



**[Changing Cancer Cell
States to Change the
Future for People living
with Cancer]**

Non-confidential deck

October 2023



Auron™

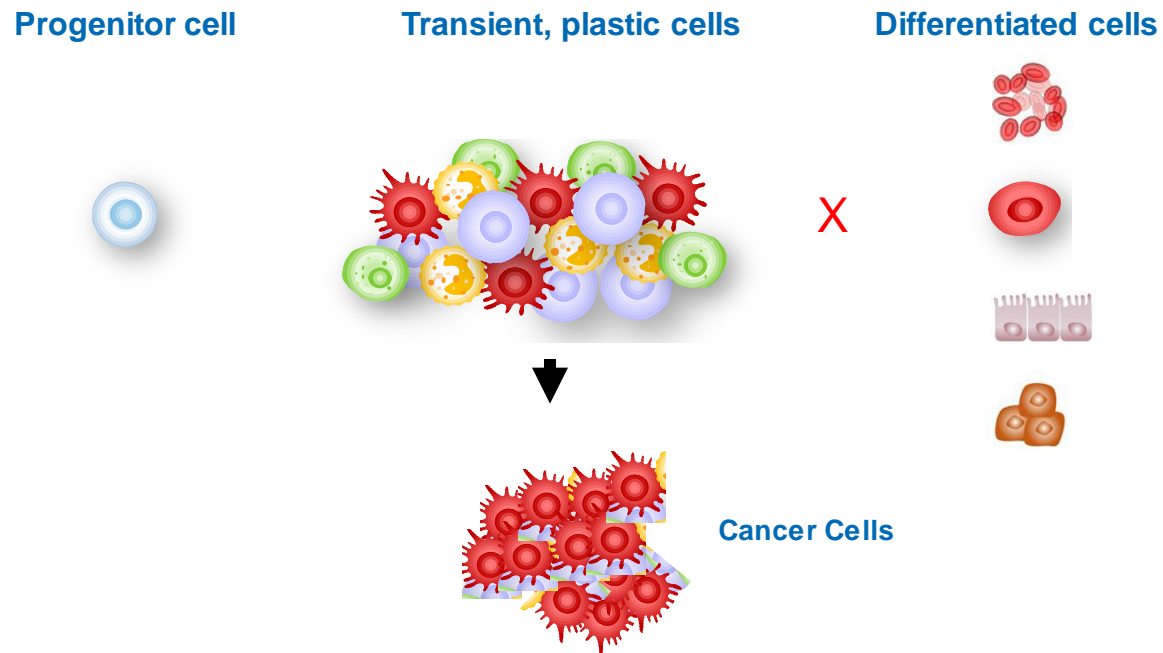
AU·RON
THERAPEUTICS

Platform-based, product-driven company that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to target the plastic cell states of cancer

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Disruption of normal cell differentiation induces cell state plasticity and proliferation of cancer cells

Drivers of cell state plasticity offer new therapeutic targets for oncology

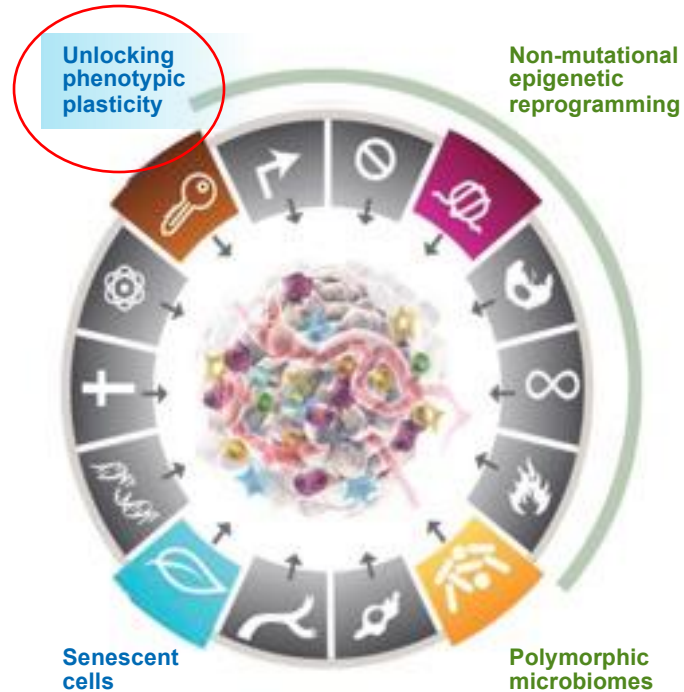


- AI algorithms identify targets with higher probability of biological validation and higher probability of success (PoS) in the clinic
- Platform already has delivered two validated programs with a third in validation

Better, faster, cheaper drug development with higher PoS

The scientific community is focused on targeting plastic cell states, which are a 'hallmark of cancer'

Hanahan, Cancer Discovery 2022; A Missing Hallmark of Cancer



Growing enthusiasm in the scientific and medical community

nature cancer

Review article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43018-023-00595-y>

Cancer cell plasticity during tumor progression, metastasis and response to therapy

Unraveling the dangerous duet between cancer cell plasticity and drug resistance

Namrata Chatterjee¹ | Bhavana Pulipaka² | Ayalur Raghu Subbalakshmi³ | Mohit Kumar Jolly³ | Radhika Nair^{4,5}

nature > signal transduction and targeted therapy > review articles > article

Review Article | [Open Access](#) | Published: 07 October 2020

Emerging role of tumor cell plasticity in modifying therapeutic response

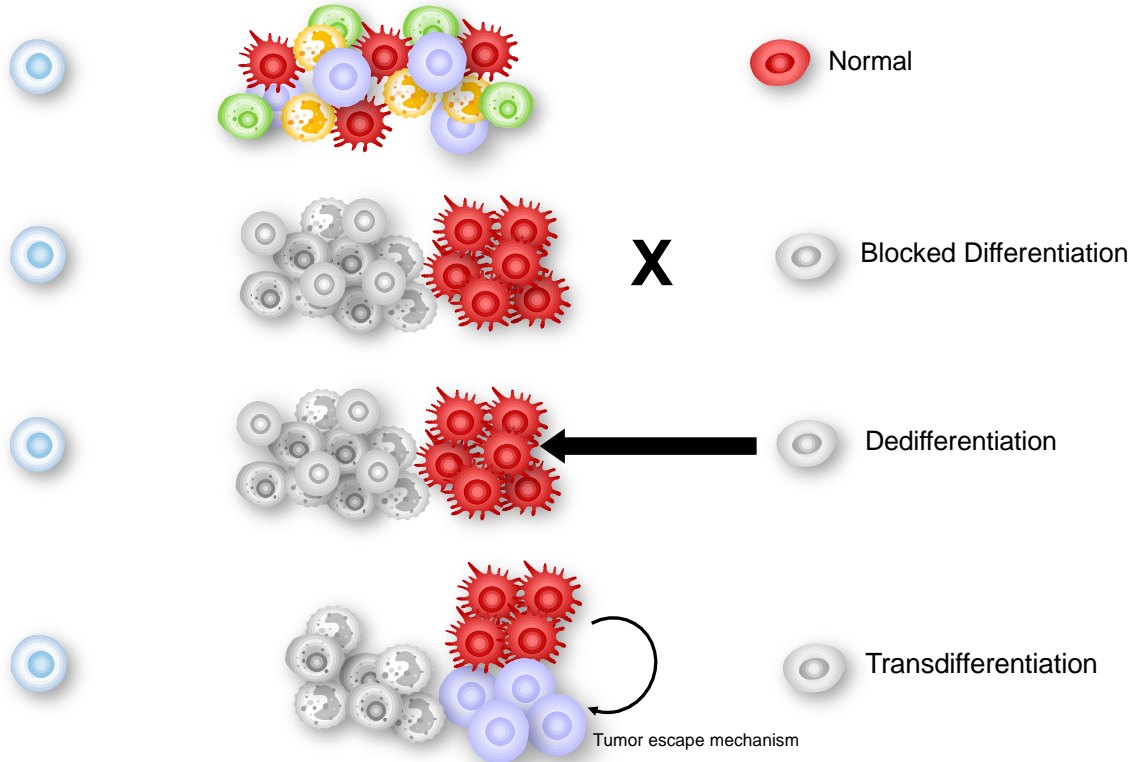
The leader in the discovery and development of therapies targeting plastic cell states of cancer

Plastic cell states arise when cancer cells disrupt normal developmental pathways

Progenitor cell

Transient, plastic cells

Differentiated cells

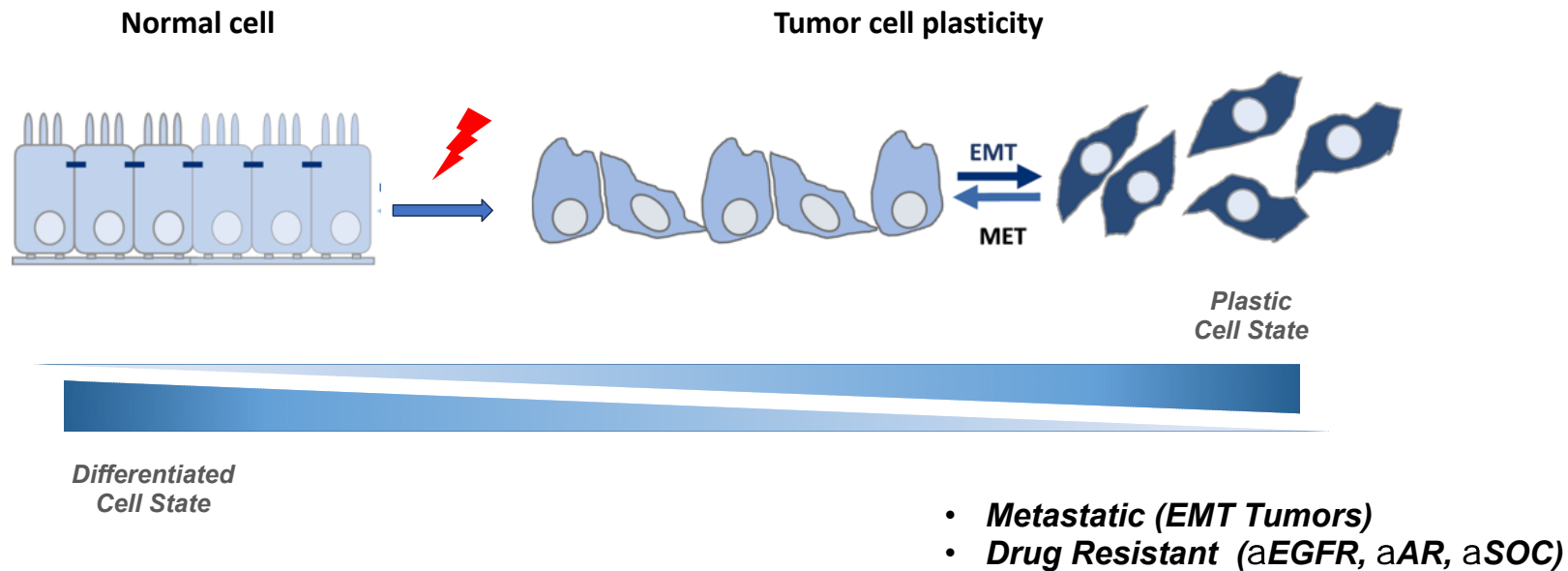


- During normal development, cells go through a plastic, proliferative state on their way to becoming mature, terminally differentiated stable cell
- Reprogramming of cancer cells prevents maturation and shifts the cells to a more plastic and proliferative cell state

Cancer cell plasticity causes significant clinical problems

Plastic cell states are a root cause of metastatic and drug-resistant tumors

Make cell figures consistent
with slides 2 and 4



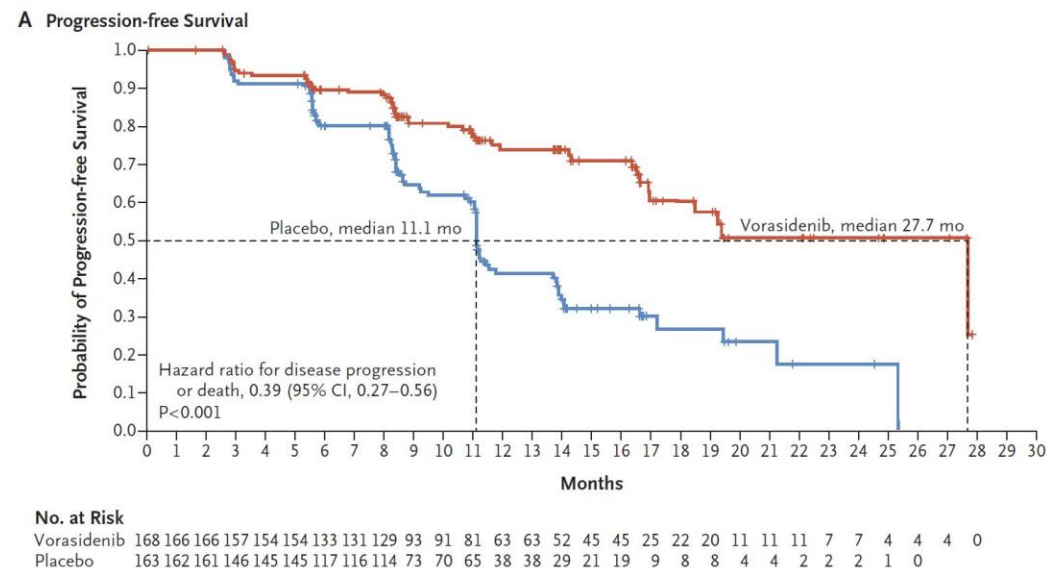
Targeting pathways that regulate plastic cell states can combat metastases and drug-resistance

Shifting cell state is clinically validated in solid and heme tumors

Clinical validation from approved products and late-stage clinical development candidates

Therapy	Solid Tumors	Hematologic Tumors	FDA
VESANOID® Atra	neuroblastoma	APL	Approved
IDHIFA® Enasidenib		AML	Approved
TIBSOVO® Ivosidenib	cholangiocarcinoma	AML	Approved
Vorasidenib	low-grade glioma		Fast Track
Revumenib		AML	Fast Track

Vorasidenib's remarkable Phase 3 data presented in plenary session at ASCO 2023



Founders led discovery and development of three IDHm inhibitors targeting disrupted cell states in solid in heme tumors

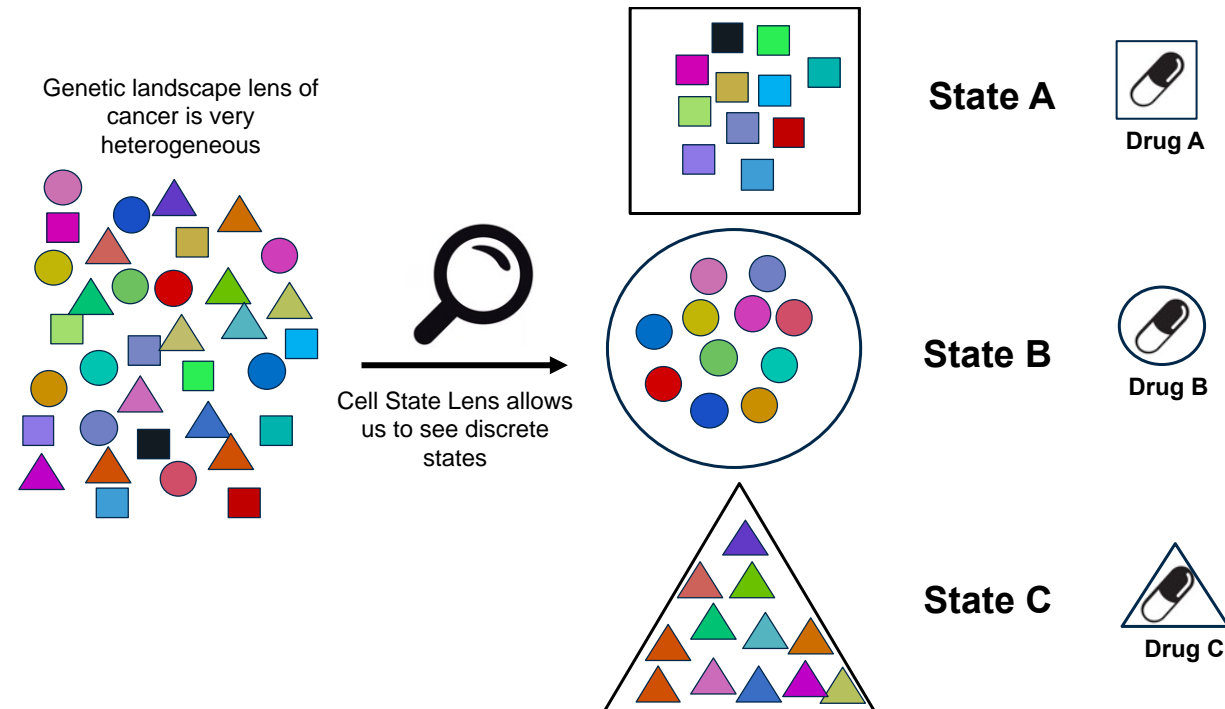
We have a *novel* approach to tackling a *known* clinical problem

We classify tumors based on developmental cell state vs. genetic mutation

The cell state lens is getting lost in this figure..

