

## WORKSHOP

**Genetica e neoplasie del colon-retto:  
il ruolo delle analisi molecolari  
all'interno del programma di screening**

*10 novembre 2016*

**Firenze**

Grand Hotel Mediterraneo

Con il patrocinio di

**GISCoR**  
gruppo italiano screening coloretale

**Biomarcatori  
per la diagnosi Precoce  
del tumore coloretale  
e le biobanche nello screening**

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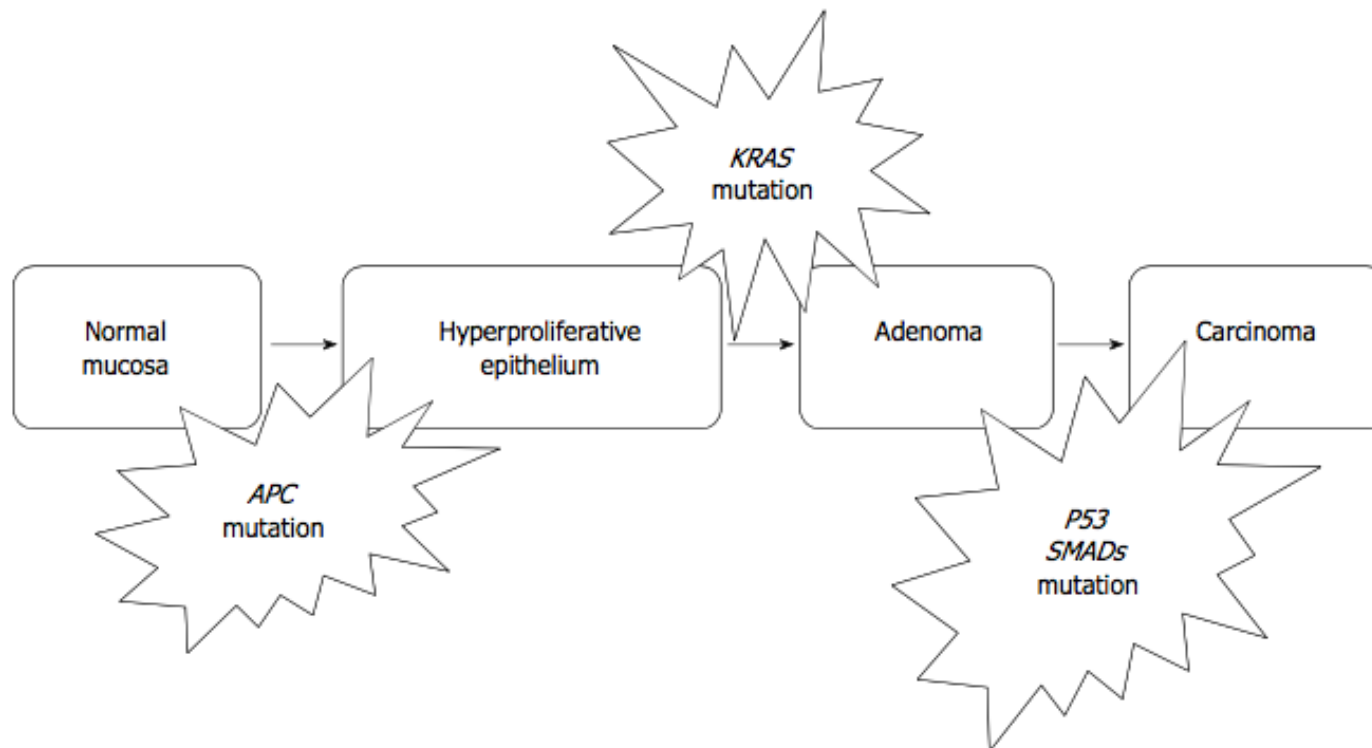
# Current and future molecular diagnostics in colorectal cancer

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- Fecal occult blood test is a widely used non-invasive screening tool for CRC.
- Although fecal occult blood test is simple and cost-effective in screening CRC, there is room for improvement in terms of the accuracy of the test.
- Genetic dysregulations have been found to play an important role in CRC development.
- With better understanding of the molecular basis of CRC, there is a growing expectation on the development of diagnostic tests based on more sensitive and specific molecular markers and those tests may provide a breakthrough to the limitations of current screening tests for CRC.

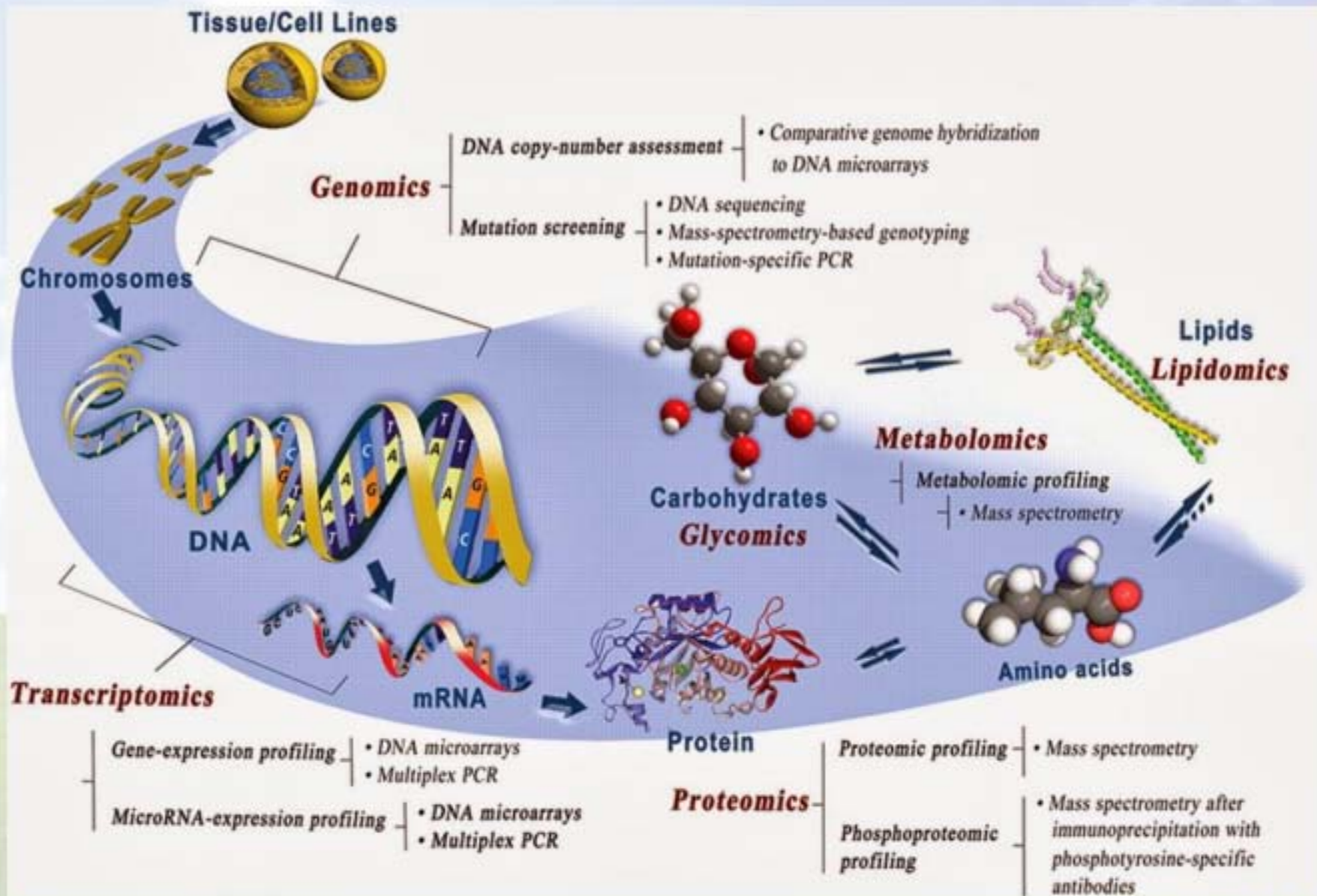
# I Marcatori in studio per il colon-retto

