutations in Pancreas cancer



# PDAC: *KRAS* G12Ci (Glycine → Cysteine): Summary

	N	Response Rate	Disease Control	Median PFS	Median OS
Sotorasib (CodeBreakK 100)	38	21% (8/38)	84% (32/38)	4 m	6.9 m
Adagrasib (KRYSTAL-1)	21	33% (7/21)	81% (17/21)	5.4 m	8 m
Divarasib	7	43% (3/7)	100% (7/7)	-	-
Olomorasib (LY3537982)	24	42% (10/24)	92% (22/24)	6.9 m	-
Glecirasib (JAB-21822)	31	42% (13/31)	93.5% (29/31)	5.6 m	10.7 m

Olomorasib (covalent GDP-G12Ci)

Stickler, J. New Engl J Med, 2023

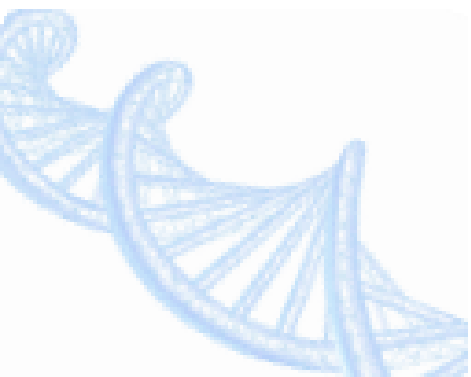
Bekaii-Saab, T...Pant, S. J Clin Oncol, 2023

Sacher, A. New Engl J Med, 2023

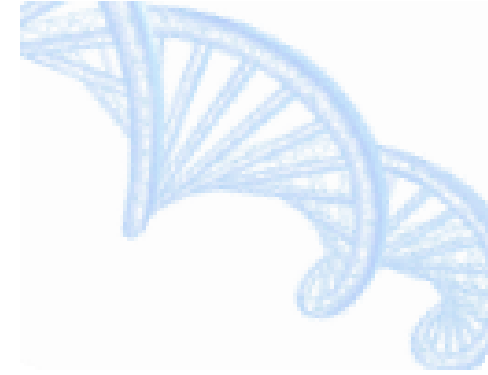
Murciano-Goroff, Y. AACR, 2023  
Hollebecque, A. Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium, 2024

Li, J. Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium, 2024

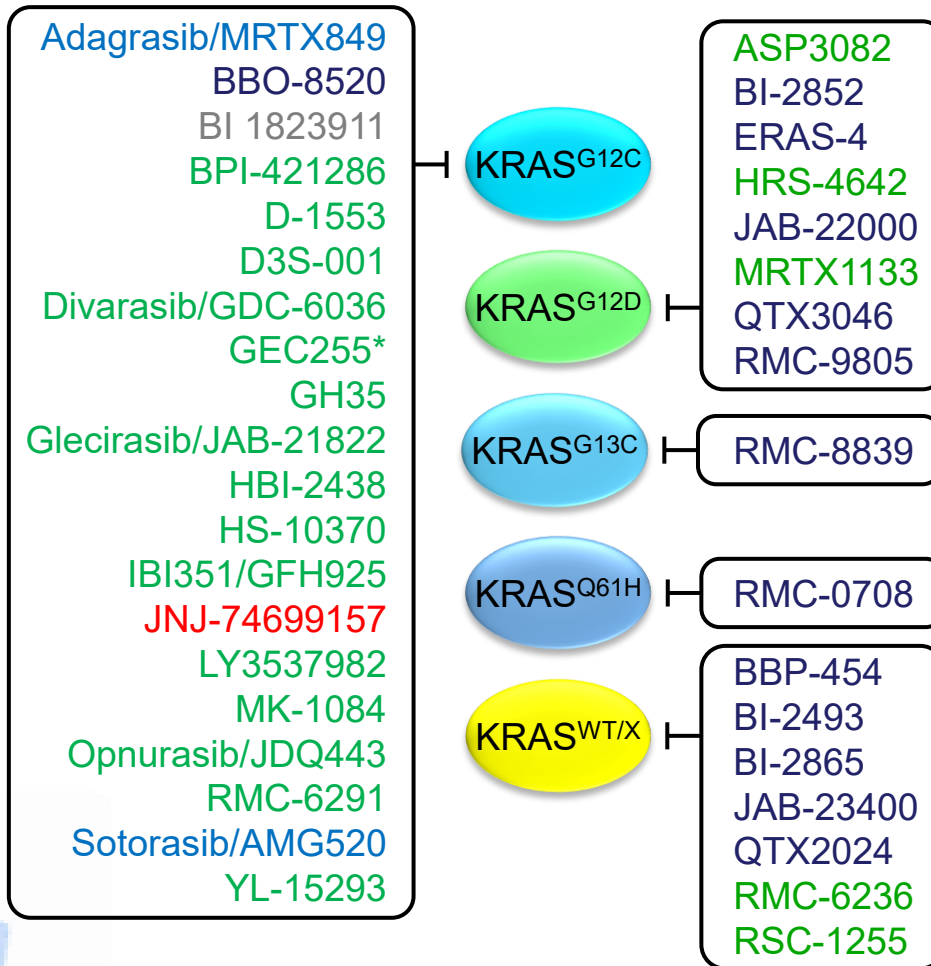
# Extending the breadth of RAS inhibitors



