CHAIRE ÉPIGÉNÉTIQUE ET MÉMOIRE CELLULAIRE

Année 2015-2016 : "Epigénétique et Cancer"

6 avril, 2016

Cours VI

"Perspectives: Marqueurs et thérapies épigénétiques"

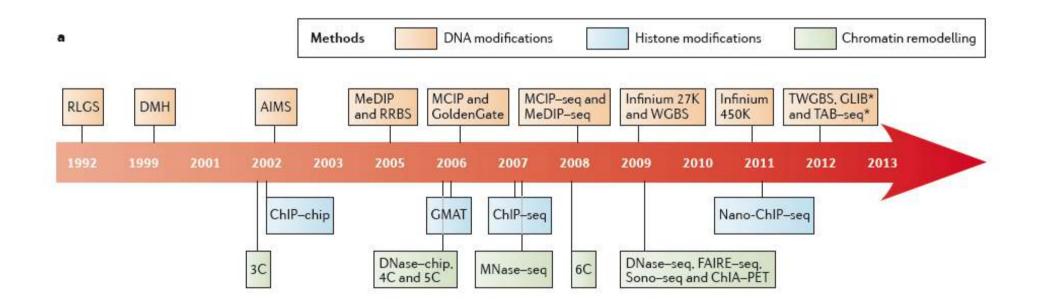
"Perspectives: Epigenetic Biomarkers and Therapies"

Séminaire par le Professeur Kristian Helin "Epigenetic Targets in Cancer" (BRIC, Copenhagen, Denmark)



From Cancer Genomes to Epigenomes

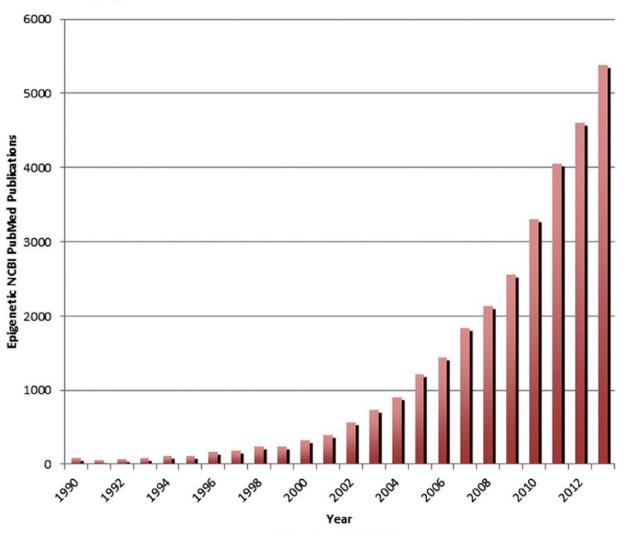
The sequencing of cancer genomes and epigenomes over the last decade or so, has provided unprecedented insights into tumors and their underlying genetic and epigenetic changes:





Epigenetics Research is flourishing

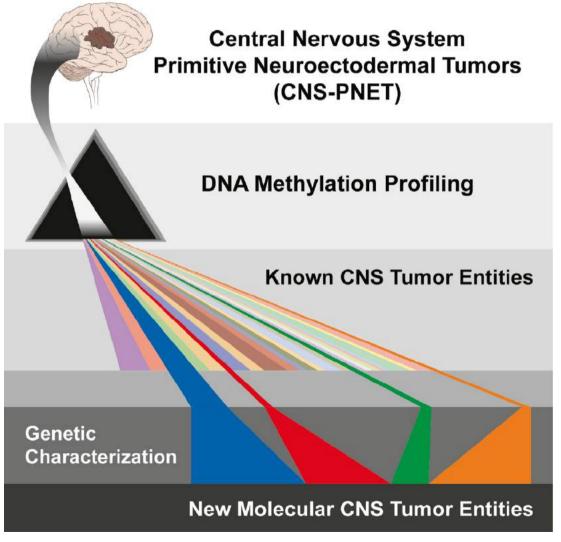
Epigenetic Research Publications Since 1990





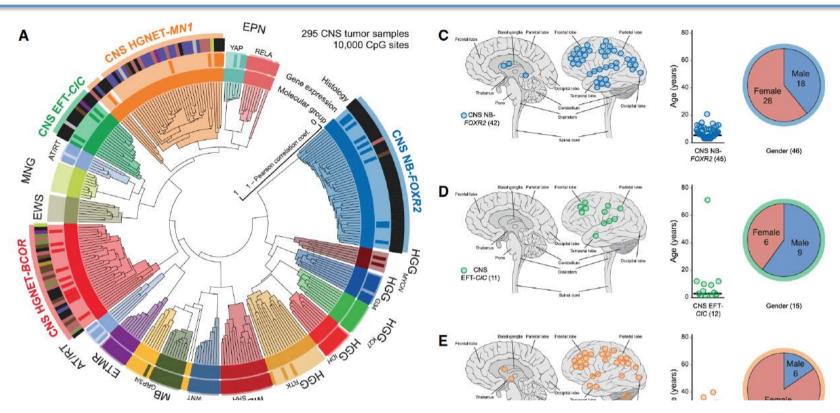
From Cancer Genomes to Epigenomes to Biomarkers

Just one of many recent examples of how epigenomics can help:





From Cancer Genomes to Epigenomes to Biomarkers



Brain tumors can be very challenging to diagnose and distinguish...

Molecular profiling means that cancers (eg highly malignant primitive neuroectodermal tumors of the CNS (CNS-PNETs) can be classified.

⇒ Both known tumor types and several new entities (some linked to epigenetic factors) with distinct histopathological and clinical features, can be identified paving the way for meaningful clinical trials

Hopes from Cancer Genomes and Epigenomes

- Discovery of new pathways / cellular processes in cancer
- Therapeutic potential (targeted therapies) subtle intervention instead of brute force, aiming to disable or block cancer processes

• Biomarkers: cancers will eventually be classified based on their molecular (epigenomic and mutation) profiles in addition to their

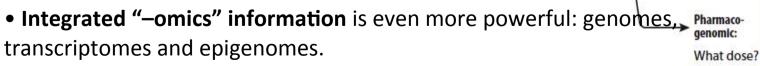
histologies

TUMOR CLASSIFICATION... HETEROGENEITY...? EVOLUTION...?

Important new insights from deep sequencing or single cell sequencing of different regions of tumors and over time

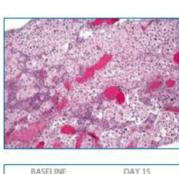
Predictive:
Which drug(s)?

Prognostic:
Who needs treatment?



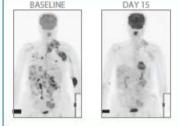
• Together with **Functional tests** using model systems (mouse, iPS...)

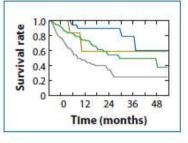
Moving towards a Systems Biology Approach to Cancer?



- Diagnostic:

What disease?