- Make simpler, less colors and shapes
- Go back to people

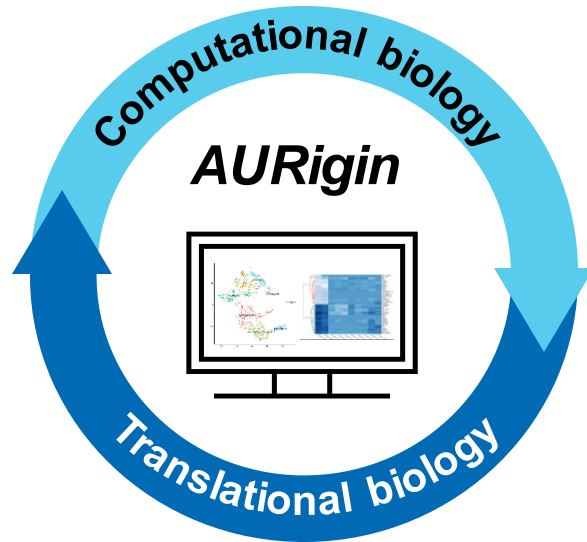
- Shapes represent gene mutations
- Colors?



Targeting cell state offers new opportunities to fight cancer heterogeneity, metastasis, and drug resistance

Our validated product engine delivers therapies that target plastic cell state

Our AI Platform, AURigin™, provides...



...efficient drug discovery and development

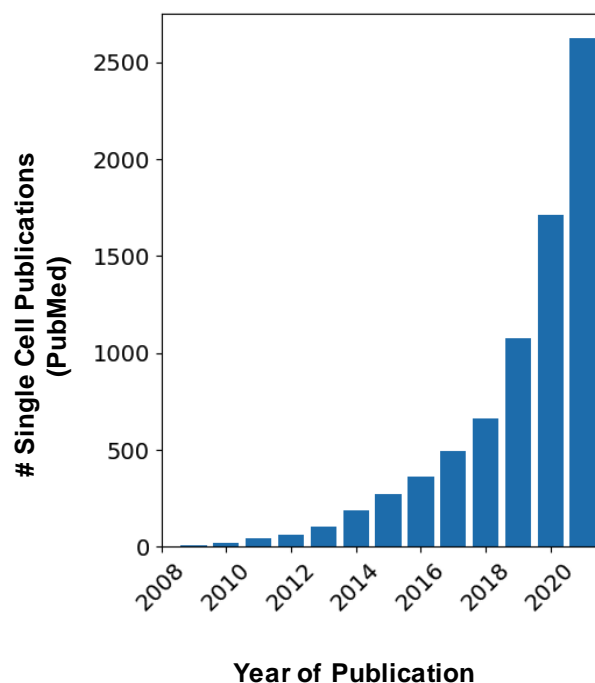
- Rapid identification of targets that drive cell state
- High success rate of target validation in relevant cell state cancer models
- Cell state biomarkers for patient selection
- Efficacy biomarkers

Higher PoS in discovery and higher PoS in clinical development

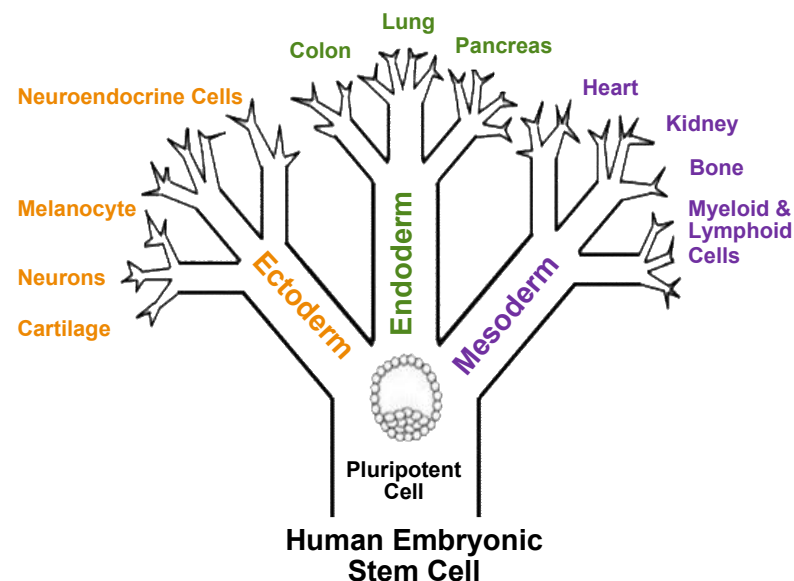
AURigin

We use AURigin to identify the drivers of plastic cell states in tumors

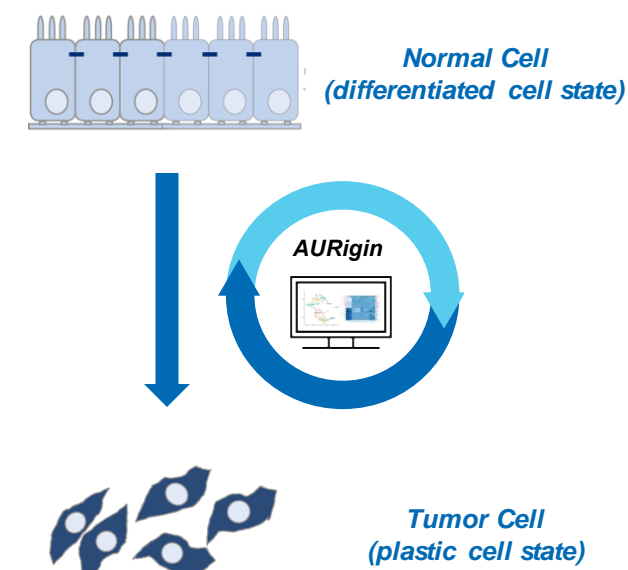
Explosion of single cell-omics datasets...



...allows us to build a high resolution map of normal human development...



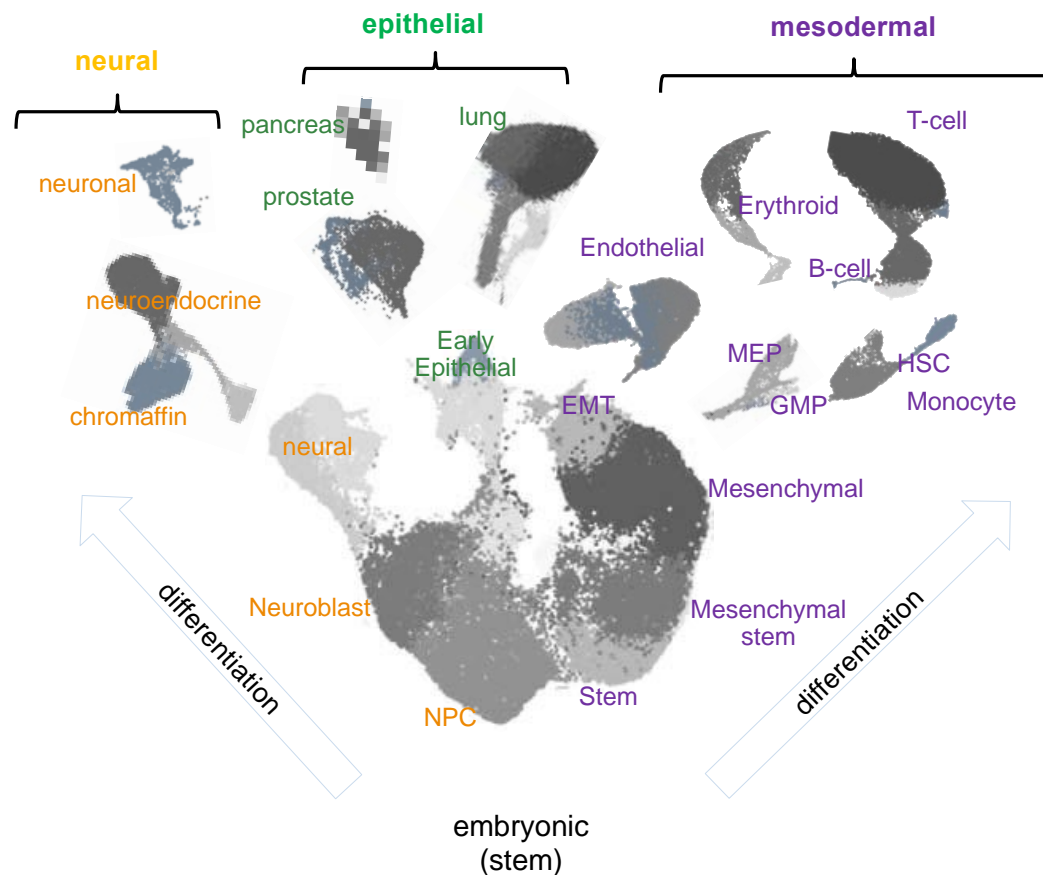
...and define an AI/ML paradigm to identify drivers of plastic cell state in tumors



Significant first mover advantage in newest frontier for oncology drug development

First, we build an atlas of human cell development to define normal cell states

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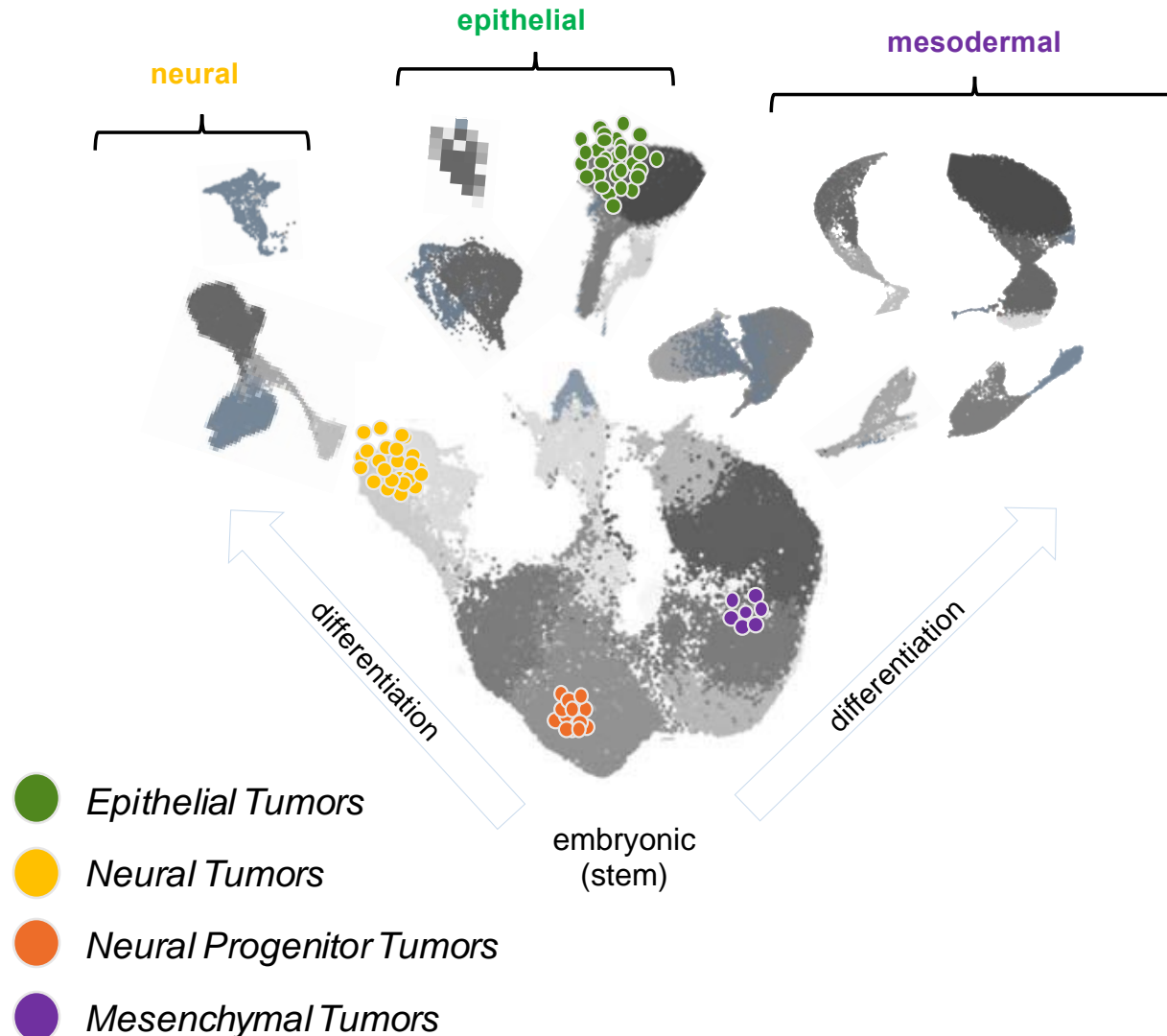
Proprietary AI algorithms used to create a map of normal cell states

- Define the normal states of human development using single cell -omics data
- Train ML classifiers to define developmental cell states of a tumor sample

- Proprietary **Normal Cell State Classifiers**
- Currently >200 normal states mapped
- Comprising > 1000 donors

The most comprehensive proprietary atlas of normal human development

Second, we map tumors to our atlas to define their disrupted cell state

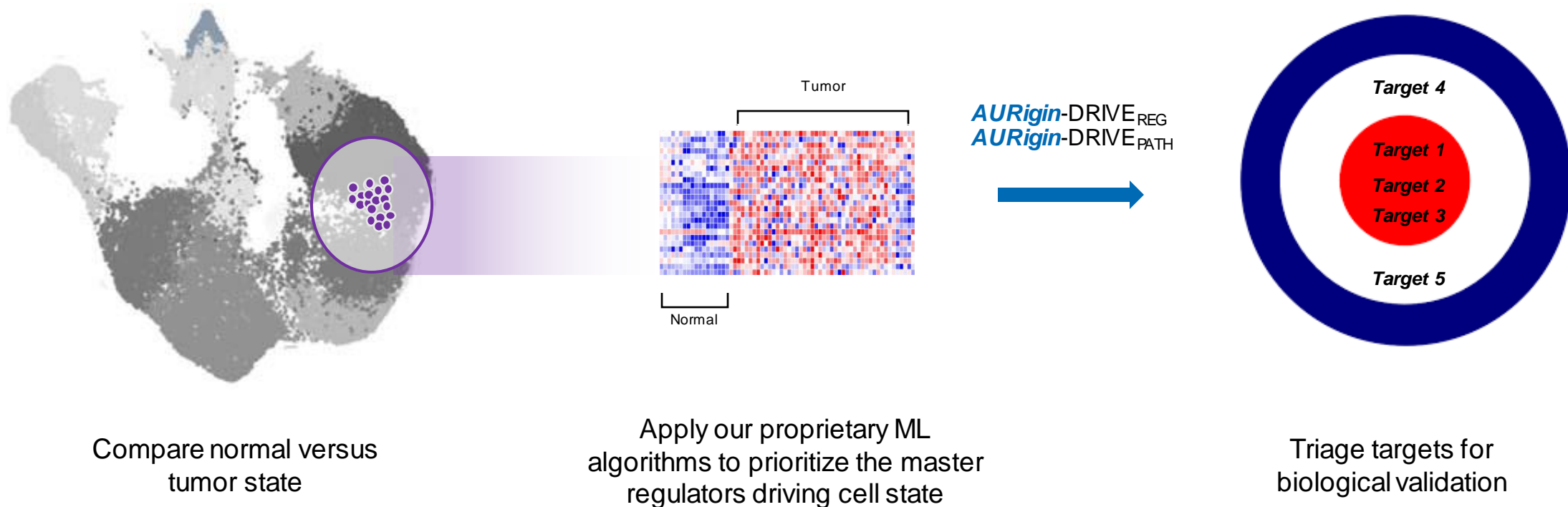


- Use proprietary cell state classifiers to define the cell state of primary patient tumors
- AURigin enables an understanding of inter- and intra-tumor heterogeneity of patient samples
- We have integrated data from thousands of public and private primary patient tumor samples

Third, we computationally compare normal and tumor cells to identify master regulators driving plastic cell state

