

# The Technology is the Target

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April 2015



# Synopsis



- Introduction
- Research overview
  - Cancer Research UK Formulation Unit
  - EU IMI – OrBiTo
- Current directions – cancer research & treatment
- Future issues





# Gavin Halbert



- Pharmacist, Chemist & Qualified Person
  - Graduated 1979
- Director, Cancer Research Formulation Unit – 1992
  - Started in 1983
- Drugs into patients
- Range of formulation and product experience



Pharmacy is about making things! – Dr Alan Baillie ad nauseam

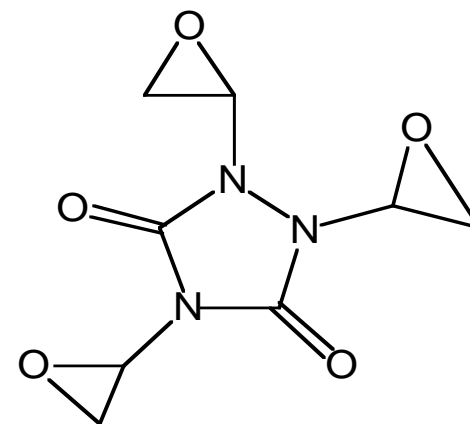




# My first encounter



- 1984 - 1, 2, 4-triglycidyl urazol - Limited solubility & stability
  - Would not dissolve at patient's bedside!
- Formulation and manufacture, Strathclyde
- Clinical trial in Beatson, Glasgow
- Phase 1 IV bolus in saline
- Starting @ 30mg/m<sup>2</sup> escalating to 900 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- MTD 800 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- 2 partial responses
- Half-life 2.1 min



Cancer Chemother Pharmacol (1984) 12: 198–200

**Cancer  
Chemotherapy and  
Pharmacology**  
© Springer-Verlag 1984

## The analysis and animal pharmacokinetics of 1,2,4, triglycidyl urazol using a high-pressure liquid chromatographic technique

J. Welsh<sup>1</sup>, J. F. B. Stuart<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Setanoians<sup>1</sup>, R. G. G. Blackie<sup>1</sup>, P. Billiaert<sup>1,2</sup>, G. Halbert<sup>1</sup>, and K. C. Calman<sup>1</sup>

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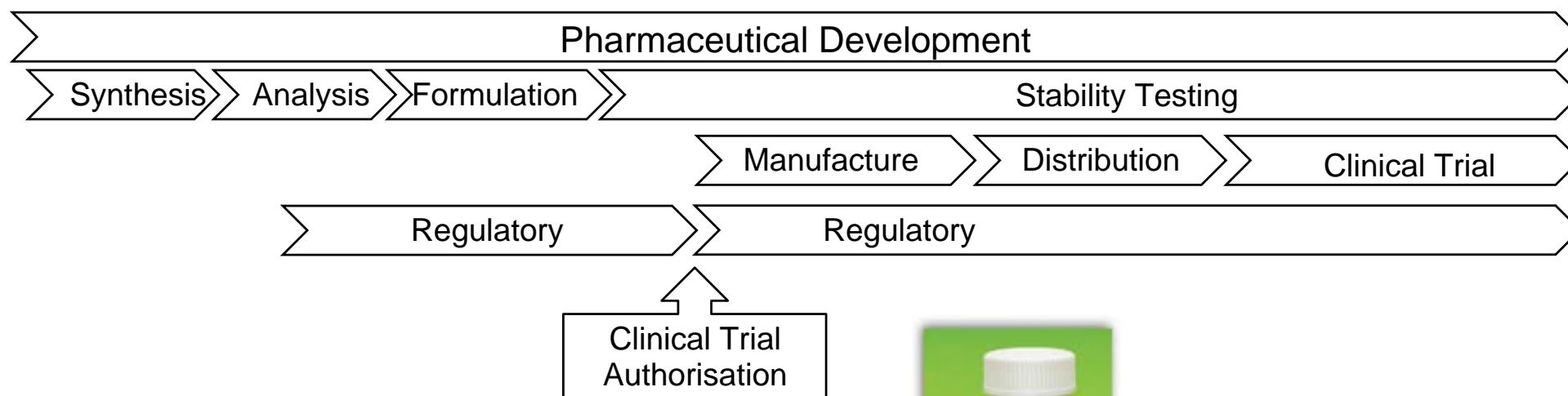




