

# Building New Paradigms: Trends in Combination Therapy and Pivotal Ongoing Trials

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# Talk Outline

- Background
- Tyrosine kinase inhibitors: beyond Imatinib, Sunitinib and Regorafenib
- Mechanisms of resistance
- Combination therapy: Promise and pitfalls
- Novel therapies in trial for rare subtypes:
  - PDGFR mutations (D842V)
  - BRAF mutations
  - SDH mutations
  - NTRK fusions

1983

First described by Mazur and Clark.



1995

CD34 relatively specific marker.  
(Miettinen et al. Am J Surg Path)  
Similarities between GIST cells and Interstitial Cells of Cajal.

1998

2 major discoveries.  
(Hirota et al Science)  
-KIT staining 94% of GIST  
-Activating mutations in *KIT* gene (5 out of 6)

2002

Accelerated FDA approval IMATINIB

2006

FDA Approval SUNITINIB

2013

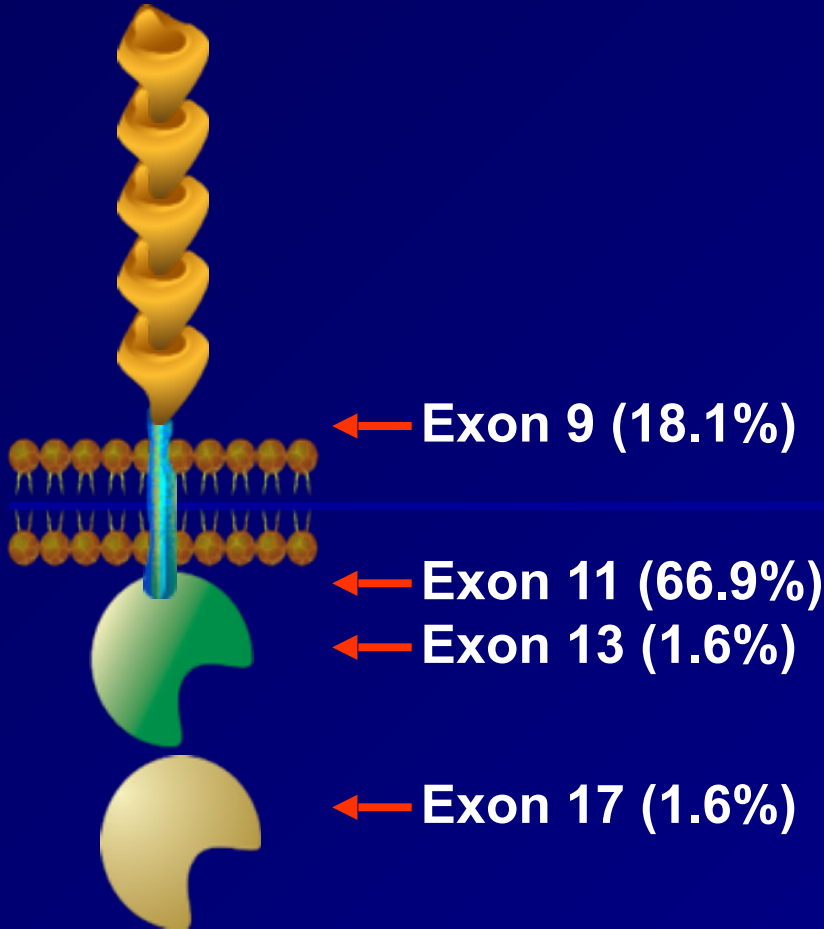
FDA Approval REGORAFENIB

?

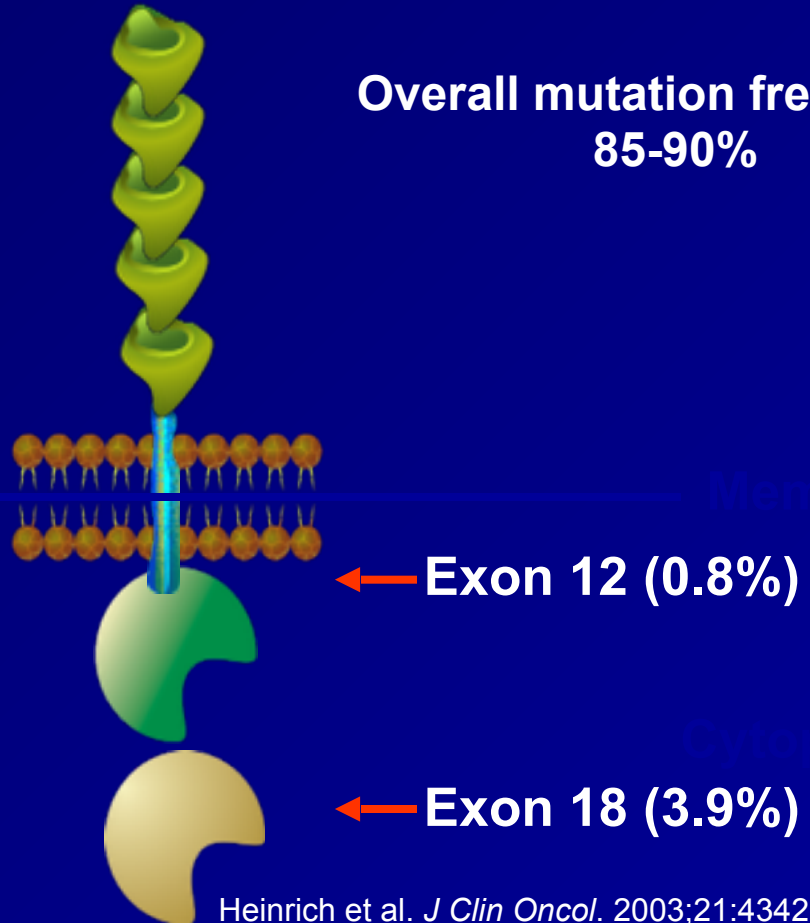


# KIT and PDGFRA Mutations

## KIT



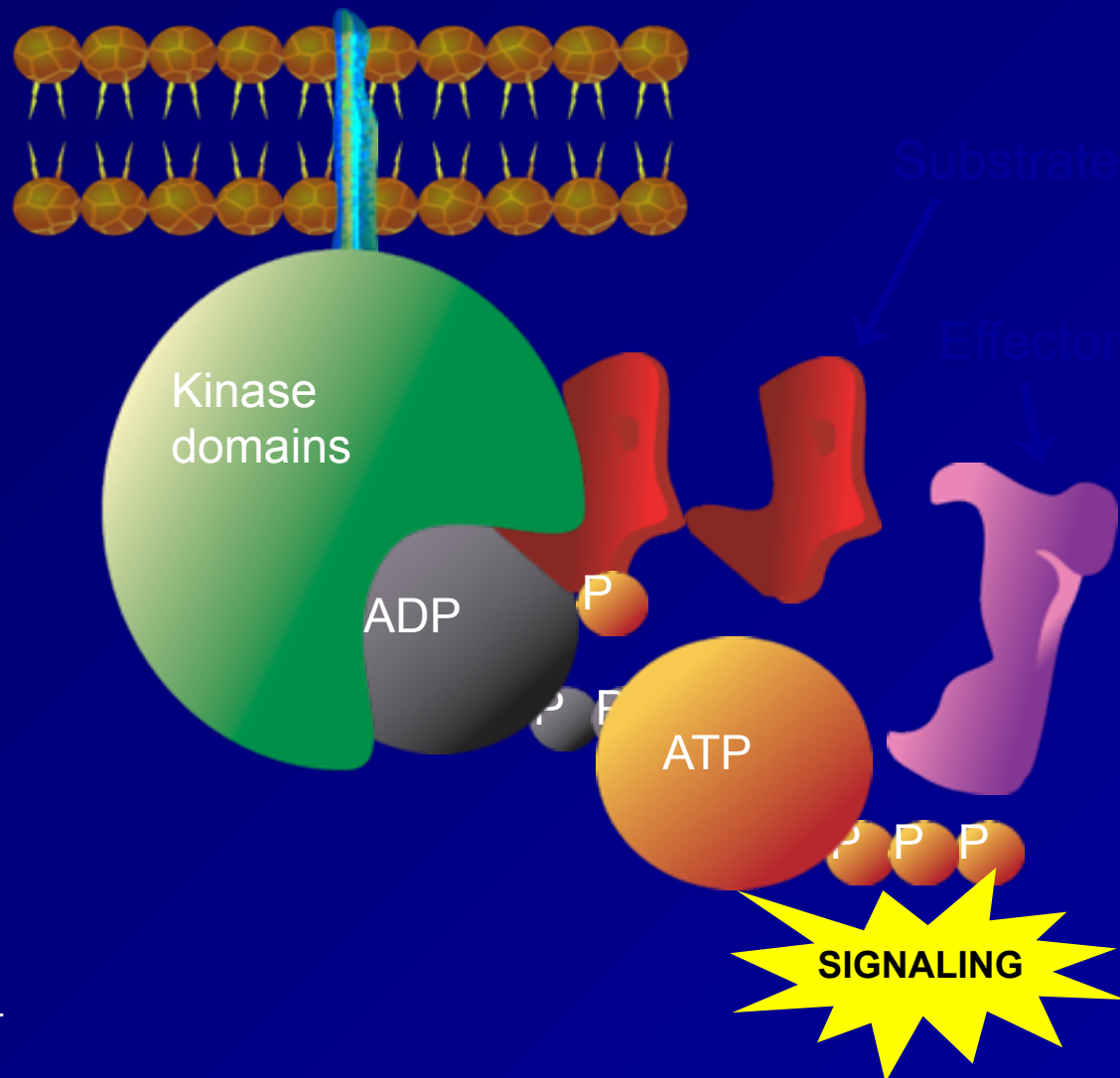
## PDGFRA



Overall mutation frequency:  
85-90%

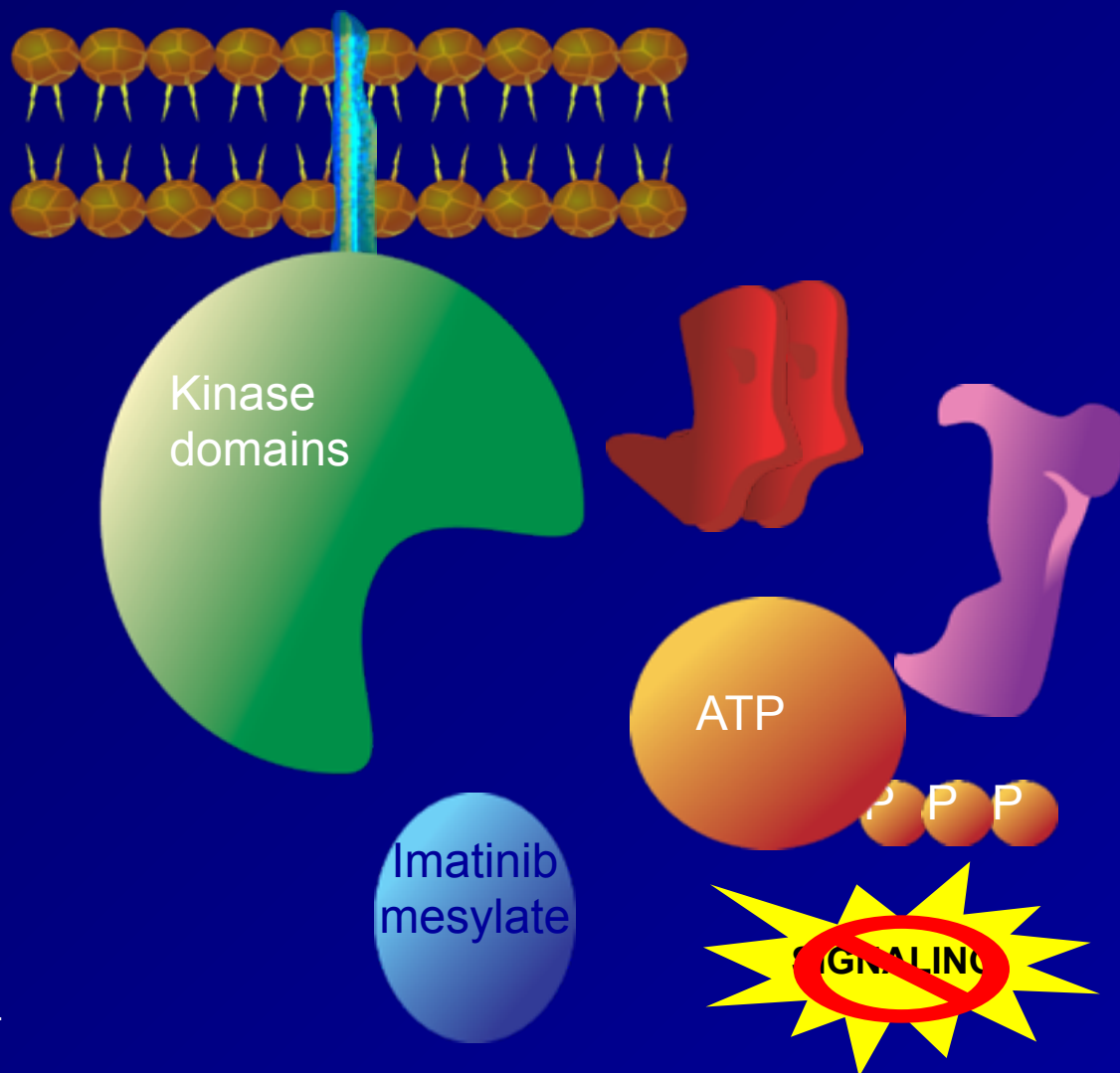
# Normal KIT Signaling

- The KIT kinase domain activates a substrate protein
- This activated substrate initiates a signaling cascade culminating in cell proliferation and survival



# Imatinib Mesylate: Mechanism of Action

- Imatinib mesylate occupies the ATP binding pocket of the KIT kinase domain
- This prevents substrate phosphorylation and signaling
- A lack of signaling inhibits proliferation and survival



# Non-KIT/ PDGFR GIST (Wild Type) (10-15%)

- BRAF mutation (V600E exon 15)

Agaram N P et al. Genes Chromosomes and Cancer 2008

- IGF-1R

Godwin AK et al. JCO 2008, Janeway et al In J Cancer 2010

- Succinate Dehydrogenase

- Alternate mutations (AKT/PTEN/TRK)...

Janeway et al. JCO 2010,

# Majority are Sporadic

## Associated Syndromes

- Familial GIST syndrome Nishida et al. Nat Genet 1998
- Neurofibromatosis-1 Fuller CE et al. Histopathology 1991
- Carney Triad Carney et al. NEJM 1977
- Carney Stratakis Syndrome Carney et al. Am J Med Genet. 2002



# The advent of targeted therapy has dramatically altered the prognosis

## ■ Pre- Imatinib

- Localized disease: 5-year survival rate **< 50%**.
- Metastatic GIST: median survival was **5-12 months**

## ■ Era of targeted therapy (post 2001)

- Localized disease: 5-year survival rate **> 80 %**
- Metastatic GIST: median survival **≥ 58 months**

Nilsson et al. *Cancer*. 2005;103:821-829.

