

# Oncology's PoS Problem

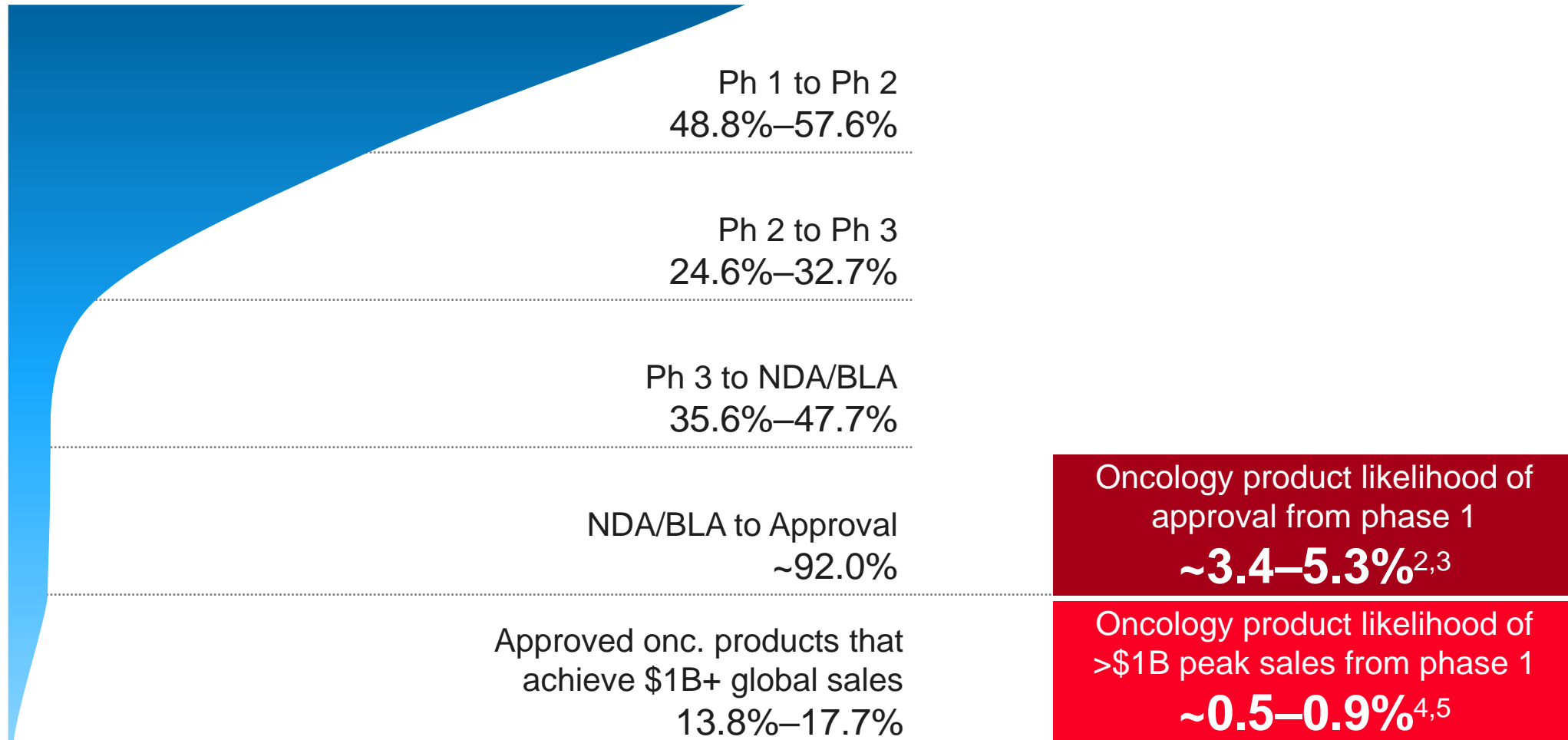
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# Oncology has one of the lowest PoS of any therapeutic area

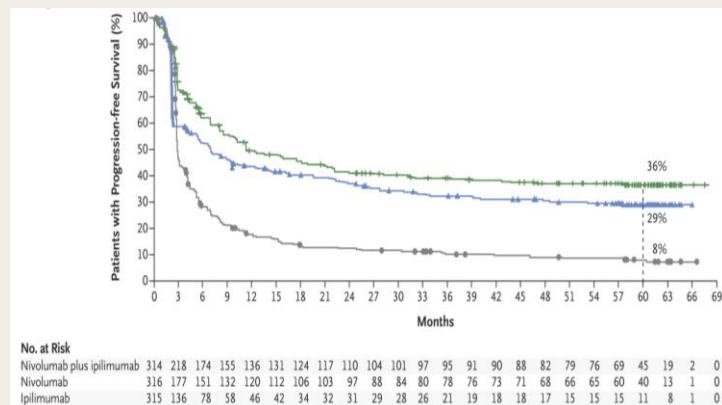


# Oncology drug development does “work”

In the last 10 years, we have seen transformative successes including:

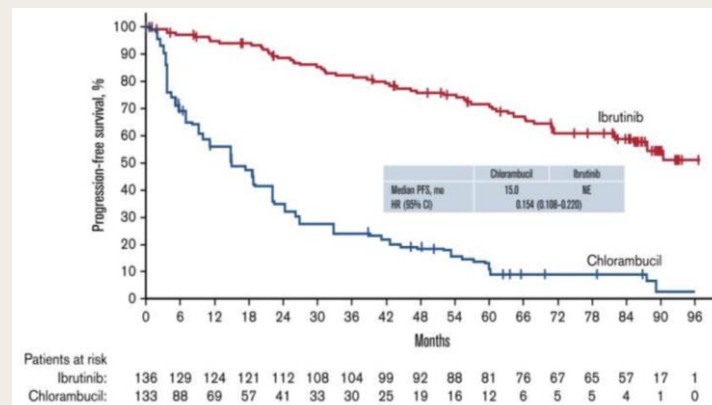
## Curative Immunotherapies

- Nivo ± Ipi for metastatic melanoma
- Pembro + chemo for mNSCLC
- CD19 CAR-T for r/r B-ALL and B-NHL
- ...



## “Functional cures” in hematology

- BTK inhibitors for 1L CLL/SLL
- Daratumumab combos for 1L MM
- ...



