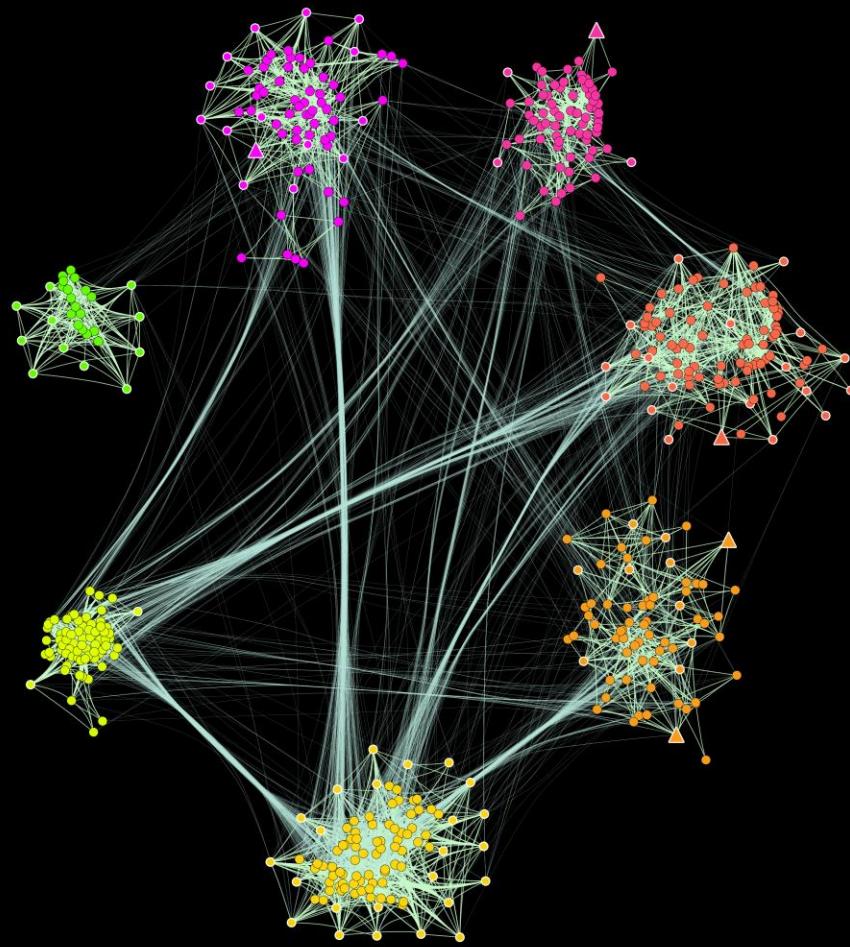
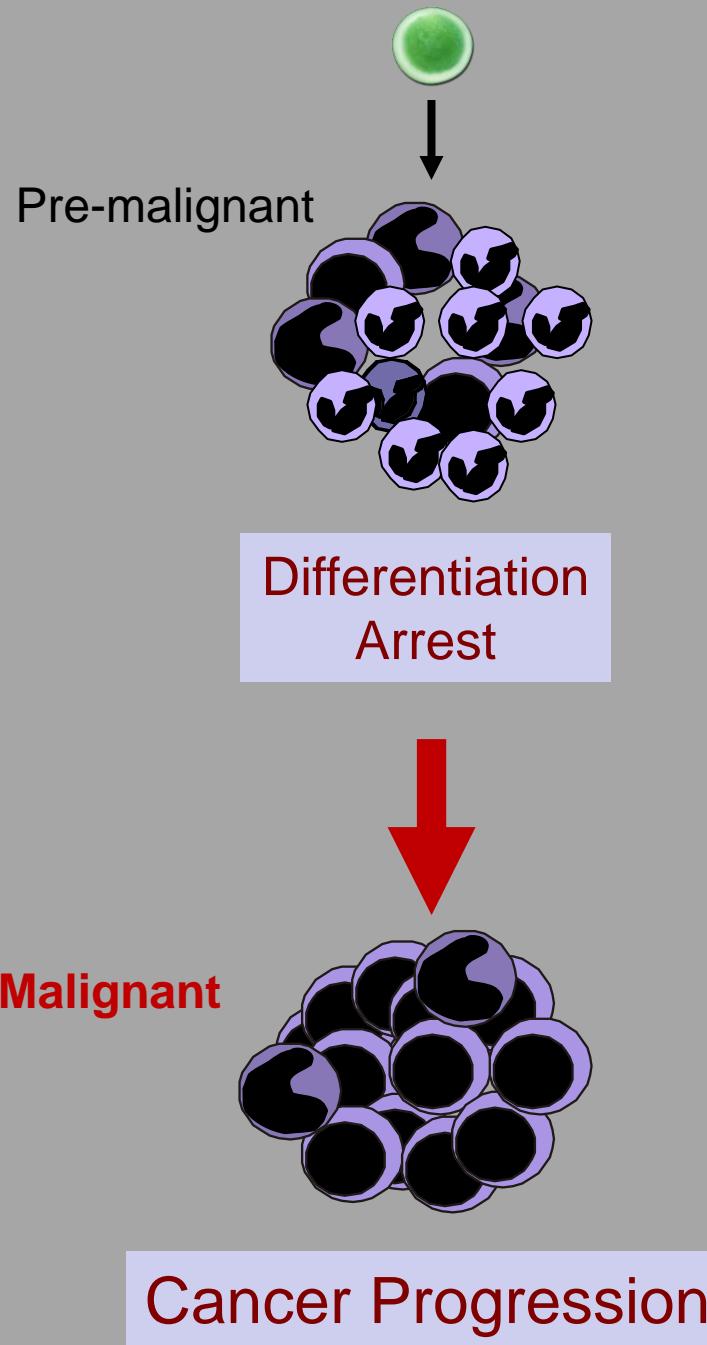
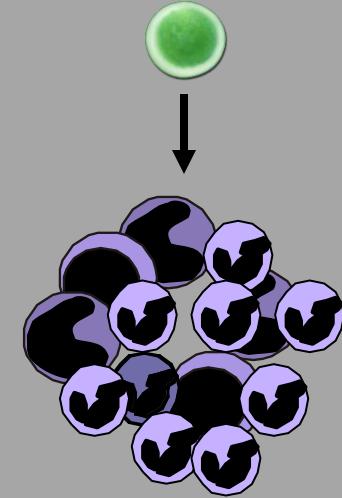


# **Stem cell signals in the origin, progression and therapy resistance in cancer**

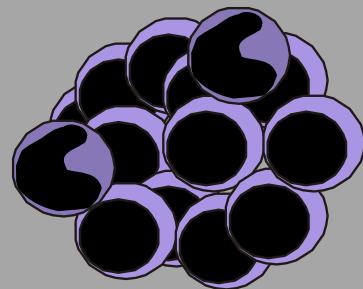






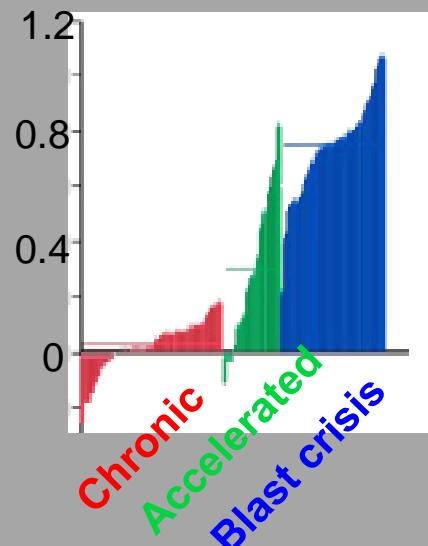
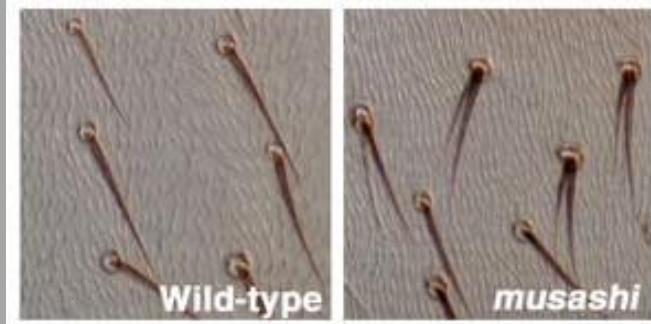
Early Detection

