



# Pancreatic cancer



## TRACO, 2016



• Innovative Science

• Breakthrough Therapies

• Clinical Advances

## Pancreatic Cancer: Current Understanding and Future Challenges

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Laboratory of Human Carcinogenesis







# Cancer incidence and mortality



## Pancreatic Cancer Incidence and Mortality

### Estimated Deaths

Siegel R et. al., CA Cancer J Clin, 65, 2015

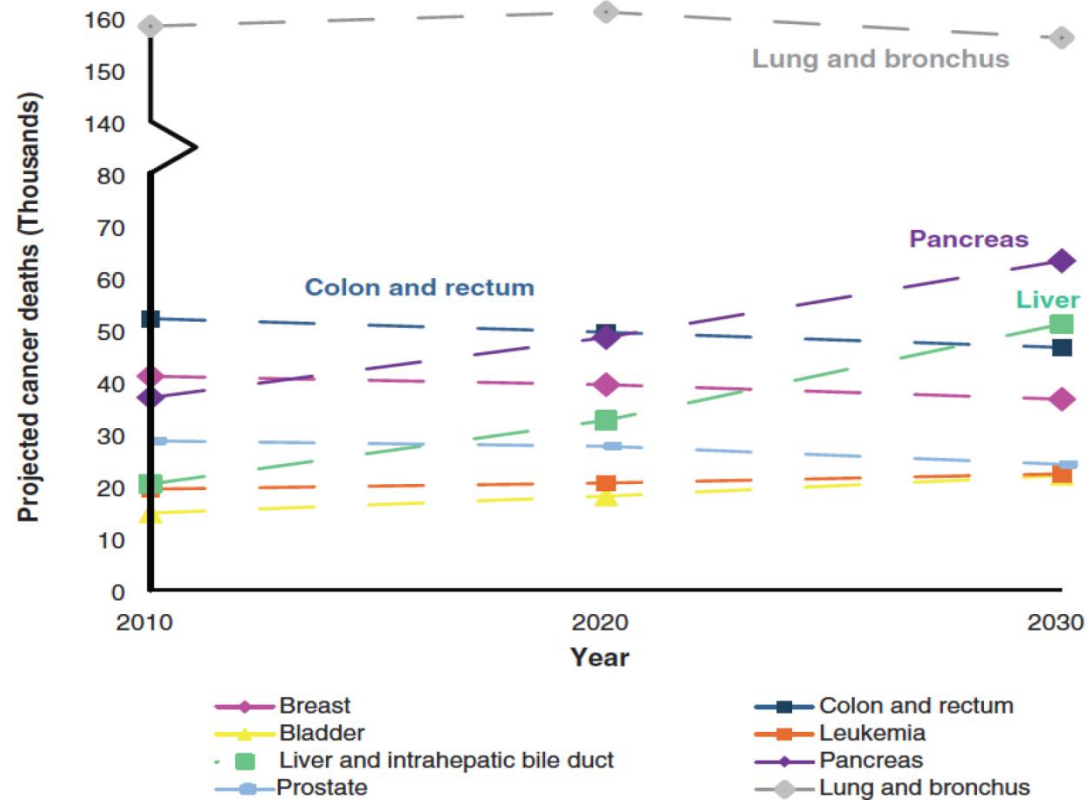
			Males	Females			
Lung & bronchus	86,380	28%			Lung & bronchus	71,660	26%
Prostate	27,540	9%			Breast	40,290	15%
Colon & rectum	26,100	8%			Colon & rectum	23,600	9%
<b>Pancreas</b>	20,710	7%			<b>Pancreas</b>	19,850	7%
Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	17,030	5%			Ovary	14,180	5%
Leukemia	14,210	5%			Leukemia	10,240	4%
Esophagus	12,600	4%			Uterine corpus	10,170	4%
Urinary bladder	11,510	4%			Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	8,310	3%
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	11,480	4%			Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	7,520	3%
Kidney & renal pelvis	9,070	3%			Brain & other nervous system	6,380	2%
<b>All Sites</b>	<b>312,150</b>	<b>100%</b>			<b>All Sites</b>	<b>277,280</b>	<b>100%</b>

- **4<sup>th</sup> Leading Cause of Cancer Deaths in the United States.**
- **Median Survival < 6 Months.**
- **Estimated 48,960 New Cases and 40,560 Deaths in 2015.**
- **No Effective Treatment.**



# Pancreatic cancer deaths are increasing

## Pancreatic Cancer: Second Leading Cause of Cancer-related Death by 2030





# Risk factors

## Risk Factors and Inherited Syndromes

**Table 1. Risk Factors and Inherited Syndromes Associated with Pancreatic Cancer.\***

Variable	Approximate Risk
Risk factor	
Smoking <sup>3</sup>	2–3
Long-standing diabetes mellitus <sup>4</sup>	2
Nonhereditary and chronic pancreatitis <sup>5</sup>	2–6
Obesity, inactivity, or both <sup>6</sup>	2
Non–O blood group <sup>7</sup>	1–2
Genetic syndrome and associated gene or genes — %	
Hereditary pancreatitis ( <i>PRSS1</i> , <i>SPINK1</i> ) <sup>8</sup>	50
Familial atypical multiple mole and melanoma syndrome ( <i>p16</i> ) <sup>9</sup>	10–20
Hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndromes ( <i>BRCA1</i> , <i>BRCA2</i> , <i>PALB2</i> ) <sup>10,11</sup>	1–2
Peutz–Jeghers syndrome ( <i>STK11</i> [ <i>LKB1</i> ]) <sup>12</sup>	30–40
Hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer (Lynch syndrome) ( <i>MLH1</i> , <i>MSH2</i> , <i>MSH6</i> ) <sup>13</sup>	4
Ataxia–telangiectasia ( <i>ATM</i> ) <sup>14</sup>	Unknown
Li–Fraumeni syndrome ( <i>P53</i> ) <sup>15</sup>	Unknown

\* Values associated with risk factors are expressed as relative risks, and values associated with genetic syndromes are expressed as lifetime risks, as compared with the risk in the general population.



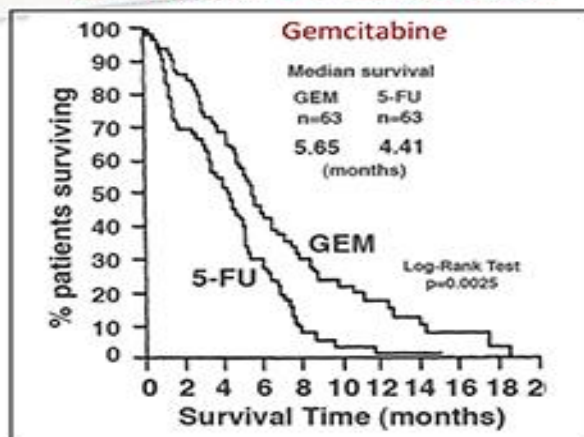


# Pancreatic cancer patient treatment

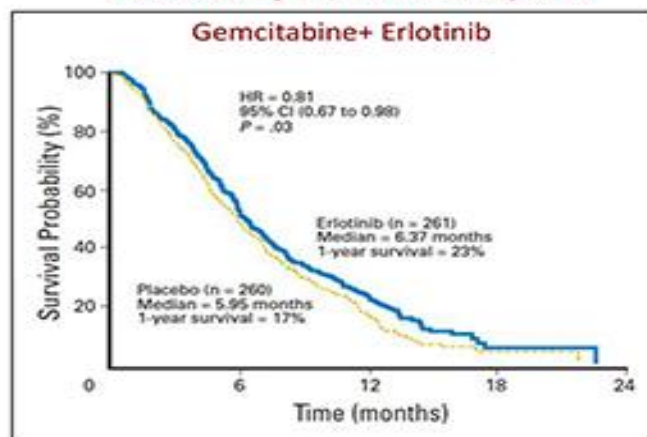
## Disappointing Progress in the Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer



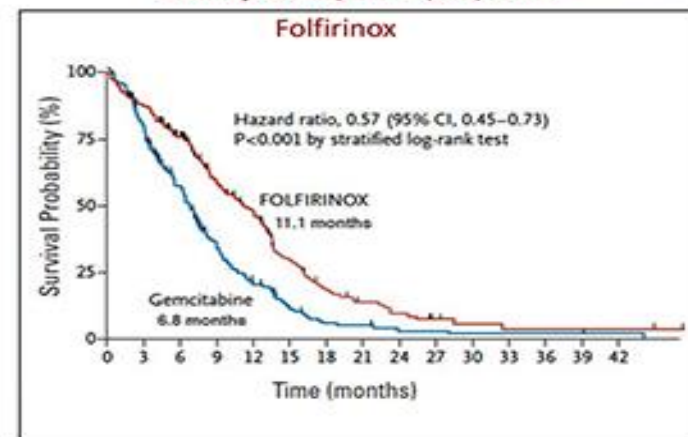
Burris et. al., J. Clin. Oncol., 15, 1997