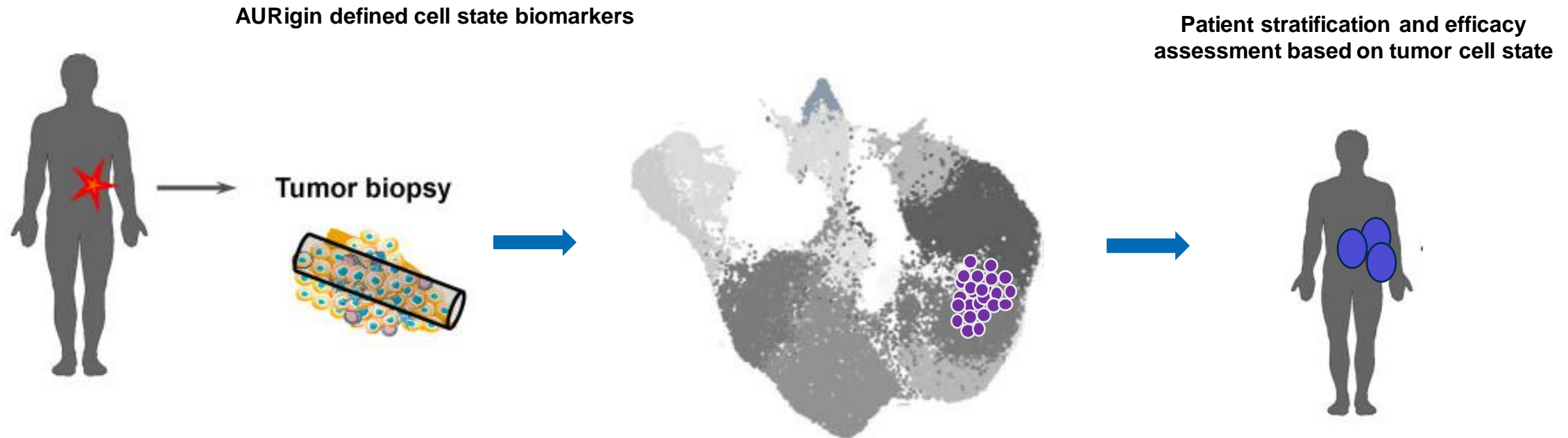
Differential expression between tumor and normal reference cell state

Target ID: Drivers of plasticity and differentiation



Finally, we pair drug targets with cell state response and efficacy biomarkers

AURigin identifies unique cell state biomarkers that are used to select patients and assess efficacy



We know which patients we want to treat based on cell state

Finally, we pair drug targets with cell state response and efficacy biomarkers

AURigin defined cell state biomarkers

Patient stratification and efficacy assessment based on tumor cell state



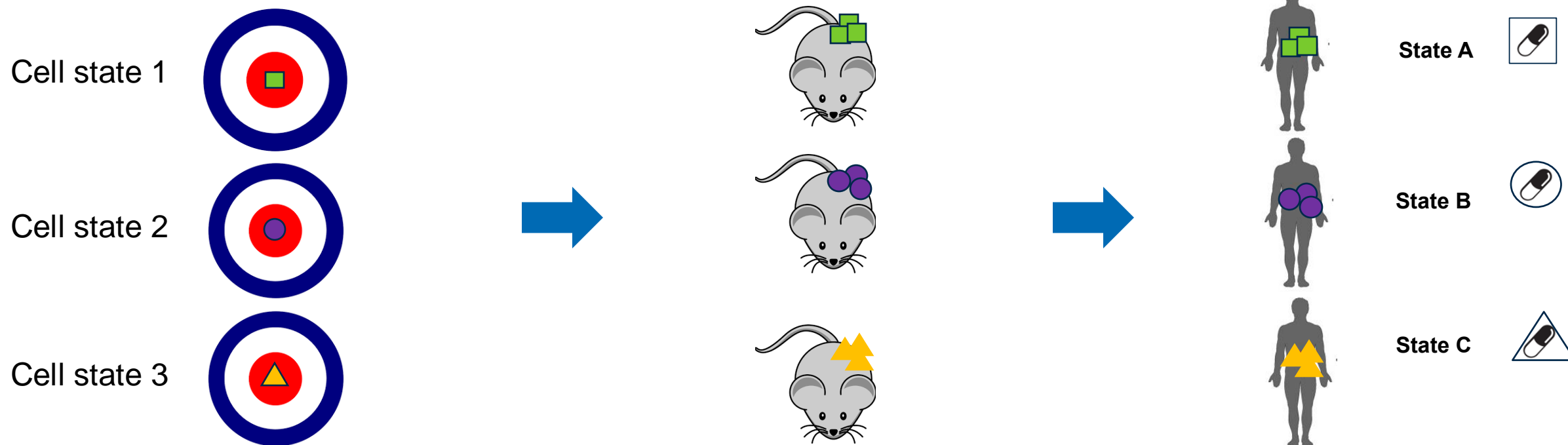
We know which patients we want to treat based on cell state

AURigin accelerates drug discovery and increases PoS in the clinic

Cell state specific ML derived
high-quality targets

Cell state specific models for
target validation

Cell state specific biomarkers for
patient selection and efficacy
assessment



Focus on cell state to identify the right targets, the right models, and the right patients

Therapies targeting cell state are well suited for single agent activity and for use in combination

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- Therapies targeting cell state have been shown to work as monotherapy in relapsed/refractory patient populations
- Targeting the cell state can be combined with other therapeutic mechanisms in the frontline:
 - additive/synergistic to standard of care therapies
 - sensitization/resensitization to standard of care therapies



Fast approval as monotherapy in late line and expand rapidly with combination in frontline

Platform-Generated Pipeline

Platform-generated portfolio addresses large market opportunities to treat both solid tumors and hematological malignancies

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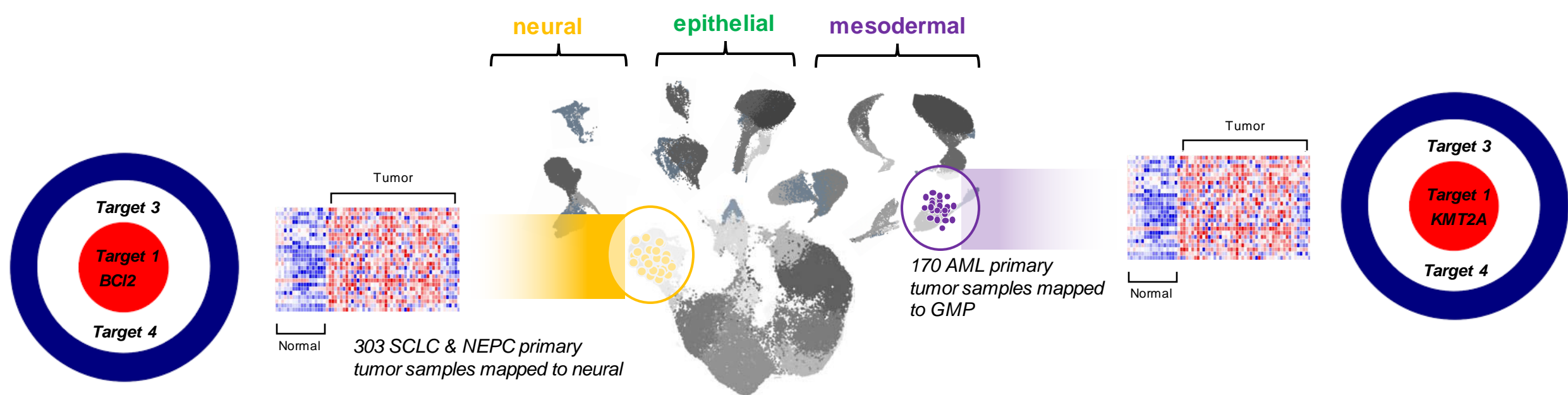
Program	U.S. Patient Population	Targeted Subset	Target ID	Target Validation	Lead Discovery	Lead Optimization	Development Candidate	IND	FPI	Clinical PoC
Lead							Q1 '24	Q4 '24	Q1 '25	[2026]
• SCLC	30K/yr	70%								
• NEPC	50K/yr	[]								
• AML	20K/yr	25%								
2 nd						2024	2025	TBD	TBD	TBD
• SCLC	30K/yr	[]								
• Colorectal	[]	[]								
3 rd				2024	2024	2025	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
• EMT tumors	[]	TBD								

Clinical PoC in solid tumors and hematological malignancies in [2026]

Our lead program was derived from our platform and is validated in 3 indications

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Target 1 was identified in two cell states alongside other known, clinical targets, validating the platform



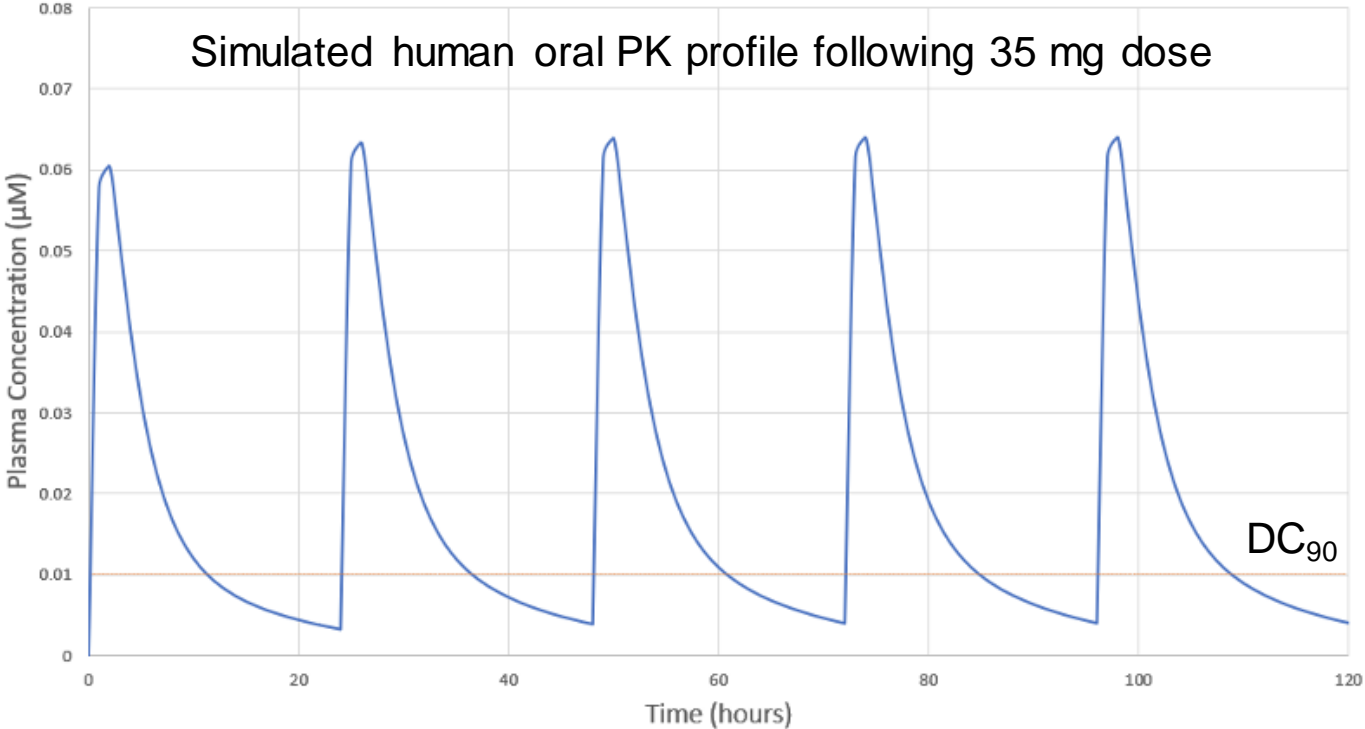
Validated in SCLC, NEPC, and AML with additional opportunities in tumors with neural and mesenchymal cell states

We have developed a novel orally bioavailable degrader to Target 1 that is entering non-GLP Tox: AUR1959

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DC Criteria	AUR1959
Highly Potent & Selective	✓
Solubility & drug-like properties	✓
Oral bioavailability	✓
Low drug-drug interaction potential	✓
TI ≥ 1 (preclinical models)	✓
Low developability risk (DCS)	✓
Non-GLP Tox	Pending

AUR1959 is a potent and orally bioavailable degrader with a low predicted human dose

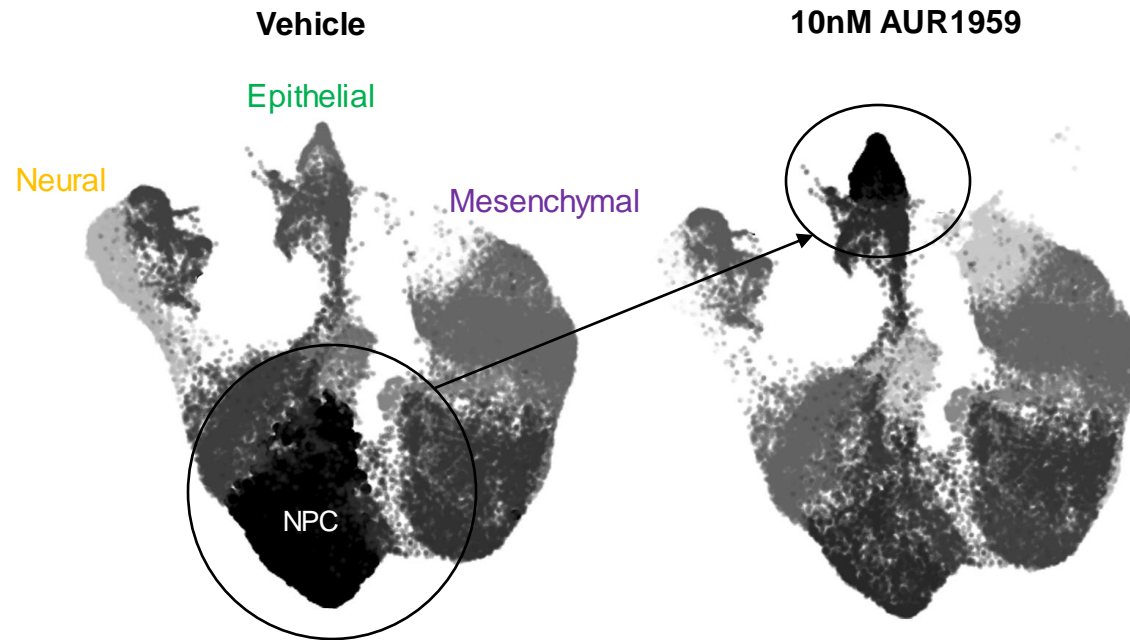


Development candidate nomination in Q1 2024

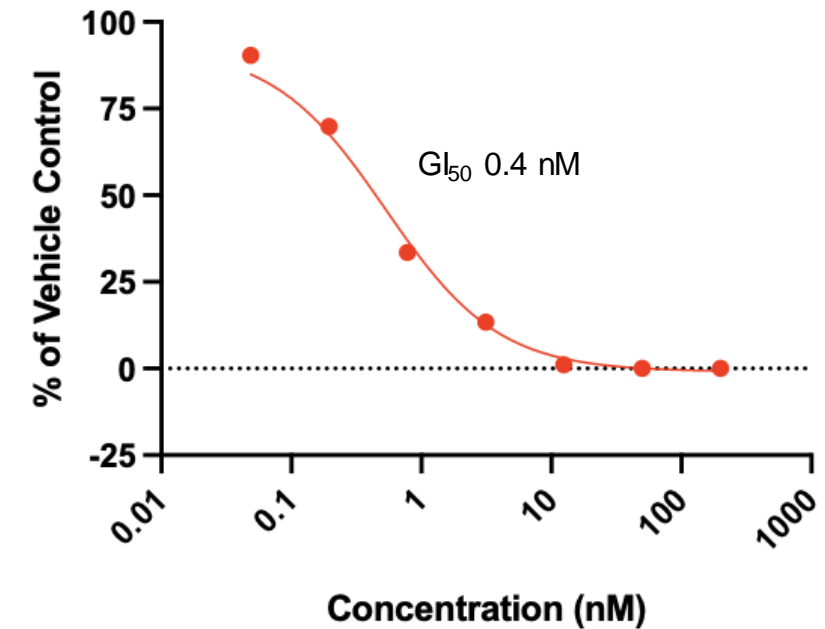
*Additional data available

In SCLC, degrading Target 1 shifts cell state, leading to growth arrest

AUR159 induces cell state switch from neural progenitor (NPC) to adult epithelial*



