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# **PLX8394**

## **BRAF-MAPK Paradox Breaker**

**CRUK Combinations Alliance**

**Plexxikon Inc.**

**March 23, 2016**



# Plexxikon's Development Pipeline

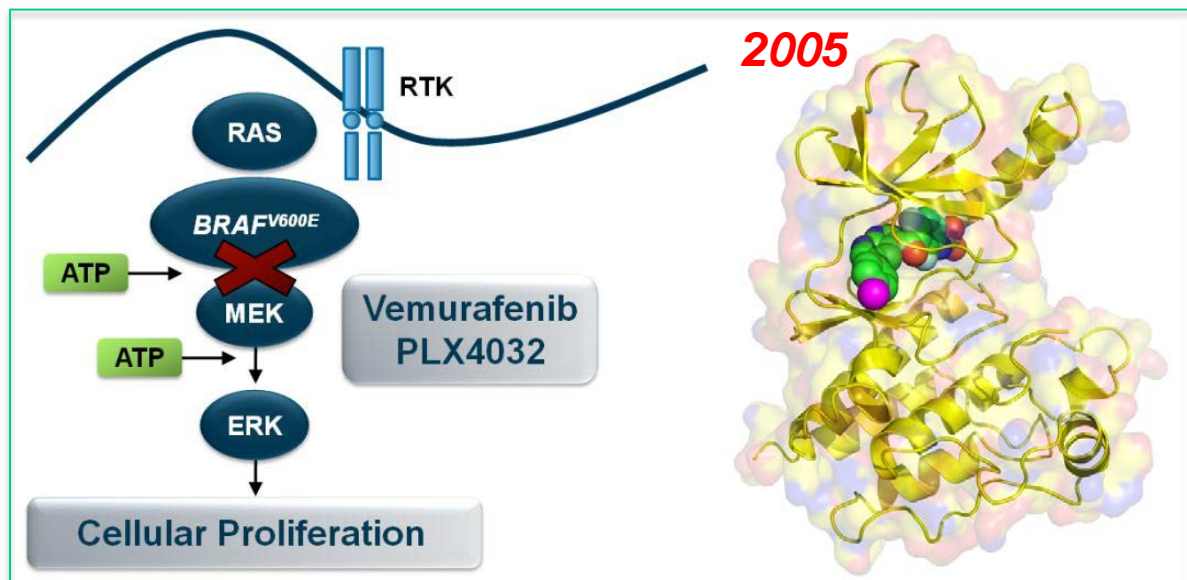
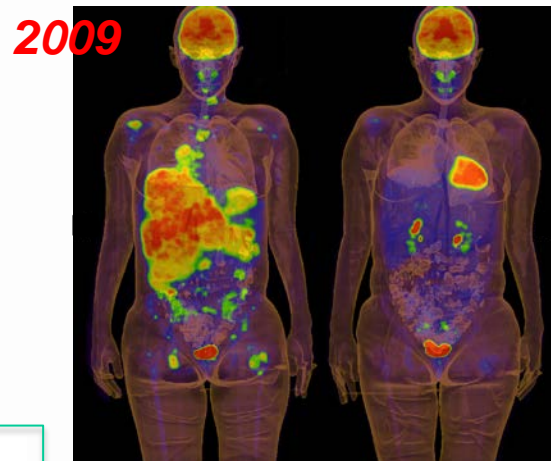
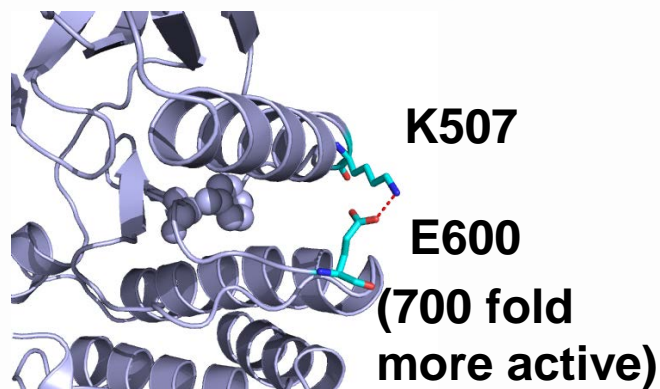
Compound	Target	Indication	Stage of Development			
			Pre-IND	Ph1	Ph2	Ph3
PLX4032 (vemurafenib)	BRAF	Adjuvant Melanoma	[Green bar]			
PLX3397 (pexidartinib)	FMS	PVNS (TGCT)	[Red bar]			
PLX3397 + RT + TMZ	FMS, KIT	Adjuvant GBM	[Red bar]			
PLX3397 + paclitaxel	FMS, KIT	Advanced Ovarian Cancer	[Red bar]			
PLX3397 + pembro	FMS	Melanoma, Solid Tumors	[Red bar]			
PLX3397	KIT	KIT-mutant Melanoma	[Red bar]			
PLX3397	FMS	Alzheimer's/Imaging	[Red bar]			
PLX7486	TRK, FMS	Pain, Oncology	[Blue bar]			
PLX9486	KIT-mutant	GIST, KIT-mutant tumors	[Orange bar]			
PLX8394	BRAF	BRAF-mutant tumors	[Purple bar]			
PLX51107 (2016)	BRD4	Leukemia	[Blue bar]			
PLX73086 (AC708) (2016)	FMS	TGCT, non-oncology	[Black bar]			





# Clinically Actionable BRAF Mutations in Melanoma

Oncogenic BRAF mutation at V600 promotes RAS-independent MAPK signaling in melanoma  
**(6.27.2002)**



**FDA approval  
8.17.2011**





# PLX8394 – Rationale for Collaboration with Combinations Alliance

- Due to its paradox-breaking properties, PLX8394 may be the most combinable BRAFi inhibitor in clinical development
- Plexxikon is developing PLX8394 as a single agent in niche indications, based on vemurafenib efficacy but desiring improved tolerability
- Proposed combinations for the Combinations Alliance
  - MEK inhibitors
  - Immunotherapies
    - Anti-PD1
    - Anti-PDL1
    - Anti-CTLA4
    - Other immune checkpoint inhibitors
  - EGFR inhibitors
  - Epigenetic modulators (HDACi, BRDi)





**BRAF-mutant  
Glioblastoma  
Responding to  
Vemurafenib**

MARCH 30, 2015

# TIME



Both of these women have brain tumors. One is beating the odds.

## CLOSING THE CANCER GAP

BY ALICE PARK

time.com



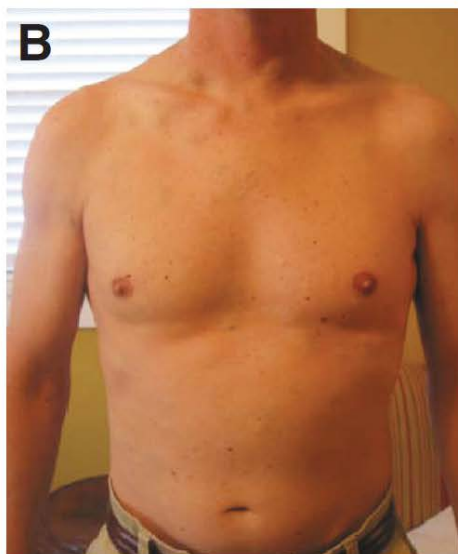


# Vemurafenib – Response and Resistance

Before Therapy



Week 15



Week 23



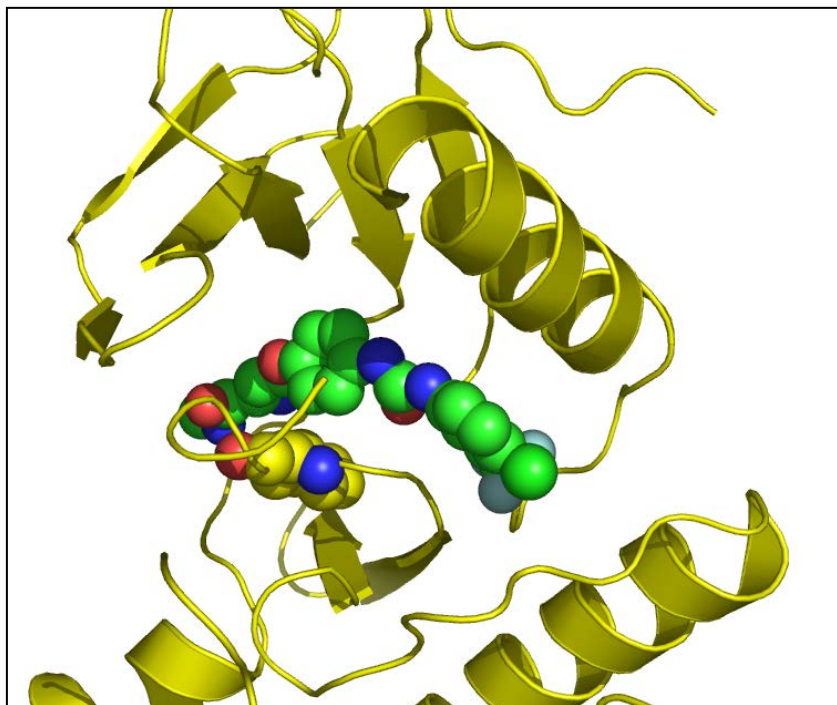
Reactivation of MAPK pathway through  
acquired MEK1<sup>C121S</sup> mutation