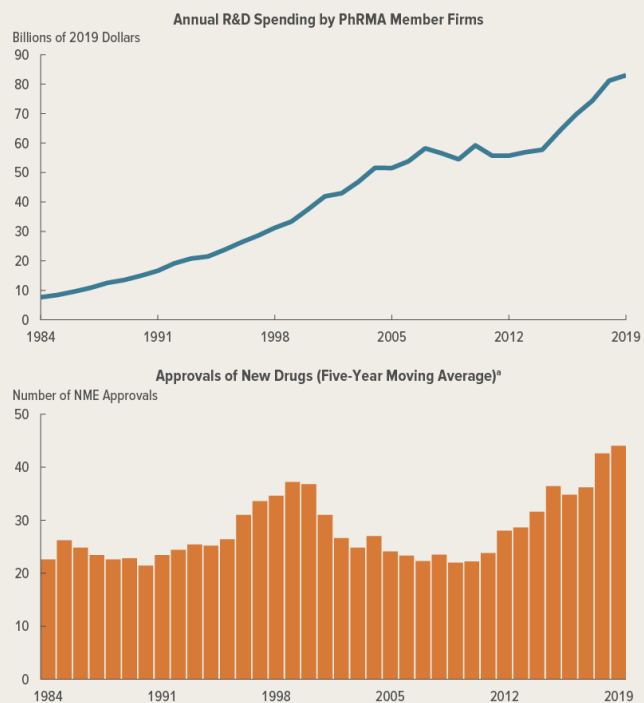
## Precision medicines for new patient populations

- KRAS G12C inhibitors
- PARPi for BRCAm/HRD cancers
- T-DXd for HER2-low breast cancer
- MET inhibitors for MET-mut NSCLC
- BRAFi + MEKi for BRAF V600E
- NTRKi for NTRK fusions
- RETi for RET fusions
- ...

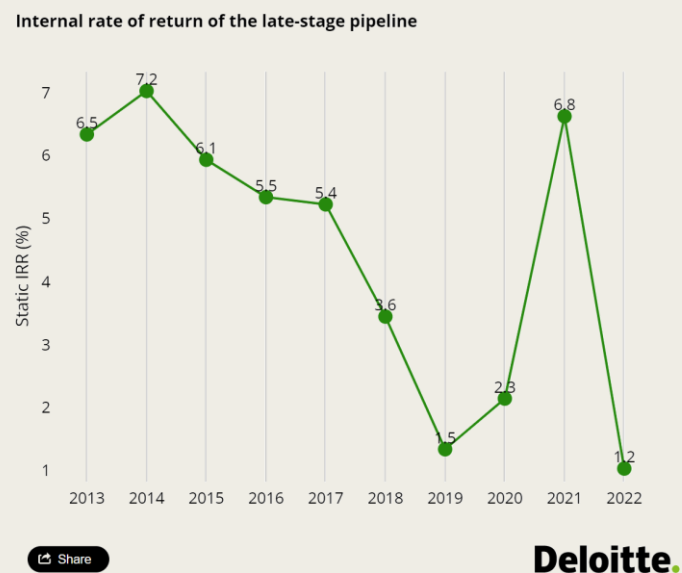
# ...but the investment needed is not viable

Across the pharma industry (not only oncology):

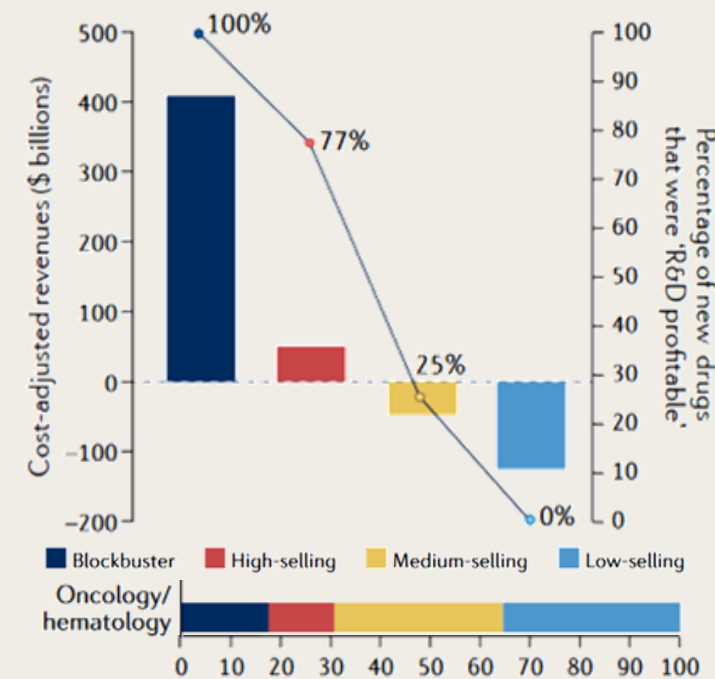
R&D spending has increased faster than drug approvals



The ROI of R&D is at an all-time low



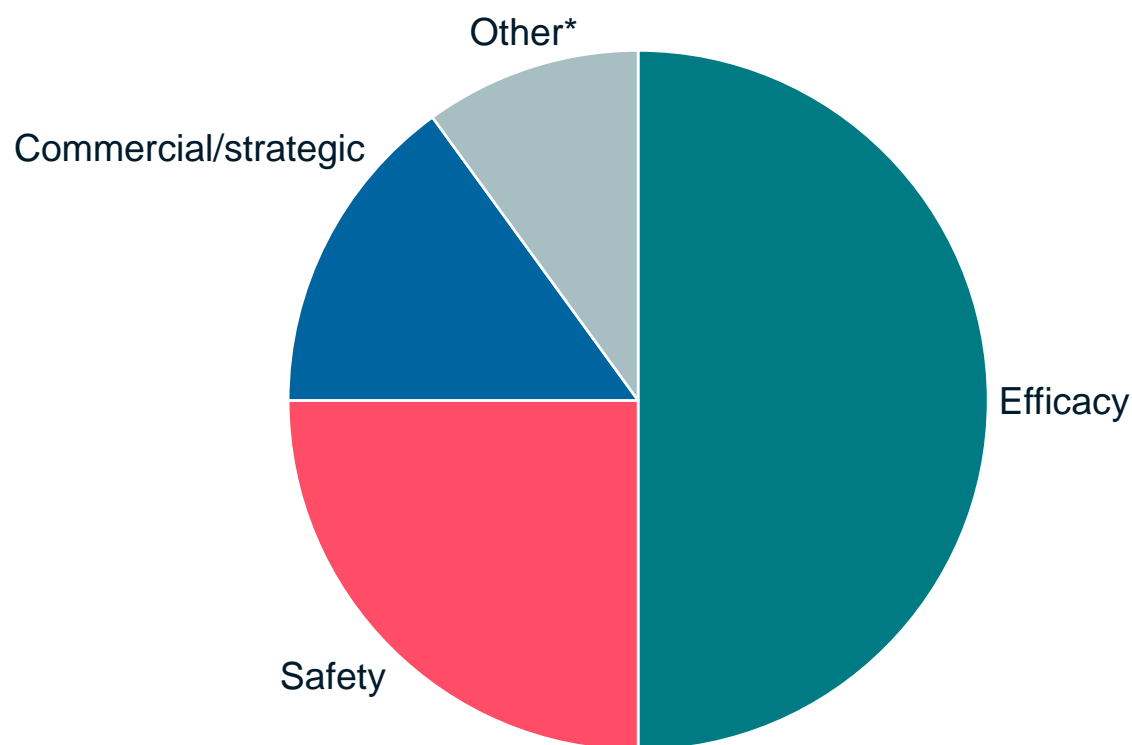
Most drugs are not 'R&D profitable'



