

## **Dynamics of breast cancer relapse reveal molecularly defined late recurring ER-positive subgroups: Results from the METABRIC study**

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## Background: breast cancer recurrence

- While prognosis for early stage breast cancer (BC) has improved dramatically, 20-30% of patients recur with incurable disease
- Spatial and temporal patterns of relapse are unknown and difficult to predict
- A subset of women with early stage ER+ BC have a persistent risk of recurrence and death up to 20 years post-diagnosis (Pan et al. NEJM 2017)
- Critical need to identify tumor characteristics that are more predictive of risk of recurrence than standard clinical covariates (nodal status, tumor size, grade)

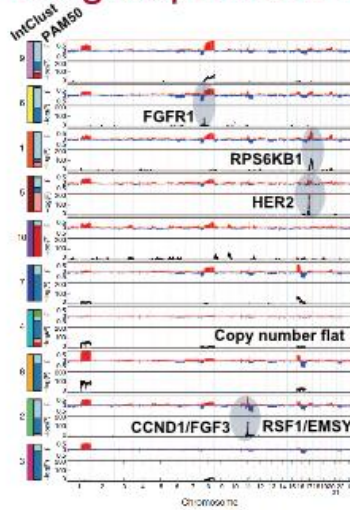
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## METABRIC Cohort Overview

- 3240 breast cancer patients derived from 5 tumor banks in the UK and Canada diagnosed between 1977-2005
- Genomic data on primary tumors from 1980 patients:
  - Copy Number, mRNA Expression (Curtis et al. *Nature* 2012)
  - miRNA Expression (Dvinge et al. *Nature* 2013)
  - Mutational profiles for 173 genes (Pereira et al. *Nature Comm* 2016)
- Long term clinical follow-up; median 14 years
- Relapse: date of first relapse for all patients (n=1079/1980), dates and sites of every relapse for 57% of patients (n=618)

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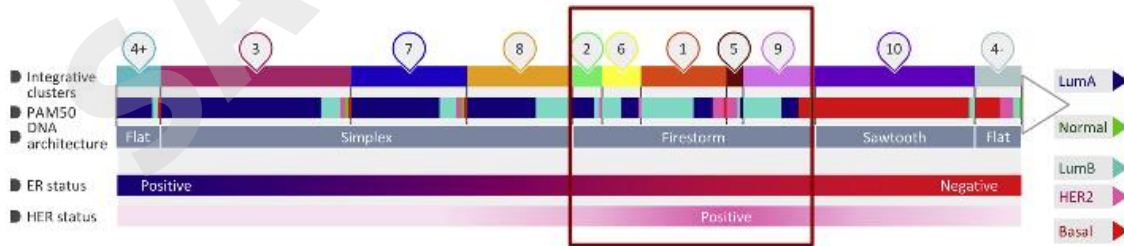
San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, December 4-8, 2018  
 The integrative subgroups have distinct 'drivers'



Curtis et al. *Nature* 2012  
 Ali et al. *Genome Bio* 2014

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San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, December 4-8, 2018  
 Mapping Integrative Subtypes



Russnes et al. *Am J Path* 2017

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## Objectives

- To characterize the timing of distant relapse across the molecular subgroups of breast cancer
  - Immunohistochemical (IHC) subtypes - based on ER/HER2 expression
  - Intrinsic (PAM50) subtypes - based on gene expression
  - Integrative subtypes (IntClust) - based on copy number and gene expression
- To evaluate the utility of integrative subtypes relative to clinical covariates to predict late distant relapse in ER+/HER2- breast cancer

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## Methods

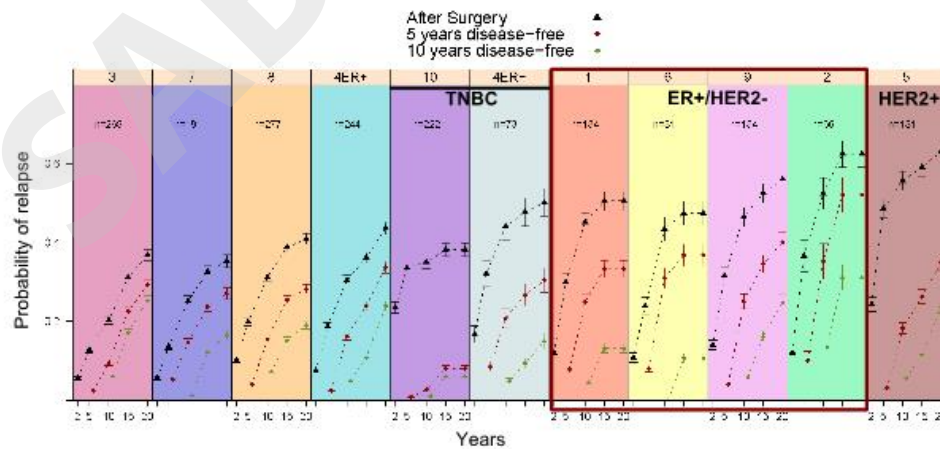
- We developed a multi-state (Cox-reset) model of breast cancer relapse allowing for competing risks, covariates and distinct baseline hazards
- We employ a 'base' clinical model accounting for:  
*age, tumor size, grade, number of lymph nodes positives, time since surgery, time since loco-regional relapse*
- Molecular subtype information (IHC, IntClust) can also be incorporated
- The utility of alternate models for predicting distant relapse was evaluated using the C-index in METABRIC and an external cohort (n=607 cases)

