

# **Emerging Biomarkers for Immunotherapy: NSCLC as a model**

**David R. Gandara, MD**

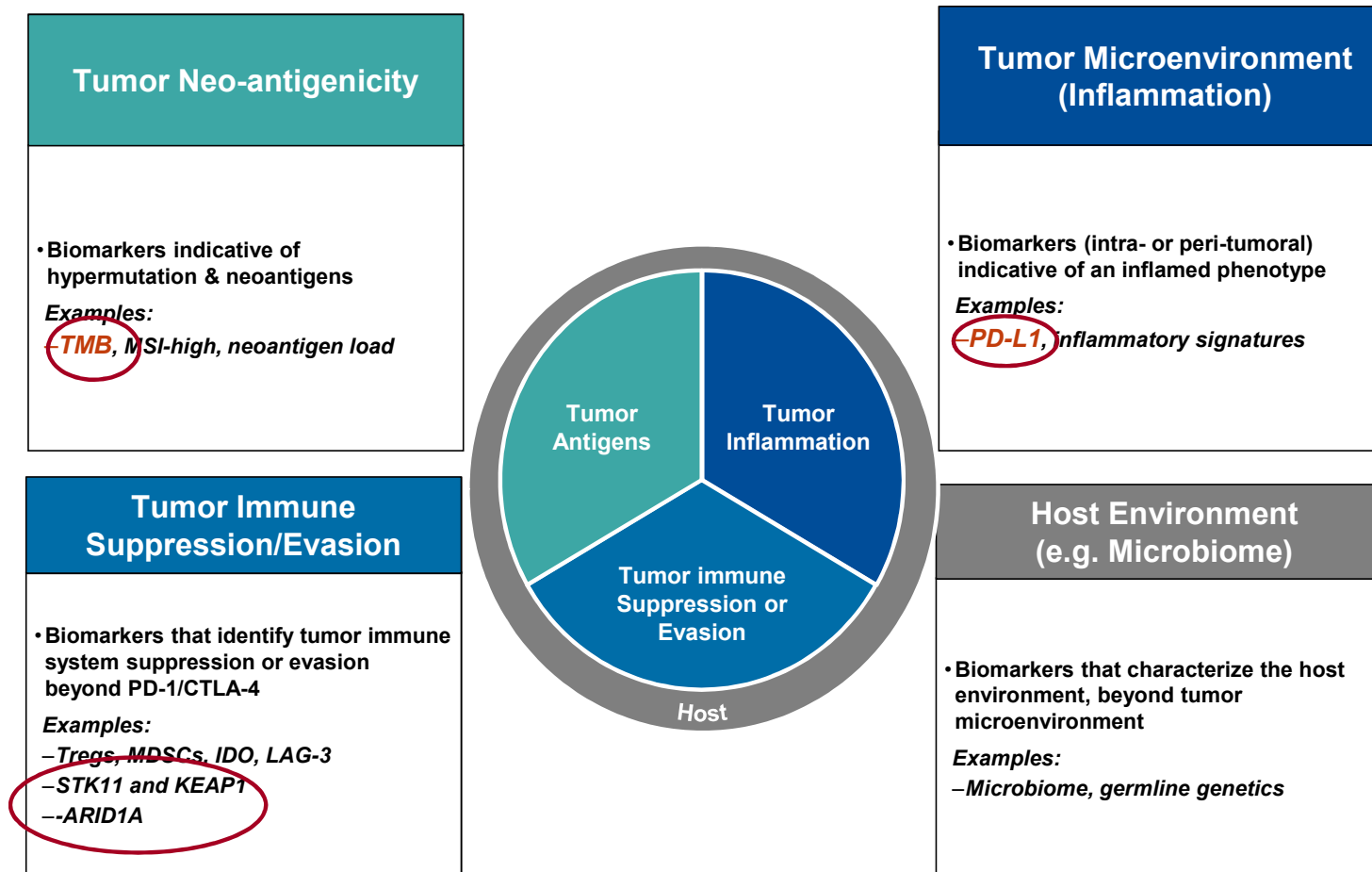
**University of California Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center**



# Disclosures

- **Institutional Research Grants: Amgen, AstraZeneca, Genentech, Merck**
- **Consultant/Advisory Board: AstraZeneca (institutional), Roche-Genentech (institutional), Guardant Health (institutional), Inivata, IO Biotech (institutional), Lilly, Merck, Novartis, Oncocyte (institutional)**

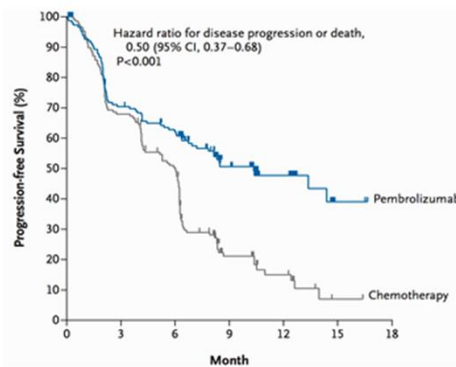
## Immune Phenotype as potential **Predictive Biomarkers** for benefit from Checkpoint Immunotherapy



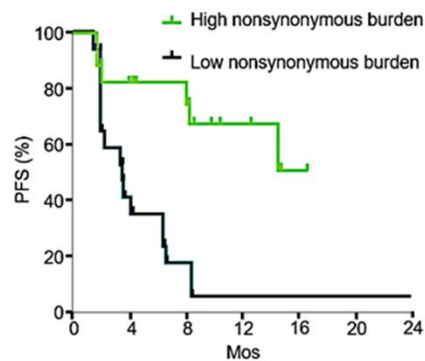
Adapted from Blank CU, et al. *Science* 2016;352:658–660

# Selected Biomarkers associated with Checkpoint Immunotherapy efficacy in NSCLC

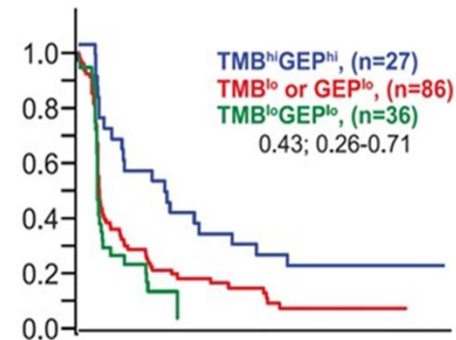
## PD-L1 tumor IHC (22c3)<sup>1</sup>



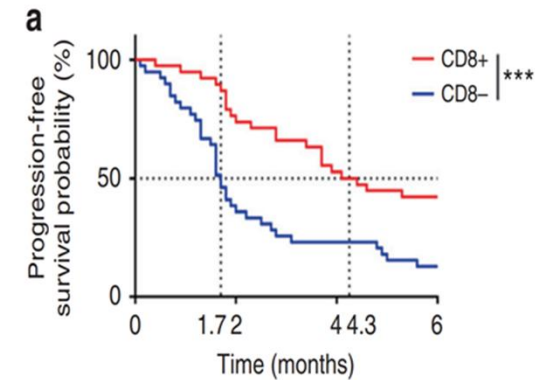
## Tumor mutational burden (TMB)<sup>2</sup>



## Gene expression signature (GEP)<sup>3</sup>



## Tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs)<sup>14</sup>



**Hypothesis:** Combination of biomarkers will provide largely non-redundant information and additional predictive value

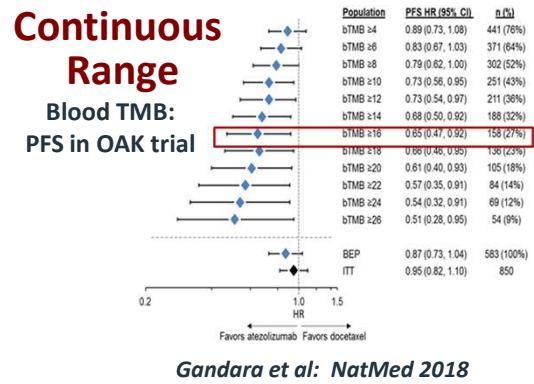
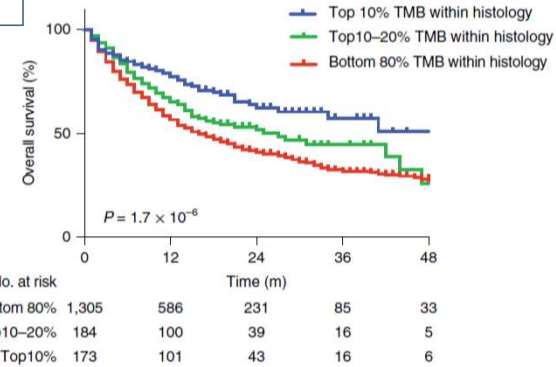
# Predictive Biomarkers for Checkpoint Immunotherapy (CPI)

**Note: cannot be equated to a discrete variable like driver mutations (Present or Absent)**  
**PD-L1 & TMB are dynamic & continuous variables across a context-specific range**

- **Which Biomarker(s)?**
  - PD-L1 IHC
  - TMB
  - PD-L1 IHC + TMB
  - PD-L1 + TMB + Other
  - Multitude of Others

- **Which Analytic Algorithm for Analysis?**
  - Across a Continuous Range
  - As a Binary Variable

**As a Binary Variable**  
 TMB highest 10-20% across Tumor Types



- **TMB Assessment**
  - WES vs Neo-antigen Load vs NGS
    - Optimal Cutpoints for each
    - Tumor-type specific vs Agnostic
  - Tissue vs Blood

- **What is the context? (Biomarker for which type of CPI regimen)**
  - NSCLC (Squamous or Non-Squamous) vs SCLC
  - CTLA-4 vs PD-1/PD-L1 vs PD-1/PD-L1 + CTLA-4
  - PD-1/PD-L1 + Platinum Chemotherapy

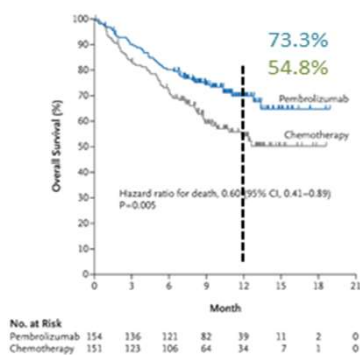
Chemotherapy likely "agnostic" to immuno-biomarker .  
 "Dilutes out predictive value"

# PD-L1 $\geq 50\%$ distinguishes a Patient Subset with Substantial Benefit from CPI Monotherapy (KN024) as well as CPI + Chemotherapy (KN189)



PD-L1  $\geq 50\%$   
EGFR/ALK WT

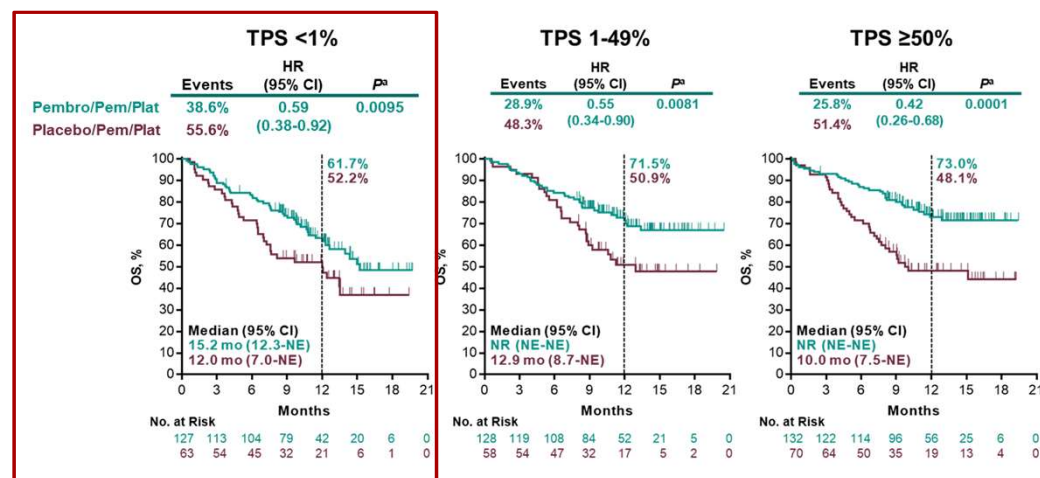
## KeyNote 24: Pembro Monotherapy (OS by TPS $\geq 50\%$ )



