



# Clinica e Terapia delle Sindromi Mielodisplastiche

28 maggio 2022

La nicchia emopoietica nelle MDS:  
aspetti clinico-biologici e potenziali targets terapeutici

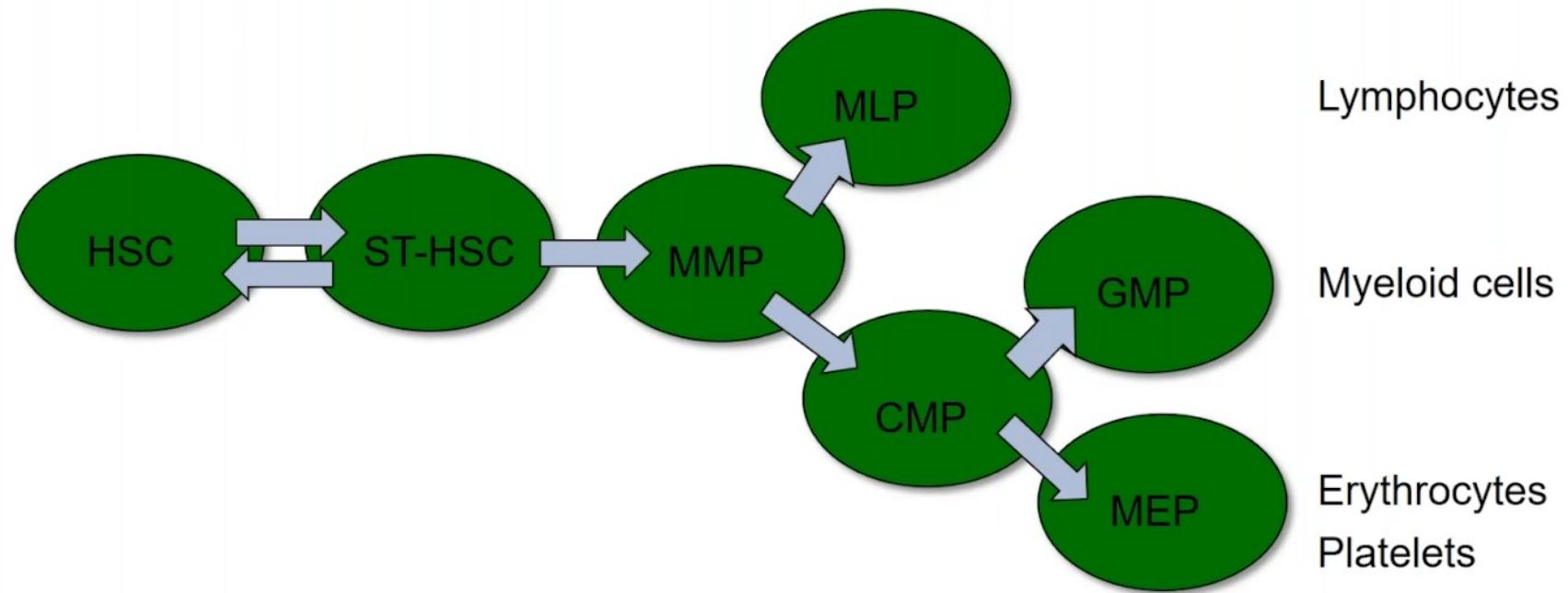
Giuseppe A. Palumbo

*Università degli Studi di Catania*



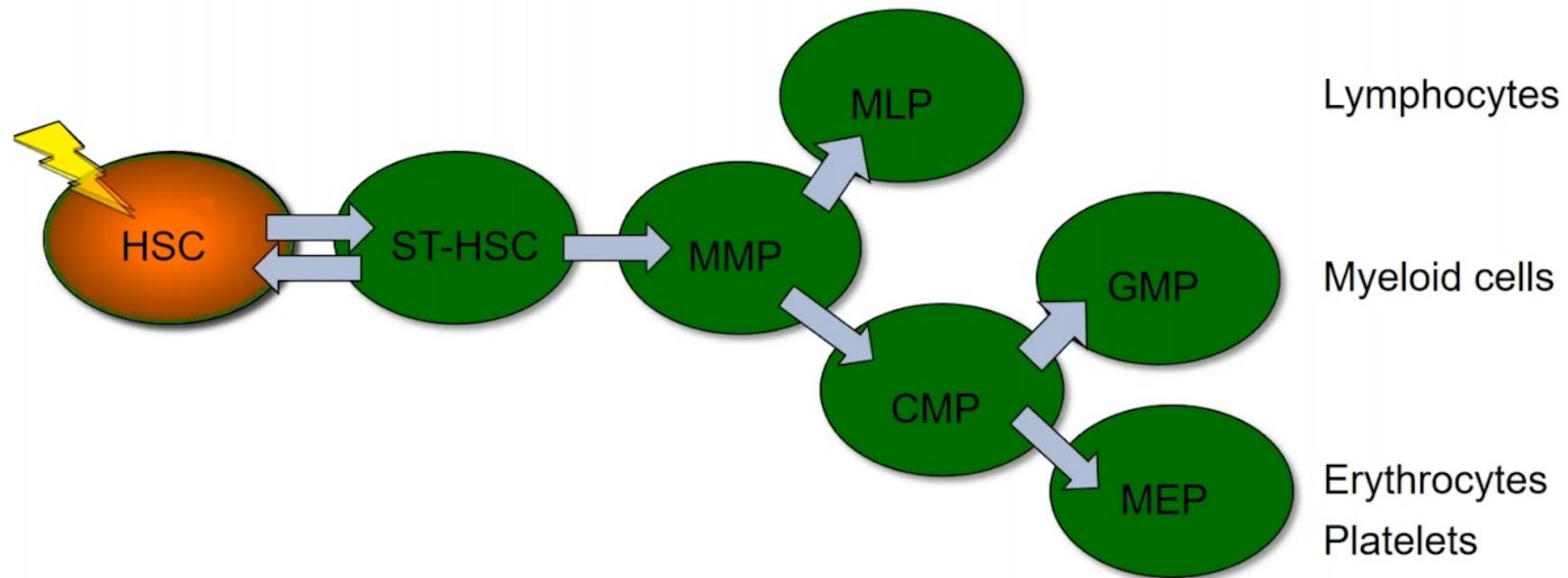
UNIVERSITÀ  
degli STUDI  
di CATANIA

## Hematopoiesis and clonal evolution



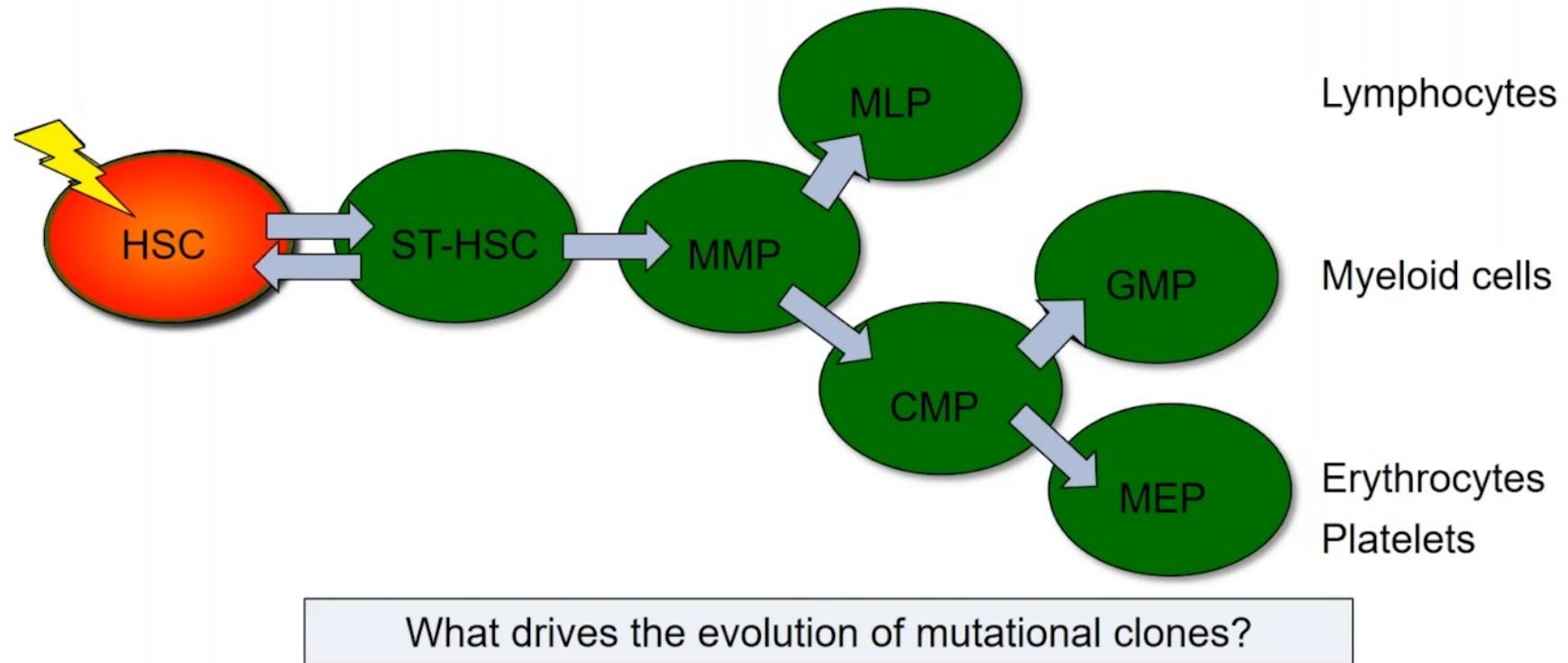
Adapted from The niche in MDS: Inflammation driving evolution?  
Raaijmakers Marc H.G.P. at ESH Translational Research Conference on MDS 2021

## Hematopoiesis and clonal evolution



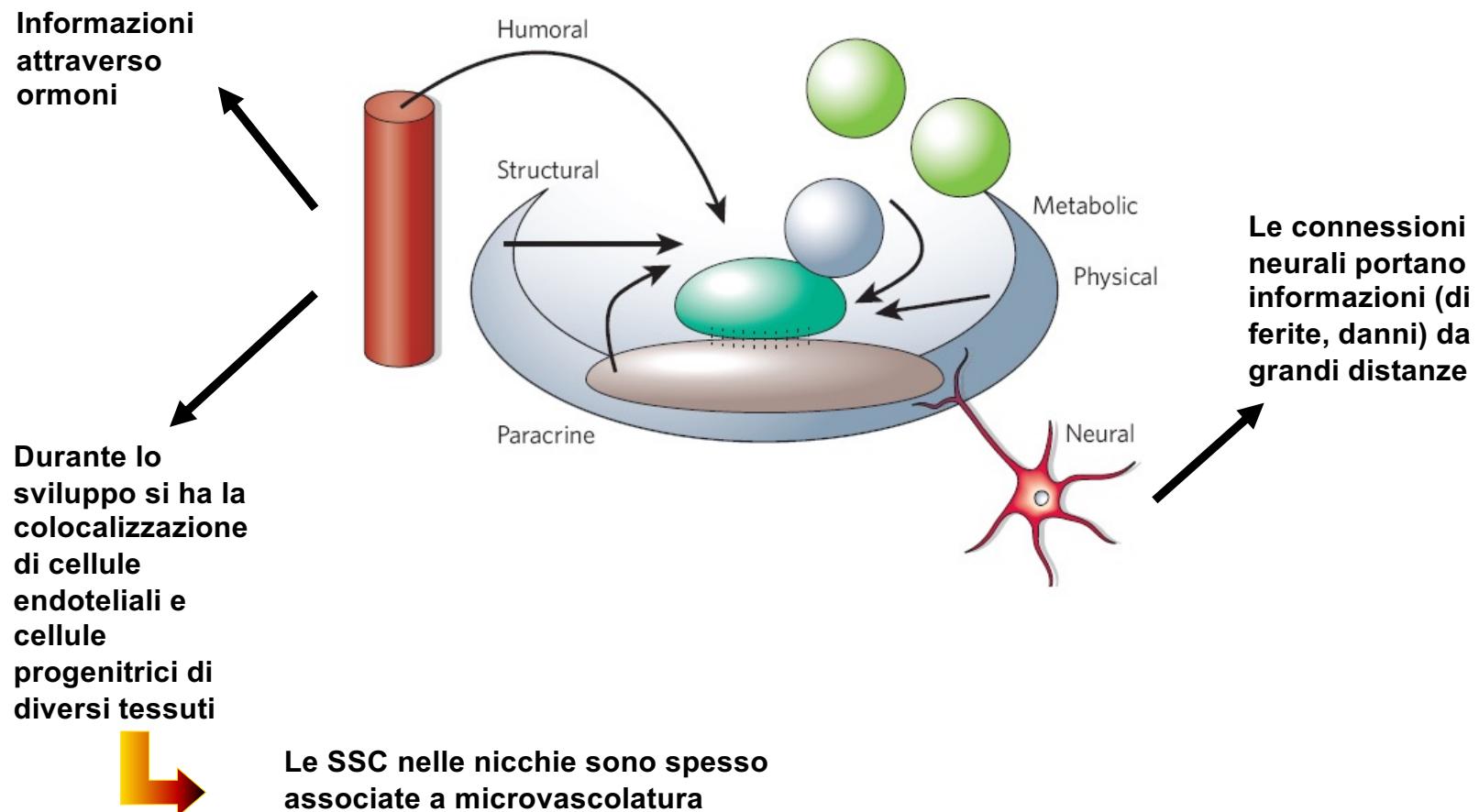
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## Hematopoiesis and clonal evolution



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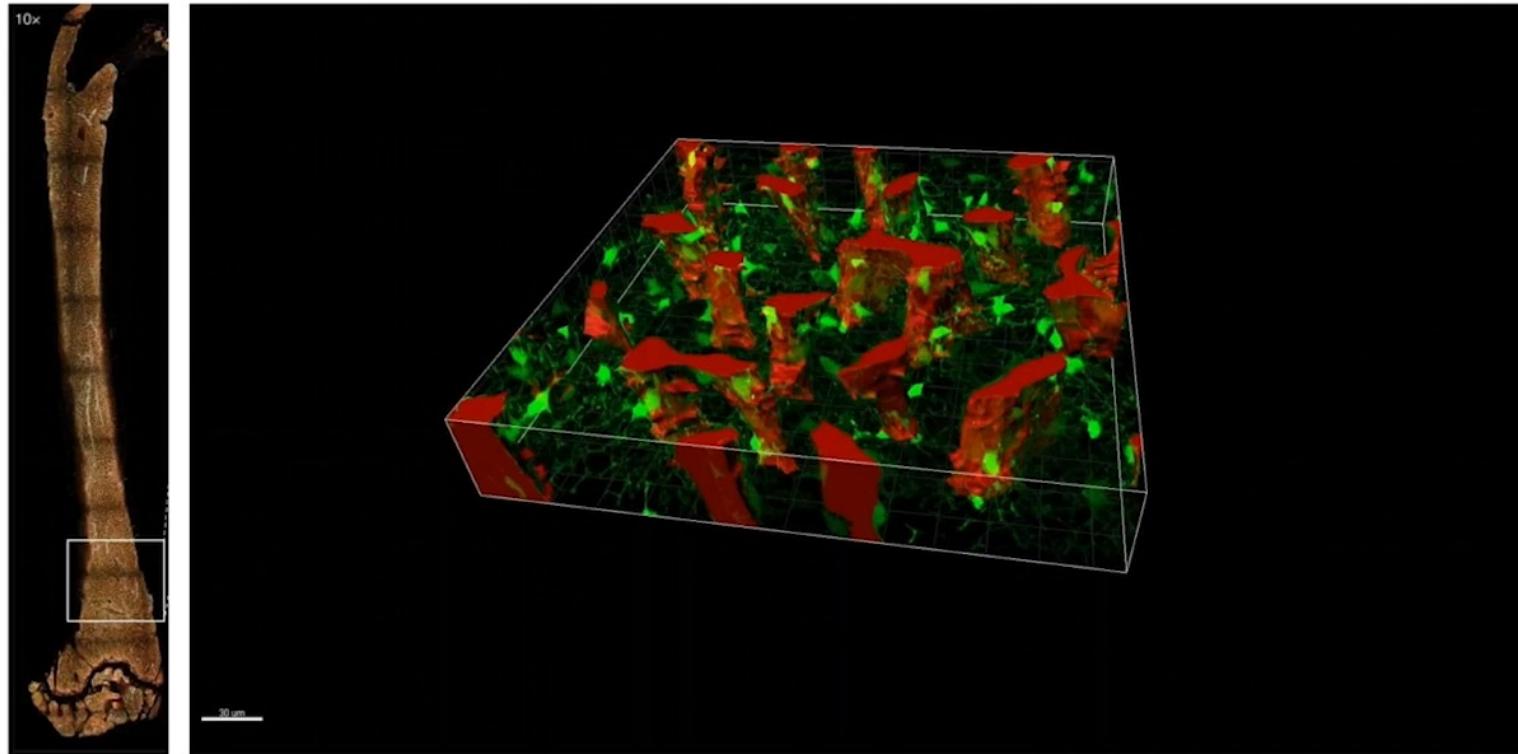
La nicchia è un'entità strutturale e biochimica nella quale vengono integrati i segnali regolatori ambientali e il programma genetico delle SSC