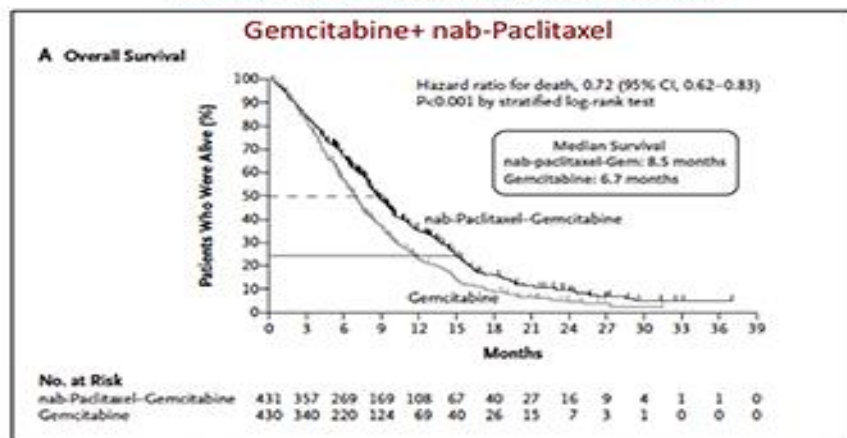
Moore et. al., J. Clin. Oncol. 25, 2007



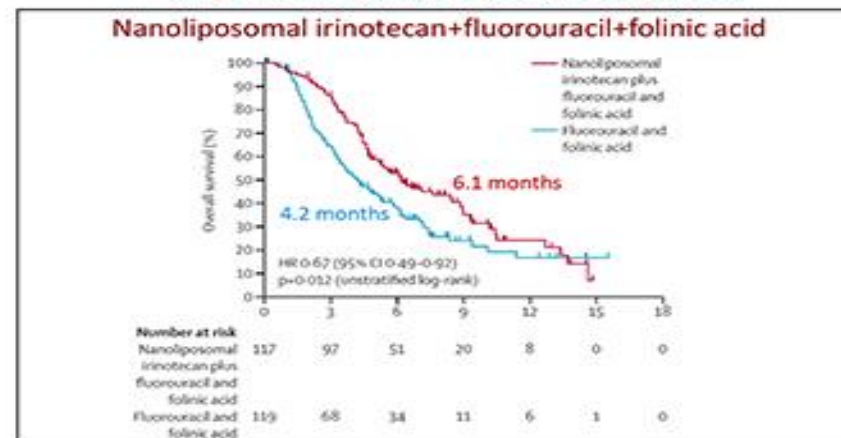
Conroy et. al., NEJM, 36, 2011



Von Hoff, D.D. et. al, NEJM, 369, Oct, 2013



Wang-Gillam A., et. al., Lancet, Nov 20, 2015

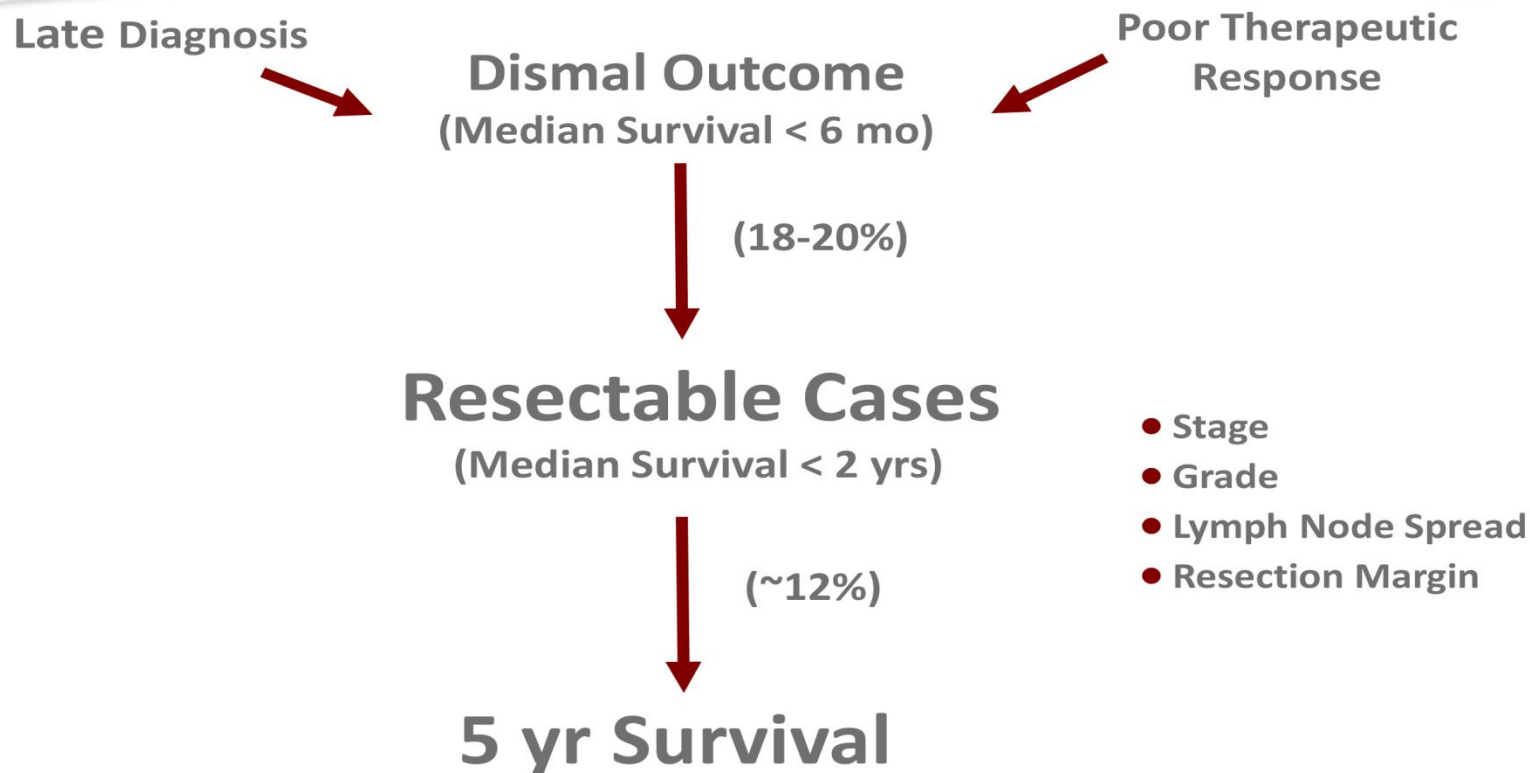




# Resected pancreatic cancer



## Improved Survival in Resected Pancreatic Cancer Cases

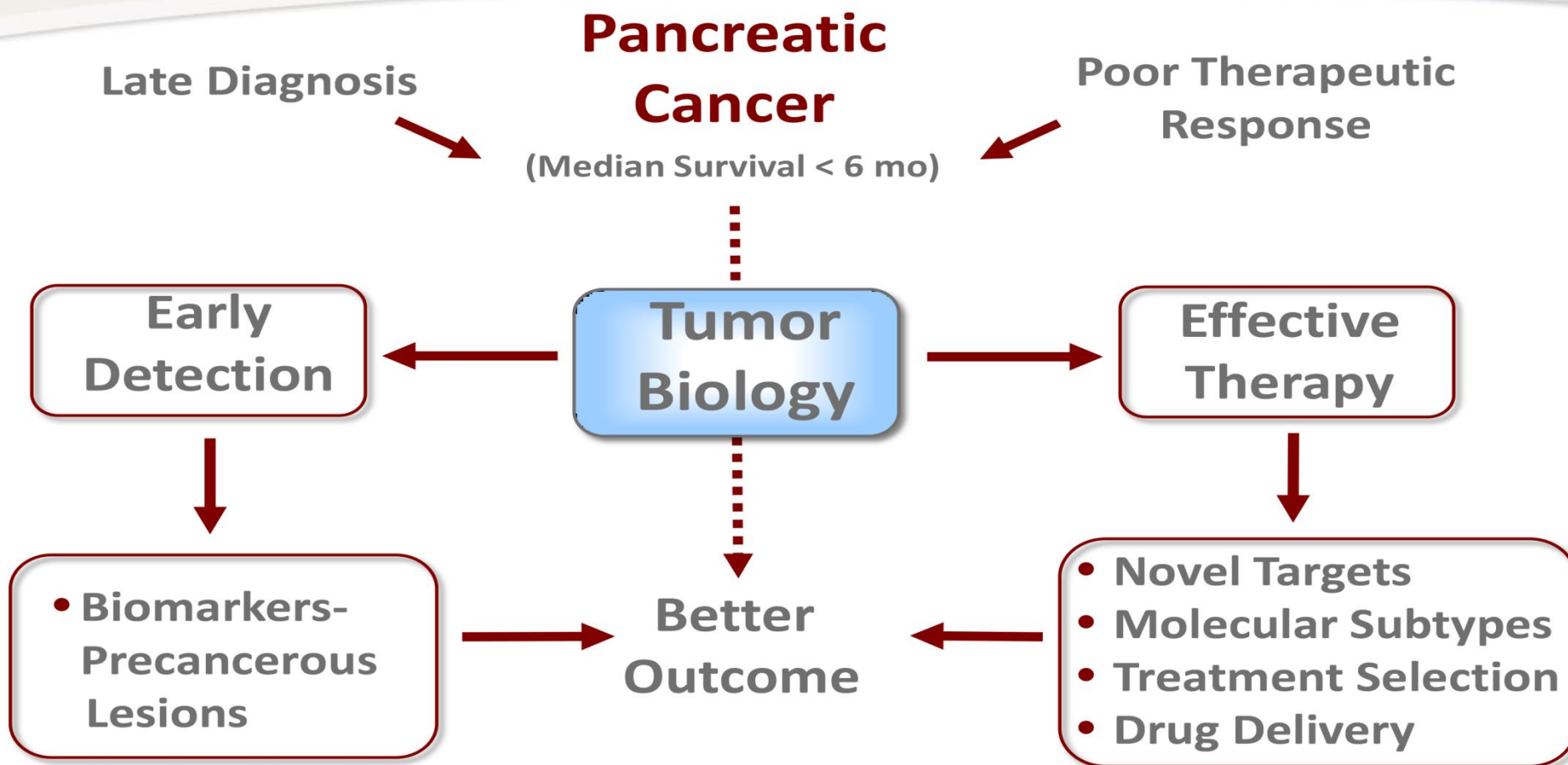


**Molecular Differences in Tumors Determine Patient Outcome?**



# Tumor biology

Understanding Pancreatic Tumor Biology is Key to Improving Disease Outcome







# Pancreatic carcinogenesis



## Progression Model of Pancreatic Carcinogenesis

### Pancreatic Intraepithelial Neoplasia

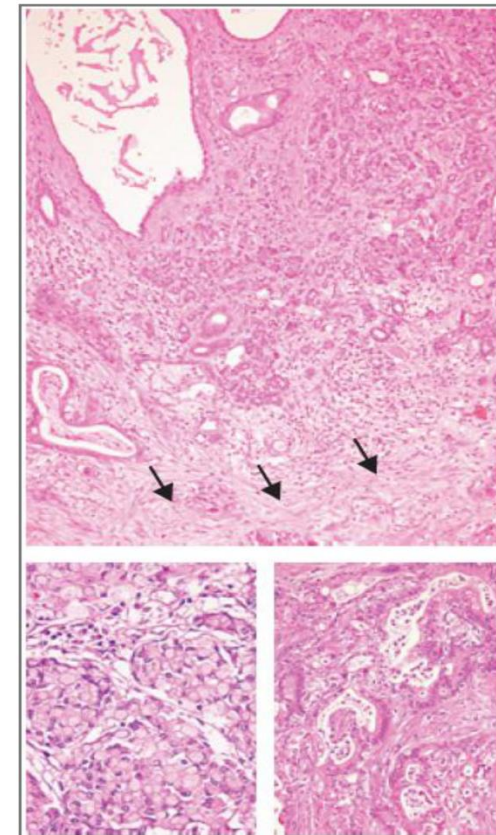
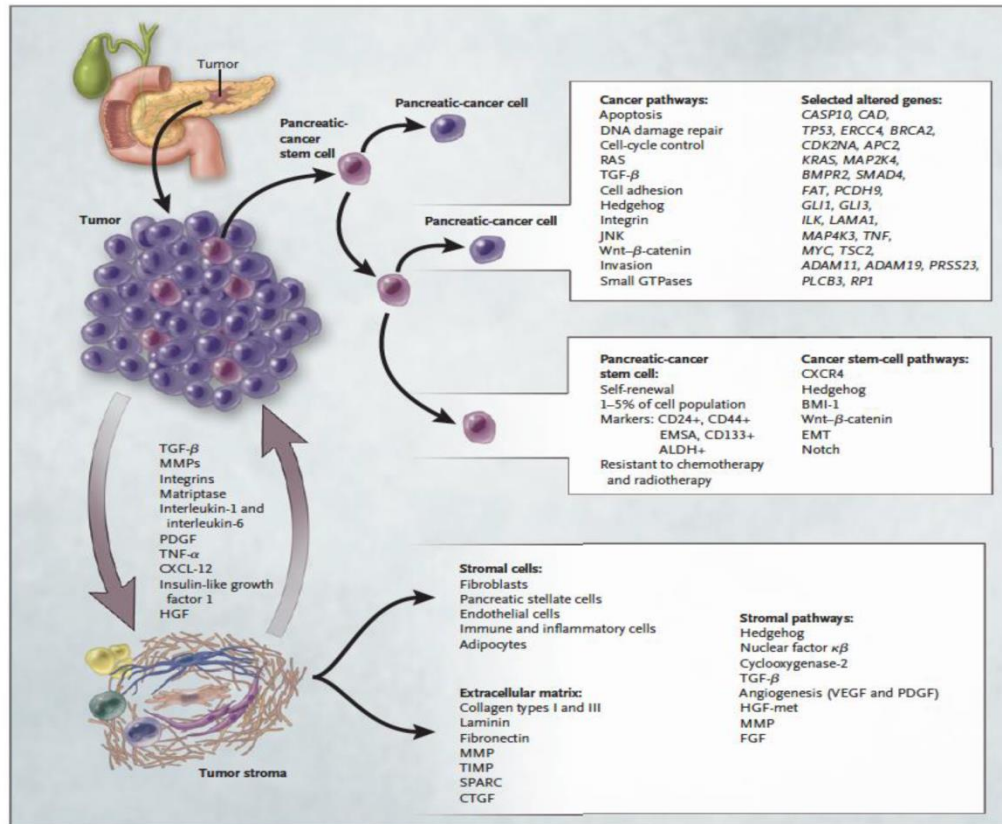




# Desmoplastic stroma



## Prominent, Desmoplastic Stroma in Pancreatic Cancer



H/E

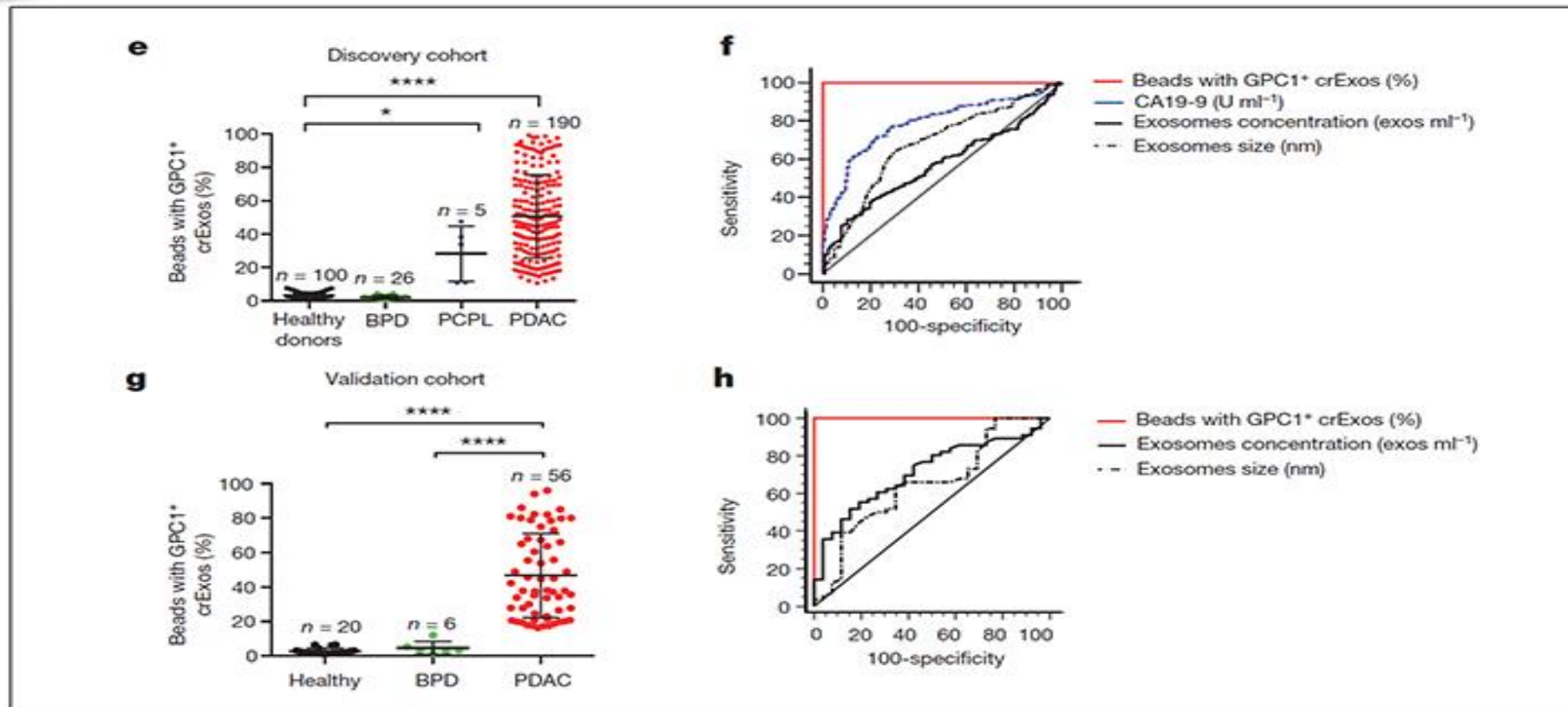




# Biomarkers



## Glypican-1 Positive Circulating Exosomes as a Biomarker for PDAC

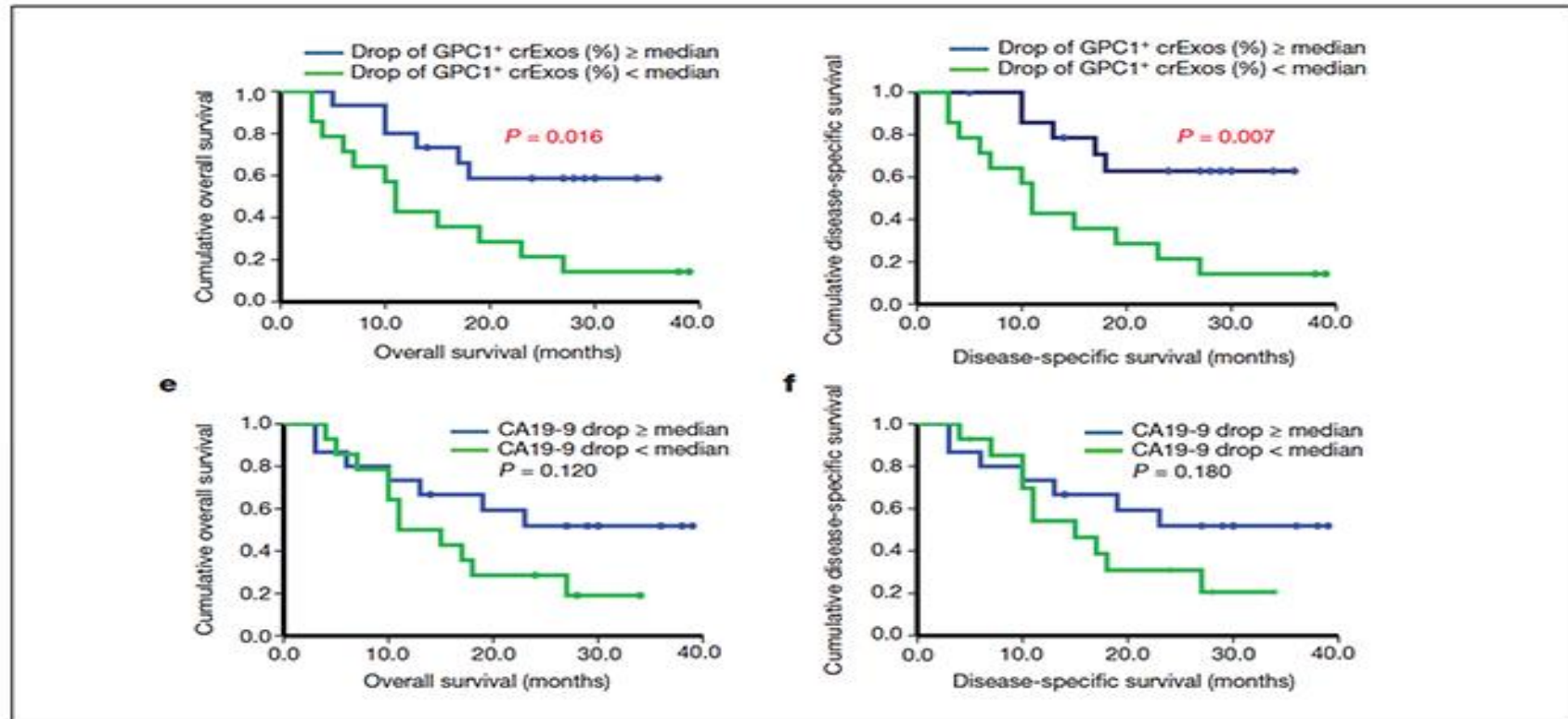






# Glycan-1 positive exosomes

## Glypican-1 Positive Circulating Exosomes Predicts Prognosis in Resected PDAC Patients





# **Pancreatic cancer and tumor heterogeneity**

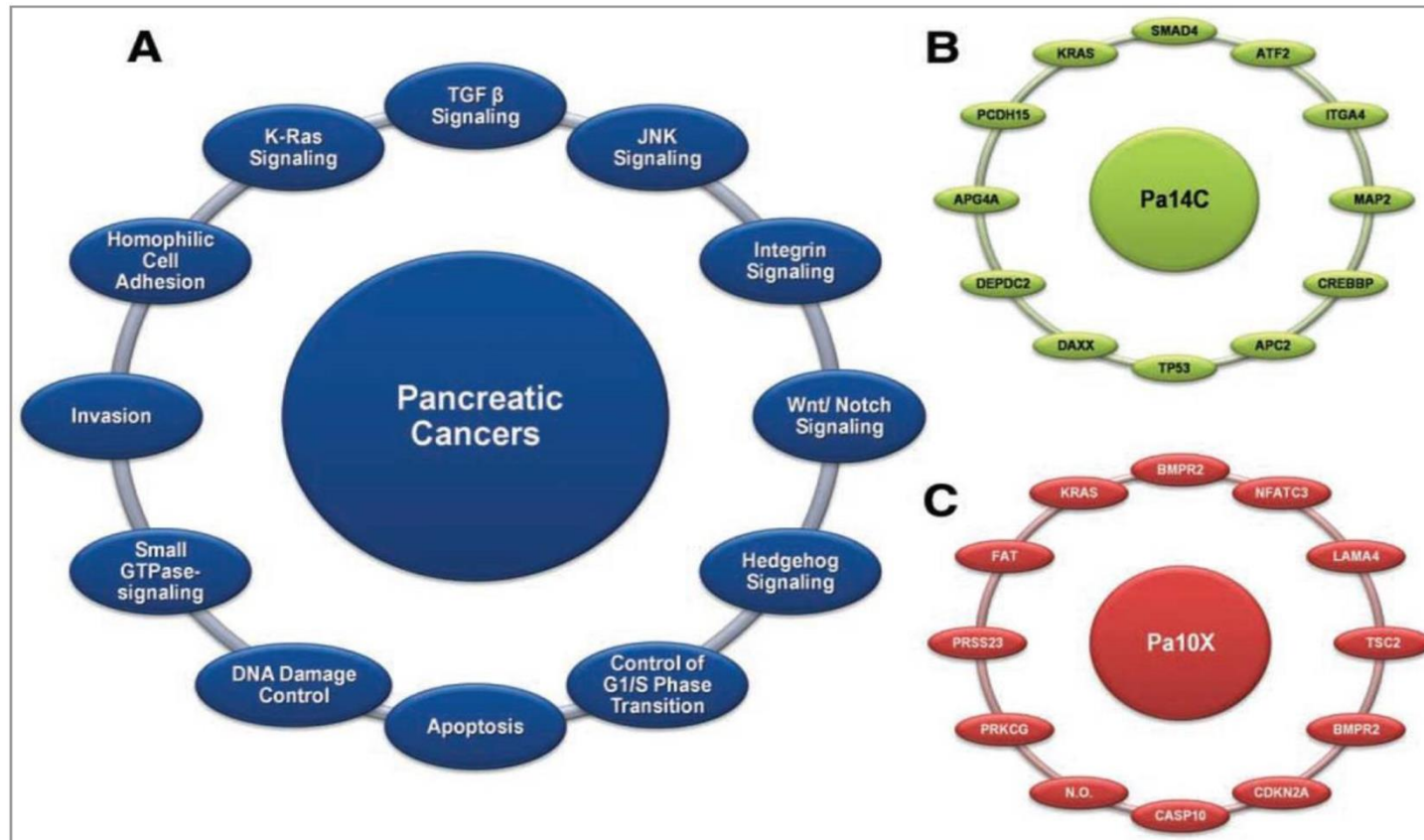
**Tumor heterogeneity and molecular subtypes.**