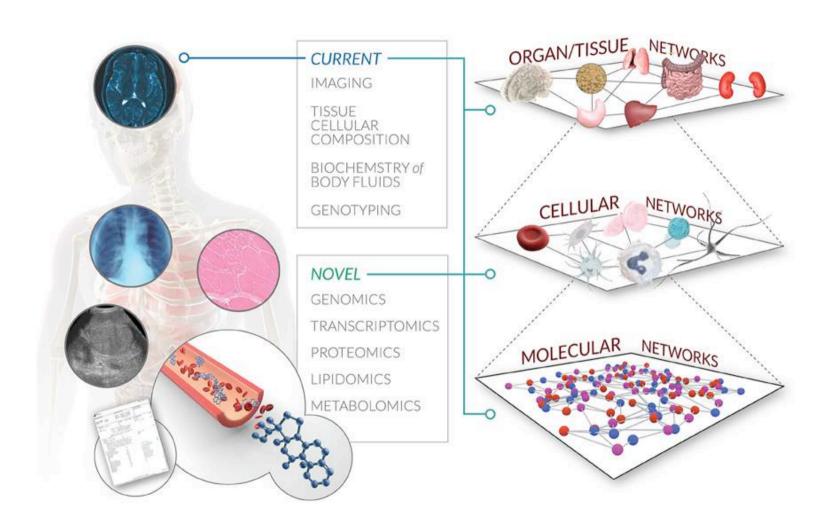


Integrating Datasets for Comprehensive Cancer Care

• Create a patient-specific map for key altered epigenetic components using integrative data analysis Identify genes and pathways of epigenetic regulators that are putative drivers of tumorigenesis • Combine all patient-specific maps to select the most frequently affected epigenetic regulators Examples of genes inactivated by epigenetics and/or genetics: Identify the mechanisms of deregulation of driver Genetics **Epigenetics** •CDKN2A. epigenetic regulator genes and pathways •MLH1 •BRCA1 •DAPK1 •SFRP1 •ATM •TP53 •TCF21 •GSTP1 Cluster analyses of epigenetic data Identify subgroups or patterns of DNA methylation Correlation of identified subgroups or patterns with and/or histone modifications, and the underlying affected driver epigenetic regulator genes and pathways mechanisms • Functional studies of epigenetic genes and pathways • Characterize cancer genes Develop molecularly targeted therapies Develop biomarkers



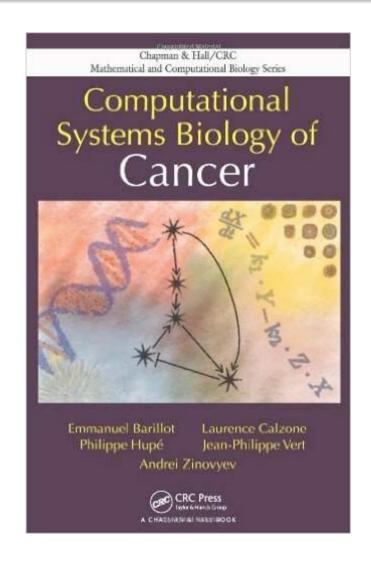
Systems Biology of Cancer



Understanding complex biological systems using computational and mathematical modeling



Systems Biology of Cancer



Computational Systems Biology of Cancer

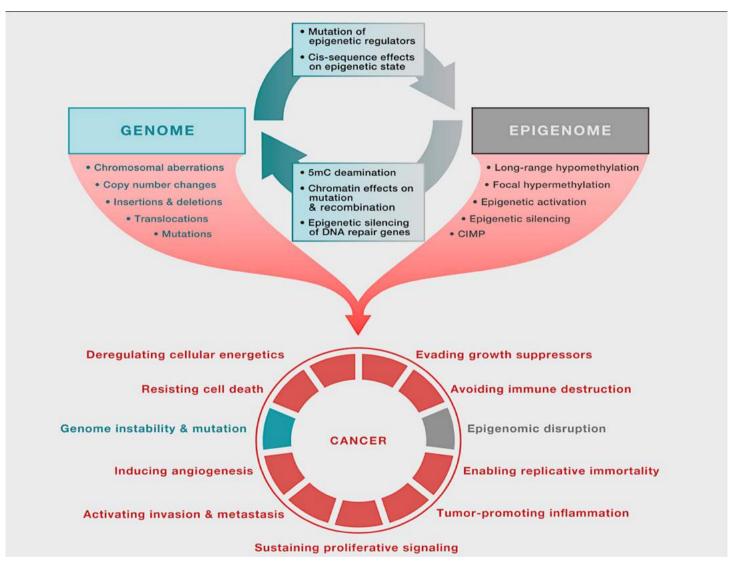
by Emmanuel Barillot, Laurence Calzone, Philippe Hupé, Jean-Philippe Vert and Andrei Zinovyev

An overview of systems biology applied to cancers, from the experimental part over bioinformatics aspects up to dynamical modelling. It covers a large variety of foundations and methods, which are necessary for the understanding of cancer from a computational systems biology angle as cancers are complex and robust dynamical systems.

institut**Cur**



From the Epigenomics to the Epigenetics of Cancer

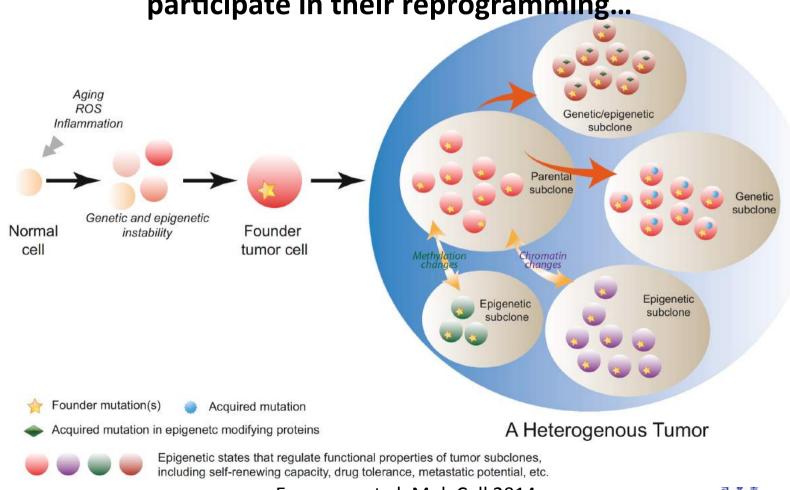




Genetic and Epigenetic Changes during Tumor Evolution

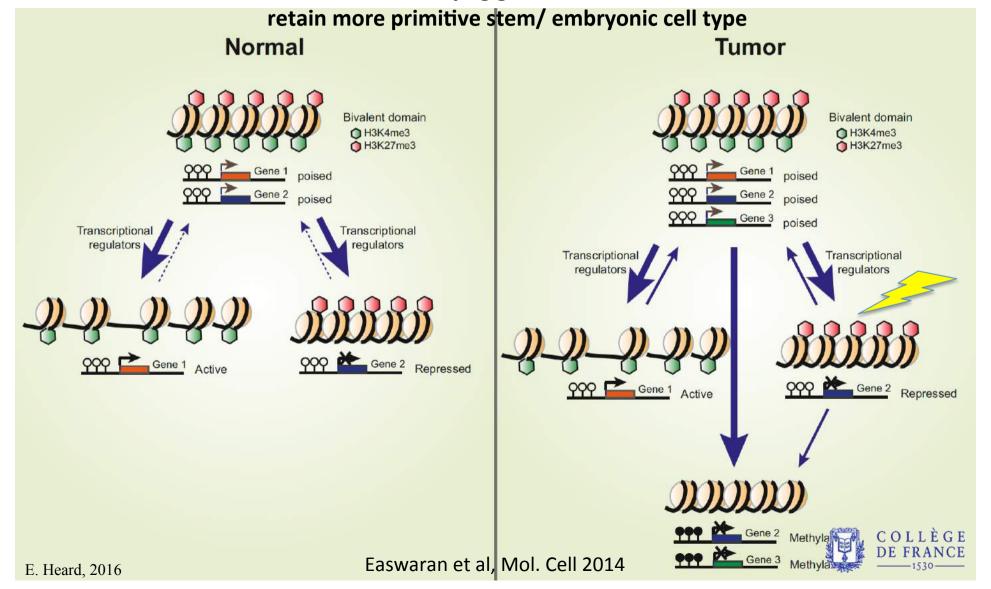
Recurring themes:

epigenetic changes in tumors can impair differentiation, block cells into a state of self renewal, participate in their reprogramming...



