



## Challenges to Drug Development in Academia

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# Disclosure

I am a co-inventor of the drug MDV3100, now in a phase III clinical trial in prostate cancer, and I own stock in the company Medivation.

## **Two translational tales**

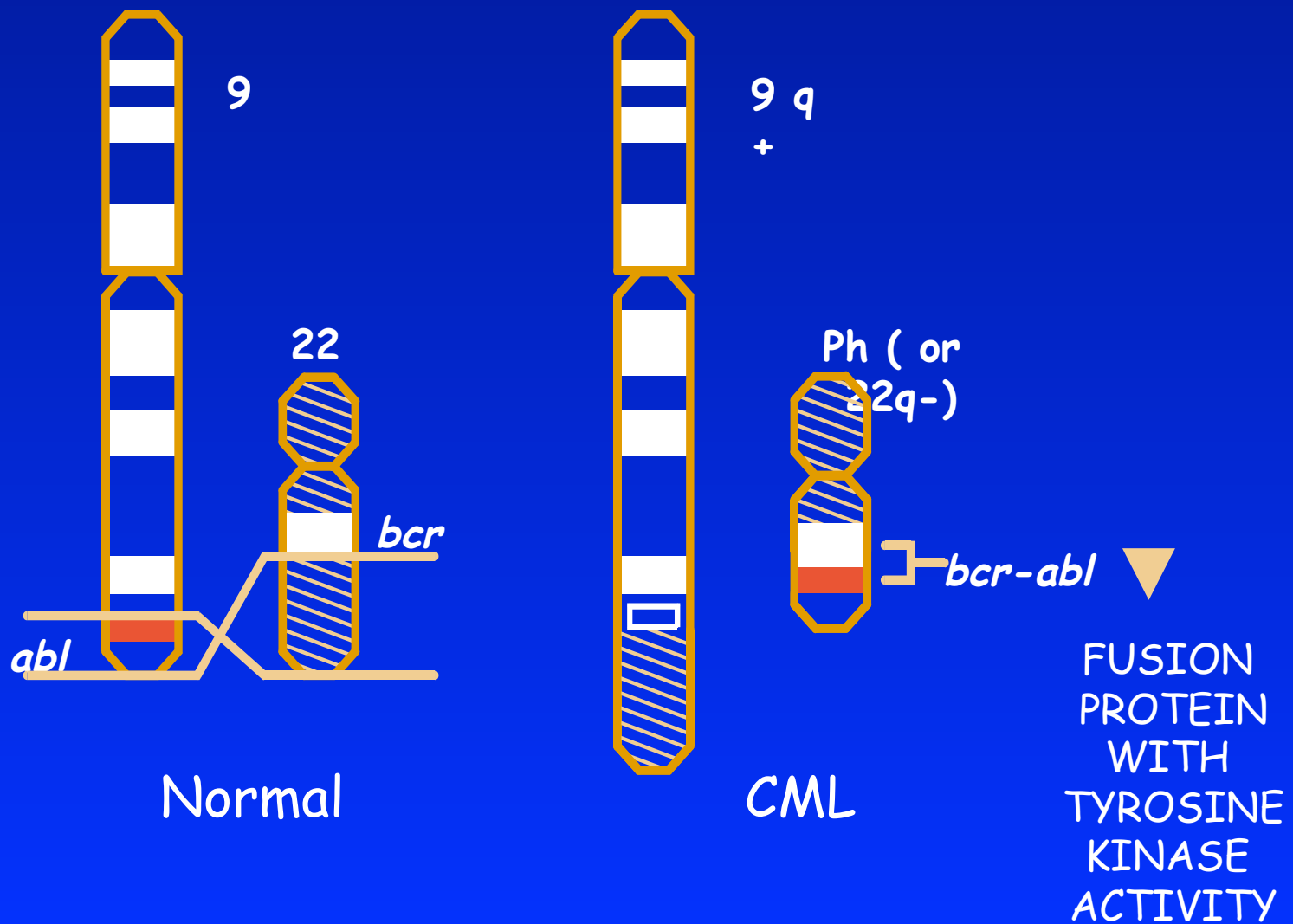
### 1) Dasatinib (Sprycel) in chronic myeloid leukemia:

serendipitous marriage of a discovery in academia that reshaped a pharma-driven drug development program

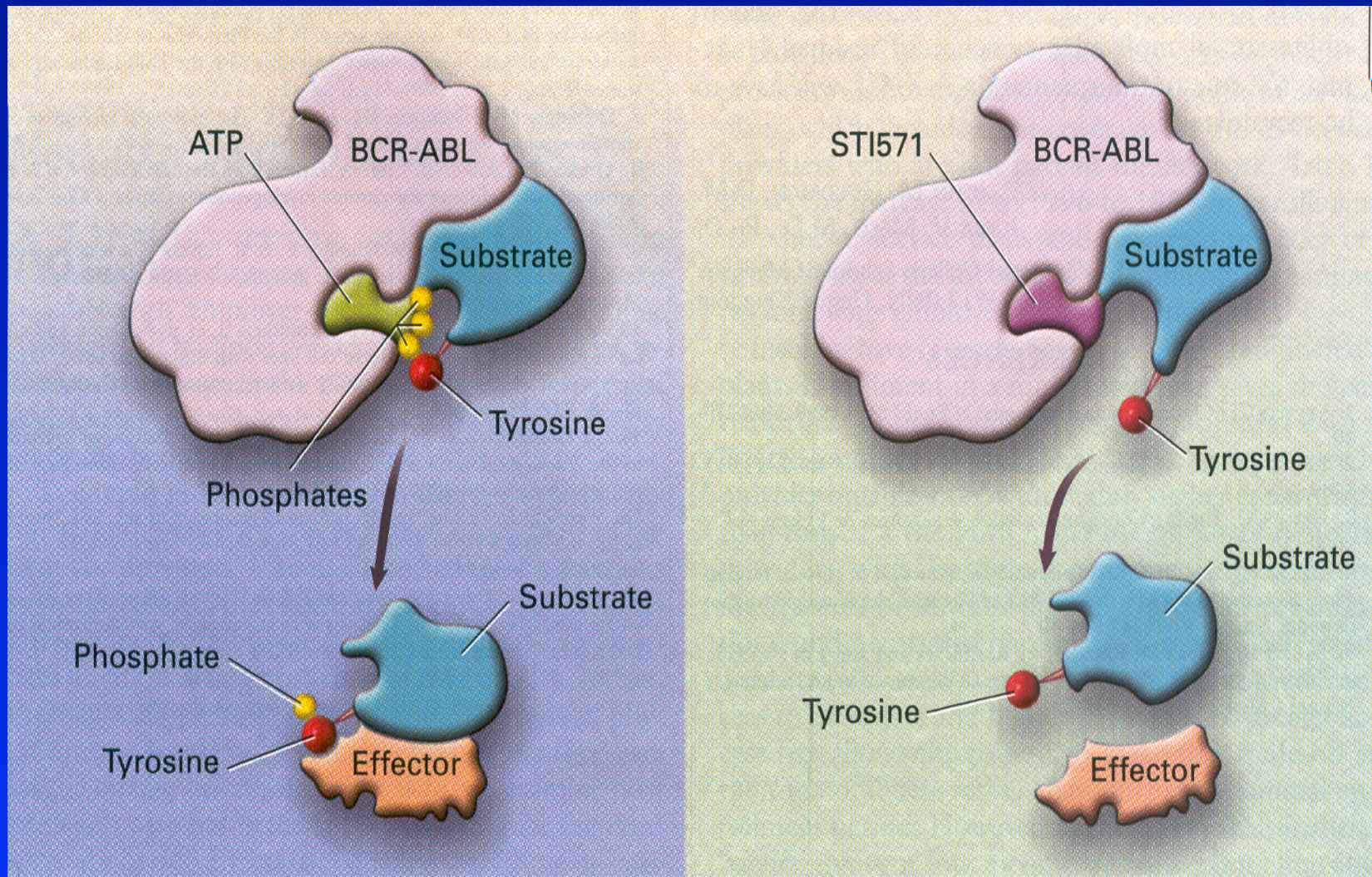
### 2) MDV3100 in prostate cancer:

academia-based target validation and drug screening project that resulted in a biotech/pharma licensing deal for clinical development

