

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Course

# Pharmacogenetics and Personalised Medicine



The phosphatase, pp2a as a **classifier** to stratify  
patients into therapeutic groups

Dr Godfrey Grech  
Pathology Department  
University of Malta

*Thursday 9th - Friday 10th February 2012  
Aula Magna Sapienza University of Roma*

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# Pharmacogenetics and Personalised Medicine



Cellular models utilised to study mechanism of disease

Identification of potential therapeutic targets

Genomics used to stratify patients into subtypes

Biomarkers used as classifiers of specific therapeutic groups





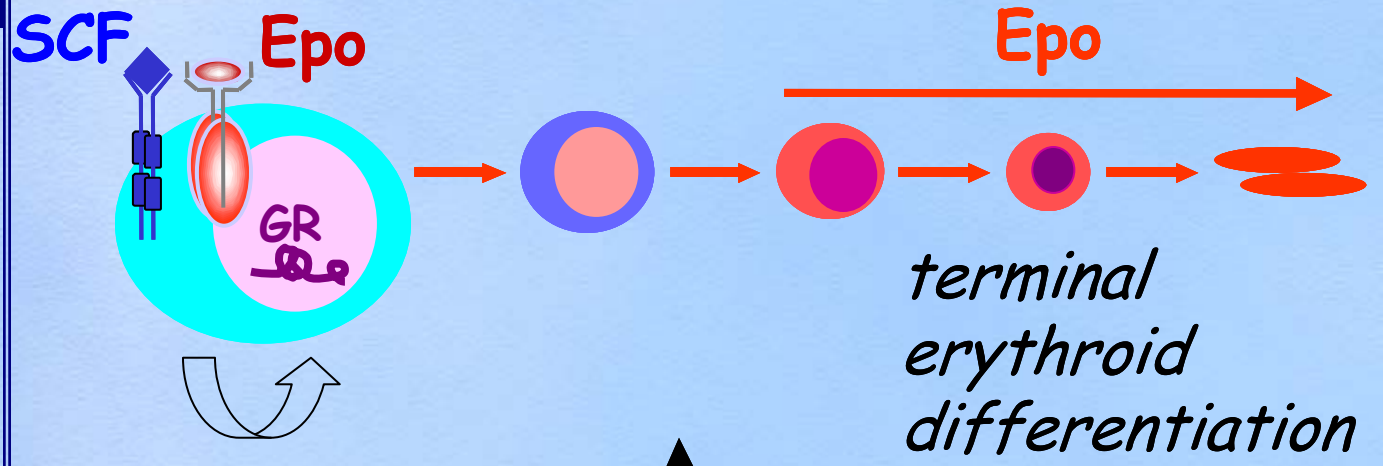
**Mechanism of Disease**

Therapeutic targets

Biomarkers



# Model system



*Renewal*

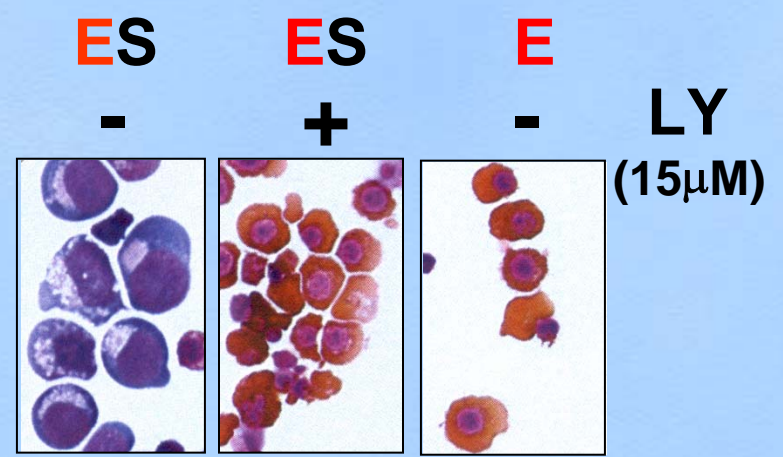
**Epo**

**SCF**

**glucocorticoids**

↑  
**LY294002**

*terminal  
 erythroid  
 differentiation*



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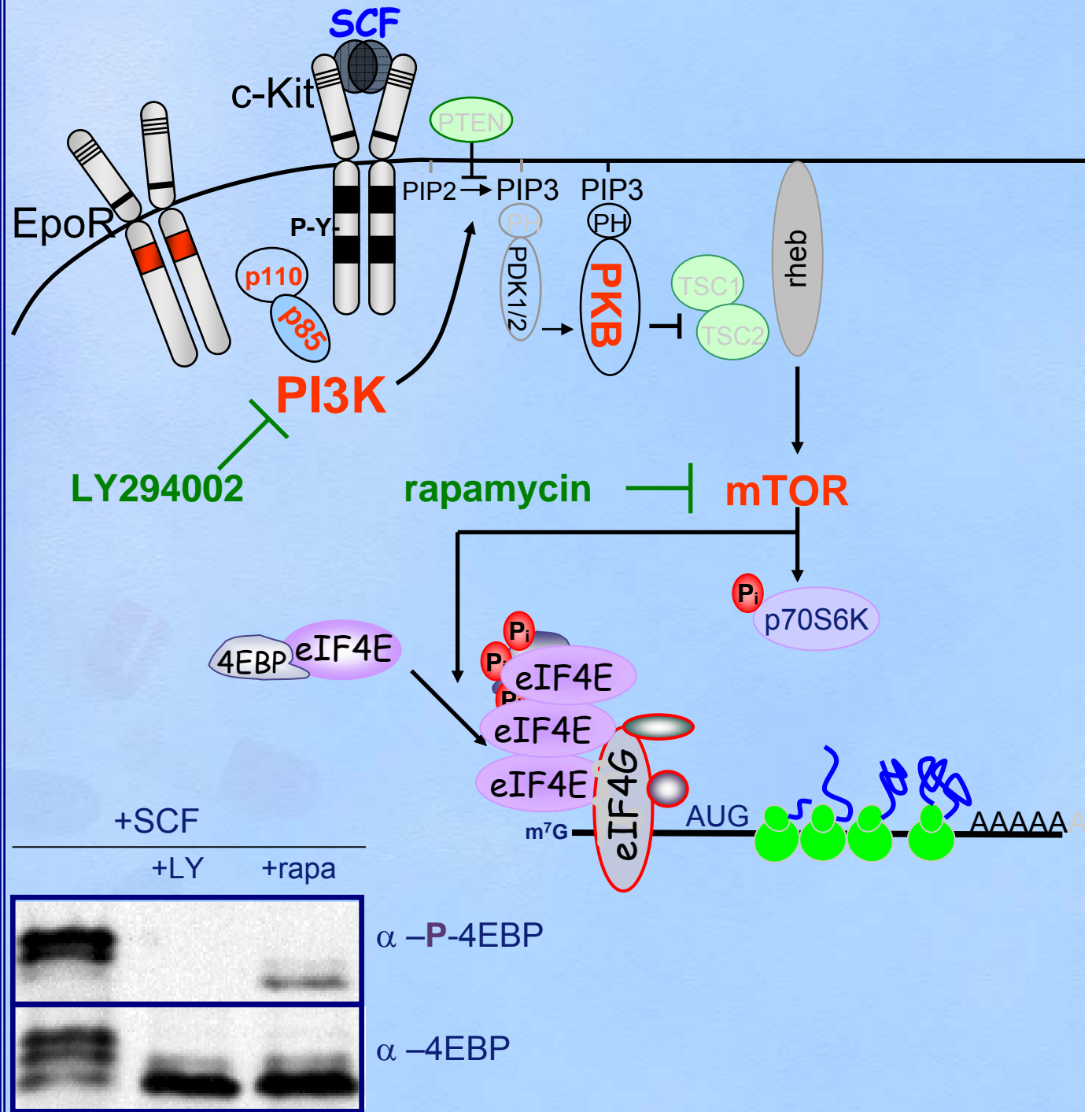
**Mechanism of Disease**

Therapeutic targets

Biomarkers

Blazquez-Domingo, M.\*, Grech, G.\*  
 and von Lindern, M. (2005)  
 Translation Initiation Factor 4E  
 Inhibits Differentiation of Erythroid  
 Progenitors.

Mol. Cell. Biol., 25, 8496-8506.





