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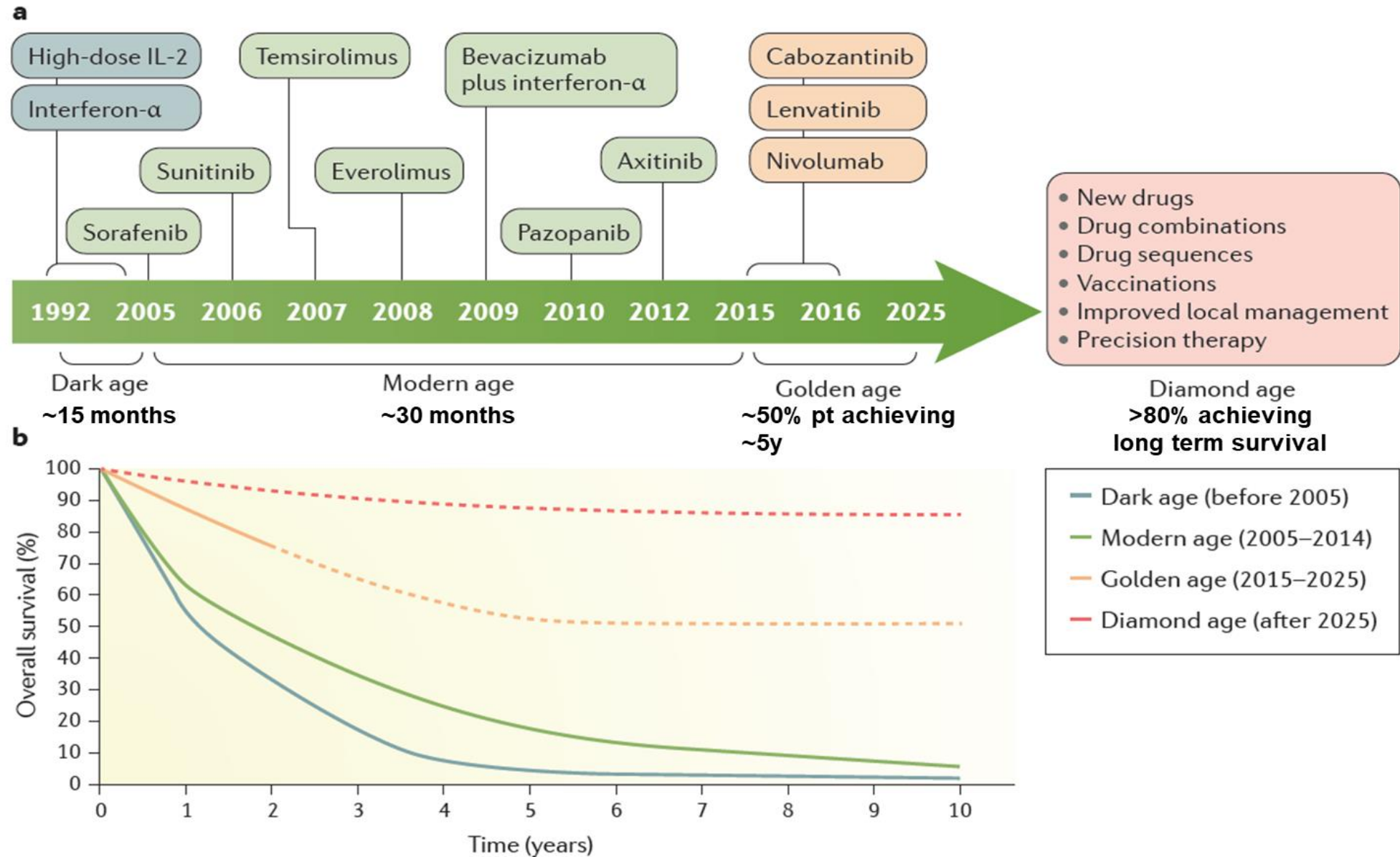
Department of  
**UROLOGIC SCIENCES**  
UBC

# Translational Research Strategies to Understand Treatment Resistance in Renal Cell Carcinoma

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**Alan So, MD FRCSC**  
Department of Urologic Sciences  
University of British Columbia  
Chair, GU Tumour Group, BC Cancer  
Head, Clinical Trials Unit Vancouver Prostate Centre  
Fellowship Director, Uro-oncology Program

# Therapeutic evolution and survival outcome of metastatic clear cell renal cell carcinoma (mRCC)



# Durable Responses to VEGF-Targeted Therapies Are Rare

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Outcome	Sunitinib <sup>1</sup>	Sorafenib <sup>2</sup>	Pazopanib <sup>3</sup>	Bevacizumab/IFN <sup>4</sup>
mPFS, mo	11	5.5	9.2	10.2
ORR, %	47	10	30	31
CR, %	3	<1	<1	1
PR, %	44	10	30	30
SD, %	40	74	38	46
PD, %	7	12	18	20

1. Motzer RJ et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2009;27:3584-90.  
 2. Escudier B et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2007;356:125-134.  
 3. Sternberg C et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010;28:1061-1068.  
 4. Escudier B et al. *Lancet*. 2007;370:2103-2111.

# The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

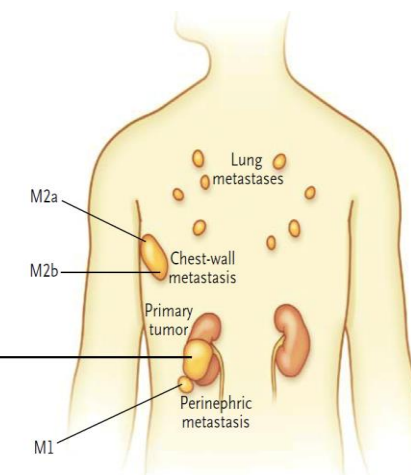
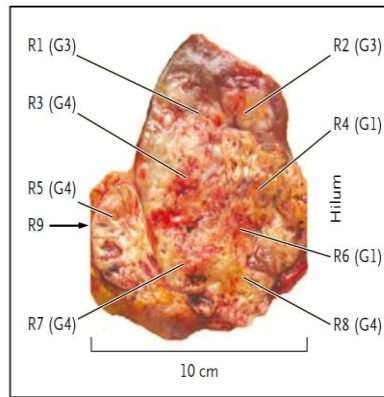
MARCH 8, 2012

VOL. 366 NO. 10

## Intratumor Heterogeneity and Branched Evolution Revealed by Multiregion Sequencing

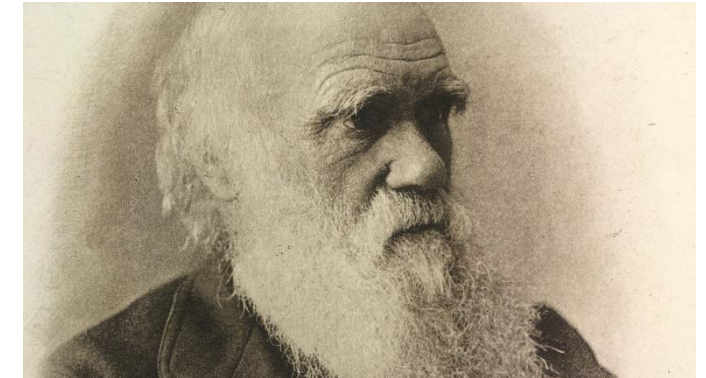
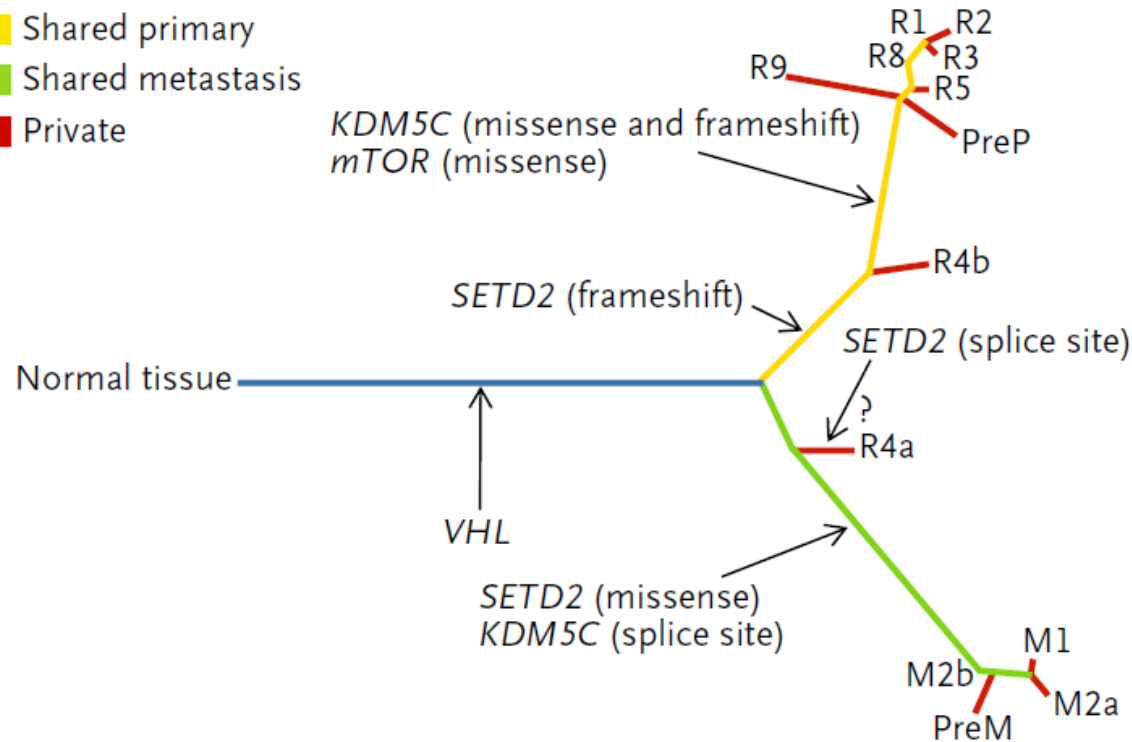
Marco Gerlinger, M.D., Andrew J. Rowan, B.Sc., Stuart Horswell, M.Math., James Larkin, M.D., Ph.D.,

Biopsy Sites



### Phylogenetic Relationships of Tumor Regions

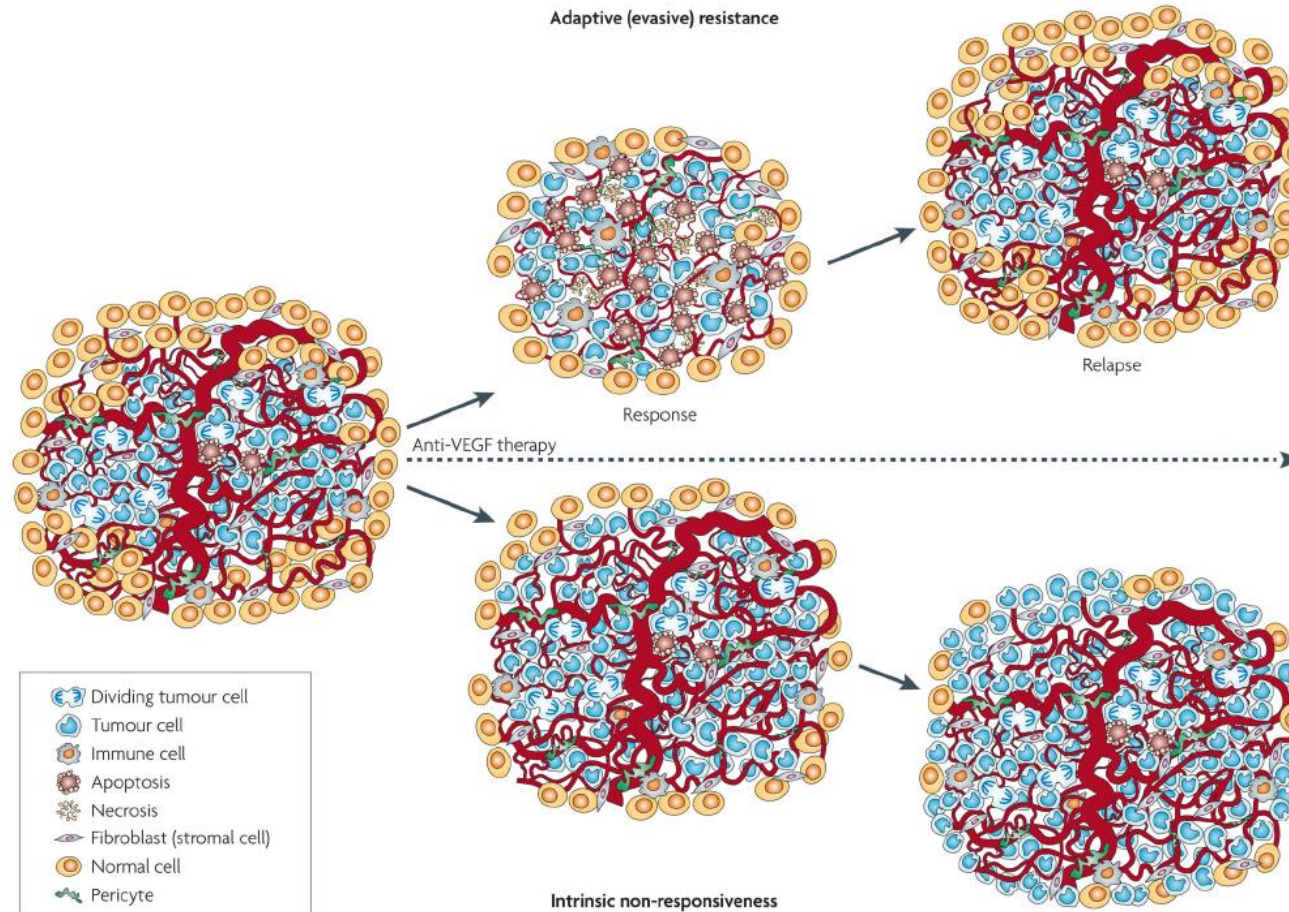
- Ubiquitous
- Shared primary
- Shared metastasis
- Private



**“Cancer is a process of genetic aberrations and clonal expansion subject to stochastic Darwinian selection within adaptive cellular ecosystems”**

