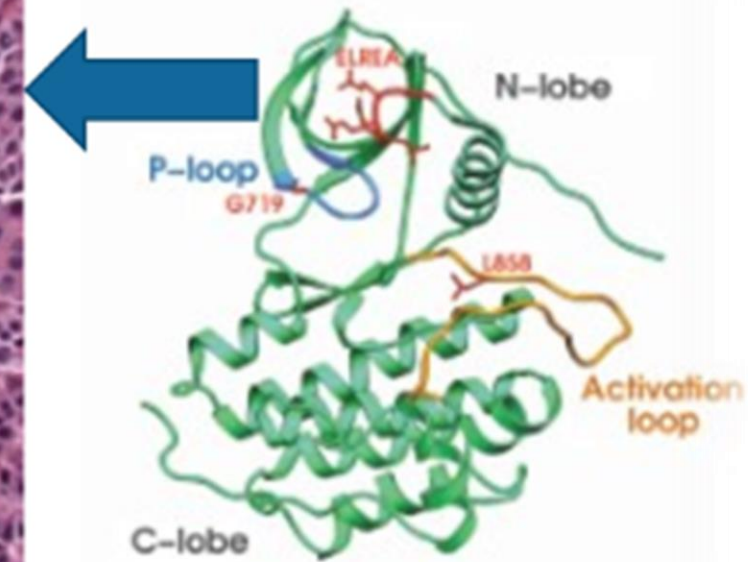
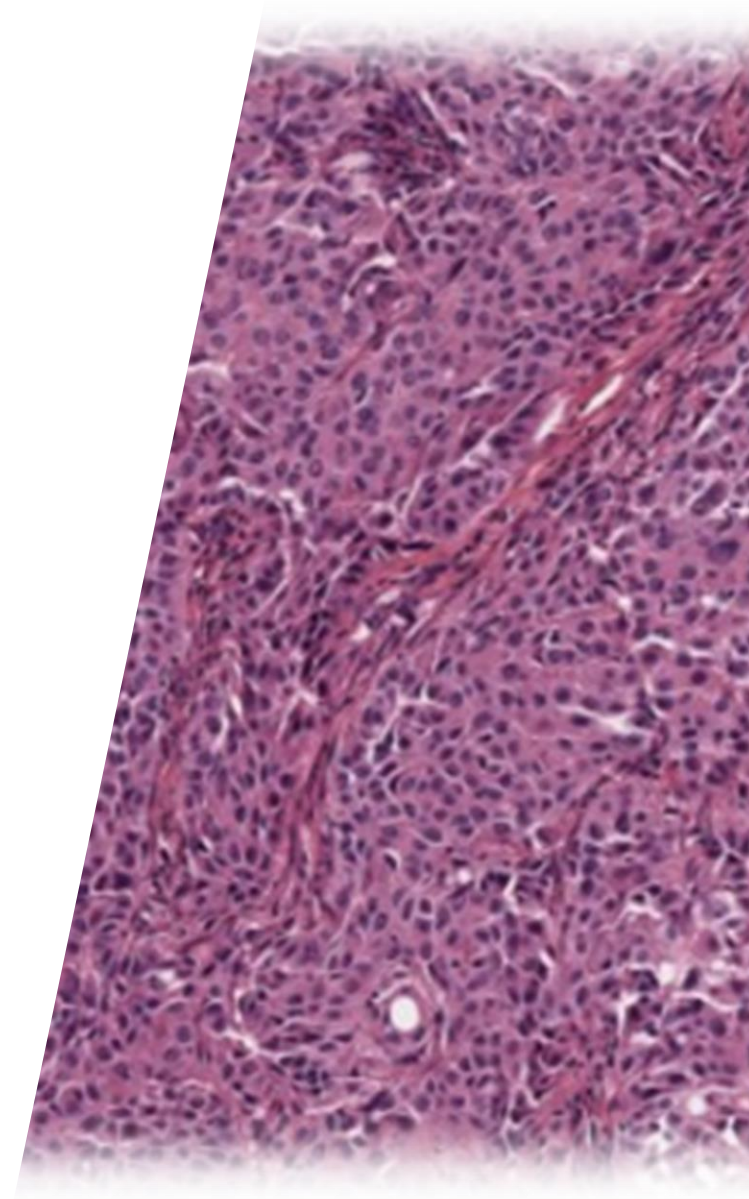


# Welcome!

*Before we begin...*

Today's session will  
be recorded

Please add your name  
and organization in  
the chat



EGFR  
Mutation



Wednesday, March 27, 2024 • 4:00 – 5:00 PM EDT

# Lung Cancer Biomarker Testing ECHO Year 3

**Session 4:** Improving Turnaround Time

# Welcome to Session 4 of the Lung Cancer Biomarker Testing ECHO Year 3



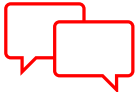
Each ECHO session will be recorded and will be posted to a publicly-facing website



You will be muted with your video turned off when you join the call. Use the buttons in the *black* menu bar to unmute your line and to turn on your video. **If you do not wish to have your image recorded, please turn OFF the video option.**



Today's materials will be made available on our ACS ECHO website, <https://echo.cancer.org>.



Please type your full name, the full name of your organization, and e-mail in the chat box



This ECHO session takes place on the Zoom platform. To review Zoom's privacy policy, please visit [zoom.us/privacy](https://zoom.us/privacy)



Questions about Zoom? Type in the chat box [@Mindi Odom](#)

The Biomarker ECHO series is made possible with funding provided by:



ONCOLOGY



Additional thanks to Foundation Medicine and founding sponsor, Amgen



**Have a question?** Don't wait to ask! Feel free to enter in the **Chat** at any time.

# Today's Agenda

**1 Housekeeping, Agenda Preview, and Introductions**  
10 minutes

**4 Case Presentation: Adam Fox, MD**  
5 minutes

**2 Didactic Lecture: Choice of Panel, Interpretation of Results and Next Steps**  
**Jason Merker, MD, PhD**  
10 minutes