**Mechanism of Disease**

Therapeutic targets

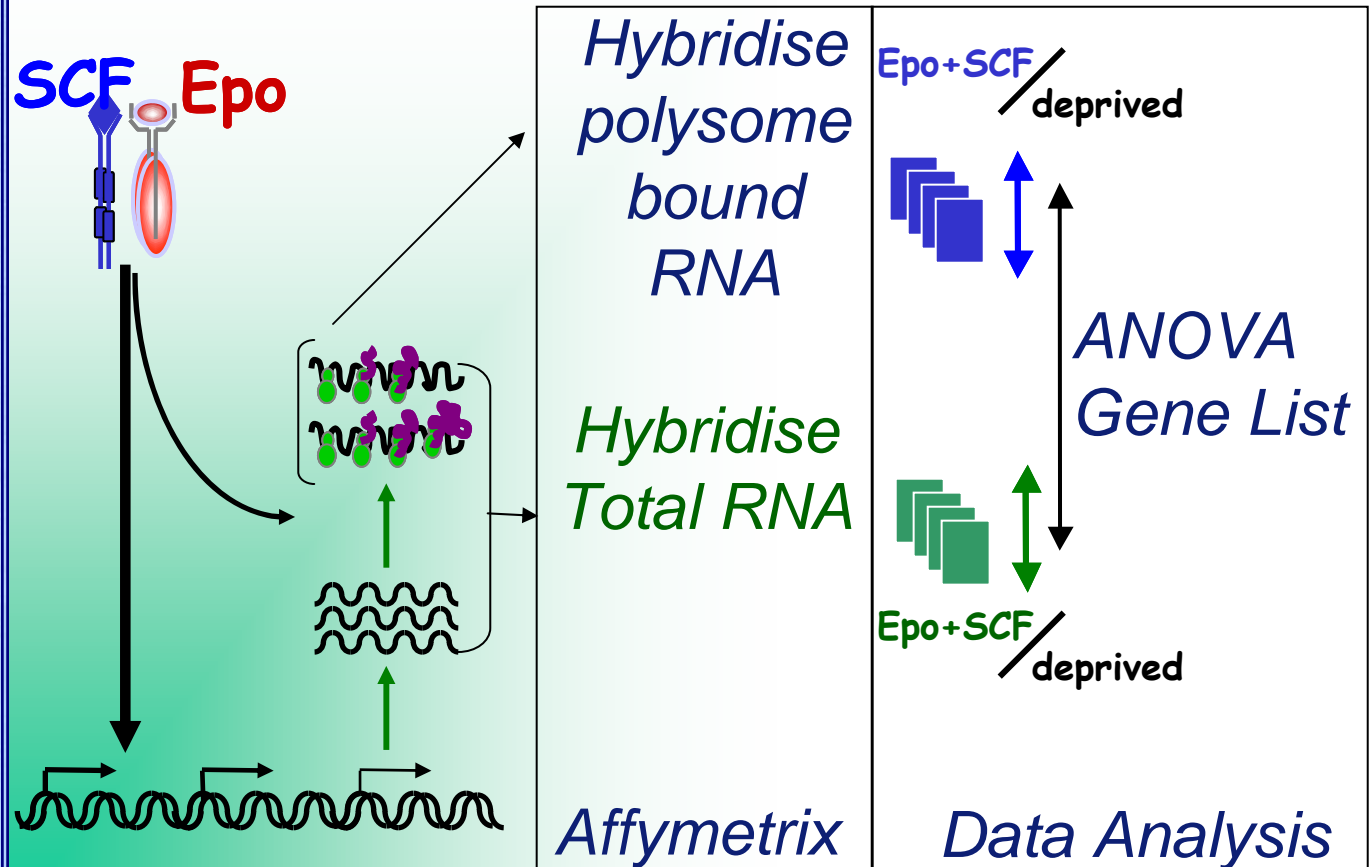
Biomarkers



**Erasmus MC**  
University Medical Center Rotterdam