Tsang AHF *et al.* Molecular diagnostics in colorectal cancer



**Figure 1 Adenoma-carcinoma sequence in colorectal cancer formation.** This is a simplified presentation of colorectal cancer tumourigenesis. The true carcinogenesis progress of colorectal cancer is much more complicated.

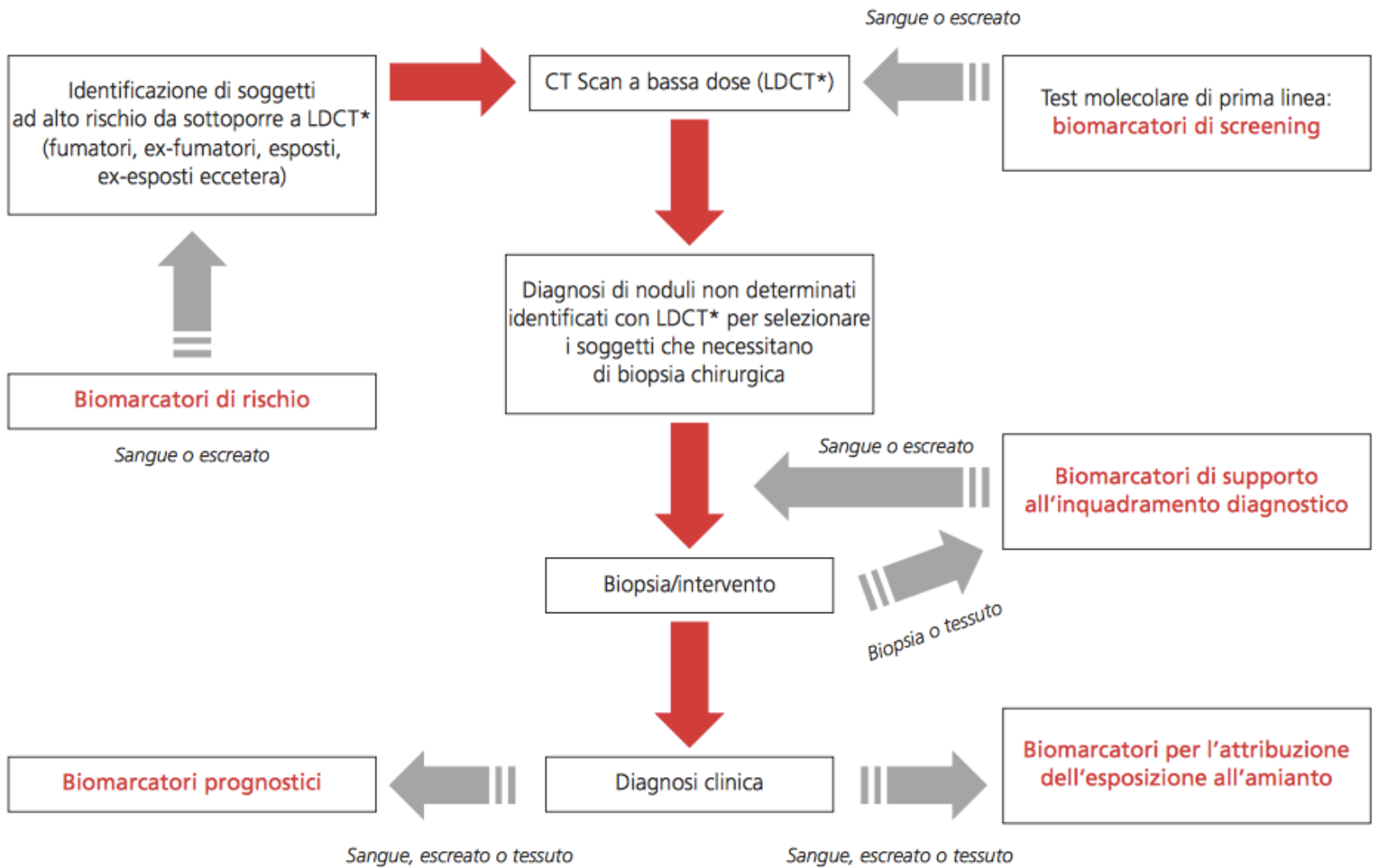
# From Genomics to... -Omics



## Cancer related molecular markers can be classified in 4 groups

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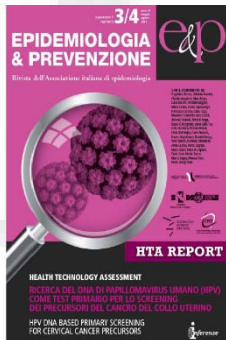
- Biomarcatori di rischio: *per selezionare i soggetti a maggior rischio di sviluppare la neoplasia da sottoporre allo screening*
- Biomarcatori di screening: come test di prima linea per i soggetti da sottoporre a screening;
- Biomarcatori di supporto all'inquadramento diagnostico:
  - Triage dei soggetti FOBT positivi da inviare a colonscopia
  - Gestione dei soggetti fobt positivi con colon negativa  
*(circa il 50-60% dei soggetti con FOBT positivi hanno colon negativa)*
- Biomarcatori prognostici: per la caratterizzazione biologica della neoplasia a scopo prognostico o terapeutico;



