

# Childhood Cancer Data Initiative Virtual Symposium Series

*Warren Kibbe, Jack Shern, Malcolm Smith,  
Erin Rudzinski, Diana Thomas, and Sarah Leary*

# Welcome & Opening Remarks

*Warren Kibbe, Ph.D.  
and Jack Shern, M.D.*

# Today's Speakers

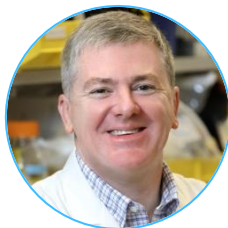
**WARREN  
KIBBE,  
PH.D.**



*Deputy Director  
for Data Science  
and Strategy*

**National Cancer  
Institute**

**JACK  
SHERN,  
M.D.**



*CCDI Scientific  
Director & Head  
of the Tumor  
Evolution and  
Genomics  
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Oncology Branch*

**National Cancer  
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**MALCOLM  
SMITH,  
M.D., PH.D.**



*Associate Branch  
Chief for  
Pediatric  
Oncology,  
Cancer Therapy  
Evaluation  
Program*

**National Cancer  
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**ERIN  
RUDZINSKI,  
M.D.**



*Director of  
Pediatric  
Pathology &  
Professor of  
Laboratory  
Medicine and  
Pathology*

**Indiana  
University**

**DIANA  
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M.D., PH.D.**



*Neuropathologist*

**Nationwide  
Children's  
Hospital**

**SARAH  
LEARY,  
M.D., M.S.**



*Pediatric  
Oncologist*

**Seattle  
Children's  
Hospital**

Childhood Cancer Data Initiative Virtual Symposium Series

# History of CCDI: From Ad Hoc Working Group to 2026

*Warren Kibbe, Ph.D. and Jack Shern, M.D.*

## Agenda

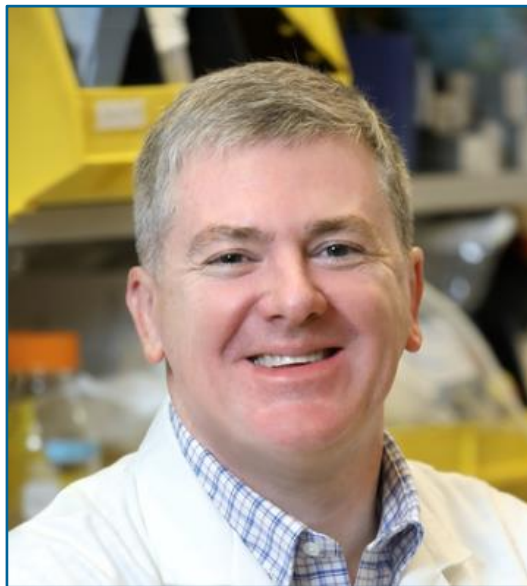
1. *CCDI Leadership Update*
2. *CCDI History and Progress*
3. *CCDI Resources and Programs*
4. *User Metrics*
5. *Looking Ahead*

# CCDI Leadership Update

*NCI has appointed a new CCDI Scientific Director*



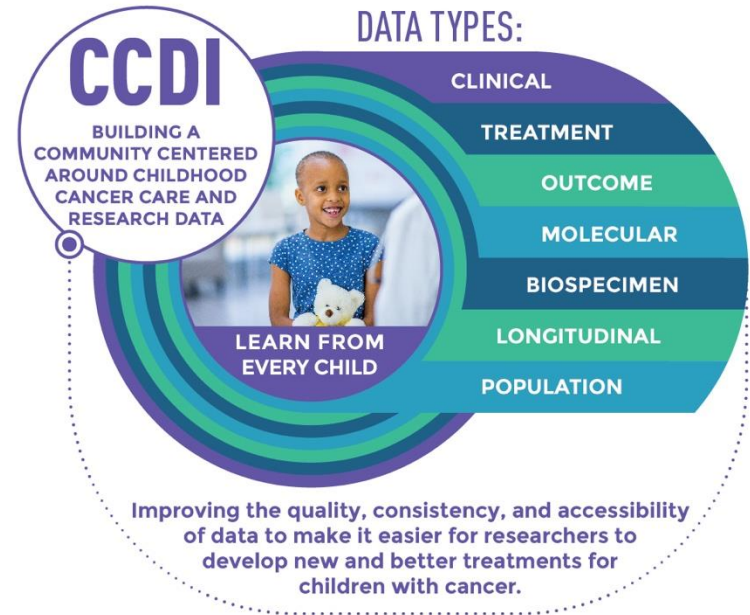
Thank you for your leadership  
and dedication,  
Dr. Gregory Reaman!



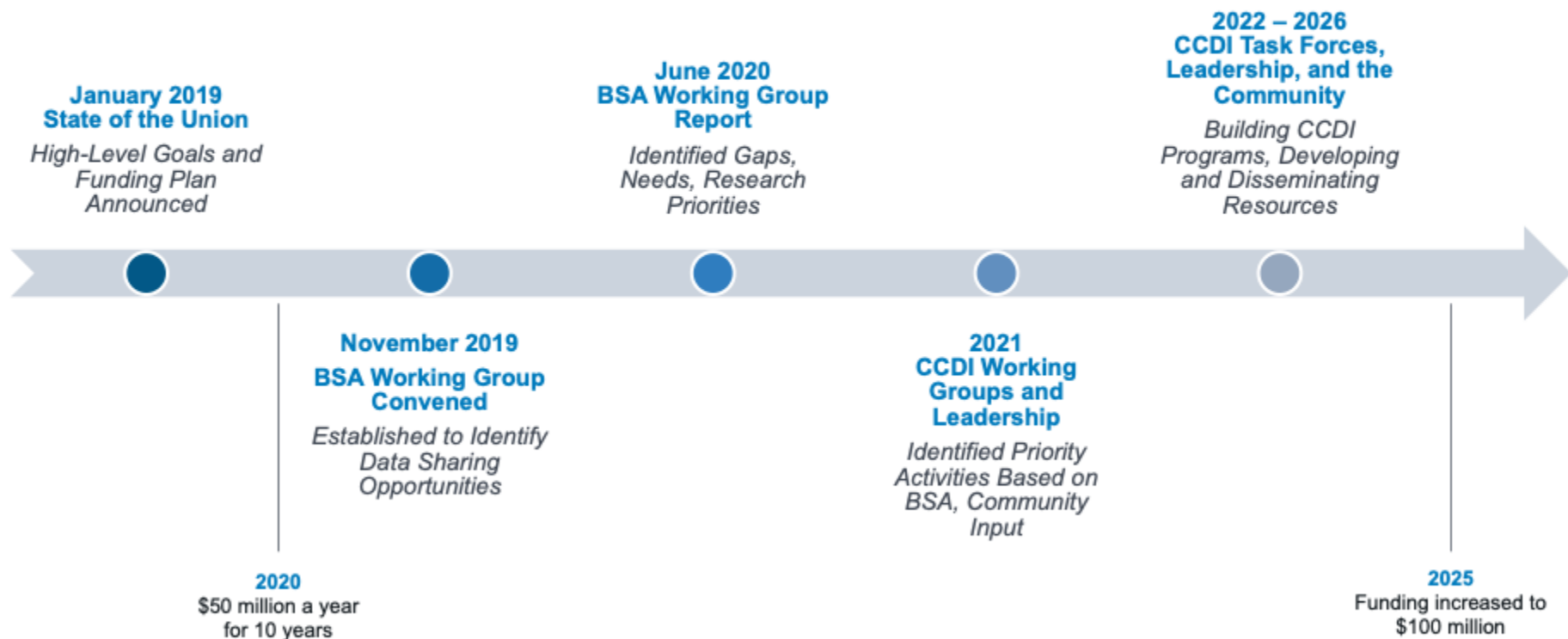
Welcome to the role of CCDI  
Scientific Director,  
Dr. Jack Shern!

# CCDI Goals

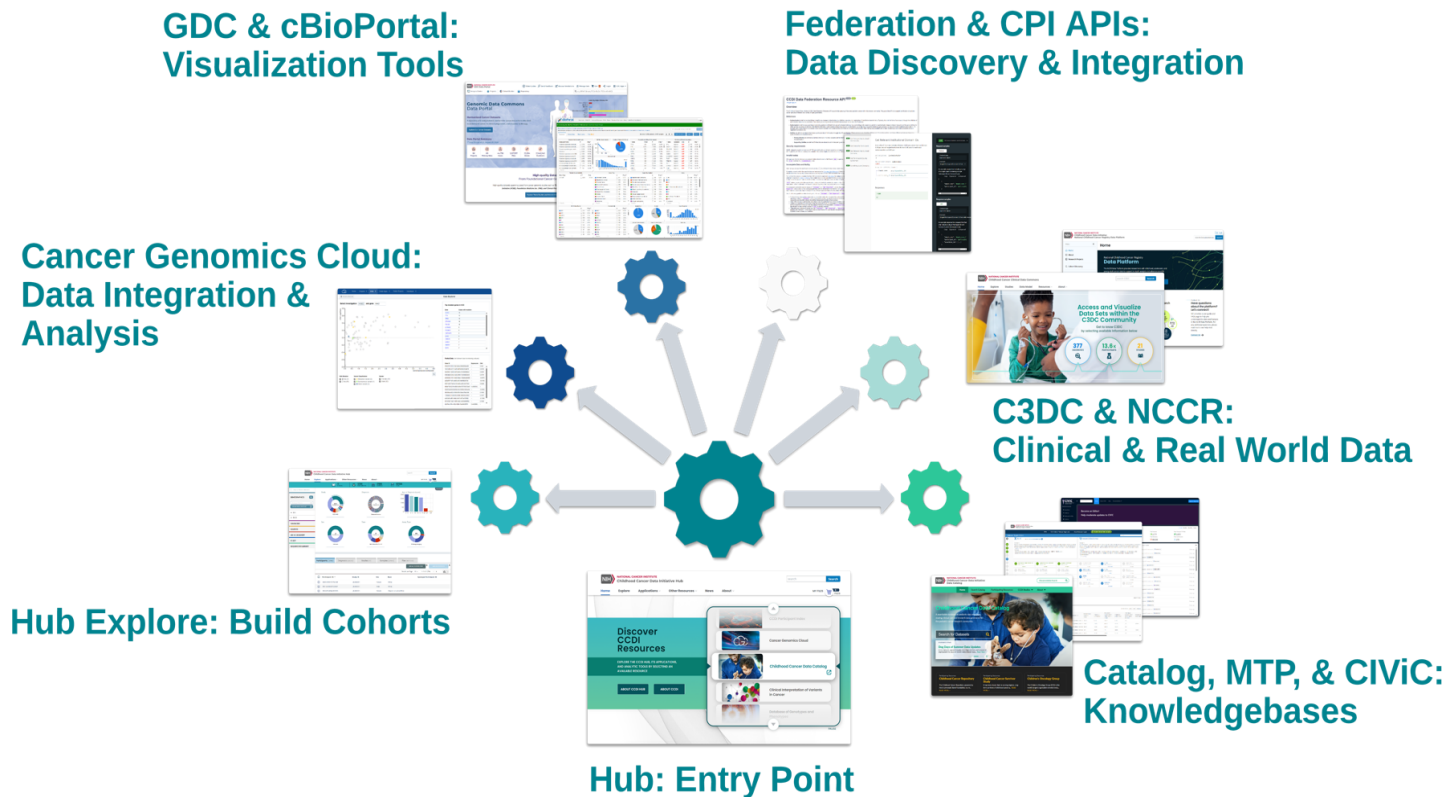
- Gather and integrate **data from every child, adolescent, and young adult** diagnosed with a childhood cancer
- **Create a national strategy** of molecular characterization to inform diagnosis and treatment
- **Develop a platform and tools** to bring together clinical and research data that will inform new insights in biology/etiology to improve preventive measures, treatment, quality of life, and survivorship for childhood cancers



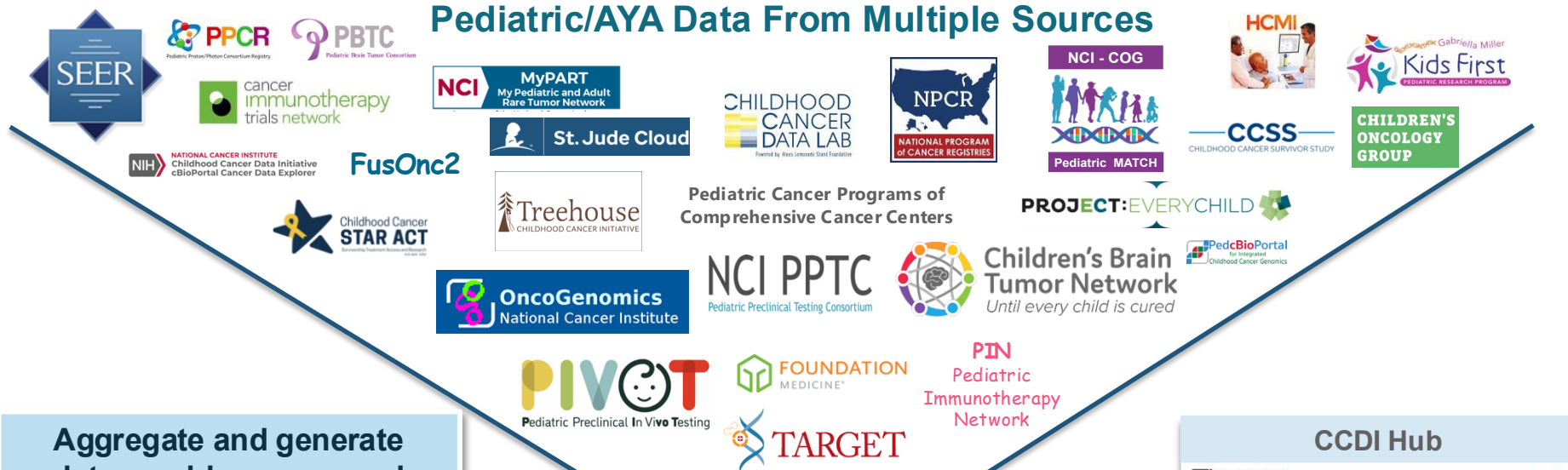
# Brief History of CCDI



# CCDI Data Ecosystem: A Connected Network of Resources

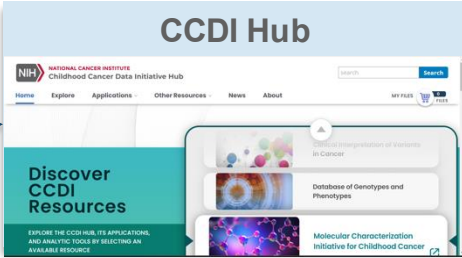


# Pediatric/AYA Data From Multiple Sources



Aggregate and generate data; enable access and analysis

**CCDI**



Understand biology of treatment response and resistance

Generate improved strategies for intervention

Develop new research and analytical tools

# CCDI Studies Available to the Research Community

CCDI provides access to a growing collection of pediatric and AYA cancer studies, with **40 multimodal studies currently available**.

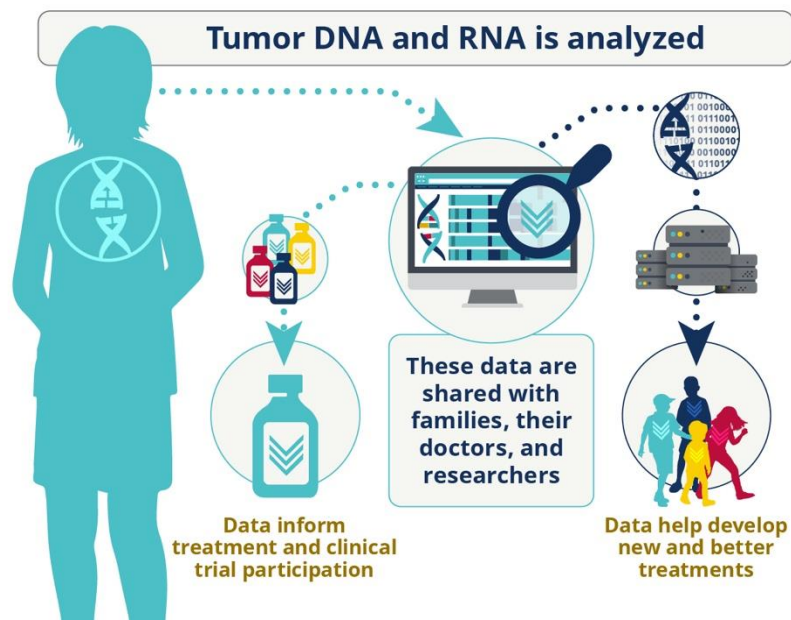
## Sample List of Studies:

- Pediatric MATCH Precision Medicine Clinical Trial
- Childhood Cancer Survivor Study
- Longitudinal Clinical, Sociodemographic, and Genomic Data
- Michigan Oncology Sequencing Center
- OncoKids Gene Panel at Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Children's Brain Tumor Network
- Admixture Analysis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in African American Children
- Pediatric Preclinical In Vivo Testing Consortium

Additional studies are available on the CCDI Hub at [ccdi.cancer.gov/studies](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/studies).

# CCDI Molecular Characterization Initiative (MCI)

- A partnership between NCI and the Children's Oncology Group (COG) Project:EveryChild
- Provides **state-of-the-art molecular characterization at diagnosis** (WES, fusions, methylation) to inform best treatment at no cost to participants
- **Results returned** to participants and treating physicians **within 21 days**
- **~9,000 children and adolescent, and young adults (AYAs) have enrolled** in the program
- Remaining samples will be stored in a biobank for **future research**
  - Research characterization (WGS, RNA Seq, single cell, and proteomics/metabolomics assays) performed to deepen our understanding of cancer biology
- **Longitudinal follow-up** of patients with germline abnormalities and cascade testing in unaffected immediate family members



[cancer.gov/CCDI-molecular](https://cancer.gov/CCDI-molecular)

# CCDI Pediatric and AYA Rare Cancer Study

- **Launching soon!**
- A **collaboration** between CCDI and organizations and initiatives in the U.S. and abroad, including COG
- A **longitudinal, observational study** that will follow children and AYAs with **very rare cancers** over time
- Primary goals:
  - To **develop a registry** containing a core data set on all rare cancer participants
  - Include real-world data that can **inform the design of rare childhood cancer clinical trials**



[cancer.gov/ccdi-rare-cancer](https://cancer.gov/ccdi-rare-cancer)

# Research Opportunities to Leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI)

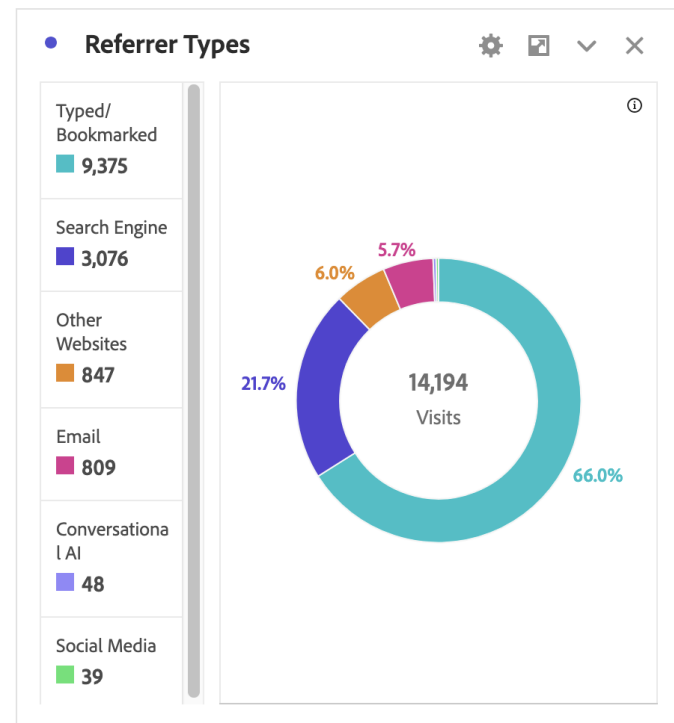
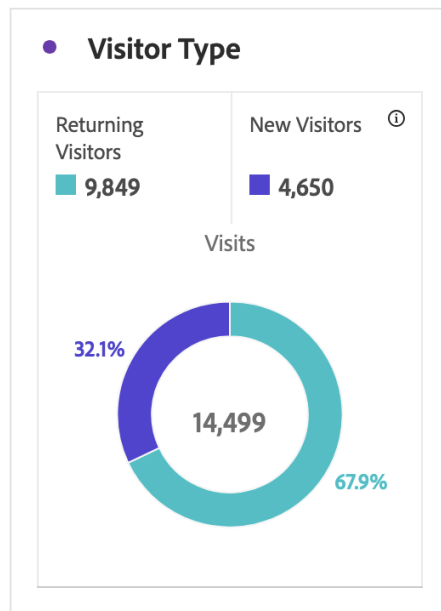


## Topics of interest are not limited to those listed here:

- AI-enabled extraction and structuring of clinical and research data to enhance CCDI data assets
- AI/machine learning approaches to harmonize and leverage heterogenous pediatric data sets into interoperable, AI-ready formats
- Tools for multimodal data integration and validation
- Privacy-preserving and distributed AI approaches

# CCDI Hub User Metrics

- In the last 12 months, there were nearly **5,000 new visitors** to the CCDI Hub.
- During the same timeframe, the Hub had about **47,000 page views** and nearly **14,500 visits**.



