



# Progress in Targeting KRAS through the Frederick RAS Initiative

Frank McCormick

■ Disclosures: Advisor to BridgeBio, Leidos Biomedical, Frontier Medicines, Quanta Therapeutics, Amgen, Pfizer



Test direct inhibitors of the active forms of KRAS in the clinic

Clinical testing of compounds that prevent RAS binding to PI 3' kinase  $\alpha$

Molecular description of RAS activation of Raf-1

Biochemical and biophysical analysis

In silico modeling, in collaboration with Dept of Defense/Lawrence Livermore National Lab, *et al*

Develop inhibitors of this process

Structural analysis of protein complexes to facilitate new approaches to drug discovery

Mechanisms of drug resistance

Develop drugs that inhibit NRAS, other GTPases

ID of RAS proteoforms in cancer cells

Determine how the NF1 protein neurofibromin is regulated



# Hub and Spoke Model




 University of California San Francisco
 
































































# Community Engagement



## Scientific Presentations



## Mentoring from Experts



## Community Networking



## RAS Initiative Website 11,000+ monthly visitors

**NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**

About Cancer - Cancer Types - Research - Grants & Training - News & Events - About NCI

Home - Research - Key Initiatives - The RAS Initiative

**The RAS Initiative**

- Research Teams
- Community Outreach
- RAS Central
- About

**The RAS Initiative**

More than 30 percent of all human cancers — including 95 percent of pancreatic cancers and 45 percent of colorectal cancers — are driven by mutations of the RAS family of genes. NCI established the RAS Initiative in 2013 to explore innovative approaches for attacking the proteins encoded by mutant forms of RAS genes and to ultimately create effective, new therapies for RAS-related cancers.

**RAS Research Teams**

Learn about the nine highly collaborative research teams that compose the RAS Initiative. View their progress, projects, tools, collaborators, and team members.

**RAS Community Outreach**

Through community and technical collaborations, workshops, and symposia, the RAS Initiative seeks to increase the sharing of knowledge and resources that are essential to defeat cancers caused by mutant RAS genes.

**RAS Central**

To help solve the 30-year challenge of how to treat RAS-driven cancers, we need an open model of collaboration. Whether you are a dedicated RAS expert or curious researcher, we encourage you to help advance the research by joining our RAS community.

**KRASG12C inhibition drives anti-tumour immunity in lung cancer but combinations with anti-PD1 immunotherapy may only benefit patients with 'inflamed' tumours**

Using a novel immunogenic mouse model of KRAS-mutant lung cancer, the Downward lab asks the questions 'what is the effect of KRAS G12C on the tumour microenvironment and on anti-tumour immunity?' and 'how well will anti-PD1 immunotherapy work in combination with KRAS G12C inhibitors?'

## RAS Dialogue Blog 18,742 subscribers

**RASG12C inhibition drives anti-tumour immunity in lung cancer but combinations with anti-PD1 immunotherapy may only benefit patients with 'inflamed' tumours**

November 14, 2022, by Jesse Boumelha, Edurne Mugarza, Sophie de Carné Trécesson, Febe van Maldegem, Miriam Molina and Julian Downward Francis Crick Institute, London

[Continue Reading >](#)

**The use of Molecular Docking as a ligand discovery tool; Can machine learning help the pursuit for ligands?**

July 6, 2022, by Trent E. Ballius and Megan Rigby

[Continue Reading >](#)

**Could CryoEM structures of neurofibromin lead the way to better therapeutic approaches for Neurofibromatosis type 1?**

May 18, 2022, by Dom Esposito

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## RAS Lab Discussion Forum 1,255 members

**RAS Lab**

**New RAS Dialogue from Julian Downward's Lab**

Posted by Megan Rigby on Nov 28, 2022

Using a novel immunogenic mouse model of KRAS-mutant lung cancer, the Downward lab asks the questions 'what is the effect of KRAS G12C on the tumour microenvironment and on anti-tumour immunity?' and 'how well will anti-PD1 immunotherapy work in combination with KRAS G12C inhibitors?'

Read about it here:  
<https://www.cancer.gov/research/key-initiatives/ras/ras-central/blog/2022/g...>

Discuss this message

**Kestutis Urba**  
mK-ras activates polyamines via ...ERK- c-myc pathway, because of c-myc-ODC axis. Upregulated polyamine synthesis affects macrophage polarisation:

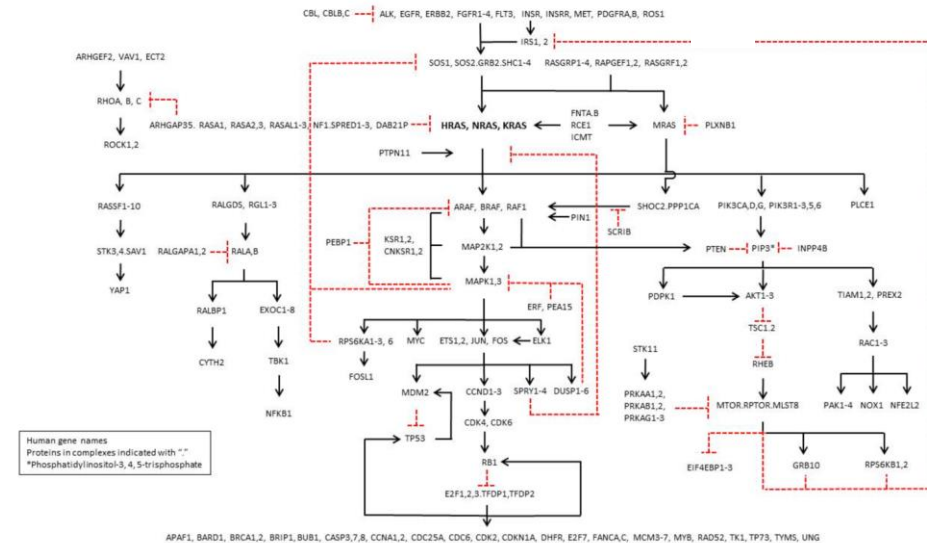
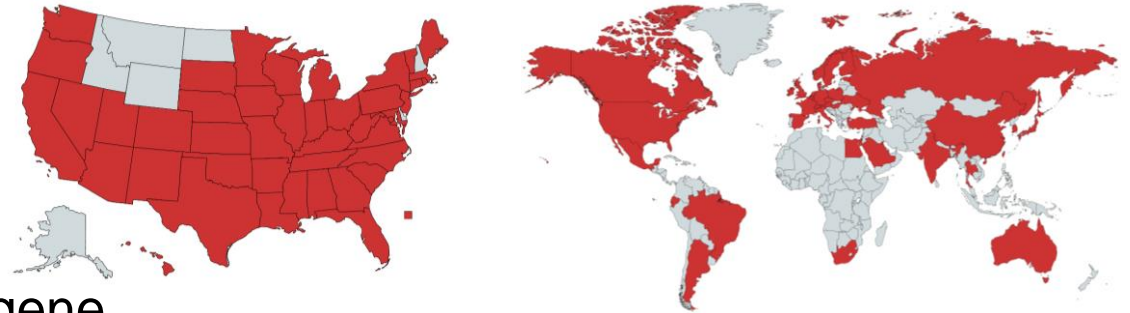
Latour YL, Gobert AP, Wilson KT. The role of polyamines in the regulation of macrophage polarization and function. *Amino Acids*. 2020 Feb;52(2):151-160. doi: 10.1007/s00726-019-02719-0. Epub 2019 Apr 23. PMID: 31016375; PMCID: PMC6812587.

If M2 macrophages predominate, this develops tumour anti-immunity, too.



# Distribution of RAS reagents

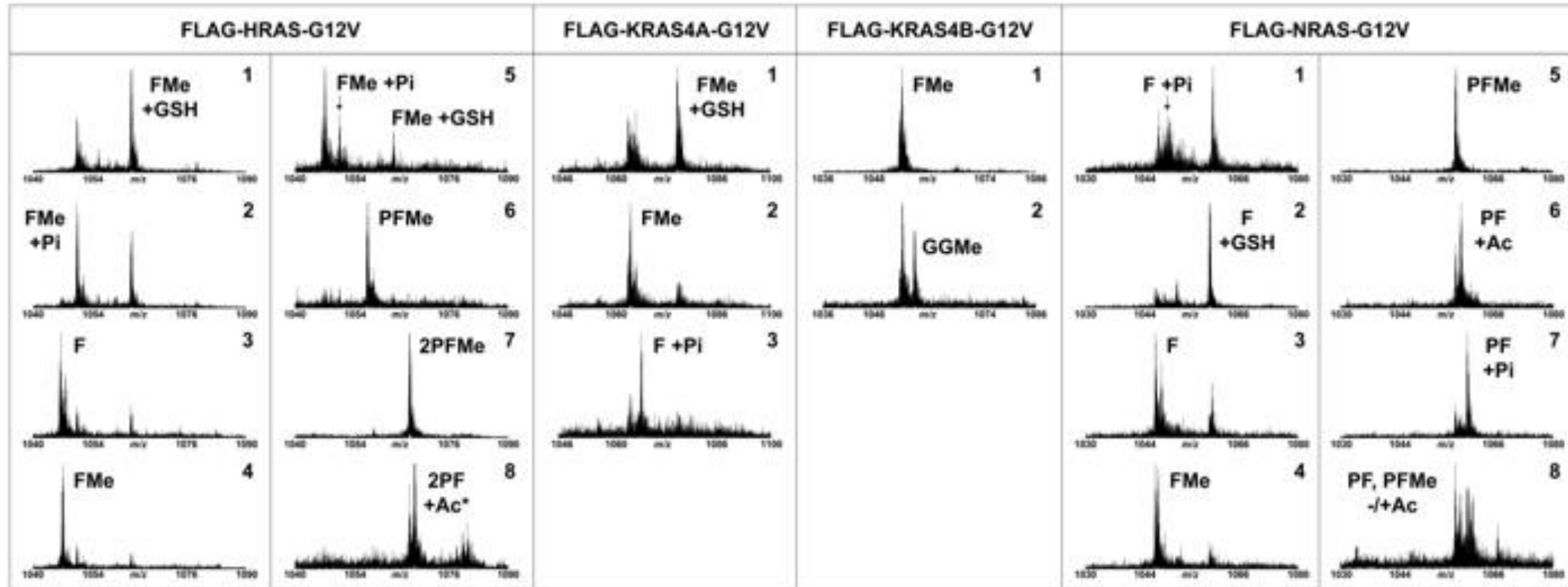
- Reagents widely distributed across the world
  - Materials sent to 623 Universities and NPOs
  - 43 states, 45 countries, 6 continents
- 13,127 plasmids & vectors distributed through Addgene
  - More than 3,000 individual RAS and RAS pathway plasmids
  - At least 1 request for each of the 180 genes
  - 21 complete RAS pathway kits (360 plasmids each)
  - 23 complete RAS mutant kits (61 plasmids each)
- 1,503 cell lines distributed from FNLCR
- RAS-dependent MEFs licensed to 23 companies and distributed to 97 academic groups
- KRAS-FMe materials licensed to 7 companies