# Cancer Research UK Formulation Unit



- Bench to Bedside / Powder to Product / Molecule to Medicine
  - Pharmaceutical translational research



Design for success

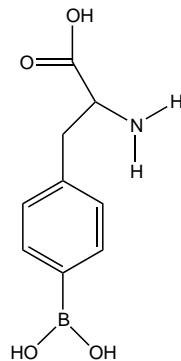




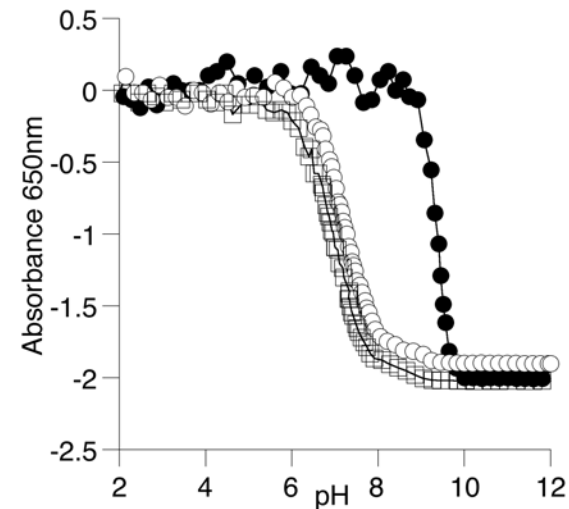
# Formulation Unit Research



- Boronphenylalanine
  - 900mg/kg dose
- Solubility
  - Free drug 1g/L
  - Fructose complex 30g/L
  - Mannitol complex 100g/L



Precipitation of boron phenyl alanine





# European Union Innovative Medicines Initiative

## Oral Biopharmaceutical Tools



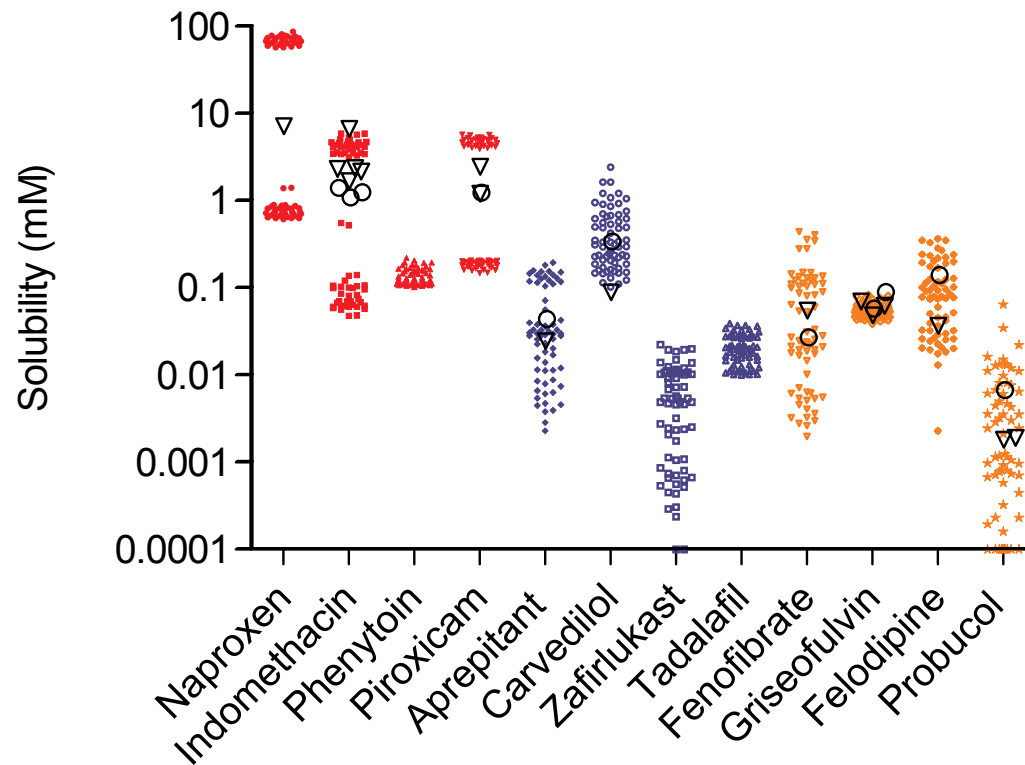
- Prediction of in vivo performance from in vitro data
  - Poor – or hit and miss
- Current new drug candidates
  - Physicochemical issues
    - Solubility – affects dissolution – biopharmaceutical performance
- Research into new predictive tools
  - Enhance Biopharmaceutics Classification System
- Consortium of University and Academic researchers
  - October 2012