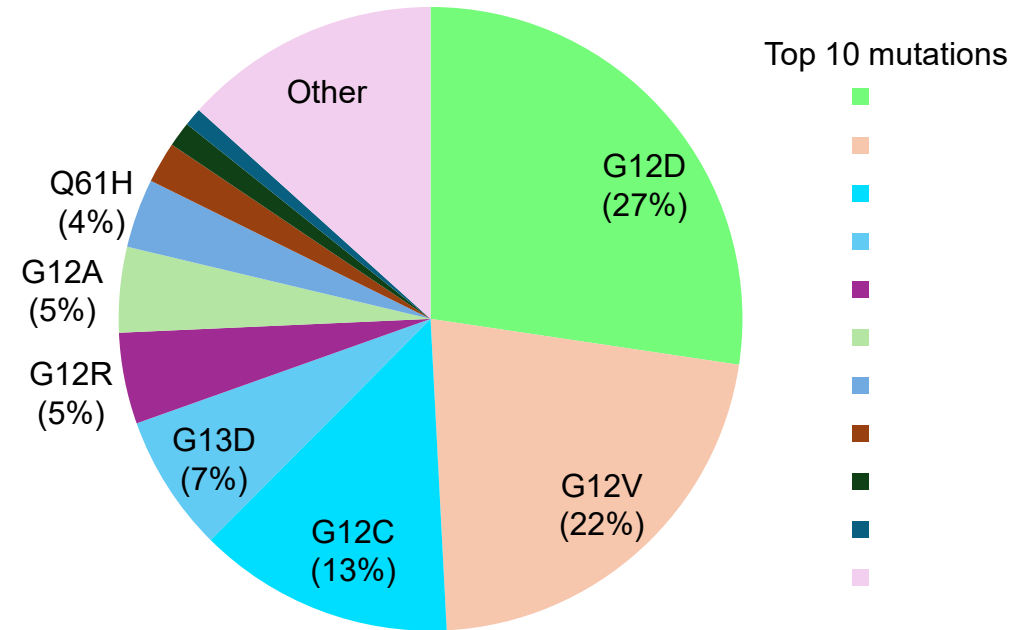
# More KRAS Inhibitors in the Pipeline: Beyond KRAS<sup>G12C</sup>



