

# Epigenetic Basis and Therapies for Follicular Lymphomas

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**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**

**Ari Melnick, MD**  
Disclosures

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# Summary

Epigenetic Dysregulation is a Hallmark of Follicular Lymphoma

Epigenetic mutations in FL primarily mediate their effects by reprogramming immune microenvironment and signaling

Epigenetic mutations are not redundant and may have surprising ways of cooperating

Epigenetic precision therapy could serve as critical “adjuvant” precision treatments to immunotherapy approaches

A modern classification of FL may require a combination of genetic and microenvironment studies

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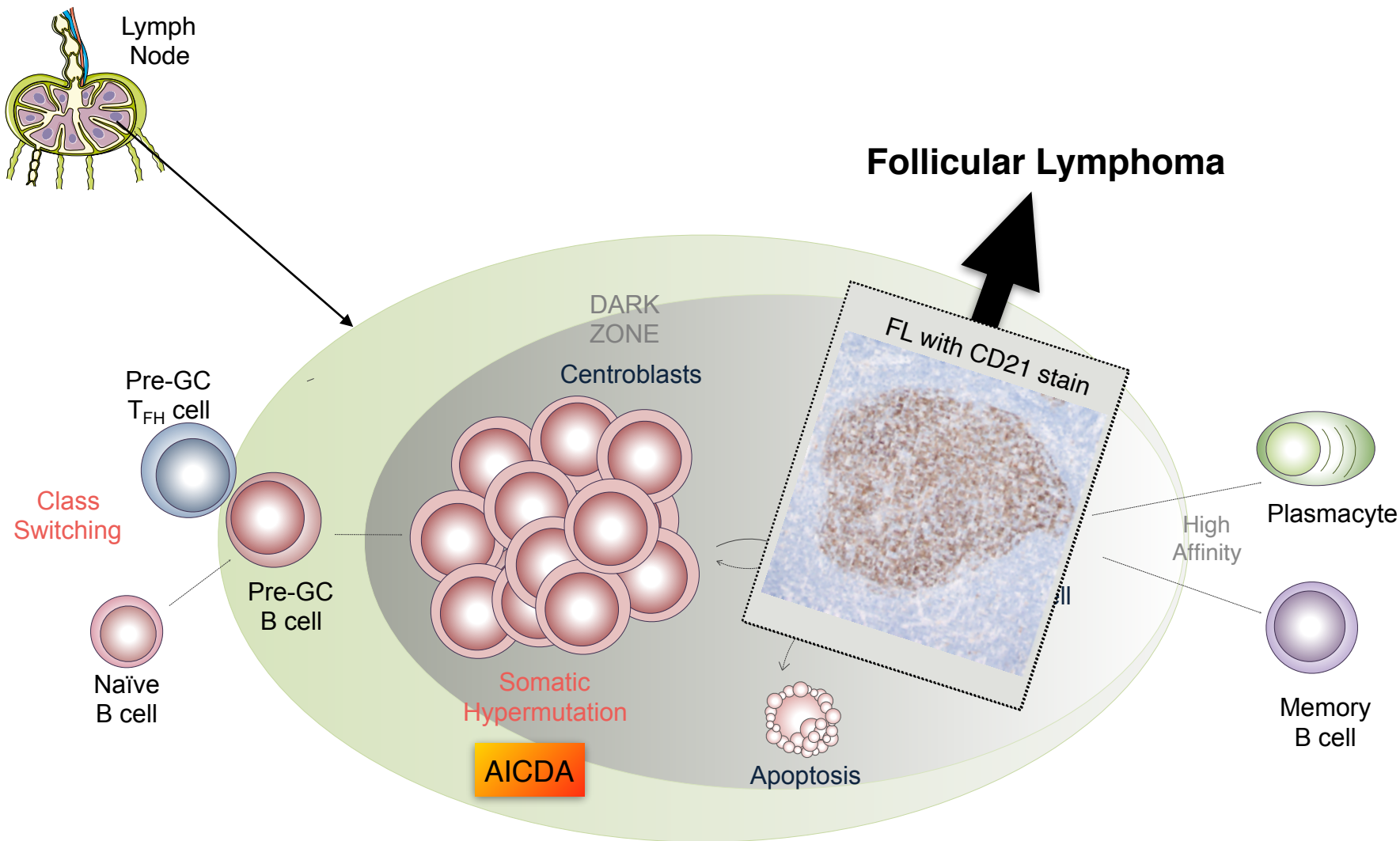
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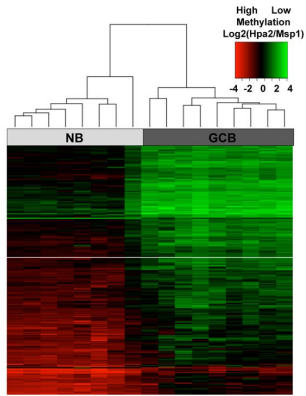
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# FLs arise from germinal centers and generally reflect light zone immune microenvironment

