



**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

# Radiation-Induced Viral Mimicry

Sandra Demaria, M.D.

Department of Radiation Oncology  
Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY

**I have the following financial relationships to disclose:**

**Grant/Research support from: Lytix Biopharma, Nanobiotix**

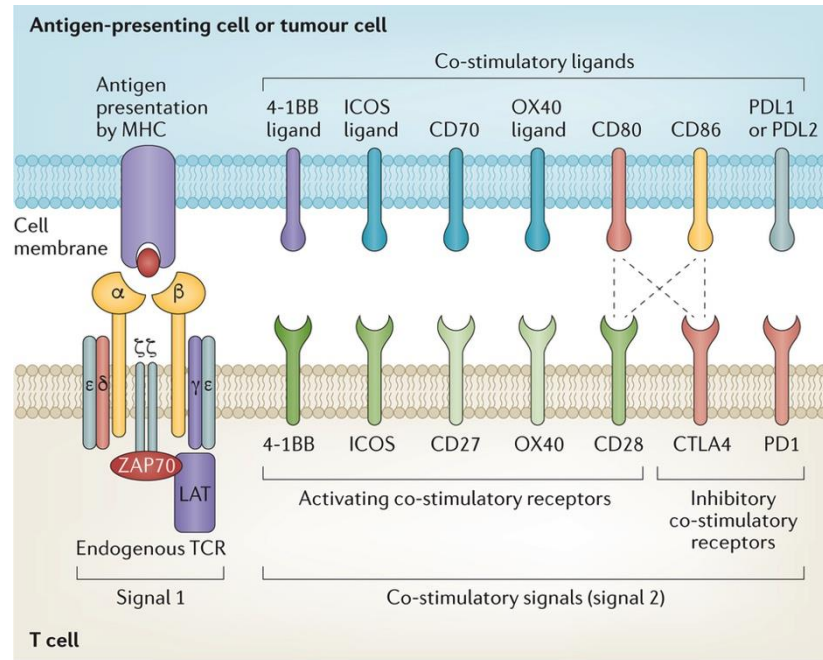
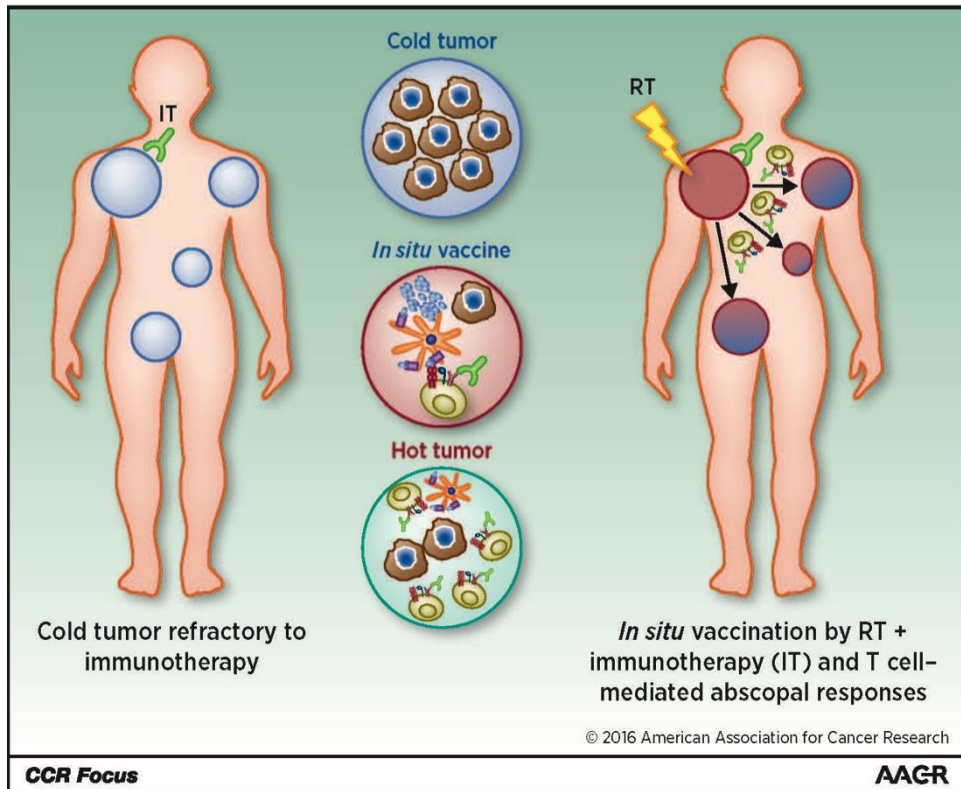
**Honoraria for advisory/consulting from: Lytix Biopharma, EMD Serono, Mersana Therapeutics**



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



# The role of radiotherapy in overcoming resistance to cancer immunotherapy



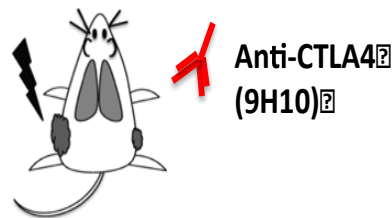
Nature Reviews | [Cancer](#)

T cell activation: Antigen + Adjuvant signals...and removing the brakes

# How radiation generates anti-tumor T cells?



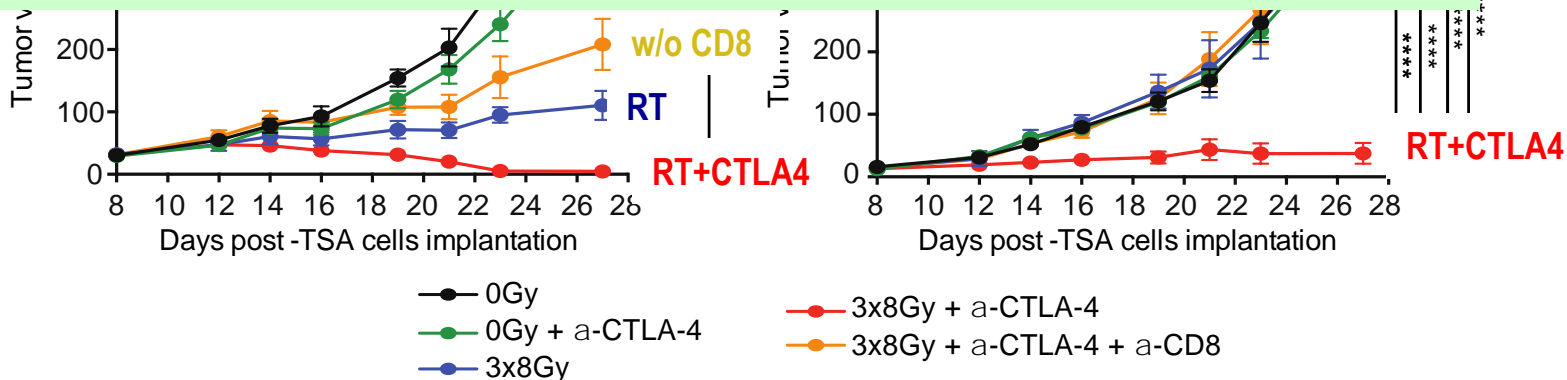
# CD8 T cells generated by RT+anti-CTLA4 act locally and systemically



