

**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**

**NewYork-  
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# **Targeted Therapy for Prostate Cancer: What is it and how can it help me?**

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**Weill Cornell Medicine**  
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# Disclosures

- Research support (to Weill Cornell since 2007):
  - Sanofi, Medivation, Astellas, Janssen, Amgen, Progenics, Dendreon, Lilly, Genentech, Newlink, BMS, Inovio, AstraZeneca, Immunomedics, Aveo, Rexahn, Atlab, Boehringer Ingelheim, Millennium, Bayer, Merck, Abbvie, Karyopharm, Endocyte, Clovis, Seattle Genetics, Novartis, Gilead, POINT Biopharma, Ambrx, Clarity
- Paid Consultant (since 2007):
  - Sanofi, Medivation, Astellas, Dendreon, Janssen, Genentech, Bayer, Endocyte, Eisai, Immunomedics, Karyopharm, Abbvie, Tolmar, Seattle Genetics, Amgen, Clovis, QED, Pfizer, AAA/Novartis, Clarity, Genomic Health, POINT Biopharma, Blue Earth, Alkido Pharma, Telix Pharma, Convergent Therapeutics, EMD Serono, Myovant, Merck, Daiichi Sankyo, TransThera, Regeneron, Ambrx, Boston Scientific
- Unpaid Consultant:
  - Atlab Pharma, Phosplatin Therapeutics, Amgen
- Patent:
  - Biomarkers for sacituzumab govitecan therapy (Immunomedics / Gilead / Weill Cornell)



# Targeted Therapy – various unofficial definitions

- Treatment that only affects bad parts, sparing good parts
- Treatment that hits the right target effectively
- Precision medicine
  - The right treatment for the right patient at the right time
- Treatment that seeks out certain targets



# Prostate cancer targeted therapy implications (to be discussed)

- Molecular selection
  - Precision medicine
- Imaging
  - Paired with focal / local therapy
- Cell surface targeting



# SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN **SYSTEMIC THERAPY**

- Hormonal Therapy

- “ADT”= androgen deprivation therapy
  - LHRH agonists (e.g. leuprolide, goserelin), GnRH antagonist (e.g. degarelix, relugolix), surgical removal of testicles
- First generation antiandrogens
  - Flutamide, bicalutamide, nilutamide
- CYP17 inhibitors
  - Abiraterone
- AR (signaling) inhibitors
  - Enzalutamide, apalutamide, darolutamide

- Chemotherapy

- Taxanes (docetaxel), cabazitaxel)
- Other (mitoxantrone), platinum)

- Immunotherapy

- Sipuleucel-T, pembrolizumab

- Bone-targeted therapy

- Radium-223
- Zoledronic acid, denosumab

- Molecularly selected therapy

- PARP inhibitors
  - Olaparib, rucaparib, talazoparib, niraparib
- Lutetium Lu-177 vipivotide tetraxetan (<sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA-617)

(other ways of grouping)

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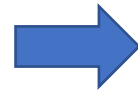
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All of these are targeted agents

Nearly all have some data for “positive or negative selection”

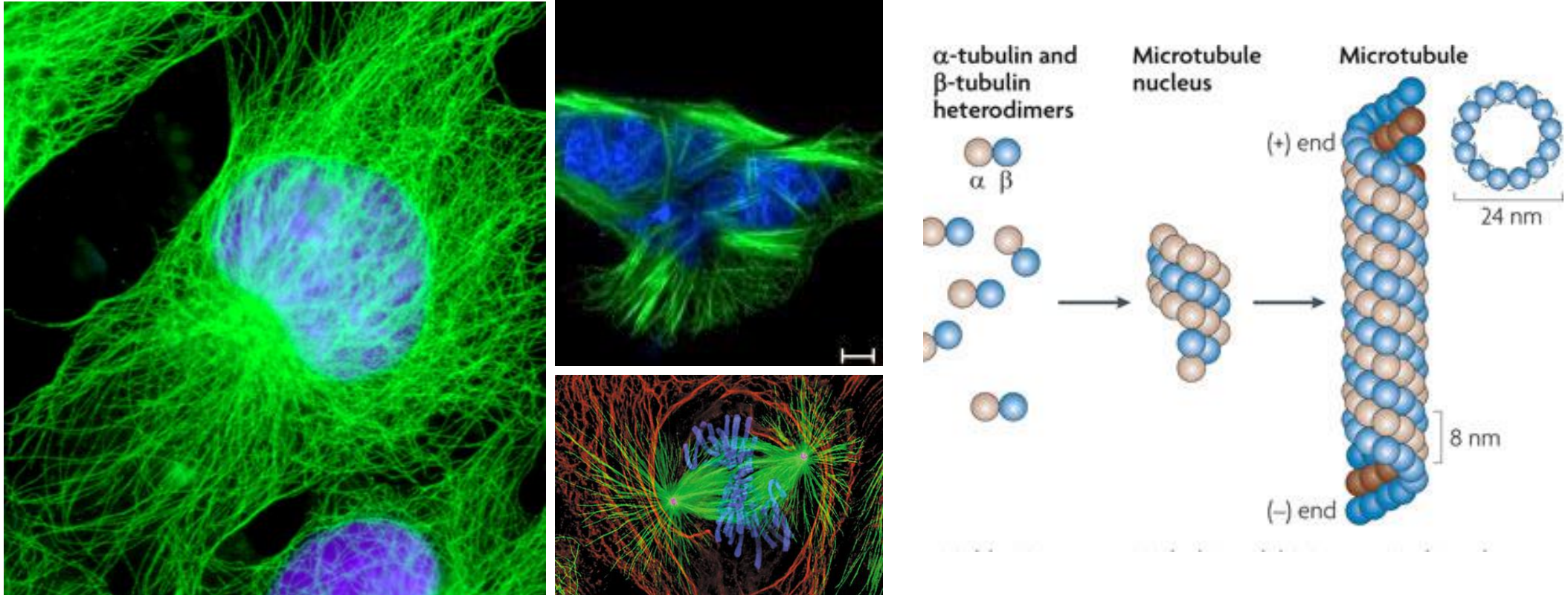
→ Major improvements in quantity and quality of life

# WHAT IS TARGETED THERAPY?

- Local therapy (treatment to one area) designed to spare other areas
  - Requires both sensitive imaging and focal treatment
- **Precision medicine:** the right treatment for the right patient at the right time
  - Often genomically selected approaches
- **Cell (surface) targeting:** usually systemic administration of an agent designed to attach to certain cells and bypass others