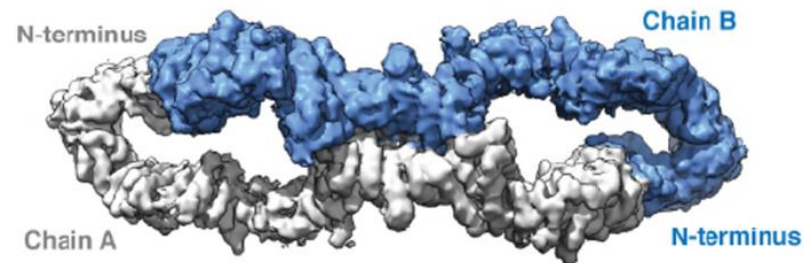
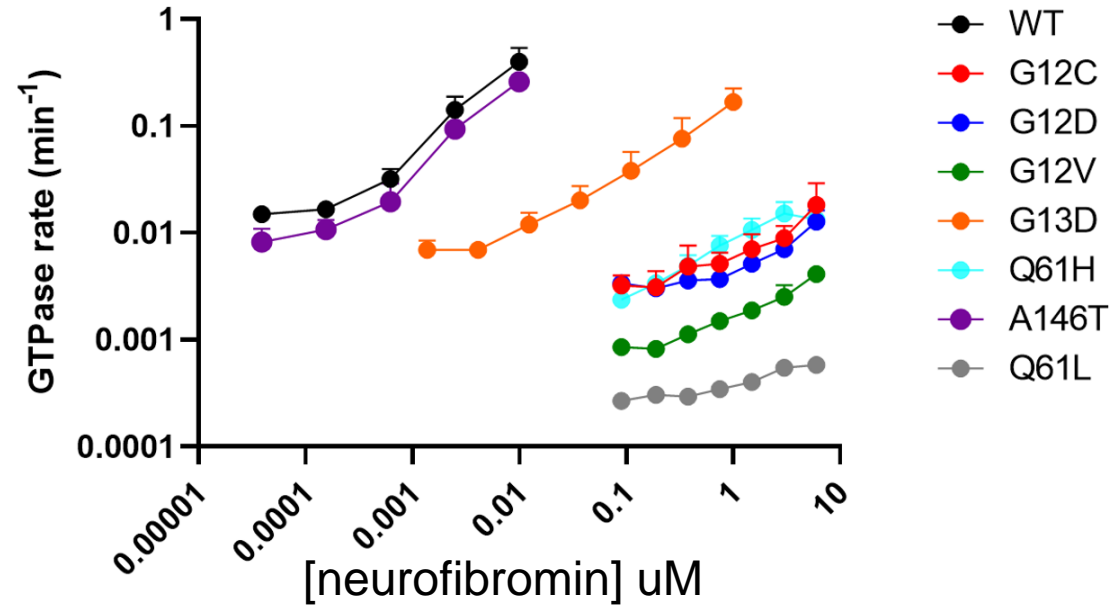
# Analysis of RAS isoforms in cancer cells

Abundant FLAG-RAS-G12V proteoforms identified within a Panc1 cell line model by optimized IP-TDMS analysis





# Biochemical and structural analysis of KRAS mutants

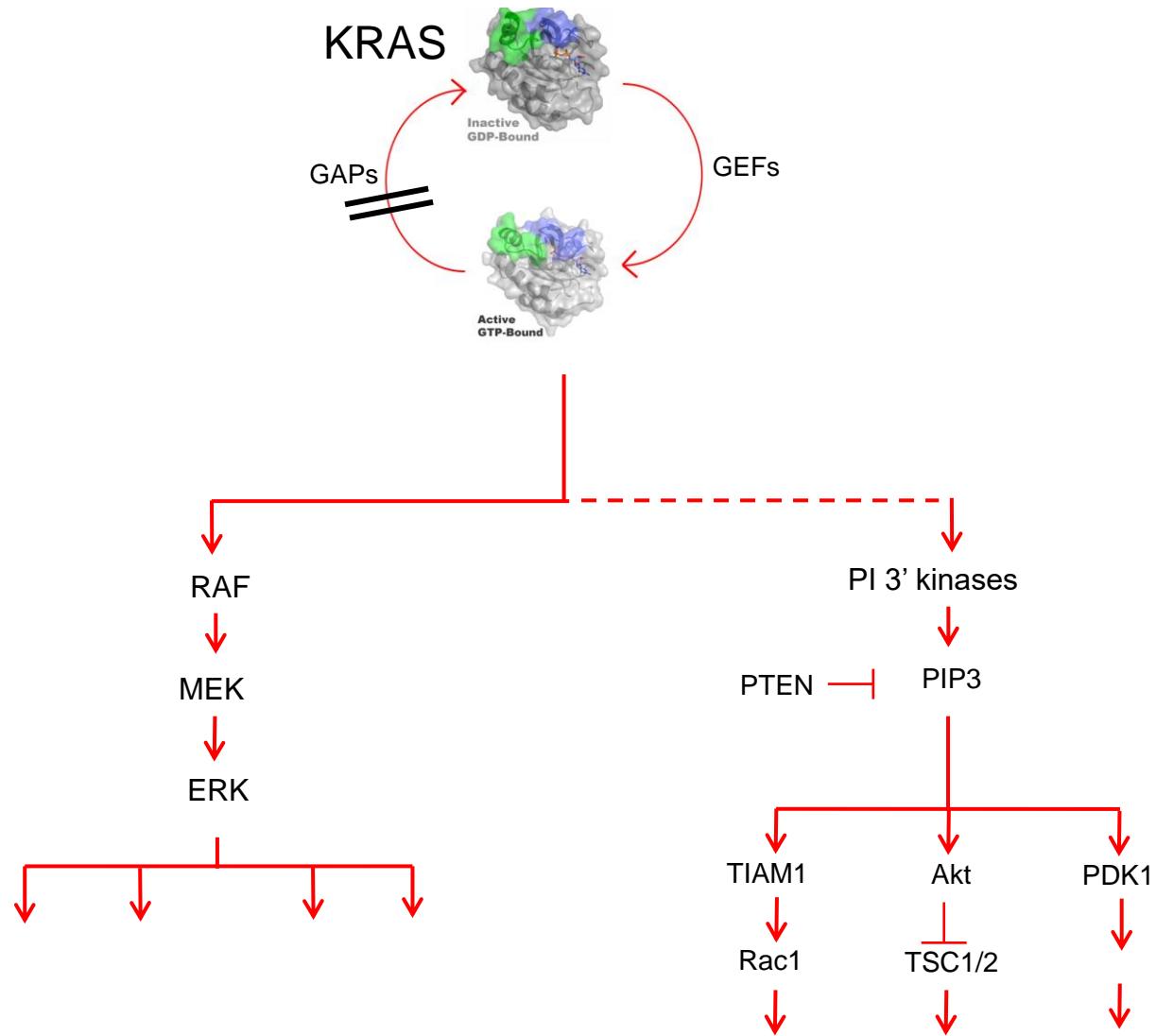


## KRAS G13D sensitivity to neurofibromin-mediated GTP hydrolysis

Dana Rabara<sup>a,1</sup>, Timothy H. Tran<sup>a,1</sup>, Srisathiyarayanan Dharmiah<sup>a</sup>, Robert M. Stephens<sup>a</sup>, Frank McCormick<sup>a,b,2</sup>, Dharendra K. Simanshu<sup>a,2</sup>, and Matthew Holderfield<sup>a,2,3</sup>

