



2024 Educational Forum

IMMERSE, EXPLORE, SOAR!

Welcome to Day Two of the 2024 Educational Forum

May 3-5, 2024
Hyatt Regency Lake Washington



2024 Educational Forum

May 3 - 5, 2024

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington

Thank You to Our Ed Forum Sponsors!

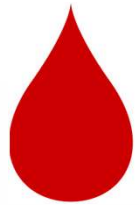


2024 Educational Forum

May 3 - 5, 2024

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington

Supporting Sponsors



LEUKEMIA &
LYMPHOMA
SOCIETY®



Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute



2024 Educational Forum

May 3 - 5, 2024

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington

Premier Sponsors



2024 Educational Forum

May 3 - 5, 2024

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington

Title Sponsor



BeiGene



2024 Educational Forum

May 3 - 5, 2024

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington

Todd Zimmerman, MD

Senior Medical Director, Medical Affairs
BeiGene



2024 Educational Forum

May 3 - 5, 2024

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington



2024 Educational Forum

IMMERSE, EXPLORE, SOAR!

Steven Ansell, MD, PhD

**Dorotha W. and Grant L. Sundquist Professor in
Hematologic Malignancies Research**

Mayo Clinic

IWMF Scientific Advisory Committee Chair



2024 Educational Forum

May 3 - 5, 2024

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington



Overview of IWMMF Funded Research (past, present, and future)





20 years ago.....

- No models of Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia
- Poor understanding of the biology of the disease
- No research specific to WM
- All drugs used in WM were borrowed from other diseases.

Enter the IWWMF!

- 2005 - Convened a workshop to discuss tools needed
- 2015 – First Roadmap meeting in partnership with LLS
- 2024 – Most recent update of the Roadmap priorities



Roadmap priorities

- **Signaling** – What pathways do WM cells use for communication?
- **Immunology/immunotherapy** – How can we better use our own immune system to fight WM?
- **Tumor microenvironment** – How does the bone marrow/tumor environment affect WM cells?
- **“Omics”** – What else can we learn about genomics, epigenomics, and mutations in WM cells?
- **IgM Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS)** – prevent or suppress progression.



Funding mechanisms

- IWMF-LLS Strategic Roadmap Initiative grants
- IWMF-LLS Enhanced Research Roadmap Initiative
- Robert A. Kyle Career Development award program
- IWMF Research Seed Money Initiative
- IWMF-LLS Companion Initiative



IWMF-LLS STRATEGIC RESEARCH ROADMAP

INITIATIVE

- IWMF partnered with Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) in 2015 to create a Strategic Research Roadmap Initiative for WM
- Continues to demonstrate commitment to search for a cure
- Defines the five focus areas in basic biomedical research where we are seeking RFPs

IWMF-LLS STRATEGIC RESEARCH ROADMAP

INITIATIVE (continued)

- Added companion projects to the initiative for basic science projects within a clinical trial
- Awards for a maximum of \$480,000 over two years
- Issued Requests for Proposals annually – currently funding eight projects
- Multi-institutional proposals welcome

RESEARCH SEED MONEY INITIATIVE

- Established IWMF Research Seed Money Initiative in 2022 to offer investigators opportunities to develop pilot projects
- Intended to allow investigators to define objectives and test pilot hypotheses to prepare for larger grant applications through IWMF/LLS Strategic Research Roadmap Initiative
- Awards up to \$90,000 for one year
- Approved four new Seed Money Grants in June

ENHANCED RESEARCH ROADMAP INITIATIVE

(NEW 2022)

- Mirrors IWMMF-LLS Strategic Research Roadmap Initiative with a twist
- Award funded at aggregate of up to \$1.5 million over 3 to 4 years

Robert A. Kyle Career Development award

The Award Program recognizes the 50+ years of impactful contributions by Dr. Robert Kyle to the field of Waldenström's macroglobulinemia.



