 **Lung Cancer Heterogeneity and Its Clinical Applications**

**Jason Akulian, MD, MPH**  
Direct, Interventional Pulmonology  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

**Disclosures**

- None relevant to this presentation

 Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---


---

---



---

---

---

 **Cancer Evolution**

- 1890 – Von Hanseemann – Hypothesized that abnormal mitoses noted in cancer cells gives rise to asymmetric chromosome distribution
- 1958 – Huxley – “Genetic Inhomogeneity of Cancer”
  - “...it will be of great interest to discover the extent of such new variance and rate at which it occurs...”

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Cancer Evolution

- Cancer – Genetically unstable
  - Increased chance of daughter cell creation capable of initiating their own cell lines
  - Leads to intra- and inter-tumor cellular heterogeneity
  - “Optimal range” of instability
- Tumor growth = tumor evolution = increasing heterogeneity
- 1.6 to 9 mutations per cell division
  - Leads to millions of mutations per tumor
  - Selection pressures

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Sources of heterogeneity within the tumor

- Tumor intrinsic factors
- Genetic
  - » Mismatch repair and Microsatellite Instability
  - » Nucleotide excision repair
  - » Base excision repair
- Epigenetic
  - » DNA methylation
  - » Histone modification
- Transcription errors
- Proteomic instability
  - » Heat shock proteins

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Sources of heterogeneity within the tumor

- Extrinsic factors/microenvironment
  - » pH
  - » Hypoxia
    - Angiogenesis
    - Selects for hypoxia “resistance” in tumor cell populations
    - Tumor cell migration
    - Anti-tumor immune response
  - » Paracrine signaling with stroma/surrounding cells
    - Active involvement with the extra-cellular matrix

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Linear vs. Branched Cancer Evolution

(\*) Intercellular heterogeneity → Clonal selection → outgrowth of subclones

- (A) Linear Evolution: subclones arise sequentially.
- (B) Branched Evolution: divergent subclones emerge independently.

Presented on: 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only  
Burrell and Swanton 2014 Molecular Oncology

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Linear vs. Branched Cancer Evolution

(\*) Clonal Sweep: One emerging subclone outcompetes the rest of the tumor population.

- Incomplete clonal sweeps → results in clonal heterogeneity.
- Subclonal genotypes allow monitoring of tumor evolution over time.

Presented on: 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only  
Burrell and Swanton 2014 Molecular Oncology

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Heterogeneity is a major factor leading to therapeutic resistance

- Tumor Heterogeneity:
  - Histological
  - Genetic
  - Phenotypic
- Advances in tumor deep sequencing have resulted in the identification of extensive intra-tumor heterogeneity (ITH).

Presented on: 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Heterogeneity is a major factor leading to therapeutic resistance**

- Tumors are constantly evolving – genetically and epigenetically – results in increased ITH.
- Cancer therapies produce a selection pressure in the evolution of the tumor.
  - Molecular mechanisms of drug resistance will vary based on the therapy used.
  - For any given therapy, there may be multiple mechanisms of resistance.
    - Within the same site of disease.
    - In parallel between different sites of disease.

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Factors which influence clonal heterogeneity**

- Genetic drift
  - » Tumor cell loss of precise DNA replication
  - » Ability to undergo sequential progressive genomic changes
    - Mutation
    - Gene rearrangement
    - Gene deletion
  - » Selective effect of a mutation (clonal competition)
  - » Random drift will fix a mutation if  $U/s > 1$ 
    - U = total # of mutations per genome
    - S = selection pressure against individual mutations

Naugler et al. Theoretical Biology and Medical Modelling 2010, 7:42  
Ruddick. Cancer Biology, 4th edition 2007

Presented on 1/24/18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Factors which influence tumor heterogeneity**

- Drug treatment
- Schedule of administration of the drug

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only McGranahan. Cell 168, 2017

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ITH and its potential clinical implications**

**Potential Clinical Implications**

- Tumor sampling bias
- Defining actionable mutations
- Development of drug resistance
- ITH as a biomarker

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Swanton, Cancer Research, 2012 Gerlinger, NEJM, 2012

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Therapeutic Resistance and Cancer Evolution**

- Multiple different routes through which drug resistance may be achieved.
- Important question for cancer evolution during treatment – *are the drug resistant cells which lead to disease progression:*
  - » Present prior to treatment?
  - » Generated directly by treatment?
  - » Generated during (but independent of) treatment?
- Are resistant cells clonal within individual patients?