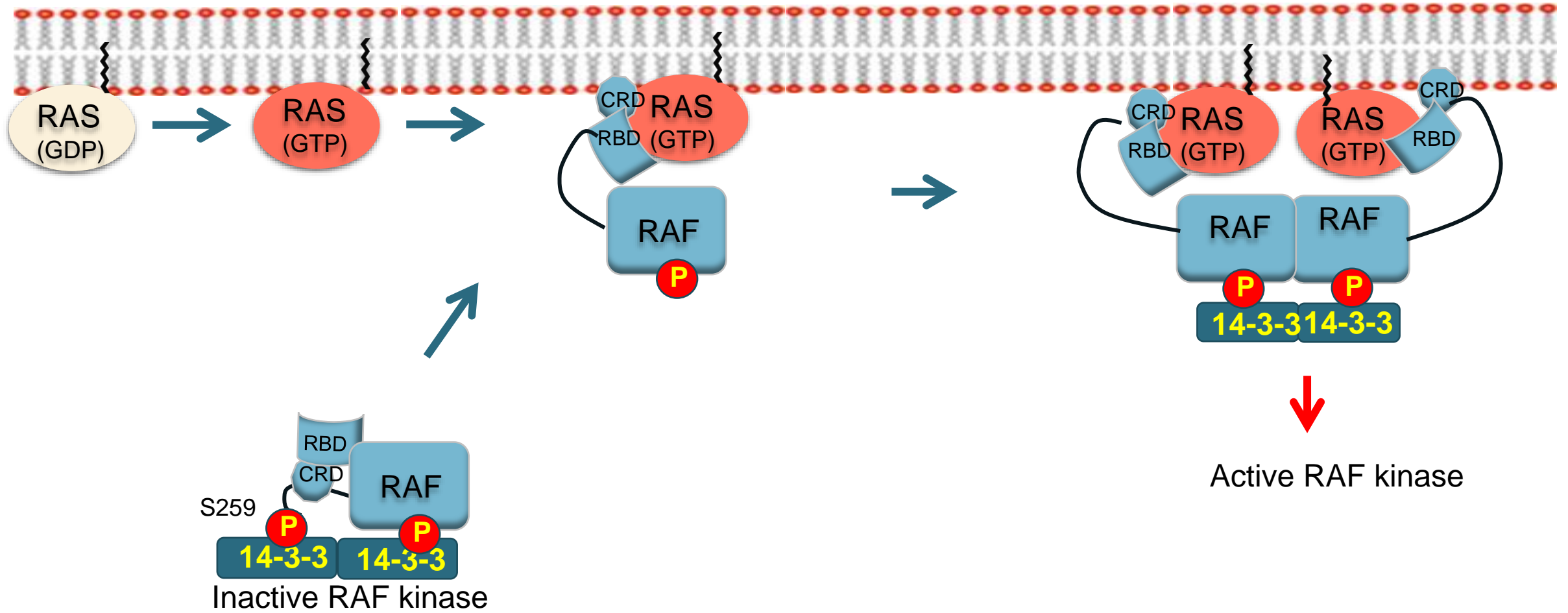


# Targeting KRAS directly, and through activation of RAF and PIK3CA





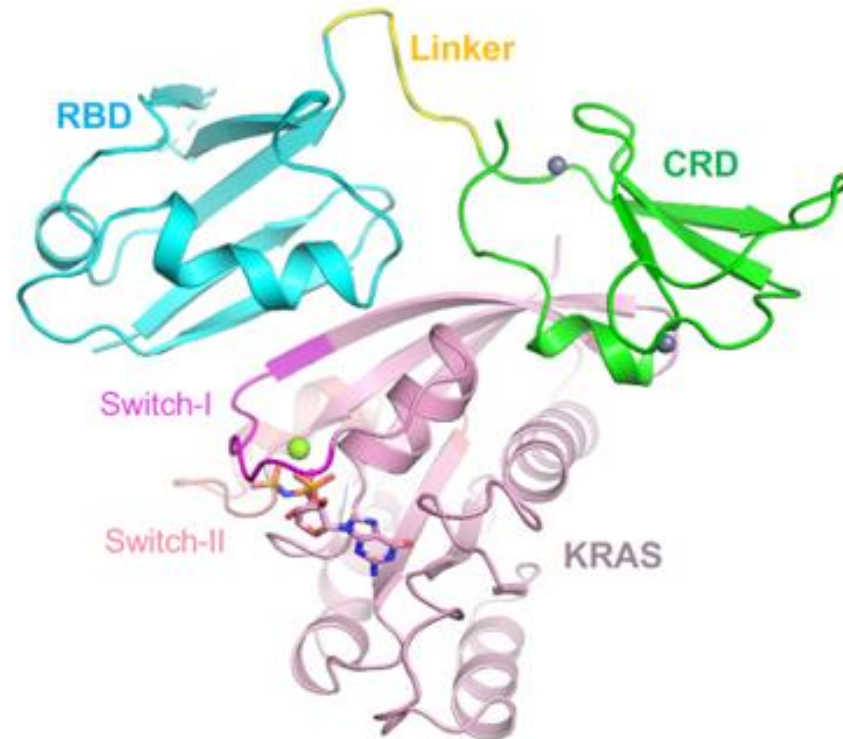
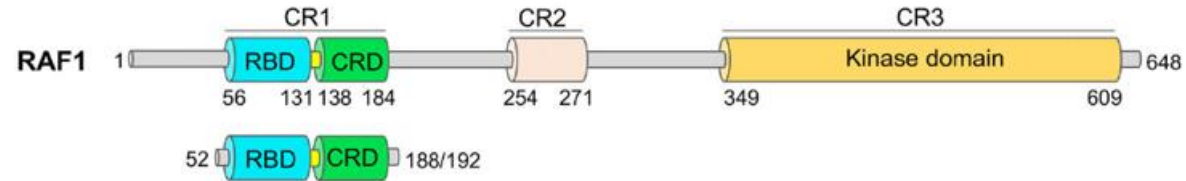
# Targeting RAS-dependent activation of RAF kinase





# The RAS-RAF interface

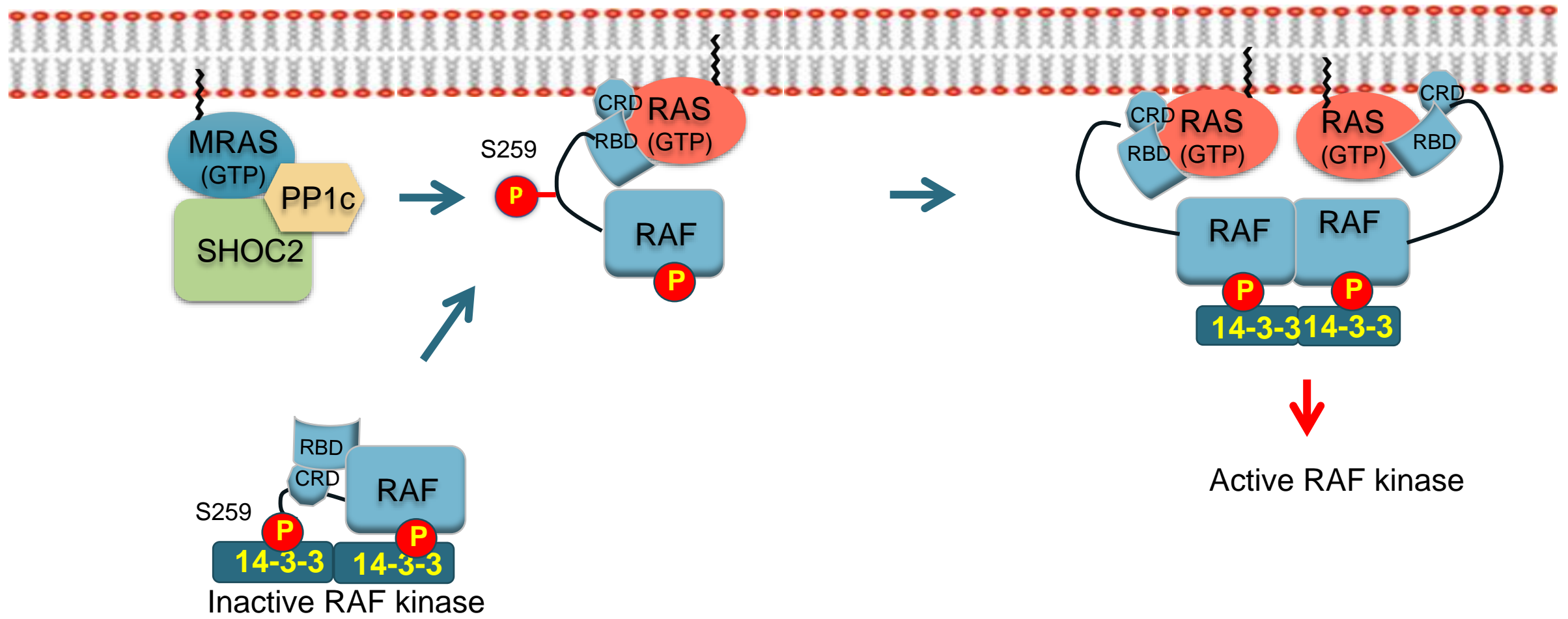
RBD: RAS binding domain  
CRD: Cysteine rich domain



**KRAS interaction with RAF1 RAS-binding domain and cysteine-rich domain provides insights into RAS-mediated RAF activation**

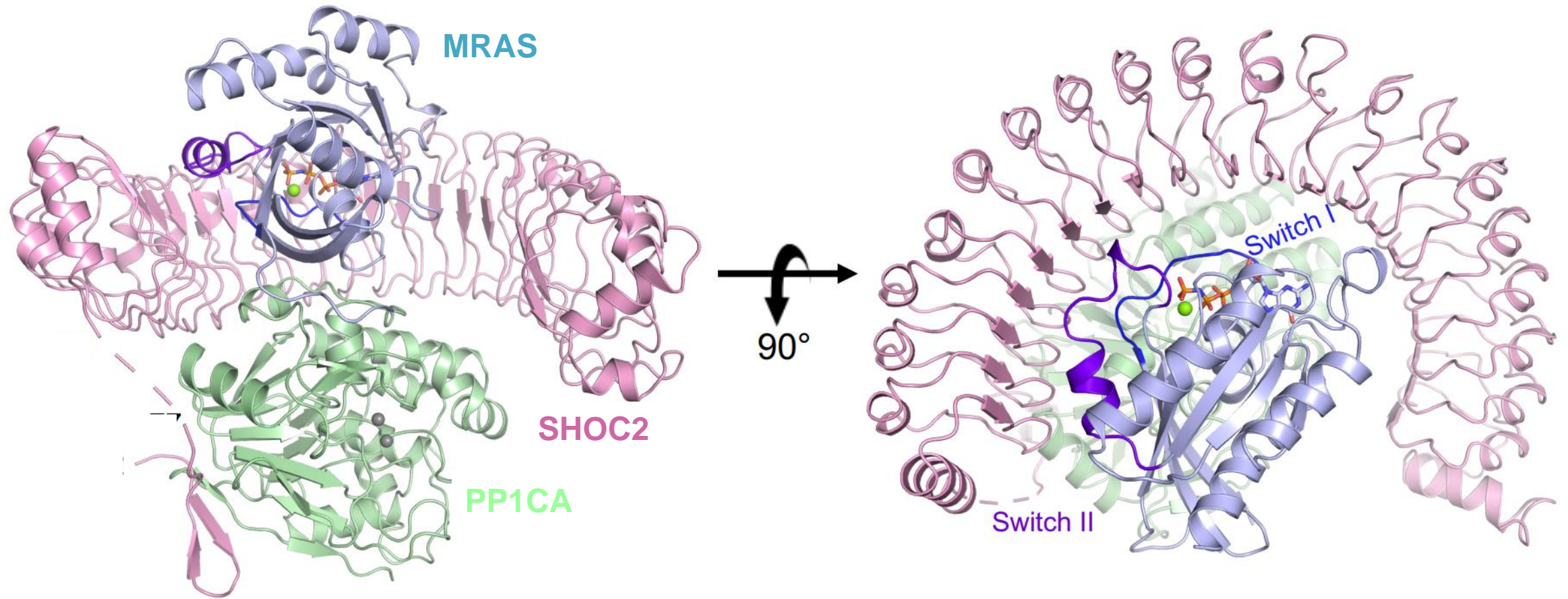
Timothy H. Tran, Albert H. Chan, Lucy C. Young, Lakshman Bindu, Chris Neale, Simon Messing, Srisathyanarayanan Dharmalingam, Troy Taylor, John-Paul Denson, Dominic Esposito, Dwight V. Nissley, Andrew G. Stephen, Frank McCormick, Dharendra K. Simanshu

# MRAS-SHOC2-PP1C is essential in RAS Cancers





# Structure of the MRAS.SHOC2.PP1C complex



nature structural & molecular biology

Article  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41584-022-00841-4>  
**Structure of the SHOC2–MRAS–PP1C complex provides insights into RAF activation and Noonan syndrome**

Received: 17 February 2022  
Accepted: 12 August 2022  
Published online: 29 September 2022

Daniel A. Benson<sup>1</sup>, Patrick Alexander<sup>1</sup>, Kelly Sneath<sup>1</sup>, Nicole Hartig<sup>1</sup>,  
Matthew Drew<sup>1</sup>, Simon Messing<sup>1</sup>, Lorenzo I. Finci<sup>1</sup>, Dwight V. Nisley<sup>1</sup>,  
Frank McCormick<sup>1</sup>, Dominic Esposito<sup>1</sup>, Pablo Rodriguez-Viciana<sup>1</sup>,  
Andrew G. Stephen<sup>1</sup> and Dharendra K. Simarathu<sup>1</sup>