# La Cervice

## Publicazione report HTA Italiano e Linee Guida Europee (anticipate nel report HTA)

- L'infezione persistente con HPV oncogeni è la condizione necessaria per l'evoluzione a carcinoma
  - 12 tipi di HPV causano virtualmente tutti i casi di cancro
- Un programma basato sulla ricerca di HPV oncogeni come test primario è più efficace dello screening con Pap-test sia nella individuazione di lesione precancerose di alto grado e fornisce una protezione maggiore (60-70%) per la prevenzione del carcinoma invasivo (Lancet 2014)



La ricerca nella rete dello screening oncologico: studi che si basano sulla popolazione invitata e aderente ai programmi di screening

## Colon retto e diagnostica precoce

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- Una sostanza o alterazione '*genetica*' presente nel tessuto tumorale, ma non nei tessuti non tumorali, determinabile in un fluido biologico facilmente accessibile rappresenta il biomarcatore ideale per l'individuazione precoce del tumore in modo specifico e non invasivo :
  - Campione fecale
  - Prelievo ematico
  - Saliva
  - Ecc...



# Feci vs prelievo ematico: pro e contro

- Feci: Cellule tumorali di carcinomi colonrettali e di adenomi si possono ritrovare nelle feci

- **le cellule esfoliano continuamente nel lume intestinale (mentre per il sangue occulto si possono verificare sanguinamenti intermittenti);**

- **la neoplasia tende a esfoliare in quantità superiore rispetto alla mucosa normale e il DNA è stabile**

- **Occorre più materiale fecale rispetto a quello prelevato per FOBT**

**A causa della eterogeneità del cancro, nessun singolo marcatore molecolare ha una sensibilità ottimale, mentre combinazioni di diversi marcatori hanno consentito nei primi studi una elevata detection rate sia per CCR che per adenomi avanzati.**

- **Prelievo ematico**

- La maggior parte dei marcatori candidati sono stati valutati in ambito clinico e sono per lo più rilevati in fase avanzata.
- I progressi tecnologici associati a nuove conoscenze dei meccanismi molecolari che contribuiscono alla carcinogenesi del colon-retto hanno consentito studi per biomarcatori ematici per la diagnosi precoce: acidi nucleici circolanti, cellule tumorali circolanti, proteine e RNA.

