



# INTRODUCTION TO MALIGNANT NON-HODGKIN LYMPHOMAS

**SFB 1243 Fundamental Seminar Series**

*Oliver Weigert*





# The top 10 cancers



Top 10 Cancer Sites: 2010, Male, United States—All Races



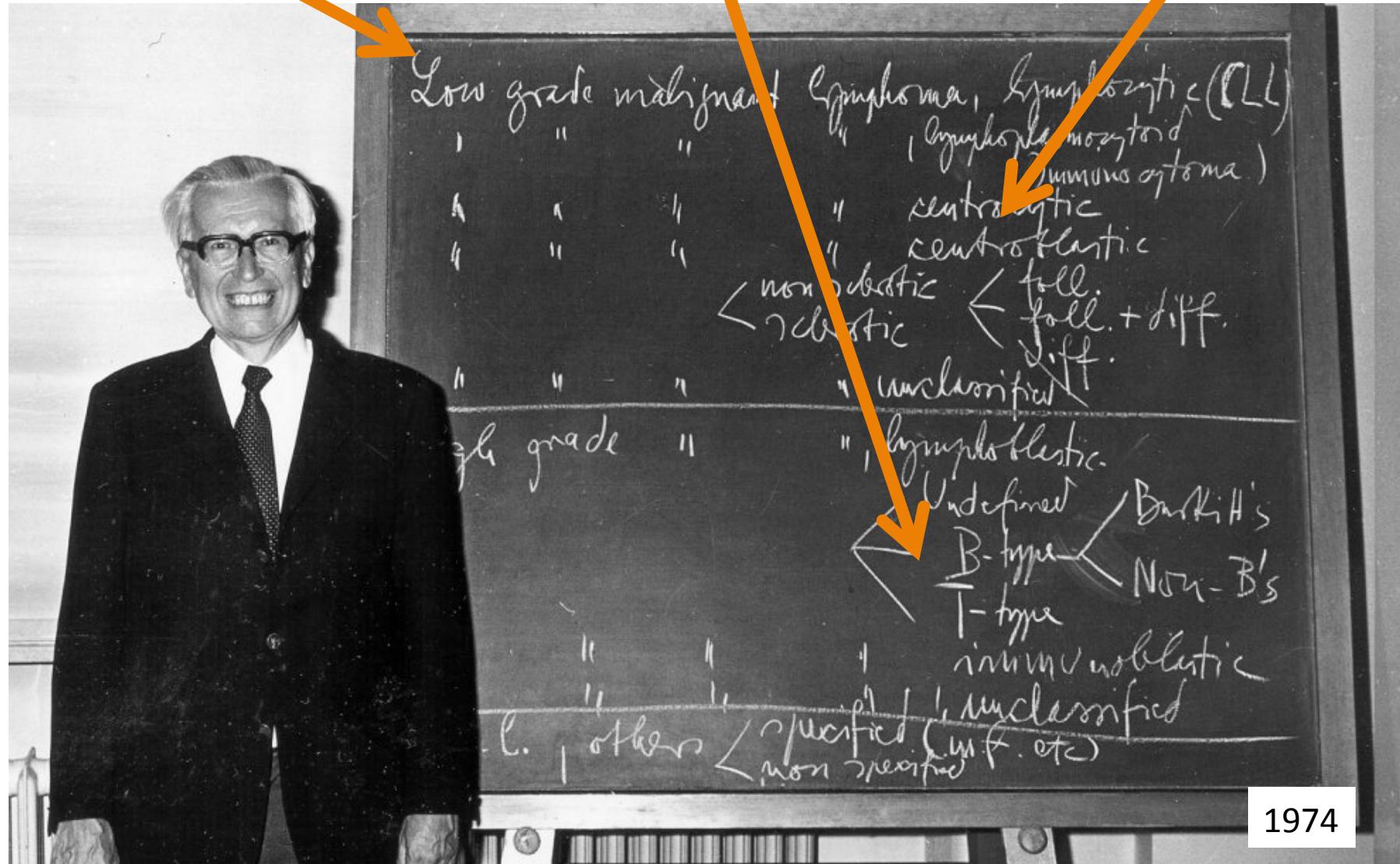
Top 10 Cancer Sites: 2010, Female, United States—All Races

Incidence of NHL is on the rise...

**principle #1:**  
aggressive vs indolent

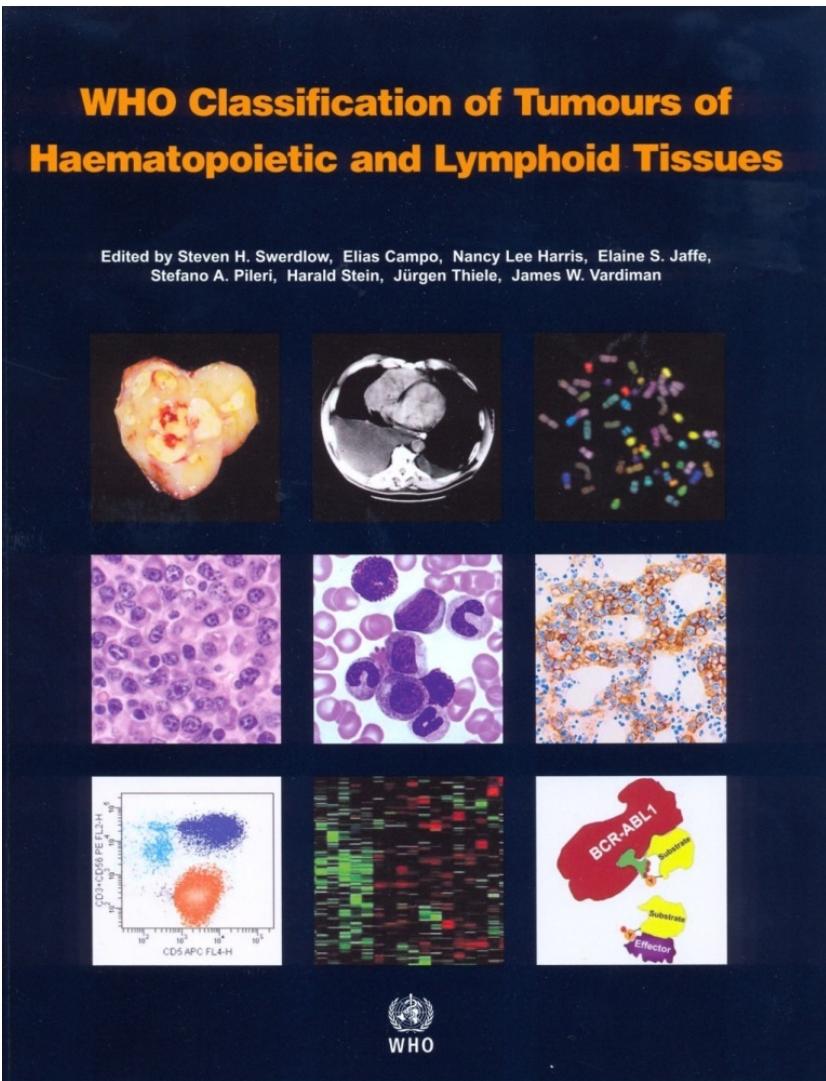
**principle #2:**  
B- vs T/NK-cell

**principle #3:**  
„cell-of-origin“



courtesy of W. Klapper; used with kind permission.

# WHO-classification 2008



## **The indolent lymphomas**

### **B-cell neoplasms**

Small lymphocytic lymphoma/B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia  
Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma ( $\pm$  Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia)  
Plasma cell myeloma/plasmacytoma

Hairy cell leukemia

Follicular lymphoma (grade I and II)

Marginal zone B-cell lymphoma

Mantle cell lymphoma\*

### **T-cell neoplasms**

T-cell large granular lymphocyte leukemia

Mycosis fungoides

T-cell prolymphocytic leukemia

### **Natural killer cell neoplasms**

Natural killer cell large granular lymphocyte leukemia

## **The aggressive lymphomas**

### **B-cell neoplasms**

Follicular lymphoma (grade III)

Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

Mantle cell lymphoma\*

### **T-cell neoplasms**

Peripheral T-cell lymphoma

Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, T/null cell

## **The highly aggressive lymphomas**

### **B-cell neoplasms**

Burkitt's lymphoma

Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma

### **T-cell neoplasms**

Adult T-cell lymphoma/leukemia

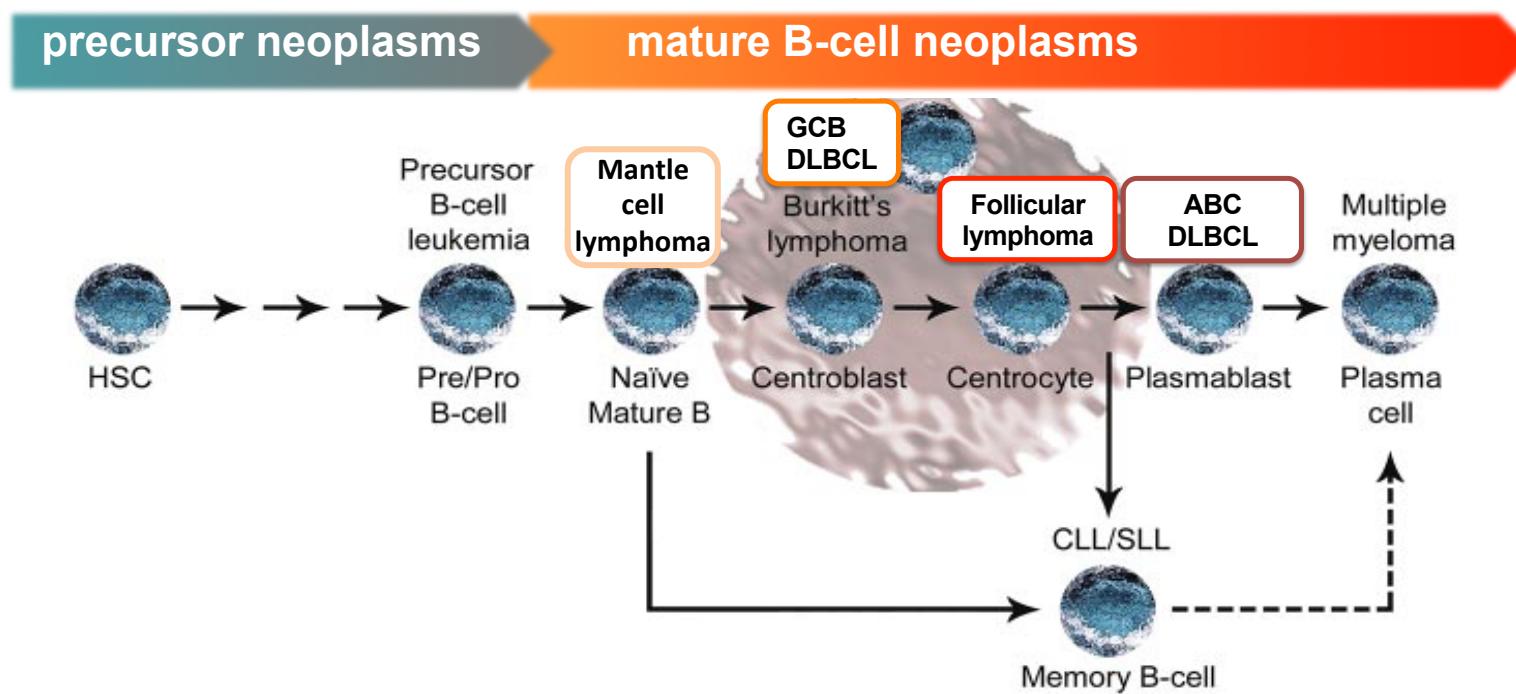
Precursor T lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma

# Lymphoid neoplasms

## The WHO classification

- lists > 50 distinct lymphoid neoplasms
- aims to define clinically relevant, non-overlapping entities based on
  - clinical features
  - morphology & immunophenotype
  - genetics

Swerdlow *et al*, IARC, 2008



Weigert & Weinstock, Blood 2012

# Lymphoid neoplasms: clinical presentation



## Clinical course:

determined by the dynamics of infiltration, displacement and effacement

- of the lymphatic system
- of extra-lymphatic organs (bone marrow, liver, lung, brain...)



***by definition > 1cm***

***differentials (some):***

- *metastases*
- *infections*
- *various forms of vasculitis*
- *storage diseases*

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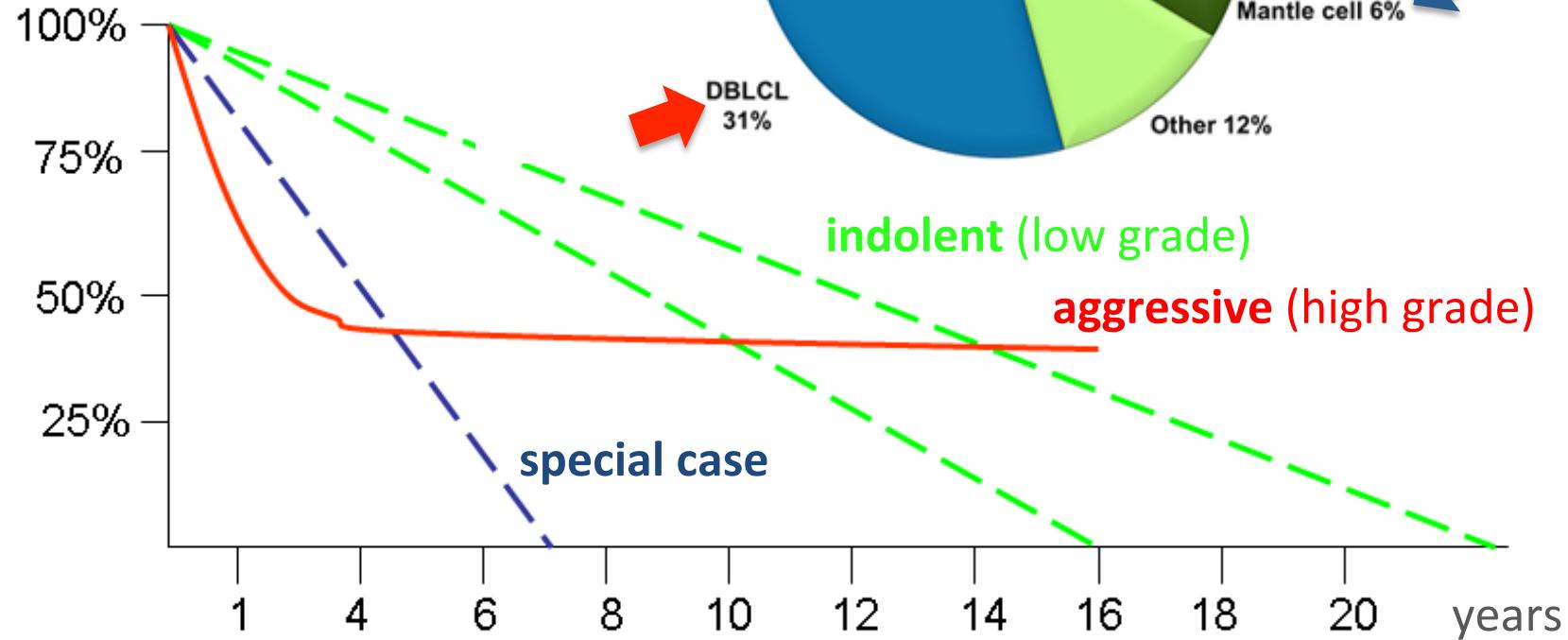
## Symptoms:

- enlargement and impaired function of infiltrated organs
- impaired hematopoiesis
- impaired / dysregulated immunity
- B-symptoms: fever, night sweats, loss of body weight

# Lymphoid neoplasms: clinical course



survival



# Chromosomal aberrations in malignant lymphoma

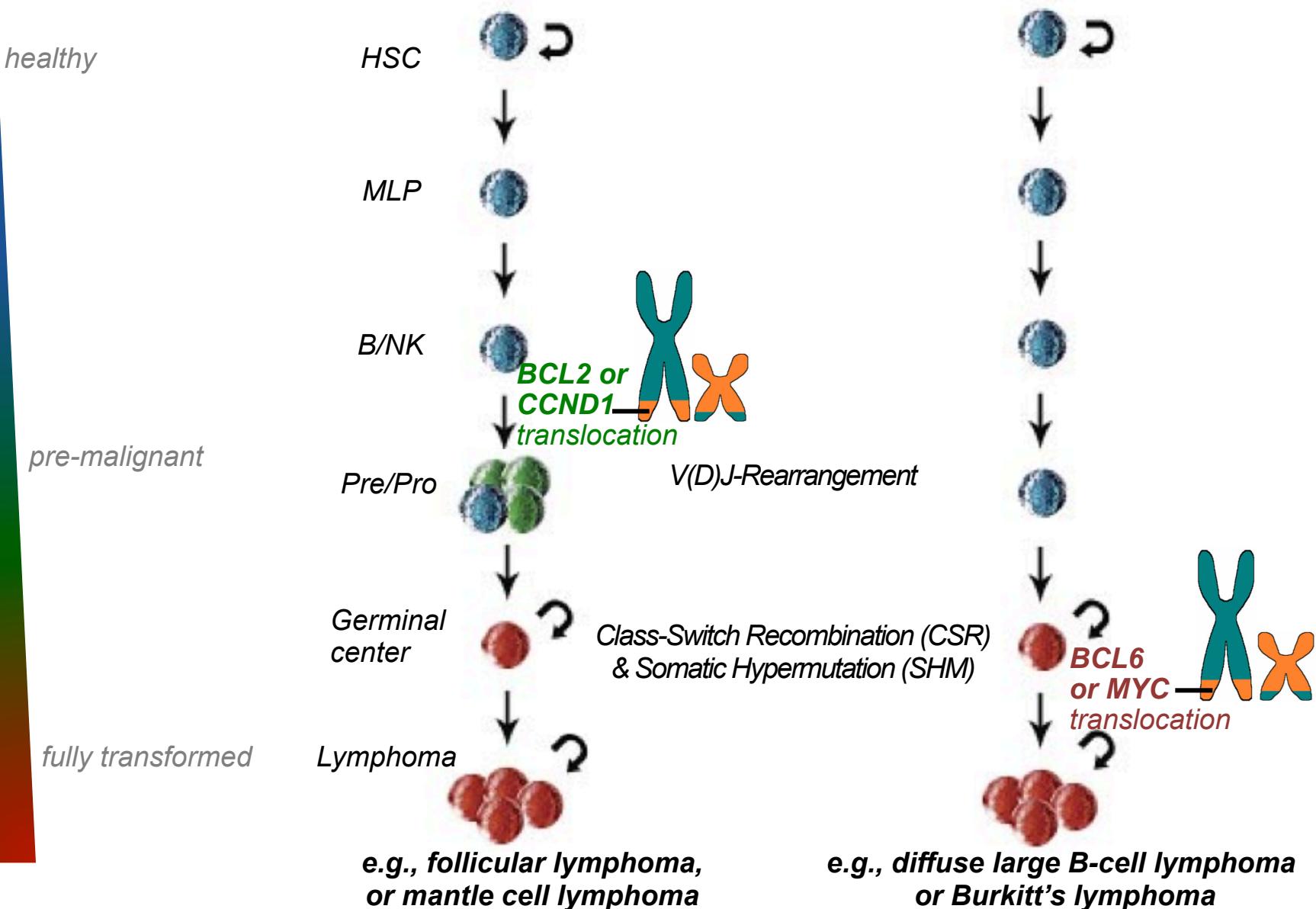


Chromosomal Aberration	Lymphoma Entity	Genes
t(14;18)(q32;q21)	Follicular lymphoma, Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	<i>BCL2, IGH</i>
t(8;14)(q24;q32)		<i>c-MYC, IGH</i>
t(8;22)(q24;q11)	Burkitt's lymphoma	<i>c-MYC, IGL</i>
t(2;8)(p11;q24)		<i>c-MYC, IGK</i>
t(11;14)(q13;q32)	Mantle cell lymphoma B-CLL (rarely)	<i>CCND1, IGH</i>
t(11;18)(q21;q21)	Marginal zone lymphoma,	<i>API2, MALT1</i>
t(14;18)(q32;q21)	Extranodal MALT lymphoma	<i>MALT1, IGH</i>
t(1;14)(p22;q21)		<i>BCL10, IGH</i>
t(1;2)(p22;p11)		<i>BCL10, IGK</i>
t(14;18)(q32;q21)		<i>BCL2, IGH</i>
t(2;18)(p11;q21)		<i>BCL2, IGK</i>
t(18;22)(q21;q11)	CLL/SLL	<i>BCL2, IGL</i>
t(14;19)(q32;q13)		<i>BCL3, IGH</i>
t(9;14)(p13;q32)	Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma	<i>PAX5, IGH</i>
t(3;14)(q27;q32)*	Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	<i>BCL6, IGL</i>
t(3;22)(q27;q11) t(2;3)(p11;q27)	(de novo)	<i>BCL6, IGK</i>
2p13–15 amp	Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (extranodal)	<i>REL</i> <i>amplification</i>
t(2;5)(p23;q35)**	Anaplastic large cell lymphoma	<i>ALK, NPM1</i>

\* a variety of other *BCL6* translocation partners have been described.

\*\*>20% of ALCLs have other 2p23 rearrangements.

# Models of lymphomagenesis



# Recurrent gene mutations in lymphoma

Lymphoma Entity	Gene Mutations (relative frequency)
CLL / SLL	<i>SF3B1</i> (11%), <i>TP53</i> (10%), <i>NOTCH1</i> (8%), <i>BIRC3</i> (3%), <i>MYD88</i> (2%)
Burkitt's lymphoma	<i>MYC</i> (40%), <i>ID3</i> (34%), <i>GNA13</i> (20-25%), <i>ARID1A</i> (10-15%), <i>SMARCA4</i> (10-15%), <i>TP53</i> (20%), <i>RHOA</i> (8%)
Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	<i>PCLO</i> (35%), <i>PIM1</i> (31%), <i>MLL2</i> (29%), <i>CREBBP</i> (29%), <i>TP53</i> (24%), <i>TNRSF14</i> (22%), <i>CARD11</i> (20%), <i>GNA13</i> (20%), <i>MEF2B</i> (18%), <i>CD79B</i> (16%), <i>EZH2</i> (14%), <i>BTG1</i> (16%), <i>HIST1H1C</i> (14%), <i>MYD88</i> (12%), <i>TMSL3</i> (12%) <i>EP300</i> (10%), <i>CD58</i> (10 %)
Follicular lymphoma	<i>MLL2</i> (50-82%), <i>CREBBP</i> (33-75%), <i>TNFRSF14</i> (20-35%), <i>EZH2</i> (12-27%), <i>GNA13</i> (5-21%), <i>EP300</i> (9-15%), <i>TNFAIP3/A20</i> (11-22%) <i>CARD11</i> (12%), <i>STAT6</i> (11%), <i>MEF2B</i> (10%), <i>BCL2</i> Hypermutation (76%), <i>TP53</i> (<5%)
Hairy cell leukemia	<i>BRAF</i> V600E (up to 100%)
Mantle cell lymphoma	<i>ATM</i> (41%), <i>CCND1</i> (35%), <i>WHSC1</i> (10%), <i>MLL2</i> (14%), <i>TP53</i> (<10%), <i>BIRC3</i> (<10%), <i>MEF2B</i> (<10%)
Waldenström's macroglobulinemia	<i>MYD88</i> L265P (91%), <i>CXCR4</i> (28%), <i>ARID1A</i> (17%)
Angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma	<i>TET2</i> (76%), <i>RHOA</i> G17V (68%), <i>DNMT3A</i> (33%), <i>IDH2</i> (20%)

Lohr, PNAS 2012; Pasqualucci, Nature 2011; Pasqualucci, Nature 2011; Odejide & Weigert, Blood 2014; Sakata-Yanagimoto, Nature Genetics 2014; Sakata-Yanagimoto, Nature Genetics 2014; Beà, PNAS 2013; Treon, NEJM 2012; Roccaro, Blood 2014; Baliakas, Leukemia 2014; Love, Nature Genetics 2012; Tiacci, NEJM 2011; Pastore, Lancet Oncol 2015.

