Transforming Growth Factor-beta and Lung Tumorigenesis

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Lung Cancer in 2018, USA

- Most common cause of cancer deaths in both men and women
- 234,030 diagnosed new cases

  121,680 men; 112,350 women
- 154,050 deaths due to lung cancer

  83,550 men; 70,500 women
- Most cases now occur in ex-smokers
  - Average age 70
- < 15% five year survival rate

Transforming Growth Factor-ß (TGF-ß)

Multifunctional regulator of cellular growth

- Potent inhibitor of normal epithelial cell proliferation
- Widespread tissue expression
- Pivotal role in epithelial homeostasis
- Association with various types of cancers
- Context-dependent inhibition or stimulation of cell proliferation and neoplastic transformation

TGF-ß is an attractive candidate for new therapeutic intervention approaches

Transforming Growth Factors: The Beginning

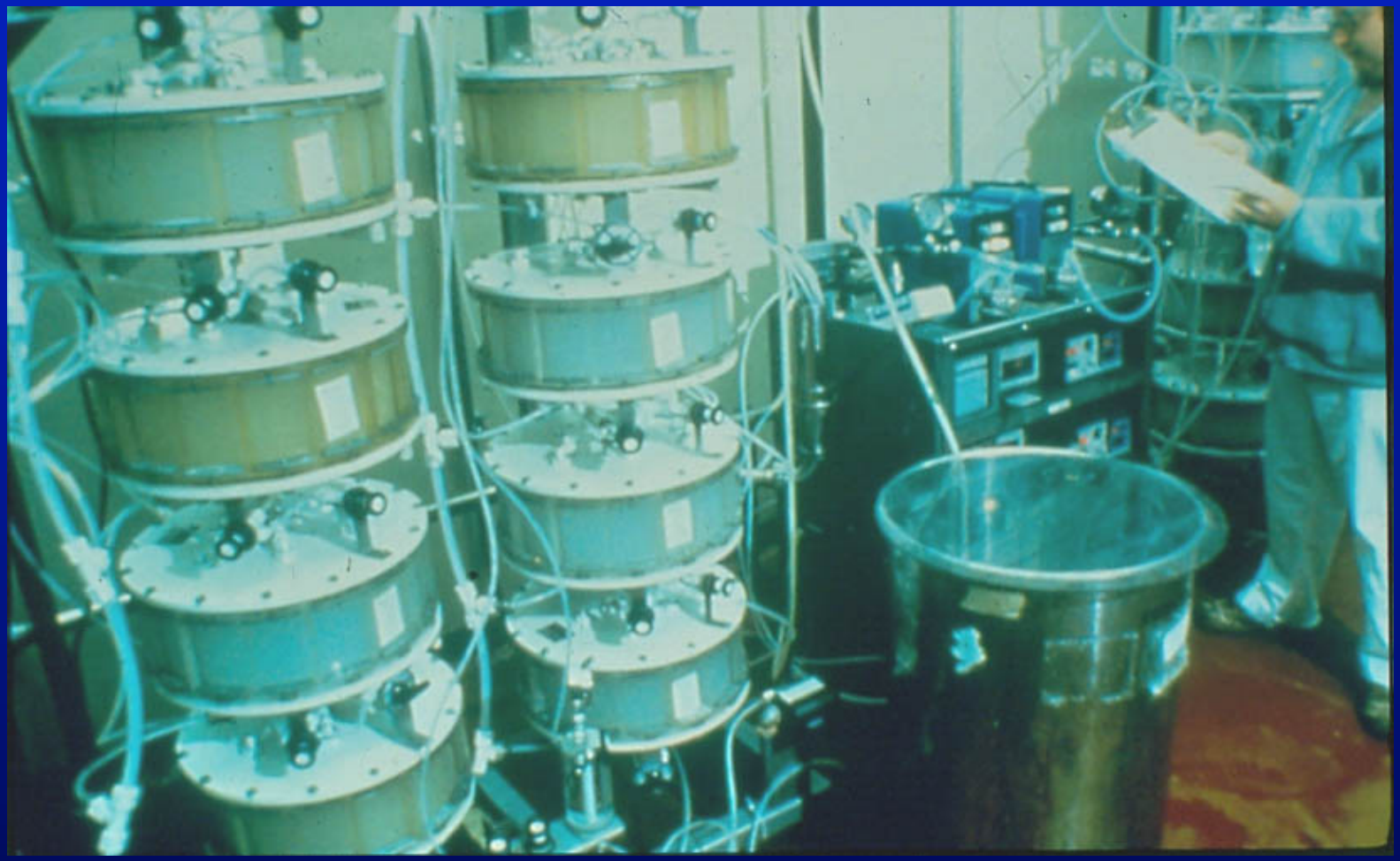
Transforming Growth Factors: The Beginning

Sarcoma Growth Factor – Polypeptide secreted by Moloney murine sarcoma virus-transformed mouse fibroblasts that stimulated normal rat fibroblasts to form colonies in soft agar (transformation assay).
***De Larco & Todaro: PNAS* 75:4001, 1978**

Two classes of TGFs isolated from MSV-transformed cells:
1. Competes with EGF for receptor binding (TGF-α)
2. Does not compete for EGF binding, but colony forming activity is enhanced by EGF (TGF-β)
Sarcoma growth factor = TGF-α + TGF-β
***Roberts, Anzano,…Sporn: Nature* 295:417, 1982**

1983- Publication of the purification of TGF-ß from:
Human platelets *(Rick Assoian)*
Human placenta *(Chuck Frolik)*
Bovine kidney *(Anita Roberts)*

The Columns for TGF-beta1 Purification

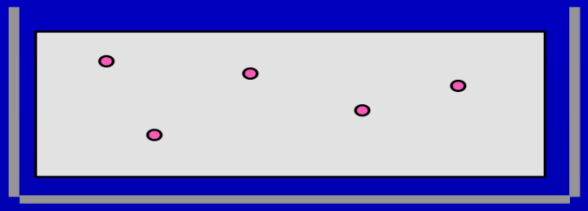


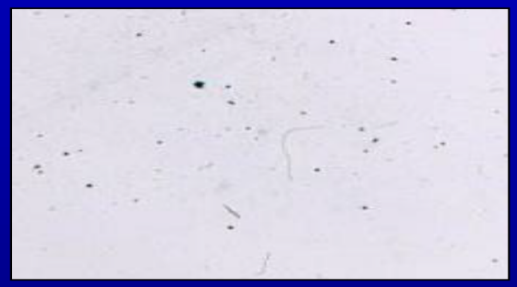
Scale of TGF-ß1 Purification from Bovine Kidney

Extract with 8 liters of acid/ethanol
Centrifuge
Precipitate with 32 liters ether +
16 liters ethanol
Redissolve in 2 liters 1M acetic acid
Apply to 80 liter BioGel P-60 column
Collect 1 liter fractions
Lophilize and redissolve for further chromatography
Final Yield = 6 µg TGF-ß1
purification fold = 230,000; recovery = 10%

Clonogenic assay

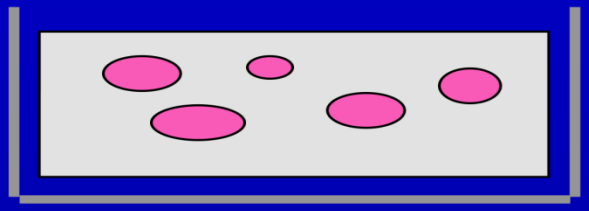
The Assay: Growth of NRK Cells in Soft Agar

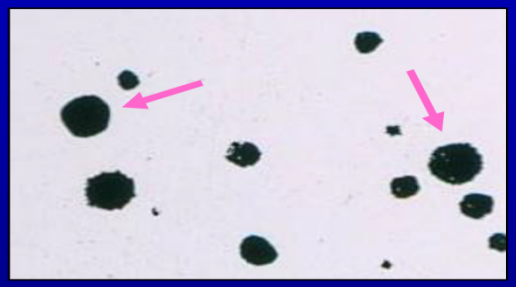




If no TGF-ß is present

- Plate agar base
- Add mix of media, serum, NRK cells, EGF, sample
- 1 wk/37°/5%CO_2
- Stain
- Count colonies >3100 μm^2 with Omnicon Image Analysis System