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# Results

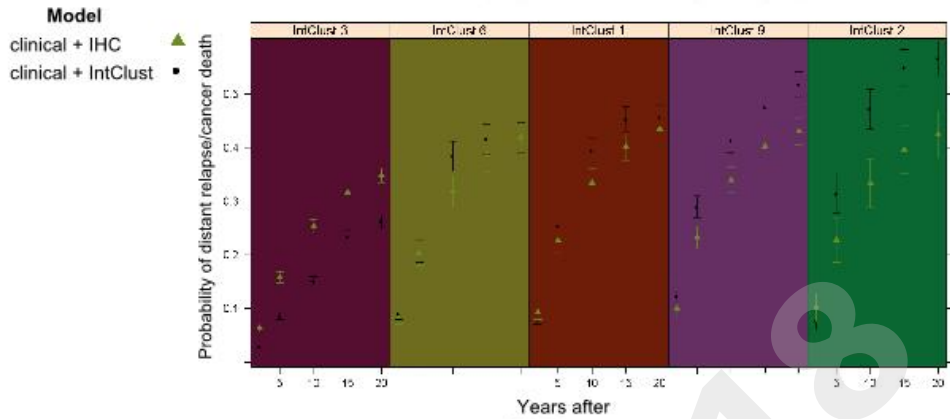
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## The integrative subtypes have varied risk of relapse



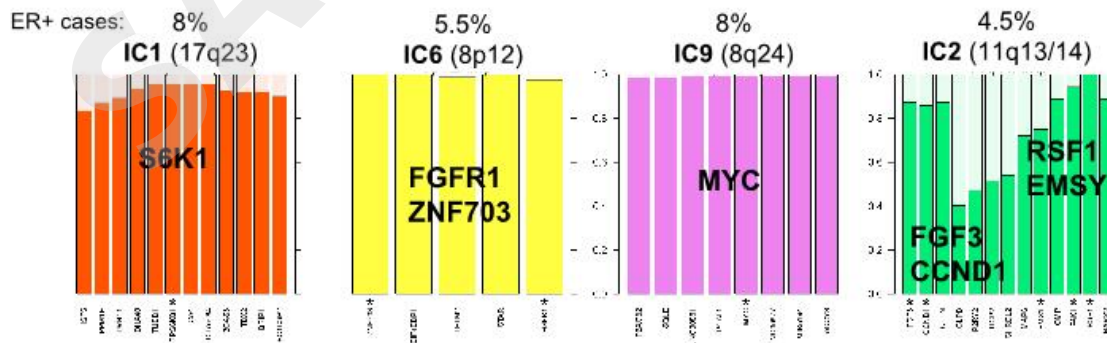
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## High risk of late distant relapse in four ER+/HER2- integrative subtypes



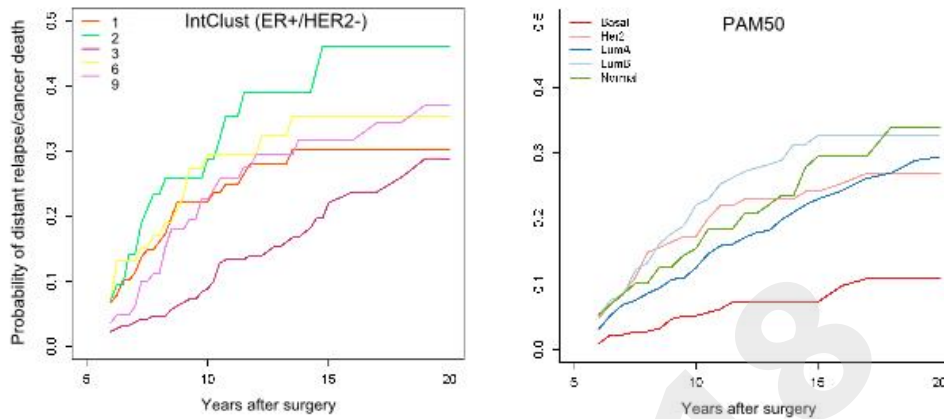
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## Distinct genomic drivers in high-risk ER+ subtypes



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## Differential risk of late distant relapse: IntClust relative to PAM50 subtypes



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## Integrative subtypes improve prediction of late distant relapse beyond clinical covariates

	10 years	15 years	20 years
<b>METABRIC</b>			
C-index (clinical + IHC)	0.618	0.612	0.604
C-index (clinical + IntClust)	0.672	0.647	0.643
<b>VALIDATION COHORT</b>			
C-index (clinical + IHC)	0.581	0.572	0.571
C-index (clinical + IntClust)	0.648	0.607	0.603

\*Analysis performed on ER+/HER2- patients who were relapse free at 5 years

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## Conclusions

- The risk of relapse and timing of first and subsequent relapses differ across the major breast cancer subgroups
- We identify four high-risk subgroups that account for 26% of ER+ tumors and the majority of late relapses; each with characteristic 'driver' alterations
- The integrative subtypes improve the prediction of late relapse compared with clinical covariates
- Our findings illuminate opportunities for improved patient stratification and biomarker-driven clinical trials for the quarter of ER-positive women with persistent risk of recurrence

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**San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, December 4-8, 2018**

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