

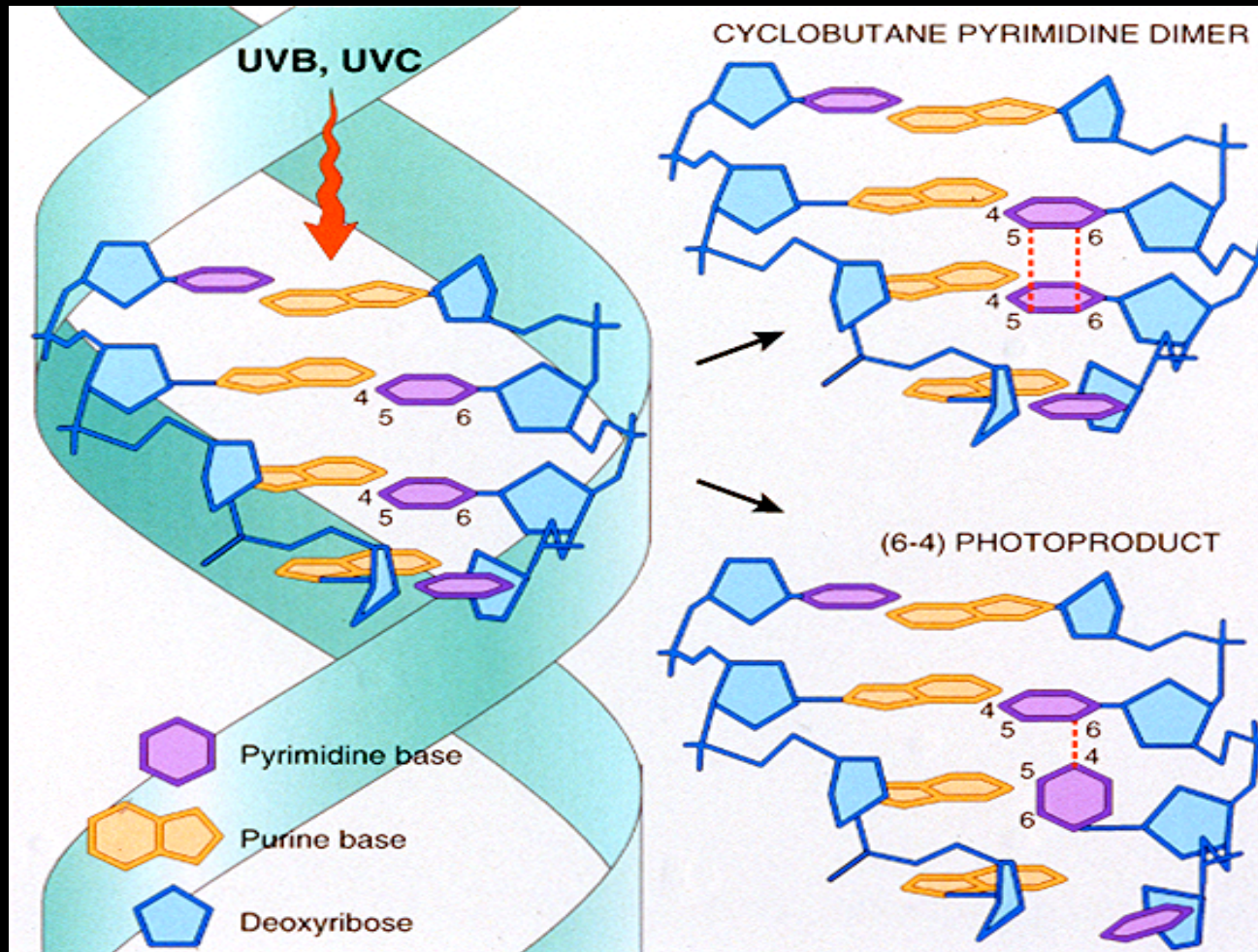
A microscopic image of cells, likely from a tissue section, showing various brown-stained areas. The staining is concentrated in certain regions, possibly indicating the presence of specific proteins or DNA photoproducts. The background shows a dense population of cells with light purple nuclei.

Privileged Sites for DNA Photoproducts: genomic sensors & the control of clonal expansion

