

Borrowed from Gary Larson

Studies in metastases: Or how chickens help fight prostate cancer.

Desmond Pink, Ph.D.
Chief Science Officer
Nanostics Inc



Disclosures

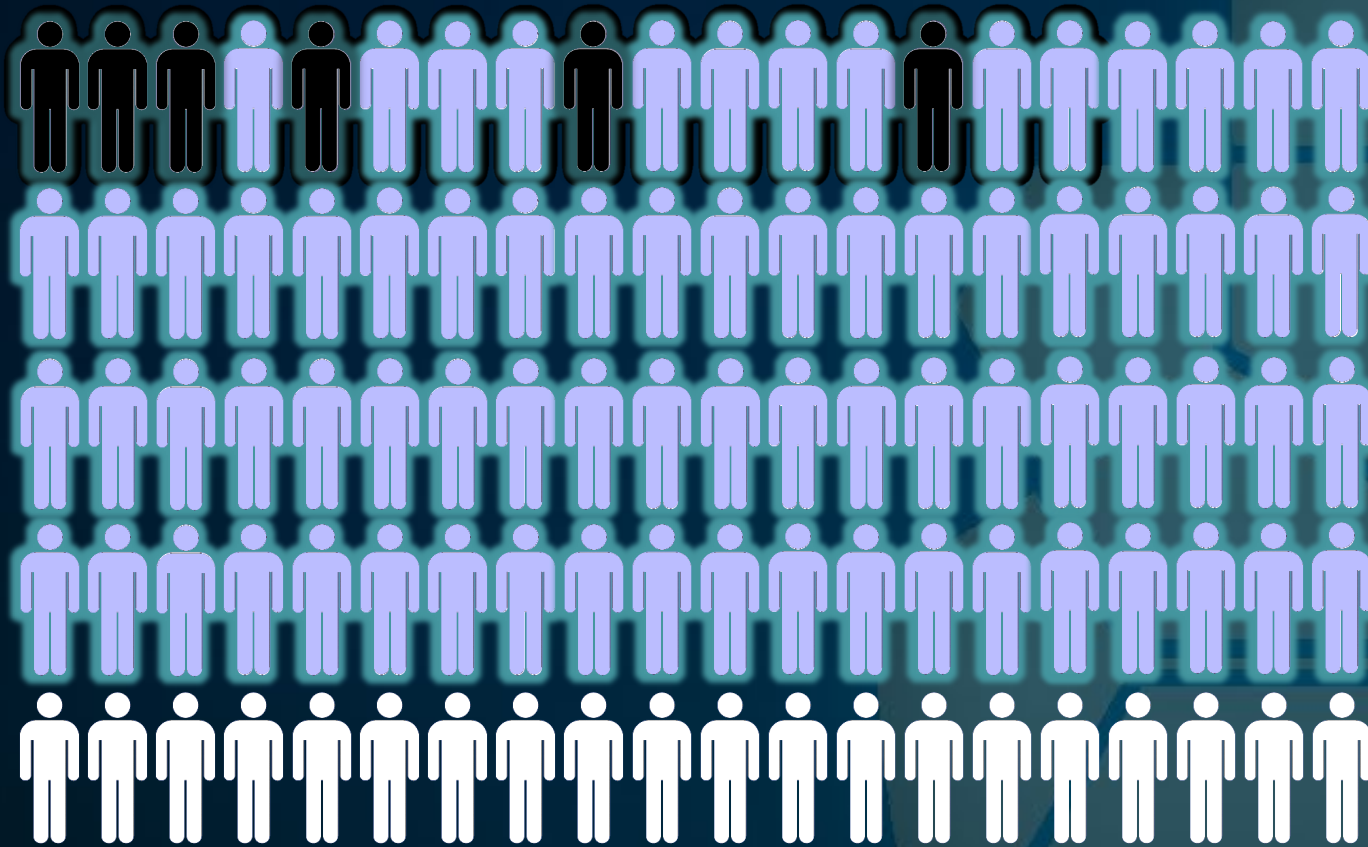
Dr. Desmond Pink Ph.D.

Disclosure:

Financial Co-founder and employee of Nanostics Inc.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men

36% of newly diagnosed cancers, and 10% of all cancer deaths in men



Out of every 100 men...

16 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime

In reality, up to 80 will have prostate cancer by age 70

And 3 will die from it.

But which 3 ?

The deadliest aspect of cancer

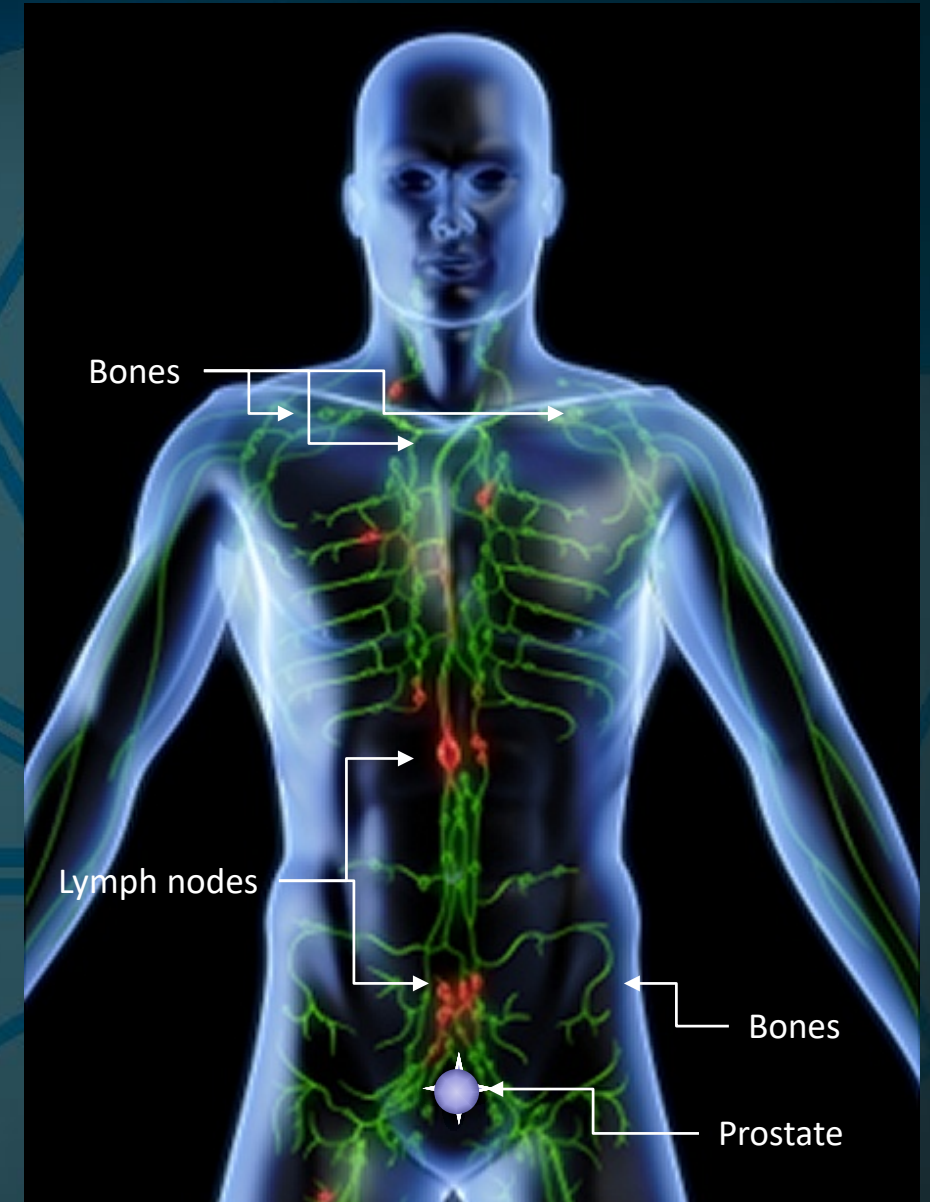
The deadliest aspect of prostate cancer is its spread, or metastasis

In North America, the average 5 year survival rate for localized prostate cancer is 100%

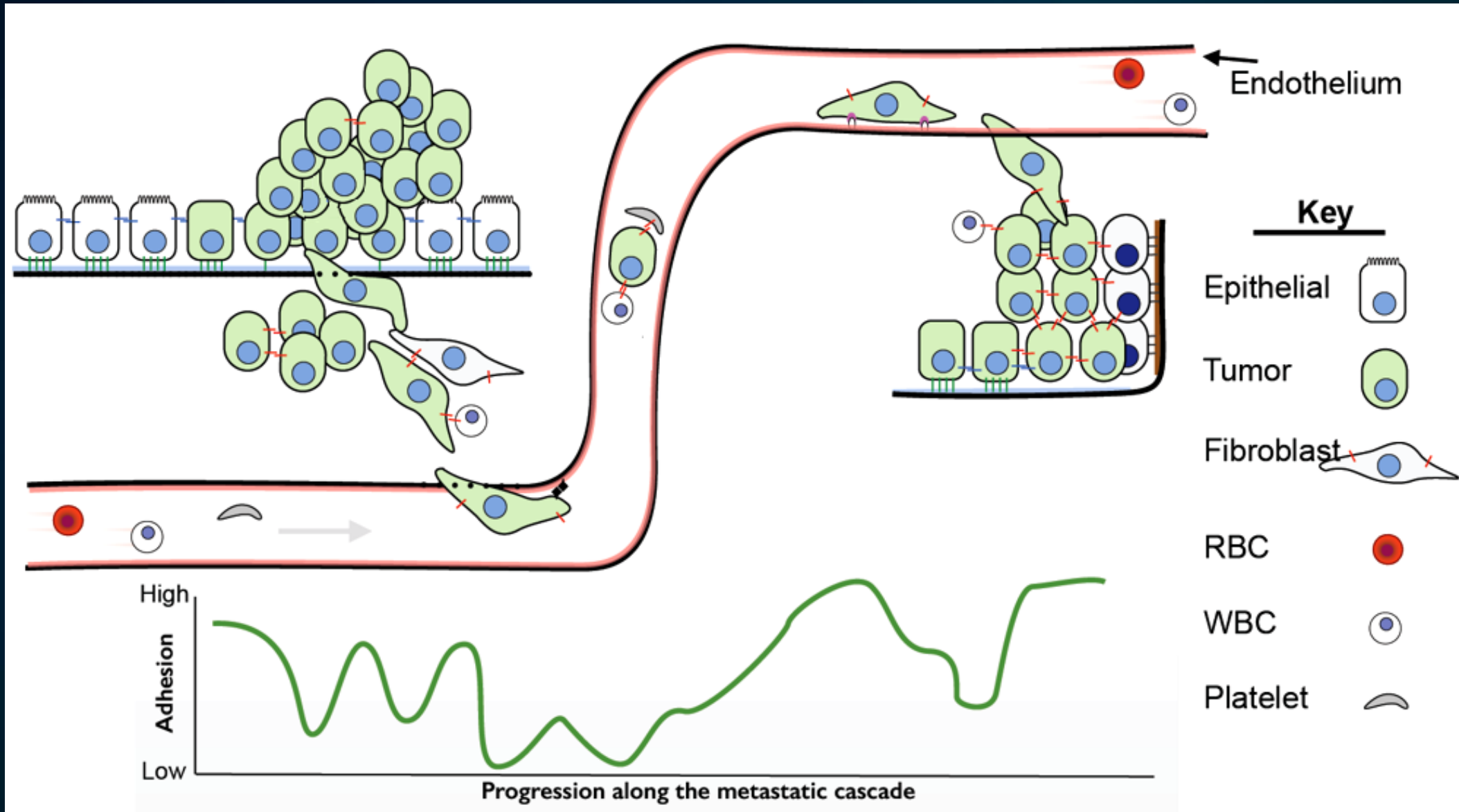
For metastatic cancer, it is less than 30%

Current diagnosis tools do not predict whether metastasis will occur

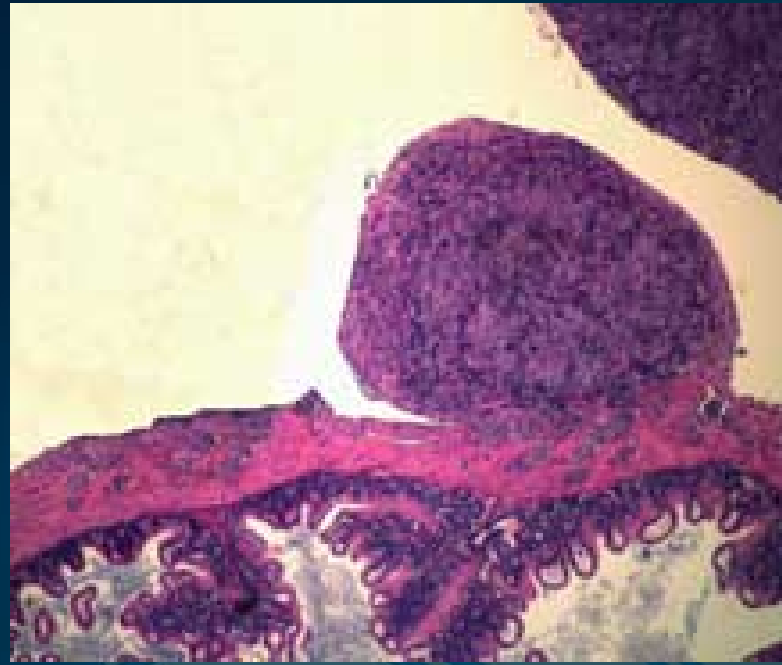
Current treatments do not prevent or cure metastasis



Metastasis is a complex, multi-step process!



Animal models for metastasis



Snapshots provide limited information...

Let's all be scientists for a moment...



1. Good Samaritan helps fallen woman during riot
2. Opportunistic rioter steals a kiss from an injured woman
3. Riot police defend couple's right to Public Display of Affection (PDA)
4. "At least someone from Vancouver can score on the road"

Let's all be scientists for a moment...

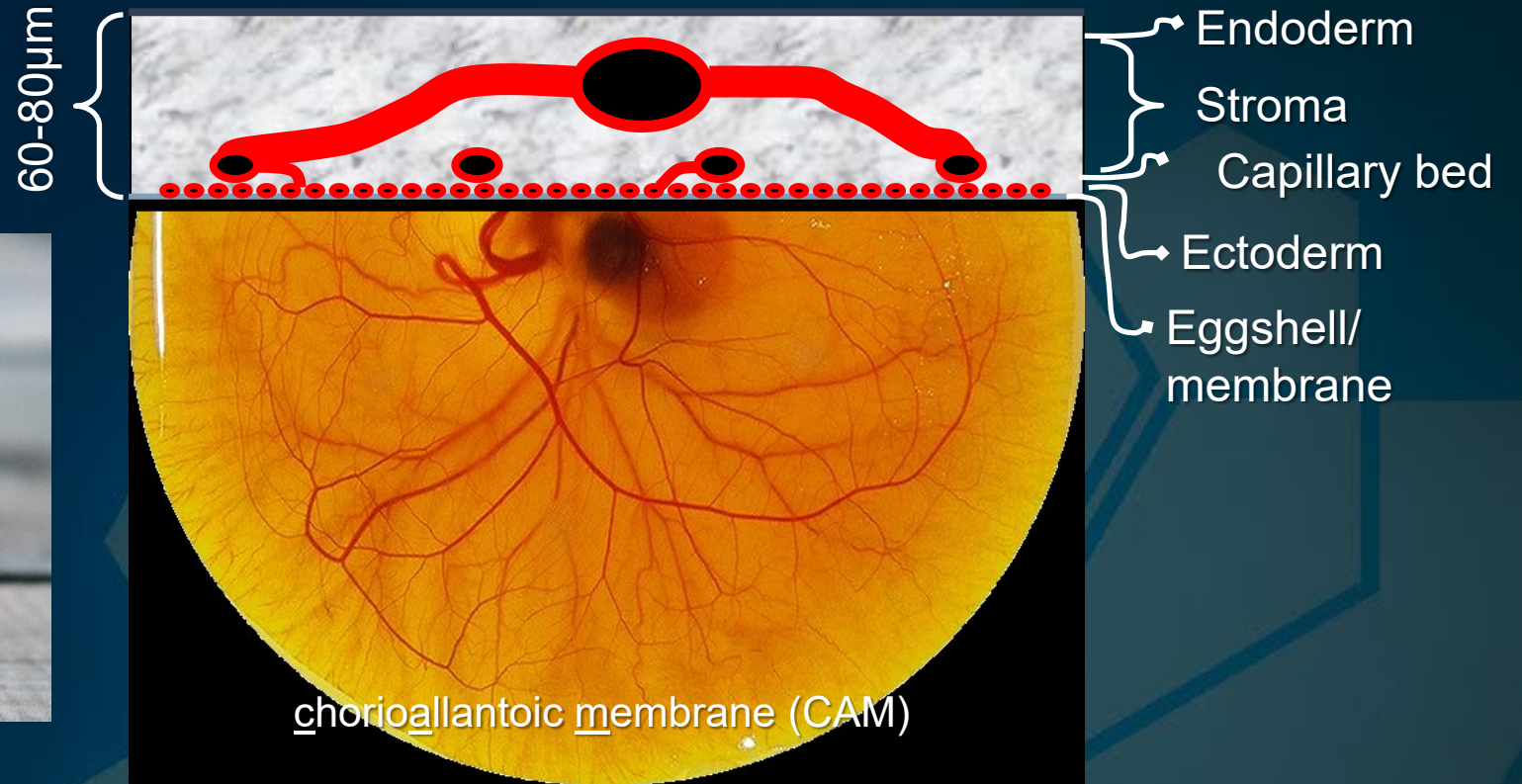


- 1. Man consoles distraught girlfriend after she was violently knocked down by riot police**

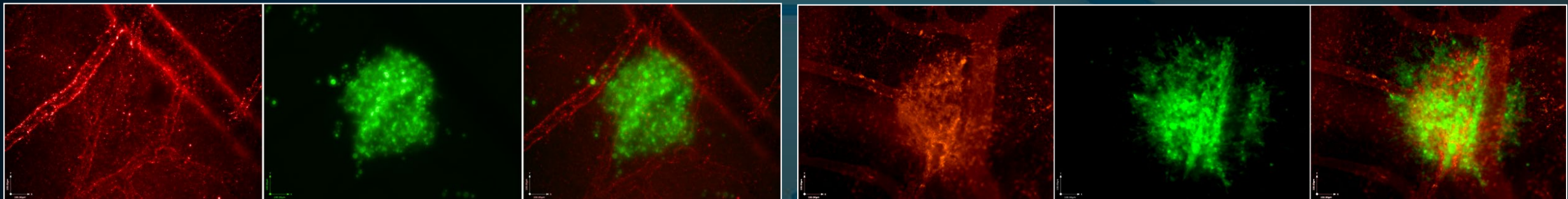
Modeling cancer dynamics in chicken embryos



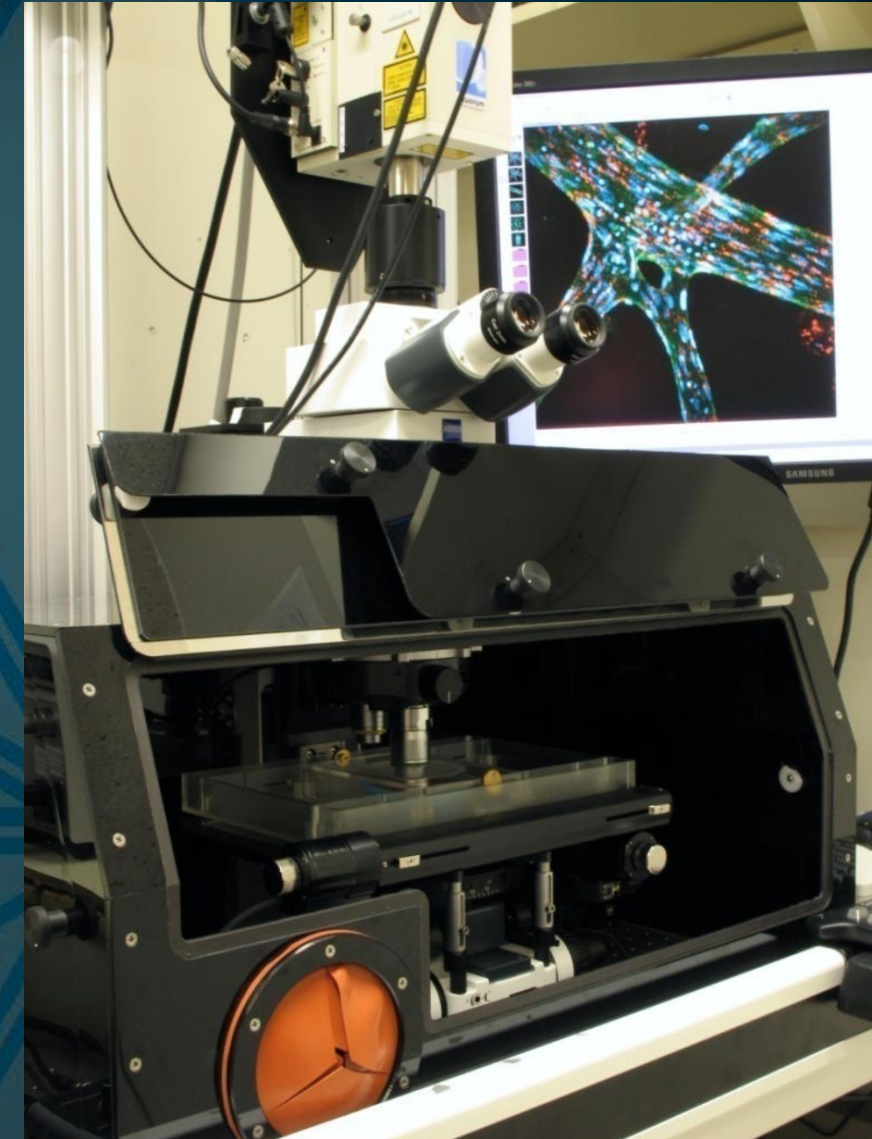
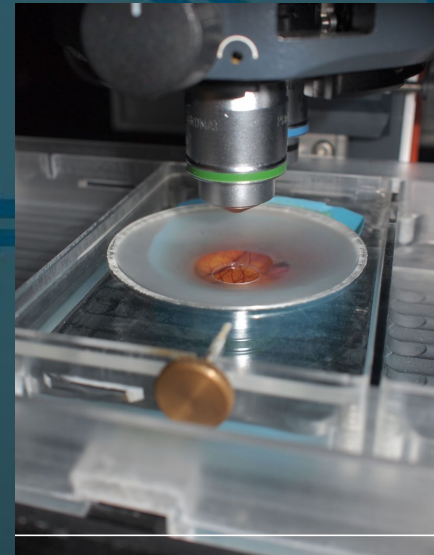
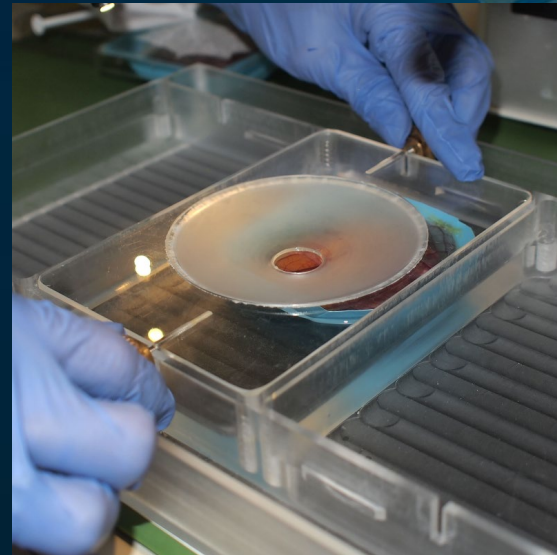
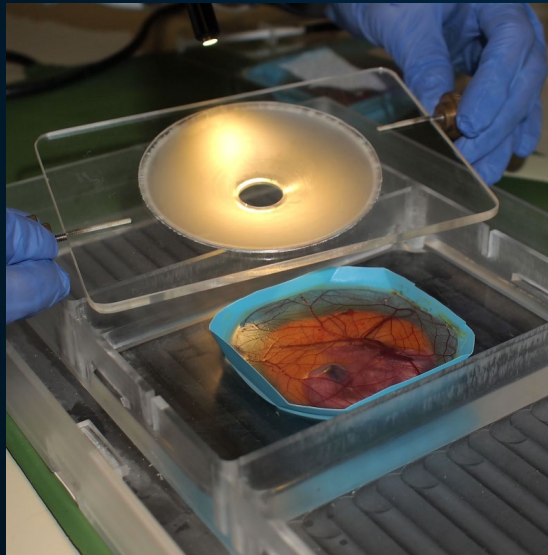
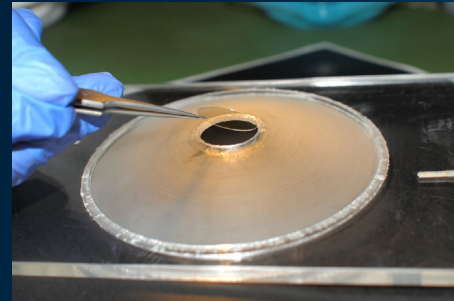
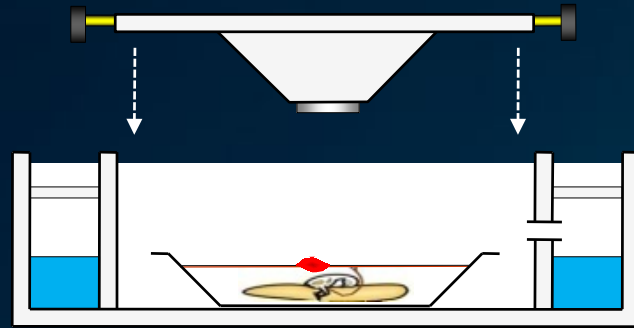
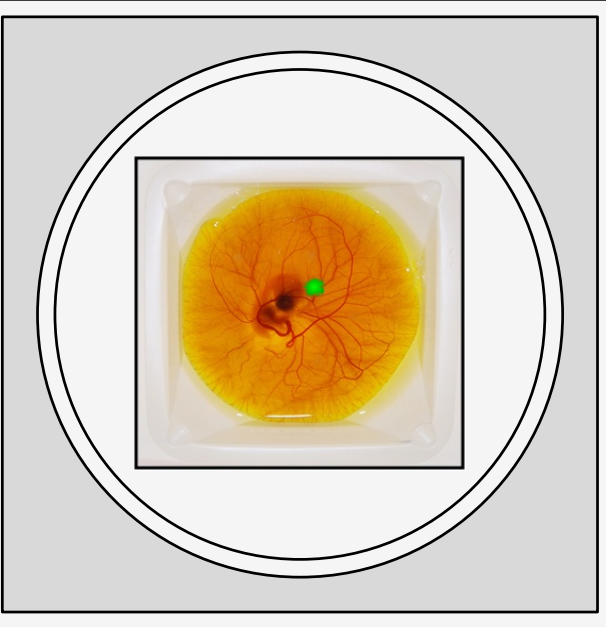
Immediately after injection