OS: HR 0.60 [95% CI 0.41-0.89]  
p=0.005

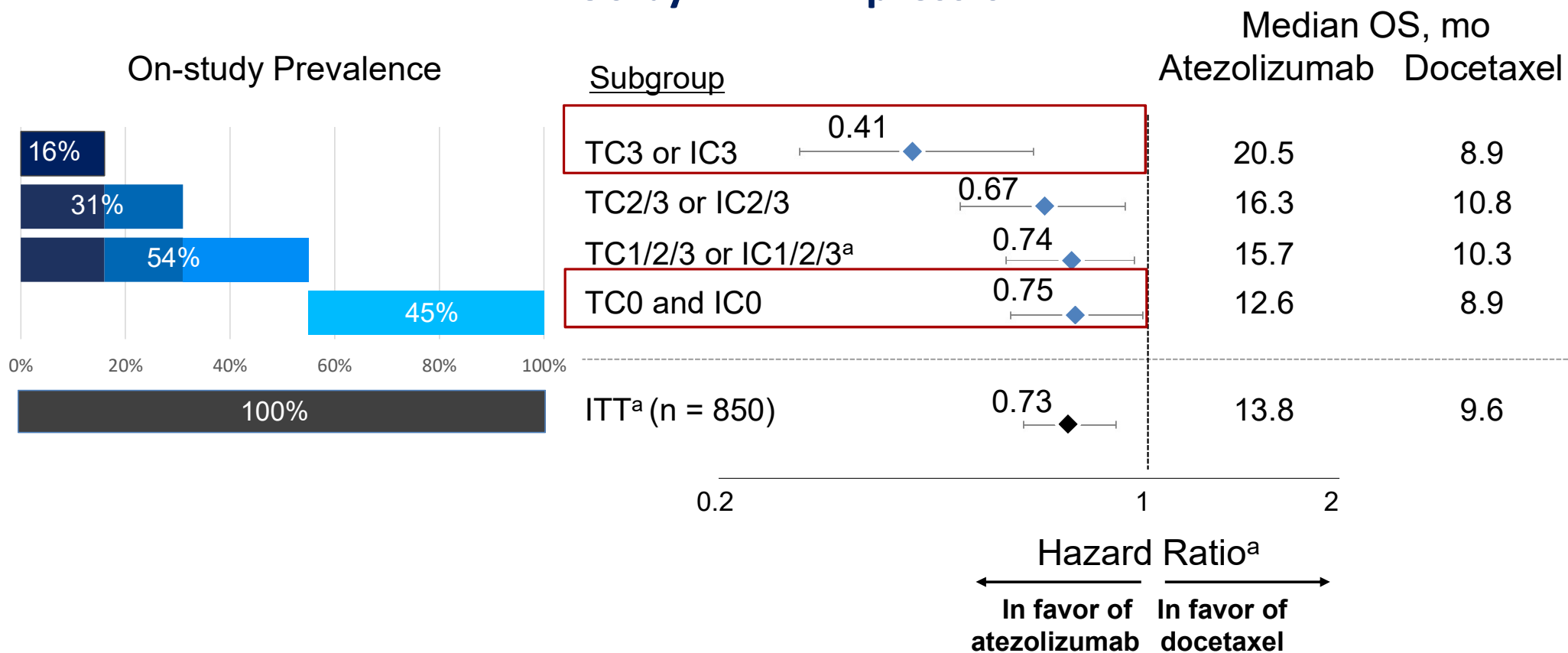
Reck et al. NEJM 2016; 275:1823-1833

## KeyNote 189: Pembro-Chemo (OS by PD-L1 TPS)



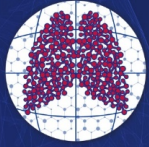
Gandhi et al. NEJM 2016

# OAK (Atezolizumab vs Docetaxel in 2<sup>nd</sup> line+ Advanced NSCLC: OS by PD-L1 Expression



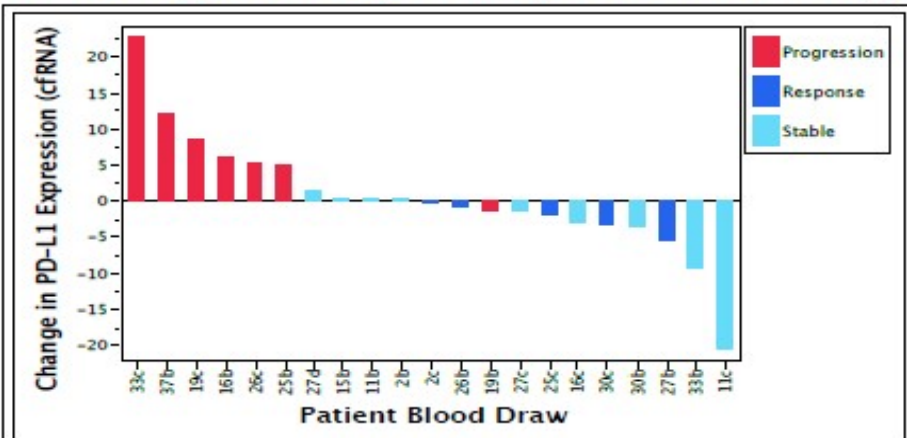
<sup>a</sup>Stratified HR for ITT and TC1/2/3 or IC1/2/3. Unstratified HR for other subgroups. TC, tumor cells; IC, tumor-infiltrating immune cells; OS, overall survival.





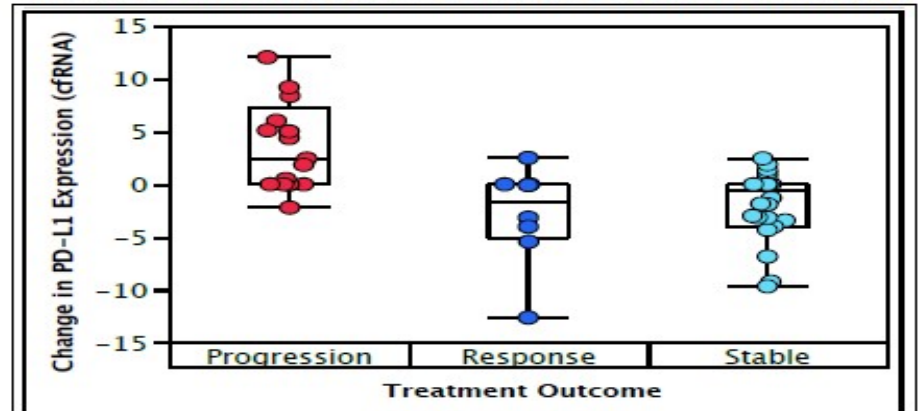
## Changes in the Pd-L1 measured in cfRNA according to response to therapy in NSCLC

FIG 1. Changes in PD-L1 predict response to immunotherapy



Increases in PD-L1 before or during progression and no change or decreases in PD-L1 prior/during response or stable disease were concordant with and predictive of outcome measured by scans.

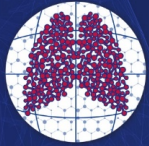
FIG 3. PD-L1 increases during emerging resistance to therapy



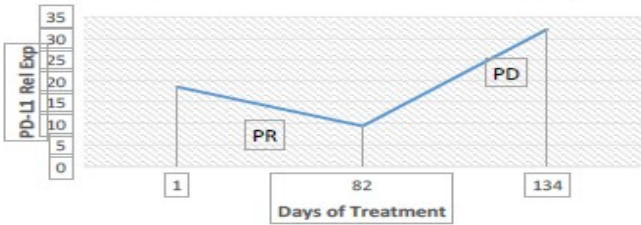
The median change in PD-L1 cfRNA levels across blood draws was statistically significantly higher in those leading up to PD compared with the groups with either SD or PR disease status, as measured by CT scans ( $p = 0.0001$ , Wilcoxon Rank Sums).

Raez LE, A, et al. J Clin Oncol 37, 2019 (suppl; abstr e14567)

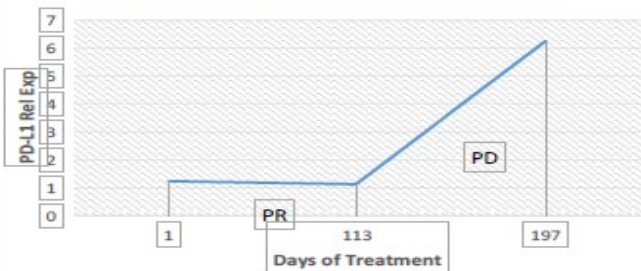




PD-L1 Expression Decrease During Response and Increase during Progression on Immunotherapy

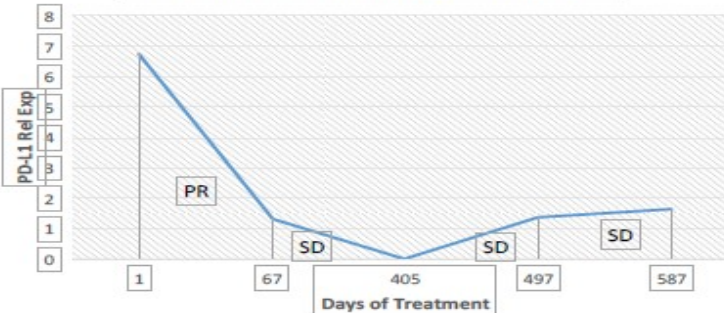


PD-L1 Expression Increase During Progression on Immunotherapy



Examples of the dynamics of PD-L1 expression during individual treatment of NSCLC patients with immunotherapy vs outcome\*.

PD-L1 Expression Decrease During Response to Immunotherapy



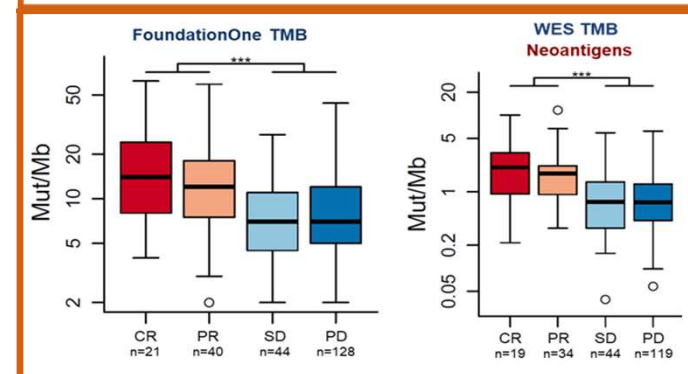
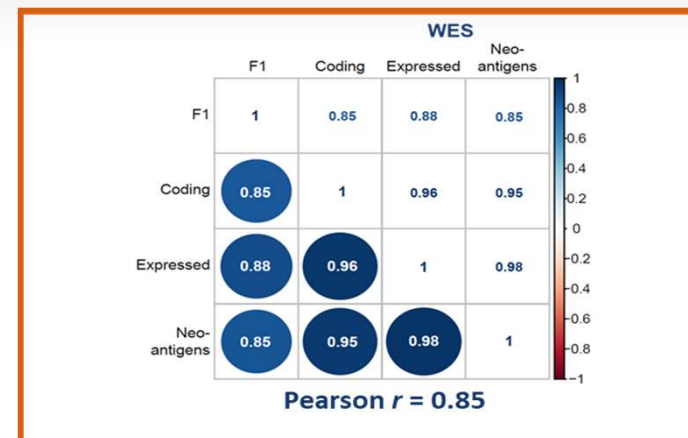
Raez LE, A, et al. J Clin Oncol 37, 2019 (suppl; abstr e14567)

## Tumor Mutational Burden (TMB) as a Candidate Predictive Biomarker for Cancer Immunotherapy

- **Somatic mutations in cancers are multifactorial** (including DNA repair defects, carcinogens & enzymatic alterations in DNA polymerases)
- These mutations produce **neoantigens** that induce anti-tumor immune responses
- **TMB is an emerging predictive biomarker** for cancer checkpoint immunotherapy (CIT)
- TMB can be estimated using whole-exome sequencing (WES) or comprehensive genomic profiling by NGS (e.g., **FoundationOne & FACT in blood[bTMB]**) . **MSK-IMPACT. Guardant OMNI in blood**<sup>1-8</sup>
  - Studies show that TMB either by WES or CGP correlate with each other & with efficacy of CPI therapy in multiple cancer types<sup>1-3</sup>
- **Predicted neoantigen load (NAL)**, a component of TMB most closely linked to immune response, correlates with F1 TMB & OMNI<sup>4,5,7,8</sup>
- **TMB identifies a distinct patient population** not currently captured by PD-L1 IHC or other immune biomarkers<sup>5,6</sup>

IHC, immunohistochemistry; PD-L1, programmed death-ligand 1; TMB, tumor mutational burden.