# The Ph Chromosome: t(9;22) Translocation

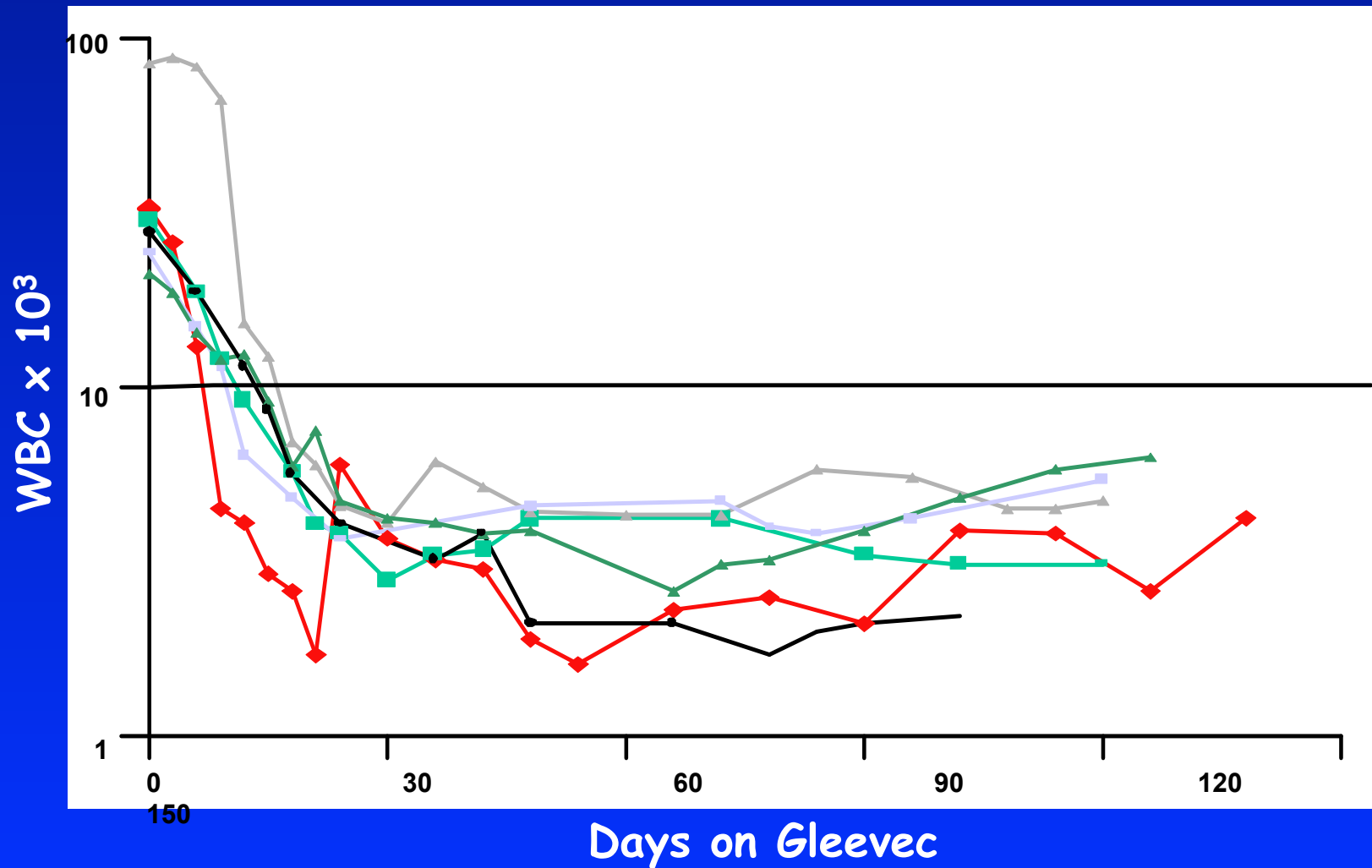


# Imatinib/STI571 (Gleevec) blocks BCR-ABL



Goldman JM, Melo JV. *NEJM*. 344:1084-1086

## Blood counts of the first 6 patients who took 300 mg/day of Gleevec



## **Gleevec is not a cure:**

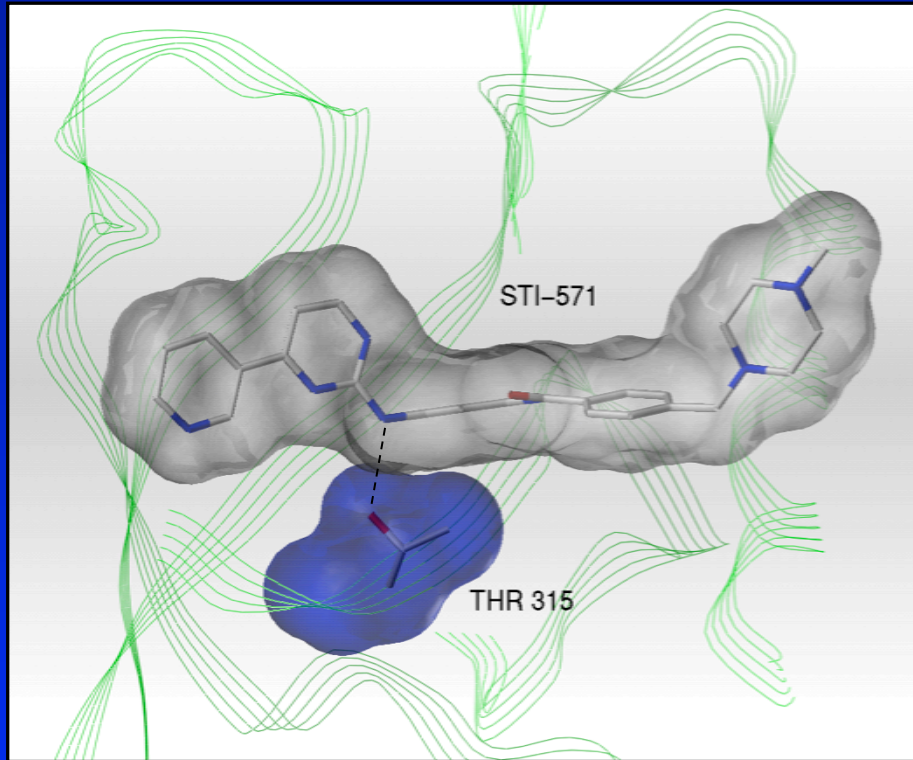
Small numbers of CML cells are detected  
in patients who are in “remission.”

Patients can relapse while taking Gleevec.

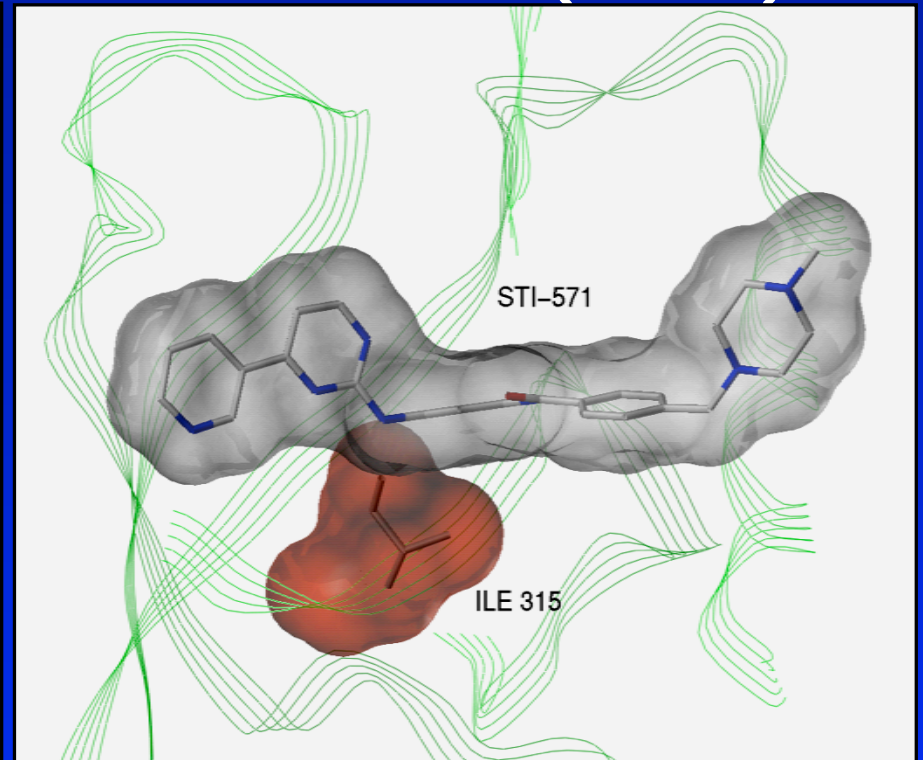
**Why?**

# A mutation isolated from patients who relapse on Gleevec blocks drug binding to BCR-ABL

WILD-TYPE



T315I MUTANT (MODEL)

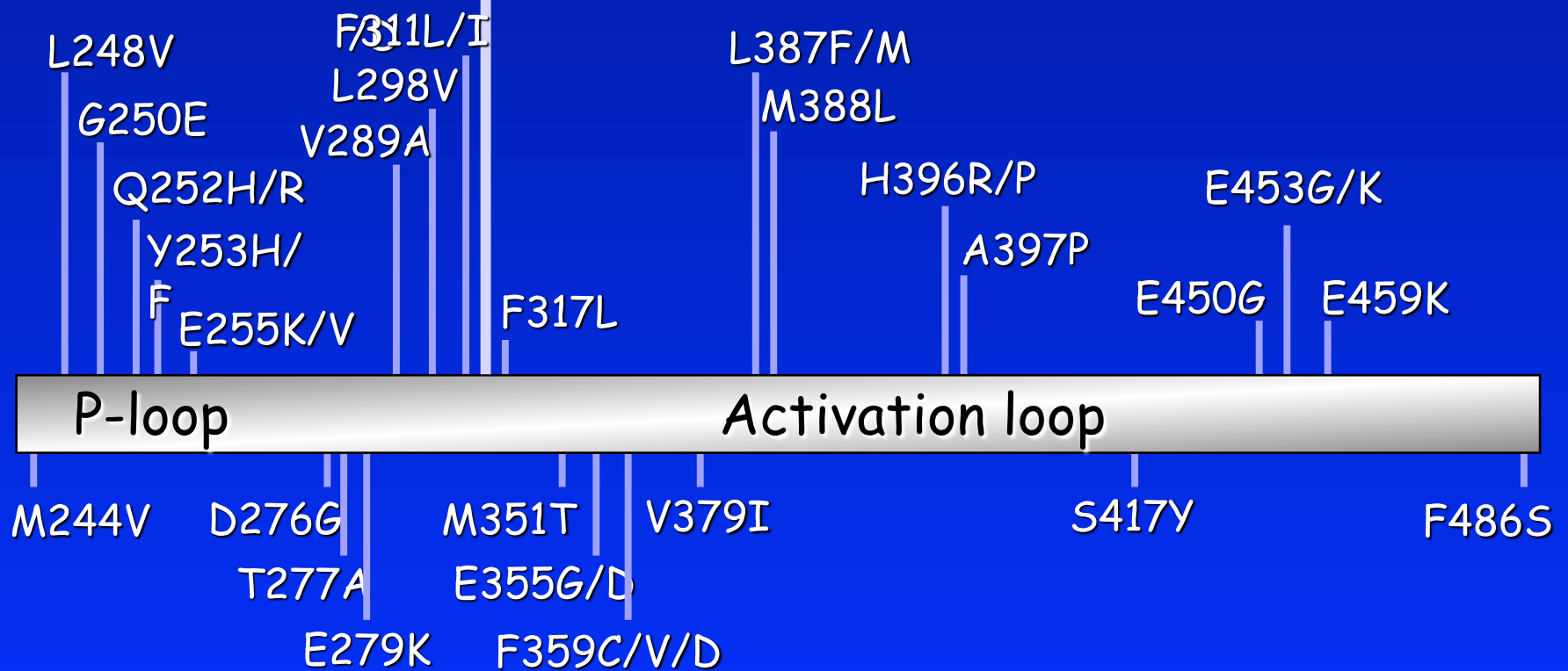


(Gorre et al Science, 2001)



