

# UC San Diego

## UC San Diego Previously Published Works

### Title

A framework for genomic biomarker actionability and its use in clinical decision making

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/170905ps>

### Journal

Oncoscience, 1(10)

### ISSN

2331-4737

### Authors

Vidwans, Smruti J  
Turski, Michelle L  
Janku, Filip  
et al.

### Publication Date

2014-10-22

### DOI

10.18632/oncoscience.90

Peer reviewed

## A framework for genomic biomarker actionability and its use in clinical decision making

Smruti J. Vidwans<sup>1,\*</sup>, Michelle L. Turski<sup>1,\*</sup>, Filip Janku<sup>2</sup>, Ignacio Garrido-Laguna<sup>3</sup>, Javier Munoz<sup>4</sup>, Richard Schwab<sup>5</sup>, Vivek Subbiah<sup>2</sup>, Jordi Rodon<sup>6</sup> and Razelle Kurzrock<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CollabRx Inc., San Francisco, California, USA

<sup>2</sup> Department of Investigational Cancer Therapeutics – a Phase I Clinical Trials Program, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, Texas, USA

<sup>3</sup> Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

<sup>4</sup> Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, Gilbert, Arizona, USA

<sup>5</sup> Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy, Moores Cancer Center, University of California, San Diego, California, USA

<sup>6</sup> Vall d'Hebron Institut d'Oncologia and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

\* These authors contributed equally to this work

**Correspondence to:** Razelle Kurzrock, **email:** rkurzrock@mail.ucsd.edu

**Keywords:** Biomarker, Clinical decision making, Targeted therapies, Predictive biomarkers

**Received:** August 5, 2014

**Accepted:** October 20, 2014

**Published:** October 22, 2014

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

### ABSTRACT

**The increasing scope and availability of genetic testing options for patients suffering from cancer has raised questions about how to use results of molecular diagnostics to inform patient care. For some biomarkers (e.g. *BRAF* mutations in melanoma), standards exist that outline treatments for individuals harboring aberrations in the biomarker; however for the vast majority of genomic abnormalities, few guidelines exist. Clinical decision making and the therapeutic approach for a patient with a given cancer characterized by aberrations in different genes may be aided by the use of a biomarker actionability framework that provides levels of evidence regarding whether and how a molecular abnormality can be considered a therapeutically relevant biomarker. A gene may be considered theoretically actionable if it has a basis of actionability, such that clinically available drugs can target a gene product that drives the cancer or is differentially expressed in tumor versus normal elements. Herein, we discuss a possible framework for developing guidelines for actionability, as they relate to genomically-based cancer therapeutics.**

### INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade, there has been a breathtaking fall in the cost of genomics, accompanied by a precipitous rise in the efficiency of the technology that enables rapid sequencing of human genomes. As a result, biomarkers, especially those representing genomic alterations, are becoming increasingly vital to the classification and treatment of cancer. Biomarkers are herein defined as measurable molecular or cellular elements linked to a health outcome or state; they can be functionally important in tumors (“oncogenic drivers”) or may be differentially expressed in the malignant versus normal tissue without

functional impact (“passengers”).

A biomarker is actionable if it is oncogenic and/or differentially expressed on tumor cells, and a treatment approach can be crafted that mitigates its oncogenic potential and/or permits the recognition and destruction of tumor cells. Driver aberrations can be targeted by interfering with their function, or by exploiting them to identify and select tumor cells for destruction. Passenger biomarkers, however, can also be targeted, if they are used to select cancer cells for destruction by virtue of the targeting agent recognizing differences between cancer and normal elements.

Diagnostic laboratories around the world are now

**Table 1: Basis of Actionability**

Biomarker Criteria	Definition of Biomarker Criteria	Example*
Functional in driving the malignancy and can be targeted by approved drug(s)	Biomarker is a direct target of one or more approved drugs, and targeting it will interfere with malignant cell growth.	ALK
Functional in driving the malignancy and can be targeted by investigational drug(s)	Biomarker is a direct target of one or more investigational drugs, and targeting it will interfere with malignant cell growth.	AKT1
Direct component of an actionable pathway that can be targeted by approved and/or investigational drugs	Biomarker may not be directly targeted by approved or investigational drugs, but instead is part of a pathway that drives the malignancy and can be directly targeted by drugs.	PTEN
Indirect component of an actionable pathway that can be targeted by approved and/or investigational drugs	Biomarker itself may not be directly targeted by approved or investigational drugs, but influences the activity or expression of other proteins that can be targeted by either approved and/or investigational drugs.	FBXW7
Homologous to an actionable biomarker that can be either directly or indirectly targeted by approved and/or investigational drugs	Biomarker itself may not be a target for clinically available drugs, but may be homologous to biomarkers that are targetable.	GNAO1
Can be targeted by drug(s) even if the biomarker is not itself functional in driving the malignancy	Biomarker may not be functionally important in the malignancy, yet can be expressed aberrantly or differentially in cancer cells and, hence, exploited for targeted delivery.	CD20, CD30

\* See text for more information

offering tests that sequence either full exomes or gene panels in cancer samples. It is expected that, in the near future, more clinical-grade transcriptomic and proteomic tests will also become available. While genomics have traditionally been performed for research purposes, in the United States, tests performed under the auspices of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) can be utilized to inform patient care; currently, a variety of genomic tests, from single gene appraisal to multi-panel tests on anywhere from about 10 to over 400 genes [1], full exomic sequencing [2], and transcriptomics [3] are obtainable from CLIA-certified laboratories. The hope is that patients can be matched to approved targeted therapies or clinical trials with investigational targeted therapies on the basis of the molecular profiles of their cancer. However, our understanding of the way in which biomarkers defined by genomics are predictive of therapeutic response lags behind the widespread availability of next generation sequencing (NGS) and other diagnostic tests and the pace of development of targeted therapies.

From the clinical management viewpoint, biomarkers may broadly be divided into three groups. In the first category are a handful of biomarkers that are clinically validated, may be in widely accepted treatment

guidelines (such as the NCCN [4] or FDA guidelines [5]) and may have approved drugs that target them. These include *BRAF* V600 mutation for melanoma [6], *EGFR* mutation [7] and *ALK* fusion for lung cancer [8], *HER2* amplification or overexpression for breast cancer [9], and *KRAS* mutation for colorectal cancer [10]. In the second category are biomarkers that have a basis for “actionability” having one or more of the following factors: (i) clinical evidence suggesting responsiveness to one or more drugs or classes when the biomarkers are present; (ii) the biomarkers are direct targets of approved/ investigational drugs; (iii) the biomarkers are part of a pathway that can be targeted by approved/ investigational drugs; or (iv) the biomarkers bear similarity to other biomarkers that are deemed actionable. Finally, the third category includes biomarkers for which there is no discernable link to actionability.