# MCI Is the Second Most Downloaded Data Set from the Genomic Data Commons

January 2026

Project Name (ID)	File Size Downloaded (TB)
Breast Invasive Carcinoma (TCGA-BRCA)	755.95
<b>CCDI-MCI</b>	<b>592.57</b>
CPTAC-Brain, Head and Neck, Kidney, Lung, Pancreas, Uterus (CPTAC-3)	338.23
Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (TCGA-HNSC)	332.81
Colon Adenocarcinoma (TCGA-COAD)	220.60
Glioblastoma Multiforme (TCGA-GBM)	198.71
Lung Adenocarcinoma (TCGA-LUAD)	134.32
Cervical Squamous Cell Carcinoma and Endocervical Adenocarcinoma (TCGA-CESC)	128.47
Kidney Renal Clear Cell Carcinoma (TCGA-KIRC)	105.34
Skin Cutaneous Melanoma (TCGA-SKCM)	93.25
Sarcoma (TCGA-SARC)	91.52

# How You Can Engage with CCDI



**Learn about CCDI and subscribe to our monthly newsletter:**  
[cancer.gov/CCDI](https://cancer.gov/CCDI)



**Access CCDI data and resources:**  
[ccdi.cancer.gov](https://ccdi.cancer.gov)



**Questions? Email us at:**  
[NCIChildhoodCancerDataInitiative@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NCIChildhoodCancerDataInitiative@mail.nih.gov)

Childhood Cancer Data Initiative Virtual Symposium Series

**Molecular Characterization Initiative:  
Identification and Implementation of a  
Standardized Genomic Characterization of  
Childhood Cancers**

*Malcolm Smith, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Erin Rudzinski, M.D., and Jack Shern, M.D.*

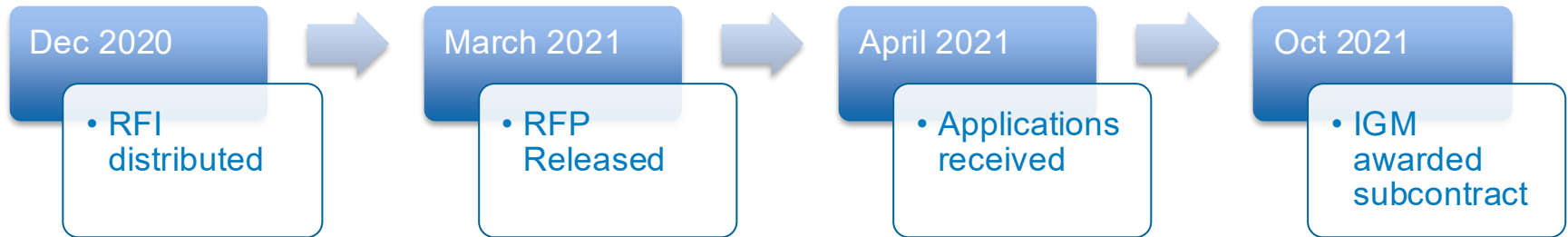


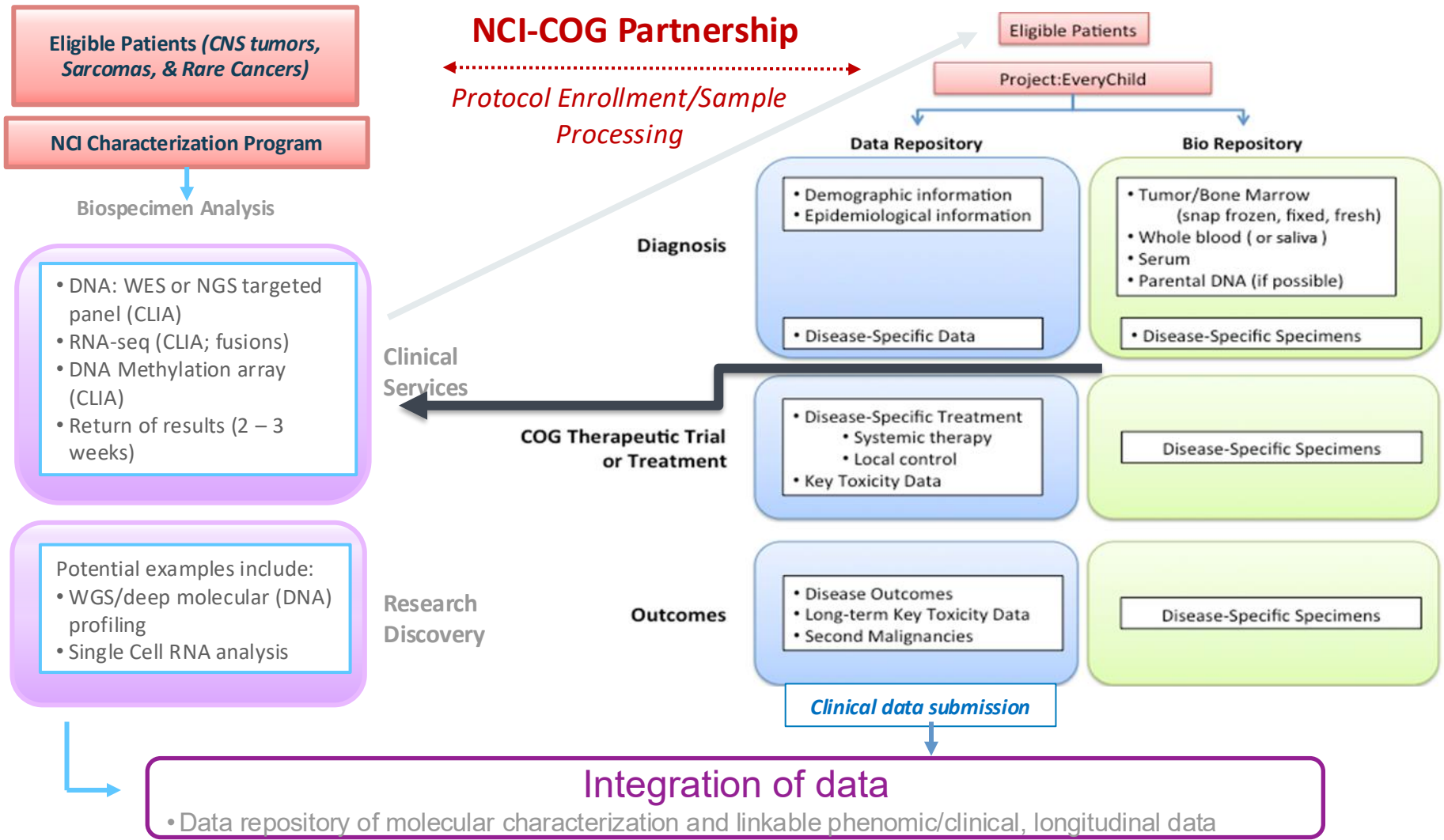
# Malcolm Smith, M.D., Ph.D.

# Creating the Molecular Characterization Initiative

**Vision:** Expand access to comprehensive molecular sequencing, with goal of reaching all children with pediatric cancer

**Pathway:** Building upon Project:EveryChild (APEC14B1) to offer genomic characterization at diagnosis across all COG institutions





# MCI Begins!!!

## NCI launches program to offer molecular characterization of childhood cancers

Posted: March 21, 2022

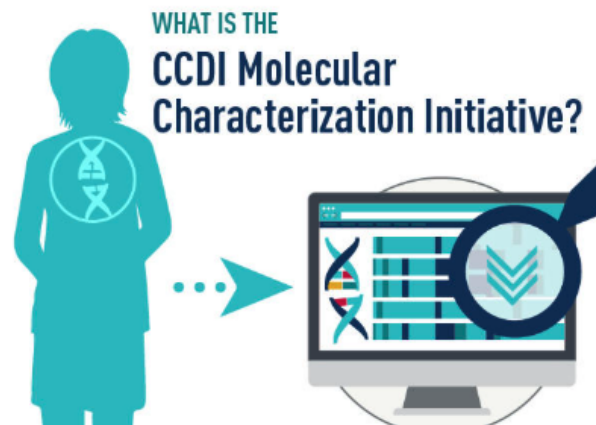


Contact: [NCI Press Office](#)

240-760-6600

In support of President Biden's [Cancer Moonshot<sup>SM</sup>](#) goal of fostering data sharing in cancer research, the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, has launched the [Molecular Characterization Initiative](#) for pediatric tumors. This program offers tumor molecular characterization, also called biomarker testing, to children, adolescents, and young adults with newly diagnosed central nervous system tumors who are being treated at hospitals that are affiliated with the [Children's Oncology Group \(COG\)](#) [↗](#), an NCI-supported clinical trials group that includes more than 200 hospitals and institutions that treat most children diagnosed with cancer in the United States.

The Molecular Characterization Initiative is offered through NCI's [Childhood Cancer Data Initiative](#), which was launched in 2019 to promote data sharing and collection of new data among researchers who study childhood cancers.



Credit: National Cancer Institute

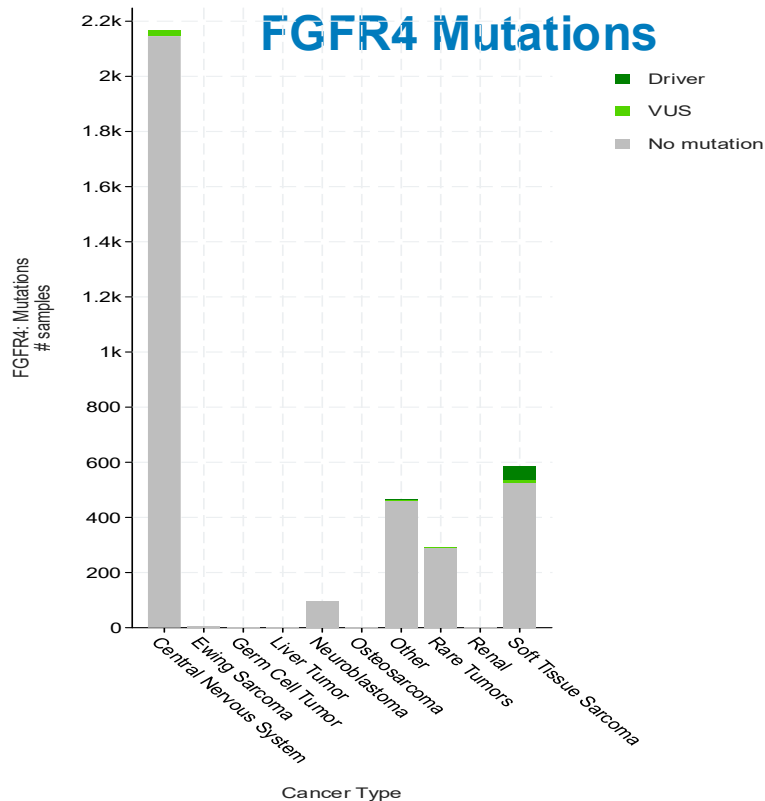
# CCDI cBioPortal Cancer Data Explorer

## cBioPortal Cancer Data Explorer

User-friendly instance that allows users to search by gene, mutation, cancer type, and quickly visualize relationships, patterns, and trends in the data

[cbioportal.ccdi.cancer.gov](https://cbioportal.ccdi.cancer.gov)

**Example Use Case:** A research can create cohorts of rhabdomyosarcoma patients with a PAX3-FOXO1 fusion or with FGFR4 driver mutations, etc.



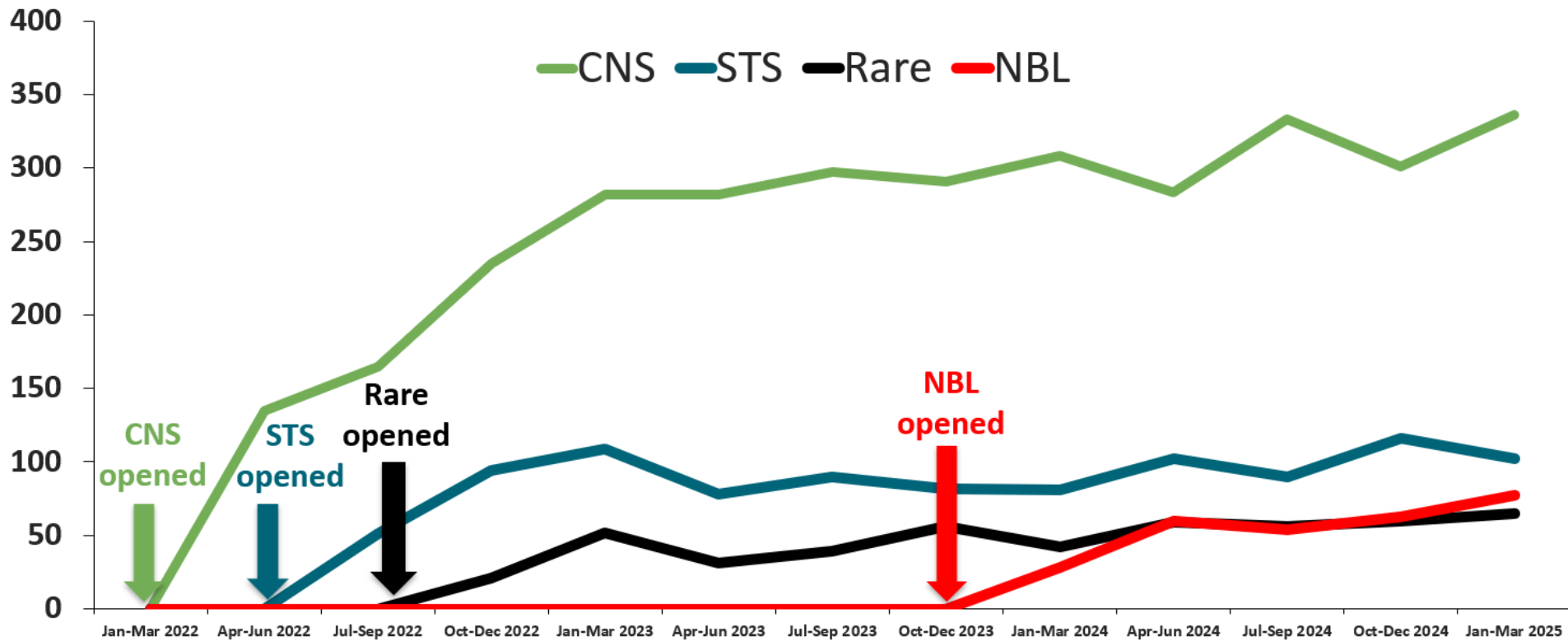


**Erin Rudzinski, M.D.**

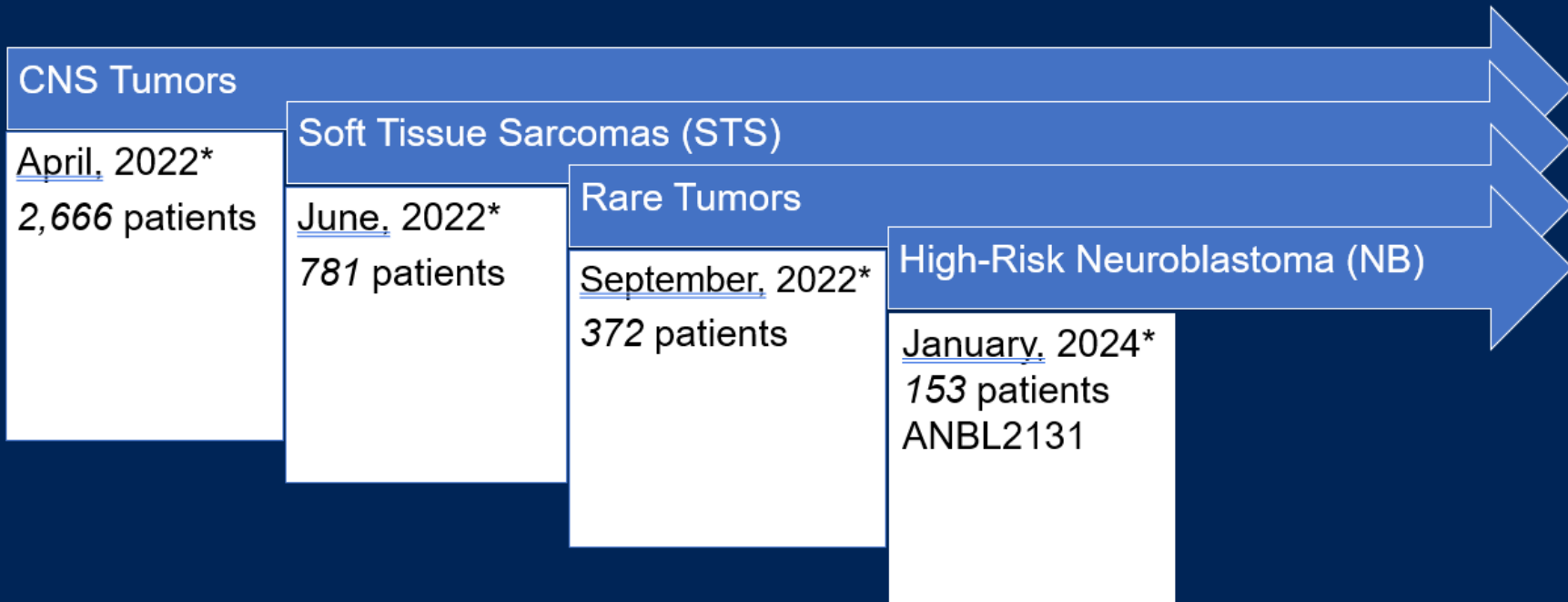
# Children's Oncology Group and Project:EveryChild

- Project:EveryChild (APEC14B1) – Tumor registry and tissue banking study open to all pediatric patients with cancer
  - Patients 25 years of age or younger
- APEC14B1 – MCI
  - Rolling open to specific eligible diagnoses

# Specimens for Sequencing (By Quarter)

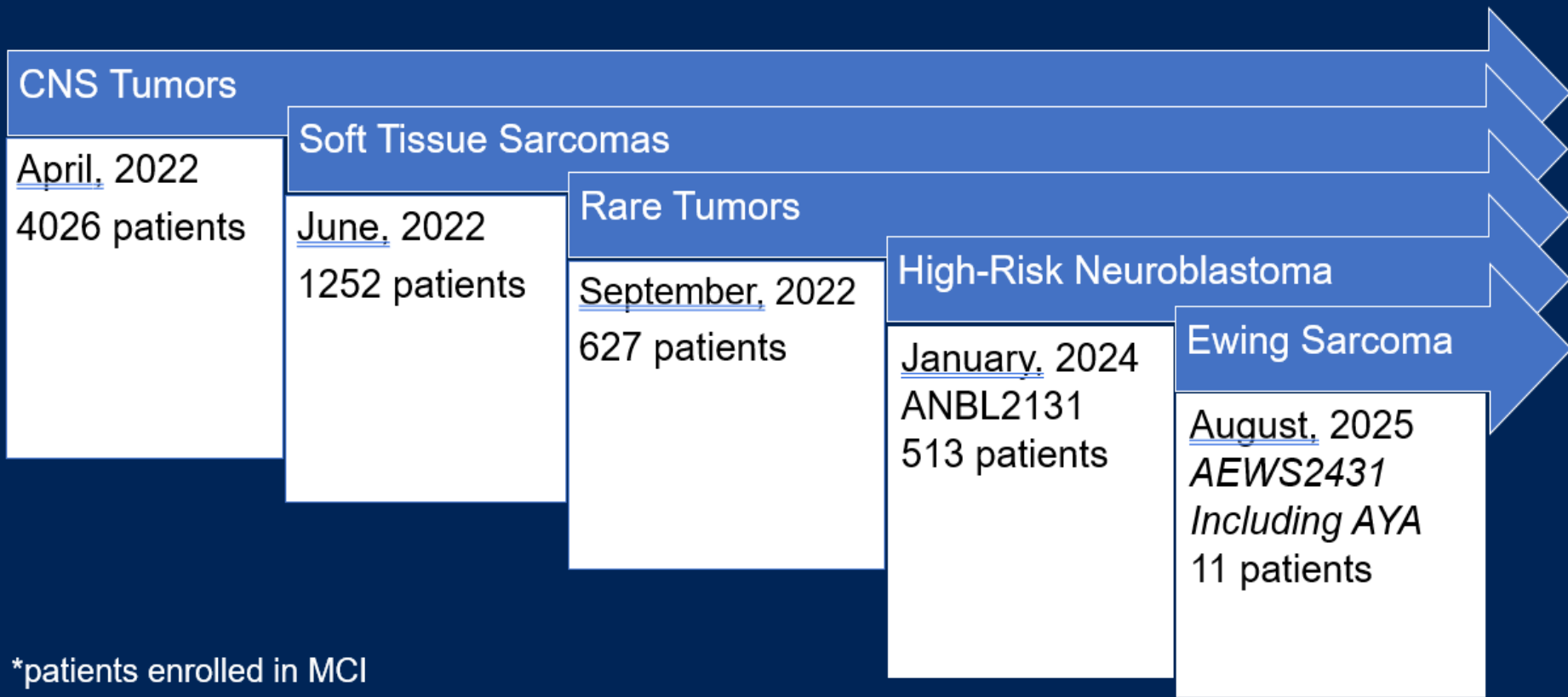


# MCI Timeline (March 31, 2022 - November 1, 2024)



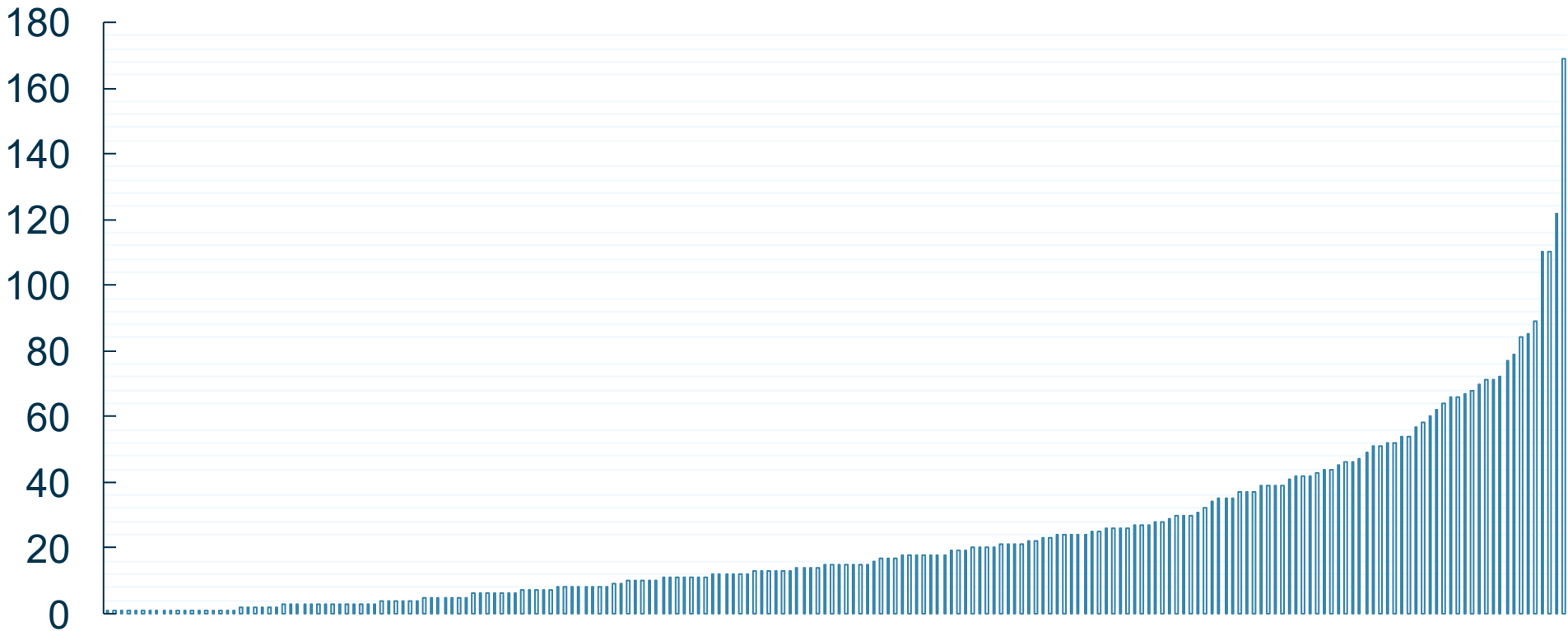
\*patients sequenced at Institute for Genomic Medicine