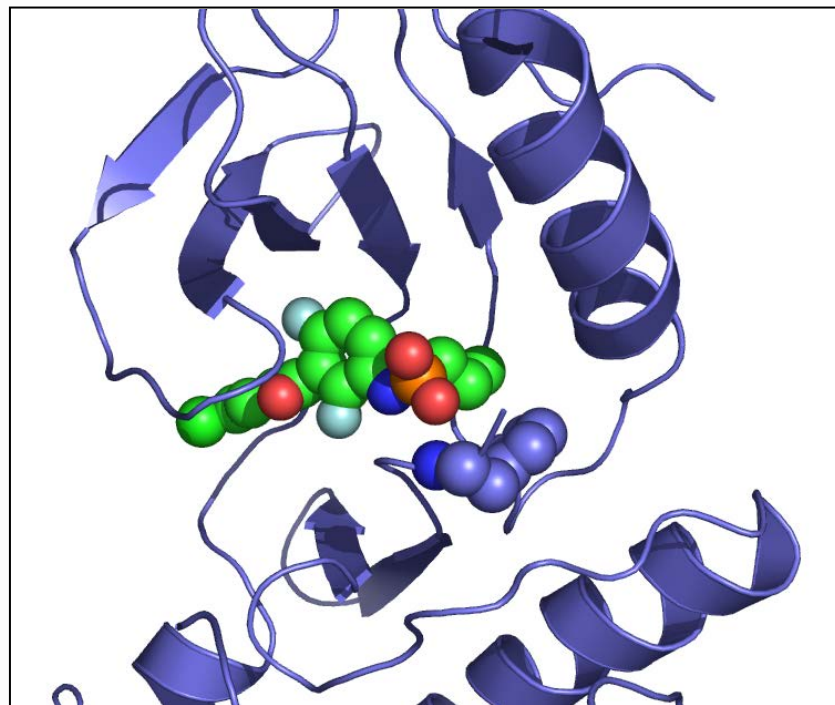


# Correlation between Clinical Response and Mode of Inhibition

**Sorafenib binds preferably the “DFG-out” state of Raf**



**Vemurafenib binds preferably the “DFG-in” state of Raf**





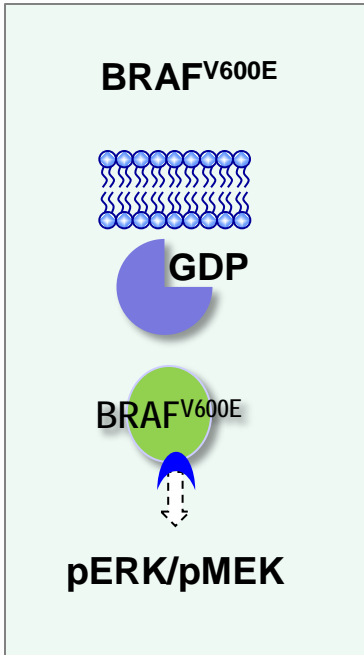
# Paradoxical Activation of MAPK Pathway by BRAF Inhibitors in RAS-activated Cells

## Phospho-Selectivity

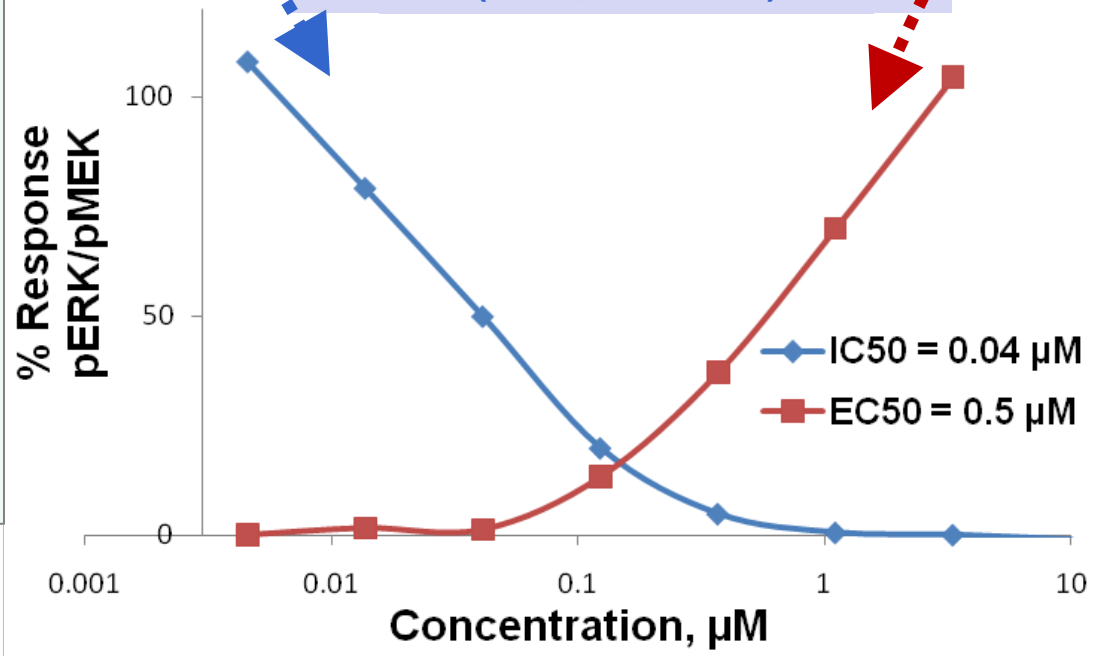
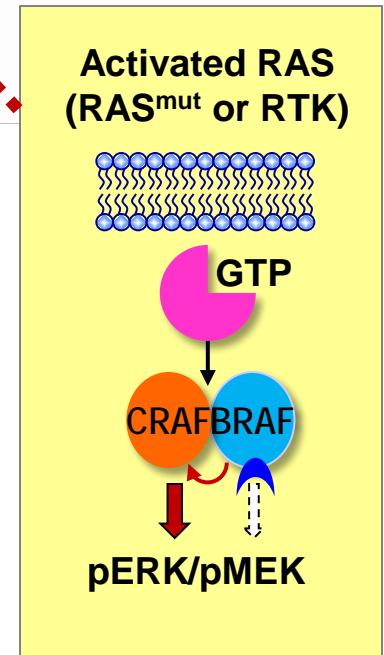
EC50 for RAS pathway activation  
(IPC-298, B9, HCT116)

IC50 for BRAF pathway inhibition  
(A375, COLO829)

### Inhibition



### Activation



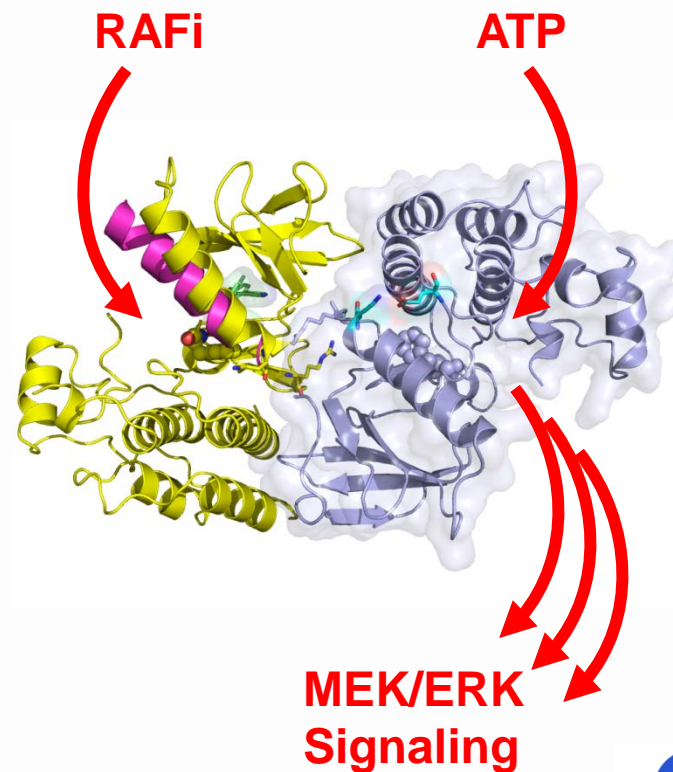
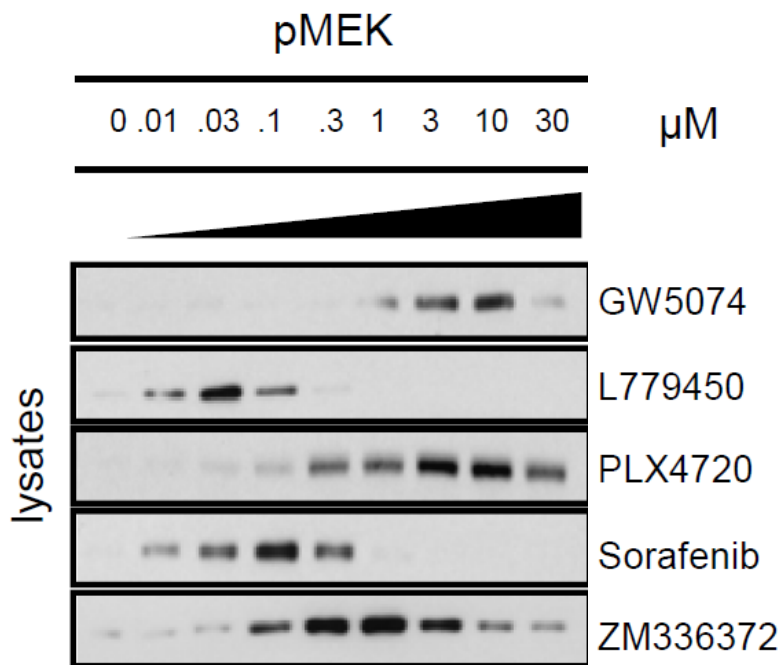