The framework also includes a rationale for actionability in which strength of evidence for a biomarker is mapped to \*highest\* strength of evidence for a given cancer. In this paper, we propose an actionability framework and provide our perspective on its use in development of potential treatment approaches as well as clinical research strategies for diverse malignancies.

## Basis of Actionability

A conceptual framework for basis of actionability is outlined in Table 1. Briefly, the framework divides biomarkers into those that do or do not have a function directly important to tumor pathogenesis. It should be kept in mind, however, that these dichotomies are sometimes blurred. For instance, passenger mutations can at times be indirectly related to or responsible for development of functional changes and, regardless, can generate therapeutic vulnerabilities in cancer [11]. Further stratification includes those biomarkers that can be targeted directly versus indirectly by approved versus investigational drugs, and finally those that may be homologous to each of the types of biomarkers mentioned above.

### **Biomarker that is functional in driving the malignancy and can be targeted by approved drug(s):**

A biomarker may be considered actionable if it is a direct target of one or more approved drugs, and if targeting it will interfere with malignant cell growth. The ALK-inhibitor crizotinib is approved for the treatment of *ALK*-rearranged non-small cell lung cancer [12-14]. It also inhibits MET [15] and ROS1 [16] kinases and may be a potential therapeutic option for cancers with driver aberrations in these genes.

### **Biomarker that is functional in driving the malignancy and can be targeted by investigational drug(s):**

A biomarker may be considered actionable if it is a direct target of one or more investigational drugs, and targeting it will interfere with malignant cell growth. For example, several investigational drugs, such as MK-2206 and GDC-0068, inhibit AKT1 [17-19] and clinical trials with these agents may be treatment options to consider for cancers with activating *AKT1* aberrations.

### **Biomarker is a direct component of an actionable pathway that can be targeted by approved and/or investigational drugs:**

A biomarker may not be directly targeted by approved or investigational drugs, but instead it may be part of a pathway that drives the malignancy and can be directly targeted by drugs. For example, the tumor suppressor PTEN is not currently the target of a drug or class of drugs. However, reduced PTEN function leads to increased activity of the PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway [20-22] that is targeted by drugs from several drug classes [19,23,24].

### **Biomarker is an indirect component of an actionable pathway that can be targeted by approved and/or investigational drugs:**

A biomarker itself may not be a target for clinically available drugs, but influences the activity or expression of other proteins that can be targeted by either approved

and/or investigational drugs. For example, FBXW7 is not a target of clinically available drugs nor is it part of a pathway, but it does regulate the expression of many different proteins because it functions as an ubiquitin ligase that targets proteins for degradation. FBXW7 directly regulates proteins such as mTOR and NOTCH1, both of which are targets of clinically available drugs. Studies have shown that cells deficient for *FBXW7* demonstrate increased levels of active mTOR [25] and NOTCH1 [26,27]. Thus, mTOR or NOTCH1 inhibitors could be effective in ameliorating the consequences of *FBXW7* inactivation in cancer cells.

### **Biomarker is homologous to an actionable biomarker that can be either directly or indirectly targeted by approved or investigational drugs:**

A biomarker itself may not be a target for clinically available drugs, but may be homologous to biomarkers that are targetable. For example, *GNAO1* is a member of the G-alpha protein family of GTPases and shares homology with *GNAQ* and *GNA11*, biomarkers that predict responsiveness to MEK inhibitors [28,29]. Knowledge about *GNAQ* or *GNA11* may help inform potential treatment approaches for *GNAO1*-aberrant cancers. The other aspect of this homology is the finding of new mutations. For instance, if a new, previously un-described mutation is found in *BRAF*, can that be considered actionable in a manner similar to known *BRAF* mutations? One solution may be to model the homologous biomarker or the new mutation *in silico* and/or perform pre-clinical experiments and determine if it is predicted to be activating in a manner similar to *BRAF* V600E (in the case of a novel *BRAF* mutation) or the homologous biomarker.

### **The presence of the biomarker/aberration can be targeted by drug(s) even if the biomarker is not itself functional in driving the malignancy:**

A biomarker may not be functionally important in the malignancy, yet can be expressed aberrantly or differentially in cancer cells and, hence, can be exploited for targeted delivery. One example, is the CD20 antigen, a B-cell-specific differentiation antigen expressed on mature B-cells and in most B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphomas [30]. Several antibodies targeting CD20 exert their anti-tumor effect by complement-dependent cytotoxicity, antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity, and/or through antibody binding to antigen leading to anti-proliferative or apoptotic effects on cells expressing the target antigen [30]. Rituximab is a CD20-directed cytolytic antibody approved for CD20-positive Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or chronic lymphocytic leukemia [31,32]. Another example is the CD30 antigen, which is expressed by normal activated lymphocytes and is highly expressed by some malignant cells [33]. Brentuximab vedotin is an antibody-drug conjugate that consists of an antibody targeting the CD30 antigen linked to a chemotherapeutic

**Table 2: Rational for Actionability**

Biomarker Criteria	Definition of Biomarker Criteria	Example*
Drug approved with companion diagnostic	A drug is approved for cancers with an aberration in that biomarker.	BRAF, HER2, KIT
Therapeutic approach outlined in treatment guidelines (e.g. NCCN guidelines)	Standard clinical treatment guidelines recommend that cancers with aberrations in that biomarker should (or should not) be treated with certain drugs and drug classes.	KRAS, NRAS, EGFR
Clinical evidence indicating responsiveness to drug class(es)	Available clinical data suggests that aberrations within the biomarker may be predictive of therapeutic response.	BRAF, PIK3CA, HER2, TP53
Clinical trials with biomarker aberration as an inclusion criteria	Clinical trials seek to enroll patients whose cancers harbor specific aberrations in that biomarker.	CDK6
Pre-clinical evidence indicating responsiveness to drug class(es)	Available pre-clinical data suggests that aberrations within the biomarker may be predictive of therapeutic response.	MAP3K9
Evidence in genetic disease with biomarker aberration	Available clinical data on the therapeutic response of the biomarker within the context of a non-cancer disease.	TSC1
No evidence	A biomarker is not considered to be actionable if there is no data on the above mentioned criteria for that biomarker.	ADAMTS20

\* See text for more information

agent monomethyl auristatin E (MMAE), which inhibits microtubule polymerization [34]. Brentuximab vedotin is approved for Hodgkin's lymphoma and systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma, both of which express high levels of CD30 [14].