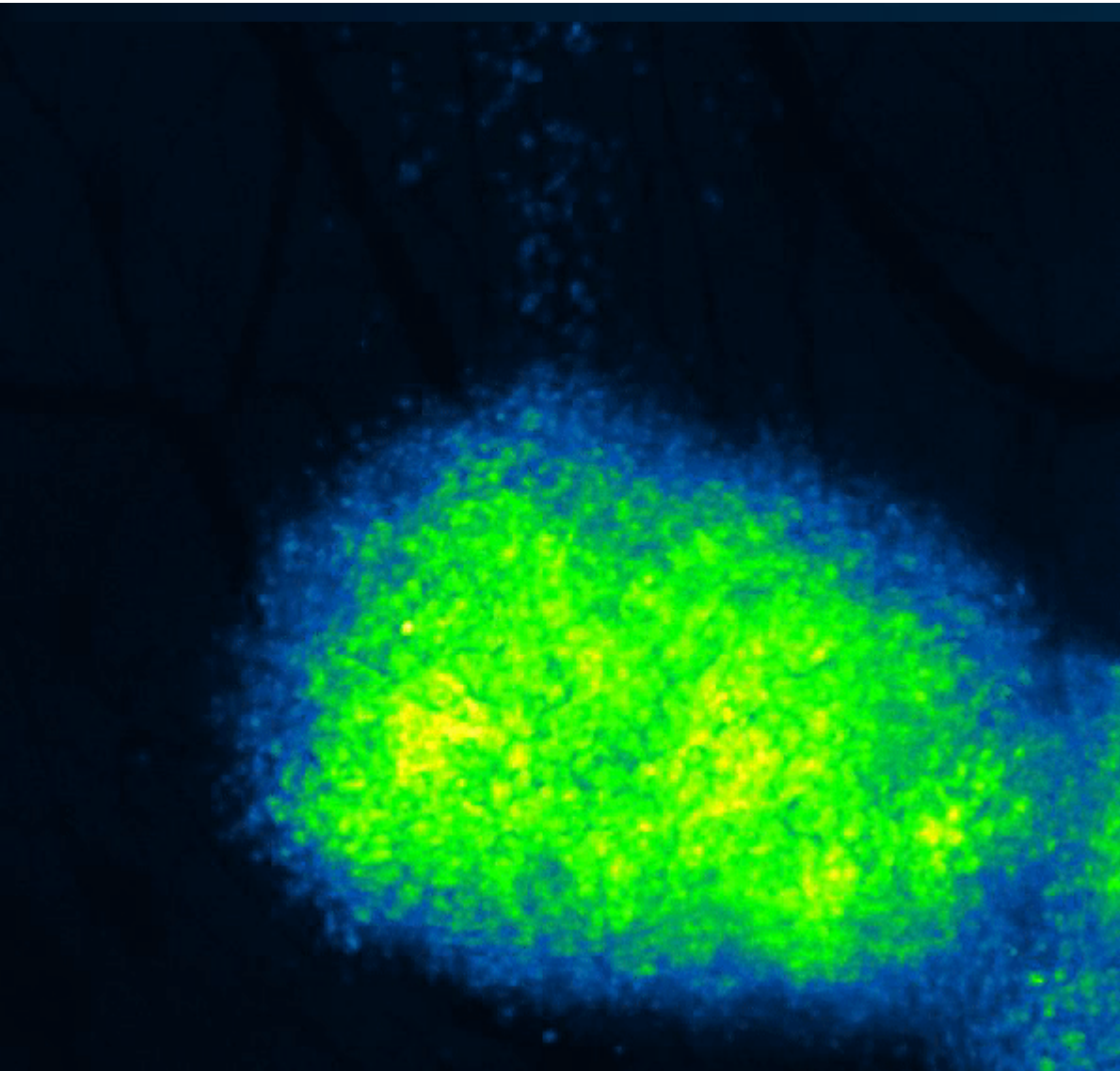
24 hours later



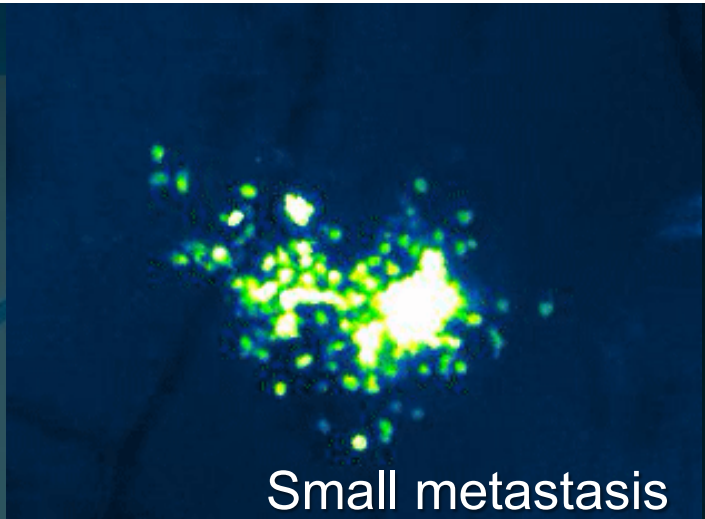
Modeling cancer dynamics in ex ovo avian embryos



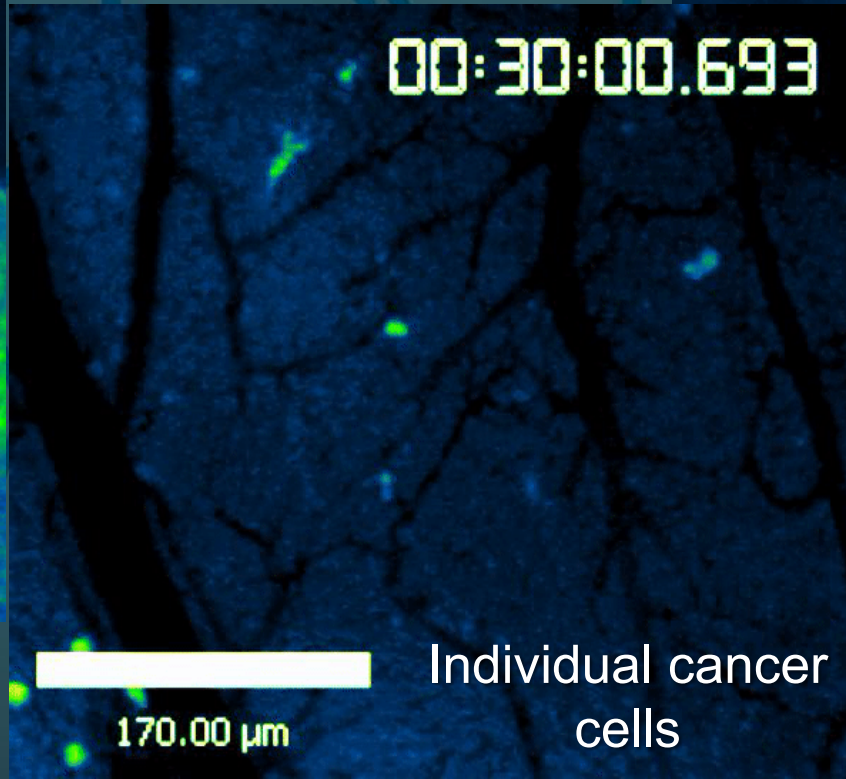
Intravital imaging of tumour growth and metastasis



4 mm tumour growing over 4 days



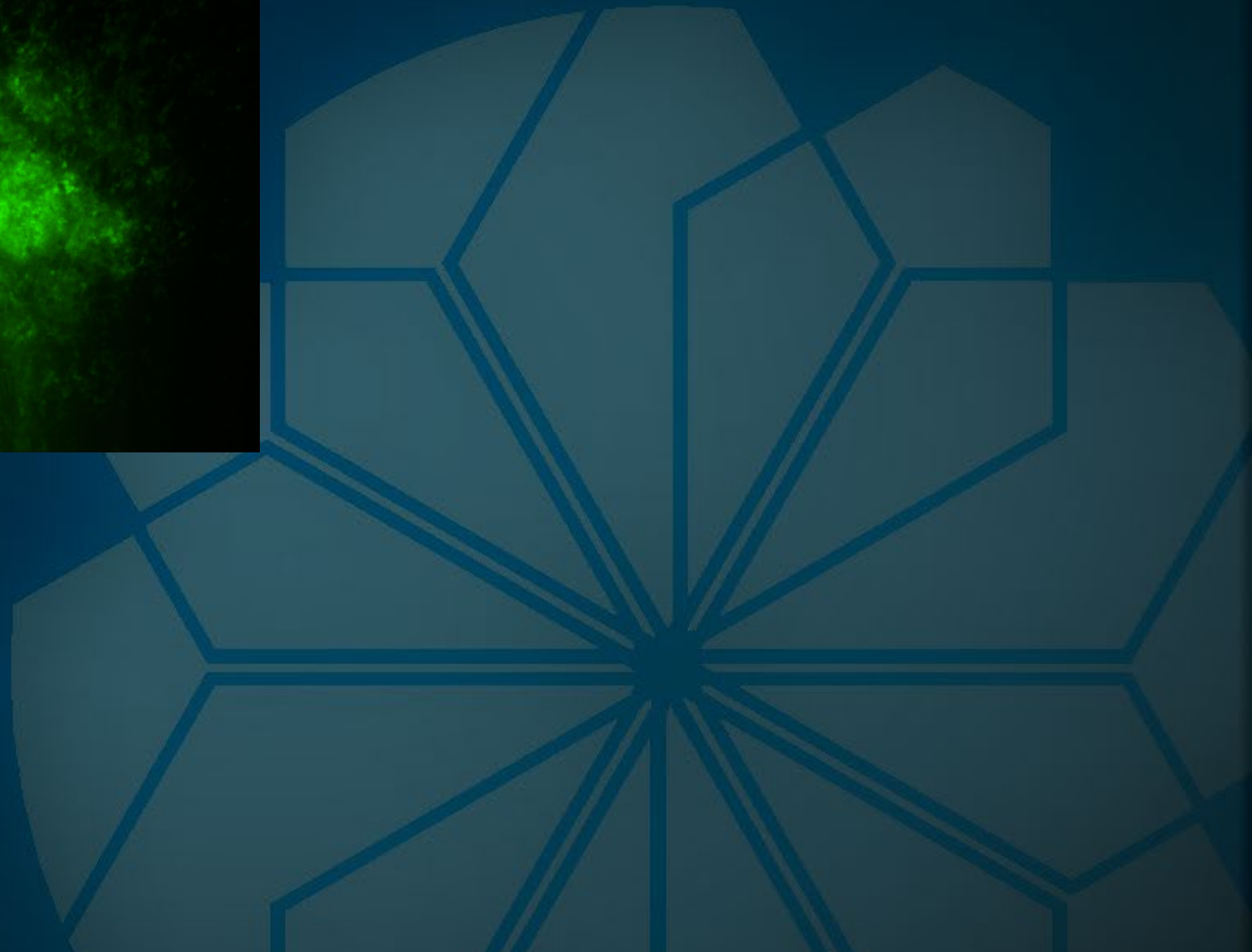
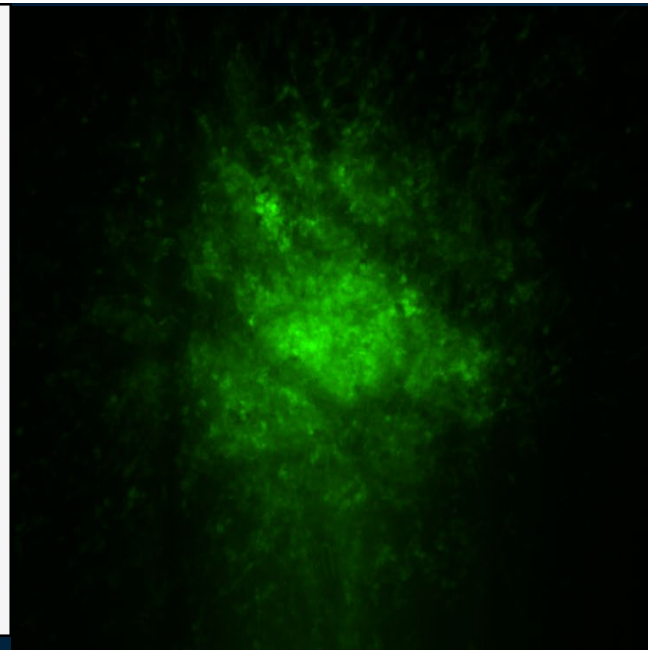
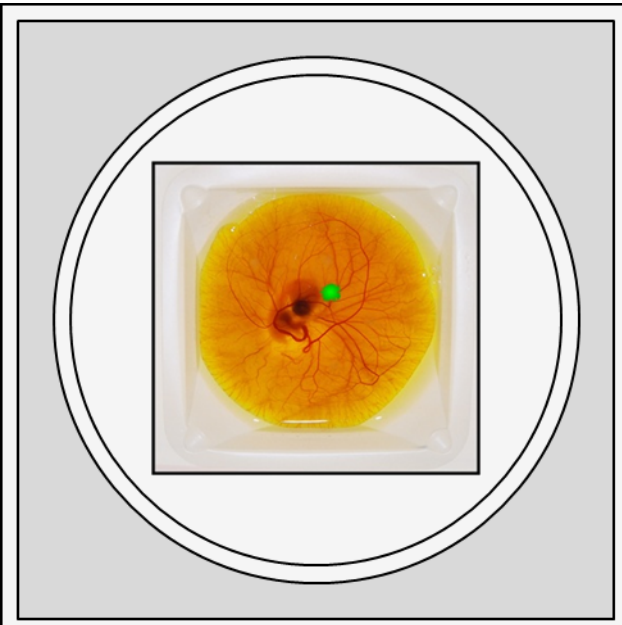
Small metastasis
of 200-300 cells



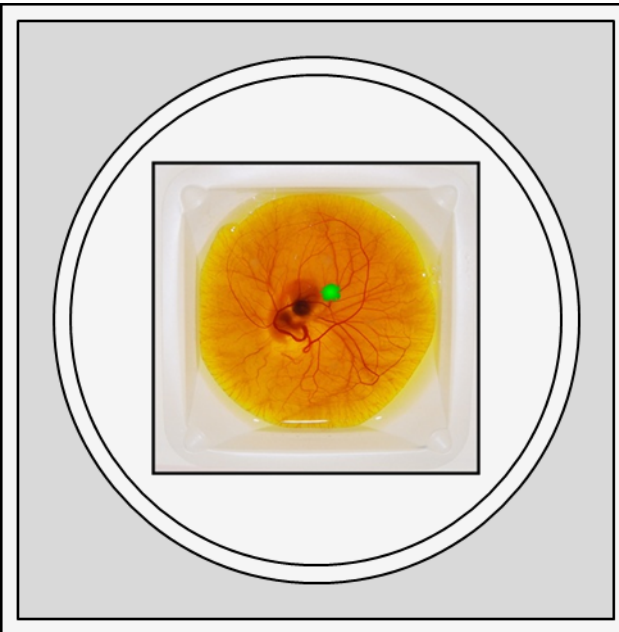
170.00 μm

Individual cancer
cells

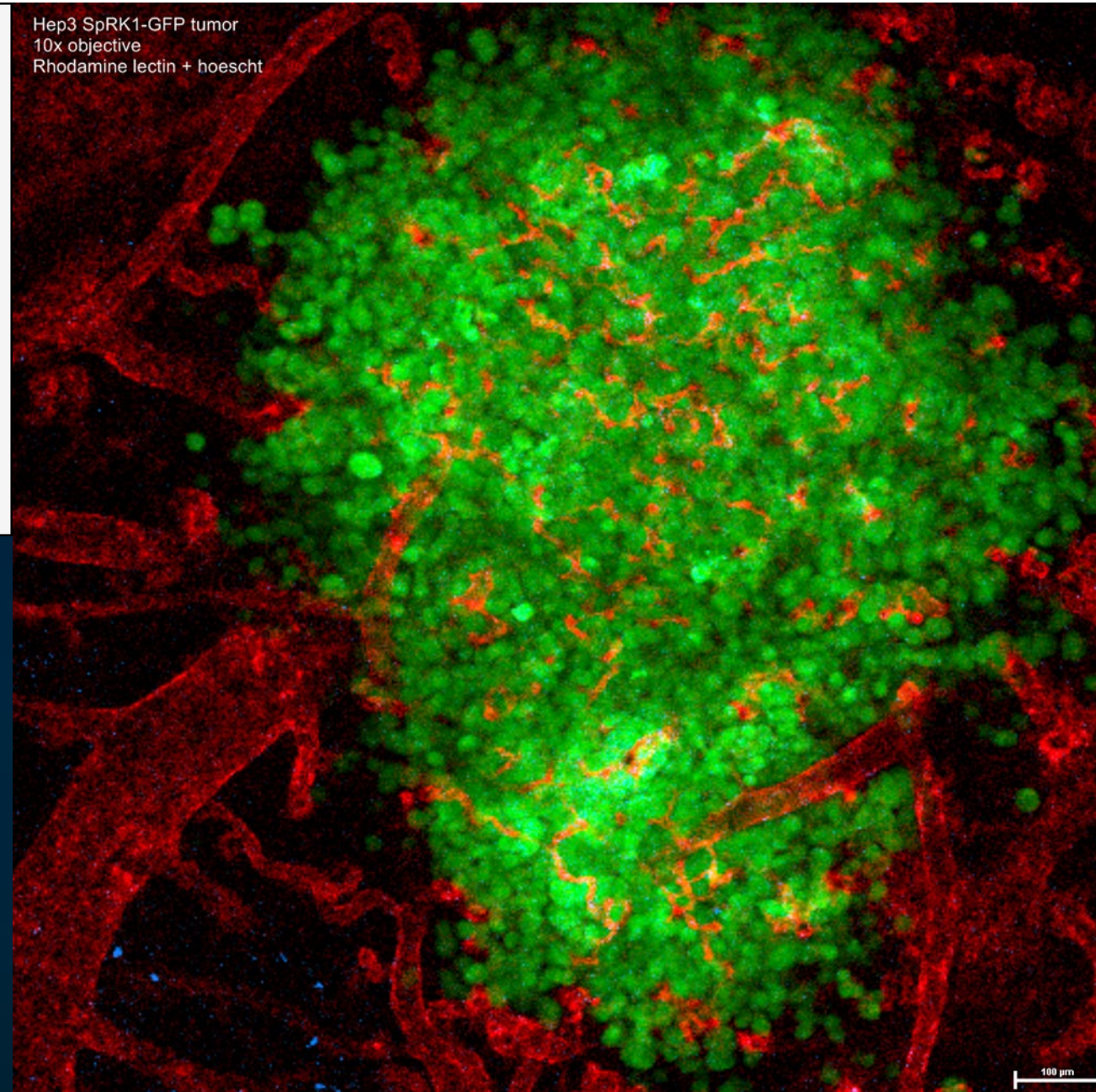
When studying metastasis context is crucial to data analysis



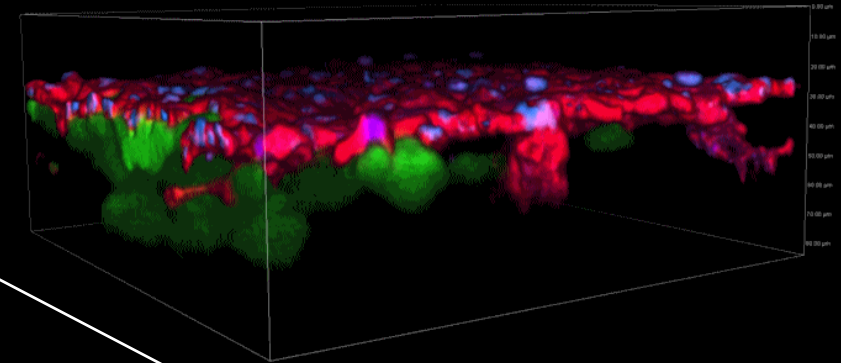
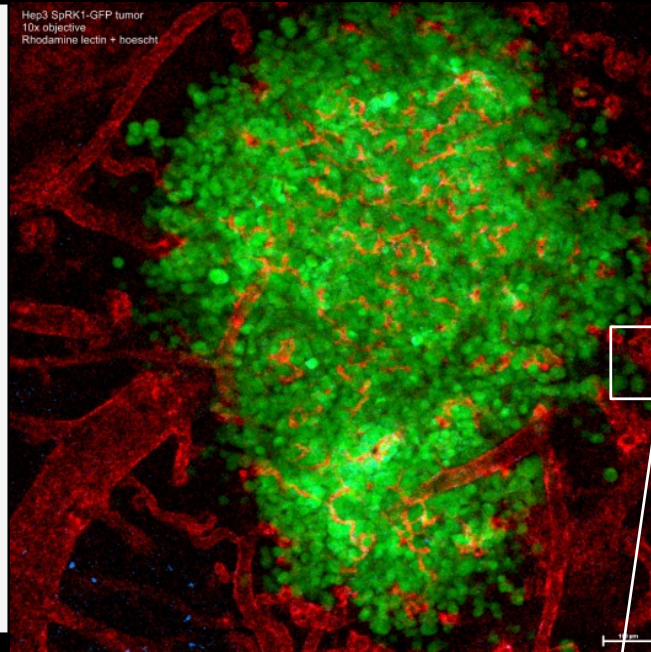
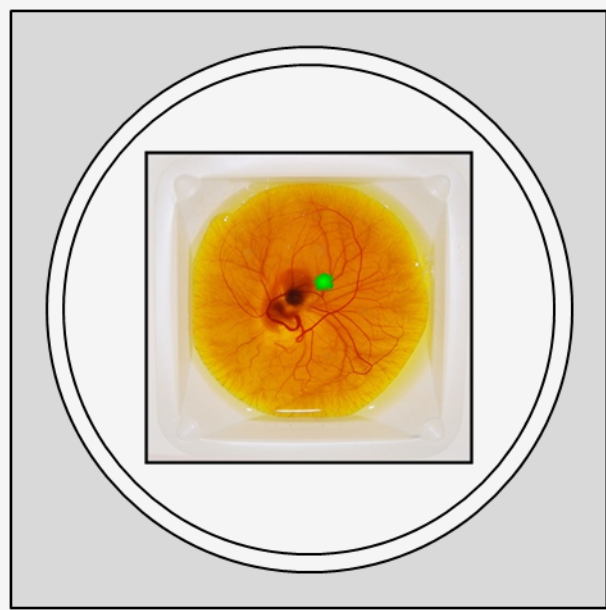
When studying metastasis context is crucial to data analysis



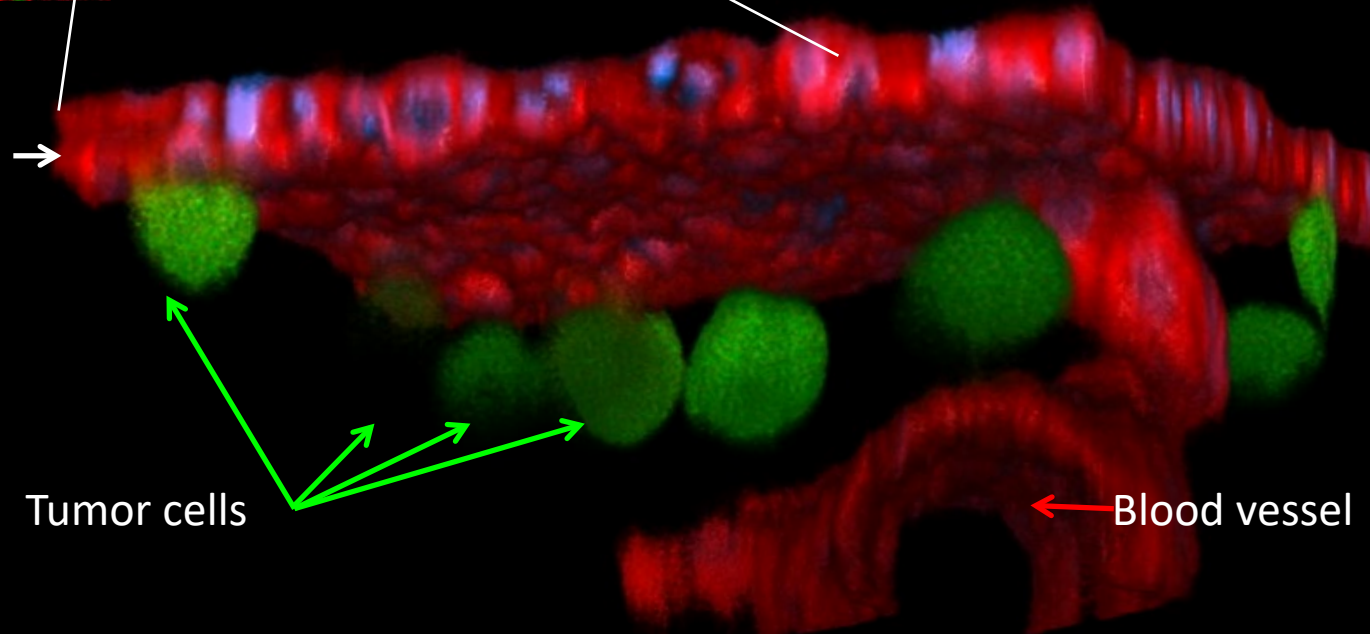
Hep3 SpRK1-GFP tumor
10x objective
Rhodamine lectin + hoescht