# Gene expression profiling polysome bound vs Total mRNA



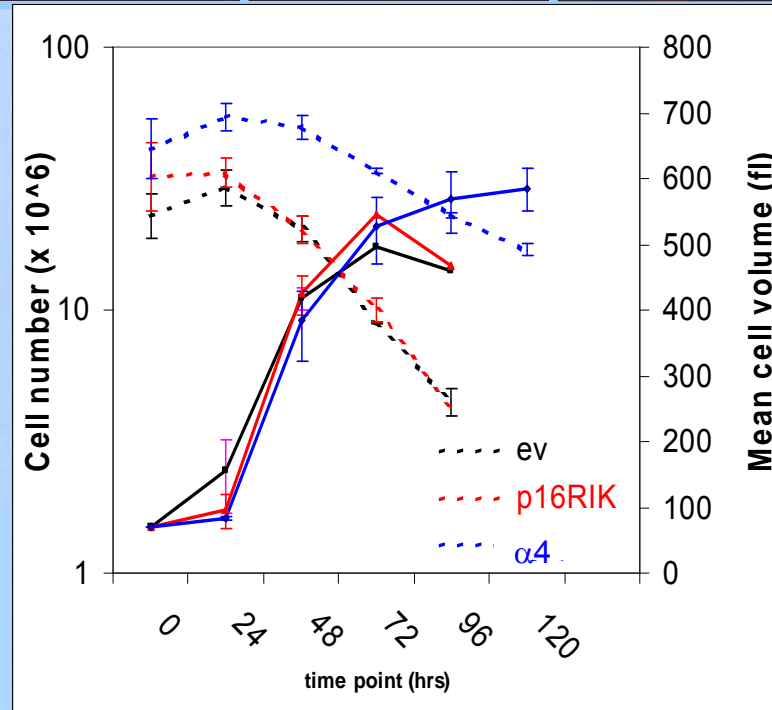
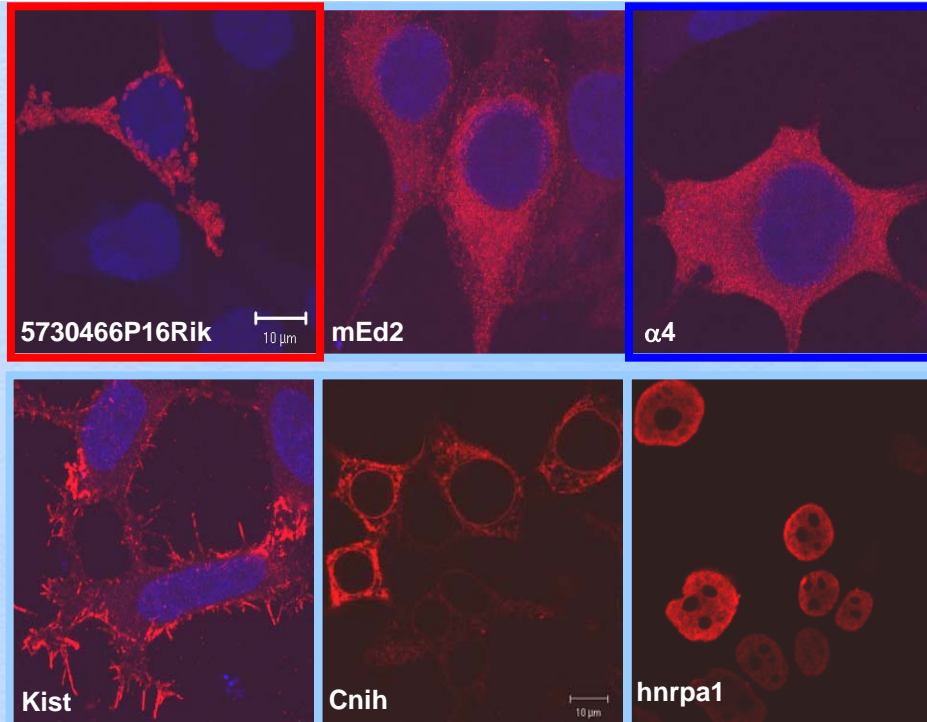
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