



Therapeutic Relevance of Gene Expression Signatures in Ovarian Cancer: Examining the Evidence

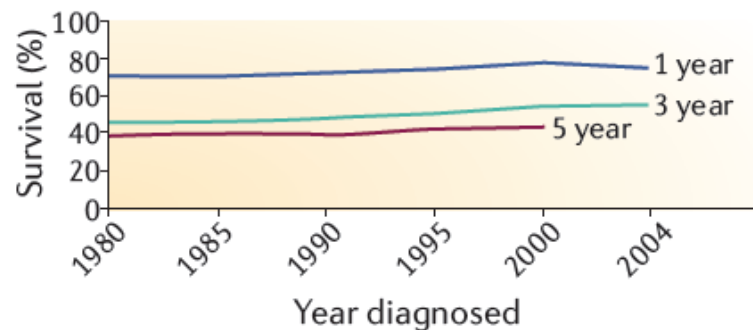
ESMO Asia, 18 Dec 2015, SUNTEC, Singapore

Ruby Yun-Ju HUANG, M.D. Ph.D.
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, NUH
Cancer Science Institute of Singapore, NUS
Department of Anatomy, YLL SoM, NUS

Epithelial Ovarian Cancer: Mortality Trend

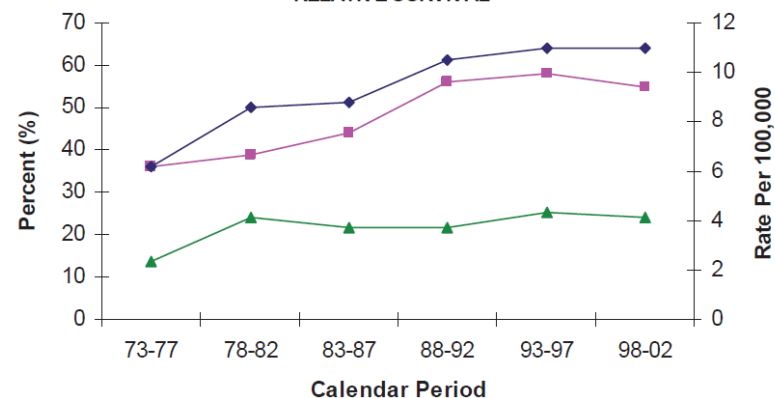
US

a SEER



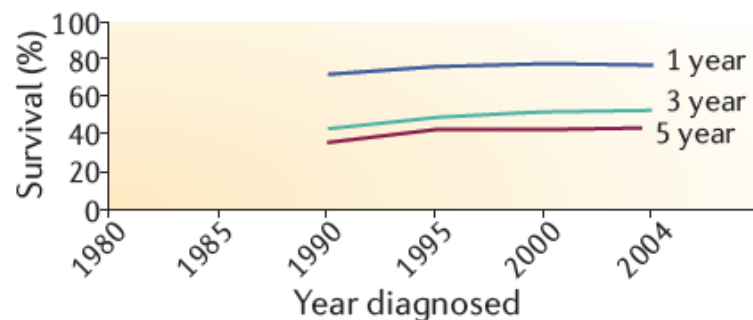
SG

OVARY:
TRENDS IN INCIDENCE, MORTALITY AND 5-YEAR AGE STANDARDISED
RELATIVE SURVIVAL



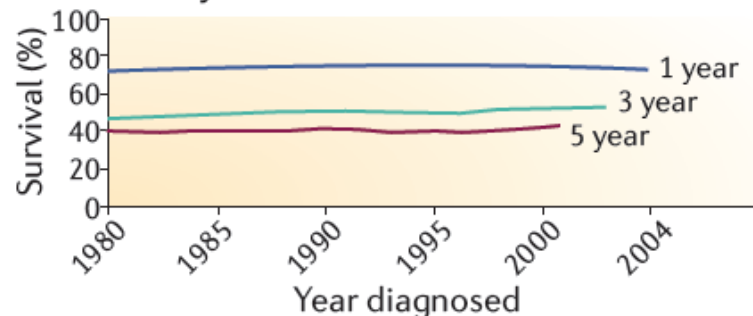
Australia

b The Cancer Council of Victoria



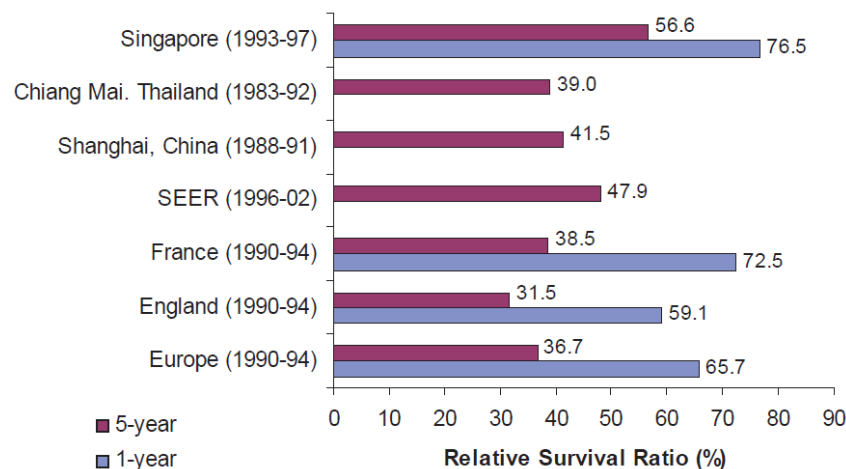
Canada

c The Cheryl Brown Outcomes Unit



Countries (Year of Diagnosis)

OVARY:
1- AND 5-YEAR AGE STANDARDISED RELATIVE SURVIVAL IN
SELECTED COUNTRIES

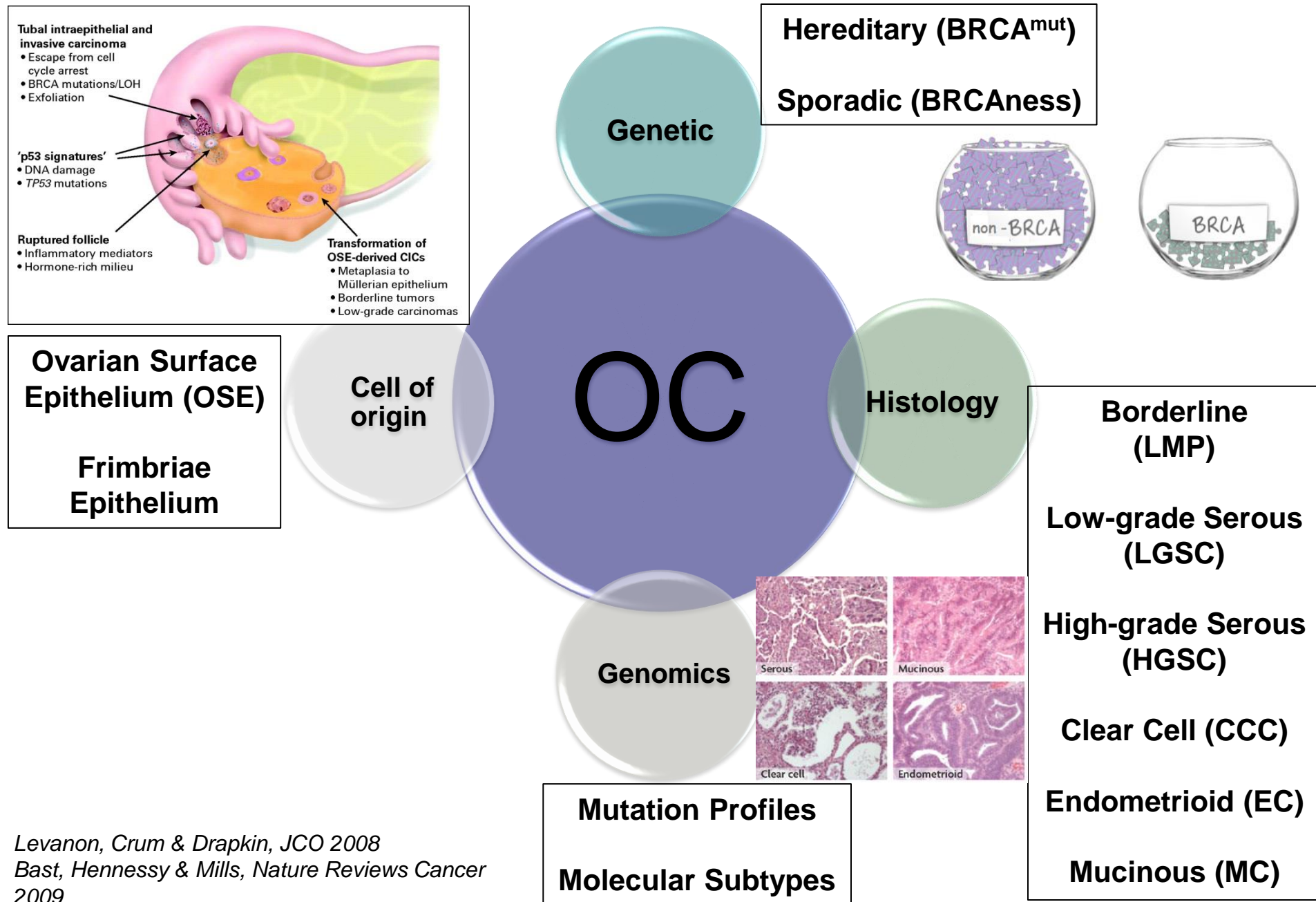


Rethinking ovarian cancer: recommendations for improving outcomes.

Vaughan et al., 2012

Cancer survival in Singapore 1968-2002. Singapore Cancer Registry

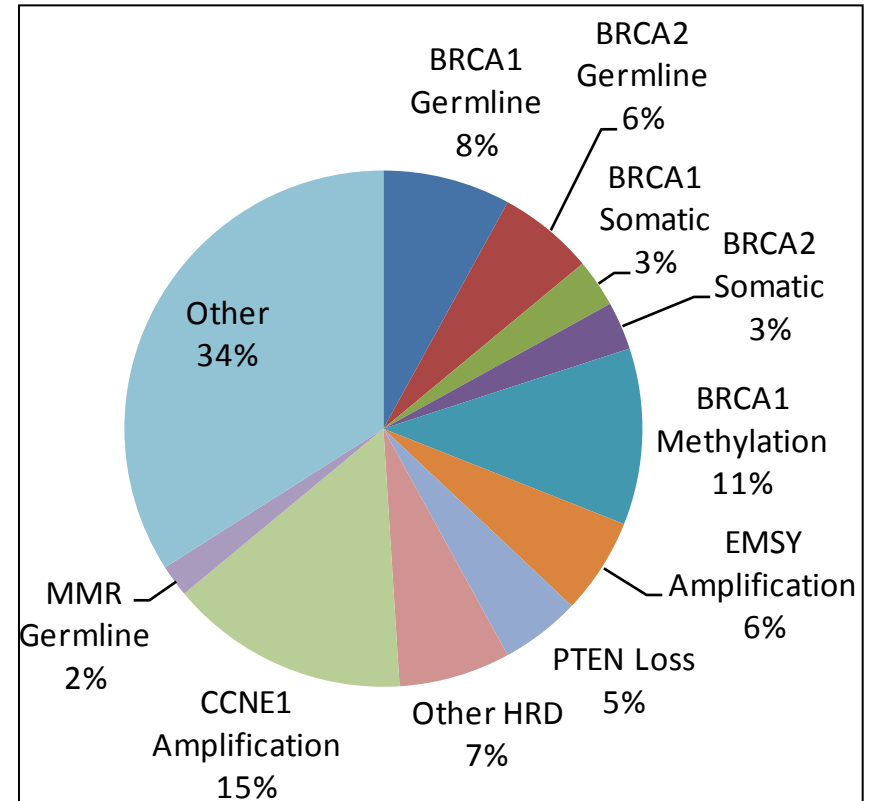
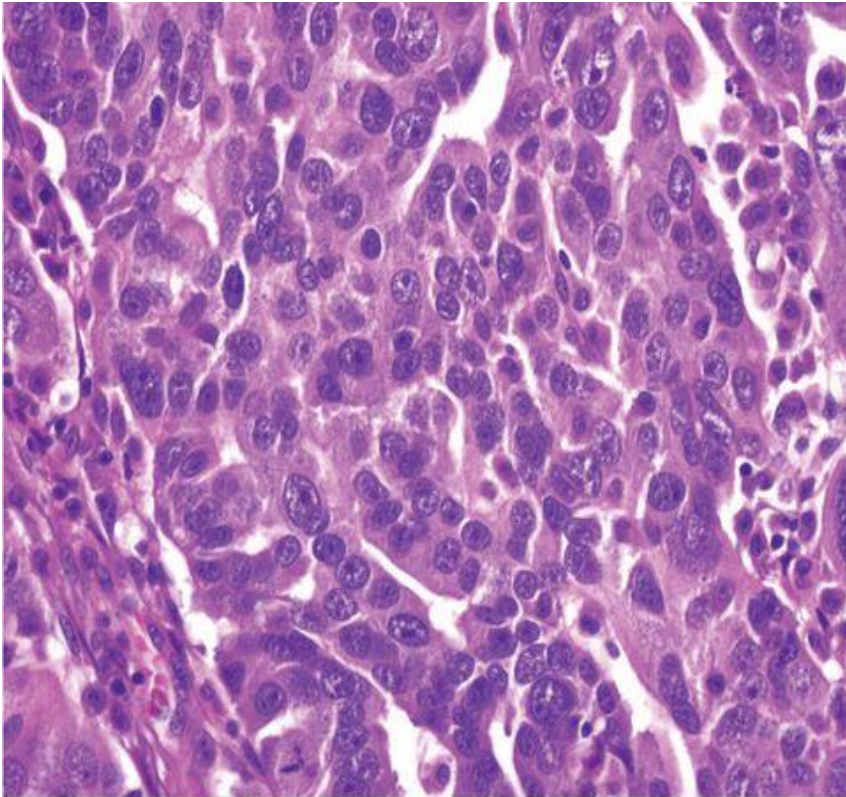
Heterogeneity in Ovarian Cancer



Levanon, Crum & Drapkin, JCO 2008
Bast, Hennessy & Mills, Nature Reviews Cancer 2009

They look the same so they must be the same – right?