# Heterogeneity



# Pancreatic Cancer is Highly Heterogenous

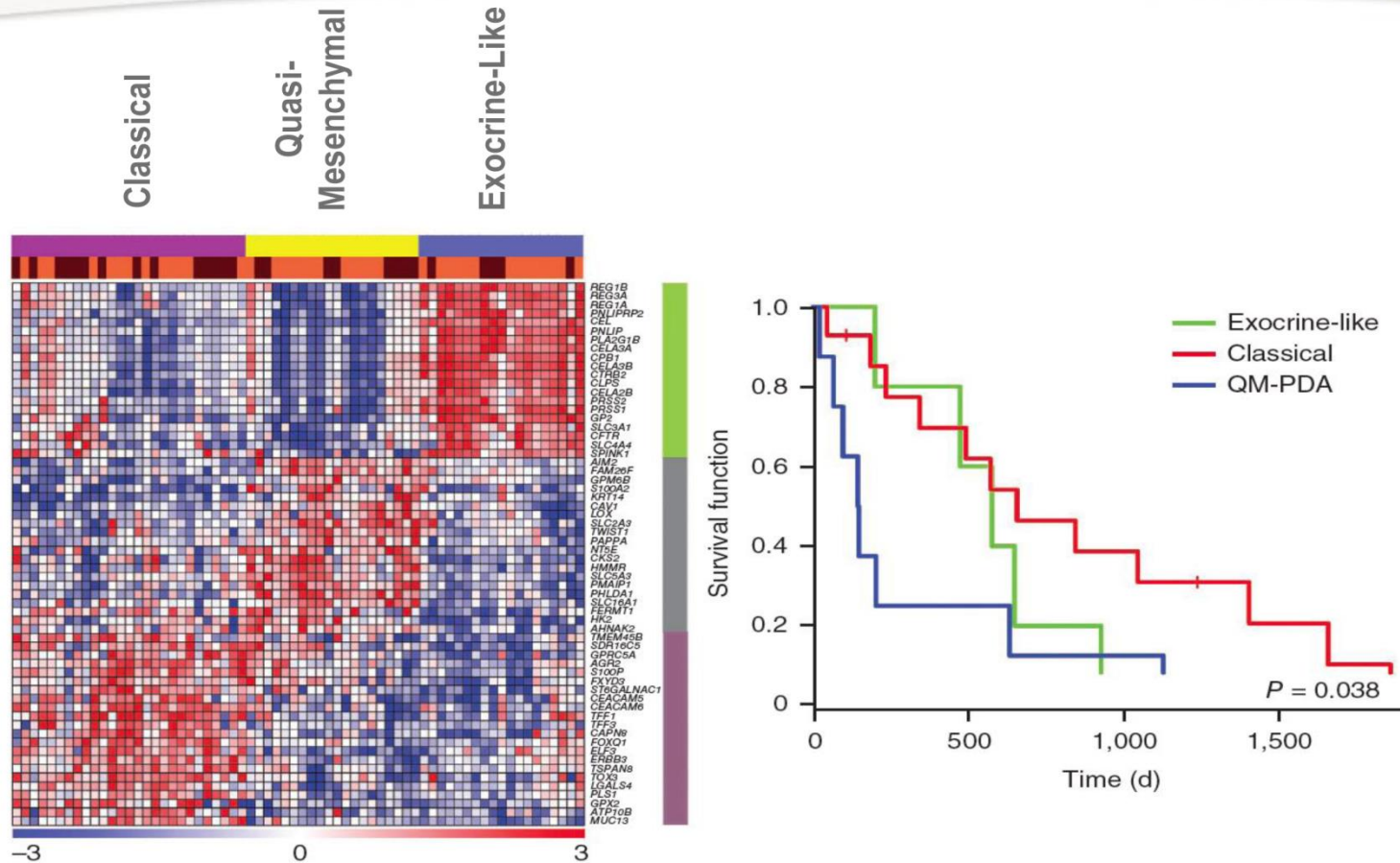






# Molecular subtypes

## Are There Different Molecular Subtypes of PDAC?

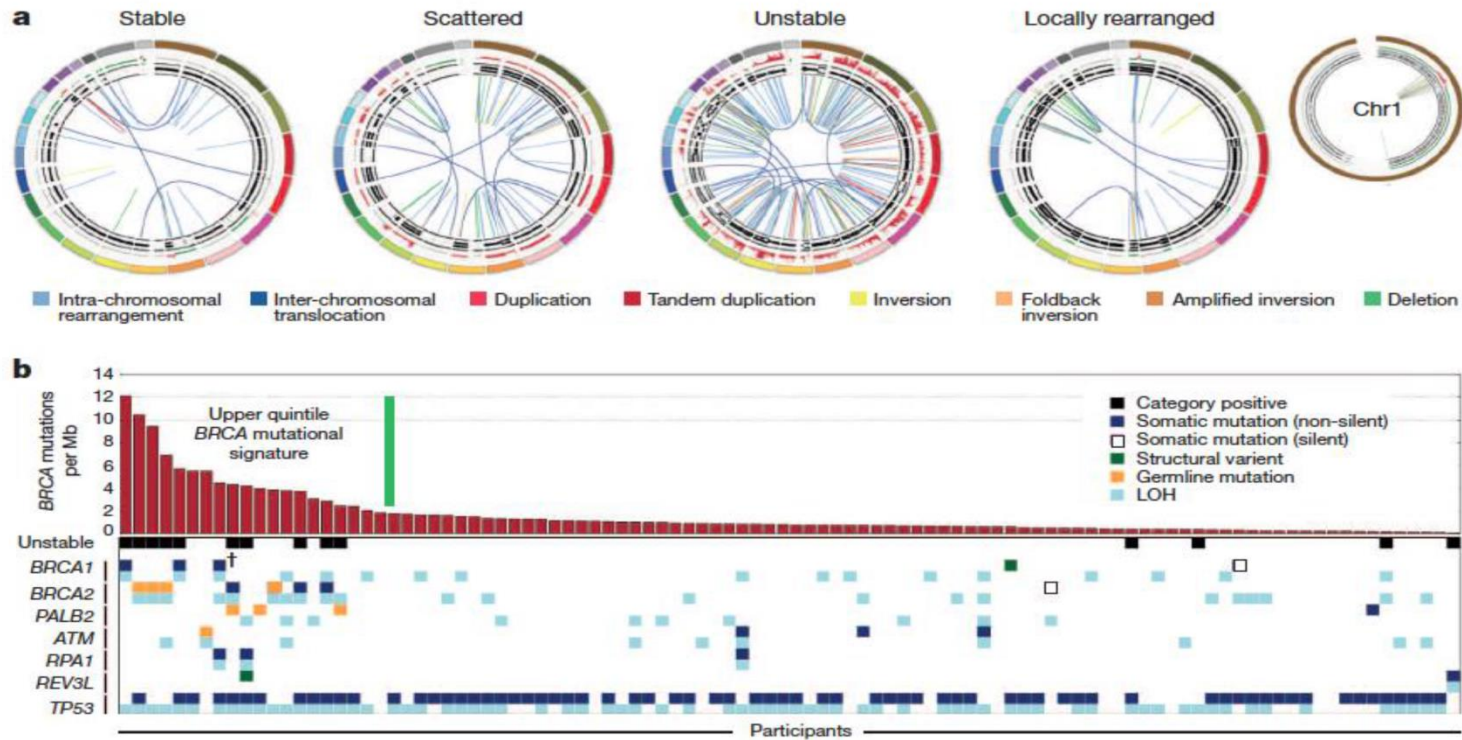




# Chromosomal structure



## Variations in Chromosomal Structure and PDAC Subtypes



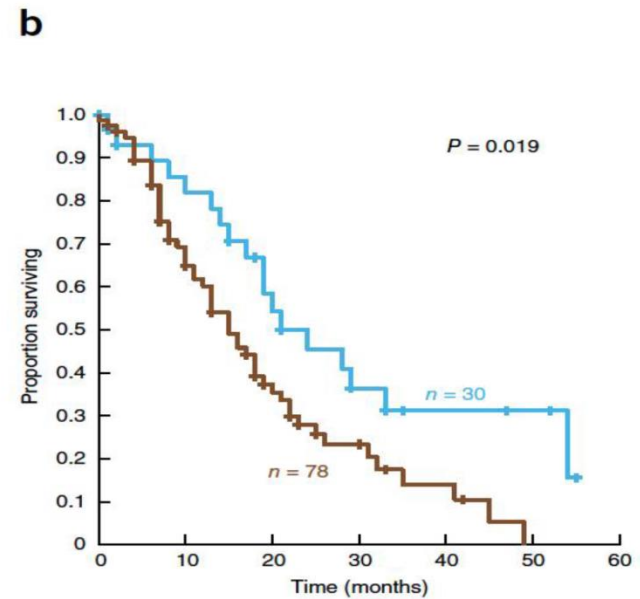
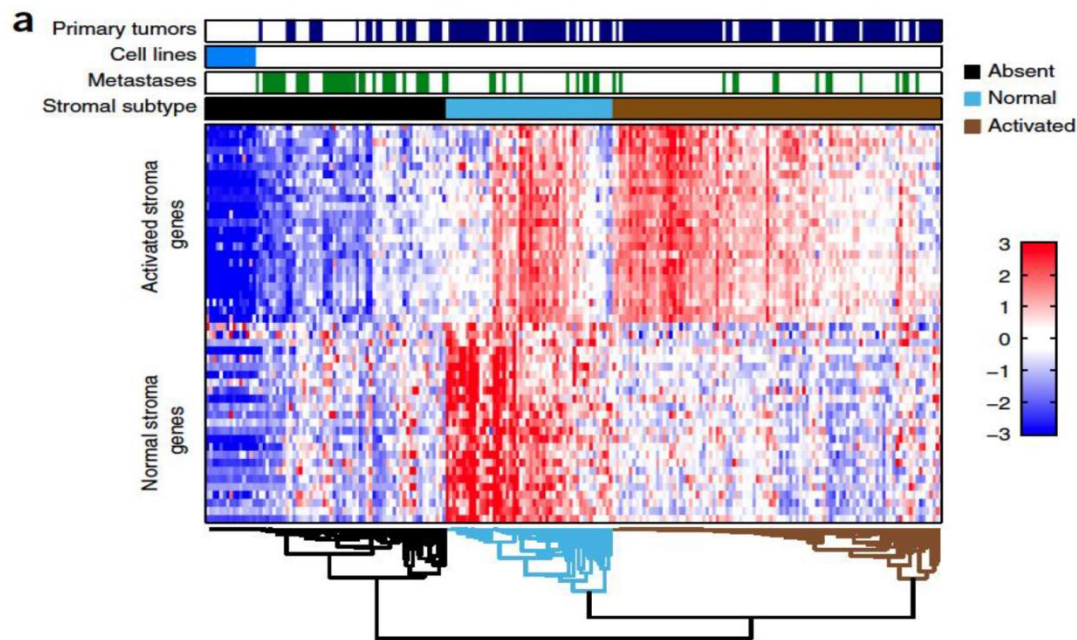




# Stroma specific subtypes



# Stroma-Specific Subtypes in Pancreatic Cancer



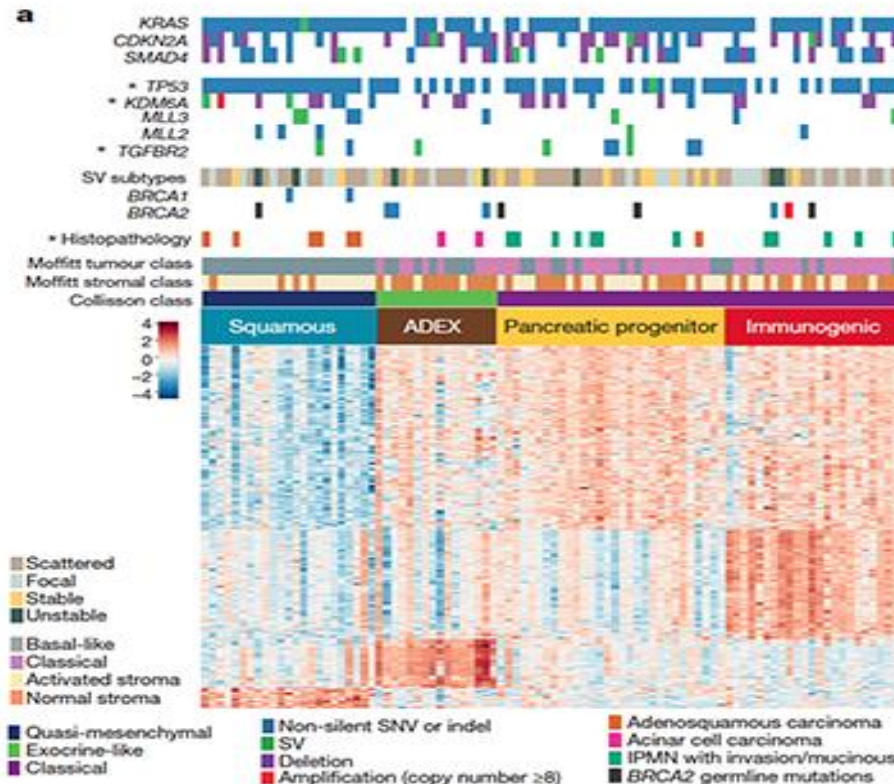




# Four PDAC subtypes



# Gene Expression Analysis Identified 4 PDAC Subtypes

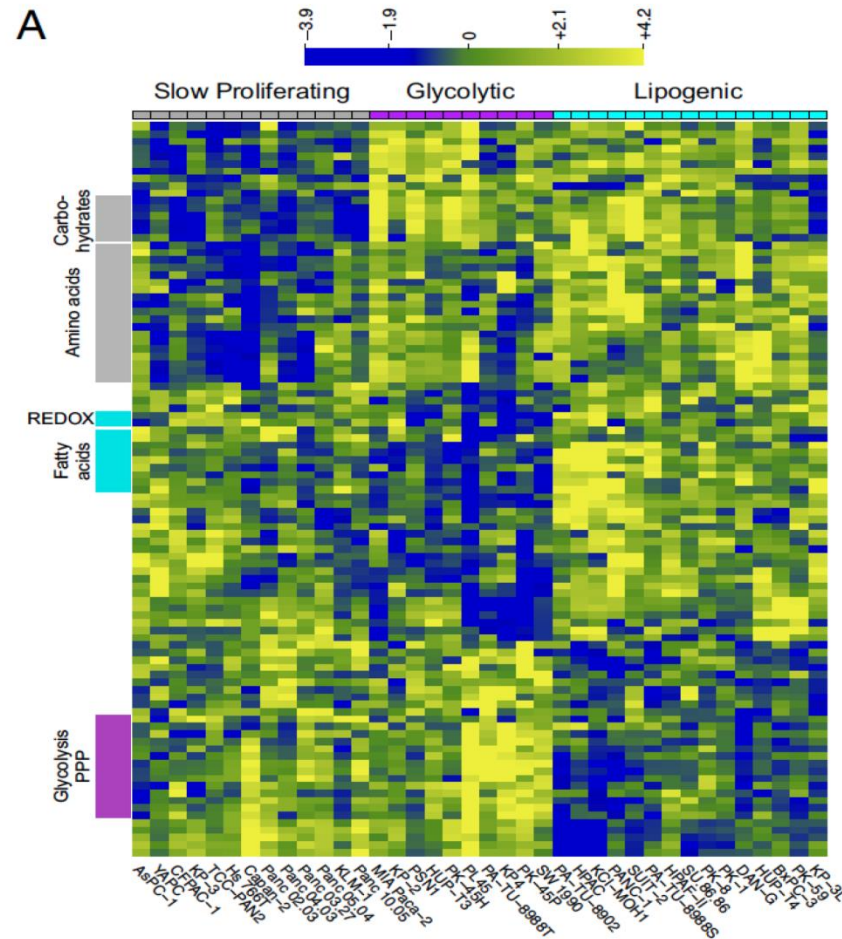


(N=456)



# Metabolic subtypes

## Metabolic Subtypes in Pancreatic Cancer

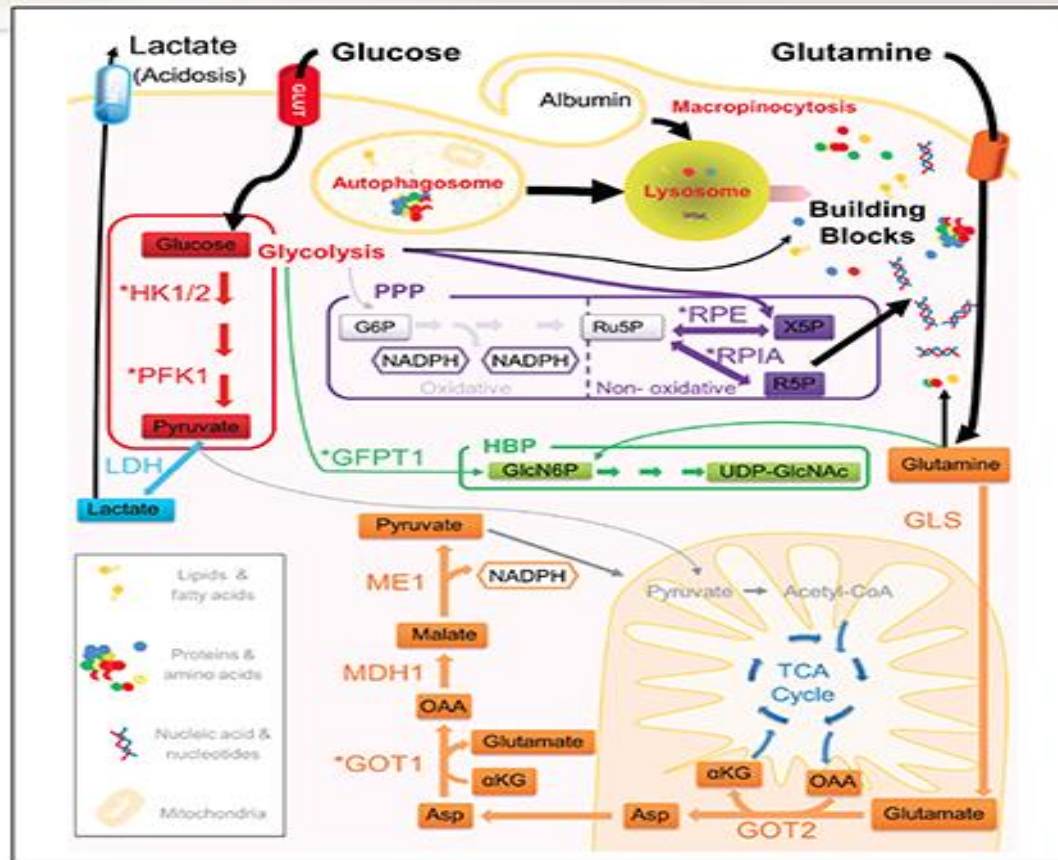




# Metabolic programming



# Metabolic Reprogramming in Pancreatic Cancer







# Dessert

## Dessert Anyone?



### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

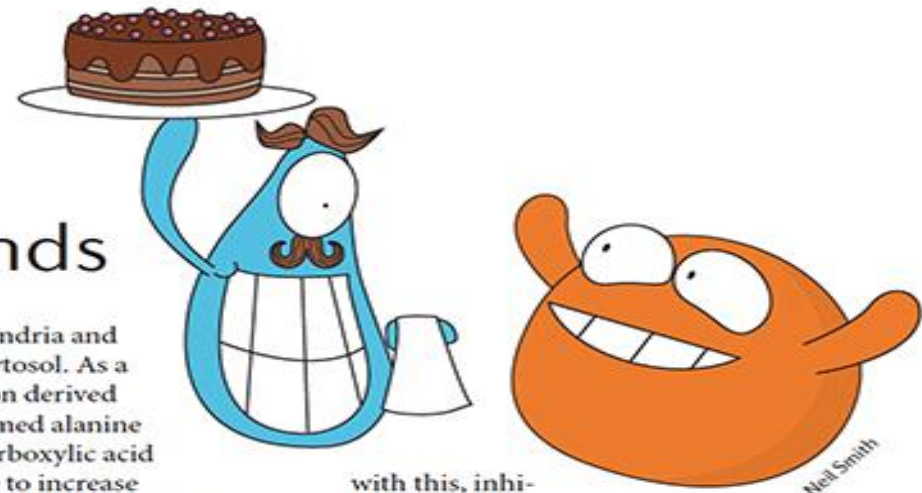
Nature Reviews Cancer | Published online 26 Aug 2016; doi:10.1038/nrc.2016.96

#### TUMOUR METABOLISM

## Feeding your friends

A characteristic feature of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) is a strong stromal reaction that is shaped by the activity of pancreatic stellate cells (PSCs). The resultant fibrosis impedes the tumour's access to a blood supply, creating an extremely hypoxic, nutrient-poor environment.

the mitochondria and not in the cytosol. As a result, carbon derived from consumed alanine fed the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle to increase oxygen consumption while not affecting glycolysis. Indeed, citrate