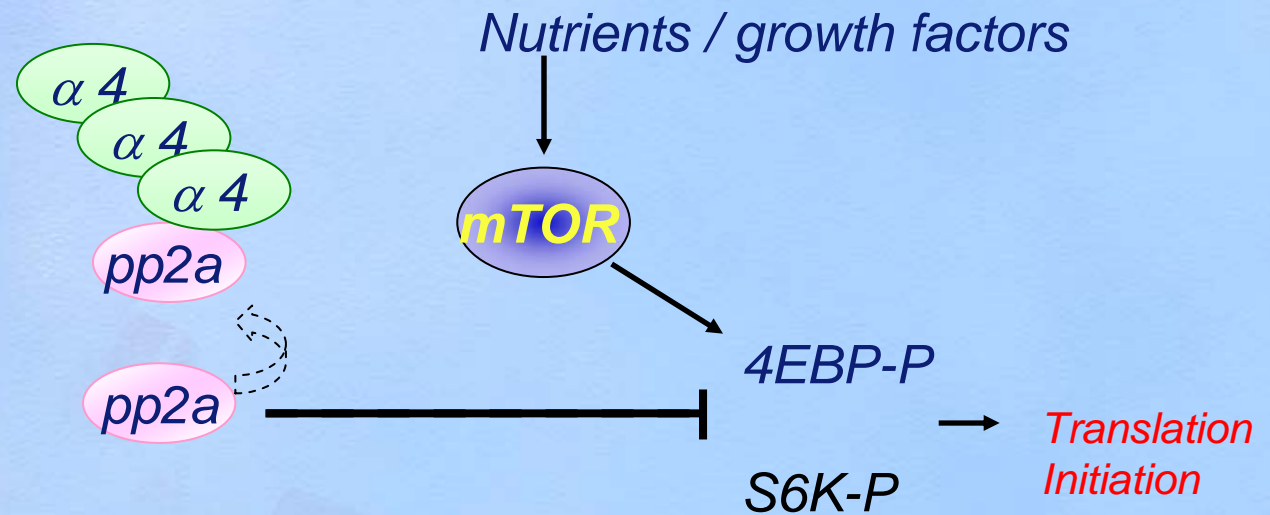
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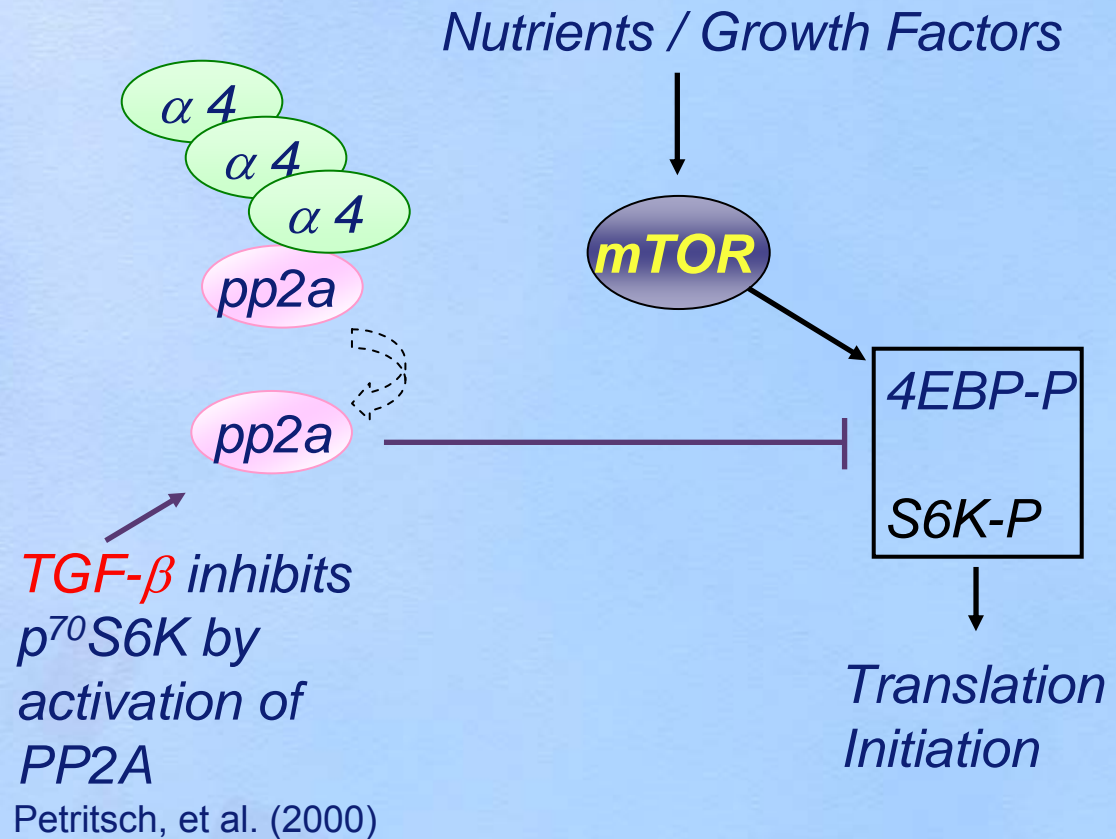