**5 Case Presentation Recommendations and Discussion**  
15 minutes

**3 Didactic Q/A**  
10 minutes

**6 Post Session Poll & Wrap Up**  
5 minutes

# Your ECHO Support Team



**Korey Hofmann, MPH**  
**ECHO Lead**  
Program Manager, National Lung  
Cancer Roundtable



**Mindi Odom**  
Director, Project ECHO  
Your ECHO Co-Lead



**Beth Graham, MPH, CHES**  
Program Manager, Project ECHO



**Jennifer McBride, PhD**  
Senior Data & Evaluation Manager



**Donoria Evans, PhD, MPH**  
Director, Data and Evaluation,  
National Roundtables and Coalitions



# Introductions

## Meet Our Lung Cancer Biomarker Testing ECHO HUB Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)



**Millie Das, MD**  
Chief, Oncology  
**VA Palo Alto Health Care System**  
Clinical Associate Professor  
**Stanford University**



**Aakash Desai, MBBS, MPH**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
O'Neal Cancer Center  
**University of Alabama, Birmingham**



**Grace Dy, MD**  
Professor of Oncology  
**Roswell Park Comprehensive  
Cancer Center**



**DuyKhanh Pham "Mimi"  
Ceppa, MD, FACS**  
Associate Professor of Thoracic  
Surgery  
**Indiana University School of  
Medicine**



**Matthew Facktor, MD**  
System Chief, Thoracic Surgery  
**Geisinger Health**



**Adam Fox, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
**Medical University of South  
Carolina**



**Jason Merker, MD, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Department of  
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine &  
Genetics  
**University of North Carolina  
Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer  
Center**



# Introductions

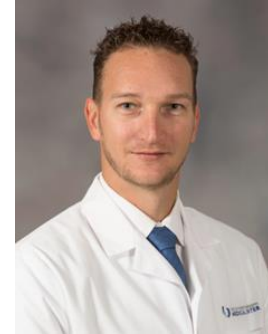
## Meet Our Lung Cancer Biomarker Testing ECHO HUB Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)



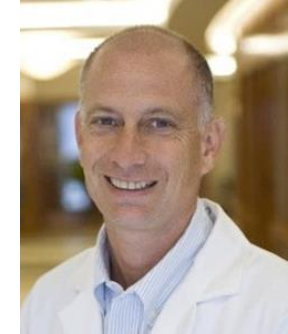
**Koosha Paydary, MD, MPH, MSc**  
Assistant Professor, Department of  
Internal Medicine  
**Rush University**



**Catherine R. Sears, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine,  
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care,  
Sleep and Occupational Medicine  
**Indiana University School of  
Medicine**  
**Simon Comprehensive Cancer  
Center**



**Michal Senitko, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
**The University of Mississippi  
Medical Center**



**Gerard Silvestri, MD, MS**  
Hillenbrand Professor of Thoracic  
Oncology  
**Medical University of South  
Carolina**



**Heather Wakelee, MD  
(Ad Hoc)**  
Professor of Medicine and Chief  
of the Division of Oncology,  
**Stanford University School of  
Medicine**  
Deputy Director, **Stanford  
Cancer Institute**



**Ignacio Wistuba, MD**  
Professor and Chair, Department of  
Translational Pathology  
**The University of Texas MD  
Anderson Cancer Center**

# Welcome to our Participant Learning Sites



## ALABAMA

Mobile Infirmary

O'Neal  
Comprehensive  
Cancer Center at the  
University of Alabama  
at Birmingham

University of South  
Alabama Health,  
Mitchell Cancer  
Institute

## CALIFORNIA

Comprehensive  
Cancer Center at  
Desert Regional  
Medical Center

Fresno VA Medical  
Center

Harbor UCLA

Providence St. Joseph  
Health

Sharp Healthcare

## INDIANA

Ascension St. Vincent  
Indianapolis

Deaconess Hospital,  
Inc.

Franciscan Alliance  
Burrell Cancer Center  
Crown Point

Methodist Hospitals

## NORTH CAROLINA

Cone Health Medical  
Group/Cone Health  
Cancer Center

Novant New Hanover  
Regional Medical  
Center

UNC Caldwell McCreary



## Lung Cancer Biomarker Testing ECHO FACILITATOR

**Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO**

Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center  
Lung Cancer Program  
Senior Consultant, Dana-Farber  
Cancer Institute



**Jason Merker, MD, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of Pathology  
and Laboratory Medicine & Genetics

**University of North Carolina**

**Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center**

## Session 4 Didactic: Improving Turnaround Time

# ACS/NLCRT ECHO Session 4: Improving Turnaround Time

Jason D. Merker, MD, PhD

Associate Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine & Genetics

Director, Molecular Oncology

[jason\\_merker@med.unc.edu](mailto:jason_merker@med.unc.edu)

March 27, 2024

# Conflict of Interest

- **Research Grant:** Illumina, NCI/NIH, Alliance Foundation
- **Consultant:** PierianDx, Velsera
- **Advisor:** Bristol Myers Squibb, Illumina