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Clonal Expansions and Drug Resistance**

- Acquisition of new driver mutations
- De Novo: Development of resistance in a previously sensitive clone.

PRE-TREATMENT

POST-TREATMENT

DE NOVO

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Clonal Expansion and Drug Resistance**

- Acquisition of new driver mutations
- Selective pressures exerted by therapeutic agents
- **Monoclonal:** Pre-existing resistant subclone outgrows (the clone was initially a minor subclone).
- **Polyclonal:** Multiple de novo or pre-existing resistant subclones, which may be present across multiple sites of disease.

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Examples from lung cancer studies of drug resistance**

**EGFR**

- T790M mutations have been detected in untreated samples; associated with reduced PFS to first generation EGFR TKIs.
- MET amplification detected in minor subpopulations of EGFR mutant lung cancer prior to EGFR TKI therapy; resistance develops through outgrowth of the clone harboring amplified MET.

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Examples from lung cancer studies of drug resistance**

**ALK**

- Multiple different ALK kinase domain mutations may be identified within the same patient
  - ex: L1196M and C1156Y both detected in a patient with crizotinib resistance.
- ALK kinase domain mutations detected simultaneously with bypass signaling pathways.
  - ex: L1196M mutation detected simultaneously with increased EGFR within the same tumor site.

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### How can we study ITH?

- Techniques
  - » Single cell next generation sequencing studies
    - Need for sophisticated bioinformatics for assessing the complex data sets.
  - » Proteomic assessments
- Model systems
  - » Cell lines
  - » Patient derived xenografts (these mice lack a immune system)
  - » Genetically engineered mouse models



Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### How can we study ITH?

- Access to patient tumor biopsy samples
  - » Feasibility of sampling multiple sites of disease?
  - » Can circulating tumor cells (CTCs) and circulating free tumor DNA (cfDNA) be used to track and monitor heterogeneity?
  - » Are CTC and cfDNA representative of the disease?
  - » Ability to acquire 'warm-biopsies' of patients to monitor multiple disease sites simultaneously.

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### ITH and mutation burden

- Tumors are heterogeneous
  - » Populations of cells with distinct molecular and phenotypic features
- A single biopsy may not represent the extent of driver mutation involvement
- Recently, group at MDACC evaluated 48 samples from 11 resected NSCLC

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Zhang et al, Science, 2014

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





**Clinical Applications to Tumor Heterogeneity**

- Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR)
- Transmembrane protein, activation leads to tyrosine autophosphorylation and cell proliferation.
- Mutant over-expression has been found to be targetable.
- Highly prevalent in Asian patients and/or non-smokers with adenocarcinoma NSCLC
- Targeted using TKI

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Li et al. JCO. 2013. Vol 8(3)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**IPASS trial - Progression-free Survival by EGFR Mutation Status and Treatment**

**EGFR mutation positive**  
**Gefitinib**  
 Carboplatin/paclitaxel  
 HR (95% CI) = 0.48 (0.36-0.64)  
 P < 0.001  
 No. events gefitinib, 97 (73.5%)  
 No. events C/P, 111 (86%)

**EGFR mutation negative**  
**Gefitinib**  
 Carboplatin/paclitaxel  
 HR (95% CI) = 2.85 (2.05-3.98)  
 P < 0.001  
 No. events gefitinib, 88 (96.7%)  
 No. events C/P, 70 (82.4%)

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Mok TS, et al. N Engl J Med. 2009;361(10):947-957 Slide Courtesy of ACCP/GAIN

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**CALGB 30406 (US data): Erlotinib Improves RR and PFS in Patients with EGFR Mutation**

**Progression-free Survival**  
 — EGFR mut (n=33)  
 — EGFR WT (n=44)  
 RR: EGFR mutant: 67% (P < 0.0001) EGFR WT: 9%

**Overall Survival**  
 — EGFR mut (n=33)  
 — EGFR WT (n=44)  
 EGFR mutant: 31.3 (23.8-42.8) P = 0.0093  
 EGFR WT: 18.1 (9.5-25.0)