Epigenetic Changes in Cancer Cells

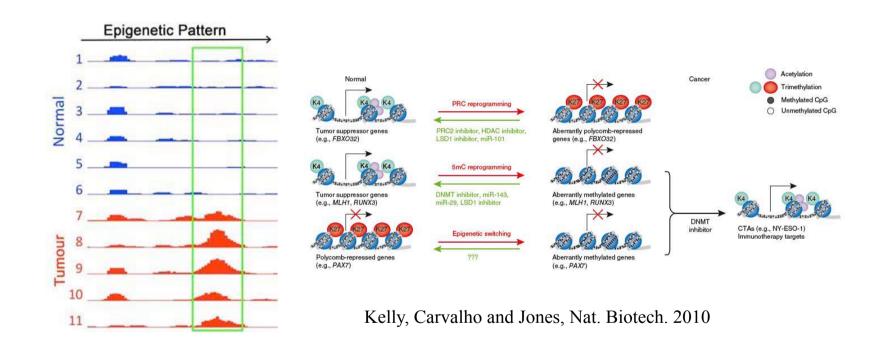
Abnormal epigenetic states can help lock in cell states that hinder the ability of cells to exit self renewal and differentiate normally Eg glioblastoma, colon cancer, leukemias – cells



Epigenetic therapy: reversal of epigenetic changes

Most new therapies focus on genetic abnormalities.

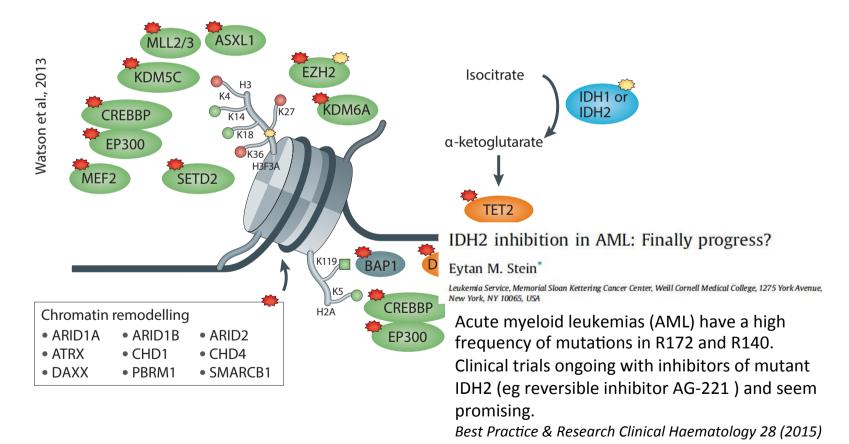
Cancer genomes has allowed identification of specific driver mutations that can be targeted by simple molecules: this can provide robust initial responses but often has short durability with evolution of resistance



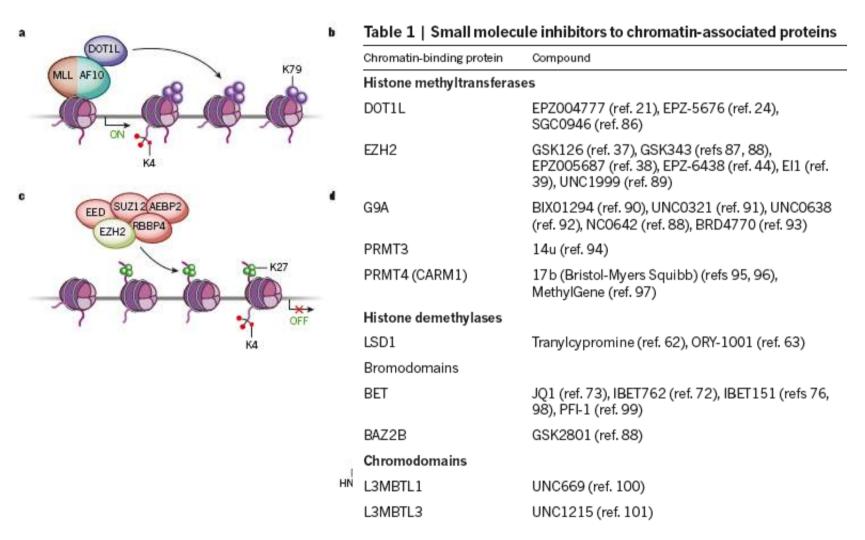
- Epimutations may be induced by stress (replicative stress, inflammation etc)
- > Epigenetic states can become aberrantly fixed blocking tumor cells in self-renewing state
- Epigenetic variation (due to metastable states) within a tumor can generate heterogenity and predispose to cancer progression
 COLLÈG DE FRANCE

Mutations in Epigenetic Factors

Of the <u>top</u> 58 genes <u>most often mutated</u> in cancers, 16 encode epigenetic factors (writers, readers and erasers...)



Epidrugs: reversing/overriding epigenetic states

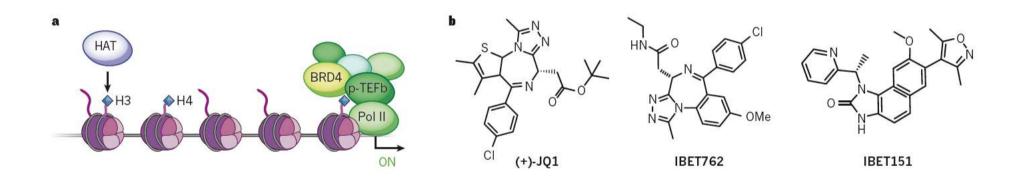




Epidrugs: reversing/overriding epigenetic states

Bromodomain proteins and their inhibitors.

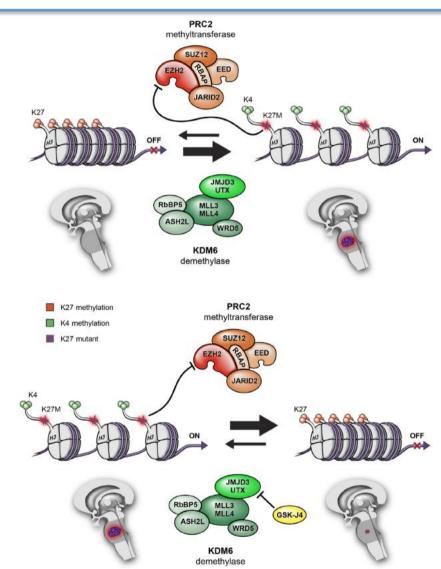
The bromodomain can bind acetylated lysines, which are associated with actively transcribed promoters.



The bromodomain proteins are thought to mediate the initiation and elongation of transcription.

Chemical structures of prototypical bromodomain and extra-terminal (BET) inhibitors. (+)-JQ1, IBET762 and IBET151 bind to all members of the BET sub-family (Brd2, Brd3, Brd4 and BrdT) with similar affinity and regulate the transcription of key oncogenes including the MYC family and BCL2.

Pediatric gliomas with H3.3K27M histone mutations: from mechanisms to therapy?



Pharamcological inhibition of JMJD3 using GSKJ4 in DIPG orthotopic xenografts reduced tumor growth and significantly extended animal survival, and analysis of treated tumors revealed decreased proliferation and increased apoptosis, relative to untreated control tumors.

=> results suggest that GSKJ4 anti- tumor activity is specific to K27M mutant tumors, both in vitro and in vivo, and its antitumor activity occurs in association with increasing K27me2 and K27me3 in tumor cells

Results from high-performance liquid chromatography revealed good penetration of GSKJ4 into the brain, including to the site of brainstem tumor development, following systemic administration of inhibitor, and further support the development of GSKJ4 or other histone demethylase inhibitors as potentially effective targeted therapy for DIPG patients

Application of inhibitor GSKJ4 to T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL), a hematological malignancy in which H3K27 methylation is reduced by loss-of-function EZH2 mutation, have also shown antitumor activity through use of the JMJD3. As for K27M DIPG, see an accompanying increase in K27M methylation.