# Why do drugs fail?

## Commonly cited reasons for clinical trial failures

(All therapeutic areas, 2010–2017)

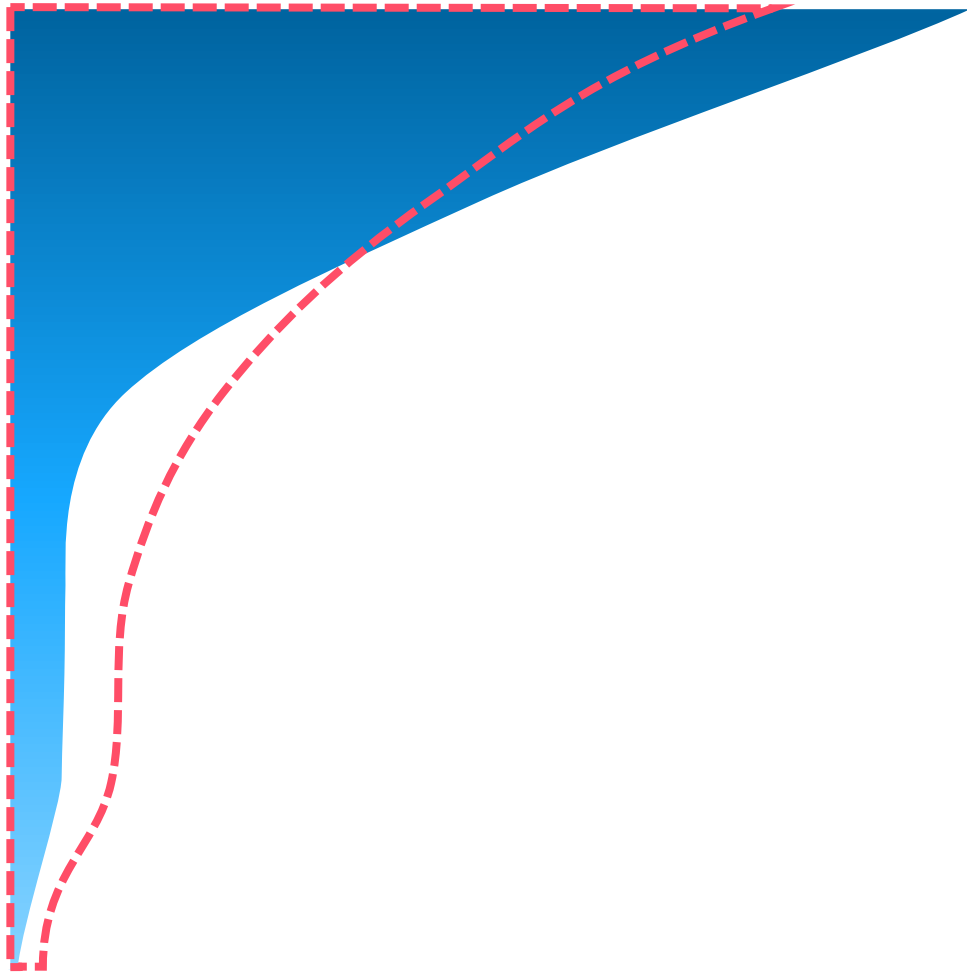


\* “Other” may include operational reasons or poor drug-like properties

## What are the root causes?

- **Misapplication of the science**
  - Insufficient vetting of the **biological hypothesis**
  - Poorly predictive **preclinical models**
- **Insufficient product optimization**
  - Poor target/compound **selectivity**
  - Suboptimal PK/PD or **target engagement**
  - Suboptimal **dose schedule/exposure**
- **Overreliance on old trial paradigms**
  - Signal finding in **late lines of therapy**
  - Suboptimal **patient selection**
- **Challenging market dynamics**
  - Unprecedented **competitive intensity**
  - Constrained **funding/resources**

# What are the solutions?



## Better Innovation

*Improving the quality of candidates at the top of the funnel*

- Targeting new/stronger biology
- Leveraging new modalities
- Developing better preclinical models
- More robust preclinical vetting of candidates



## Better Implementation

*Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the funnel itself*

- Rigorous optimization of the product/regimen
- Improving patient selection
- “Smarter” clinical trial designs
- “Failing fast”



# Targeting new/stronger biology (1 of 2)

## The pipeline is crowded with follow-on products

- Herd mentality: Hundreds of products for the same 20 targets
- Exchanging technical risk for commercial risk
- Flawed vision of ROI

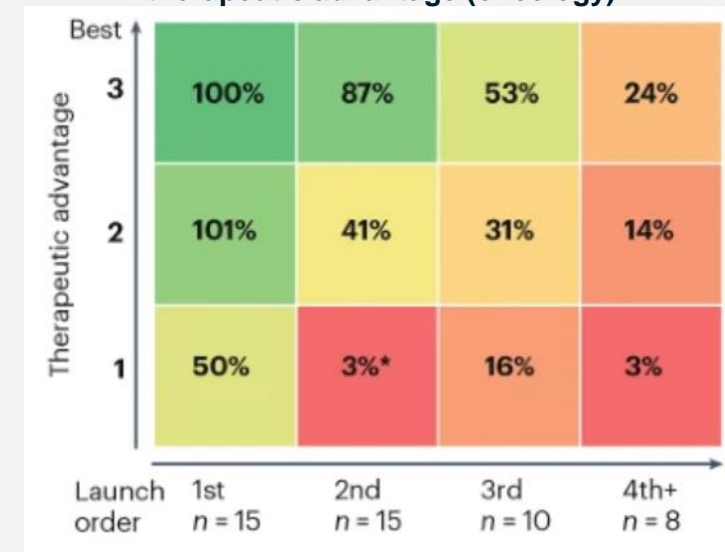
Top 20 Therapeutic Targets in US Oncology Pipeline (N=2079 agents)