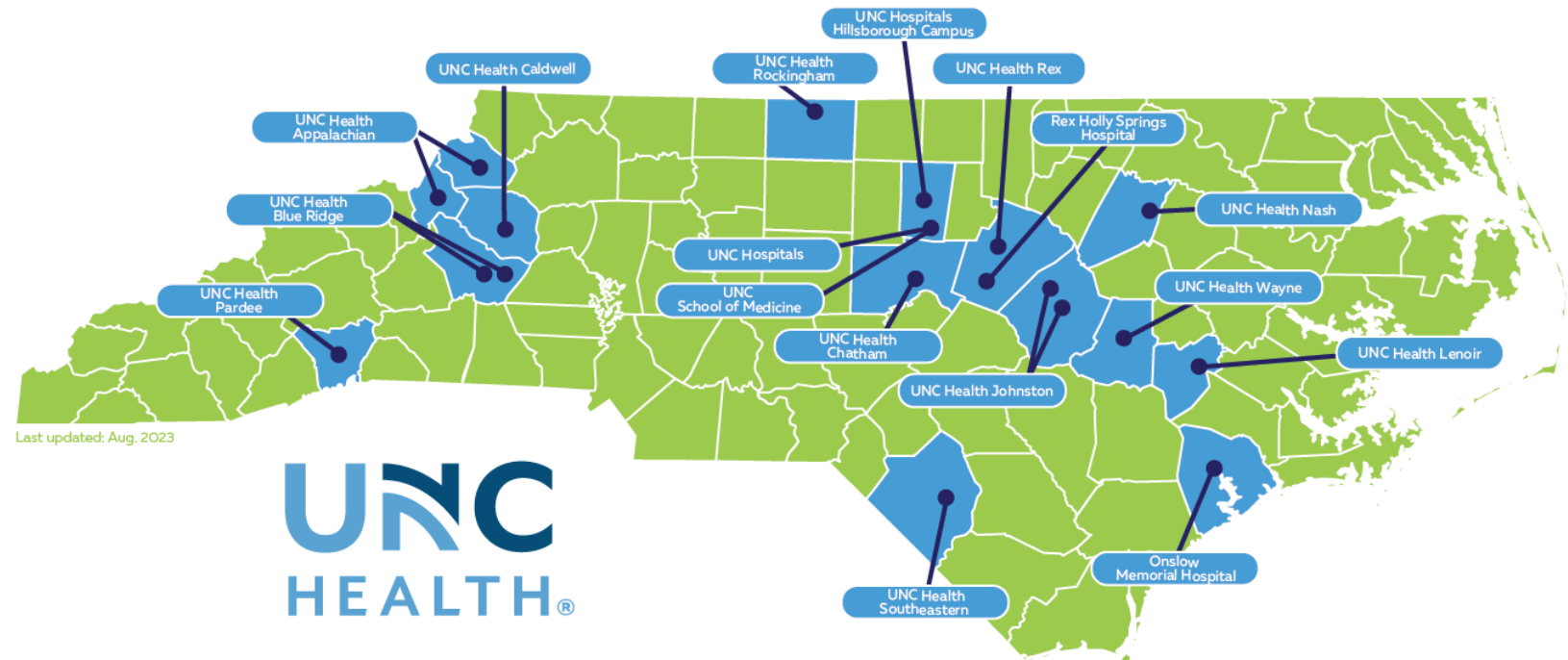


# Objectives

- Offer strategies to reduce turnaround time
- Present strategies to help ameliorate the patient's wait time for the results

# Disclaimers

- There are multiple approaches that can improve turnaround time at different steps.
- What works well at one site may not work well at another.



# Turnaround Time (TAT) laboratory definitions

Start Time	End Time	Percentage of Laboratories
Receipt of specimen in laboratory	Result reporting	41.1%
Test order	Result reporting	27.0%
Specimen collection	Result reporting	18.2%
Other combinations		13.7%

## Also consider measure and units:

- Median vs. 90% completion
- Calendar days vs. business days

# Example Workflow

▼ Potential TAT start times

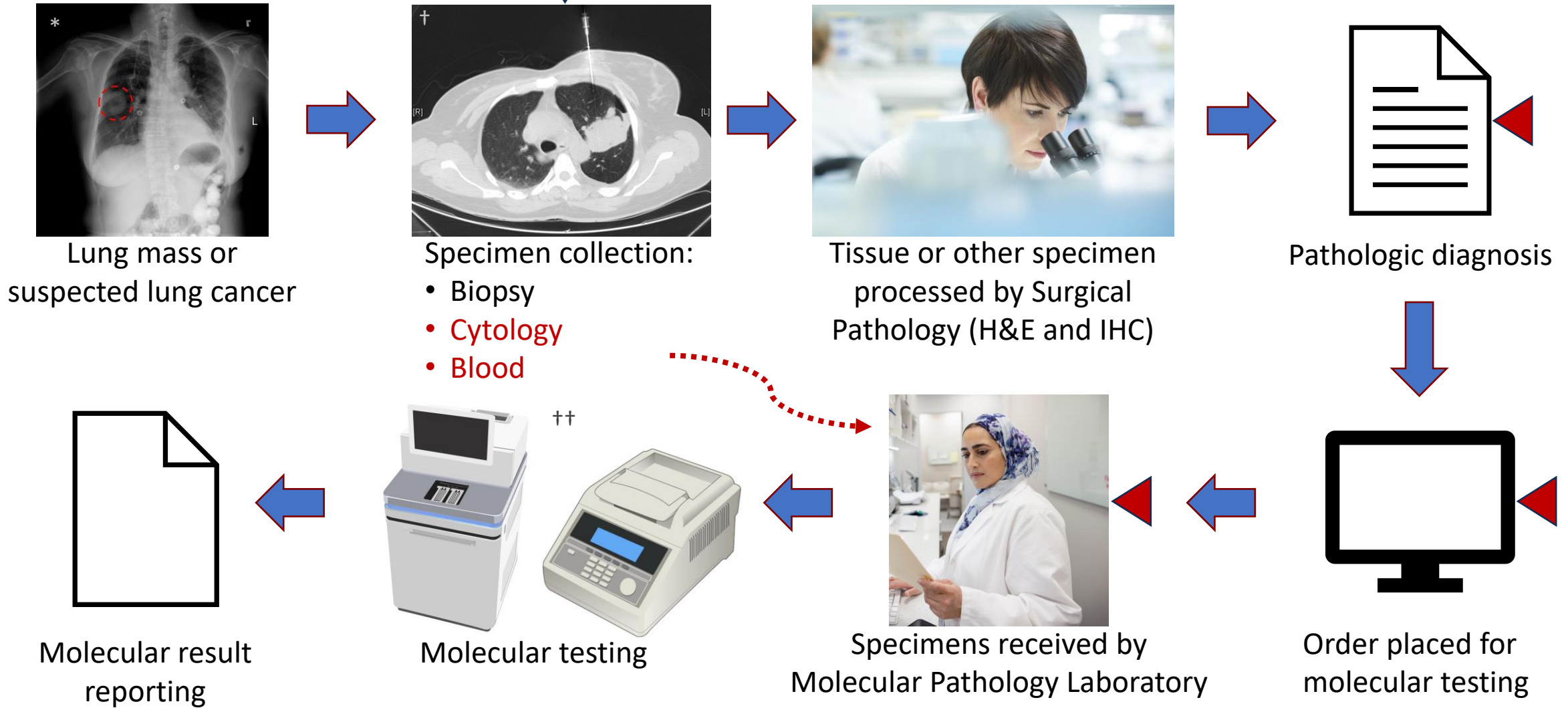


Image Credits:

\*NIH Image Gallery, CC BY-SA 2.0 DEED, <https://nihcc.app.box.com/v/ChestXray-NIHCC>

†Dr. Yale Rosen Atlas of Pulmonary Pathology, CC BY-NC 2.0 DEED, [https://www.flickr.com/photos/pulmonary\\_pathology/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pulmonary_pathology/)

†† DataBase Center for Life Science (DBCLS), CC BY 4.0 DEED, <https://togotv.dbcls.jp/togopic.2019.33.html>

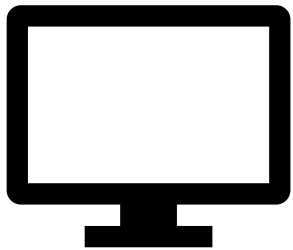
# General considerations for optimizing TAT

- Most variability in molecular testing TAT occurs in preanalytical steps prior to receipt of specimens in laboratory.
- Establishing a workflow and tracking system for these preanalytical steps can improve TAT consistency.
- These processes and systems take time and resources to implement; therefore, consider limiting number of vendors.
- Thoracic specimens generally have an appreciable failure rate so having a backup plan, generally involving plasma-based testing, is important.
- Learn from cases with extended TAT.

# TAT – Pathologic diagnosis > Molecular test order



Pathologic diagnosis



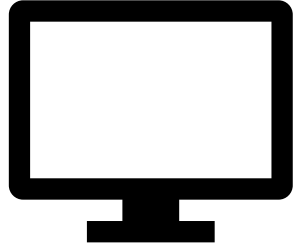
Order placed for  
molecular testing

## Potential strategies to reduce TAT:

- Reflex testing
- Establish who will order (e.g., interventional provider, pathologist, oncologist).
- Consider any required counseling, consent, or financial assistance processes in establishing this workflow.



# TAT – Molecular test order > Specimens in lab



Order placed for  
molecular testing



Specimens received by  
Molecular Pathology Laboratory

## Potential strategies to reduce TAT:

- Determine workflow for sending specimens and other required information (e.g., pathology report and clinic notes).
- Many molecular laboratories will take responsibility for acquiring specimens.
- Are there workflow solutions to reduce time for pathology laboratory to send specimens (e.g., note best block for molecular testing, sending blocks in place of slides, prioritizing urgent cases).
- Rapid on-site evaluation (ROSE) or intraoperative diagnosis.

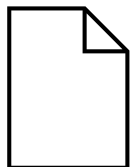
# TAT – Specimens in molecular lab > Result reporting



Specimens received by  
Molecular Pathology Laboratory



Molecular testing



Molecular result  
reporting

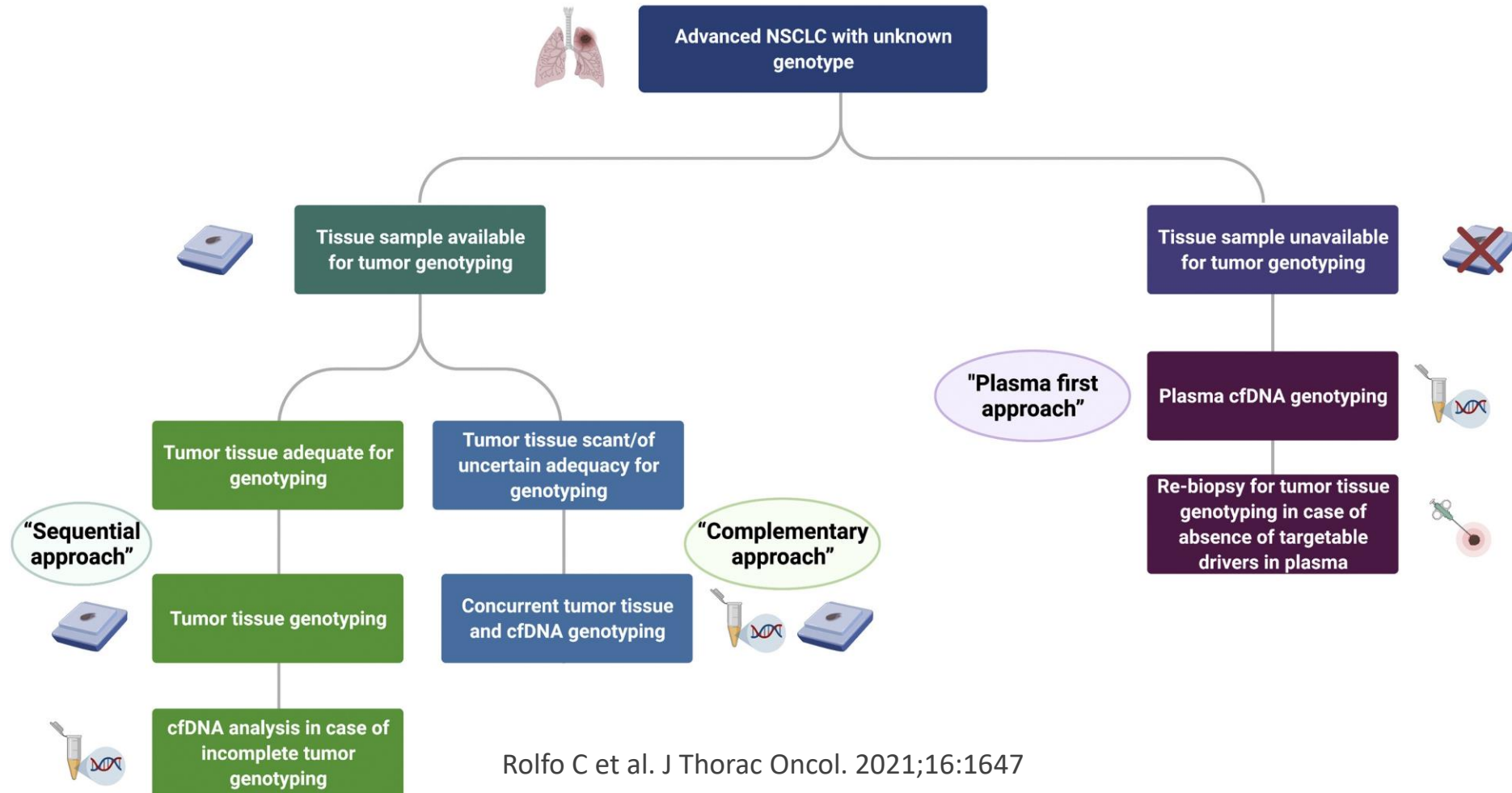
## Potential strategies to reduce TAT:

- For groups using external laboratories, evaluate TAT data for past 6-12 months during vendor evaluation.
- ctDNA assays generally have shorter overall TAT than tissue-based assays due to preanalytical and analytical considerations – concurrent or sequential testing.
- PCR-based panels can have shorter overall TAT than NGS-based panels. This is primarily useful when less comprehensive testing is acceptable (e.g., neoadjuvant setting).