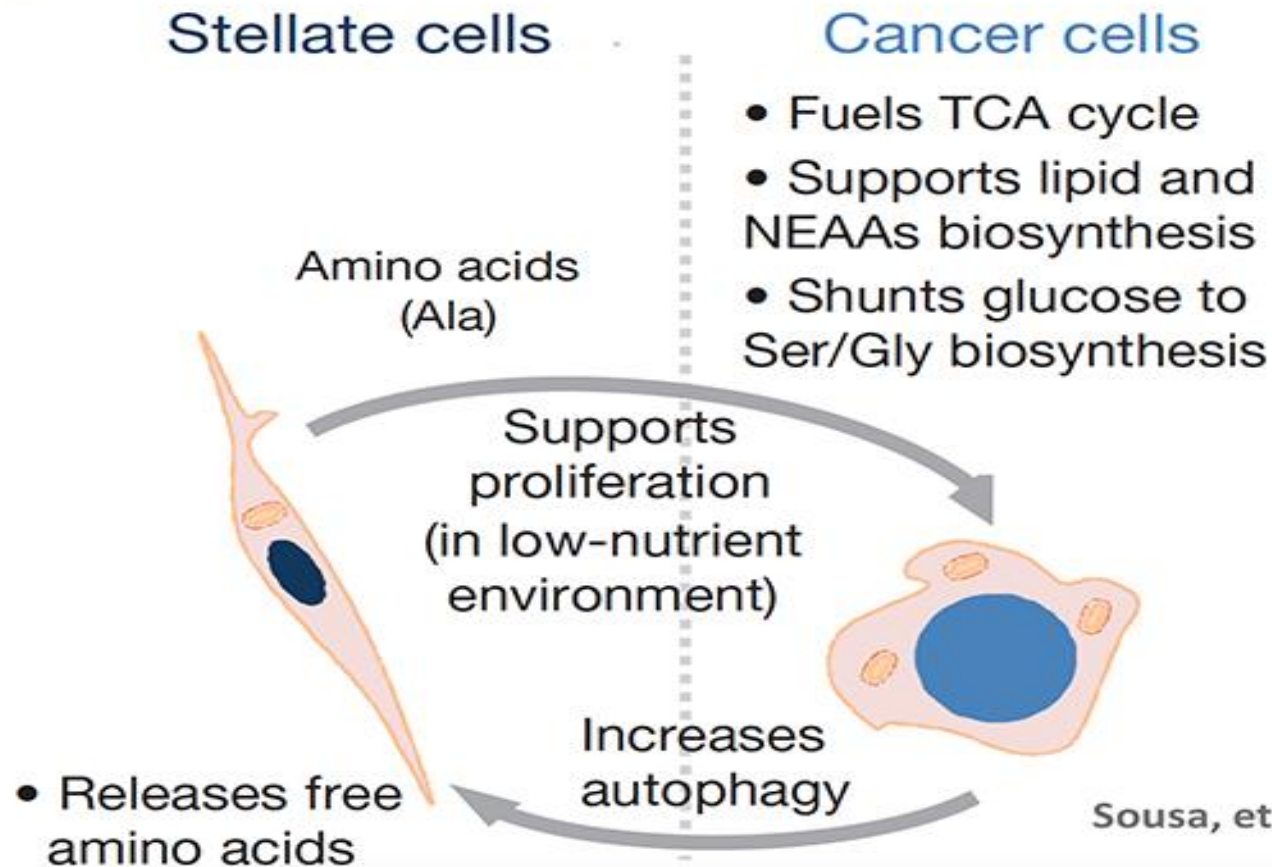
with this, inhibition of autophagy in PSCs could reduce the growth of



# Pancreatic stellate cells



## Pancreatic stellate cells support tumor metabolism

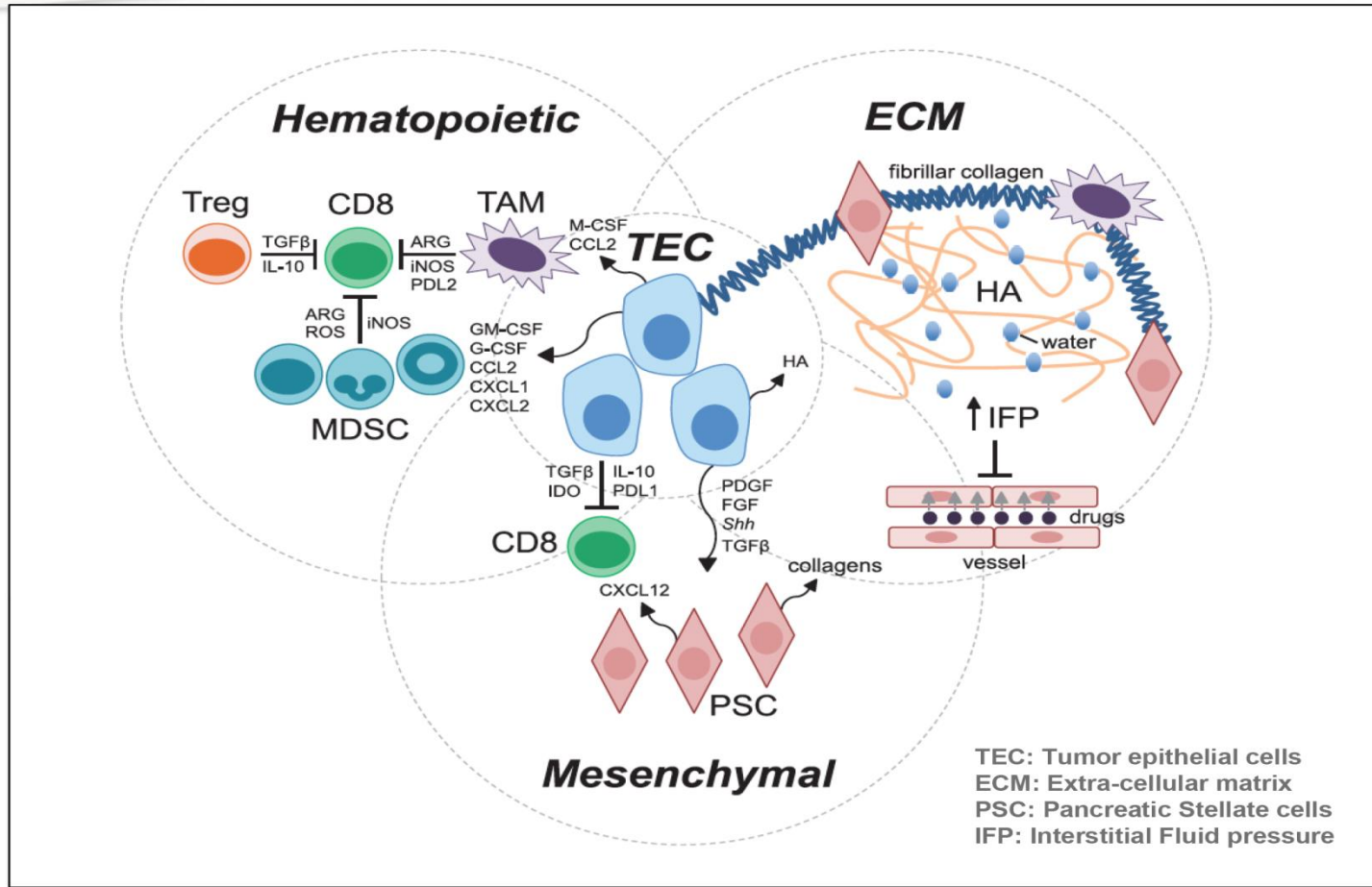


Sousa, et. al., Nature, 2016



# Therapeutic resistance

## Complex Stromal Networks Supporting Pancreatic Cancer Progression and Therapeutic Resistance







# **Targeting cancer**

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# **Treatment Strategies to Improve Disease Outcome**

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*Drug Delivery  
and  
Effectiveness of Systemic Therapy*



***Targeting Stroma***



## Mouse models

### Pancreatic Cancer Mouse Model (KPC)



\*LSL-Kras-G12D X p53 LSL R172H X Pdx-Cre 1

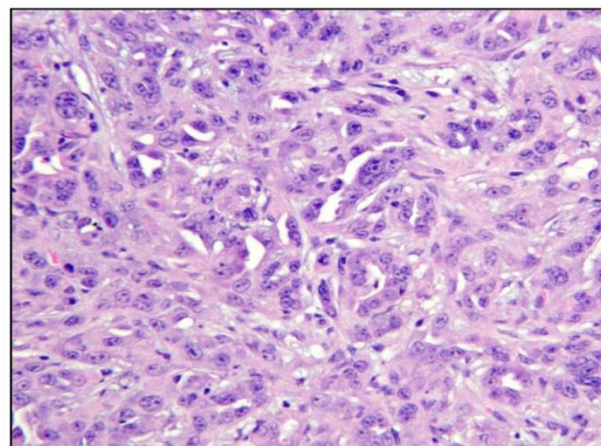


Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC)

(Median Survival = 4-5 months)



PDAC

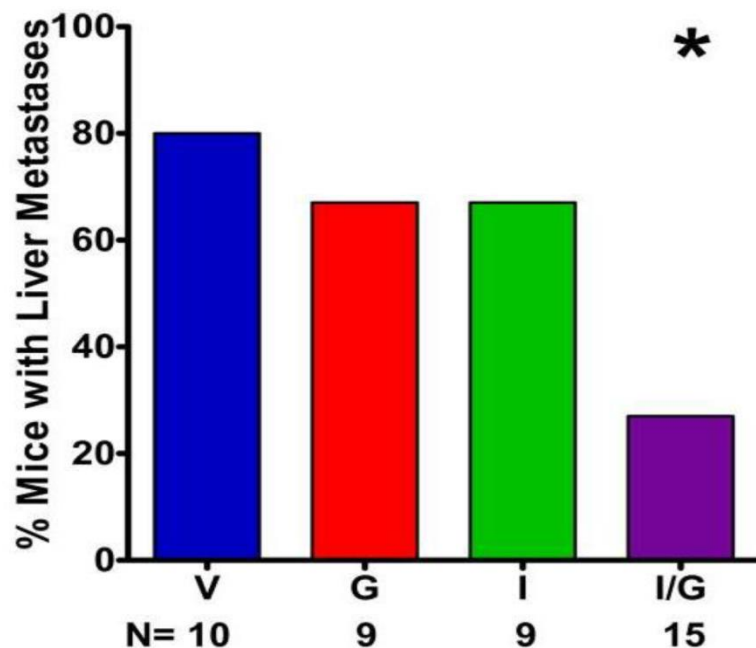
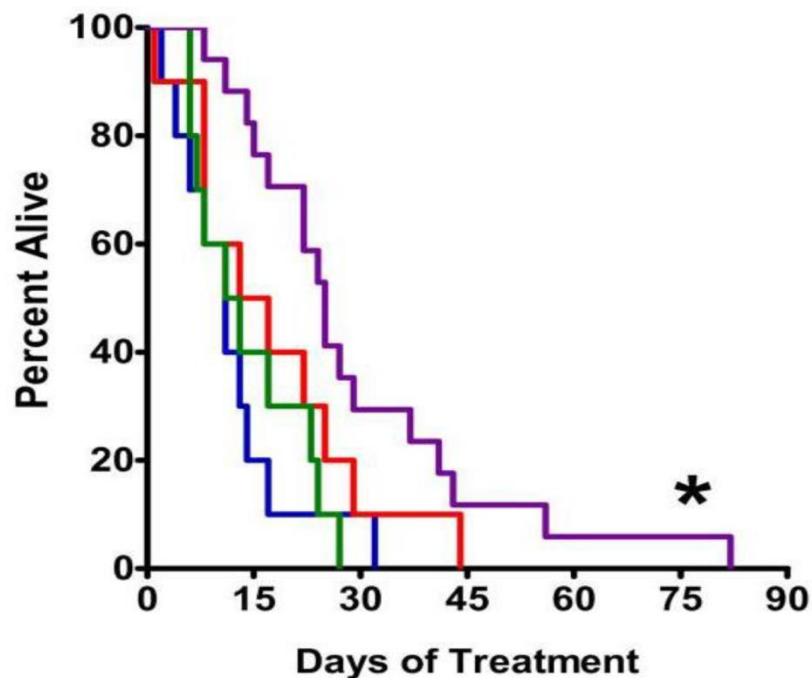


H&E



# Hedgehog signaling

## Inhibition of Hedgehog Signaling Depleted Stroma, Enhanced Drug Delivery and Improved Survival in Mice



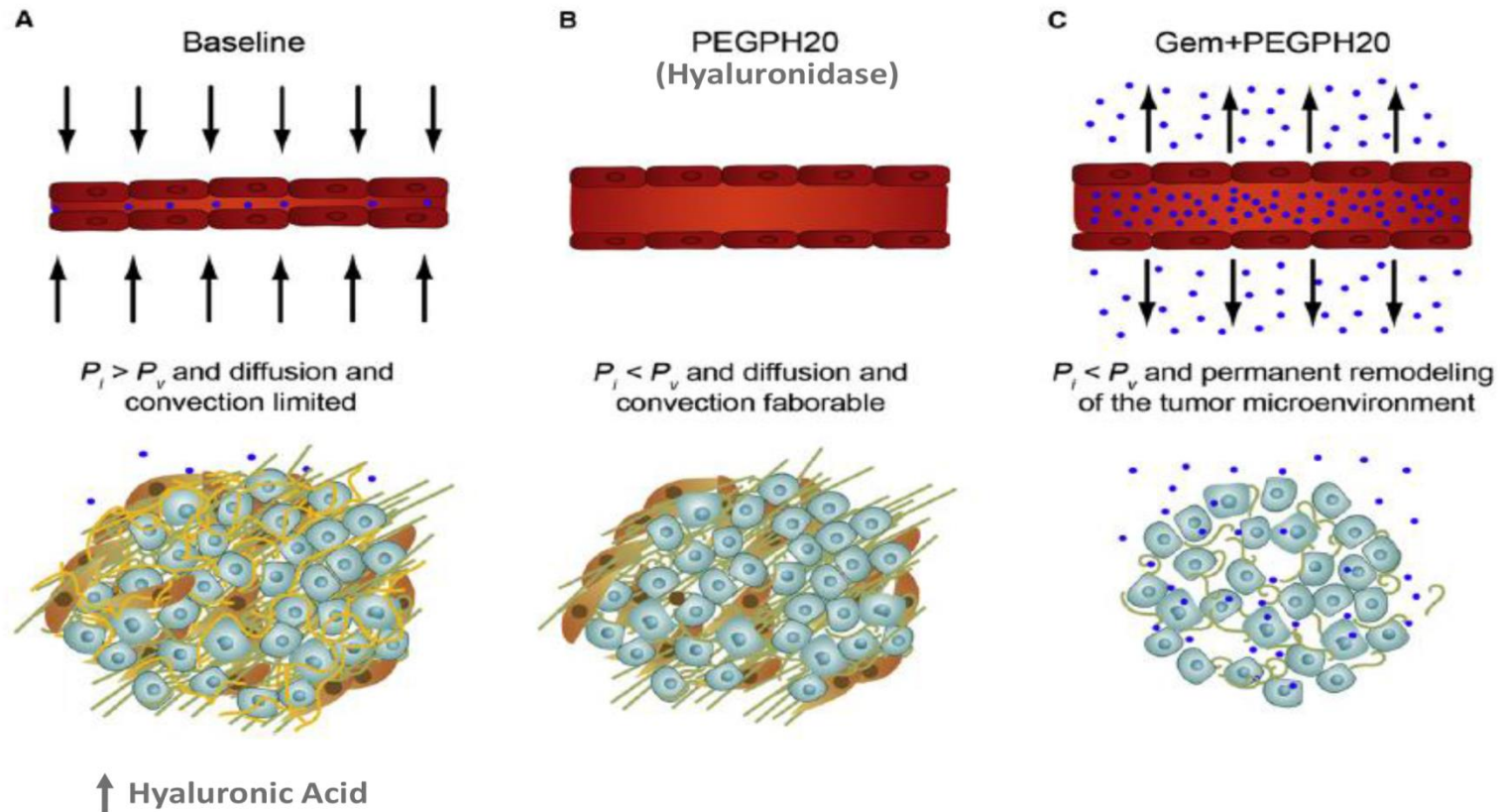
V=Vehicle  
 G=Gemcitabine  
 I= IPI-926 (Hedgehog Inhibitor)  
 I/G= IPI-926/Gem





# Stroma targeting

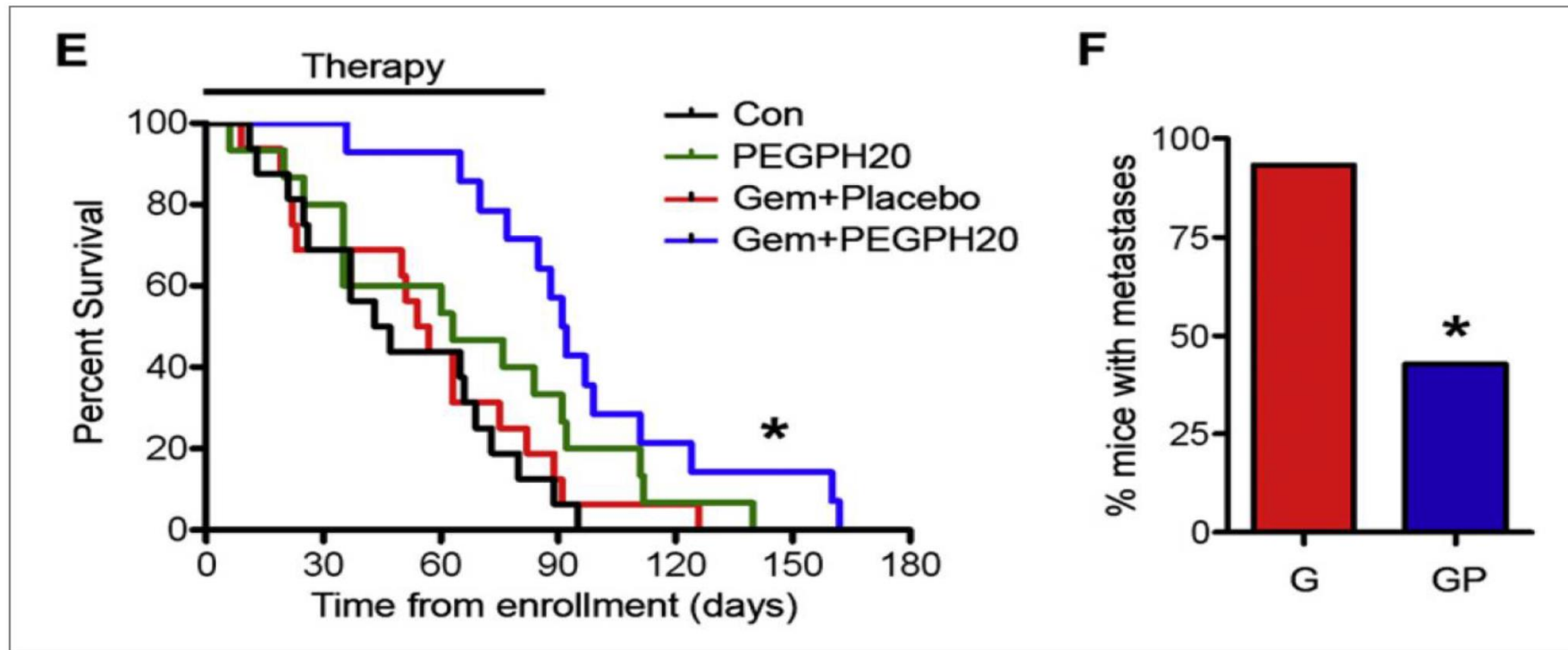
## Enzymatic Targeting of Stroma Enhances Therapeutic Response