ROBERT A. KYLE

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

- Vital to provide funding to support career development of next-generation researchers for WM
- In 2021, added Robert A. Kyle Career Development Award Program, recognizing the 50+ years of Dr. Kyle's impact to the field of plasma cell disorders and WM
- Awards up to \$157,500 over two years
- Currently funding four Robert A. Kyle Career Development Award projects

2023 Robert A. Kyle Career Development Award Recipient



Jithma Abeykoon, MD

- Senior Associate Consultant, Division of Hematology, Department of Internal Medicine, Mayo Clinic, MN
- Assistant Professor, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science
- Earned medical degree from University of Kansas
- Completed Internal Medicine residency and Hematology and Medical Oncology fellowship at Mayo Clinic, MN
- Research focused on DNA damage repair pathways in cancer, where he aims to understand better the disease biology of hematologic malignancies such as Waldenström's macroglobulinemia.



2023 ROBERT A. KYLE CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Title: Defining the Prognostic Significance of TP53 Alterations in Waldenström Macroglobulinemia and Exploiting them for Therapeutic Benefit



BACKGROUND

- Waldenström Macroglobulinemia (WM) is a treatable but incurable B-cell lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma.
- Recently, studies have reported that TP53 mutations in up to 30% of WM patients and this mutation is associated with a poor prognosis.
- How these *TP53* alterations are acquired and evolve and their impact on treatment response is unclear.
- Thus, there is an unmet need to delineate the prognostic and therapeutic characteristics of patients with *TP53*-altered WM by using a larger cohort of patients and also to find novel treatment strategies for patients with TP53 mutated WM.



AIMS

1. Assessment and categorization of *TP53* alterations and to understand its prognostic and therapeutic significance in Waldenström Macroglobulinemia using a large cohort of patients.
2. Exploit *TP53* alterations in WM for therapeutic benefit by targeting DNA damage repair pathways in cancer cells.

2023 Robert A. Kyle Career Development Award Recipient



Maria Luisa Guerrero, MD

- Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Physician-Scientist with clinical experience in diagnosis and treatment of hematological diseases including Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia
- Earned MD degree, University of Pavia, Italy, where she completed 5-year clinical fellowship in hematology
- Joined Bing Center for Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, for postdoctoral research fellowship
- Research focuses on uncovering mechanisms underlying WM oncogenesis and disease evolution, especially in MYD88 mutated disease, and discovering novel therapeutical targets and their functions



29th Annual IWMF Educational Forum

MAY 3-5, 2024

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington | Renton, WA



Robert A. Kyle Career Development Awardee

Maria Luisa Guerrero, MD

Instructor in Medicine at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
and Harvard Medical School

Dr. Treon lab



Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL



SICILY
.CO.UK

What I have learned so far

Looking beyond

Curiosity

Imagination



Adaptation skills

Fun

Family

Exploring

Community

Love

Belonging

Experiences

What I have learned so far

Humanistic studies

- Ancient Greek
- Latin
- Philosophy
- Art history
- Italian Literature
- Theater



*«Considerate la vostra semenza:
fatti non foste a viver come bruti,
ma per seguir virtute e canoscenza".»*

*«Consider the seed from which you sprang:
you were not made to live like brutes,
but for the pursuit of virtue and knowledge.»*

Dante Alighieri, Divine Comedy 'Inferno', Canto XXVI

What I have learned so far



Pavia

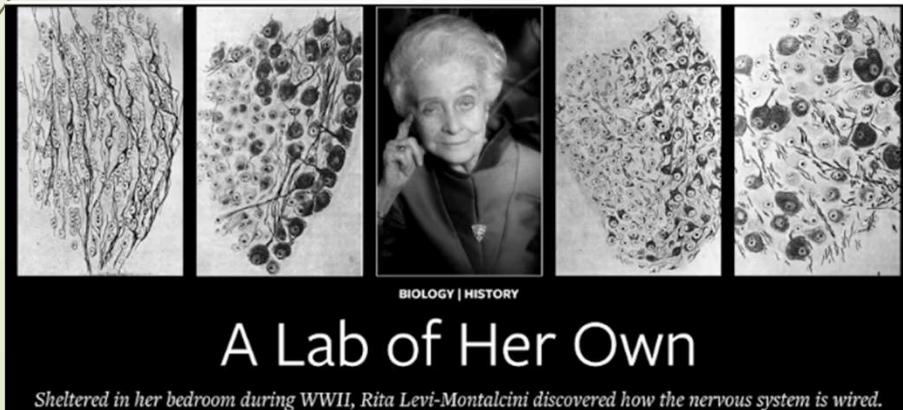
MD training in Italy (University of Pavia)