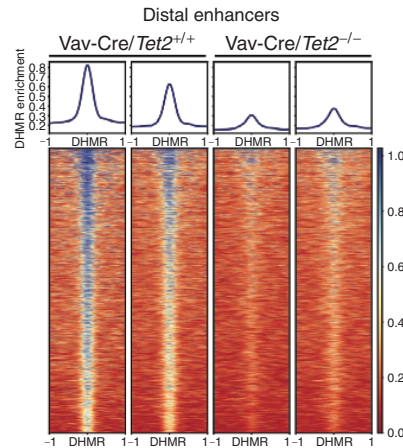


# GC B cell immune synapse induces profound epigenetic and 3D architectural reprogramming

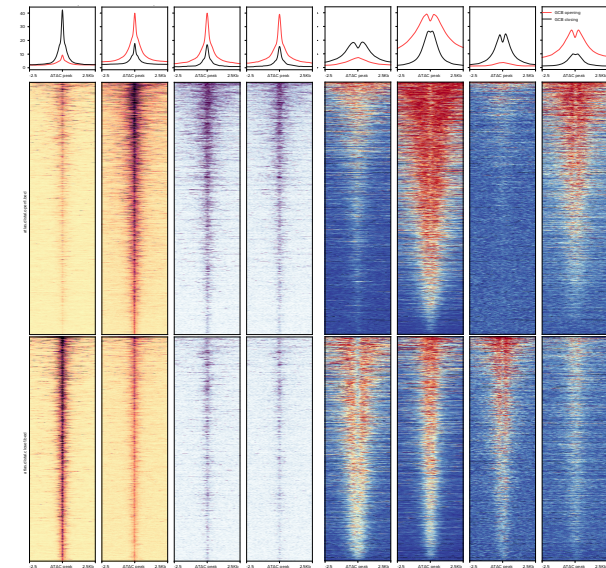
## Cytosine Methylation



## 5'hydroxymethylcytosine



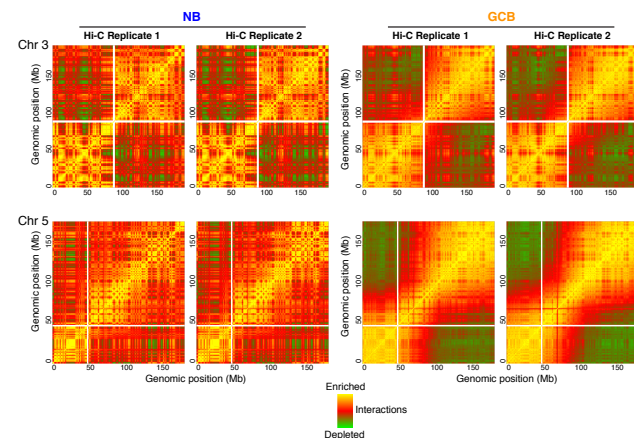
## Histone Marks



## Non-coding transcriptome



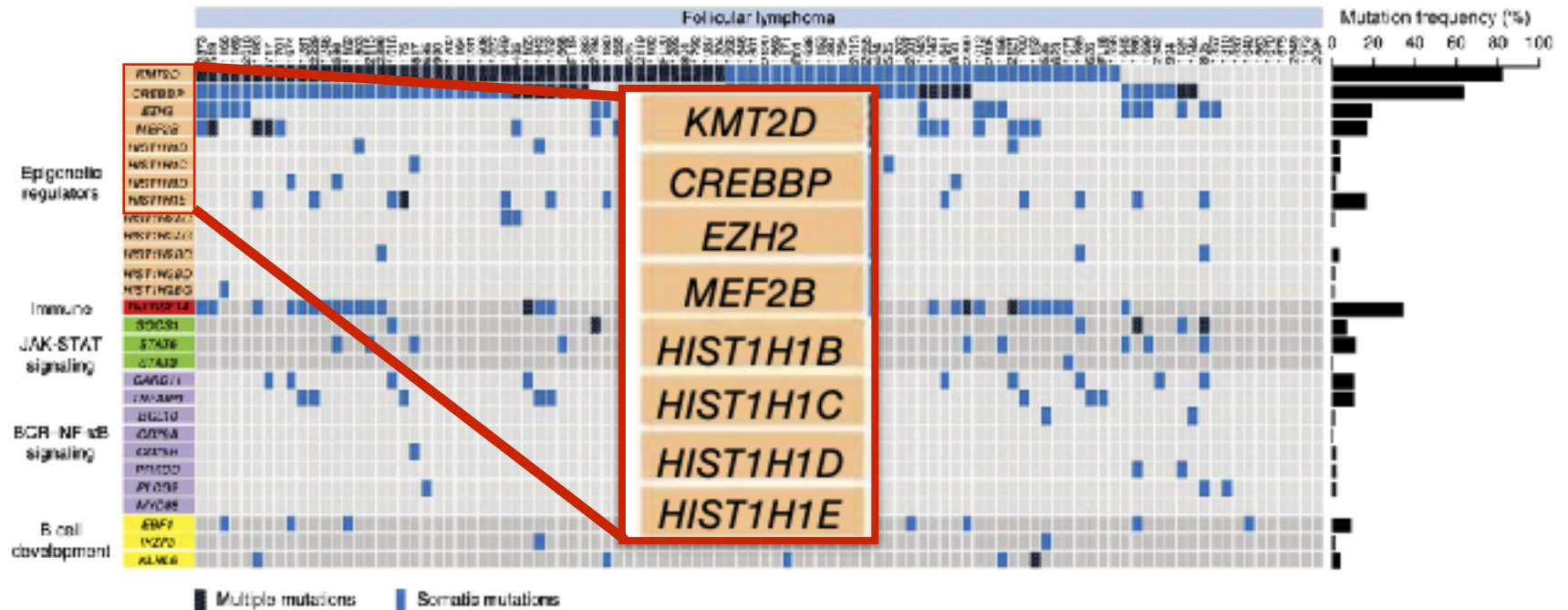
## HiC/Hi-ChIP Nuclear Architecture



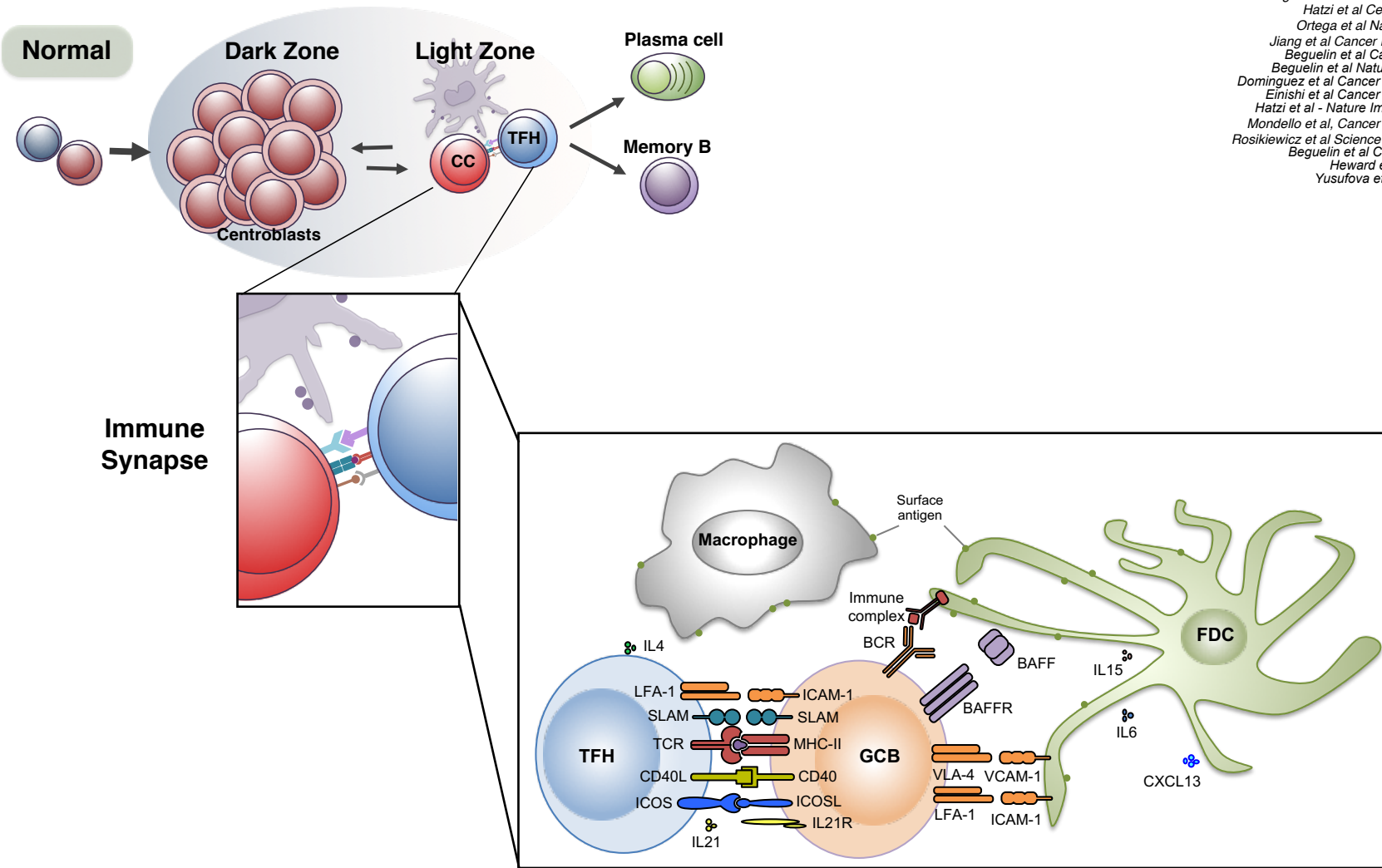
- Shaknovich et.al. Blood 2010
- Velichutina et.al. Blood 2010
- Shaknovich et al Blood 2011
- De et.al. PLOS Genetics 2013
- Clozel et.al. Cancer Discovery 2013
- Hatzi et al Cell Reports 2013
- Béguelin et.al. Cancer Cell 2013
- Chambwe et.al. Blood 2014
- Ortega et.al. Nature Medicine 2015
- Dominguez et.al. Cell Reports 2015
- Bunting et.al. Immunity 2016
- Béguelin et.al. Cancer Cell 2016
- Jiang et.al. Cancer Discovery 2017
- Béguelin et.al. Nature Communications 2018
- Teater et.al. Nature Communications 2018
- Dominguez et.al. Cancer Discovery 2018
- Aguirre et.al. Nature Communications 2019
- Hatzi et.al. Nature Immunology 2019
- Mondello et.al. Cancer Discovery 2020
- Rosikiewicz et.al. Science Advances 2020