# Studies on the RAF Inhibitor Paradox

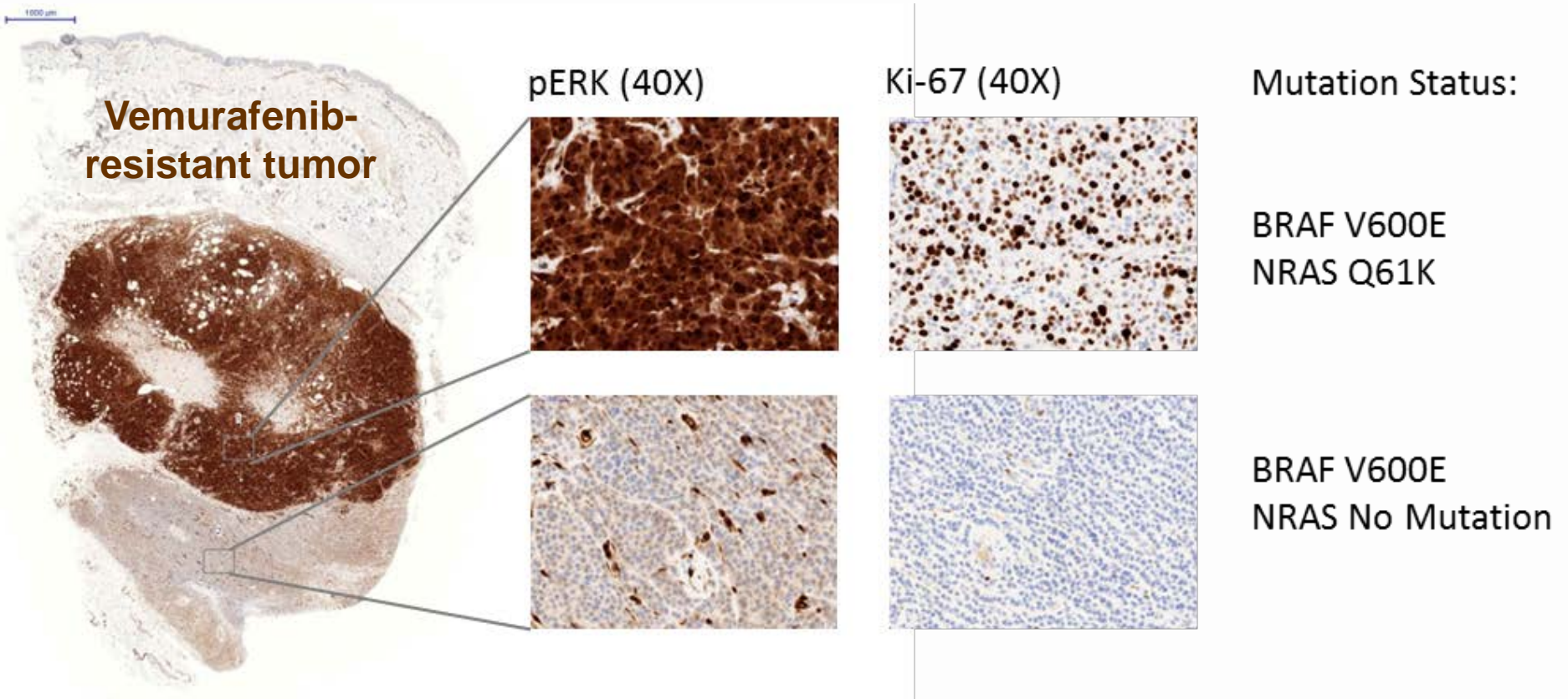
## 5 different RAF inhibitors all activate the MEK/ERK Pathway

Cell 2010  
Nature 2010  
Nature 2010  
PCMR 2010  
Oncogene 2010  
Neoplasia 2010  
PNAS 2010





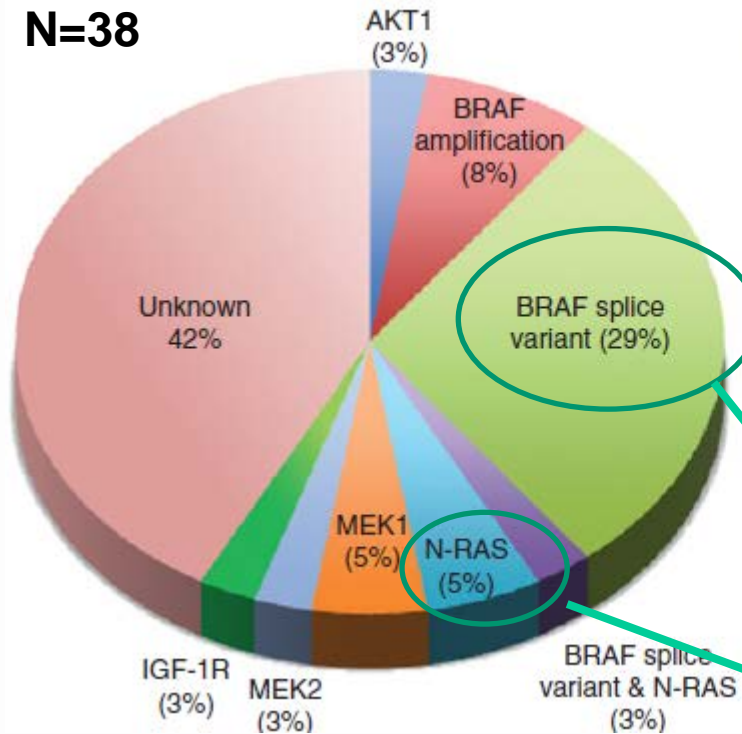
# Paired Biopsy Data – Resistant Tumors Usually Re-Activate the MAP Kinase Pathway



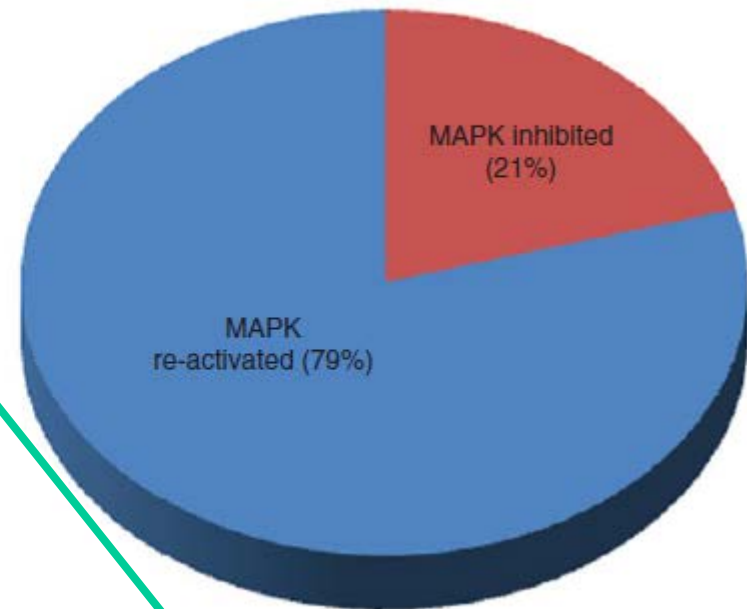


# BRAF Inhibitor Resistance Mechanisms

N=38



N=29



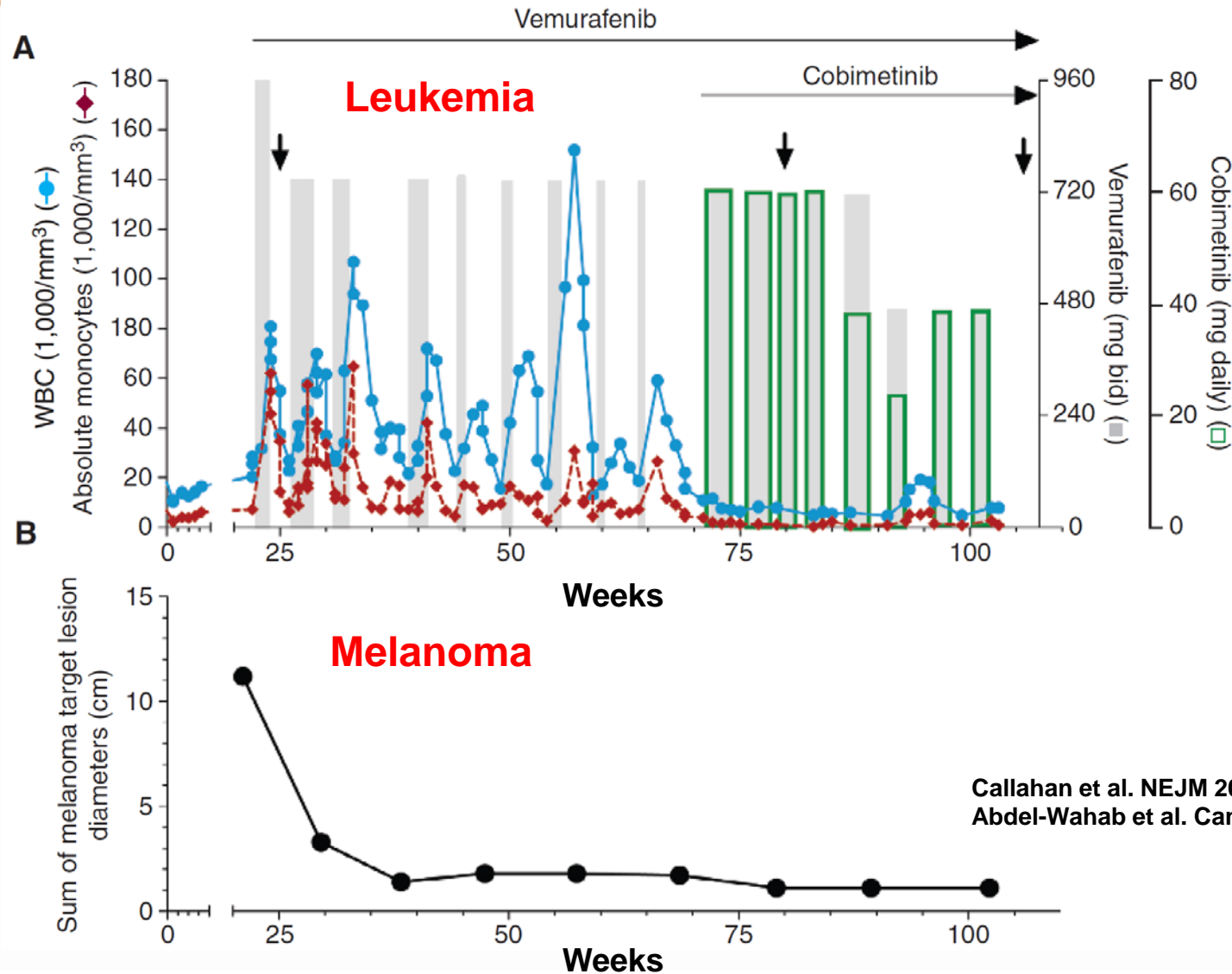
- Aberrant splicing of BRAF
- Elevated expression of CRAF, COT1, mutant BRAF
- Activating mutations in NRAS, MEK1/2, AKT1 or BRAF
- Lost of PTEN (activation of PI3K), Lost of NF1 (activation of RAS)
- Activation of RTKs (PDGFR $\beta$ , IGF-1R, EGFR)
- Microenvironment (e.g. stromal derived HGF)