## La nicchia fornisce un microambiente protetto

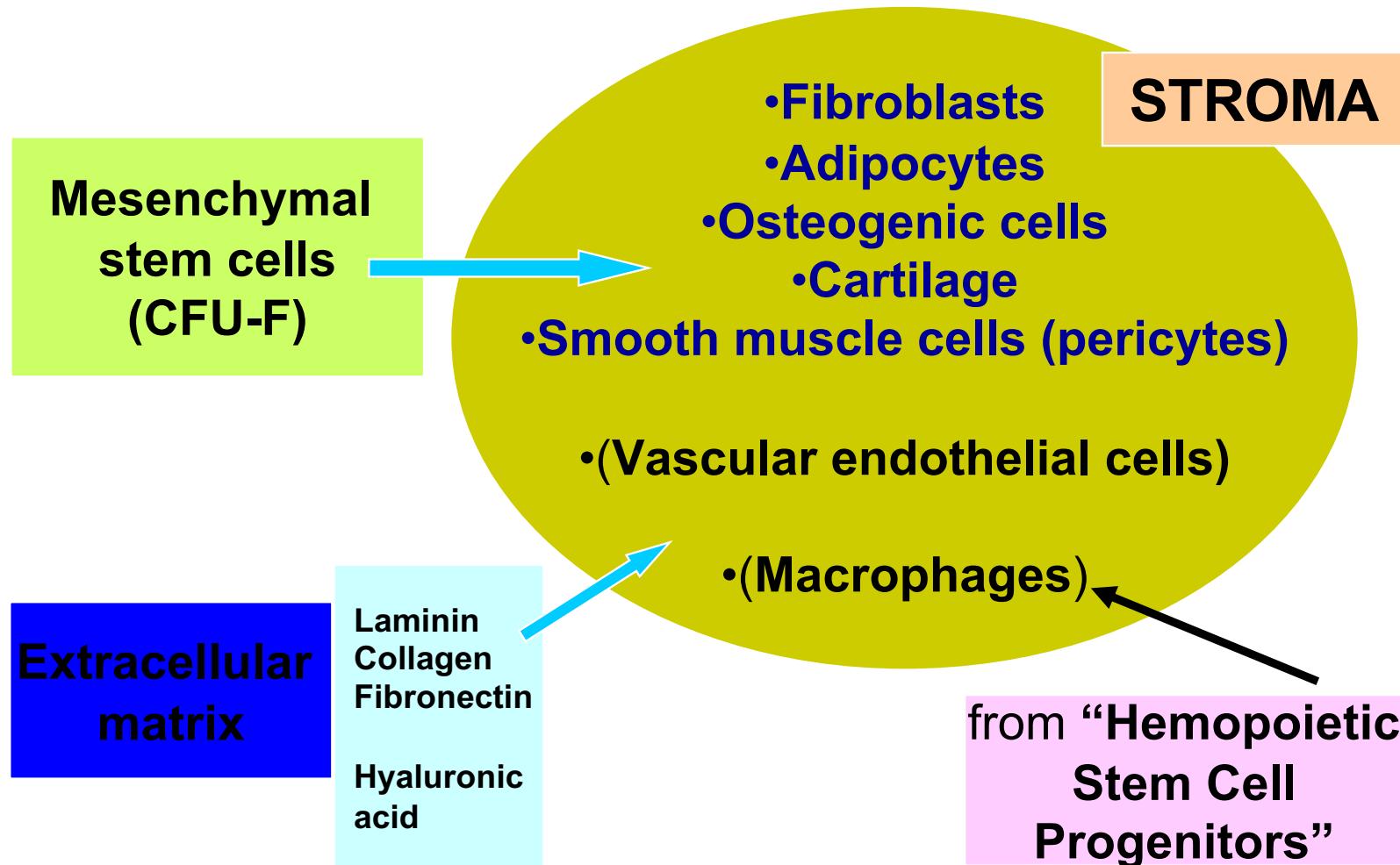
- Impedisce alle cellule staminali ospiti di venire in contatto con stimoli al differenziamento o all'apoptosi
- Regola la proliferazione degli elementi staminali
  - ↓  
Impedisce la formazione di "tumori"
- Si può quindi ipotizzare che una delle differenze tra cellule staminali normali e cancerose sia proprio la perdita da parte di queste ultime della dipendenza dai segnali della nicchia

## Stromal cells in the bone marrow



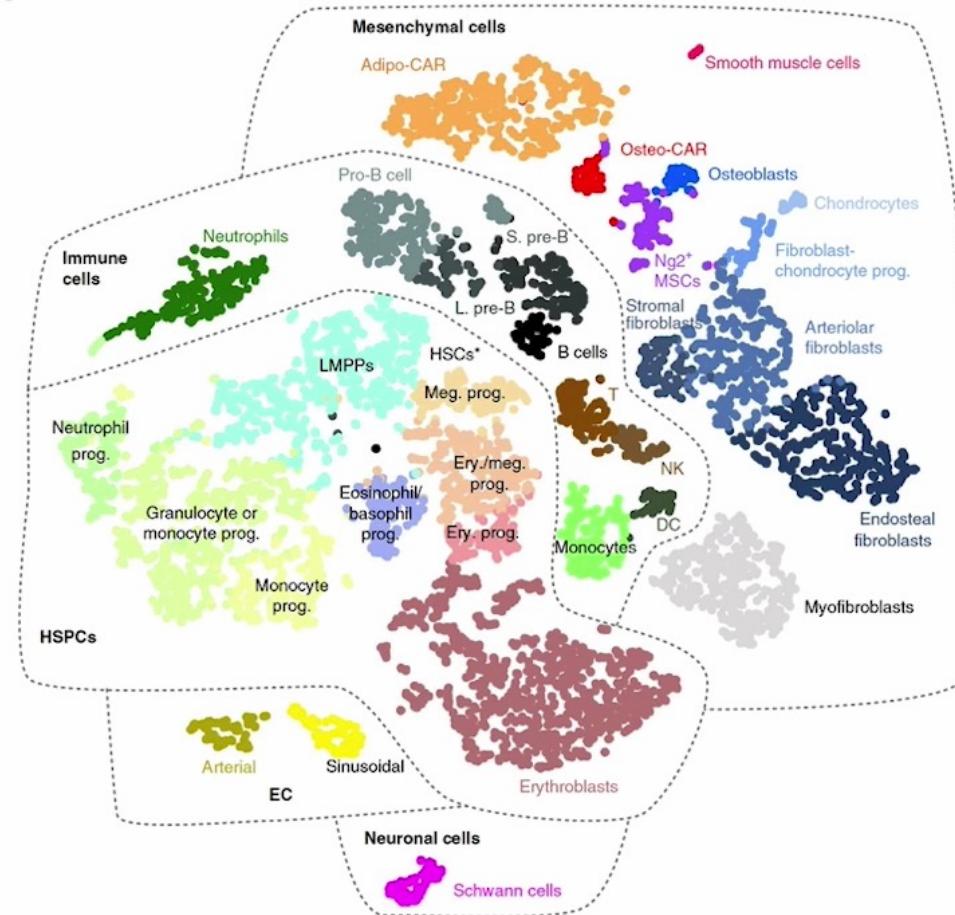
A. Gomariz et al. Nature Communications 9: 2532 (2018)

## MARROW STROMA : A HETEROGENEOUS POPULATION OF CELLS

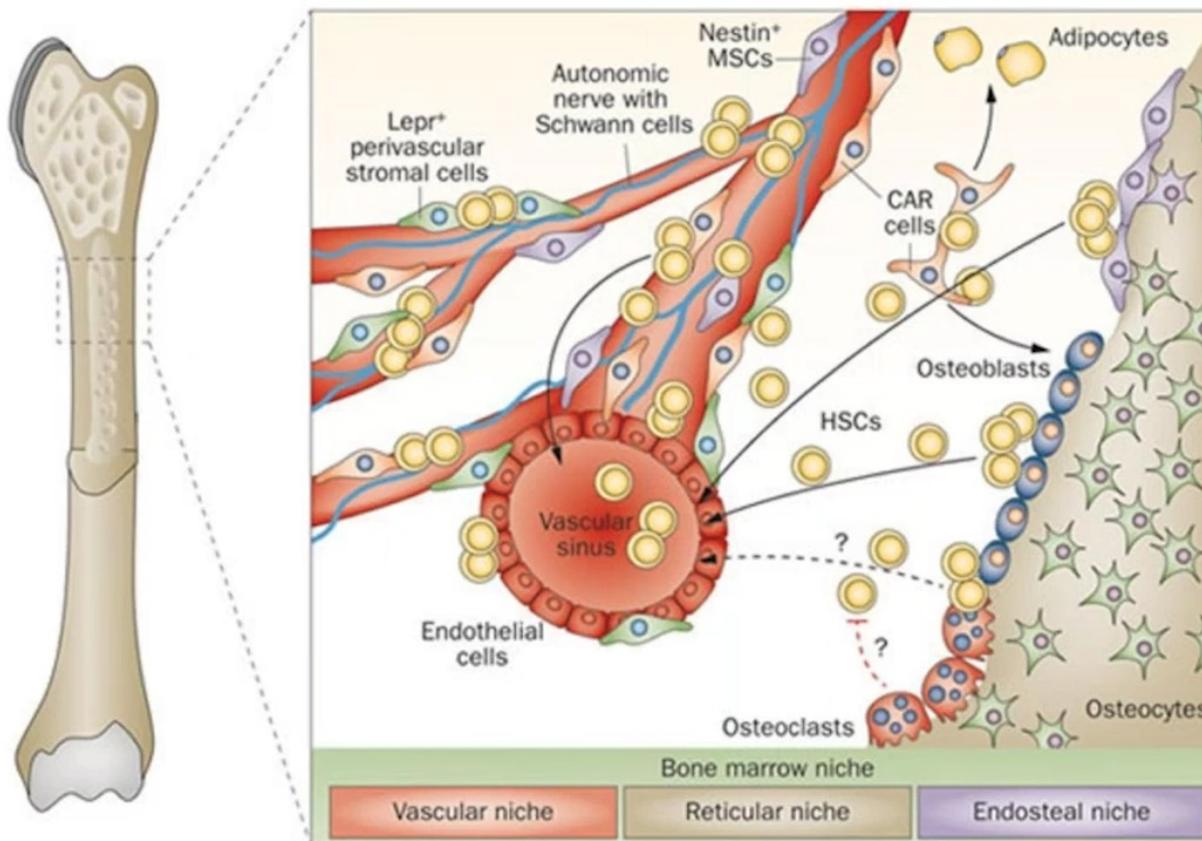


## Combined single-cell and spatial transcriptomics reveal the molecular, cellular and spatial bone marrow niche organization

Chiara Baccin<sup>1,2,10</sup>, Jude Al-Sabah<sup>3,4,10</sup>, Lars Velten<sup>1,9,10,11\*</sup>, Patrick M. Helbling<sup>5</sup>, Florian Grünschläger<sup>3,4</sup>, Pablo Hernández-Malmierca<sup>3,4</sup>, César Nombela-Arrieta<sup>6,5</sup>, Lars M. Steinmetz<sup>1,6,7,11\*</sup>, Andreas Trumpp<sup>3,4,8,11\*</sup> and Simon Haas<sup>3,4,11\*</sup>