# BCR-ABL Kinase Domain Mutations Associated with Imatinib Resistance

T315I



> 50 distinct mutations reported

# Imatinib resistance mutations impair conformational flexibility of the ABL kinase

## Location of Mutations

- P loop
- Direct contact with drug
- hinge



John Kuriyan, Bhushan Nagar (UC-Berkeley)

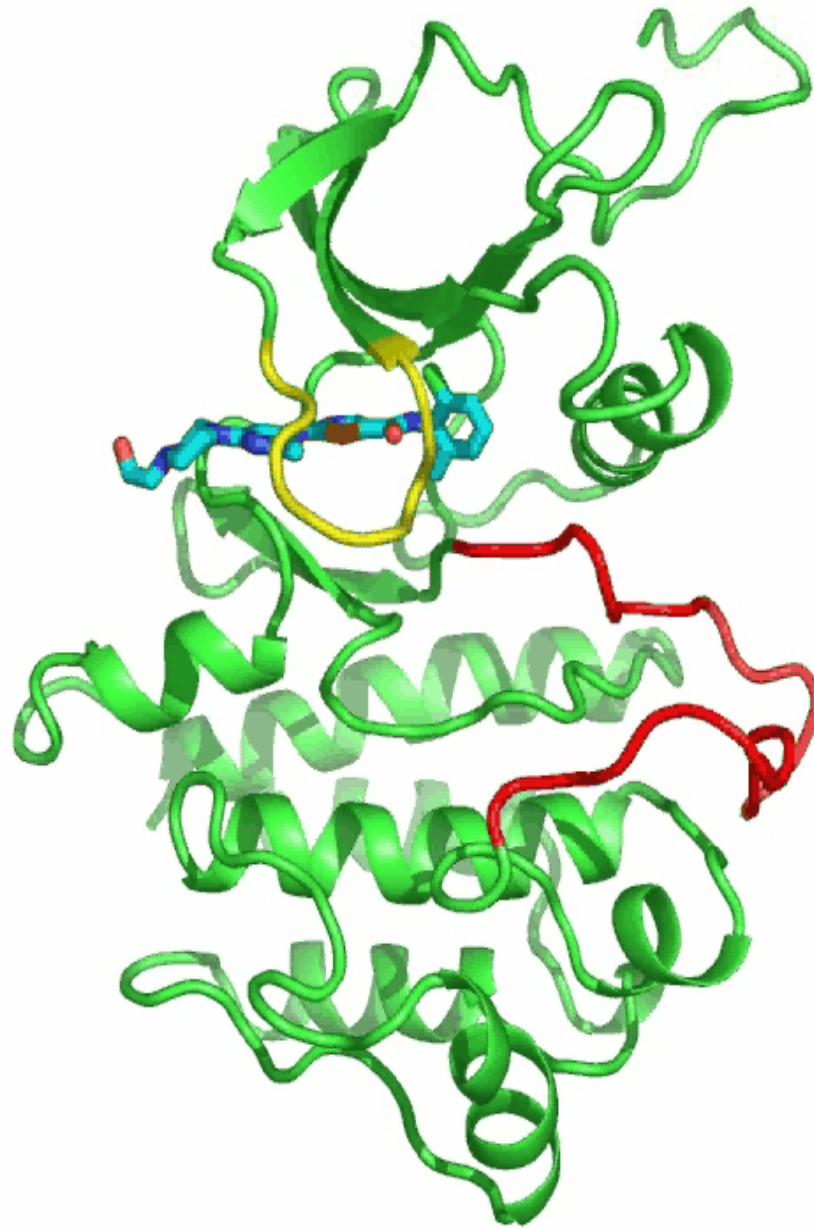
## How do we deal with resistance?

Problem: Over 50 different mutations can cause resistance to Gleevec

Structural biology prediction: Mutations change the shape of BCR-ABL so that it favors the “open” conformation.

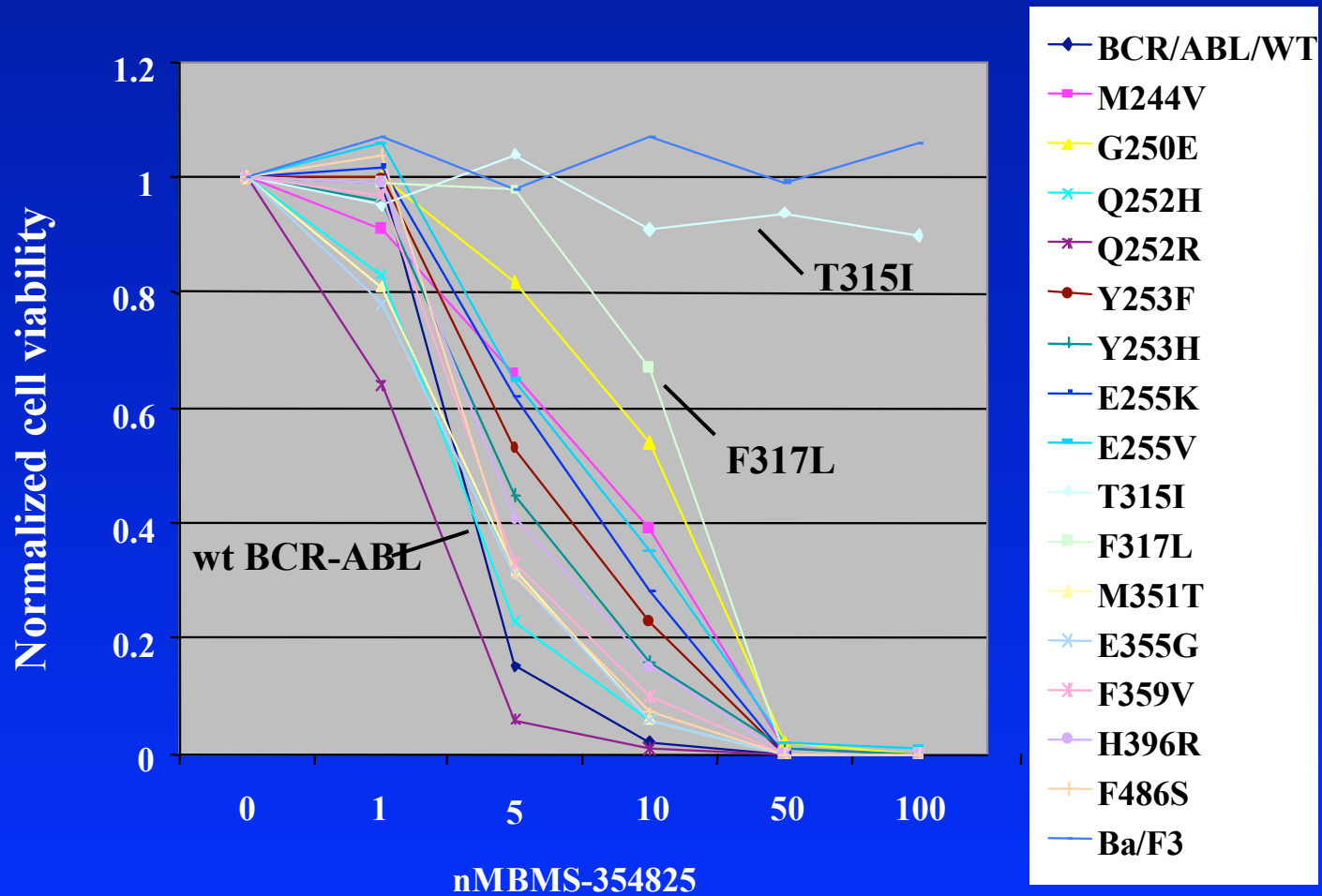
Solution: Drugs that target the “open” conformation should work in patients with Gleevec resistance.