Douglas E. Brash, PhD
Yale School of Medicine



UV photoproducts in DNA



1 hr
Texas noon sun:
10,000 per cell

~ 100 UV mutations per cell

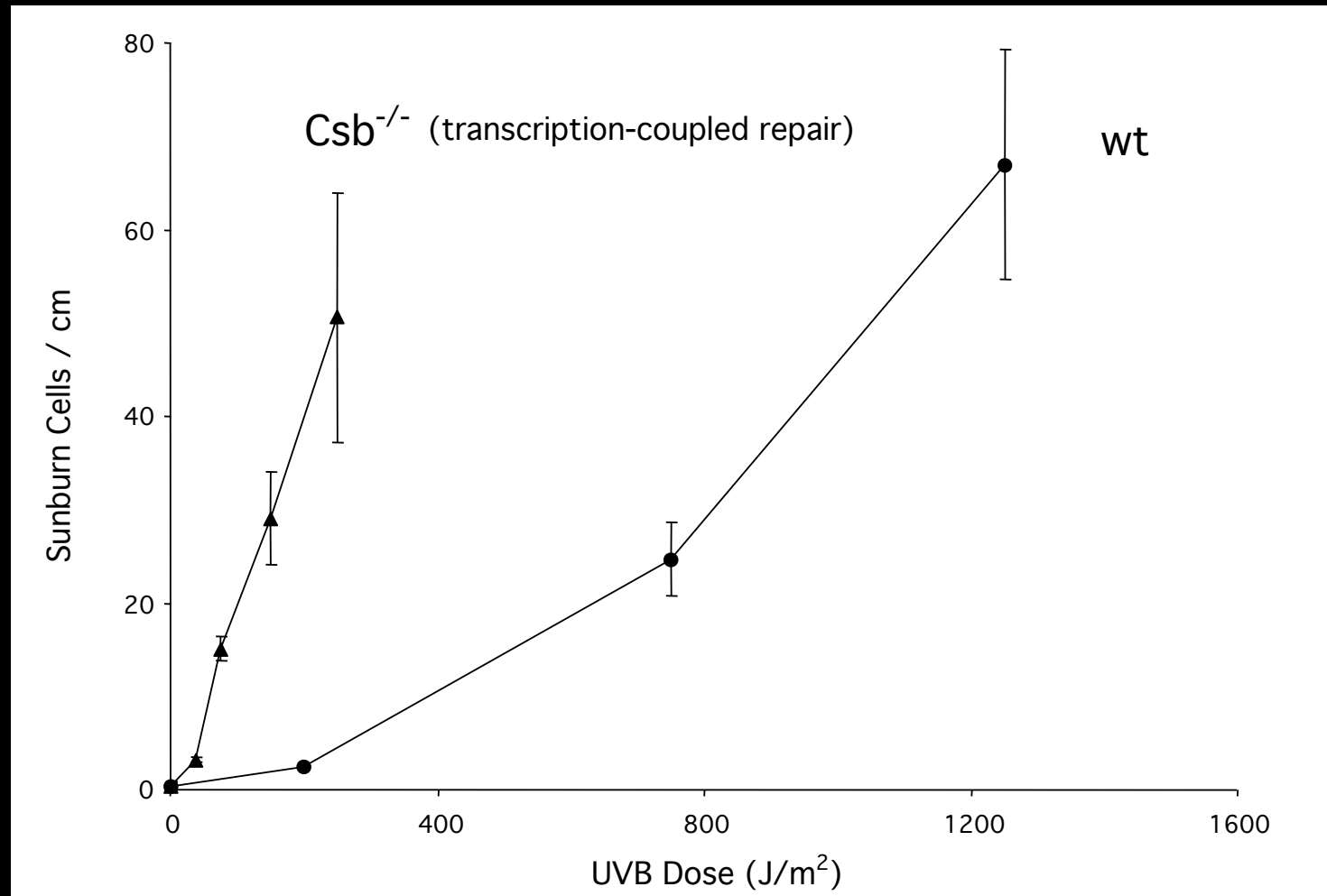
UV signature mutations

C → T at dipyrimidine sites
CC → TT are distinctive for UV

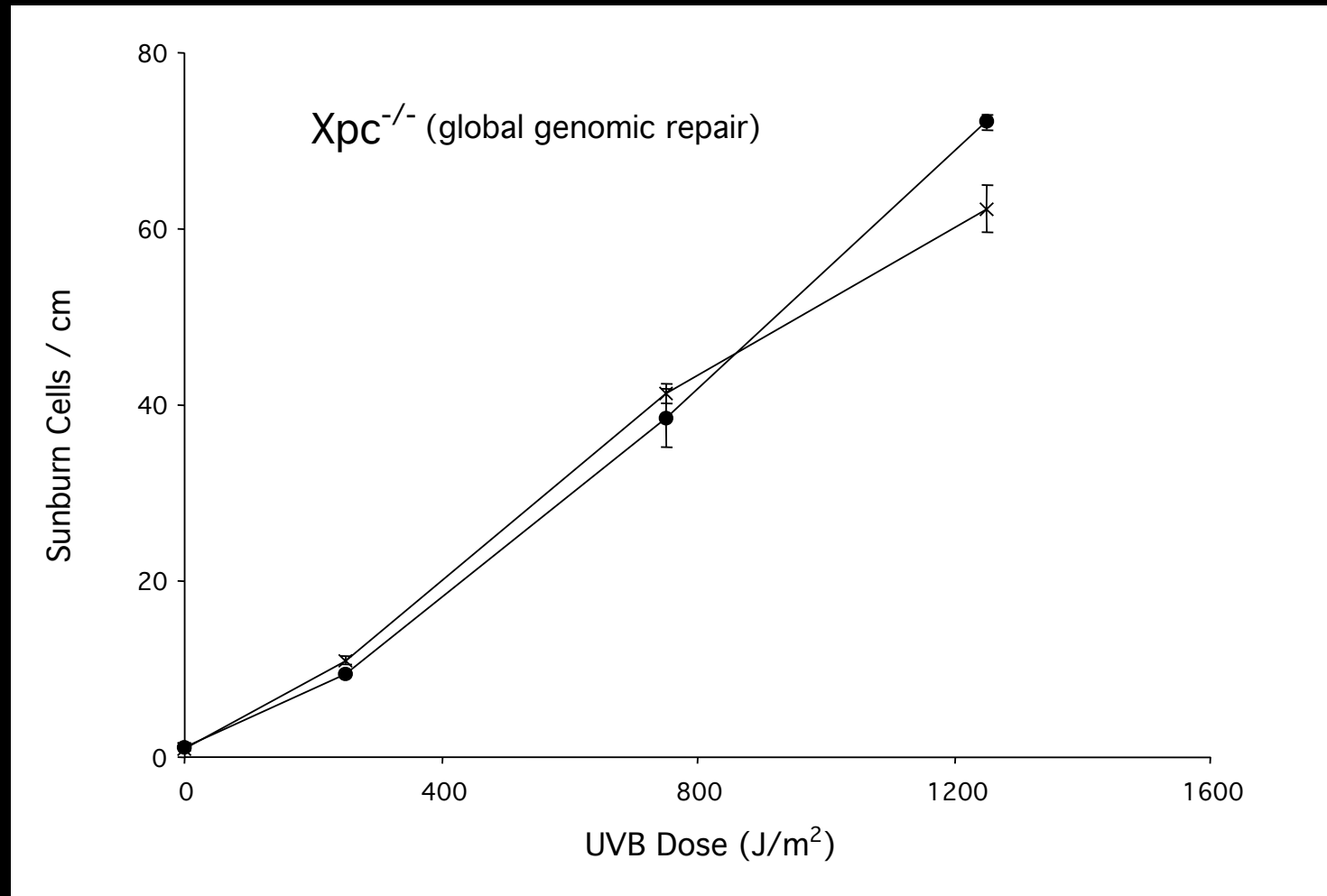
p53
PTCH
PTEN

Special Regions of the Genome

A 2nd role for sunlight: $\downarrow$ Mdm-2 $\rightarrow$ $\uparrow$ P53 $\rightarrow$ apoptosis
is triggered by UV photoproducts in active genes



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The apoptosis signal originates from ...



/

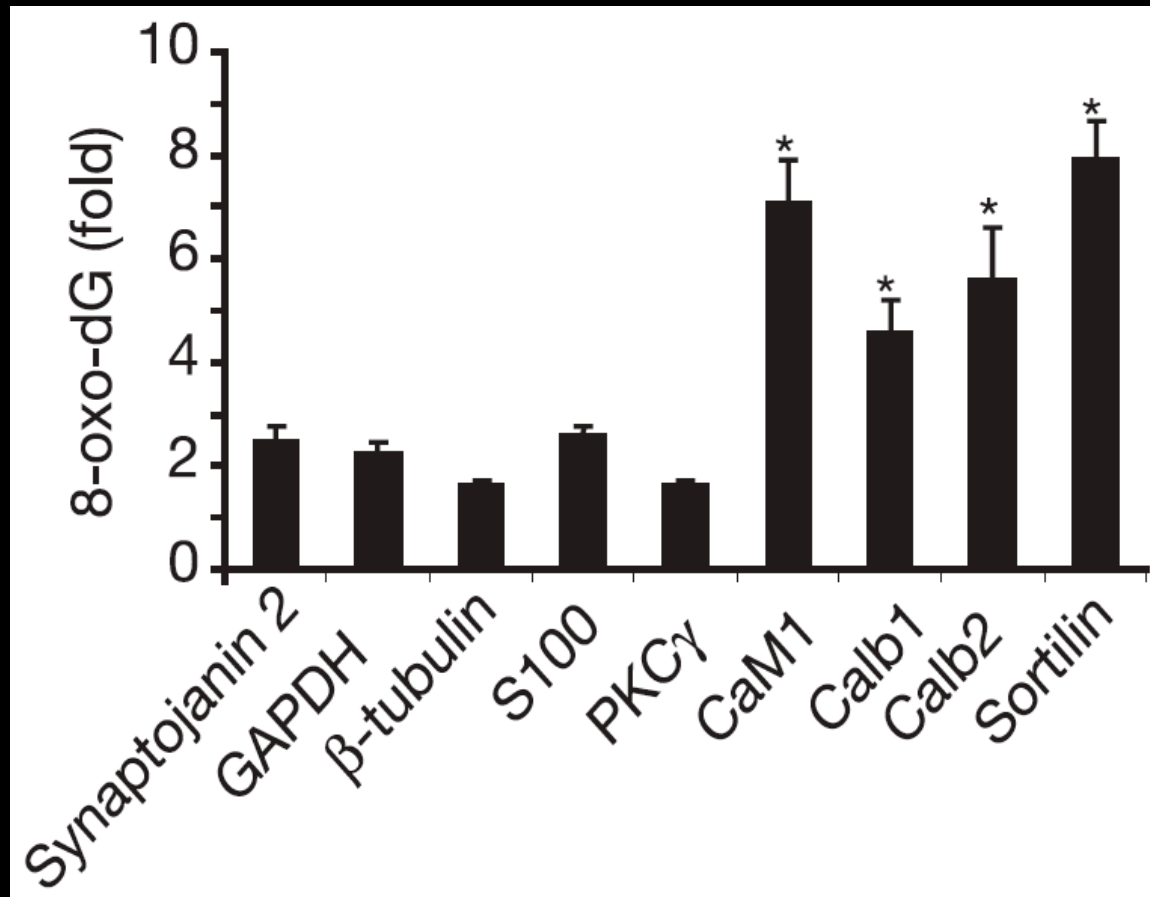
cyclobutane dimers in active genes

Domains for transcription-coupled repair

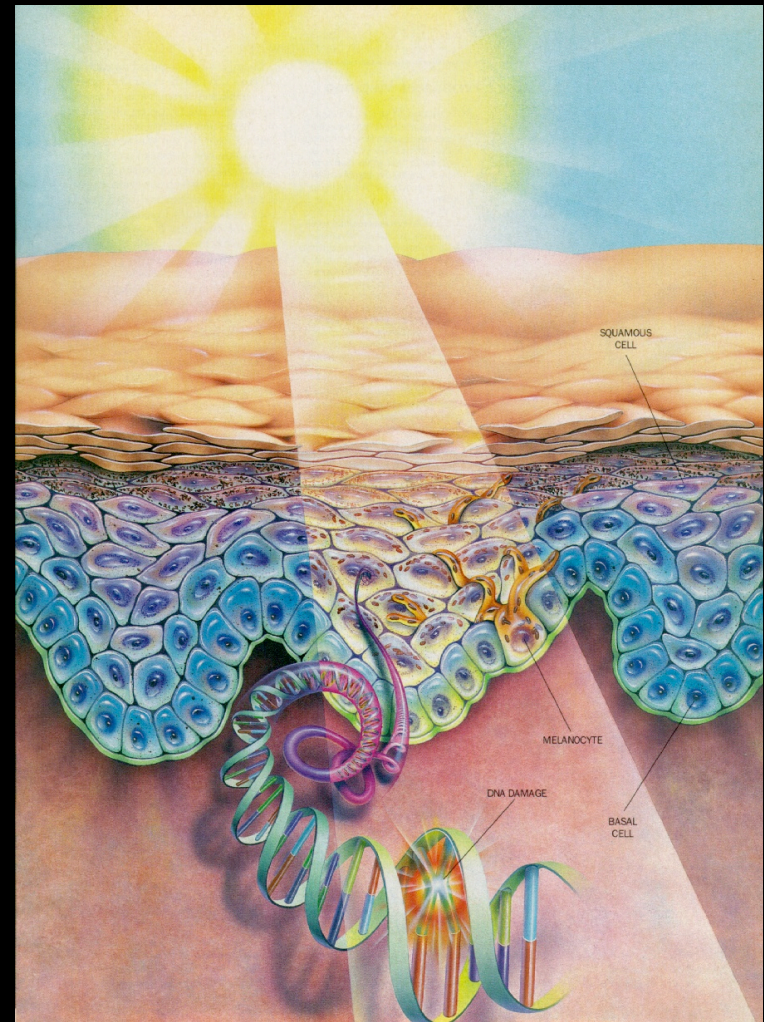
Mullenders:

TCR sites cluster at early-replicating gene-rich bands & telomeric regions

Oxidation-sensitive promoters during brain aging



Genome Regions Sensitive to UV

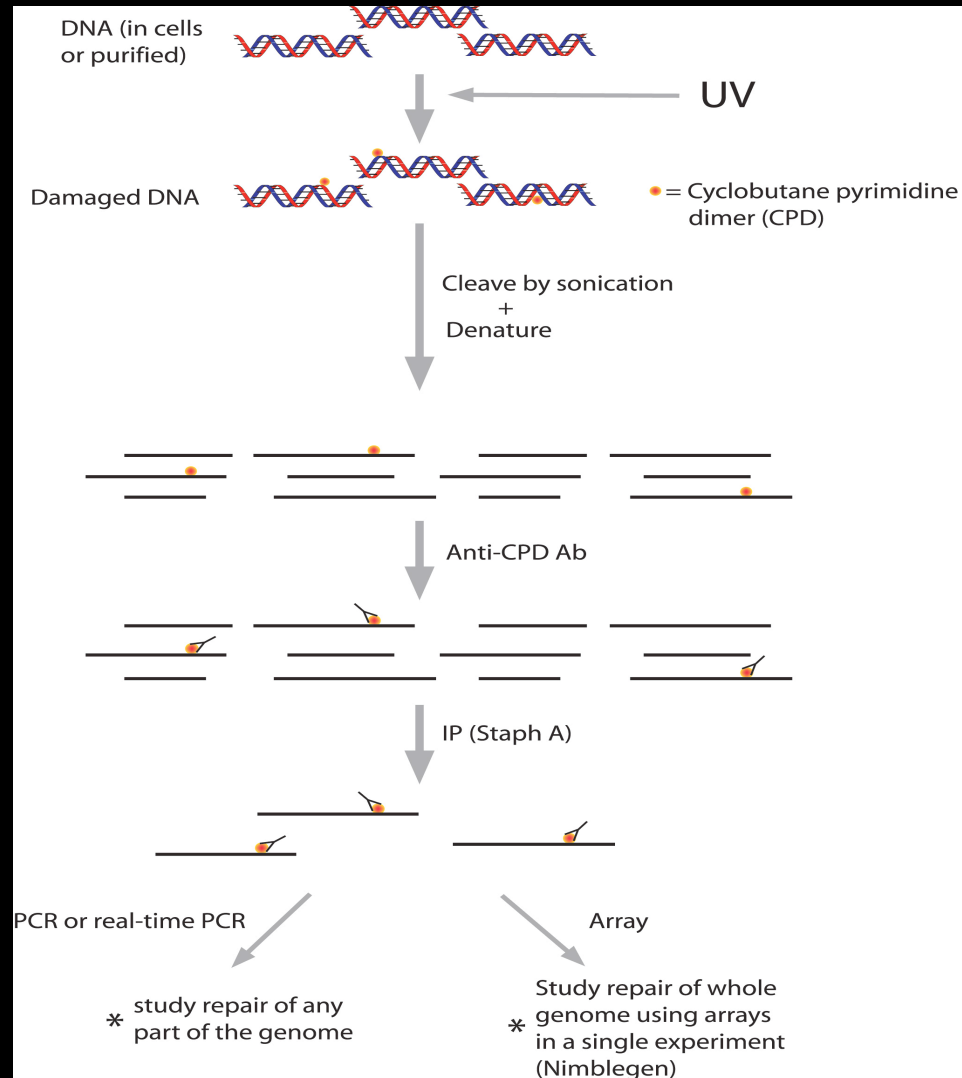


Telomeres as a trigger for UV signaling

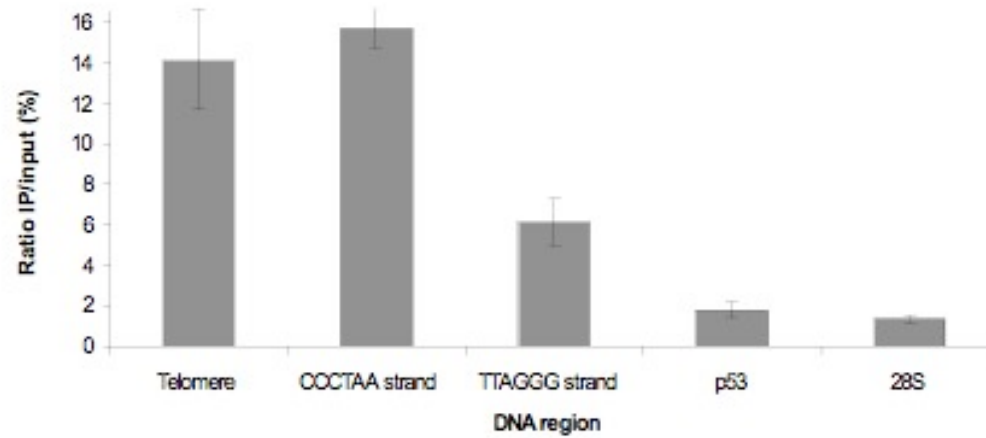


mostly double stranded
5 to 20 kb

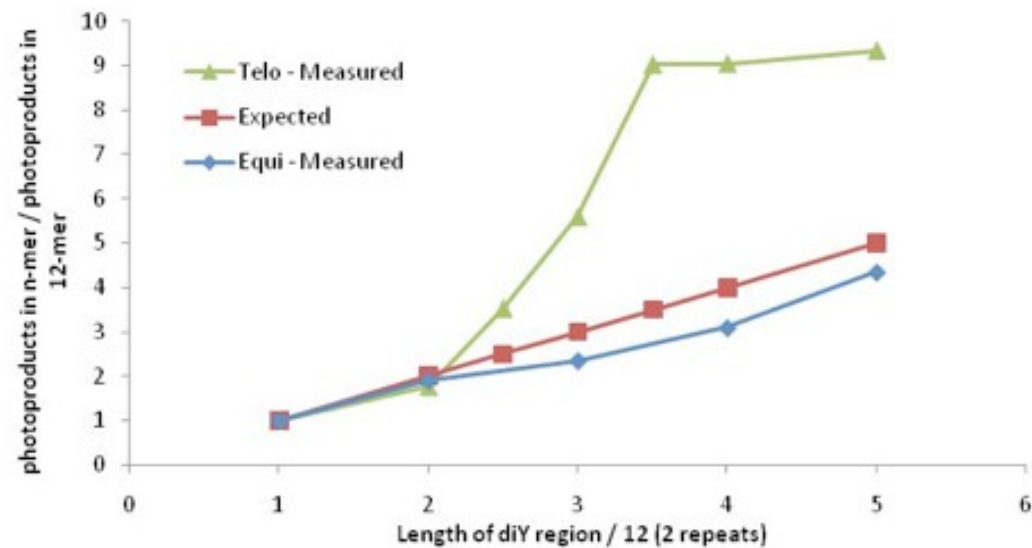
IPoD ~ immunoprecipitation of damage



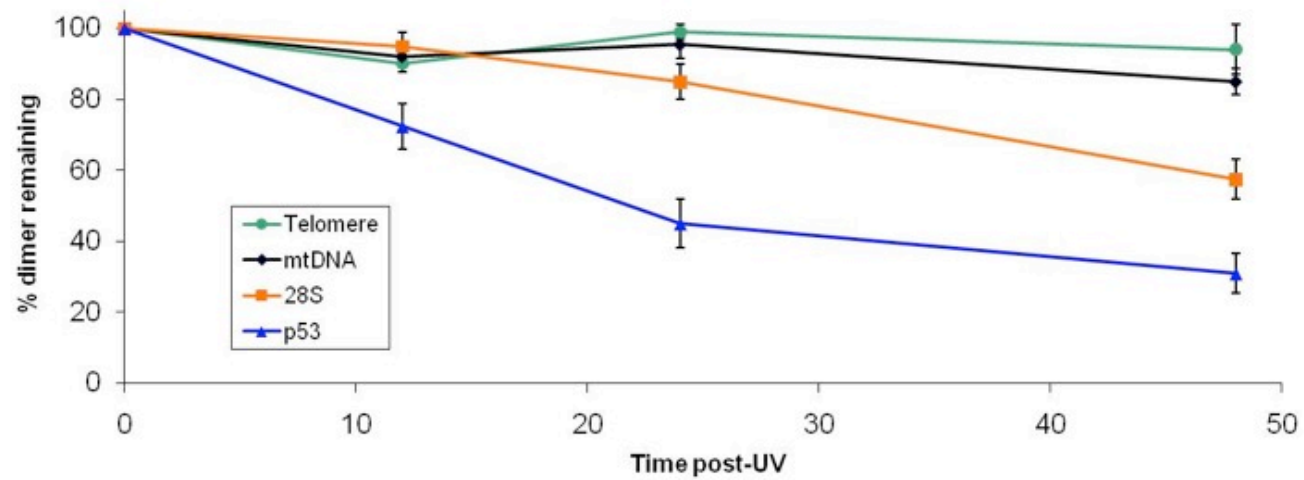
Telomeres are UV-sensitive



Telomere UV-sensitivity in oligos depends on repeat length



Telomeres don't repair cyclobutane dimers



Why have poor repair in telomeres?

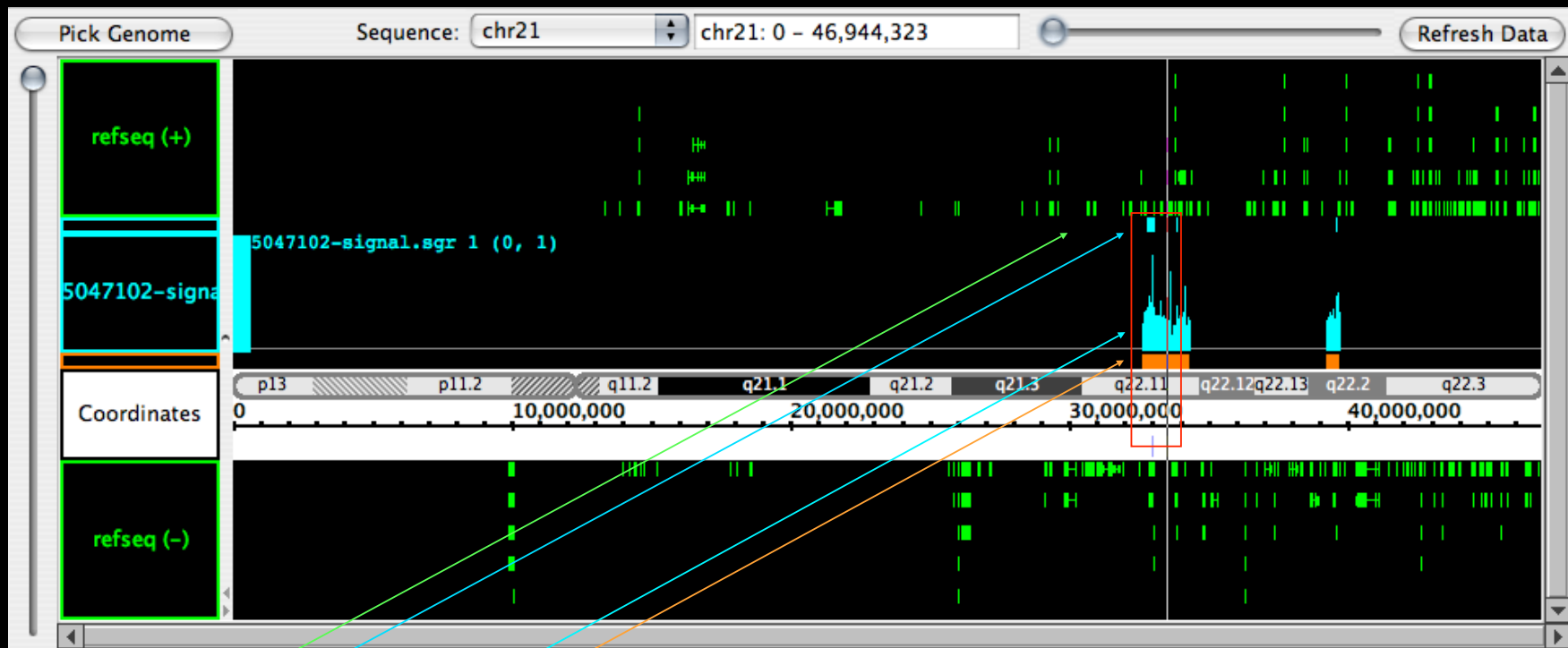
- Avoids soaking up repair proteins at long tracts of unexpressed DNA?
- Avoids overlapping repair nicks?