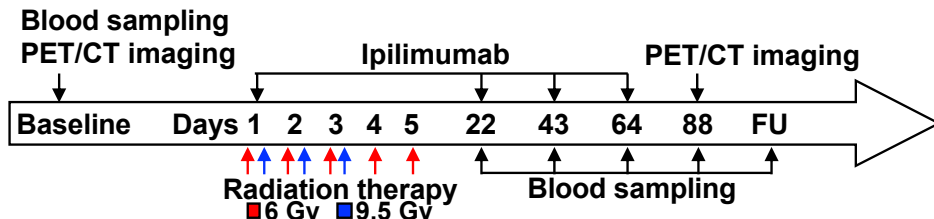
*Irradiated site*

*Abscopal site*

Focal RT overcomes resistance to ICB  
in some mouse models

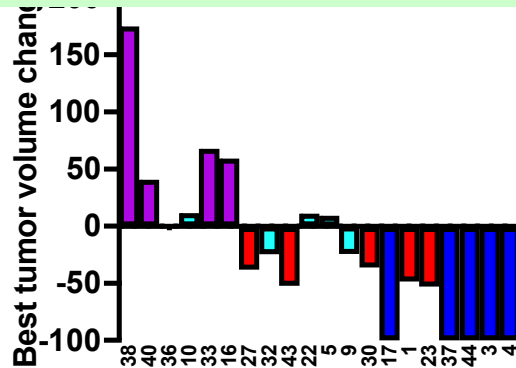
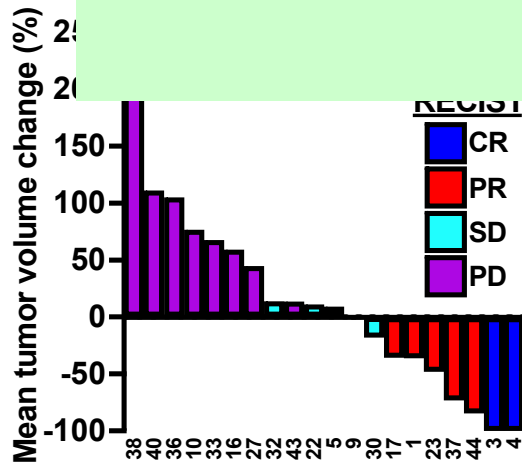


# Abscopal response to RT+anti-CTLA-4 (NCT 02221739)



39 metastatic chemo-refractory NSCLC enrolled patients  
22/39 patients completed treatment;  
21/22 patients were evaluable

Focal RT overcomes resistance to ICB  
in some patients



CR = 2

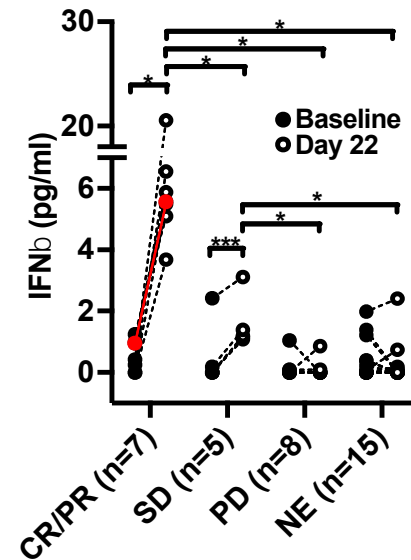
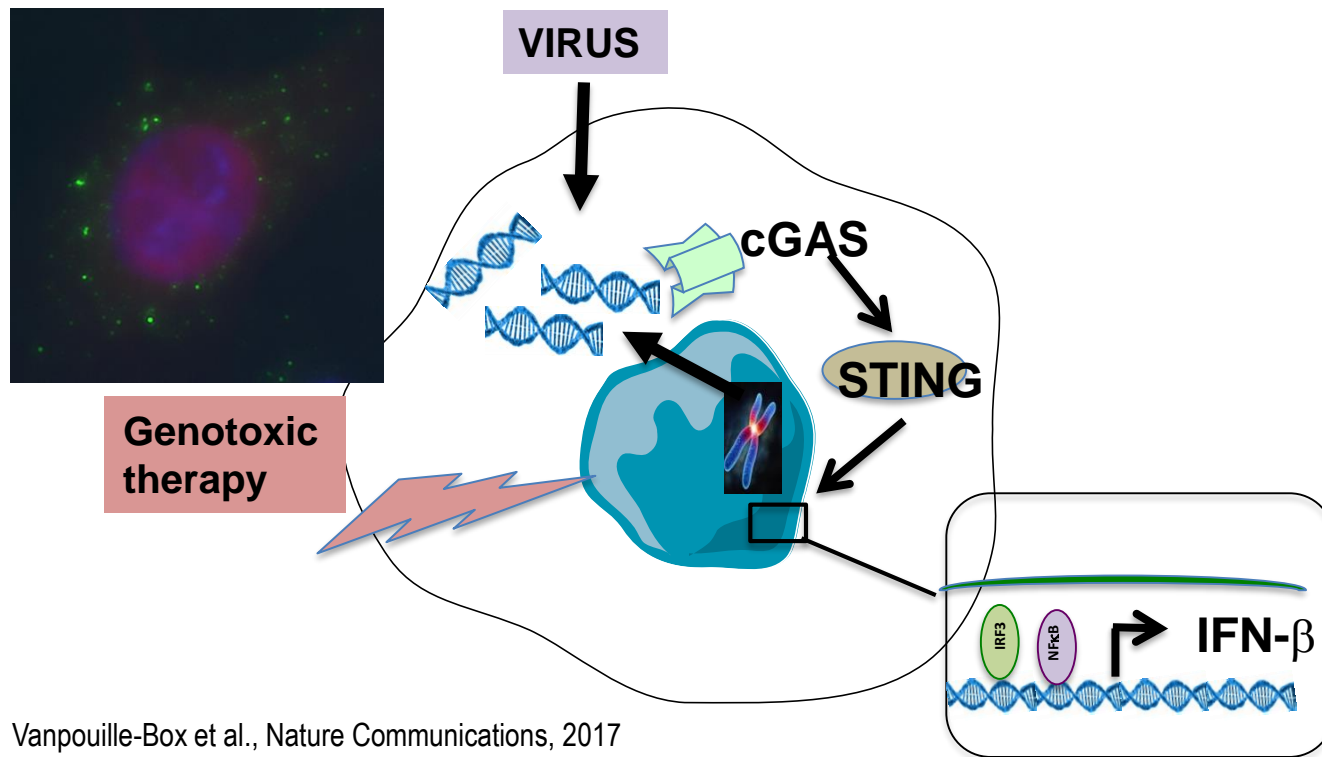
PR = 5