# Taxanes: The Misunderstood Targeted Therapy

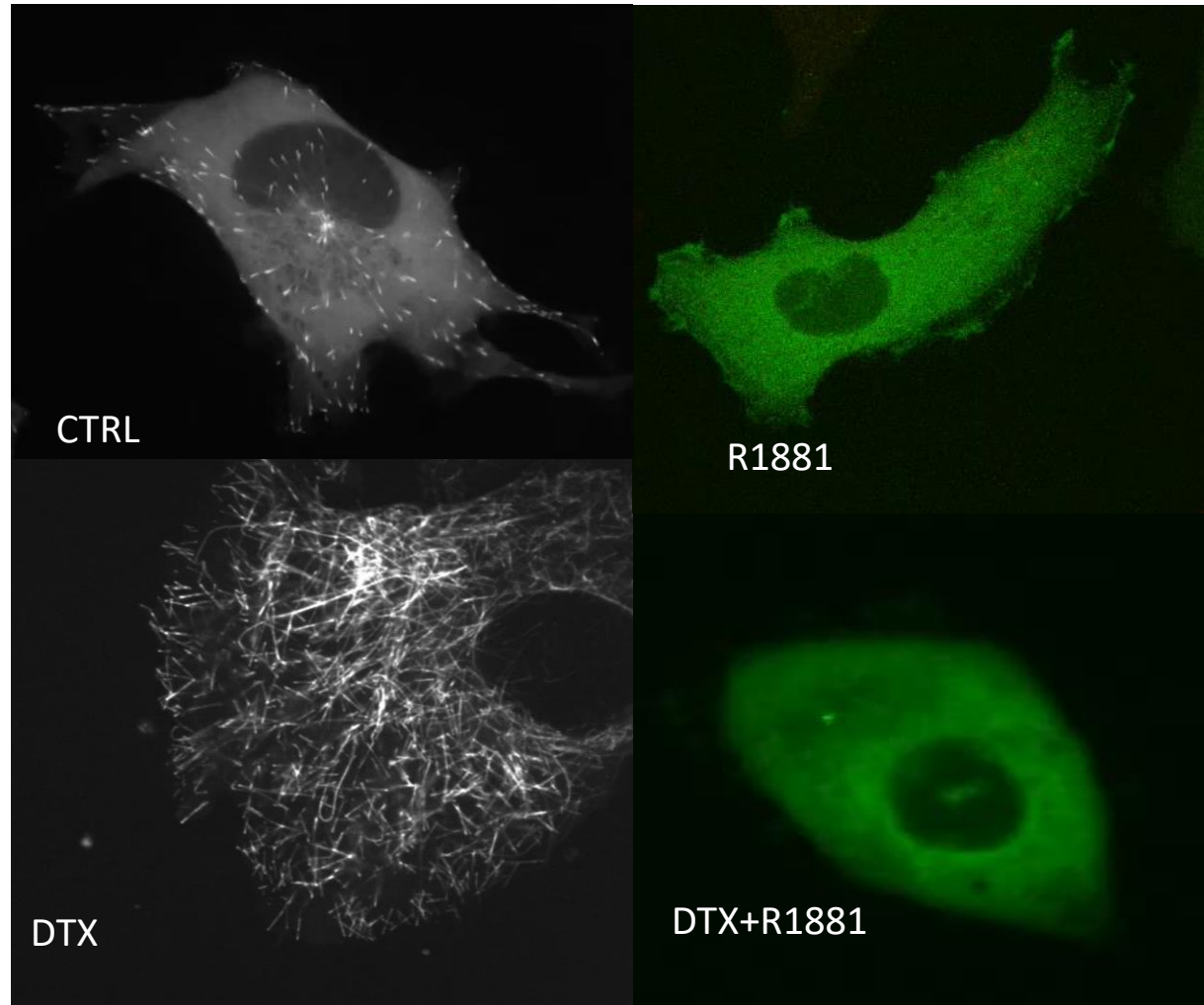


- MT-Targeting drugs show the broadest anti-tumor activity in comparison to all other classes of cancer chemotherapeutics.
- In breast cancer 7 of the 10 FDA-approved chemotherapy drugs are MTDs
- In prostate cancer the taxanes [docetaxel (Taxotere), cabazitaxel (Jevtana)] form the backbone of chemotherapy

Yet, MT inhibitors are still considered as "antimitotics" because the MT-regulated signaling and trafficking interphase pathways and their role in patient sensitivity/resistance remain poorly understood



# Taxanes Inhibit the Dynamic MT-AR Signaling Axis

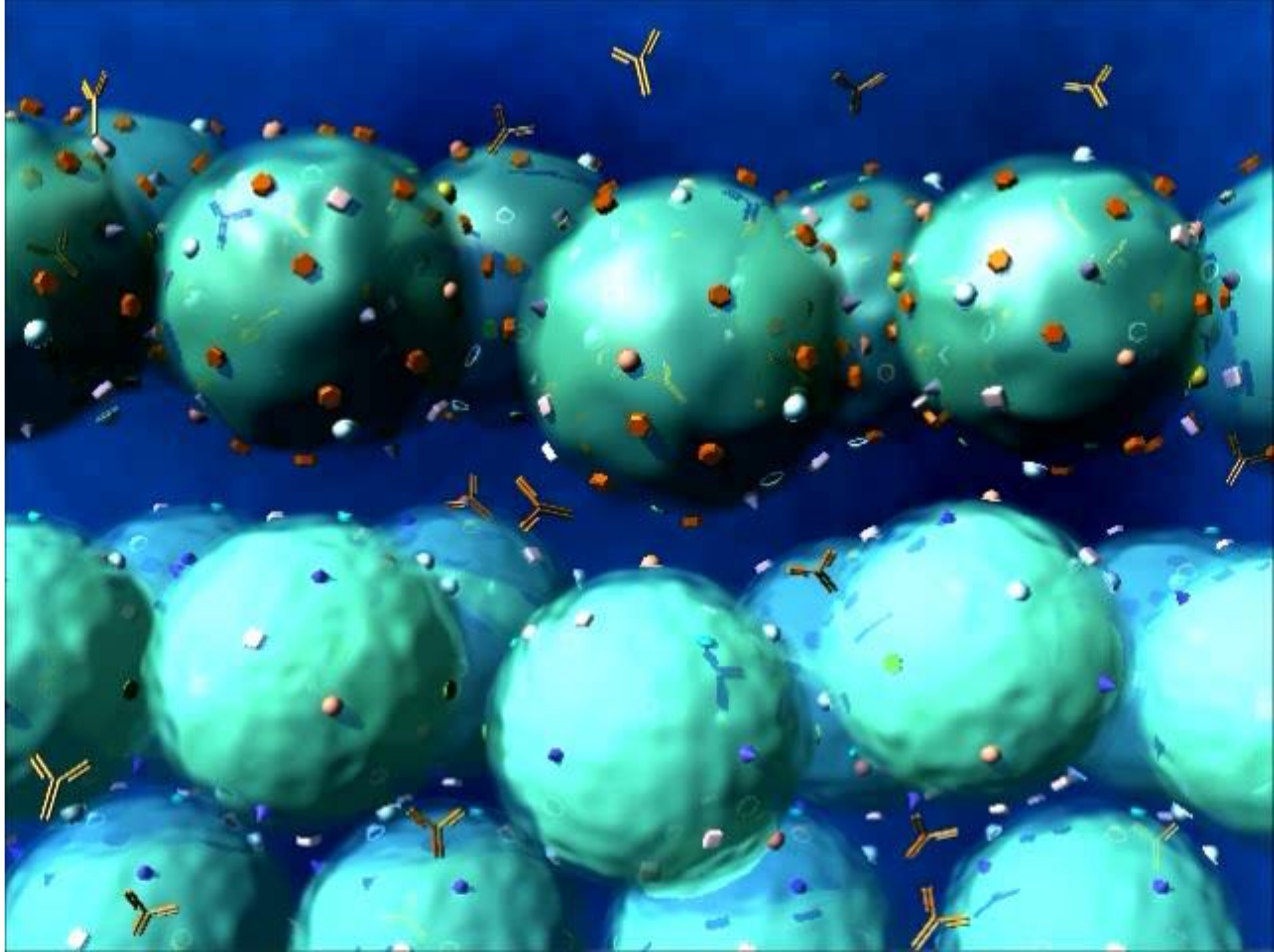


# Targeting

Engineer a targeting agent (i.e. **key**)

That will recognize a specific target (i.e. **lock**)

Upon binding to those selected target cells (usually cancer), the agent enters the cell (bringing whatever is attached to it)





# What is PSMA?

*Prostate-specific membrane antigen*

- **“PSMA is the single most well-established, prostate-restricted, cell membrane target known”**
  - Well-established = validated in cells and in humans in clinic
  - Prostate-restricted = distribution mostly\* limited to prostate and prostate cancer
  - Cell membrane target = on the surface of cells
- PSMA remains a target of high interest in the current era
  - Especially important for higher grade (aggressive), metastatic (spread) tumors that grow despite hormonal therapy