Gold et al. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2007;14:134-142

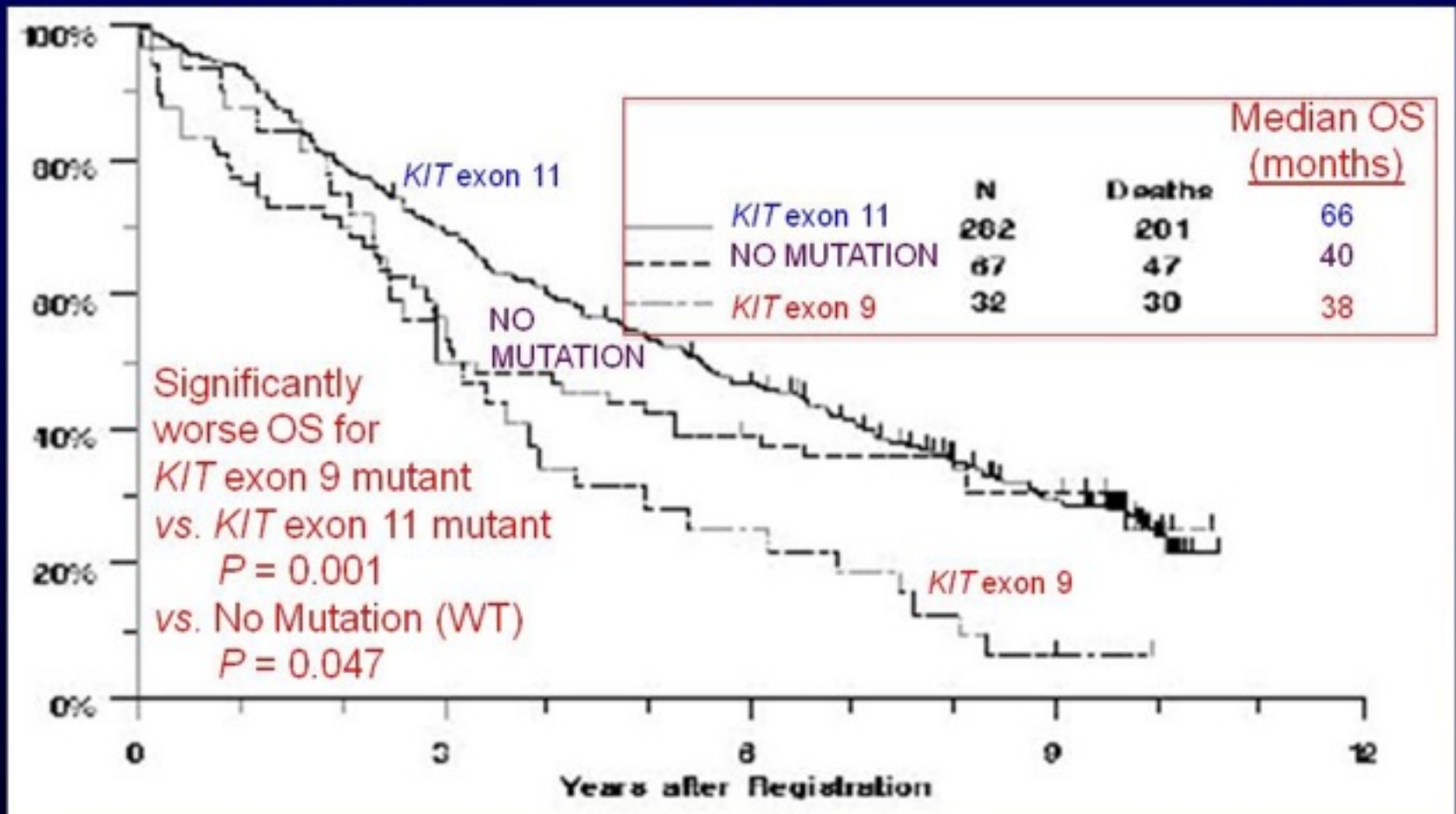
DeMatteo et al. *JCO* 2005; Joensuu et al. *ASCO* 2011

Verweij et al. *Lancet*. 2004;364:1127

# Overall Survival Estimates for Advanced GIST patients on S0033 treated with imatinib

Survival (years)	OS Estimate	95% CI
5	46%	43% - 50%
6	39%	36% - 43%
7	35%	31% - 38%
8	31%	28% - 35%
9	26%	23% - 30%
10	22%	19% - 26%

# S0033 Overall Survival by GIST Genotype – 2014 data

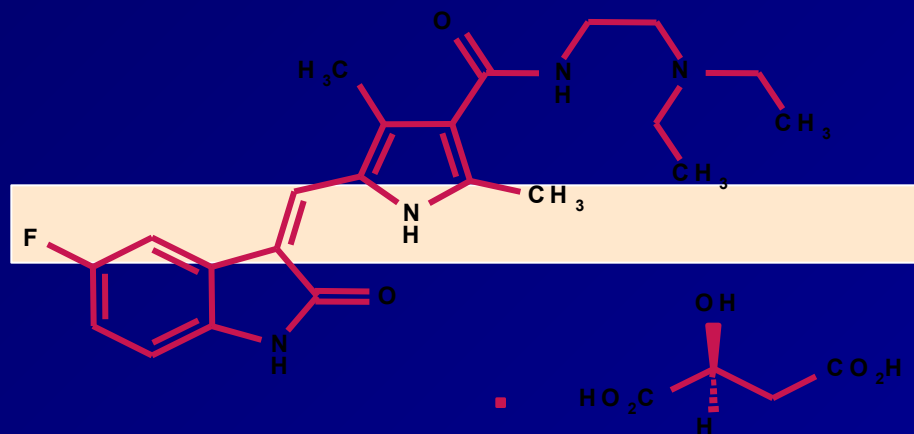


# Analysis of Post-Progression Therapies (i.e. after progression on imatinib)

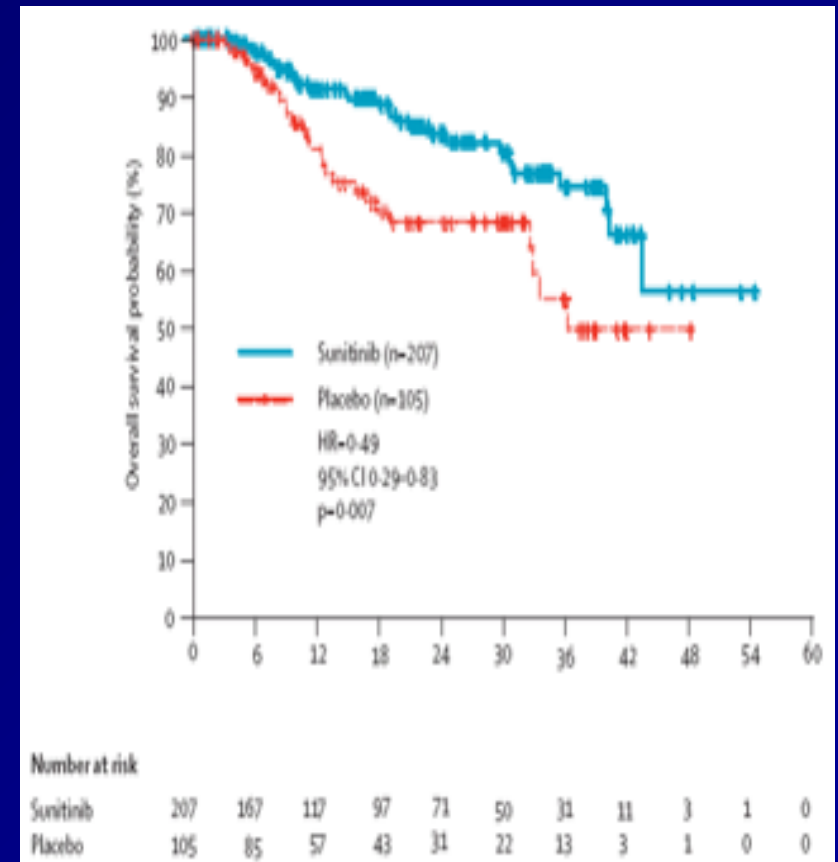
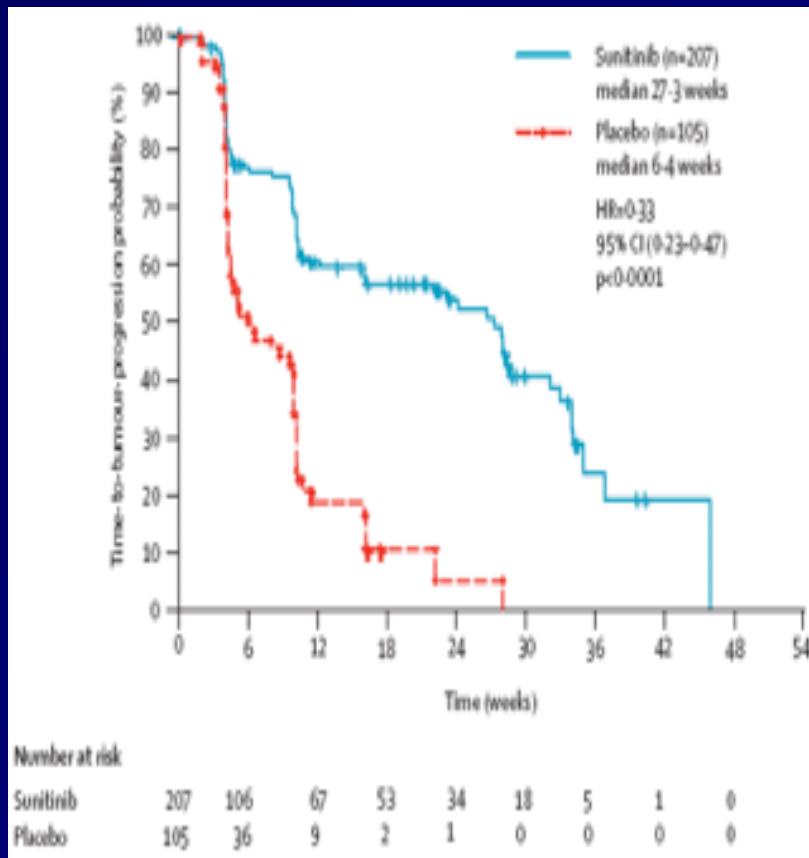
	All Long-Term Survivors (n=137)	With Known GIST Genotype		
		EXON 11 (n=70)	WILD-TYPE (n=13)	EXON 9 (n=3)
<b>Any Additional Therapy</b>	70 (51%)	36 (51%)	7 (54%)	3 (100%)
Systemic Therapy	54 (39%)	28 (40%)	7 (54%)	3 (100%)
Sunitinib	41 (30%)	22 (31%)	5 (38%)	2 (67%)
Sorafenib	16 (12%)	10 (14%)	1 (8%)	1 (33%)
Other Agents	42 (31%)	20 (29%)	5 (38%)	3 (100%)
Surgery	41 (30%)	20 (29%)	3 (23%)	3 (100%)
Metastasectomy	29 (21%)	15 (21%)	1(8%)	3 (100%)
Other Surgery	18 (13%)	9 (13%)	3 (23%)	0 (0%)
Radiofrequency Ablation	10 (7%)	8 (11%)	1 (8%)	1 (33%)
Radiation Therapy	6 (4%)	4 (6%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)

# Sunitinib Malate (SU11248)

- Small-molecule receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor
- Inhibits all VEGFRs, PDGFR-A, PDGFR-B, c-KIT, and FLT-3
- Oral administration
- Both antitumor and antiangiogenic activity
- FDA approved January 26, 2006 for treatment of advanced GIST



# Sunitinib Improves PFS and OS Compared to Placebo



# Potential for Disease Control with TKI Therapy based on Site of Mutation

TKI	Primary mutations				Secondary mutations	
	<i>KIT</i> exon9	<i>KIT</i> exon11	<i>KIT</i> exon17	<i>PDGFR</i> exon18	<i>KIT</i> exon13	<i>KIT</i> exon14
Imatinib	↓ *	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Sunitinib following Imatinib	↑	ND	↓	↓	↑	↑

↓: Low potential. ↑: High potential. ND: No data.

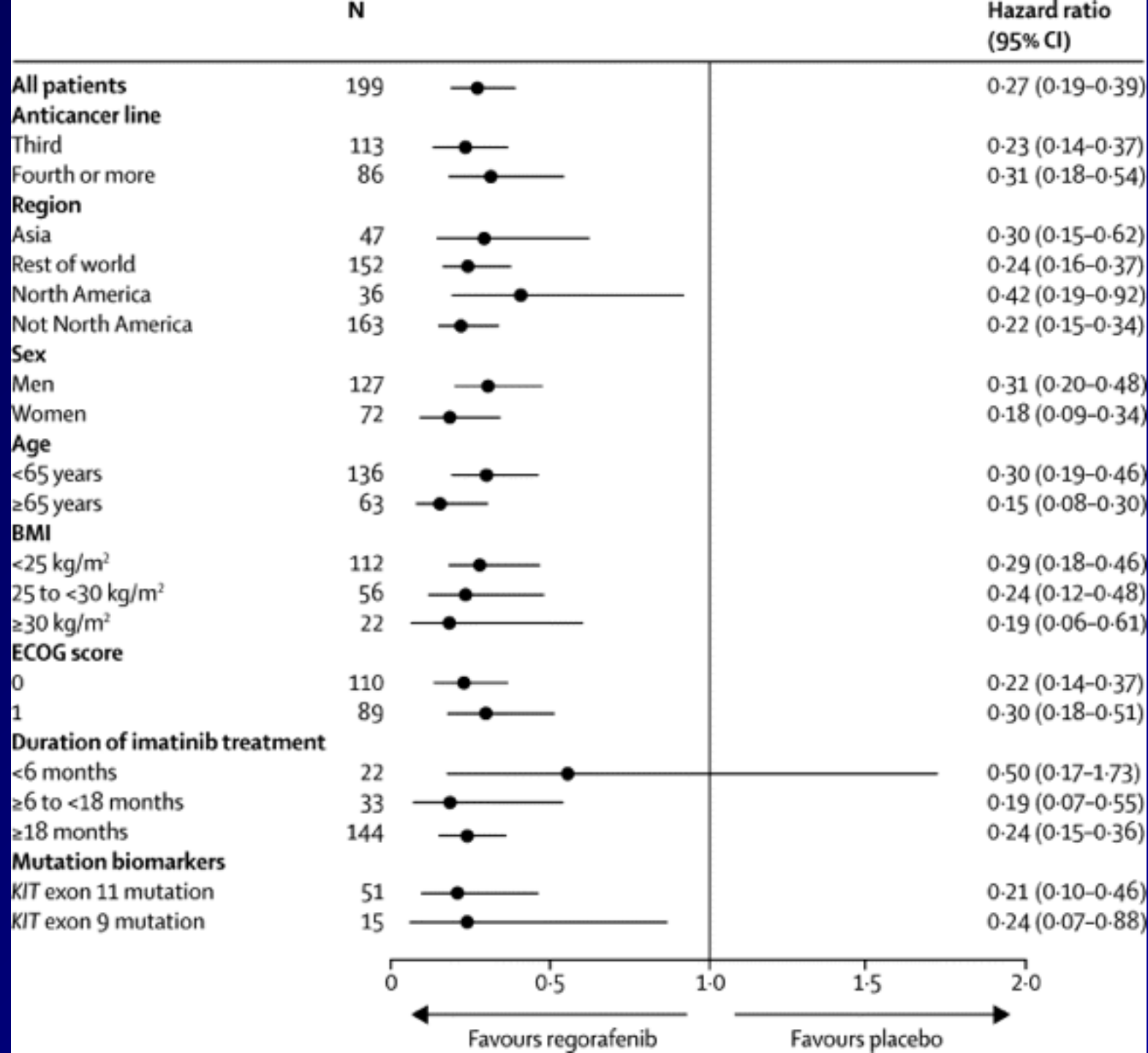
\* Less likely to respond to low dose therapy

Somaiah, von Mehren. Hem Onc Clinics 2009

**Randomized Phase III Trial  
of Regorafenib in Patients with  
Metastatic and/or Unresectable GIST  
Progressing Despite Prior Treatment with  
at Least Imatinib and Sunitinib:  
GRID Trial**