### Rationale for Actionability

The possible rationales for actionability are summarized in Table 2. Briefly, rationales range from a drug approved with a companion diagnostic, through NCCN guidelines for a biomarker, to clinical trials with a biomarker, pre-clinical evidence for a biomarker, and evidence in hereditary (genetic) disease regarding a biomarker with possible extrapolation to malignancy. Biomarkers approved as companion diagnostics or those in FDA and NCCN guidelines have the highest level of support for their actionability.

#### Drug approved with companion diagnostic:

Several drugs are now approved for cancers with specific aberrations thus making the corresponding biomarkers actionable. For example, vemurafenib [14] and dabrafenib [35] are approved for the treatment of melanoma with *BRAF* V600E aberrations; trametinib is approved for melanoma with *BRAF* V600E or *BRAF* V600K aberrations [36]. Trastuzumab, pertuzumab, lapatinib, and trastuzumab emtansine are approved for the treatment of breast cancer with HER2 overexpression [37], and imatinib is approved for the treatment of KIT-positive gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs) [38].

#### Therapeutic approach outlined in treatment guidelines (such as FDA or NCCN guidelines):

A biomarker may be considered actionable if standard clinical treatment guidelines recommend that cancers with aberrations in that biomarker should (or should not) be treated with certain drugs and drug classes. For example, standard treatment guidelines recommend *KRAS* and *NRAS* testing for colorectal cancer patients and that patients with *KRAS*- and *NRAS*-mutated colorectal cancer not be treated with epidermal growth factor receptor inhibitors such as cetuximab and panitumumab [39-44].

Another example is EGFR, where standard treatment guidelines recommend testing for EGFR mutations in patients with non-small cell lung cancer. Patients whose tumors harbor sensitizing EGFR mutations should receive the EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors erlotinib, gefitinib, or afatinib as first-line therapy [45-50].

#### Clinical evidence indicating responsiveness to drug class(es):

A biomarker may be considered actionable if available clinical data suggests that the biomarker is predictive of therapeutic response. Clinical data may come from different sources, with phase 3 studies providing the most robust evidence, and phase 1 or 2 studies or retrospective studies or registry data providing less definitive evidence. Importantly, genomics has unveiled substantial complexity and heterogeneity associated with cancers. As such, more "rare" tumor subtypes are being recognized and it is increasingly evident that the ability to perform randomized trials to ascertain efficacy for these patients is a monumental hurdle. This has

been acknowledged by regulatory agencies as well. For instance, the FDA approved the multikinase inhibitor imatinib in ultra-rare disorders such as aggressive systemic mastocytosis, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, PDGFR-rearranged myeloproliferative disease and others based on high response rates in small numbers of patients bearing the cognate biomarker that participated in phase 2 studies or were described in case reports [51]. Balancing the need for validated efficacy data versus the reality that cancers may be increasingly stratified by their biomarkers into rare subsets is therefore a defining issue for cancer therapeutics. Examples of the type of clinical evidence that might be collected follows:

a. Phase 3 studies. For instance, in a phase 3 clinical trial, melanoma patients with *BRAF* V600E-mutated melanoma had higher clinical response rates to treatment with the BRAF inhibitor, vemurafenib, than the chemotherapy, dacarbazine [6].

b. Phase 1 or 2 studies. For example, in phase 1 clinical trials, patients with *PIK3CA*-aberrant cancer had a higher clinical response rate to treatment with PI3K/AKT/mTOR inhibitors than patients who lacked these aberrations [52,53].

c. Case reports. For example, a non-small cell lung cancer patient whose tumor harbored a *HER2* exon 20 mutation showed tumor shrinkage on a treatment regimen that included anti-HER2 drugs [54,55]. Another example is a patient diagnosed with spindle cell neoplasm harboring a *KIAA1549-BRAF* fusion protein and *PTEN* deletion that responded to a RAF and mTOR kinase targeted combination inhibitor therapy [56].

d. Retrospective studies. For example, a retrospective study reported that patients with advanced cancers harboring *TP53* aberrations experienced longer progression-free survival on treatment regimens containing bevacizumab [57].

e. Registry data. For example, genomic data has been compiled through The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA). This database provides a comprehensive overview of the genomic aberrations in a wide variety of cancers [58]. Similarly, registry of clinical observations could be collated. For instance, a breast cancer registry pilot program funded by Susan G. Komen for the Cure was compiled from September 2009 to December 2010, based on twenty diverse oncology practices. A major goal was to generate an anonymized breast cancer registry database to inform future quality of care and research initiatives. The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has also envisioned creating observational registries to inform patient care, including data on panomics and precision medicine-based therapies and outcomes [59-61].

f. Navigation or umbrella studies (which may be histology-agnostic), that demonstrate that patients with a specific biomarker may respond to certain treatments [62].

### **Clinical trials with biomarker aberration as an inclusion criteria:**

An increasing number of clinical trials seek to enroll patients whose cancers harbor specific aberrations. For example, the trial NCT01164995 (Study With Wee-1 inhibitor MK-1775 and Carboplatin to Treat p53 Mutated Refractory and Resistant Ovarian Cancer) is seeking ovarian cancer patients whose tumors harbor mutations in *TP53*. The rationale for this study is that pre-clinical data suggests that abrogation of the G2 checkpoint by inhibition of Wee-1 kinase results in sensitization of p53-deficient tumor cells to DNA-damaging agents [63]. *TP53* may be considered actionable because patients with *TP53*-aberrant ovarian cancer could enroll in such clinical trials. Other trials seeking to match aberrations in specific biomarkers with therapies that either directly target the biomarker or indirectly with drugs that target downstream effects of the aberrant biomarker include the National Cancer Institute's NCI-MPACT (NCT01827384) and LUNG-MAP (NCT02154490) trials. NCI-MPACT seeks to enroll solid tumor patients with mutations or amplifications in specific pathways, with PARP inhibitor ABT-888 or MK-1175 plus carboplatin given to patients with tumors harboring defects in the DNA repair pathway, the mTOR inhibitor everolimus given to patients with tumors having alterations in the PI3K pathway, and MEK inhibitor trametinib given to patients with tumors that have alterations in the RAS/RAF/MEK pathway. The LUNG-MAP trial is specifically for squamous cell lung cancer patients that is testing 4 different targeted therapies and an anti-PD-L1 therapy for patients whose tumors harbor alterations in a number of different biomarkers including *PIK3CA*, *CDK4*, *CDK6*, *CCND1*, *CCND2*, *CCND3*, *FGFR1*, *FGFR2*, *FGFR3*, and *HGF/c-MET*.