# MCI Timeline (March 31, 2022 – September 8, 2025)

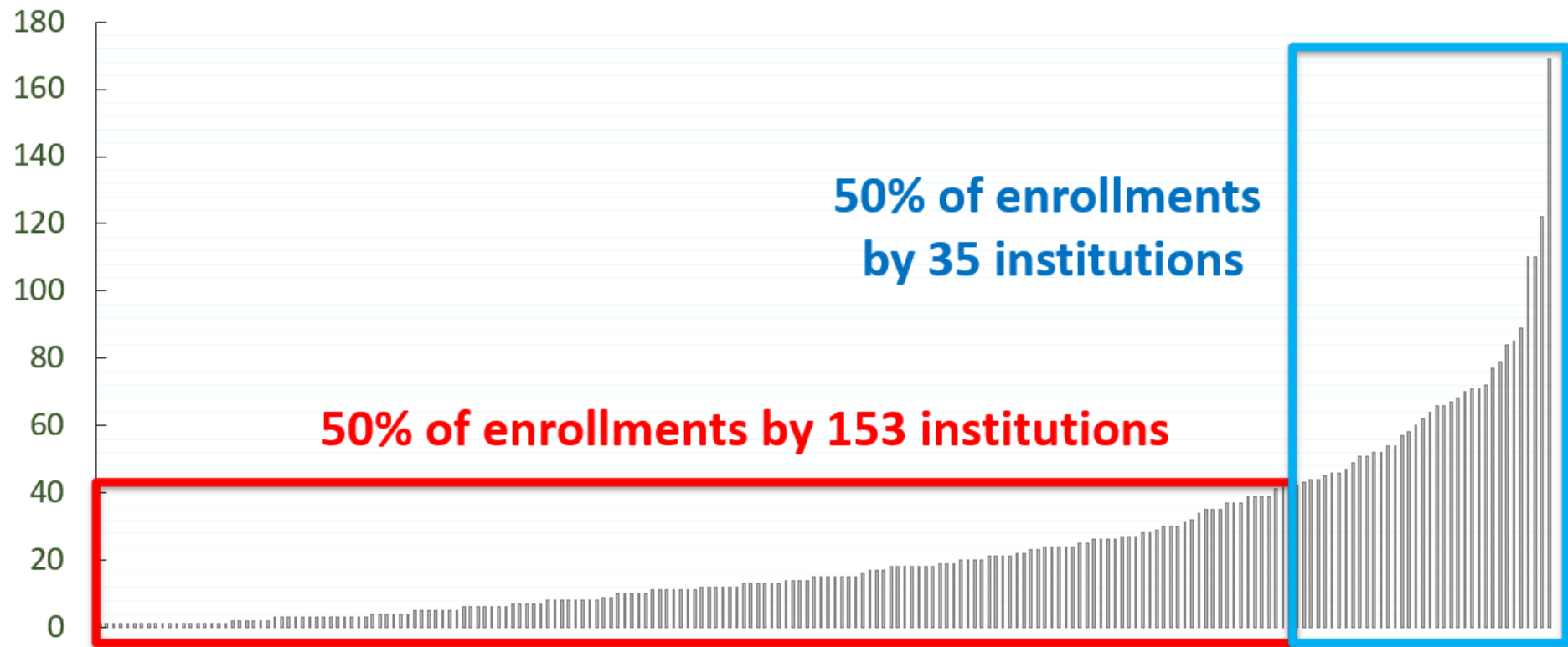


\*patients enrolled in MCI

# Institutional Enrollment on MCI



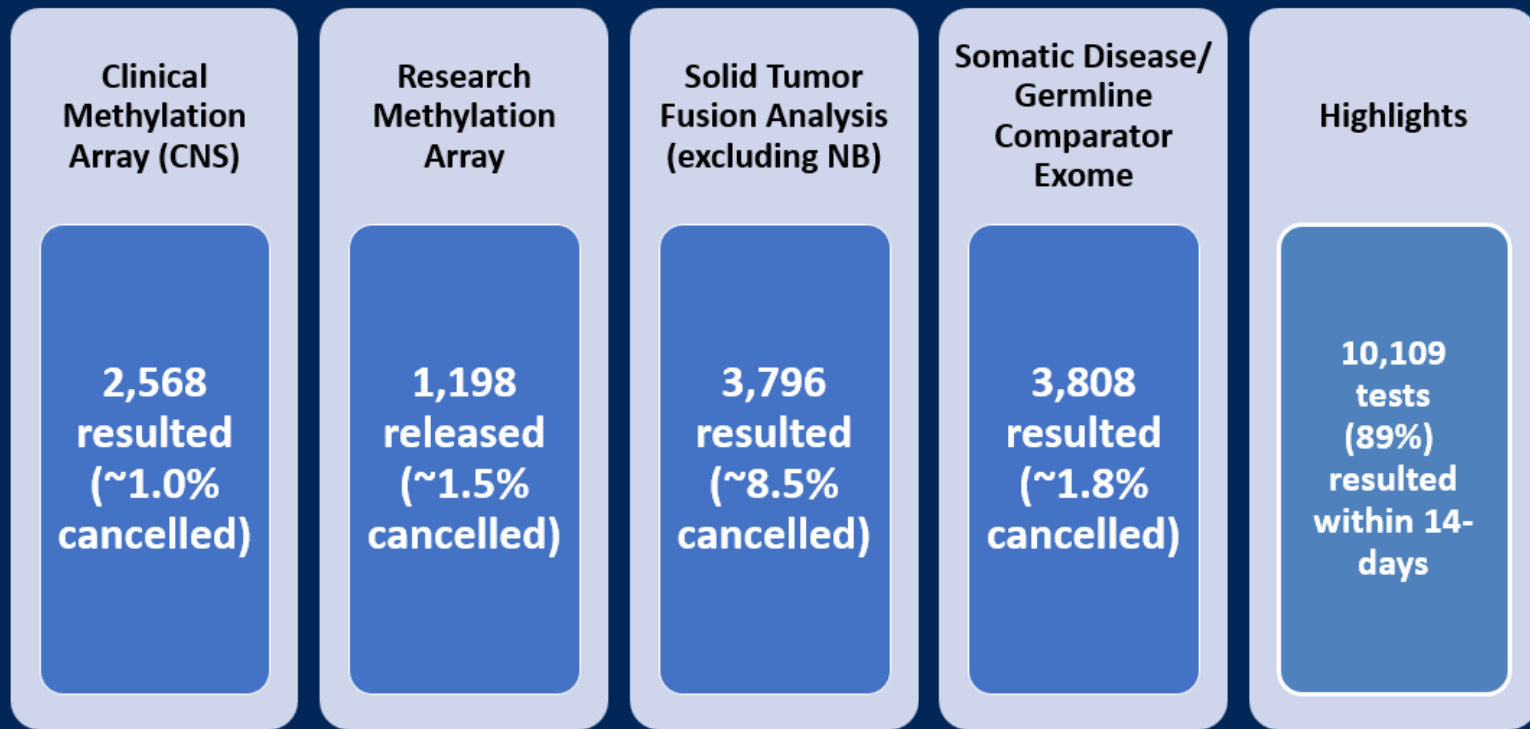
# COG Institutional Enrollment on MCI



# MCI: What Do the Data Show Across Disease Groups?

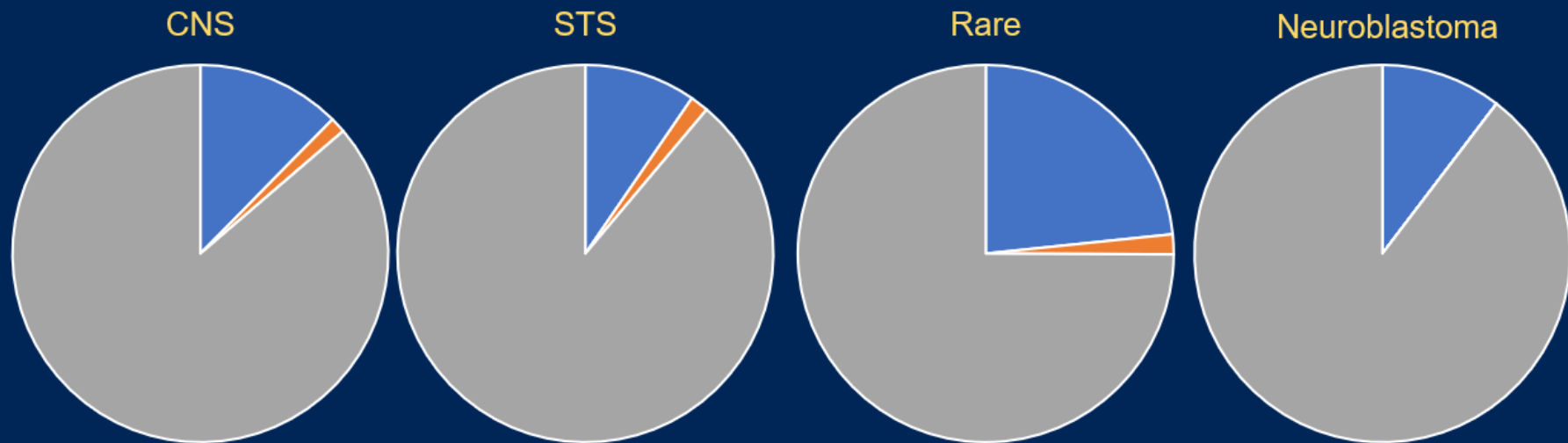
- Early analyses of the first 31 months of data
  - Data courtesy of Institute for Genomic Medicine

# CCDI-COG MCI test volumes



Slide provided  
by Kareesma  
Parbhoo

# Germline alterations



14.1% of patients had a reportable **SNV** or **CNV** germline finding

# Germline alterations

- Single nucleotide variants (SNV) identified in
  - *TP53* in 1.4% of patients
  - *CHEK2* in 1.3% of patients
  - *DICER1* in 0.9% of patients
  - *NF1* in 0.8% of patients
  - *ATM* in 0.6% of patients
- Recurrent copy number variants (CNV) include
  - 17q11.2 loss (*NF1/SUZ12*)
  - 22q11.21 loss (*SMARCB1*)
  - 9p21.3 loss (*CDKN2A/B*)
  - *Rb* loss
  - Ch1p involving *SDHB*

# Somatic DNA alterations

- 85% of patient samples had a reported somatic Tier 1 or Tier 2 SNV or CNV

	Total Cases	Somatic SNV	Somatic CNV
CNS	2539	1125 (44.3%)	1944 (76.6%)
STS	696	326 (46.8%)	579 (83.2%)
RARE	351	162 (46.2%)	182 (51.9%)
NB	154	45 (29.2%)	144 (93.5%)

# Somatic DNA alterations

- Single nucleotide variants were most commonly identified in:
  - *TP53* in 8.3%
  - *BRAF* in 6.9%
  - *CTNNB1* in 4.4%
  
  - *ALK* (11% of neuroblastomas)

# Targeted RNA sequencing

- Gene fusions identified in 30% of patient samples

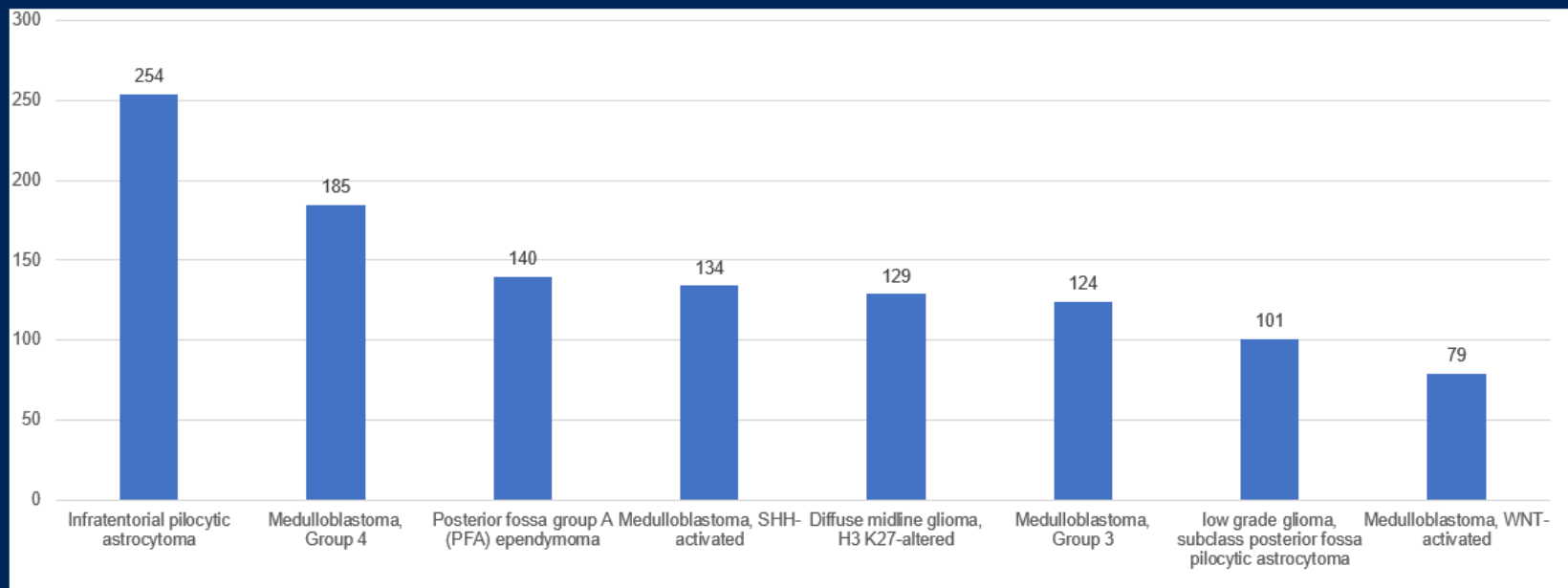
Disease Group	Total Cases Resulted	Positive Results
CNS	2453	668 (27.2%)
STS	719	289 (40.2%)
RAR	302	69 (22.8%)

# Targeted RNA sequencing

- Most common fusions identified include
  - *KIAA15::BRAF*
  - *PAX3::FOXO1*
  - *SS18::SSX1/2*
  - *EWSR1::FLI1*
  - *CIC::DUX4*
  - *COL1A1::PDGFB*
  - *CCDC6::RET*

# Methylation Array – Tumor Classification

- Clinical methylation classification was returned in 90% of all CNS samples



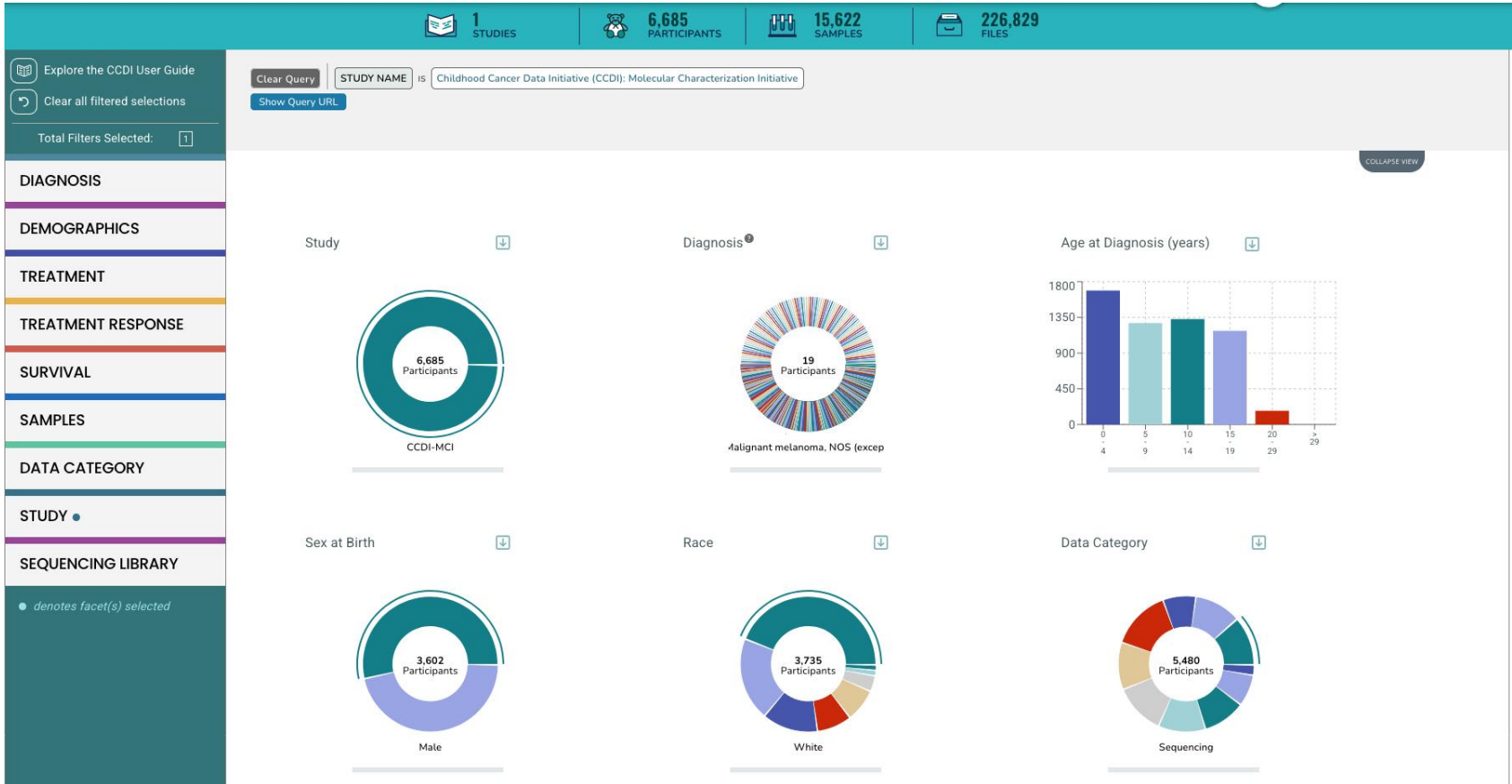
# Evaluating the Utility of MCI Testing

- Did the patient enroll on a clinical trial?
  - 86/749 patients (11.5%) enrolled on a clinical trial based on MCI results
- Did the patient receive a targeted therapy?
  - 80/749 patients (10.7%) received a targeted therapy based on the MCI results
- Did the MCI results help refine the pathologic diagnosis?
  - 223/749 patients (29.5%) used the MCI results to help refine the final integrated pathologic diagnosis

# Updates and Advances in MCI Testing

- Expansion to the young adult population (Project AYA)
  - Enroll on AEWS2431 at a non-COG institution
- IGM updates include validation of new library prep requiring lower volume of DNA for Exome sequencing, reporting tumor mutational burden, acceptance of Formical (soft acid) decalcified specimens
  - August/September 2025
- Validation of RNA sequencing with exome capture
  - Early 2026
- Expand to relapsed/recurrent patients already enrolled in MCI

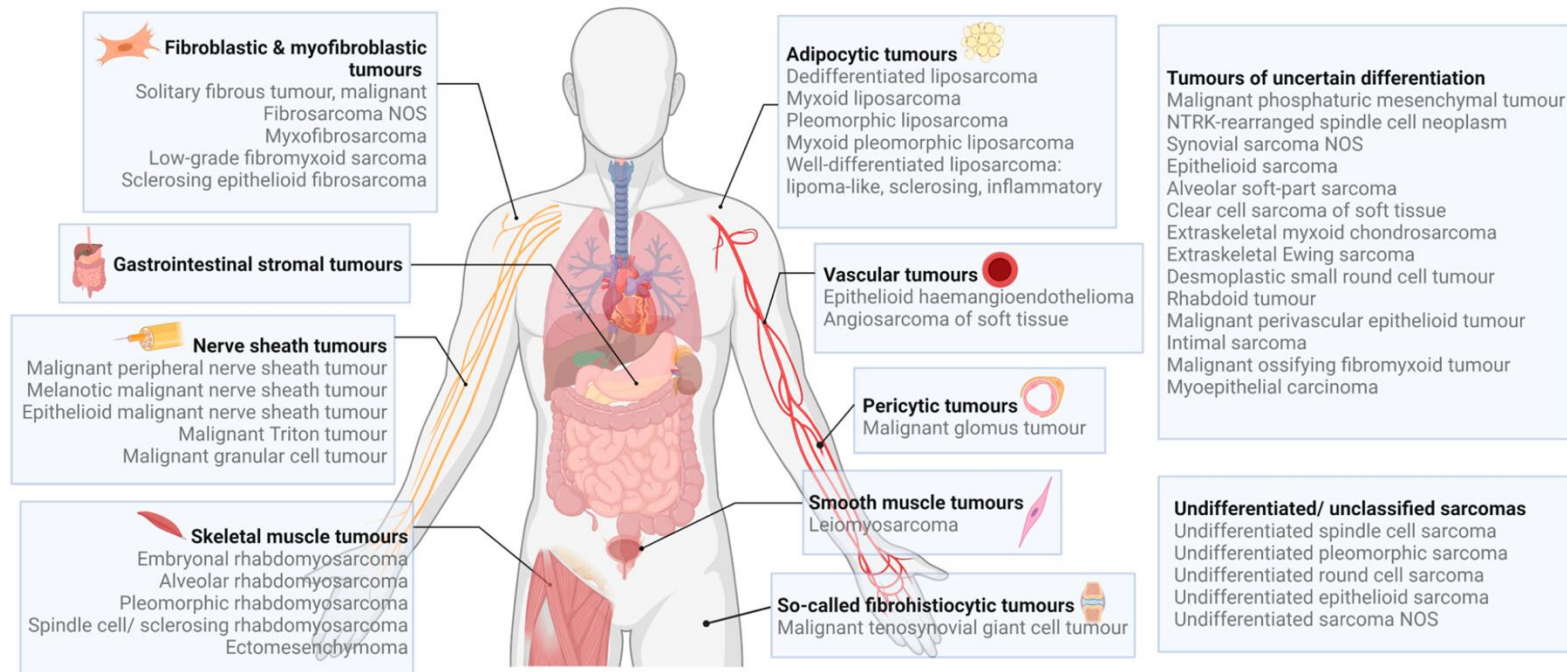
# Accessing the MCI Data



**Jack Shern, M.D.**

# Soft Tissue Sarcomas Based on 2020 WHO Classification

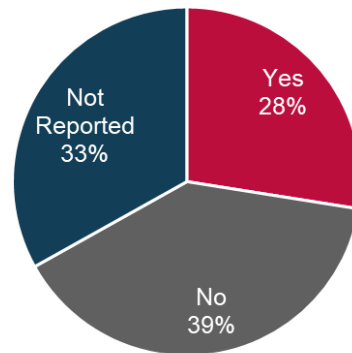
## Malignant Soft Tissue Sarcomas



# Many Patients Do Not Get the Opportunity to Benefit From Molecular Testing

- No national coverage determinations or practice guidelines regarding molecular profiling for STS tumors
- 28% participants had evidence of molecular profiling
- 39% had definitive evidence of **not** having had molecular profiling
- Private partners have little incentive to “help” the cause

History of prior clinical tumor profiling (n=1000)

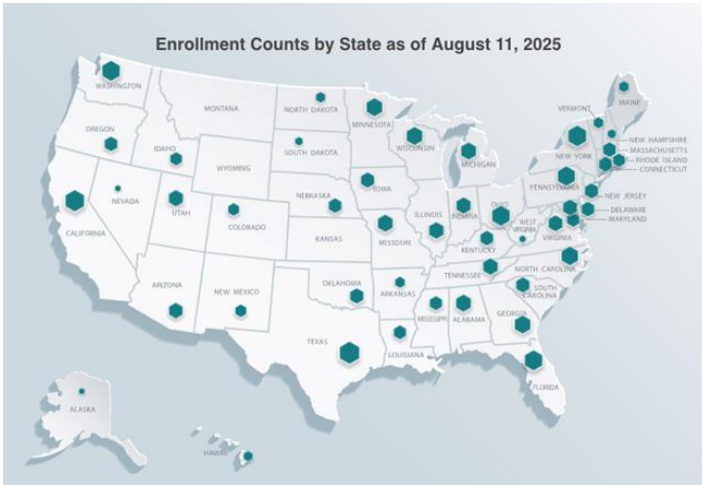


NCI-COG Pediatric Molecular Analysis for Therapy Choice (MATCH)