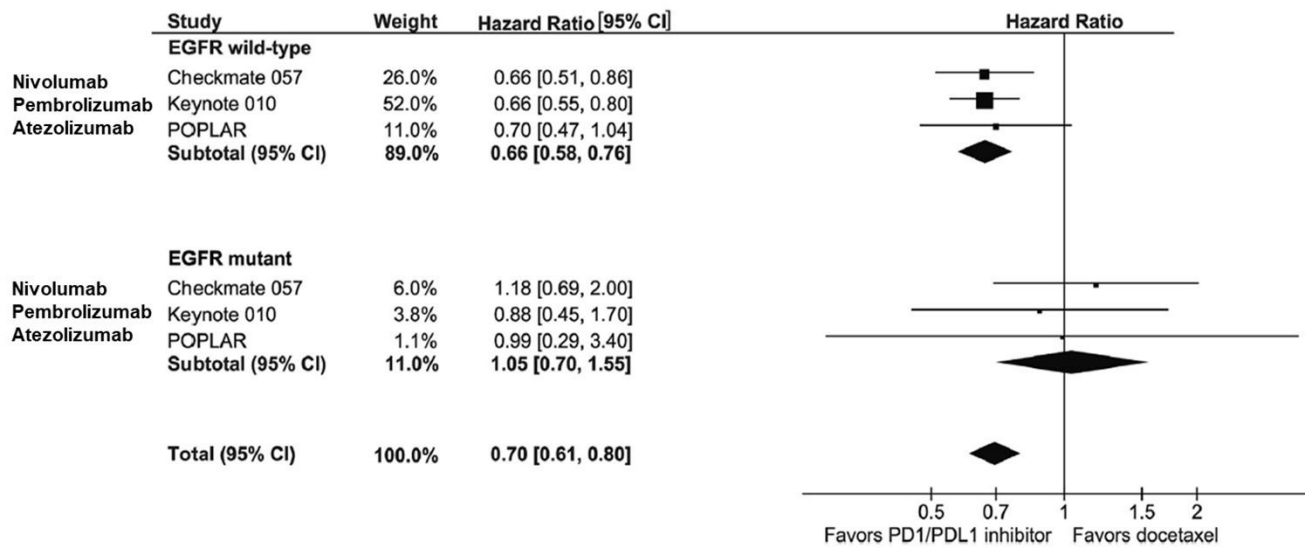
1. Yarchoan M, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2017; 2. Chalmers ZR, et al. *Genome Med*. 2017; 3. Goodman AM, et al. *Mol Cancer Ther*. 2017; 4. Efremova M, et al. *Front Immunol*. 2017; 5. Topalian SL, et al. *Nat Rev Cancer*. 2016; 6. Kowanetz M, et al. WCLC 2017. 7. Mariathasan, et al. *Nature* 2018. 8. Rizvi et al: ESMO IO 2018.



From Gandara, LeGrand et al:  
ASCO 2018

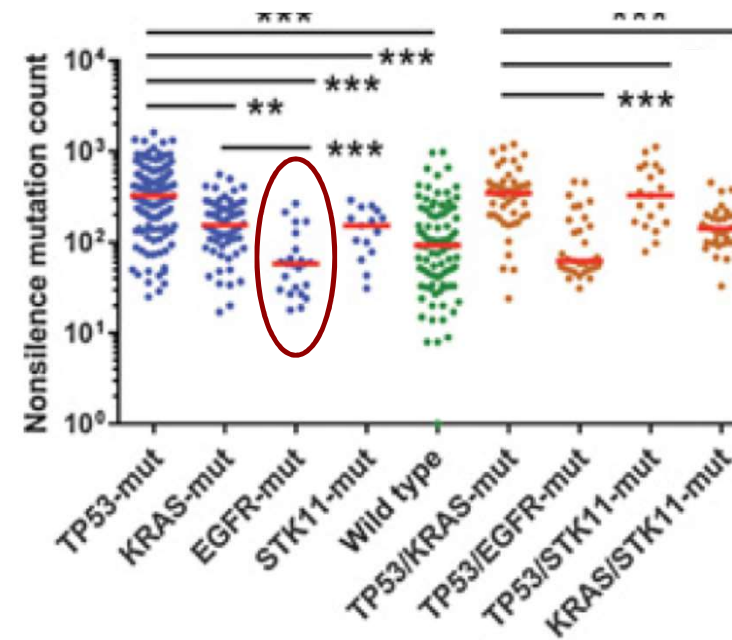
# EGFR-mutated NSCLC: Efficacy of PD1/PD-L1 inhibitors is poor regardless of PD-L1 score and TMB is low

## PD-(L)1 Inhibitors in EGFR-mutated NSCLC



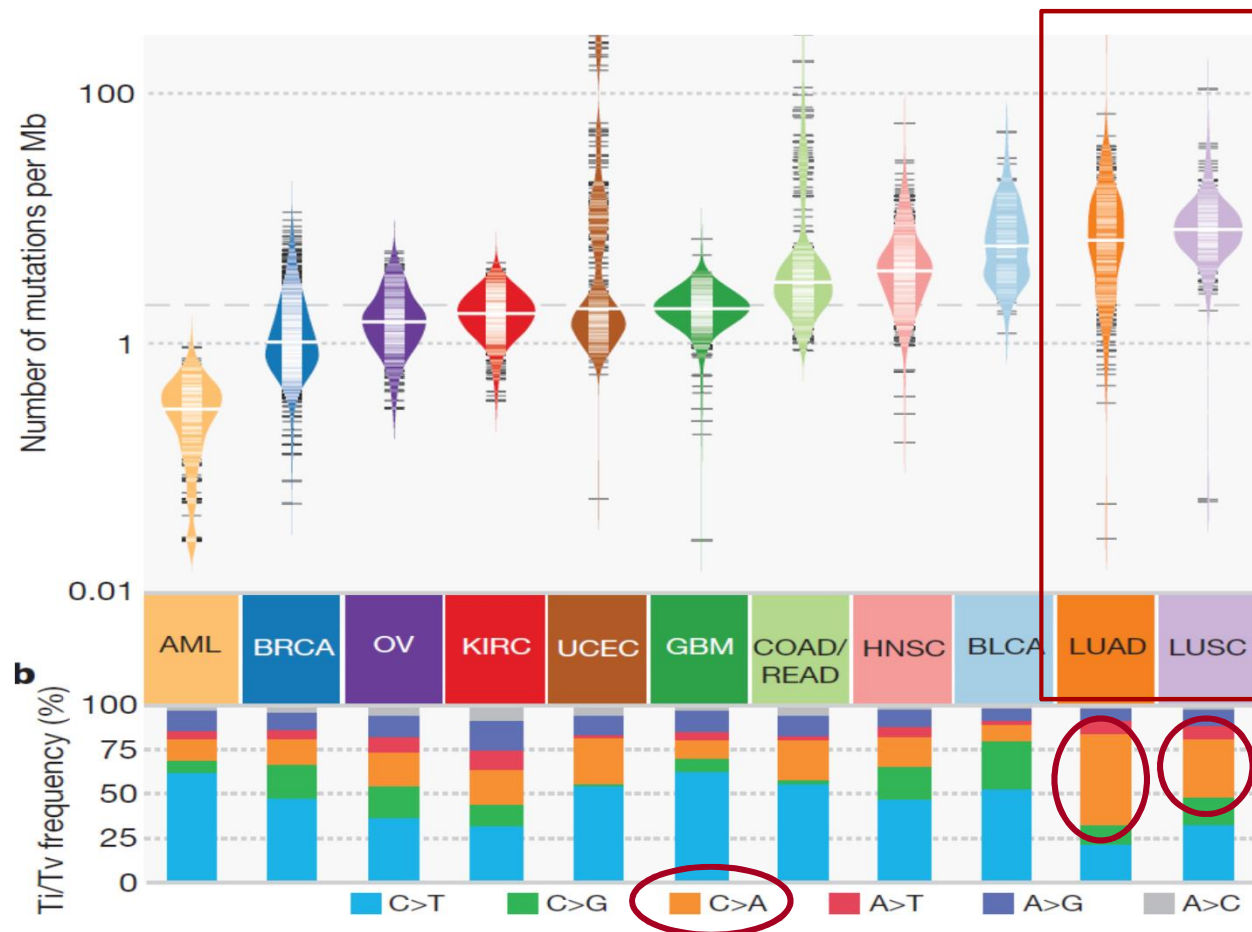
Lee CK, et al. J Thorac Oncol 2016

## TMB is low in EGFR-mutated cancers



Dong, Wu et al CCR 2017

**NSCLC is complex both genomically & immunologically, with Quantitative & Qualitative differences from other Cancer Types (“Mutational Load”)**



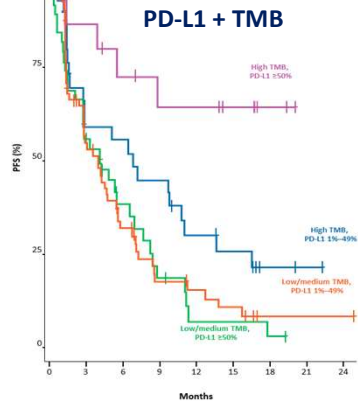
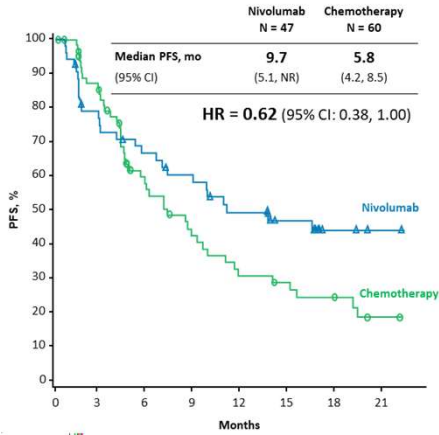
- C>A Transversions**
- ~Tobacco-related
  - Most neo-antigenic

Adapted from The Cancer Genome Atlas Project: Kandoth et al *Nature* 2013.



# High Tissue TMB is associated with increased efficacy of Checkpoint Inhibitor Monotherapy

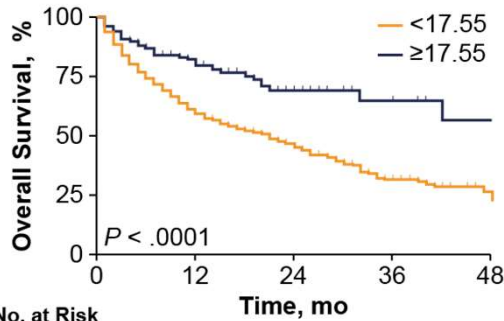
## WES: CM-026 NSCLC (Nivo -high TMB)



Carbone et al: NEJM 2017

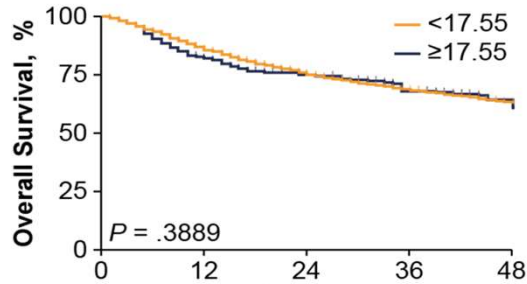
## NGS -IMPACT: Multiple Tumor Types Binary Variable

### Patients Treated With ICI



No. at Risk	Time, mo	0	12	24	36	48
<17.55	1,459	397	129	41	13	8
≥17.55	266	96	33	13	8	8

### Patients Never Treated With ICI

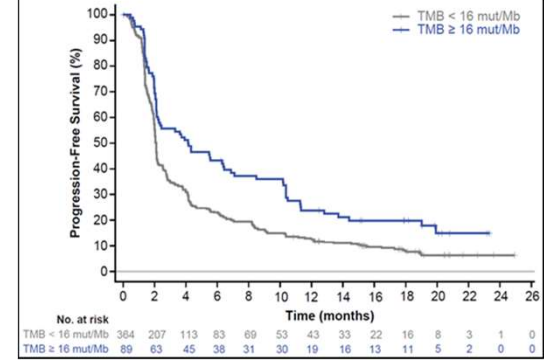


No. at Risk	Time, mo	0	12	24	36	48
<17.55	8,732	5,701	3,634	2,516	1,852	1,852
≥17.55	464	275	170	117	92	92

Samstein et al: NatGen 2019

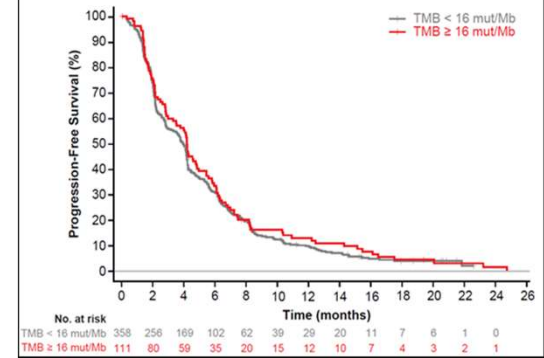
## NGS Foundation-One: Multiple Tumor Types Continuous Variable

### Atezolizumab



No. at risk	Time (months)	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
TMB < 16 mut/Mb	364	207	113	83	69	53	43	33	22	16	8	3	1	0	0
TMB ≥ 16 mut/Mb	89	63	45	38	31	30	19	16	13	11	5	2	0	0	0