Alessandro Volta

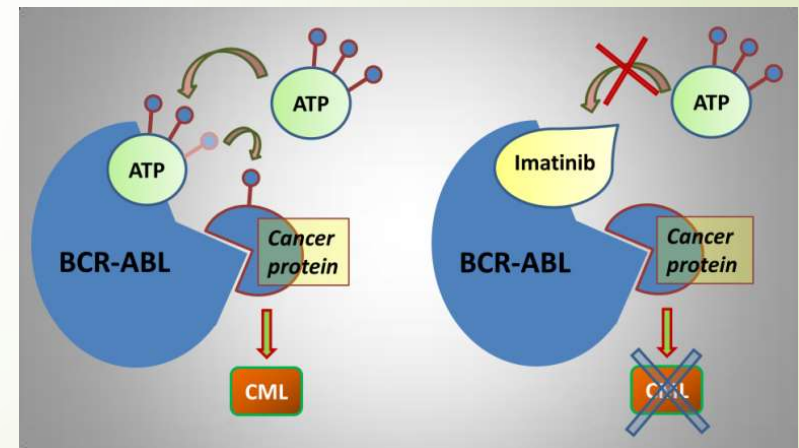
Camillo Golgi, 1906 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

Adolfo Ferrata and Edoardo Storti

Germany (University of Bonn)



Rita Levi Montalcini, 1986 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine



Gleevec (Imatinib) in Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia

What I have learned so far



Pavia

Hematology Clinical Fellowship in Italy (Pavia)

Wide range of hematological diseases

Clinical research focus on indolent lymphomas and WM

Luca Arcaini and Marzia Varettoni

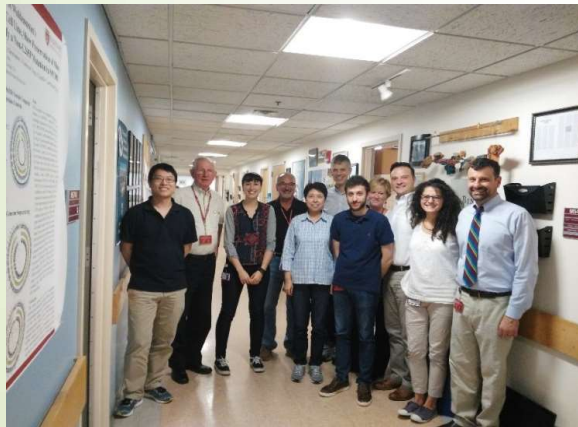
Incredible human experiences with the patients



What I have learned so far



Boston



Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Instructorship in Medicine

Bing Center for Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia

MYD88 mutated and wild-type Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia: characterization of chromosome 6q gene losses and their mutual exclusivity with mutations in CXCR4

Maria Luisa Guerrero, Nickolas Tsakmaklis, Lian Xu, Guang Yang, Maria Demos, Amanda Kofides, Gloria G. Chan, Robert J. Manning, Xia Liu, Jiaji G. Chen, Mani Munshi, Christopher J. Patterson, Jorge J. Castillo, Toni Dubeau, Joshua Gustine, Ruben D. Carrasco, Luca Arcaini, Marzia Varettoni, Mario Cazzola, Steven P. Treon, Zachary R. Hunter

Vol. 103 No. 9 (2018): September, 2018 <https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2018.190181>

