



**POST-SAN DIEGO 2023**

Novità dal Meeting della Società Americana di Ematologia

# Novità dal Meeting della Società Americana di Ematologia

**Verona**

Palazzo della Gran Guardia

15-16-17 Febbraio 2024

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**COORDINATORI**

Angelo Michele Carella  
Pier Luigi Zinzani

**BOARD SCIENTIFICO**

Paolo Corradini  
Mauro Krampera  
Fabrizio Pane  
Adriano Venditti

**Biologia del Mieloma**

**Alessandra Romano**



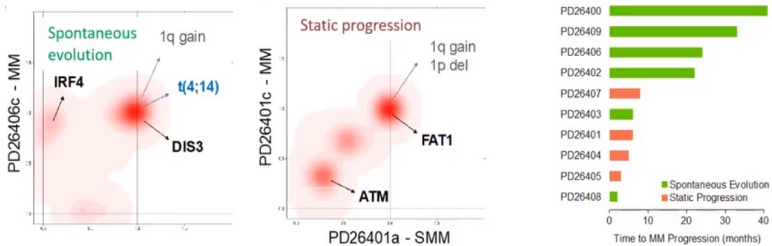


## Disclosures of Alessandra Romano

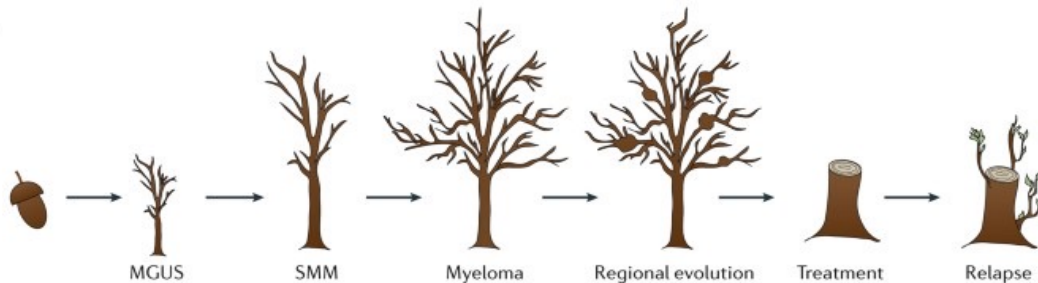
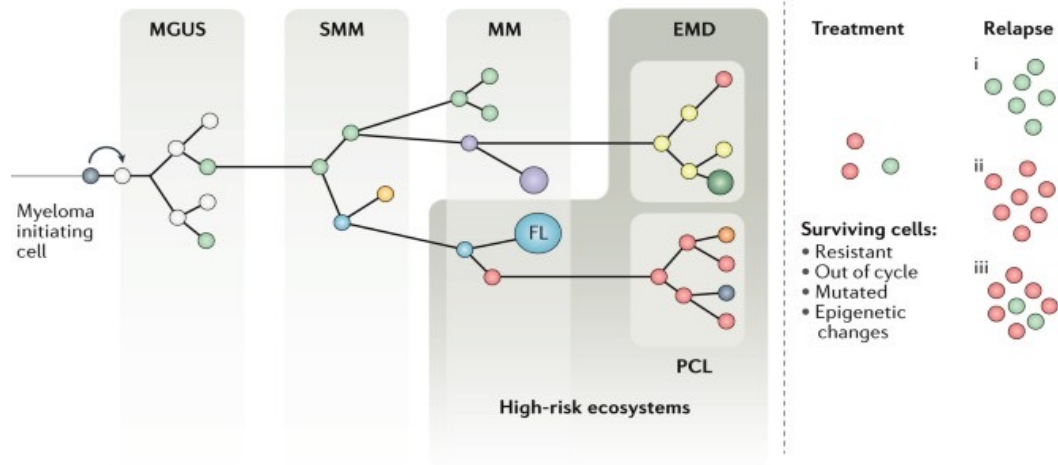
Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Blueprint			x				
Takeda						x	
Janssen						x	



## The complex landscape of Multiple Myeloma evolution



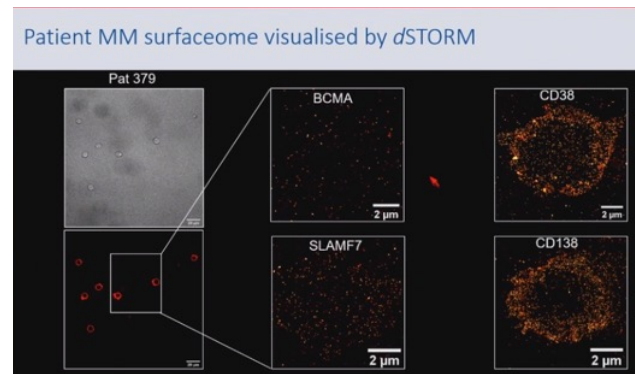
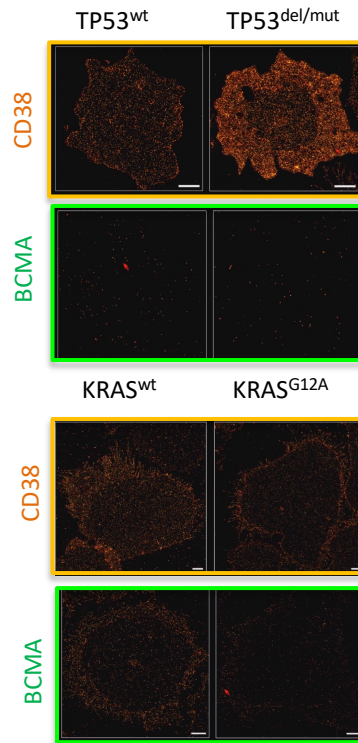
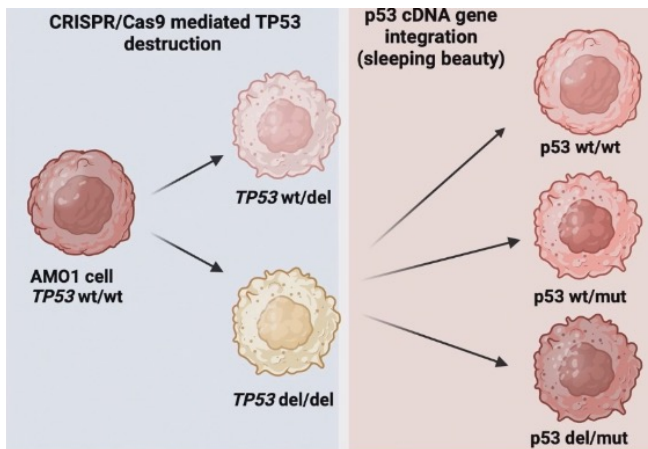
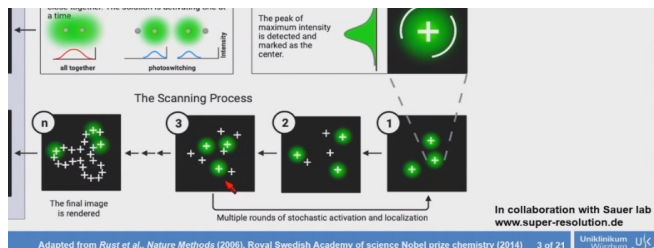
Bolli, Nat. Comm., 2018