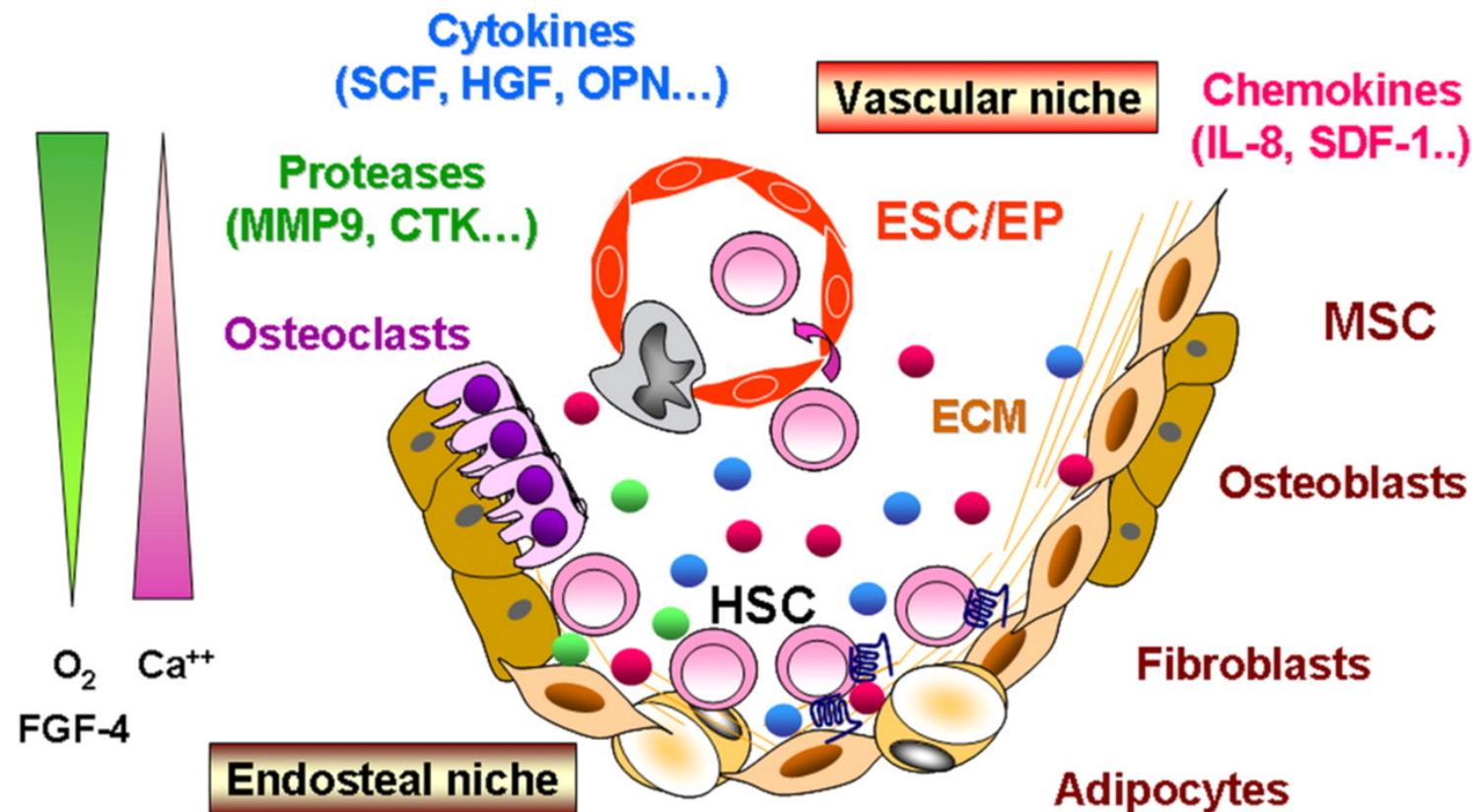


## Osteohematopoietic niche

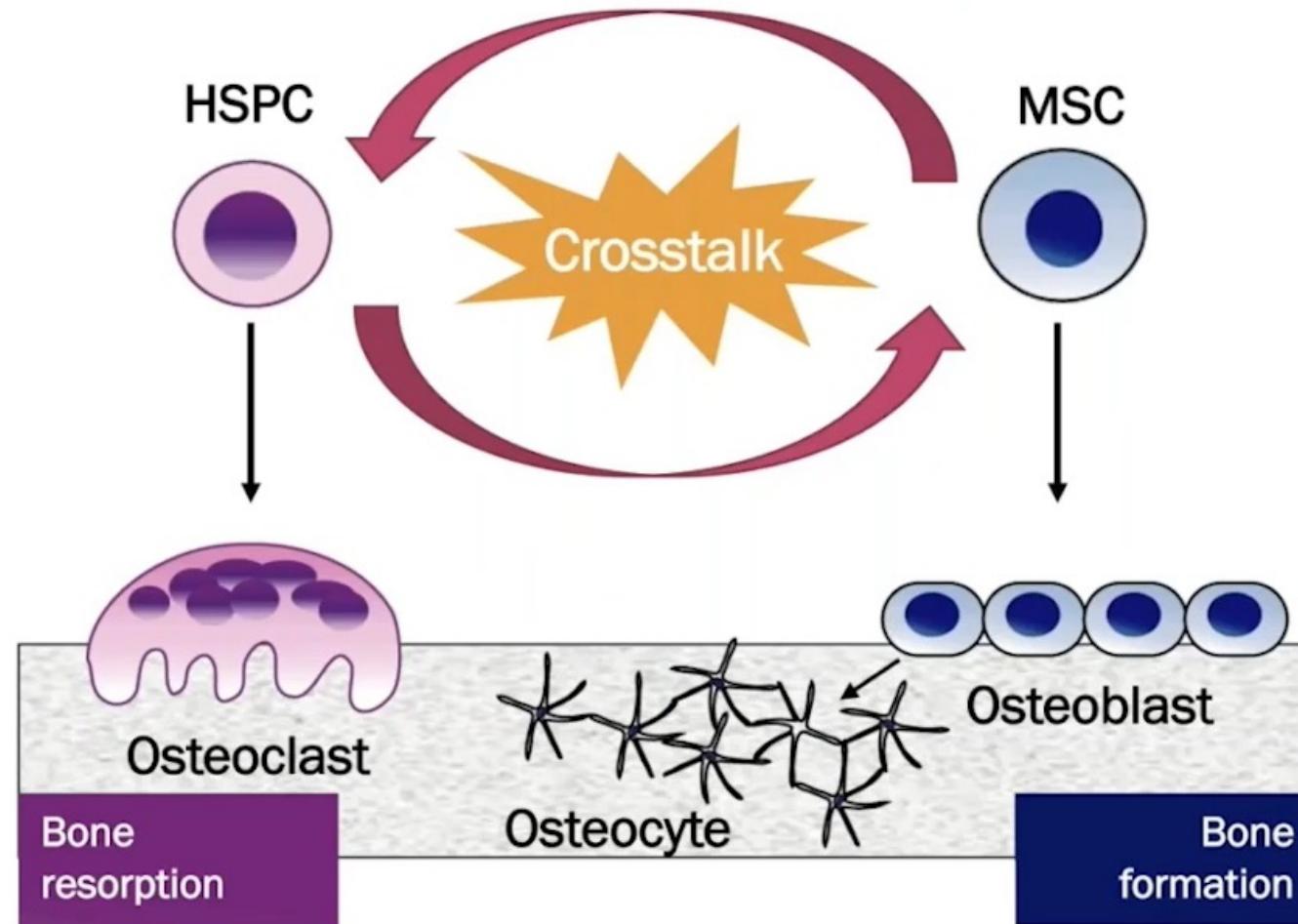


Takayanagi. Reviews Reumatology 2012, 8: 684

## Microambiente midollare

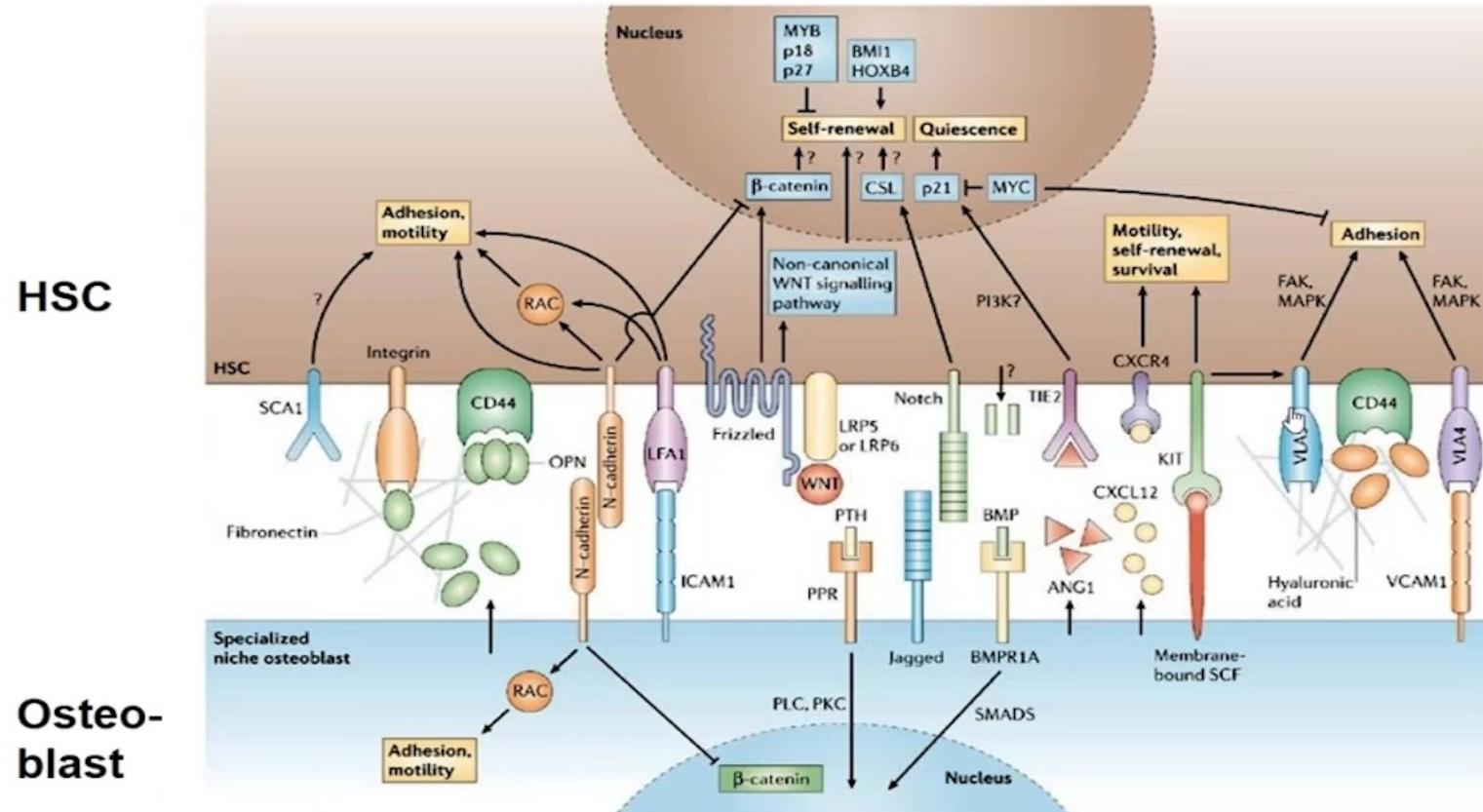


Lataillade J et al. Blood 2008;112: 3026-3035



Bulycheva E et al. Leukemia 2015; 29: 259-68

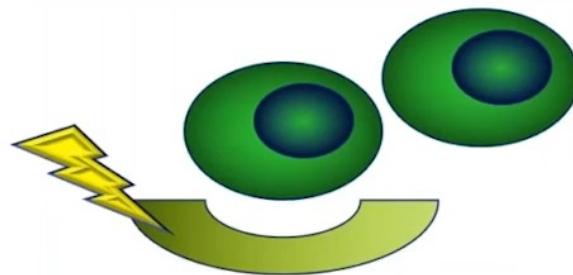
## Osteoblast-HSC interactions



Wilson & Trumpp. Nature Reviews Immunology 2006, 6: 93-106

# Niche contributions to hematopoietic neoplasm

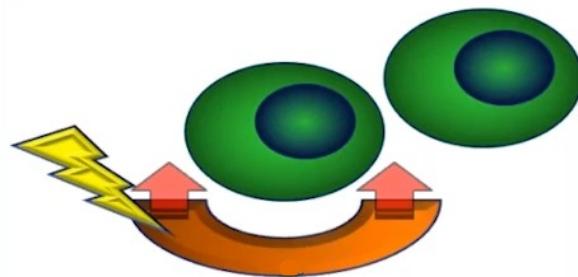
niche-induced oncogenesis



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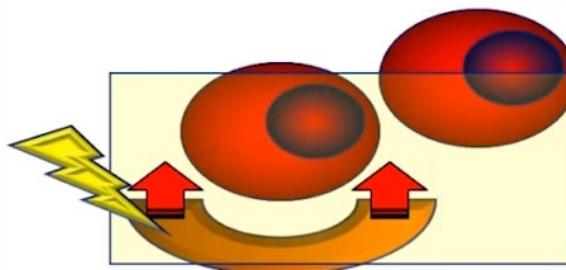
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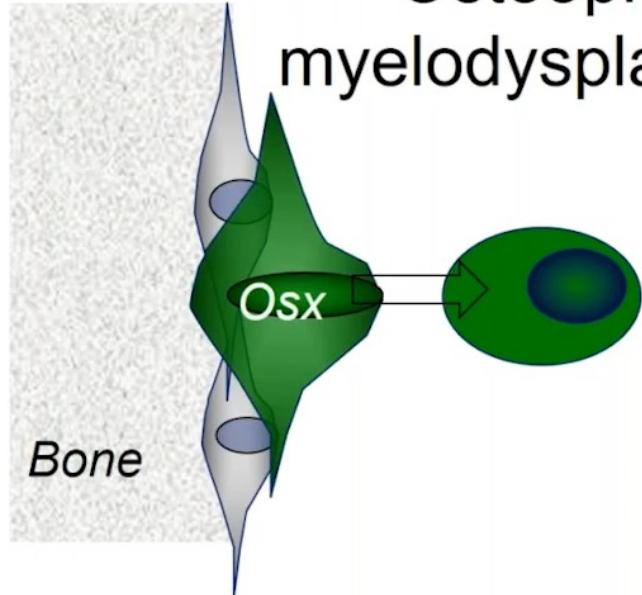
niche-induced oncogenesis



- Walkley et al, *Cell* 2007 (MPN)  
Raaijmakers et al, *Nature* 2010 (MDS)  
Kode et al, *Nature* 2014 (MDS/AML)  
Dong et al, *Nature*, 2016 (JMML/MPN)  
Xiao et al, *Blood Adv* 2018 (MDS/MPN)

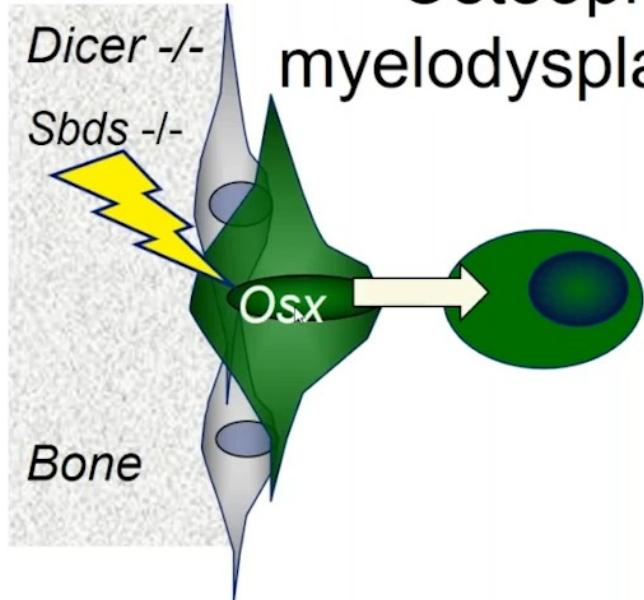
Adapted from The niche in MDS: Inflammation driving evolution?  
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## Osteoprogenitor cell dysfunction induces myelodysplasia and secondary leukemia in mice

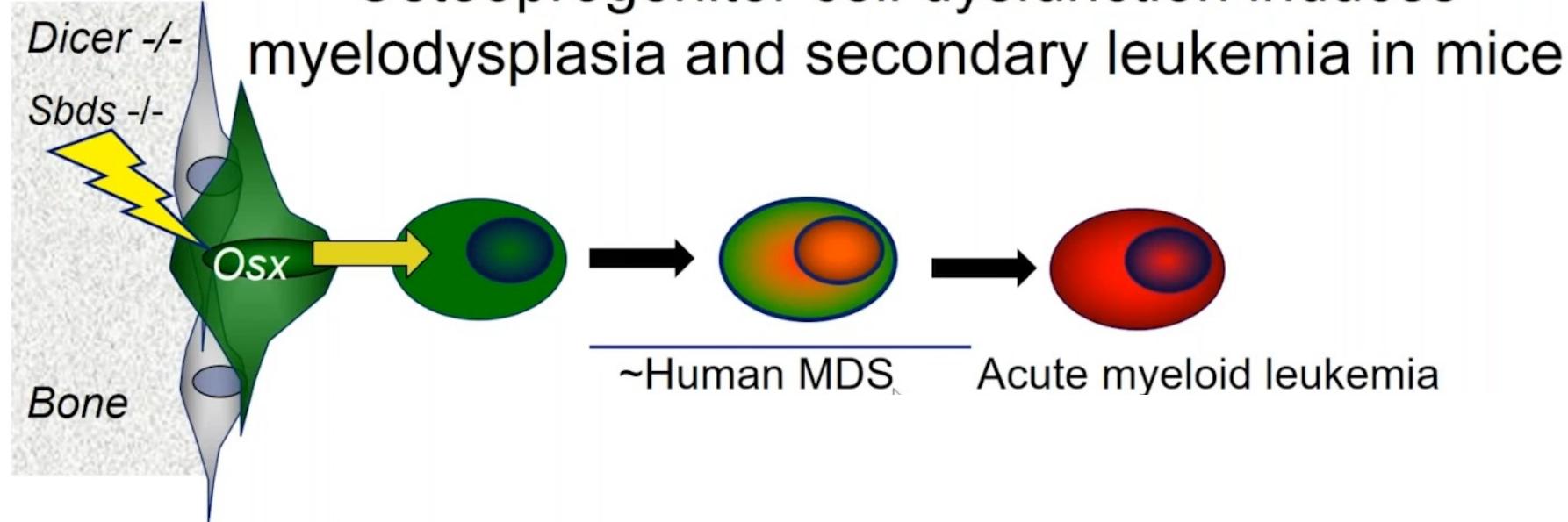


Raaijmakers M, Mukherjee S, et al. Nature 2010 8;464(7290):852-7

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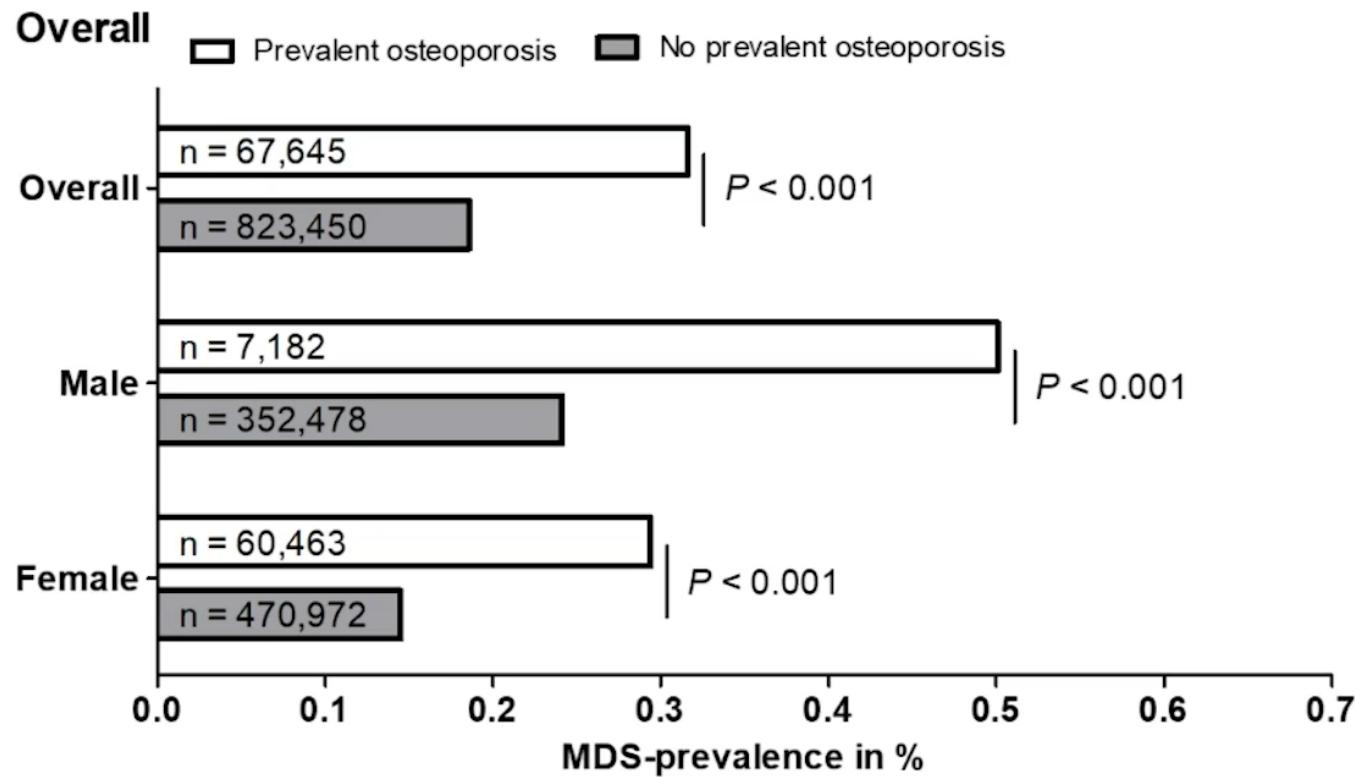


Raaijmakers M, Mukherjee S, et al. Nature 2010 8;464(7290):852-7



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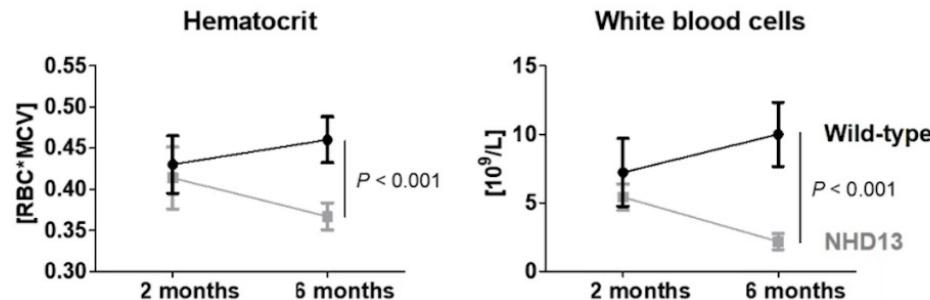
## Patients with MDS frequently develop osteoporosis