### **Pre-clinical evidence indicating responsiveness to drug class(es):**

A biomarker may be considered actionable based on pre-clinical data indicating that an aberration or class of aberrations (e.g activating or inactivating) in the biomarker responds to a specific drug or drug class. For example, viability of lung cancer cells with an activating *MAP3K9* aberration was inhibited by treatment with a MEK inhibitor [64].

### **Evidence in genetic disease with biomarker aberration:**

A biomarker may also be considered actionable if there is clinical data on the therapeutic response of the biomarker within the context of a non-cancer disease. For example, inactivating mutations in the gene *TSC1* result in upregulation of mTOR and cause the disease Tuberous Sclerosis Complex [65]. The drug everolimus, an mTOR inhibitor, is approved for the treatment of tuberous sclerosis [66]. Inactivating mutations in *TSC1* are also common in cancer [67] and based on the clinical evidence in a related genetic disease, mTOR inhibitors might also

be considered as a treatment option.

## Use of Actionability Framework in Clinical Decision-Making

Interpretation and use of molecular data in clinical decision-making often involves extrapolating predictive data from the tumor site of origin with the highest strength of evidence to a different histology under consideration by the physician. This may be complicated by several issues described below.

### Conflicting data in several cancers:

*BRAF* V600E mutation are predictive of response to BRAF inhibitors in melanoma and have been reported to predict response in other *BRAF*-positive malignancies such as hairy cell leukemia [68], histiocytosis, [69] and thyroid cancer [70,71], but not in colorectal cancer [72]. Is the lack of response in colorectal cancer due to the presence of additional anomalies that co-occur with *BRAF* mutations, or because BRAF inhibition causes feedback activation of EGFR [72], or because *BRAF* mutations are not driver abnormalities in colorectal cancer? Given these data, should patients with another cancer harboring *BRAF* mutations be treated with BRAF inhibitors? What are the considerations that might inform this decision?

One consideration is increasing evidence that molecular aberrations often do not segregate by histology; for instance, *BRAF* mutations can be found in a subset of patients with almost any cancer [73]. Indeed, it may be near impossible to perform definitive clinical trials of BRAF inhibitors in each histology that harbors *BRAF* mutations. Historically, when approving or accepting a drug for therapeutic application in a specific tumor type as defined by histology, the drug is not expected to be effective for all patients with that tumor type; indeed 80% or more of patients may not respond/benefit. Therefore, if we define “tumor type” by the presence of a biomarker (rather than by organ of origin), the same principles may apply. The main question that would need to be ascertained might be whether or not patients who have that tumor type (e.g. *BRAF*-mutated cancer) benefit from the therapy overall, rather than if there are salutary effects for each histologic subtype or patient. As with use of drugs when tumor type is classified histologically, an important consideration for therapy in tumor types classified on the basis of a biomarker might be comparison of potential efficacy to other treatment options available to the patient.

### Aberrations of unknown significance:

What is the significance/relevance of alternative aberrations in a validated biomarker like *BRAF* whose impact is not known? For instance, if a new, previously un-described mutation is found in *BRAF*, can that be considered actionable in a manner similar to *BRAF* V600E mutations. One solution may be to model the aberration

*in silico* to determine if it is predicted to be activating in a manner similar to *BRAF* V600E or characterize the functional effects of the aberration using *in-vitro* or *in-vivo* experiments. However, validation of such approaches are needed.

### Tumors are a complex collection of genetic alterations:

A recent study examined the distributions of mutation frequencies, types and contexts across many different cancer histologies using a panel of 127 significantly mutated genes from well known (e.g. receptor tyrosine kinase signaling pathways) or emerging (e.g. histone modification) cellular processes in cancer. The study reported that most tumors have anywhere from 2 to 6 aberrations in the studied genes [73]. The complexity is further amplified when testing for non-mutation based aberrations in a patient’s tumor. For example, in a recent single patient case study of metastatic malignant phyllodes tumor, a comprehensive molecular analysis was performed by using multiple Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified labs on the same tumor sample including next-generation sequencing, whole-genome array-based comparative genomic hybridization, proteomics, and immunohistochemistry, which revealed mutations (missense and nonsense), gene amplifications, gene deletions, and aberrant expression patterns in 13 different genes [74]. Given this, how does an oncologist formulate a treatment approach or a clinical researcher design a research strategy that comprehensively addresses all the aberrations detected in a patient’s tumor specimen? One potential solution is a systems biology approach to examine the phenotypic convergence of a collection of aberrations in a tumor at the molecular level, i.e. are one or more pathways unregulated, and to determine a treatment approach or research strategy based on identifying oncogenic hubs. In many instances even in patients who are exceptional responders to a therapy, a genomic basis of drug sensitivity may not be identified and in such cases proteomic or transcriptomic approaches may be helpful in identifying pathways of resistance and / or response [75,76].

## CONCLUSIONS

Diagnostic laboratories are now offering tests that interrogate tumors by sequencing either gene panels or full exomes/genomes in cancer samples. The degree to which genomic biomarkers can be successfully prosecuted is, however, not yet fully elucidated. For some of these tests, like *BRAF* V600E, it is clear that the aberration is a functionally important mutation, approved drugs are available to target it, and specific guidelines for the use of the molecular diagnostic and the cognate drug are available. However, for the majority of these tests, the extent to which the test data are usable is less clear. To optimize deployment of molecular diagnostic profiling,

more research is needed. Clinical trials or registries designed to examine scientifically informed theories as to the predictive value of certain biomarkers for carefully selected targeted therapies or to catalogue the genetic constituency of tumors and the response to various treatments are ways in which the clinical value of “new” biomarkers can be optimized, and test information about a biomarker can be exploited to inform patient care. We have provided a perspective on actionability of biomarkers that could be used to highlight areas of needed pre-clinical, clinical, or pharmaceutical research, as well as to inform discussions regarding consensus guidelines in this new frontier of biomarker discovery and utilization.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The concept of a criteria for the basis of and rationale for actionability in tumors with mutation related biomarkers was presented verbally by George D. Lundberg MD on February 12, 2014 to the Digital Pathology section of the Molecular Medicine Tri-Conference in San Francisco, CA, and to the Little Learners medical group in Saratoga, CA on February 25, 2014. This information was not projected on screen nor distributed in printed or electronic materials.