C. Pawlyn, Nat. Rev. Can. 2017

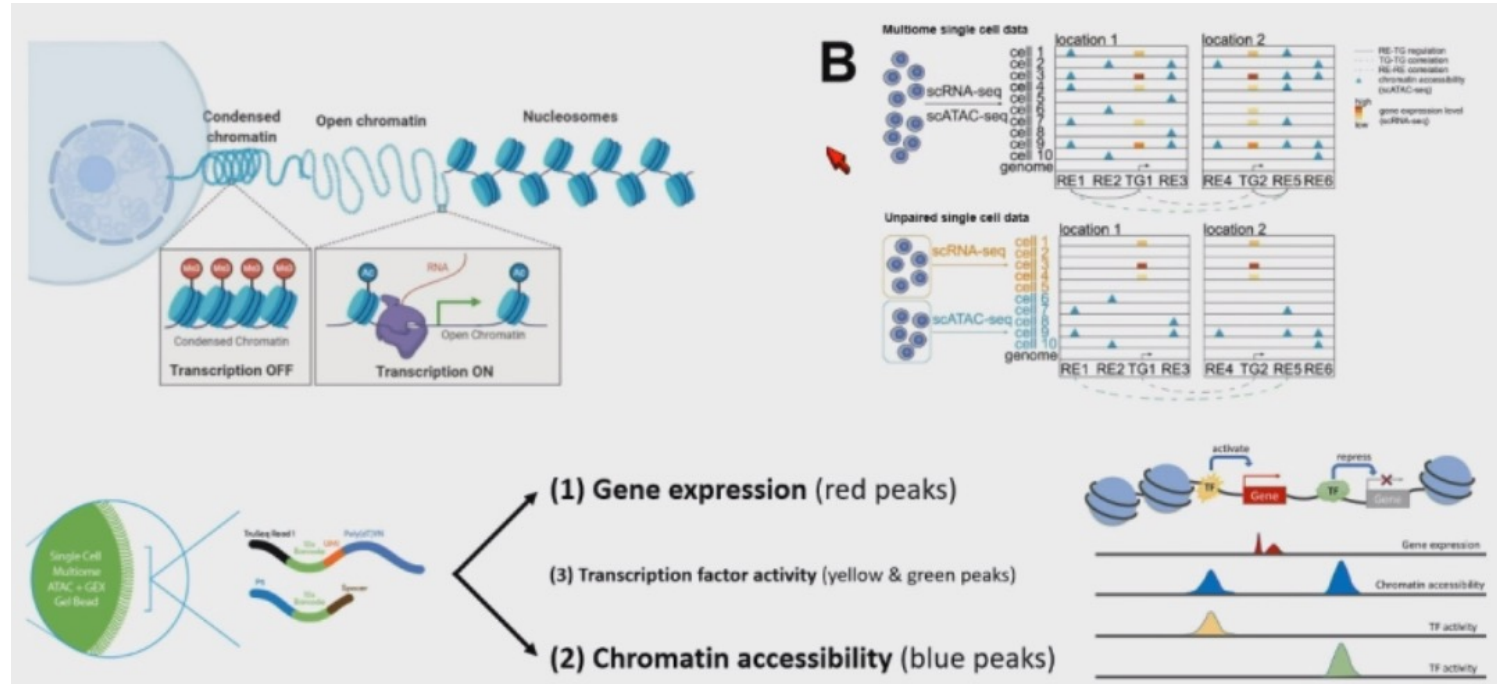


## Single genetic lesions impact surface epitope expression, as quantified by dSTORM



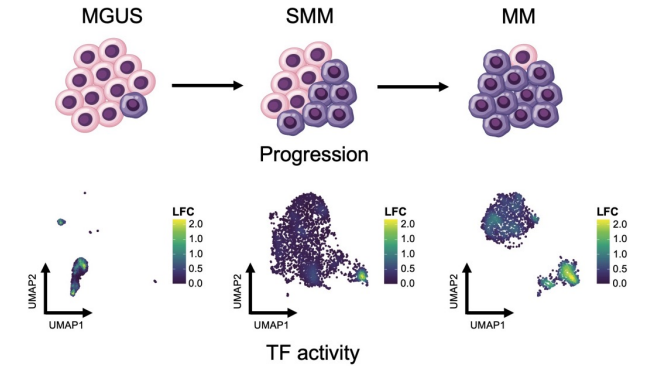
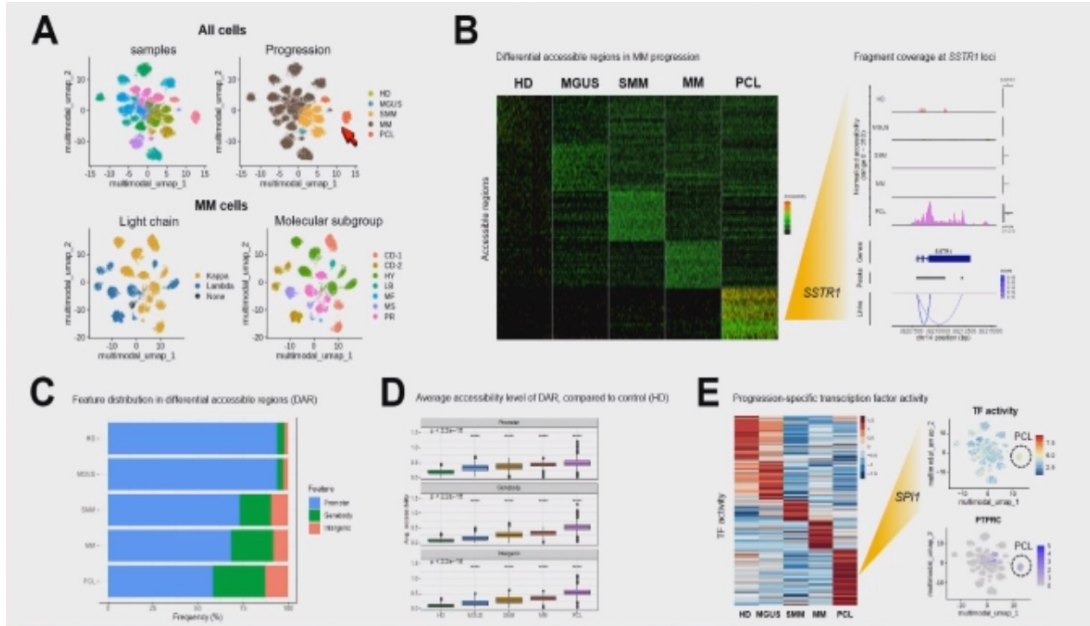