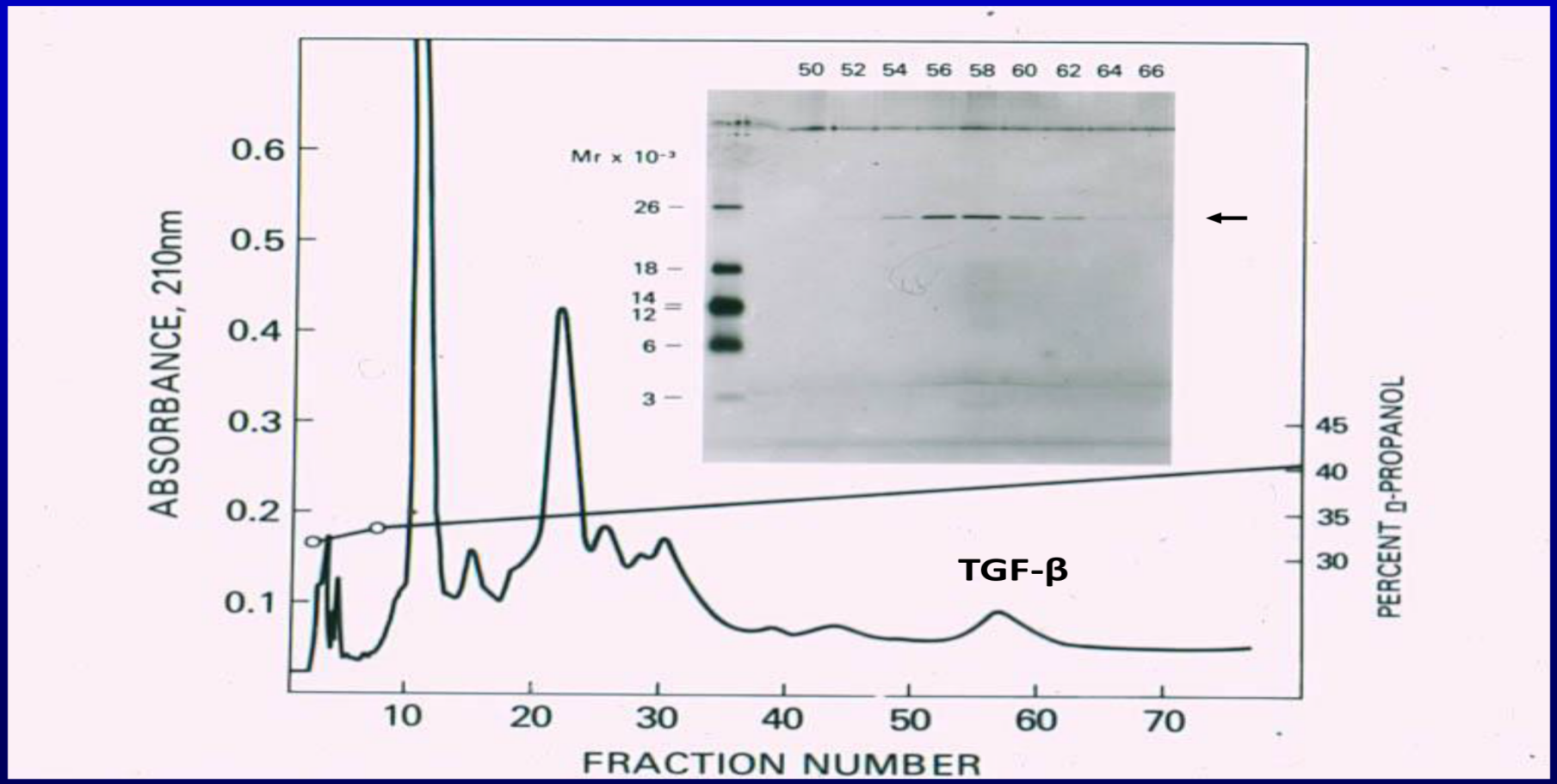




If TGF-ß is present

HPLC Purification

The Final HPLC Purification



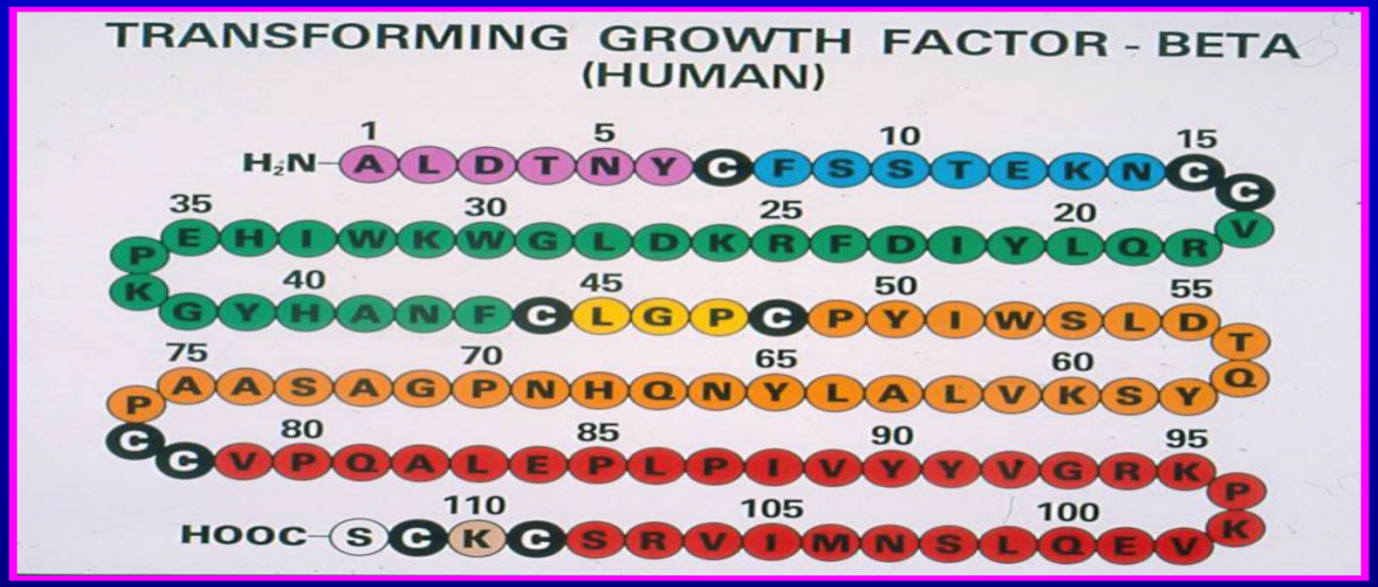
TGF beta

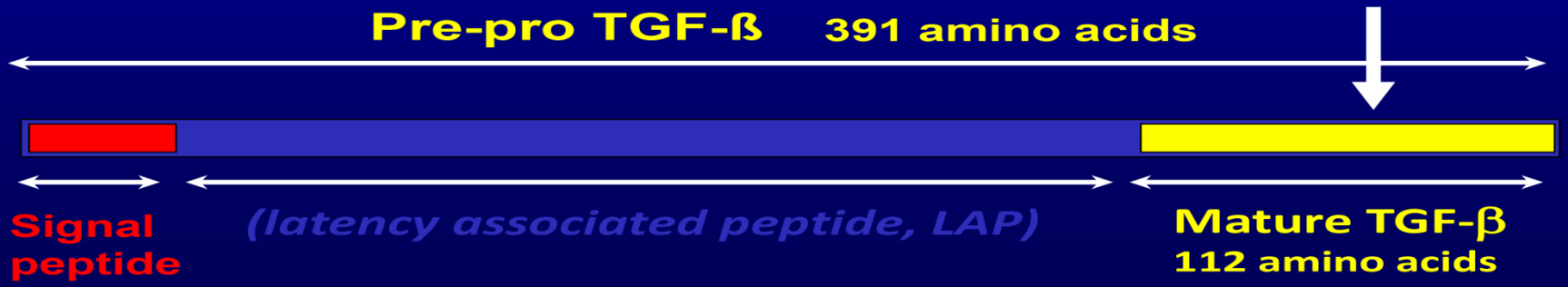
EUREKA!! TGF-ß: Born at NCI

Michael Sporn & Anita Roberts

TGF beta structure

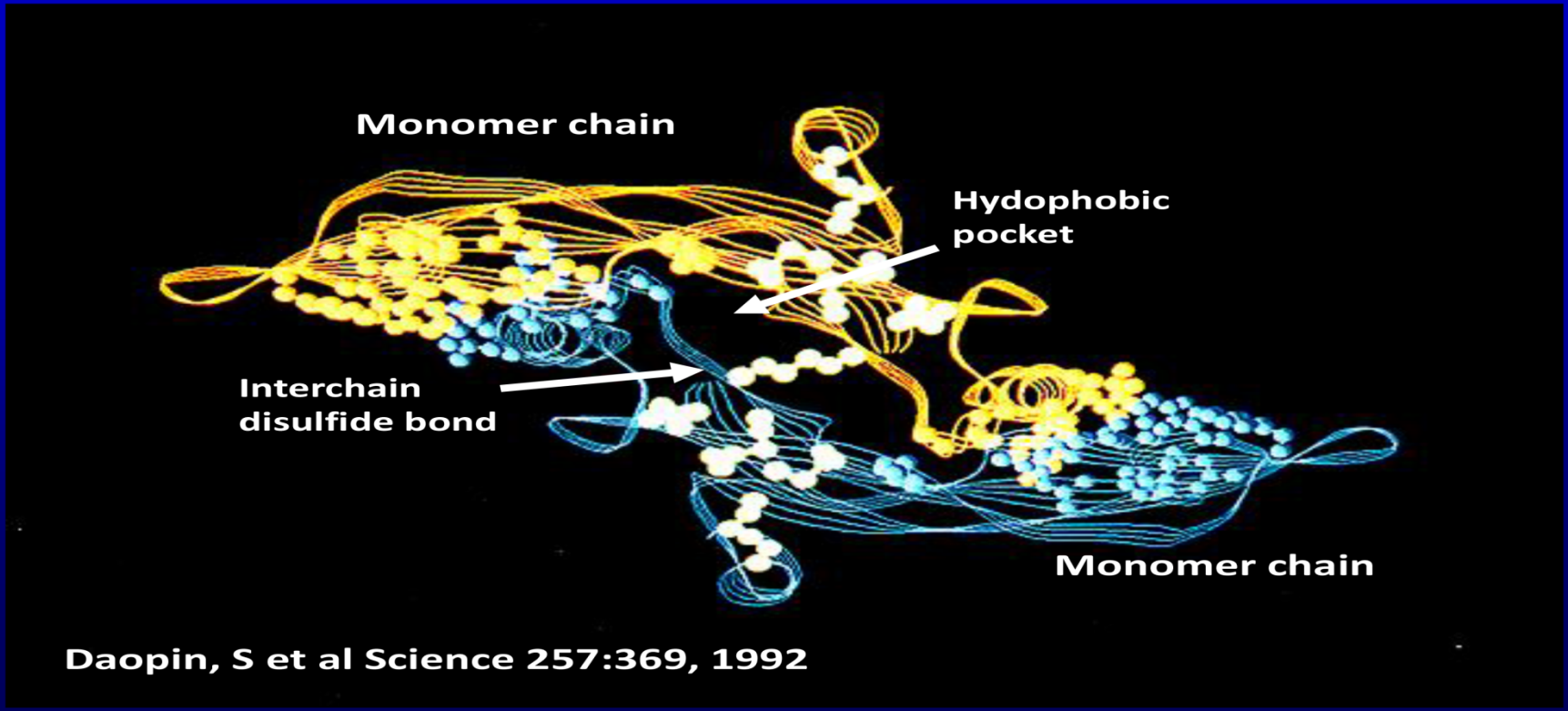
Sequence of mature TGF-ß1 monomer





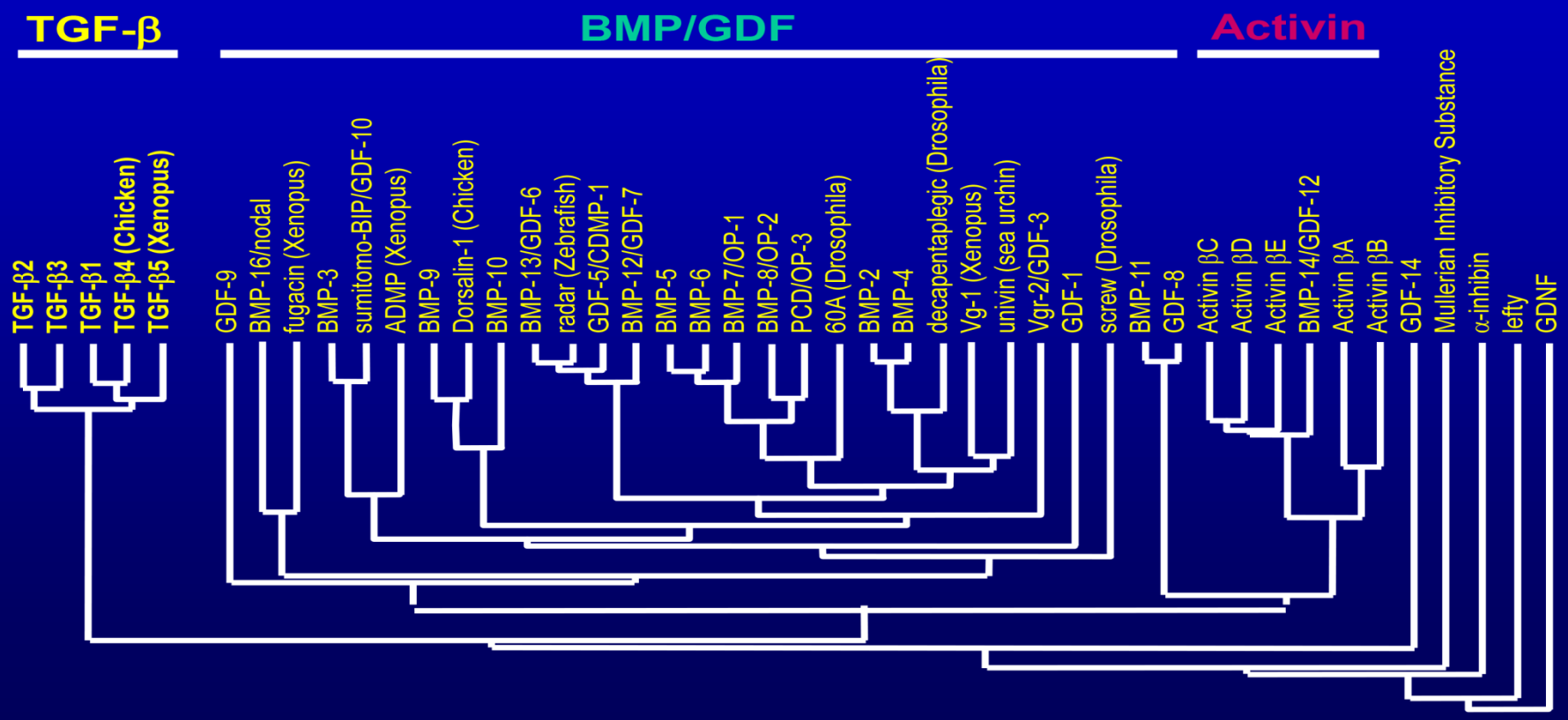
TGF beta dimer

TGF-β: A Homodimer

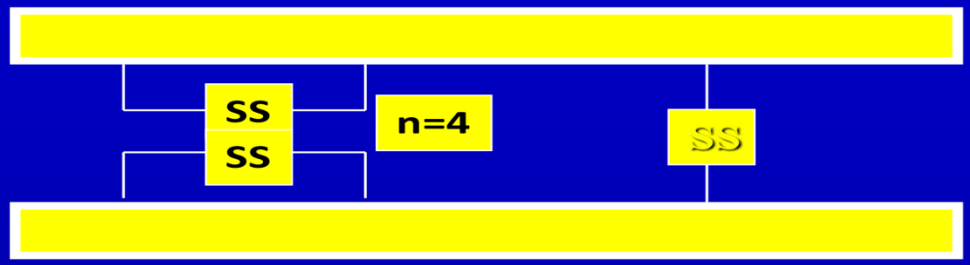


TGF beta superfamily

The TGF-β Superfamily



Transforming growth factor beta



Transforming Growth Factor-β

- 25,000 MW disulfide-bonded homodimer
- 3 highly homologous isoforms (TGF-β 1, 2 and 3)
- Principal sources - platelets, bone, spleen
- Most cells express TGF-β and its receptors
- Usually secreted in latent, inactive form
- Superfamily of TGF-βs, activins/inhibins, BMPs, GDFs

Major Biological Responses Regulated by TGF-beta

inhibits proliferation

regulates apoptosis

regulates differentiation

regulates immune cell function

stimulates accumulation of extracellular matrix

promotes chemotaxis

The TGF-β Superfamily: Central Control Modules for Many Biological Processes

TGFβ is associated with development, immune system function, reproduction, angiogenesis, agining, response to injury, metabolic regulstion and proliferation.