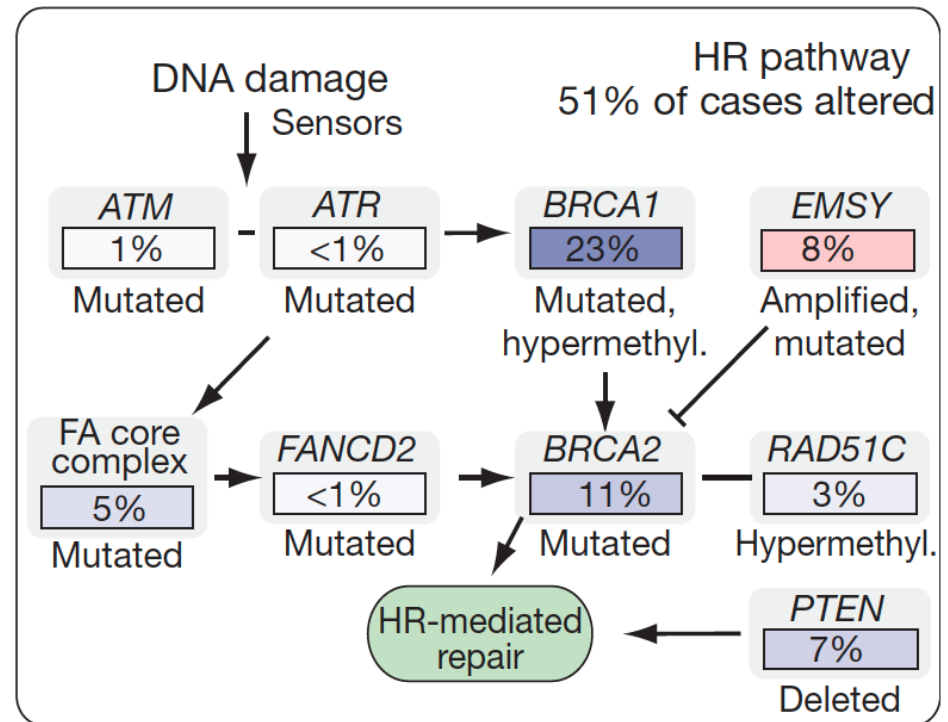
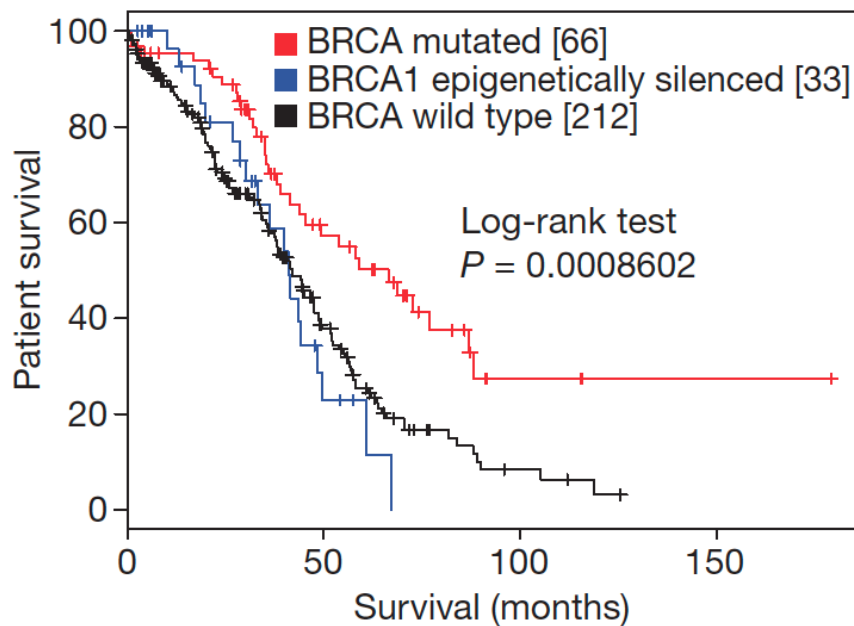
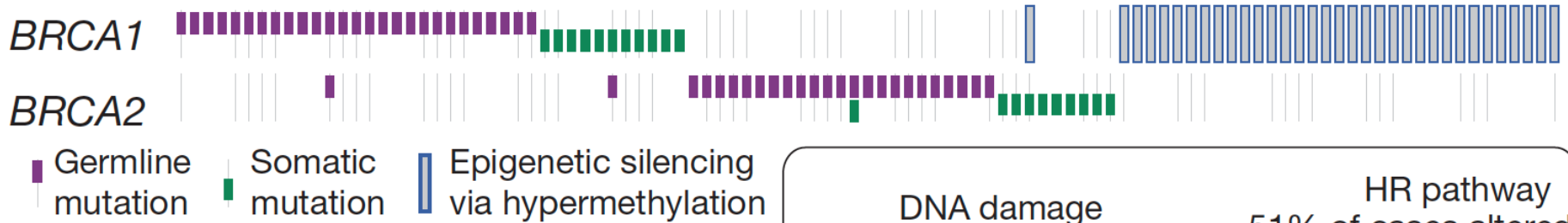
High grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSC)



**Approximately 50% with defects in Homologous Recombination (HR)
HR biomarker for chemo-response/outcome in Asian cohorts?**

BRCAness in HGSC

BRCA altered cases, $N = 103$ (33%)



Real Life Problems For Ovarian Cancer

- Lack of effective early detection (screening) methods
- Lack of novel patient stratification strategy



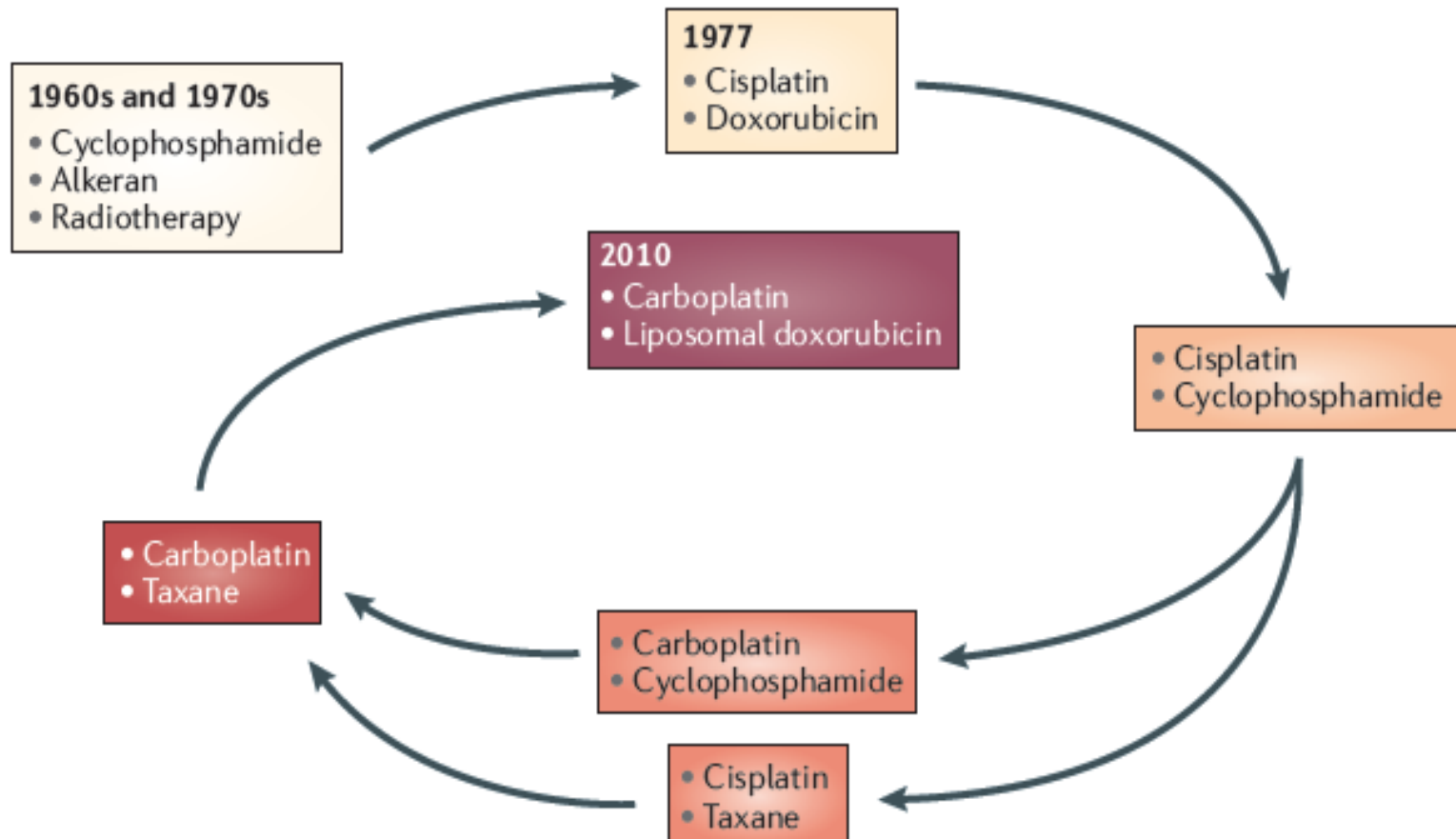
Complexity & Heterogeneity



- Emerging development of targeted therapy

Who to treat? When to treat?

Evolution of Chemotherapy in Ovarian Cancer



One Model Fits All?



Heterogeneous EOC Patients

Homogeneous Treatment

Heterogeneity in EOC: Molecular Subtypes within

- ❖ First study (**Tothill et al., CCR 2008**) using 285 HGSC and HGEc tumors from an Australian cohort profiled on Affymetrix U133 Plus 2.0 arrays.