## Single nuclei multi-omics analysis reveals unique signature of MM progression





## Clonal competition occurs at the pre-malignant stage, associated to epigenetic dysregulation



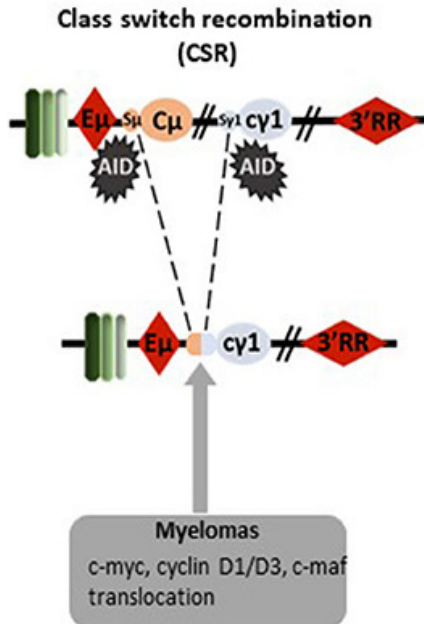
Based on unique clonotypic signature of the immunoglobulin gene rearrangement, the highest NPC in MGUS samples suggests clonal competition at the pre-malignant stage

Increase of differential accessible regions at intergenic regions implies more complexed long-range gene regulation from cis-regulatory elements during disease progression.

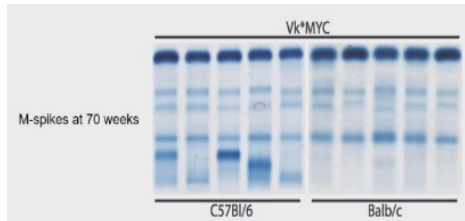
Using the ratio of gene signatures of aggressive disease to determine high-risk cells, the proportion of high-risk cells increase respectively from low to high-risk samples. This expansion of high-risk clonality may contribute to the risk of relapse.



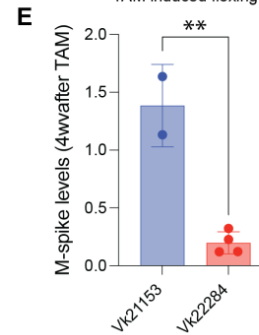
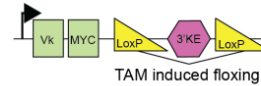
# Forced MYC expression in germinal center of $V_k^*$ MYC mice leads to MM progression



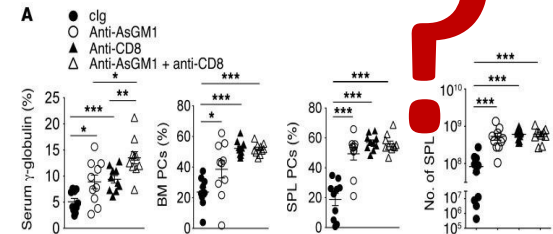
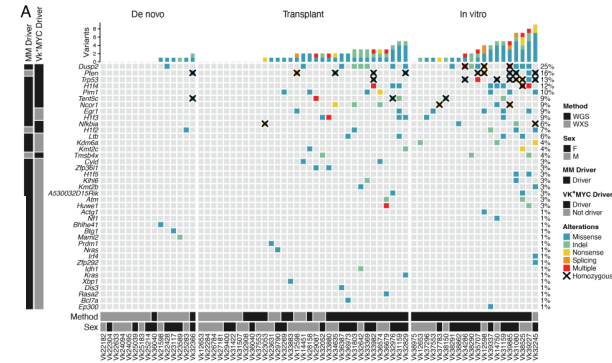
but not disease initiation



Radl et al. 1978, *Clin. Exp. Immunol*  
Chesi..Bergsagel2008, *Cancer Cell*  
Affer ..Kuehl 2014, *Leukemia*



