

# **The Nature of Cancer**

Rodrigo Romero

# Course objectives

## Understand key concepts in cancer research

- How cancer arises and progresses (a multidisciplinary perspective)

Genomics, Signal transduction, Microenvironment, Metabolism, Lineage plasticity, Immunology

- How cancer is treated
- How cancer is studied in the lab and clinic (from mouse to human)





\$500,000

Which of the following diseases claimed the most lives in 2017

♦ A

HIV/AIDS

♦ B

Tuberculosis

♦ C

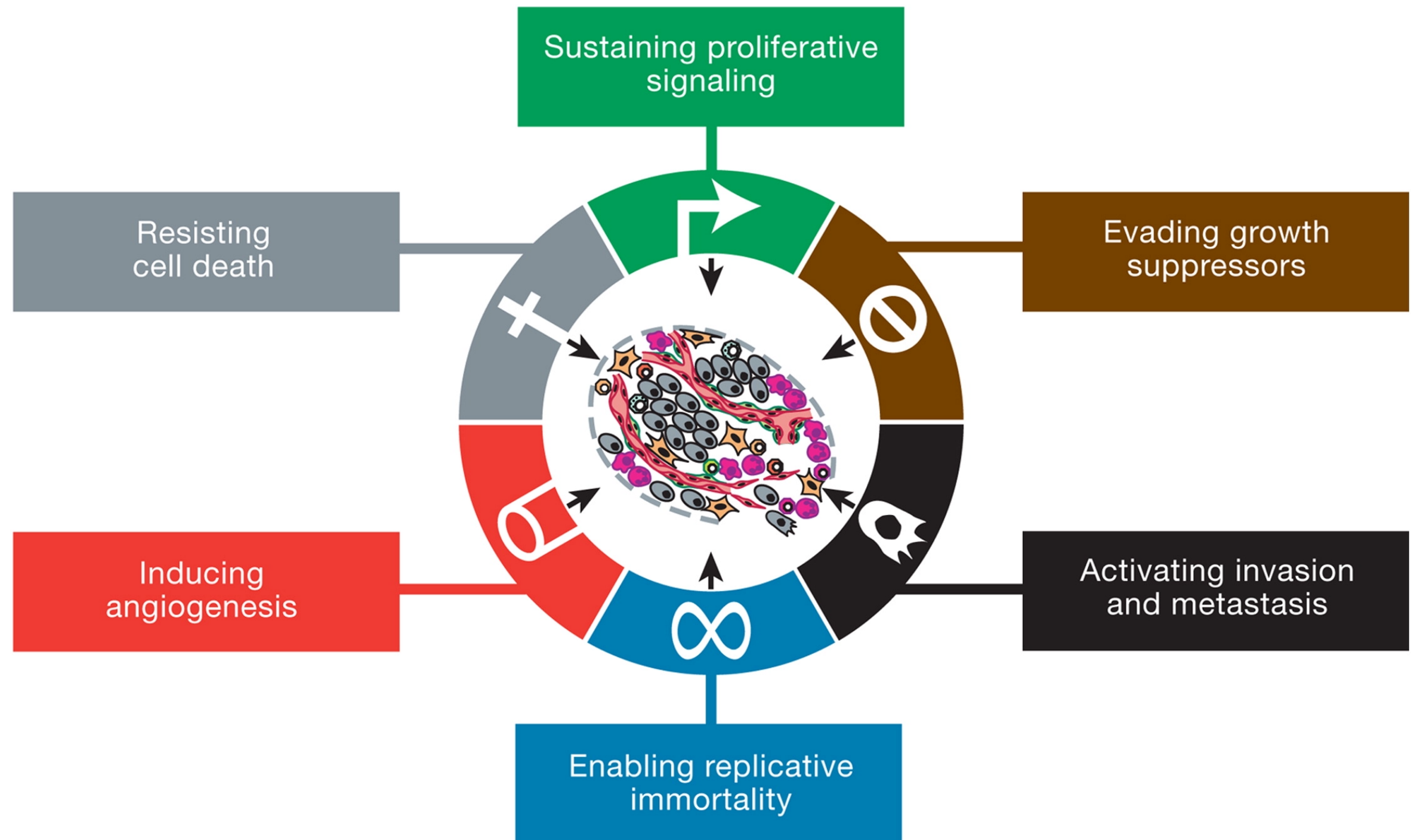
Malaria

♦ D

Cancer

**Question: what is cancer?**

# Hallmarks of Cancer: a unifying framework



**The Hallmarks of Cancer.** Hanahan and Weinberg, *Cell* 2000

# **Lecture outline:**

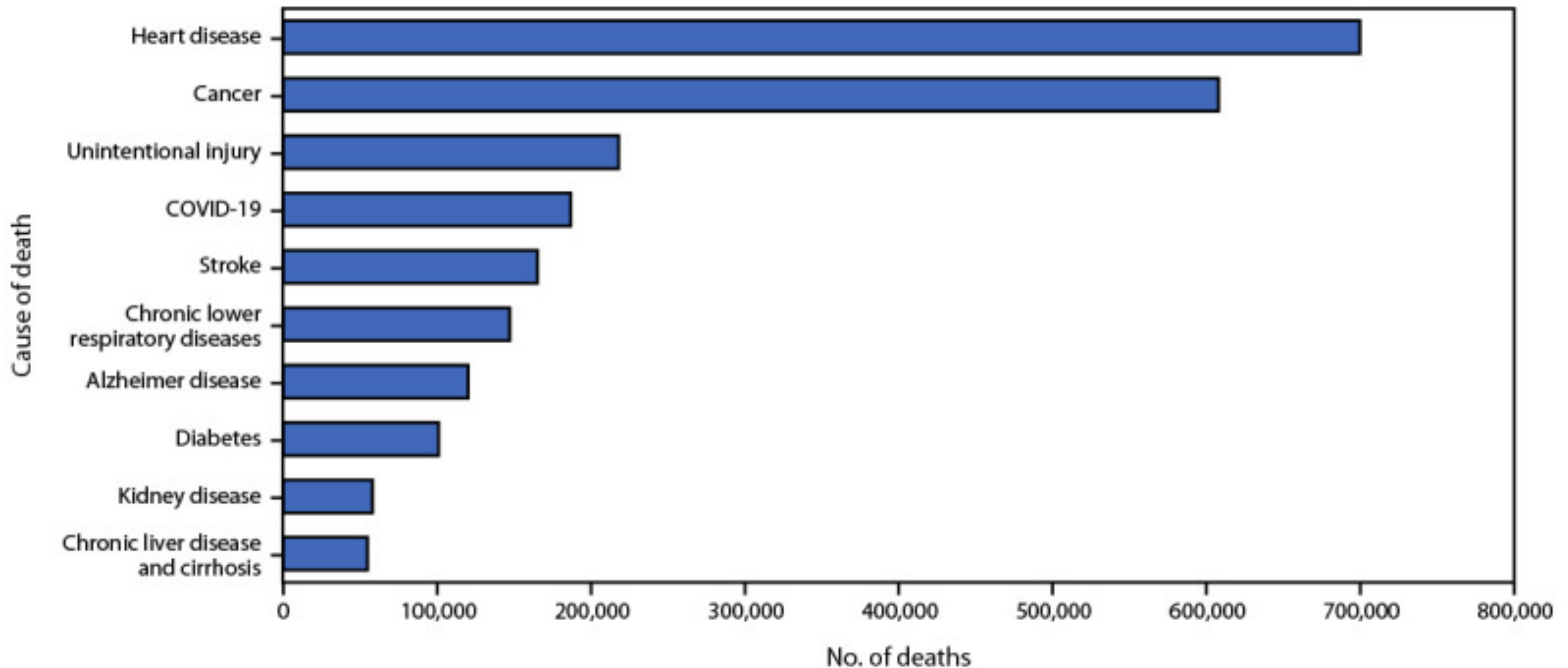
## **Oncogenes and the origins of cancer**

1. Some cancer epidemiology
2. Cellular and tissue origins of cancer
3. Cancer is a progressive disease
4. Genetic mutations are prerequisite for cancer formation
5. Viral origins of cancer lead to the discovery of oncogenes
6. Clonal evolution theory of mutations and cancer

# **1. Some cancer epidemiology**

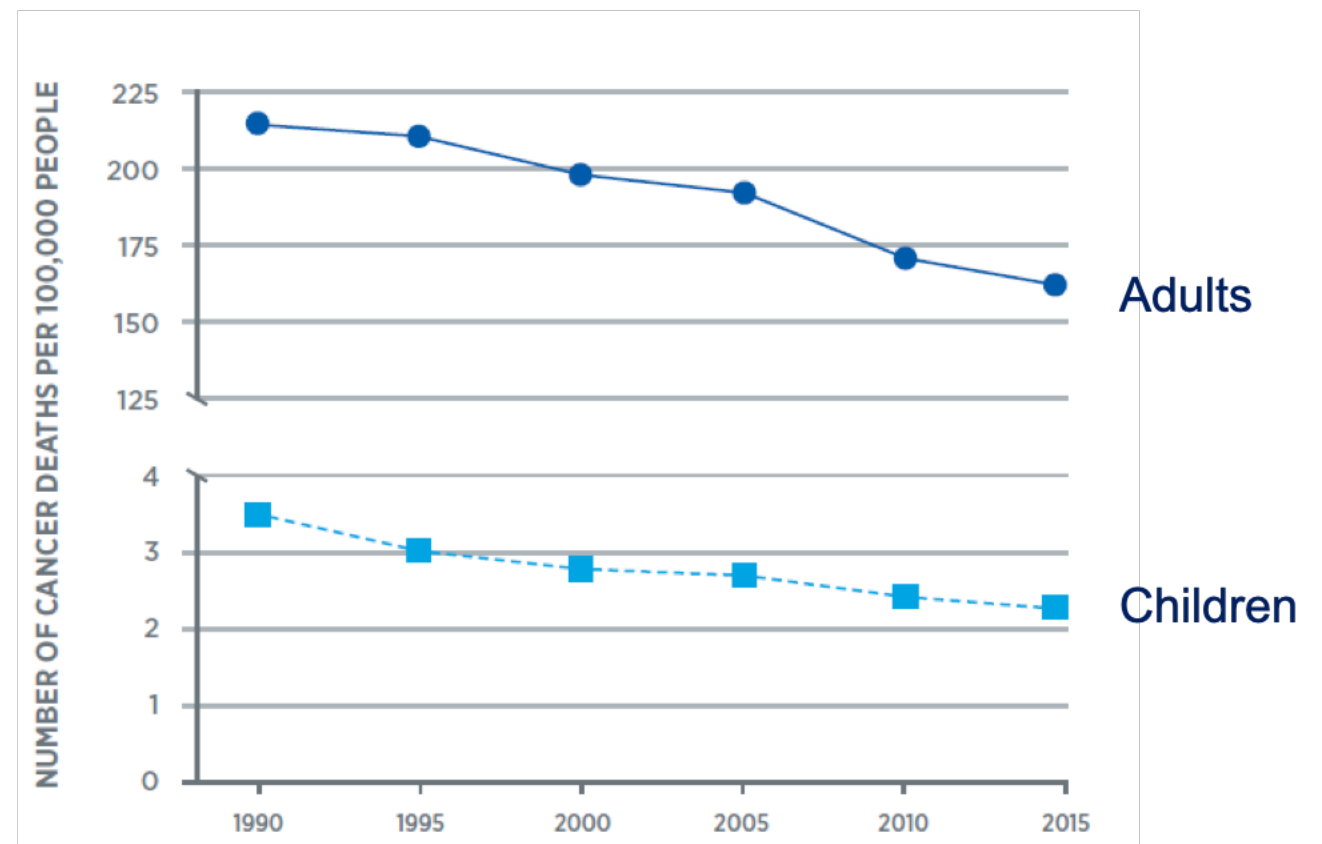
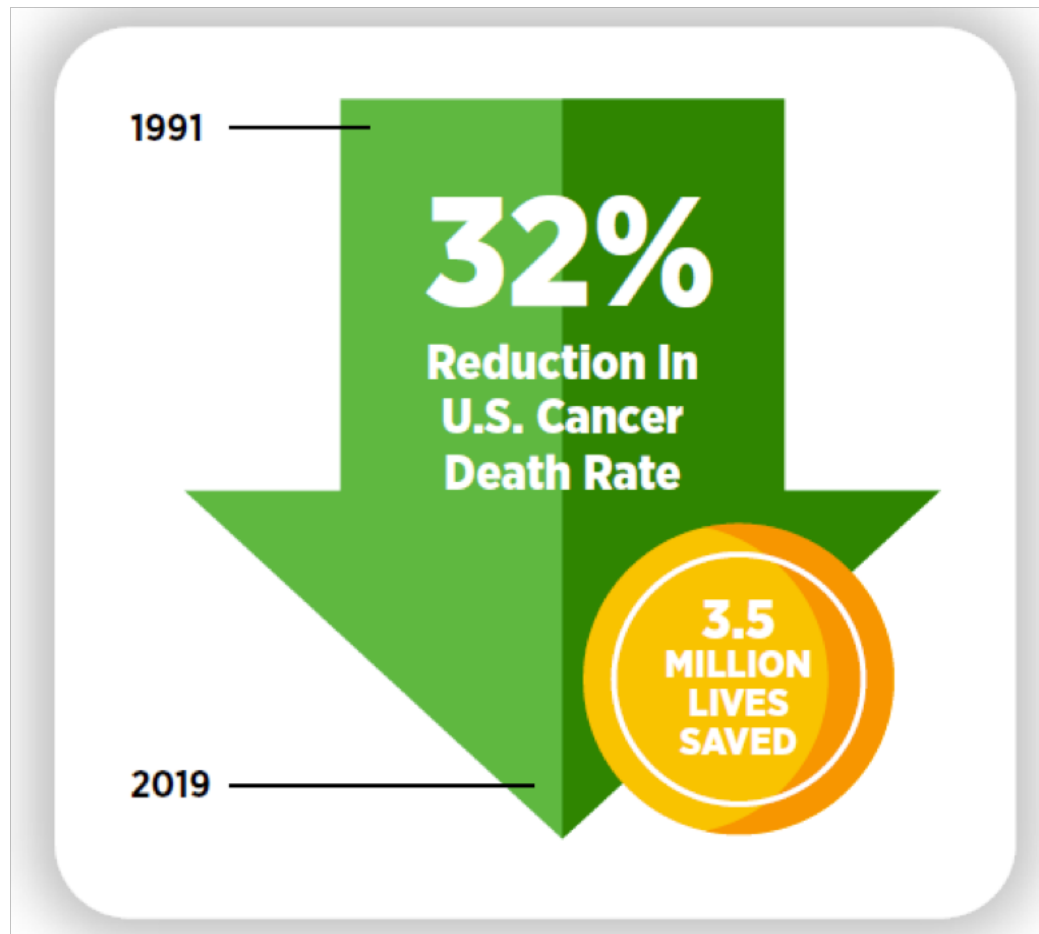
# Cancer is the second leading cause of death

1 in 4 dies of cancer



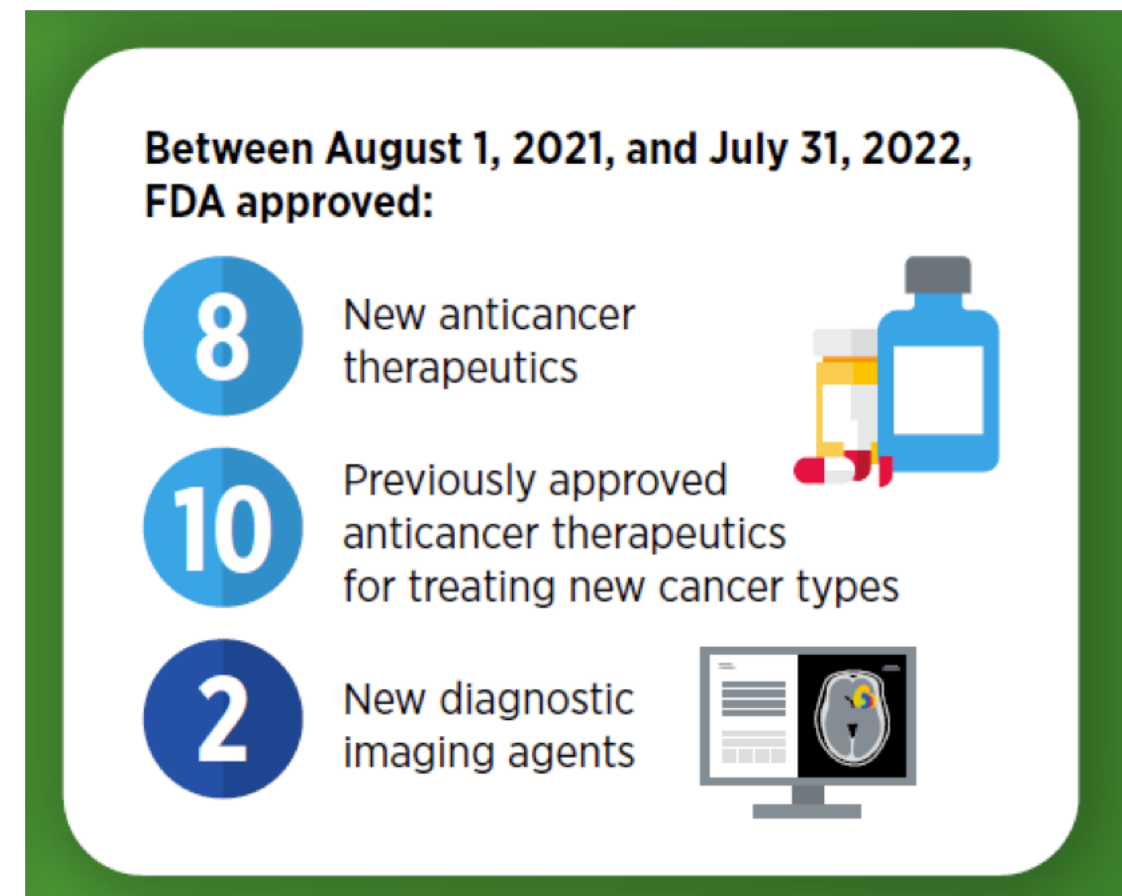
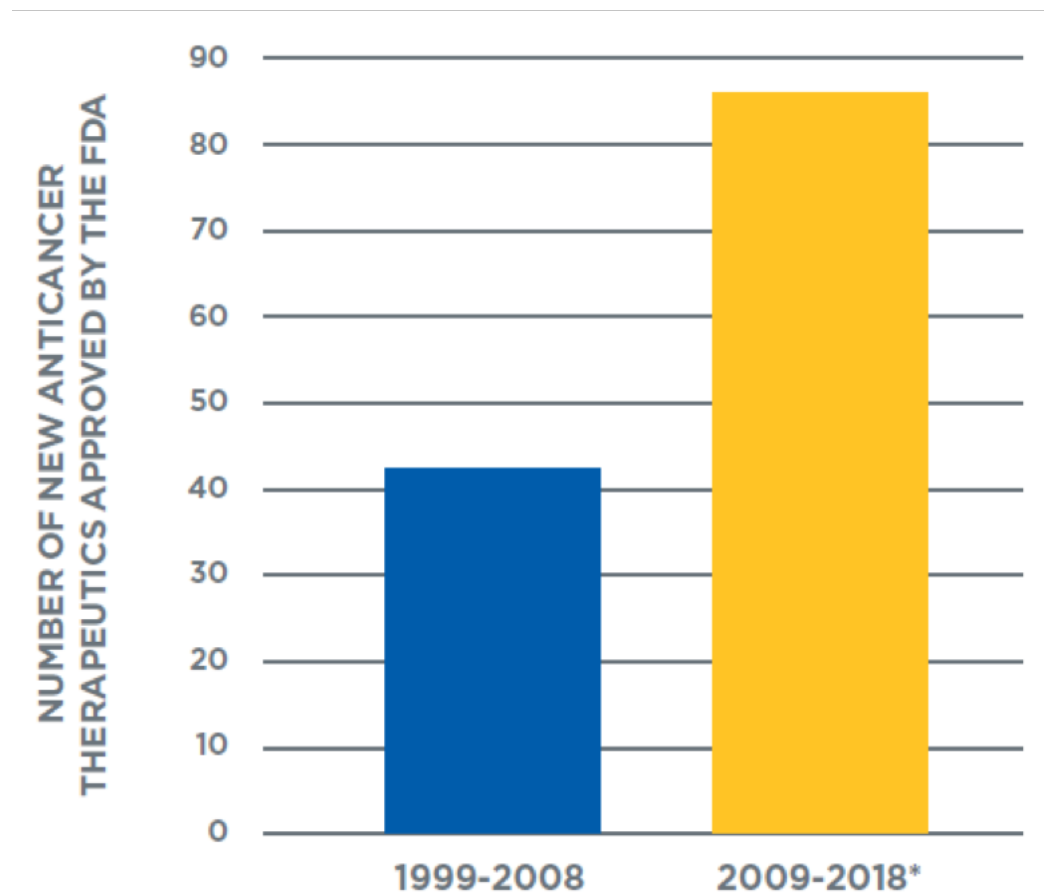
**Provisional Mortality Data—United States, 2022** Ahmad, FB, et al., *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2023

# Cancer deaths are declining





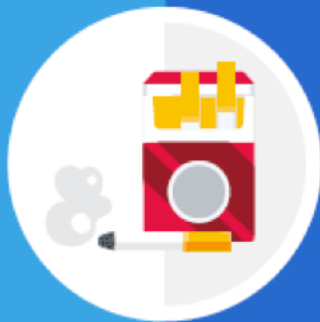
# New drugs are developed every year





# Risk factors are changing

1965  
42%



Cigarette  
Smoking  
Rates Among  
U.S. Adults

12.5%  
2020

A study in 1,500 cancer survivors conducted over a 9-year period found that **survivors who led an active lifestyle had 66 percent lower rates of all-cause mortality** compared to those who led a sedentary lifestyle.



# Early onset cancer is increasing

## Rising rate of young people getting cancer

Cumulative percent change in cancer incidence rates per 100,000 from 1975 by age group

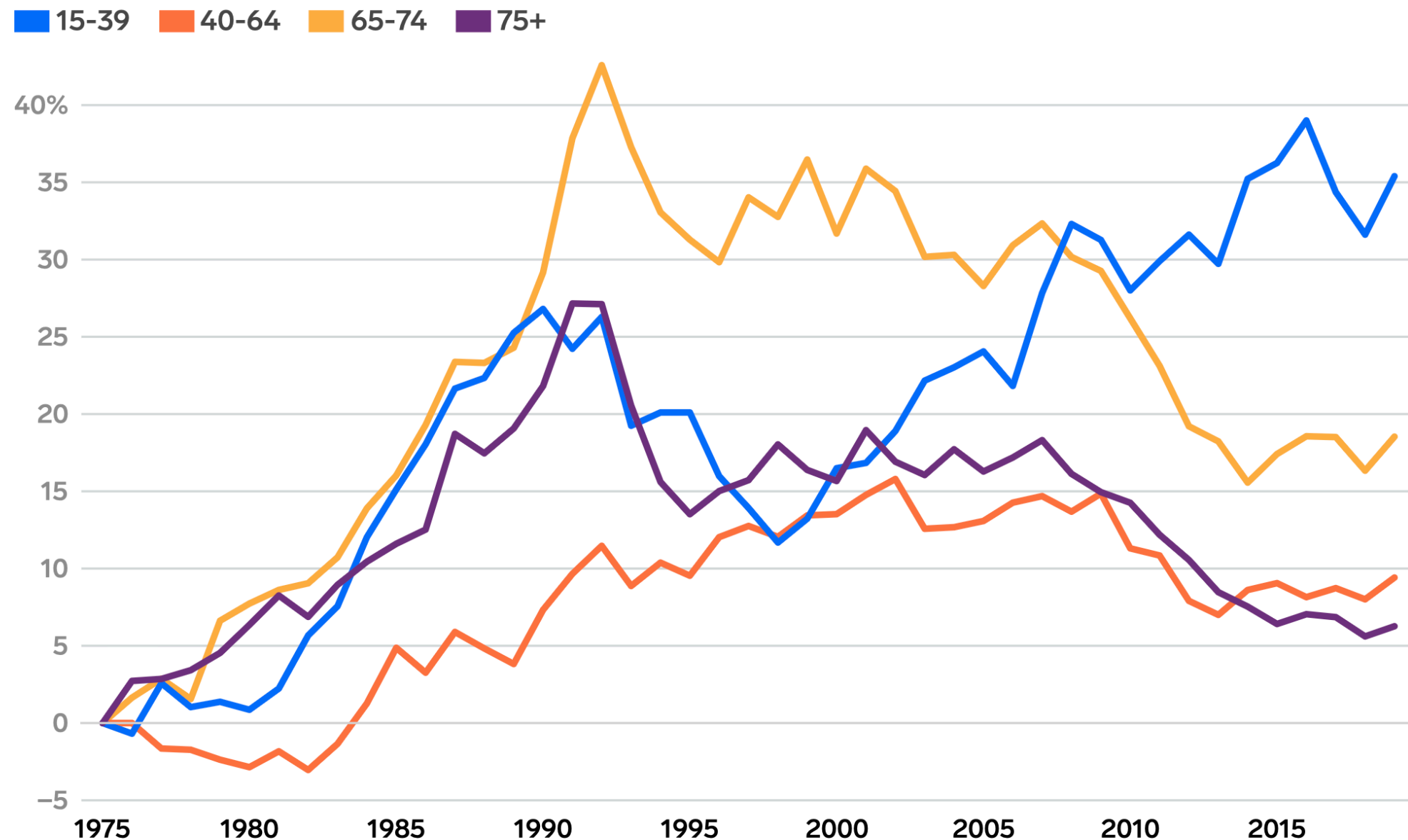


Chart: Madison Hoff/Business Insider • Source: [National Cancer Institute](#)

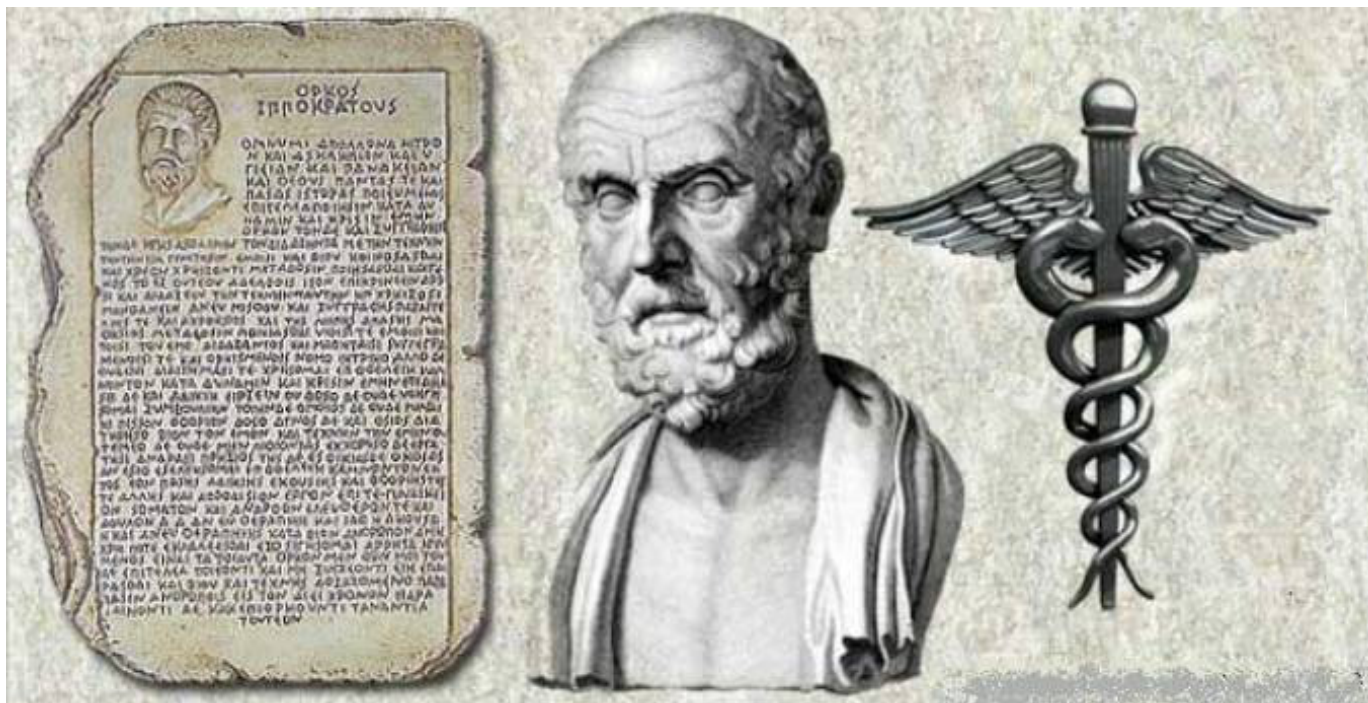
**BUSINESS  
INSIDER**

## **2. Cellular origins of cancer**

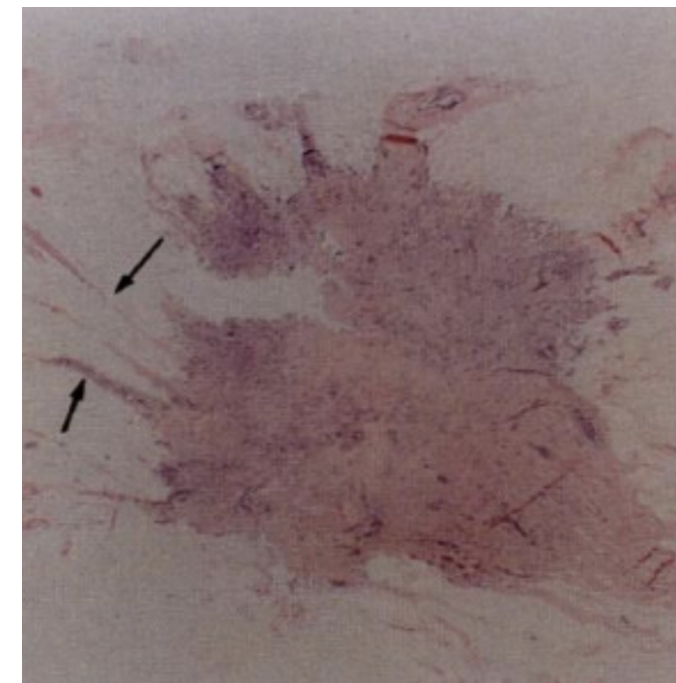
# Going back a few thousand years . . .