Miller et al, Clin Tran Med, 2017

# Resistance to VEGF-Targeted Therapy: Adaptive vs Intrinsic Phenomenon



## **Adaptive resistance:**

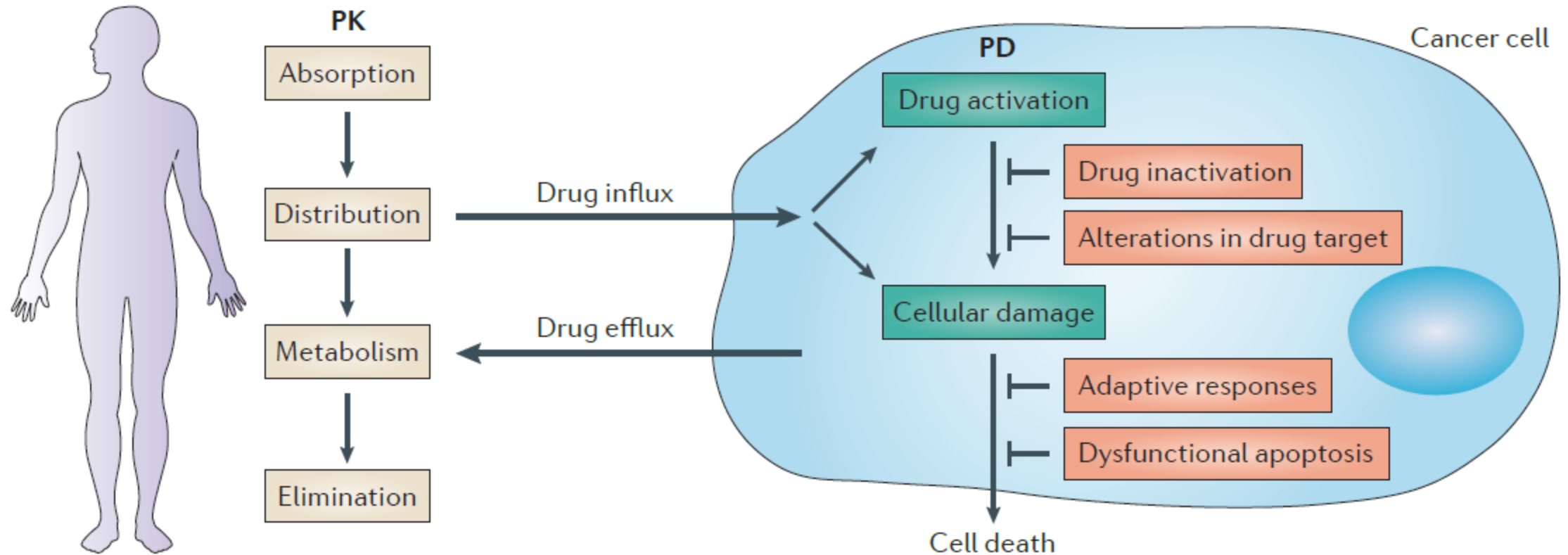
Progression after benefit represents an adaptive resistance to TKI therapy

## **Intrinsic resistance:**

No response at all, immediate progression

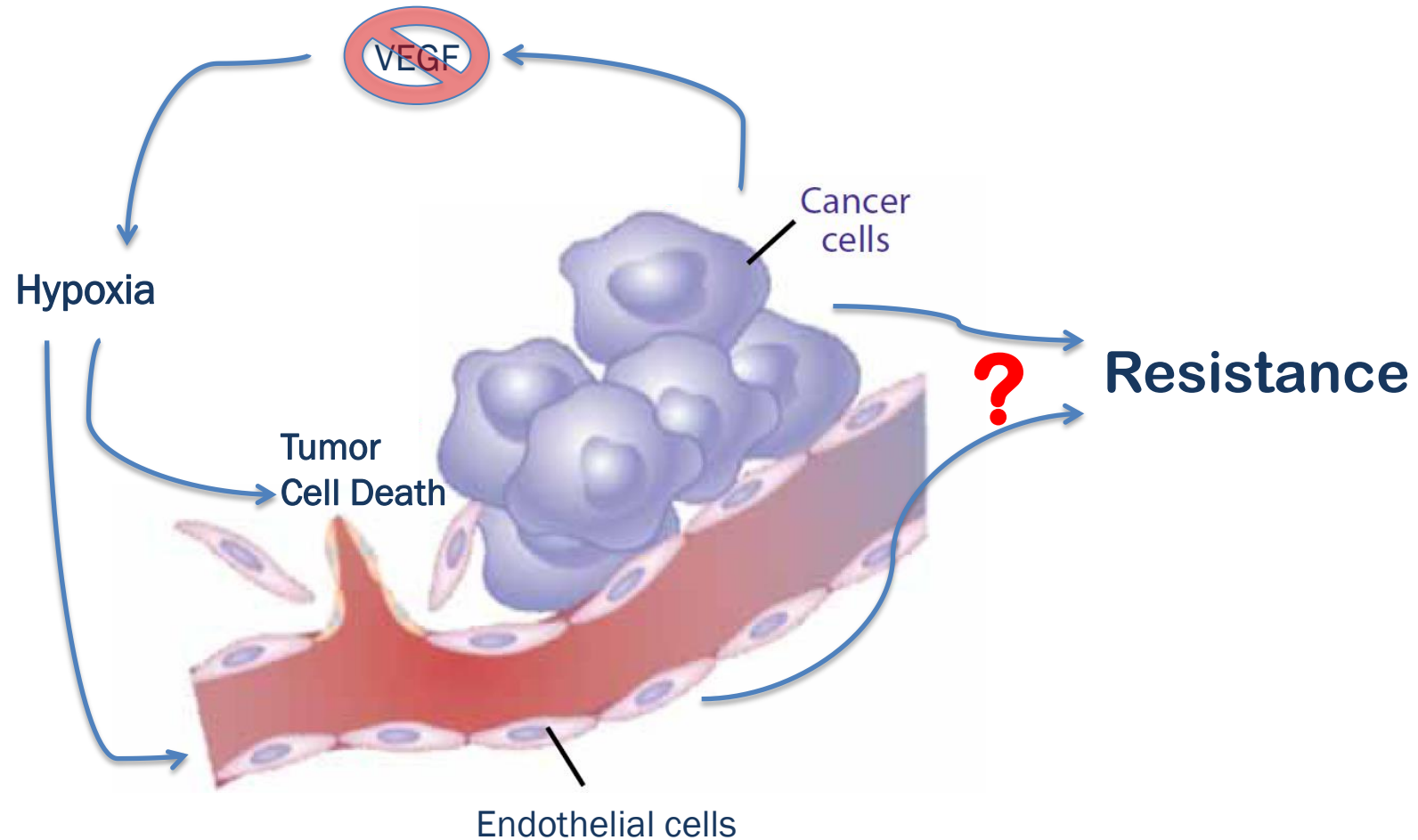
# General principle of 'adaptive' drug resistance

## Pharmacometrics



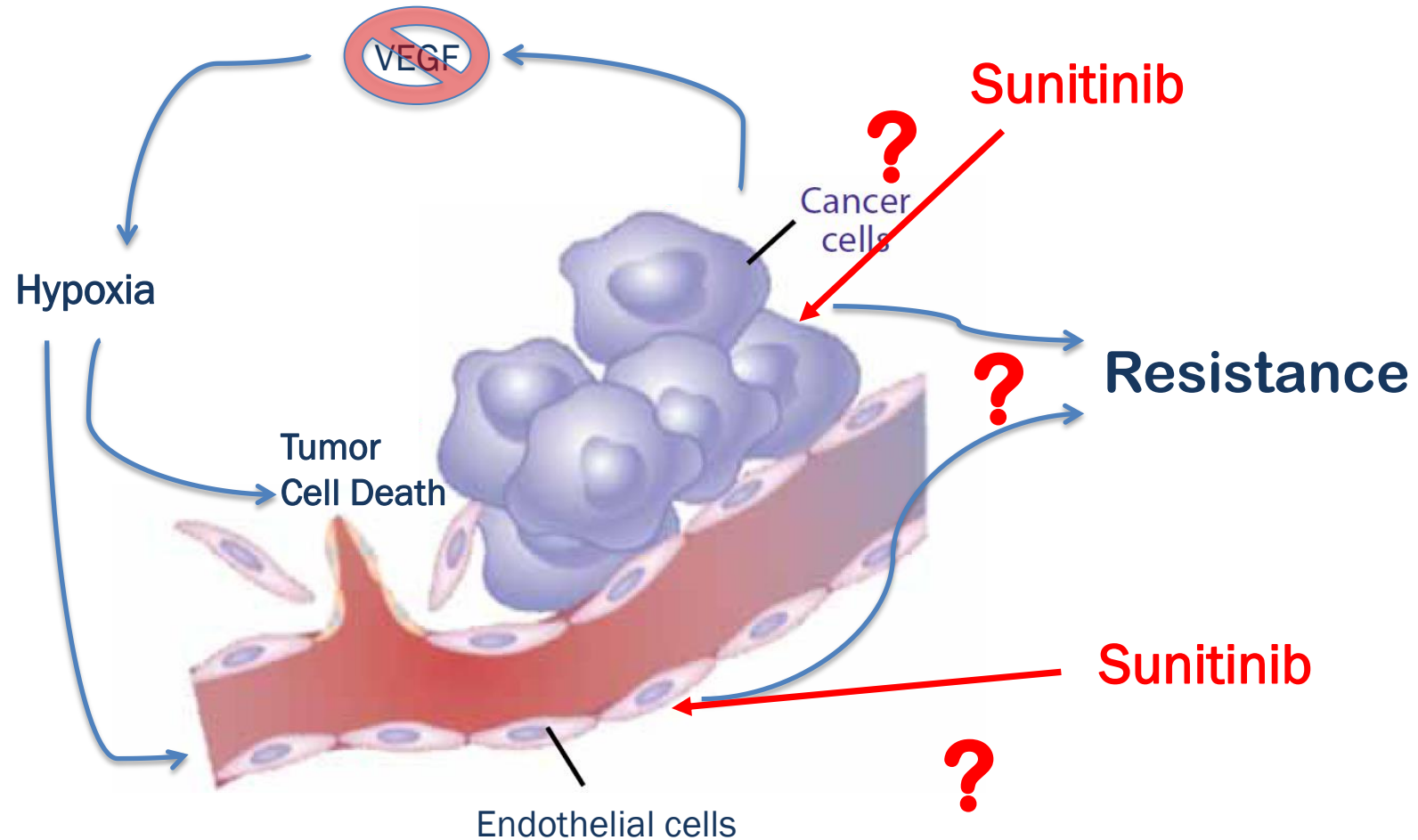
# Treatment with Therapies Targeting Angiogenesis:

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# Treatment with Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor

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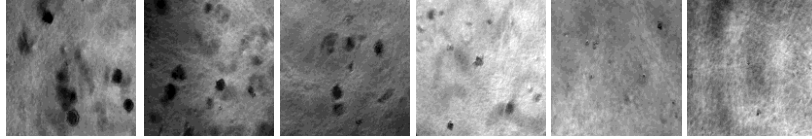




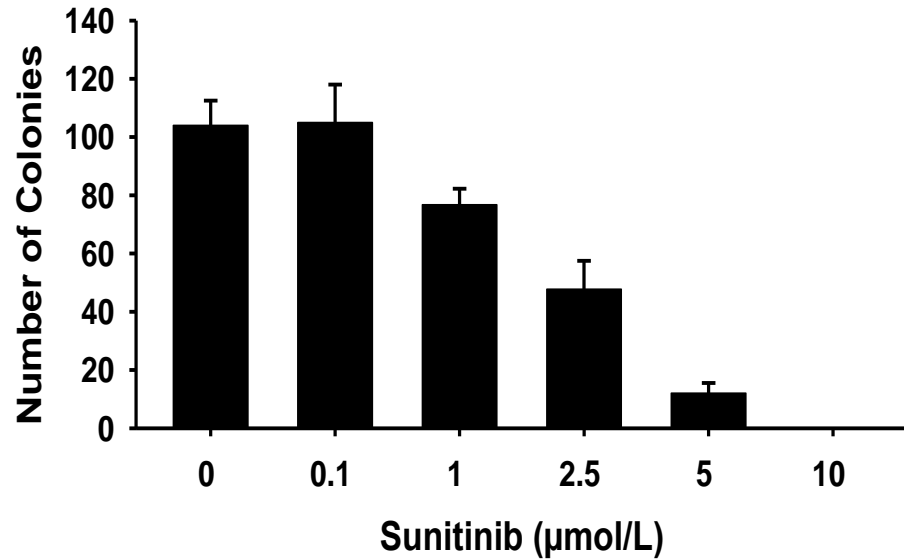
# In vitro effect of sunitinib- RCC vs Endothelium

