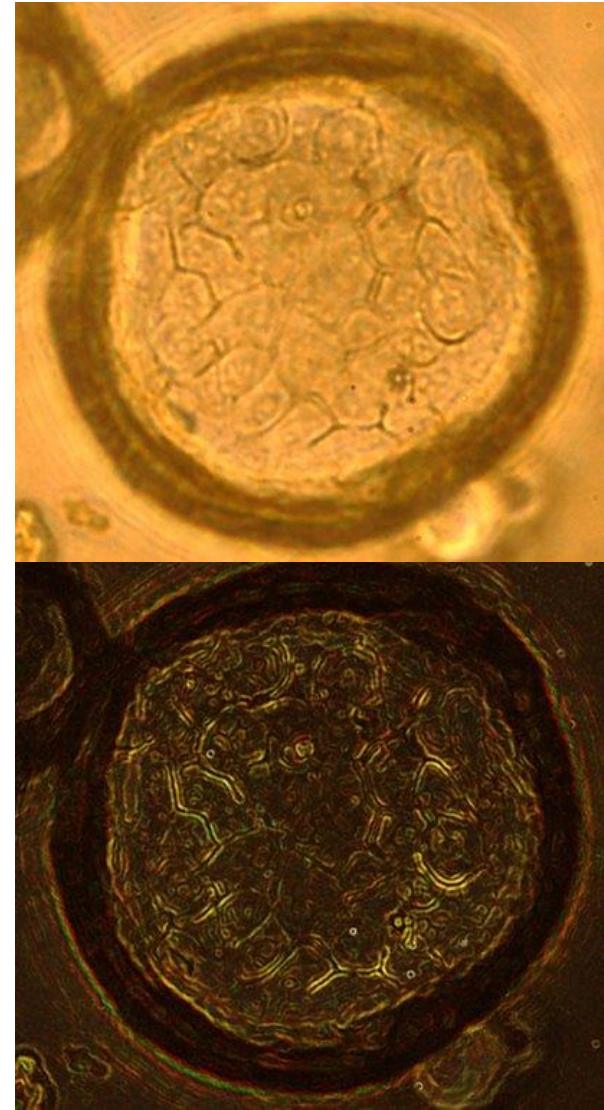


# Introducing a 'Phase 0' in clinical trials with precise organoid-based disease models

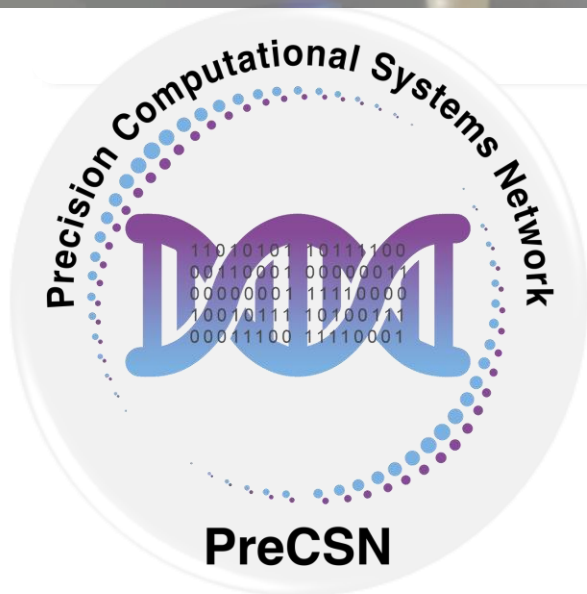
Presented by:  
Courtney Tindle, M.S.  
Director of HUMANIOD™

# UC San Diego

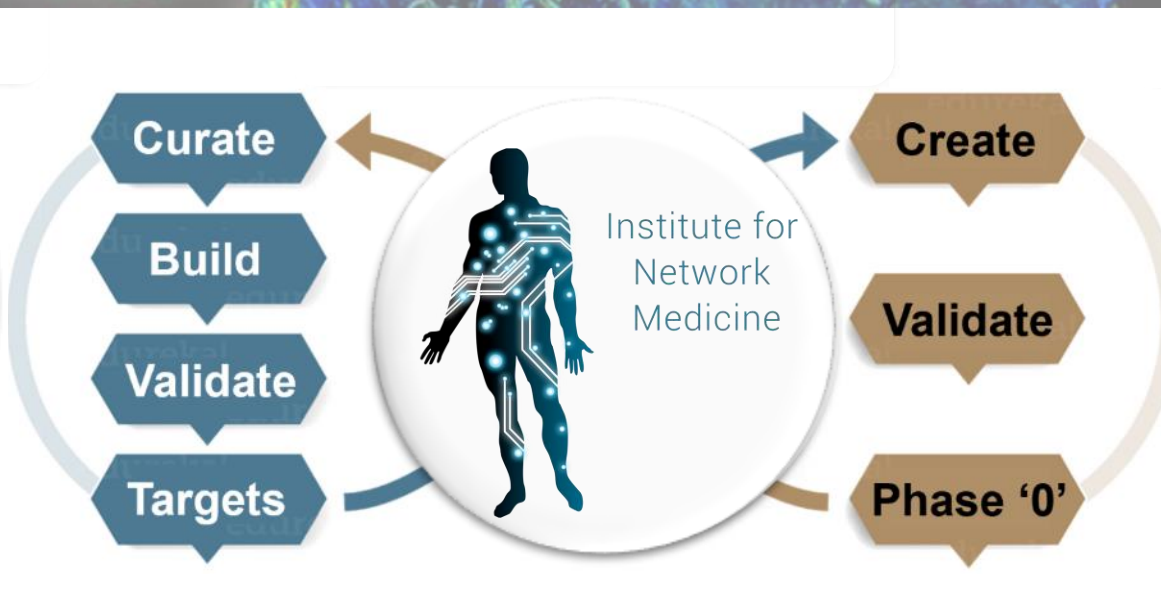
This work features cancer PDOs that were commercially obtained from The ATCC®.



# PRECSN AND HUMANOID ENABLE PHASE 'ZERO'



USING BOOLEAN NETWORK  
EXPLORER [BoNE]



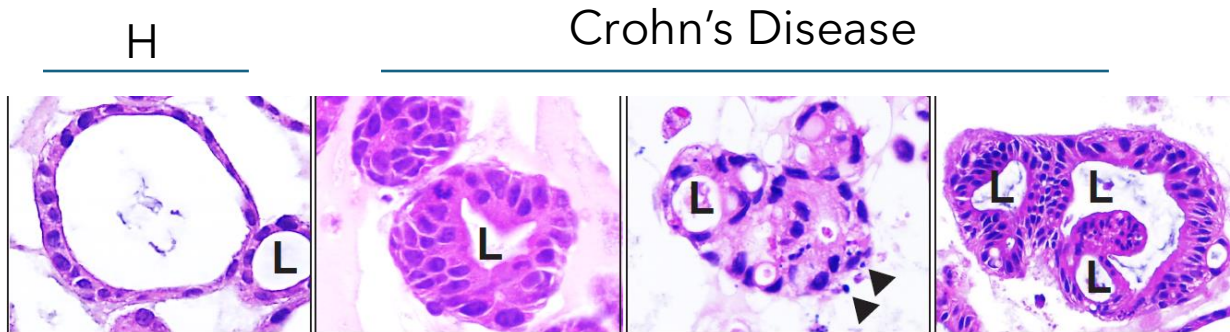
USING HUMAN ORGANOID-  
BASED MODELS OF DISEASES



# HOW DO WE CHOOSE WHICH MODELS

**It's an equation: Passion + Public Need + Funding**

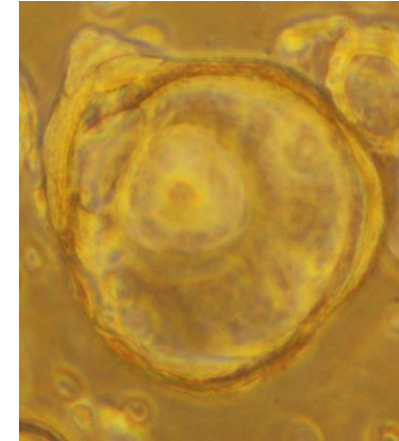
## Gastrointestinal:



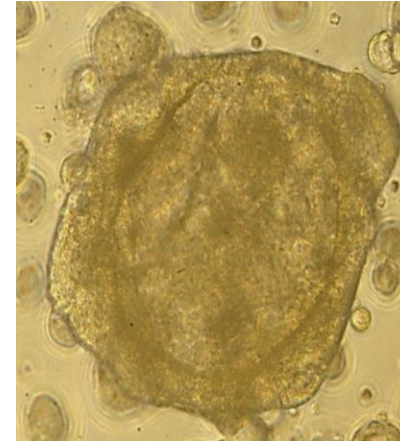
FAP Organoid



Ulcerative Colitis

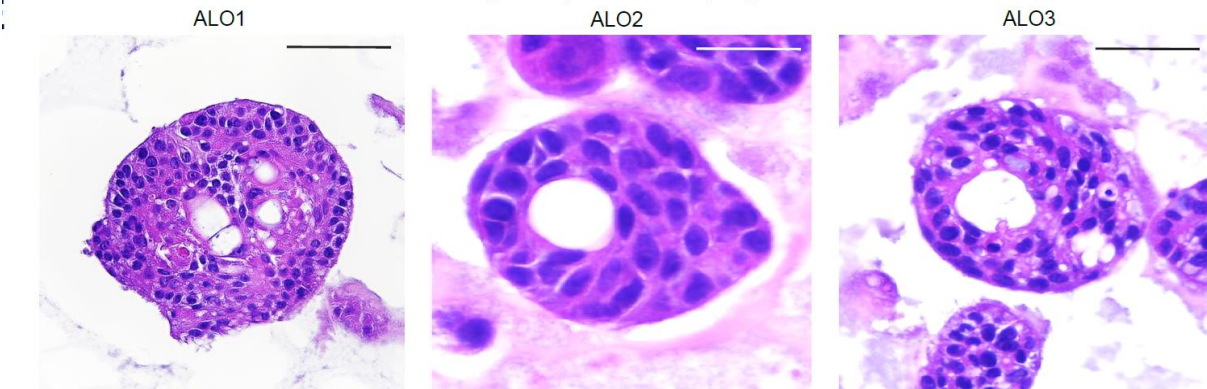


GEJ of BE

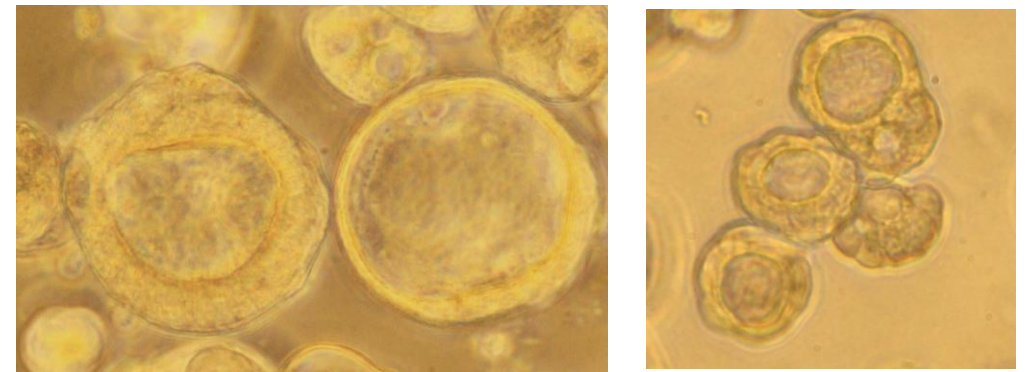


## Respiratory:

Histologic analysis of 3D Morphogenesis

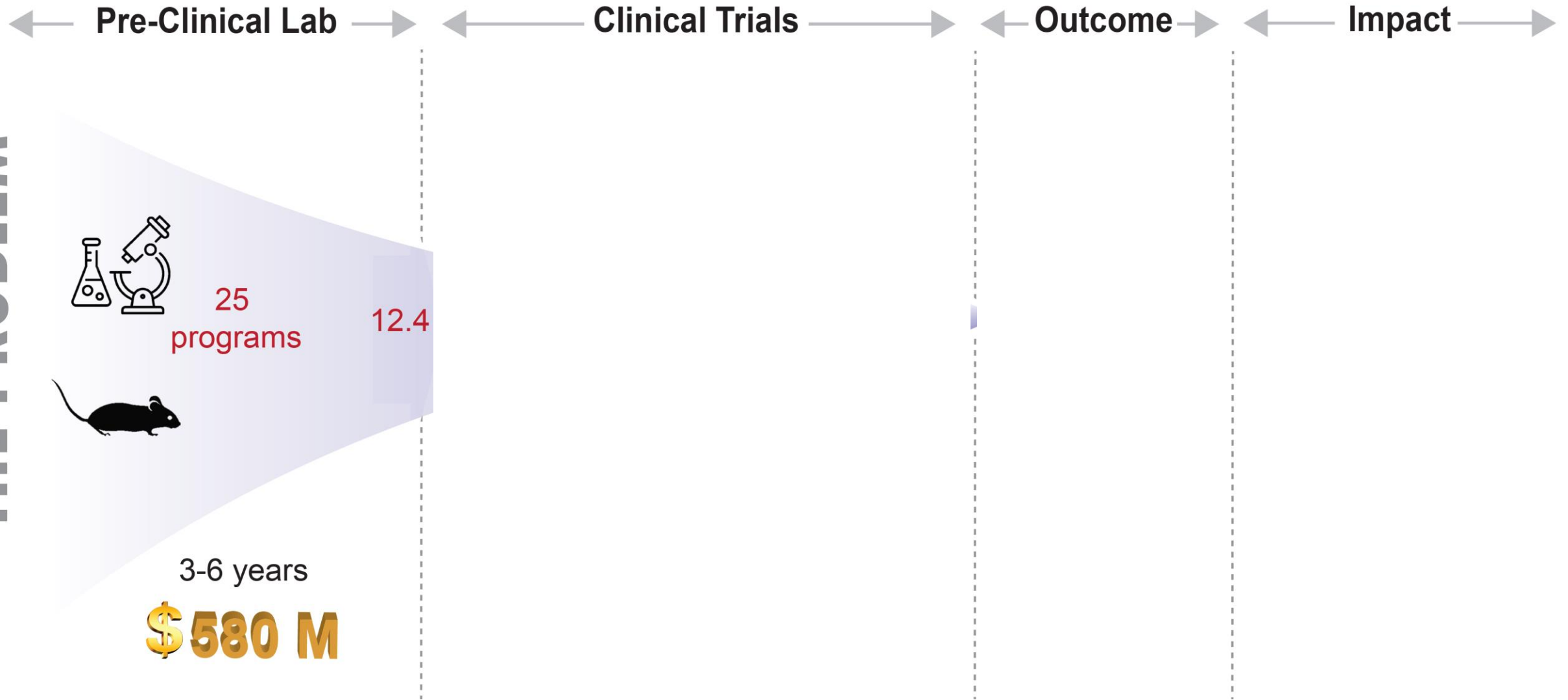


## Multiple adenocarcinomas (ATCC's Resource)



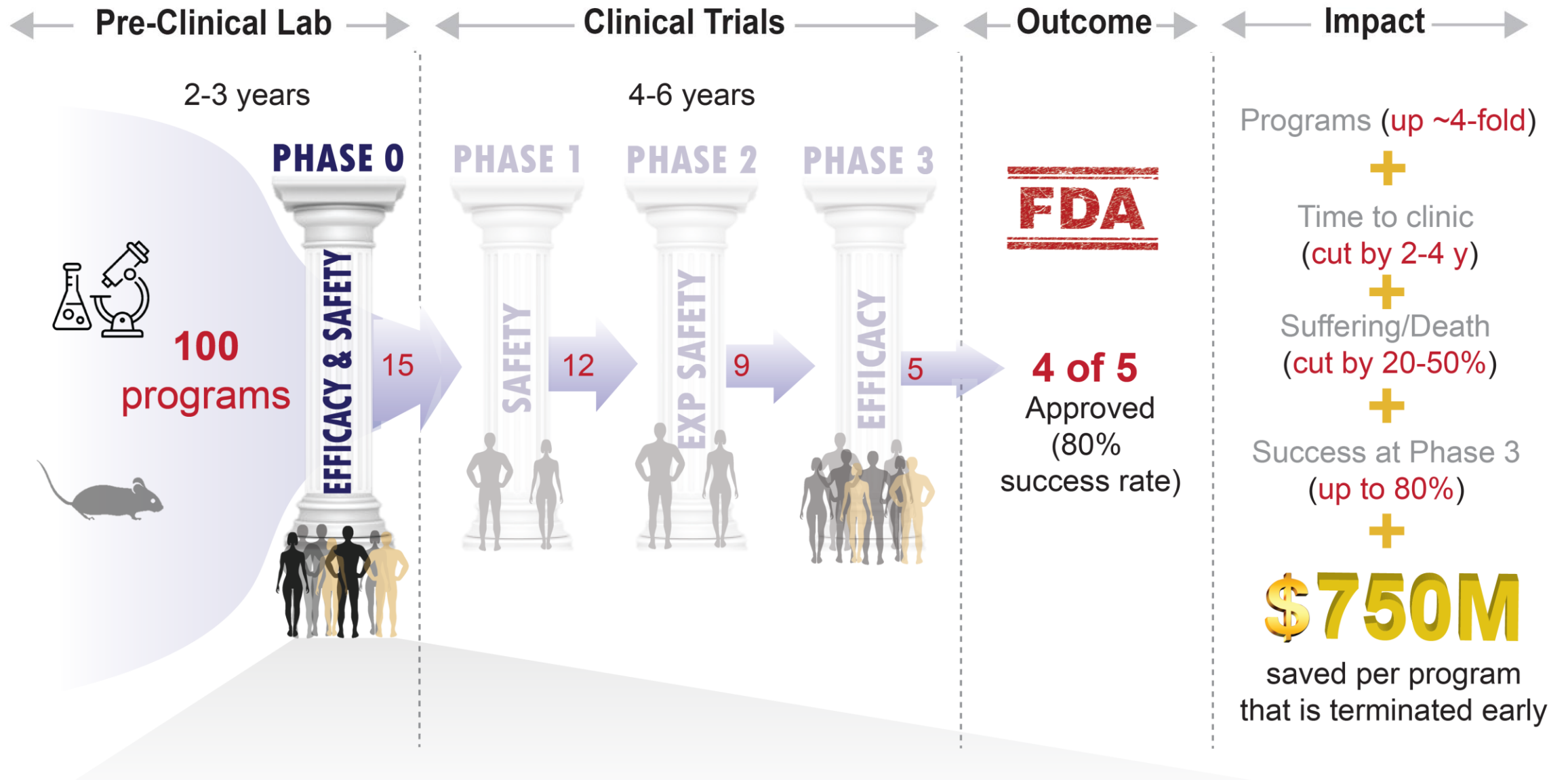
# THE DRUG DISCOVERY PROCESS IS FLAWED

## THE PROBLEM

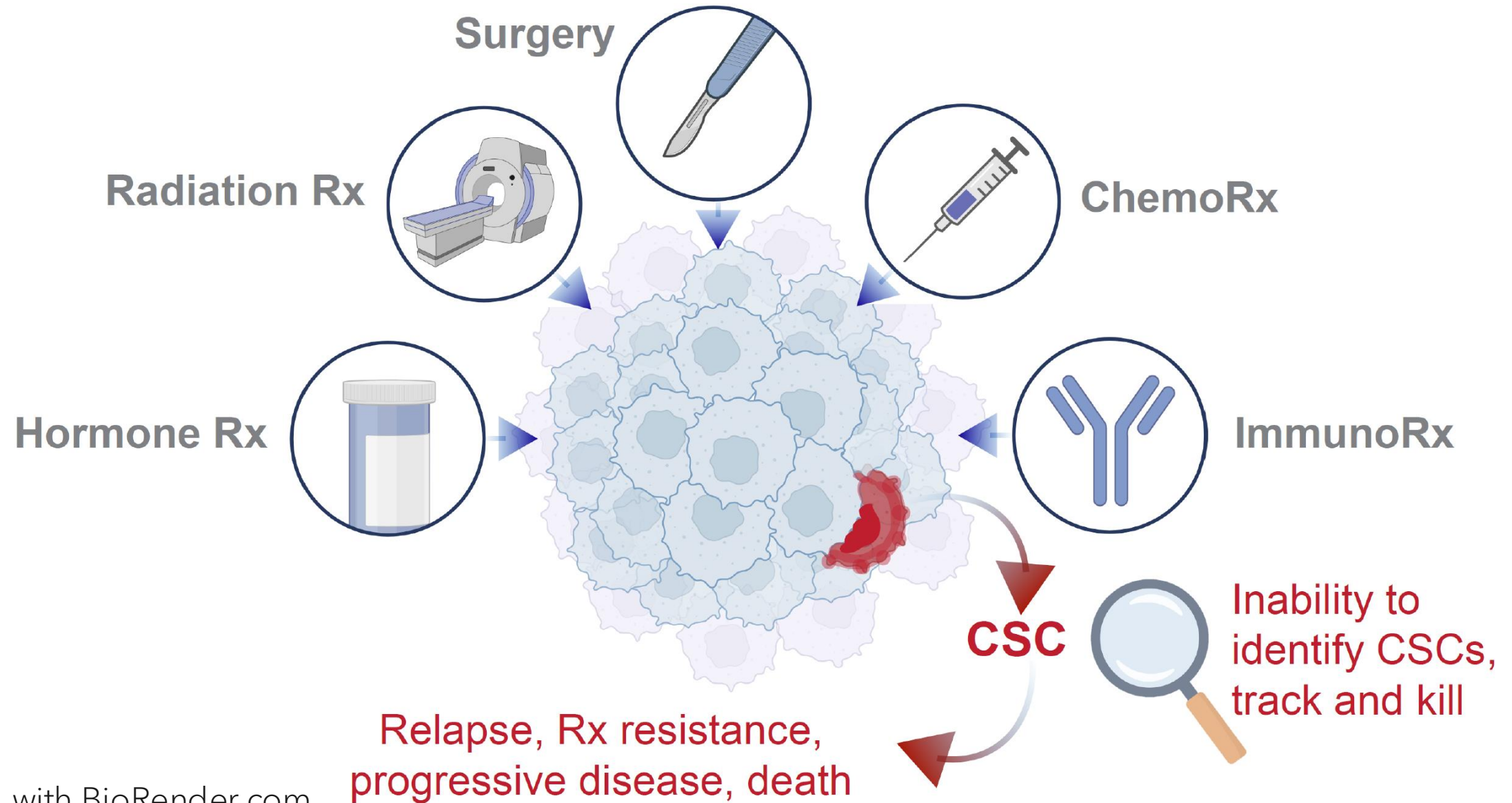




# TESTING EFFICACY EARLY ON CAN FIX IT



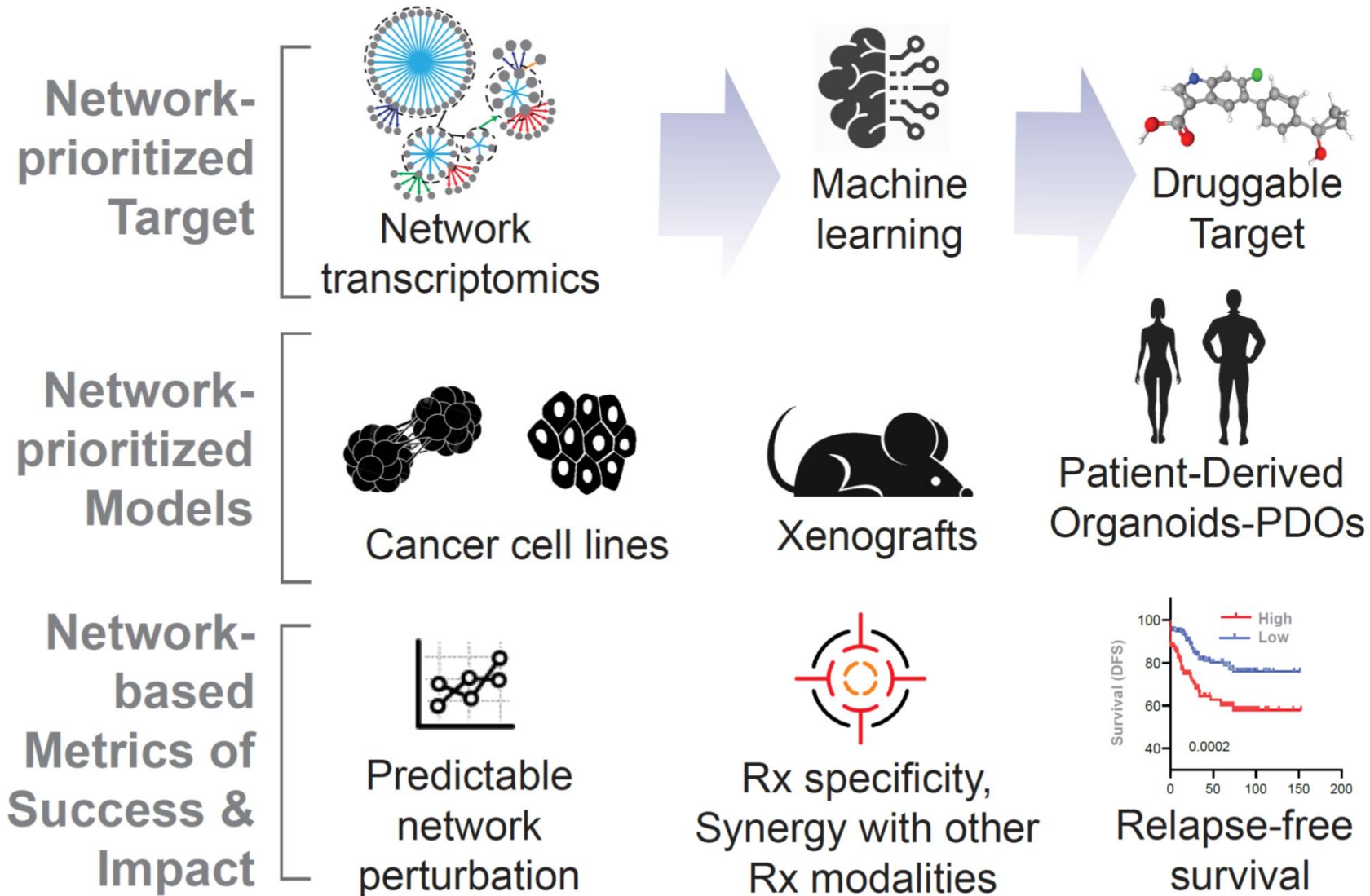
# The Problem: Cancer Stem Cells escape Rx