How can the cell prevent repair, given that repair proteins are there?

- Repair-inhibitory protein for repeated DNA?

The Whole-Genome Frontier

DNA photoproduct signals along Xsome 21



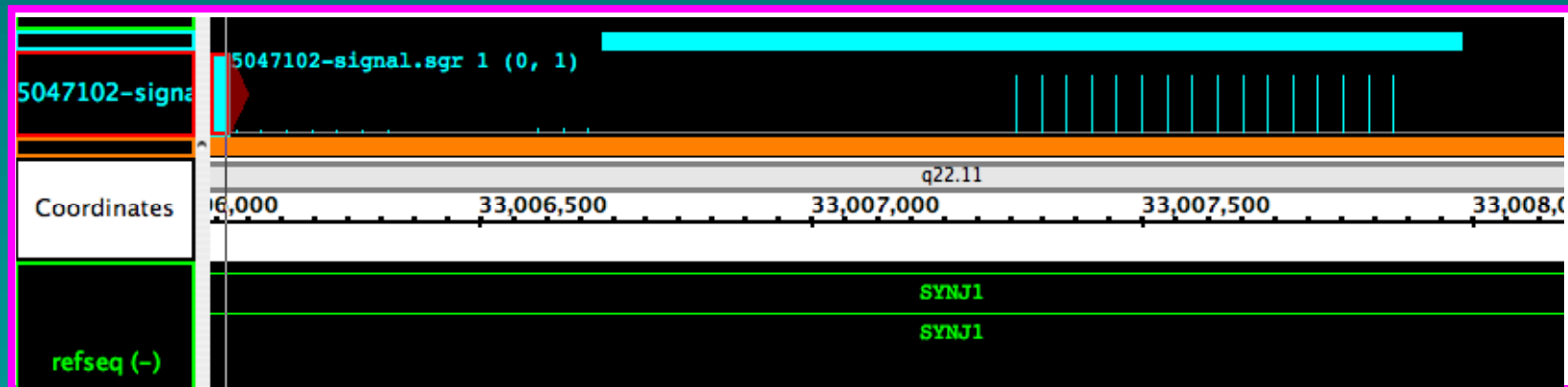
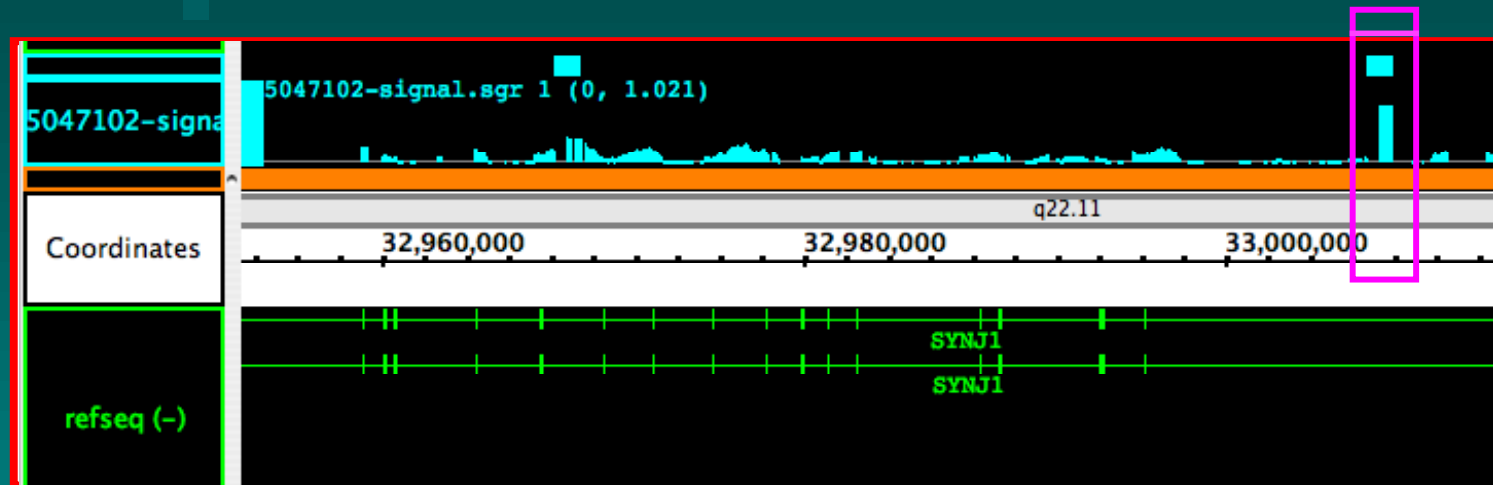
exons

ENCODE regions

CPD signal

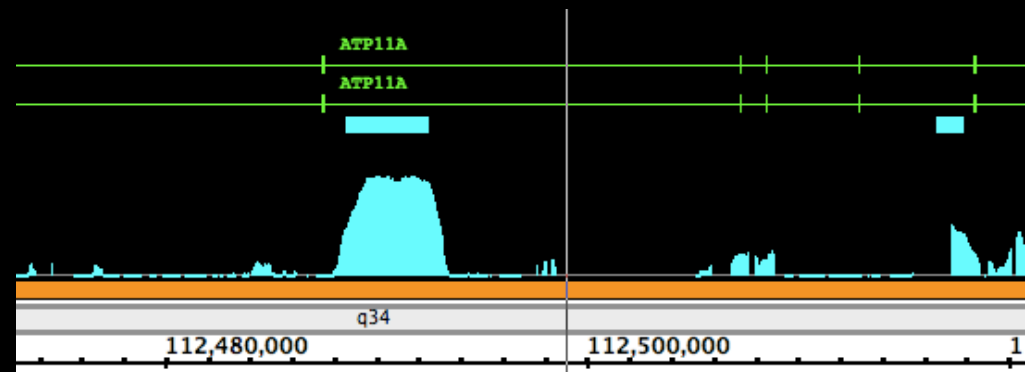
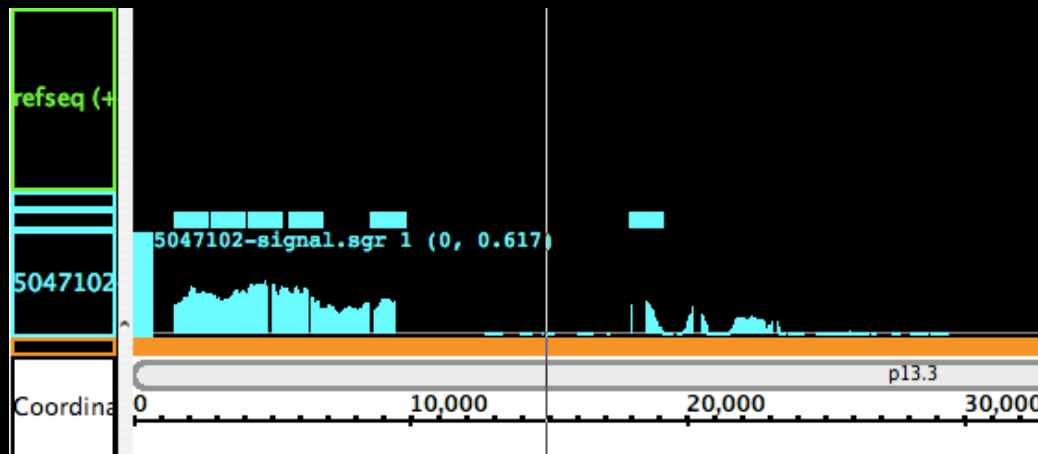
1% false-discovery peaks