## RCC Cells

0  $\mu$ M   0.5  $\mu$ M   1  $\mu$ M   2.5  $\mu$ M   5  $\mu$ M   10  $\mu$ M

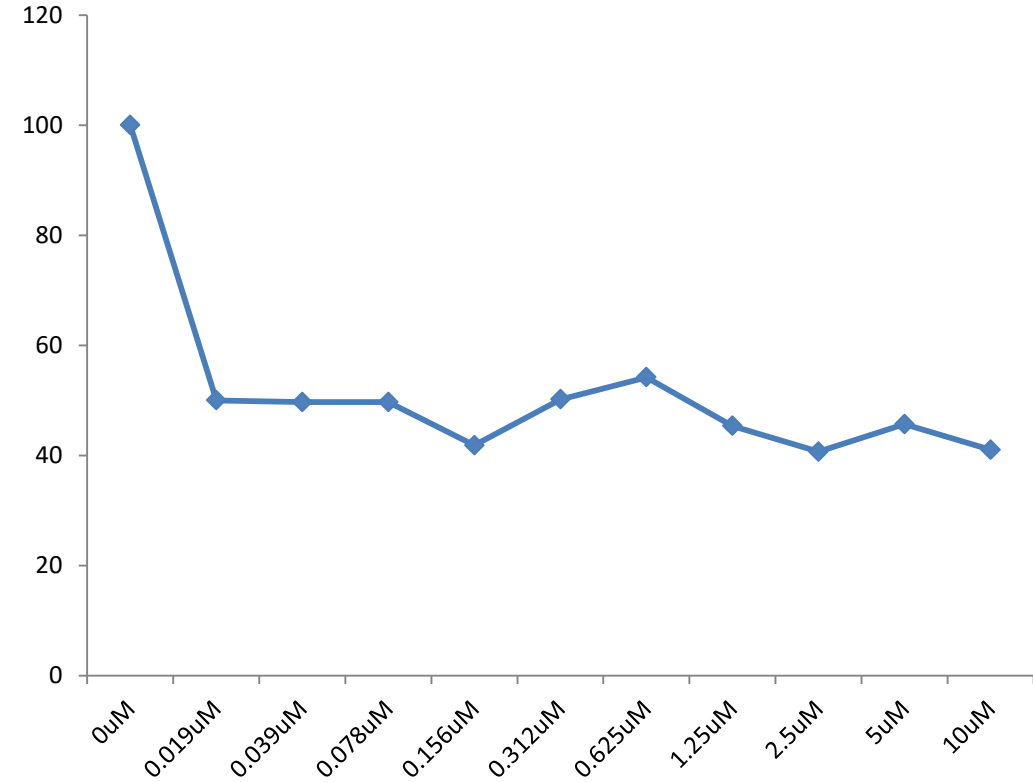


Anchorage-independent cell growth assay



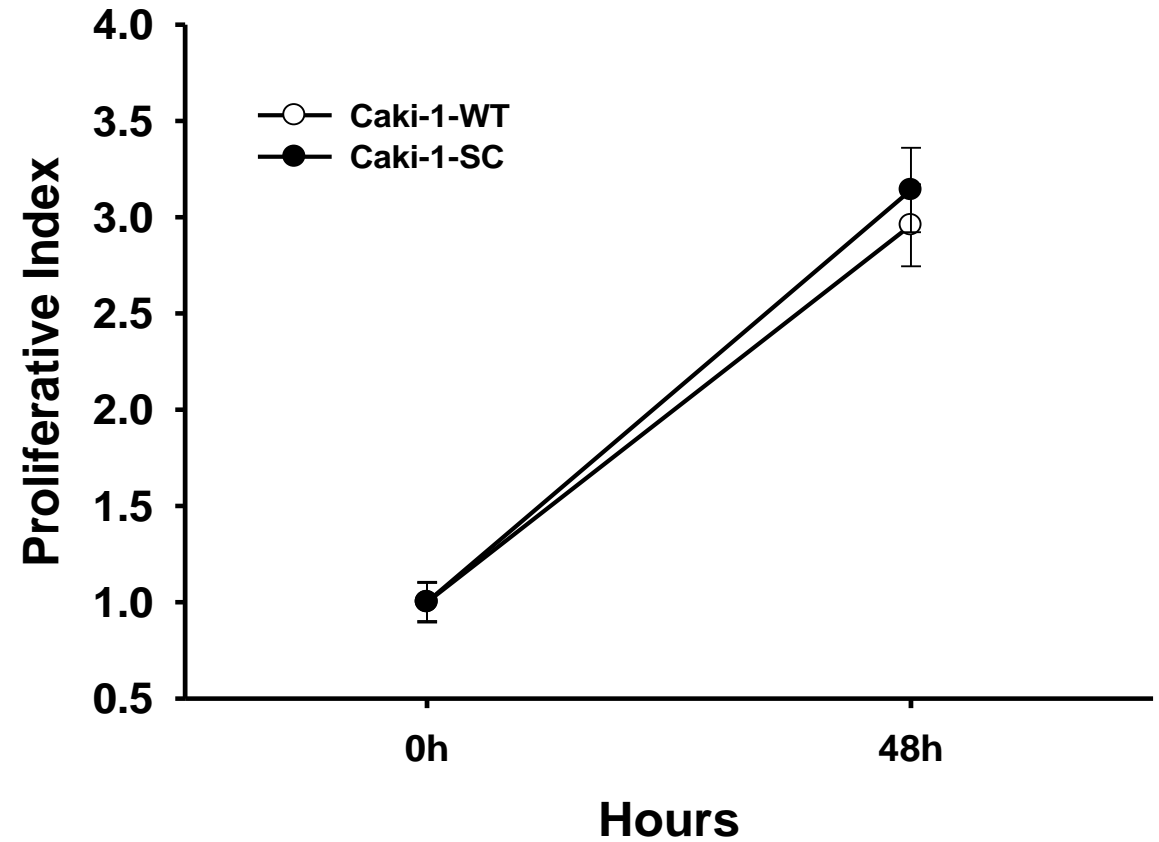
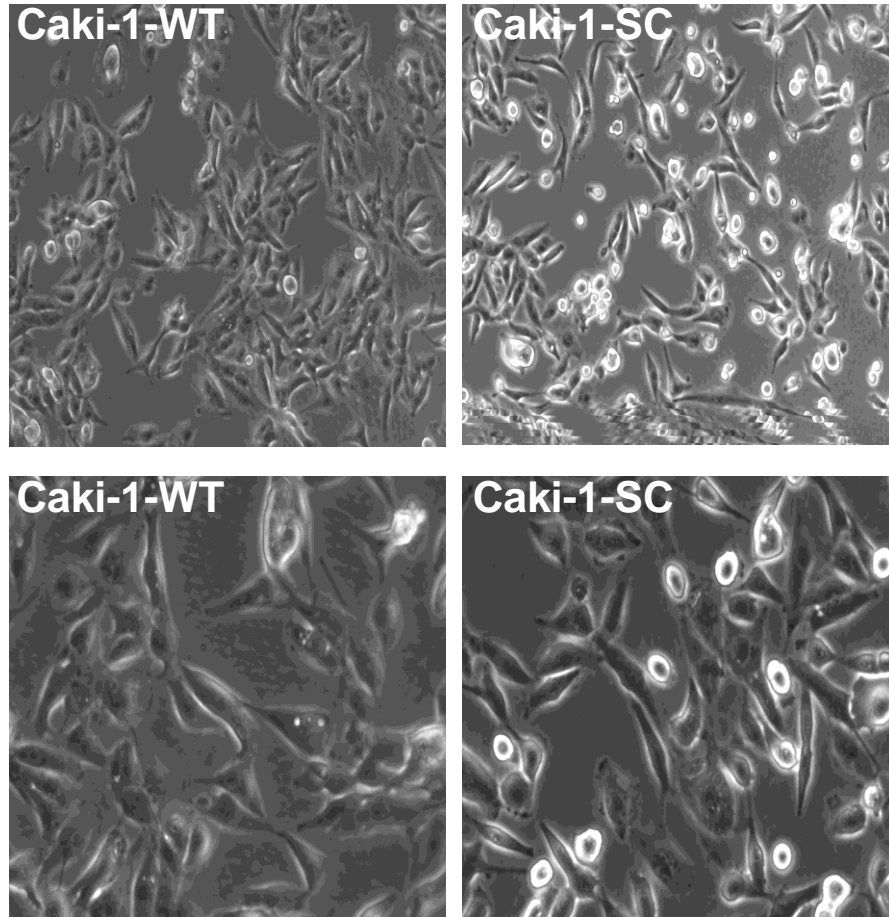
CaKi-1 Cells

## Endothelium



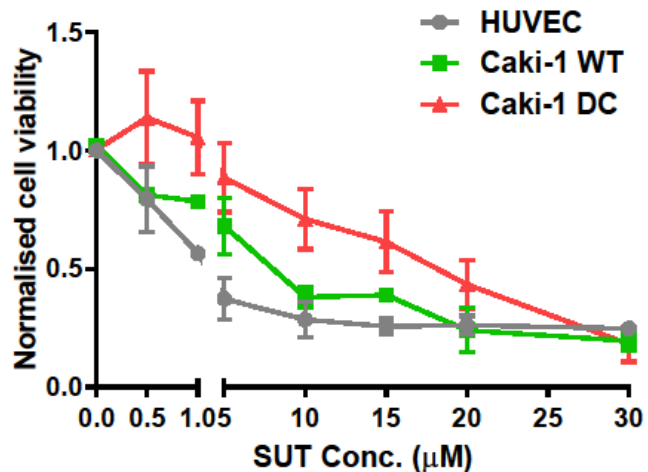
HUVEC Cells

# Development of sunitinib 'resistant' cell line

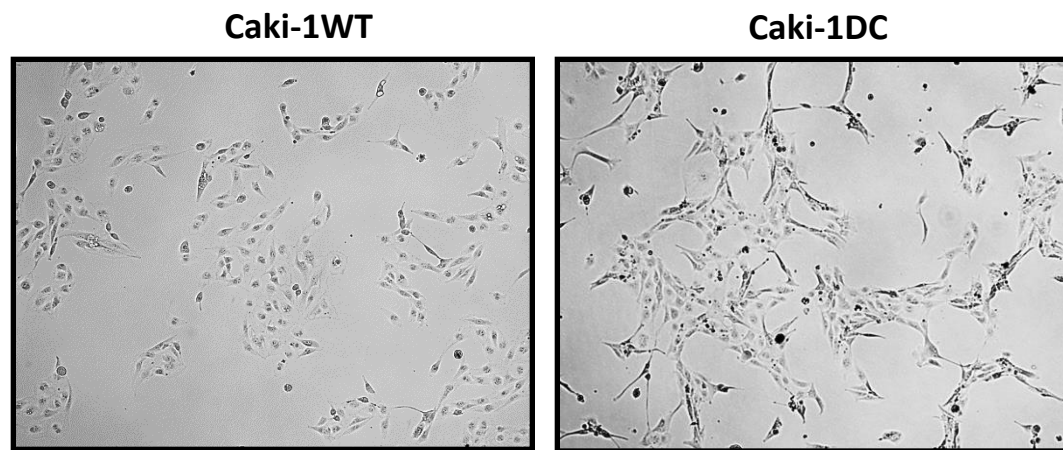


# Phenotypic differences between sunitinib-resistant and sensitive mRCC

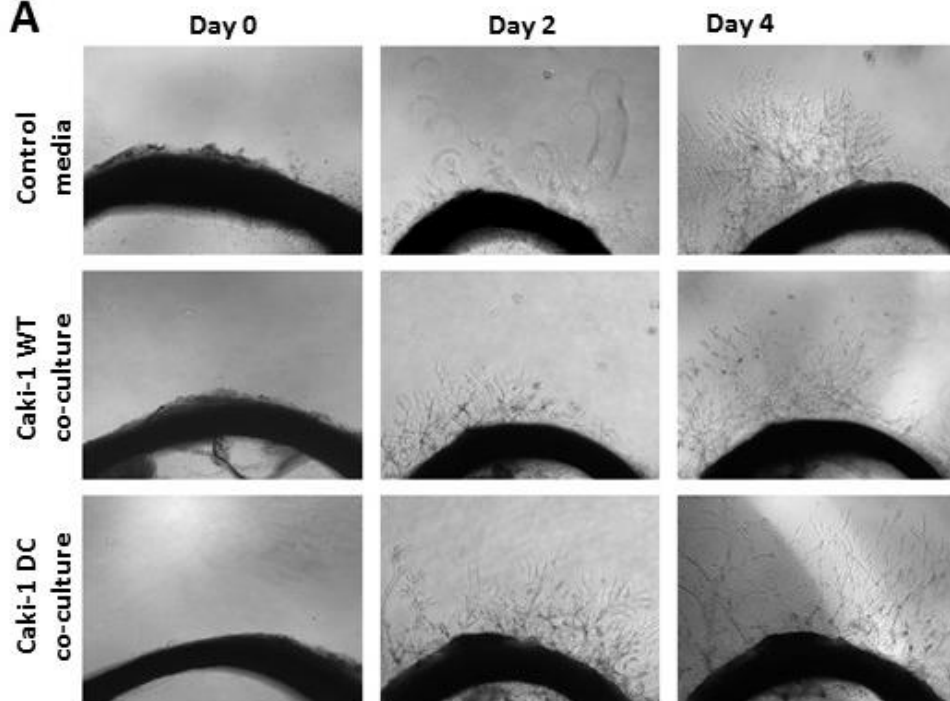
**A**



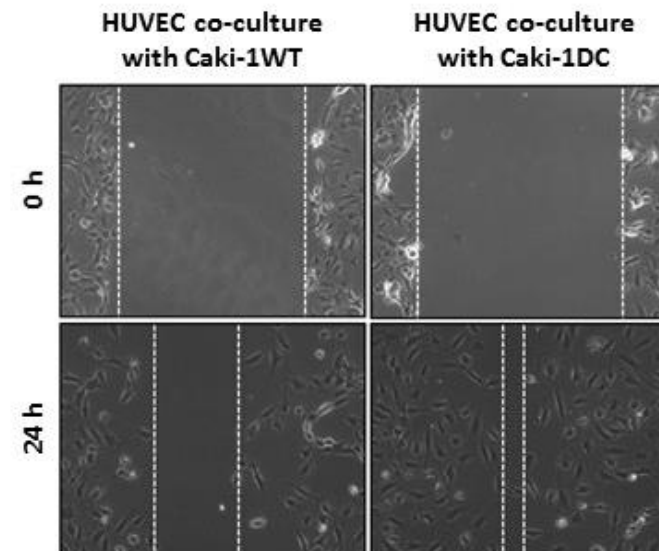
**B**



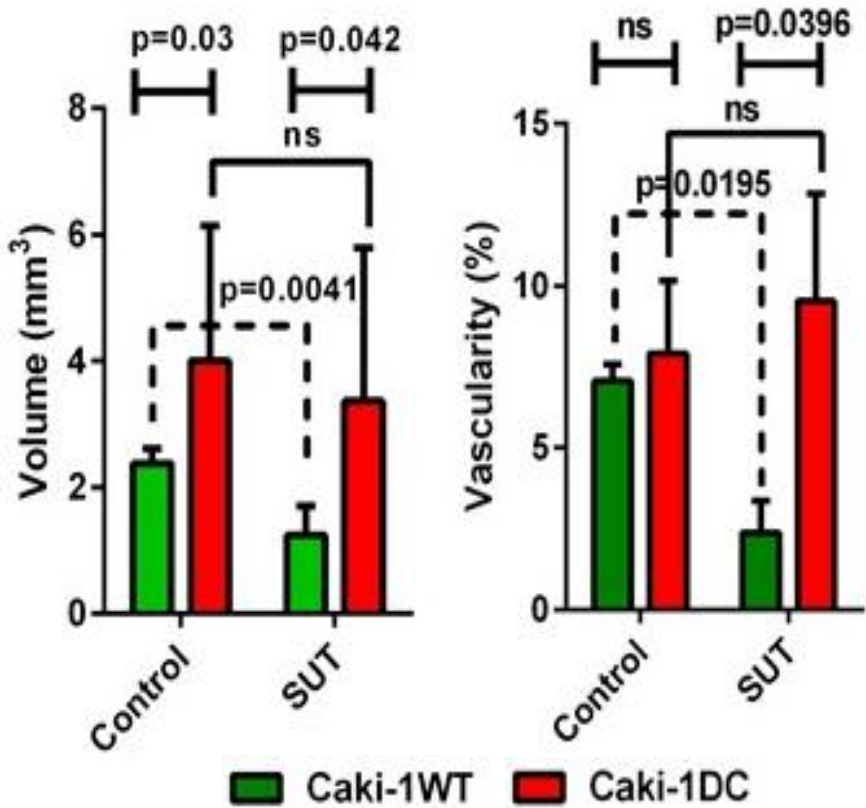
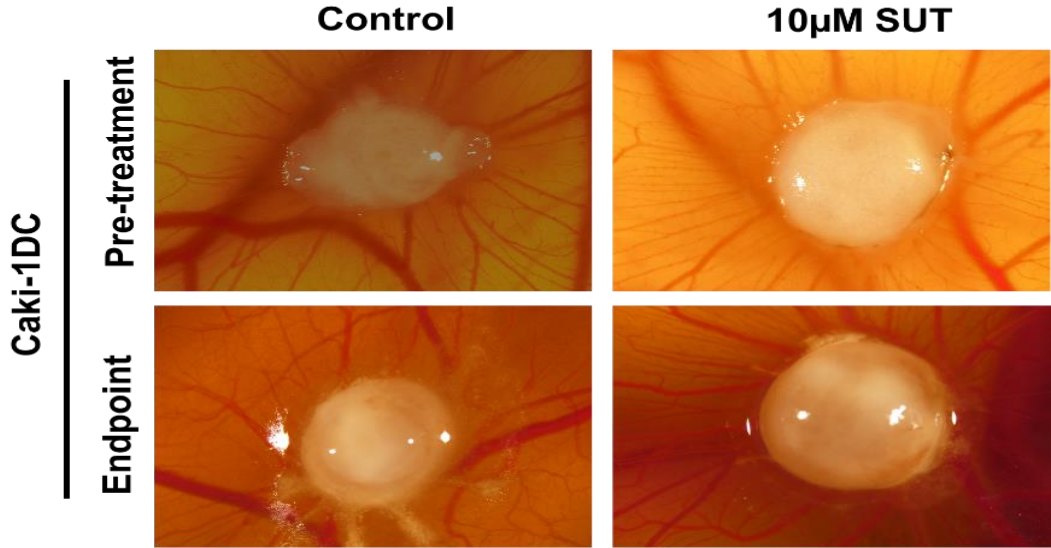
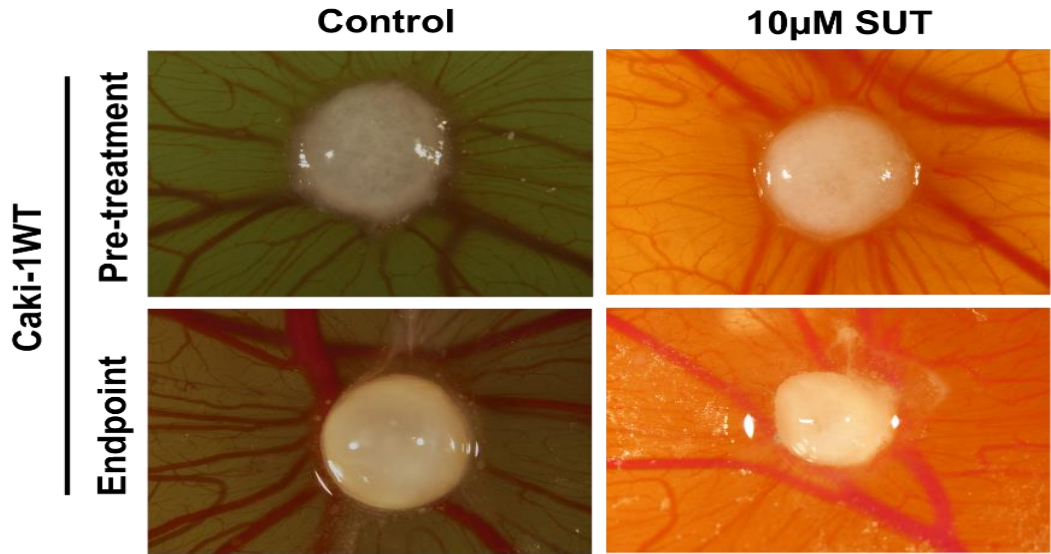
**A**