Parsons 2022, JCO

# Molecular Characterization Initiative (MCI) Provides a National Framework

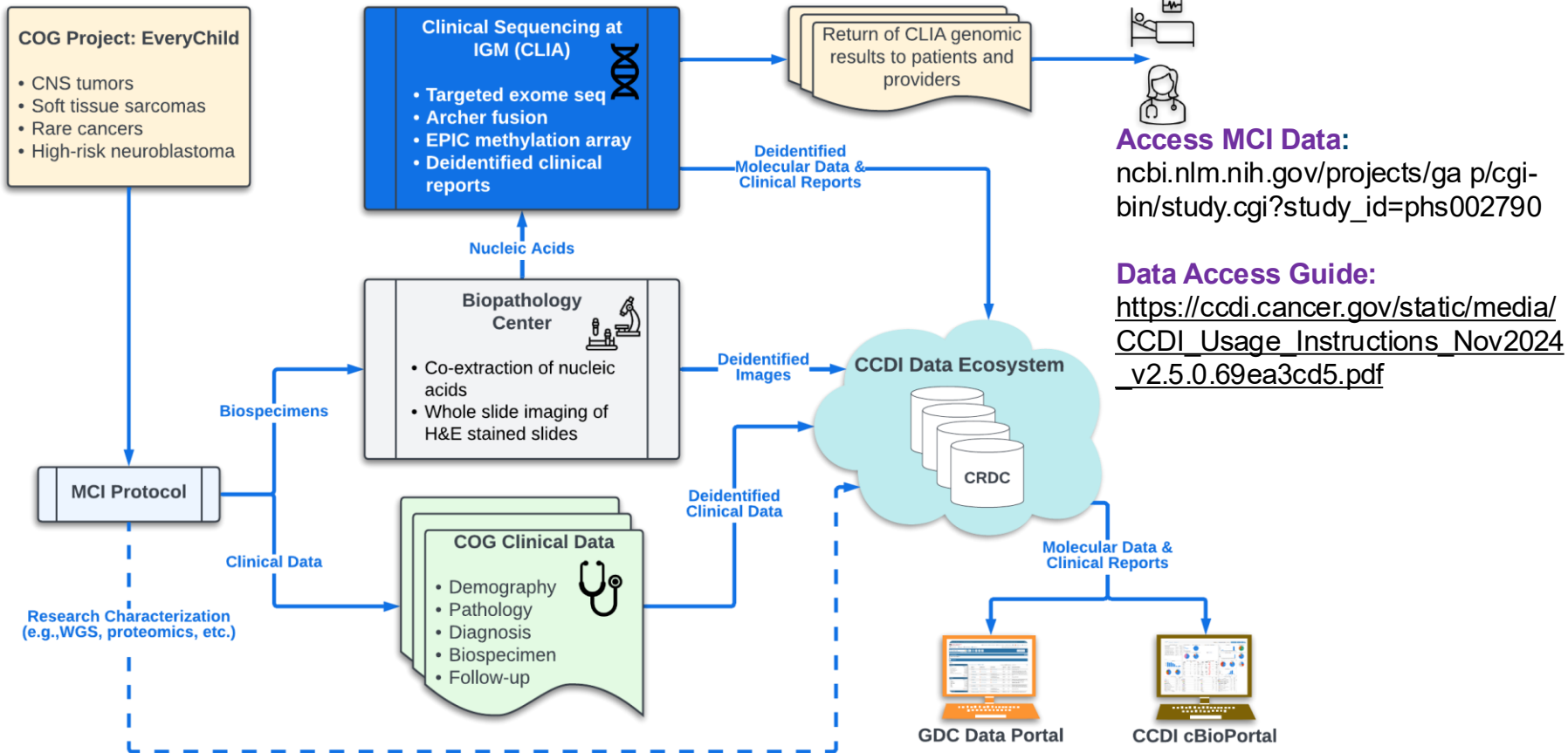
Enrollment Counts by State as of August 11, 2025



- Currently open to any newly diagnosed CNS, STS, Rare, High-risk Neuroblastoma and Ewing sarcoma
- Consent and enrollment via Project: EveryChild (APEC-14B1 MCI)
- Enrolled 8000+ participants from all 50 states
- CLIA certified results in a 21-day window
- Molecular and clinical data become available to the research community (dbGaP phs002790)
- Remaining sample is banked for future research
- Research characterization (WGS, RNA Seq, single cell, and proteomics/metabolomics assays) is being used to deepen our understanding of cancer biology



# MCI Data Flow



## Access MCI Data:

[ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/gap/cgi-bin/study.cgi?study\\_id=phs002790](https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/gap/cgi-bin/study.cgi?study_id=phs002790)

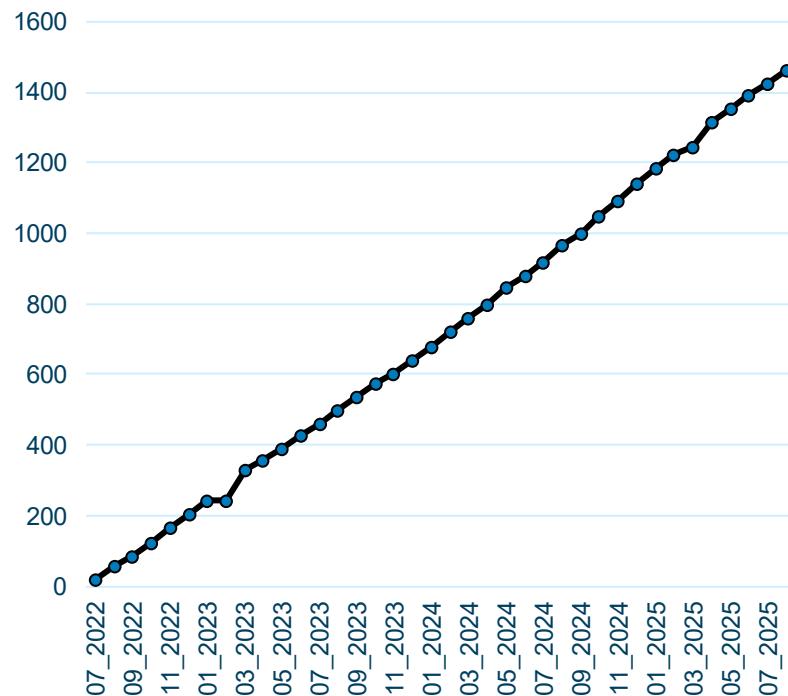
## Data Access Guide:

[https://ccdi.cancer.gov/static/media/CCDI\\_Usage\\_Instructions\\_Nov2024\\_v2.5.0.69ea3cd5.pdf](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/static/media/CCDI_Usage_Instructions_Nov2024_v2.5.0.69ea3cd5.pdf)

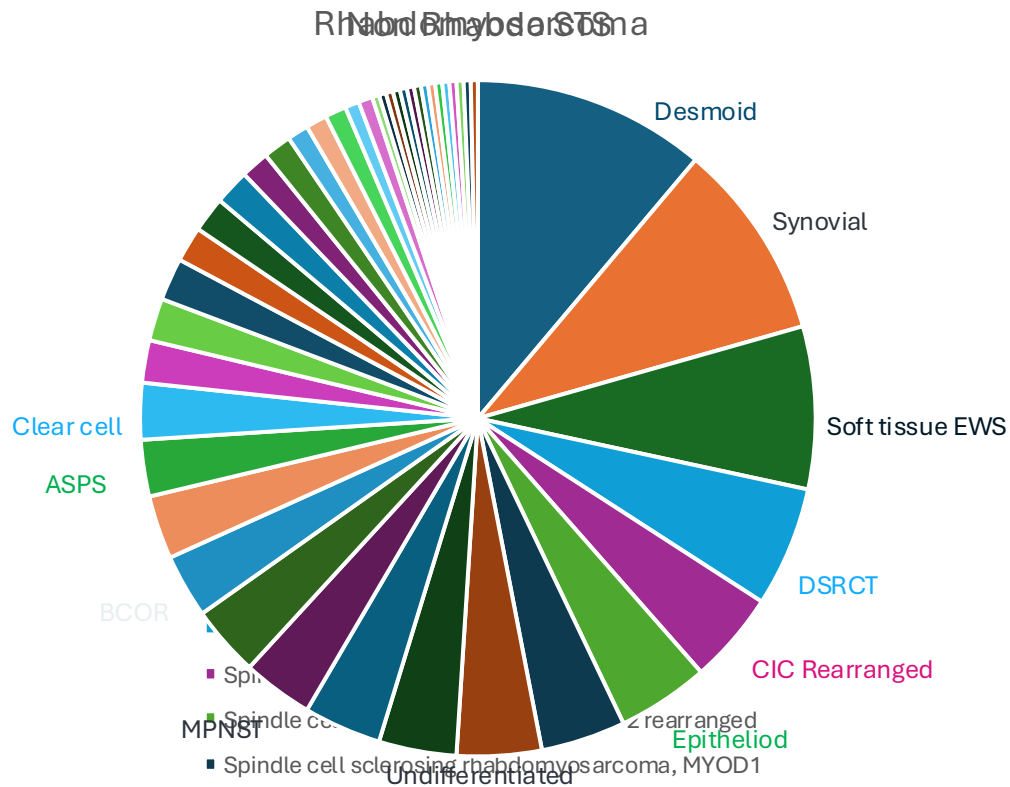
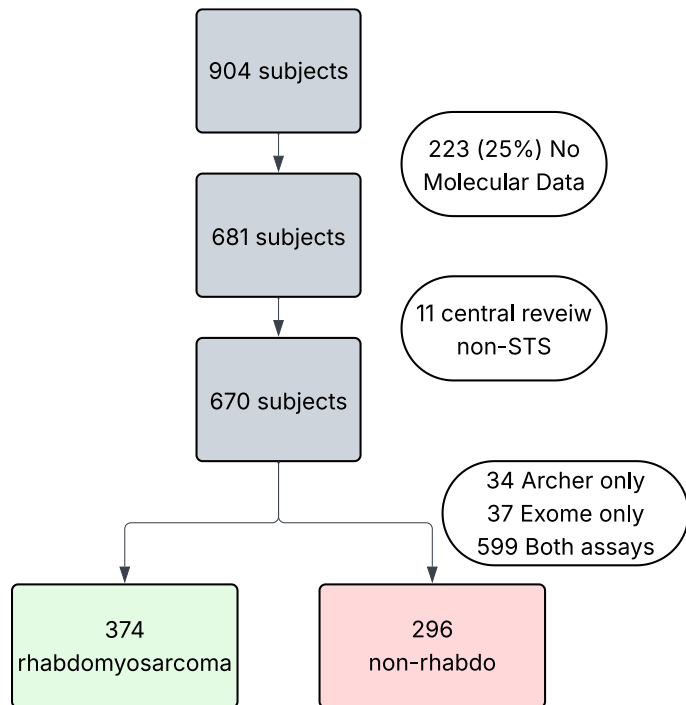
# APEC14B1-MCI STS Enrollment

- 1484 enrolled STS patients
- 1112 (75%) of enrollees have a submitted paired blood/tumor specimen
- Over 3000 completed assays

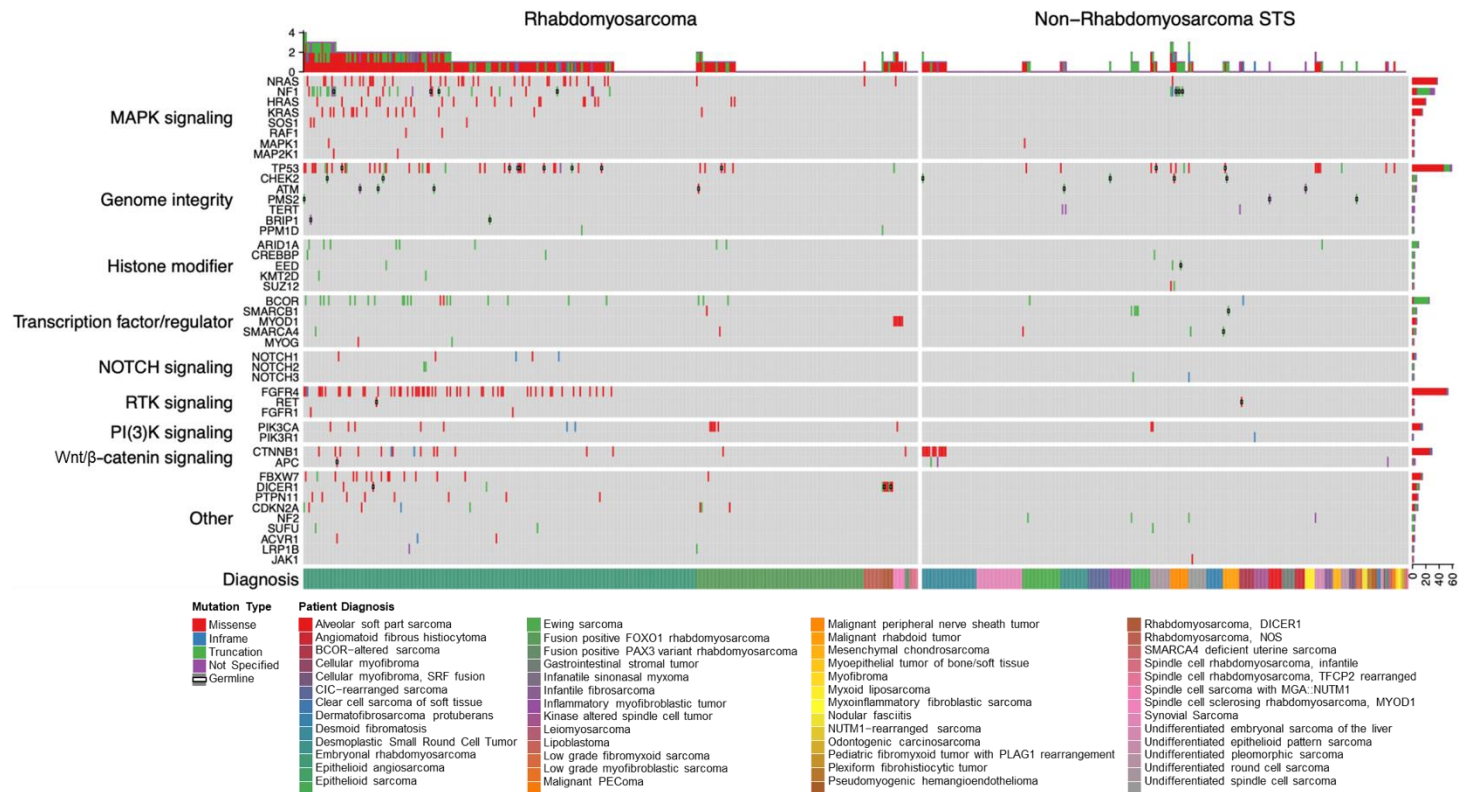
STS MCI enrollment (6/2022 - 8/2025)



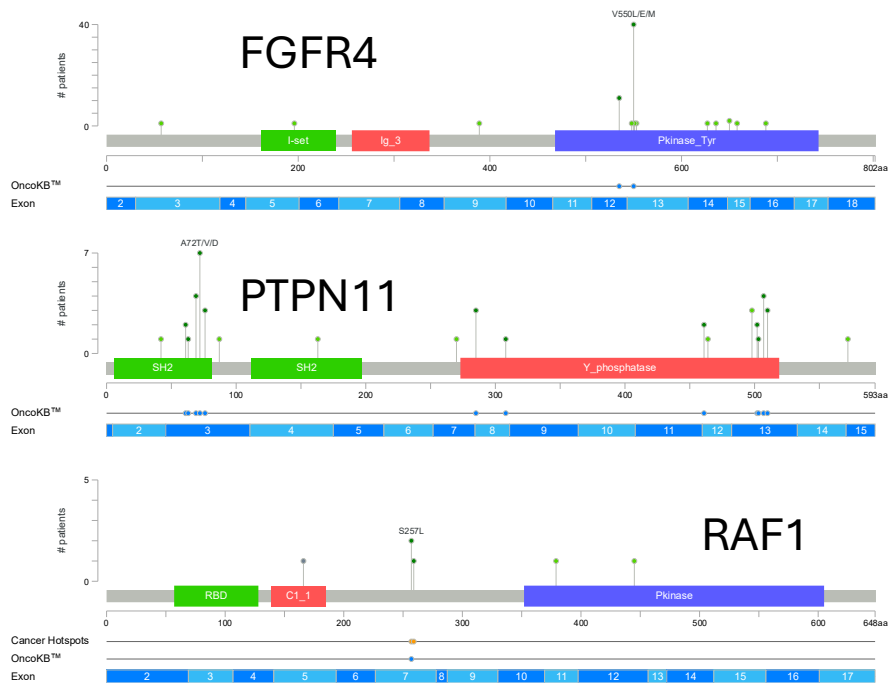
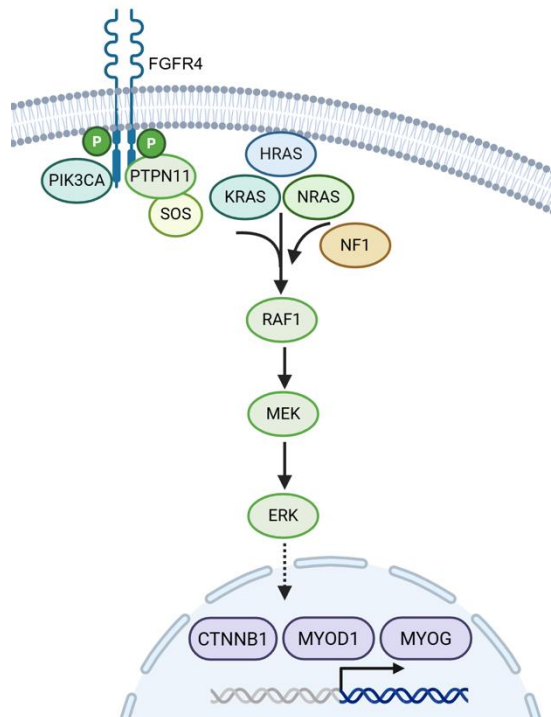
# Data From the First Two Years of MCI-STS



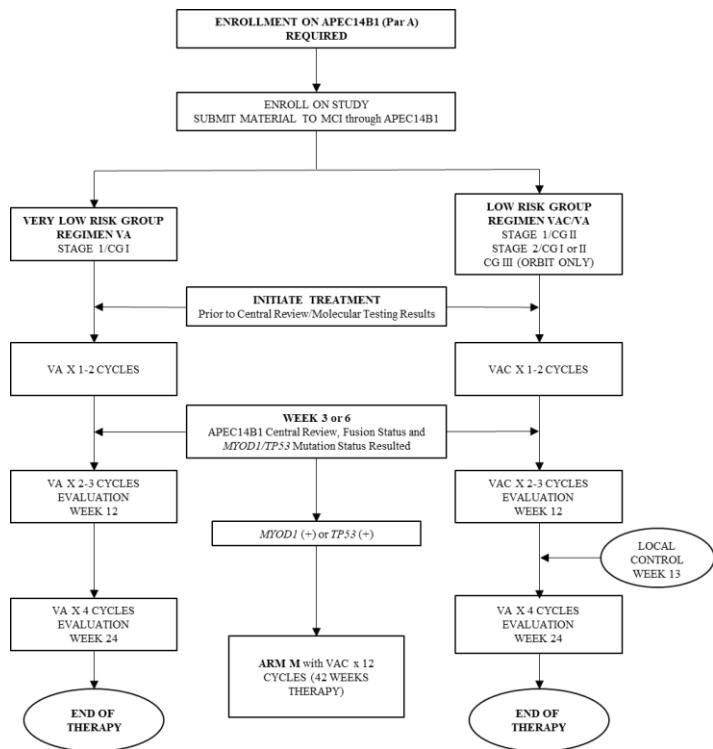
# Mutational Summary



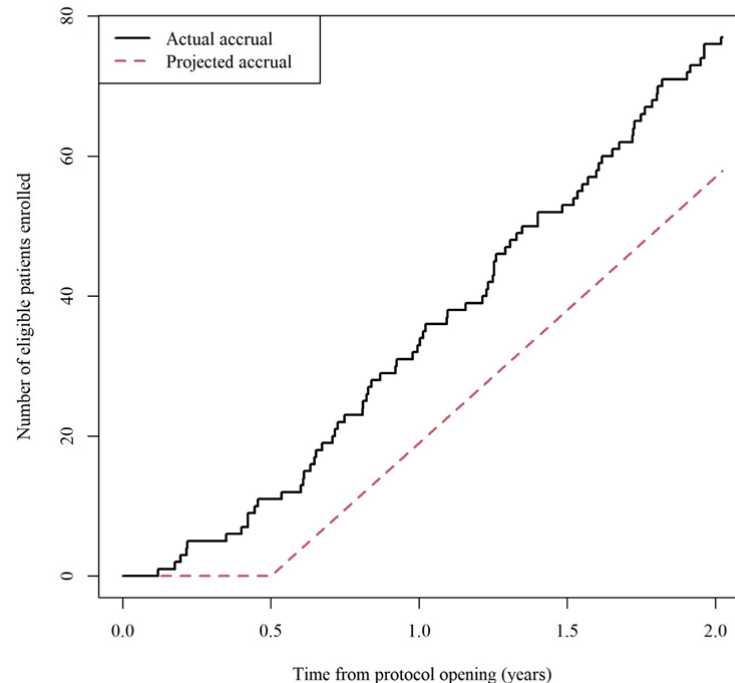
# RAS Pathway Alterations in FN RMS



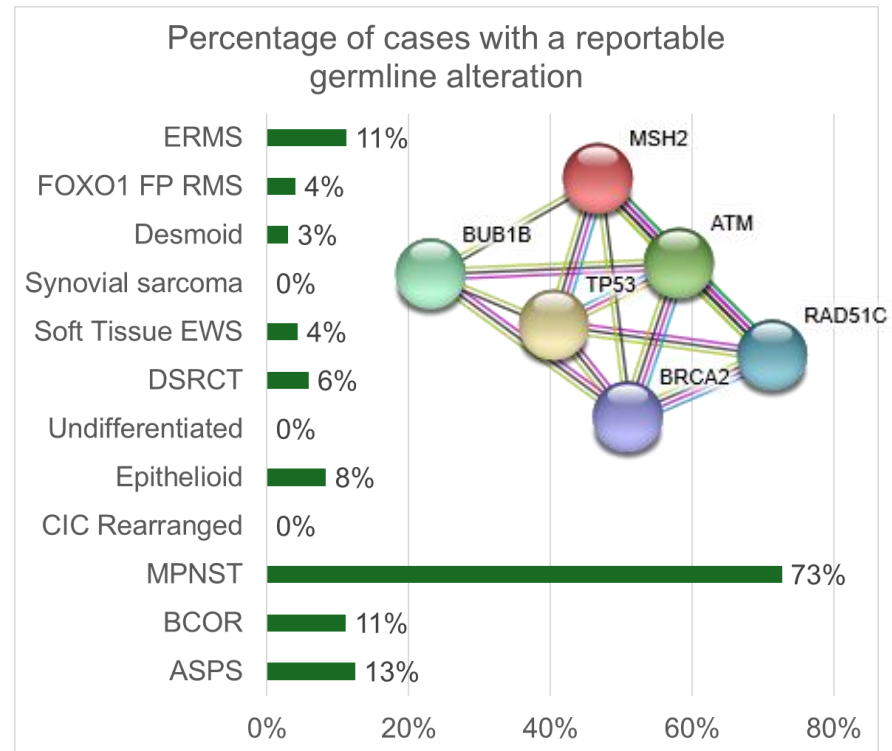
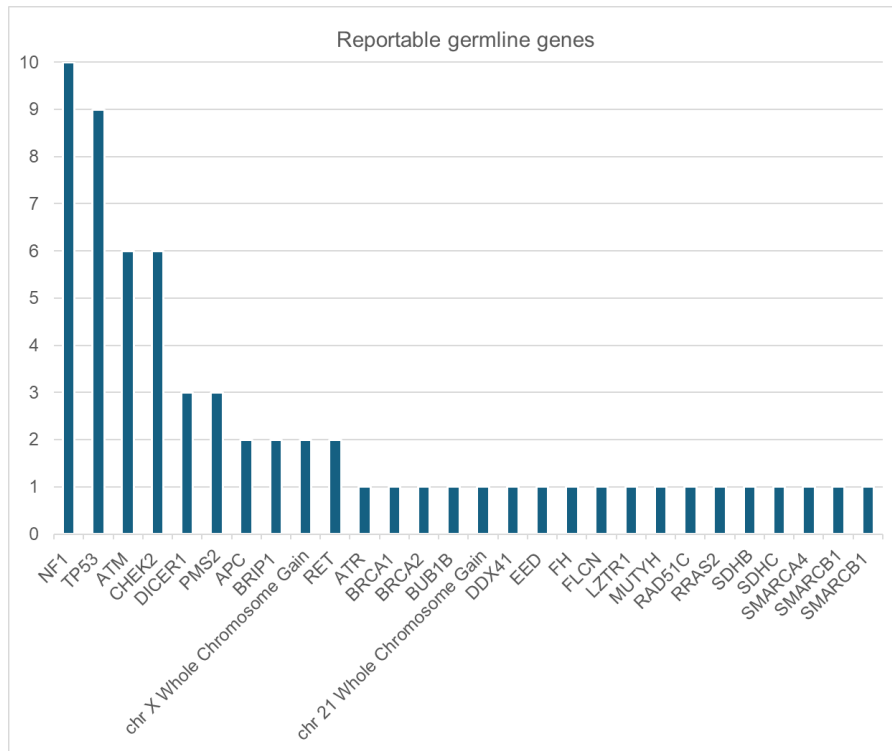
# ARST2032 the First RMS Study to Incorporate Molecular Risk Stratification