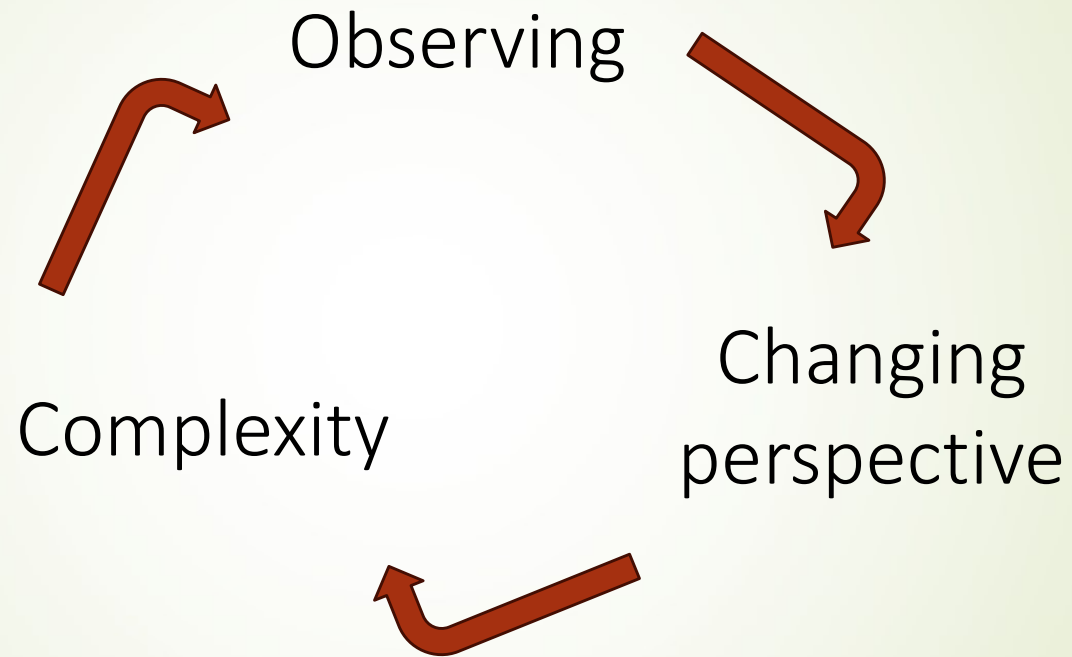
 **blood advances** ISSUES ▾ LATEST ARTICLES ▾ GUIDELINES COLLECTIONS ▾

LYMPHOID NEOPLASIA | NOVEMBER 5, 2019

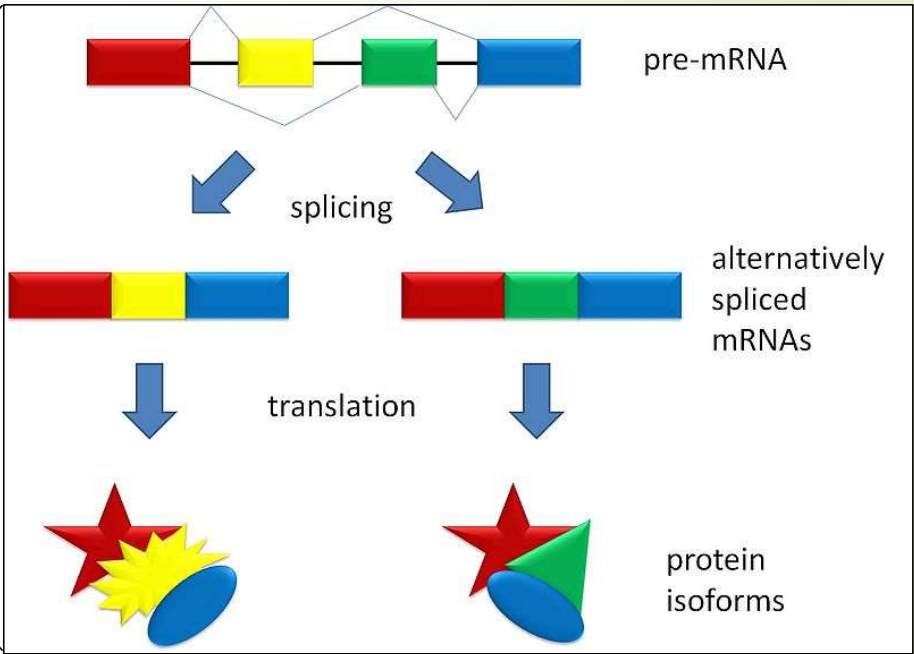
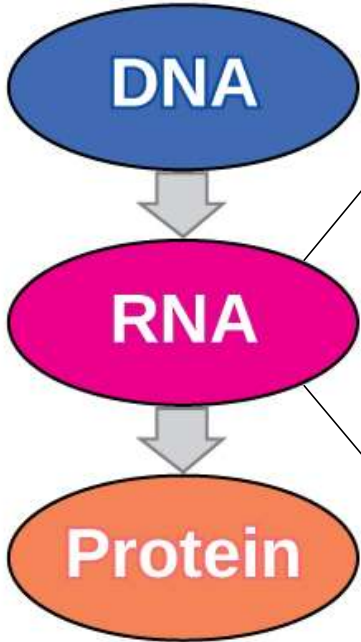
Human *MYD88*^{L265P} is insufficient by itself to drive neoplastic transformation in mature mouse B cells