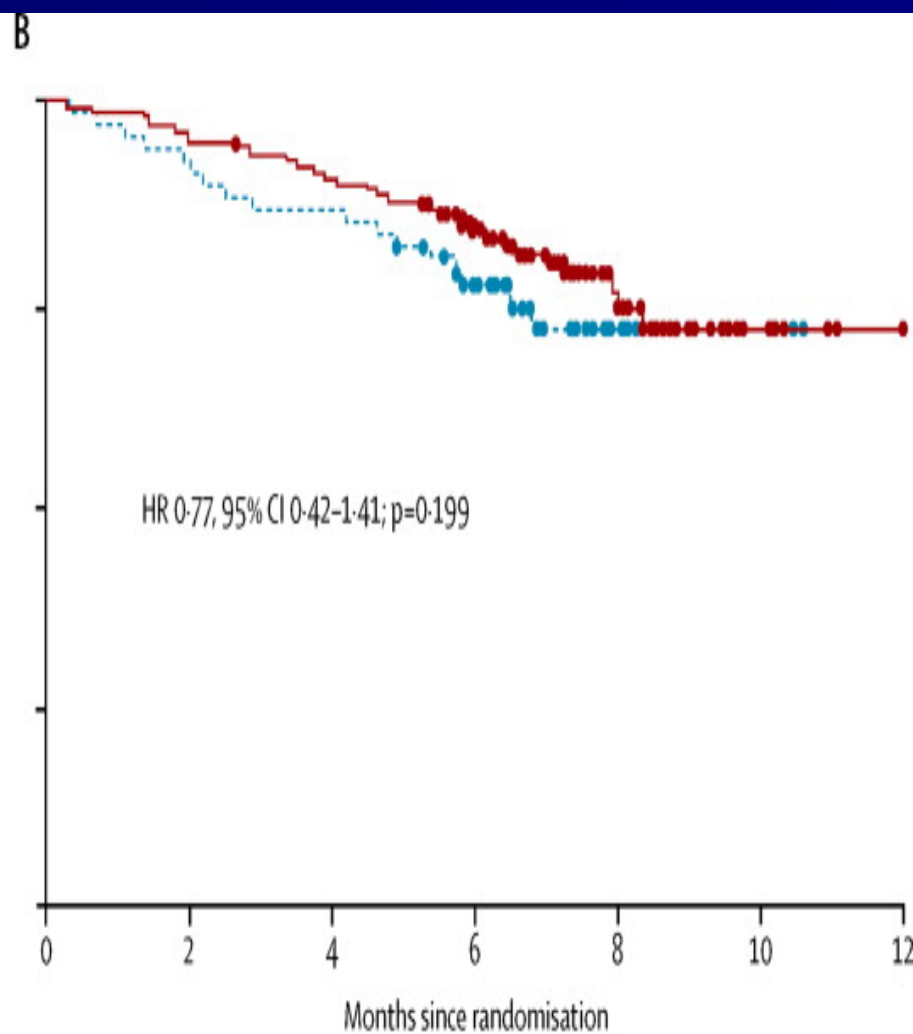
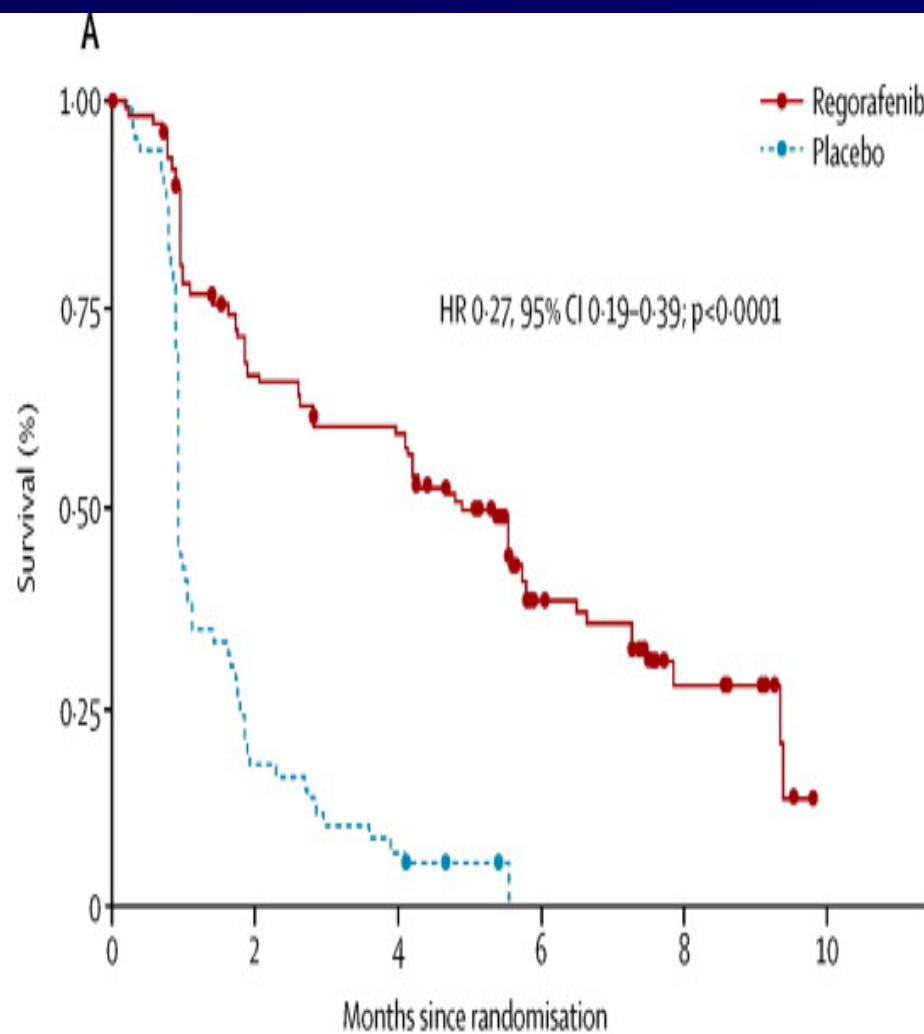
Demetri GD et al.  
*Proc ASCO 2012; LBA 10008.*





# Progression free survival

# Overall Survival



### Number at risk

	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
Regorafenib	82	72	27	9			
Placebo	12	5	0	0			

	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
Regorafenib	126	119	94	39	10	1	
Placebo	61	57	41	16	3	1	

# Resection Of Progressive Or Residual GIST After Imatinib

	Surgical CR	12-mo.PFS	12-mo. OS
Stable Disease	78%	80%	95%
Limited Progression	25%	33%	86%
Generalized Progression	7%	0%	0%

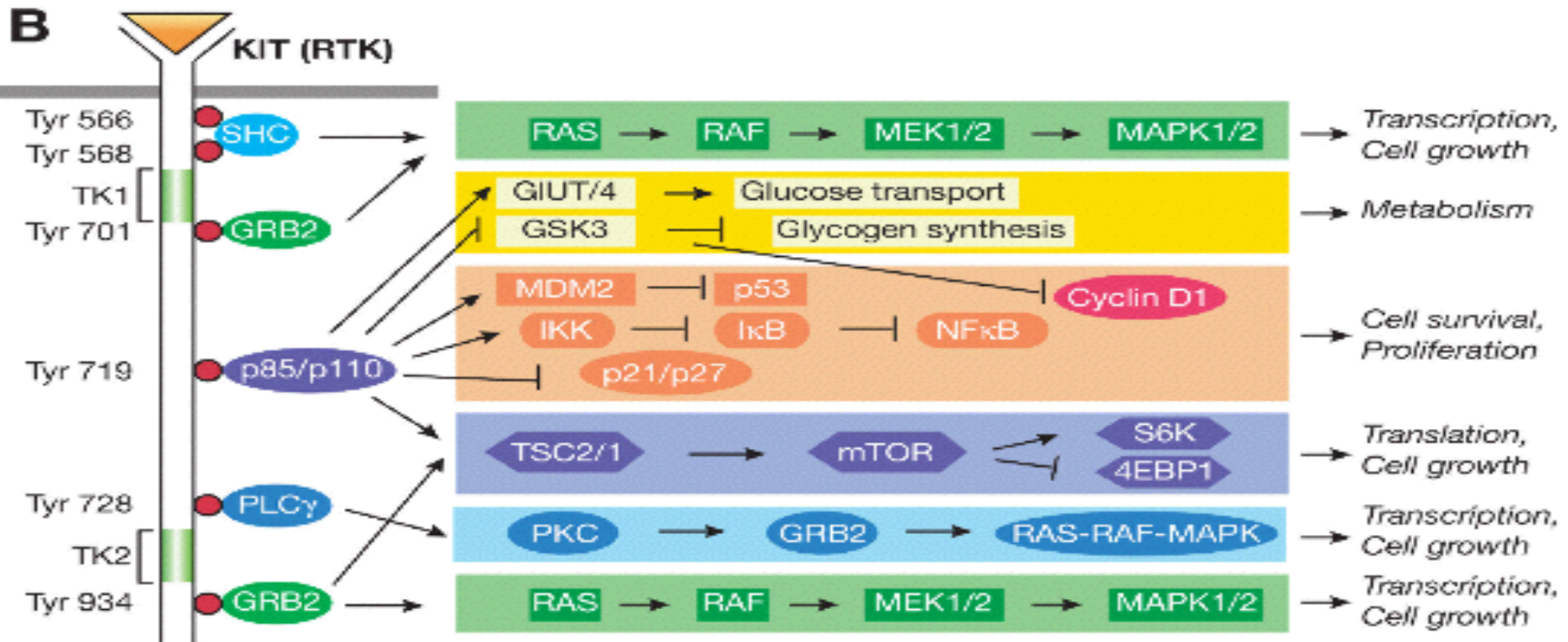
P>0.001

# **Mechanisms of resistance**

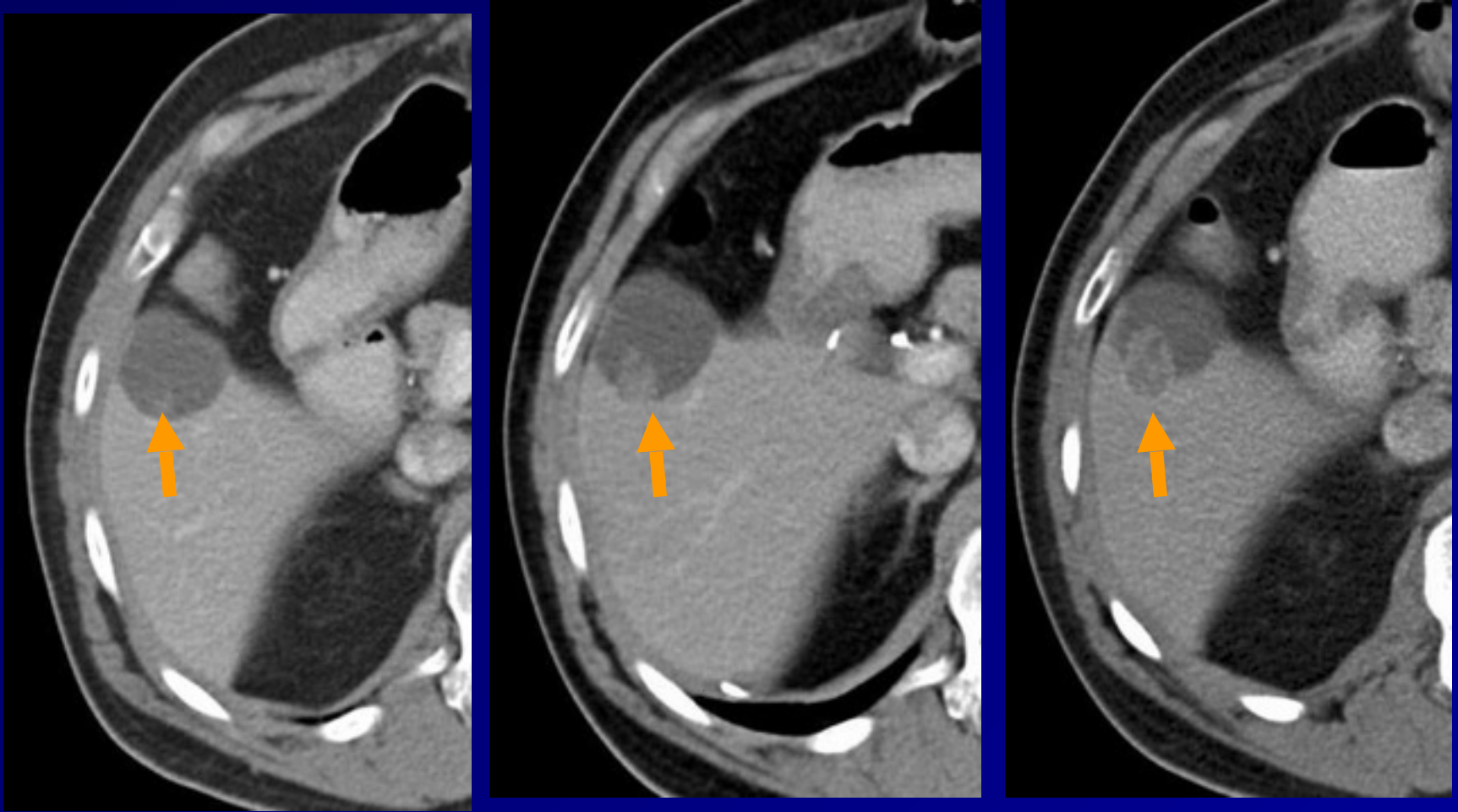
# Progression on Imatinib

- Primary Resistance (within 6 months 10-15%):
  - KIT exon 17, PDGFR exon 18 mutations, BRAF, KRAS
  - Diffuse progression
- Secondary Resistance:
  - Acquired secondary mutations – usually in tumors with exon 11 primary mutation
  - Activation of alternate drivers/pathways: PI3K/ AKT/ mTOR, IGFR1
  - Focal progression or diffuse progression

# Intracellular Signaling Pathways



# Resistance : Recognition of Clonal Evolution



# Novel TyROsine kinase inhibitors



# Long list....

KIT+PDGFR+VEGFR+

■ Sorafenib

■ Cediranib

■ Cabozantinib

■ Pazopanib

■ Vandetinib

■ Motesanib

■ Dovitinib

■ Famitinib

KIT+PDGFR+

■ Nilotinib

■ Dasatinib

■ Ponatinib

■ Masitinib

■ XL820

■ DCC2618

## ■ Sorafenib

- Targets Raf, KIT, PDGFR, VEGFR 2, 3
- Has shown benefit in phase II setting
- Although not approved often used in the third line

Wiebe et al. JCO 2008

Kindler HL et al. JCO 2011

## ■ Nilotinib

- Phase II studies showed some clinical benefit. RR<10%
- Phase III study compared to best supportive care in patients who progressed on imatinib & sunitinib showed a trend toward longer progression-free and survival but was not significant

# Phase I study with Cabozantinib

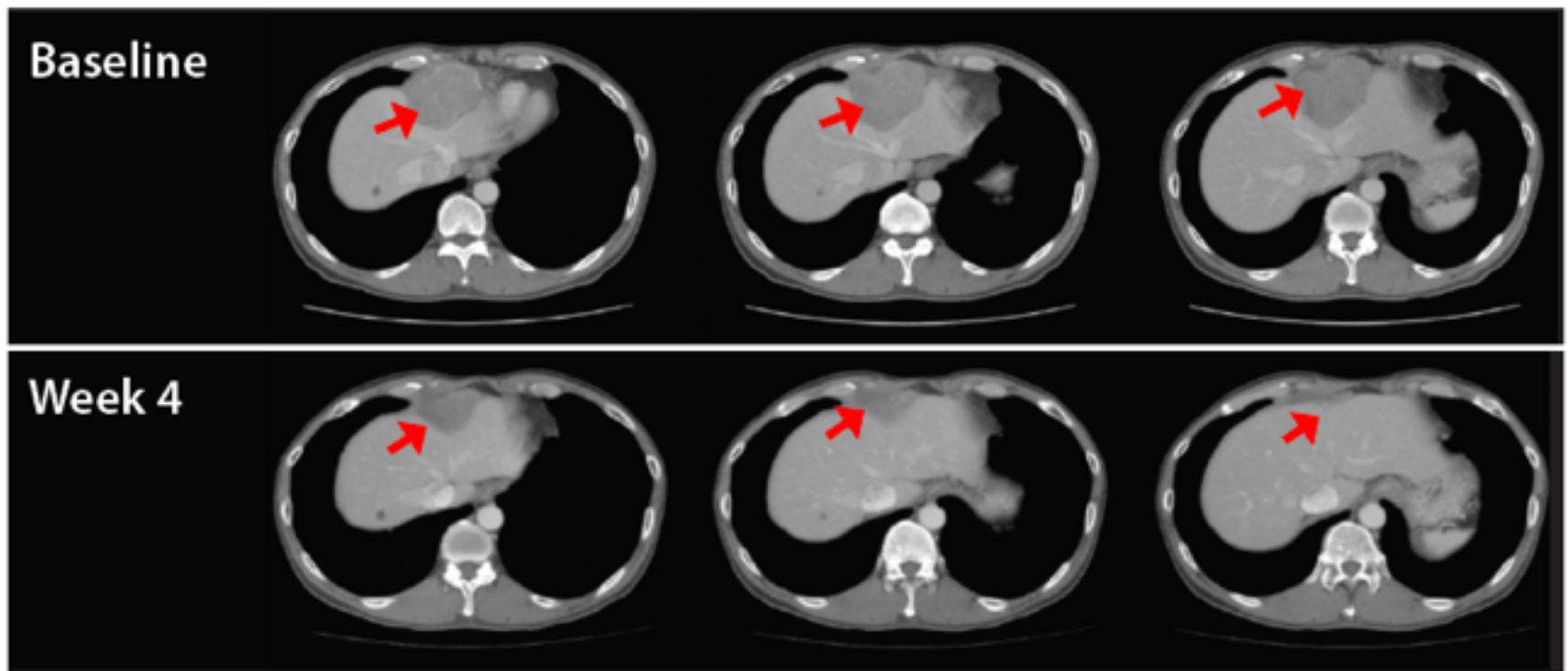
Yamamoto et al.

- Cabozantinib is an oral, potent inhibitor of MET and VEGFR2
  - MET and its ligand HGF drive tumor cell invasion and metastasis<sup>1,2</sup>
  - MET and VEGFR2 promote angiogenesis<sup>3</sup>

## Antitumor Activity

- A patient with GIST had stable disease with reductions in the sum of 5 target lesions of 16% (Figure 4), and continues treatment with cabozantinib

Figure 4. CT images of a patient with a primary diagnosis of GIST tumor positive for KIT over-expression (pretreated with 2 prior regimens including imatinib and sunitinib) who achieved reductions in the sum of target lesions of 16% during treatment with cabozantinib 60 mg (lesions indicated by red arrows). Grade 2 AEs included PPE, leukopenia and diarrhea. No grade 3 or greater AEs were reported.



