



UNIVERSITÄTS  
KLINIKUM  
HEIDELBERG



# Disclosures

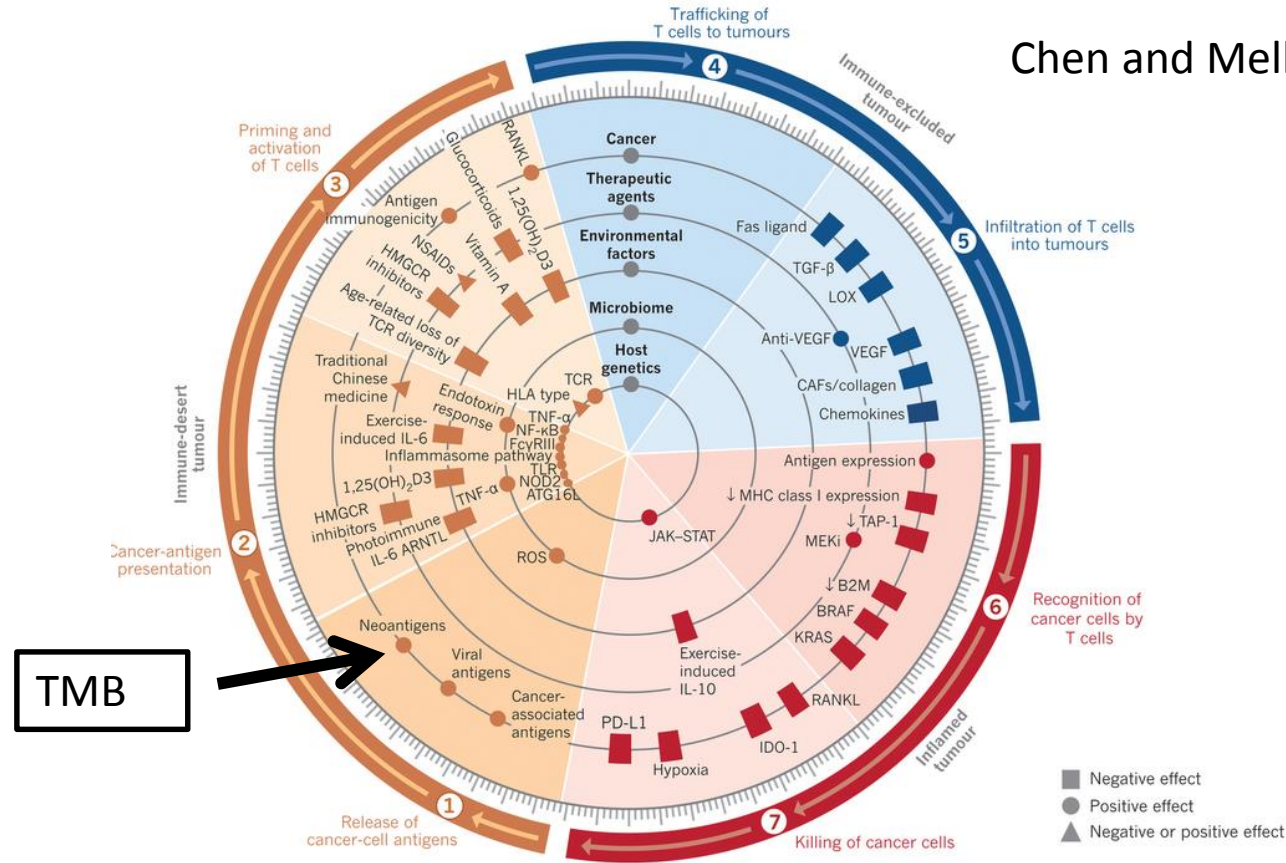
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- Advisory Board/Speaker:

Astra Zeneca, Bayer, BMS, Illumina, MSD, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Seattle Genomics, Takeda, Thermo Fisher

# The Cancer Immune Setpoint

Chen and Mellman, 2017



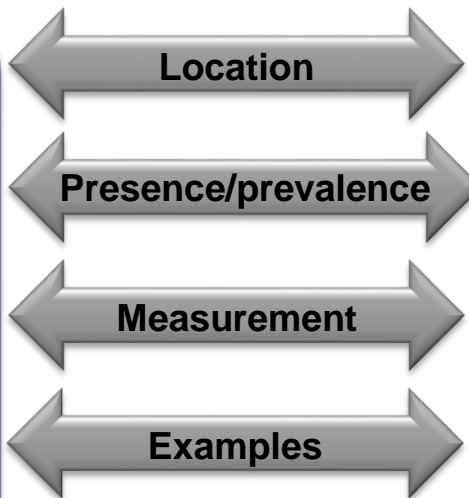
# The TMB concept from a diagnostic point of view

## Traditional genetic driver mutations

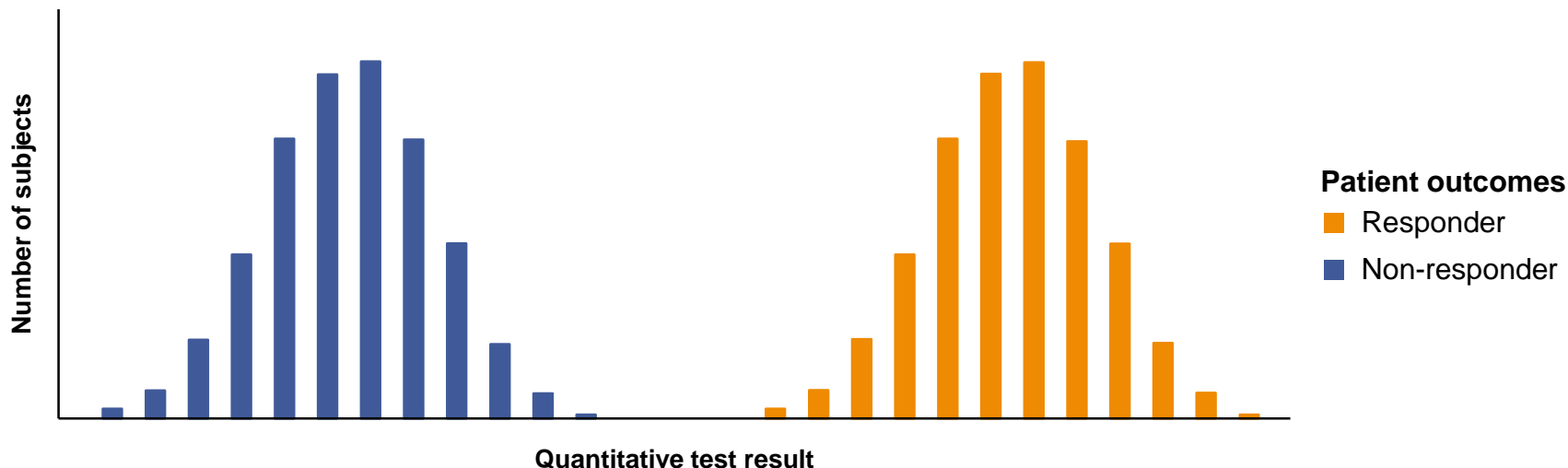
- Binary (+/- mutation)
- Tumour cell
- Stable
- *EGFR, BRAF*

## I-O biomarkers

- Expression range or magnitude
- Tumour and environment
- Dynamic and inducible
- PD-L1, tumour-infiltrating immune cells



# Interpretation of continuous biomarker data presents challenges for maximising patient benefit



The ideal predictive marker: bimodal population that can be interpreted categorically

Results can be presented with confidence as either predicted responders or predicted non-responders

# Complex (Composite) Biomarkers

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“measurement of complex, composite biomarkers may enable better predictions because multiple biomarkers each play a small role in the summative outcome of interest.”