# TAT – Specimens in molecular lab > Result reporting

If using sequential approach, have low threshold for starting ctDNA when you encounter initial problems:

- Challenging specimens (e.g., bone)
- Older pathology cases
- Any initial specimen issues in molecular laboratory



# Establishing a workflow and tracking system

Implementation of  
manual workflow

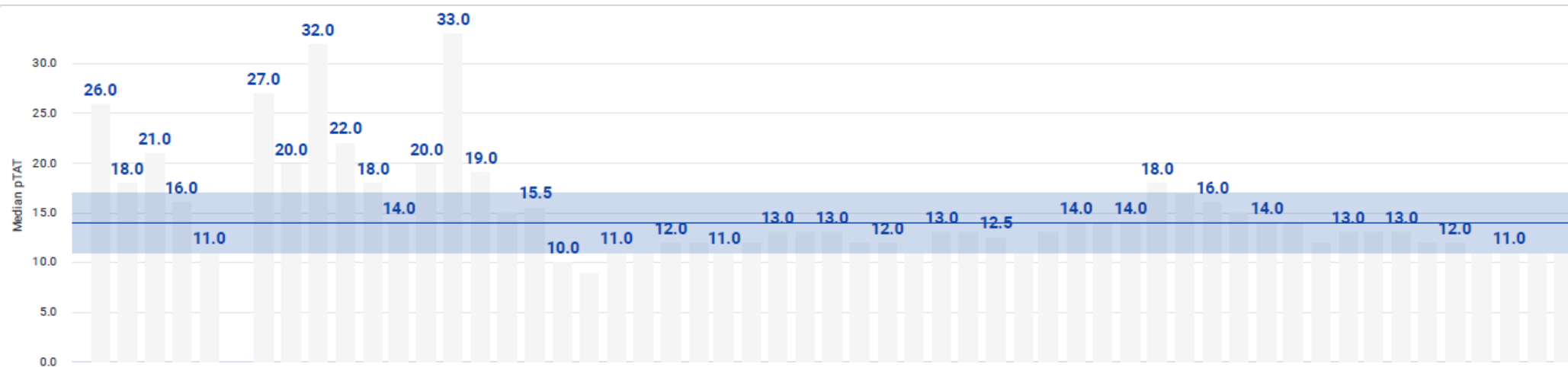


QI and EHR/LIMS  
tracking



pTAT for expanded panel (from order to result reporting)

- Median
- Calendar days



Cases with pTAT >14 days	Observed TAT (calendar days)
Patient 1	18
Patient 2	16
Patient 3	17
Patient 4	32
Patient 5	15

# Conclusions

- Definition of TAT varies.
- Most variability in molecular testing TAT occurs in preanalytical steps; therefore, establishing a workflow and tracking system for these steps can improve TAT.
- Thoracic specimens can have an appreciable failure rate for expanded NGS-based testing, so having a plan for such cases can reduce delays.