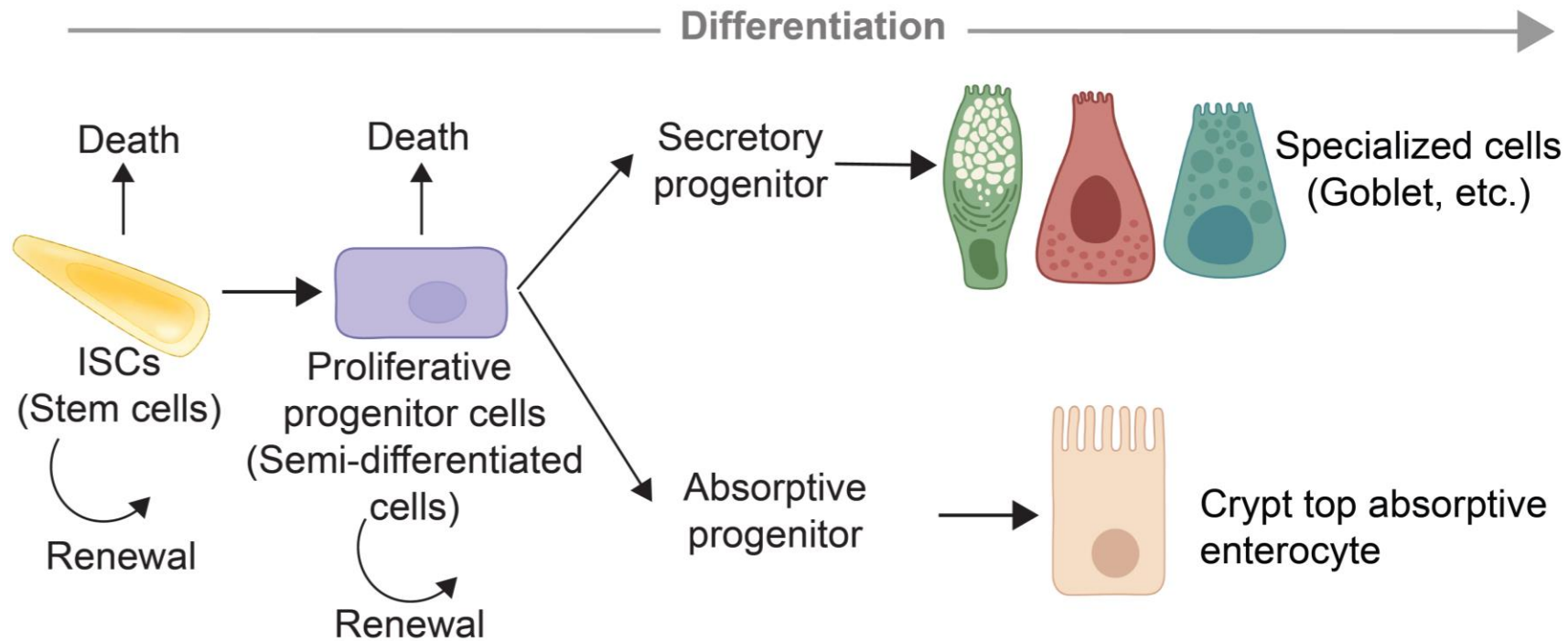


# The Solution: Targeted CSC Differentiation

Network-guided identification of a first-in-class agent



# WHAT ARE KEY 'EVENTS' THAT PUSH THE STEMNESS-DIFFERENTIATION AXIS?





# MATHEMATICAL APPROACH: ABSENCE OF CDX2 EQUALS STEMNESS

*The* **NEW ENGLAND**  
**JOURNAL** *of* **MEDICINE**

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

JANUARY 21, 2016

VOL. 374 NO. 3

## CDX2 as a Prognostic Biomarker in Stage II and Stage III Colon Cancer

Piero Dalerba, M.D., Debashis Sahoo, Ph.D., Soonmyung Paik, M.D., Xiangqian Guo, Ph.D., Greg Yothers, Ph.D.,  
Nan Song, Ph.D., Nate Wilcox-Fogel, M.S., Erna Forgó, M.D., Pradeep S. Rajendran, B.S., Stephen P. Miranda, B.A.,  
Shigeo Hisamori, M.D., Ph.D., Jacqueline Hutchison, Tomer Kalisky, Ph.D., Dalong Qian, M.D.,  
Norman Wolmark, M.D., George A. Fisher, M.D., Ph.D., Matt van de Rijn, M.D., Ph.D., and Michael F. Clarke, M.D.

Cell Stem Cell  
**In Translation**

## CDX2: Linking Cell and Patient Fates in Colon Cancer

Eric R. Fearon<sup>1,2,3</sup> and Emina H. Huang<sup>4,5,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Molecular Medicine and Genetics, Department of Internal Medicine

<sup>2</sup>Department of Pathology

<sup>3</sup>Department of Human Genetics

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA

<sup>4</sup>Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine

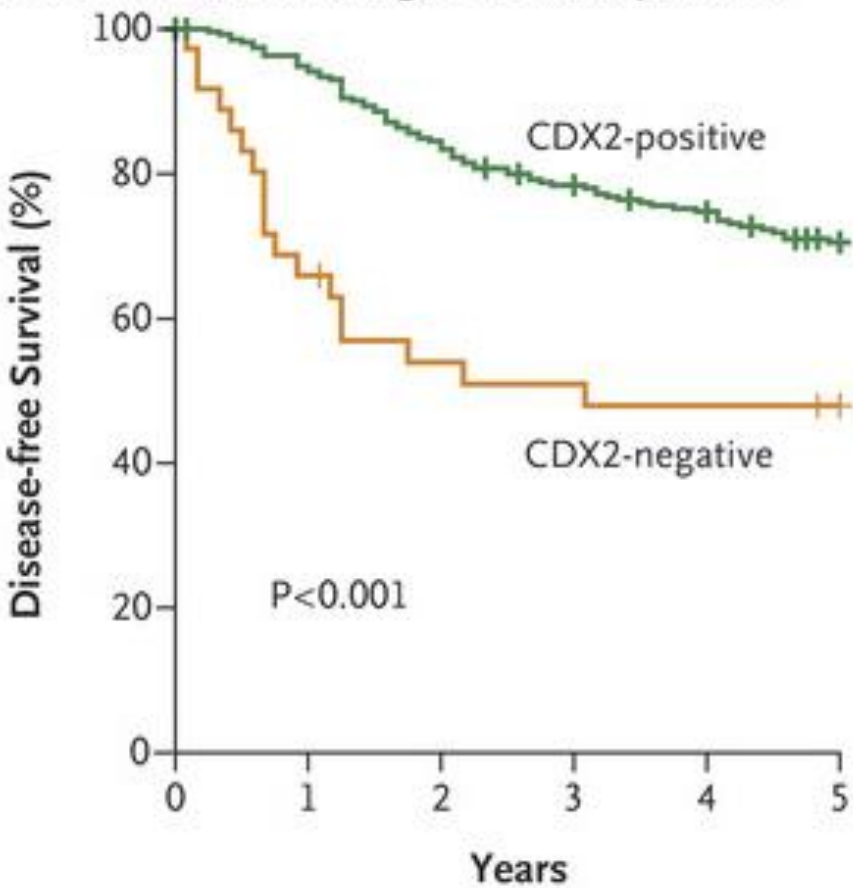
<sup>5</sup>Department of Colorectal Surgery

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44195, USA

\*Correspondence: [huange2@ccf.org](mailto:huange2@ccf.org)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.stem.2016.01.011>

Disease-free Survival, According to CDX2 Expression

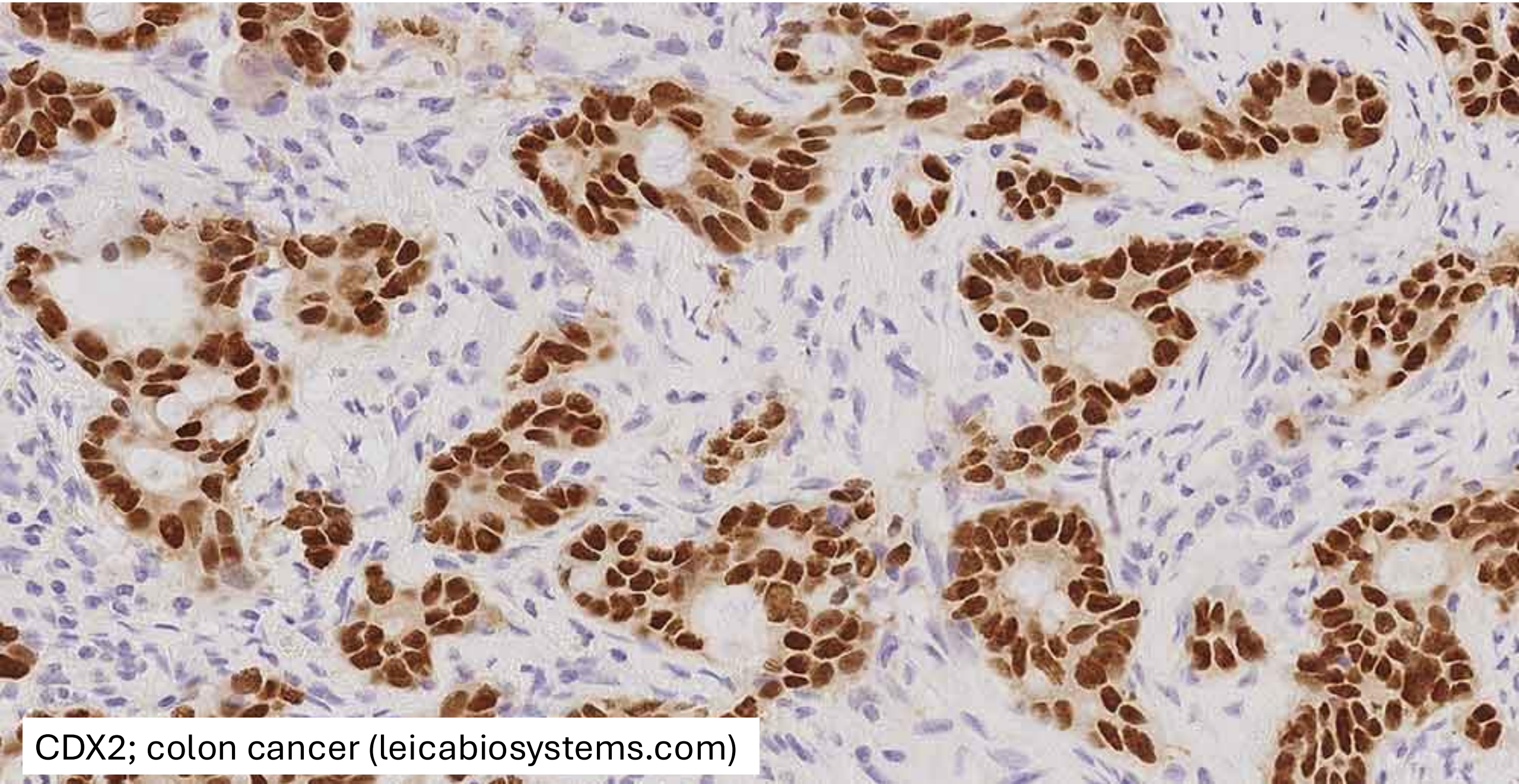


### No. at Risk

CDX2-positive	276	258	225	199	182	150
CDX2-negative	38	23	18	17	16	15



# CDX2 (CAUDAL HOMEBOX 2) IS A TF



CDX2; colon cancer (leicabiosystems.com)



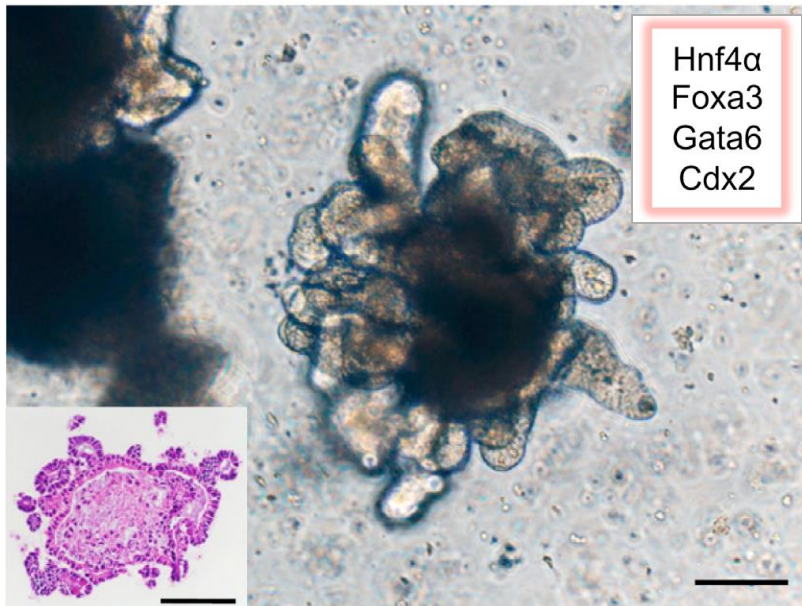
# CDX2 IS ESSENTIAL FOR COMMITTED DIFFERENTIATION INTO INTESTINE

## Cell Stem Cell

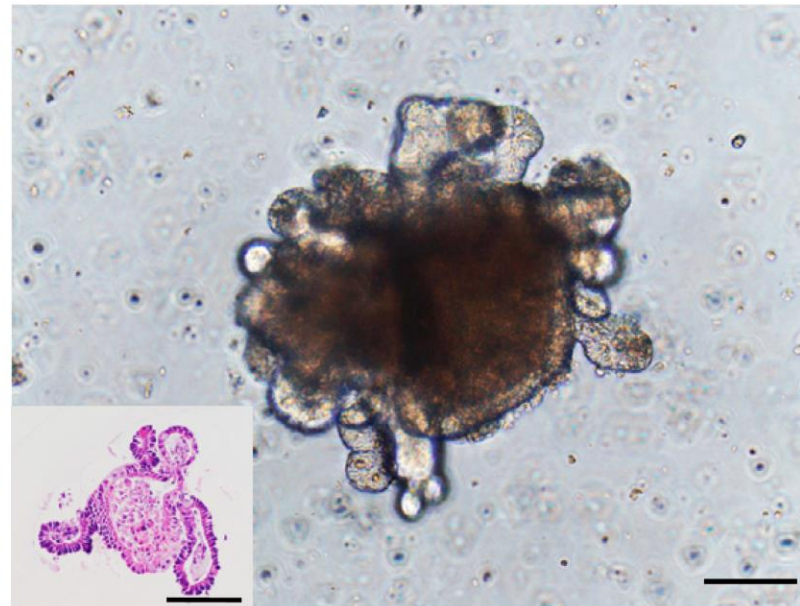
Generation of Mouse and Human Organoid-Forming Intestinal Progenitor Cells by Direct Lineage Reprogramming