Documented by ancient Egyptians

Approached scientifically by Hippocrates of ancient Greece



<https://greekreporter.com/2022/06/09/how-was-cancer-treated-in-ancient-greece-2/>



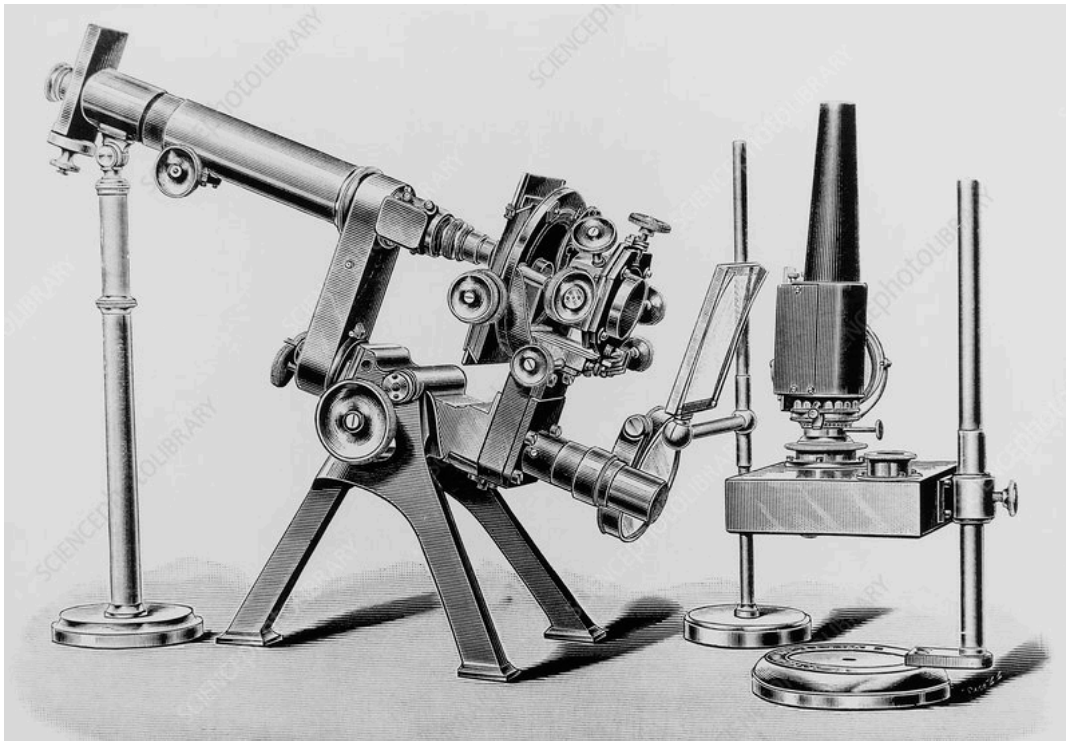
Franquet, et al., Radiographics, 1993

- Karkinoma (Karkinos = crab)
- Understood benign versus malignant
- Cancer thought to be foreign invasion until 19th century





# Histology changed our understanding of cancer



<https://www.sciencephoto.com/media/1046296/view/19th-century-microscope>

## Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E): staining of tissue sections

**Histology:** the study of  
microscopic structures of tissues

**Histopathology:** the microscopic  
study of diseased tissues

## LIGHT MICROSCOPY ~ HISTOLOGY ~

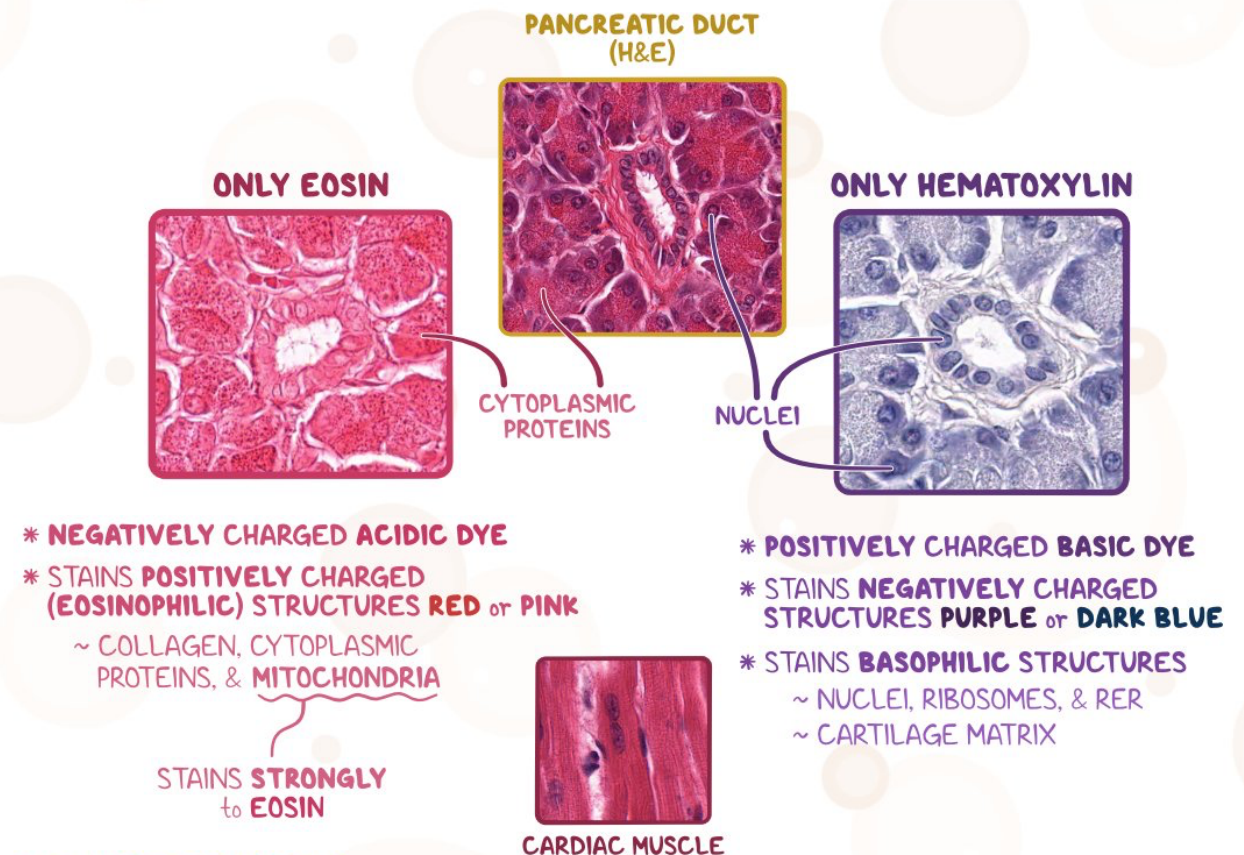


ILLUSTRATION by:  
**JUSTIN LING, MD**



# From where does cancer arise?

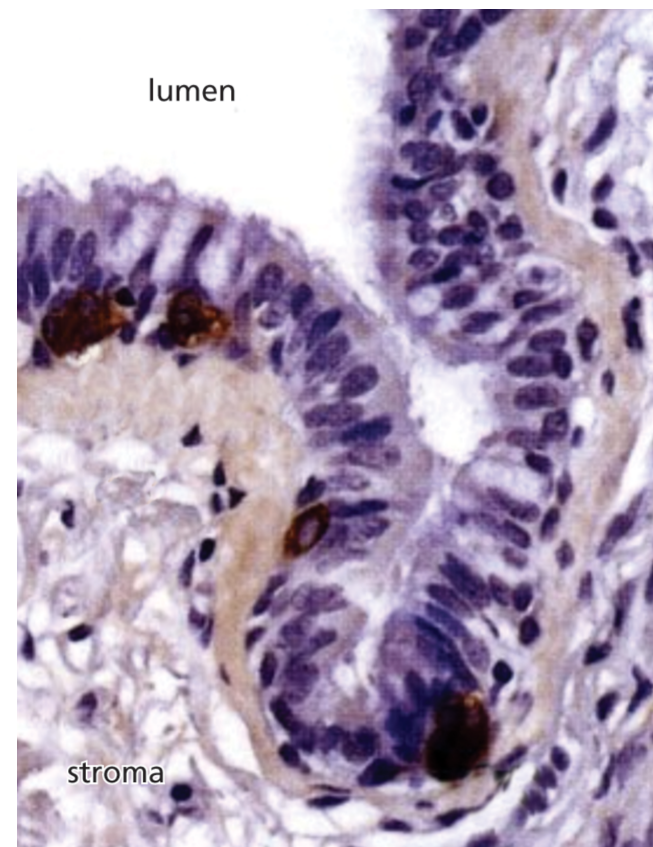
Uterus (endometrium)



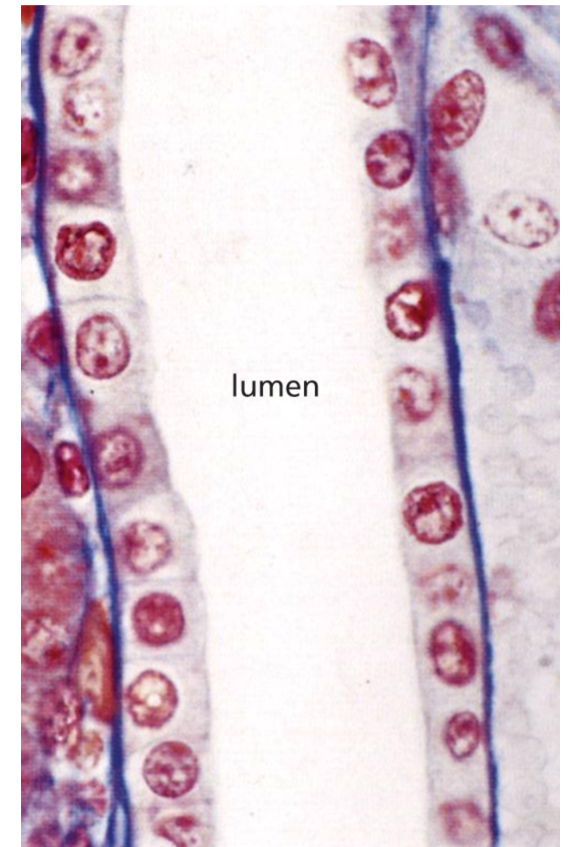
Gallbladder



Lung bronchiole



Kidney



*The Biology of Cancer*, 3rd edition. Robert Weinberg

Ducts of breast, prostate, pancreas

Hepatocytes of the liver

Villi and crypts of small intestine and colon

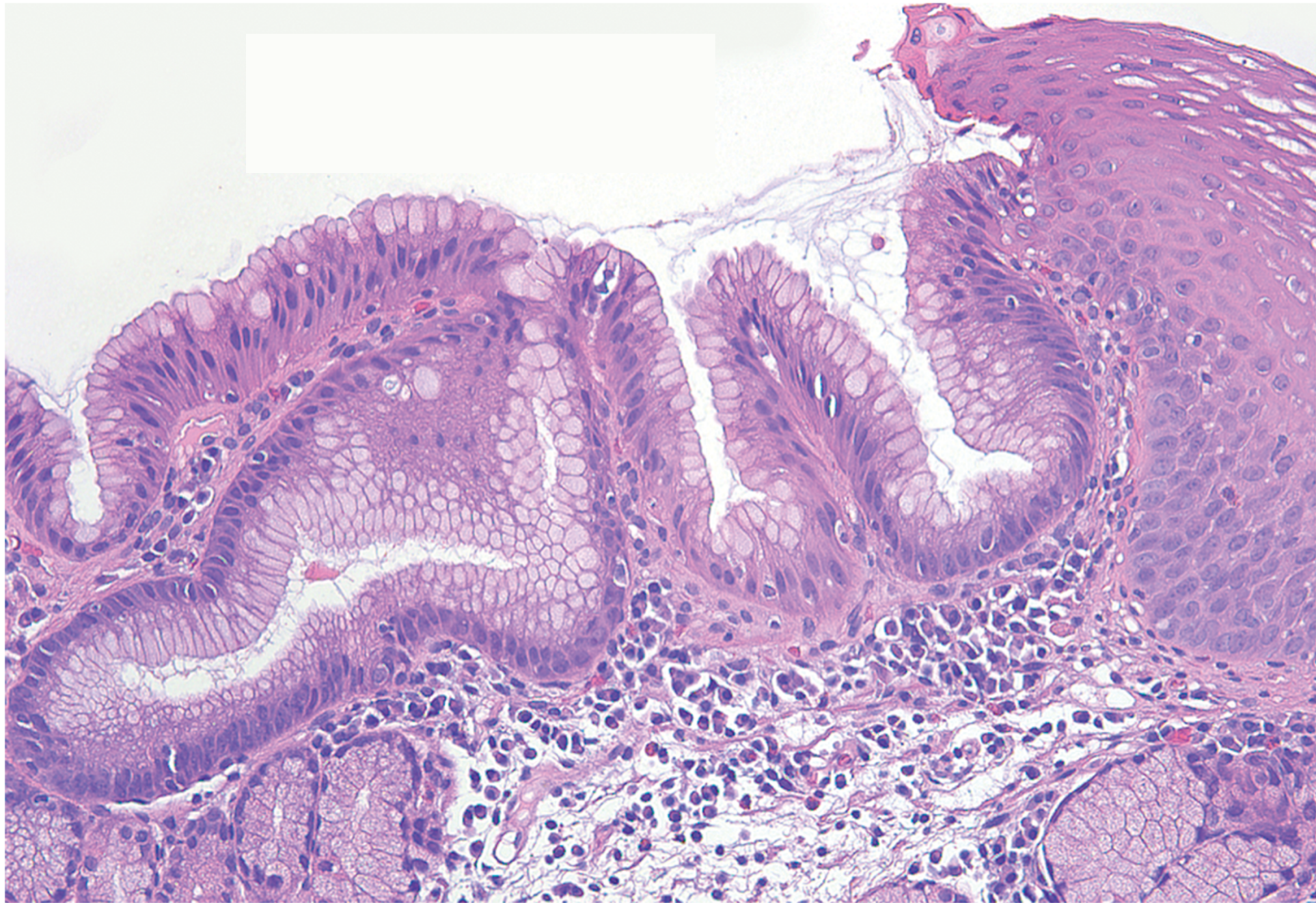
Epidermis (skin!)

Lining of mouth, esophagus, stomach, bladder, ovary, cervix, etc.

## What do all these tissues have in common?



# Pre-cancer

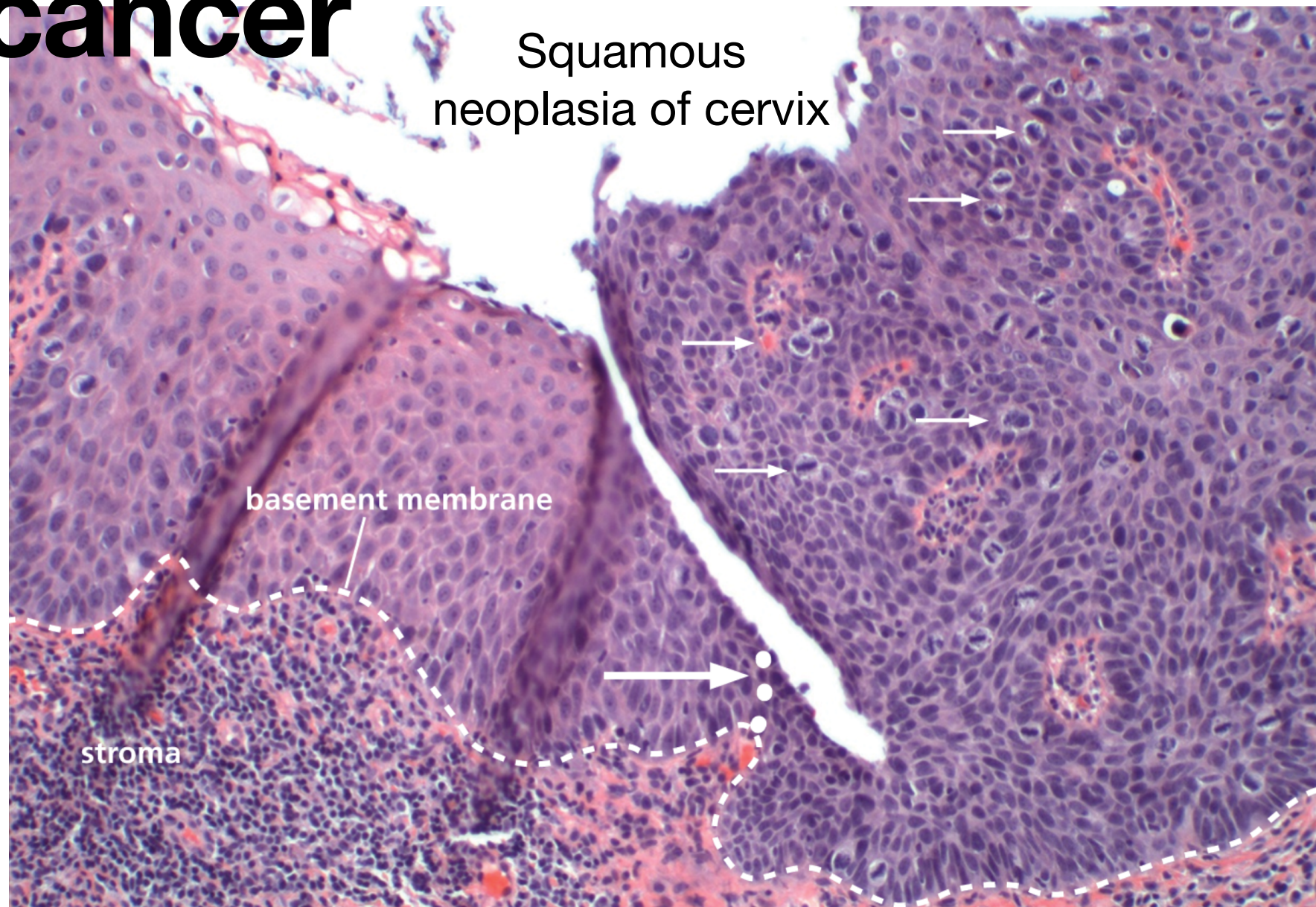


*The Biology of Cancer*, 3rd edition. Robert Weinberg

**Metaplasia:** “beyond growth”, replacement of one differentiated cell type with another differentiated cell type not normally associated with a tissue



# Pre-cancer



*The Biology of Cancer*, 3rd edition. Robert Weinberg

**Neoplasia:** “new growth”, broad term for benign/malignant growths

**Hyperplasia:** “excessive growth”, thickening or increasing size

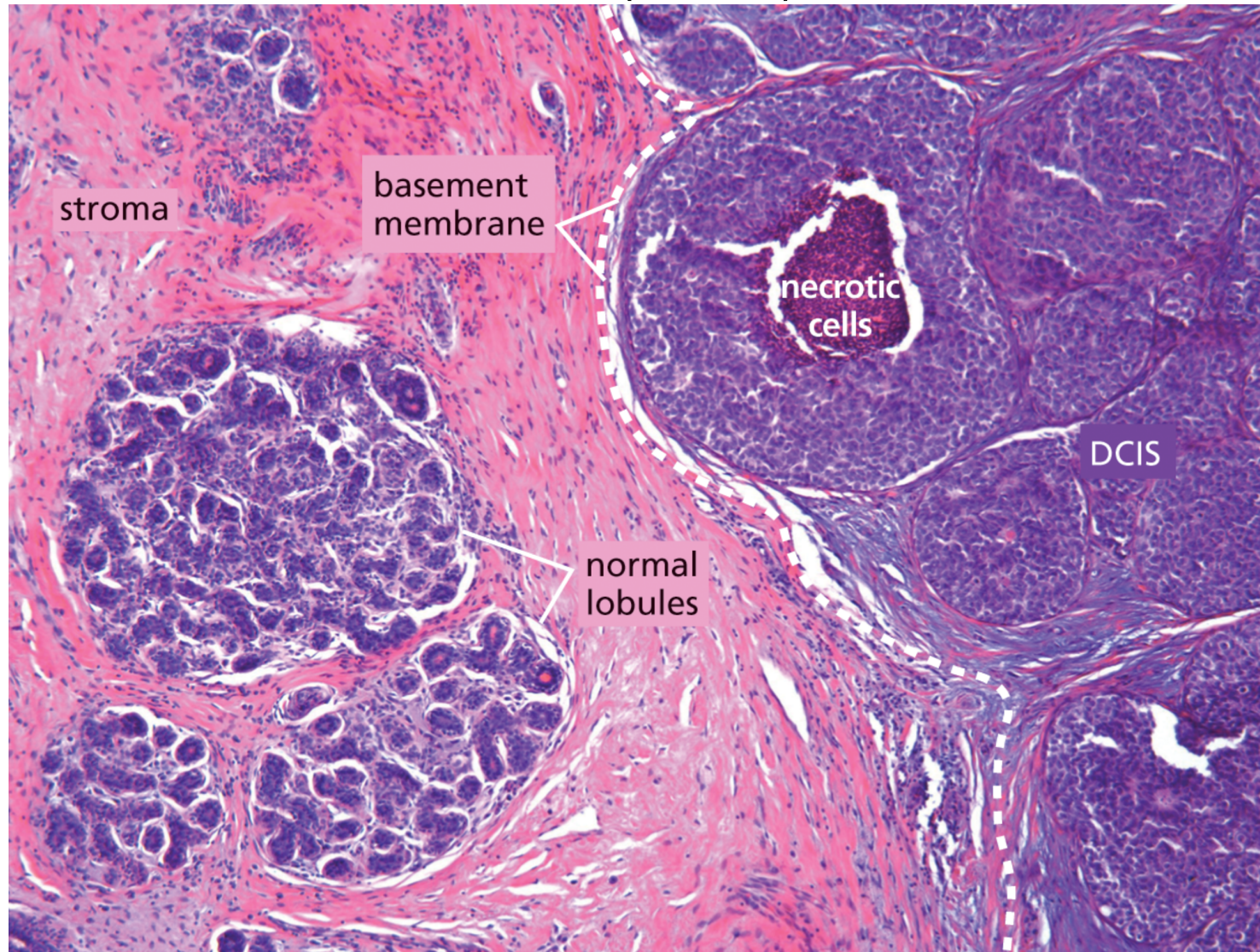
**Dysplasia:** “abnormal growth”, cytologically and structurally abnormal



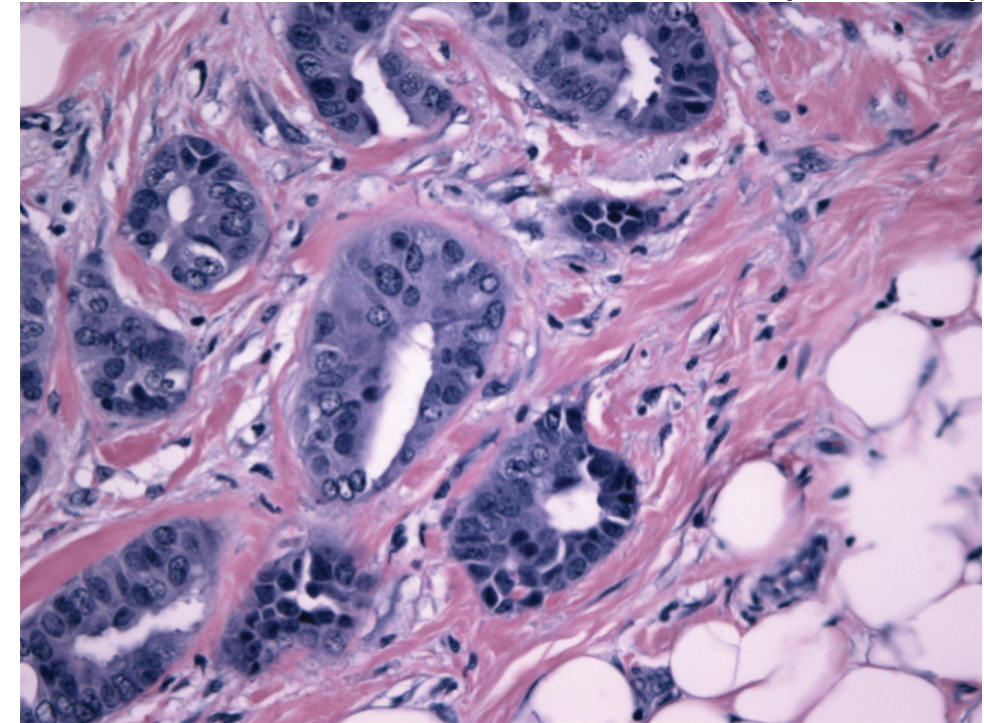
# Cancers of the epithelia (carcinomas)

**90% of all cancer, 80% of deaths**

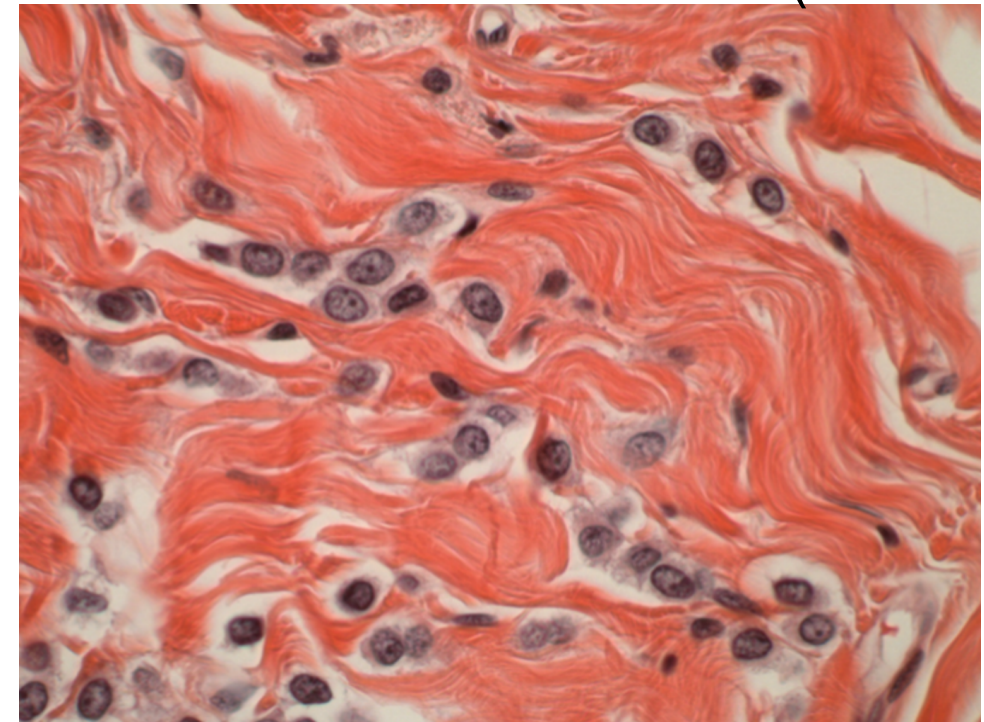
Ductal carcinoma in situ (breast)



Invasive ductal carcinoma (breast)



Invasive lobular carcinoma (breast)

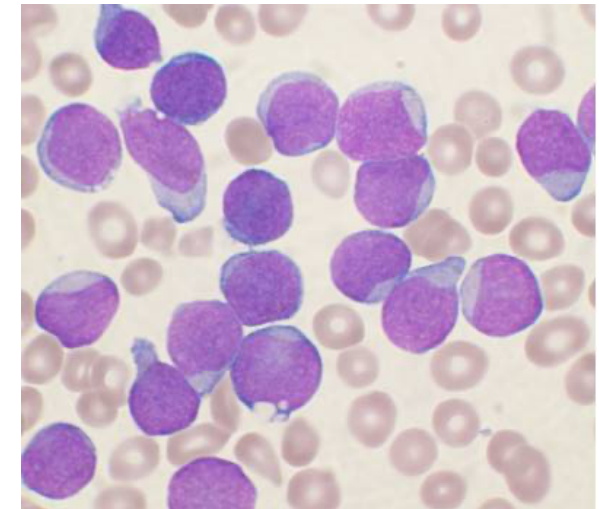




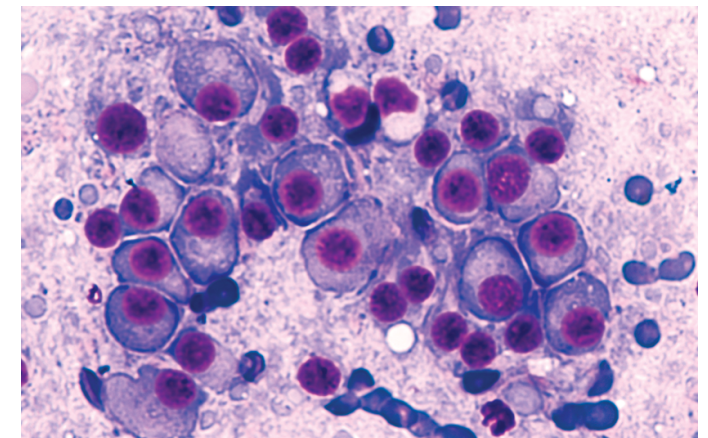
# Cancers of the blood (hematologic)

8-10% of all cancer, 7% of deaths

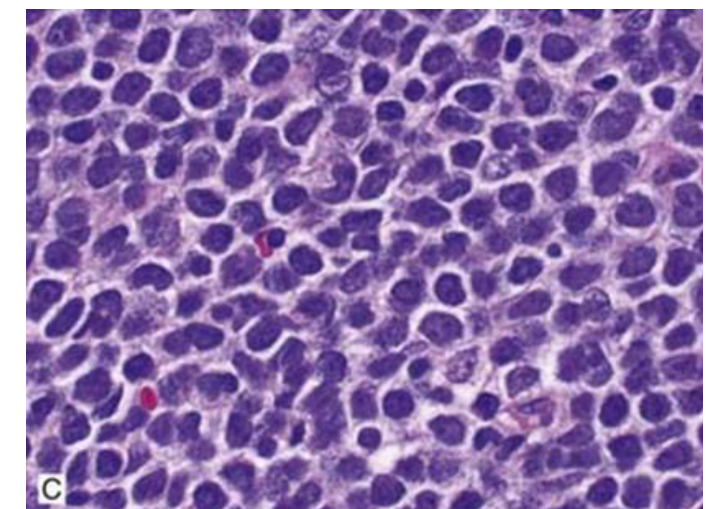
**Leukemias:** blood cancer, circulating “liquid tumors”



**Myelomas:** blood cancer, develops in bone marrow



**Lymphomas:** blood cancer, solid tumors localized to lymphoid tissues (e.g., thymic lymphoma)



*By The original uploader was VashiDonsk at English Wikipedia.*

*The Biology of Cancer*, 3rd edition. Robert Weinberg

*Thoracic Pathology: A Volume in the High Yield Pathology Series 1st Edition*, Aliya N. Husain



# Cancers of bone and soft tissue (sarcomas)

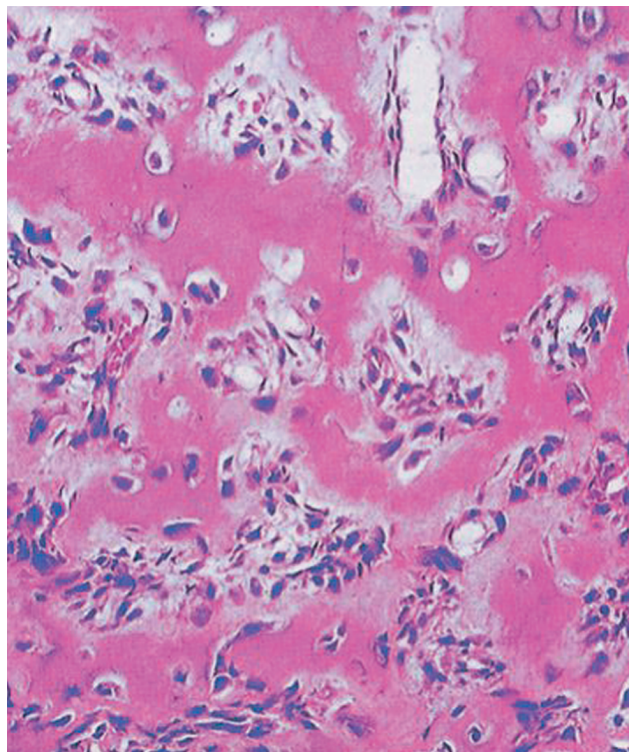
**~1% of all cancer, <1% of deaths**

Derive from mesenchymal cell types (bone/cartilage, connective tissues, lymphatic and blood vessels, fat, muscle)

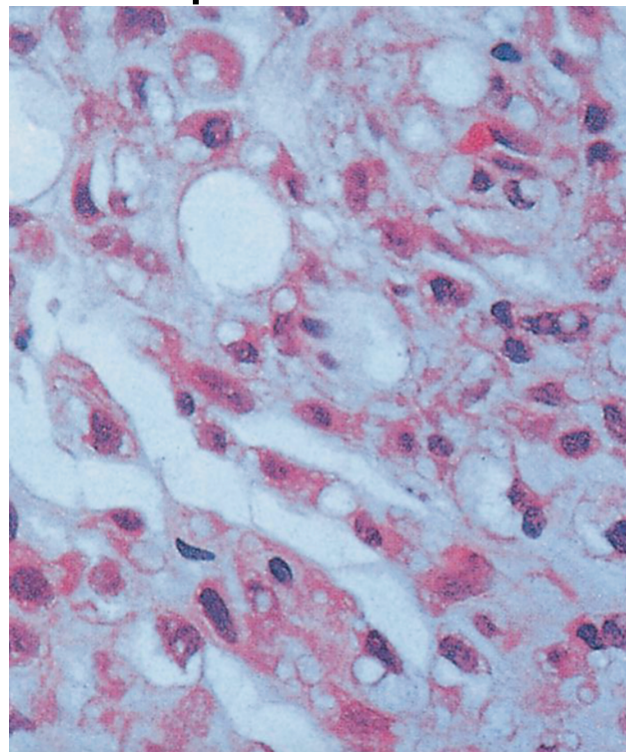
Rare, but some forms extremely aggressive, minimal treatment options