Tomasz Sebastianik, Maria Luisa Guerrero, Keith Adler, Peter S. Dennis, Kyle Wright, Vignesh Shanmugam, Ying Huang, Helen Tanton, Meng Jiang, Amanda Kofides, Maria G. Demos, Audrey Dalgarno, Neil A. Patel, Anwasha Nag, Geraldine S. Pinkus, Guang Yang, Zachary R. Hunter, Petr Jarolim, Nikhil C. Munshi, Steven P. Treon, Ruben D. Carrasco

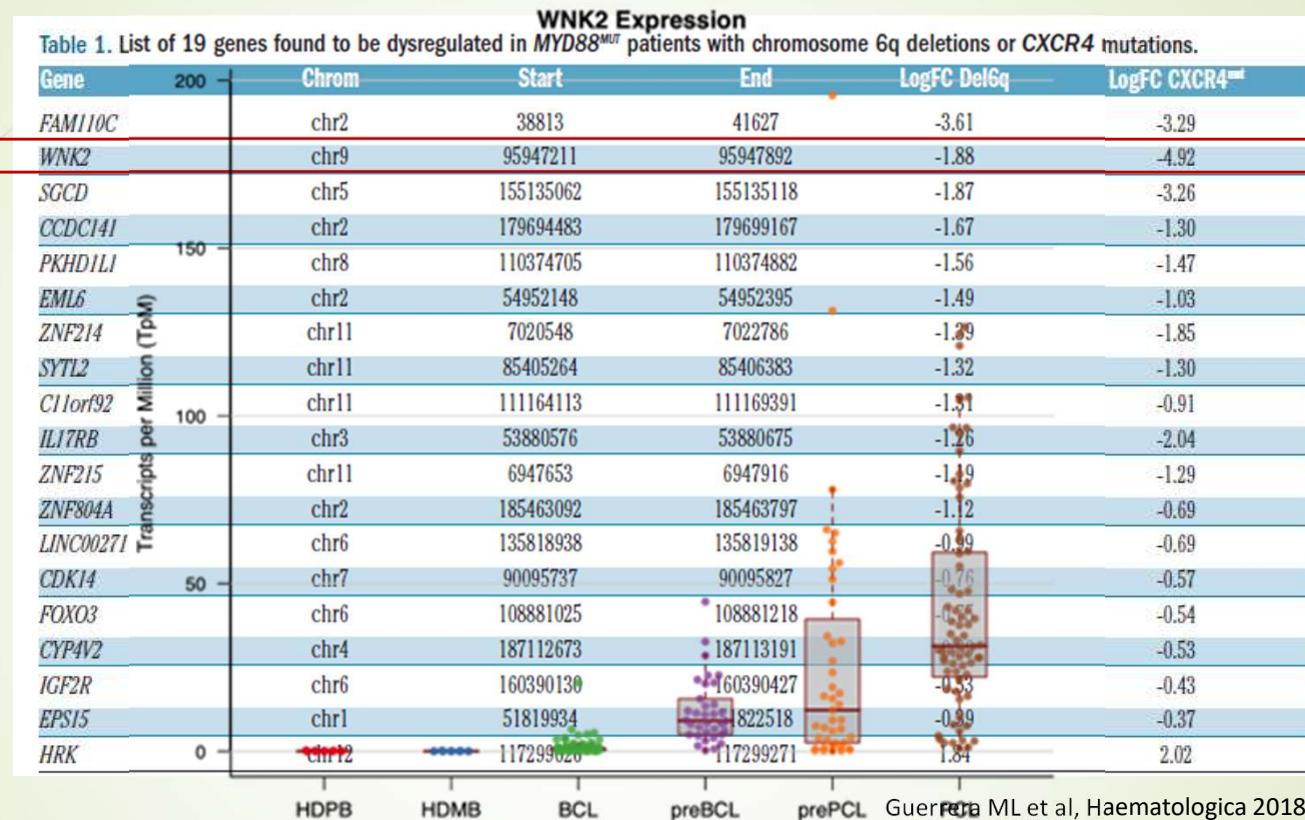
What I have learned so far



Let the journey take us inward into our biology



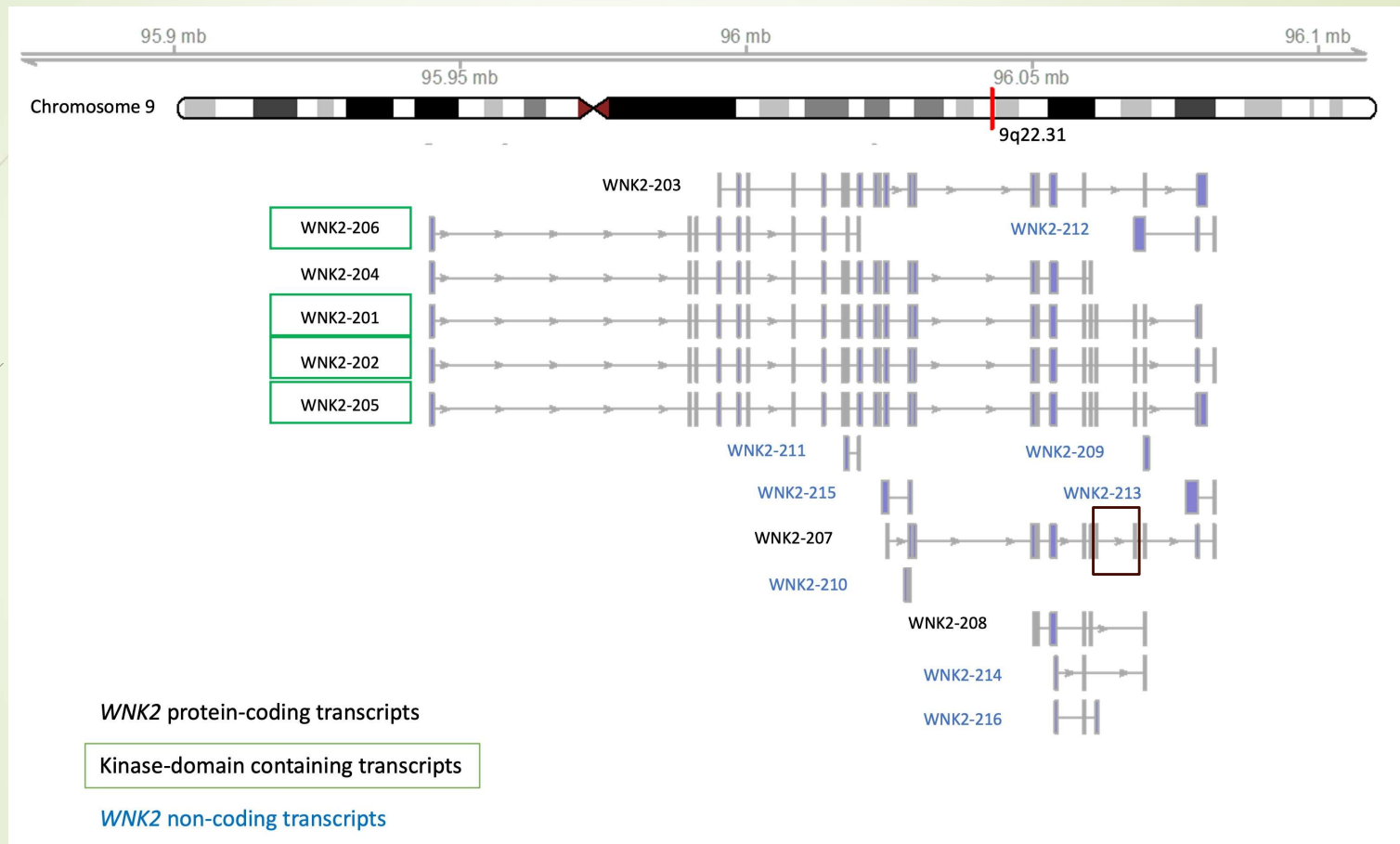
My Robert A. Kyle Award: studying *WNK2*