Article

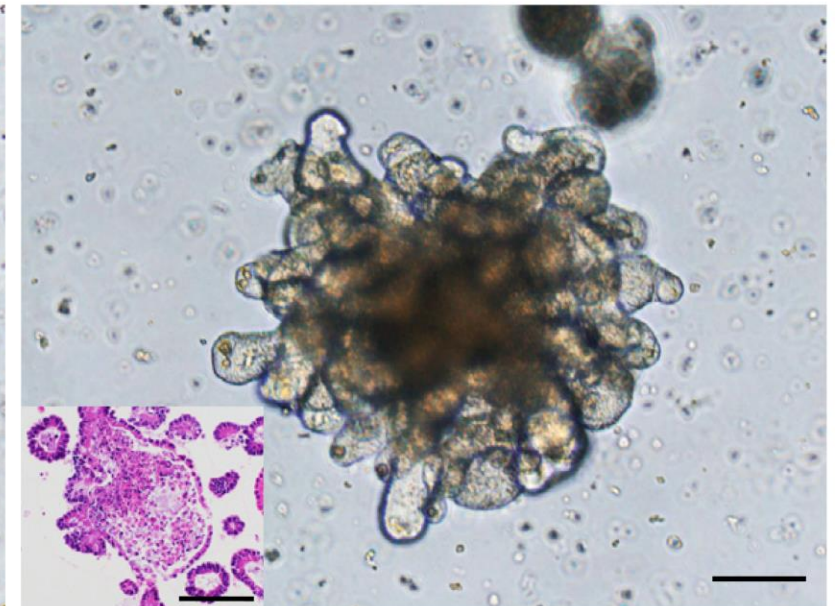
4F-MEF



Fetal intestine



Adult intestine



# PREMISE AND STUDY RATIONALE

## Step 1: A Rationalized Therapeutic Goal

Discovery and validation of CDX2 as a clinically actionable biomarker of colon epithelial differentiation, whose loss indicates stemness and carries poor prognosis.

N Engl J Med 2016; 374:211-222  
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1506597

CDX2-pos is associated with better DFS (n = 780; Stage II)

CDX2-neg is associated with benefit from chemotherapy (n = 1897; Stage II and III)

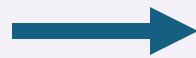
**MULTIPLE PRIOR ATTEMPTS AT PHARMACOLOGICAL REINSTATEMENT OF CDX2 HAVE FAILED**



# NETWORK MODEL TO IDENTIFY TARGETS FOR DIFFERENTIATION RX



## Step 2: Target Identification



Discovery of a clinically actionable therapeutic target to reinstate CDX2

Bioinformatics search for markers of CRC differentiation, using *CDX2* as a 'seed' gene, and based on the fulfilment of the "*CDX2*-neg implies *X*-neg" Boolean relationship identifies 42 putative target genes.

(**Model training:** n=1969 samples; normal =183; adenomas = 85; CRCs =1690).

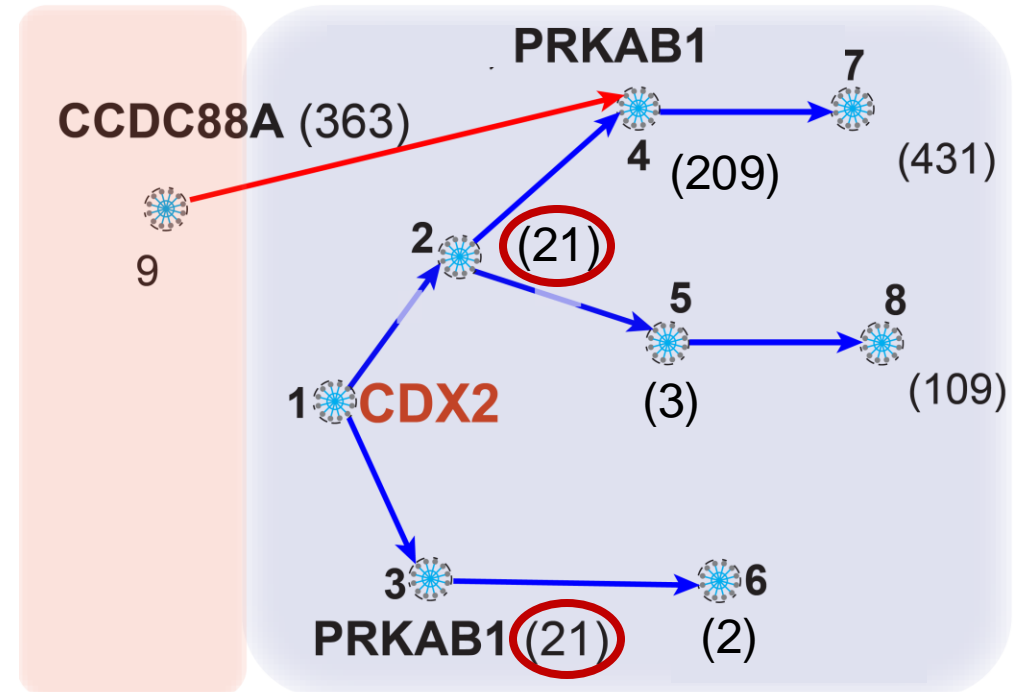
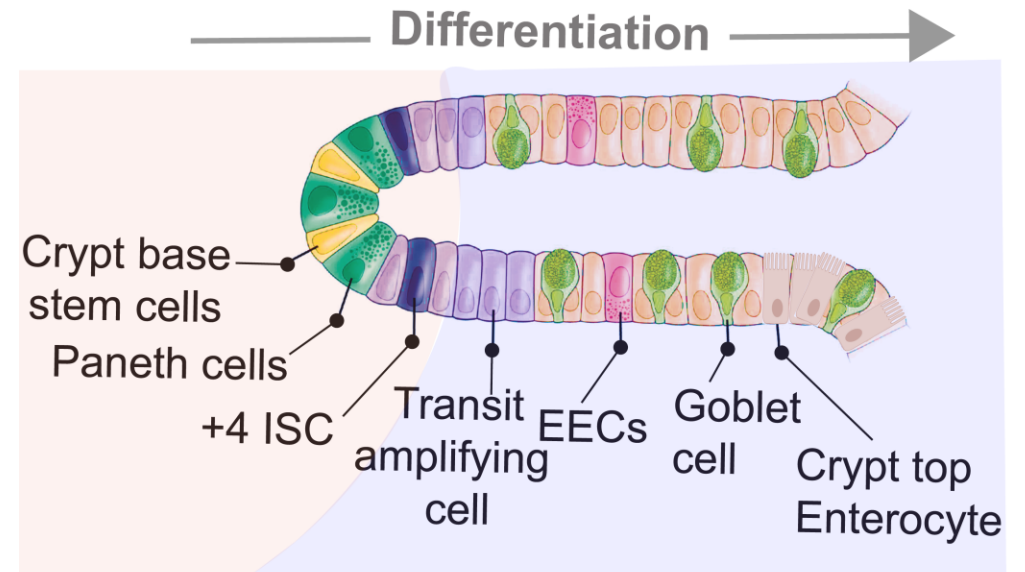
# AN ACTIONABLE NETWORK MODEL FOR DIFFERENTIATION THERAPY

Boolean Implication Formula

**CDX2** neg => "X" neg

Numbers in () indicate no. of genes in clusters

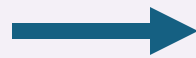
**BOOLEAN LOGIC:** If one of the 42 genes in clusters #2 and #3 are upregulated, **CDX2** must be upregulated;  
**CCDC88A** must be downregulated



# NETWORK MODEL TO IDENTIFY TARGETS FOR DIFFERENTIATION RX



## Step 2: Target Identification



Discovery of a clinically actionable therapeutic target to reinstate CDX2

Bioinformatics search for markers of CRC differentiation, using *CDX2* as a 'seed' gene, and based on the fulfilment of the “*CDX2*-neg implies *X*-neg” Boolean relationship identifies 42 putative target genes.

(**Model training:** n=1969 samples; normal =183; adenomas = 85; CRCs =1690).

(**Model validation:** 1911 human; 107 mouse)



# NETWORK-GUIDED TARGET VALIDATION



## Step 3: Target Validation

Models

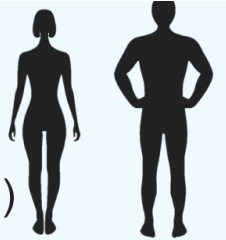


Hu CRC cell lines  
(n = 4)



CRC  
Xenograft

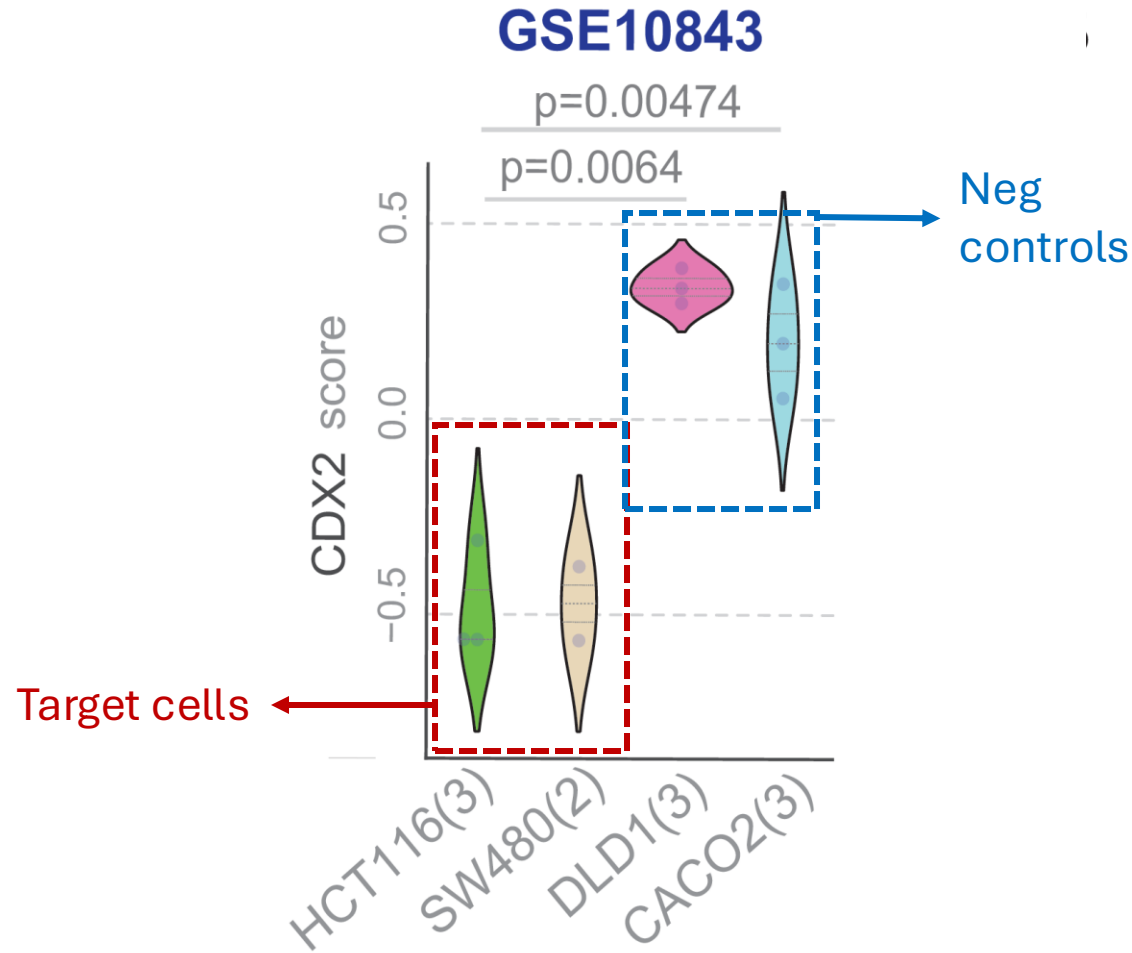
Patient-Derived  
Organoids-PDOs  
(healthy 3, CRC 23)