# Biopharmaceutical Research

- Influence of media composition on equilibrium solubility
  - 8 factors & 2 levels or concentrations

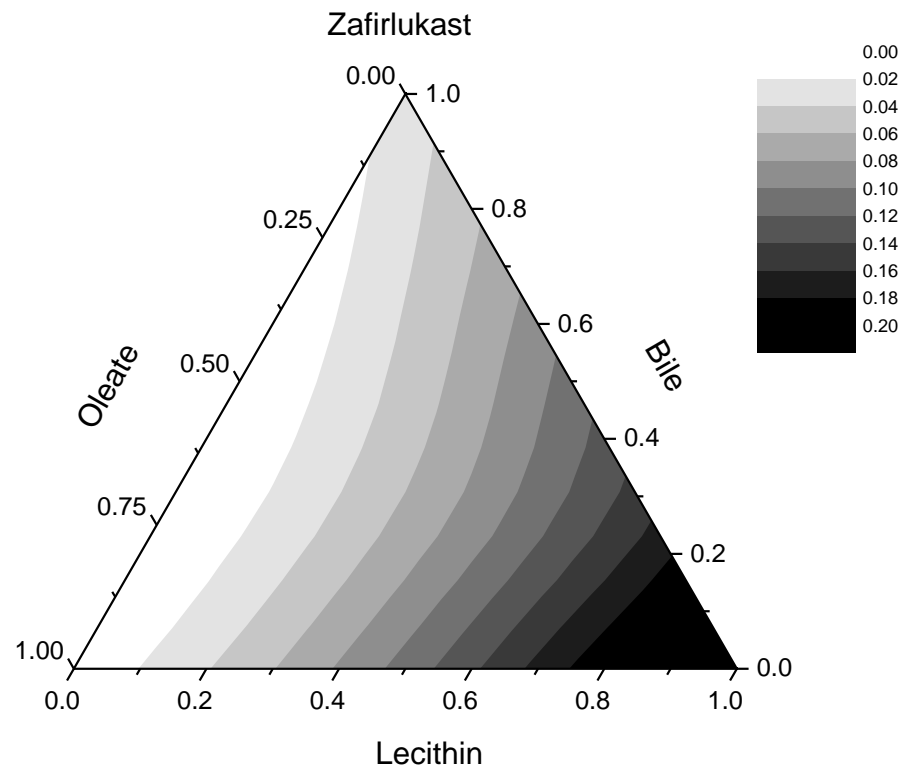




# Biopharmaceutical Research

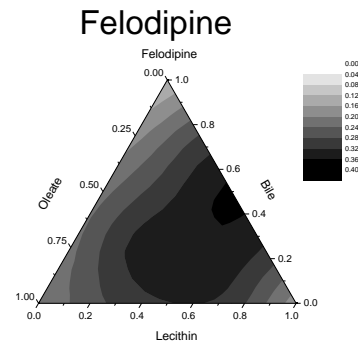
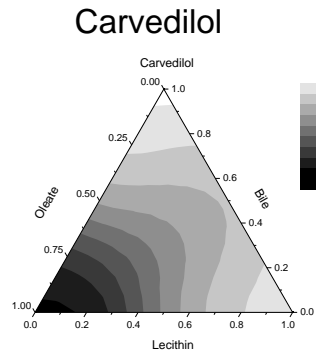