## **Integration of several individual parameters/biomarkers**

- TMB
- Gene expression or methylation profiles
- HRD signature: e.g. LOH, LST, TAI

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Califf et al, 2018

# TMB testing in Heidelberg routine DX

male, 28 yrs, pre-treated, metastasized choriocarcinoma

Mutationslast per MB:

21.61

0



80

Mikrosatelliten-Instabilität

| Untersuchte MSI Positionen | Instabile Positionen | % instabile Positionen | MSI-Status                          |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 99                         | 23                   | 23.23                  | Mikrosatelliten-instabil (MSI high) |

Gene mit möglicher Kopienzahl-Veränderung

| Gen                       | RefSeq-ID | CNV-Typ | Cytoband |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Keine CNVs identifiziert. |           |         |          |

| Gen           | Mutation      | Allel-frequenz | Beurteilung der Variante         | COSMIC-ID   |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>RAC1</b>   | p.Gln61Arg    | 11.9 %         | Vermutlich aktivierende Mutation | COSM1131540 |
| <b>BRCA2</b>  | p.Gly2528*    | 5.2 %          | Deletäre Mutation                |             |
| <b>EED</b>    | p.Thr50fs*5   | 21.7 %         | Deletäre Mutation                |             |
| <b>ERBB2</b>  | p.Gln513*     | 7.2 %          | Deletäre Mutation                |             |
| <b>LAMP1</b>  | p.Phe300fs*7  | 5.8 %          | Deletäre Mutation                |             |
| <b>MSH3</b>   | p.Lys383fs*32 | 10.2 %         | Deletäre Mutation                | COSM1438888 |
| <b>NBN</b>    | p.Arg466fs    | 7.9 %          | Deletäre Mutation                | COSM1458550 |
| <b>NF1</b>    | p.Tyr628fs*3  | 9.8 %          | Deletäre Mutation                |             |
| <b>SPEN</b>   | p.Arg724*     | 20.3 %         | Deletäre Mutation                | COSM3802617 |
| <b>IL7R</b>   | p.Leu259*     | 8.1 %          | Vermutlich Deletär               |             |
| <b>NFE2L2</b> | p.Arg34Gly    | 29.8 %         | Vermutlich Deletär               | COSM132847  |
| <b>NSD1</b>   | p.spl?        | 6.9 %          | Vermutlich Deletär               |             |

# Potential ICI Biomarkers beyond PD-L1

## Sensitivity

### Overall mutational load and neoantigen burden

*Rizvi et al. Science 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*

*Steidl et al. Nature 2011*

### Disruption of *PDL1* 3' untranslated region

*Kataoka et al. Nature 2016*

### Loss-of-function *PBRM1* mutations

*Miao et al. Science 2018*

### T-cell-inflamed gene expression profile

*Cristescu et al. Science 2018*

## Resistance

### Inactivating *JAK* family member and *B2M* mutations

*Zaretsky et al. N Engl J Med 2016*

### *MDM2/4* amplification

*Kato et al. Clin Cancer Res 2017*

### *PTEN* loss

*Peng et al. Cancer Discov 2016*

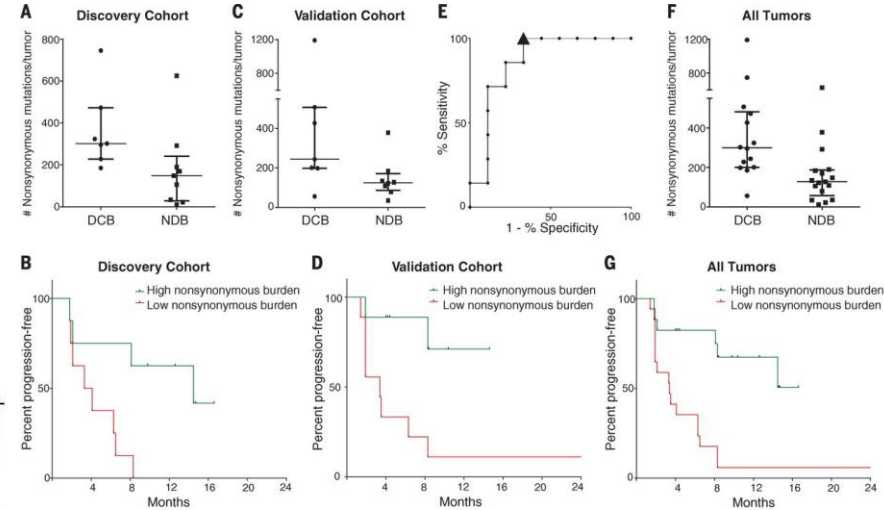
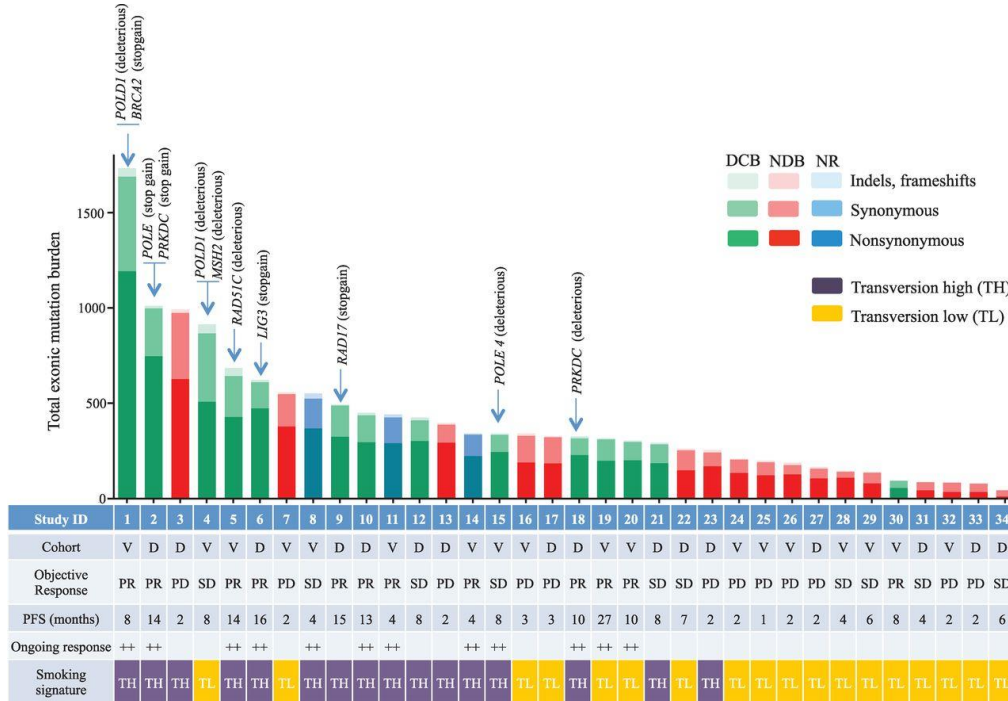
### Inactivating *STK11* mutations

*Skoulidis et al. Cancer Discov 2018*



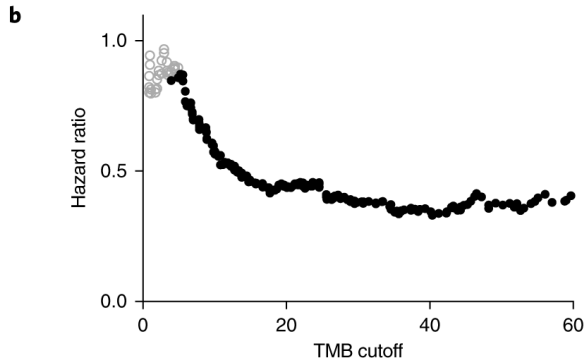
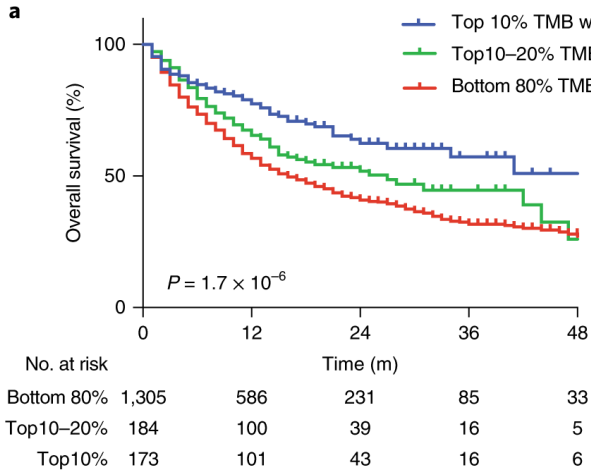
# PD-1 blockade in NSCLC and TMB