Interception



Cancer Progression

# The fate determinant Musashi in leukemia progression



Montell/Okano

Ito/Kwon et al 2010 Nature  
Kwon/Bajaj et al 2015 Cell Stem Cell

# Pancreatic Cancer

Third

Fourth leading cause of  
cancer related deaths

Treatments

Radiation and  
Chemotherapy

Large Tumors

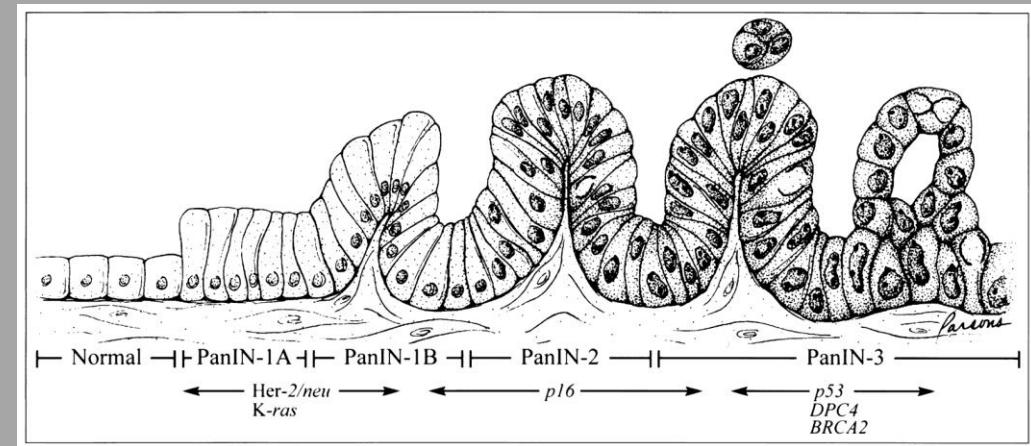
Distant metastases

Surgical (Whipple Procedure)

-Small localized tumor

-Only 20% of patients are  
candidates

Survival Rate  
11% over 5  
years



Hruban R H et al. Clin Cancer Res 2000;6:2969-2972

# Loss of *Msi* leads to a significant reduction of pancreatic cancer burden

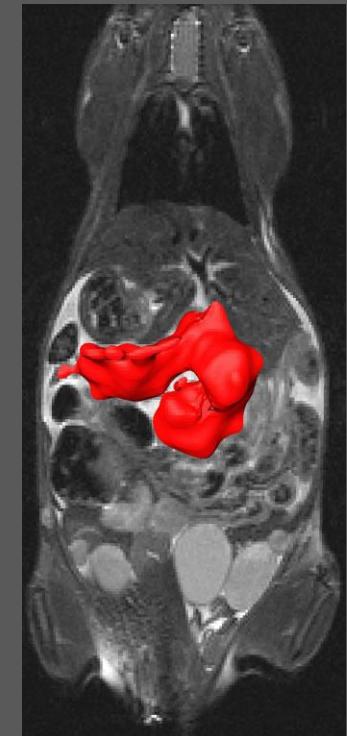
WT-Pancreas



WT-KP<sup>f/fC</sup>



*Msi*<sup>-/-</sup>-KP<sup>f/fC</sup>



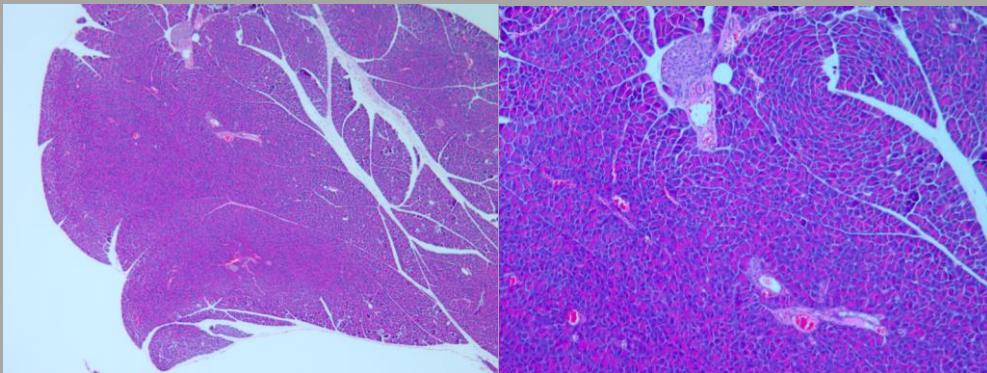
8X

5X

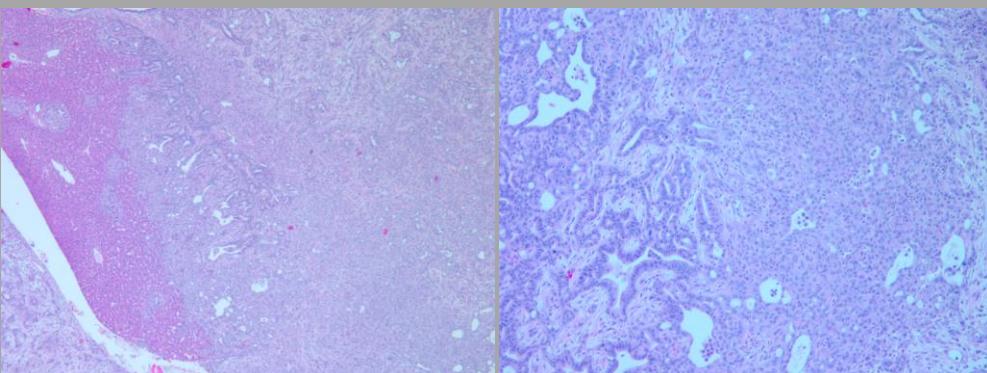
4x

10x

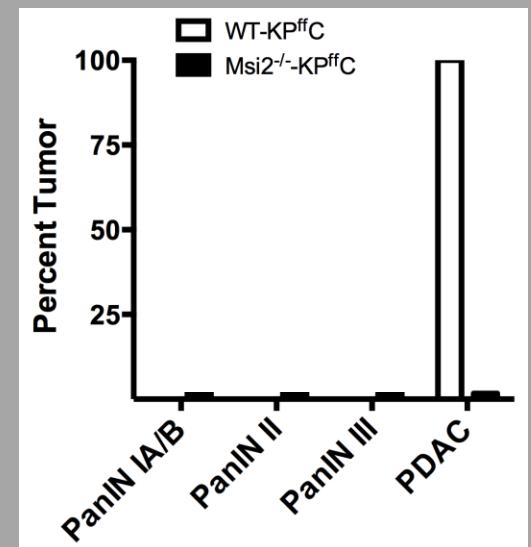
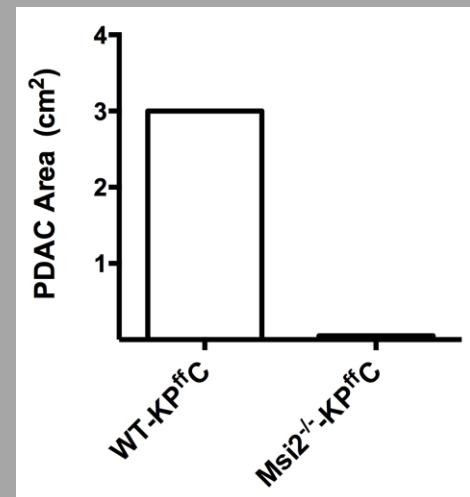
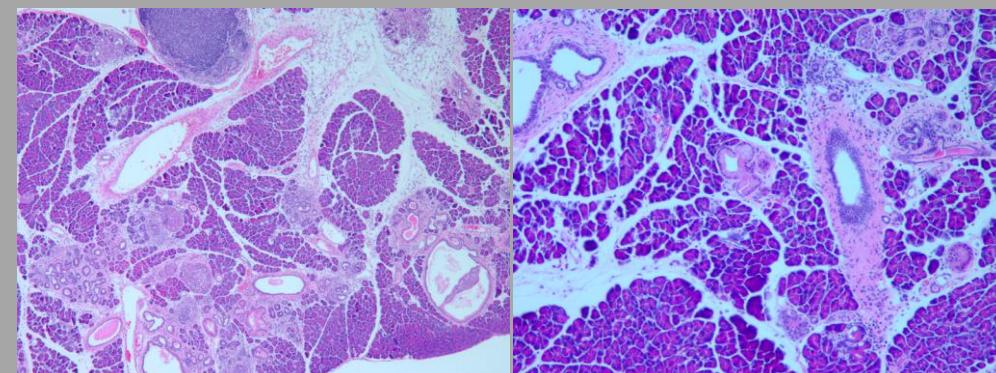
WT Pancreas