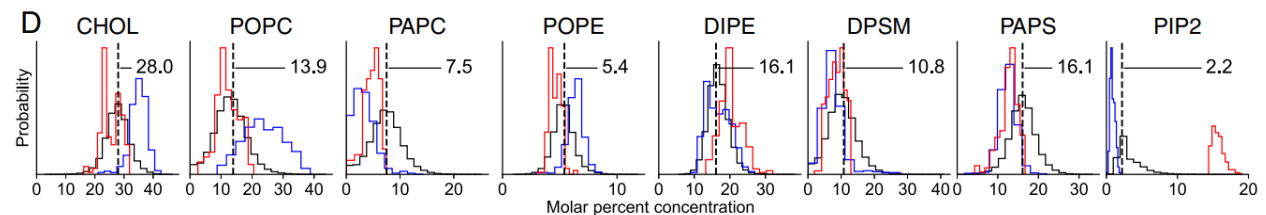
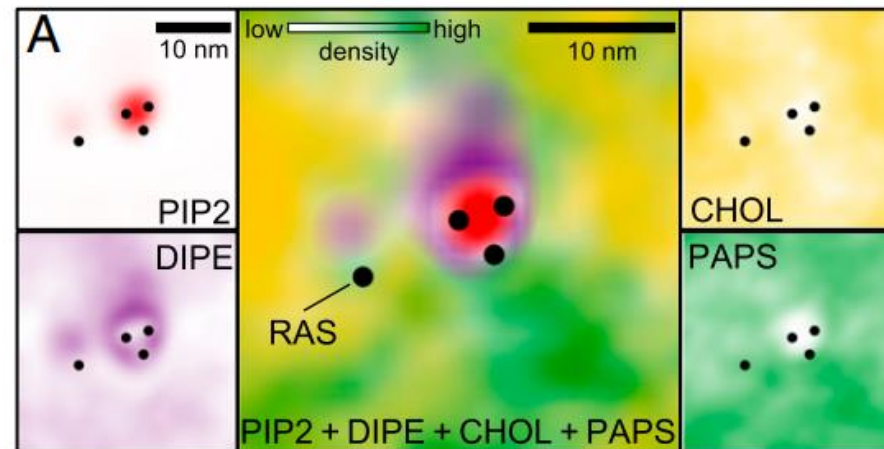
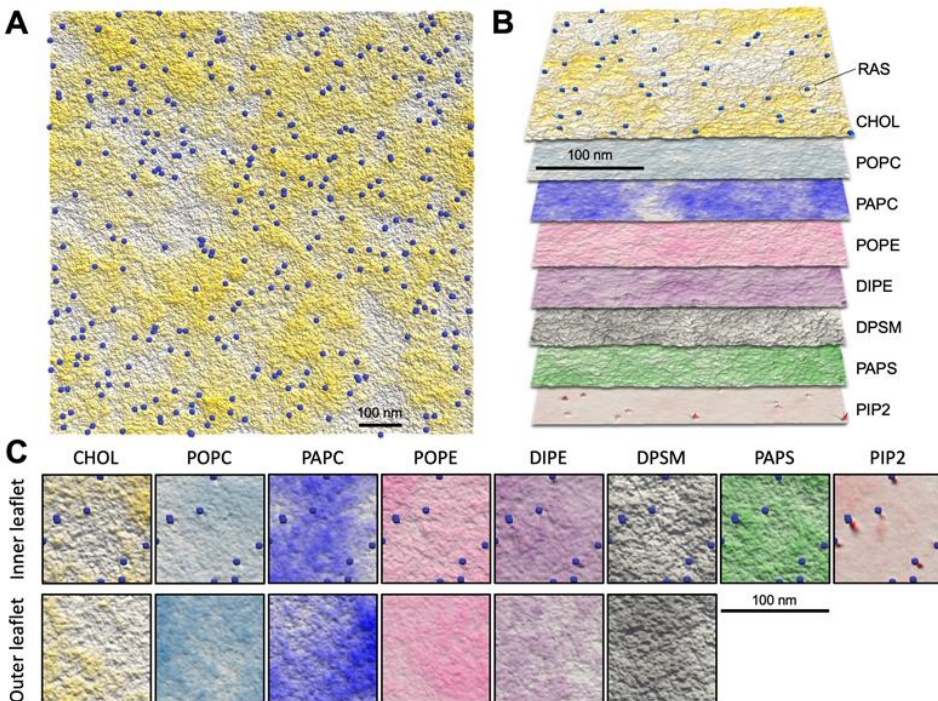


# Modeling RAS and RAF using machine learning

## Machine learning-driven multiscale modeling reveals lipid-dependent dynamics of RAS signaling proteins

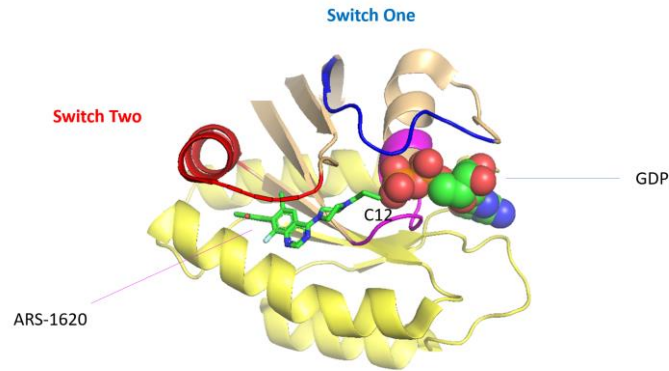
Helgi I. Ingólfsson<sup>a</sup>, Chris Neale<sup>b</sup>, Timothy S. Carpenter<sup>a</sup>, Rebika Shrestha<sup>a</sup>, Cesar A. Lopez<sup>a</sup>, Timothy H. Tran<sup>a</sup>, Tomas Oppelstrup<sup>a</sup>, Harsh Bhatia<sup>a</sup>, Liam G. Stanton<sup>a</sup>, Xiaohua Zhang<sup>a</sup>, Shiv Sundram<sup>a</sup>, Francesco Di Natale<sup>a</sup>, Animesh Agarwal<sup>a</sup>, Gautham Dharuman<sup>a</sup>, Sara L. L. Kokkila Schumacher<sup>a</sup>, Thomas Turbyville<sup>a</sup>, Gulcin Gulterci<sup>a</sup>, Que N. Van<sup>a</sup>, Debanjan Goswami<sup>a</sup>, Frantz Jean-Francois<sup>a</sup>, Constance Agamassou<sup>a</sup>, De Chen<sup>a</sup>, Jeevapani J. Hettige<sup>a</sup>, Timothy Travers<sup>a</sup>, Sumantra Sarkar<sup>a</sup>, Michael P. Surh<sup>a</sup>, Yue Yang<sup>a</sup>, Adam Moedy<sup>a</sup>, Shusen Liu<sup>a</sup>, Brian C. Van Essen<sup>a</sup>, Arthur F. Voter<sup>a</sup>, Arvind Ramanathan<sup>a</sup>, Nicolas W. Hengartner<sup>a</sup>, Dharendra K. Simanshu<sup>a</sup>, Andrew G. Stephen<sup>a</sup>, Peer-Timo Bremer<sup>a</sup>, S. Gnanakaran<sup>a</sup>, James N. Glosli<sup>a</sup>, Felice C. Lightstone<sup>a</sup>, Frank McCormick<sup>a,1</sup>, Dwight V. Nissley<sup>a,1</sup>, and Frederick H. Streitz<sup>a,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Physical and Life Sciences Directorate, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA 94550; <sup>b</sup>Theoretical Biology and Biophysics Group, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545; <sup>c</sup>RAS Initiative, The Cancer Research Technology Program, Frederick National Laboratory, Frederick, MD 21701; <sup>d</sup>Computing Directorate, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA 94550; <sup>e</sup>Department of Mathematics and Statistics, San José State University, San José, CA 95192; <sup>f</sup>Data Centric Systems, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598; <sup>g</sup>Center for Nonlinear Studies, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545; <sup>h</sup>Theoretical Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545; <sup>i</sup>Computing, Environment & Life Sciences Directorate, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL 60439; and <sup>j</sup>Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of California, San Francisco, CA 94115





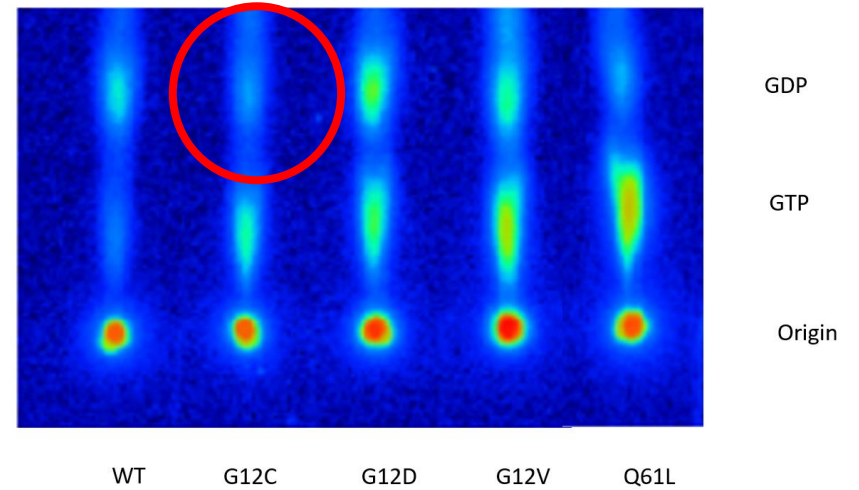
# Targeting KRAS G12C with direct, covalent inhibitors



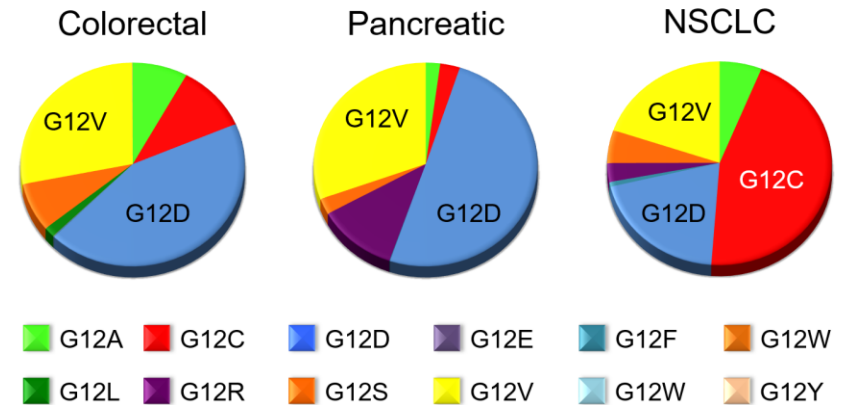
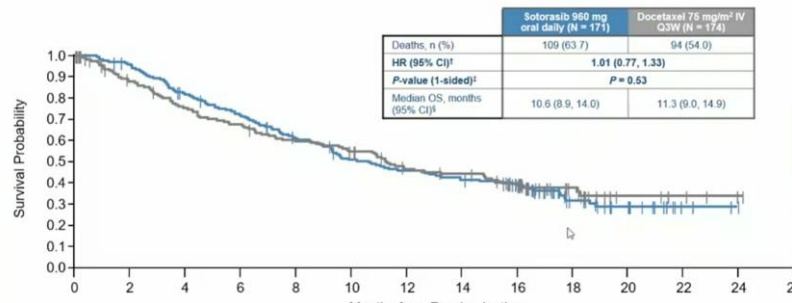
**K-Ras(G12C) inhibitors allosterically control GTP affinity and effector interactions**