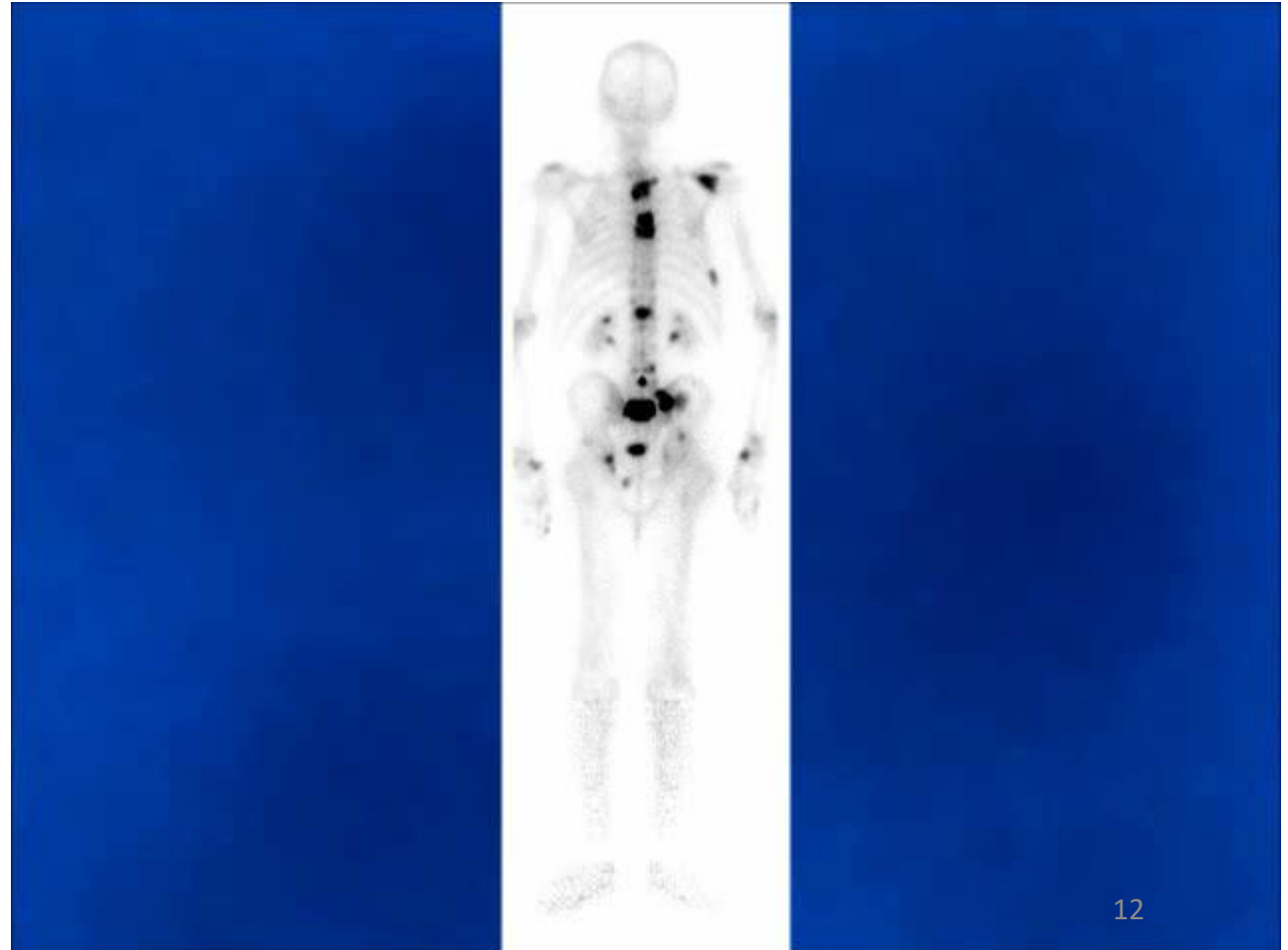
\* Luminal expression prox renal tubules, brush border small intestine, salivary and lacrimal glands  
Also happens to be expressed on neovasculature of most solid tumors

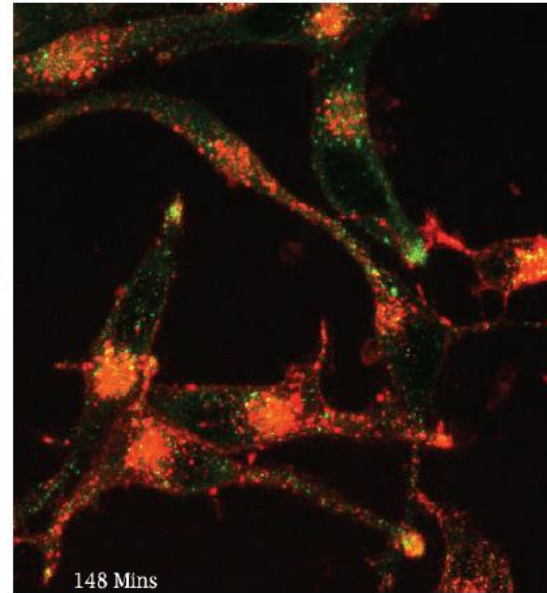
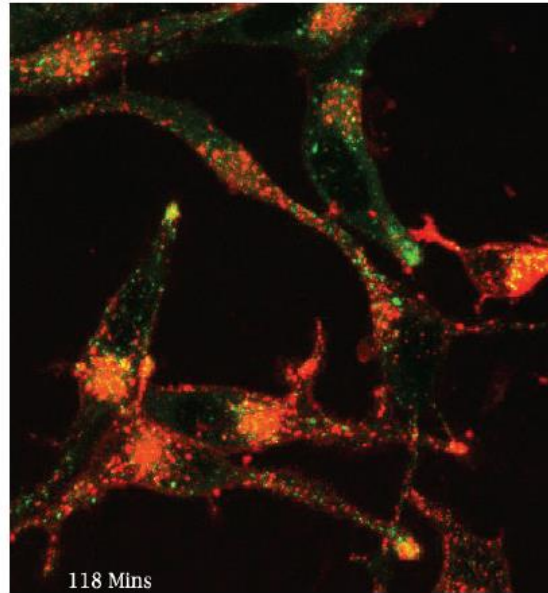
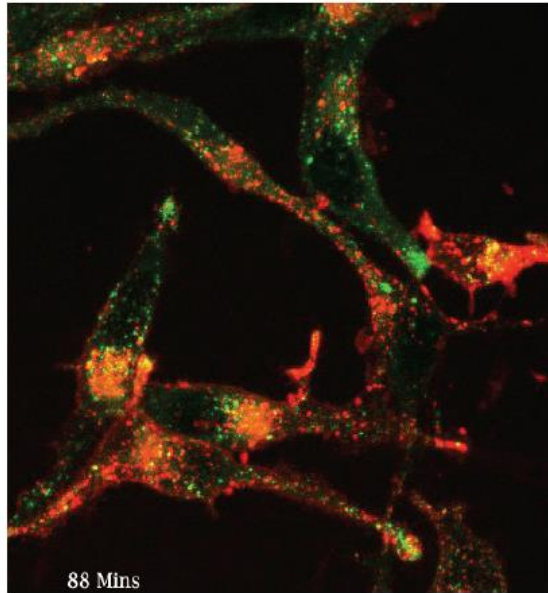
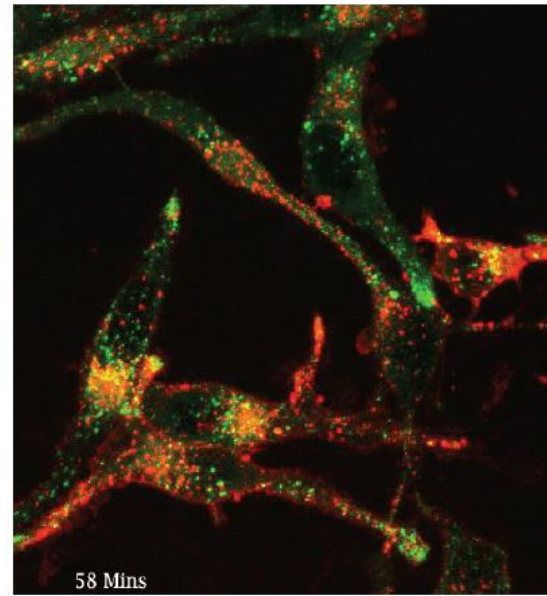
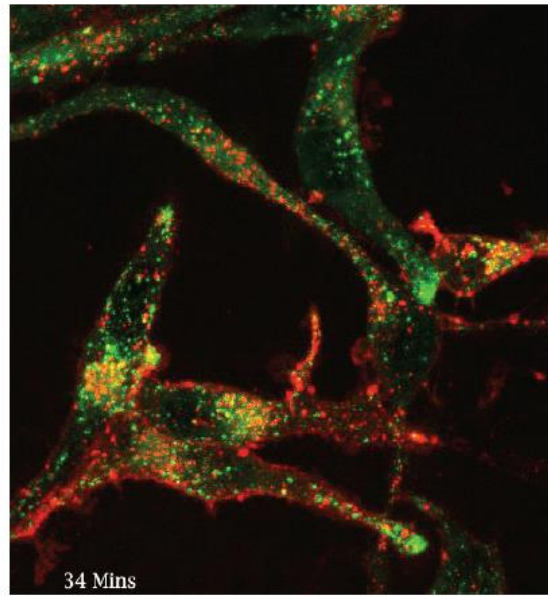
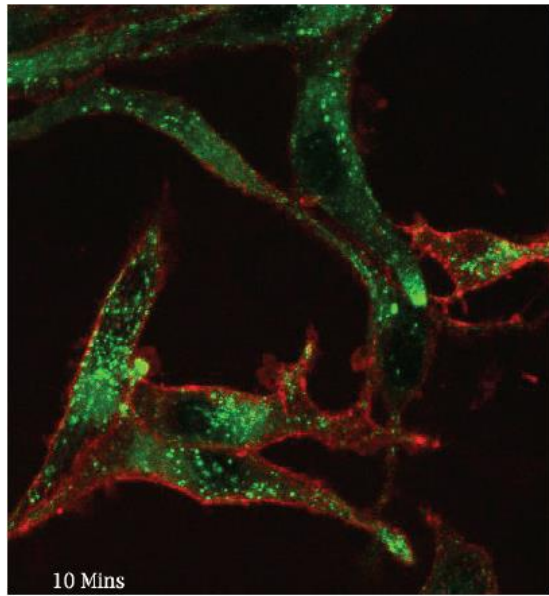