DNA photoproduct hotspots on Xsome 21

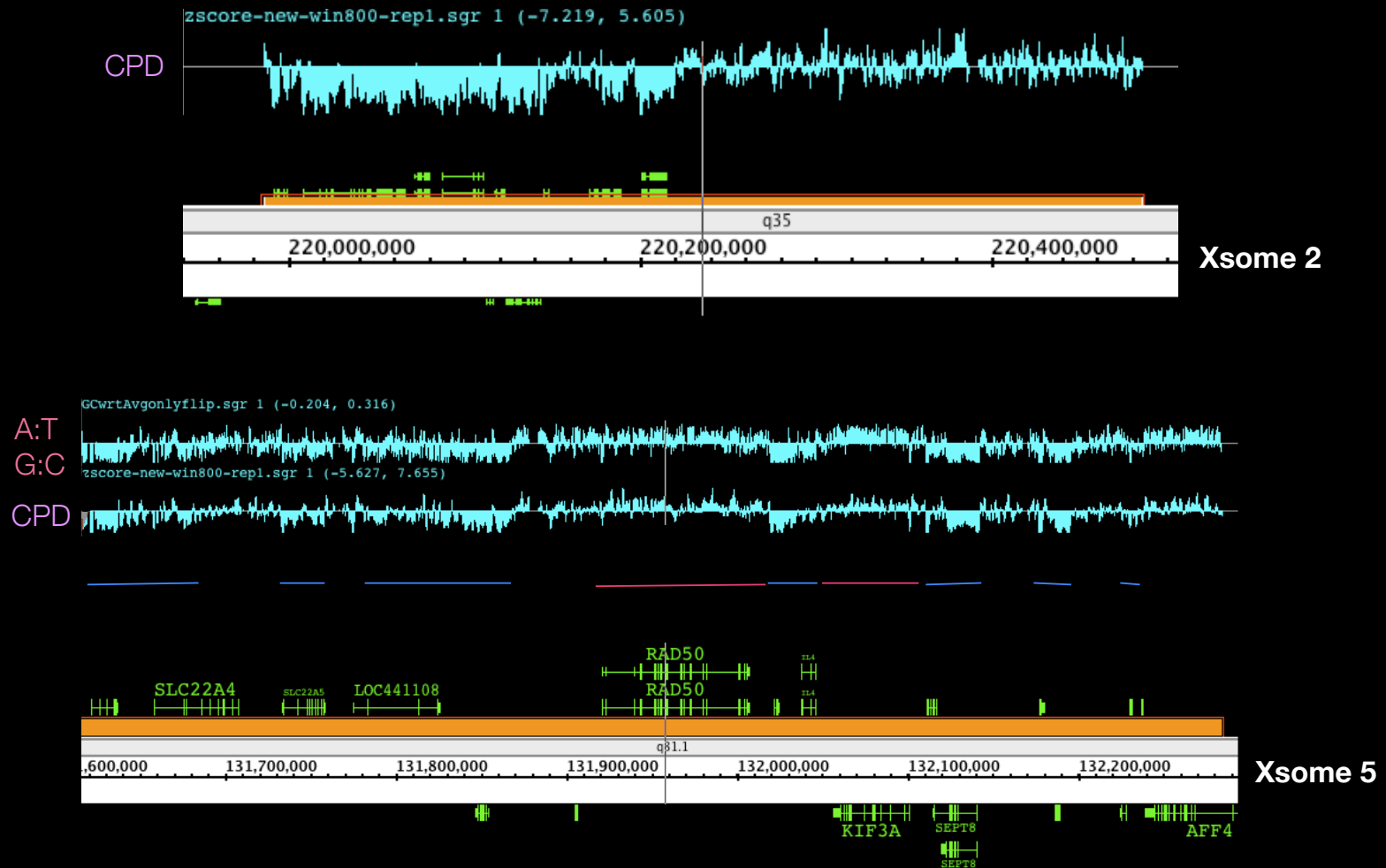


600 nt series of 28 repeats each containing 5' TTTCCC 3'

DNA photoproduct hotspot regions on Xsome 13



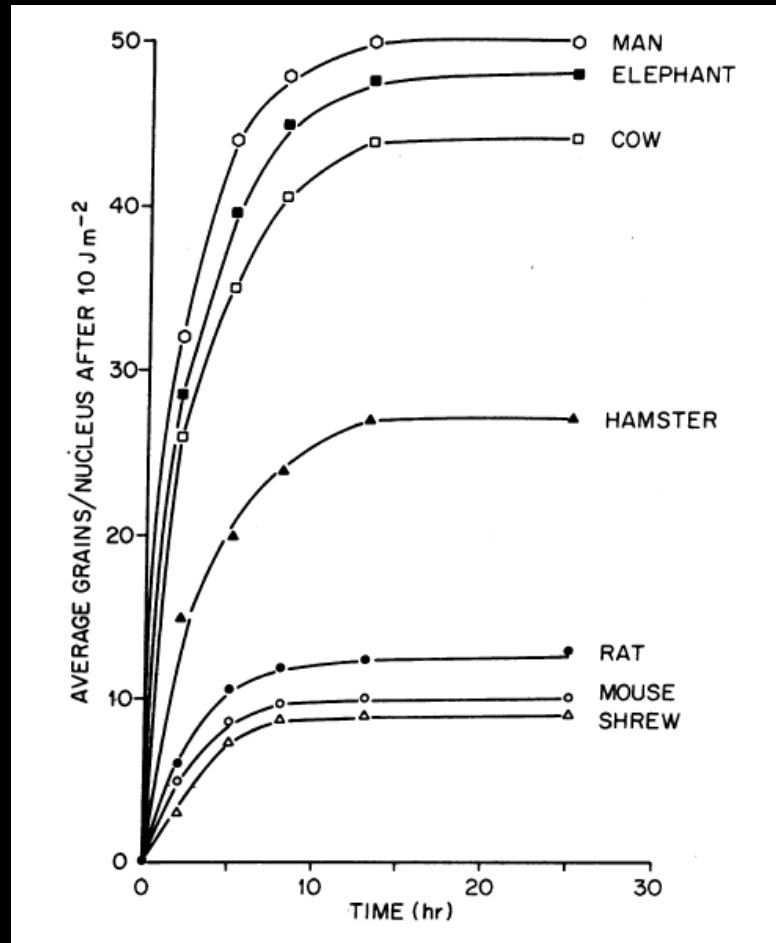
Damage frequency & G:C often follow gene boundaries



DNA isochores



Excision Repair & Lifespan



Hart & Setlow, PNAS 71:2169, 19744

Clonal Expansion & DNA Photoproducts

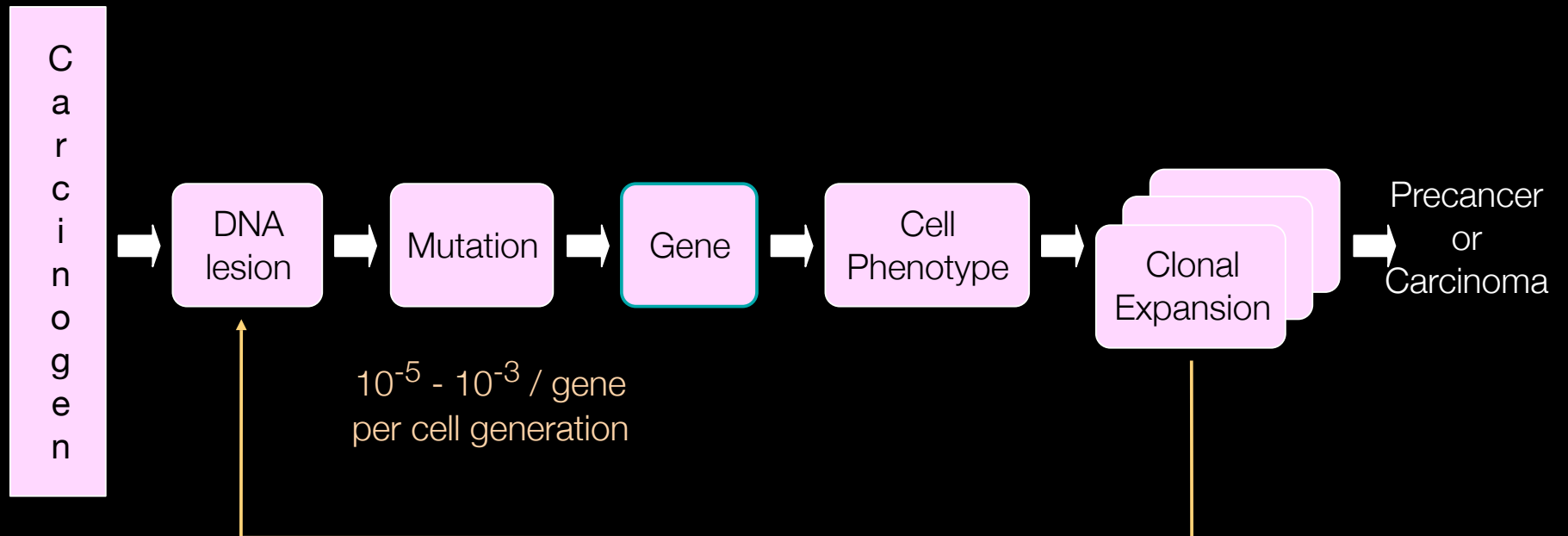
This gets us ...