## „More mutations predict better efficacy“



Cutpoint: 200 missense mutations

# MSKCC- single center experience – 1,662 pts



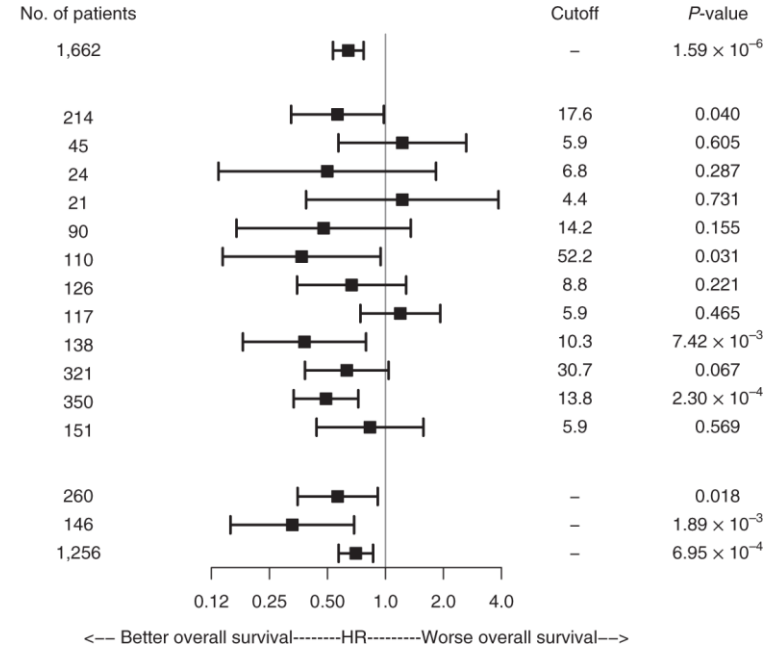
All samples in cohort  
1,662

Cancer type

- Bladder
- Breast
- ER+
- ER–
- Unknown primary
- Colorectal
- Esophagogastric
- Glioma
- Head and neck
- Melanoma
- Non-small cell lung
- Renal cell carcinoma

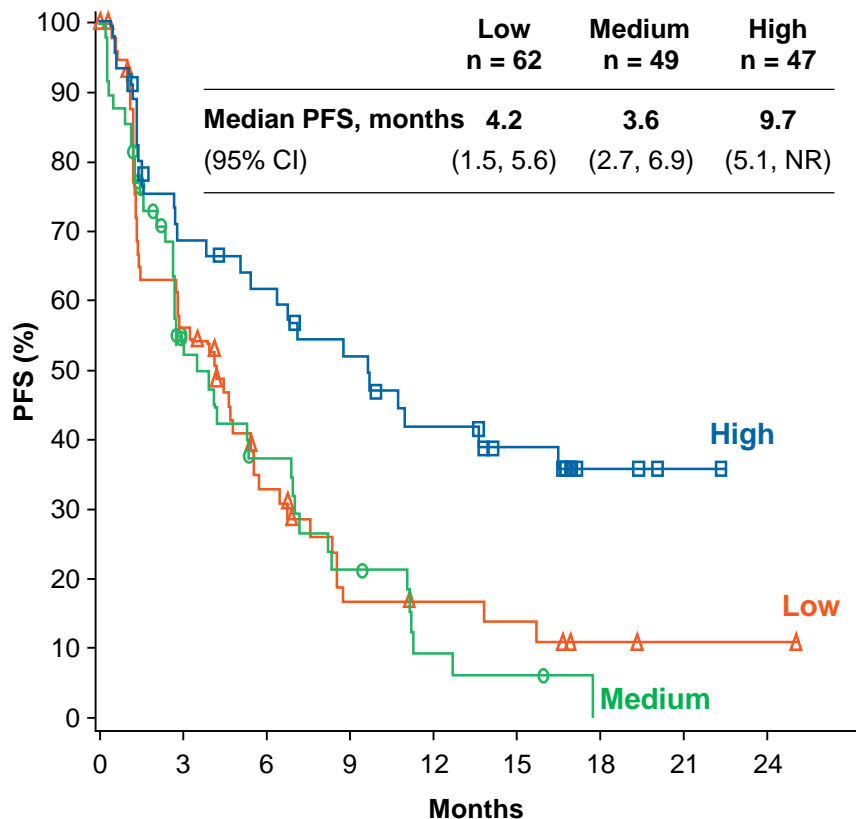
Drug class

- Combo
- CTLA4
- PD-1/PDL-1

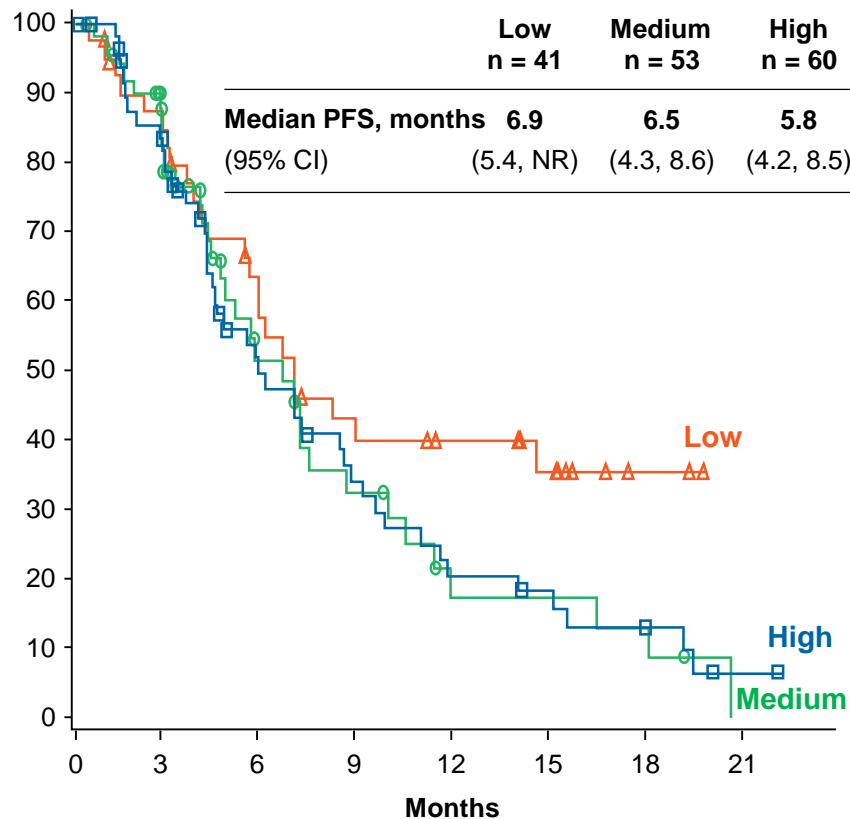


Samstein et al, 2019

## Nivolumab Arm



## Chemotherapy Arm



### (Initial) definition TMB: Total number of non-synonymous mutations

~22.000 human genes, (30) 50-60 Mbp region (depending on enrichment kits used)