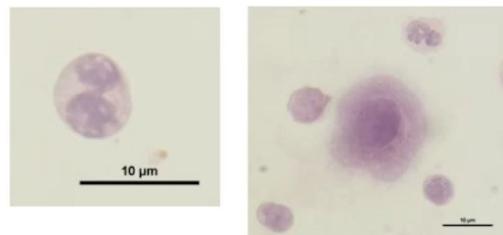
Weldner et al. Leukemia 2017; 31: 1003-1007

## NHD13 mouse as a model for MDS

- Overexpress the NUP98/HOXD13 fusion protein in hematopoietic cells (vav1-promoter)
- NUP98/HOXD13 fusion protein is commonly found in MDS

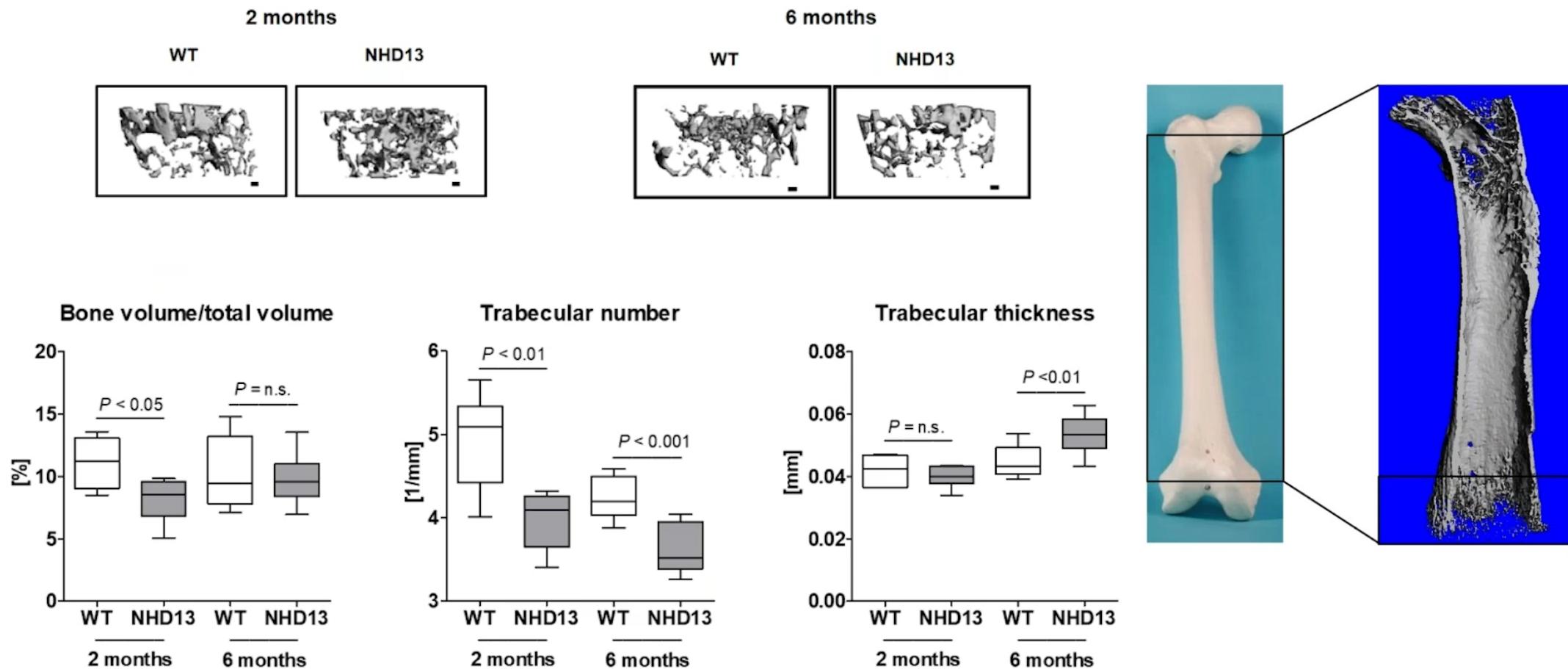


Bone marrow



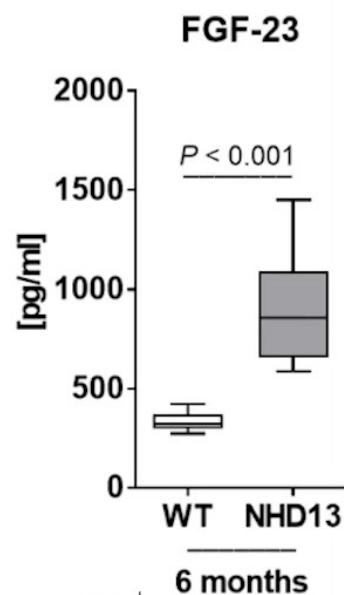
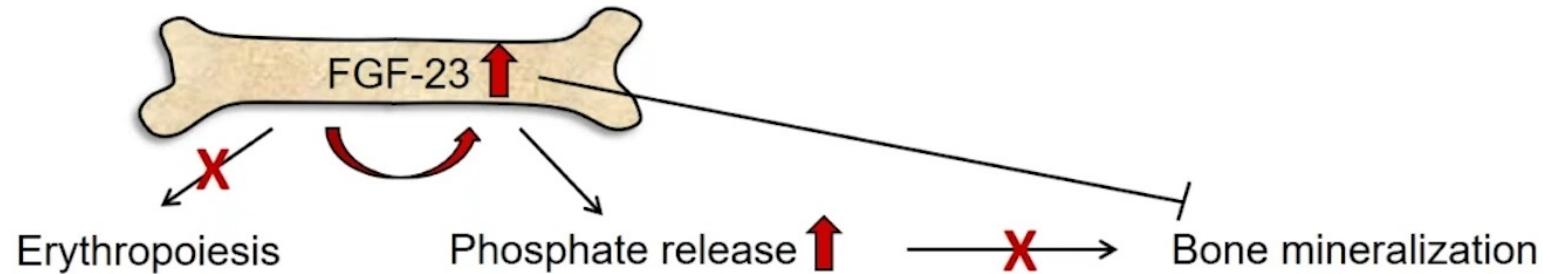
Weldner et al. Leukemia 2017; 31: 1003-1007