Jonathan M. Ostrem<sup>1\*</sup>, Ulf Peters<sup>1\*</sup>, Martin L. Sosa<sup>1</sup>, James A. Wells<sup>2</sup> & Kevin M. Shokat<sup>1</sup>

## Levels of GDP and GTP on RAS oncogenic mutants

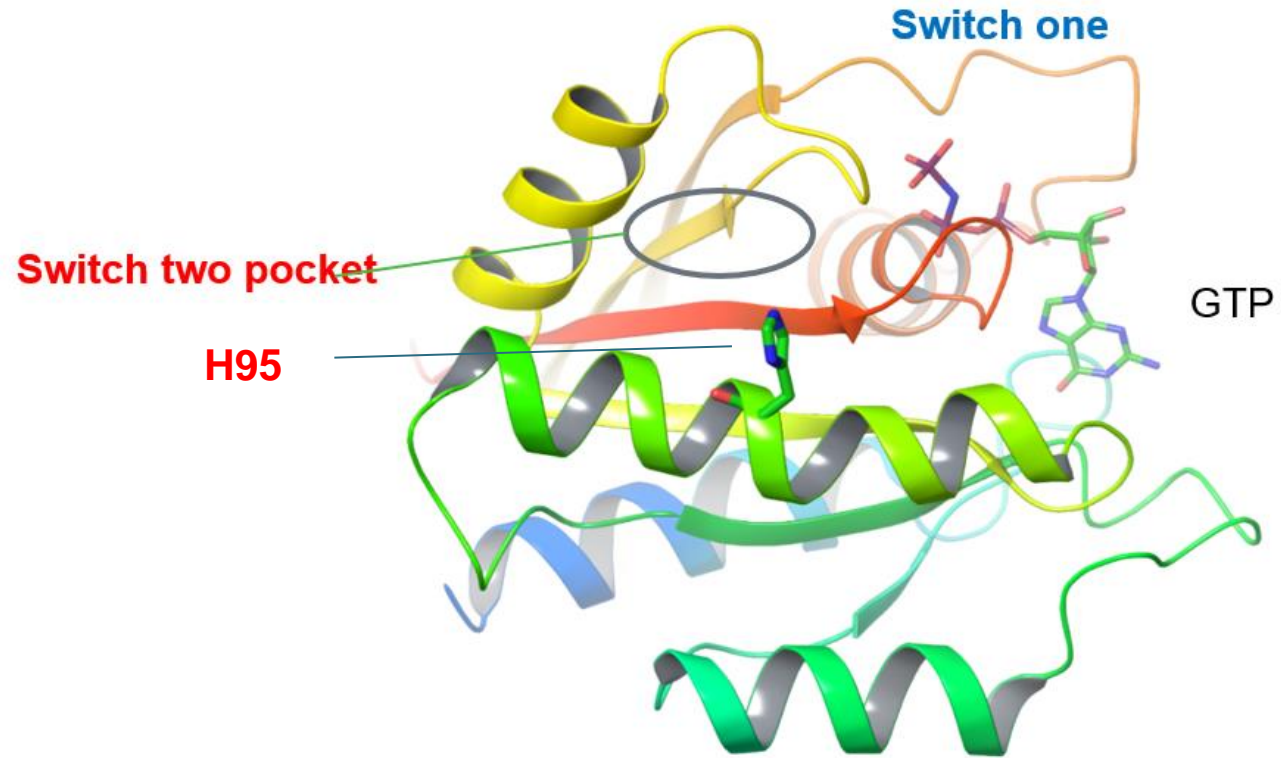


## OS: Sotorasib vs Docetaxel\*



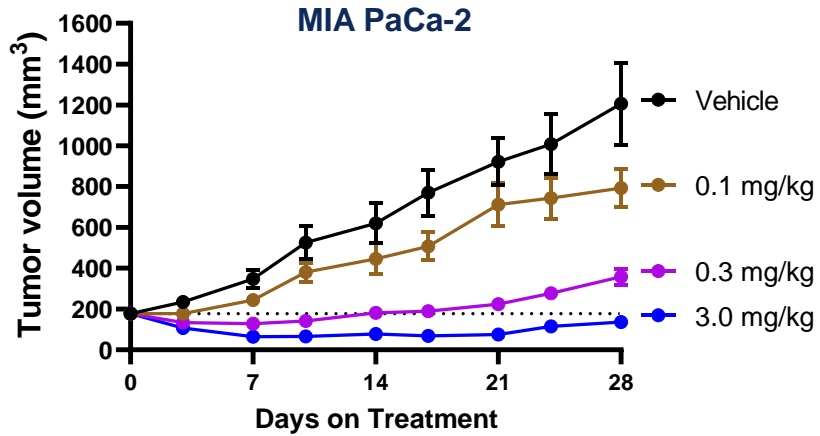


# Targeting the GTP-bound forms of KRAS G12C, G12D, G12V, et al

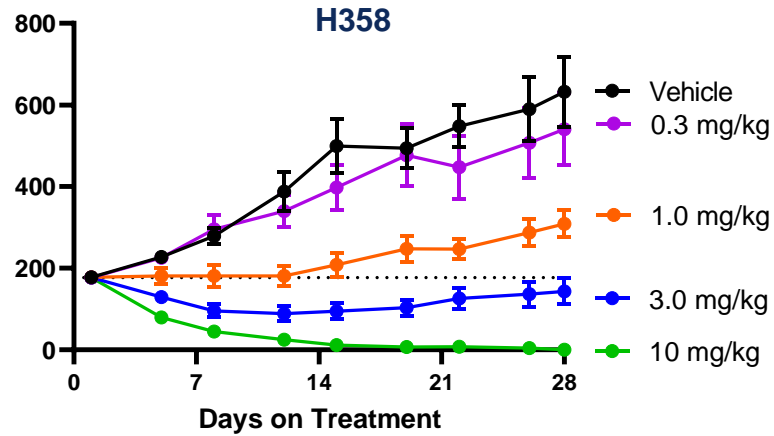


K-RAS FAINNTKSFEDIH**H**YREQIKRVKD  
H-RAS FAINNTKSFEDIH**Q**YREQIKRVKD  
N-RAS FAINNTKSFADINLYREQIKRVKD

# Targeting active, GTP-forms of KRAS G12C in vivo

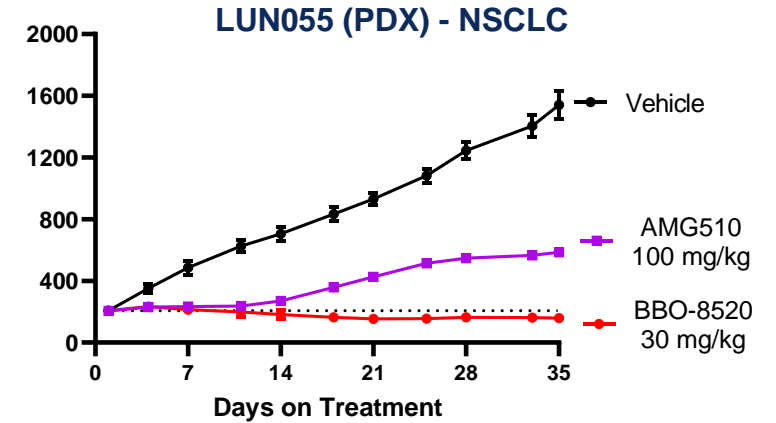


<b>ED<sub>50</sub></b>	<b>ED<sub>90</sub></b>
<b>0.13 mg/kg</b>	<b>0.40 mg/kg</b>
<b>EC<sub>50</sub></b>	<b>EC<sub>90</sub></b>
<b>4.6 nM</b>	<b>9.9 nM</b>



*10/10 CRs at 10 mg/kg*

<b>ED<sub>50</sub></b>	<b>ED<sub>90</sub></b>
<b>0.61 mg/kg</b>	<b>1.6 mg/kg</b>
<b>EC<sub>50</sub></b>	<b>EC<sub>90</sub></b>
<b>14 nM</b>	<b>34 nM</b>

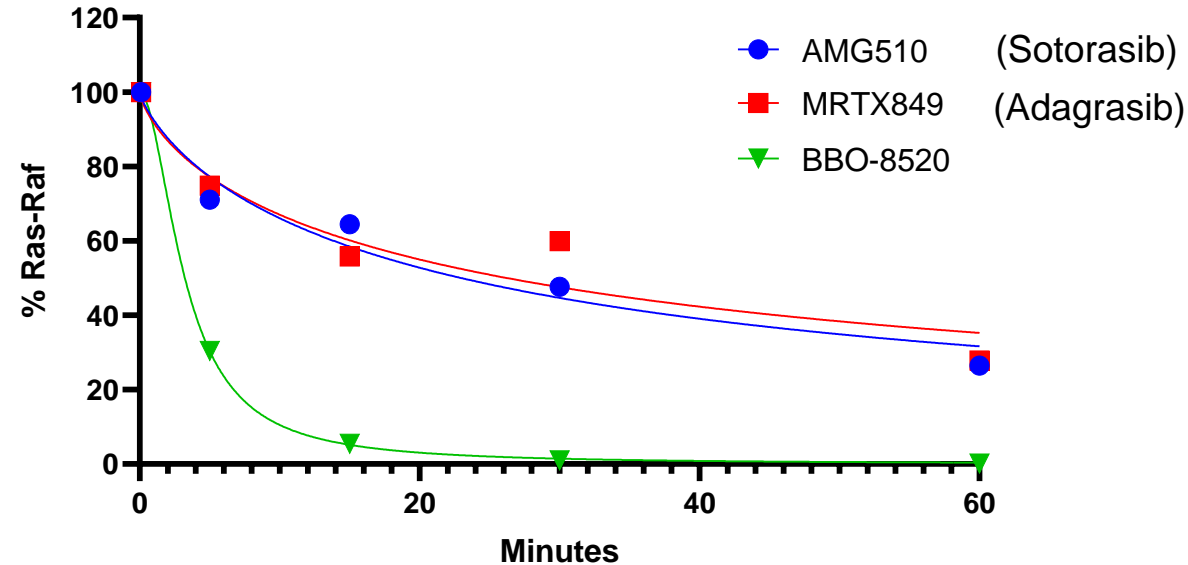


Group (n=10)	Day 35		
	TGI	Regression	FF AUC <sub>0-24</sub> (ng*hr/ml)
BBO-8520	100%	23% (7/10)	59
AMG510	71%	- (1/10)	1563