- Influence of media composition on equilibrium solubility
  - Phase diagram – biorelevant surfactants

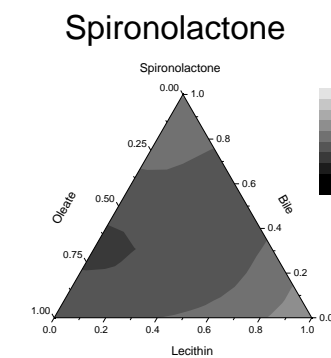
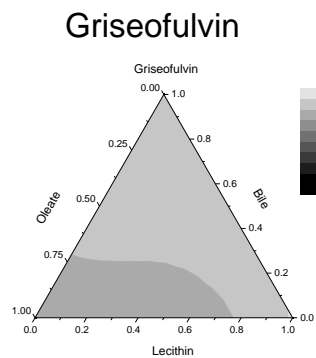
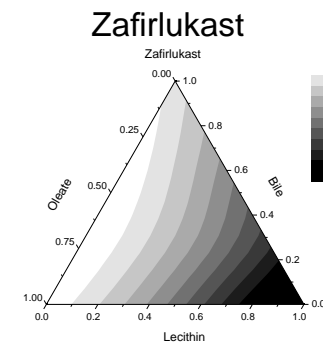
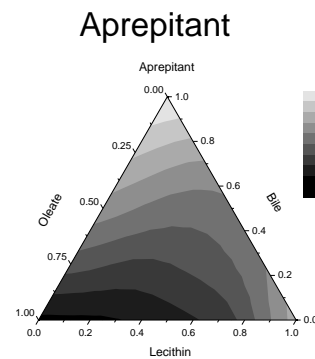
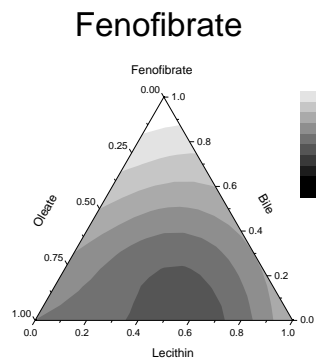




# Biopharmaceutical Research



No two drugs are the same!

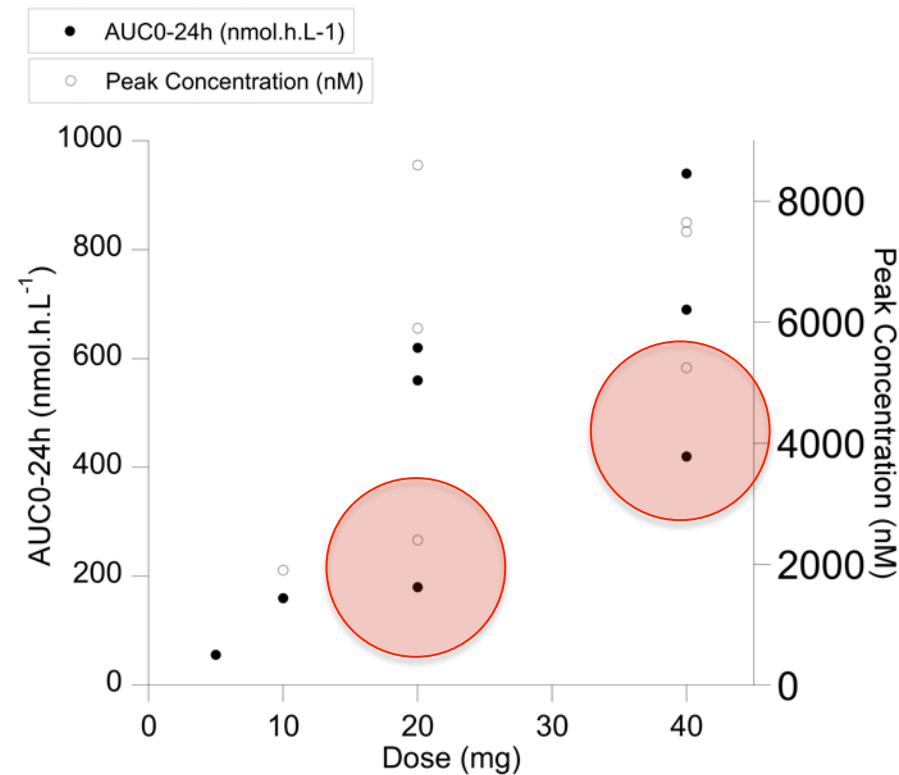




# Formulation Unit Research



- Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
  - Weak base
  - Low solubility
- Bioavailability
  - Stomach acid dissolution dependent