# Therapeutic response

## Enzymatic Targeting of Stroma Enhances Therapeutic Response





## **Anti-stromal tissue**

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# **Two Faces of Anti-Stromal Therapy**

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**Stromal-targeting may not (always)  
have beneficial therapeutic response**



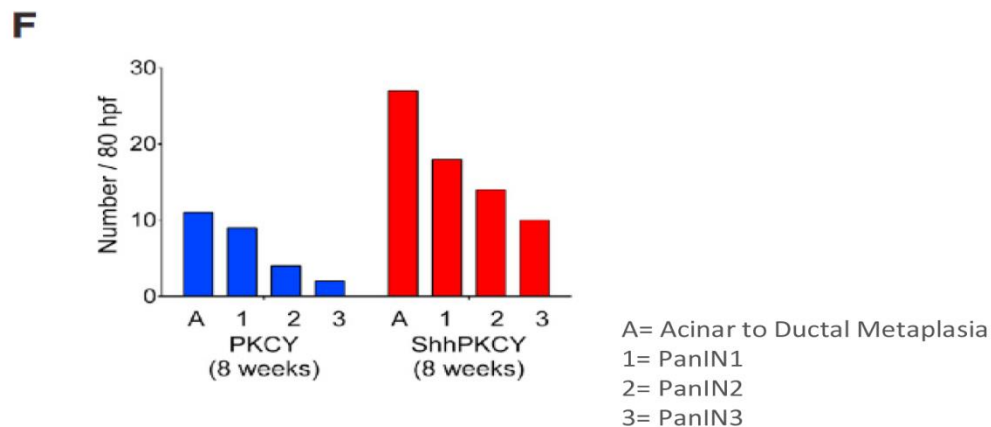
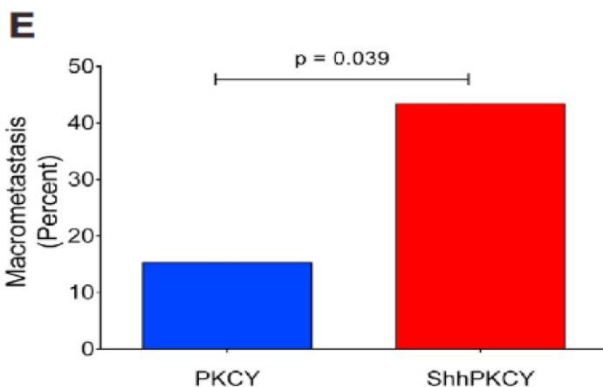
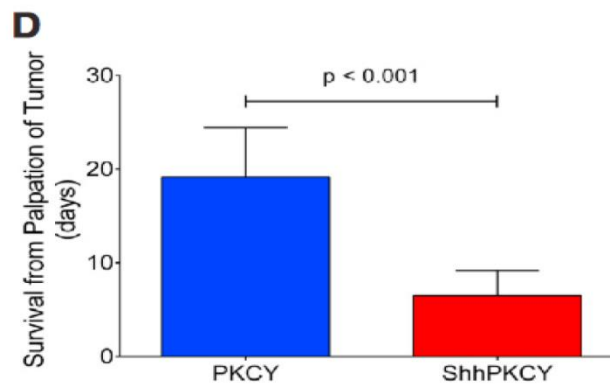
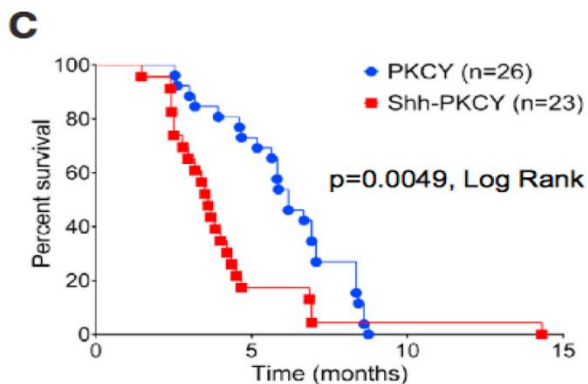


# Sonic Hedgehog



## Sonic Hedgehog as a Tumor Suppressor in PDAC

### Genetically Engineered Mouse Model

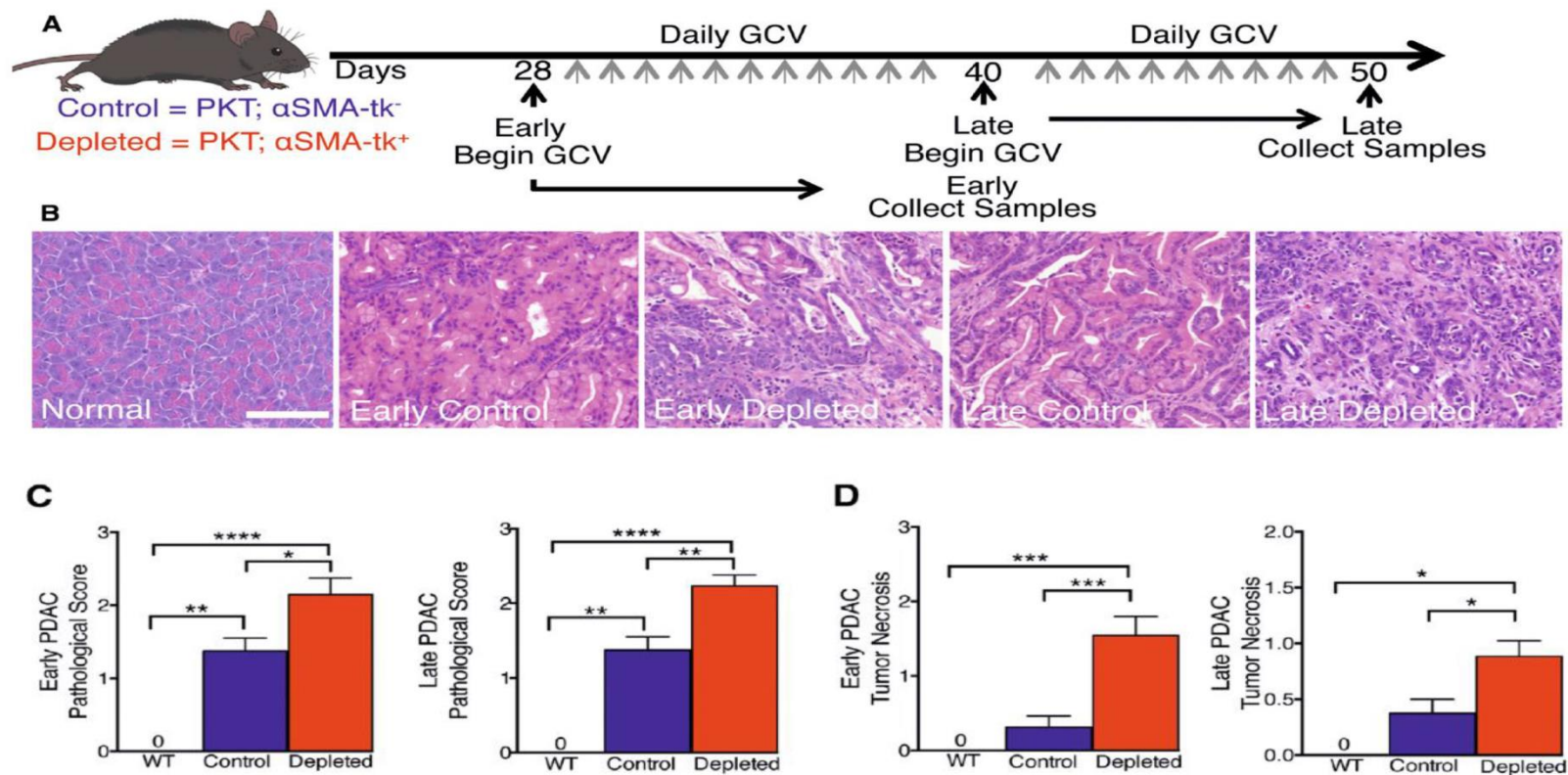




# Myofibroblast Depletion Enhances PDAC



## Myofibroblast Depletion Enhances PDAC

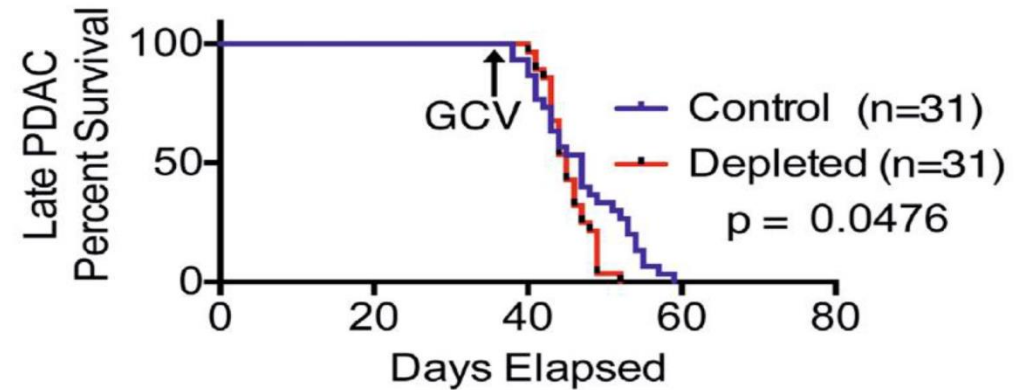
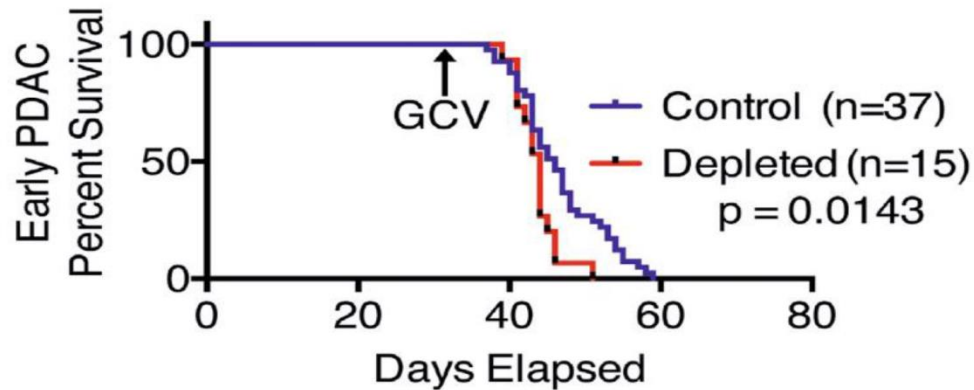




# Myofibroblast depletion



## Myofibroblast Depletion Reduces Overall Survival



**GCV= genciclovir (Depletes Myofibroblasts in PKT; $\alpha$ SMA-tk+ Mice)**





# **Tumor Stromal Interaction**

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## **Complex Tumor-Stromal Interaction in PDAC**

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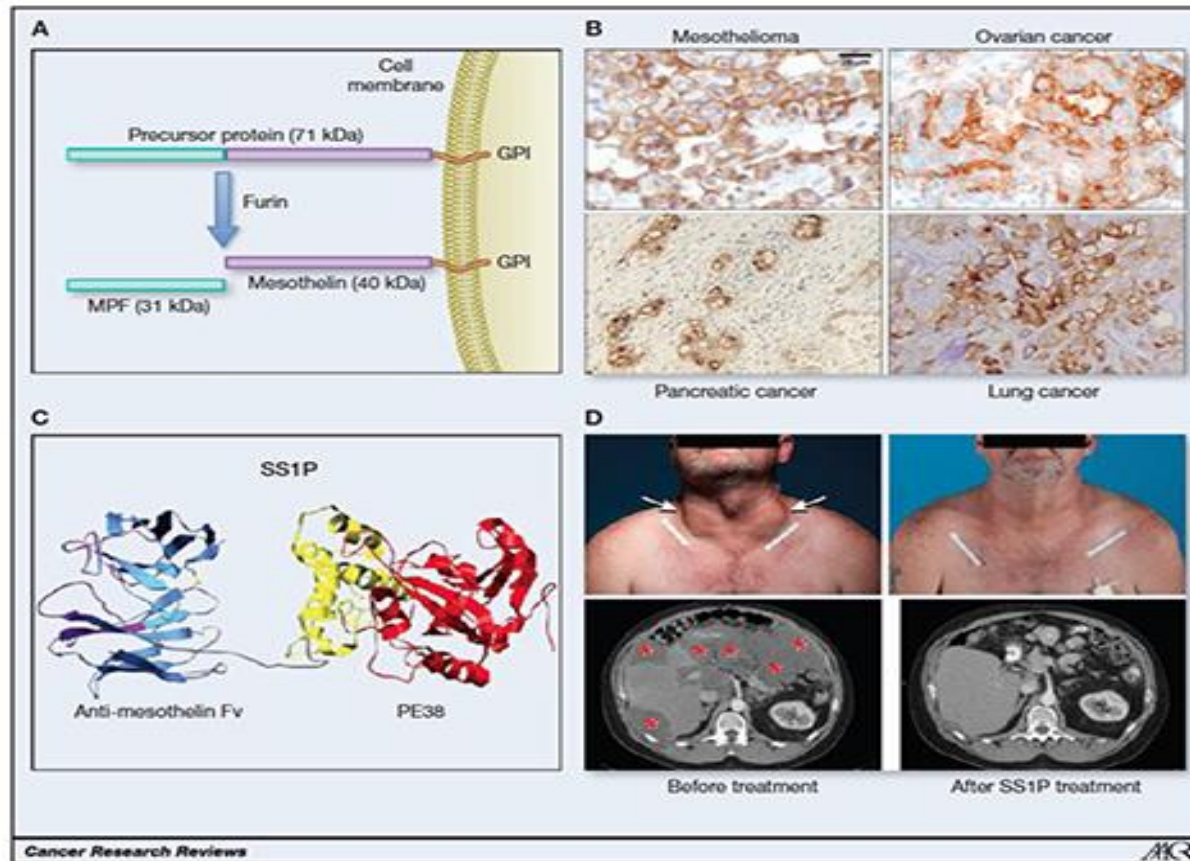
**Tumor-Stromal interaction is complex and therapeutic approaches targeting stroma needs caution and may require new molecular taxonomy in pancreatic cancer**



# Mesothelin and Immunotherapy



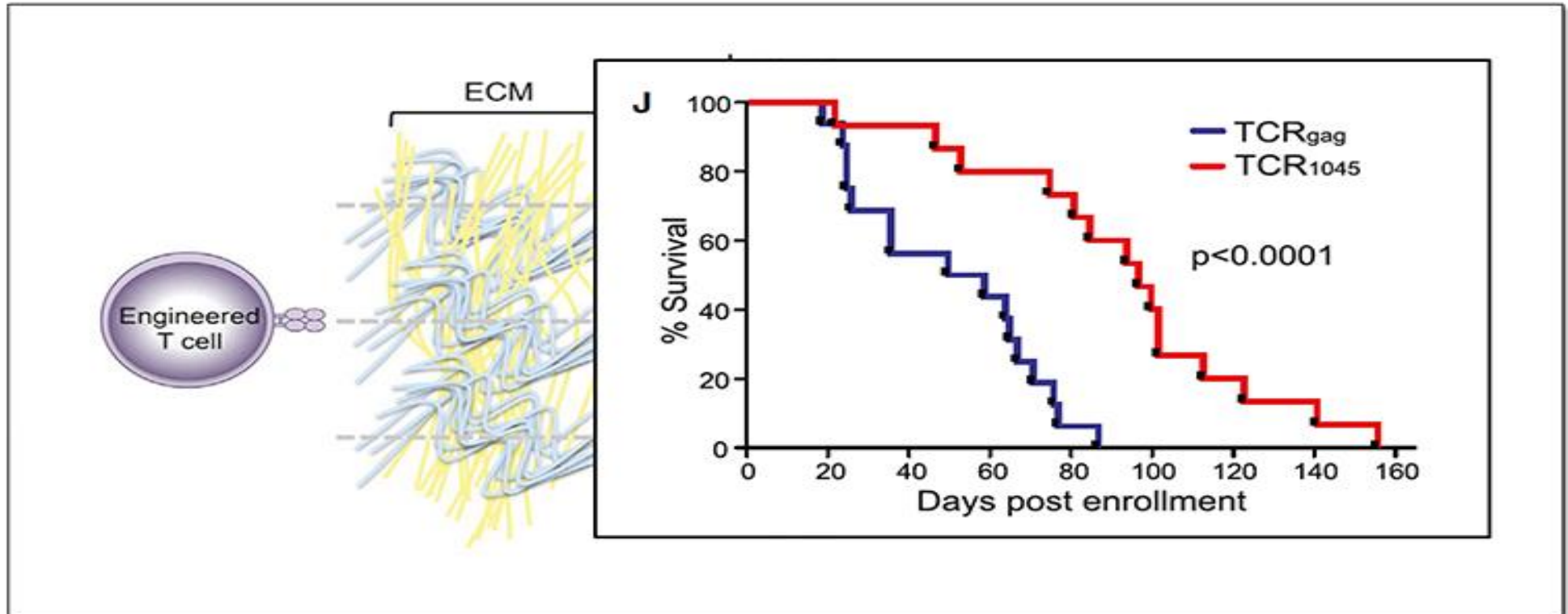
## Mesothelin as a Target for Immunotherapy