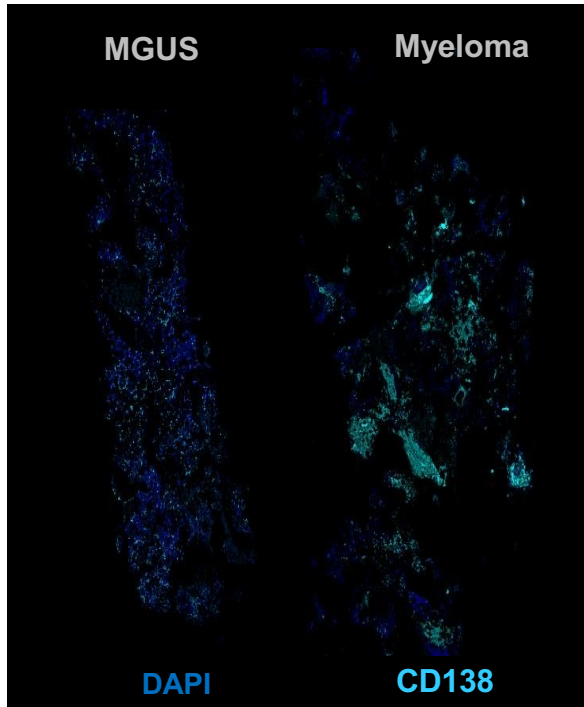
F. Maura and  
M. Chesi, in press



Guillerey et al. JCI  
Das et al Nat Med

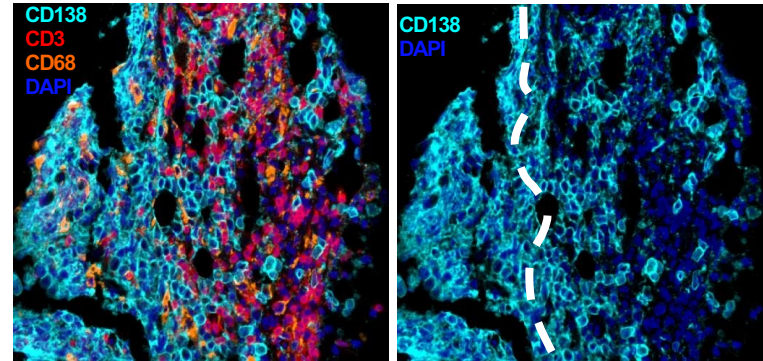


## Clustered growth and immune exclusion are features of malignant transformation



Clustered Pattern in MM Biopsies

### Exclusion of T cells



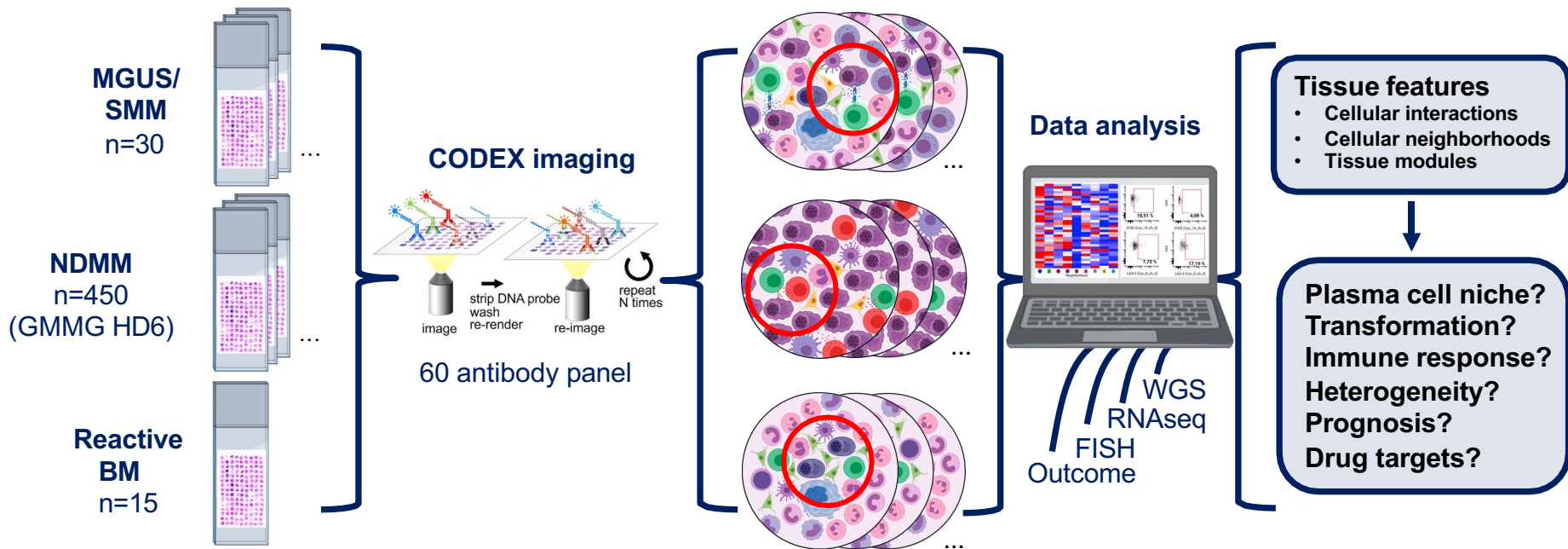
Robinson, Villa et al. JCI 2023

*...biology analogous to tissue invasion as hallmark of malignancy in solid tumors?*





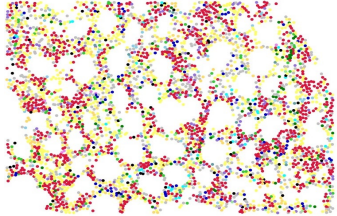
## Multiplexed tissue imaging in bone marrow biopsies



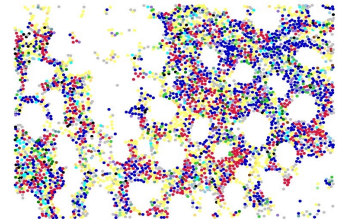


# Altered cell type composition in the bone marrow of MGUS, smoldering and multiple myeloma

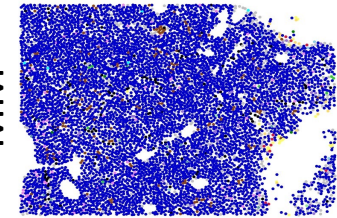
MGUS



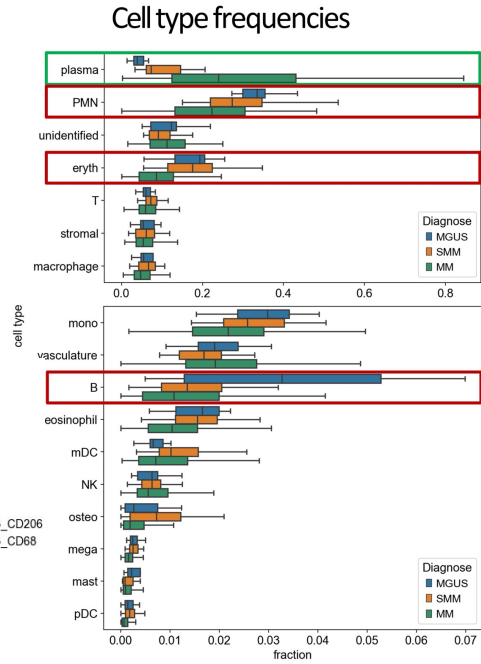
SMM



MM

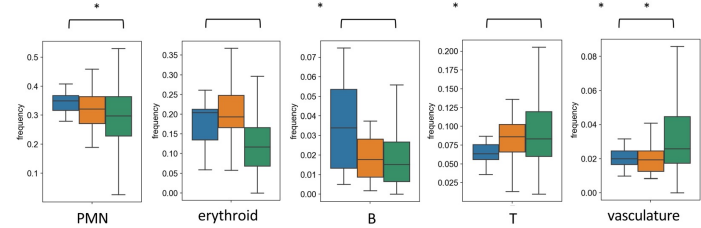


- B
- NK
- PMN
- PMN\_MPO
- T\_CD4
- T\_CD8
- T\_other
- Dendritic
- Eryth
- Macro\_CD163\_CD206
- Macro\_CD163\_CD68
- Mono
- Other
- Plasma
- Vasculature