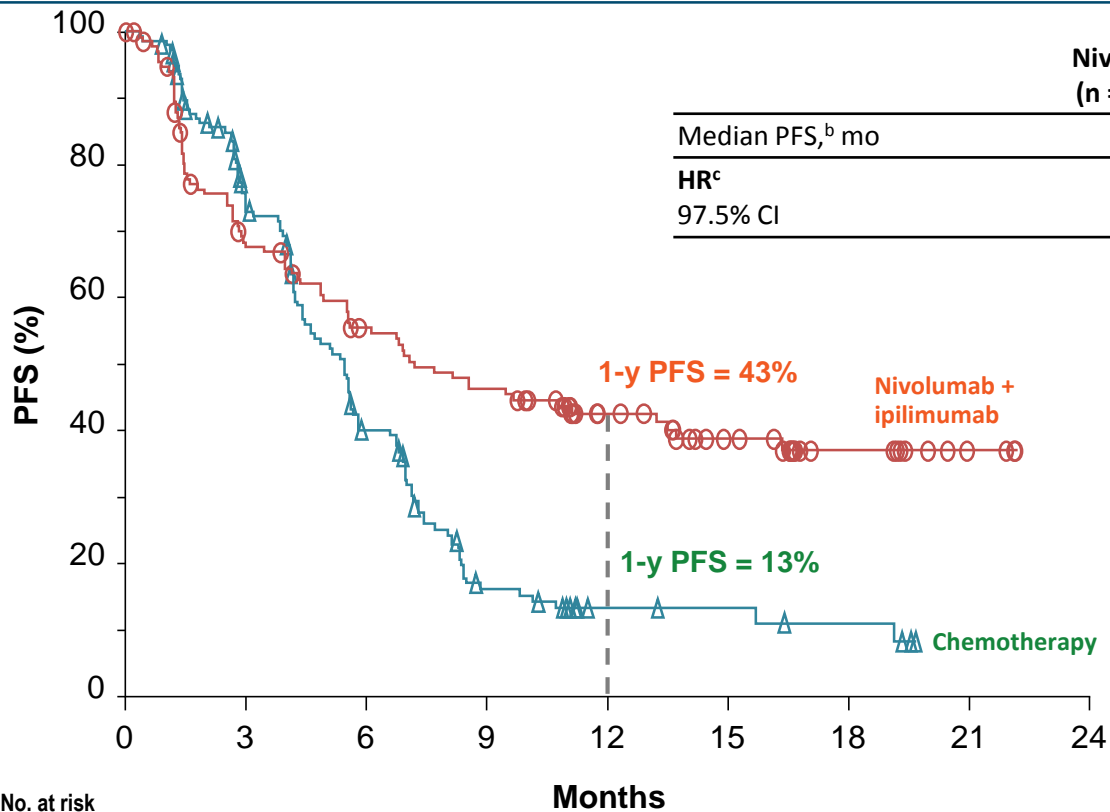
Parallel germline sequencing: filtering of private and common polymorphisms.

Pros:

- Comprehensive
- Used in clinical trials

Cons:

- only limited use for FFPE material
- hard to implement in routine MDx
- additional germline sequencing mandatory
- expensive
- long turnaround time



|                             | Nivo + ipi<br>(n = 139) | Chemo<br>(n = 160) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Median PFS, <sup>b</sup> mo | 7.2                     | 5.4                |
| <b>HR<sup>c</sup></b>       | <b>0.58</b>             |                    |
| 97.5% CI                    | 0.41, 0.81              |                    |
|                             | <b>P = 0.0002</b>       |                    |

No. at risk

|            |     |     |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| Nivo + ipi | 139 | 85  | 66 | 55 | 36 | 24 | 11 | 3 | 0 |
| Chemo      | 160 | 103 | 51 | 17 | 7  | 6  | 4  | 0 | 0 |



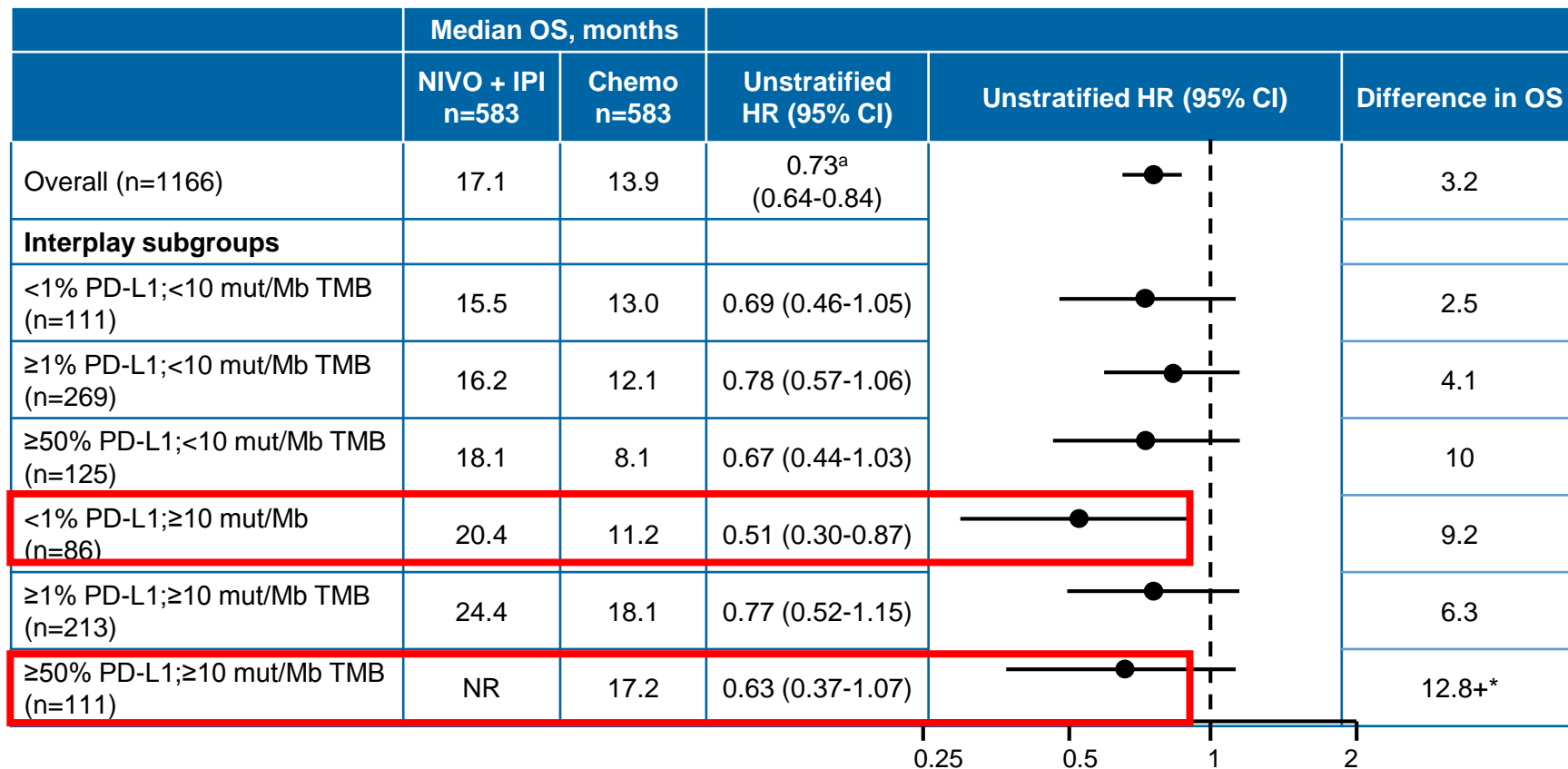
The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Nivolumab plus Ipilimumab in Advanced Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer

M.D. Hellmann, L. Paz-Ares, R.B. Caro, B. Zurawski, S.-W. Kim, E.C. Costa,  
K. Park, A. Alexandru, L. Lupinacci, E. de la Mora Jimenez, H. Sakai, I. Albert,  
A. Vergnenegre, S. Peters, K. Syrigos, F. Barlesi, M. Reck, H. Borghaei,  
J.R. Brahmer, K.J. O'Byrne, W.J. Geese, P. Bhagavatheeswaran, S.K. Rabindran,  
R.S. Kasinathan, F.E. Nathan, and S.S. Ramalingam, for the CheckMate 227  
Investigators\*

## Risk of Death According to Tumor PD-L1 Expression Level and Tumor Mutational Burden



<sup>a</sup>Stratified HR (unstratified HR, 0.74: 95% CI, 0.64-0.85)

Minimum of 29-month follow up.

\*Estimated based on minimum follow-up since mOS not reached.