# Ph2 Trial of Ponatinib in GIST

## Study Design

### Key Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

- ≥18 yrs with metastatic and/or unresectable GIST *after failed ≥1 prior TKI\**

N=45

Presence of KIT exon 11 mutations  
KIT e11+ve  
N=30

Absence of KIT exon 11 mutations  
KIT e11-ve  
N=15

Ponatinib  
45mg QD

**Data as of 07 April 2014:  
median follow-up 6 months all pts**

### Primary Endpoint

- Clinical benefit rate (CBR): CR+PR+SD at 16 weeks KIT e11+ve pts

### Secondary Endpoints

- CBR at 16 weeks KIT e11-ve pts and total
- PFS, ORR (CR+PR), OS by cohort and total
- Safety and tolerability
- PK

### Exploratory Objectives

- Optional FDG-PET and tumor biopsy
- ctDNA studies

\*Protocol amended (22 Apr 2014) to include only patients with failure of all 3 TKIs approved for GIST: imatinib, sunitinib, and regorafenib

# Ph2 Trial of Ponatinib in GIST

## Demographics & Baseline Characteristics

	KIT e11+ve N=24	KIT e11-ve N=11	Total N=35
Median age, yrs [range]	61 [40 - 81]	53 [24 - 73]	58 [24 - 81]
Gender, male (%)	15 (63)	5 (45)	20 (57)
Median time since diagnosis, yrs [range]	6 [1 - 30]	5 [2 - 25]	6 [1 - 30]
<b>2 prior GIST-approved TKIs, n (%)</b>	<b>10 (42)</b>	<b>6 (55)</b>	<b>16 (46)</b>
<b>3 prior GIST-approved TKIs, n (%)</b>	<b>12 (50)</b>	<b>4 (36)</b>	<b>16 (46)</b>
<b>Median number of prior cancer regimens [range]*</b>	<b>4 [1 - 10]</b>	<b>5 [2 - 7]</b>	<b>4 [1 - 10]</b>

\*Includes investigational TKIs



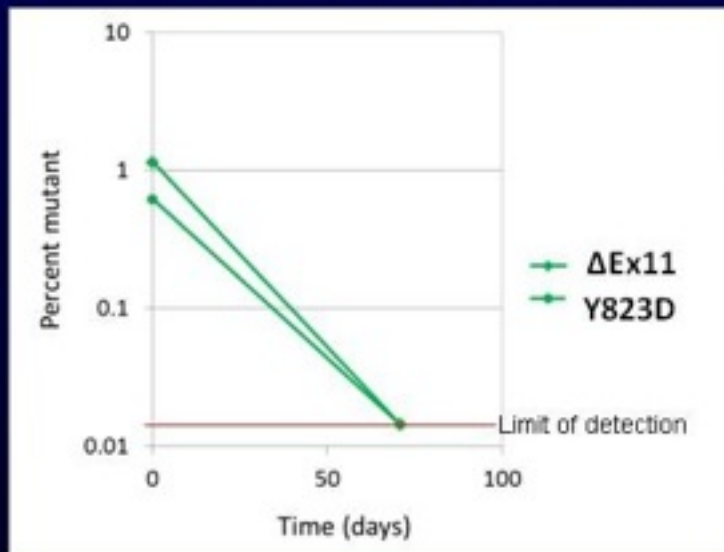
# Ph2 Trial of Ponatinib in GIST

## FDG-PET, Biopsy, Plasma Molecular Analysis

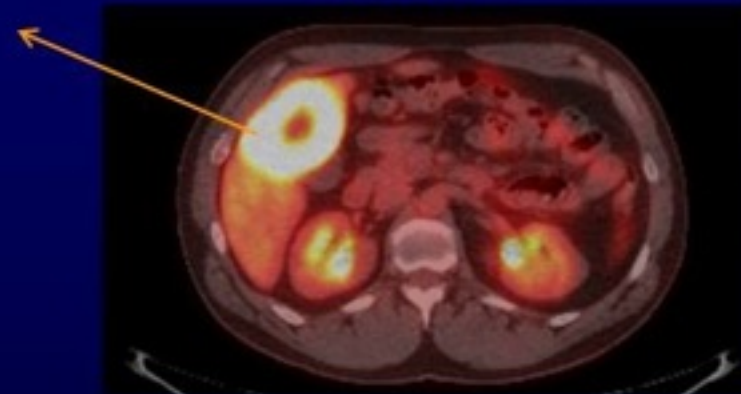
KIT mutations in biopsy (NGS, Foundation Med)

	Mutations	% reads
Primary	$\Delta$ Ex11	89
Secondary	Y823D	87

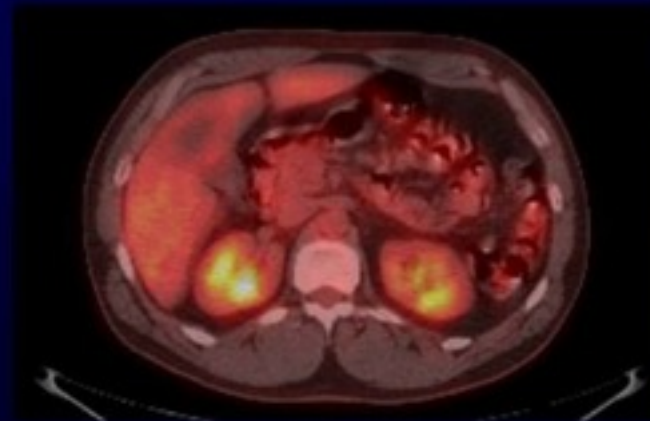
KIT mutations in plasma (BEAMing)



FDG PET



Baseline



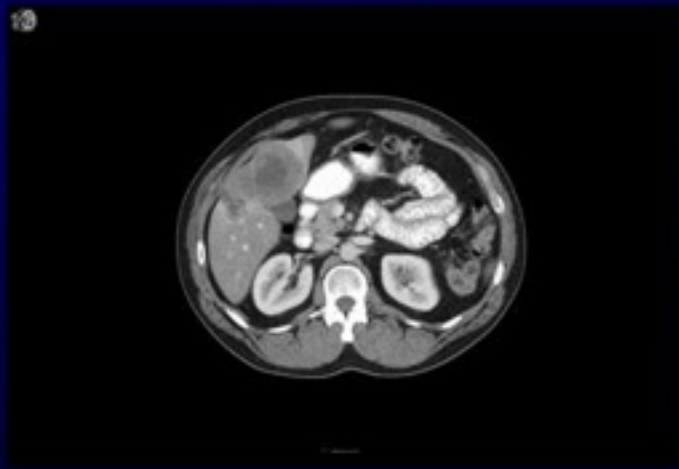
Cycle 1 Day 17



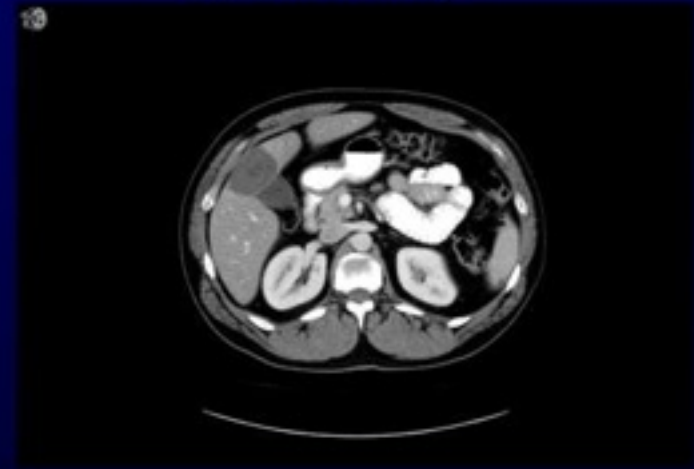
# Ph2 Trial of Ponatinib in GIST

## CT Scan

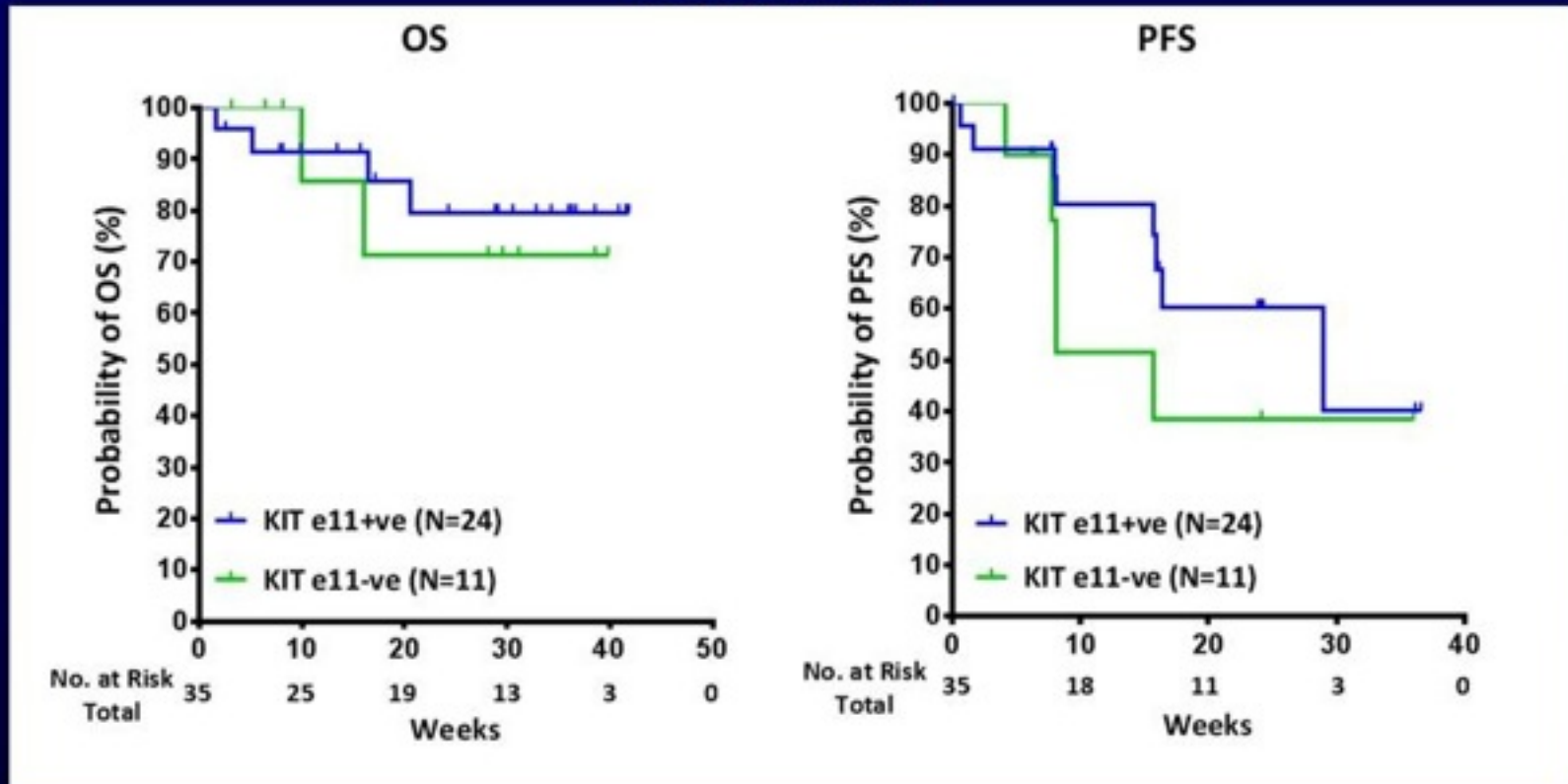
**Baseline**



**Cycle 3 Day 1**



# Ph2 Trial of Ponatinib in GIST Survival



## OS at 6 months (95%CI) [median]:

KIT e11+ve: 80% (54, 92) [not reached]

KIT e11-ve: 71% (26, 92) [not reached]

## PFS at 6 months (95%CI) [median]:

KIT e11+ve: 60% (33, 79) [7 months]

KIT e11-ve: 39% (9, 69) [4 months]

**Novel pathways / Combination  
therapy options**

**Table 1. Emerging GIST therapeutic targets and representative active agents in the preclinical,<sup>a</sup> phase I,<sup>b</sup> phase II,<sup>c</sup> phase III,<sup>d</sup> or limited clinical setting<sup>e</sup>**

<b>PI3K/AKT/mTOR inhibitors</b>	<b>HSP90 inhibitors</b>	<b>IGFR1 inhibitors</b>	<b>Immune therapy</b>	<b>Drug repurposing</b>
BKM120 <sup>a</sup>	IPI-504 <sup>a,b,d</sup>	R1507 <sup>a,e</sup>	Pegylated interferon alpha-2b <sup>d</sup>	Mithramycin A <sup>a</sup>
GDC-0941 <sup>a</sup>	IPI-493 <sup>a</sup>	Linsitinib	Ipilimumab	Mitoxantrone <sup>a</sup>
SF1126 <sup>b</sup>	STA-9090 <sup>a,b</sup>			Auranofin <sup>a</sup>
BEZ235 <sup>a</sup>	BIIB021 <sup>a,b,c</sup>			
GDC-0980 <sup>b</sup>	AT13387 <sup>a</sup>			
Perifosine <sup>c</sup>	AUY922 <sup>a,b</sup>			
Everolimus <sup>b,c</sup>				
Sirolimus <sup>d</sup>				

**Table 2. Active GIST clinical trials with therapeutic targets beyond tyrosine kinase inhibition**

**PI3K/AKT/mTOR inhibitors**

Phase Ib study with BKM120 and Imatinib in 3rd-line setting (NCT01468688)<sup>a</sup>

Phase Ib study with BYL719 and Imatinib in 3rd-line setting (NCT01735968)<sup>a</sup>

Phase I/II study with Perifosine and Sunitinib in advanced disease (NCT00399152)<sup>b</sup>

**HSP90 inhibitors**

Phase II study with AUY922 in 3rd-line setting (NCT01389583, NCT01404650)<sup>a</sup>

**IGFR1 inhibitors**

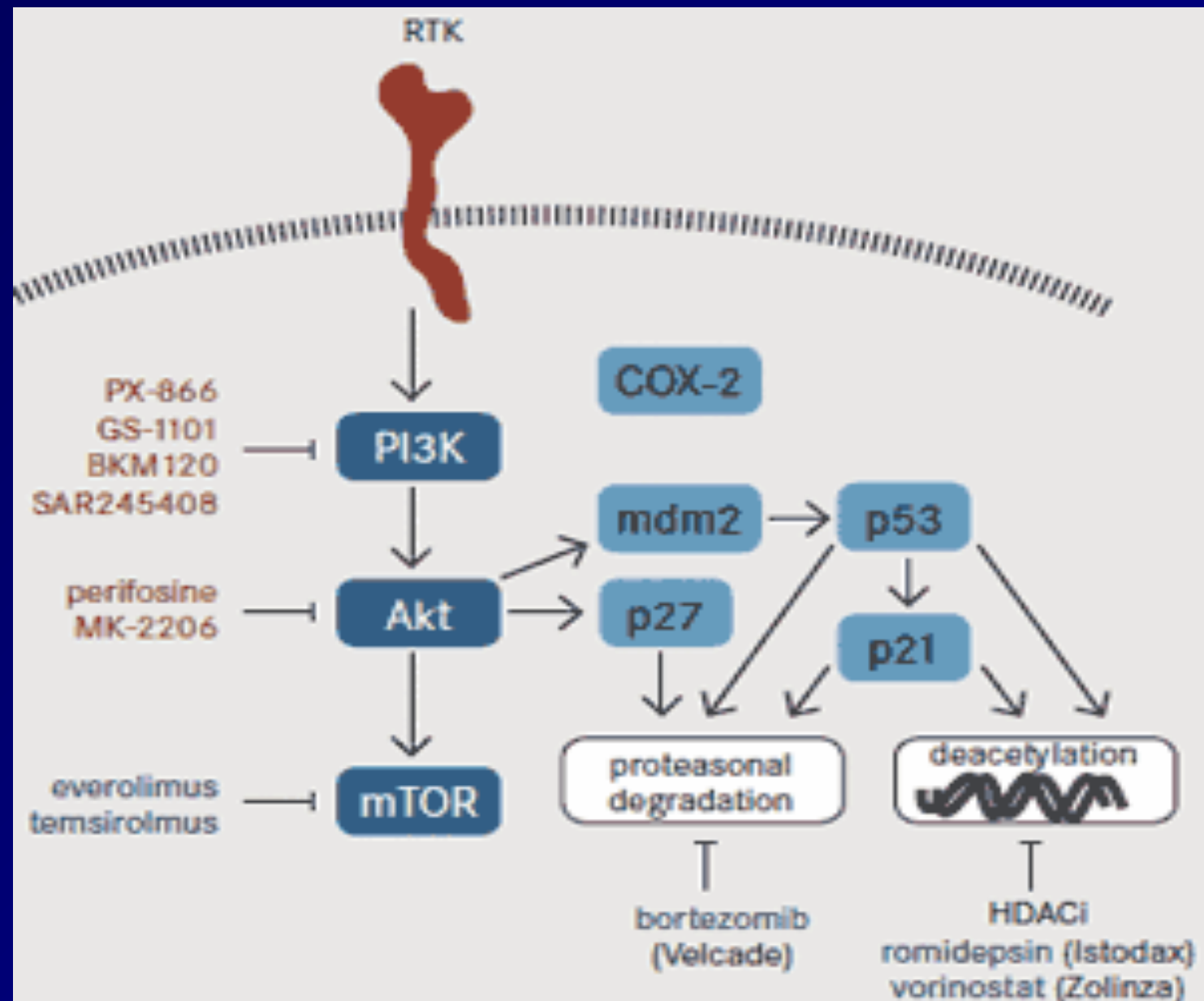
Phase II study with Linsitinib in adult and pediatric wild-type GIST (NCT01560260)<sup>b</sup>