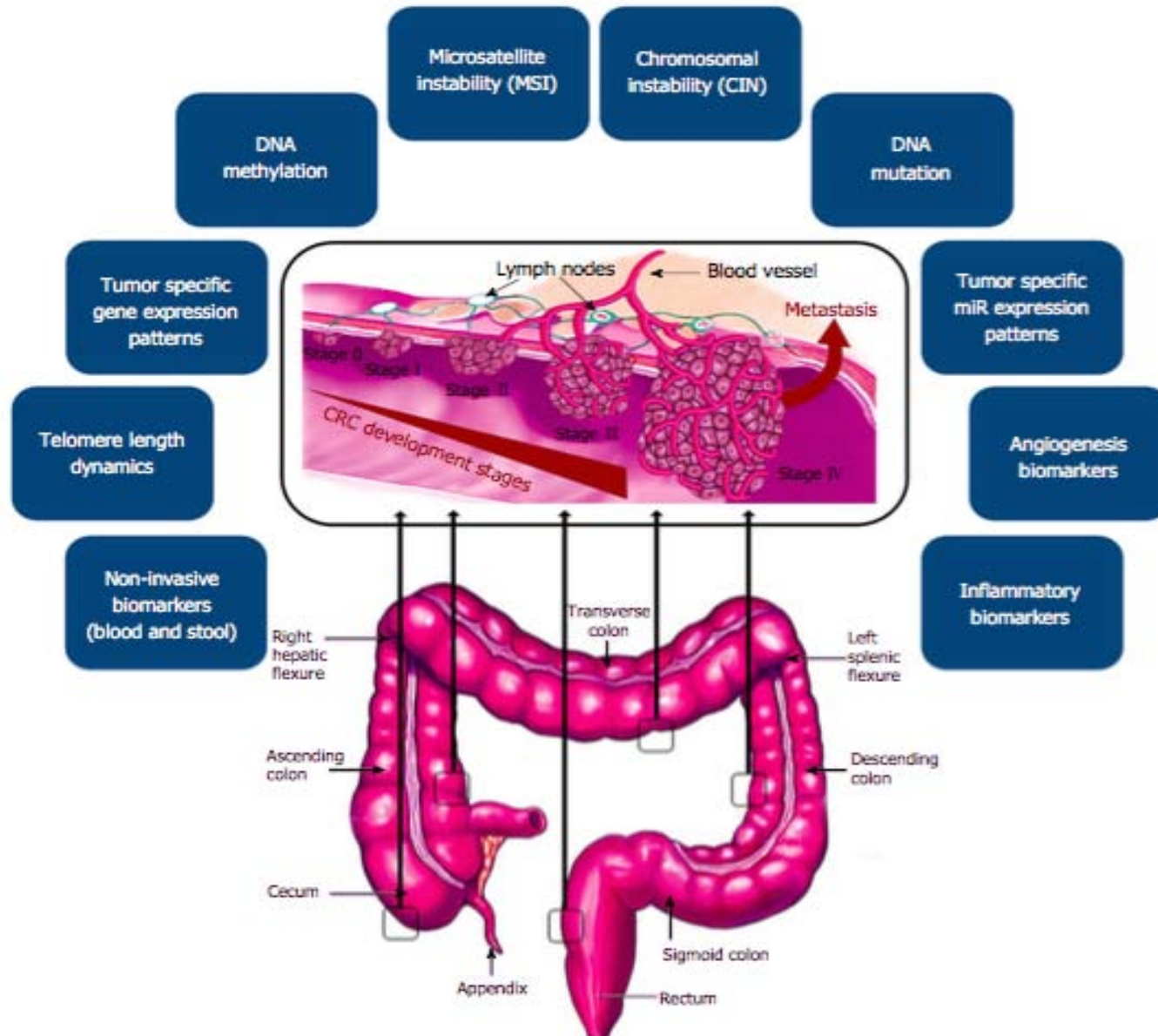


# Cell-Free Nucleic Acids

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- The origin of cell-free nucleic acids in circulation is less well-defined than in stool.
- The release of DNA, RNA, and noncoding RNAs in cancer patients into circulation is attributed to a combination of tumor cell necrosis, apoptosis, and possibly secretion.
  - Changes in the concentration and detection of tumor-specific alterations in DNA and/or dysregulated RNA expression profiles have been proposed as CRC-specific biomarkers.
  - The development of diagnostic methods based on the detection of tumor-specific alterations in circulating DNA and/or RNA expression is particularly appealing because they can provide valuable molecular information about the tumor that may be used for diagnostic, predictive, and prognostic purposes.

# Different classes of colorectal cancer associated molecular and cellular biomarkers



# Genetic and Epigenetic Alterations in Circulation

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- Detection of tumor-derived genetic and epigenetic alterations in stool and blood samples has been explored as candidate CRC biomarkers.
- Detection of mutations possible in cfDNA isolated from stool, serum or plasma
  - point mutations in *KRAS*: Most of the activating mutations, approximately 90%, are found in codons 12 and 13 of exon 1. Close to 5% of the mutations are found in codon 61 in exon 2
  - The sensitivity levels achieved using mutations in this gene were 43% at the highest with a specificity of 93% .
- Circulating DNA methylation biomarkers have also been evaluated.
  - The use of the individual methylation status of *Vimentin*, *NGFR*, *SEPT9*, and *TMEFF2* had sensitivities ranging from 48–72% and specificities from 69–93%
  - Other genes evaluated as methylation markers include *p16*, *APC*, *hMLH1*, *HLTF*, and *DAPK* .

## Come inserire un biomarcatore nella pratica

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- Per avere utilità clinica nello screening , i biomarcatori dovranno dimostrare di poter modificare il processo decisionale clinico
  - Alta sensibilità e specificità
  - Elevato VPN e VPP
  - Misurabile in campioni biologici facilmente accessibili
  - Semplice da misurare e Stabile per un periodo di tempo compatibile con il processo di screening
  - costantemente rilevabile in entrambi i sessi e gruppi etnici
  
- La traslazione finale nella pratica di routine clinica o di screening, tuttavia, richiederà la possibilità di utilizzare piattaforme analitiche facilmente applicabili in uno screening di popolazione che comporta l'analisi di un elevato numero di soggetti.

## **Multitarget stool DNA testing for colorectal-cancer screening.**

Imperiale TF<sup>1</sup>, Ransohoff DF, Itzkowitz SH, Levin TR, Lavin P, Lidgard GP, Ahlquist DA, Berger BM.

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- Recently, Imperiale et al. reported that in a large study including 9989 participants, a multitarget stool DNA test had higher sensitivity for the detection of advanced adenomas (42.4%) and CRC (92.3%) than FITs [69].
  
  - This cross-sectional study evaluated the screening potential of a multitarget stool test that detected *KRAS* mutations, methylation of *NDRG4* and *BMP3*, quantification of *-actin* as a reference gene for DNA quantity, and immunochemical detection of hemoglobin.

