

# MasterClass in Bladder Cancer 2024

## Molecular biology for NMIBC: current landscape



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# Disclosures

**Consulting:** QED therapeutics, Boston Gene

**Advisory board:** Merck, Immunomedics/Gilead, QED therapeutics, Gilead, Janssen

**Patent royalties:** Immunomedics/Gilead

**Honoraria:** Urotoday

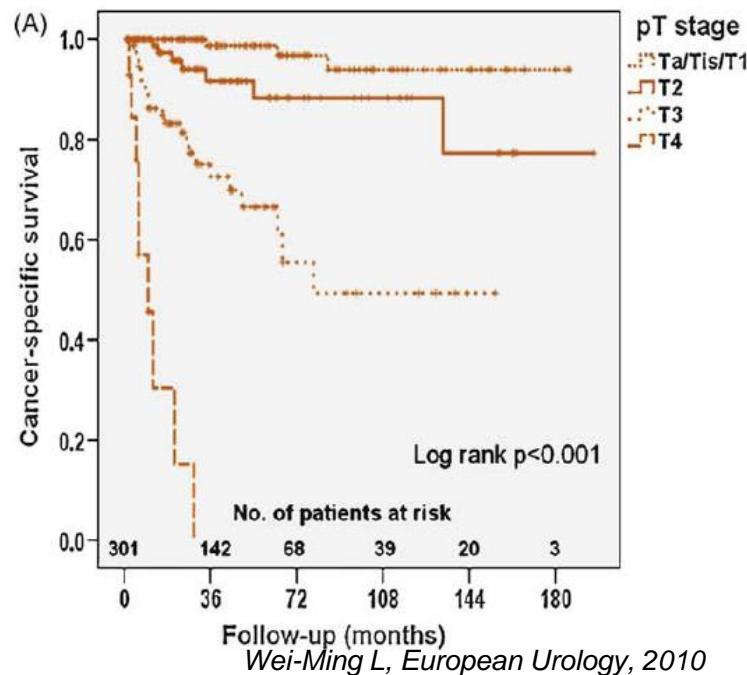
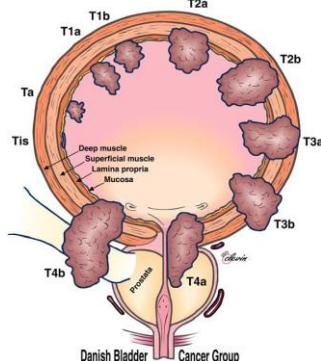
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# Bladder cancer

- Bladder cancer is the 9th most commonly diagnosed cancer worldwide
- 165,000 deaths annually worldwide
- ~75 % of the tumors are non-muscle invasive (Ta, T1 and CIS) at diagnosis
- ~ 25% T2-T4 at diagnosis
- NMIBC is a very prevalent disease
  - High risk of recurrence (75 %)
  - Moderate risk of progression (5-25 %)



# Main clinical challenges for patients with NMIBC

Predict disease course in early-stage bladder cancer

- Better risk assessment for surveillance, follow-up planning

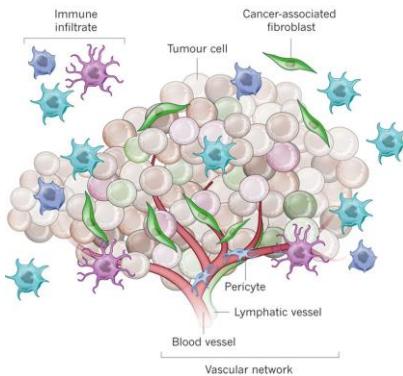
- Better selection of high-risk patient to therapy (BCG/IO/targeted treatment)

Predict response before (or during) treatment

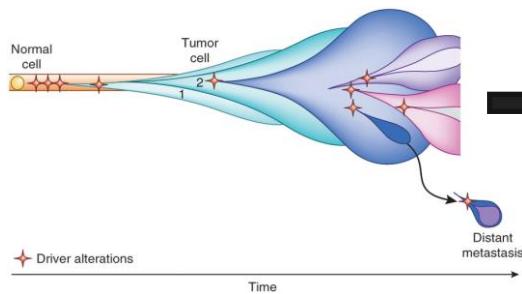
- BCG, MMC, IO, targeted treatment

- Change treatment regimens

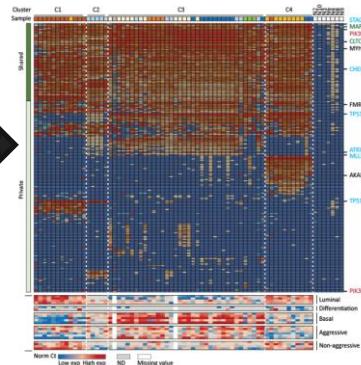
# Biological challenges



Tumor micro-environment



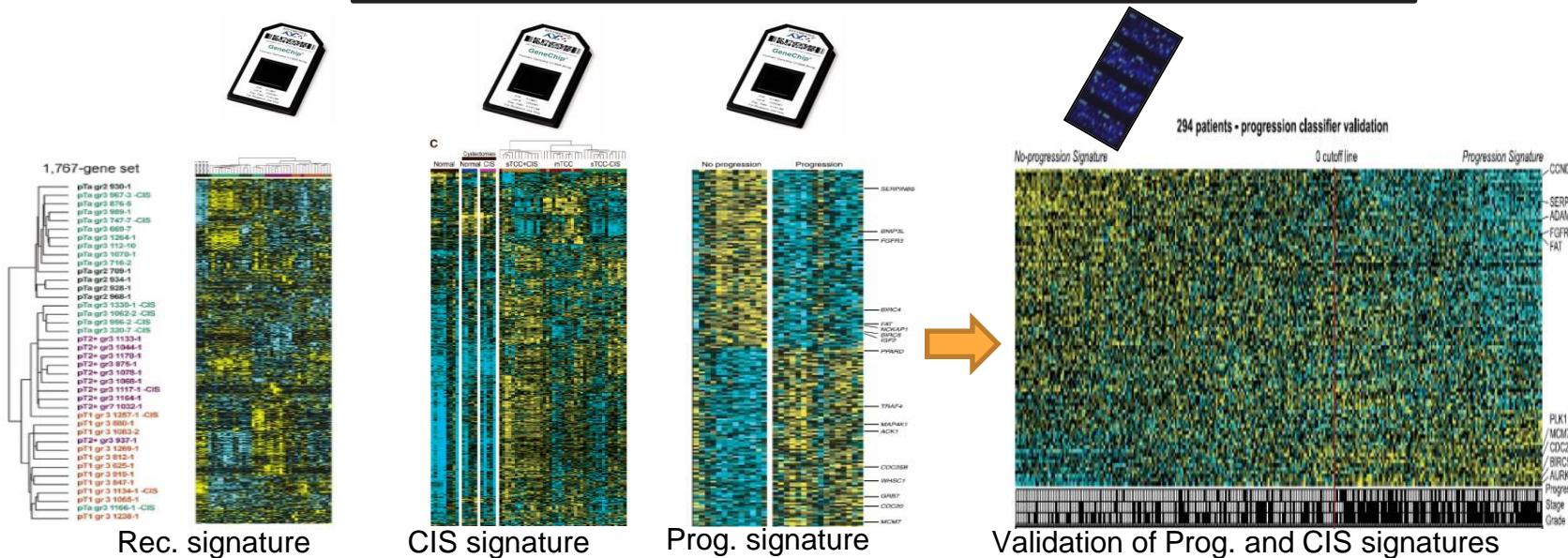
Tumor evolution



Tumor heterogeneity

# Identification of subtypes and predicting outcome in NMIBC

Cohorts selected from biobank materials based on clinical outcome (recurrence, CIS and progression)