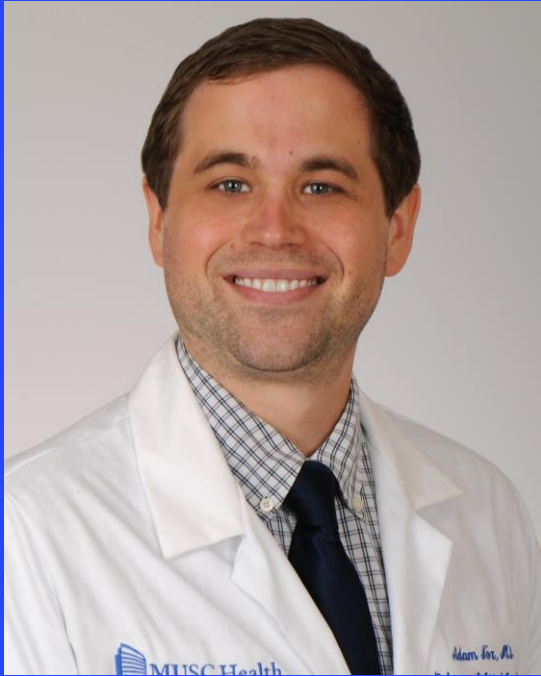


# Thank You



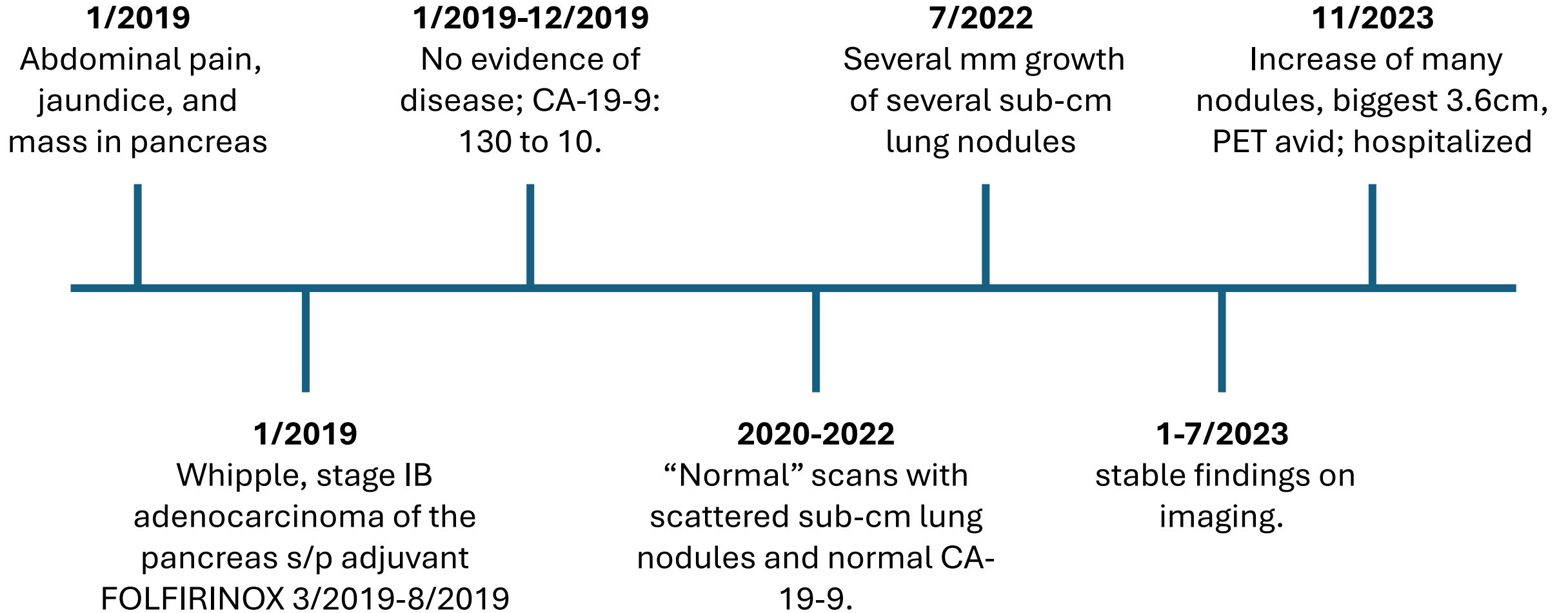


# Open Discussion: Questions & Answers



**Adam Fox, MD, MSCR**  
Assistant Professor  
Medical University of South  
Carolina

## Session 4 Case Presentation



**12/2023**

Bronchoscopy with FNA:  
Adenocarcinoma, molecular  
ordered 24 hrs after all samples  
resulted from bronchoscopy

**1/2024**

Whipple sample reviewed. (Had  
to be identified and brought from  
the off-site pathology warehouse)

Patient proceeded with  
treatment directed towards  
pancreatic cancer

**Thoracic tumor board**

Most consistent with metastasis to  
lung. CEA also elevated. Primary  
oncologist desires biopsy prior to  
treatment planning

**1/2024**

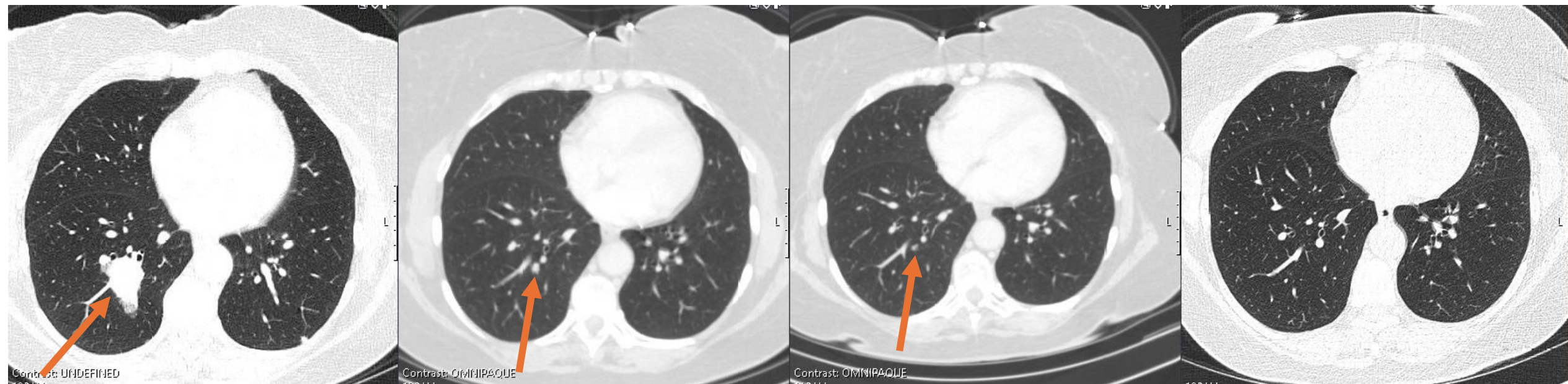
Both samples: KRASG12D and 8q (MYC)  
amplification along several other copy number  
changes in common, suggesting a common origin

