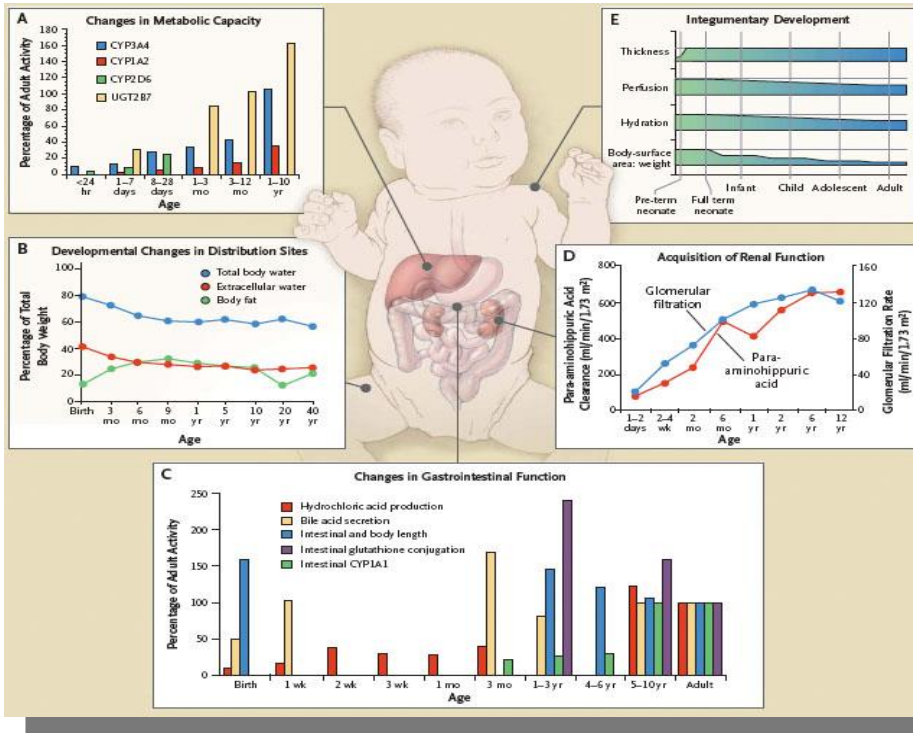


# Drug Measurements at the Pharmacological Target Site for Individualized Pediatric Cancer Treatment

**Imke H. Bartelink**

*Clinical Pharmacologist  
Department of Medicine, division of hematology and oncology  
of the University of California San Francisco CA*

# Children are not small adults!

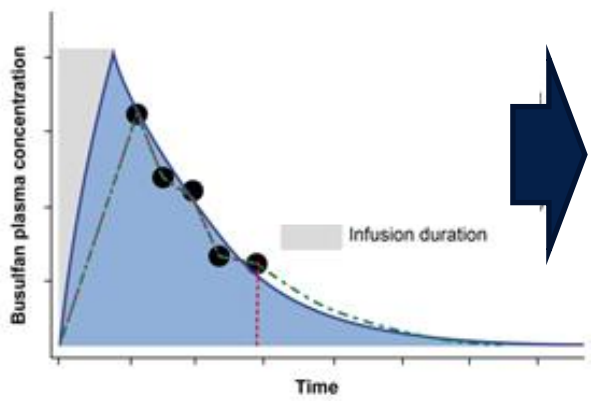


- Different **blood exposures** adults and children
- Only some trials account for different plasma pharmacokinetics in age-categories

1. Dose/m2 or /kg ≠ uniform exposure

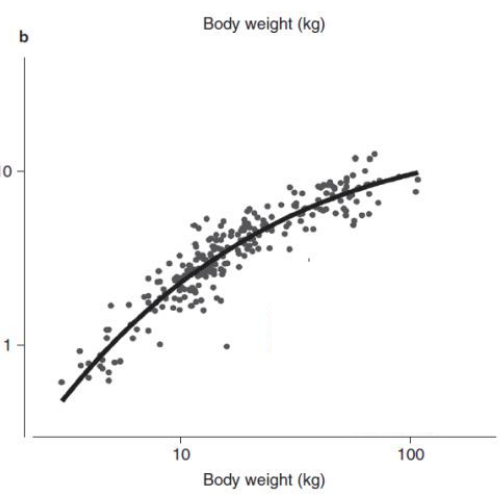
# Dosing schedule accounting for age-related pharmacokinetics, example busulfan

Estimate exposure

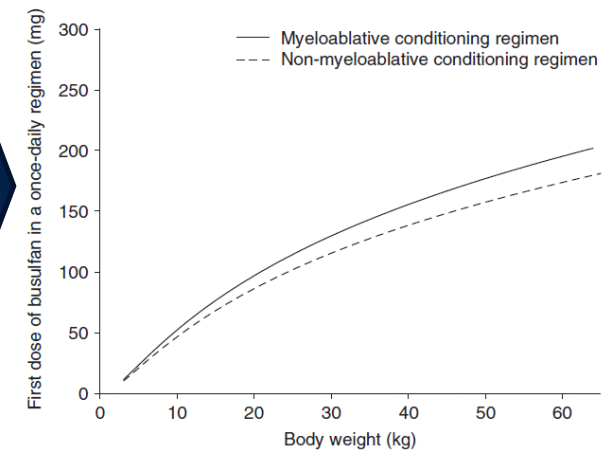


Clearance busulfan (L/h)

Pharmacokinetics



Individualized dosing



- Exposure: Area Under the Concentration-time curve (**AUC**) = dose\*bioavailability/Clearance
- Dose optimized =  $AUC_{target} * Dose_i / AUC_i$

# Other examples of PK-PD based individualized pediatric dosing

- Midazolam in based on PK difference in children at intensive care unit (PICU) and non-PICU<sup>1</sup>
- Warfarin dosing in children based on exposure-INR<sup>2</sup>
- Vigabatrin, assesment of dose-response children and adults<sup>3</sup>
- Esomeprazole PK in children and adults<sup>3</sup>
- Adalimumab, exposure-response, PK, efficacy and safety assessed in pediatric crohn's disease.<sup>3</sup>

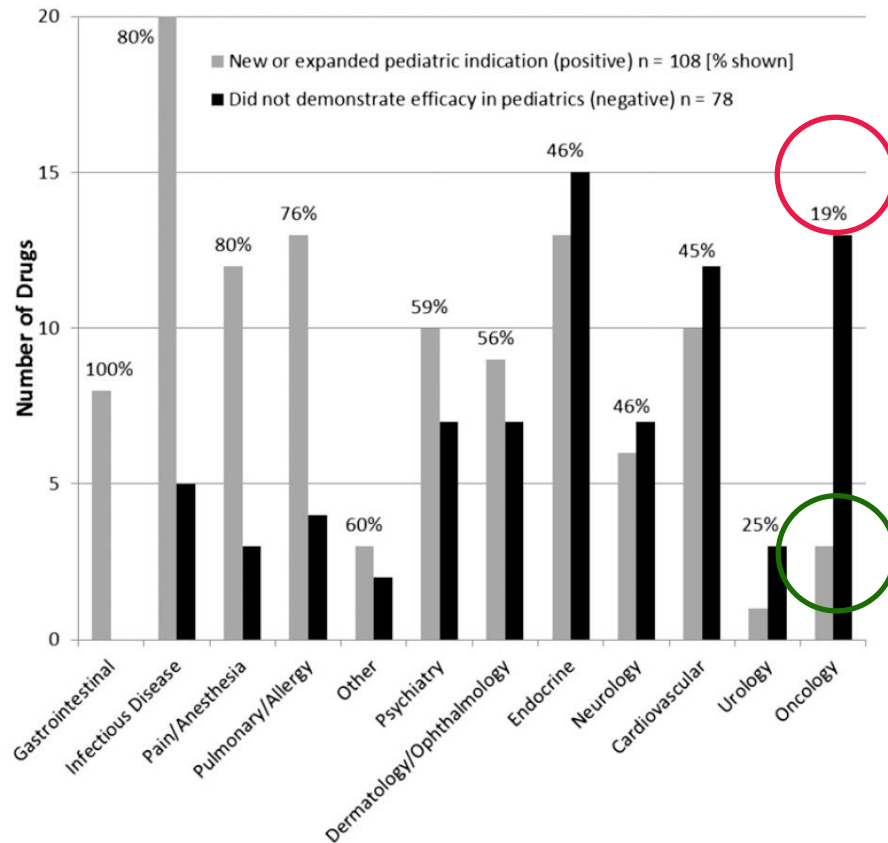
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1. Ince *et al.* TDM 34; 381-389, 2012

2. Hamberg *et al.* BMC MIDM 15 (7): 1-9, 2015

3. Mehrotra *et al.* DMD #69559, 2016

# Demonstrating Efficacy For Oncologic Agents Remains a Challenge



1. Pemetrexed
2. Erlotinib
3. Capecitabine

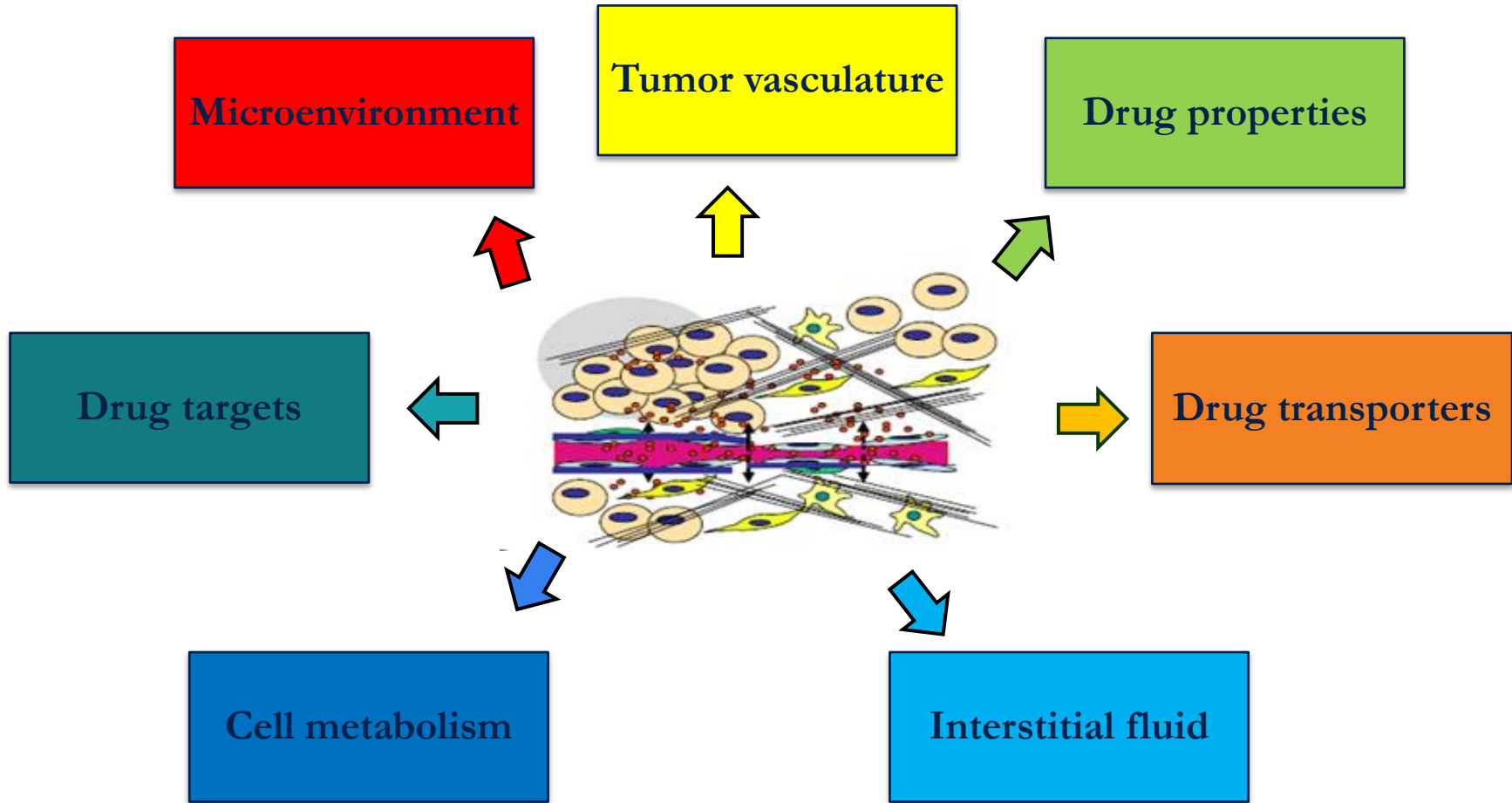
Even when correctly accounting for plasma exposures, pediatric oncology trials fail