Nat. Genet. 2003

Can. Res 2004

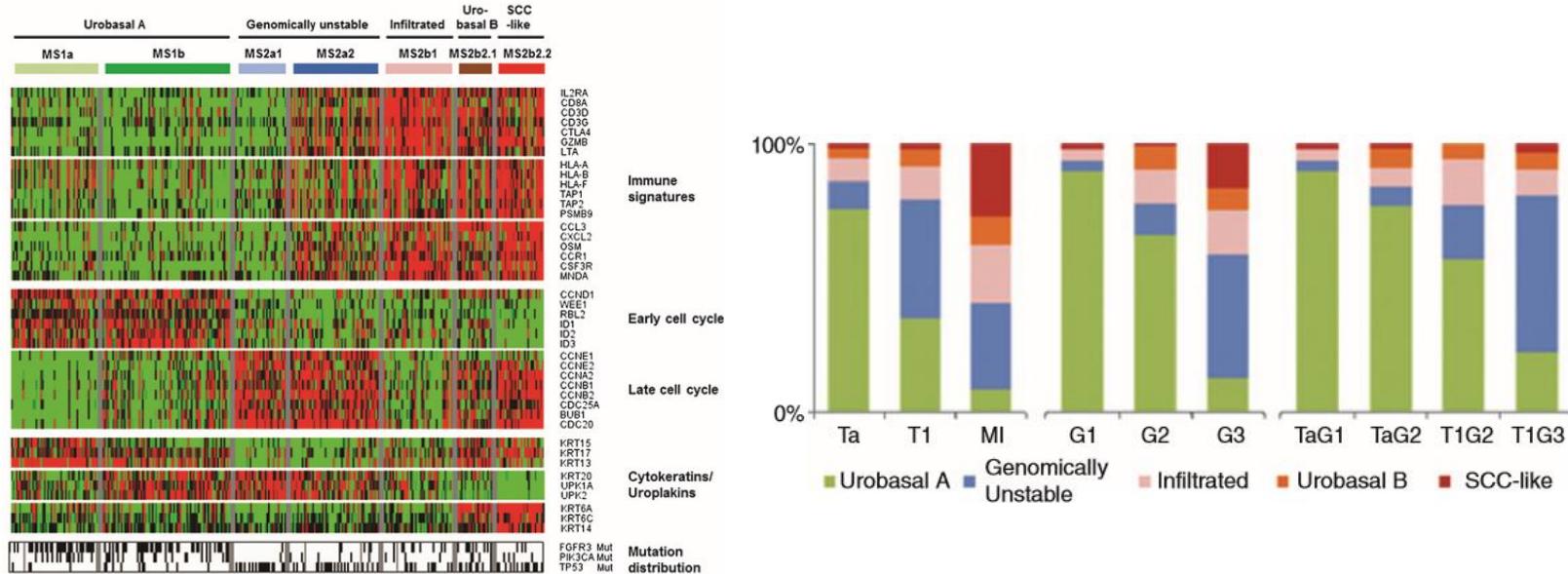
Clin. Can. Res. 2005

Clin. Can. Res. 2007

Two major risk classes identified and validated

# Lund Taxonomy approach - NMIBC and MIBC combined

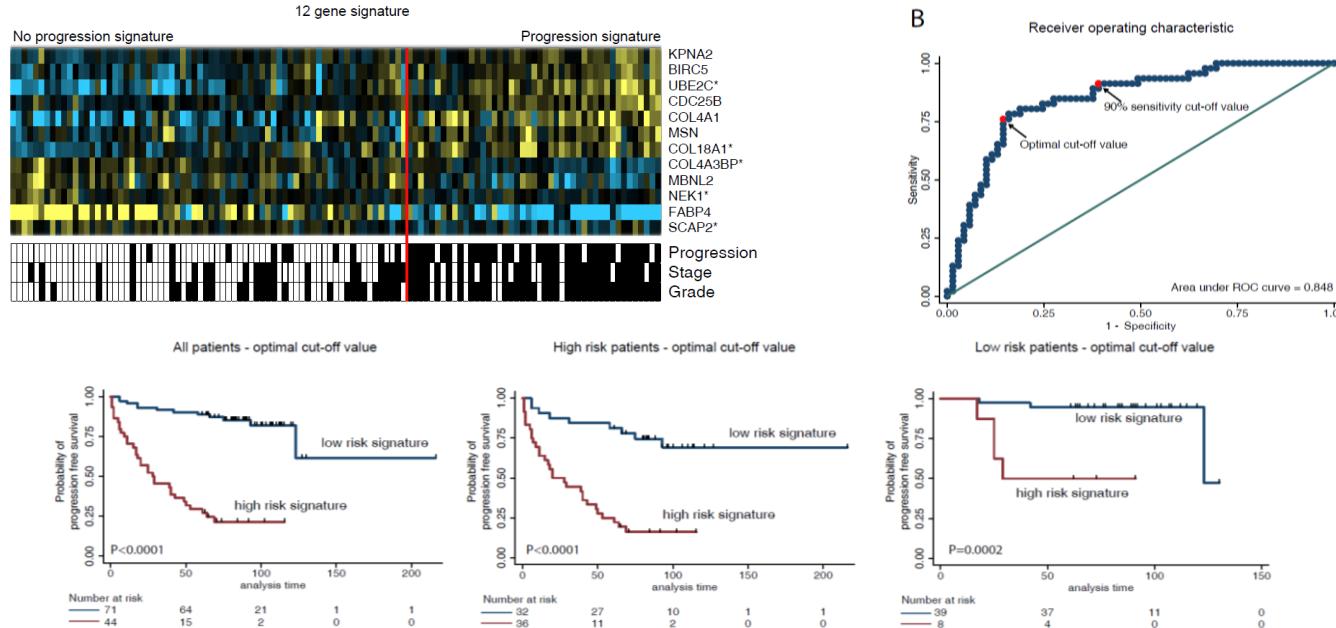
Samples selected to represent the entire disease spectrum  
3 major groups identified in NMIBC



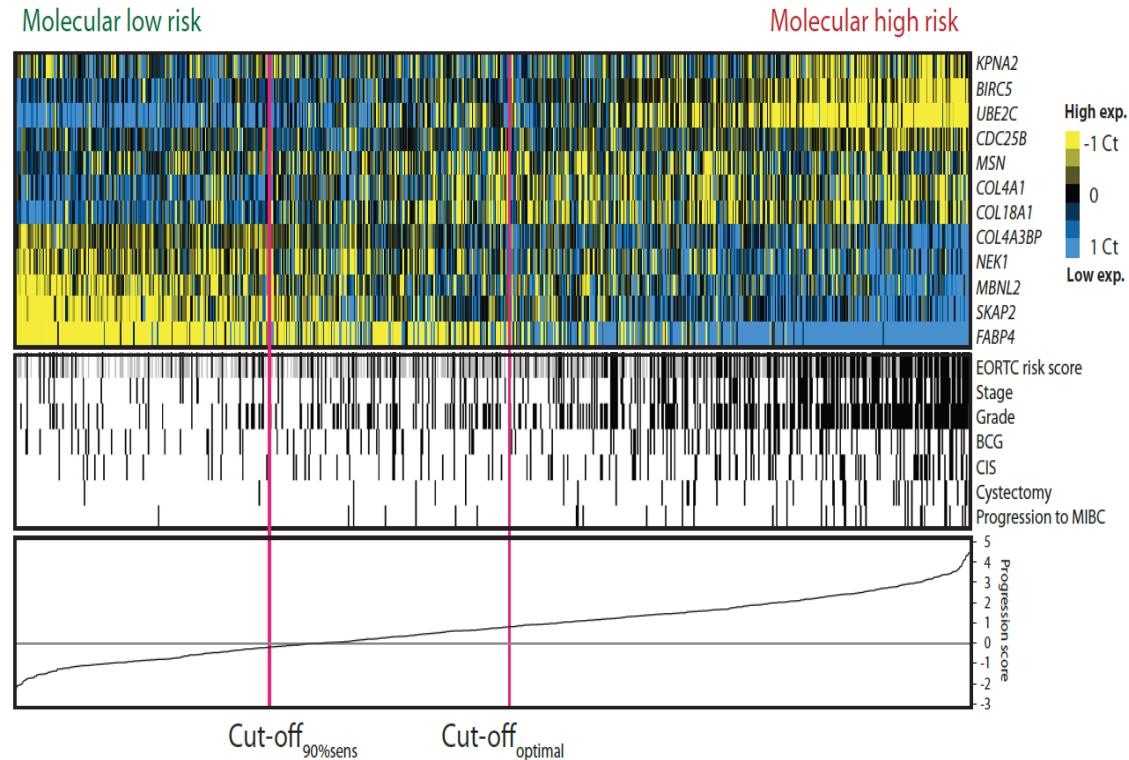
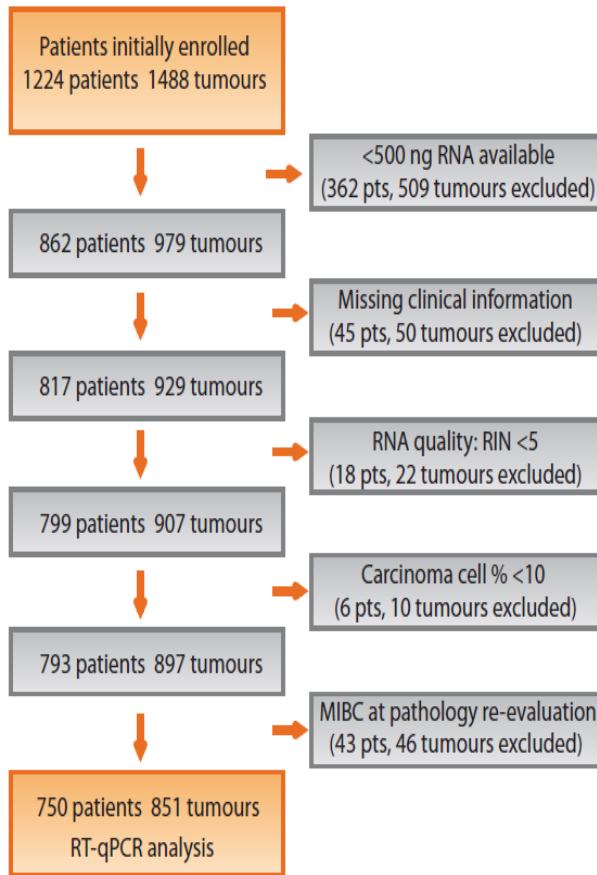
# Development of a 12-gene progression score qPCR assay