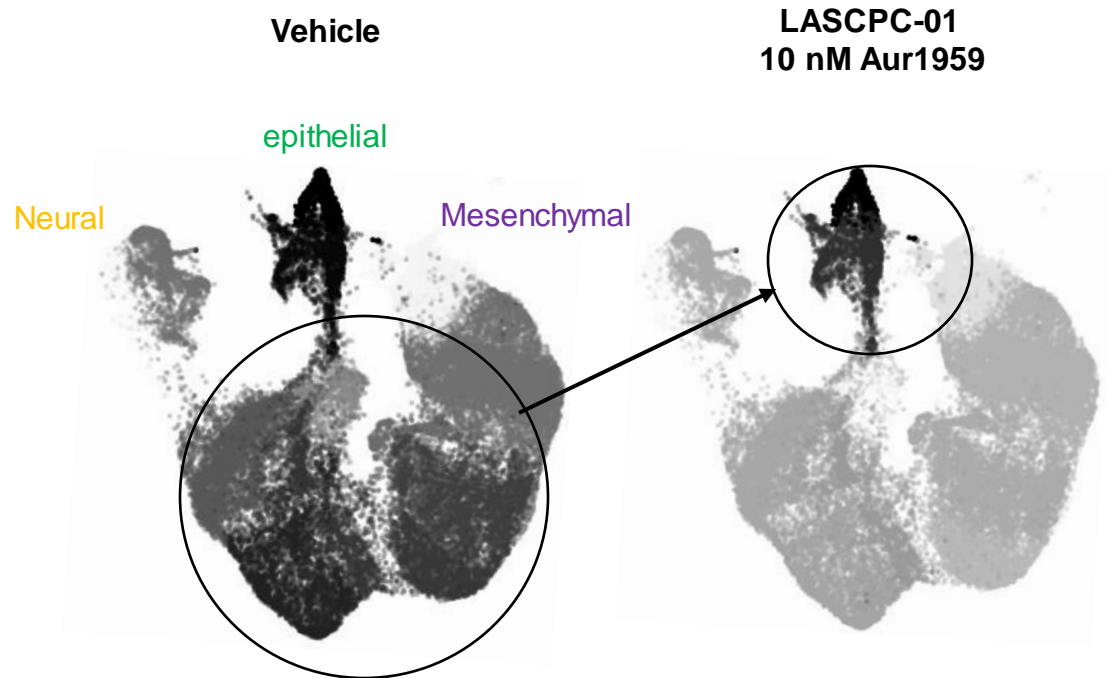
AUR159 induces potent growth effects in patient derived organoid models of SCLC



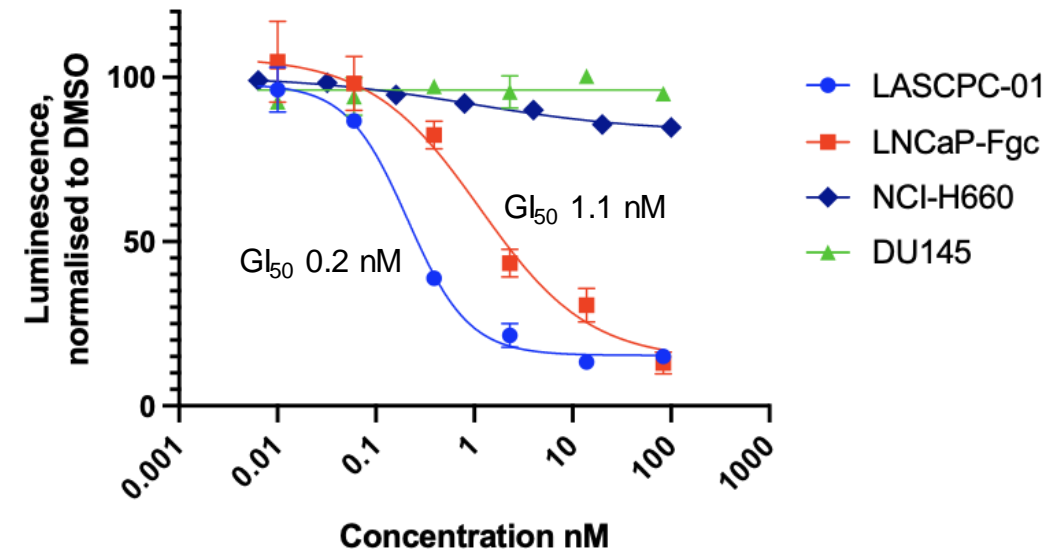
Validated in >70% of the SCLC patient population (>20,000 patients per year)

In NEPC, degrading Target 1 shifts cell state, leading to growth arrest

AUR1959 induces cell state switch from neural progenitor (NPC) to adult epithelial*



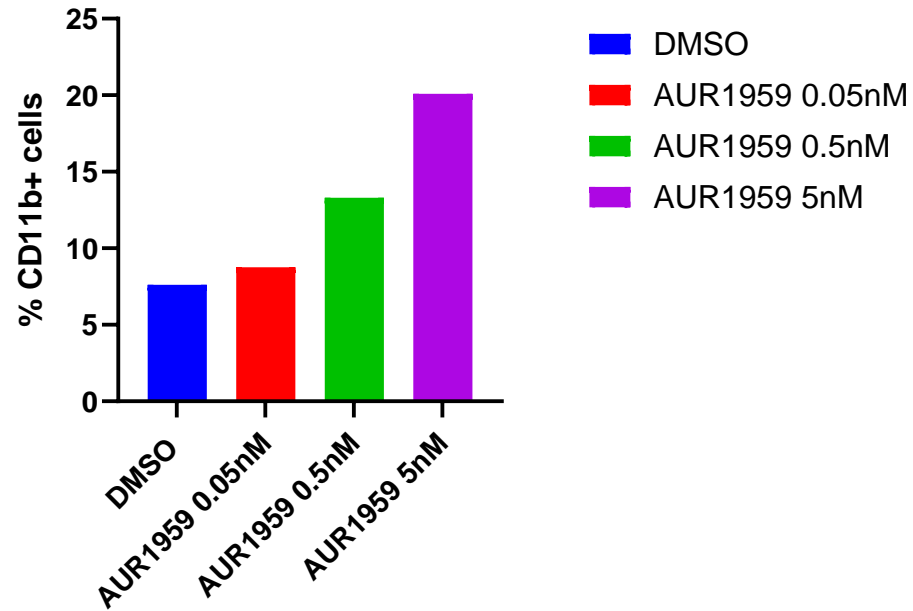
AUR1959 induces potent growth inhibition in multiple NEPC cell lines



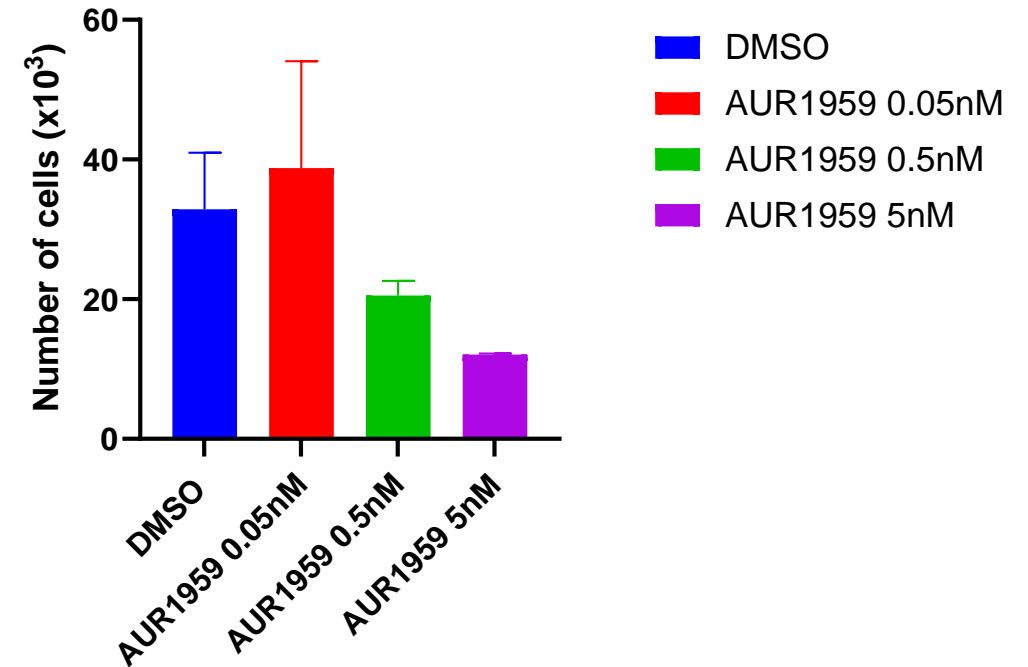
Initial validation in NEPC (large proportion of >50,000 patients per year expected to respond based on cell state)

In AML, degrading Target 1 shifts cell state, leading to growth arrest

AUR1959 induces differentiation
in AML primary patient sample



AUR1959 induces potent growth inhibition
in AML primary patient sample



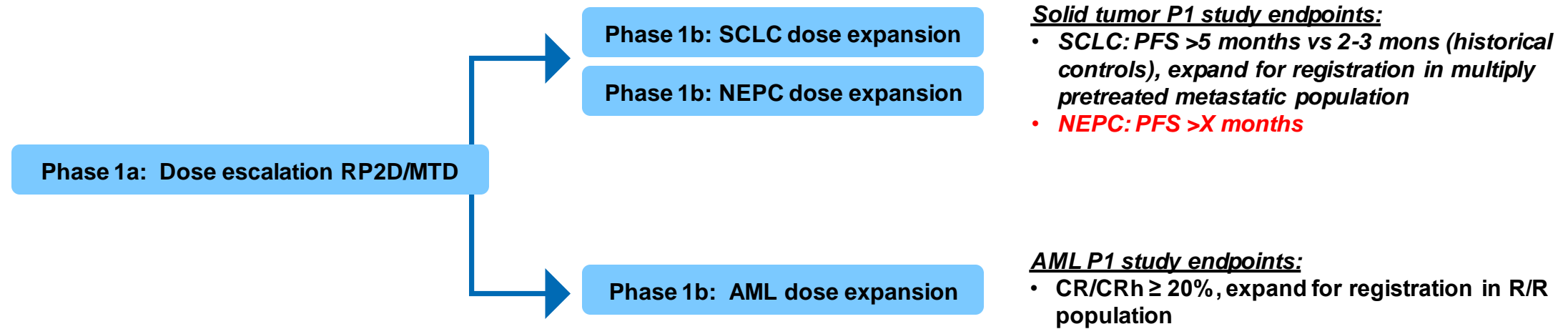
Validated in >25% of AML patient population (>5,000 patients per year)

We will develop AUR1959 in solid tumors and heme malignancies with high unmet medical need

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Phase 1a/b in relapsed/refractory patient population

Early registration opportunities

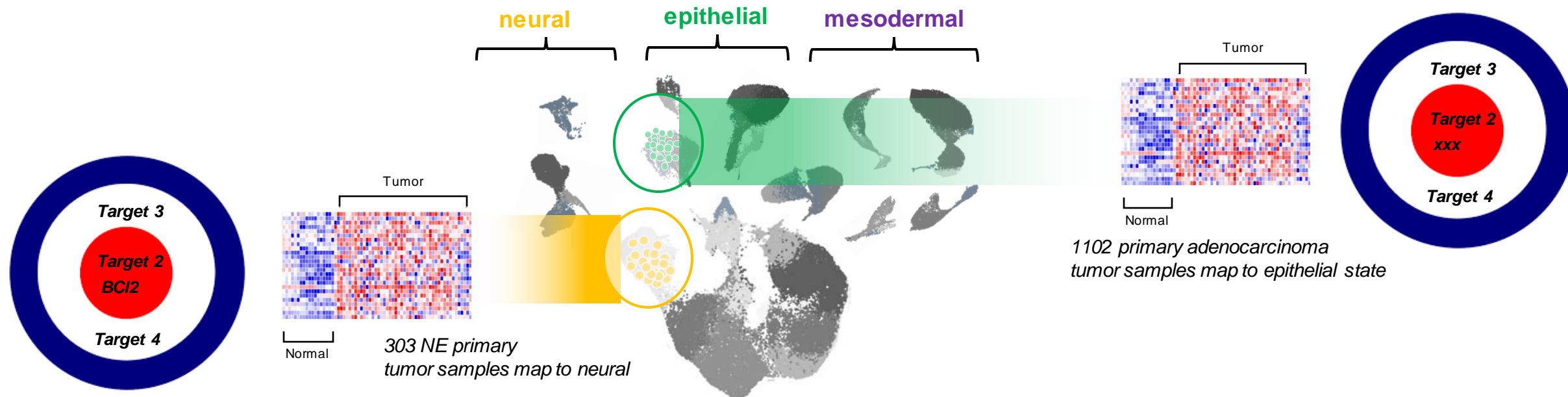


Capital efficient opportunity for early registration in late line indications with clear path to frontline combinations

Our 2nd program was derived from our platform and is validated in 2 indications

27

Target 2 is non-overlapping with Target 1 in SCLC and was identified alongside other known clinical targets, validating platform



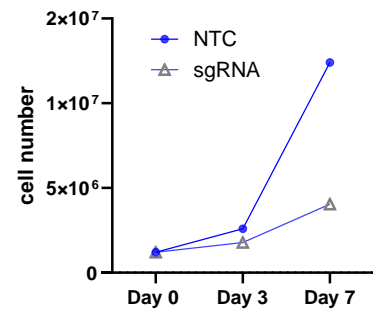
Validated in SCLC, initial validation in colorectal with additional opportunities in tumors with neural and epithelial cell states

In SCLC, knock down of Target 2 leads to growth arrest and multi-nucleation

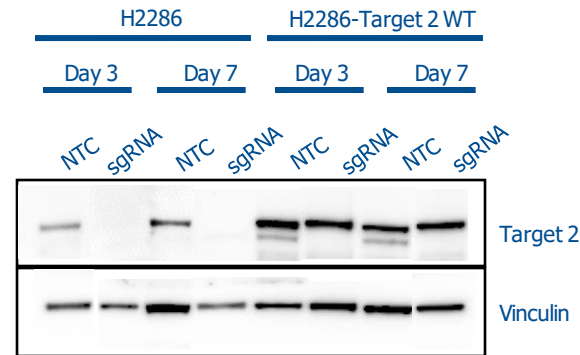
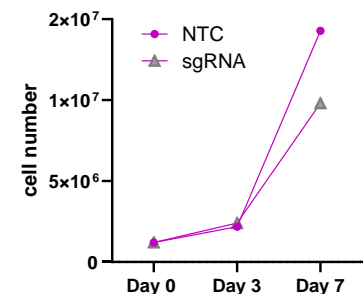
28

CRISPR knock down of Target 2 induces growth arrest which is rescued by WT add back

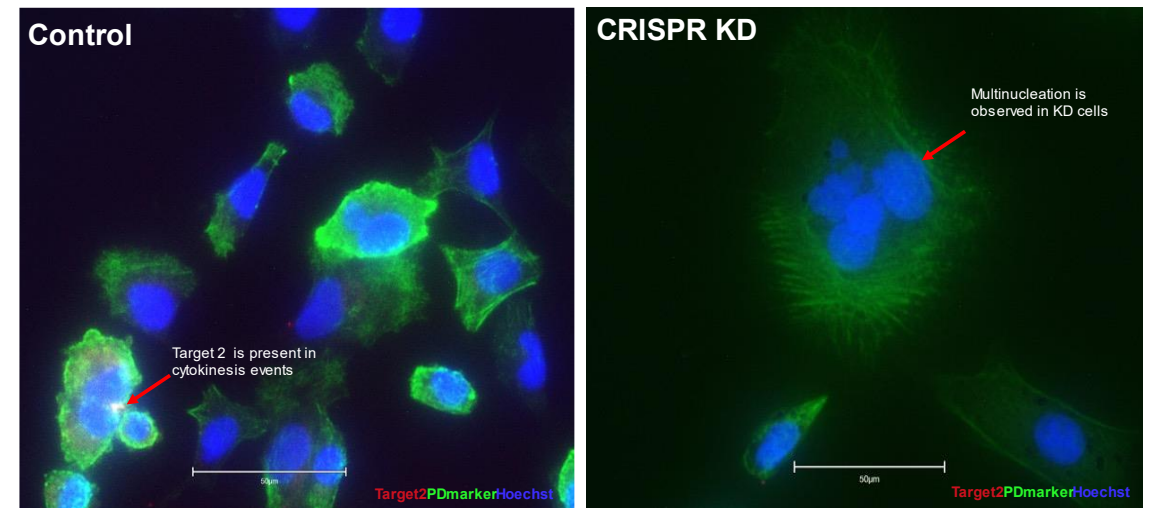
Cell count of H2286



Cell count of H2286-Target 2 WT



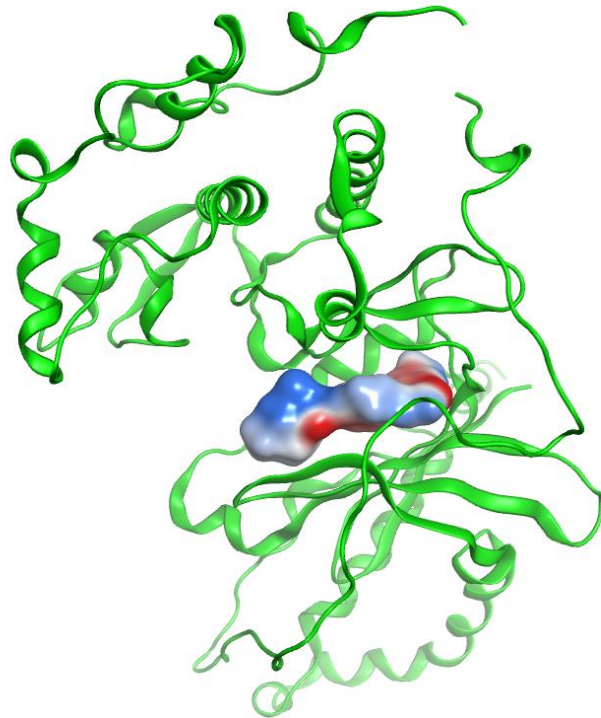
CRISPR knock down induces multi-nucleation phenotype which is indicative of on target mechanism