WT KP<sup>f/f</sup>C

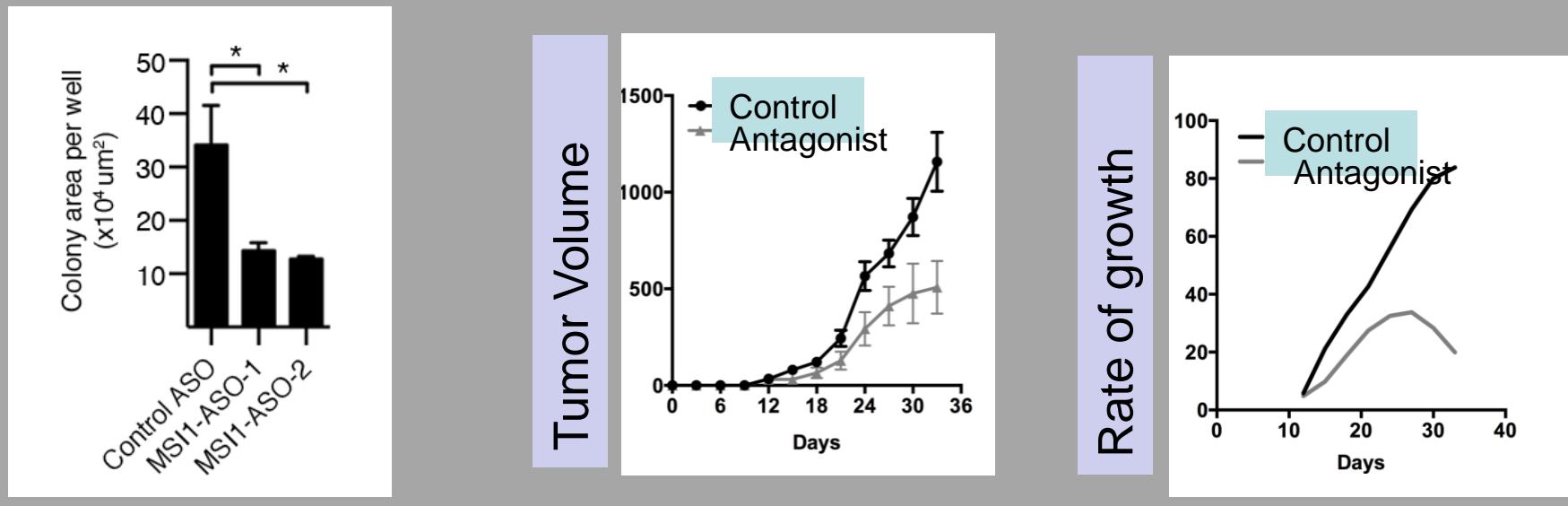


Msi2<sup>-/-</sup> KP<sup>f/f</sup>C





# Development and delivery of an Msi - antagonist



With Ionis Pharmaceuticals

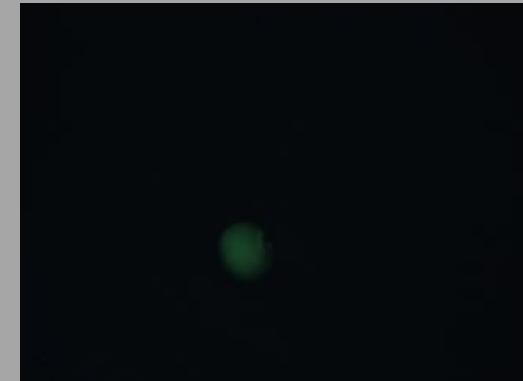
Ray Fox  
Youngsoo Kim  
Robert MacLeod

# Development of Msi Reporters

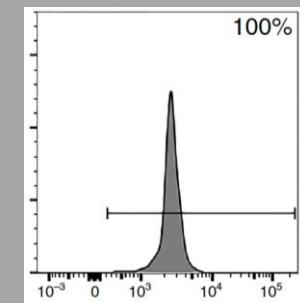


Reporter Msi1 YFP  
REM1

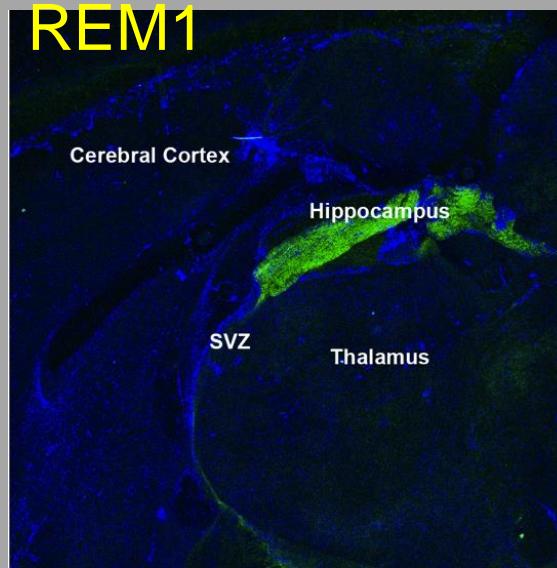
Reporter Msi2 GFP  
REM2



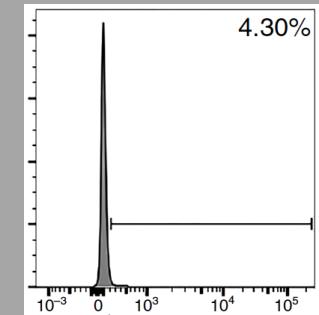
REM2



Stem Cells



REM1



Differentiated

Nikki Lytle

# Msi Reporter+ cells are preferentially tumorigenic



REM1 or REM2

X



Kras<sup>G12D/+</sup>; p53<sup>flox/flox</sup>;  
ptf1α-Cre

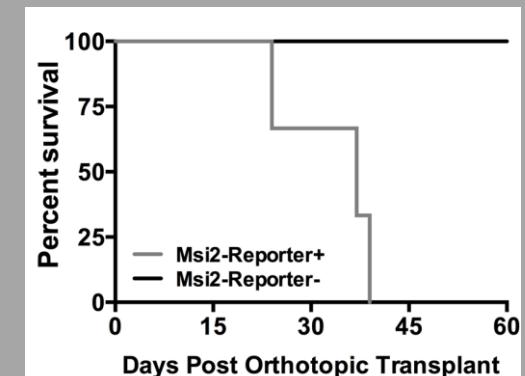
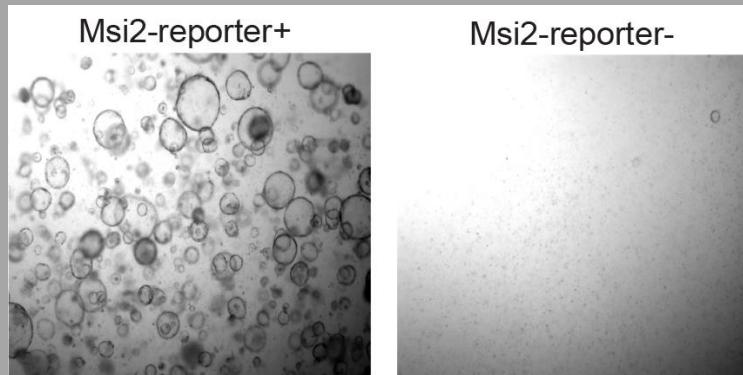
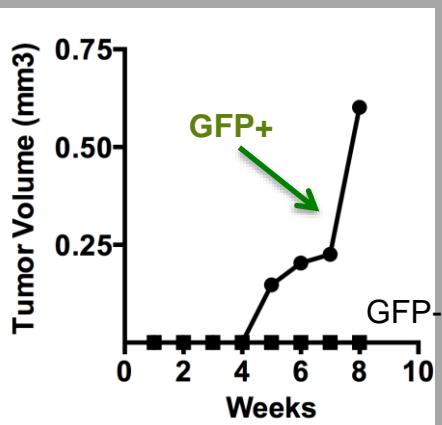
REM1 – KP<sup>ffC</sup>