Transferred microarray signature to a 12-gene RT-qPCR test

**Progression score =** *average (Ct (COL4A3BP, MBNL2, NEK1, FABP4, SCAP2) – average (Ct (KPNA2, BIRC5, UBE2C, CDC25B, COL4A1, MSN, COL18A1))*

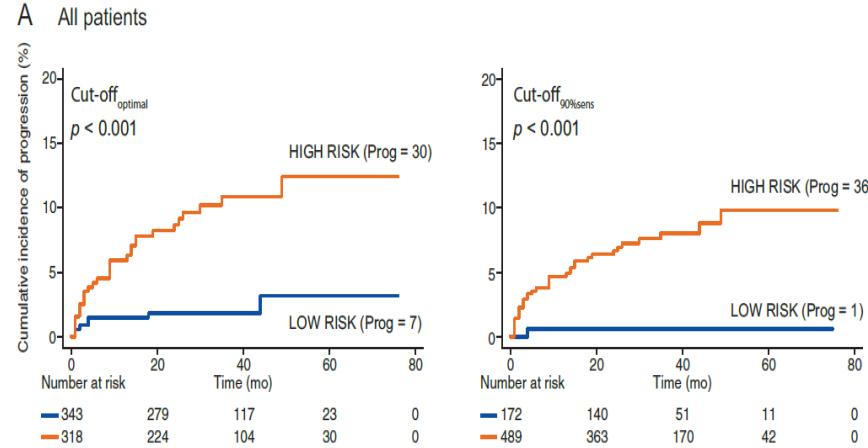


# Prospective study of 12-gene progression score in UROMOL



# Prospective study of 12-gene progression score

All patients



EORTC high-risk

Table 2 – Cox regression analysis of progression-free survival with the first tumour in the disease course as the baseline <sup>a</sup>

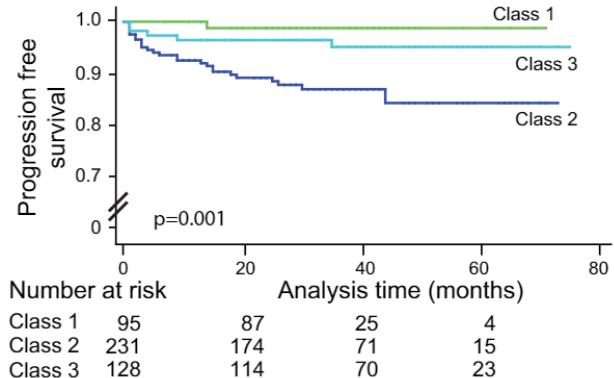
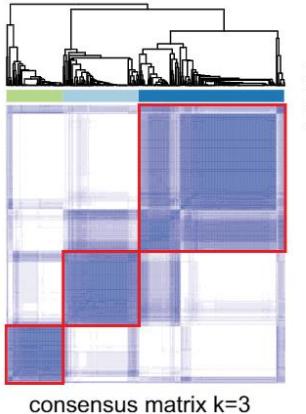
	HR (95% CI)	$\chi^2$ (df)	p value	PA (%)
<b>Univariate analysis (n = 578, 37 events)</b>				
Age	1.03 (1.00–1.06)	3.92 (1)	<b>0.040</b>	58.4
Gender (female vs male)	0.93 (0.43–2.05)	0.03 (1)	0.878	49.5
Stage (T1 + Cis vs Ta)	7.42 (3.67–15.04)	34.87 (1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	75.5
Grade (high vs low + PUNLMP)	4.94 (2.32–10.51)	20.58 (1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	70.1
Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (yes vs no)	0.63 (0.24–1.61)	1.07 (1)	0.329	53.8
Size ( $\geq 3$ cm vs $< 3$ cm)	1.40 (0.63–3.11)	0.63 (1)	0.415	53.2
Growth pattern (solid + mixed vs papillary)	4.45 (1.72–11.51)	6.70 (1)	<b>0.002</b>	55.5
Primary (yes vs no)	1.01 (0.53–1.93)	<0.001 (1)	0.978	49.8
Multiplicity (multiple vs solitary)	1.48 (0.76–2.88)	1.29 (1)	0.248	53.0
Concomitant CIS (yes vs no)	3.59 (1.58–8.18)	7.03 (1)	<b>0.002</b>	56.5
EORTC risk score ( $> 6$ vs $\leq 6$ )	7.17 (3.28–15.71)	31.20 (1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	73.3
EORTC risk score (continuous)	1.21 (1.14–1.28)	35.88 (1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	78.4
Progression score (high vs low risk)	5.08 (2.23–11.57)	19.56 (1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	68.1
Progression score (continuous)	2.39 (1.82–3.16)	41.85 (1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	78.6
PA model (clinical)				81.8
PA model (clinical + Progression score [continuous])				85.7
<b>Multivariable model 1 (n = 517, 34 events)</b>				
Progression score (continuous)	1.95 (1.44–2.65)	55.84 (2)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	85.7
Stage (T1 + CIS vs Ta)	4.21 (1.89–9.39)		<b>&lt;0.001</b>	
<b>Multivariable model 2 (n = 578, 37 events)</b>				
Progression score (continuous)	1.90 (1.39–2.58)	53.36 (2)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	82.2
EORTC risk (continuous)	1.13 (1.05–1.21)		<b>0.001</b>	



# UROMOL 2016 study

European multicenter study of total RNA-Sequencing from 460 NMIBC tumors.

Major finding: Three molecular subclasses of NMIBC with different clinical outcomes and biological characteristics.