When studying metastasis context is crucial to data analysis



Microvasculature

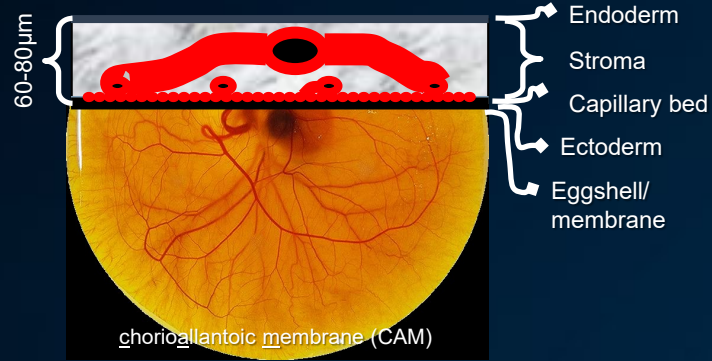


Tumor cells

Blood vessel

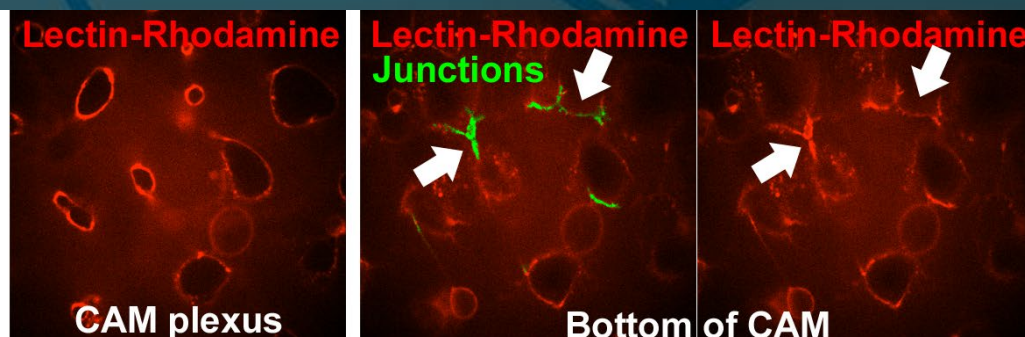
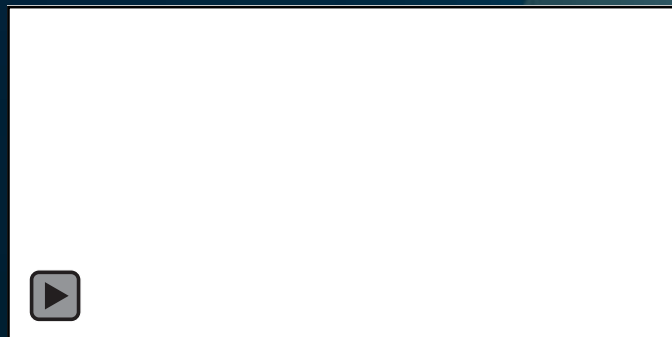
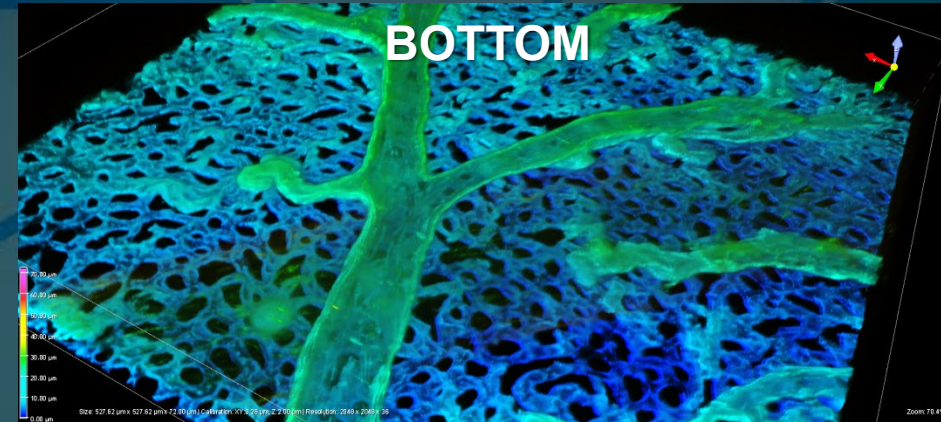
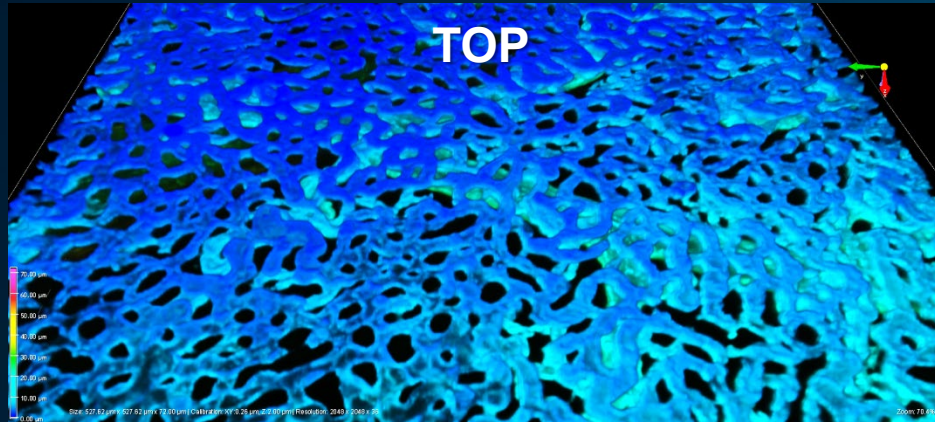
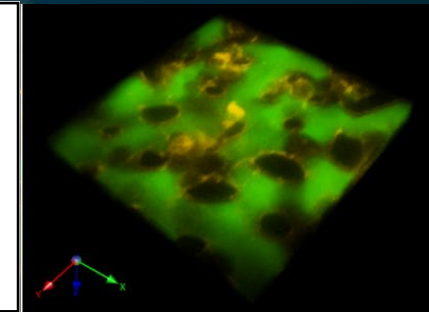
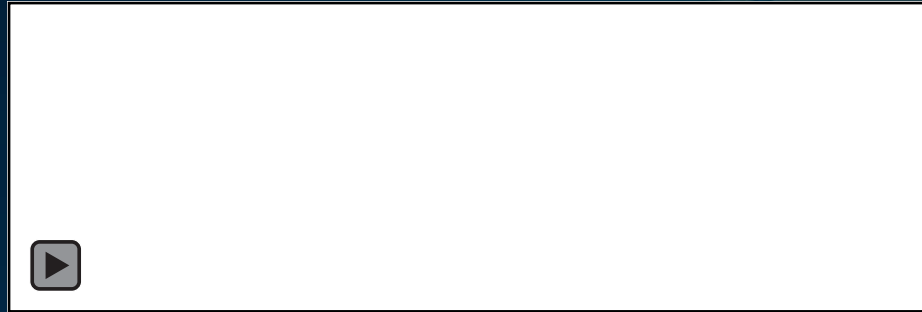
3D reconstruction of single cancer cells (green) and their residence near a blood vessel. This type of image allows us to visualize cells moving toward a blood vessel in great detail.

Imaging the CAM in 3D

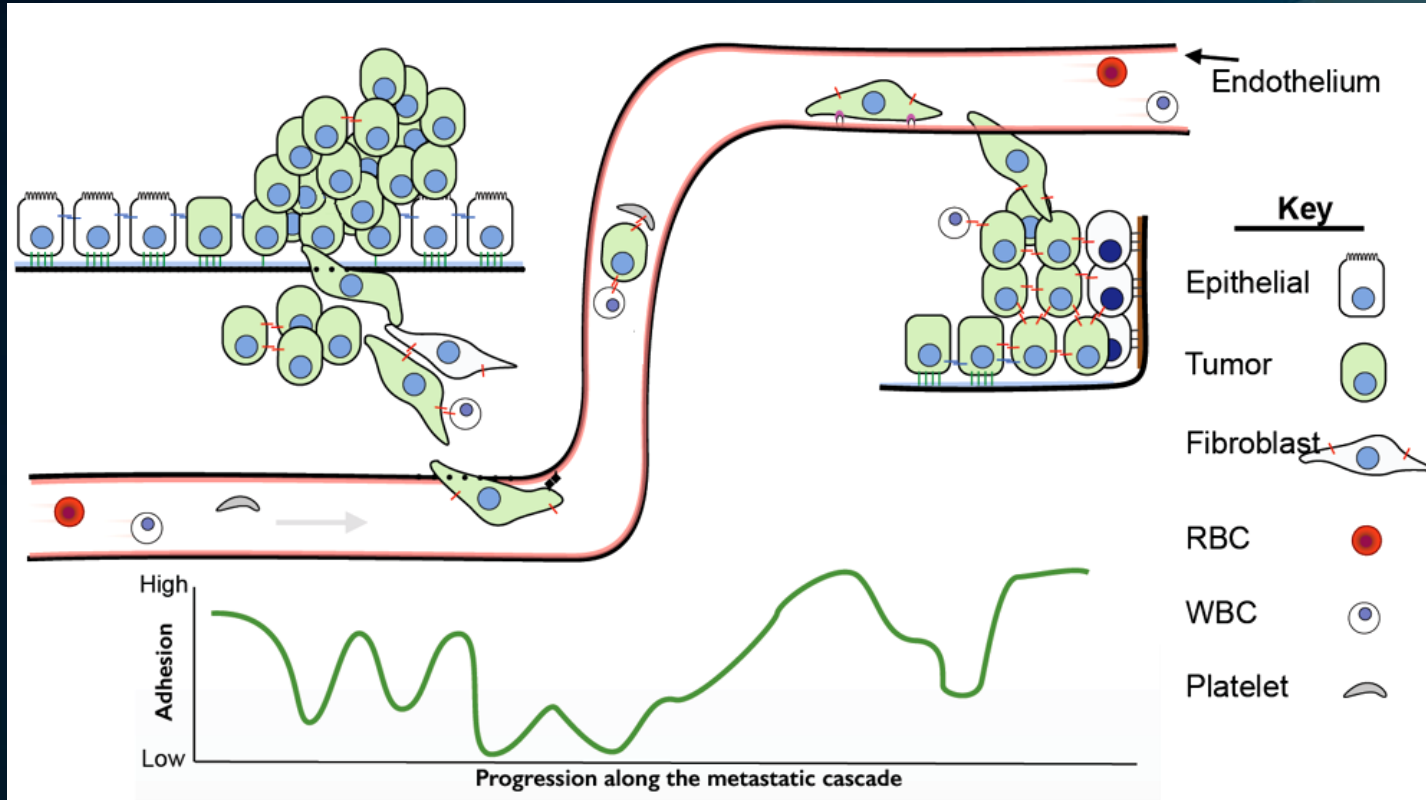


Rhodamine-Lectin (*Lens culinaris* agglutinin)

2MDa FITC-Dextran



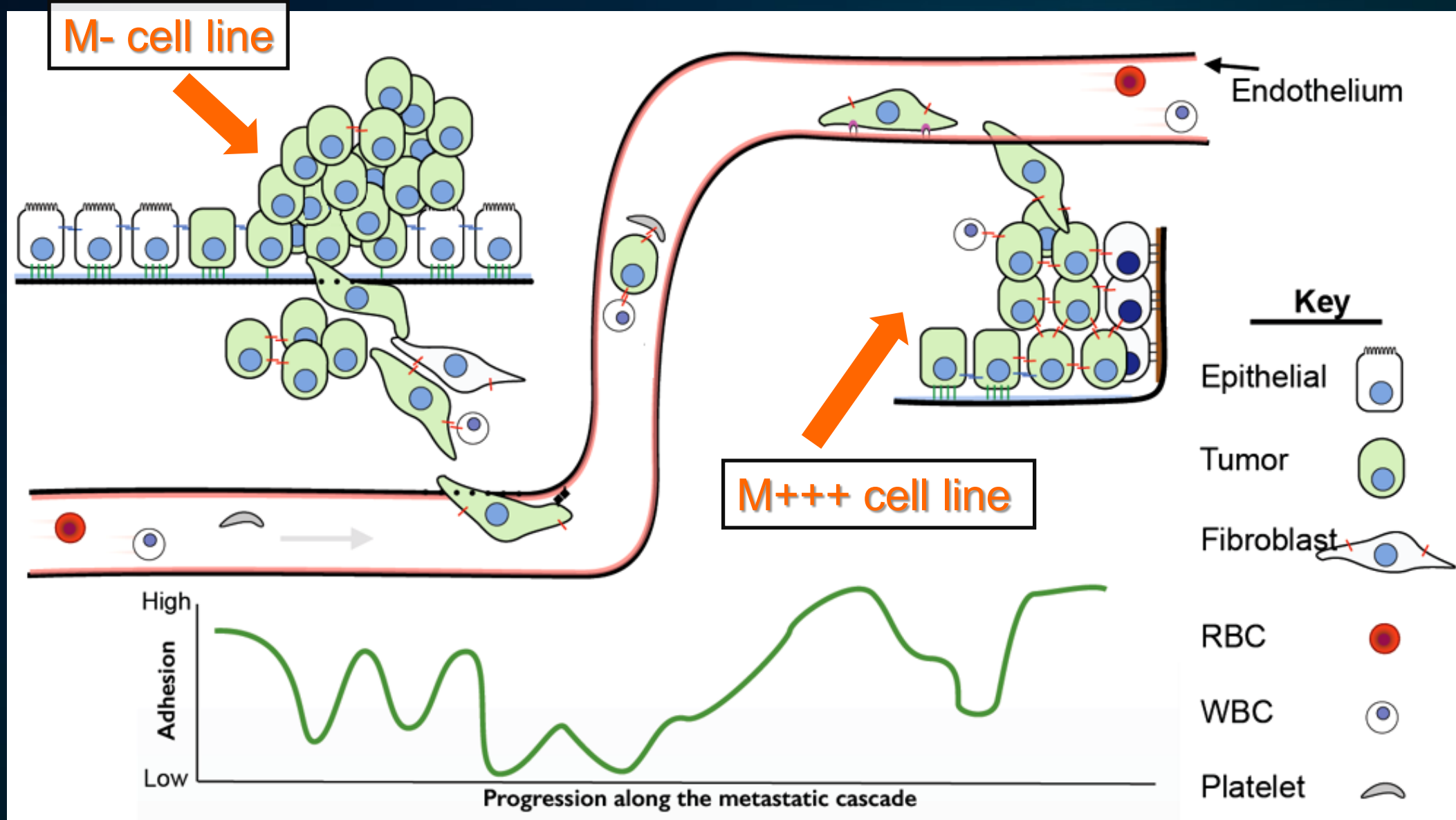
What is the difference between cells that spread and cells that don't?



"Bummer of a birthmark, Hal."



What is the difference between cells that spread and cells that don't?



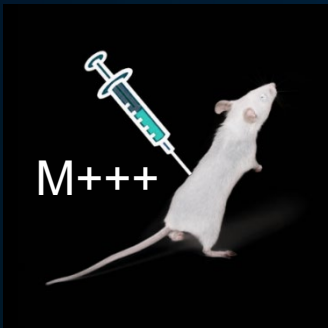
Antibody 1A5 targets tetraspanin CD151



Immunize mouse with low metastatic cancer variant



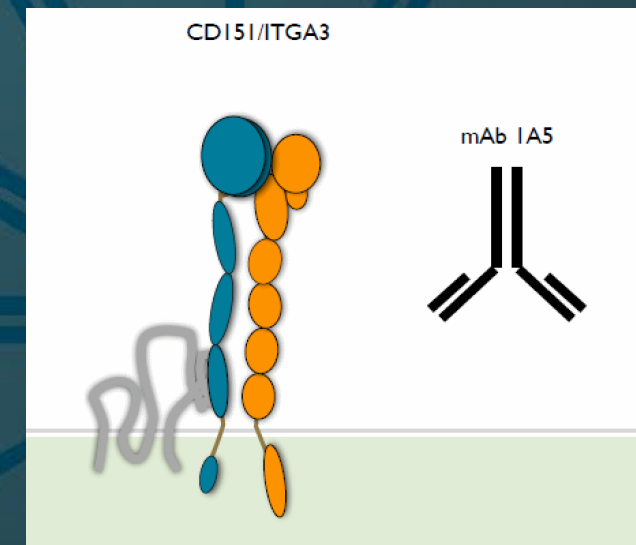
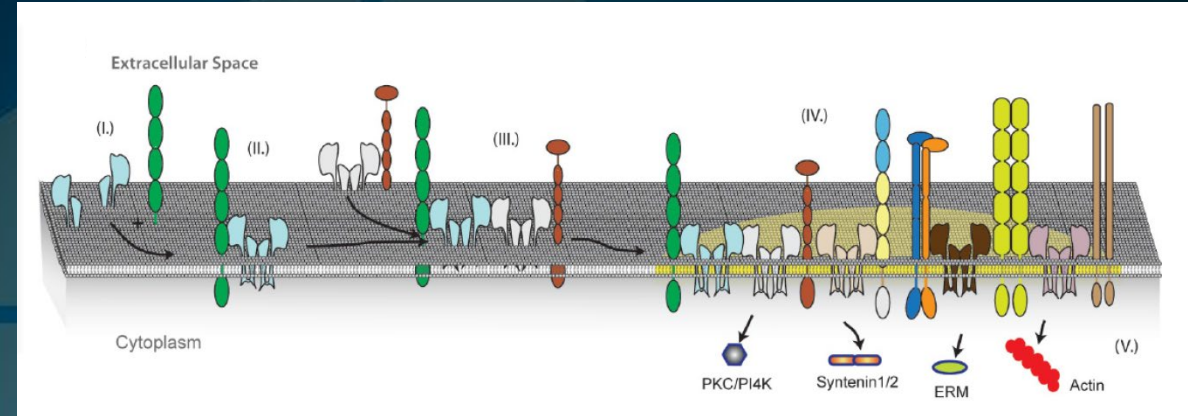
Cyclophosphamide – “tolerizes” mouse immune system



Immunize mouse with high metastatic cancer variant

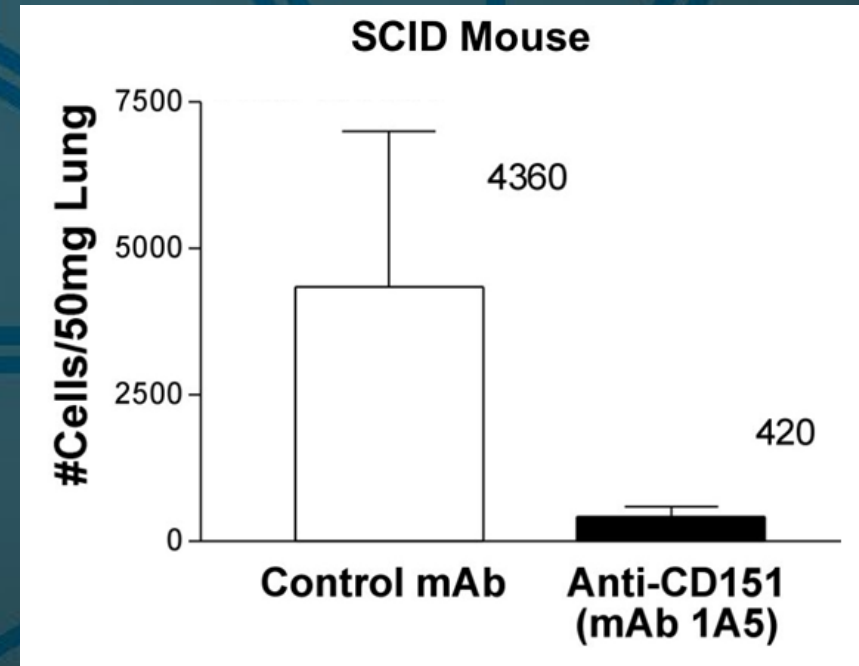
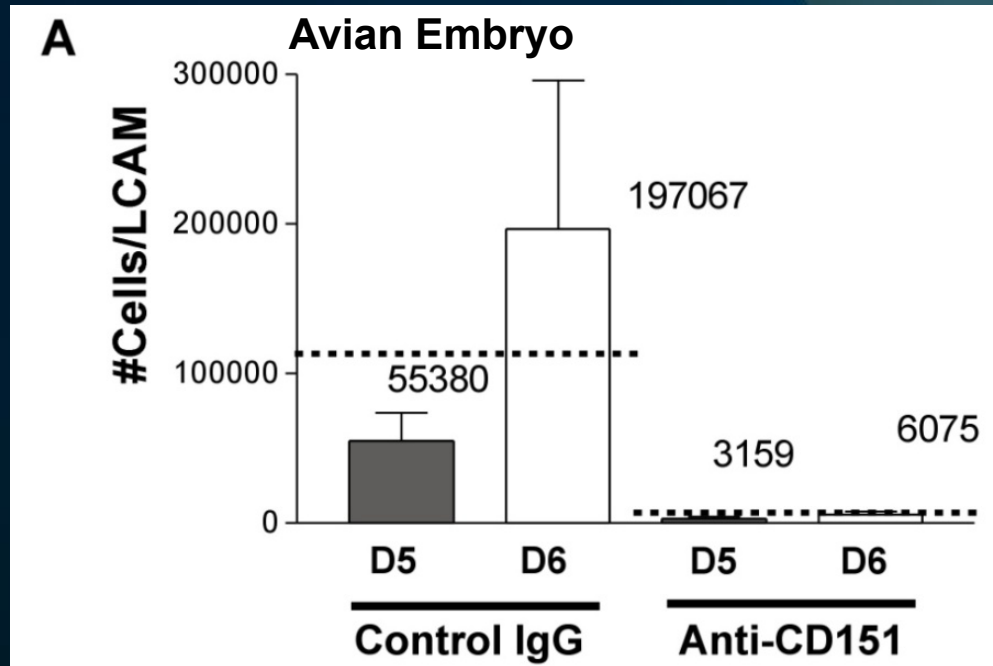
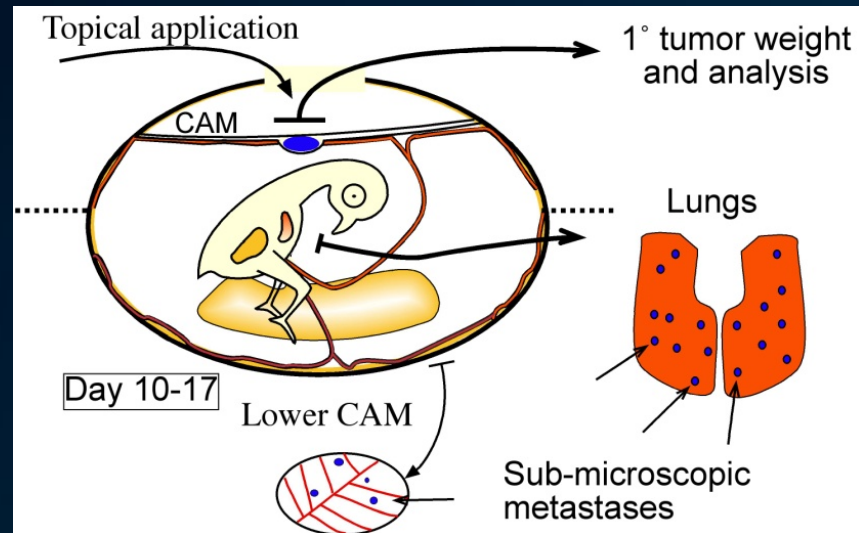


Isolate antibodies against targets in M+++ but not M-



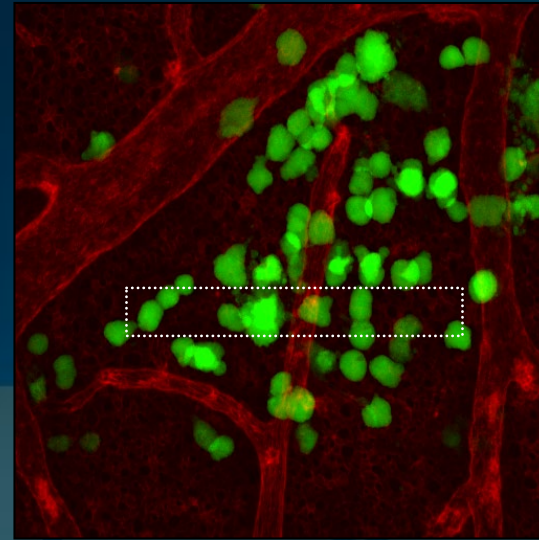
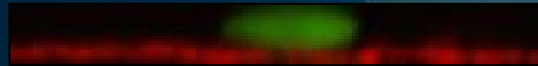
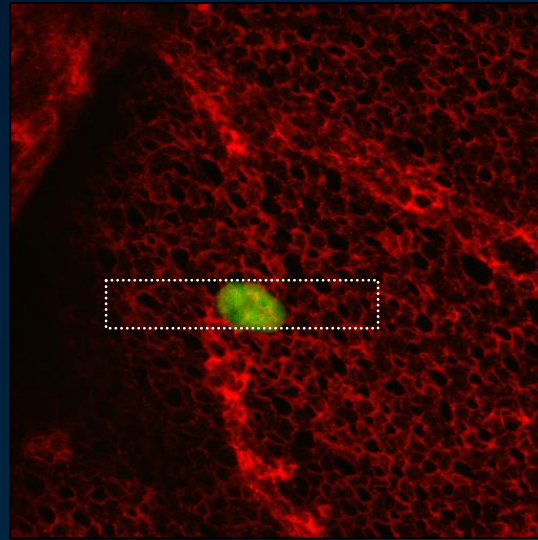


Anti-CD151 antibody blocks spontaneous metastasis



Dramatic differences in cell motility phenotype *in vivo*

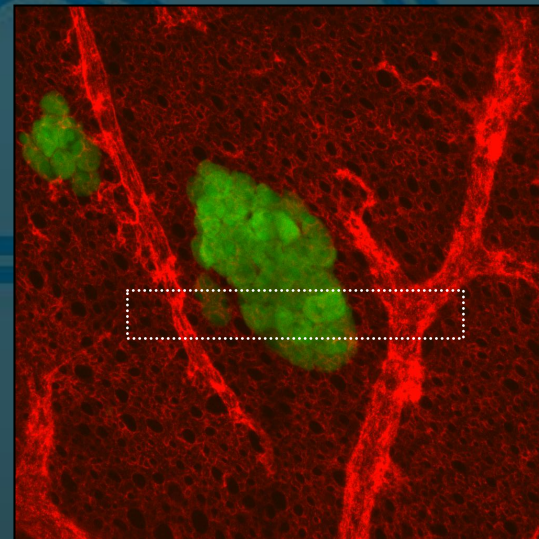
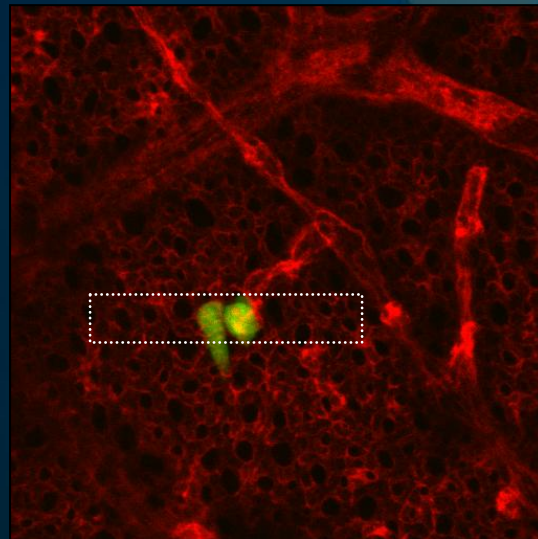
Control



Merged Topical View

Z-projection

Anti-CD151

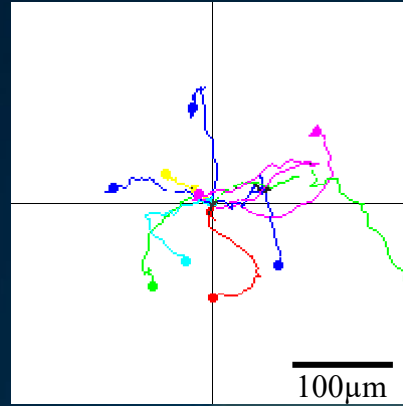


Merged Topical View

Z-projection

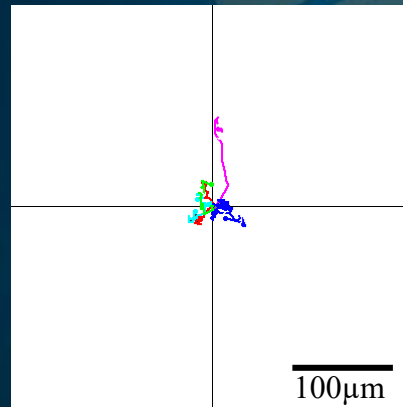
Anti-CD151 antibody inhibits cell migration *in vivo*

Control (IgG)



Average:
(velocity: 24.6 $\mu\text{m/hr}$)
(total distance: 271 μm)
(productive distance: 101 μm)

Anti-CD151 (1A5)



Average:
(velocity: 5.9 $\mu\text{m/hr}$)
(total distance: 85 μm)
(productive distance: 23 μm)