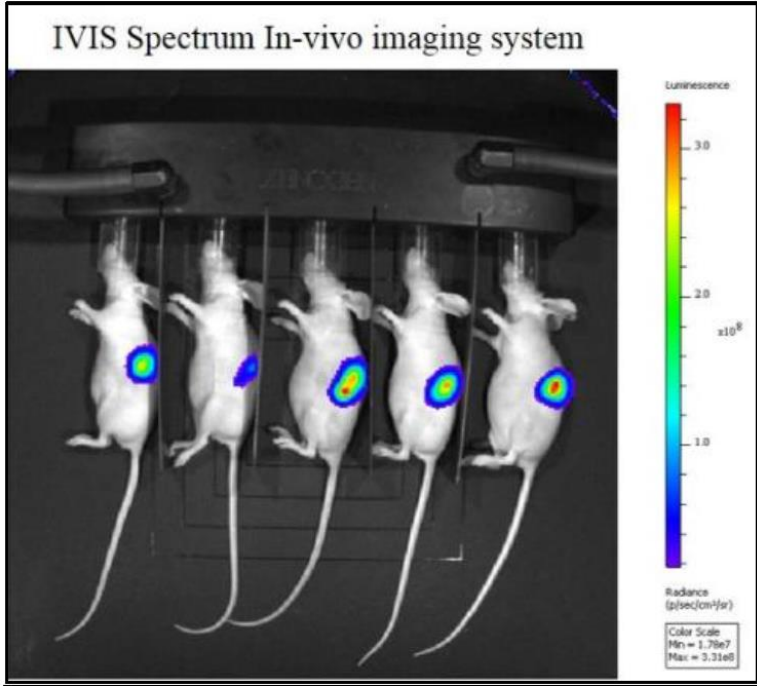


**B**

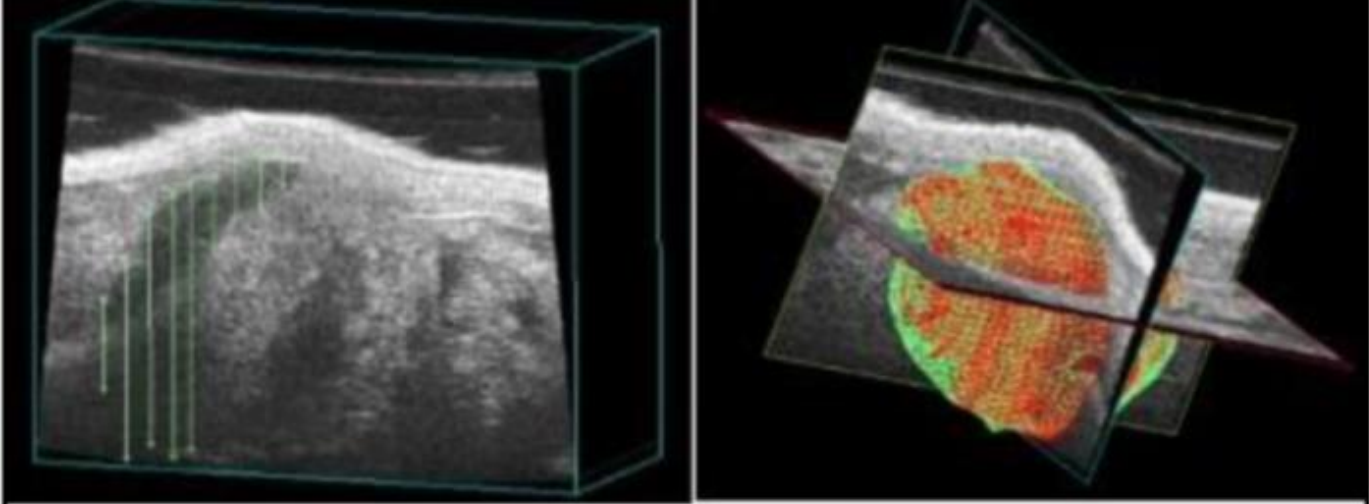


# Phenotypic differences between sunitinib-resistant and sensitive mRCC

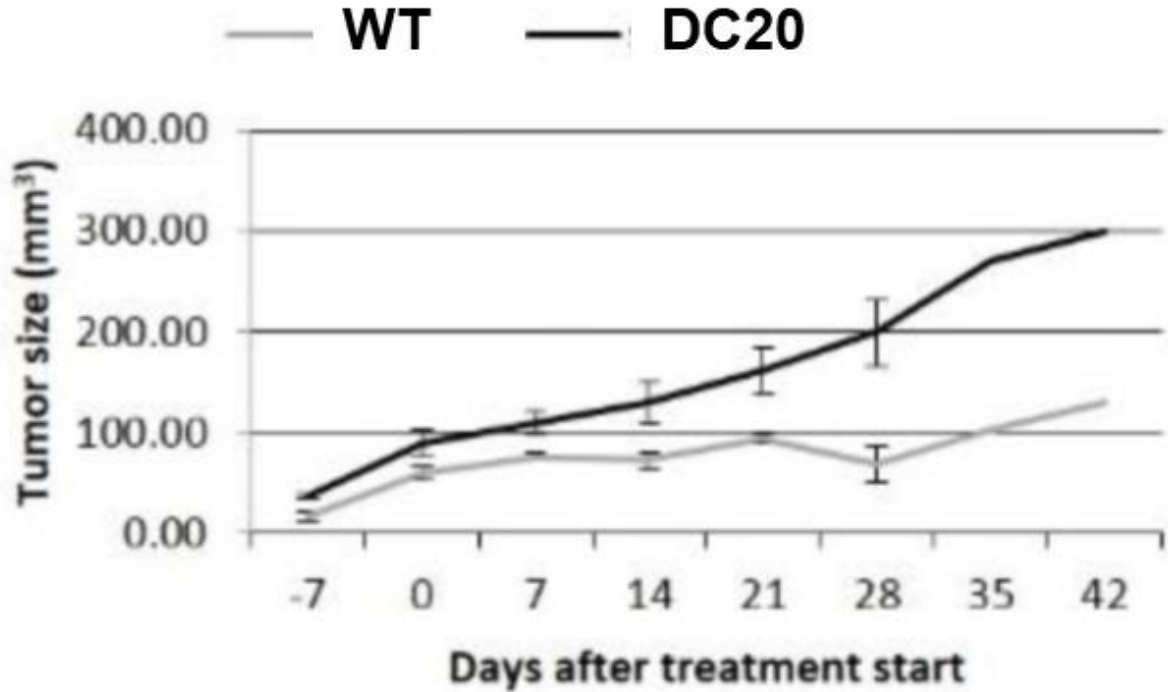




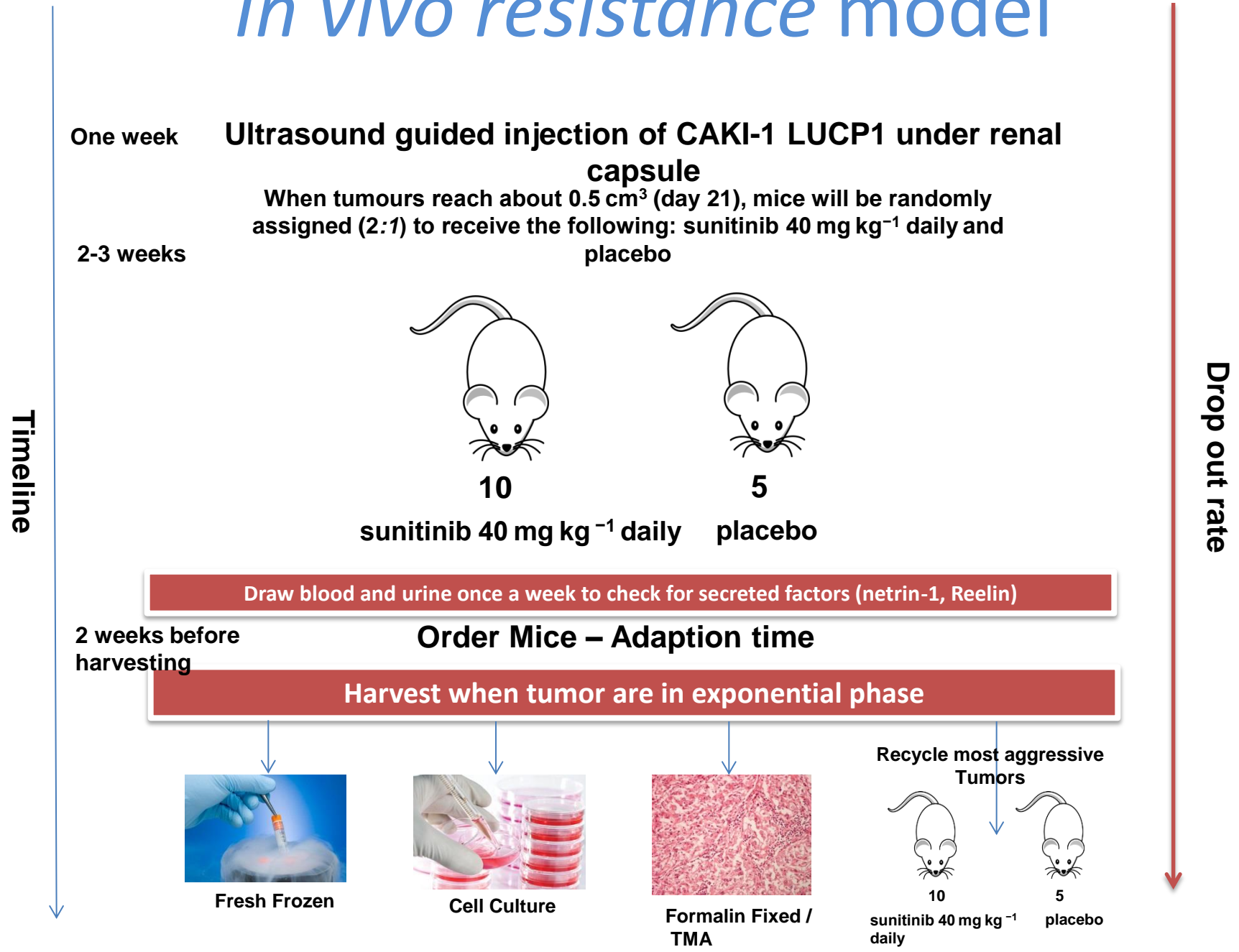
Sunitinib Tx: 60 mg/kg



### Measurements using Ultrasound

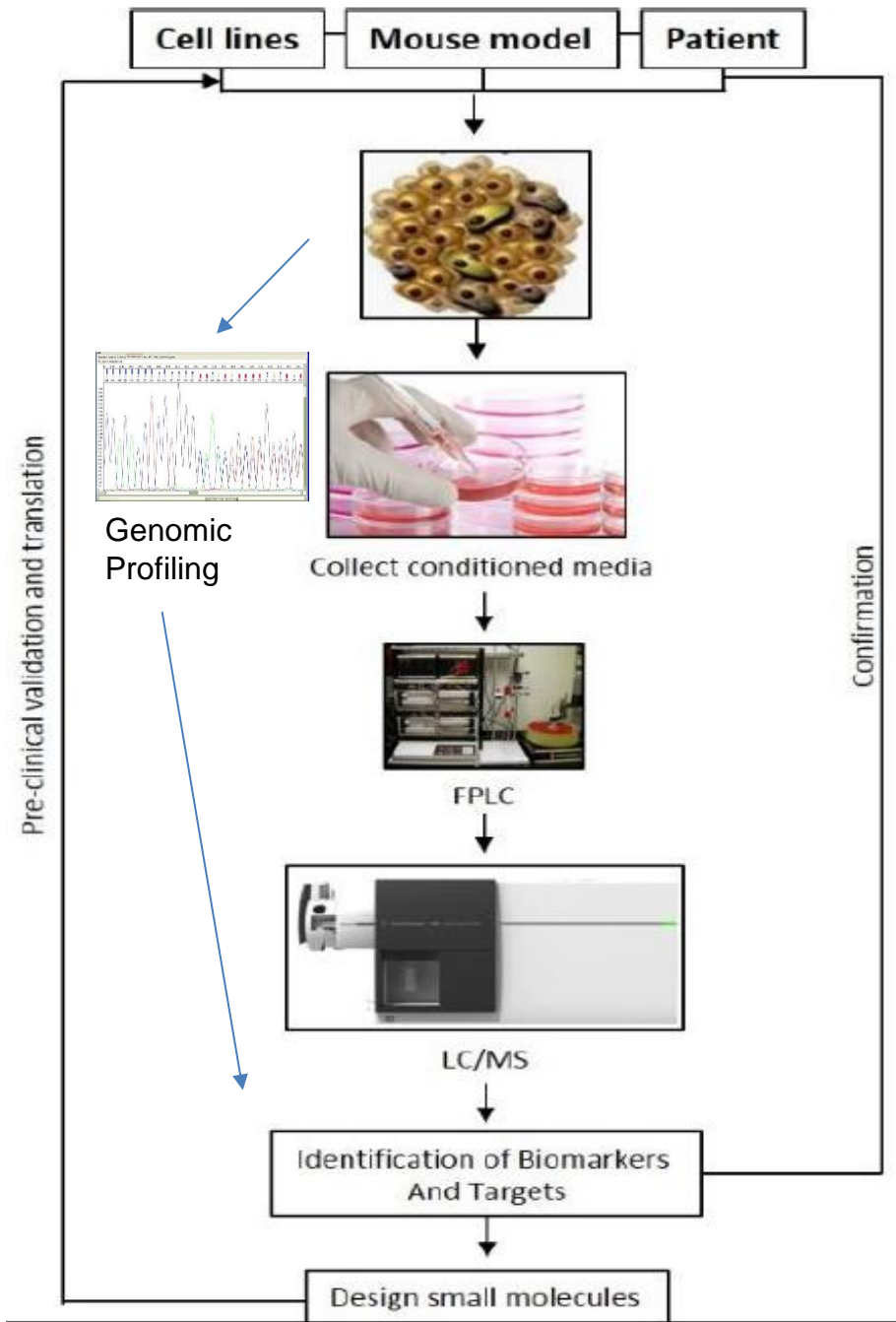


# In vivo resistance model

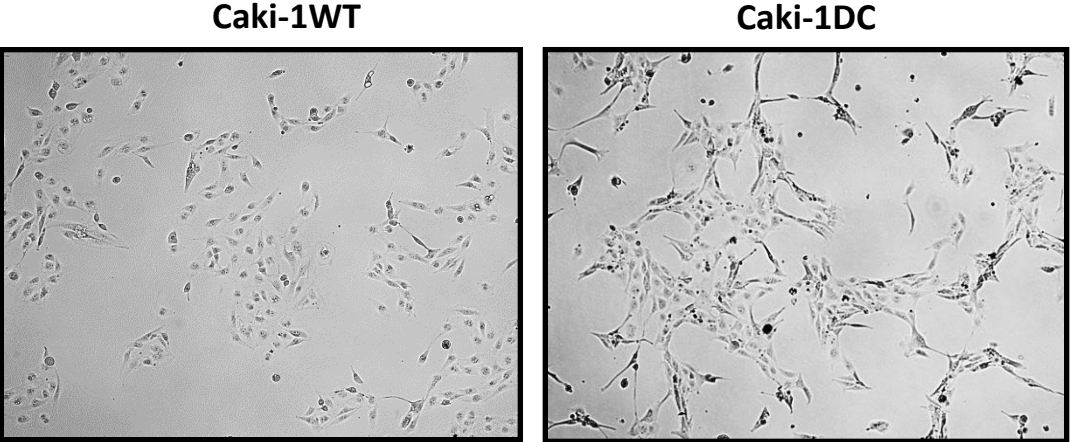


# Identification of Novel Therapeutics

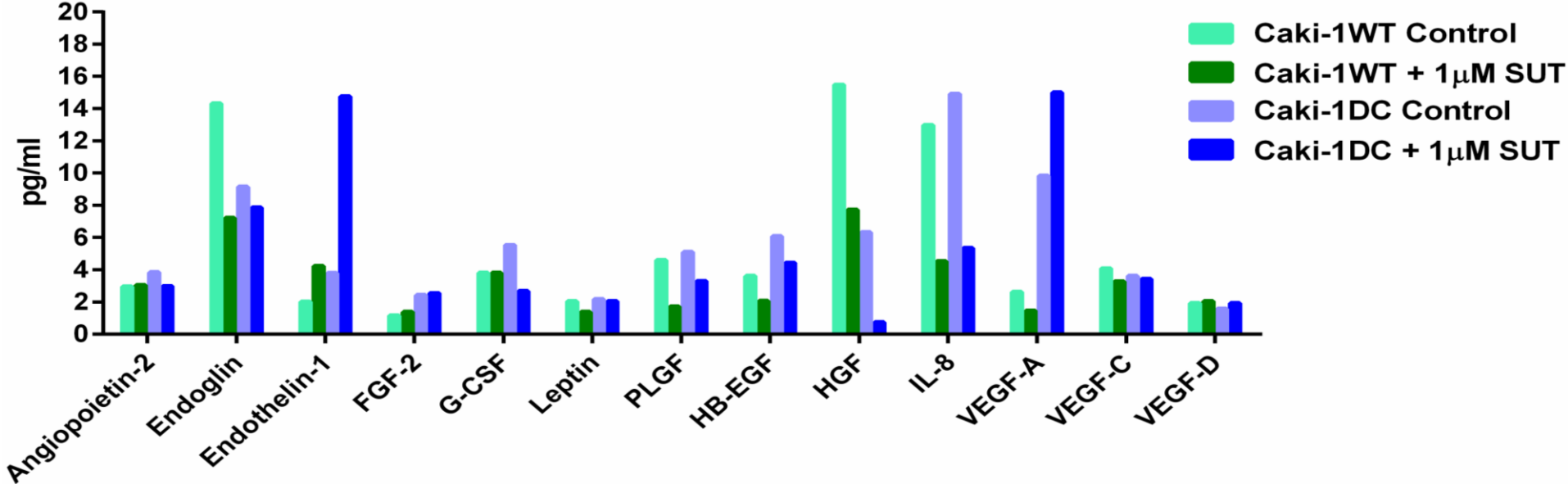
- Confirmation of mechanisms of resistance:
  - Human Samples, *in vitro* resistance model, *in vivo* resistance models
- Identification of small molecules that can target these alterations