=> JMJD3 as an emerging therapeutic epigenetic target for cancer treatment.

Ongoing Clinical Trials: HDAC inhibitors

HDAC inhibitors:

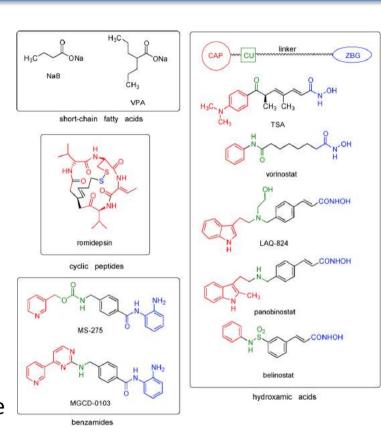
The main biological effects of HDACi are cell cycle arrest, induction of differentiation and promotion of apoptosis (Mai et al., 2005; Nebbioso et al., 2005).

HDACi can enhance the sensitivity to chemotherapy for cancers and inhibit angiogenesis (Geng et al., 2006; Qian et al., 2006).

The targets of the HDACs are not always clear – and most HDACs target non-histone proteins

The sources, natures and structures of known HDACi so far vary greatly, and this has raised the question whether these different HDACi affect tumor occurrence and development through different mechanisms

Despite success on lympomas, one of the major concerns has been toxicity in treatment of solid tumors - leading to several clinical trials being ended





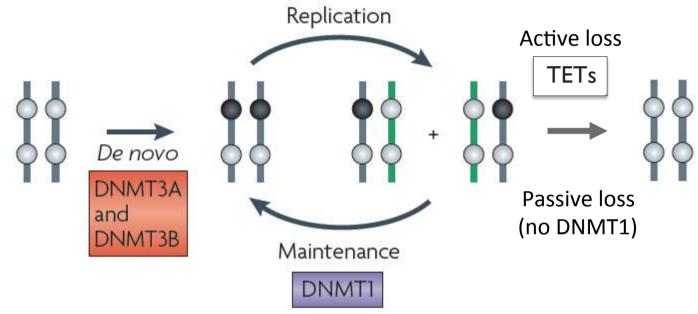
Ongoing Clinical Trials HDAC and DNA Me inhibitors

Table 1 Examples of some epigenetic trials in various cancers

Trial (ClinicalTrials.gov)	Drug	Combination	Target	Study phase	Indication
NCT01023308		Bortezomib, dexametha- sone	Pan- deacetylase inhibitor	Phase III	Relapsed multiple myeloma
NCT00425555	1	None		Phase II/III	Cutaneous T cell lymphoma
NCT00866333	Entinostat	None	Class I HDAC	Phase I/II	Hodgkin's lymphoma, kidney cancer
NCT01038778	(SNDX- 275)	None	inhibitor	Phase II	Clear cell renal cell carcinoma, metastation renal cell cancer
NCT01349959		Azacitidine		Phase II	Advanced breast cancer
NCT00357032 (Completed)	Belinostat (PXD101)	None	Pan-HDAC inhibitor	Phase II	Relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia or older patients with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia
NCT01310244		Carboplatin, paclitaxel	HDAC inhibitor	Phase I/II	Non-small cell lung cancer
NCT00274651		None		Phase II	Recurrent or refractory cutaneous and peripheral T cell lymphomas
NCT00301756		None		Phase II	Ovarian cancer
NCT01873703	Pracinostat (SB939)	Azacitidine	HDAC inhibitor	Phase II	Myelodysplastic syndrome
NCT01912274		Azacitidine		Phase II	Acute myeloid leukemia
NCT01112384 (Completed)		None		Phase II	Translocation-associated recurrent/metastatic sarcomas
NCT01761968	Givinostat	None	HDAC inhibitor	Phase II	Chronic myeloproliferative neoplasms
NCT01900730	Valproic acid	None	HDAC inhibitor	Phase II	Breast cancer
NCT00477386	Carboplatin	Decitabine	Demethylation	Phase I/II	Platinum-resistant ovarian cancer
NCT00387465	Entinostat	Azacitidine	HDAC inhibitor	Phase I/II	Recurrent advanced non-small cell lung cancer
NCT01105377	Entinostat	Azacitidine	HDAC inhibitor	Phase II	Metastatic colorectal cancer
NCT02115282	Exemestane with or without	Entinostat	HDAC inhibitor	Phase III	Recurrent hormone receptor-positive breast cancer that is locally advanced or metastatic
NCT00091559	Vorinostat	None	HDAC inhibitor	Phase II	Advanced cutaneous T cell lymphoma
NCT00275080	Vorinostat	Decitabine	HDAC inhibitor	Phase I	Advanced solid tumors or relapsed or refractory non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
NCT00071799	Azacitidine	None	Demethylation	Phase III	High-risk myelodysplastic syndromes comparing azacitidine versus conventional care
NCT00007345	Romidepsin	None	HDAC inhibitor	Phase II	Cutaneous T cell lymphoma and peripheral T cell lymphoma



DNA Methyltransferases: Orchestrators of DNA Methylation



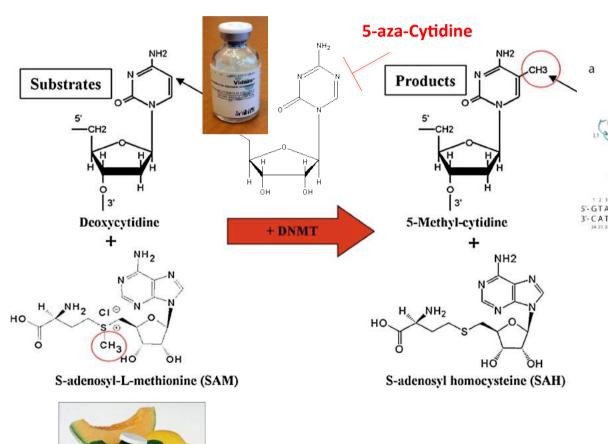
Jones P.A. et. al. 2009. Nat Rev Genet.

- DNMT1 preferentially methylates hemimethylated DNA
- DNMT3A/3B de novo methylate both unmethylated and hemimethylated DNA
- DNMT3L stimulates DNMT3A/3B activity in ES cells
- TET enzymes result in loss of 5mC through oxidation to 5-hydroxy methylation
- DNA methylation can be passively lost in absence of DNMT1 or actively lost via TETs
- 5-Aza-cytidine can also lead to 'passive' loss of DNA methylation

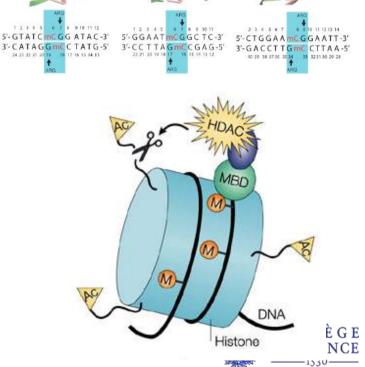


DNA Methyltransferases: Orchestrators of DNA Methylation

Therapy: inhibitors



Methyl Binding Domain (MBD) proteins ("Readers") orchestrate cytosine methylation functions in gene expression, DNA replication, repair...



Nutrition can influence the availability of methyl-donors to a cell

E. Heard,

Inhibition of DNA Methylation could affect gene expression



Phenotypes Induced in 1 OT: Cultures after Treatment with 5-aza-CR (a) Adipocytes (4 weeks after treatment); (b) myotubes (2 weeks after treatment); (c) chondrocytes (5 weeks after treatment). *Taylor and Jones*, 1979.