# Targeted Diagnostics (& Therapeutics)

- PSMA = a very specific lock present on tumor
- We have engineered specific “keys” that only target PSMA “locks”  
*and we can attach cancer killers or other molecules to keys that enter via locks*

APPLICATIONS





Snapshots from a 2.5 hour time-lapse confocal microscopy sequence of LNCaP incubated with directly red-labeled J591 (anti-PSMA) mAb and green-labeled lysosomes (lysotracker). Rapid uptake of the J591 Ab into the lysosomal compartment (red+green = yellow) directly adjacent to the nucleus.

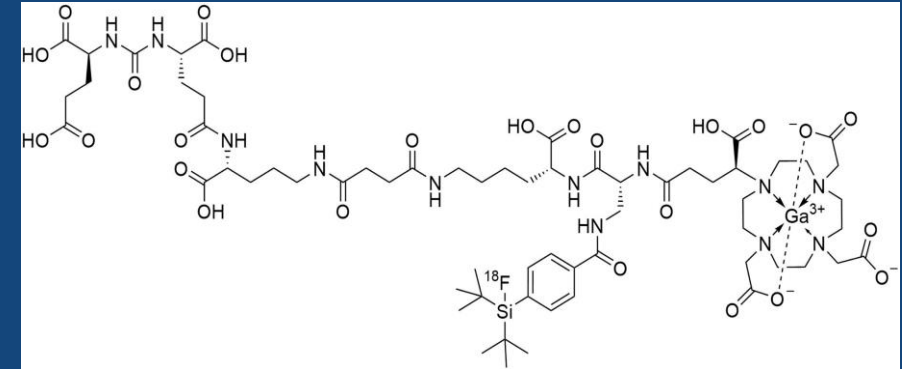
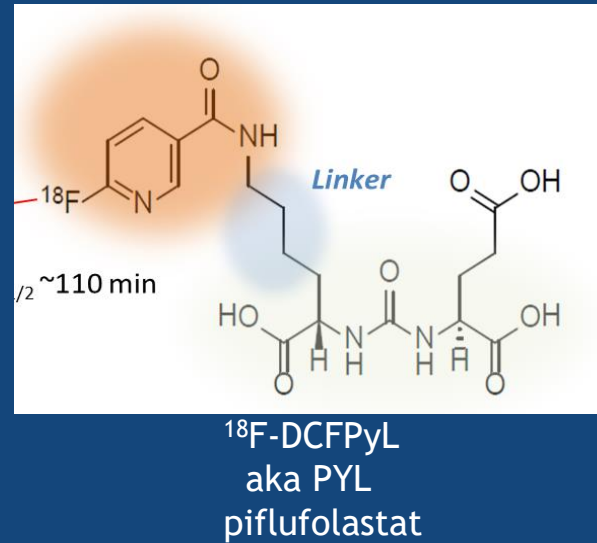
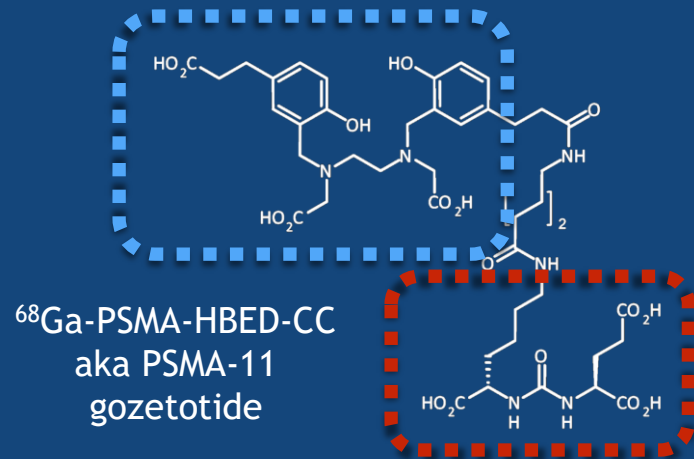


# Current (modern) imaging tools:

- Xray
- Ultrasound
- CT scans
- MRI
- Bone scan
  - $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -MDP bone scintigraphy
- Other available/approved nuclear medicine techniques
  - $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG-PET
  - $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF bone PET
  - $^{11}\text{C}$ -choline PET
  - $^{18}\text{F}$ -fluciclovine (FACBC, Auxumin®) PET
  - $^{111}\text{In}$ -capromab penditide (Prostascint®) SPECT
  - $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -PSMA-11 (gozetotide, Illucix®, Locametz®) PET
  - $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL (piflufolastat, Pylarify®) PET
  - $^{18}\text{F}$ -rhPSMA-7.3 (flotufolastat, Posluma®) PET
  - ( $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA SPECT)



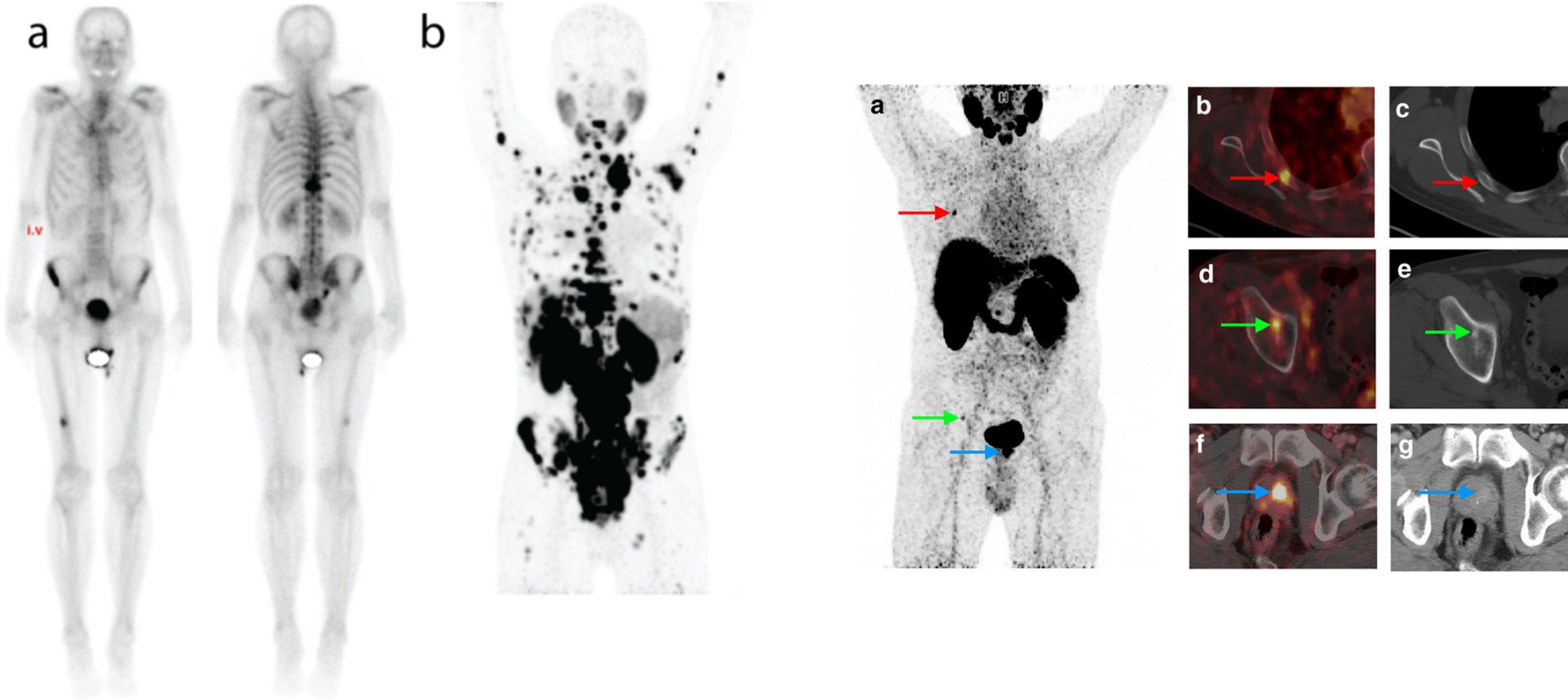
# Multiple small molecule ligand inhibitors in clinic