Slide credit: Lars Dryskot

## Cancer Cell

Volume 30, Issue 1, 11 July 2016, Pages 27-42



Article

### Comprehensive Transcriptional Analysis of Early-Stage Urothelial Carcinoma

Jakob Hedegaard <sup>1</sup>, Philippe Lamy <sup>1</sup>, Iver Nordentoft <sup>1</sup>, Ferran Algabe <sup>2</sup>, Søren Høyer <sup>3</sup>, Benedicte Parm Ulhøi <sup>3</sup>, Søren Vang <sup>1</sup>, Thomas Reinert <sup>1</sup>, Gregers G. Hermann <sup>4</sup>, Karin Mogensen <sup>4</sup>, Mathilde Borg Houlberg Thomsen <sup>1</sup>, Morten Muhlig Nielsen <sup>1</sup>, Mirari Marquez <sup>5</sup>, Ulrika Segersten <sup>6</sup>, Mattias Aine <sup>7</sup>, Mattias Höglund <sup>7</sup>, Karin Birkenkamp-Demtröder <sup>1</sup>, Niels Fristrup <sup>1</sup> ... Lars Dryskot <sup>1</sup>

	Luminal-like	Differentiation	Basal-like	EMT TF activity	CSC activity	Cell cycle activity	Molecular signature	Mutations
Class 1	UPKs PPARG GRHL3 BAMBI SPINK1			SHH RPSA ALDH1A3 ITGA6	Early: CCND1 ID1 RBL2		FGFR3	
Class 3	GATA3	KRT5 KRT14 KRT15 CD44		ITGA6		BASE47+	FGFR3	RNA-editing signature
Class 2	UPKs PPARG KRT20 GRHL3 BAMBI SPINK1	KRT14	SOX9 TWIST1 FOXF1 ZEB1 ZEB2 GATA6	PROM1 ALDH1A1 ALDH1A2 ALDH1A3 NES THY	Late: CDC20 CDC25A CDKs PLK1	CIS+ Prog.+	TP53 ERCC2 APOBEC mutation signature	

Hedegaard et al, Cancer Cell 2016

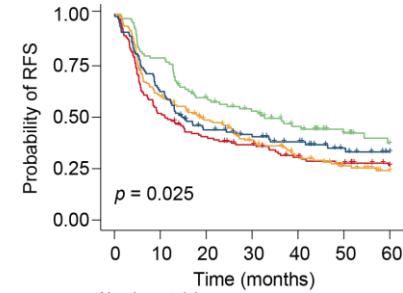
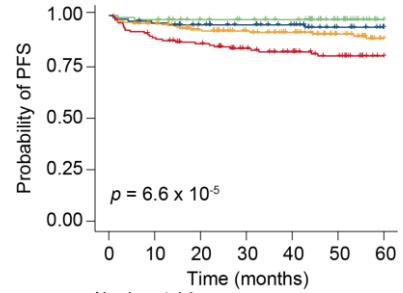
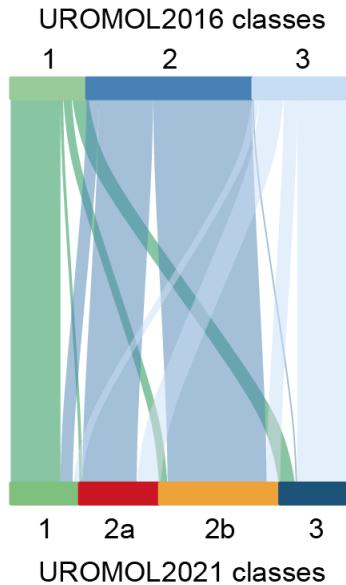
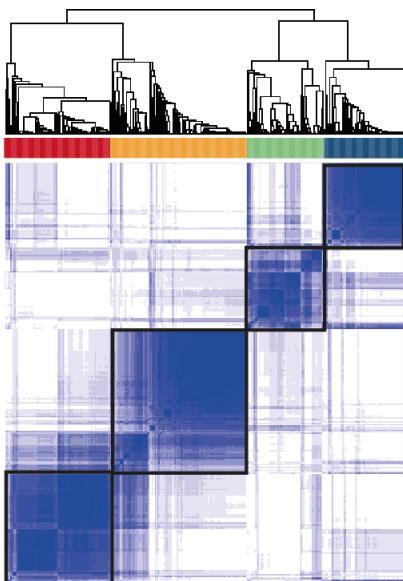
# UROMOL 2021 study

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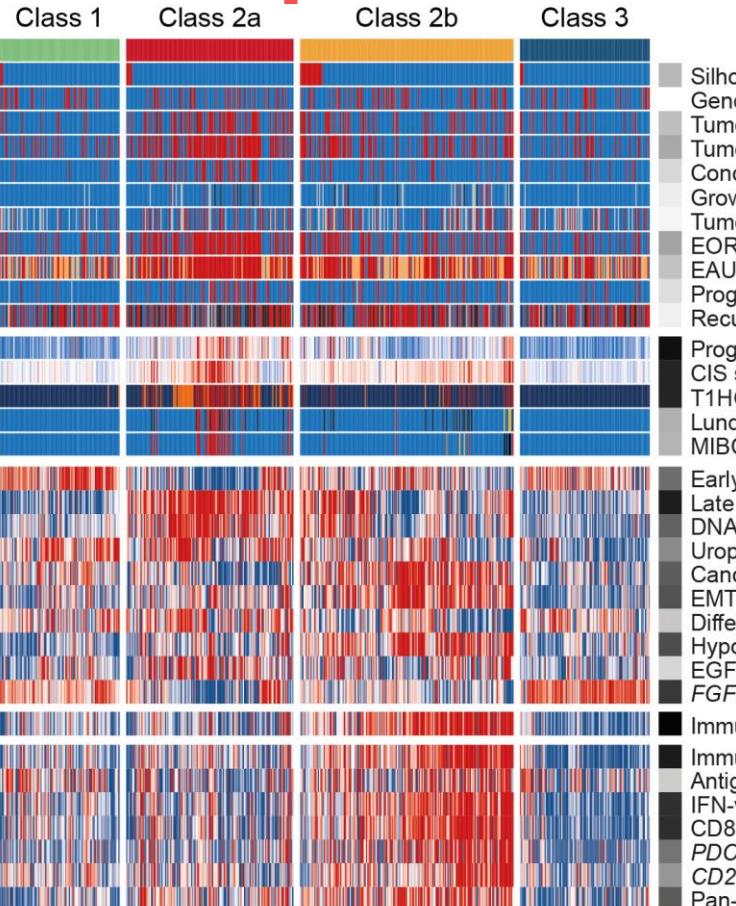
Multi-omics analysis of 862 NMIBC tumors

- Transcriptomic analysis (total RNA-Seq): 535 tumors
- Copy number analysis (SNP arrays): 473 tumor-leukocyte pairs
- Methylation analysis (EPIC BeadChip): 29 tumors
- Spatial proteomics analysis (multiplex immunofluorescence): 167 tumors
- Validation using expression data from 1309 independent tumors
- Updated clinical follow-up
- Updated bioinformatics analysis pipelines

# Four transcriptomic classes (n=535 NMIBC)

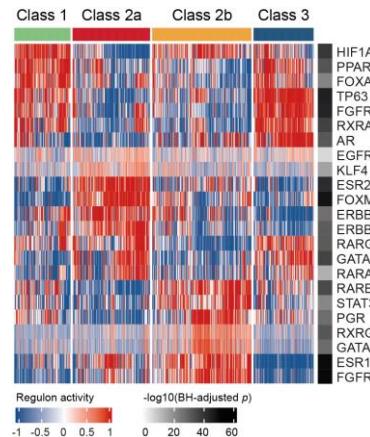


# Transcriptomic class characteristics



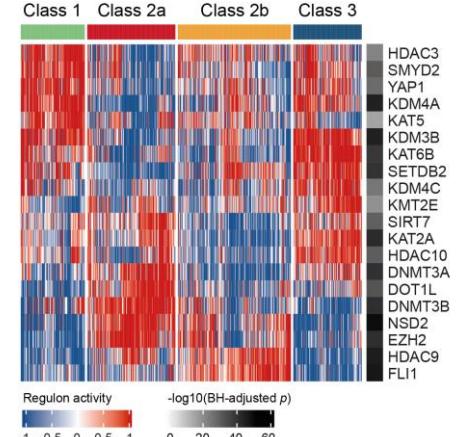
Silhouette score  
 Gender  
 Tumor stage  
 Tumor grade  
 Concomitant CIS  
 Growth pattern  
 Tumor size  
 EORTC risk score  
 EAU risk score  
 Progression to MIBC  
 Recurrence rate  
 Progression signature  
 CIS signature  
 T1HG subtype  
 LundTax  
 MIBC consensus class  
 Early cell cycle  
 Late cell cycle  
 DNA replication  
 Uroplakins  
 Cancer stem cell markers  
 EMT  
 Differentiation  
 Hypoxia  
 EGFR ligands  
 FGFR3-coexpressed genes  
 Immune infiltration score  
 Immune checkpoint  
 Antigen presenting machinery  
 IFN- $\gamma$   
 CD8 $^{+}$  T cells  
*PDCD1* (PD-1)  
*CD274* (PD-L1)  
 Pan-fibroblast TGF- $\beta$