15-20% of childhood cancer

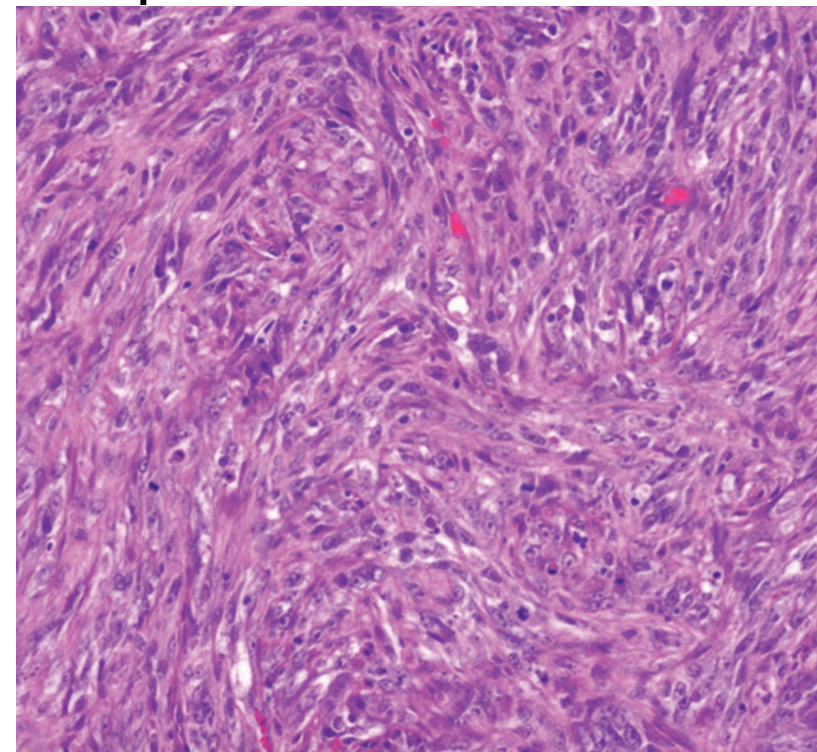
Osteosarcoma



Liposarcoma



Dedifferentiated  
spindle cell sarcoma





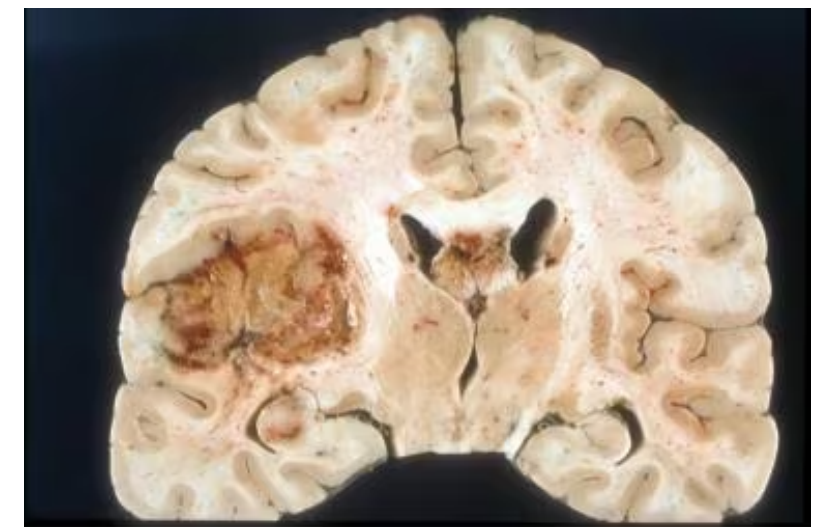
# Cancers of nervous system (neuroectodermal)

**1.3% of all cancer, 2.5% of deaths**

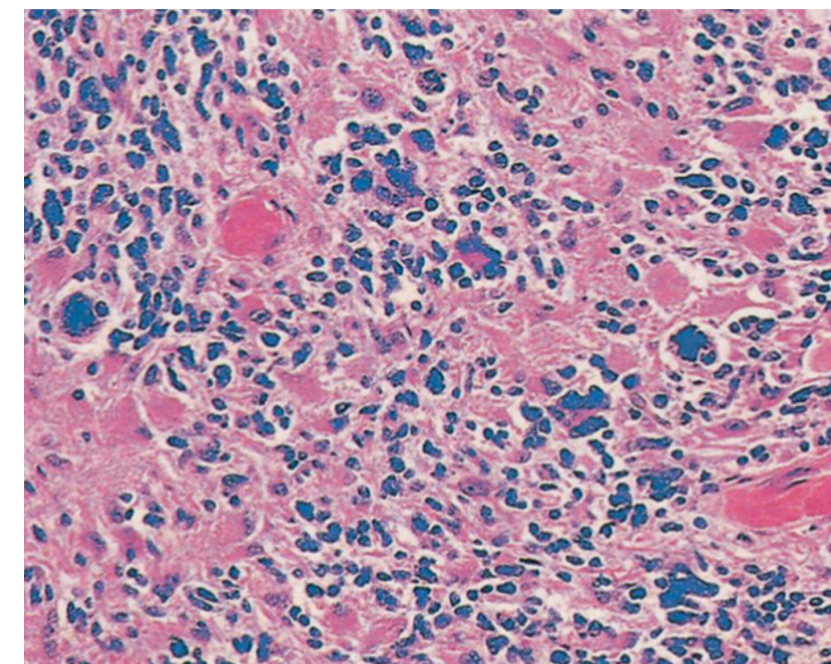
Form from components of central and peripheral nervous system:

| Name of tumor              | Lineage of founding cell                            |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Glioblastoma multiforme    | highly progressed astrocytoma                       |
| Astrocytoma                | astrocyte (type of glial cell) <sup>a</sup>         |
| Meningioma                 | arachnoidal cells of meninges <sup>b</sup>          |
| Schwannoma                 | Schwann cell around axons <sup>c</sup>              |
| Retinoblastoma             | cone cell in retina <sup>d</sup>                    |
| Neuroblastoma <sup>e</sup> | cells of peripheral nervous system                  |
| Ependymoma                 | glial cells lining ventricles of brain <sup>f</sup> |
| Oligodendroglioma          | oligodendrocyte covering axons <sup>g</sup>         |
| Medulloblastoma            | granular cells of cerebellum <sup>h</sup>           |

Glioblastoma



<https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/283252-overview>



# Other notable cancers of unique cell types

**Melanoma:** cancer arising from pigment producing cells in skin (melanocytes)



*The Biology of Cancer*, 3rd edition. Robert Weinberg

**Small cell lung cancer:** likely arise from endodermal stem cells of lung

**Transdifferentiate** into neuroendocrine (secretory)-like cells

**Teratomas:** arise from diploid germ cell precursors, retain embryonic stem cell pluripotency



Teeth!

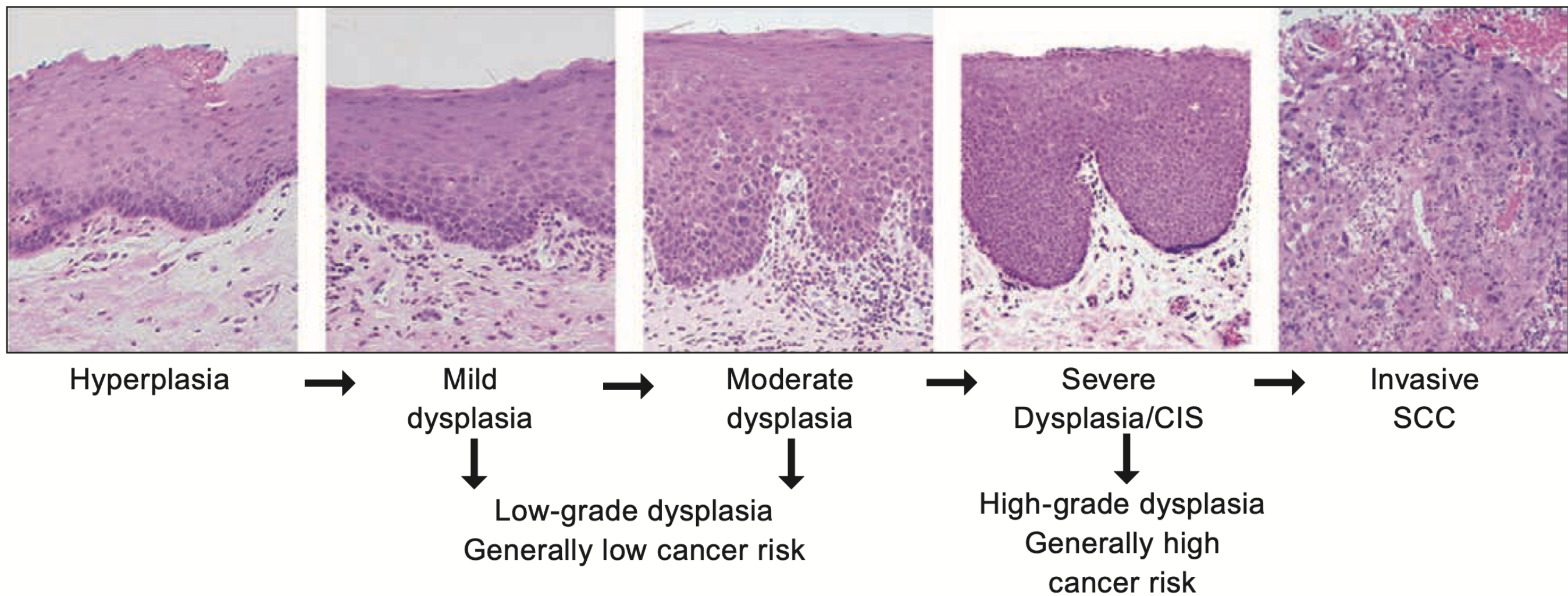
Ingale, Y, et al., *Case Rep Dent*, 2013

### **3. Cancer is a progressive disease (a histopathological perspective)**



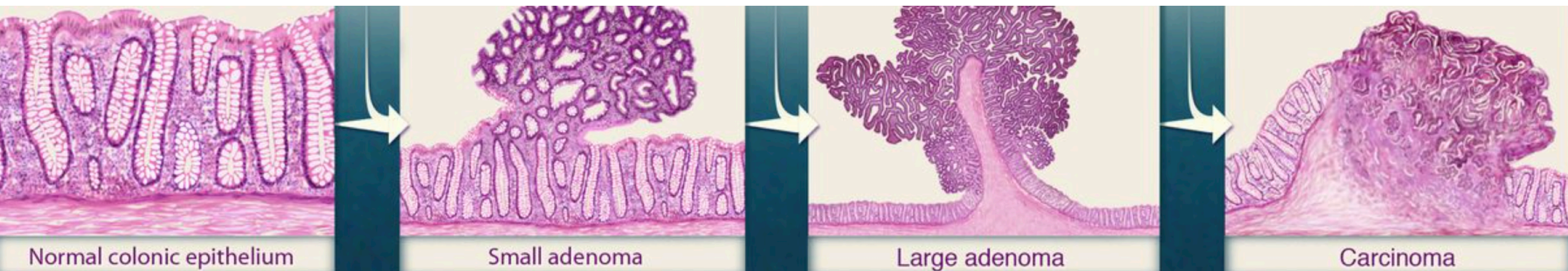
# Cancer is a progressive disease

Oral squamous cell carcinoma progression



# Cancer is a progressive disease

## Colon adenocarcinoma



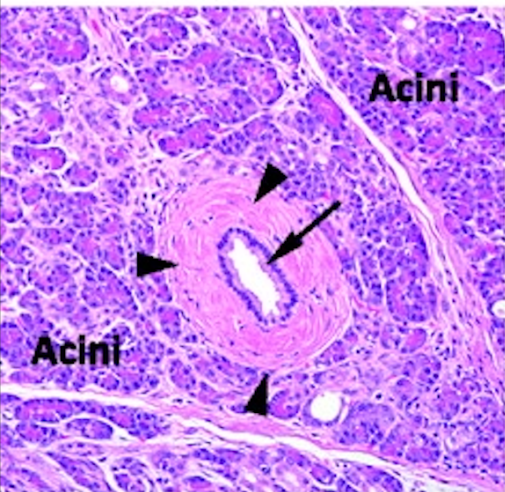
Vogelstein, B, et al. *Science* 2013



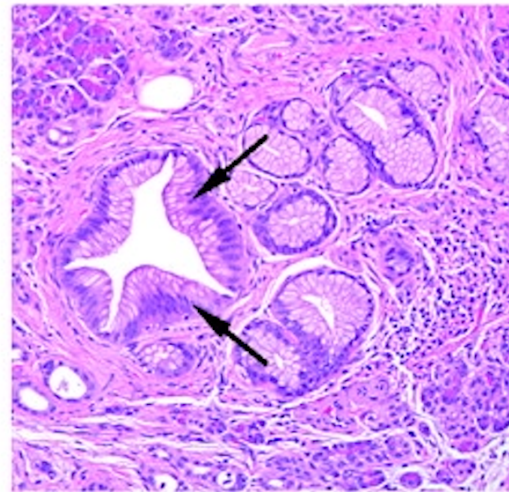
# Cancer is a progressive disease

## Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma

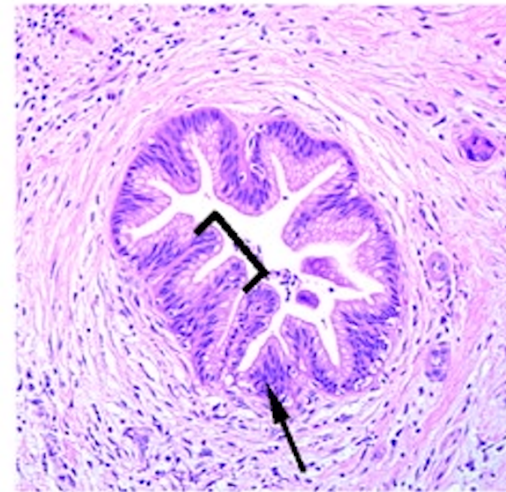
Normal



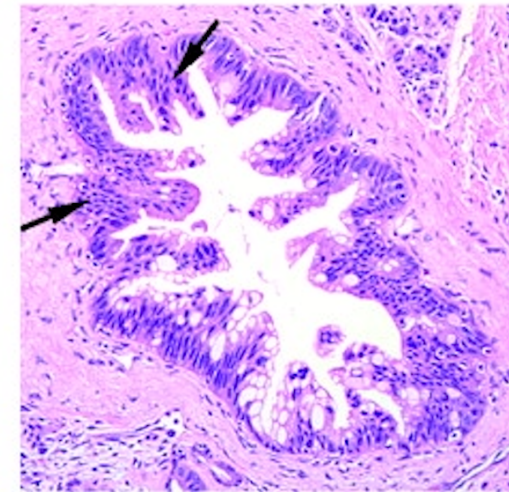
PanIN-1



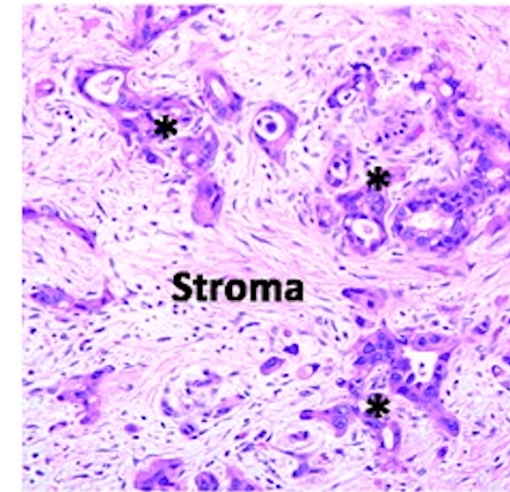
PanIN-2



PanIN-3



Cancer



Iacobuzio-Donahue, *Gut* 2012



## **4. Genetic mutations drive cancer**

# Cancer is a “genetic disease”

Cancer is a disease of mutations to our DNA

- Those that we are born with (germline)
- Those that occur after birth (somatic)

Hereditary cancers

- Familial component noted since the 1600s
- Retinoblastoma
- Lynch Syndrome
- Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)
- Many others



# Cancer is a “genetic disease”

- Cancer is a disease of mutations to our DNA
  - Those that we are born with (germline)
  - Those that occur after birth (somatic)

**Chemicals:** Benzene → leukemia

**UV radiation** → skin cancer

**Radium** → Osteosarcoma

**Tobacco** → lung, kidney, bladder cancer

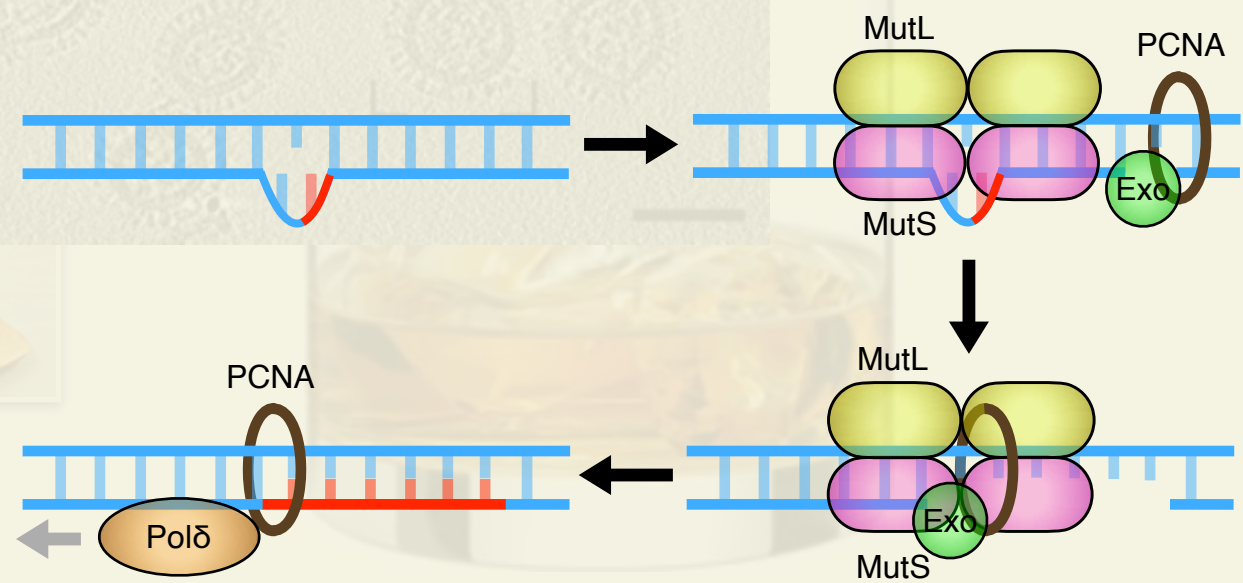
**Viruses:** HPV → cervical cancer

Random “bad luck” during cell division

# Sources of mutations



## DNA mismatch repair



# Sources of mutations

## Exogenous chemical and environmental (carcinogens)

- Carcinogens (benzo-A-pyrene in cigarettes)
- UV light from the sun
- Dietary
- Viruses, bacteria

## Endogenous

- Defects in DNA repair mechanisms (e.g., DNA mismatch repair)
- Replication errors during cell division (DNA breaks, aneuploidy)
- Metabolism within cell (reactive oxygen species)



# Earliest evidence of abnormal DNA in cancer

- Abnormal numbers of chromosomes (aneuploidy)
- Observed over 100 years ago (before we knew what is DNA)!

A



B



# Earliest evidence of abnormal DNA

## Aneuploidy

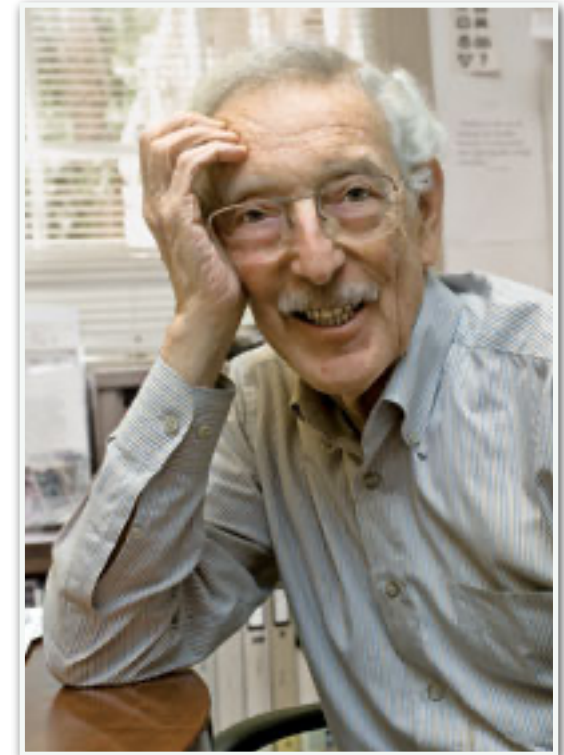
- Whole chromosome gains
- Whole chromosome losses
- Deletions/amplifications of smaller regions
- Rearrangements (e.g., translocations)
- Catastrophic changes all at once (chromothripsis: Greek for chromosome “shattering”)

# Carcinogens are mutagens

The Ames test (1970s):

Test in laboratory mice

Test in cells (originally bacteria)



Bruce Ames

*Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA*  
Vol. 70, No. 8, pp. 2281-2285, August 1973

## **Carcinogens are Mutagens: A Simple Test System Combining Liver Homogenates for Activation and Bacteria for Detection**

**(frameshift mutagens/aflatoxin/benzo(a)pyrene/acetylaminofluorene)**

BRUCE N. AMES, WILLIAM E. DURSTON, EDITH YAMASAKI, AND FRANK D. LEE

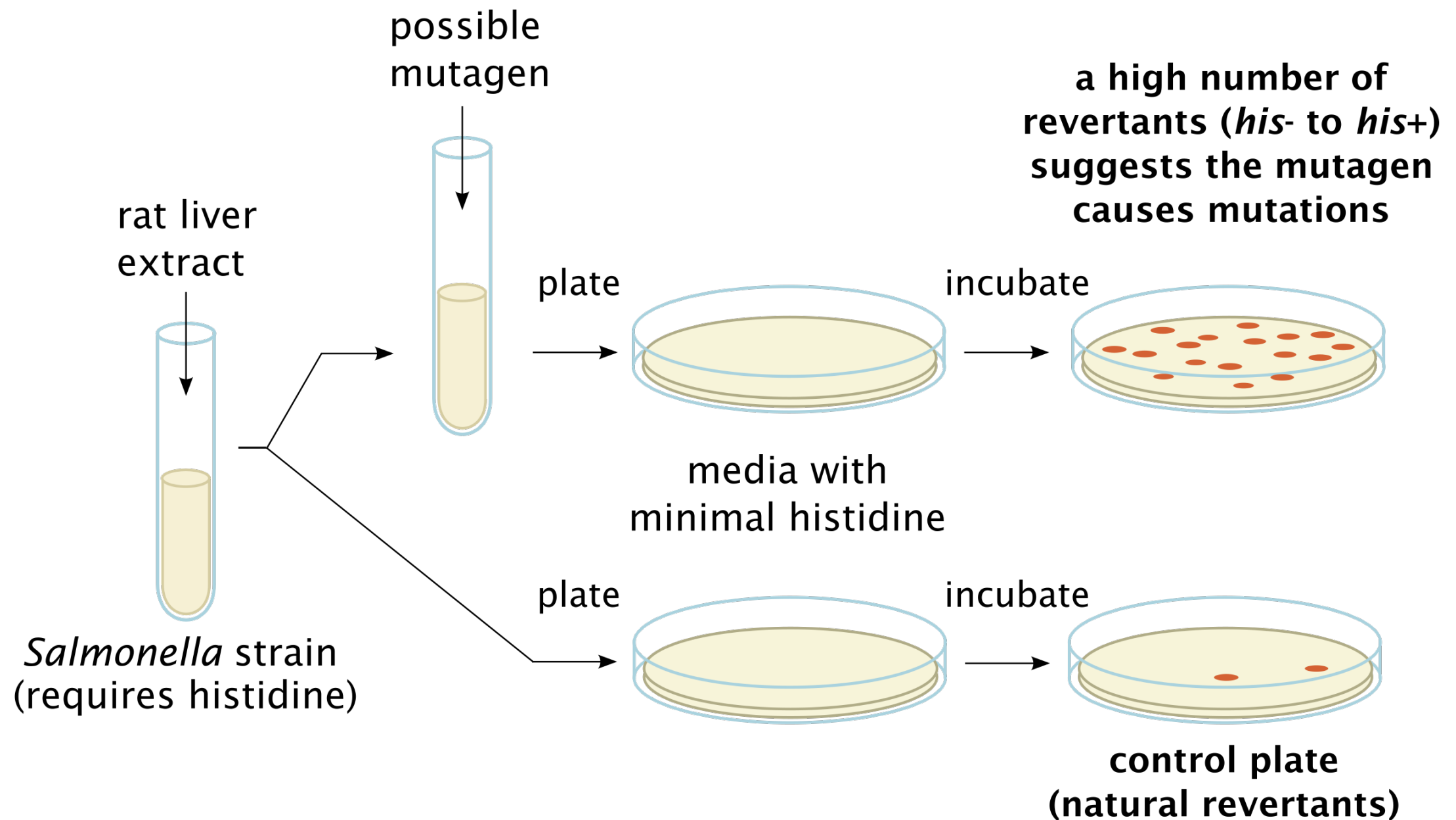
Biochemistry Department, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720

*Contributed by Bruce N. Ames, May 14, 1973*

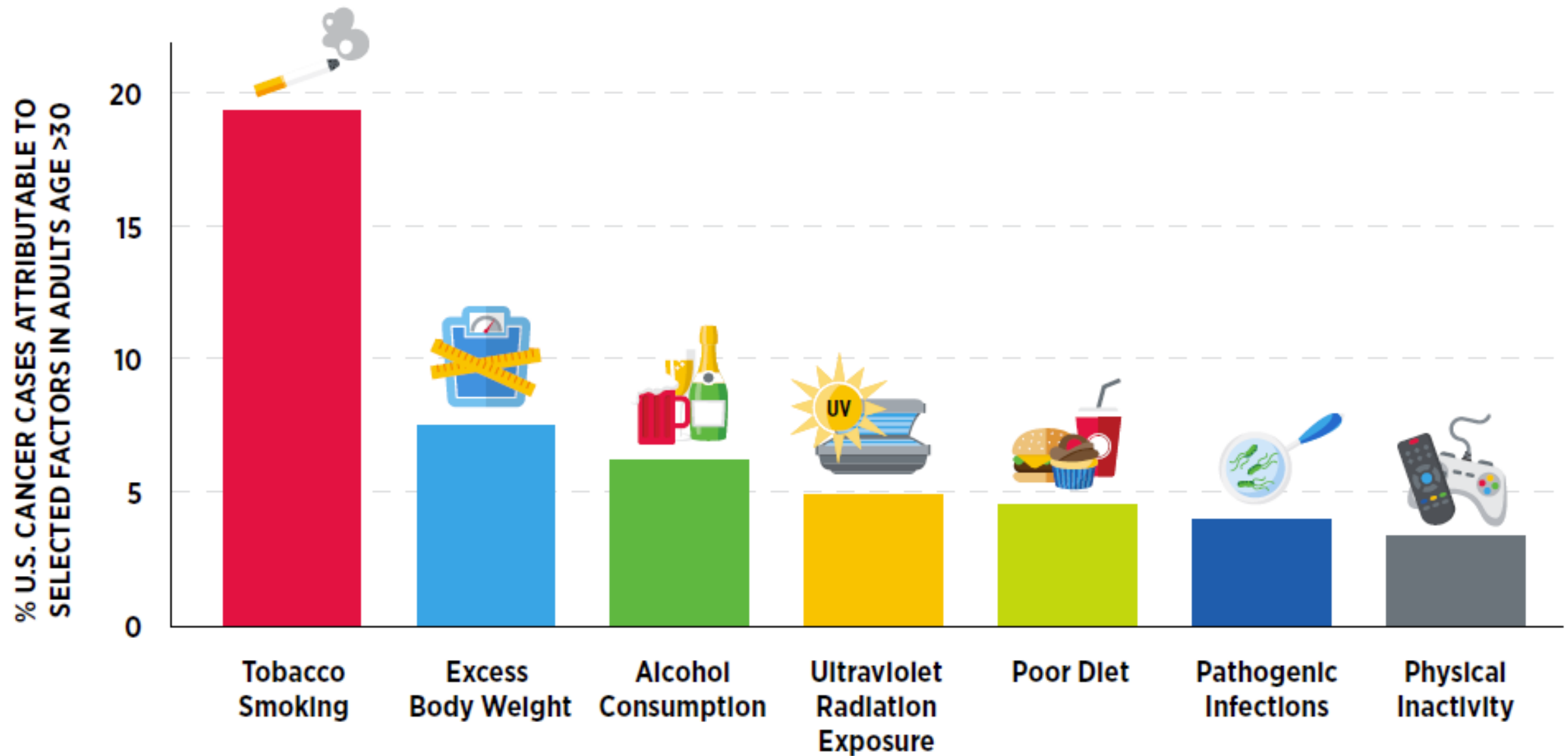


# Carcinogens are mutagens

The Ames test (1970s):

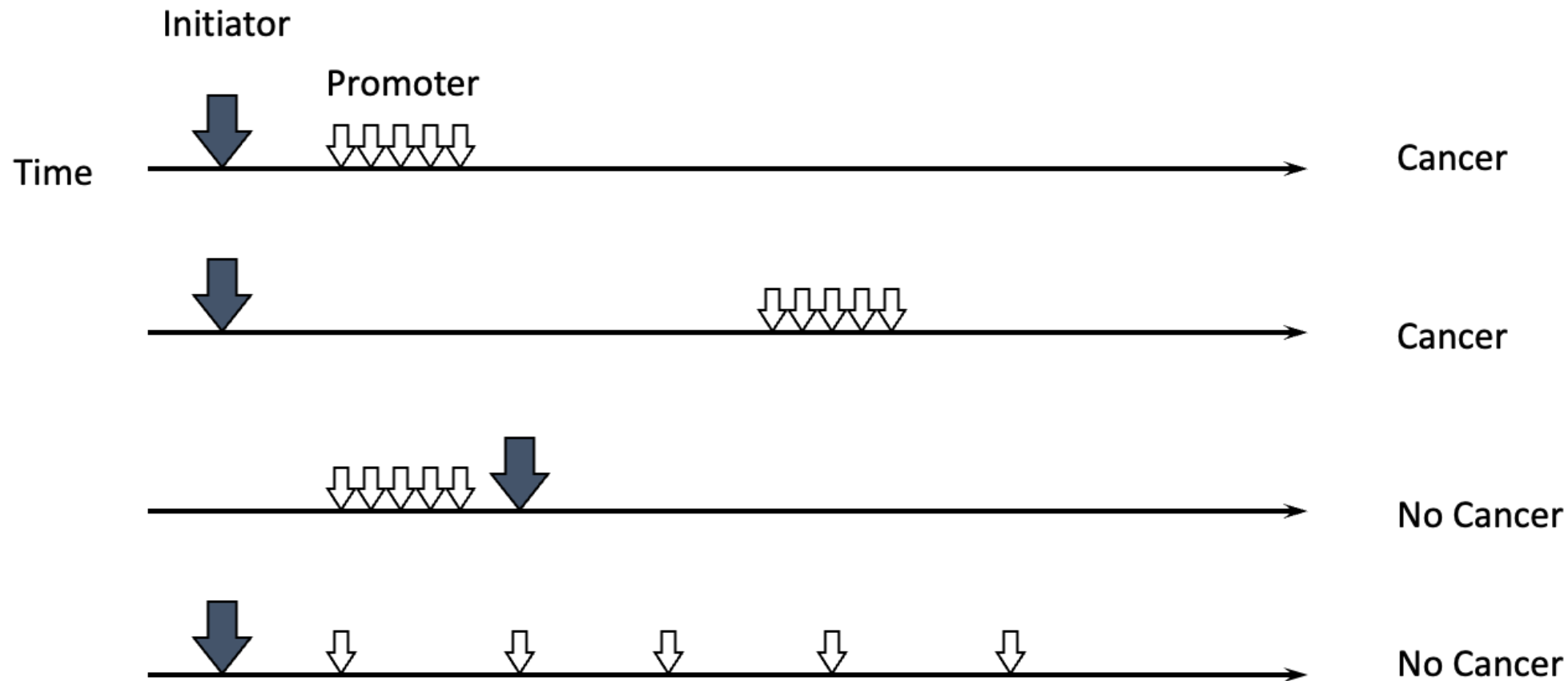


# Carcinogens are mutagens . . . well mostly!



**Which of these cancer risk factors mutate and which promote?**

# Mutations are not enough: the initiator/promoter model



1940s -- Berenblum and Shubik develop model of carcinogenesis by painting polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and croton oil on mouse skin.