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Janne PA, et al. J Clin Oncol 2010;28:155. Slide Courtesy of ACCP/GAIN.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

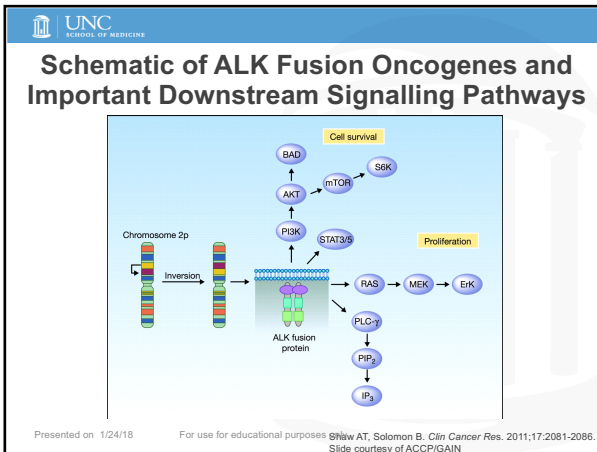
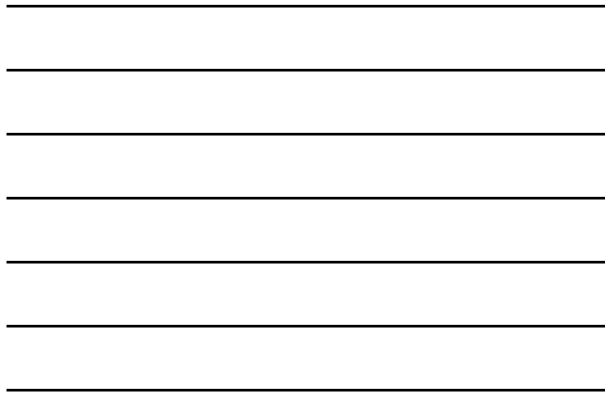
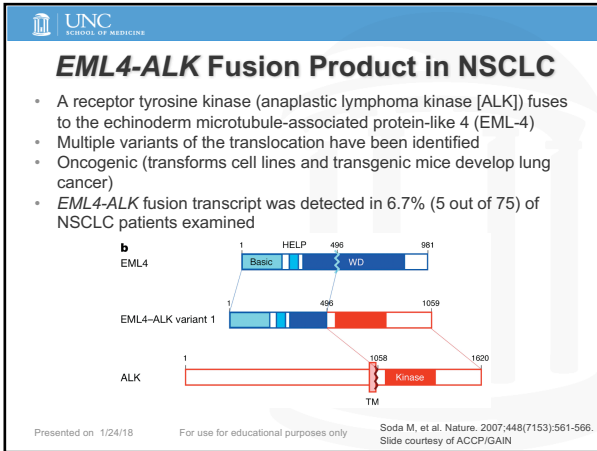
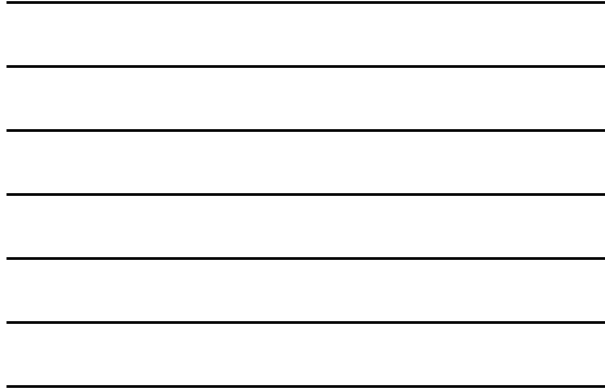
---