REM2-KP<sup>ffC</sup>

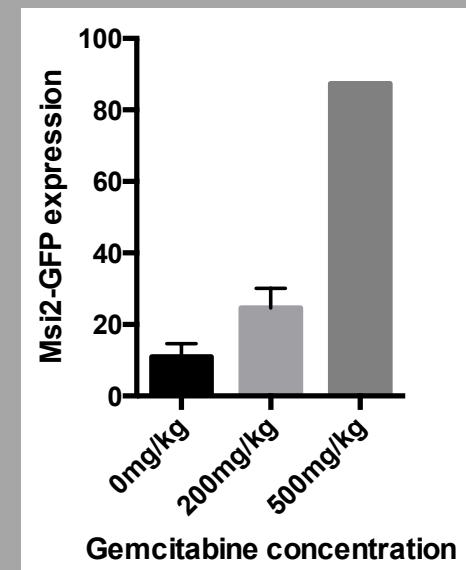
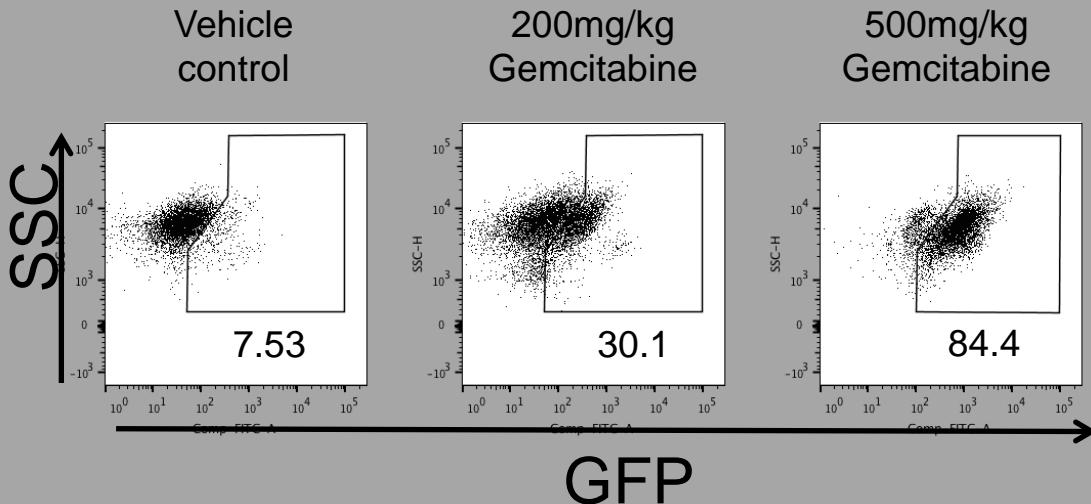
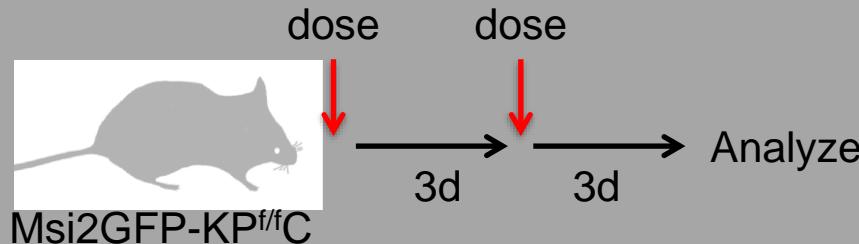