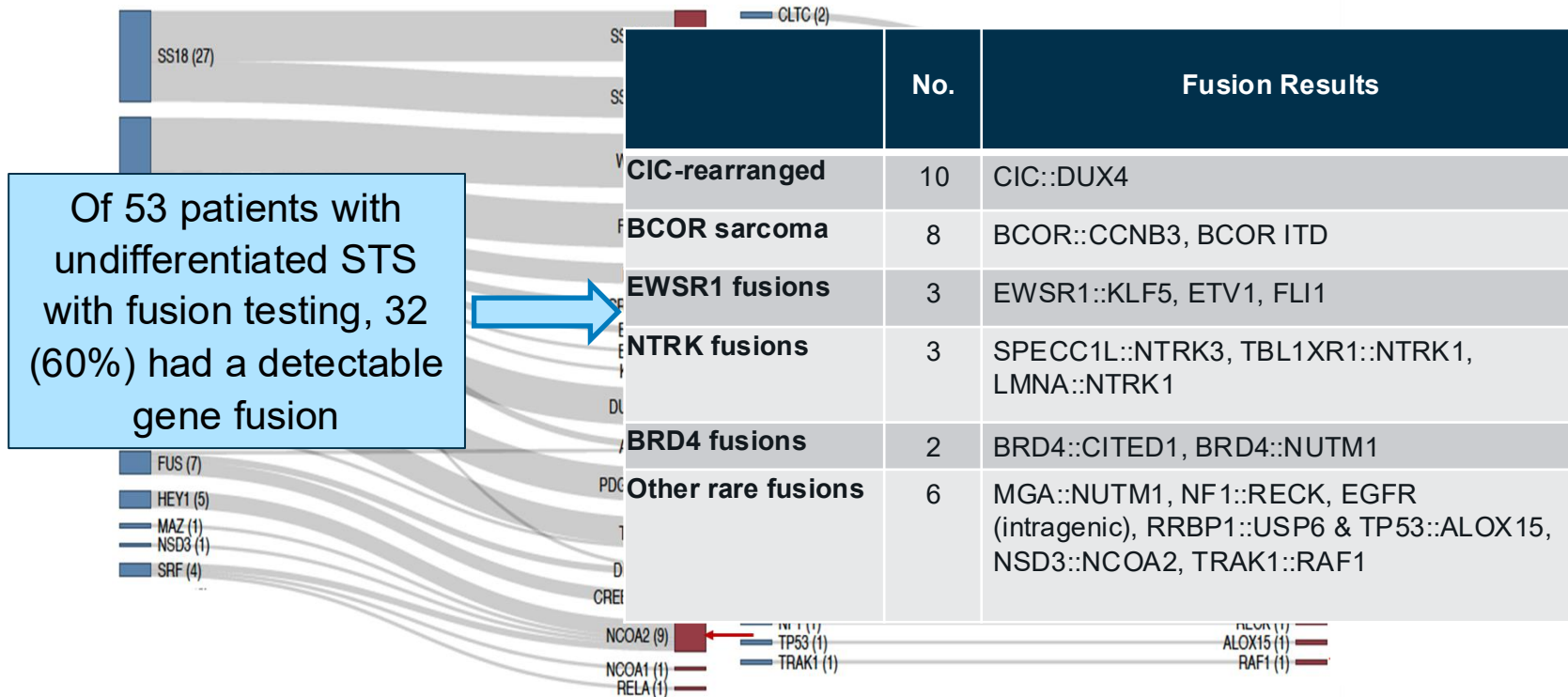
ARST2032 Accrual as of 30 June 2024  
Actual vs. Projected



# 10% of Profiled STS Patients Have a Reportable Germline Finding

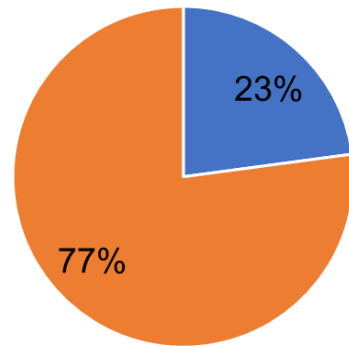


# Fusion Detection Clarifies Diagnosis in NRSTS



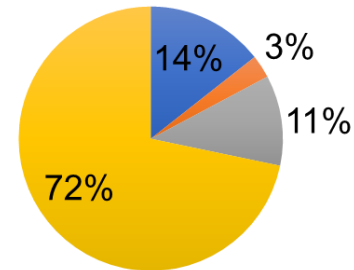
# Implications of the Molecular Testing for Patients from Provider Perspective

## Refinement of final diagnosis based on molecular testing, (N=389)



■ Yes ■ No

## Enrollment on a clinical trial/Use of targeted therapy outside clinical trial, (N=389)



- Yes, on a COG clinical trial
- Yes, on a non-COG clinical trial
- Yes, use of targeted therapy outside clinical trial
- No

# CCDI cBioPortal Cancer Data Explorer

Home   Datasets   About ▾   **CCDI Hub**

**Molecular Characterization Initiative**

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI) focuses on the critical need to collect, analyze, and share data to address the burden of cancer in children, adolescents, and young adults (AYAs). The Molecular Characterization Initiative (MCI) will further the CCDI's goals by providing access to better diagnostic tests for pediatric and AYA patients. The molecular characterizations of solid tumors, soft tissue sarcomas, and rare diseases are performed in a CLIA-certified setting as results may be used to screen for and/or confirm clinical trial eligibility, direct treatment, or otherwise contribute to the conduct of the trial.

Click gene symbols below or enter here

Summary   Clinical Data   Plots **Beta!**   Selected: 3,613 patients | 3,613 samples   Custom Selection ▾   Charts ▾

Genomic Profile Sample Counts		
Molecular Profile	#	Freq ▾
Mutations	<input type="checkbox"/> 3,613	100.0%

Cancer Type		
	#	Freq ▾
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Nervous System	2,166	60.0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Soft Tissue Sarcoma	584	16.2%
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	466	12.9%
<input type="checkbox"/> Rare Tumors	291	8.1%
<input type="checkbox"/> Neuroblastoma	97	2.7%
<input type="checkbox"/> Ewing Sarcoma	4	0.1%
<input type="checkbox"/> Osteosarcoma	2	<0.1%
<input type="checkbox"/> Germ Cell Tumor	1	<0.1%
<input type="checkbox"/> Renal	1	<0.1%
<input type="checkbox"/> Liver Tumor	1	<0.1%

Cancer Type Detail		
	#	Freq ▾
<input type="checkbox"/> Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma,...	133	3.7%
<input type="checkbox"/> Rhabdomyosarcoma, NOS	127	3.5%
<input type="checkbox"/> Neuroblastoma, NOS	92	2.5%
<input type="checkbox"/> Astrocytoma, NOS	74	2.0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Ganglioglioma, NOS	61	1.7%
<input type="checkbox"/> Papillary carcinoma, NOS	61	1.7%
<input type="checkbox"/> Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma	58	1.6%
<input type="checkbox"/> Atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumor	53	1.5%
<input type="checkbox"/> Sarcoma, NOS	37	1.0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Choroid plexus papilloma, NOS	30	0.8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Neuroblastoma	29	0.8%

**Sex at Birth**

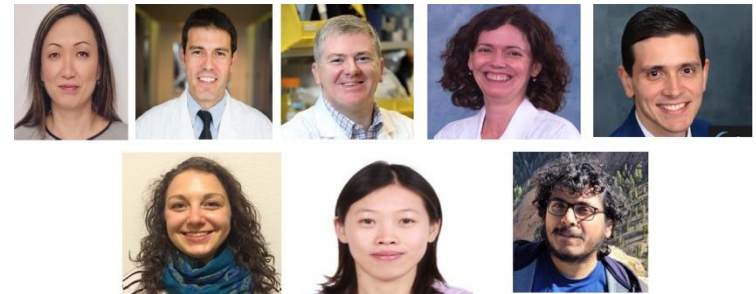
**KM Plot: Last Known (months)**

Search...   Search...   Search...   Select all

<https://cbioportal.ccdi.cancer.gov>

# Immune Characterization of Pediatric STS: A Case Study for the Use of the MCI Dataset

- Project developed by trainees for participation in the NCI Office of Data Sharing's Childhood Cancer Data Jamboree
- MCI data: pediatric STS RNA-seq, methylation, genomic data and pathology data
- CCDI: Linked clinical, demographic and outcome data
- Using Deep learning models to identify signatures of the tumor immune microenvironment



# CCDI MCI Resources

## MCI Data on CCDI Platforms and Tools

- [CCDI Hub](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/MCI): [ccdi.cancer.gov/MCI](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/MCI)
- [Hub Explore Dashboard MCI data](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/explore?study_name=Molecular%20Characterization%20Initiative): [ccdi.cancer.gov/explore?study\\_name=Molecular%20Characterization%20Initiative](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/explore?study_name=Molecular%20Characterization%20Initiative)
- [Childhood Cancer Clinical Data Commons](https://clinicalcommons.ccdi.cancer.gov/explore?filterQuery=%7B%22study_name%22%3A%5B%22Childhood%20Cancer%20Data%20Initiative%20(CCDI)%3A%20Molecular%20Characterization%20Initiative%22%5D%2C%22upload%22%3A%5B%5D%2C%22autocomplete%22%3A%5B%5D%2C%22uploadMetadata%22%3A%7B%7D%7D): [https://clinicalcommons.ccdi.cancer.gov/explore?filterQuery=%7B%22study\\_name%22%3A%5B%22Childhood%20Cancer%20Data%20Initiative%20\(CCDI\)%3A%20Molecular%20Characterization%20Initiative%22%5D%2C%22upload%22%3A%5B%5D%2C%22autocomplete%22%3A%5B%5D%2C%22uploadMetadata%22%3A%7B%7D%7D](https://clinicalcommons.ccdi.cancer.gov/explore?filterQuery=%7B%22study_name%22%3A%5B%22Childhood%20Cancer%20Data%20Initiative%20(CCDI)%3A%20Molecular%20Characterization%20Initiative%22%5D%2C%22upload%22%3A%5B%5D%2C%22autocomplete%22%3A%5B%5D%2C%22uploadMetadata%22%3A%7B%7D%7D)
- [Childhood Cancer Data Catalog](https://datacatalog.ccdi.cancer.gov/dataset/CCDI-phs002790): [datacatalog.ccdi.cancer.gov/dataset/CCDI-phs002790](https://datacatalog.ccdi.cancer.gov/dataset/CCDI-phs002790)
- [MCI\\_JSON2TSV](#): Python-based command-line interface that converts MCI de-identified clinical report and clinical data files submitted in JSON format into tab-separated values (TSV)

[files.github.com/CBIT/ChildhoodCancerDataInitiative-MCI\\_JSON2TSV](https://files.github.com/CBIT/ChildhoodCancerDataInitiative-MCI_JSON2TSV)

- [H&E Stained Images](https://portal.imaging.datacommons.cancer.gov/explore/filters/?collection_id=ccdi_mci): [portal.imaging.datacommons.cancer.gov/explore/filters/?collection\\_id=ccdi\\_mci](https://portal.imaging.datacommons.cancer.gov/explore/filters/?collection_id=ccdi_mci)

## Tutorials and Guides

- [Hub Explore Dashboard User Guide and Access Instructions](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/user-guide.pdf): [ccdi.cancer.gov/user-guide.pdf](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/user-guide.pdf)
- [CCDI Data Submission Guide](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/Submission_Guide.pdf): [ccdi.cancer.gov/Submission\\_Guide.pdf](https://ccdi.cancer.gov/Submission_Guide.pdf)
- [Hub Explore Dashboard Tutorial Video](https://youtu.be/Eu8y1GDTszU): [youtu.be/Eu8y1GDTszU](https://youtu.be/Eu8y1GDTszU)
- [How to Apply for dbGaP Controlled Access Video](https://youtube.com/watch?v=m0xp_cCO7kA): [youtube.com/watch?v=m0xp\\_cCO7kA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=m0xp_cCO7kA)

# Team Members

- Patients and Families
- Advocacy Community
- Local treatment, pathology and surgical teams
- Children's Oncology Group Project EveryChild Team
- Children's Oncology Group Soft Tissue Sarcoma Committee
- Nationwide Biopathology Center Team
- Institute for Genomic Medicine Team
- NCI Childhood Cancer Data Initiative Team

Yasmine Akkari, Institute for Genomic Medicine  
Michael A. Arnold, University of Colorado  
Natalie Bir, Biopathology Center  
Catherine E. Cottrell, Institute for Genomic Medicine  
**Avery Funkhouser**, National Cancer Institute  
Doug Hawkins, Seattle Children's Hospital  
**Subhashini Jagu**, National Cancer Institute  
Javed Khan, National Cancer Institute  
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Elaine R. Mardis, Institute for Genomic Medicine  
Mariam Mathew, Institute for Genomic Medicine  
Yvonne Moyer, Biopathology Center  
**Sapna Oberoi**, University of Manitoba  
Nilsa C. Ramirez, Biopathology Center  
Greg Reaman, National Cancer Institute  
**Erin R. Rudzinski**, Seattle Children's Hospital  
Kathleen Schieffer, Institute for Genomic Medicine  
Malcolm Smith, National Cancer Institute  
Shountea Stover, Biopathology Center  
**Diana Thomas**, Biopathology Center  
Rajkumar Venkatramani, Texas Children's Hospital  
**Wei Xue**, University of Florida  
Aaron Weiss, Maine Medical Center  
**Greg Wheeler**, Institute for Genomic Medicine

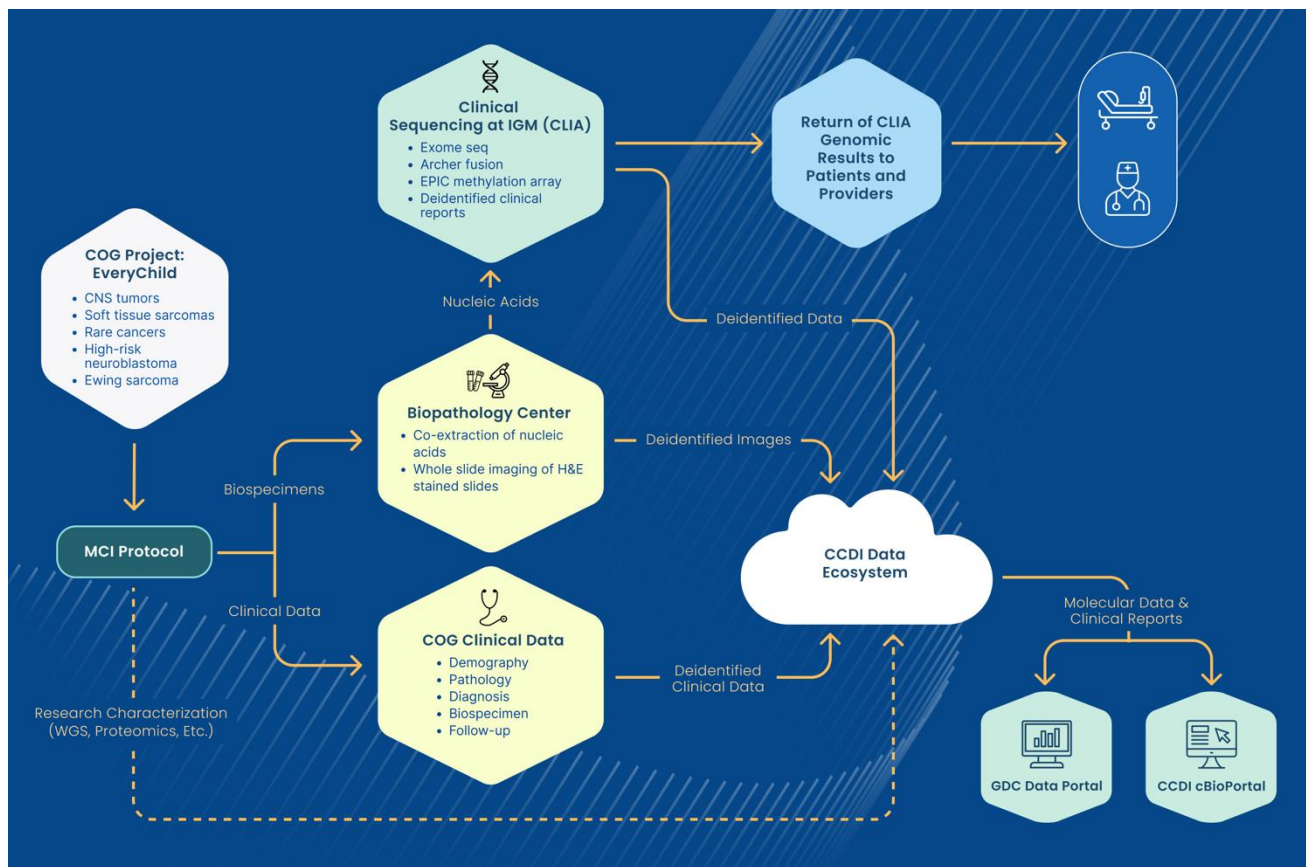
# Q&A

Childhood Cancer Data Initiative Virtual Symposium Series

# MCI: The Genomic Landscape of Pediatric Brain Tumors and Implications for Future Research

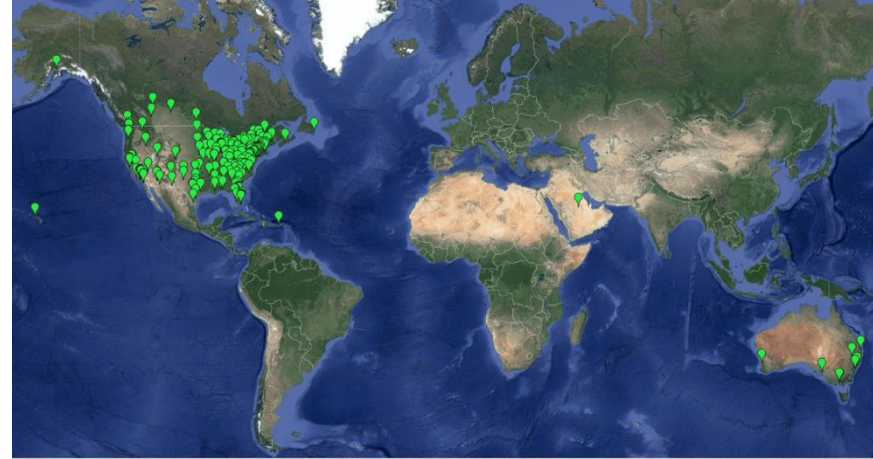
*Diana Thomas, M.D., Ph.D. and Sarah Leary, M.D., M.S.*

# CCDI Molecular Characterization Initiative



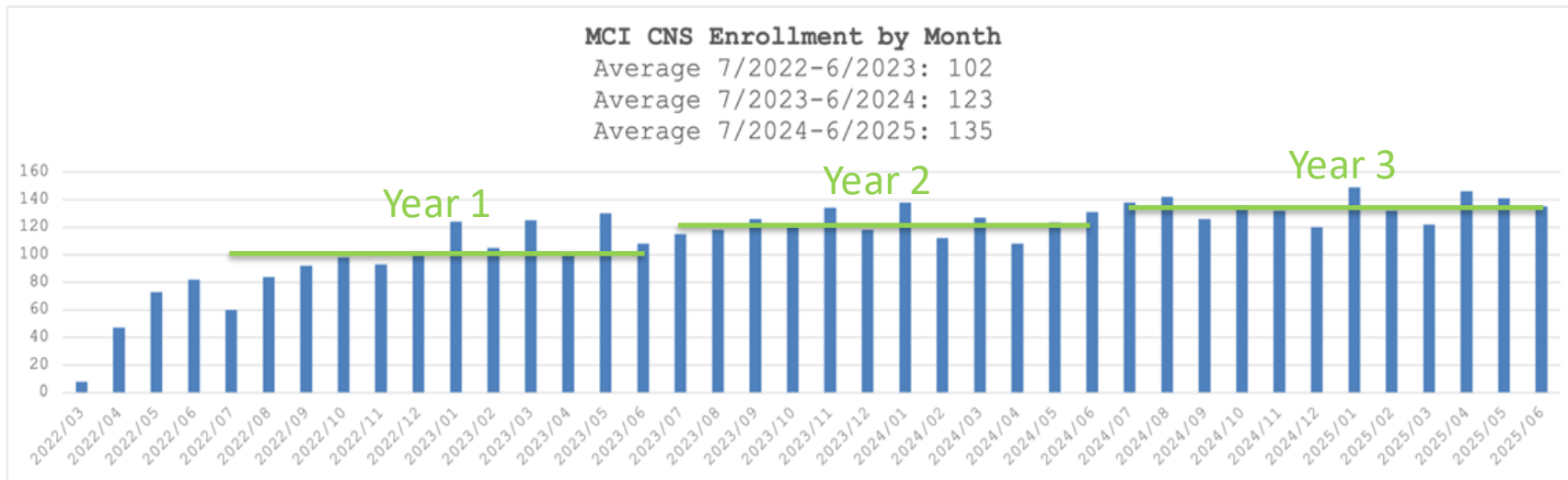
# Children's Oncology Group (COG) PROJECT:EVERYCHILD

- > 200 hospitals, > 10,000 members
- >90% of 16,000 children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer each year in the United States are cared for at COG member institutions
- Opened in 2015, replaced prior registry
  - 52,000 children enrolled
- Optional components: Banking, screening, MCI, outcomes, cancer registry and future contact
- Therapeutic study screening since 2017
- MCI since 2022



# MCI Enrollment - CNS Tumors

N = 4519 from 191 COG sites (as of 6/30/25)

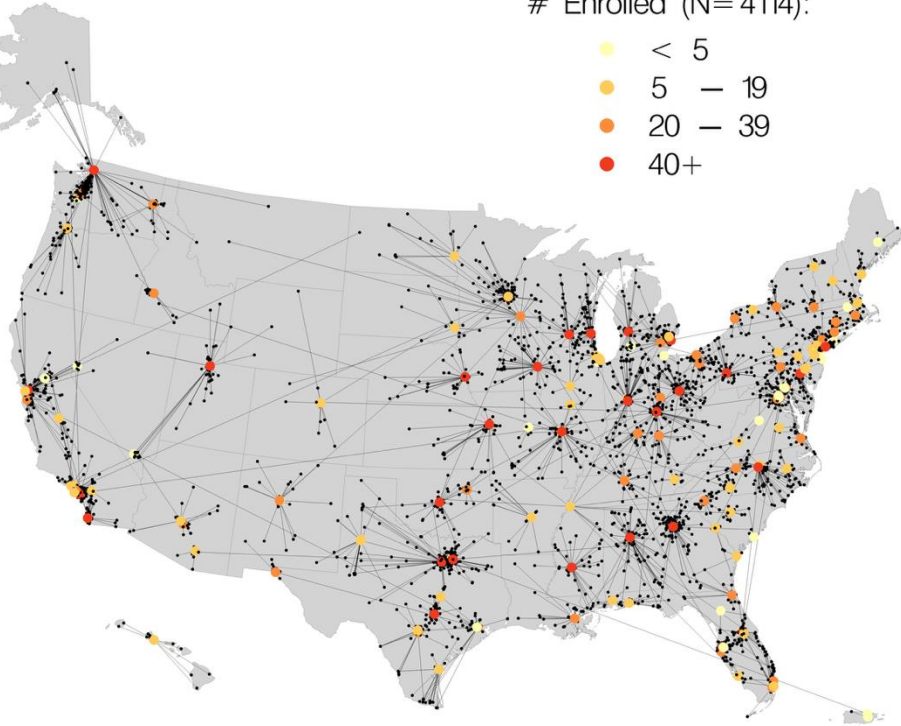


# MCI Enrollment - CNS Tumors

N = 4519 from 191 COG sites (as of 6/30/25)