# Clinical implication of genetics in malignant lymphoma

## Established (primarily in diagnostics)

- *VDJ* rearrangement: clonality
- somatic hypermutation: pre- vs post- germinal center
- hallmark translocations (mutations): diagnosis & classification

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## Evolving (towards biology-adapted treatment strategies)

- molecular prognostication
- seizing the molecular ontogeny
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- understanding the molecular biology

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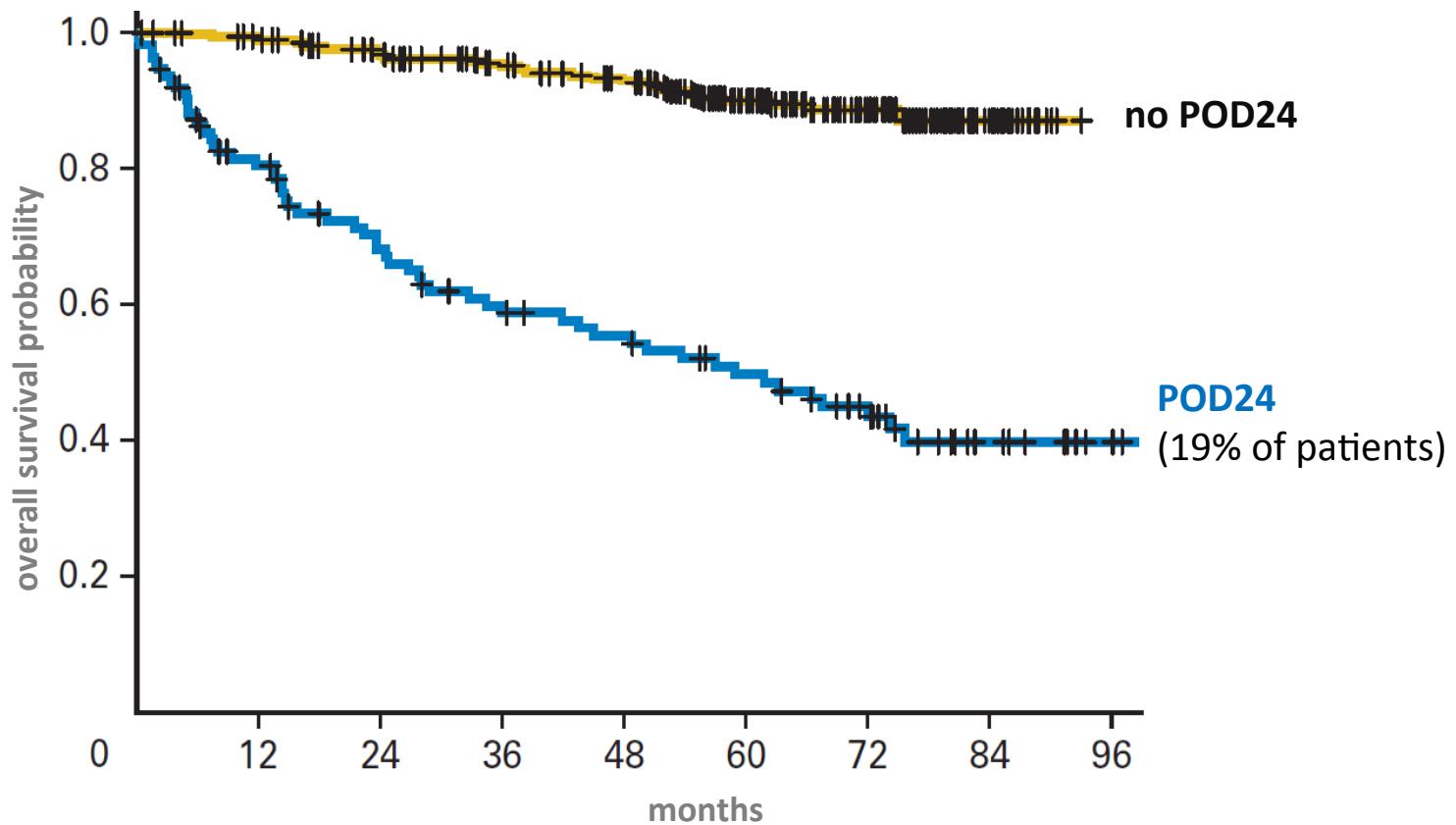
- **molecular prognostication**
- seizing the molecular ontogeny
- molecular treatment stratification
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## Follicular lymphoma (FL)

- FL is among the most **common** lymphomas worldwide<sup>1</sup>
- Advanced stage disease still considered **incurable**<sup>2</sup>
- **Immunotherapy** is current standard for symptomatic patients<sup>2</sup>
- FL is a **clinically and molecularly heterogeneous disease**<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Anderson, Ann Oncol 1998; <sup>2</sup>Hiddemann, Leukemia 2014; <sup>3</sup>Kridel, JCI 2014; <sup>4</sup>Pastore, Lancet Oncology 2015

## Clinical heterogeneity of FL

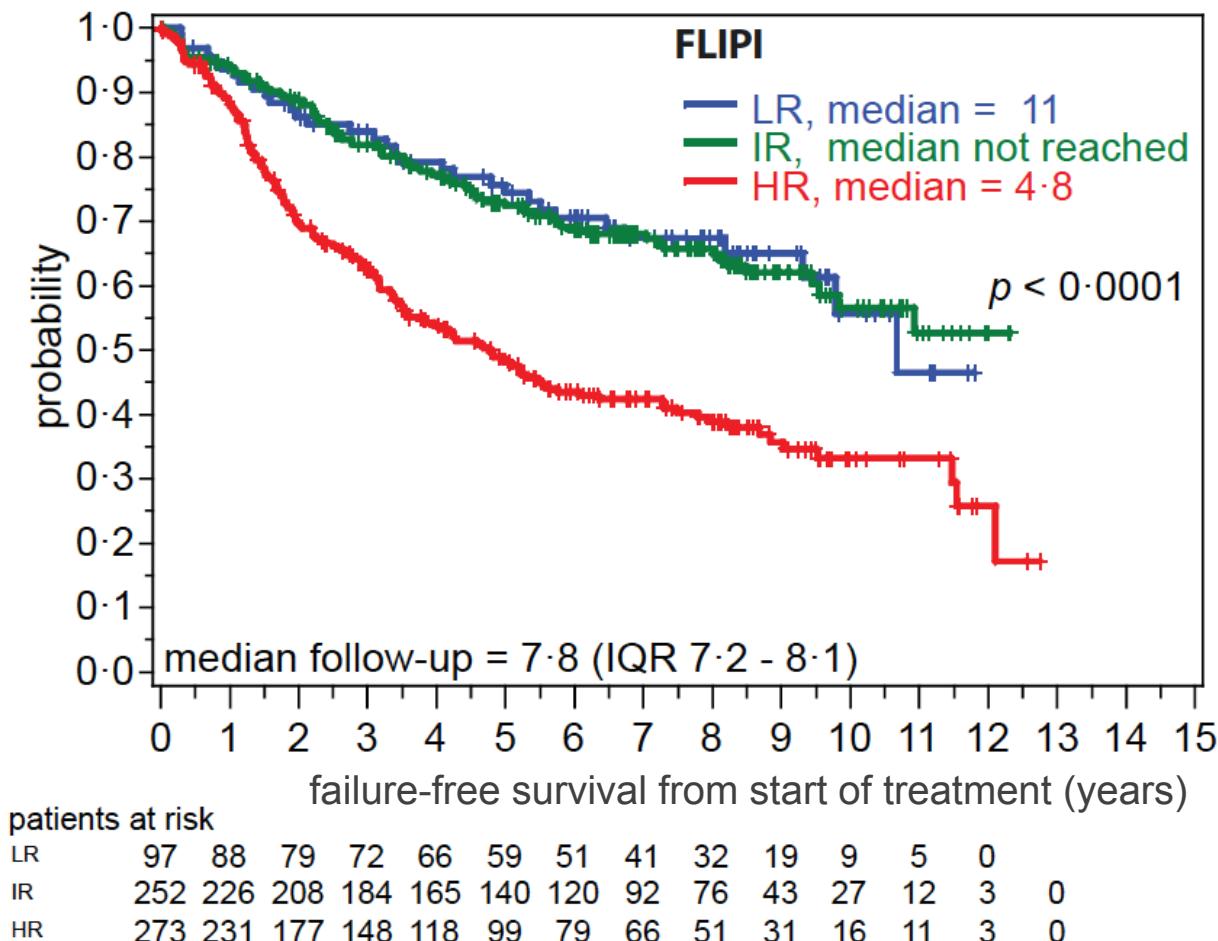


## The clinical challenge in FL

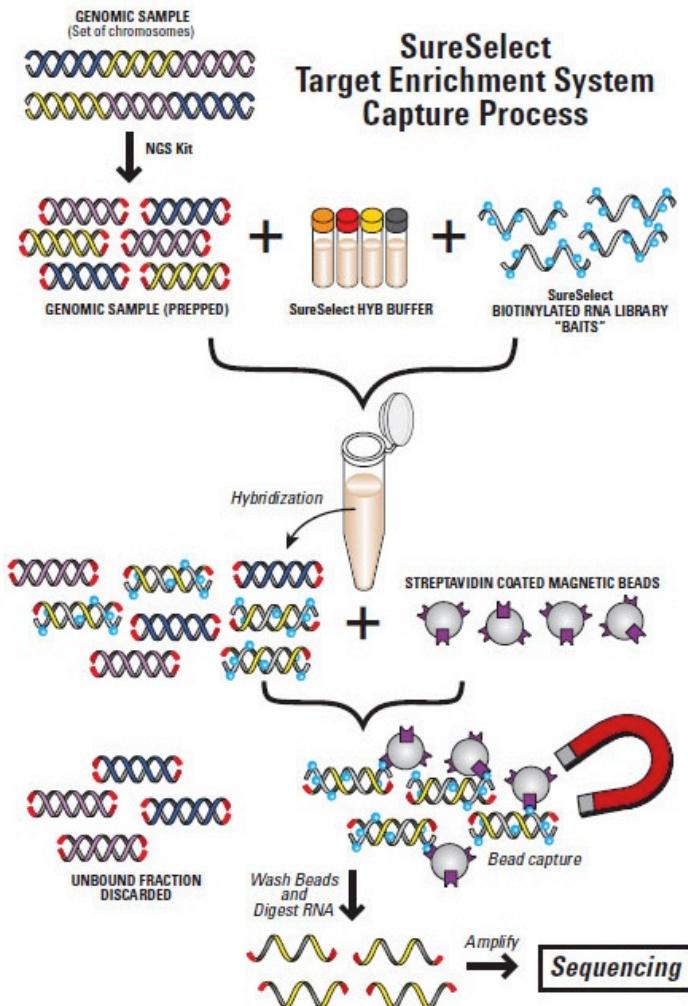


*„How to identify patients likely to have poor outcome with standard treatment?”*

# The FLIPI



# Target enrichment & sequencing of 74 genes



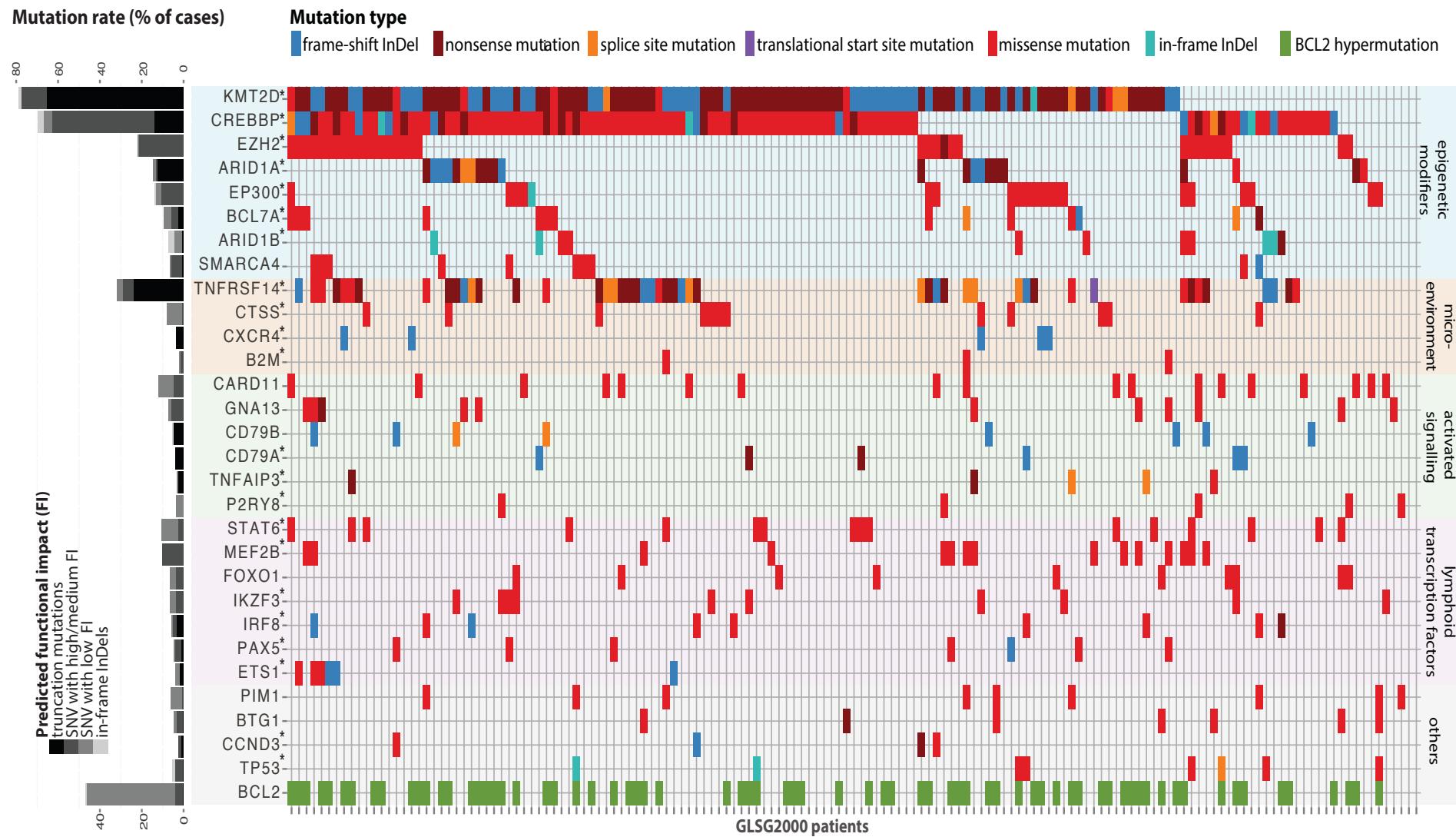
## FL study cohorts

		GLSG	BCCA	<i>p-value</i>
		Training cohort	Validation cohort	
<b>Patients</b>	number of evaluable* patients	151	107	
	male (%)	78 (52)	59 (55)	0·67
<b>Clinical Risk Factors</b>	>60 years (%)	57 (38)	59 (55)	0·0083
	> 4 nodal sites (%)	106 (70)	78 (73)	0·74
	LDH elevated (%)	49 (32)	22 (21)	0·074
	Hb < 120 g/L (%)	32 (21)	12 (11)	0·062
	ECOG > 1 (%)	8 (5)	16 (15)	0·016
	FLIPI high risk (%)	77 (51)	53 (50)	0·92
<b>Treatment</b>	first line treatment	R-CHOP**	R-CVP***	
	maintenance treatment	IFNα	Rituximab	
	number of patients (intention-to-treat)	151	93	
<b>Outcome</b>	5-year FFS (%) [number of FFS events]	66 [63]	58 [48]	
	5-year OS (%) [number of deaths]	83 [33]	74 [32]	
	median follow-up for OS (years)	7·7 (IQR 5·5 – 9·3)	6·7 (IQR 5·7 – 9·3)	

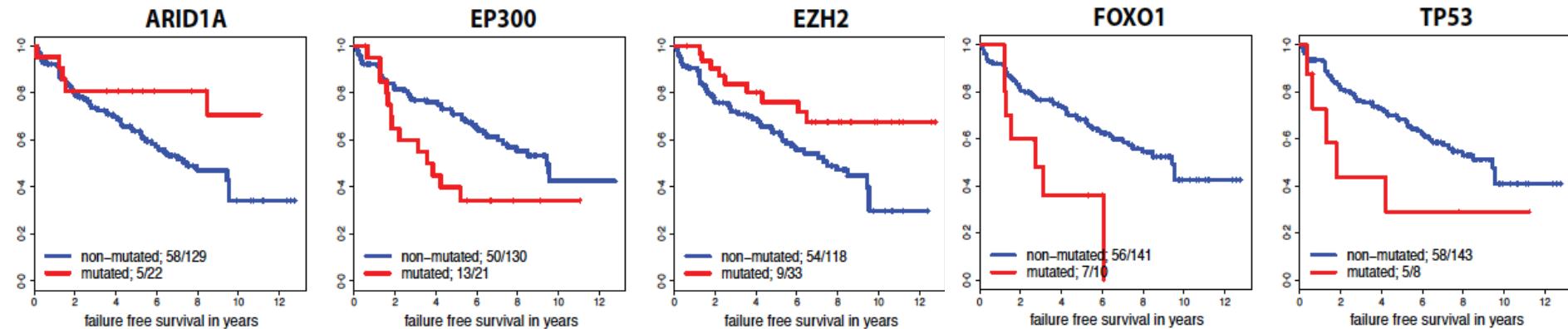
\*All patients had

- FL grade 1, 2, or 3A confirmed by an expert hematopathologist
- advanced stage or bulky disease considered ineligible for irradiation
- symptomatic disease requiring systemic treatment
- an available biopsy specimen obtained  $\leq$ 12 months prior to therapy initiation
- received a combination of rituximab and chemotherapy as 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment

# DNA sequencing of 74 genes: GLSG training cohort

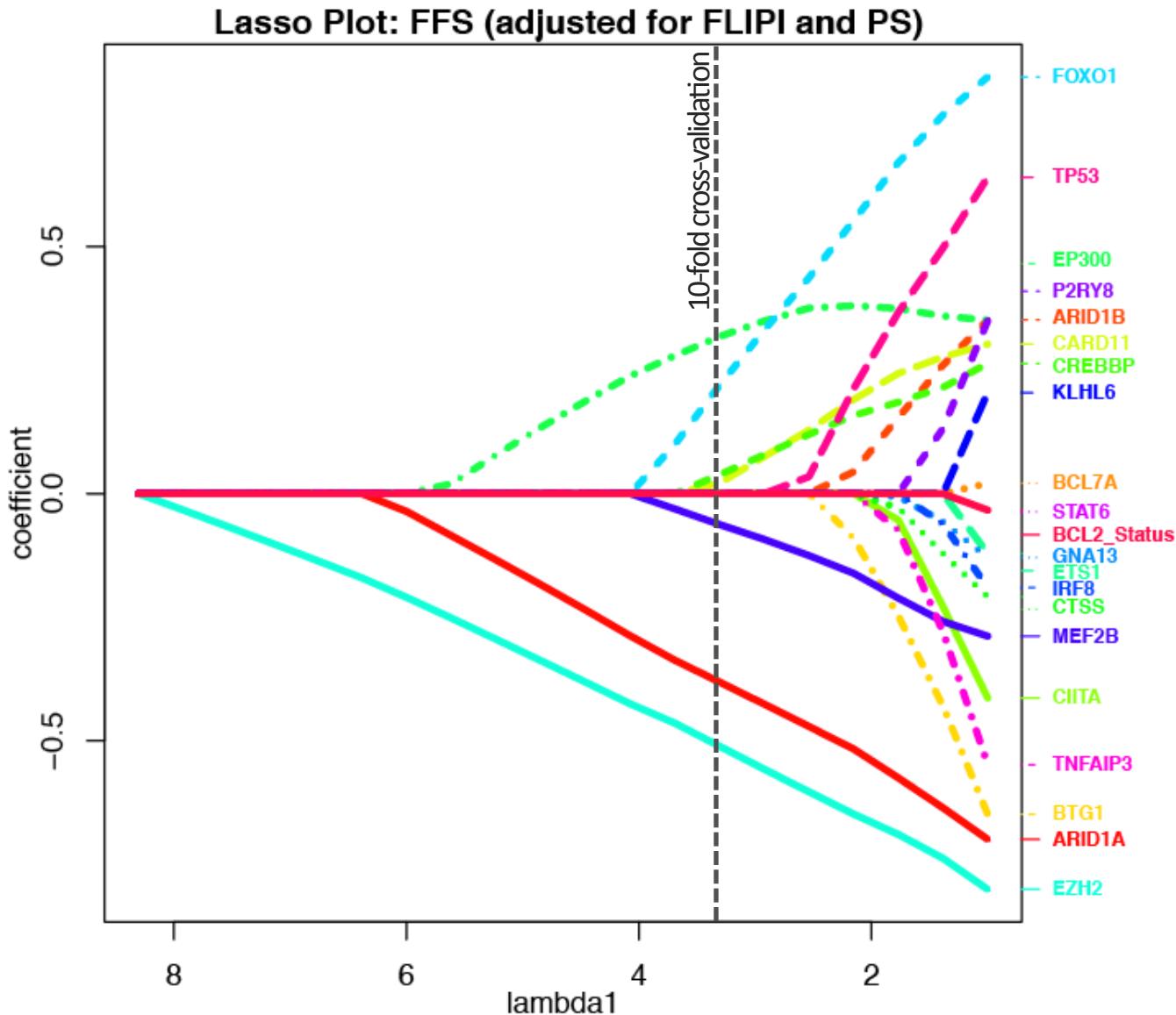


## Failure free survival (FFS)

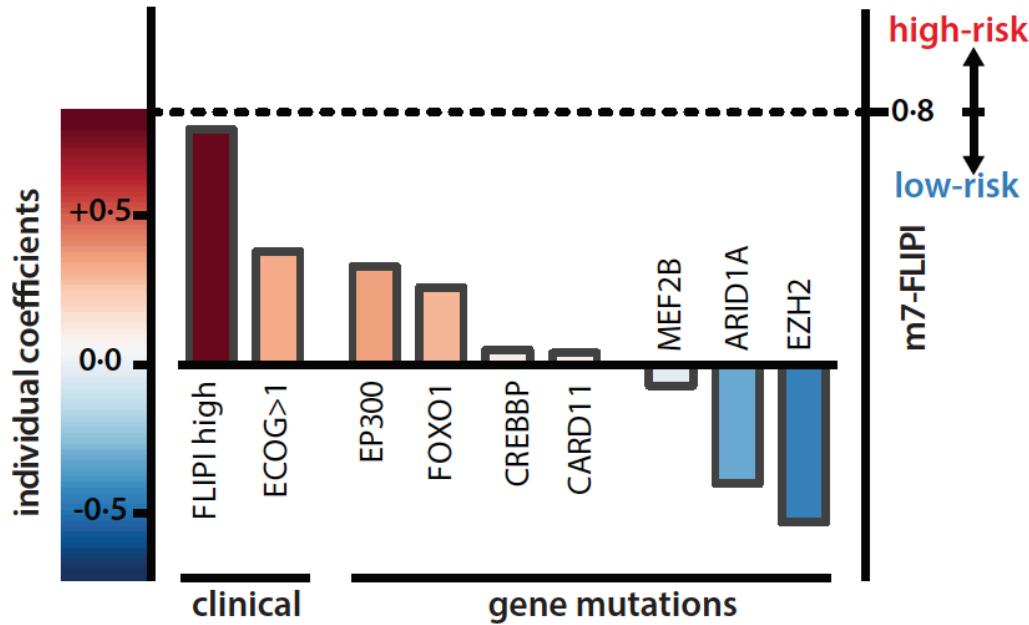


Univariate				With adjustment for FLIPI and ECOG			
Gene	HR	p-value	p-value Holm	HR	p-value	p-value	Holm
FOXO1	2.74	0.013	0.47	2.67	0.018		0.62
EP300	1.99	0.028	0.95	2.00	0.028		0.91
EZH2	0.46	0.030	0.99	0.42	0.018		0.62
ARID1A	0.42	0.064	> 0.99	0.40	0.049		> 0.99
TP53	2.18	0.096	> 0.99	2.85	0.029		0.91