11/21/2023

7/20/2022

8/11/2021

1/11/19



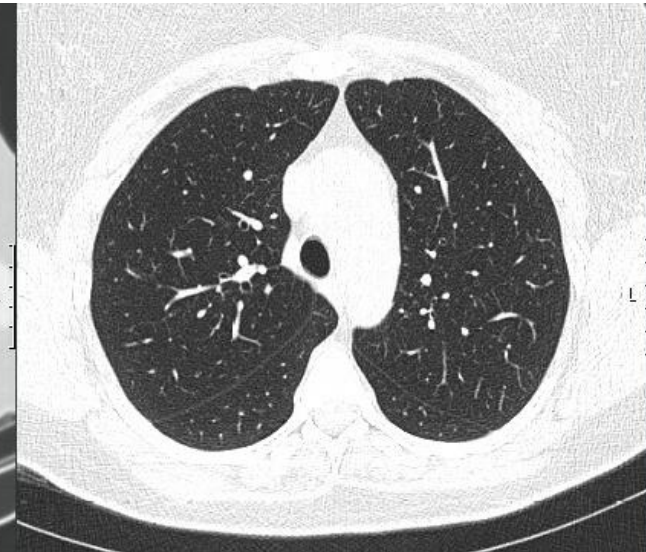
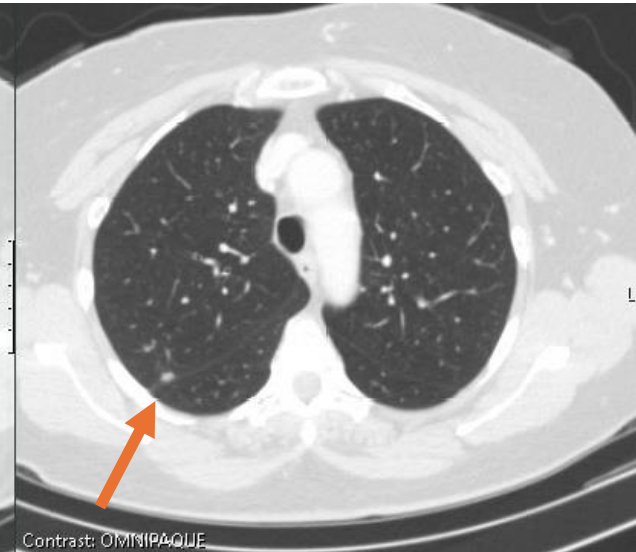
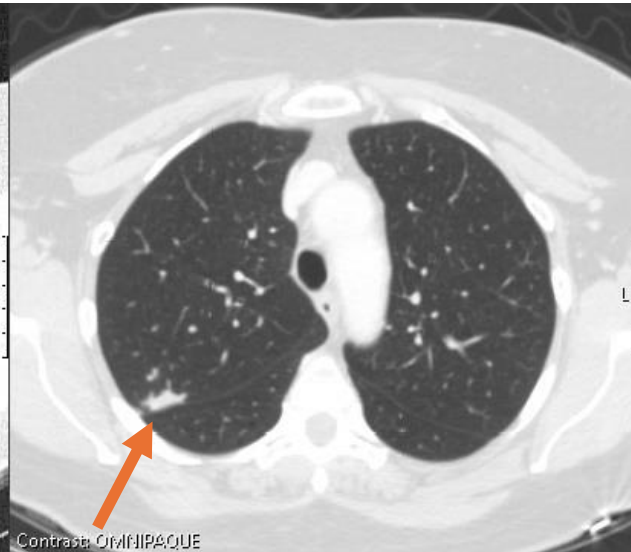
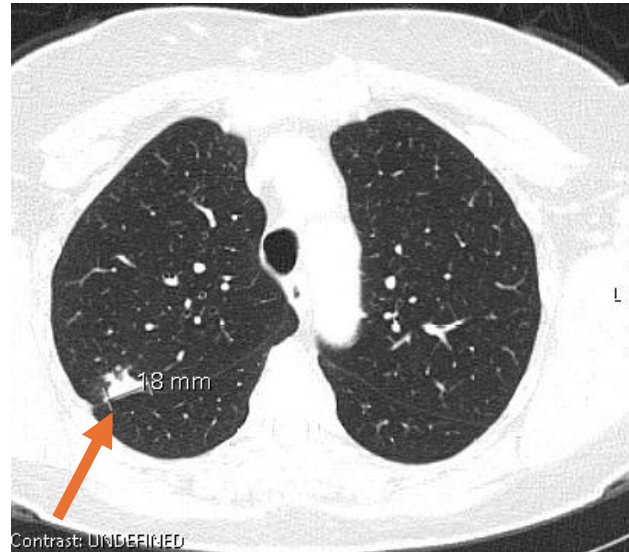


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8/11/2021

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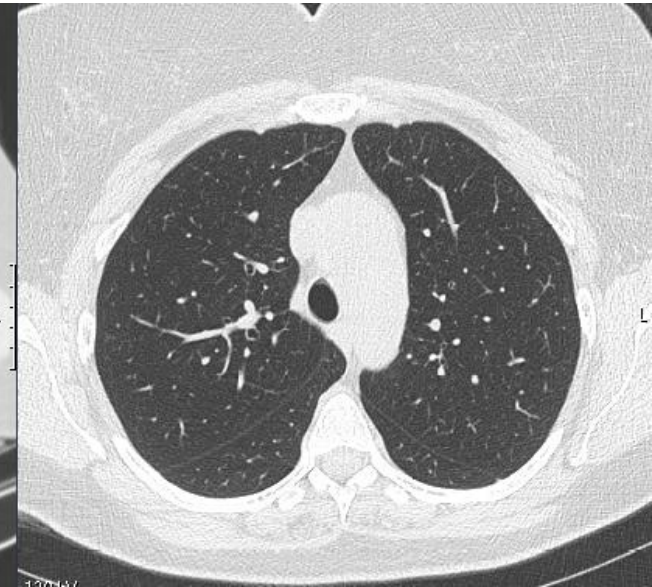
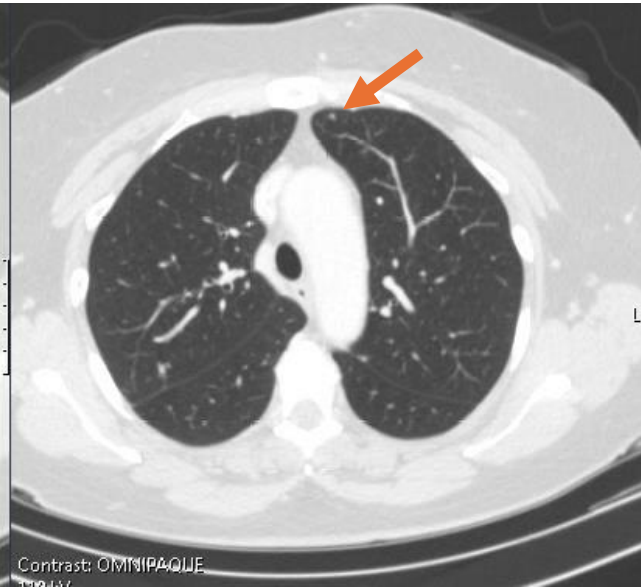
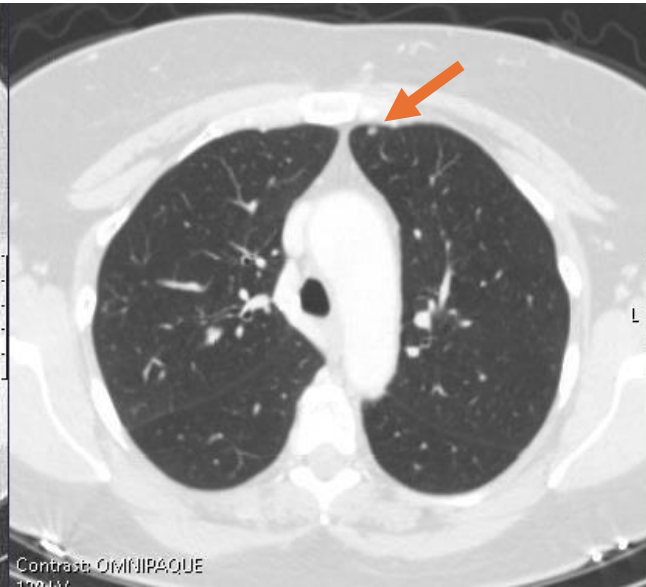
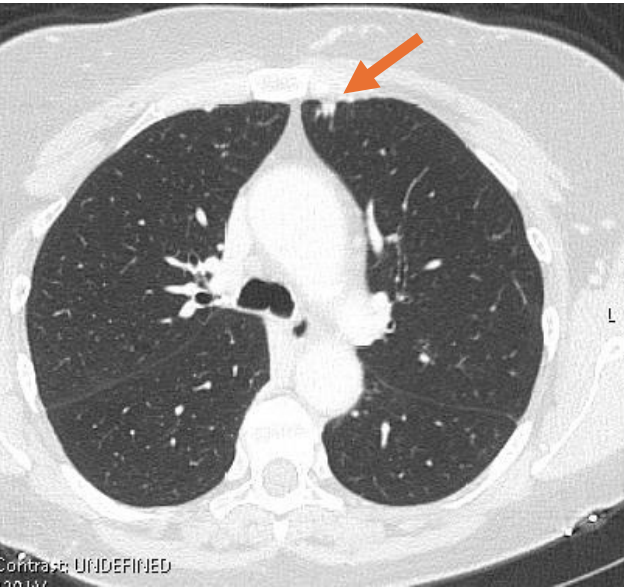


