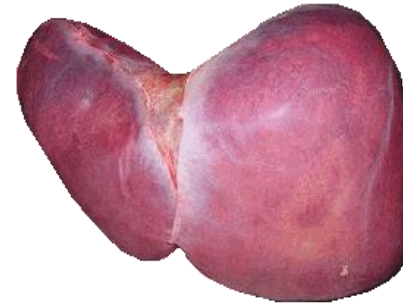
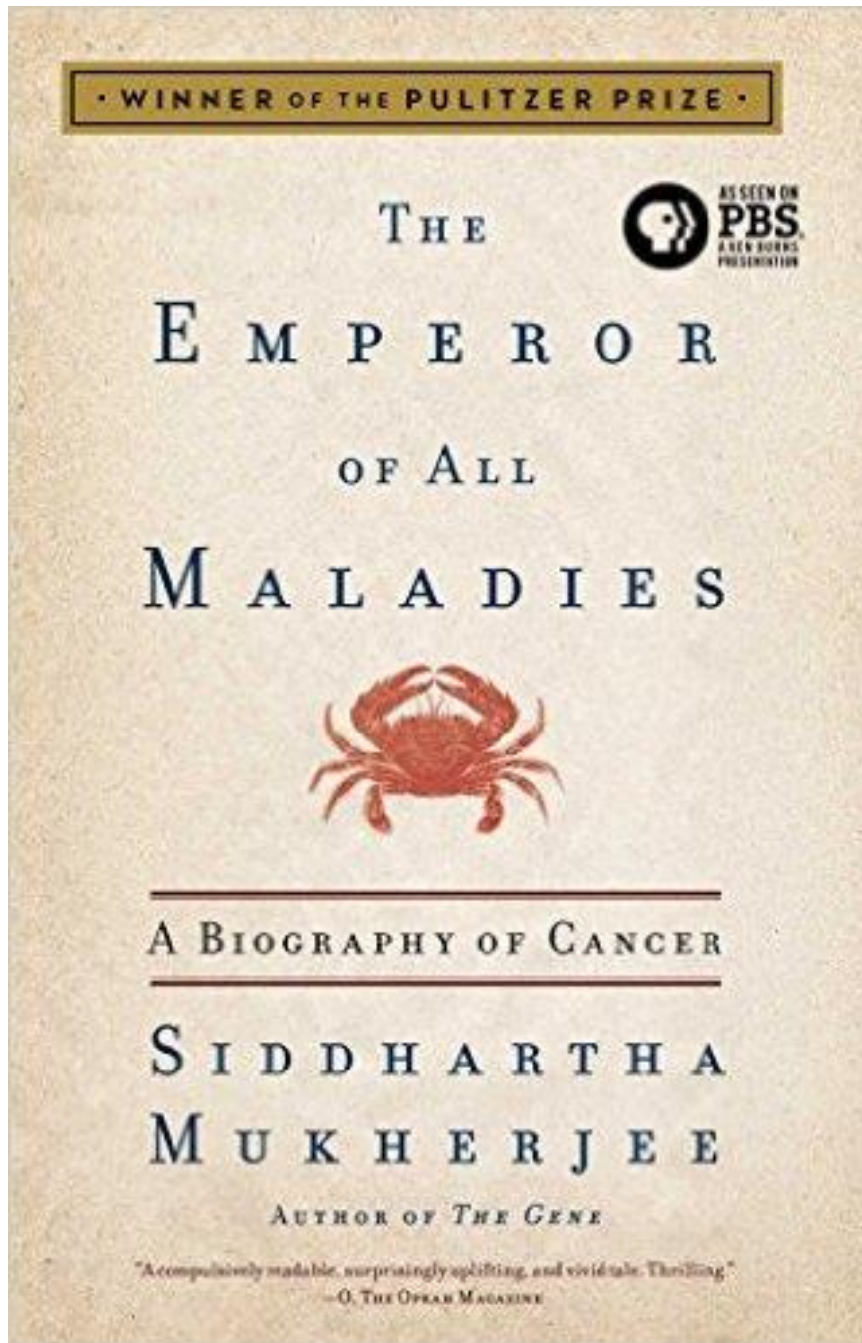


A theoretical (bio)physicist looks at cancer metastasis

Mohit Kumar Jolly

Computational Cancer Biology Fellow, Gulf Coast Consortia, Houston
(Mentors: Prof. Herbert Levine (Rice U), Prof. Samir Hanash (MDACC))

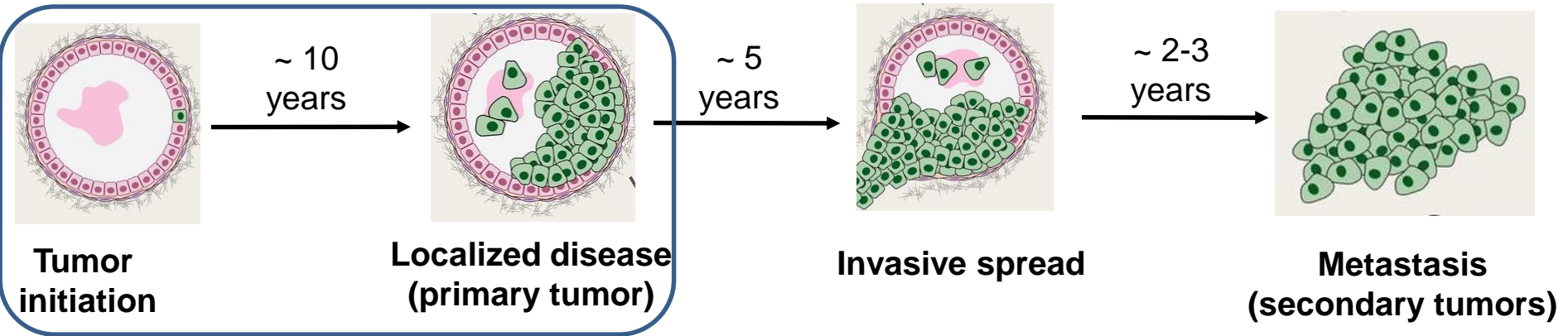




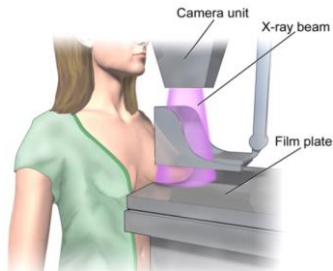
Uncontrolled
growth of
abnormal cells



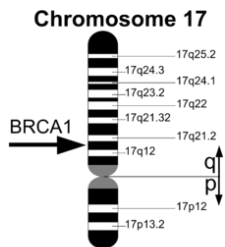
Stages of cancer progression



Remarkable progress made in:



Diagnosing cancer early



Listing the genes involved

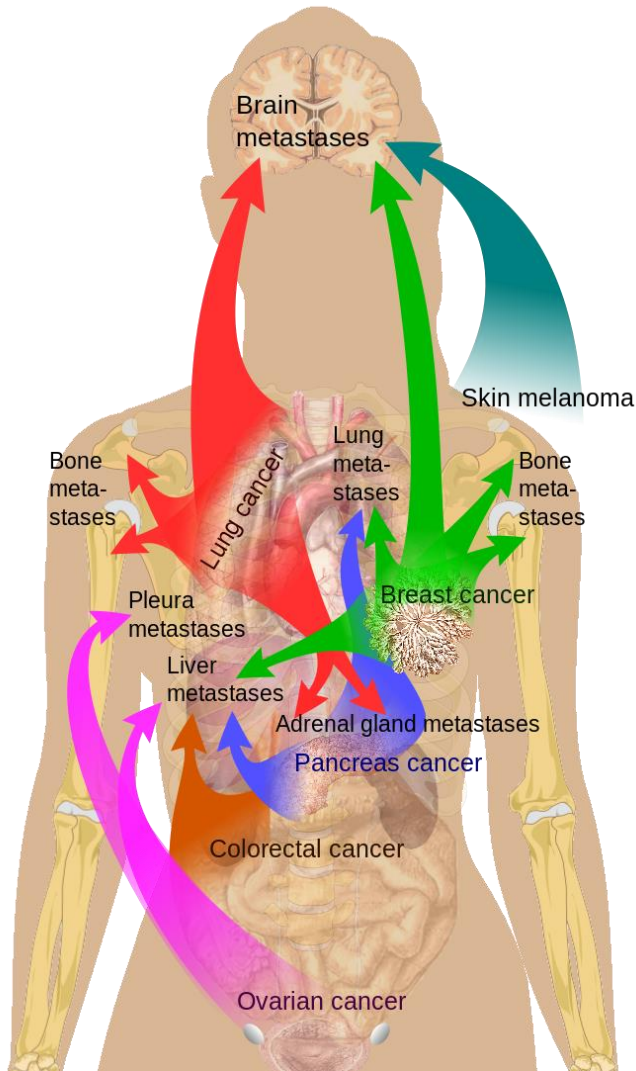


Identifying risk factors



Developing new therapies

Metastasis : the cause of 90% of all cancer deaths



More than 80% cancers happen in epithelial organs, i.e. cells that do NOT move/invade.

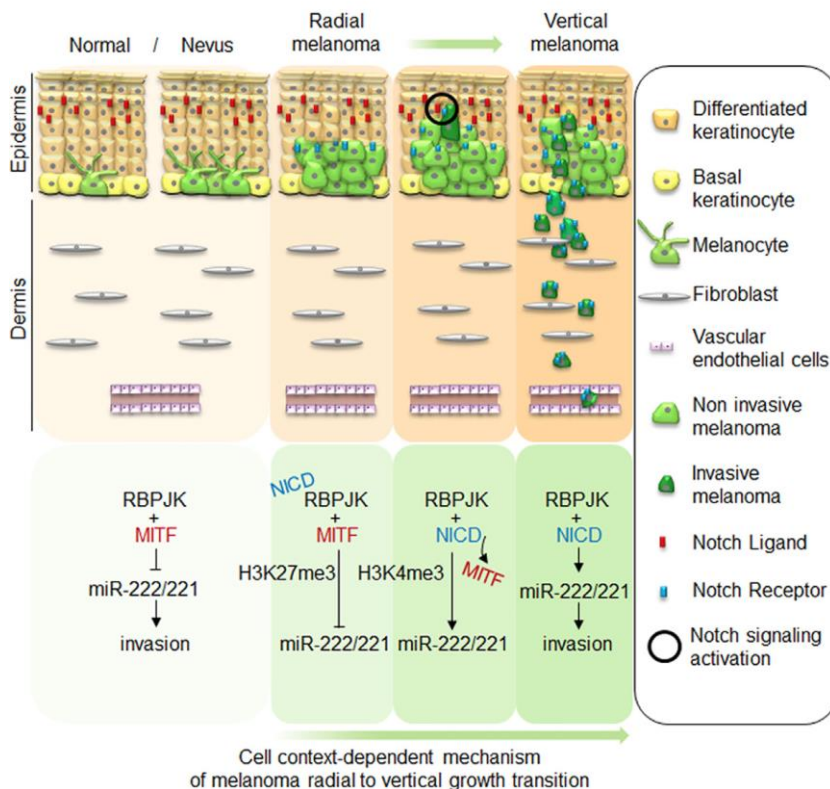


Is genetics the answer? Not always

- Large amount of money spent on cancer genomics, but no unique signature has emerged for metastasis
- One example: Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC)
 - About 30% of IBC patients have distant metastases at the time of diagnosis as compared to only 5% of non-IBC type
 - Though only 2-4% of breast cancer cases each year are of IBC type, IBC patients account for 10% of the annual breast cancer related mortalities
 - Despite several studies, no robust gene signature associated with IBC has yet been identified.