# L1-penalized Cox regression (Lasso)

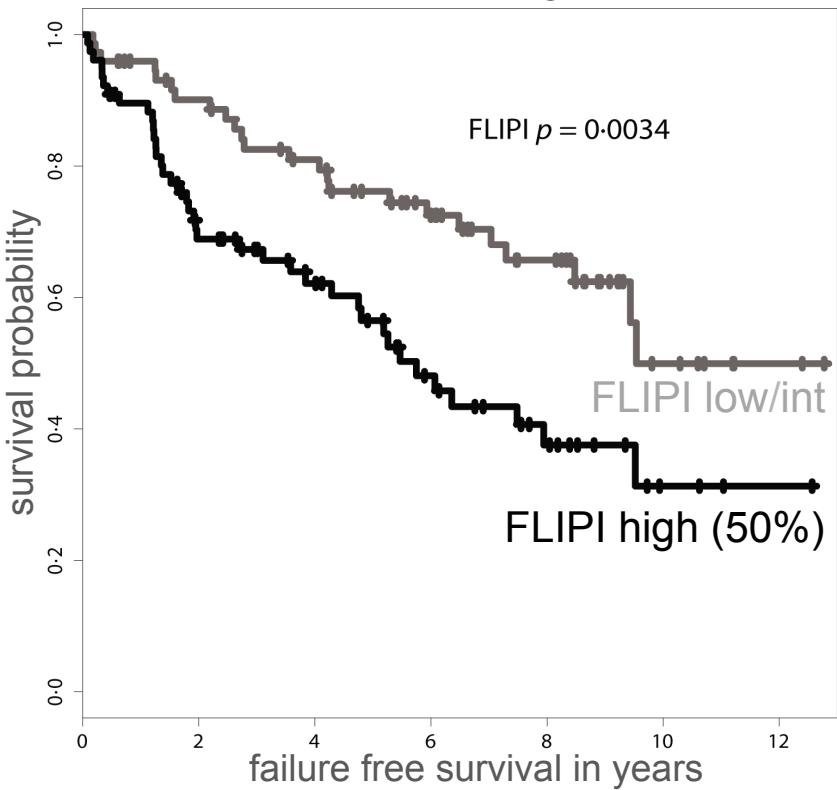


# Clinicogenetic risk model: “m7-FLIPI”

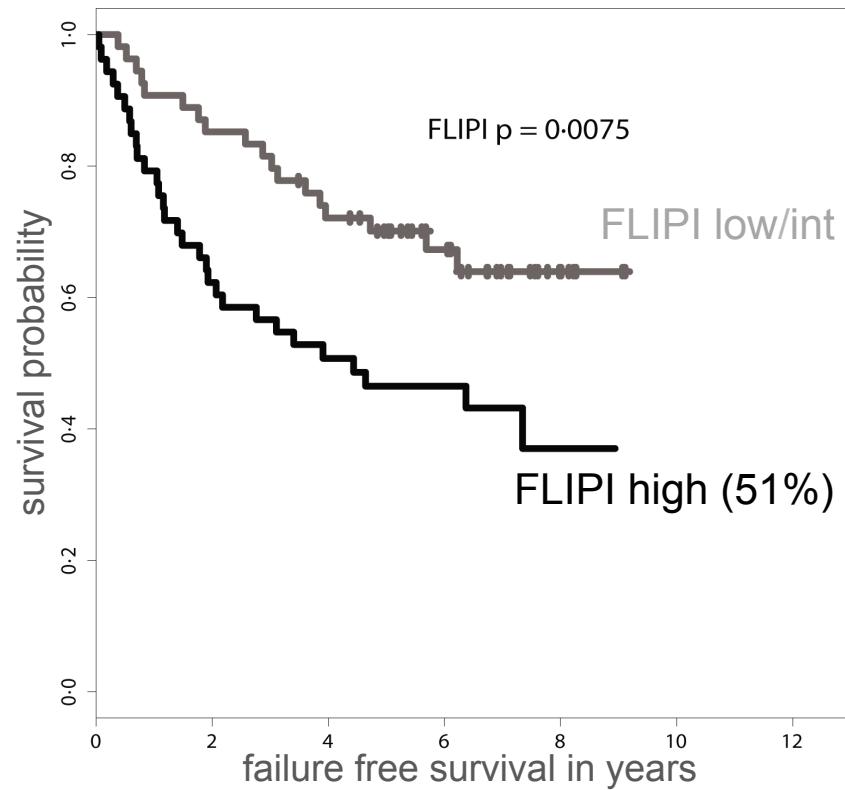


## Failure-Free Survival (FFS)

GLSG training cohort

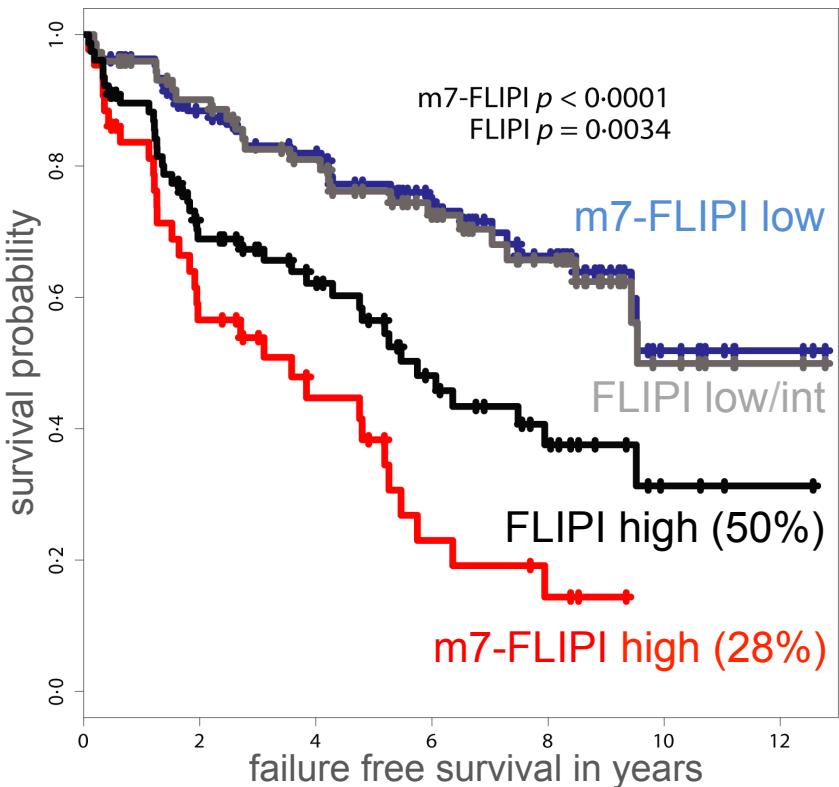


BCCA validation cohort

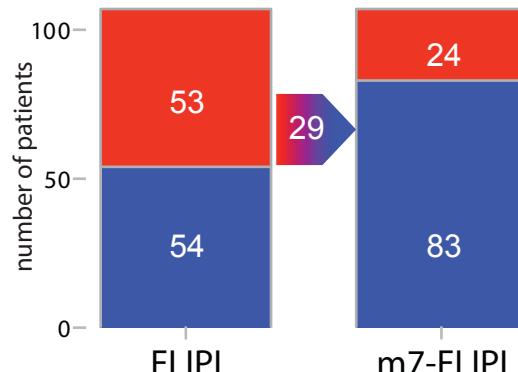
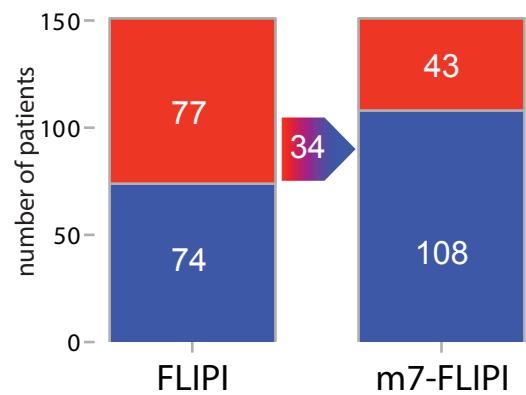
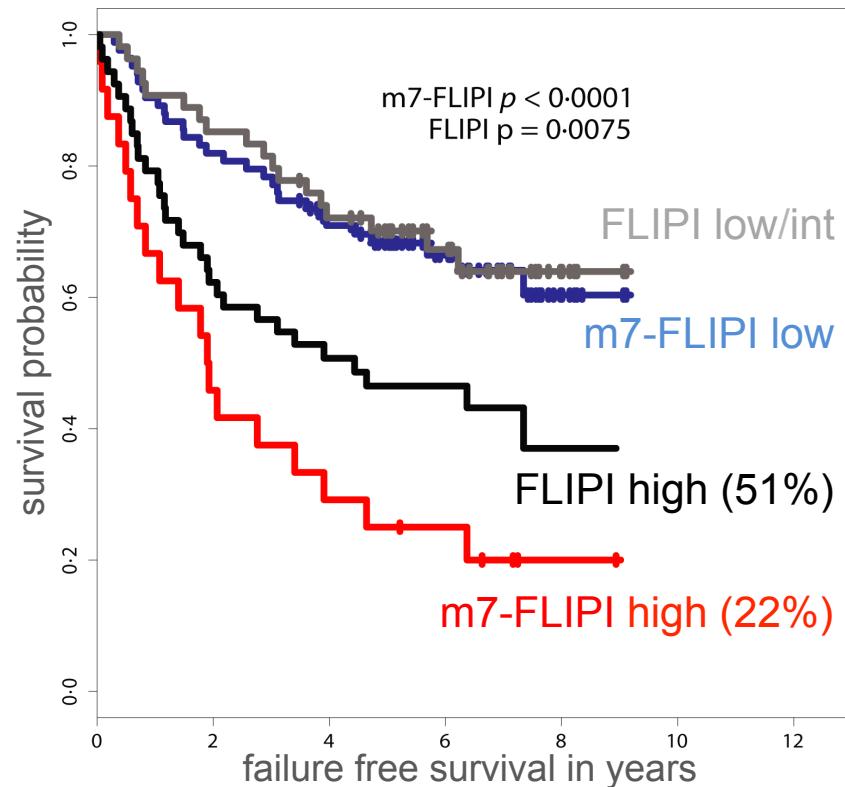


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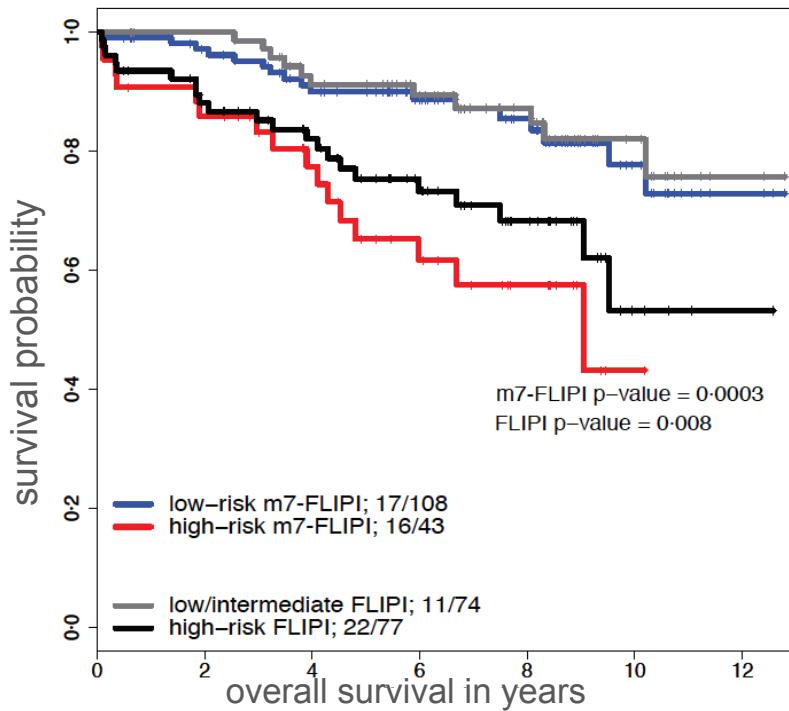


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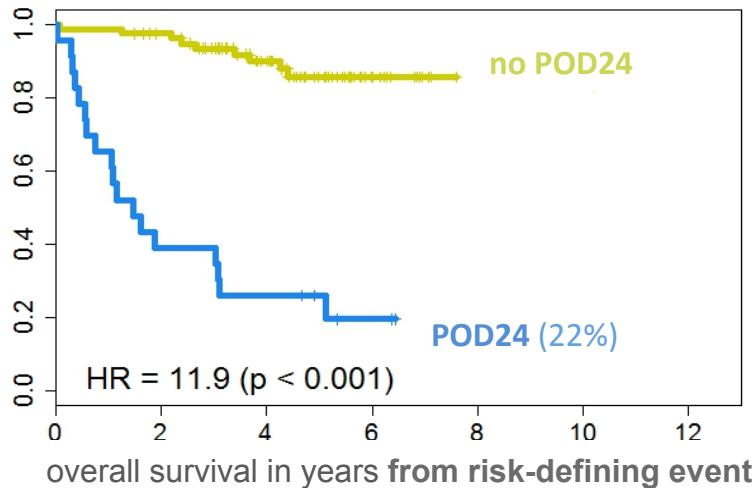
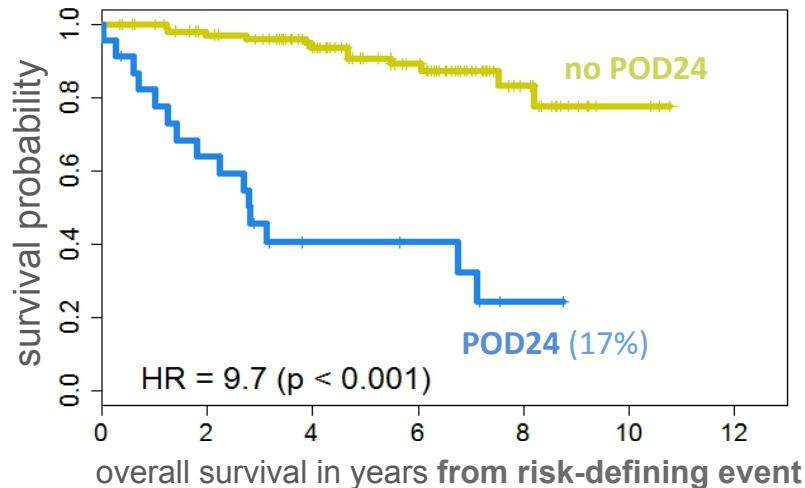
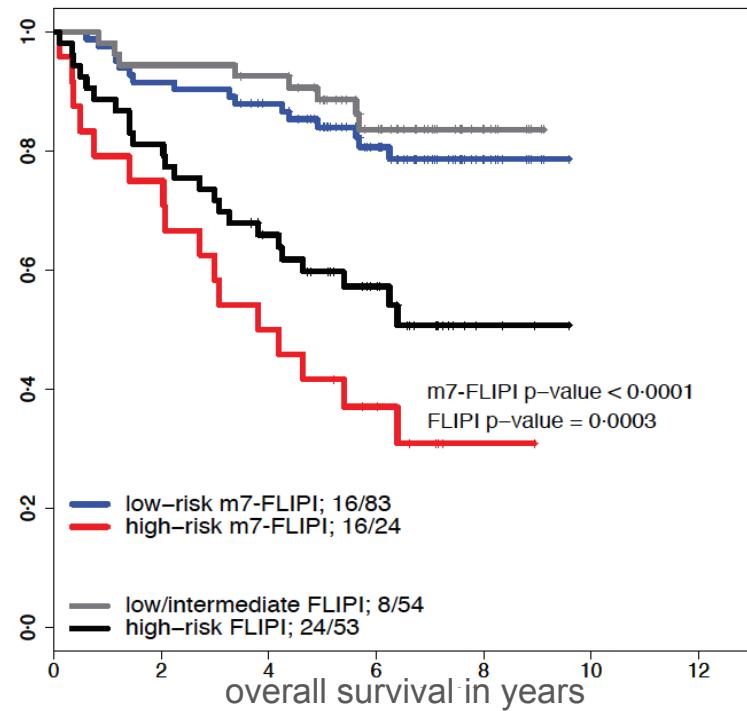


# Overall survival: pre- versus post-treatment risk classifiers

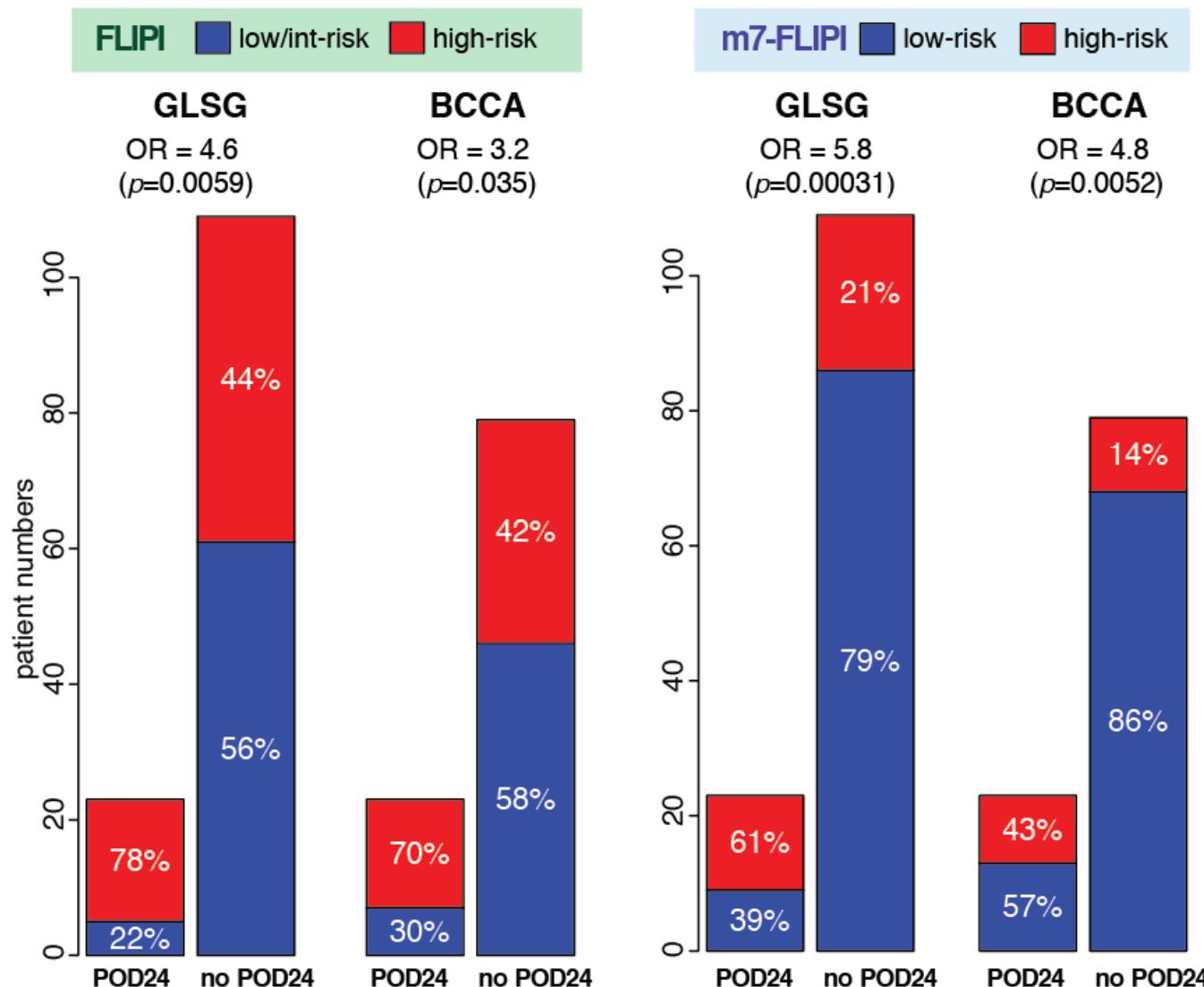
GLSG training cohort



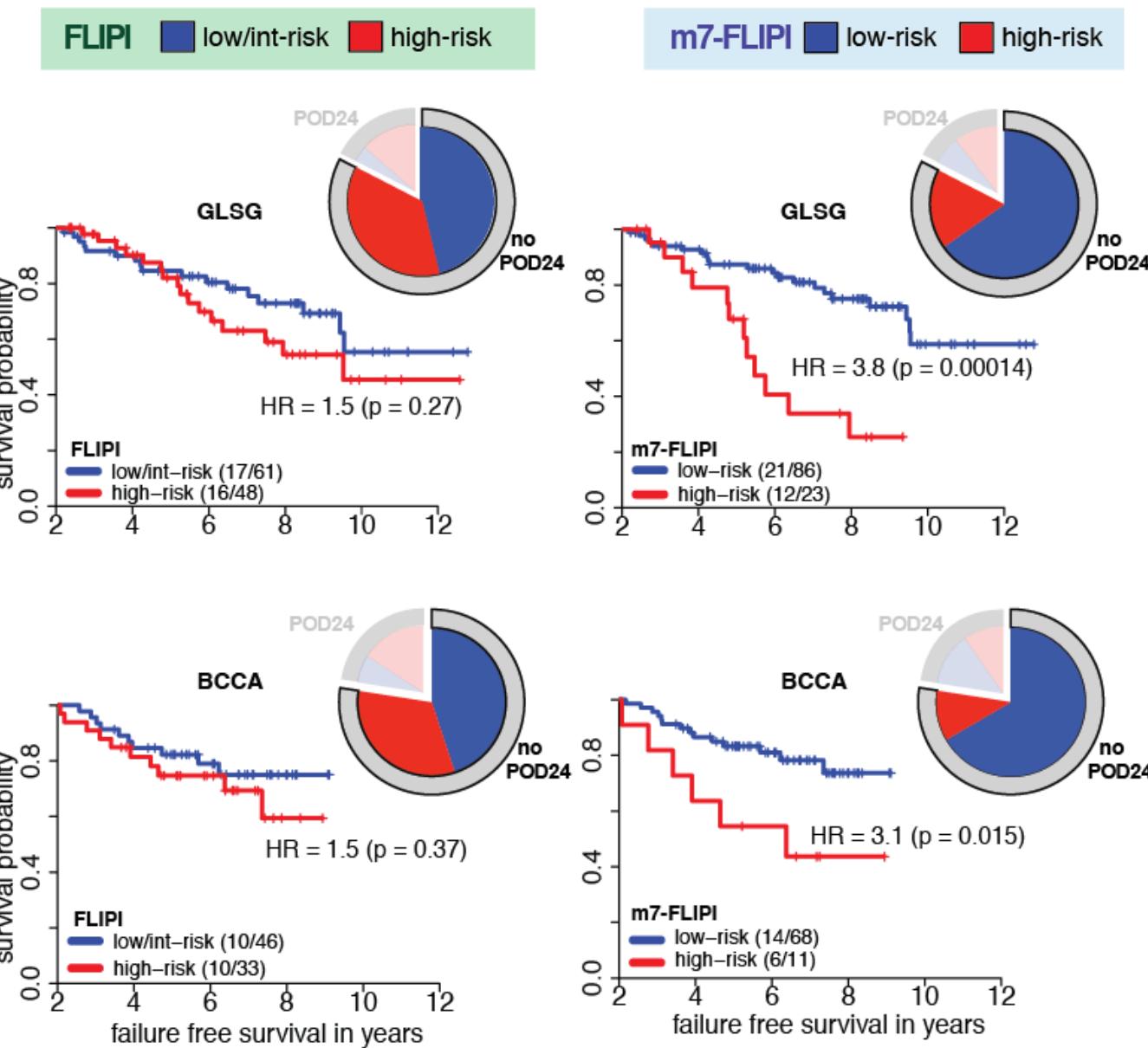
BCCA validation cohort



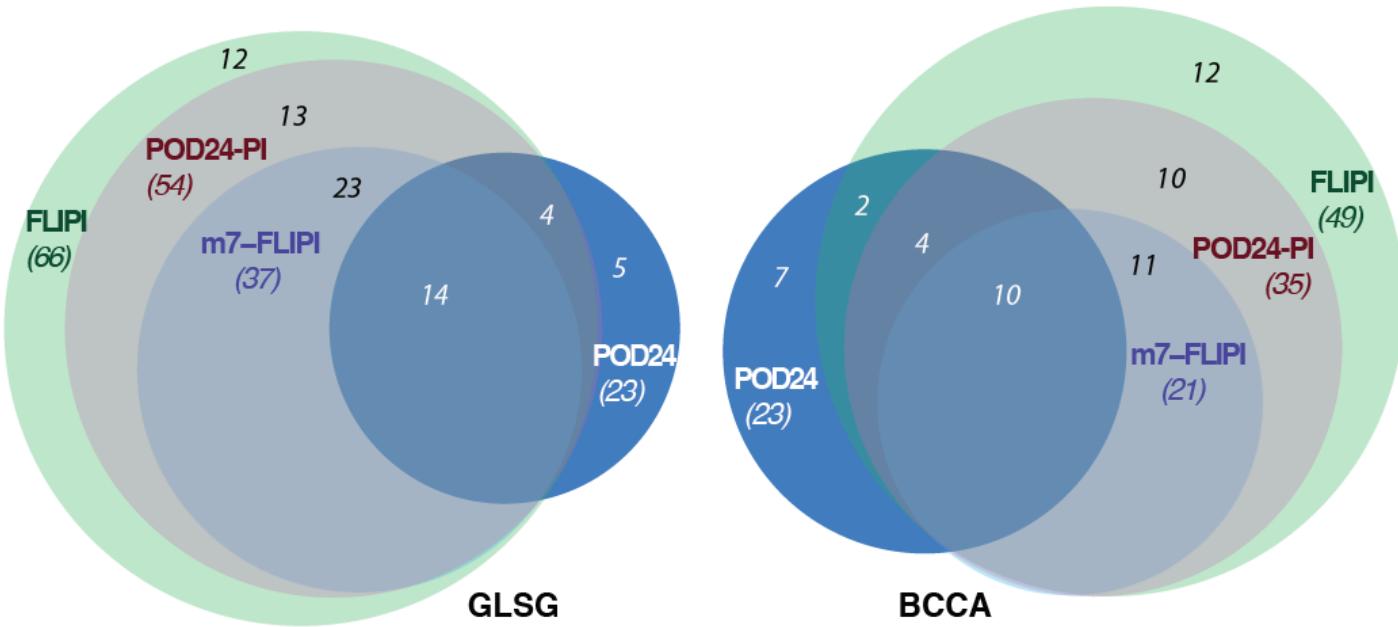
## *Pre-treatment risk models for POD24: FLIPI and m7-FLIPI*



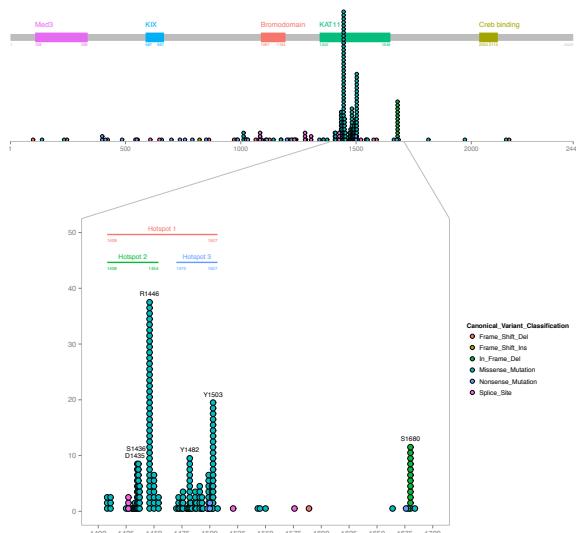
# *Pre-treatment risk models in non-POD24 patients*



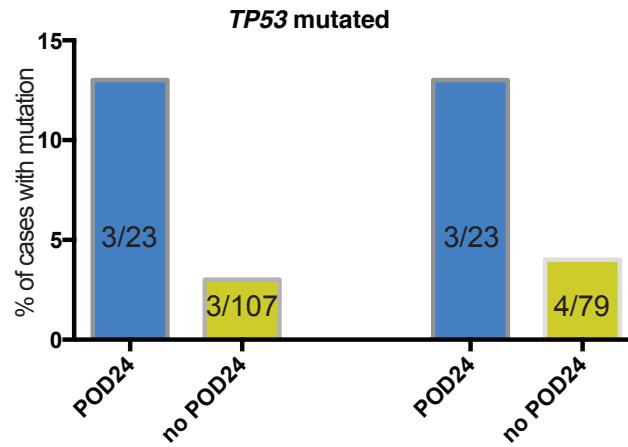
# Need to refine / improve pre-treatment risk models



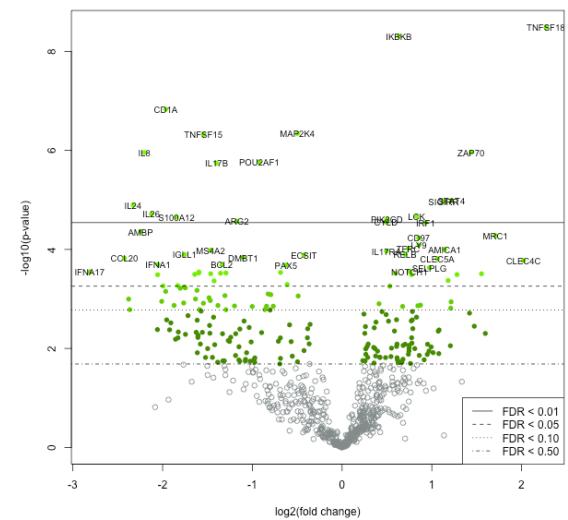
E.g., binary vs. multi-dimensional data?



E.g., additional / novel gene mutations?



E.g., other biomarkers / -omics data?