Approved  
 Recruiting  
 Active, not recruiting  
 Completed  
 Preclinical

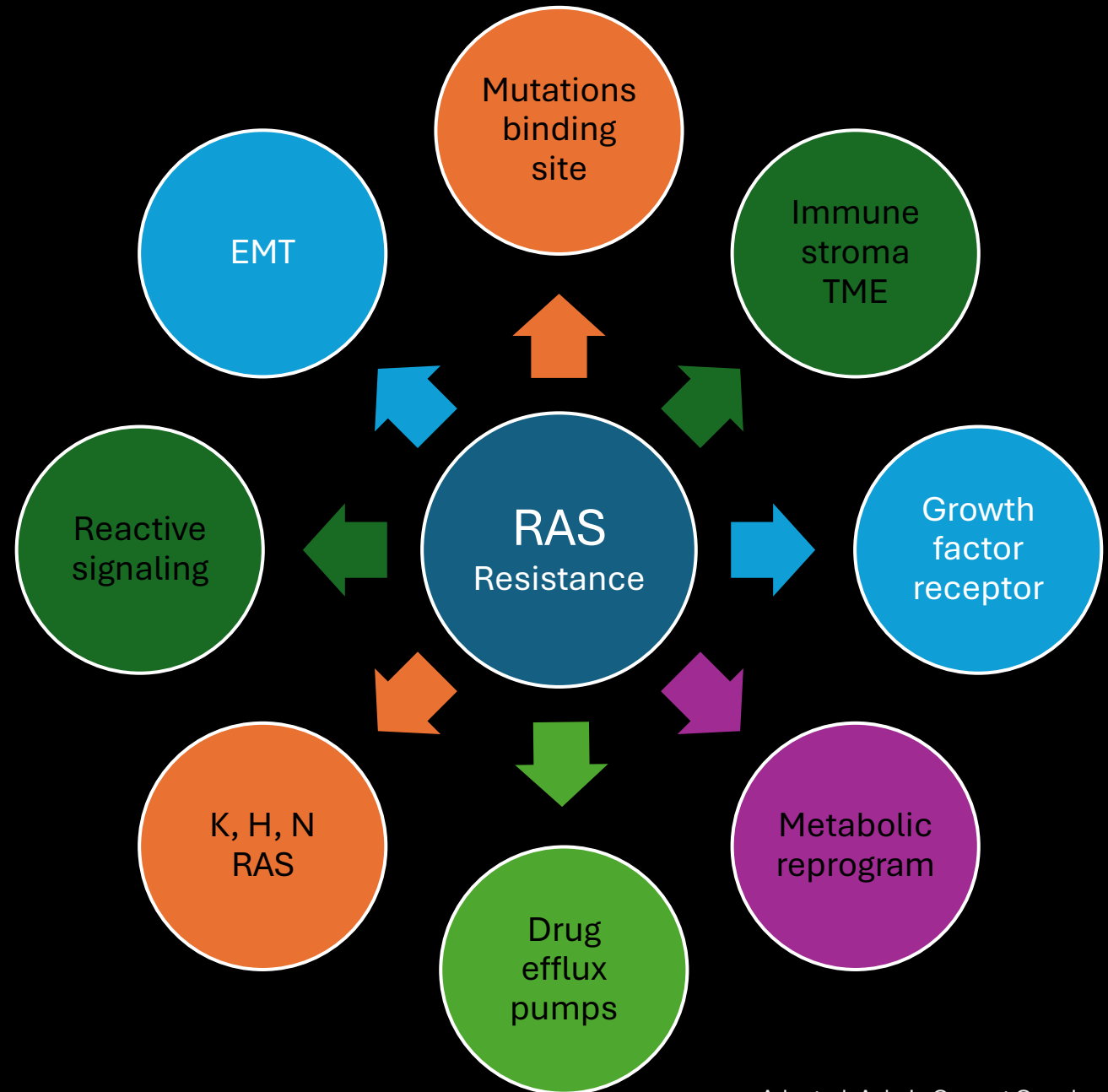


KRAS mutations: all cancers

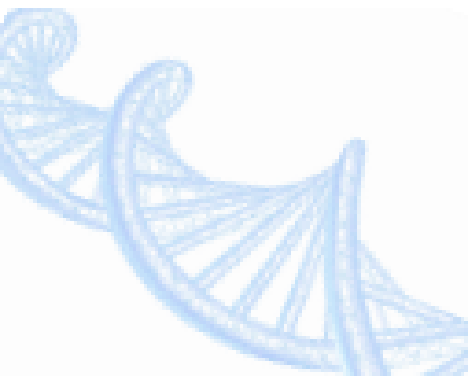


# Diverse KRAS Resistance Mechanisms

- Genetic resistance
  - Mutations switch II binding site
  - Copy # alterations in *KRAS*
  - Mutation by cis, trans of *KRAS*
  - Activating mutations downstream *PIK3CA*, *BRAF*, *MEK*
  - Activating mutations *NRAS*, *HRAS*
- Non-mutational resistance
  - Rapid adaptive resistance
  - Reactivation of RAS-MAPK signaling
  - EMT
  - Cell-state transition
  - Tumor microenvironment
  - Drug efflux pumps