Dasatinib

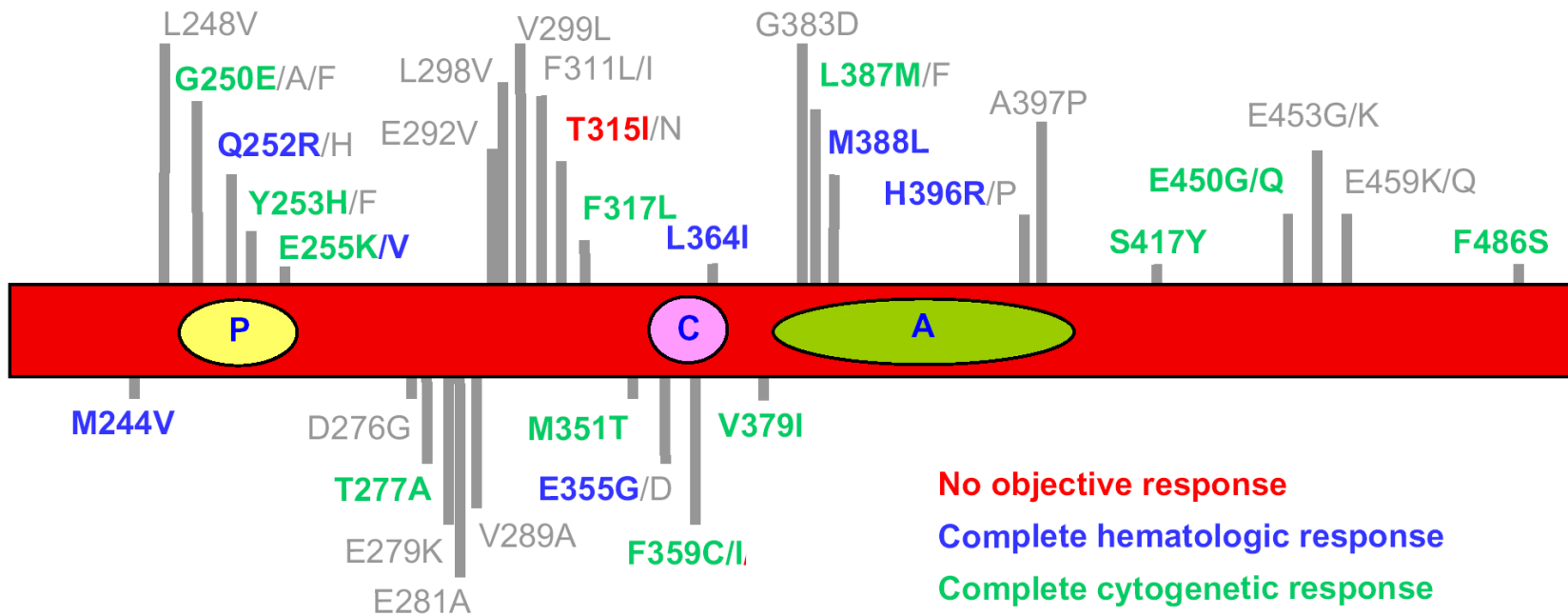


Gleevec

**The SRC/ABL inhibitor dasatinib (BMS-354825) is active against all but one of the known mutations in BCR-ABL that confer imatinib resistance**



# BCR-ABL genotype predicts clinical response to dasatinib



Talpaz ....Sawyers, NEJM, 2006

# Chronic Myeloid Leukemia: 2010

1) Imatinib has been frontline CML therapy

-75% of patients achieve complete cytogenetic response

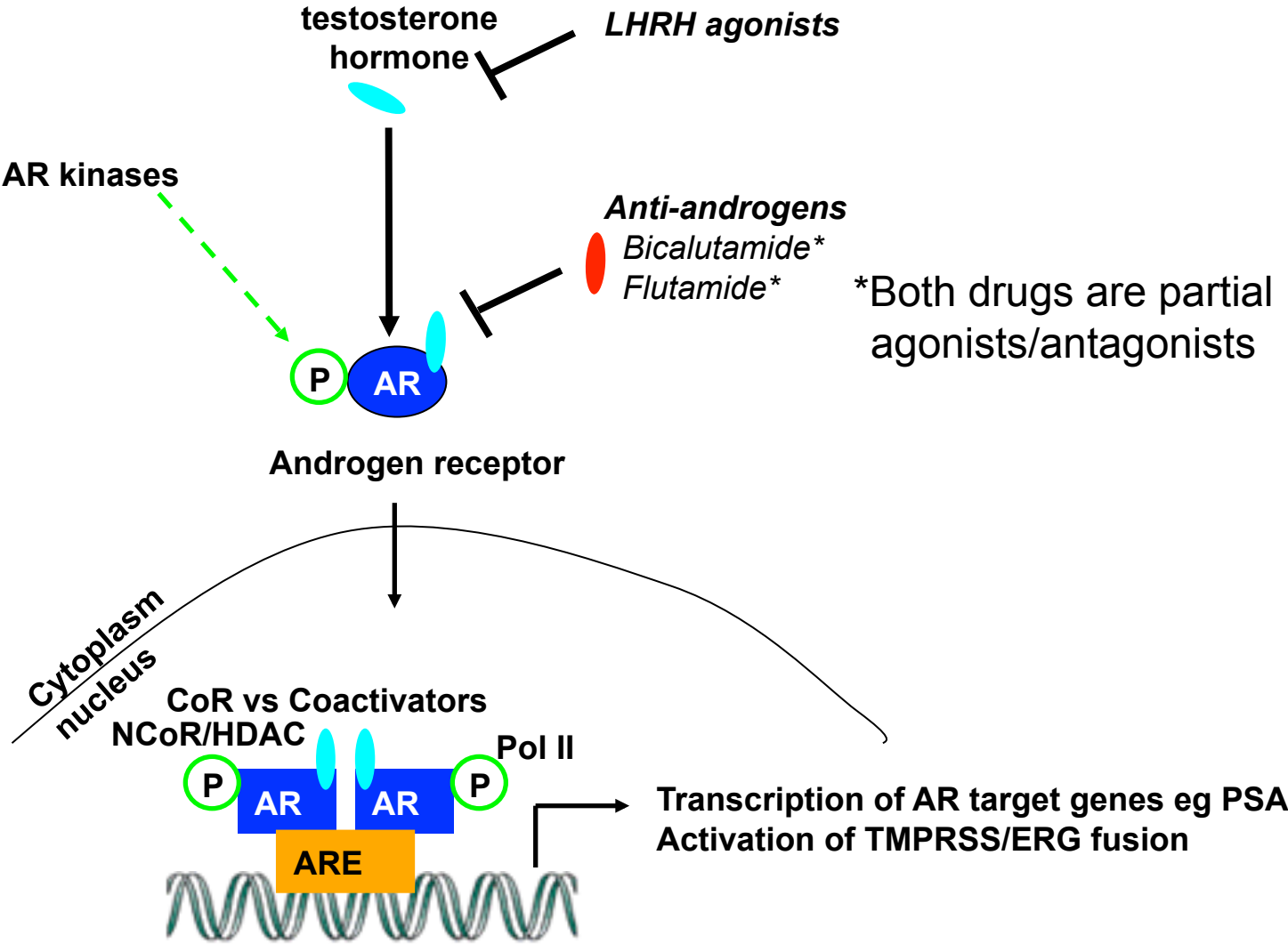
-20% relapse within 5 years, usually with mutant BCR-ABL

2) Dasatinib and nilotinib were initially approved as 2<sup>nd</sup> line therapy for imatinib-resistant CML (2006, 2007)

3) Upfront comparisons show that 2<sup>nd</sup> generation compounds are superior to imatinib

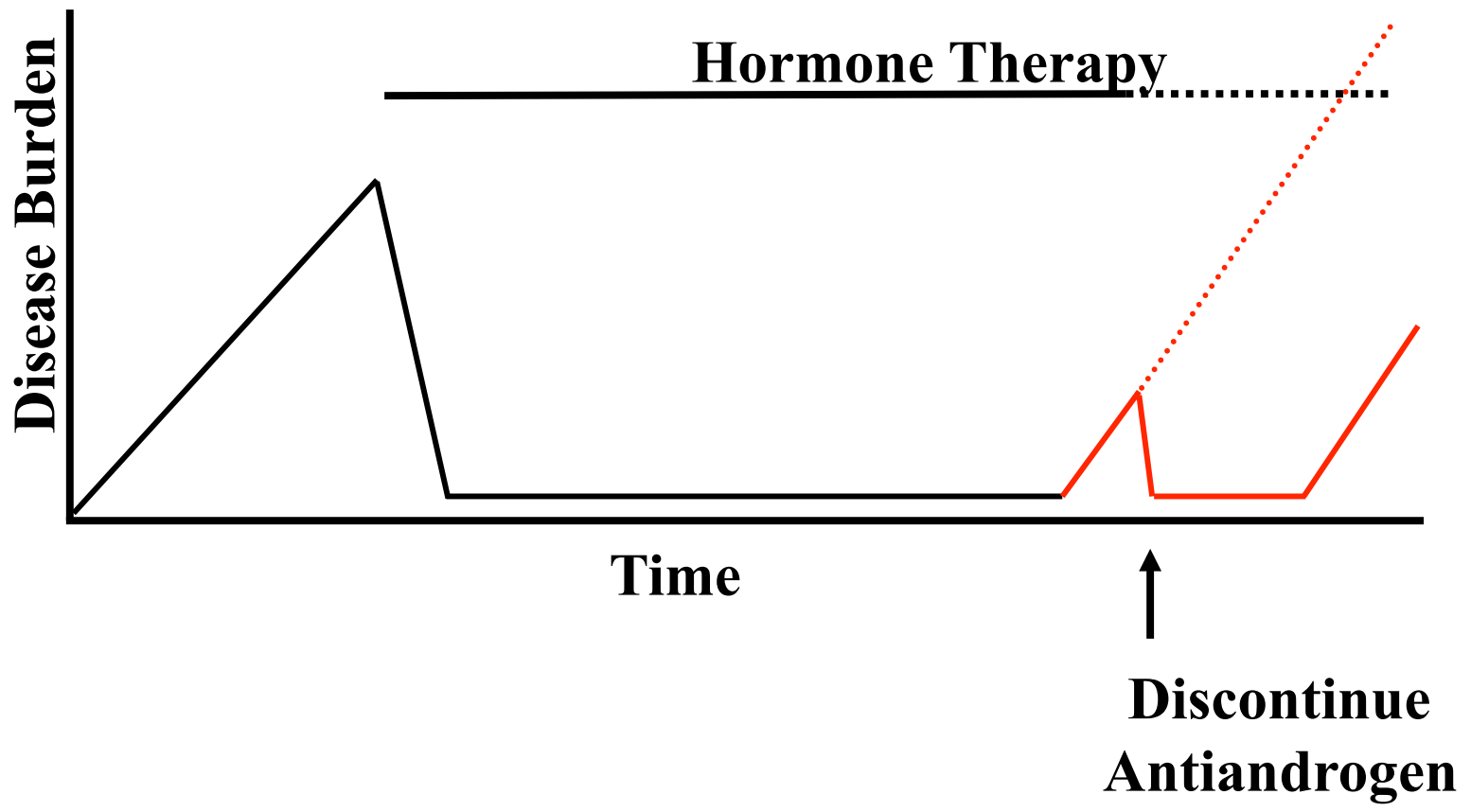
(Kantarjian et al NEJM 2010; Saglio et al NEJM 2010)