Possibly respond  
to PLX8394



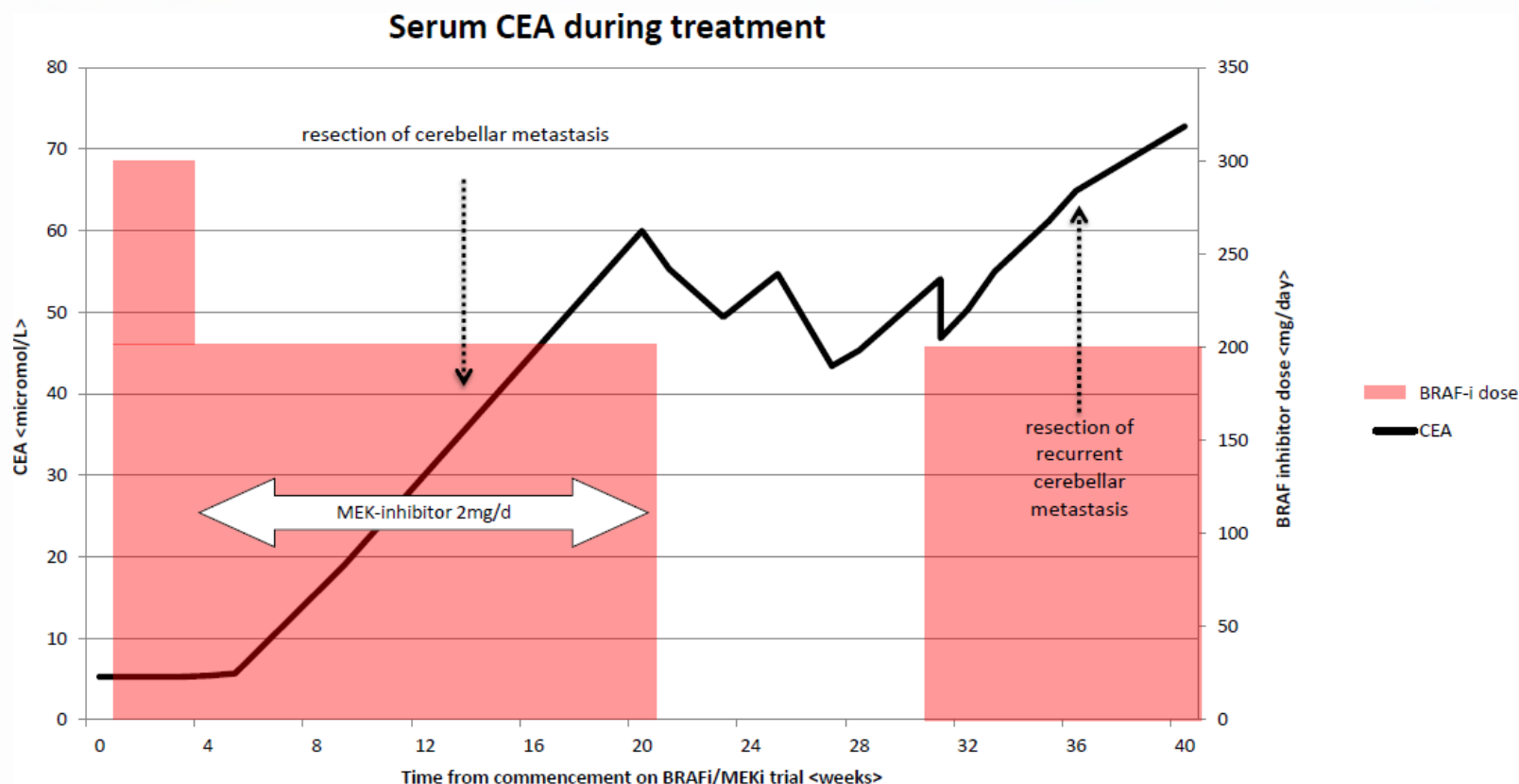


# Progression of RAS-Mutant Leukemia during RAF Inhibitor Treatment





# Progression of RAS-Mutant Metastatic CRC during RAF/MEK Inhibitor Treatment



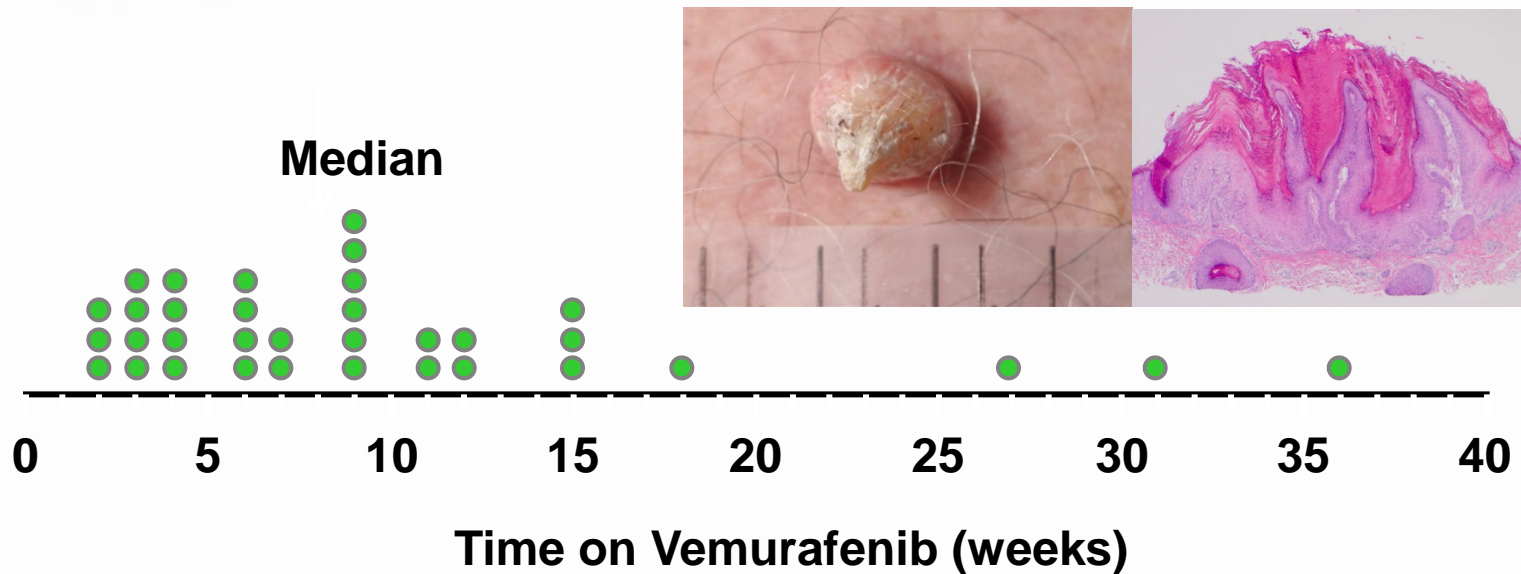
**Paradoxical activation can be seen in other premalignant lesions even with RAFi-MEKi combined treatment.**



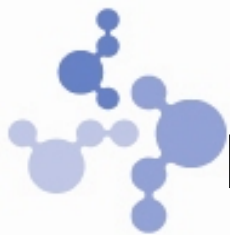


# Rapid cSCC emergence on RAF inhibitors

Majority of tumors have *RAS* mutations



- Median time to first incidence 8 weeks (range 2–36)
- Each dot represents one patient:  
# weeks to development of first cuSCC/KA lesion
- **21/35 (60%) of samples have *RAS* mutations**