# Beyond genomics, challenges in pediatric drug development

	Obstacle	Observed in	Pediatric predictions addressed in this presentation
1	Dose/m <sup>2</sup> or /kg $\neq$ uniform exposure	Children of different ages	Age and drug specific dosing needed
2	Concentration plasma $\neq$ tumor	Adults	Higher variability
3	Variability in drug penetrance per tumor type	Adults	Translation difficult
4	Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution	Adults and children	Similar in adults and children
5	Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation	Adults and children	Developmental variability
6	Implement target site-outcome association	Adults	Larger barriers

2. Concentration plasma  $\neq$  tumor

# Why is drug distribution in tumor tissue heterogeneous?



# Why do we care to measure drug at the site of action?

- Children are often under or over-treated depending on age and disease.
  - Toxicity with higher exposures can have life-long side effects
  - Sub-therapeutic therapy often results in failure of clinical trials
- In basket-trials multiple diseases are grouped together
- Using drug measurements at the pharmacological target site can be used to
  - Inform dose selection and pharmacodynamic endpoints in early phase pediatric clinical trials
  - Understand difference in outcome between diseases
  - Individualize pediatric cancer treatments to limit “non-responders”
  - Improve efficacy with drug delivery to tumors



## 2. Concentration plasma $\neq$ tumor

# How do we measure drug at the site of action?

- 1 Dose/m<sup>2</sup> or /kg  $\neq$  uniform exposure
- 2 Concentration plasma  $\neq$  tumor
- 3 Variability in drug penetrance per tumor type
- 4 Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution
- 5 Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation
- 6 Implement target site-outcome association

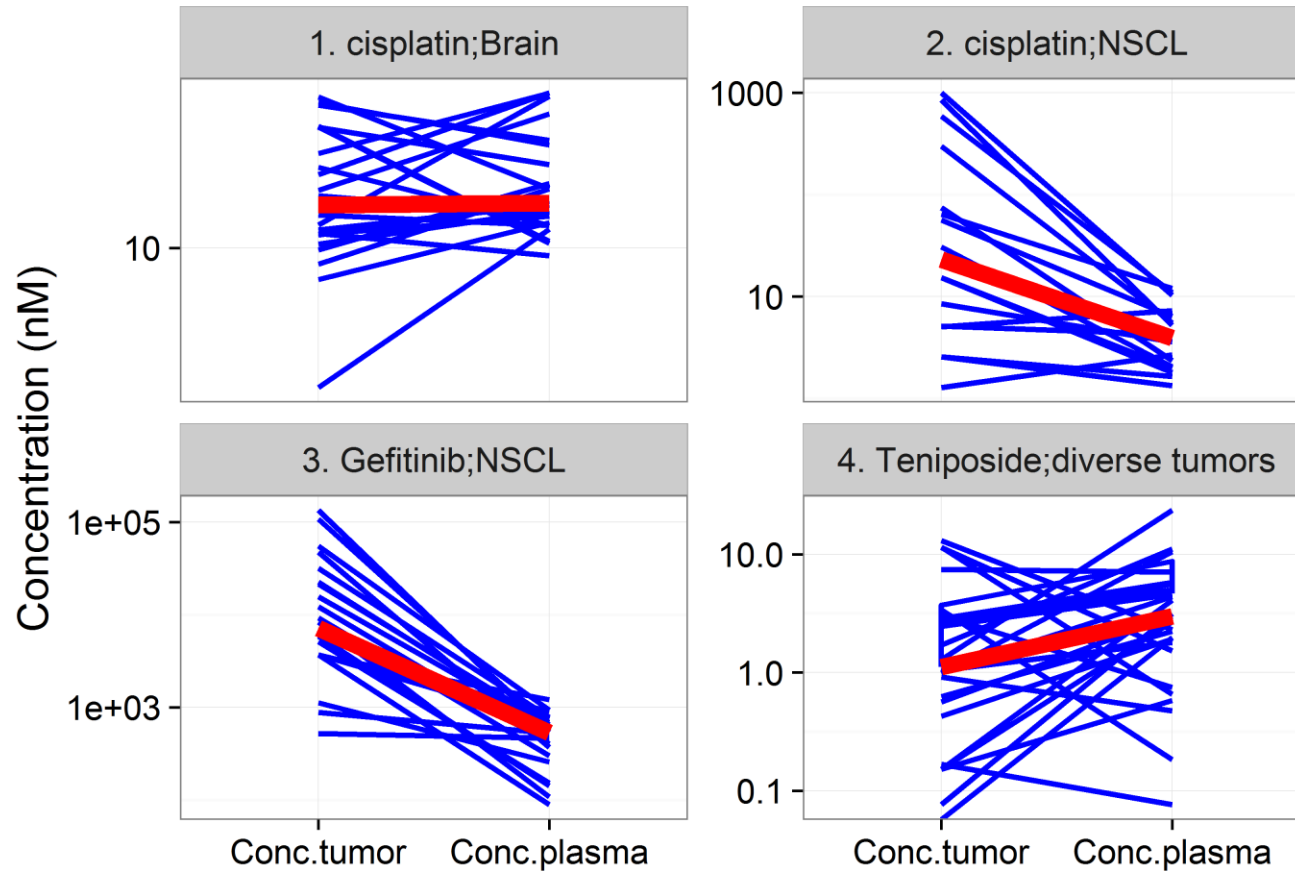
Examples

**LC-MS**

**MALDI, imaging**

**Extractions or  
fluorescence**

# Poor correlation be plasma drug levels and the site of action



Adapted from

1. Nakagawa *et al.* JNO 16:61-67, 1993

2. Pujol *et al.* CCP 27:72-75, 1999

3. Haura *et al.* JTO 5:1806-1814, 2010

4. Stewart *et al.* JNO 2; 315-324, 1984

### 3. Variability in drug penetrance per tumor type

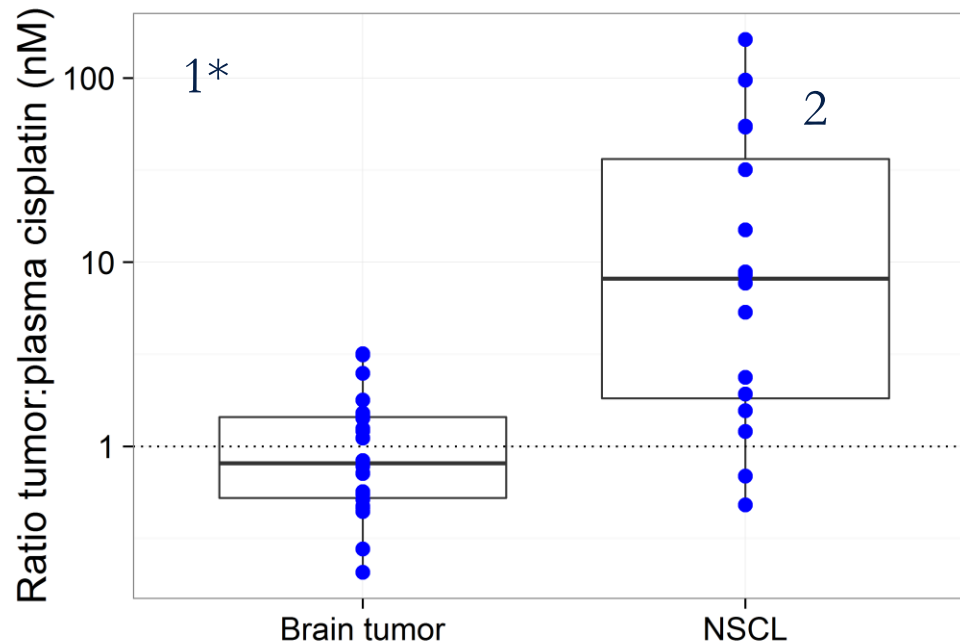
# Drug penetration may differ between tumor types

Large uptake in NSCL

\*Study differences:

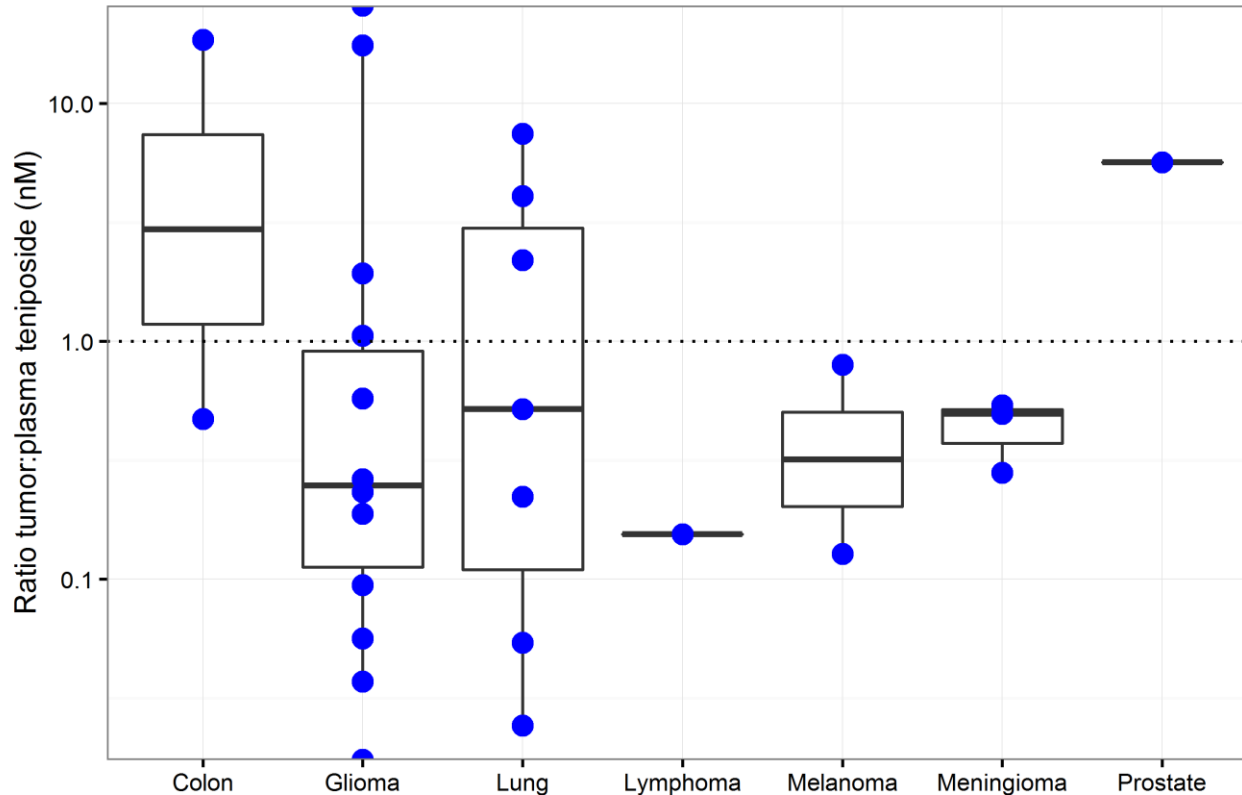
Sampling time differs slightly

Measurement standardization differs: Ref 1: tumor wet weight, Ref 2: tumor dry weight