# Trials stage 4 NSCLC – tissue TMB (WCLCL 2019)

- **Keynote 21: Pembro+pem-carbo** vs permertrexed-carboplatinum alone
  - 70 pts where tissue available (total study population 145)
  - WES, cutpoint: 175 muts
  - No association TMB and PD-L1 → fine
  - OR, PFS, OS: no effect
- **Keynote 189: Pembro+pem-carbo** vs permertrexed-carboplatinum alone
  - 293 pts where tissue available (total study population: 616)
  - WES; cutpoint: 175 muts
  - OR, PFS, OS: no effect
- **S1400I phase III: nivo + ipi** vs nivo alone
  - 231 where tissue available for TMB, 149 for TMB and PD-L1
  - Panel, 10 muts/Mb + various PD-L1 cutpoints
  - OS: no effect; trend for combined view on PD-L1 and TMB



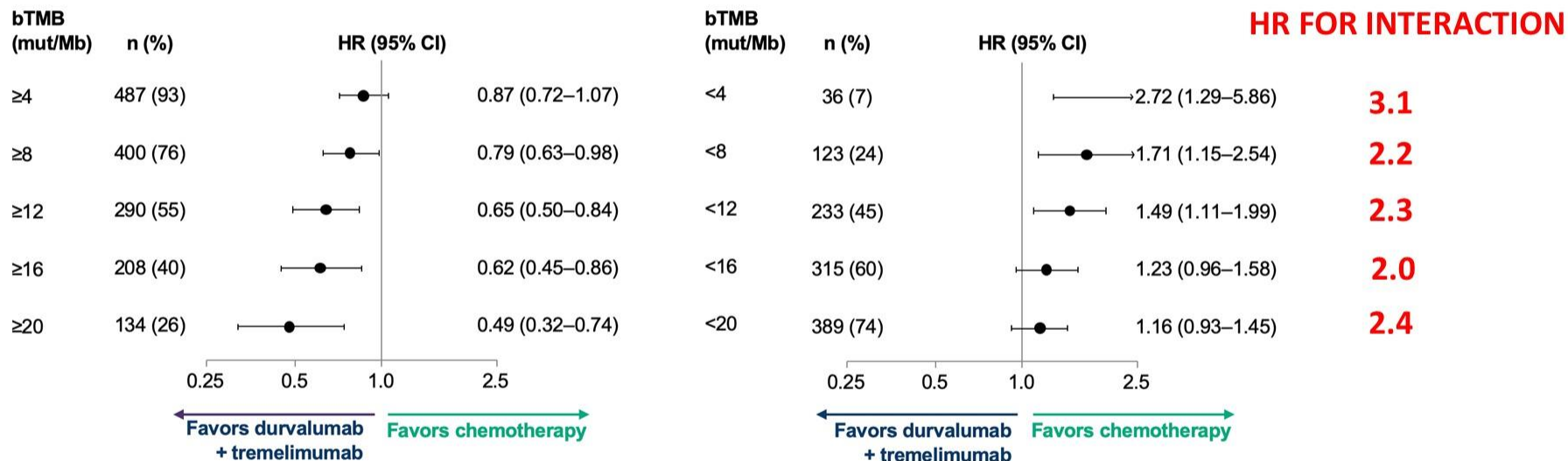
# Trials stage 4 NSCLC – tissue TMB (ESMO 2019)

- **Keynote 21 (nonsq), 189 (nonsq), 407 (sq):** pembro+platinum vs. chemo alone
  - 48%, 48%, 56% of total study population, respectively
  - WES, cutpoint 175 muts
  - OS: no effect
- **Keynote 10: Pembro mono** vs chemo
  - 253 pts where tissue available (24% of total study population)
  - PD-L1:  $\geq 1\%$
  - WES, cutpoint: 175 muts
  - median OS: 14.1 vs 7.6 mos
- **Keynote 42: Pembro mono** vs chemo
  - 793 pts where tissue available (62% of total study population)
  - PD-L1:  $\geq 1\%$
  - WES, cutpoint: 175 muts
  - median OS: 21.9 vs 11.6 mos

## Results cont'd

Figure 3. Overall Survival Across bTMB Cut-offs (cont'd)

### B. Durvalumab + tremelimumab vs chemotherapy



**bTMB is predictive of durva treme at all cut-off levels, however  
magnitude of interaction is always the same**

# Neptune phase III

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- **21 August 2019 07:00 BST**

AstraZeneca today announced final overall survival (OS) results from the **Phase III NEPTUNE** trial, a randomised, open-label, multi-centre, global trial of *Imfinzi* (durvalumab) in combination with tremelimumab, an anti-CTLA4 antibody, vs. standard-of-care (SoC) platinum-based chemotherapy in previously-untreated Stage IV (metastatic) non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients. The trial was performed in an all-comers population, and the primary analysis population was patients with a high tumour mutational burden (TMB). TMB is a measurement of the number of mutations within the genome (DNA) of a tumour, and tumours with high levels of TMB may be more visible to the immune system.

**In the primary analysis population of patients whose blood TMB was 20 or more mutations per megabase (mut/Mb), the combination of *Imfinzi* and tremelimumab did not meet the primary endpoint of improving OS compared to SoC chemotherapy.** The safety and tolerability profile for the combination of *Imfinzi* and tremelimumab was consistent with previous trials.

# Reasons for mixed results in NSCLC trials so far

- No prospective analysis; **retrospective subsets** investigated
- **Different therapy regimen**: PD1/PD-L1 mono, combo w/ CTLA4, combo w/ chemo
- **Different IO drugs**
- **Differently stratified pts**: PD-L1 status included/not included
- **Different cut-points** (e.g. 200 vs 175 muts in WES)
- **Different assays**: WES vs (different) panels
- **Different input source**: tissue vs blood (**where** and **when**?)
- **Crucial assay parameters** often **not well defined**, e.g. coverage
- Are we missing **biology**? (think MSI-H)
- Integration with abundance/activity of **effector compartment** needed?

# Harmonization is key

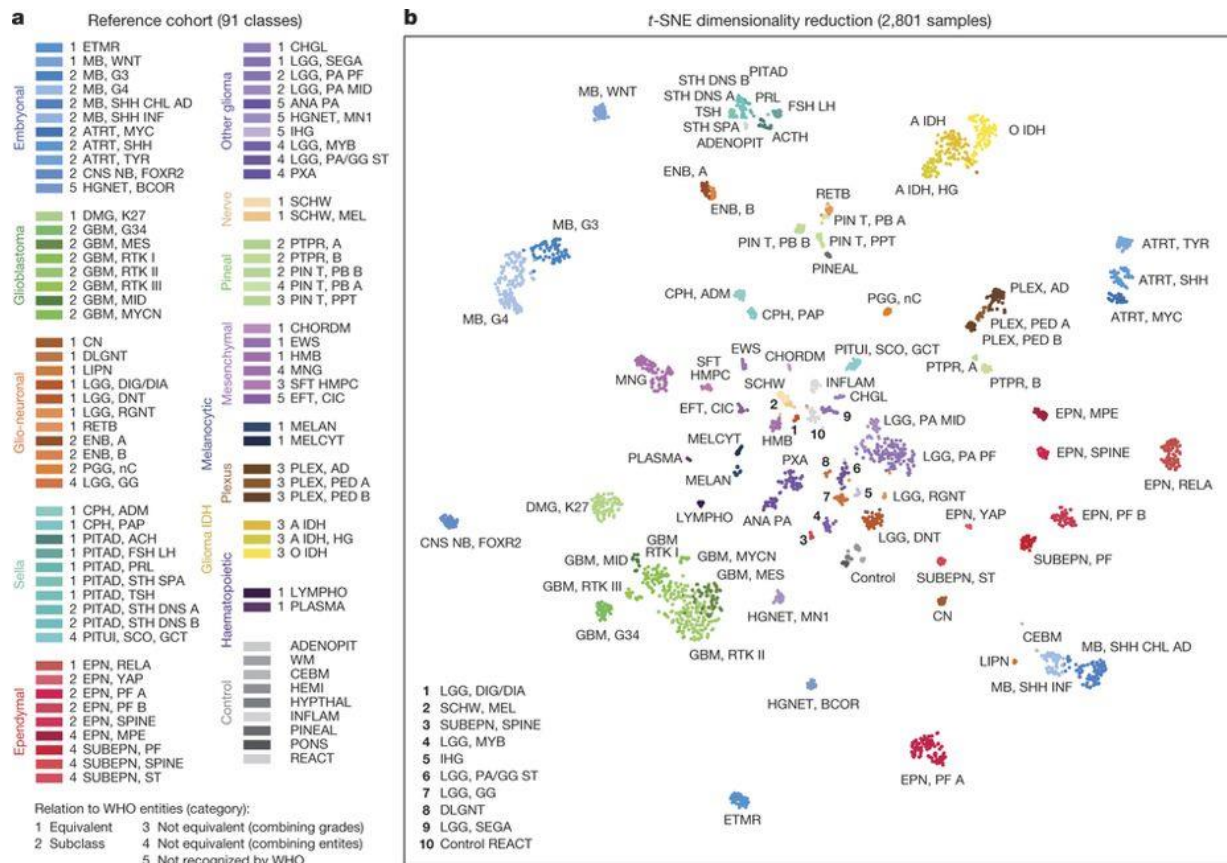
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Adjei Alex, Mayo, Rochester @WCLC:

**„I think therein lies the problem – We are not even talking about the same thing.**

**Normally when we are talking about a biomarker, such as *EGFR* mutation, we are talking about the same thing. If you tell me high TMB, I don't know what it is because everyone's definition is different.“**

# Harmonization is key



**One Assay** covering 850,000 data points (CpG sites) **used** around the world **in all labs**

Capper et al., 2019

# Across solid tumors (preliminary data @ESMO)

## **Association of tumour mutational burden with outcomes in patients with select advanced solid tumours treated with pembrolizumab in KEYNOTE-158**

phase II basket study (NCT02628067)  
progression on or intolerance to 1line of standard therapy  
ECOG PS 0-1  
TMB, panel 10 muts/Mb  
1032 patients: 120 TMB-high (15.9%) – 15/120: MSI-High  
Low correlation between TMB and PD-L1 expression  
TMB-high associated with higher ORR, tail of PFS curve favored TMB-high

# Main parameters influencing panel-based TMB measurement

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Tumor heterogeneity             | biology        |
| • Tumor purity                    |                |
| • DNA quality, FFPE artefacts     | pre-analytics  |
| • DNA input amounts               |                |
| • Target region size              |                |
| • Gene content                    | panel design   |
| • Complexity of library prep      |                |
| • Coverage                        | lab            |
| • Substraction of germline events |                |
| • Cutpoint allelic frequency      | bioinformatics |
| • Mutation types                  |                |



Exome (coding region – approx. 1-2% of genome) –

1 Mb = 1 million nucleotides

→ Variability regarding definition



**Definition:**

→ Somatic

→ coding region

? missense mutations

? nonsense mutations

? frameshift mutations

? Indels

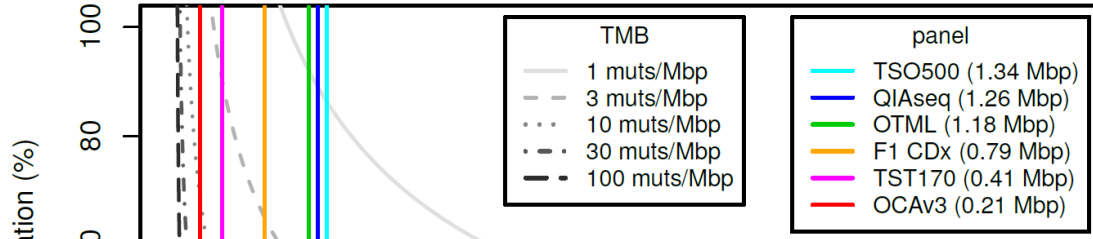
**TMB:**

→ is a continuous variable

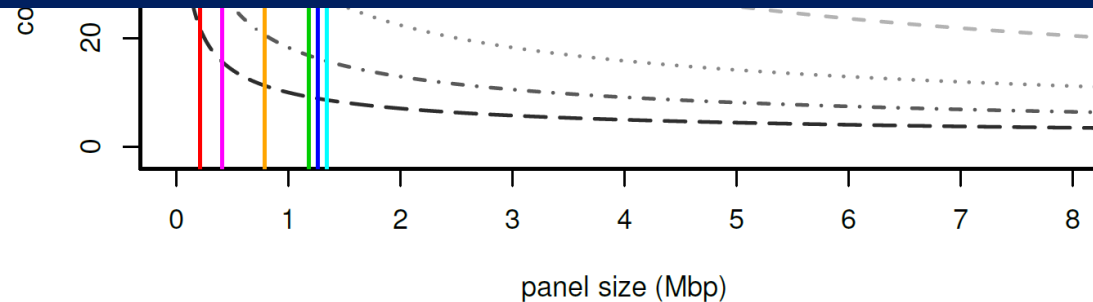
→ does not follow a linear distribution



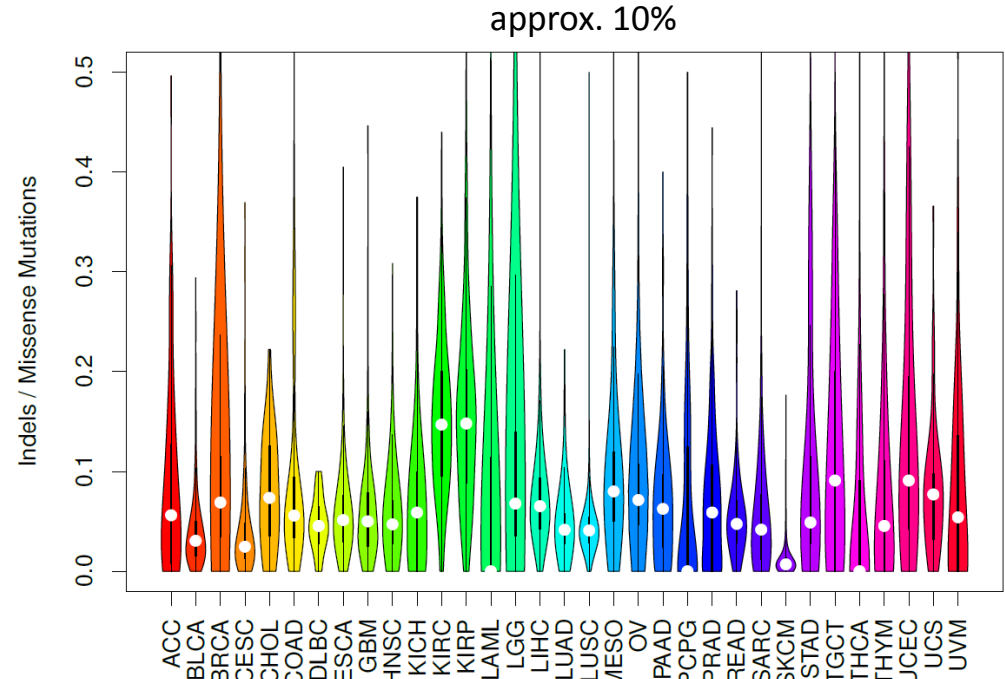
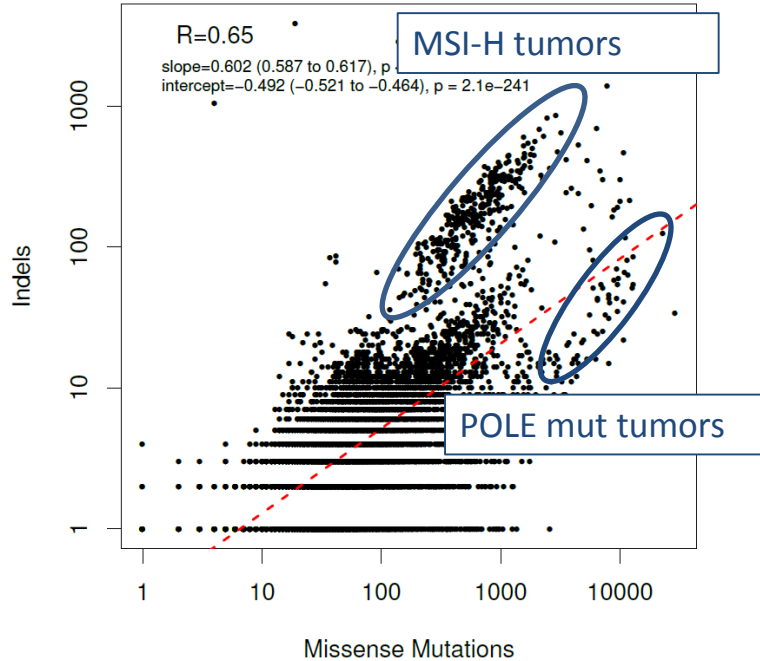
## CV decreases proportionally to square root of panel size