We Leveraged  
The ATCC®  
Catalog to  
Acquire  
Established  
CRC Lines

ATCC® Cat No.	Cell Line
CCL-247	HCT116
CCL-228	SW480 [SW-480]
CCL-221	DLD1
HTB-37	Caco-2

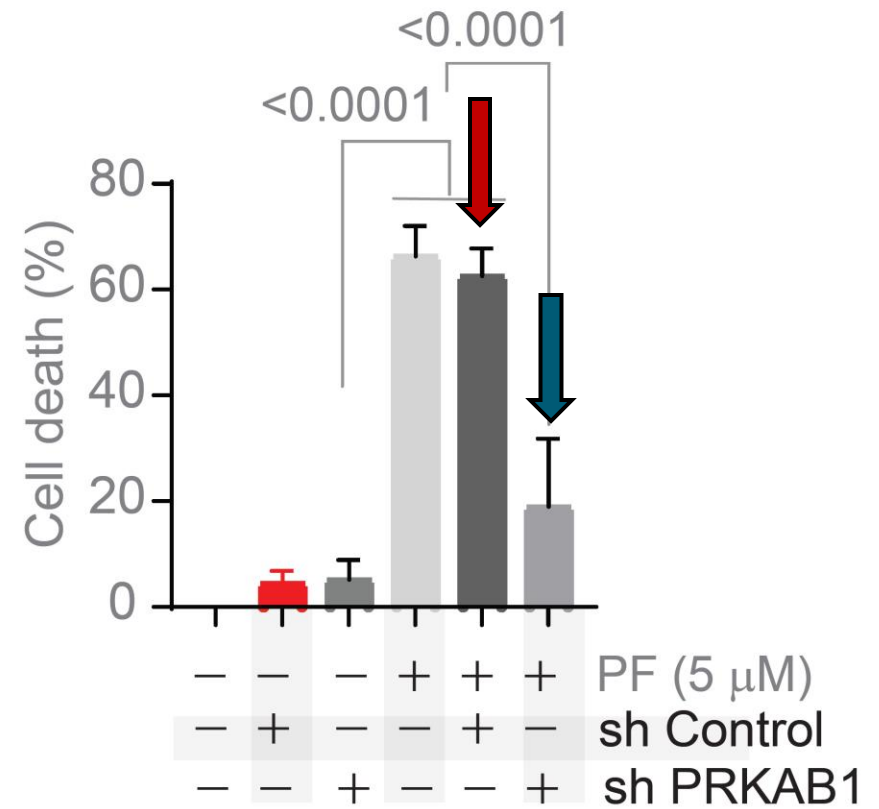
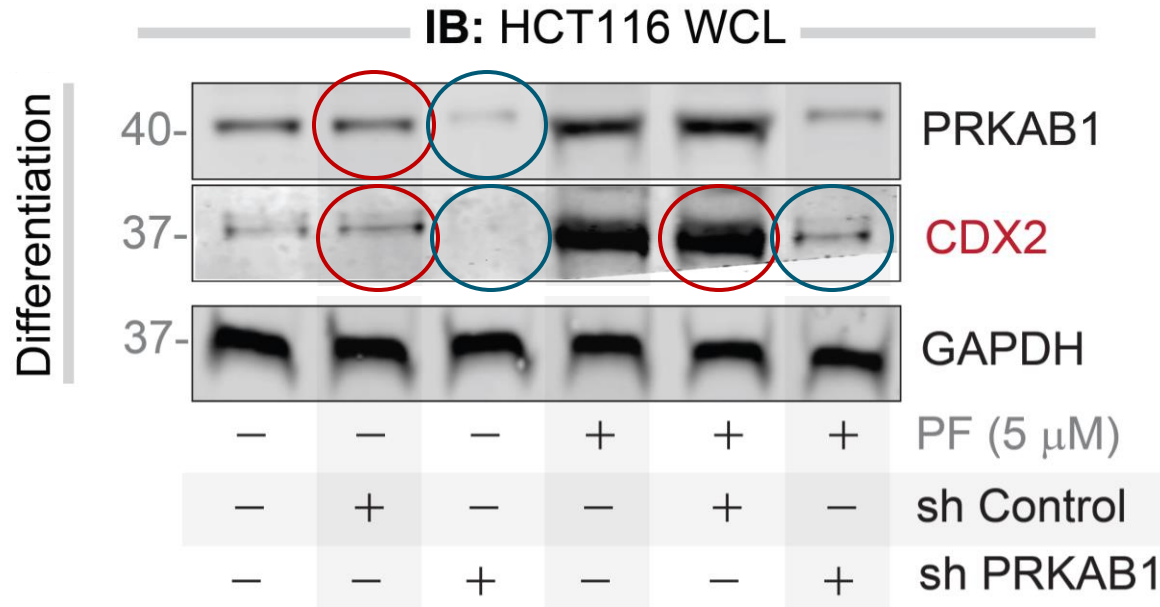
# NETWORK-GUIDED MODEL SELECTION



- ✓ Impact of Rx was dose dependent
- ✓ No impact on DLD1 and Caco2 cells
- ✓ Induction of protein (CDX2 and other markers) by immunoblotting
- ✓ Late apoptosis as Mechanism of Death (FACS)



# TARGET SPECIFIC ACTION



# NETWORK-GUIDED MODEL SELECTION



Michael Bouvet



Siamak Amirfakhri



Saptarshi Sinha

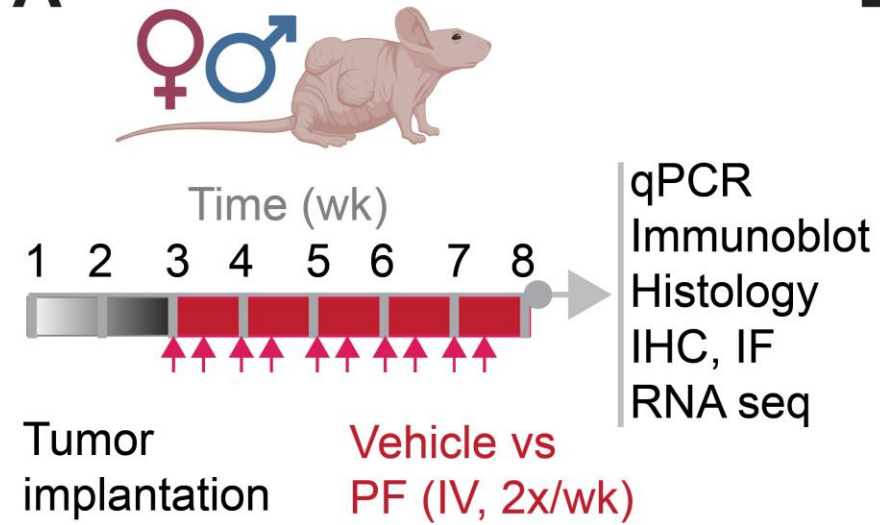


Joshua Alcantara



Vanessa Castillo-LFL

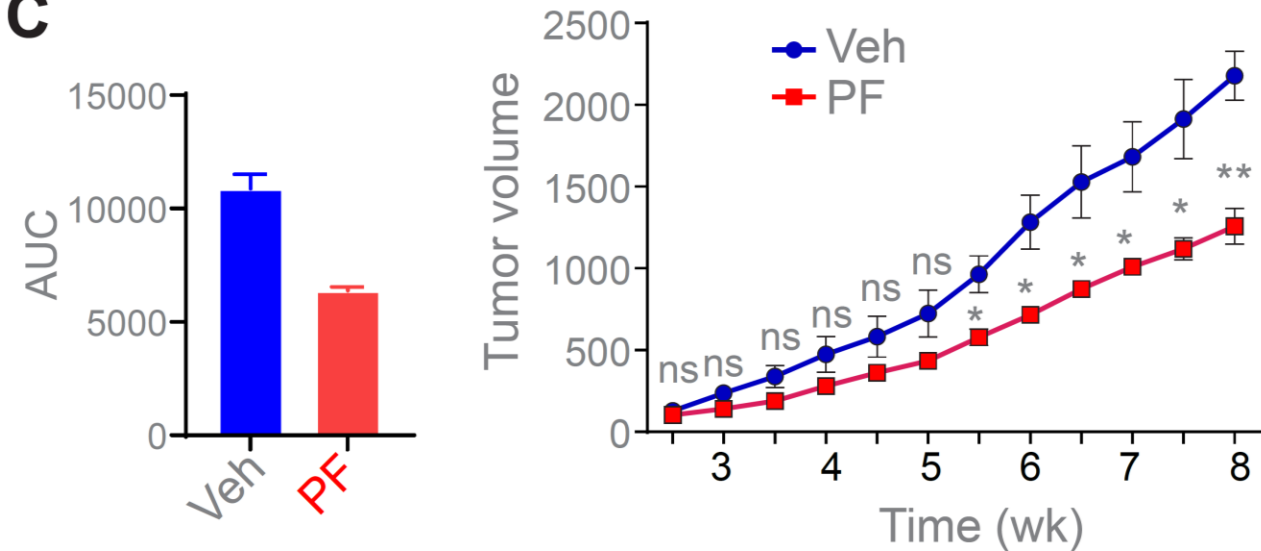
**A**



**B**



**C**





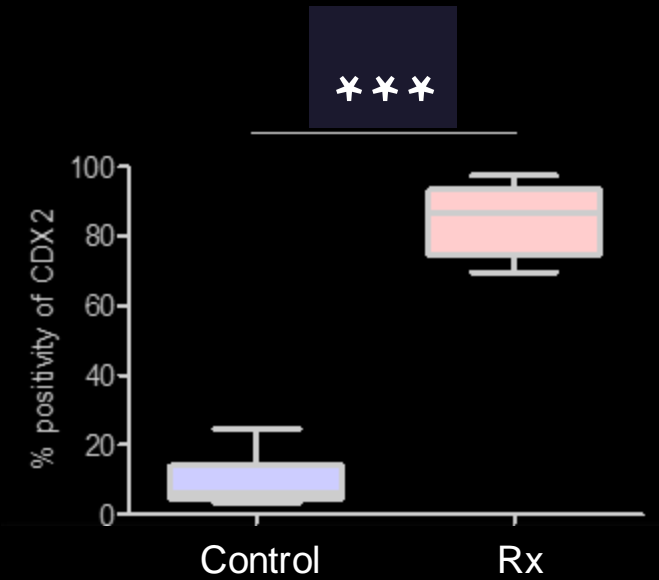
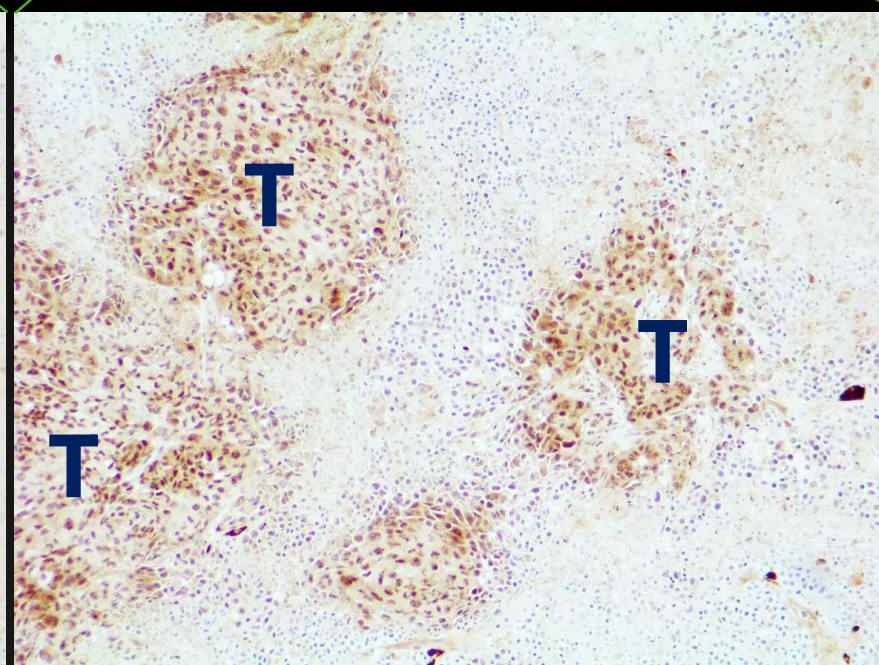
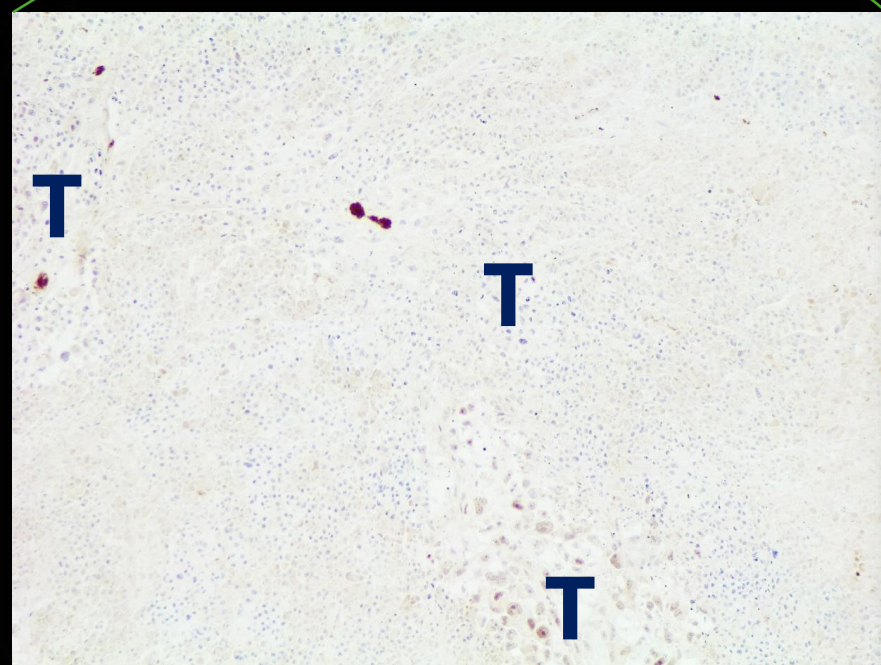
Vehicle