## Regulons: TFs



Regulon activity -log10(BH-adjusted p)  
 -1 -0.5 0 0.5 1 0 20 40 60

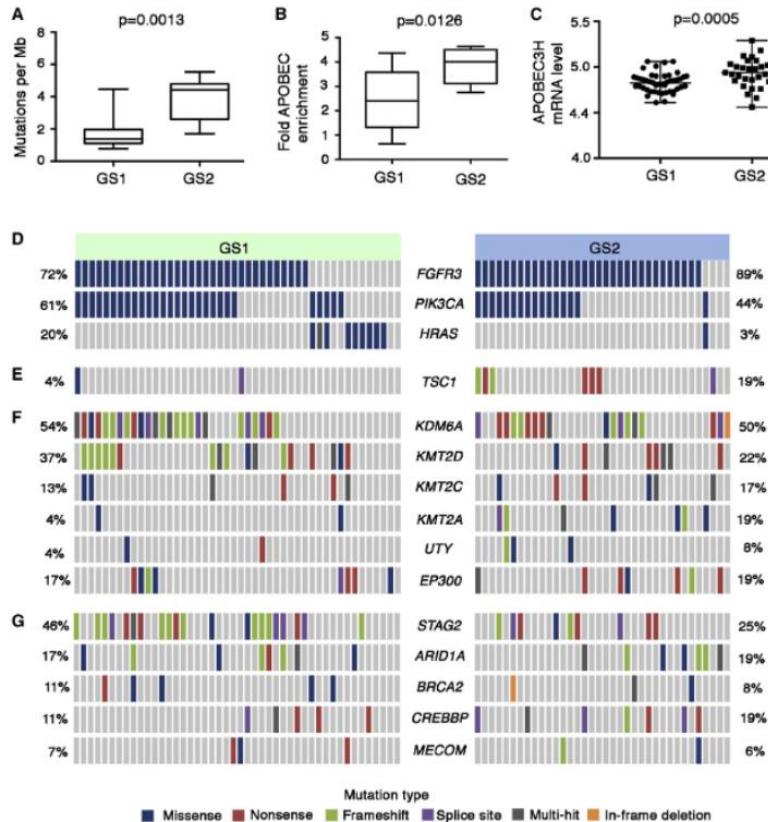
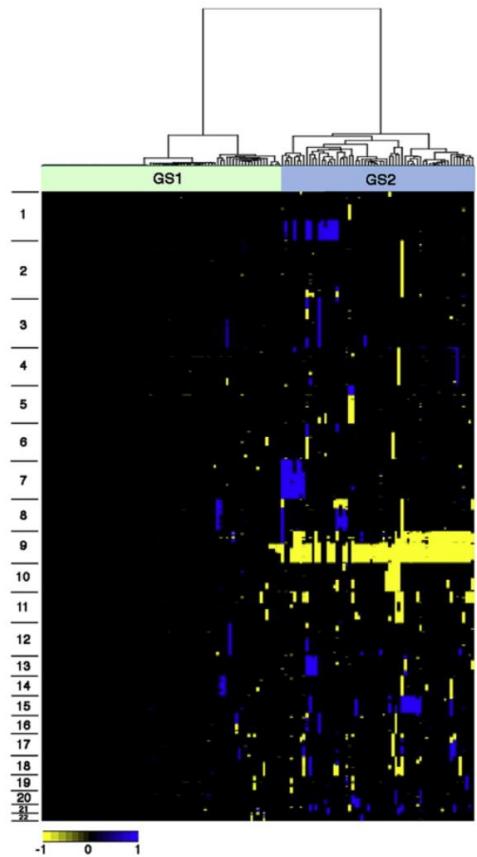
## Regulons: Chromatin remodelling



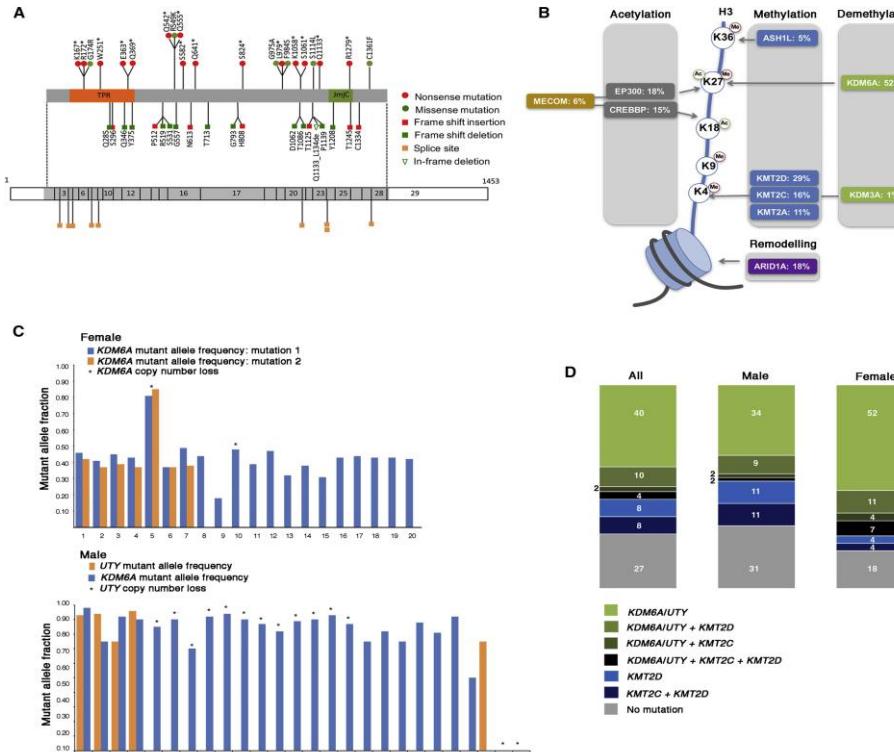
Regulon activity -log10(BH-adjusted p)  
 -1 -0.5 0 0.5 1 0 20 40 60

Silhouette score  
 <0  
 >0  
 Gender  
 F  
 M  
 Tumor stage  
 Ta  
 T1  
 CIS  
 Tumor grade  
 High  
 Low  
 Concomitant CIS  
 Yes  
 No  
 Growth pattern  
 Papillary  
 Mixed  
 Solid  
 Tumor size  
 >= 3 cm  
 < 3 cm  
 EORTC risk  
 High (>6)  
 Low (≤6)  
 EAU risk  
 High  
 Int  
 Low  
 Progression  
 Yes  
 No  
 Recurrence rate  
 0  
 1 per year  
 >1 per year  
 T1HG subtype  
 T1HG-1  
 T1HG-2  
 T1HG-3  
 LundTax  
 UroA  
 UroB  
 GU  
 GU-Inf  
 Stroma-rich  
 UroC  
 MIBC class  
 Lumb  
 LumNS  
 LumU  
 Stroma-rich  
 Ba/Sq  
 NA  
 Progression signature ratio  
 0.5 1 1.5  
 CIS signature ratio  
 0.5 1 1.5 2  
 Row-scaled gene expression  
 -1 -0.5 0 0.5 1 10 20 30 40  
 -log10(BH-adjusted p)