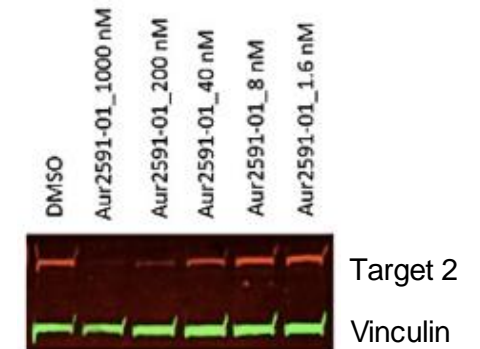
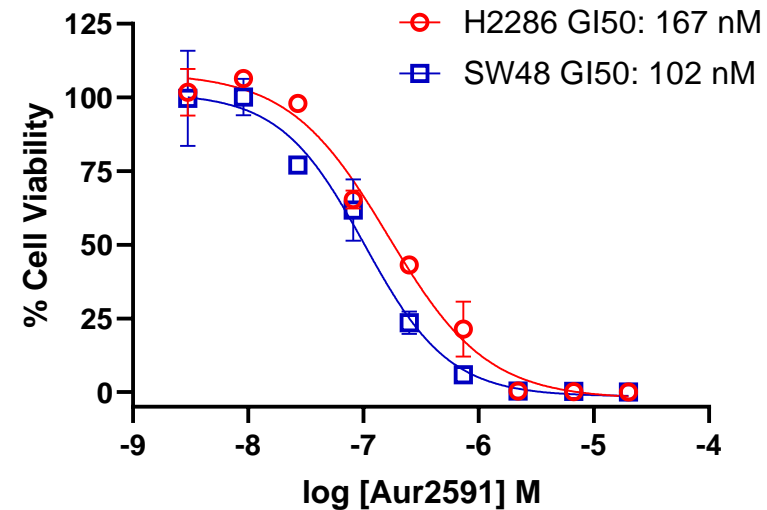
Strong genetic validation in SCLC

We designed potent inhibitors and degraders of Target 2

Structural modeling guiding design of potent inhibitors and degraders of Target 2



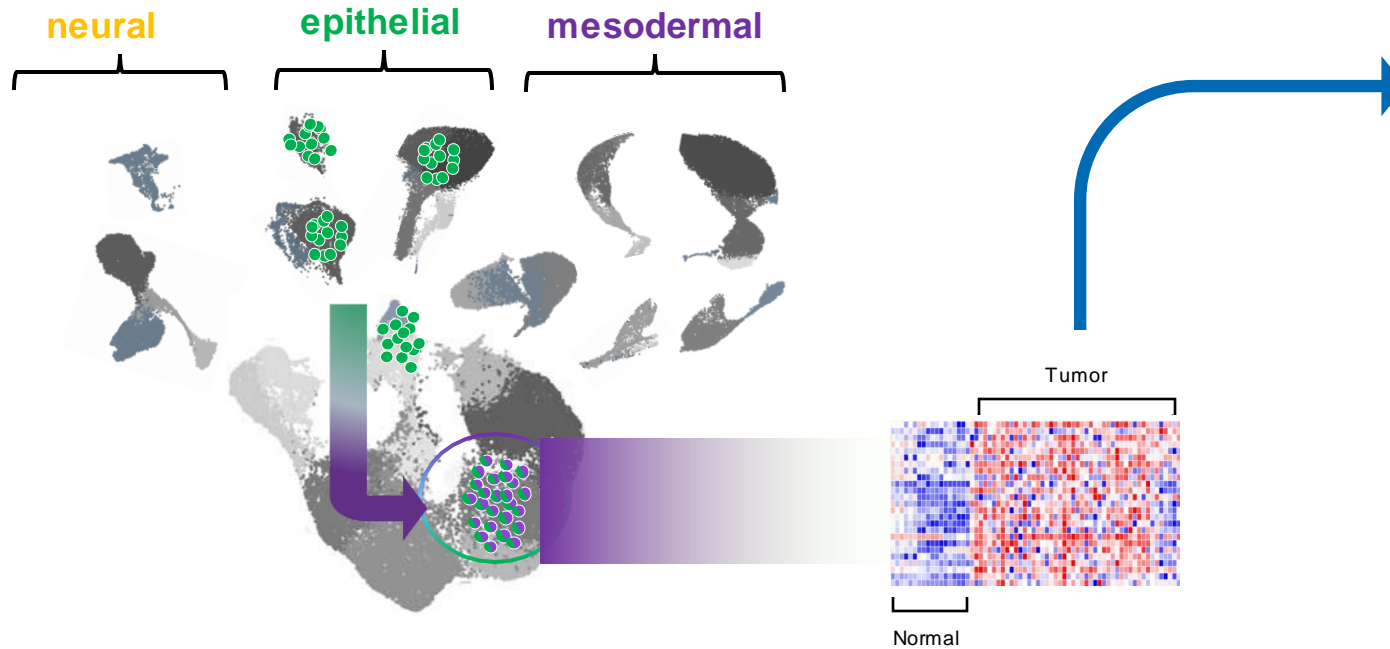
Potent degrader of Target 2 induces growth inhibition in SCLC and colon cell lines



Opportunity to accelerate lead optimization

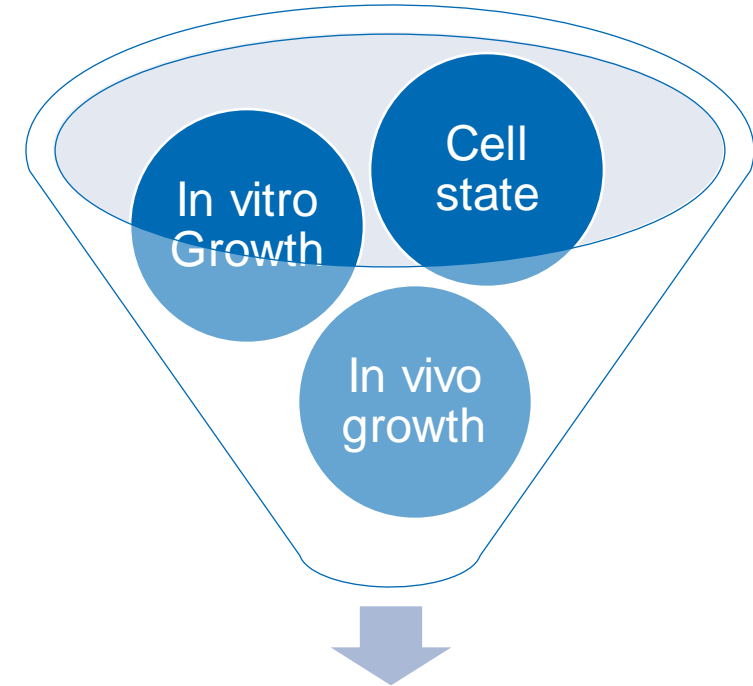
Our 3rd program has identified targets for highly aggressive, drug-resistant epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) Tumors

30



2,991 primary adenocarcinoma tumor samples mapped across epithelial to mesenchymal cell states

High through-put Perturb-seq screen on 500+ targets



- **Rapid validation of multiple targets**
- **Optimization of AURigin ML**
- **In-licensing opportunities**

Targeting cell state is a well suited to address EMT tumors

Team

Auron is led and financed by an experienced, successful and diverse team

Leadership Team

- **Kate Yen, PhD**
 - Chief Executive Officer
- **Dave Millan, PhD**
 - Chief Scientific Officer
- **Andrea Armstrong**
 - Chief People Officer
- **Laura Antipov, PhD**
 - VP, Portfolio
- **Chris Guiffre, JD, MBA**
 - President & COO
- **Tom Graeber, PhD**
 - Chief Data Officer
- **Colleen DeSimone**
 - SVP, Finance
- **Mark Bittinger, PhD**
 - VP, Biology

Board and Investors

- **Briggs Morrison, MD**
 - Independent chair
- **Alexandra Cantley, PhD**
 - Director
- **Anna French, PhD**
 - Director
- **Alon Lazarus, PhD**
 - Director
- **Vickie Richon, PhD**
 - Independent director
- **Eric Shiozaki, PhD**
 - Director
- **Kate Yen, PhD**
 - CEO & Director

polarispartners



DE | Bio



APOLLO
HEALTH VENTURES



Auron was founded by experts and is advised by thought leaders

Our founders are experts in the plastic cell states of cancer

- **Kate Yen, PhD**
 - Auron
- **Matt Vander Heiden, MD, PhD**
 - MIT
- **Ross Levine, MD**
 - Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- **Eytan Stein, MD**
 - Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Our scientific advisory board members are thought leaders in multi-omic platforms, translational biology, drug discovery and clinical development

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephane de Botton, MD, PhD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGR • Richard Chesworth, PhD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former CSO, Kymera • Ross Levine, MD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center • Misha Roshal, MD, PhD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center • Charles Rudin, MD, PhD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center • Kim Stegmaier, MD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dana Farber | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eytan Stein, MD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center • Michael Su, PhD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO, Volastra Therapeutics • George Thomas, MD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHSU • Matt Vander Heiden, MD, PhD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIT • Paresh Vyas, MD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford University |
|--|--|

Series B

Auron has a strong track record of capital-efficient progress

	Seed				Series A							
	2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Internal	KAT2A POC in primary AML samples	HAT Screen KAT2A	Degrader landscape assessed for KAT2A	AURigin fully internalized	KAT2A indication expansion Solid tumors (SCLC)	KAT2A degrader campaign kickoff	Selective degradation of KAT2A/B	KAT2A Degrader LO Kat2A in Vivo POC SCLC		Oral Kat2A Degraders	Kat2A Pre-DC Kat2A expansion to NEPC	Non-GLP Tox
			Tibsovo approved in cholangiocarcinoma		Hanahan: Disrupted differentiation & cellular plasticity key hallmarks of cancer			FDA Breakthrough Therapy granted for Revumenib in AML		Vorasidenib transformational P3 data in low grade glioma presented at ASCO	Nature: Mutant Kras disrupts differentiation to promote tumorigenesis WT p53 suppresses lung cancer by promoting differentiation	
External												

We are raising a Series B to take the lead program through Clinical PoC

Value creation in Series A

- Platform validation in first two platform-derived programs
- Platform productivity demonstrated via successful target ID in multiple tumor types
- Lead program DC nomination Q1 '24
- Second program in hit ID
- Third program target ID complete
- External validation from Hanahan, *Cancer Discovery*, 2022; Kaiser, et.al., *Nature*, 2023; Juul, et.al, *Nature*, 2023
- External validation from Servier's vorasidenib solid tumor (low grade glioma) data presented at ASCO '23
- Built management team
- Added two independent Board members

Value-creating milestones in Series B

- Lead program
 - IND Q4 '24
 - Clinical site readiness Q1 '25
 - FPI Q1 '25
 - Clinical PoC in solid and heme tumors in '26
- 2nd program
 - Chemical leads identified to support lead opt in '24
 - DC in '25
- 3rd program
 - Expansion into EMT tumors in '24
 - DC in '26
- Platform
 - Expand database
- Company-building
 - Hire CMO at Series B close
 - Expand platform to support BD
 - Expand syndicate to support dual track exit scenarios

Series B closing after AUR1959 development candidate nomination

References

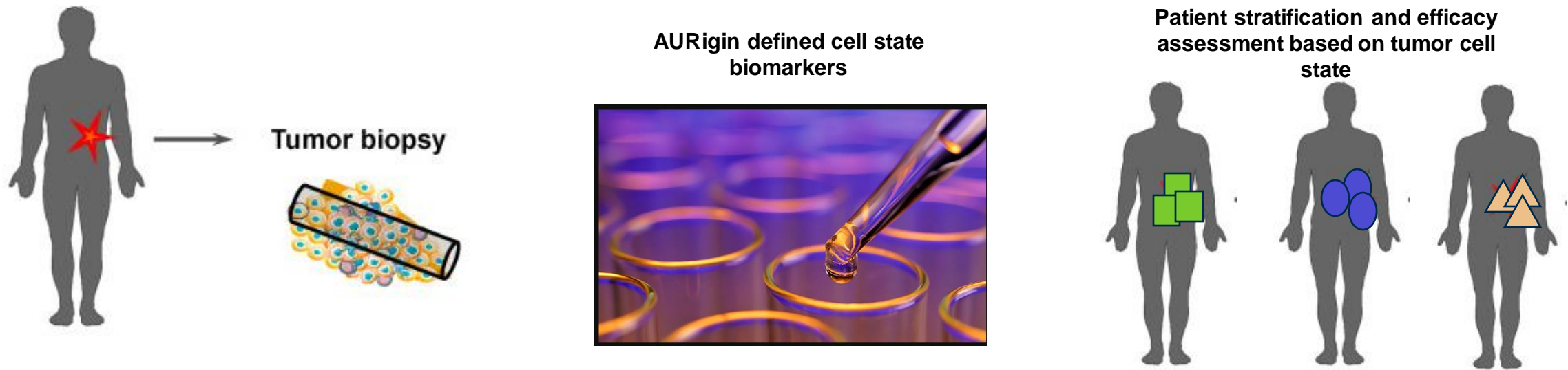
There is growing enthusiasm for targeting cell state within the scientific community

- [Citations]
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**Holding bin for
potential reuse**

Finally, we pair drug targets with cell state response and efficacy biomarkers

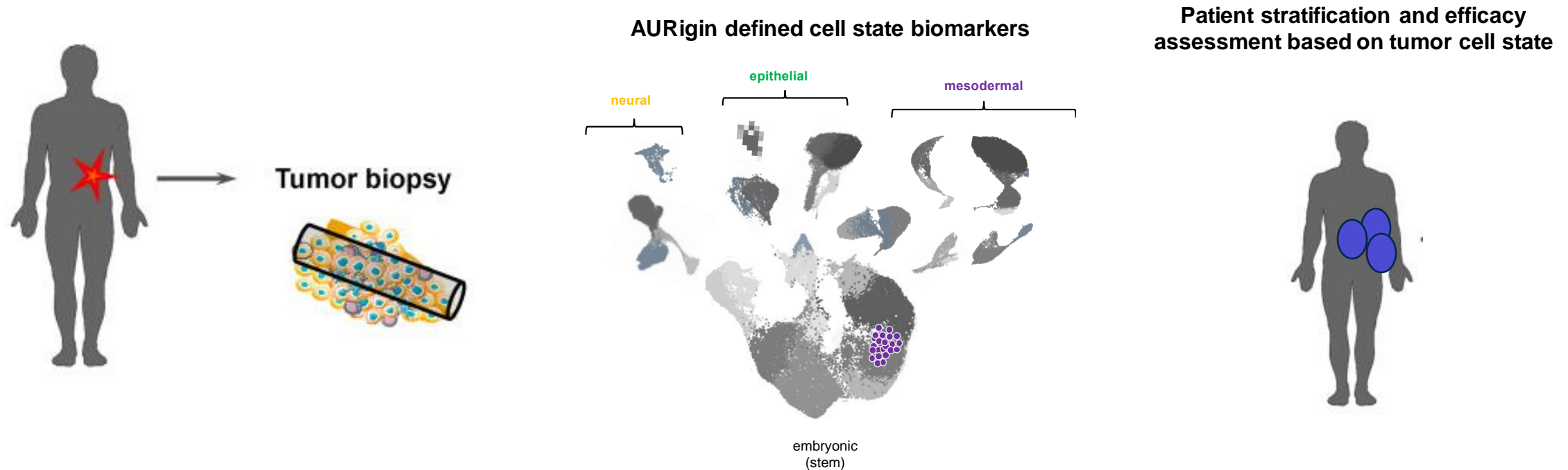
AURigin identifies unique cell state biomarkers that are used to select patients and assess efficacy