## Commercial value diminishes with later order of entry

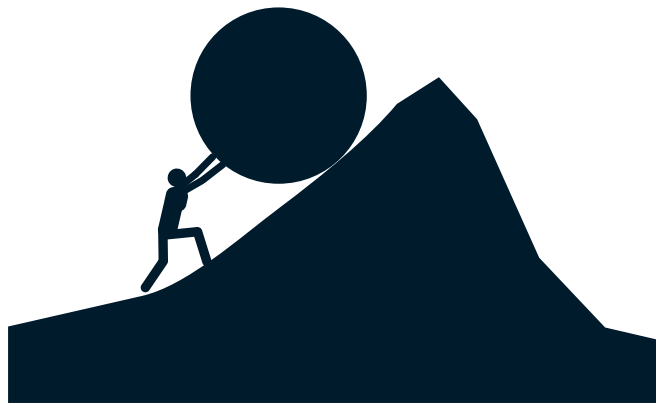
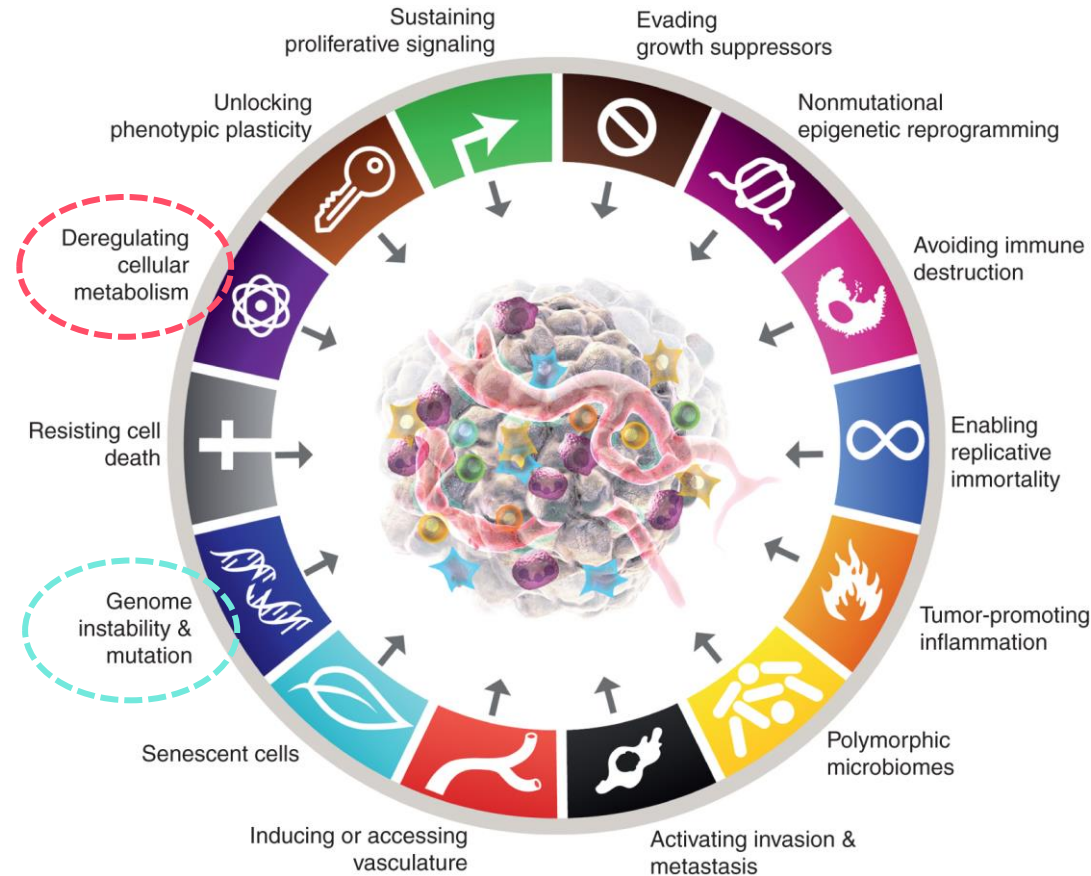
- Differentiation is paramount
- How many “best in class” drugs can there be?

Value captured in a drug class by order of entry and therapeutic advantage (oncology)





# Targeting new/stronger biology (2 of 2)



Some mechanisms cause amplifying effects such that the cancer cell is “**pushed off a cliff**”.

E.g., PARP inhibition



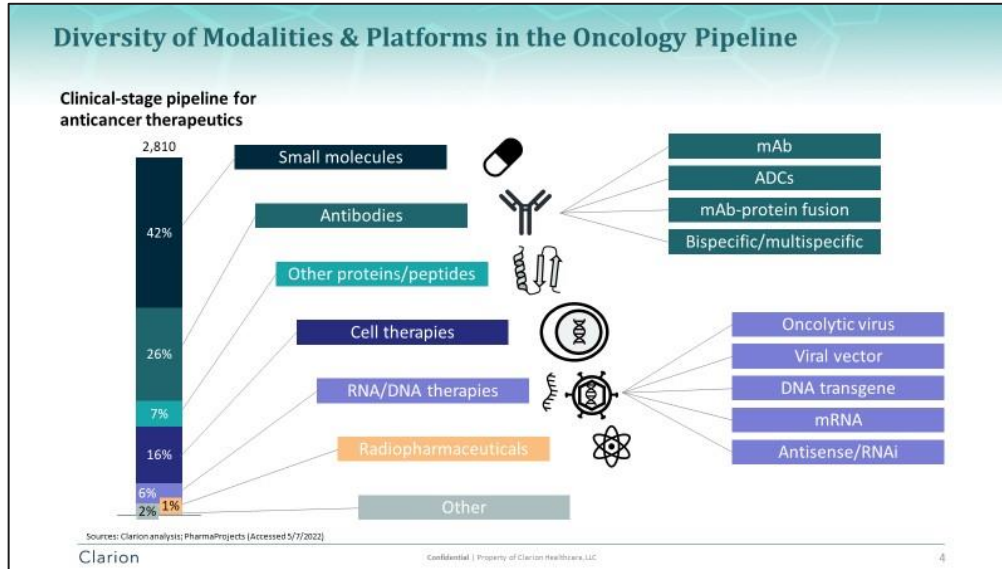
Some mechanisms are mitigated by feedback inhibition or compensatory pathways making it an “**uphill battle**”.