# Protein Expression in Media of Sunitinib-resistant and Sensitive mRCC



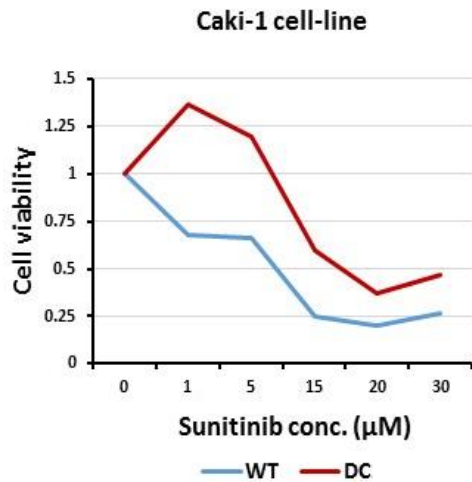
Angiogenic Factors



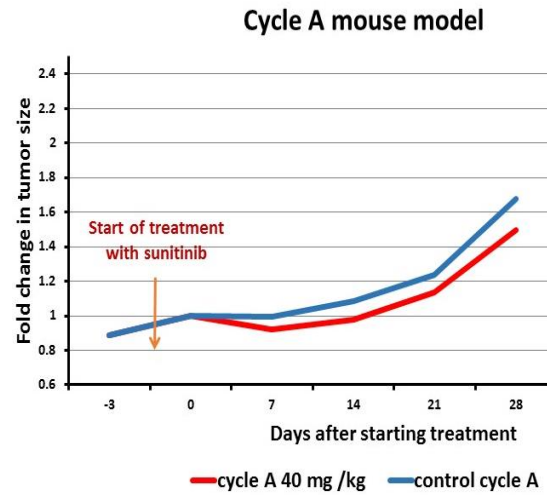


# Differences between sunitinib-resistant and sensitive mRCC

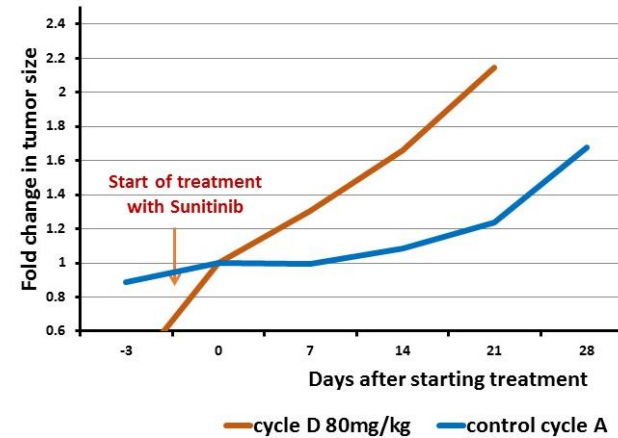
A



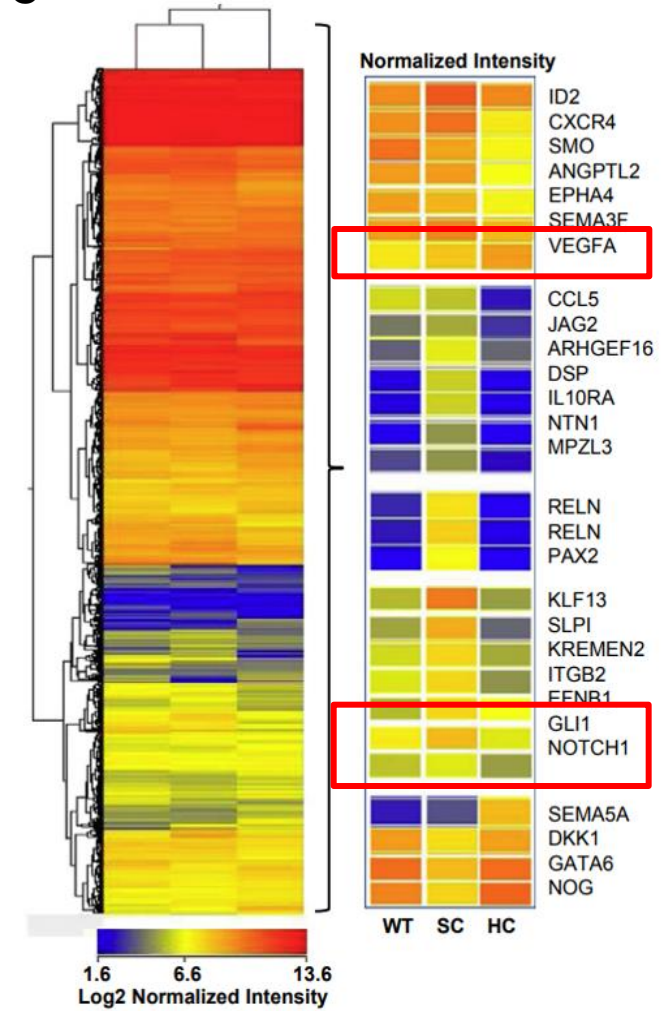
B



Cycle D mouse model



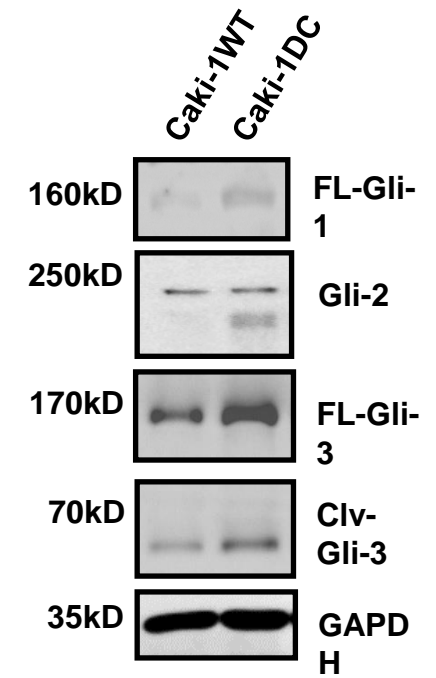
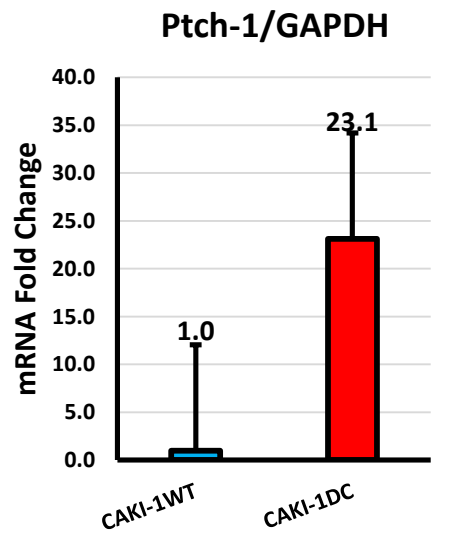
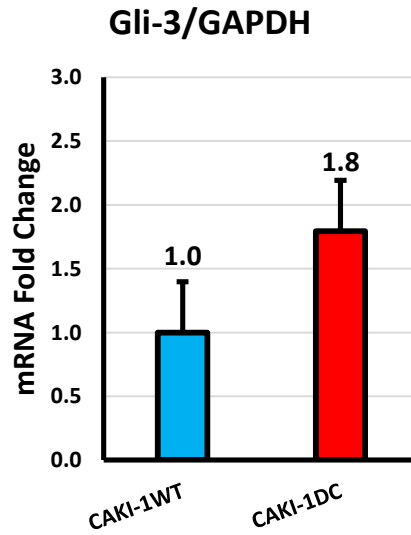
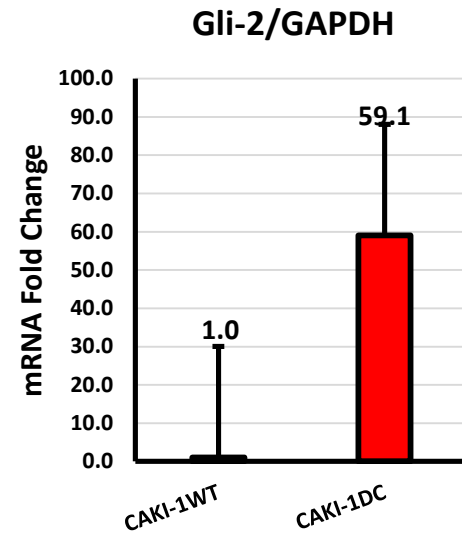
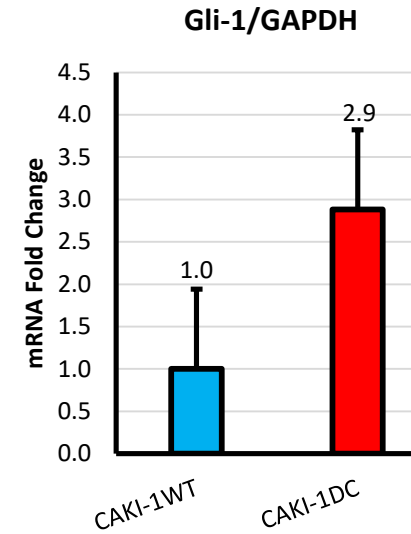
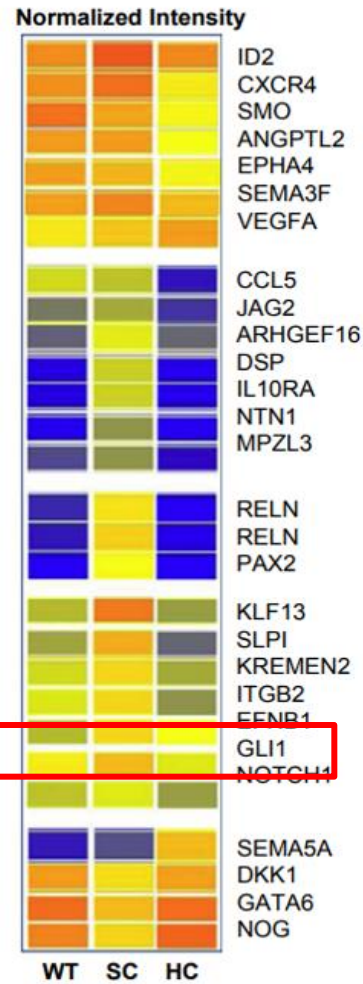
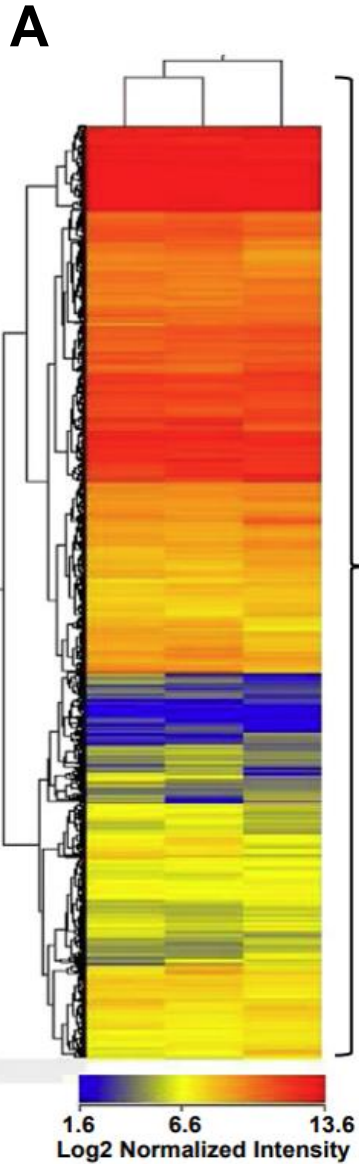
C