- Béguelin et.al. Cell 2020
- Chu et.al. Molecular Cell 2020
- Yusufova et.al. Nature 2021
- Rivas et.al. Nature Immunology 2021
- Rivas et al Frontiers Immunology 2021
- Doane et al Nature Immunology, 2021
- Leung et al Cancer Discovery 2022

# Epigenetic mutations are the dominant hallmark of FLs

Okosun et al, Nature Genetics 2014



# Disruption of immune synapse (GC-exit) induced epigenetic effects is a universal feature in FL



*Velichutina et al Blood 2010*  
*Cerchiatti et al J Clin Investigation 2010*  
*Beguelin et al Cancer Cell 2013*  
*Beguelin et al Nature Comm 2017*  
*Huang et al Nature Immunology 2013*  
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*Hatzi et al - Nature Immunology 2019*  
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*Rosikiewicz et al Science Advances 2020*  
*Beguelin et al Cancer Cell 2020*  
*Heward et al Blood 2021*  
*Yusufova et al Nature 2021*



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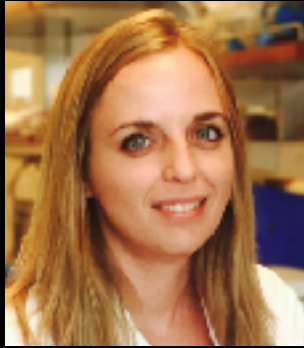
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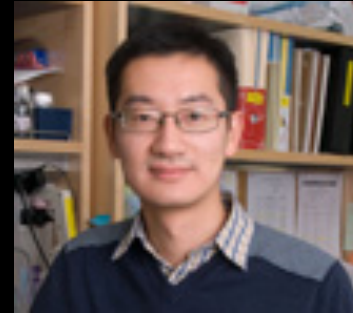
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Katerina Hatzi PhD