We know which patients we want to treat based on cell state

Finally, we pair drug targets with cell state response and efficacy biomarkers

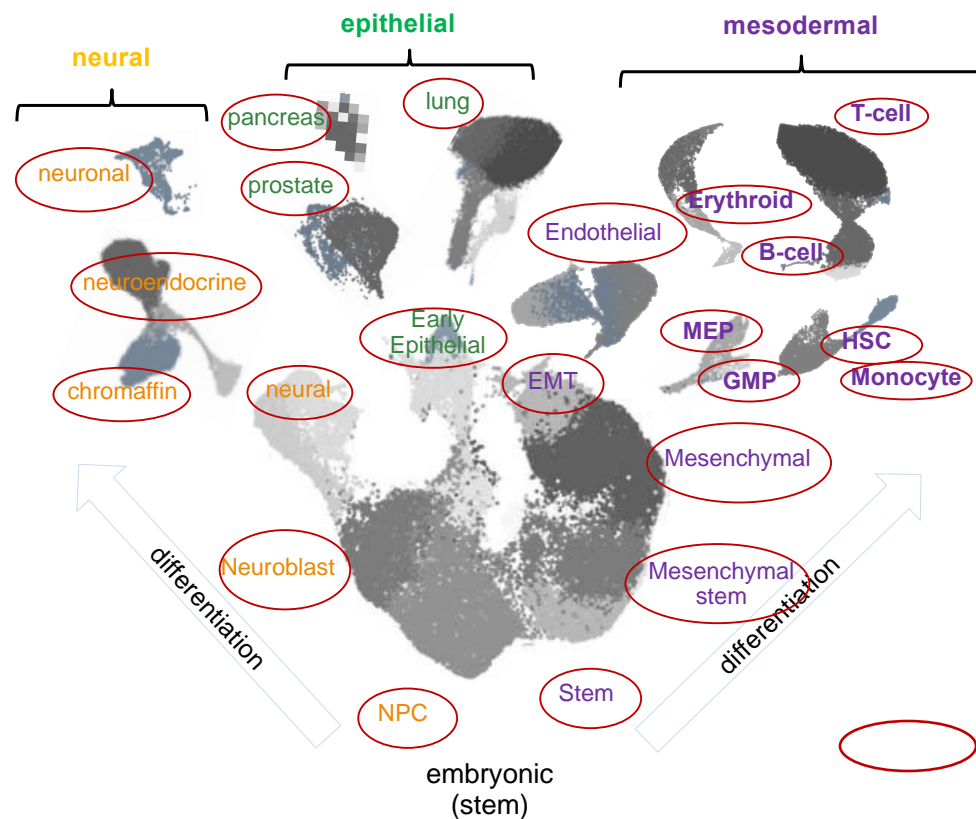
AURigin identifies unique cell state biomarkers that are used to select patients and assess efficacy



We know which patients we want to treat based on cell state

First, we build an atlas of human cell development to define normal cell states

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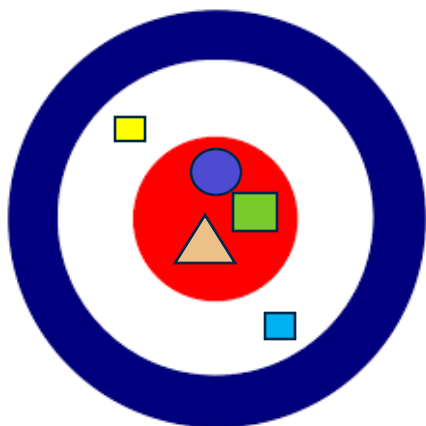
Proprietary AI algorithms used to create a map of normal cell states

- Define the normal states of human development using single cell -omics data
- Train ML classifiers to define developmental cell states of a tumor sample

The most comprehensive proprietary atlas of normal human development

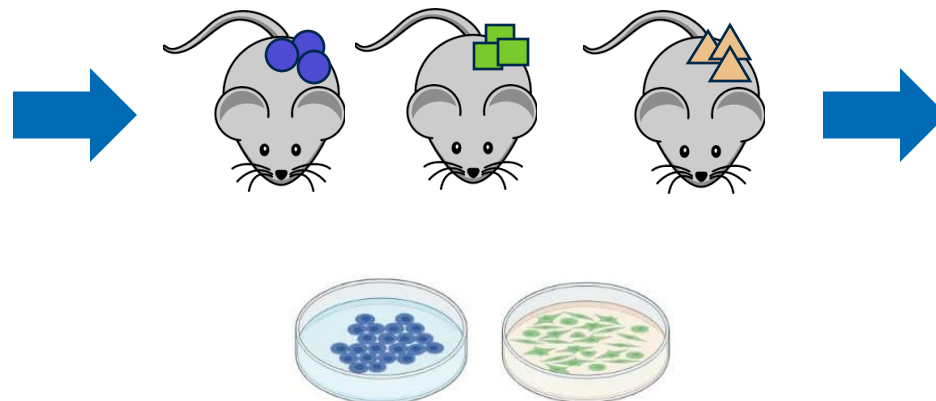
AURigin accelerates drug discovery and increases PoS in the clinic

Cell state specific ML
derived high-quality targets

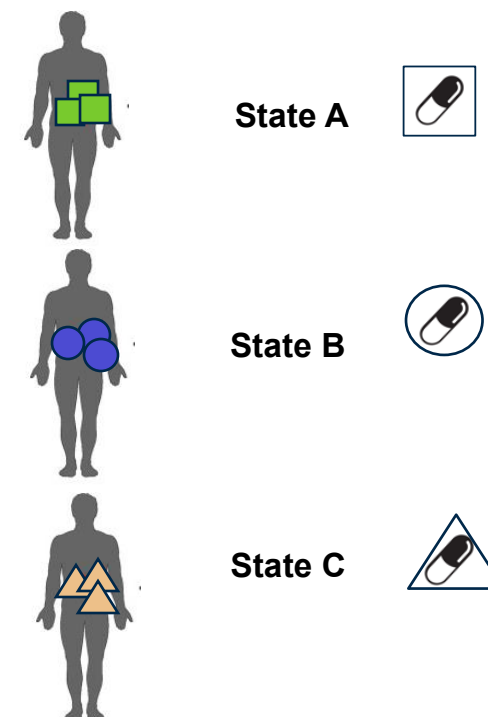


Cell state targets:   

Cell state specific models
for target validation



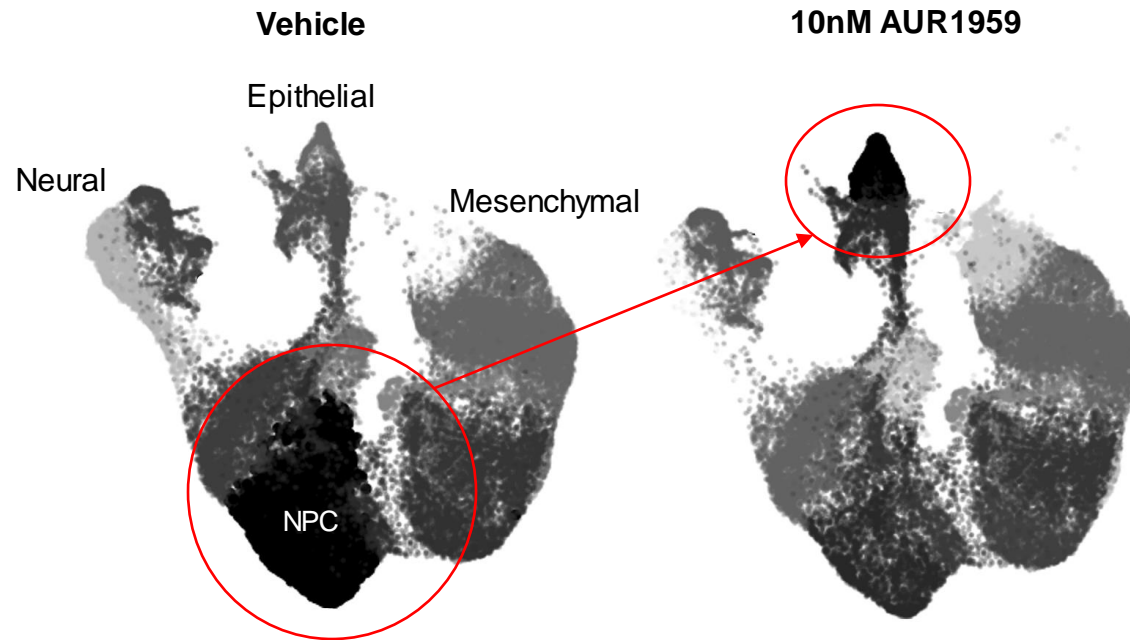
Cell state specific biomarkers for
patient selection and efficacy
assessment



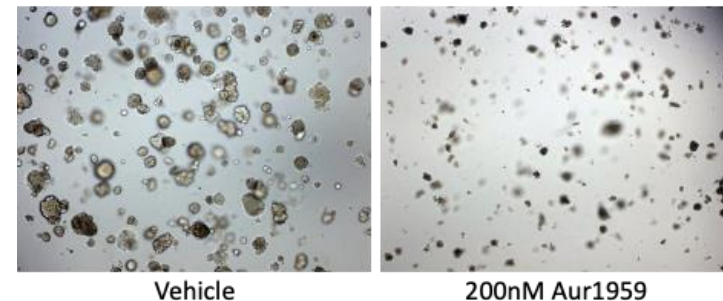
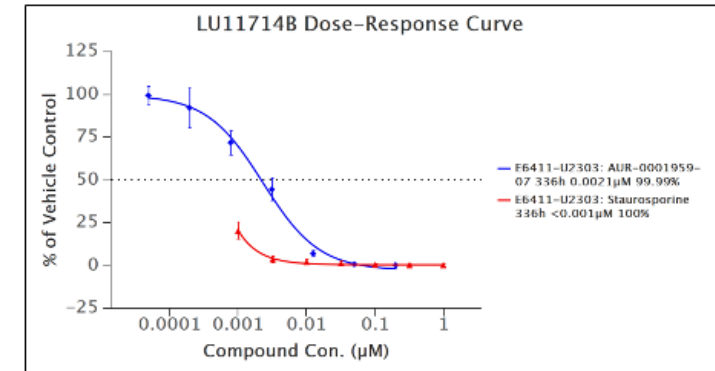
Focus on cell state to identify the right targets and right therapies for the right patients

In SCLC, degrading Target 1 shifts cell state, leading to growth arrest

AUR1959 induces cell state switch from neural progenitor (NPC) to adult epithelial*



AUR1959 induces potent growth effects in patient derived organoid models of SCLC

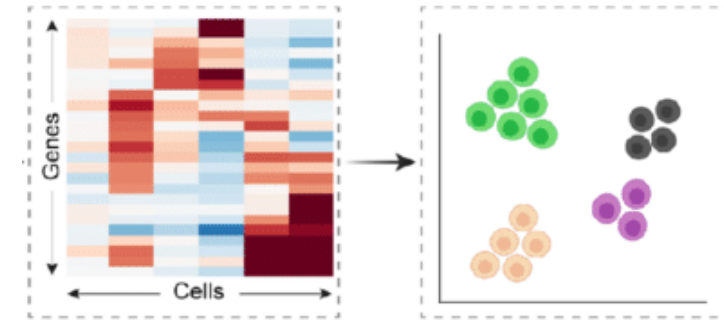
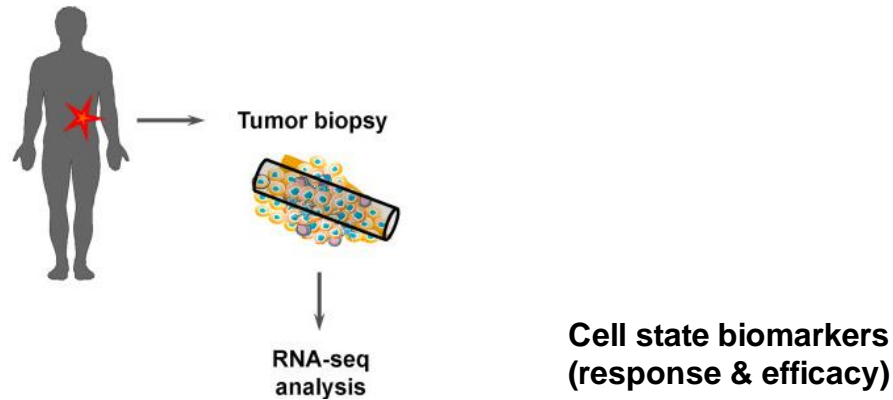


Validated in >70% of the SCLC patient population (>20,000 patients per year)

*Additional data not shown: In vivo data showing cell state shift and growth arrest in 2 CDX models

Finally, pair drug targets with cell state response and efficacy biomarkers

- We have unique cell state biomarkers that can be used to select patients and assess efficacy

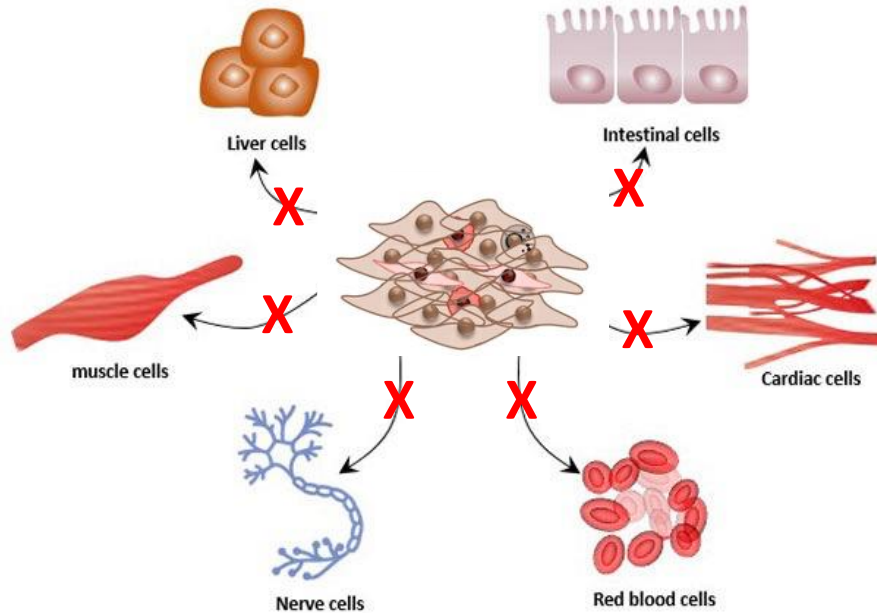


We know which patients we want to treat based on cell state

Platform-based, product-driven company that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to target the plastic cell states of cancer

46

Perturbation of normal cell differentiation induces cell state plasticity and proliferation of cancer cells

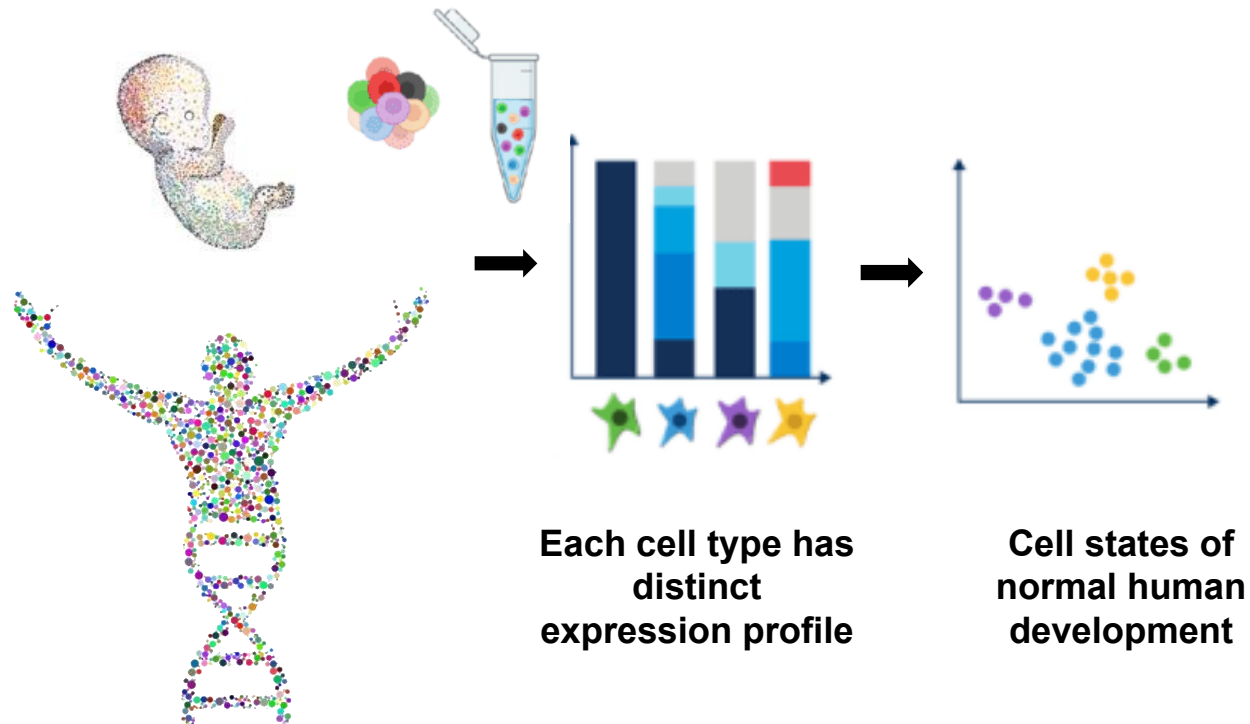


Drivers of cell state plasticity offer new therapeutic targets for oncology

- AI algorithms identify targets with higher probability of biological validation and higher probability of success (PoS) in the clinic
- Platform already has delivered two validated programs with a third in validation