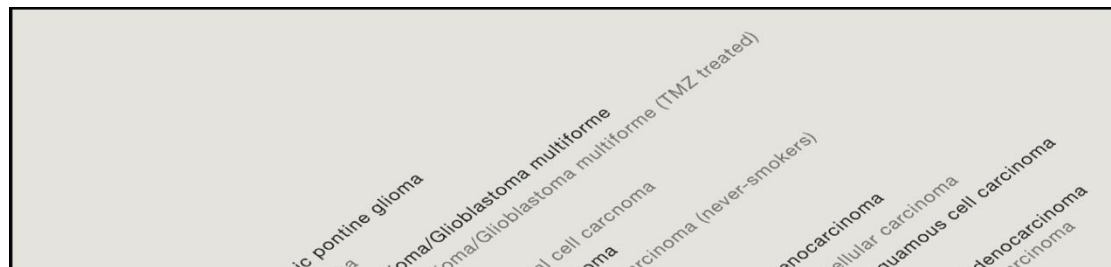
# Probabilistic Nature of TMB



# Indels vs. missense mutations

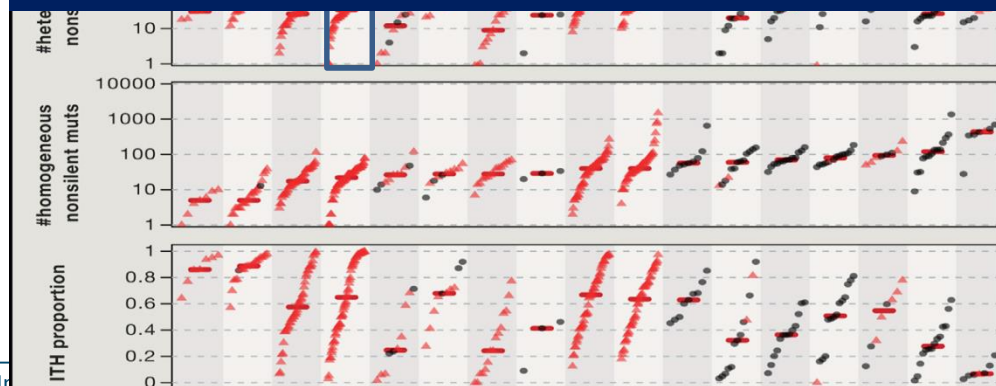


# Clonality and subclonality in TMB



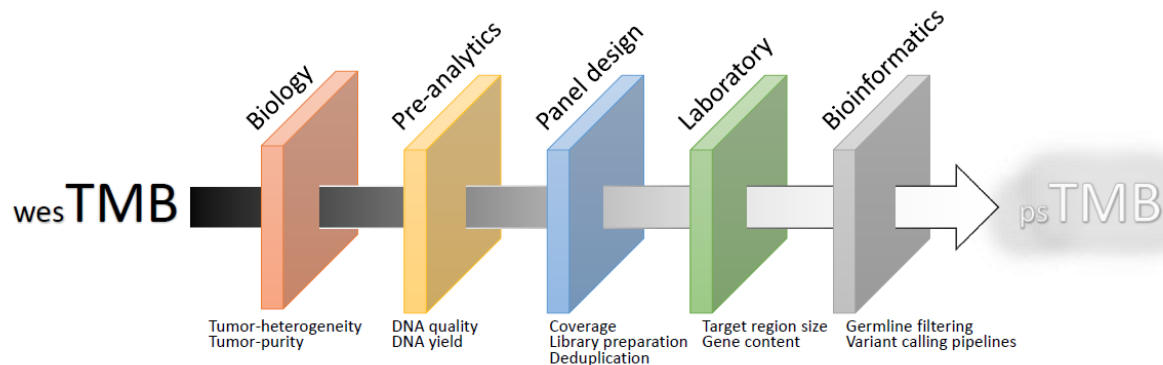
Genomic diversity  
comprising clonal and  
subclonal diversity

## spatial?-temporal? influence

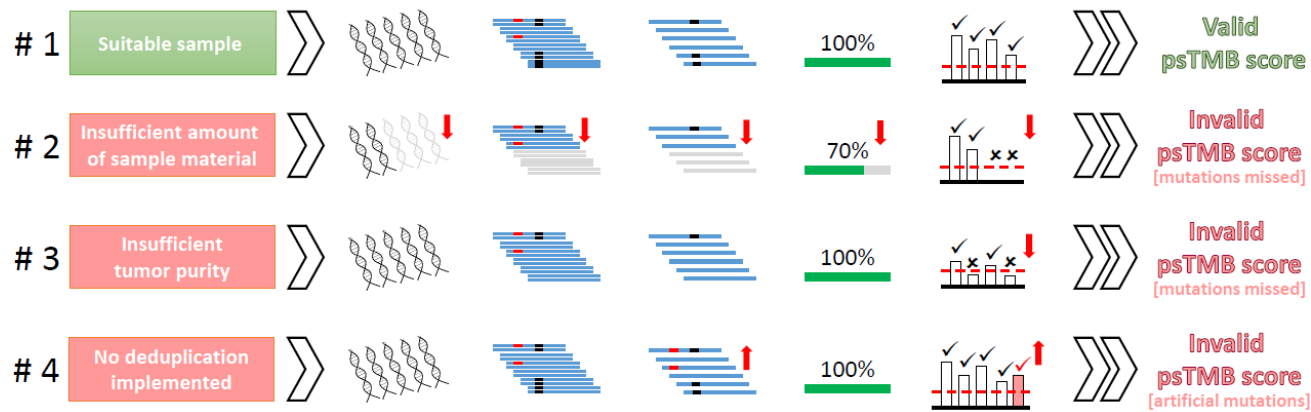


entity specific manner  
and is also influenced  
by therapy.

# A first glimpse: Recommendations



**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Do not post**

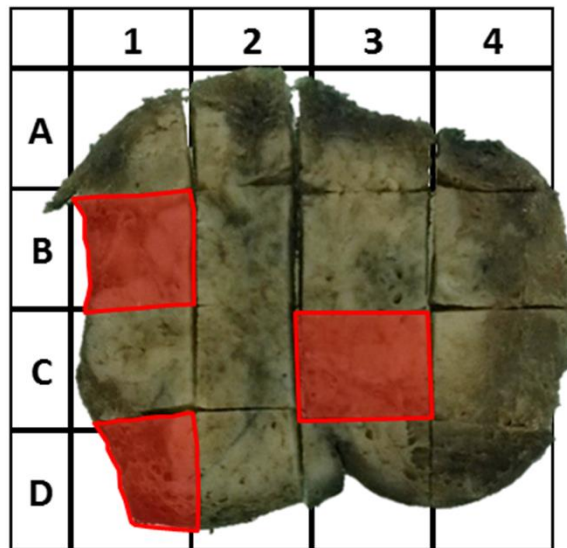


# Spatial TMB heterogeneity: Multi-regional analysis

**A**



Central tumor section



Segmentation

Tumor cell content [%]

|   | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
|---|----|----|----|----|
| A | 13 | 5  | 19 | 0  |
| B | 22 | 24 | 24 | 28 |
| C | 7  | 22 | 25 | 7  |
| D | 22 | 26 | 43 | 0  |

DNA content [ng/ $\mu$ l]

|   | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| A | 18.3 | 10.9 | 21.2 | 4.9  |
| B | 26.8 | 30.2 | 68.3 | 12.1 |
| C | 26.1 | 27.5 | 36.9 | 15.9 |
| D | 12.4 | 19.1 | 20.7 | 5.3  |