Isaac Boss PhD



Yanwen Jiang PhD



Patrizia Mondello MD PhD



Matt Teater PhD



Wendy Beguelin PhD



Pilar Dominguez PhD

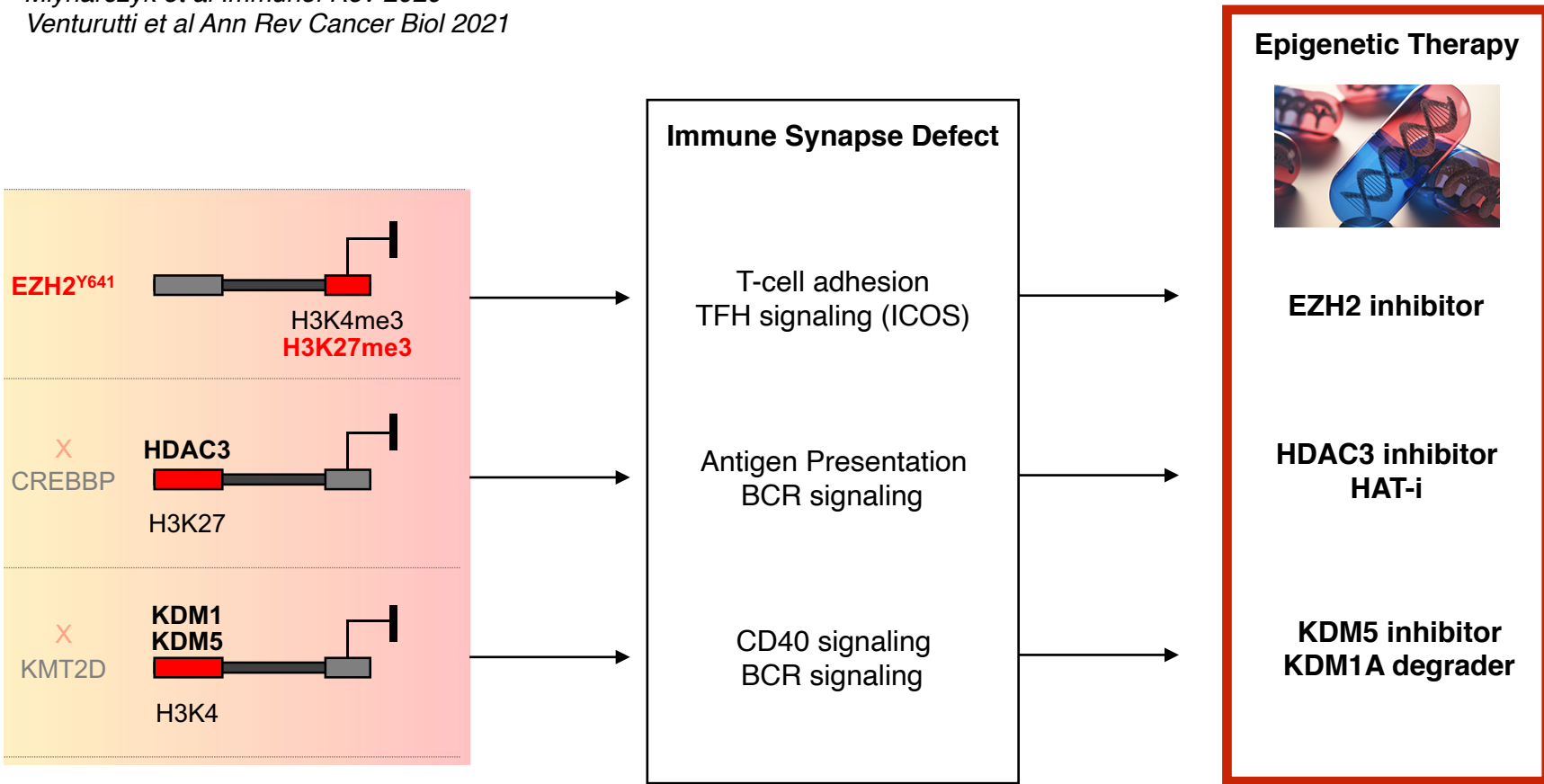


Nevin Yusufova PhD



# Epigenetic mutations confer specific therapeutic vulnerabilities

*Mlynarczyk et al Immunol Rev 2020*  
*Venturutti et al Ann Rev Cancer Biol 2021*



*Velichutina et al Blood 2010*  
*Cerchiatti et al J Clin Investigation 2010*  
*Beguelin et al Cancer Cell 2013*  
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*Beguelin et al Cancer Cell 2020*  
*Heward et al Blood 2021*

*Zhang et al Nature Med 2015*  
*Zhang et al Cancer Discover 2017*  
*Garcia Ramirez Blood 2017*  
*Hashwah et al PNAS 2017*  
*Mewer et al Immunity 2019*

# EZH2 mutations reprogram the light zone immune niche to initiate lymphomagenesis

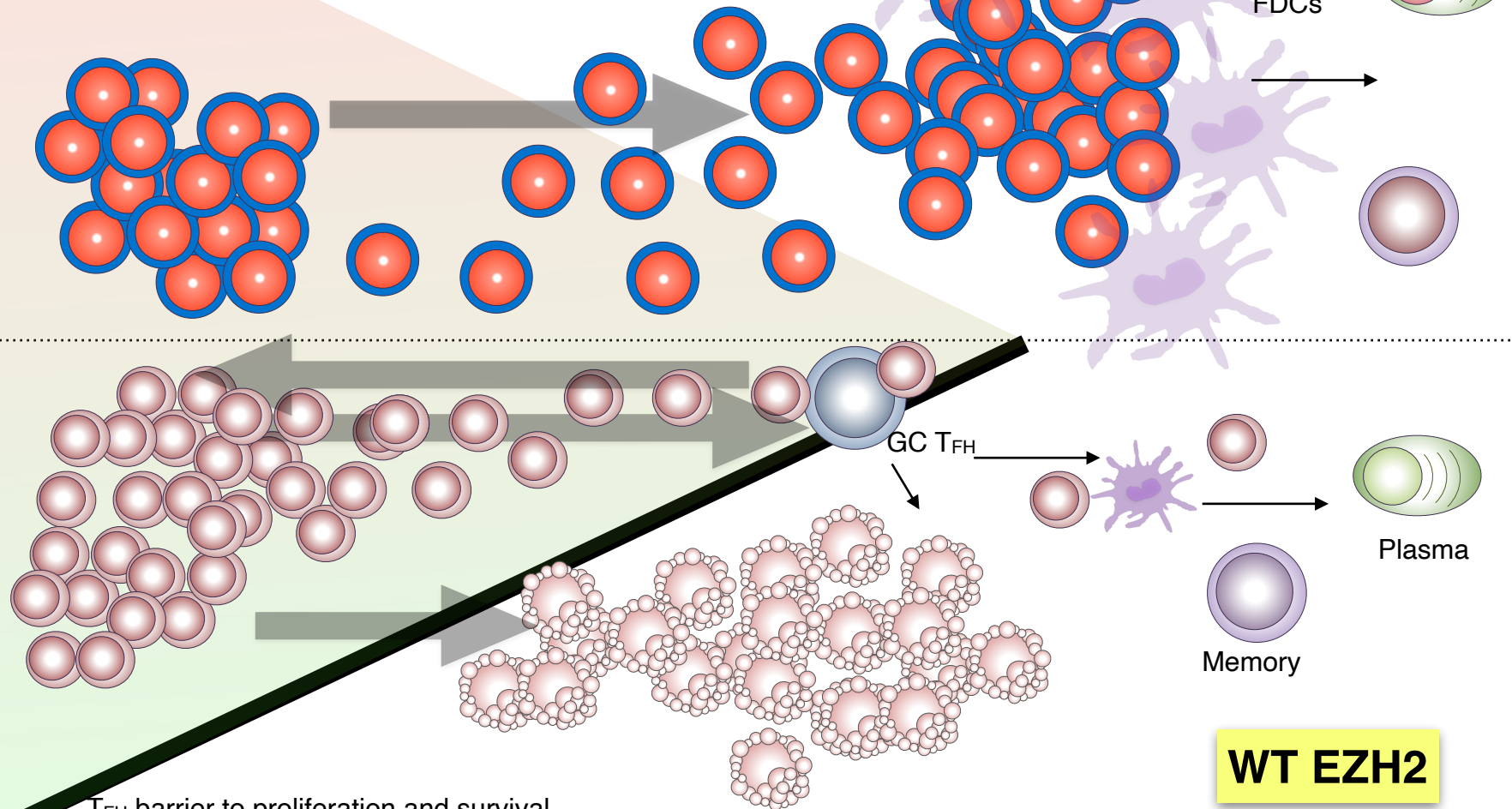
Beguelin et al Cancer Cell 2013  
Beguelin et al Cancer Cell 2016  
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**EZH2<sup>Y641</sup>**