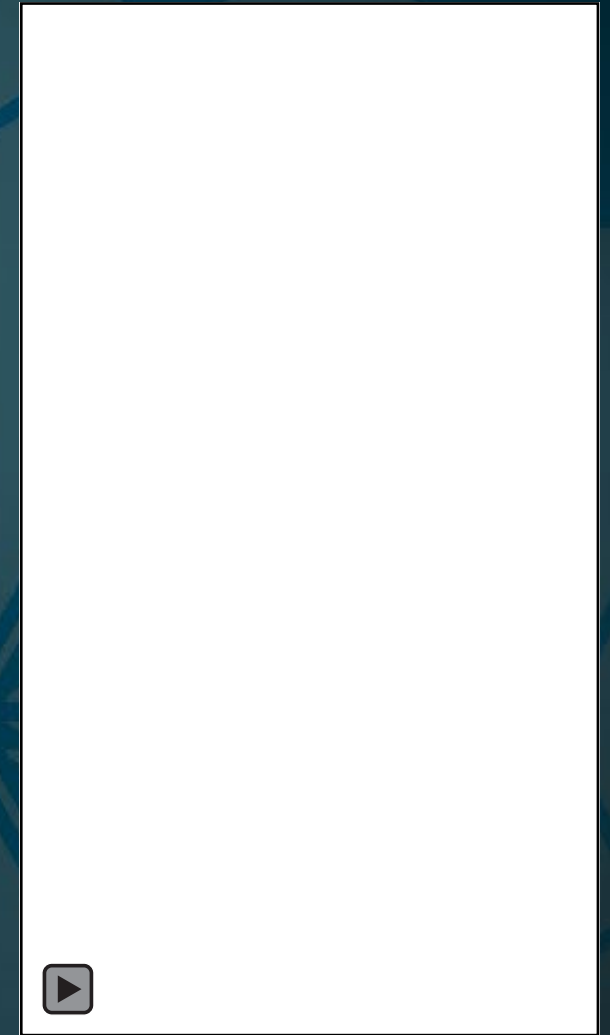
control



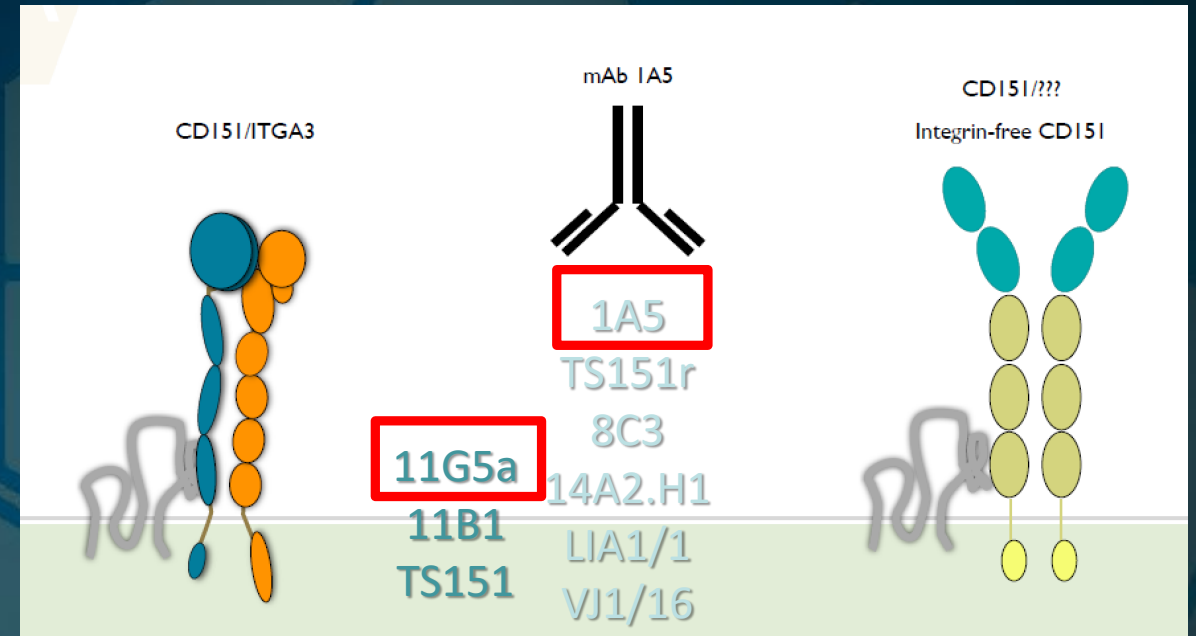
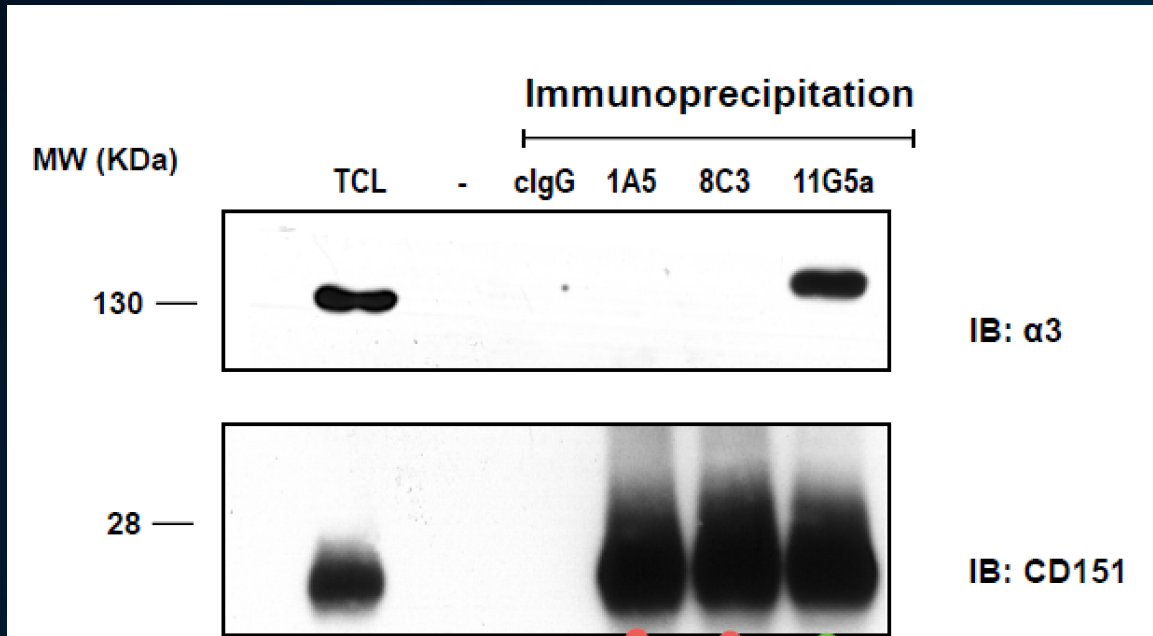
Productive Migration

6.6 fold inhibition

mAb 1A5 treated



1A5 antibody binds CD151 that is “free” from integrins



If CD151^{free} marks cancer cells that have undergone a cell motility switch, perhaps we can use it as a test to detect or predict metastasis...

CD151^{free} is distinct from CD151^{all} in prostate cancer

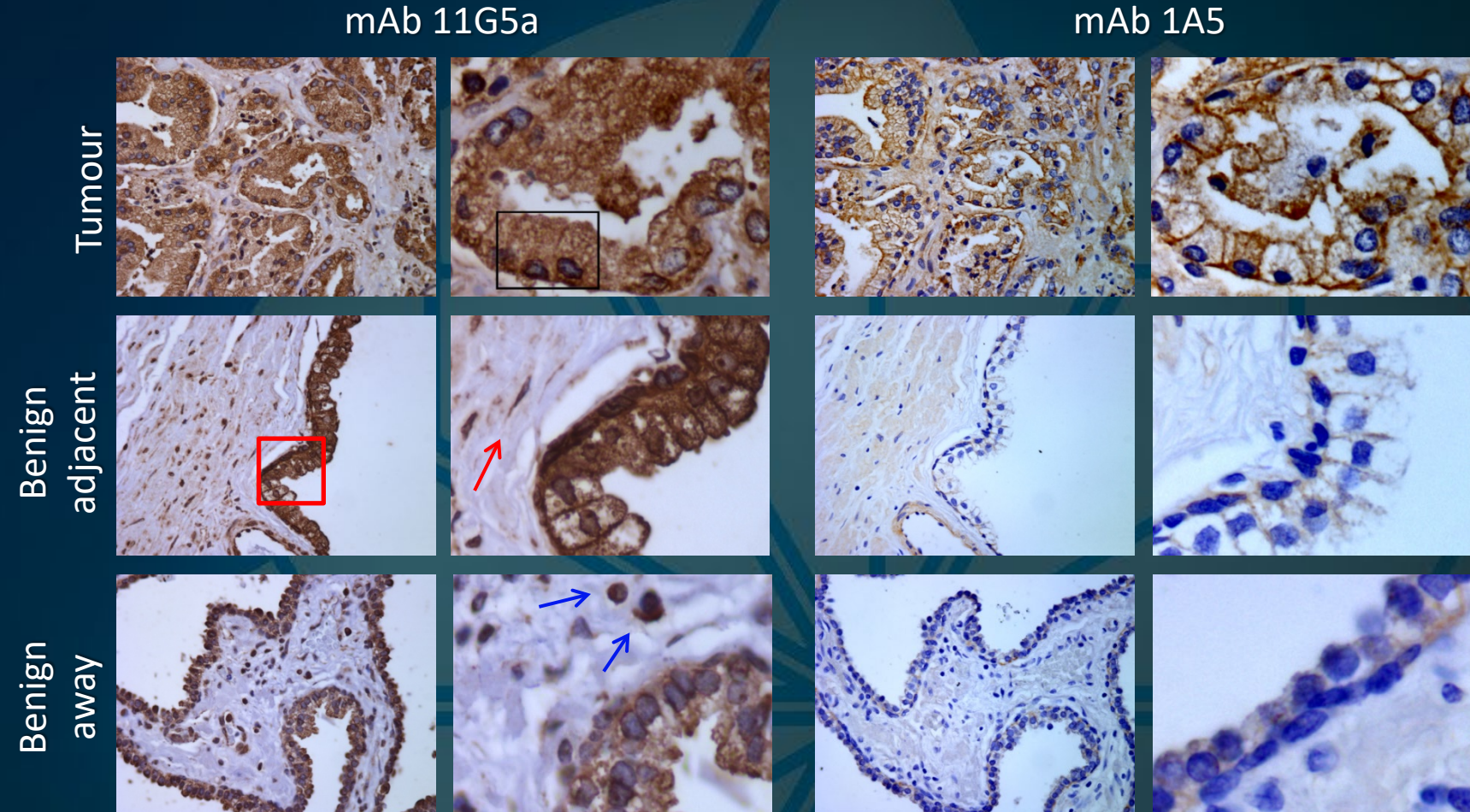
138 prostate cancer surgery patients

Follow up: 12.1 years

Recurrence: 34 cases

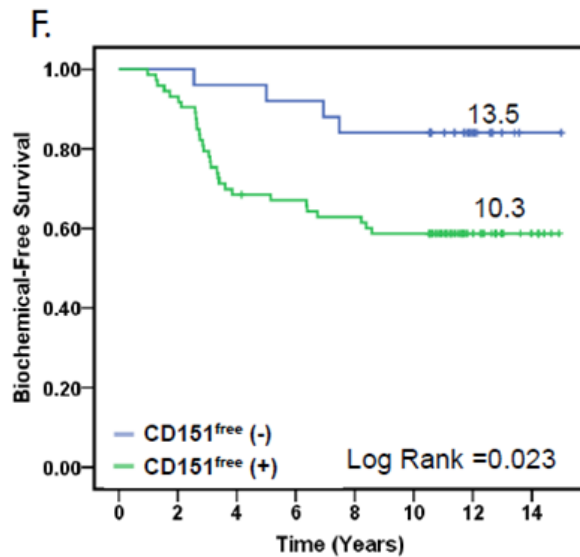
Metastasis: 38 cases

1. Does CD151^{free} predict recurrence after surgery?
2. Does CD151^{free} predict metastasis?

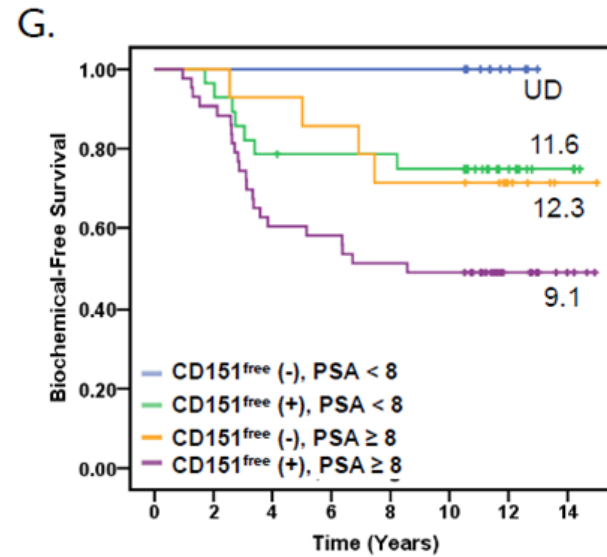


CD151^{free} predicts prostate cancer recurrence and metastasis

Biochemical Relapse

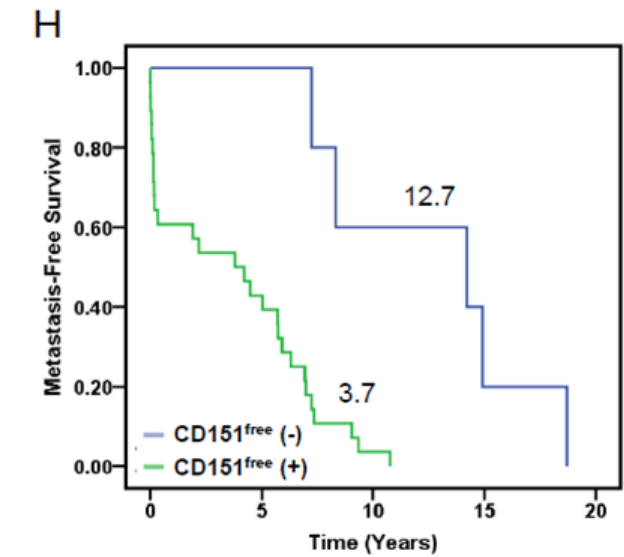


# at Risk (Years)	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14
CD151	25	25	24	23	21	19	6	1
CD151	73	68	50	48	45	38	15	4



# at Risk (Years)	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14
CD151	11	11	11	11	11	10	2	0
CD151	28	27	22	21	21	18	7	2
CD151	14	14	13	12	10	10	4	1
CD151	43	39	26	25	22	20	8	2

Metastasis



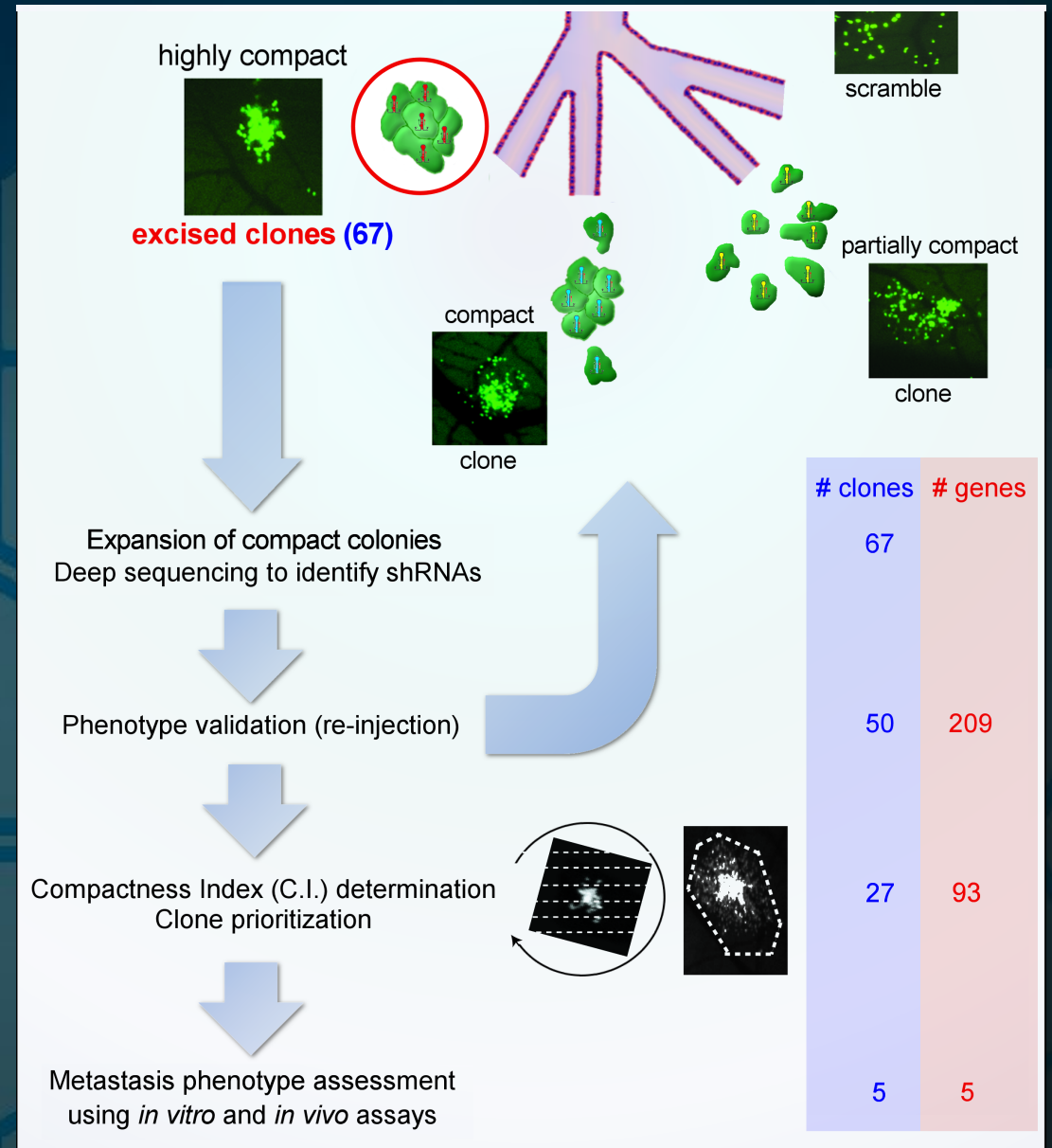
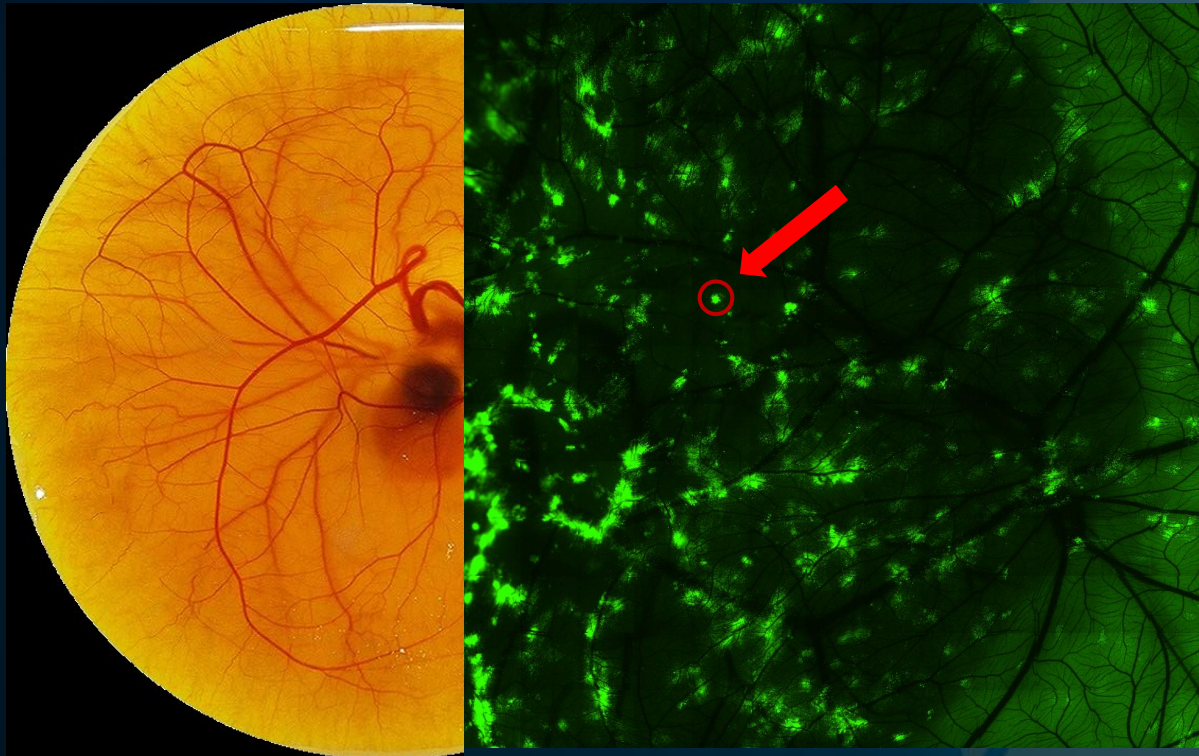
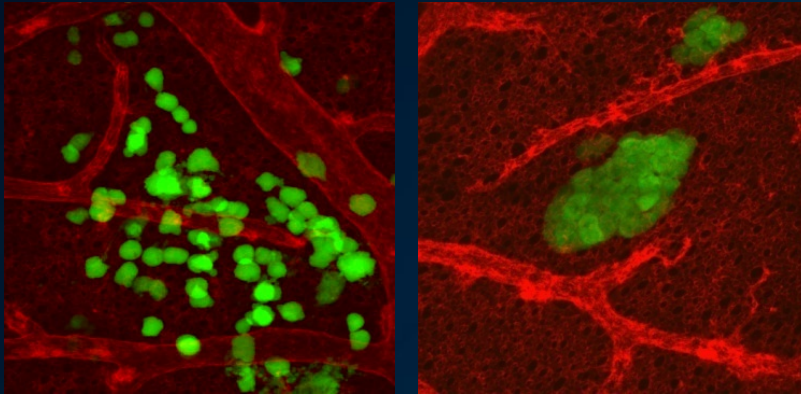
# at Risk (Years)	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
CD151	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	1	1	0
CD151	28	16	14	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	0



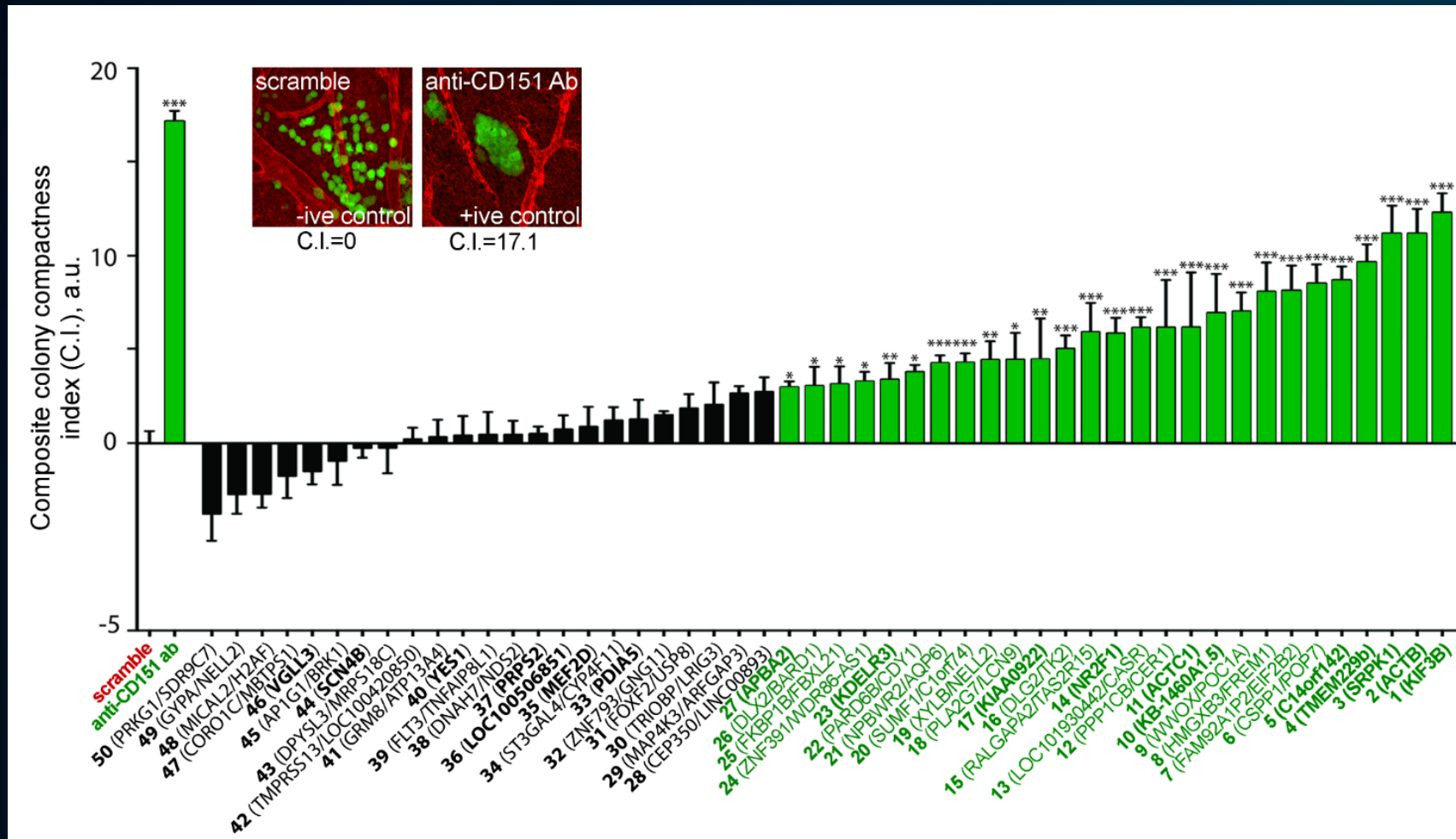
Summary: Tetraspanin CD151^{free}

- Tetraspanin CD151 and $\alpha 3$ integrin interactions comprise a cell migration “switch” between maintenance of epithelial structure and invasive cell migration
- Cross-linking CD151^{free} with 1A5 antibody blocks metastasis by stabilizing cell-cell adhesion
- mAb 1A5 detects a pool of CD151 (CD151^{free}) that is distinct from that detected by other antibodies
- CD151^{free} is associated with earlier biochemical recurrence and earlier onset of metastasis, independent predictor of outcome