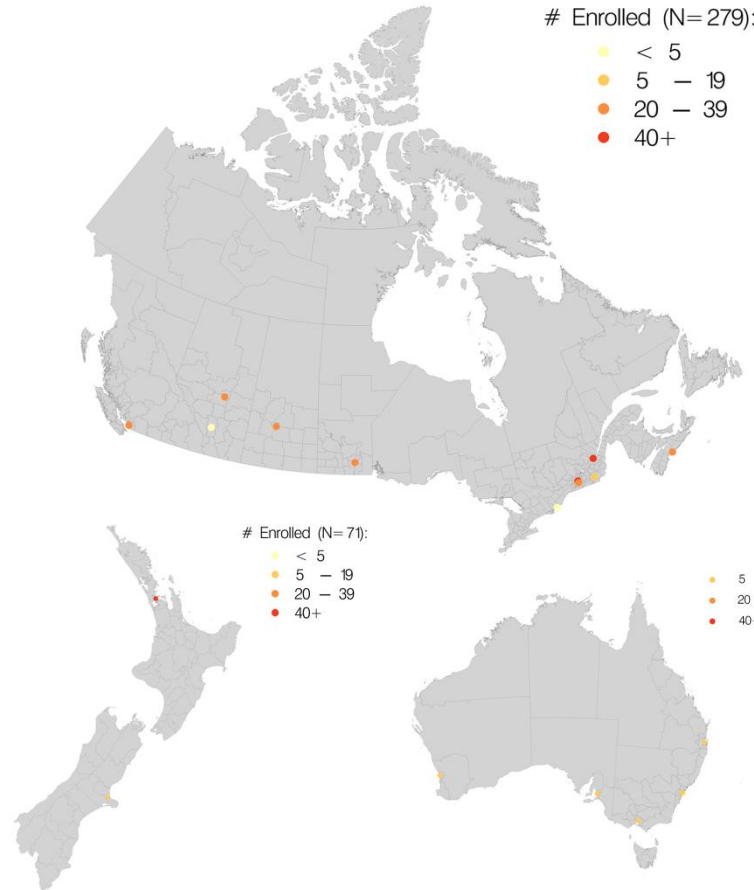
# Enrolled (N= 4114):

- < 5
- 5 - 19
- 20 - 39
- 40+



# Enrolled (N= 279):

- < 5
- 5 - 19
- 20 - 39
- 40+



# Enrolled (N= 71):

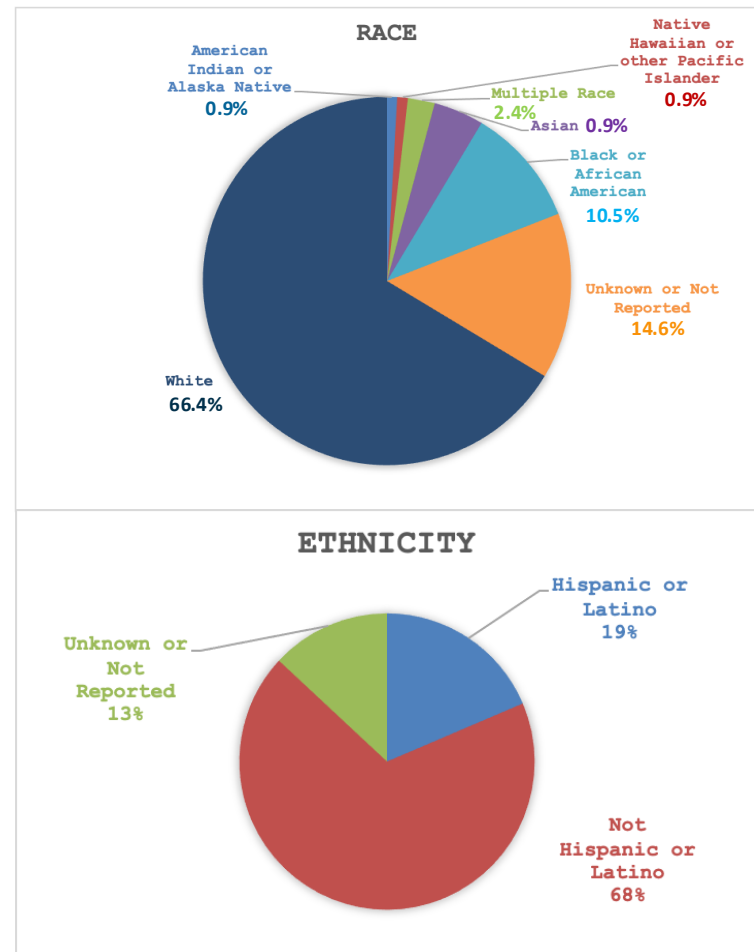
- < 5
- 5 - 19
- 20 - 39
- 40+

- 5 - 19
- 20 - 39
- 40+

# MCI Demographics – CNS Tumors

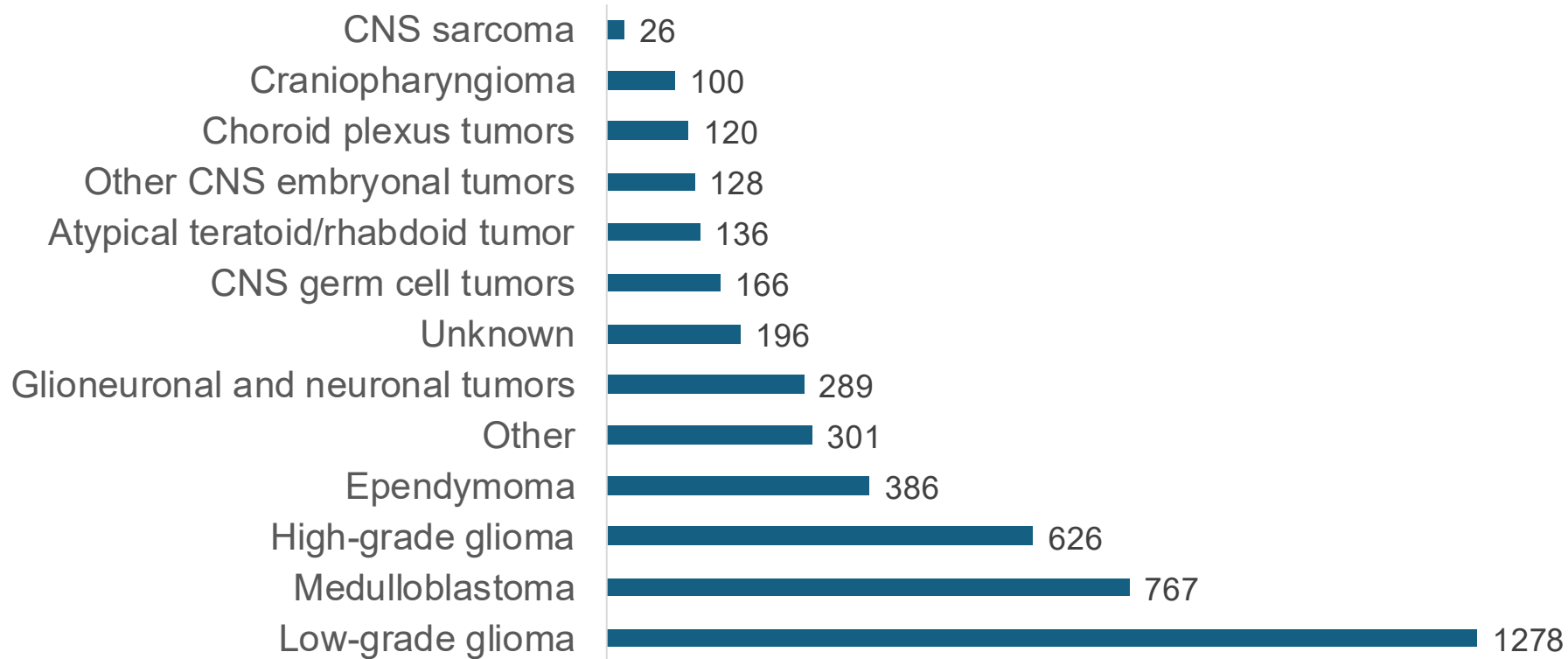
N = 4519 as of 6/30/2025

- Median age 9 (range 0-25.8 years)
- 55% male, 45% female
- Country of enrollment
  - 91% from USA
  - 9% other countries
    - 6.2% Canada
    - 2.8% Australia and New Zealand



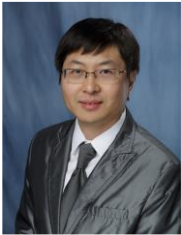
# MCI CNS Tumor Diagnosis Categories

N = 4519 as of 6/30/2025



# Characterization of MCI CNS Tumor Cohort

- Clinical and genomic landscape of first 2906 patients enrolled on Project:EveryChild accessed through CCDI Data Ecosystem



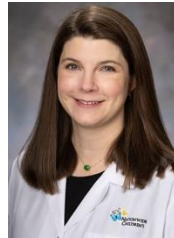
Yu Wang



Dr. Greg Wheeler



Dr. Sarah Leary



Dr. Diana Thomas



Dr. Katie Schieffer



Dr. Catherine Cottrell

# MCI CNS Cohort

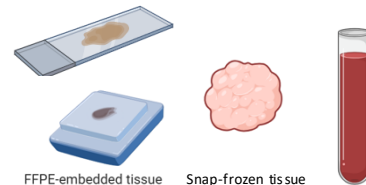
(6/30/2024 enrollment cutoff)

443 excluded (15.2%)  
247 no specimens (8.5%)  
141 no tumor specimen (4.8%)  
55 no blood specimen (1.9%)

Enrolled 2906

SPECIMEN  
SUBMISSION

Specimens received  
at BPC  
2463 (85%)



135 excluded (5.5%)  
Failed tissue or nucleic acid  
quality  
or quantity metrics

NUCLEIC ACID  
EXTRACTION

Nucleic acids received  
at  
IGM  
2328 (95%)

107 failed methylation (5%)  
121 failed exome (5%)  
192 failed fusion (7%)

TESTING

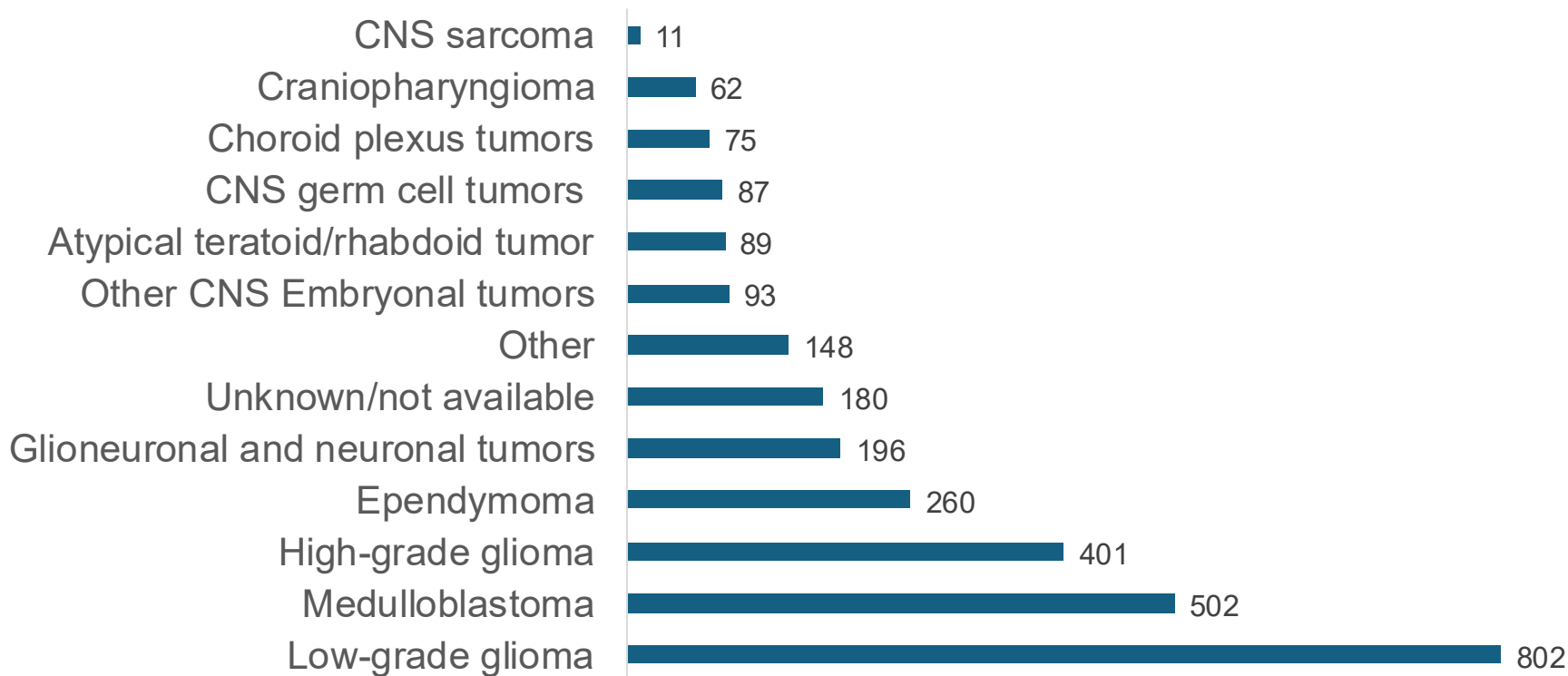
DNA Methylation  
resulted 2221 (95%)

Whole Exome  
resulted 2207 (95%)

RNA Fusion Panel  
resulted 2136 (92%)

# MCI CNS Tumor Diagnosis Categories

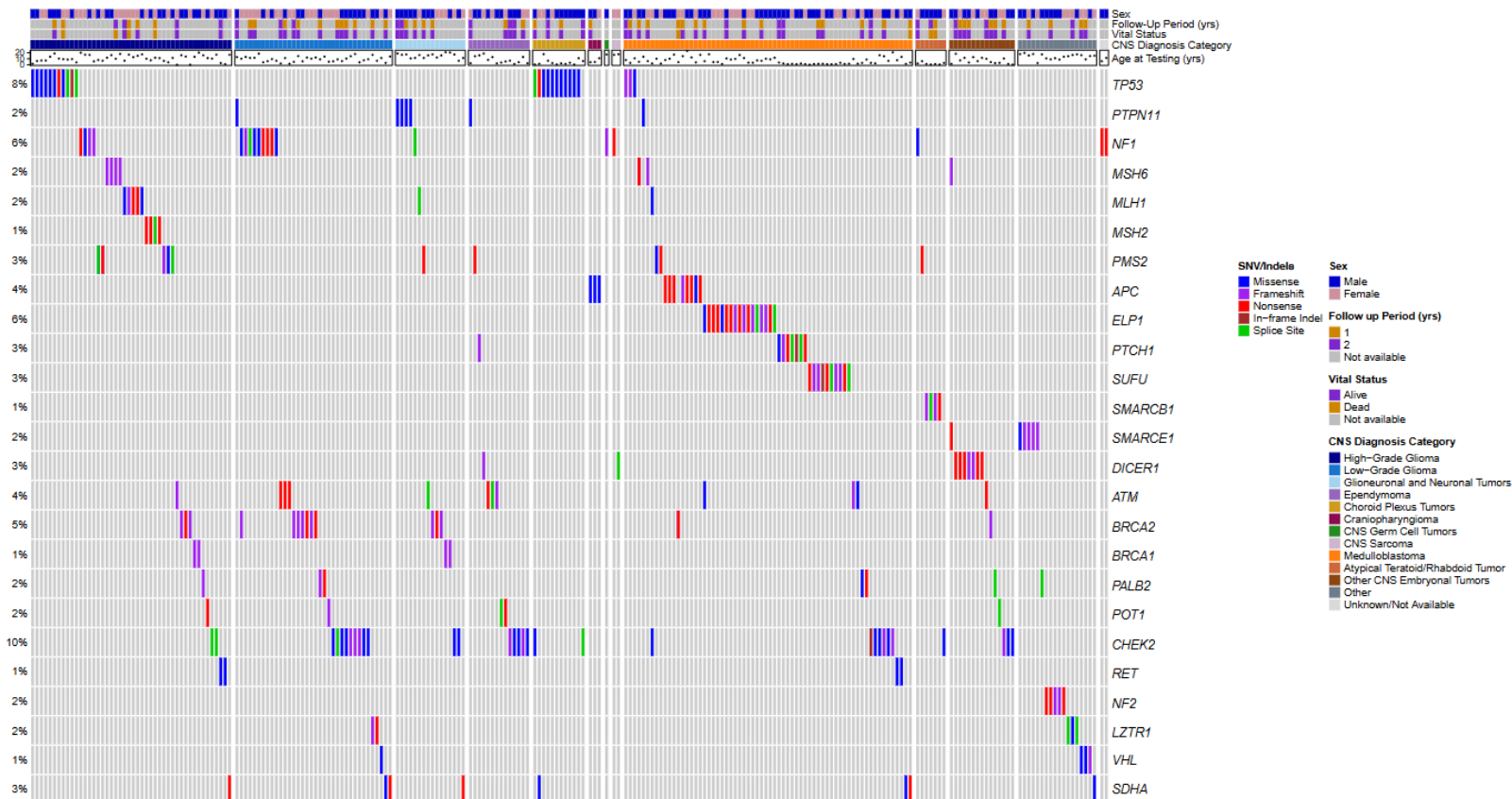
N = 2906 as of 6/30/2024





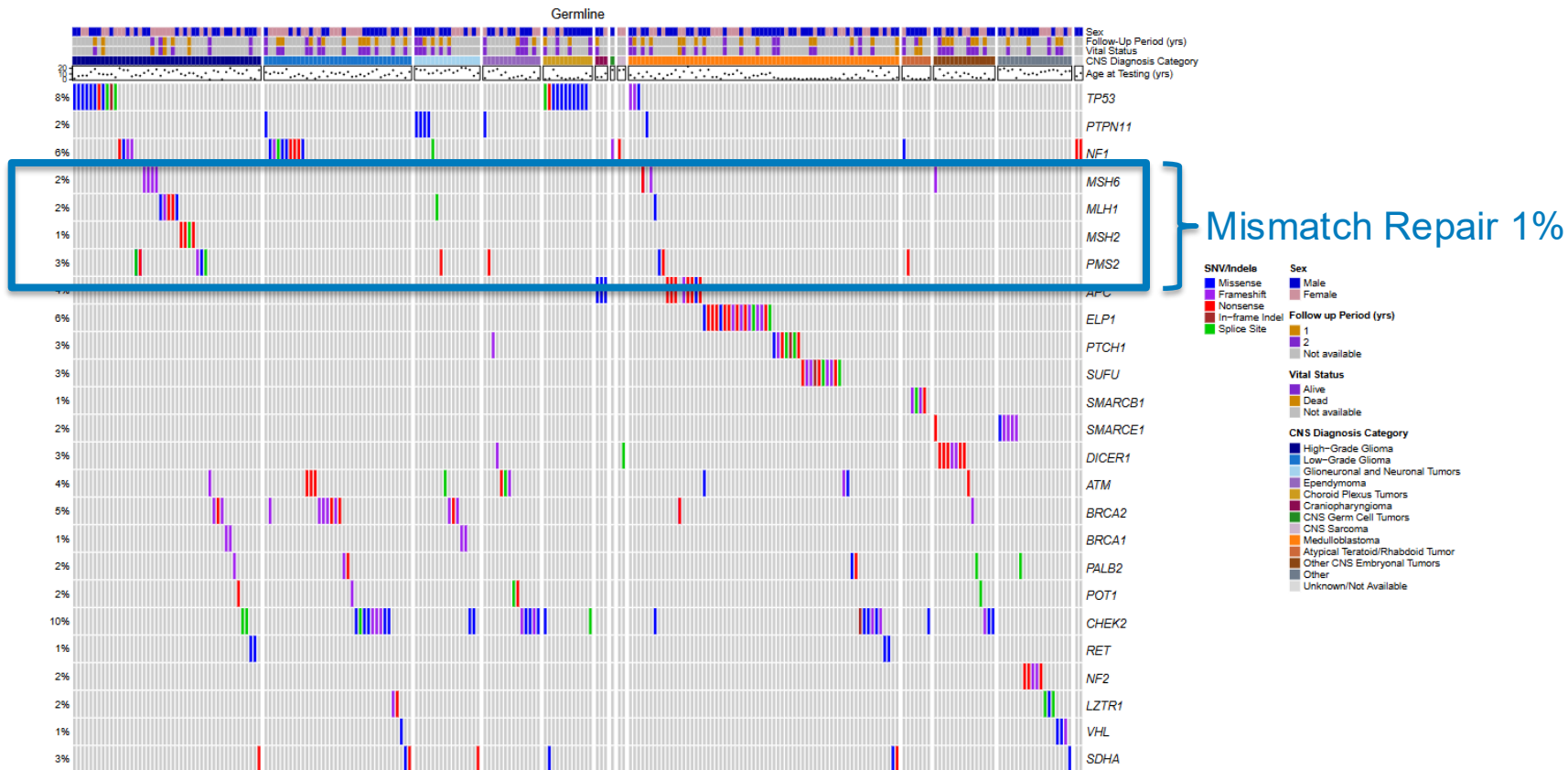
# Germline Cancer Predisposition in 13% of Patients with CNS Tumors