### Chemotherapy

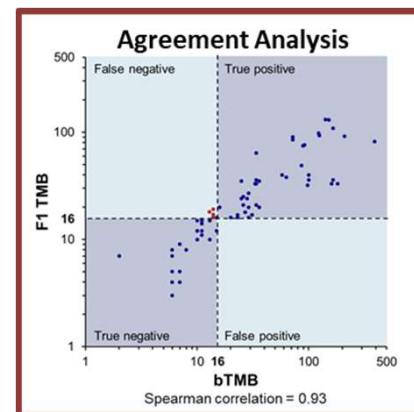
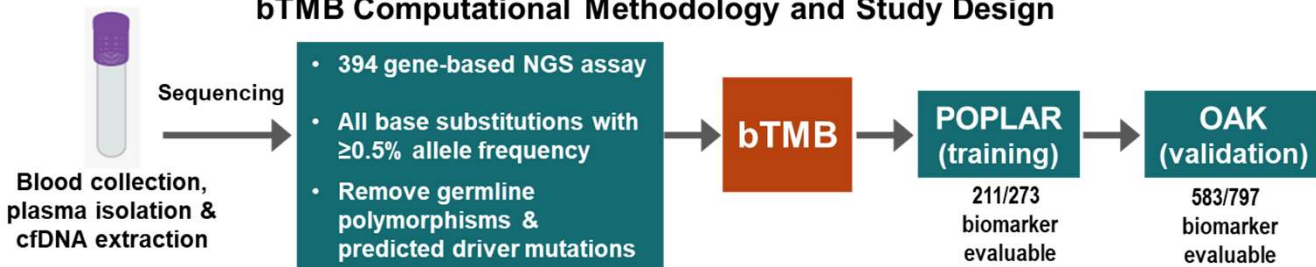


No. at risk	Time (months)	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
TMB < 16 mut/Mb	358	256	169	102	62	39	29	20	11	7	6	1	0	0	0
TMB ≥ 16 mut/Mb	111	80	59	35	20	15	12	10	7	4	3	2	1	0	0

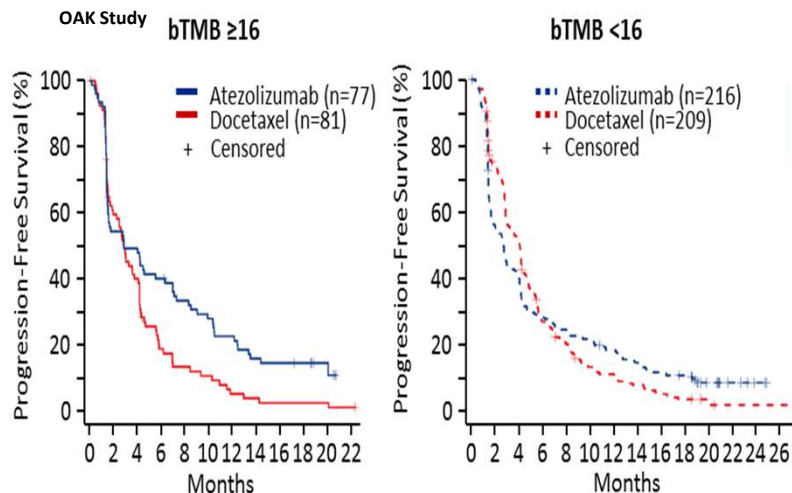
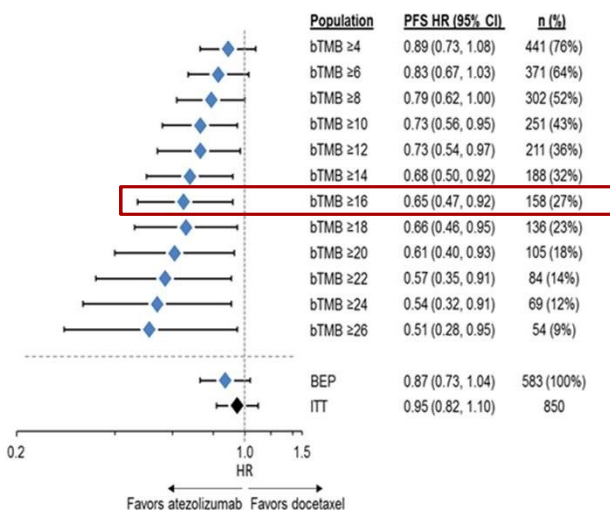
Gandara, Legrand et al: ASCO 2018<sup>3</sup>

# Analytical & Clinical Validation of Tumor Mutational Burden in Blood (bTMB) in association with Atezolizumab efficacy in advanced NSCLC (POPLAR & OAK Trials)

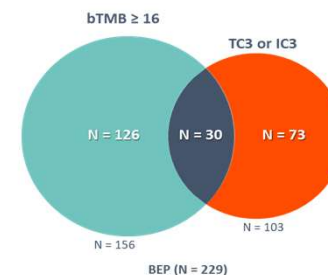
## bTMB Computational Methodology and Study Design



## Progression-Free Survival – OAK



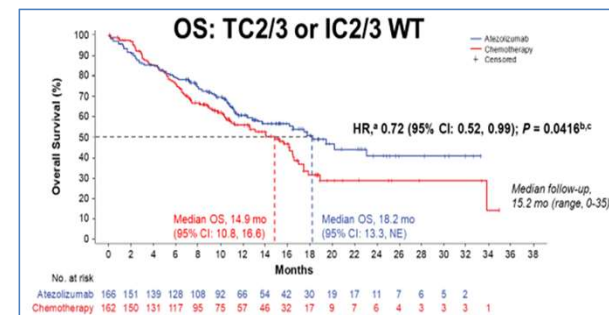
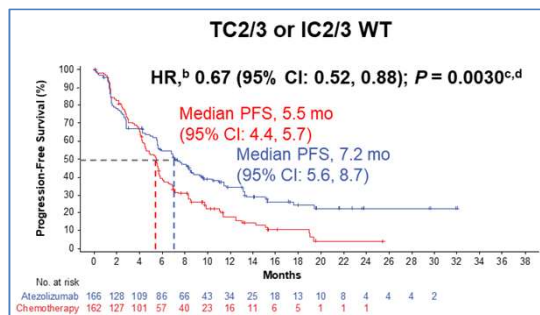
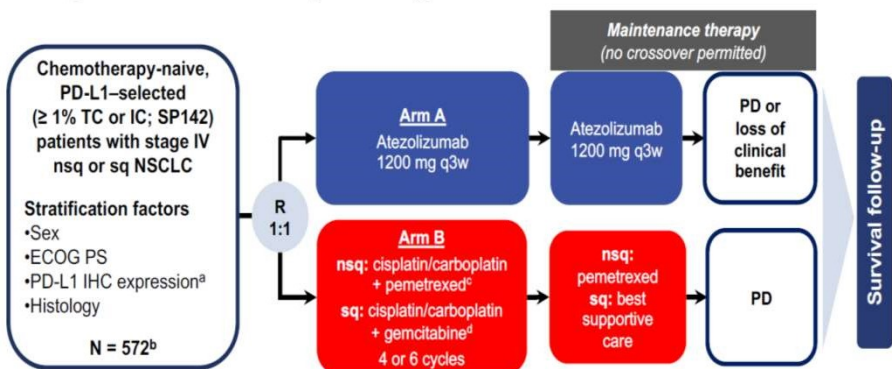
Gandara DR, et al. Nature Med 2018.



	PFS HR (95% CI)	OS HR (95% CI)
bTMB ≥16	0.64 (0.46, 0.91)	0.64 (0.44, 0.93)
TC3 or IC3	0.62 (0.41, 0.93)	0.44 (0.27, 0.71)
<b>bTMB ≥16 and TC3 or IC3</b>	<b>0.38 (0.17, 0.85)</b>	<b>0.23 (0.09, 0.58)</b>

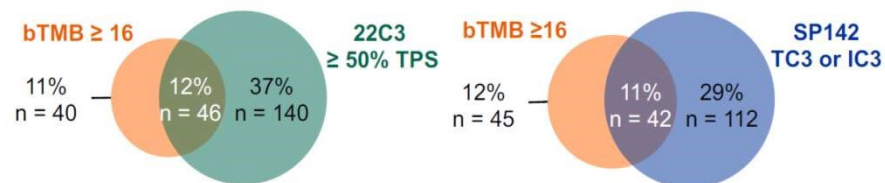


# Blood TMB in IMpower110 Trial of Atezolizumab vs Platinum-based Chemotherapy



## bTMB was assessed by Foundation assay\*

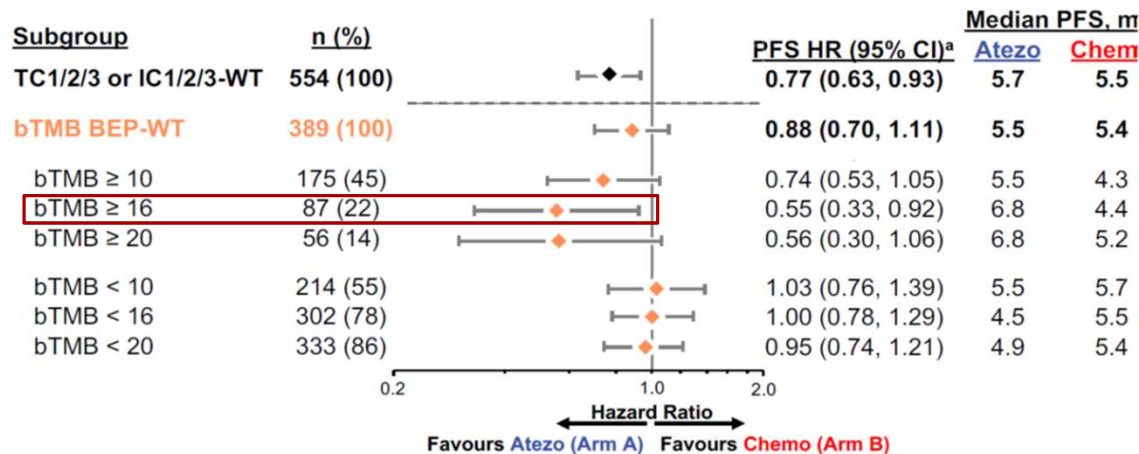
- A bTMB score of 16 is equivalent to 16 mutations/1.1 Mb, or ≈14.5 mutations/Mb
- PD-L1 IHC (SP142 or 22C3) and bTMB identified distinct patient populations in IMpower110



\* By Foundation Medicine. bTMB and 22C3 overlap: BEP-WT population, n = 375; bTMB and SP142 overlap: BEP-WT population, n = 389. 1. Gandara DR, et al. *Nat Med*. 2018; 2. Socinski MA, et al. *ESMO*. 2019 [abstract 2239]; 3. Hellmann MD, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2018; 4. Greillier L, et al. *Transl Lung Cancer Res*. 2018.