### Disclaimer:

Smruti J. Vidwans and Michelle L. Turski are employees of CollabRx, Inc. a for-profit corporation.

## REFERENCES

1. Hoogstraat M, de Pagter MS, Cirkel GA, van Roosmalen MJ, Harkins TT, Duran K, Kreeftmeijer J, Renkens I, Witteveen PO, Lee CC, Nijman IJ, Guy T, van 't Slot R, Jonges TN, Lolkema MP, Koudijs MJ, Zweemer RP, Voest EE, Cuppen E, Kloosterman WP. Genomic and transcriptomic plasticity in treatment-naive ovarian cancer. *Genome Res. Cold Spring Harbor Lab*; 2013 Nov 12;:gr.161026.113.
2. Jamal SM, Yu J-H, Chong JX, Dent KM, Conta JH, Tabor HK, Bamshad MJ. Practices and Policies of Clinical Exome Sequencing Providers: Analysis and Implications. *Am J Med Genet A*. 2013 Apr 5;161(5):935–50.
3. Kittaneh M, Montero AJ, Glück S. Molecular Profiling for Breast Cancer: A Comprehensive Review. *Biomark Cancer*. 2013;5(5):61–70.
4. NCCN Guidelines [Internet]. [cited 2014 Jan 2]. Available from: <http://www.nccn.org/professionals/>
5. FDA Guidelines [Internet]. [cited 2014 Jan 2]. Available from: <http://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>
6. Chapman PB, Hauschild A, Robert C, Haanen JB, Ascierto

P, Larkin J, Dummer R, Garbe C, Testori A, Maio M, Hogg D, Lorigan P, Lebbe C, Jouary T, Schadendorf D, Ribas A, O'Day SJ, Sosman JA, Kirkwood JM, Eggermont AMM, Dreno B, Nolop K, Li J, Nelson B, Hou J, Lee RJ, Flaherty KT, McArthur GA, BRIM-3 Study Group. Improved survival with vemurafenib in melanoma with BRAF V600E mutation. *N Engl J Med*. 2011 Jun 30;364(26):2507–16.

7. Tsao M-S, Sakurada A, Cutz J-C, Zhu C-Q, Kamel-Reid S, Squire J, Lorimer I, Zhang T, Liu N, Daneshmand M, Marrano P, da Cunha Santos G, Lagarde A, Richardson F, Seymour L, Whitehead M, Ding K, Pater J, Shepherd FA. Erlotinib in lung cancer - molecular and clinical predictors of outcome. *N Engl J Med*. 2005 Jul 14;353(2):133–44.
8. Kwak EL, Bang Y-J, Camidge DR, Shaw AT, Solomon B, Maki RG, Ou S-HI, Dezube BJ, Jänne PA, Costa DB, Varella-Garcia M, Kim W-H, Lynch TJ, Fidias P, Stubbs H, Engelman JA, Sequist LV, Tan W, Gandhi L, Mino-Kenudson M, Wei GC, Shreeve SM, Ratain MJ, Settleman J, Christensen JG, Haber DA, Wilner K, Salgia R, Shapiro GI, Clark JW, Iafrate AJ. Anaplastic lymphoma kinase inhibition in non-small-cell lung cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2010 Oct 28;363(18):1693–703.
9. Slamon DJ, Leyland-Jones B, Shak S, Fuchs H, Paton V, Bajamonde A, Fleming T, Eiermann W, Wolter J, Pegram M, Baselga J, Norton L. Use of chemotherapy plus a monoclonal antibody against HER2 for metastatic breast cancer that overexpresses HER2. *N Engl J Med*. 2001 Mar 15;344(11):783–92.
10. Van Cutsem E, Köhne C-H, Hitre E, Zaluski J, Chang Chien C-R, Makhson A, D'Haens G, Pintér T, Lim R, Bodoky G, Roh JK, Folprecht G, Ruff P, Stroh C, Tejpar S, Schlichting M, Nippgen J, Rougier P. Cetuximab and chemotherapy as initial treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2009 Apr 2;360(14):1408–17.
11. Muller FL, Colla S, Aquilanti E, Manzo VE, Genovese G, Lee J, Eisenson D, Narurkar R, Deng P, Nezi L, Lee MA, Hu B, Hu J, Sahin E, Ong D, Fletcher-Sananikone E, Ho D, Kwong L, Brennan C, Wang YA, Chin L, DePinho RA. Passenger deletions generate therapeutic vulnerabilities in cancer. *Nature*. 2012 Aug 16;488(7411):337–42.
12. McDermott U, Iafrate AJ, Gray NS, Shioda T, Classon M, Maheswaran S, Zhou W, Choi HG, Smith SL, Dowell L, Ulkus LE, Kuhlmann G, Greninger P, Christensen JG, Haber DA, Settleman J. Genomic alterations of anaplastic lymphoma kinase may sensitize tumors to anaplastic lymphoma kinase inhibitors. *Cancer Res. American Association for Cancer Research*; 2008 May 1;68(9):3389–95.
13. Christensen JG, Zou HY, Arango ME, Li Q, Lee JH, McDonnell SR, Yamazaki S, Alton GR, Mroczkowski B, Los G. Cytoreductive antitumor activity of PF-2341066, a novel inhibitor of anaplastic lymphoma kinase and c-Met, in experimental models of anaplastic large-cell lymphoma. *Mol Cancer Ther. American Association for Cancer Research*; 2007 Dec;6(12 Pt 1):3314–22.