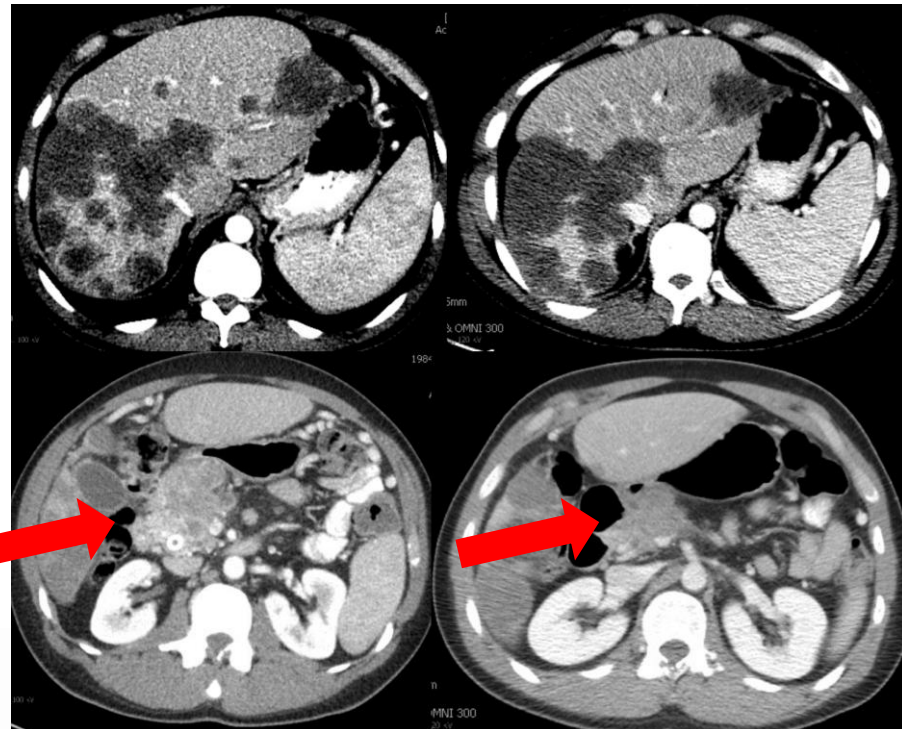


# Targeting the WT and Other



# Young Man PDAC *KRAS*-WT *NRG1*(+) Fusion

Bispecific, IgG1 mAb ADCC inhibits HER2, HER3



Baseline  
Ca 19-9 ~450

T+ 2 m  
Ca 19-9 <50

Features *NRG1*(+) PDAC Tumors

Younger patients/ early onset PDAC  
*KRAS* wild-type  
Low Ca 19-9, disease bulk

Can respond well to chemotherapy

**Testing methodology key:**  
DNA, RNA

Schram AM et al. ASCO 2021. Abstract 3003;  
Varghese AM et al. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2021;113(9):1194-1202;  
Singhi AD et al. *Gastroenterology.* 2019;156(8):2242-2253.e4;  
Schram AM et al. *Cancer Discov.* 2022;12(5):1233-1247;  
Schram AM et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2025;392(6):566-576.

# *BRAF* Alterations, Class, Actionability (2%-3% PDAC)

Enriched *RAS*-Wild Type PDAC, Acinar Cancer

<b>BRAF Alteration/Class</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>BRAF</i> Exon 15 (Class I; ~20%)	<i>BRAF</i> V600E	<i>BRAF</i> inhibitors +/- MEKi	<i>RAS</i> independency
<i>BRAF</i> Exon 11 (Class II; ~50%)	<i>BRAF</i> N486-P490del +no other drivers	<i>BRAF</i> inhibitors +/- MEKi	In-frame deletion
<i>BRAF/RAF</i> Fusions (~20%)	<i>SND1:BRAF</i> fusion +no other drivers	Pan- <i>RAF</i> inhibitors +/- MEKi	Acinar cancer
Other Alterations (Class III)	+ <i>RAS</i> drivers	Not actionable; <i>RAS</i> dependency	No kinase activity

## Class I V600E

Phase II Basket: Dabrafenib/trametinib  
NCI MATCH EAY-131-H (NCT02465060)  
ROAR (NCT02034110)  
N= 131 /24 cancer types/ PR/CR ~40%

Hyman DM et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2015;373(8):726-236.

Singh AD et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2019;156(8):2242-2253.e4.

Salama AKS et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2020;38(33):3895-3904.

Subbiah V et al. *Nat Med*. 2023;29(1):49-58.

Ciner AT et al. *Mol Cancer Res*. 2023;21(4):293-300.