Herbst et al. IMpower110 Biomarkers <https://bit.ly/33XGN7P>

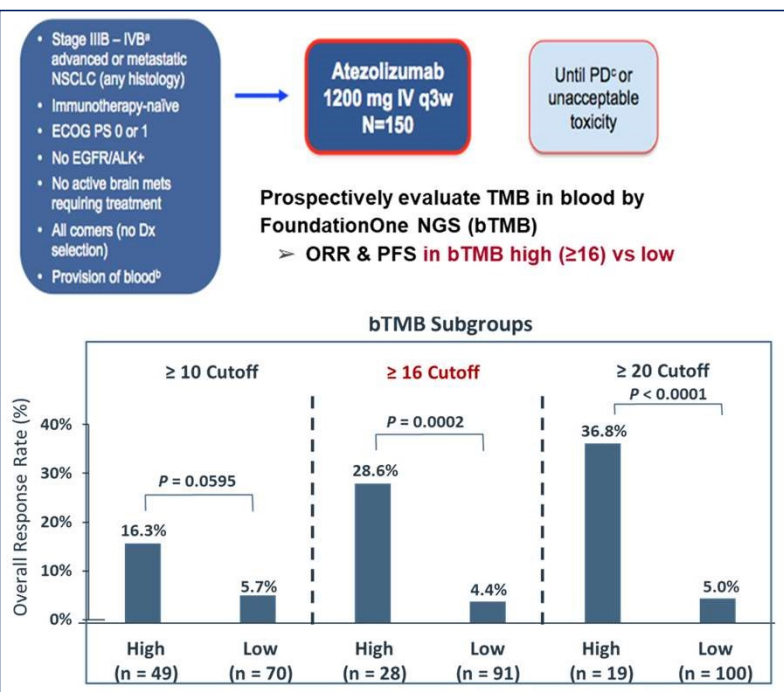
## PFS in the bTMB BEP-WT in IMpower110



Herbst et al: ESMO IO19; Herbst et al: NEJM 2020

## B-F1RST

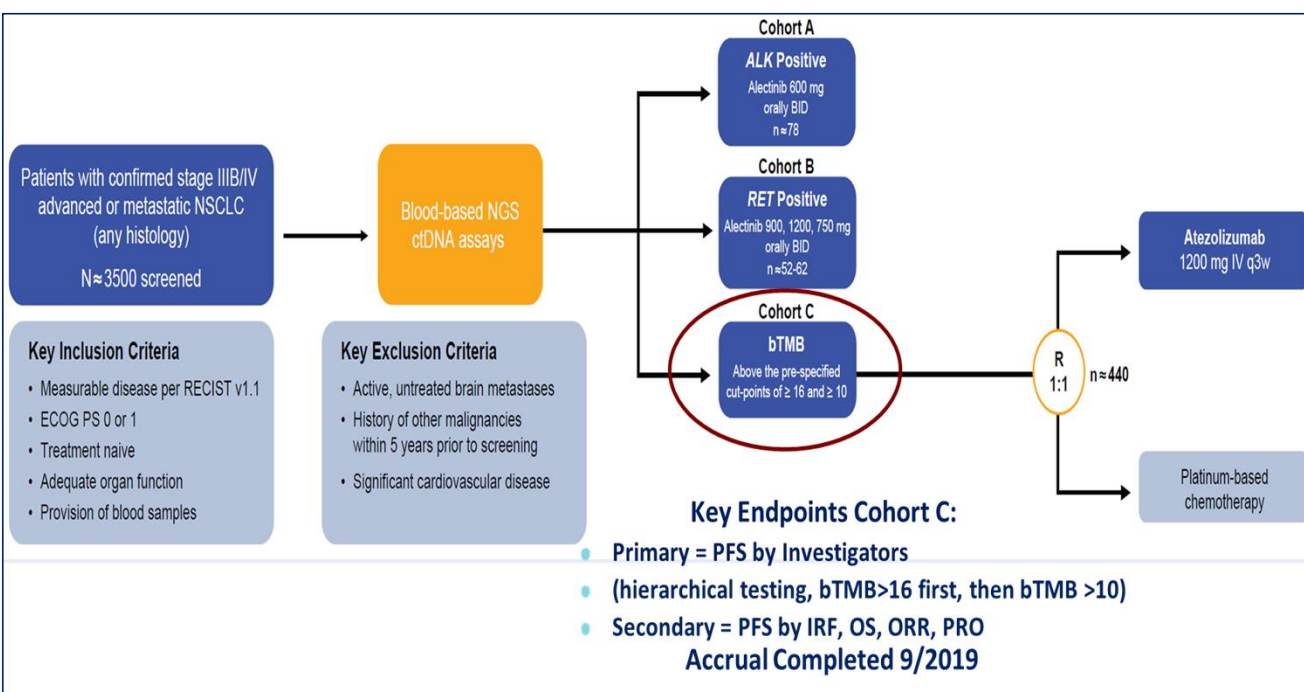
### Proof of Principle trial for bTMB Selection of Atezolizumab Immunotherapy



Kim ES, et al. ESMO 2018. Abstract LBA55.

## BFAST

### (Blood First Assay Screening Trial): Phase II/III Trial in Advanced Treatment-naïve Advanced NSCLC



## FDA Approval of FoundationOne NGS CDx Assay

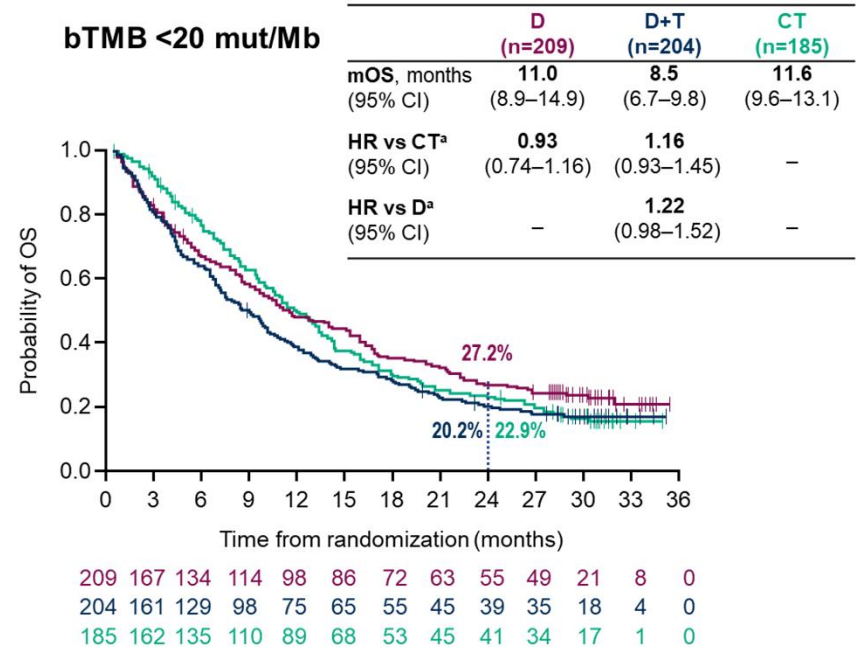
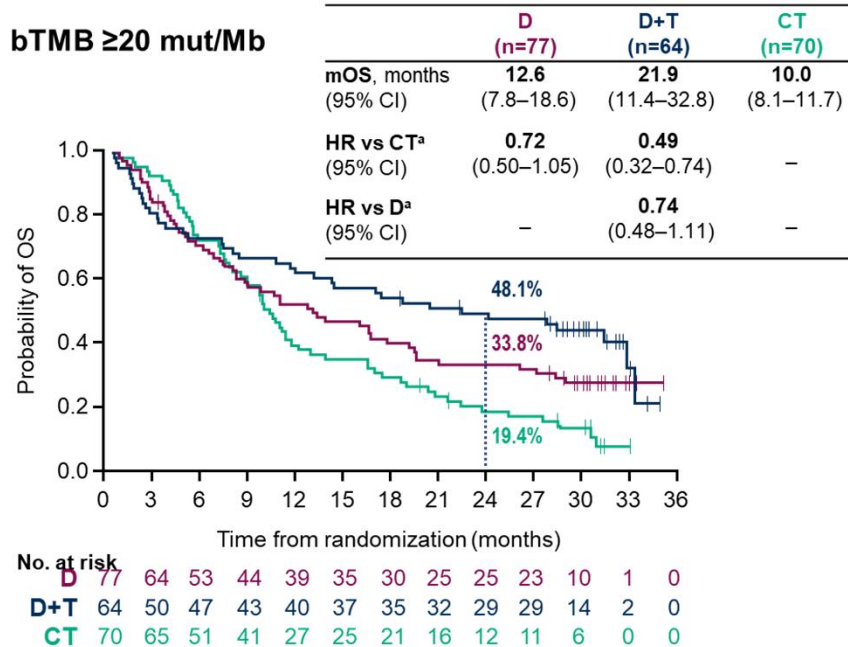
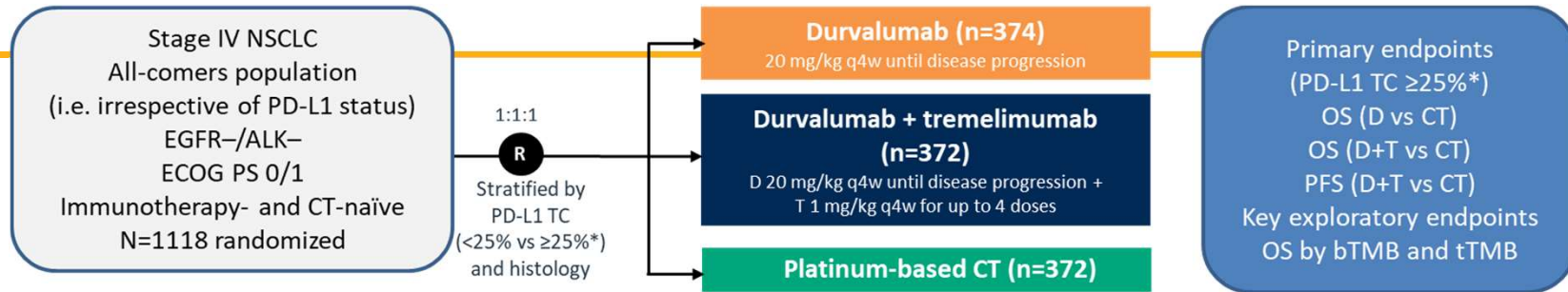
CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Wednesday, August 26 – [Foundation Medicine, Inc.](#) today announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved FoundationOne®Liquid CDx, the Company's comprehensive pan-tumor liquid biopsy test. FoundationOne Liquid CDx will be commercially available on Friday, August 28 and is covered across all solid tumors for eligible Medicare and Medicare Advantage beneficiaries in accordance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services National Coverage Decision Memo criteria.

FoundationOne Liquid CDx is part of Foundation Medicine's proven portfolio of FDA-approved tests and acts as:

- a companion diagnostic to identify patients who may benefit from treatment with specific FDA-approved targeted therapies, including an indication for Rubraca (rucaparib), a poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitor for treatment in patients with BRCA 1/2-mutant metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer, and three first-line tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer;
- an FDA-approved test to enable accelerated companion diagnostic development for biopharma companies developing precision therapeutics; and
- a comprehensive genomic profiling test that reports genomic alteration results, including genomic signatures such as blood tumor mutational burden and high microsatellite instability, as well as single gene alterations, including all NTRK fusions, for patients with any solid tumor as an aid in patient care.



# MYSTIC: 1L durvalumab ± tremelimumab vs chemotherapy in adv NSCLC – bTMB by GH OMNI



# Predictive Biomarkers for Checkpoint Immunotherapy (CPI)

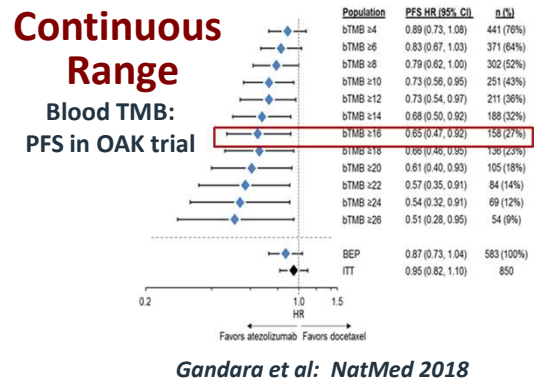


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**PD-L1 & TMB are dynamic & continuous variables across a context-specific range**

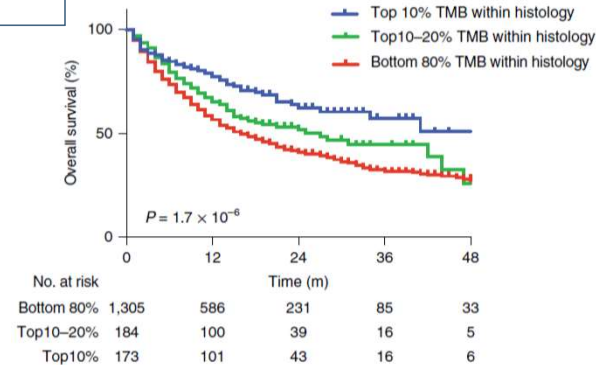
- **Which Biomarker(s)?**
  - PD-L1 IHC
  - TMB
  - PD-L1 IHC + TMB
  - PD-L1 + TMB + Other
  - Other (STK11, KEAP1, ARID1A)

- **Which Analytic Algorithm for Analysis?**
  - Across a Continuous Range
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- **TMB Assessment**
  - WES vs Neo-antigen Load vs NGS
    - Optimal Cutpoints for each
    - Tumor-type specific vs Agnostic
  - Tissue vs Blood



**As a Binary Variable**  
**TMB highest 10-20% across Tumor Types**



Samstein et al: NatGen 2018

**What is the context? (Biomarker for which type of CPI regimen)**

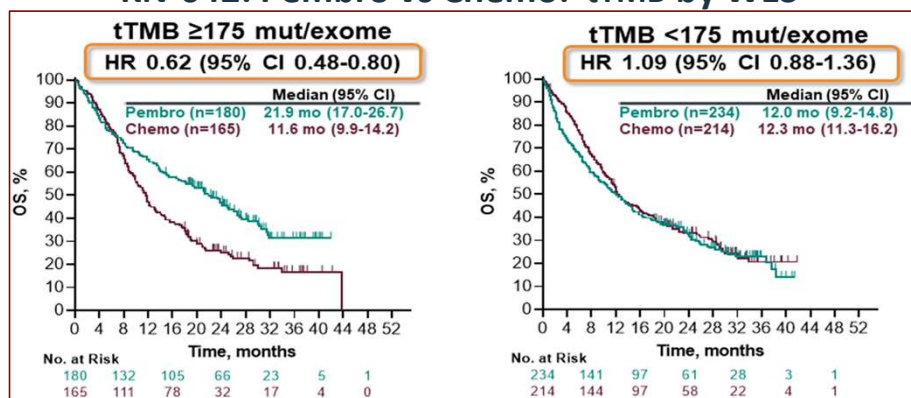
- NSCLC (Squamous or Non-Squamous) vs SCLC
- CTLA-4 vs PD-1/PD-L1 vs PD-1/PD-L1 + CTLA-4
- PD-1/PD-L1 + Platinum Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy likely “agnostic” to immuno-biomarker .  
 “Dilutes out predictive value”