6 subgroups (C1 – C6)

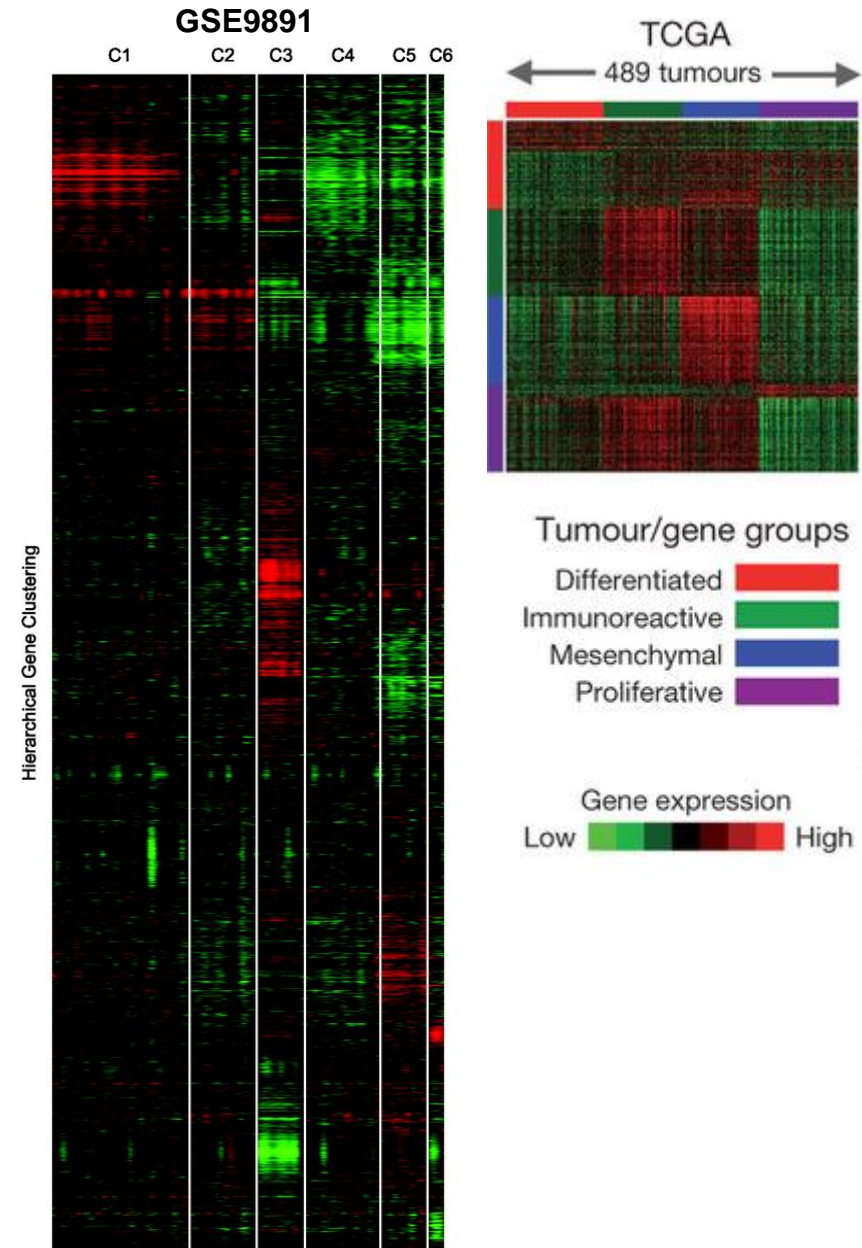
showing survival differences

- ❖ Subsequent study (**TCGA, Nature 2011**) using 489 HGSC tumors from an US cohort profiled on Affymetrix U133 Plus 2.0 arrays.

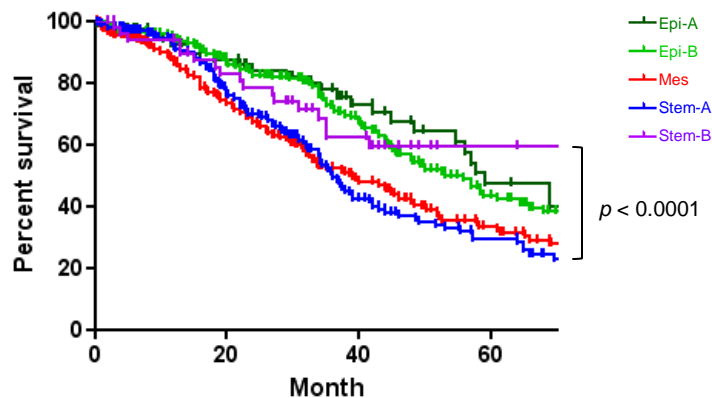
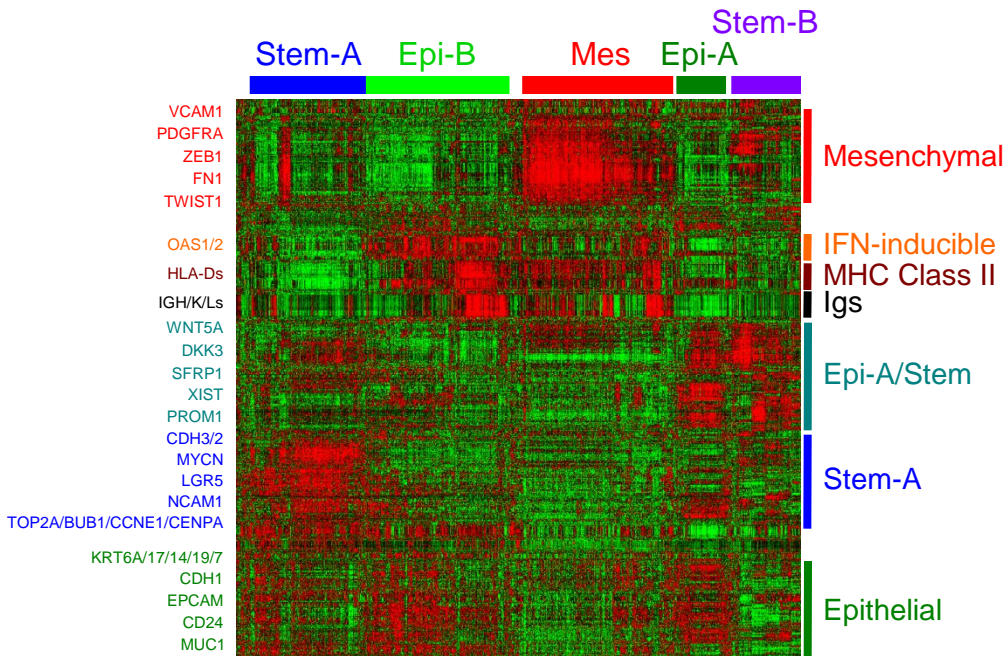
4 subgroups

(Differentiated, Immunoreactive, Mesenchymal, Proliferative)

no clear survival difference in the primary analysis



Heterogeneity in EOC: Molecular Subtypes within



❖ Meta-analysis (*Tan, Miow, & Huang et al., EMBO MM, 2013*) of **1,538** EOCs including all histological types.
5 subtypes showing survival differences

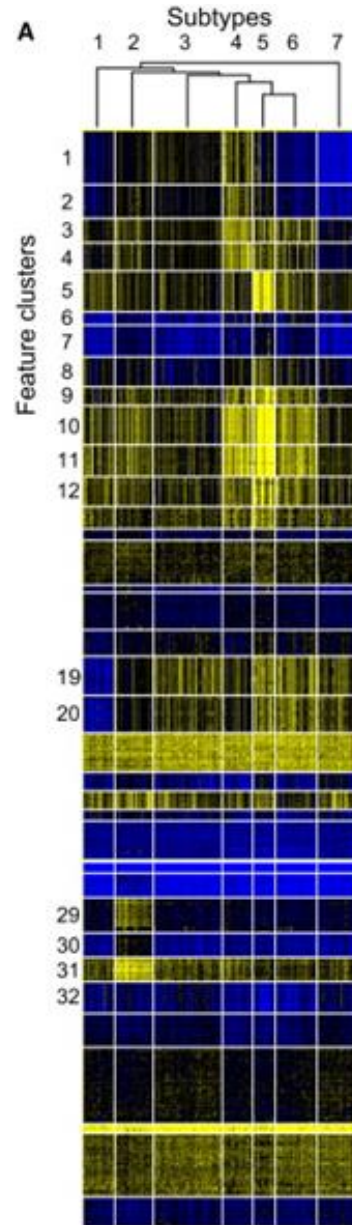
Proposed	Tothill et al., 2008	TCGA, 2012
Epi-A	C3	Differentiated
Epi-B	C4	
Mes	C2	Immunoreactive
Stem-A	C1	Mesenchymal
Stem-B	C5	Proliferative
	C6	

Tan, Miow & Huang et al., EMBO Mol Med, 2013

Five major subgroups were identified within EOC that harbor distinctive signatures of **Epithelial**, **Mesenchymal**, or **Stem-like**, which confer to different clinical survival outcomes.

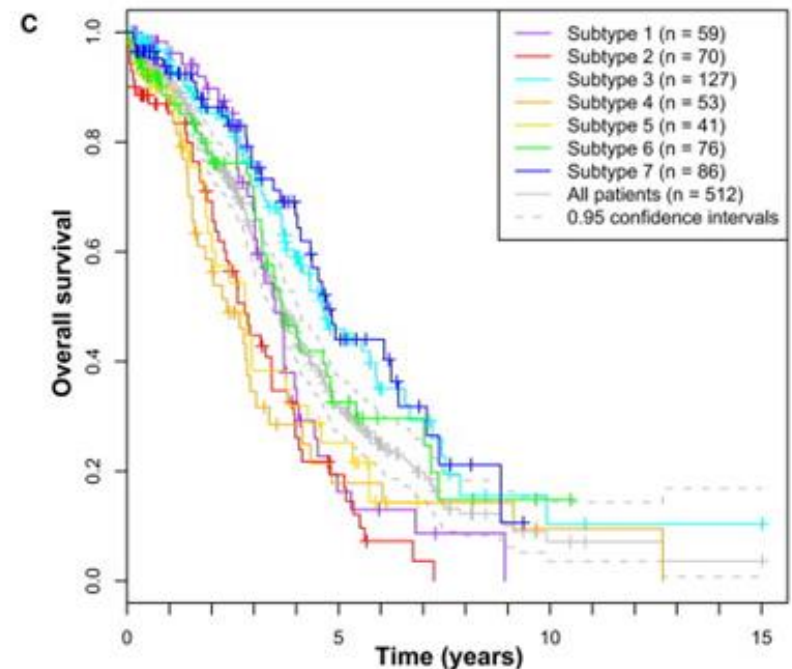
Heterogeneity in EOC: Molecular Subtypes within

- ❖ Integrated Analysis (**Zhang et al., Cell Report, 2013**) of TCGA datasets.
7 subtypes showing survival differences



B

		Subtypes						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Number		59	70	127	53	41	76	86
Median survival time (Years)		3.50	2.78	4.65	2.36	2.81	3.64	4.72
Feature Clusters	1, 2	CNA: chr19 (q13.2-q13.43)					Del	Del
	3, 4	CNA: chr19 (q12-q13.2)			Amp			
	5	CNA: chr2 (p16.2-q11.2)				Amp		
	6, 7	CNA: chr6 (q24.2-q27) Chr17 (q11.2-q21.31)		Del	Del			Del
	8	CNA: chr12 (q21.1-q23.3)				Amp		
	9 - 12	CNA: chr20 (p13-q13.2) CNA: chr12 (p13.33-p11.22)			Amp	Amp	Amp	
	19, 20	CNA: chr6 (p24.1-p12.1)		Del				
	29 - 31	Expression: Cell adhesion			Up-regulation			
	32	Promoter DNA methylation					Hypo-methylation	





**What's the evidence
of gene expression
signature(s) in
predicting
therapeutic response
in ovarian cancer?**



We Don't Know.

Searching for the Evidence

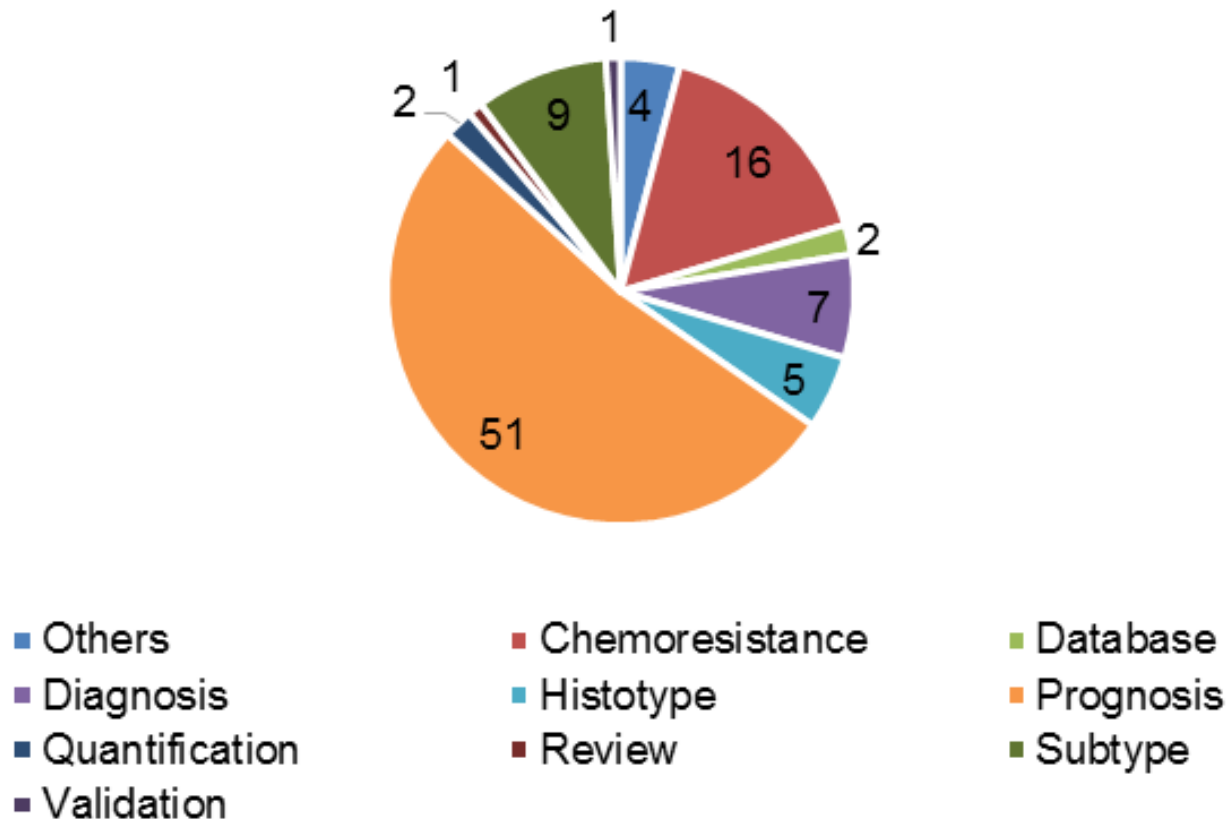
Source	www.pubmed.com
Search term	ovarian cancer gene expression signature
Date	2015 Dec 3, 1130am
Result of query	384
Limit to Human	328
Limit 5 years	241
Limit to English	240
Limit to transcriptome, cancer, > one gene, not method paper	98

Working definition of Signature:

A gene signature is a group of genes in a cell whose combined expression pattern is uniquely characteristic of a biological phenotype or medical condition.