# Mesothelin targeted T cells

## Mesothelin Targeted T Cells Lyse Tumor Cells and Increase Survival in KPC Mouse Model of PDAC



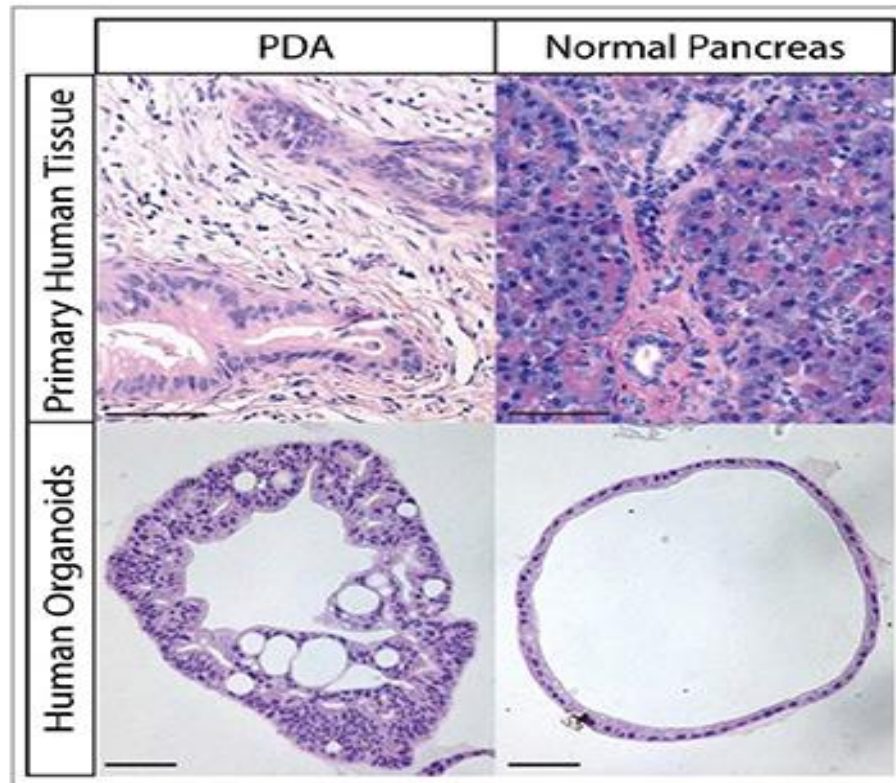




# Organoid



## Organoid: A highly promising model for PDAC

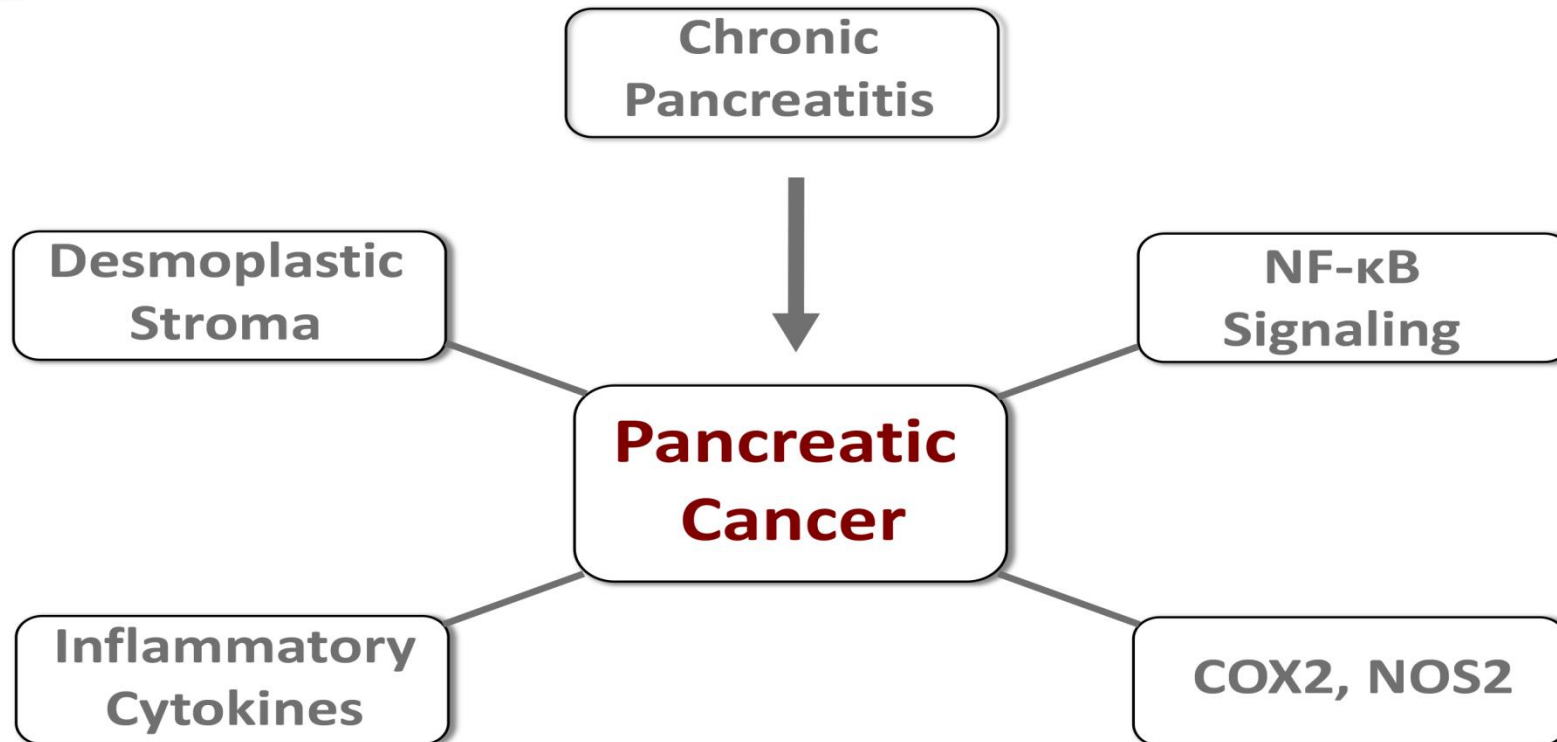




# Inflammation and Pancreatic Cancer



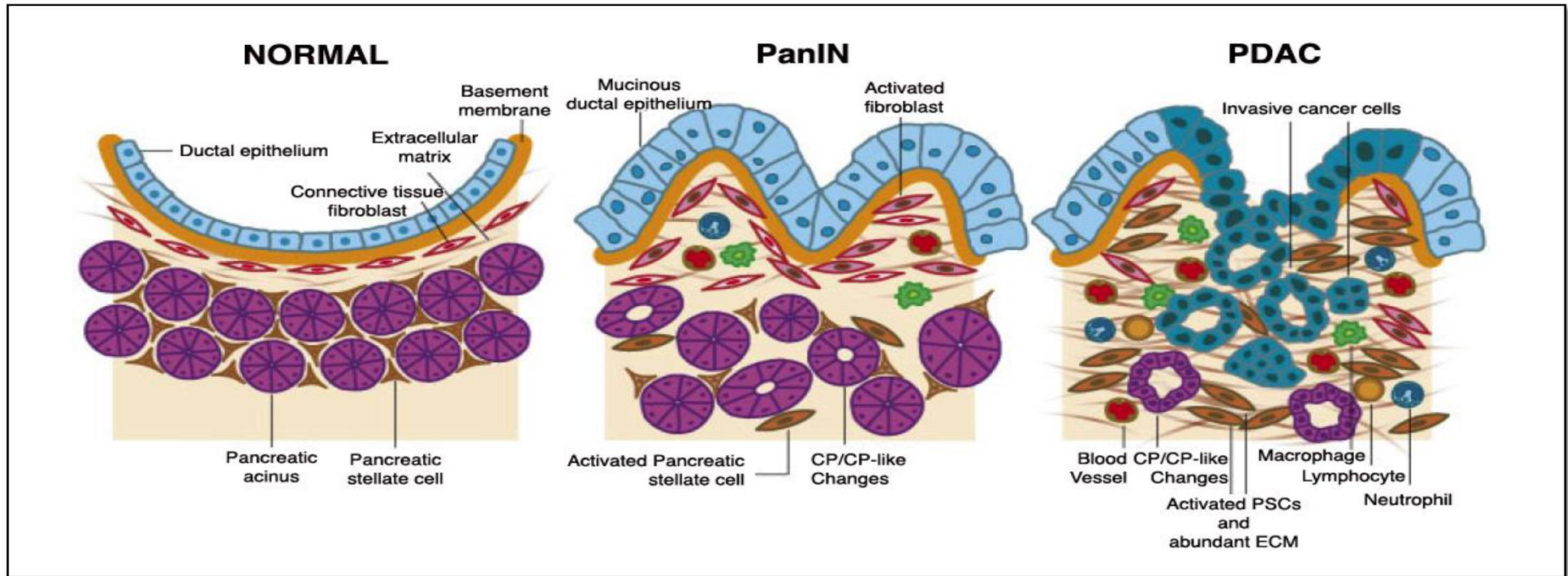
# Inflammation and Pancreatic Cancer





# Pancreatic Cancer Development

## Inflammatory Changes During Development and Progression of Pancreatic Cancer



From: Chu GC et al., J. Cell. Biochem, 101, 2007

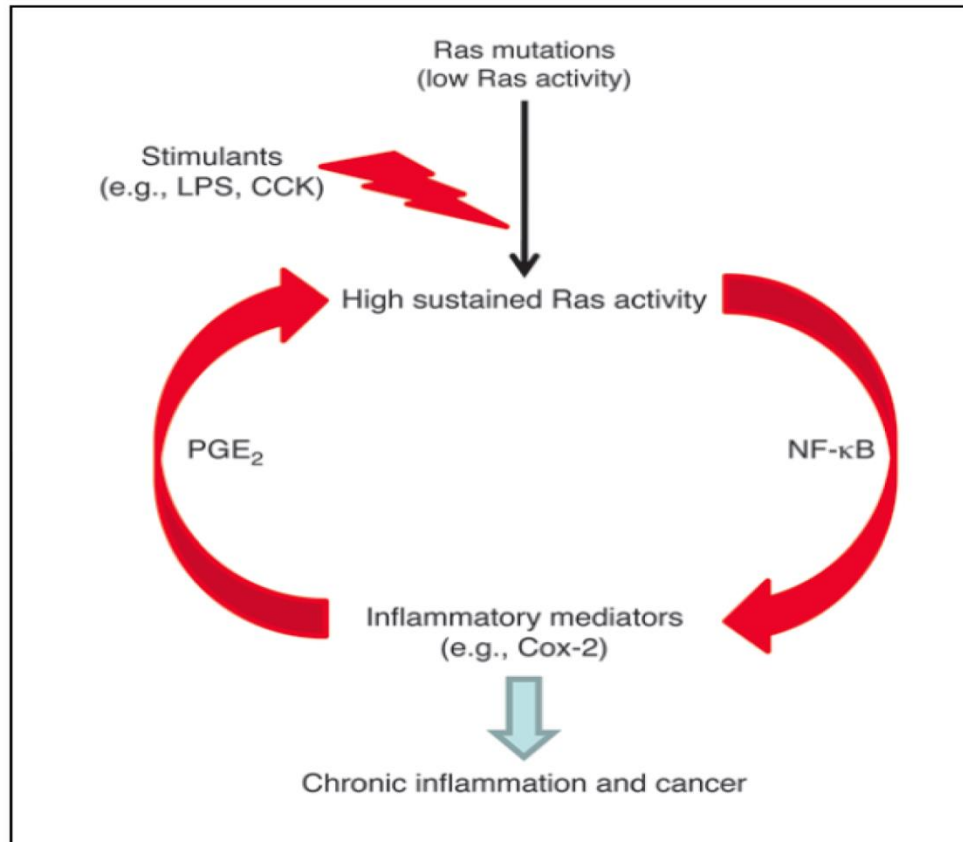
CP= Chronic Pancreatitis  
PSC= Pancreatic Stellate Cells  
ECM= Extracellular Matrix





# Inflammation and Pancreatic Cancer

## Inflammation Enhances and Maintains a Pathologic Level of Oncogenic KRAS in Pancreatic Cancer

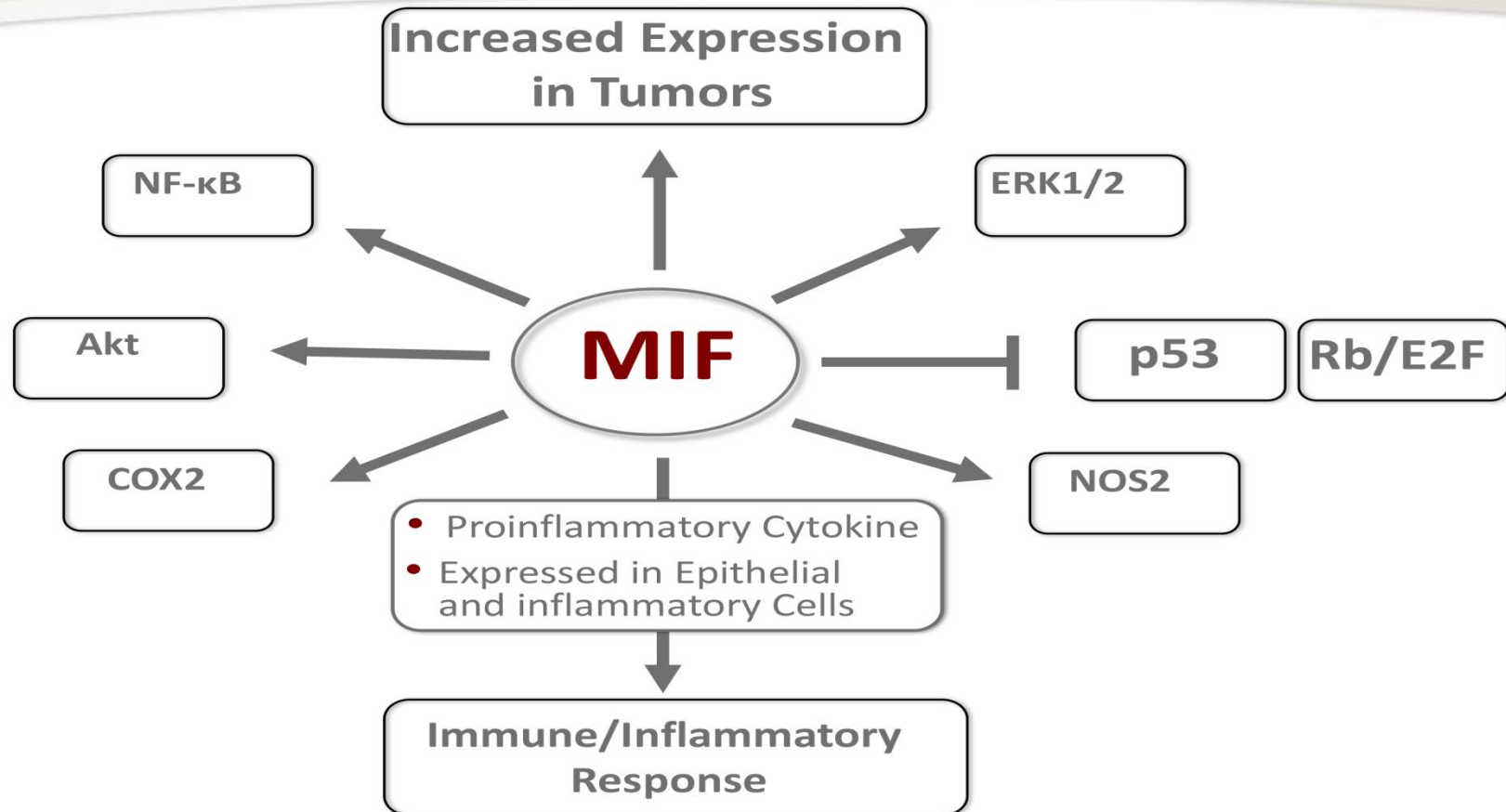




# MIF and Cancer



## Macrophage Migration Inhibitory Factor (MIF)





# MIF, Inflammation and Cancer



# MIF, Inflammation and Cancer

J. Exp. Med., 190, 1999

## At the Crossroads of Inflammation and Tumorigenesis

By Carlos Cordon-Cardo\* and Carol Prives<sup>‡</sup>

*From the \*Department of Pathology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York 10021; and the <sup>‡</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027*

Molecular Cell, Vol. 17, 225–236, January 21, 2005, Copyright ©2005 by Elsevier Inc. DOI 10.1016/j.molcel.2004.11.052

## Macrophage Migration Inhibitory Factor MIF Interferes with the Rb-E2F Pathway

Oleksii Petrenko\* and Ute M. Moll\*

Immunity, 26, 2007

## Perspective

## Macrophage Migration Inhibitory Factor: A Probable Link between Inflammation and Cancer

Richard Bucala<sup>1,\*</sup> and Seamas C. Donnelly<sup>2,\*</sup>







# Hypothesis

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# HYPOTHESIS

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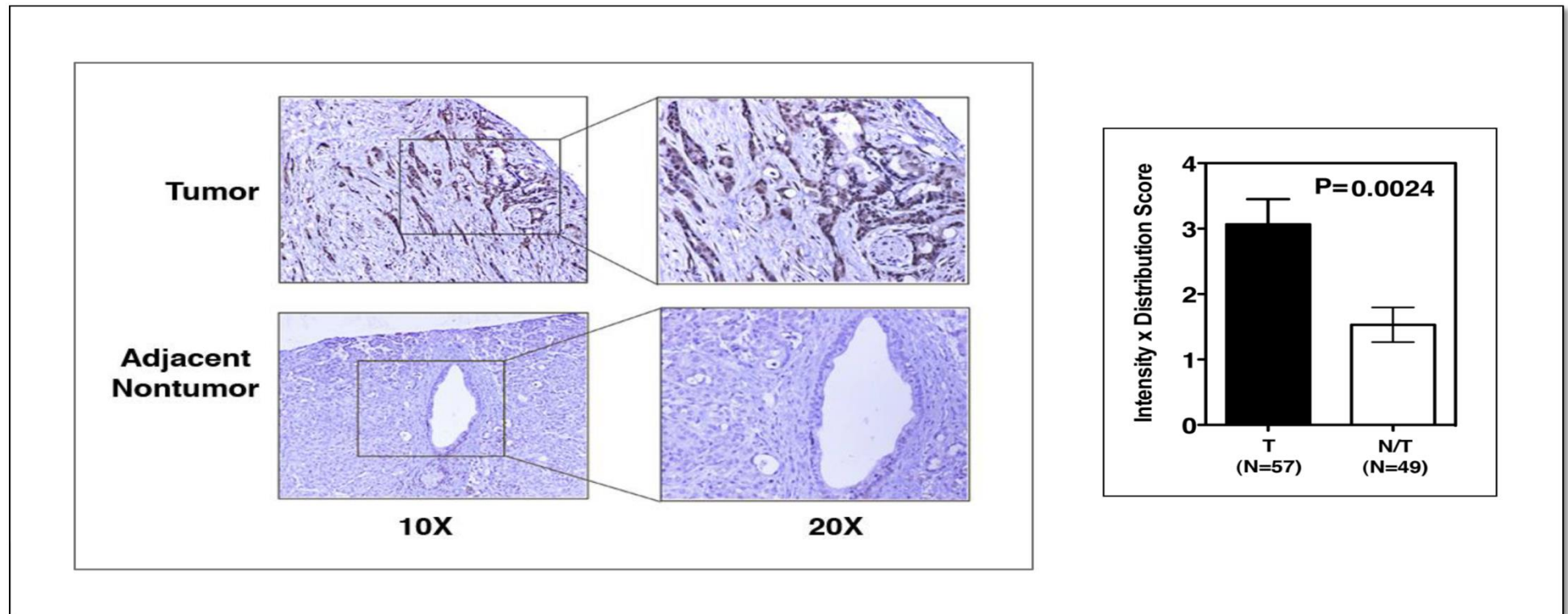
**MIF Contributes to Pancreatic Cancer Progression and Predicts Disease Outcome.**