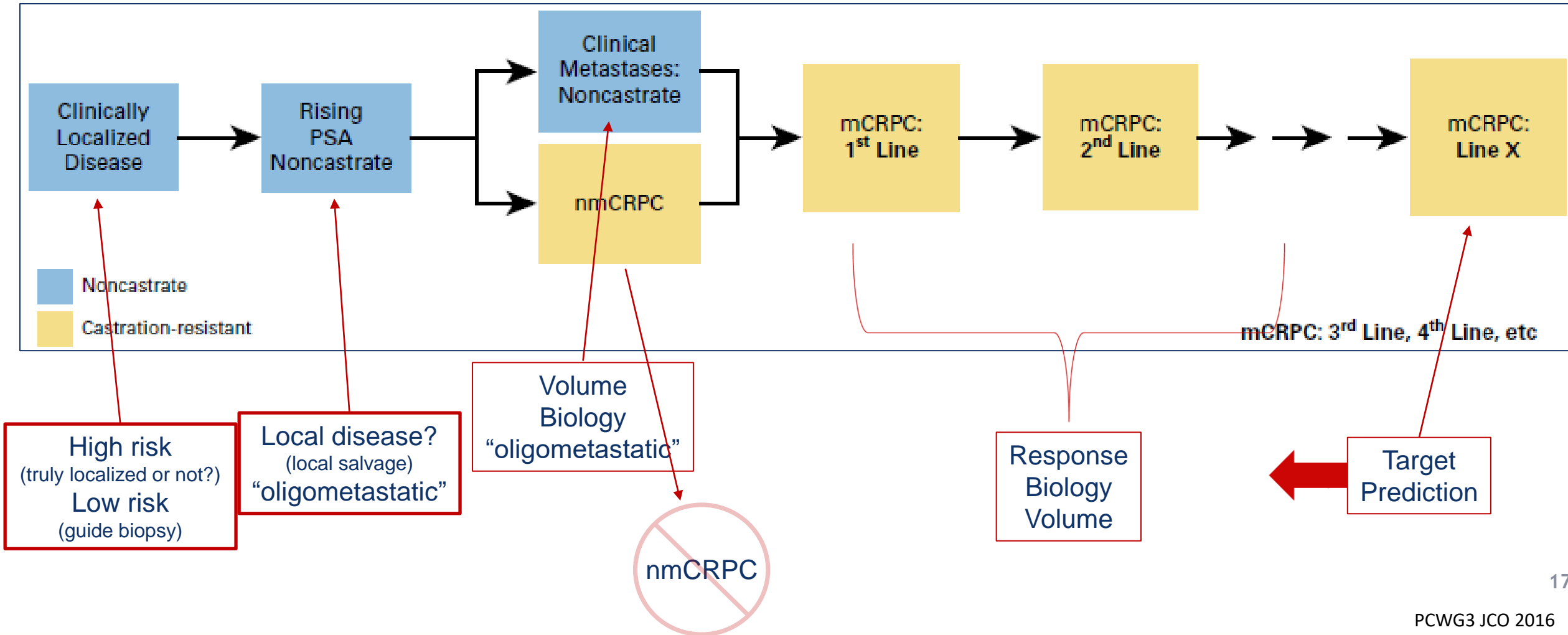
<sup>18</sup>F-rhPSMA-7.3  
flutolastat

- Generally with similar urea PSMA ligand binding domain
- Linker for radionuclide
- “Minor” differences in radioisotope
  - Different imaging properties; practicalities = cost, availability
- Some with different biodistribution
  - Urinary excretion for most

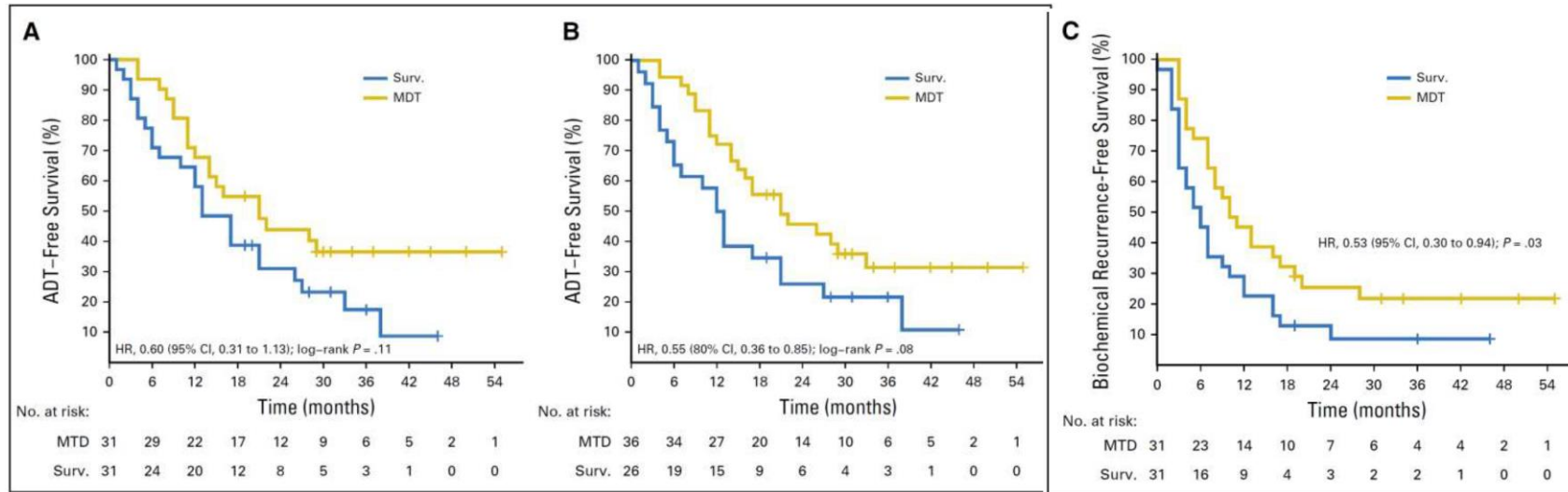
# Examples: PSMA PET vs “standard” imaging



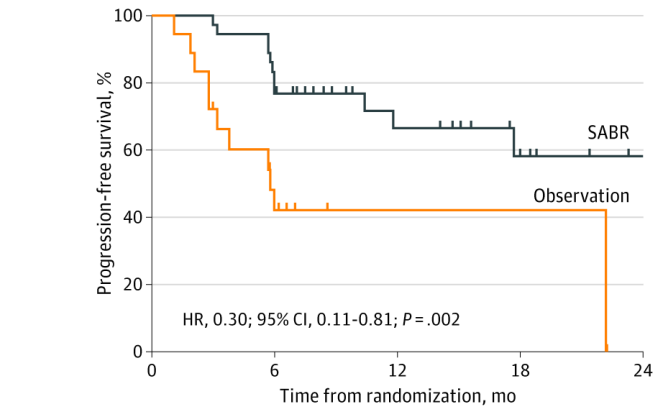
# PSMA PET to address imaging deficiencies for men with prostate cancer



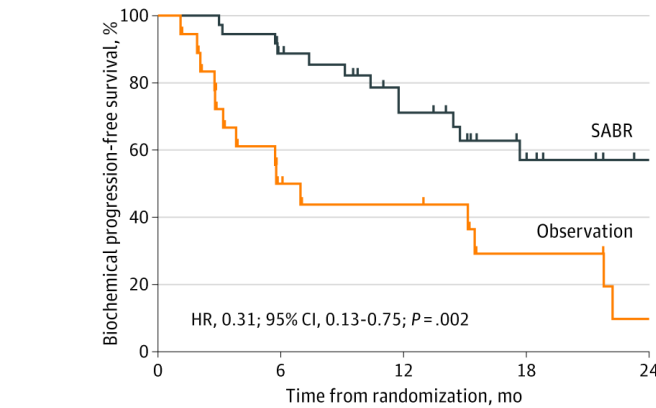
# Metastasis-directed therapy to “oligometastatic” sites