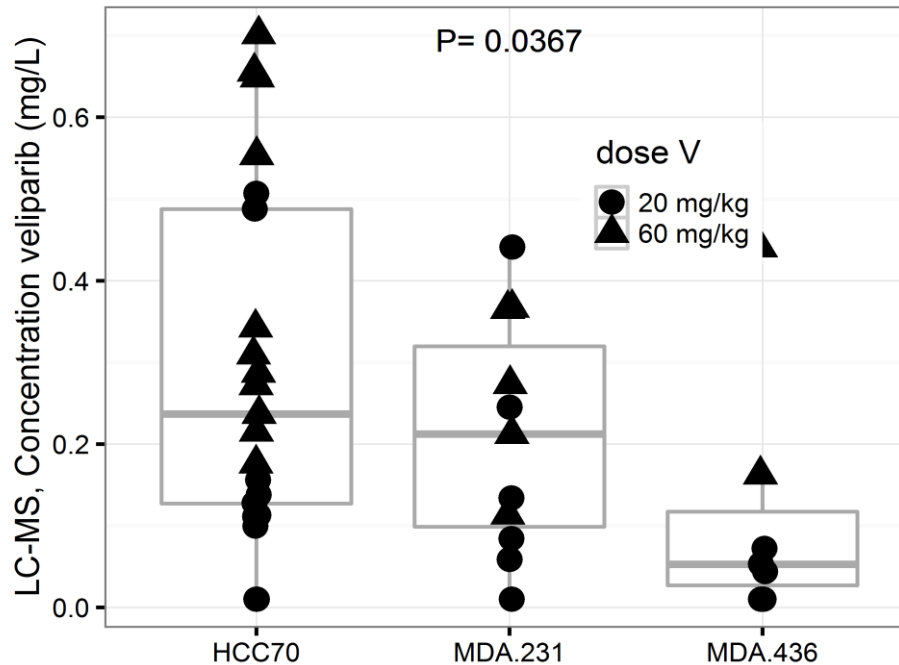
### 3. Variability in drug penetrance per tumor type

# Teniposide penetration may differ between tumor types



### 3. Variability in drug penetrance per tumor type

# Triple negative breast cancer xenograft study suggest that veliparib/carboplatin tumor penetration varies



Veliparib concentration measured by LC-MS, 2h after administration 20 mg/kg or 60mg/kg dose (at Steady State)

#### 4. Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution

# MALDI-MSI

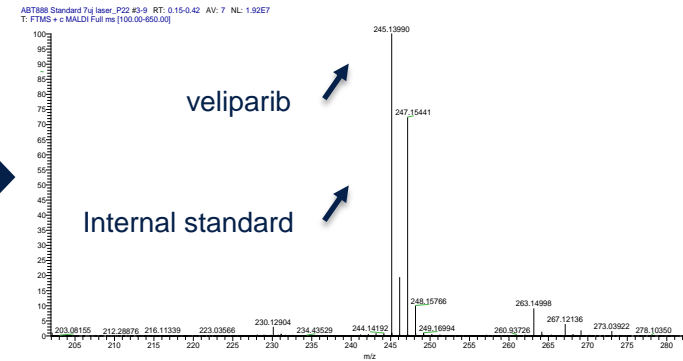
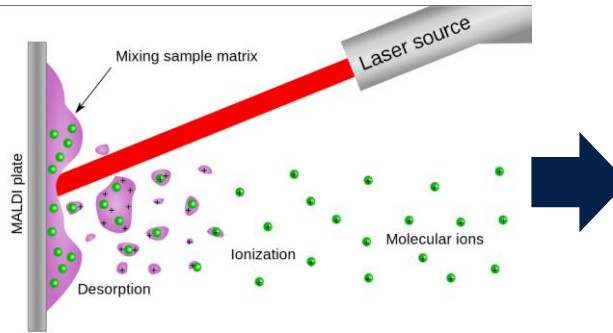
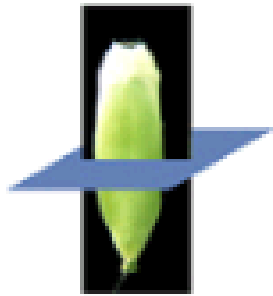
Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry imaging for measuring heterogeneity

Tissue section

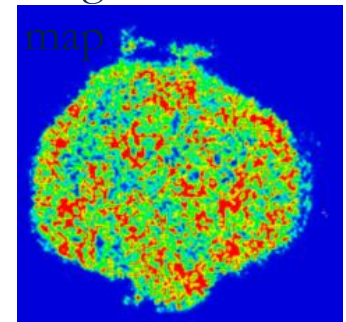
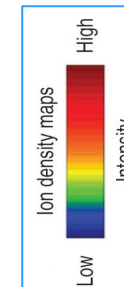
Matrix application

MALDI-MSI measurement

Data analysis

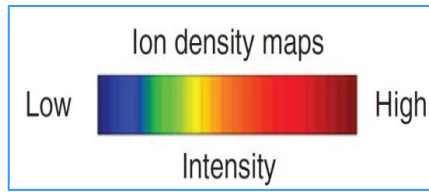


Single ion intensity map

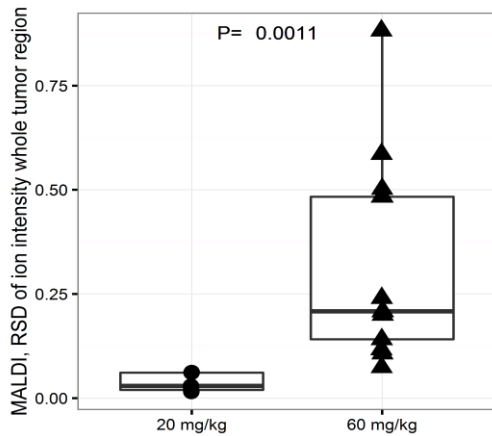


4. Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution

# MALDI-MSI shows heterogeneous veliparib penetration

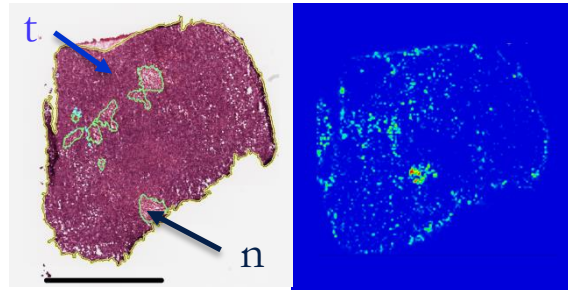


The observed heterogeneity was larger in highest dose level

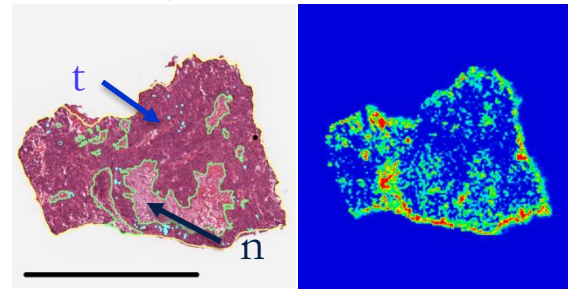


Veliparib low dose (20mg/kg)

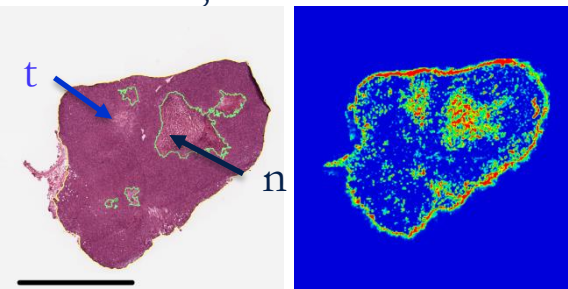
MDA231, ID1



HCC70, ID2

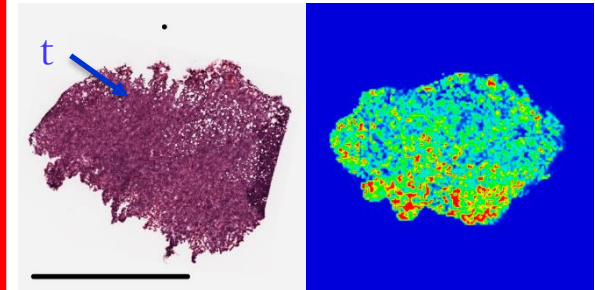


MDA436, ID3

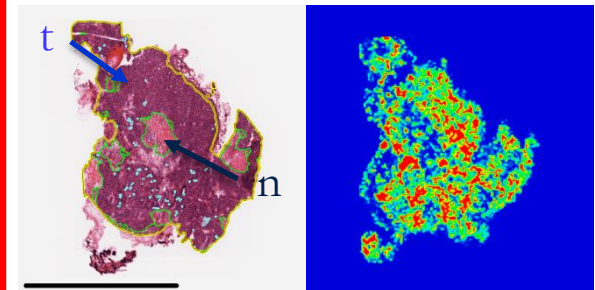


Veliparib high dose (60mg/kg)

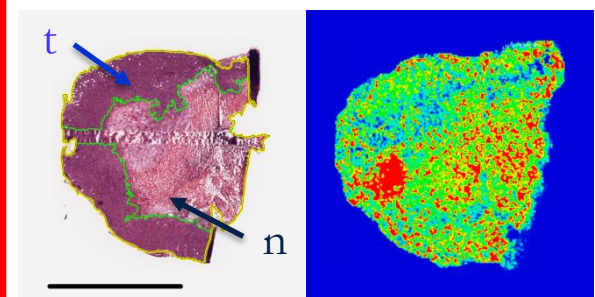
MDA231, ID4



HCC70, ID5



MDA436, ID6

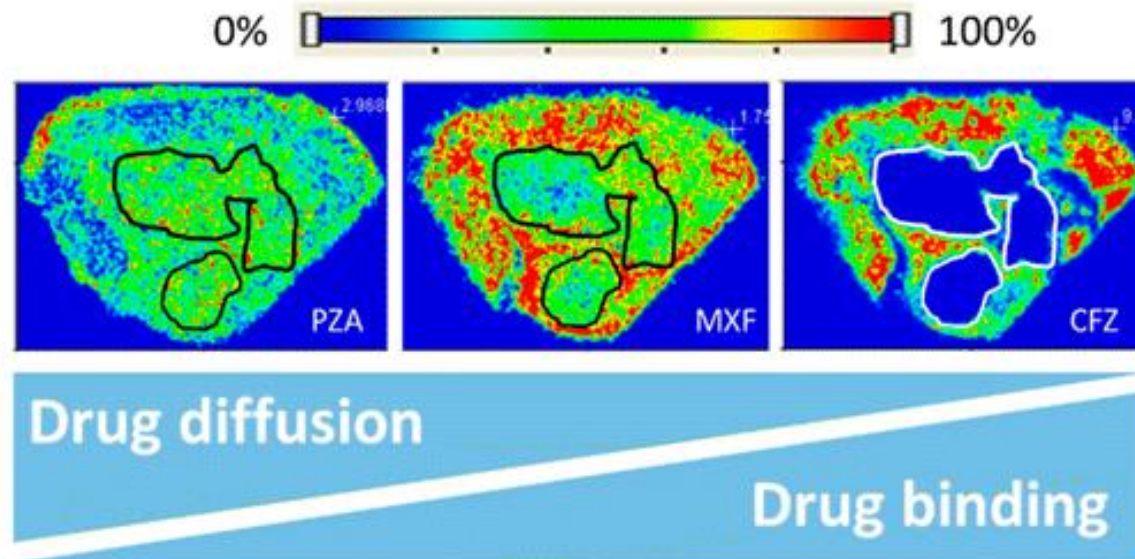


#### 4. Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution

# Drug disposition is dependent on a drug's properties

## Lessons from tuberculosis studies

- Screen of 279 drugs: lipophilicity and poor solubility and number aromatic ring predict whether a drug can enter a necrotic region
- Highly relevant for cancers with low vascular, necrotic regions



