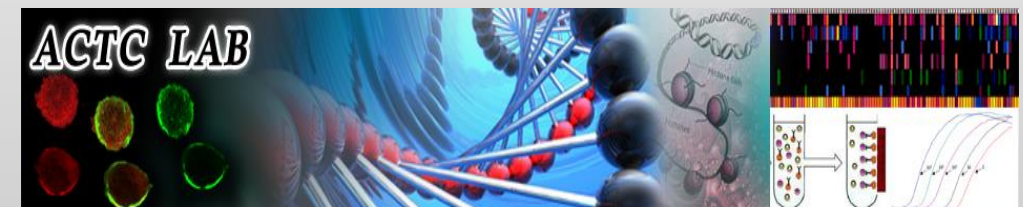
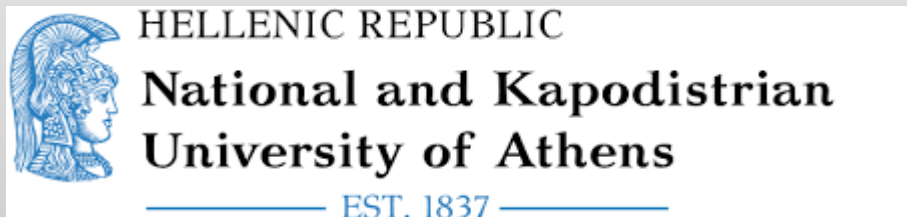




## ctDNA: methylation analysis/ MSP, cfMeDIP

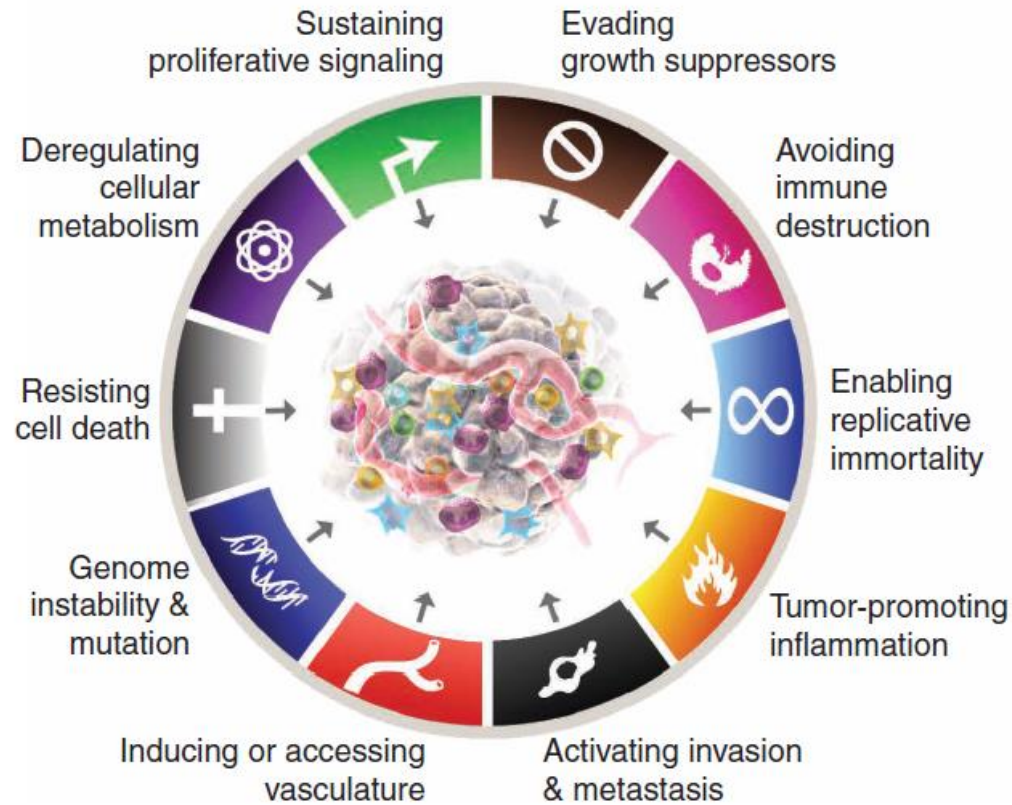
**Aliki Ntzifa, PhD**

*Analysis of Circulating Tumor Cells (ACTC) Lab, Dpt of Chemistry, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

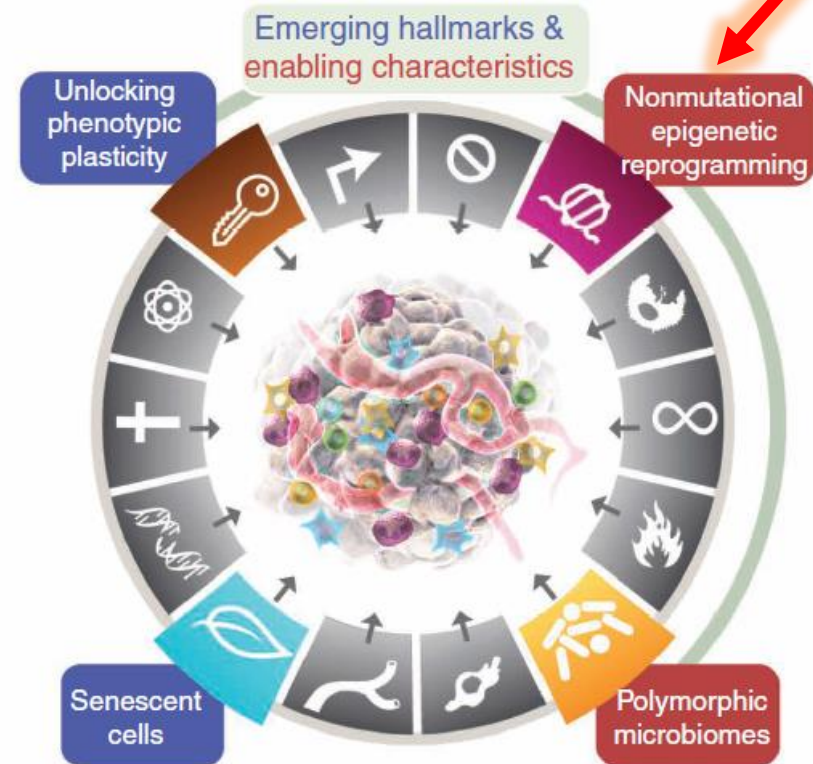


# "HALLMARKS OF CANCER: NEW DIMENSIONS"

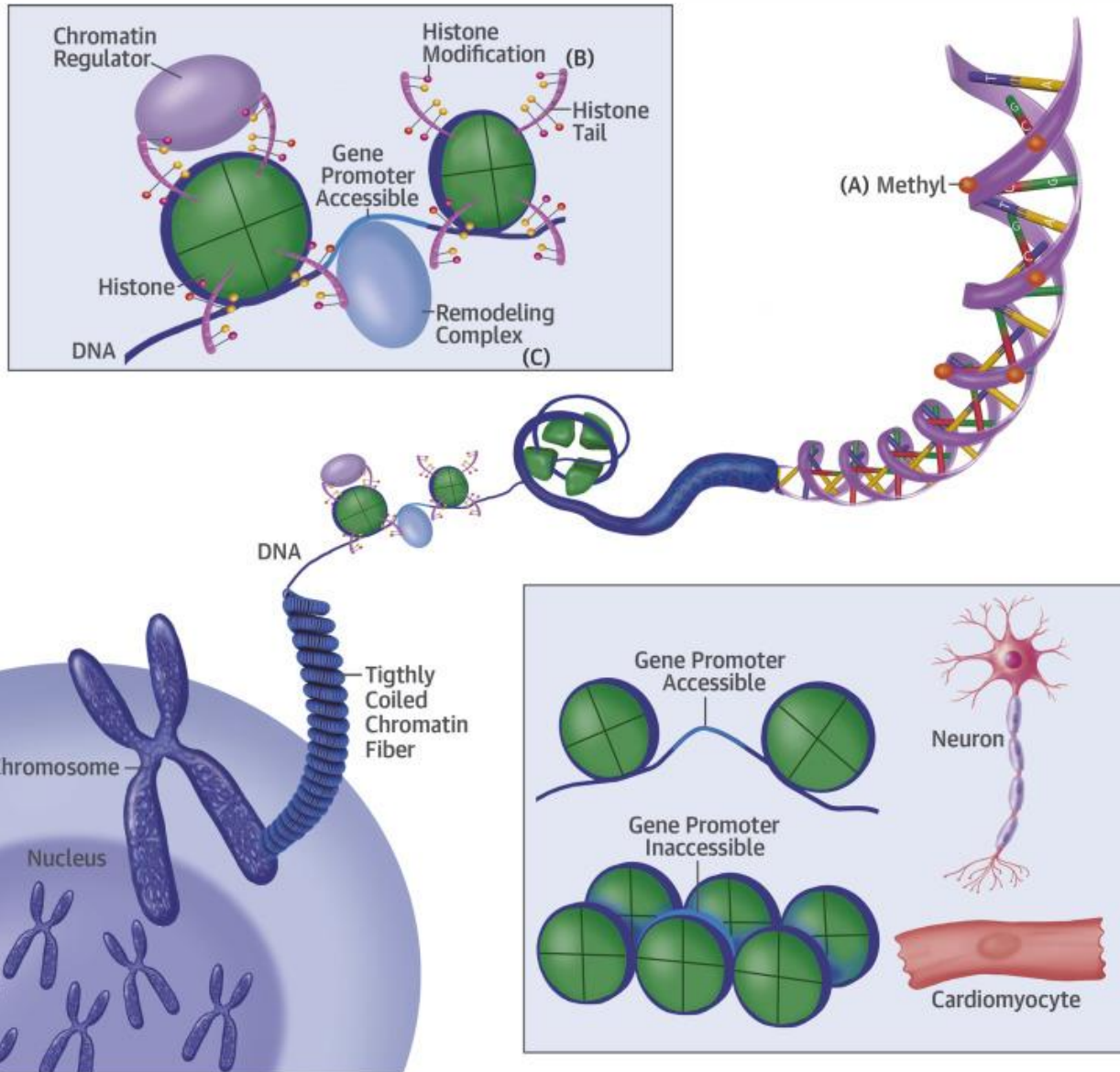
2011



2022



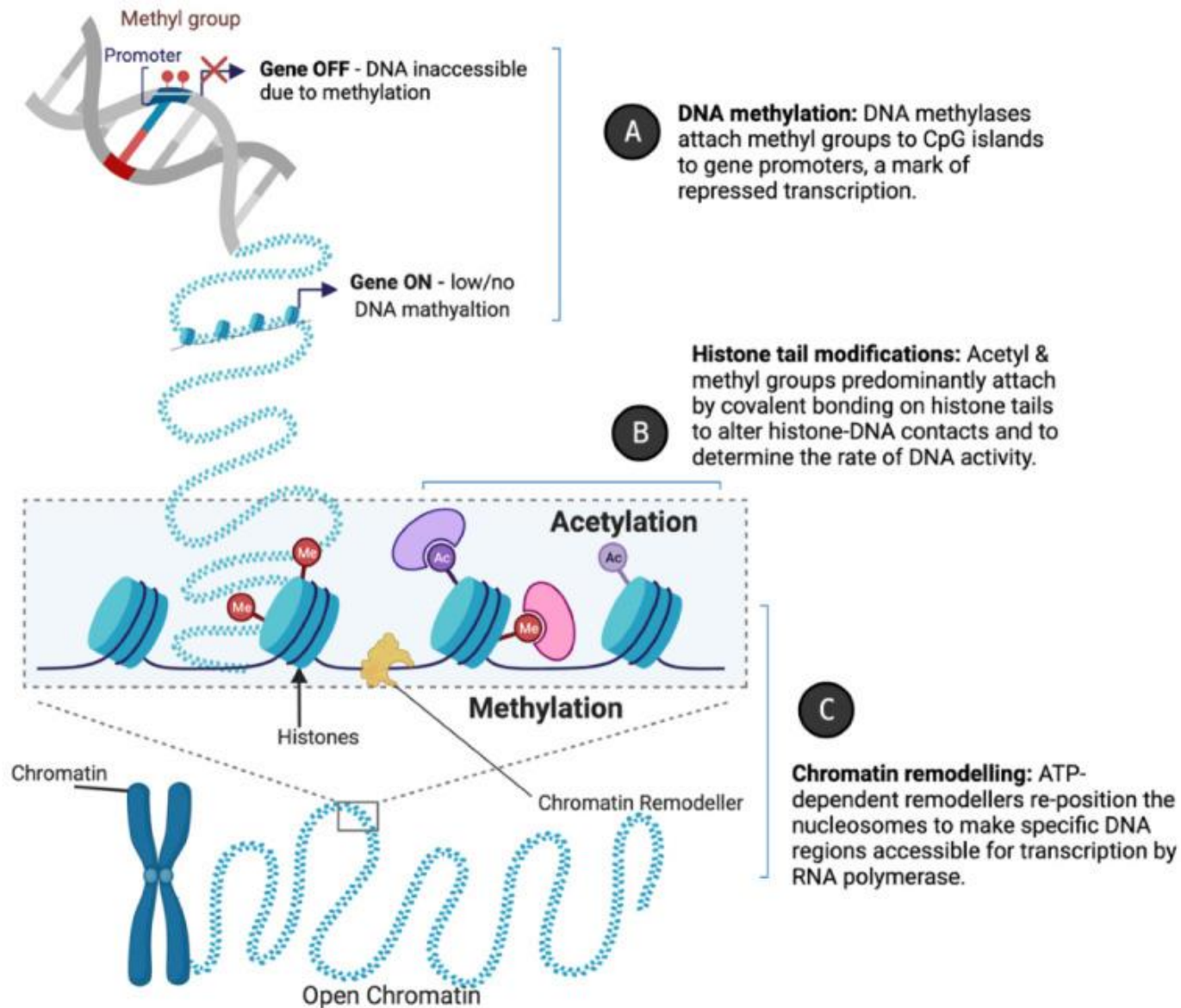
# THE EPIGENOME



The epigenome is an umbrella term for a myriad of chemical compounds that influence gene expression by latching on to DNA and silencing or activating genes without altering the DNA sequence



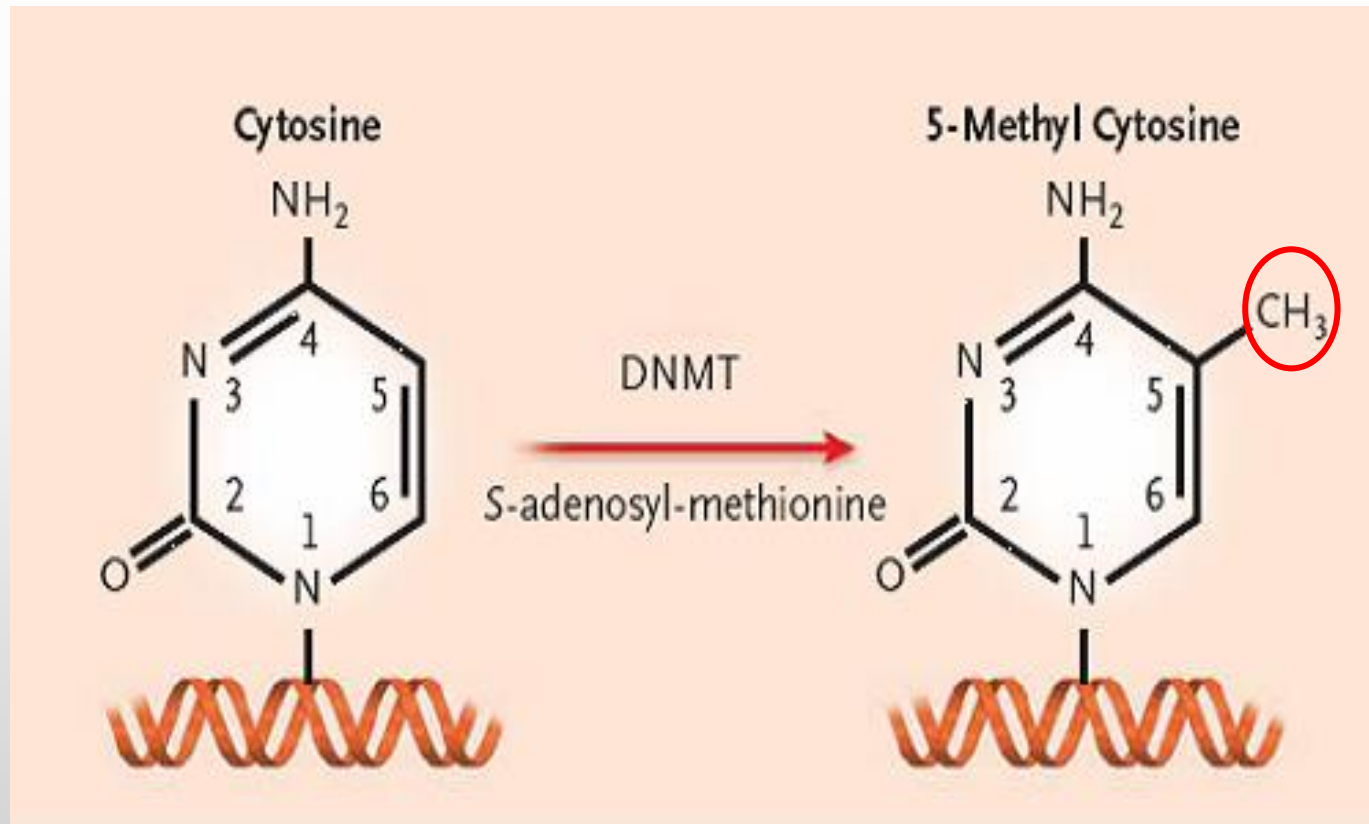
# EPIGENETIC MECHANISMS



1. DNA methylation
2. post-translational histone modifications
3. ncRNA-based mechanisms

# DNA METHYLATION

- **DNA molecules can be altered covalently by the attachment of methyl groups to cytosine bases.**
- **This modification of genomic DNA is as important as mutation in shutting down tumor suppressor genes.**
- **In mammalian cells this methylation is found only when these bases are located in a position that is 5' to guanines CpG**