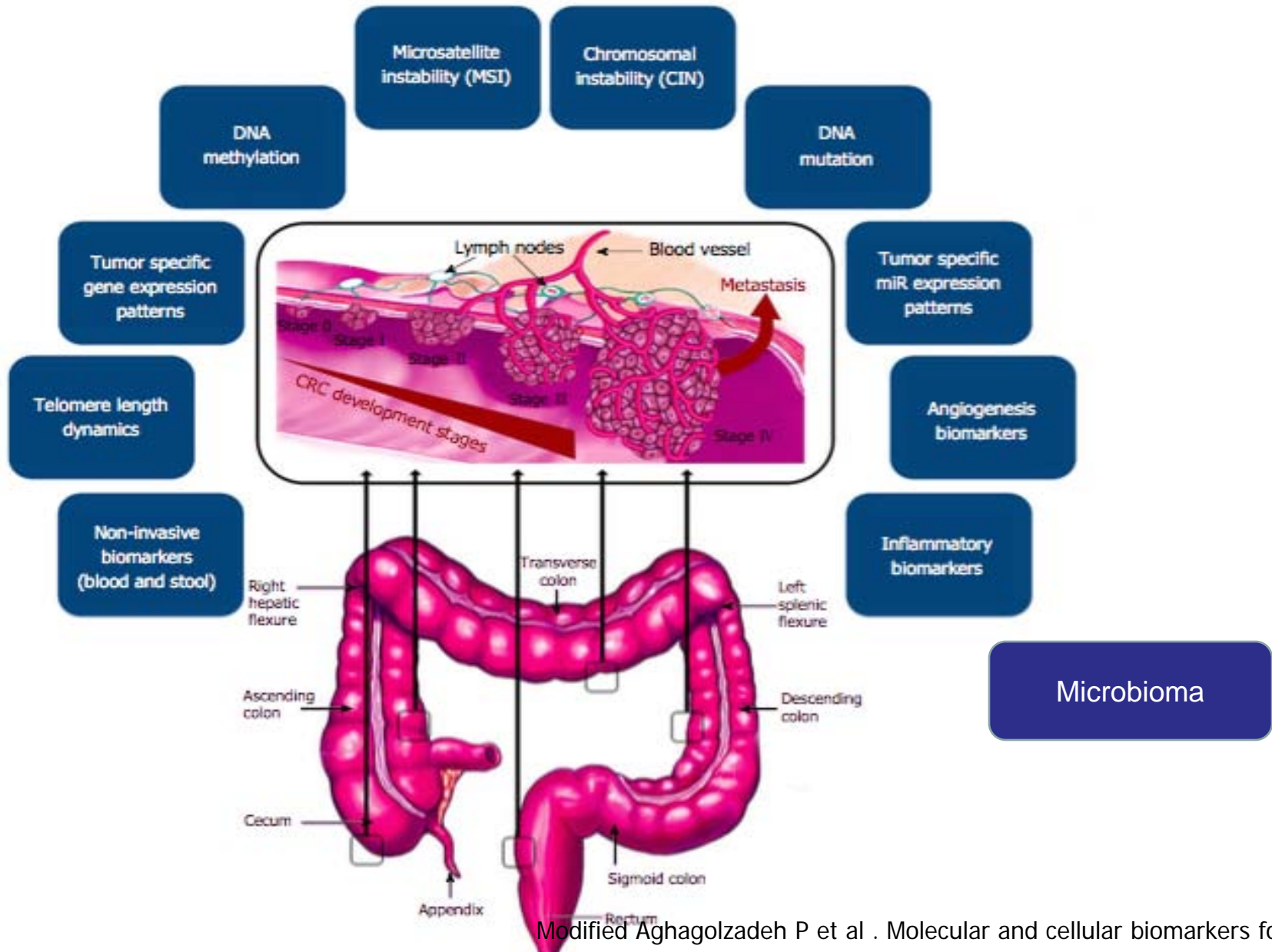


### Stool DNA and Colorectal-Cancer Screening

Douglas J. Robertson, M.D., M.P.H., and Jason A. Dominitz, M.D., M.H.S.

- First, the number of participants who were excluded from the study because of problems with sample collection or assay application was far greater in the stool DNA group (689 participants, or 6.3% of the total number) than in the FIT group (34 participants, or 0.3%).
- Second, this study compared only the one-time sensitivity of these two tests. Given the lower specificity and greater expense of stool DNA testing as compared with FIT, it is unlikely that the test would be performed annually in the way that FIT testing is recommended.
- Third, an even more important issue may be related to the specificity of stool DNA testing. Roughly 10% of the cohort had a positive stool DNA result and entirely negative results on colonoscopy. This false positive rate is an important consideration when determining the appropriate interval for screening.
- Finally, Imperiale et al. evaluated stool DNA testing among participants who had complete data for all three screening tests. However, realworld effectiveness may be different, particularly given the higher technical failure rate with stool DNA testing. The importance of compliance to the effectiveness of screening was evidenced

# Different classes of colorectal cancer associated molecular and cellular biomarkers





## CRC Biomarkers RNA-Based Tests

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- The detection of RNA markers in stool has not been as extensively studied as DNA biomarkers partly due to the fact that RNA is less stable than DNA in stool.
- Technological advances in RNA preservation buffers have made it feasible to study CRC tumor-specific RNA transcripts as stool biomarkers.
  - Detection of single and combinations of tumor mRNA transcripts, such as *PTGS2* and *MMP7*, have yielded high specificity for CRC
- Ongoing research in colorectal tumor gene expression profiles (transcriptomics) and noncoding RNA expression profiles (such as miRNAs) are currently being evaluated to identify candidate transcripts and explore their possible applications as CRC detection tools.

## *MicroRNA markers*

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- MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are small non-coding RNA that is usually 19-23 nucleotides in length.
- Due to their small sizes, miRNAs are more stable in blood and FFPE tissues than other nucleic acids such as DNA and RNA.
- miRNAs are involved in post-transcriptional regulation of gene expression: they are able to function as oncogenes or tumor suppressor genes, and dysregulation of miRNA would be associated to cancers.
- miRNAs that are specific to CRC in stool and blood samples may be identified for the development of non-invasive prognostic and predictive markers of the diseases.