# Inhibition of androgen receptor (AR) signaling





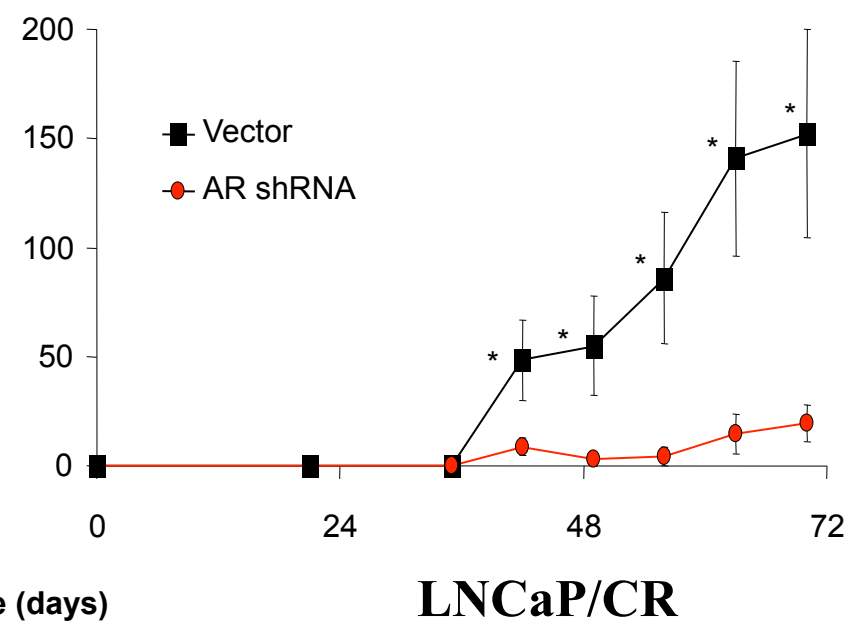
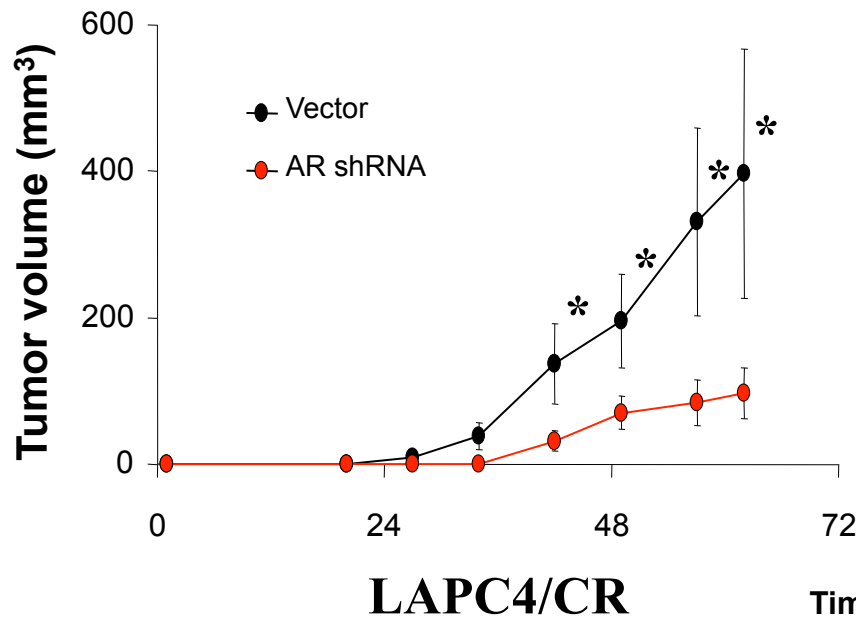
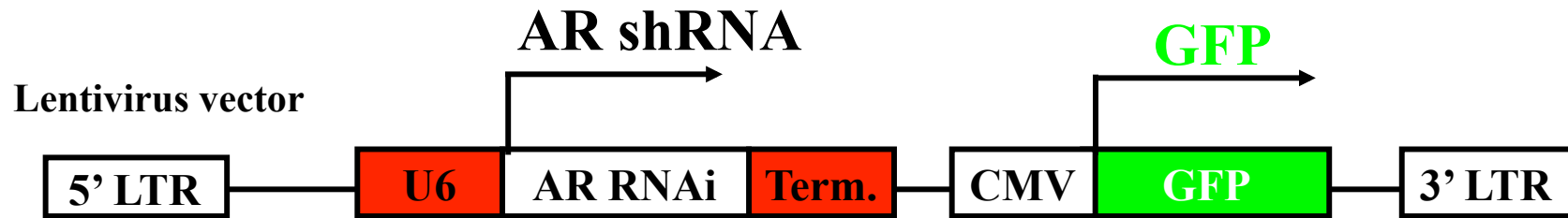
# Typical Response to Hormone Therapy



## **Primary Mechanism of Resistance to Castration and/or Current Antiandrogens**

- 1) AR is overexpressed in castration resistant sublines of multiple prostate cancer xenograft models (and in patients)
- 2) Forced AR overexpression confers castration-resistance
- 3) AR knockdown impairs castration-resistant growth
- 4) AR antagonists act as agonists when AR levels are high  
(Chen et al Nature Med, 2004)

# AR is required to maintain castrate resistance *in vivo*



Growth of castrate resistant xenografts in castrate male mice

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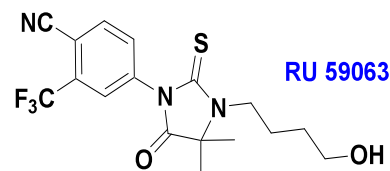
Second generation anti-androgens must:

- be effective in cells expressing high levels of androgen receptor
- **AND**
- overcome the problem of antagonist/agonist conversion

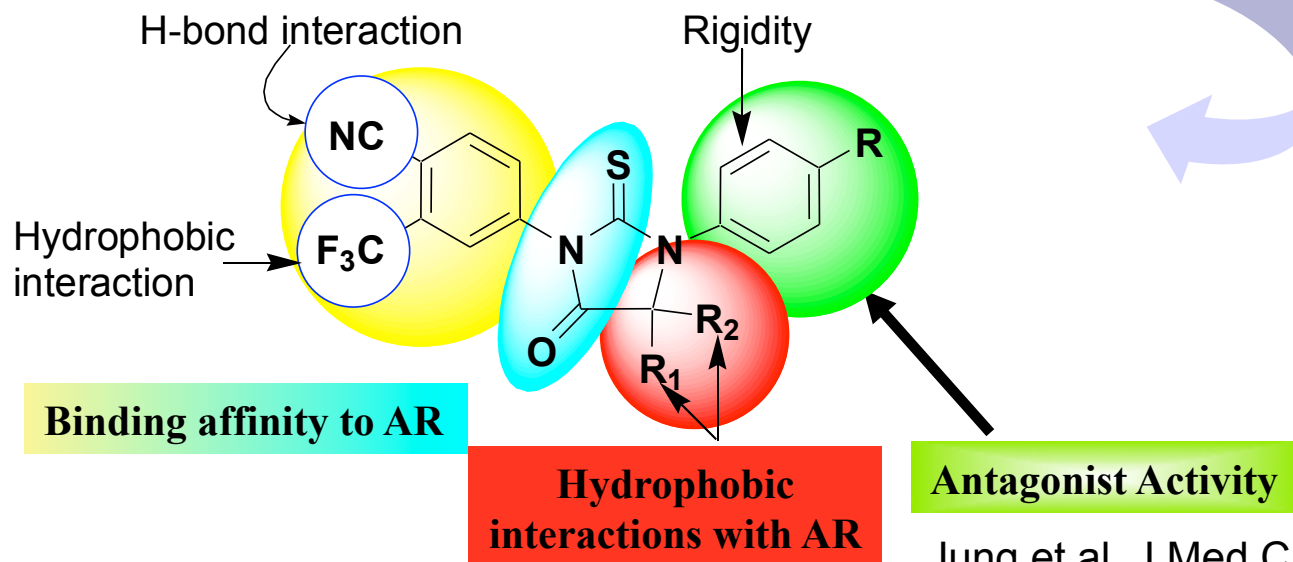
# Cell-based screen for compounds with greater antagonism and no agonism (“pure antagonists”)