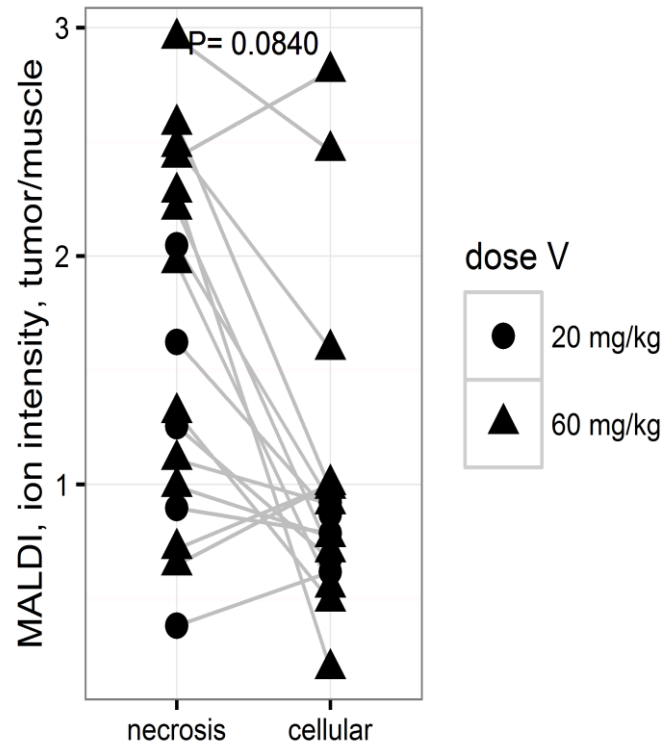
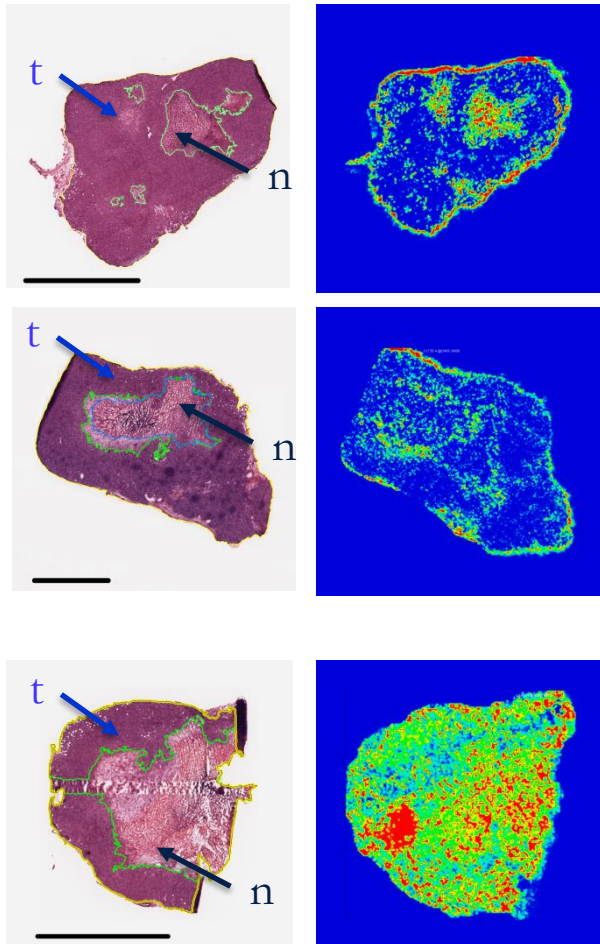


#### 4. Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution

# TNBC xenograft study veliparib/carboplatin

Veliparib penetrates into necrotic tissues

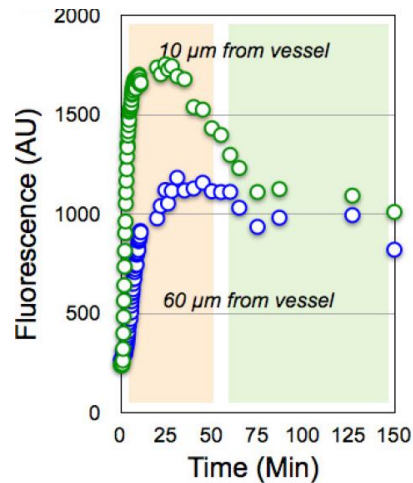
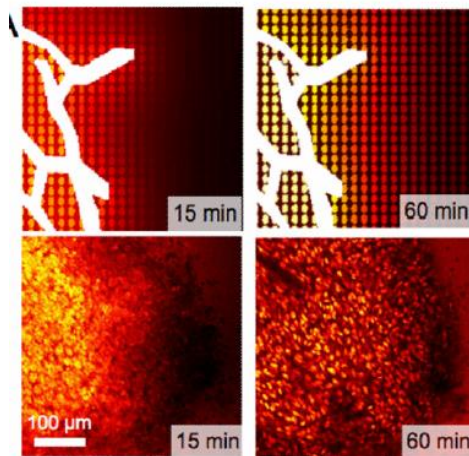
Images 2h after administration 20 mg/kg or 60mg/kg dose (at steady state)



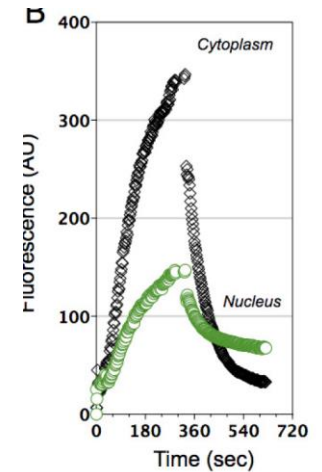
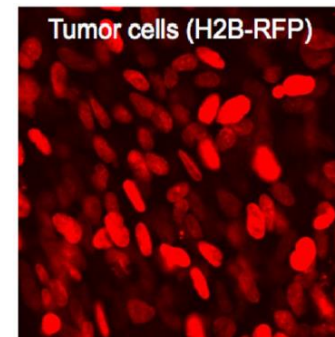
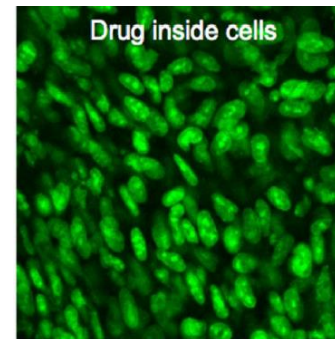
# Xenograft study of Fluorescent olaparib

## Tumor vessel density may predict drug-uptake

Poorly vascularized regions: large gradient at early time point.



Olaparib accumulates inside nucleus of tumor cells.



In vitro uptake

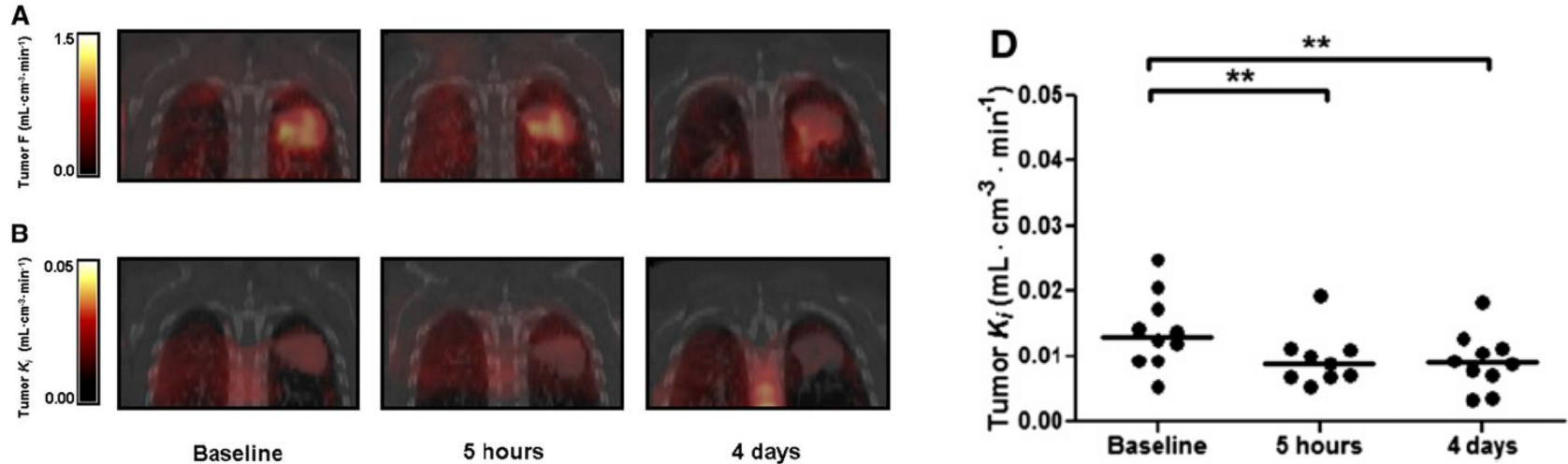
# Using imaging to show heterogeneity spatial and temporal drug distribution

- Imaging methods can be used in spatial and temporal distribution in tumor lesions throughout the body
  - Contrast agent enhanced MRI: monitor tumor perfusion/permeability of tumor vasculature/tissue
  - Radiolabeled drug –PET scan drug specific penetrance and heterogeneity in uptake between lesions
  - Non-invasively monitor changes in drug penetrance over time

#### 4. Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution

# $^{11}\text{C}$ docetaxel in 10 patients with NSLC

Study bevacizumab reduces penetration docetaxel



Administration:

$^{11}\text{C}$  Docetaxel

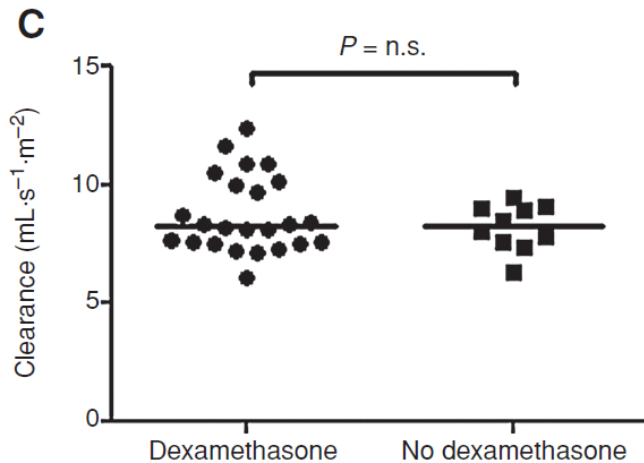
Bevacizumab (VEGF inhibitor)

#### 4. Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution

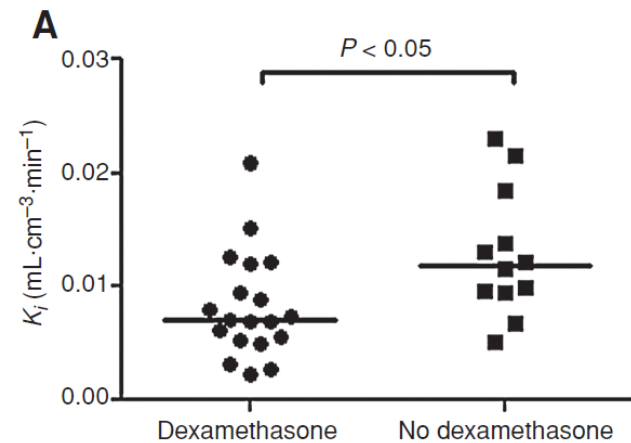
# $^{11}\text{C}$ docetaxel predicts drug interaction and response in 34 advanced-stage lung cancer

$^{11}\text{C}$  docetaxel Uptake in tumor  $>$  median significantly better response (RECIST) than  $<$   $K_i$  value,  $P = 0.007$ ).