Mechanism of Disease

**Therapeutic targets**

Biomarkers

**Grech, G., et al. (2008)**  
Blood Oct 1;112(7):2750-60.



**TGF-β rescues block of differentiation**

FTY720 activates pp2a resulting in the release of differentiation block by Stem Cell Factor.

Neville Borg, 2009

unpublished data



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# Pharmacogenetics and Personalised Medicine



Mechanism of Disease

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Genomics utilised to study mechanism of disease

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Mechanism of Disease

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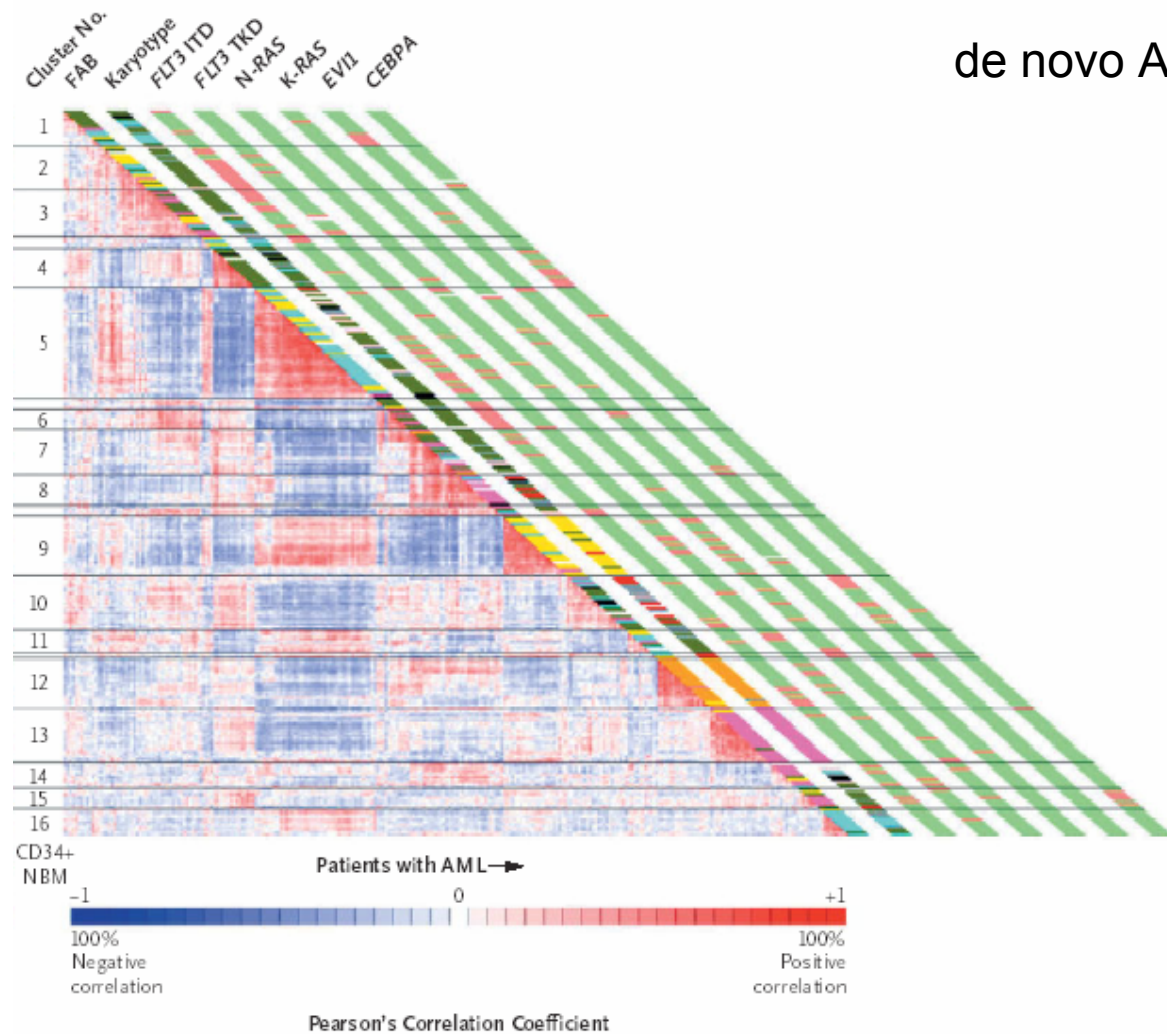
Valk P.J.M., et al.  
*N Eng J Med* 350;16 April 15, 2004