**Phase III clinical trials of EGFR TKI vs. platinum-doublet chemotherapy in EGFR-mutated NSCLC**

Trial	No. patients	Treatment	Response rate (p)	PFS (months)	HR for PFS (p)	OS (months)	HR for OS (p)
IPASS	437	Gefitinib	71% (<0.001)	9.5	0.48 (<0.001)	21.6	1 (0.99)
		Carboplatin paclitaxel	47%	6.3		21.9	
WJTOG	177	Gefitinib	62% (<0.001)	9.2	0.49 (<0.001)	30.9	1.64 (0.21)
		Cisplatin docetaxel	32%	6.3		NRea	
NEJ 002	230	Gefitinib	74% (<0.001)	10.8	0.30 (<0.001)	30.5	NR
		Carboplatin paclitaxel	31%	5.4		23.6	
OPTIMAL	154	Erlotinib	83% (<0.001)	13.1	0.16 (<0.001)	22.6	1.06 (0.68)
		Carboplatin gemcitabine	36%	4.6		28.8	
EURTAC	173	Erlotinib	58% (<0.001)	9.7	0.37 (<0.001)	19.3	1.04 (0.87)
		Platinum doublet	15%	5.2		19.5	
LUX-Lung3	345	Afatinib	69%	11.1	0.58 (<0.001)	28.2	1.12 (0.60)
		Cisplatin pemetrexed	44%	6.9		28.2	
LUX-Lung6	364	Afatinib	74%	11.0	0.28 (<0.001)	23.1	0.95 (0.76)
		Cisplatin gemcitabine	31%	5.6		23.5	

In the trials above, starting doses were gefitinib 250 mg daily, erlotinib 150 mg daily or afatinib 40 mg daily. EGFR epidermal growth factor receptor; EURTAC, European tarceva versus chemotherapy; IPASS, Iressa Pan-Asia Study; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; NEJ, North East Japan; NR, not reported; NRea, not reached; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; WJTOG, West Japan Thoracic Oncology Group.

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only



**Results with Crizotinib**

- Small-molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitor
  - » ALK, MET, and ROS1 kinases – “Dirty TKI”
- In phase 1 and 2 studies
  - » objective tumor responses in approximately 60% of patients with ALK-positive NSCLC
  - » progression-free survival of 7 to 10 months
- Randomized phase 3 trial
  - » Patients with advanced ALK-positive NSCLC
  - » Second-line – Crizotinib vs single-agent second-line chemotherapy with either pemetrexed or docetaxel – Crizotinib superior.

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only  
 Solomon et al. N Engl J Med 2014; 371:2167-2177

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Results with Crizotinib**

- EML4-ALK fusion gene found to be targetable using Crizotinib
- Early abstract
  - » Median PFS 10.0 months (95% CI; 8.2–14.7 months)
  - » Median OS has not been reached
    - 23 deaths (19%)
    - 94 patients (79%) remain in f/u for OS
    - No deaths related to study drug
  - » Adverse effects
    - Visual effects (62%)
    - GI effects, edema common (25-50%)
- Crizotinib approved by FDA August 26, 2011, for the treatment of patients with advanced NSCLC that is ALK positive

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only  
 Camidge DR, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2011;29(suppl):Abstract 2501.  
 Slide courtesy of ACCP/GAIN

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Results with Crizotinib**

- First-Line Crizotinib versus Chemotherapy in ALK-Positive Lung Cancer

**A Progression-free Survival**

Hazard ratio for progression or death in the crizotinib group, 0.45 (95% CI, 0.35-0.60) P<0.001 (two-sided stratified log-rank test)

Months	Crizotinib	Chemotherapy
0	172	171
5	120	105
10	65	36
15	38	12
20	19	2
25	7	1
30	1	0
35	0	0

**B Overall Survival**

Hazard ratio for death in the crizotinib group, 0.82 (95% CI, 0.54-1.26) P=0.36 (two-sided stratified log-rank test)

Months	Crizotinib	Chemotherapy
0	172	171
5	152	146
10	123	112
15	80	74
20	44	47
25	24	21
30	3	4
35	0	0

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only  
 Solomon et al. N Engl J Med 2014; 371:2167-2177

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**c-Met Amplification in NSCLC**

- Met oncogenic driver via 2 mechanisms
  - » Amplification
  - » Exon 14 mutation
- Implicated in secondary resistance to EGFR and ALK
- De Novo associated with poorer outcomes in NSCLC
- High level of Met amplification (Met/CEP7 ration > 5)
- ?responses in squamous histology NSCLC

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Ignatius et al. J Thorac Oncol. 2011;6: 942-946 Schwab et al. Lung Cancer. 2014; 83(1): 109-111