# Known and suspected promoting agents

| Agent or process                            | Cancer site   |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Hormones</b>                             |               |
| Estrogen                                    | endometrium   |
| Estrogen and progesterone                   | breast        |
| Ovulation                                   | ovary         |
| Testosterone                                | prostate      |
| <b>Drugs</b>                                |               |
| Oral contraceptives, anabolic steroids      | liver         |
| Analgesics                                  | renal pelvis  |
| Diuretics                                   | kidney        |
| <b>Infectious agents</b>                    |               |
| Hepatitis B/C viruses                       | liver         |
| <i>Schistosoma haematobium</i> —blood fluke | bladder       |
| <i>Schistosoma japonicum</i> —blood fluke   | colon         |
| <i>Clonorchis sinensis</i> —liver fluke     | biliary tract |
| <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> —bacterium       | stomach       |
| Malarial parasites                          | B cell        |
| Tuberculosis bacillus                       | lung          |

| Agent or process                       | Cancer site       |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Chemical agents</b>                 |                   |
| Betel nut, lime                        | oral cavity       |
| Chewing tobacco                        | oral cavity       |
| Bile                                   | small intestine   |
| Salt                                   | stomach           |
| Acid reflux                            | esophagus         |
| <b>Physical or mechanical trauma</b>   |                   |
| Asbestos                               | mesothelium, lung |
| Gallstones                             | gallbladder       |
| Coarsely ground corn                   | stomach           |
| Head injury                            | meninges          |
| <b>Chronic irritation/inflammation</b> |                   |
| Tropical ulcers <sup>a</sup>           | skin              |
| Chronic ulcerative colitis             | colon             |
| Chronic cystitis                       | bladder           |
| Chronic pancreatitis                   | pancreas          |

**Which of these are associated with inflammation?**

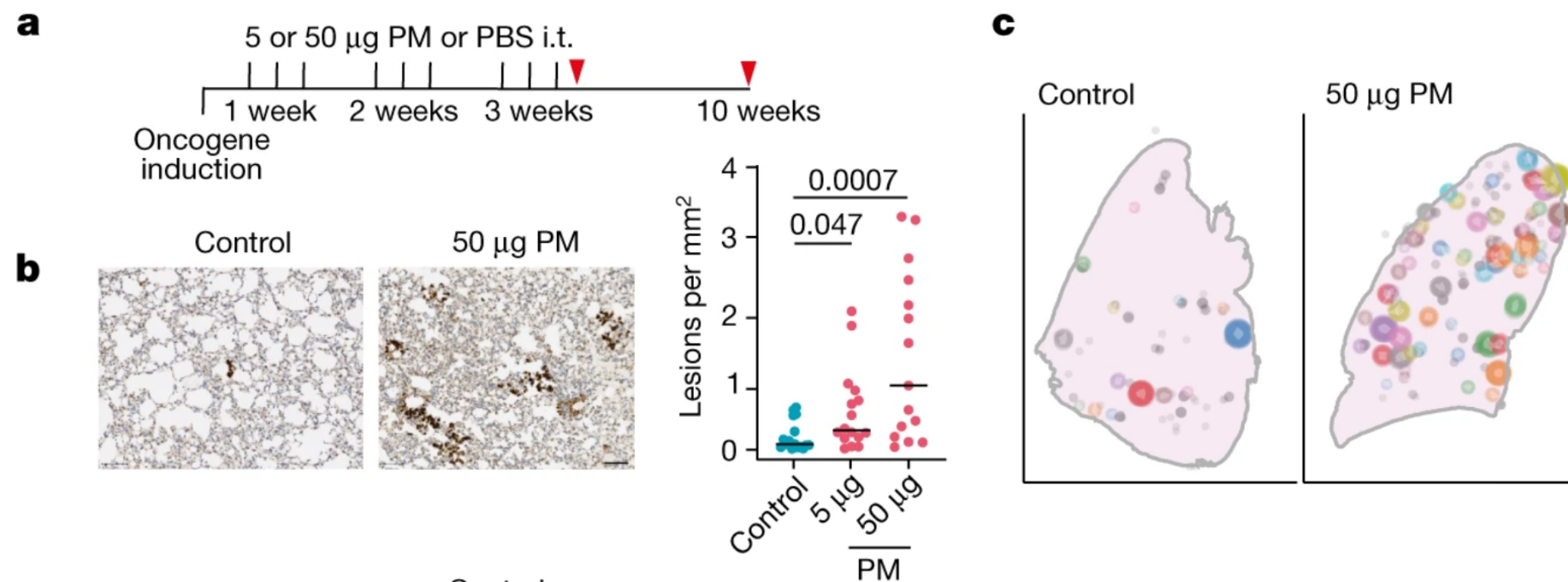
# Air pollution (PM2.5) is a cancer promoter

Promoting agents

e.g., Particulate Matter measuring  $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$  (PM2.5)

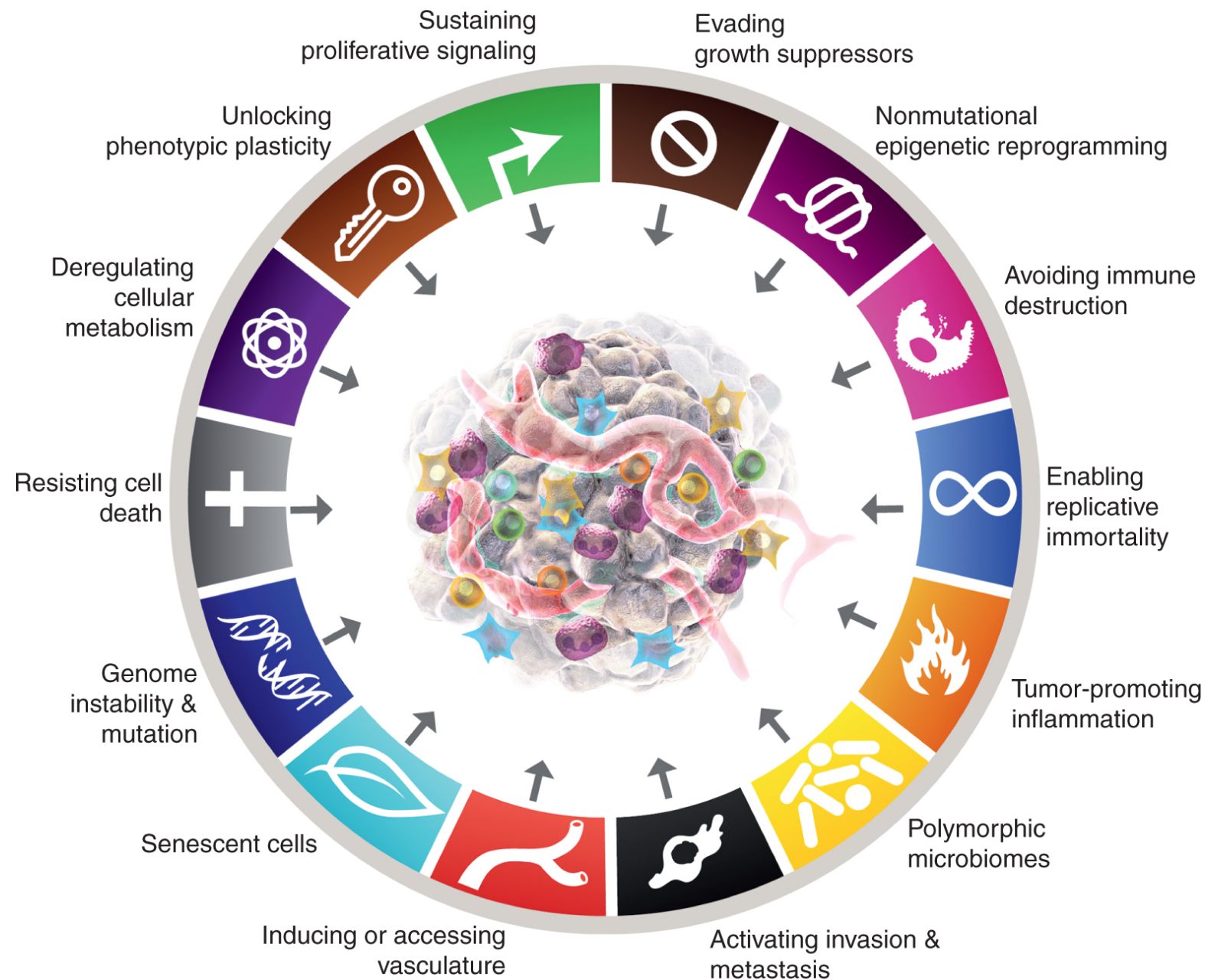
## Fig. 2: PM promotes lung tumorigenesis.

From: [Lung adenocarcinoma promotion by air pollutants](#)





# Mechanisms of promoting agents remains very poorly understood



**Hallmarks of Cancer: New Dimensions.** Hanahan, *Cancer Discovery* 2022



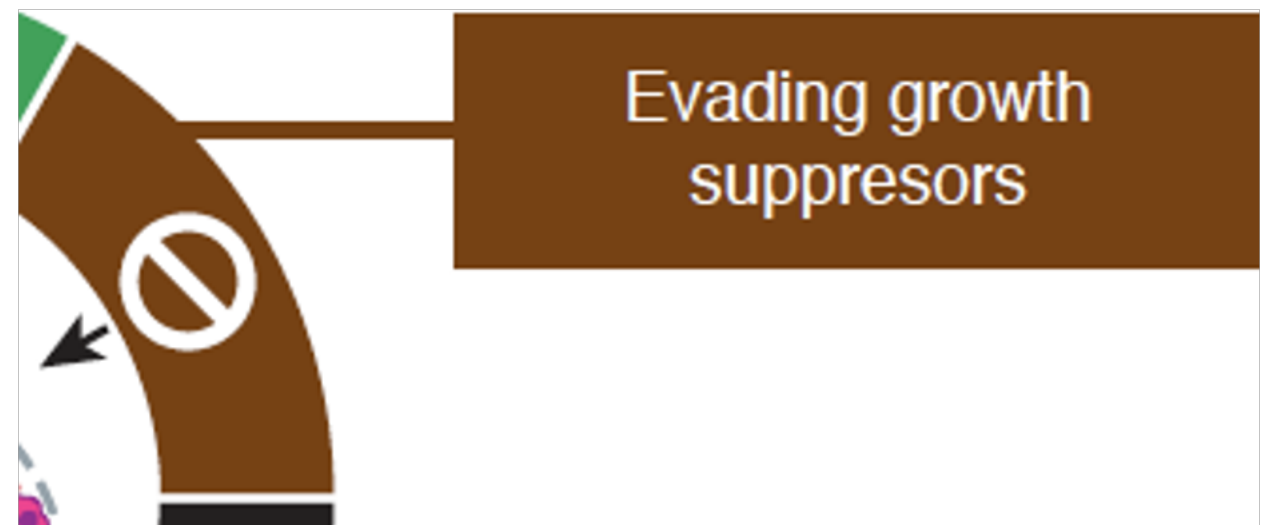
**Back to mutations . . .**

# How do mutations cause cancer?

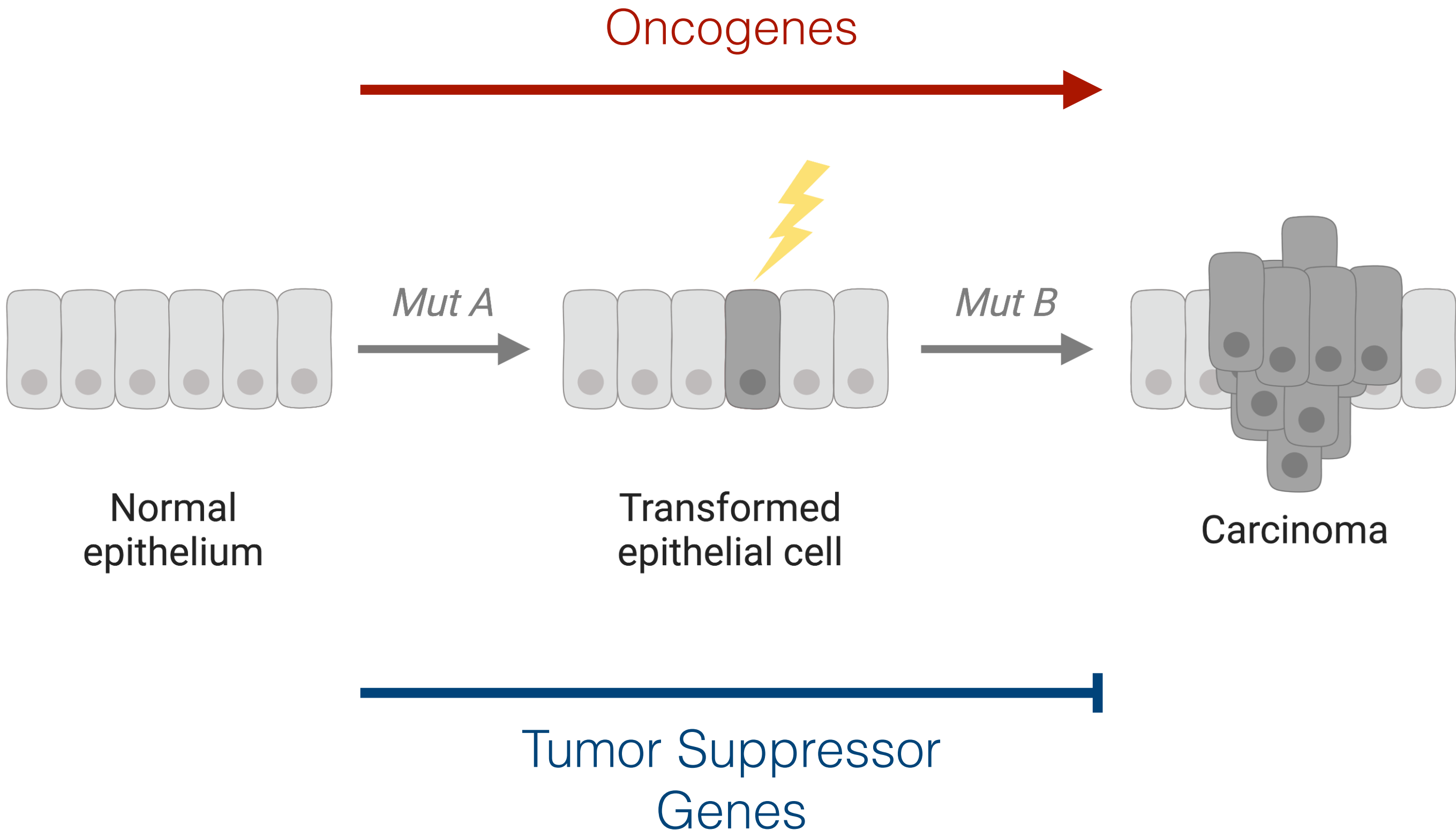
Oncogenes



Tumor suppressors



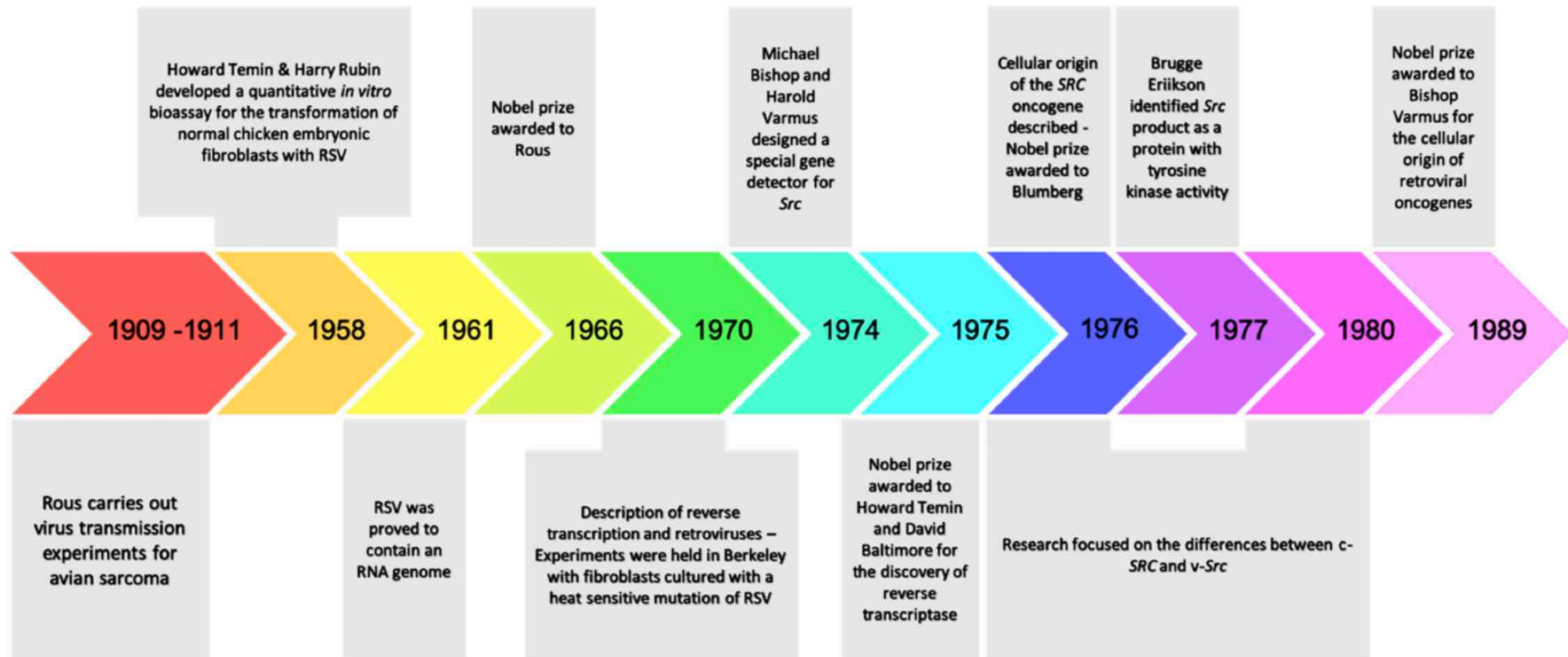
Tumorigenesis is a multistep process characterized by alterations in oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes





## **5. Viral origins of cancer lead to the discovery of oncogenes**

# Viral oncogenes and cancer



# Rous Sarcoma Virus (RSV): an important clue to the molecular cause of cancer

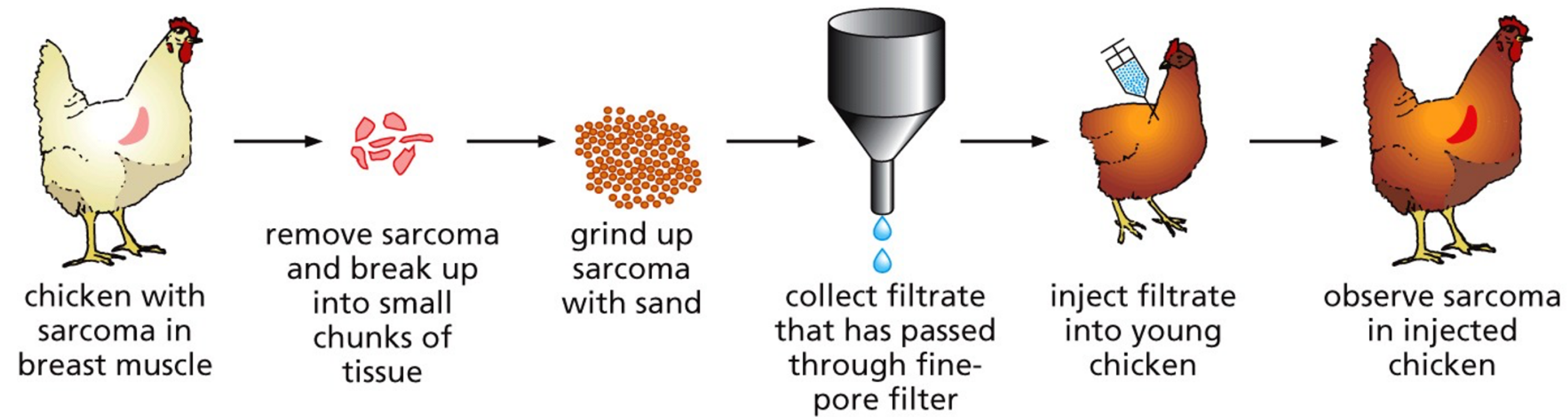


Figure 3.2 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)



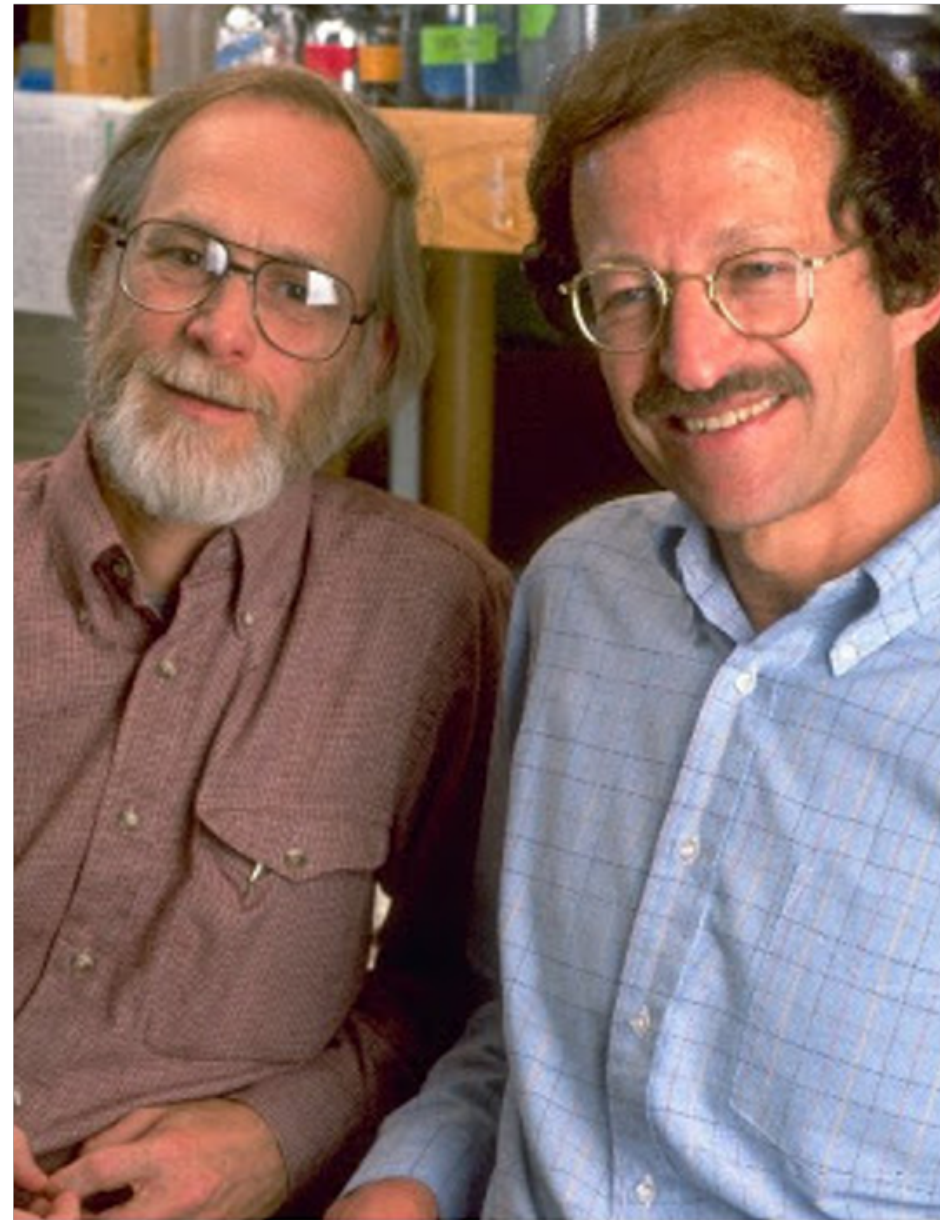
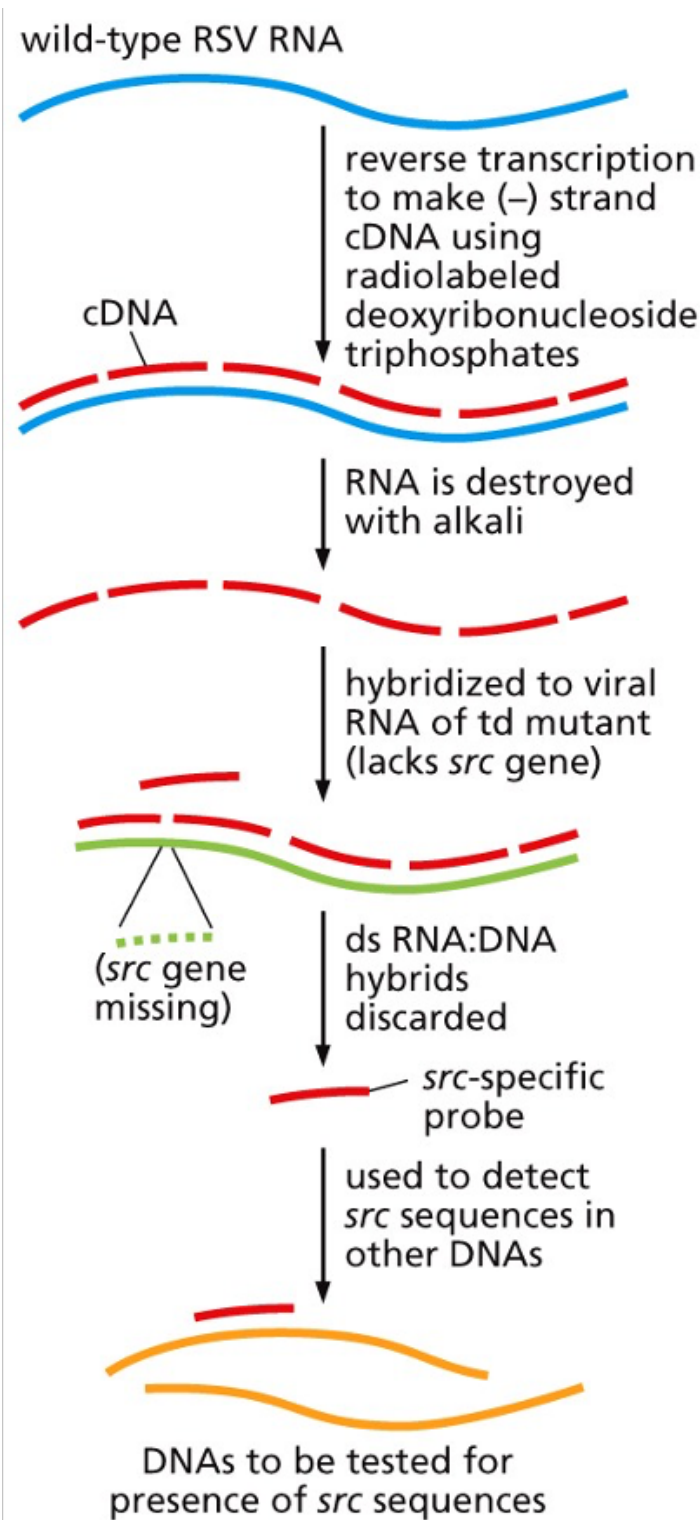
# Identification of the *Src* oncogene

*Src* gene sequence present in Rous Sarcoma Virus (RSV), not in related avian leukosis virus (ALV)



Figure 3.19 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

# Identification of the *Src* proto-oncogene



J. Michael Bishop (1936 - )

Harold E. Varmus (1939 - )

**Nobel prize 1989**

# Viral oncogenes result from uptake of host DNA in viral genome

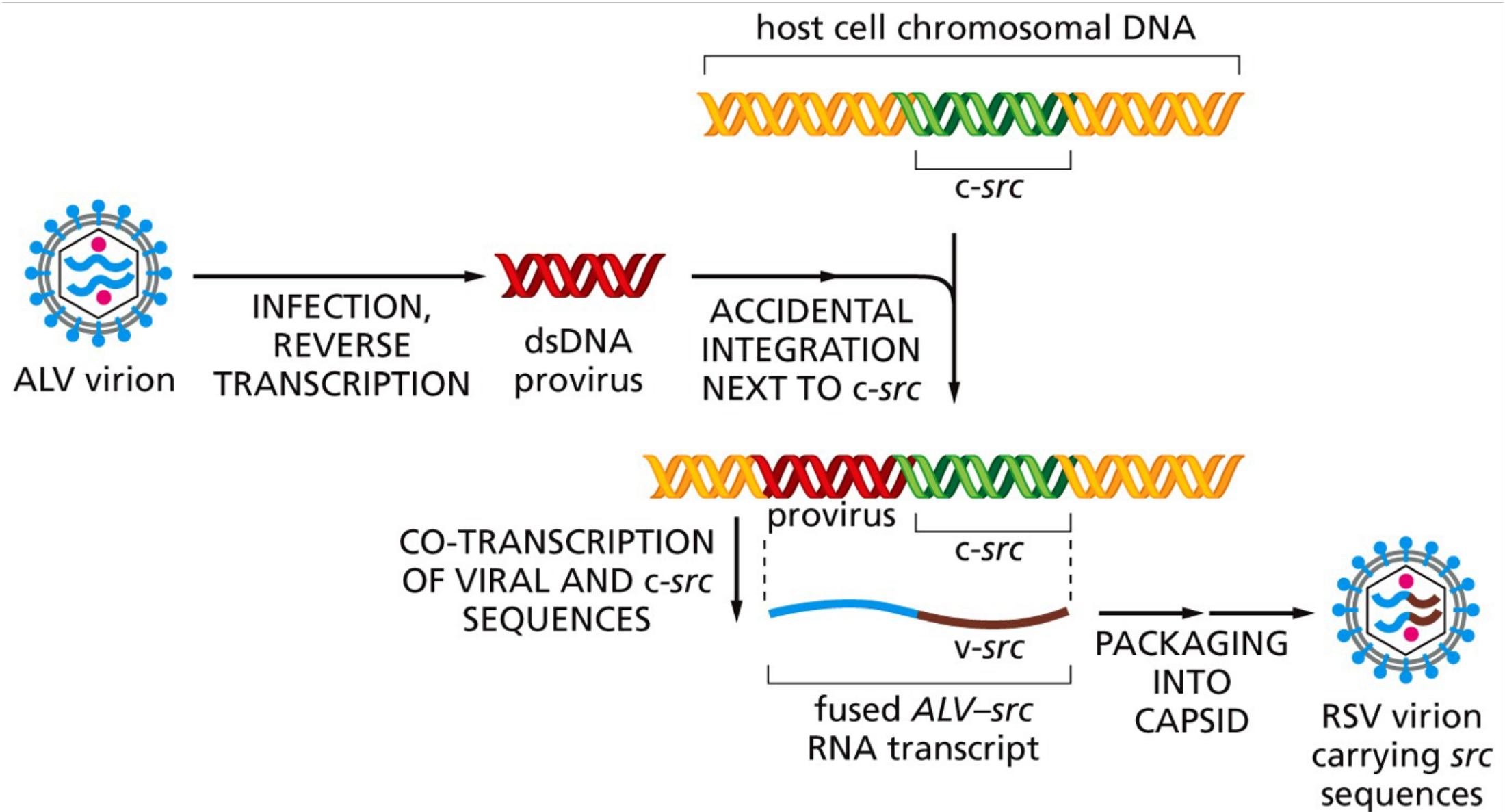


Figure 3.22 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)



# Identification of *H-ras* proto-oncogene

## Mechanism of activation of a human oncogene

**Clifford J. Tabin, Scott M. Bradley, Cornelia I. Bargmann & Robert A. Weinberg**

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Center for Cancer Research and Department of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA