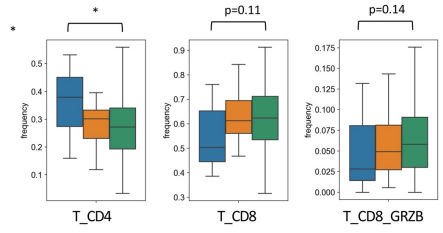


MM vs. MGUS

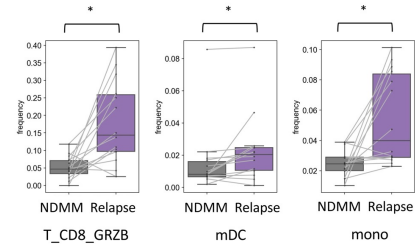
### Plasma cell negative fraction



### Tcell subsets

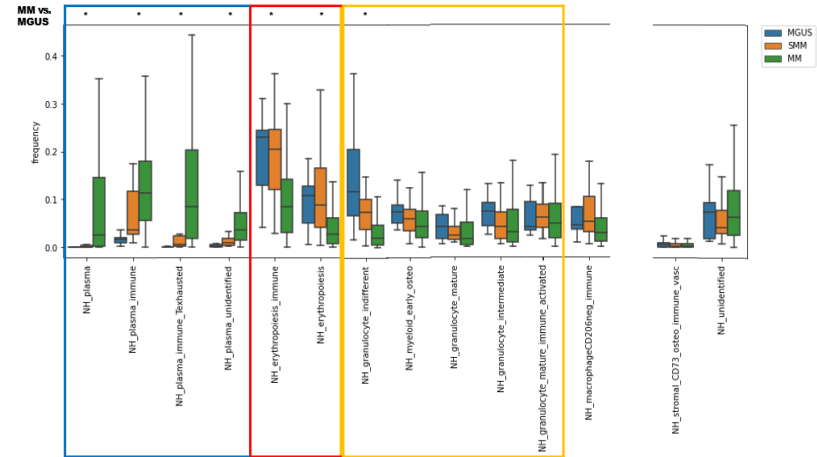
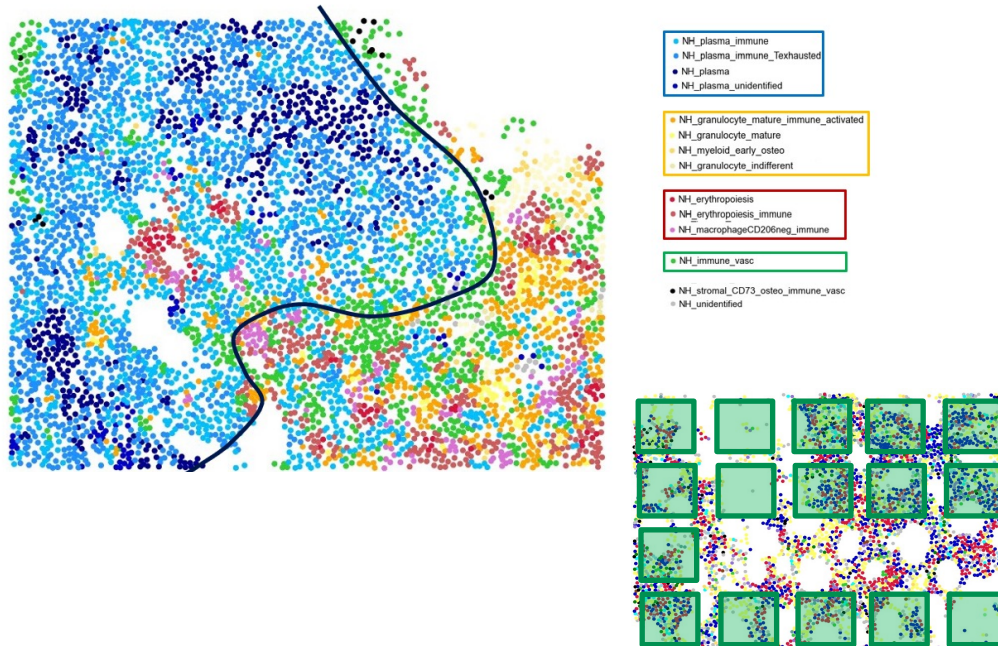


### Relapsed MM





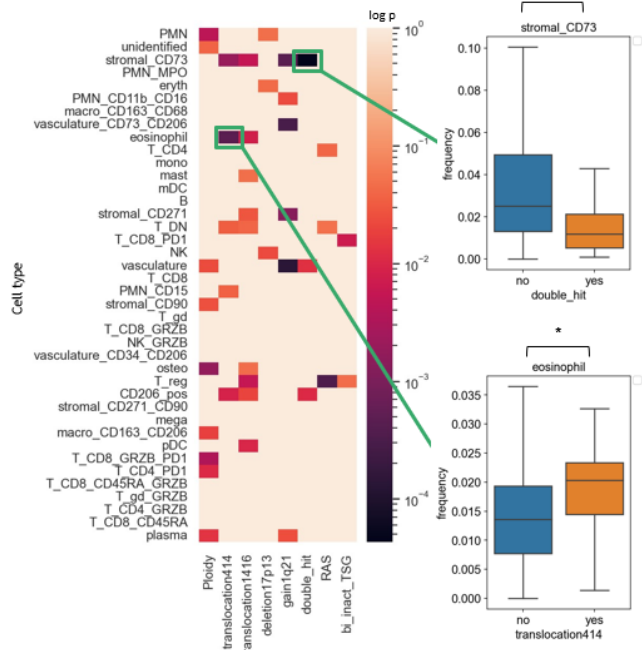
## Spatial neighborhoods in the bone marrow changes from MGUS to MM