1 cell with
C → T in
tumor suppressor
gene

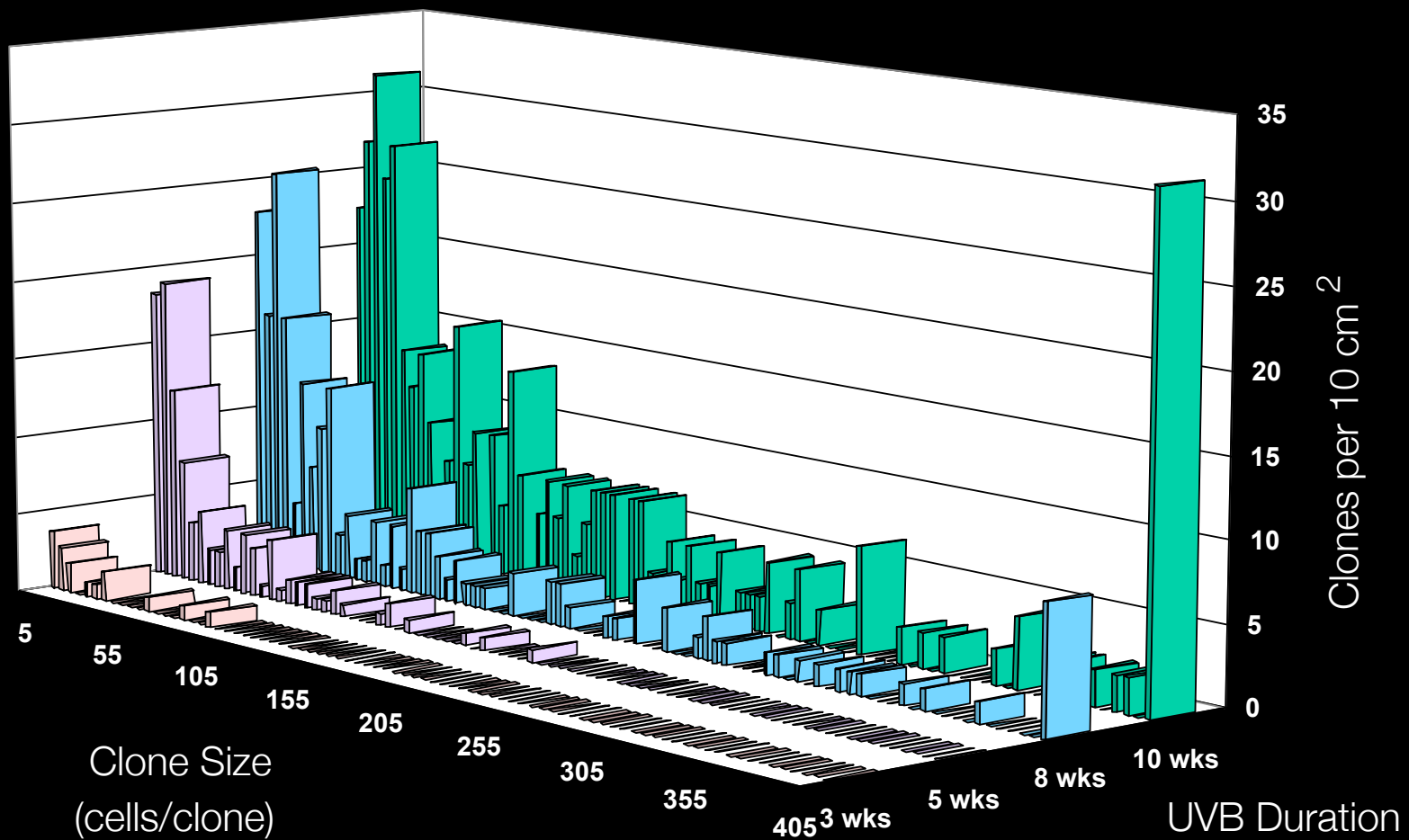
p53-mutant clones in human skin



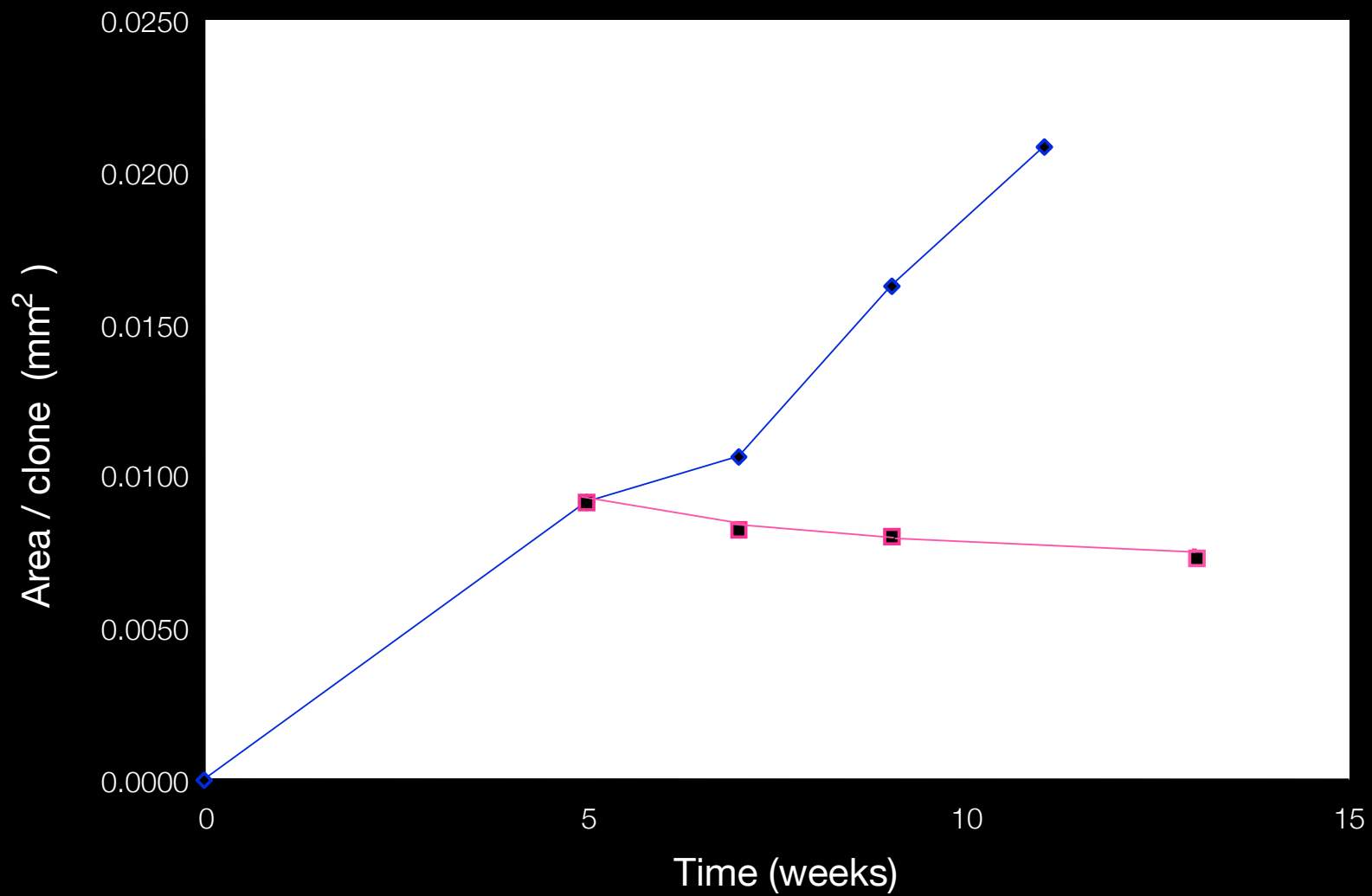
The cancer cycle



Chronic UVB drives clonal expansion of *p53*-mutant clones



Expansion of *p53*-mutant clones is not due to a mutation !



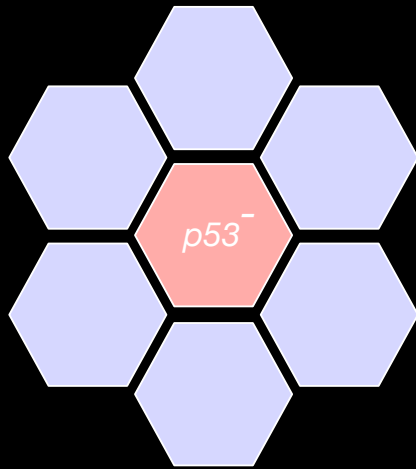
The other frontier: Physiology

Physiology is controlling mutations,
rather than the other way around.

Epithelial sheet system: an in vivo petri dish

- Number of clones = initial mutations
- Clone size = clonal expansion

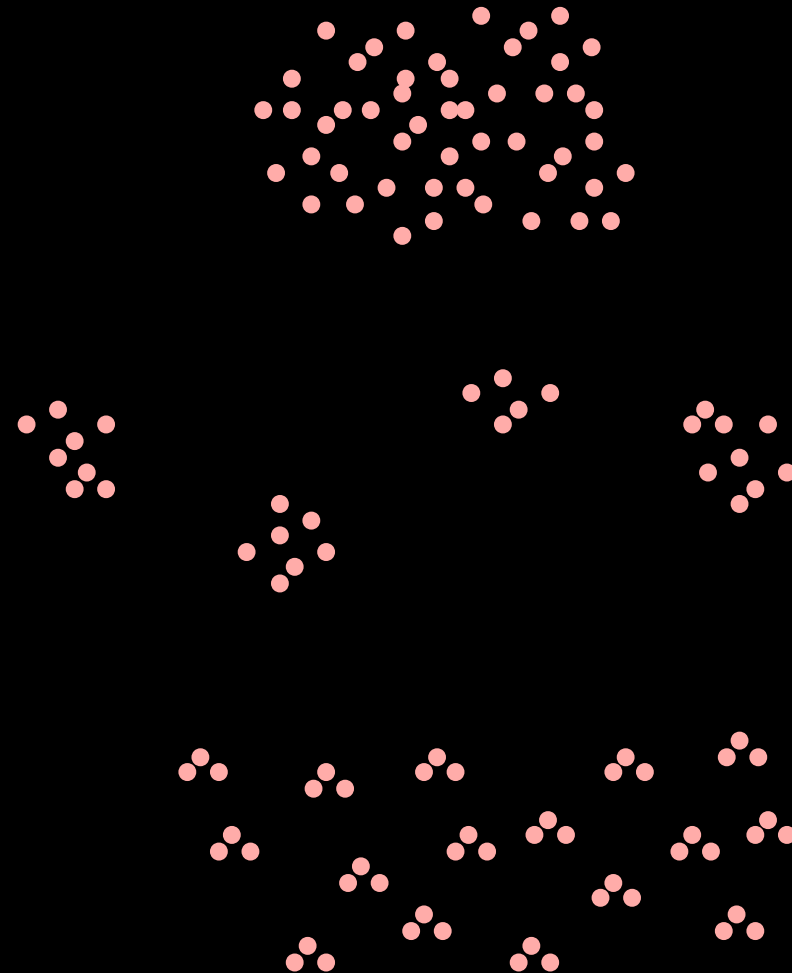
Propose: the physiological event driving clonal expansion is
UV-apoptosis in adjacent stem cell compartments