SD = 5

PD = 28

Total pts = 39

# Radiation therapy activates a viral defense response pathway



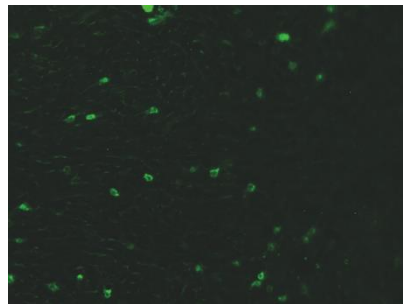
Formenti et al., Nature Medicine 2018

Vanpouille-Box et al., Nature Communications, 2017

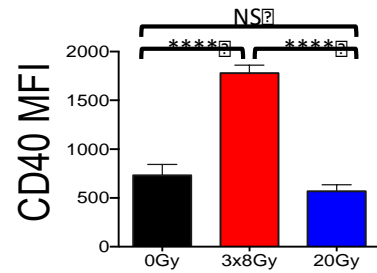
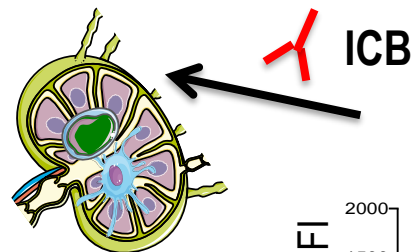
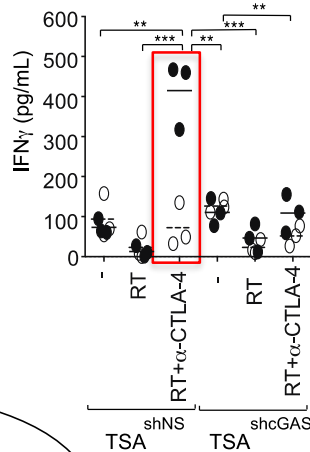
Harding et al, Nature 2017, Mackenzie et al., Nature 2017

Deng et al, Immunity 2014

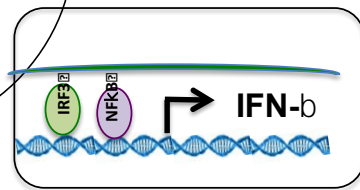
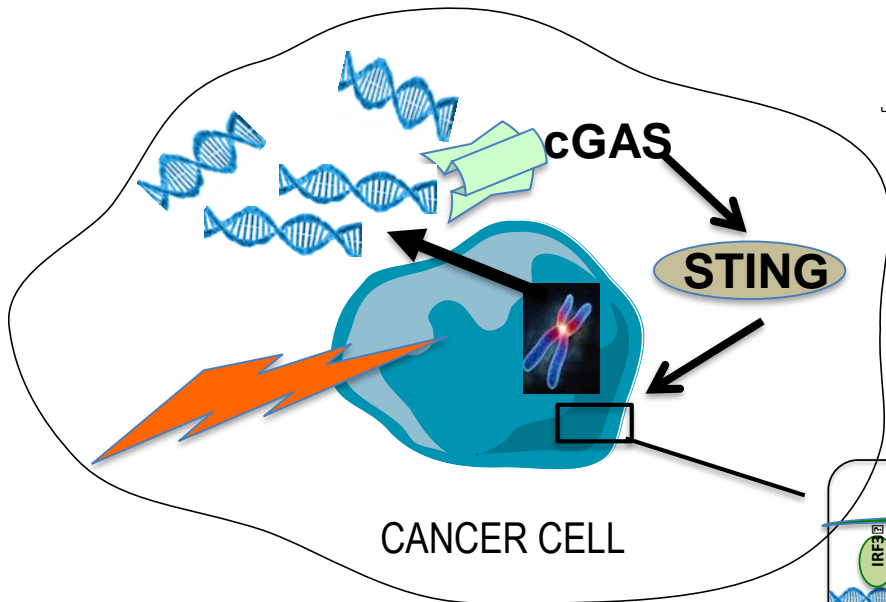
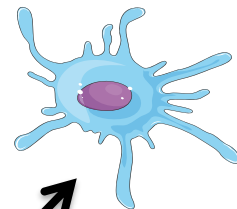
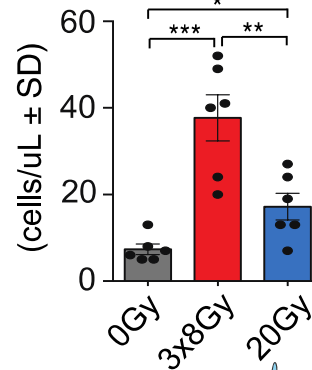
# Abscopal tumor



CD8



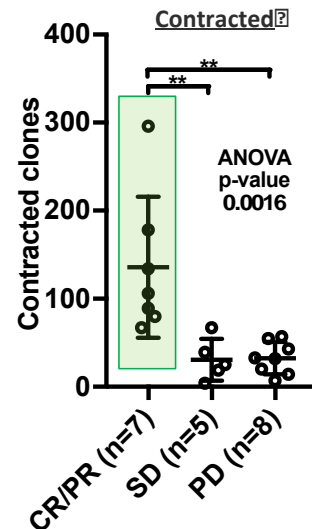
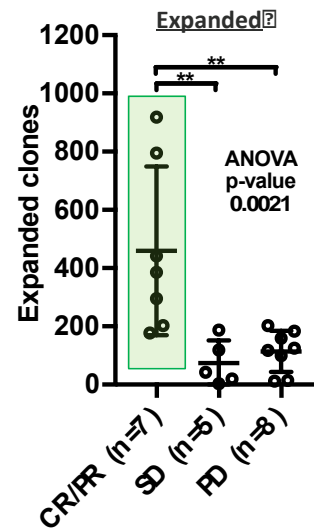
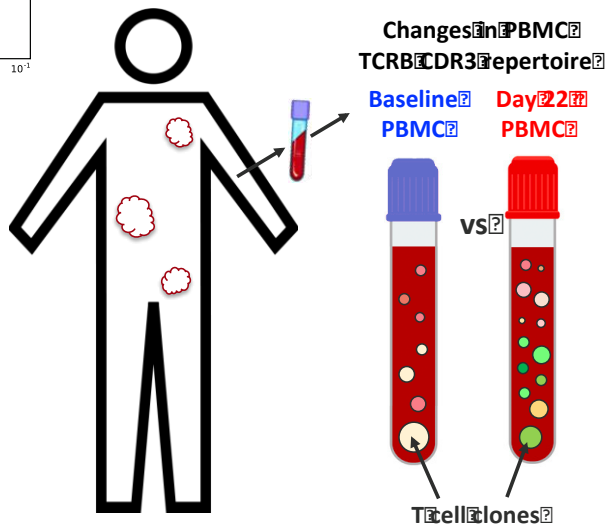
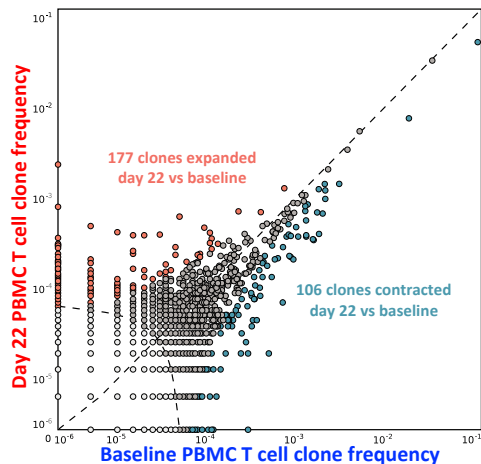
BATF3-DCs