PF

CDX2

**CDX2 is  
successfully  
induced in  
HCT116 cell  
xenotransplants**

T = viable tumor

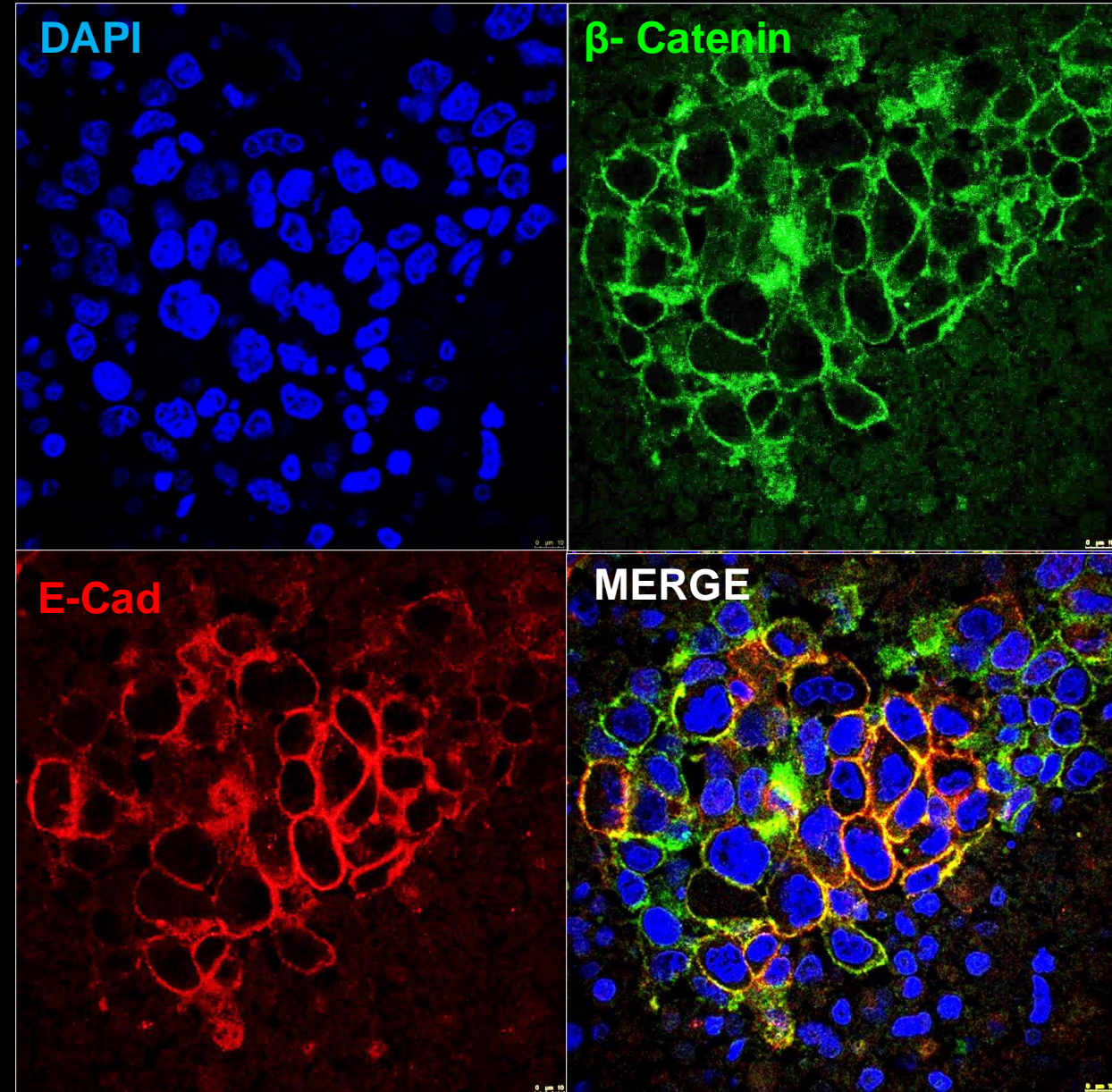
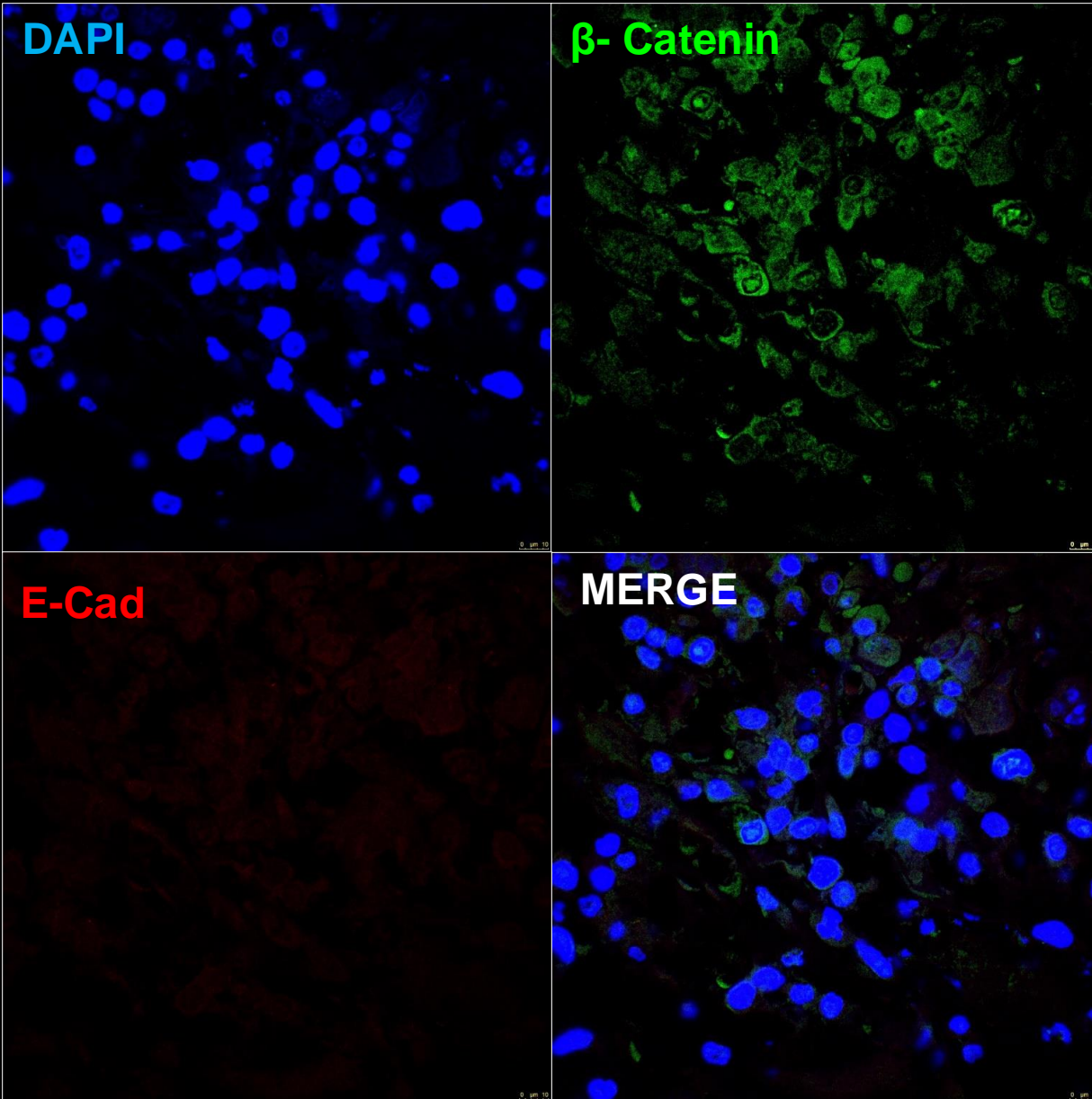




# CDX2 induction promotes $\beta$ Cat/E-Cadh localization at junctions

Veh-treated Xenografts

PF-Treated Xenografts



# DOES IT WORK IN HUMAN PHASE 'ZERO' TRIAL?



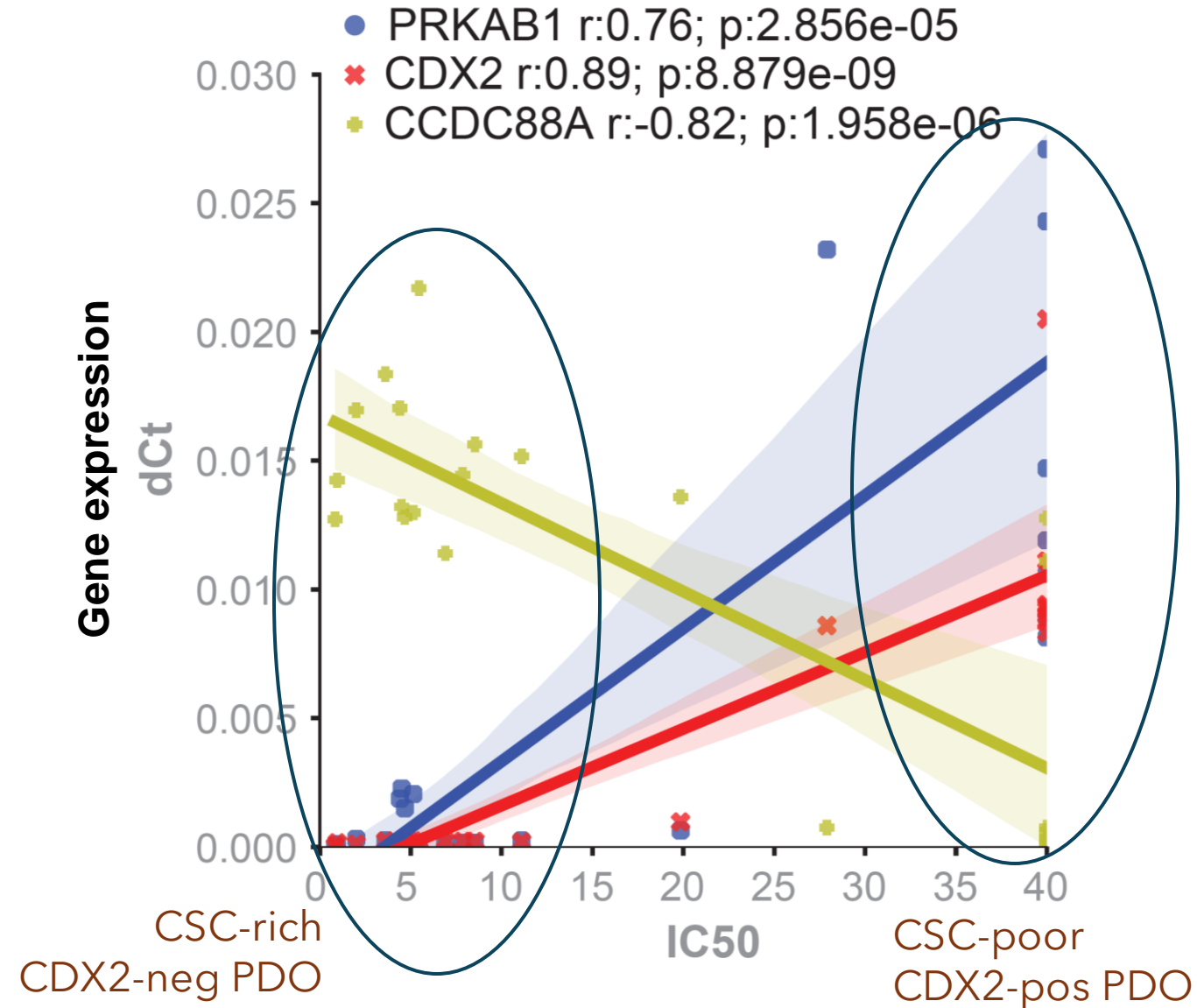
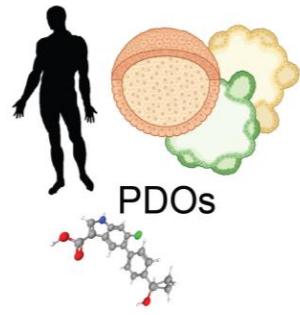


# We Leveraged The ATCC® Catalog to Build a Cohort

ATCC® Cat No.	Cohort #	Age	Sex	Race	Primary Site
PDM-255™	1	73	F	White	Colon
PDM-356™	2	58	M	Unk	Colon
PDM-8™	2	75	M	Asian	Colon
PDM-191™	1	56	M	White	Rectum
PDM-264™	2	67	F	White	Rectosigmoid junction
PDM-5™	2	60	F	White	Colon
PDM-275™	1	73	F	White	Colon
PDM-4™	1	50	M	White	Colon
PDM-95™	2	61	M	Black	Colon
PDM-279™	1	51	M	Black	Colon
PDM-2™	1	68	M	White	Colon
PDM-50™	1	78	M	White	Colon