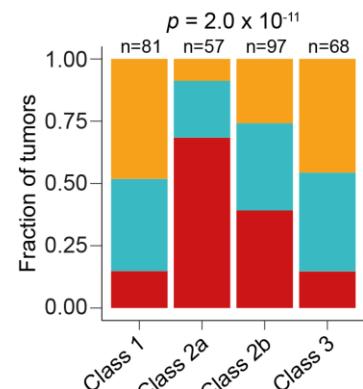
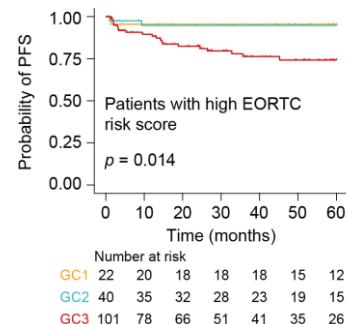
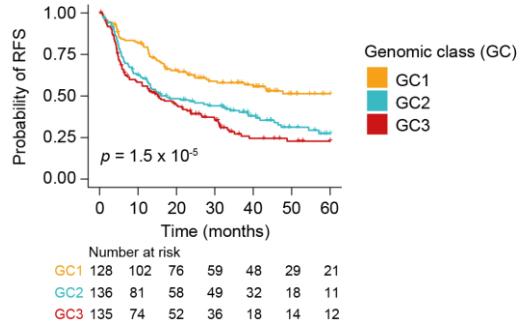
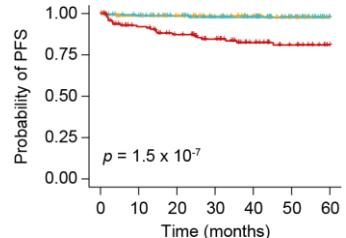
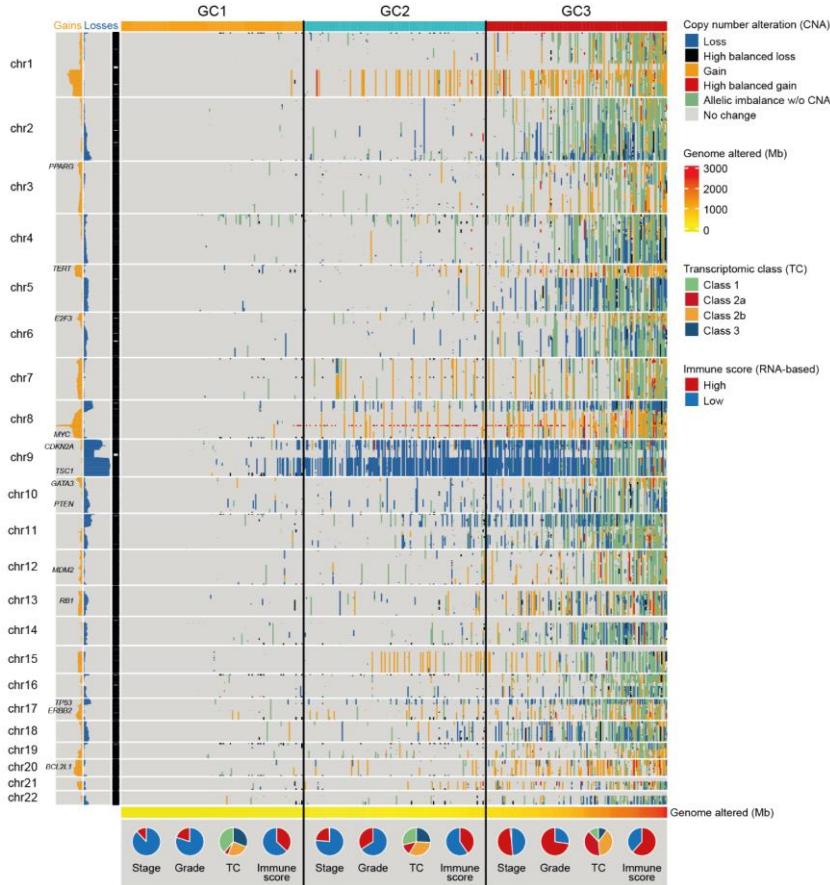
# Genomic alteration in 140 Ta tumors



# Sex-specific differences in prevalence of KDM6A mutations in NMIBC



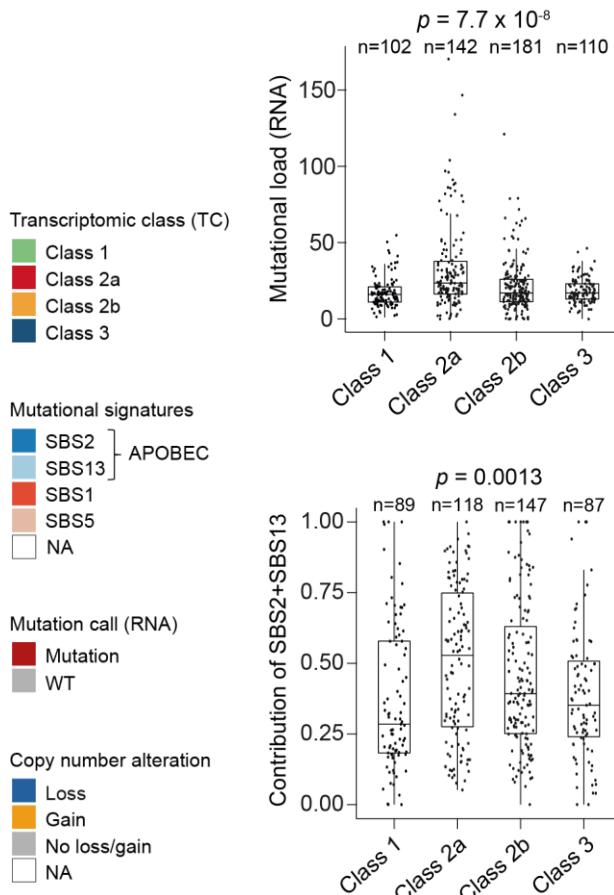
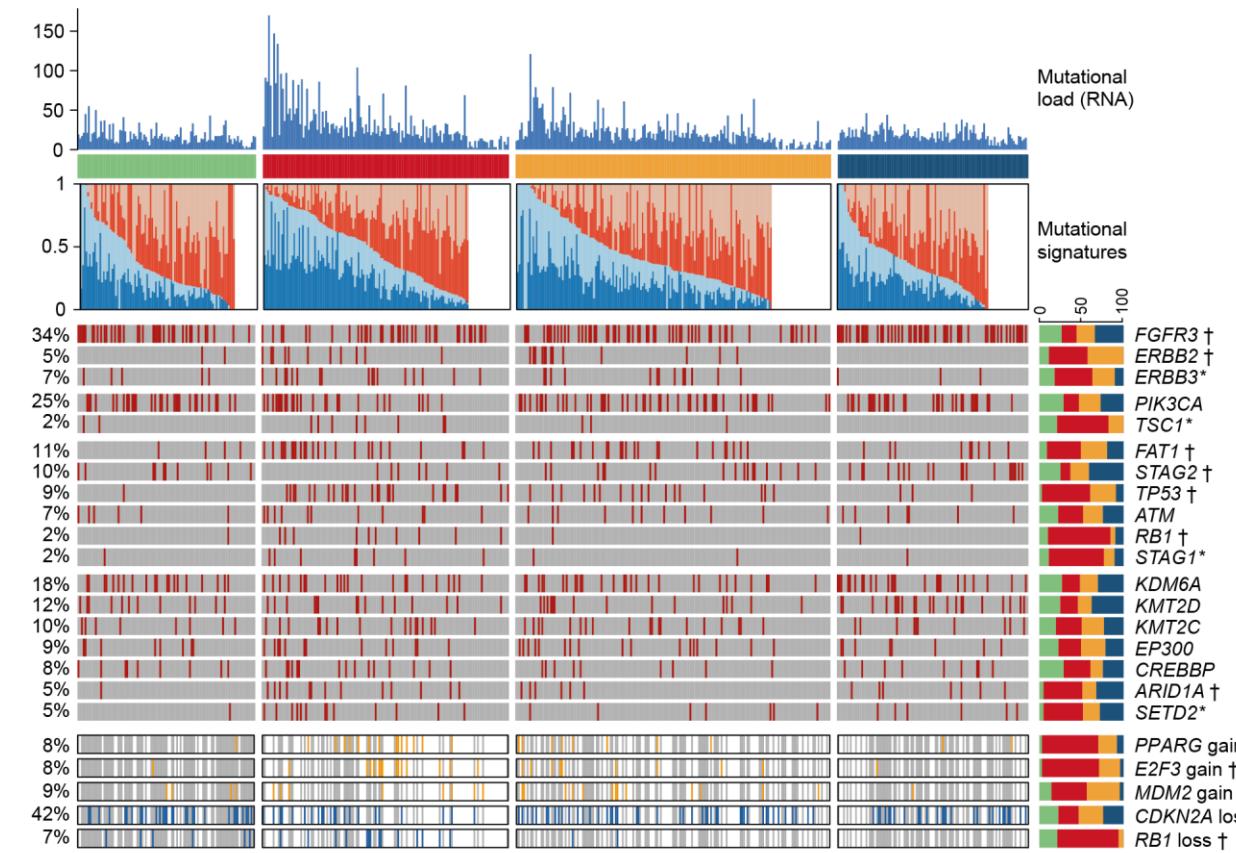
# Copy number alterations (n=473 NMIBC)