# PLX8394: Next Generation BRAF Inhibitor Paradox Breaker (PB)

- **Opportunity:**

Avoiding paradoxical MAPK pathway activation

- **Hypothesis:**

PLX8394 as a 'paradox breaker' might

- Improve response of some V600 tumors
- Delay resistance (1<sup>st</sup> gen compounds enable pathway re-ignition)
- Reduce toxicities such as skin lesions
- Combine better with Immunotherapy

- **Status:**

Currently in clinical development



# RAF inhibitors that evade paradoxical MAPK pathway activation

Chao Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Wayne Spevak<sup>1</sup>, Ying Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth A. Burton<sup>1</sup>, Yan Ma<sup>1</sup>, Gaston Habets<sup>1</sup>, Jiazhong Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Jack Lin<sup>1</sup>, Todd Ewing<sup>1</sup>, Bernice Matusow<sup>1</sup>, Garson Tsang<sup>1</sup>, Adhirai Marimuthu<sup>1</sup>, Hanna Cho<sup>1</sup>, Guoxian Wu<sup>1</sup>, Weiru Wang<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Fong<sup>1</sup>, Hoa Nguyen<sup>1</sup>, Songyuan Shi<sup>1</sup>, Patrick Womack<sup>1</sup>, Marika Nespi<sup>1</sup>, Rafe Shellooe<sup>1</sup>, Heidi Carias<sup>1</sup>, Ben Powell<sup>1</sup>, Emily Light<sup>1</sup>, Laura Sanftner<sup>1</sup>, Jason Walters<sup>1</sup>, James Tsai<sup>1</sup>, Brian L. West<sup>1</sup>, Gary Visor<sup>1</sup>, Hamid Rezaei<sup>1</sup>, Paul S. Lin<sup>1</sup>, Keith Nolop<sup>1</sup>, Prabha N. Ibrahim<sup>1</sup>, Peter Hirth<sup>1</sup> & Gideon Bollag<sup>1</sup>

**Oncogenic activation of BRAF fuels cancer growth by constitutively promoting RAS-independent mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathway signalling<sup>1</sup>. Accordingly, RAF inhibitors have brought substantially improved personalized treatment of metastatic melanoma<sup>2-5</sup>. However, these targeted agents have also revealed an unexpected consequence: stimulated growth of certain cancers<sup>6-9</sup>. Structurally diverse ATP-competitive RAF inhibitors can either inhibit or paradoxically activate the MAPK pathway, depending**

the MAPK pathway in cells bearing oncogenic RAS or elevated upstream receptor signalling<sup>10-12</sup>. This paradox can promote cellular proliferation and manifest clinically with progression of cutaneous squamous cell carcinomas (cuSCC) and keratoacanthomas, sometimes within weeks of therapy initiation<sup>6,15</sup>. These paradox-induced skin tumours have an uncharacteristically high incidence of RAS mutations<sup>6,16</sup>, raising the concern that the same mechanism might accelerate progression of other RAS-driven cancers. Recent case reports of increased incidence of prim-

Zhang et al., *Nature* **526**, 523-586 (22 October 2015).

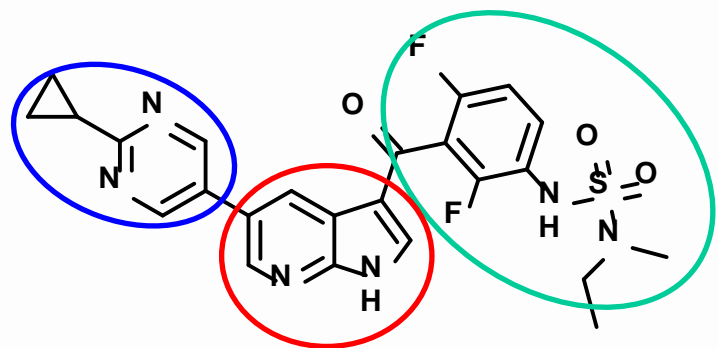
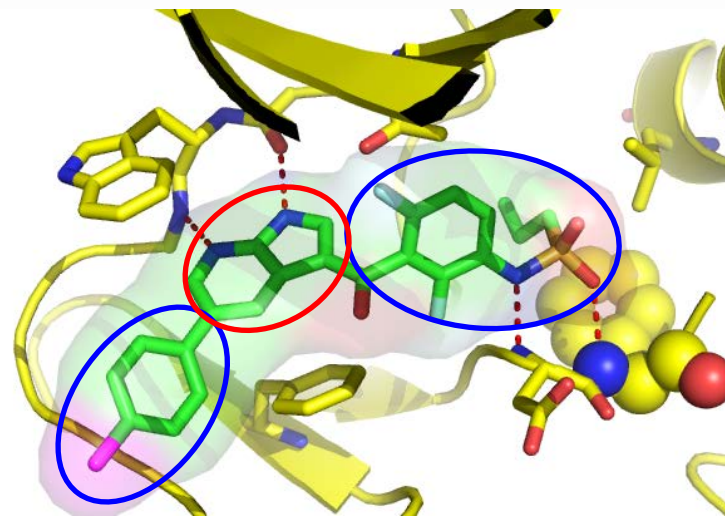
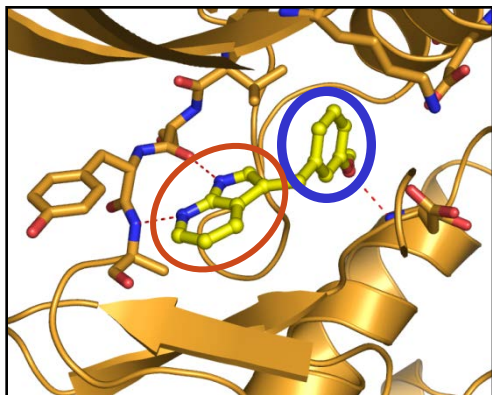




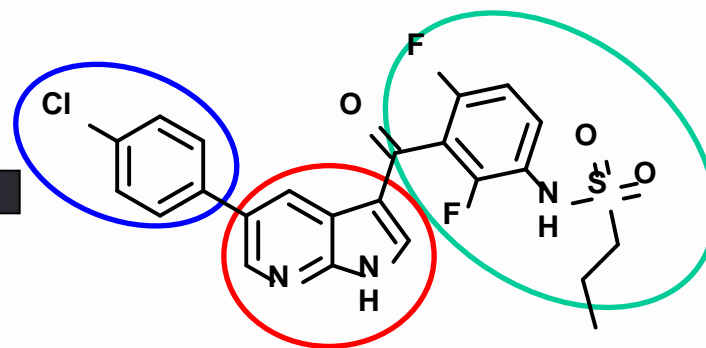


# From Hit to Development Candidate

## Discovery of selective RAF kinase inhibitors



**PLX8394**

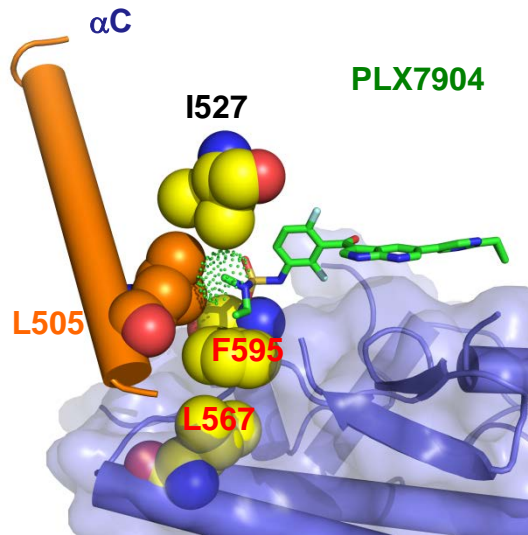
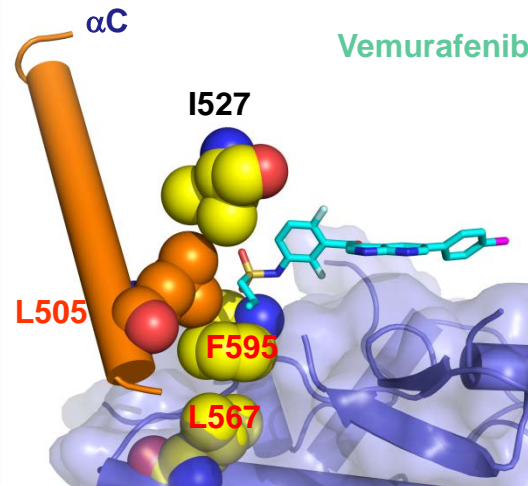
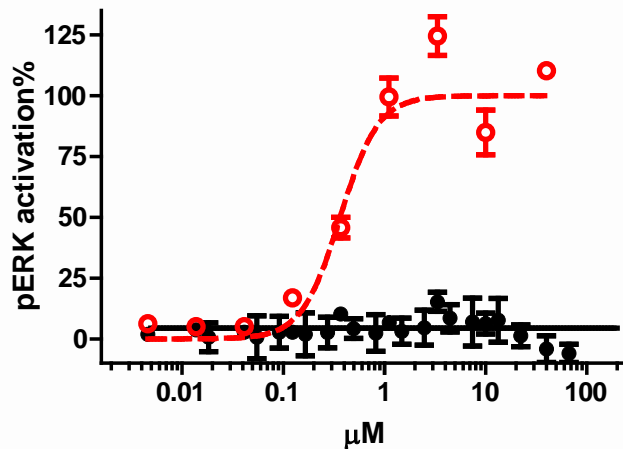
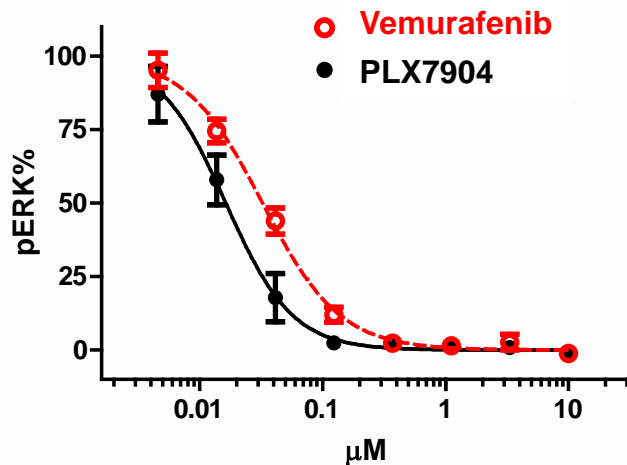
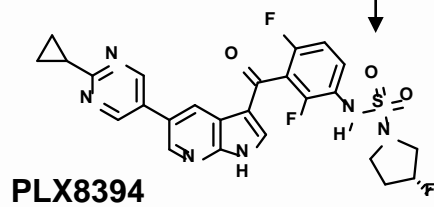
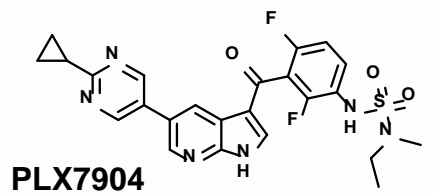
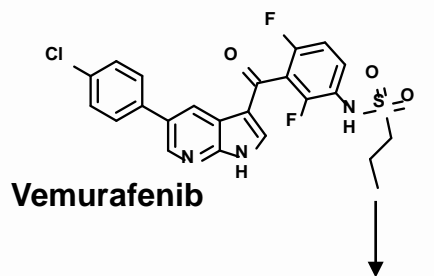