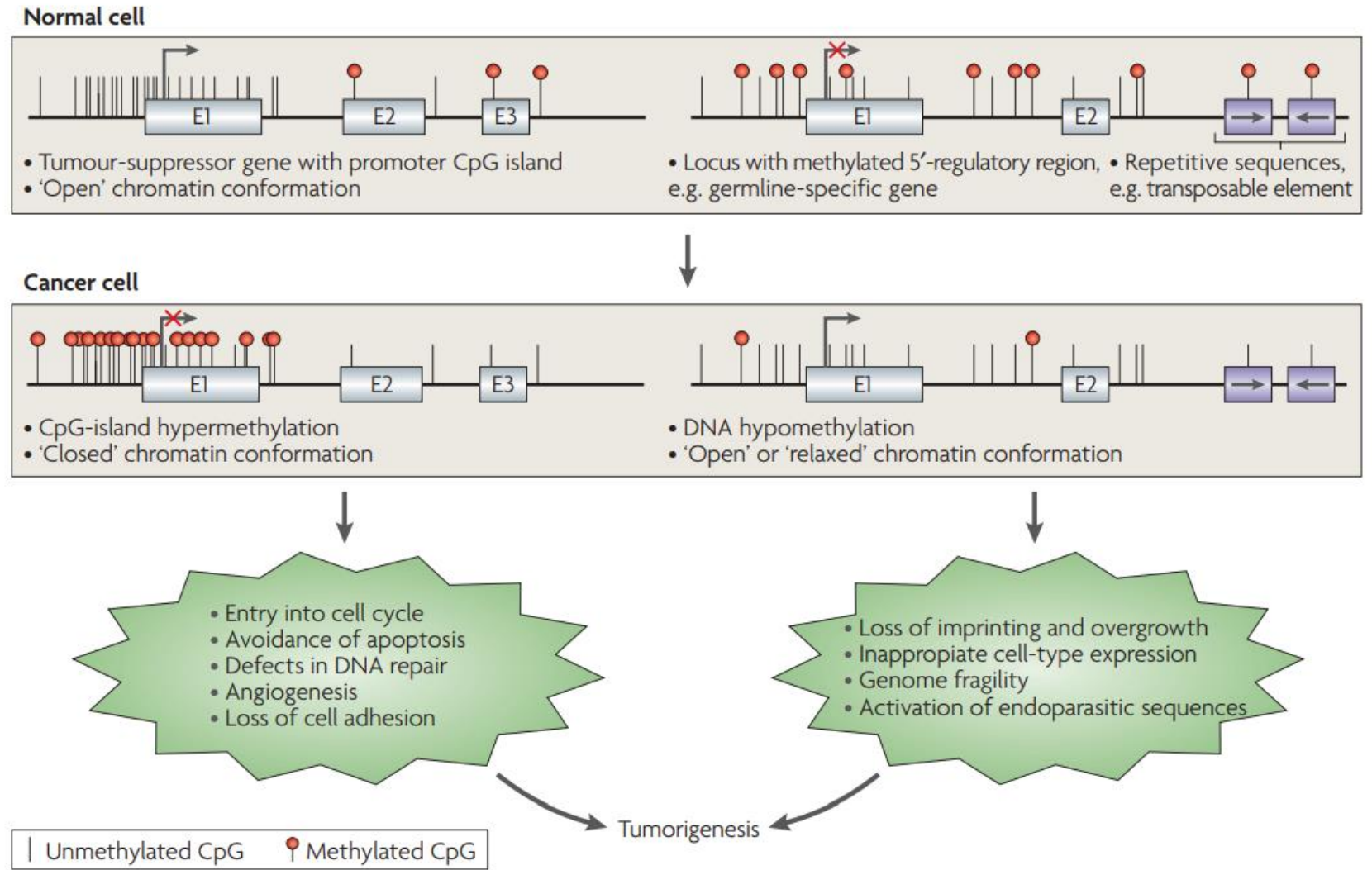


# DNA METHYLATION & CANCER

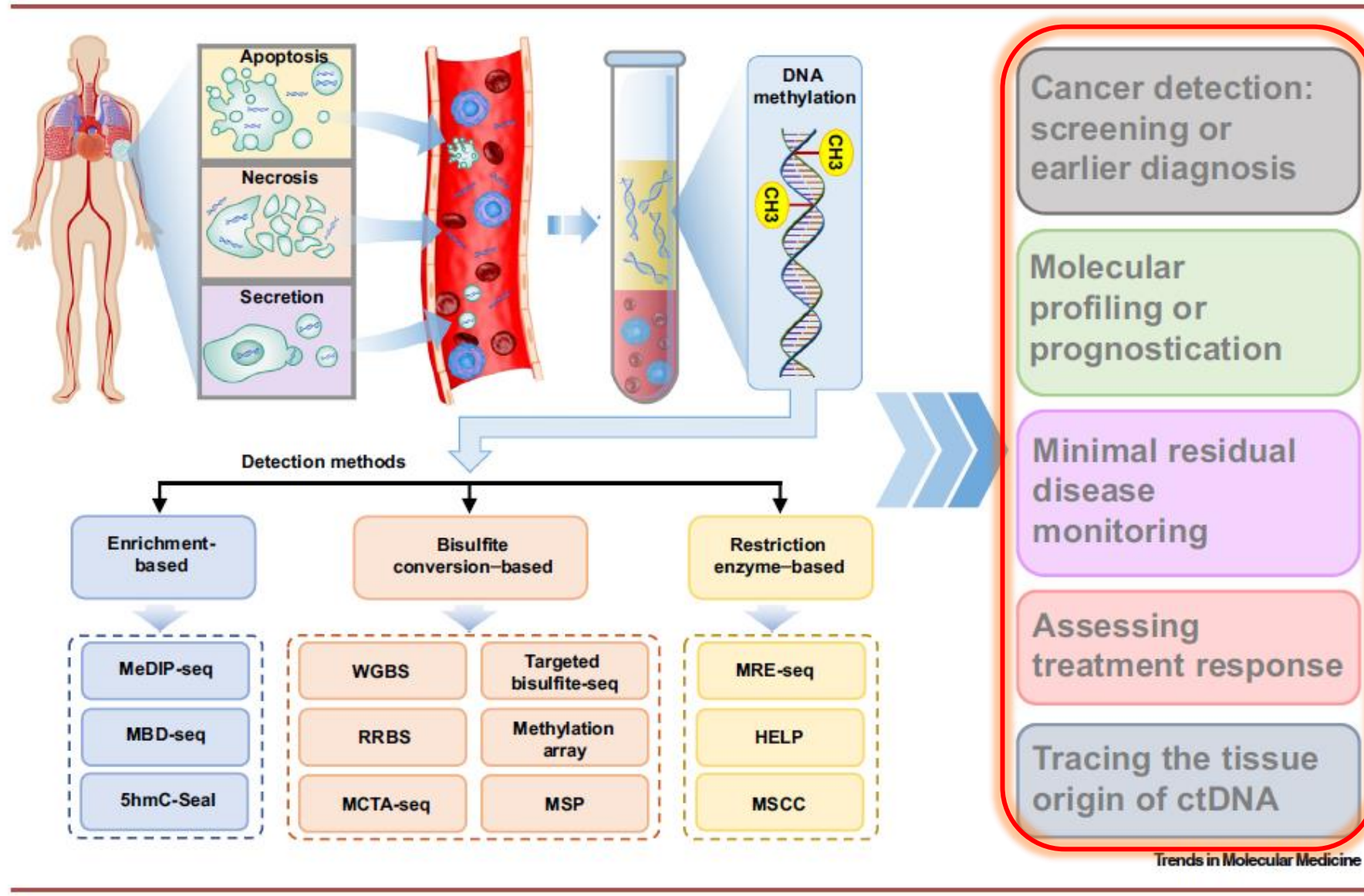
As compared with normal cells, the malignant cells show major disruptions in their DNA methylation patterns:

a) Global hypomethylation that leads to oncogene activation and chromosomal instability

b) Hypermethylation in promoter CpG islands that leads in transcriptional silencing of tumor suppressor and cancer related genes

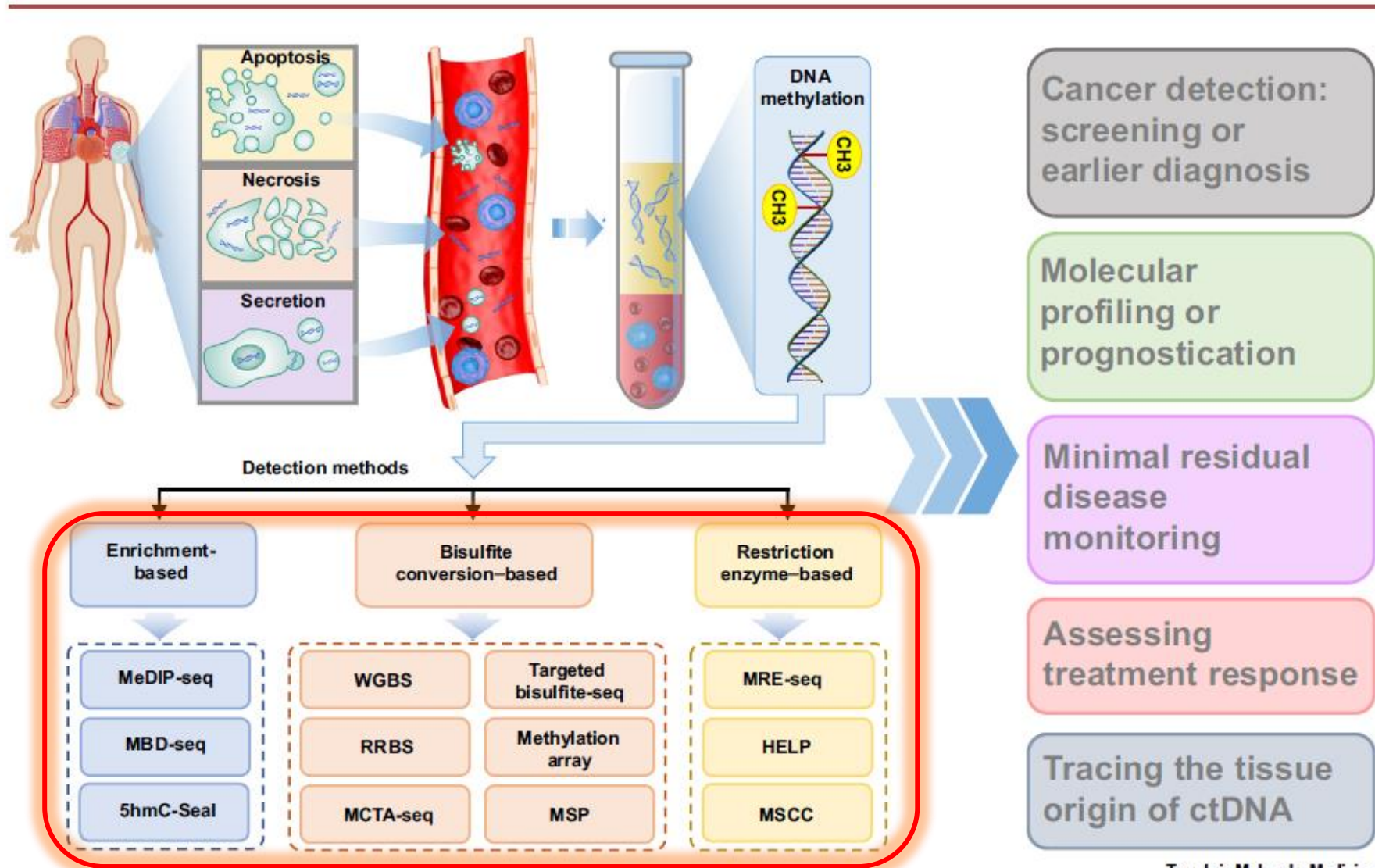


# DNA METHYLATION & LIQUID BIOPSY





# DNA METHYLATION & LIQUID BIOPSY

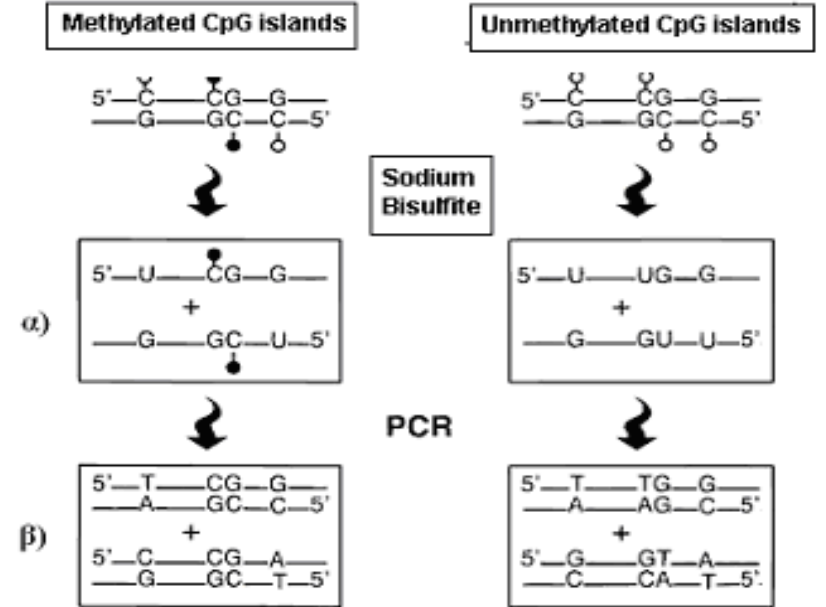
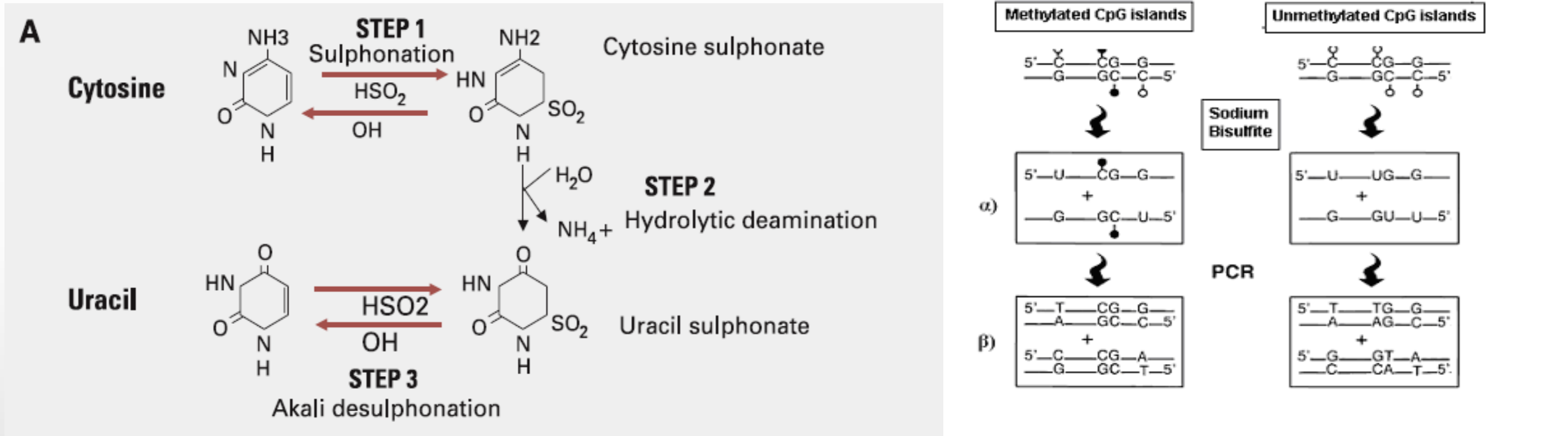


Trends in Molecular Medicine



# BISULFITE CONVERSION-BASED

- DNA sodium bisulfite treatment



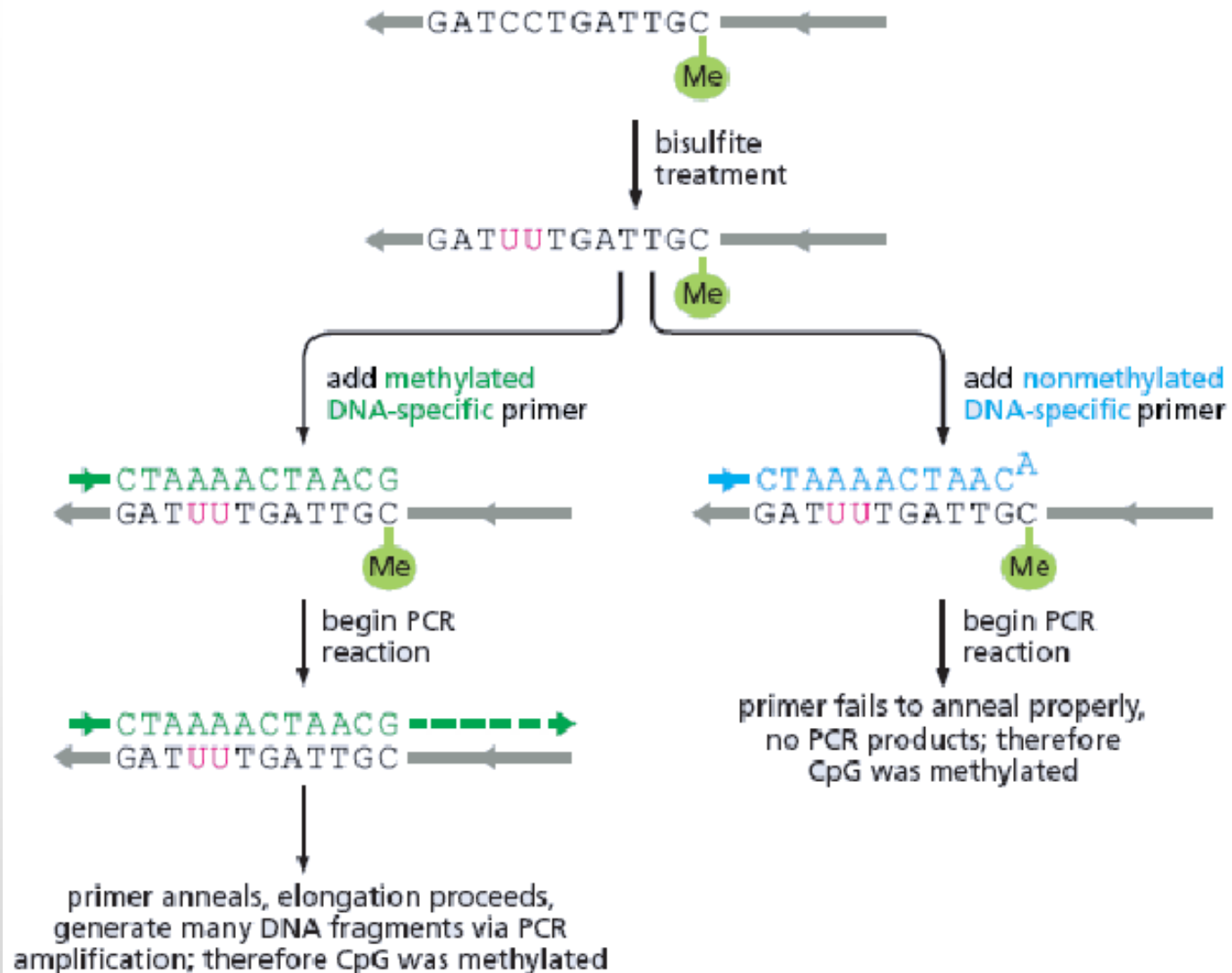
❖ deamination of non-methylated cytosine into uracil after sodium bisulfite treatment while methylated cytosines remain unchanged in CpG dinucleotides, allowing the discrimination between methylated and unmethylated DNA