WNK2 is one of the top dysregulated genes in *MYD88* mutated WM and is aberrantly expressed in early stages of disease

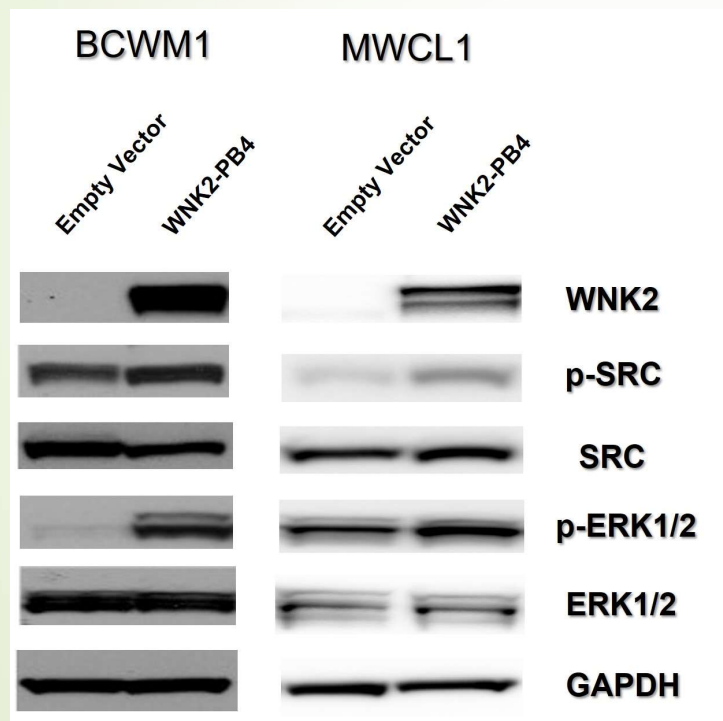
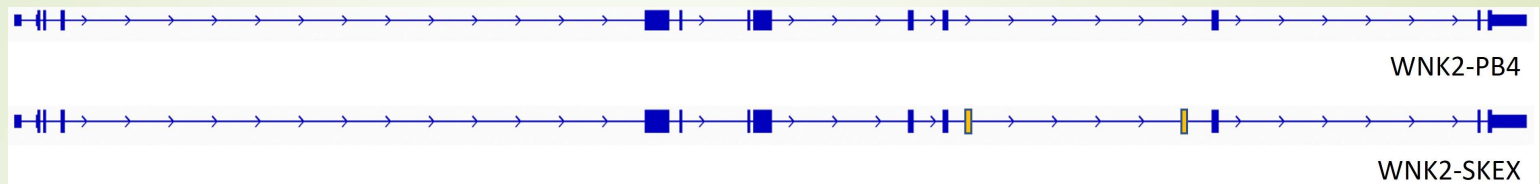
WNK2 may be involved in the malignant transformation of *MYD88* mutated cells