14. Goozner M. Drug approvals 2011: focus on companion diagnostics. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. Oxford University Press; 2012 Jan 18;:84–6.
15. Zou HY, Li Q, Lee JH, Arango ME, McDonnell SR, Yamazaki S, Koudriakova TB, Alton G, Cui JJ, Kung P-P, Nambu MD, Los G, Bender SL, Mroczkowski B, Christensen JG. An orally available small-molecule inhibitor of c-Met, PF-2341066, exhibits cytoreductive antitumor efficacy through antiproliferative and antiangiogenic mechanisms. *Cancer Res*. American Association for Cancer Research; 2007 May 1;67(9):4408–17.
16. Bergethson K, Shaw AT, Ou S-HI, Katayama R, Lovly CM, McDonald NT, Massion PP, Siwak-Tapp C, Gonzalez A, Fang R, Mark EJ, Batten JM, Chen H, Wilner KD, Kwak EL, Clark JW, Carbone DP, Ji H, Engelman JA, Minn-Kenudson M, Pao W, Iafrate AJ. ROS1 rearrangements define a unique molecular class of lung cancers. *J Clin Oncol*. American Society of Clinical Oncology; 2012 Mar 10;30(8):863–70.
17. Hirai H, Sootome H, Nakatsuru Y, Miyama K, Taguchi S, Tsujioka K, Ueno Y, Hatch H, Majumder PK, Pan B-S, Kotani H. MK-2206, an allosteric Akt inhibitor, enhances antitumor efficacy by standard chemotherapeutic agents or molecular targeted drugs *in vitro* and *in vivo*. *Mol Cancer Ther*. American Association for Cancer Research; 2010 Jul;9(7):1956–67.
18. Blake JF, Xu R, Bencsik JR, Xiao D, Kallan NC, Schlachter S, Mitchell IS, Spencer KL, Banka AL, Wallace EM, Gloor SL, Martinson M, Woessner RD, Vigers GPA, Brandhuber BJ, Liang J, Safina BS, Li J, Zhang B, Chabot C, Do S, Lee L, Oeh J, Sampath D, Lee BB, Lin K, Liederer BM, Skelton NJ. Discovery and pre-clinical pharmacology of a selective ATP-competitive Akt inhibitor (GDC-0068) for the treatment of human tumors. *J Med Chem*. 2012 Sep 27;55(18):8110–27.
19. Pal SK, Reckamp K, Yu H, Figlin RA. Akt inhibitors in clinical development for the treatment of cancer. *Expert Opin Investig Drugs*. 2010 Nov;19(11):1355–66.
20. Choi Y, Zhang J, Murga C, Yu H, Koller E, Monia BP, Gutkind JS, Li W. PTEN, but not SHIP and SHIP2, suppresses the PI3K/Akt pathway and induces growth inhibition and apoptosis of myeloma cells. *Oncogene*. 2002 Aug 8;21(34):5289–300.
21. Haas-Kogan D, Shalev N, Wong M, Mills G, Yount G, Stokoe D. Protein kinase B (PKB/Akt) activity is elevated in glioblastoma cells due to mutation of the tumor suppressor PTEN/MMAC. *Curr Biol*. 1998 Oct 22;8(21):1195–8.
22. Wu X, Senechal K, Neshat MS, Whang YE, Sawyers CL. The PTEN/MMAC1 tumor suppressor phosphatase functions as a negative regulator of the phosphoinositide 3-kinase/Akt pathway. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 1998 Dec 22;95(26):15587–91.
23. Akinleye A, Avvaru P, Furqan M, Song Y, Liu D. Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) inhibitors as cancer therapeutics. *J Hematol Oncol*. BioMed Central Ltd; 2013 Nov 22;6(1):88.
24. Cheng H, Walls M, Baxi SM, Yin M-J. Targeting the mTOR pathway in tumor malignancy. *Curr Cancer Drug Targets*. 2013 Mar;13(3):267–77.
25. Mao J-H, Kim I-J, Wu D, Climent J, Kang HC, DelRosario R, Balmain A. FBXW7 targets mTOR for degradation and cooperates with PTEN in tumor suppression. *Science*. American Association for the Advancement of Science; 2008 Sep 12;321(5895):1499–502.
26. Larson Gedman A, Chen Q, Kugel Desmoulin S, Ge Y, LaFiura K, Haska CL, Cherian C, Devidas M, Linda SB, Taub JW, Matherly LH. The impact of NOTCH1, FBW7 and PTEN mutations on prognosis and downstream signaling in pediatric T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia: a report from the Children's Oncology Group. *Leukemia*. 2009 Aug;23(8):1417–25.
27. Gupta-Rossi N, Le Bail O, Gonen H, Brou C, Logeat F, Six E, Ciechanover A, Israël A. Functional interaction between SEL-10, an F-box protein, and the nuclear form of activated Notch1 receptor. *J Biol Chem*. American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; 2001 Sep 14;276(37):34371–8.
28. Euv von E, Atefi M, Attar N, Chu C, Zachariah S, Burgess BL, Mok S, Ng C, Wong DJ, Chmielowski B, Lichter DL, Koya RC, McCannel TA, Izmailova E, Ribas A. Antitumor effects of the investigational selective MEK inhibitor TAK733 against cutaneous and uveal melanoma cell lines. *Mol Cancer*. BioMed Central Ltd; 2012;11(1):22.
29. Weekes CD, Hoff Von DD, Adjei AA, Leffingwell DP, Eckhardt SG, Gore L, Lewis KD, Weiss GJ, Ramanathan RK, Dy GK, Ma WW, Sheedy B, Iverson C, Miner JN, Shen Z, Yeh L-T, Dubowy RL, Jeffers M, Rajagopalan P, Clendeninn NJ. Multicenter phase I trial of the mitogen-activated protein kinase 1/2 inhibitor BAY 86-9766 in patients with advanced cancer. *Clin Cancer Res*. American Association for Cancer Research; 2013 Mar 1;19(5):1232–43.
30. Maloney DG. Anti-CD20 antibody therapy for B-cell lymphomas. *N Engl J Med*. 2012 May 24;366(21):2008–16.
31. Leget GA, Czuczman MS. Use of rituximab, the new FDA-approved antibody. *Curr Opin Oncol*. 1998 Nov;10(6):548–51.
32. Casak SJ, Lemery SJ, Shen YL, Rothmann MD, Khandelwal A, Zhao H, Davis G, Jarral V, Keegan P, Pazdur R. U.S. Food and drug administration approval: rituximab in combination with fludarabine and cyclophosphamide for the treatment of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. *Oncologist*. AlphaMed Press; 2011;16(1):97–104.
33. Schirrmann T, Steinwand M, Wezler X, Haaf Ten A, Tur MK, Barth S. CD30 as a Therapeutic Target for Lymphoma. *BioDrugs*. Springer International Publishing; 2013 Sep 17;:1–29.
34. Newland AM, Li JX, Wasco LE, Aziz MT, Lowe DK.