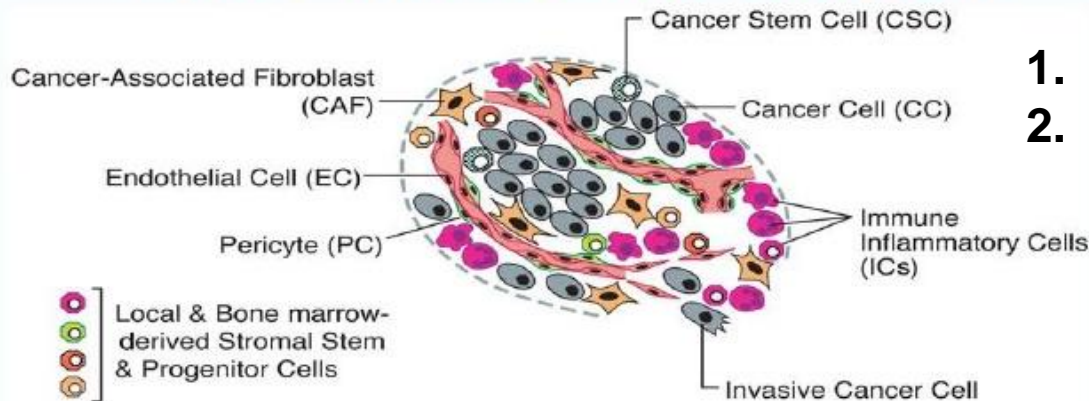
Literatures Out There (2011-2015): Based on Signature Types

Gene expression signatures in OC: paper #



Prognostic Gene Expression Signatures

Tumor Microenvironment



1. Stromal-associated, mesenchymal
2. Angiogenic

Bentink S, ..., Matulonis UA. **Angiogenic mRNA and microRNA gene expression signature** predicts a novel subtype of serous ovarian cancer. *PLoS One*. 2012;7(2):e30269.

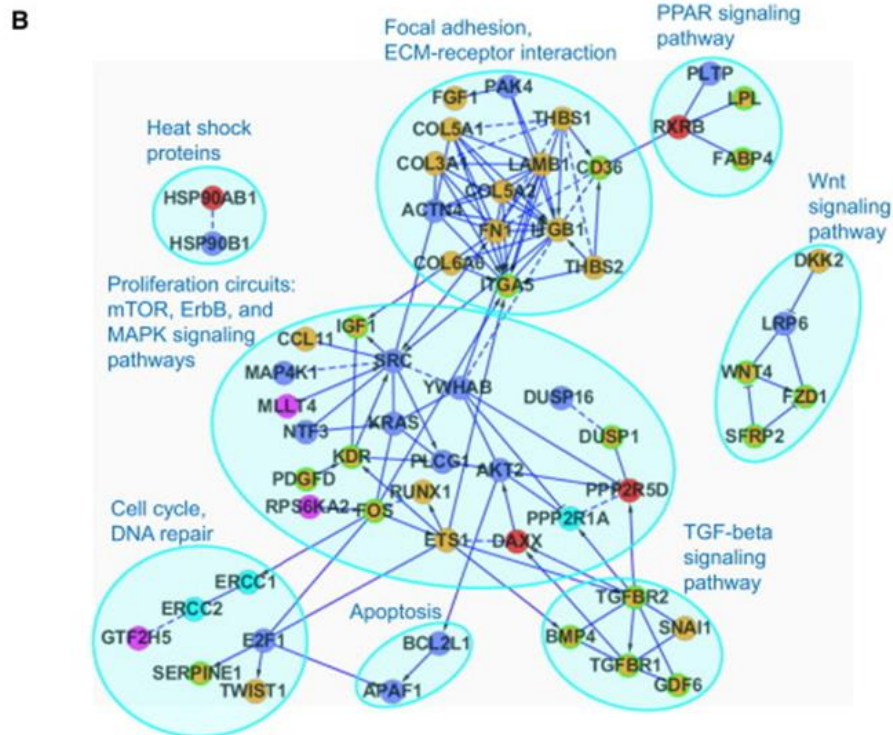
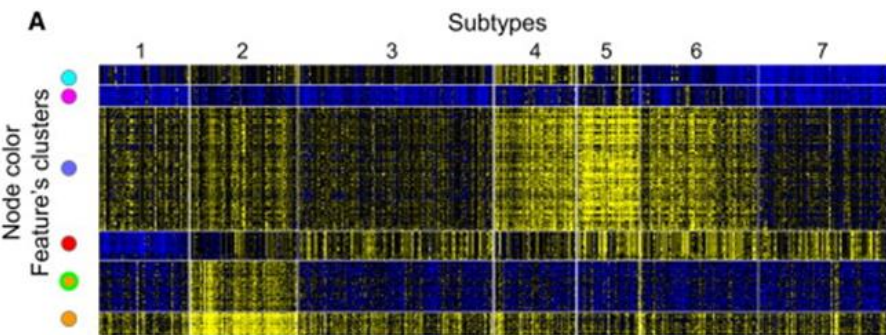
Siamakpour-Reihani S, ..., Alvarez Secord A. Prognostic significance of differential expression of **angiogenic genes** in women with high-grade serous ovarian carcinoma. *Gynecol Oncol*. 2015 Oct;139(1):23-9.

Cheon DJ, ..., Orsulic S. A **collagen-remodeling gene signature** regulated by TGF- β signaling is associated with metastasis and poor survival in serous ovarian cancer. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2014 Feb 1;20(3):711-23.

Davidowitz RA, ..., Brugge JS. **Mesenchymal gene program**-expressing ovarian cancer spheroids exhibit enhanced mesothelial clearance. *J Clin Invest*. 2014 Jun;124(6):2611-25.

Zhang S, ..., Zhuang G. **Stroma-associated master regulators** of molecular subtypes predict patient prognosis in ovarian cancer. *Sci Rep*. 2015 Nov 4;5:16066.

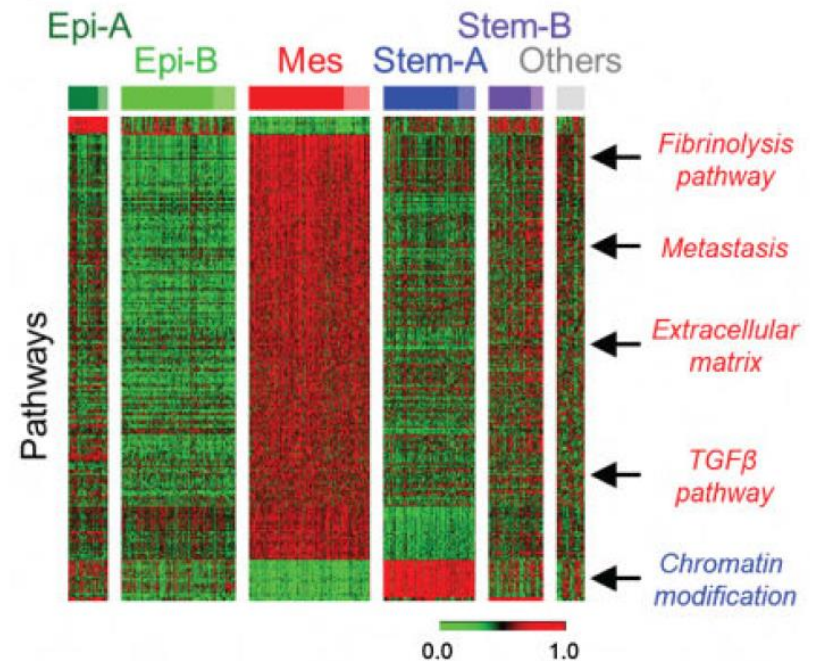
Prognostic Gene Expression Signatures: Stromal/Mesenchymal/TGF β Pathway



Zhang et al., Cell Report, 2013

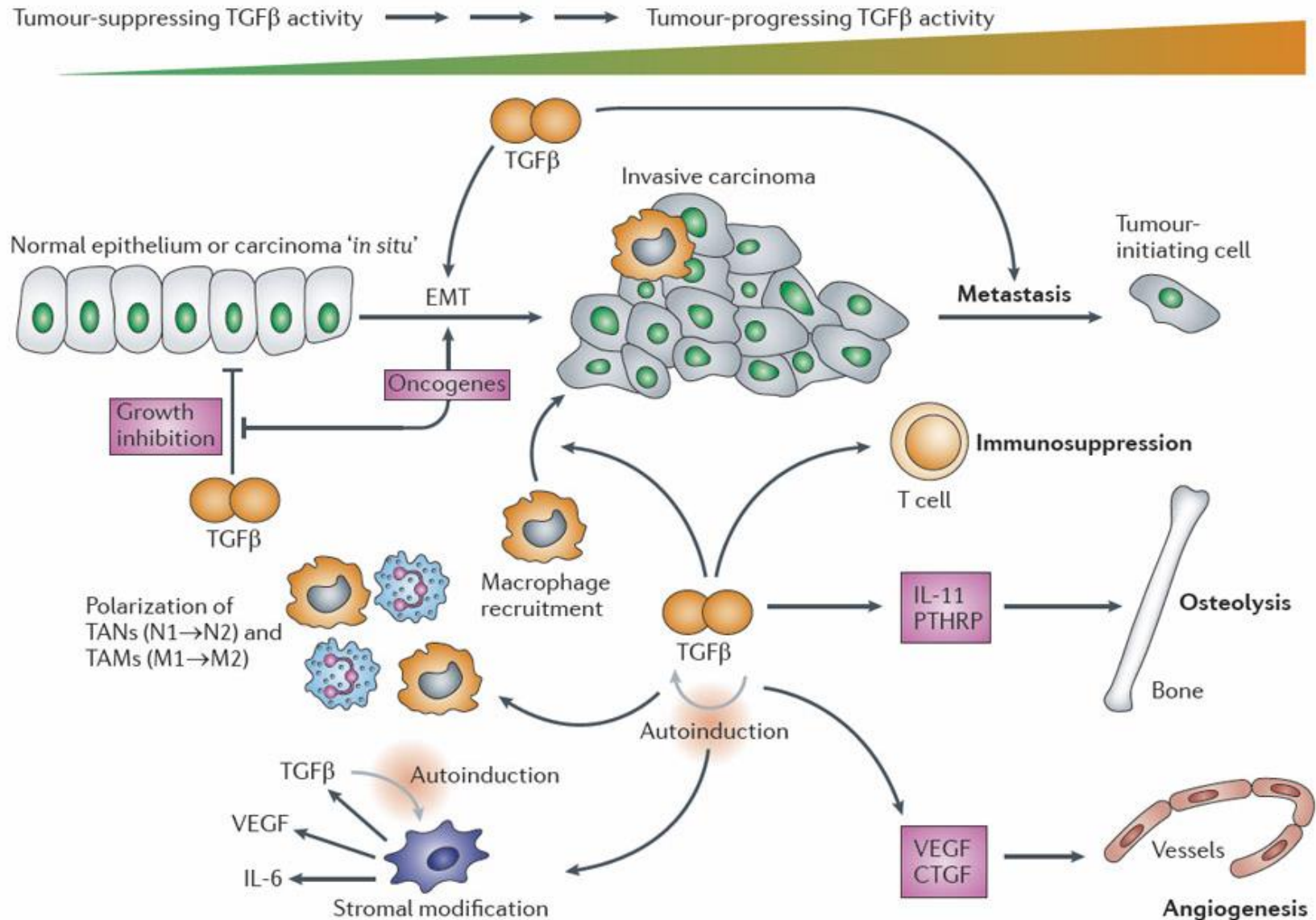
Cheon DJ, ..., Orsulic S. A **collagen-remodeling gene signature** regulated by **TGF- β signaling** is associated with metastasis and poor survival in serous ovarian cancer. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2014 Feb 1;20(3):711-23.