Is genetics the answer? Not always

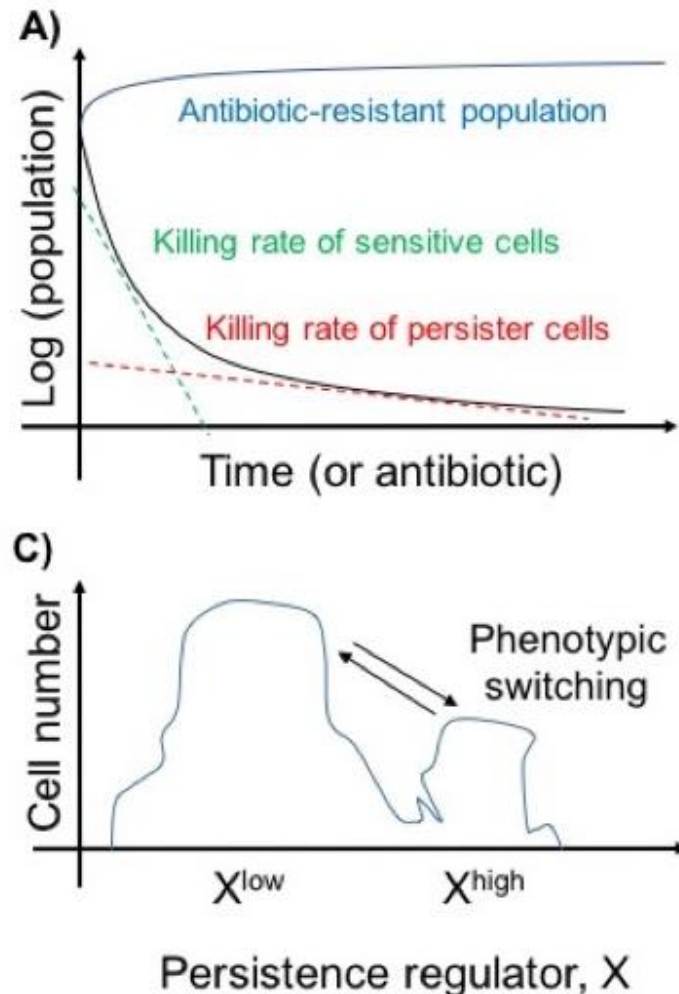
- Large amount of money spent on cancer genomics, but no unique signature has emerged for metastasis
- Another example: Melanoma metastasis



Cells become metastatic competent by being exposed to a new chemical environment

Phenotypic transition is not caused by additional mutations

Can cancer proceed without mutations? Perhaps!



A Chromatin-Mediated Reversible Drug-Tolerant State in Cancer Cell Subpopulations

Sreenath V. Sharma,¹ Diana Y. Lee,¹ Bihua Li,¹ Margaret P. Quinlan,¹ Fumiyuki Takahashi,¹ Shyamala Maheswaran,¹ Ultan McDermott,¹ Nancy Azizian,¹ Lee Zou,¹ Michael A. Fischbach,¹ Kwok-Kin Wong,² Kathleyn Brandstetter,² Ben Wittner,¹ Sridhar Ramaswamy,¹ Marie Classon,^{1,3,*} and Jeff Settleman^{1,3,*}

¹Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, 149 13th Street, Charlestown, MA 02129, USA

²Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 44 Binney Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA

³These authors contributed equally to this work

*Correspondence: classon@helix.mgh.harvard.edu (M.C.), settleman@helix.mgh.harvard.edu (J.S.)

DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2010.02.027

Tumor cells can follow distinct evolutionary paths to become resistant to epidermal growth factor receptor inhibition

Aaron N Hata^{1,2,14}, Matthew J Niederst^{1,2,14}, Hannah L Archibald¹, Maria Gomez-Caraballo¹, Faria M Siddiqui¹, Hillary E Mulvey¹, Yosef E Maruvka^{1,3}, Fei Ji⁴, Hyo-eun C Bhang⁵, Viveksagar Krishnamurthy Radhakrishna⁵, Giulia Siravegna^{6,7}, Haichuan Hu¹, Sana Raoof^{1,2}, Elizabeth Lockerman¹, Anuj Kalsy¹, Dana Lee¹, Celina L Keating⁵, David A Ruddy⁸, Leah J Damon¹, Adam S Crystal^{1,13}, Carlotta Costa^{1,2}, Zofia Piotrowska^{1,2}, Alberto Bardelli^{6,7}, Anthony J Iafrate⁹, Ruslan I Sadreyev^{4,9}, Frank Stegmeier⁵, Gad Getz^{1,3,9,10}, Lecia V Sequist^{1,2}, Anthony C Faber^{11,12} & Jeffrey A Engelman^{1,2}

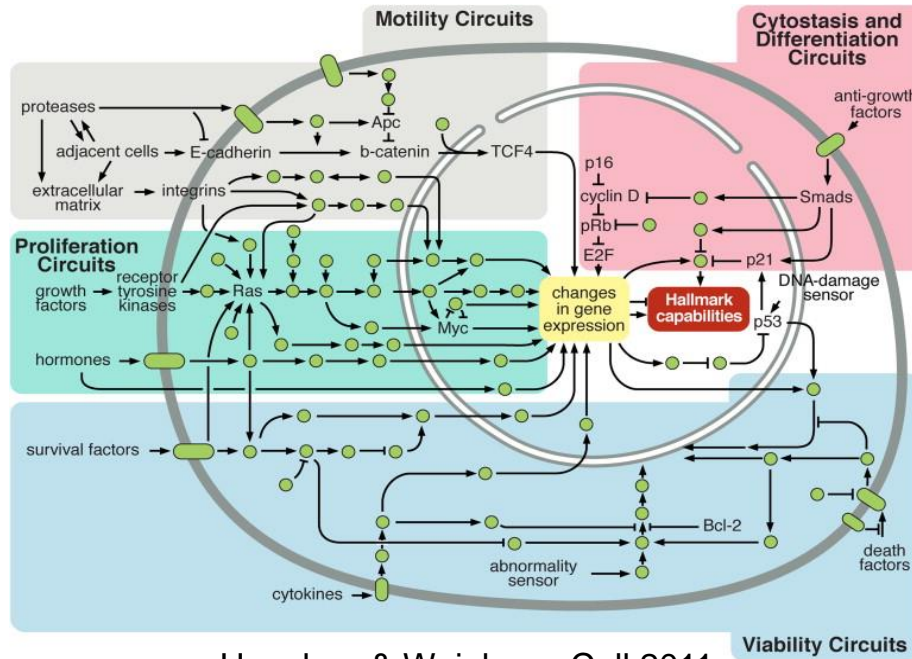
Rare cell variability and drug-induced reprogramming as a mode of cancer drug resistance

Sydney M. Shaffer^{1,2}, Margaret C. Dunagin¹, Stefan R. Torborg^{1,3}, Eduardo A. Torre^{1,2}, Benjamin Emert^{2,4}, Clemens Krepler⁵, Marilda Beqiri⁵, Katrin Sproesser⁵, Patricia A. Brafford⁵, Min Xiao⁵, Elliott Eggan², Ioannis N. Anastopoulos², Cesar A. Vargas-Garcia⁶, Abhyudai Singh^{6,7}, Katherine L. Nathanson², Meenhard Herlyn⁵ & Arjun Raj^{1,8}

Non-heritable mechanisms of drug resistance observed in bacterial and viral populations, and more recently in cancer

(Balaban et al. Science 2004; Shaffer et al. Nature 2017; Sharma et al. Cell 2010; Hata et al. Nat Med 2014)

Can physicists help decode cancer? Yes!



Hanahan & Weinberg, Cell 2011

Cellular phenotypes =
'attractors' or stable states of
this multi-dimensional system

Switching between different
states in response to internal
or external signals =
phenotypic plasticity

“One day, we imagine that cancer biology and treatment.....will become a science with a conceptual structure and logical coherence that rivals that of chemistry or physics.”

- Hanahan & Weinberg, Cell 2000

“And, as before, we continue to foresee cancer research as an increasingly logical science, in which myriad phenotypic complexities are manifestations of a small set of underlying organizing principles.”

- Hanahan & Weinberg, Cell 2011

Cancer biology still needs physicists

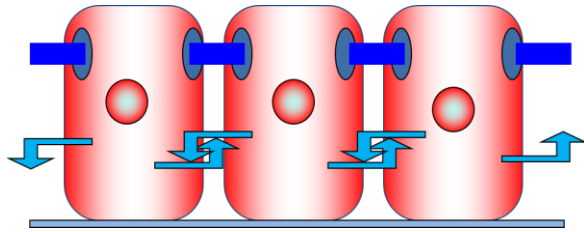
*Considering game theory and the role of physical forces could lead to better treatments for cancer, says **Robert Austin**.*

- Inventing new experimental methods (MRI, e.g.)
- Enhancing existing treatments (radiation therapy)
- Applying physical perturbations to tissues (heating via nanoparticles, for example)
- Developing sophisticated data analysis tools
- ...
- Here: Using mathematical models to isolate the mechanisms underlying observed phenomena. Analogous to the use of physics in other complex systems, such as climate change.

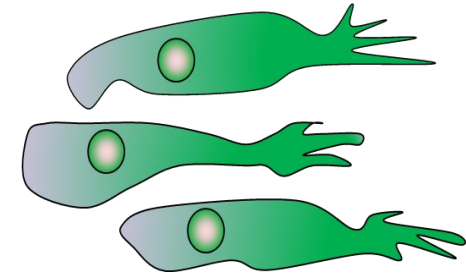
We are...

- **Not** inferring networks by data-mining from “omics” data
- **Not** focusing exclusively on one dataset or even on one type of cancer
- **We are** attempting to build a conceptual framework, a quantitative version of the framework that biologists build to help think through their data

EMT/MET: The engine of metastasis



Adhere to neighbors
Do NOT migrate or invade
Epithelial (E)



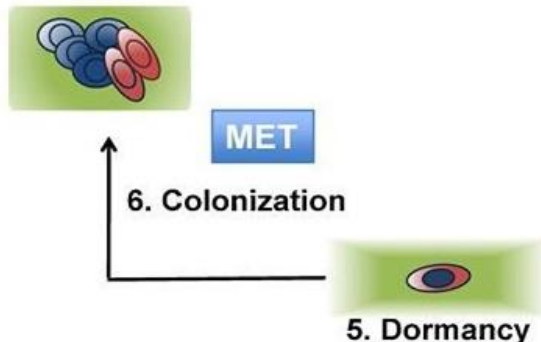
Do NOT adhere to neighbors
Migrate and invade
Mesenchymal (M)



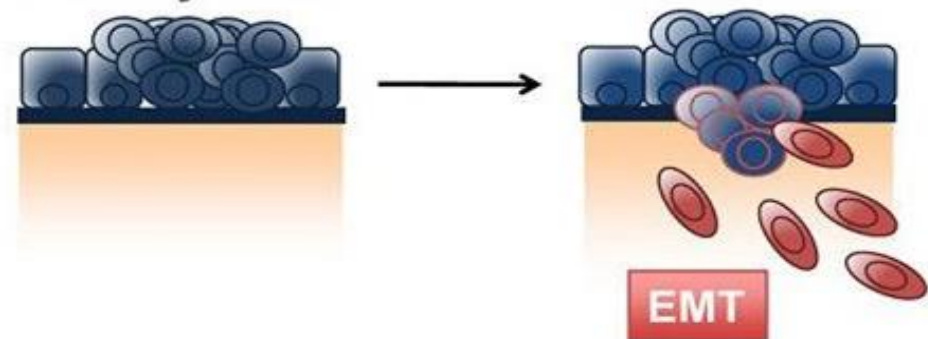
Mesenchymal-to-Epithelial
Transition (MET)

Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal
Transition (EMT)

Secondary tumor



Primary tumor



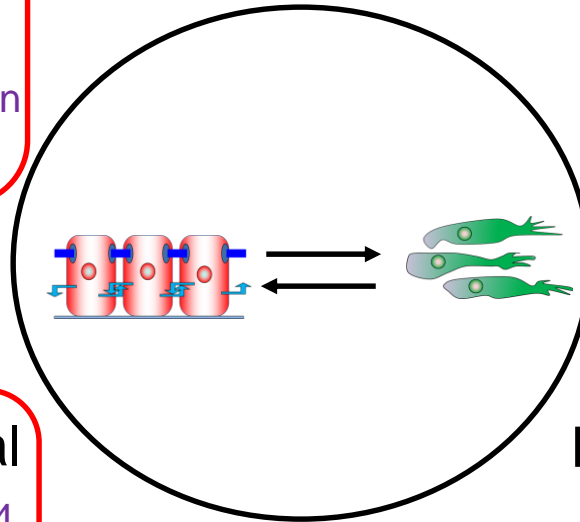
EMT/MET: motor of cellular plasticity

Boareto, **Jolly** *et al.*
J R Soc Interface 2016
Tripathi...**Jolly** *et al.*
Cancer Res 2017

Chemoresistance

Somarelli, Shelter, **Jolly** *et al.*
Mol Cell Biol 2016 (Cover article)
Kulkarni, **Jolly** *et al.*, in revision
Eichelberger... **Jolly** *et al.*, in preparation

Genomic/epigenetic reprogramming



Evasion of immune system

Tripathi...**Jolly** *et al.*
PNAS 2016
Li, **Jolly** *et al.*, in preparation

Resistance to cell death

Evans.. **Jolly** *et al.*, in revision
Gearhart .. **Jolly** *et al.*, in preparation
Somarelli.. **Jolly** *et al.*, in preparation