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# MIF and PDAC

## Increased expression of MIF in tumors from pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma cases



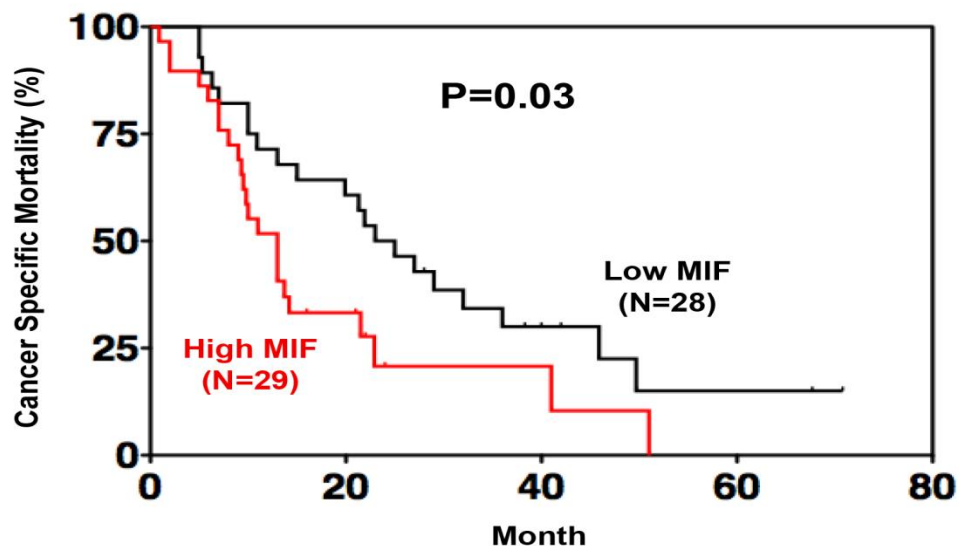


# MIF expression and HDAC survival

A higher expression of MIF is associated with poor survival in human PDAC



Human Pancreatic Carcinoma Cases



Variables (comparison/referent)	Univariable Analysis		Multivariable Analysis	
	HR (95%CI)	P	HR (95%CI)	P
MIF (High/Low)	2.21 (1.16-4.22)	0.016	2.26 (1.17-4.37)	0.015
Grading (G3-4/G1-2)	1.86 (1.01-3.45)	0.048	1.90 (1.02-3.54)	0.044
Resection margin (R1/R0)	1.53 (0.82-2.83)	0.178		
Stage (IIB-III/I-IIA)	1.62 (0.79-3.36)	0.191		



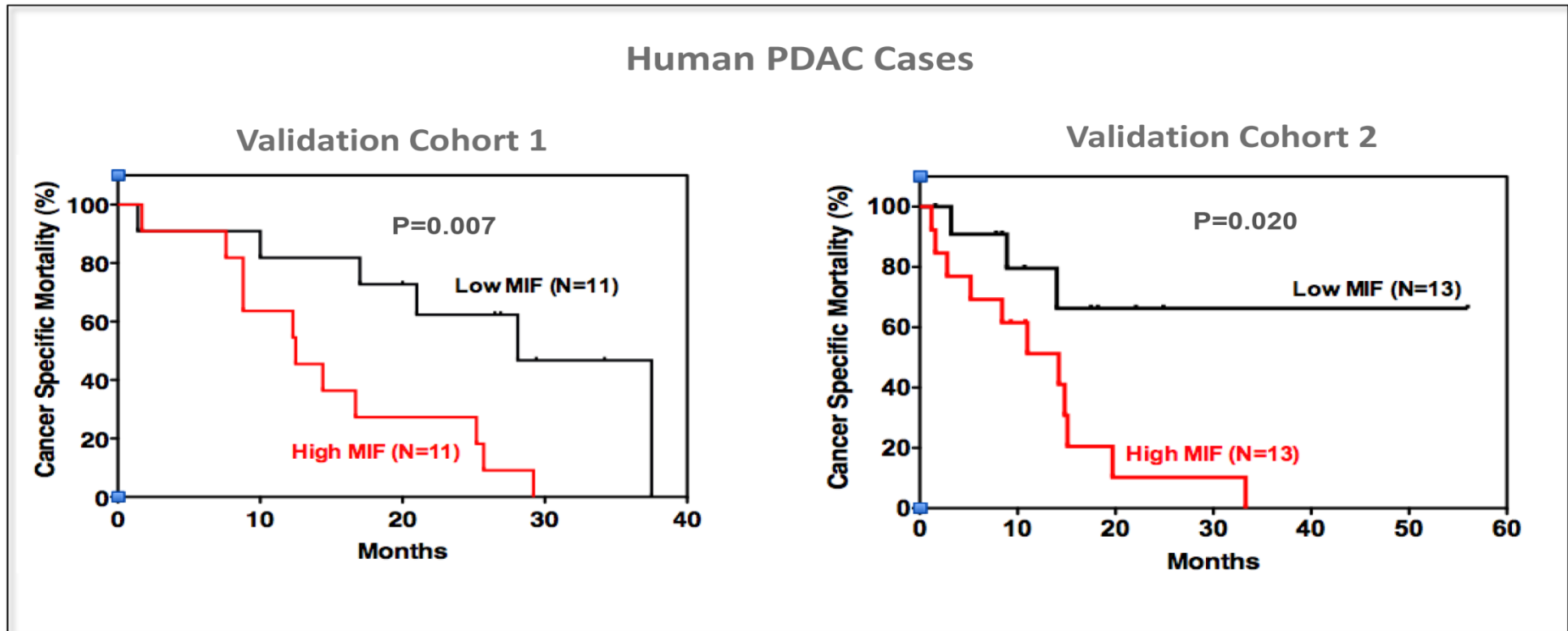


# MIF expression and poor PDAC survival

A higher expression of MIF is associated with poor survival in human PDAC



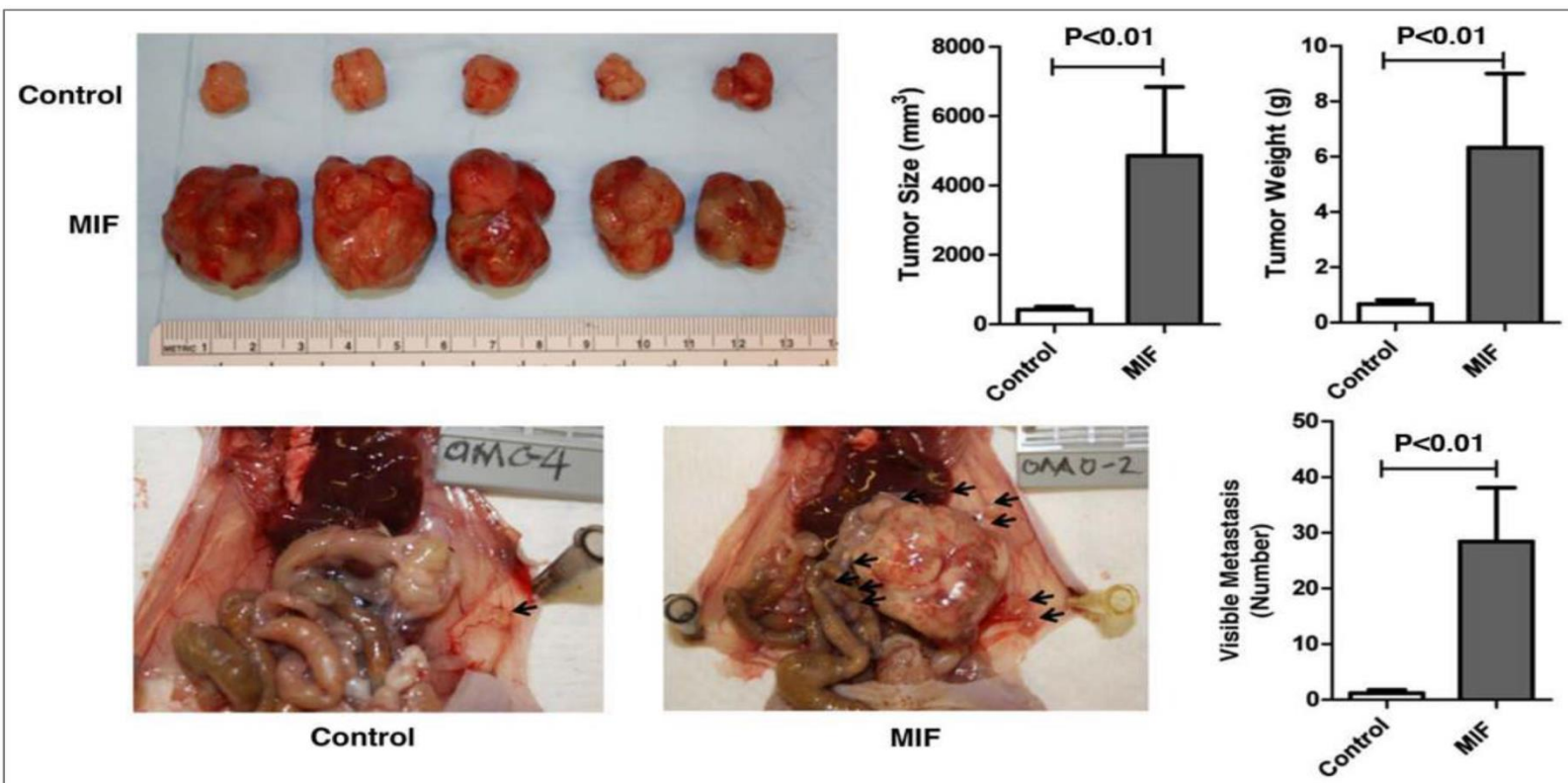
## Validation in Independent Cohorts





# MIF accelerates tumor growth

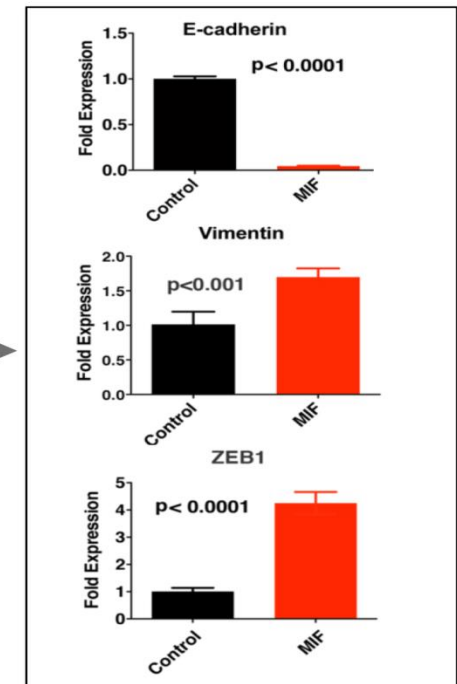
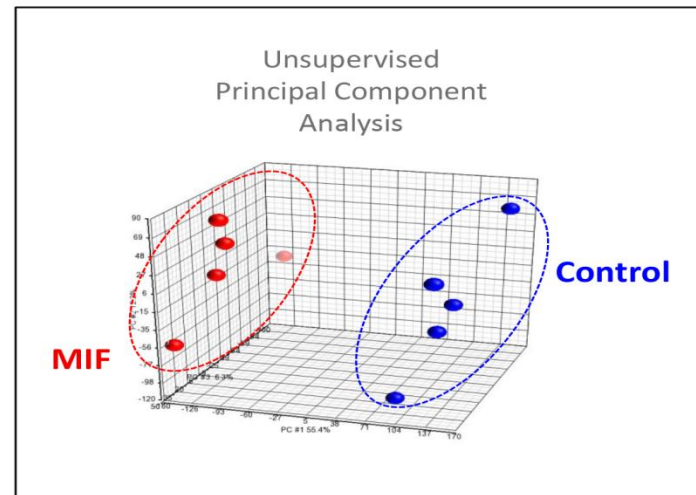
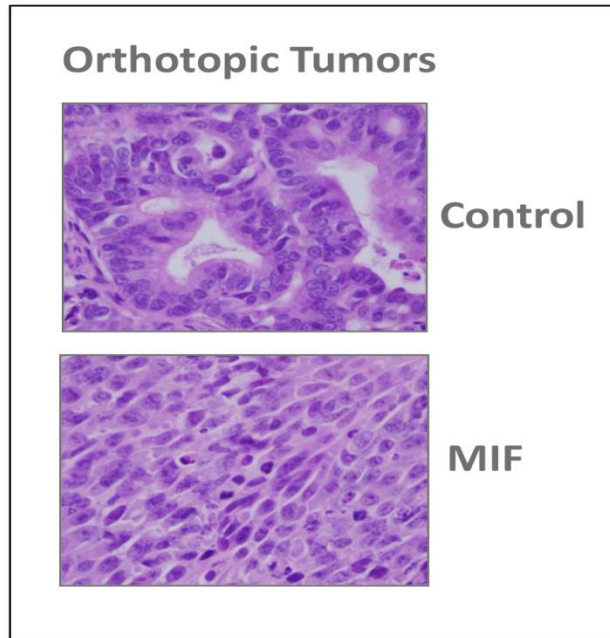
## MIF accelerates tumor growth and metastasis In orthotopic xenografts in mice





# MIF and gene expression

## MIF Induces a marked change in global gene expression profile including EMT-related genes in orthotopic tumors



- MIF over-expressing tumors are poorly differentiated.

- MIF induces a change in global gene expression profile.

- MIF over-expressing tumors showed expression of EMT-marker genes.





# Exosomal MIF and PDAC



## Exosomal MIF and Liver Metastasis in PDAC

ARTICLES

nature  
cell biology

### Pancreatic cancer exosomes initiate pre-metastatic niche formation in the liver

Bruno Costa-Silva<sup>1</sup>, Nicole M. Aiello<sup>2</sup>, Allyson J. Ocean<sup>3</sup>, Swarnima Singh<sup>1</sup>, Haiying Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Basant Kumar Thakur<sup>1,4</sup>, Annette Becker<sup>1</sup>, Ayuko Hoshino<sup>1</sup>, Milica Tešić Mark<sup>5</sup>, Henrik Molina<sup>5</sup>, Jenny Xiang<sup>6</sup>, Tuo Zhang<sup>6</sup>, Till-Martin Theilen<sup>1</sup>, Guillermo García-Santos<sup>1</sup>, Caitlin Williams<sup>1</sup>, Yonathan Ararso<sup>1</sup>, Yujie Huang<sup>1</sup>, Gonçalo Rodrigues<sup>1,7</sup>, Tang-Long Shen<sup>8</sup>, Knut Jørgen Labori<sup>9</sup>, Inger Marie Bowitz Lothe<sup>10,11</sup>, Elin H. Kure<sup>11</sup>, Jonathan Hernandez<sup>12</sup>, Alexandre Doussot<sup>12</sup>, Saya H. Ebbesen<sup>1</sup>, Paul M. Grandgenett<sup>13</sup>, Michael A. Hollingsworth<sup>13</sup>, Maneesh Jain<sup>14</sup>, Kavita Mallya<sup>14</sup>, Surinder K. Batra<sup>14</sup>, William R. Jarnagin<sup>12</sup>, Robert E. Schwartz<sup>15</sup>, Irina Matei<sup>1</sup>, Héctor Peinado<sup>1,16</sup>, Ben Z. Stanger<sup>2,19</sup>, Jacqueline Bromberg<sup>17,19</sup> and David Lyden<sup>1,18,19</sup>

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas (PDACs) are highly metastatic with poor prognosis, mainly due to delayed detection. We hypothesized that intercellular communication is critical for metastatic progression. Here, we show that PDAC-derived exosomes induce liver pre-metastatic niche formation in naive mice and consequently increase liver metastatic burden. Uptake of PDAC-derived exosomes by Kupffer cells caused transforming growth factor  $\beta$  secretion and upregulation of fibronectin production by hepatic stellate cells. This fibrotic microenvironment enhanced recruitment of bone marrow-derived macrophages. We found that macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) was highly expressed in PDAC-derived exosomes, and its blockade prevented liver pre-metastatic niche formation and metastasis. Compared with patients whose pancreatic tumours did not progress, MIF was markedly higher in exosomes from stage I PDAC patients who later developed liver metastasis. **These findings suggest that exosomal MIF primes the liver for metastasis and may be a prognostic marker for the development of PDAC liver metastasis.**

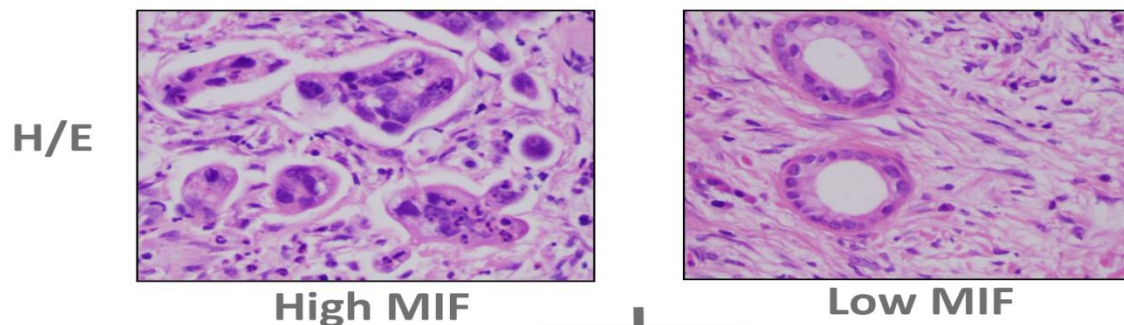


# MIF-induced disease



## MIF-induced disease aggressiveness in pancreatic cancer

### Human PDAC Cases



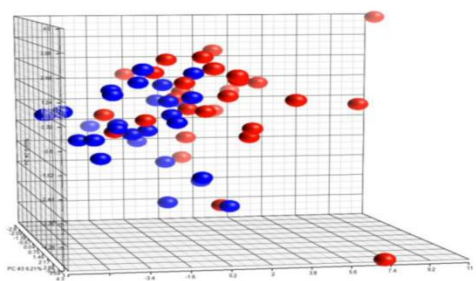
### Questions

- Molecular Distinctions
- Mechanistic and Functional Role of MIF in Tumor Progression

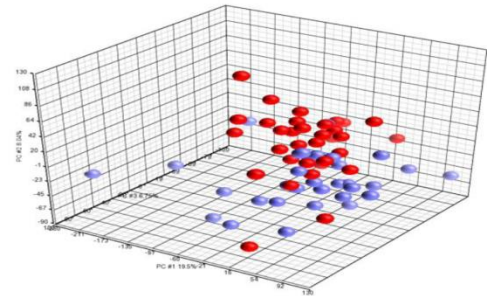
OMICS

miRNA

mRNA



• High MIF  
• Low MIF





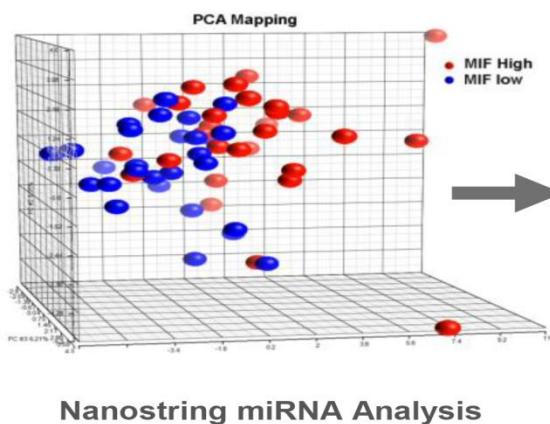


# miRNA profiling



## miRNA profiling of MIF-high and MIF-low tumors

- **Hypothesis:** MIF regulates miRNAs associated with tumor progression and disease aggressiveness in patient with pancreatic cancer