Genomics used to stratify patients into subtypes

Biomarkers used as classifiers of specific therapeutic groups

de novo AML





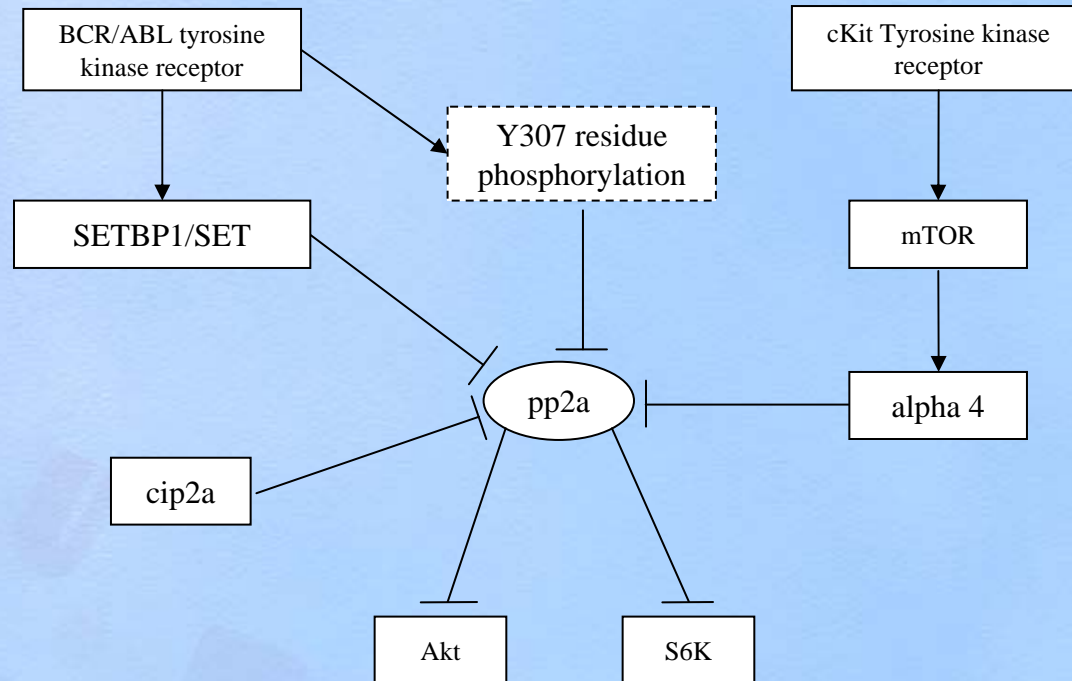