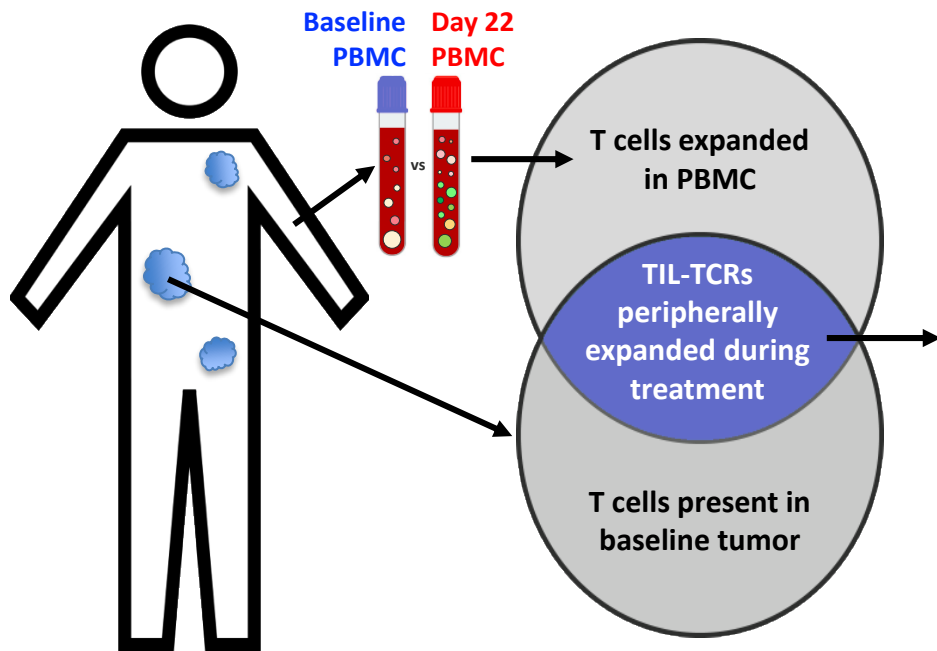




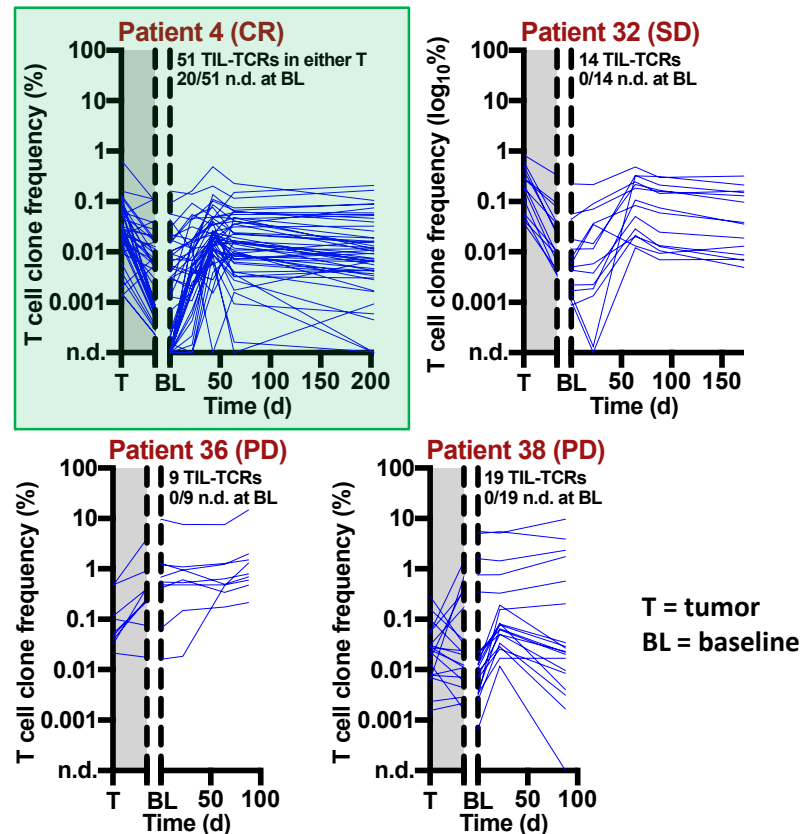
# Large dynamic changes in TCR repertoire between baseline and day 22 for responders



# Expansion of tumor-derived T cell clones in blood of complete responder

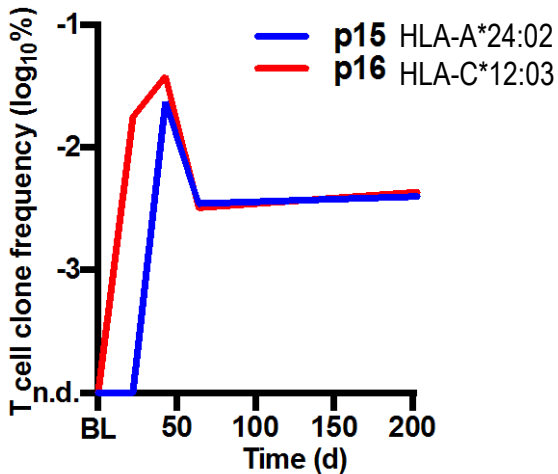
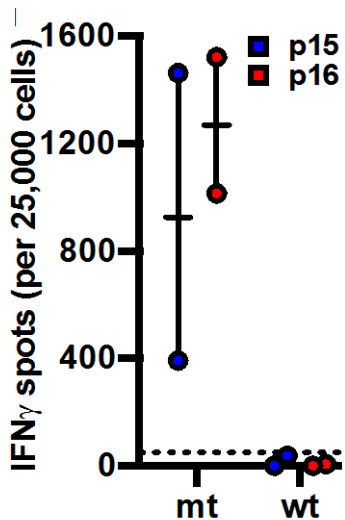


Frequency of TIL-TCRs expanding in PBMC



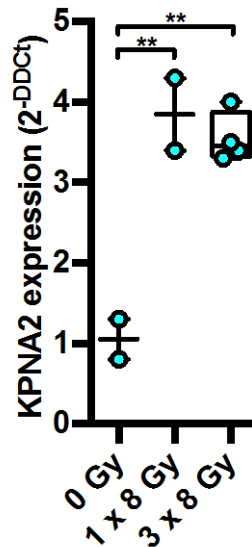


# CD8 T cells present in the post-treatment blood of CR recognize an immunogenic mutation in KPNA2 (karyopherin A2)



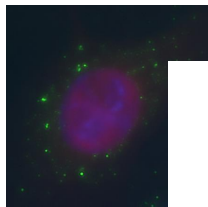
p15 not detected in pre-tx tumor  
p16 detected in pre-tx tumor

NSCLC PDTX

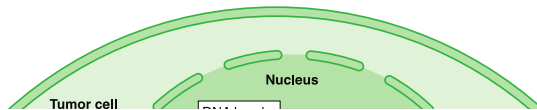


RT enhances the  
expression of an  
immunogenic  
mutation

# Viral mimicry and *in situ* vaccination by focal RT



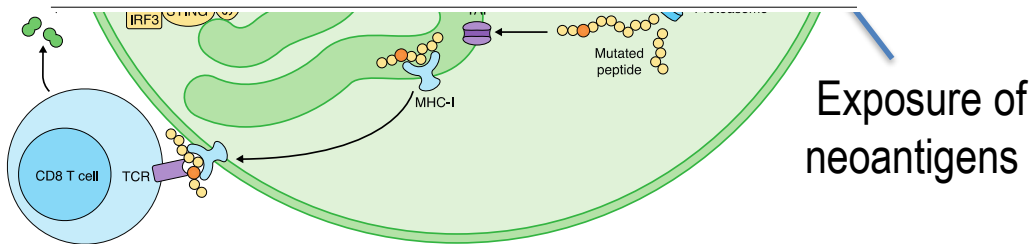
Production  
endogenous  
adjuvants



Radiation modulates the peptide repertoire,  
enhances MHC class I expression, and  
induces successful antitumor immunotherapy