Advent of the DNA methylation inhibitor 5-azacytidine (Jones, 1984), one of the first drugs to be used to treat cancer

Data on cultured mammalian cells showed that gene expression could be affected by methylation, and loss of DNA methylation could lead to gene reactivation and a change in cell identity

- ⇒ The inactive expression state of a gene could be stably maintained by DNA methylation (Razin and Riggs,1980; Lock et al., 1987)
- ⇒ Robin Holliday went on to propose in 1987, that aberrant DNA methylation could sometimes lead to *epimutations*, or event *mutations*, for example in cancer...

DNA Methylation Inhibitors

5-AzaC first tested in the 1960's as a chemical to treat cancer but was highly toxic. Its potential for reversing epigenetic alterations was discovered in the 1970's in cultured cells – but clinical application only came later



Nucleoside: Cytidine



Cytidine Analog: 5-Azacytidine



Nucleoside: Deoxcytidine



Deoxcytidine Analog: Decitabine



Deoxcytidine Analog: 5-Fluoro-2-Deoxycytidine

During DNA synthesis, azacytosine can substitute for cytosine – the DNA Methylatransferase enzyme recognizes the nucleotie and initiates the methylation process but remains covalently bound to DNA and its DNA methyltransferase function is blocked.



DNA Methylation Inhibitors

5-AzaC first tested in the 1960's as a chemical to treat cancer but was highly toxic. Its potential for reversing epigenetic alterations was discovered in the 1970's in cultured cells – but clinical application only came later



Azacitidine (trade name **Vidaza**) a chemical analog of cytidine, a nucleoside present in DNA and RNA. Azacitidine and its deoxy derivative, decitabine (5-aza-2'deoxycytidine), are FDA-approved and used in the treatment of myelodysplastic syndrome. Both drugs were first synthesized in Czechoslovakia as potential chemotherapeutic agents for cancer.

DNA Methylation Inhibitors

Only in the 1990s were these drugs used in hematologic malignancies, particularly for myelodysplasticsyndrome (MDS) (Decitabine)

Efficiency in the clinic due to lowered dose – improving patient tolerance (& also specificity?)

Randomized Controlled Trial of Azacitidine in Patients With the Myelodysplastic Syndrome: A Study of the Cancer and Leukemia Group B

By Lewis R. Silverman, Erin P. Demakos, Bercedis L. Peterson, Alice B. Kornblith, Jimmie C. Holland, Rosalie Odchimar-Reissig, Richard M. Stone, Douglas Nelson, Bayard L. Powell, Carlos M. DeCastro, John Ellerton, Richard A. Larson, Charles A. Schiffer, and James F. Holland

<u>Purpose</u>: Patients with high-risk myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) have high mortality from bone marrow failure or transformation to acute leukemia. Supportive care is standard therapy. We previously reported that azacitidine (Aza C) was active in patients with high-risk MDS.

Patients and Methods: A randomized controlled trial was undertaken in 191 patients with MDS to compare Aza C (75 mg/m²/d subcutaneously for 7 days every 28 days) with supportive care. MDS was defined by French-American-British criteria. New rigorous response criteria were applied. Both arms received transfusions and antibiotics as required. Patients in the supportive care arm whose disease worsened were permitted to cross over to Aza C.

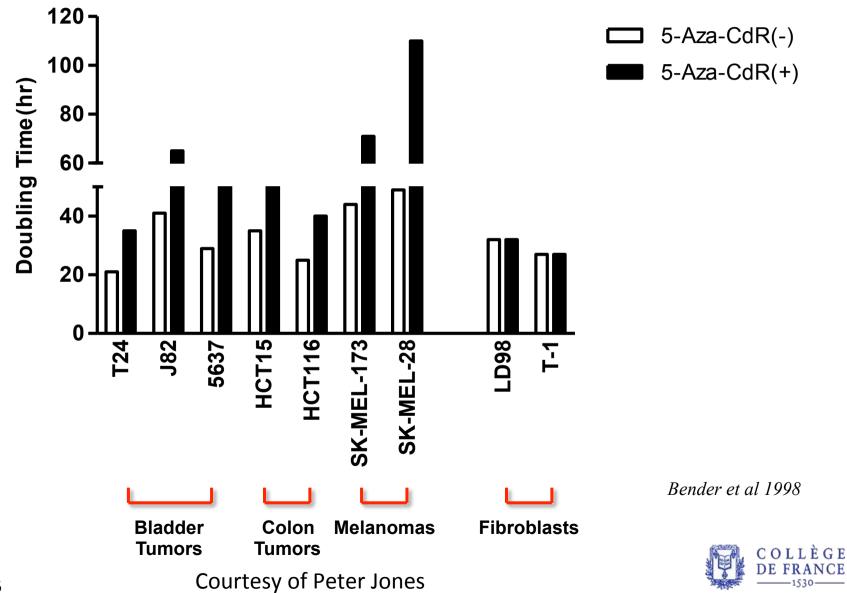
Results: Responses occurred in 60% of patients on the Aza C arm (7% complete response, 16% partial response, 37% improved) compared with 5% (improved) receiving supportive care (P < .001). Median time to leukemic transformation or death was 21 months for Aza C versus

13 months for supportive care (P=.007). Transformation to acute myelogenous leukemia occurred as the first event in 15% of patients on the Aza C arm and in 38% receiving supportive care (P=.001). Eliminating the confounding effect of early cross-over to Aza C, a landmark analysis after 6 months showed median survival of an additional 18 months for Aza C and 11 months for supportive care (P=.03). Quality-of-life assessment found significant major advantages in physical function, symptoms, and psychological state for patients initially randomized to Aza C.

Conclusion: Aza C treatment results in significantly higher response rates, improved quality of life, reduced risk of leukemic transformation, and improved survival compared with supportive care. Aza C provides a new treatment option that is superior to supportive care for patients with the MDS subtypes and specific entry criteria treated in this study.

J Clin Oncol 20:2429-2440. © 2002 by American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Selectivity of 5-Aza-CdR (50 nM) Ten Days After treatment

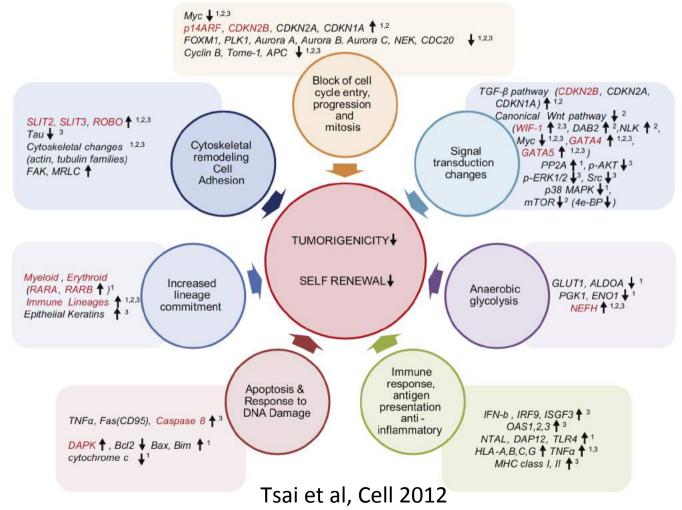


Transient, low-dose DAC decreases Tumorigenicity of Leukemia cells with minimal Acute DNA Damage, Cell Cycle changes or Apoptosis

Demethylating agents are potent anti-cancer drug for leukemias

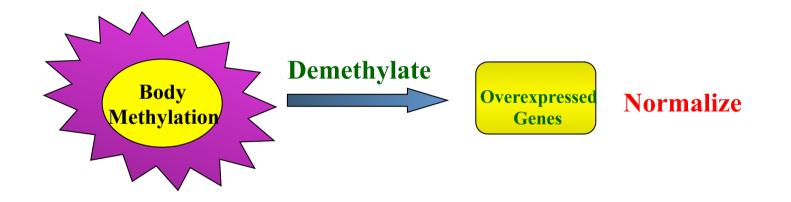
Less successful (used alone) in solid tumors

Their method of action remained mysterious until recently...