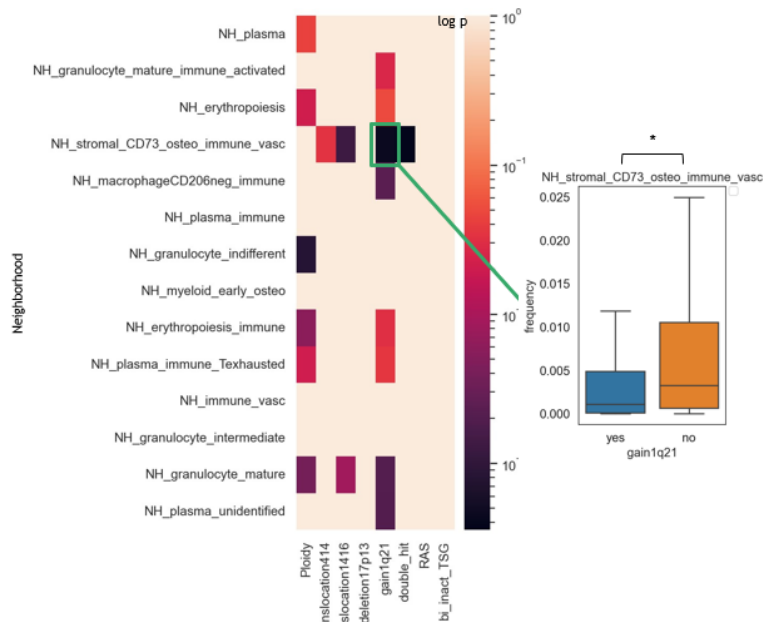


# Associations of MM subgroups with cell type- spatial neighborhoods composition

### Cell type associations



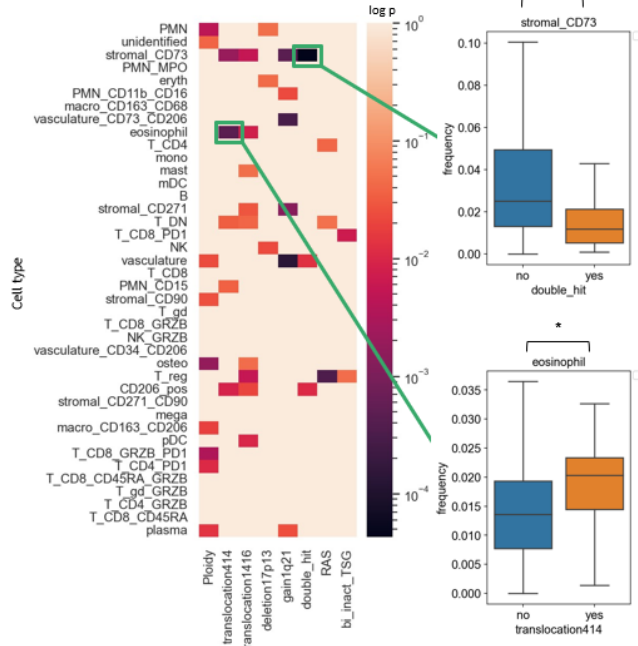
### Neighborhood associations



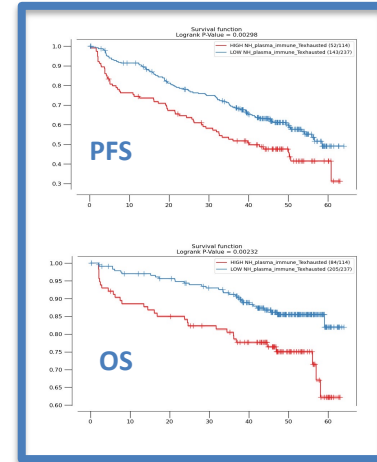
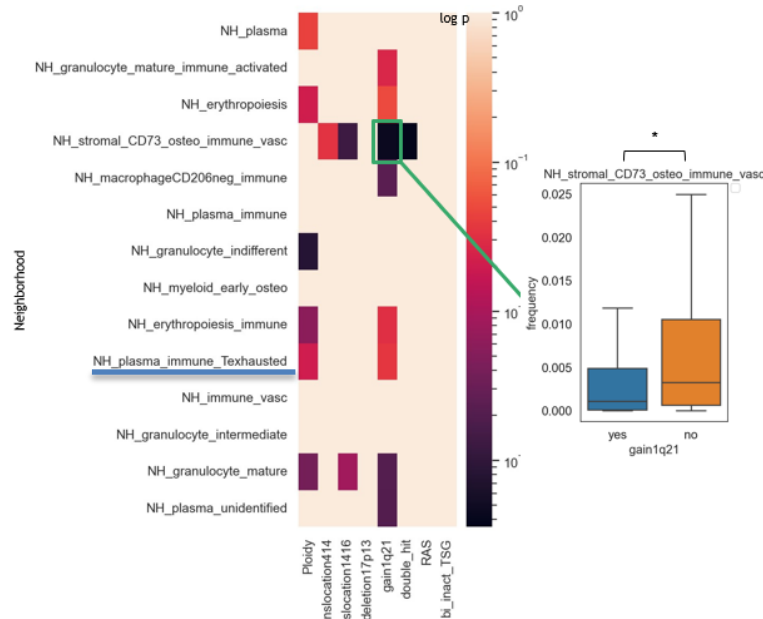


# Associations of MM subgroups with cell type- spatial neighborhoods composition

Cell type associations

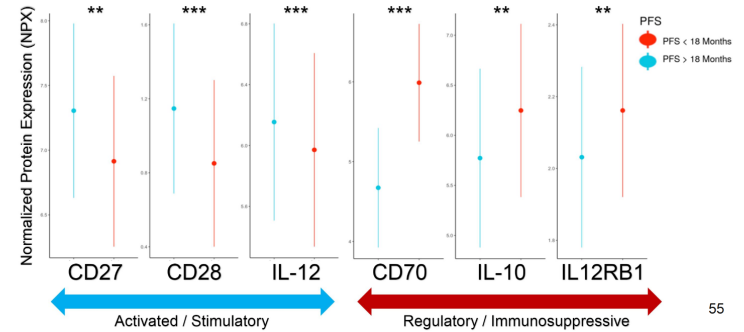
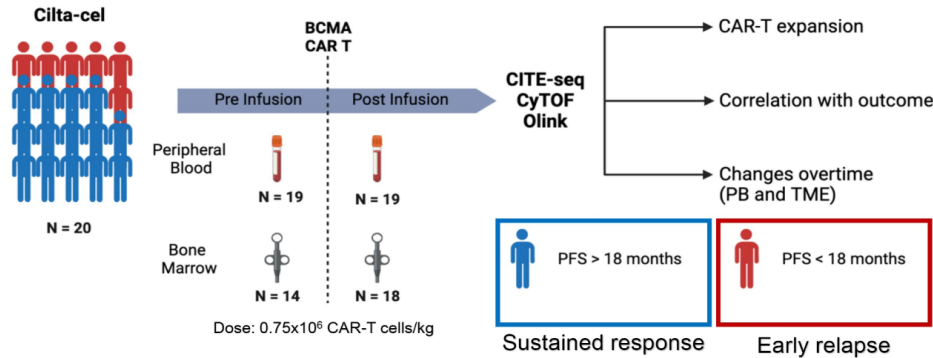