## Summary of TMB in CPI Monotherapy vs CPI + Chemo (or Ipi) Trials: New Data from WCLC & ESMO 2019

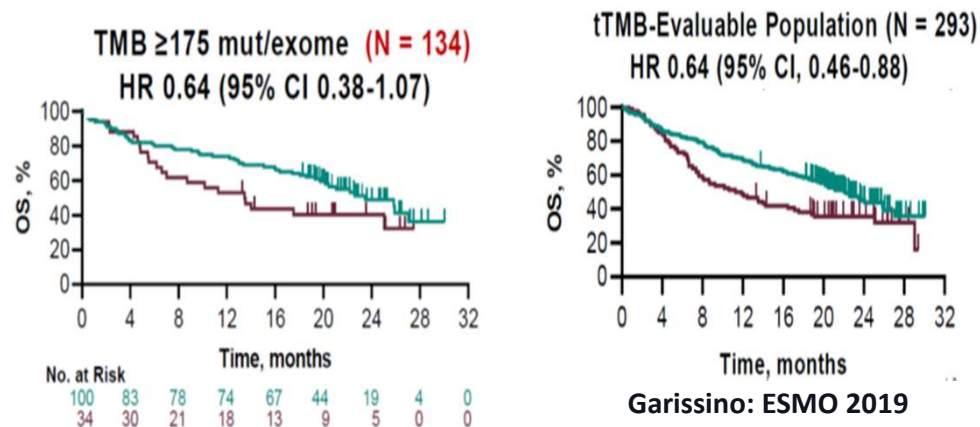
Phase III Trials	Mono- or Combination	TMB	PFS	OS
KN-010	Pembro Mono	WES-tissue	✓	✓
KN-042	Pembro Mono	WES-tissue	✓	✓
KN-189	Pembro + Chemo	WES-tissue	No	No
KN-407	Pembro + Chemo	WES-tissue	No	No
CM-227	Nivo + Ipi	Fone-tissue	✓	No
S1400i (LungMAP)	Nivo + Ipi	Fone-tissue	No	✓
MYSTIC	Durva + Treme	OMNI-blood	✓	✓

### KN-042: Pembro vs Chemo: tTMB by WES



Herbst: ESMO 2019

### KN-189: Pembro+Chemo vs Chemo (Non-Squamous): tTMB by WES



Garissino: ESMO 2019



# Predictive Biomarkers for Checkpoint Immunotherapy (CPI)



**Note: cannot be equated to a discrete variable like driver mutations (Present or Absent)**  
**PD-L1 & TMB are dynamic & continuous variables across a context-specific range**

## Which Biomarker(s)?

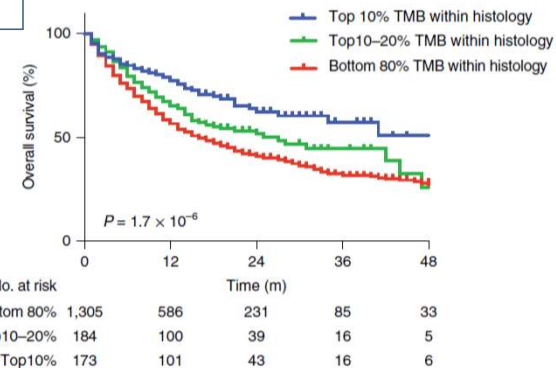
- PD-L1 IHC
- TMB
- PD-L1 IHC + TMB
- PD-L1 + TMB + Other
- Other (STK11, KEAP1, ARID1A)

## Which Analytic Algorithm for Analysis?

- Across a Continuous Range
- As a Binary Variable

## As a Binary Variable

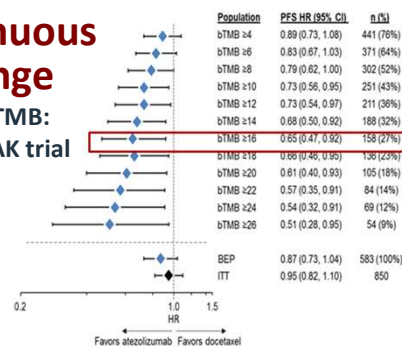
TMB highest 10-20% across Tumor Types



Samstein et al: NatGen 2018

## Continuous Range

Blood TMB:  
PFS in OAK trial



Gandara et al: NatMed 2018

## TMB Assessment

- WES vs Neo-antigen Load vs NGS
- Optimal Cutpoints for each
- Tumor-type specific vs Agnostic
- Tissue vs Blood

## What is the context? (Biomarker for which type of CPI regimen)

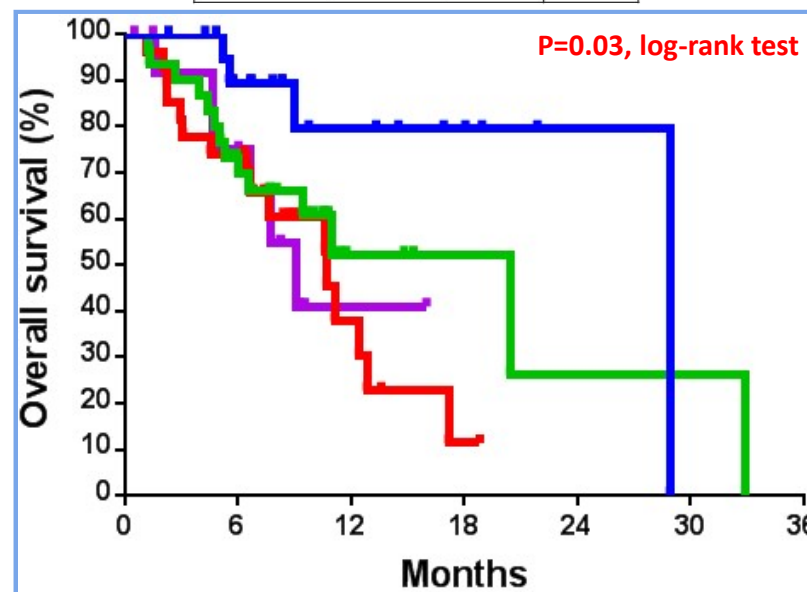
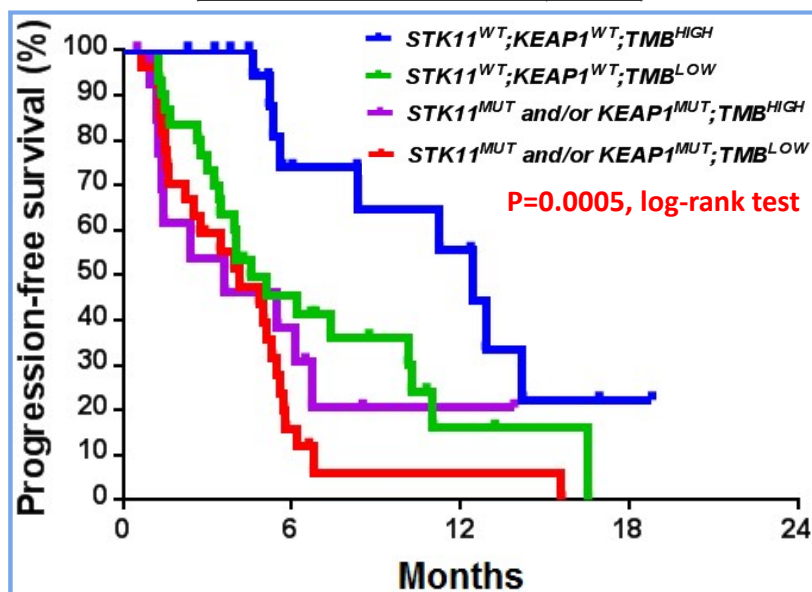
- NSCLC (Squamous or Non-Squamous) vs SCLC
- CTLA-4 vs PD-1/PD-L1 vs PD-1/PD-L1 + CTLA-4
- PD-1/PD-L1 + Platinum Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy likely "agnostic" to immuno-biomarker.  
 "Dilutes out predictive value"

# Integration of *STK11* and *KEAP1* genomic alterations with TMB and other biomarkers: Moving towards a composite panel?

Group	PFS
<i>STK11</i> <sup>WT</sup> ; <i>KEAP1</i> <sup>WT</sup> ;TMB <sup>HIGH</sup>	12.4m
<i>STK11</i> <sup>WT</sup> ; <i>KEAP1</i> <sup>WT</sup> ;TMB <sup>LOW</sup>	4.5m
<i>STK11</i> <sup>MUT</sup> and/or <i>KEAP1</i> <sup>MUT</sup> ;TMB <sup>HIGH</sup>	4.1m
<i>STK11</i> <sup>MUT</sup> and/or <i>KEAP1</i> <sup>MUT</sup> ;TMB <sup>LOW</sup>	3.6m

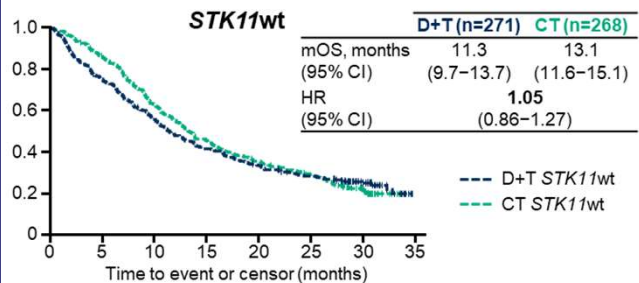
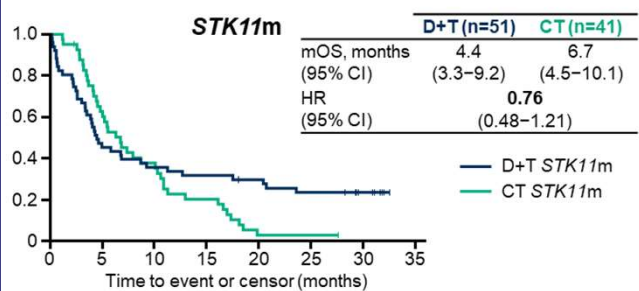
Group	OS
<i>STK11</i> <sup>WT</sup> ; <i>KEAP1</i> <sup>WT</sup> ;TMB <sup>HIGH</sup>	28.9m
<i>STK11</i> <sup>WT</sup> ; <i>KEAP1</i> <sup>WT</sup> ;TMB <sup>LOW</sup>	20.4m
<i>STK11</i> <sup>MUT</sup> and/or <i>KEAP1</i> <sup>MUT</sup> ;TMB <sup>HIGH</sup>	10.7m
<i>STK11</i> <sup>MUT</sup> and/or <i>KEAP1</i> <sup>MUT</sup> ;TMB <sup>LOW</sup>	9.1m



# Analysis of MYSTIC trial by STK11-KEAP1 & ARID1A mutational status (ctDNA by Guardant360)

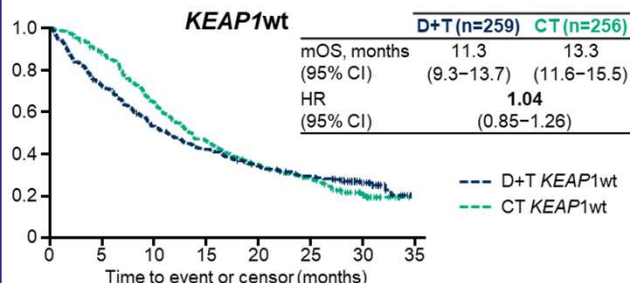
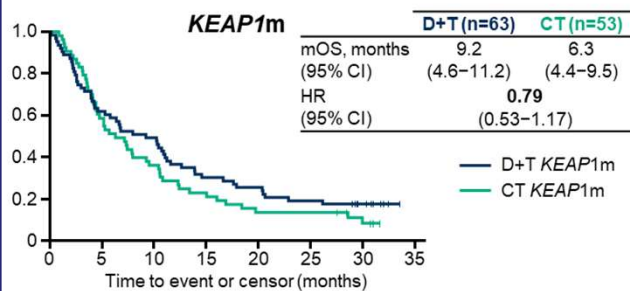
## STK11 by ctDNA

### Durvalumab + tremelimumab vs chemotherapy



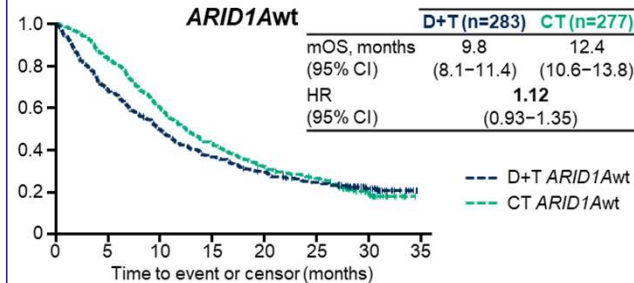
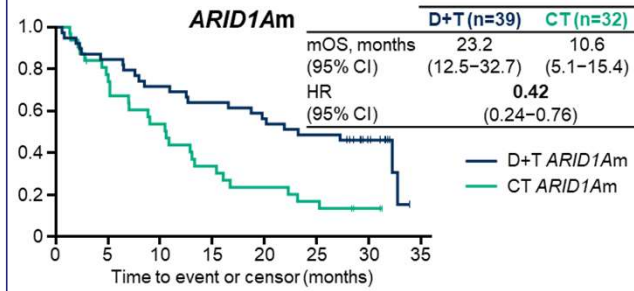
## KEAP1 by ctDNA