Lymphoma initiation

GC B-cells

FDCs



**WT EZH2**

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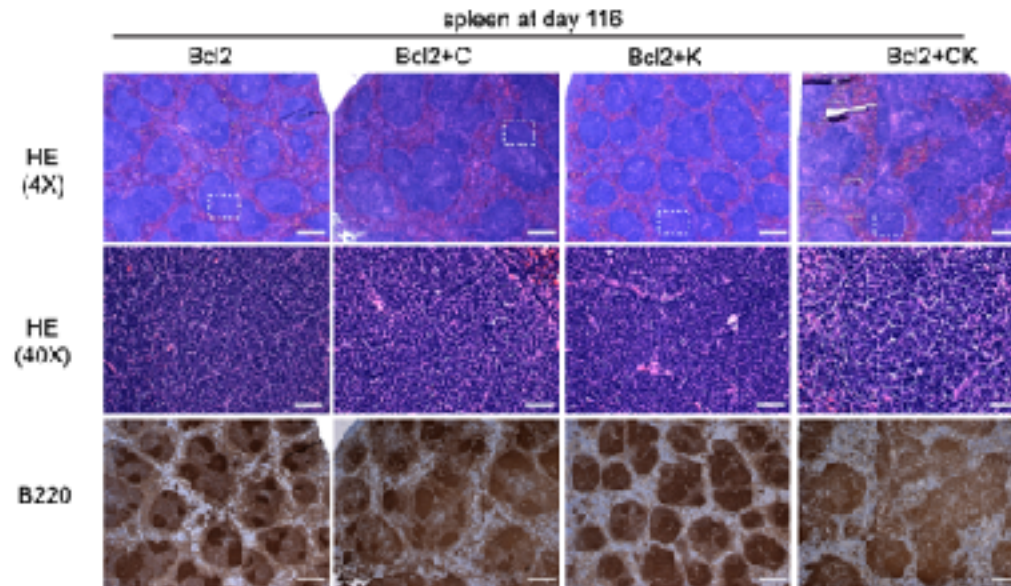
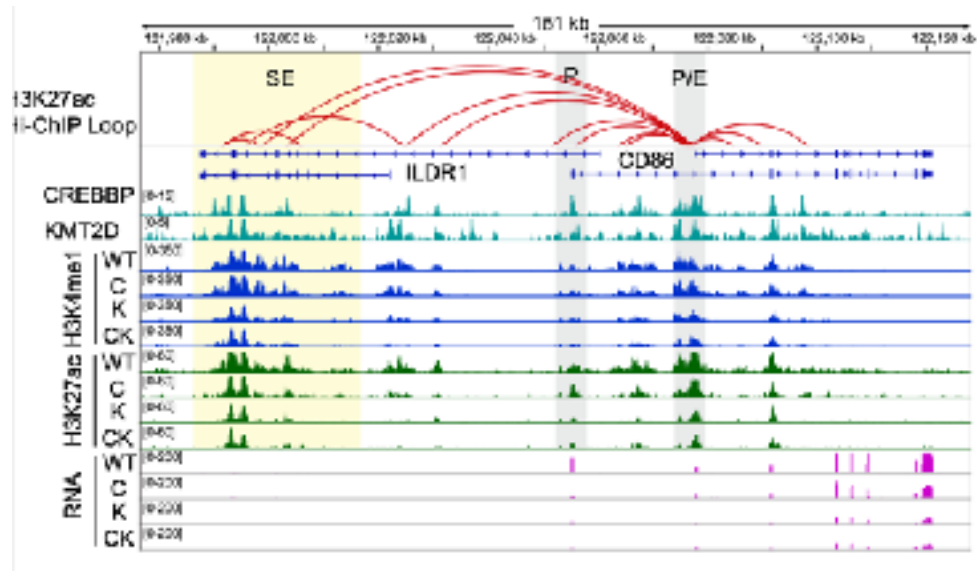
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# GC B cell immune synapse leads to profound epigenetic and 3D architectural reprogramming