- Brentuximab vedotin: a CD30-directed antibody-cytotoxic drug conjugate. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2013 Jan;33(1):93–104.
35. Ballantyne AD, Garnock-Jones KP. Dabrafenib: first global approval. *Drugs*. 2013 Aug;73(12):1367–76.
  36. Wright CJM, McCormack PL. Trametinib: first global approval. *Drugs*. 2013 Jul;73(11):1245–54.
  37. Jelovac D, Emens LA. HER2-directed therapy for metastatic breast cancer. *Oncology (Williston Park, NY)*. 2013 Mar;27(3):166–75.
  38. Cohen MH, Farrell A, Justice R, Pazdur R. Approval summary: imatinib mesylate in the treatment of metastatic and/or unresectable malignant gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *Oncologist*. 2009 Feb;14(2):174–80.
  39. Amado RG, Wolf M, Peeters M, Van Cutsem E, Siena S, Freeman DJ, Juan T, Sikorski R, Suggs S, Radinsky R, Patterson SD, Chang DD. Wild-type KRAS is required for panitumumab efficacy in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer. *J Clin Oncol. American Society of Clinical Oncology*; 2008 Apr 1;26(10):1626–34.
  40. Lièvre A, Bachet J-B, Boige V, Cayre A, Le Corre D, Buc E, Ychou M, Bouché O, Landi B, Louvet C, André T, Bibeau F, Diebold M-D, Rougier P, Ducreux M, Tomasic G, Emile J-F, Penault-Llorca F, Laurent-Puig P. KRAS mutations as an independent prognostic factor in patients with advanced colorectal cancer treated with cetuximab. *J Clin Oncol. American Society of Clinical Oncology*; 2008 Jan 20;26(3):374–9.
  41. Peeters M, Oliner KS, Parker A, Siena S, Van Cutsem E, Huang J, Humblet Y, Van Laethem J-L, André T, Wizezorek J, Reese D, Patterson SD. Massively parallel tumor multigene sequencing to evaluate response to panitumumab in a randomized phase III study of metastatic colorectal cancer. *Clin Cancer Res. American Association for Cancer Research*; 2013 Apr 1;19(7):1902–12.
  42. Douillard J-Y, Oliner KS, Siena S, Tabernero J, Burkes R, Barugel M, Humblet Y, Bodoky G, Cunningham D, Jassem J, Rivera F, Kocákova I, Ruff P, Błasińska-Morawiec M, Šmakal M, Canon JL, Rother M, Williams R, Rong A, Wizezorek J, Sidhu R, Patterson SD. Panitumumab-FOLFOX4 treatment and RAS mutations in colorectal cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2013 Sep 12;369(11):1023–34.
  43. Allegra CJ, Jessup JM, Somerfield MR, Hamilton SR, Hammond EH, Hayes DF, McAllister PK, Morton RF, Schilsky RL. American Society of Clinical Oncology provisional clinical opinion: testing for KRAS gene mutations in patients with metastatic colorectal carcinoma to predict response to anti-epidermal growth factor receptor monoclonal antibody therapy. *J Clin Oncol. American Society of Clinical Oncology*; 2009 Apr 20;27(12):2091–6.
  44. NCCN Guidelines Colon Cancer [Internet]. 3rd ed. NCCN Guidelines. [cited 2014 Aug 15]. Available from: [http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/colon.pdf](http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/colon.pdf)
  45. Cappuzzo F, Finocchiaro G, Metro G, Bartolini S, Magrini E, Cancellieri A, Trisolini R, Castaldini L, Tallini G, Crino L. Clinical experience with gefitinib: an update. *Crit Rev Oncol Hematol. Elsevier*; 2006 Apr;58(1):31–45.
  46. Paez JG, Jänne PA, Lee JC, Tracy S, Greulich H, Gabriel S, Herman P, Kaye FJ, Lindeman N, Boggon TJ, Naoki K, Sasaki H, Fujii Y, Eck MJ, Sellers WR, Johnson BE, Meyerson M. EGFR mutations in lung cancer: correlation with clinical response to gefitinib therapy. *Science. American Association for the Advancement of Science*; 2004 Jun 4;304(5676):1497–500.
  47. Sequist LV, Joshi VA, Jänne PA, Muzikansky A, Fidias P, Meyerson M, Haber DA, Kucherlapati R, Johnson BE, Lynch TJ. Response to treatment and survival of patients with non-small cell lung cancer undergoing somatic EGFR mutation testing. *Oncologist*. 2007 Jan;12(1):90–8.
  48. Ji H, Li D, Chen L, Shimamura T, Kobayashi S, McNamara K, Mahmood U, Mitchell A, Sun Y, Al-Hashem R, Chirieac LR, Padera R, Bronson RT, Kim W, Jänne PA, Shapiro GI, Tenen D, Johnson BE, Weissleder R, Sharpless NE, Wong K-K. The impact of human EGFR kinase domain mutations on lung tumorigenesis and *in vivo* sensitivity to EGFR-targeted therapies. *Cancer Cell. Elsevier*; 2006 Jun;9(6):485–95.
  49. Keedy VL, Temin S, Somerfield MR, Beasley MB, Johnson DH, McShane LM, Milton DT, Strawn JR, Wakelee HA, Giaccone G. American Society of Clinical Oncology provisional clinical opinion: epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) Mutation testing for patients with advanced non-small-cell lung cancer considering first-line EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy. *J Clin Oncol. American Society of Clinical Oncology*; 2011 May 20;29(15):2121–7.
  50. NCCN Guidelines Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer [Internet]. 4 ed. NCCN Guidelines. [cited 2014 Aug 15]. Available from: [http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/nscl.pdf](http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/nscl.pdf)
  51. Gleevec FDA Label. FDA.
  52. Janku F, Tsimberidou AM, Garrido-Laguna I. PIK3CA mutations in patients with advanced cancers treated with PI3K/AKT/mTOR axis inhibitors. *Mol Cancer*. 2011.
  53. Janku F, Wheeler JJ, Westin SN. PI3K/AKT/mTOR inhibitors in patients with breast and gynecologic malignancies harboring PIK3CA mutations. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. 2012 March 10;30(8).
  54. Falchook GS, Janku F, Tsao AS, Bastida CC, Stewart DJ, Kurzrock R. Non-small-cell lung cancer with HER2 exon 20 mutation: regression with dual HER2 inhibition and anti-VEGF combination treatment. *J Thorac Oncol*. 2013 Feb;8(2):e19–20.
  55. Cappuzzo F, Bemis L. HER2 mutation and response to trastuzumab therapy in non-small-cell lung cancer. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2006 June 15;354(24).
  56. Subbiah V, Westin SN, Wang K, Araujo D, Wang W-L, Miller VA, Ross JS, Stephens PJ, Palmer GA, Ali SM. Targeted therapy by combined inhibition of the RAF