GFP+

GFP-



# Msi Reporters are a unique tool to identify drug resistant cells

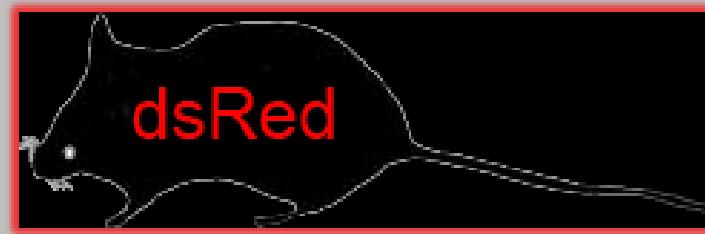


# In vivo dynamics of cancer growth



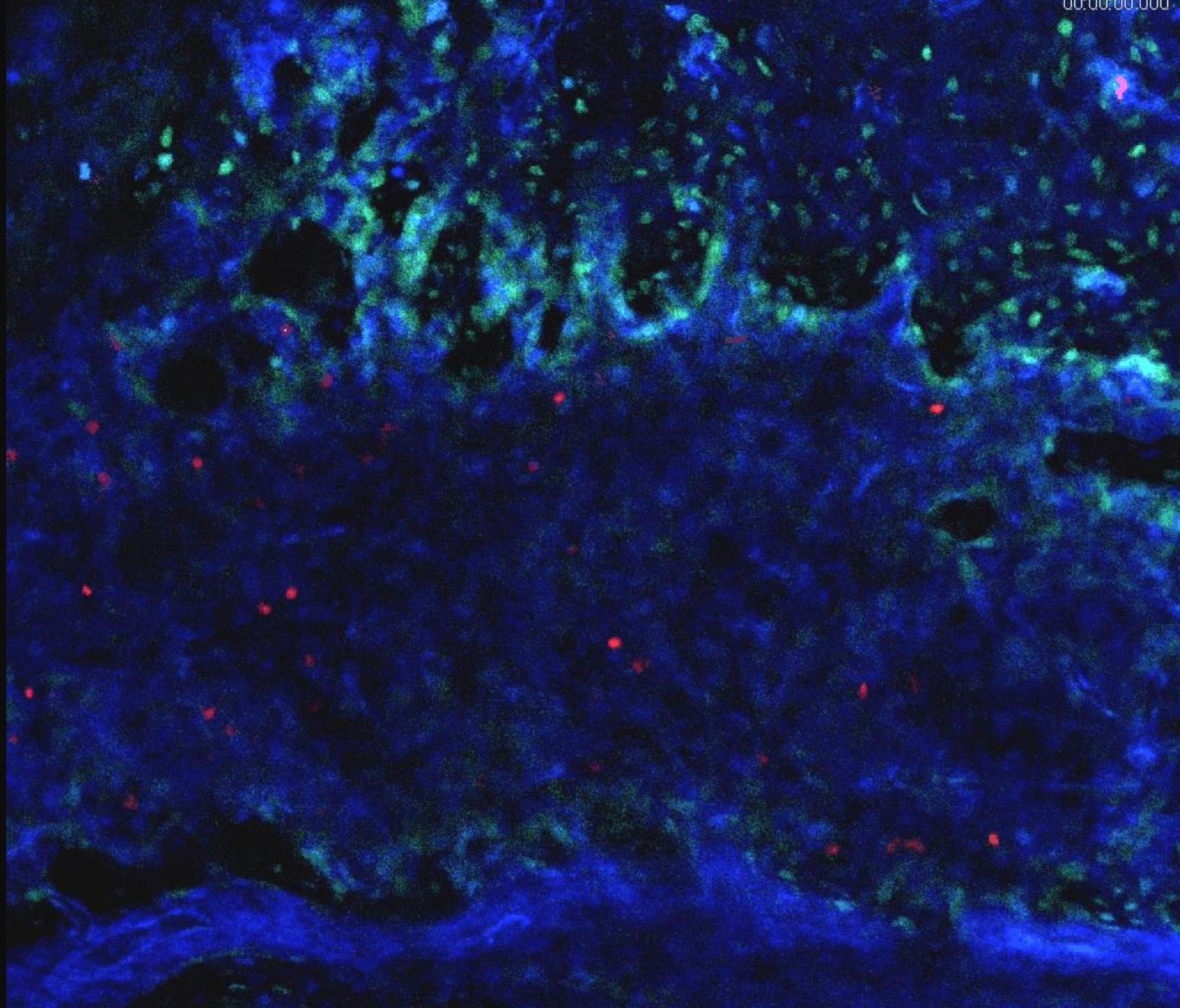
Donor

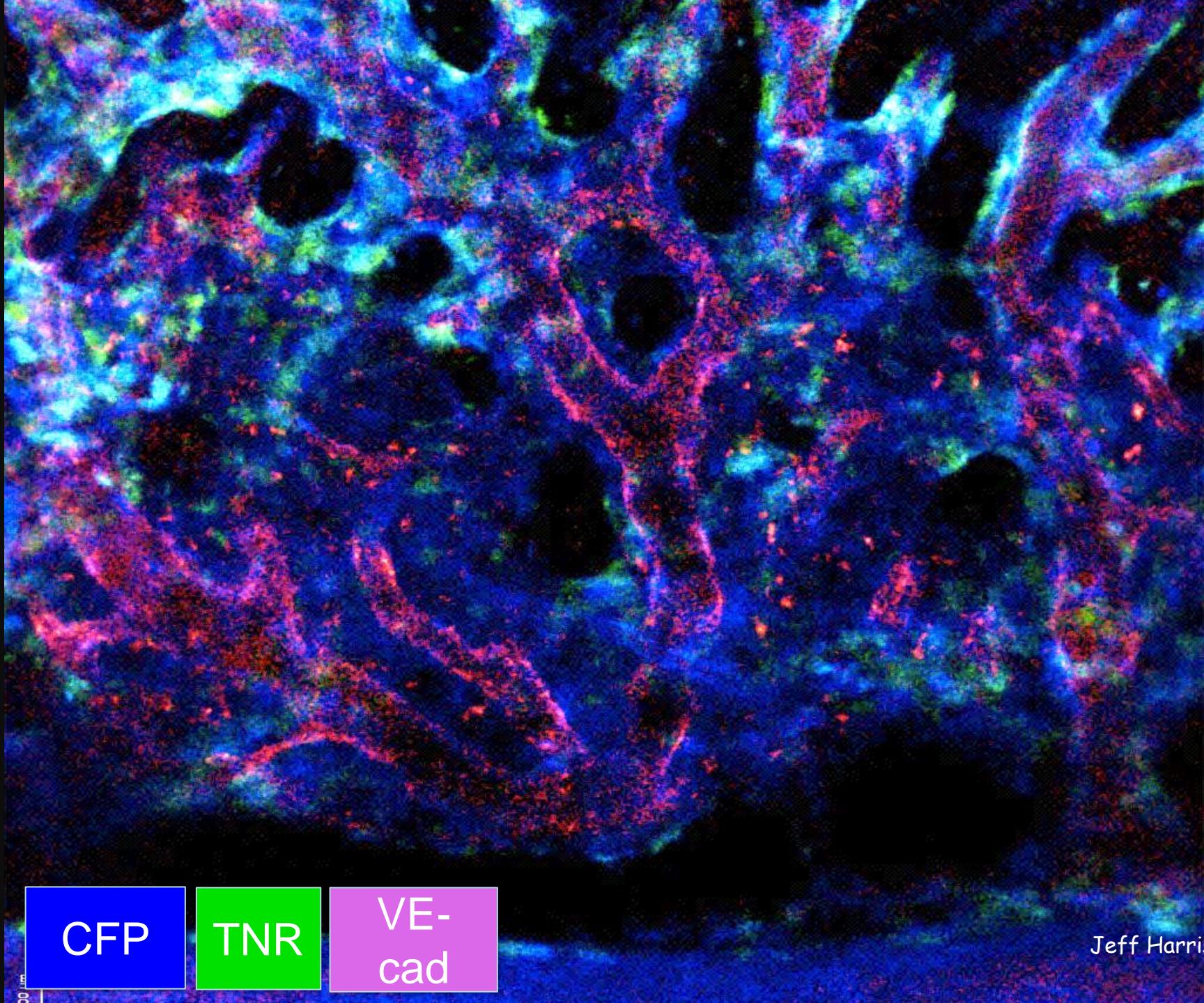
Leukemia cells



Backlit recipient

00:00:00.000



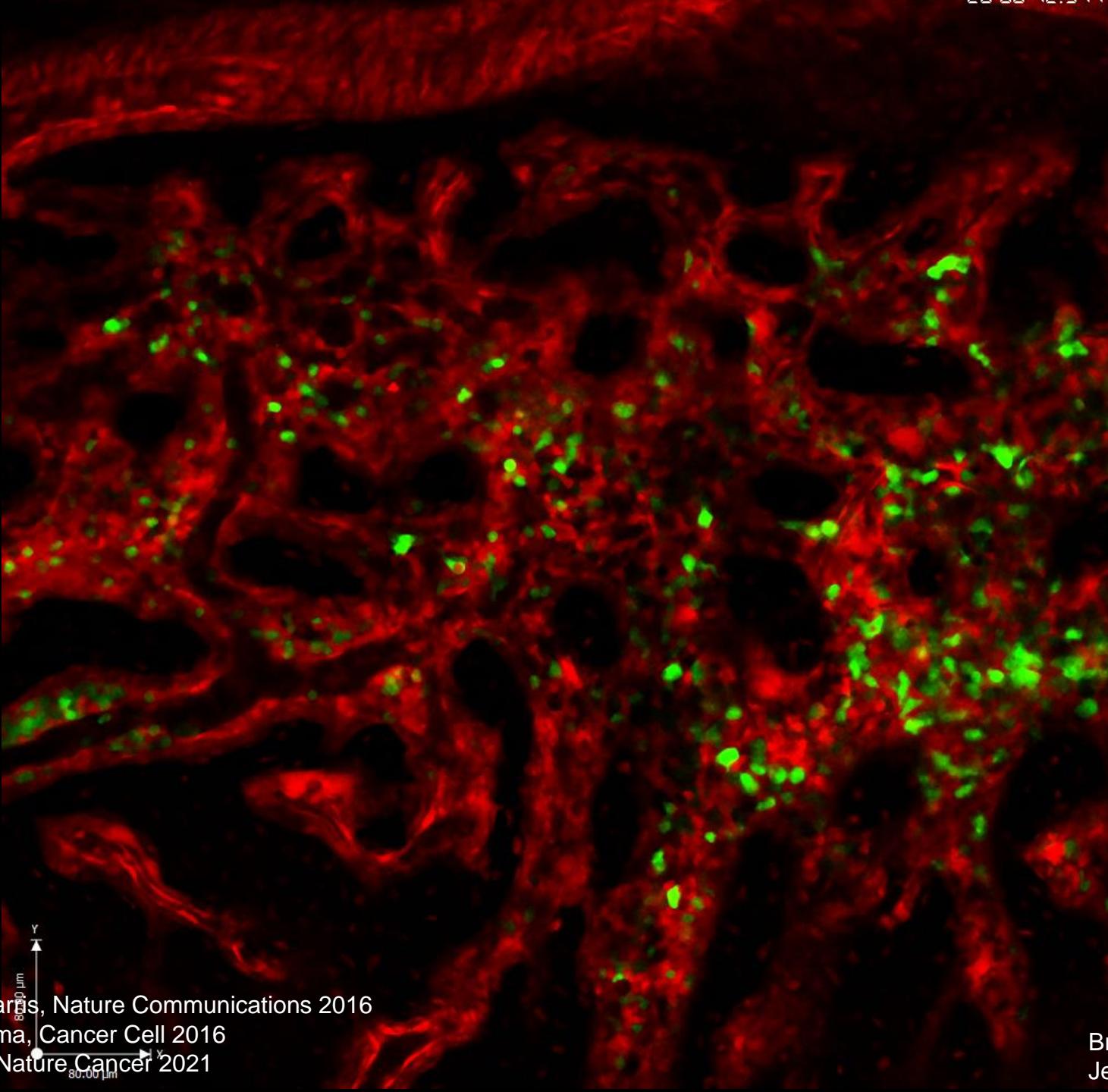


CFP

TNR

VE-  
cad

Jeff Harris



Koechlei/Harris, Nature Communications 2016  
Bajaj/Konuma, Cancer Cell 2016  
Bajaj et al, Nature Cancer 2021