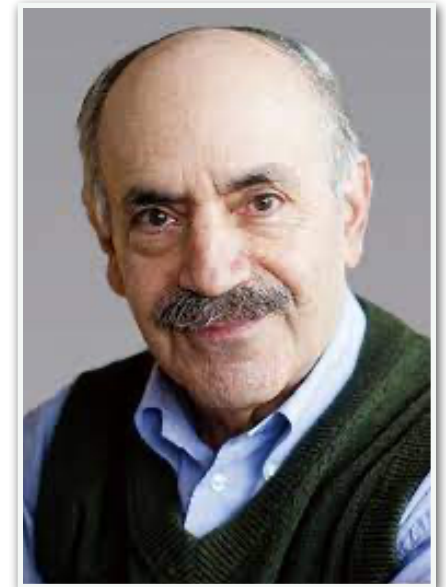
**Alex G. Papageorge & Edward M. Scolnick**

Merck Laboratories, West Point, Pennsylvania 19486, USA

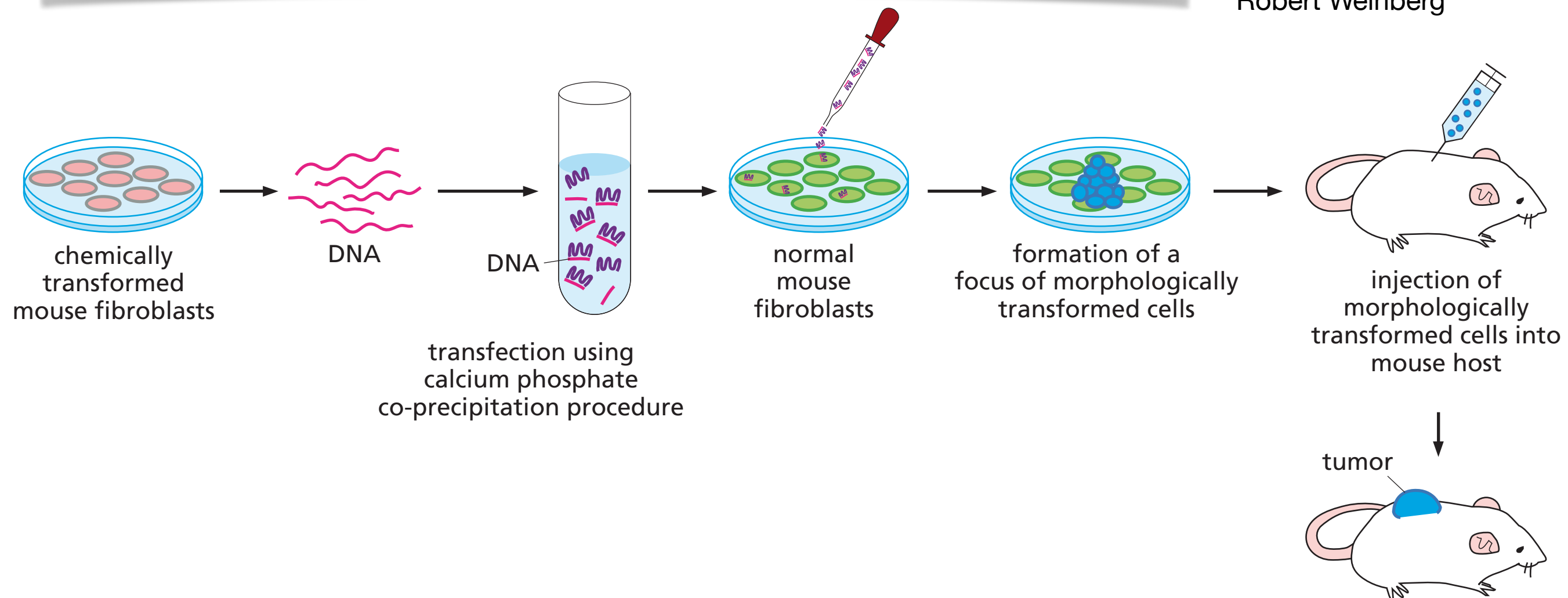
**Ravi Dhar, Douglas R. Lowy & Esther H. Chang\***

Laboratories of Molecular Virology and Dermatology, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20205, USA

\* Present address: Department of Pathology, Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, USA

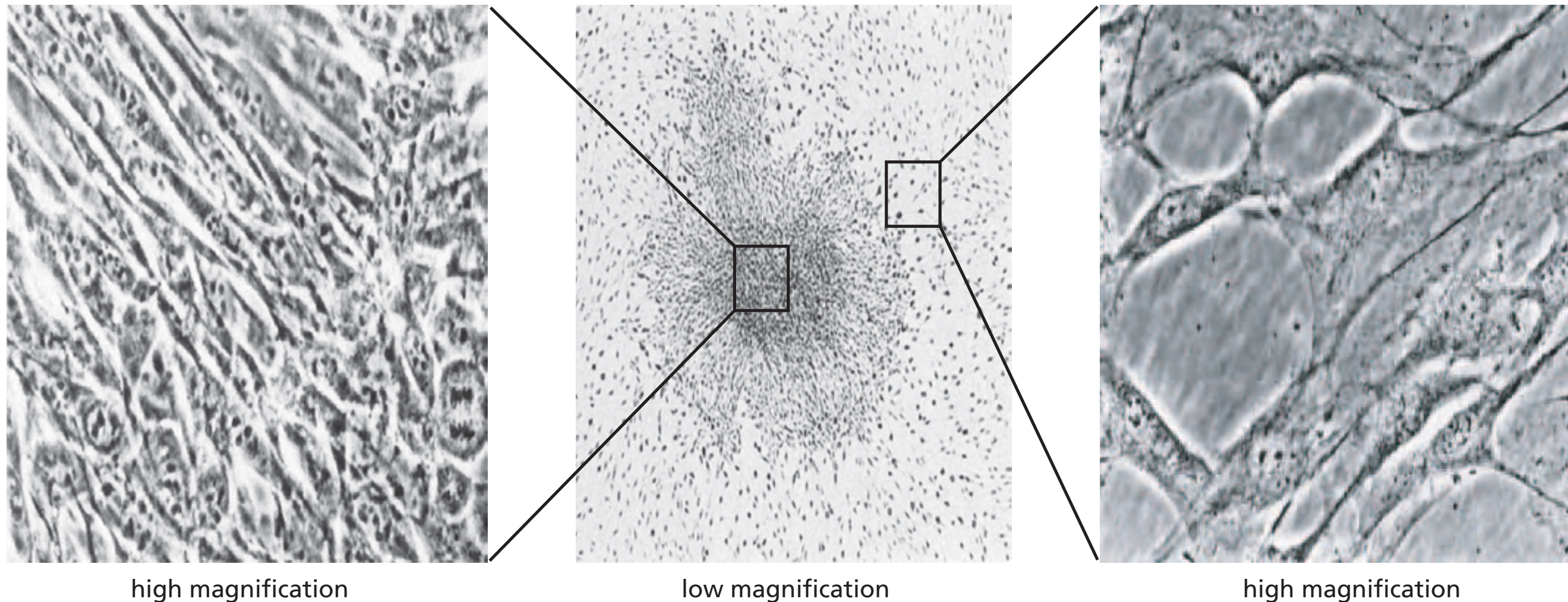


Robert Weinberg





# Transformation of mouse cells by human tumor DNA



**Figure 4.2 Transformation of mouse cells by human tumor DNA** The introduction via transfection of various human tumor DNAs into NIH 3T3 cells yielded foci of transformants. Seen at low magnification (*middle*) is a focus generated by transfection of DNA from the T24 human bladder carcinoma cell line. At high magnification the transformed cells within this focus (*left*), like

many transformed fibroblasts, are spindle-shaped, refractile, and piled up densely on one another. At the same magnification, the cells in the surrounding monolayer of untransformed NIH 3T3 cells (*right*), like normal fibroblasts, have wide, extended cytoplasm and are not piled on one another. (From M. Perucho et al., *Cell* 27:467–476, 1981.)



# Identification of *H-ras* proto-oncogene

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**Clifford J. Tabin, Scott M. Bradley, Cornelia I. Bargmann & Robert A. Weinberg**

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Center for Cancer Research and Department of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA

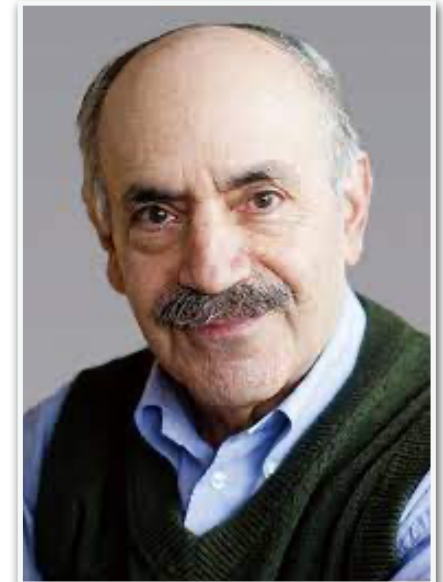
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Robert Weinberg

*Nature*, 1982

**Harvey Rat Sarcoma virus oncogene (mutant Hras) identified in a human bladder cancer cell line**

CCCGGG CCGCAGGCC TTGAGGAGCG

↓

|                                             |                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| met thr glu tyr lys leu val val val gly ala | gly val gly lys ser ala leu thr |
| ATG ACG GAA TAT AAG CTG GTG GTG GTG GGC GCC | GGT GTG GGC AAG AGT GCG CTG ACC |

gly proto-oncogene  
GGC  
GTC  
val oncogene

splice  
↓

ile gln leu ile gln asn his phe val asp glu tyr asp pro thr ile glu

ATC CAG CTG ATC CAG AAC CAT TTT GTG GAC GAA TAC GAC CCC ACT ATA GAG GTGAGCCTGC

GCCGCCGTCC AGGTGCCAGC AGCTGCTGCG GGCGAGCCCA GGACACAGCC AGGATAGGGC TGGCTGCAGC

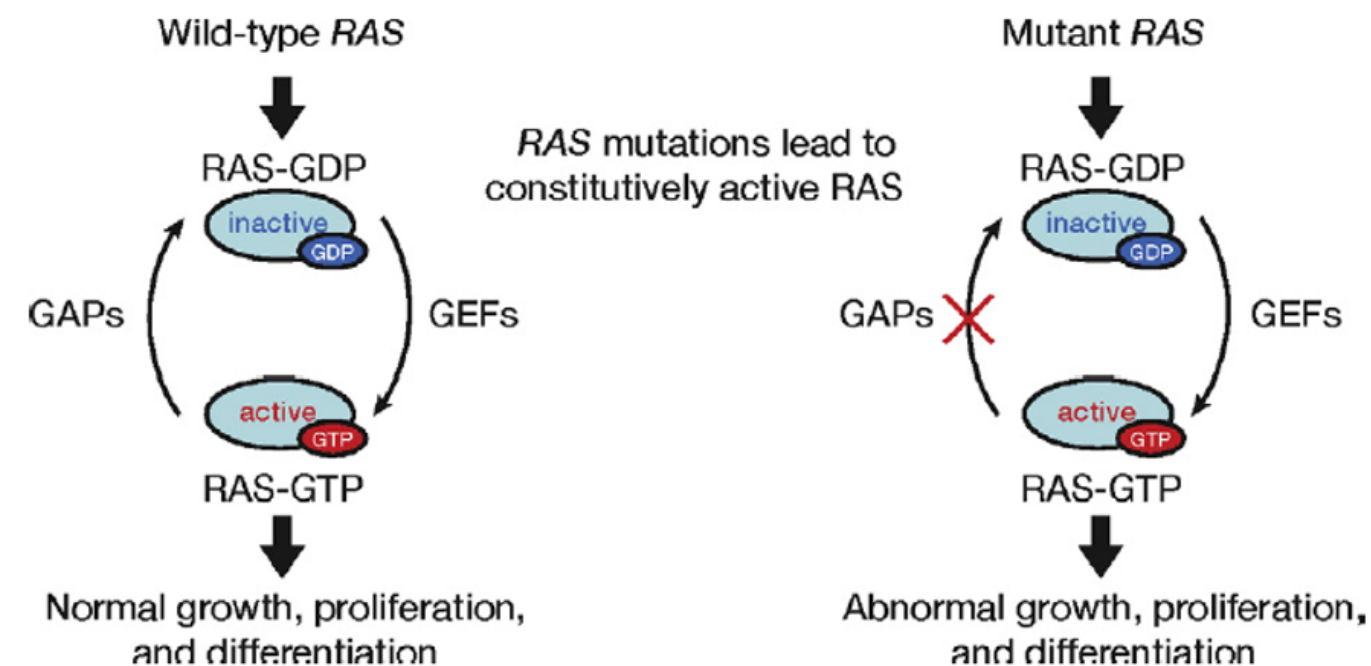
CCCTGGTCCC CTGCATGGTG CTGTGGCCCT GTCTCCTGCT TCCTCTAGAG GAGGGGAGTC CCTCGTCTCA

GCACCCCAGG AGAGGAGGGG GCATGAGGGG CATGAGAGGT ACC

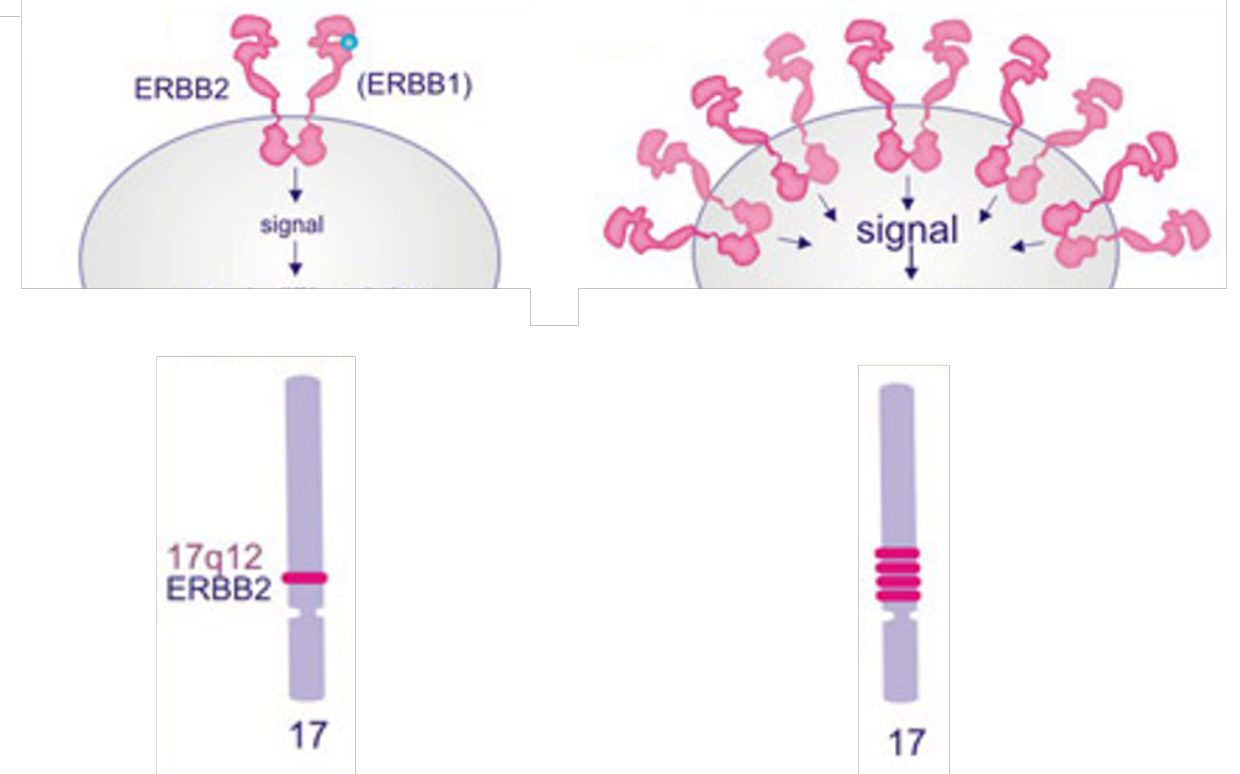


# Proto-oncogenes can be activated by mutations and amplifications

## Activating point mutations

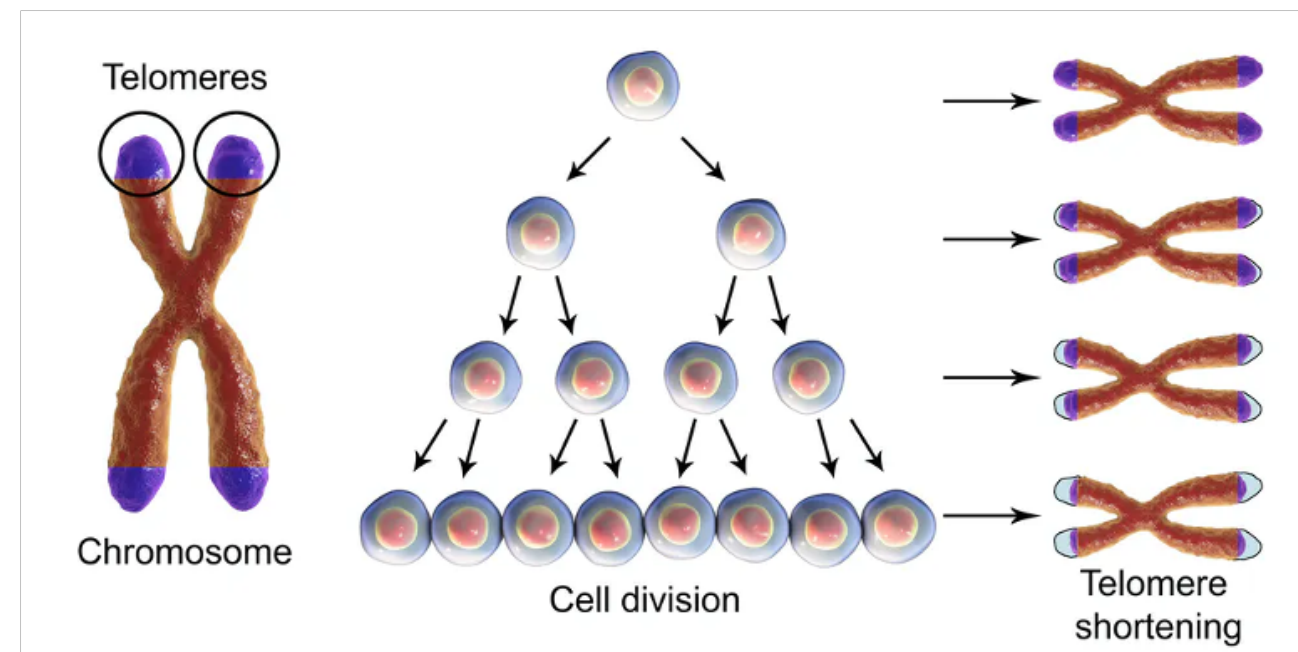
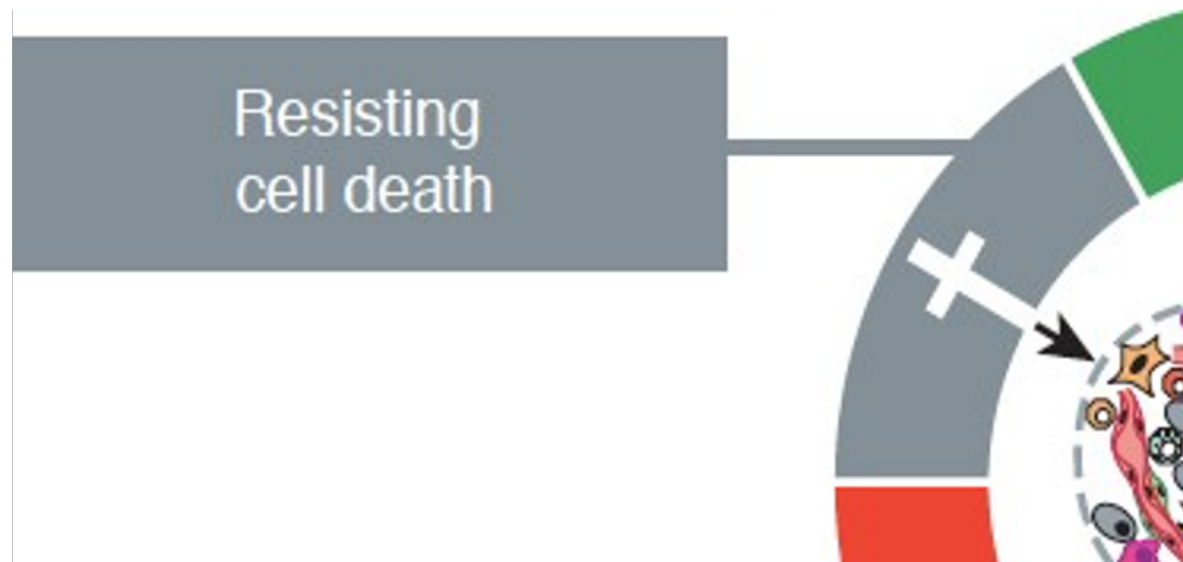


## Gene amplifications (*ErbB2/Her2*)



**Where do you think proto-oncogenic mutations tend to occur?**  
**What type of function is being selected for?**

# Additional hallmarks cooperate with driver oncogenes





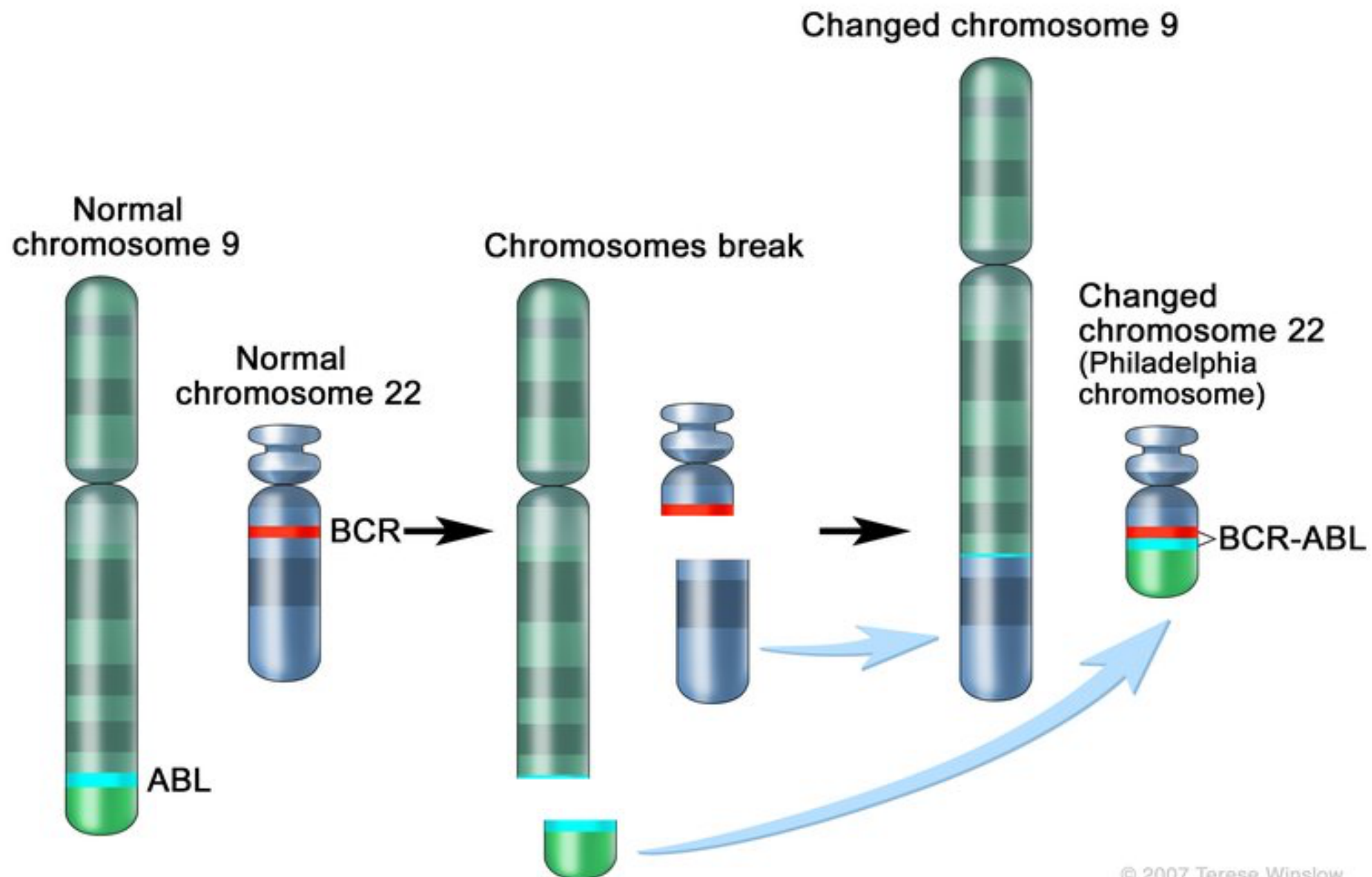
# More proto-oncogenes traced from viral oncogenes

| Name of virus            | Species   | Oncogene                   | Type of oncoprotein                   | Homologous oncogene found in human tumors |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Rous sarcoma             | chicken   | <i>src</i>                 | non-receptor TK                       | colon carcinoma <sup>a</sup>              |
| Abelson leukemia         | mouse     | <i>abl</i>                 | non-receptor TK                       | CML                                       |
| Avian erythroblastosis   | mouse     | <i>erbB</i>                | receptor TK                           | gastric, lung, breast <sup>b</sup>        |
| McDonough feline sarcoma | cat       | <i>fms</i>                 | receptor TK                           | AML <sup>c</sup>                          |
| H-Z feline               | cat       | <i>kit</i>                 | receptor TK <sup>d</sup>              | gastrointestinal stromal                  |
| Murine sarcoma 3611      | mouse     | <i>raf</i>                 | ser/thr kinase <sup>e</sup>           | bladder carcinoma                         |
| Simian sarcoma           | monkey    | <i>sis</i>                 | platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) | many types <sup>f</sup>                   |
| Harvey sarcoma           | mouse/rat | H- <i>ras</i> <sup>g</sup> | small G protein                       | bladder carcinoma                         |
| Kirsten sarcoma          | mouse/rat | K- <i>ras</i> <sup>g</sup> | small G protein                       | many types                                |
| Avian erythroblastosis   | chicken   | <i>erbA</i>                | nuclear receptor <sup>h</sup>         | liver, kidney, pituitary                  |
| Avian myeloblastosis E26 | chicken   | <i>ets</i>                 | transcription factor                  | leukemia <sup>i</sup>                     |
| Avian myelocytoma        | chicken   | <i>myc</i> <sup>j</sup>    | transcription factor                  | many types                                |
| Reticuloendotheliosis    | turkey    | <i>rel</i> <sup>k</sup>    | transcription factor                  | lymphoma                                  |



# Philadelphia Chromosome

First consistent chromosomal alteration (translocation) associated with cancer (leukemias) (1960)



**Question:** are oncogenes/oncogenic mutations dominant or recessive?

# Oncogenes can affect several Hallmarks of Cancer

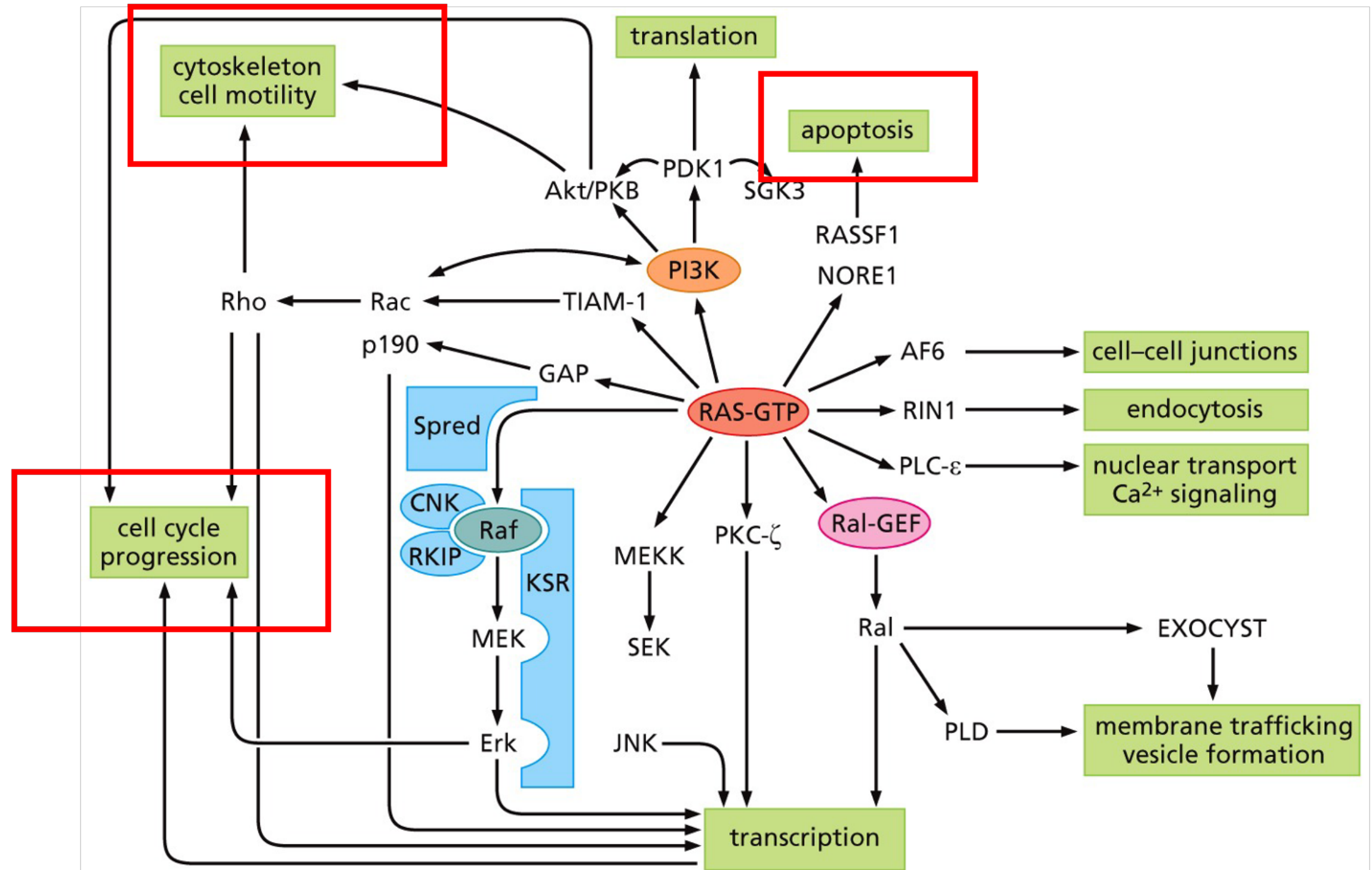
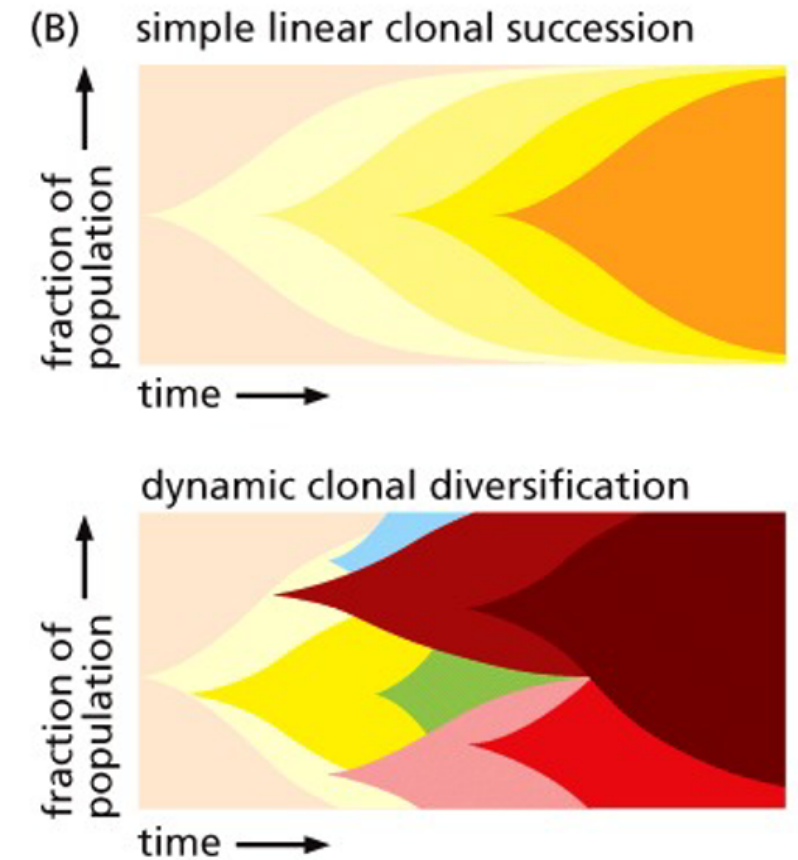
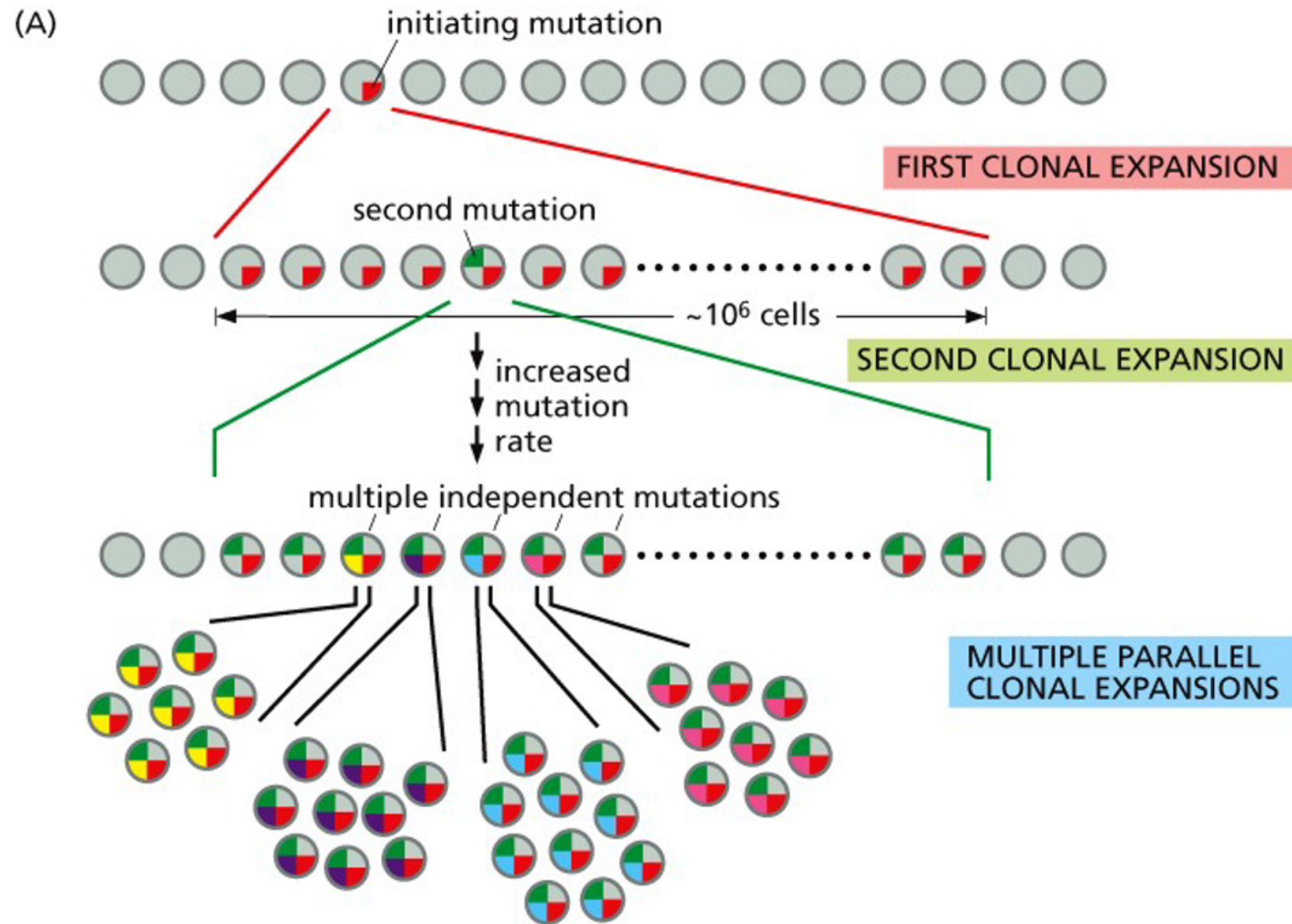