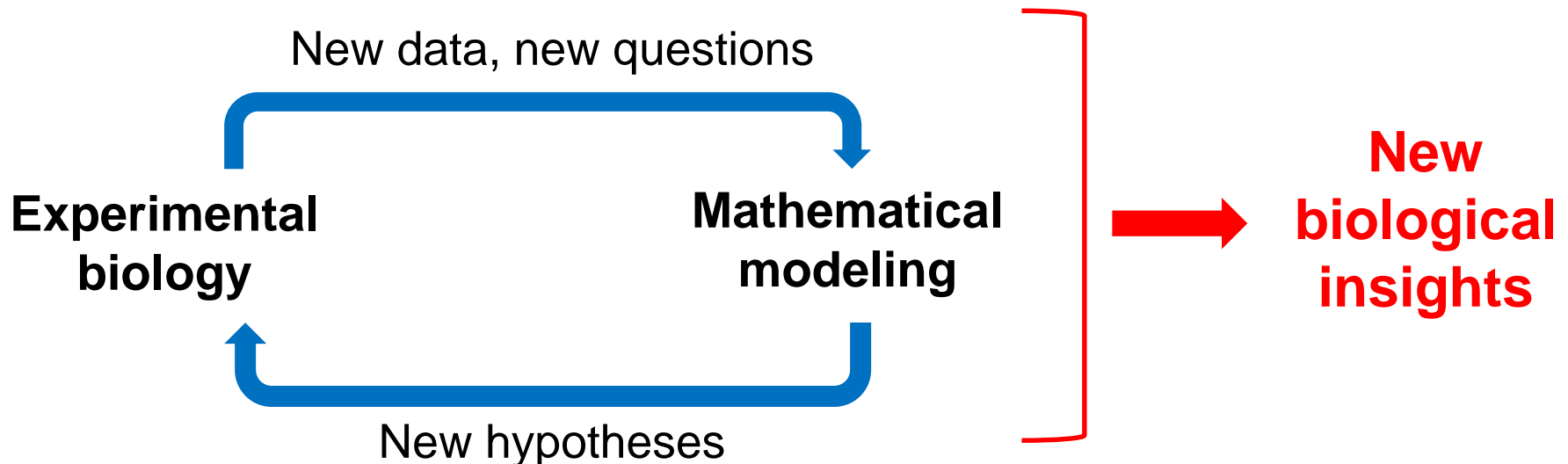
Lu*, **Jolly*** *et al.* PNAS 2013
Jia*, **Jolly*** *et al.* Oncotarget 2015
Huang, **Jolly** *et al.* Sci Rep 2016
Jolly *et al.* Oncotarget 2016
Jolly *et al.* NPJ Br Cancer 2017
Boekhorst..**Jolly** *et al.*, in preparation
Migration and invasion

Tumor-initiation potential
Jolly *et al.* J R Soc Interface 2014
Jolly*, Jia* *et al.* Oncotarget 2015
Jolly *et al.* NPJ Br Cancer 2017
Jolly *et al.*, in preparation

A systems biology approach to investigate EMT



Can a systems or engineering approach help defeat cancer metastasis?



Toggle switch: A systems biology model

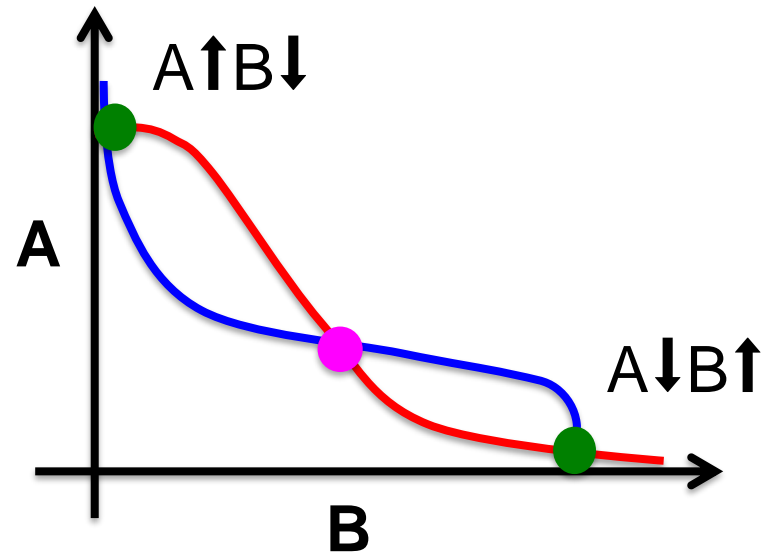


Bistability

(A, B) = (high, low)

(A, B) = (low, high)

Huang, PloS Biology 2013
Gardner *et al.* Nature 2000



$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \underbrace{g_A}_{\text{Production}} \frac{(B_0)^{n_B}}{(B_0)^{n_B} + B^{n_B}} - \underbrace{k_A A}_{\text{Regulation}}$$

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = \underbrace{g_B}_{\text{Production}} \frac{(A_0)^{n_A}}{(A_0)^{n_A} + A^{n_A}} - \underbrace{k_B B}_{\text{Regulation}}$$

Production
 Regulation
 Degradation

A_0, B_0 = Threshold concentrations

Steps involved:

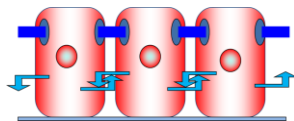
- Solving ODEs, plotting nullclines
- Stability analysis (Jacobian Matrix)
- Sensitivity analysis
- Bifurcation analysis
- Phase diagrams

- Hallmark of cell-fate decision making during embryonic development
- One of the first synthetic bio circuits designed

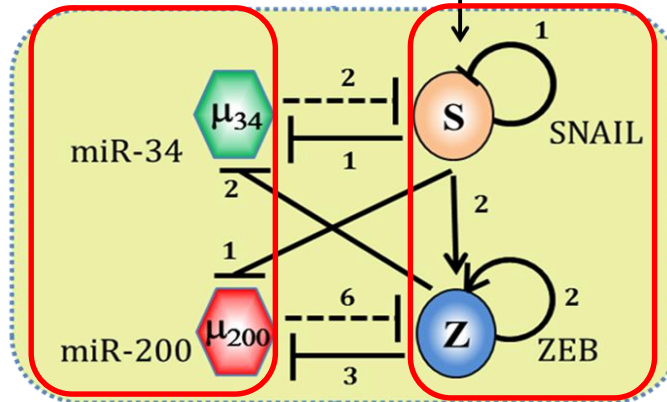
Systems biology model for EMT/MET

- Transcriptional activation
- | Transcriptional repression
- | miR-mediated repression

E



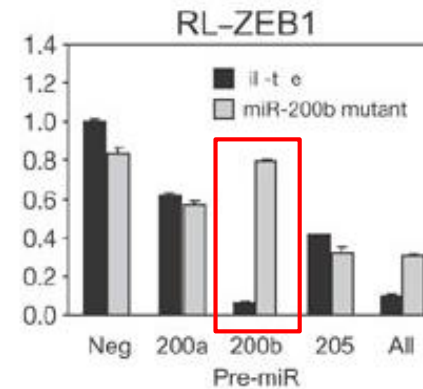
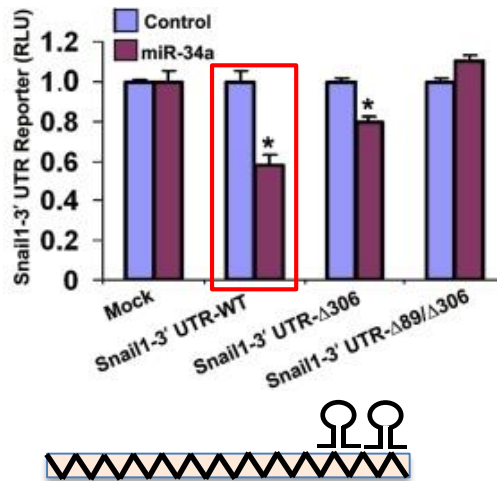
I (HGF, NF- κ B, Wnt, Notch, p53, TGF- β , HIF1 α)



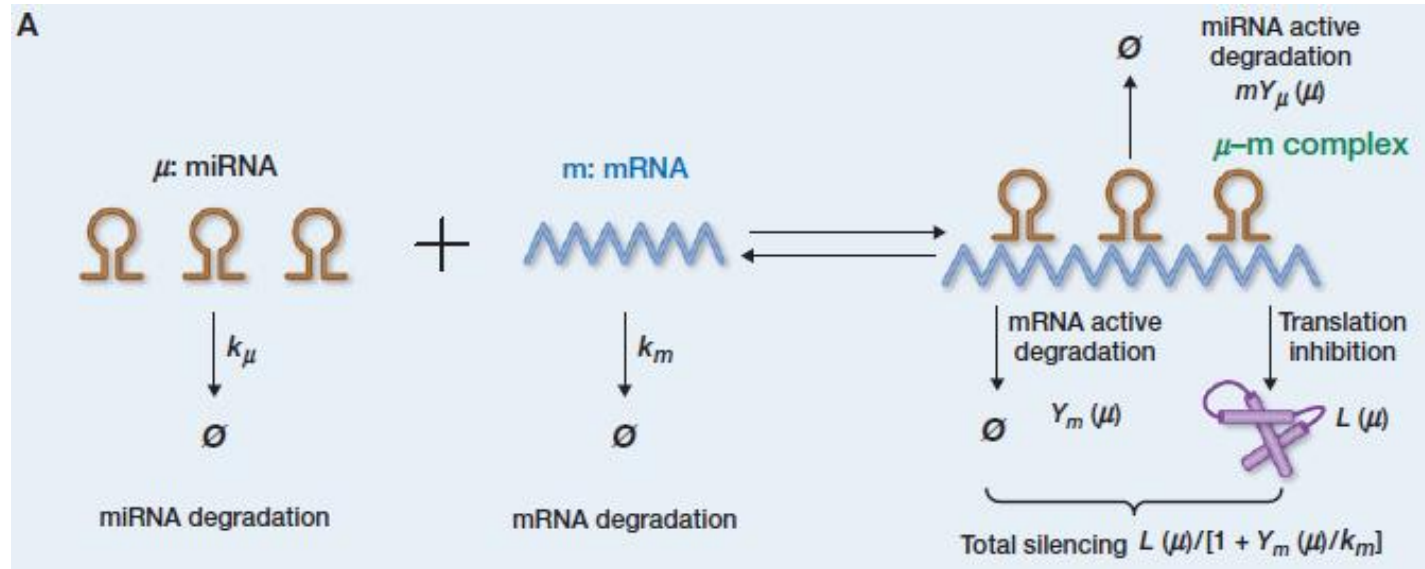
M

Lu*, Jolly* *et al.* PNAS 2013

Example input data for the model:

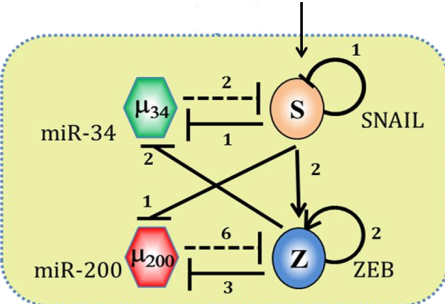


Theoretical framework for miRNA-based circuits



Lu*, Jolly* *et al.* PNAS 2013

I (HGF, NF- κ B, Wnt, Notch, p53, TGF- β , HIF1 α)