Chin, Li and Yang, unpublished



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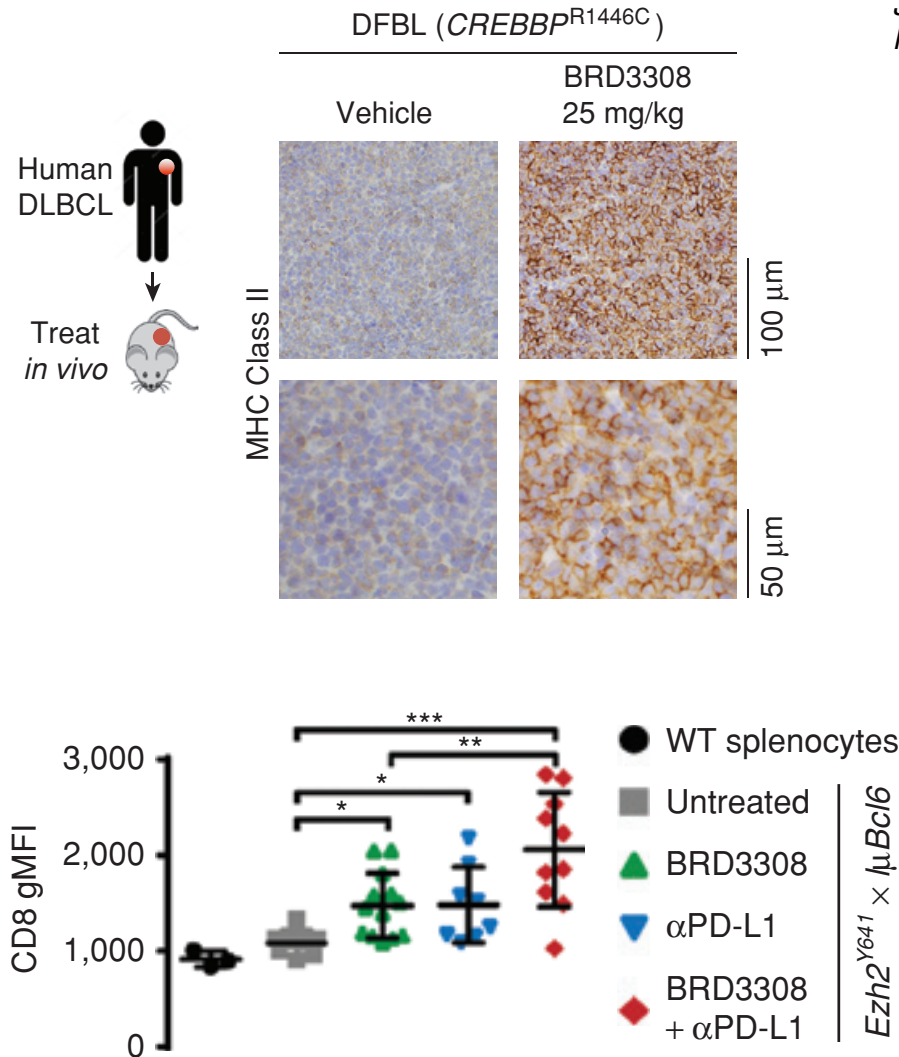
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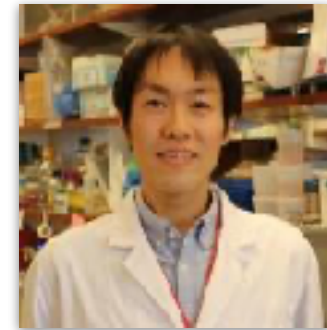
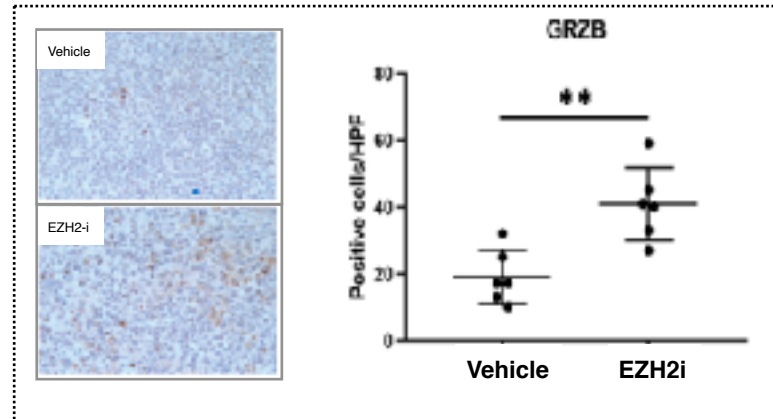
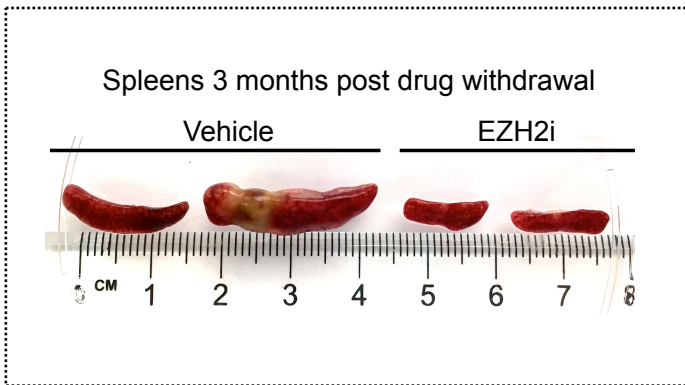
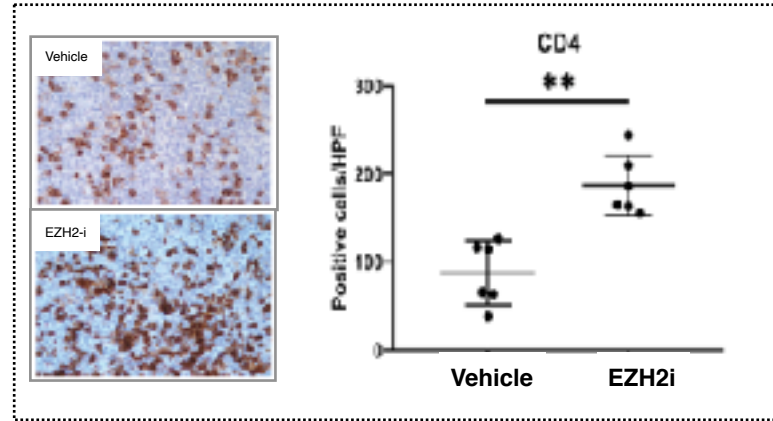
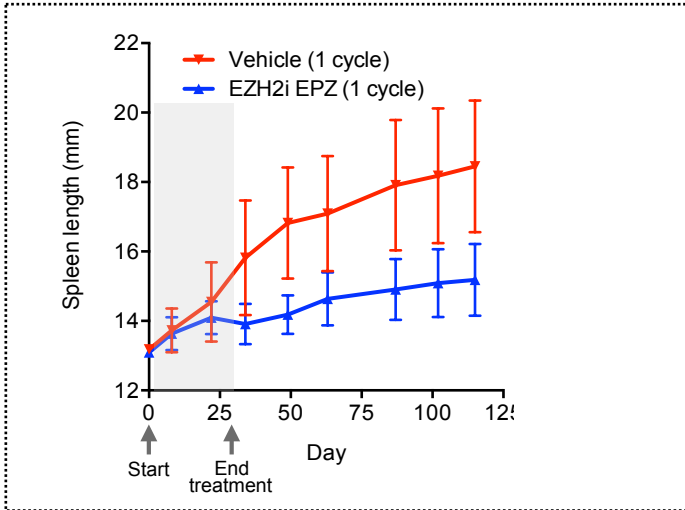
# HDAC3i reverse silencing of MHC II and potentiate checkpoint inhibitor activity in vivo