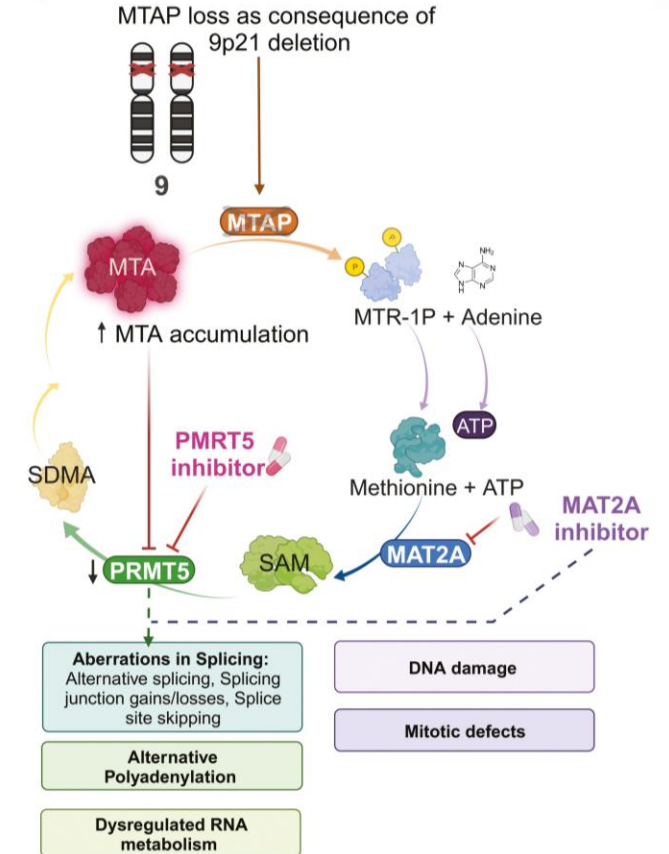
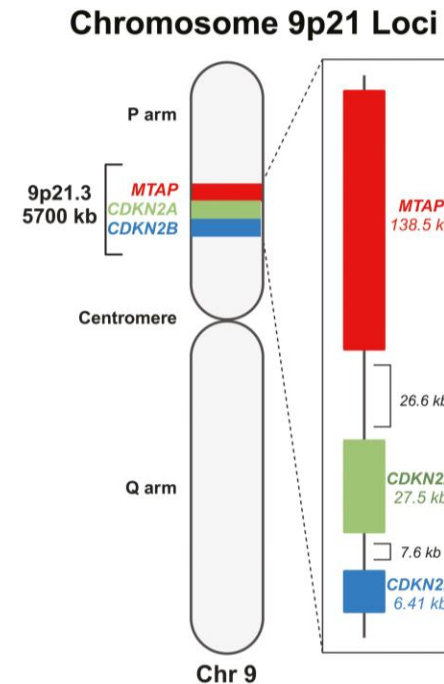
Hendriks A et al. *JCO Precis Oncol*. 2021;5:PO.20.00494.

Singh H et al. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2023;29(22):4527-4543.

# Synthetic Lethality: PRMT5, MTA Inhibition

Common Target in GI Cancers

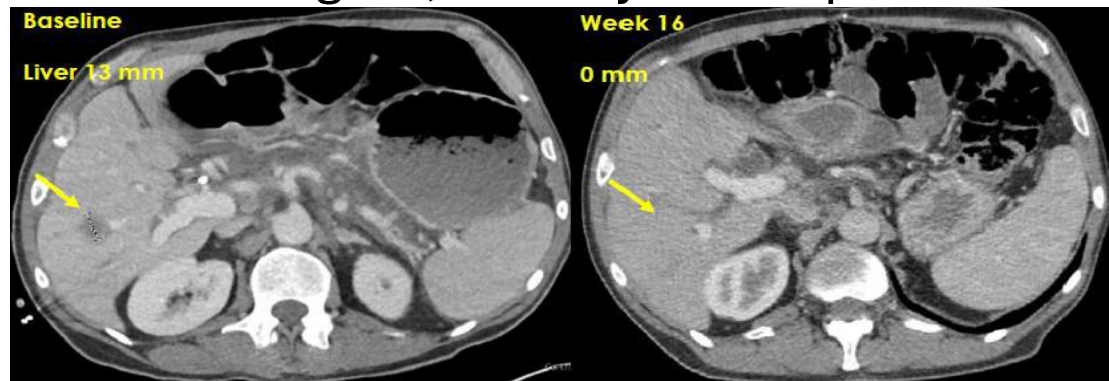
- Methylthioadenosine phosphorylase (*MTAP*)
- *MTAP* deletion/loss ~15% multiple solid tumors; 8% GI cancers; **PDAC 15%-25%**
- *MTAP* often co-deleted *CDKN2A* (9p21)
- *MTAP*, *CDKN2A* associated resistance to IO therapies ('cold' TME)
- *MTAP*-loss novel biomarker for agents inhibiting *MAT2A* and *PRMT5*



Ngoi NYL...Ahnert JR et al. *Oncologist*. 2024;29(6):493-503;  
Stopa N et al. *Cell Mol Life Sci*. 2015;72(11):2041-2059;  
Rodon J et al. AACR-EORTC-NCI 2023. Abstract PR006.  
Gorboken N et al. *Cancers*. 2025;17(7):1205;  
Guo JA...Aguirre AJ et al. *Cell Rep*. 2025;44(9):116191.