## Design tools:

- Crystal structure
- Homology modeling
- Binding affinity



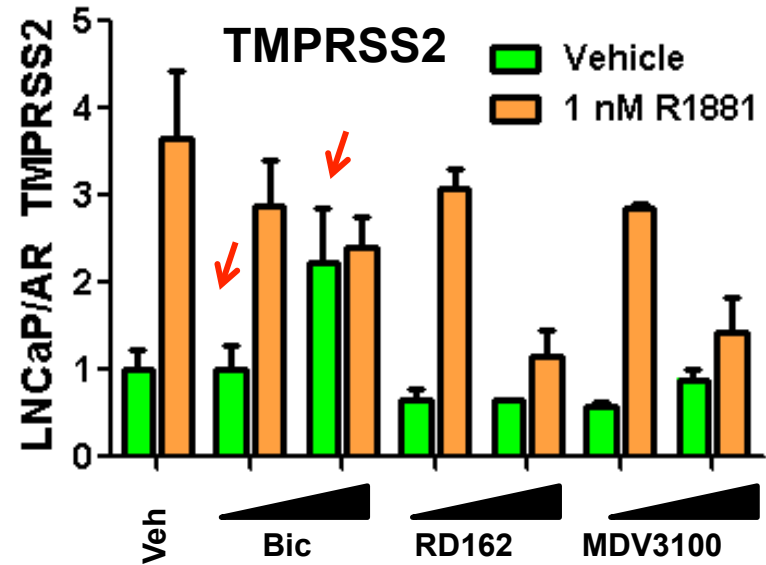
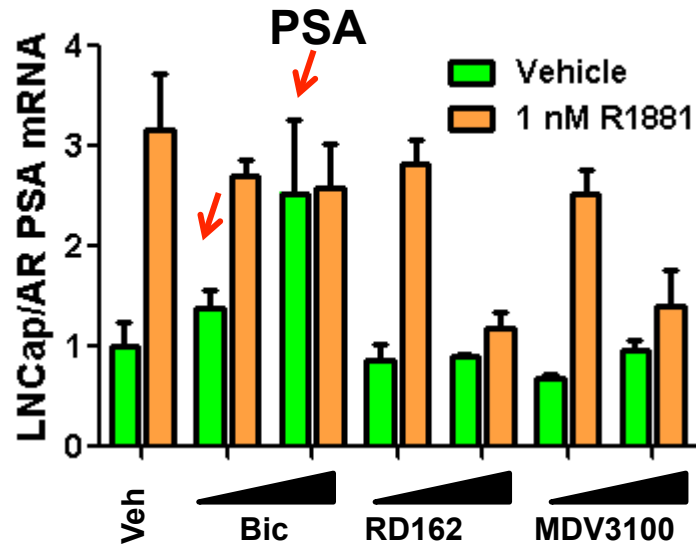
High AR binding affinity  
( $K_a = 20$  nM for human AR)  
**But with agonistic activity**



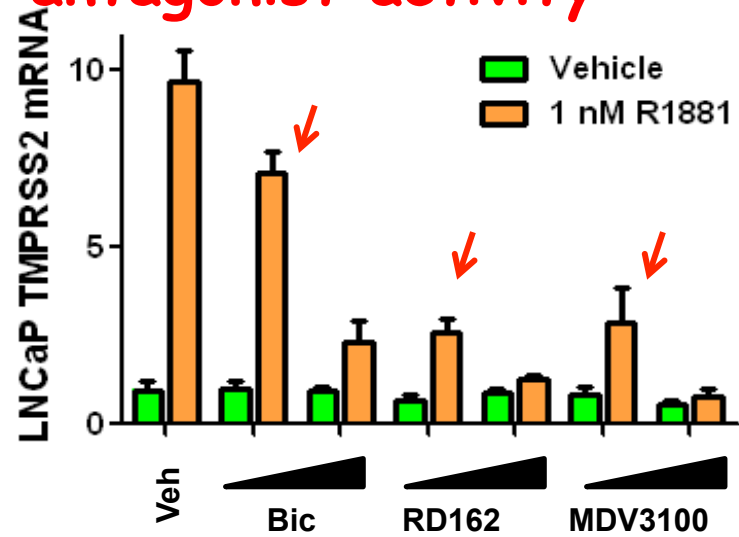
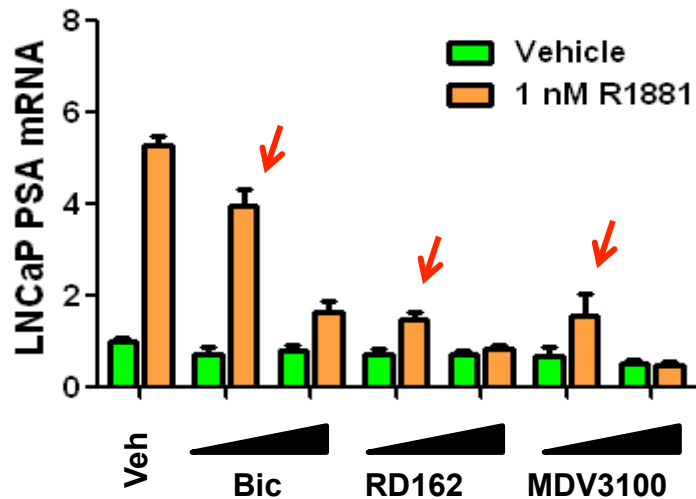
Jung et al, J Med Chem, 2010

Samedy Ouk, Michael Jung (UCLA Department of Chemistry)

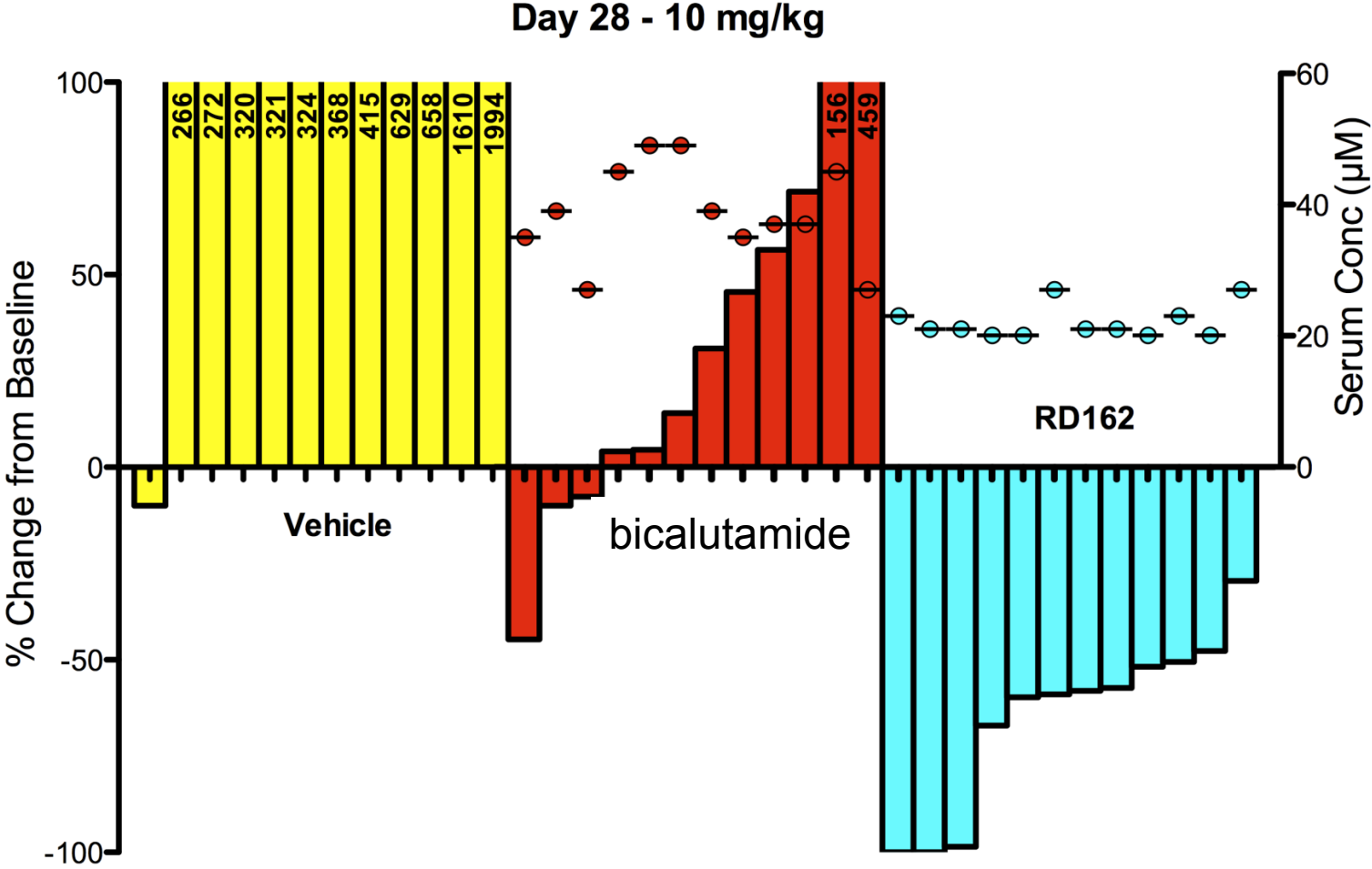
## RD162 and MDV3100 do not display agonism in AR overexpressing cells