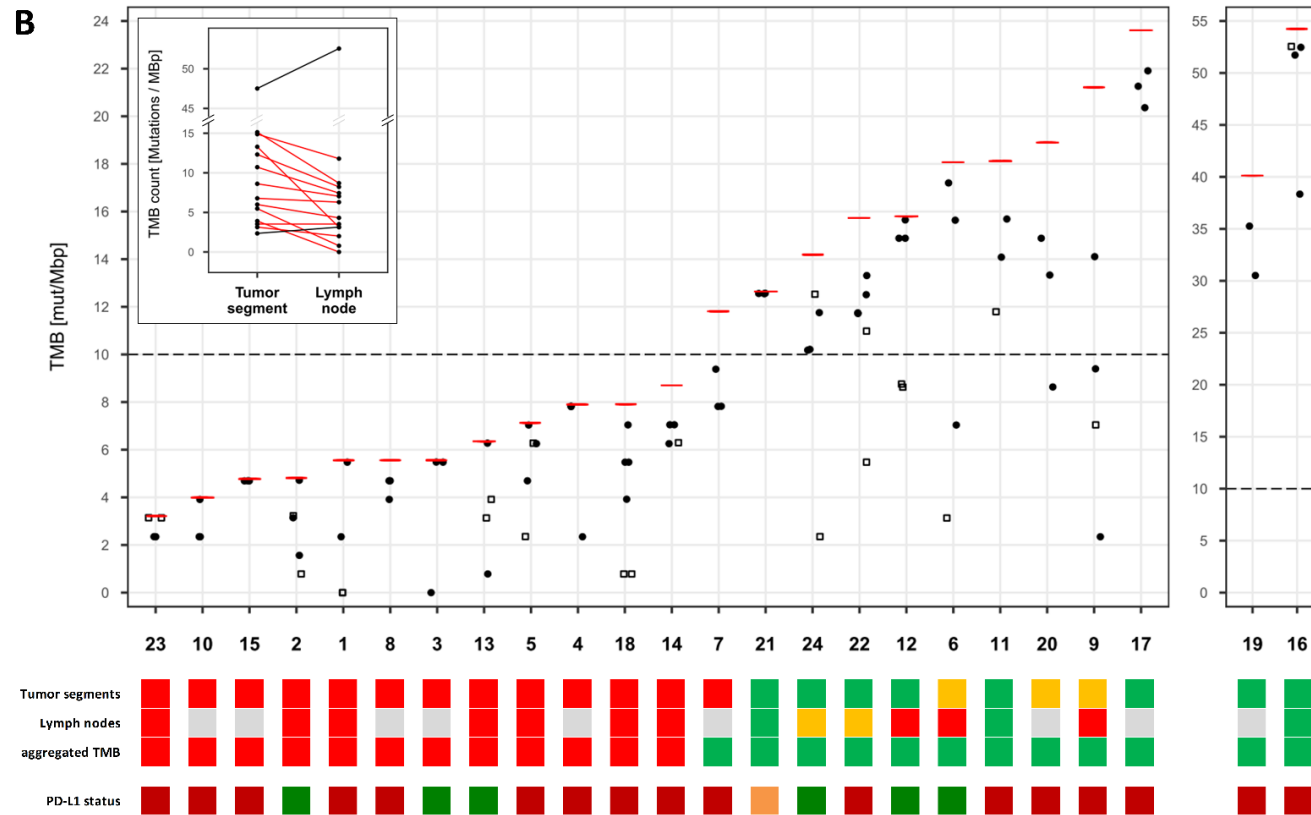
|   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A |   |   |   |   |
| B |   |   |   |   |
| C |   |   |   |   |
| D |   |   |   |   |

Histological growth pattern

24 patients:

69 tumor segments and 23 locoregional lymph node metastases → 2-6 samples per tumor/patient

# Spatial TMB heterogeneity: Multi-regional analysis



Overall TMB range:  
0 - 52.55 mut/Mbp

29% with ITH of  $\geq 5$  mut/Mbp;  
max. diff. 14.13

\*varying tumor cell content (4/7)  
\*distinct mutational profiles (3/7)

13 cases with region specific  
mutations -> simulation of pooled  
sample as aggregated TMB

**17% patients with divergent TMB  
status**

TMB in lymph nodes lower ( $p=0.02$ )

Independent of PD-L1 expression

# TMB harmonization initiatives in Germany and USA

**FRIENDS**  
of CANCER  
RESEARCH

## Patient Advocacy Organization, Washington, DC

### Partners:

#### Diagnostic partners

- ACT Genomics
- AstraZeneca
- Caris Life Sciences
- Foundation Medicine
- Guardant Health
- Illumina
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- NeoGenomics
- OmniSeq
- Personal Genome Diagnostics
- QIAGEN
- Thermo Fisher Scientific

#### Academic partners

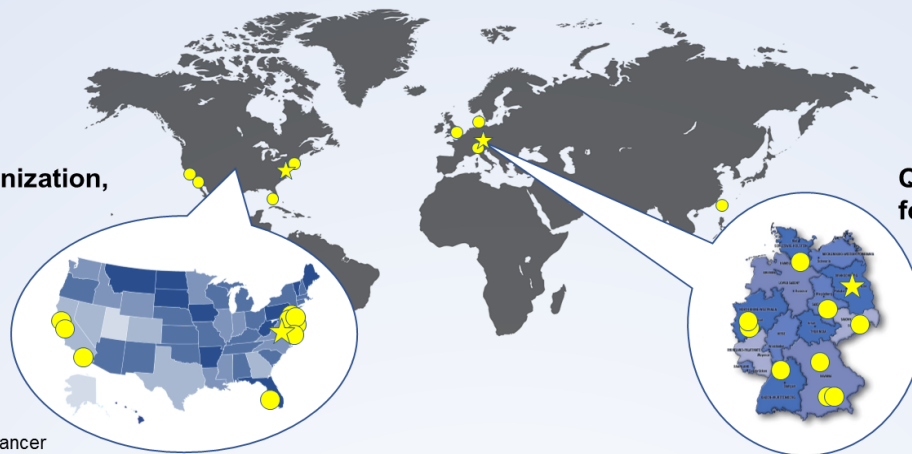
- Columbia University

#### Pharmaceutical partners

- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- EMD Serono
- Genentech
- Merck
- Pfizer

#### Other

- National Cancer Institute
- US FDA



## **Friends and QuIP TMB Standardization and Harmonization Initiative Objectives**

- Identify TMB assessment parameters and cutoff values used in published and ongoing clinical trials in a range of different tumor types
- Identify variation between TMB assessed by WES and by targeted gene panels
- Create TMB reference standards using WES to facilitate alignment of various targeted gene panels
- Assess interassay and interlaboratory variability and identify sources of this observed variation
- Develop recommendations to minimize, or account for, variation in methods of TMB estimation and reporting, and for TMB cutoff values, that will inform and advise best practices for prospective clinical studies

**QuIP**  
Quality in Pathology

## Quality Assessment Service for Pathology, Berlin, Germany

### Partners:

#### Diagnostic partners

- Foundation Medicine
- Illumina
- NEO NewOncology
- QIAGEN
- Thermo Fisher Scientific

#### Academic partners

- Charité Berlin
- LMU Munich
- Technical University Munich
- University Hospital Cologne
- University Hospital Dresden
- University Hospital Erlangen
- University Hospital Halle (Saale)
- University Hospital Heidelberg
- University Hospital Regensburg
- University Hospital Zurich

#### Pharmaceutical partners

- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Merck
- Roche

#### Other

- German Cancer Consortium (DKTK)
- Institute for Hematopathology, Hamburg



## Effector cell compartment (TME)

PD-L1  
(directly or  
indirectly)

## Tumor compartment

Positive genetic  
predictors:  
TMB; MSI-H  
(dMMR) and

# A composite biomarker approach

GEP  
Signatures

Negative genetic  
predictors:  
SKT11/KB1, HLA  
loss and others

?Microbiome?

# Acknowledgments



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QuIP and all academic partners in this  
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National Center for Tumor Diseases,  
Heidelberg:

Stefan Fröhling



Lausanne University:  
Solange Peters



Francis Crick Institute, London:  
Charles Swanton