# MTAP-Deleted Solid Tumors: Phase I AMG 193 (2<sup>nd</sup> Gen)

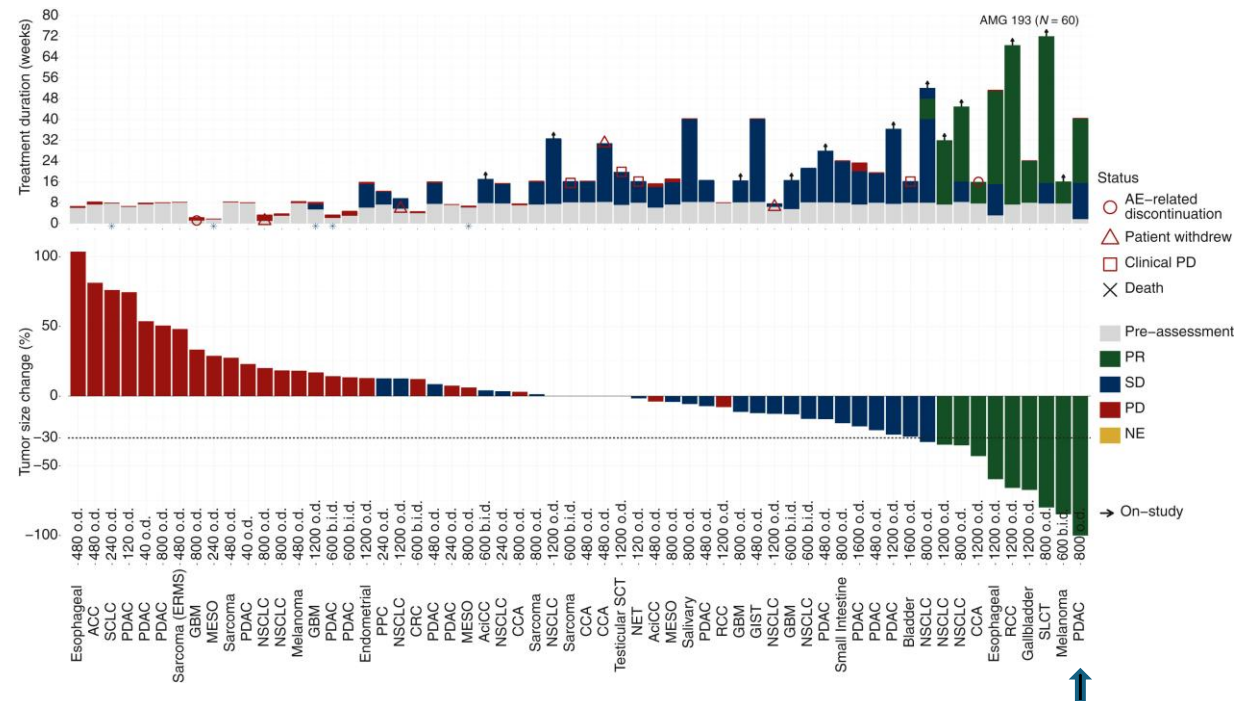
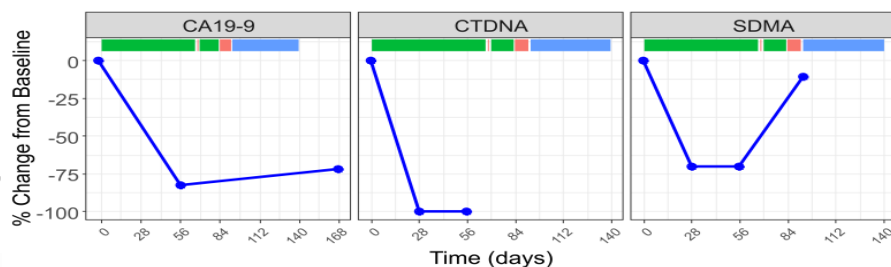
MTD 1200 mg PO; Efficacy in Multiple Solid Tumors