ATCC® Cat No.	Cohort #	Age	Sex	Race	Primary Site
PDM-9™	1	63	M	Asian	Colon
PDM-276™	2	54	M	Black	Colon
PDM-1™	1	75	M	White	Colon
PDM-185™	1	71	M	White	Colon
PDM-94™	2	67	M	White	Colon
PDM-7™	2	75	M	Black	Colon
PDM-257™	2	53	F	Unk	Rectosigmoid junction
PDM-363™	2	72	M	Unk	Colon
PDM-277™	2	76	F	White	Colon
PDM-359™	2	64	F	Unk	Colon
PDM-103™	2	51	F	Black	Colon

# ONLY LOW CDX2 PDOs ARE SENSITIVE TO RX

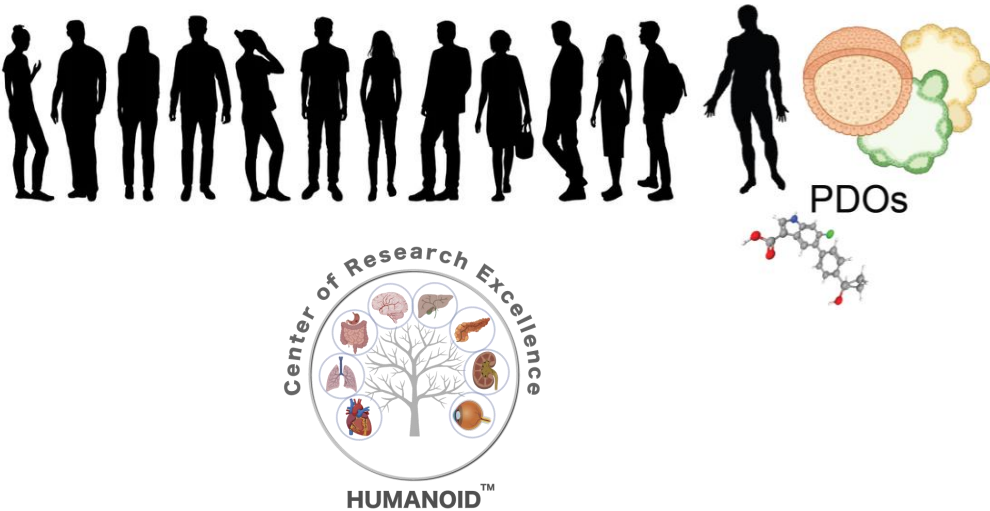
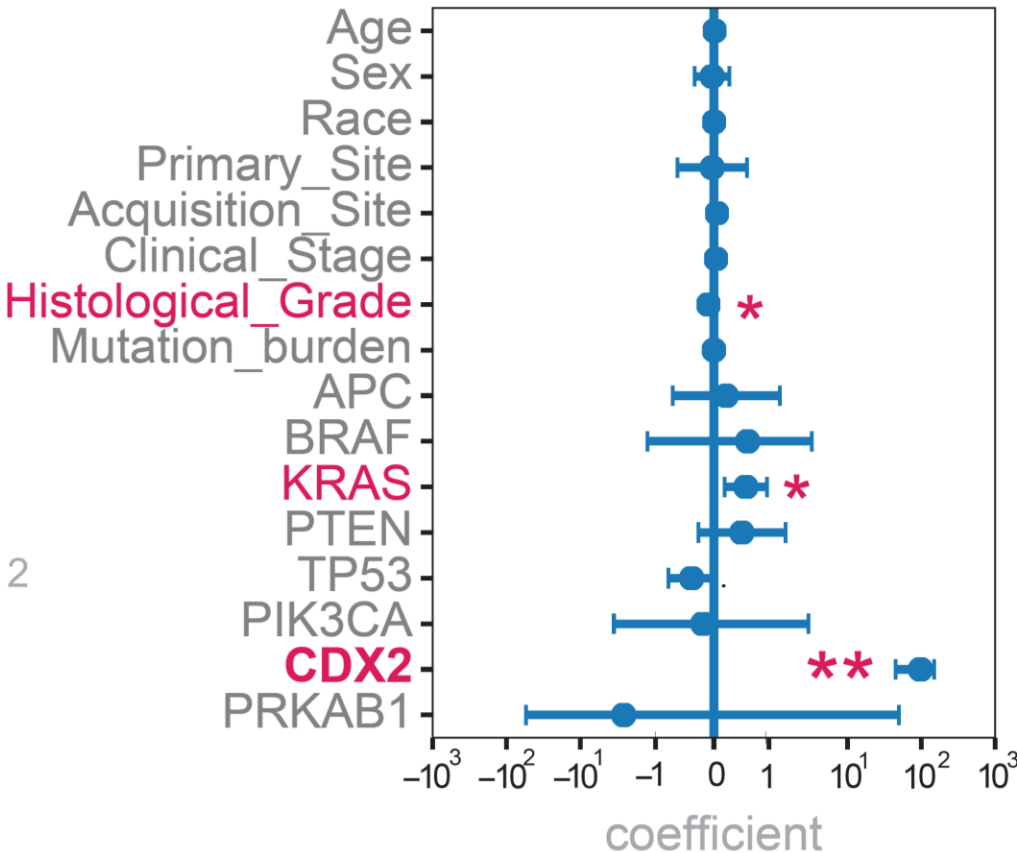






# CDX2, GRADE AND KRAS STATUS ARE CO-VARIATES

## Multivariate analysis



Saptarshi Sinha

# OBJECTIVE METRICS:

- ❑ Reinstatement CDX2;
- ❑ Reverse differentiation-axis;
- ❑ Reset the network



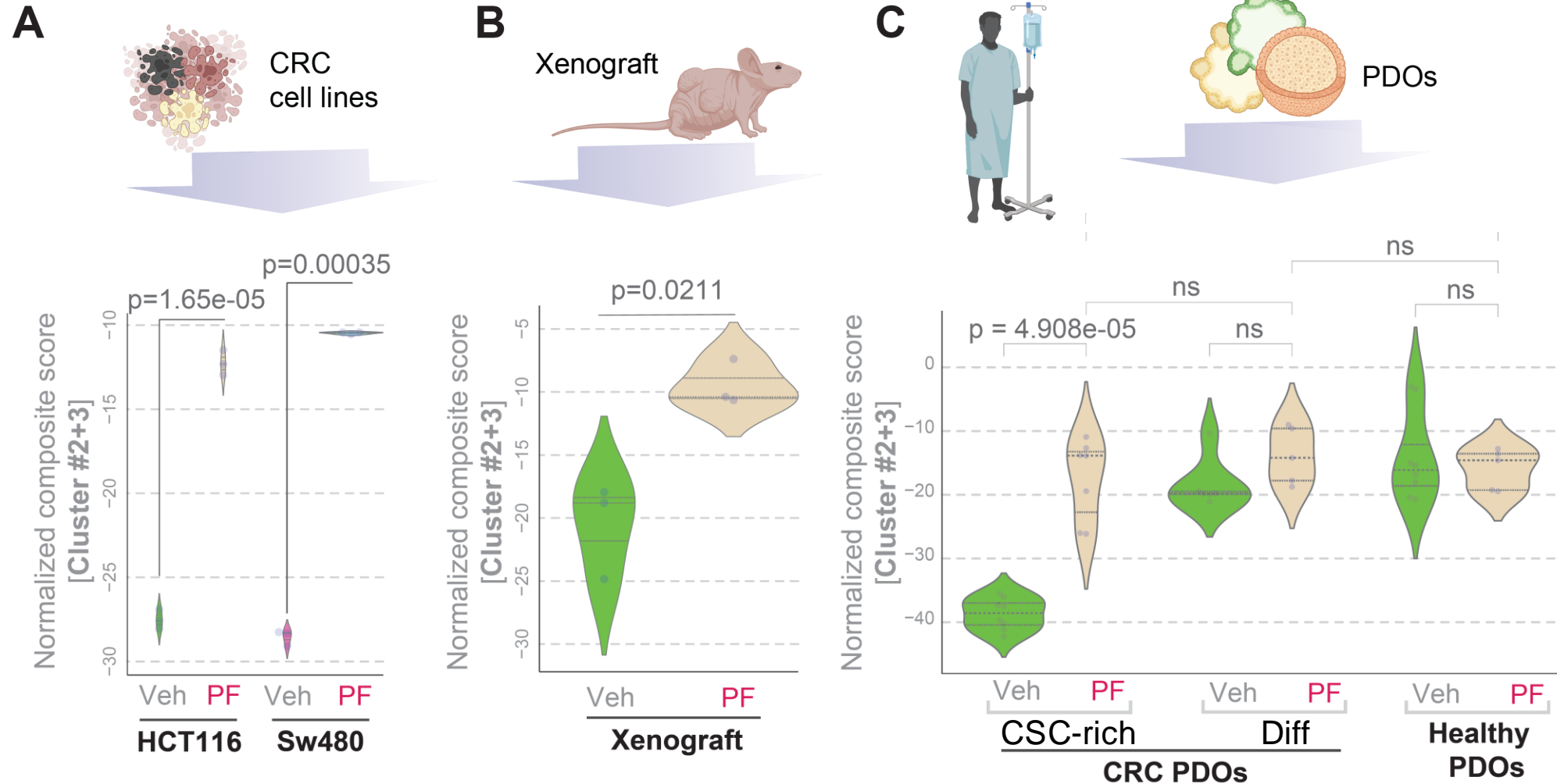
Sahar Taheri  
(GSR, CSE)



Saptarshi Sinha  
(PDF, CMM)

Impact on Network

[Induction of C #2+3]