Karlan BY, ..., Slamon D. **POSTN/TGFBI-associated stromal signature** predicts poor prognosis in serous epithelial ovarian cancer. *Gynecol Oncol.* 2014 Feb;132(2):334-42.

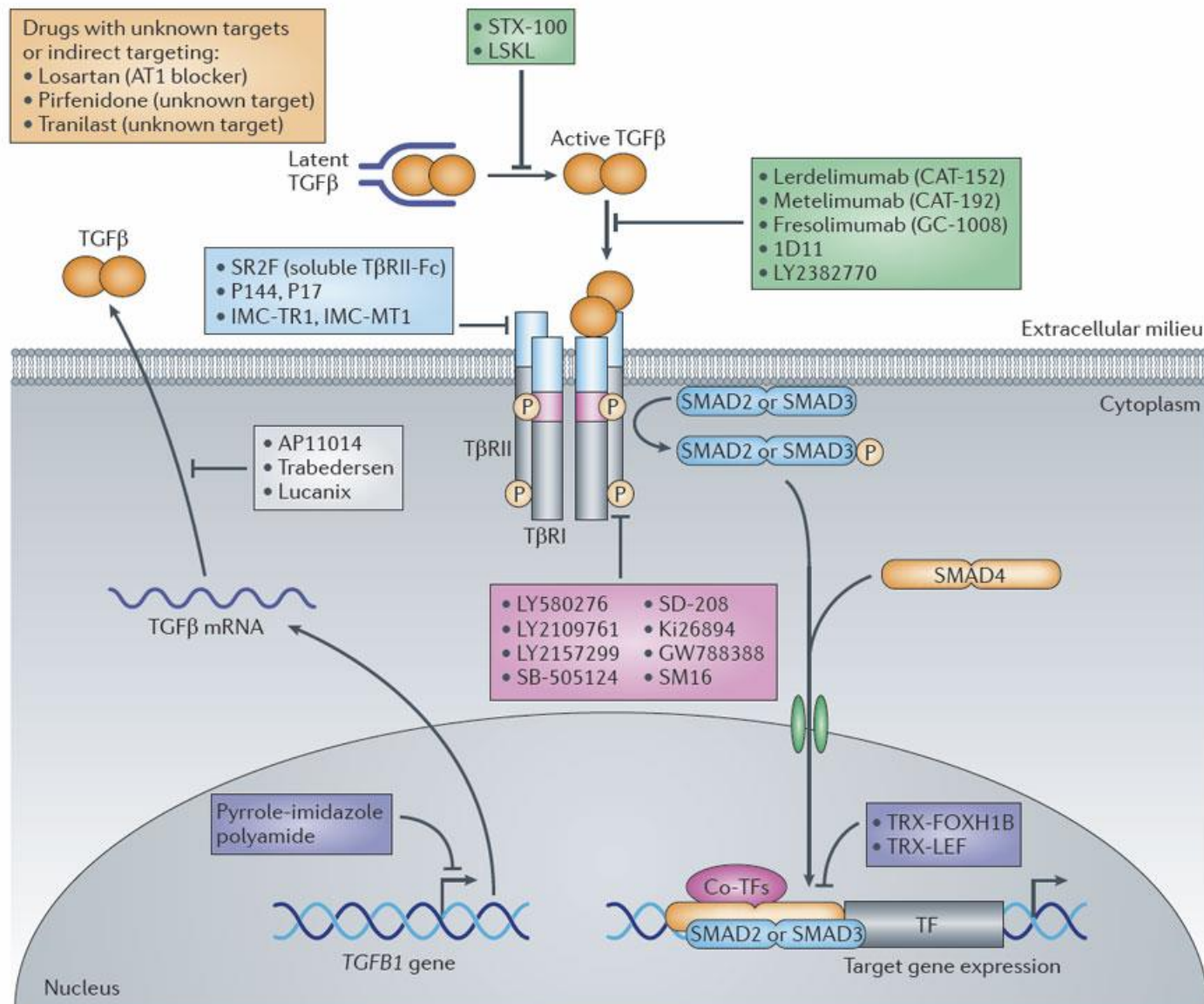


Tan, Miow & Huang et al., EMBO Mol Med, 2013

Targeting C1/Mesenchymal/Mes Subtype



Strategies of Targeting TGF β Pathway



Desmoplasia, Stromal Reactions in C1/Mesenchymal/Mes Subtype

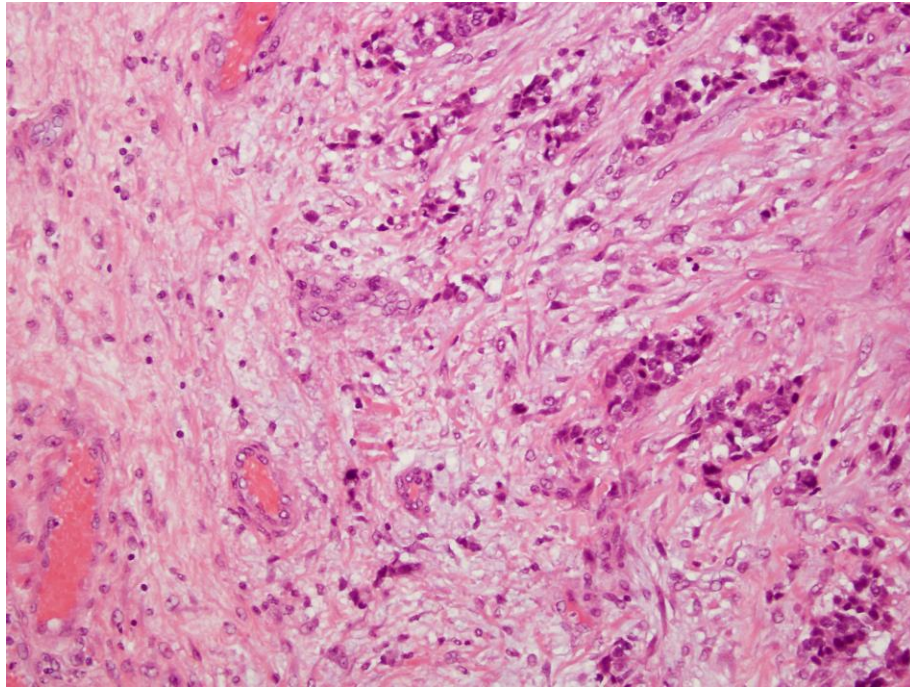
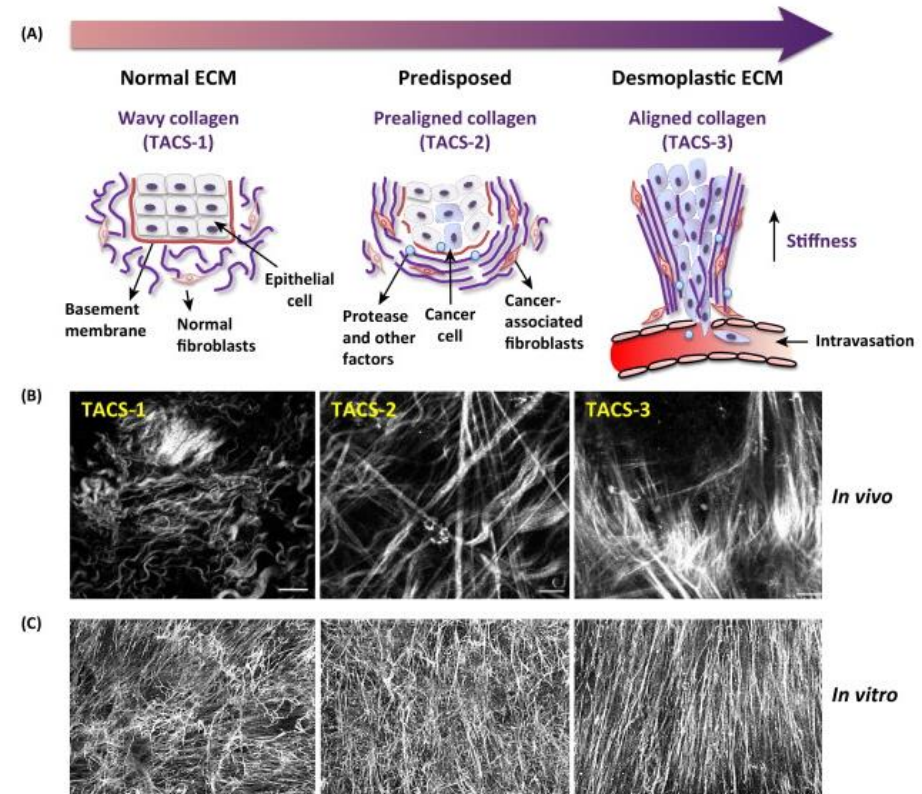


Image courtesy of David Bowtell
Patch et al., Nature 2015

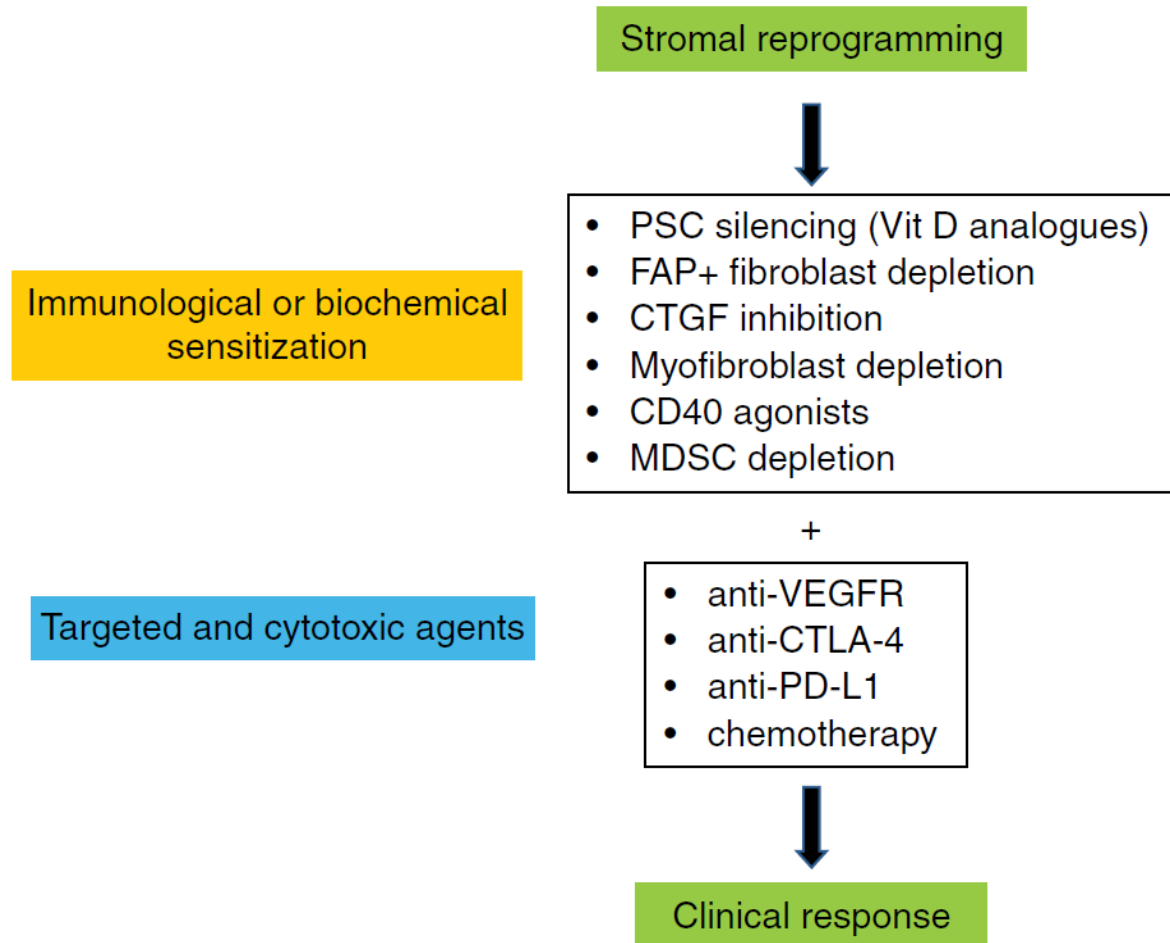


TRENDS in Biotechnology

Malik R, Lelkes PI, Cukierman E.
Trends Biotechnol. 2015 Apr;33(4):230-6.
Biomechanical and biochemical remodeling of stromal extracellular matrix in cancer.