Y

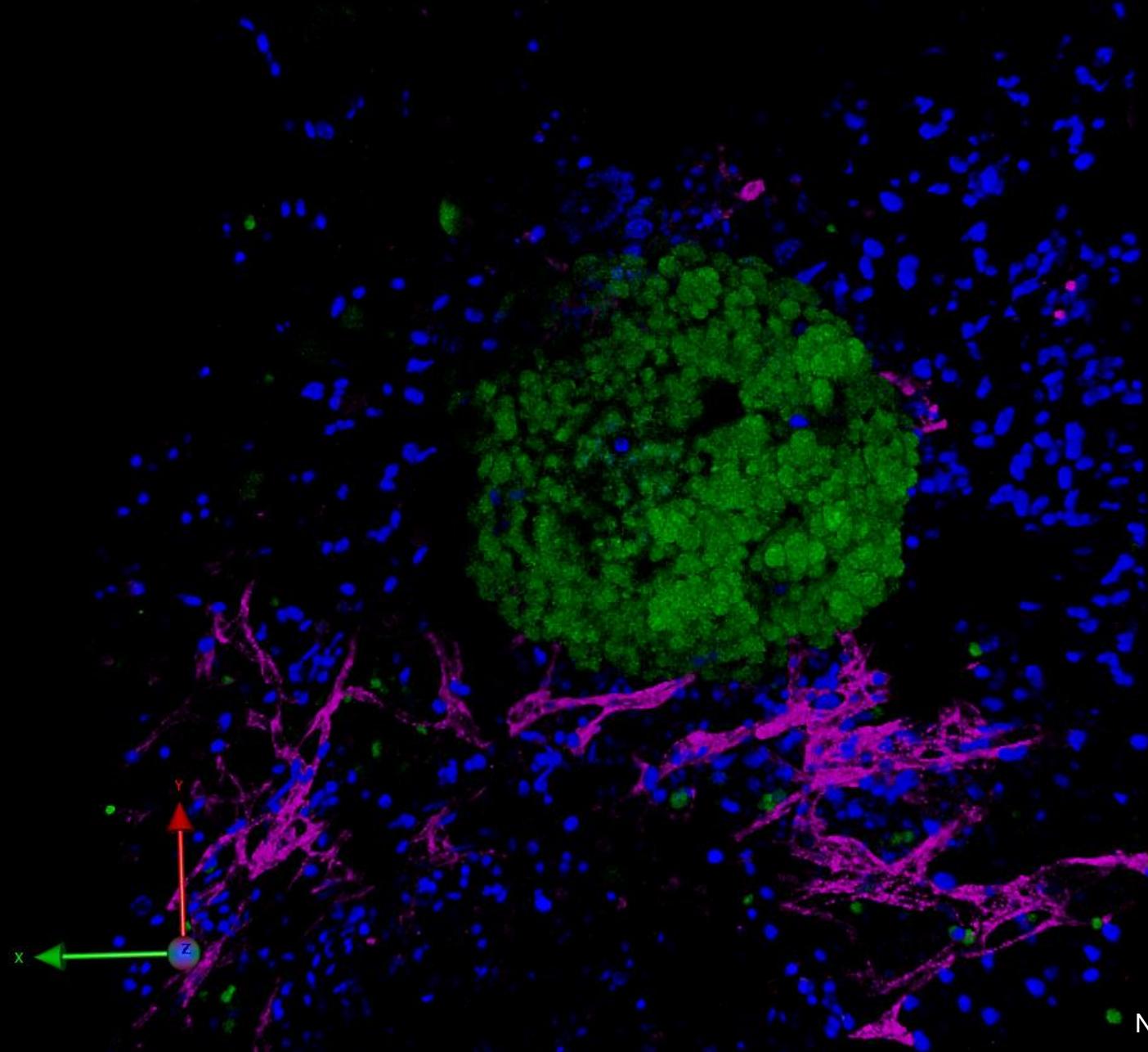
X

80.00 μm

Bryan Zimdahl  
Jeff Harris

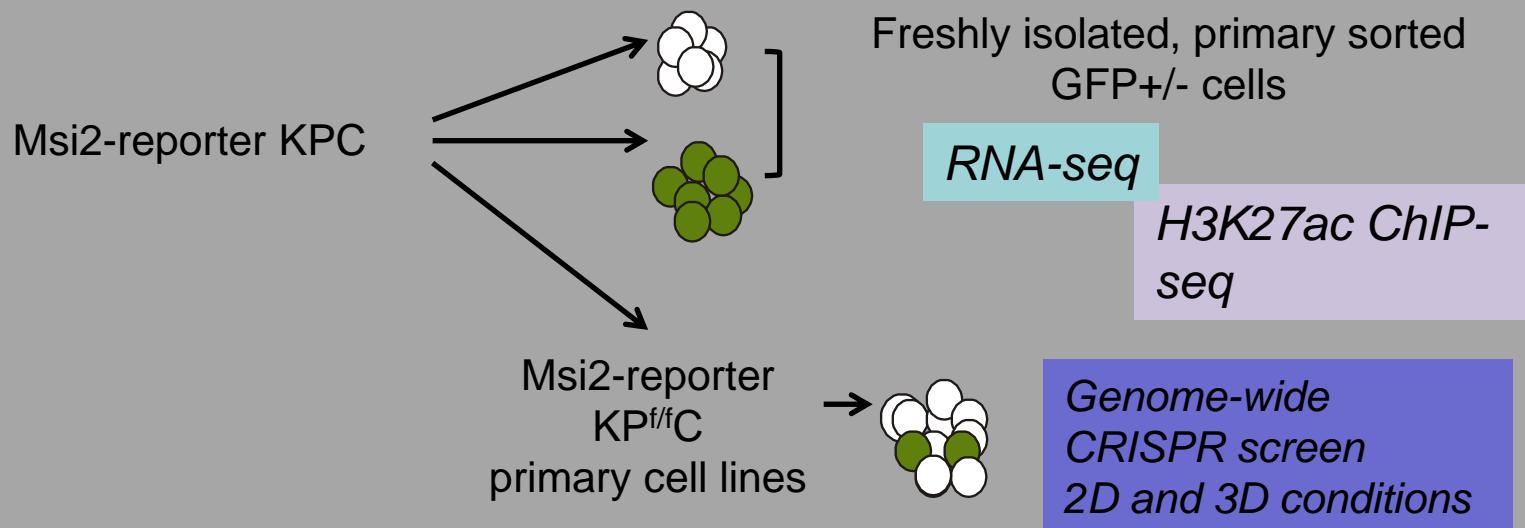
00:00:00.000

Ray Fox



Nikki Lytle

# Mapping dependencies of pancreatic cancer stem cells



# Network map of stem cell dependencies in pancreatic cancer

## Genome-wide CRISPR screen

## Bioinformatics Analysis

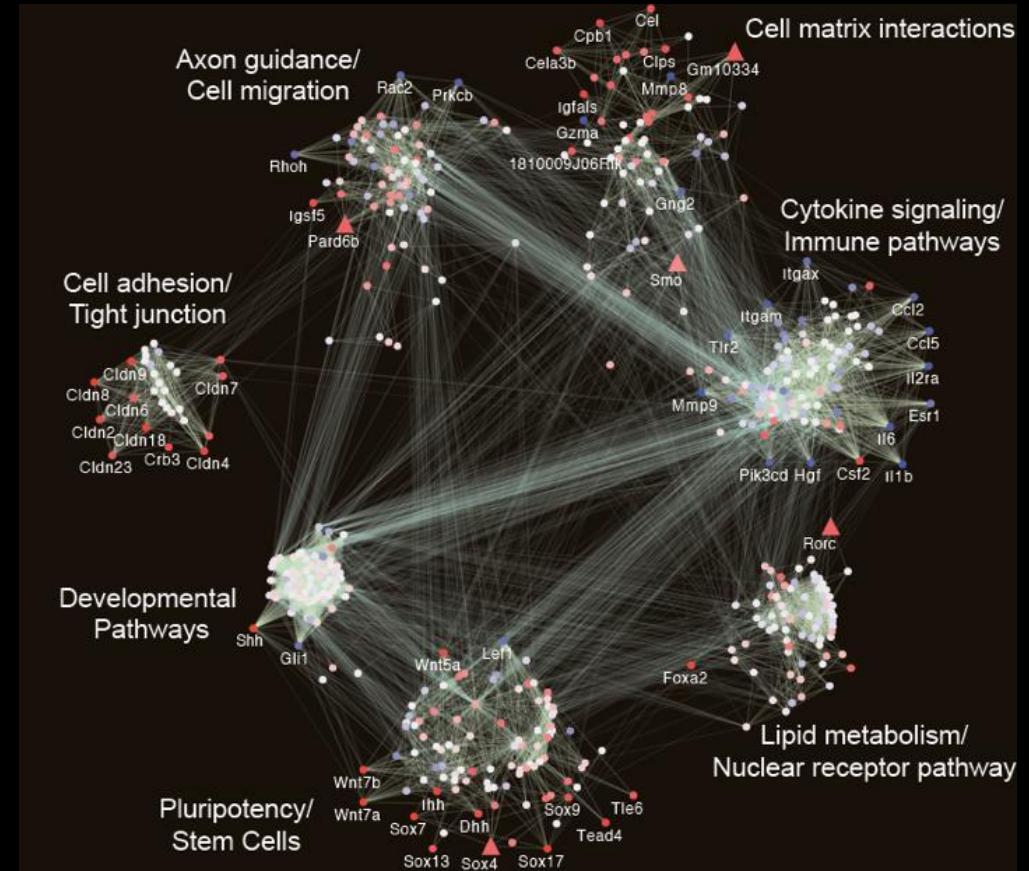
Integrate CRISPR and RNA-seq data  
Identify genes enriched in and essential  
for growth of cancer stem cells