E.g., glutaminase inhibition



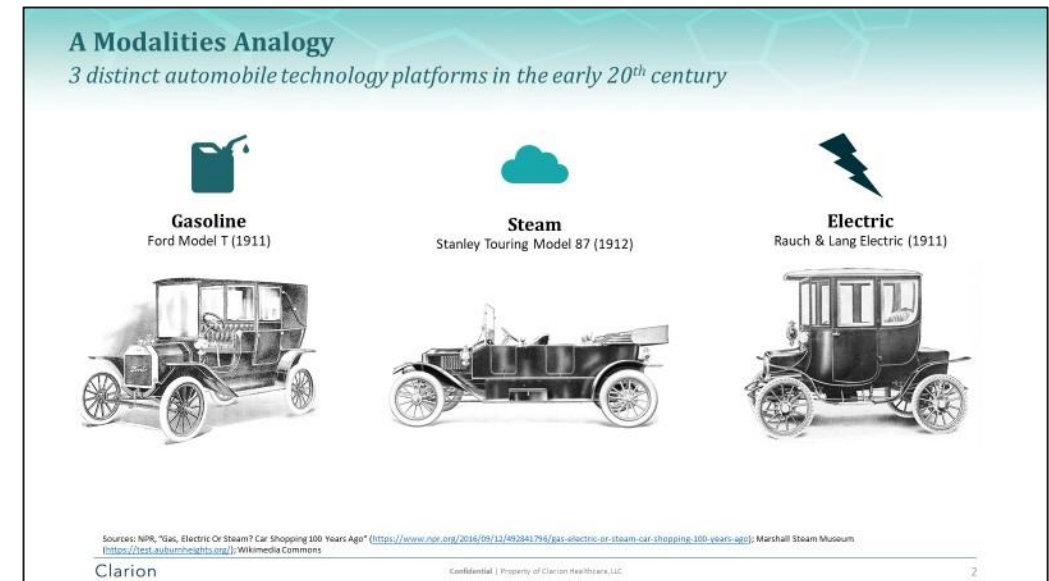


# Leveraging new modalities



As discussed last year:

◀ The oncology pipeline has a broad and growing diversity of technology platforms



[Link to Clarion blog post and video presentation](#)



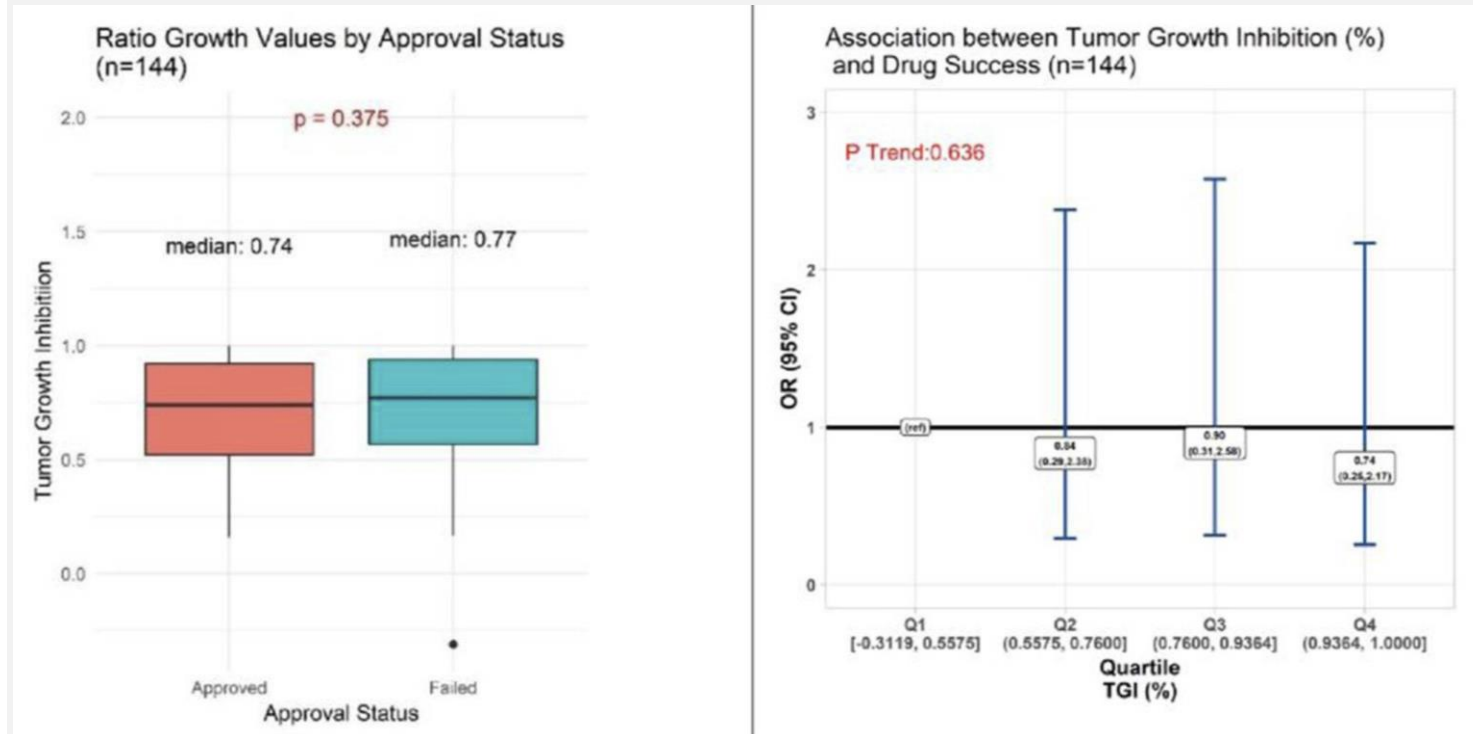
However, not all modalities are destined to transform oncology treatment. Some technologies will prove to be “dead ends”; others may be “ahead of their time” and will only become relevant in future generations



# Activity in preclinical models does not correlate with clinical success

## Tumor growth inhibition (TGI) in murine models vs. approval/failure of lung cancer drugs

(1996–2014)



## How to develop better preclinical models?

- Better mouse “avatars” of human patients
- Better non-mouse models
- Better patient-derived organoids
- Better in silico models

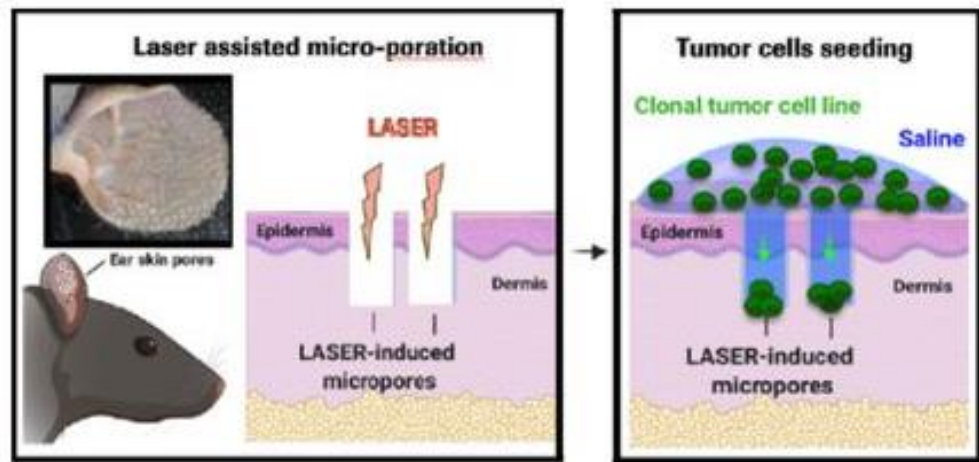
## How to make better use of models we already have?