Better, faster, cheaper drug development with higher PoS

We use AURigin, our AI platform, to identify the drivers of plastic cell states in tumors

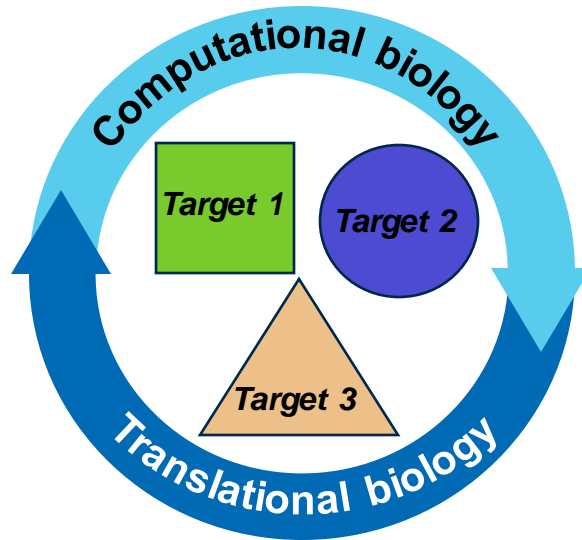


- Recent explosion of single cell -omics datasets allow us to define normal cell states of human development at high resolution
- Guided by developmental biology, AURigin engineers the ML paradigm to identify drivers of cancer cell state

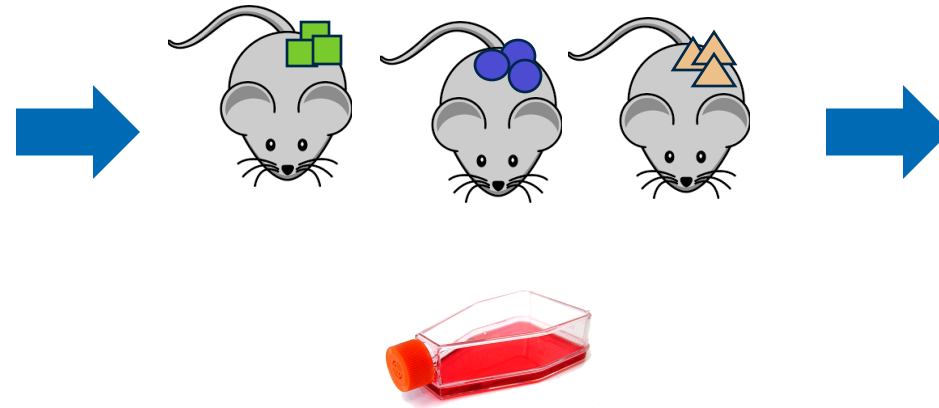
Significant first mover advantage in newest frontier for oncology drug development

AURigin accelerates drug discovery and increases PoS in the clinic

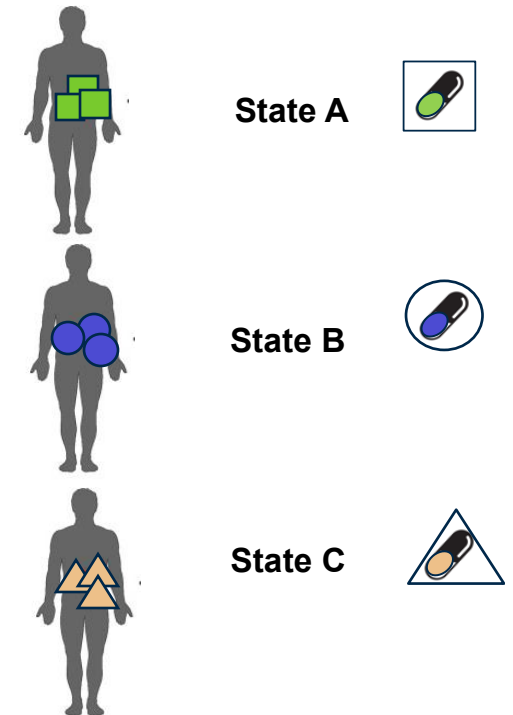
Cell state specific ML
derived high-quality targets



Cell state specific models
for target validation



Cell state specific biomarkers
for patient selection



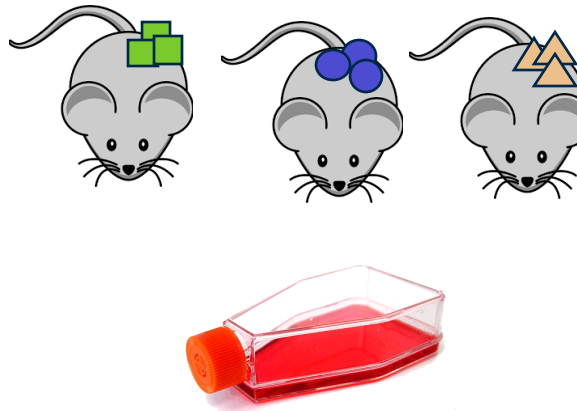
Focus on cell state to identify the right targets and right therapies for the right patients

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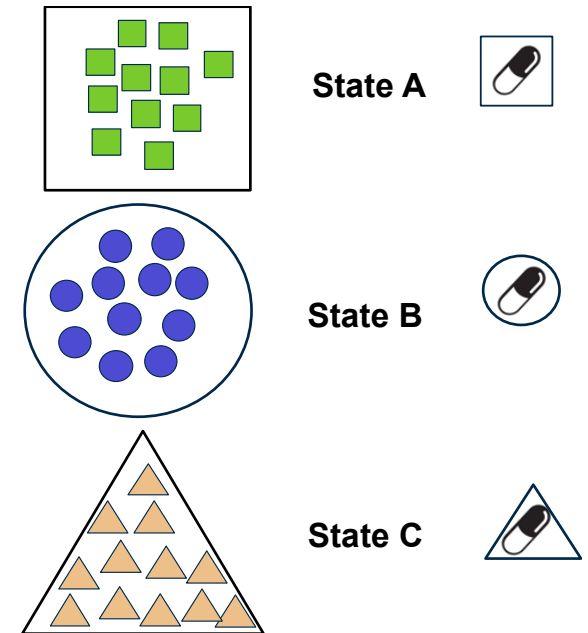
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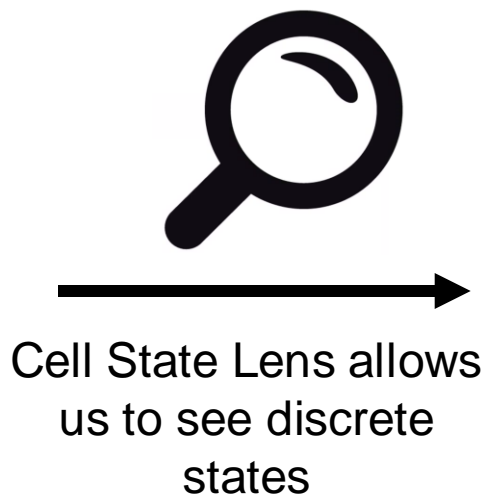
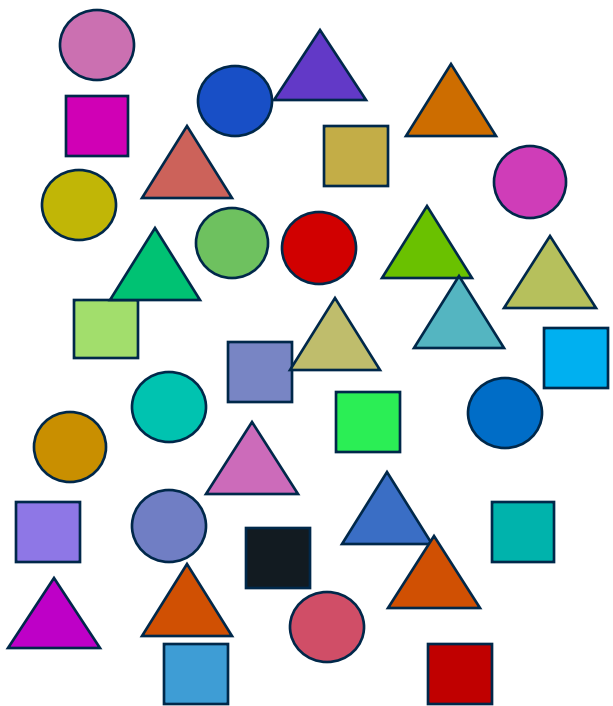
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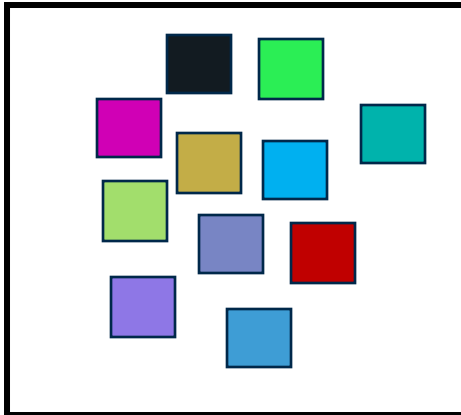
Focus on cell state to identify the right targets and right therapies for the right patients

Added in case it's useful

Genetic landscape lens of
cancer is very
heterogeneous



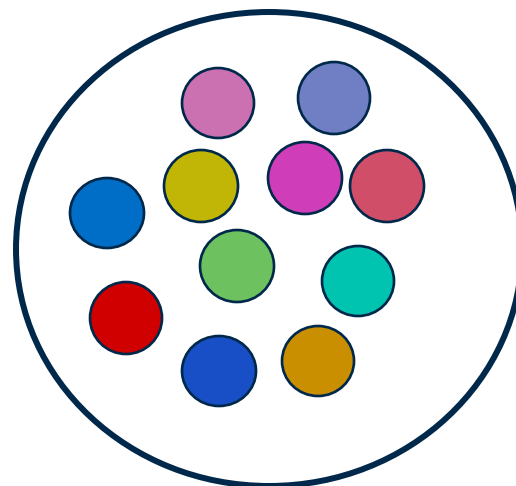
Cell State Lens allows
us to see discrete
states



State A



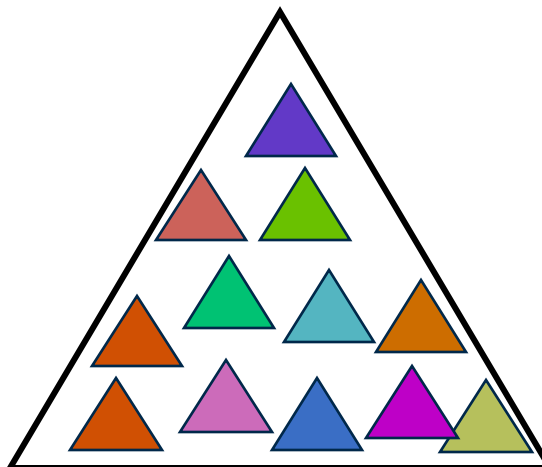
Drug A



State B



Drug B



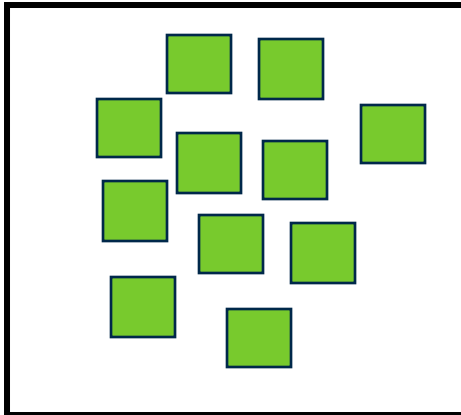
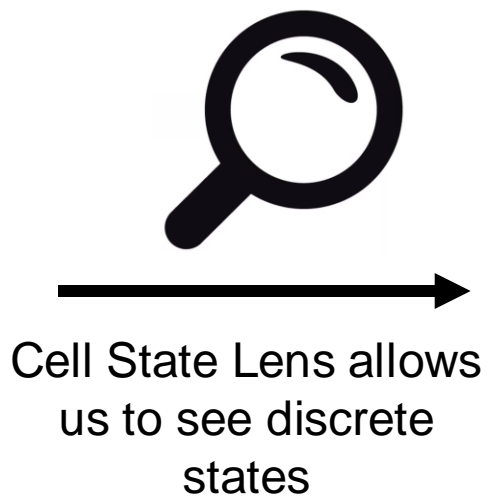
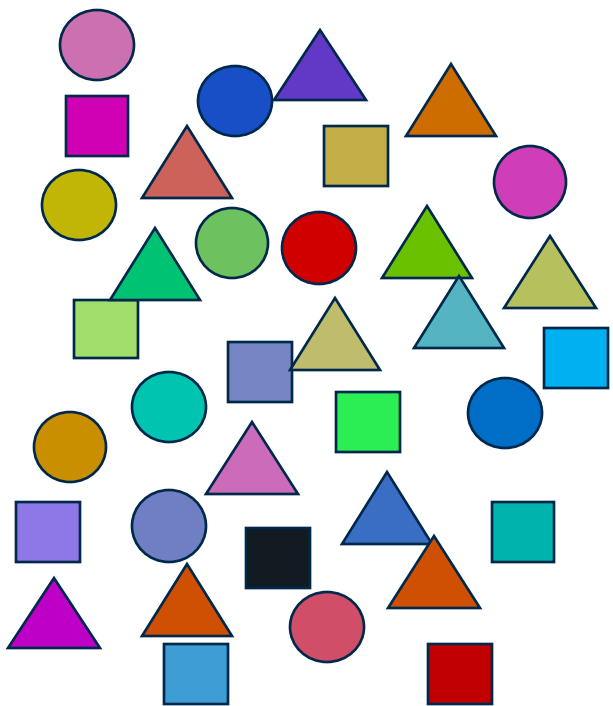
State C



Drug C

Added in case it's useful

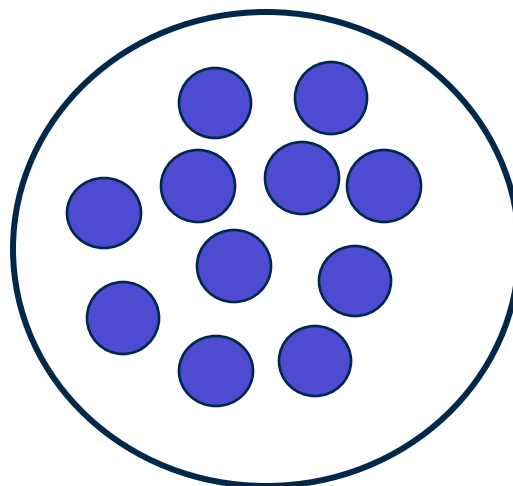
Genetic landscape lens of cancer is very heterogeneous