# METHYLATION SPECIFIC PCR (MSP)

**SB treatment converts all unmethylated, but not methylated, cytosine to uracil**



**converted DNA is no longer self-complementary and amplification of either the top or bottom DNA strand requires different primers**



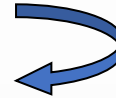
# MSP REACTION PRIMER DESIGN

ATGTCG GGGGAG CCTGAG CTCATT GAGCTG CGGGAG  
CTGGCA CCCGCT GGG CGCGCT GGG

ATGT**NG** GGGGAG CCTGAG CTCATT GAGCTG **NGGGAG**  
CTGGCA CC**NGCT** GGG **NGNGCT** GGG

ATGT**NG** GGGGAG **TTGAG** **TTTATT** GAG**TTG** **NGGGAG**  
**TTGGTA** **TTNGTT** GGG **NGNGTT** GGG

ATGT**CG** GGGGAG **TTGAG** **TTTATT** GAG**TTG** **CGGGAG**  
**TTGGTA** **TTCGTT** GGG **CGCGTT** GGG



## CRITERIA

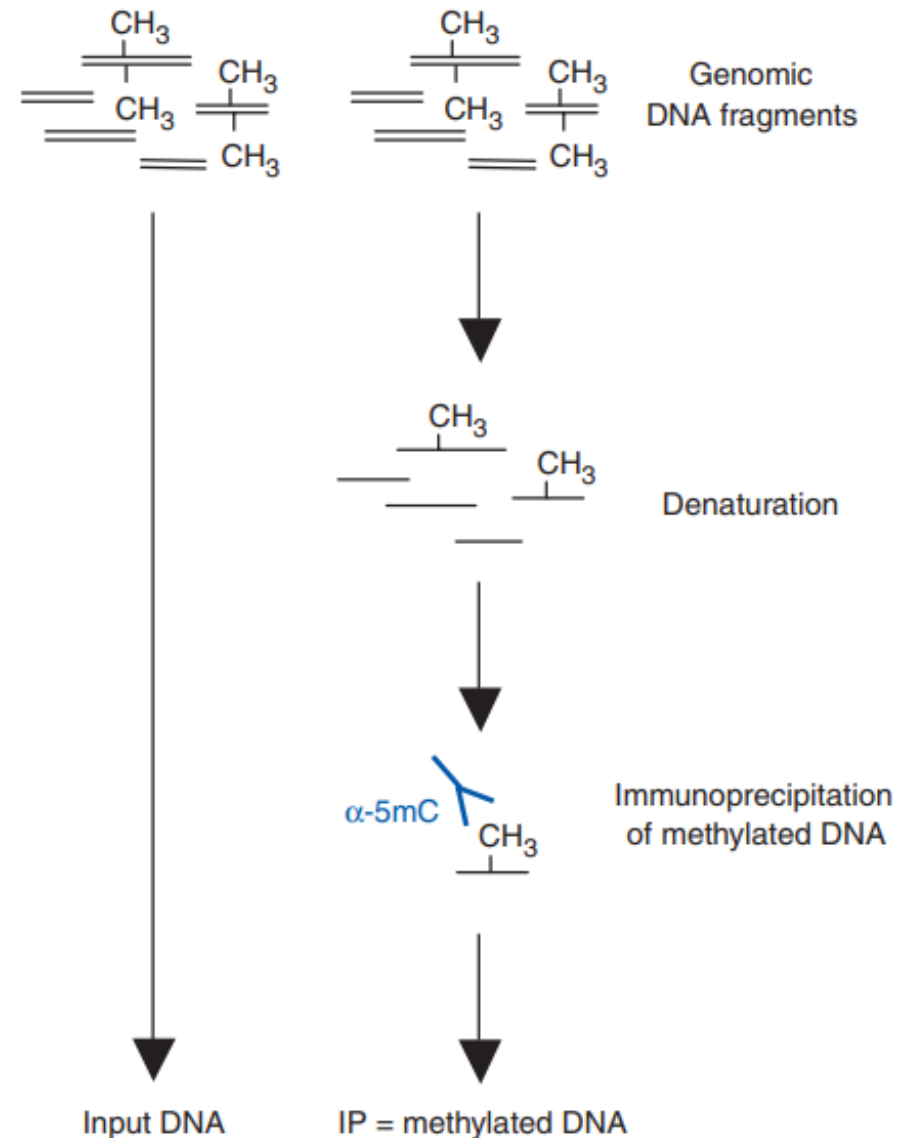
1. methylated and unmethylated primers should anneal to the same CpG containing region
2. primers should be around 30 bp in length, to ensure specificity
3. primers sequence should contain at least 4–5 thymines derived from non CpG cytosines to assure specificity for converted DNA
4. each primer should contain from one to three CpGs located at its 3' end
5. the annealing temperature of both primers should be similar (difference should be less than 2 °C and should range from 60°C to 65 °C)



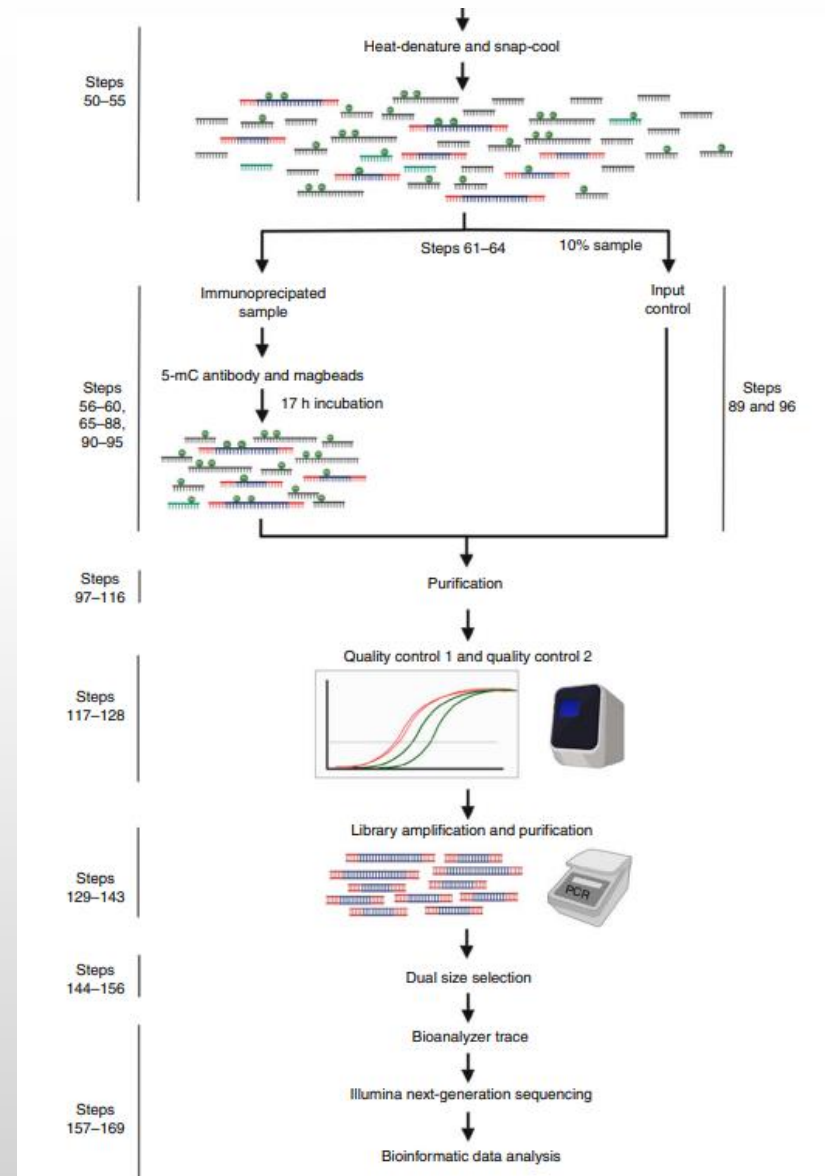
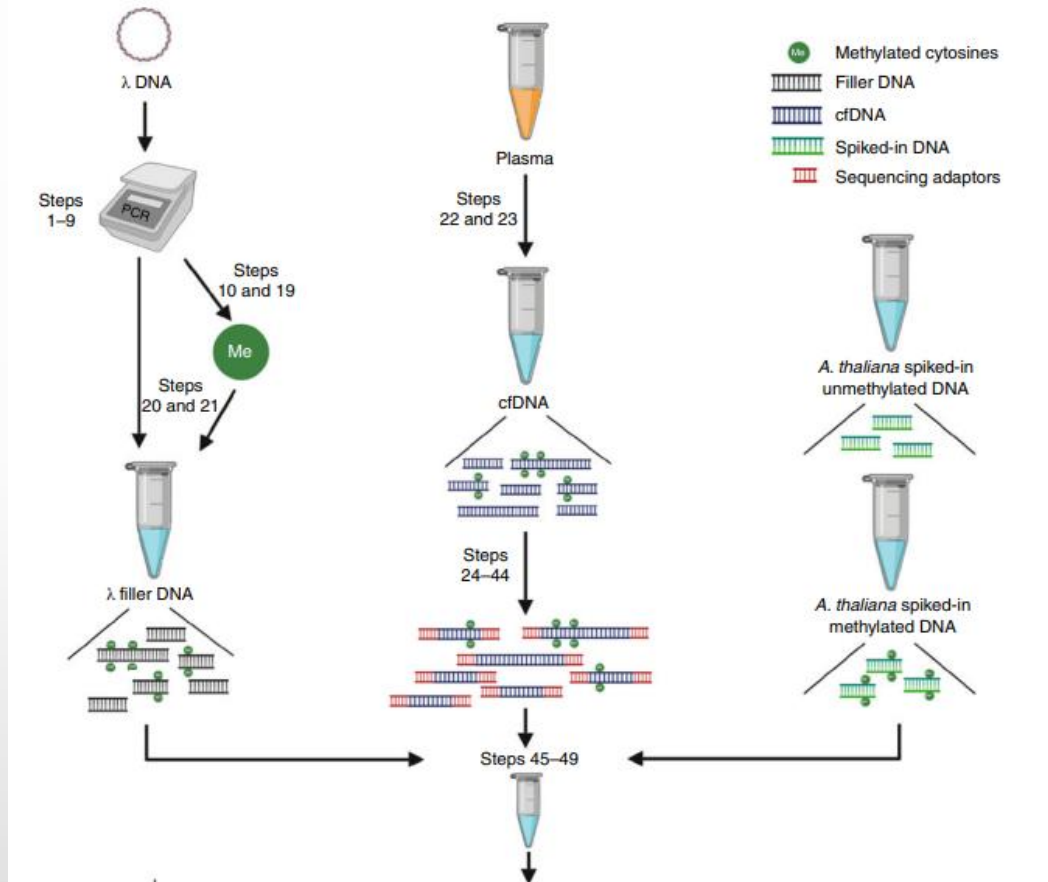
# BISULFITE CONVERSION-FREE

## Methylation analysis by DNA immunoprecipitation (MeDIP)

- specifically enriches the methylated DNA fragments by using 5'-methylcytosine antibody and then performs highthroughput sequencing.



# cf-MeDIP seq



ctDNA application of methylation analysis



# EARLY DIAGNOSIS-SCREENING

Observational Study > [Ann Oncol. 2021 Sep;32\(9\):1167-1177. doi: 10.1016/j.annonc.2021.05.806.](#)

Epub 2021 Jun 24.

## **Clinical validation of a targeted methylation-based multi-cancer early detection test using an independent validation set**

E A Klein <sup>1</sup>, D Richards <sup>2</sup>, A Cohn <sup>3</sup>, M Tummala <sup>4</sup>, R Lapham <sup>5</sup>, D Cosgrove <sup>6</sup>, G Chung <sup>7</sup>, J Clement <sup>8</sup>, J Gao <sup>9</sup>, N Hunkapiller <sup>9</sup>, A Jamshidi <sup>9</sup>, K N Kurtzman <sup>9</sup>, M V Seiden <sup>10</sup>, C Swanton <sup>11</sup>, M C Liu <sup>12</sup>

A multi-cancer early detection (MCED) test used to complement existing screening could increase the number of cancers detected through population screening, potentially improving clinical outcomes.

The Circulating Cell-free Genome Atlas study (CCGA; NCT02889978) was a prospective, case-controlled, observational study and demonstrated that a blood-based MCED test utilizing cell-free DNA (cfDNA) sequencing in combination with machine learning could detect cancer signals across multiple cancer types and predict cancer signal origin (CSO) with high accuracy.

The objective of this third and final CCGA substudy was to validate an MCED test version further refined for use as a screening tool.

# EARLY DIAGNOSIS-SCREENING

## The CCGA study



**15 254 participants at 142 sites**  
56% with cancer; 44% without cancer  
(anticipated enrollment period, ~24 months)

Blood (all) and tissue (cancer only) samples collected



Samples divided among three pre-specified CCGA substudies

### CCGA substudy 1

#### Discovery

Training,  $n = 1785$  Validation,  $n = 1015$

Three independent methods evaluated

1. Targeted sequencing
2. Whole genome sequencing (copy number variants)
3. Whole genome bisulfite sequencing (whole genome methylation)

#### Whole genome methylation

- Identified as method to be used for further development

### CCGA substudy 2

#### Development of assay and classifier and initial validation

Training,  $n = 3133$  Validation,  $n = 1354$

Plasma cfDNA underwent bisulfite sequencing targeting a panel of >100,000 informative methylation regions. A classifier was developed/validated for cancer detection and CSO

#### Targeted methylation

- Identify key methylation regions
- Training and validation of the selected and updated targeted methylation assay and classifier

Further refinement of assay and classifier informed by training set

### CCGA substudy 3

#### Large-scale clinical validation

$n = 5309$  participants (cancer = 3237; non-cancer = 2069)  
 $n = 4077$  confirmed status set (cancer = 2823; non-cancer = 1254)

Locked assay and classifier for screening (Galleri™) validated in independent validation set

Follow-up for 5 years  
(vitals & cancer status)

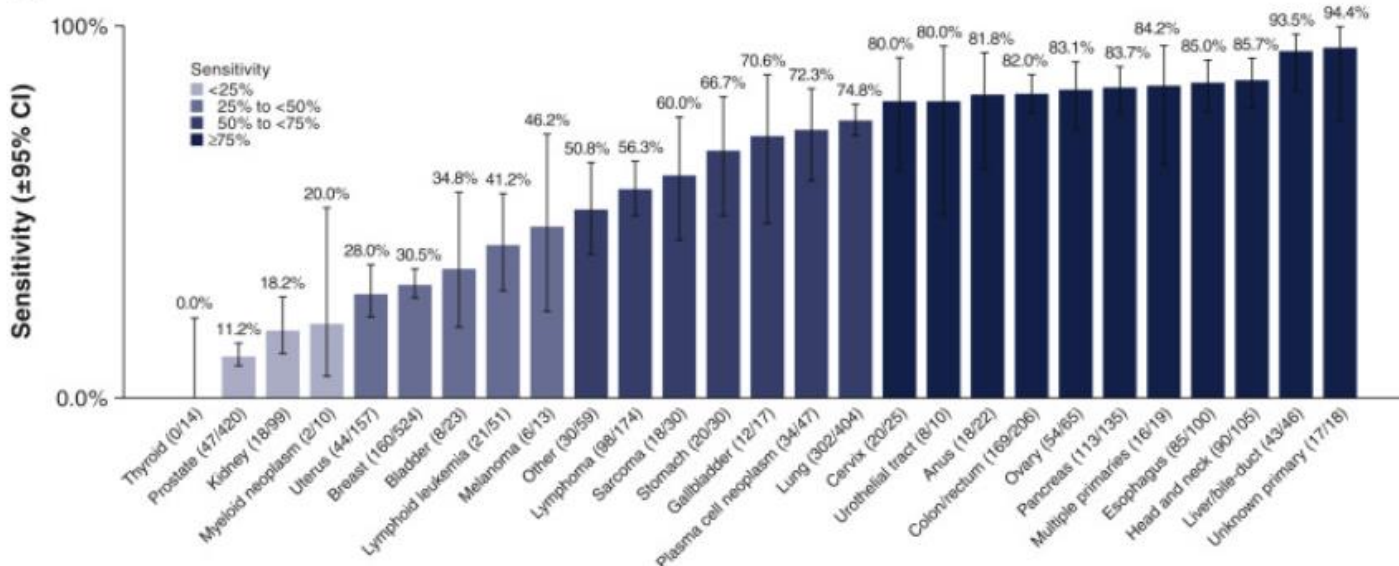
# EARLY DIAGNOSIS-SCREENING

**A**

	Cancer	Non-cancer	Total
	2823	1254	4077
Test positive	1453	6	1459
Test negative	1370	1248	2618
	Sensitivity = 1453/2823 51.5% (49.6%-53.3%)	Specificity = 1248/1254 99.5% (99.0%-99.8%)	

Two-sided 95% Wilson confidence intervals were calculated.

**B**



**Specificity** for cancer signal detection was 99.5% [95% confidence interval (CI): 99.0% to 99.8%].

**Overall sensitivity** for cancer signal detection was 51.5% (49.6% to 53.3%); sensitivity increased with stage [stage I: 16.8% (14.5% to 19.5%), stage II: 40.4% (36.8% to 44.1%), stage III: 77.0% (73.4% to 80.3%), stage IV: 90.1% (87.5% to 92.2%)].

Stage I-III sensitivity was 67.6% (64.4% to 70.6%) in 12 pre-specified cancers that account for approximately two-thirds of annual USA cancer deaths and was 40.7% (38.7% to 42.9%) in all cancers. Cancer signals were detected across >50 cancer types. Overall accuracy of CSO prediction in true positives was 88.7% (87.0% to 90.2%).