## ***Evolving principle #1***

### **Integration of molecular markers for improved prognostication**

*Ongoing:*

- additional validation (e.g., additional patient cohorts) & standardization
- iterative improvement (e.g., integration of additional biomarkers)
- functional characterization of candidate mutations

*Perspective:*

- developing a tool for patient stratification and risk-/ biology-adapted treatment

# Clinical implication of genetics in malignant lymphoma

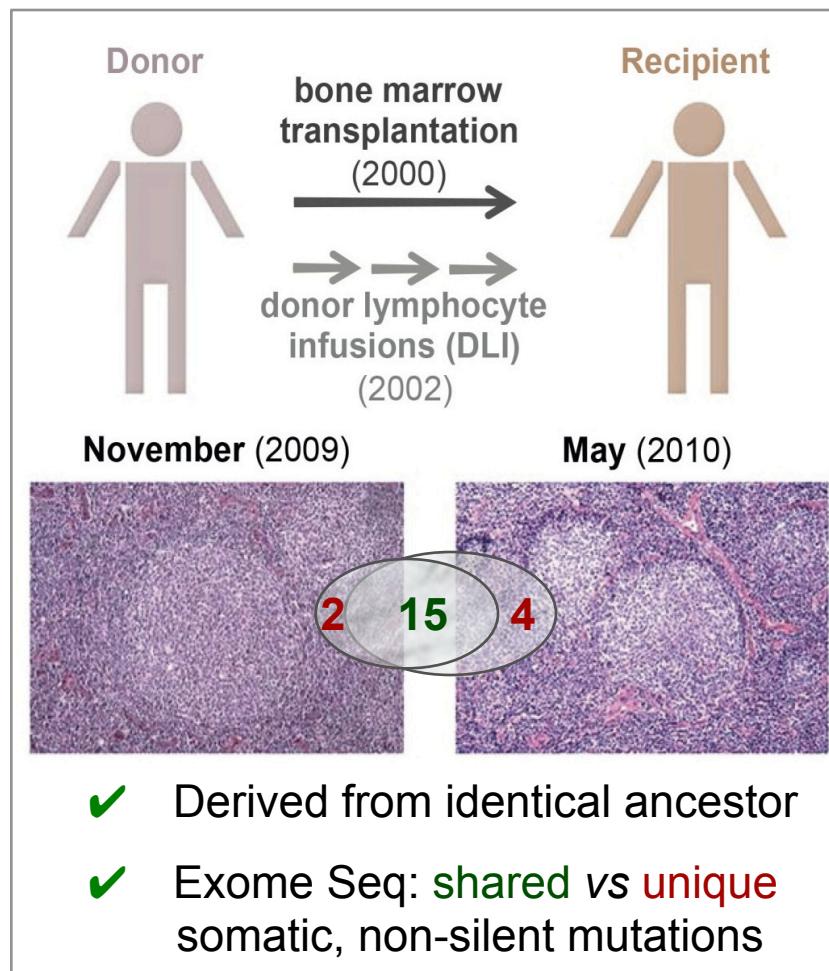
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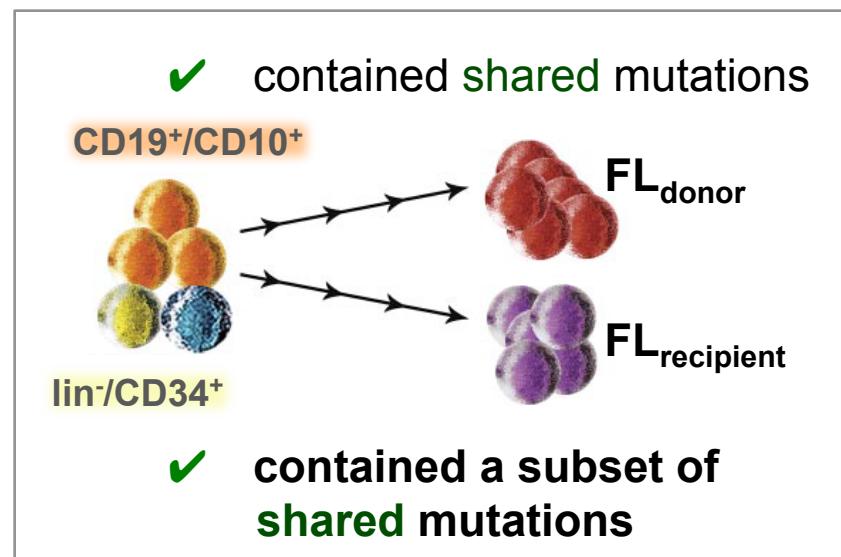
- molecular prognostication
- **seizing the molecular ontogeny**
- molecular treatment stratification
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# Molecular ontogeny in donor-derived follicular lymphomas (FL)

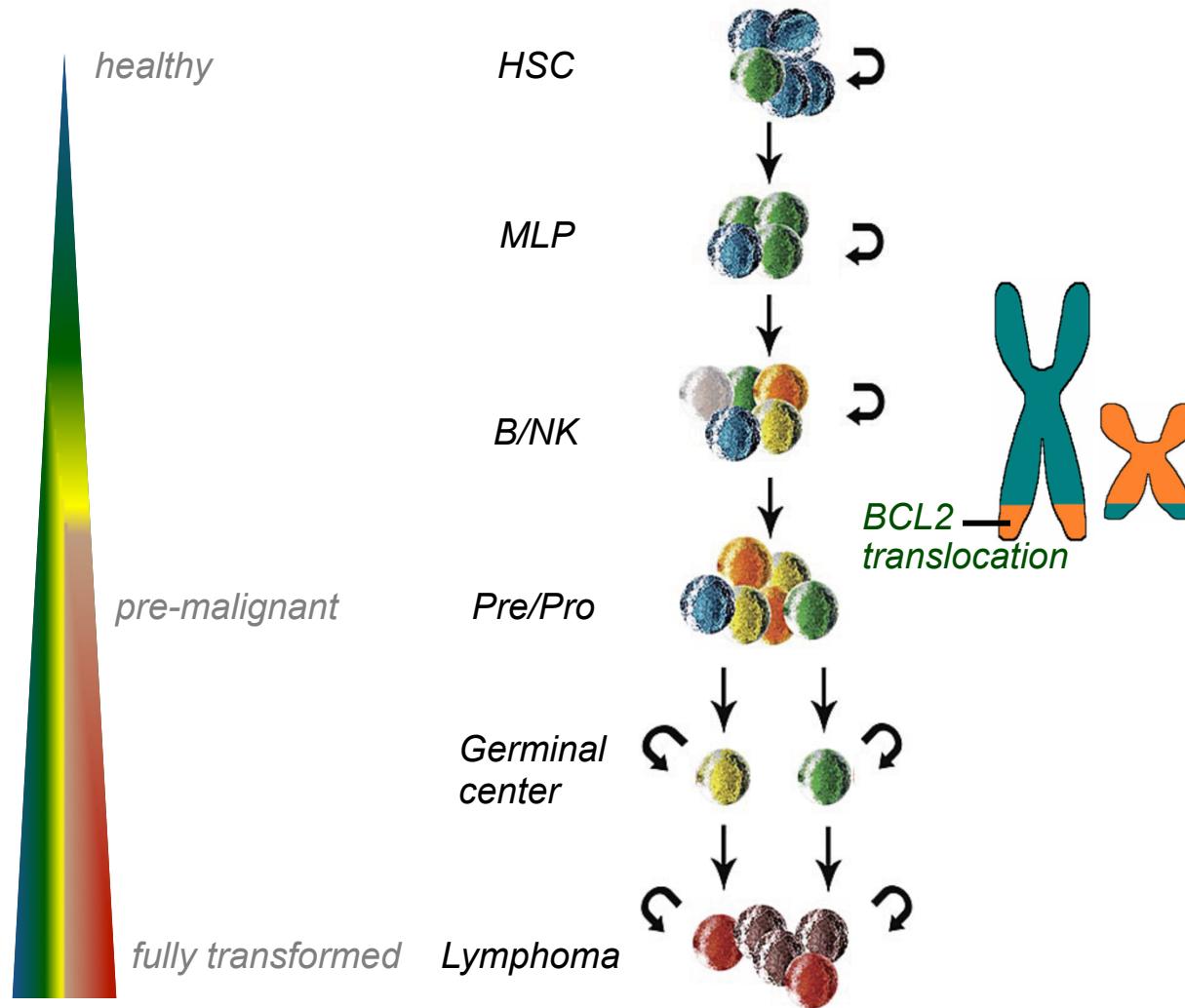


✓ contained FL ancestor cells  
✓ contained **shared** mutations

**I.e., complex genetic alterations were acquired > 7 years earlier**



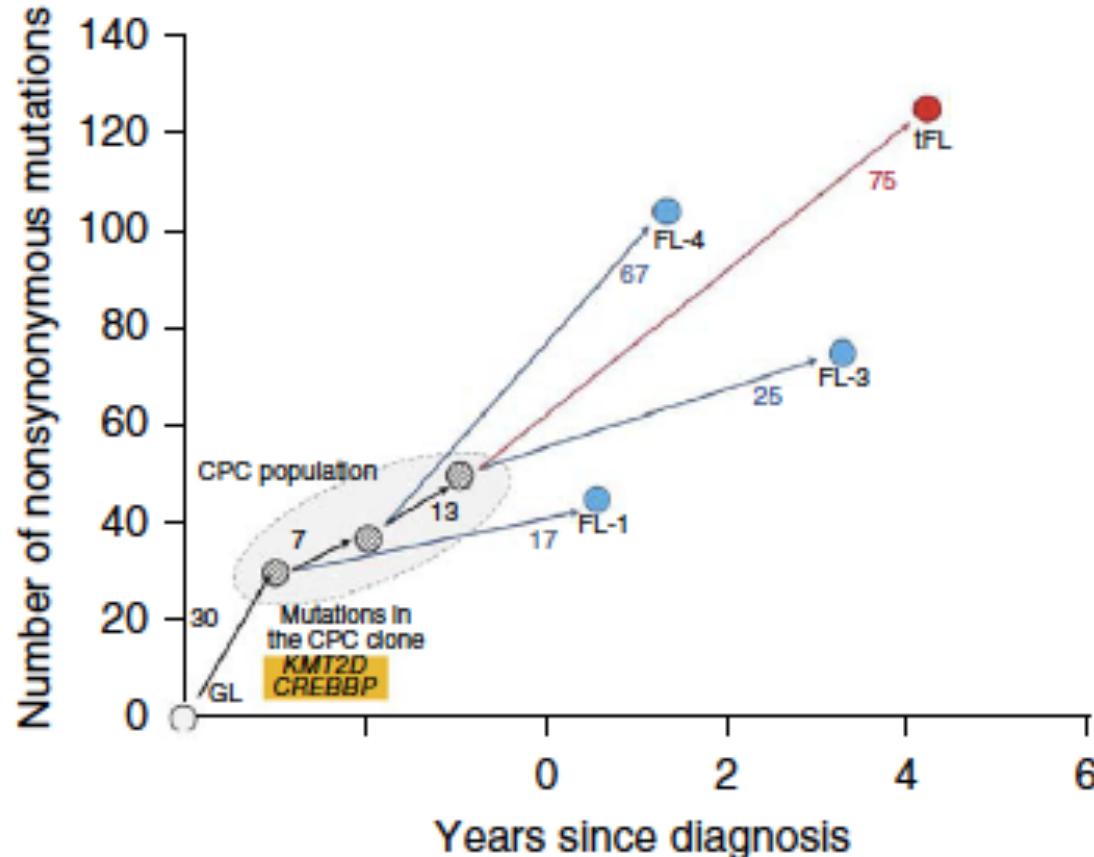
# Proposed model of oncogenic evolution in FL



Weigert & Weinstock, Blood 2012

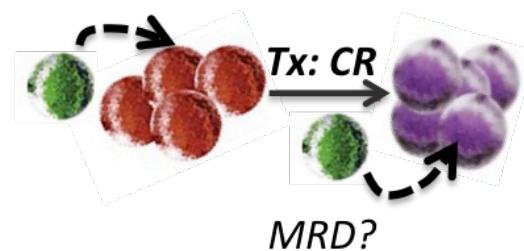
Supported by: Couronne, NEJM 2012; Quivaron, Cancer Cell 2011; Kikushige, Cancer Cell 2011; Damm, Cancer Discovery 2014

## Common precursor cells (CPC) give rise to relapses and histologic transformation in FL: divergent evolution pattern



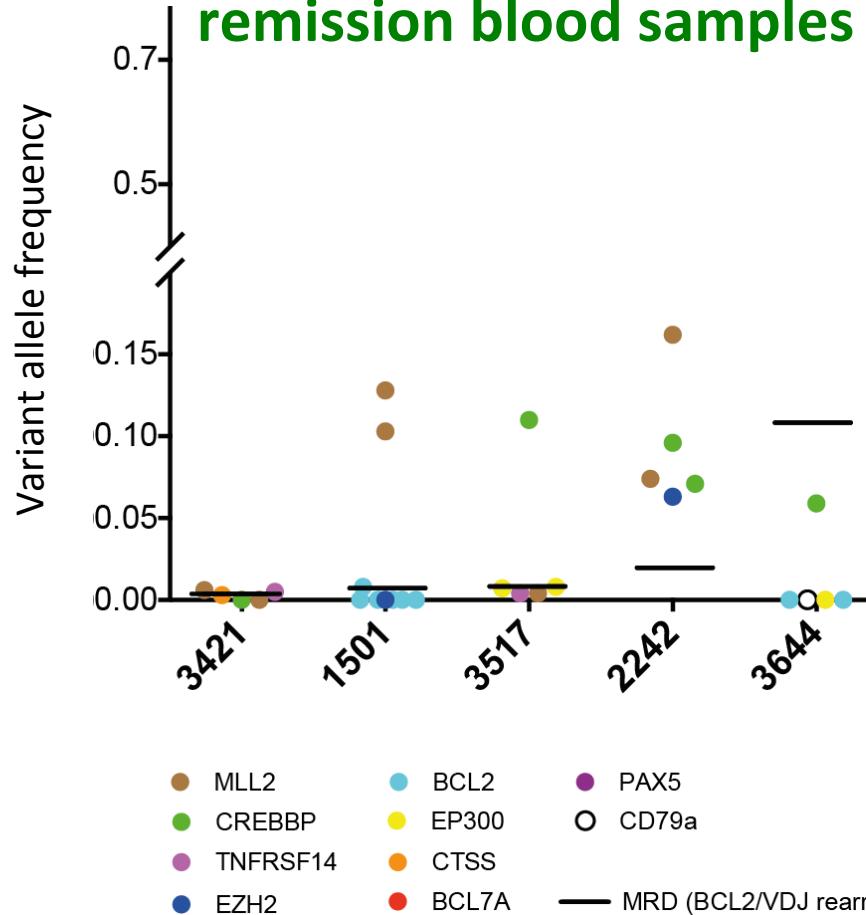
# Are CPCs detectable?

	<i>initial diagnosis</i>	<i>relapse</i>
<b><i>MLL2</i></b>	K2548fs / T4787fs	K2548fs / T4787fs Q809fs
<b><i>CREBBP</i></b>	D1435V	D1435V
<b><i>SMARCA4</i></b>	G883D	
<b><i>EZH2</i></b>	Y646S	
<b><i>TP53</i></b>	L336* / T284P	
<b><i>PTEN</i></b>	V85_splice	
<b><i>GNA13</i></b>	G95R / G60A	
<b><i>ARID1A</i></b>		C1968*
<b><i>TNFAIP3/A20</i></b>		C607*



*unpublished data*

# Detection of lymphoma-specific mutations in remission blood samples



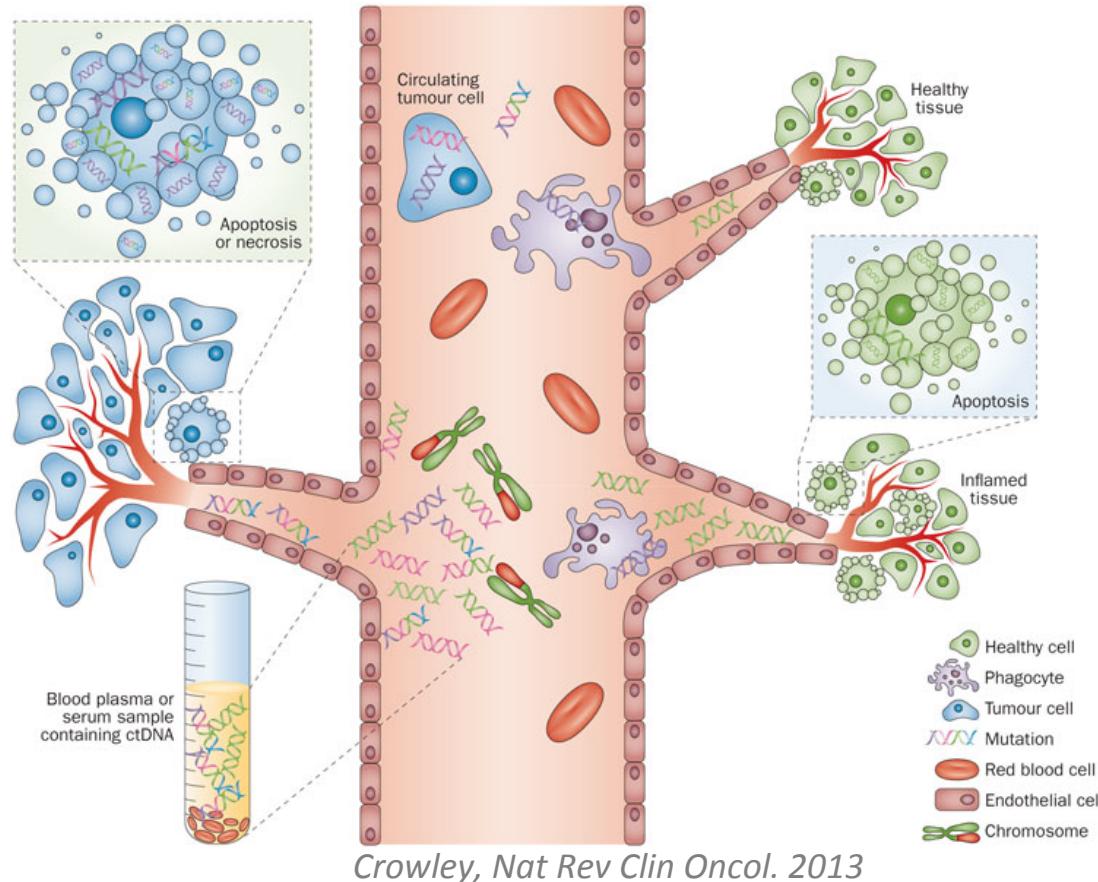
*unpublished data*

## *Evolving principle #2*

**Early acquired / persisting mutations are promising candidates**

- for detection of minimal residual disease (MRD)
- for therapeutic targeting to eradicate / cure the disease

# Perspective: Detection of lymphoma-specific mutations in cell-free DNA (cfDNA)



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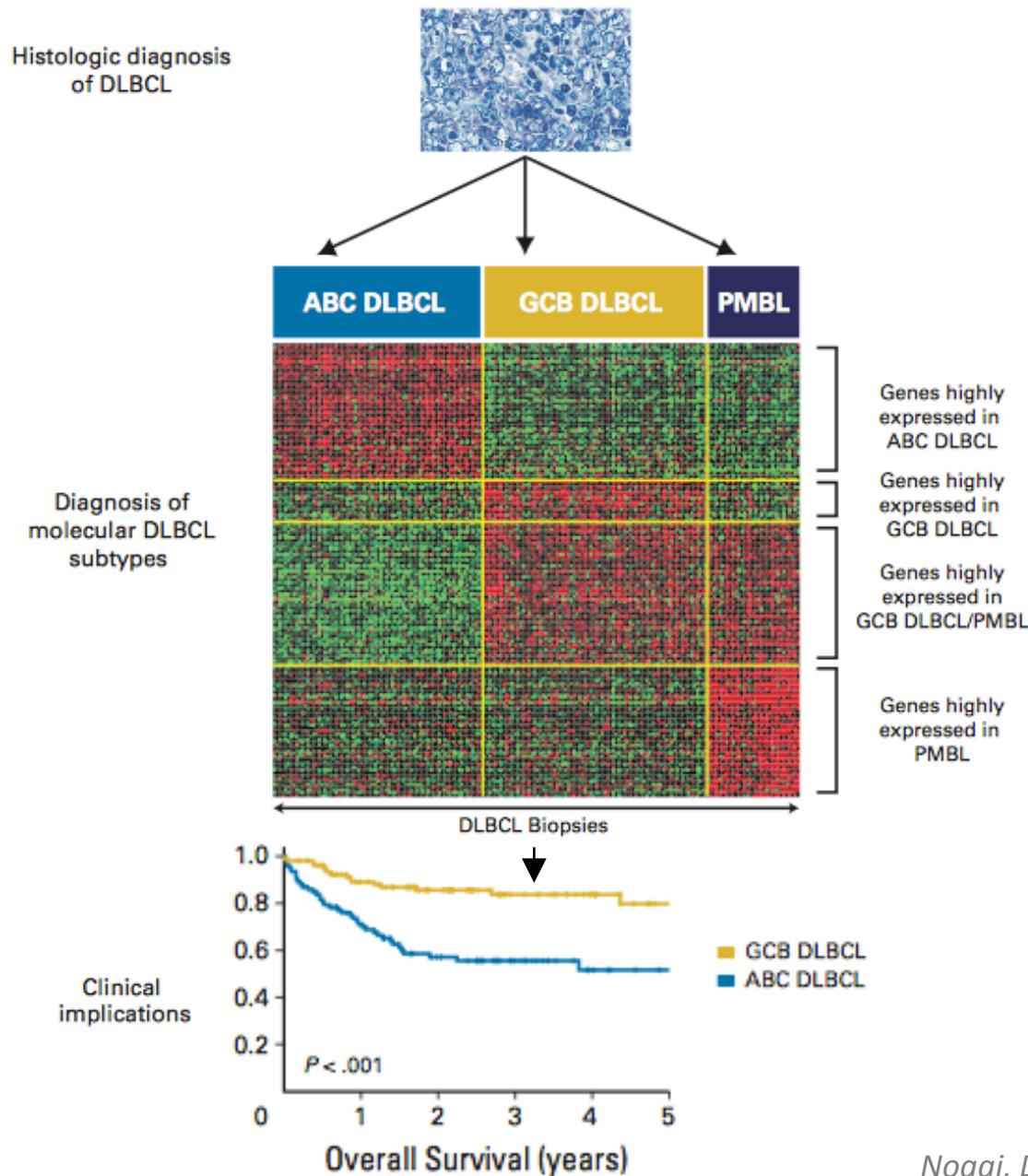
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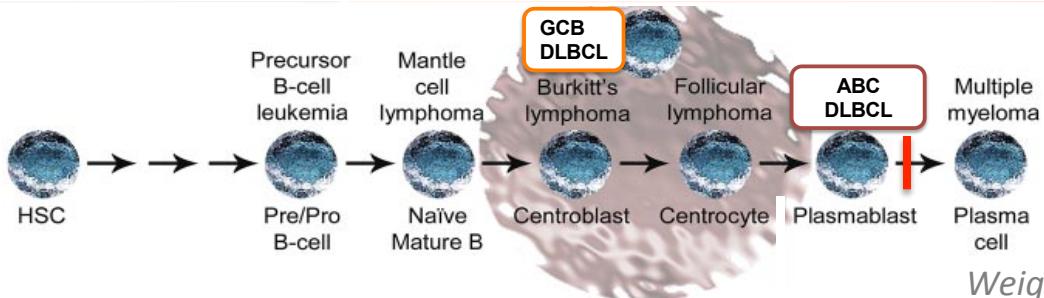
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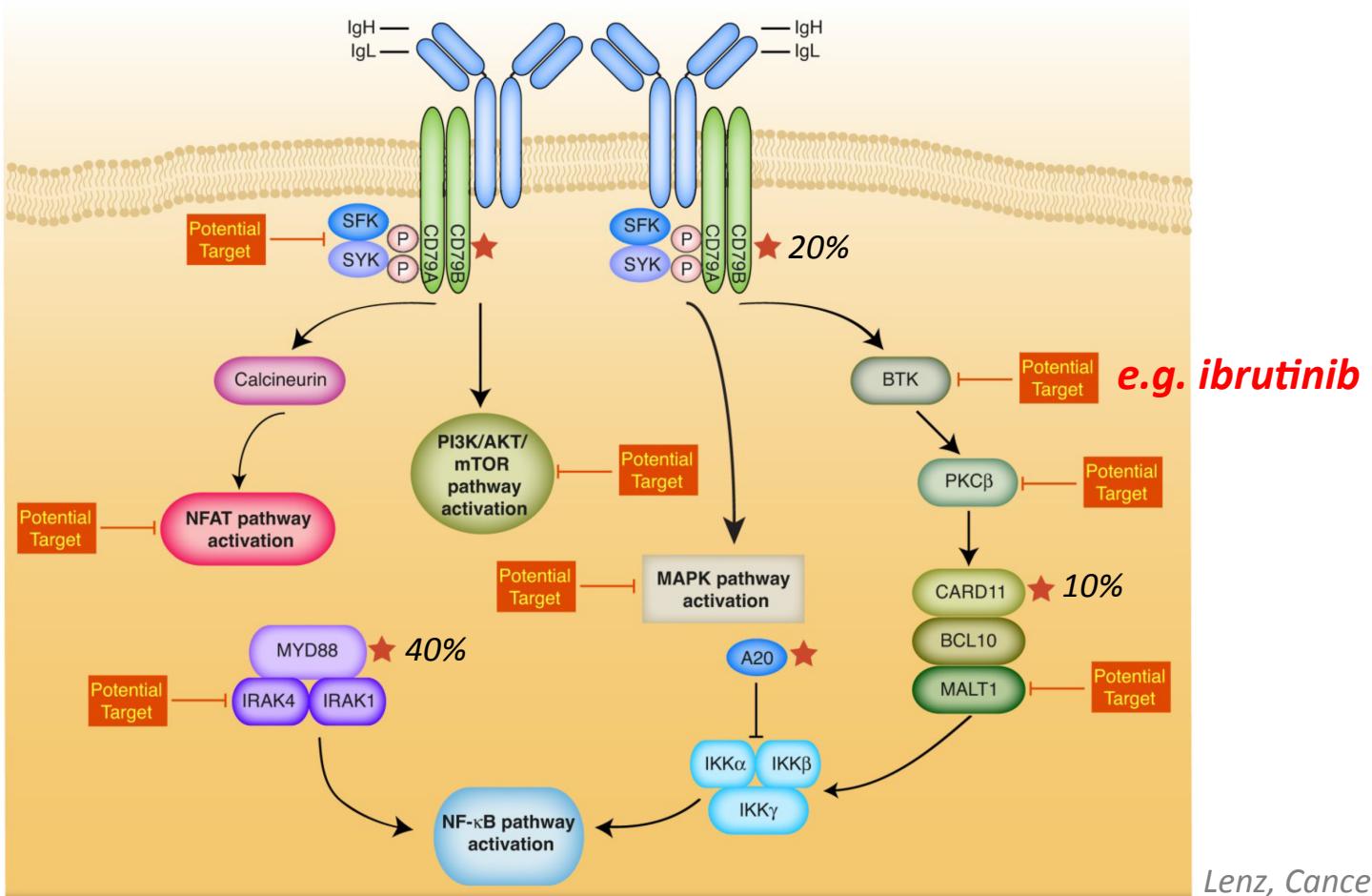
# Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL): not a single disease



# Activated B-cell like (ABC) DLBCL: distinct biology



Weigert & Weinstock, Blood 2012



Lenz, Cancers 2015

# Ibrutinib for relapsed / refractory de-novo DLBCL

**Table 1 Baseline characteristics by DLBCL subtype**

Characteristics	ABC (N = 38)	GCB (N = 20)	Unclassified (N = 17)	Unknown (N = 5)
Median age, years (range)	60 (34–89)	65 (28–92)	63 (44–85)	65 (58–78)
Sex (male)	66%	70%	82%	60%
ECOG performance score ≥ 2	5%	20%	24%	40%
RIPI (poor)	63%	59%	50%	60%
Median time from diagnosis, months (range)	19 (4–118)	17 (11–104)	21 (7–332)	19 (9–57)
Median number of prior regimens (range)	3 (1–7)	3.5 (1–7)	3 (1–4)	3 (1–3)
Prior ASCT	13%	30%	24%	40%
Chemotherapy-refractory disease	66%	65%	59%	50%

Overall response rate (ORR): 25% (20/80)