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

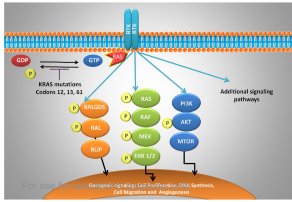
---

---

---

**KRAS+ NSCLC**

- Common oncogenic driver, mutant KRAS
- Present in approximately 25% of NSCLC
- Poor prognostic indicator (mixed result)
- Mutant KRAS constitutively bound to GTP
  - » Always on = increased cell proliferation, apoptosis suppression



Presented on 1/24/18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

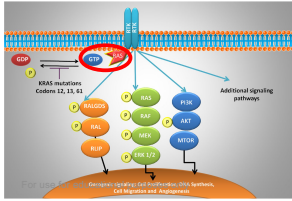
---

---

---

**KRAS+ NSCLC**

- Common oncogenic driver, mutant KRAS
- Present in approximately 25% of NSCLC
- Poor prognostic indicator (mixed result)
- Mutant KRAS constitutively bound to GTP
  - » Always on = increased cell proliferation, apoptosis suppression



Presented on 1/24/18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Harnessing the immune system

- Pembrolizumab
  - » KEYNOTE-001 – Proportion score (PS) >50% PD-L1 expression
    - OOR 45%
    - Both treated and treatment naïve patients with >44% OOR
  - » KEYNOTE-010 – Pembrolizumab vs. Docetaxel in previously treated NSCLC patients with PS >50%
    - HR 0.54 and 0.50 (2 different doses of Pembrolizumab), p<0.001
    - OS 14.9, 17.3 and 8.2 mo. for Pembrolizumab (2 doses) and Docetaxel respectively

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Garon et al. N Engl J Med 2015;372:2018–2028  
Herbst A Lancet 2015 S0140-6736(15)01281-7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Harnessing the immune system

- Pembrolizumab
  - » KEYNOTE-024 – Pembrolizumab (PS >50%) vs platinum-doublet first-line
    - PFS 10.3 vs. 6 mo.
    - RR 44.8% vs. 27.8%
  - » No survival benefit in EGFR mutated patients, even with detectable PS

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Reck et al. N Engl J Med 2016; 375:1823-1833

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Harnessing the immune system

- Nivolumab
- CheckMate-017 – Nivolumab vs. Docetaxel in patients with advanced squamous cell NSCLC, failed first-line chemotherapy.
  - » OS nivolumab 9.2 vs. docetaxel 6 months
  - » RR 20% vs. 9%
  - » Patients w/ advanced squamous cell NSCLC
    - Nivolumab – survival benefit regardless of PD-L1
- CheckMate-057 – Nivolumab vs. Docetaxel in advanced non-squamous cell NSCLC
  - » OS 12.2 months vs. 9.4 months
  - » RR 19% vs. 12%
  - » Objective response rate correlated with PD-L1 PS score, all groups superior to Docetaxel arm

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Brahmer et al. N Engl J Med 2015;373:123–135  
Borghaei et al. N Engl J Med 2015;373:1627–1639

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 **Harnessing the immune system**

- Nivolumab
- CheckMate-026 – Nivolumab (PS >5%) vs. platinum-doublet as first-line therapy
  - » PFS (median) 4.2 and 5.9 mo. respectively
  - » HR 1.15 [95% CI: 0.91, 1.45, p=0.25]
  - » OS 14.4 vs. 13.2 mo. respectively
  - » 60% of patients on the chemotherapy arm received nivolumab after progression (crossover or commercial).

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only Socinski et al. Ann Oncol (2016) 27 (suppl\_6)

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 **Lessons from Targeted Therapy in Lung Cancer**

- Choosing the right therapy for an individual patient does matter (for tolerability and survival)
- Tailored therapy
  - » EGFR mutations
  - » EML-4-ALK and ROS-1 translocations
  - » c-MET amplification
  - » Histologic type – Adenocarcinoma
  - » Immunotherapy – PD-L1
- Research will identify more predictive factors/targets

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 **Acknowledgements**

- Special thanks to:
- Chad Pecot
- ACCP/GAIN

Presented on 1/24/18 For use for educational purposes only

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---