**Immune therapy**

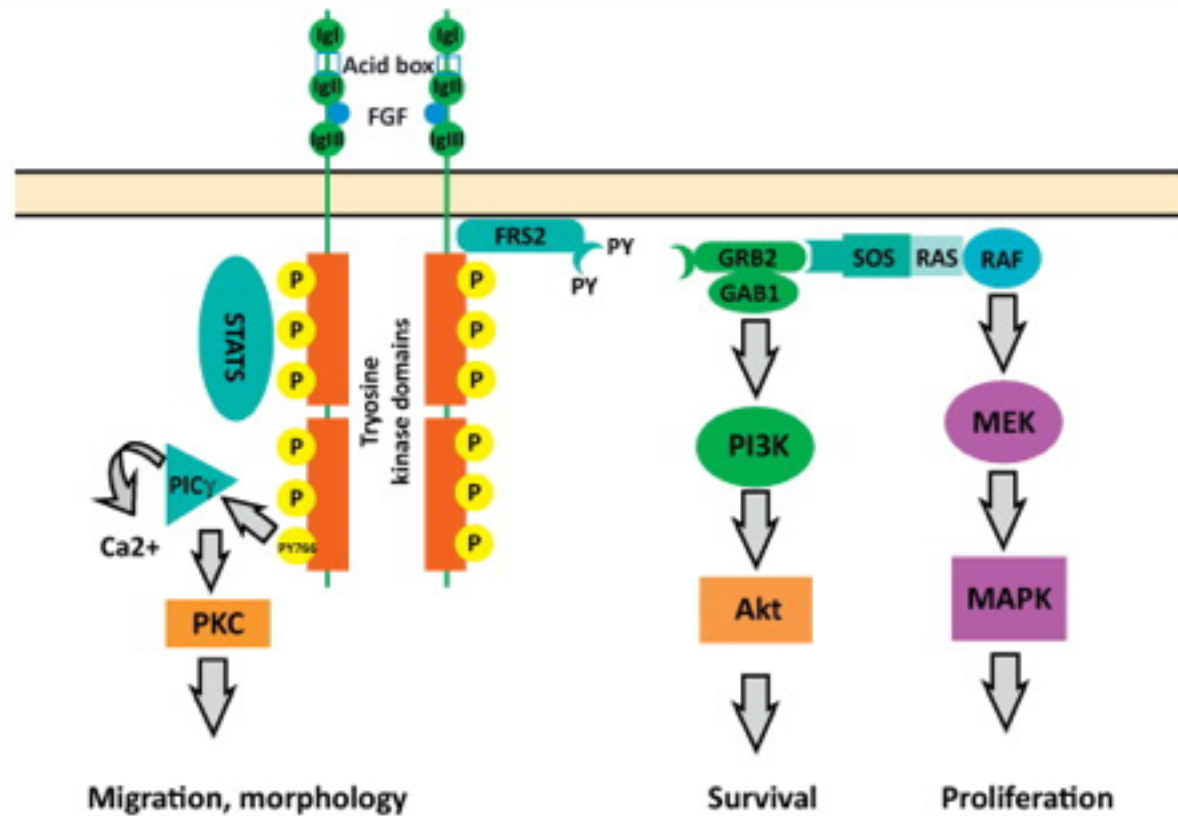
Phase I study with Ipilimumab and Dasatinib in advanced/unresectable disease (NCT01643278)<sup>a</sup>

Phase I study with Ipilimumab and Imatinib in advanced disease (NCT01738139)<sup>a</sup>

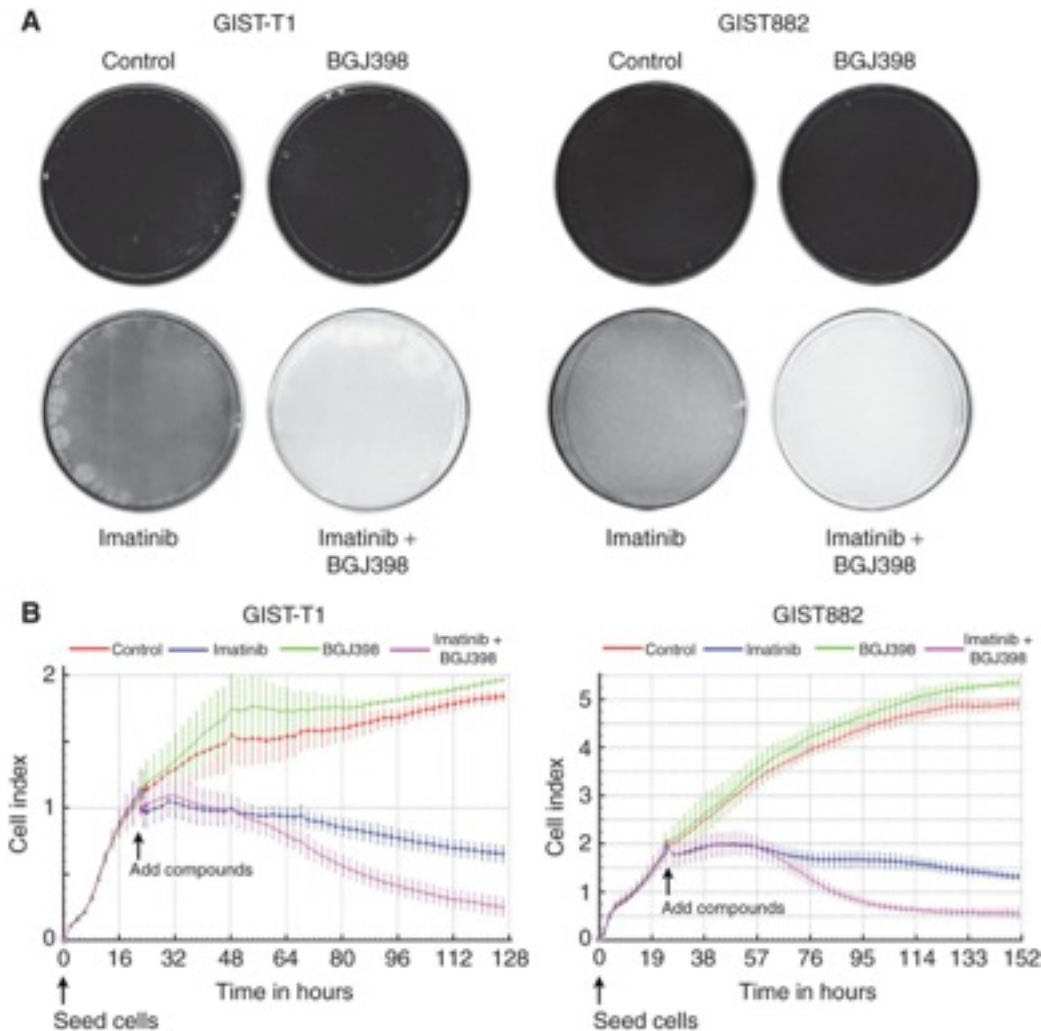
a, recruiting; b, completed and awaiting results.



# FGFR- alternate pathway of activation



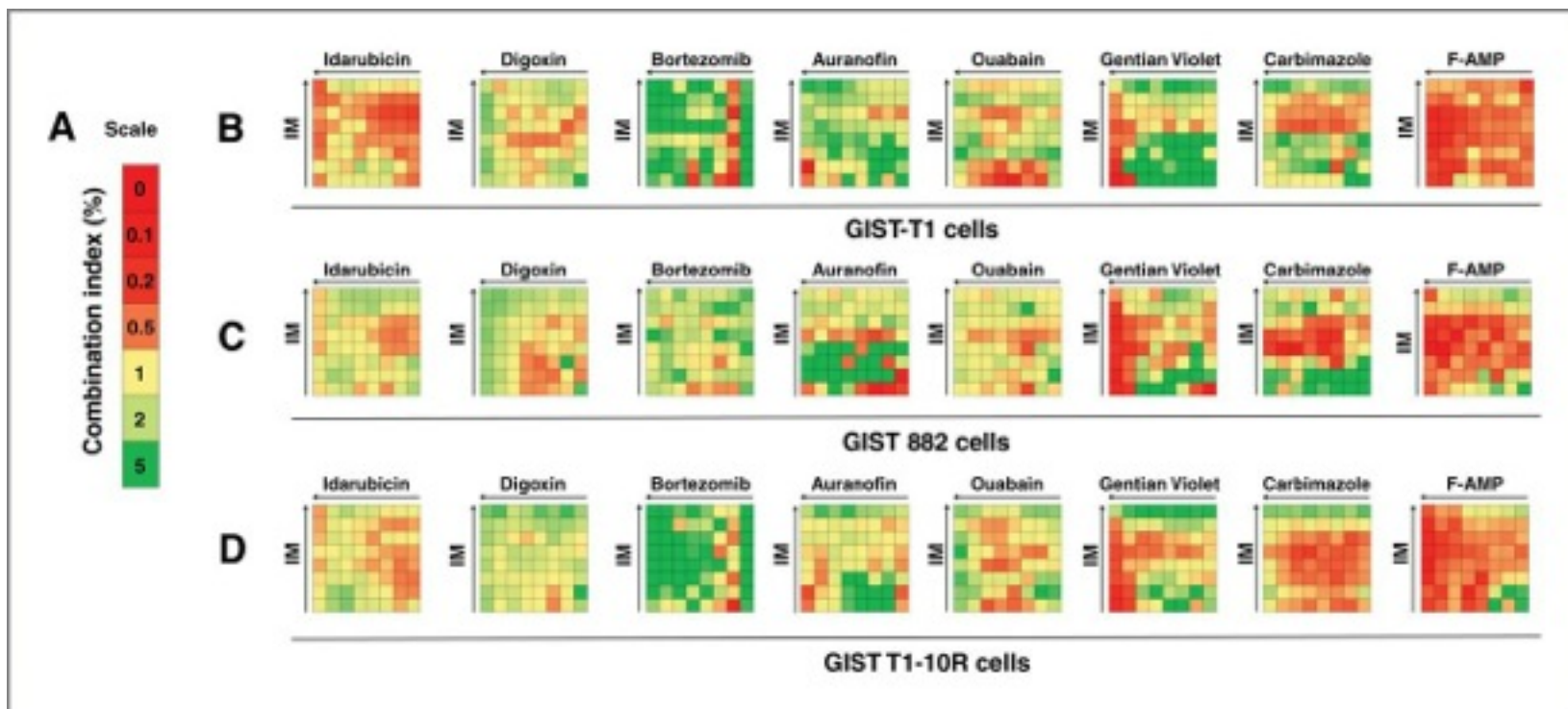
# BGJ398 enhances the antiproliferation activity of imatinib in GIST cells in the absence of exogenous FGF ligands.



Fang Li et al. *Cancer Discovery* 2015;5:438-451

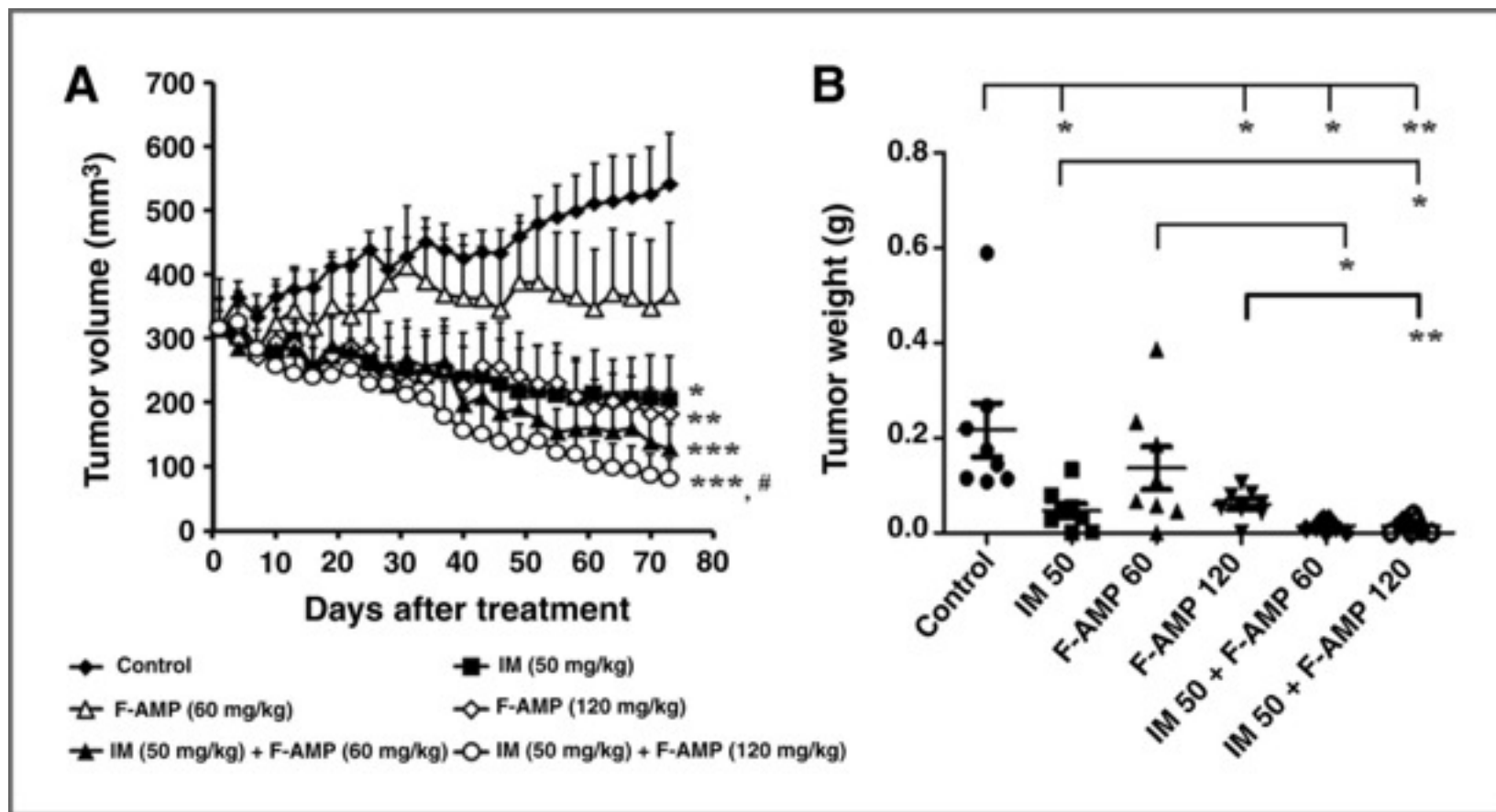


# DRUG Repurposing- Identifies Fludarabine as a candidate



Ziyan Y. Pessetto et al. Mol Cancer Ther 2014;13:2276-2287

Synergistic antitumor effects of imatinib mesylate (IM) in combination of F-AMP against GIST in a xenograft nude mouse model.