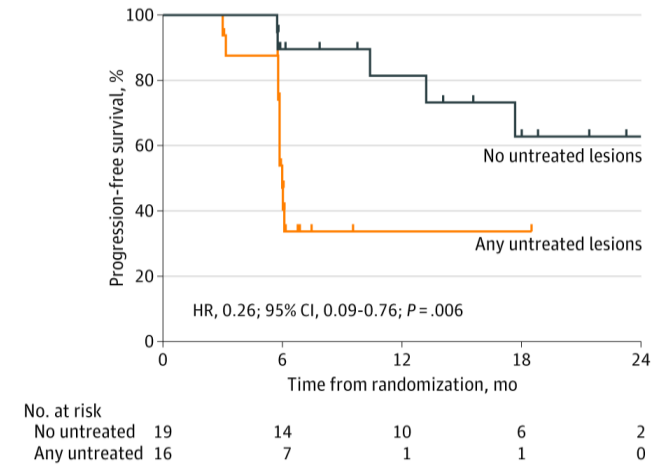
**A** Composite PFS stratified by study arm



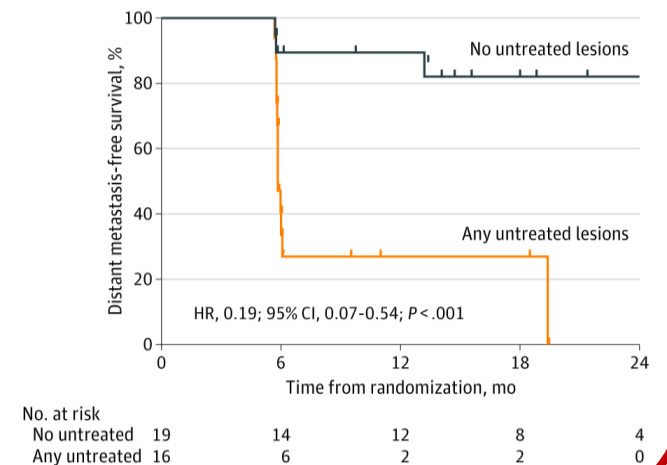
**B** Biochemical PFS stratified by study arm



**C** PFS stratified by presence of untreated lesions



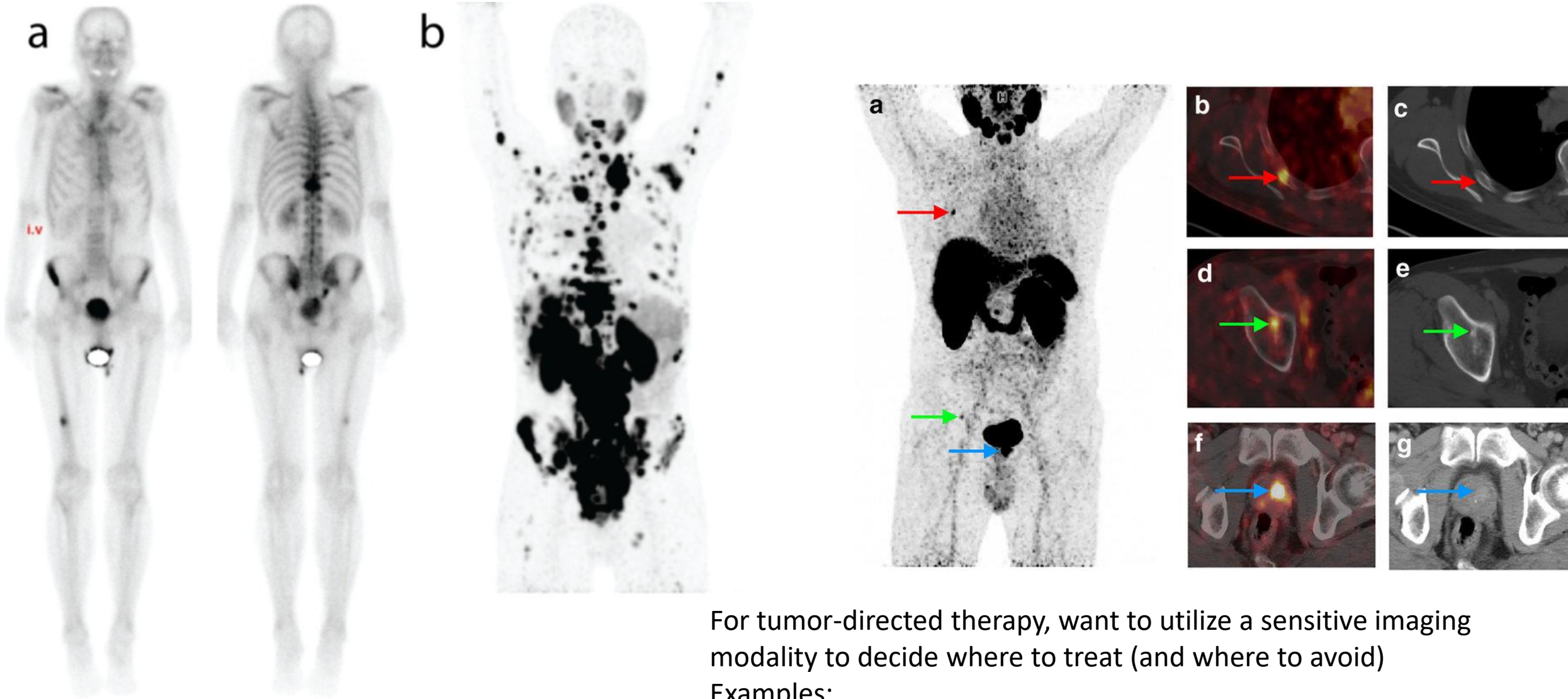
**D** DMFS stratified by presence of untreated lesions



With PSMA PET



# PSMA PET vs “standard” imaging revisited



For tumor-directed therapy, want to utilize a sensitive imaging modality to decide where to treat (and where to avoid)

Examples:

Surgery, radiation, ablation [cryotherapy, radiofrequency ablation, irreversible electroporation (IRE), ultrasound (HIFU)], embolization

# What is PSMA-TRT?

***Prostate-specific membrane antigen-targeted radionuclide therapy***

*[RLT = radioligand therapy]*

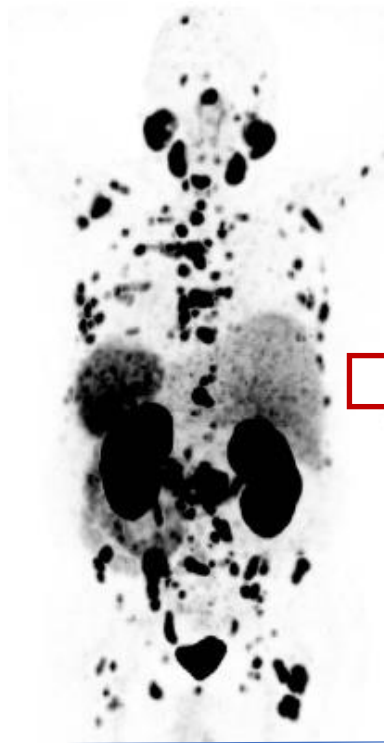
*[RIT = radioimmunotherapy]*

*[RPT = radiopharmaceutical therapy]*

- Administration of systemic radiation (IV) which ends up in PSMA+ cells
- **PSMA-targeting vehicles (keys)**
  - Different properties mostly related to size
    - Small molecules, antibodies
  - Affects kinetics (how long in blood) and biodistribution (where it lands)
- **Radionuclide = radioactive particle (kills cells)**
  - Usually  $\beta$ - or  $\alpha$ -emitters (also auger for therapy; gamma/PET imaging)
    - Some more potent, some affect larger areas
  - Efficacy and toxicity partially related to properties