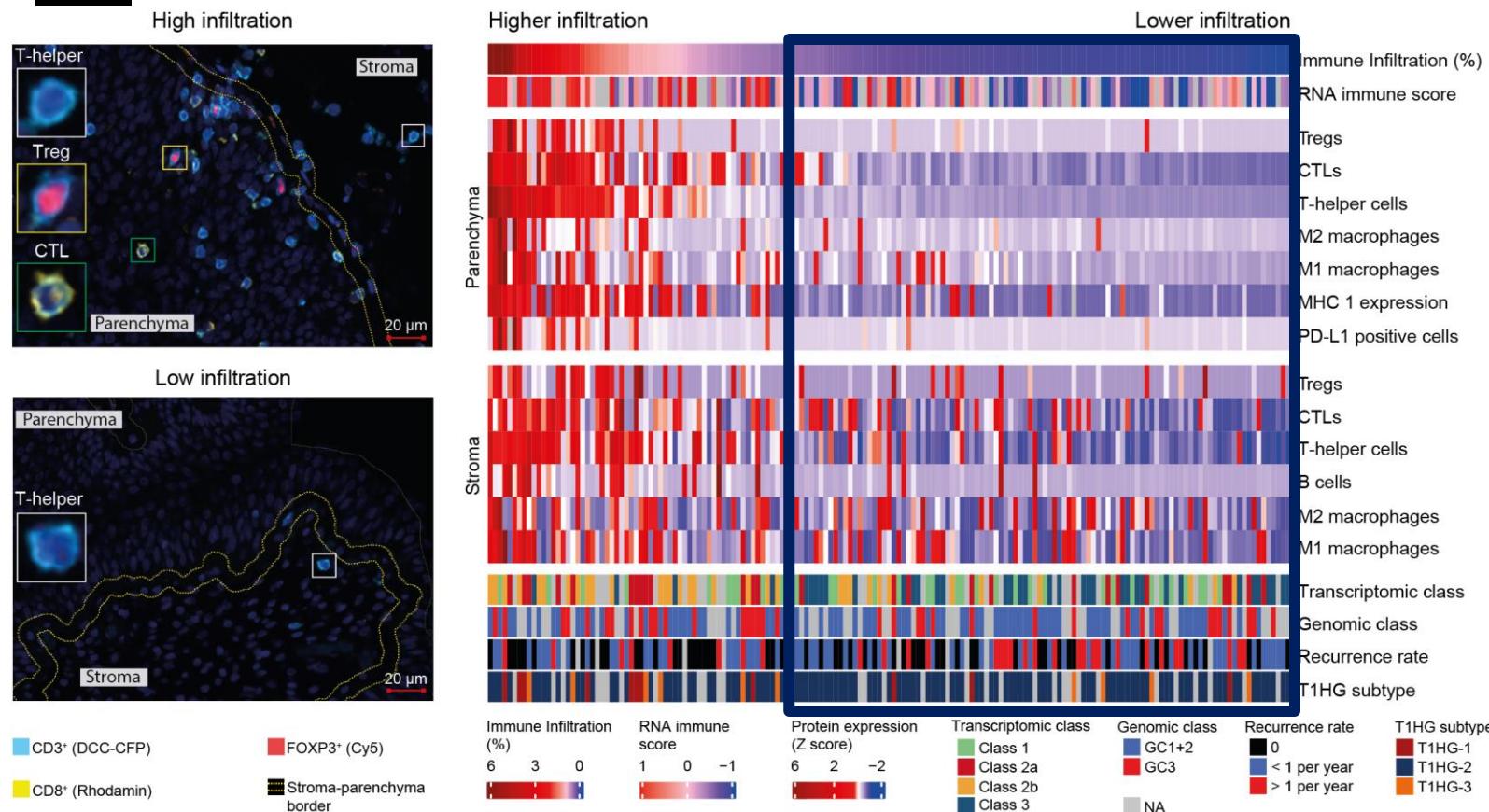
Slide credit: Lars Dryskot

Lindskrog et al, Nature Communications 2021

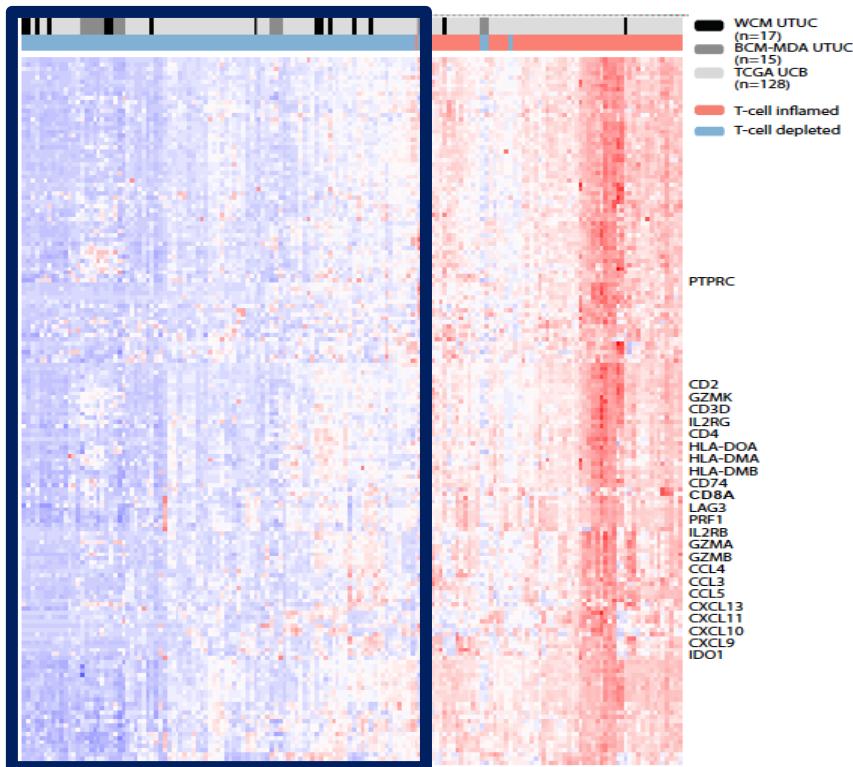
# Mutational analysis (RNA-Seq based)