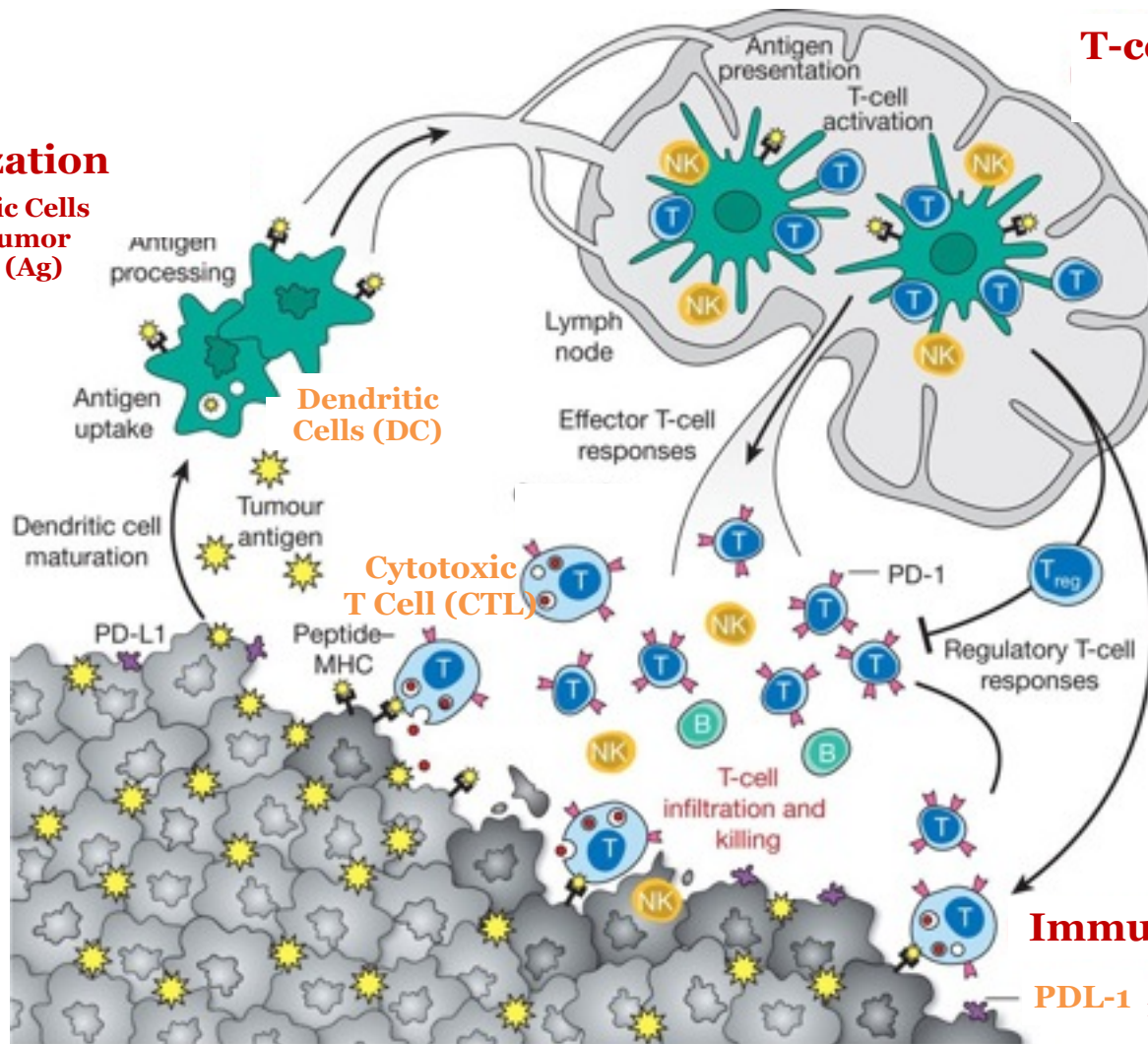


Ziyan Y. Pessetto et al. Mol Cancer Ther 2014;13:2276-2287

# The cancer immunotherapy premise

## Immunization

- ① Dendritic Cells capture tumor antigens (Ag)



## T-cell response

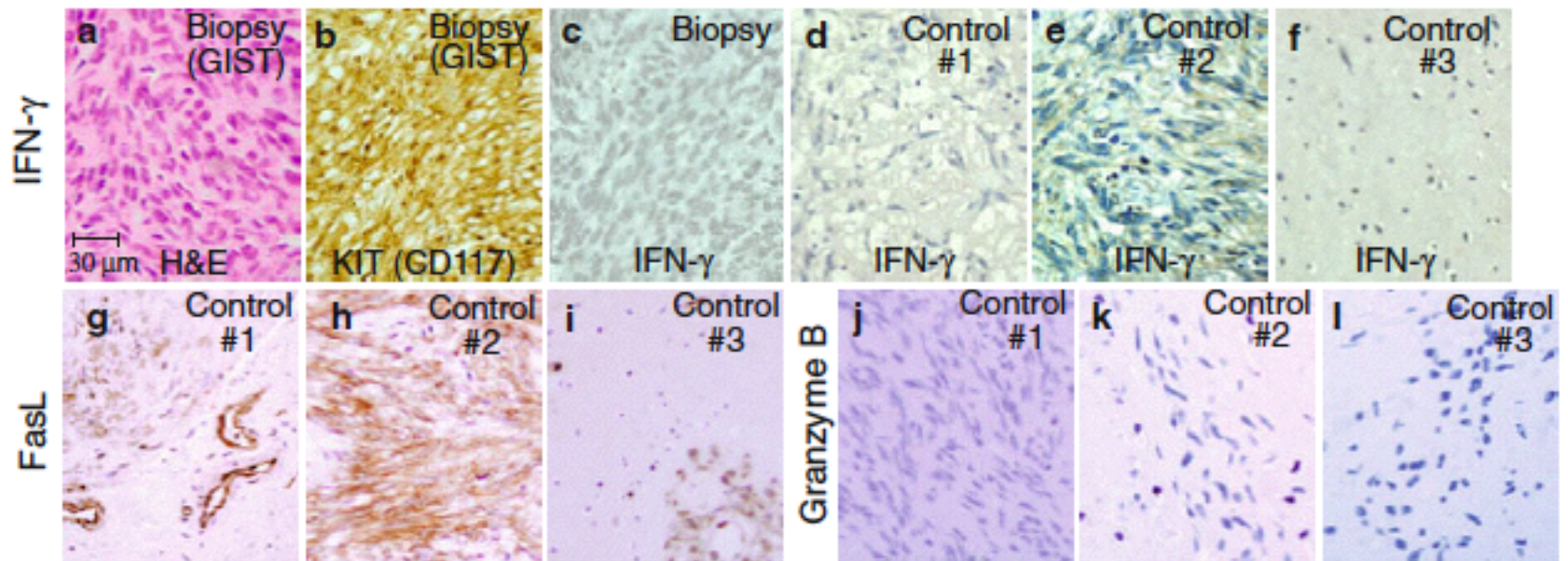
- ② Activated DC present tumor Ag to CD8 T cells which become anti-tumor CTLs

## Immunosuppression

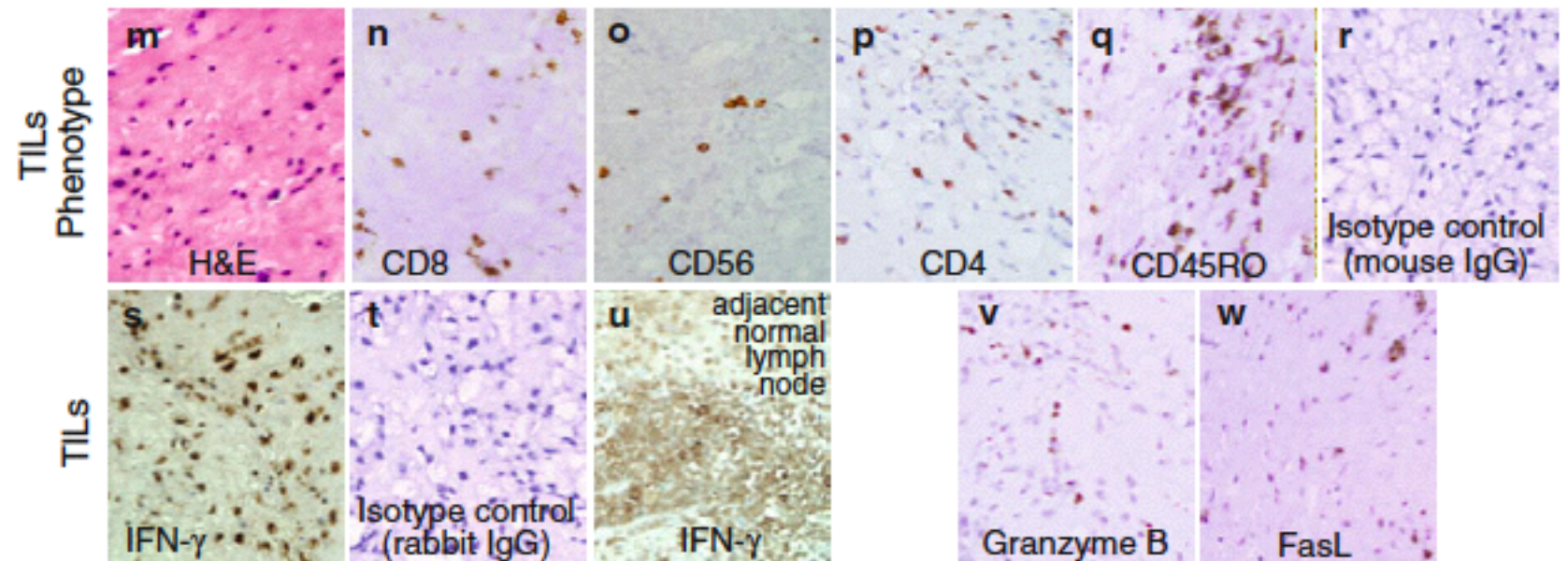
- ③ Tumor expresses molecules (e.g. PDL1) that fend off CTLs



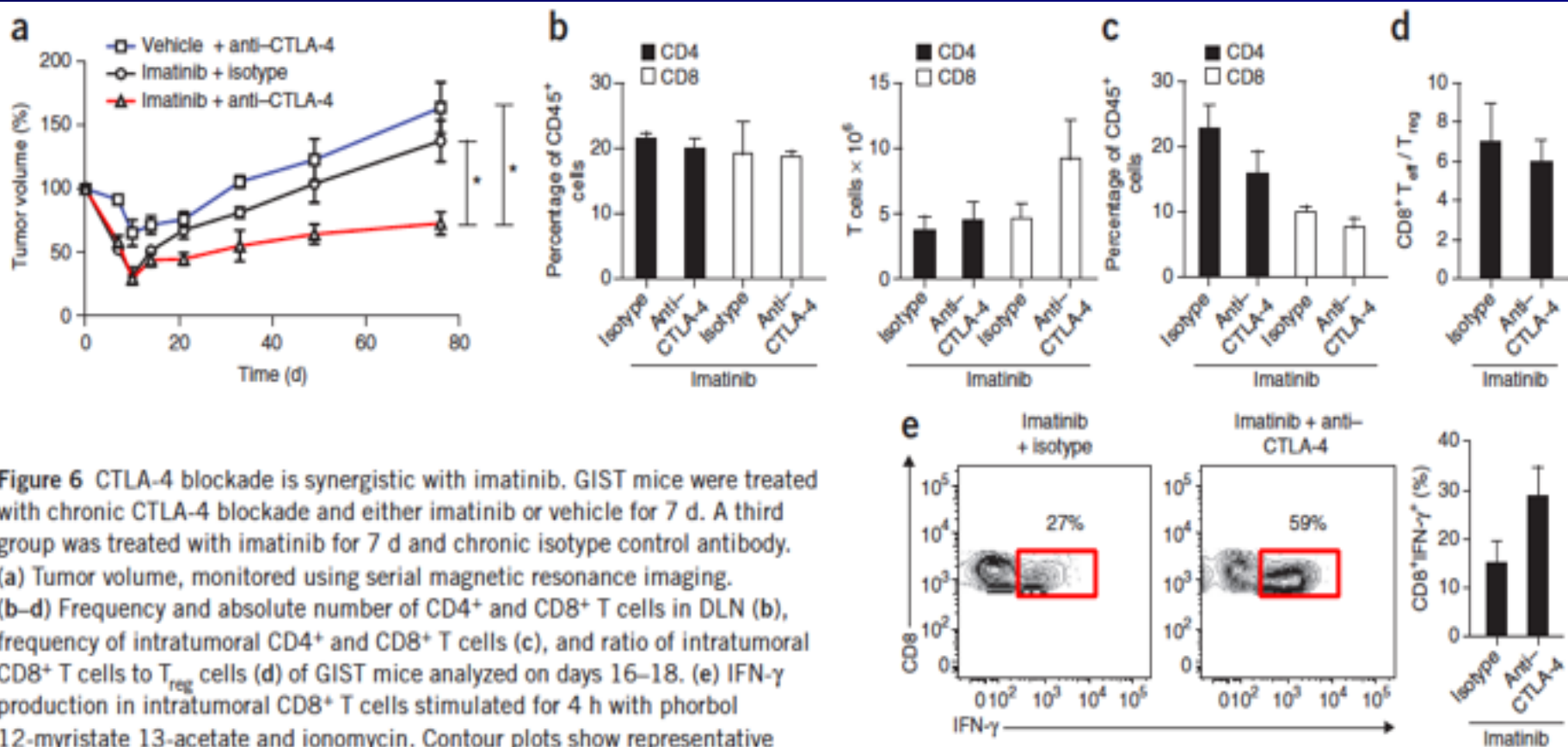
**A** Pt #4 biopsy before treatment and 3 control residual tumors post IM monotherapy



**B** Pt #4 residual mass post combination treatment with IM plus PegIFNa2b



# Exploring the role of novel immunotherapy agents: check point inhibitors

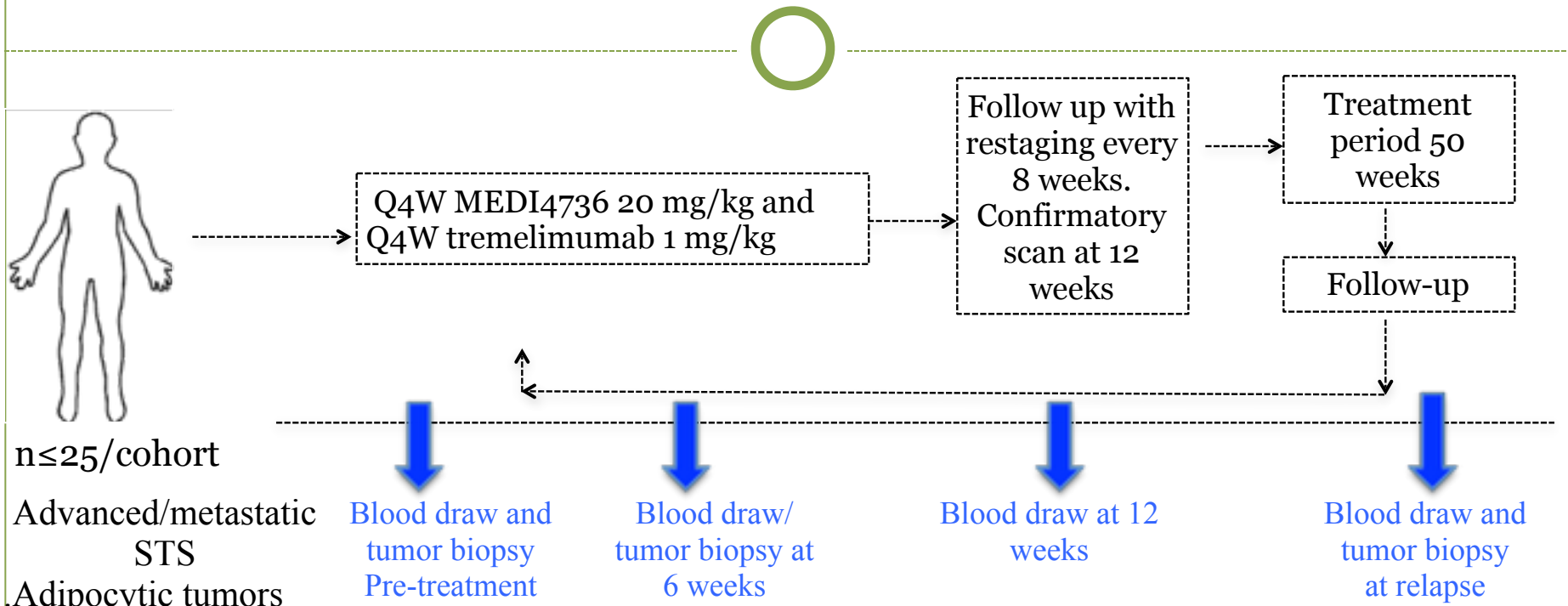


**Figure 6** CTLA-4 blockade is synergistic with imatinib. GIST mice were treated with chronic CTLA-4 blockade and either imatinib or vehicle for 7 d. A third group was treated with imatinib for 7 d and chronic isotype control antibody. (a) Tumor volume, monitored using serial magnetic resonance imaging. (b–d) Frequency and absolute number of CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in DLN (b), frequency of intratumoral CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells (c), and ratio of intratumoral CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells to T<sub>reg</sub> cells (d) of GIST mice analyzed on days 16–18. (e) IFN- $\gamma$  production in intratumoral CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells stimulated for 4 h with phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate and ionomycin. Contour plots show representative gating of IFN- $\gamma$  expression on intratumoral CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells. Bar graphs represent the intratumoral frequency of CD8<sup>+</sup> IFN- $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup> cells;  $P = 0.09$ , two-tailed Student's  $t$  test. Data in a represent means  $\pm$  s.e.m. of a composite of two independent experiments, each with 3–5 mice per group. Data in b–e represent means  $\pm$  s.e.m. with  $n = 6–8$  per group. \* $P < 0.05$ .