## N = 297/2207

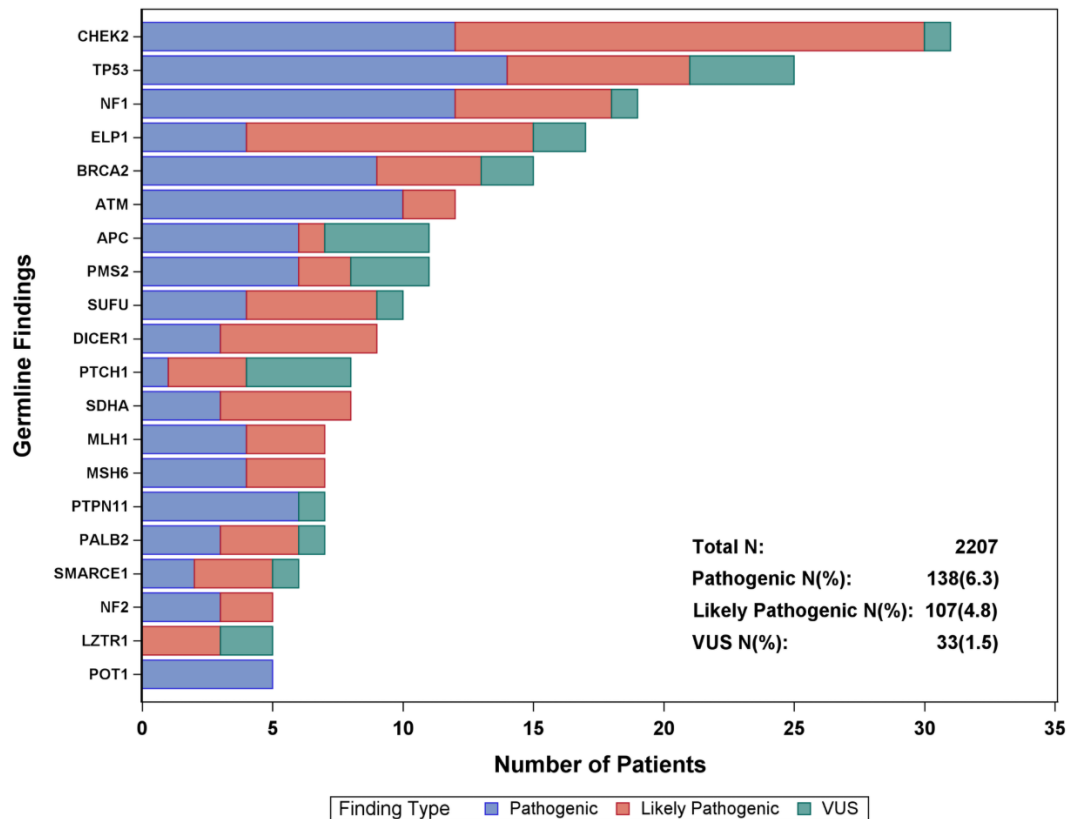


# Germline Cancer Predisposition in ~13% of Patients with CNS Tumors

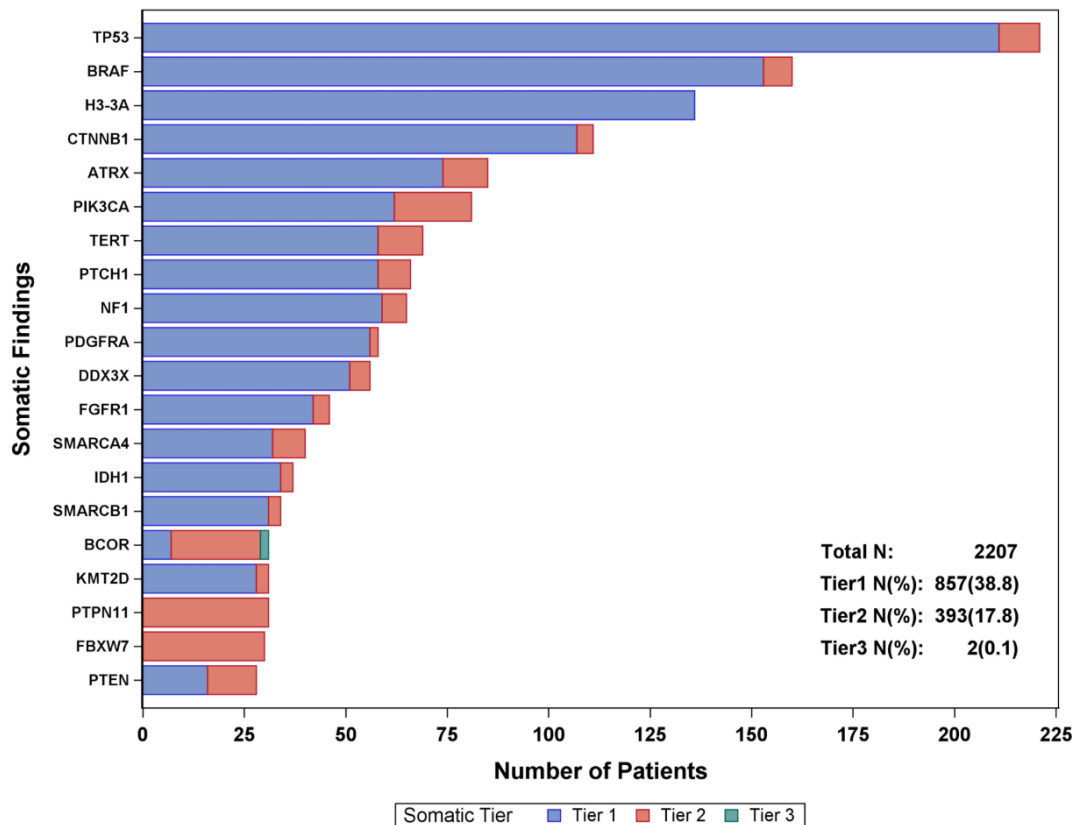
N = 297/2207



# Germline Landscape of CNS Tumors in Cohort



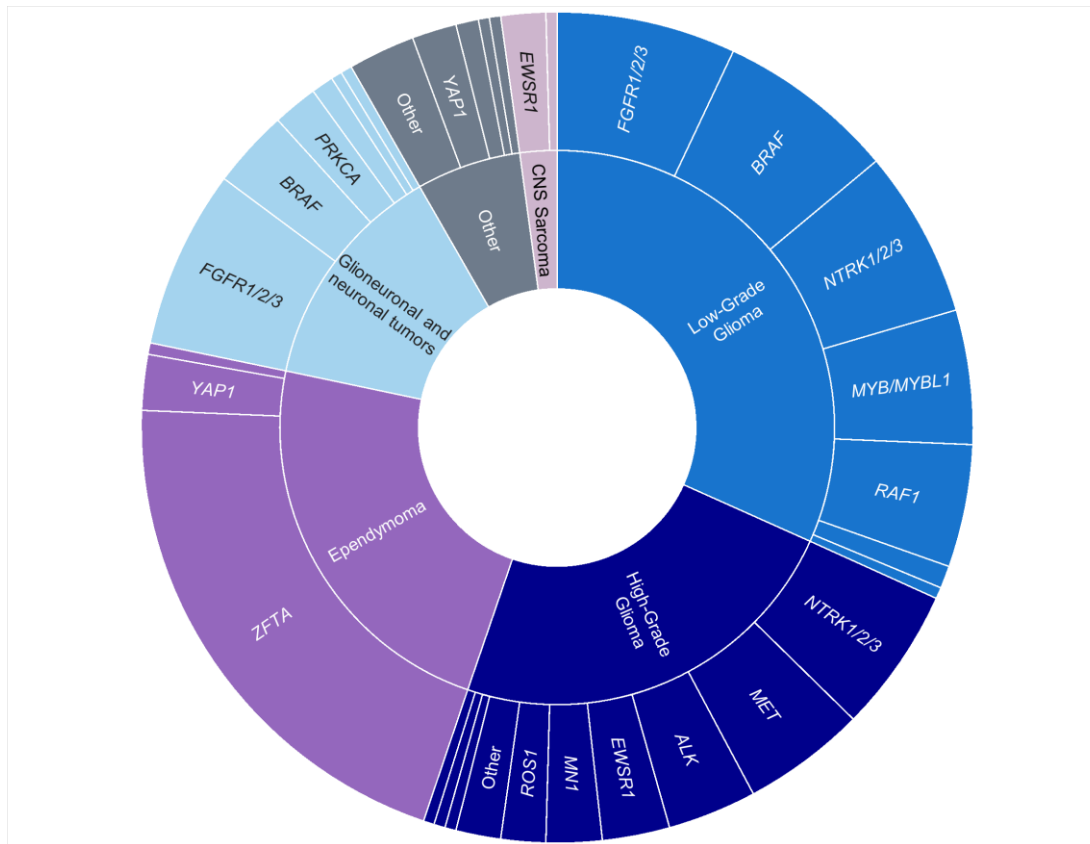
# Somatic Landscape of CNS Tumors in Cohort



} 57% of patients tested

# Gene Fusions Identified in 28% of CNS Tumors

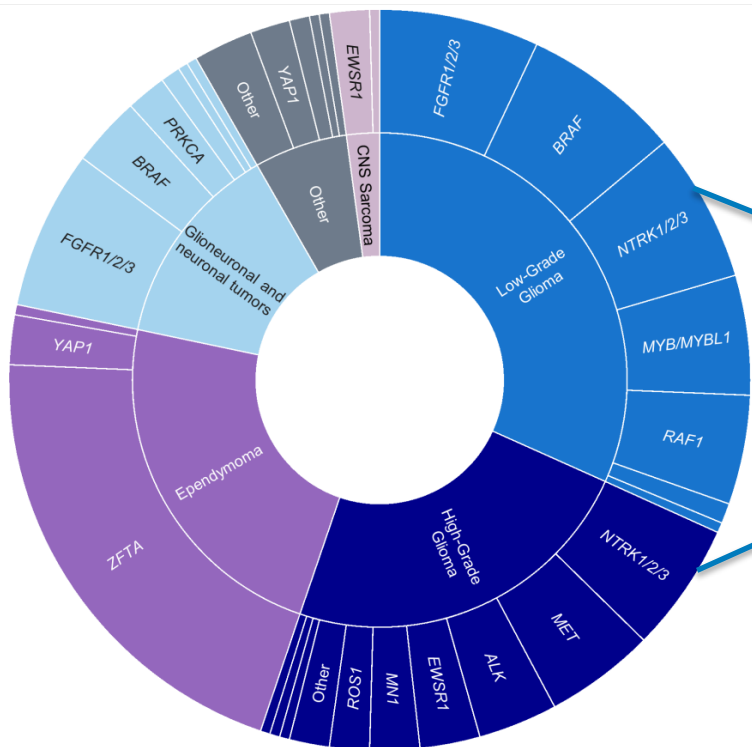
N = 598/2136



# Fusion-Driven CNS Tumors – Potentially Targetable

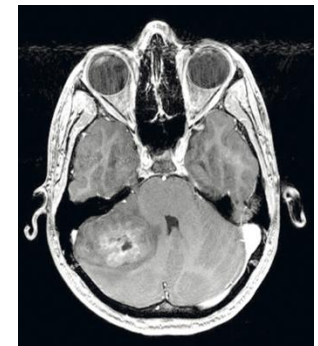
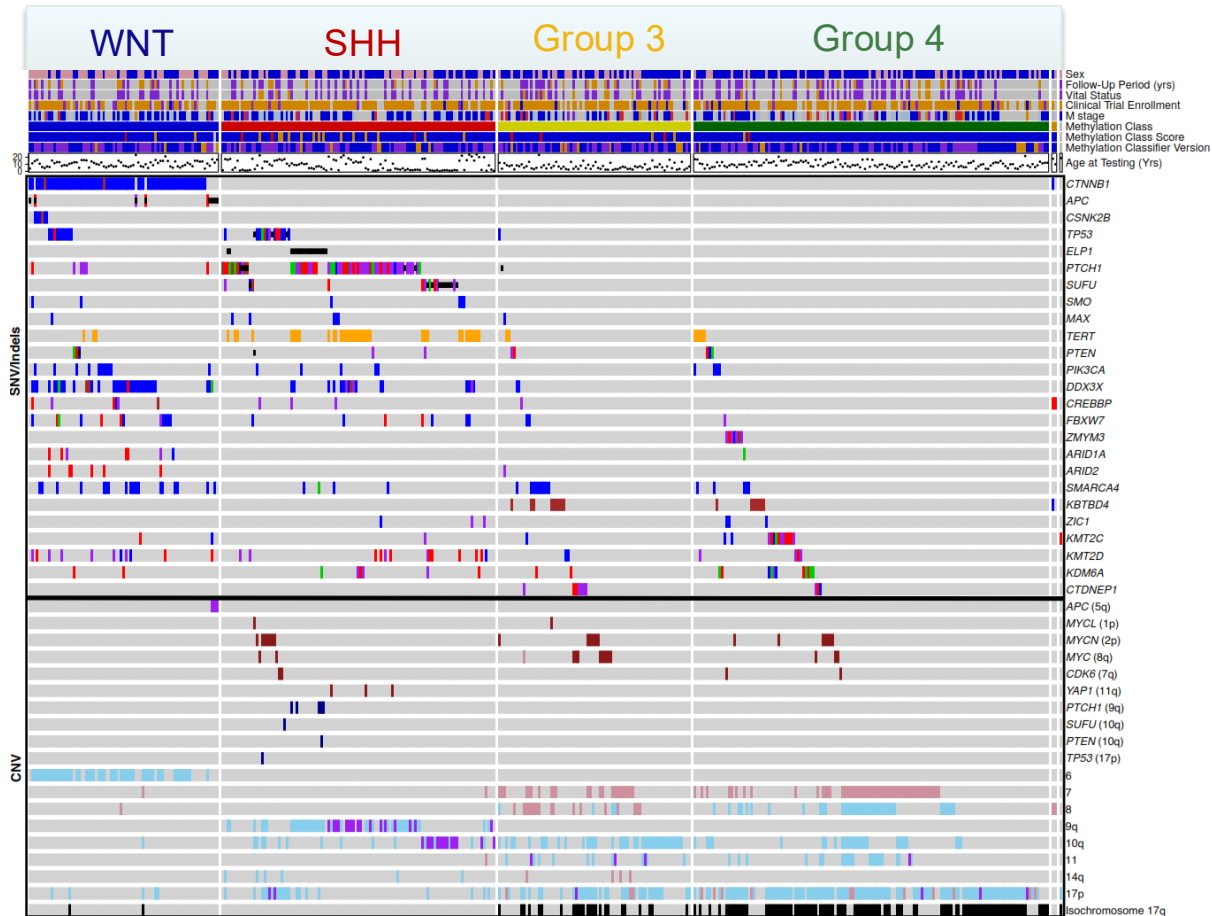
*NTRK1/2/3* fusion (1.5%)  
N = 32/2136

- Pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma
- Ganglioglioma
- Infant-type hemispheric glioma
- Low-grade glioma, NOS/NEC
- Pilocytic astrocytoma
- Diffuse midline glioma, H3 K27-altered
- Glioneuronal and neuronal tumors, NOS/NEC
- High-grade glioma, NOS/NEC



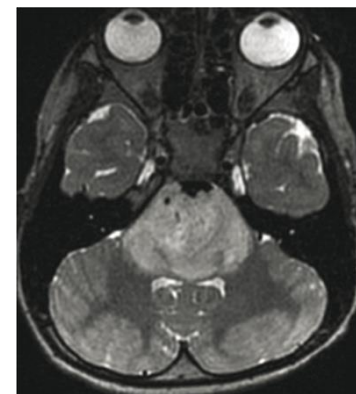
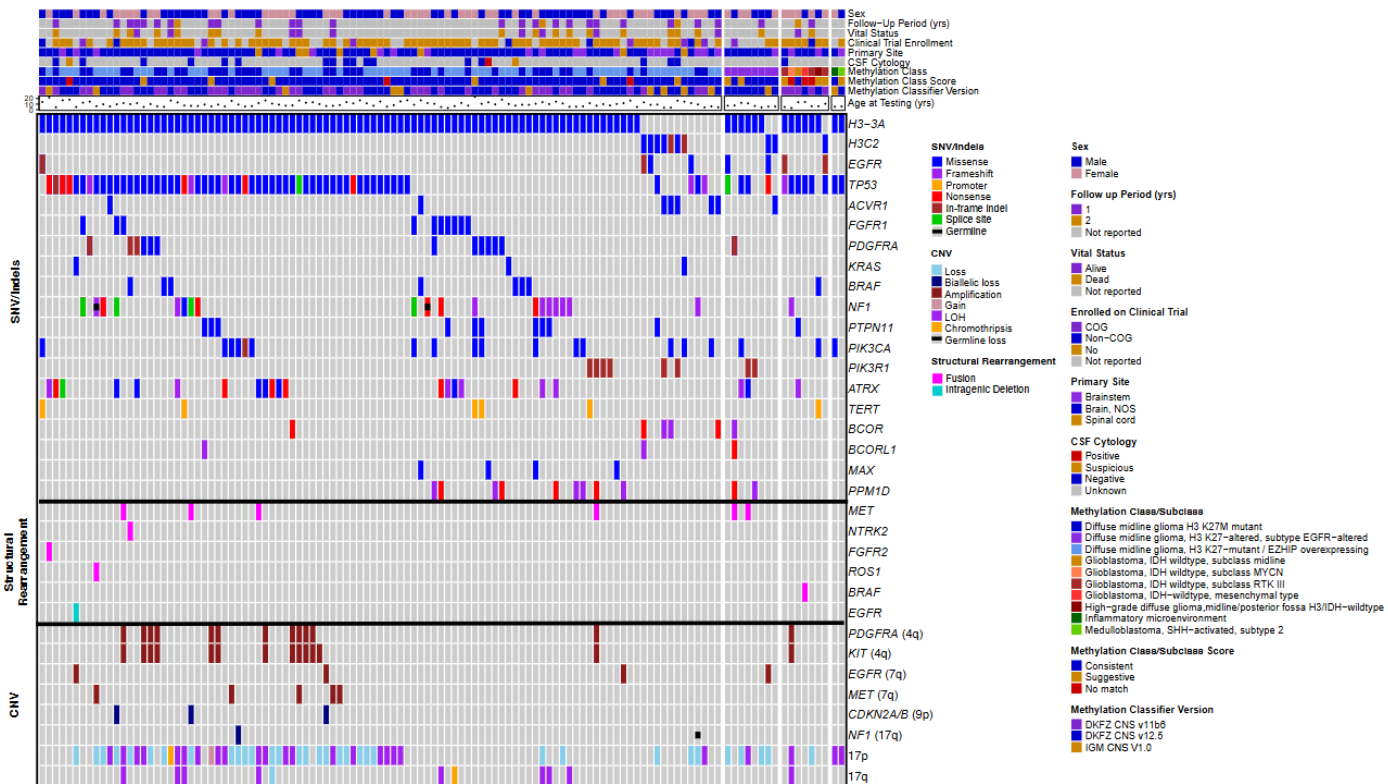
# Molecular Landscape of Medulloblastoma

N = 496/2207



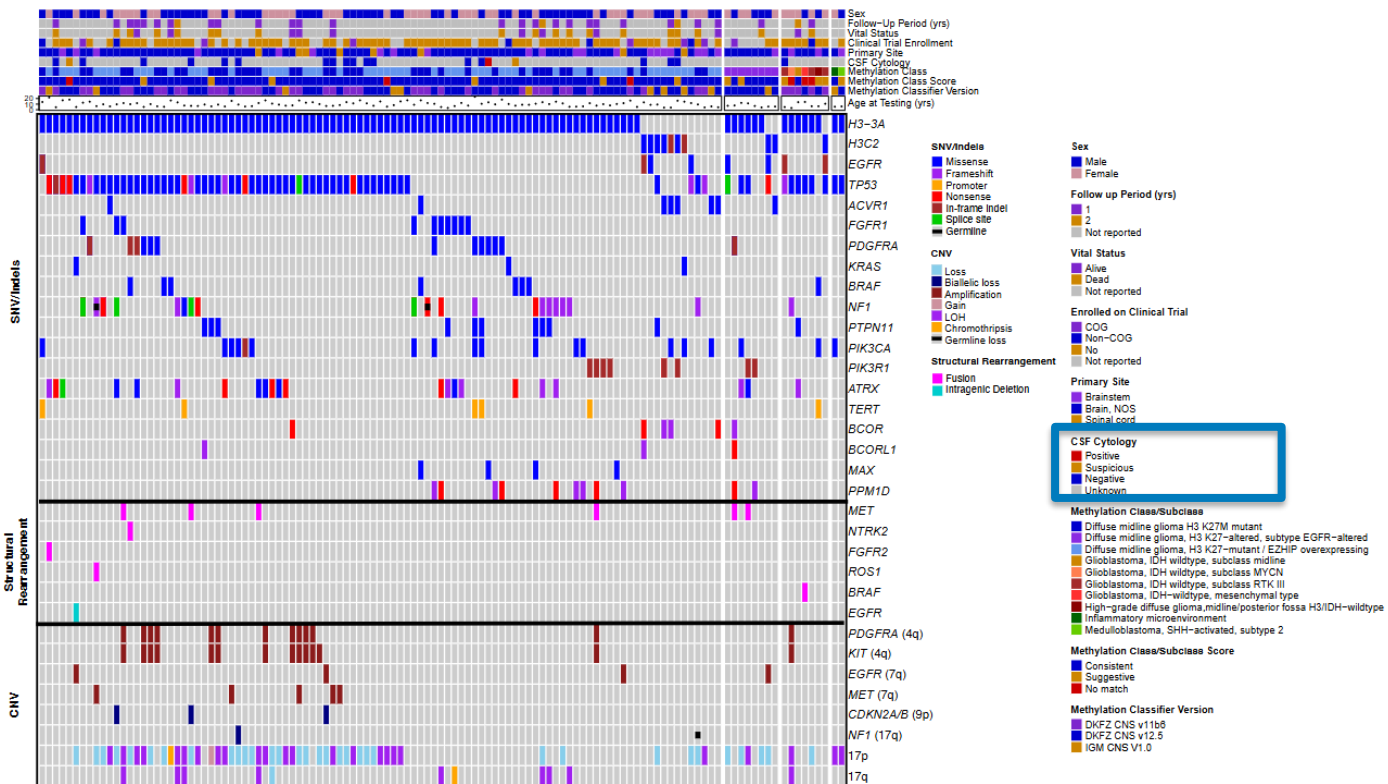
CNS WHO classification 5th ed.

# Molecular Landscape of Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG), H3 K27-Altered N = 120/2207

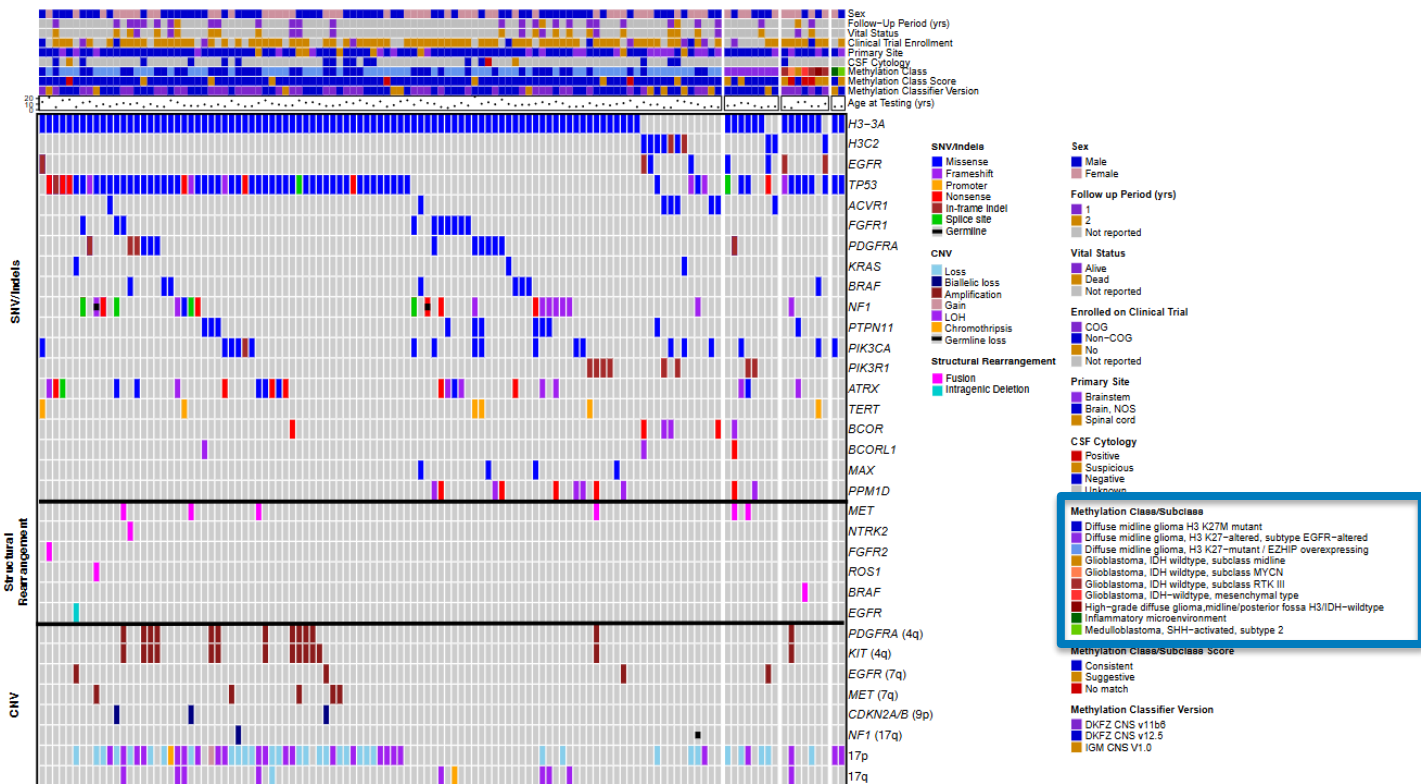


CNS WHO classification 5th ed.