At similar plasma exposures



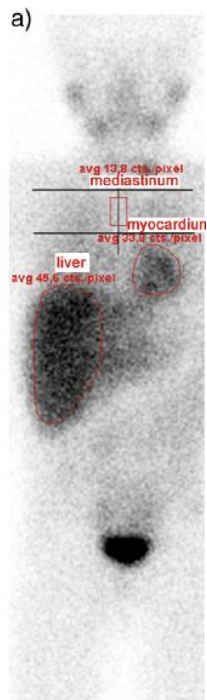
Interaction in tumor uptake via OCT3 inhibition?



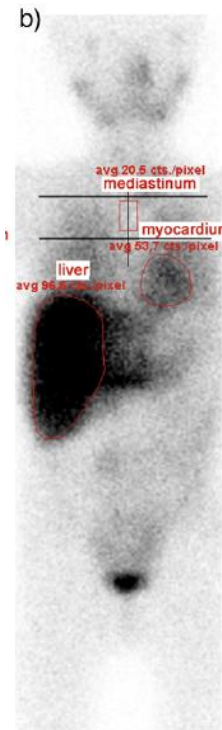
4. Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution

# Reversed interaction could improve tracer uptake of $^{123}\text{I}$ mIBG\* in neuroblastoma

Scan 3h after **high** dose hydrocortison



Scan 3h after **low** dose hydrocortison



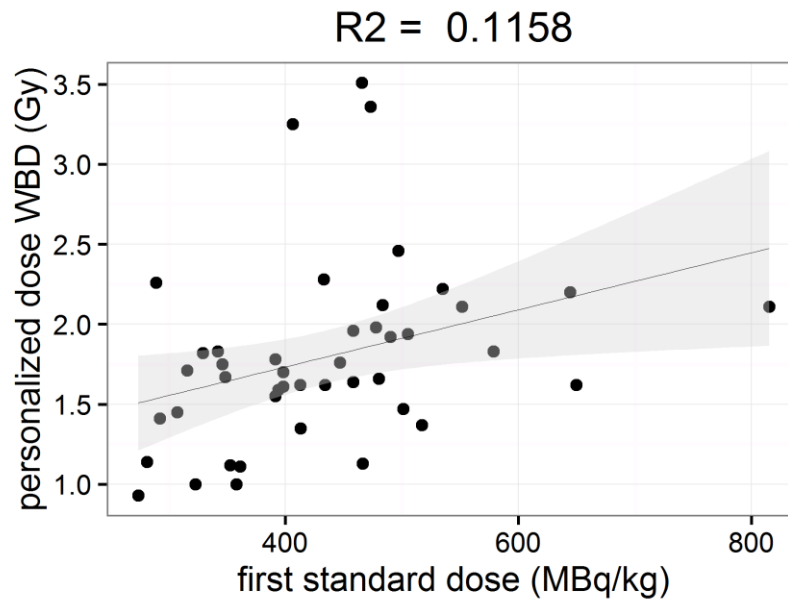
Hydrocortisone in OCT3 expressing cells, the  $^{123}\text{I}$  mIBG incorporation is reduced with minor effects on neuroblastoma cells

\*mIBG= guanethidine analog that concentrates in sympathetic nervous tissue

#### 4. Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution

# A personalized approach of dosimetry improves outcomes of mIBG treatment

- Whole body dosing (WBD) correlated with lower toxicity
- WBD consistent between consecutive therapies
- WBD does not correlated with MIBG/kg dose



<sup>1</sup>George *et al.* NMC 37, 5, 466-472, 2016

23 <sup>2</sup> Buckley *et al.* JNM 50,9,1518-1524, 2009

# Further potential to personalize of mIBG treatment

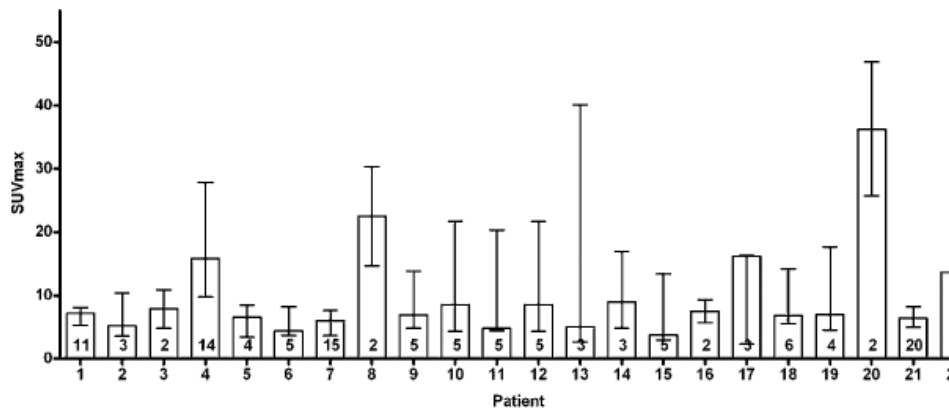
- Tumor self-absorbed radiation dose (TSARD) may correlate with higher efficacy
- WBD /TSARD do no correlated with MIGB/kg dose
  - TSARD *versus* MIGB/kg:  $R^2= 0.32$
  - WBD *versus* TSARD:  $R^2= 0.71$ ,  $p= 0.0001$



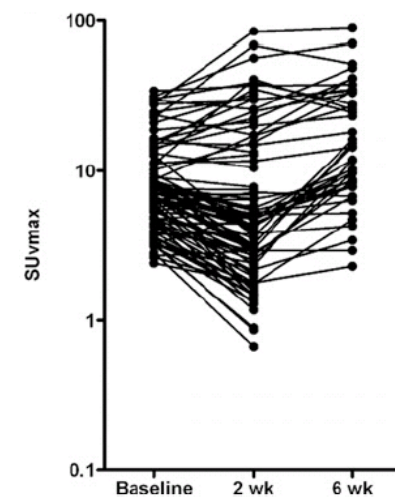
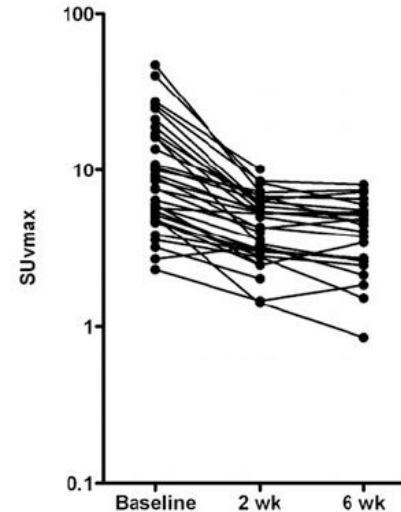
#### 4. Heterogeneity in spatial + temporal drug distribution

# $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -Bevacizumab PET Visualizes Heterogeneous penetrance in lesions in 22 RCC patients

Variability in tumor penetration in lesions at baseline



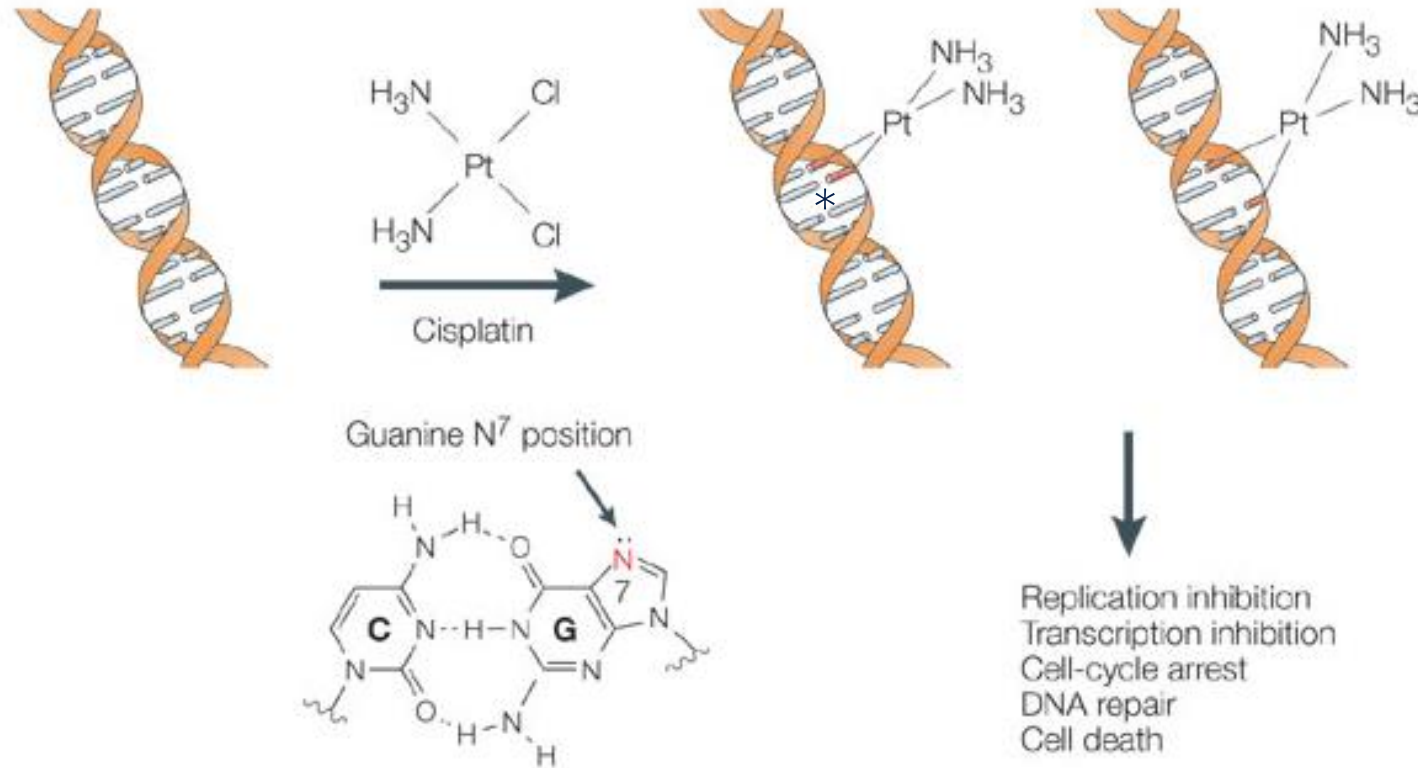
N=11, bevacizumab/IFN $\alpha$     N=11, sunitinib