# EARLY DIAGNOSIS-SCREENING

eipi<sup>pro</sup> colon<sup>®</sup>



Aberrant methylation in the promoter region of the *Sept9* gene v2 region has been associated with the occurrence of CRC- cellular transition from adenoma to carcinoma

## **PRESEPT clinical trial** ( [NCT00696345](#) )

In the prospective clinical trial, sensitivity for all stages of CRC was 68% (95% CI 53%–80%) and for stage I–III CRC, 64% (48%–77%). Adjusted specificity, on the basis of negative colonoscopy findings, was 80.0% (78%–82%).

## **[NCT01580540](#)**

At a sensitivity of 72%, the Epi proColon test is non- inferior to FIT for CRC detection, although at a lower specificity. With negative predictive values of 99.8%, both methods are identical in confirming the absence of CRC.

# EARLY DIAGNOSIS-SCREENING

## The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

MARCH 14, 2024

VOL. 390 NO. 11

### A Cell-free DNA Blood-Based Test for Colorectal Cancer Screening

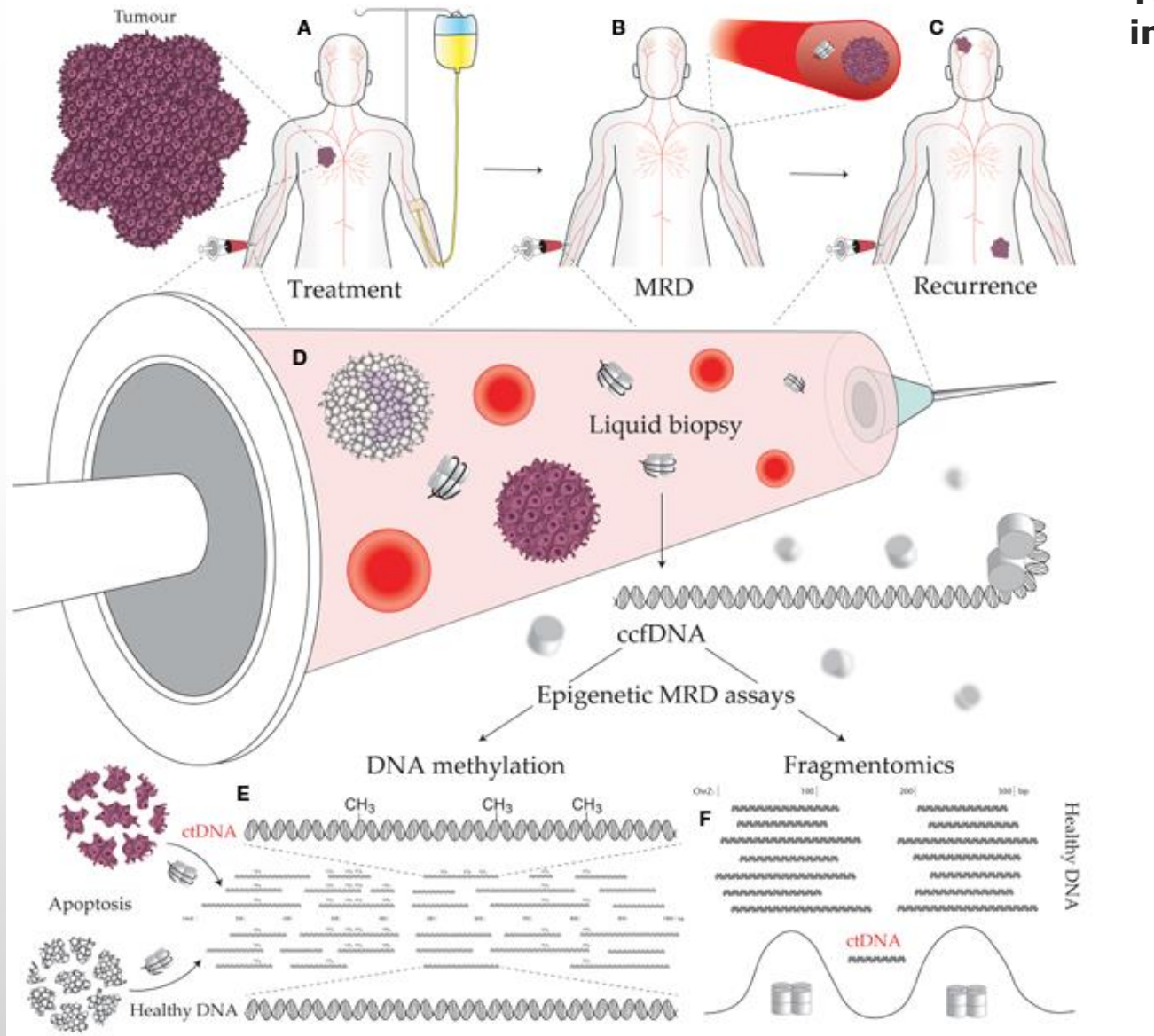
Daniel C. Chung, M.D., Darrell M. Gray II, M.D., M.P.H., Harminder Singh, M.D., Rachel B. Issaka, M.D., M.A.S., Victoria M. Raymond, M.S., Craig Eagle, M.D., Sylvia Hu, Ph.D., Darya I. Chudova, Ph.D., AmirAli Talasaz, Ph.D., Joel K. Greenon, M.D., Frank A. Sinicrope, M.D., Samir Gupta, M.D., M.S.C.S., and William M. Grady, M.D.

- The panel interrogates cfDNA genomic alterations, aberrant methylation status, and fragmentomic patterns
- evaluate the performance of the cfDNA blood-based test (Shield, Guardant Health) to detect asymptomatic and early-stage colorectal cancer in a screening-relevant population.
- In an average-risk screening population, this cfDNA blood-based test had 83% sensitivity for colorectal cancer, 90% specificity for advanced neoplasia, and **13% sensitivity for advanced precancerous lesions.**

**Table 2. Sensitivity and Specificity of the Cell-free DNA (cfDNA) Blood-Based Test for the Most Advanced Findings on Colonoscopy.\***

Variable	Most Advanced Finding on Colonoscopy <i>no.</i>	cfDNA Blood-Based Test	
		Positive Test <i>no.</i>	Sensitivity (95% CI) %
Colorectal cancer			
Any	65	54	83.1 (72.2–90.3)
Stage I, II, or III*	48	42	87.5 (75.3–94.1)
Advanced precancerous lesions†	1116	147	13.2 (11.3–15.3)
			Specificity (95% CI)
Nonadvanced adenomas, nonneoplastic findings, and negative colonoscopy	6680	698	89.6 (88.8–90.3)
Nonneoplastic findings and negative colonoscopy	4514	457	89.9 (89.0–90.7)

# MINIMAL RESIDUAL DISEASE



## Tests for minimal residual disease currently available or in development.

Test/Company	Technology/method	Clinical Applications	Development Stage/Regulatory Approval	Citations
Signatera Company: Natera	Somatic mutation detection in ctDNA using multiplex-PCR NGS assays Personalised targets from whole-exome sequencing of primary tumors	MRD and recurrence in: - Colorectal cancer (Stage I-IV) - Epithelial ovarian cancer (Stage I-IV)	BDD status (USA)	(39, 40)
RaDaR Company: Invivata	Somatic mutation detection in ctDNA using multiplex-PCR NGS assays Personalised targets from whole-exome sequencing of primary tumors	MRD and recurrence in: - Breast cancer	CE mark (Europe) BDD status (USA)	(41, 42)
FoundationOne Tracker Company: Foundation Medicine	Somatic mutation detection in ctDNA using bespoke multiplex-PCR NGS assays Personalised targets from whole-exome sequencing of primary tumors	MRD, treatment response and recurrence in: - Colorectal cancer - Bladder cancer	BDD status (USA)	(43)
Sentinel Trail Company: Strata Oncology	Somatic mutation detection in ctDNA using bespoke multiplex-PCR NGS assays Personalised targets from whole-exome sequencing of primary tumors	Treatment response and recurrence in: - Stage 1-3 solid tumors	Clinical Trial (NCT05082701)	(44)
brPROPHET Company: Burning Rock Biotech	Somatic mutation detection in ctDNA using bespoke hybridization capture panels and NGS. Personalised targets from whole-exome sequencing of primary tumors	MRD and recurrence in: - Colorectal cancer	Ongoing clinical studies	(45)
PhasED-seq Company: Foresight Diagnostics	Detection of phased variants (PVs), where two or more mutations on the same sequenced fragment of ctDNA PV panel assembled from whole-genome sequences of 2,538 tumors	MRD and recurrence in: - B-cell lymphomas	Developing as LDT	(46)
CORRECT-MRD II Company: Exact Sciences	Highly sensitive variant detection using targeted linear pre-amplification of ctDNA, UMI ligation, then somatic mutation detection using bespoke multiplex-PCR NGS assays. Personalised targets from whole-genome sequencing of primary tumors.	MRD and recurrence in: - Colorectal cancer (Stage II & III)	Clinical Trial (NCT05210283)	(47)
ECLIPSE Company: Guardant Health	Somatic mutation, DNA methylation and fragmentomic profiling of ccfDNA. 500 kB hybridization capture panel (LUNAR) for cancer detection using NGS.	Early detection, MRD and recurrence in: - Colorectal cancer	Clinical Trial (NCT04136002)	(48)
ctDNA Methylation Sequencing for Myeloma Company: MethylGene Tech	ctDNA methylation sequencing	MRD and recurrence in: - Multiple myeloma	Clinical Trial (NCT05578625)	(49)
Targeted methylation platform Company: GRAIL	ctDNA targeted methylation detection	MRD and recurrence	In development	(50)
Colvera Company: Clinical Genomics	real-time PCR test for detecting DNA methylation of BCAT1 and IKZF1 genes	MRD and recurrence in: - Colorectal cancer	Currently offered as an LDT	(51, 52)
Bladder EpiCheck Company: Nucleix	Multiplex DNA methylation-based PCR assay	Tumor recurrence in: - Bladder cancer	CE mark (Europe)	(53, 54)
ColonAiQ Company: Singlera Genomics	Six-plex methylation PCR test	MRD, treatment response and recurrence in: - Colorectal cancer	Clinical Trial (NCT05444491) Clinical Trial (NCT05536089)	(55)

# MINIMAL RESIDUAL DISEASE



## EUO Priority Article – Bladder Cancer

### **Performance of the Bladder EpiCheck™ Methylation Test for Patients Under Surveillance for Non-muscle-invasive Bladder Cancer: Results of a Multicenter, Prospective, Blinded Clinical Trial**

J. Alfred Witjes<sup>a,\*</sup>, Juan Morote<sup>b</sup>, Erik B. Cornel<sup>c</sup>, Georgios Gakis<sup>d</sup>,  
F. Johannes P. van Valenberg<sup>a</sup>, Fernando Lozano<sup>b</sup>, Itay A. Sternberg<sup>e</sup>, Ellen Willemsen<sup>c</sup>,  
Miriam L. Hegemann<sup>f</sup>, Yossi Paitan<sup>g</sup>, Ilan Leibovitch<sup>e</sup>

❖ *high recurrence rates of up to 50%–70% after 5 years, which means that patients require lifelong postoperative surveillance. The use of urinary markers rather than invasive cystoscopy simplifies surveillance schedules.*

- The [Bladder](#) EpiCheck test analyzes 15 methylation biomarkers and determines whether this pattern is consistent with bladder cancer presence or absence. The validation study showed 90% sensitivity, 83% specificity, and NPV of 97% among 222 [NMIBC](#) patients undergoing surveillance.
- The primary objective of the current study was to determine the sensitivity and specificity of Bladder EpiCheck for patients undergoing surveillance for recurrent bladder cancer. The sensitivity and specificity of the test were compared to a prespecified reference standard of cystoscopy, [cytology](#), and histology.

# MOLECULAR TUMOUR SUBTYPING

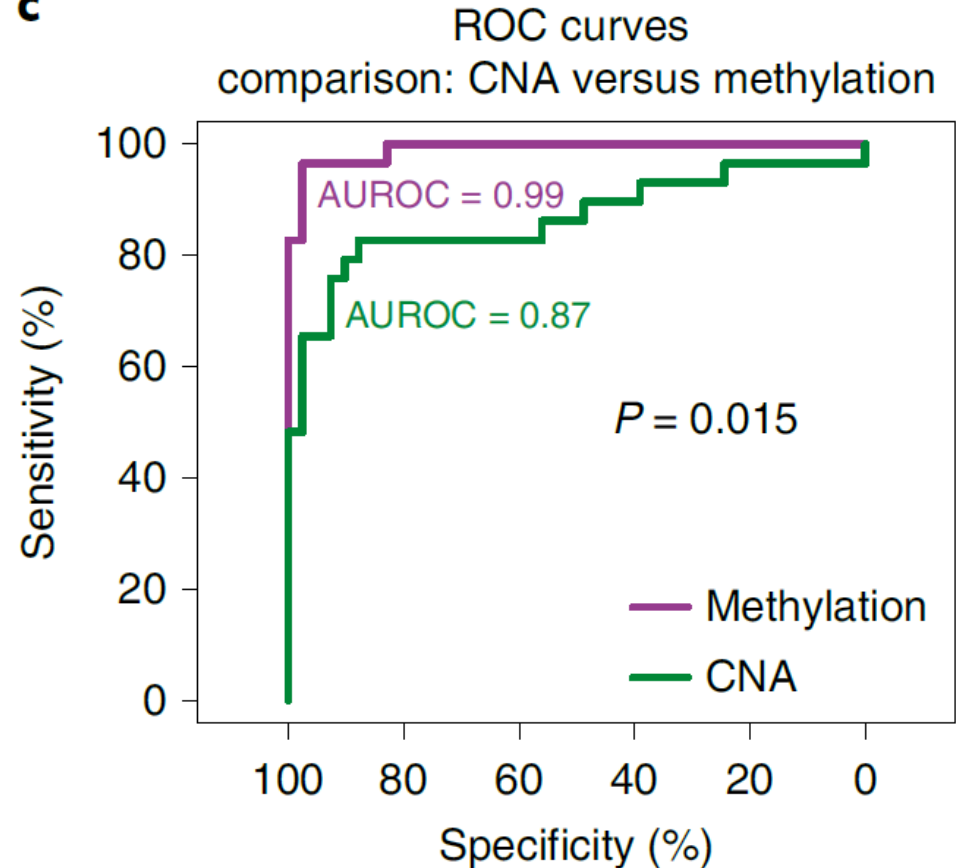
> Nat Cancer. 2022 Aug 8. doi: 10.1038/s43018-022-00415-9. Online ahead of print.

## cfDNA methylome profiling for detection and subtyping of small cell lung cancers

Francesca Chemi <sup># 1</sup>, Simon P Pearce <sup># 2</sup>, Alexandra Clipson <sup>1</sup>, Steven M Hill <sup>2</sup>, Alicia-Marie Conway <sup>1 3</sup>, Sophie A Richardson <sup>1</sup>, Katarzyna Kamieniecka <sup>2</sup>, Rebecca Caesar <sup>4</sup>, Daniel J White <sup>1</sup>, Sumitra Mohan <sup>1</sup>, Victoria Foy <sup>1 3</sup>, Kathryn L Simpson <sup>5</sup>, Melanie Galvin <sup>5</sup>, Kristopher K Frese <sup>5</sup>, Lynsey Priest <sup>6</sup>, Jacklynn Egger <sup>4</sup>, Alastair Kerr <sup>2</sup>, Pierre P Massion <sup>7</sup>, John T Poirier <sup>8</sup>, Gerard Brady <sup>1</sup>, Fiona Blackhall <sup>3 6</sup>, Dominic G Rothwell <sup>9</sup>, Charles M Rudin <sup>10</sup>, Caroline Dive <sup>11 12 13</sup>

ROC curves and AUROC scores generated by using ichor copy number alterations (CNA, green line) or median classifier tumor prediction score (methylation, purple line) to classify: Limited stage disease (LS-SCLC, stage IA–IIIB,  $n = 29$ ) and non-cancer controls (NCC cfDNA,  $n = 41$ ) samples

**c**





ACTC LAB

**ACTC lab**

**breast cancer**

**Epigenetic alterations in CTC and ctDNA**

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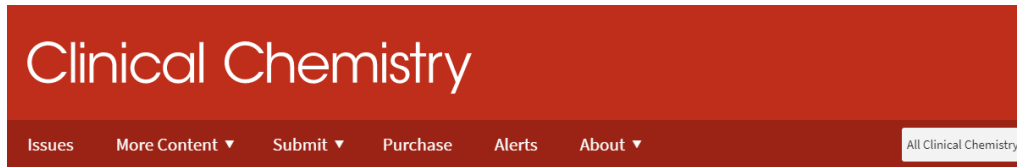
## DNA Methylation of Tumor Suppressor and Metastasis Suppressor Genes in Circulating Tumor Cells

Maria Chimonidou,<sup>1†</sup> Areti Strati,<sup>1†</sup> Alexandra Tzitzira,<sup>1</sup> Georgia Sotiropoulou,<sup>2</sup> Nikos Malamos,<sup>3</sup>  
Vasilis Georgoulas,<sup>4</sup> and Evi S. Lianidou<sup>1\*</sup>

### **First study on the epigenetic silencing of tumor suppressor and metastasis suppressor genes in CTCs**

*“DNA methylation of tumor suppressor and metastasis suppressor genes is a hallmark feature of CTC and confirms their heterogeneity. Our findings add a new dimension to the molecular characterization of CTC and may underlie the acquisition of malignant properties, including their stem-like phenotype”*

# Epigenetic silencing of tumor suppressor and metastasis suppressor genes in CTCs



Clinical Chemistry

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Volume 57, Issue 8  
1 August 2011

## DNA Methylation of Tumor Suppressor and Metastasis Suppressor Genes in Circulating Tumor Cells <sup>FREE</sup>

Maria Chimonidou, Areti Strati, Alexandra Tzitzira, Georgia Sotiropoulou, Nikos Malamos, Vasilis Georgoulas, Evi S Lianidou ✉ Author Notes

*Clinical Chemistry*, Volume 57, Issue 8, 1 August 2011, Pages 1169–1177,  
<https://doi.org/10.1373/clinchem.2011.165902>

Published: 01 August 2011 Article history ▾

2011



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Volume 59, Issue 1  
1 January 2013

## SOX17 Promoter Methylation in Circulating Tumor Cells and Matched Cell-Free DNA Isolated from Plasma of Patients with Breast Cancer <sup>FREE</sup>