**Vemurafenib**





# Next-Gen BRAF Inhibitors Overcome Paradoxical MAPK Pathway Activation

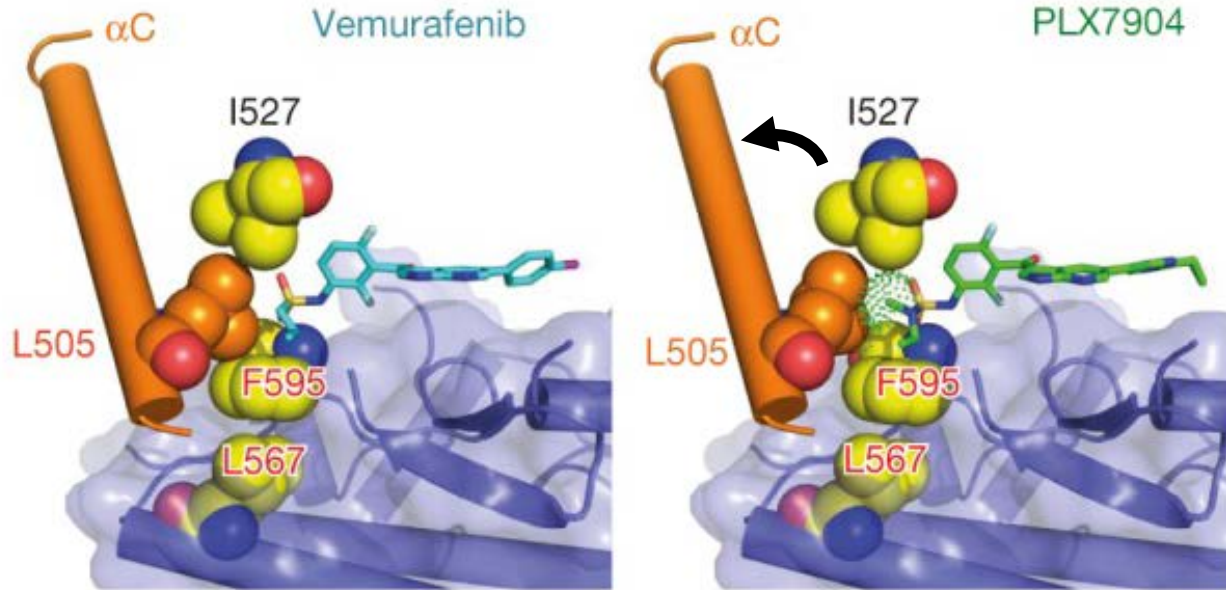


*Allosteric Switch?*





# 1<sup>st</sup> - generation BRAFi induce BRAF-CRAF Heterodimers, PLX8394 does not



**Dimerization  
In B9 Cells**

**Vemurafenib**



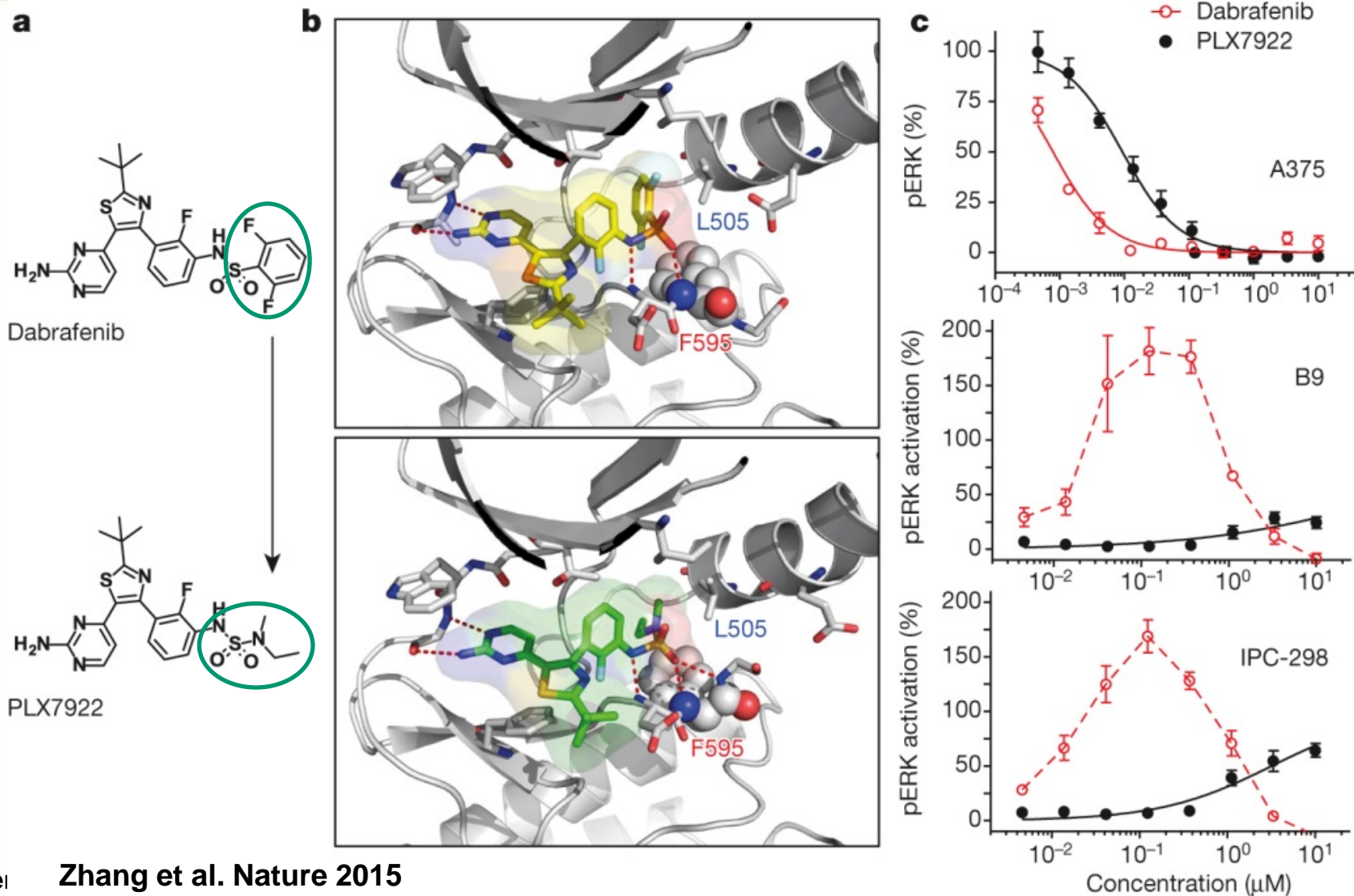
**PLX8394**



Plexxikon

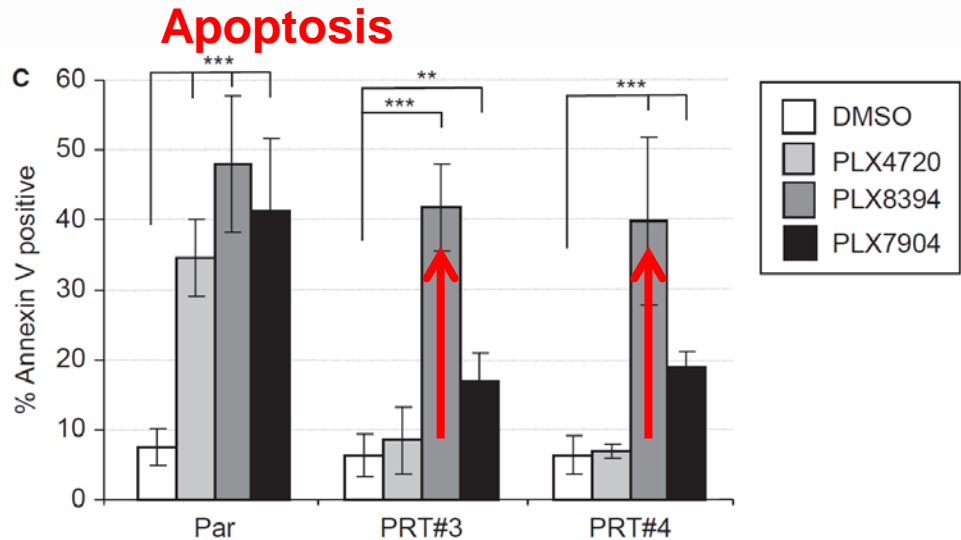
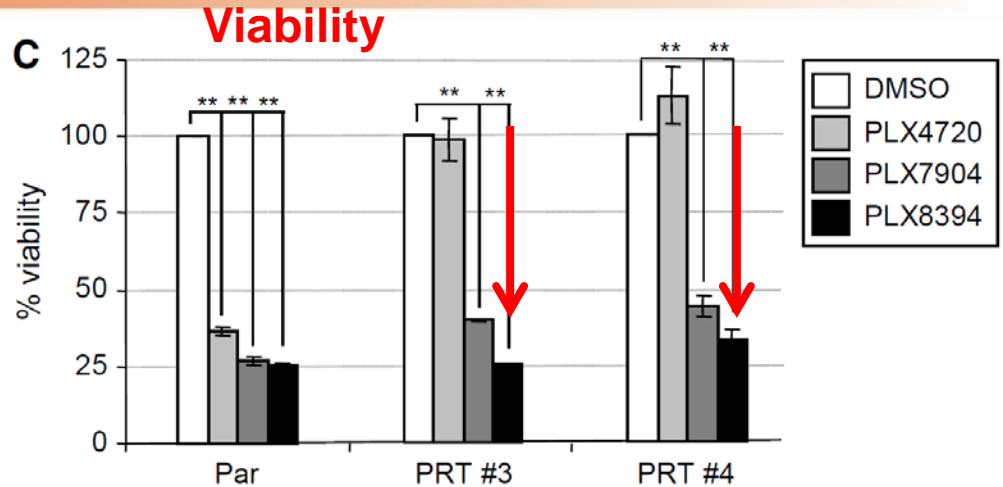
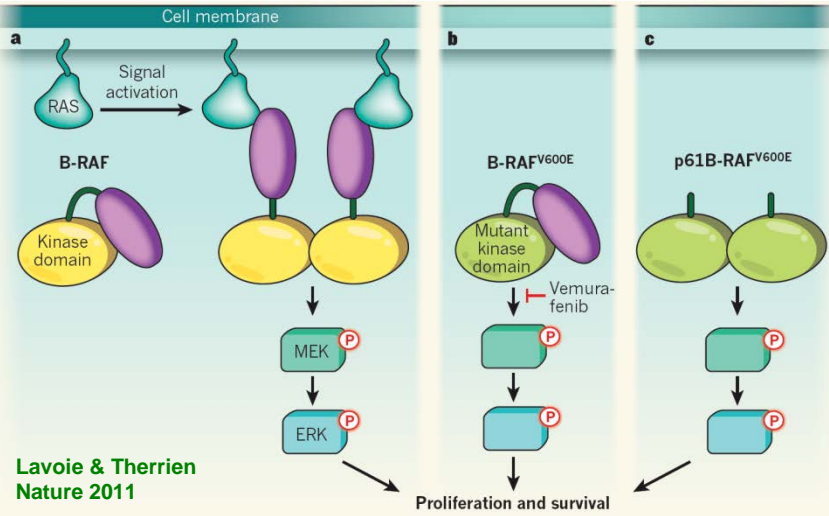


# 'Paradox Breaking' property can be transferred to another chemical series





# PLX8394 Is Active Against Vemurafenib-Resistant Cells



From **Poulikakos, Rosen, Solit, Nature 2011**