Production

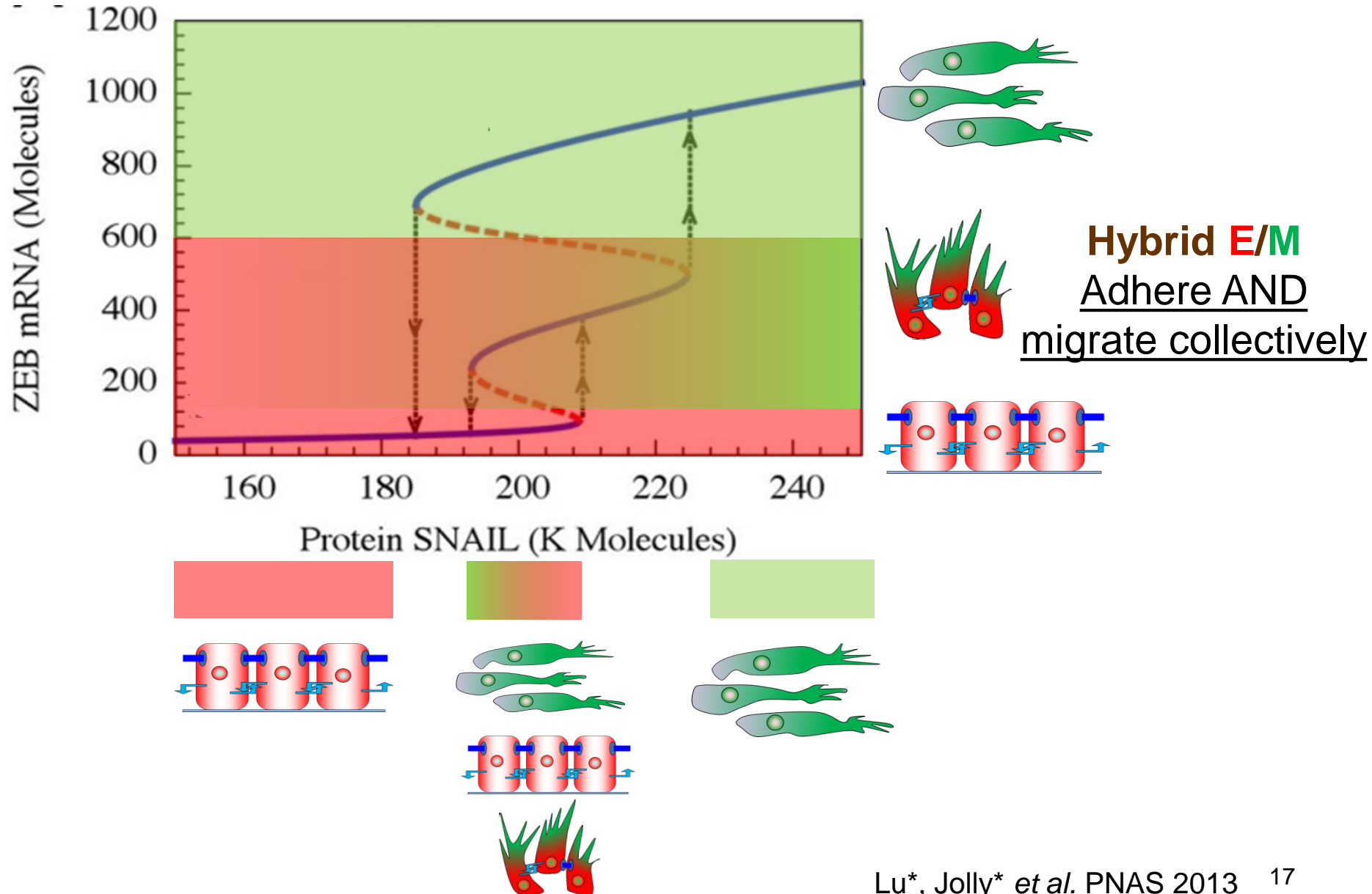
Degradation

miR regulation

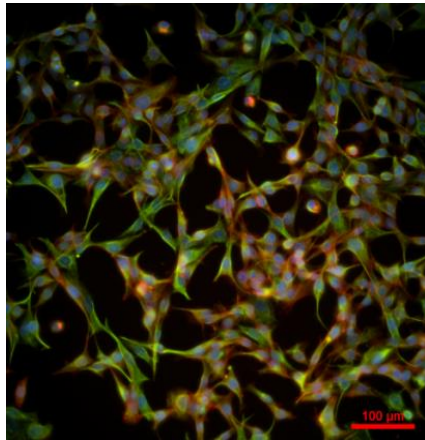
TF regulation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dm_{200}}{dt} &= g_{m_{200}} H^S(Z, I_{Z, m_{200}}) H^S(S, I_{Z, m_{200}}) - m_Z Y_m(m_{200}) - k_{m_{200}} m_{200} & \text{miR-200} \\ \frac{dm_Z}{dt} &= g_{m_Z} H^S(Z, I_{Z, m_Z}) H^S(S, I_{S, m_Z}) - m_Z Y_m(m_{200}) - k_{m_Z} m_Z & \text{ZEB mRNA} \\ \frac{dZ}{dt} &= g_Z m_Z L(m_{200}) - k_Z Z & \text{ZEB} \\ \frac{dm_{34}}{dt} &= g_{m_{34}} H^S(Z, I_{Z, m_{34}}) H^S(S, I_{Z, m_{34}}) - m_S Y_m(m_{34}) - k_{m_{34}} m_{34} & \text{miR-34} \\ \frac{dm_S}{dt} &= g_{m_S} H^S(S, I_{S, m_S}) H^S(I, I_{I, m_S}) - m_S Y_m(m_{34}) - k_{m_S} m_S & \text{SNAIL mRNA} \\ \frac{dS}{dt} &= g_S m_S L(m_{34}) - k_S S & \text{SNAIL} \end{aligned}$$

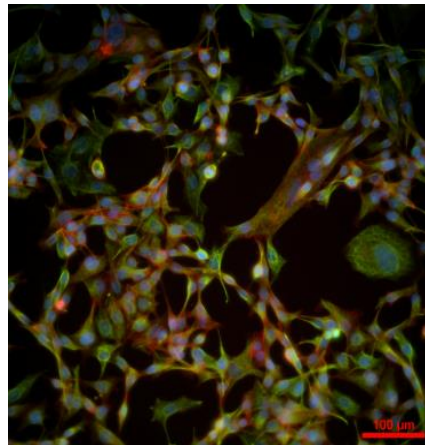
Tristability in the underlying EMT network



Hybrid E/M can be a stable phenotype

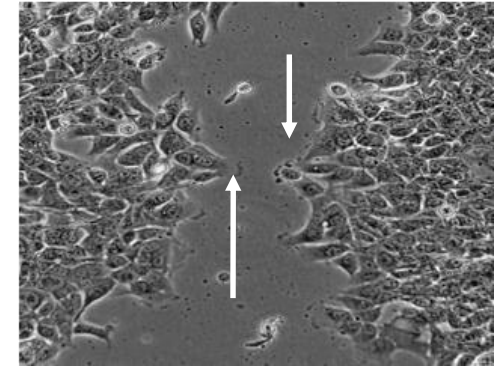
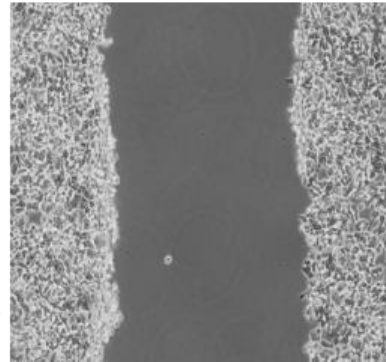
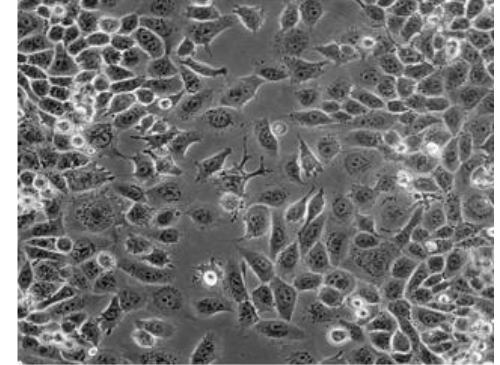
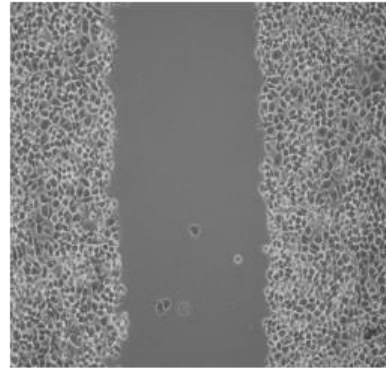


H1975, T=0



H1975, T=2 months

CDH1 (E-marker)
VIM (M-marker)



Hybrid E/M cells tend to move collectively

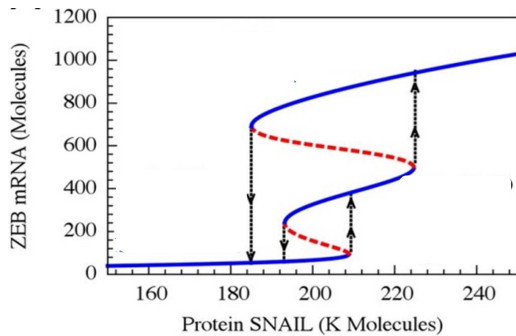
Jolly *et al.* Oncotarget 2016

Jolly *et al.* Mol Oncol 2017

Satyendra Tripathi, Sam Hanash (MDACC)

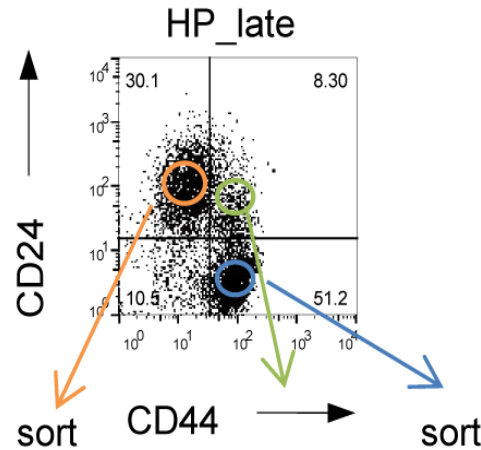
Co-existence of phenotypes seen experimentally

Theoretical prediction



Lu*, Jolly* *et al.* PNAS 2013

Experimental validation

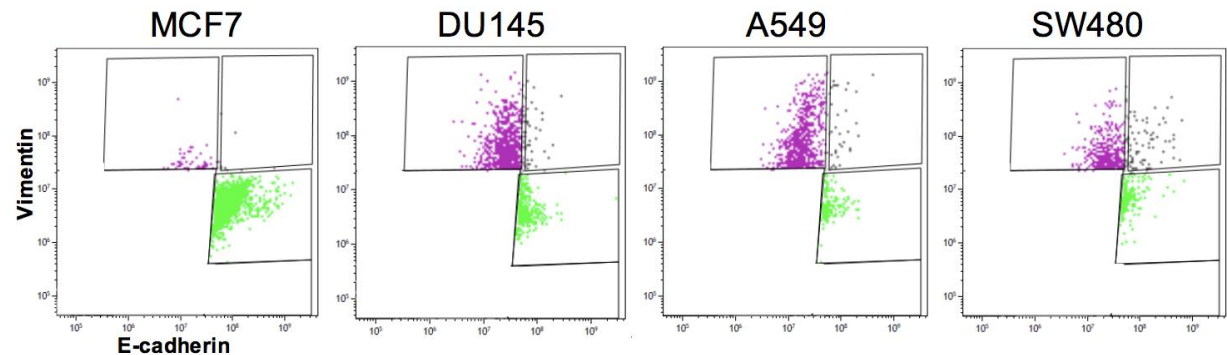


Grosse-Wilde *et al.* PLoS ONE 2015

Quantification of cells in different phenotypic states

Cell line	E (%)	E=M (%)	M (%)
A549	82	10.2	7.80
LT73	24.5	28.6	46.9
H460	19.5	4.8	75.6
H460_miR-200c	39.5	20.8	39.6