Model for TGF-β pathway

TGFR I and II form a phosphorylated heterodimer. BMPs cause activation of Smads 1/5/8. Activin TGFβ causes activation of Smads 2/3. A phosphorylated R-S smad 4 complex forms which is biologically active.

Clinical Observations

Clinical Observations

TGF-ß is a tumor suppressor:

- **Germline mutations in TGF-ß pathway components cause familial predisposition to cancer**
  (Smad4 in juvenile polyposis syndrome)
- **TGF-ß pathway components are somatically mutated or deleted in some human cancers**
  (Tß-RII in HNPCC, Smad4 in pancreatic cancer)
- **Reduced expression of TGF-ß1 signaling pathway components or overexpression of endogenous pathway inhibitors are associated with disease progression**
  (Tß-RII, Tß-RI, Smad7, Ski)

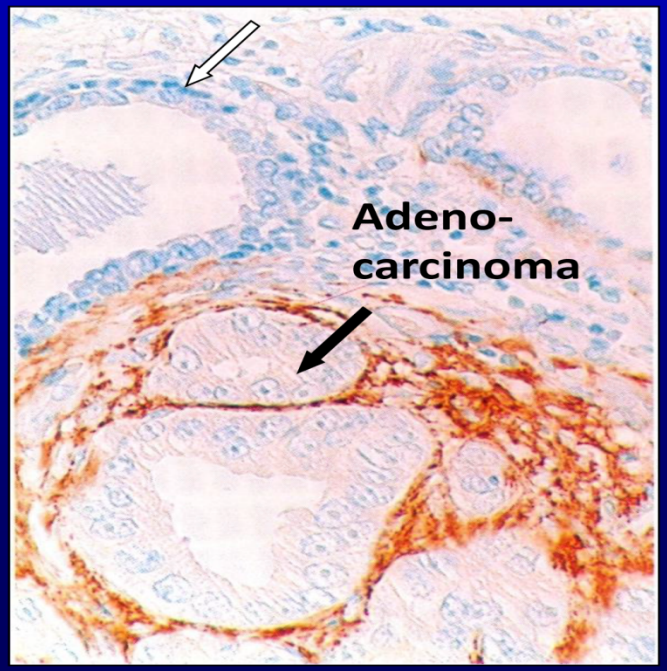
Clinical Observations

Clinical Observations

TGF-ß is a tumor promoter:

- **TGF-ß1 is elevated in many advanced human tumors and correlates with metastasis and/or poor prognosis**

  (***breast, colon, stomach, liver, pancreas, prostate, lung, kidney, bladder, nasopharynx, melanoma, chondrosarcoma, osteosarcoma)***



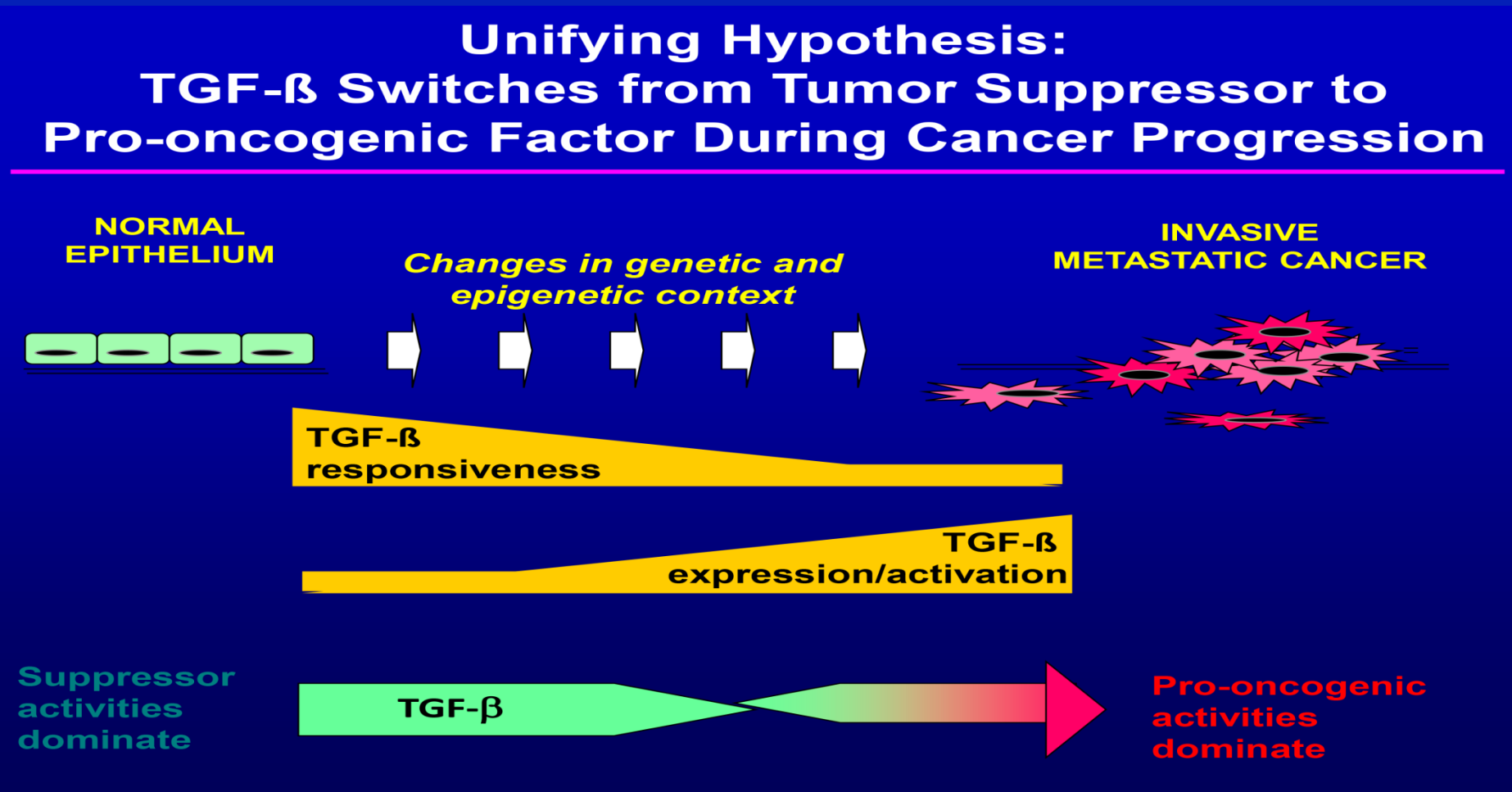
Prostatic adenocarcinoma stained for TGF-ß1:
(Truong et al. Hum Pathol 1993)
TGF-ß sits at the interface between tumor parenchyma and microenvironment

TGF beta in carcinogenesis

TGF-ß in Carcinogenesis - Hero or villain?

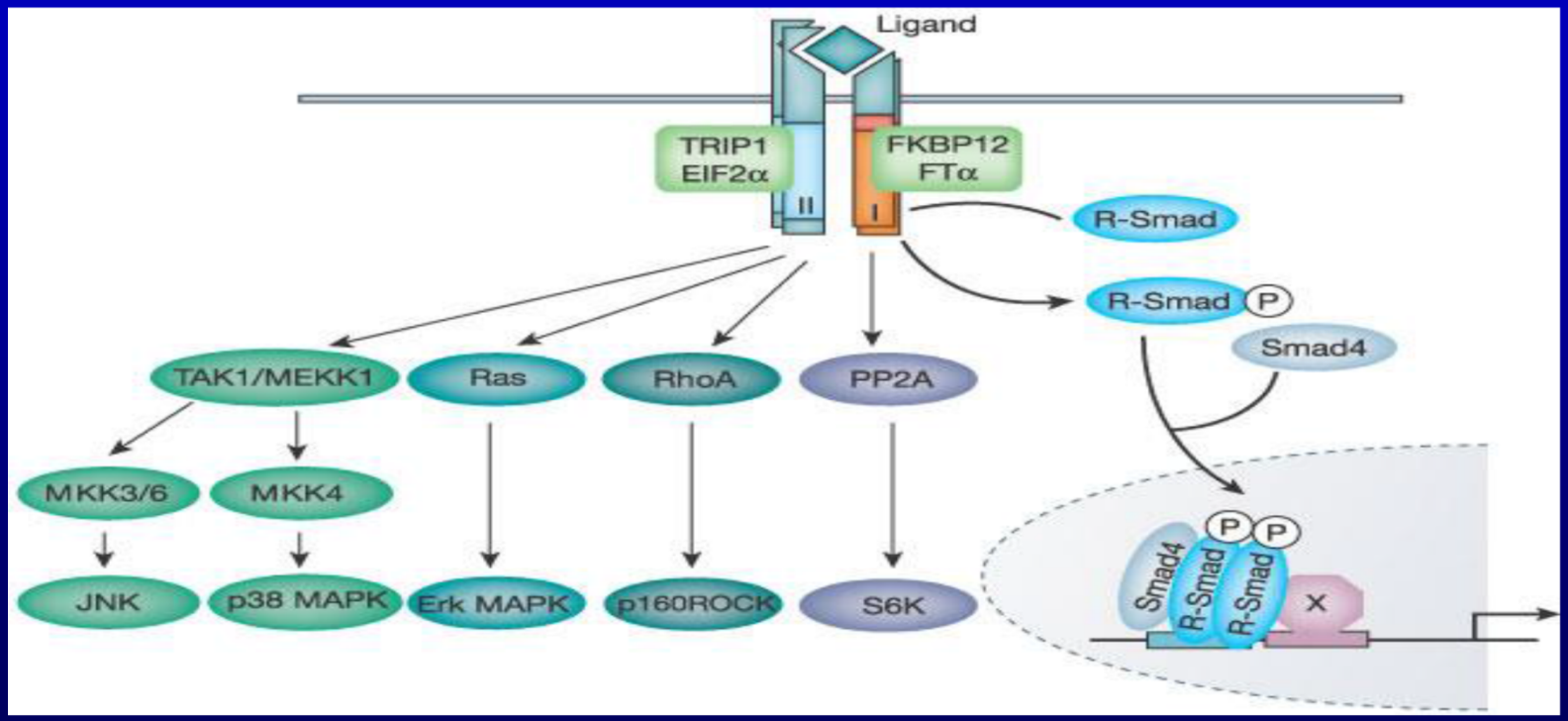
- TGF-ß, a proximal effector of the malignant phenotype
- TGF-ß, potent growth inhibitor and tumor suppressor
- TGF-ß, a pro-metastatic factor