- Use a mix of models with complementary attributes
- Analyze model data more rigorously (e.g., focus on regression, not TGI)
- Move more quickly to clinical trials as a more definitive test?

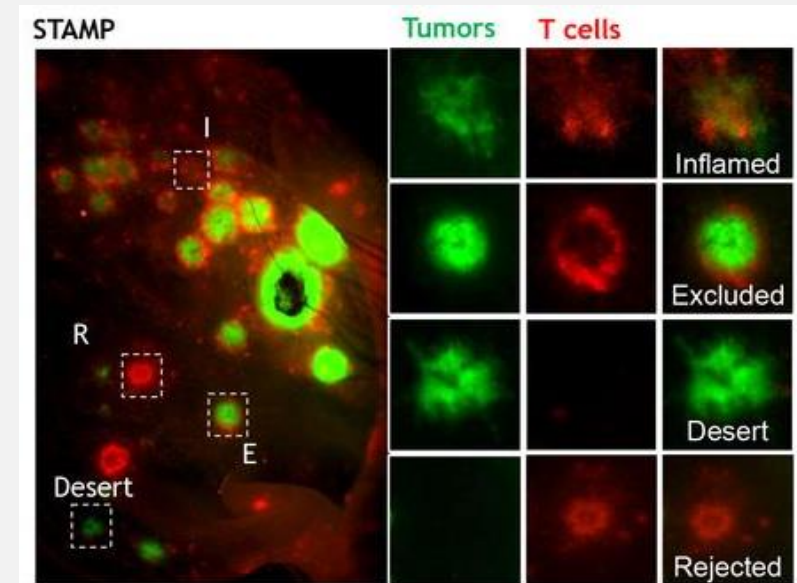


# Can preclinical models ever work well for immuno-oncology?

STAMP (skin tumor array by micro-poration) experiments underscore the challenges in modeling immune phenotype in animals



The STAMP method entails seeding a mouse ear with tumor cells in an array to enable many replicate experiments to be done in one animal.



Diverse immune phenotypes were seen in any single array.

→ Immune phenotypes cannot be reliably reproduced even when placing the same tumor cells in the same mouse millimeters apart.



# Optimization of the product/regimen

Many drugs fail clinical trials despite well validated targets.

Examples:

<b>AR</b>	orteronel	<b>ER</b>	amcenestrant
<b>BTK</b>	spebrutinib	<b>PI3K<math>\alpha</math></b>	taselisib
<b>EGFR</b>	canertinib, zalutumumab	<b>VEGFR</b>	brivanib, motesanib

While others are approved but uptake is limited by poor “drug-like properties.”

- Significant toxicity / monitoring requirements
- High pill burden
- Inconvenient dosing schedule
- ...

Do “good” drugs fail due to insufficient optimization?

*How do we prevent that from happening?*

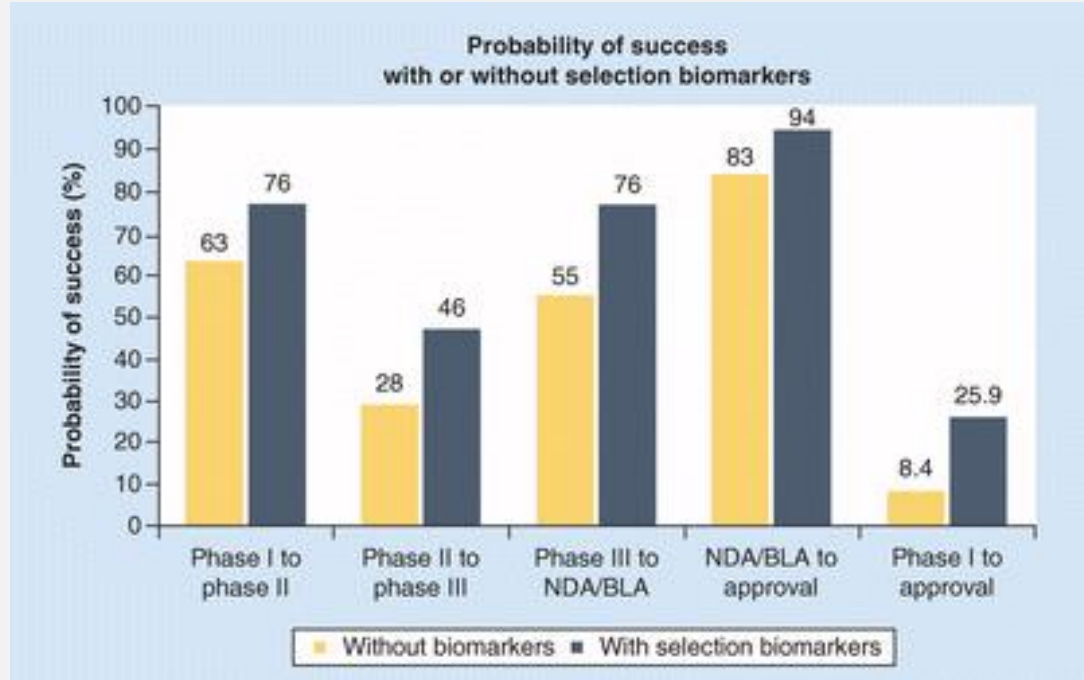
*Example recommendations:*

- **Set a high enough bar** for drug properties
- **Use/develop PD biomarkers** to validate target engagement
- **Go beyond plasma exposure** for PK assessment
- **Customize resource allocation:** Identify situations where extra effort is required on formulation & dose optimization (e.g., pan-essential targets)