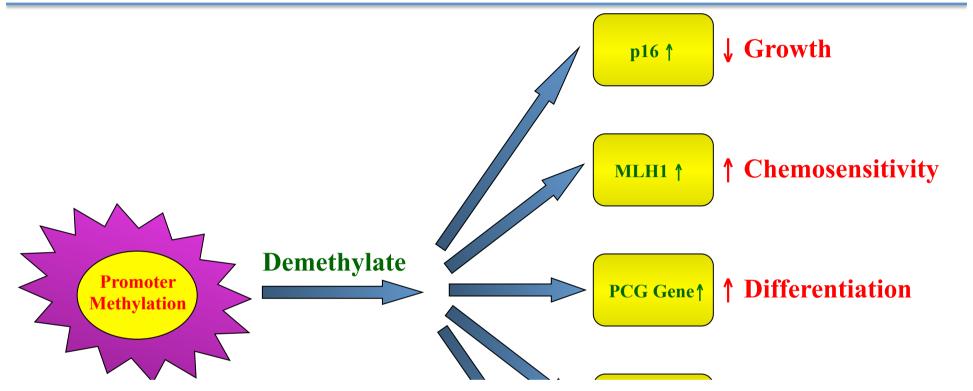


Multiple Pathways are Misregulated by Epigenetic Therapy





Multiple Pathways are Misregulated by Epigenetic Therapy

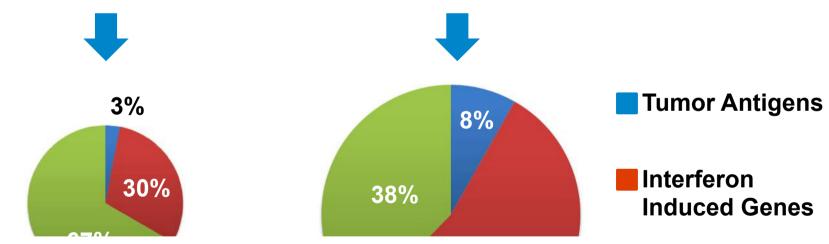


Low dose AZA or DEC treatment show slow onset, and induce long lasting decrease in self renewal and tumorigenicity without cytotoxicity or changes in cell cycle, as would have been predicted by reactivation of tumor suppressors.

⇒ What <u>are</u> the key genes that are reactivated, that predict or mediate the response???

Genes Induced (> 4 fold) by 5-Aza-CdR after 8 days

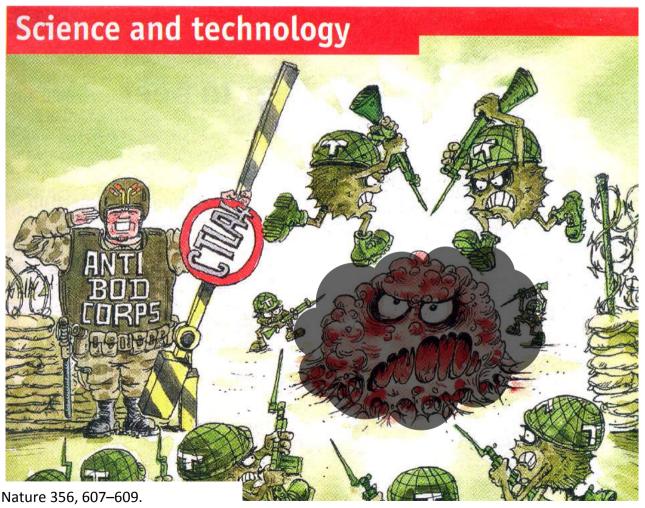
- AZA can demethylate and activate genes encoding MHC class I genes and tumor antigen genes (Karpf et al., 1999, 2004).
- Interferon pathway genes are also upregulated by AZA, and this correlates with increased expression of endogenous retroviral transcripts rather than de-repression of interferon pathway transcription factors
- The most common set of genes induced by AZA in solid tumor cell lines are those involved in antigen presentation and interferon response (Li et al., 2014).



 Patients who had previously received AZA for lung cancer subsequently had a highly efficient response to <u>immune checkpoint inhibitors</u> (Wrangle et al., 2013).

Immunotherapy and immune checkpoint inhibitors

Switching off CTLA-4 T-cell receptors on tumor cells helps to shut off the immune checkpoint, exposing tumors antigens to immune system!

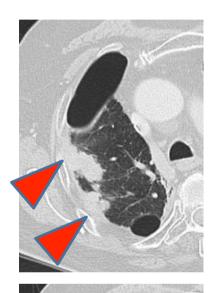


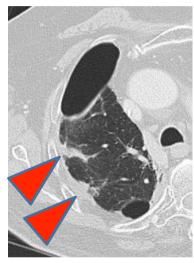
Harding et al. (1992). Nature 356, 607–609. Hodi et al. (2010). N. Engl. J. Med. 363, 711–723. Topalian (2012). N. Engl. J. Med. 366, 2443–2454.

The Economist June 8th, 2013

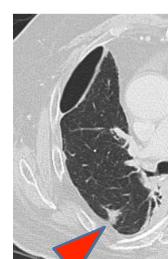


Response of a "non-immunogenic" tumor to anti-PD-1: Stage IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with prior epigenetic therapy











Pt. 001-0605
History: 61 y.o.
male with stage IV
NSCLC refractory to
multiple surgeries,
RT, two multidrug
chemotherapy
regimens, 5-AZA
and entinostat
(HDACi).

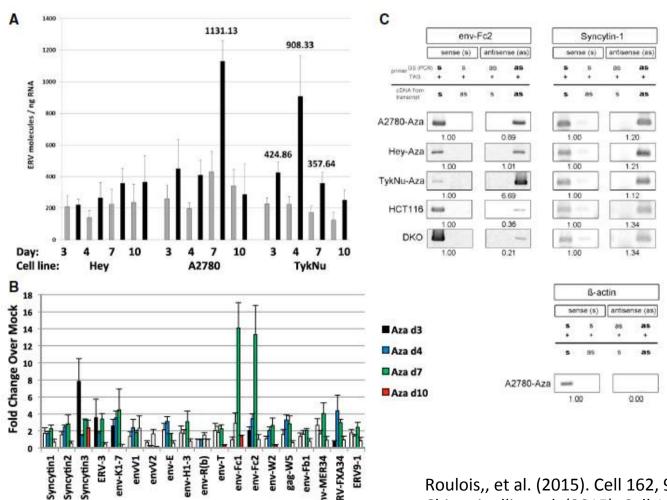


Courtesy of Peter Jones



DNA Methylation inhibitors: Activation of endogenous retroviral expression

DNMT inhibitors induce ERV demethylation and expression (sense and antisense), which triggers a dsRNA response



E. Heard, 2016

Roulois,, et al. (2015). Cell 162, 961–973. Chiappinelli, et al. (2015). Cell 162, 974–986.

DNA Methylation inhibitors: Activation of endogenous retroviral expression

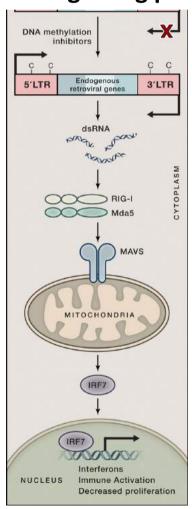
- Gene expression profiling of colorectal and ovarian carcinoma cells treated with low-dose AZA identified genes significantly upregulated with delayed kinetics whose expression was NOT correlated with changes in DNA methylation
- Many of these were targets of the IRF7 protein a known antiviral mediator!
- AZA induces nuclear localization of IRF7 by stimulation of the MDA5 and RIG-I proteins that recognize double stranded viral RNA
- Colon cancer cells treated with AZA actually began to secrete interferon, but again, not linked to demethylation of interferon pathway genes.
- Transfection with dsRNA of a fresh culture of cells derived from AZA-treated cells, but not control cells, induced an antiviral response in recipient cells.
- Activation of endogenous retroviral sequences by AZA induced interferon response
- Inhibition of DNA methylation sensitizes a murine melanoma model to anti-CTLA4 immune checkpoint therapy
- Clinical trials on combined ASA or DEC treatment with immunotherapy look very promising
 on solid tumors not just on hematological tumors!