## PDAC

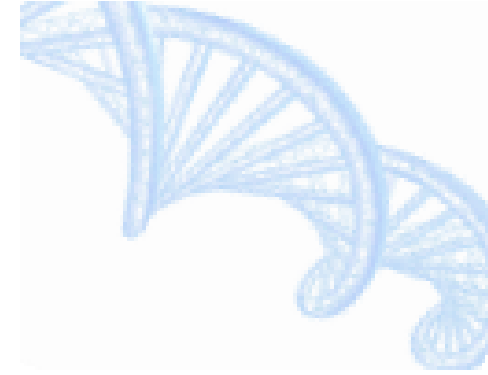
65 y/o male  
2 prior lines

- TP53m
- CDKN2A/2B-loss, MTAP-loss
- KRAS



- ESMO 2024 PDAC sub-cohort N= 23: 5 PR's (2 confirmed); 4 SD
- Multiple PRMT5, MAT2A agents/combinations in development

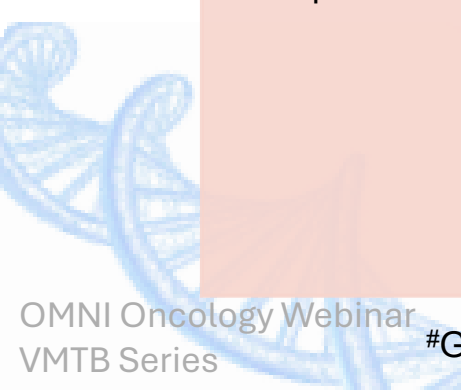
Rodon J et al. AACR-EORTC-NCI 2023. Abstract PR006;  
Sacher A et al. ESMO 2024. Abstract 604O.  
Rodon J...O'Neil B et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2024;35(12):1138-1147.



# PDAC: Standard Therapy & Genomically Defined 2025 →

All patients: Germline (multigene panel), Somatic testing (+/-ctDNA)