Figure 6.33 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)



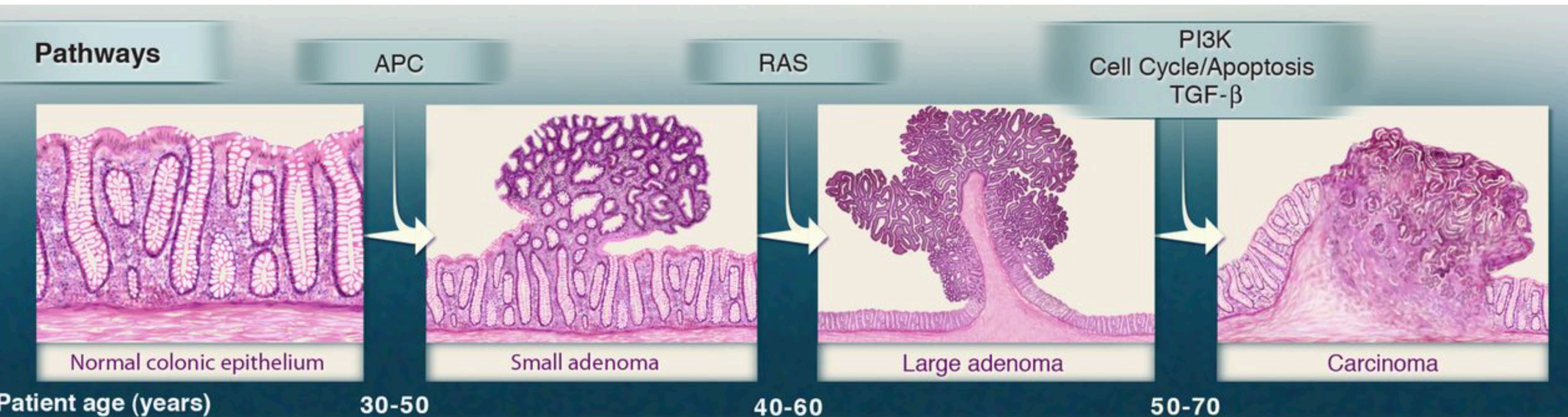
## **6. Clonal evolution theory of cancer**

# Cancer is a multi-step process

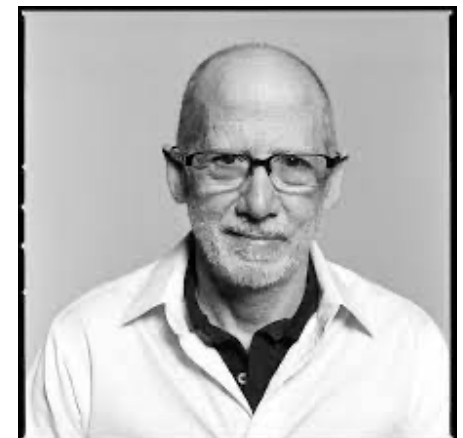


# Cancer is a multi-step process

Colorectal cancer:

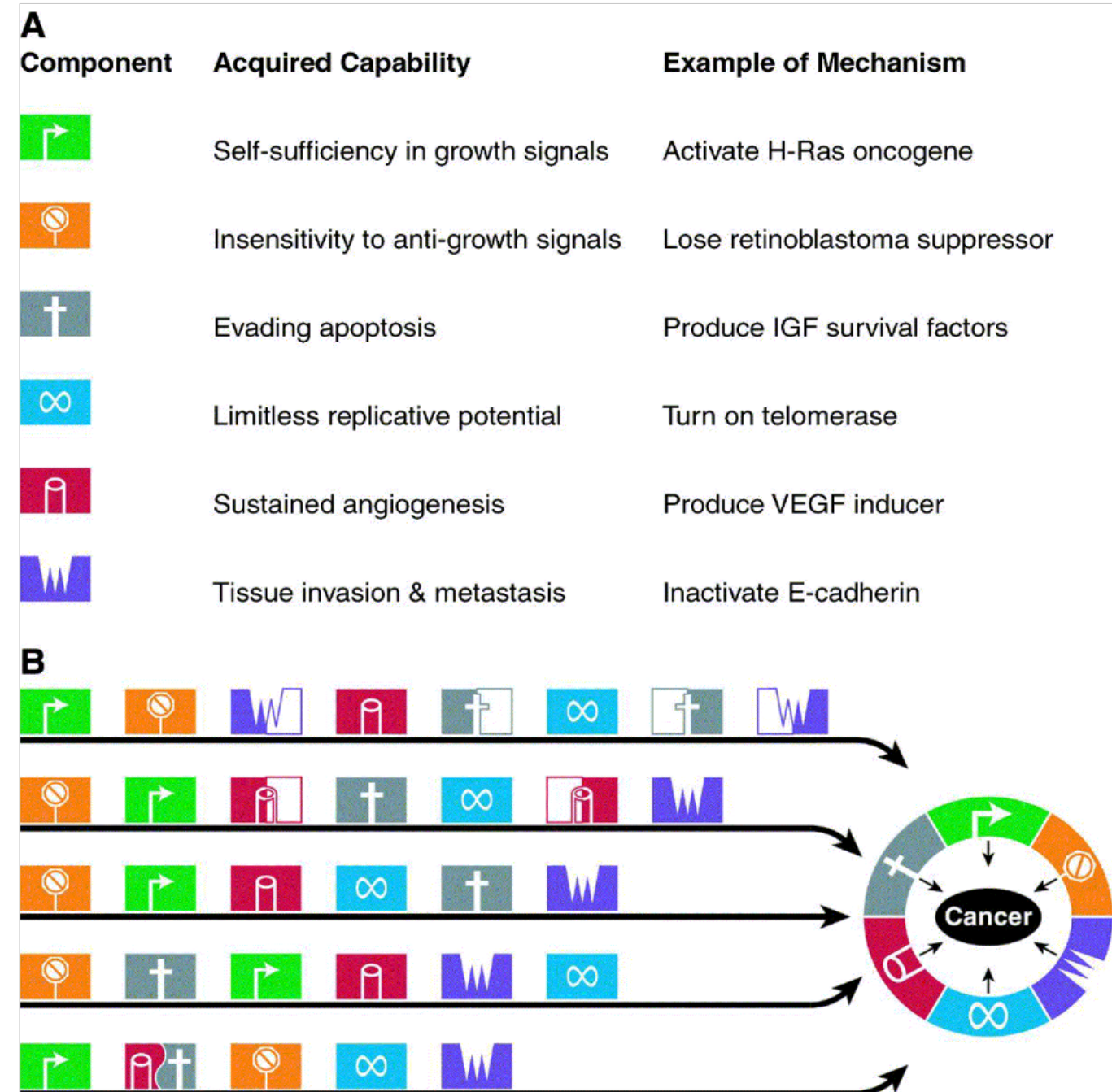


Vogelstein, B, et al. *Science* 2013





# Key concept: cancer progresses through acquisition of multiple genetic changes



But also epigenetic and environmental changes . . .



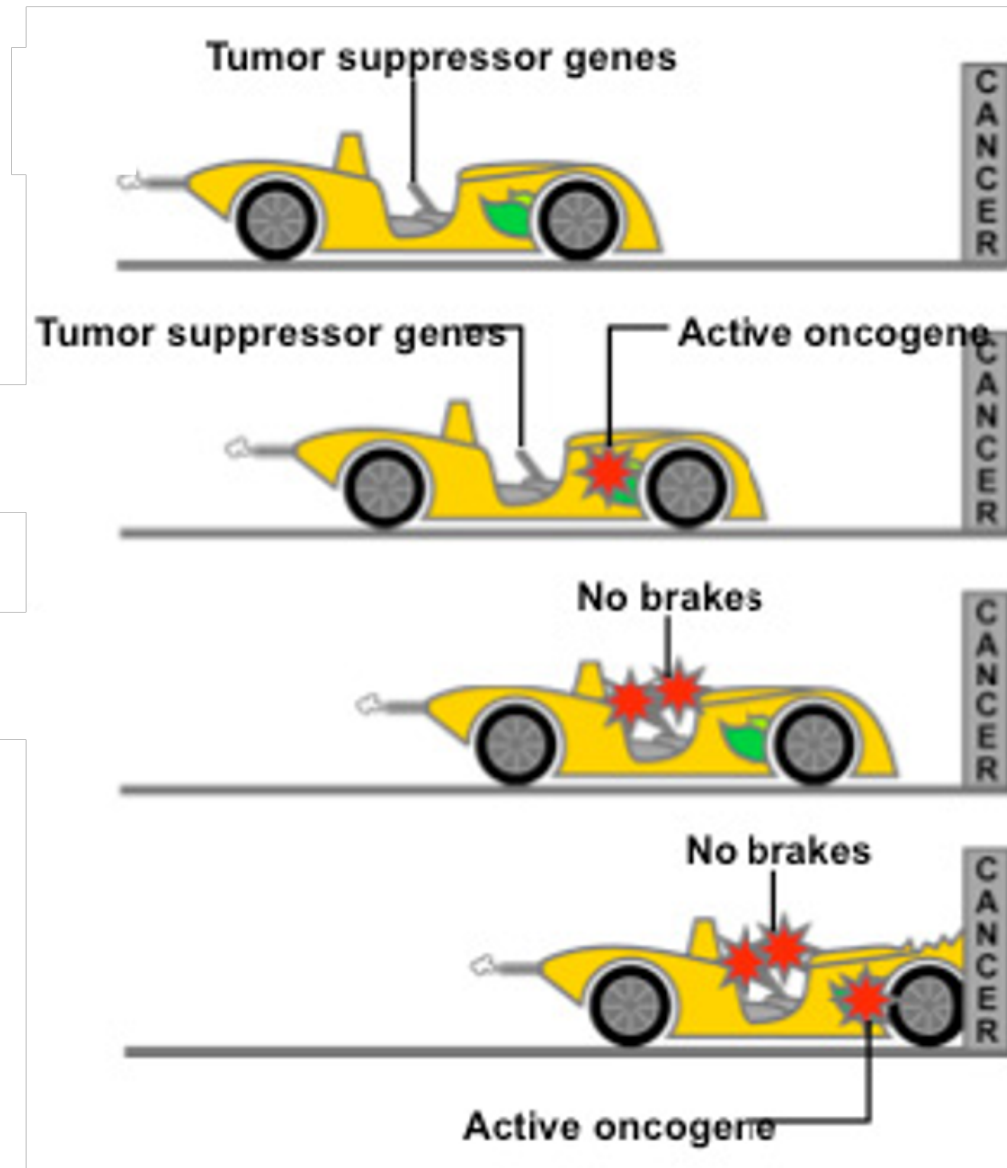
**Next up: Tumor suppressors and their dysregulation in cancer!**





# Key differences between oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes: brake vs. accelerator

| Oncogenes                                                     | Tumor suppressor genes                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mutation in one of the two alleles is sufficient              | Both alleles must be affected                                 |
| Gain of function of a protein that signals cell proliferation | Loss of function of protein                                   |
| Mutation arises in somatic cells, not inherited               | Mutation present in germ cell (inherited ) or in somatic cell |





# Representative TSGs

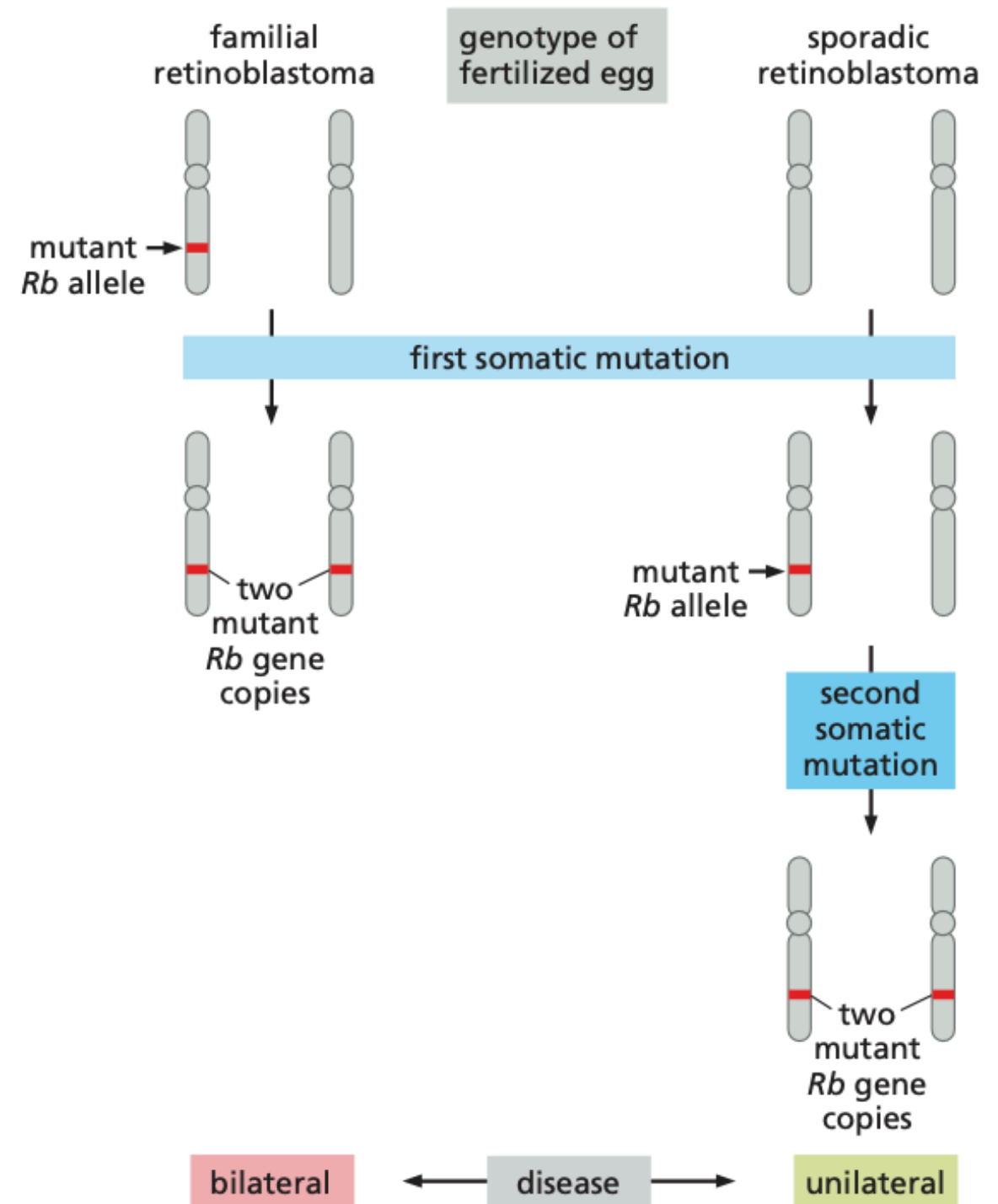
Table 1. Representative Tumor Suppressor Genes

| Gene          | Function                                            | Familial Cancer Association                                | Other Major Tumor Types                                  |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| p53           | Transcription factor                                | Li-Fraumeni syndrome                                       | >50% of cancers                                          |
| RB            | Transcriptional corepression                        | Retinoblastoma                                             | Many                                                     |
| INK4a (p16)   | Cdk inhibitor (RB activation)                       | Melanoma                                                   | Many                                                     |
| ARF           | Mdm2 antagonist (p53 activation)                    | Melanoma                                                   | Many                                                     |
| APC           | Wnt/Wingless signaling                              | Familial adenomatous polyposis                             | Colorectal cancer                                        |
| PTCH          | Hedgehog signaling (receptor)                       | Basal cell nevus (Gorlin) syndrome                         | Medulloblastoma, basal cell carcinoma, rhabdomyosarcoma  |
| SMAD4/DPC4    | TGF- $\beta$ signaling (Transcription factor)       | Juvenile polyposis (hamartomas)                            | Pancreatic and colon cancer                              |
| PTEN          | Lipid phosphatase (phosphoinositide metabolism)     | Cowden syndrome                                            | Glioblastoma, endometrial, thyroid, and prostate cancers |
| TSC1,2        | GTPase activating protein complex (mTOR inhibition) | Tuberous sclerosis (hamartomas)                            | Renal cell carcinoma (rare), angiofibromas               |
| NF1           | GTPase activating protein for Ras                   | Neurofibromatosis                                          | Sarcomas, gliomas                                        |
| WT1           | Transcription factor                                | Wilm's tumor                                               |                                                          |
| MSH2 and MLH1 | DNA mismatch repair                                 | Hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome) | Endometrial, gastric, ovarian, bladder cancer            |
| ATM           | DNA damage sensor (protein kinase)                  | Ataxia telangiectasia (T-cell lymphoma)                    | Lymphoreticular malignancies                             |
| NBS1          | DNA repair, S phase checkpoint control              | Nijmegen breakage syndrome (T cell lymphoma)               | Lymphoreticular malignancies                             |
| CHK2          | Protein kinase (G1 checkpoint control)              | Li-Fraumeni syndrome                                       |                                                          |
| BRCA1, BRCA2  | DNA repair                                          | Familial breast and ovarian cancer                         |                                                          |
| FA genes      | DNA repair, S phase checkpoint                      | Fanconi Anemia                                             | Acute myelogenous leukemia                               |
| VHL           | E3 ligase recognition factor for HIF $\alpha$       | Von Hippel-Lindau syndrome                                 | Renal cell carcinoma, cerebellar hemangiosarcoma         |

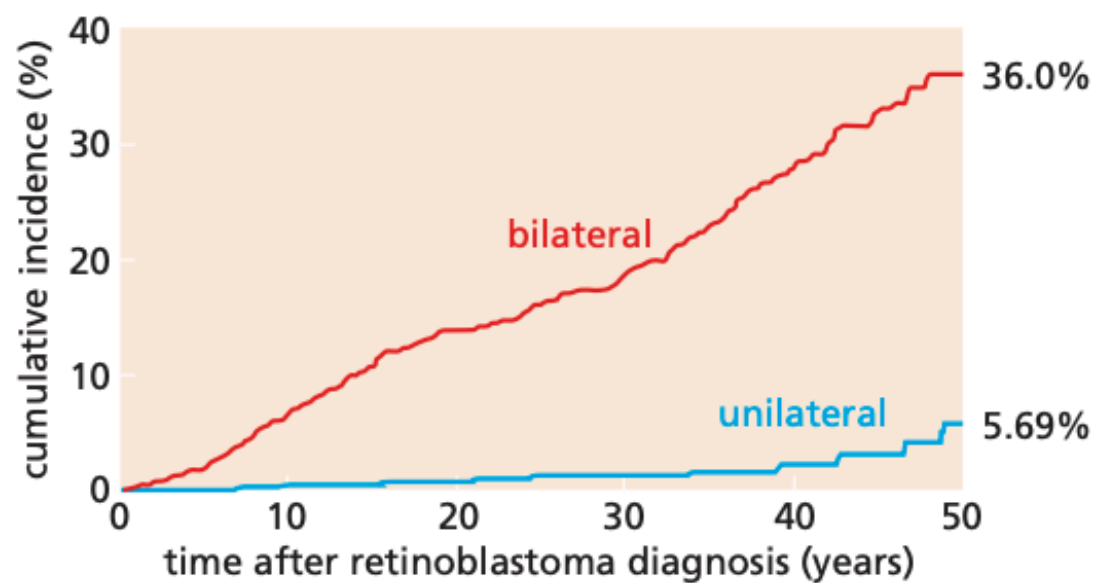
# Knudson's Two Hit Hypothesis



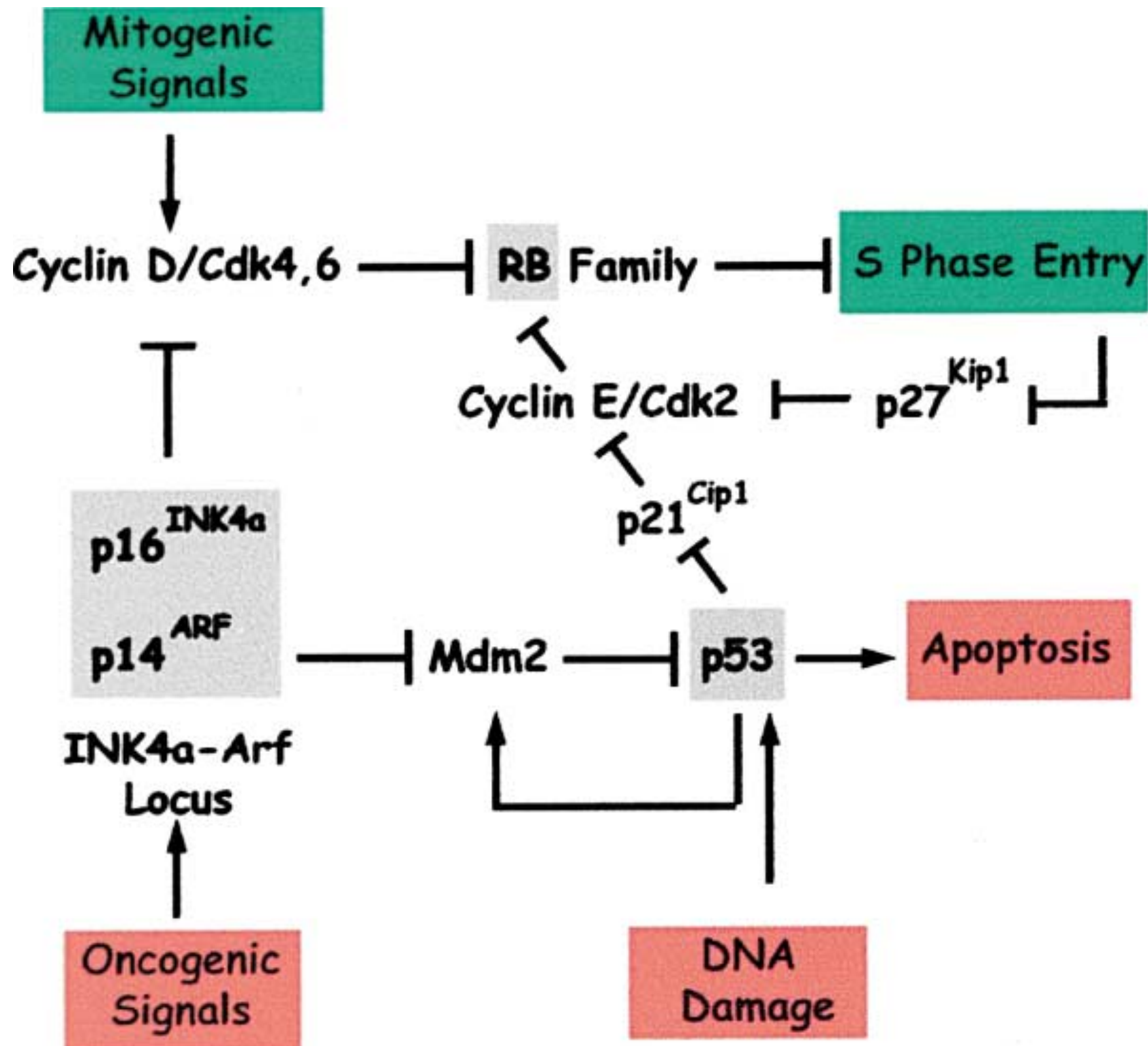
Alfred G. Knudson Jr.