DNA Methylation inhibitors: Activation of endogenous retroviral expression

DNMT inhibitors probably sensitise cells by inducing an antiviral, anti-proliferative state, reactivating tumor antigen expression and altering cell signaling pathways

DNMT inhibitors induce a "viral mimicry" response in cells by activating endogenous retroviral repeats and upregulating immune signaling through secreted interferon In addition to activating tumor antigen genes

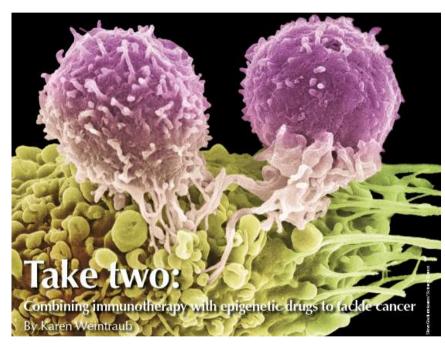
Roulois et al. (2015). Cell 162, 961–973. Chiappinelli, et al. (2015). Cell 162, 974–986.





Enhancing Cancer Immune checkpoint therapy with DNMT inhibitors

Epigenetic effects of DNMT inhibition by azacitidine (AZA) or decitabine (DAC).



5-azacitidine and entinostat, which alter the epigenome, may prime patients' immune systems to respond to the checkpoint inhibitor.

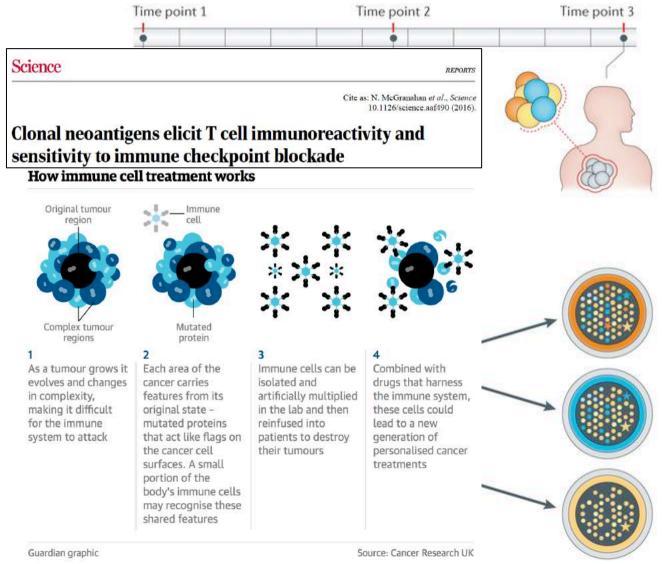
Pairing these drugs may radically improve patient outcomes.

Large clinical trials ongoing



Neoantigens generated during clonal evolution within Tumors and/ or by Demethylating agents - are key to successful Immunotherapy

Clonal Evolution: Sequencing of Tumor samples through disease progression





Epigenetic Therapy Plus Chemotherapy

Cancer Research

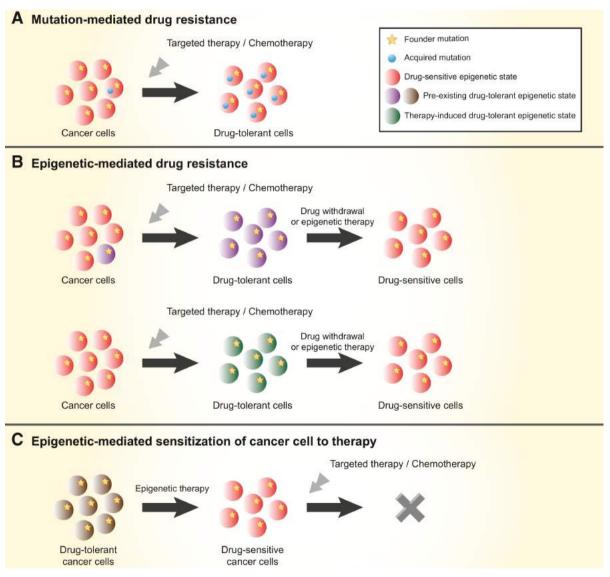
Clinical Studies

Epigenetic Resensitization to Platinum in Ovarian Cancer

Daniela Matei^{1,2,3,4}, Fang Fang⁸, Changyu Shen⁵, Jeanne Schilder^{1,2}, Alesha Arnold¹, Yan Zeng⁵, William A. Berry⁶, Tim Huang⁹, and Kenneth P. Nephew^{1,2,7,8}



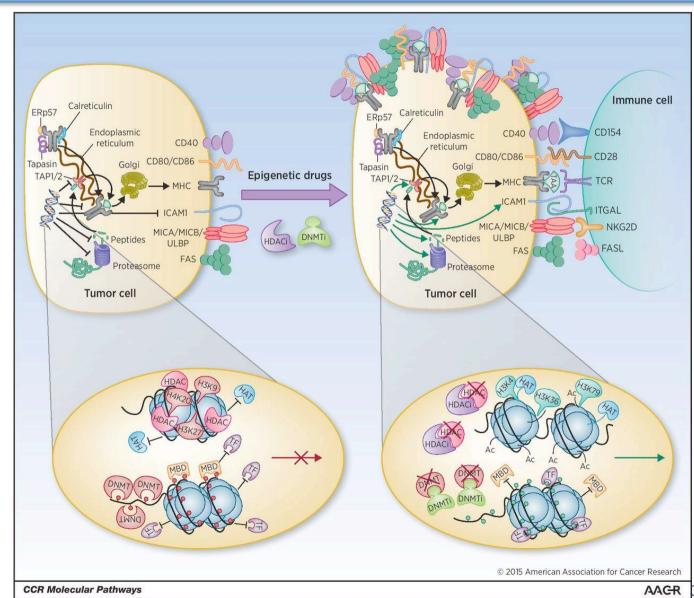
Genetic and Epigenetic basis of Drug Resistance - Sensitisation



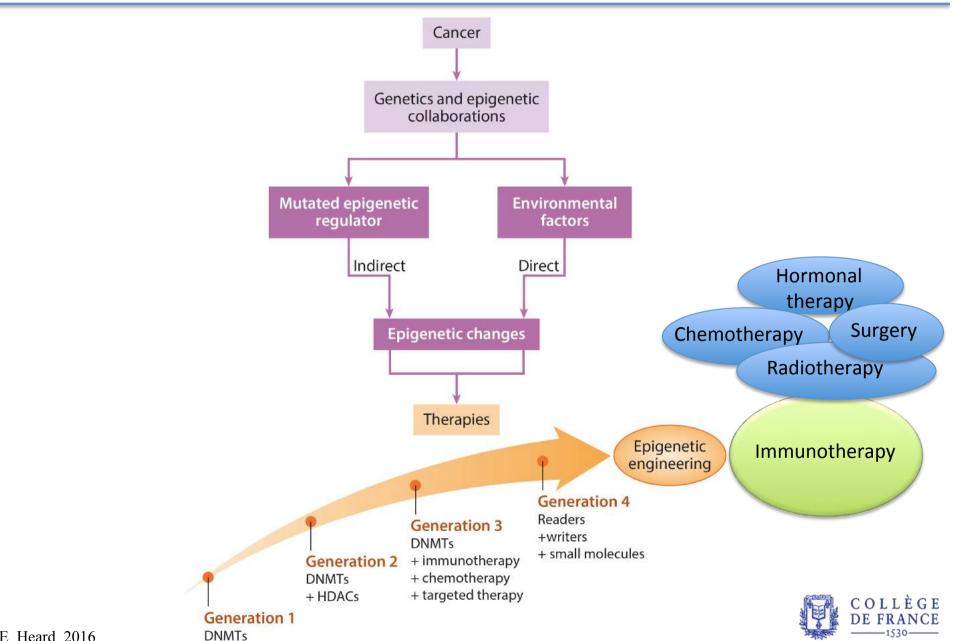


Drug Resistant Cancer Cells: Low Dose Epigenetic Drugs in combination with other therapies may be effective