Andriani *et al.* Mol Oncol 2016



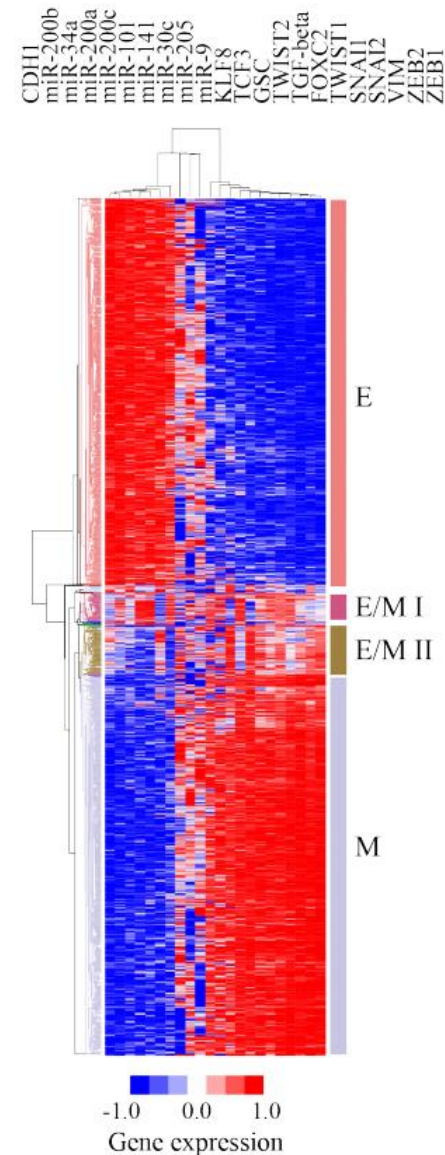
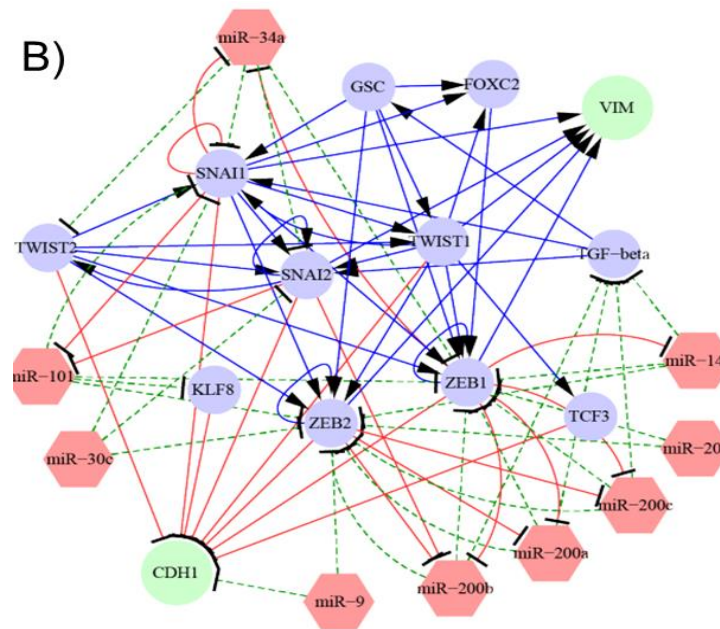
George*, Jolly* *et al.* Cancer Res 2017
Shengnan Xu, Jason A Somarelli (Duke University)

Quantifying the EMT spectrum of states

Hybrid E/M state(s) also predicted by other computational models:

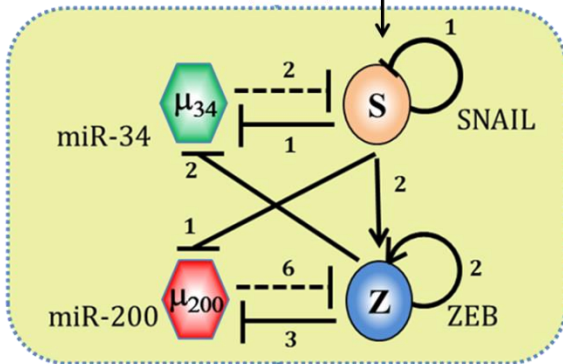
- Xing group (Pittsburgh)
(Tian *et al.* Biophys J 2013, Zhang *et al.* Sci Signal 2014)
- Albert group (Penn State Univ)
(Steinway *et al.* Cancer Res 2014, Steinway *et al.* NPJ Syst Bio Appl 2014)

Ensemble of kinetic models with fixed circuit topology but with randomly selected parameters also enable hybrid E/M state(s)

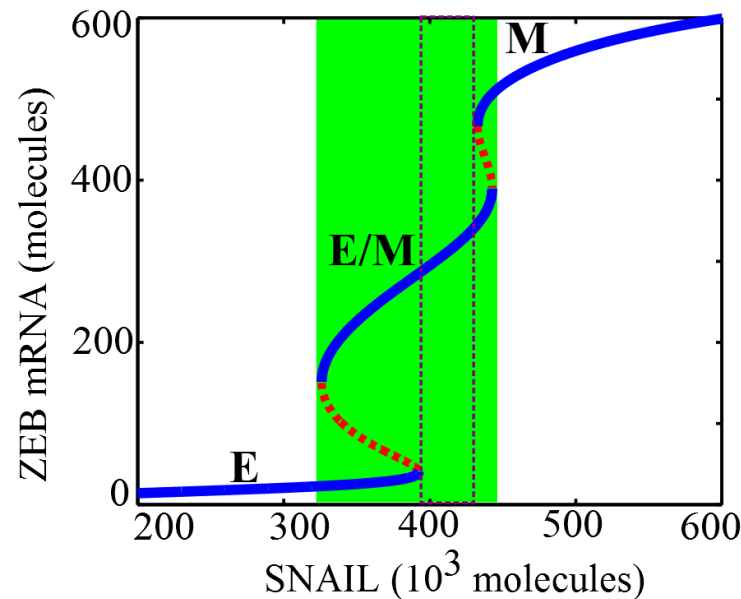
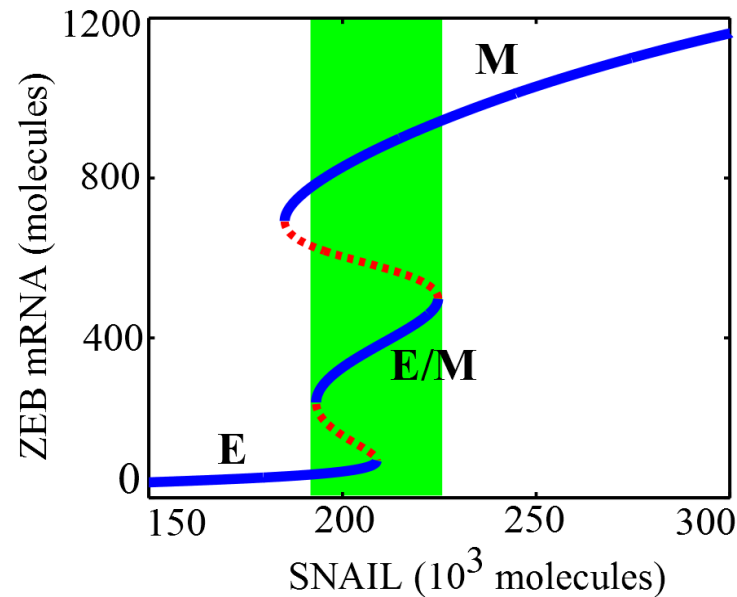
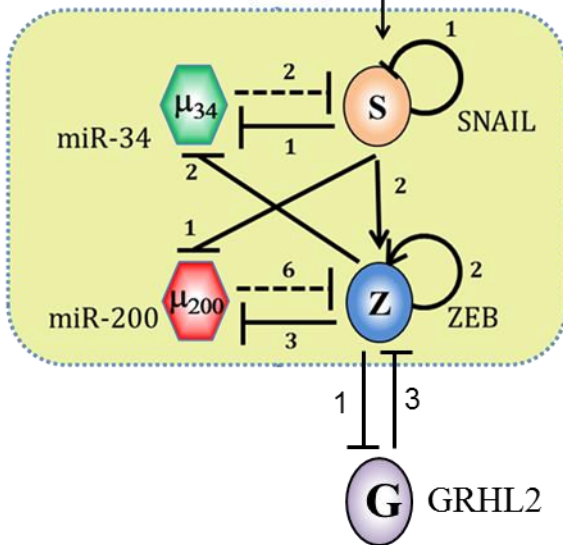


Identifying 'phenotypic stability factors' (PSFs)

I (HGF, NF- κ B, Wnt, Notch, p53, TGF- β , HIF1 α)



I (HGF, NF- κ B, Wnt, Notch, p53, TGF- β , HIF1 α)

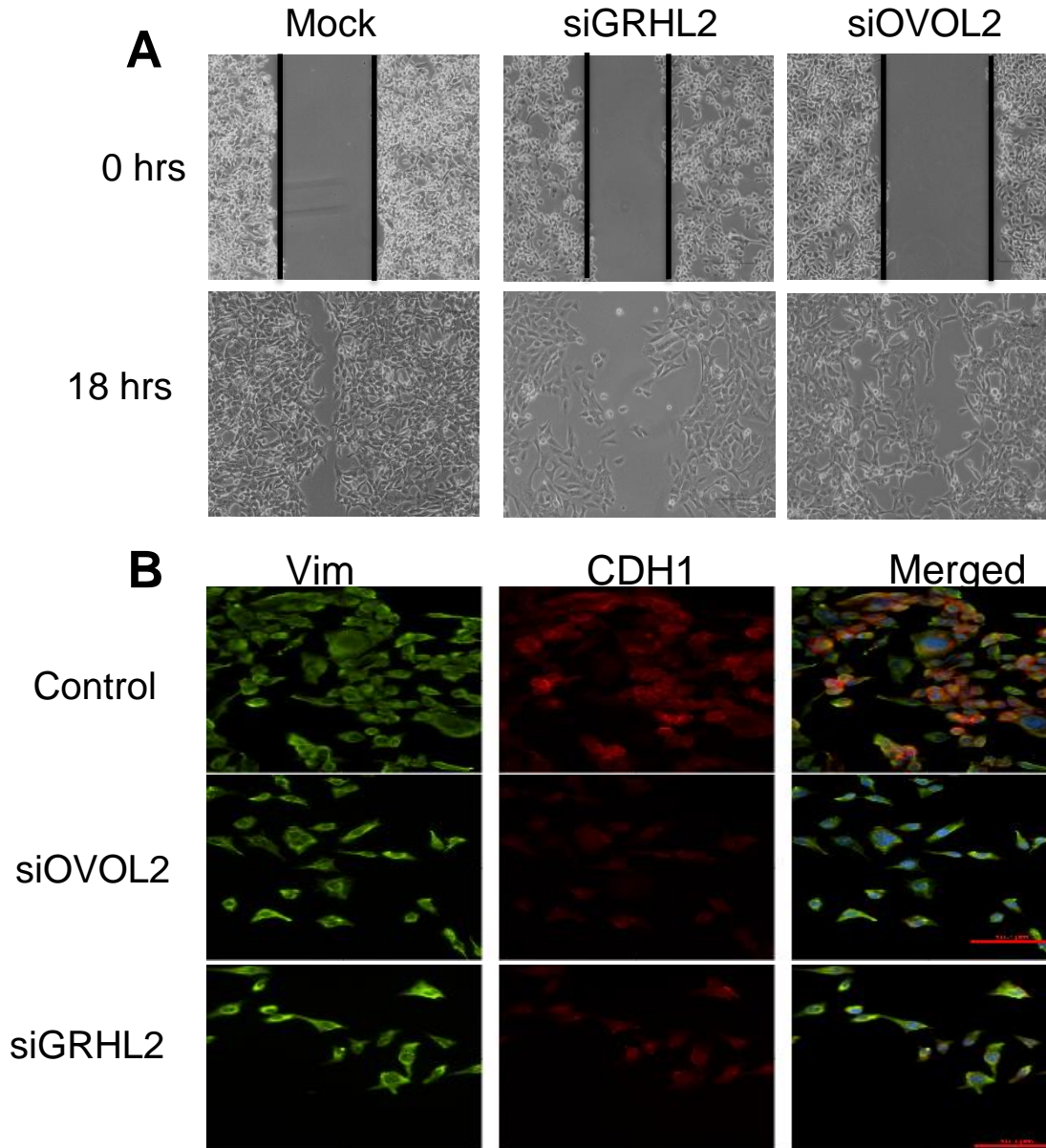


Jolly *et al.* Oncotarget 2016

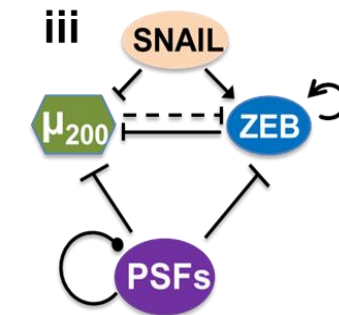
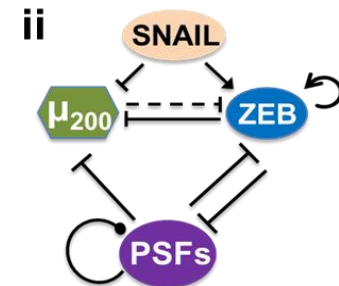
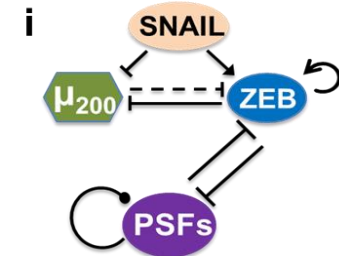
Other PSFs:

- OVOL2
(Jia*, Jolly* *et al.* Oncotarget 2015;
Watanabe *et al.* Dev Cell 2014;
Hong *et al.* PLoS Comp Biol 2015)
- Δ NP63 α
(Jolly *et al.* NPJ Br Cancer 2017;
Dang *et al.* Cancer Res 2015)
- NUMB
(Bocci*, Jolly* *et al.* J R Soc Interface 2017)
- NRF2
(Bocci, Jolly *et al.*, in preparation)

Knockdown of PSFs can drive a complete EMT



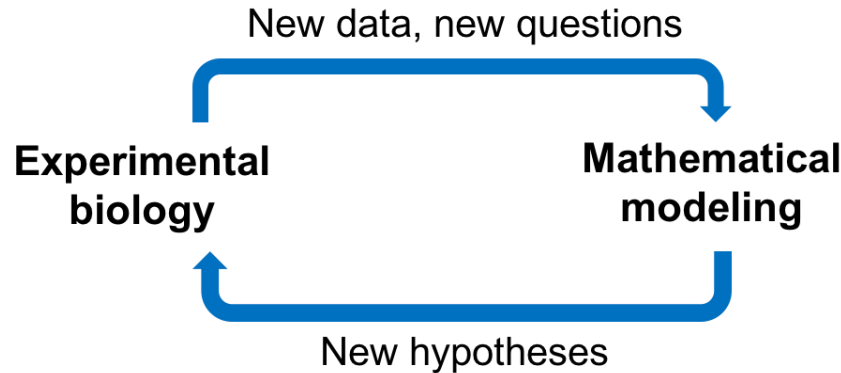
Network motifs for identifying additional PSFs



Summary: Systems Biology of EMT

How do miR-200/
miR-34/SNAIL/ZEB regulate
EMT progression?