Resistance to BRAF<sup>V600E</sup> melanoma

**In vitro and in human patients**

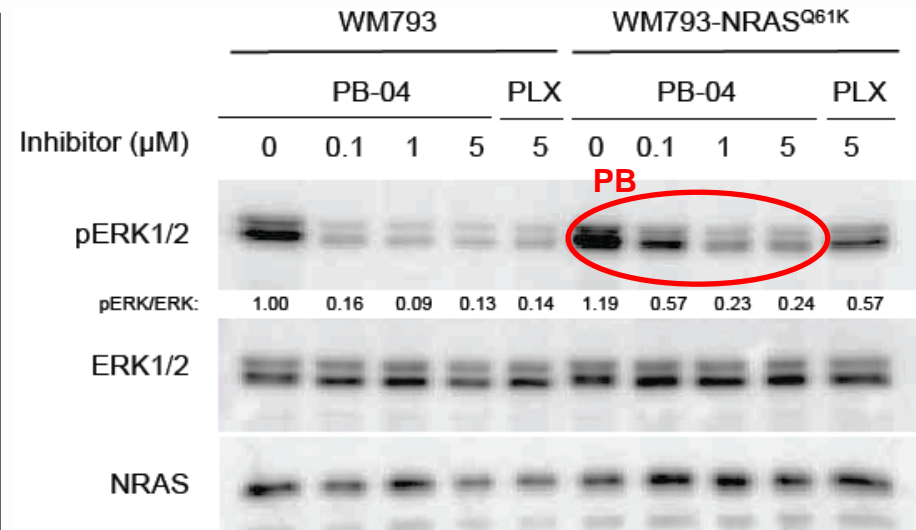
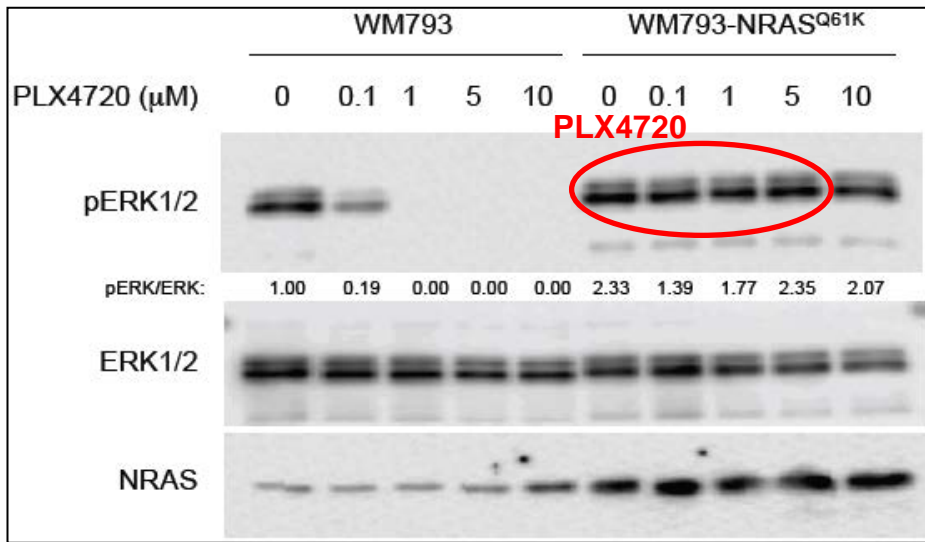
**Mediated by alternatively spliced BRAF<sup>V600E</sup>**

Constitutive dimers are resistant to Vemurafenib





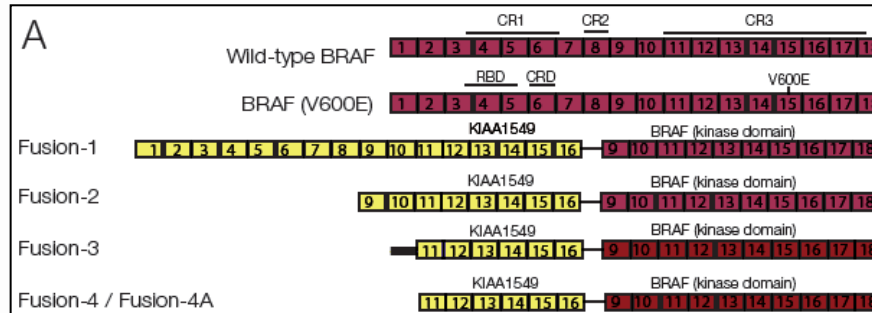
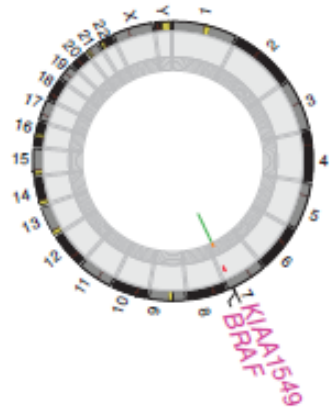
# PLX8394 inhibits ERK activation in BRAF<sup>mut</sup>/NRAS<sup>mut</sup> co-expressing melanoma cells



Re-activation of the ERK signaling pathway and development of acquired resistance are sometimes mediated by acquired mutations in NRAS (or selection of a small population of cells co-expressing mutant BRAF and NRAS)