Maria Chimonidou, Areti Strati, Nikos Malamos, Vasilis Georgoulas, Evi S Lianidou ✉ Author Notes

*Clinical Chemistry*, Volume 59, Issue 1, 1 January 2013, Pages 270–279,  
<https://doi.org/10.1373/clinchem.2012.191551>

2013

[www.impactjournals.com/oncotarget/](http://www.impactjournals.com/oncotarget/)

Oncotarget, 2017, Vol. 8, (No. 42), pp: 72054-72068

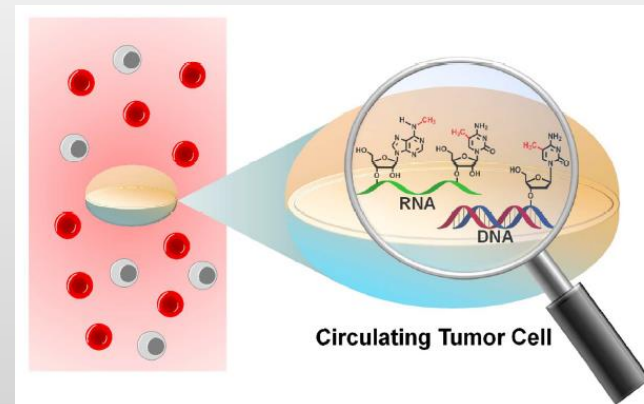
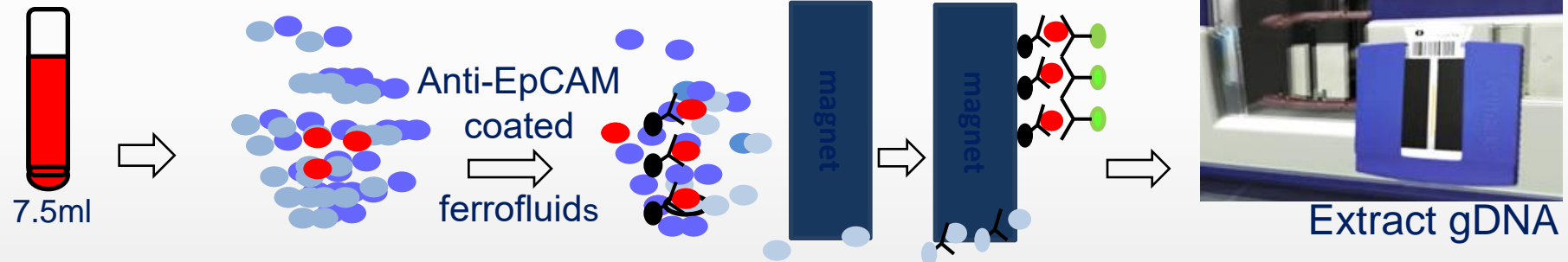
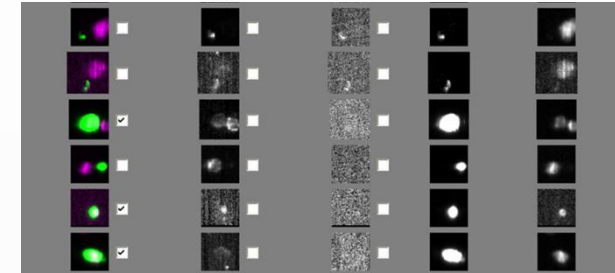
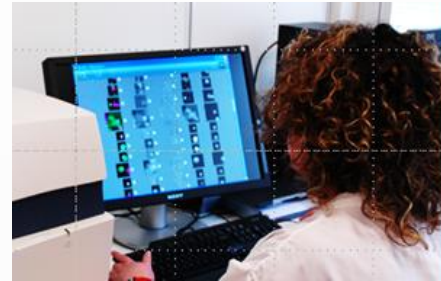
Research Paper

**Direct comparison study of DNA methylation markers in EpCAM-positive circulating tumour cells, corresponding circulating tumour DNA, and paired primary tumours in breast cancer**

**Maria Chimonidou<sup>1</sup>, Areti Strati<sup>1</sup>, Nikos Malamos<sup>2</sup>, Sophia Kouneli<sup>2</sup>, Vassilis Georgoulas<sup>3</sup> and Evi Lianidou<sup>1</sup>**

2017

# DNA methylation analysis of CTCs isolated from CellSearch cartridges



Methylation analysis -MSP





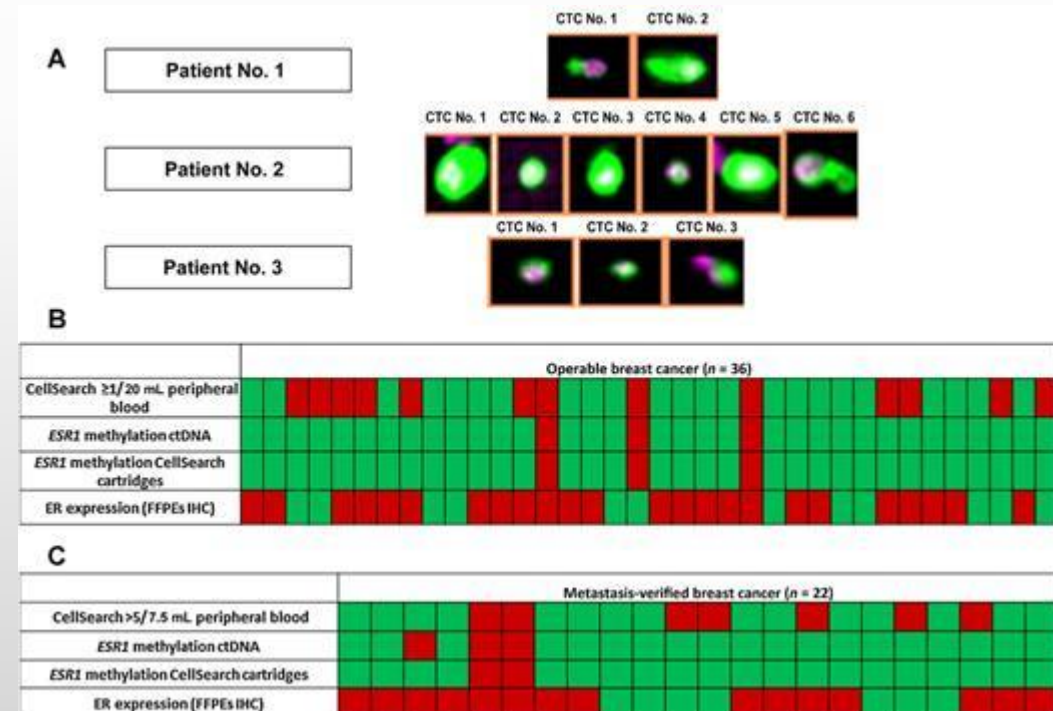
Biology of Human Tumors

## ESR1 methylation: a liquid biopsy-based epigenetic assay for the follow up of patients with metastatic breast cancer receiving endocrine treatment

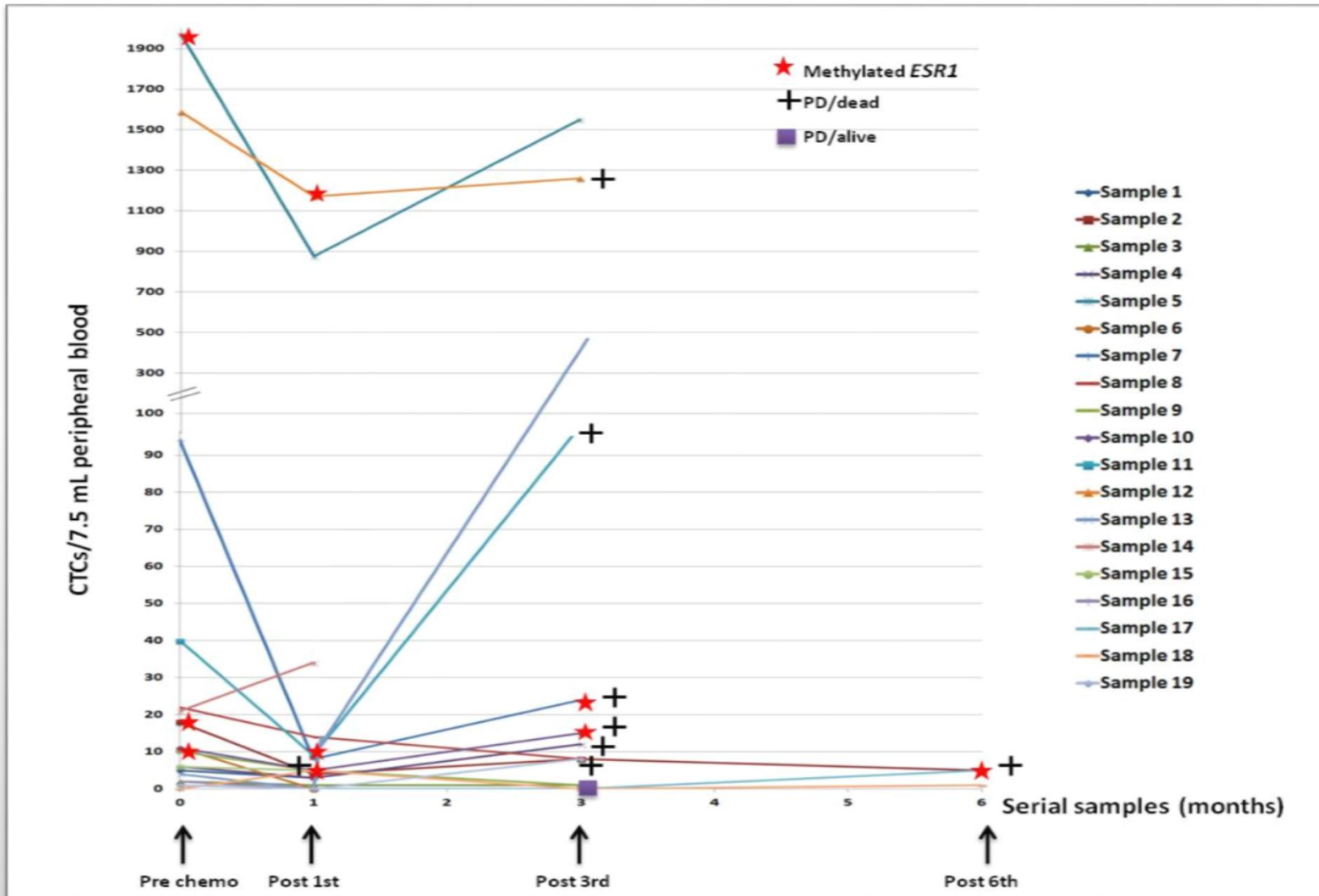
Sofia Mastoraki, Areti Strati, Eleni Tzanikou, Maria Chimonidou, Helen Politaki, Alexandra Voutsina, Amanda Psyrris, Vasilis Georgoulas, and Evi S. Lianidou

DOI: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-17-1181 Check for updates

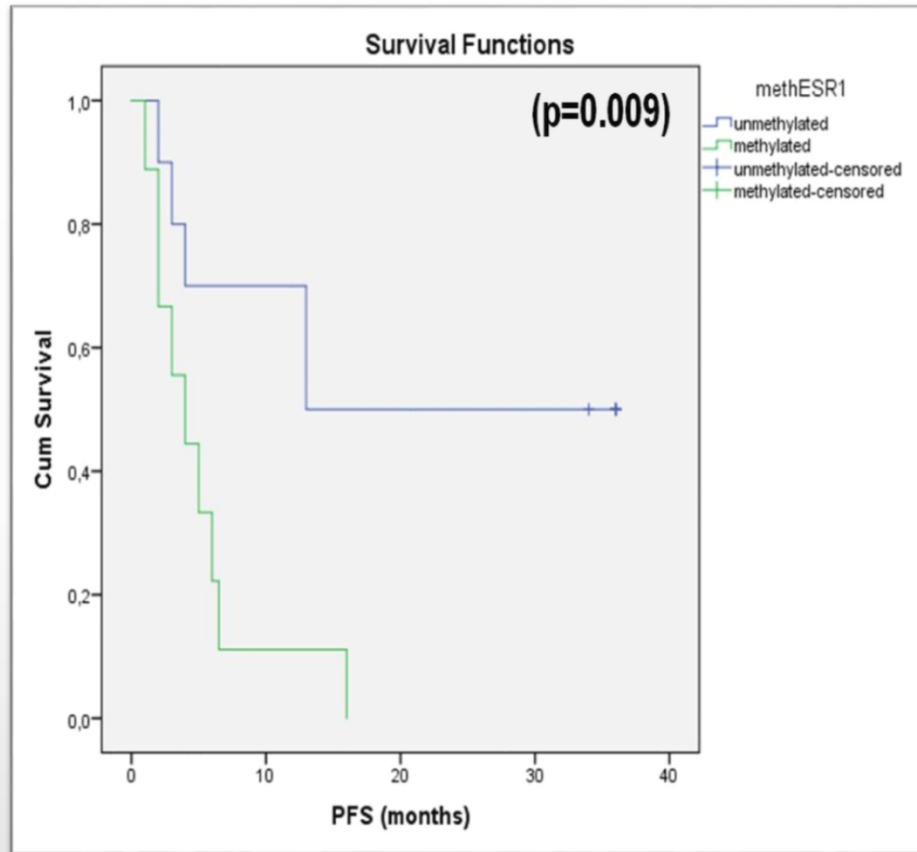
- ESR1* epigenetic silencing potentially affects response to endocrine treatment.**
- We evaluated *ESR1* methylation in CTCs as a potential biomarker for the follow up of BrCa patients receiving everolimus/exemestane combination in the context of standard treatment**



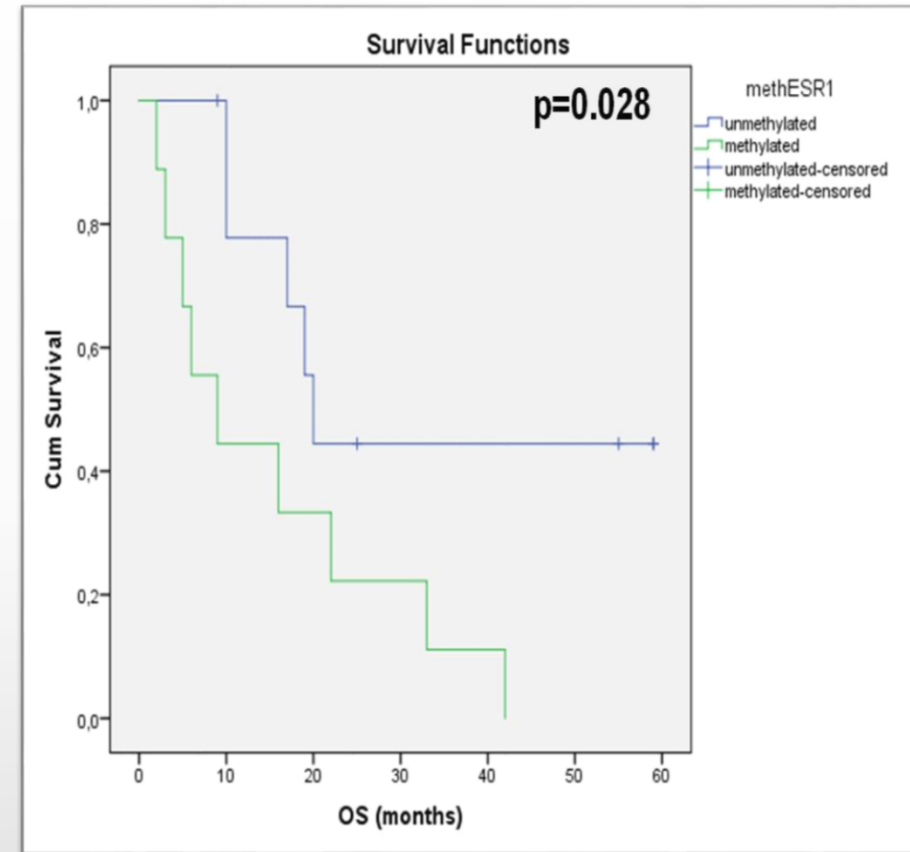
**ESR1 methylation status for each patient in serial CTC samples of BrCa patients receiving everolimus/exemestane treatment at different time points during treatment, in relation to the number of detected CTCs.**



a) *ESR1* methylation in relation to PFS



b) *ESR1* methylation in relation to OS



**Breast cancer  
Integrative LB analysis**

# Clinical Chemistry

**Manuscript Title:** A comprehensive molecular analysis of in-vivo isolated EpCAM-positive circulating tumor cells in Breast Cancer