- High baseline tumor  $\text{SUV}_{\text{max}}$   $\rightarrow$  longer time to progression (HR=0.22 CI95% 0.05-1).
- $\text{SUV}_{\text{max}}$  did not associate with plasma VEGFa

## 5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

# Platinum adduct formation in DNA of target cells may be more informative

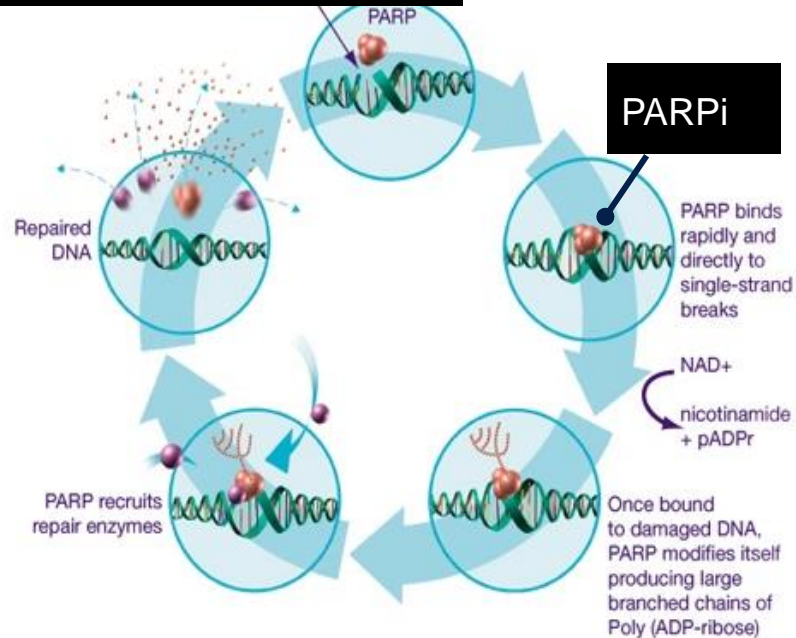


Nature Reviews | Drug Discovery

5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

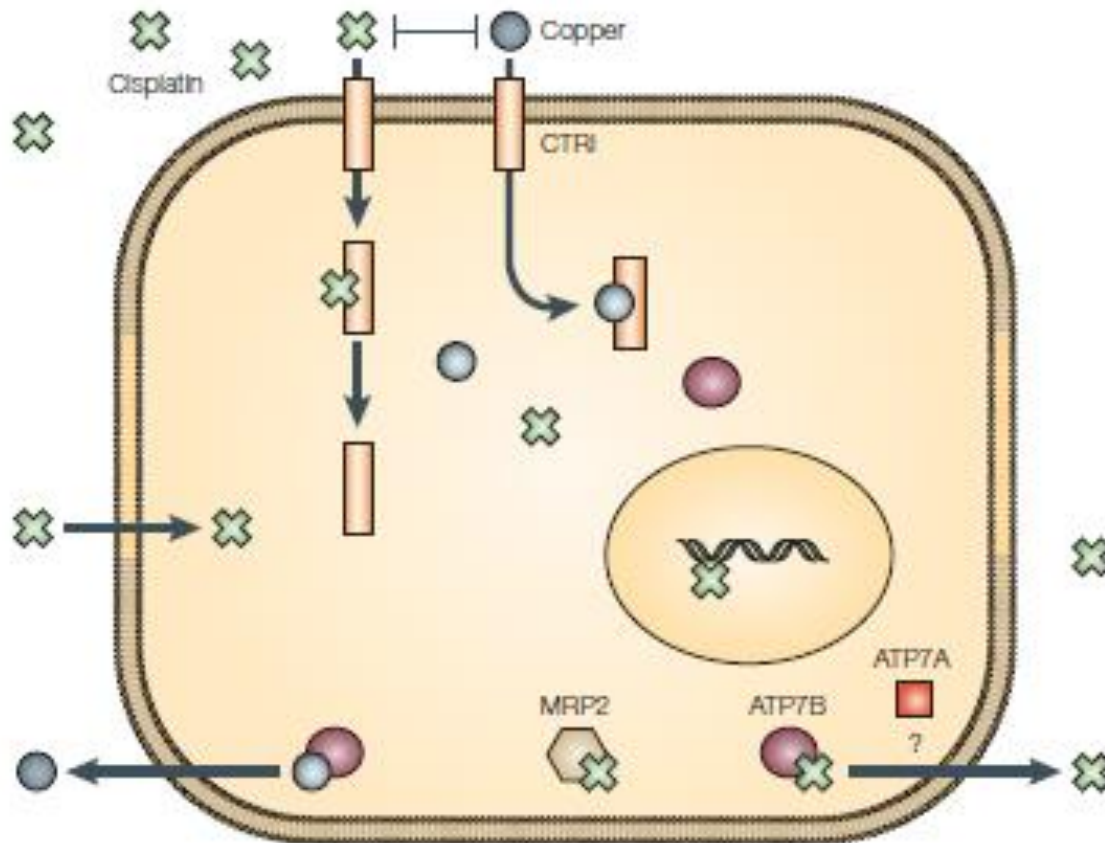
# Platinum adduct formation in DNA may accumulate at PARPi cotreatment

Carboplatin causes DNA damage



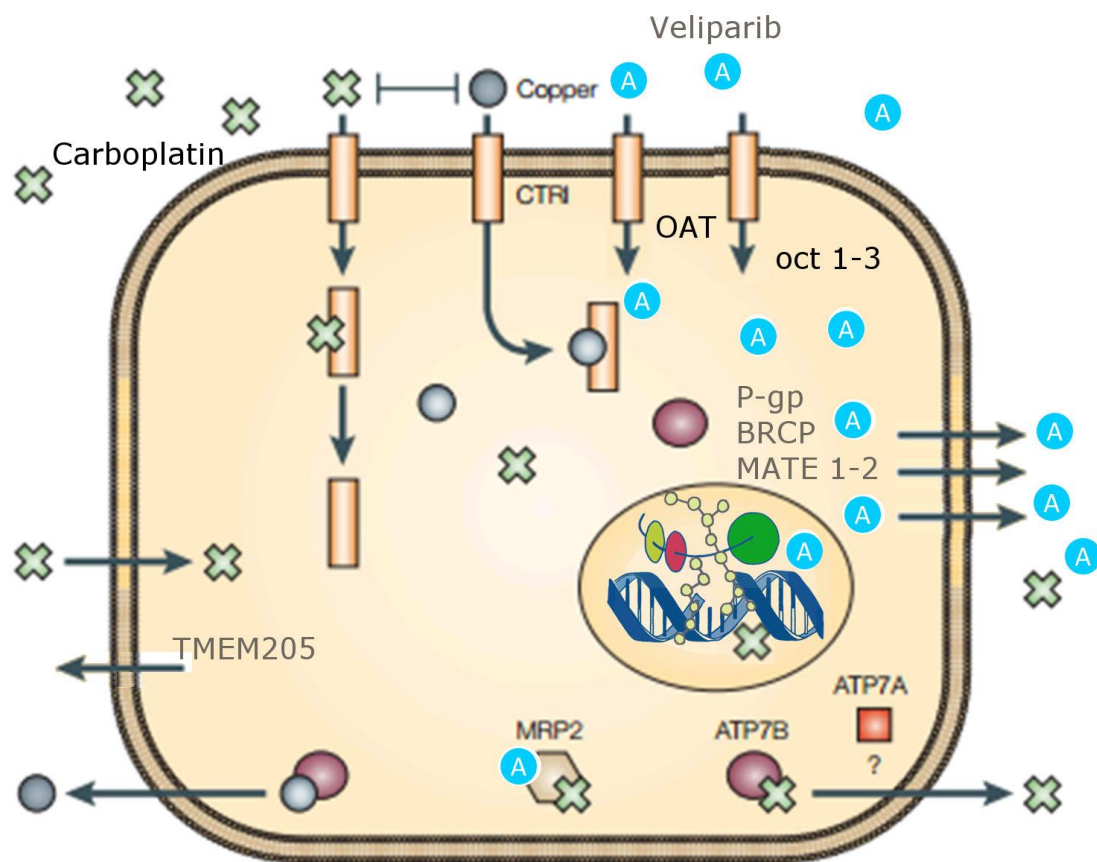
5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

# Intracellular adduct formation influenced by drug transporters



5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

This is more complex when the platinum is combined with a PARPi

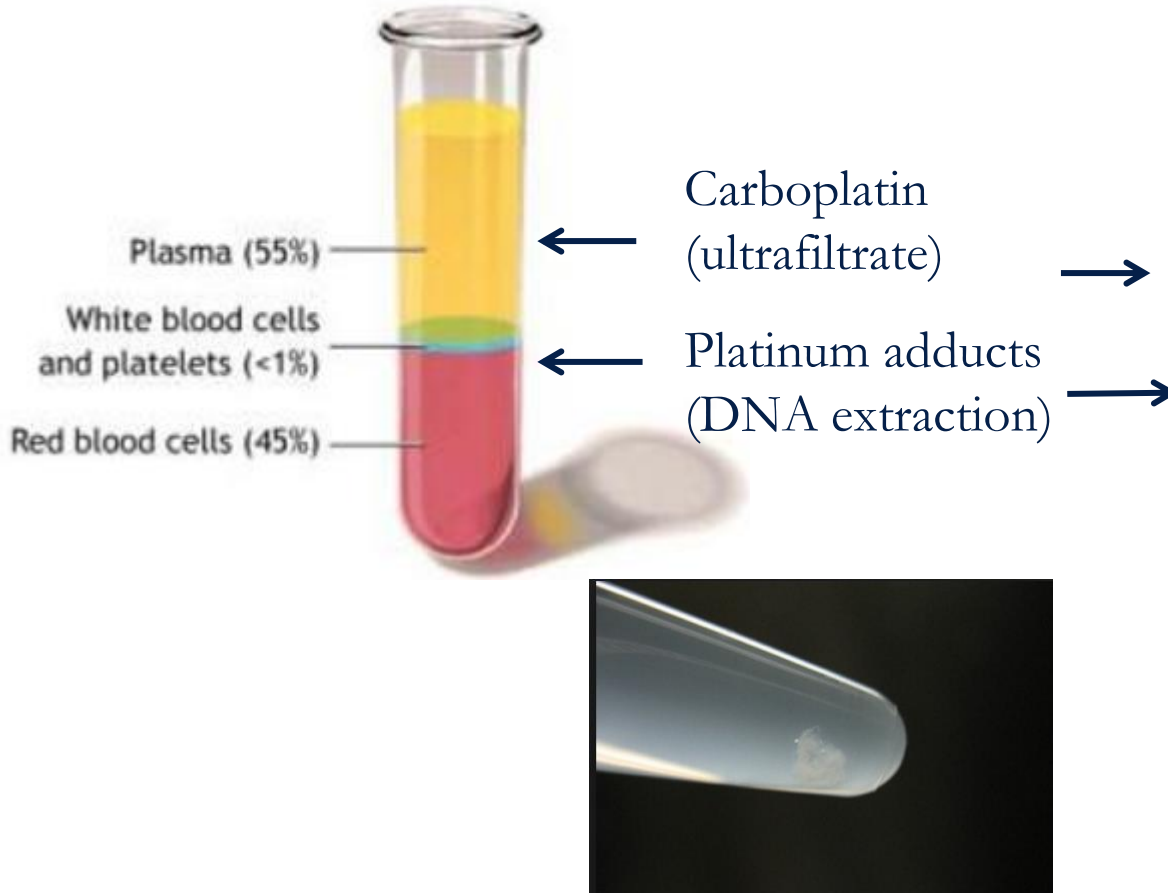


Uptake transporters	Efflux transporters
OCT 1-3	P-gp, BCRP, MRP2/4
OAT 1-3	MATE1-2
CRT1-2	ATP7A-B
	TMEM205