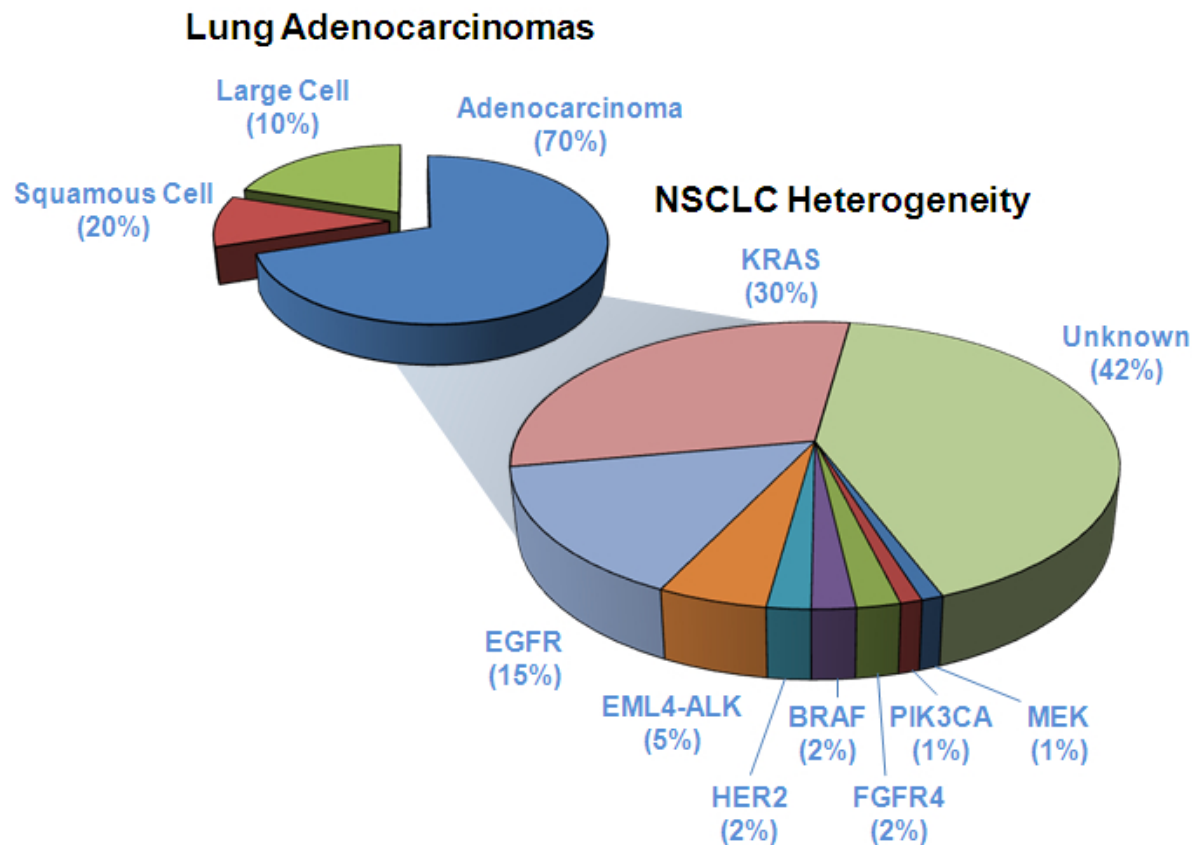
Transparent Formulation





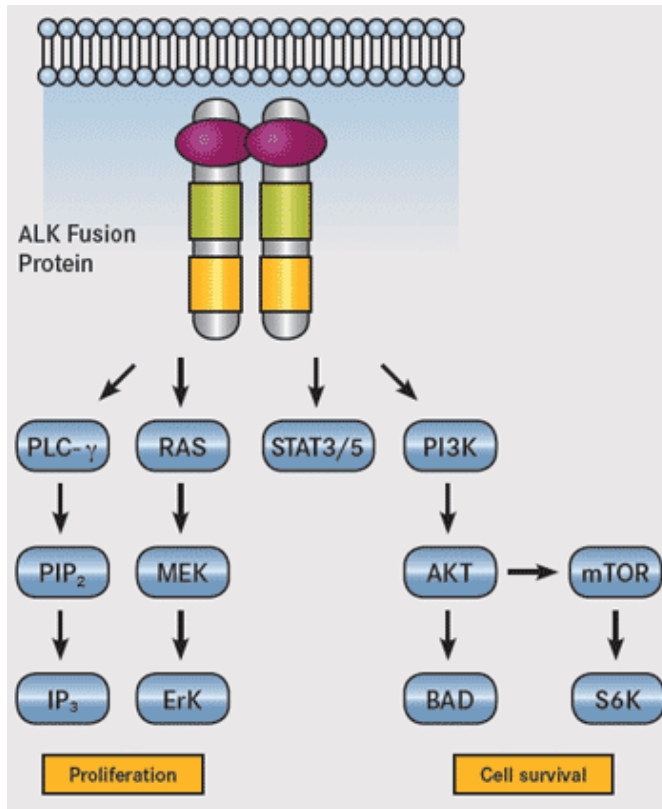
# Science of cancer

- Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer – 30,000 cases per year (80% of cases)
- ALK mutation 5% - 1,500 patients per annum