Differentially Expressed miRNAs  
**MIF-high vs MIF-low**

53 Differentially Expressed miRNAs  
**MIF-high vs. MIF-Low**  
( $p < 0.05$ )

miRNAs  
Associated with Survival  
(Kaplan-Meier Analysis)

- 5 miRNAs Associated with Survival
- **miR-301b**
  - **miR-15b**
  - **miR-10b**
  - **miR-93**
  - **miR-590-5p**

Validation  
(Multiple Cohorts of PDAC)

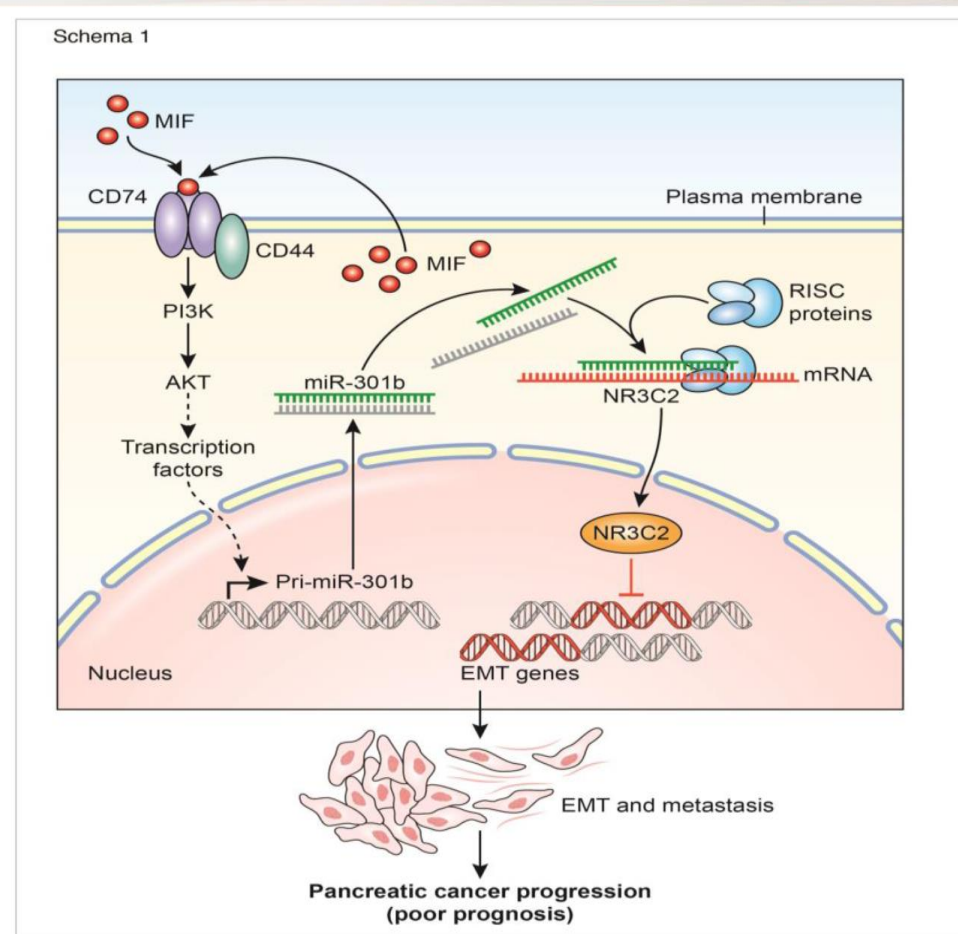




# MIF axis in Pancreatic Cancer



## MIF/miR-301b/NR3C2 Axis in Pancreatic Cancer





# HYPOTHESIS

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# HYPOTHESIS

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**MIF/mir-301b/NR3C2 Signaling is a Potential Therapeutic Target  
in Pancreatic Cancer**

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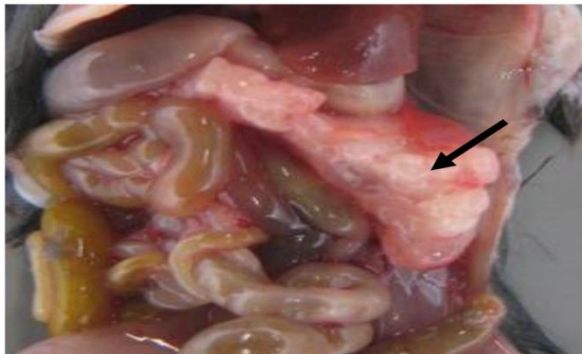
# Pancreatic Tumors Express MIF



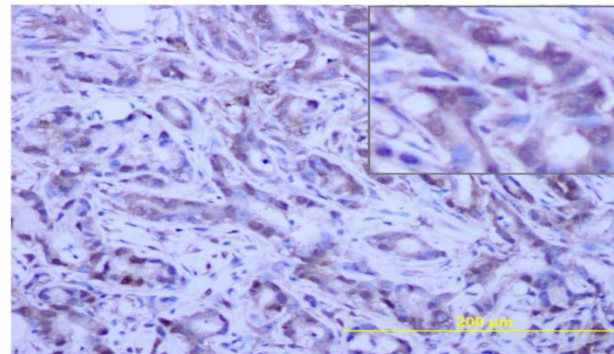
Pancreatic tumors in KPC mice express a high level of MIF

(KPC: KRAS<sup>G12D</sup>; P53<sup>R172H</sup>; Pdx-1-Cre)

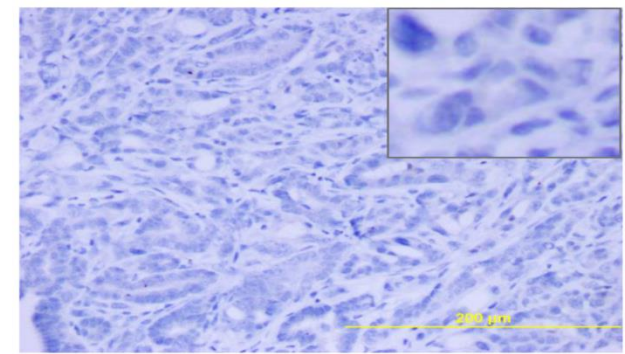
## MIF Immunostaining



KPC



KPC



KPC/MIF<sup>-/-</sup>

MIF deletion in genetically engineered mouse model of pancreatic cancer



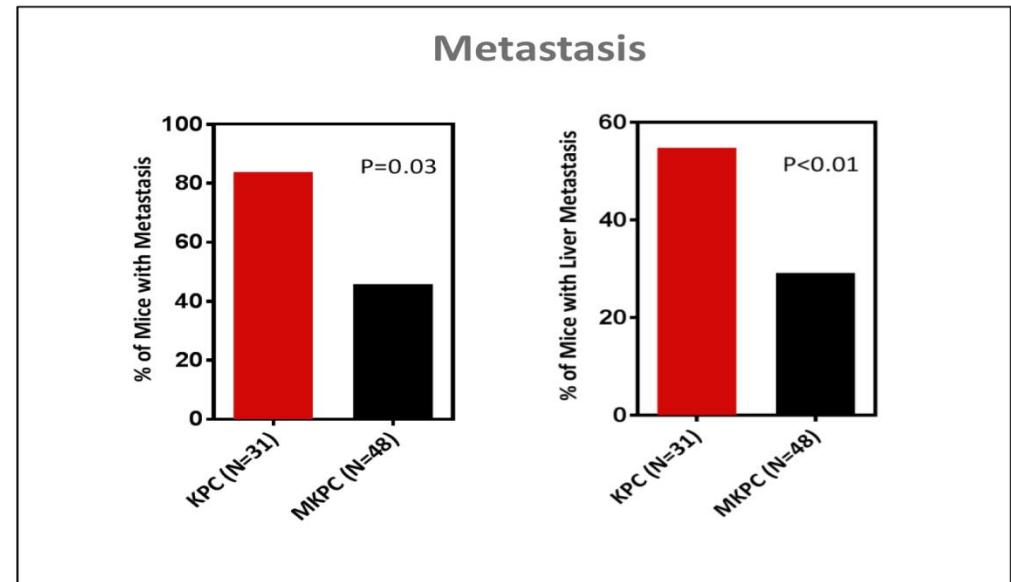
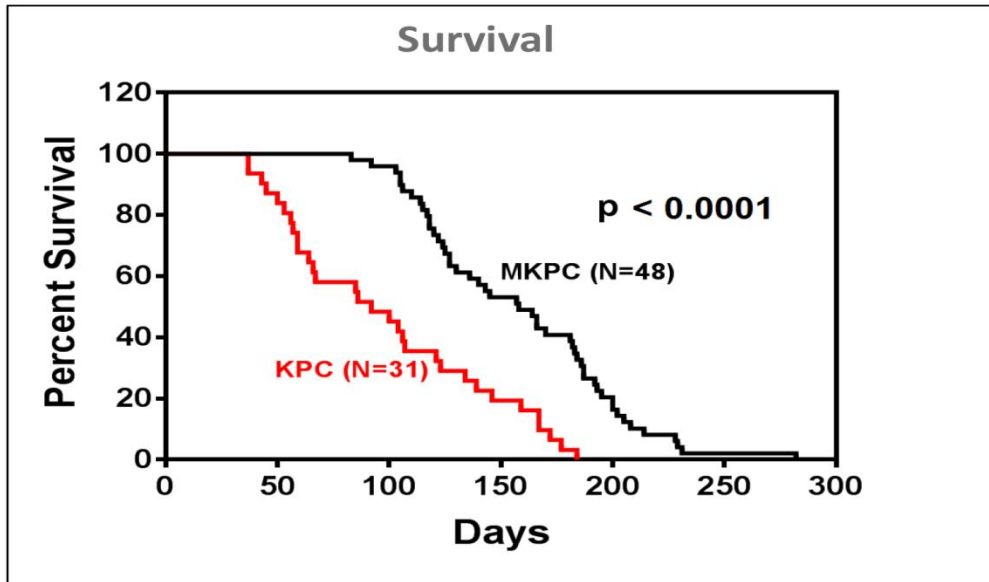


# MIF deficiency enhances survival



## MIF-deficiency enhanced survival and reduced metastasis in KPC mice

### KPC Mouse Model



MKPC= MIF-deficient KPC mice

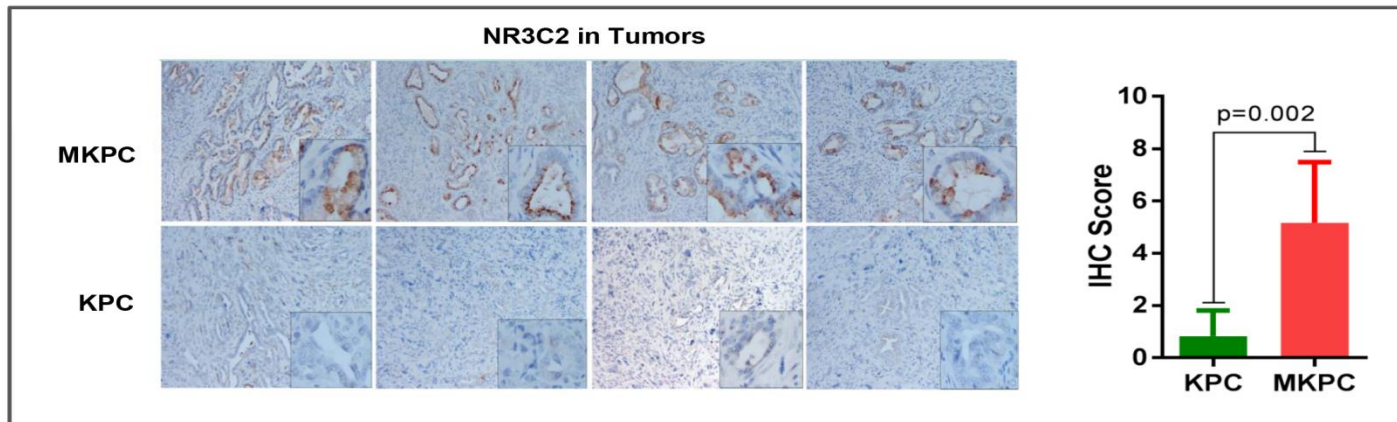
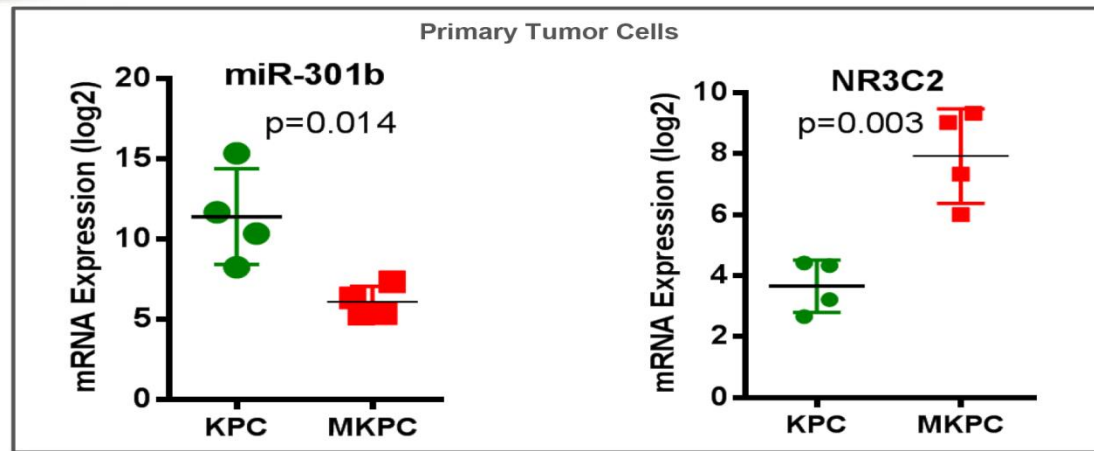




# MIF deficiency increases NR3C2 expression



# MIF-deficiency decreases miR-301b and increases NR3C2 expression



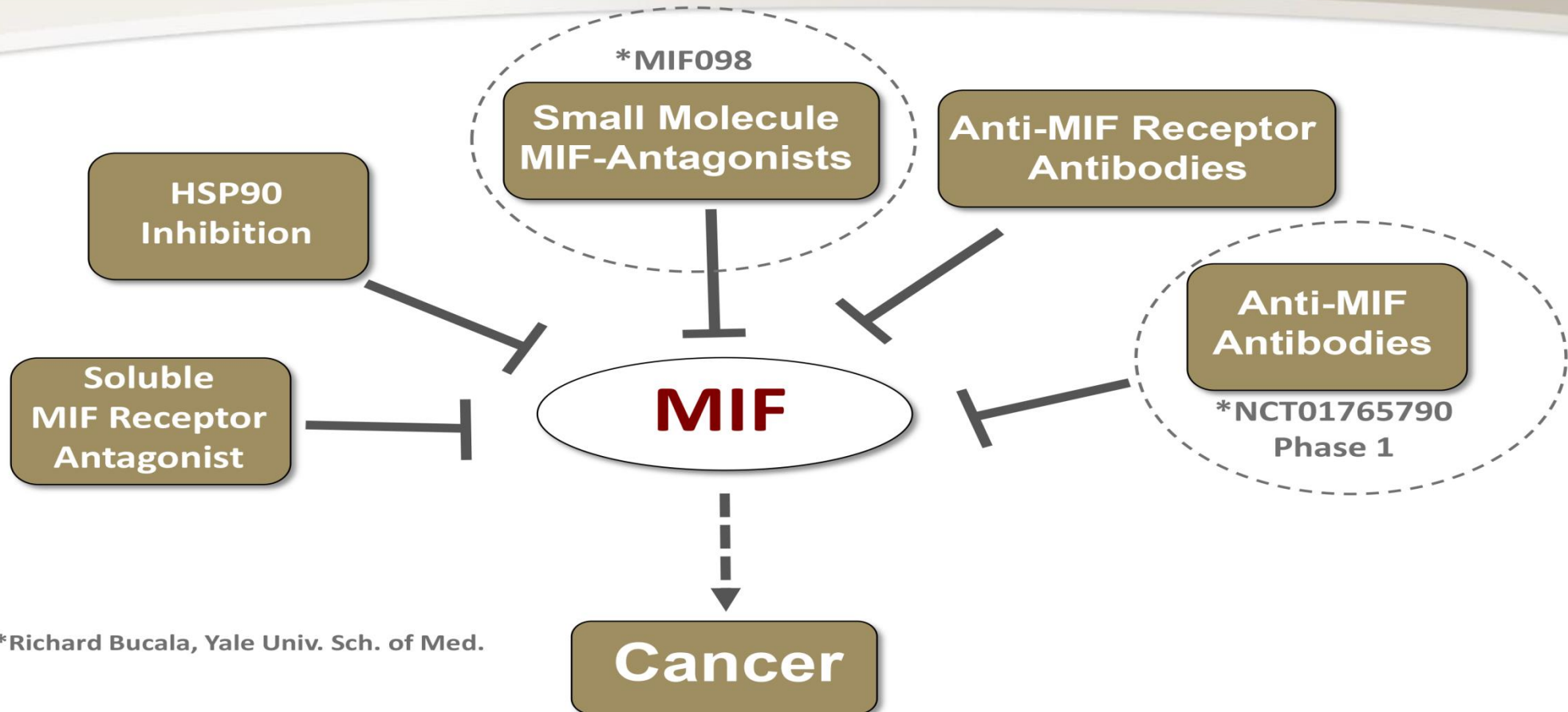




# MIF inhibition strategies



## Strategies for MIF inhibition



\*Richard Bucala, Yale Univ. Sch. of Med.



# SUMMARY

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# SUMMARY

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- A higher MIF expression is associated with poorer outcome in PDAC patients.
- MIF enhances growth and metastasis of tumor xenografts in mice.
- MIF-driven signaling inhibits NR3C2 by upregulating miR-301b.
- NR3C2 is a negative regulator of EMT.
- MIF-deficiency increased survival and reduced metastasis in KPC mice.
- MIF/mir-301b/NR3C2 signaling is a potential therapeutic target.



# Understanding pancreatic tumor biology

Understanding Pancreatic Tumor Biology is Key to Improving Disease Outcome