Intravital imaging – metastasis screening platform



Whole genome *in vivo* screen for mediators of metastasis



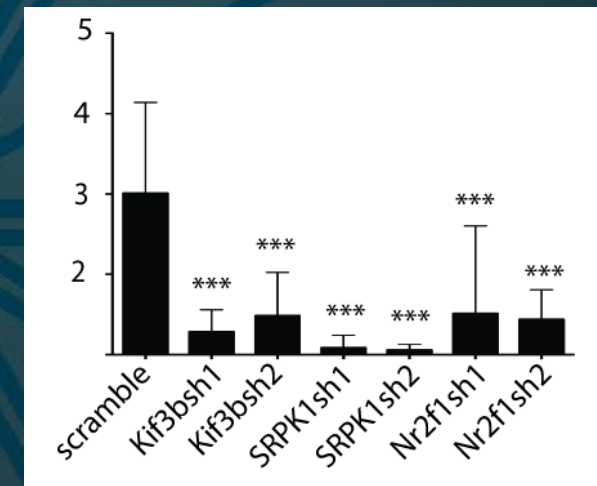
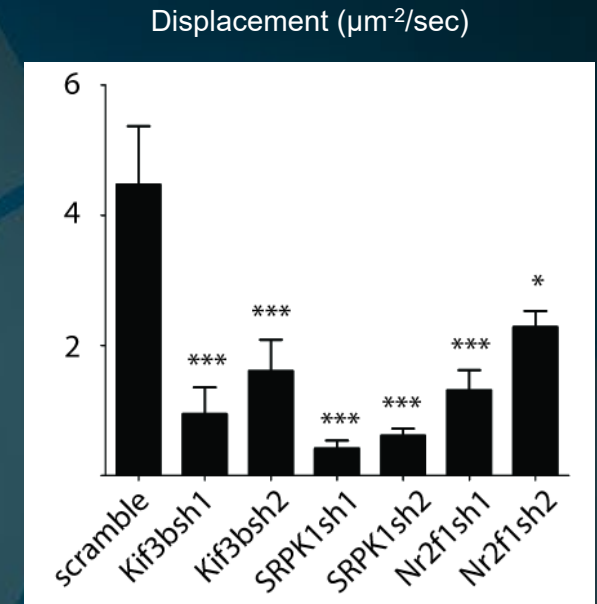
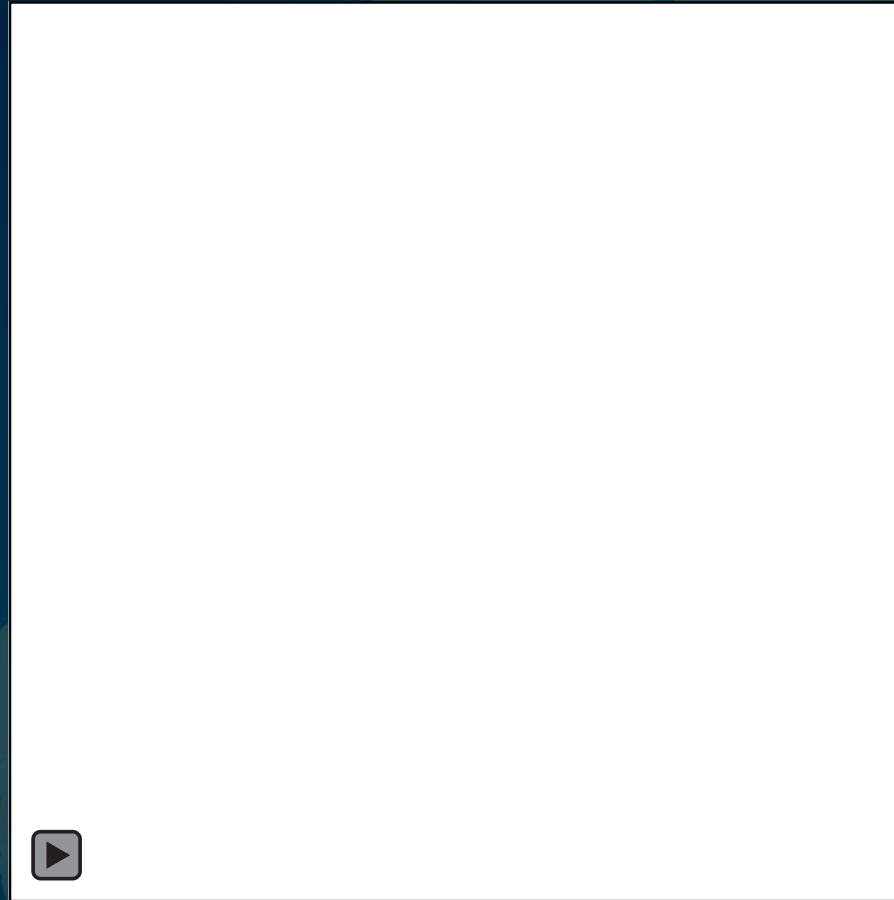
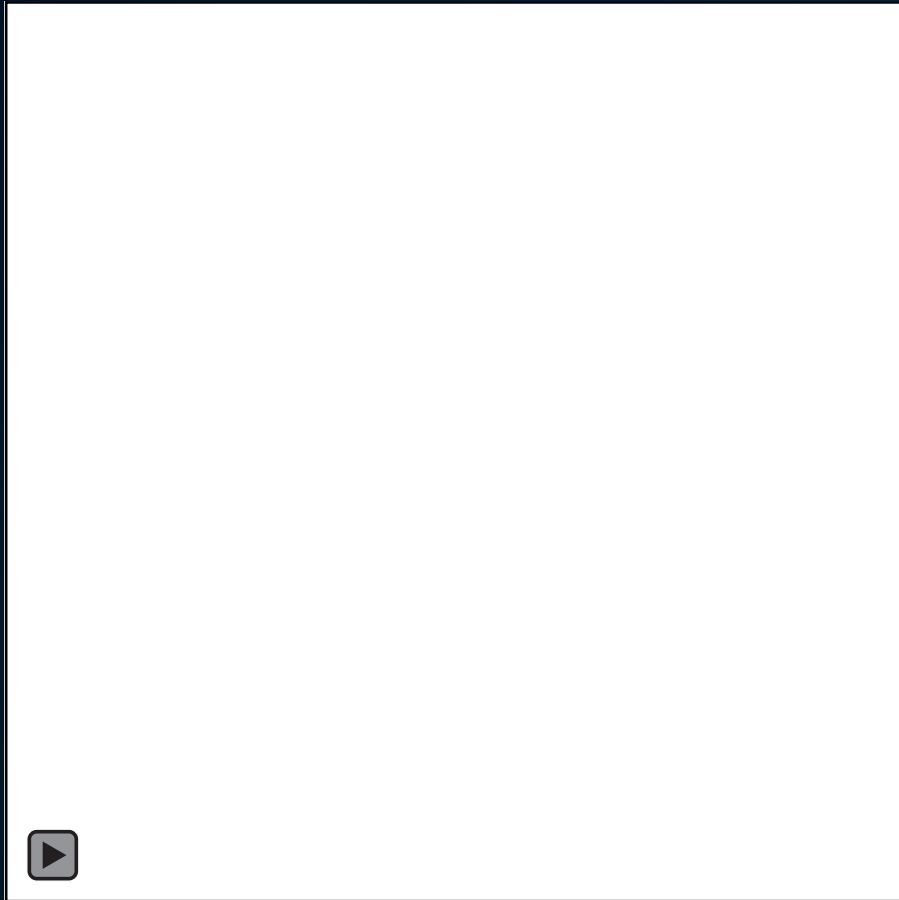
Clone #	shRNA IDs	Function	C.I.
	anti-CD151 ab	positive control	17.1±0.5
1	KIF3B	Kinesin motor complex subunit, vesicle transfer	12.4±0.92
2	ACTB	Cell cytoskeleton protein, cytoskeleton organization	11.2±0.1.2
3	SRPK1	Protein kinase, splicing regulation	11.2±0.1.3
4	TMEM229B	Transmembrane protein, function unknown	9.7±0.8
5	C14orf142	Expressed at protein level, function unknown	8.8±0.6
10	KB-1460A1.5	Long non-coding RNA; Function unknown	6.9±2.0
11	ACTC1	Cell cytoskeleton protein; Cytoskeleton organization	6.1±2.9
14	NR2F1	Orphan nuclear receptor; Gene expression regulation	5.9±0.7
17	KIAA0922	Expressed at protein level; Function unknown	4.4±2.1
23	KDELR3	Endoplasmic Reticulum Receptor; Protein sorting	3.4±0.8
27	APBA2	Neuronal adapter protein; Vesicular trafficking	2.9±0.3
	Scramble	negative control	0.0±0.6

Identified 27 clones with significant reduction in *in vivo* motility

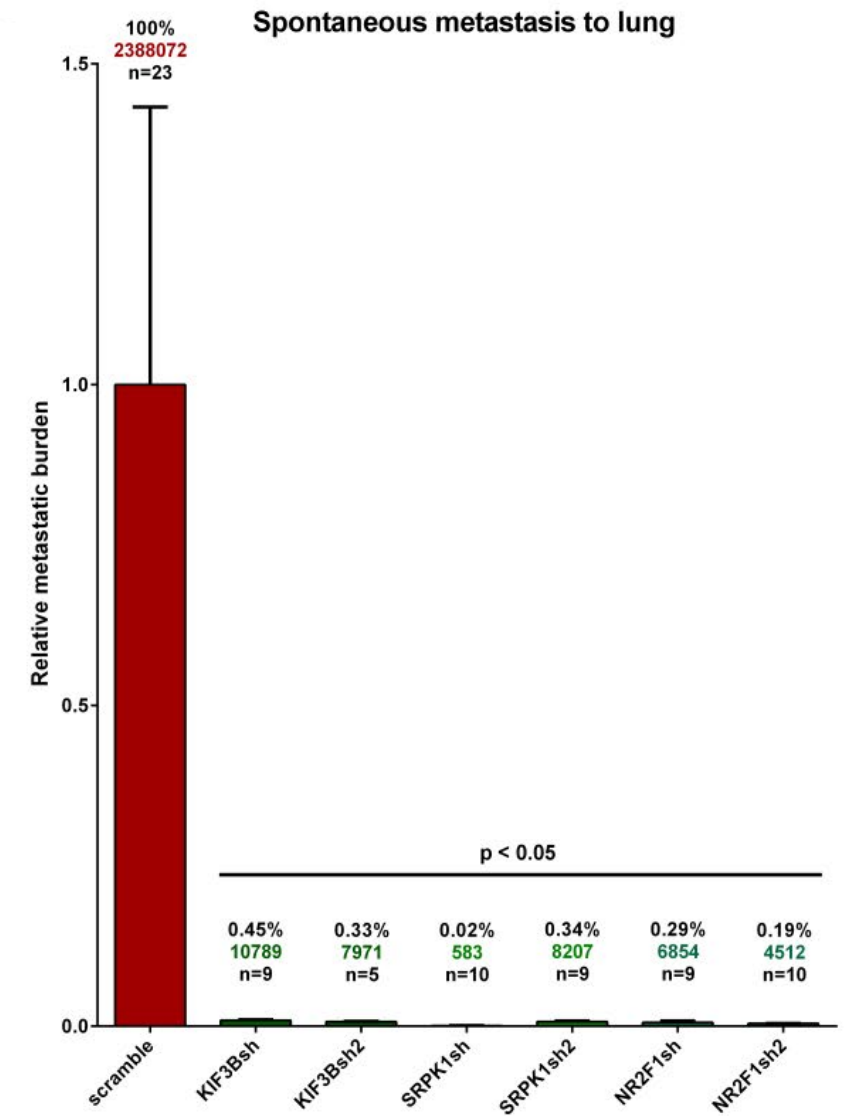
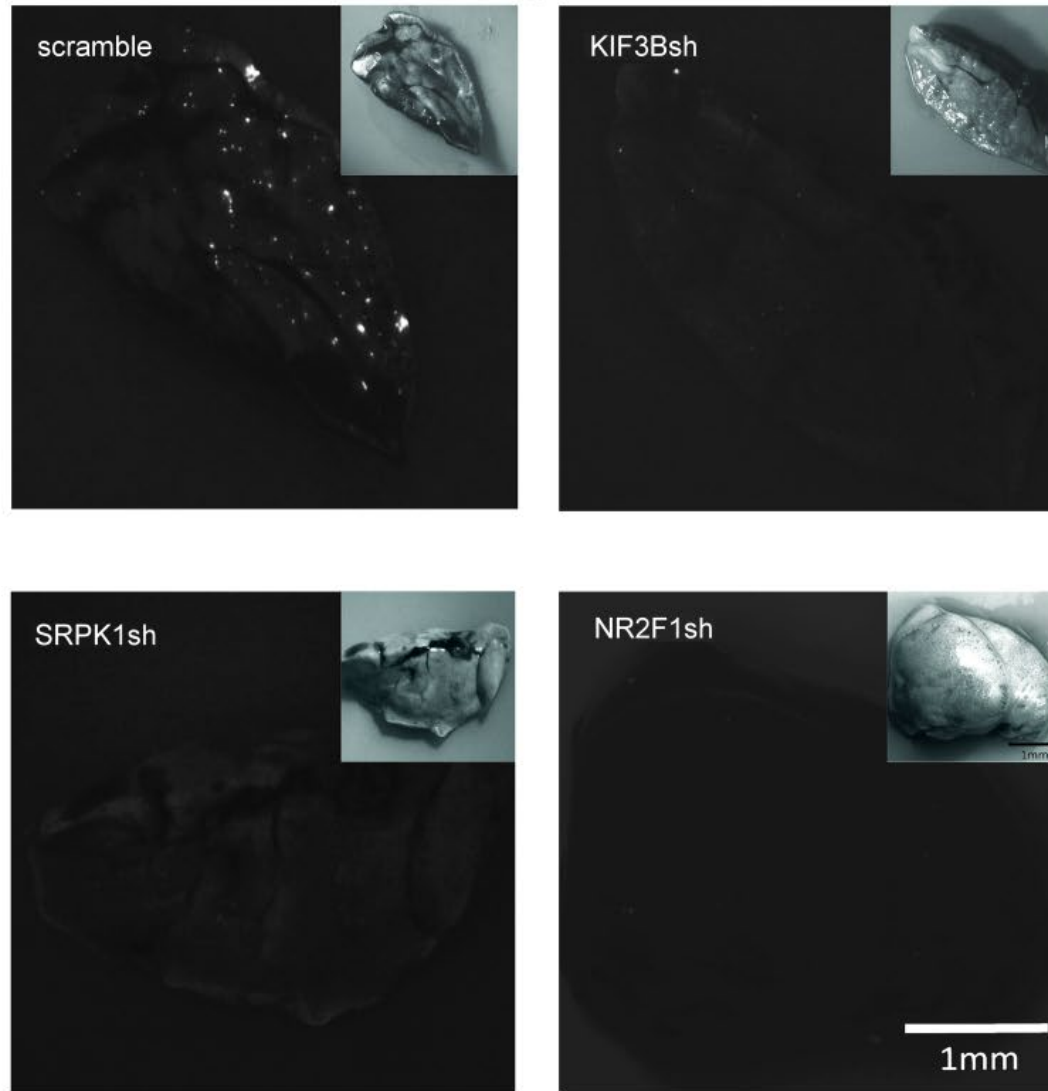
Identified 11 single shRNAs required for *in vivo* cell motility

Screen hits are required for invasive cell migration *in vivo*

In vivo cell migration assays (spontaneous and experimental metastasis)



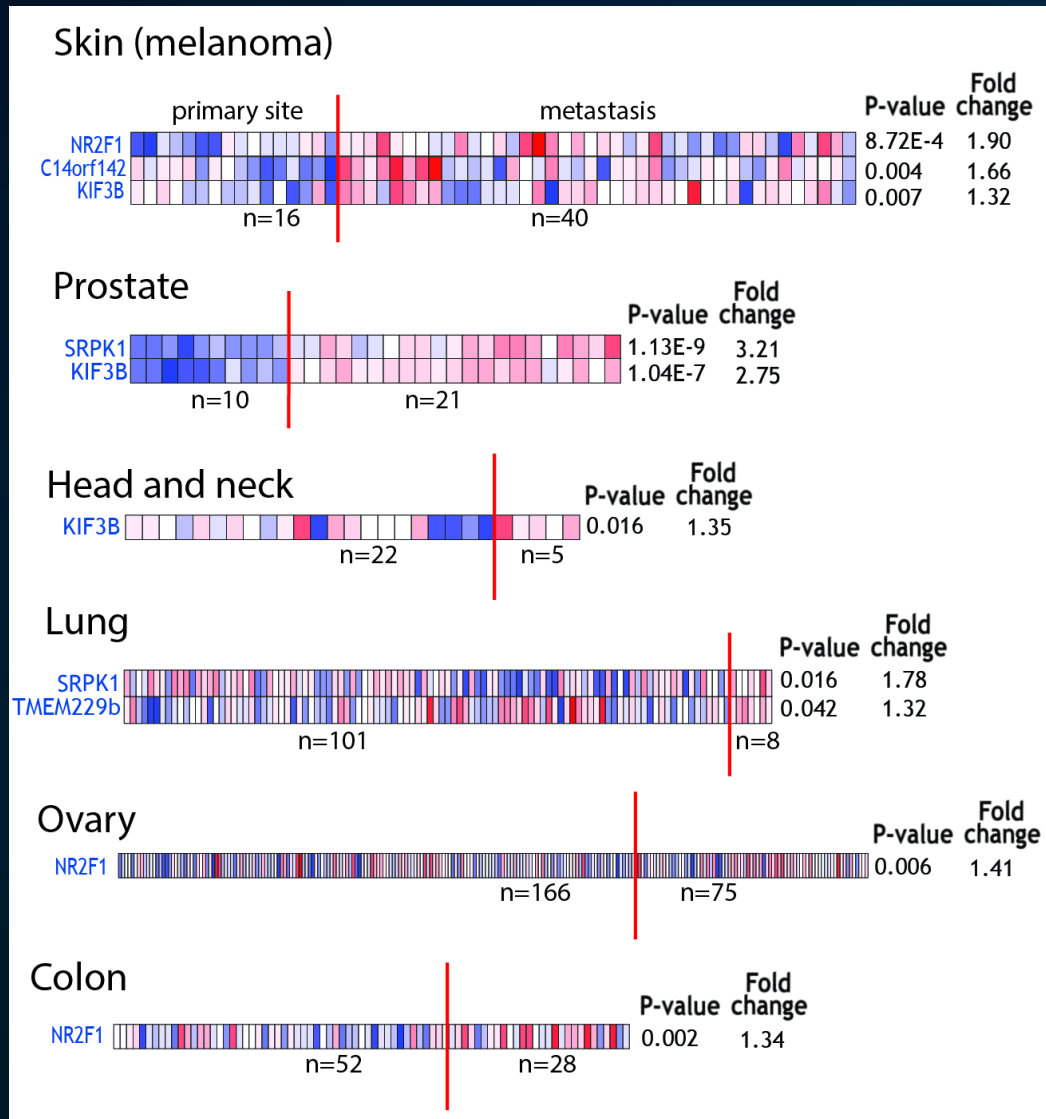
Inhibition of screen hits blocks metastasis *in vivo*



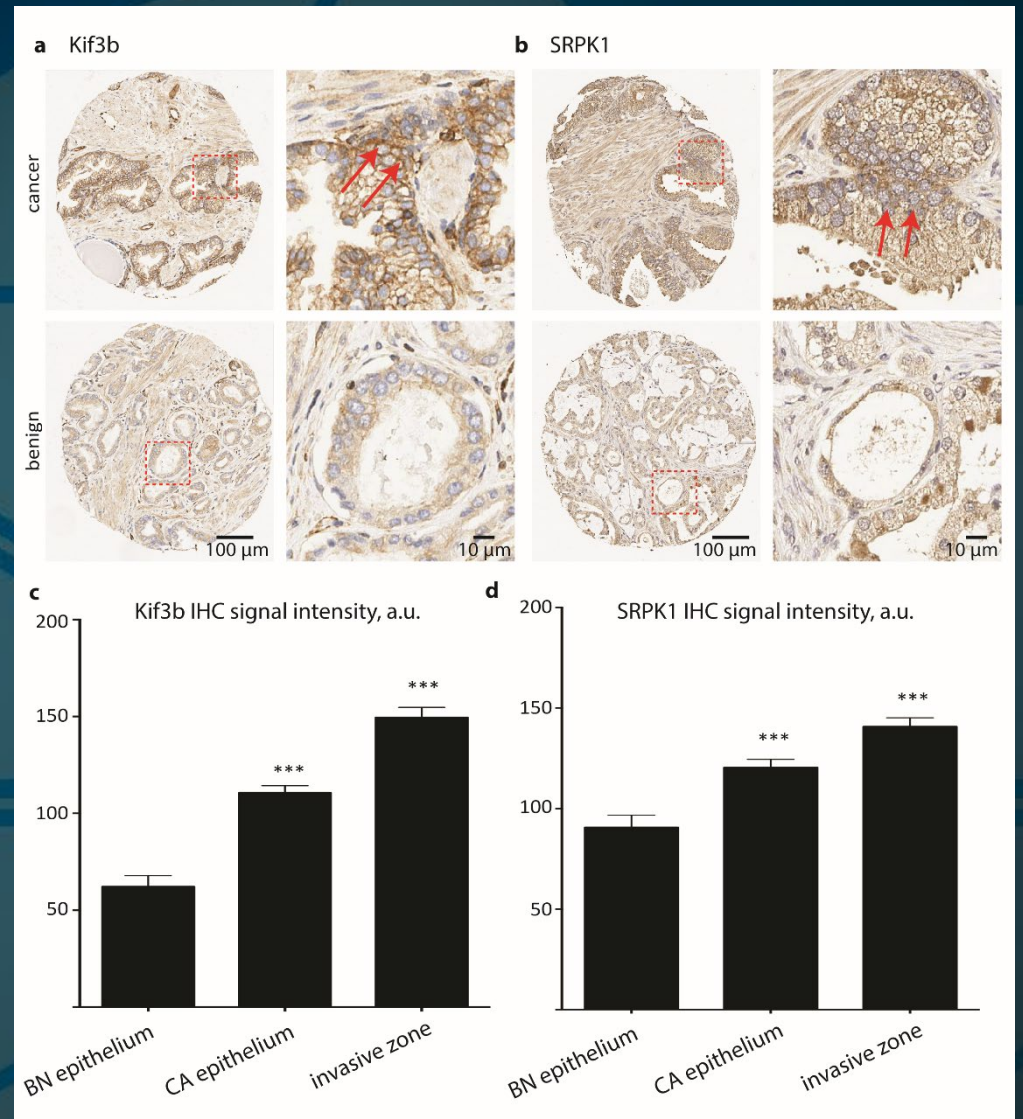


Screen hits associated with metastatic cancers and poor prognosis

Expression in matched primary tumour/metastasis



Staining of 98 patient prostate cancer TMA with SRPK1 and Kif3b

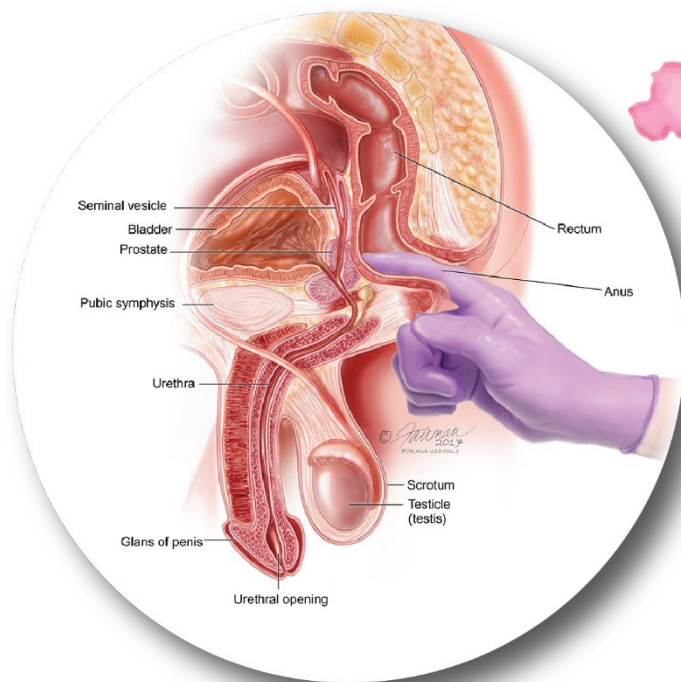


Can we use this information to improve screening?

If “cell motility switch” genes are required for prostate cancer spread, perhaps we can incorporate them into a test to detect aggressive prostate cancer



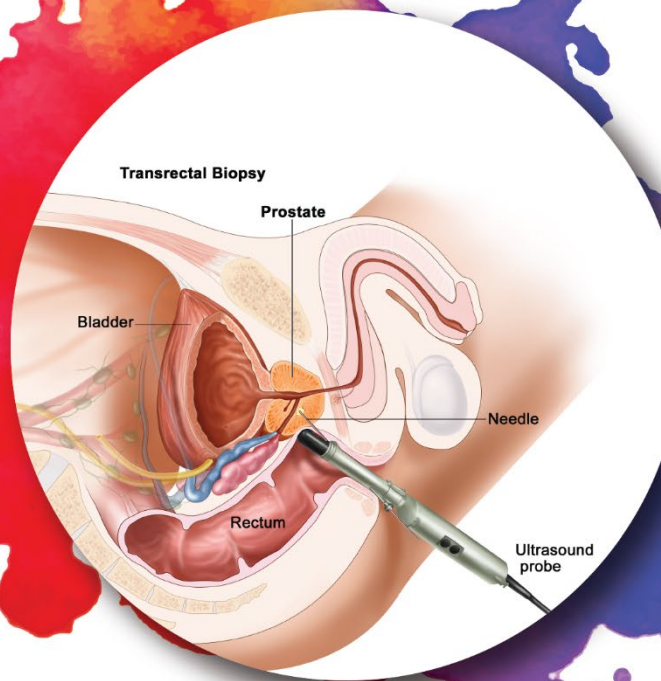
Screening for prostate cancer causes unnecessary harm



Screening

- **Symptoms/risk factors**
(Family doctor)
- **PSA Blood test** (20M per year)
- **DRE**
Invasive
Uncomfortable

Only 15-25% specific for prostate cancer, resulting in many unnecessary biopsies



Diagnosis

Biopsy (1.3M per year)
12 needles = Pain, Discomfort, Infection
1.5% chance of life-threatening sepsis

More than 3/4 of men diagnosed with prostate cancer have indolent, non-aggressive disease

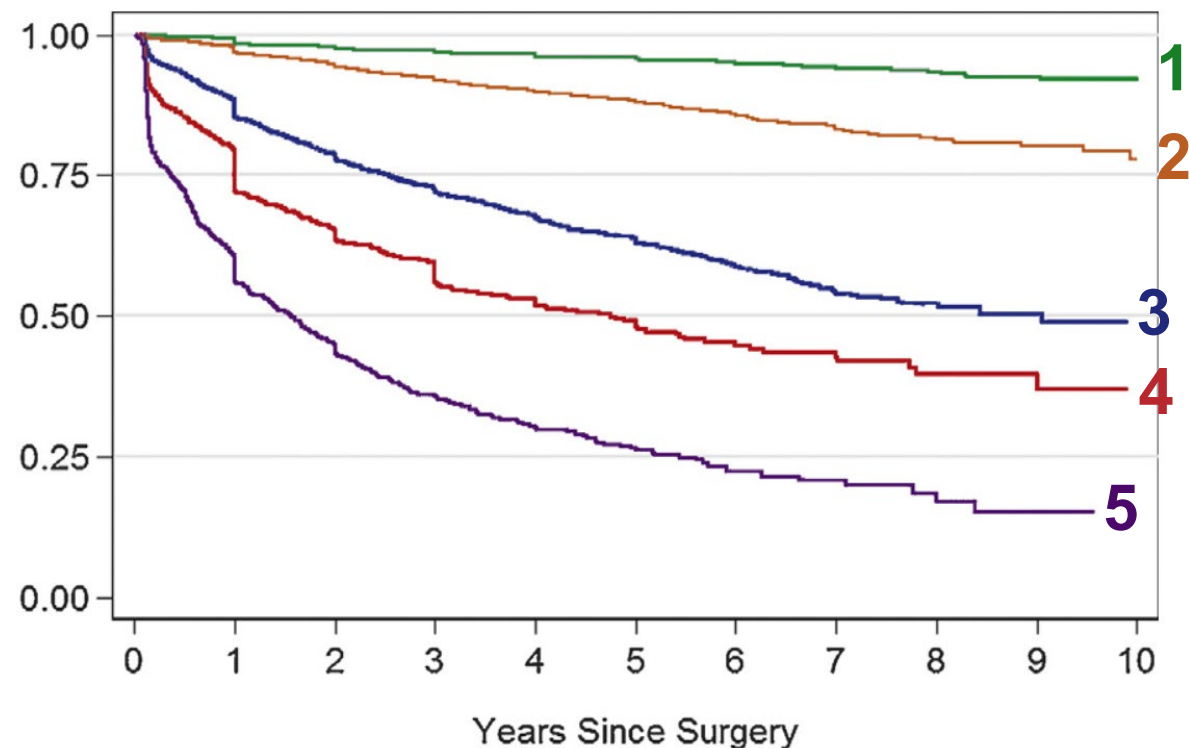
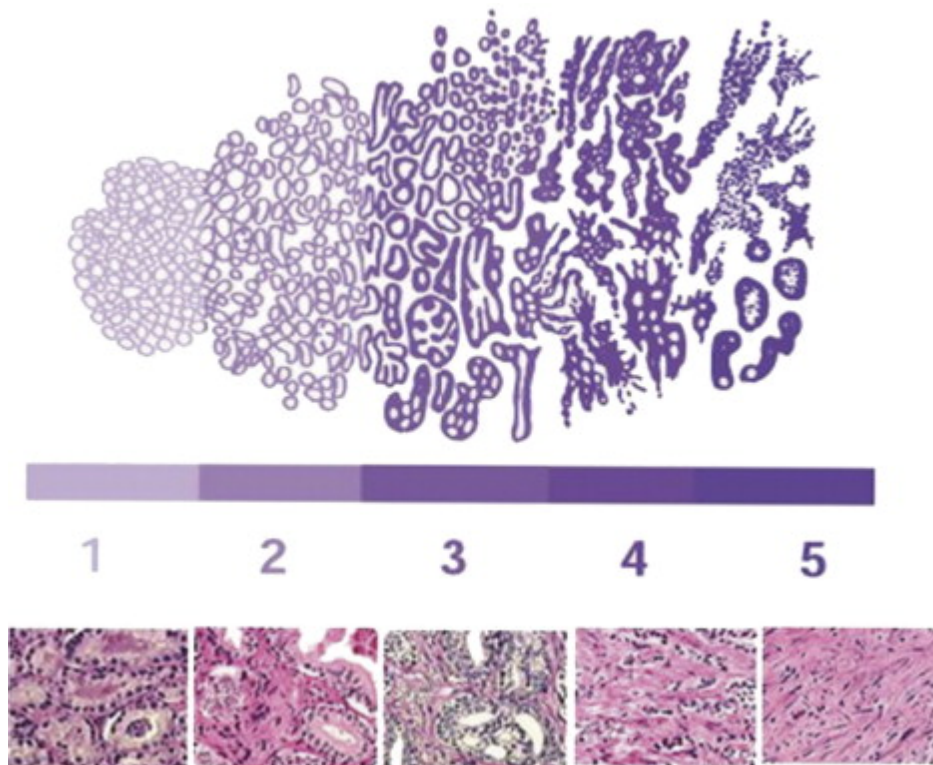
Serious Adverse Events (SAE) from biopsies