D

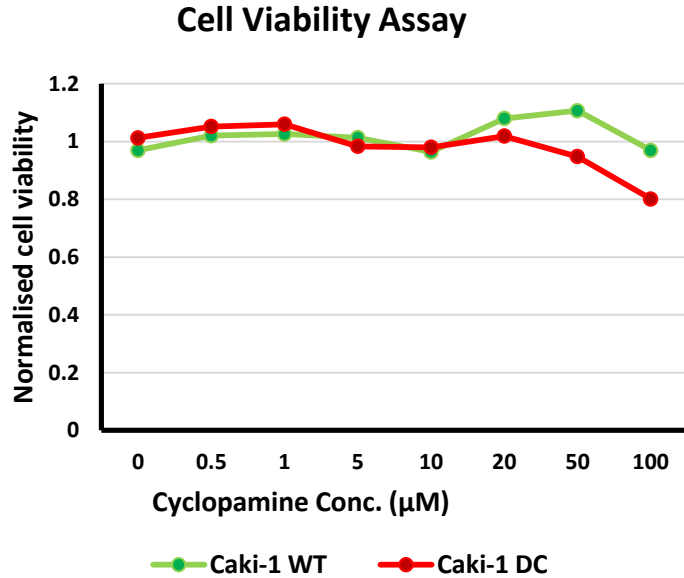
Gene	Accession#	Name	Peptide#	Log FC_80mg/kg	T	score	p-value	FDR
ABCB1	P08183	Multidrug resistance protein 1	26	-0.45323	-2.29642	0.053957	4.1E-11	9.55E-09
ABCB10	Q9NRK6	ATP-binding cassette sub-family B member 10, mitochondrial	5	0.267708	1.8302	0.108369	0.010748	0.152629
ABCC4	O15439	Multidrug resistance-associated protein 4	12	0.473752	2.73992	0.027898	6.12E-08	7.98E-06
ABCD1	P33897	ATP-binding cassette sub-family D member 1	6	-0.30498	-1.41874	0.197421	0.042111	0.34299
ABCD3	P28288	ATP-binding cassette sub-family D member 3	12	-0.22344	-1.26589	0.244637	0.02586	0.262226
ABCE1	P61221	ATP-binding cassette sub-family E member 1	16	0.195736	1.60078	0.151901	0.000465	0.016489
ABCF2	Q9UG63	ATP-binding cassette sub-family F member 2	20	0.23689	1.651535	0.14105	5.74E-05	0.003047

# Upregulation of Gli-proteins in sunitinib-conditioned cell-line compared to wild-type

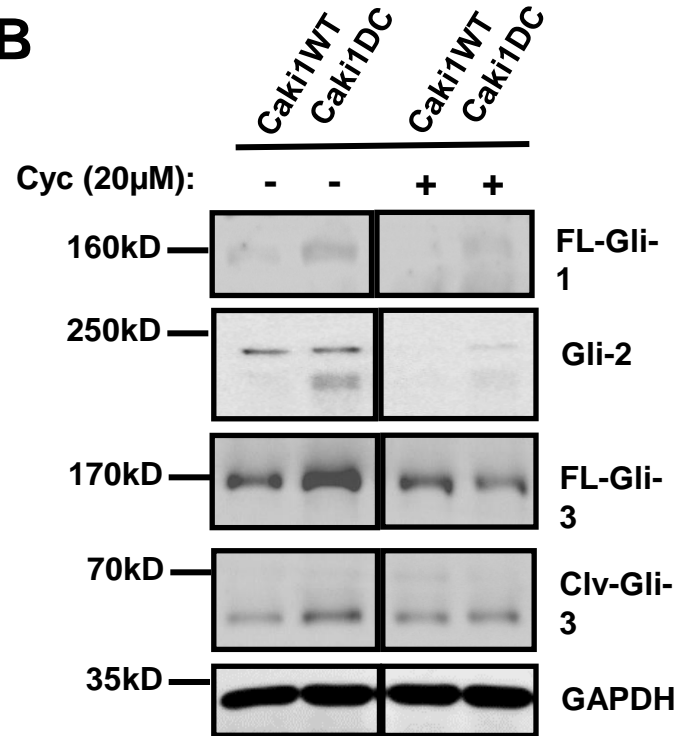


# Cycloplamine inhibits *Gli*-pathway in sunitinib-sensitive and resistant *mccRCC* cell-lines

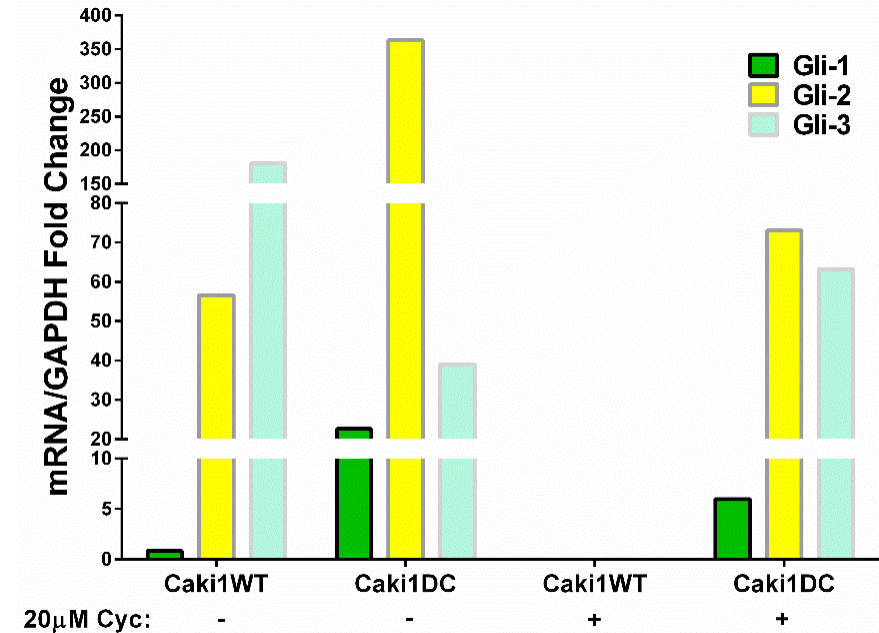
**A**



**B**



**C**



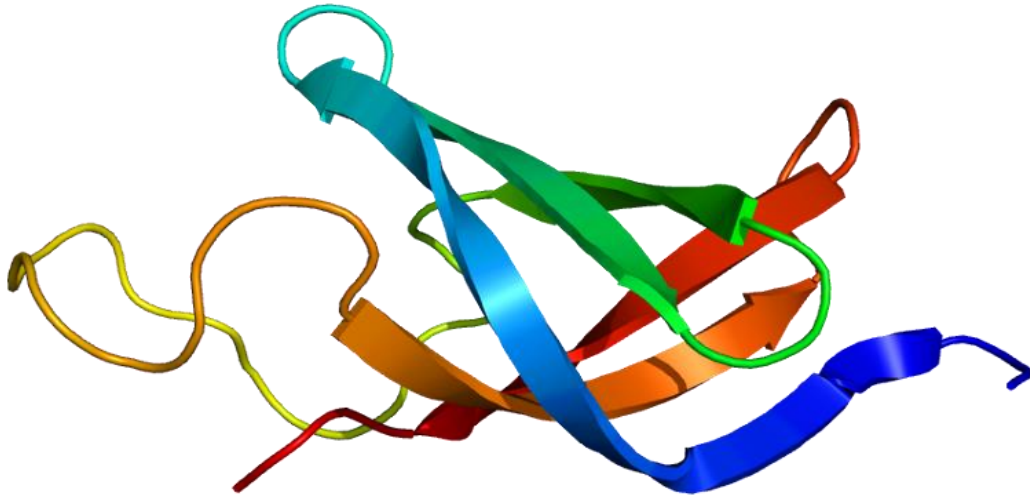
**Novel Gli inhibitors currently being tested:**

- GLI ASO
- UBC Drugs Screens (Dr. Art Cherkasov)

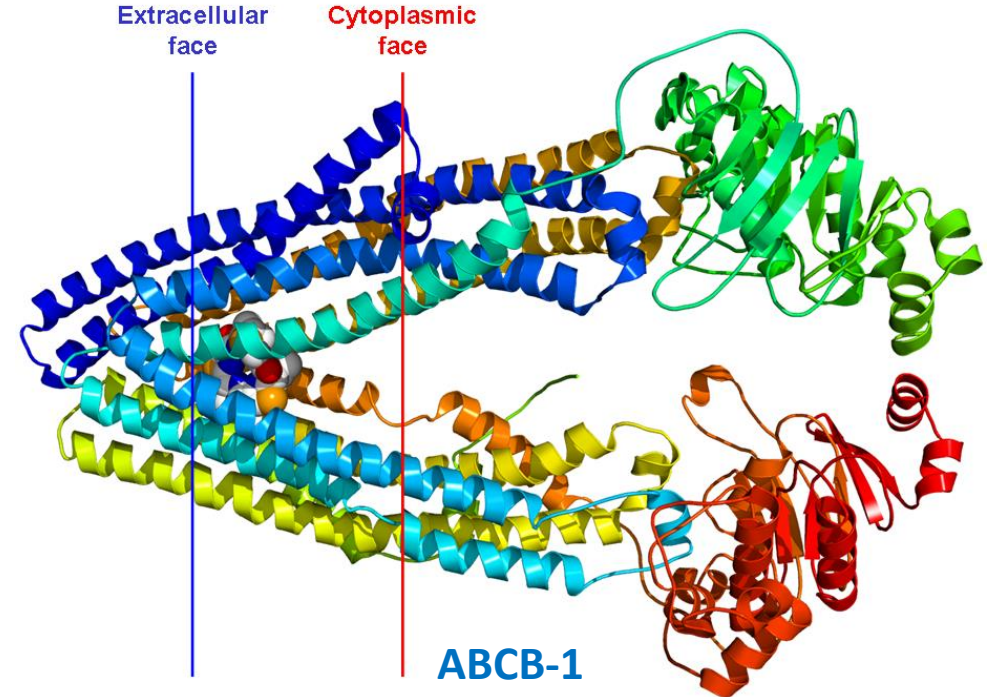
# YB-1 and ABCB-1 in sunitinib resistant mRCC

- **YB-1**

- a multifunctional protein.
- found in cell cytoplasm, nucleus and can also be secreted.
- involved in DNA and mRNA dependent processes and treatment resistance.
- expression is correlated with RCC pathogenic stage.