Major Biological Responses Regulated by TGF-beta



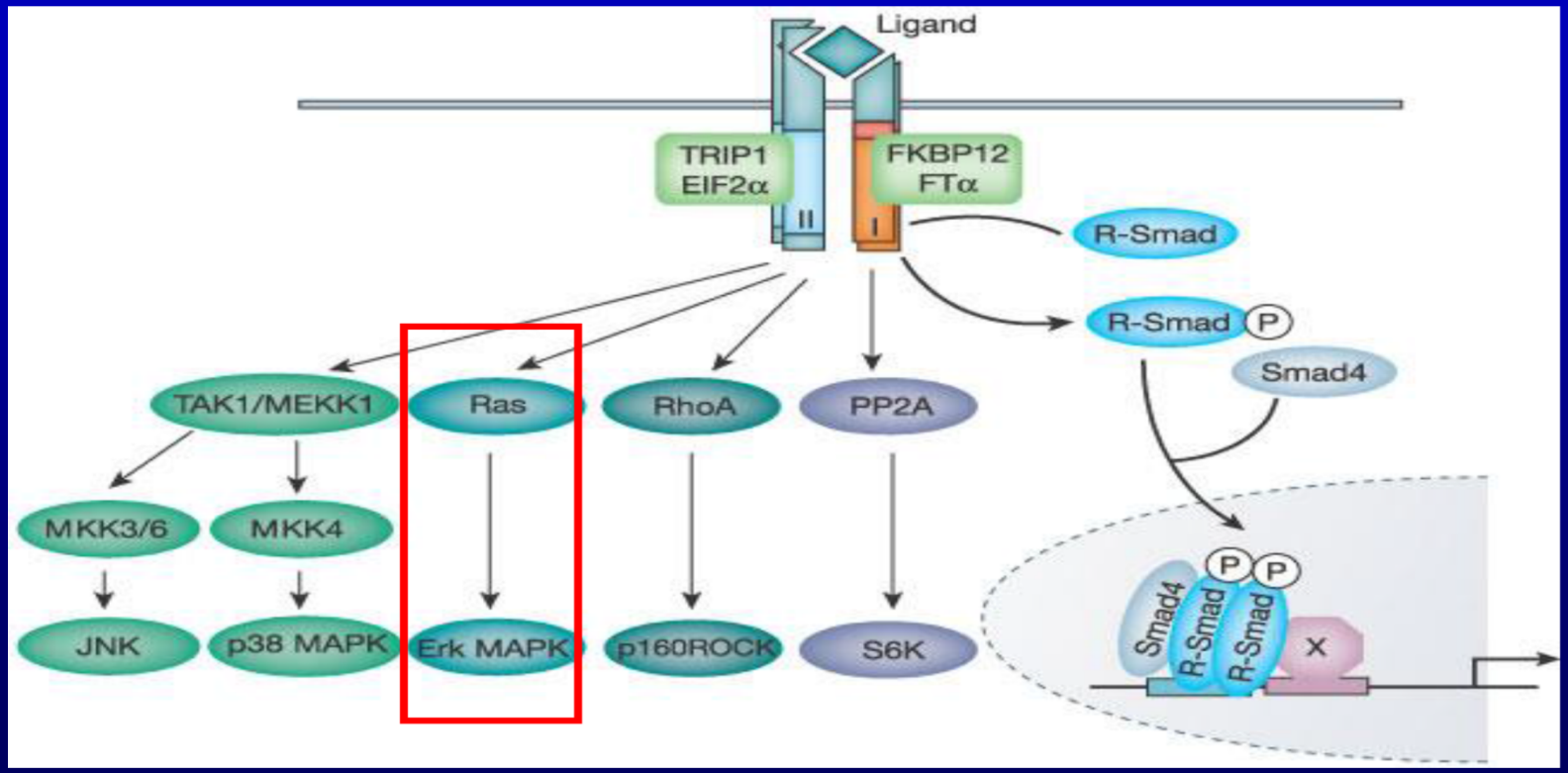
TGF-beta Smad-independent Pathways

TGF-ß Smad-independent Pathways



TGFbeta Smad-independent pathways

TGF-ß Smad-independent Pathways



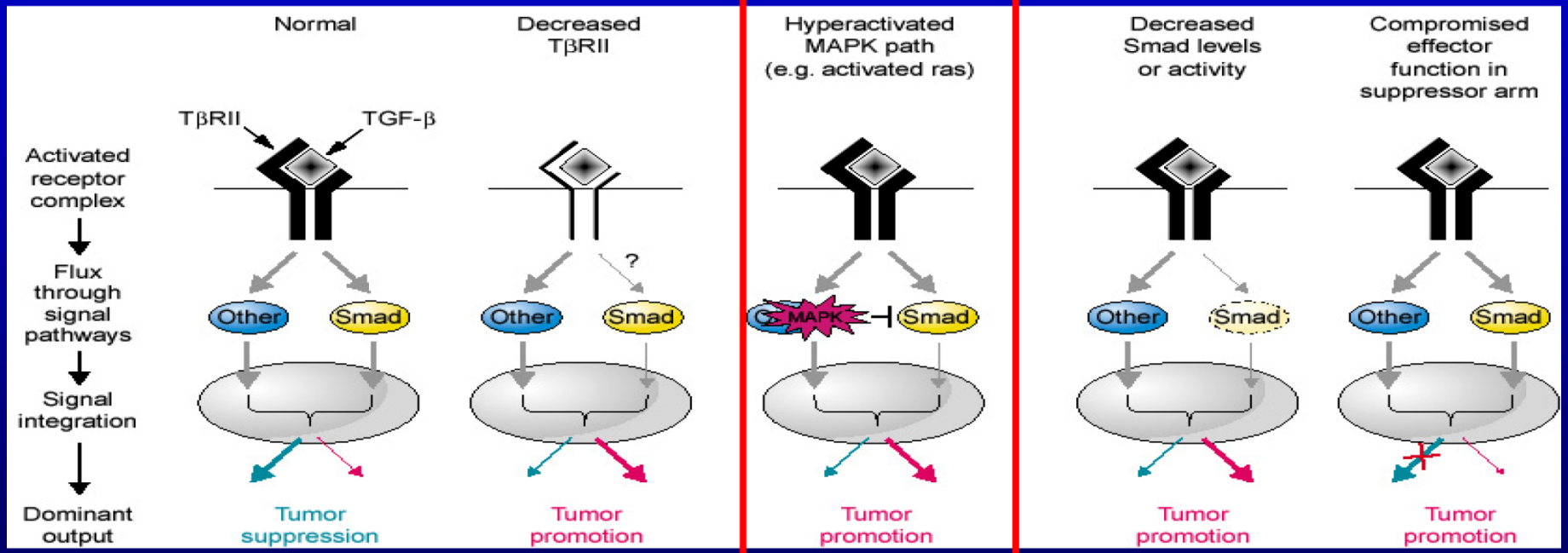
K-ras Protooncogene

K-ras Protooncogene

- K-ras shows an activational mutation in ~25-50% of human lung adenocarcinomas
- Mutation of even one allele of K-ras increases appearance of lung lesions
- There is cross-talk between Smad-dependent pathway and the Ras/MEK signaling
- Activation of the Ras pathway can modulate TGF-β1 signaling through the Smads
- In-vitro studies show that TGF-β1 dominates over mitogenic effects of ras, but activated ras overrides antiproliferative effect of TGF-β1

TGFβ in Tumor Suppression/Promotion

TGF-ß in Tumor Suppression/Promotion



- **Activated Ras/MAPK = Tumor Promotion**

Broad Goal

Broad Goal

- Determine the role of Transforming Growth Factor-ß in the development and malignant transformation of lung epithelial cells

Epithelial Carcinogenesis Section
Cell and Cancer Biology Branch
Center for Cancer Research
NCI

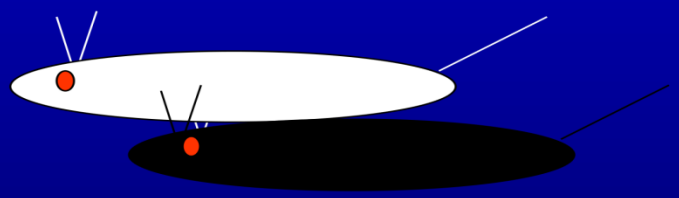
Objectives

Objectives

- Examine the effect of TGF-β1 deletion and K-ras mutation alone and in combination on lung tumor incidence and pathology
- Determine early events in the development of lung lesions and their progression
- Identify potential signal transduction pathway changes with tumorigenesis

Mouse models

Mouse Models



- A/J
- C57BL6 TGF-ß1 HT
- AJBL6 TGF-ß1 HT
- TGF-ß1 HT/K-ras LA

Question

Question

- Does lung tumorigenesis affect the TGF-ß signaling pathway?
- Does the TGF-ß signaling pathway affect lung tumorigenesis?

A/J Mouse Model

A/J Mouse Model

- Susceptible to chemically-induced lung tumors
- Tumors develop in a time-dependent manner
- Hyperplasia, adenoma and carcinoma
- Carcinomas are histologically similar to human lung adenocarcinomas
- Same molecular mutations in both human and mouse lung tumors (ie., over-expression of ras, loss of p53)

Ethyl Carbamate is:

metabolized by CYPE1 to vinyl carbamate and vinyl cabamate epoxide as well as

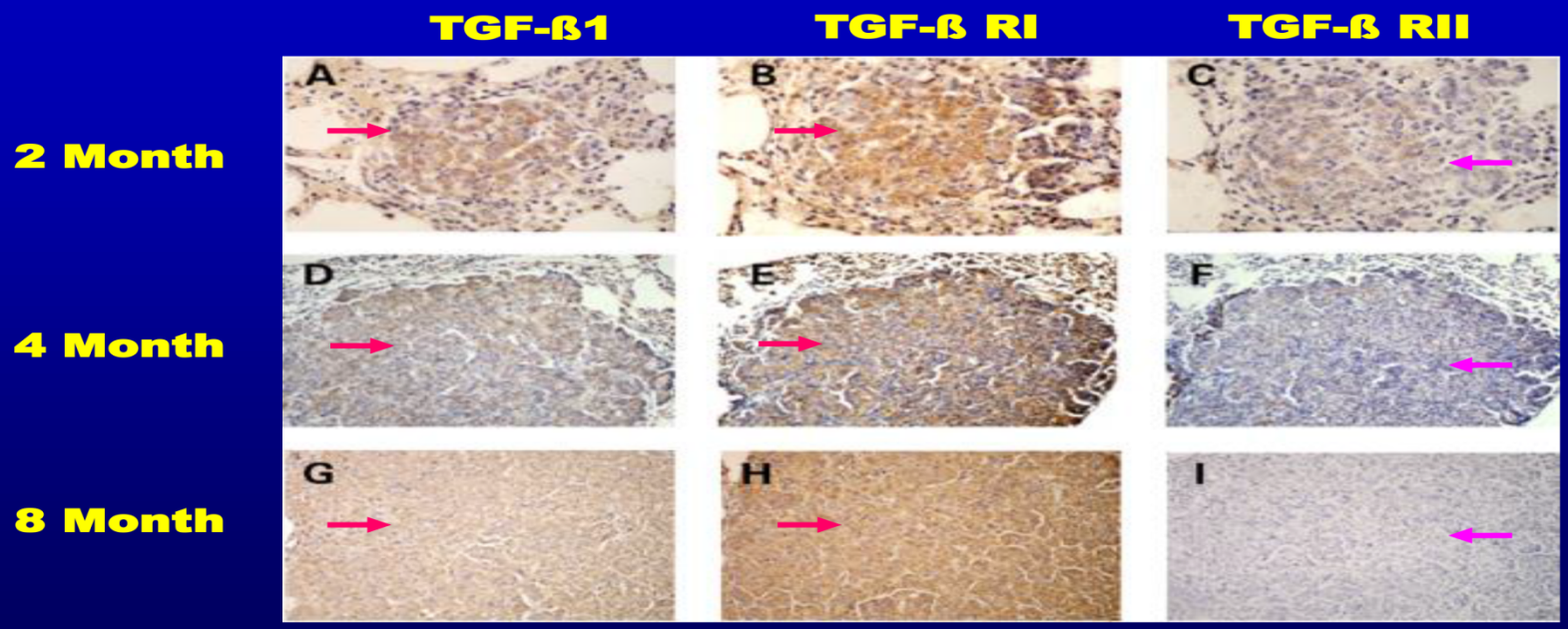
degraded by esterase

A/J mouse tumors

Production of Tumors in A/J Mice

TGF-beta1, RI and RII proteins

A/J Mouse Model
TGF-ß1, RI and RII Proteins in Lung Tumors



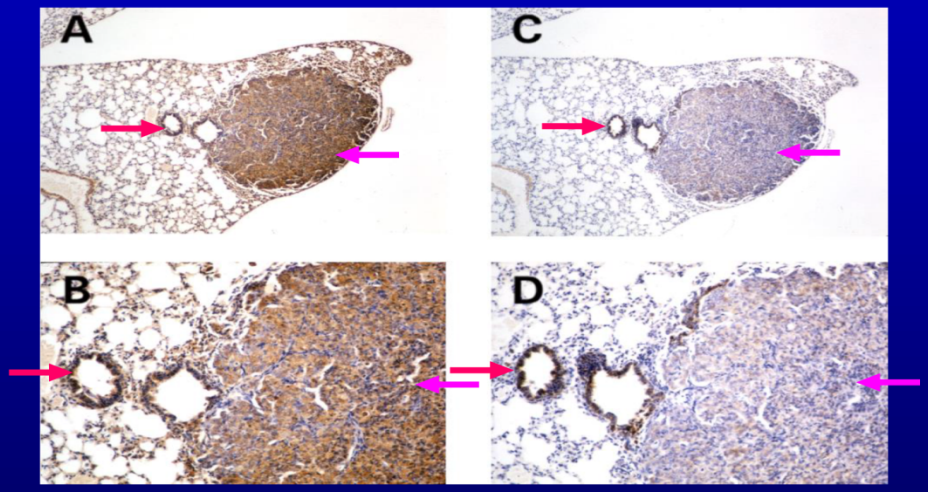
Decreased TGF-ß RII protein in tumors

Decreased TGF-β RII in tumors

TGF-ß in A/J Mouse Model

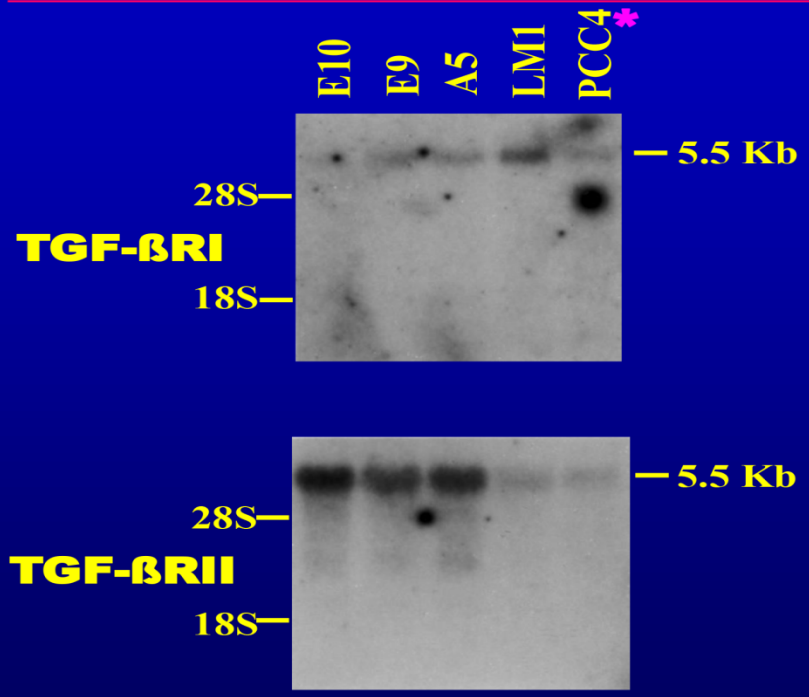
EC-induced Lung Tumors

TGF-ßRI TGF-ßRII



IHC IHC

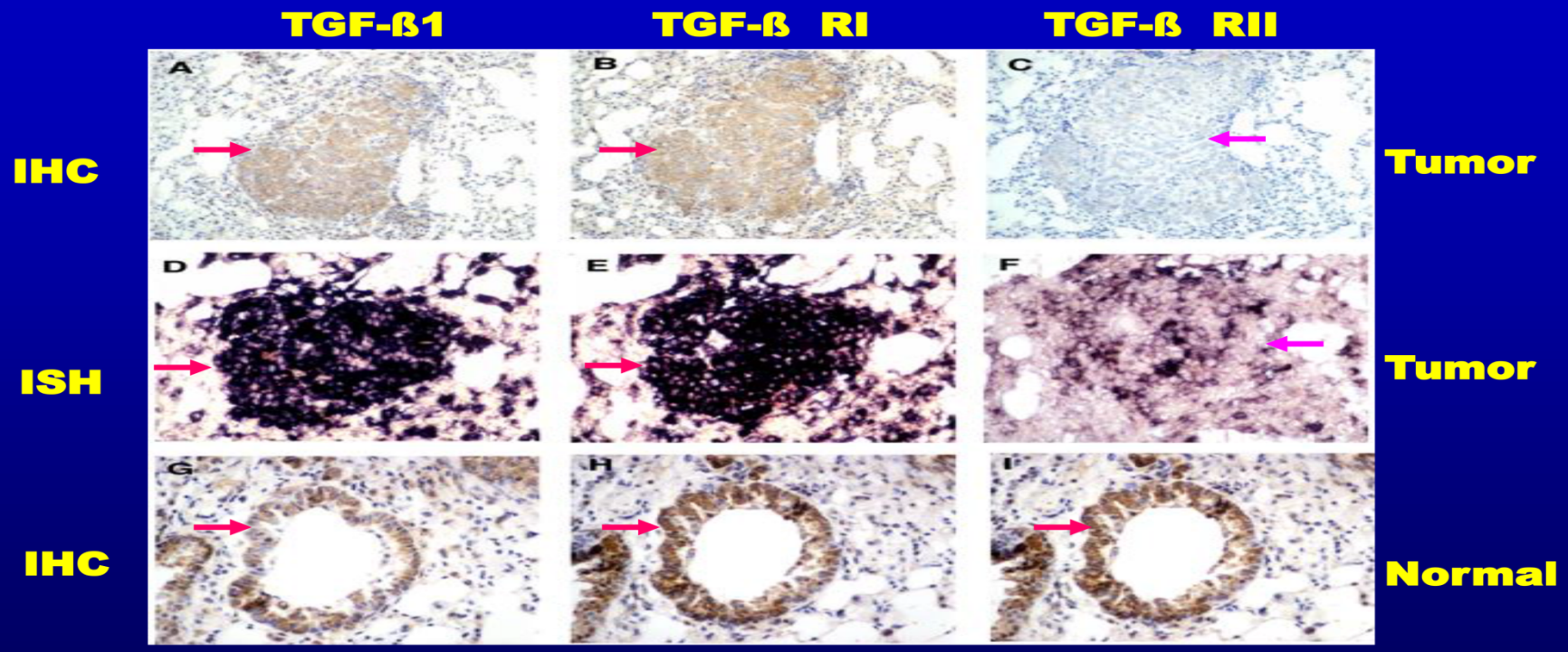
Lung Tumor Derived Cell Lines



Decreased TGF-ß RII protein and mRNA

Expression of TGF-β1, RI and RII Proteins and mRNAs

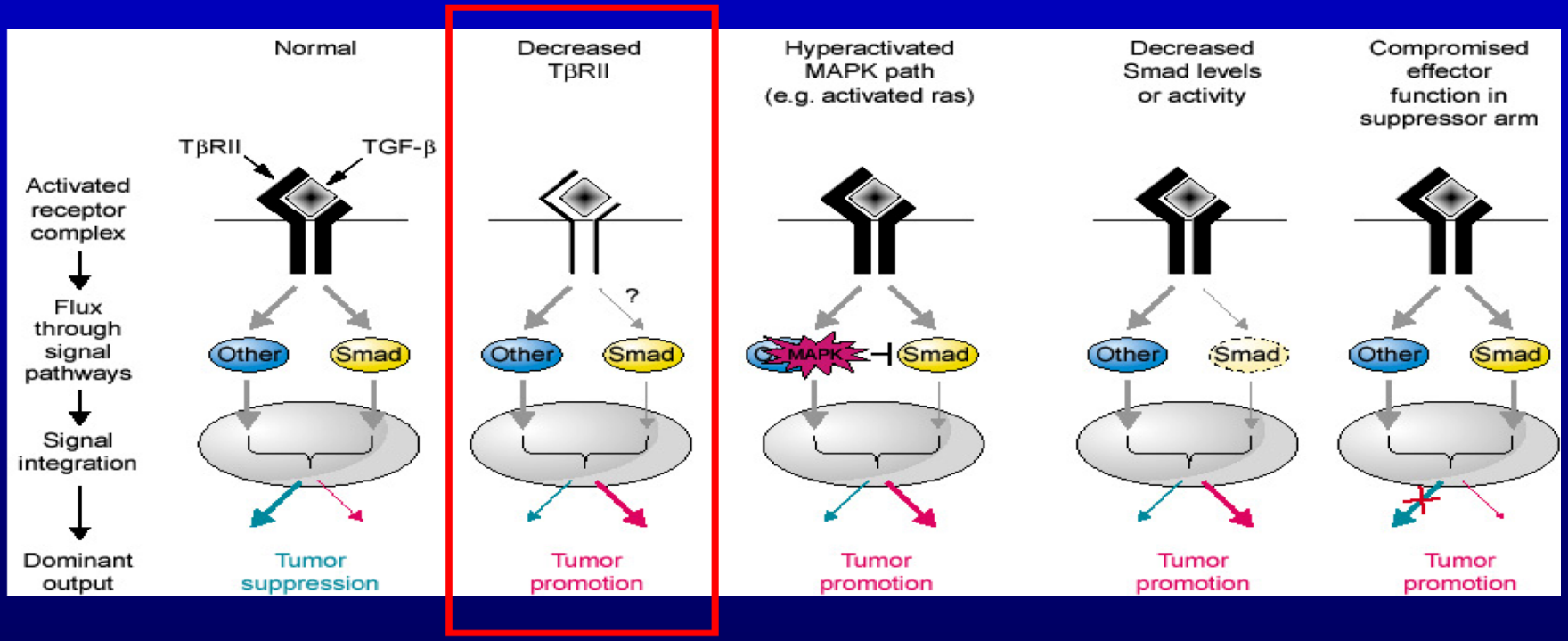
Expression of TGF-ß1, RI and RII Proteins and mRNAs in BP-Induced A/J Mouse Lung Tumors



Decreased TGF-ß RII mRNA and protein in tumors

Tumor suppresion/promotion

TGF-ß in Tumor Suppression/Promotion



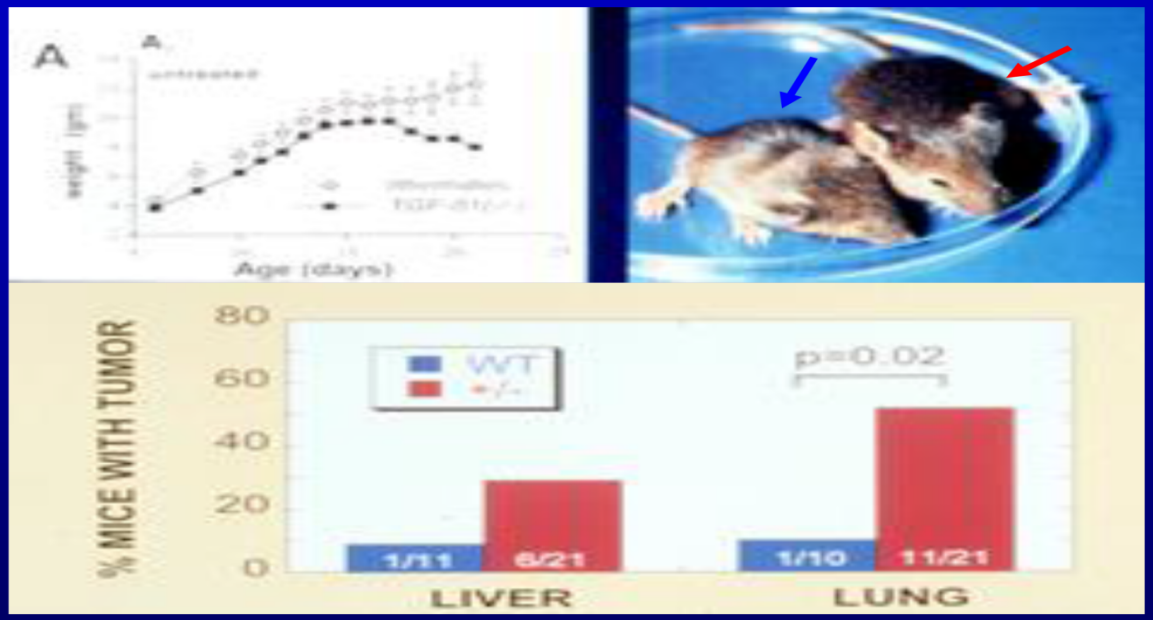
- **Reduced TGF-ß RII = Lung Tumor Promotion**