- >1M biopsies are done per year in the US^{1,2}
- Incidence of sepsis following transrectal ultrasound guided prostate biopsy ranges from 2-4% in developed countries and can go as high as >9% in developing countries^{3,4}
- Antibiotic resistance and sepsis are on the rise¹

Careful patient selection for prostate biopsy is essential to minimize the potential harms

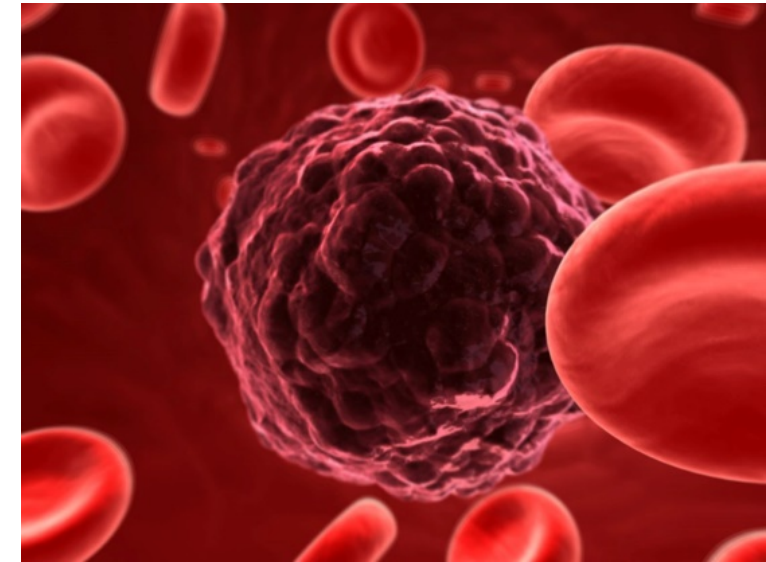
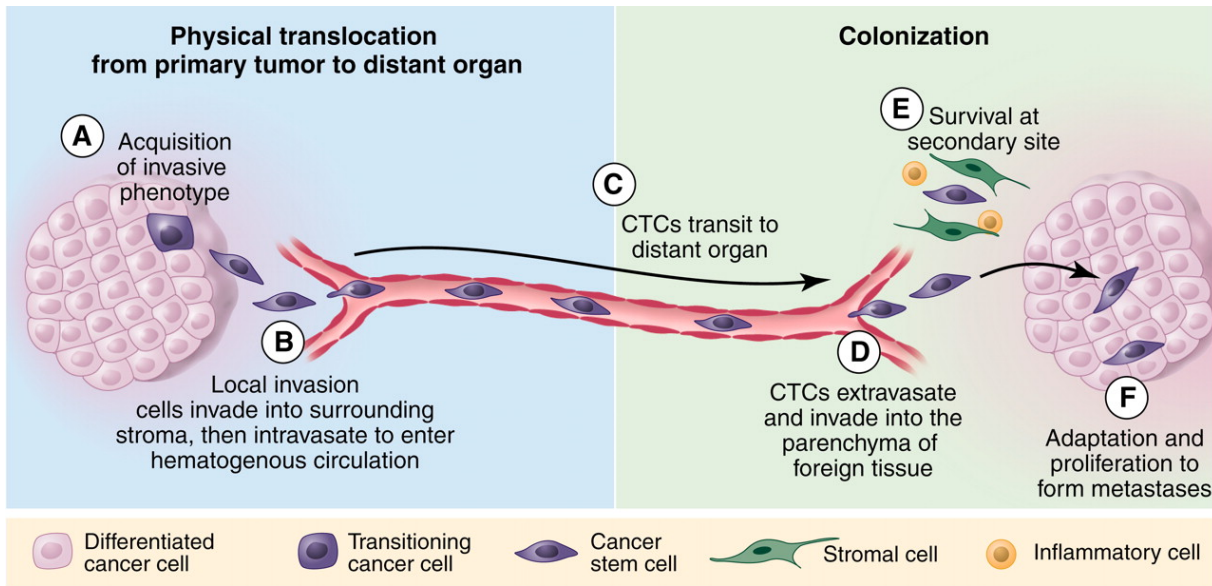
1. [Sanders A¹, Buchan N. ANZ J Surg. 2013](#), 2. [Loeb S. J Urol. 2011](#), 3. [Robert K.Nam. J Urol. 2013](#), 4. [Mohammed Shahait. Int Braz J Urol. 2016](#)

Prostate cancer is a **heterogeneous disease**:
some forms are **lethal**, others are not



Men with Gleason Grade Group 3-5 prostate cancers have significantly worse outcomes

Circulating tumour cells (CTC) as biomarkers



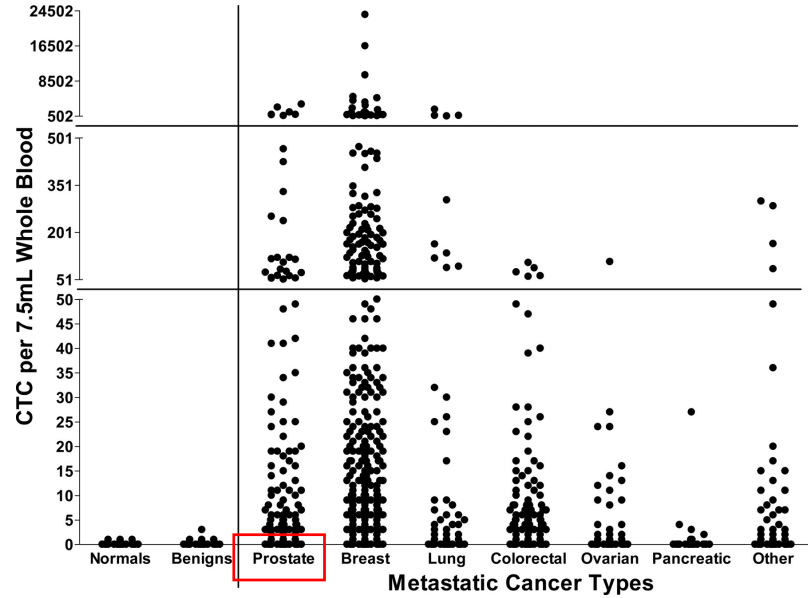
- Living cancer cells detached from the primary tumor and circulating through bloodstream
- Very rare (1 in a billion!)
- CTC counting has prognostic value for OS (>4 CTCs/7.5mL)



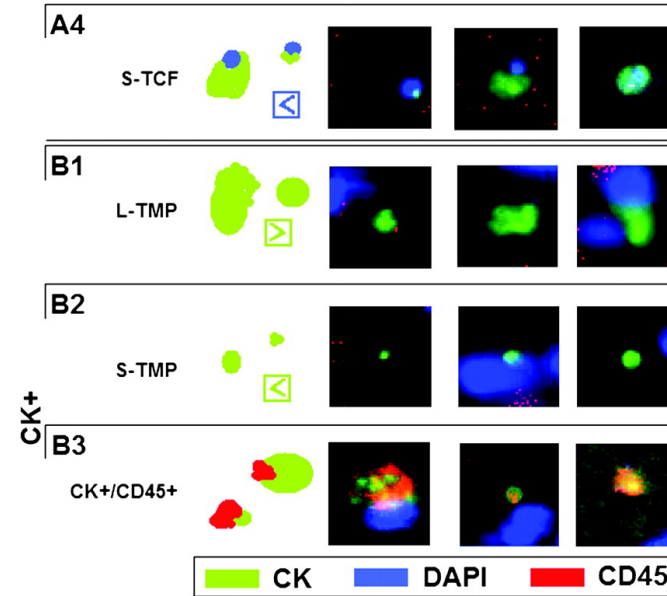
A problem of numbers...

But many cancer cell "events" don't meet the criteria for CTC

CTC numbers too low even in patients with confirmed metastatic disease

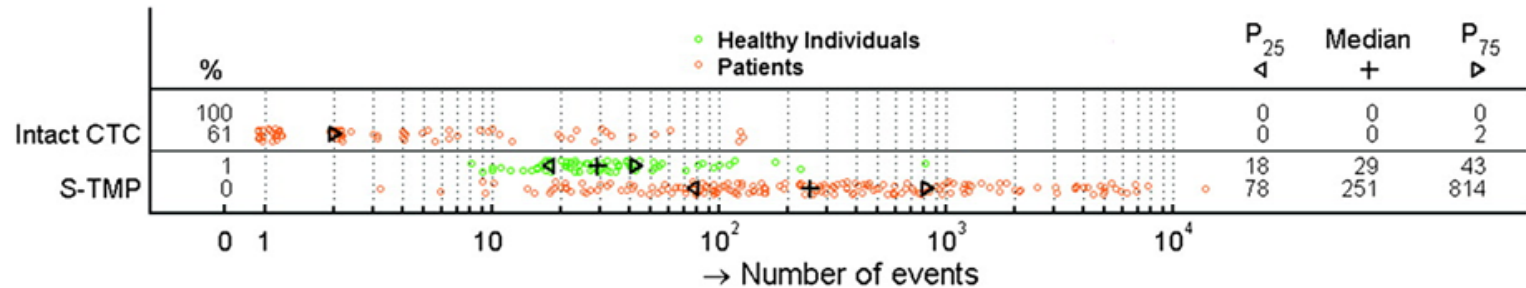


43% have <2
18% have 0

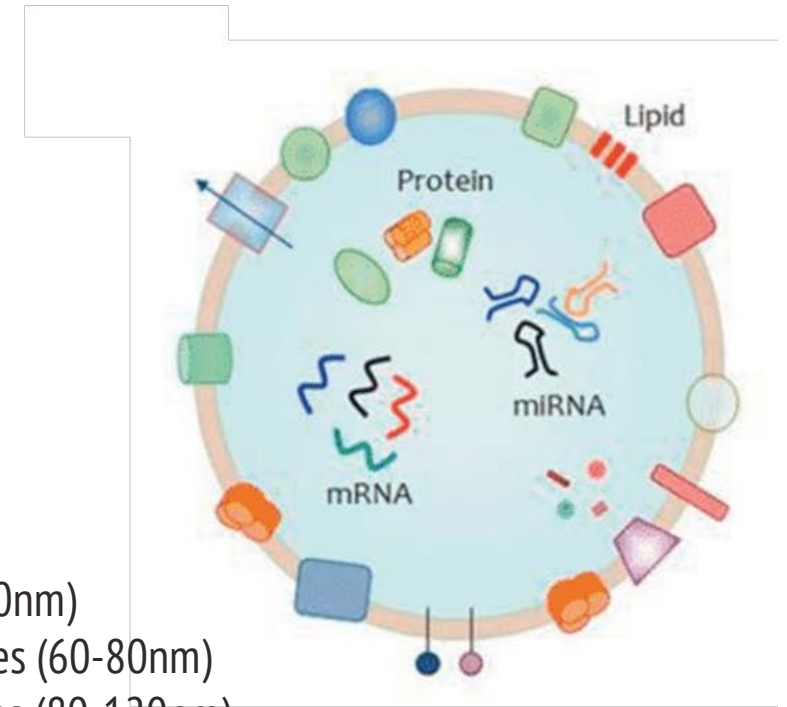
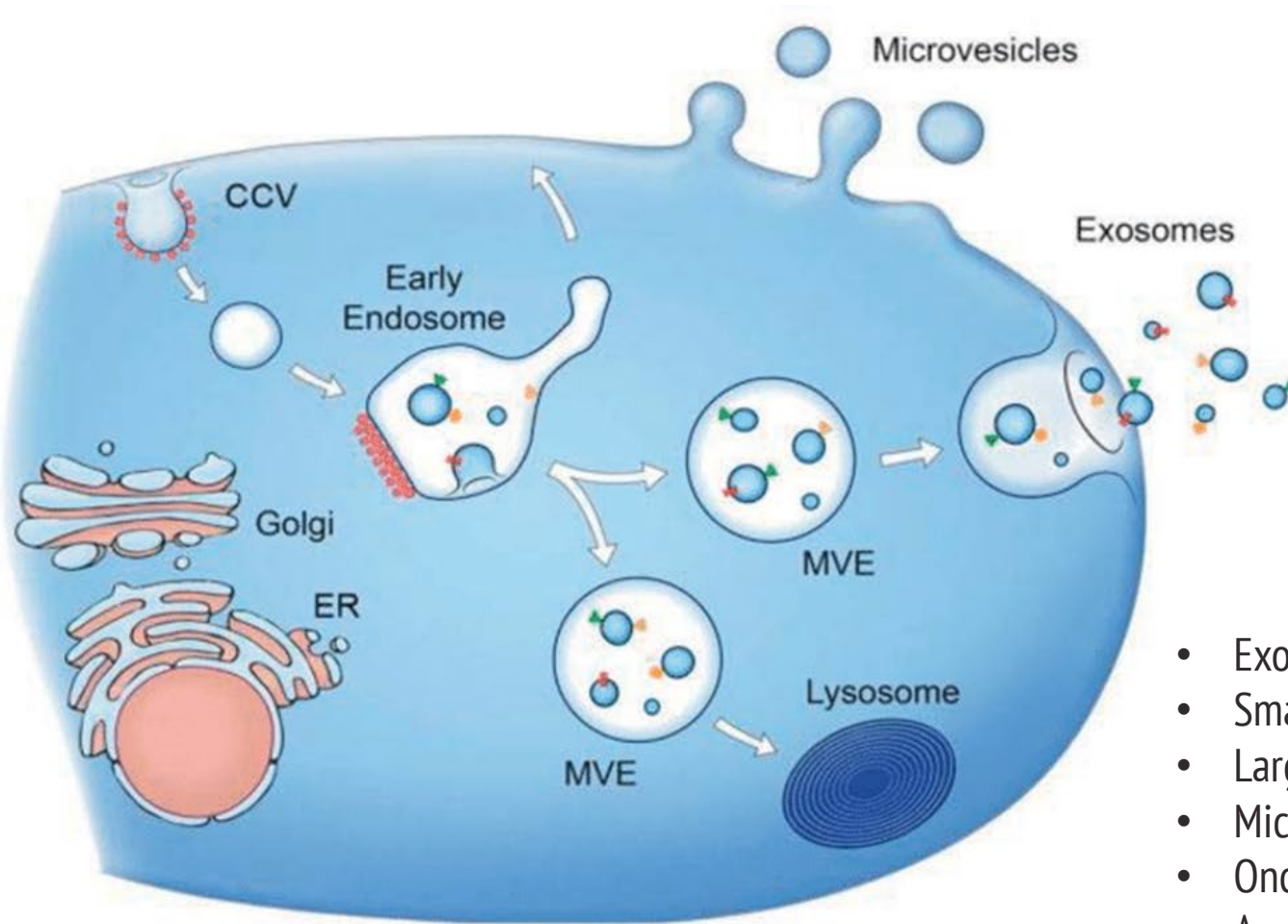


Allard WJ *Clin Cancer Res* 2004

Extracellular vesicles (EVs) provide much greater dynamic range than CTCs



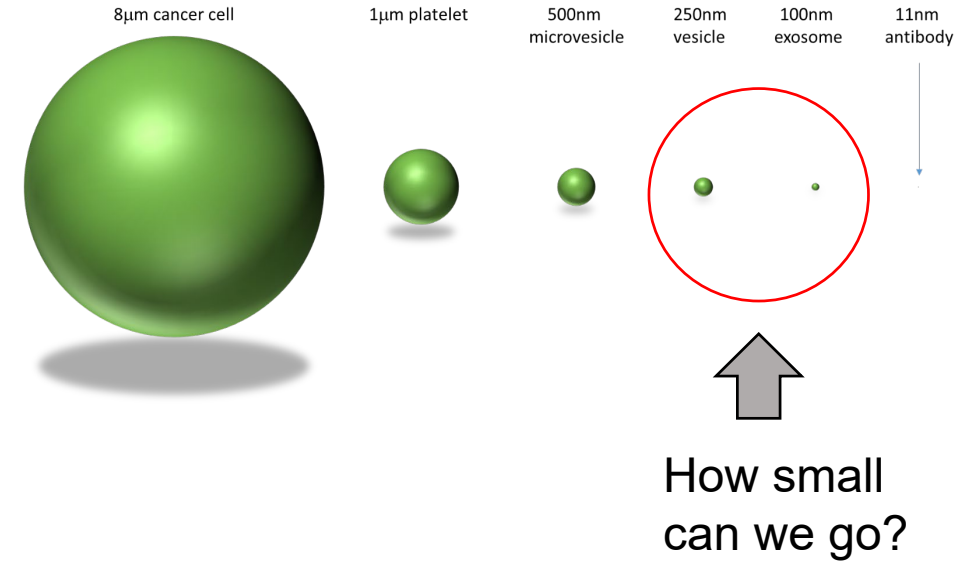
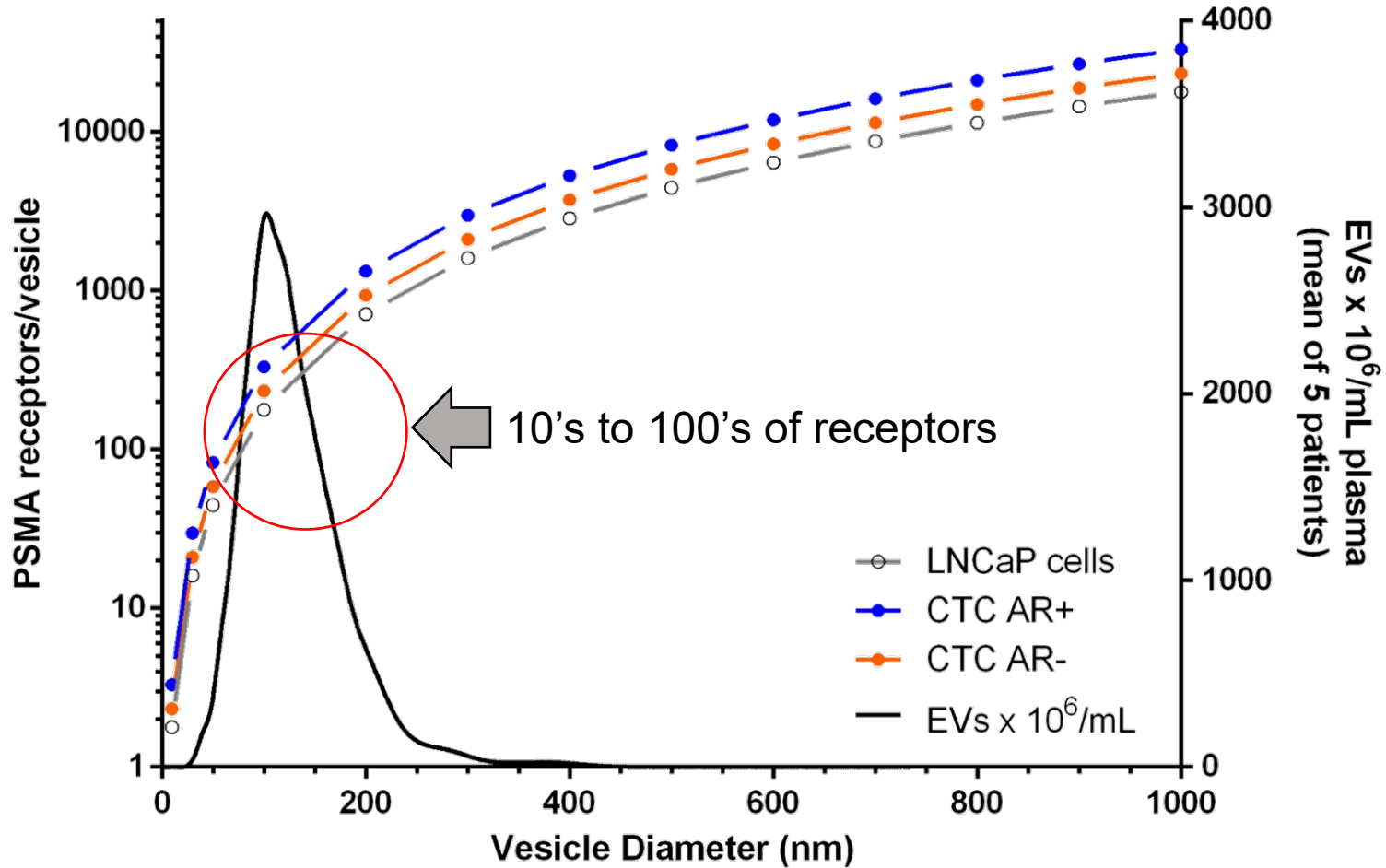
Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are released by all cells in the body



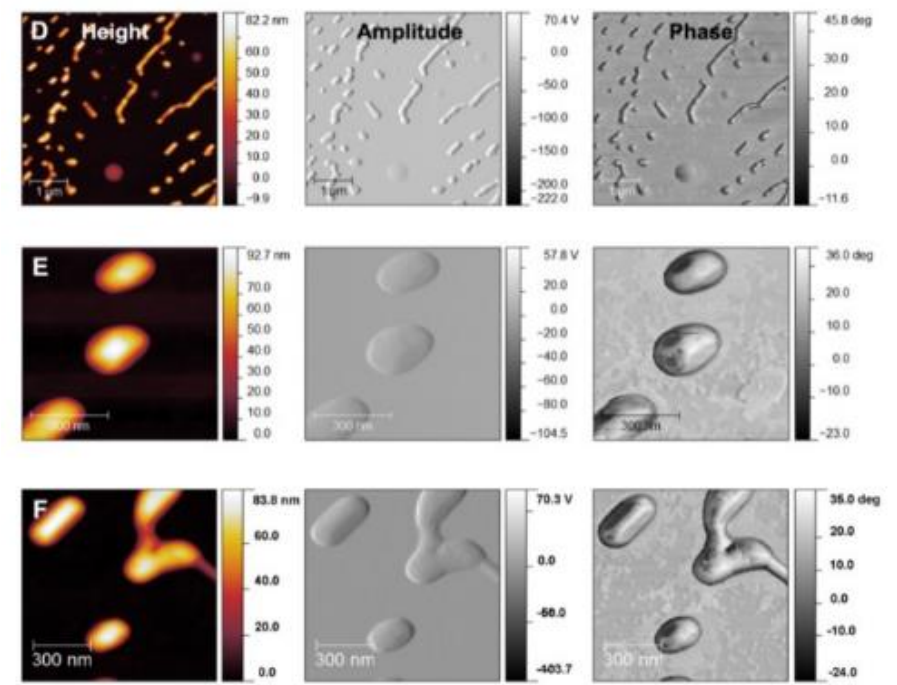
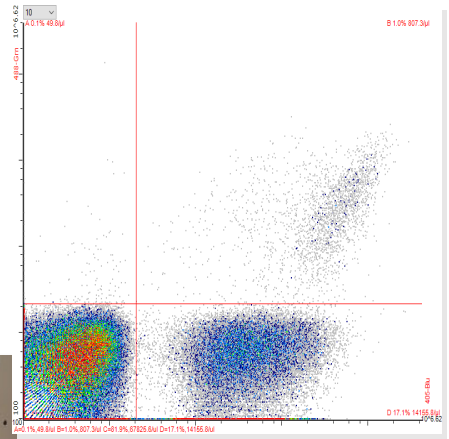
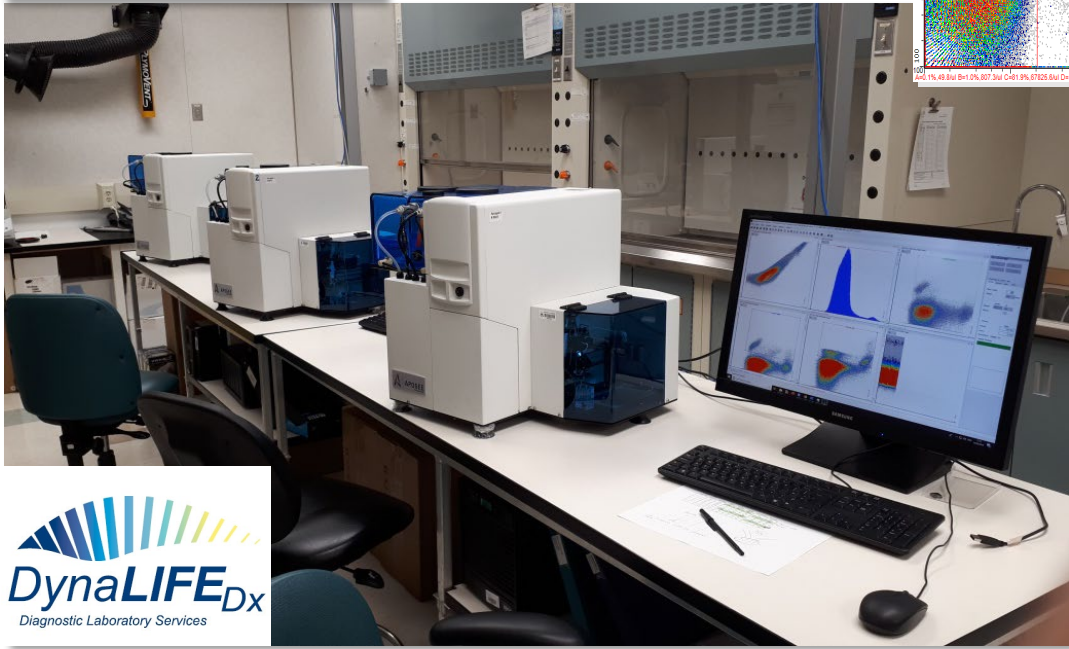
- Exosomes (< 50nm)
- Small Exosomes (60-80nm)
- Large Exosomes (80-120nm)
- Microvesicles (50nm-1µm)
- Oncosomes (1-10µm)
- Apoptotic bodies (800nm-10µm)
- **As yet undescribed?**