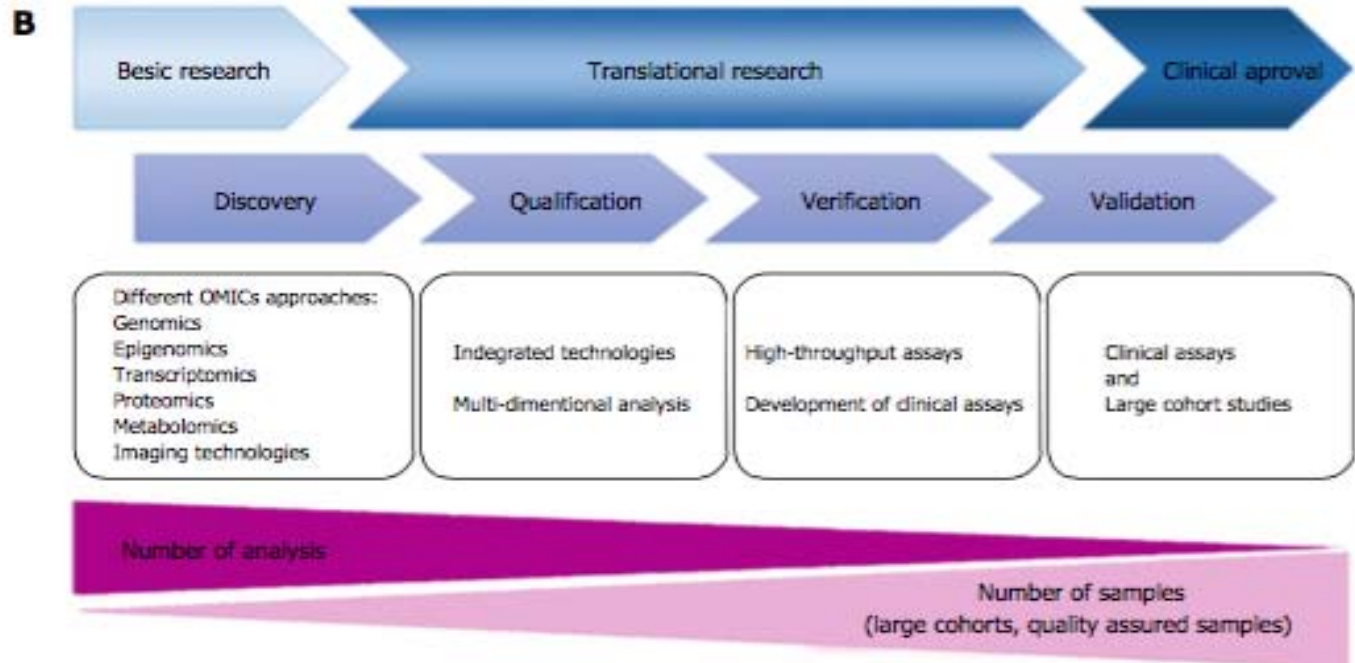
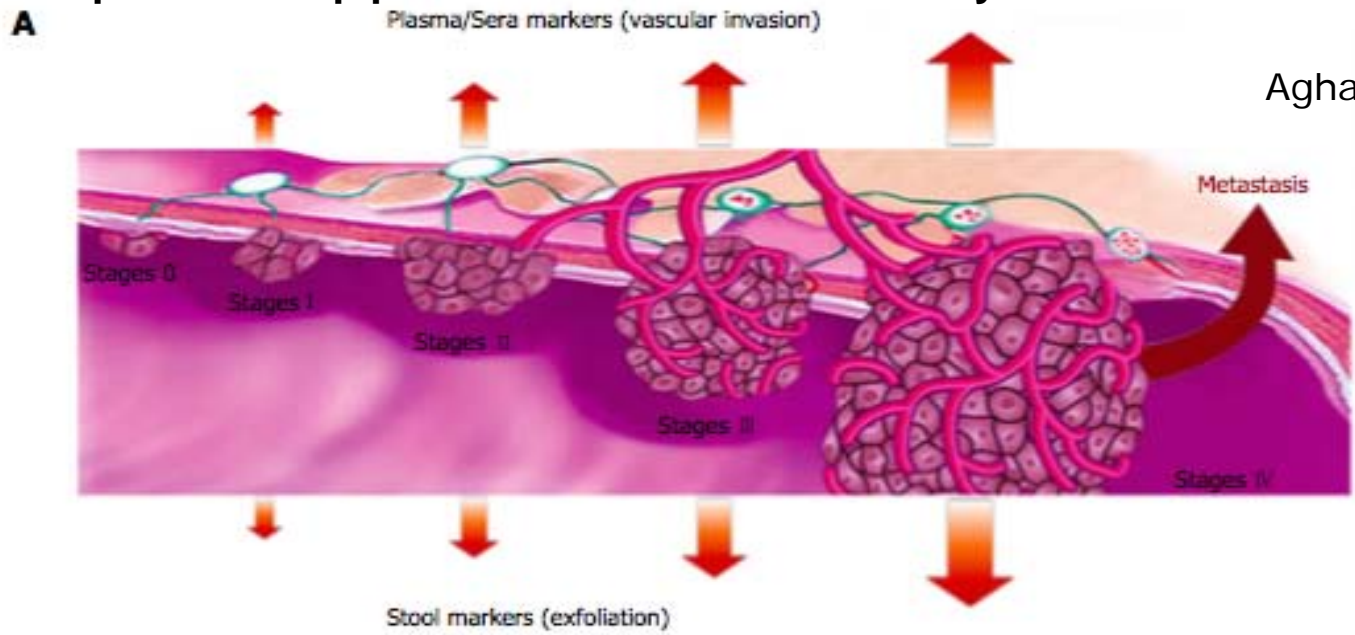
## *Noncoding RNAs in Circulation*

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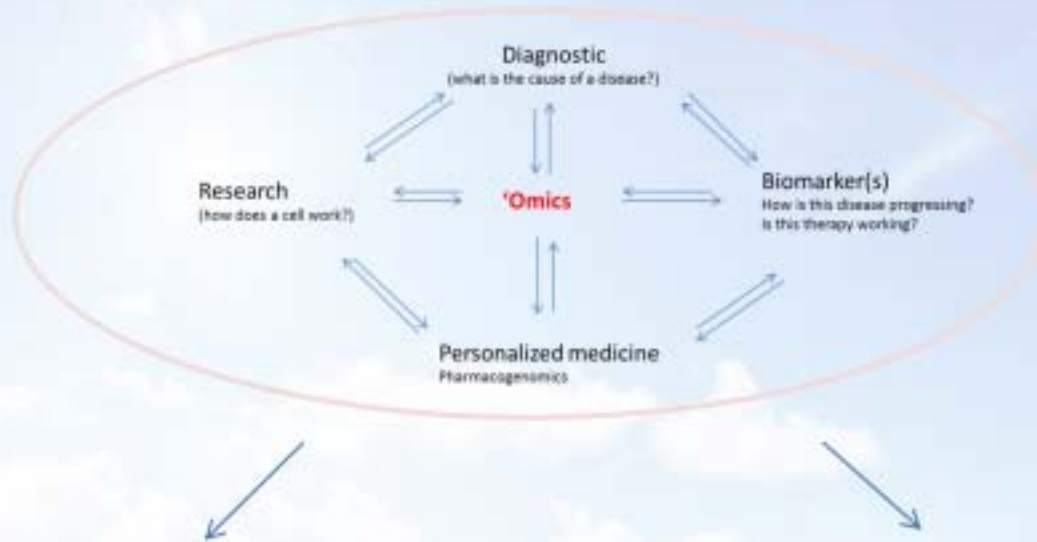
- Since the discovery of miRNAs and the association of particular miRNAs with CRC, intense research efforts have focused on the identification of CRC-specific miRNA transcripts as potential blood biomarkers.
  - One study reported that a 69-gene miRNA signature panel in plasma could differentiate between CRC and healthy patients].
  - A small study reported that a panel of eight miRNAs (miR-532-3p, miR-331, miR-331, miR195, miR-17, miR142-3p, miR15b, miR532, and miR-652) could accurately detect polyps .
  - Another group evaluated a three-miRNA panel (miRNA 193a-3p, miR23a, and miR-338-5p) for CRC detection achieving 80% sensitivity, 84.4% specificity, and 83.3% accuracy [133].
  
- Although promising, Evaluation of new miRNA candidate markers, both individually and in panels, need to be tested in large independent studies to determine their clinical usefulness.

# Schematic view of biomarker secretion during different stages of colorectal cancer development and pipelines of biomarker discovery for colorectal cancer

Aghagolzadeh P et al . 2016



# From omics to registries and biobanks and...back



## Information about the disease and the patient.

- Who is it?
- What age, sex, type of disease?
- What is the gene(s) involved? Type of mutation?
- Consent for clinical/natural history studies?
- Etc.