Question

Does deletion of TGF-β1 affect lung tumorigenesis?
C57BL/6 TGF-β1 Mouse

TGF-beta1 knockout mice

The C57BL/6 TGF-ß1 Knockout Mouse



Increased tumor incidence in TGF-ß1 HT mice

Mouse models

AJBL6 TGF-ß1 HT Mouse Derivation

A/J X C57BL/6

TGF-ß1 WT TGF-ß1 HT

↓

AJBL6

TGF-ß1 HT + TGF-ß1 WT

(F1)

Carcinogen

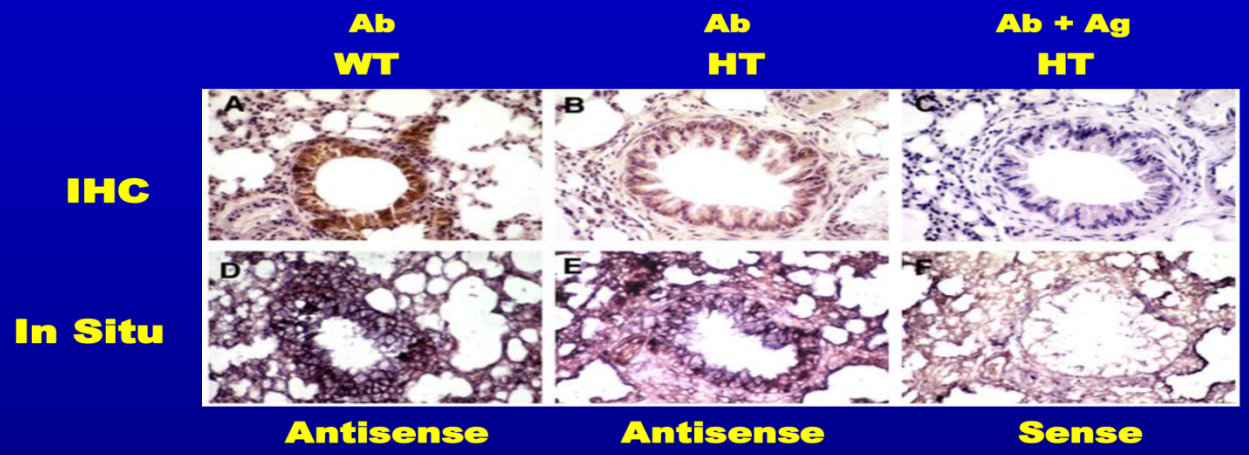
↓

Lung Tumors

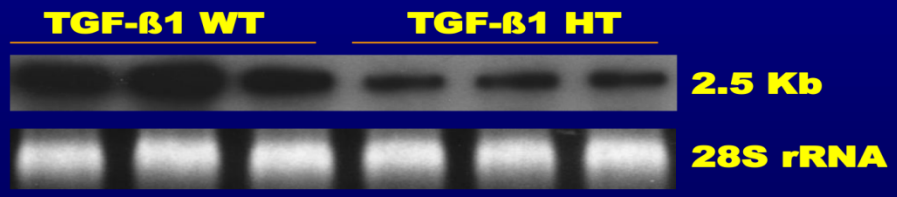
TGF-beta1 in HT and WT mice

AJBL6 TGF-ß1 HT and WT Mouse

IHC Staining & In Situ Hybridization



Northern Blotting & Competitive RT-PCR



Reduced expression of TGF-ß1 in HT compared to WT

Production of Tumors

Production of Tumors

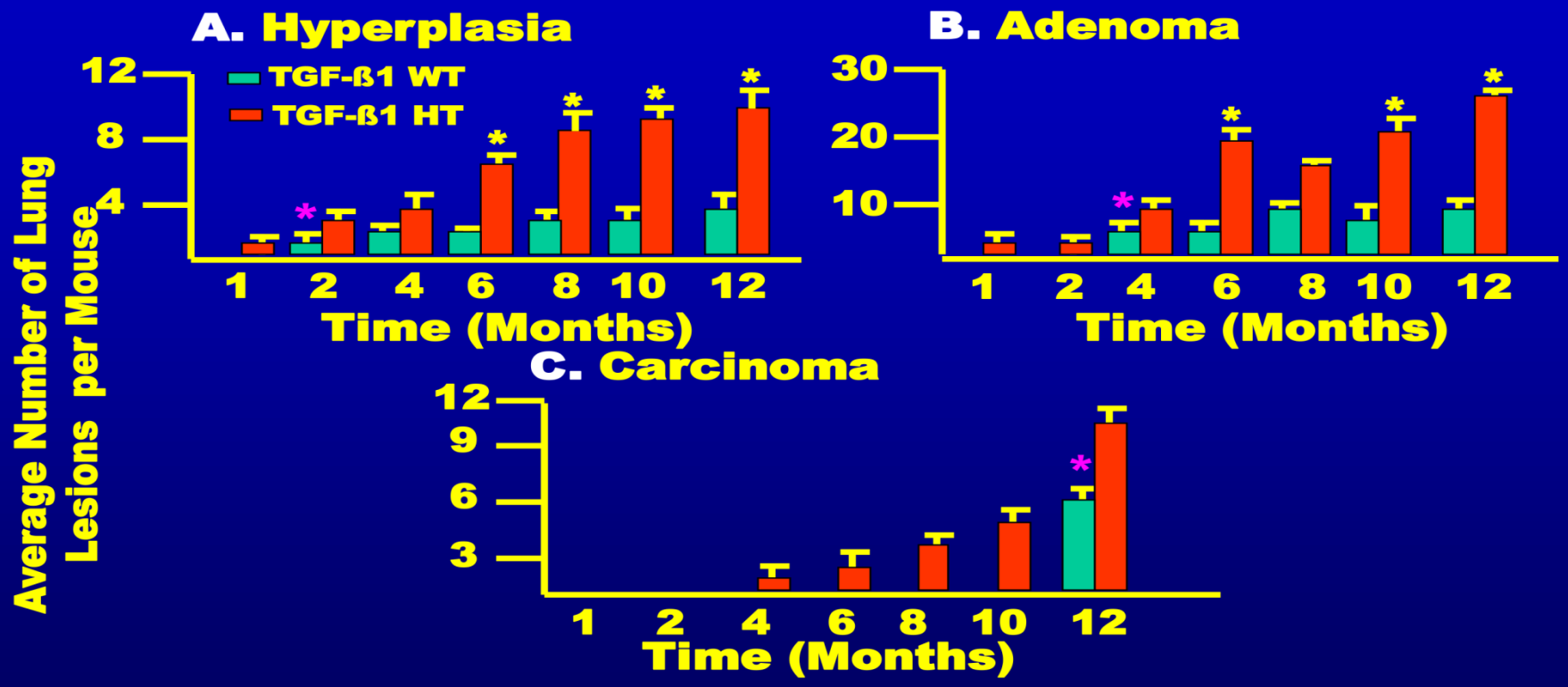
Groups

TGF-ß1 HT

TGF-ß1 WT

AJBL6 TGF-β1 HT & WT Mice

Carcinogen-Induced Lung Tumorigenesis in AJBL6 TGF-ß1 HT & WT Mice



Increased tumor incidence and multiplicity and decreased tumor latency in TGF-ß1 HT mouse

TGF-beta RII

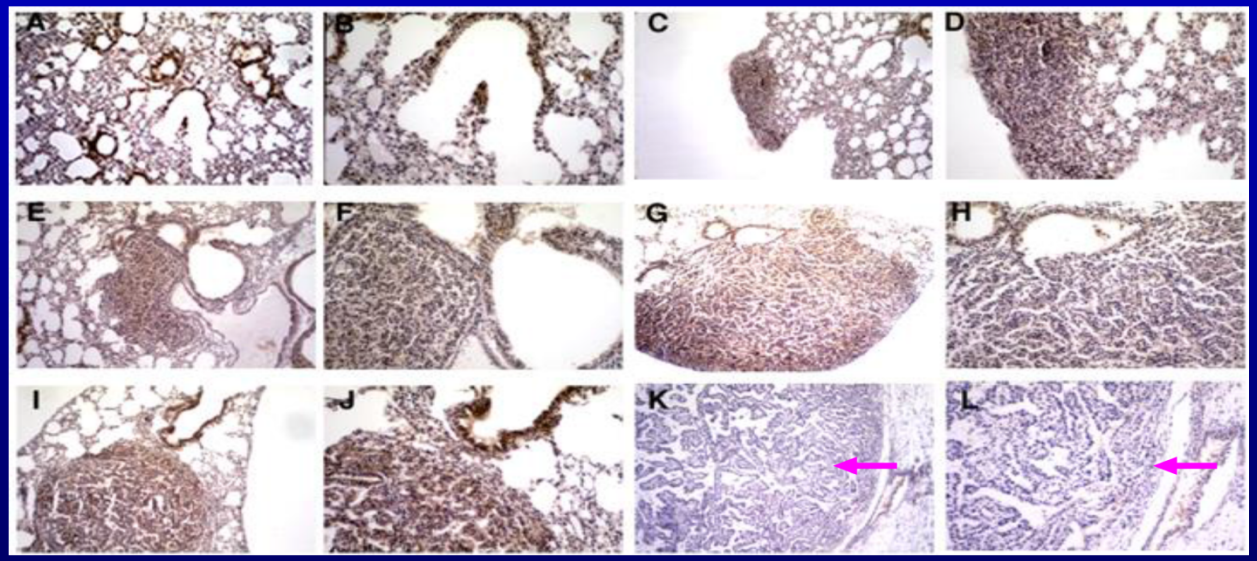
TGF-ß RII Protein in Lung Lesions from AJBL6 TGF-ß1 WT and HT Mice

WT WT HT HT

Hyperplasia

Adenoma

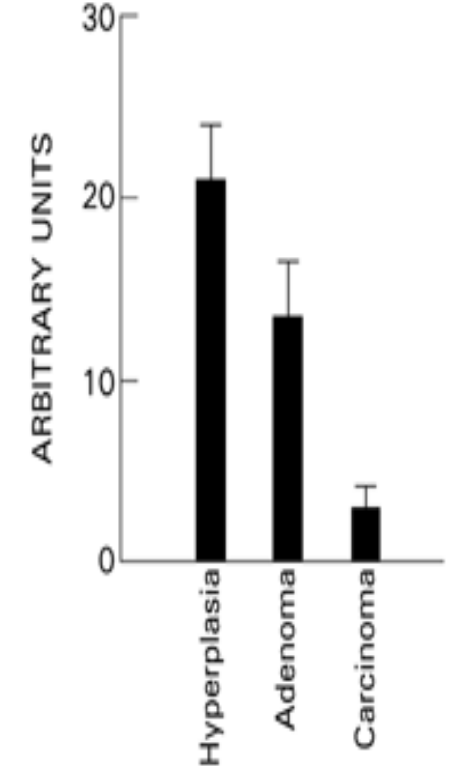
Carcinoma



Decreased TGF-ß RII in tumors of TGF-ß1 HT mice

Relative TGF-ß RII mRNA Levels Lesions from AJBL6 TGF-ß1 HT Mouse Lungs Treated with Ethyl Carbamate

Decreasing TGF-ß RII mRNA with increasing lung tumorigenesis



Question

Does deletion of TGF-β1 and mutation of K-ras affect lung tumorigenesis?
TGF-β1 HT/K-ras LA mouse

TGF-beta1 and K-ras

To Study the Interplay of TGF-β1 and K-ras: Generation of TGF-β1/ K-ras LA Mice

TGF-ß1 HT (C57Bl/6) **X** **K-ras LA** (SV 129)