Google:
In medicine, desmoplasia is the growth of fibrous or connective tissue. It is also called desmoplastic reaction to emphasize that it is secondary to an insult. Desmoplasia may occur around a neoplasm, causing dense fibrosis around the tumor,

Targeting the Stroma



Neesse A, Algül H, Tuveson DA, Gress TM.

Gut. 2015 Sep;64(9):1476-84.

Stromal biology and therapy in pancreatic cancer: a changing paradigm.

Anti-Angiogenesis: ICON7 Bevacizumab Trial

ICON7 Phase III Trial

Ovarian Cancer
 • Stage I-IIa (grade 3 or clear cell)
 • Stage IIb-IV (all grades/histologic types)
 Debulked to ≤ 1 cm or > 1 cm
 n=1,528
 Primary endpoint: investigator-assessed PFS

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1:1

Carboplatin / paclitaxel

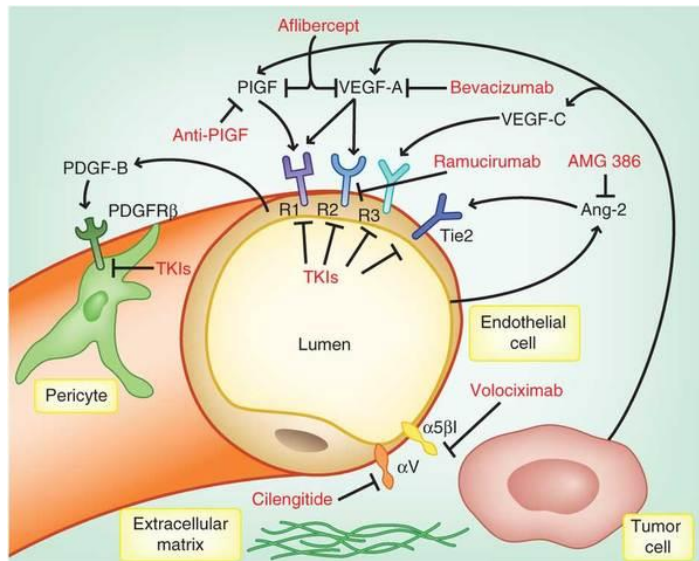
Carboplatin / paclitaxel

Avastin 7.5mg/kg q3w

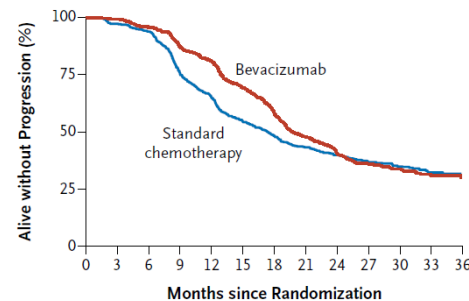
CP

CP + Avastin
 → Avastin 7.5mg/kg

12 months or
 disease progression

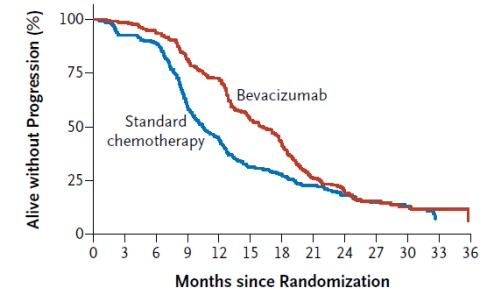


A Updated Data, Progression-free Survival



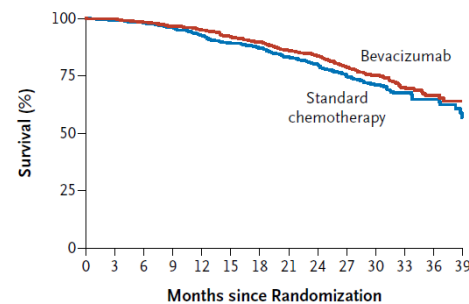
No. at Risk							
Standard chemo-	764	693	474	350	221	114	39
therapy							
Bevacizumab	764	716	599	430	229	107	27

B Updated Data, Progression-free Survival in Patients at High Risk for Progression



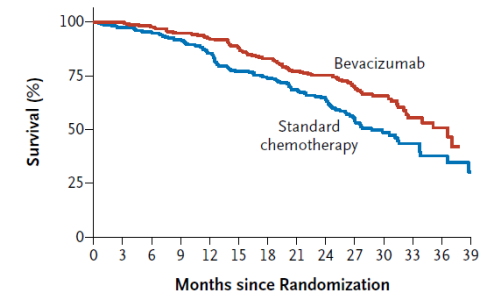
No. at Risk							
Standard chemo-	234	205	100	63	30	13	5
therapy							
Bevacizumab	231	213	163	94	35	13	1

C Updated Data, Overall Survival



No. at Risk																	
Standard chemo-	764	741	724	703	672	646	623	542	421	304	212	132	71	26			
therapy																	
Bevacizumab	764	753	737	717	702	680	657	592	459	329	228	129	69	19			

D Updated Data, Overall Survival in Patients at High Risk for Progression



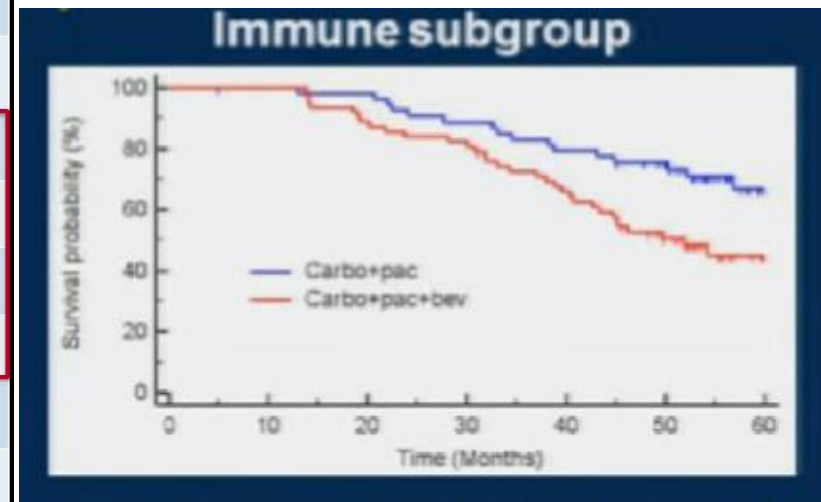
No. at Risk																	
Standard chemo-	234	226	219	208	194	175	166	137	107	67	46	25	15	6			
therapy																	
Bevacizumab	231	227	222	214	208	199	186	164	134	94	65	31	18	4			

Singh & Ferrara, 2012 Nat Biotech
Perren et al., 2011 NEJM
Spannuth, Sood and Coleman, 2008
Nature Clinical Practice Oncology

Molecular Subtypes as Predictive Biomarker for ICON7

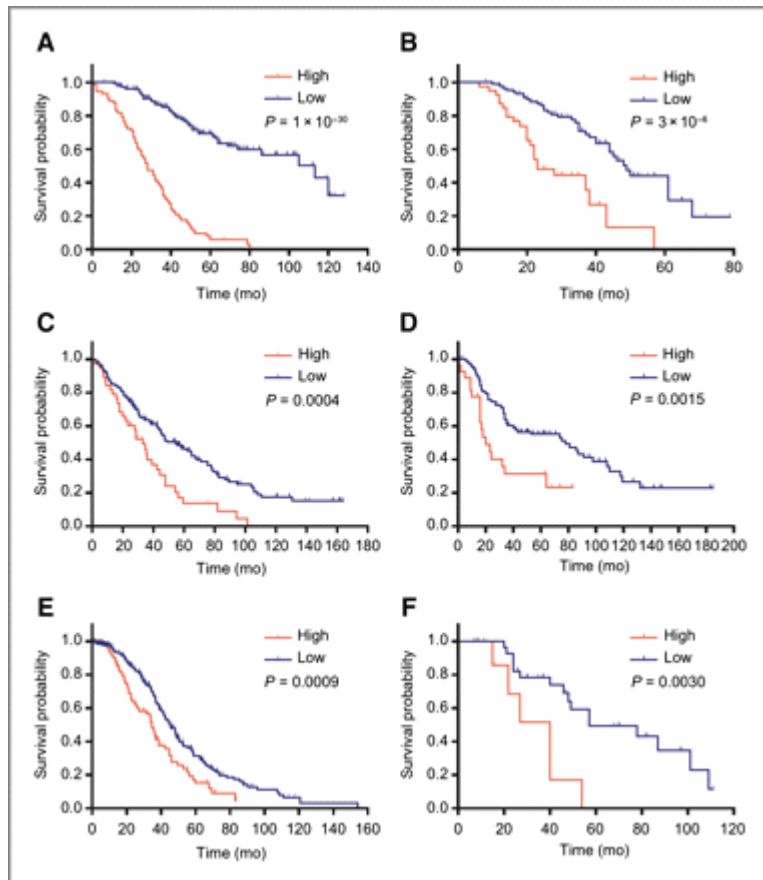
- Mesenchymal (C1/Mes) and Proliferative (C5/Stem-A) subtypes show improved progress-free survival (PFS) with Bevacizumab combined with standard first-line chemotherapy in ICON7 trial. (*Winterhoff et al., ASCO Annual Meeting, 2014*)
- EOC with an Immuno signature (Epi-B?) show less benefit to Bevacizumab combined with standard first-line chemotherapy in ICON7 trial. (*Gourley et al., ASCO Annual Meeting, 2014*)

Group	Median Δ PFS months	OS HR
Overall	6.5, p=0.004	0.68 (0.45-1.03), p=0.067
High risk for progression	6.7, p=0.006	0.52 (0.29-0.94), p=0.031
Proliferative HGS	12.8, p=0.032	0.51 (0.2-1.26), p=0.136
Proliferative	10.1, p=0.015	0.52 (0.25-1.08), p=0.074
Mesenchymal HGS	7.2, p=0.096	0.27 (0.08-0.96), p=0.030
Mesenchymal	8.2, p=0.405	0.56 (0.23-1.34), p=0.187
Differentiated	3.7, p=0.610	1.41 (0.53-3.71), p=0.486
Immunoreactive	3.8, p=0.080	0.76 (0.33-1.76), p=0.518

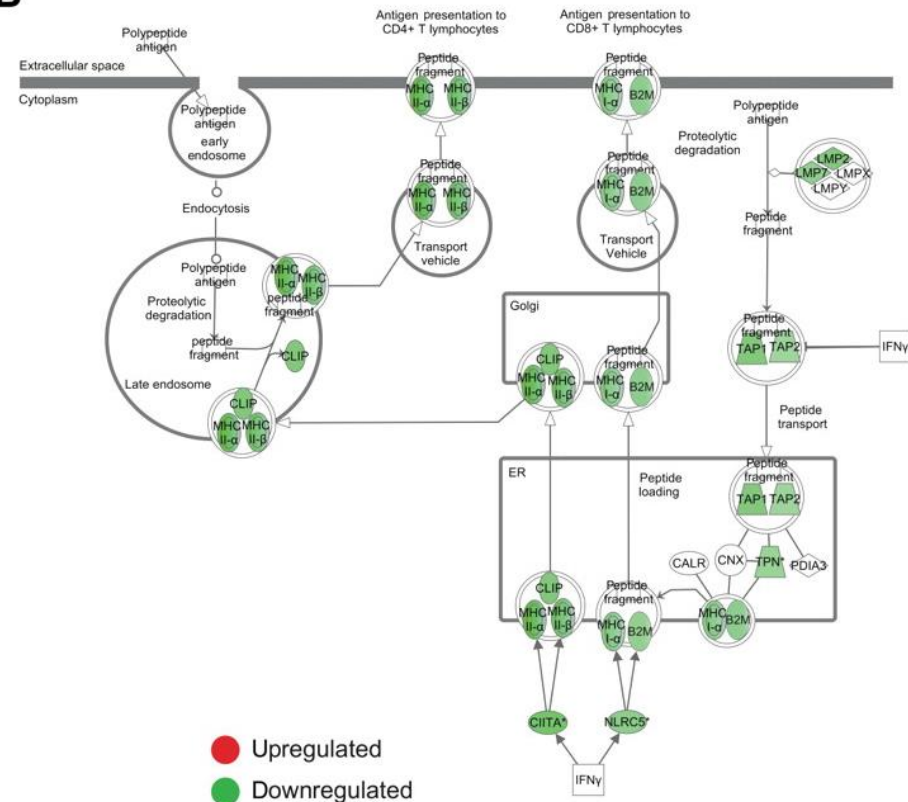


Molecular Subtypes and Immunotherapy?