**Registries**

## Storage and availability of biomaterials

- What type of biomaterial: blood, serum, cells, etc.
- How many samples originating from patients with similar characteristics are stored?
- What type of controls are stored?
- Etc.

**Biobanks**

**complete integration between biobanks and registries**

# BIOBANCHE di SCREENING

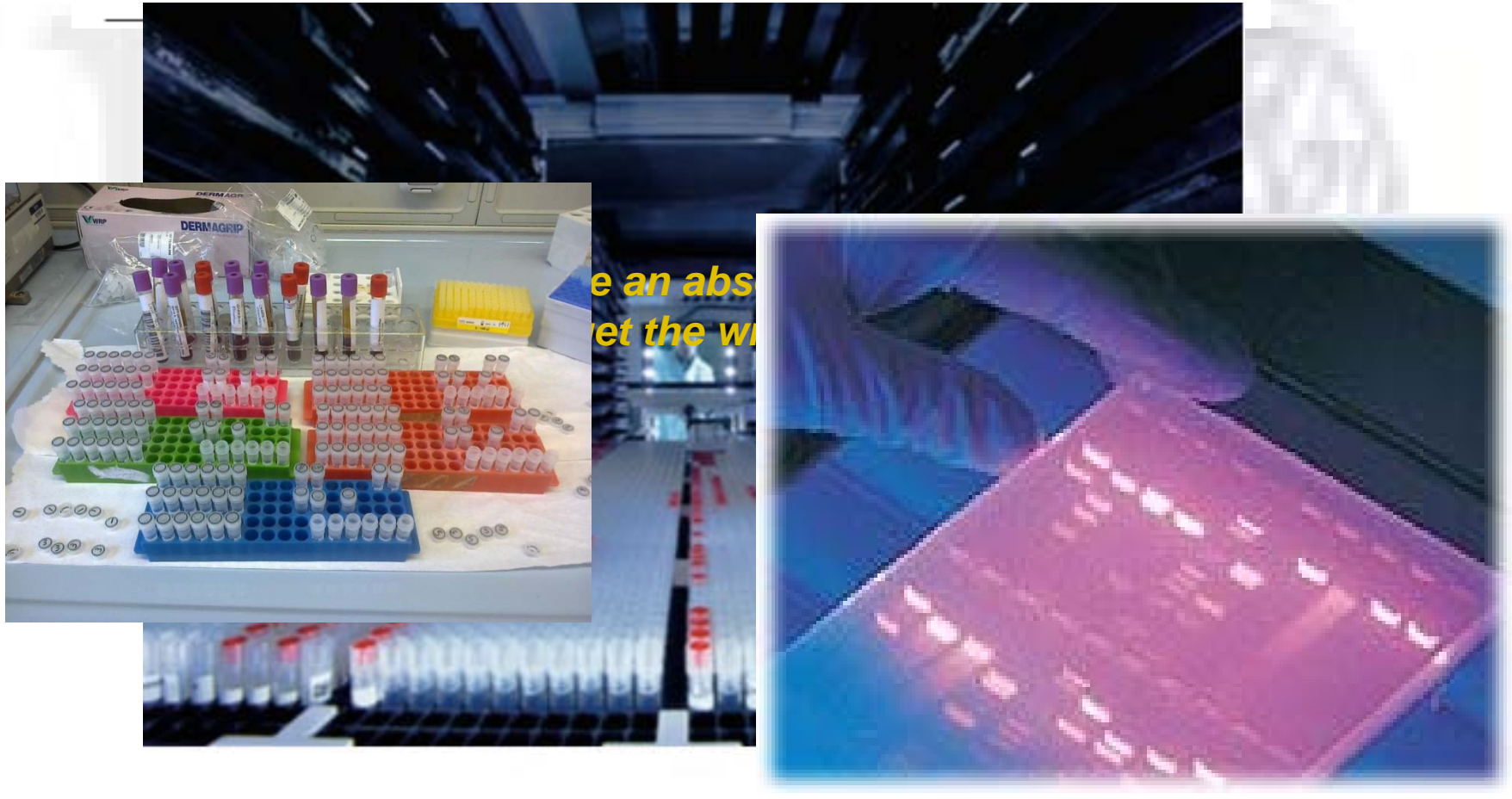
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- Perché
  - Consapevolezza che le banche biologiche sono risorse fondamentali per l'avanzamento delle conoscenze scientifiche
- Punti di forza e limiti
  - Modalità di arruolamento dei soggetti
  - Quali strumenti per favorire l'arruolamento senza appesantire il programma di screening
- Quali campioni
  - il materiale biologico deve essere raccolto con modalità semplici\*\*, di modo che ci sia una forte accettabilità da parte dei soggetti a cui viene richiesto di partecipare
- Accreditemento delle biobanche
  - garantire la qualità e l'uniformità nei processi di stoccaggio e bioconservazione dei campioni biologici

## TECHNOLOGY FEATURE

# BUILDING BETTER BIOBANKS

*High-quality, data-rich samples are essential for future research. But obtaining and storing these samples is not as straightforward as many researchers think.*







## Donazione del materiale biologico e bioetica:

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- donazione di “frammenti del sé biologico”
  - la possibilità del donatore di mantenere sempre una qualche forma di controllo sul proprio campione (diritto di revoca del consenso)
  - Il consenso deve garantire al donatore che il campione biologico non verrà mai utilizzato in progetti di ricerca da lui non condivisi
  
- donazione di informazione significative (individuale e familiare)
  
  
- la motivazione alla partecipazione di donatori sani è legata alla speranza di trarre dei benefici dalla ricerca
  - donazione da cui probabilmente non si potrà trarre alcun beneficio

# Costruzione di un sistema di comunicazione e di formazione efficace

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- Le biobanche conservano il campione e le relative informazioni per lungo tempo
- I progetti di ricerca possono portare a conoscere informazioni estremamente sensibili tanto per il donatore/paziente quanto per i suoi familiari
- Le biobanche prolematizzano lo stesso concetto di salute (informazioni genetiche)
- “processo comunicativo tra il medico/ricercatore e il paziente/donatore ed eventualmente altre figure professionali, che avviene nel tempo secondo metodologie comunicative anche nuove rispetto al passato.”
- Restituzione delle informazioni
  - Brochure,
  - Webpage
  - consenso interattivo
  - Newsletter
  - incontri formativi rivolti alla cittadinanza
- Condivisione dei benefici

## Biobanking: Hope for a cancer cure



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### What are some examples of biospecimens?