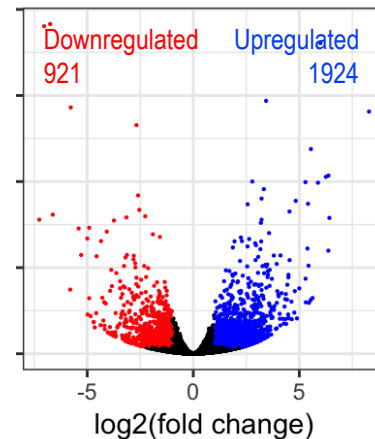
Eric A. Reits,<sup>1</sup> James W. Hodge,<sup>2</sup> Carla A. Herberts,<sup>1</sup> Tom A. Groothuis,<sup>1</sup>  
Mala Chakraborty,<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth K. Wansley,<sup>2</sup> Kevin Camphausen,<sup>3</sup>  
Rosalie M. Luiten,<sup>1</sup> Arnold H. de Ru,<sup>4</sup> Joost Neijssen,<sup>1</sup>  
Alexander Griekspoor,<sup>1</sup> Elly Mesman,<sup>1</sup> Frank A. Verreck,<sup>4</sup> Hergen Spits,<sup>1</sup>  
Jeffrey Schlom,<sup>2</sup> Peter van Veelen,<sup>4</sup> and Jacques J. Neefjes<sup>1</sup>

JEM 2006



Lhuillier et al., Genome Medicine, 2019

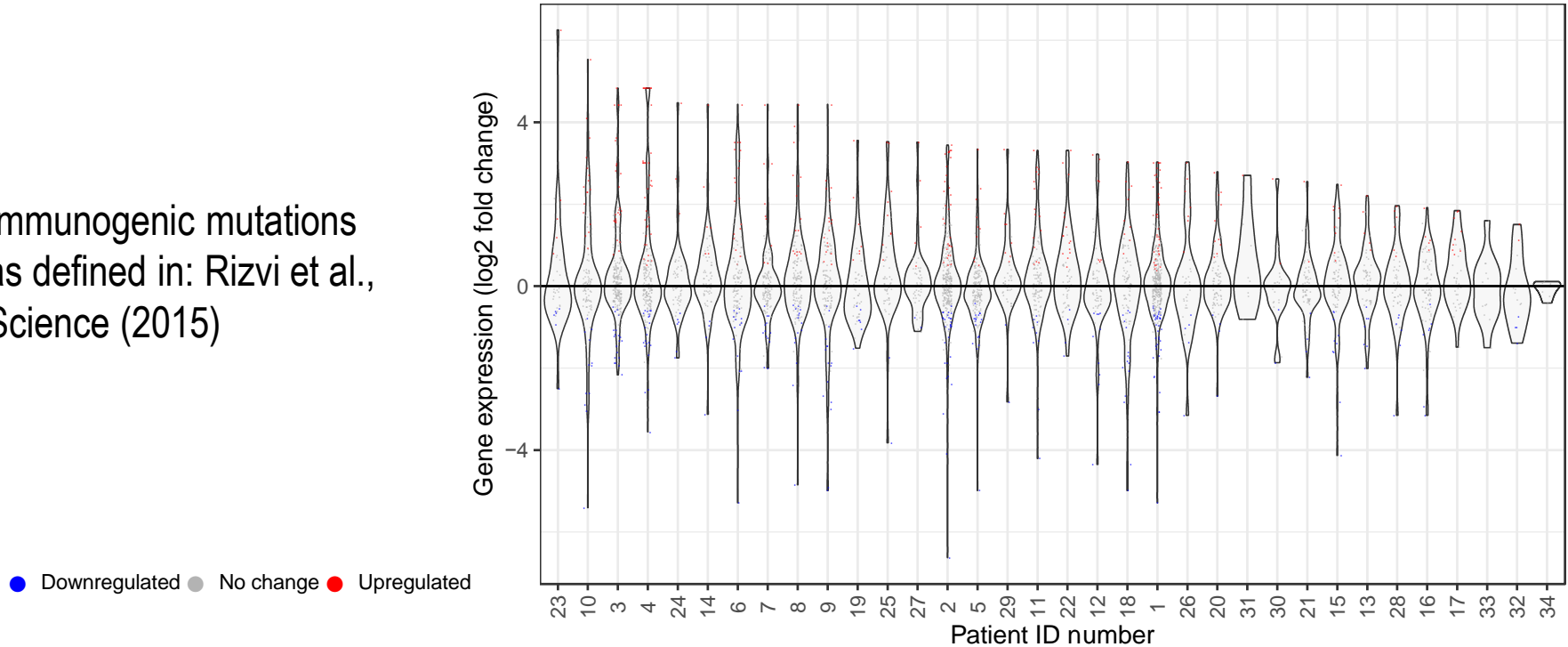
RNA Seq data of NSCLC PDX



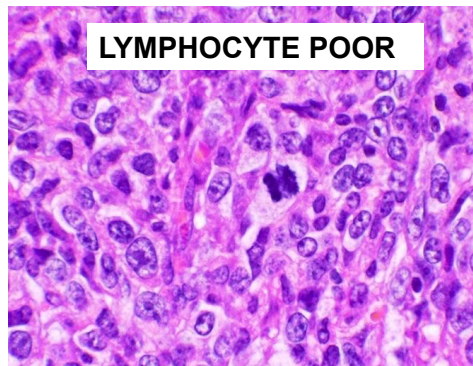
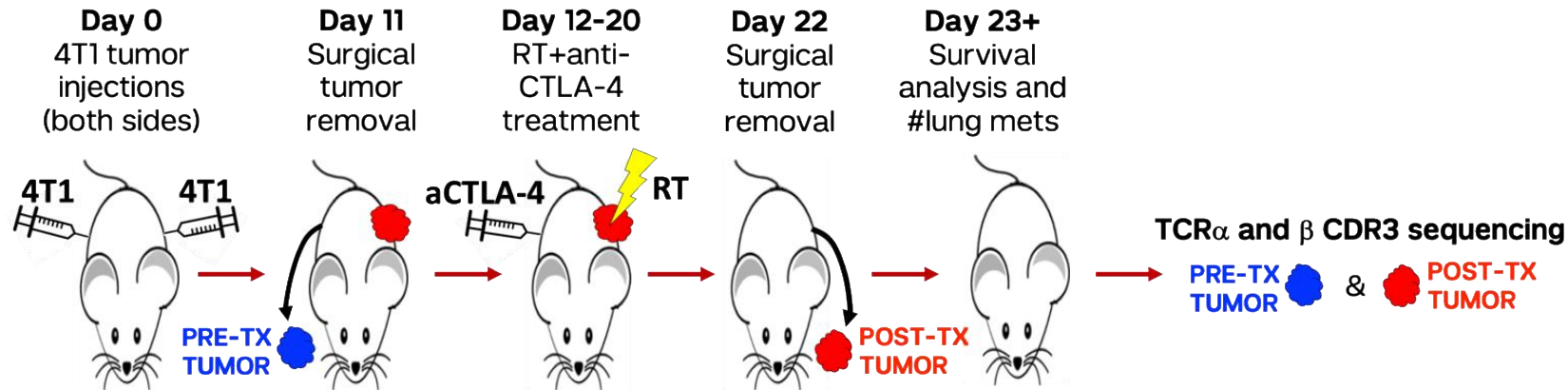
Rudqvist & Demaria, unpublished results