My Robert A. Kyle Award: studying *WNK2*

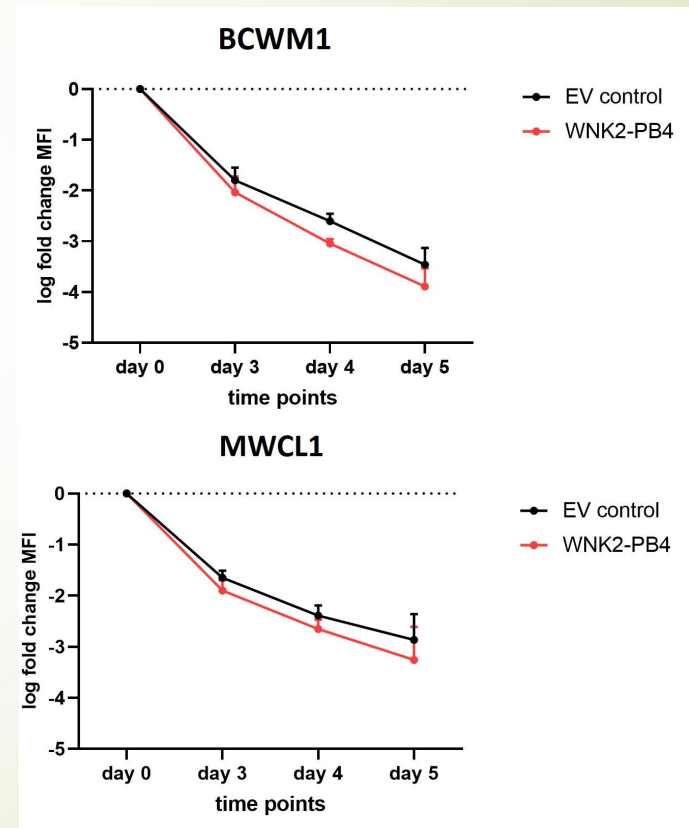


Dana-Farber Cancer Institute data

My Robert A. Kyle Award: studying *WNK2*



Dana-Farber Cancer Institute data



THANK YOU!

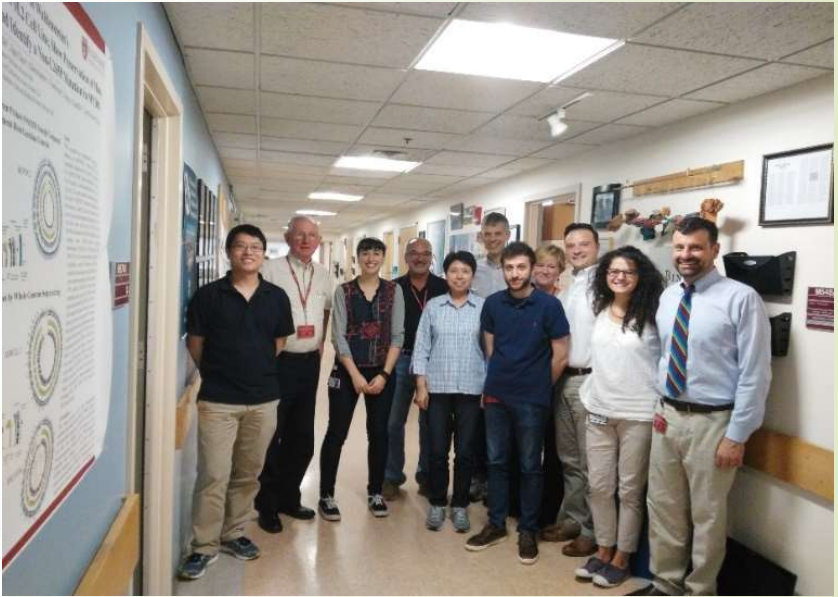


**29th Annual
IWMF Educational Forum**

MAY 3-5, 2024
Hyatt Regency Lake Washington | Renton, WA



All WM patients and their families



COMPLEXITY





Remembering Glenn Cantor

- Joined IWMF Board of Trustees in 2020
- Served on IWMF Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Research Grants Review Committee
- Served as Science Writer & Editor for IWMF's *Torch* Magazine
- Tireless advocate for finding and engaging the best and brightest next generation researchers for WM

IWMF is proud to announce the
*Glenn Cantor Memorial Early
Career Researcher Fund*

- Created by the Cantor Family
- Will help ensure that the IWMF continues to attract the best and brightest next generation researchers to WM while recognizing the incredible contributions that Glenn made to the global WM community

Thank You to the Cantor Family!

Glenn Cantor Early Career Research Fund

Supports new investigators