Partial responses (PR): n = 12

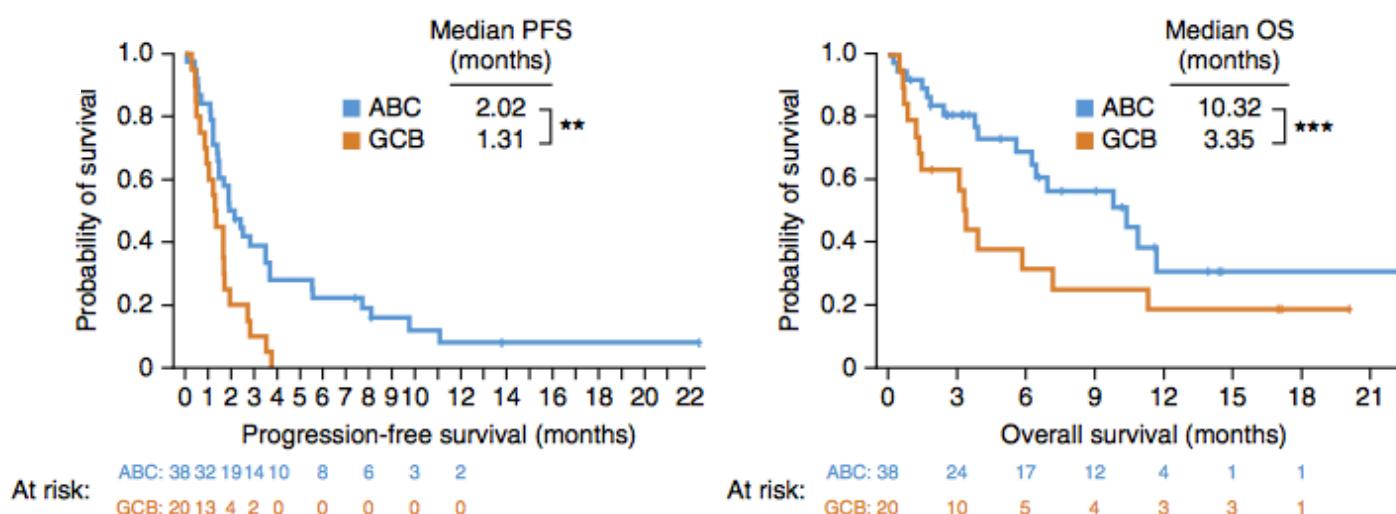
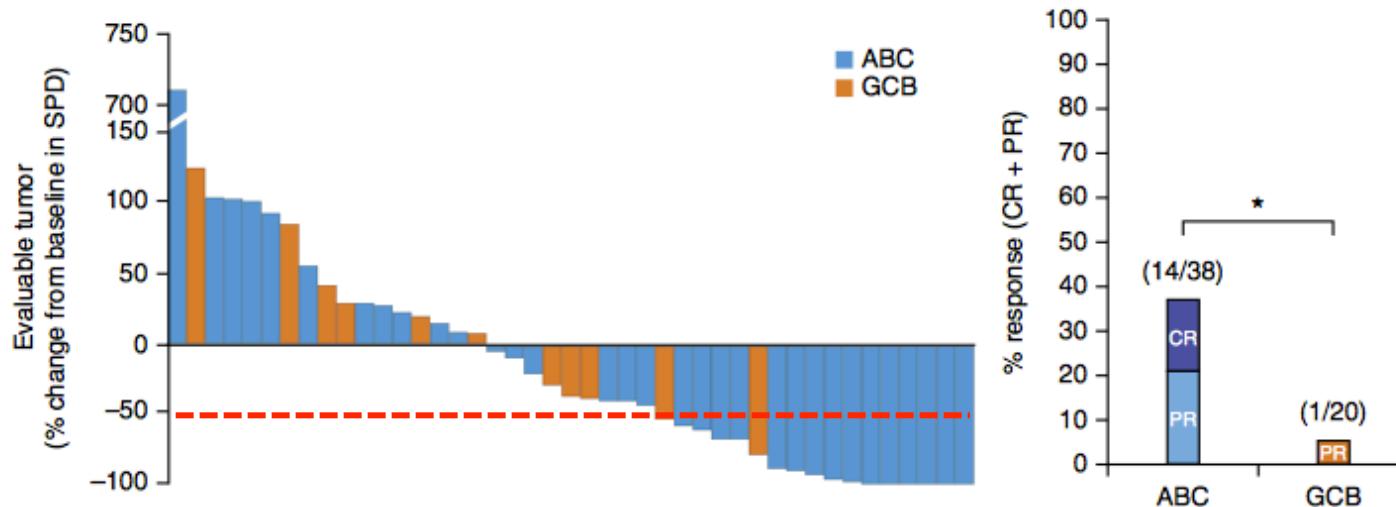
Complete responses (CR): n = 8

Median post-treatment follow-up: 11.5 months

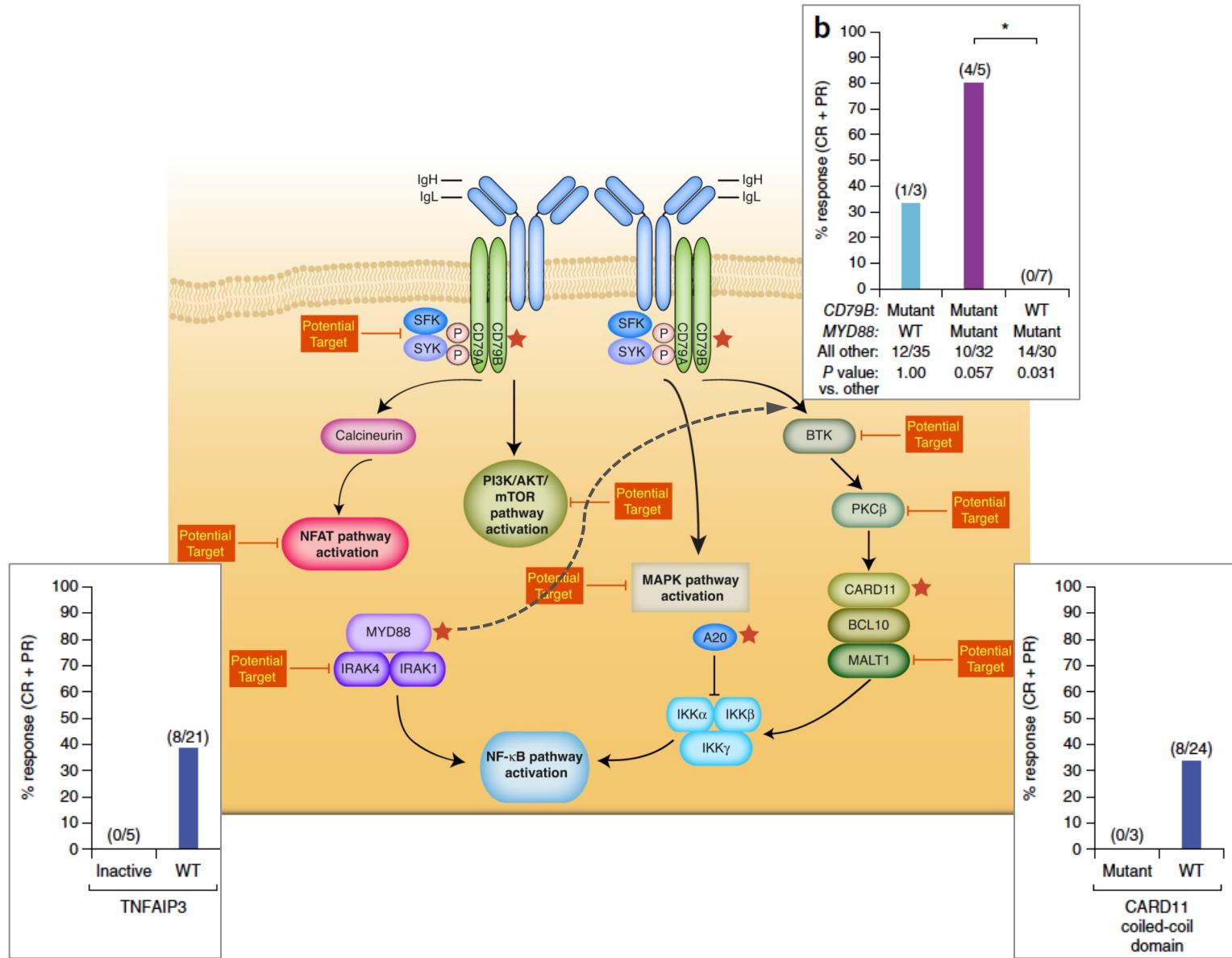
Median progression-free survival (PFS): 1.6 months

Median overall survival (OS): 6.4 months

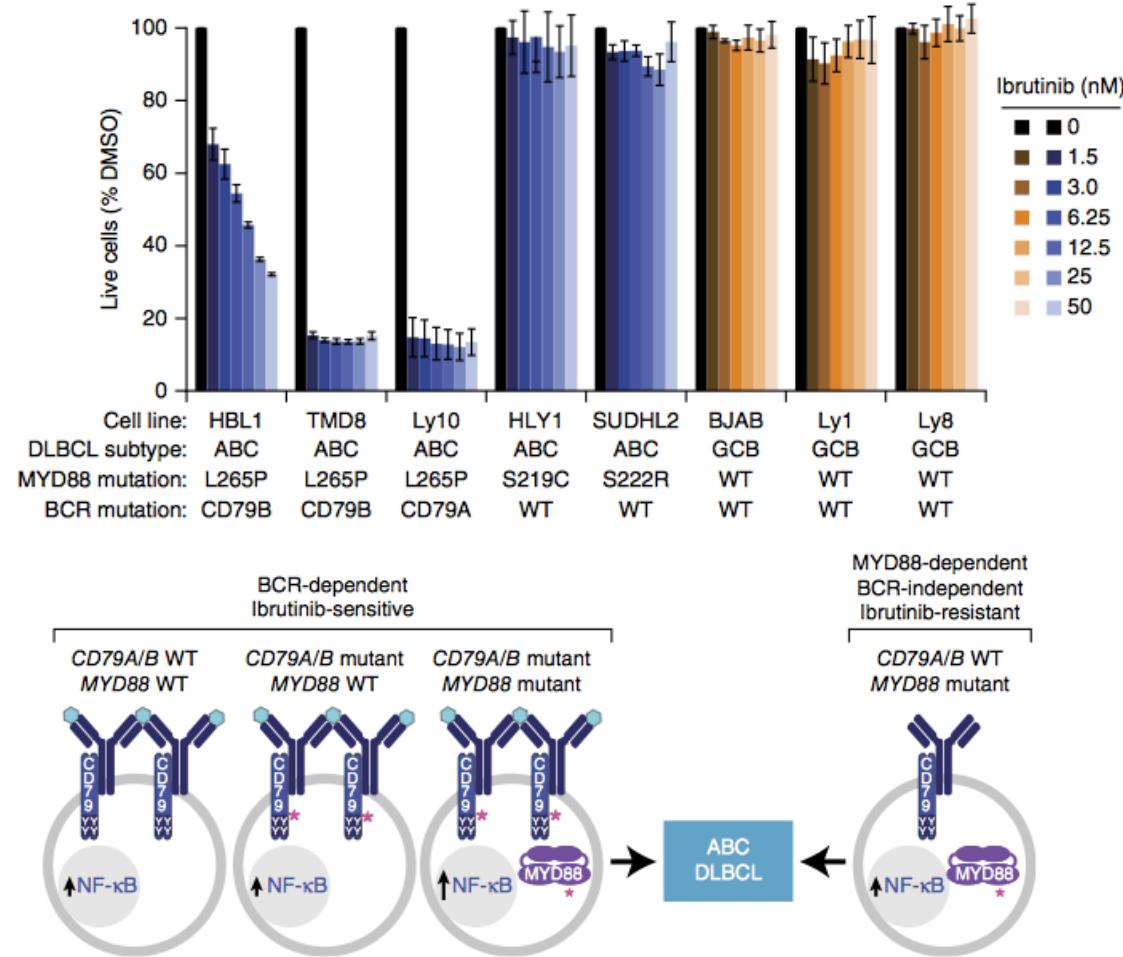
# Treatment outcome by DLBCL subtype



# Gene mutations determine ibrutinib sensitivity



# DLBCL subtype and gene mutations determine ibrutinib sensitivity



## Evolving principle #3

Integrative molecular analyses provide a foundation for the development of biology-adapted treatment strategies

# Clinical implication of genetics in malignant lymphoma

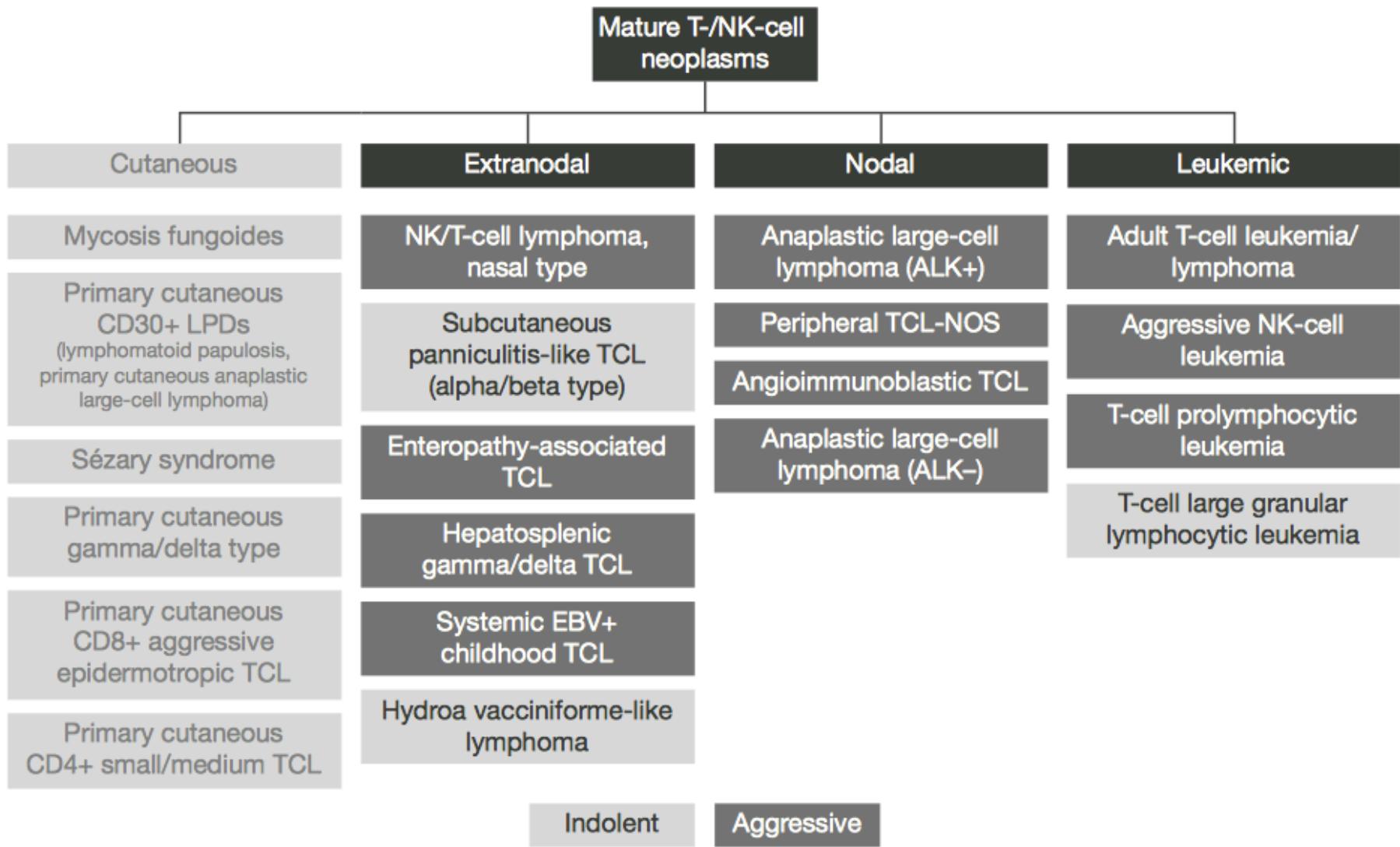
## Established (primarily in diagnostics)

- *VDJ* rearrangement: clonality
- somatic hypermutation: pre- vs post- germinal center
- hallmark translocations (mutations): diagnosis & classification

## Evolving (towards biology-adapted treatment strategies)

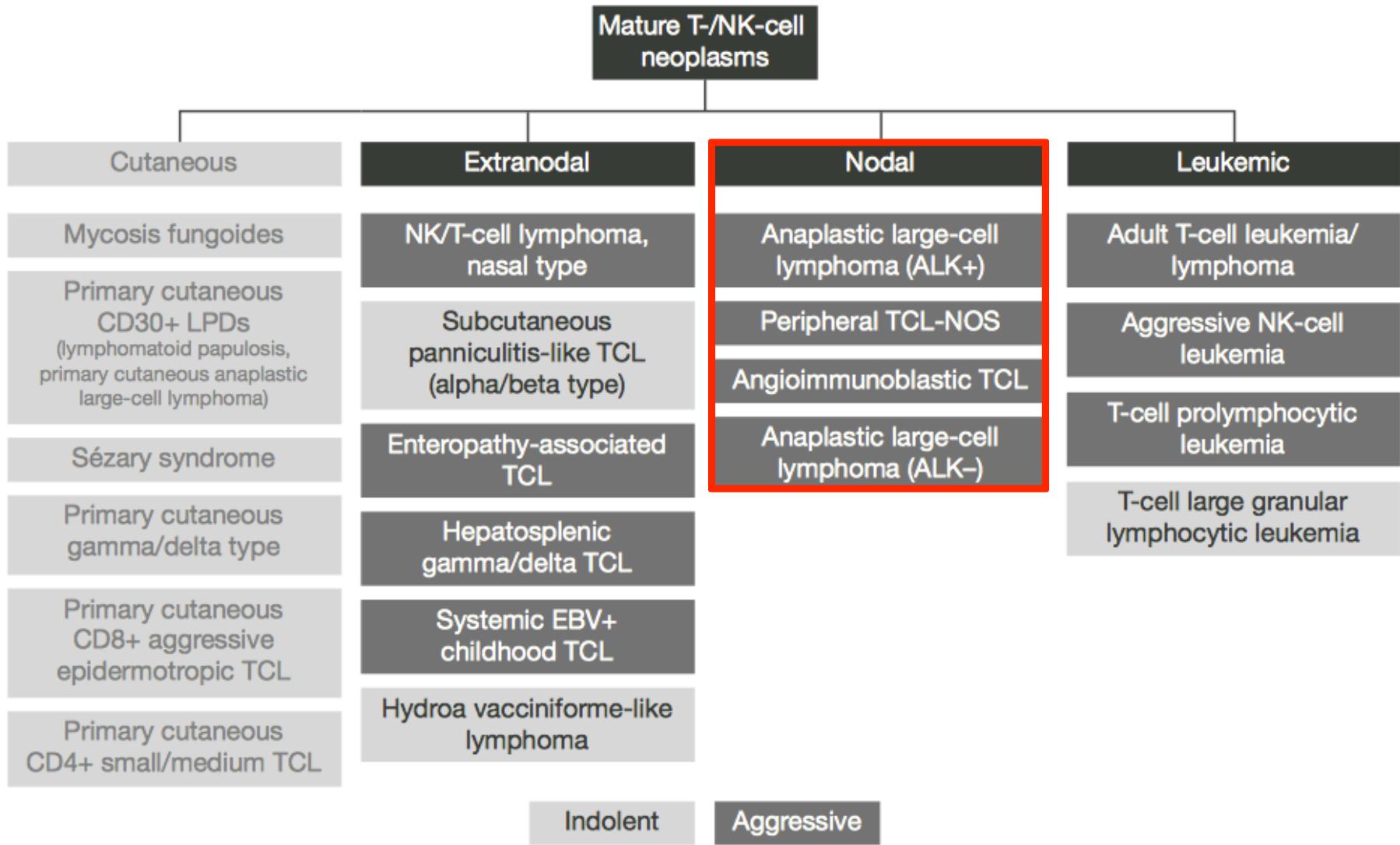
- molecular prognostication
- seizing the molecular ontogeny
- molecular treatment stratification
- **understanding the molecular biology**

# Taxonomy of TCL



from Zinzani et al., 2016  
Swerdlow et al. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues, 2008

# Taxonomy of TCL

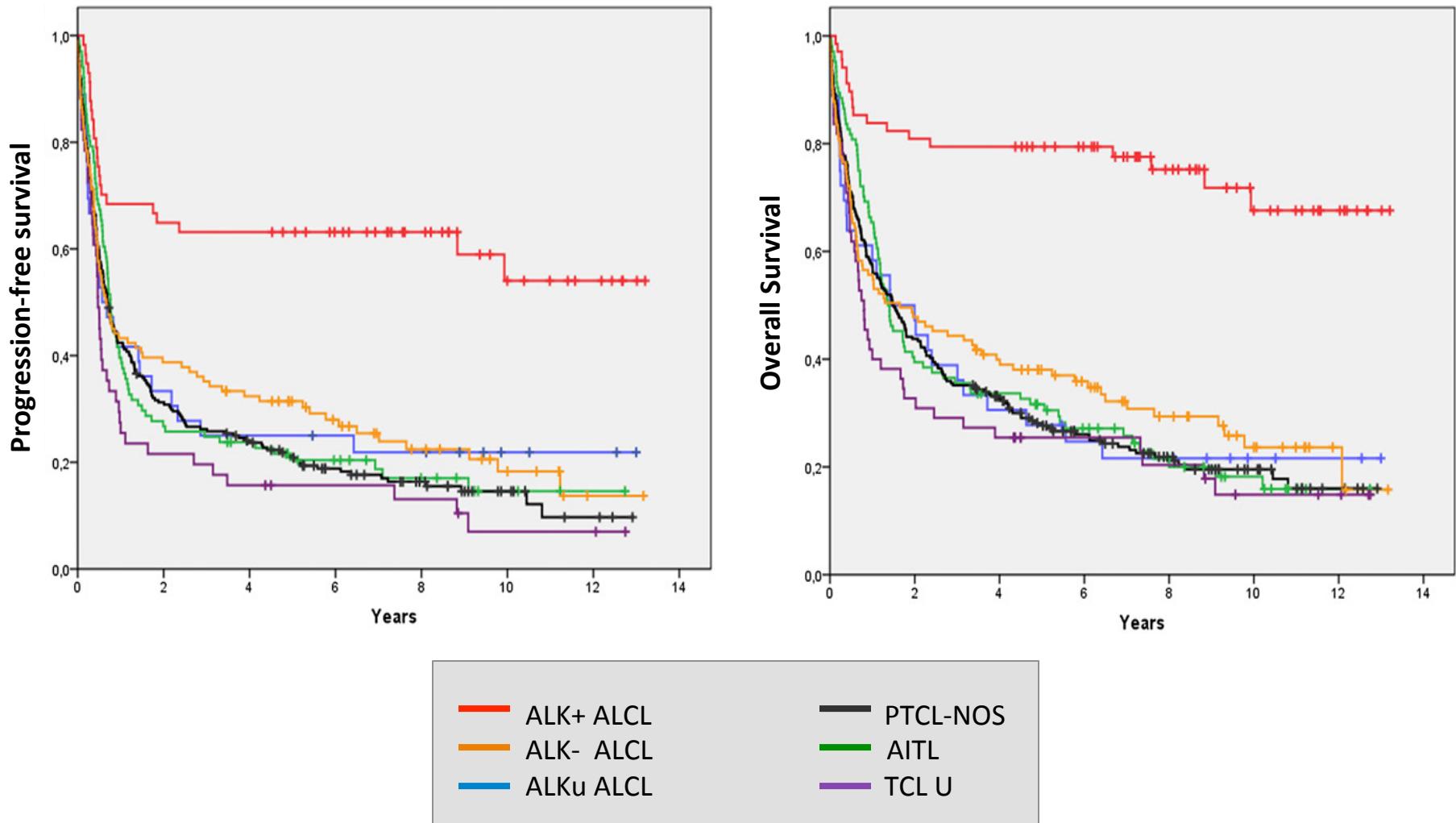


from Zinzani et al., 2016  
Swerdlow et al. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues, 2008

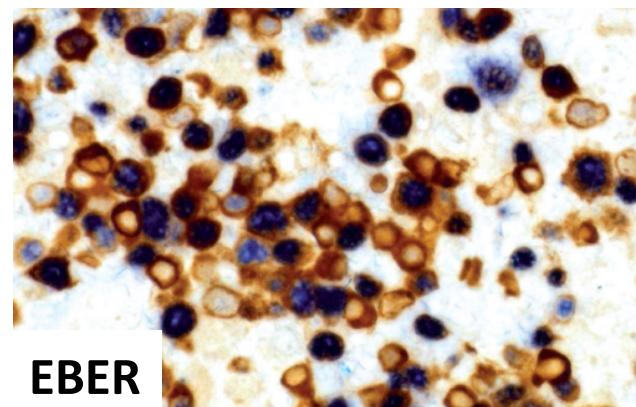
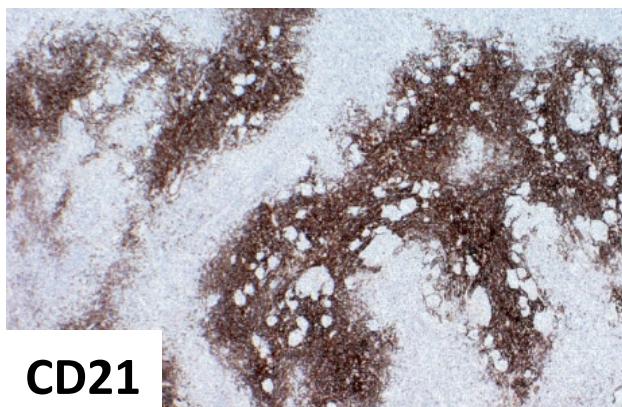
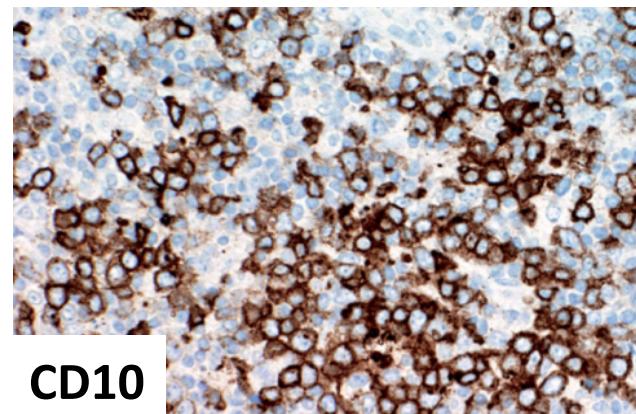
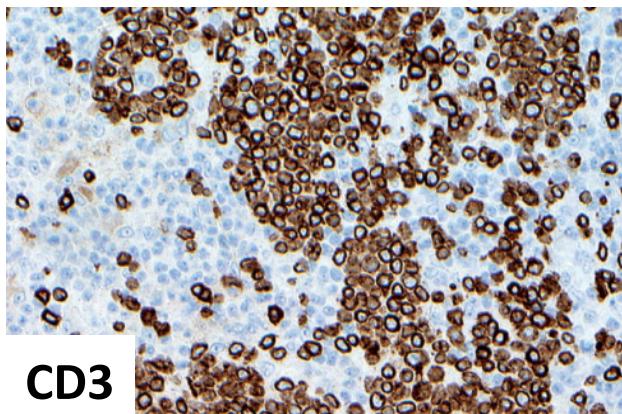
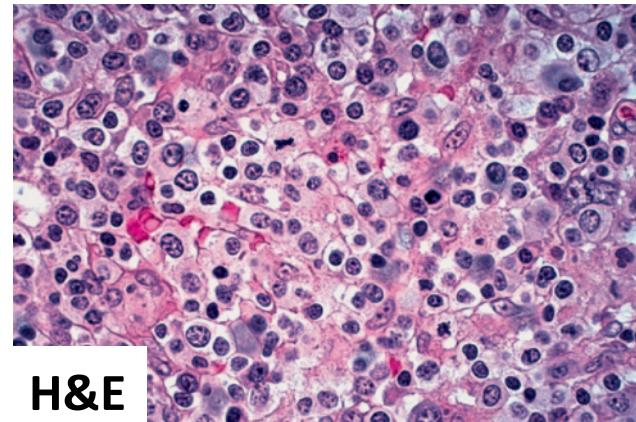
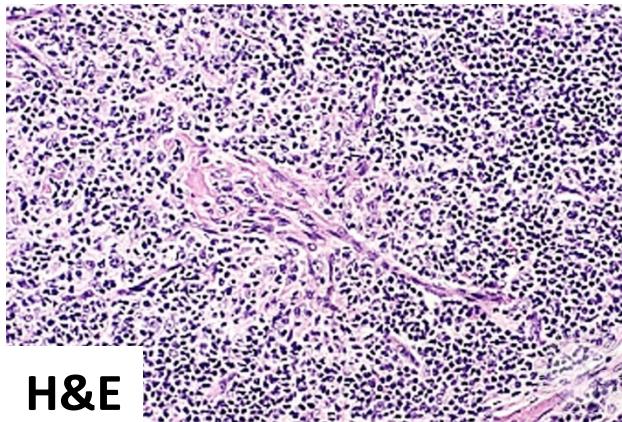
## Epidemiology of TCL