This circuit can enable three
stable states/phenotypes in
clonal populations



How do H1975 maintain a
hybrid E/M phenotype stably?

GRHL2 or OVOL2 can stabilize
a hybrid E/M state

EMT/MET: motor of cellular plasticity

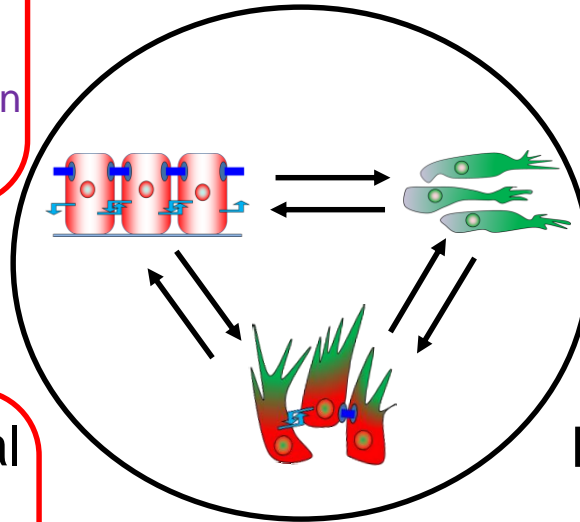
Lu*, **Jolly*** *et al.* PNAS 2013
Jia*, **Jolly*** *et al.* Oncotarget 2015
Huang, **Jolly** *et al.* Sci Rep 2016
Jolly *et al.* Oncotarget 2016
Jolly *et al.* NPJ Br Cancer 2017
Boekhorst..**Jolly** *et al.*, in preparation
Migration and invasion

Tumor-initiation potential (Stemness)

Jolly *et al.* J R Soc Interface 2014
Jolly*, Jia* *et al.* Oncotarget 2015
Jolly *et al.* NPJ Br Cancer 2017
Jolly *et al.*, in preparation

Boareto, **Jolly** *et al.*
J R Soc Interface 2016
Tripathi...**Jolly** *et al.*
Cancer Res 2017

Chemoresistance



Evasion of immune system

Tripathi...**Jolly** *et al.*
PNAS 2016
Li, **Jolly** *et al.*, in
preparation

Somarelli, Shelter, **Jolly** *et al.*
Mol Cell Biol 2016 (**Cover article**)
Kulkarni, **Jolly** *et al.*, in revision
Eichelberger... **Jolly** *et al.*, in
preparation

Genomic/epigenetic reprogramming

Resistance to cell death

Evans.. **Jolly** *et al.*, in revision
Gearhart .. **Jolly** *et al.*, in preparation
Somarelli.. **Jolly** *et al.*, in preparation

How EMT alters tumor-initiation ability (stemness)?

The Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition Generates Cells with Properties of Stem Cells

Sendurai A. Mani,^{1,3,10,*} Wenjun Guo,^{1,10} Mai-Jing Liao,^{1,10} Elinor Ng. Eaton,¹ Ayyakkannu Ayyanan,⁴ Alicia Y. Zhou,^{1,2} Mary Brooks,¹ Ferenc Reinhard,¹ Cheng Cheng Zhang,¹ Michail Shipitsin,^{5,6} Lauren L. Campbell,^{5,7} Kornelia Polyak,^{5,6,7} Cathrin Brisken,⁴ Jing Yang,⁸ and Robert A. Weinberg^{1,2,9,*}

Mani *et al.* Cell 2008

Epithelial-mesenchymal transition can suppress major attributes of human epithelial tumor-initiating cells

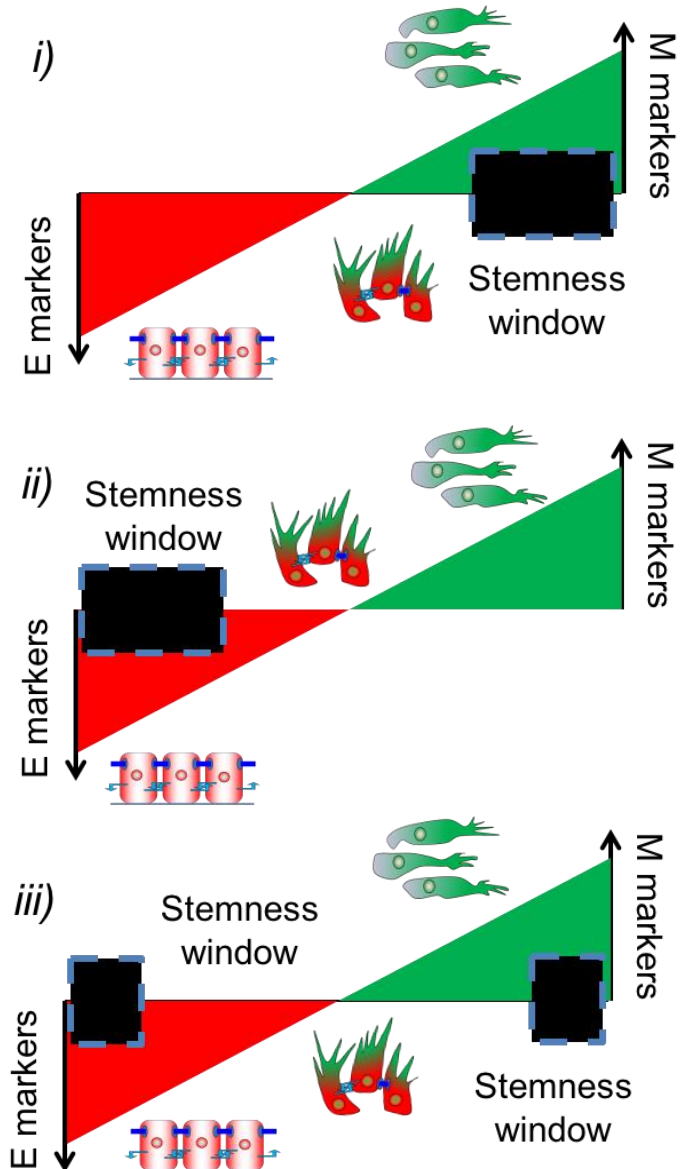
Toni Celià-Terrassa,¹ Óscar Meca-Cortés,¹ Francesca Mateo,¹ Alexia Martínez de Paz,¹ Nuria Rubio,² Anna Arnal-Estapé,³ Brian J. Ell,⁴ Raquel Bermudo,^{5,6} Alba Díaz,⁶ Marta Guerra-Rebollo,² Juan José Lozano,⁷ Conchi Estarás,⁸ Catalina Ulloa,¹ Daniel Álvarez-Simón,¹ Jordi Milà,⁹ Ramón Vilella,⁹ Rosanna Paciucci,¹⁰ Marian Martínez-Balbás,⁸ Antonio García de Herreros,¹¹ Roger R. Gomis,^{3,12} Yibin Kang,⁴ Jerónimo Blanco,² Pedro L. Fernández,^{5,6,13} and Timothy M. Thomson¹

Celia-Terrassa *et al.* J Clin Invest 2012

Breast Cancer Stem Cells Transition between Epithelial and Mesenchymal States Reflective of their Normal Counterparts

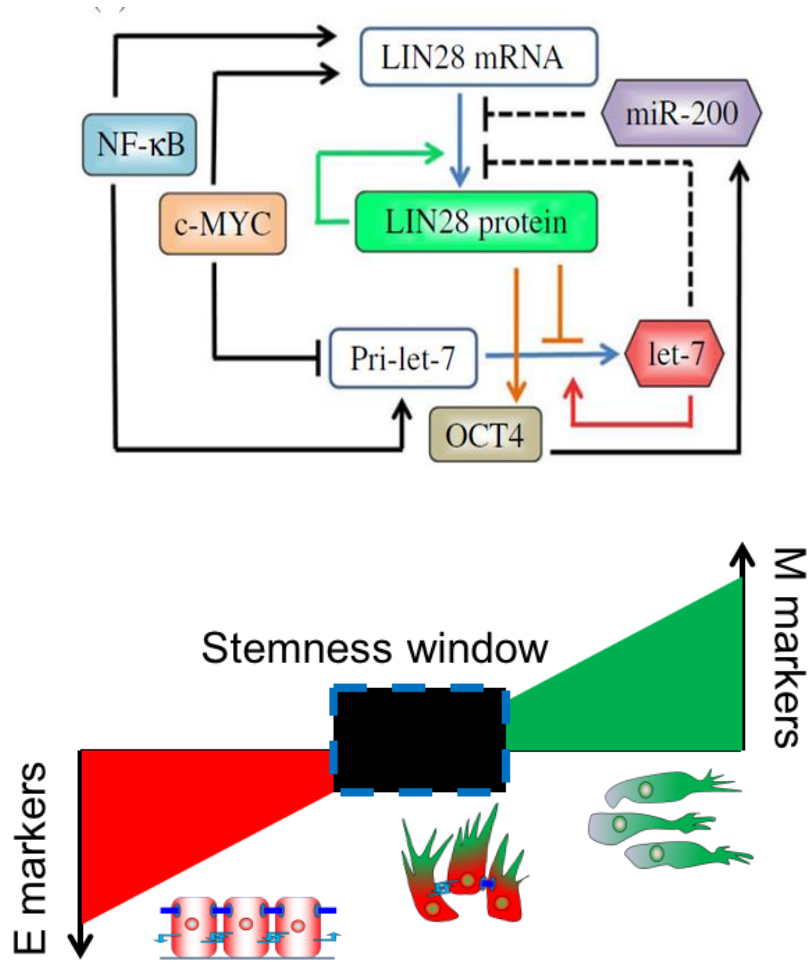
Suling Liu,^{1,6,*} Yang Cong,^{2,6} Dong Wang,¹ Yu Sun,¹ Lu Deng,¹ Yajing Liu,³ Rachel Martin-Trevino,³ Li Shang,³ Sean P. McDermott,³ Melissa D. Landis,⁴ Suhyung Hong,³ April Adams,³ Rosemarie D'Angelo,³ Christophe Ginetier,⁵ Emmanuelle Charafe-Jauffret,⁵ Shawn G. Clouthier,³ Daniel Birnbaum,⁵ Stephen T. Wong,² Ming Zhan,^{2,7} Jenny C. Chang,^{4,7} and Max S. Wicha^{3,7,*}

Liu *et al.* Stem Cell Reports 2013



Hybrid E/M cells can form many more tumors

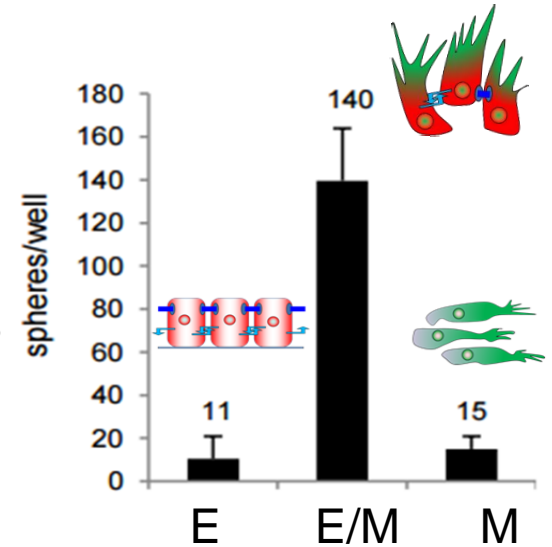
Theoretical prediction



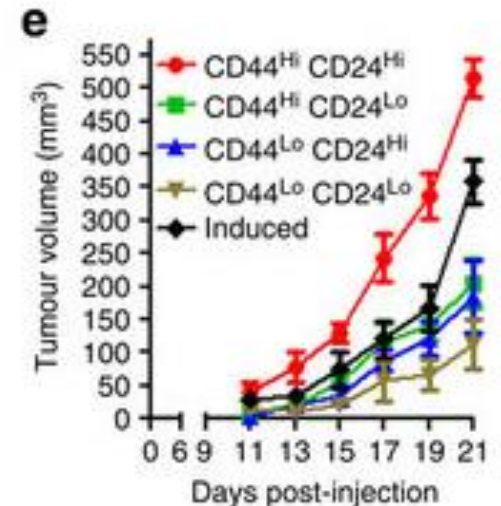
Jolly *et al.* J R Soc Interface 2014
Jolly*, Jia* *et al.* Oncotarget 2015