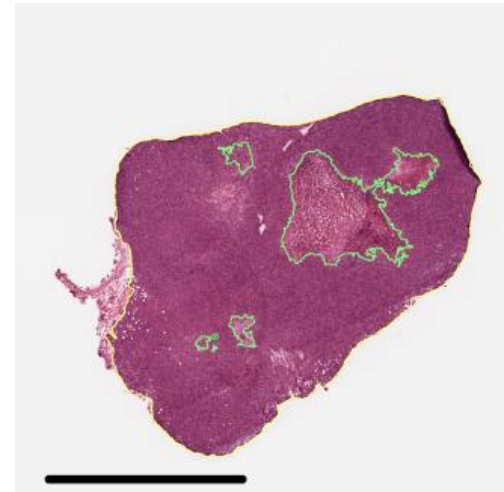
5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

# Platinum adducts measurement in lymphocytes and tumor cells

Blood sample



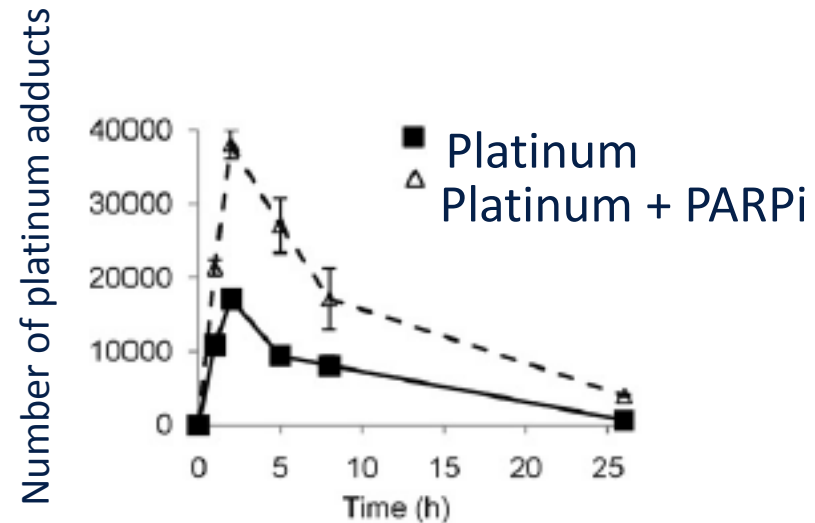
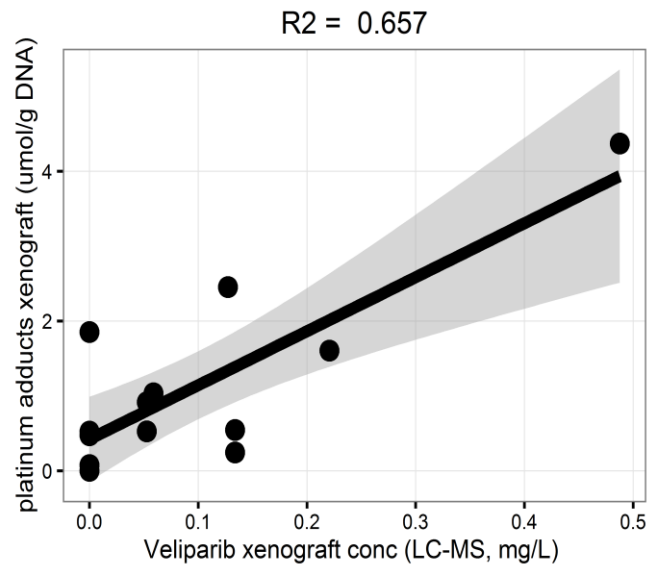
Tumor section



## 5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

# TNBC xenograft study veliparib/ carboplatin

## Platinum adduct formation may depend on PARPi co-administration



## 5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

# Phase 1 study talazoparib/ carboplatin shows feasibility of measuring intracellular concentrations to predict toxicity

Toxicity	N	%
Neutropenia	12	50%
Anemia	10	42%
Thrombocytopenia	7	29%
Fatigue	3	13%

Toxicity profile of talazoparib 0.75-1mg /carboplatin AUC 1.5 weekly/2/3 weeks

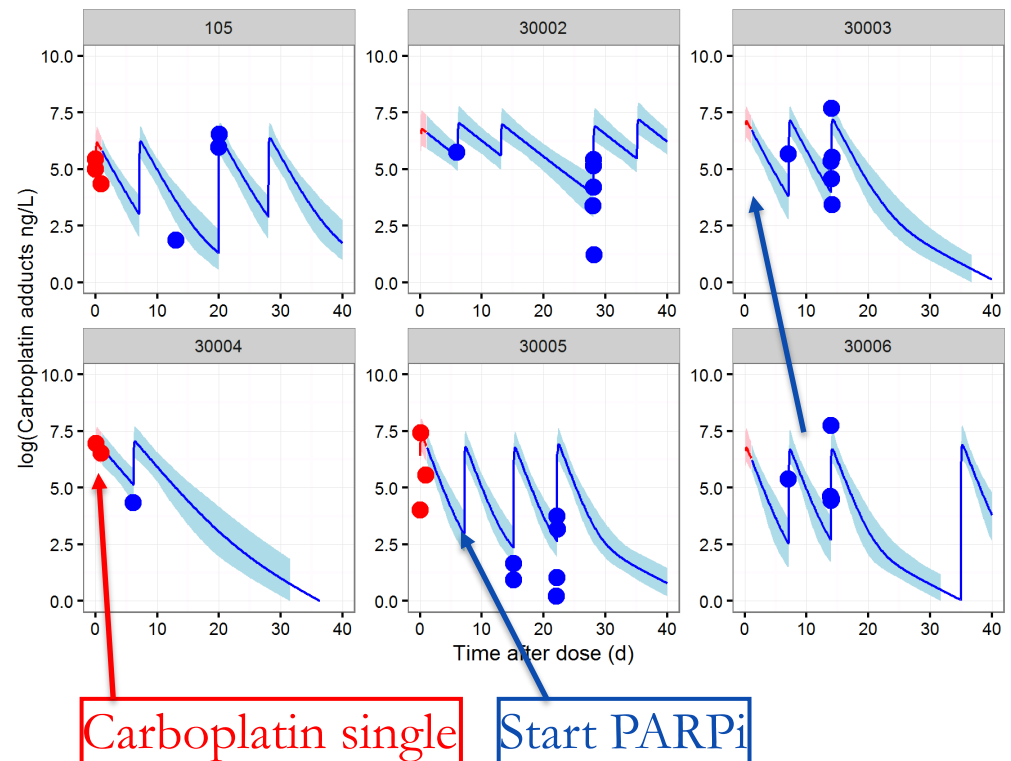
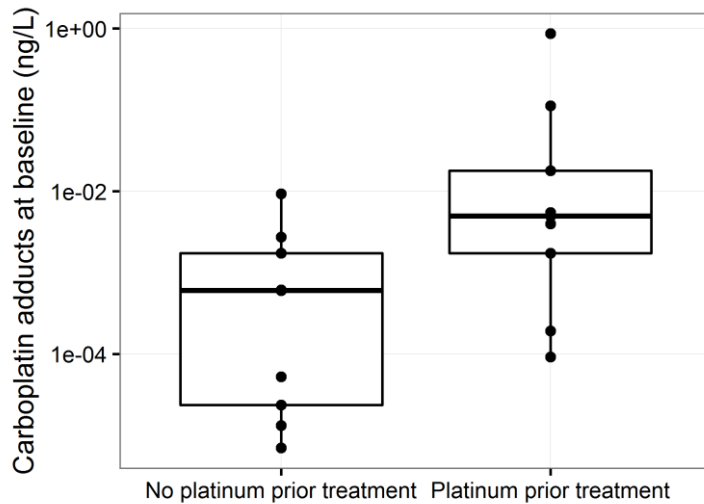


## 5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

# Carboplatin adduct formation in PMBCs not affected by PARPi

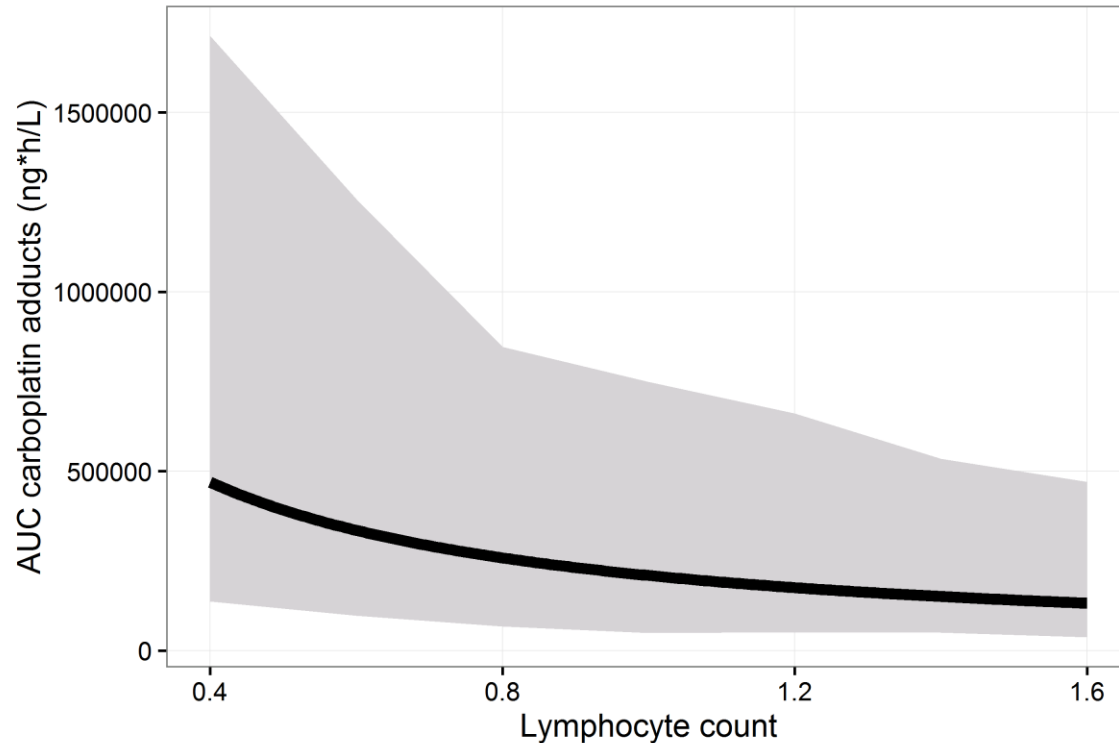
Carboplatin adducts long  $t_{1/2}$  and large variability

Carboplatin adduct formation did not differ between single and combination treatment