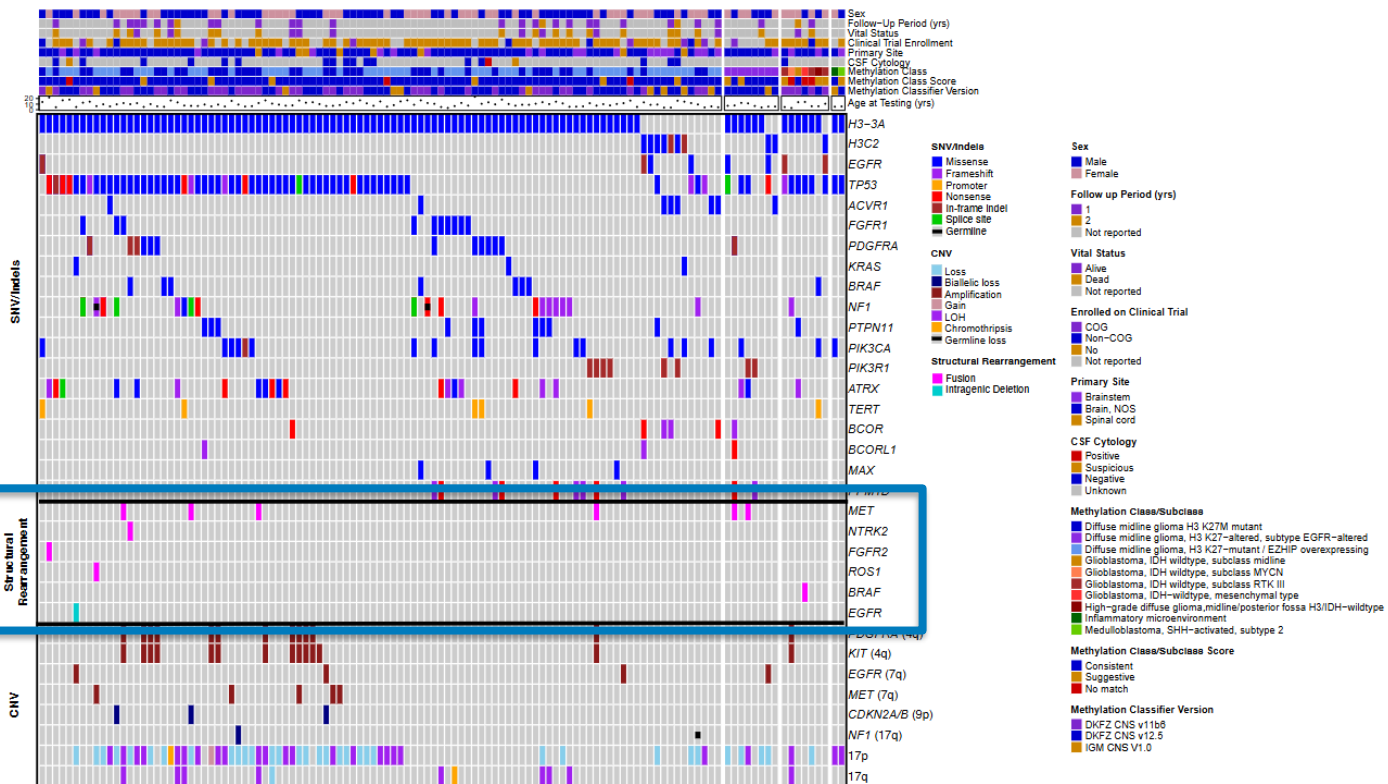
# Molecular Landscape of Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG), H3 K27-Altered N = 120/2207



# Molecular Landscape of Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG), H3 K27-Altered N = 120/2207

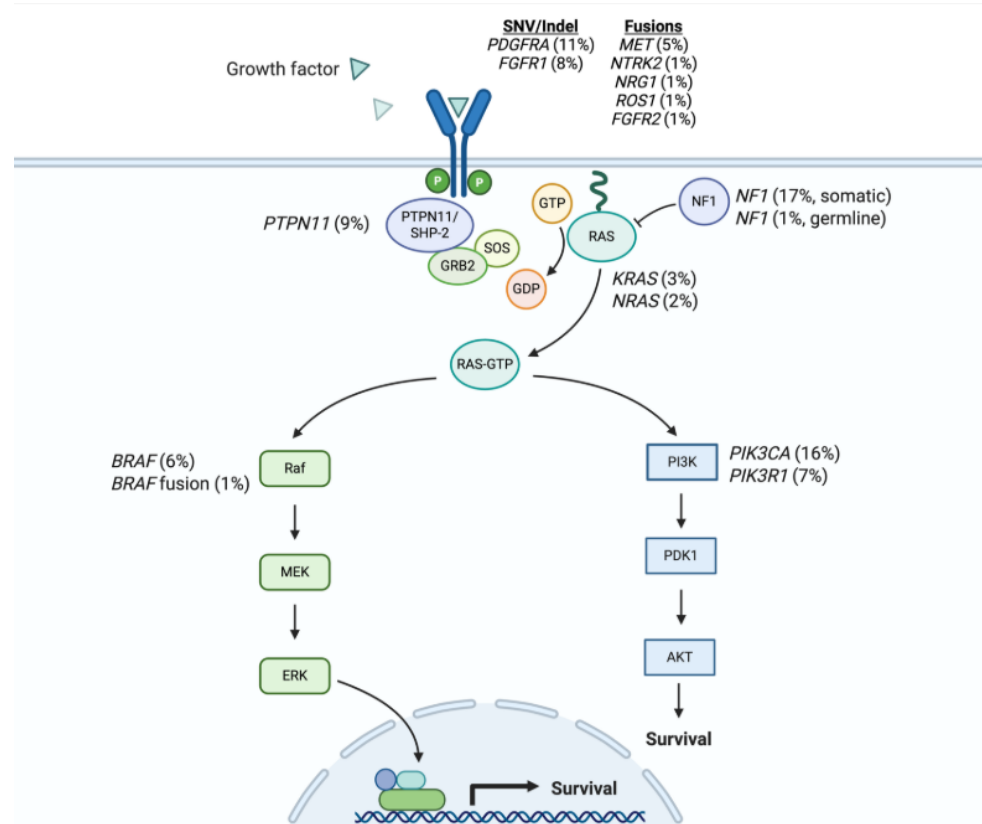


# Molecular Landscape of Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG), H3 K27-Altered N = 120/2207



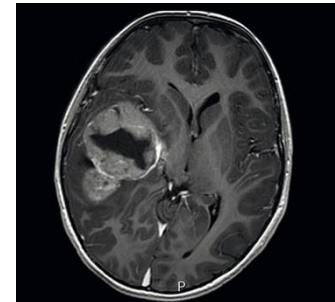
# Molecular Landscape of Diffuse Midline Glioma, H3 K27-Altered

- Alterations in the RAS/MAPK and PI3K/AKT signaling pathway were observed
  - NF1* and *PIK3CA* most common
- Activating fusions were observed in 10/118 (8.5%) of individuals
  - MET* fusion most common



# Molecular Landscape of Non-DMG High-Grade Glioma

N = 293/2207

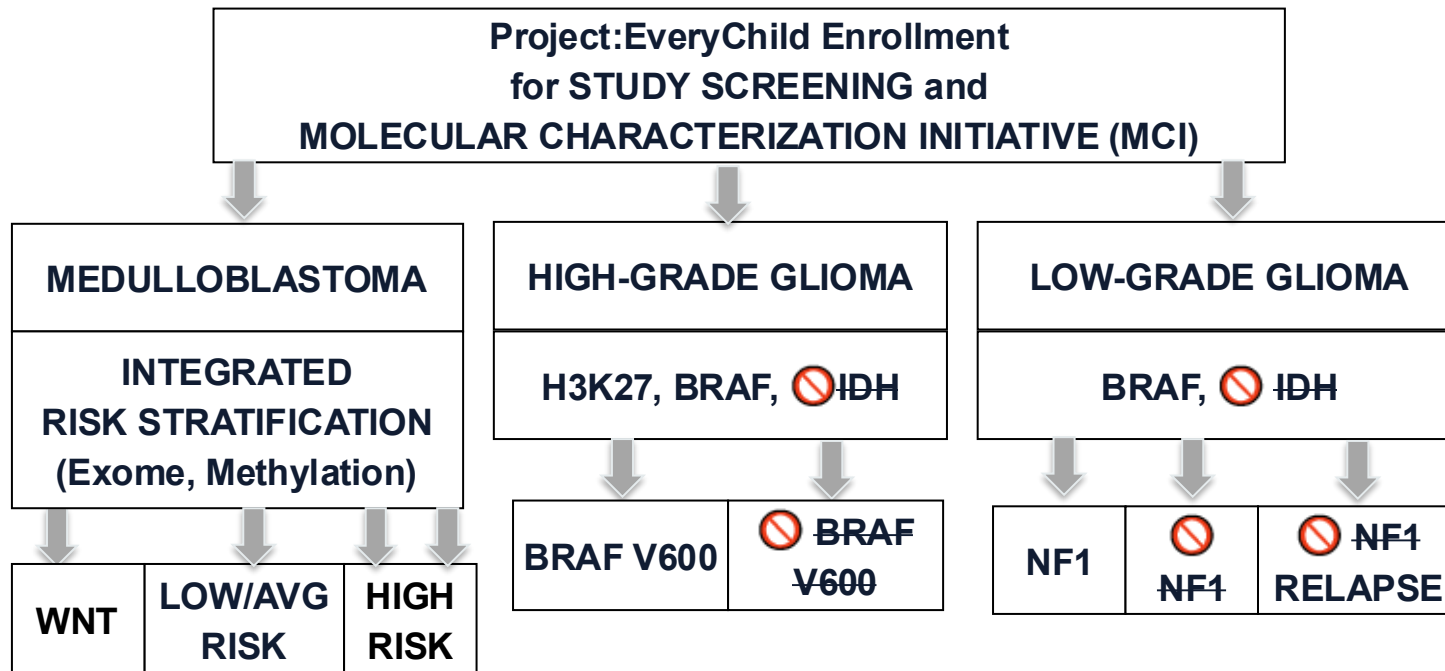


CNS WHO classification 5th ed.



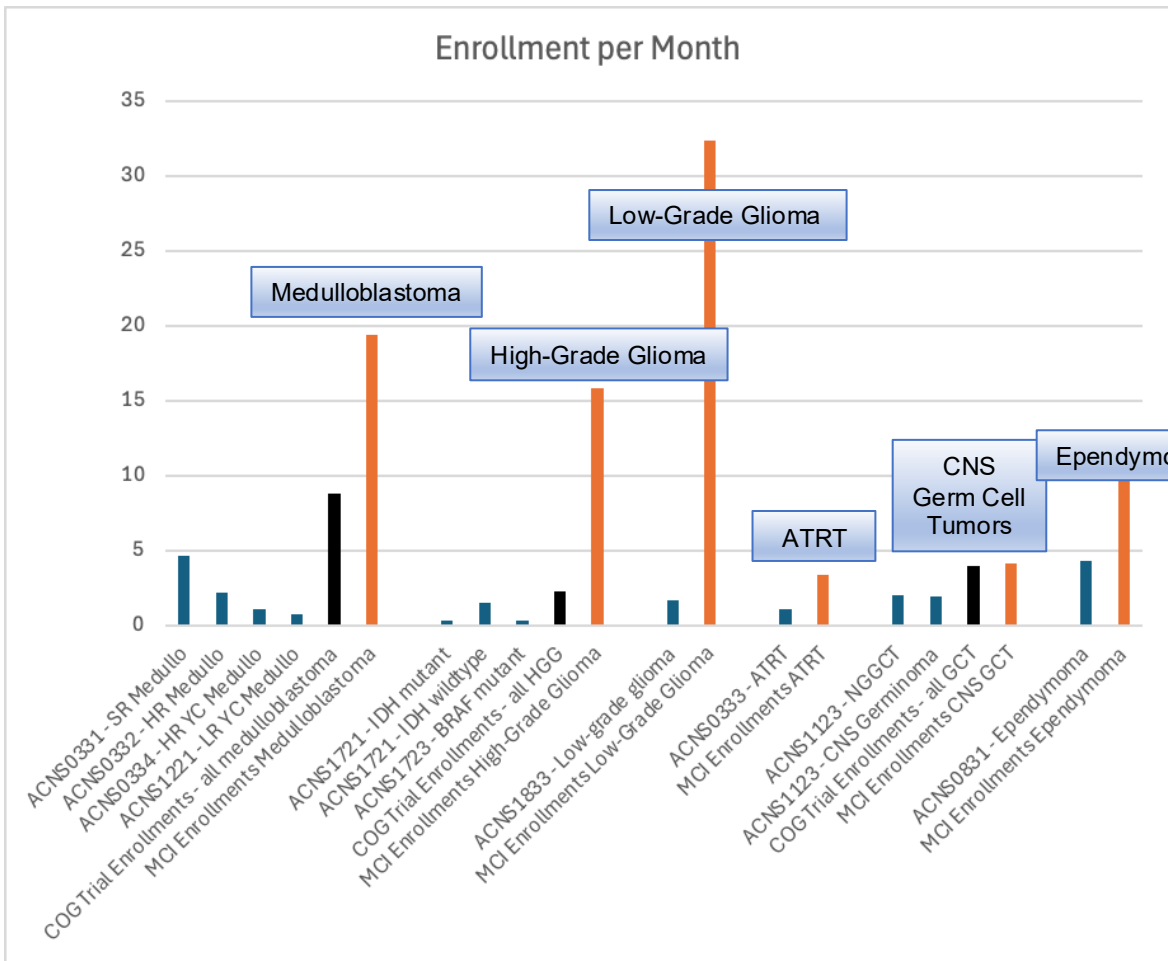
# MCI CNS Clinical Applications and Opportunities

# Applications of MCI Data - Screening

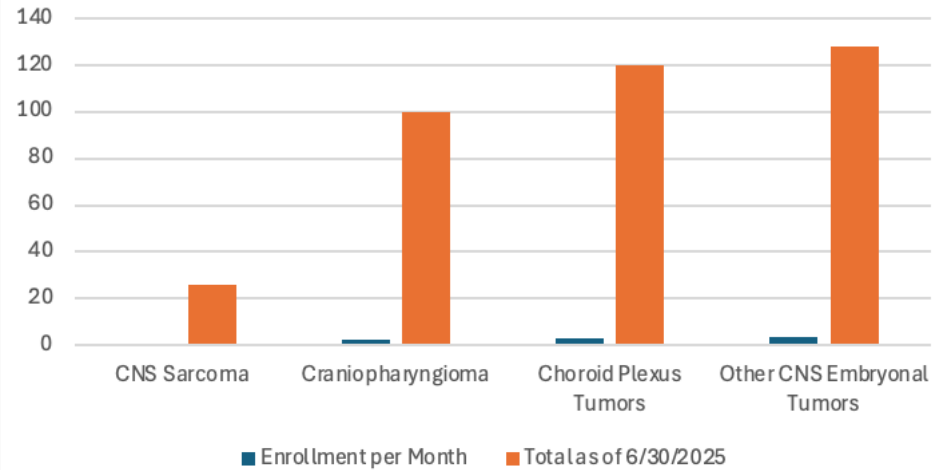


# COG CNS Therapeutic Trials

MCI

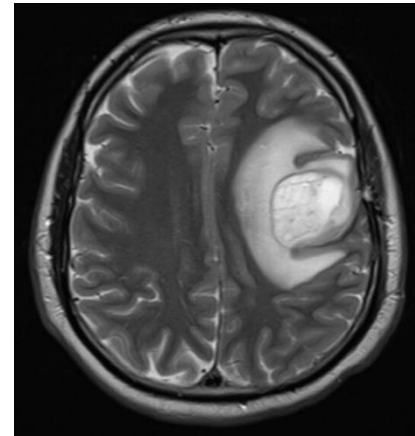
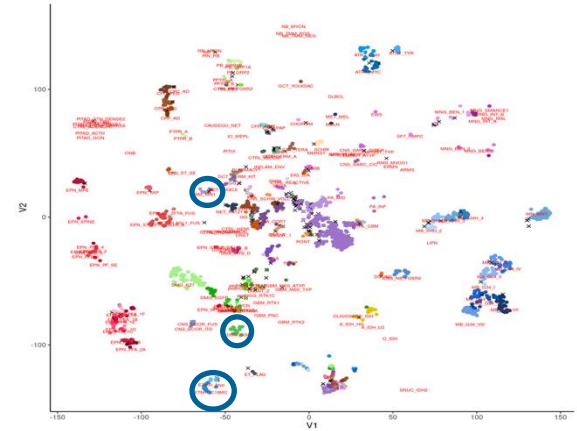


### Rare CNS Diseases



# Examples of Ultra-Rare Disease (as of 6/30/2024)

- ETMR: 31
- HGG G34 mutant: 30
- Astroblastoma: 18
- Infantile Hemispheric Glioma: 16
- Tumors in children with constitutional mismatch repair defects: 24

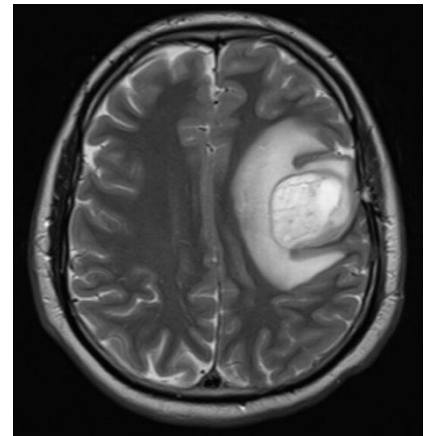


# Examples of Ultra-Rare Disease (as of 6/30/2024)

■ ETMR: 31

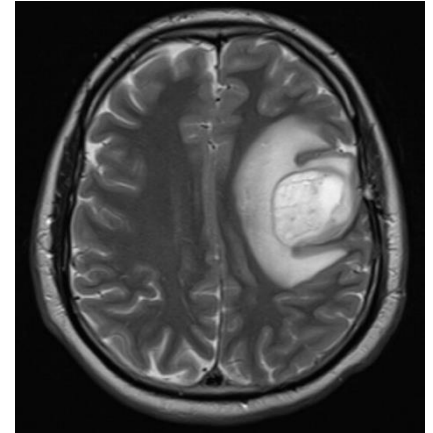
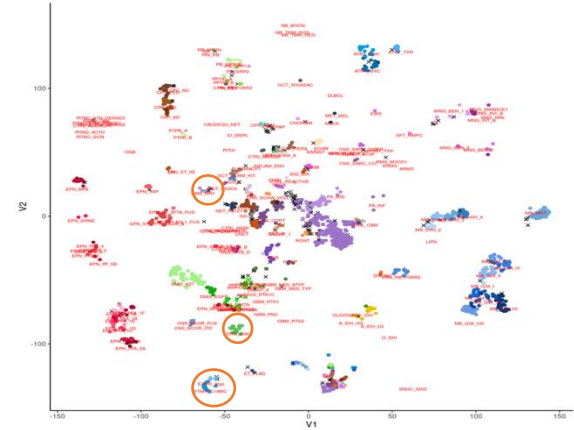
- Nijmegen Breakage Syndrome
- PALB2-Related Cancer Predisposition Syndrome
- POT1 and Shelterin-Related Tumor Predisposition Syndrome
- MBD4-Associated Neoplasia Syndrome

- HGG G34 mutant: 30
- Astroblastoma: 18
- Infantile Hemispheric Glioma: 16
- Tumors in children with constitutional mismatch repair defects: 24



# Examples of Ultra-Rare Disease (as of 6/30/2024)

- ETMR: 31
  - HGG G34 mutant: 30
  - Astroblastoma: 18
  - Infantile Hemispheric Glioma: 16
  - Tumors in children with constitutional mismatch repair defects: 24
- 16p11.2 Deletion Syndrome
  - Breast/Ovarian/Pancreatic Tumor Predisposition Syndrome



# Examples of Ultra-Rare Disease (as of 6/30/2024)

- ETMR: 31
- HGG G34 mutant: 30
- Astroblastoma: 18
- Infant-type Hemispheric Glioma: 16
- Tumors in children with constitutional mismatch repair defects: 24

- Pheochromocytoma/  
Paraganglioma Syndrome
- BRCA-Related Cancer  
Predisposition Syndrome

*BRAF* p.Val600Asp

*KANK1::NTRK3*  
*BEND5::NTRK2*  
*GAB1::ABL2;GAB1::ABL2*  
*SPECC1L::ALK*  
*SNRNP70::ALK*  
*PPP1CB::ALK*  
*KANK1::NTRK2*  
*BCR::NTRK2*  
*MYO5A::NTRK3*  
*EML4::ALK*  
*TRIM24::NTRK2*  
*TPM3::NTRK1*  
*GOPC::ROS1*  
*PPP1CB::ALK*  
*PRKAR2A::ALK*

# Implications for Future Research

- Identification of rare therapeutic targets
- External control cohorts
- Pragmatic trials
- Tumor predisposition and prevention

The impact of molecular data is dependent on connection to clinical data – particularly treatment and outcomes



Children's Brain  
Tumor Network



DATA FOR THE  
COMMON GOOD

# Acknowledgements

## COG Leadership/APEC14B1

- Doug Hawkins
- Mary Beth Sullivan
- Thalia Beeles
- Michael Thomas, Kelly Gissy

## NCI CTEP

- Malcolm Smith

## NCI CCDI

- Greg Reaman
- Subhashini Jagu
- Sean Burke
- Patrick Dunn

## Biopathology Center

- Nilsa Ramirez
- Shountea Stover
- Natalie Bir
- Lisa Beaverson
- Yvonne Moyer

## IGM

- Elaine Mardis
- Catherine Cottrell
- Greg Wheeler
- Ke Qin
- Katie Schieffer
- Grant Lammi
- Kareesma Parbhoo

## COG/CNS Operations Team

- Linda Springer
- Natasha Mirt, Melina Chanthanouvong
- Dalia Ortega, Shu-Lin Shen

## COG CNS Statisticians

- Yu Wang
- Arzu Onar-Thomas

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- Maryam Fouladi (Columbus, Ohio)
- Nick Gottardo (Perth, Australia)
- Sarah Leary (Seattle, Washington)
- Diana Thomas (Columbus, Ohio)

# Q&A

# Join Us For Our Upcoming CCDI Virtual Symposium Series Events!

**March  
18**

**March  
25**

**April 2**

**April 7**

**April 8**

Learn more and register at [events.cancer.gov/ccdi/webinar](https://events.cancer.gov/ccdi/webinar)

# How You Can Engage with CCDI



**Learn about CCDI and subscribe to our monthly newsletter:**  
[cancer.gov/CCDI](https://cancer.gov/CCDI)



**Access CCDI data and resources:**  
[ccdi.cancer.gov](https://ccdi.cancer.gov)



**Questions? Email us at:**  
[NCIChildhoodCancerDataInitiative@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NCIChildhoodCancerDataInitiative@mail.nih.gov)

# Thank you for attending!



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[cancer.gov/espanol](https://cancer.gov/espanol)