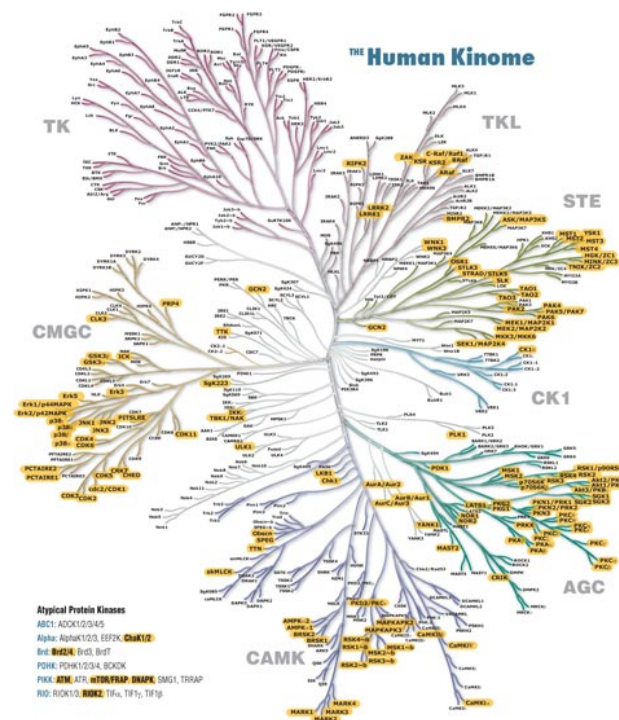
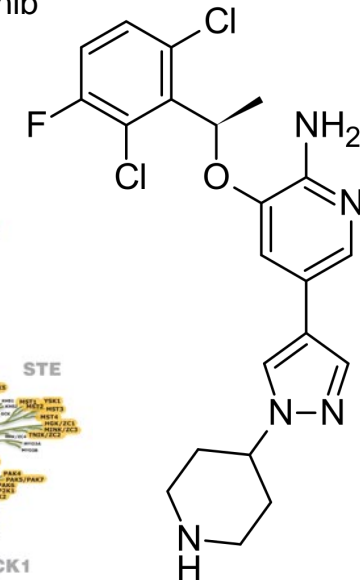


# Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase



Human kinome  $\approx$  500 enzymes  
2% of human genes  
Influences 30% human proteins