Mechanism of Disease

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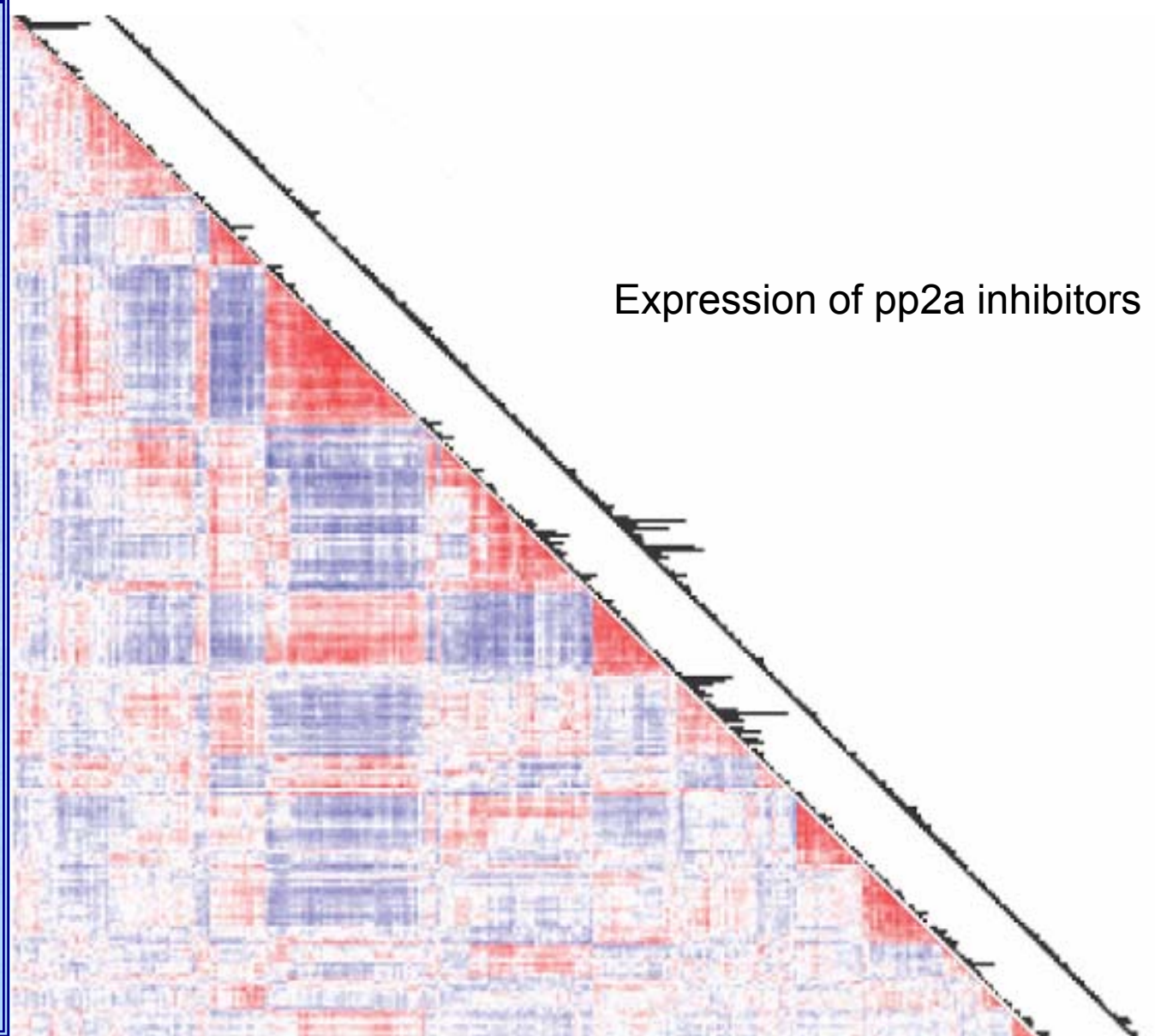
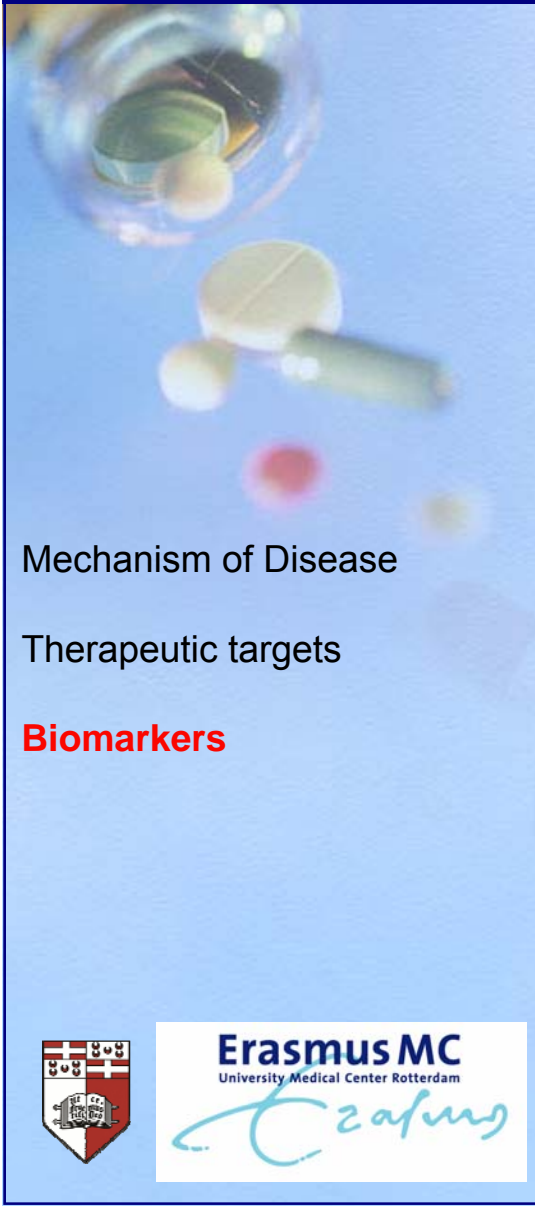