### Durvalumab + tremelimumab vs chemotherapy



## ARID1A by ctDNA

### Durvalumab + tremelimumab vs chemotherapy



- **STK11 & KEAP1 may be primarily prognostic & not predictive of IO efficacy**
- **ARID1A may be predictive for efficacy of Durva + Treme combination**

## Patients with *fARID1A* mutations were more frequently Squamous histology and had a significantly higher number of mutations (N=33,086 NSCLC patients; N=3,115 with *ARID1A* mutations)

NSCLC histology	Number of Patients	% of patients with <i>fARID1A</i>	p-value
Adenocarcinoma	26,935	3.8	<0.0001
Squamous	4,197	5.1	

*fARID1A* mutations were significantly more frequent in squamous NSCLC

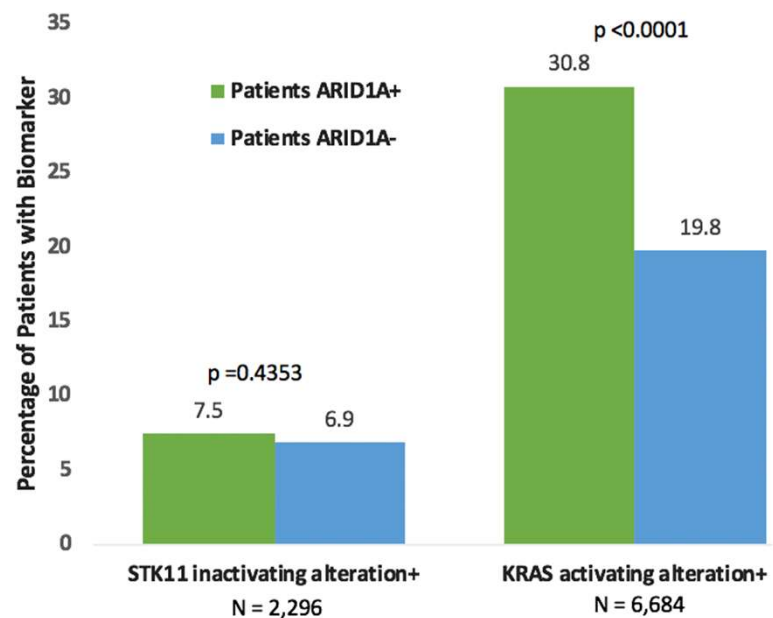
Sample <i>fARID1A</i> status	Median Number of Alterations*	p-value
<i>fARID1A</i> +	6	<0.0001
<i>fARID1A</i> -	3	

Previous work suggests that *ARID1A* is associated with a higher mutational burden – we found that samples with *fARID1A* had a significantly higher number of alterations per sample

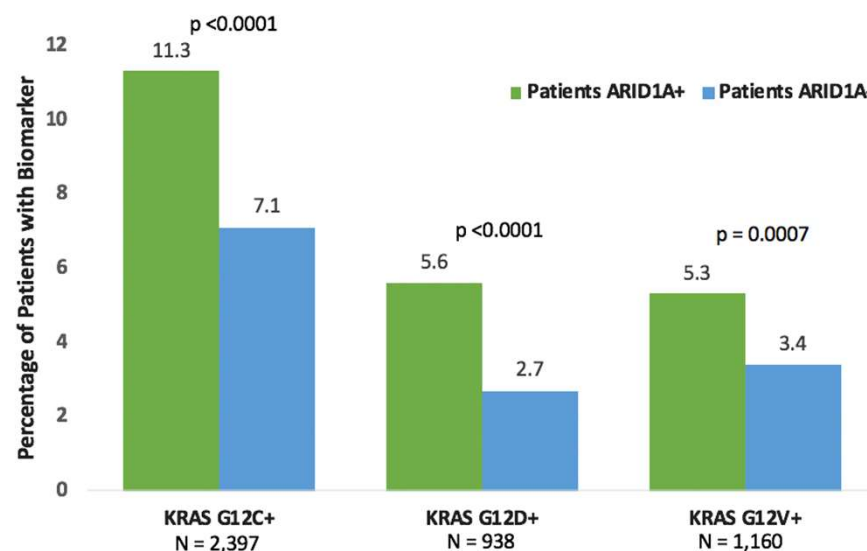
\*All reported alterations detected in each sample, including synonymous variants and variants of uncertain significance, were included when calculating the median number of alterations per sample

References: Rizvi N, et al. World Conference on Lung Cancer 2019; Okamura R, et al. *J Immunother Cancer*, 2020

Activating *KRAS* mutations were significantly more frequent in patients with *fARID1A* mutations



*KRAS* mutations associated with smoking (G12C/V) and non-smoking (G12D) were significantly more frequent in patients with *fARID1A* mutations



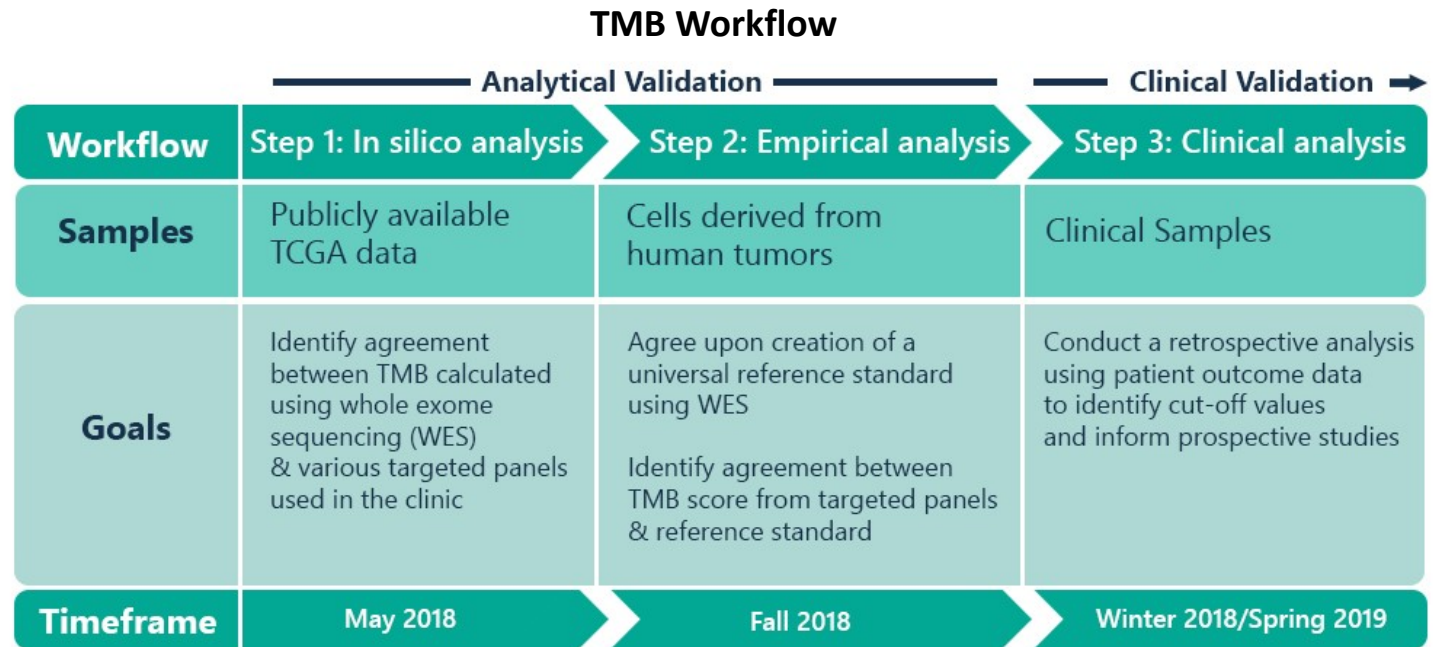
References: Herbst R, et al. ESMO Immuno-Oncology Congress, 2019; Aggarwal C, et al. *Clin Canc Res*, 2020; Skoulidis F, et al. *Cancer Discovery*, 2018; Skoulidis F, et al. World Conference on Lung Cancer, 2018

# Friends of Cancer Research: TMB Harmonization Effort

Friends of Cancer Research has convened a multi-stakeholder working group to align on and publish universal best practices for defining TMB, analytic validation, and alignment against reference standards.