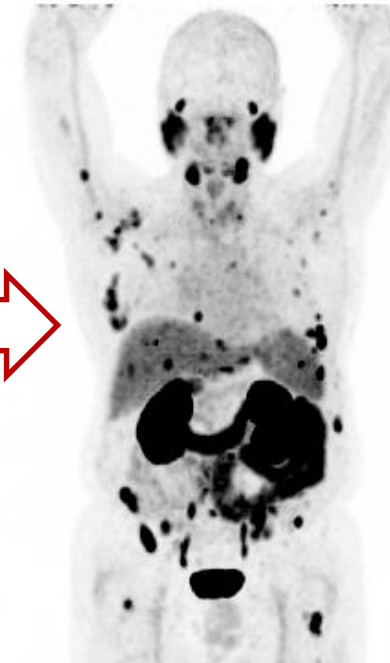
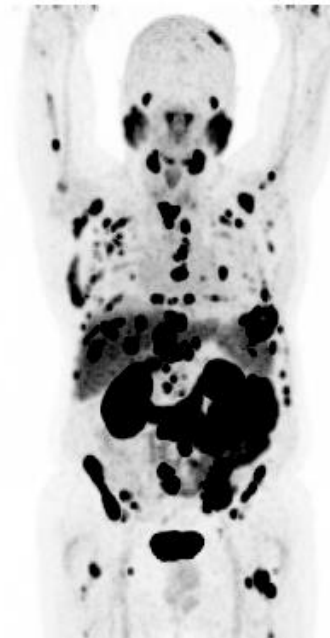


62 yo with prior  
docetaxel,  
cabazitaxel,  
sipuleucel-T,  
abiraterone,  
enzalutamide,  
radium-223,  
cabazi / carbo



87.8% PSA decline  
40.1% CTC decline

70 yo with prior  
docetaxel,  
carboplatin,  
lenalidomide,  
abiraterone,  
enzalutamide,  
<sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA



88.1% PSA decline  
100% CTC decline

# Side Effects

("Treatment emergent adverse events")

	All grades		Grade 3–5	
Patients, n (%)			SOC alone (n = 205)	
Fatigue			(2.4)	
Bone marrow suppression			(6.8)	
Leukopenia			(0.5)	
Lymphopenia			(0.5)	
Anemia			(4.9)	
Thrombocytopenia			(1.0)	
Dry mouth			(0.0)	
Nausea and vomiting			(0.5)	
Renal effects			(2.9)	
Second primary malignancies	11 (2.1)	2 (1.0)	4 (0.0)	1 (0.5)
Intracranial hemorrhage	7 (1.3)	3 (1.5)	5 (0.9)	2 (1.0)

If this is "targeted therapy", why are there side effects?

With <sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA-617 there was more:

1) Fatigue

2) Decrease in blood counts

(low white blood cells might increase risk of infection,  
low red blood cells may lead to fatigue or shortness of breath,  
low platelets may lead to bleeding)

3) Dry mouth

4) Nausea and vomiting

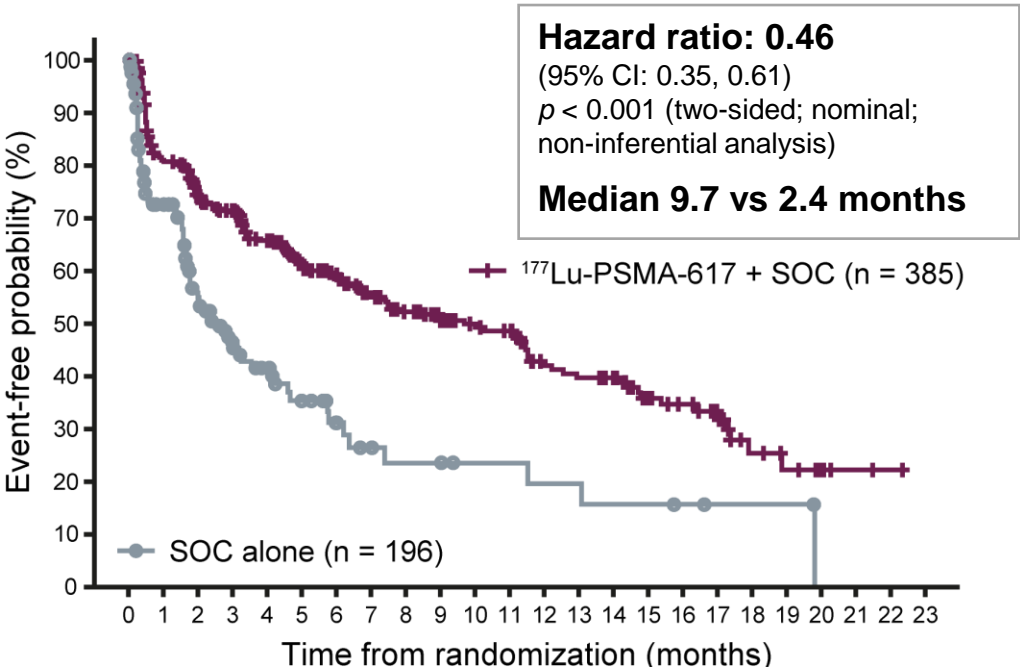
# TIME TO WORSENING IN HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE AND PAIN

## Ad hoc analyses

### FACT-P total score

Time to worsening favoured the <sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA-617 arm

rPFS analysis set (n = 581)

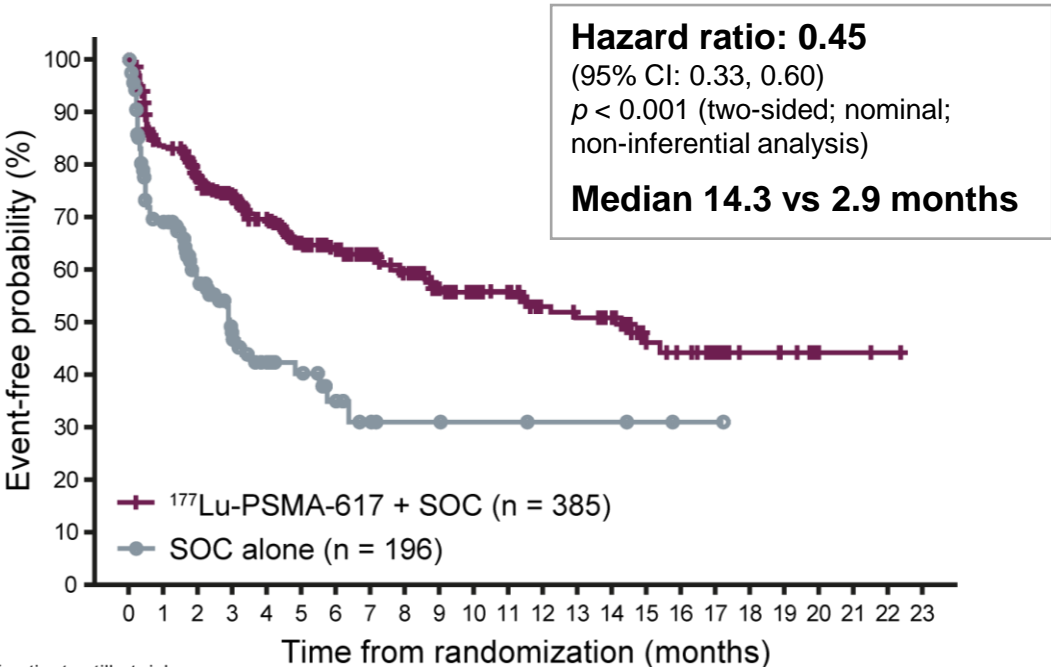


Time to the first occurrence of  $\geq 10$ -point decrease in FACT-P total from baseline

### BPI-SF pain intensity

Time to worsening favoured the <sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA-617 arm