# Antigenic mutations in NSCLC could be modulated by RT

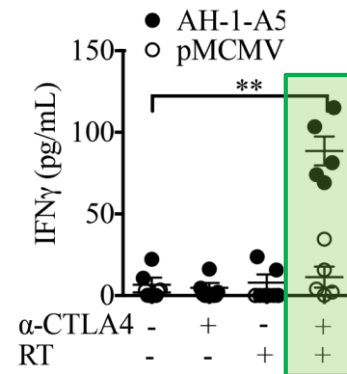
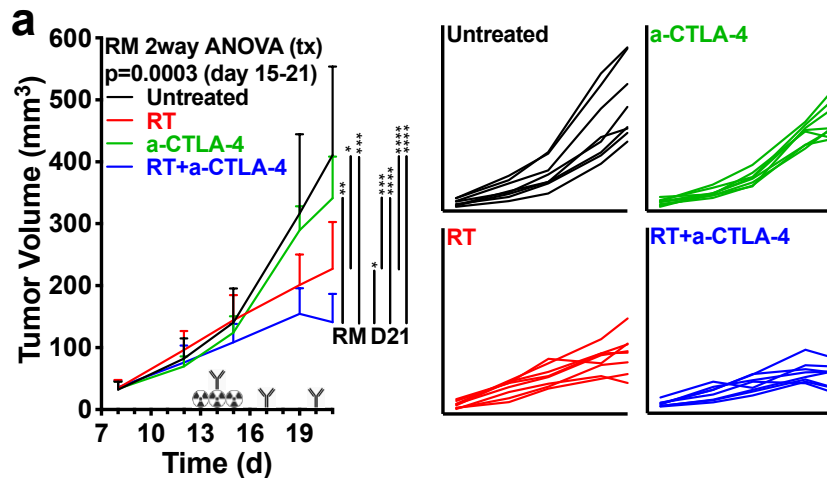
Immunogenic mutations  
as defined in: Rizvi et al.,  
Science (2015)



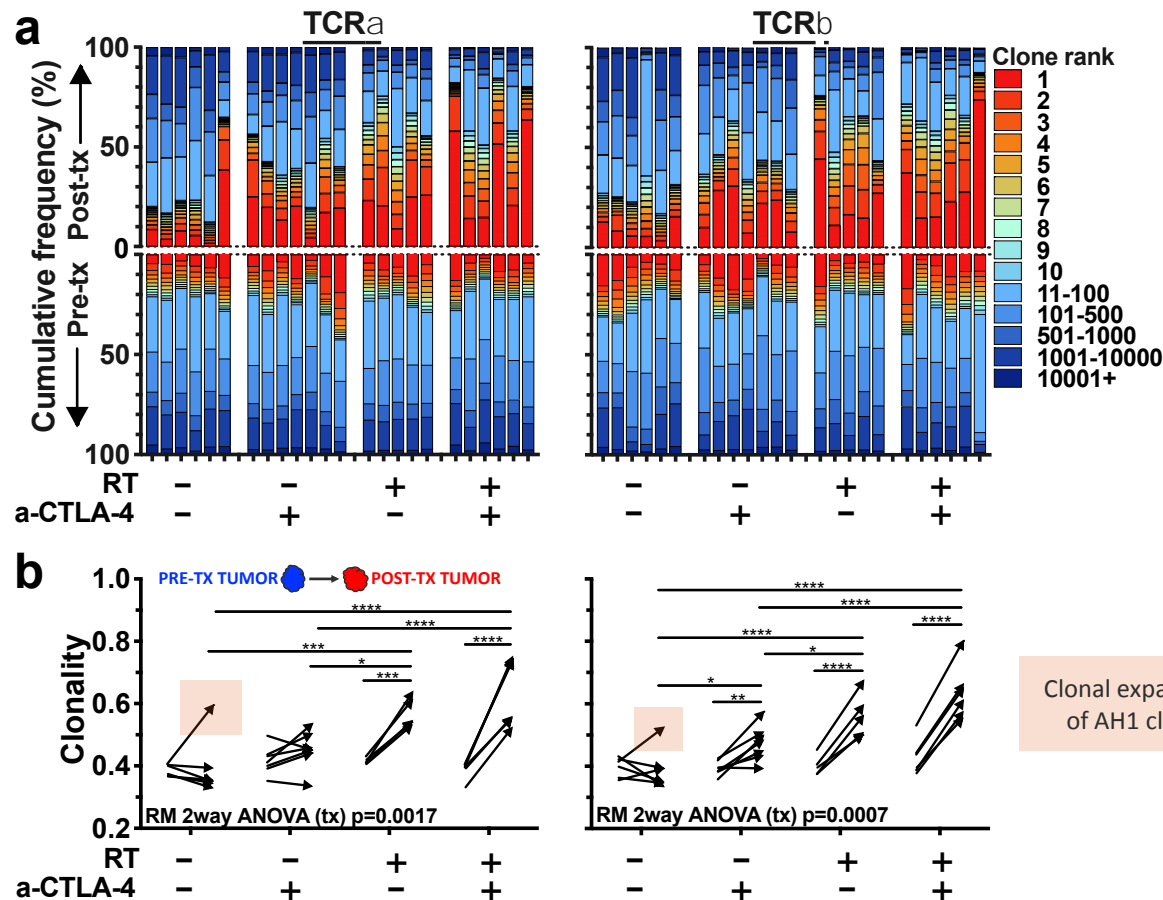
# A deep dive into T cells activated in irradiated tumors



4T1: 309 NSV

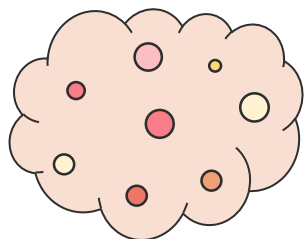


# Increased clonality of TCR repertoire is driven primarily by RT



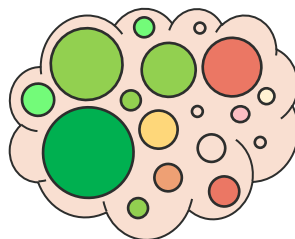
# Increased divergence of TCR repertoire is driven primarily by RT

➤ **Jensen-Shannon divergence ( $JSD$ ) =**  
 = difference between **pre-tx** and **post-tx** TCR repertoires  
 If  $JSD \uparrow$ , then similarity  $\downarrow$



**Pre-tx tumor  
TCR repertoire**

VS.