# Rapid inhibition of KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> binding to RAF in cells



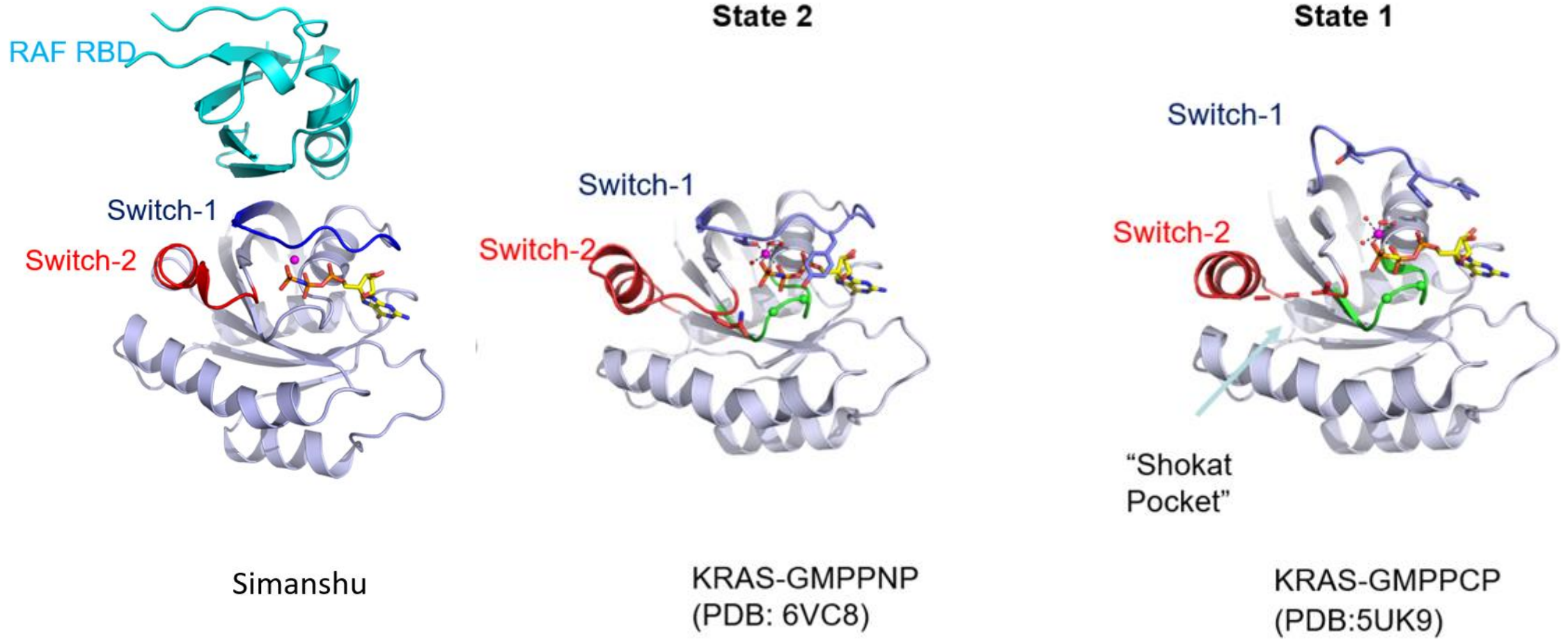
**We expect to begin clinical testing later this year**

**First in class compound that directly targets the active, GTP-bound state of KRAS G12C**

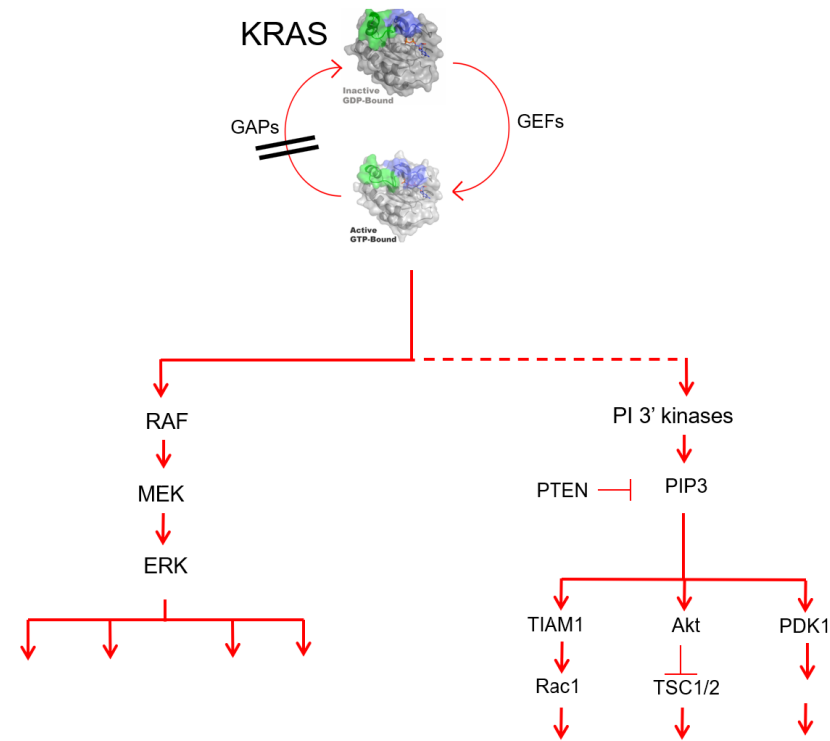
**Drugs targeting active states of KRAS G12D and KRAS G12V to follow**



# RAS.GTP can exist in 2 states



# The Role of RAS-PI 3' kinase in cancer



## Binding of Ras to Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase p110 $\alpha$ Is Required for Ras-Driven Tumorigenesis in Mice

Surbhi Gupta,<sup>1,4</sup> Antoine R. Ramjaun,<sup>1,4</sup> Paula Haiko,<sup>2</sup> Yihua Wang,<sup>1</sup> Patricia H. Warne,<sup>1</sup> Barbara Nicke,<sup>1</sup> Emma Nye,<sup>2</sup> Gordon Stamp,<sup>2</sup> Kari Alitalo,<sup>3</sup> and Julian Downward<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Signal Transduction Laboratory  
<sup>2</sup>Experimental Pathology Laboratory  
 Cancer Research UK London Research Institute, 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX, UK  
<sup>3</sup>Molecular/Cancer Biology, Biomedicum Helsinki, University of Helsinki, P.O.B. 63 (Haartmaninkatu 8), FIN-00014 Helsinki, Finland  
<sup>4</sup>These authors contributed equally to this work.  
 \*Correspondence: downward@cancer.org.uk  
 DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2007.03.051



Cancer Cell  
 Previews

## Killing Tumors by Keeping Ras and PI3' Kinase Apart

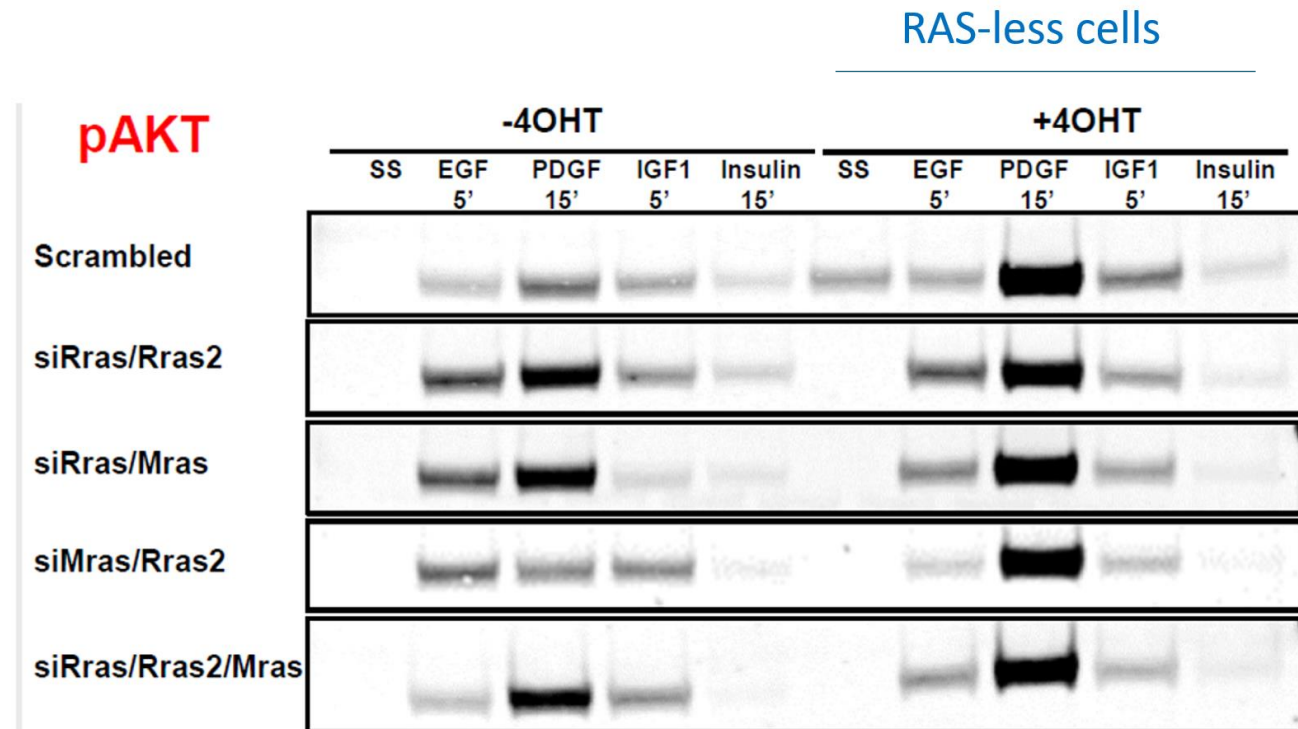
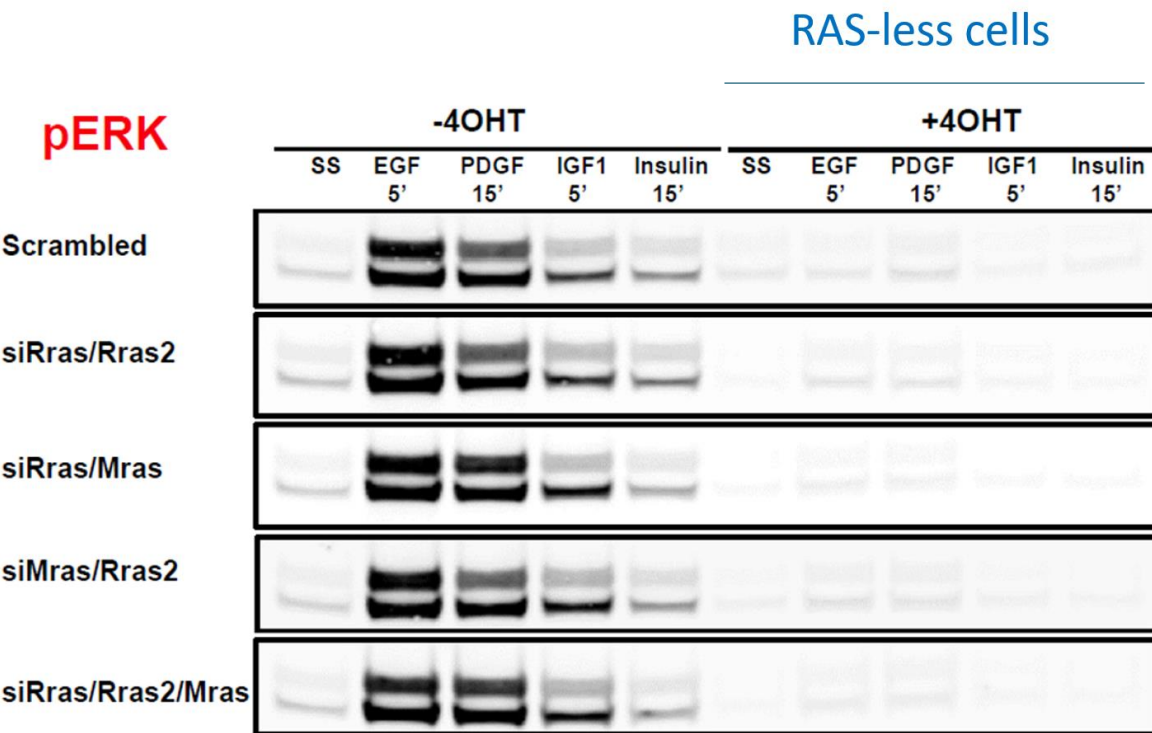
Tina L. Yuan<sup>1</sup> and Frank McCormick<sup>1,\*</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Heinrich Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 94158, USA  
 \*Correspondence: frankmccormick@ucsf.edu  
 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ccr.2013.10.015