The challenge: single particle detection of prostate EVs

PSMA receptors on vesicles

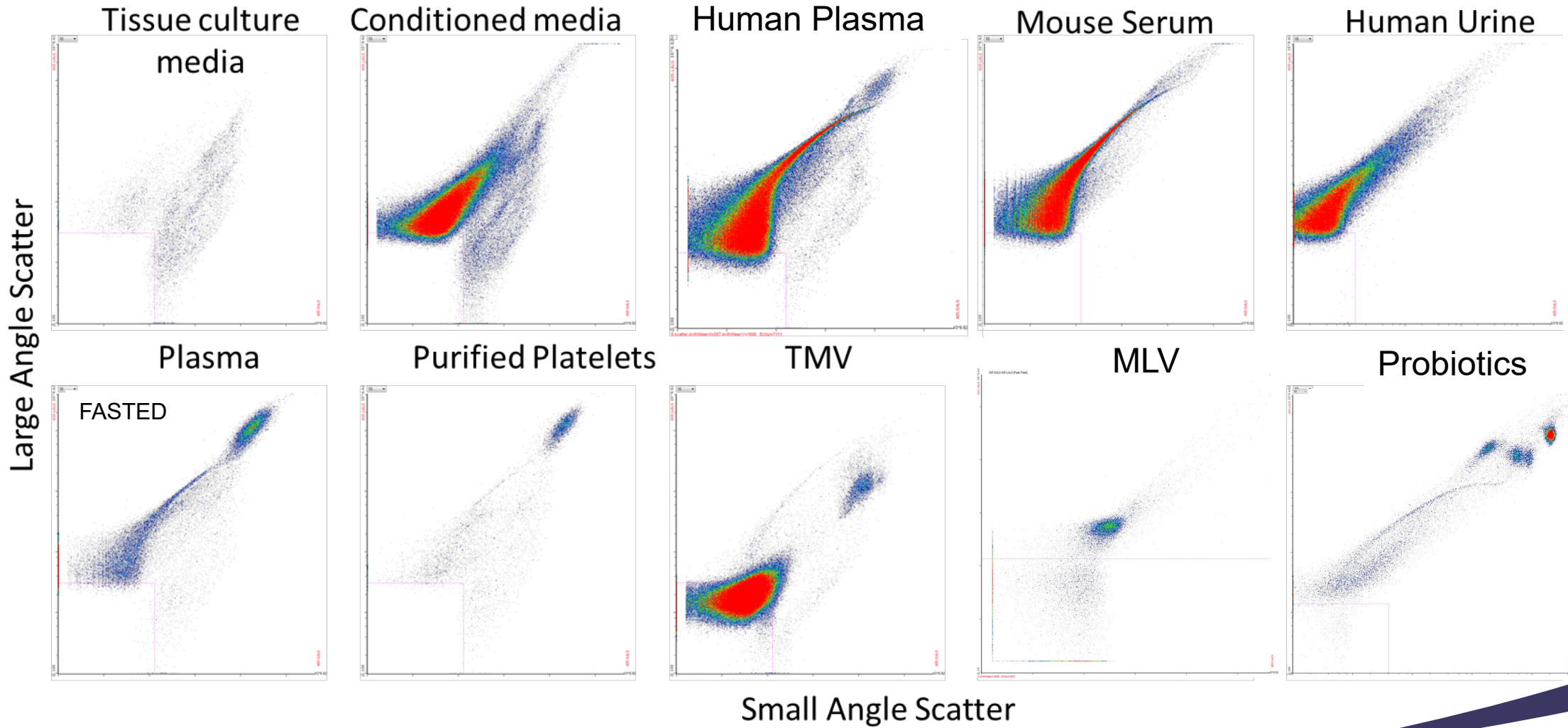


MicroFlow Cytometry can detect and characterize a wide range of EVs



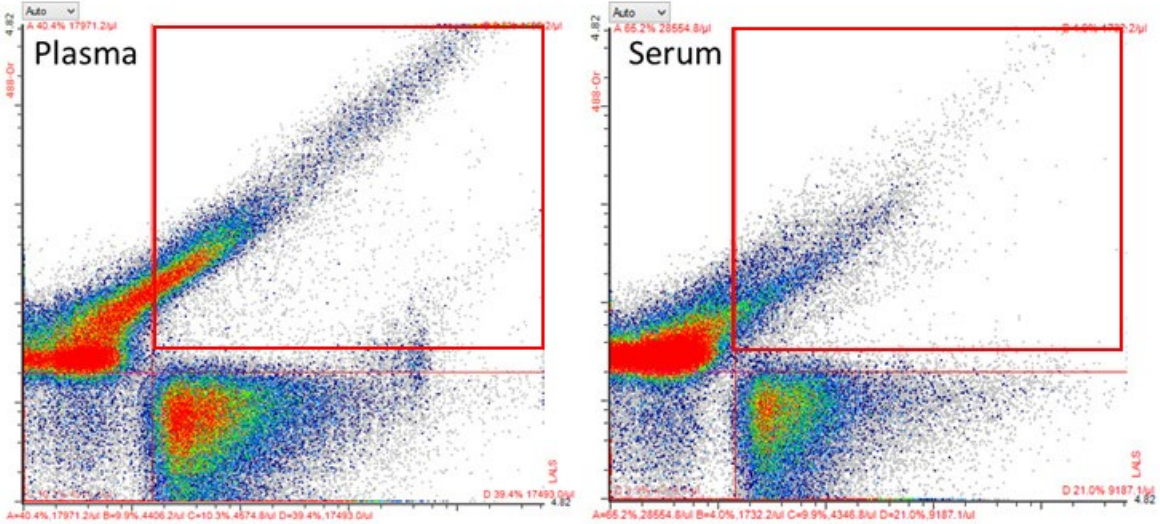
Leong et al., J of Thrombosis and Haemostasis, 2011

MicroFlow Cytometry resolves small biological particles

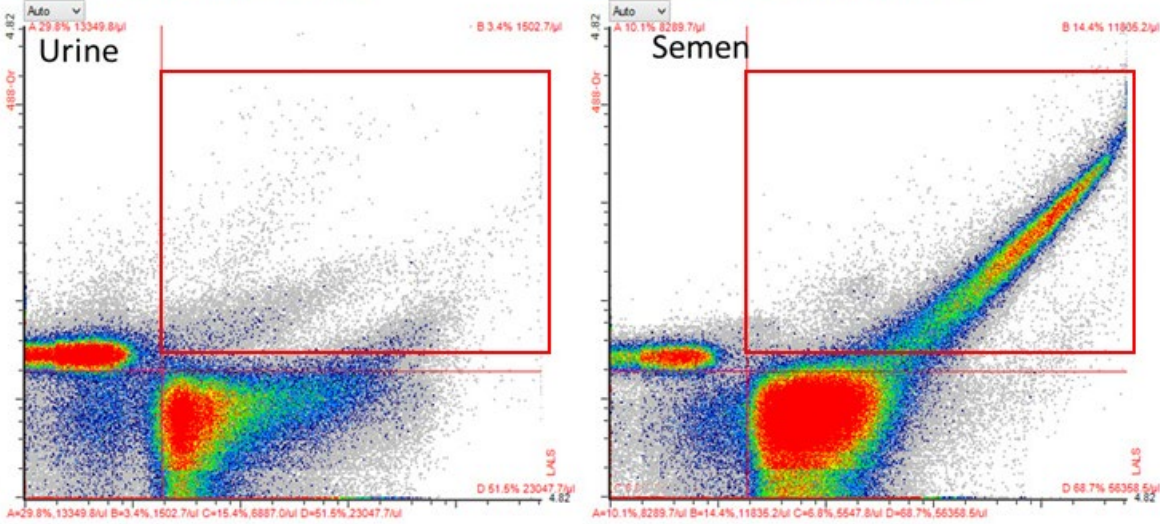


Detection of prostate-derived EVs in complex biofluids

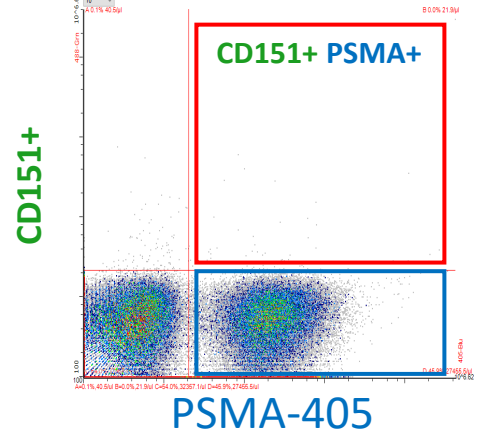
PSMA-405



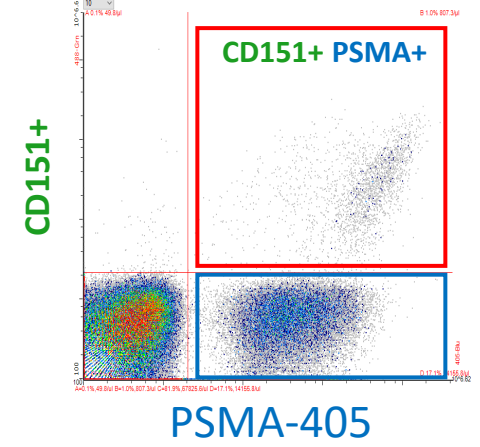
PSMA-405



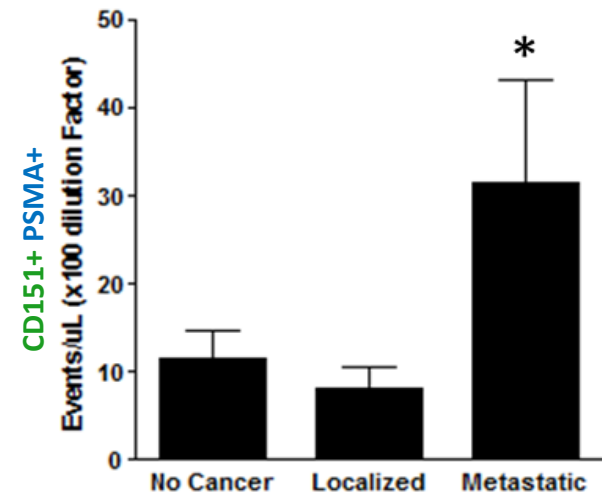
Localized PCa



Metastatic PCa



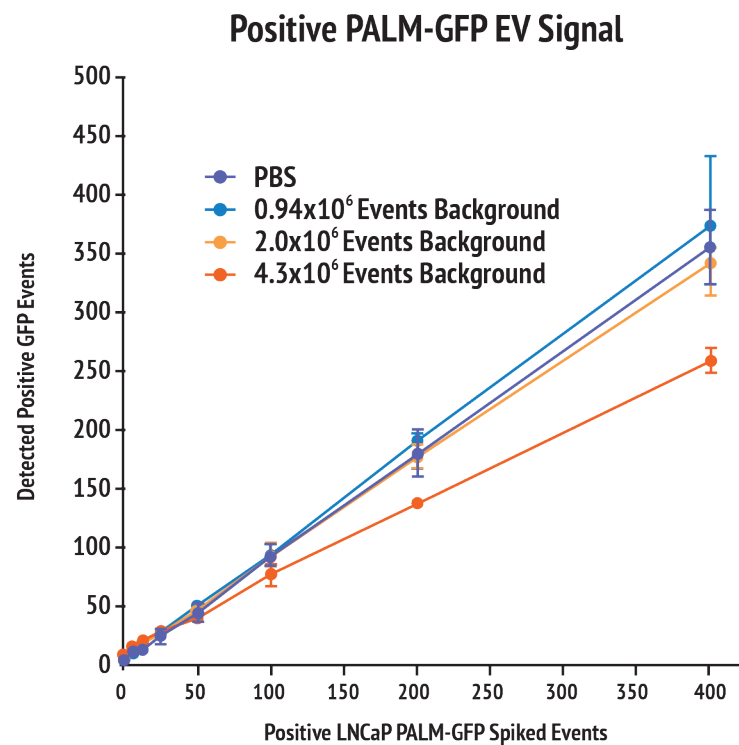
66 patient cohort
 University Health Network - Toronto



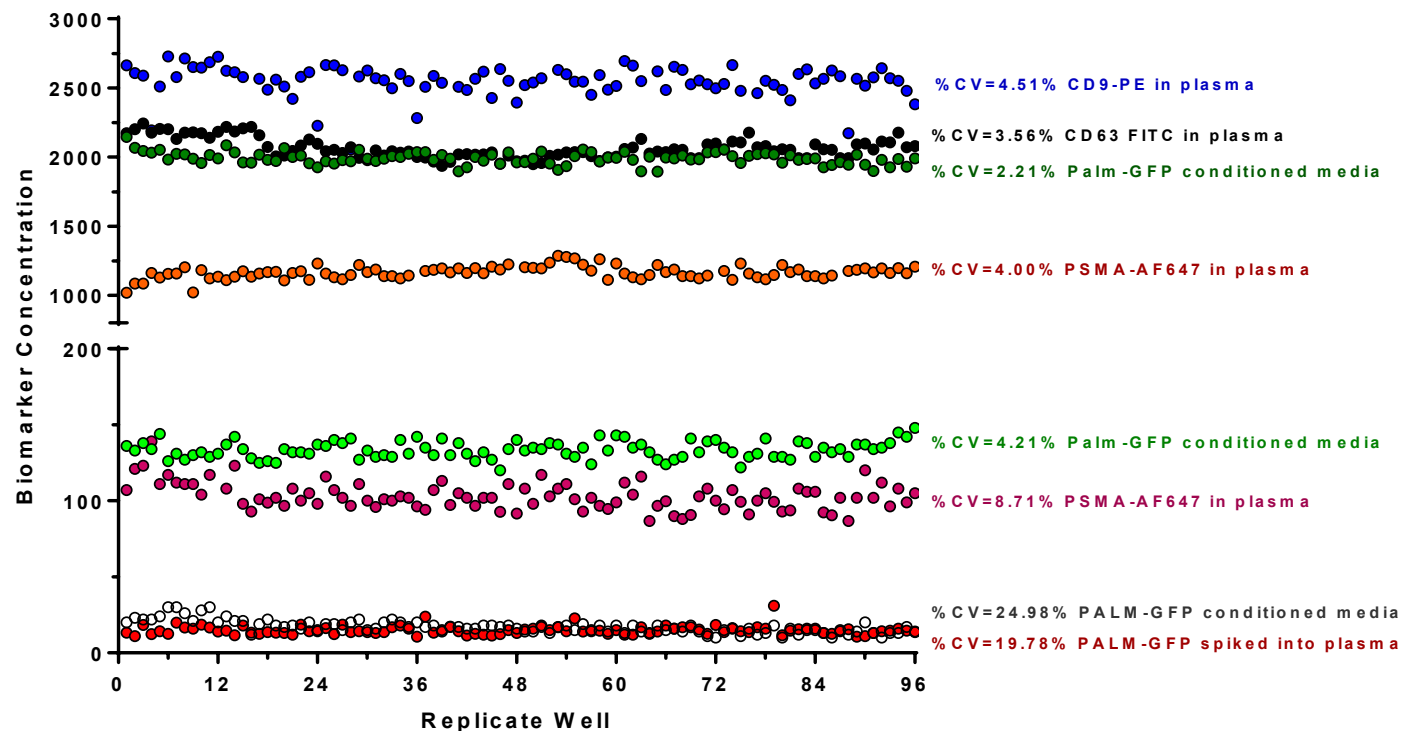
Age, PSA matched

Biofluid: plasma

Microflow cytometry of plasma EVs is highly sensitive and reproducible



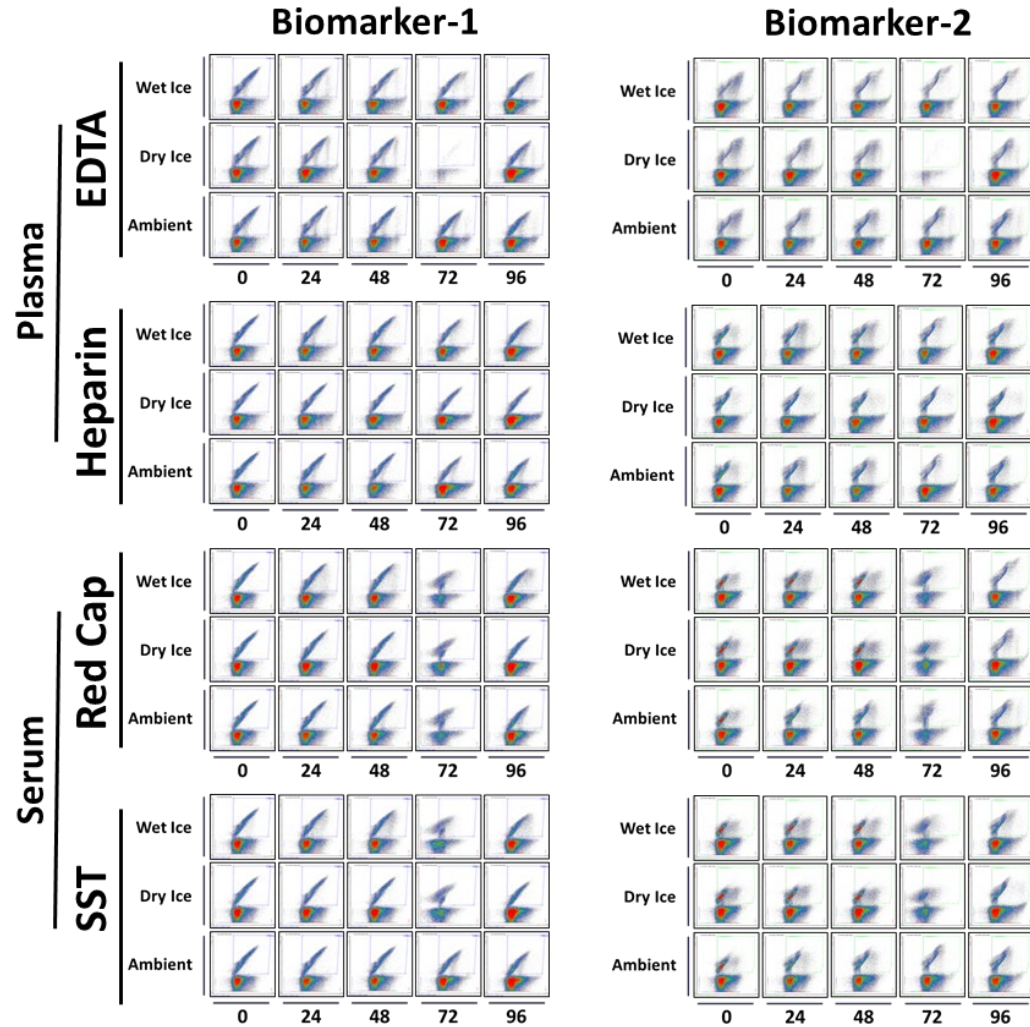
Reliable detection of 6 positive EVs
(0.0003%) against a highly enriched blood EV background (2.5M)



Excellent %CV for clinical testing at a wide range of biomarker concentrations

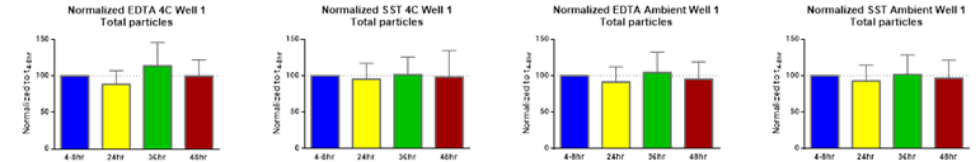
Sample stability of EVs in human plasma and serum

Sample stability matrix

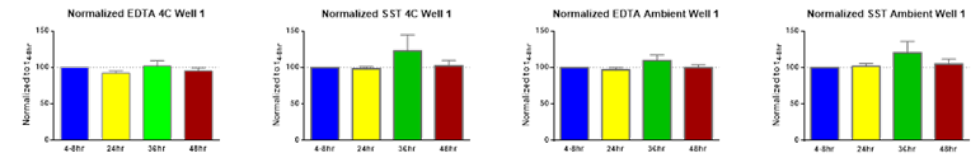


Sample stability quantification

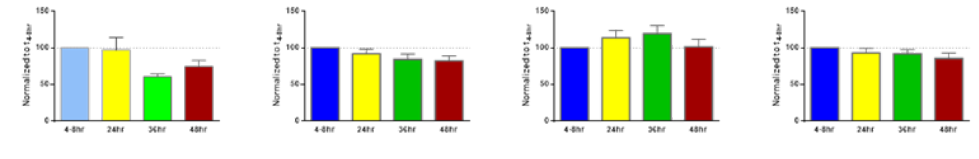
Total Particles



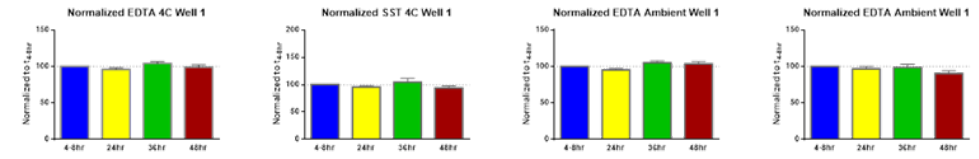
PSMA



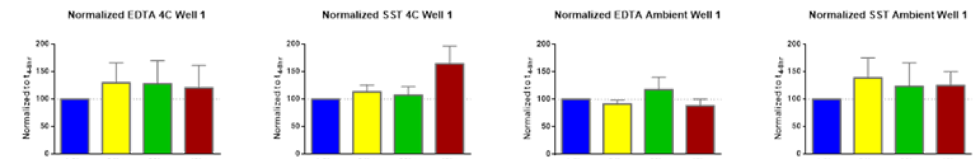
Biomarker 2



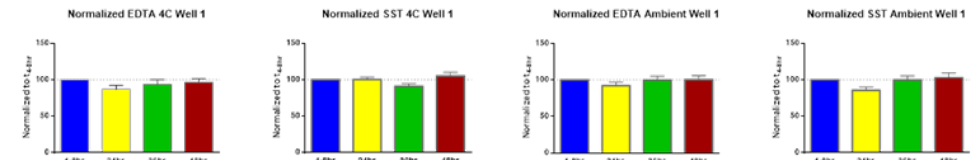
Biomarker 3



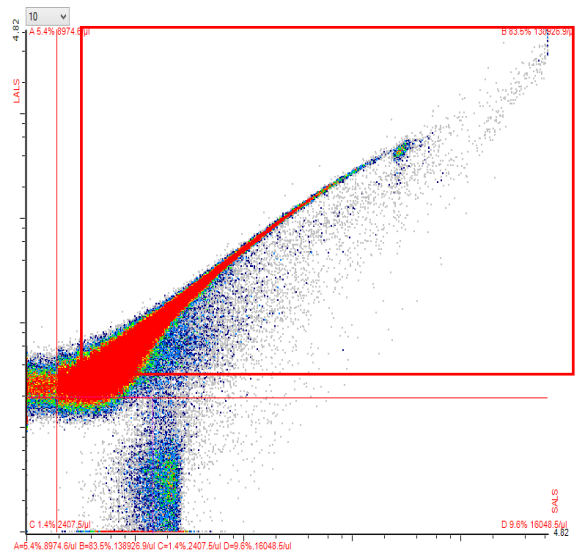
Biomarker 4



Biomarker 5



Combining size and surface biomarkers: **disease prediction?**

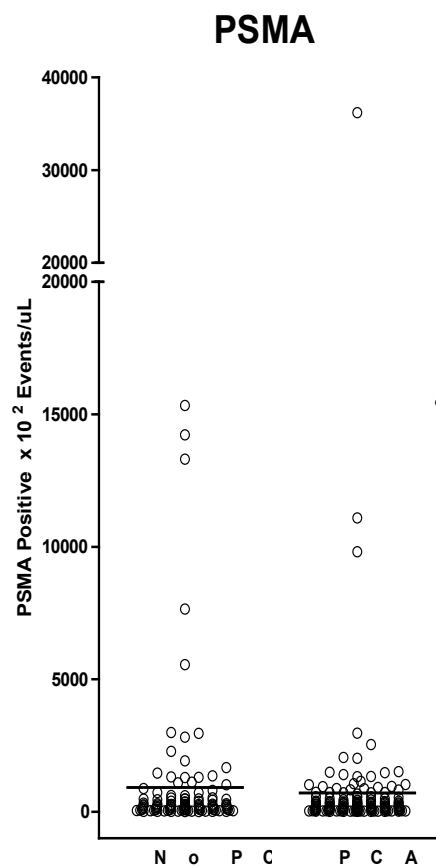


PSMA+

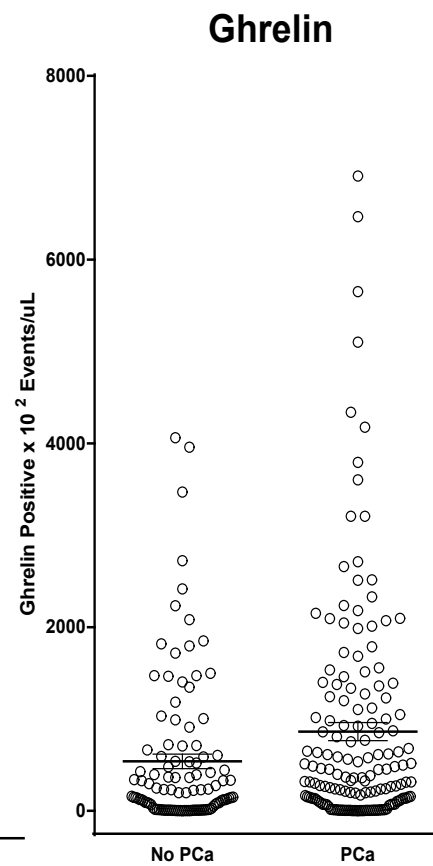
Ghrelin

(Lu et al, Prostate 2012)