# PD-L1 expression

Histology	n	% PD-L1 +	% L PD-L1 +	% M PD-L1 +
Angiosarcoma	3	0	100	100
<b>GIST</b>	14	27	100	100
Leiomyosarcoma	4	0	0	25
Liposarcoma	5	0	20	60
Synovial Sarcoma	3	0	33	0
Radiation associated pleomorphic sarcoma	1	100	100	100
Other	20	5	10	70
Overall	50	12	30	58

# Treatment Schema



n ≤ 25/cohort

Advanced/metastatic STS

1. Adipocytic tumors
2. Vascular tumors
3. Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma
4. Synovial sarcoma
5. Osteosarcoma
6. Others

**Primary endpoint:** Progression-free survival at 12 weeks

**Secondary endpoints:**

irRC and RECIST response rate

PFS at 24 weeks, and overall survival

PD-1/PD-L1 expression analysis (pre & post tx samples)

Tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (pre & post tx samples)

Immunoscore (identification of molecular response/resistance patterns)



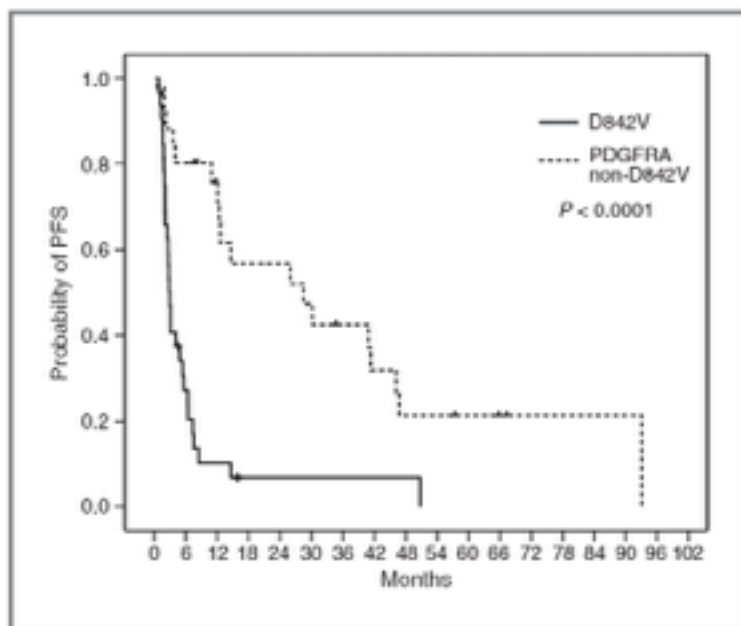
**PDGFR mutations (D842V)**

# Unmet Medical Need For Patient With GIST Bearing PDGFRA D842V Mutation

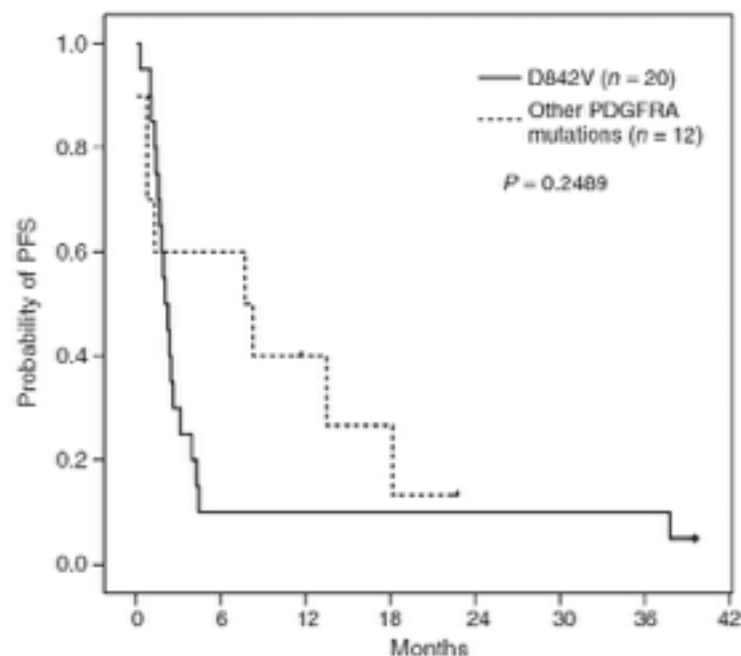
- **PDGFRA D842V Mutation**

- Identified in 2-5% of GISTs
- Resistant to imatinib
  - Imatinib had no objective response and a median **PFS of 2.8 months** and **OS of 14.7 months**

First line imatinib treatment (PFS: 2.8mos)



Second line treatment (PFS: 2.1mos)



Cassier, *Clin Cancer Res*, 2012

Figure 1. PFS and OS of GISTs with or without PDGFRA D842V mutations

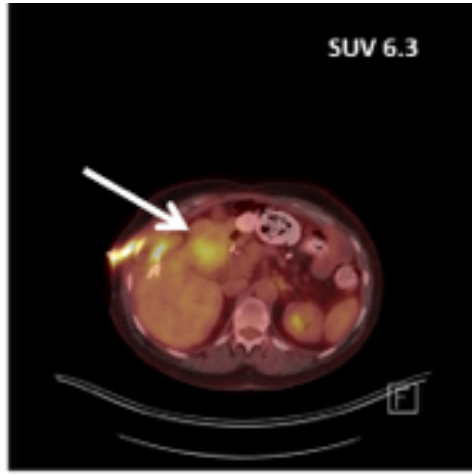
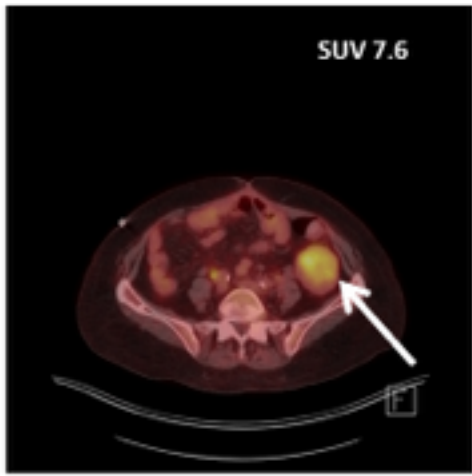
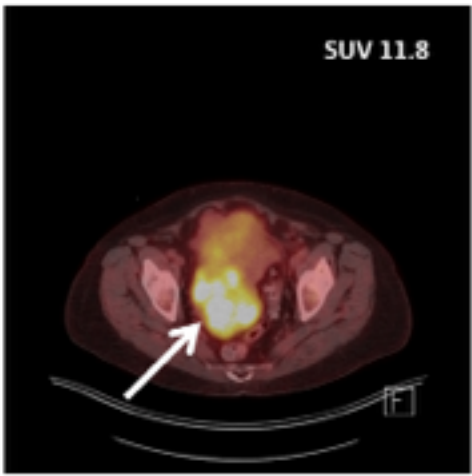
# Crenolanib (CP-868,596) overview

- Crenolanib is an orally bioavailable, highly potent, specific and selective TKI
  - Targets PDGFRA, PDGFRB, and FLT3, both WT and its mutants
- Type I Inhibitor
  - Binds to the phosphorylated, constitutively active receptors
- Clinical activity in patients with select mutations
  - GIST
    - Significantly more potent than imatinib for inhibiting imatinib resistant *PDGFRA* exon 18 mutations (D842I, D842V, D842Y and D842-843IM)

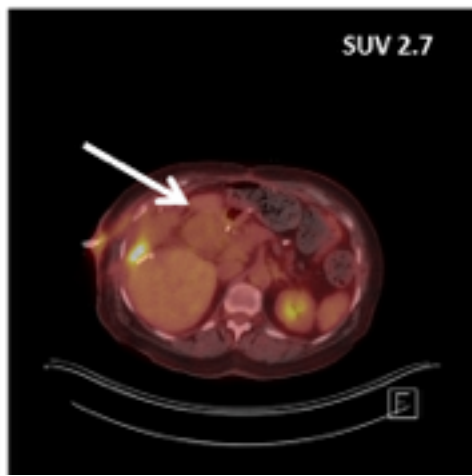
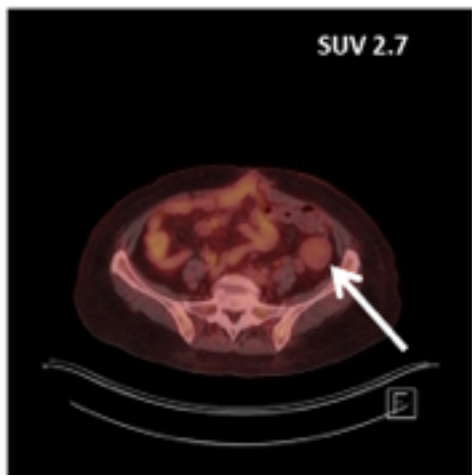
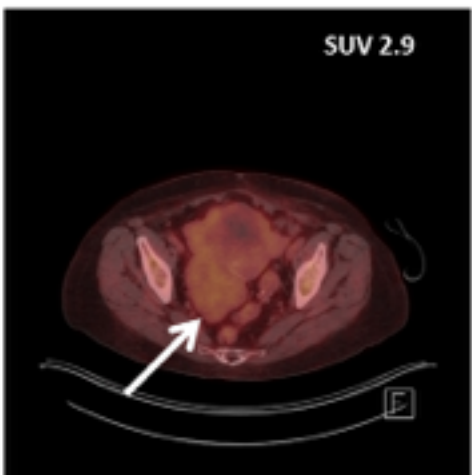
# Metabolic response in poor prognosis GIST D842V mutant patient following 20 days of crenolanib therapy

ARO-002:

Baseline



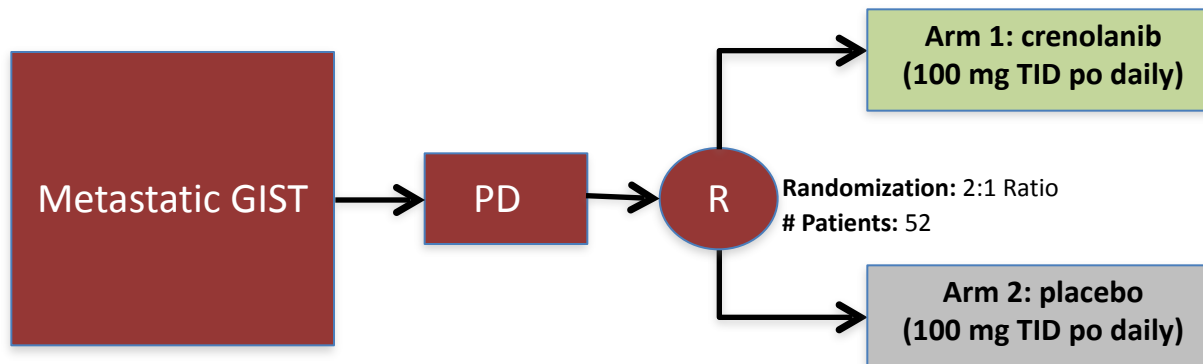
After 20 days of treatment with crenolanib, 200mg QD



# Investigational Plan

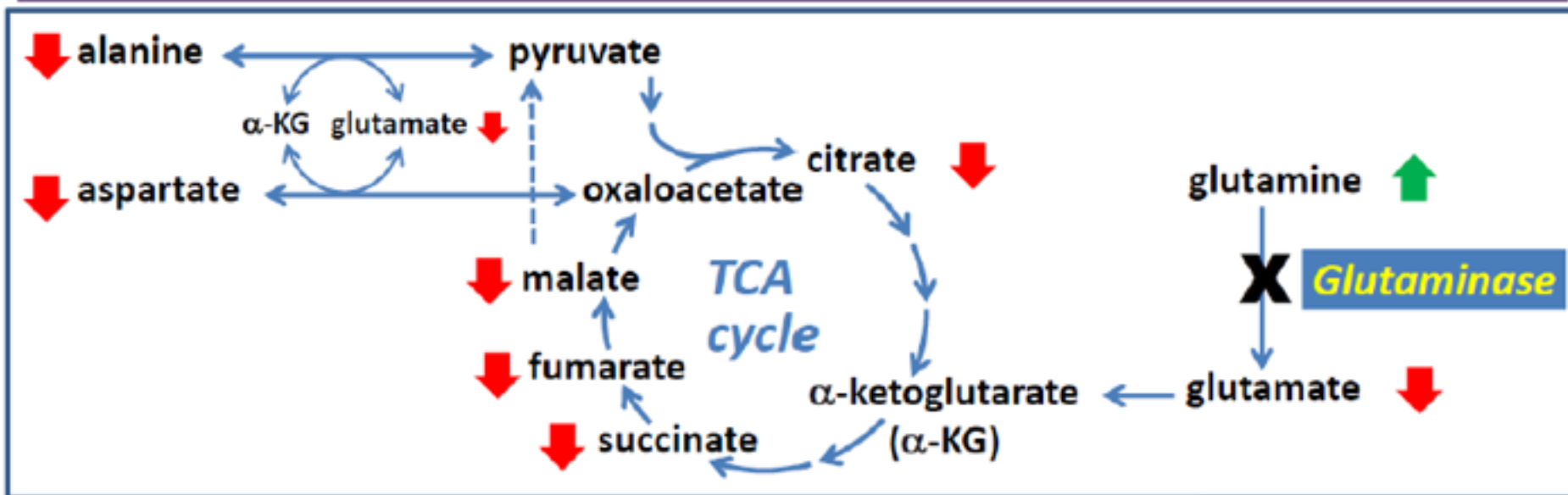
- **Overview of Study Design**

- Patients will be randomly allocated to one of the 2 study arms (2:1) to receive
  - Arm 1: Crenolanib (300 mg/d : 100 mg TID, po, daily)
  - Arm 2: Placebo
- Dosing will be daily, beginning on C1D1 through day 28 for a 28-day cycle. Treatment will be administered until disease progression, unacceptable toxicity or willingness to stop. Dose adaptations are planned in case of toxicity
- Randomization will be stratified according to the number of prior lines received before randomization: 1<sup>st</sup> versus > 1 prior line of treatment at baseline