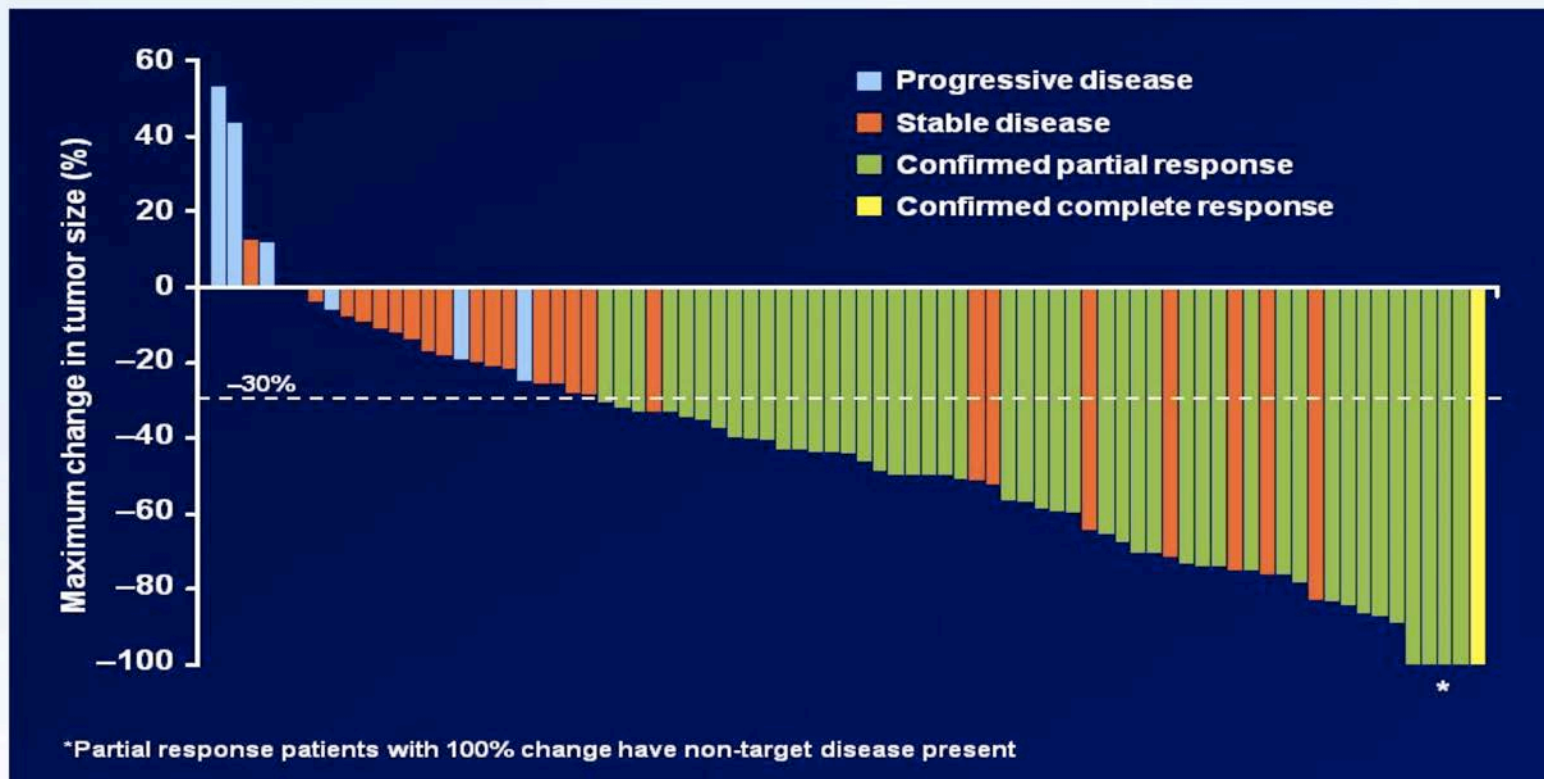
crizotinib





# Stratified Medicine

## Tumor Responses to Crizotinib for Patients with ALK-positive NSCLC

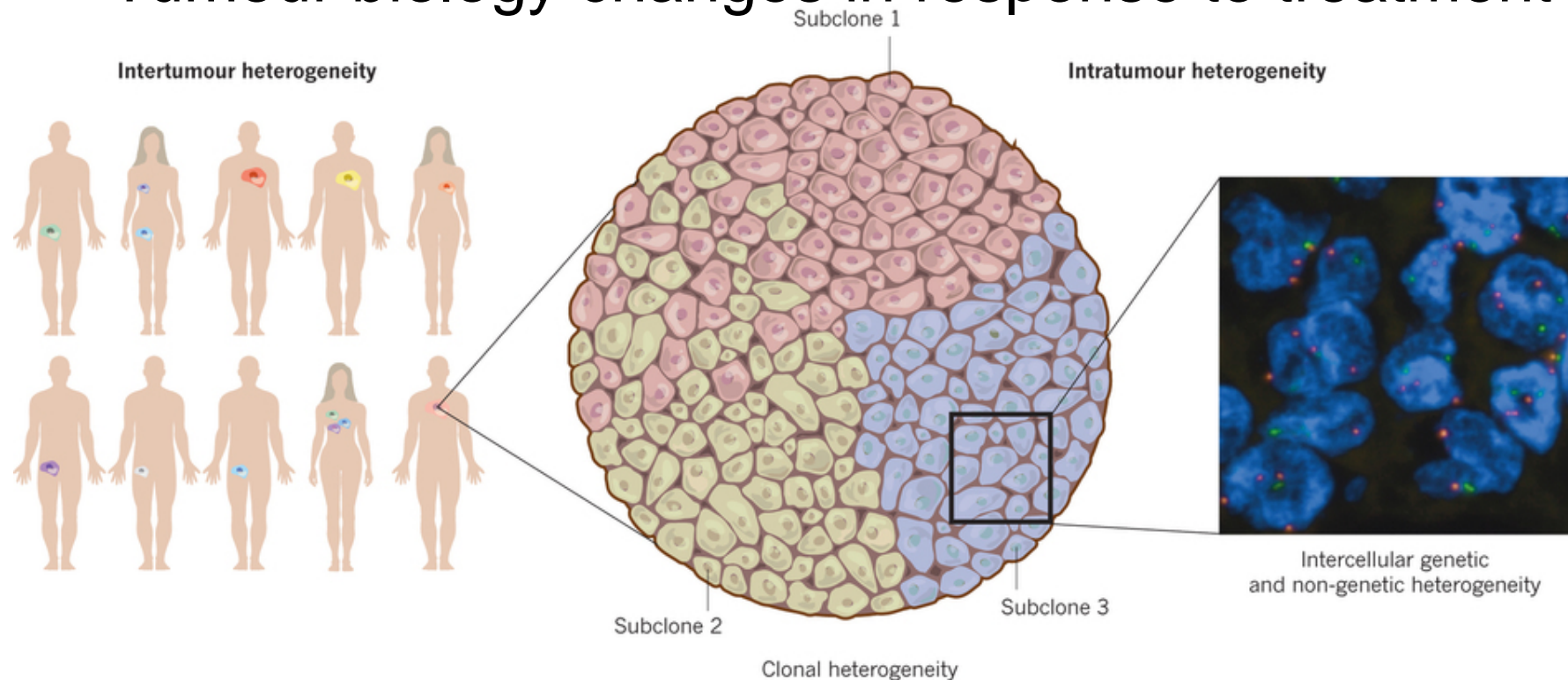


Response Rate 50%



# Treatment in Practice

- Tumour heterogeneity
- Tumour biology changes in response to treatment



Burrell, R., et.al., Nature 2013, 501, 38–345



# Basic Arithmetic



30,000 NSCLC patients per annum  
5% = 1,500 ALK positive patients  
50% response = 750 patients/year  
Average Drug Development Cost = £2 billion

Current Formulation Unit Project – 300 patients per annum

Need to do More to Achieve Less





# Future Issues



Paradigm Shift Required



# Acknowledgements



- Cancer Research UK Formulation Unit Staff
  - Many and varied since 1992
- Cancer Researchers and Clinicians
- Cancer Patients
- Pharmaceutical Scientists
- Cancer Research UK for Funding





# Thank you



- Questions