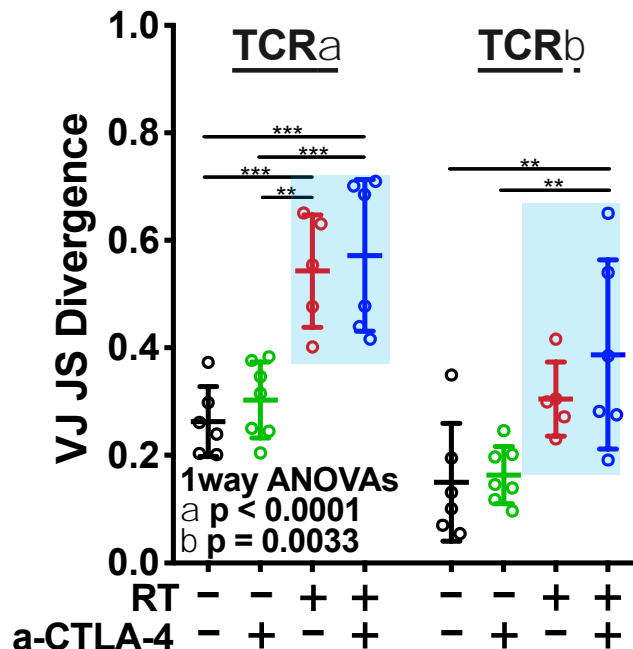


**Post-tx tumor  
TCR repertoire**



1

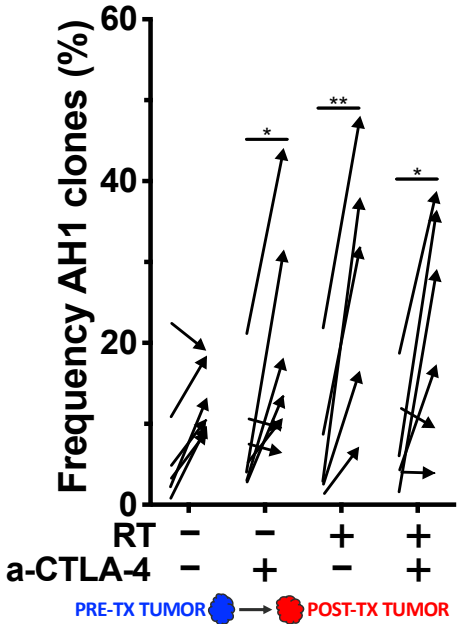
where  $KLD$  (Kullback-Liebler divergence) =



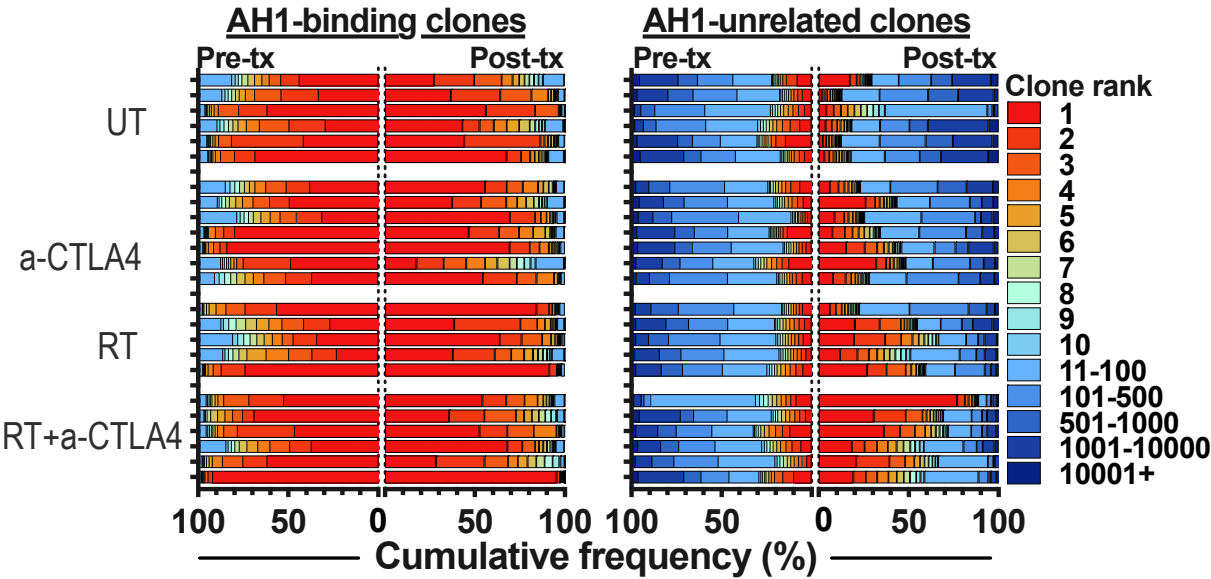


# The AH1 repertoire is expanded but increase in clonality comes from AH1-unrelated clones

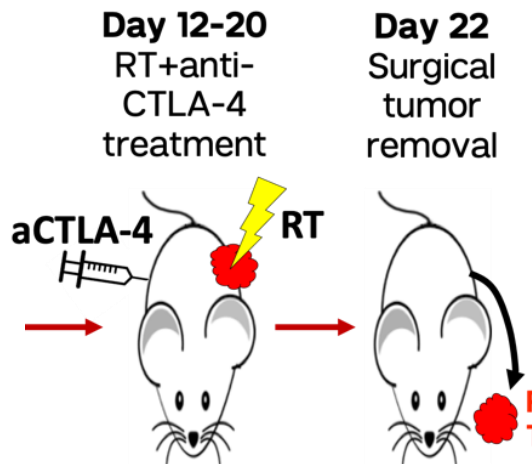
Expansion of AH1-binding clones



Clonality increase only in the AH1-unrelated compartment



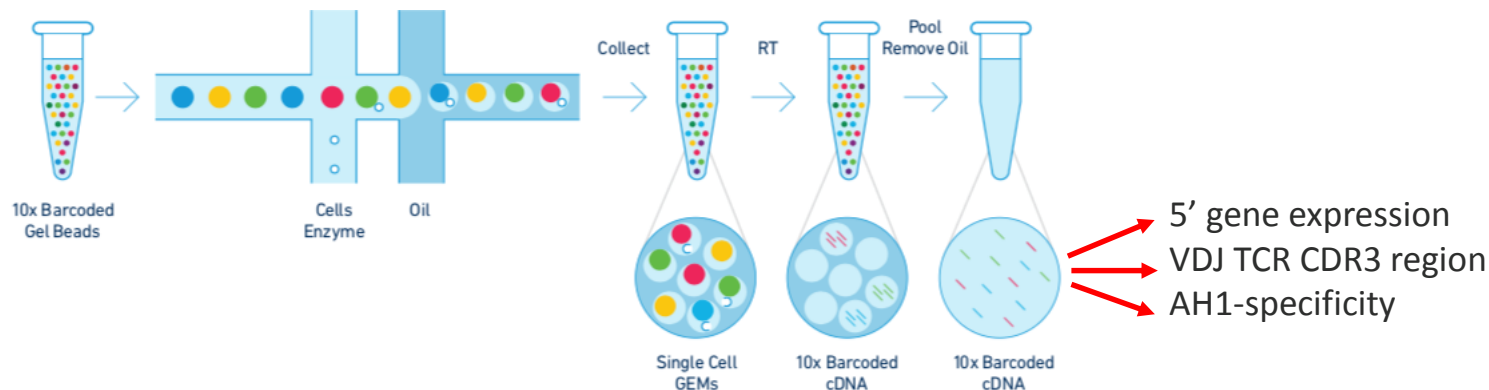
# Phenotyping of T cells infiltrating the 4T1 model using scRNA-sequencing