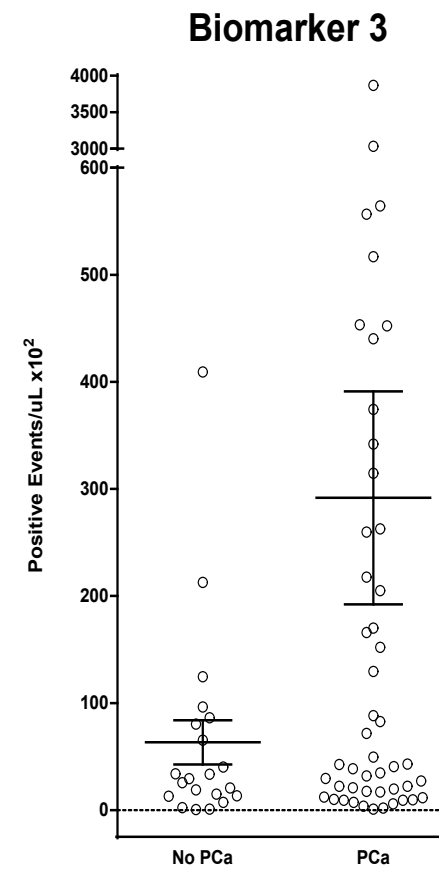
**Metastasis-associated
biomarkers**



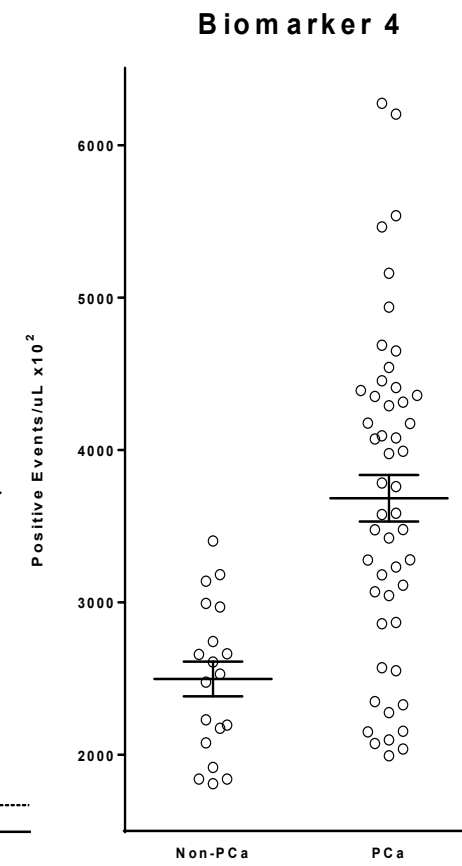
P=0.5337



P=0.0054



P=0.0144

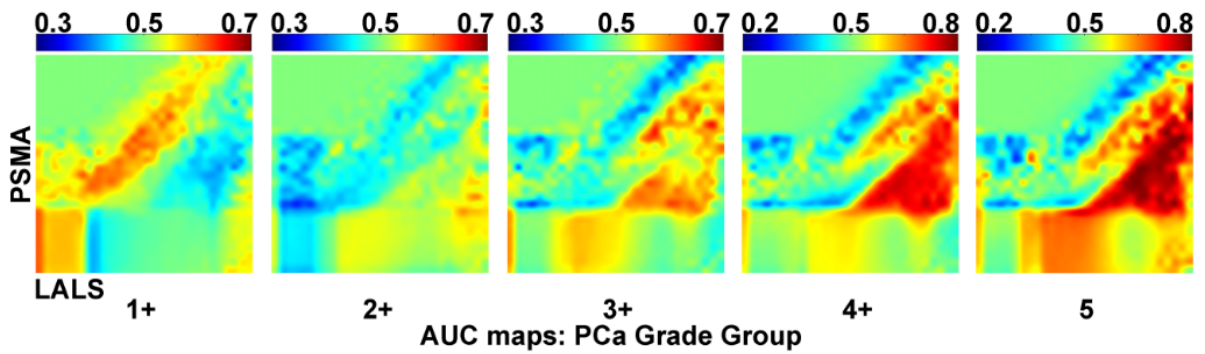
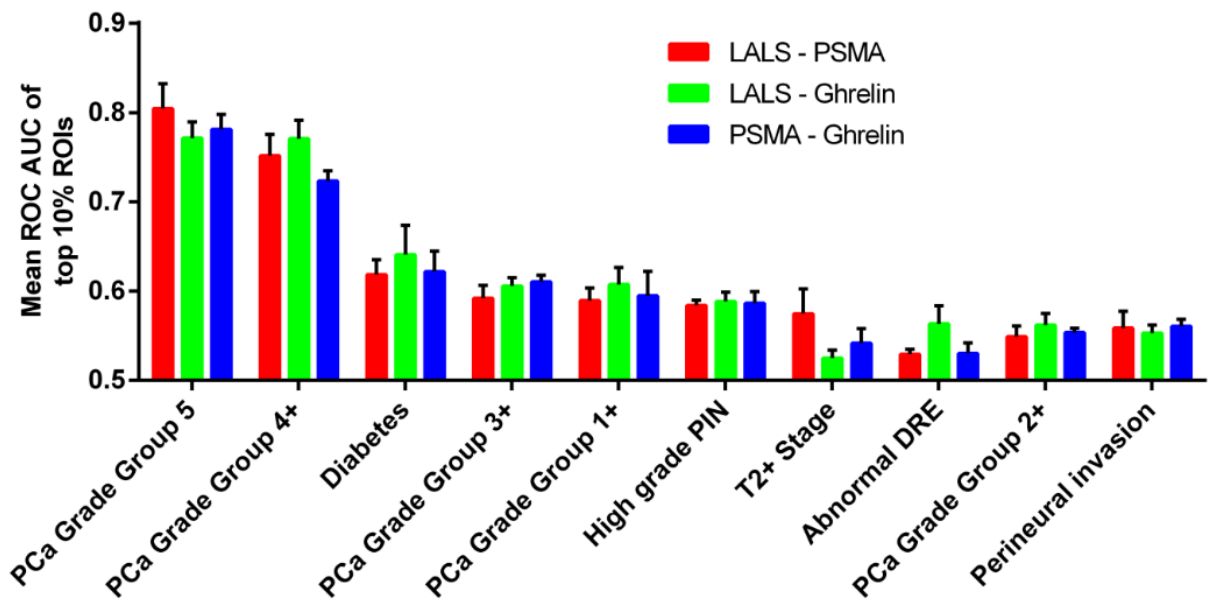
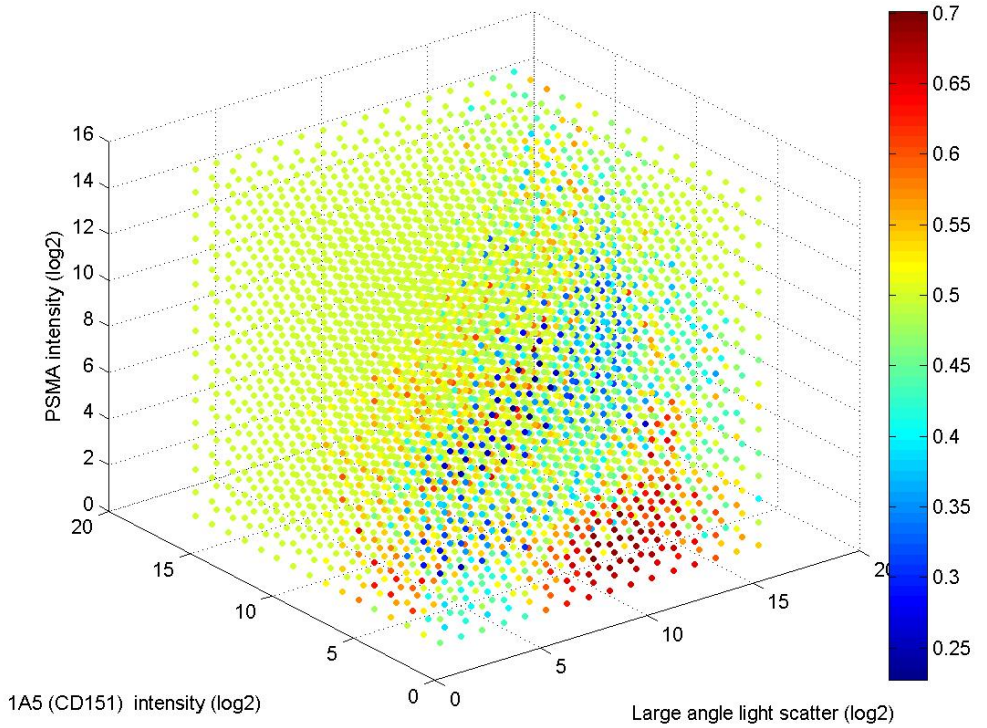


P<0.0001

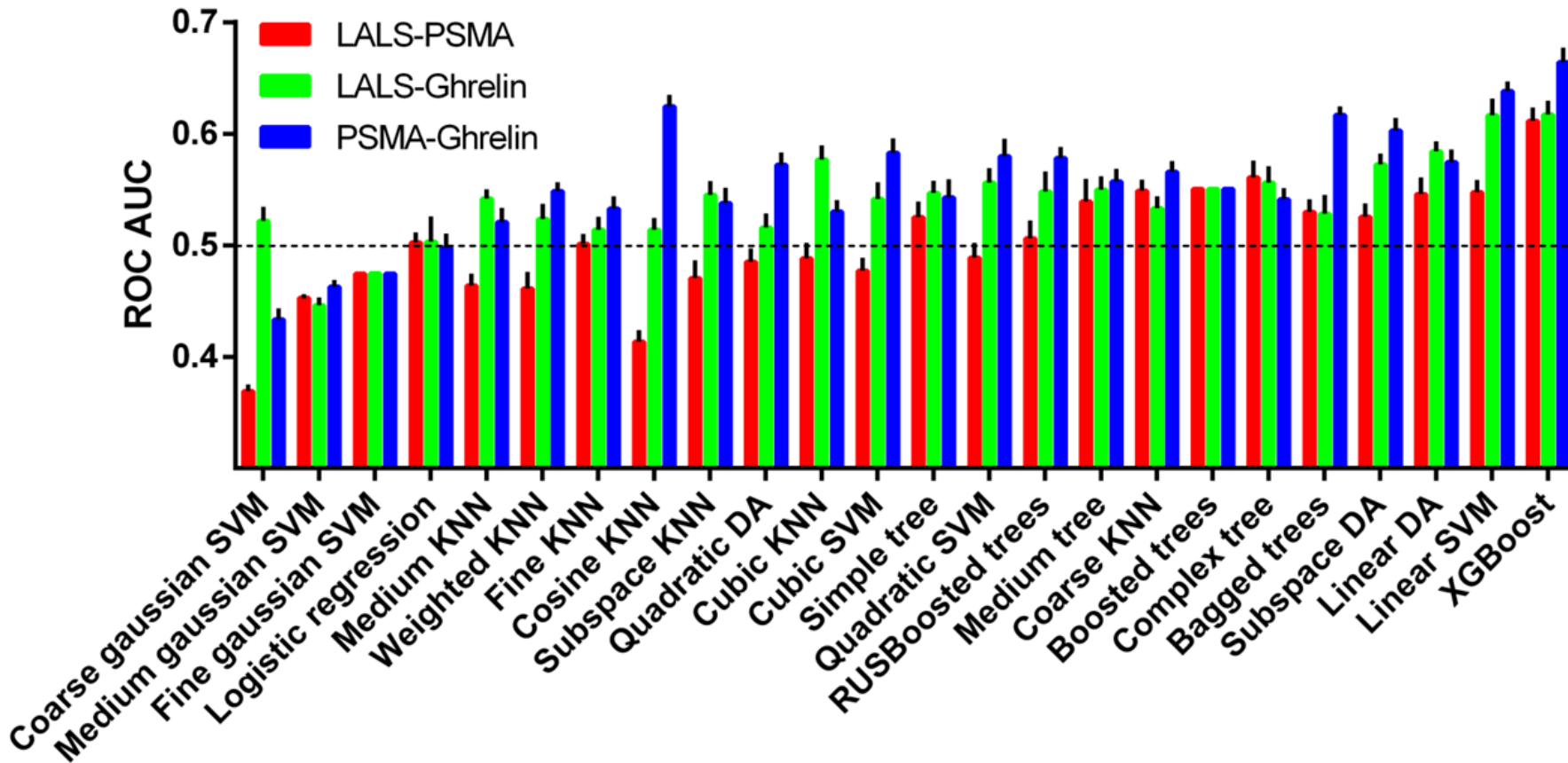
Analyzed using one-tailed t-test with Welch's corrections

Machine learning approach to generate classifiers from multi-dimensional microflow cytometry data

3D plot of ROC area under the curve



XGBoost provides highest AUCs for predicting clinically significant prostate cancer



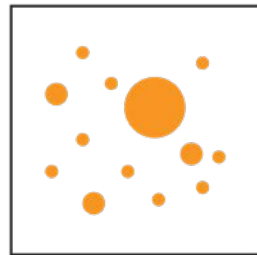
Ensembled: Results of multiple decisions trees averaged into 1 result

Boosted: Each additional decision tree is design to correct misclassified observations

XGBoost is an ensembled, boosted, decision tree-based model.

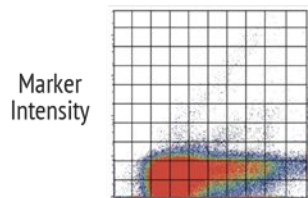
Nanostics' platform technology generates EV fingerprints to predict disease with a liquid biopsy

Healthy Patient



Plasma extracellular vesicles (EVs):
Exosomes
Microvesicles
Apoptotic bodies
Large oncosomes

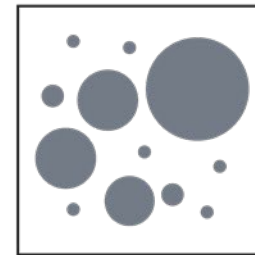
EVs stained for markers of interest and characterized by micro-flow cytometry



Marker Intensity

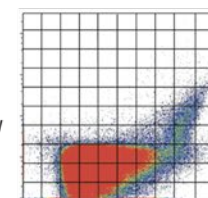
Light Scatter (size)

Diseased Patient



Plasma extracellular vesicles (EVs):
Exosomes
Microvesicles
Apoptotic bodies
Large oncosomes

EVs stained for markers of interest and characterized by micro-flow cytometry

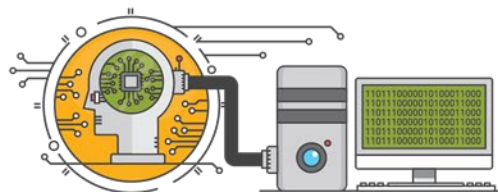


Marker Intensity

Light Scatter (size)

Many ROIs cover entire scatter plot

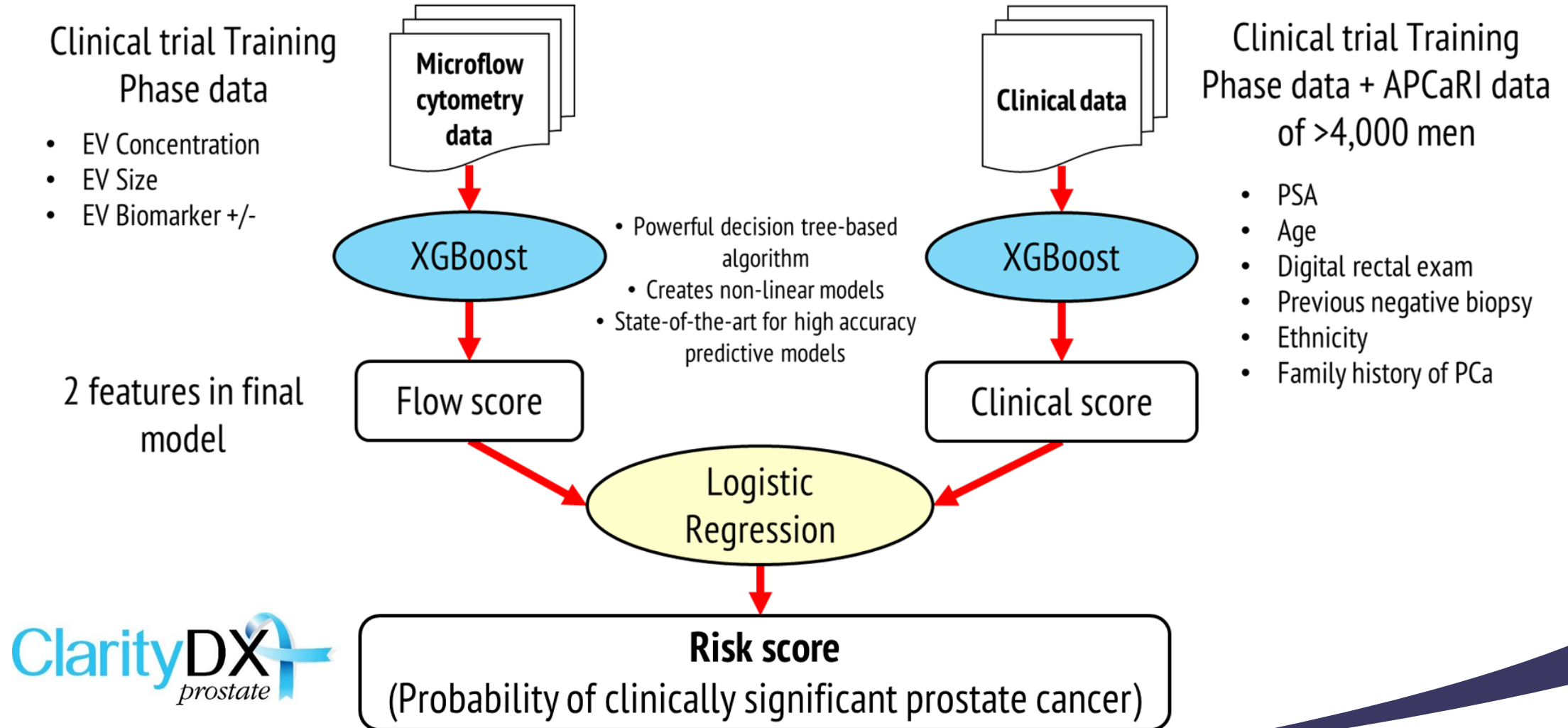
Patient	Diseased	ROI data			
1	No	A	B	C	⋮
2	Yes	D	E	F	⋮
3	Yes	G	H	I	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮



EV Flow Data + Clinical Data

Disease Prediction Model

Generating the ClarityDX Prostate Risk Score



Prospective pre-diagnosis cohort in Alberta, Canada



ALBERTA
PROSTATE CANCER
RESEARCH INITIATIVE
knowledge | action | impact



Male patient with abnormal PSA and/or DRE referred for prostate biopsy

Identified by urologist - refer to CRC at clinical site

- ⊕ Informed Consent Biospecimens are collected
- ⊕ Intake Survey/QOL Demographic and clinical data

Biopsy is performed

PCa is detected

Samples Collected:

Once a year/5 years
At time of changes of cancer behaviour

Data Collected:

- QoL from patients once a year/5 years
- Database: 10-25 years

PCa **is not** detected

- Usual care by family doctor
- Follow up and PSA tracking

Patient is re-referred for biopsy

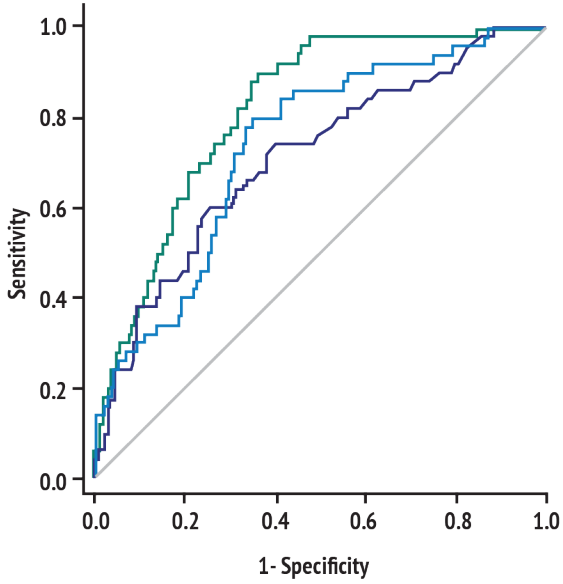
PCa **is** detected

PCa **is not** detected

Validation of ClarityDX Prostate in a 377 patient prospective cohort

Training cohort

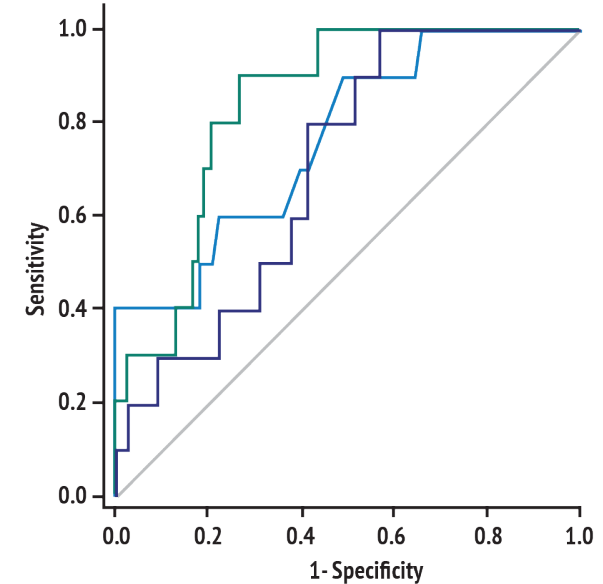
	AUC	95% CI
Flow + PSA Model	0.82	0.77-0.88
Flow Model	0.74	0.67-0.81
PSA	0.71	0.63-0.79



Average AUC = 0.83

Test cohort

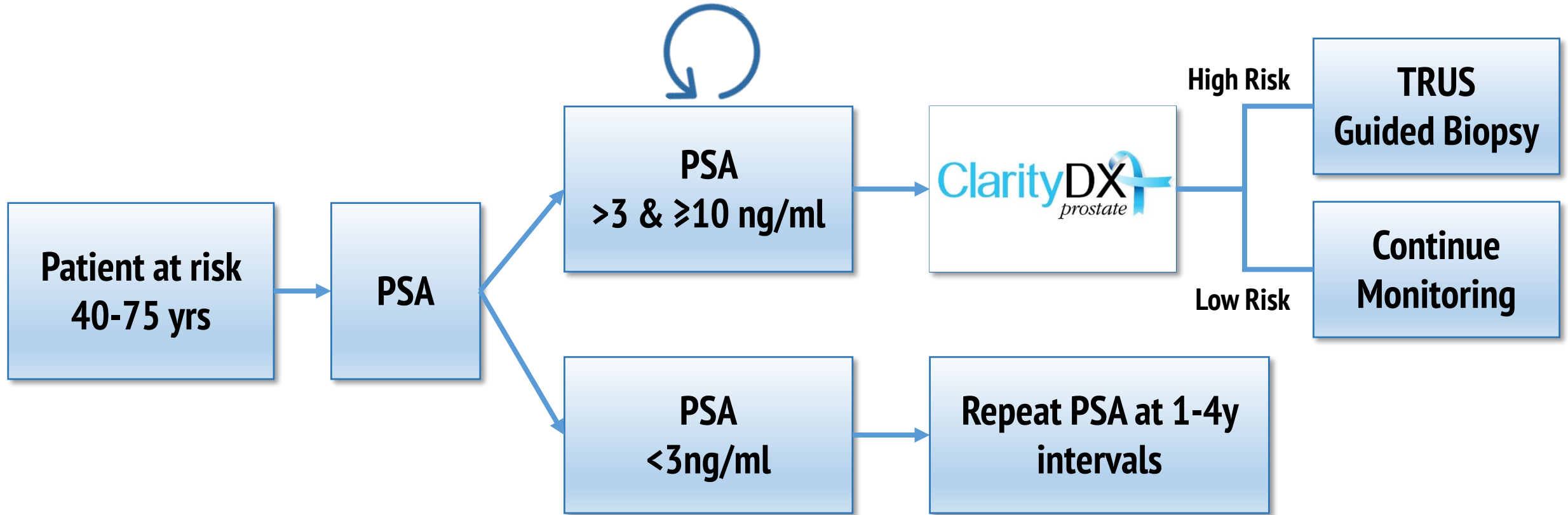
	AUC	95% CI
Flow + PSA Model	0.84	0.74-0.94
PSA	0.77	0.62-0.92
Flow Model	0.71	0.57-0.85



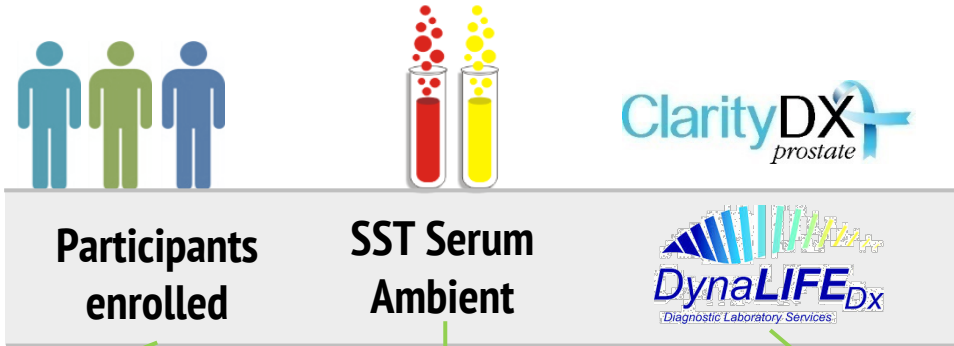
All patient characteristics by Gleason score	GS ≤ 3+4	GS ≥ 4+3	p-value	ROC AUC (CI)	Sensitivity, % (CI)	Specificity, % (CI)	NPV, % (CI)
Patients, n	317	60					
Family history of PCa, n (%)	89 (38)	17 (36)	0.87	0.51 (0.42-0.60)	36 (23-51)	62 (55-68)	83 (76-88)
DRE, n (% abnormal)	54 (26)	11 (29)	0.84	0.51 (0.41-0.61)	29 (15-46)	74 (67-79)	85 (79-90)
Previous negative biopsy, n (%)	34 (11)	5 (8.3)	0.82	0.51 (0.43-0.59)	8 (3-18)	89 (85-92)	84 (79-88)
Age, yr, mean (CI)	62 (61 - 63)	64 (62 - 66)	0.10	0.57 (0.49-0.65)	95 (86-99)	13 (10-17)	93 (82-99)
PSA, ng/ml, mean (CI)	7.5 (6.7 - 8.3)	20 (9.4 - 31)	< 0.0001	0.72 (0.65-0.8)	95 (86-99)	17 (13-22)	95 (86-99)
Flow assay score, mean (CI)	5.8 (4.8 - 6.8)	17 (11 - 22)	< 0.0001	0.74 (0.68-0.8)	95 (86-99)	28 (23-33)	97 (91-99)
Flow assay + PSA score, mean (CI)	5.7 (4.6 - 6.8)	20 (15 - 26)	< 0.0001	0.83 (0.78-0.88)	95 (86-99)	56 (51-62)	98 (95-100)

39% higher specificity for clinically significant prostate cancer than PSA alone

Proposed prostate cancer diagnosis model



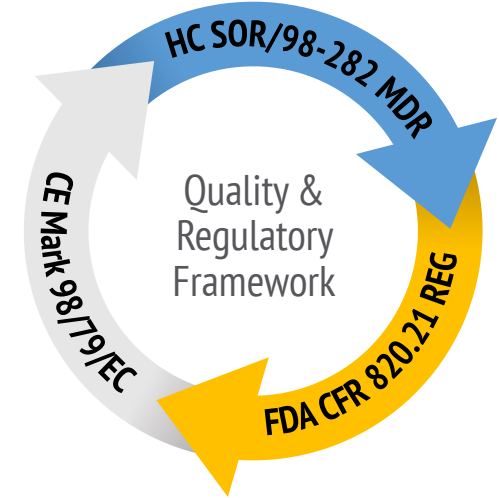
Pivotal Clinical Validation Study



Annual ~ #s
NAUC: 500
PCC: 500
YUK: 100
US: 250
Interim analysis in 6m ~700 pts

Shipping
NAUC: DynaLIFE
PCC: Overnight Express door to door service
YUK & US: TBD

Processing
Within 48h
Flow Score



ISO 13485:2016 Standard / framework to address regulatory requirements

FDA CFR 820.21
HC SOR/98-282 CE Mark
98/79/EC Regulations

Acknowledgements



ALBERTA
PROSTATE CANCER
RESEARCH INITIATIVE
knowledge | action | impact