## 5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

# Carboplatin adduct formation may relate to toxicity

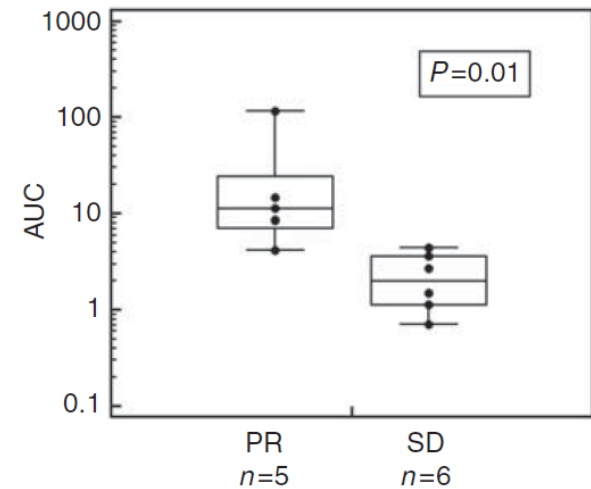
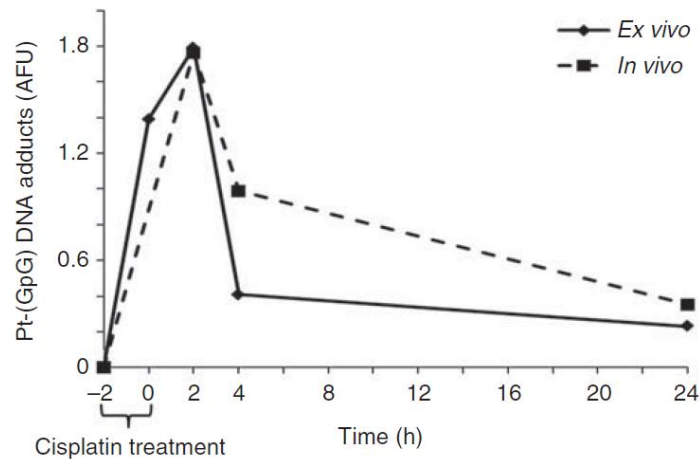
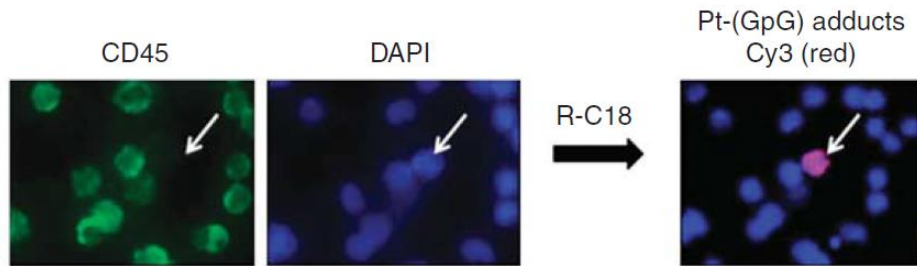


Carboplatin adduct formation higher in patients who are more prone to lymphocyte toxicity

## 5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

# Platinum adduct accumulation ex vivo may predict outcome

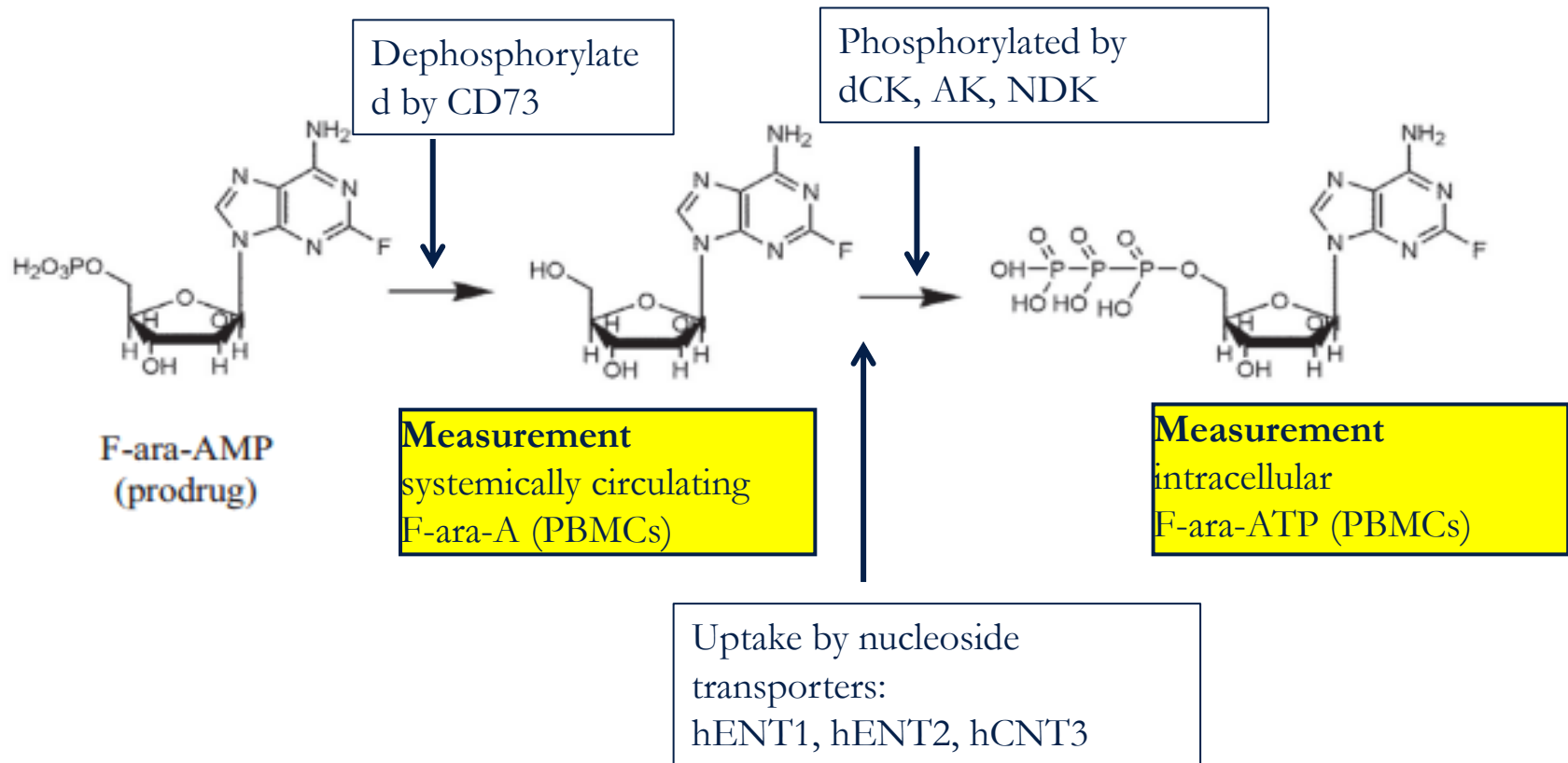
Immunofluorescence technique in circulating tumor cells



**Ex vivo** adduct accumulation in NSCLC patients may predict response ( $P=0.01$ ;  $n=11$ )

## 5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

# Intracellular measurements of fludarabine in children pre-HCT by LC-MS



## 5. Variability in intracellular uptake and transformation

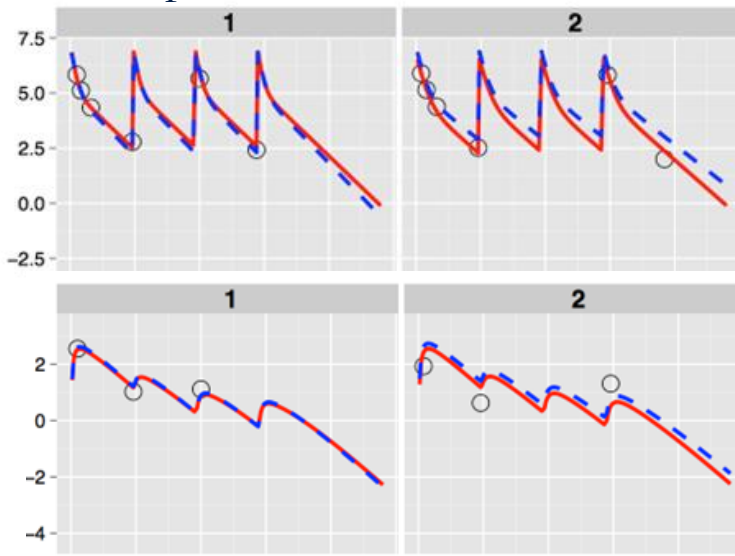
# Fludarabine pre-HCT shows temporal differences in intracellular drug accumulation

Study of 133 children conditioned with a fludarabine-based regimen

intracellular f-ara-ATP ↓ with time

f-ara-ATP	Dose 1	Dose 3	Dose 4	Dose 5
2hr post start infusion	9.6 (1-18.2)	3.3(0.41-12)	1.73(0.57-11.6)	0.64(0.22-1.4)
Number of samples	17	16	16	5

Example ID:



Plasma fludarabine no alterations

Intracellular f-ara-ATP ↓ with time

## 6. Implement target site-outcome association

# Number labeled tracers used in clinical trials for multiple targets

- Ongoing trials in just breast cancer in 2016: **N=164\***
- **Any** NIH-registered pediatric trial in 2016 **N=4**





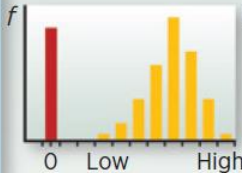
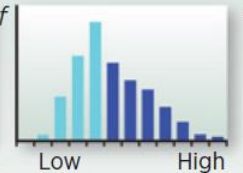
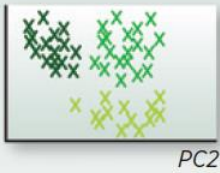
Tracer type	disease	Patient inclusion
$^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATOC	brain tumors	suspended participant recruitment
$^{18}\text{F}$ -DOPA	CNS Tumors	currently recruiting participants
$^{18}\text{F}$ -FLT	Brain Tumors	recruitment on invitation
$^{18}\text{F}$ -FLT	Gliomas	withdrawn prior to recruitment

# Barriers for implementation in the clinic in adults and children

- Radiolabeled compounds
  - Investigational medicinal product dossier (IMPD)
  - Randomized clinical trial needed
  - Financial strains
  - Logistics
  - Complex data-analysis
  - Children: fear of radiation (CT-scan + radiolabeled drug)
  - Trial accrual
- Drug measurements in tumor biopsies
  - Biopsies scheduled at the right time after drug administration
  - Advanced equipment needed

## 6. Implement target site-outcome association

# Advanced imaging techniques may be needed to understand drug penetration

Method	Binary classifier	Threshold value	Multispectral	Geographic
Example	$K^{trans}$	ADC	$K^{trans}$ and ADC	$K^{trans}$ or ADC
Image				
Distribution				Parameter values unrelated to voxel category
Key	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">■</span> Nonenhancing</li> <li><span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Enhancing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> Below median</li> <li><span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> Above median</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">■</span> Cluster 1</li> <li><span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Cluster 2</li> <li><span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> Cluster 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: gray;">■</span> Inner zone</li> <li><span style="color: darkgray;">■</span> Middle zone</li> <li><span style="color: black;">■</span> Outer zone</li> </ul>
Derived BM	Volume or fraction of each tumor subregion	Volume or fraction of each tumor subregion	Volume or fraction of each tumor subregion	Parameter value in each tumor subregion
Segmentation criteria	<i>A priori</i> notion of tumor physiology	Derived from previous data or arbitrary	Data driven	Voxel location

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# Conclusions

- Implementation of drug measurements at the pharmacological target site
  - May improve success rate of early phase pediatric clinical trials, especially basket trials
  - Can be used to understand non-response in clinical practice
    - Use micro doses of tracer drugs
    - Take tumor biopsies during drug dosing

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