**Manuscript No:** CLINCHEM/2021/333331 [R1]

**Manuscript Type:** Article

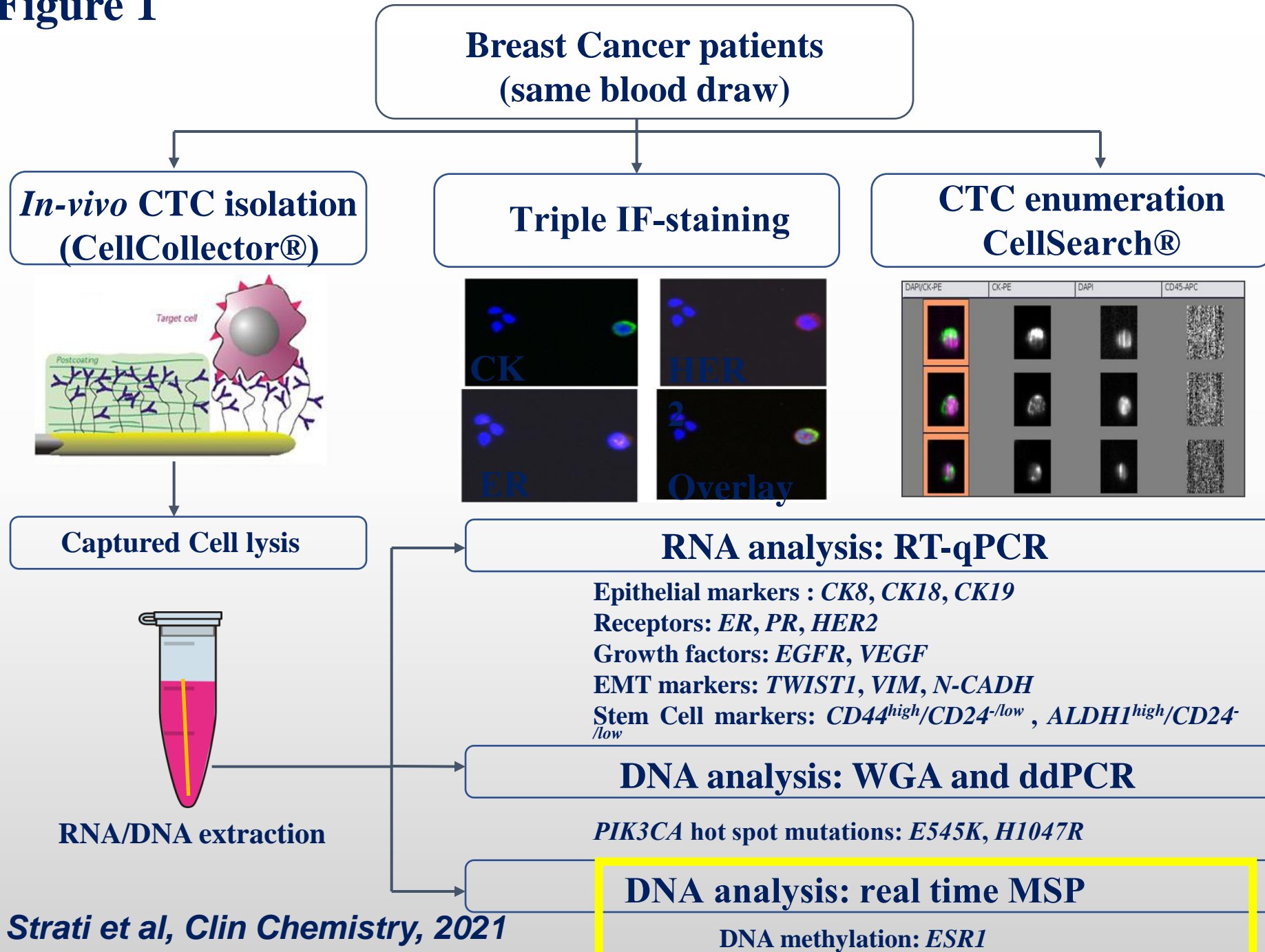
**Date Submitted by the Author:** 30 Mar 2021

**Complete List of Authors:** Areti Strati, Martha Zavridou, Galatea Kallergi, Eleni Politaki, Andra Kuske, Tobias Gorges, Sabine Riethdorf, Simon Joosse, Claudia Koch, Anna-Lena Bohnen, Volkmar Mueller, George Koutsodontis, Emmanouil Kontopodis, Nikiforita Poulakaki, Amanda Psyrris, Dimitris Mavroudis, Vasilis Georgoulas, Klaus Pantel, and Evi Lianidou

**Keywords:** Circulating tumor cells; ESR1 methylation; PIK3CA mutations; breast cancer ; liquid biopsy; molecular assays

***In-vivo* CTC isolation:**  
**CellCollector, GILUPI**  
**Gene expression: RT-qPCR**  
**DNA mutations: ddPCR**  
**DNA methylation: MSP**

**Figure 1**







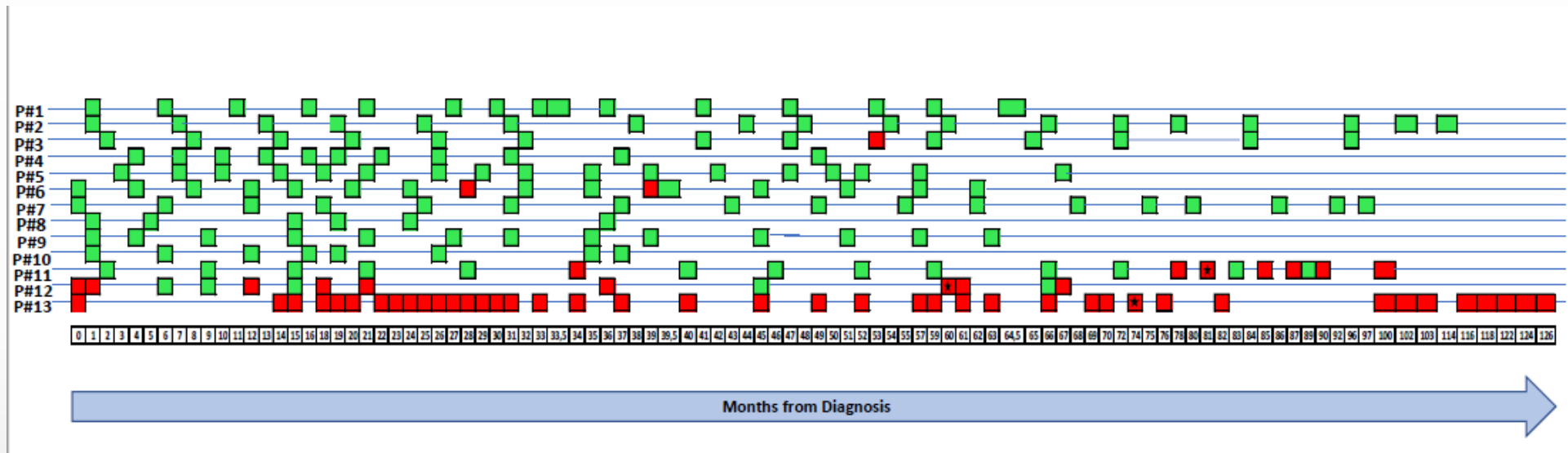
## Comprehensive liquid biopsy analysis as a tool for the early detection of minimal residual disease in breast cancer

Dimitra Stergiopoulou <sup>1</sup>, Athina Markou <sup>1</sup>, Areti Strati <sup>1</sup>, Martha Zavridou <sup>1</sup>, Eleni Tzanikou <sup>1</sup>, Sophia Mastoraki <sup>1</sup>, Galatea Kallergi <sup>2</sup>, Vassilis Georgoulas <sup>3</sup>, Evi Lianidou <sup>4</sup>

**13 patients with early-stage operable breast cancer were followed at several time points for a period of ten years, using comprehensive liquid biopsy analysis consisting of:**

- (a) CTC enumeration using the CellSearch system,**
- (b) phenotypic analysis of CTCs using Immunofluorescence,**
- (c) gene expression analysis, in EpCAM(+) CTCs for *CK-19*, *CD24*, *CD44*, *ALDH1*, and *TWIST1* mRNA transcripts (RT-qPCR)**
- (d) analysis of *PIK3CA* and *ESR1* mutations in EpCAM(+) CTCs and corresponding plasma ctDNA**
- (e) DNA methylation of *ESR1* in CTCs**

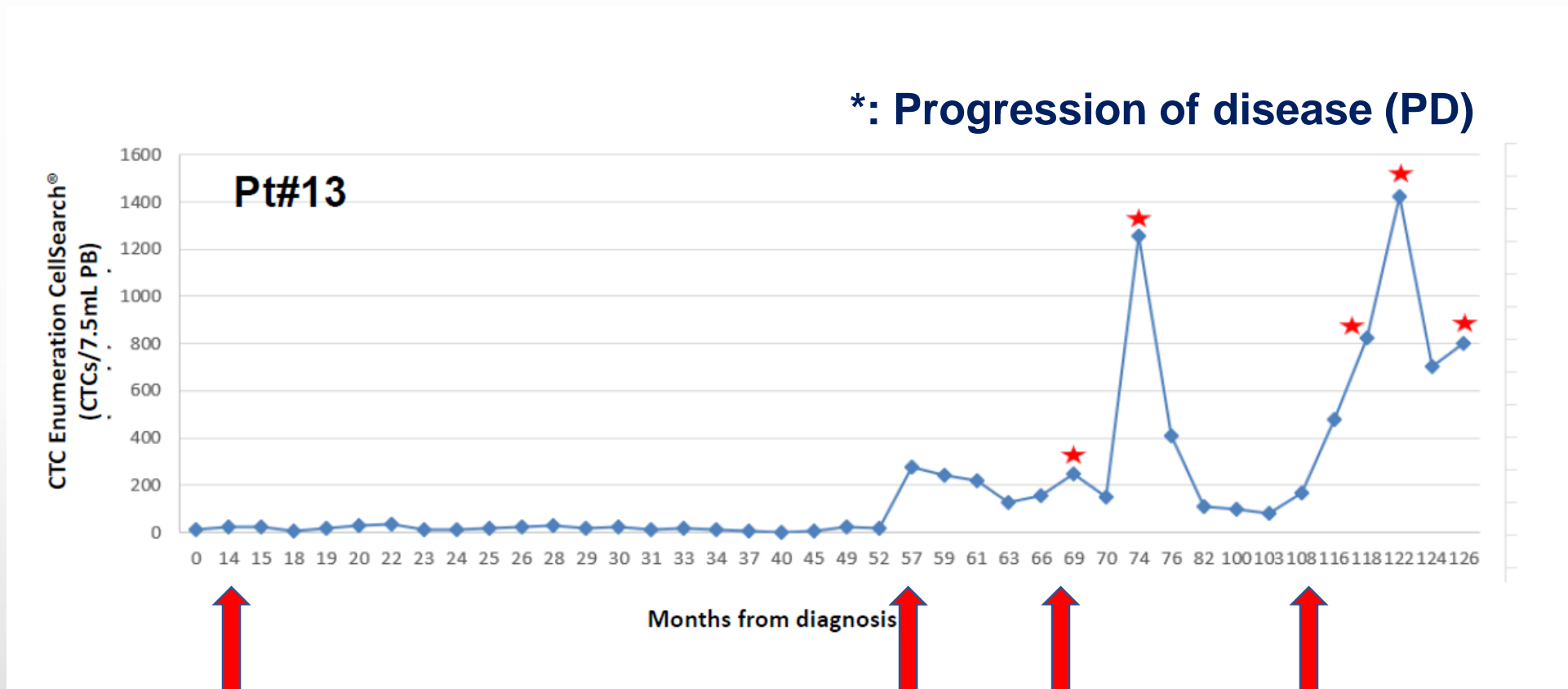
# Comprehensive liquid biopsy analysis as a tool for the early detection of Minimal Residual Disease in breast cancer



Molecular analysis of EpCAM<sup>+</sup> CTC fractions for: *CK-19* mRNA expression, DNA mutations (*PIK3CA*, *ESR1*) and CTC enumeration (CellSearch).

Stars represent the time of relapse/metastasis. (red: positive, green: negative)

**Patient #13:**  
**CTC enumeration values (CTCs/7.5mL PB) based on CellSearch®,**  
**during the timeline of the disease**



**Early stage: CellSearch counts >10CTCs/22mL PB**

# Molecular analysis of EpCAM<sup>+</sup> CTC fractions and CTCs from CellSearch® cartridges

Pt#13



MOLECULAR ANALYSIS		59	61	63	69	70	74	76	82	100	103	116	118	122	124	126	
GENE EXPRESSION	CK-19						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	CD24 <sup>-low</sup>						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	CD44 <sup>high</sup>						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	ALDH1 <sup>high</sup>						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	CD24 <sup>-low</sup> /CD44 <sup>high</sup>						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	CD24 <sup>-low</sup> /ALDH1 <sup>high</sup>						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	TWIST1						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	PD-L1						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
MUTATIONS	E545K (EXON 9)	Plasma ctDNA					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
		CTC EpCAM <sup>+</sup> Fraction					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC CellSearch® cartridges	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	H1047R (EXON 20)	Plasma ctDNA						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC EpCAM <sup>+</sup> Fraction						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC CellSearch® cartridges	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Y537S	Plasma ctDNA						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC EpCAM <sup>+</sup> Fraction						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC CellSearch® cartridges	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Y537C	Plasma ctDNA						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC EpCAM <sup>+</sup> Fraction						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC CellSearch® cartridges	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Y537N	Plasma ctDNA						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC EpCAM <sup>+</sup> Fraction						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC CellSearch® cartridges	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	D538G	Plasma ctDNA						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC EpCAM <sup>+</sup> Fraction						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
		CTC CellSearch® cartridges	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
ESR1 methylation	Plasma ctDNA						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	CTC EpCAM <sup>+</sup> Fraction						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	CTC CellSearch® cartridges	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
CellSearch® Counts		244	221	127	250	148	125	411	108	100	82	478	645	1445	705	800	

◆ positive  
◆ negative  
⊗ missing value



**ACTC lab**

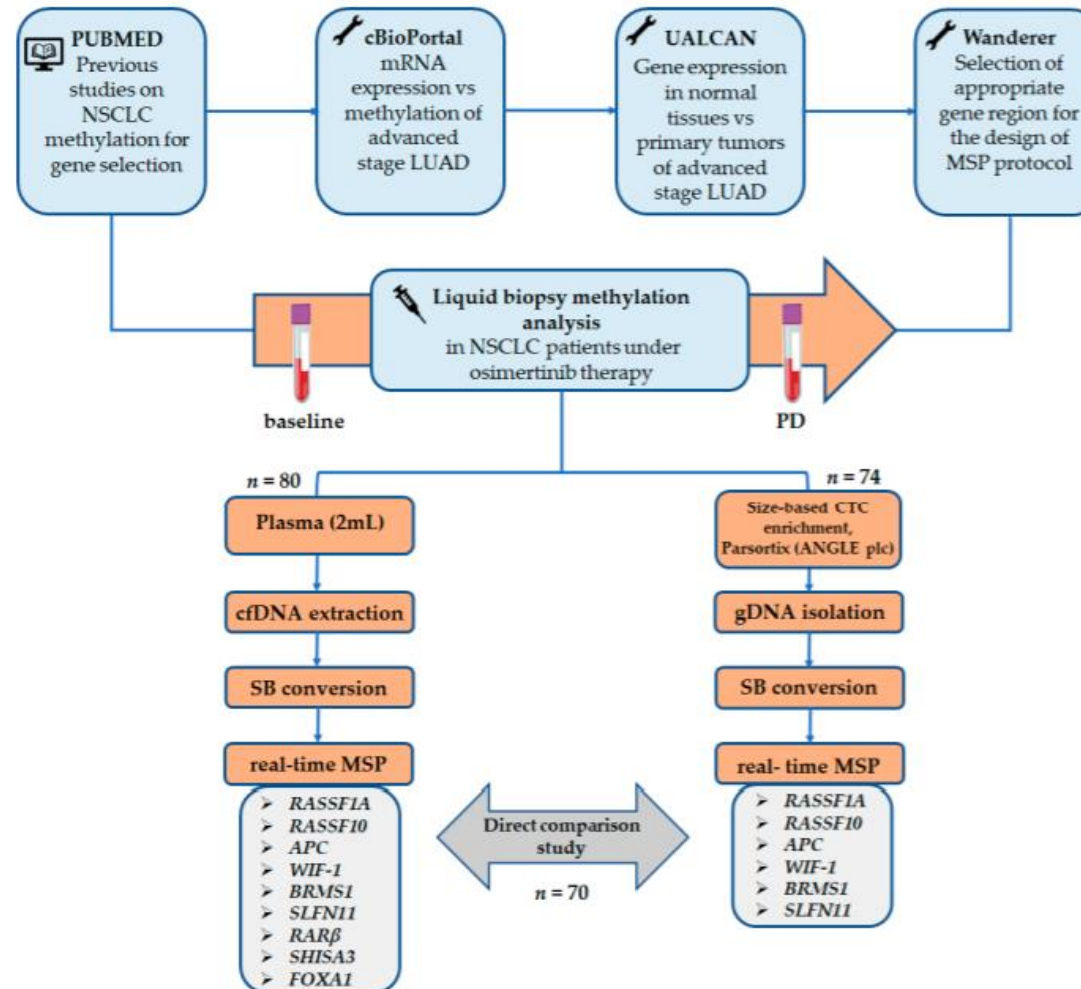
**NSCLC**

**Epigenetic alterations in CTC and paired  
ctDNA**

Article

# DNA Methylation Analysis in Plasma Cell-Free DNA and Paired CTCs of NSCLC Patients before and after Osimertinib Treatment

Aliki Ntzifa <sup>1</sup>, Dora Londra <sup>1</sup>, Theodoros Rampias <sup>2</sup> , Athanasios Kotsakis <sup>3</sup> , Vassilis Georgoulas <sup>4</sup>  and Evi Lianidou <sup>1,\*</sup> 



patient ID	BASELINE			PD		
	CTC	plasma-cfDNA	combined	CTC	plasma-cfDNA	combined
			at least 1 gene methylated			at least 1 gene methylated
#1	▲▲▲	▲	●	⊗	▲▲	●
#2	▲	⊗	●	⊗	⊗	⊗
#4	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#5	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	▲▲	●
#6	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	▲▲	●
#7	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	▲	●
#8	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#9	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	▲▲▲	●
#10	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	●
#11	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#12	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲▲	▲▲	●
#13	▲	⊗	●	→		
#14	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#16	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	●
#17	⊗	▲	●	▲	⊗	●
#18	⊗	▲	●	⊗	▲▲▲	●
#19	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	●
#20	⊗	▲	●	▲	▲▲	●
#21	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#23	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	⊗	●
#24	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#25	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	⊗	●
#26	▲	⊗	●	⊗	⊗	⊗
#27	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#28	⊗	▲▲▲	●	⊗	▲▲▲	●
#29	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	▲	●
#30	⊗	▲	●	▲	⊗	●
#31	■	⊗	⊗	■	▲	●
#32	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#34	▲	⊗	●	⊗	⊗	⊗
#36	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#37	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#38	⊗	▲	●	⊗	▲▲	●
#39	⊗	⊗	⊗	→		
#40	▲	⊗	●	⊗	⊗	⊗
#41	■	⊗	⊗	■	⊗	⊗
#42	■	⊗	⊗	■	⊗	⊗
#44	▲	▲▲	●	⊗	⊗	⊗
#45	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
#46	■	▲	●	■	▲▲	●
#48	■	⊗	⊗	■	▲	●

## Direct comparison of DNA methylation markers in plasma-cfDNA and paired CTCs before osimertinib and at PD

- ▲ :RASSF1A methylation
- ▲ :RASSF10 methylation
- ▲ :BRMS1 methylation
- ▲ :SLFN11 methylation
- ▲ :WIF-1 methylation
- ▲ :APC methylation
- ⊗ :no methylation
- :at least one gene methylated
- :no PD
- :missing