Neighborhood associations

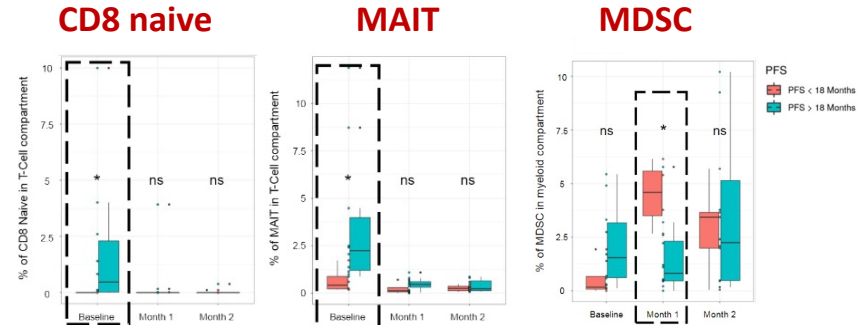




## CAR-T therapy efficacy is affected by the bone marrow microenvironment composition



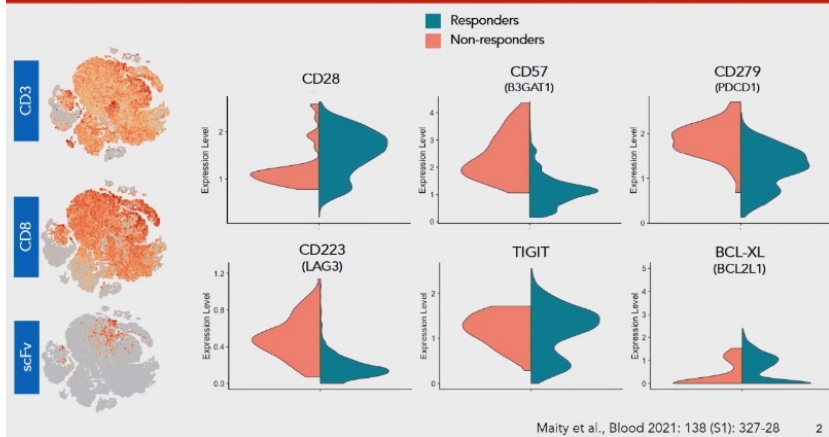
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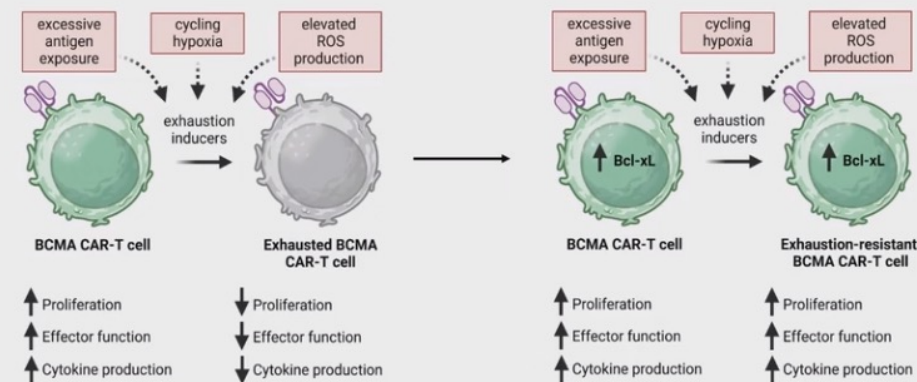


## CAR-T cells armored with BCL2L1 can eliminate more efficiently myeloma cells

Higher Bcl2L1 expression in BCMA CAR T cells in patients with durable remissions post Idecabtagene-vicleucel

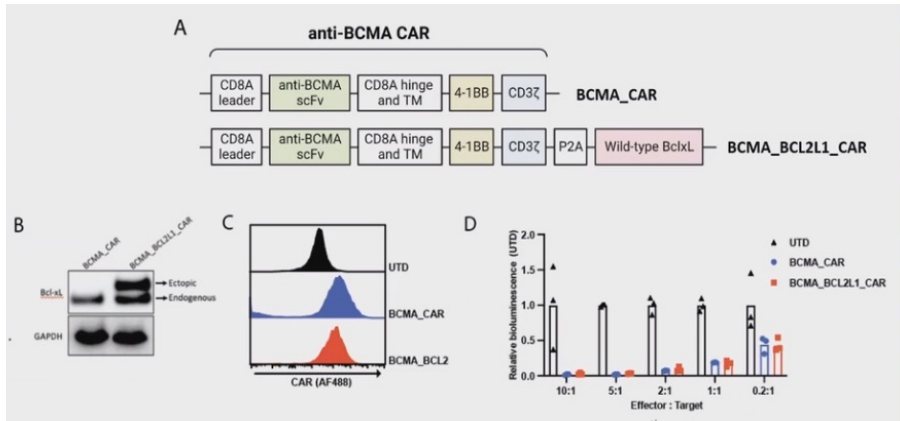


Cognizant of the role BclxL in T cells survival in response to CD28 co-stimulatory signaling, we postulated that increasing BclxL expression is a potential strategy to enhance CAR T cells fitness.

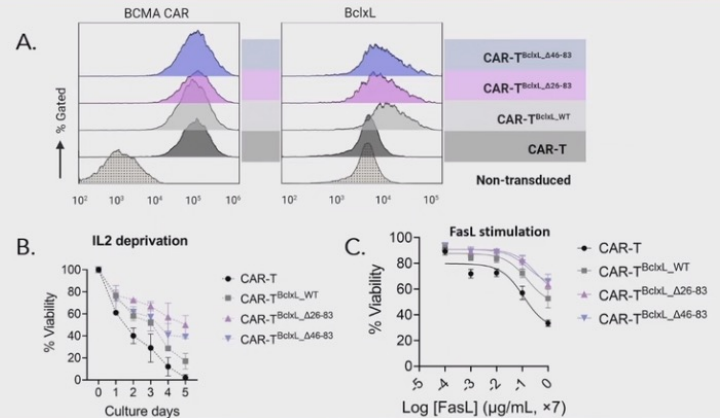




## CAR-T cells armored with BCL2L1 can eliminate more efficiently myeloma cells



## CAR T armored with BCL2L1 or its variants (Bcl<sub>l</sub>L<sup>Δ26-83</sup> or Bcl<sub>l</sub>L<sup>Δ46-83</sup>) exhibited higher proliferation and survival