apoptosis^S

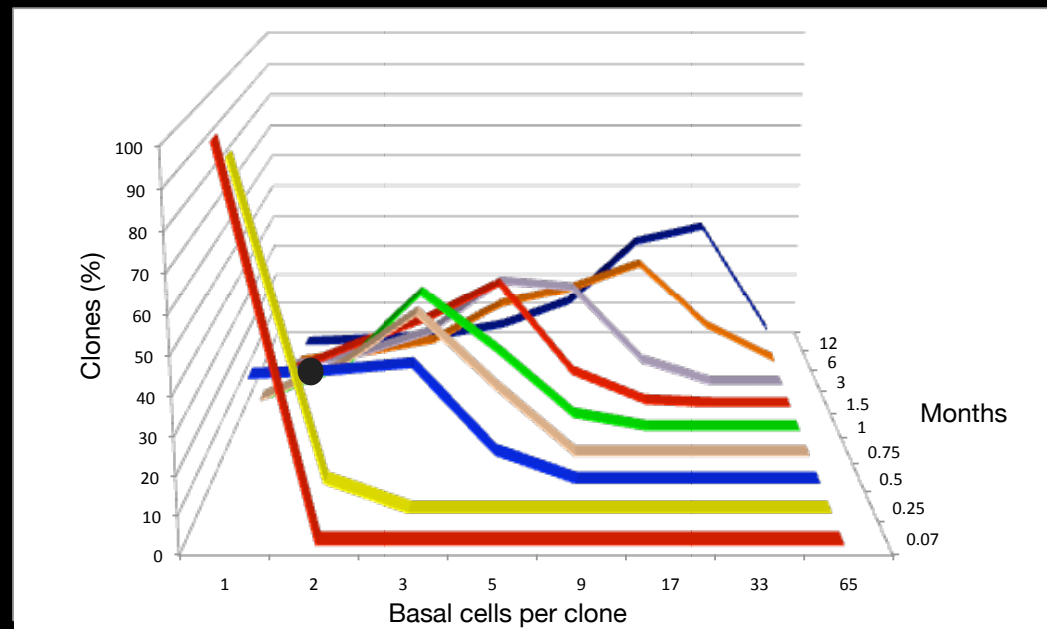
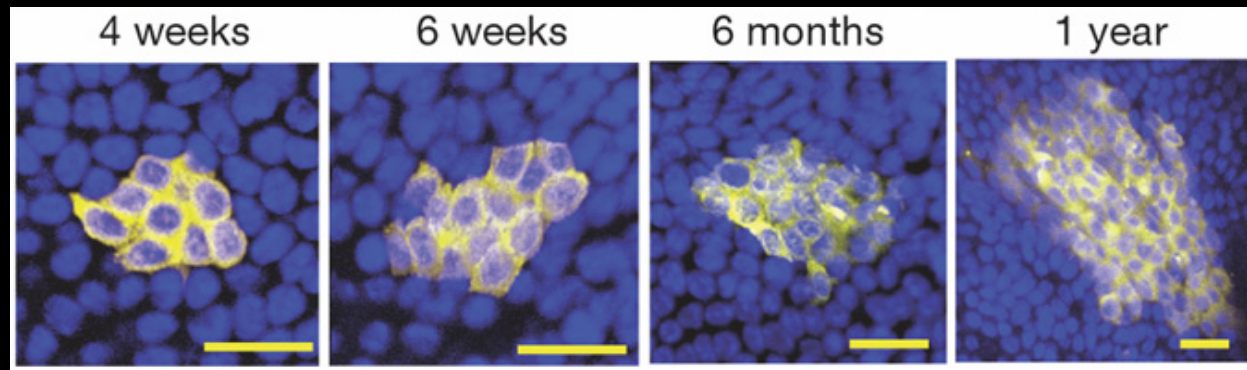
WT

apoptosis^R

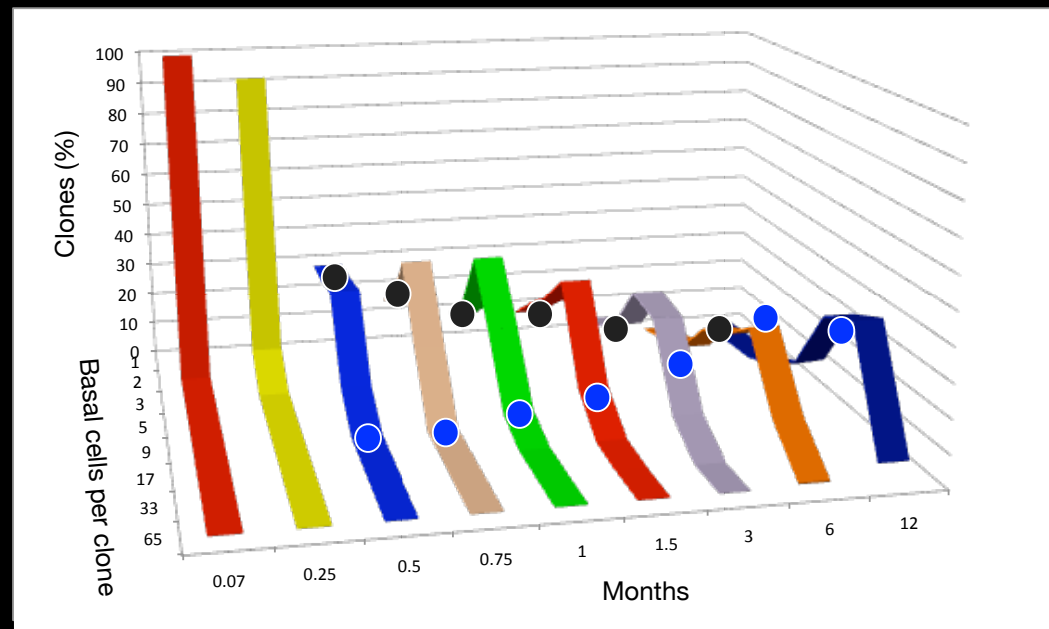


A 2nd route

Normal clones grow larger than the putative stem cell compartment (EPU)

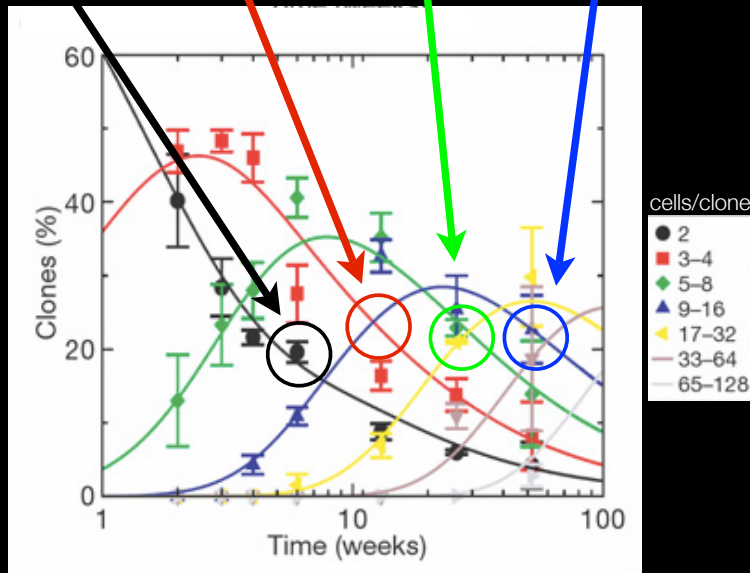


Normal clone growth



Clone growth follows scaling behavior

2 @ 6 wks 4 @ 12 wks 8 @ 24 wks 16 @ 48 wks



Properties of Scaling Processes
(Galton-Watson branching stochastic process)

the events are stochastic

one time scale controls all events

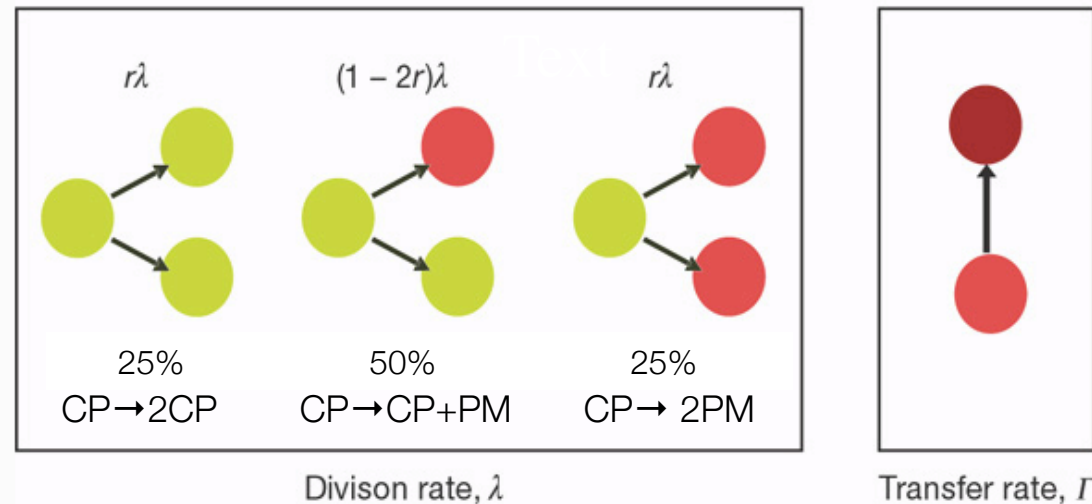
The % of clones of size n at time t is the same as the
% of clones of size $2n$ at time $2t$

Stochastic progenitor cells

EPU Model



Stochastic Model
Phil Jones
Ben Simons



No long-lived, identifiable stem cells but, rather, progenitors with random cell fate.
Fits CP Leblond's measurements in the 1960's.

Non-intuitive properties of stochastic progenitor cells

- Number of cells in a clone = $1 + (r \lambda)t$

So “lucky” clones grow linearly with time.

- Probability that a clone persists until time $t = \frac{1}{1 + (r \lambda)t}$

So clones go extinct.

Only “lucky” clones that undergo several CP→2CP divisions in succession will survive very long.
Several weeks after the start of the experiment, a labeled clone may not be continguously connected to its cell of origin.

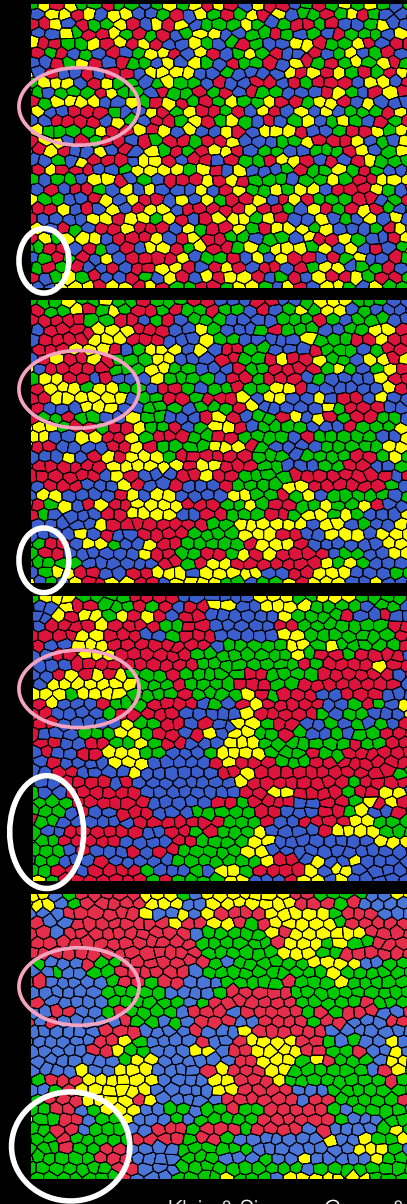
- The total number of cells = constant

So a diverse collection of independent clones trends toward a few very large clones.