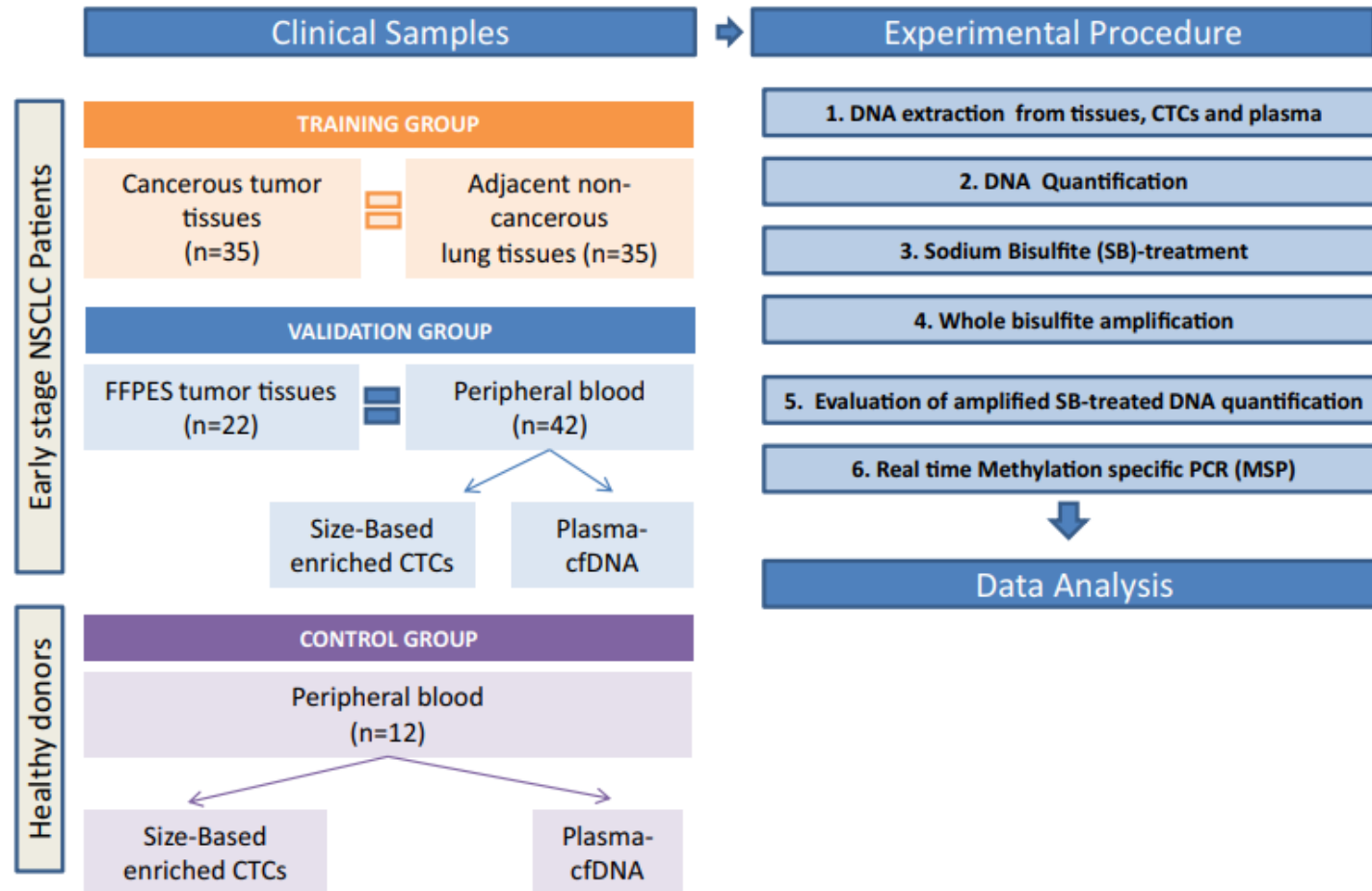
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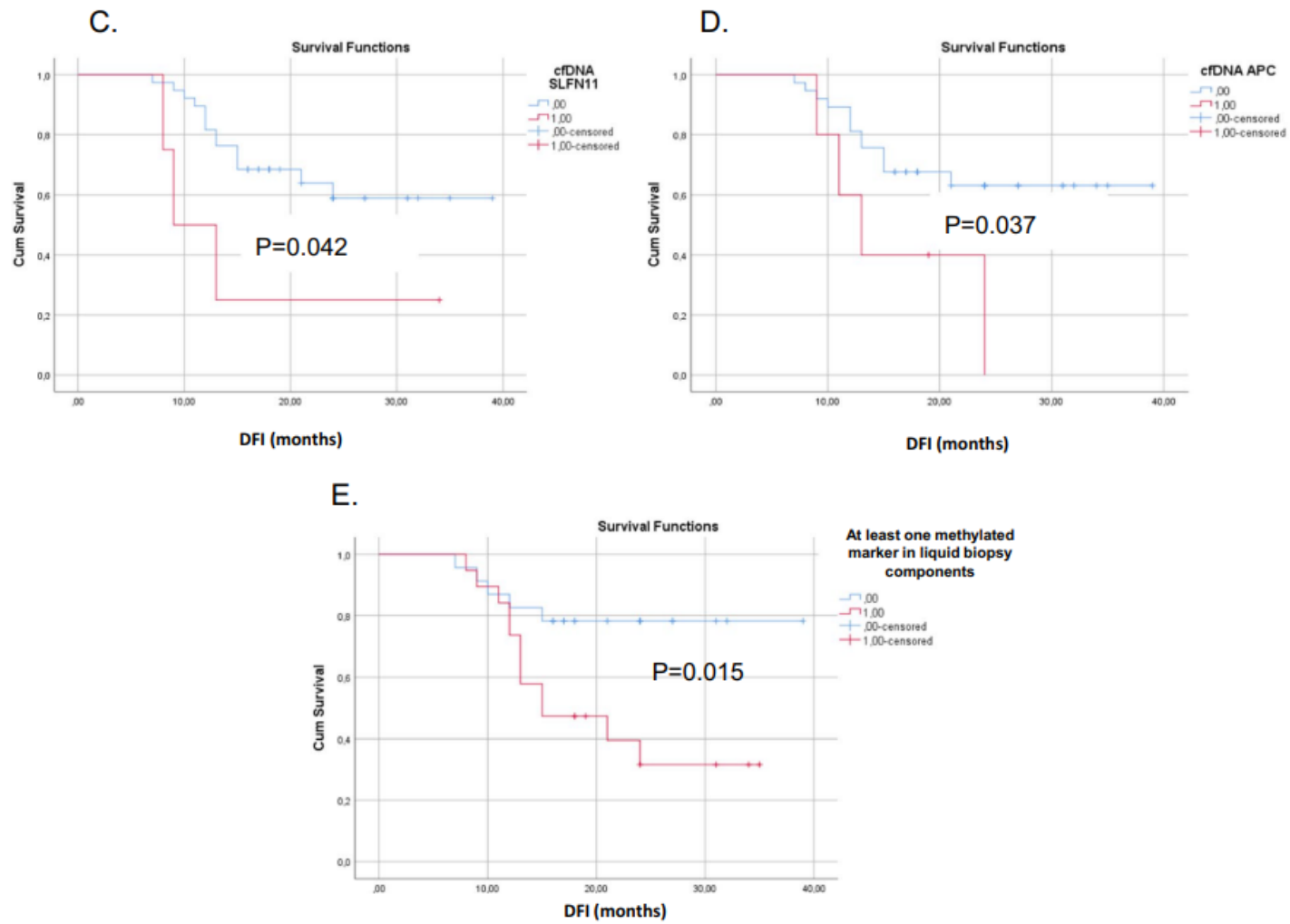


# DNA methylation analysis of tumor suppressor genes in liquid biopsy components of early stage NSCLC: a promising tool for early detection

A. Markou<sup>1\*</sup>, D. Londra<sup>1</sup>, V. Tserpeli<sup>1</sup>, I. Kollias<sup>1</sup>, E. Tsaroucha<sup>2</sup>, I. Vamvakaris<sup>2</sup>, K. Potaris<sup>2</sup>, I. Pateras<sup>3</sup>, A. Kotsakis<sup>4</sup>, V. Georgoulas<sup>5</sup> and E. Lianidou<sup>1</sup>







***Our findings indicate that the combination of DNA methylation analysis of tumor suppressor genes in CTCs and matched plasma-cfDNA provides significant prognostic information in patients with early-stage NSCLC***



**ACTC lab**

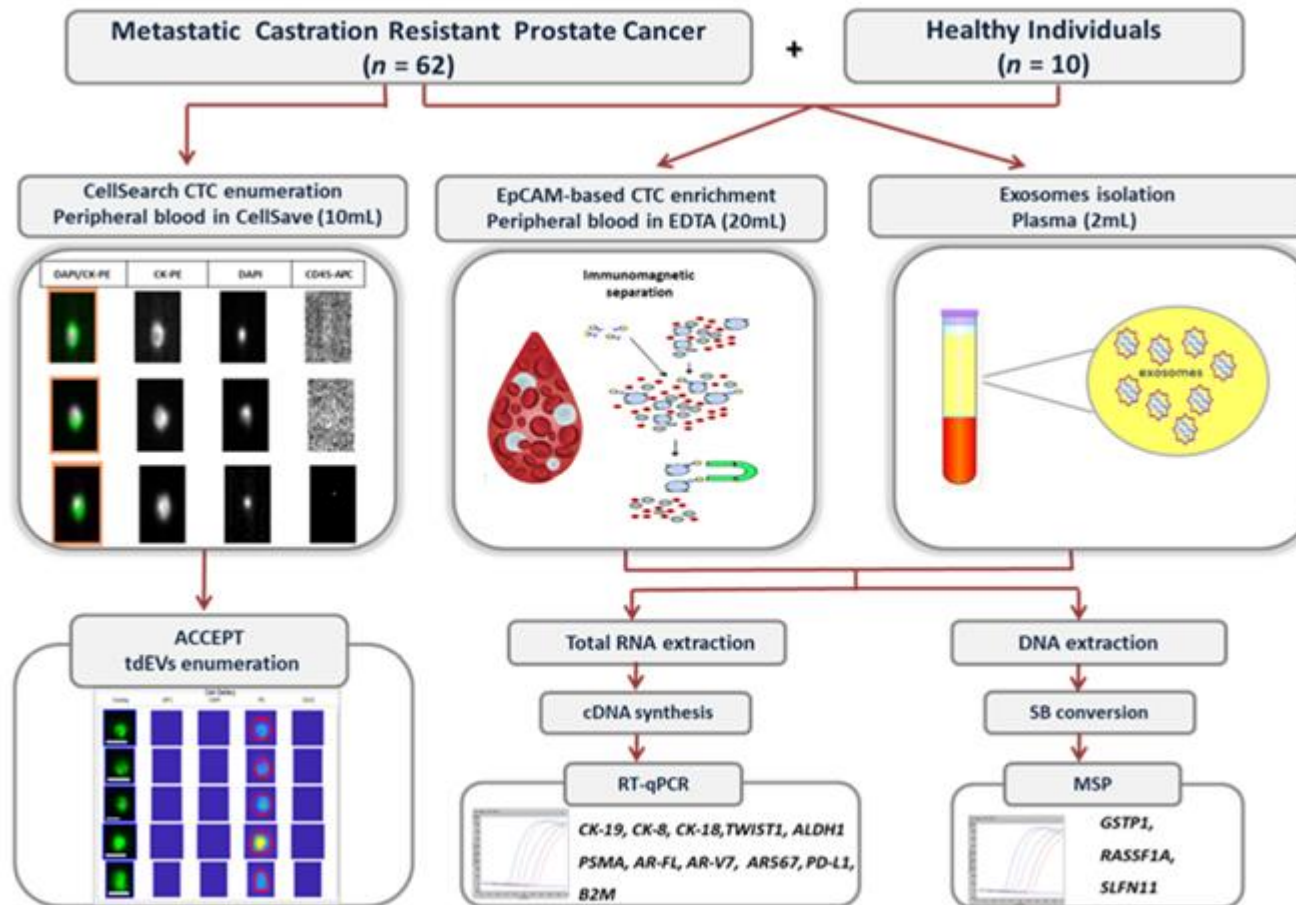
**prostate cancer**

**Epigenetic alterations in CTC and ctDNA**

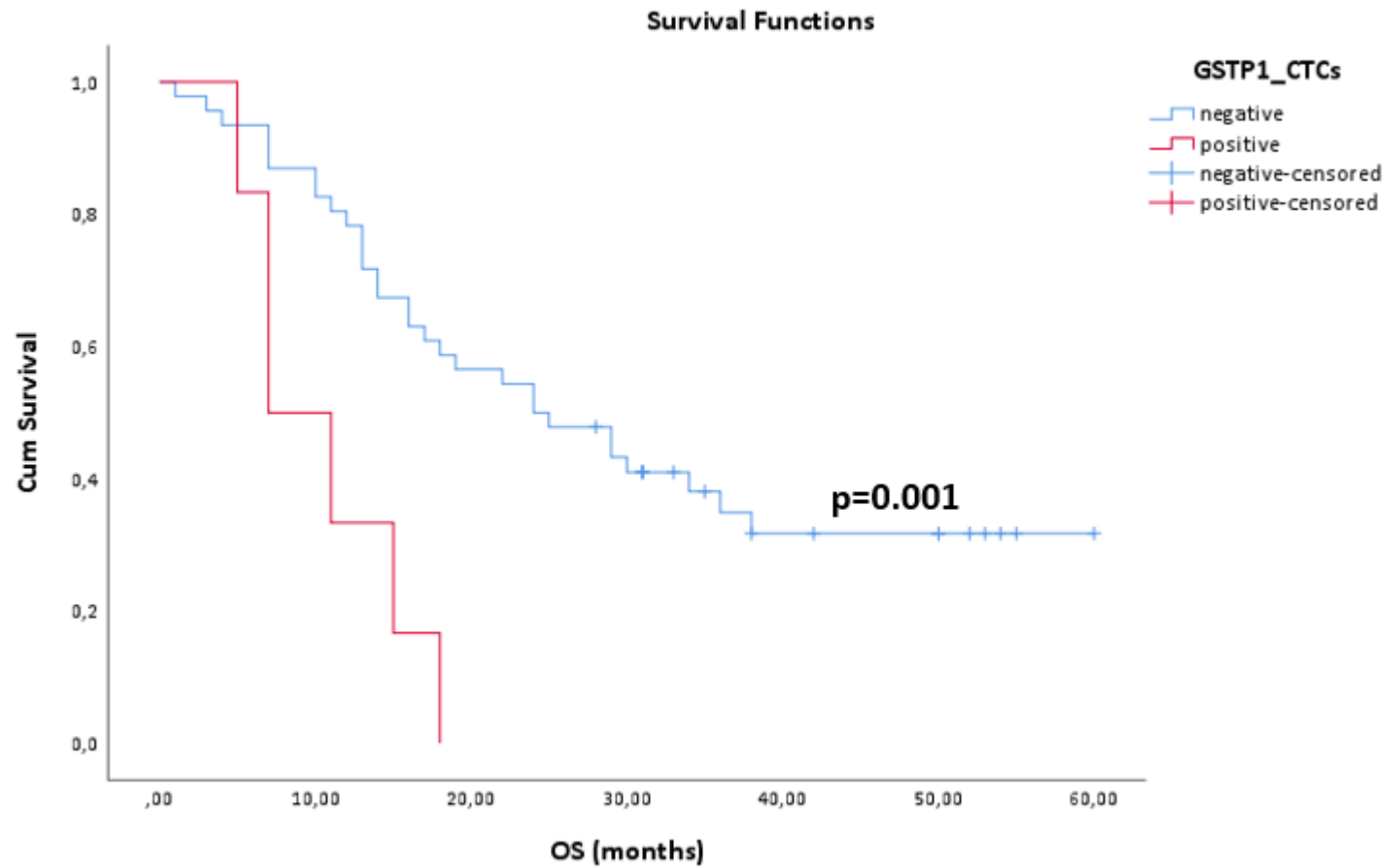
Article

# Prognostic Significance of Gene Expression and DNA Methylation Markers in Circulating Tumor Cells and Paired Plasma Derived Exosomes in Metastatic Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer

Martha Zavridou <sup>1</sup>, Areti Strati <sup>1</sup>, Evangelos Bournakis <sup>2</sup>, Stavroula Smilkou <sup>1</sup>, Victoria Tserpeli <sup>1</sup> and Evi Lianidou <sup>1,\*</sup>



Genes	mCRPC patients																																																														Healthy donors									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gene expression																																																																								
<i>CK19</i> exosomes																																																																								
<i>CK19</i> CTCs																																																																								
<i>CK8</i> exosomes																																																																								
<i>CK8</i> CTCs																																																																								
<i>CK18</i> exosomes																																																																								
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<i>PSMA</i> CTCs																																																																								
<i>AR-FL</i> exosomes																																																																								
<i>AR-FL</i> CTCs																																																																								
<i>AR-V7</i> exosomes																																																																								
<i>AR-V7</i> CTCs																																																																								
<i>AR-V6</i> exosomes																																																																								
<i>AR-V6</i> CTCs																																																																								
<i>PDL1</i> exosomes																																																																								
<i>PDL1</i> CTCs																																																																								
<i>EM</i> exosomes																																																																								
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Methylation																																																																								
<i>GSTP1</i> exosomes																																																																								
<i>GSTP1</i> CTCs																																																																								
<i>RASSF1A</i> exosomes																																																																								
<i>RASSF1A</i> CTCs																																																																								
Dead Alive																																																																								
CTCs ≥5																																																																								
Number of cells																																																																								
ACCEPT																																																																								
tdEVs																																																																								