	North America (%)	Europe (%)	Asia (%)
PTCL-NOS	34.4	34.3	22.4
AITL	16.0	28.7	17.9
ALCL, ALK+	16.0	6.4	3.2
ALCL, ALK-	7.8	9.4	2.6
NKTCL	5.1	4.3	22.4
ATLL	2.0	1.0	25.0
Enteropathy-type TCL	5.8	9.1	1.9
Hepatosplenic TCL	3.0	2.3	0.2
Primary cutaneous ALCL	5.4	0.8	0.7
SCPTCL	1.3	0.5	1.3
Unclassifiable TCL	2.3	3.3	2.4

# Swedish Lymphoma Registry

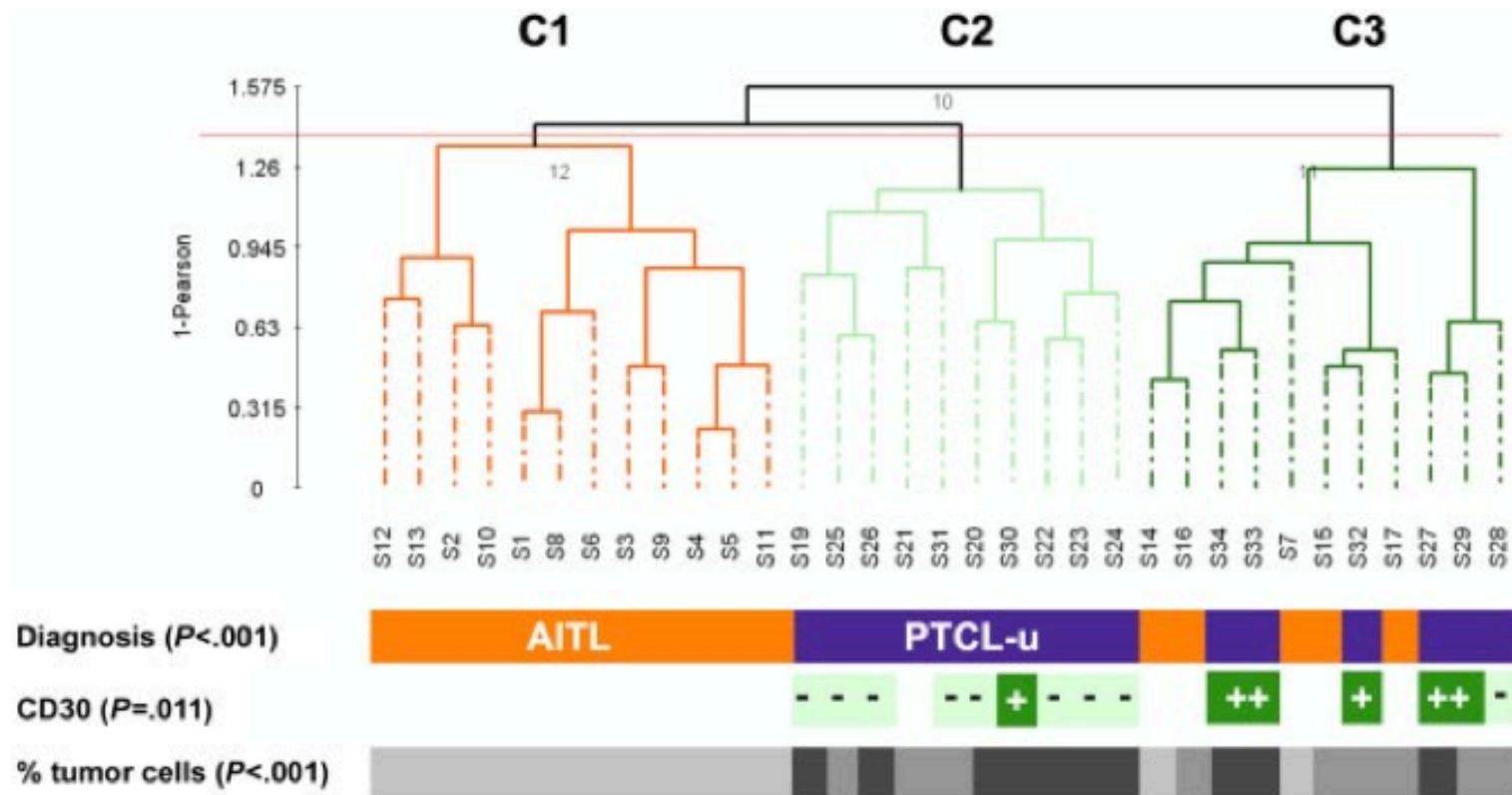


## Pathobiologic features of AITL

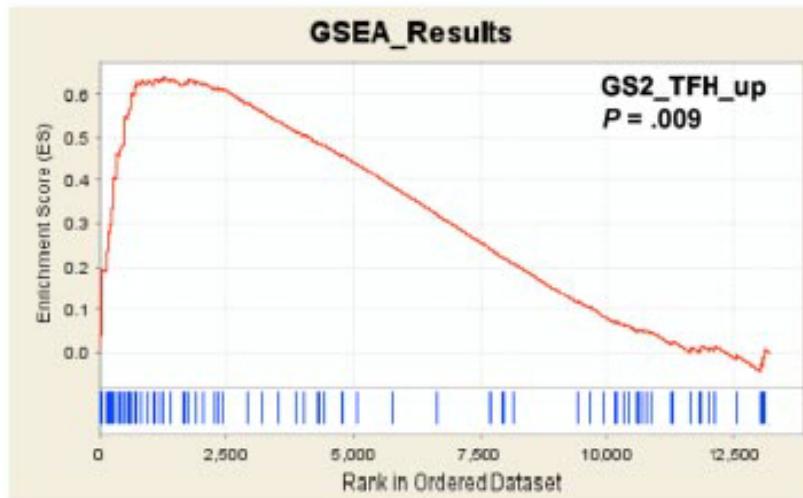


adapted from  
ASH Image Bank

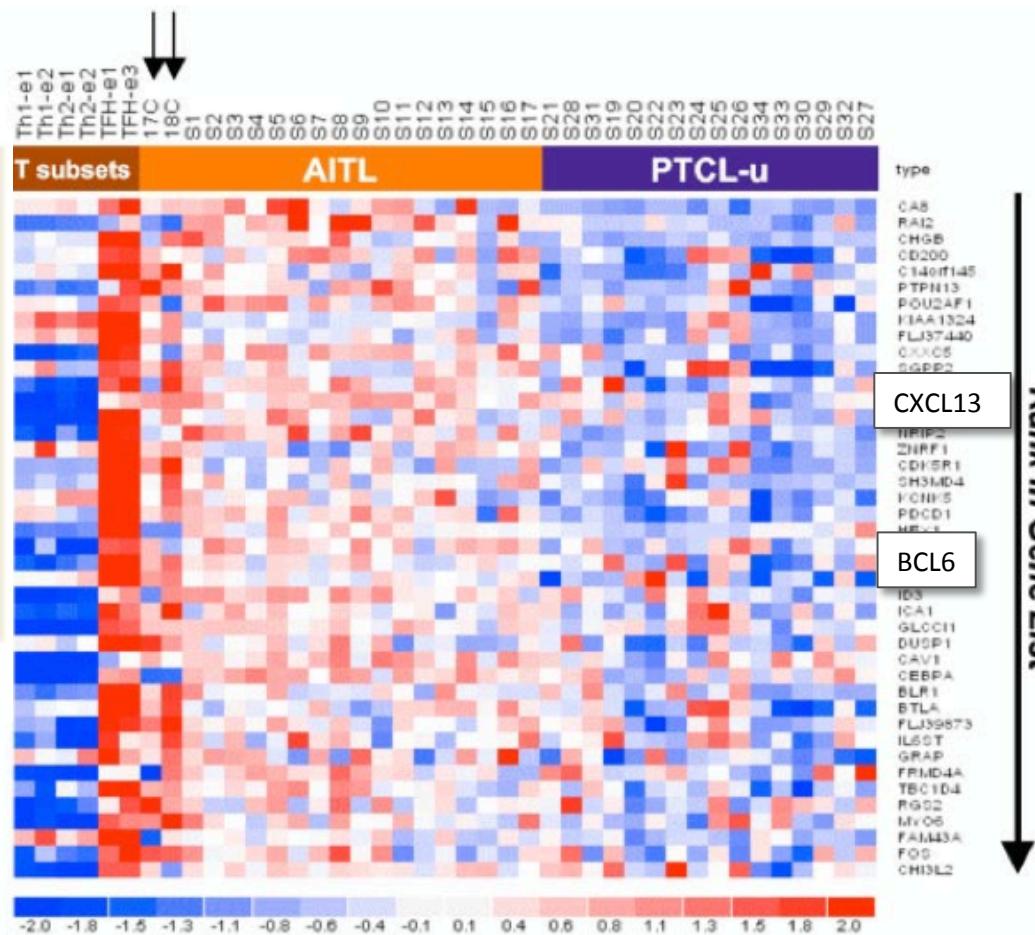
# Distinct transcriptional signatures ofAITL and PTCL-NOS



# AITL are derived from T<sub>FH</sub> cells



AITL → PTCL-u      SNR



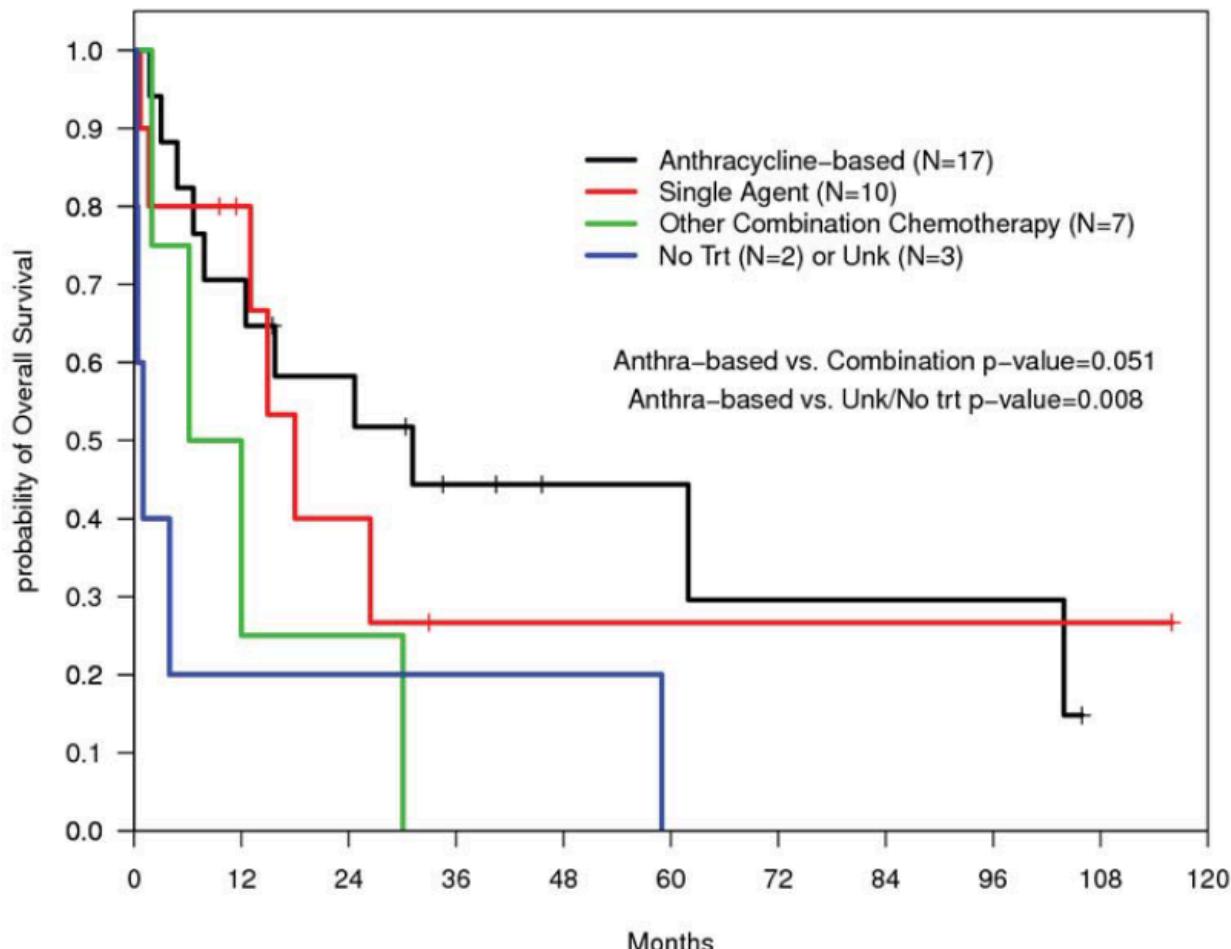
## Study design

**Study cohort: 85 AITL cases from United States and Europe**

<b>median age (years) [range]</b>	<b>69 [30-89]</b>
<b>median OS (months) [95% CI]</b>	<b>18 [12-31]</b>
<b>Histology pattern II/III (%)</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>CXCL13<sup>+</sup> (%)</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>PD-1<sup>+</sup> (%)</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>CD4<sup>+</sup> (%)</b>	<b>98.1</b>
<b>EBER (%)</b>	<b>66.7</b>

## Study design

Study cohort: 85 AITL cases from United States and Europe

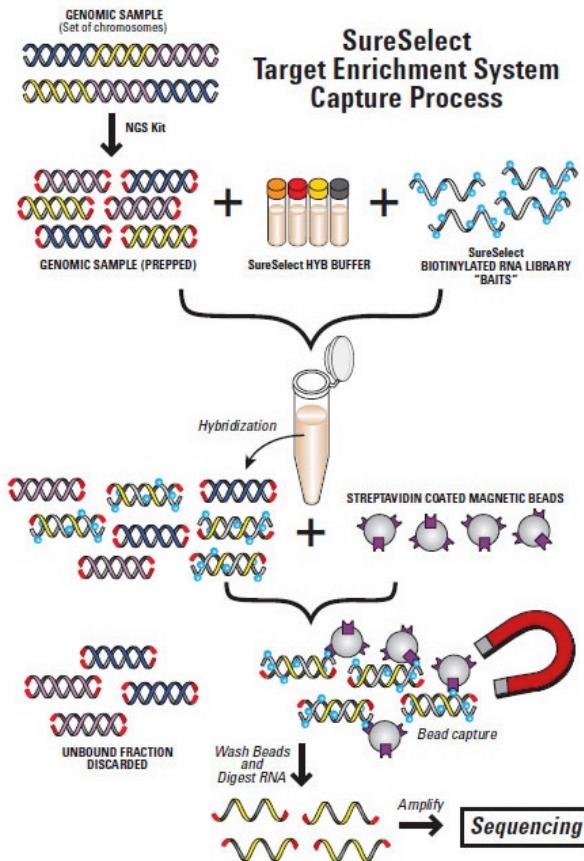


# Study design

Study cohort: 85 AITL cases from United States and Europe



Target enrichment by hybrid capture and deep sequencing of tumor DNA



- **219 selected genes**
- **Advantage**
  - robust ( $\uparrow$ sensitivity,  $\downarrow$ false positive rate)
  - quantitative
  - small amounts of DNA
- **Disadvantage**
  - biased

## Study design

**Study cohort: 85 AITL cases from United States and Europe**



**Target enrichment by hybrid capture and deep sequencing of tumor DNA**



**Validation of mutations by Sanger sequencing or Mass Array Genotyping**



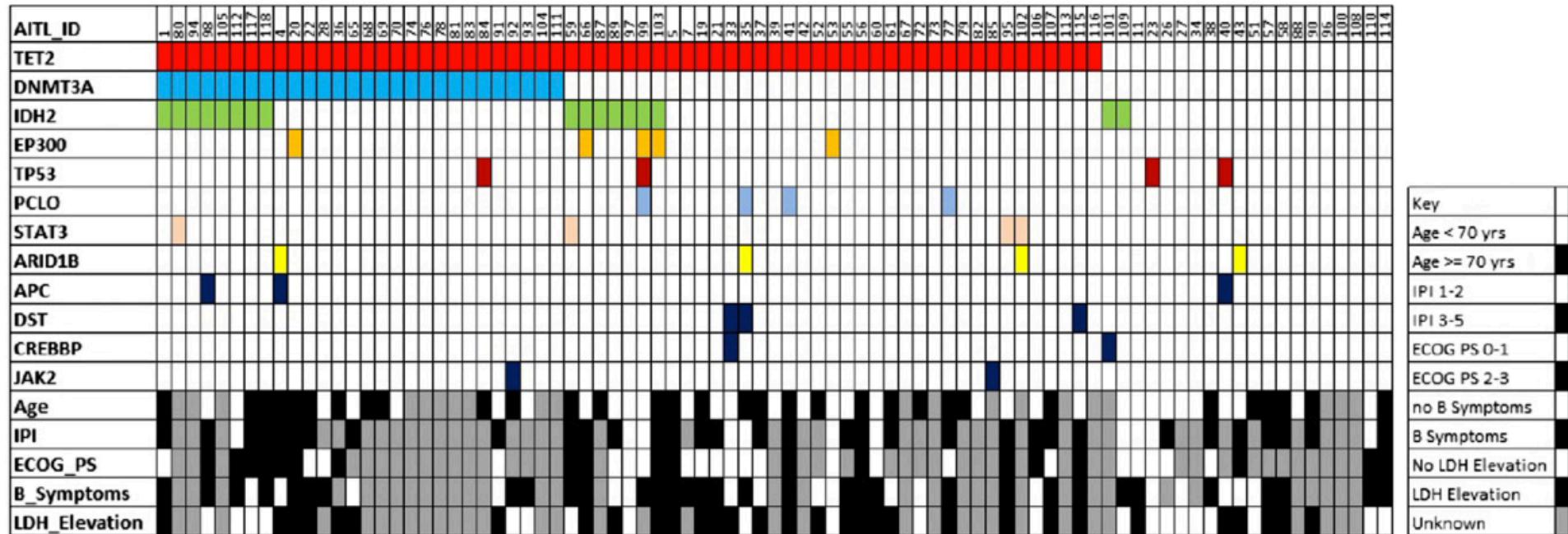
**Define the targeted mutational landscape**

**Correlation of somatic mutations with clinical data and outcome**

# Plenary Paper

## Brief Report

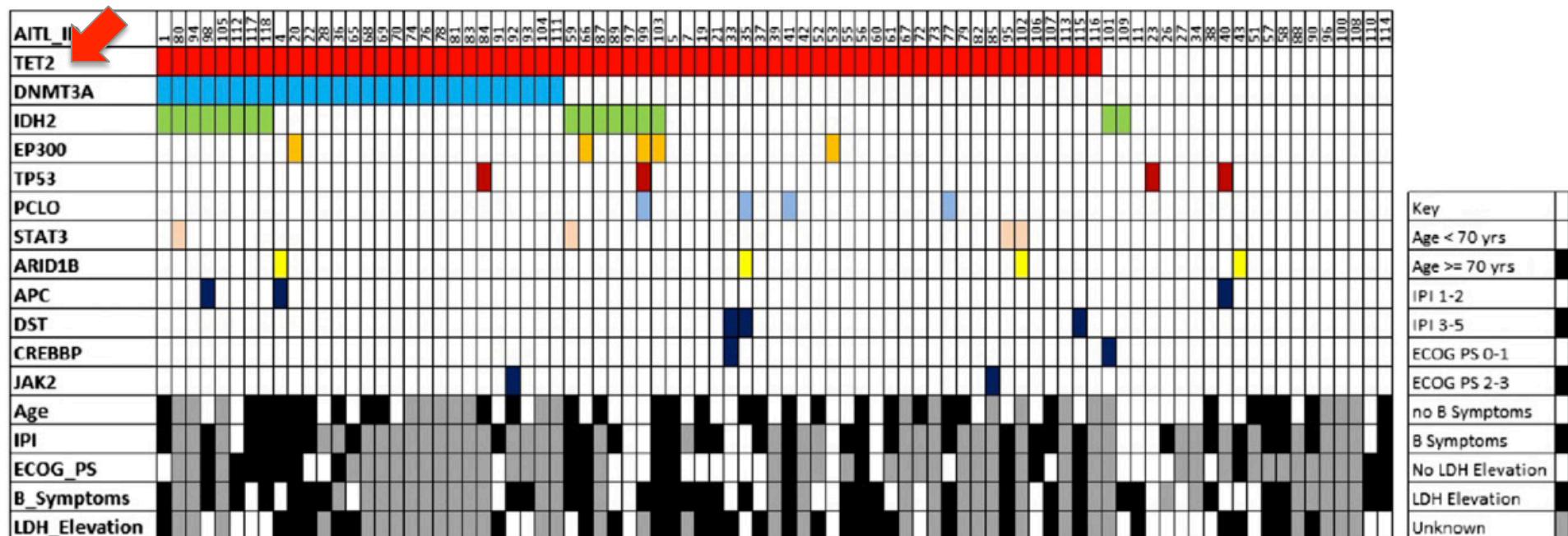
### A targeted mutational landscape of angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma



# Plenary Paper

## Brief Report

### A targeted mutational landscape of angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma



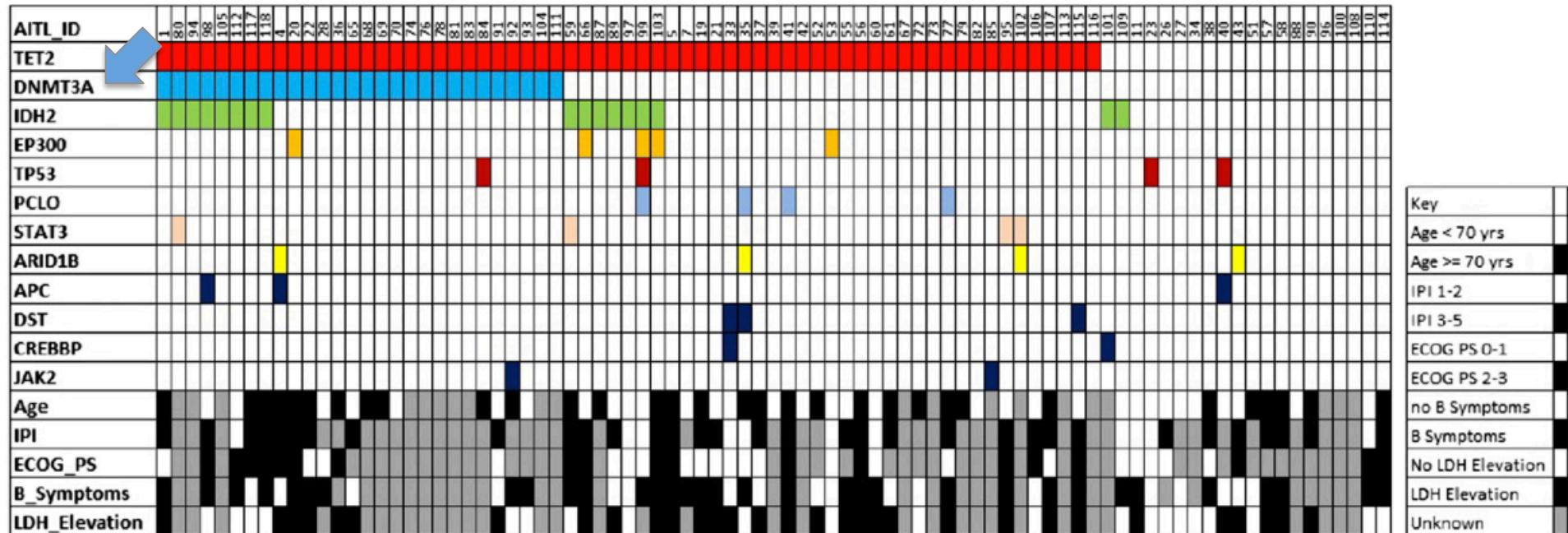
- 76% of AITL patients harbored ***TET2* mutations**,  
66% thereof harbored  **$\geq 2$  *TET2* mutations**
- 83% of *TET2* mutations were **disruptive**
- *TET2* mutations **associated with increased LDH ( $p=0.038$ ) and age ( $p=0.06$ )**