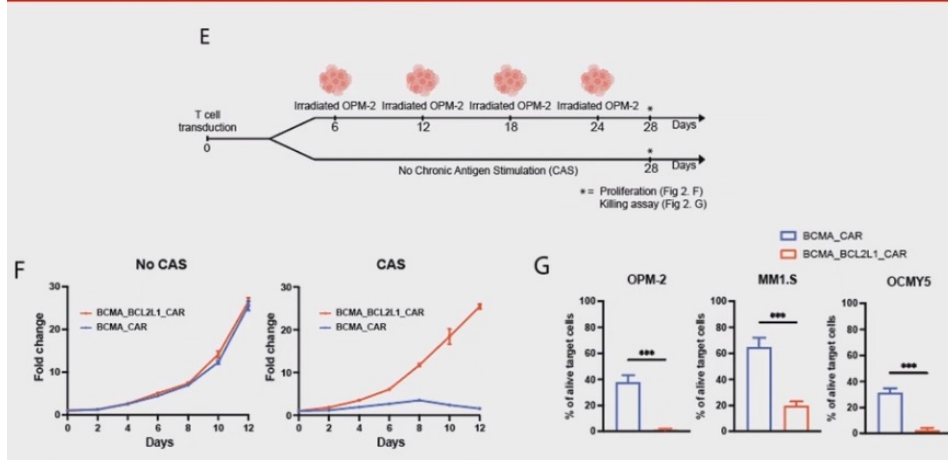




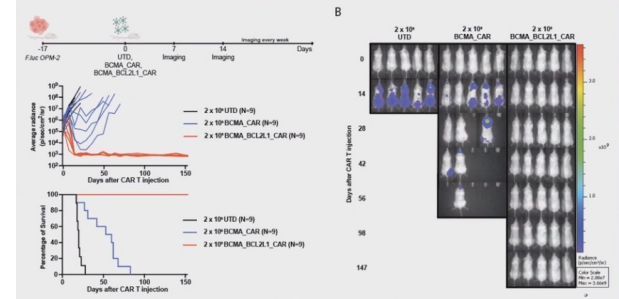


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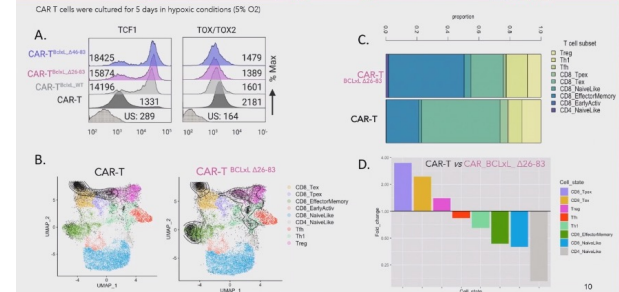
Under Chronic Antigen Stimulation (CAS) conditions BCL2L1 armored CAR T have superior proliferative and cytotoxic activity



BCL2L1 armored CAR have enhanced antitumor activity in a xenograft model of MM with high disease burden



Under hypoxia, CAR T cells arming with BCL2L1 significantly reduced terminally exhausted cells (T<sub>Ex</sub>) with higher TCF1<sup>+</sup> cells (T<sub>SCM/CM</sub>)





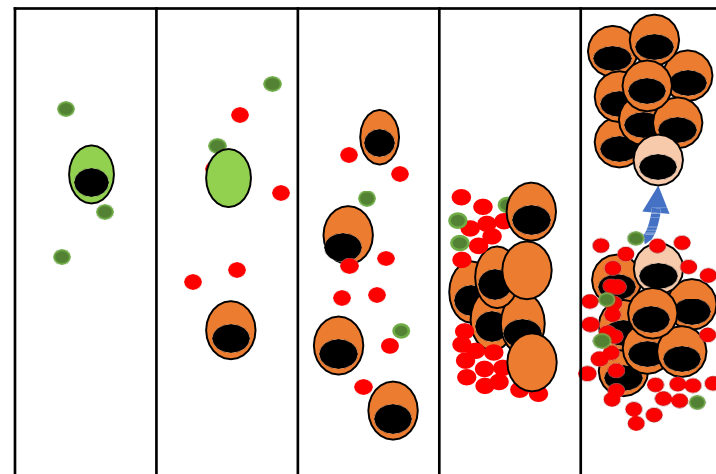
## Conclusions

The fertile soil in myeloma:  
the contribution of the **microenvironment**

MGUS precedes all MM but not the first step.

There is an increasing role for non-immune compartment

CAR-T therapy can be affected by immune cell composition



	Normal	pre-MGUS	MGUS	Early MM	MM
Underlying triggers ?		+	+	+	?
Immune recognition			+	+	+
Immune dysfunction		?	+	+	+
Immune exclusion				+	+



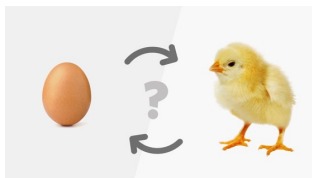
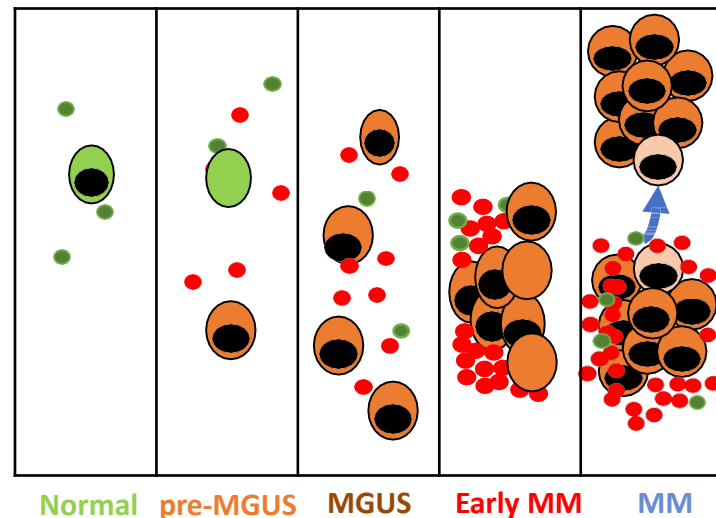
## Conclusions

The fertile soil in myeloma:  
the contribution of the **microenvironment**

MGUS precedes all MM but not the first step.

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CAR-T therapy can be affected by immune cell composition



### Some Questions:

What is the impact on biology of  
immune recognition?

Reversibility? Impact on Survival?

	Normal	pre-MGUS	MGUS	Early MM	MM
Underlying triggers ?	+		+	+	?
Immune recognition			+	+	+
Immune dysfunction			+	+	+
Immune exclusion				+	+



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