Yoshihara K,, Tanaka K; Japanese Serous Ovarian Cancer Study Group. High-risk ovarian cancer based on **126-gene expression signature** is uniquely characterized by **downregulation of antigen presentation pathway**. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2012 Mar 1;18(5):1374-85.



B



Kaplan–Meier survival analysis in 6 microarray data sets (A, Japanese data set A; B, Tothill's data set; C, Bonome's data set; D, Dressman's data set; E, TCGA data set; F, Japanese data set B). Based on 126-gene signature, ovarian cancer patients were divided into 2 risk groups (red, high risk; blue, low risk).

Chemoresistance Gene Expression Signature

Gillet JP,, Gottesman MM. Clinical relevance of **multidrug resistance gene expression** in ovarian serous carcinoma effusions. *Mol Pharm.* 2011 Dec 5;8(6):2080-8.

Liu Y,, Zhang W. Integrated analysis of **gene expression and tumor nuclear image profiles** associated with chemotherapy response in serous ovarian carcinoma. *PLoS One.* 2012;7(5):e36383.

Latifi A,, Ahmed N. Isolation and characterization of tumor cells from the ascites of ovarian cancer patients: **molecular phenotype** of chemoresistant ovarian tumors. *PLoS One.* 2012;7(10):e46858.

Koti M,, Squire JA. Identification of the **IGF1/PI3K/NF κ B/ERK gene signalling networks** associated with chemotherapy resistance and treatment response in high-grade serous epithelial ovarian cancer. *BMC Cancer.* 2013 Nov 16;13:549.

Huh JH, ..., An HJ. Dysregulation of **miR-106a and miR-591** confers paclitaxel resistance to ovarian cancer. *Br J Cancer.* 2013 Jul 23;109(2):452-61.

Frederick PJ, ..., McNally LR. Chemoresistance in ovarian cancer linked to expression of **microRNAs**. *Biotech Histochem.* 2013 Oct;88(7):403-9.

Vecchione A,, Croce CM. A **microRNA signature** defines chemoresistance in ovarian cancer through modulation of angiogenesis. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2013 Jun 11;110(24):9845-50.

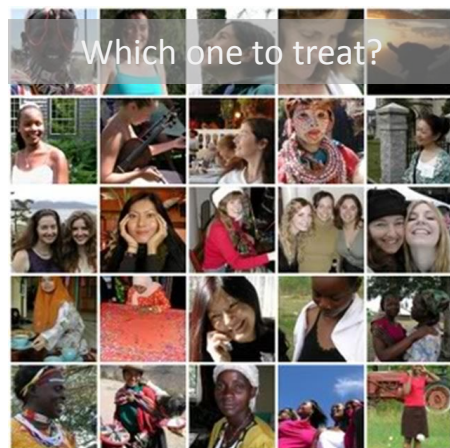
Chen P,, Hautaniemi S. Identification of **Prognostic Groups** in High-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Treated with Platinum-Taxane Chemotherapy. *Cancer Res.* 2015 Aug 1;75(15):2987-98.

No significant consensus

Chemoresistance & Gene Expression Molecular Subtype

	Malek et al., 2012	Brodsky et al., 2014	Marchini et al., 2013
	Primary vs Peritoneum	Primary vs Omentum	Primary vs Relapse
	11 pairs	9 pairs	23 pairs
Same Subtype	6 (54.5 %)	4 (44.4 %)	10 (43.4 %)
Subtype Switch	5 (45.5 %)	5 (55.6 %)	13 (56.5 %)
Epi to Mes	1 (9.1 %)	3 (33.3 %)	9 (39.1 %)
Epi to Stem-A	1 (9.1 %)	0 (0.0 %)	0 (0.0 %)
Stem-A to Mes	0 (0.0 %)	2 (22.2 %)	2 (8.7 %)
Others	3 (27.2 %)	0 (0.0 %)	2 (8.7 %)

C1/Mesenchymal/Mes subtype appeared to be the “default” state for disease progression and chemoresistance



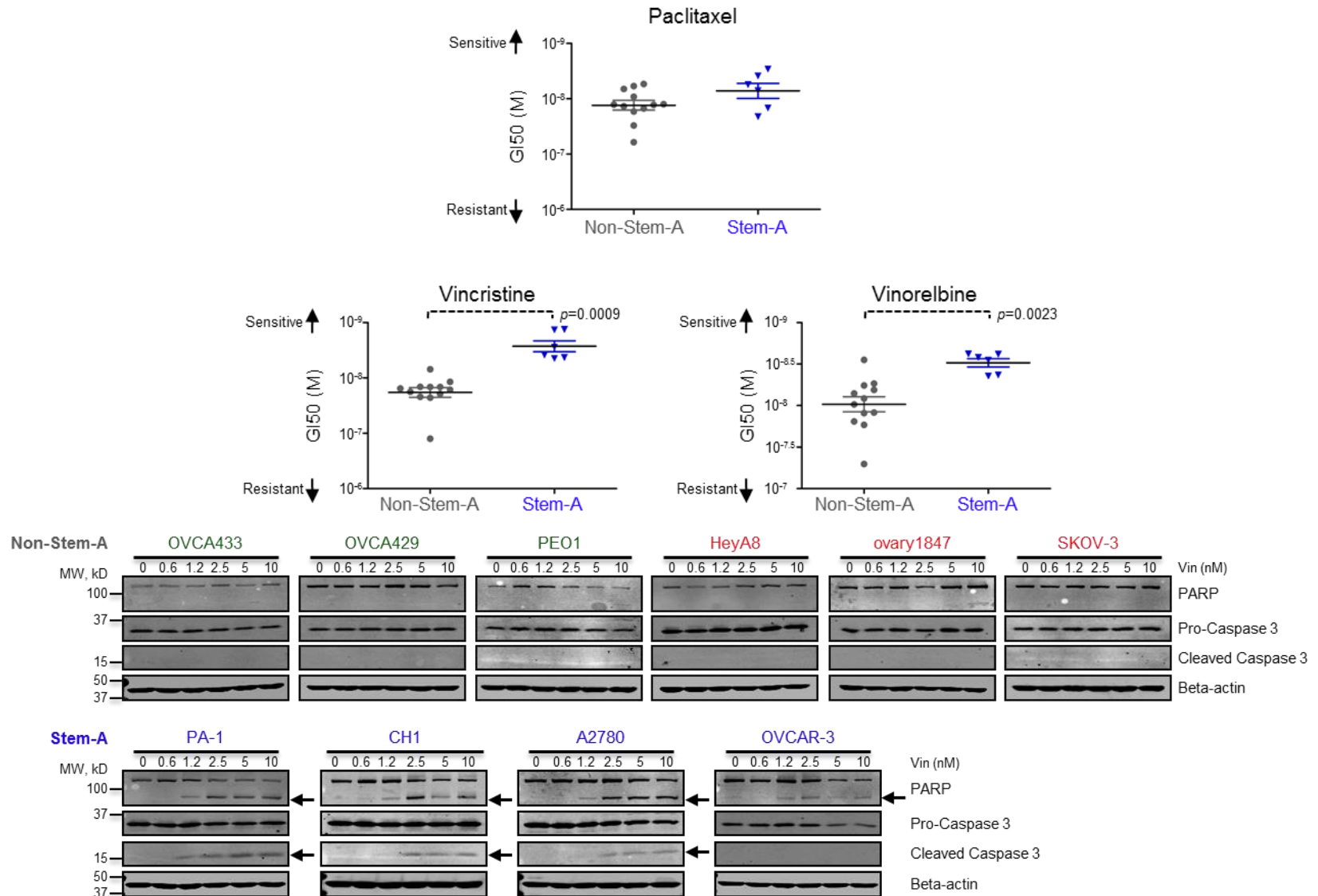
**What's the evidence
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signature(s) in
predicting
therapeutic response
in ovarian cancer?**



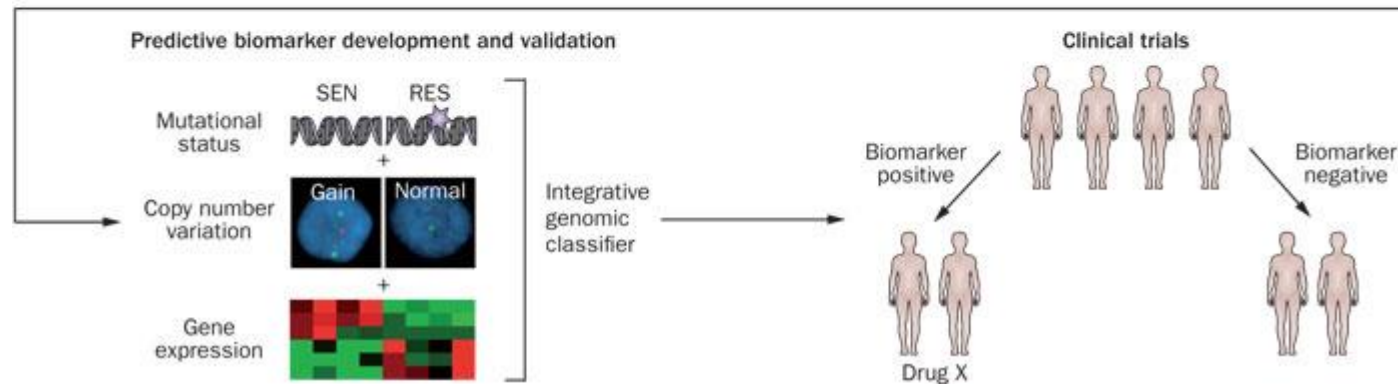
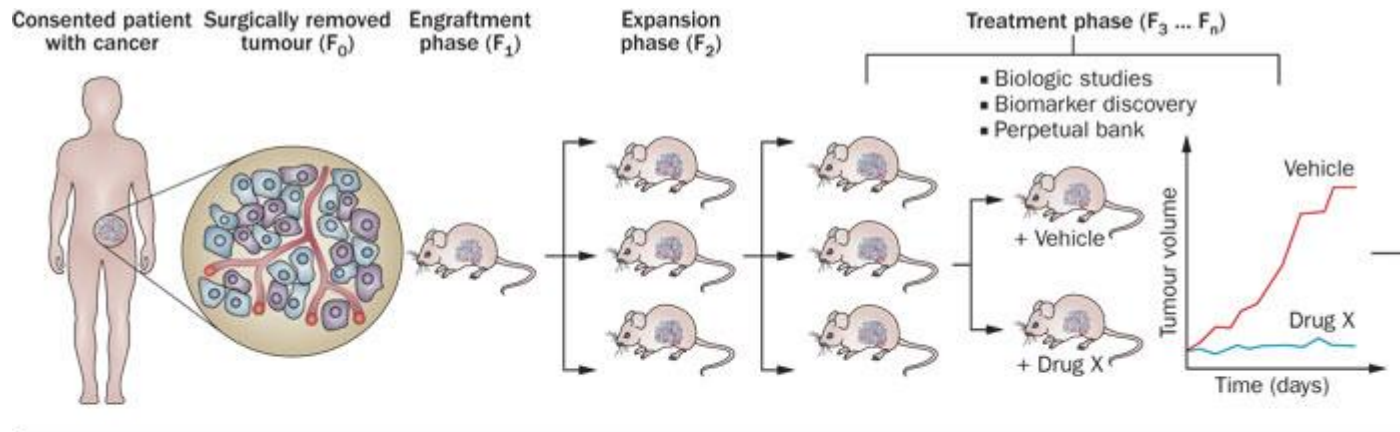
**What's the feasibility of
integrating gene
expression signature(s)
in clinical trials?**

Anti-MT Agents in C5/Proliferative/Stem-A Subtype

- Stem-A (C5) subtype show increased sensitivity to **vinca-binders** of anti-microtubule agents, such as vincristine or vinorelbine. (*Tan, Miow, & Huang et al., EMBO Mol Med, 2013*)

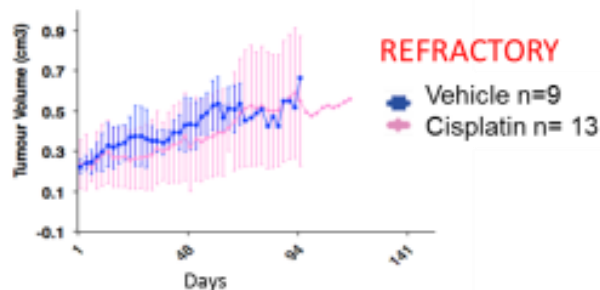


Response to Vinorelbine in C5/Stem-A PDX

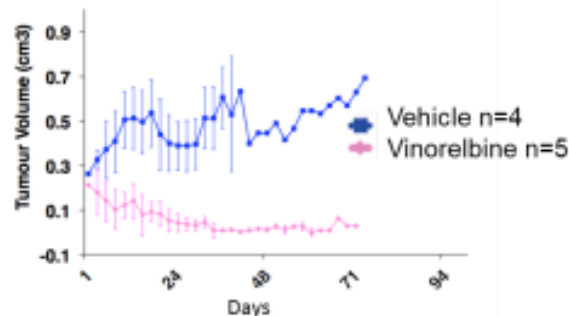


Tentler et al., Nature Review Clinical Oncology 2012

CISPLATIN 4mg/kg (D1, D8, D18)



VINORELBINE 15mg/kg (D1, D8, D18)



C5/Stem-A PDX
Valerie Heong & Clare Scott
(unpublished)
In collaboration with WEHI

Molecular Subtype Specific Ovarian Cancer Trial

Marginal efficacy of oral vinorelbine in platinum resistant settings (un-selected patients):

- ❖ Single agent navelbine; RR: **3%**
Gynecol Oncol. 2004 Dec;95(3):506-12.
- ❖ Navelbine + gemcitabine; ORR: **11%**
Cancer Chemother Pharmacol. 2011 Jan;67(1):69-73.
- ❖ Navelbine + topotecan; ORR: **18%**
Gynecol Oncol. 2008 Dec;111(3):467-73.