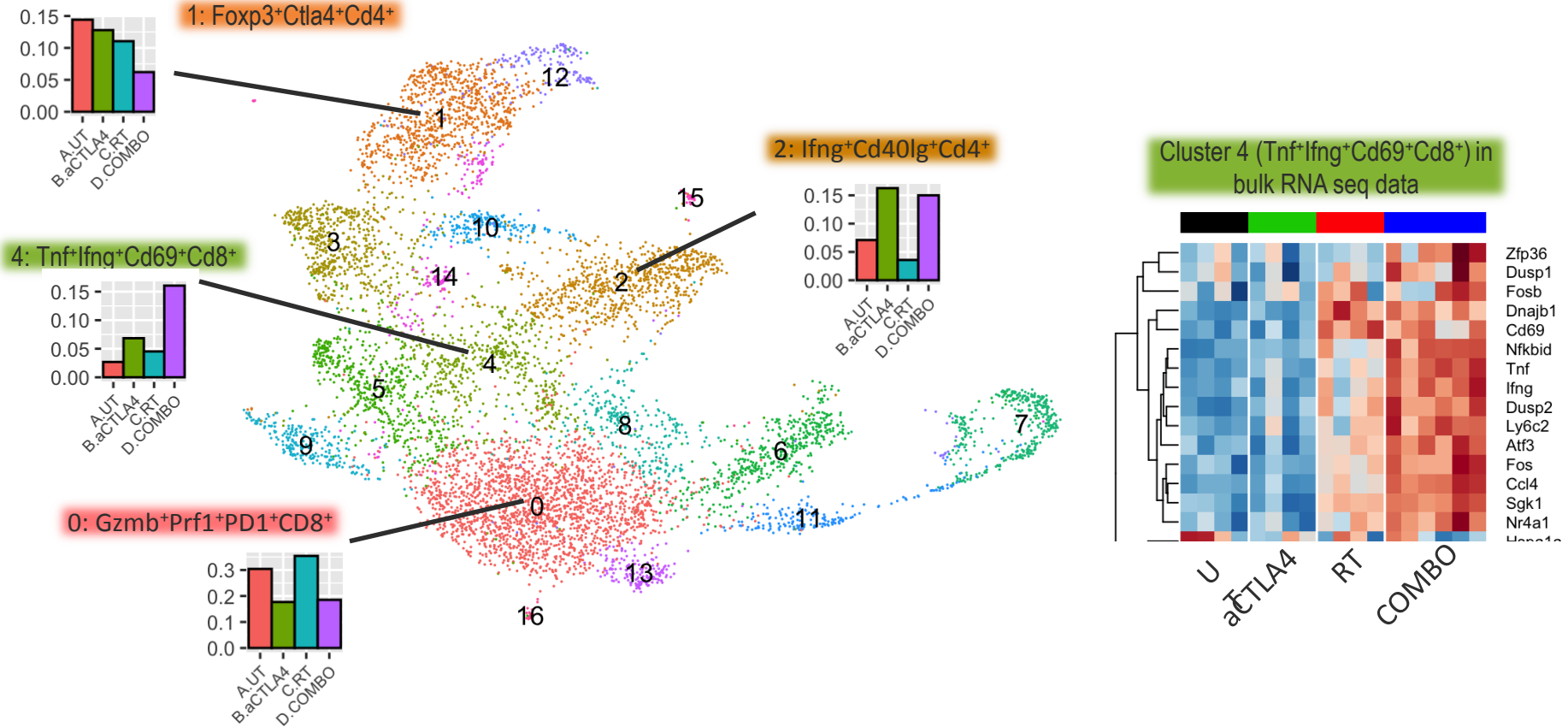
**POST-T TUMOR**

## Sorting of CD3+ T cells 10X Single cell sequencing

- 5' gene expression
- VDJ TCR CDR3 region
- AH1-specificity



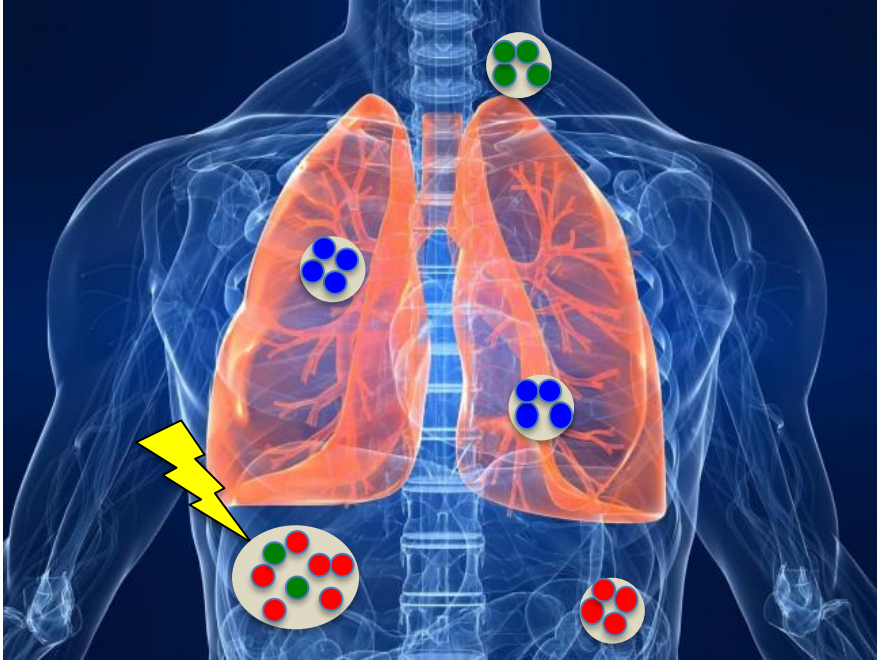
# Ifn $\gamma$ /Tnf $\alpha$ producing CD8 T cells are selectively expanded by RT+a-CTLA-4



# Take Home message

- The DNA damage response elicited by radiation activates canonical viral defense pathways via cytosolic DNA
- The radiation-induced transcriptome “exposes” immunogenic mutations to the immune system
- Radiation promotes a diversification and expansion of the TIL TCR repertoire
- A subset of polyfunctional CD8 T cells is expanded only in tumors of mice treated with RT+anti-CTLA-4

# Barriers: Tumor heterogeneity and resistance to T cells



Antigenic diversity= multi-site  
“vaccination”

Downregulation of cGAS/STING

Loss of MHC/b2m/IFN $\gamma$ R

Immunize and then treat  
resistant lesions!

# RADIATION & IMMUNITY PROGRAM



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Norman Coleman

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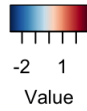
Kai Wucherpfennig  
Lucas Ferrari de Andrade

## **FUNDING**

National Cancer Institute R01 CA201246 &  
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The Chemotherapy Foundation  
BCRF  
DOD BCRP



Color Key



Cluster 0 (Gzmb<sup>+</sup>Prf1<sup>+</sup>PD1<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup>) in  
bulk RNA seq data