Article

## ***USP44* promoter methylation in plasma cell-free DNA in prostate cancer**

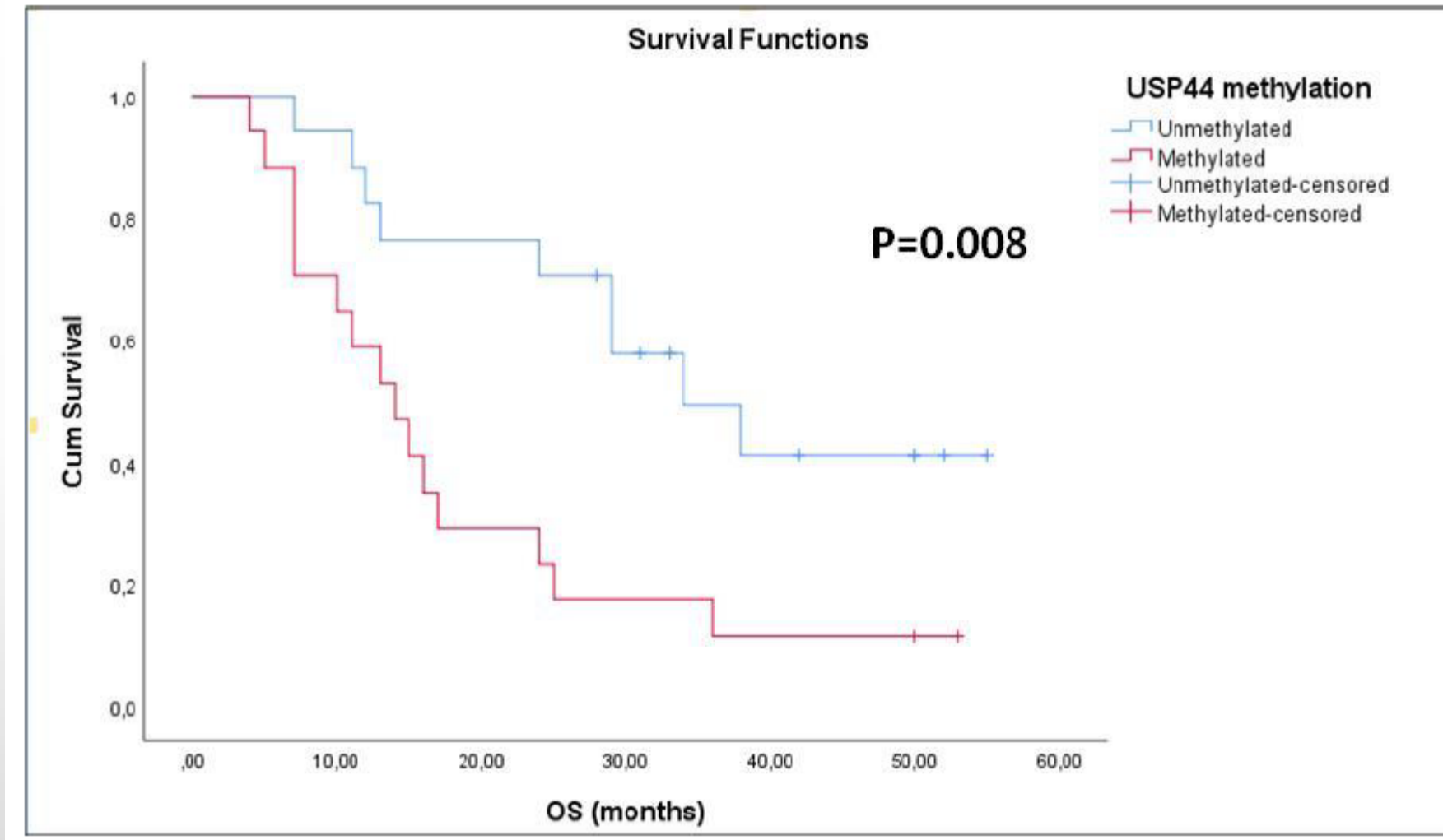
Londra T<sup>1</sup>, Mastoraki S<sup>1</sup>, Bournakis E<sup>2</sup>, Zavridou M<sup>1</sup>, Thanos A<sup>3</sup>, Rampias T<sup>4</sup>, Lianidou E<sup>1</sup>.

USP44 promoter is methylated at a high percentage in plasma cfDNA of metastatic prostate cancer patients but not in healthy donors

USP44 promoter methylation in plasma cell free DNA provides significant prognostic information in metastatic prostate cancer.

USP44 promoter methylation is significantly associated with overall survival (OS) (P=0.008).

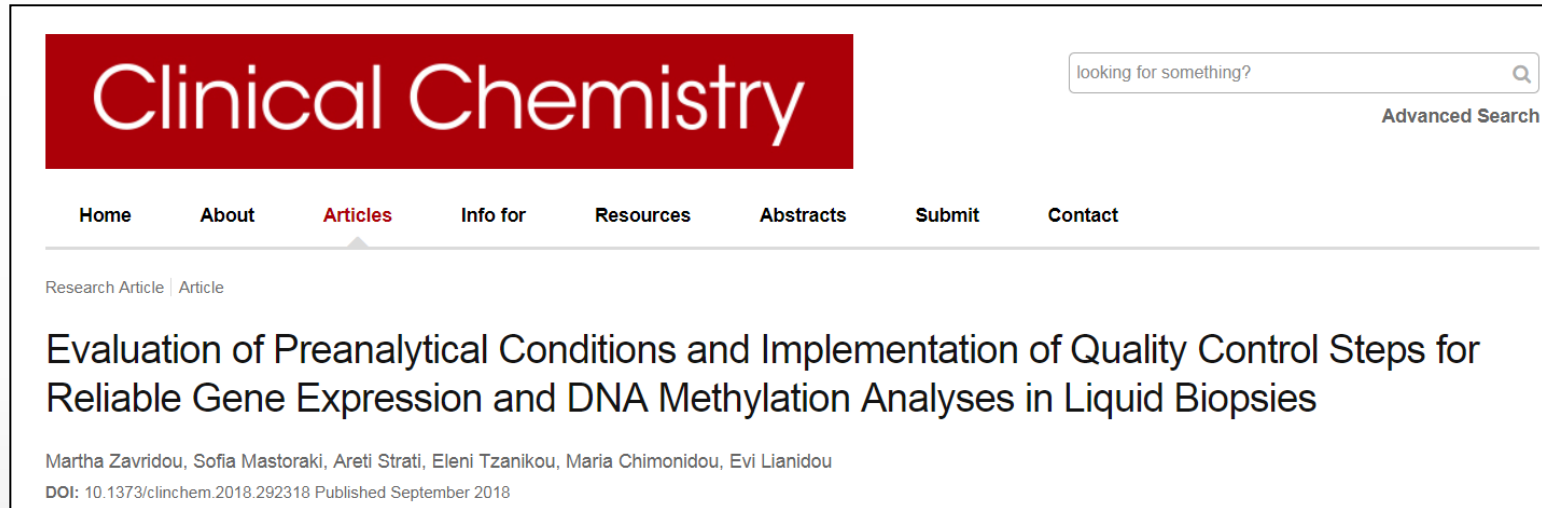
***Kaplan–Meier estimates of patients with metastatic prostate cancer in relation to USP44 methylation in ctDNA (n=39)***



***Londra et al, CANCERS, 2021***




# PRE-ANALYTICAL CONSIDERATIONS



The screenshot displays the homepage of the journal 'Clinical Chemistry'. The journal title is prominently featured in a red box at the top left. A search bar with the placeholder text 'looking for something?' and a magnifying glass icon is located at the top right, with a link to 'Advanced Search' below it. A horizontal navigation menu includes links for 'Home', 'About', 'Articles' (which is highlighted with a red underline), 'Info for', 'Resources', 'Abstracts', 'Submit', and 'Contact'. Below the navigation menu, the page is categorized as 'Research Article | Article'. The main title of the article is 'Evaluation of Preanalytical Conditions and Implementation of Quality Control Steps for Reliable Gene Expression and DNA Methylation Analyses in Liquid Biopsies'. The authors listed are Martha Zavridou, Sofia Mastoraki, Areti Strati, Eleni Tzanikou, Maria Chimonidou, and Evi Lianidou. The DOI is 10.1373/clinchem.2018.292318 and the article was published in September 2018.

**Clinical Chemistry**

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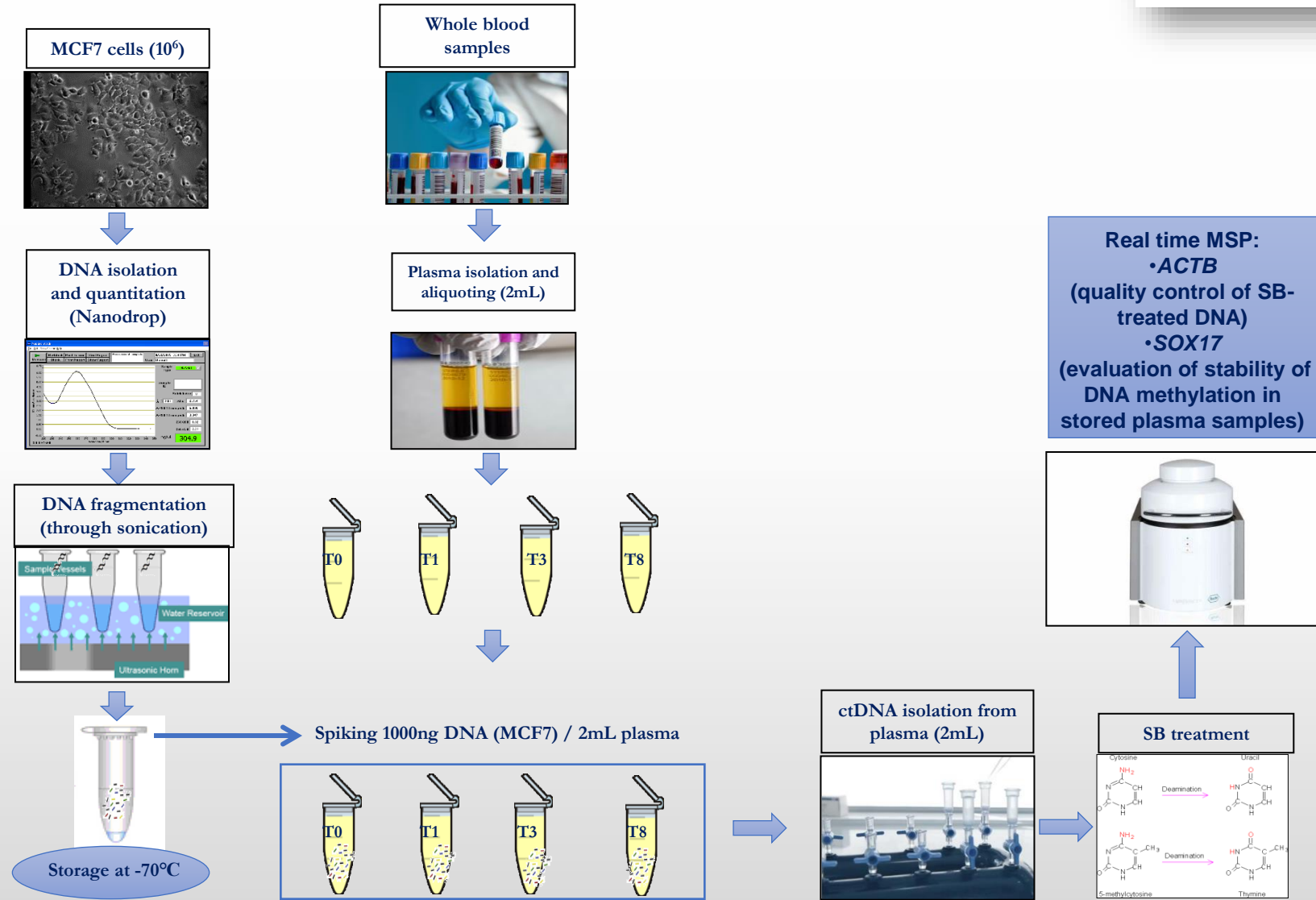
Research Article | Article

## Evaluation of Preanalytical Conditions and Implementation of Quality Control Steps for Reliable Gene Expression and DNA Methylation Analyses in Liquid Biopsies

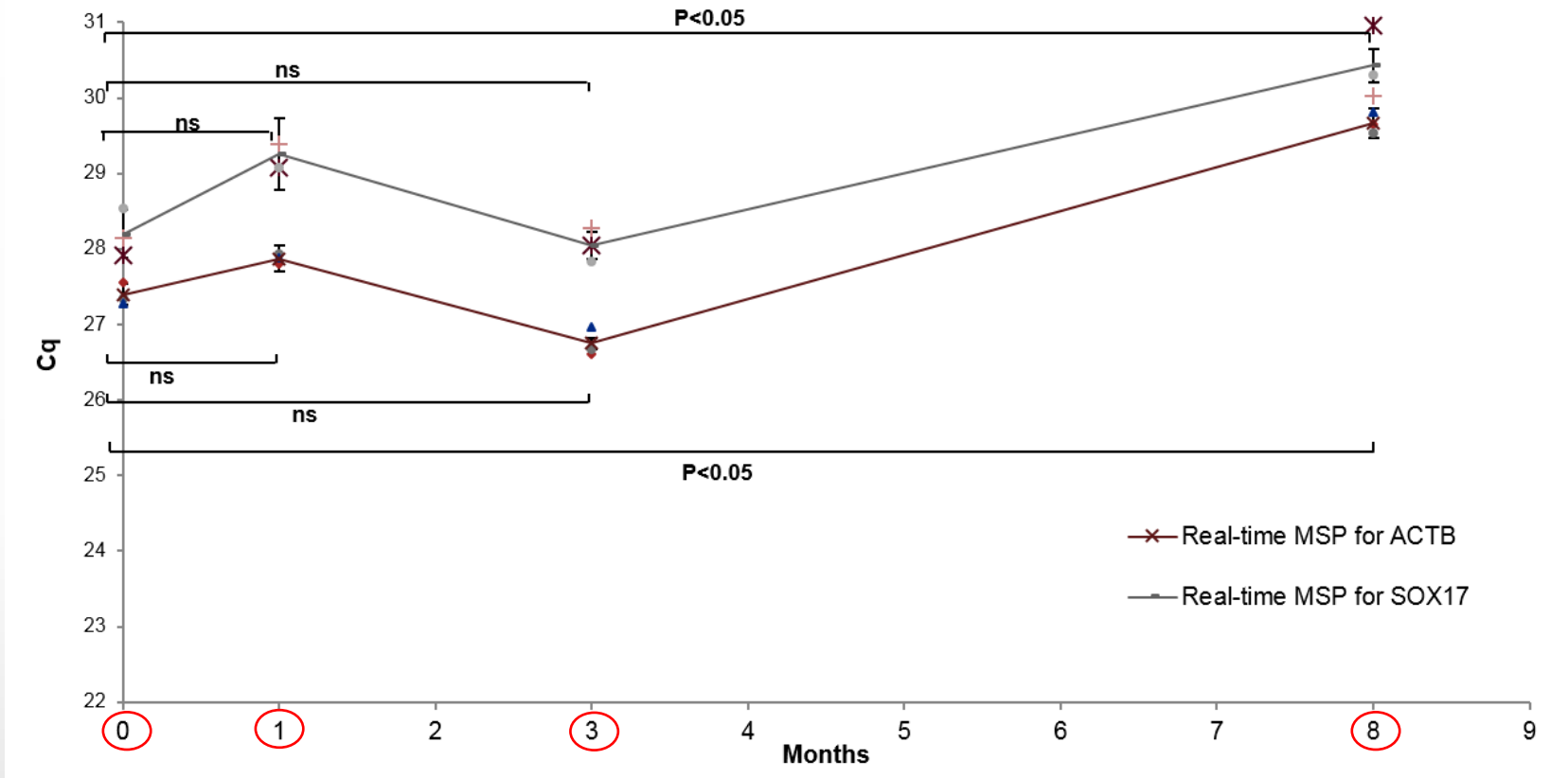
Martha Zavridou, Sofia Mastoraki, Areti Strati, Eleni Tzanikou, Maria Chimonidou, Evi Lianidou  
DOI: 10.1373/clinchem.2018.292318 Published September 2018



# Stability of DNA methylation in plasma

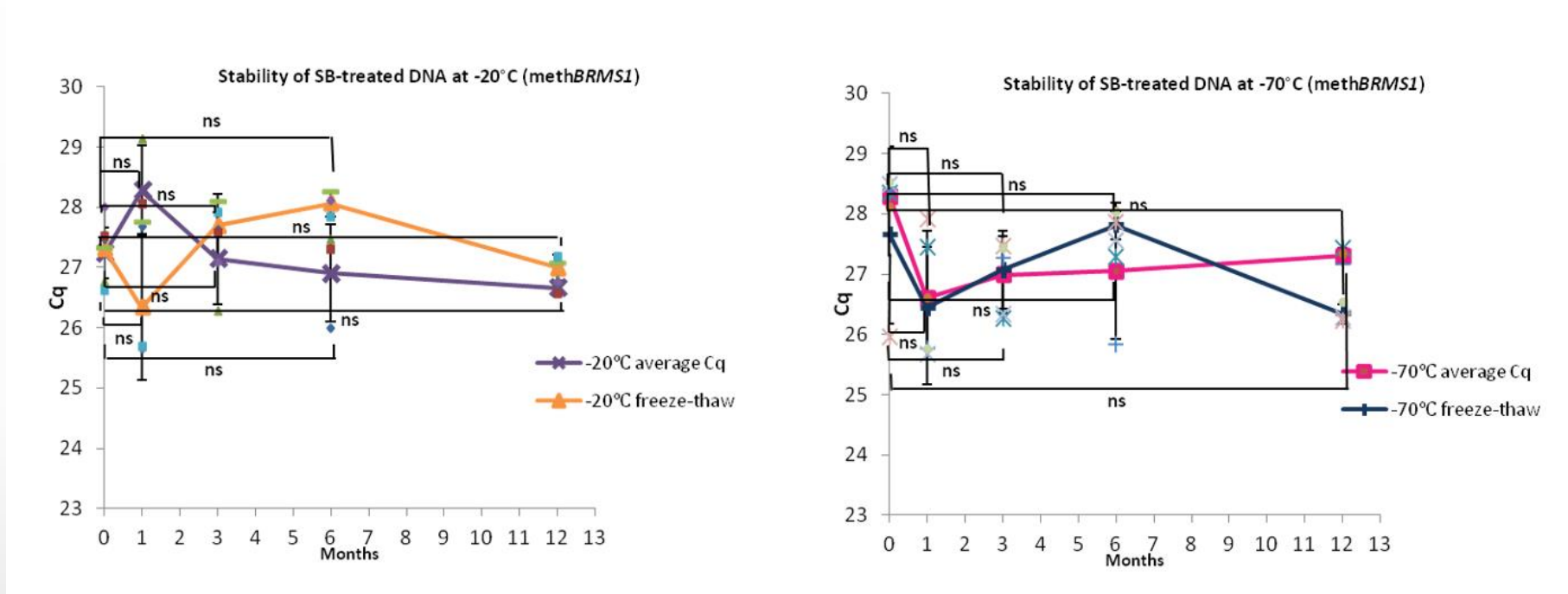


# Stability of DNA methylation in plasma



Real-time MSP for *ACTB* and *SOX17* during plasma storage at -70°C for up to eight months; Cq (n=3) and SD values of SB-treated DNA

## Stability of SB-treated DNA during storage at -20°C and -70°C



Real-time MSP for *BRMS1*; Cq (n=3) and SD values of SB-treated DNA.



**ANY  
QUESTIONS?**