Oreofo & Weigert et al., Blood 2014

# Plenary Paper

## Brief Report

### A targeted mutational landscape of angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma



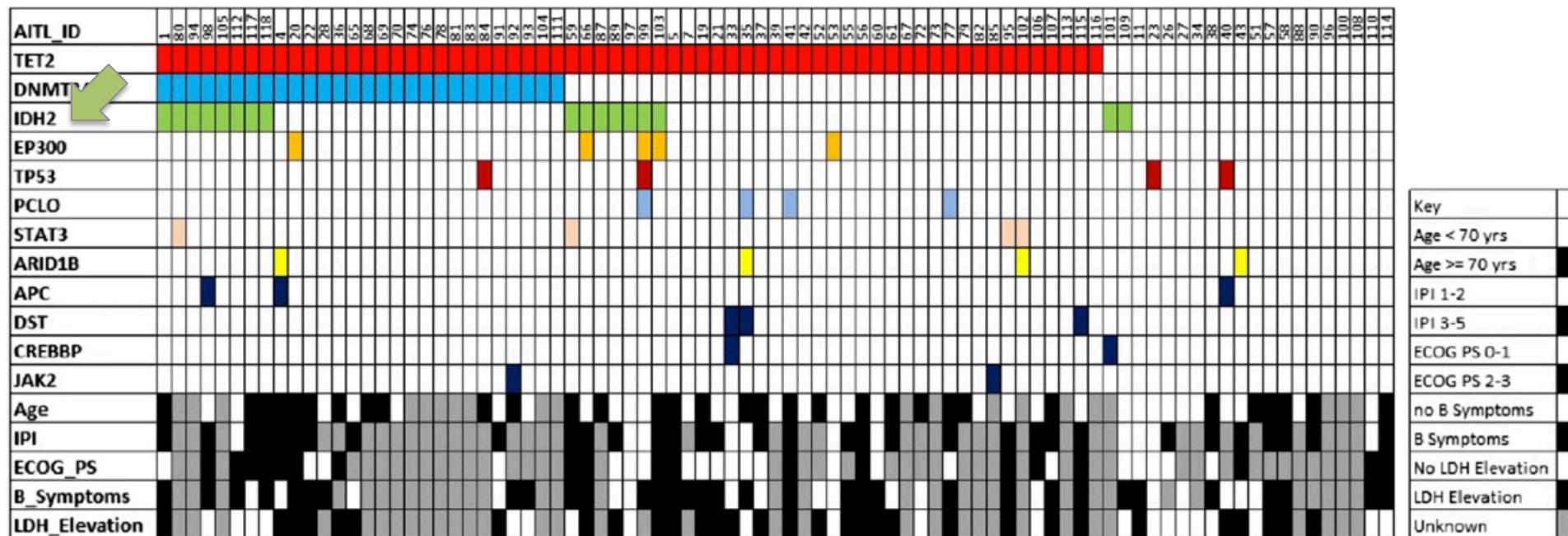
- 28% of AITL patients harbored *DNMT3A* mutations,  
100% thereof also harbored *TET2* mutations ( $p<0.0001$ )
- *DNMT3A* mutations associated with older age ( $p=0.037$ )

# Plenary Paper



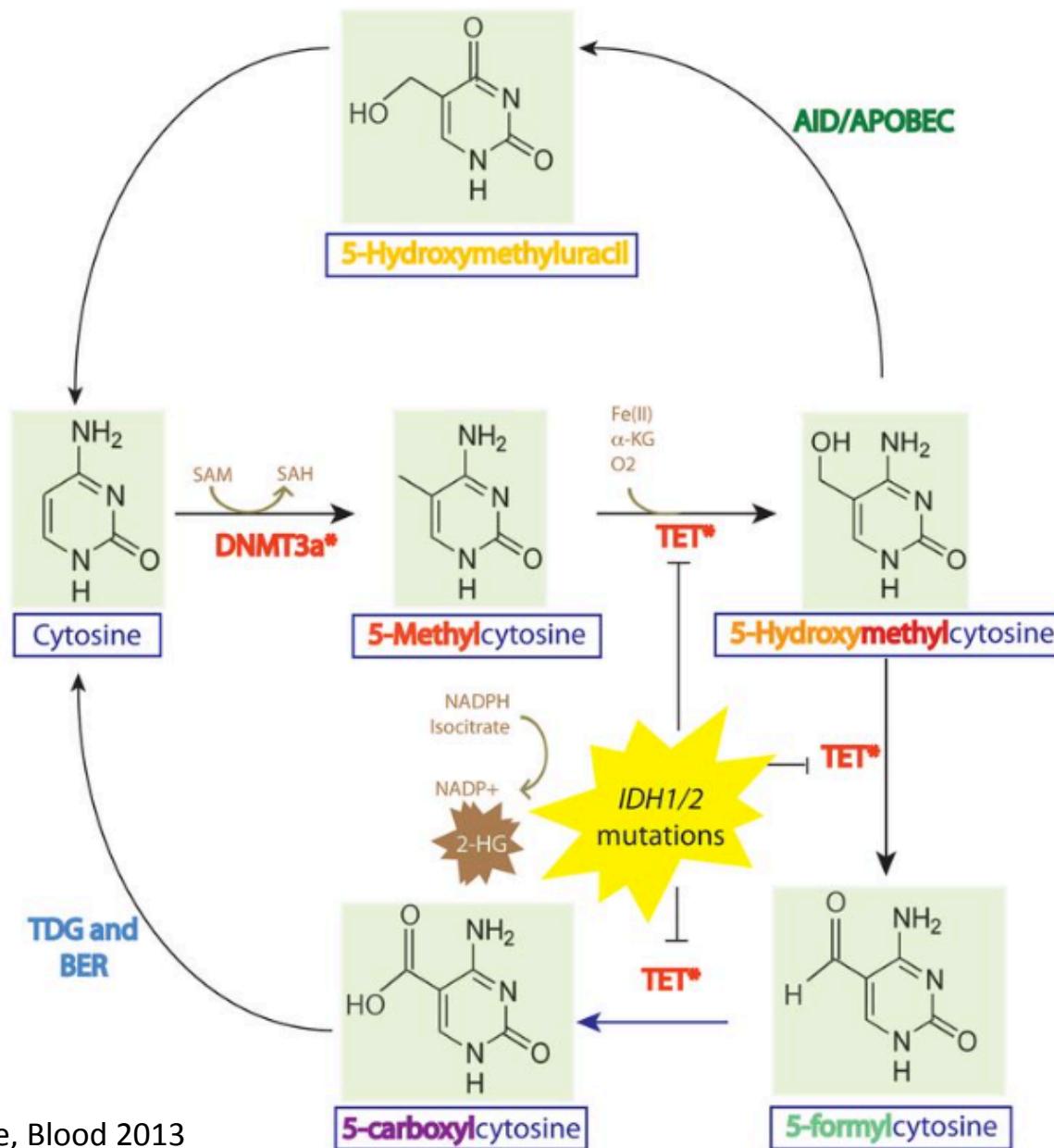
## Brief Report

### A targeted mutational landscape of angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma



- 17% of AITL patients harbored ***IDH2* mutations** at R172, 88% thereof **co-occurred with *TET2* mutations** ( $p=0.35$ )

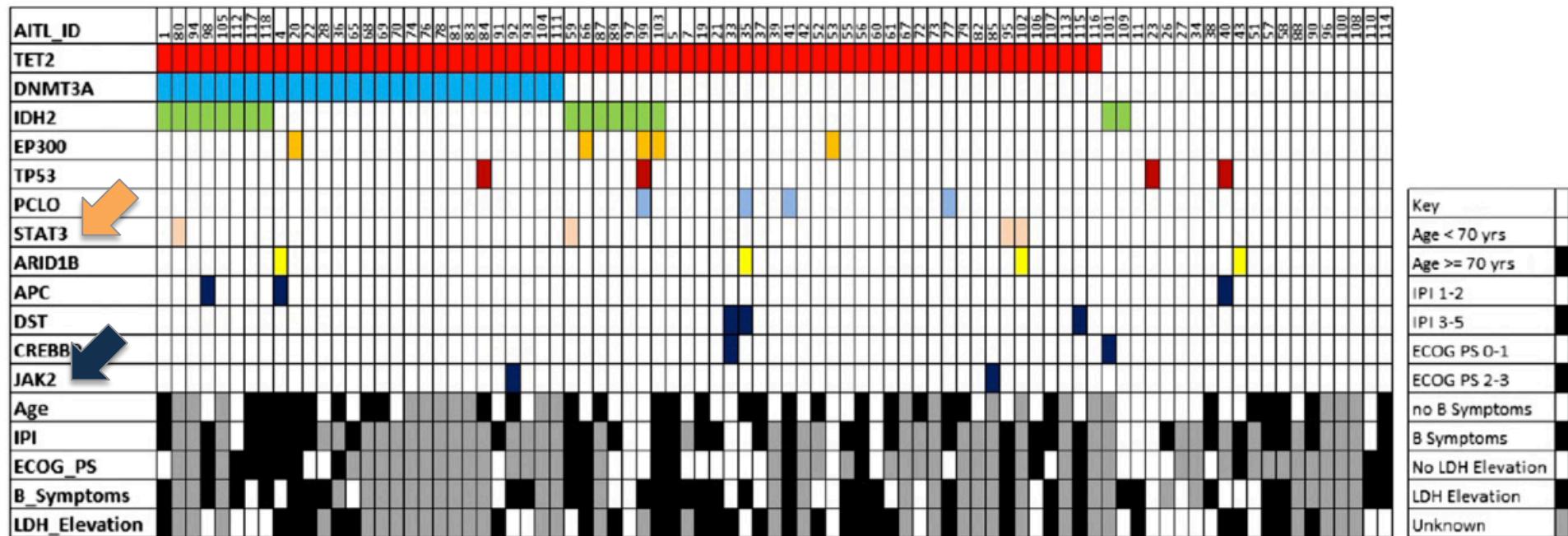
# Somatic mutations in epigenetic modifiers: aberrant DNA methylation



# Plenary Paper

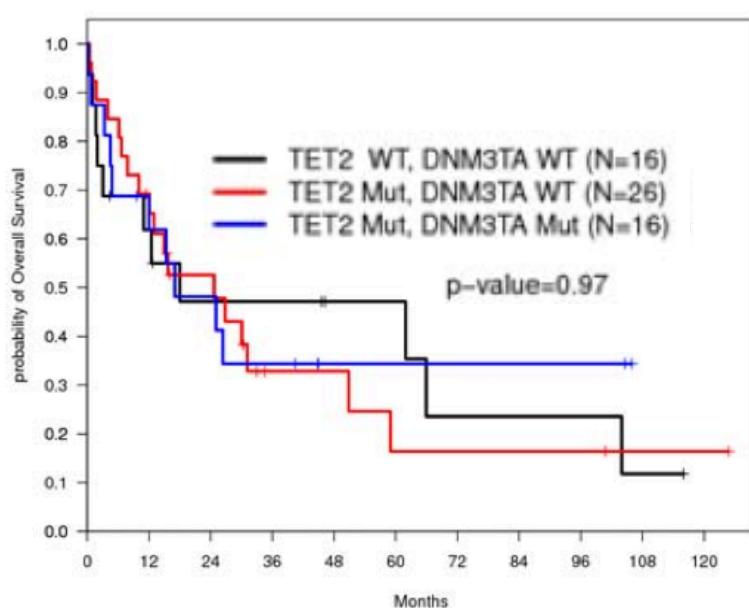
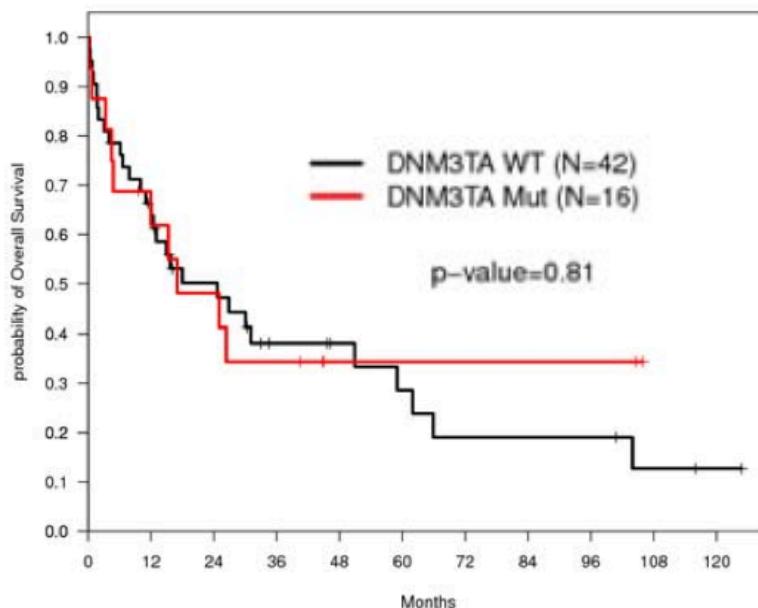
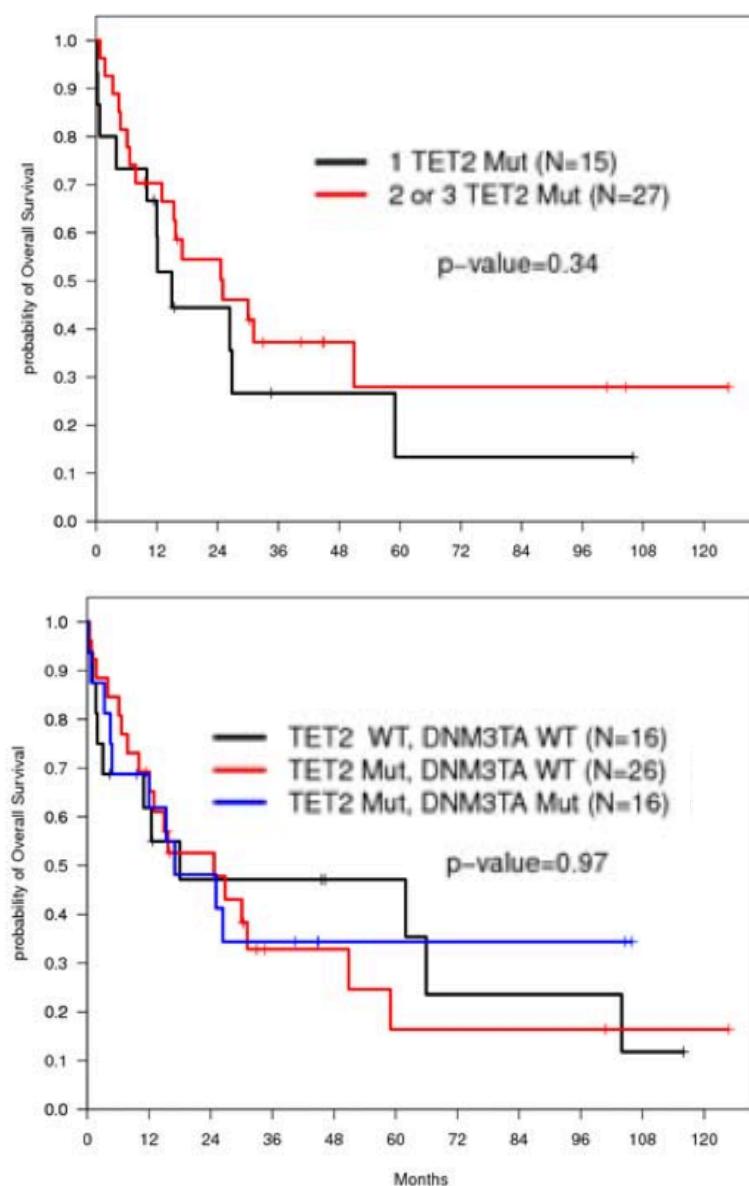
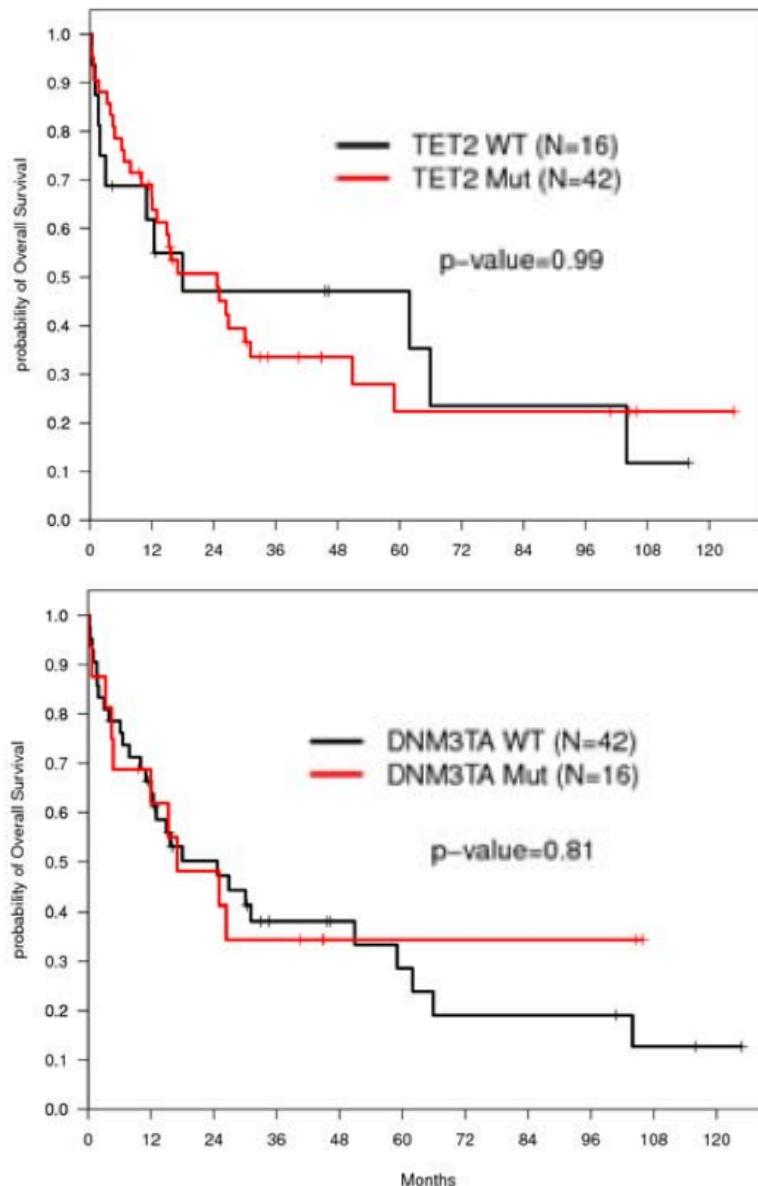
## Brief Report

### A targeted mutational landscape of angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma

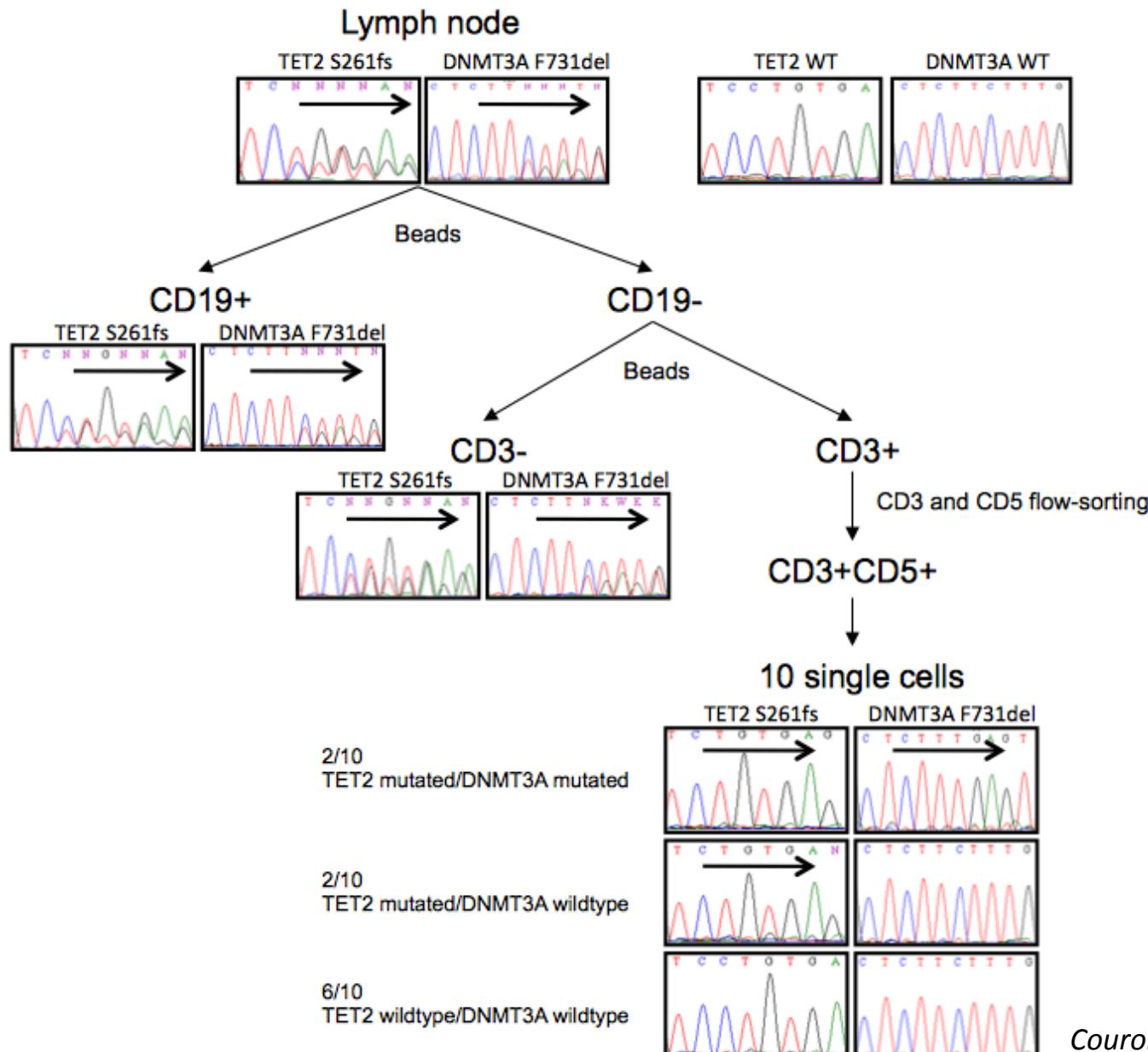


- Some additional gain-of-function mutations, e.g. in *STAT3* and *JAK2*

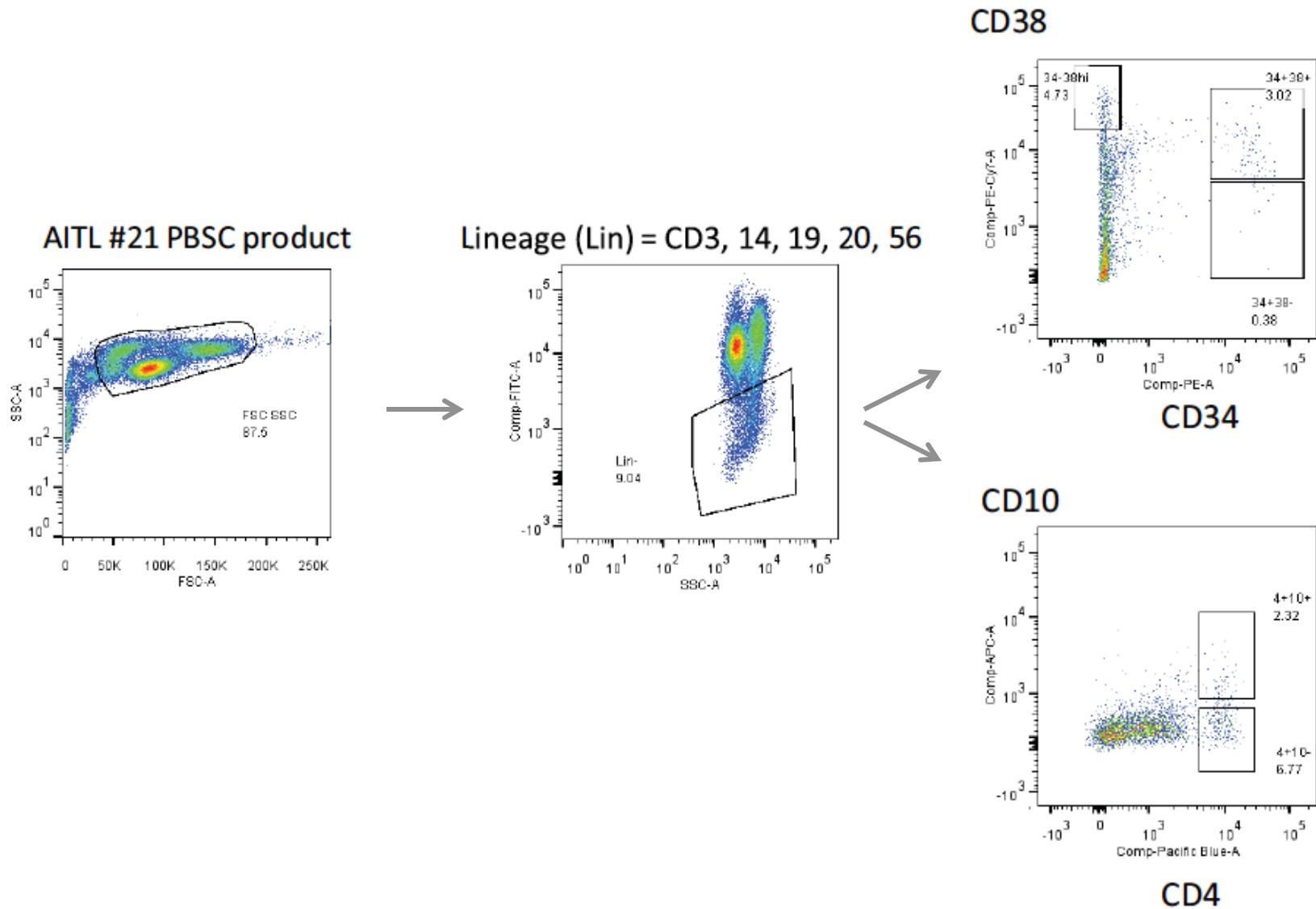
## Mutations in *TET2* and/or *DNMT3A* do not affect OS