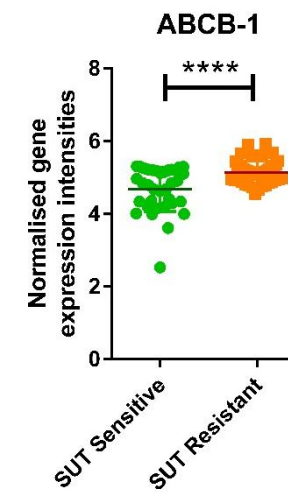
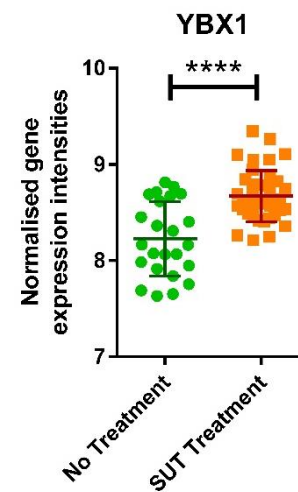
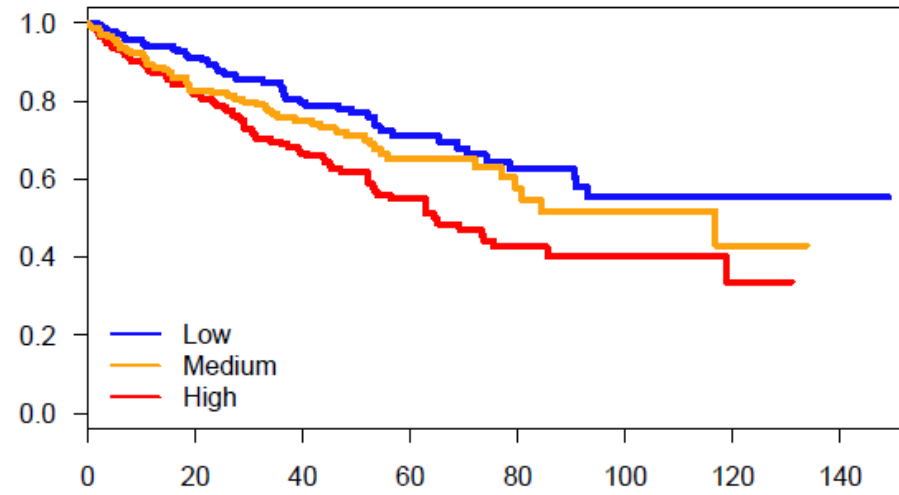
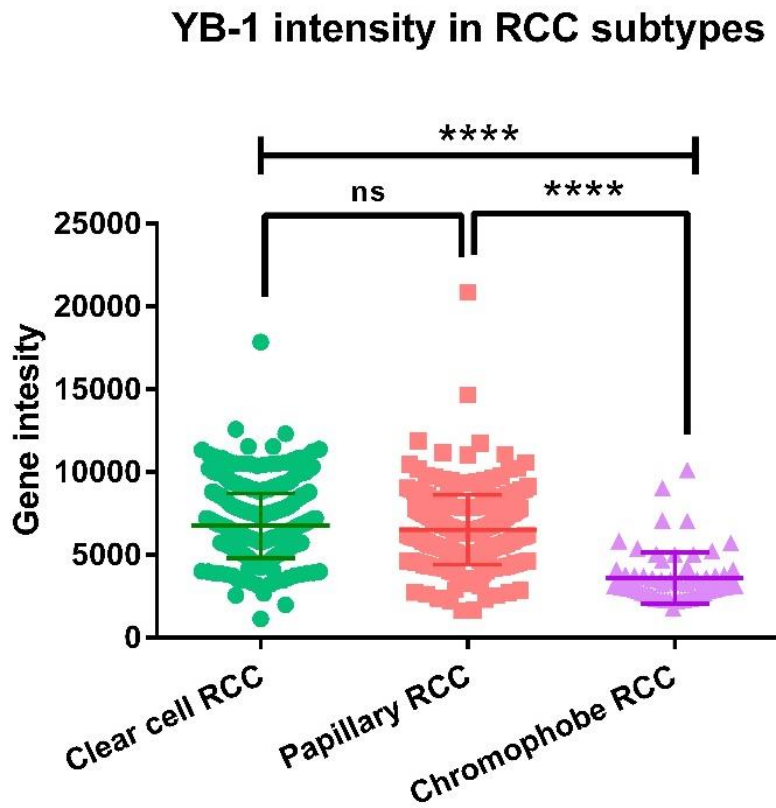
YB-1



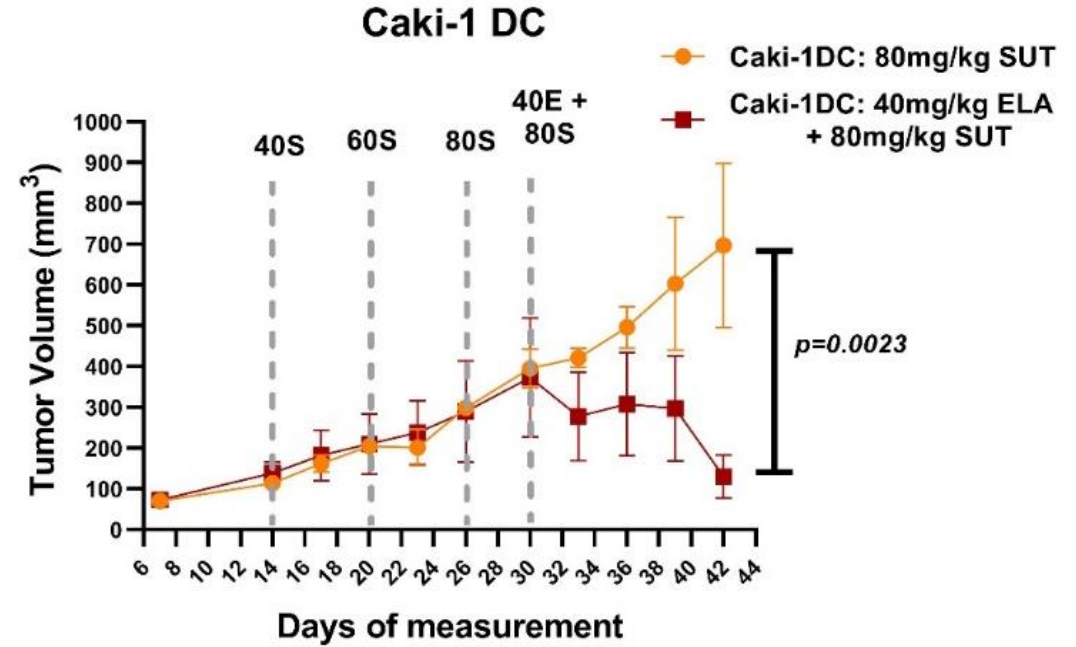
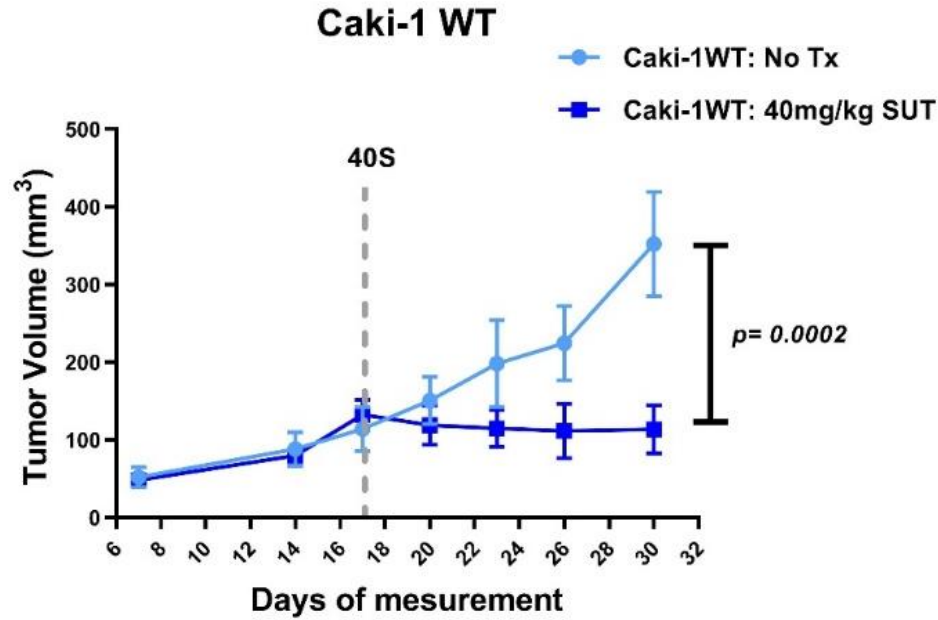
- **ABCB-1 (MDR1 or P-gp)**

- actively efflux compounds from the cell.
- thought to be central in drug resistance development of many therapies.
- Sunitinib was found to be a substrate for ABCB-1.
- ABCB-1 is a known downstream target of YB-1.

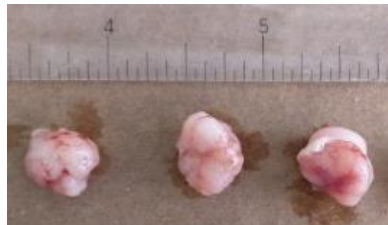
# Significance of YB-1 Expression in ccRCC – TCGA Analysis



# Resensitization of sunitinib conditioned Caki-1 cells with inhibition of Yb-1



Caki-1WT: No treatment



Caki-1WT: 40mg/kg SUT



Caki-1 DC: 80mg/kg SUT

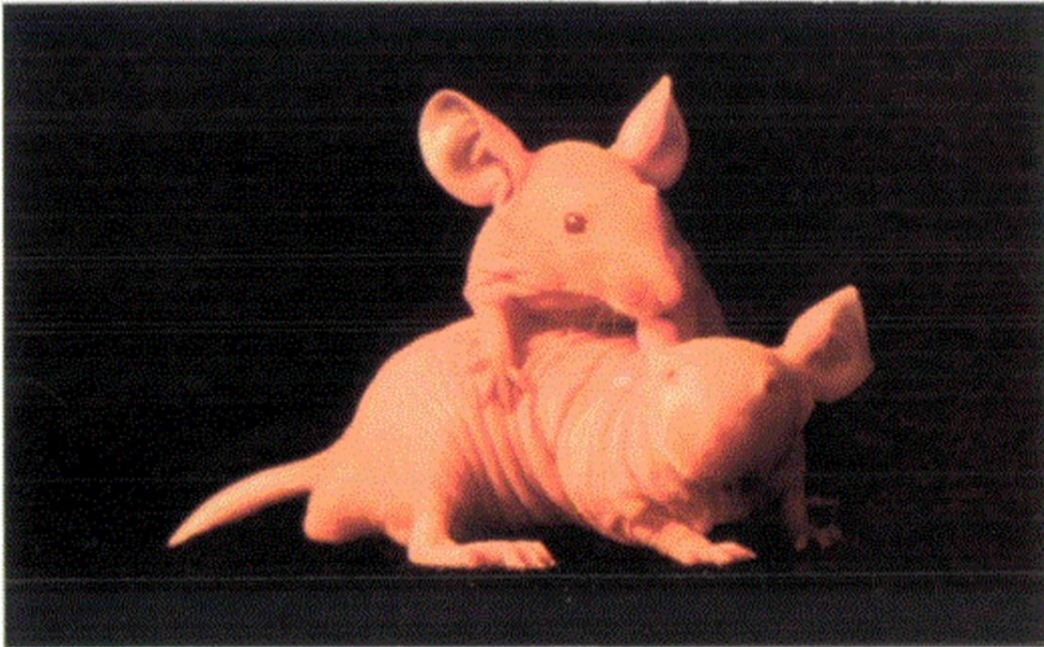


Caki-1 DC: 40mg/kg ELA + 80mg/kg SUT



# Limitations of Current “Models”

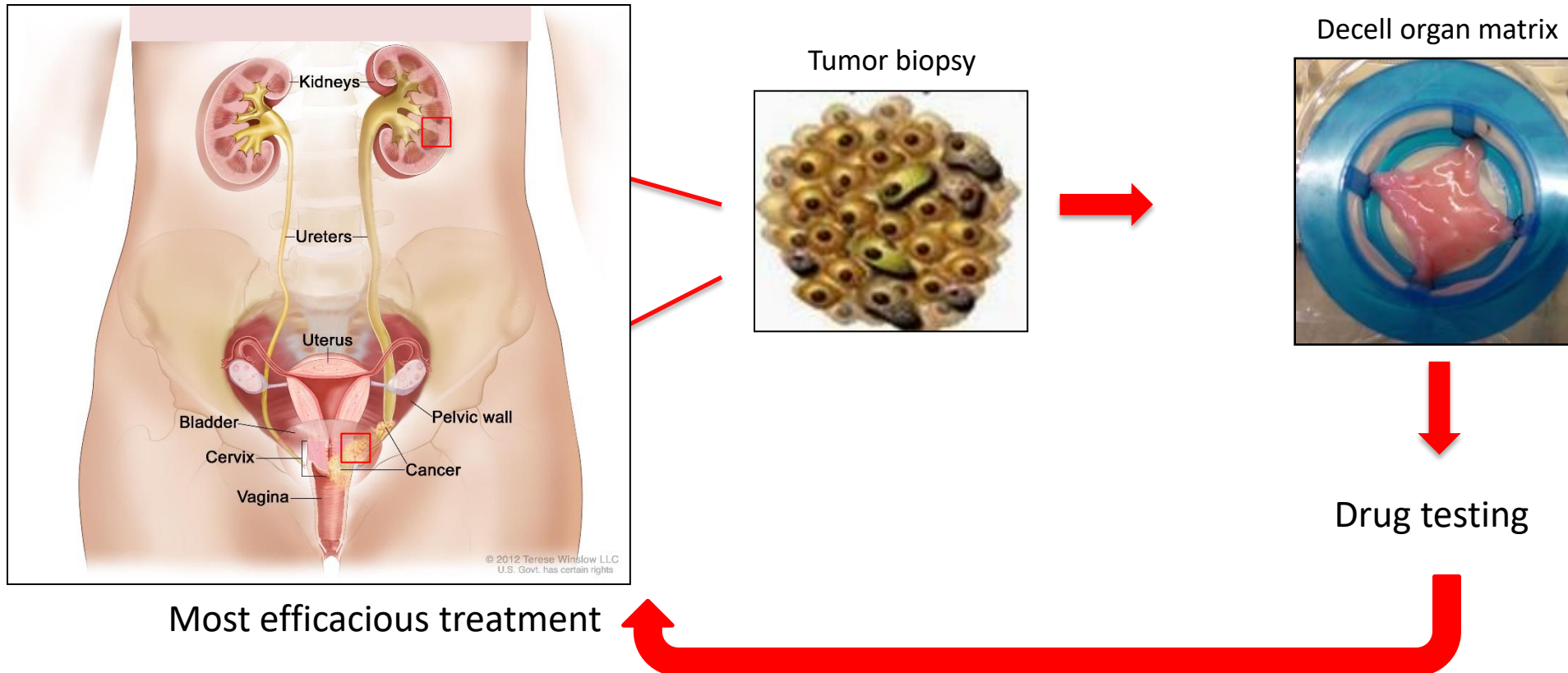
## *Side Glance: Laboratory-Bred Mice*



- How do we select the best treatments to develop?
- How do we select the best treatments to treat our patients?

When the National Cancer Institute changed its initial drug screening system to a cell assay, the number of mice needed for drug screening fell from 6 million to about 300,000 each year. Studies in nude (athymic) mice are necessary to confirm in vitro results before trials in humans can be considered. About 10,000 compounds are screened each year in the cell assays; 200 to 400 compounds show enough anti-tumor activity to move into animal studies.