## ...and have more potent antagonist activity

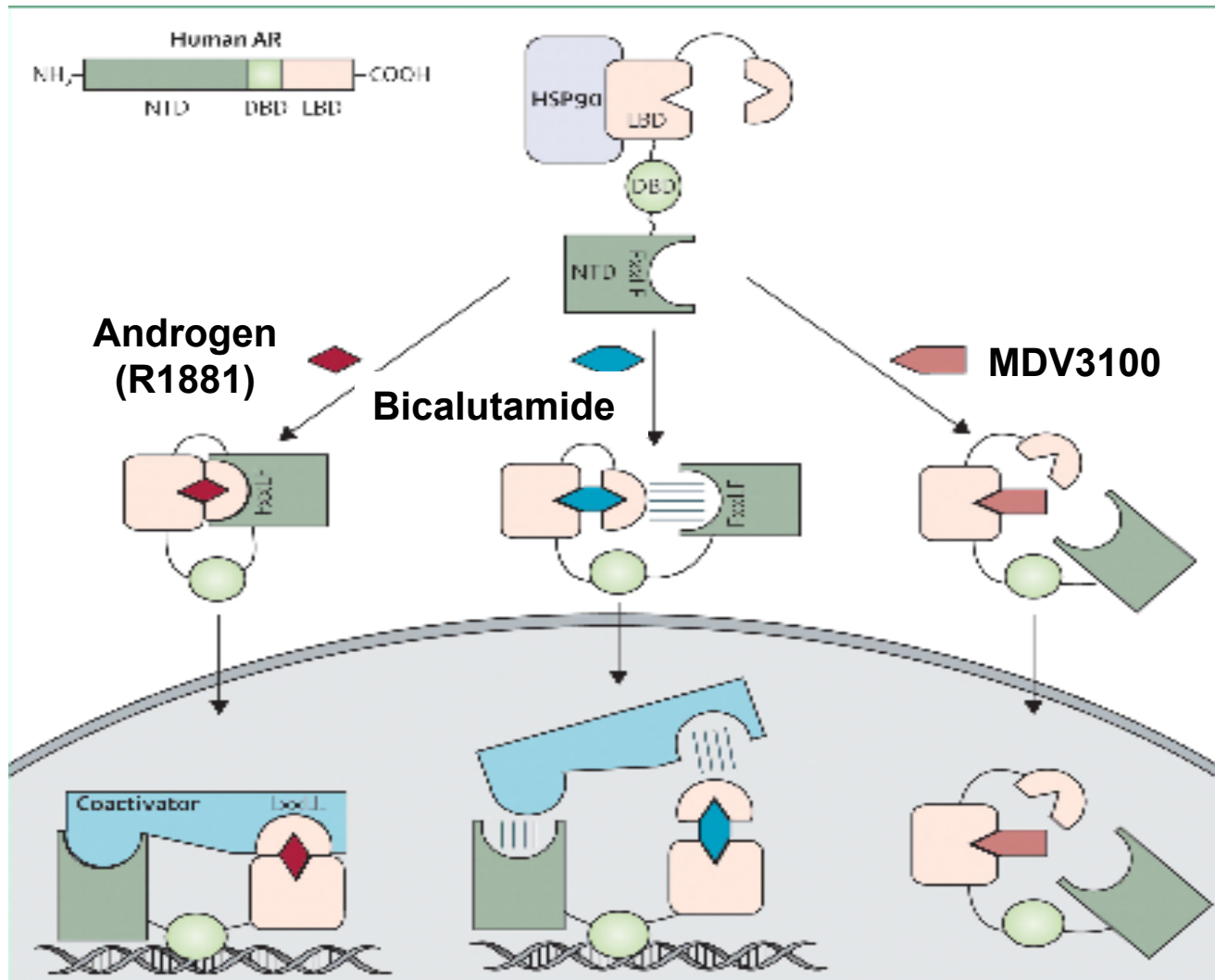


# RD162 (and MDV3100) are superior to bicalutamide in the castrate-resistant LNCaP-AR xenograft model



Immunodeficient SCID castrate male mice. Tumor volume was measured in 3 dimensions.

# Androgen receptor activation and mechanism of antiandrogen action



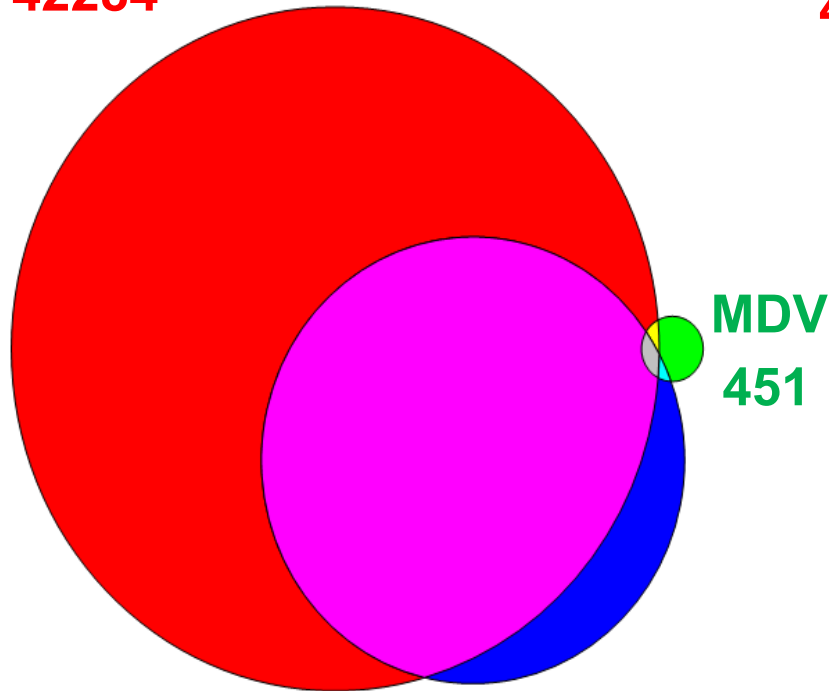
Revised from Lancet Oncol. 2009 Oct;10(10):981-91.



# Overlap among AR binding peaks in response to antagonists (determined by AR ChIP-Seq)

R1881 (androgen)