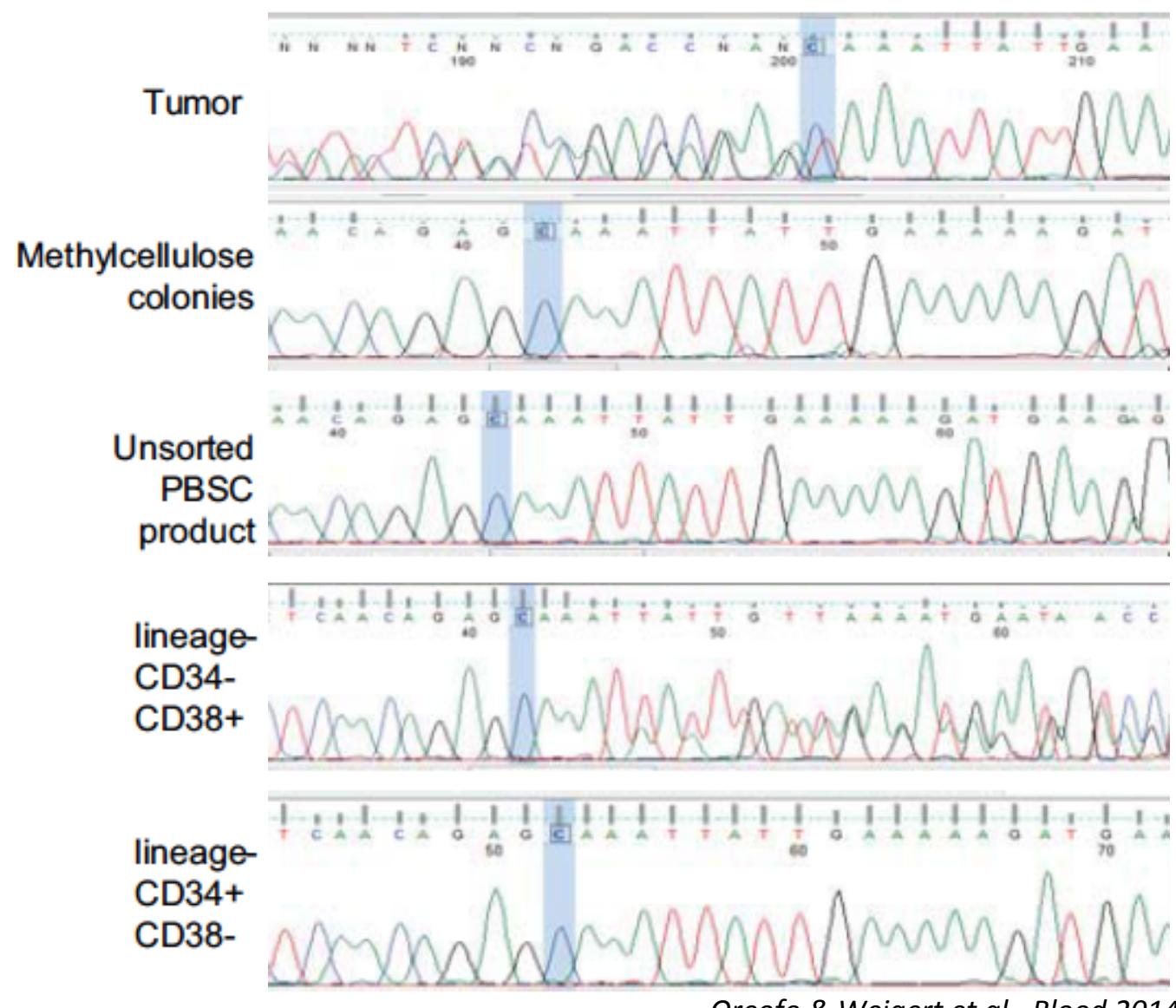
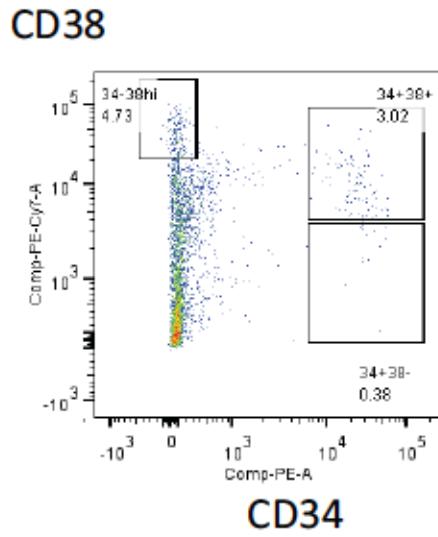
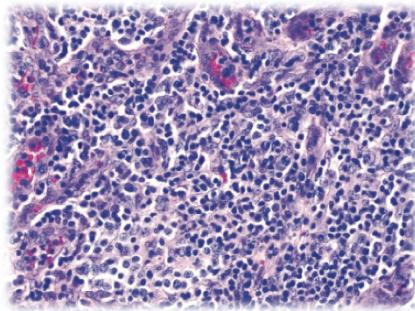
# Molecular ontogeny *TET2* and *DNMT3A* mutations



# Sorting strategy of PBSCT product



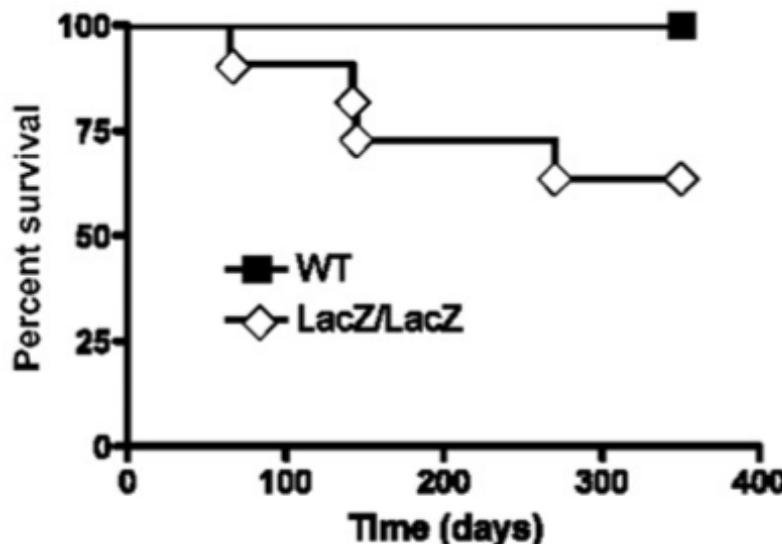
# TET2 InDel in a hematopoietic progenitor cell compartment



# TET2 Inactivation Results in Pleiotropic Hematopoietic Abnormalities in Mouse and Is a Recurrent Event during Human Lymphomagenesis

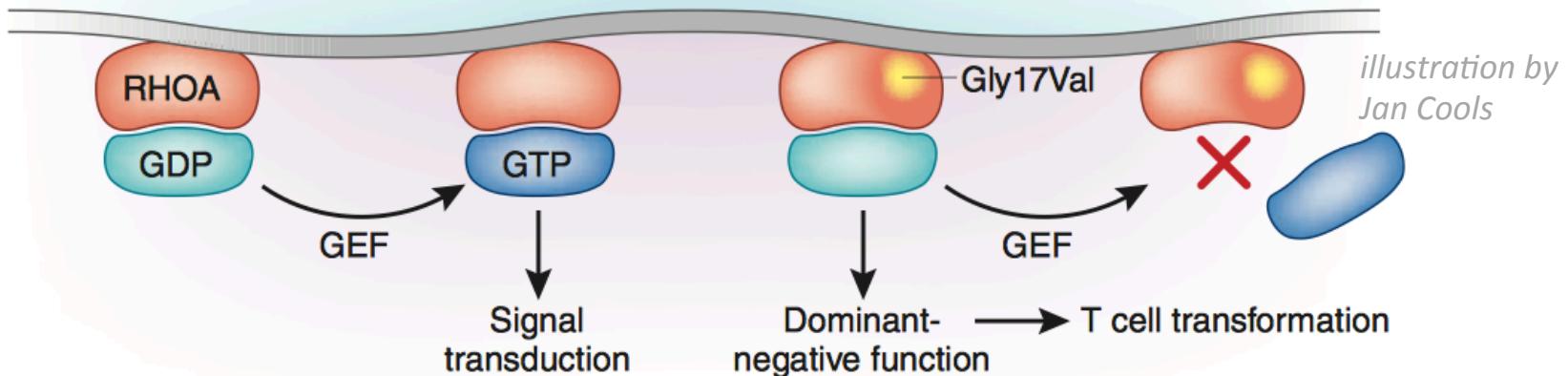
## Inactivation of *Tet2* in mouse HSPCs

- ↓ 5hmC marks
- ↑ self-renewal capacity and competitive advantage
- contributes to the development of hematologic abnormalities



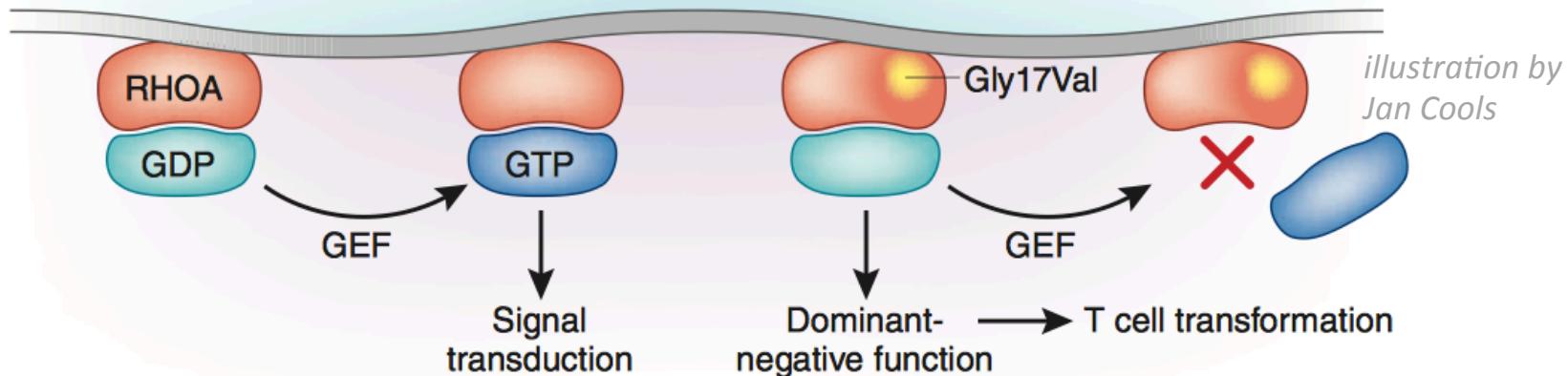
## Somatic *RHOA* mutations in AITL and PTCL-NOS

- in ~ 70% of AITL
- most *RHOA* mutations encode for dominant-negative p.Gly17Val

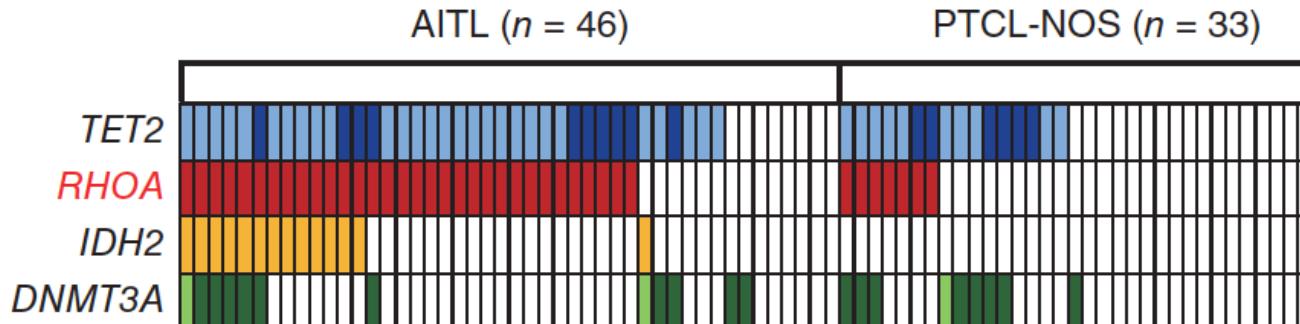


# Somatic *RHOA* mutations in AITL and PTCL-NOS

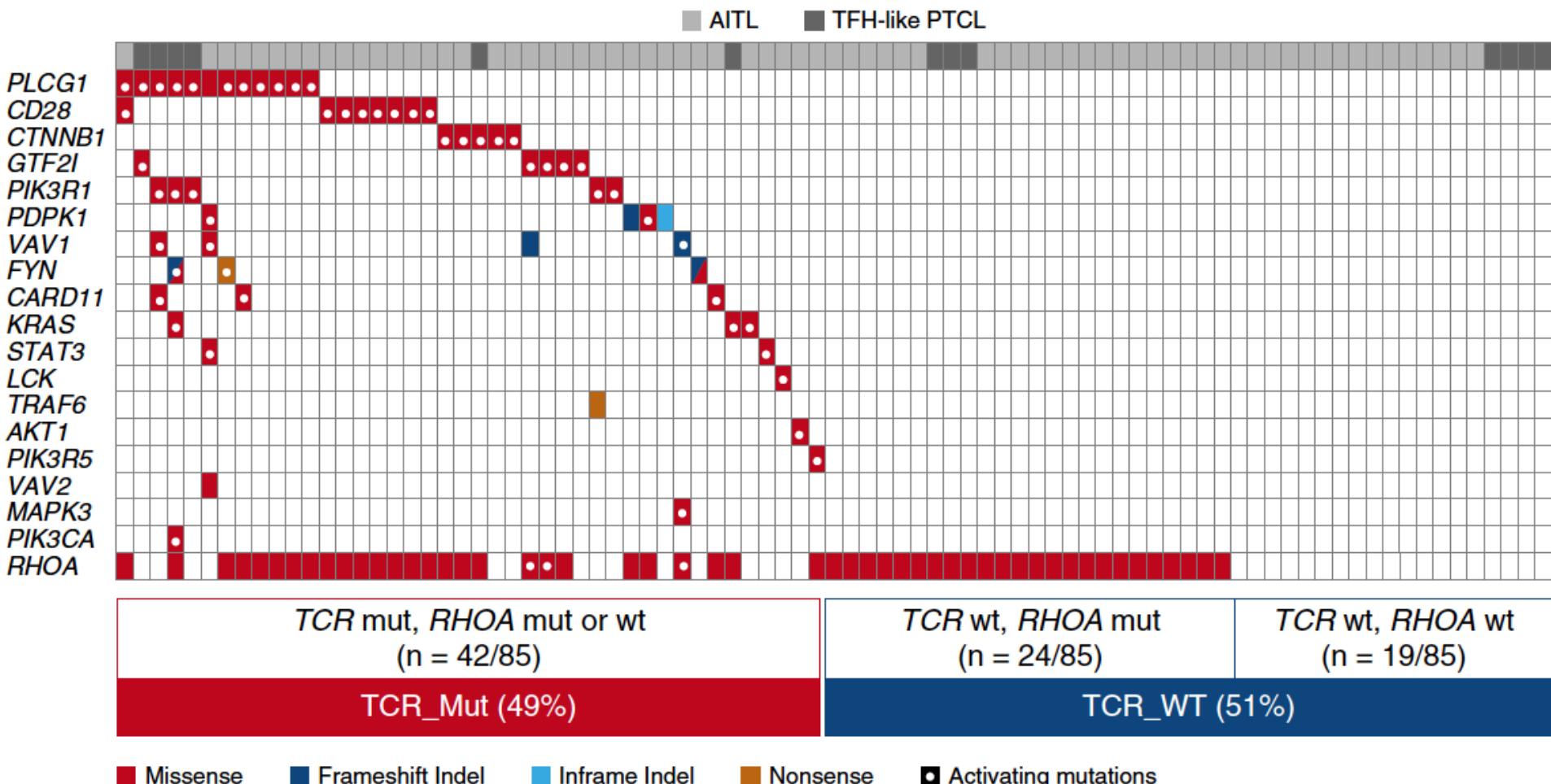
- in ~ 70% of AITL
- most *RHOA* mutations encode for dominant-negative p.Gly17Val



- All *RHOA* mutated cases also harbored *TET2* mutations
  - *RHOA* mutations only in tumor cells
  - *TET2* mutations also in non-malignant hematopoietic cells

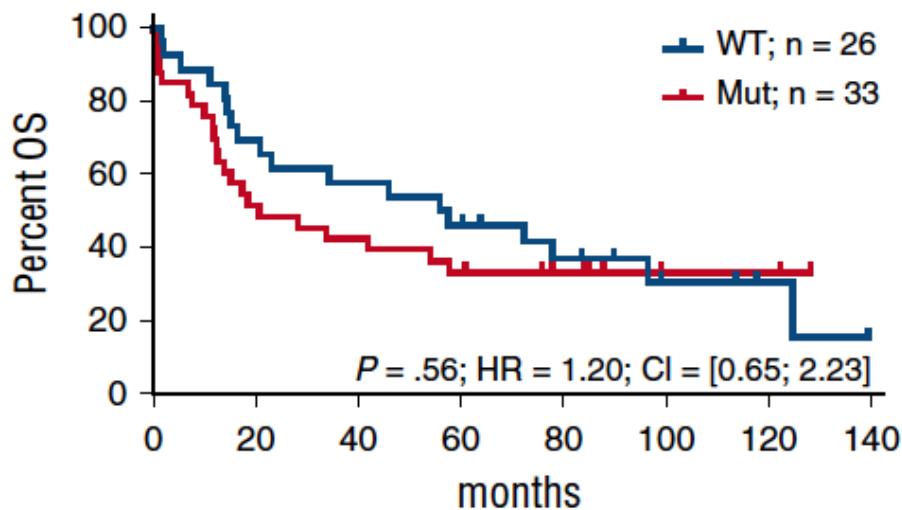
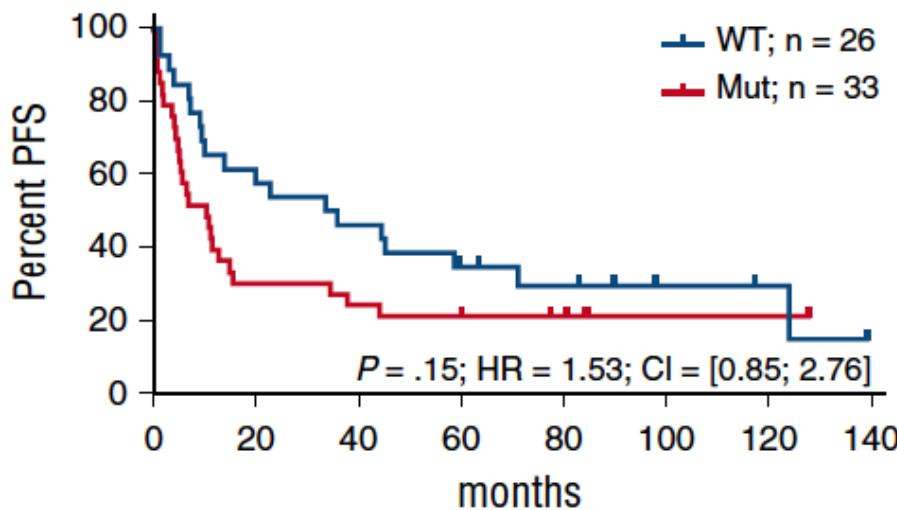


# Mutations in TCR signaling-related genes in TFH-derived lymphomas

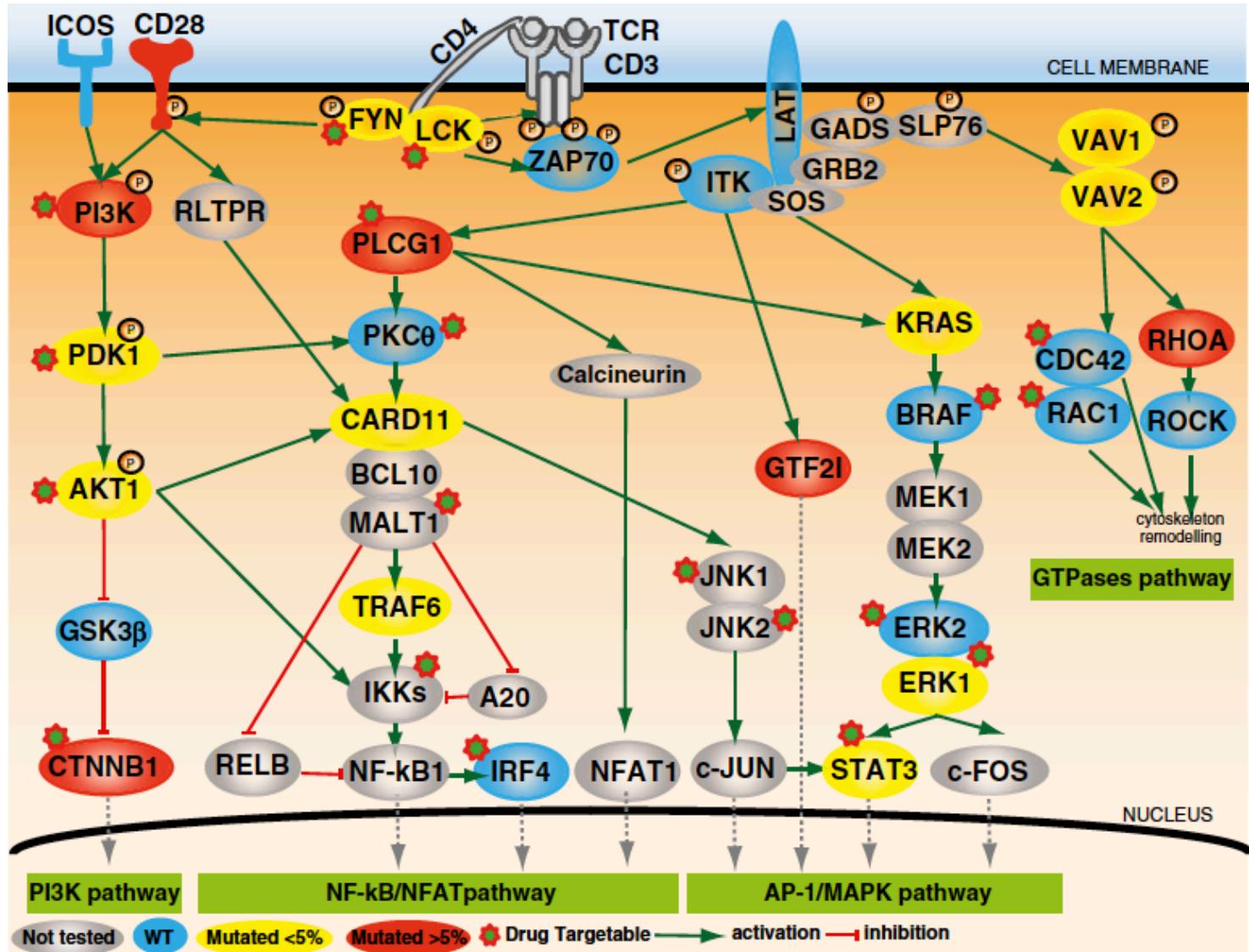


# Clinical implication of mutations in TCR signaling-related genes?

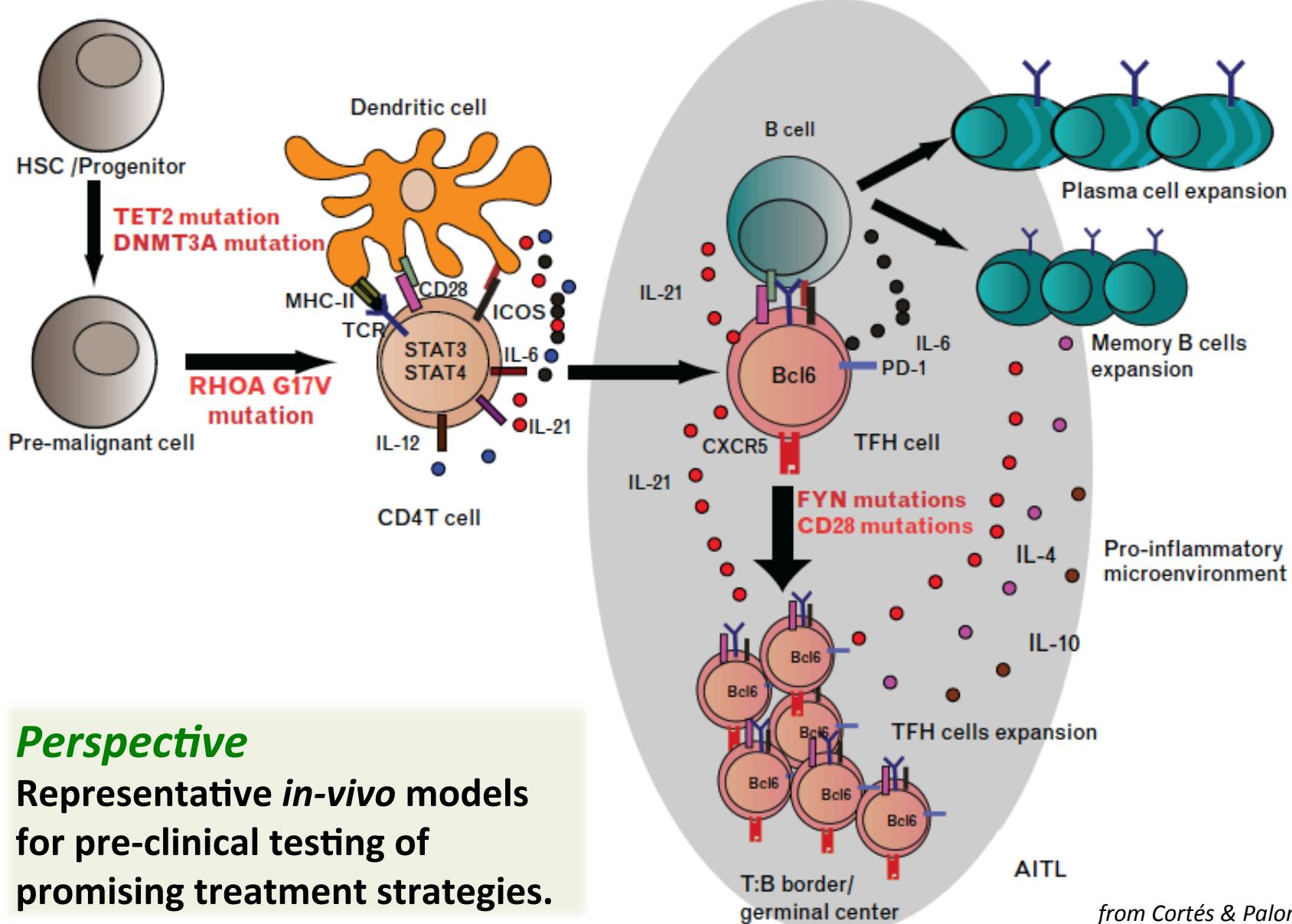
- Mutations associated with
  - ↑ TCR signaling and proliferative activity (by GSEA)
  - ↑ early treatment failure (< 6 months) after anthracyclin-based treatment



# Overview: TCR signaling-related gene mutations



# Summary: Current model of lymphomagenesis of AITL



## Perspective

Representative *in-vivo* models  
for pre-clinical testing of  
promising treatment strategies.

from Cortés & Palomero, 2016



<https://db.bio-m.org/upload/job/13488/datei/2016-K-0367.pdf>

[http://www.klinikum.uni-muenchen.de/Stellenanzeigen/download/medizin/Doktorand\\_Med\\_III\\_06\\_12\\_16.pdf](http://www.klinikum.uni-muenchen.de/Stellenanzeigen/download/medizin/Doktorand_Med_III_06_12_16.pdf)