# 3D Patient-derived tumor model



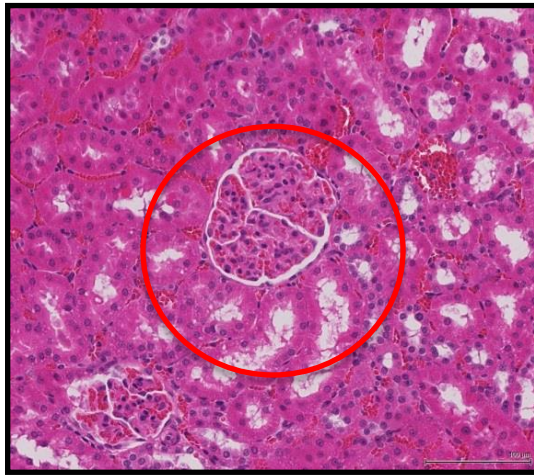


# 3D – Tumor Models: Decellularization

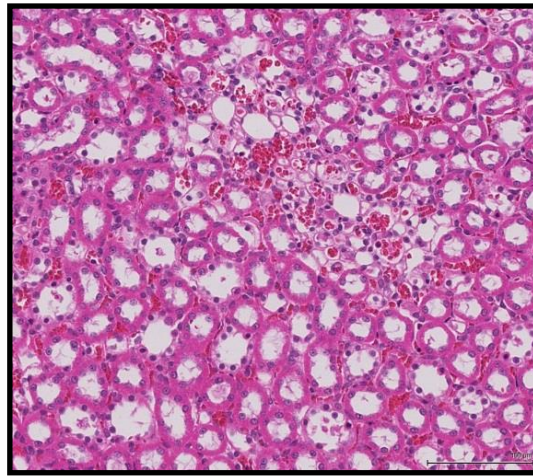
**Kidney**



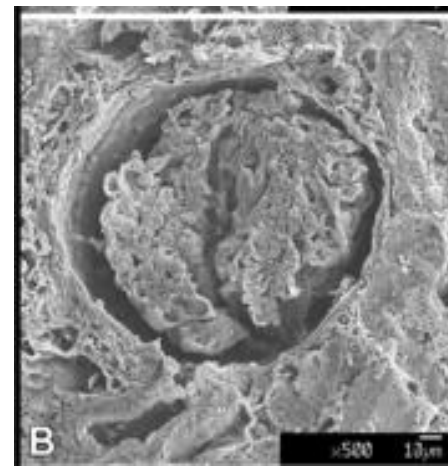
**Glomeruli**



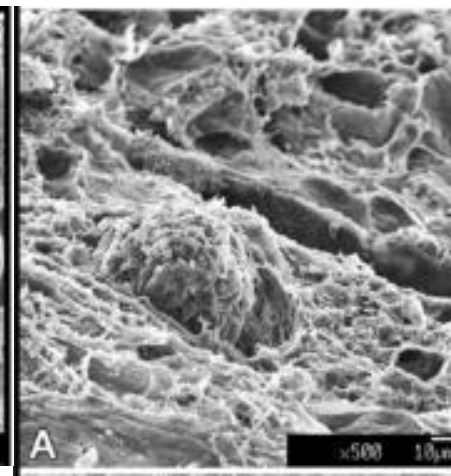
**Medulla**



**Glomeruli**

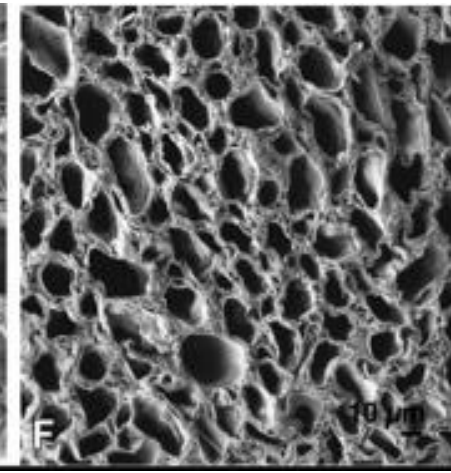
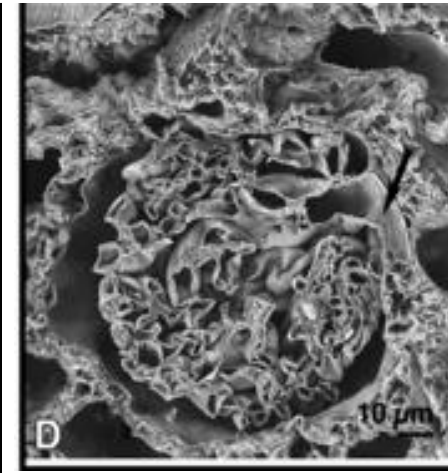
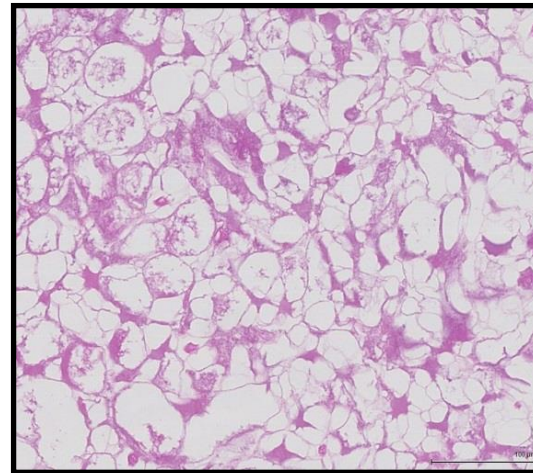
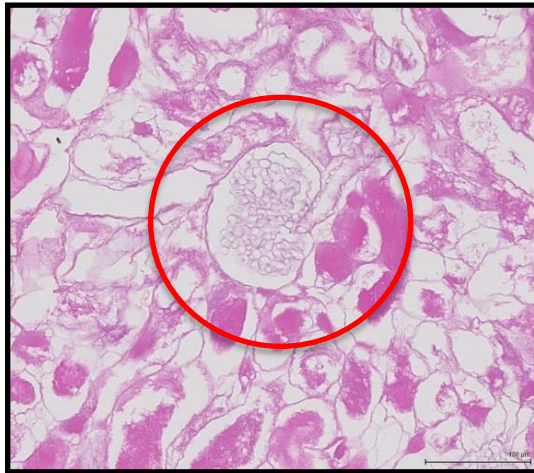


**Medulla**



0h

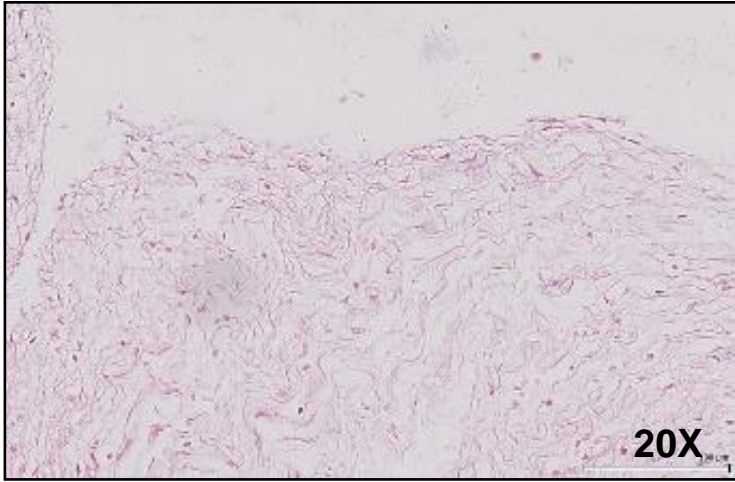
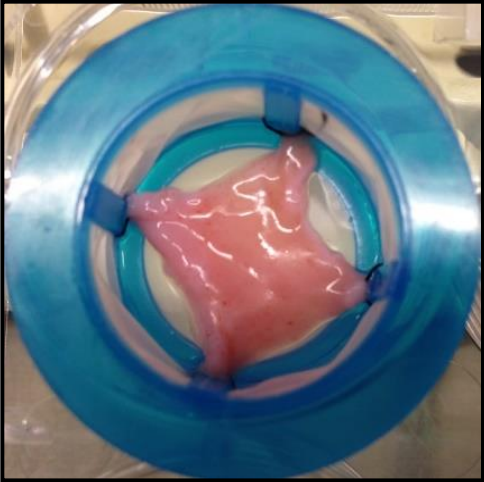
24h



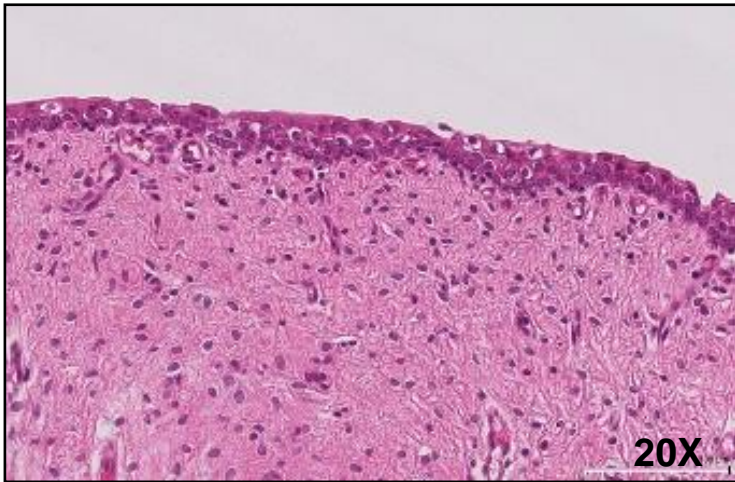
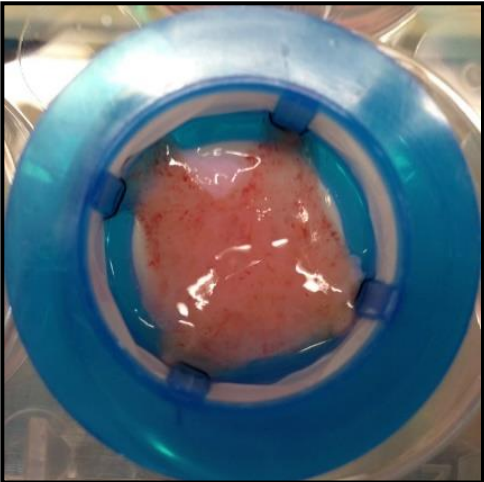
# Reseeding process of decellularised tissue

Pig Bladders

Decellularized

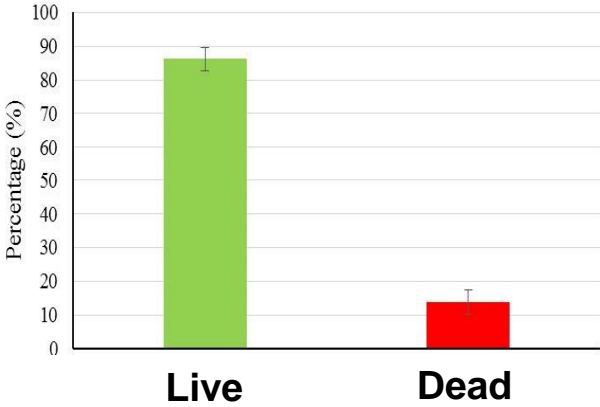
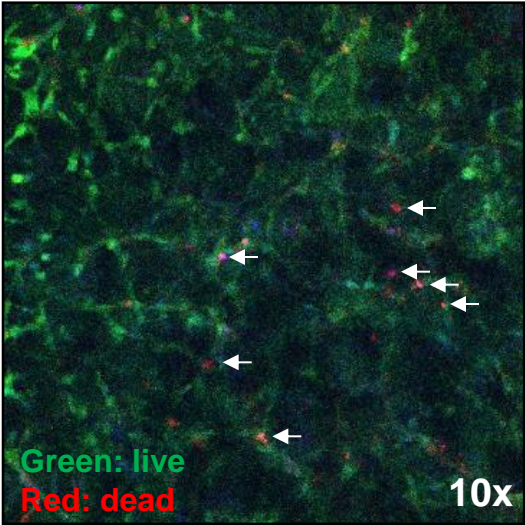


Reseeded



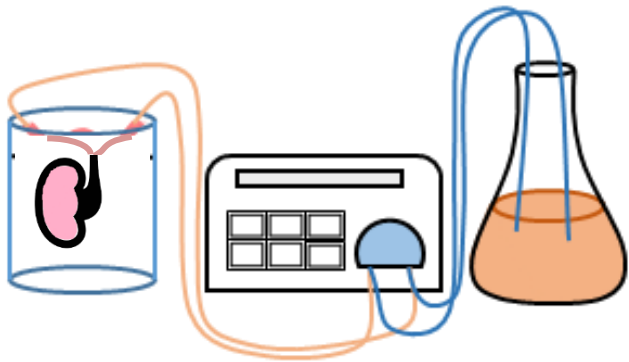
UM-UC-3, HUVEC, SV-HUC, Fibroblast

Cell Viability Assay



# Schematic Diagram of Renal Cancer Avatar Program

## Decellularization process

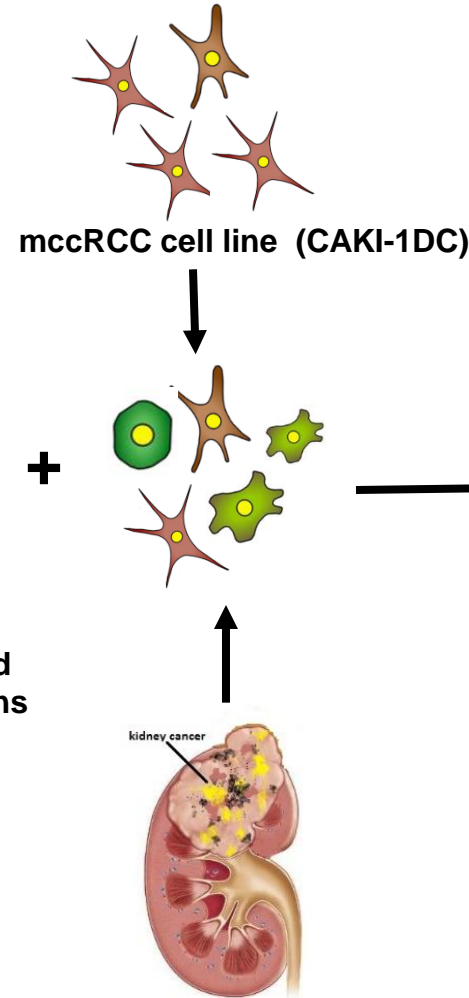


Decellularization of rat kidney by perfusion

Decellularized rat kidney

Decellularized kidney sections

## Reseeding process

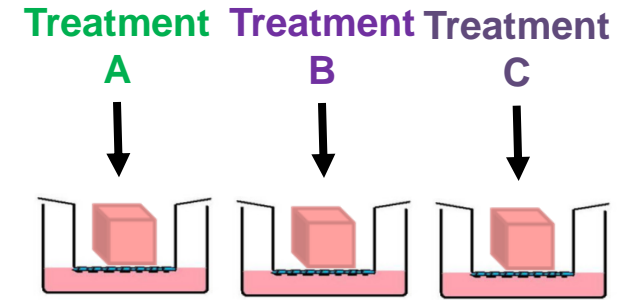


mccRCC cell line (CAKI-1DC)

kidney cancer

mccRCC patient tumor

## High throughput treatment process



Reseeded kidney sections treated with Gli-inhibitors

### Inhibitors against specific targets

- SHH: 5E1
- SMO: Cyclopamine, Vismodegib, etc.
- Gli-1: GANT-61, ATO, etc.
- Elacradar

## *Summary:*

- Treatment resistance in RCC is complex: mechanisms are multifactorial with significant interaction between endothelial cells and cancer cells.
- Models of resistance allow for biomarker and treatment development.
- Validation of treatments can be streamlined with novel 3D- *in vitro* models that minimize cost and also better recapitulate tumor microenvironment compared to traditional models.

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## Collaborators:

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