Molecular Subtype Specific Clinical Trial in Ovarian Cancer

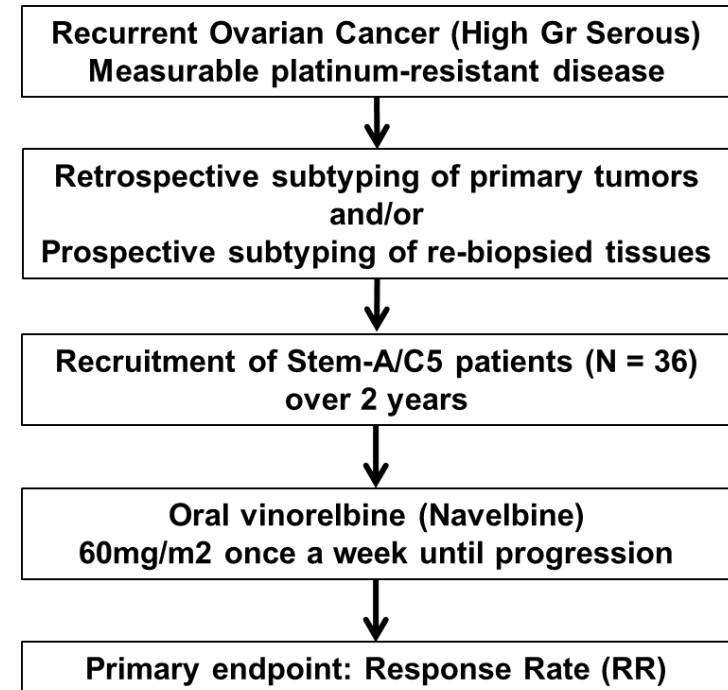


Gynae Onc Group Singapore
(GOGS)



Australian New Zealand
Gynae Onc Group

Phase II, Single-arm



SG site: Ruby Huang & David Tan
Australia site: Linda Mileschkin & David Bowtell

Underpinning the C5/Stem-A Subtype: from Pre-Clinical to Clinical

BOWTELL LAB (PMCC)

Cell lines
Generic drug library screen
Nanostring classifier



SCOTT LAB (WEHI)

Annotated C5 PDX
Candidate pathway inhibitors
PDX cell lines incl CRISPR
GEMM (incl premalignant)



HUANG LAB (Singapore)

Microtubulin dynamics
Discovery and targeting



C5/Stem-A CLINICAL TRIALS

SG: Huang, Tan,
AU: Bowtell, Scott, Melishkin
Navelbine

as proof of principle of
trials targeting HGSOC subsets



Molecular Subtype Stratification in Ovarian Cancer

Journal of Pathology

J Pathol 2015; **236**: 272–277

Published online 30 April 2015 in Wiley Online Library

(wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/path.4536

BRIEF DEFINITIVE REPORT

Efficient molecular subtype classification of high-grade serous ovarian cancer

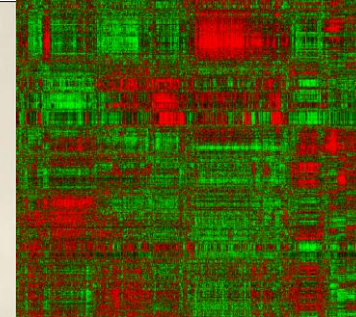
Huei San Leong,¹ Laura Galletta,¹ Dariush Etemadmoghadam,^{1,2,3} Joshy George,⁴ The Australian Ovarian Cancer Study^{1,5,6} Martin Köbel,⁷ Susan J Ramus⁸ and David Bowtell^{1,2,3,9,10,*}

Table 1. Classification accuracies of fresh frozen and FFPE samples on TaqMan-based low-density arrays, Fluidigm, Illumina targeted RNA, and Nanostring platforms compared with Affymetrix microarrays

Subtype	Taqman (48 genes)	Fluidigm (48 genes)		Illumina (42 genes)		Nanostring (48 genes)	
	Fresh frozen (post-optimization)	Fresh frozen	FFPE	Fresh frozen	FFPE (modified protocol)	Fresh frozen	FFPE
	Score (%)	Score (%)	Score (%)	Score (%)	Score (%)	Score (%)	Score (%)
C1	20/23 (87)	10/12 (83.3)	14/16 (87.5)	7/7 (100)	6/7 (85.7)	4/4 (100)	15/15 (100)
C2	19/20 (95)	13/13 (100)	12/14 (85.7)	6/6 (100)	5/7 (71.4)	4/4 (100)	10/13 (77)
C4	17/20 (85)	9/11 (81.8)	11/22 (50)	5/5 (100)	5/7 (71.4)	4/4 (100)	10/16 (62.5)
C5	18/21 (85.7)	11/12 (91.7)	8/14 (57.1)	4/5 (80)	6/7 (85.7)	5/5 (100)	11/14 (79)
Overall	74/84 (88)	43/48 (89.6)	45/66 (68.2)	22/23 (95.7)	22/28 (78.6)	17/17 (100)	46/58 (79.3)

Application of Gene Expression Signatures

Gene Expression Signature(s)



Lab-based Diagnostic Assays



IVD



1

Gene Expression Signature Stratification

Prospective Clinical Trials

2

Translational Research Pipeline

Randomized Controlled Trials

Clinical Trials with Gene Expression Signatures

Clinical Trials ID	Official Title	Type
NCT00897806	Feasibility of Measuring Gene Expression Patterns Using Tissue Acquisition of Primary Stage 3 & 4 Epithelial Ovarian Cx or Primary Peritoneal Cx & Gene Expression Array Technology for Predicting Paclitaxel Chemotherapy	Identify gene expression signature
NCT01074398	ERCC1 Expression as a Predictor of Progression Free and Overall Survival in Patients With Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Treated on GOG Protocols 0172 and 0182	Validation of gene expression signature
NCT01391351	Search for Predictors of Therapeutic Response in Patients With Carcinoma of the Ovary, the Fallopian Tube or Peritoneal Serous-type Advanced	Identify gene expression signature (miRNA)
NCT01770535	A Single-Centre Prospective Phase 0 Translational Study for Predicting Response of High Grade Serous Ovarian Cancers to Paclitaxel Chemotherapy	Identify gene expression signature



Ovarian Cancer



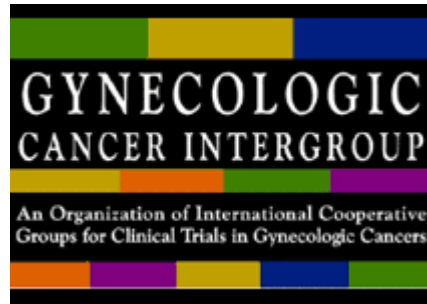
Global Randomized Clinical Trial



Clinical Trial
Coordination Center



Trial TR Center



iPocc Trial

(GOTIC-001 / JGOG3019)

EOC Stages II to IV
Optimally or suboptimally debulked



Randomization
N= 685

IV

IP

Dose-dense weekly paclitaxel at 80 mg/m²
Carboplatin (AUC) 6 every three-week

TR Phase I

Tissue Archived
at Hidaka,
Saitama
N= 120

TR Phase II

Retrospective
Tissue Analysis

Keiichi Fujiwara



Kosei Hasegawa

Ruby Huang



David Tan

Take Home Messages

- ❖ Ovarian cancer is a heterogeneous entity and the field should start to move towards stratifying patients for better treatment outcome.
- ❖ From the gene expression microarray analysis, four to seven major molecular subtypes have been identified within EOC that harbors distinctive signatures, which confer survival prognostication.
- ❖ The C1/Mesenchymal/Mes subtype is hallmarked by deposition of ECM forming desmoplastic stroma, TGF β pathway, and angiogenesis.
- ❖ The growth of C5/Proliferative/Stem-A subtype tumors is dependent on genes/pathways related to microtubule dynamics and non-canonical Wnt signaling and show preferential sensitivity to vinca-binders.
- ❖ A molecular subtyping diagnostic scheme has been developed for patient stratification. The first clinical trial targeting the C5/Stem-A subtype is planned.
- ❖ Incorporation of gene expression subtype analysis in ovarian cancer RCTs

RH Lab

CSI Singapore

Jean Paul Thiery (guru)

Tony Tan (Bioinformatics)

Eddie Miow (shRNA library screen)

Valerie Heong (PDX)

Jieru Ye (TR Coordinator)

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Singapore
an institute of NUS



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CSIOVDB: Ovarian Cancer Molecular Subtype Database

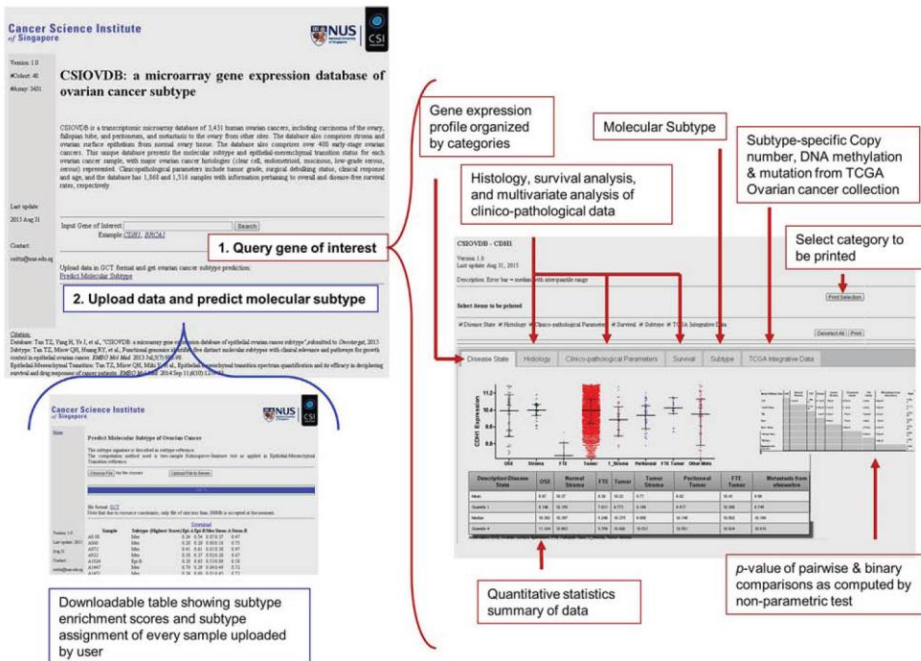
www.impactjournals.com/oncotarget/

Oncotarget, Advance Publications 2015

CSIOVDB: a microarray gene expression database of epithelial ovarian cancer subtype

Tuan Zea Tan¹, He Yang¹, Jieru Ye¹, Jeffrey Low², Mahesh Choolani², David Shao Peng Tan^{1,2,3}, Jean-Paul Thiery^{1,4,5}, Ruby Yun-Ju Huang^{1,2,5,6}

- A transcriptomic microarray database of **3,431** human ovarian cancers, including carcinoma of the ovary, fallopian tube, and peritoneum, and metastasis to the ovary from other sites.
- over **400 early-stage** ovarian cancers
- molecular subtype and EMT status
- major histologies (clear cell, endometrioid, mucinous, low-grade serous, serous)
- Clinicopathological parameters (tumor grade, surgical debulking status, clinical response and age)
- Of **1,868** and **1,516** samples with information pertaining to **overall and disease-free survival rates**, respectively



<http://csibio.nus.edu.sg/CSIOVDB/CSIOVDB.html>