Jiang et al *Cancer Discovery* 2017  
Mondello et al, *Cancer Discovery* 2020



# EZH2-i induce prolonged anti-lymphoma effect and immune reactivation

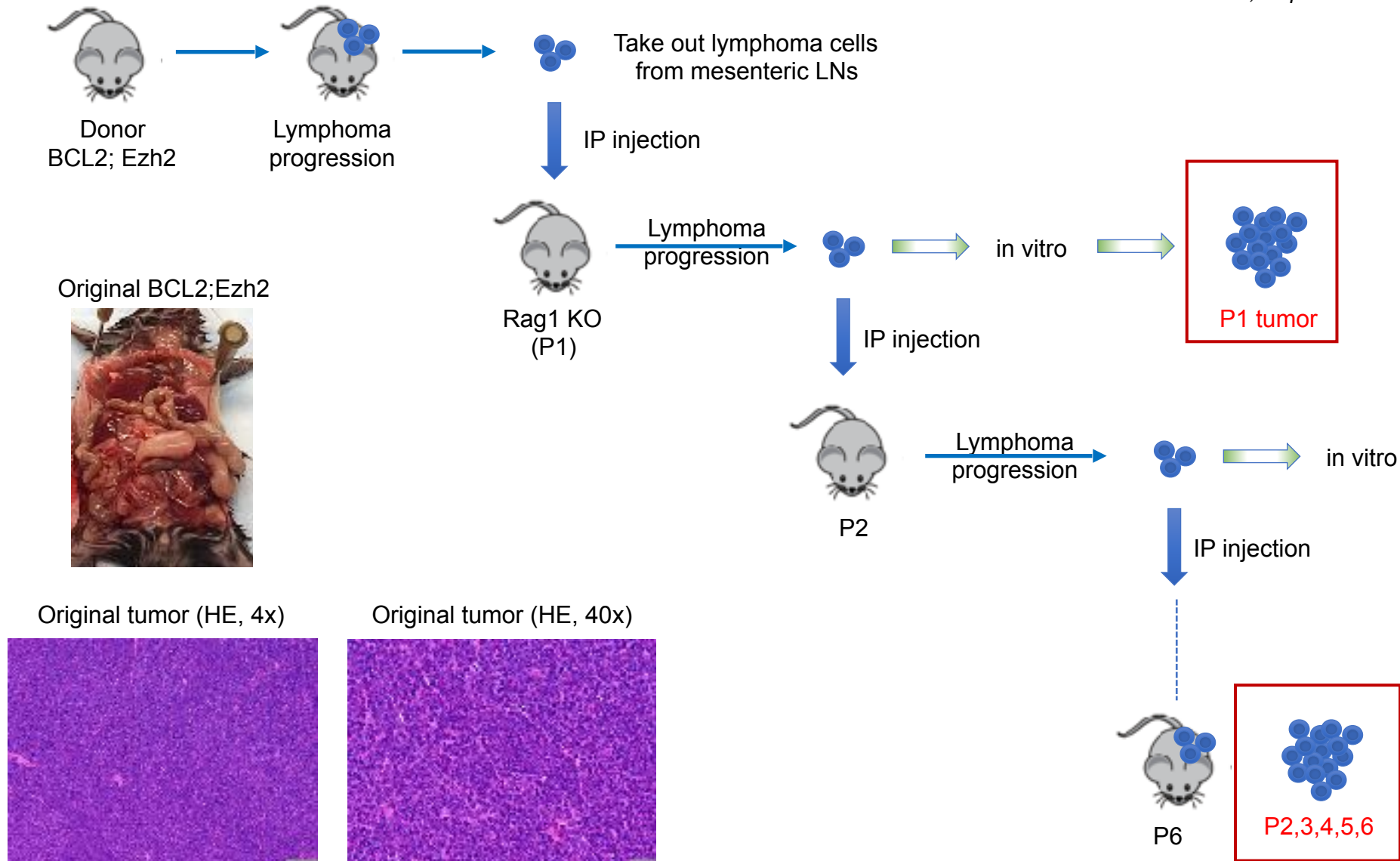
Takata et al, *J Clin Invest* 2022



Yusuke Isshiki MD PhD

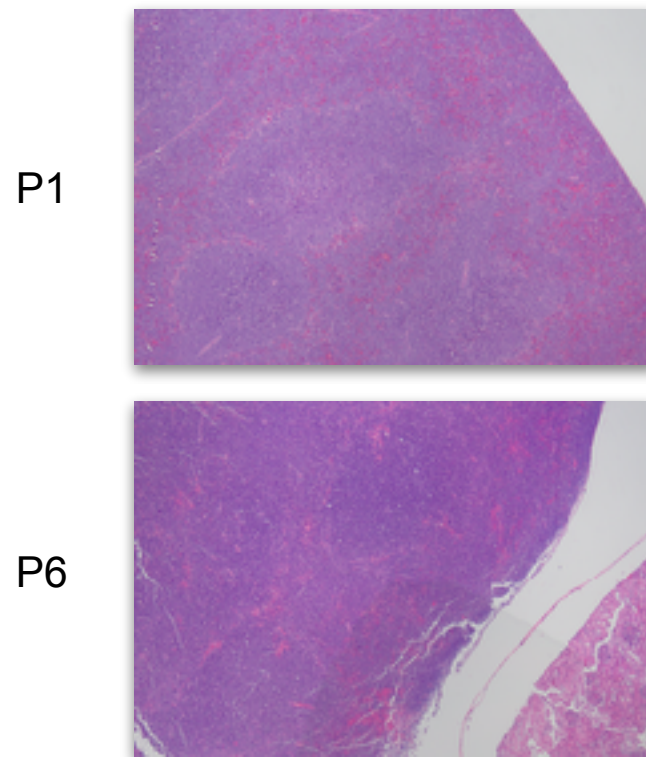
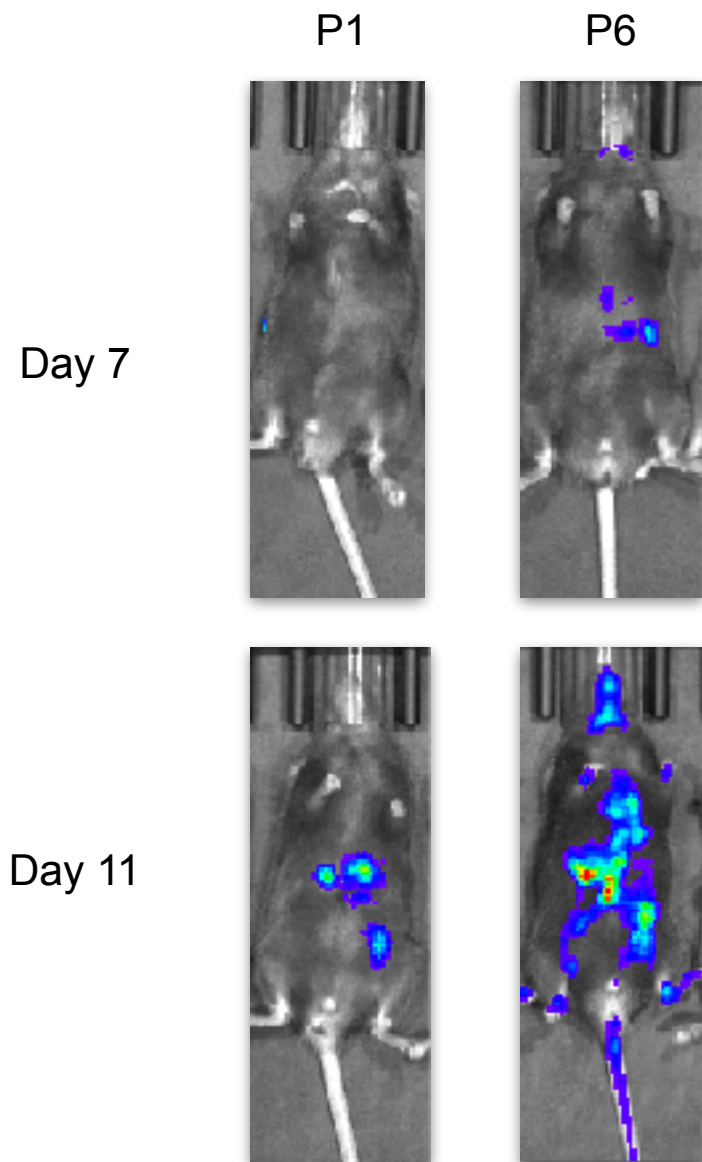
# Development of the first FL cell line, and first model for syngeneic experimental therapeutic studies for FL