(A) non-retinal tumors of retinoblastoma patients

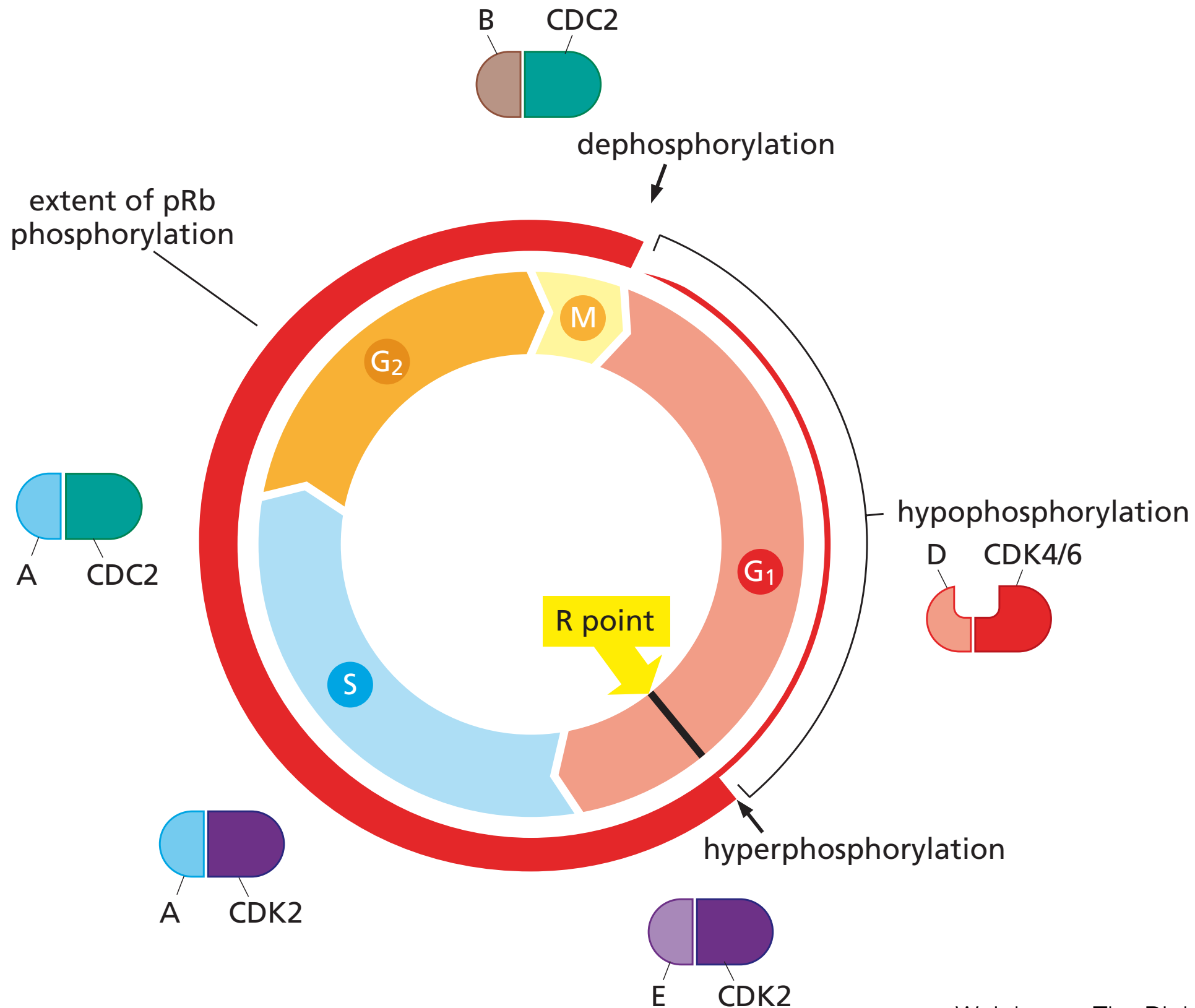


# RB and p53 Regulate Cell Cycle Checkpoint Controls

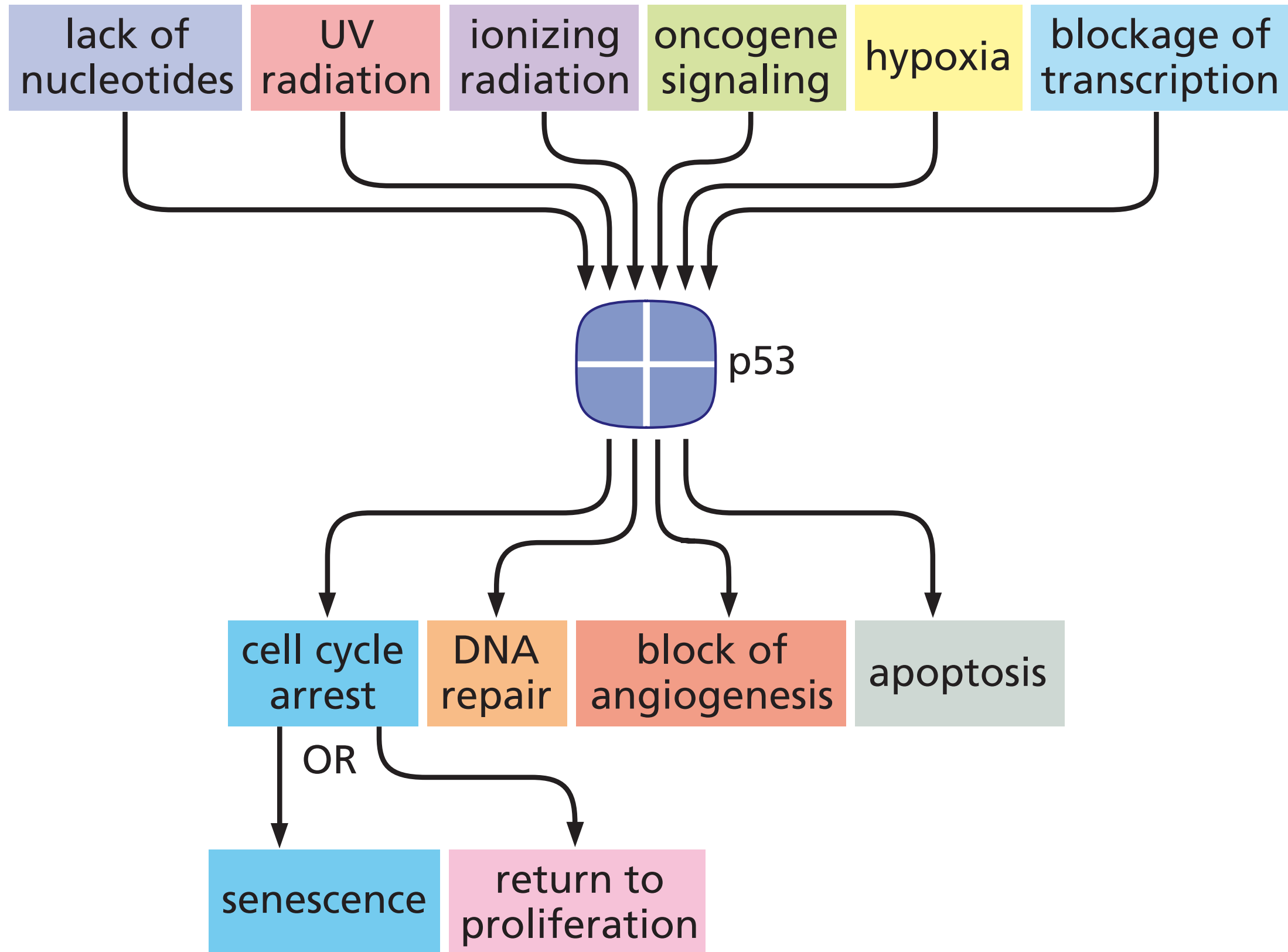




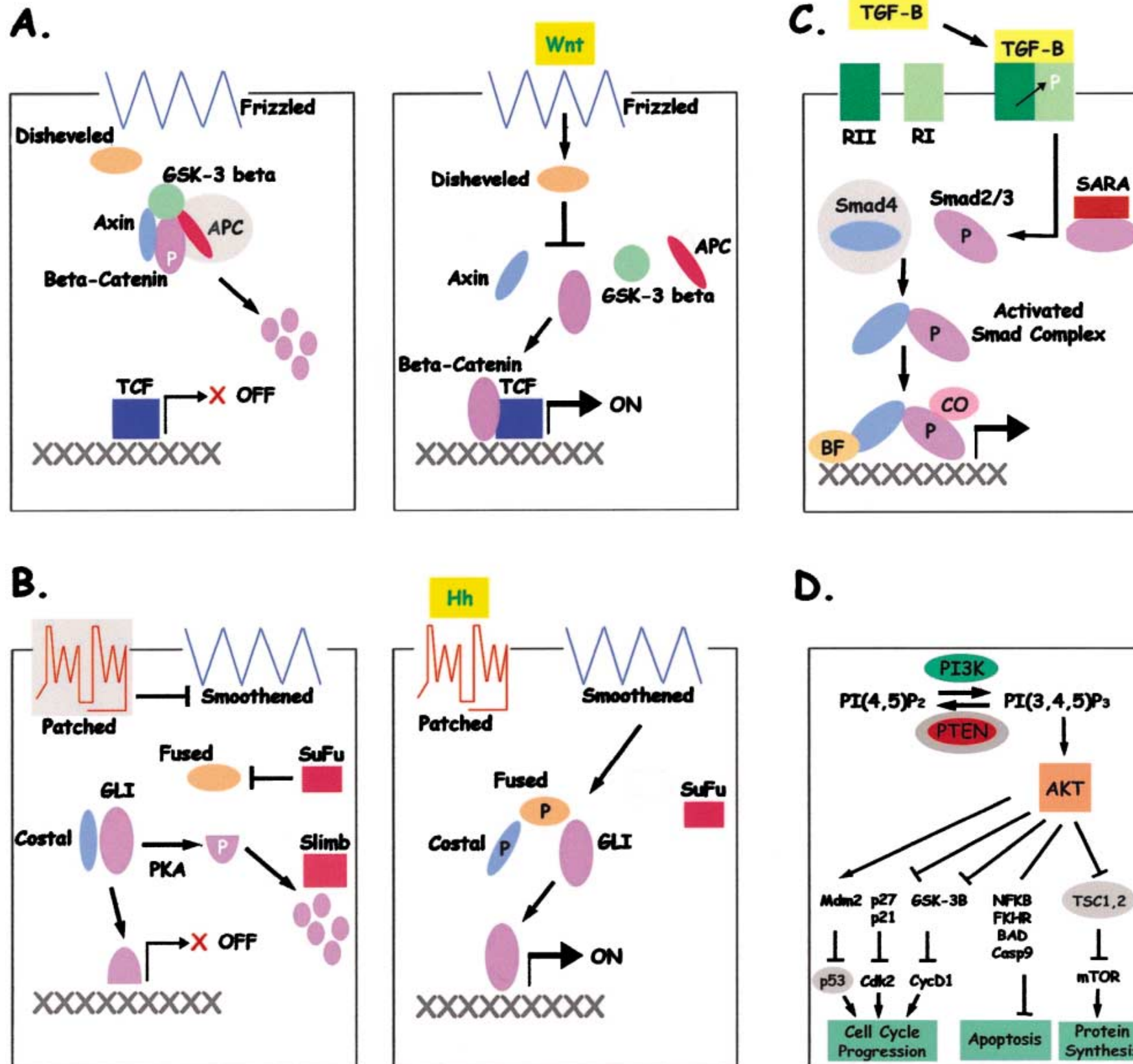
# Cell cycle–dependent phosphorylation of RB



# The p53 transcription factor responds to a variety of stress signals

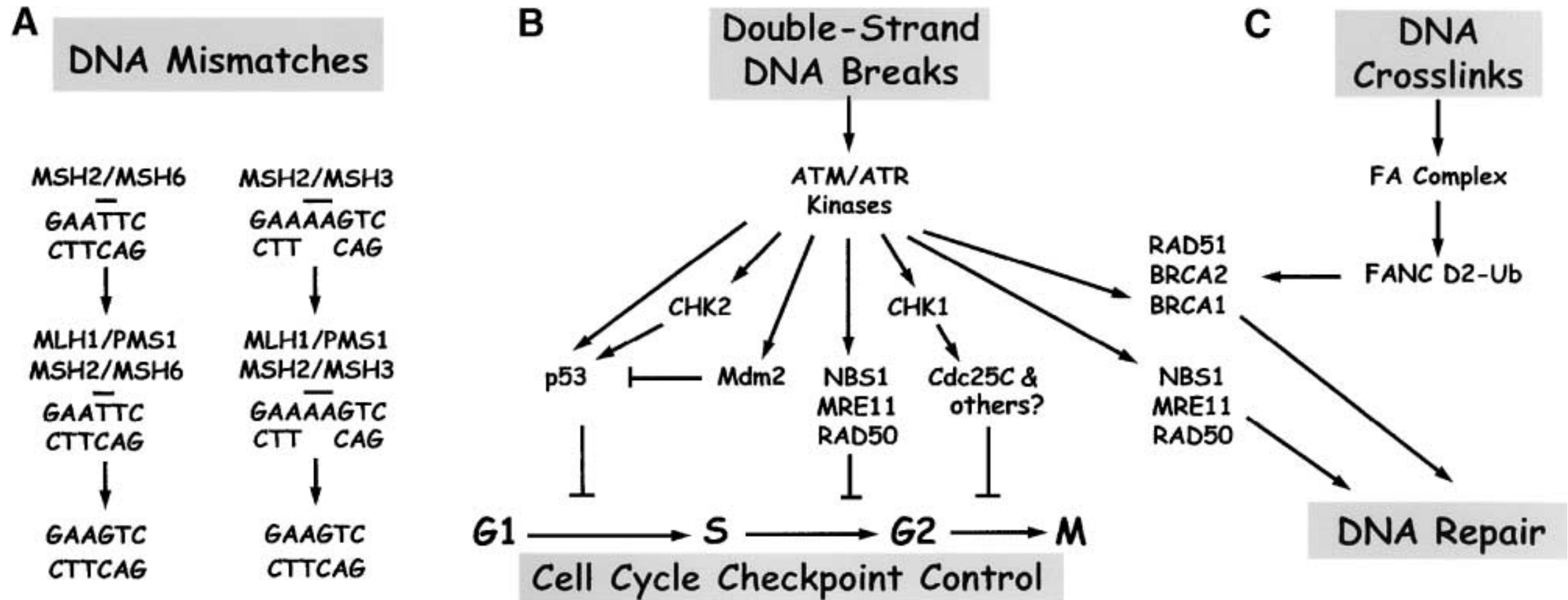


# Tumor Suppressor Proteins Regulating Ligand-Mediated Signaling Pathways

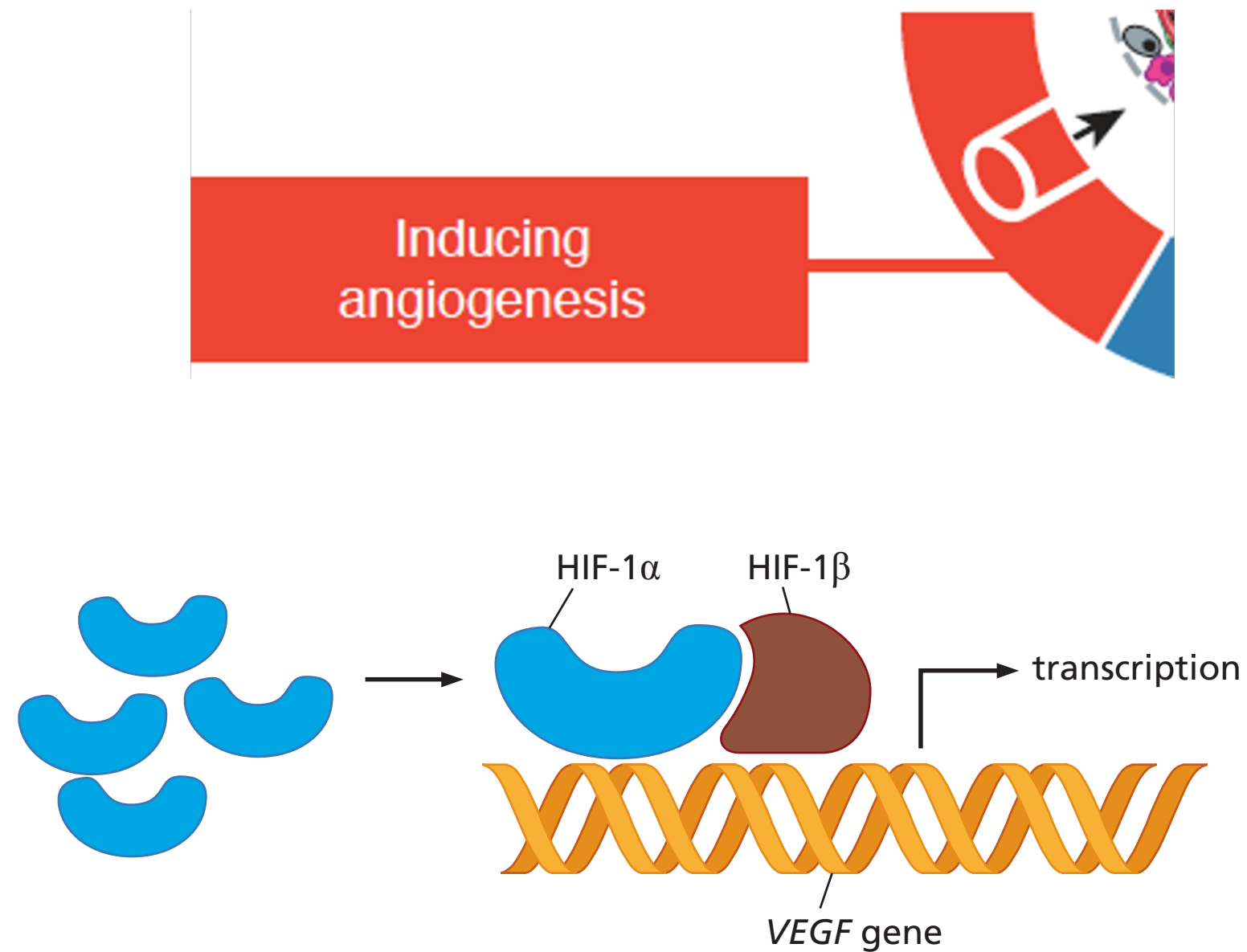




# Tumor Suppressors Involved in the DNA Damage Response

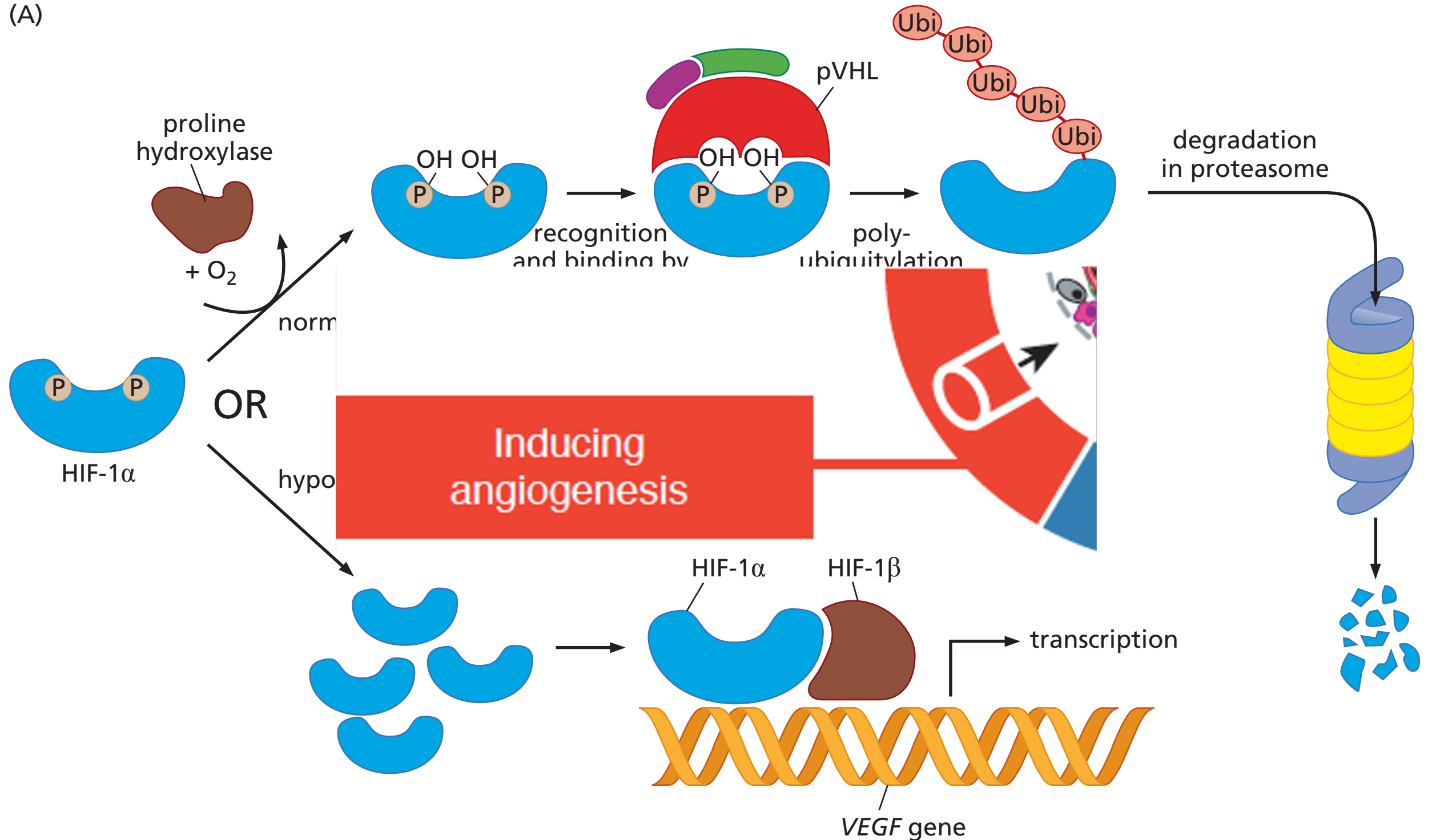


# HIF-1 and its regulation by pVHL



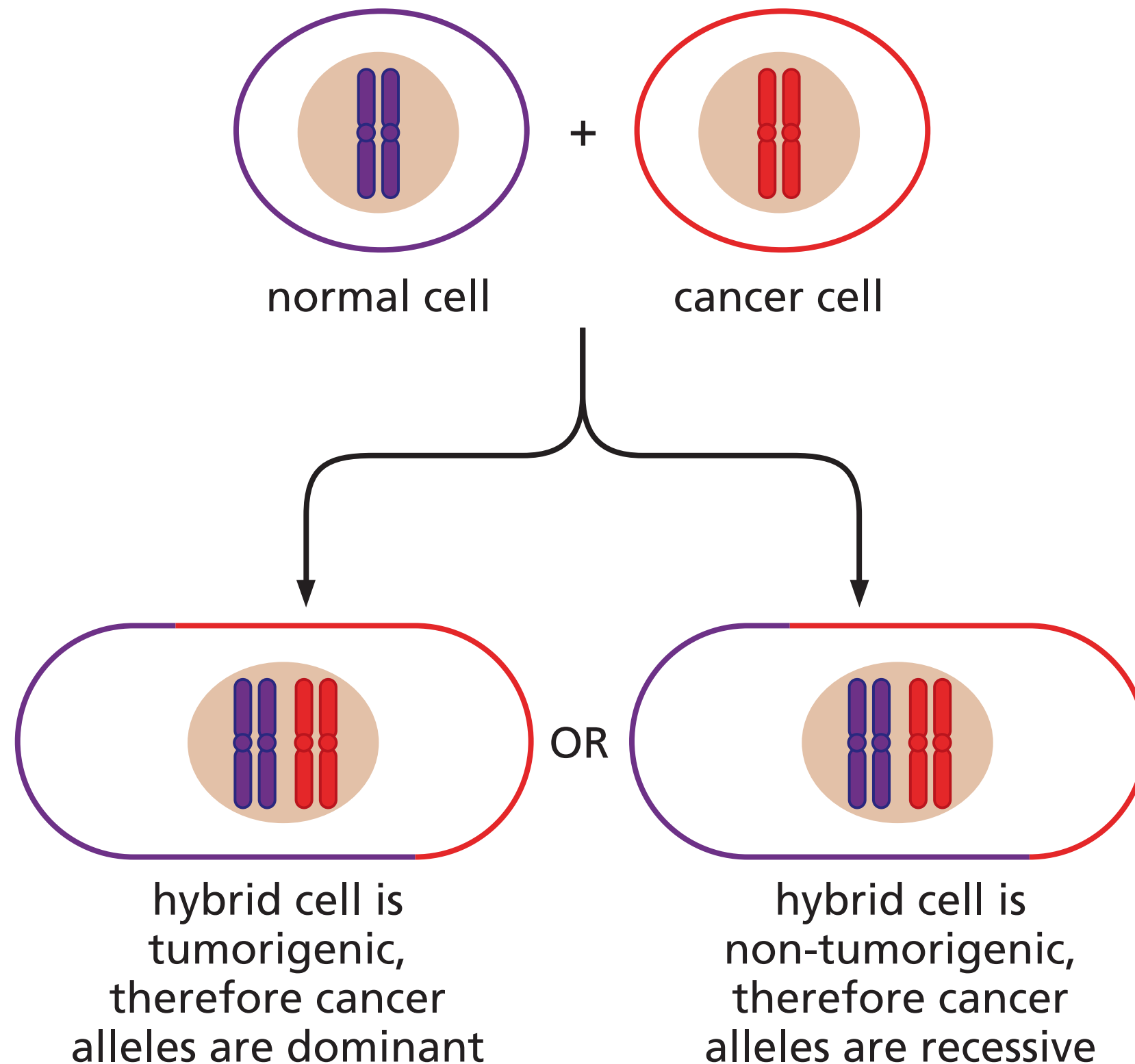
# HIF-1 and its regulation by pVHL

(A)

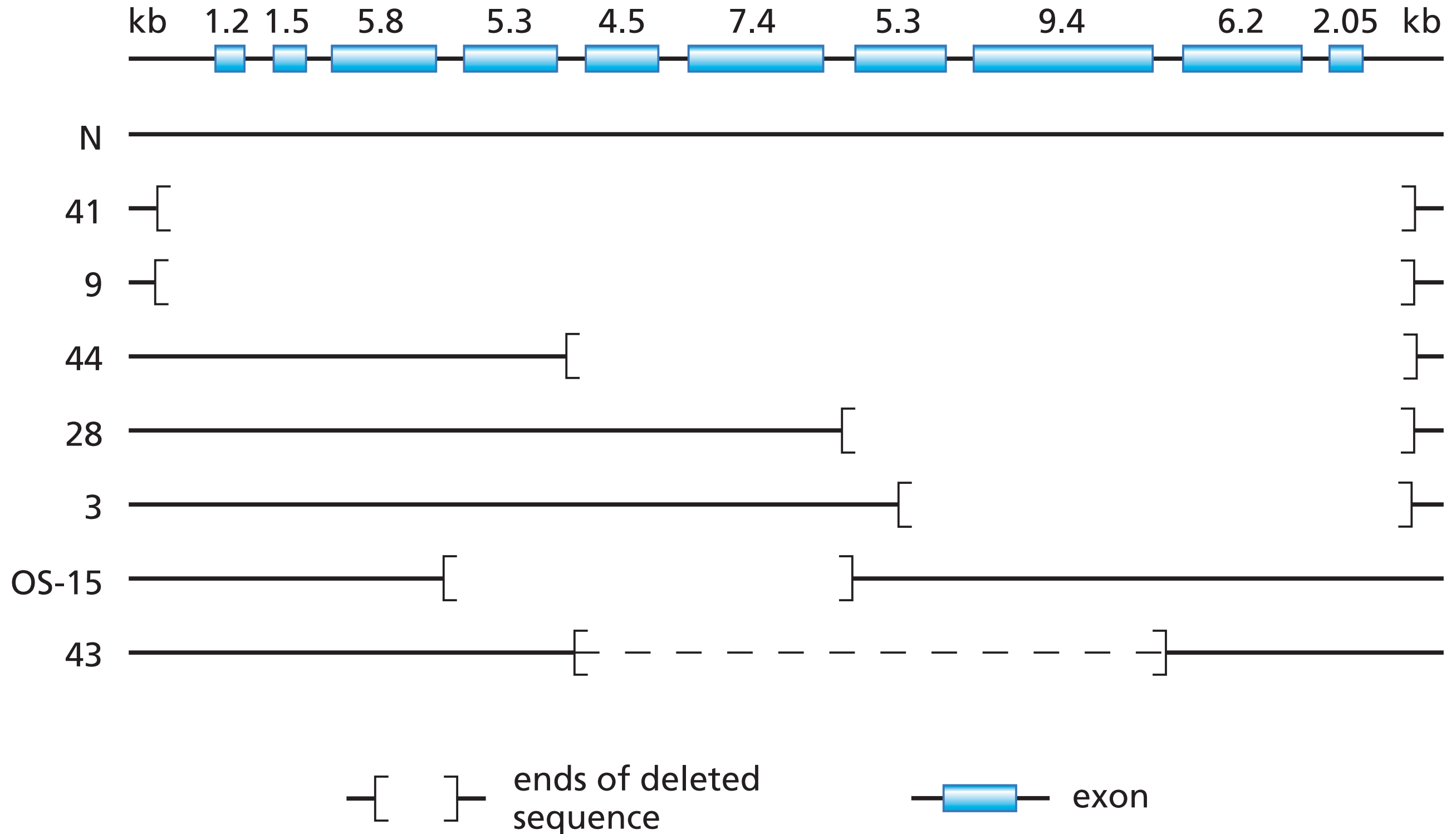




# Tumor suppression is largely a dominant phenotype

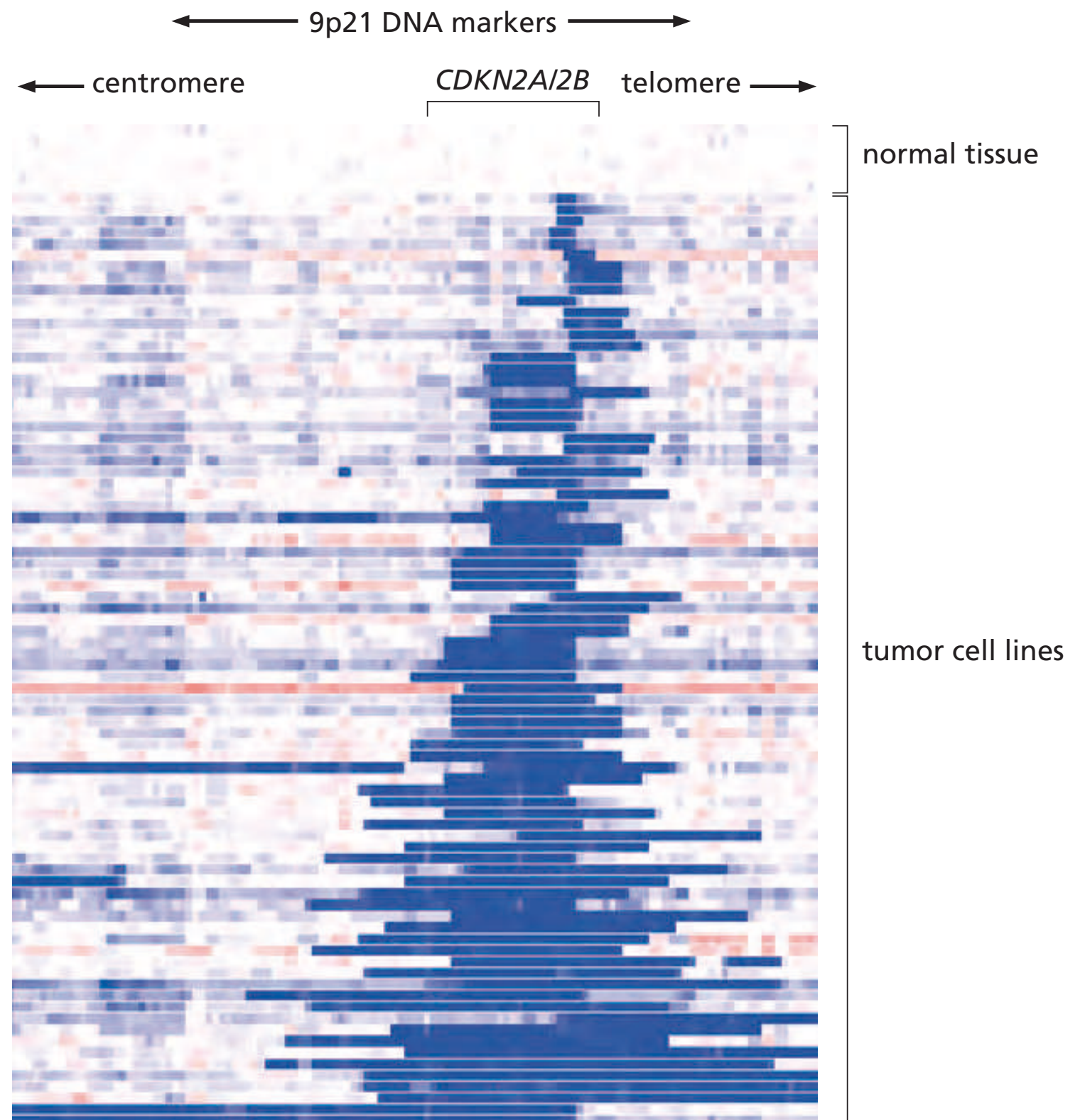


# Tumor suppressor genes (e.g. *RB1*) can be inactivated via genetic deletions



# Tumor suppressor genes can be inactivated via genetic deletions

**Figure 7.14 Measurement of deleted chromosomal segments carrying tumor suppressor genes** One strategy for localizing and identifying TSGs depends on mapping overlapping regions of relatively small deletions that affect a chromosomal arm. This has become practical with the identification of large numbers of sequence markers that can be planted at sites across the entire human genome and the use of high-throughput sequencing technologies. Here, a set of 250,000 probes was used; the probes were planted at an average density of one per 12 kb across the genome. DNAs of 80 tumor cell lines (arrayed top to bottom, names deleted) were analyzed for the presence or absence of sequences reactive with the probes. Short homozygous deletions (*dark blue bars*) affecting one or both of the adjacent pair of TSGs mapping to chromosome 9p21—*CDKN2A* and *CDKN2B*—have been found to occur frequently. In contrast, nearby chromosomal sequences to the right and left are rarely affected by either significant amplification (*light red squares*) or deletions (*light blue squares*). (From S.M. Rothenberg et al., *Cancer Res.* 70:2158–2164, 2010.)