## *Regulators of pp2a activity*



# *Regulators of pp2a activity*

SETBP1 CIP2A



Expression of pp2a inhibitors



Mechanism of Disease

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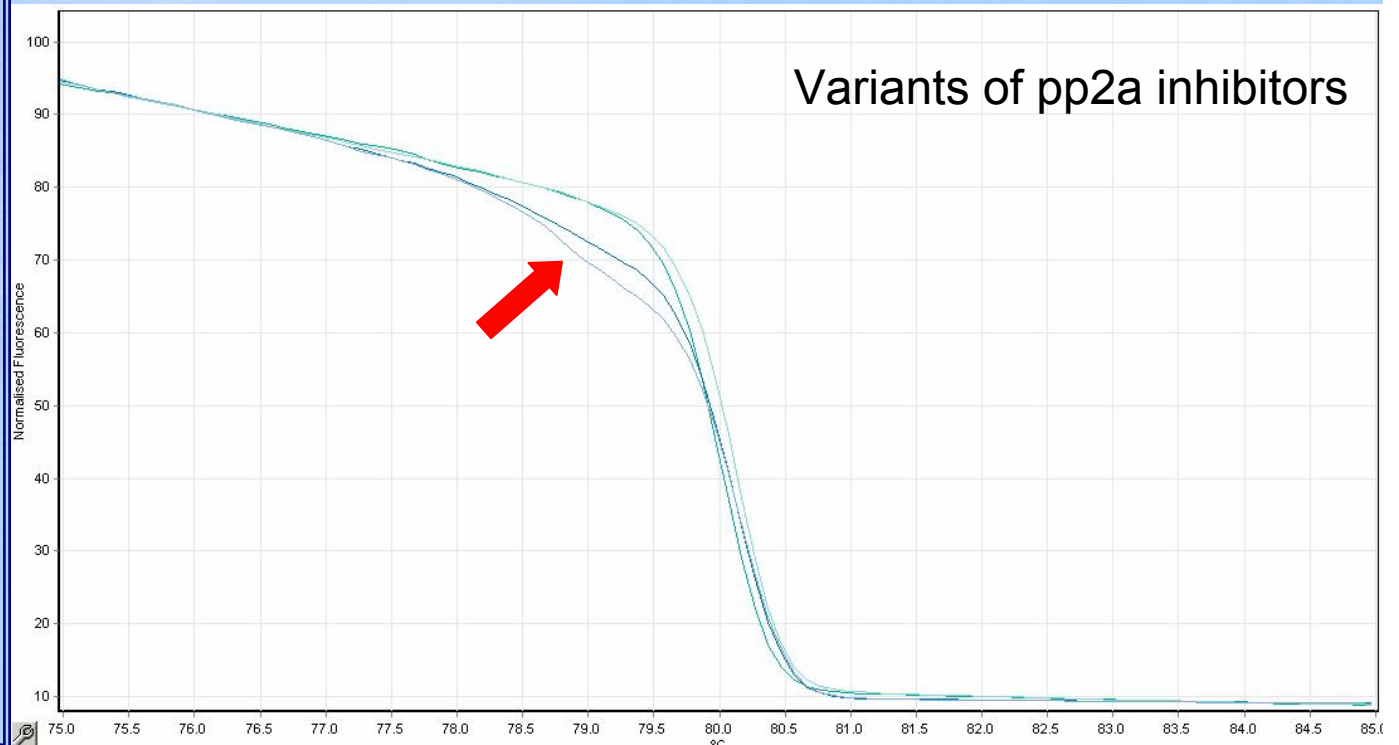
**Biomarkers**



## *Regulators of pp2a activity*

### High Resolution Melting (HRM) Analysis

- Screening for coding sequence variations
- Characterisation of isoforms





Mechanism of Disease

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## *Conclusions*

- High expression of SETBP1 in a subtype of de novo AML
- Mutations were identified in myeloid cell lines in the pp2a regulators, Igbp1 and SET
- Genomics approach to classify and identify therapeutic groups sensitive to pp2a activators

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Thank you



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Neville Borg  
Nigel Borg  
Mareh Dalal  
***MSc students***

Shawn Baldacchino  
***PhD student***