42284

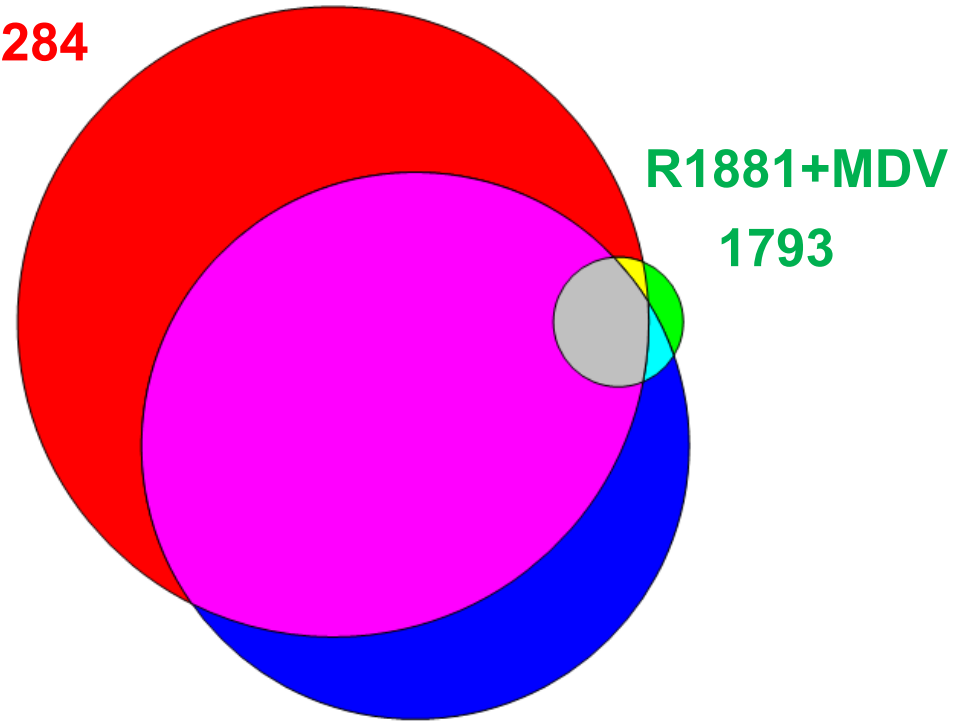


Bicalutamide

18075

R1881

42284



R1881+Bicalutamide

31832

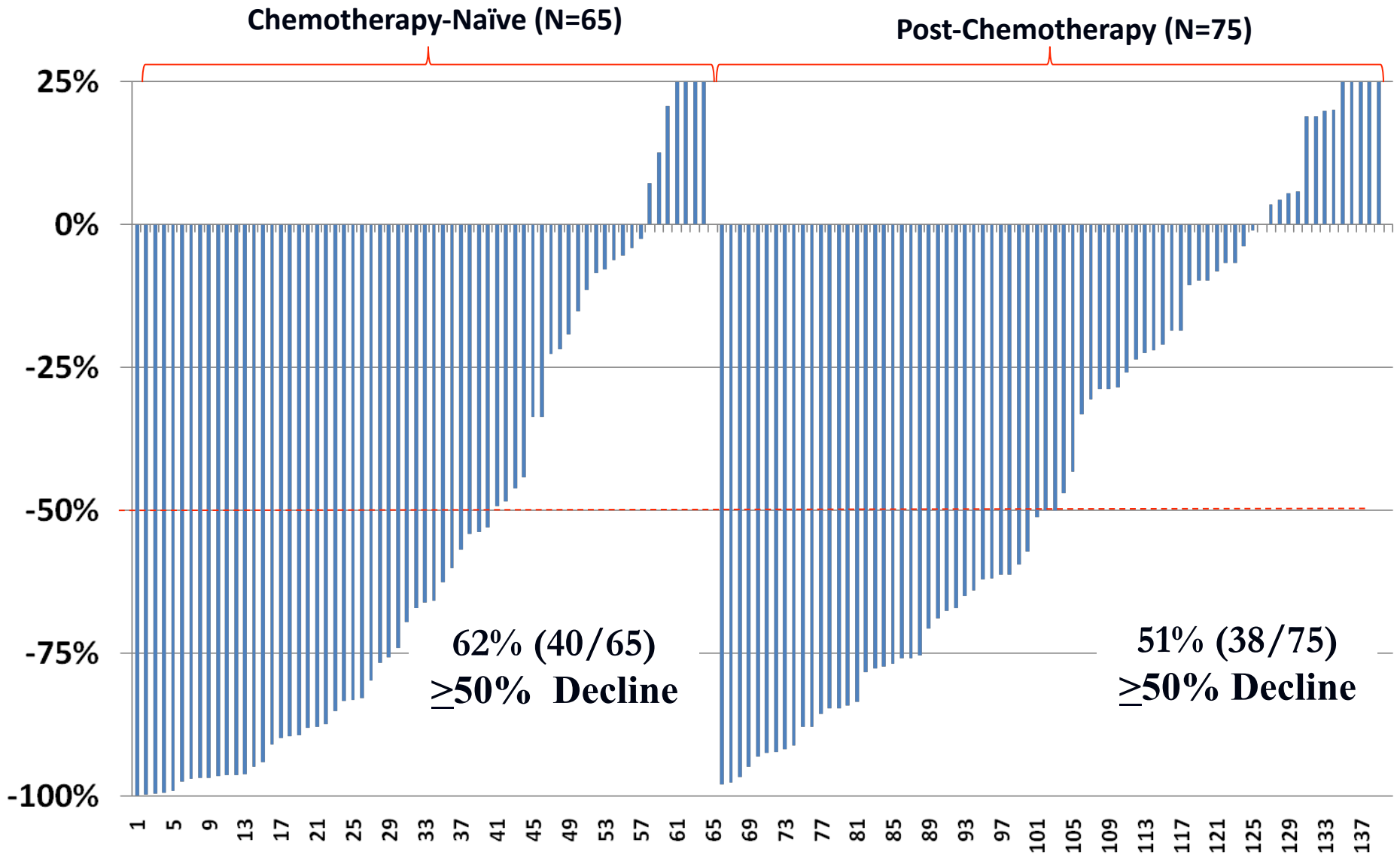
peaks found by MACS, p-value  $<10^{-5}$

Ling Cai

## A Phase 1-2 Multicenter First-in-Man Trial of MDV3100 in Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer

1. Dose escalation, 3 patients per cohort, beginning at 30 mg/d to 600 mg/d
2. After safety was established at 60 mg/d, cohorts were expanded to 24 patients (12 chemo-naïve, 12 chemo failure)
3. First patient dosed in July, 2007
4. 140 men enrolled at 5 centers  
(MSKCC, OHSU, U Wash, DFCI, MDACC)

# Waterfall Plot of Best Percent PSA Change from Baseline

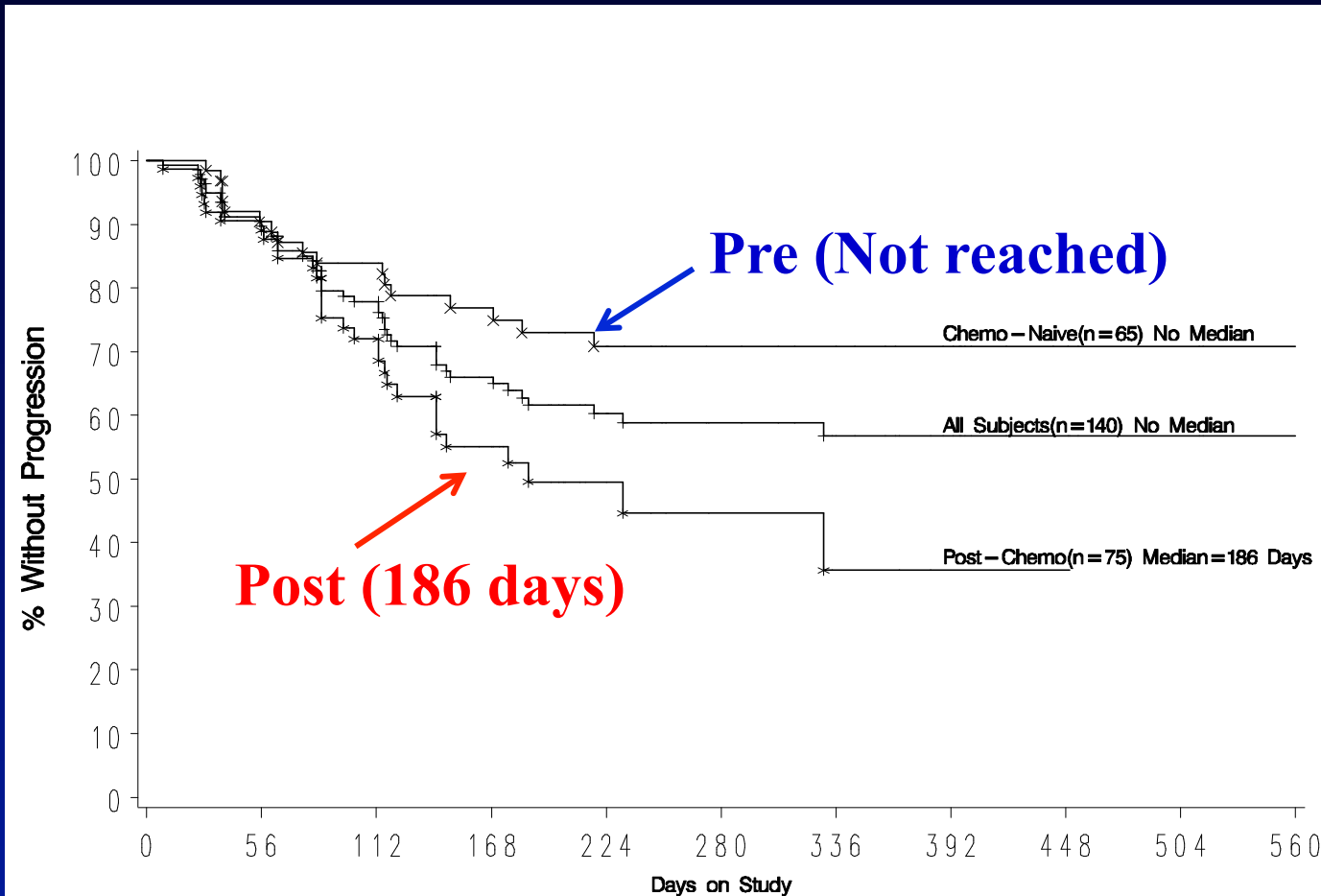


# Radiographic Changes in Soft Tissue (N=59) and in Bone (N=109)

	<b>Chemotherapy-Naïve Patients (N=65)</b>	<b>Post-Chemotherapy Patients (N=75)</b>
<u><b>Soft Tissue* (Best Response)</b></u>	<b>N=25</b>	<b>N=34</b>
<b>Partial Response</b>	<b>36% (9/25)</b>	<b>12% (4/34)</b>
<b>Stable Disease</b>	<b>44% (11/25)</b>	<b>53% (18/34)</b>
<u><b>Bone Scan (Week 12)</b></u>	<b>N=41</b>	<b>N=68</b>
<b>Stable Disease</b>	<b>63% (26/41)</b>	<b>51% (35/68)</b>

\*59 patients with evaluable soft tissue disease as defined by PCWG2 consensus  
J Clin Oncol 2008.

# Time to PSA Progression For Pre- and Post-Chemotherapy Treated Patients



## Summary

1. Castration resistant prostate cancer remains dependent on androgen receptor (AR) function.
2. Pure AR antagonists like MDV3100 can overcome clinical resistance to partial antagonists (bicalutamide).
3. MDV3100 likely induces an AR conformation that precludes DNA binding.
4. MDV3100 development has progressed to a phase III registration trial in castration resistant, chemotherapy resistant prostate cancer

# CML/Abl Inhibitor Project

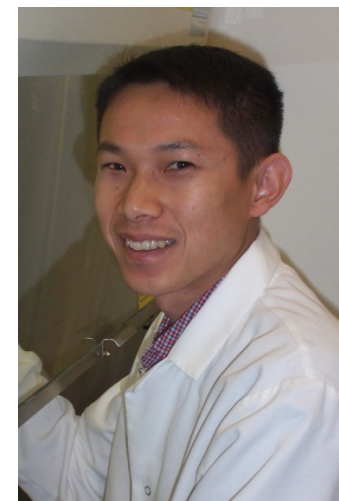
Mercedes Gorre

Neil Shah

Mike Burgess

John Nicoll

Chris Tran



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Ron Paquette

Liz Haddad



## BMS clinical trial

Moshe Talpaz

Art Decillis

Claude Nicaise

Eric Bleickardt

## Collaborators

Bhushan Nagar

John Kuriyan

(UC Berkeley)

Frank Lee (BMS)

# Prostate Cancer/Antiandrogen Project

**Charlie Chen**



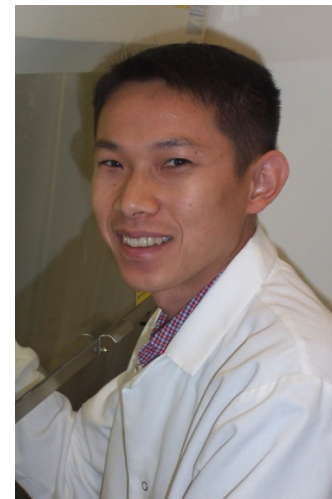
**Derek Welsbie**



**John Wongvipat**



**Chris Tran**



**Nicola  
Clegg**



**Michael Jung  
(Chemistry)**



**Samedy Ouk  
(Chemistry)**

**David Hung  
Medivation**