## Requirement for Interaction of PI3-Kinase p110 $\alpha$ with RAS in Lung Tumor Maintenance

Esther Castellano,<sup>1,7</sup> Clare Sheridan,<sup>1,7</sup> May Zaw Thin,<sup>2</sup> Emma Nye,<sup>3</sup> Bradley Spencer-Dene,<sup>3</sup> Markus E. Diefenbacher,<sup>4</sup> Christopher Moore,<sup>1</sup> Madhu S. Kumar,<sup>1</sup> Miguel M. Murillo,<sup>1,8</sup> Eva Grönroos,<sup>5</sup> Francois Lassailly,<sup>2</sup> Gordon Stamp,<sup>3</sup> and Julian Downward<sup>1,8,\*</sup>



# RAS proteins are not needed to activate PI 3' kinase in normal cells



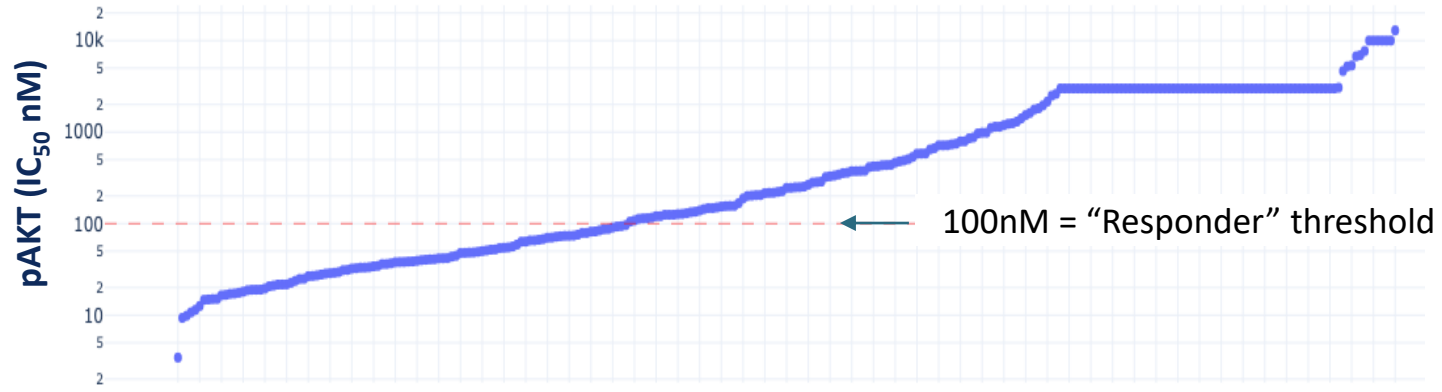


We have developed a potent, orally available compound that binds to PIK3CA and prevents RAS activation



# One third of all cancer cell lines depend on PI3K $\alpha$ :RAS interaction for activation of AKT signaling

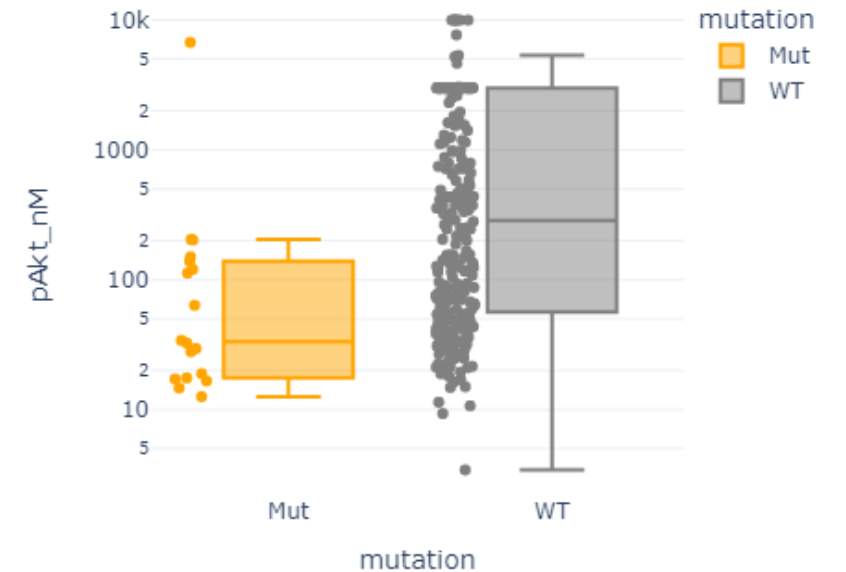
## pAKT cell line screen



- 105/282 (37%) of screened cell lines are responders
- 29/50 (58%) of screened KRAS<sup>G12X</sup> cell lines are responders

## PIK3CA helical mutants are highly sensitive

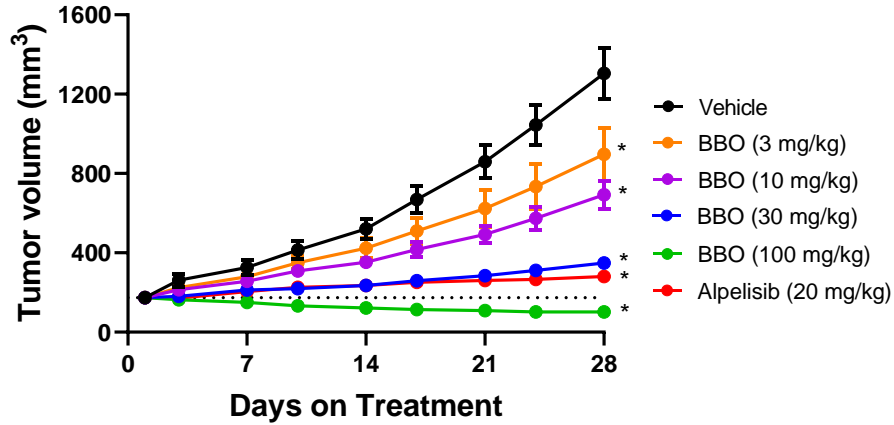
### Mutations Responders vs Non-Responders