Contrary to high-dose cytotoxic chemotherapy, where they proliferate unopposed, drug-resistant cancer cells may be at an evolutionary disadvantage in presence of low-dose chemotherapy owing to the high metabolic cost of their resistance mechanisms

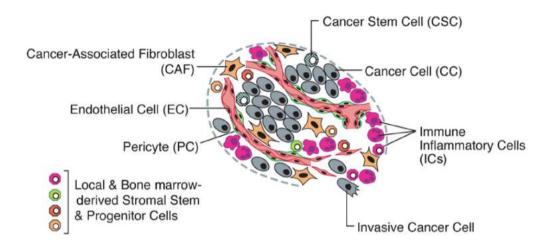


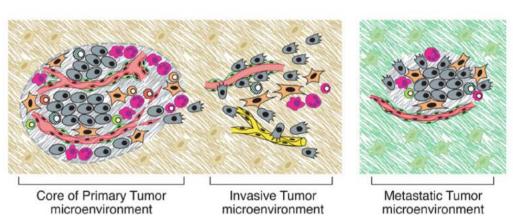
Cancer Therapies based on Mutational and Epigenetic Alterations

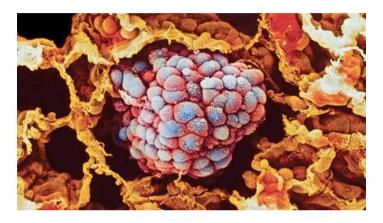


Cancer Epigenetics: From Mechanisms to Therapy

Single cell cancer monitoring: Biopsies, Circulating Tumor Cells







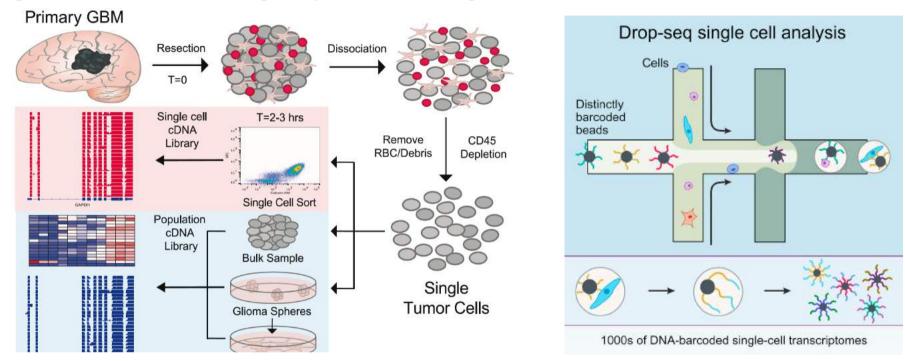
Lung carcinoma (blue) filling an alveolus of the human lung

Hanahan and Weinberg "The Hallmarks of Cancer" 2011



Cancer Epigenetics: From Mechanisms to Therapy

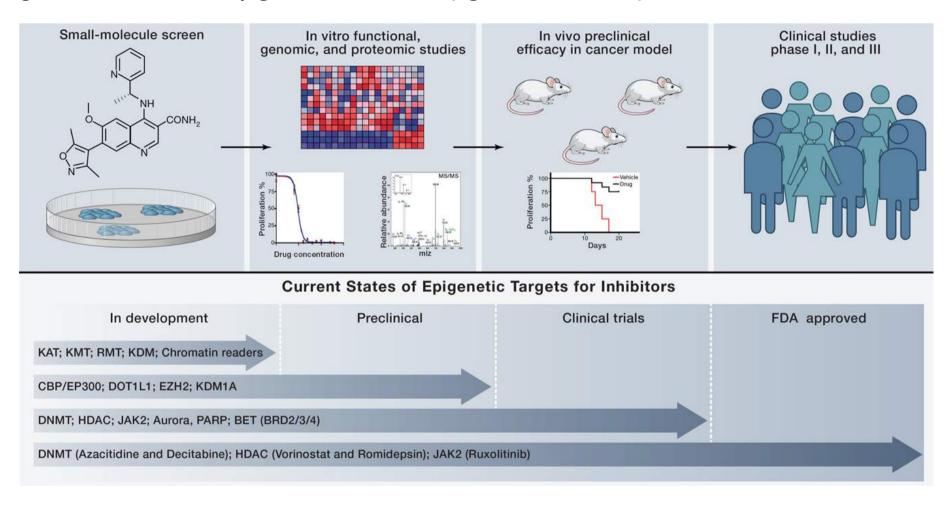
Single cell cancer monitoring: Biopsies, Circulating Tumor Cells



- Single cell "omics" approaches are providing revolutionary insights into Biology especially cancer
- Connecting genotypes, epigenotypes to the phenotypes
- Allow identification of heterogeniety ("diversity index") => valuable prognostic marker
- Allows estimation of mutation rates (not just frequencies!)
- Enables detection of early and late events and of slow versus sudden events (eg chromothripsis...)
- Addresses the question of Cancer Stem Cells (CSCs now renamed Tumor Initiating Cells (TICs)
- Phylogenetic trees and insights into tumor evolution (Darwinian or macroevolution)
- Sequencing of circulating tumor cells (CTCs) and tumor biopsies monitors disease progression and responses to therapy....
- E. See Navin Genome Research, 2015; Patel et al Science, 2014 and Macosko et al, Cell 2015

Cancer Epigenetics: From Mechanisms to Therapy

Targeted molecules against mutated epigenetic factors (eg IDH, BETs) or general inhibitors of epigenomic modifiers (eg DNMTs, HDACs):





CHAIRE ÉPIGÉNÉTIQUE ET MÉMOIRE CELLULAIRE

Année 2015-2016 : "Epigénétique et Cancer"

6 avril, 2016

Séminaire par le Professeur Kristian Helin Epigenetic Targets in Cancer (BRIC, Copenhagen, Denmark)



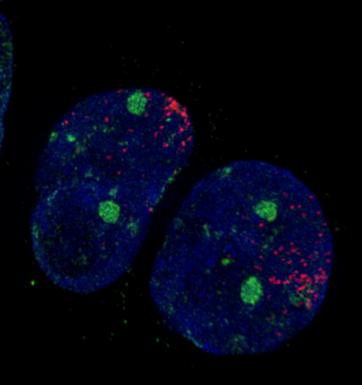


"Epigenetics and Cancer" Organized by Edith Heard & Hugues de Thé

May 9th - 10th, 2016

(from 9am May 9th, to 1pm May 10th)

Speakers / chairs include: Genevieve Almouzni Steve Baylin Stephan Beck Manuel Estellar Andy Feinberg Jean Pierre Issa Nada Jabado Cigall Kadoch Valérie Lallemand-Breitenbach Raphael Margueron Thomas Mercher Paolo Salomoni **Eric Solary** Henk Stunnenberg Anne Vincent-Salomon



Colloquium in English Free entry, no registration required