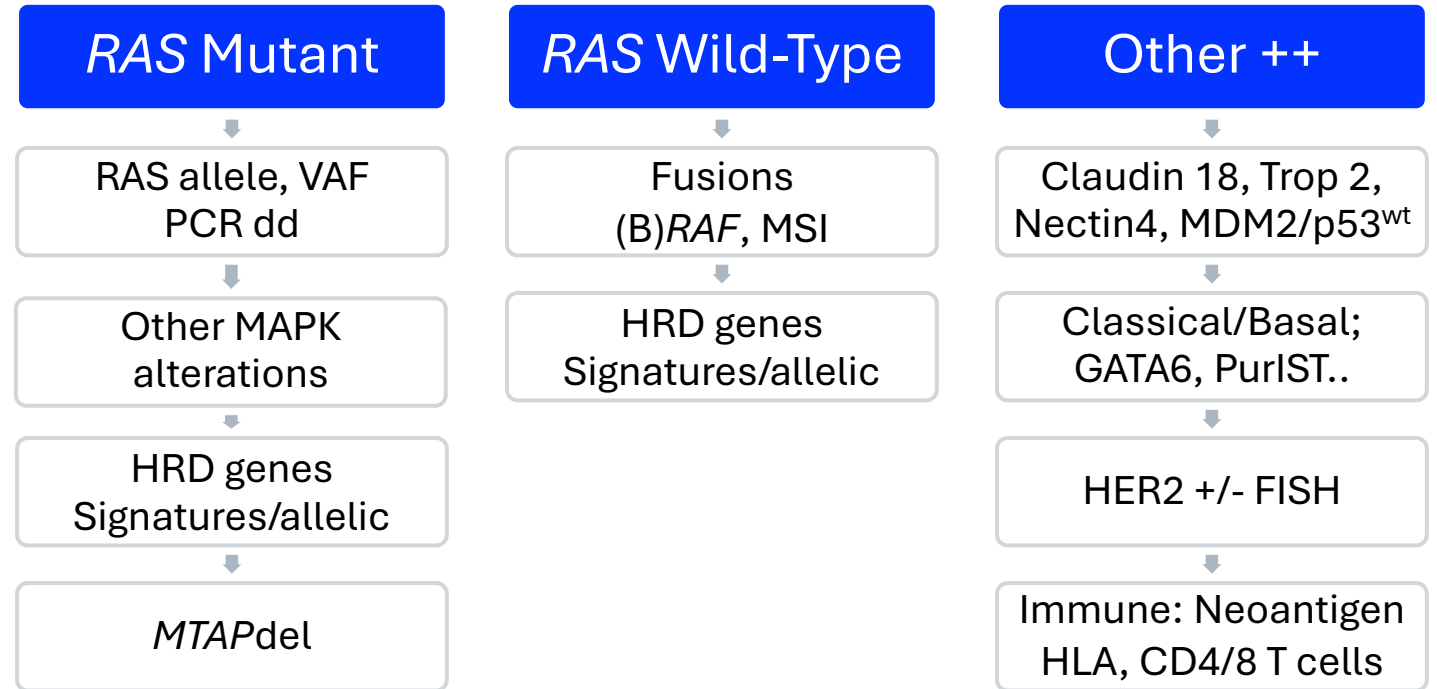
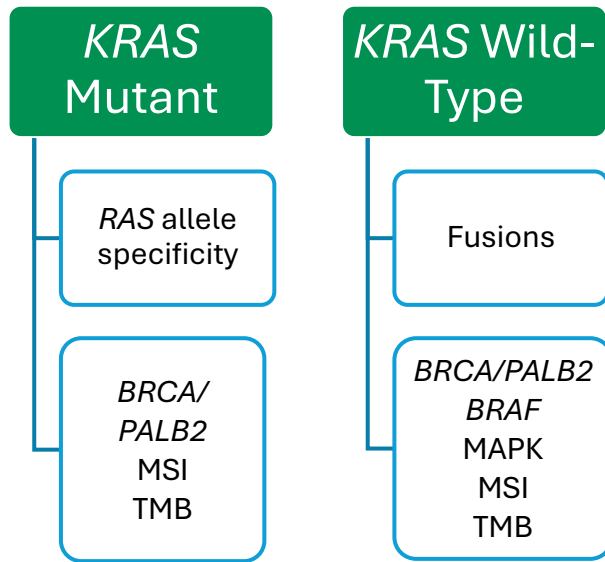
Untreated mPDAC ECOG 0-1	<i>KRAS</i> Mutated <sup>#</sup> (90%+)	<i>KRAS</i> Wild-Type (4-8%)	<i>g/sBRCA1/2</i> (+ <i>RAD51C/D, PALB2</i> ); MSI-H, TMB ≥10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical trial (preferred)</li> <li>• (m)FOLFIRINOX</li> <li>• NALIRIFOX</li> <li>• Gemcitabine/nab-paclitaxel</li> <li>• Maintenance               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FOLFIRI</li> <li>• 5-FU/LV</li> <li>• Capecitabine</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G12C (1%) Sotorasib* Adagrasib*</li> <li>• G12D (35%), G12V (30%), G12R (15%) Allele specific Pan RAS/all RASi</li> <li>• Small molecule</li> <li>• Vaccines</li> <li>• Protein degraders (PROTACs)</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAPKinase pathway <i>BRAF</i> V600E HER2</li> <li>• Fusions (0.3-0.5% each) <i>RET</i>*, <i>ALK</i>, <i>ROS</i>, <i>FGFR2/3</i>, <i>MET</i>, <i>NRG-1</i>, <i>NTRK</i>*, <i>BRAF</i>*, <i>ERBB4</i></li> <li>• Erlotinib<sup>#</sup></li> <li>• Selpercatinib<sup>#</sup></li> <li>• Zenocutuzumab</li> <li>• Entrectinib<sup>#</sup></li> <li>• Larotrectinib<sup>#</sup></li> <li>• Dabrafenib/trametinib<sup>#</sup></li> <li>• Trastuzumab</li> <li>• deruxtecan<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (m)FOLFIRINOX<sup>#</sup></li> <li>• Cisplatin/gemcitabine<sup>#</sup></li> <li>• NALIRIFOX<sup>#</sup></li> <li>• Maintenance Olaparib* Rucaparib**</li> <li>• Ipilimumab/nivolumab?</li> <li>• Immune therapy Nivolumab<sup>#</sup> Pembrolizumab<sup>#</sup> Dostarlimab<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>



# Maximizing Genomic Data: Tumor + cfDNA... At Diagnosis

- Today: **Minimum** Requirements

- Tomorrow: **Ideal/ Future** State



Germline; Tumor NGS +/- cfDNA; +/- RNA seq/IHC; TMB  
At diagnosis; Stage agnostic