TGF-ß1 HT/K-ras LA - HT/LA Double Mutant

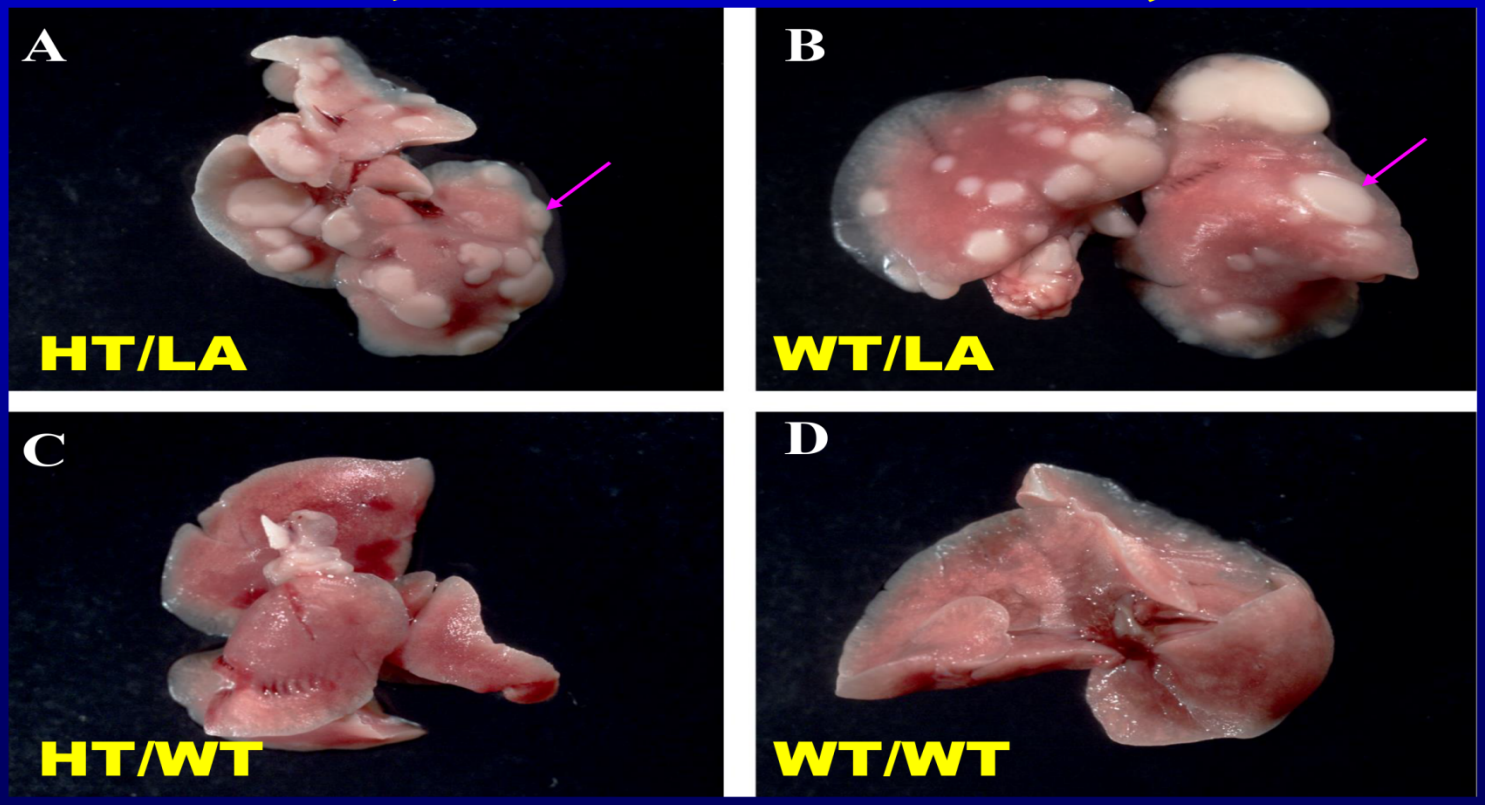
TGF-ß1 WT/K-ras LA - WT/LA Single Mutant

TGF-ß1 HT/K-ras WT - HT/WT Single Mutant

TGF-ß1 WT/K-ras WT - WT/WT Wild Type

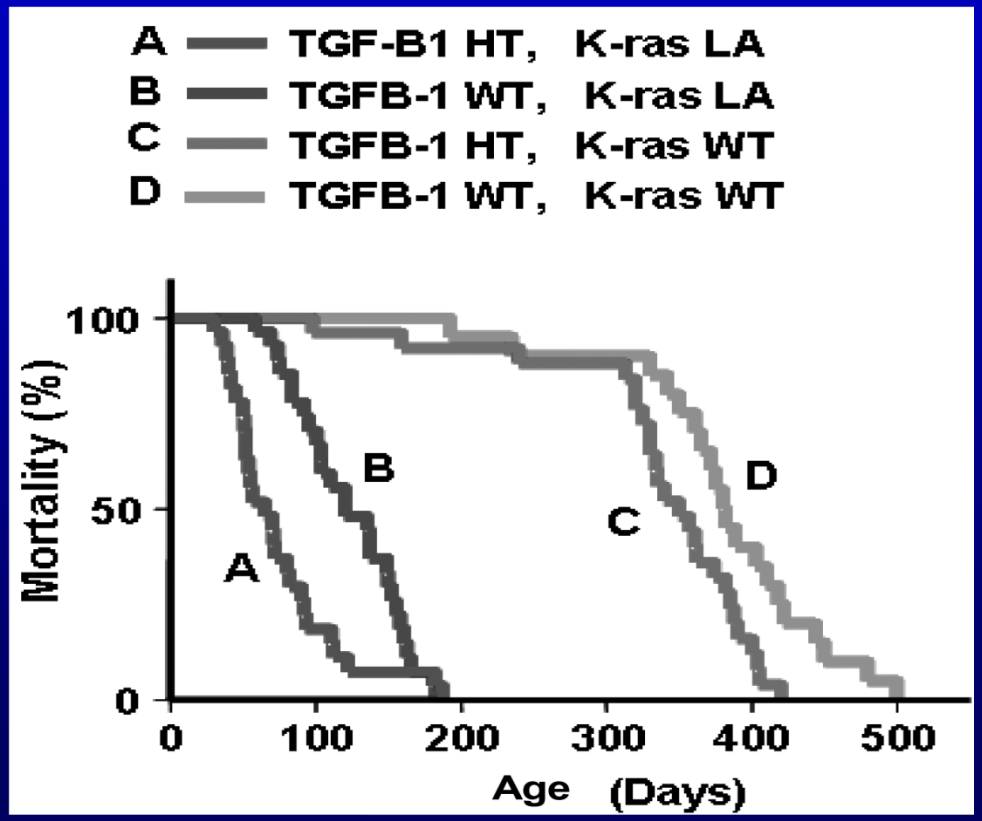
TGF-beta1 and K-ras

TGF-β1 and K-ras Mouse Lungs



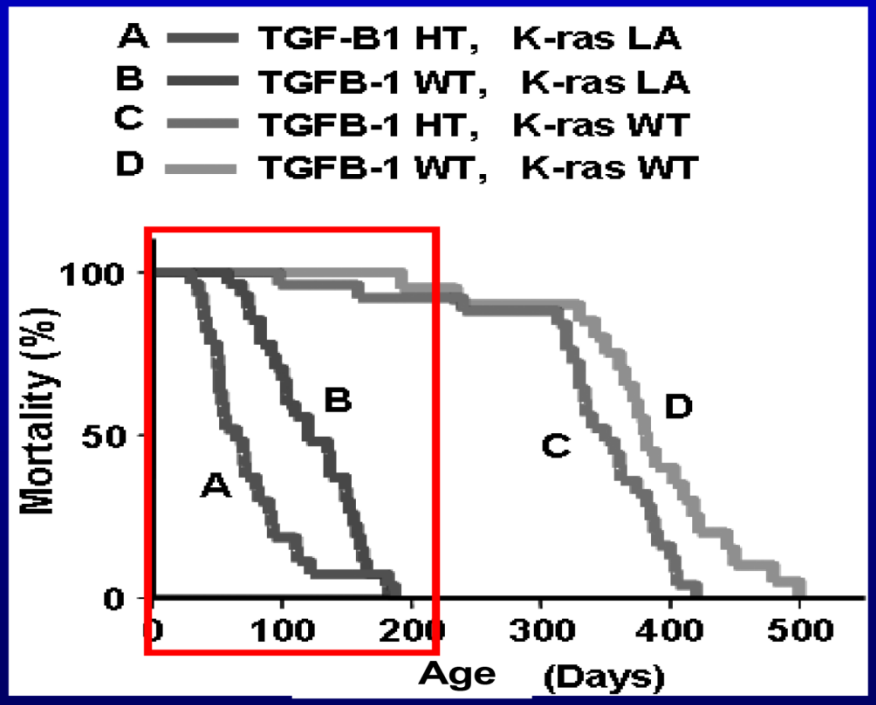
Mouse Survival

Effect of TGF-β1 Gene Deletion and K-ras Mutation on Mouse Survival



Mouse survival

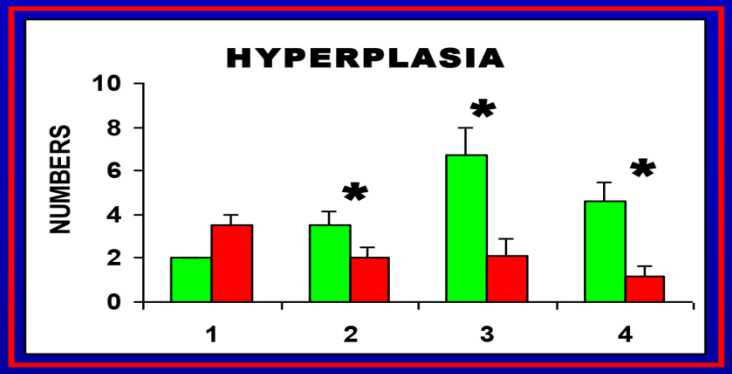
Effect of TGF-β1 Gene Deletion and K-ras Mutation on Mouse Survival

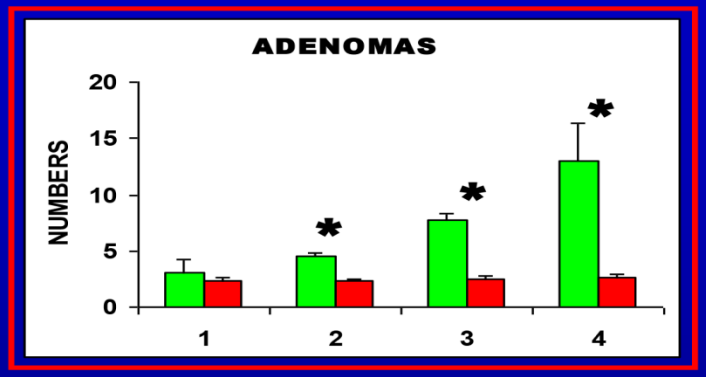


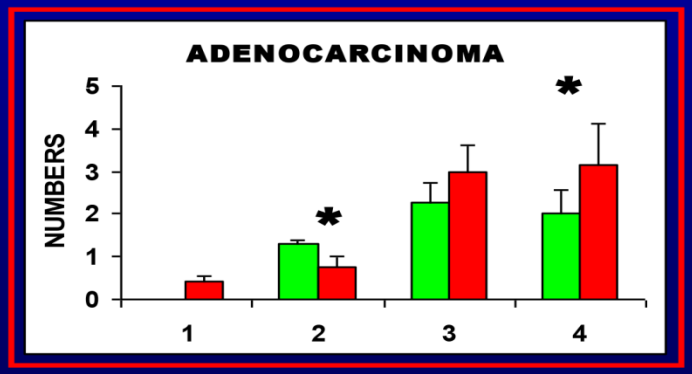
Decreased lifespans in HT/LA and WT/LA mice