Experimental validation

Grosse-Wilde *et al.*
PLoS ONE 2015



Goldman *et al.*
Nat Comm 2015



Hybrid E/M cells can form many more tumors

Integrin- $\beta 4$ identifies cancer stem cell-enriched populations of partially mesenchymal carcinoma cells

Brian Bierie^a, Sarah E. Pierce^b, Cornelia Kroeger^a, Daniel G. Stover^c, Diwakar R. Pattabiraman^a, Prathapan Thiru^a, Joana Liu Donaher^a, Ferenc Reinhardt^a, Christine L. Chaffer^a, Zuzana Keckesova^a, and Robert A. Weinberg^{a,d,e,1}

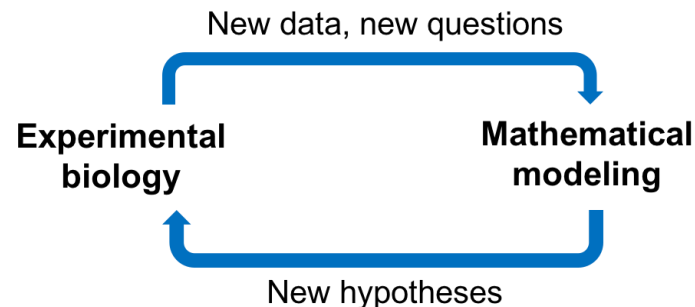
Bierie *et al.* PNAS 2017

Heterogeneity of normal human breast stem and progenitor cells as revealed by transcriptional profiling

Justin A. Colacino^{1,2,3*}, Ebrahim Azizi^{3,4}, Michael D. Brooks^{3,4}, Shamileh Fouladdel^{3,4}, Sean P. McDermott^{3,4}, Michael Lee⁴, David Hill⁴, Maureen A. Sartor^{3,5}, Laura S. Rozek^{1,3}, Max S. Wicha^{3,4,*}

Colacino *et al.* biorxiv 2017

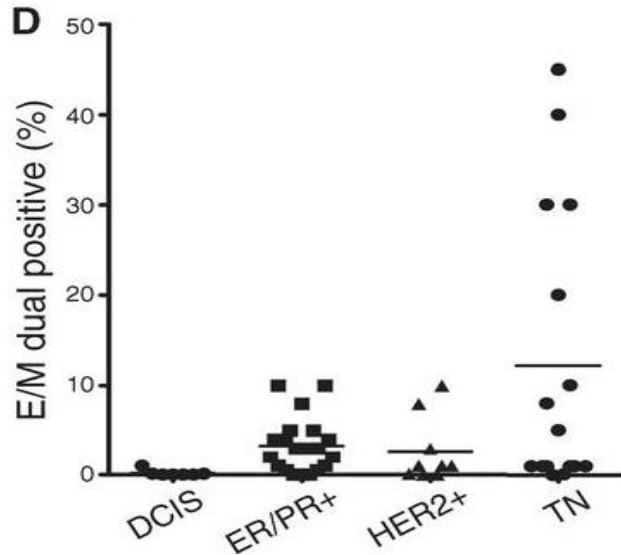
Where does
'stemness window'
lie on 'EMT axis'?



Hybrid E/M phenotype
is more likely to be
stem-like than E or M.



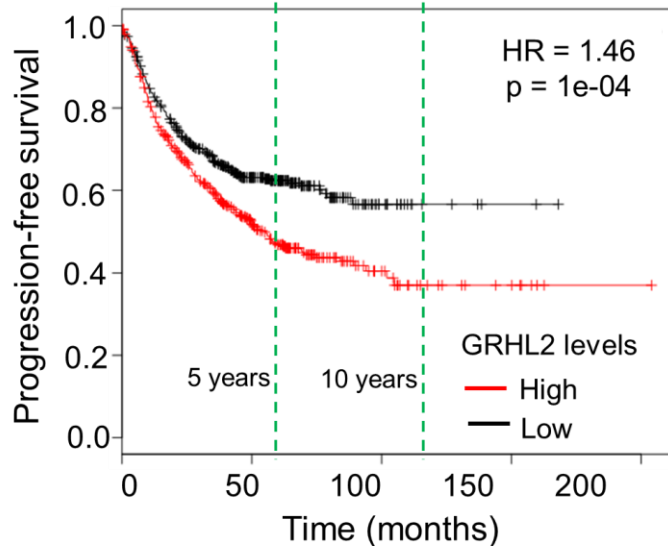
Clinical implications of hybrid E/M cells



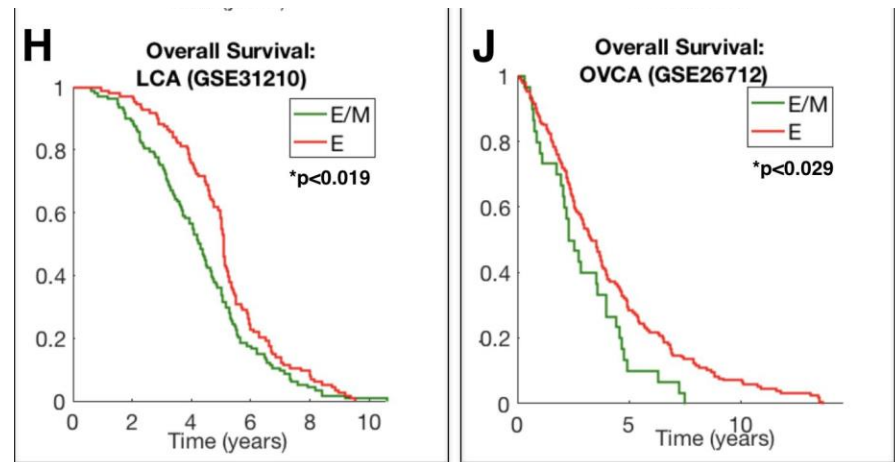
The more **aggressive** the cancer,
the higher the number of **hybrid** E/M cells

Yu *et al.* Science 2013

Correlate EMT score (on a scale of 0 to 2) with data on drug sensitivity and patient outcome across cancer types



Higher levels of GRHL2
associate with worse prognosis

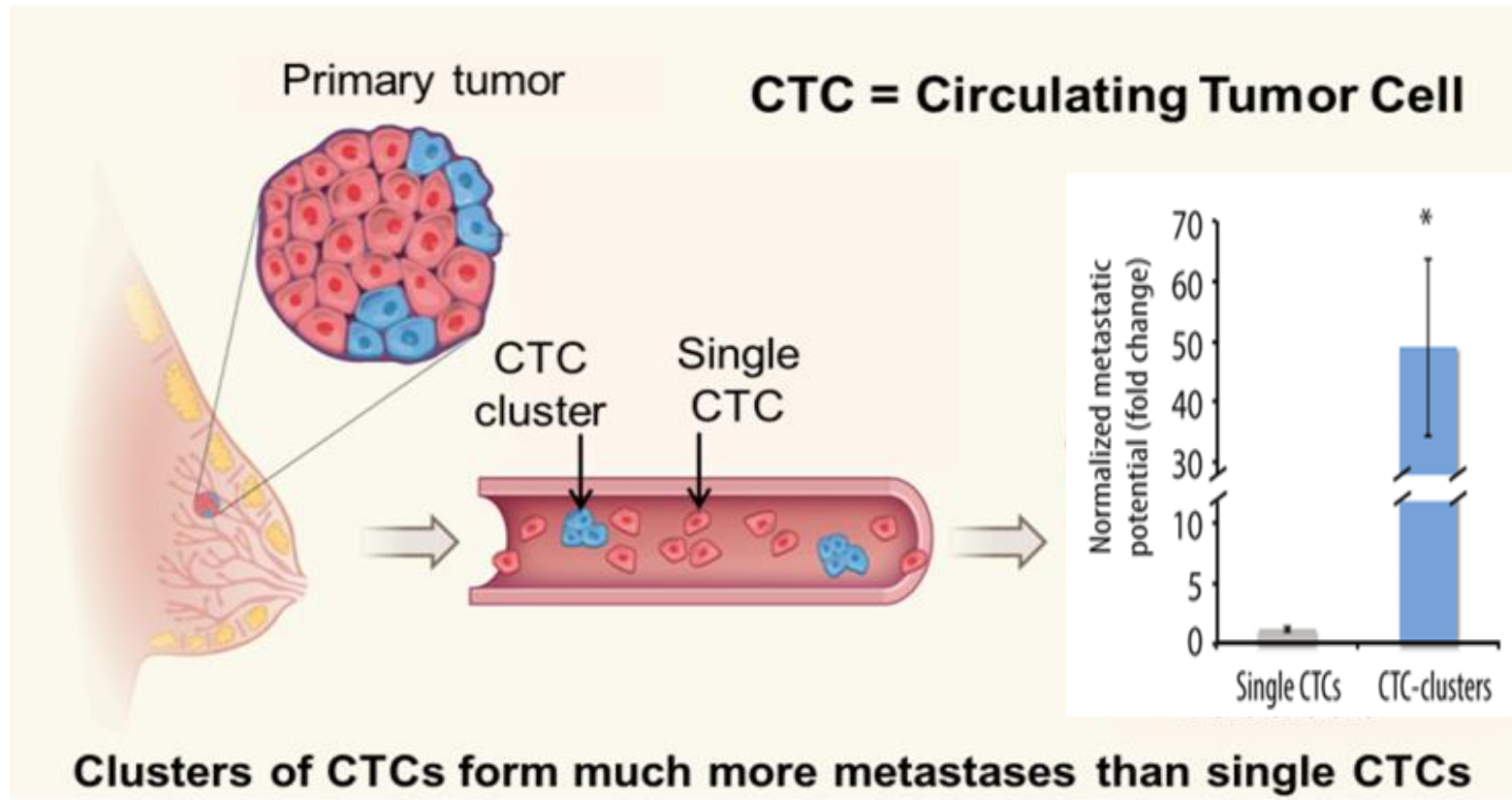


Hybrid E/M phenotype may be more aggressive than a complete EMT

George*, Jolly* *et al.* Cancer Res 2017

Jolly *et al.* Oncotarget 2016

Hybrid E/M phenotype may form CTC clusters

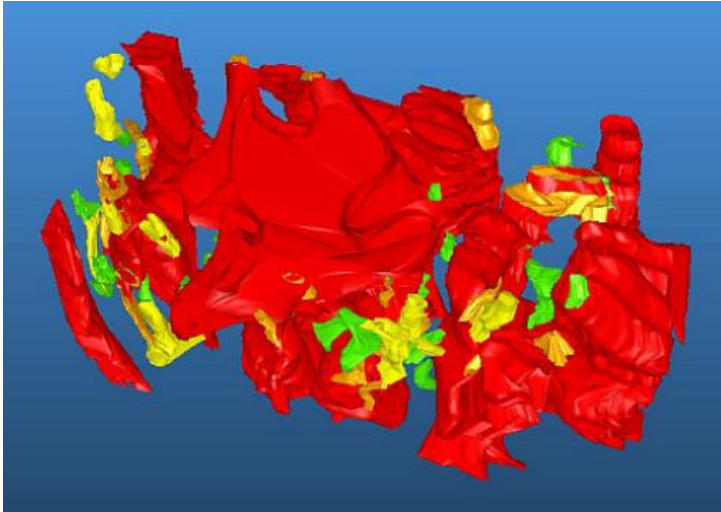


Clusters of CTCs:

- Comprise of 5-8 cells
- Associate with worse patient survival
- Resist cell death in circulation
- **Are formed before entering the circulation**