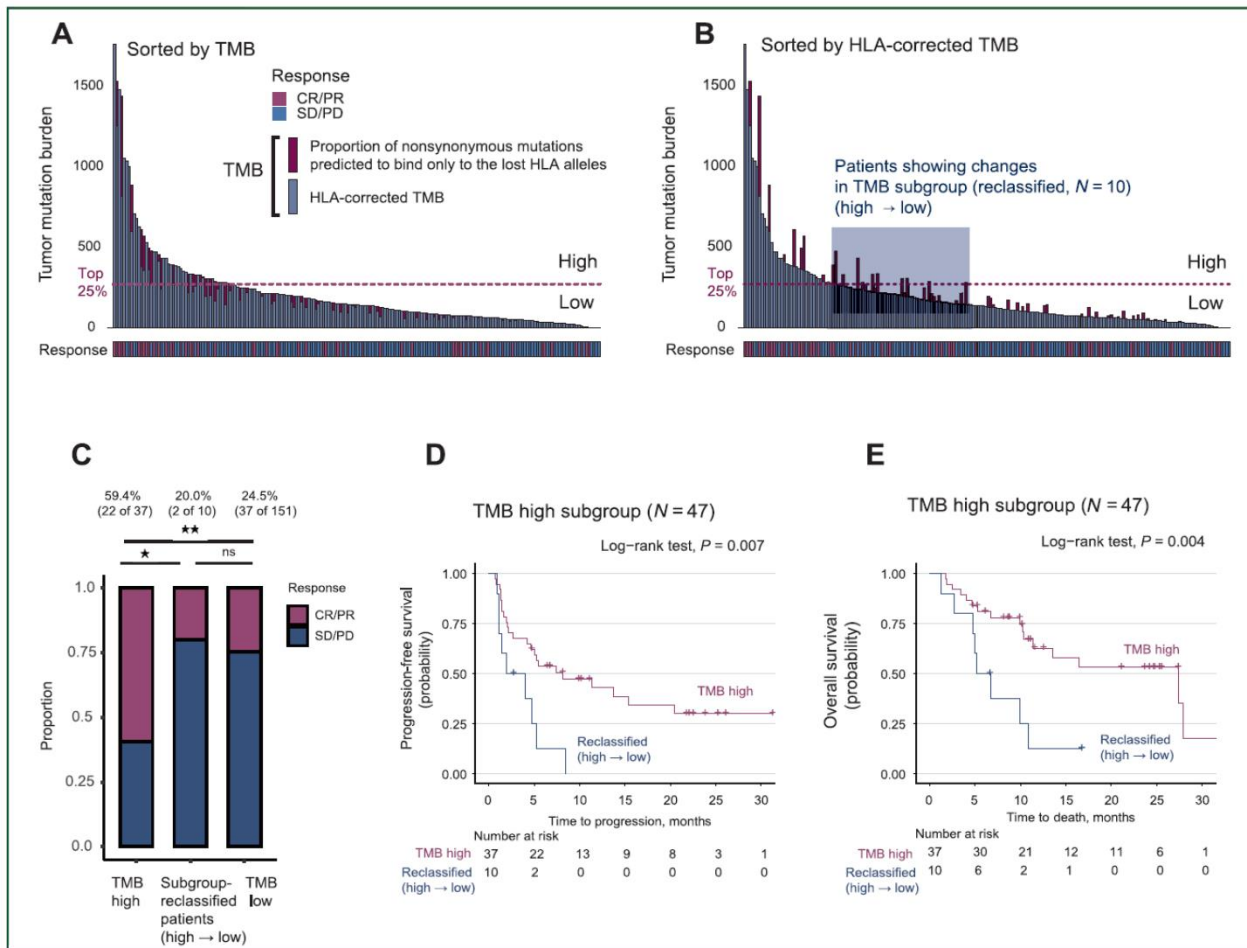
**Participants:**

- Seven test developers
- Six pharma companies
- FDA
- NCI
- Academia

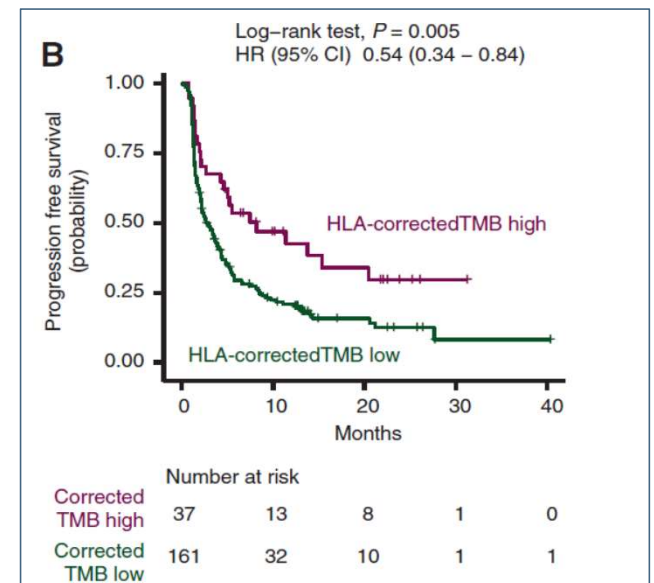




## HLA-corrected TMB: Impact of HLA-correction on TMB classification (High vs Low)



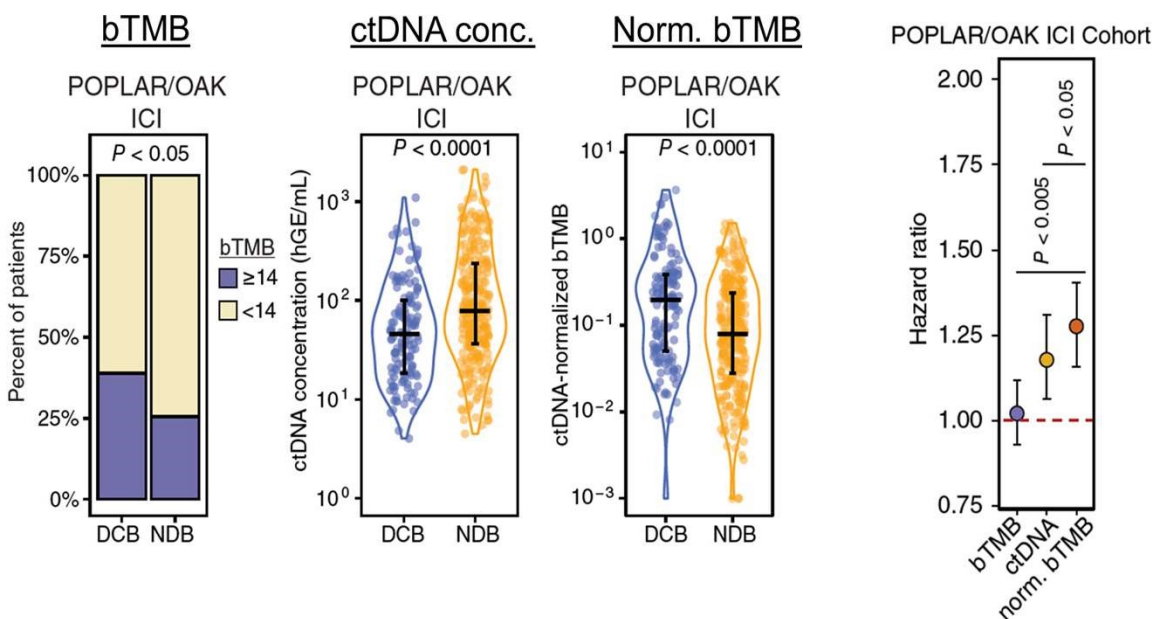
- HLA-LOH is present in ~30% of NSCLC cases
- HLA-LOH is associated with increased somatic nonsynonymous mutations
- But HLA-LOH is not associated with increased efficacy of CPIs
- HLA-corrected TMB reclassifies the TMB score by removal of HLA-LOH effects



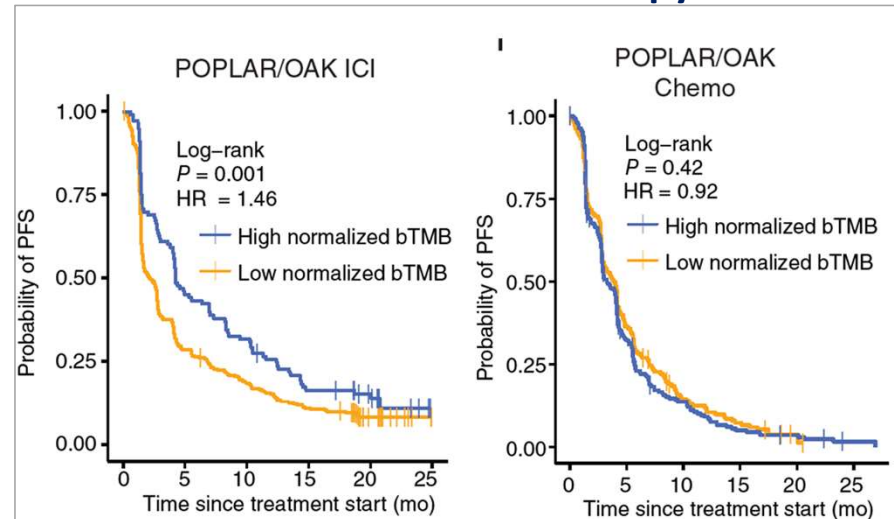
Shin et al: Ann Oncol 2020

# Liquid Biopsy and Checkpoint Immunotherapy (ICI)

## Pre-treatment ctDNA features predict ICI outcomes



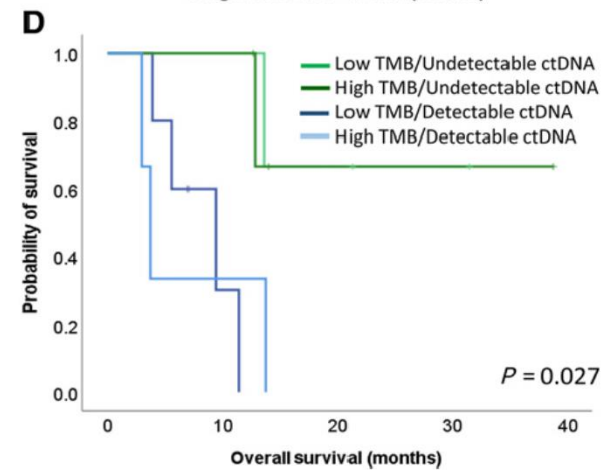
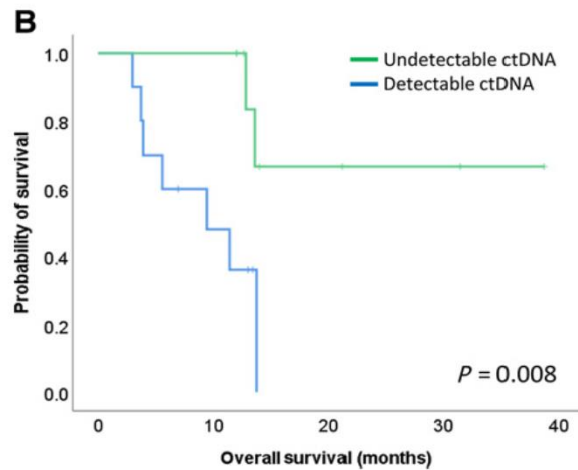
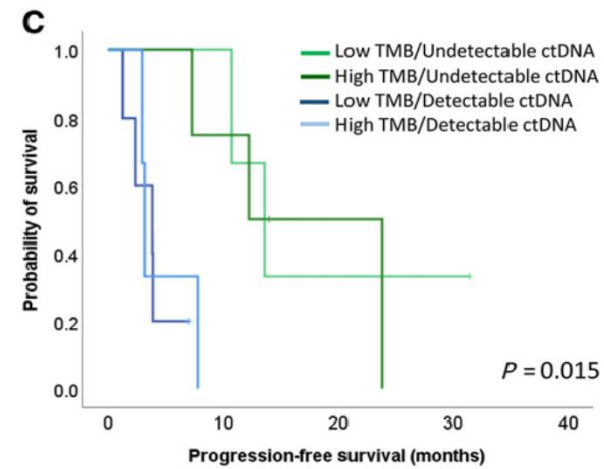
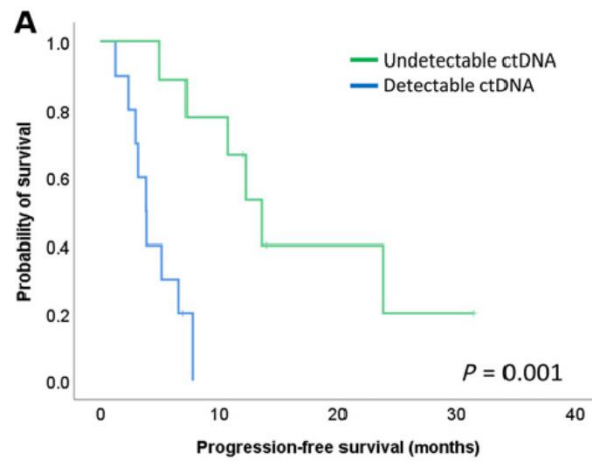
## Normalized bTMB predictive for ICI but not chemotherapy



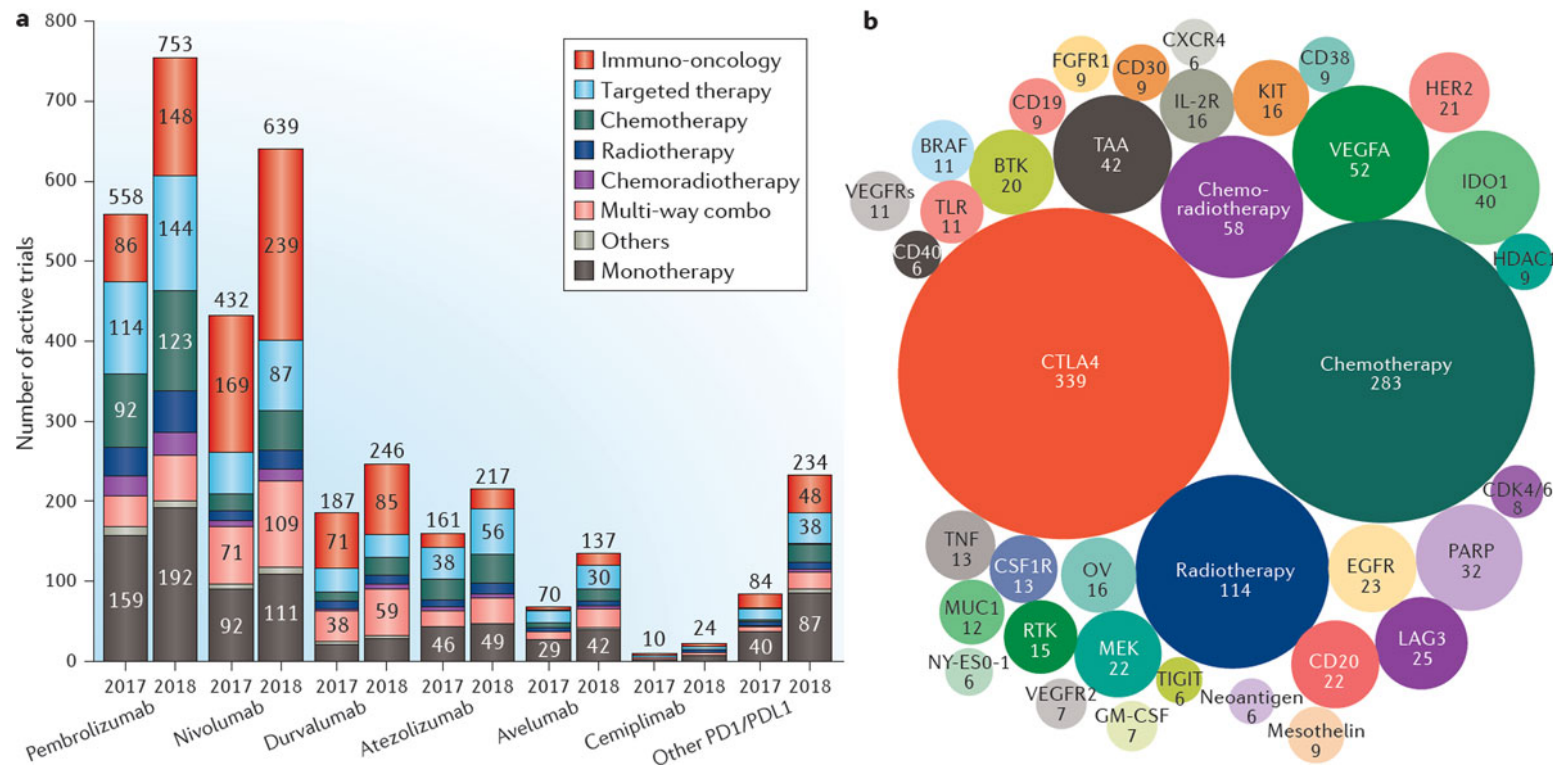
Data from Gandara *et al.*, *Nat. Med.* (2018)

Diehn: IASLC LB Workshop; Nabet & Esfahani *et al.*, *Cell* (2020)

# Dynamics of ctDNA following Checkpoint Immunotherapy



# Unmet Need for Predictive Biomarkers in Clinical Trials of Checkpoint Immunotherapy



**Over 2,250 clinical trials ongoing as of January 2019 (~3,500 trials as of 8-2020) requiring 380,900 patients  
~750 trials in NSCLC**

Tang: Nat RD 2018