## Altered bone microarchitecture in MDS mice

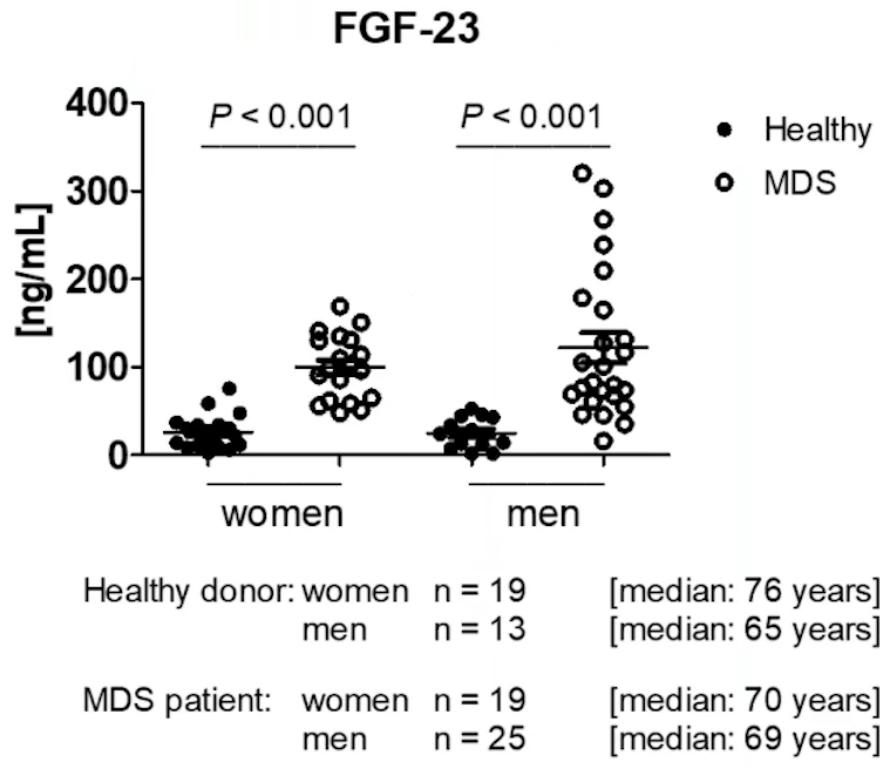


Weldner et al. Leukemia 2017; 31: 1003-1007

## Levels of FGF-23 in MDS mice

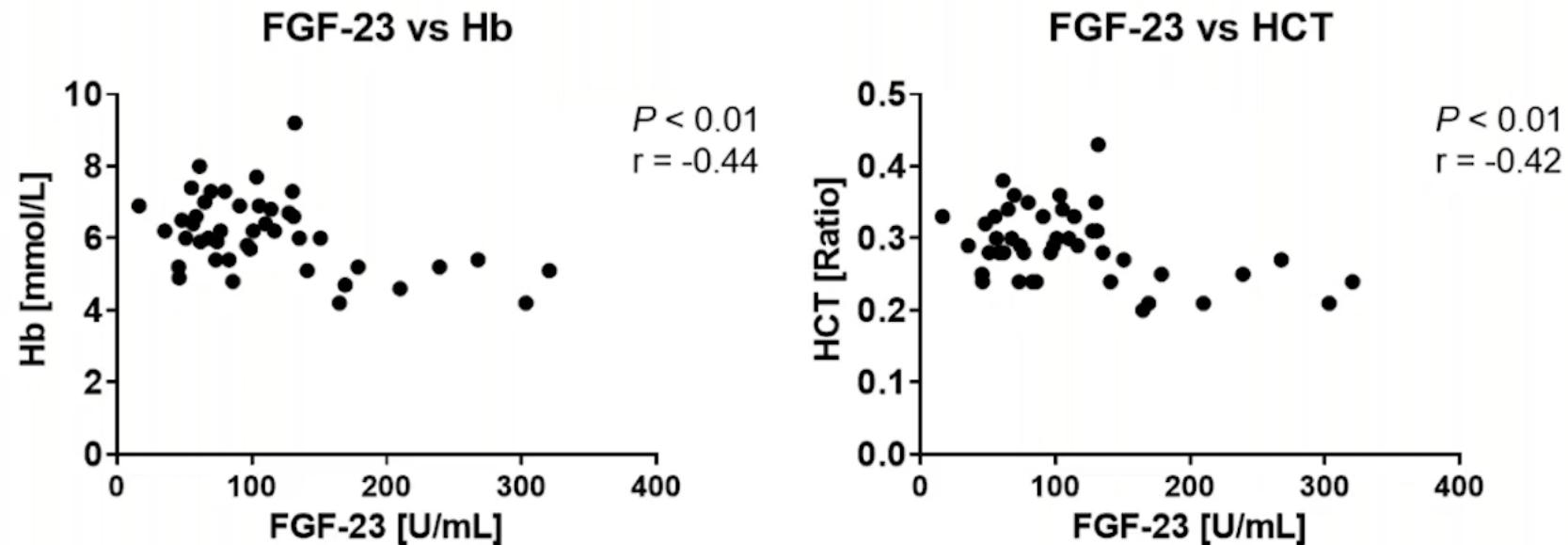


## Increased serum concentrations of FGF-23 in patients with MDS



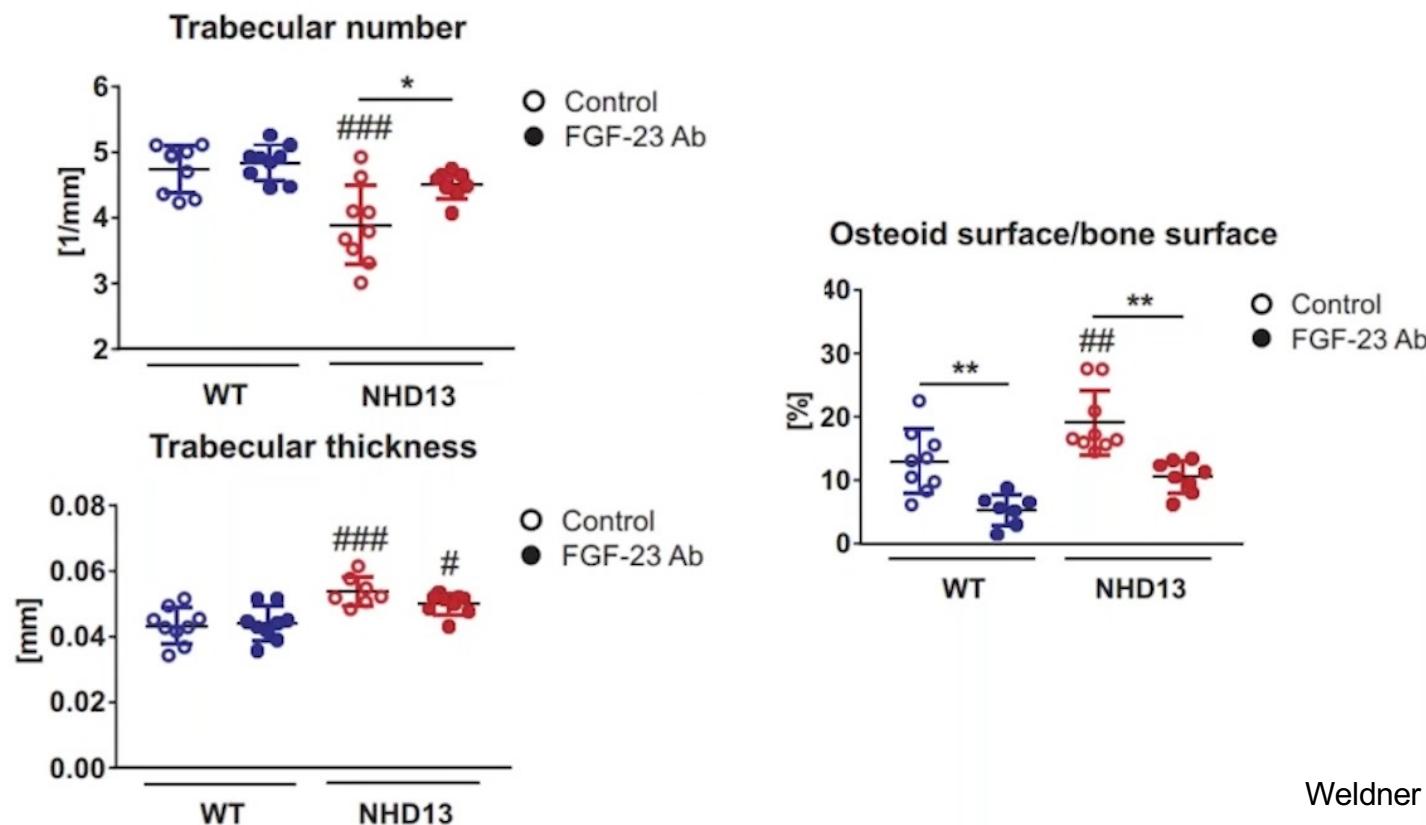
Weldner et al. 2020

## FGF-23 negatively correlates with RBC parameters



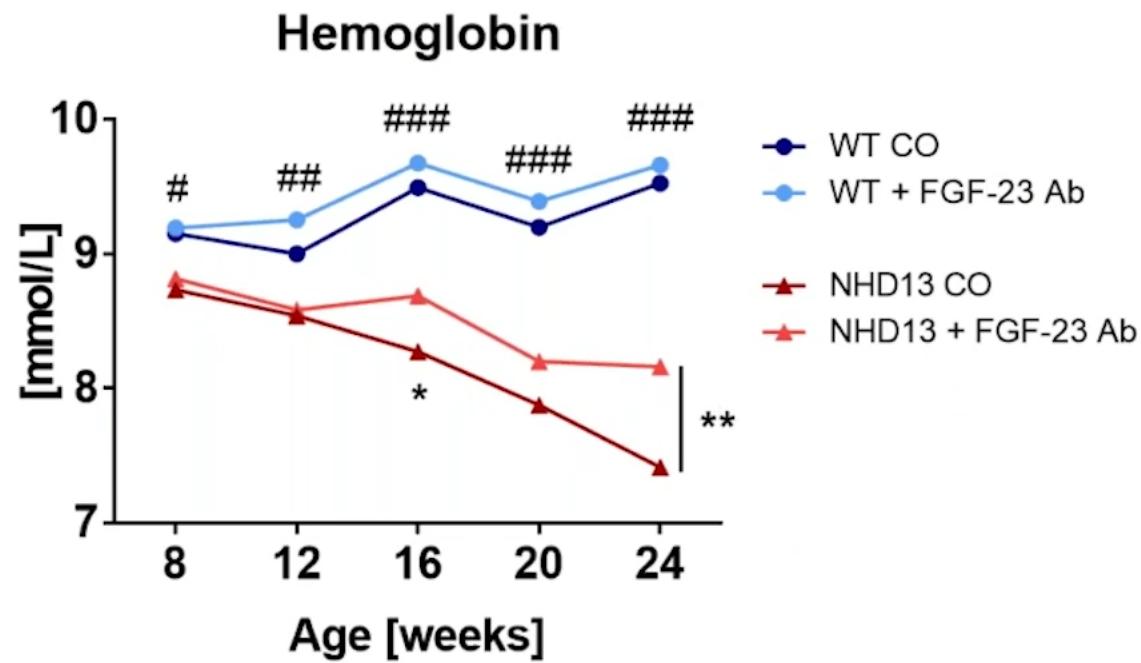
Weldner et al. 2020

## Blocking FGF-23 restores the osteoid phenotype



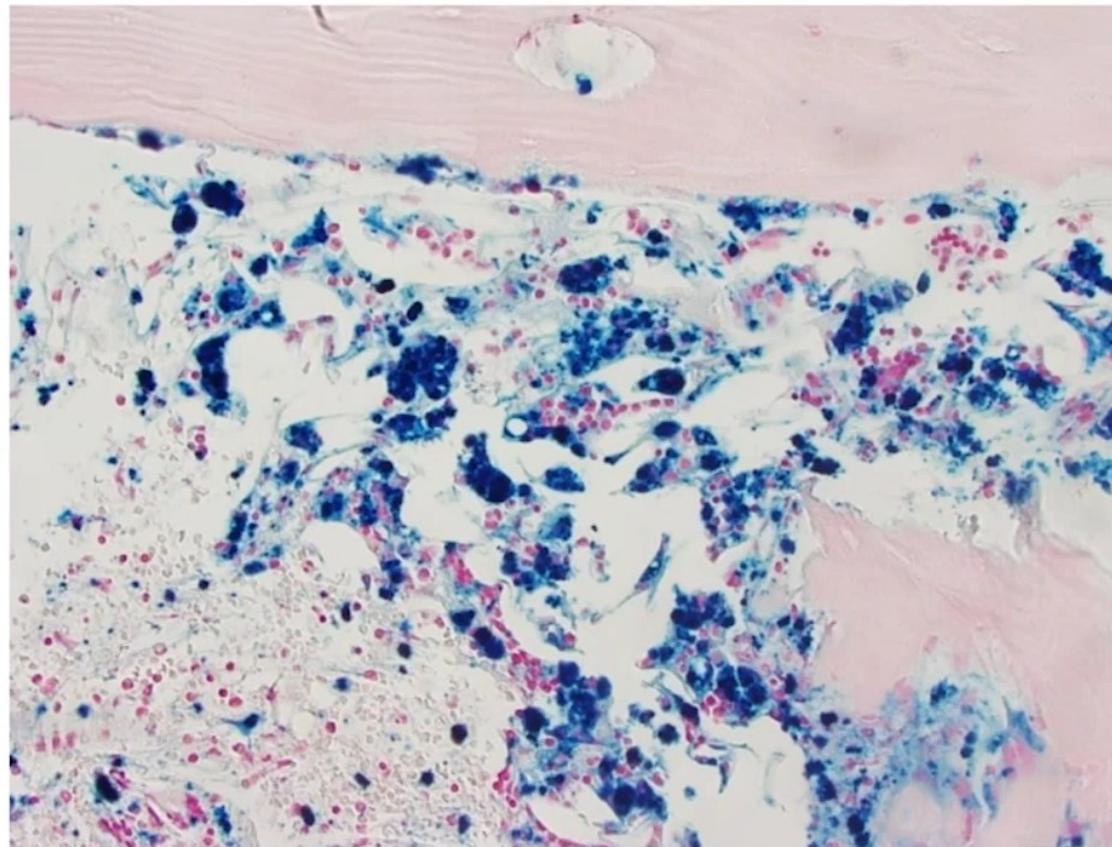
Weldner et al. 2020

## Blocking FGF-23 delays anemia development



Weldner et al. 2020

## Iron overload in the osteohematopoietic niche



Prussian blue staining

# Dysregulations of iron homeostasis are detrimental for bone

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## Anemia and osteoporosis

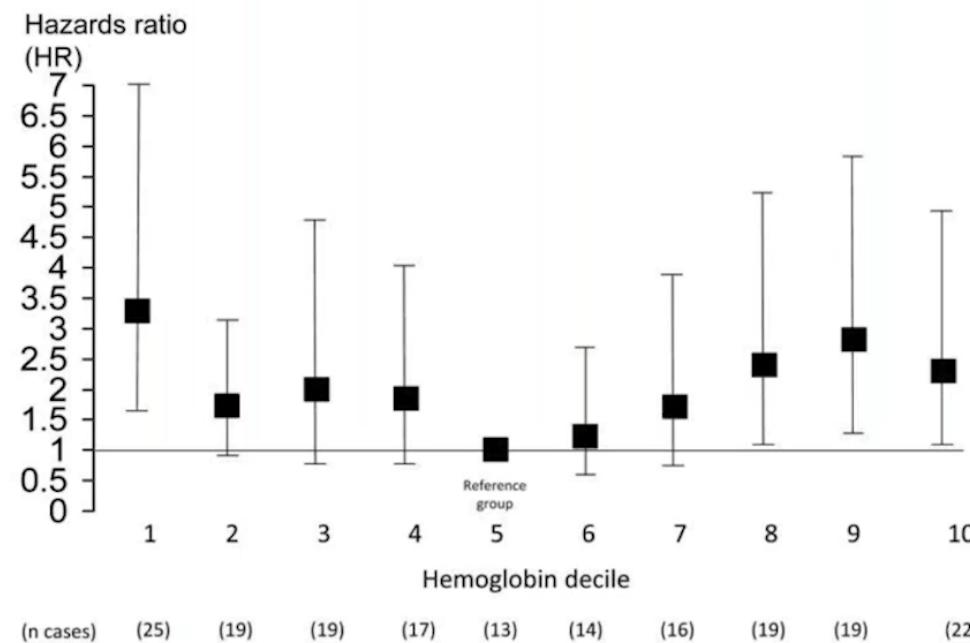
- Anemia (Hb) frequently does not correlate with BMD
- Associations of Hb with change of BMD over time was observed
- Hb appears to positively correlate with bone quality measurements and fractures

Outcome	Age group, years	Hemoglobin concentration			Anemia		
		$\beta$	std err	p	$\beta$	std err	p
Speed of Sound	20-39 (n=1,181)	1.713	1.096	0.118	-1.785	4.408	0.686
	40-59 (n=2,336)	<b>3.274</b>	<b>0.763</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>-6.561</b>	<b>3.330</b>	<b>0.049</b>
	60-90 (n=1,648)	<b>2.927</b>	<b>0.772</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>-6.830</b>	<b>2.882</b>	<b>0.018</b>

Hanneman et al. JCEM 2020

## Associations of iron with bone

- Anemia is associated with low bone mass/fractures
- NHANES III study: >2,200 individuals aged 65+

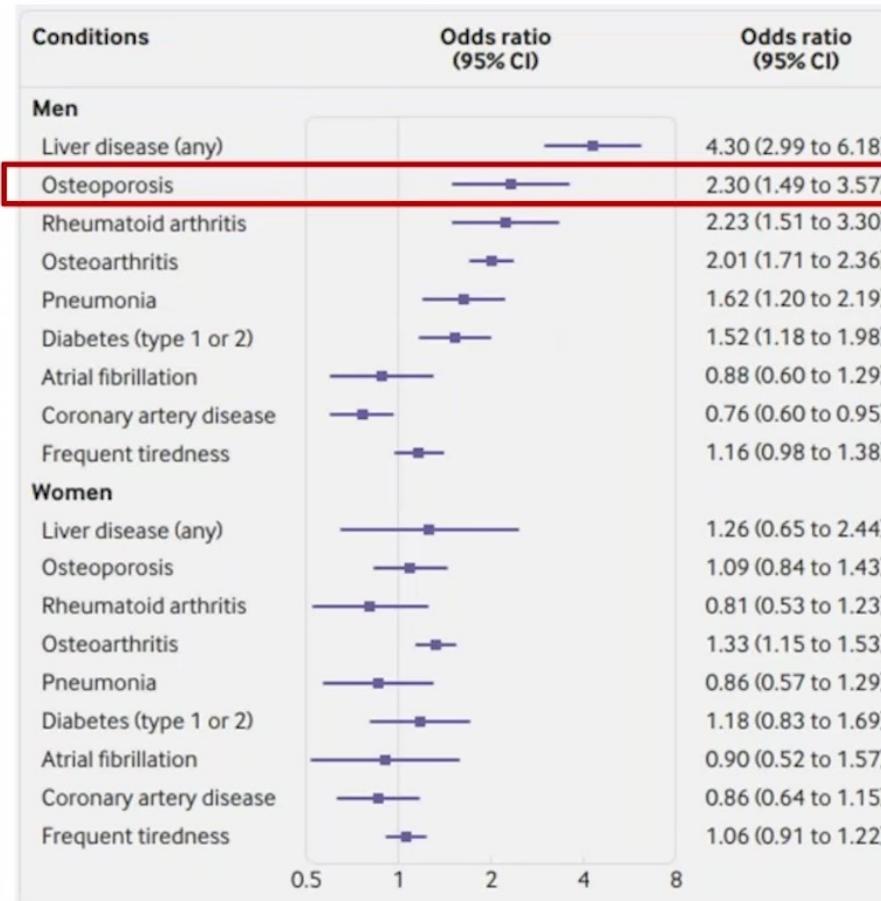


Looker. Osteoporosis Int 2014

## Dysregulations of iron homeostasis are detrimental for bone

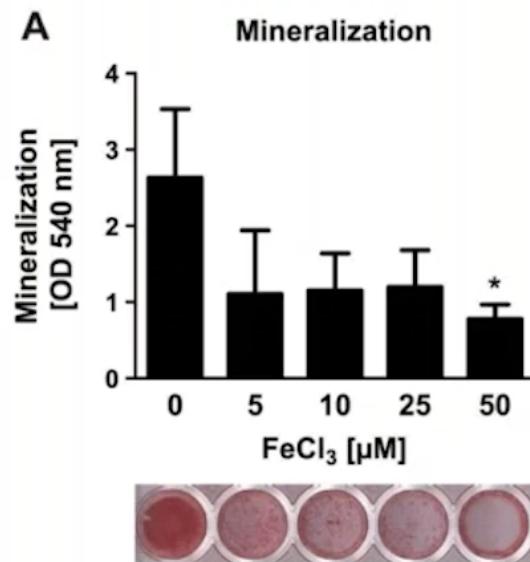


# Hereditary hemochromatosis and osteoporosis



Pilling et al. BMJ 2019

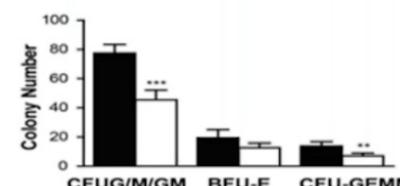
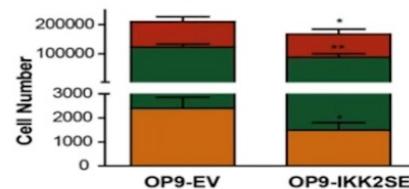
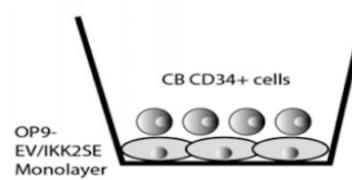
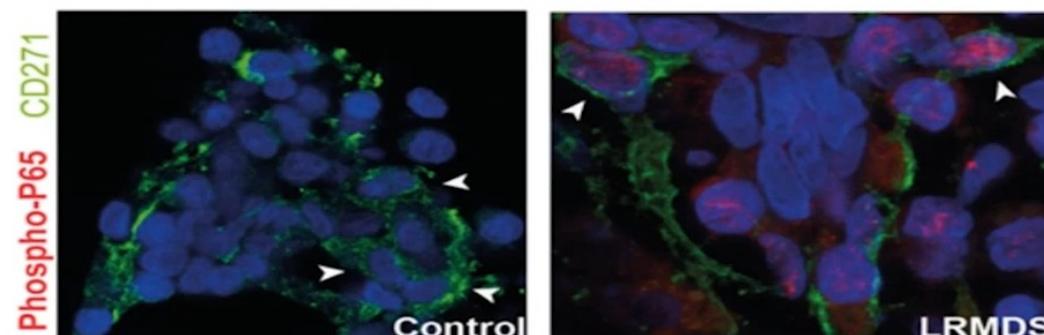
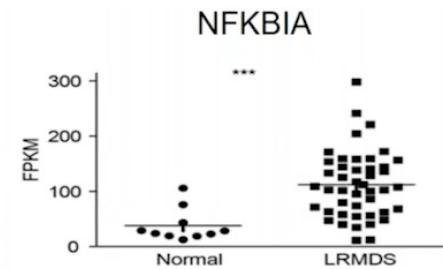
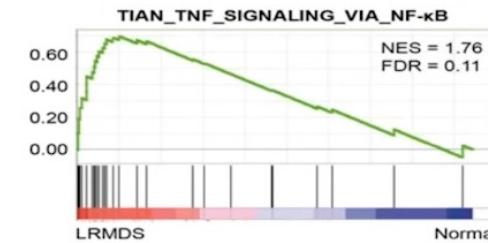
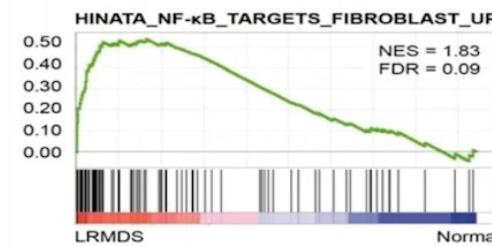
## Iron inhibits, iron chelation stimulates osteoblastogenesis



Baschant et al. Haematologica 2012

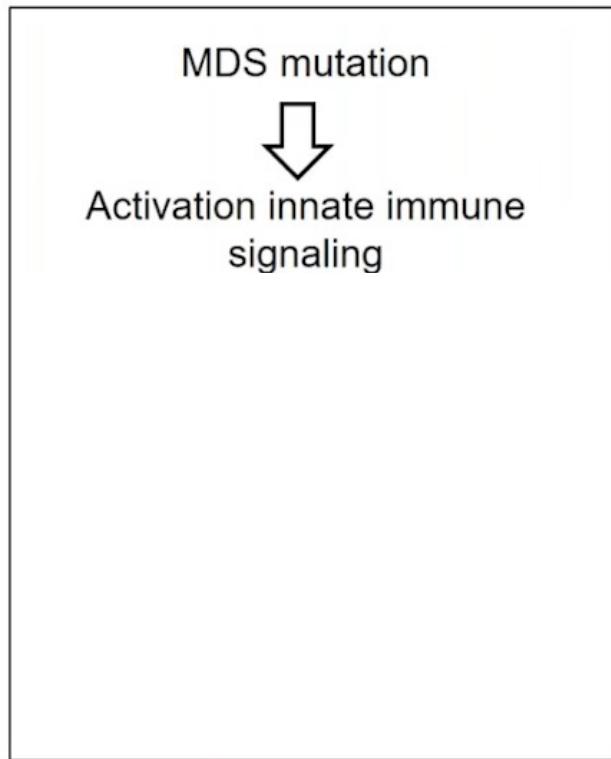
## Extrinsic contributions to MDS pathogenesis?

## Mesenchimal activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling is common in LR-MDS and impairs hematopoiesis



Ping Z et al. Leukemia 2019; 33: 536-541

# MDS mutations induce activation of innate immune signaling



Genetic abnormality	Gene class	Mutant gene/Chromosome alteration	Innate immune-signaling effect*
Somatic mutations	Epigenetic modifiers	TET2	↑ IL-6 production via ↓ HDAC2 recruitment; ↑ IL-1β
		DNMT3A	↑ Type 1 IFN production via ↑ HDAC9 expression
		ASXL1	↑ NADPH oxidase ROS; ↑ TLR4, TICAM2
		EZH2	↑ S100A8/A9 via NF-κB derepression
	Spliceosomes	SF3B1	↑ NF-κB activation via ↓ MAP3K7
		SRSF2	↑ S100A8 and S100A9, DNA-RNA hybrids; ↑ NF-κB activation via caspase 8 isoform
		U2AF1	↑ DNA-RNA hybrids, ATG7 alternate splicing impairing autophagy
Chromosomal abnormality	N/A	Deletion 5q	Haploinsufficiency: RPS14 ↑ S100A8/A9; miR-145/146 + TIFAB ↑ TRAF6/IRAK1

Sallman and List, Blood 2019

Molly A et al. Nature Cell Biology 21, 640–650(2019)

Cull AH et al. Exp Hematol. 2017;55:56-70.