Yusuke Isshiki, Unpublished



# FL cell lines establish FLs in syngeneic mice

*Yusuke Isshiki, Unpublished*



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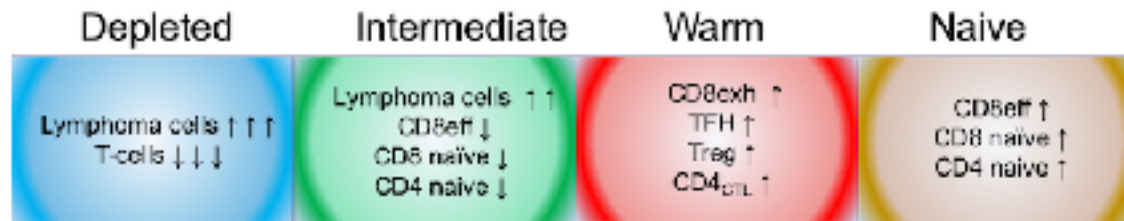
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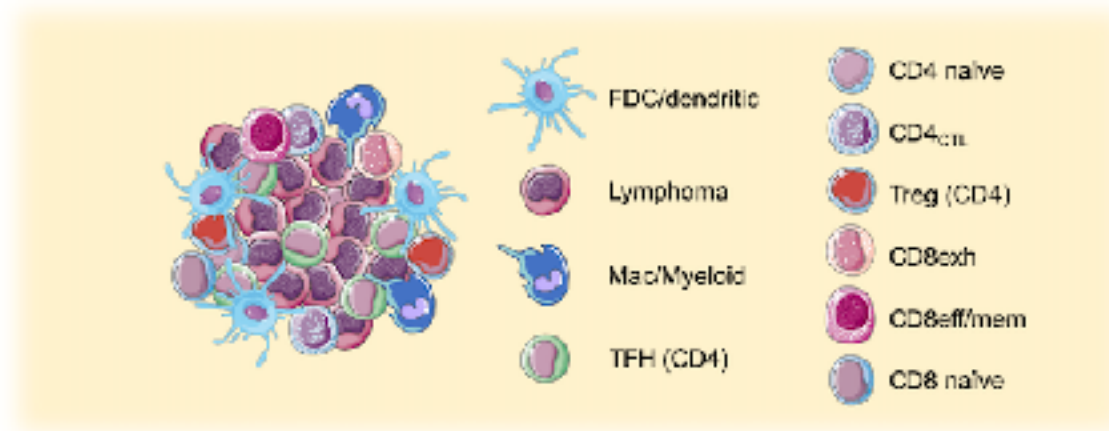
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# Potential for immune-ME to sub-classify FLs

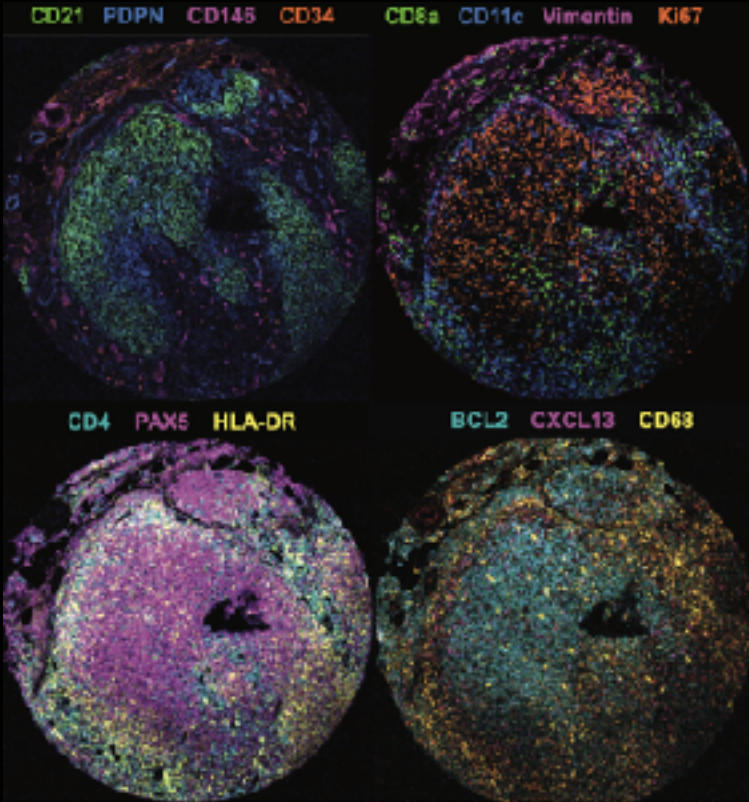
A Melnick, *Blood Cancer Discovery* - based on data published by from **Han et al, *Blood Cancer Discovery* 2022**



## T-cell LME classification



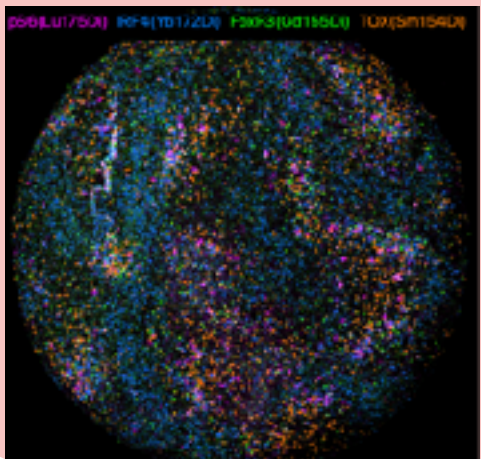
# Hyperion Imaging Mass Cytometry, 68 antibodies - staining in one FL patient



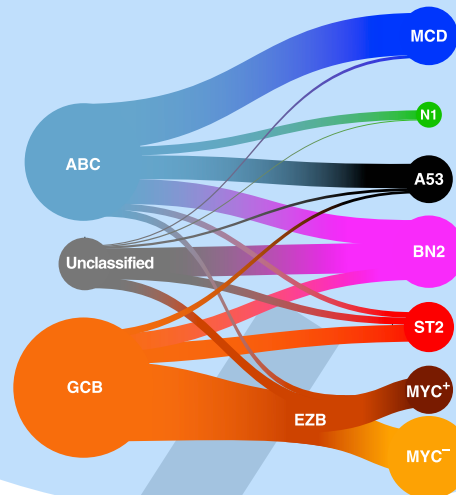
*Dylan McNally, unpublished data*

# A possible future for precision diagnostics and therapy in FL

## Microenvironment



## Genetic features



Precision LME analysis

Targeted Panels

Precision diagnosis  
Epigenetic immune adjuvant therapy



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# Acknowledgements



# Collaborators

## **WCM**

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