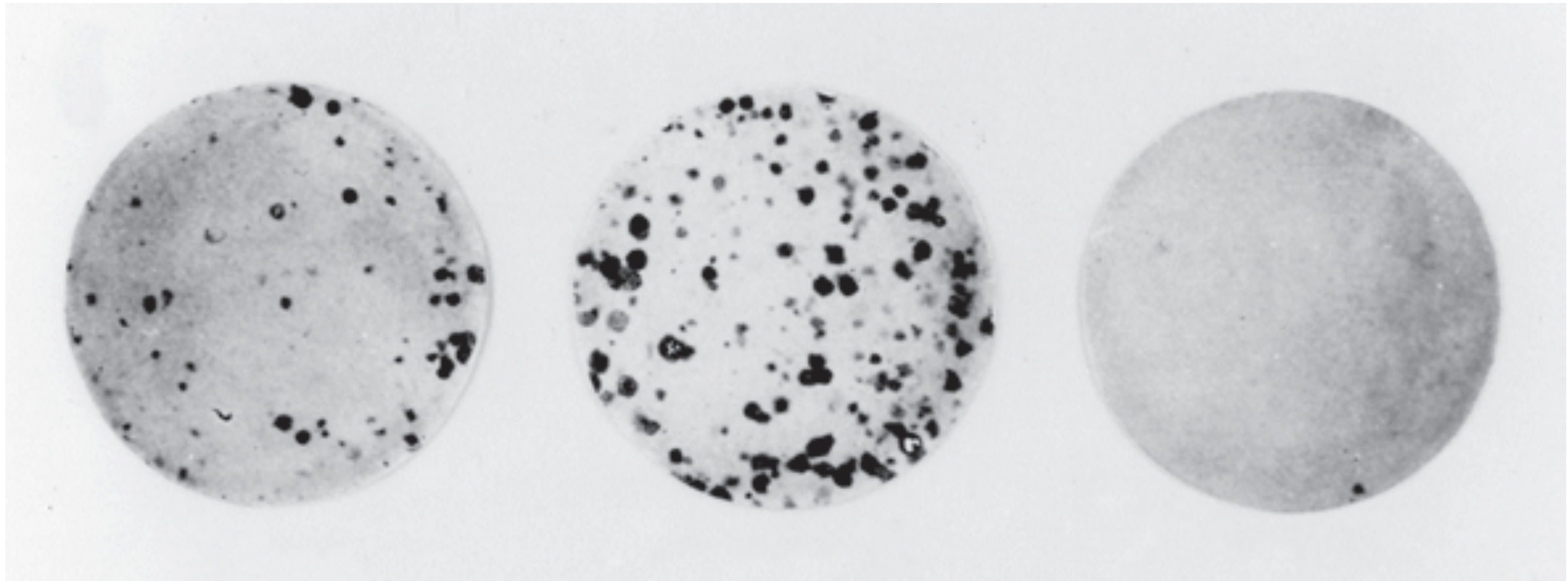
# Examples of validated tumor suppressor genes

**Table 7.1** Examples of human tumor suppressor genes that have been cloned

| Name of gene                            | Chromosomal location | Familial cancer syndrome                                 | Sporadic cancer                                                            | Function of gene product                        |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <i>SDHB</i>                             | 1p36.1               | paraganglioma                                            | —                                                                          | succinate dehydrogenase                         |
| <i>CHD5</i>                             | 1p36.31              | cutaneous melanoma                                       | many types                                                                 | histone reader, transcriptional inducer         |
| <i>HRPT2</i>                            | 1q25–32              | parathyroid tumors, jaw fibromas                         | parathyroid tumors                                                         | chromatin protein                               |
| <i>FH</i>                               | 1q42.3               | familial leiomyomatosis <sup>a</sup>                     | —                                                                          | fumarate hydratase                              |
| <i>FHIT</i>                             | 3p14.2               | —                                                        | many types                                                                 | diadenosine triphosphate hydrolase              |
| <i>BAP1</i>                             | 3p21.1               | mesothelioma, melanoma                                   | mesothelioma, uveal melanoma                                               | ubiquitin hydrolase                             |
| <i>RASSF1A</i>                          | 3p21.3               | —                                                        | many types                                                                 | multiple functions                              |
| <i>TGFBR2</i>                           | 3p2.2                | HNPCC                                                    | colon, gastric, pancreatic carcinomas                                      | TGF- $\beta$ receptor                           |
| <i>VHL</i>                              | 3p25–26              | von Hippel–Lindau syndrome                               | renal cell carcinoma                                                       | ubiquitylation of HIF                           |
| <i>hCDC4</i>                            | 4q32                 | —                                                        | endometrial carcinoma                                                      | ubiquitin ligase                                |
| <i>APC</i>                              | 5q21–22              | familial adenomatous polyposis coli                      | colorectal, pancreatic, and stomach carcinomas; prostate carcinoma         | $\beta$ -catenin degradation                    |
| <i>NKX3.1</i>                           | 8p21.2               | —                                                        | prostate carcinoma                                                         | homeobox TF                                     |
| <i>miR-124a</i> <sup>b</sup>            | 8p23.1               | —                                                        | many types                                                                 | suppresses CDK6                                 |
| <i>p16<sup>INK4A</sup></i> <sup>c</sup> | 9p21                 | familial melanoma                                        | many types                                                                 | CDK inhibitor                                   |
| <i>p14<sup>ARF</sup></i> <sup>d</sup>   | 9p21                 | —                                                        | all types                                                                  | p53 stabilizer                                  |
| <i>PTC</i>                              | 9q22.3               | nevoid basal cell carcinoma syndrome                     | medulloblastomas                                                           | receptor for hedgehog GF                        |
| <i>let 7a (miRNA)</i> <sup>e</sup>      | 9q22.32              | —                                                        | many types                                                                 | suppresses Ras, Myc                             |
| <i>TSC1</i>                             | 9q34                 | tuberous sclerosis                                       | —                                                                          | inhibitor of mTOR <sup>f</sup>                  |
| <i>BMPR1</i>                            | 10q21–22             | juvenile polyposis                                       | —                                                                          | BMP receptor                                    |
| <i>ANXA7</i>                            | 10q21                | —                                                        | breast, prostate, stomach                                                  | endocytosis                                     |
| <i>PTEN</i> <sup>g</sup>                | 10q23.3              | Cowden's disease, breast and gastrointestinal carcinomas | glioblastoma; prostate, breast, and thyroid carcinomas                     | PIP <sub>3</sub> phosphatase                    |
| <i>WT1</i>                              | 11p13.5–6            | Wilms tumor                                              | Wilms tumor                                                                | TF                                              |
| <i>MEN1</i>                             | 11p13                | multiple endocrine neoplasia                             | —                                                                          | histone modification, transcriptional repressor |
| <i>BWS/CDKN1C</i>                       | 11p15.5              | Beckwith–Wiedemann syndrome                              | —                                                                          | p57 <sup>Kip2</sup> CDK inhibitor               |
| <i>SDHD</i> <sup>h</sup>                | 11q23.1              | paraganglioma, pheochromocytoma                          | pheochromocytoma                                                           | mitochondrial protein                           |
| <i>CBL</i>                              | 11q23.3              | juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia                         | adult myelomonocytic leukemia                                              | SH2-containing ubiquitin ligase                 |
| <i>RB</i>                               | 13q14.2              | retinoblastoma, osteosarcoma                             | retinoblastoma; sarcomas; bladder, breast, esophageal, and lung carcinomas | transcriptional repression; control of E2Fs     |

| Name of gene             | Chromosomal location | Familial cancer syndrome                  | Sporadic cancer                                          | Function of gene product                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <i>miR-15a/16-1</i>      | 13q14.3              | —                                         | B-cell lymphoma                                          | suppresses Bcl-2, Mcl-1, cyclin D1, Wnt3a |
| <i>miR-127</i>           | 14q32.31             | —                                         | many types                                               | suppresses Bcl-6                          |
| <i>CYFIP1</i>            | 15q11.2              | —                                         | lung, breast, colon, bladder carcinomas                  | actin cytoskeleton organization           |
| <i>TSC2</i>              | 16p13.3              | tuberous sclerosis                        | —                                                        | inhibitor of mTOR <sup>f</sup>            |
| <i>CBP</i>               | 16p13.3              | Rubinstein–Taybi syndrome                 | AML <sup>i</sup>                                         | TF co-activator                           |
| <i>CYLD</i>              | 16q12–13             | cylindromatosis                           | —                                                        | deubiquitinating enzyme                   |
| <i>CDH1</i>              | 16q22.1              | familial gastric carcinoma                | invasive cancers                                         | cell–cell adhesion                        |
| <i>BHD/FLCN</i>          | 17p11.2              | Birt–Hogg–Dube syndrome                   | kidney carcinomas, hamartomas                            | regulator of mTOR <sup>f</sup>            |
| <i>TP53</i>              | 17p13.1              | Li–Fraumeni syndrome                      | many types                                               | TF                                        |
| <i>NF1</i>               | 17q11.2              | neurofibromatosis type 1                  | colon carcinoma, astrocytoma, acute myelogenous leukemia | Ras-GAP                                   |
| <i>PRKAR1A</i>           | 17q22–24             | multiple endocrine neoplasia <sup>j</sup> | multiple endocrine tumors                                | subunit of PKA                            |
| <i>DPC4</i> <sup>k</sup> | 18q21.1              | juvenile polyposis                        | pancreatic and colon carcinomas                          | TGF- $\beta$ TF                           |
| <i>LKB1/STK11</i>        | 19p13.3              | Peutz–Jegher syndrome                     | hamartomatous colonic polyps                             | serine/threonine kinase                   |
| <i>RUNX1</i>             | 21q22.12             | familial platelet disorder                | AML                                                      | TF                                        |
| <i>SNF5</i> <sup>l</sup> | 22q11.2              | rhabdoid predisposition syndrome          | malignant rhabdoid tumors                                | chromosome remodeling                     |
| <i>NF2</i>               | 22q12.2              | neurofibroma-predisposition syndrome      | schwannoma, meningioma; ependymoma                       | cytoskeleton–membrane linkage             |
| <i>WTX</i>               | Xq11.1               | —                                         | Wilms tumor                                              | $\beta$ -catenin degradation              |

# Oncogene-TSG cooperation in transformation

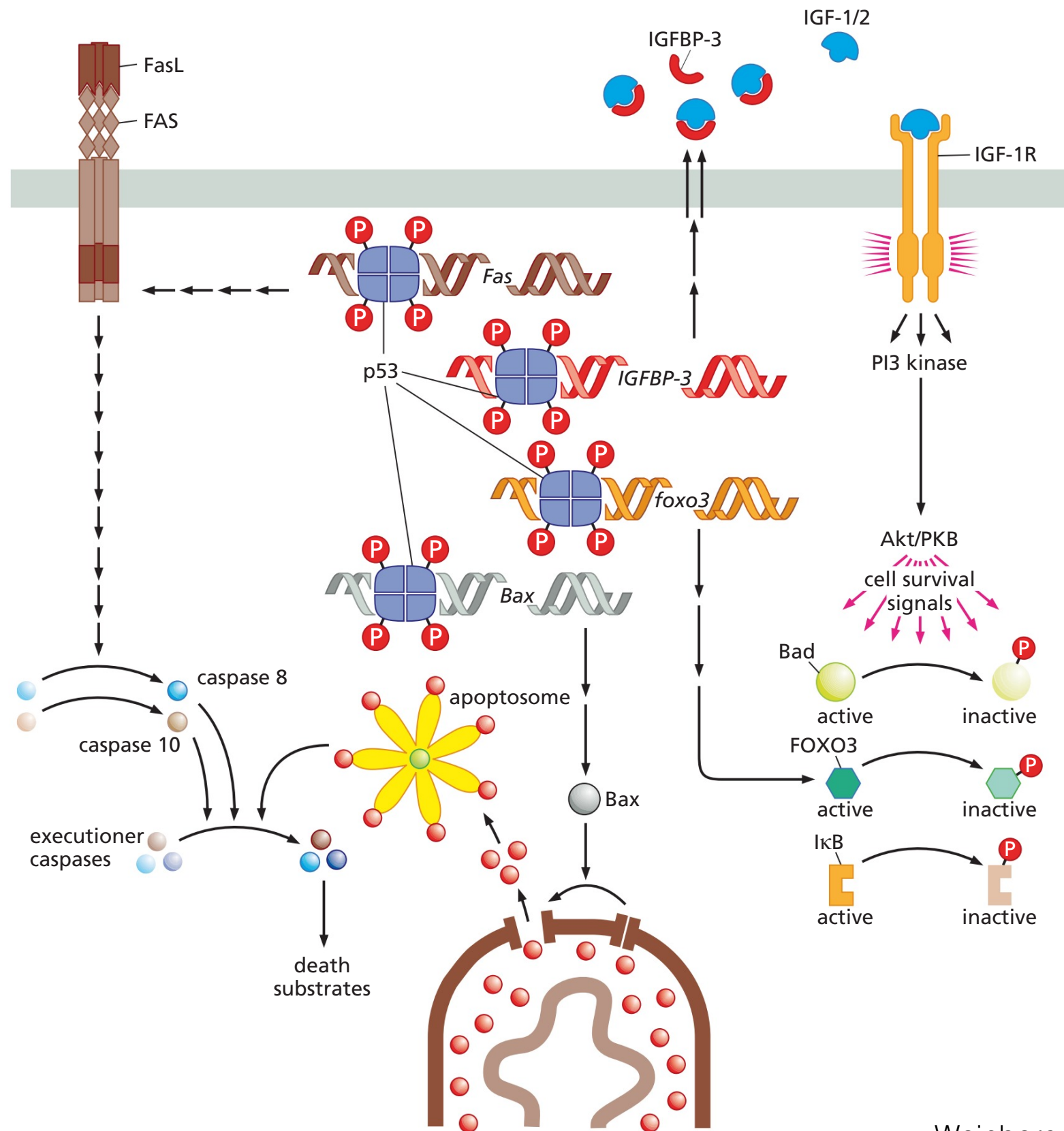


*ras + p53*  
deletion mutant

*ras + p53 val-135*  
point mutant

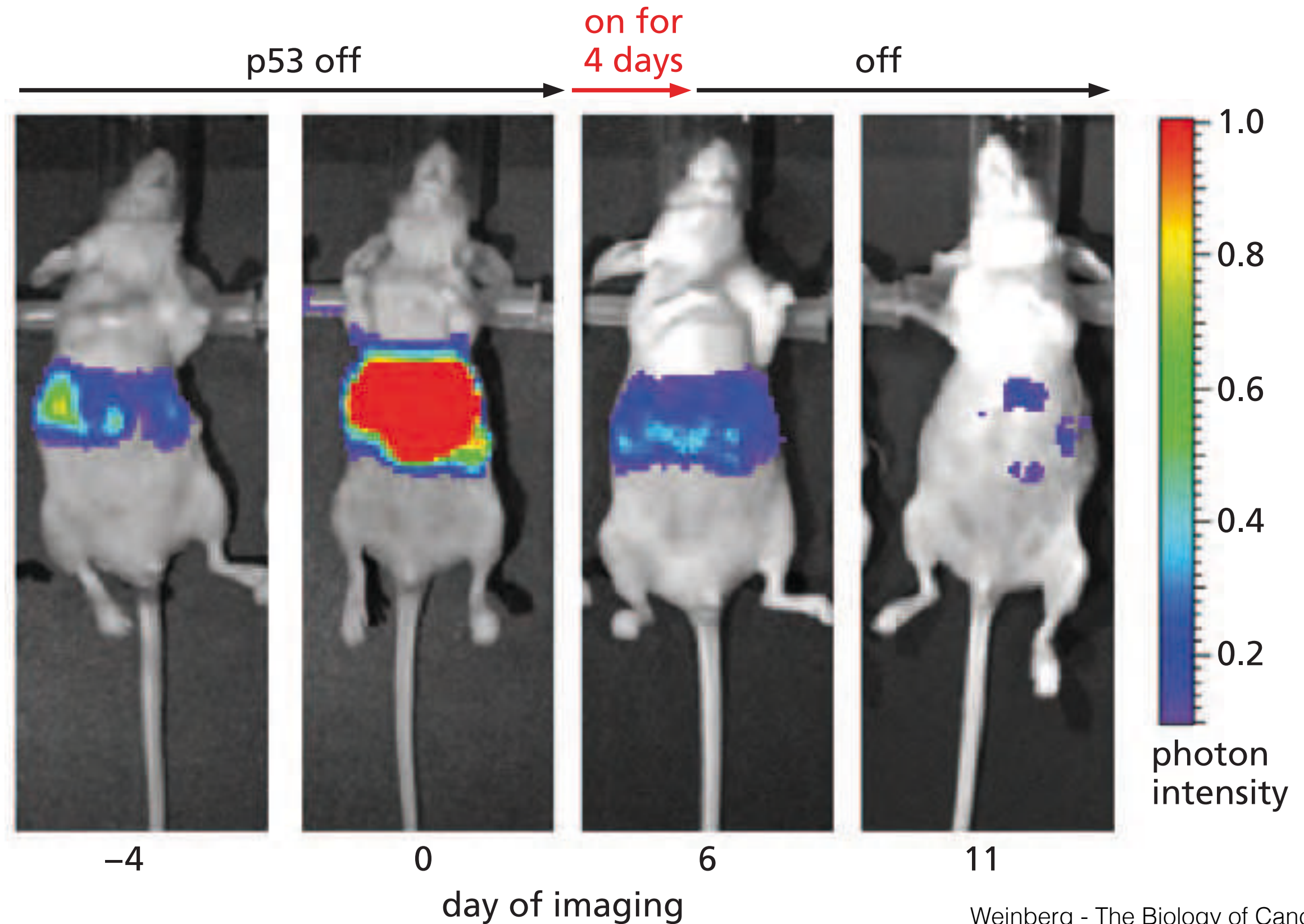
*ras + p53*  
wild type

# Activation of apoptosis by p53

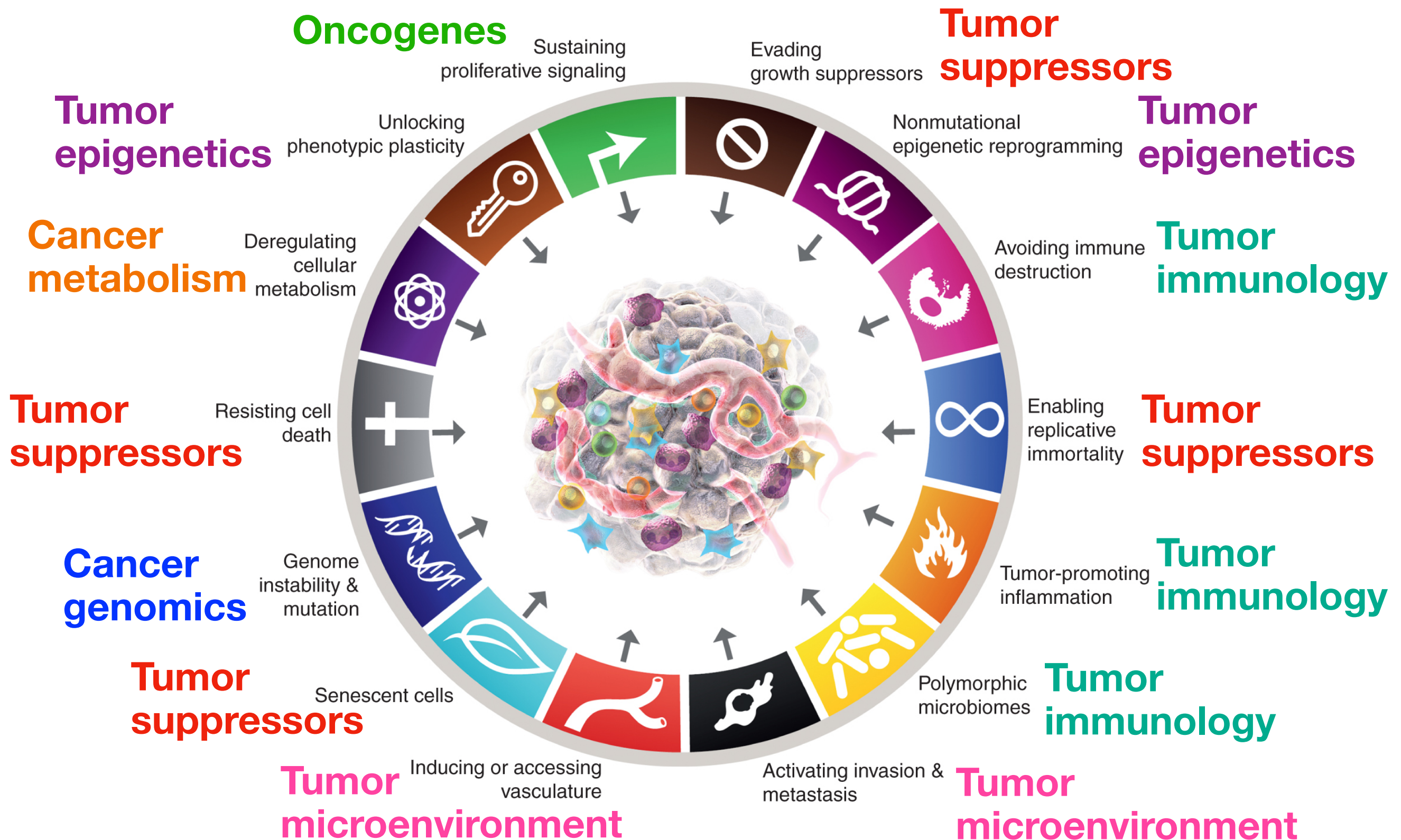


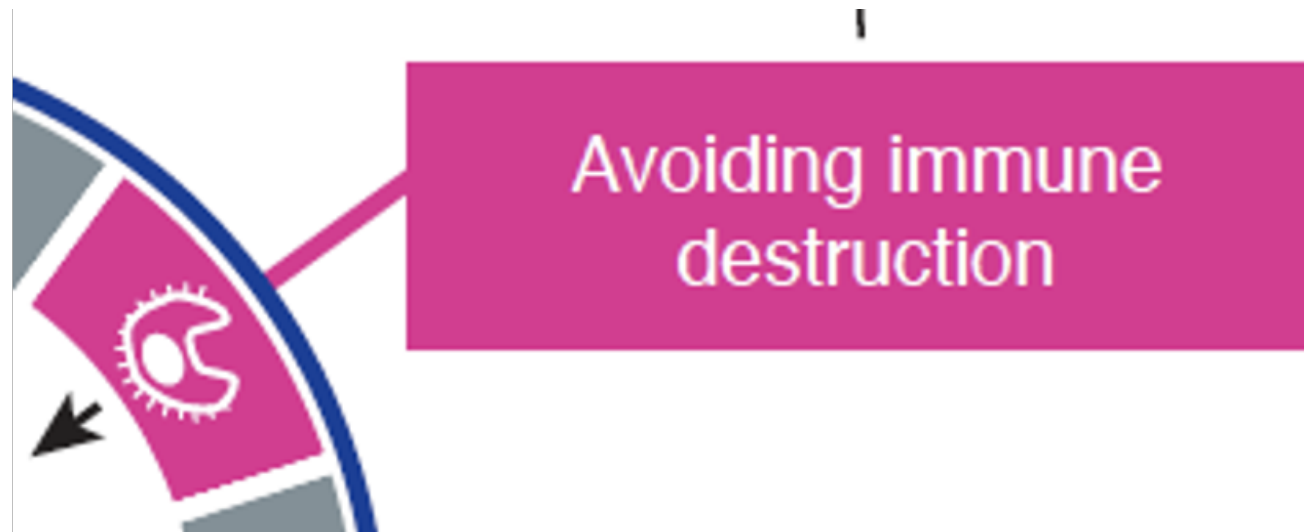


# Reactivation of p53 induces senescence



# Hallmarks of Cancer: a unifying framework





- Cancer cells evade immune destruction is by delivering signals that hold immune cells in check.
- New anti-cancer treatments have attempted to stop these immune checkpoint signals.
  - ✓ Ipilimumab (Yervoy)- Melanoma
  - ✓ Nivolumab (Opdivo) \_NSCLC
  - ✓ Pembrolizumab (Keytruda)- Melanoma.



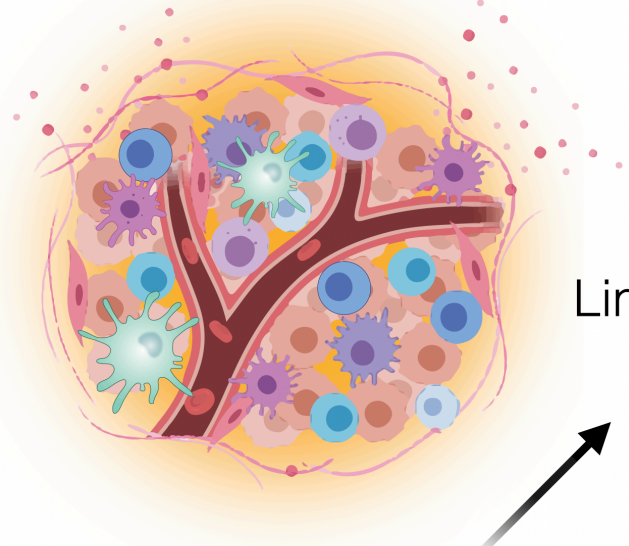
Unlocking  
phenotypic plasticity



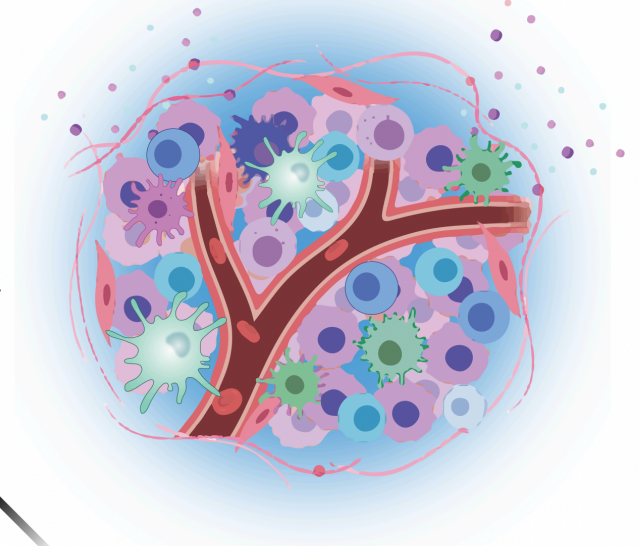
Nonmutational  
epigenetic reprogramming



Therapy **Sensitive**



Therapy **Resistant**



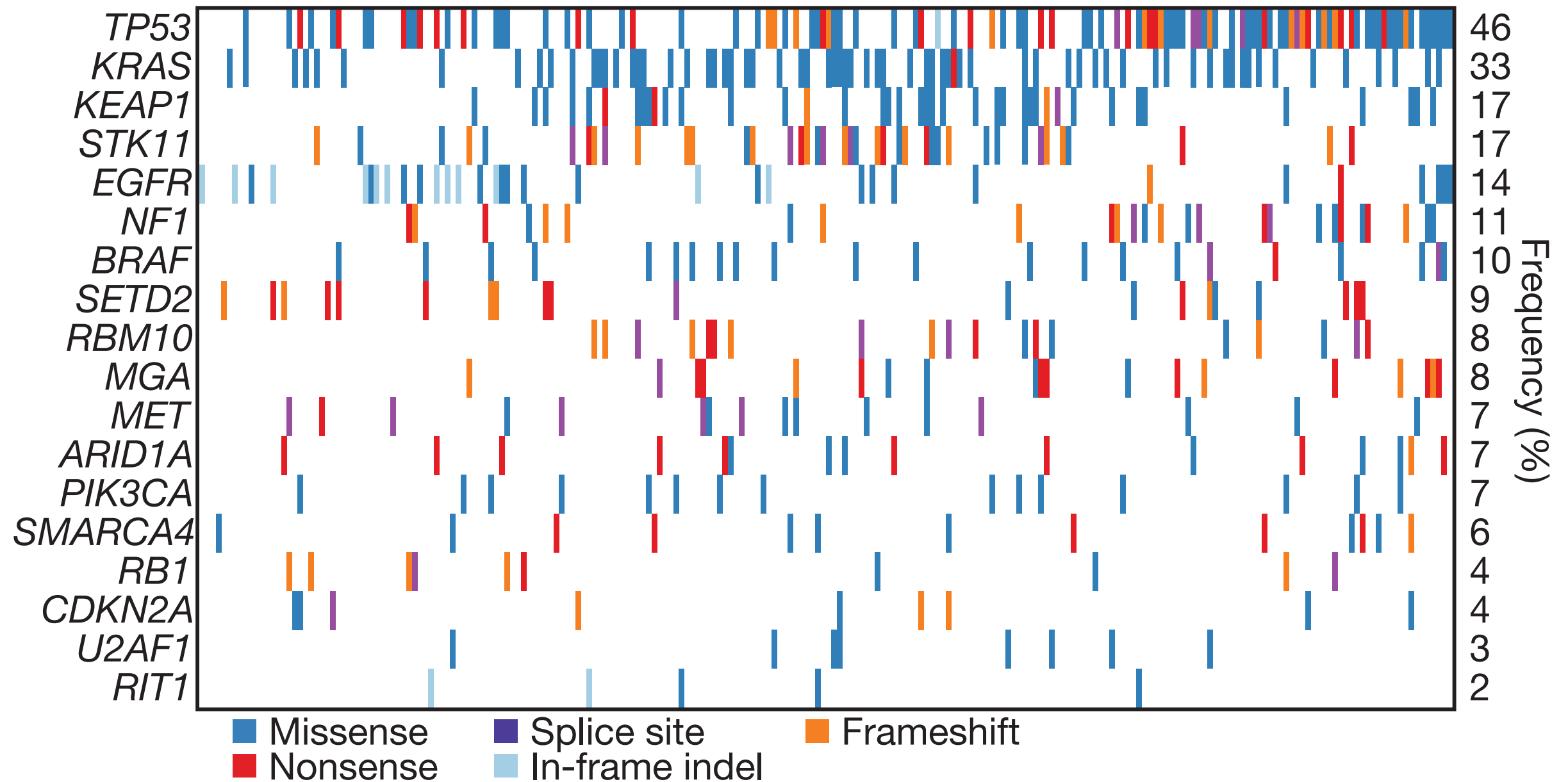
Lineage Plasticity

Tumor cells

Non-immune  
stromal cells

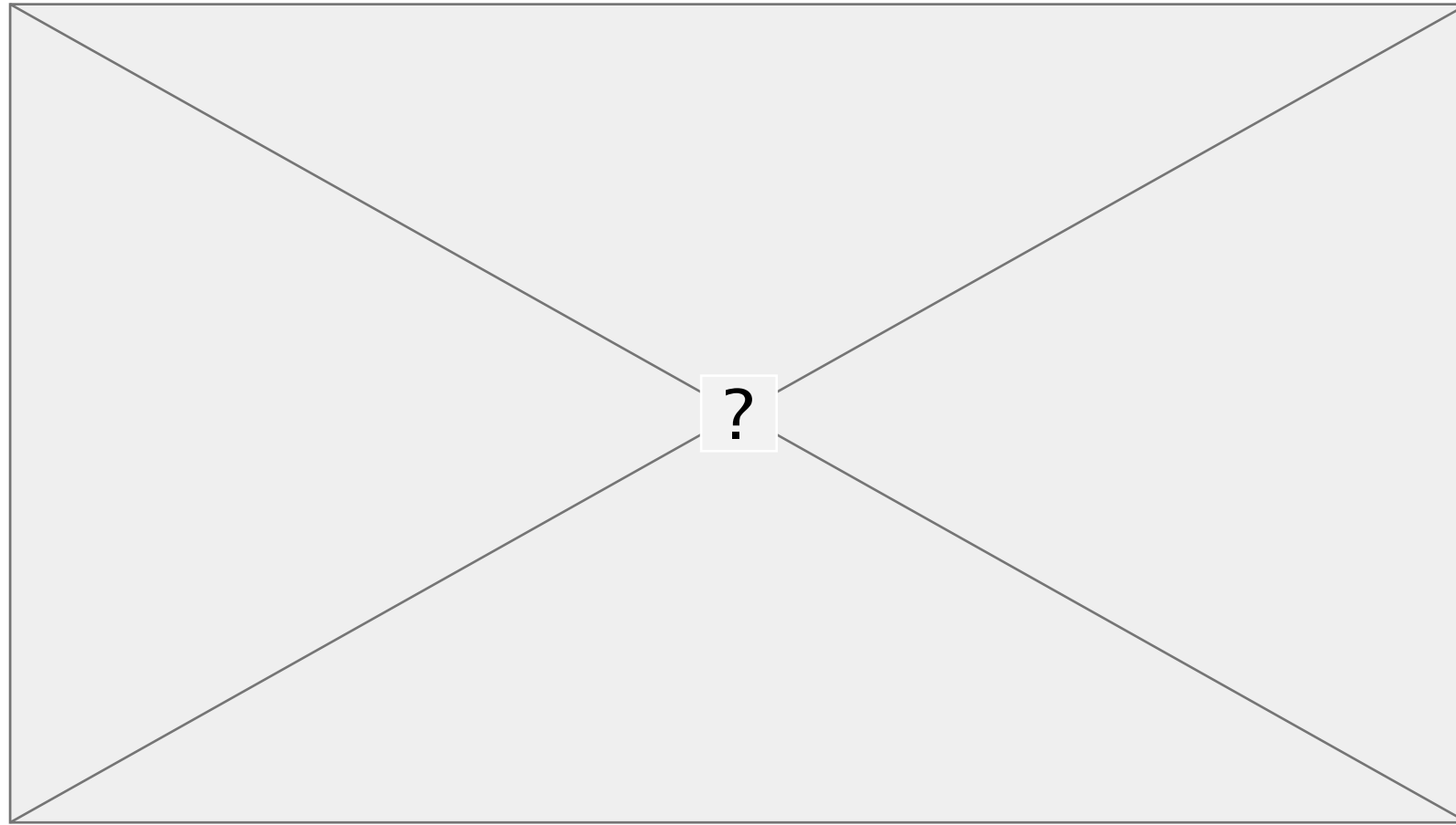
Immune cells

# Cancer Genomics



- Average cancer genome: Hundreds of mutations!
- ~5-20 ONC/TSG mutations “Driver Mutations”
- Remainder: “Passenger Mutations”

# Cancer Prevention



- Human papilloma virus (HPV): High risk type



# Precision Oncology