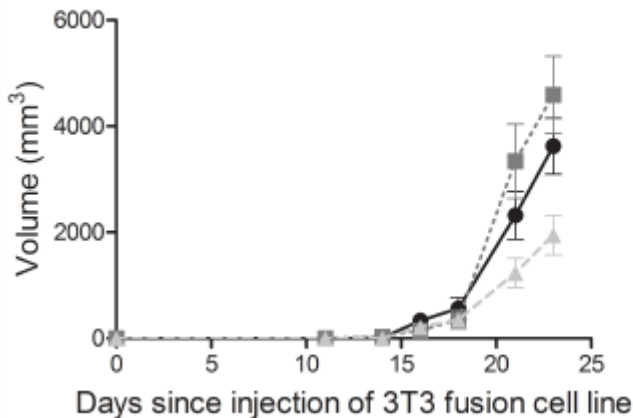


# Effective against BRAF Kinase Fusions in vivo

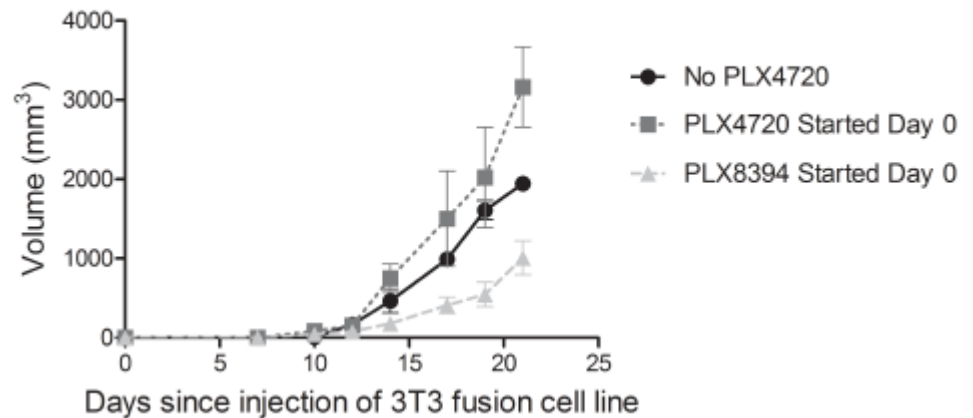


**>60% of pediatric astrocytoma caused by BRAF-fusion; paradoxical activation & BRAFi resistance**

NIH 3T3 cells: Fusion-1



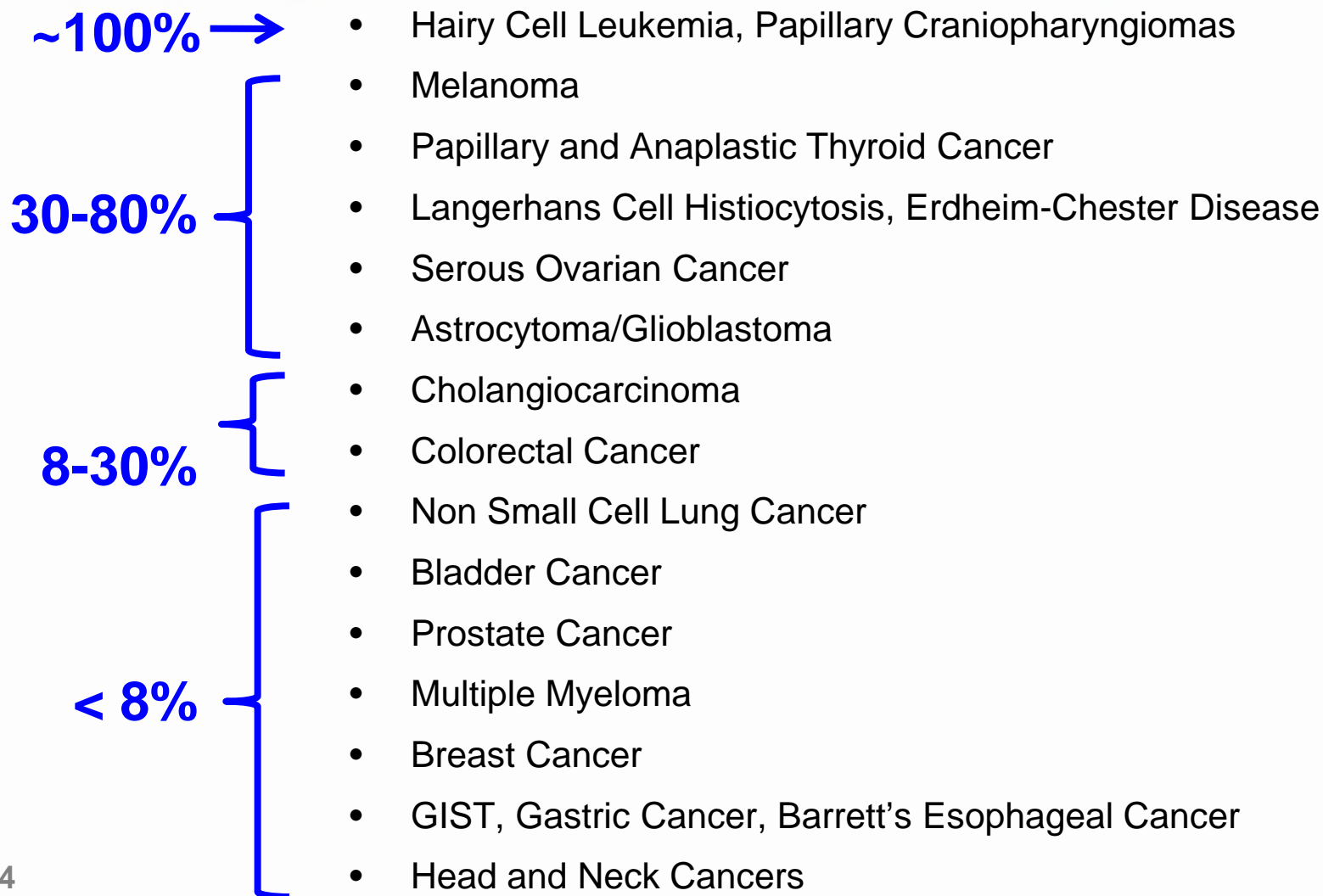
NIH 3T3 cells: Fusion-3





# Frequency of BRAF mutations

## Multiple Potential Indications







# PLX120-03: PLX8394 Phase I Trial STUDY DESIGN

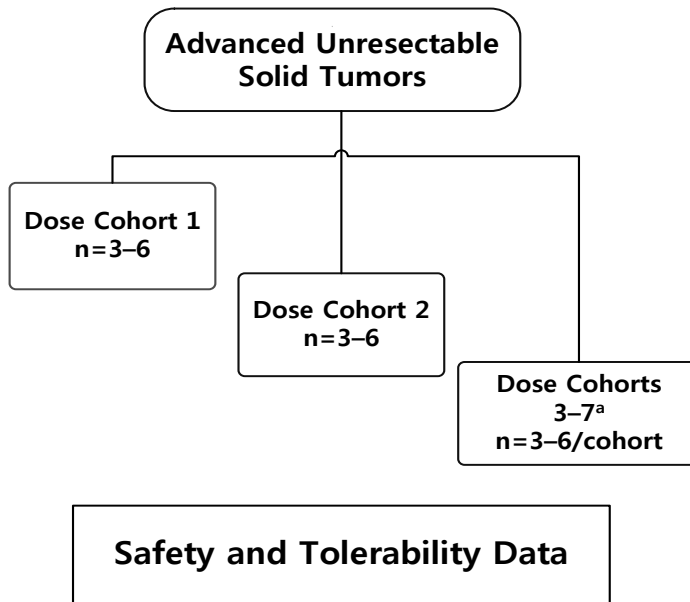
- Part 1: “3+3” Dose escalation phase (n=up to 42)
  - Patients with advanced solid tumors refractory to standard therapy or no standard therapy exists or considered appropriate by the investigators
- Part 2: Extension cohort phase (n=65) at RP2D
  - Metastatic Melanoma
  - Papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC)
  - Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma (ATC)
  - NSCLC, colorectal carcinoma (CRC) and other BRAF mutated malignancies





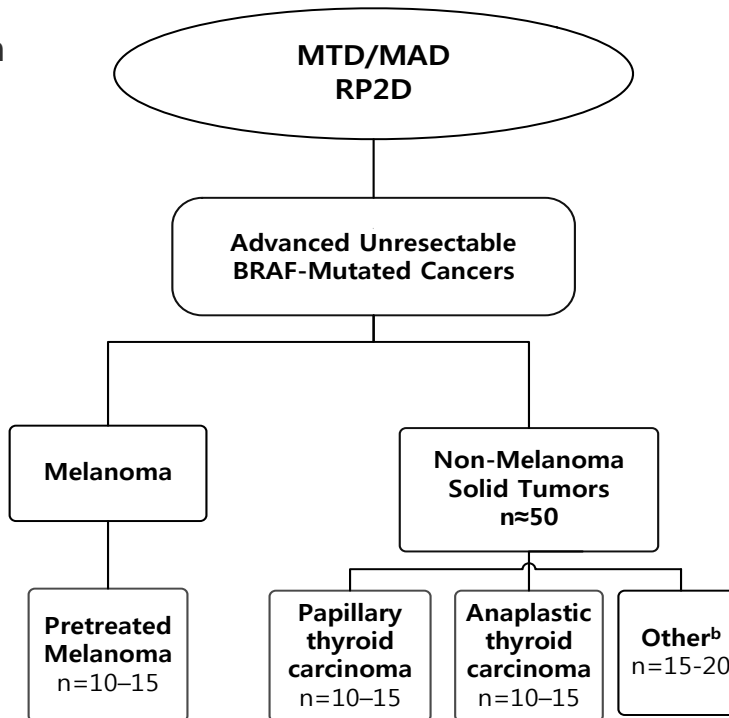
# Study Design

## Dose-Escalation Cohorts (Part I)



<sup>a</sup> Potential, depending on the safety and tolerability data.

## Extension Cohorts (Part 2)



<sup>b</sup> For example, colorectal cancer, non-small-cell lung cancer, cholangiocarcinoma, histiocytosis (e.g., LCH, ECD).