# **CAN WE MEASURE IMPACT?**

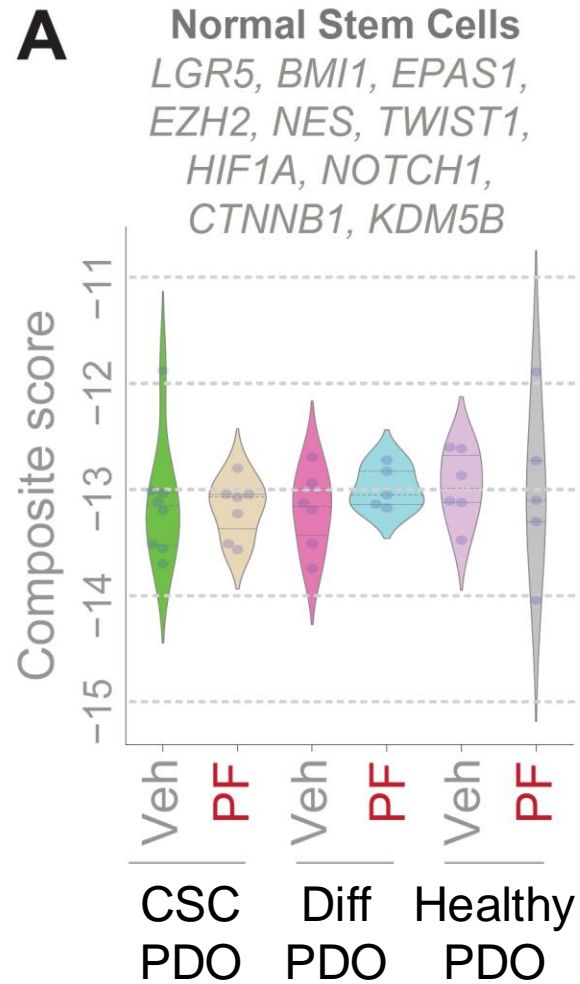
**1) SAFETY**

**2) EFFICACY [SAVE LIVES]**

**3) OTHER RX MODALITIES**



# SELECTIVITY: RX KILLS CSCs; NOT NORMAL STEM OR DIFFERENTIATED CELLS



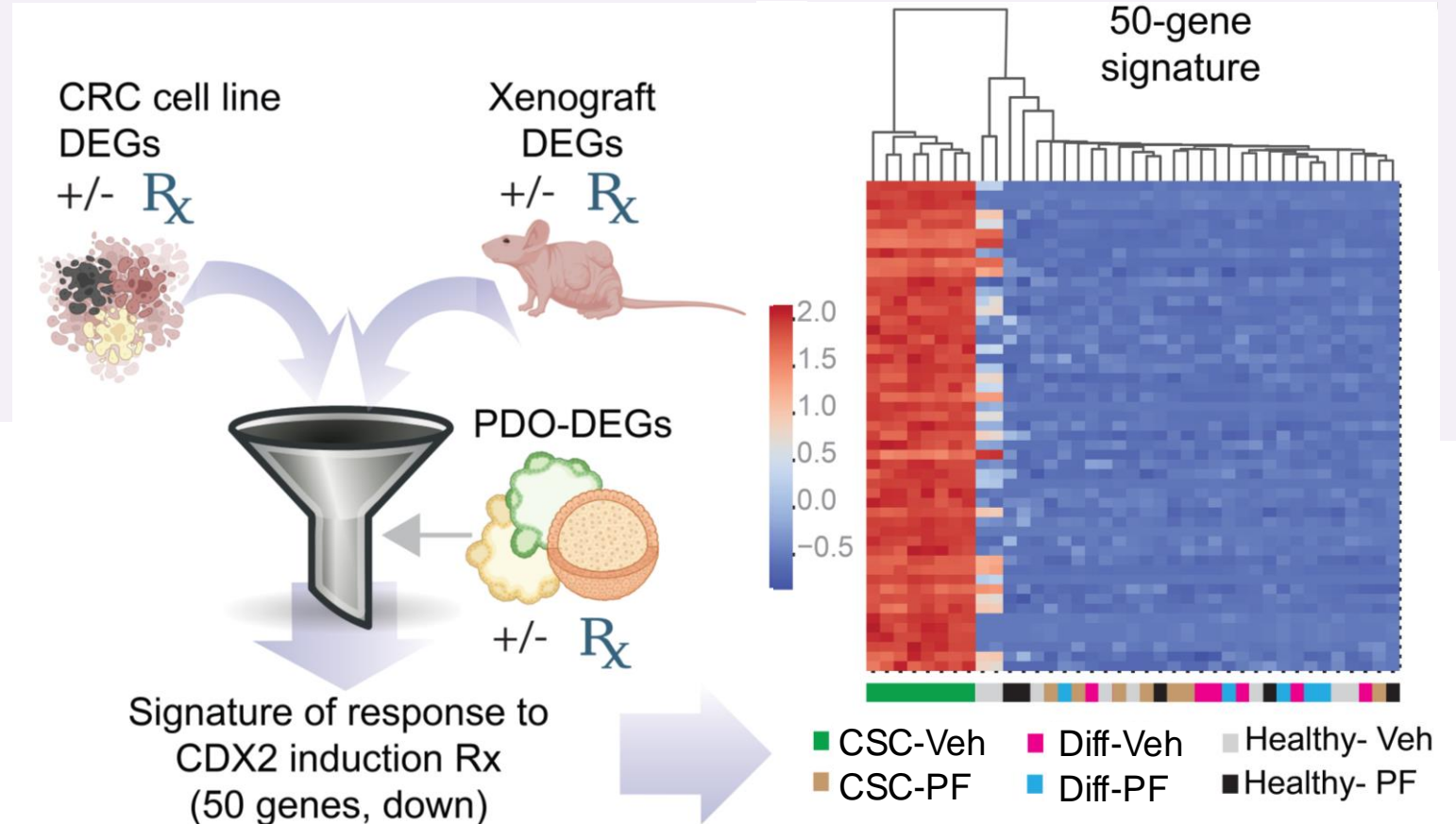
# CAN WE MEASURE THE IMPACT OF RX ON LIVES OF PATIENTS?

## Step 4: Impact of Differentiation Therapy

Estimation of the impact of therapeutic reinstatement of CDX2 on disease-free/relapse-free (DFS/RFS) and overall (OS) survival



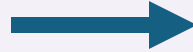
Integrated differential expression analysis between treated vs untreated samples using all 3 models



# CAN WE MEASURE THE IMPACT OF RX ON LIVES OF PATIENTS?

## Step 4: Impact of Differentiation Therapy

Estimation of the impact of therapeutic reinstatement of CDX2 on disease-free/relapse-free (DFS/RFS) and overall (OS) survival



Integrated differential expression analysis between treated vs untreated samples using all 3 models



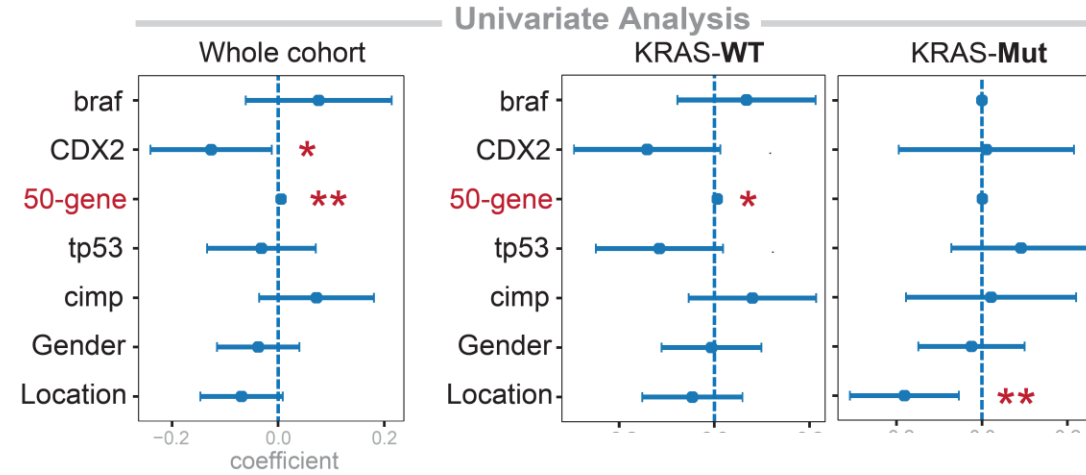
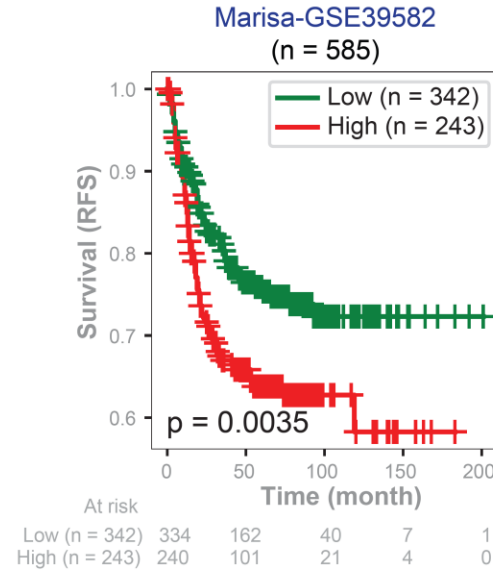
Derivation of a 50-gene signature of therapeutic response



Prognostic impact of the 50-gene signature assessed on 2472 unique subjects with CRCs in 10 independent cohorts

Univariate analysis based on the Cox-proportional hazards method on 585-patient cohort

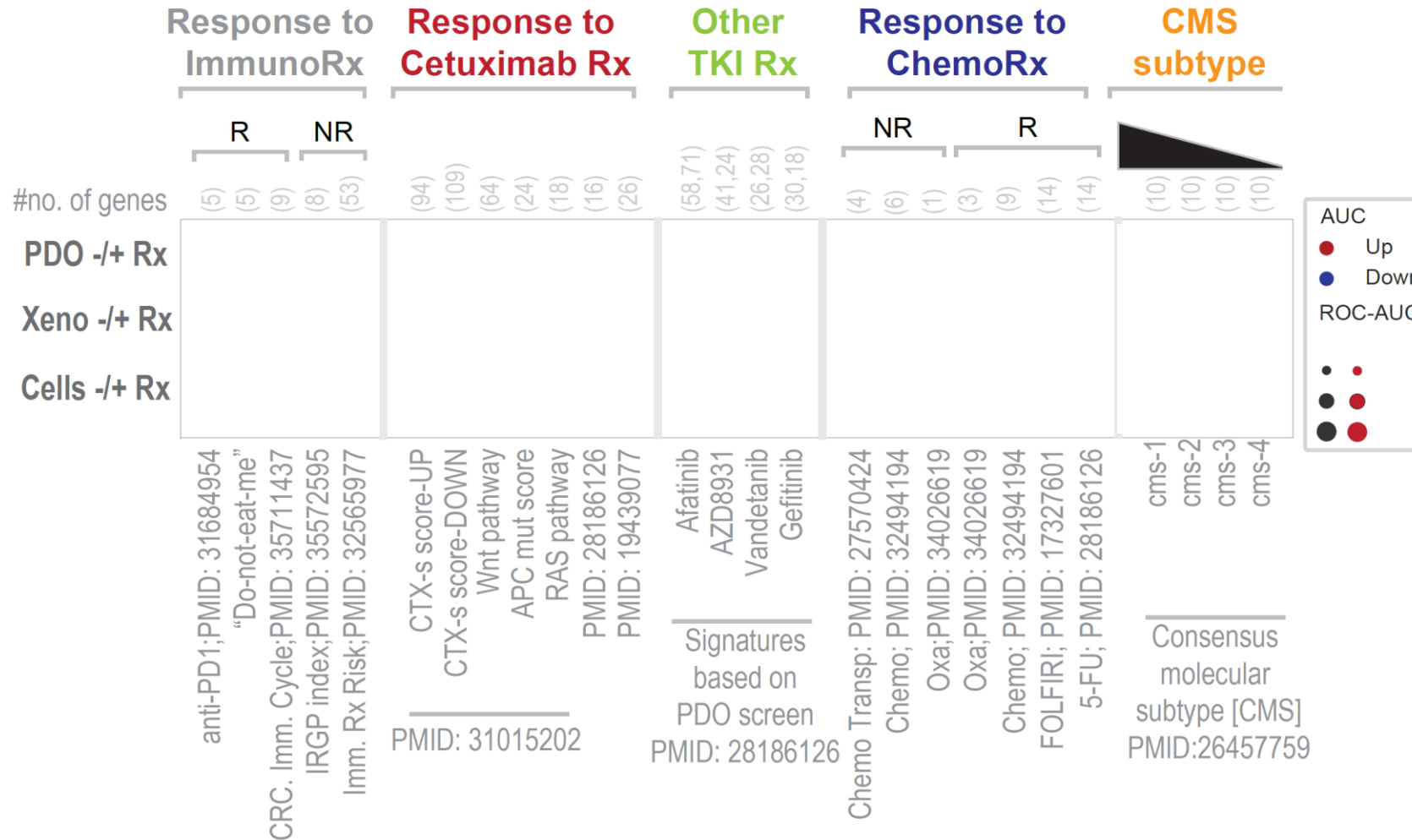
# SUPPRESSION OF 50-GENE SIGNATURE SHOULD IMPROVE SURVIVAL



Saptarshi Sinha, Ph.D

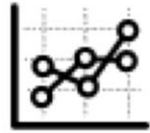


# EXPECT SYNERGY WITH EXISTING MODALITIES



# Evaluating Our Metrics Of Success

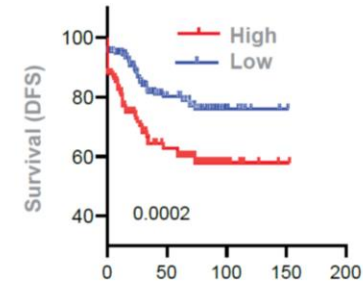
Network-based  
Metrics of  
Success &  
Impact



Predictable  
network  
perturbation



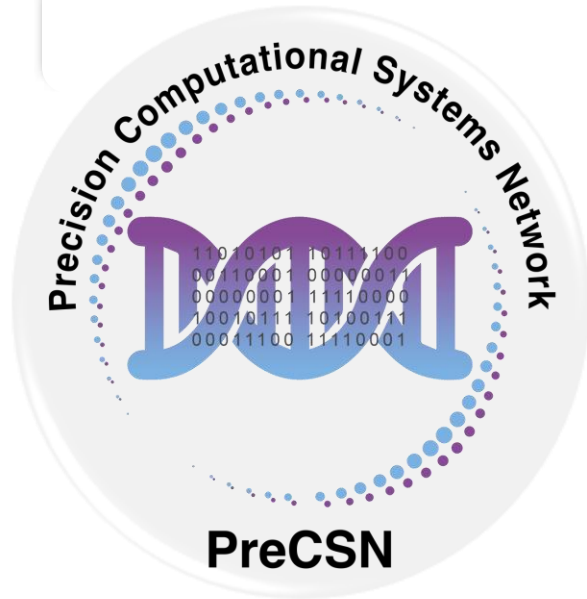
Rx specificity,  
Synergy with other  
Rx modalities



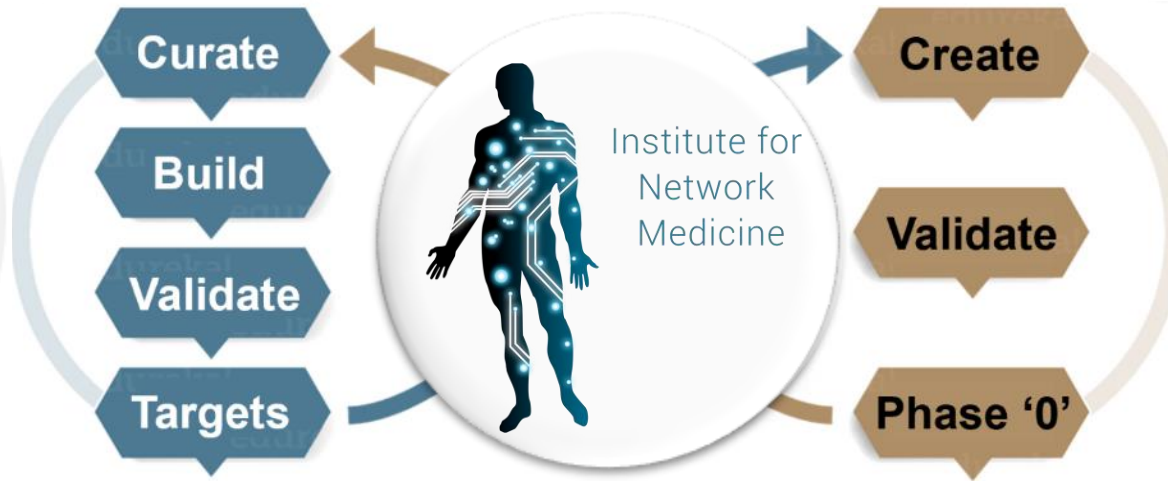
Relapse-free  
survival

# MEET US AT PHASE '0'

## Thank You



USING BOOLEAN NETWORK  
EXPLORER [BoNE]



USING HUMAN ORGANOID-  
BASED MODELS OF DISEASES