State A



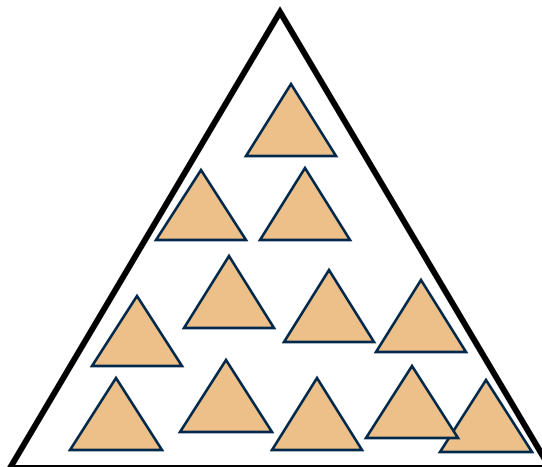
Drug A



State B



Drug B



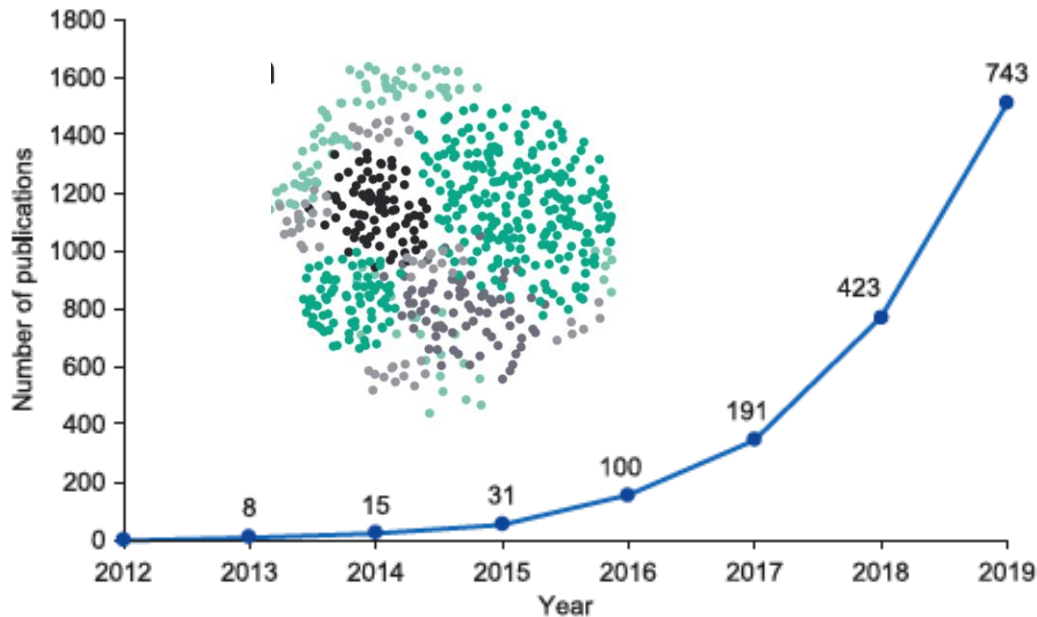
State C



Drug C

We use AURigin to identify the drivers of plastic cell states in tumors

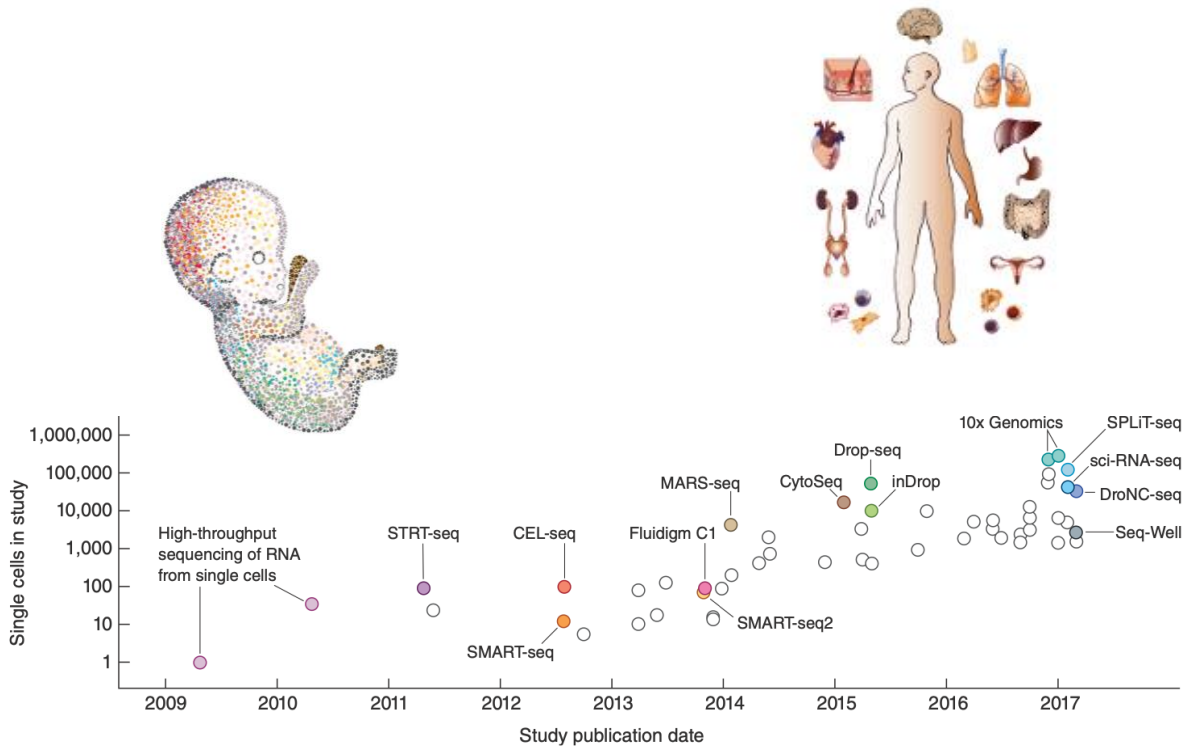
Tom: new figure that goes out to 2023



- Recent explosion of single cell -omics datasets allow us to define normal cell states of human development at high resolution
- Guided by developmental biology, AURigin engineers the AI/ML paradigm to identify drivers of cancer cell state

Significant first mover advantage in newest frontier for oncology drug development

We use AURigin, our AI platform, to identify the drivers of plastic cell states in tumors

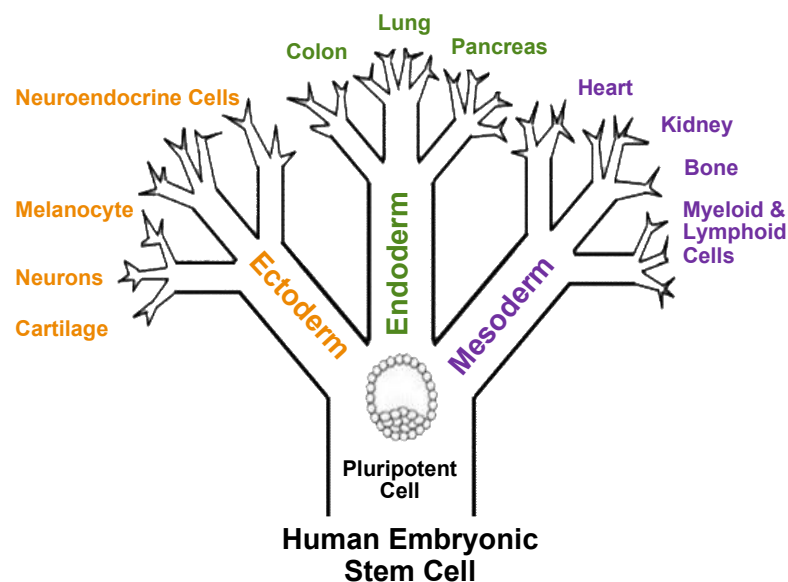


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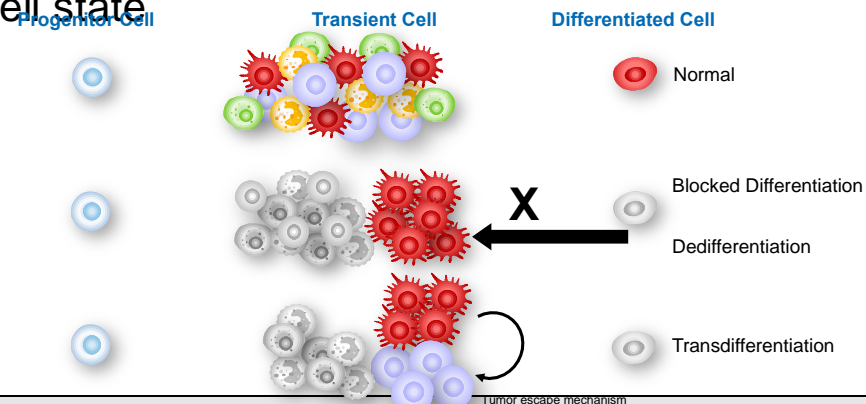
Cancer cells hijack developmental biology pathways to induce proliferative, plastic cell states

Differentiation



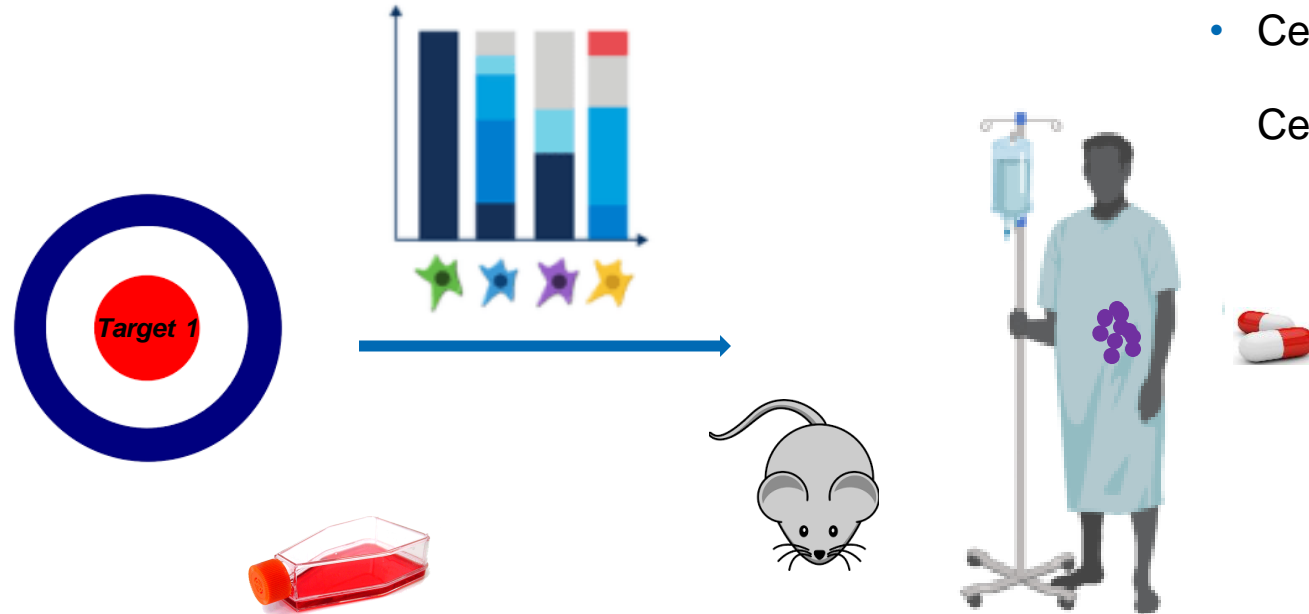
Plasticity

- During normal development, cells go through a plastic, proliferative state on their way to becoming mature, terminally differentiated stable cell
- Reprogramming of cancer cells prevents maturation and shifts the cells to a more plastic and proliferative cell state



Cancer cell plasticity causes significant clinical problems

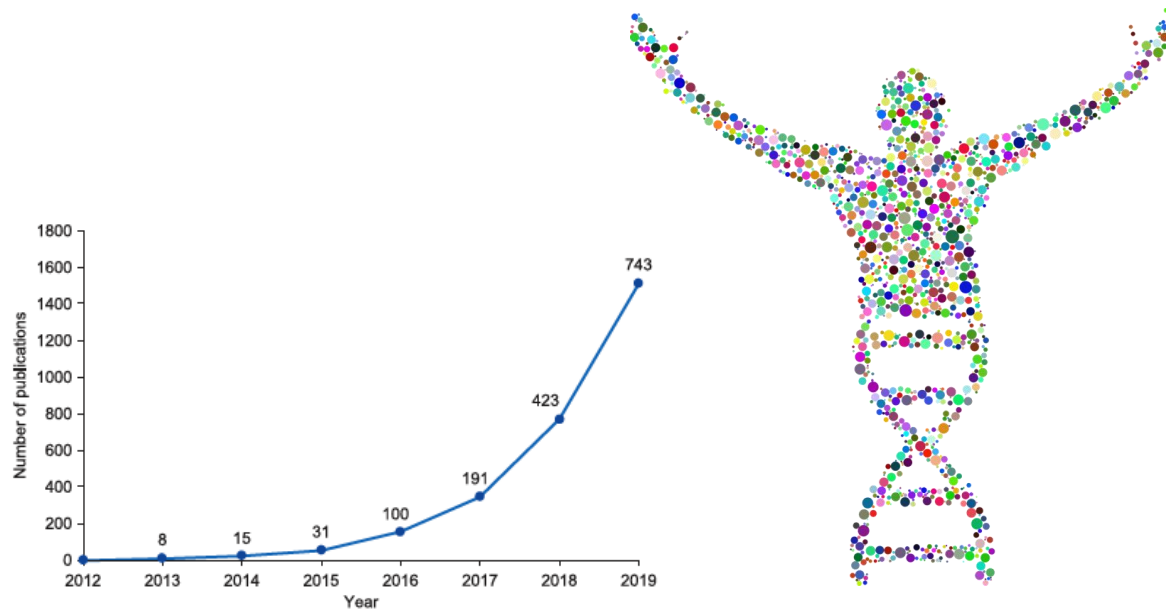
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Increase in single-cell RNA sequencing publications

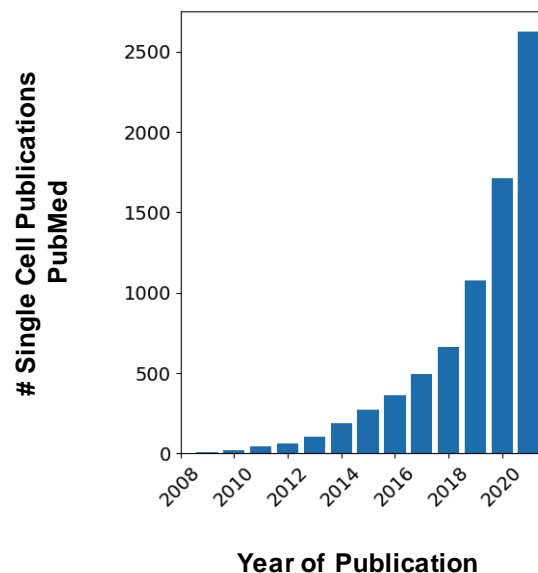
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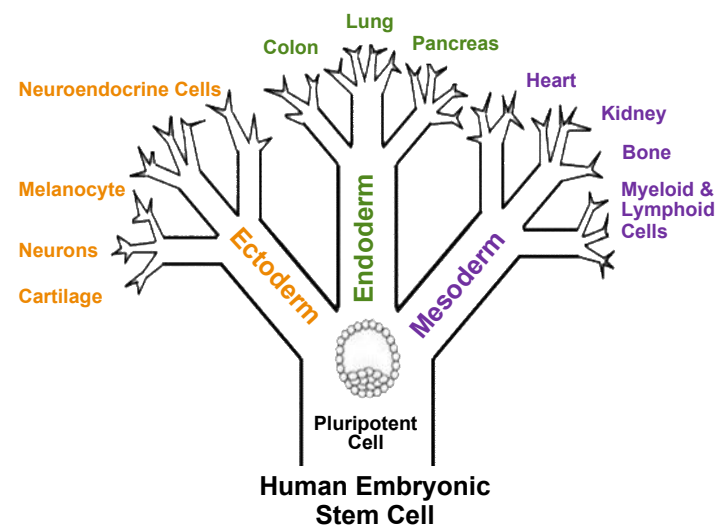
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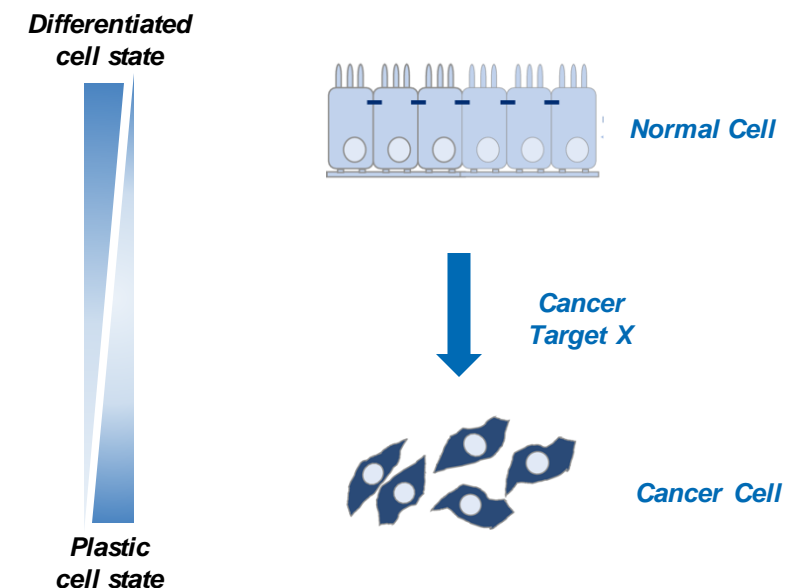
Recent explosion of single cell -omics datasets allow us to define normal cell states of human development at high resolution



Guided by single cell datasets, we have built an integrated atlas of normal human development



Guided by developmental biology, AURigin engineers the AI/ML paradigm to identify drivers of cancer cell state



Significant first mover advantage in newest frontier for oncology drug development