11/21/2023

7/20/2022

8/11/2021

1/11/19



There are other small scattered nodules throughout the lungs

# Summary

- Patient initially with history local pancreatic cancer presents several years later with chronic growing and then more rapidly growing lung nodules that are suspicious for malignancy
- Worrisome for delayed metastases from pancreatic primary or new metastatic lung; time alone favored lung somewhat but not to the entire multi-disciplinary team
- Molecular profiles were suggestive of common tumor origin and along with time course was convincing to all and informed appropriate treatment



# Case Learning Points

- Timely molecular testing is critical for those with possible lung cancer as it directs the most appropriate treatment, even when no actionable mutations are found
- Patients with unique scenarios are often further delayed in molecular testing
  - Examples
    - Identifying primary origin; suspected multiple primary malignancies
    - Stored samples in warehouses must be found and couriered before starting the regular molecular process

# Questions

1. What other scenarios cause patients to have extra delays in molecular/treatment?
2. What communication tools and processes do people use to create efficiency in TAT?

*This case is in memoriam for a loving mother, wife, nurse, teacher, and friend to many at MUSC.*



# Open Discussion: Questions & Answers

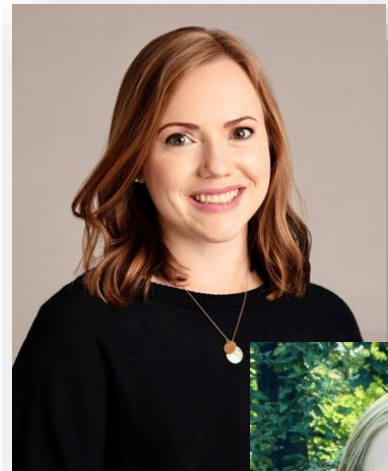
# Session Reminders

**Session 4 Slides, Recordings, & Resources** will be made available within one week. All resources will be available on the [ACS ECHO Website](#).

**Register Today** for **Session 5**

*April 24, 2024*

2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT



**Topic:** Navigating Insurance Complexities

**Didactic Presenters:** Hilary Gee Goeckner, MSW & Cori Chandler, MPA  
**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**

**Case Presenter:** Andrew Liman, MD, Fresno VA Medical Center

Session #	Month	Date	Time (ET)	Didactic Topic	Didactic Presenter	Facilitator
0	December	Weds. 12/13	4:00–5:00pm	Series Kick-Off: Introduction to ECHO and Biomarker Testing Guideline Overview:	Mimi Ceppa, MD, Aakash Desai, MBBS, MPH, Hilary Goeckner	Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO
1	January	Weds. 1/17	4:00–5:00pm	Understanding the Barriers and Pathways to Lung Cancer Biomarker Testing	Millie Das, MD	Timothy Mullett, MD, MBA, FACS
2	February	Fri. 2/9	4:00–5:00pm	Adequate Tissue for Sampling	Nichole Tanner, MD, MSCR	Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO
3	March	Weds. 3/6	4:00–5:00pm	Choice of Panel, Interpretation of Results and Next Steps	Ignacio Wistuba, MD	Timothy Mullett, MD, MBA, FACS
4	March	Weds. 3/27	4:00–5:00pm	Improving Turnaround Time	Jason Merker, MD, PhD	Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO
5	April	Weds. 4/24	2:00 - 3:00pm	Navigating Insurance Complexities	Hilary Goeckner & Cori Chandler	Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO
6	May	Fri. 5/24	12:00 - 1:00pm	Series Wrap Up and Next Steps	Patient speaker	Timothy Mullett, MD, MBA, FACS

# A Few Reminders



**Next ECHO Session: April 24, 2024, 2:00–3:00 PM ET Topic:** Navigating Insurance Complexities



Please *register now* for [Session 5](#) by using the QR code or the link in the chat.



**Slides, Recordings, & Resources** will be made available within one week. All resources will be available on the [ACS ECHO Website](#).



**Case Presentations:** Ready to schedule your presentation?  
Contact [Korey.Hofmann@cancer.org](mailto:Korey.Hofmann@cancer.org)



Please send us a high-definition logo for your system.



Contact Korey if you haven't received calendar invitations for **Sessions 5 & 6**.



**Questions?** Korey Hofmann | [korey.hofmann@cancer.org](mailto:korey.hofmann@cancer.org) or Mindi Odom | [mindi.odom@cancer.org](mailto:mindi.odom@cancer.org)



# Questions?



# Thank You

Session 5