- and mTOR kinases in malignant spindle cell neoplasm harboring the KIAA1549-BRAF fusion protein. *J Hematol Oncol*. BioMed Central Ltd; 2014;7(1):8.
57. Said R, Hong DS, Warneke CL, Lee JJ, Wheler JJ, Janku F, Naing A, Falchook GS, Fu S, Piha-Paul S, Tsimberidou AM, Kurzrock R. P53 mutations in advanced cancers: clinical characteristics, outcomes, and correlation between progression-free survival and bevacizumab-containing therapy. *Oncotarget*. 2013 May;4(5):705–14.
  58. TCGA [Internet]. [cited 2014 Jan 26]. Available from: <http://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>
  59. Komen Registry [Internet]. [cited 2014 Jan 26]. Available from: <http://www.asco.org/quality-guidelines/breast-cancer-registry-pilot-program-funded-susan-g-komen-cure>
  60. Partridge AH, Norris VW, Blinder VS, Cutter BA, Halpern MT, Malin J, Neuss MN, Wolff AC, ASCO Breast Cancer Registry Pilot Steering Group. Implementing a breast cancer registry and treatment plan/summary program in clinical practice: a pilot program. *Cancer*. Wiley Subscription Services, Inc., A Wiley Company; 2013 Jan 1;119(1):158–63.
  61. ASCO: Shaping the Future of Oncology:Envisioning Cancer Care in 2030 [Internet]. [cited 2014 Jan 26]. Available from: <http://www.asco.org/sites/default/files/shapingfuture-lowres.pdf>
  62. Tsimberidou AM, Wen S, Hong DS, Wheler JJ, Falchook GS, Fu S, Piha-Paul SA, Naing A, Janku F, Aldape KD, Ye Y, Kurzrock R, Berry DA. Personalized Medicine for Patients with Advanced Cancer in the Phase I Program at MD Anderson: Validation and Landmark Analyses. *Clin Cancer Res*. American Association for Cancer Research; 2014 Jul 1;:clincanres.0603.2014.
  63. Leijen S, Beijnen JH. Abrogation of the G2 checkpoint by inhibition of Wee-1 kinase results in sensitization of p53-deficient tumor cells to DNA-damaging agents. *Current Clinical Pharmacology*. 2010 Aug;5(3).
  64. Fawdar S, Trotter EW, Li Y, Stephenson NL, Hanke F, Marusiak AA, Edwards ZC, Ientile S, Waszkowycz B, Miller CJ, Brognard J. Targeted genetic dependency screen facilitates identification of actionable mutations in FGFR4, MAP3K9, and PAK5 in lung cancer. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. National Acad Sciences; 2013 Jul 23;110(30):12426–31.
  65. Dobashi Y, Watanabe Y, Miwa C, Suzuki S, Koyama S. Mammalian target of rapamycin: a central node of complex signaling cascades. *Int J Clin Exp Pathol*. 2011 Jun 20;4(5):476–95.
  66. Lebowhl D, Anak O, Sahmoud T, Klimovsky J, Elmroth I, Haas T, Posluszny J, Saletan S, Berg W. Development of everolimus, a novel oral mTOR inhibitor, across a spectrum of diseases. *Ann N Y Acad Sci*. 2013 Jul;1291(1):14–32.
  67. Guo Y, Chekaluk Y, Zhang J, Du J, Gray NS, Wu C-L, Kwiatkowski DJ. TSC1 involvement in bladder cancer: diverse effects and therapeutic implications. *J Pathol*. 2013 May;230(1):17–27.
  68. Munoz J, Schlette E, Kurzrock R. Rapid response to vemurafenib in a heavily pretreated patient with hairy cell leukemia and a BRAF mutation. *J Clin Oncol*. 2013 Jul 10;31(20):e351–2.
  69. Haroche J, Cohen-Aubart F, Emile J-F, Arnaud L, Maksud P, Charlotte F, Cluzel P, Drier A, Hervier B, Benameur N, Besnard S, Donadieu J, Amoura Z. Dramatic efficacy of vemurafenib in both multisystemic and refractory Erdheim-Chester disease and Langerhans cell histiocytosis harboring the BRAF V600E mutation. *Blood*. 2013 Feb 28;121(9):1495–500.
  70. Kim KB, Cabanillas ME, Lazar AJ, Williams MD, Sanders DL, Ilagan JL, Nolop K, Lee RJ, Sherman SI. Clinical responses to vemurafenib in patients with metastatic papillary thyroid cancer harboring BRAF(V600E) mutation. *Thyroid*. 2013 Oct;23(10):1277–83.
  71. El-Osta H, Falchook G, Tsimberidou A, Hong D, Naing A, Kim K, Wen S, Janku F, Kurzrock R. BRAF mutations in advanced cancers: clinical characteristics and outcomes. Avraham HK, editor. *PLoS ONE*. 2011;6(10):e25806.
  72. Prahallad A, Sun C, Huang S, Di Nicolantonio F, Salazar R, Zecchin D, Beijersbergen RL, Bardelli A, Bernards R. Unresponsiveness of colon cancer to BRAF(V600E) inhibition through feedback activation of EGFR. *Nature*. 2012 Mar 1;483(7387):100–3.
  73. Kandath C, McLellan MD, Vandin F, Ye K, Niu B, Lu C, Xie M, Zhang Q, McMichael JF, Wyczalkowski MA, Leiserson MDM, Miller CA, Welch JS, Walter MJ, Wendl MC, Ley TJ, Wilson RK, Raphael BJ, Ding L. Mutational landscape and significance across 12 major cancer types. *Nature*. 2013 Oct 17;502(7471):333–9.
  74. Jardim DLF, Conley A, Subbiah V. Comprehensive characterization of malignant phyllodes tumor by whole genomic and proteomic analysis: biological implications for targeted therapy opportunities. *Orphanet J Rare Dis*. BioMed Central Ltd; 2013;8(1):112.
  75. Subbiah V, Brown RE, Buryanek J, Trent J, Ashkenazi A, Herbst R, Kurzrock R. Targeting the apoptotic pathway in chondrosarcoma using recombinant human Apo2L/TRAIL (dulcanermin), a dual proapoptotic receptor (DR4/DR5) agonist. *Mol Cancer Ther*. American Association for Cancer Research; 2012 Nov;11(11):2541–6.
  76. Subbiah V, Naing A, Brown RE, Chen H, Doyle L, LoRusso P, Benjamin R, Anderson P, Kurzrock R. Targeted morphoproteomic profiling of Ewing’s sarcoma treated with insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor (IGF1R) inhibitors: response/resistance signatures. Rich BE, editor. *PLoS ONE*. Public Library of Science; 2011;6(4):e18424.