# Efficacy in mouse models

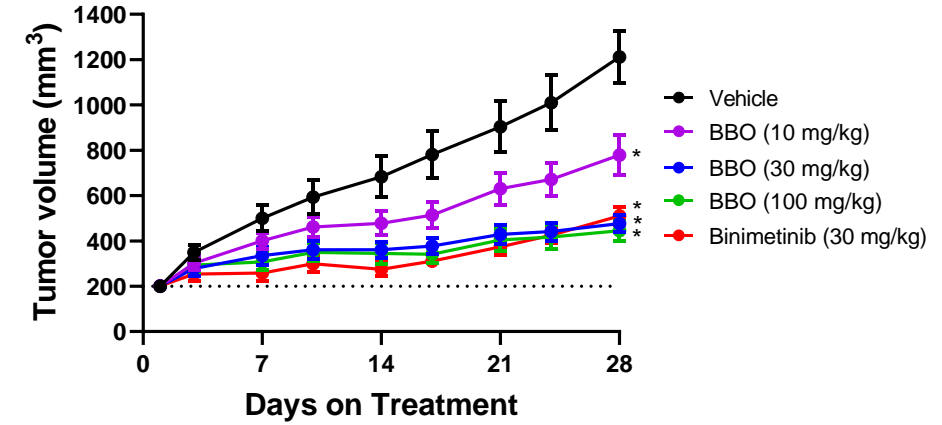
## KYSE-410 CDX

- KRAS<sup>G12C</sup>
- HER2<sup>amp</sup>



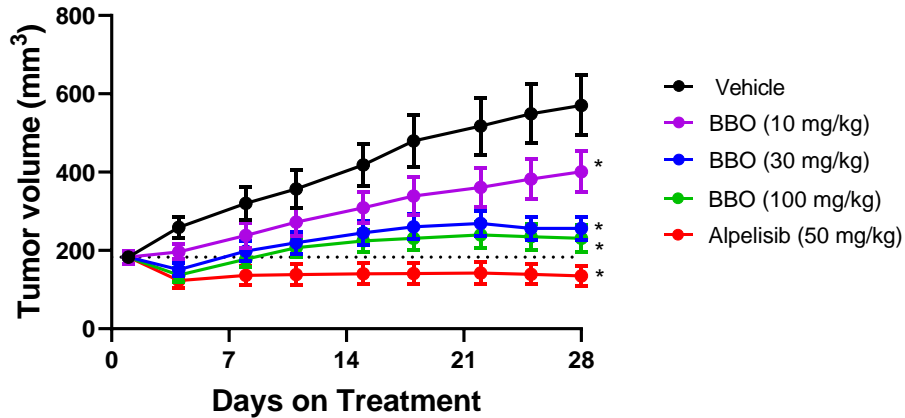
## GP2d CDX

- KRAS<sup>G12D</sup>
- PIK3CA<sup>H1047L</sup>



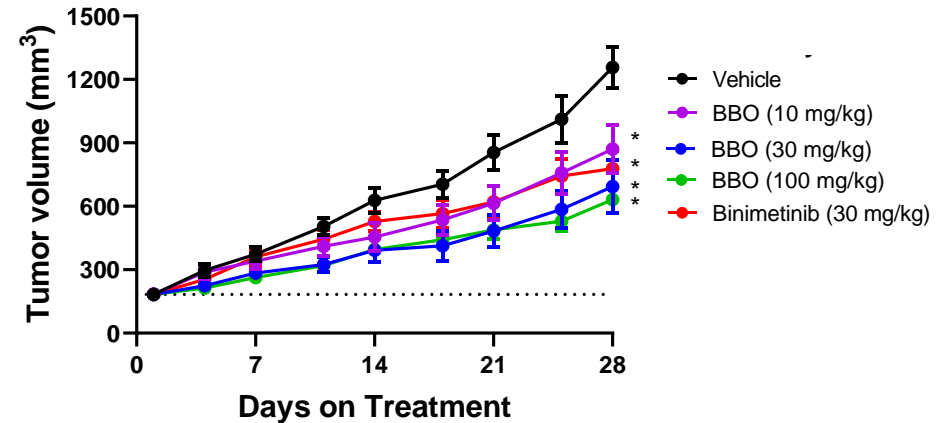
## SNU-601 CDX

- KRAS<sup>G12D</sup>
- PIK3CA<sup>E542K</sup>



## SNU-16 CDX

- KRAS<sup>G12D</sup>

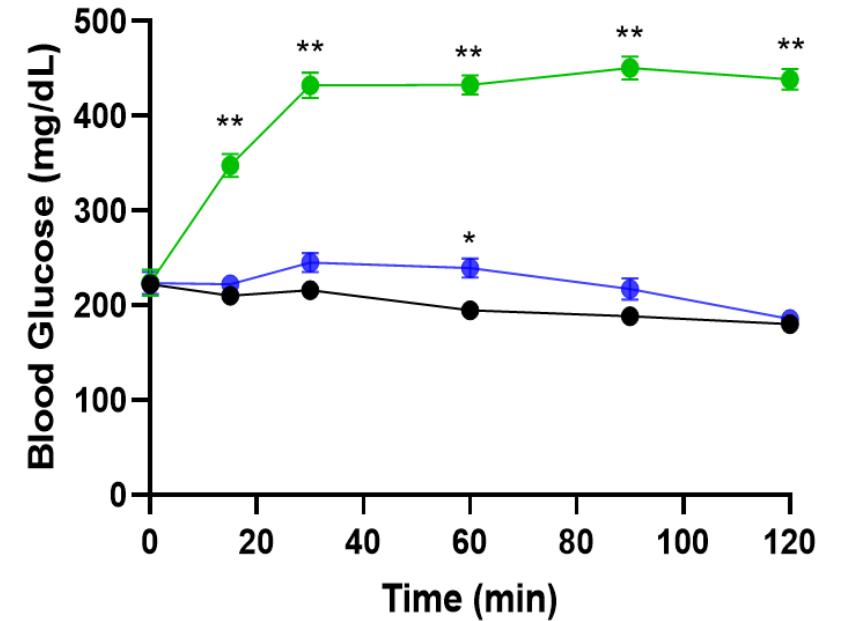
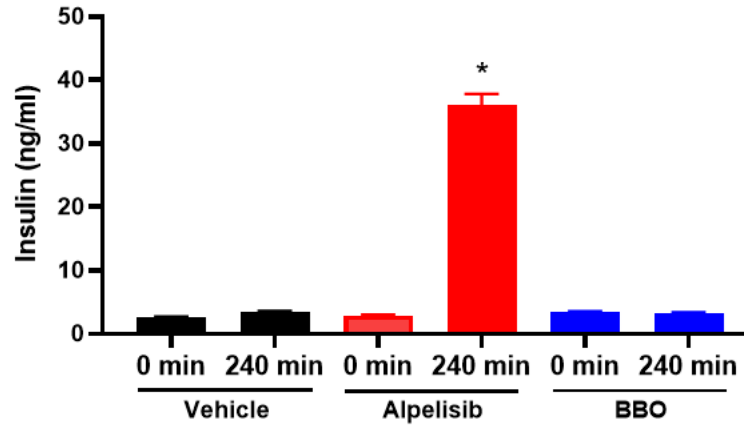
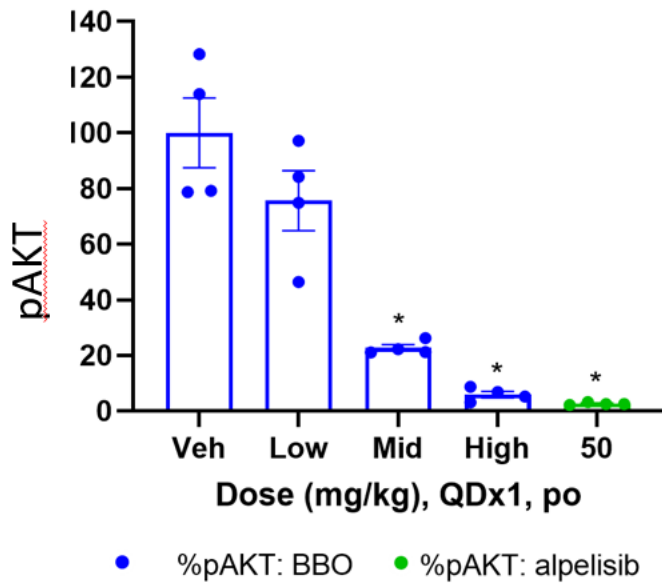




# pAKT inhibition in vivo without induction of hyperglycemia

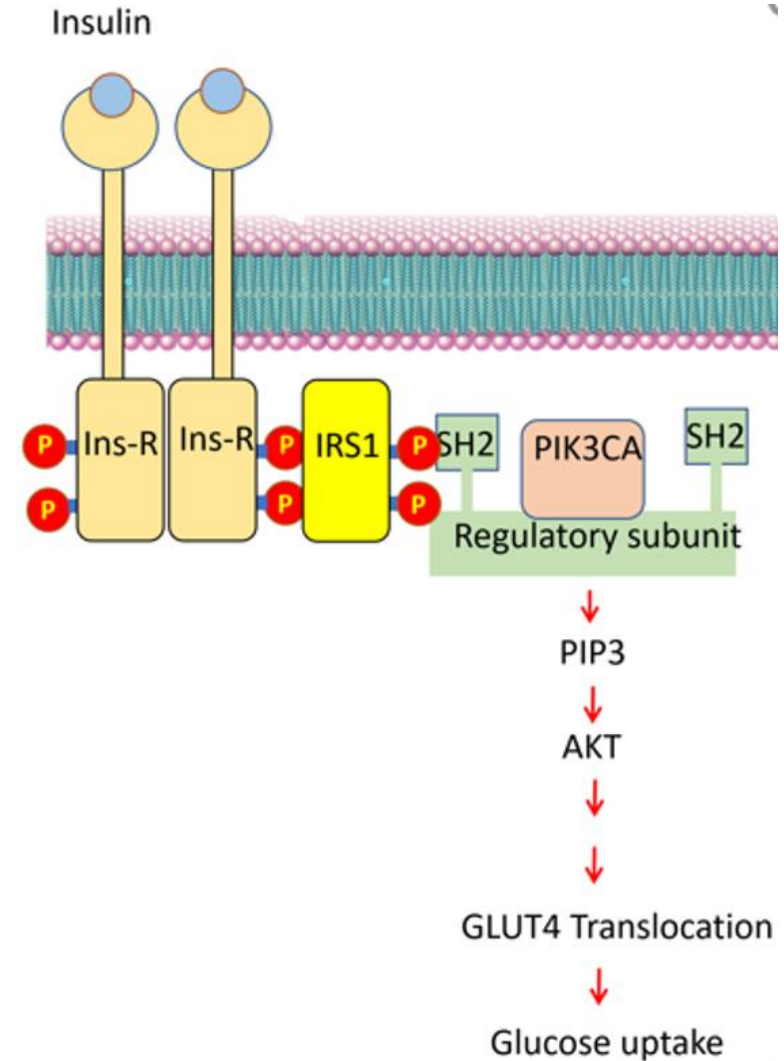
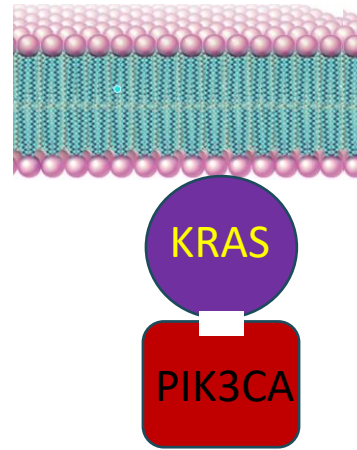
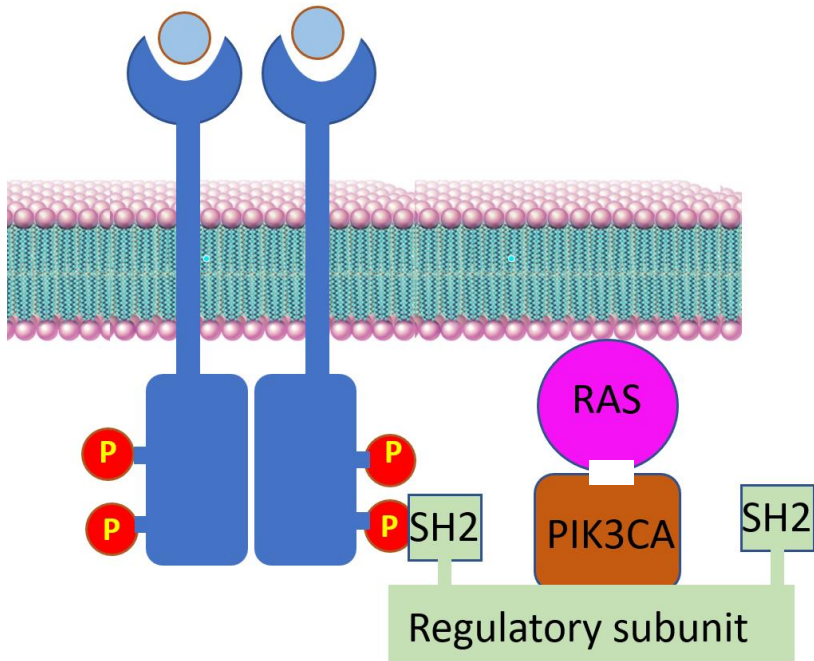
## Insulin levels

## Blood glucose levels





# Compounds that bind PIK3CA and prevent RAS binding; Inhibition in tumor cells without affecting glucose uptake





# Anticipating Drug Resistance in the clinic

## First in class direct KRAS G12 ON inhibitors

- Point mutations that prevent drug binding
- Activation of other RAS genes, other proteins in the pathway
- Differentiation state changes
- Activation of YAP signaling
- Others?

## First in class RAS-PIK3CA Breakers

- Point mutations that prevent drug binding
- Loss of PTEN?
- Activation of other PI kinases?
- Alternative pathways??



## Frederick National Lab



Anna Maciag



Dhirendra  
Simanshu

## Bridge Bio



Eli Wallace



Pedro Beltran

## Lawrence Livermore National Lab



Yue Yang



Felice  
Lightstone