Pollyea DA et al. Haematologica. 2019

# Niche contributions to hematopoietic neoplasm: Chicken or egg?

## S100A8/A9 as a driver of MDS



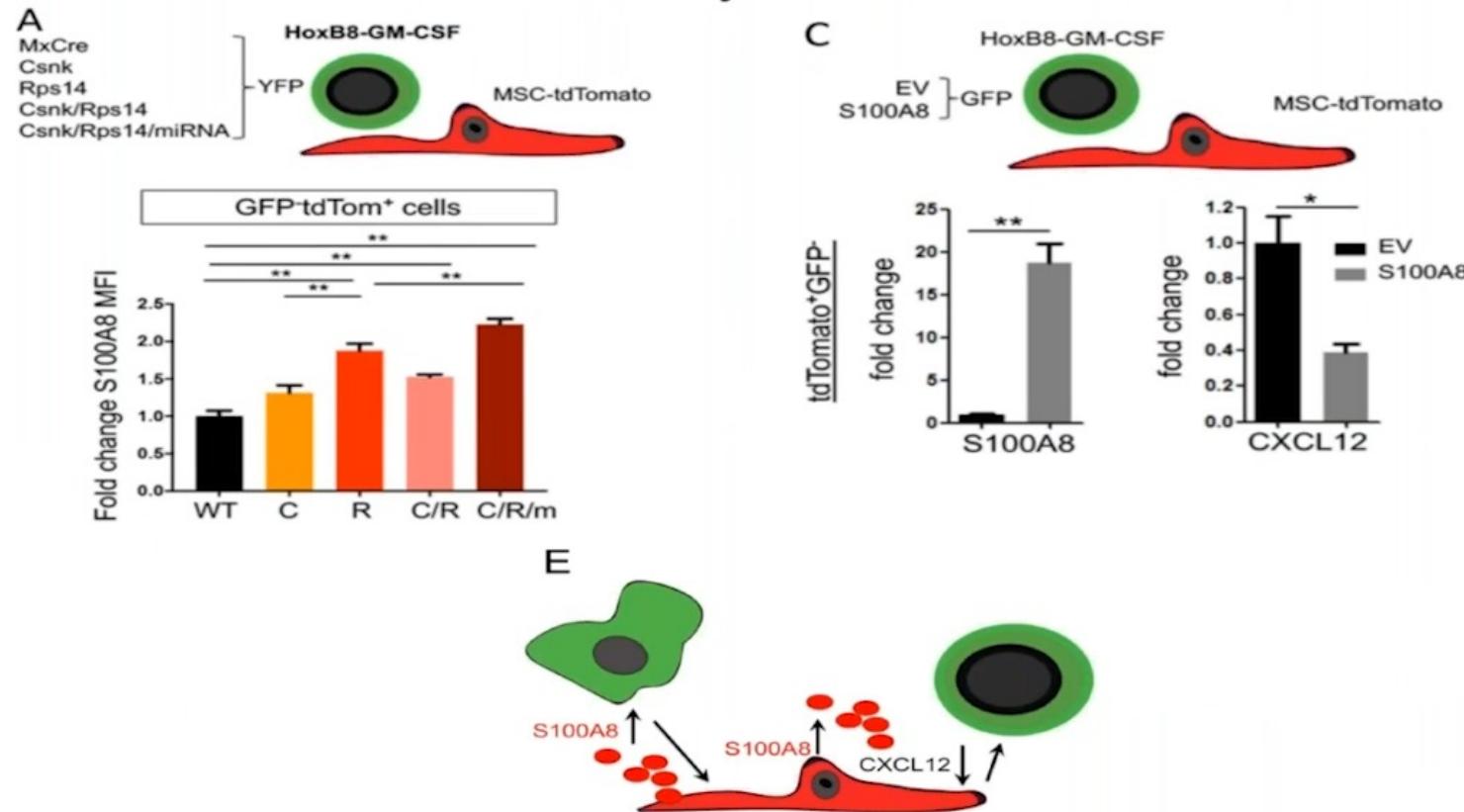
Genetic event in HSPC  
(*SF3B1*, *TET2*, del5q)

Zambetti N et al. Cell Stem Cell 2016

Basiorka AA et al. Blood. 2016 Dec 22;128(25):2960-2975

Schneider RK et al. Nat Med. 2016 Mar;22(3):288-97

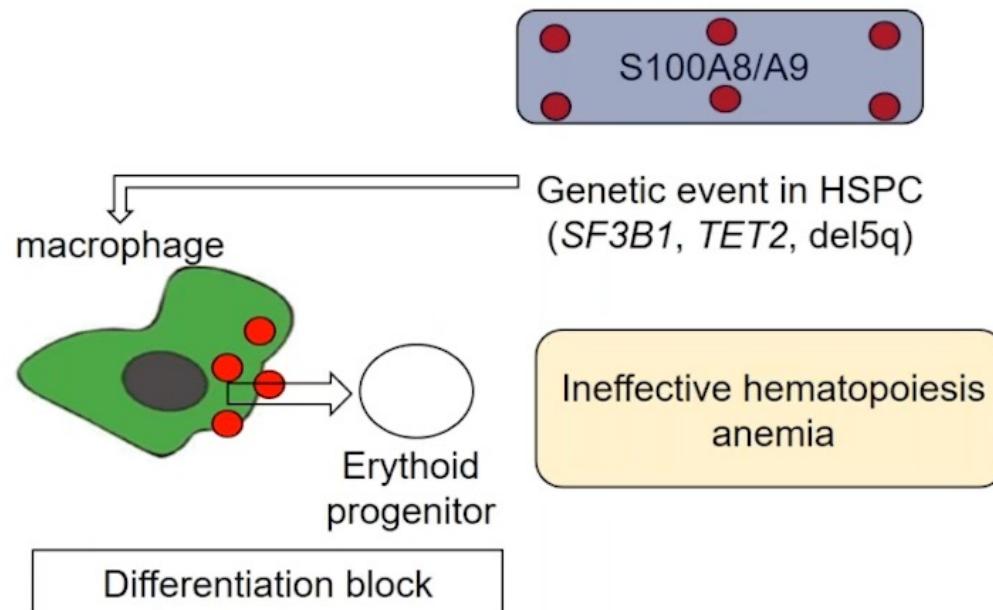
## 5q- macrophages induce overexpression of S100A8 in the mesenchymal niche



Ribezzo F et al. Leukemia. 2019

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S100A8/A9 as a driver of MDS

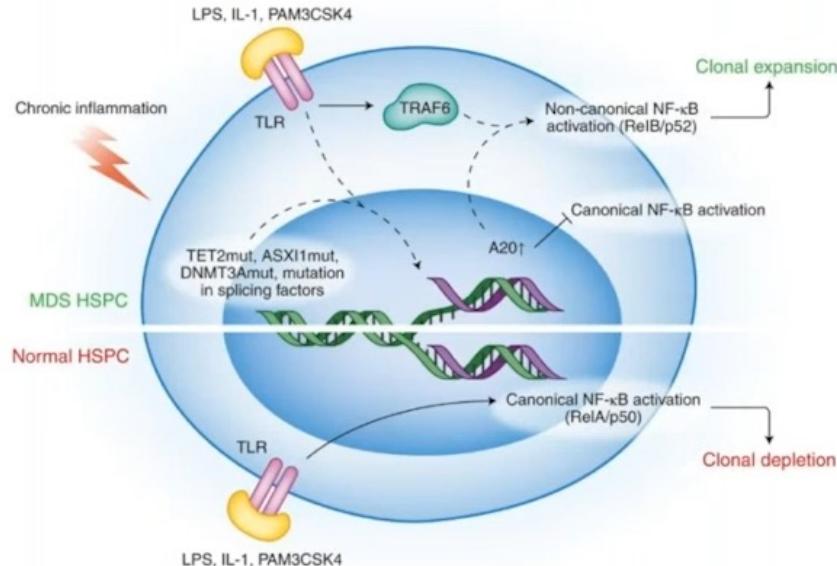


Zambetti N et al. Cell Stem Cell 2016

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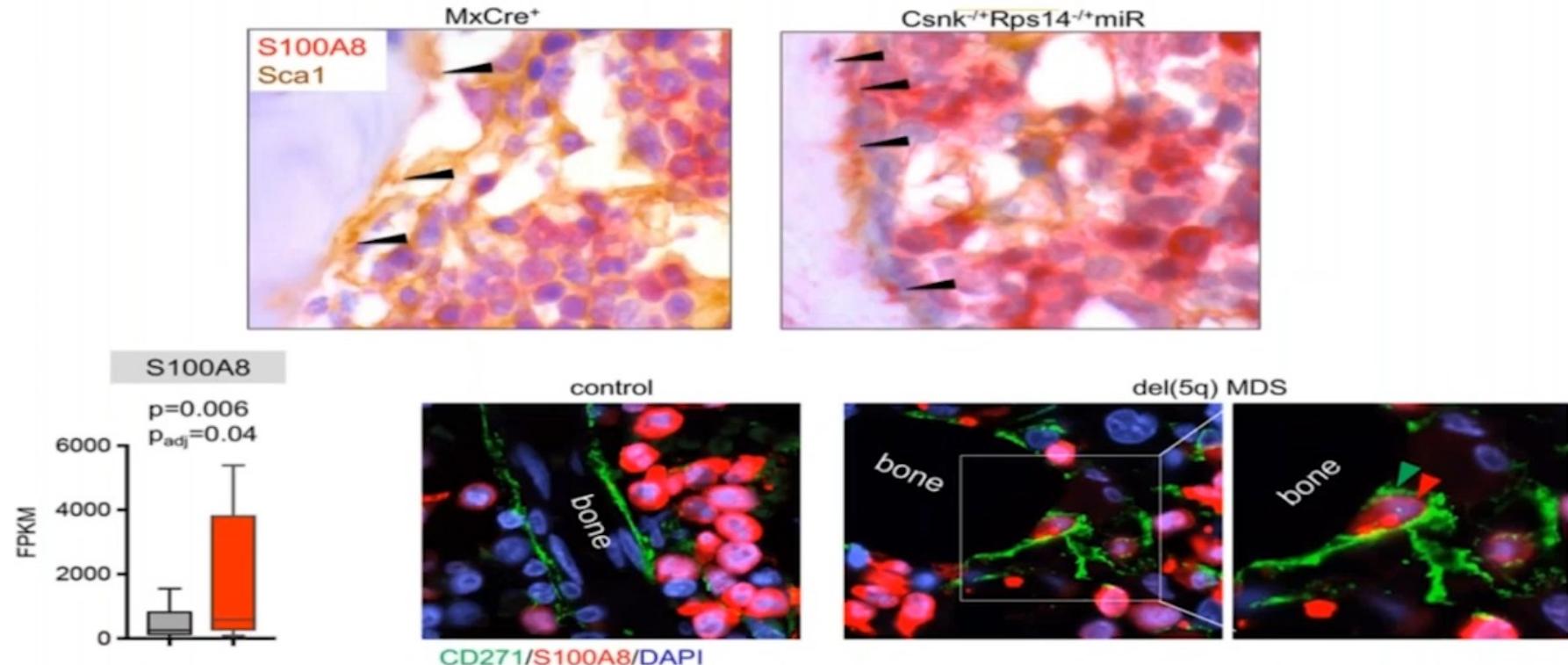
## Chronic inflammation confers a competitive advantage in MDS HSPCs



- TRAF6 overexpressed in 40% of MDS
- Competitive advantage of TLR-TRAF6 primed HSPCs in inflammatory (LPS) environment
- Switch from canonical to non-canonical NFkB signaling
- TLR-TRAF mediated activation of A20
- Restored by inhibition A20/ noncanonical NFkB signaling

Muto et al. Nature Immunology 2020;21(5):535-545 (Figure: Ueda et al. )

## Aberrant hematopoietic cells induce S100A8 expression in the mesenchymal niche in 5q- MDS

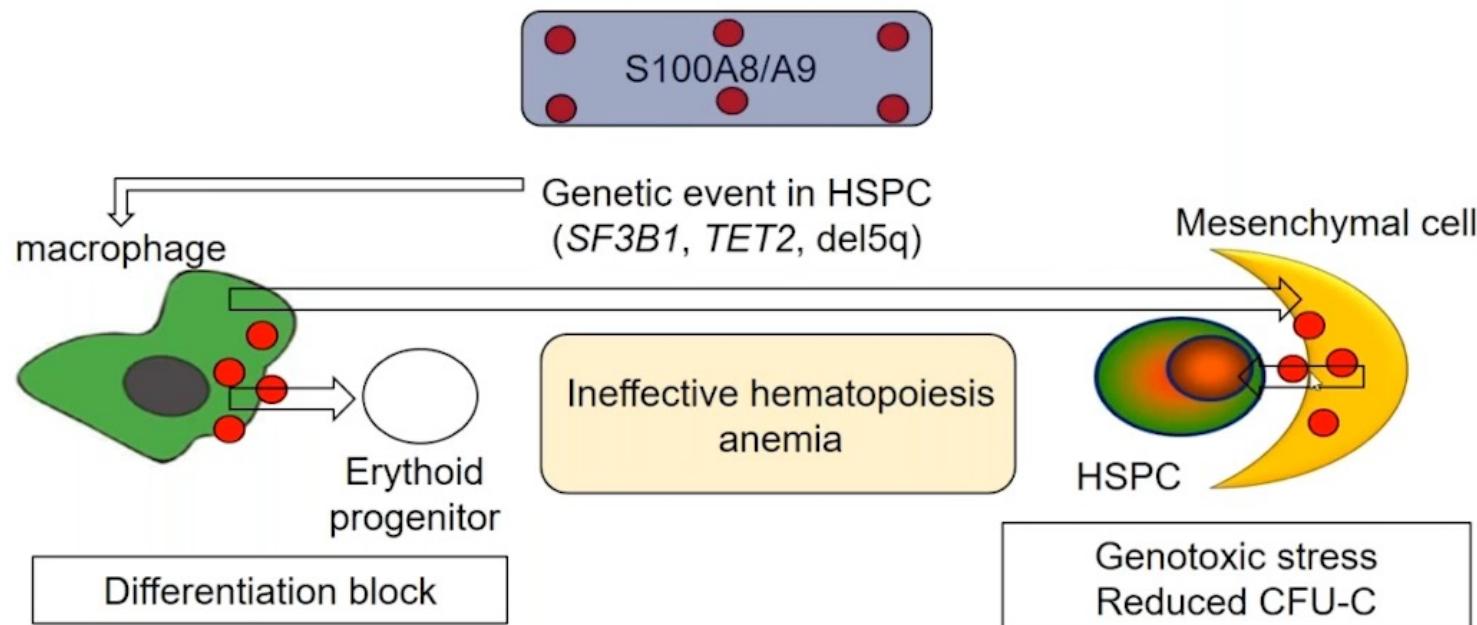


Ribezzo F et al. Leukemia. 2019

28 maggio 2022

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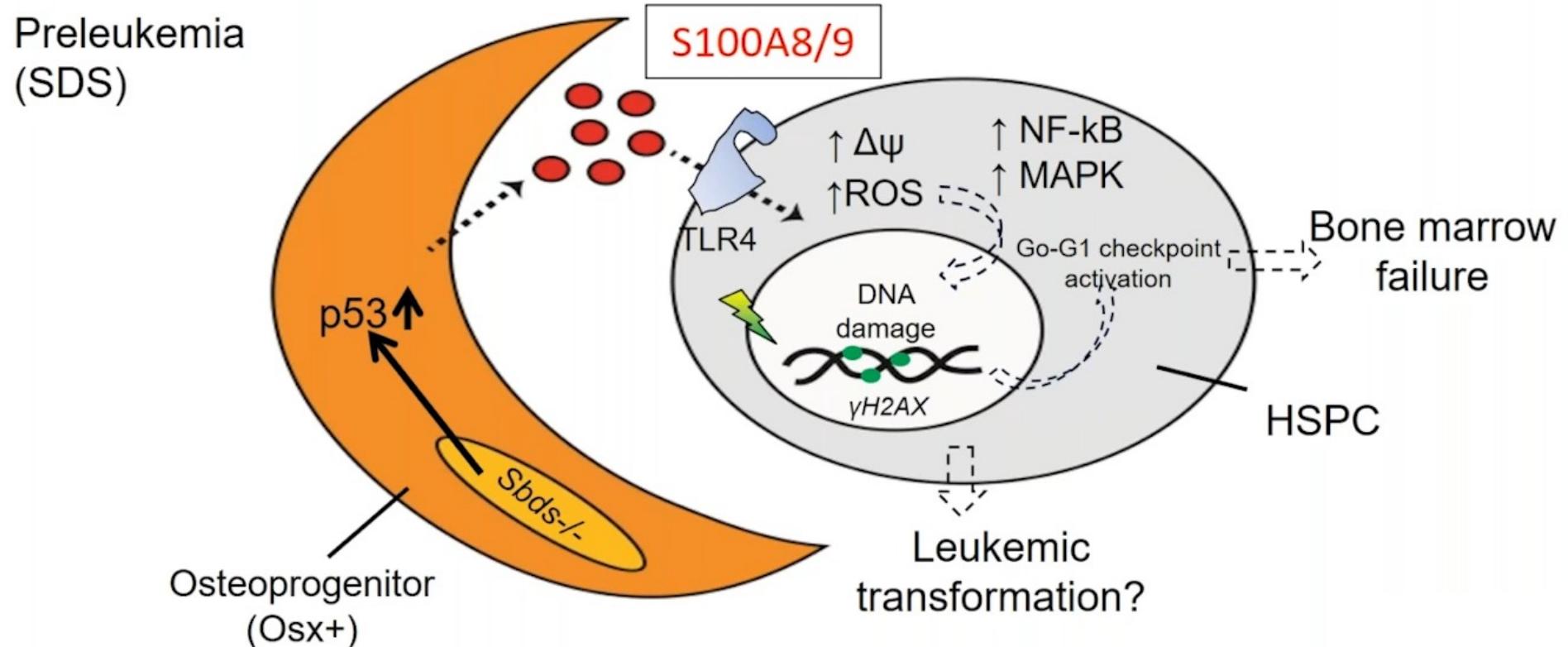
Specific niches contribute to specific aspects of the disease phenotype