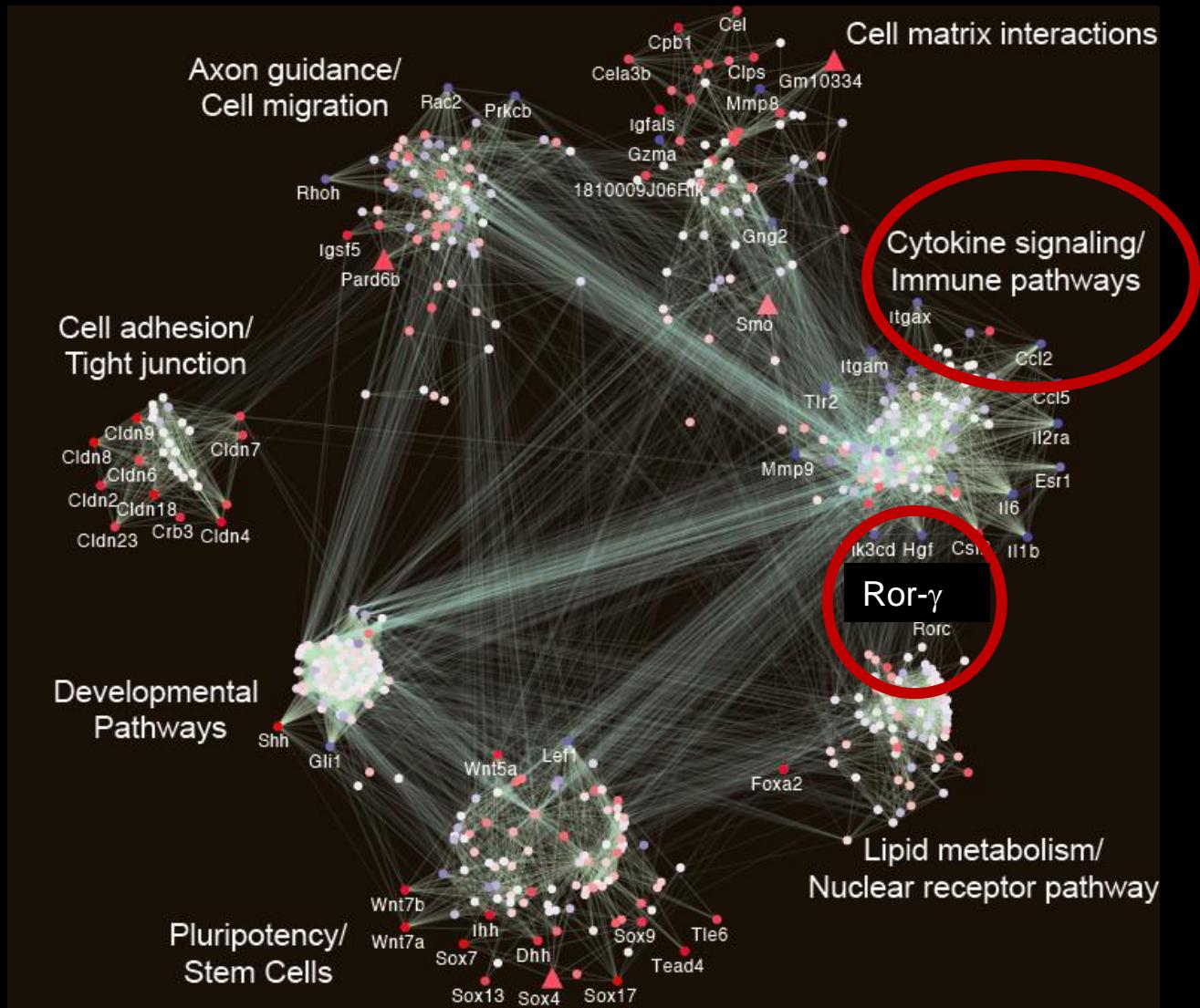
## Network Propagation

Seed genes  
STRING interactome  
Build subnetworks to identify core  
programs

## Network Map

Identify and test new stem cell  
dependencies

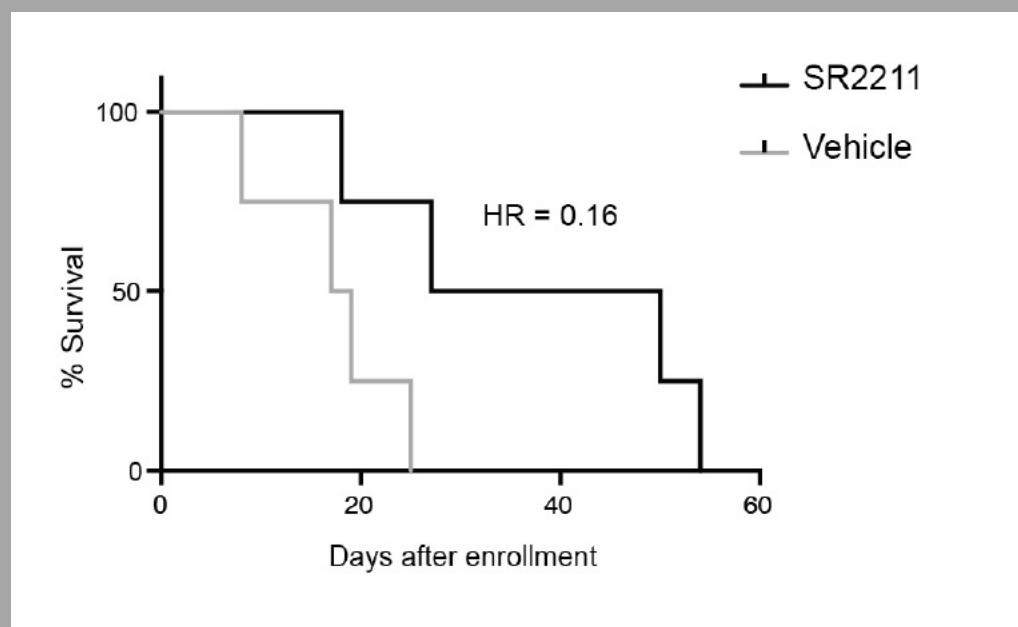
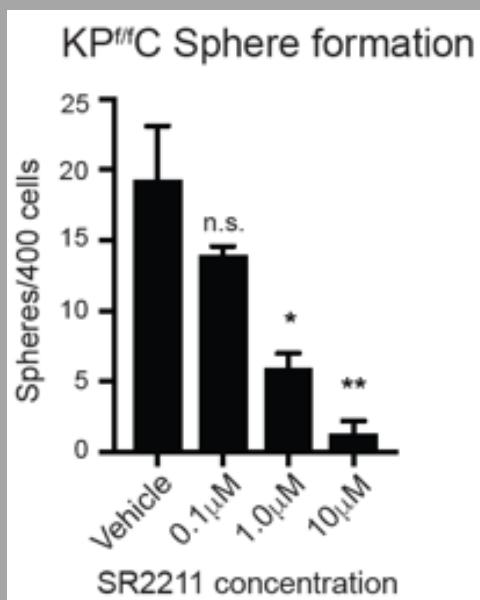