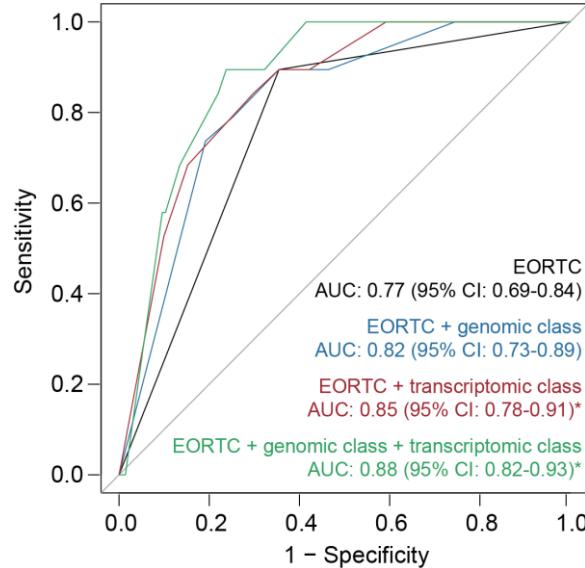
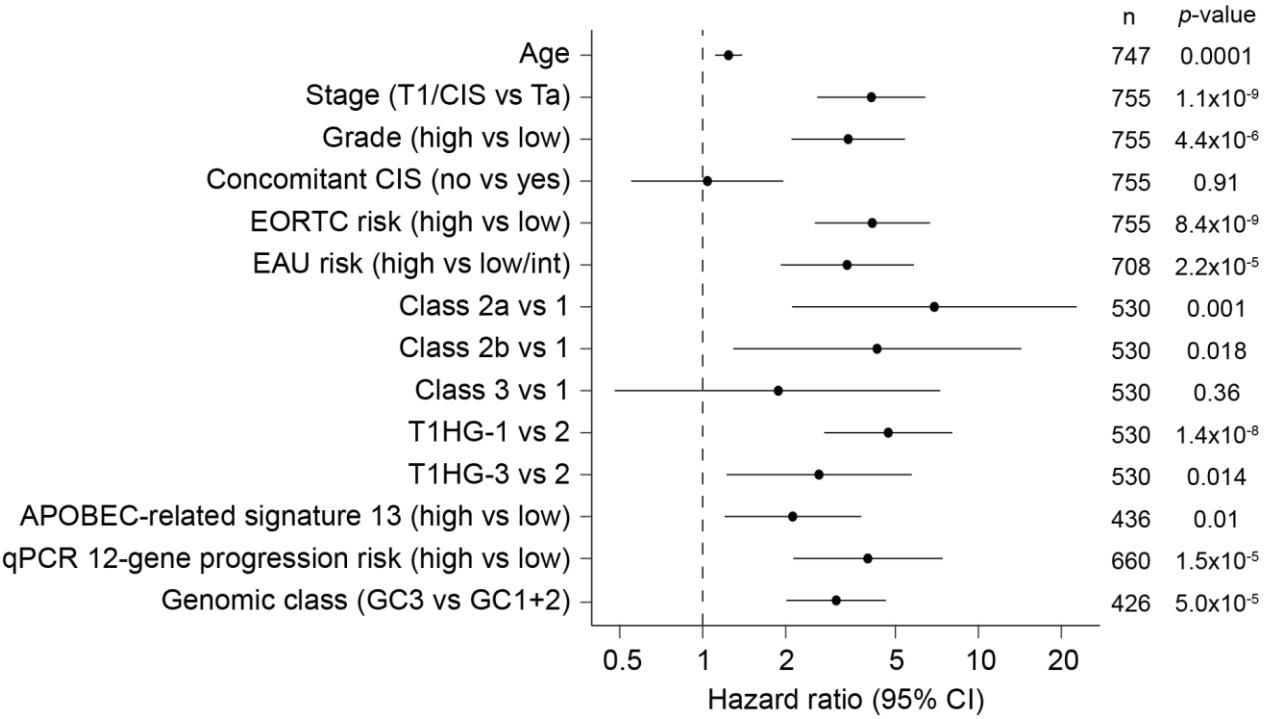
# Class 3 tumors are luminal-papillary and immune-depleted



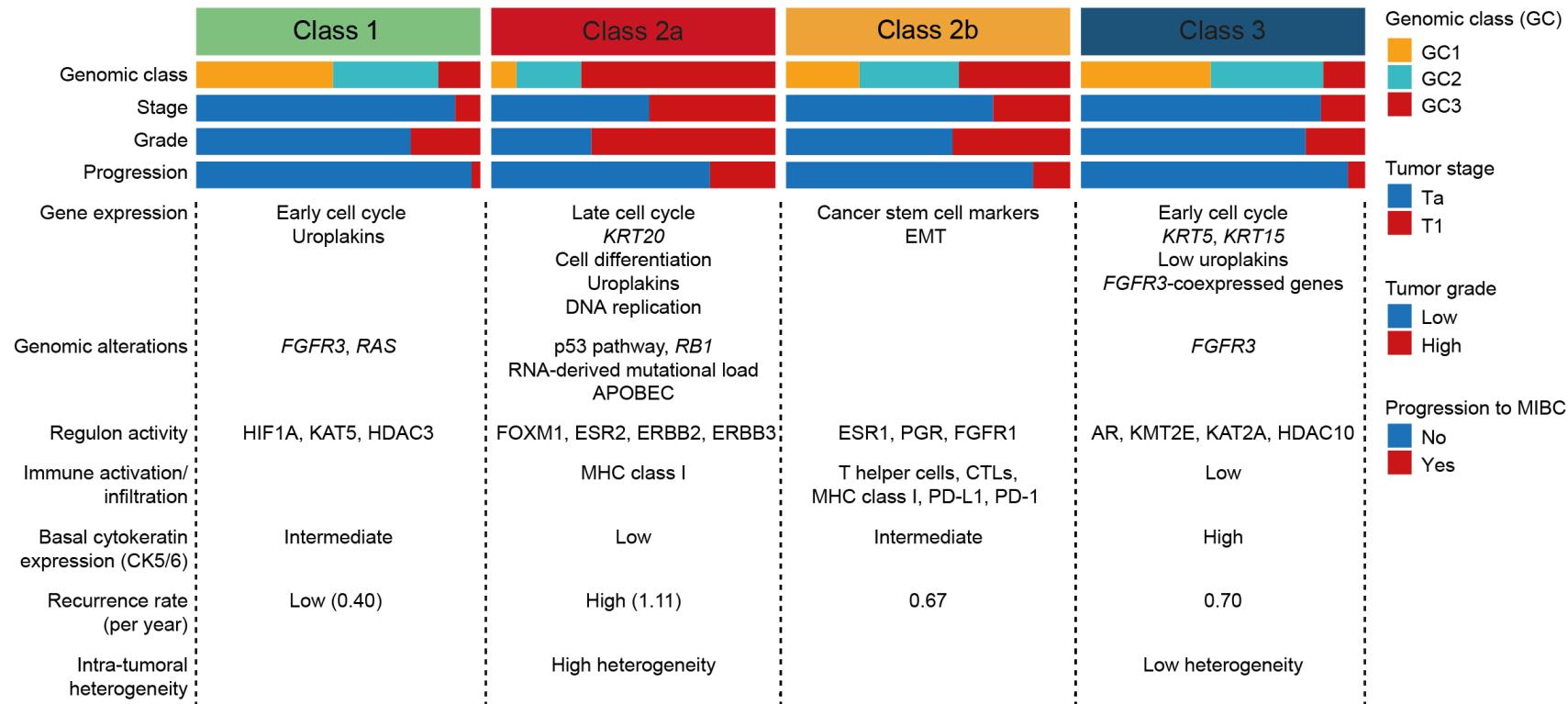
# Class 3 NMIBC similar to UTUC with a luminal-papillary and T-cell depleted immune contexture



# Prediction models



# Summary of biological characteristics



# Summary and conclusions

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- NMIBC molecular subtypes are prognostic.
- Biomarkers for predicting response to BCG and newer intravesical agents are needed.
- NMIBC molecular subtypes overlap with NMIBC but are not the same.
- Important NMIBC molecular features: FGFR3 alterations, APOBEC3 signatures association with worse outcomes, KDM6A alterations.
- Prospective trials assigning interventions based on molecular subtyping are needed but additional work to translate discoveries of molecular subtypes to clinical-grade biomarkers is needed.