- Blood
- Urine
- Tissue
- Saliva



### What are the five steps in biobanking?



### What is biobanking?

Biobanking is the collection, processing, and storage of biospecimens for research.

### What are biospecimens?

- Biospecimens are materials from the human body.
- The most common biospecimens are blood, urine, saliva, and tissue from biopsies or surgeries.
- Depending on the study being done, other biospecimens can include nails, hair, or other body fluids.
- Sometimes, we may refer to biospecimens as "samples."



### Why are biospecimens important to research?

Biospecimens are important because they contain a great deal of biological information, such as genes and proteins, that define a person's disease. This information helps researchers understand more about disease like cancer. They help researchers learn how cancer develops, what other groups of people are at risk for cancer. This type of research can lead to new drugs and cancer treatments.

### ¿Qué son muestras biológicas?

- Las muestras biológicas son materiales que vienen del cuerpo humano.
- Las muestras biológicas más comunes son la sangre, la orina, la saliva y los tejidos de biopsias y cirugías.
- Dependiendo del estudio que se está realizando, otras muestras biológicas pueden incluir uñas, pelo o otros fluidos corporales.
- Es posible que a veces a las muestras biológicas se les llame informalmente "muestras."



### ¿Por qué son importantes las muestras biológicas para la investigación?

Las muestras biológicas son importantes porque contienen una gran cantidad de información biológica, tales como genes y proteínas que definen la información de cada persona. Esta información les ayuda a los investigadores a comprender más acerca de enfermedades como el cáncer. Las muestras ayudan a los investigadores a saber cómo se desarrolla el cáncer y qué grupos de personas están en riesgo de contractar el cáncer. Este tipo de investigación puede ayudar a desarrollar nuevos fármacos y tratamientos contra el cáncer.

## Biobanco: Una esperanza de cura para el cáncer

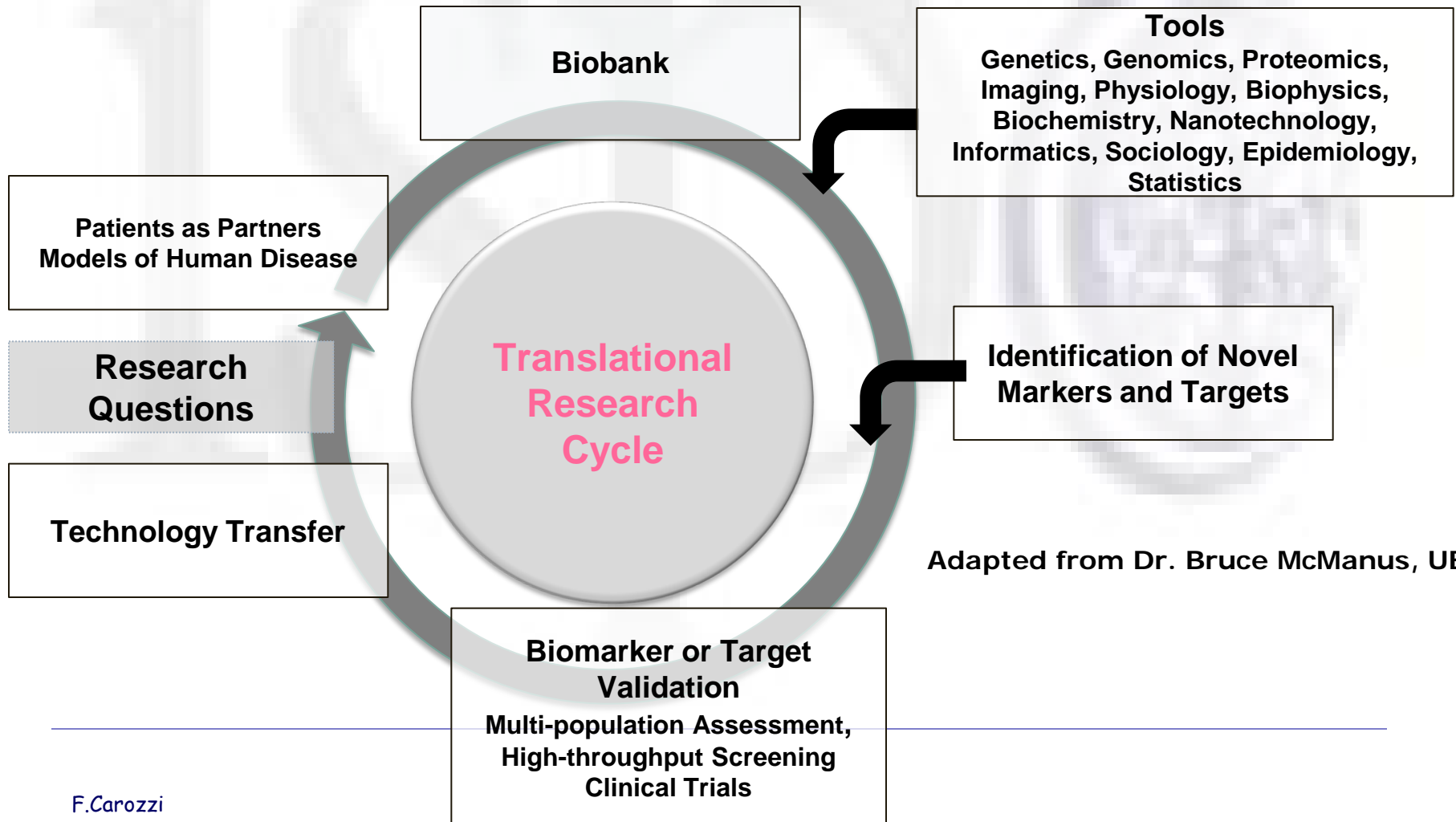


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# The Translational Research Cycle

## The Biobank is Essential to Provide Solutions





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*Grazie per l'attenzione*

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