# Improving patient selection

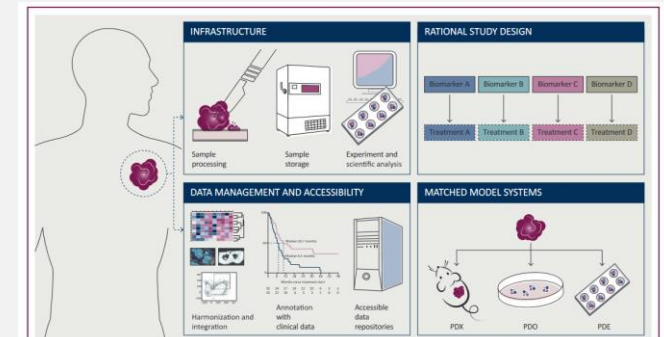
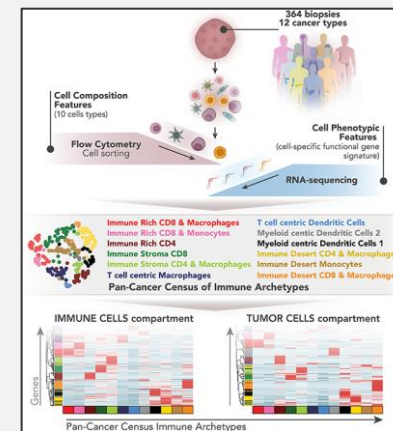
## Precision medicine has higher PoS than all-comers approaches



## How do we develop better biomarkers?

10 example recommendations

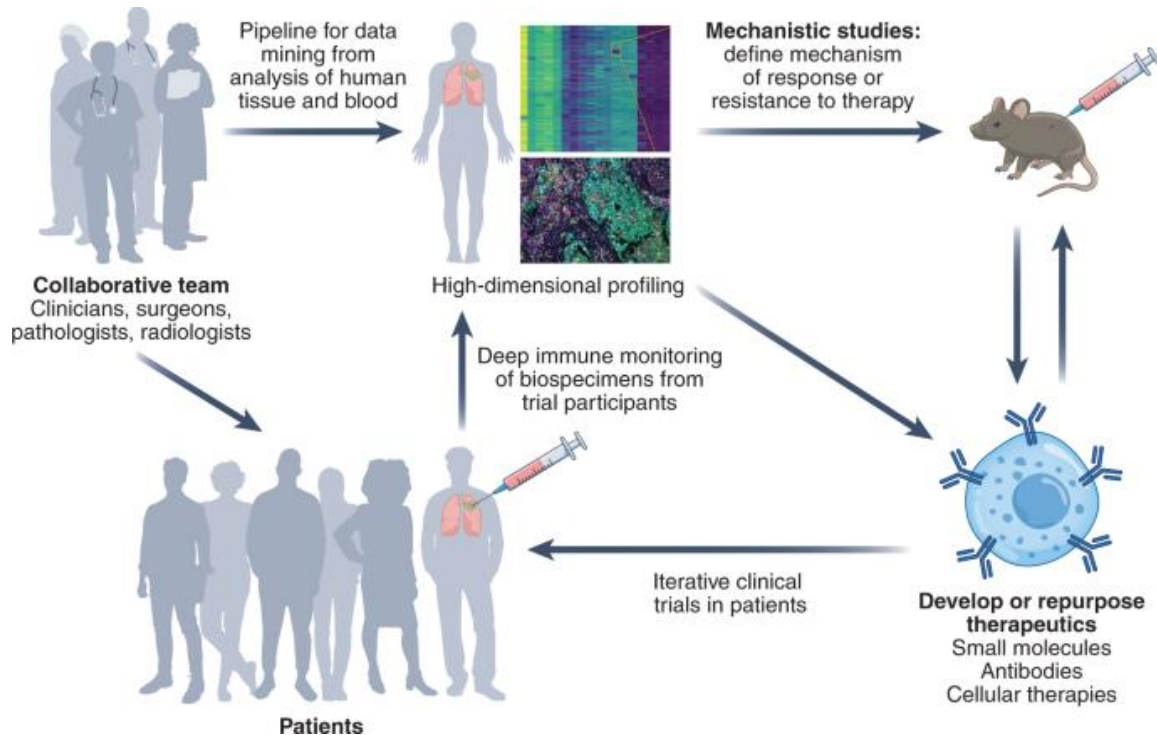
- Study samples across timepoints, locations, clinical response
- Profile diverse cell types
- Assess multiple analytes



**Figure 2. Challenges for precision immuno-oncology research.** The identification of precision biomarkers and personalized treatments comes with a number of opportunities and challenges. These include (i) dedicated infrastructure and personnel to establish a robust and efficient pipeline for patient material collection and processing, (ii) the creation of data repositories for the establishment of large, well-structured, harmonized, and clinically annotated datasets, (iii) exploitation of synergies between distinct preclinical model systems matched for individual patients, and (iv) integrating personalized treatment approaches into the design of clinical studies. PDE, patient-derived explant; PDO, patient-derived organoid; PDX, patient-derived xenograft.



# Neoadjuvant translation / Window-of-opportunity studies



## Key Advantages:

- **Treatment-naïve setting** with less heterogeneous tumors and more intact immune systems vs conventional phase 1 trials
- **Large tissue specimens** for in-depth cellular & molecular analyses
- **Fast, small studies** with potentially lower cost

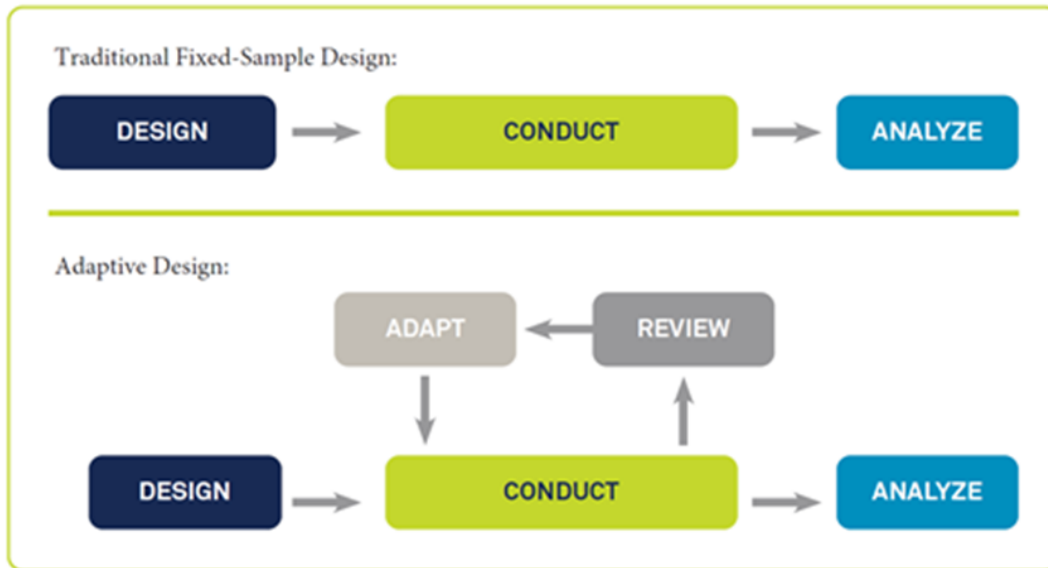
## Key Requirements:

- **Multidisciplinary teams**
- **Maximum (fresh) tissue access**
- **Definition of clinically meaningful response** based on tissue pathology (may be different for IO vs neoadjuvant chemo)
- **Adaptive clinical trial** designs to maximize insight and accelerate iteration using small cohorts
- **Novel statistical methods** to account for unconventional tissue-based endpoints and adaptive designs

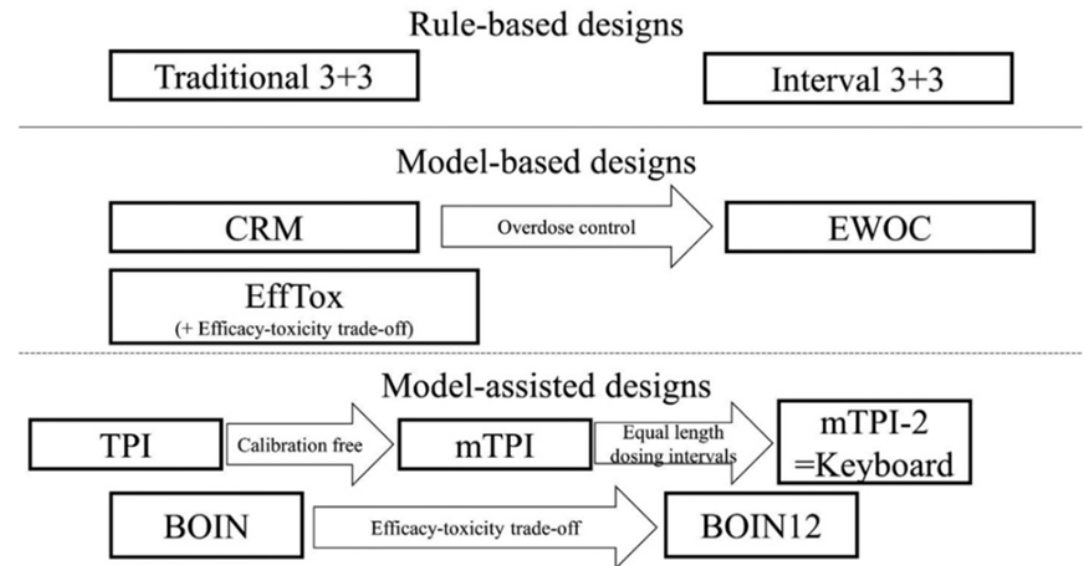


# Other “Smart” clinical trial approaches

## Adaptive Trials



## Model-assisted Designs

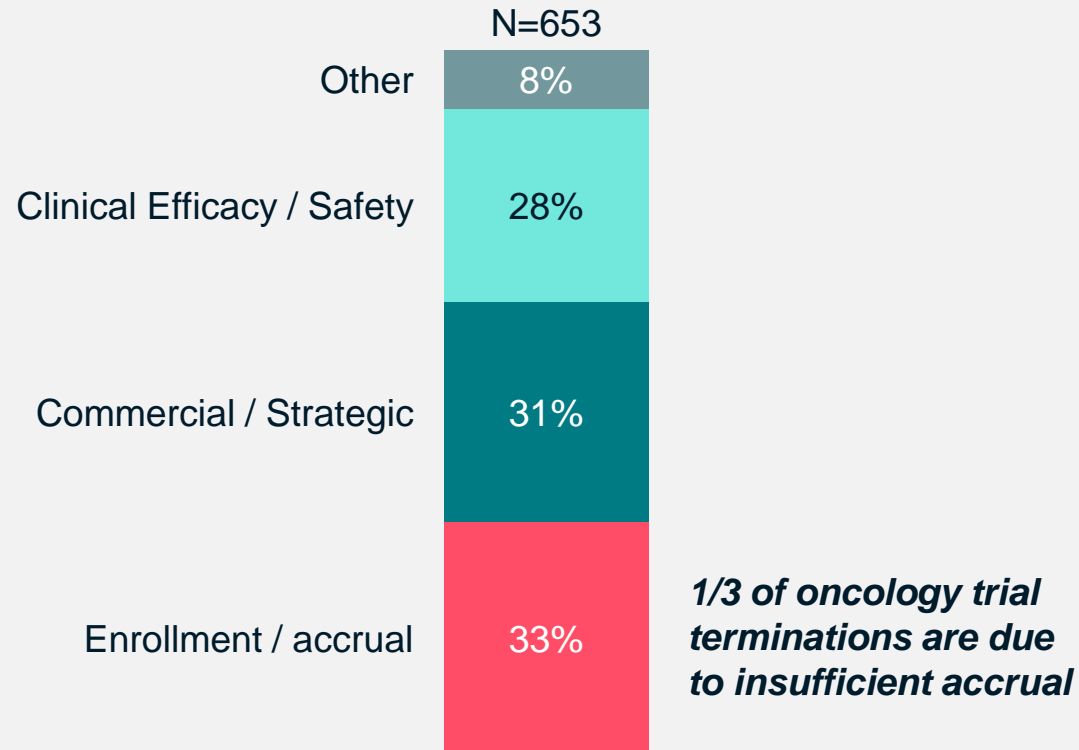




# Improving clinical trial accrual

## Reasons for Oncology Clinical Trial Terminations

Terminated industry-sponsored oncology trials (phases 1/2, 2, 3) with start dates in 2010+, with a reported reason for discontinuation



## How do we improve trial accrual?

Key considerations

- **Inclusion/exclusion criteria** should not be excessively narrow
- **Patient concerns** including quality of care, understanding/education, emotional needs, remuneration, travel, time requirements
- **Investigator enthusiasm**
- **Complexity/burden** of trial measures
- **Clinical operations** effectiveness and resource allocation
- **Overall patient participation** in trials is still low; especially among minority groups



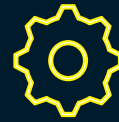
# Where should we prioritize effort/resource allocation?



## Better Innovation

- The right **targets**
- The right **modalities**
- The right **models**
- The right **assays**

➔ Improving the quality of candidates at the top of the funnel



## Better Implementation

- The right **formulation/dose**
- The right **patient population**
- The right **trial design**
- The right **trial execution**

➔ Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the funnel itself

Thank You

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