Lung Pathology

Pathology of Lung Lesions







WT/LA

HT/LA

Increased hyperplasia & adenoma in WT/LA
Increased carcinoma in HT/LA

TGF-beta1 and RII

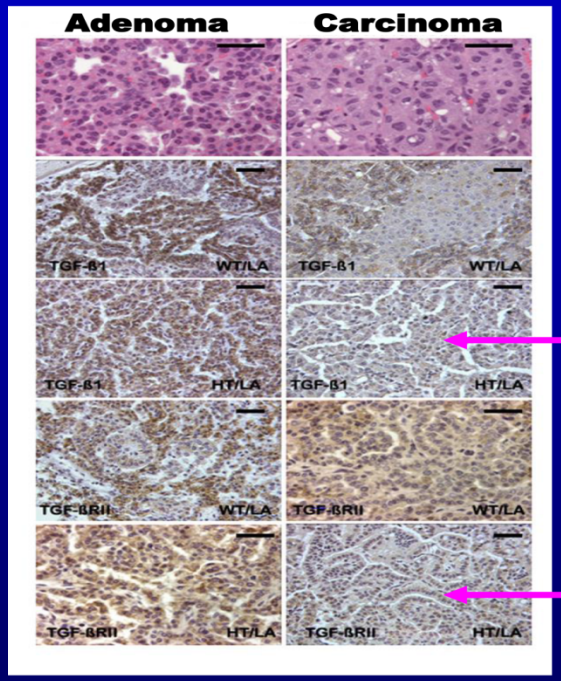
TGF-β1 and TGF-β RII in Lung Lesions

TGF-β1 WT/LA

TGF-β1 HT/LA

TGF-β RII WT/LA

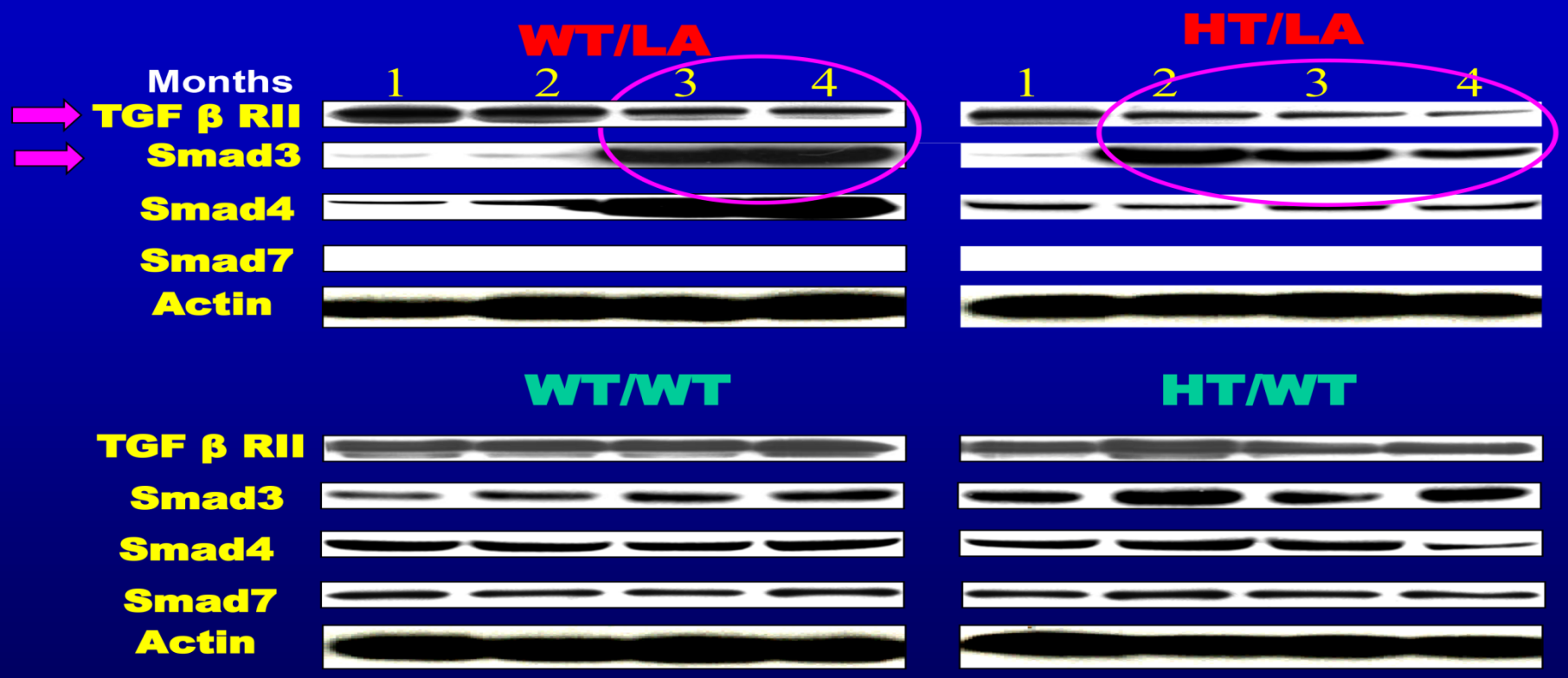
TGF-β RII HT/LA



Reduced TGF-ß1 & RII in HT/LA adenocarcinomas

TGF-beta RII and Smad 3

TGFβ RII and Smad3 in Lung Tumorigenesis



HT/LA: Expedited TGF-ß RII reduction & Smad3 production

TGF-beta pathway

TGFβ Pathway in HT/LA Lung Tumorigenesis

Western Blot:

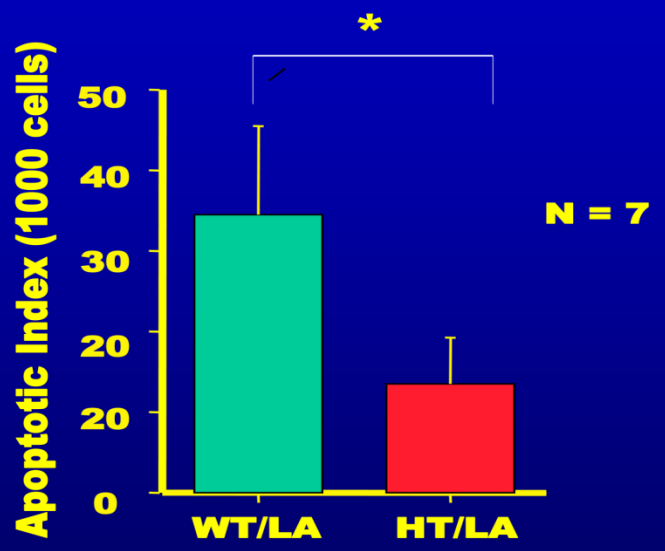
TGF β RII	Expedited TGF-ß RII reduction
Smad3	Expedited Smad3 production
Smad4	Reduced Smad4 production
Smad7	Reduced Smad7 production
K-ras	Expedited K-ras production
Raf-1	Expedited Raf-1 production

Real Time RT-PCR:

Reduced Smads 2, 3, 4 & 7 in adenomas
Reduced TGF-ß RII & Smads in carcinomas

Apoptotic index

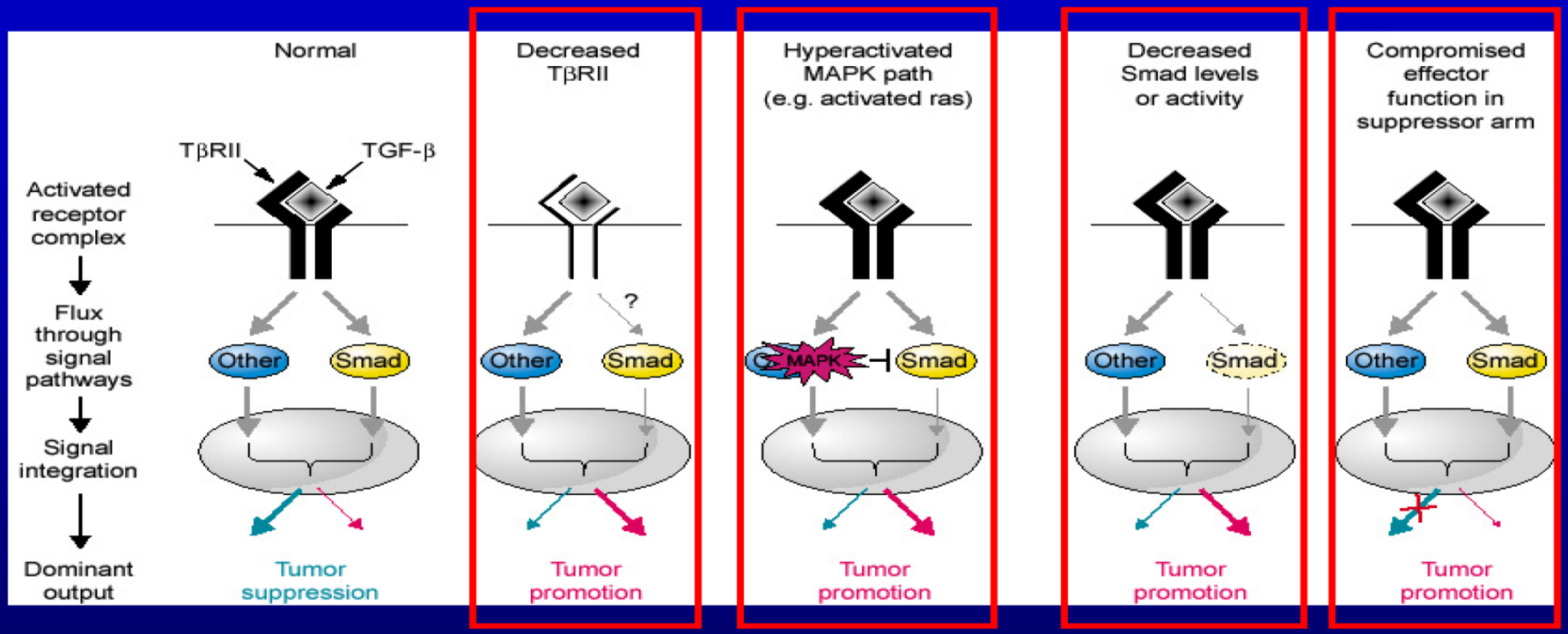
Apoptotic Index in WT/LA & HT/LA Mouse Lung Adenomas



Reduced apoptosis in HT/LA adenomas

Tumor suppression/promotion

TGF-ß in Tumor Suppression/Promotion



- **Decreased TGF-ß RII = Lung Tumor Promotion**
- **Activated Ras/MAPK = Lung Tumor Promotion**
- **Decreased Smad4 = Lung Tumor Promotion**
- **Compromised Apoptosis = Lung Tumor Promotion**

Anti TGFB compounds currently in Clinical Trials

Class	Compound	Target	Company	Phase	Disease
Antibodies	Fresolumimab	TGF-ß 1-3	Genzyme	Ph I	RCC & Melanoma
				Ph I - r	Met Breast Cancer
				Ph I - r	Advanced Melanoma
Antibody Targeting: ALK1	PF-03446962	ALK1	Pfizer	Ph I - r	Advanced Solid Tumors
Antisense Oligonucleotides	Trabedersen	TGF-ß2 mRNA	Antisense Pharma	Ph I	Pancreatic & Colon
				Ph IIb	Melanoma & Glioma
				Ph III - r	Glioblastoma
Receptor Kinase Inhibitors	LY2157299	ALK5	Eli Lilly	Ph Ib/Iia - r	Glioma, Hepatocellular
				Ph II - r	Pancreatic Cancer
				Ph Ib/II - r	Pancreatic Cancer
Combined TGF-ß + Vaccine	Lucanix	TGF-ß2	NovaRx	Ph II, Ph II - r	NSCLC, NSCLC
	TGF-ß2 + GMCSF Exp Vector	TGF-ß2 + GMCSF	MCMRC	Ph I - r	Advanced Cancer

Anti-TGFB Compounds currently in Clinical Trials

Class	Compound	Target	Company	Phase	Disease
Antibodies	Fresolumimab	TGF-ß 1-3	Genzyme	Ph I	RCC & Melanoma
				Ph I - r	Met Breast Cancer
				Ph I - r	Advanced Melanoma
Antibody Targeting: ALK1	PF-03446962	ALK1	Pfizer	Ph I - r	Advanced Solid Tumors
Antisense Oligonucleotides	Trabedersen	TGF-ß2 mRNA	Antisense Pharma	Ph I	Pancreatic & Colon
				Ph IIb	Melanoma & Glioma
				Ph III - r	Glioblastoma
Receptor Kinase Inhibitors	LY2157299	ALK5	Eli Lilly	Ph Ib/Iia - r	Glioma, Hepatocellular
				Ph II - r	Pancreatic Cancer
				Ph Ib/II - r	Pancreatic Cancer
Combined TGF-ß + Vaccine	Lucanix	TGF-ß2	NovaRx	Ph II, Ph II - r	NSCLC, NSCLC
	TGF-ß2 + GMCSF Exp Vector	TGF-ß2 + GMCSF	MCMRC	Ph I - r	Advanced Cancer

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