# Session II: Key Issues for Clinical Development for Brain Mets

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# Identification of Targets for Brain Metastases Clinical Trials

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# Molecular epidemiology of brain metastases

- Breast cancer:
  - 30-40% of advanced HER2-positive
  - 40-50% of metastatic triple-negative
- Lung cancer:
  - 25-40% of advanced EGFR-positive disease
  - ALK-positive:
    - 27-40% at baseline
    - 35-71% in second-line
- Melanoma
  - 40-50% of advanced BRAF-positive disease

Brastianos et al. JNCCN 2013 Crino et al. JCO 2016 Griesinger et al. Oncotarget 2018 Hsu et al. Lung Cancer 2016 Kim et al. JCO 2016 Lazaro and Brastianos, CNS Oncol 2017 Maxwell et al. Int J Cancer 2016 Peters et al. NEJM. 2018 Shaw et al. NEJM 2013 Wang et al. Clin Neuro and Neurosurg 2017



Patients will often develop progressive brain metastases in the setting of stable extracranial disease. **Unanswered clinical questions** 

We have a limited understanding of how brain metastases genetically evolve from their primary tumor

• Intracranial progression due to incomplete drug penetration or different genetic drivers?

• What are the targetable mutations in brain metastases?

• Can we rely on a primary biopsy to make decisions for systemic targeted agents in brain metastases?

# Massively parallel sequencing of one brain metastasis and matched primary tumor

Few *de novo* genetic alterations in brain metastasis (*n* = 1)

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# Proteomic analysis of resected brain & extracranial melanoma: **PI3K pathway** activation in CNS mets

• 7 paired brain & extracranial metastases and 2 un-paired brain and 13 un-paired extracranial metastases

Significant (p<0.05)		
Matched Brain vs	BM/EM	Paired t-
Extracranial Mets	(log2)	test, p
Akt_pS473	1.028	0.022
Rb_pS807_S811	0.863	0.004
mTOR_pS2448	0.414	0.042
Bax	0.337	0.027
eEF2K	0.212	0.005
JNK_pT183_pT185	0.159	0.011
14-3-3_epsilon	-0.178	0.045
Smad1	-0.241	0.034
VASP	-0.252	0.011
Src	-0.264	0.023



Chen et al. CCR 2014

# Creation of a large tumor bank of brain metastases and rapid autopsy program



# Study design

- Whole-exome sequencing of 104 brain metastases matched with primary and normal tissue
- Including 15 with additional extracranial sites or temporally/regionally/ anatomically separated brain metastases



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# Branched evolution: brain metastasis and primary tumor evolve separately



Evolutionary relationship



**Charles Darwin 1837** 

Brain metastases harbor clinically actionable mutations not detected in primary tumors

Renal cell carcinoma

*VHL* p.L188P *PBRM1* p.T43fs *MTOR* p.K1452N

Germline

Primary

*PIK3CA* p.E542K

CDKN2A/B Del

Brain metastasis

Brastianos, Carter et al. Cancer Discovery 2015

### Clinically actionable alterations occur in all phylogenetic branches Shared Brain Primary biopsy met # of actionable 6 SSNV / SCNA 4 2 events 0 Brain met cases

53% of cases have a clinically actionable alteration in the brain metastasis, not detected in the primary biopsy.

Brastianos, Carter et al. Cancer Discovery 2015

## Opportunities to target brain metastases

### 51% of cases with alterations in the CDK pathway.





## Opportunities to target brain metastases

### 43% of cases with alterations predicting sensitivity to PI3K/AKT/mTOR inhibitor



# HER2/EGFR Alterations



One-third of cases with alterations predicting sensitivity to HER2/EGFR inhibitors





# Anatomically distinct brain metastases share all actionable drivers

Pre-XRT, preresection cerebellar



Post-XRT, pre-resection of parietal met





Brastianos, Carter et al. Cancer Discovery 2015

# Example: Lymph node not reliable genetic surrogate of brain metastasis



Brastianos, Carter et al. Cancer Discovery 2015

**Oxidative phosphorylation** is enriched in melanoma brain metastases compared to patient-matched extracranial metastases





Fischer...Davies. Cancer Discovery, In Press

## Efficacy of PI3K inhibitor in patient derived xenograft model of breast cancer brain metastases

GDC-0084 inhibits tumor growth in vivo in a *PIK3CA*-mutant cell line and not in a PIK3CA-wt cell line

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#### Ippen...Brastianos. Clinical Cancer Research 2019





# Efficacy of Oxphos inhibitor in murine model of melanoma brain metastases

- Treated nude mice with human xenografts with vehicle or IACS-010759
- Mice treated with IACS-010759 lived significantly longer

### A375-R1 (Acquired MAPKi-Resistant) MBMs

SKMEL5 (De Novo MAPKi-Resistant) MBMs





#### Fischer...Davies, In press

# National biomarker driven trial in brain metastases

Study Chairs: Priscilla Brastianos, Eva Galanis Correlative PI: Scott Carter



## Conclusions

- Brain metastases harbored **distinct** clinically actionable genetic alterations, compared to their primary tumors.
- Different brain metastasis regions are relatively **homogeneous**.
- Extracranial metastases are **not a reliable surrogate** for brain metastases.
- Alterations in the **CDK** and **PI3K pathways** are frequent in brain metastases.
- A national genomically guided trial is planned.

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