Zambetti N et al. Cell Stem Cell 2016

Basiorka AA et al. Blood. 2016 Dec 22;128(25):2960-2975

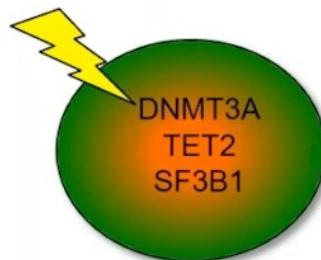
Schneider RK et al. Nat Med. 2016 Mar;22(3):288-97

# Mesenchymal inflammation drives genotoxic stress in hematopoietic stem cells



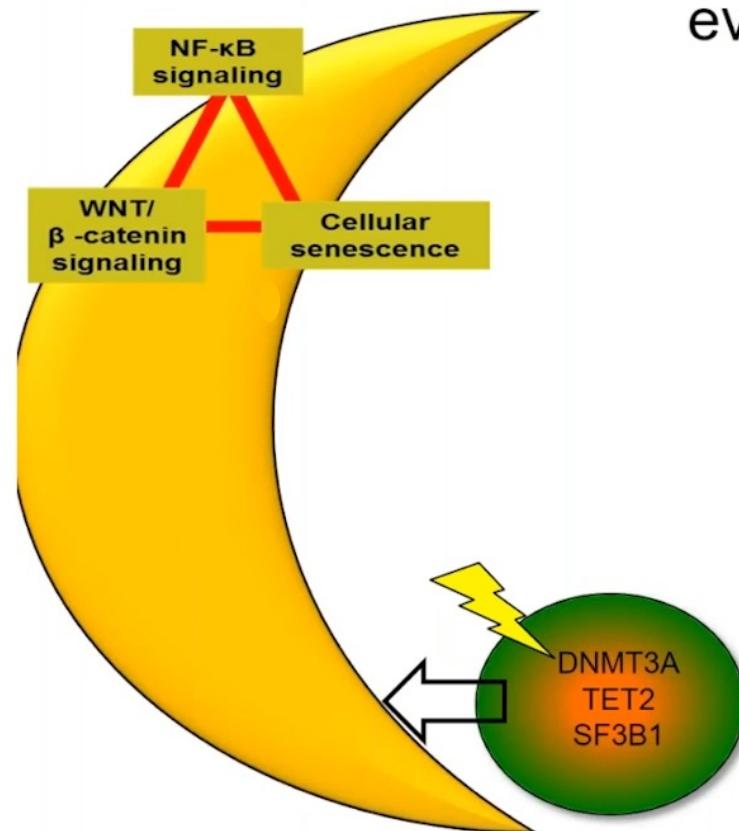
Zambetti, Ping, Chen et al, *Cell Stem Cell*, 2016

## A model of ‘mesenchymal niche inflammation facilitated’ clonal evolution in MDS



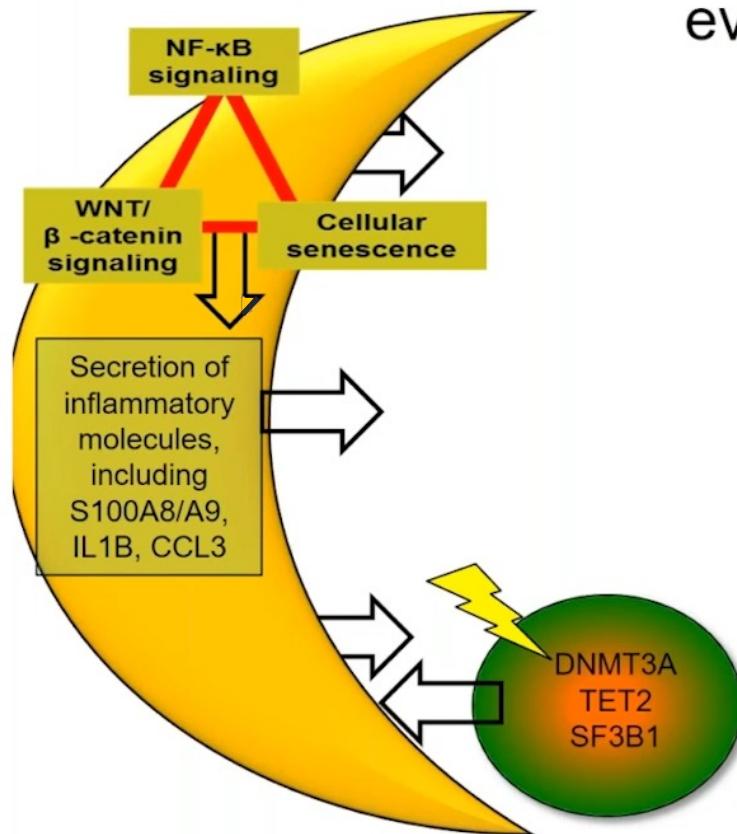
④ The mesenchymal niche in MDS. Pronk E, Raaijmakers MHGP. *Blood* 2019; 133(10):1031-1038 2019

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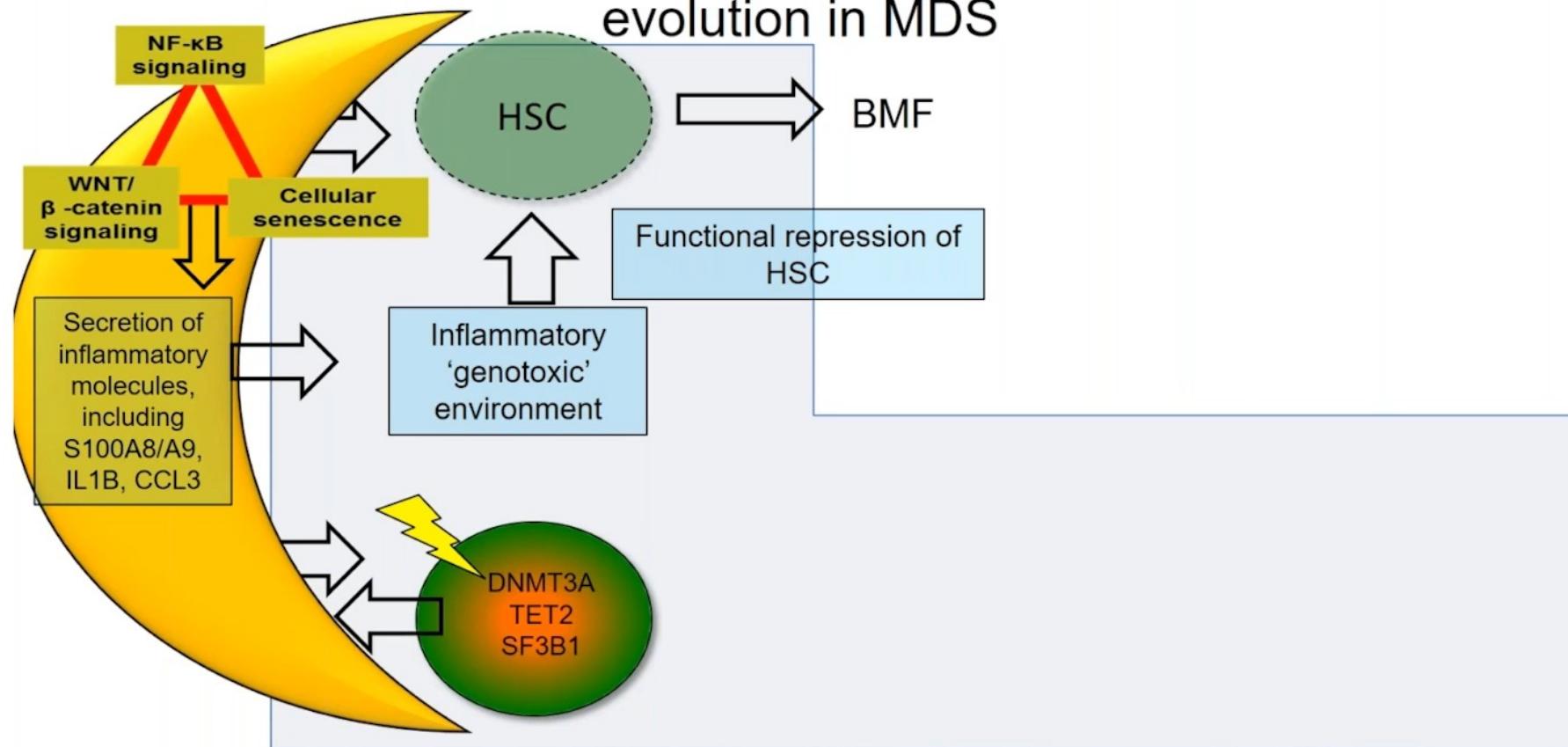
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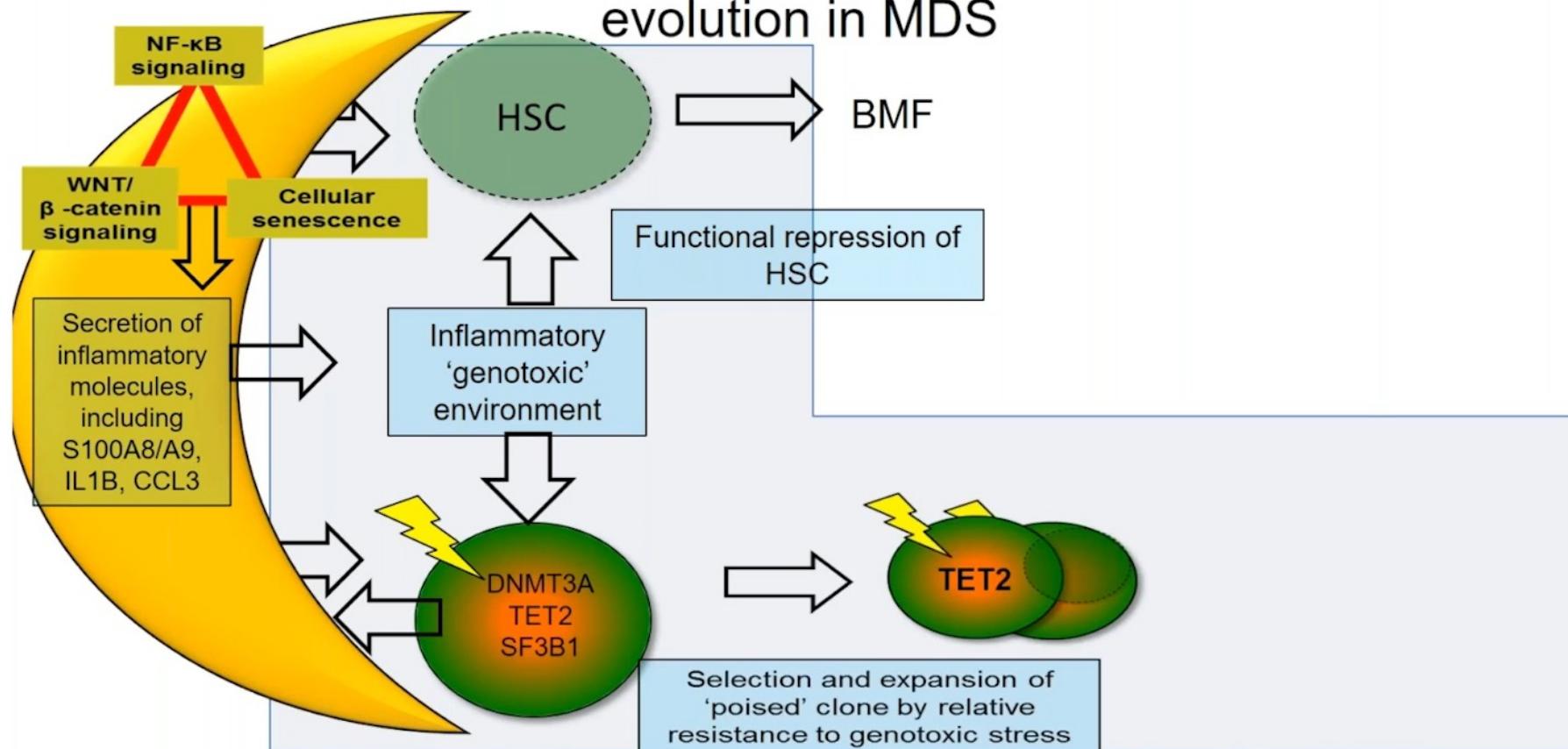
©The mesenchymal niche in MDS. Pronk E, Raaijmakers MHGP. *Blood* 2019;133(10):1031-1038 2019

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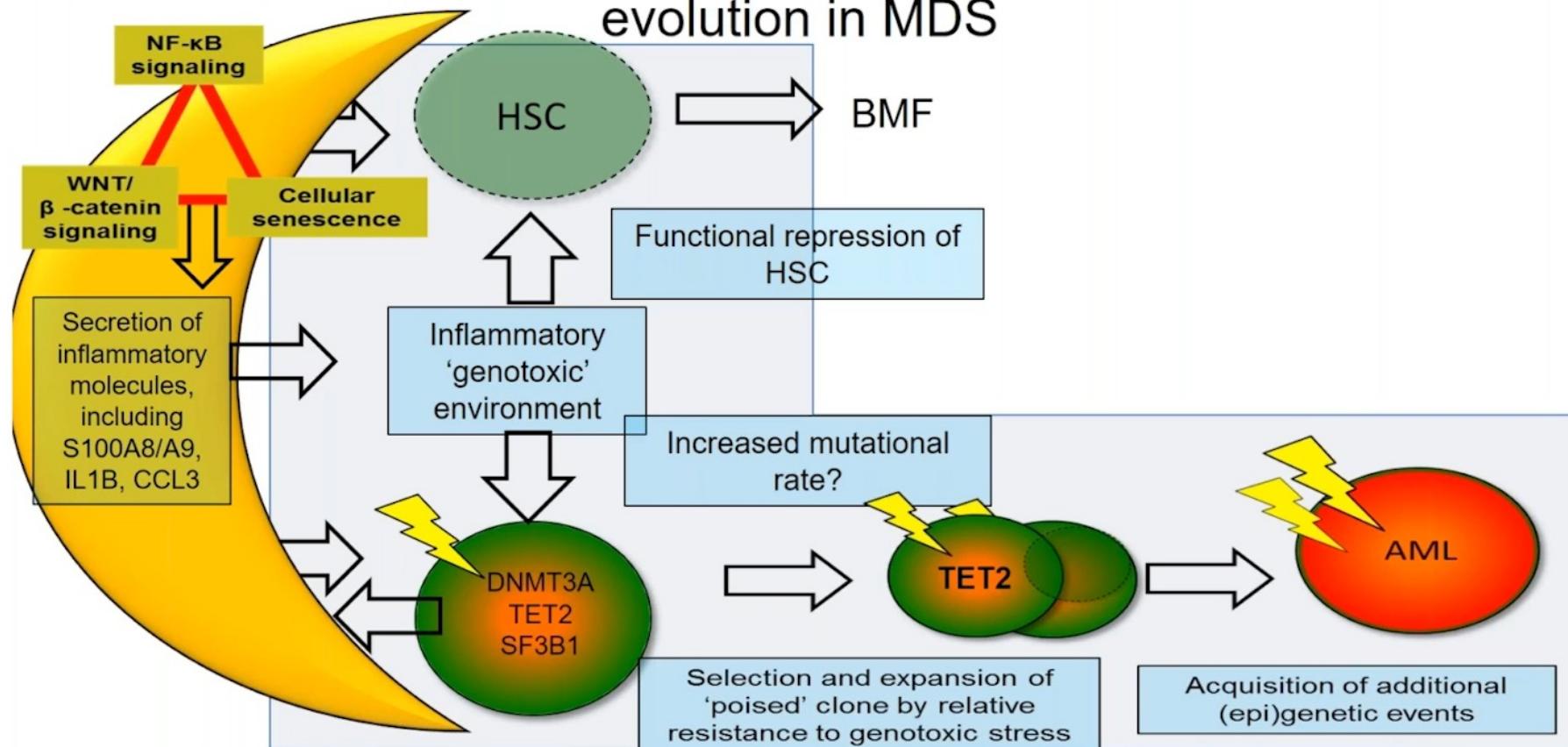
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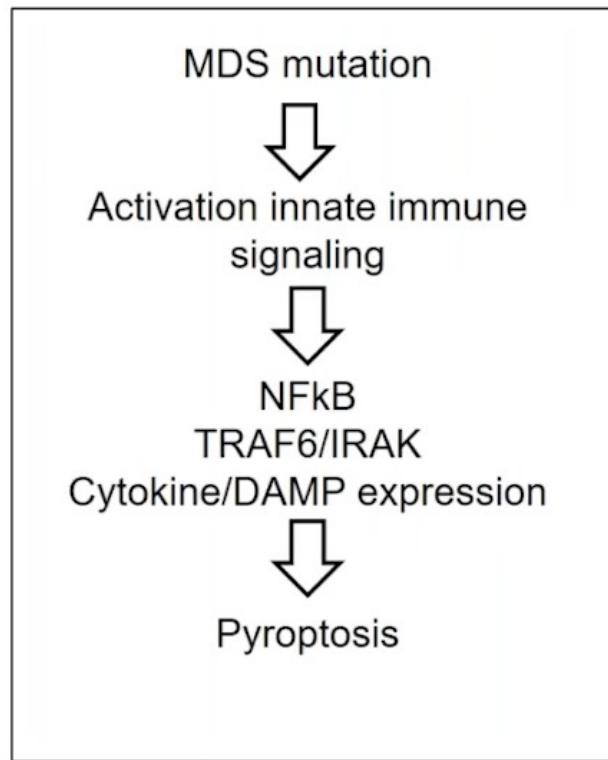
©The mesenchymal niche in MDS. Pronk E, Raaijmakers MHGP. *Blood* 2019;133(10):1031-1038 2019