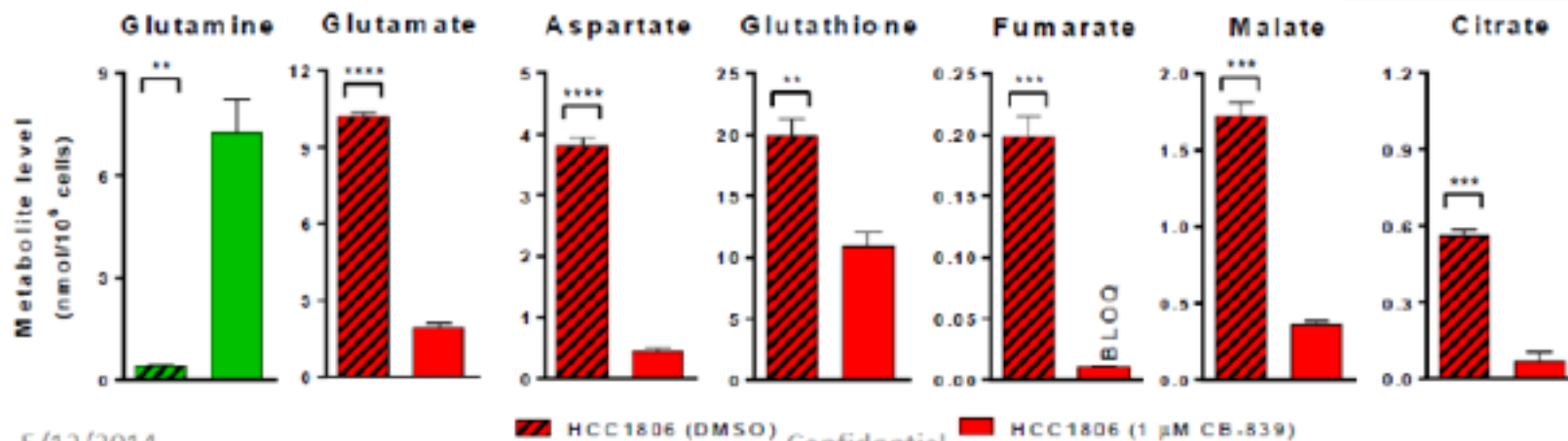


# SDH mutations

# Glutaminase Inhibition Suppresses Multiple Downstream Metabolic Intermediates



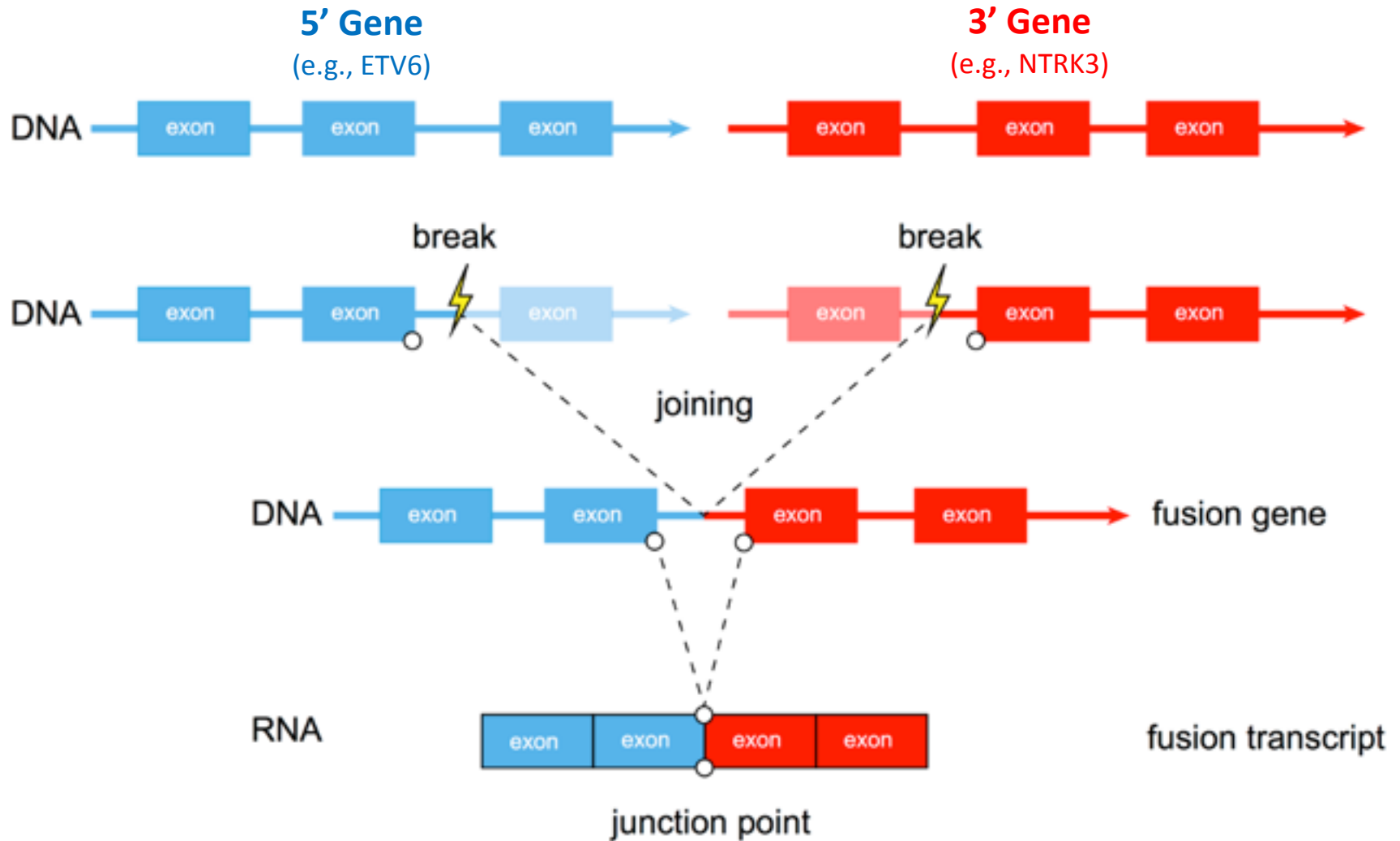
Cell line: HCC-1806 (TNBC)  
 Compound: CB-839 (1 μM)  
 Timepoint: 4 h



# NTRK fusions



# What is a gene fusion?

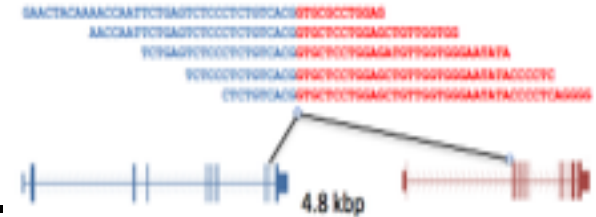


- Gene fusions can be generated by translocations, inversions & deletions.

# How can we detect gene fusions?

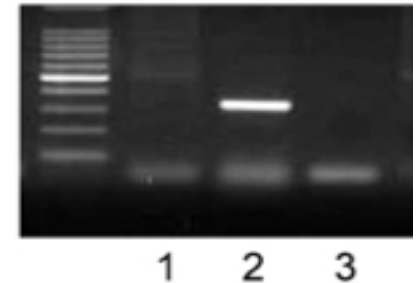
## NGS, Next-Generation Sequencing

- Detects known and novel fusions with arbitrary breakpoints in DNA or RNA.
- Exact capabilities depend on enrichment strategy.



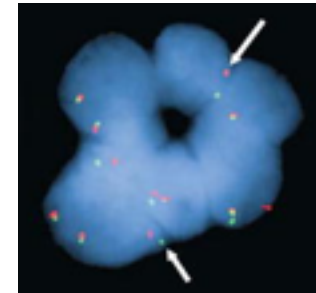
## RT-PCR, Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction

- Detects known fusion transcripts in RNA.
- Detects 5'/3' imbalance as a fusion signature, but can not determine novel partner.



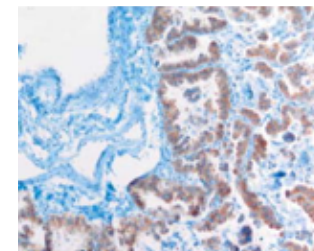
## FISH, Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization

- Detects gene rearrangements in DNA that may generate a fusion transcript.



## IHC, Immunohistochemistry

- Detects protein expression, which may be attributable to a fusion event.



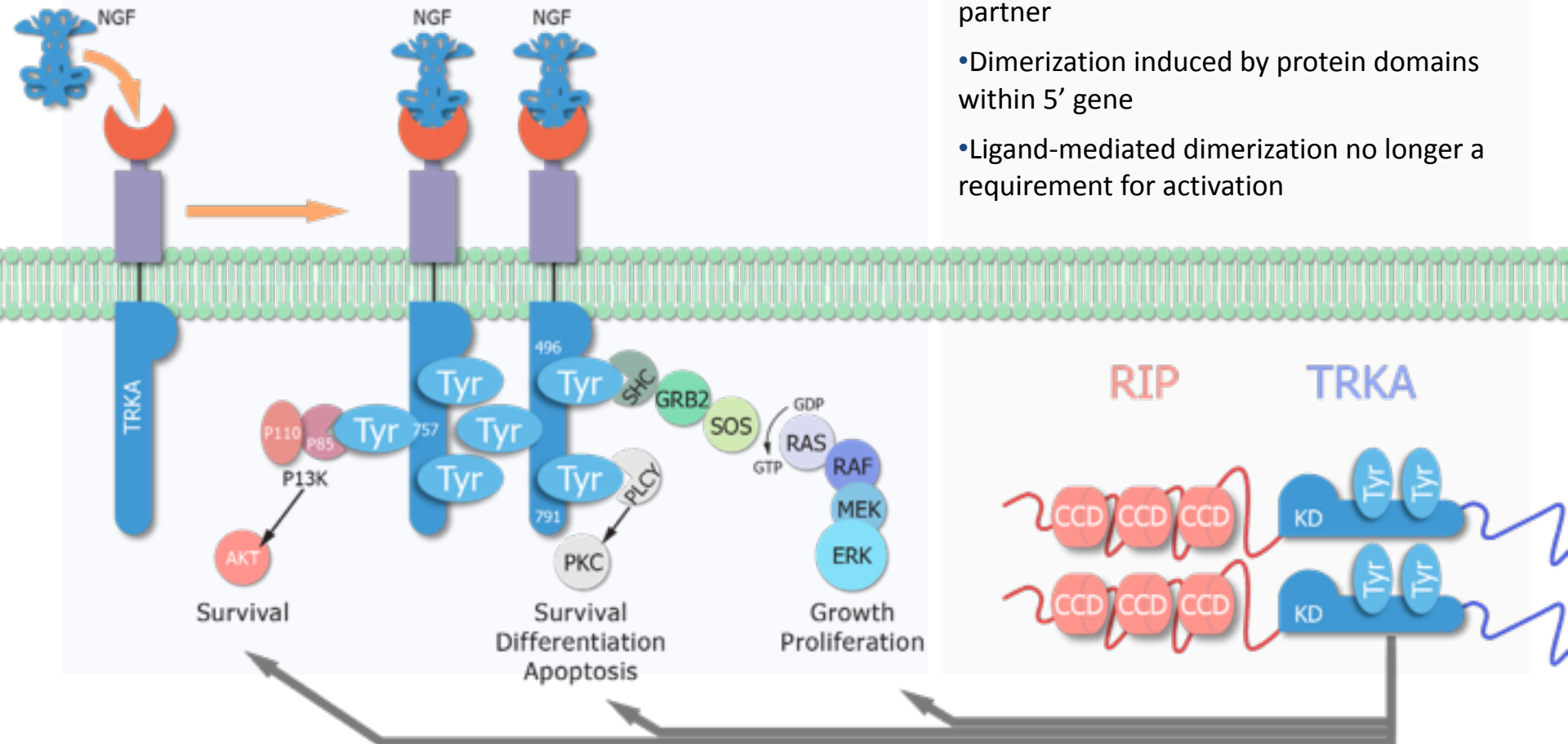
# Signaling of Oncogenic TRK Fusions

## Ligand-dependent

- Expression of receptor (typically limited to nervous system)
- Availability of ligand (autocrine, paracrine)

## Ligand-Independent (TRKA-fusion)

- Ligand binding domain replaced by 5' fusion gene
- Highly expressed by promoter of 5' fusion partner
- Dimerization induced by protein domains within 5' gene
- Ligand-mediated dimerization no longer a requirement for activation

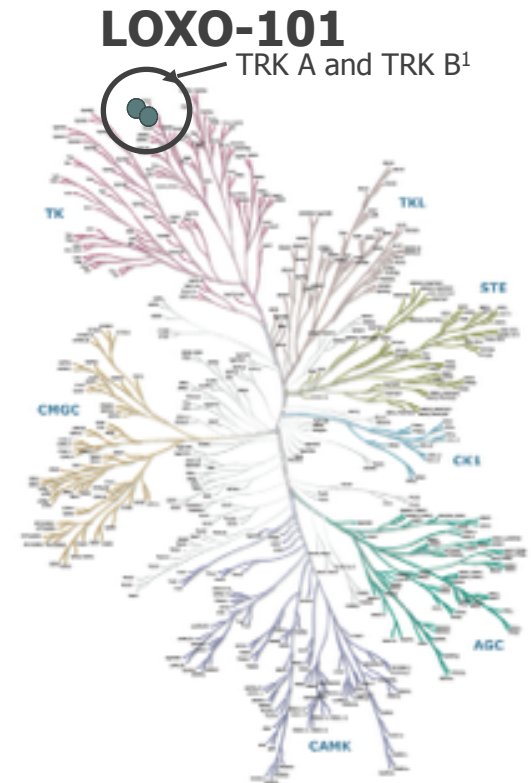


KD = kinase domain  
 CCD = coiled-coil domain

# LOXO-101 is Highly Specific for TRK Receptors

LOXO-101 has favorable TRK inhibitor properties:

1. High potency for TRKA, TRKB, TRKC
2. Limited inhibition of other kinases



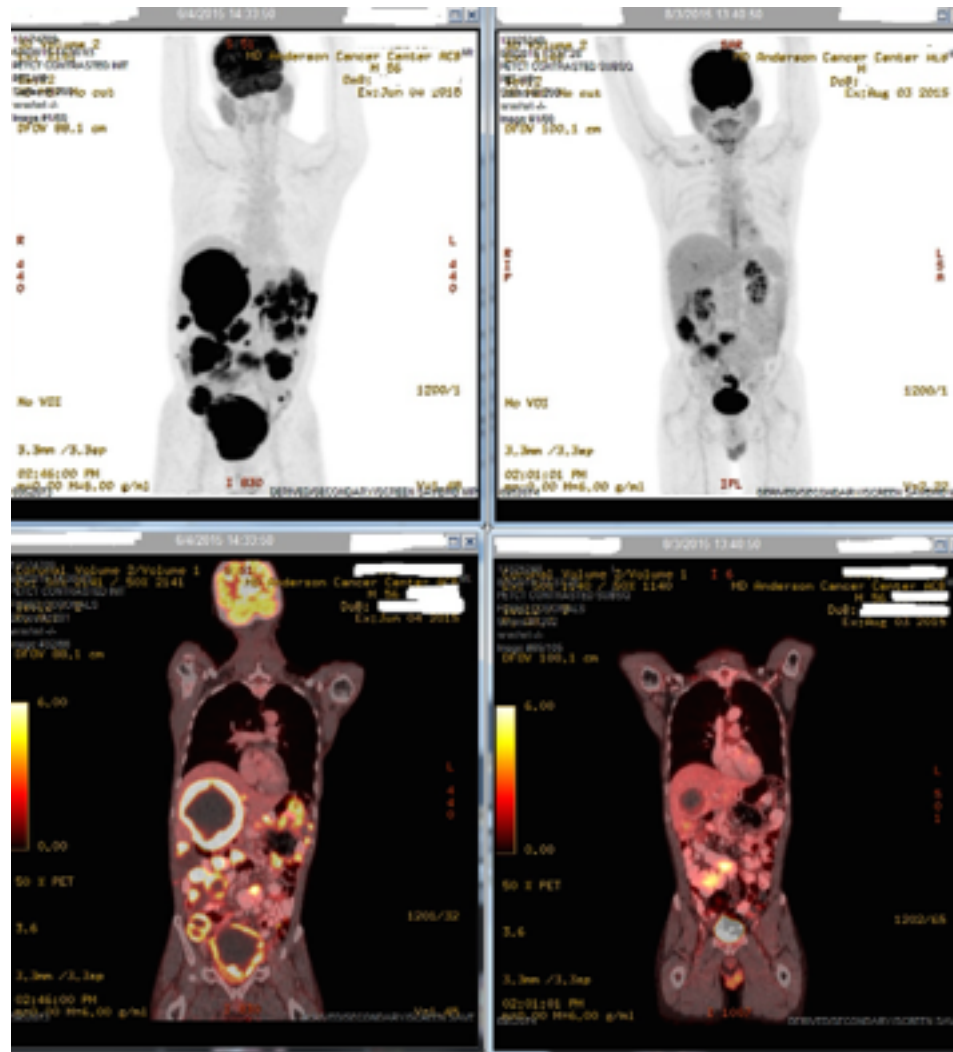
<sup>1</sup> Upstate kinase panel shown does not include TRK C. LOXO-101 shown to be equipotent for TRK C in other assays.

# LOXO-101 Phase 1 TRK Fusion Case History

55-year-old gentleman, who initially was diagnosed with GIST in 2003. At that time, he had metastasis to liver, spleen, and GE junction of the stomach and abdomen. He underwent:

1. Subtotal gastrectomy on 05/20/03, status post 4-flap. He then went on to receive,
  2. Gleevec on 06/17/03 to 12/05/03 with progression.
  3. Sunitinib from 02/04/07 to 01/22/08, again with progression. He had recurrence and then underwent gastric debulking surgery on 08/08/08.
  4. Sorafenib 09/25/08 to 10/07/08. He went on to receive,
  5. Drug called Tasigna and with progression of disease,
  6. An experimental therapy unclear as to the name.
  7. They went on to also receive regorafenib, unclear as to the specific date.
  8. Embolization of hepatic mass x2 in 2014 and repeat laparotomy and debulking.
  9. In December 2014, he underwent a trial regorafenib in combination with Sutent and his last dose was approximately yesterday. He is here for possible enrollment in clinical trial of therapy.
- Foundation Medicine analysis showed ETV6-NTREK3 Fusion, PAX5 mutation, SETD2 mutation.
  - Enrolled on LOXO 101 protocol 2014-1056

# LOXO-101 Phase 1 TRK Fusion Case History



Pre-Trial

First restaging end of cycle #2



I'll come work  
with you in the  
sarcoma when  
I grow up  
mommy!