Aceto *et al.* Cell 2014
Bottos & Hynes, Nature 2014
Cheung *et al.* PNAS 2016

Collective motility may lead to CTC clusters



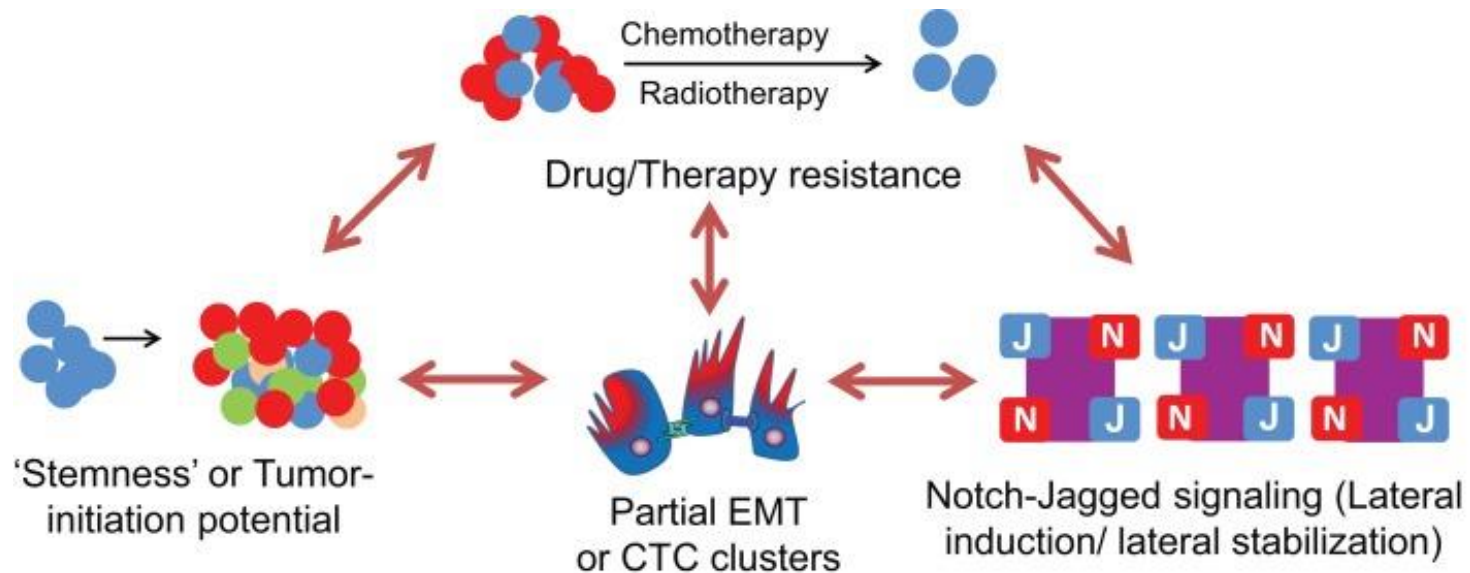
- Clusters are typically composed of several cells
- Cells in cluster express ZEB1, reduced membrane resident E-cadherin
- Hypothesized to be partial EMT phenotype

Main tumor = red, multicellular buds = green (Bronsert et J. Path (2014))

Clusters can be better at metastasis!

- Cells can help each other develop anoikis resistance
- Clusters can navigate more effectively
- Clusters can survive stresses in the circulation
- Hybrid E/M cells can more easily initiate new tumors

Biological insights gained



- Elucidated **how** tumor cells form stable clusters of Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs) – the primary ‘villains’ of metastasis
- Offered a potential mechanistic understanding of **why** clusters of CTCs form much more metastases
- Identified potential **targets** that maintain these clusters and enhance their tumor forming ability – **GRHL2, OVOL2, JAG1**

Conclusion

Existing framework:

Hybrid E/M state is **transient**, and the more the EMT, the more aggressive the cancer

Tam and Weinberg, Nat Med 2013, Savagner P Curr Opin Dev Biol 2015

Proposed framework:

Hybrid E/M state is **stable** and may be more aggressive than a complete EMT

Jolly *et al.* Front Oncol 2015, Jolly *et al.* Oncotarget 2016

with biophysical models. Computational modeling, including those that consider the mutual inhibitory loops between several microRNAs (miRNAs) and EMT transcriptional drivers like Snail1 and Zeb1, also accepts **an intermediate hybrid EMT state that could favor the progress of developmental programs and metastatic potential (Jolly et al., 2015; Lu et al., 2013; Tian et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2014)**. The inclusion of additional reciprocal inhibitory loops that involve other transcription factors (e.g., Zeb1 with **Ovol2 and Grhl2**) and the description of these as **phenotypic stability factors** indicates that the network is capable of generating additional intermediate stabilized states that, therefore, **are not necessarily metastable (Hong et al., 2015; Jolly et al., 2016)**.

Nieto MA, Thiery JP, Cell 2016

“Instead, there is growing evidence that a cell that has undergone only a partial EMT, thereby expressing both retained epithelial and acquired mesenchymal traits, is best positioned to acquire stem-like properties (Grosse-Wilde et al., 2015; **Jolly et al., 2015 a,b**, Andriani et al., 2016)”

Pattabiraman & Weinberg, CSHL Quant Bio 2017

Why does having a theoretical framework help?

- What do we mean by theoretical framework?
 - An integrated understanding of how all the complex pieces fit together to get cancer phenotypes
 - Understanding the connections between EMT and other “hallmarks” will help prevent surprise side effects of treatment options
- Theory can point to the most critical experiments and most useful data analysis approaches
 - This role is becoming increasingly prevalent in basic cell and developmental biology and should be imported to cancer biology field

Can we define EMT mathematically?

Epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition is dispensable for metastasis but induces chemoresistance in pancreatic cancer

Xiaofeng Zheng^{1*}, Julienne L. Carstens^{1*}, Jiha Kim¹, Matthew Scheible¹, Judith Kaye¹, Hikaru Sugimoto¹, Chia-Chin Wu², Valerie S. LeBleu¹ & Raghu Kalluri^{1,3,4}

Zheng *et al.* Nature 2015; Fischer *et al.* Nature 2015

Epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) and metastasis: yes, no, maybe?

Maren Diepenbruck and Gerhard Christofori

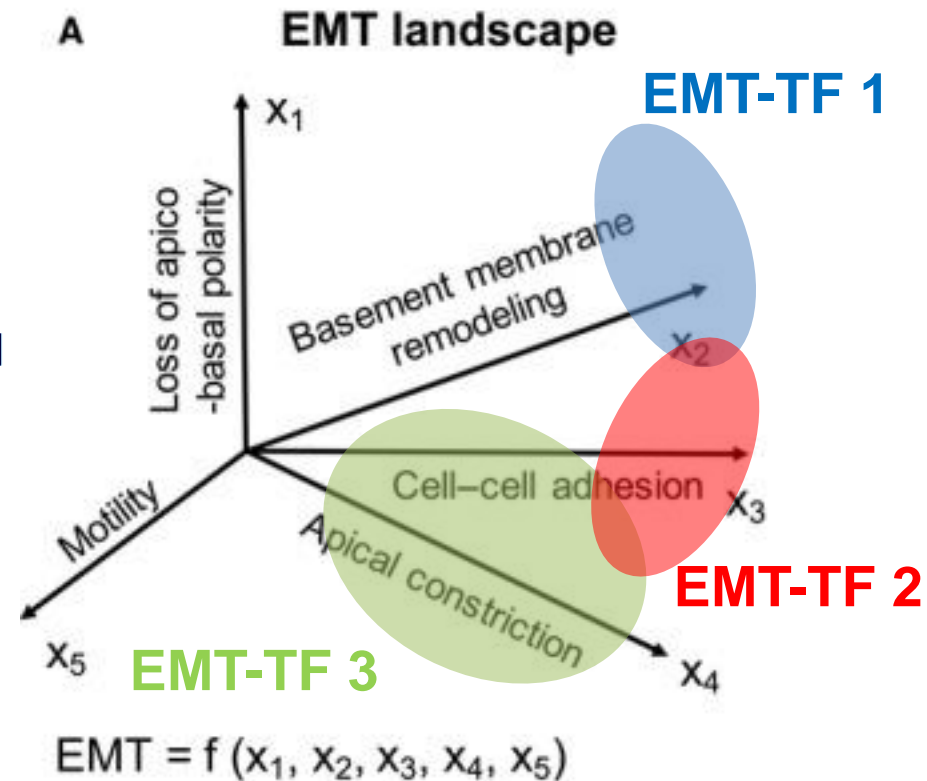
Molecular
Oncology



EMT and MET: necessary or permissive for metastasis?

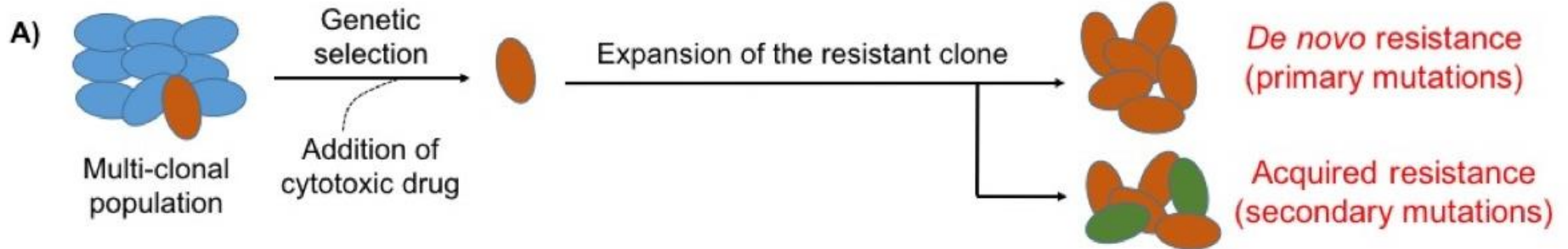
Mohit Kumar Jolly¹, Kathryn E. Ware², Shivee Gilja², Jason A. Somarelli² and Herbert Levine¹

Jolly *et al.* Mol Oncol 2017

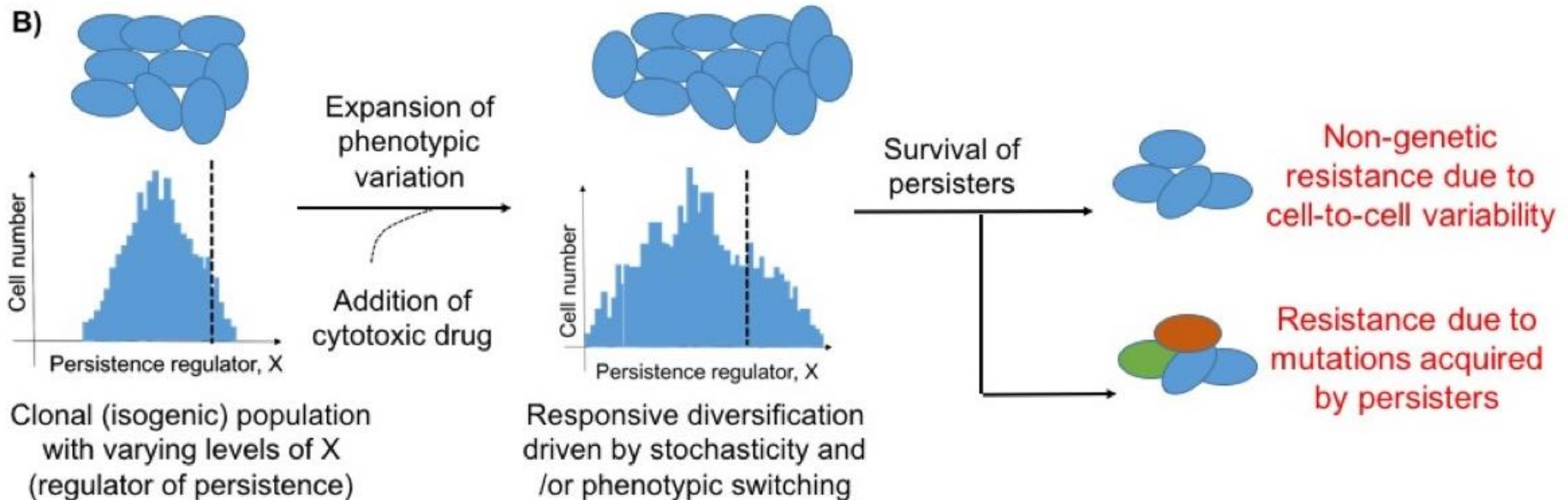


- EMT is a highly non-linear and multi-dimensional process
- Connections among genetics and biophysics of EMT still being elucidated

Role for phenotypic plasticity in cancer



Non-heritable mechanisms of drug resistance observed in bacterial and viral populations, and more recently in cancer



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