Nikki Lytle  
Paige Ferguson  
Brin Rosenthal  
Roman Sasik  
Trey Ideker

# Pharmacologic blockade of ROR $\gamma$ improves survival

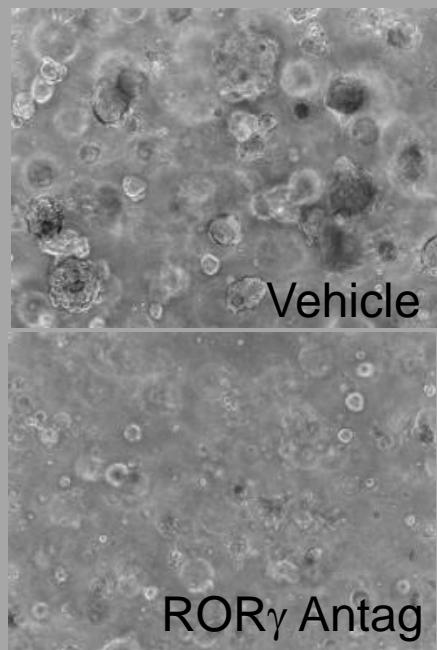
Survival of KPC autochthonous mice



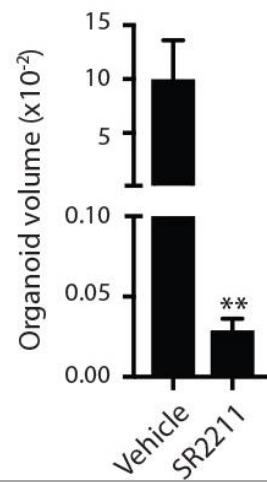
6X reduced risk of death

# ROR $\gamma$ inhibition blocks primary patient pancreatic cancer growth

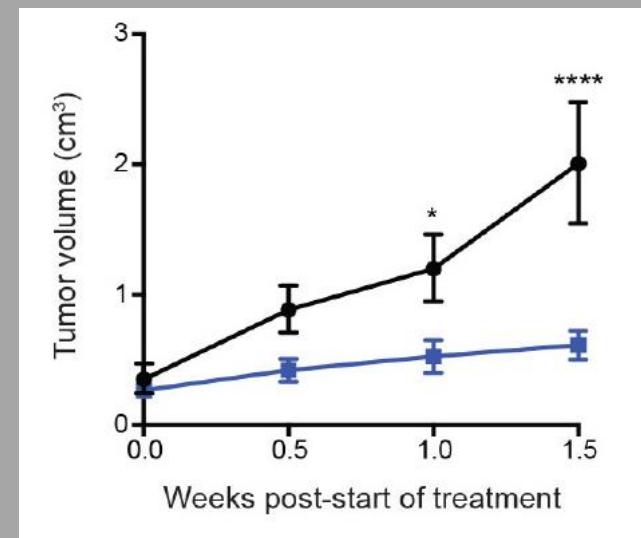
Primary patient organoid growth



Organoid size



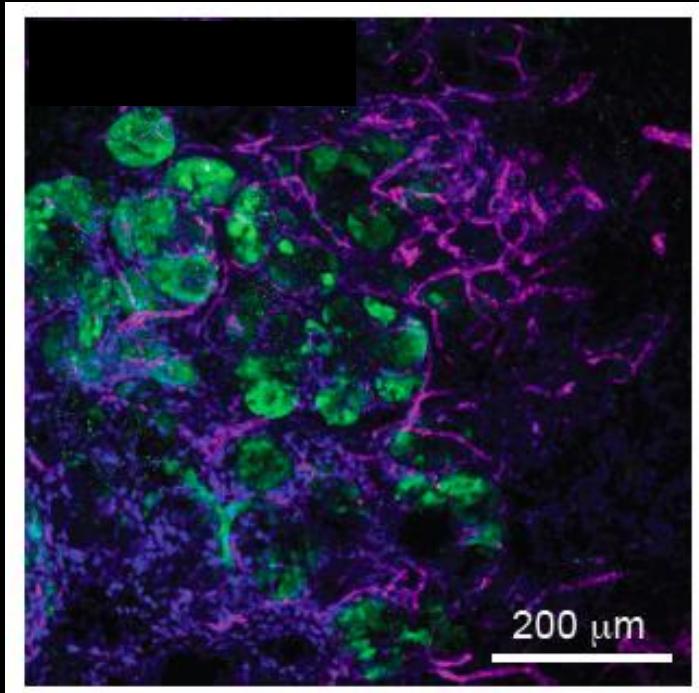
Primary patient Xenograft growth



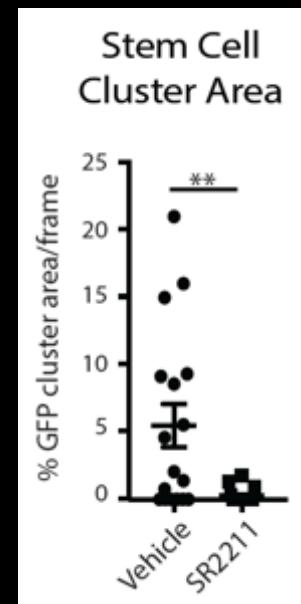
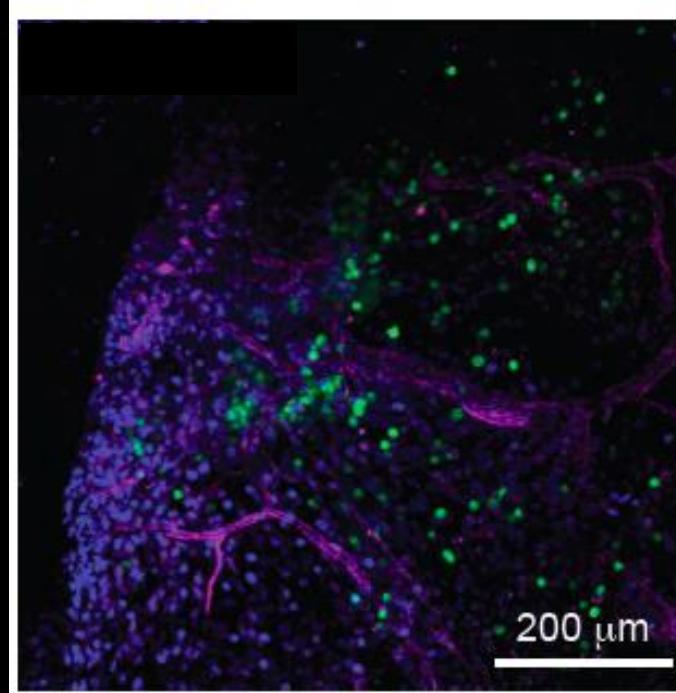
● Vehicle  
■ SR2211

# Pharmacologic blockade of ROR $\gamma$ disrupts stem cell clusters *in vivo*

Vehicle

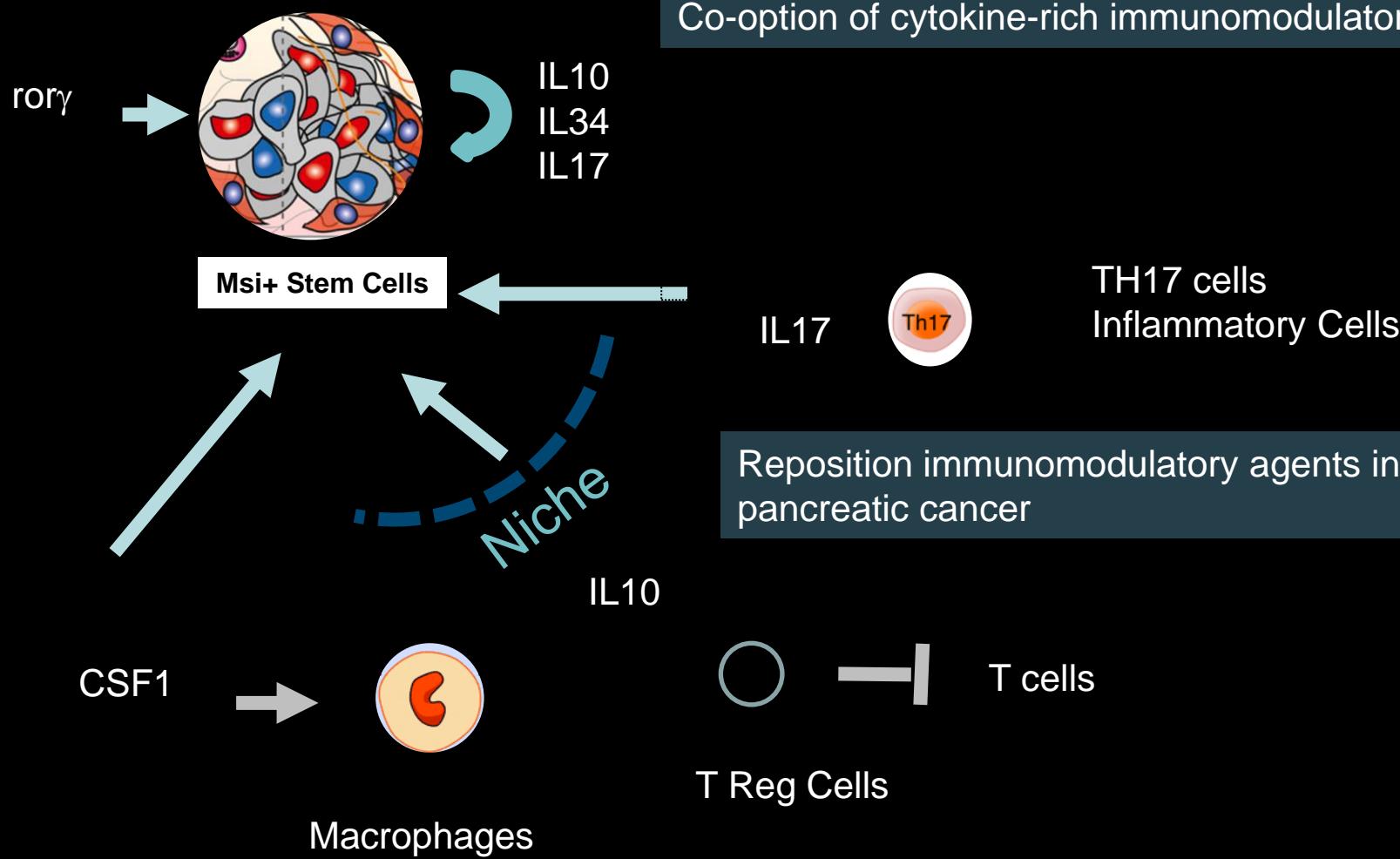


Rory $\gamma$  antag



Msi2+ stem cells. VE-Cadherin. Hoechst

Nikki Lytle





**Andrew Lowy (UCSD)**  
**Dan Von Hoff (TGEN)**  
**Trey Ideker (UCSD)**  
**Peter Adams (SBP)**  
**Roman Sasik (UCSD)**



-University of California-  
San Diego

Nikki Lytle  
Paige Ferguson  
Ray Fox

Nirakar Rajbhandari  
Michael Hamilton

Kyle Spinler  
Mari Nakamura  
Alison Barber  
Jeevisha Bajaj  
Yutaka Shima

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