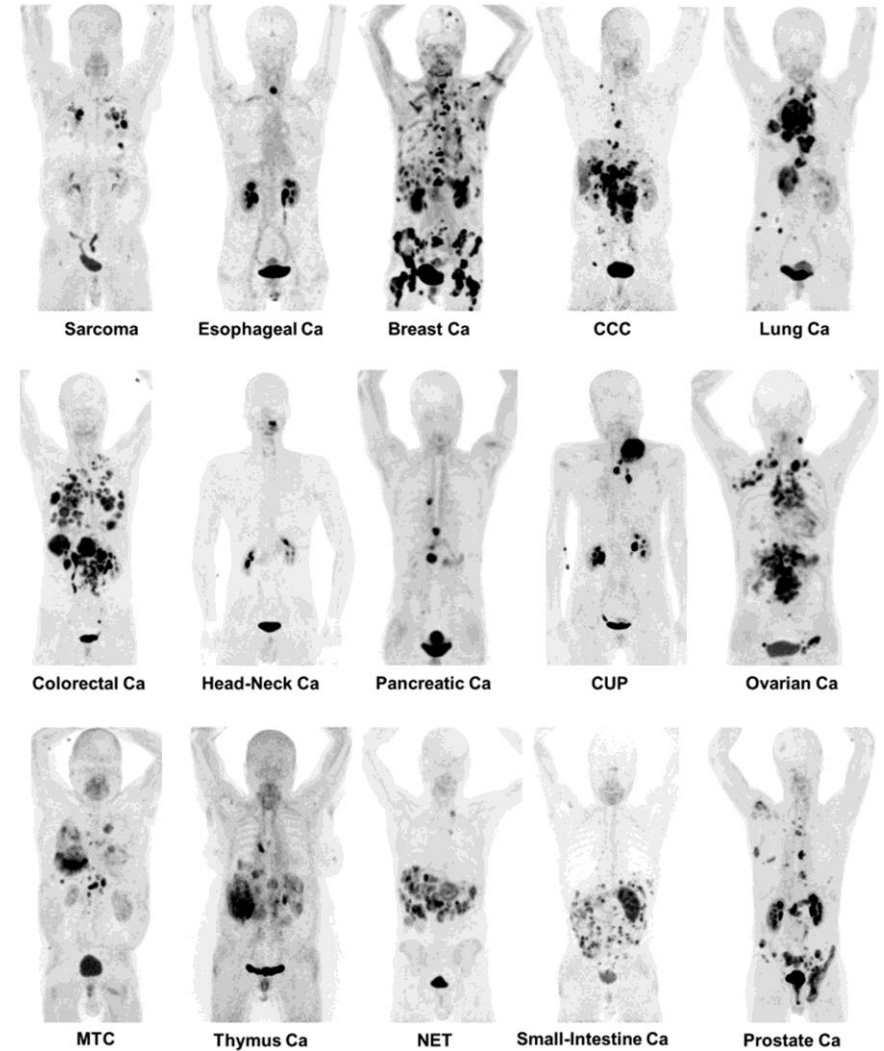
rPFS analysis set (n = 581)



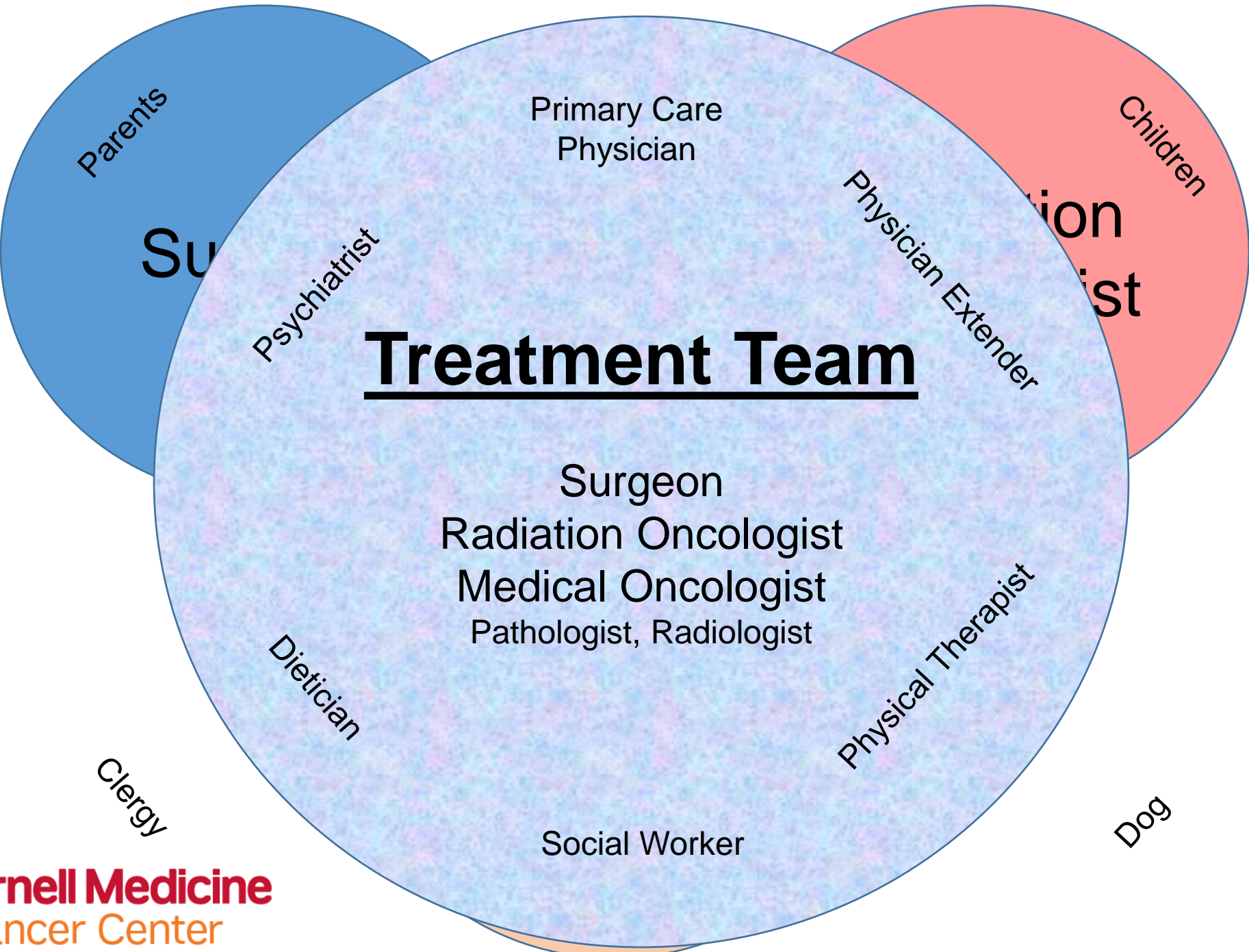
Time to the first occurrence of  $\geq 30\%$  or  $\geq 2$ -point increase in BPI-SF pain intensity from baseline

# Targets in development

- FAP
  - Multiple tracers in human studies
- DLL3
- hK2
- PARP1
- PD-L1
- CTLA4
- DHT
- FLT
- CD46
- TROP2
- B7H3
- STEAP1
- CEACAM5
- CA-IX



My bias...



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Research Support

Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Movember  
Department of Defense  
National Institutes of Health  
NY State Dept of Health  
Elsa U. Pardee Foundation  
Multiple philanthropic donors

## Department of Radiology

Joseph Osborne  
Sandra Huicochea Castellanos  
Dan Margolis  
Douglas Ballon  
Jonathan Dyke  
Sadek Nehmeh  
Ed Fung  
James Kelly  
Sarah Cheal  
Shankar Vallabhajosula  
John Babich

## GU Clinical Research Team

David M. Nanus	Neil H. Bander (et al)
Cora Sternberg	Doug Scherr
Ana Molina	Peter Schlegel
Bishoy Faltas	Jim Hu
Chris Barbieri	Jones Nauseef
Joseph Del Pizzo	Himanshu Nagar
Tim McClure	Ariel Marciscano
Peter Gregos	Nausheen Hakim
Judith Stangl	Panagiotis Vlachostergios

## WCMC/NYP Clinical Trials Office

Escarleth Fernandez	Sarah Yuan
Amie Patel	Angela Tan
Zachary Davidson	Diamanise Sidberry
June Greenberg	Jon Arditti
Jenna Robander	May Todd

## Biostatistics & Epidemiology

Karla Ballman	Paul Christos
Charlene Thomas	

## Pathology

Brian Robinson  
Juan Miguel Mosquera  
Francesca Khani  
Massimo Loda

## Collaborators

Himisha Beltran (DFCI)  
Paraskevi Giannakakou  
Lorraine Gudas  
EIPM (Elemento, Sboner et al)  
Brian Kirby, Michael King  
MSKCC team  
(Morris, Larson et al)  
Mark Rubin (Bern)  
Oliver Sartor (Tulane)  
Sacha Gnjjatic (MSSM)  
Mark Stein (CUMC)  
Johannes Czernin (UCLA)  
Joshua Lang (U Wisc)  
Brian Gonzalez (Moffitt)



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**PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**