## A model of 'mesenchymal niche inflammation facilitated' clonal evolution in MDS



• The mesenchymal niche in MDS. Pronk E, Raaijmakers MHGP. *Blood* 2019;133(10):1031-1038 2019

# MDS mutations induce activation of innate immune signaling



Genetic abnormality	Gene class	Mutant gene/Chromosome alteration	Innate immune-signaling effect*	Inflammasome-signaling effect†
Somatic mutations	Epigenetic modifiers	TET2	↑ IL-6 production via ↓ HDAC2 recruitment; ↑ IL-1β	↑ Pyroptosis and β-catenin signaling
		DNMT3A	↑ Type 1 IFN production via ↑ HDAC9 expression	
		ASXL1	↑ NADPH oxidase ROS; ↑ TLR4, TICAM2	↑ Pyroptosis and β-catenin signaling
		EZH2	↑ S100A8/A9 via NF-κB derepression	
	Spliceosomes	SF3B1	↑ NF-κB activation via ↓ MAP3K7	↑ Pyroptosis and β-catenin signaling
		SRSF2	↑ S100A8 and S100A9, DNA-RNA hybrids; ↑ NF-κB activation via caspase 8 isoform	↑ Pyroptosis and β-catenin signaling
		U2AF1	↑ DNA-RNA hybrids, ATG7 alternate splicing impairing autophagy	↑ Pyroptosis and β-catenin signaling ; impaired autophagy leading to NLRP3 activation
Chromosomal abnormality	N/A	Deletion 5q	Haploinsufficiency: RPS14 ↑ S100A8/A9; miR-145/146 + TIFAB ↑ TRAF6/IRAK1	↑ Pyroptosis and β-catenin signaling

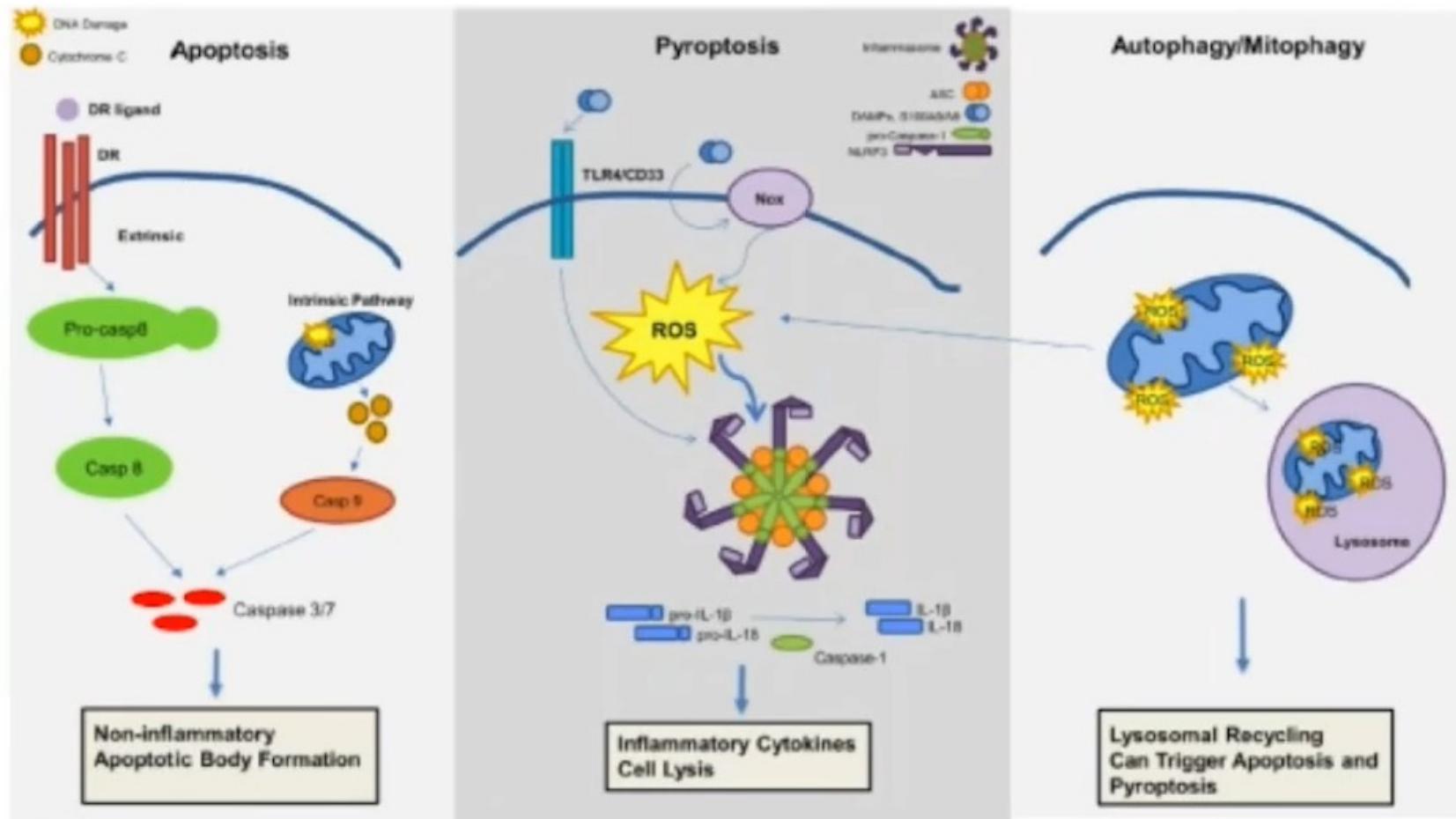
Sallman and List, Blood 2019

Molly A et al. Nature Cell Biology 21, 640–650(2019)

Cull AH et al. Exp Hematol. 2017;55:56-70.

Pollyea DA et al. Haematologica. 2019

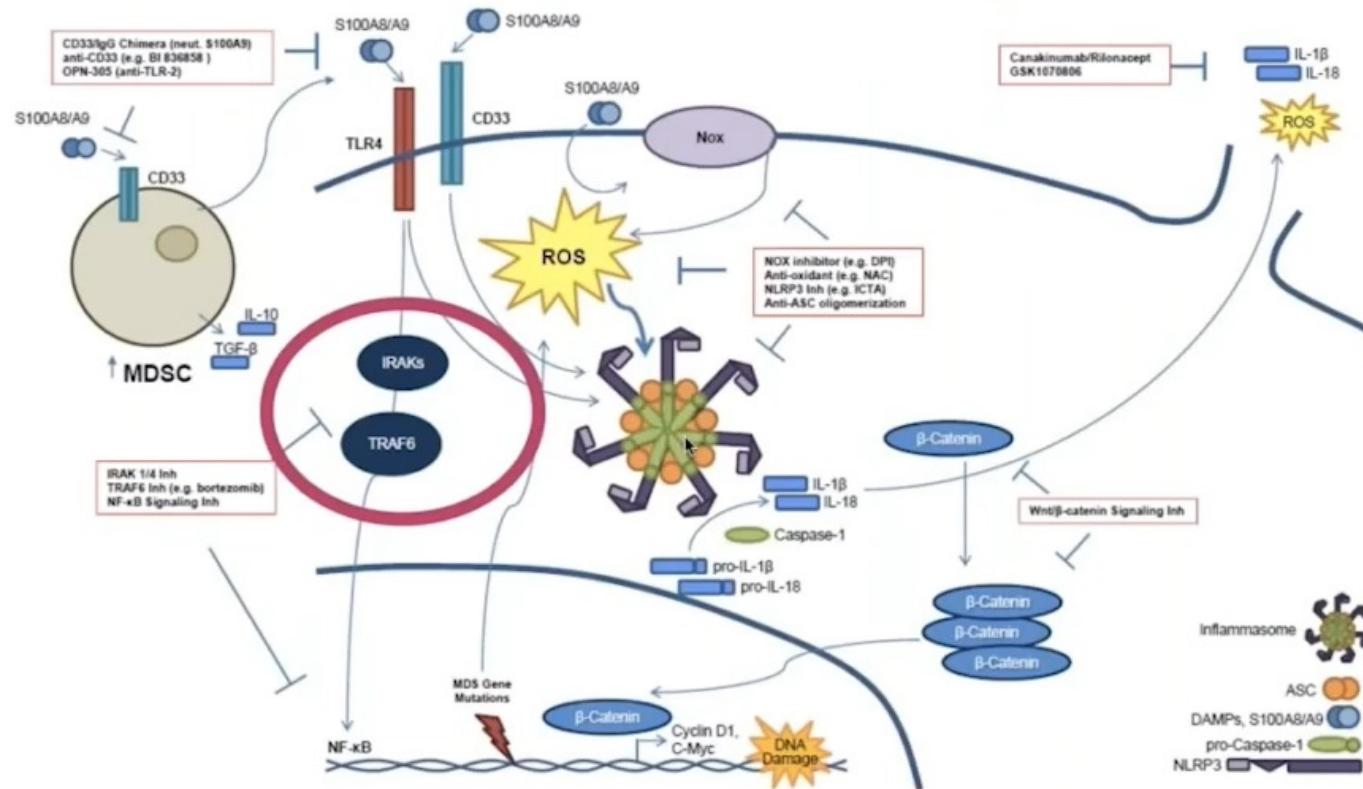
## Mechanisms of cell death in the pathogenesis of MDS



Sallman et al, Frontiers in Oncology, 2016

Basiorka et al, Blood 2016

## Targeting the “Inflammasome”



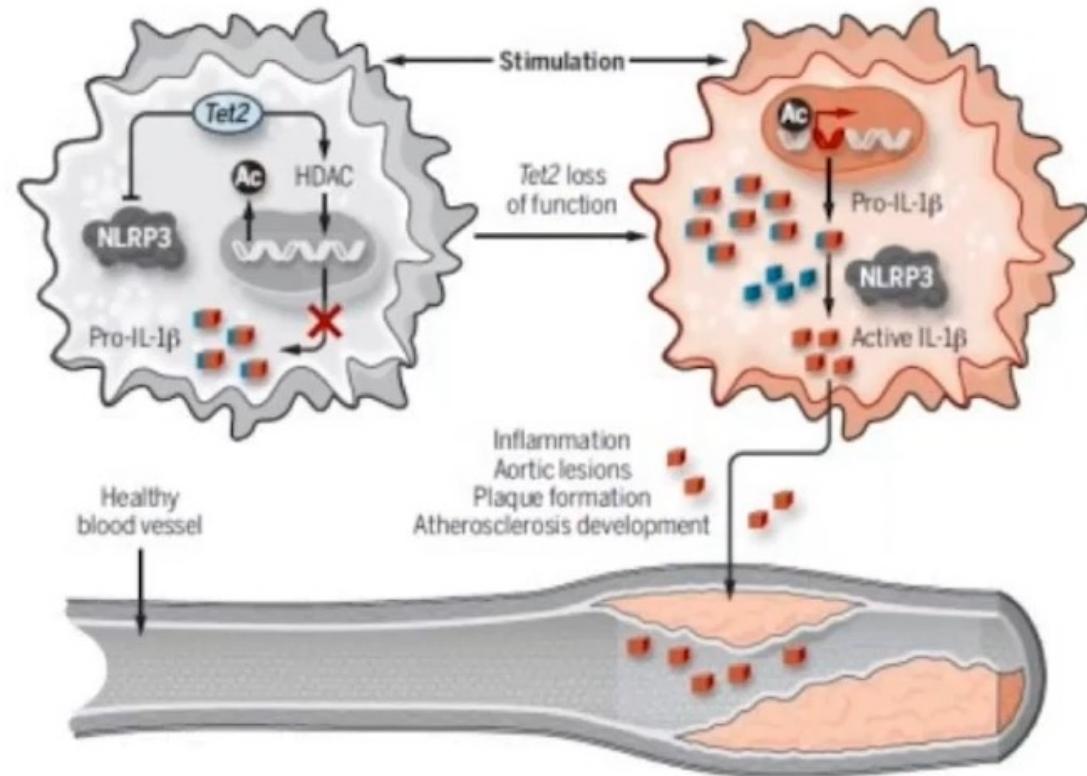
Canakinumab, rilonacept, and bortezomib are not yet licensed for MDS indications in Europe or Israel.  
 ASC, associated speck-like protein containing a caspase-recruitment domain; IL, interleukin; IRAKs, IL-1 receptor-associated kinases; Inh, inhibitor; neut, neutrophil; NOX, dihydronicotinamide-adenine dinucleotide phosphate oxidase; TGF- $\beta$ , transforming growth factor- $\beta$ ; TLR, toll-like receptor; TRAF6, tumour necrosis factor receptor-associated factor 6.

Sallman DA et al.  
 Clin Lymphoma Myeloma Leuk 2017; 17: 613-620

## Enigma of TET2 unravelled?



- HSPC differentiation and expansion of macrophage pool
- Increased production of pro-infl IL-1 $\beta$  and NLRP3
- Changes abrogated by treating with NLRP3 inhibitor



- IL-1 neutralising antibodies
- Hypomethylating agents
- NLRP3 inhibitor

Zhu et al, Science  
Fuster, et al, Science, 355, 842, 2017

## Take home messages

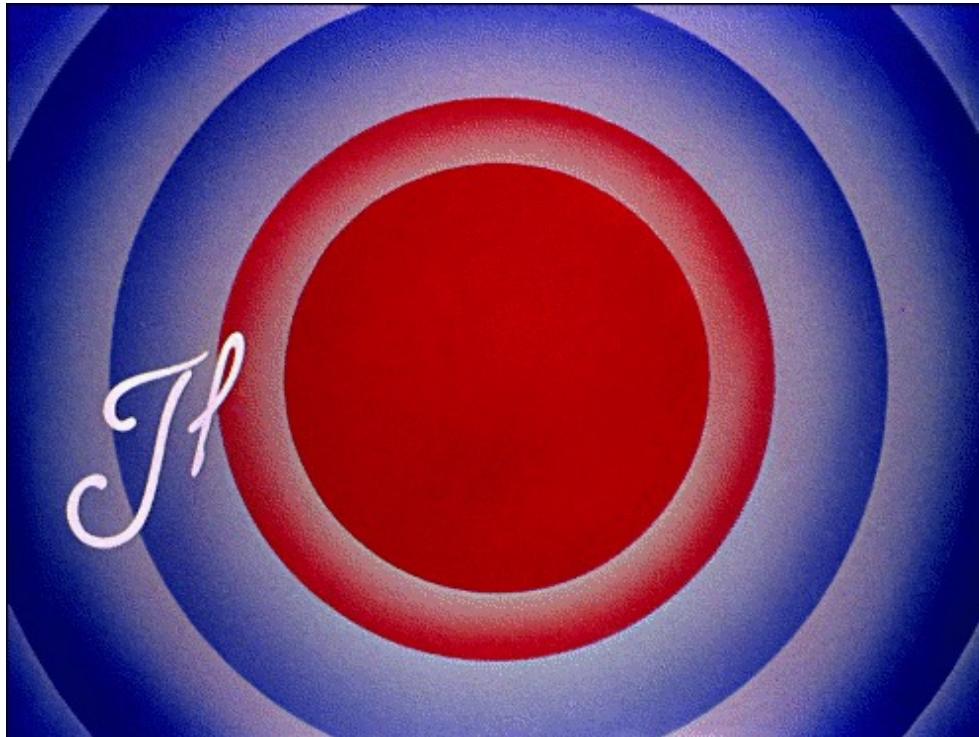
- La nicchia emopoietica gioca un ruolo chiave nella patogenesi delle MDS
- Le mutazioni (driver e subclonali) supportano l'esistenza di un microambiente infiammatorio
- L'infiammazione può a sua volta provocare instabilità genomica che porta a progressione di malattia
- Impairment osseo nelle MDS, da monitorare anche nella pratica clinica
- Numerosi target terapeutici dallo studio del microambiente

✓ **Ferrochelazione**

✓ **FGF-23**

✓ **Inflamasoma**

- NF-kB
- WNT/Beta-catenin
- S100A8/A9, ROS, NLRP3
- IRAKs, TLRs, TRAF6
- IL-1, IL-18, TGF-beta



Thank you!

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