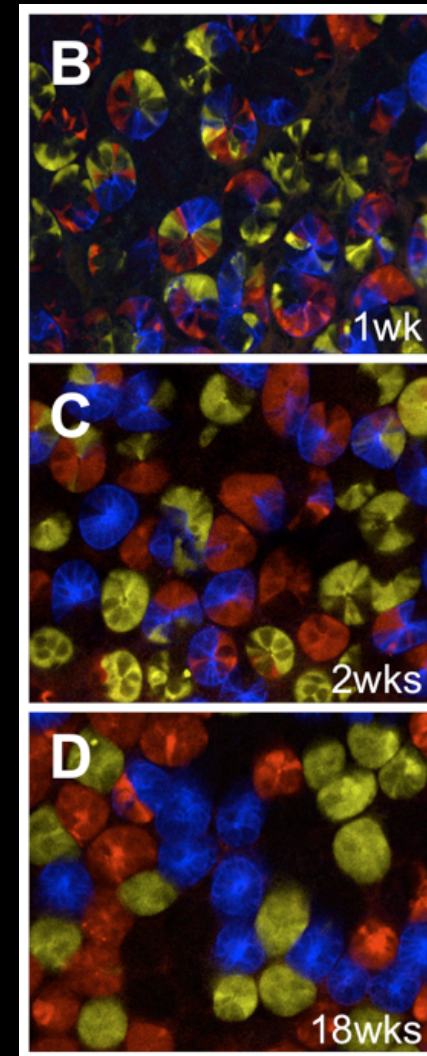
- Cell cycle time is also stochastic, days to weeks between divisions.
(measured average CP division rate $\lambda = \sim 1$ per week)

This could not have been discovered by observing single cells. A coup of computational biology!

Ebb and flow of stem cell clones

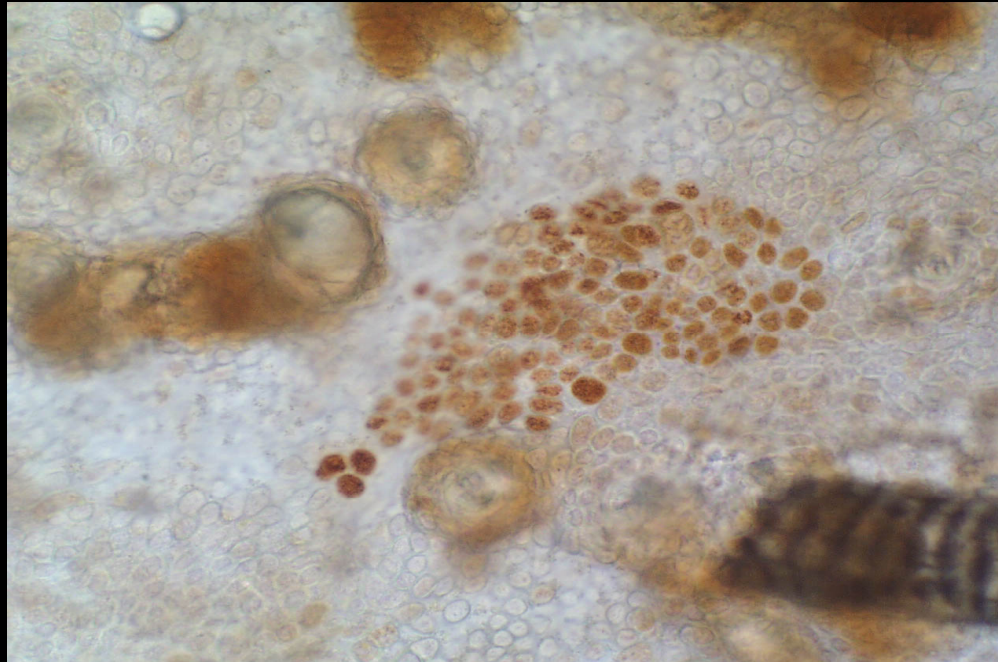


Klein & Simons, *Genes & Development*, in press

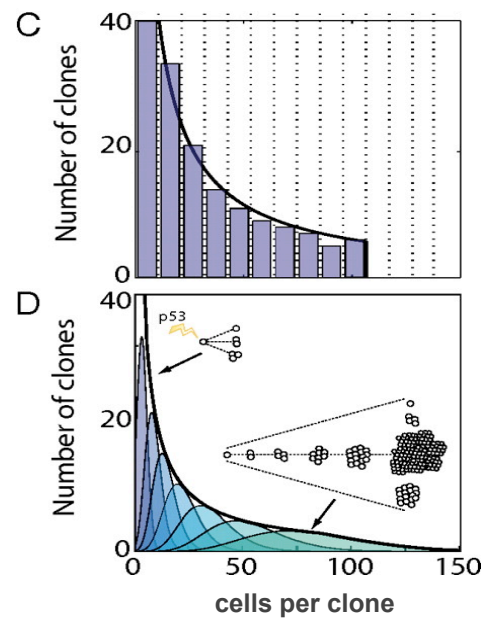
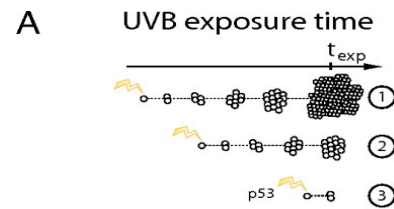


Snippert et al, *Cell* 143:134, 2010

Are *p53*-mutant clones growing
via stochastic stem cells?



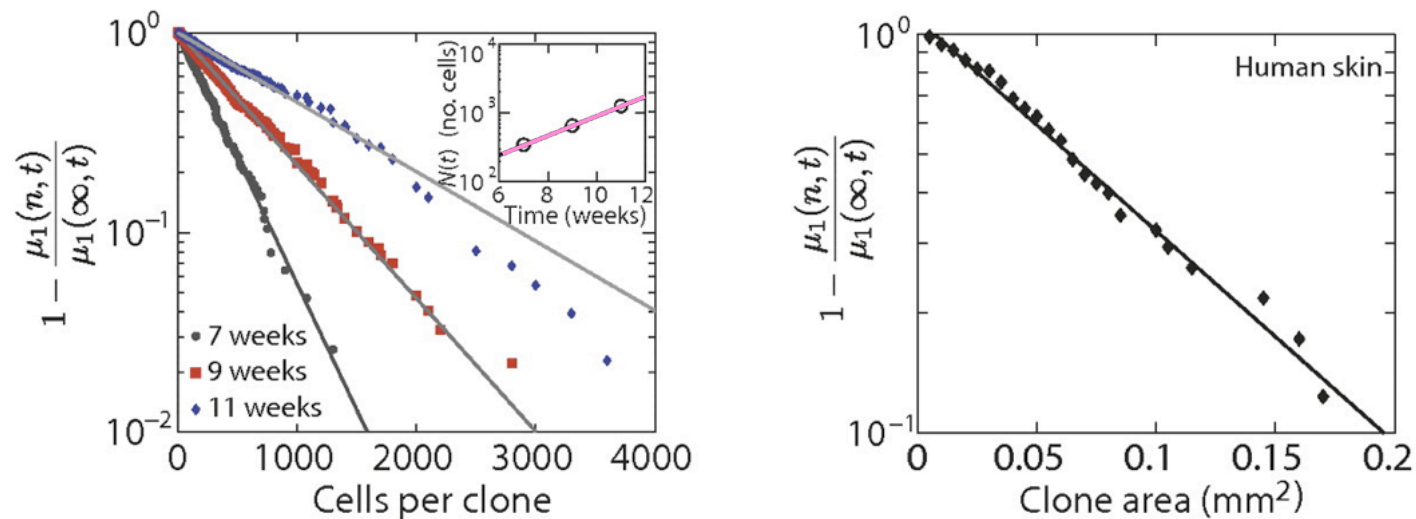
Mutant clone sizes during ongoing UVB radiation



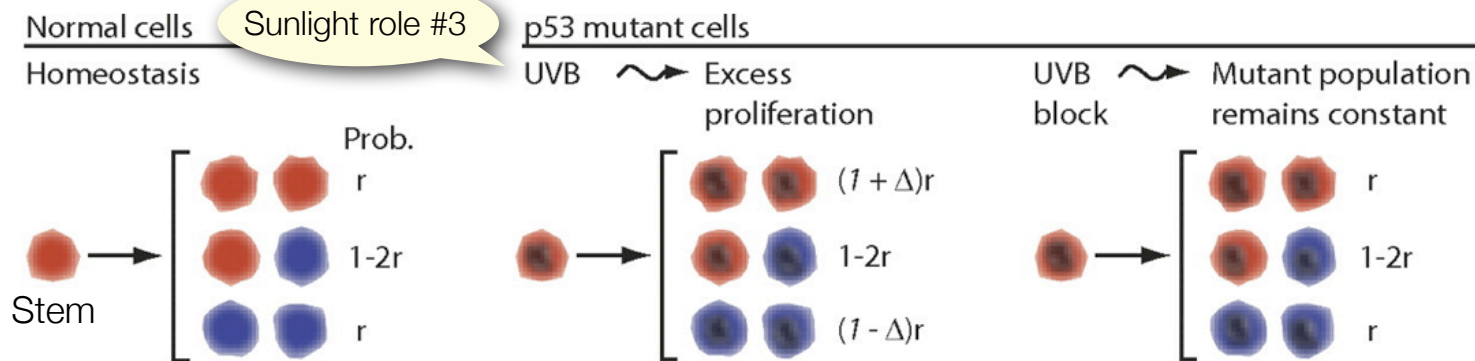
deterministic

stochastic

***p53*-mutant clones grow stochastically – and exponentially !**

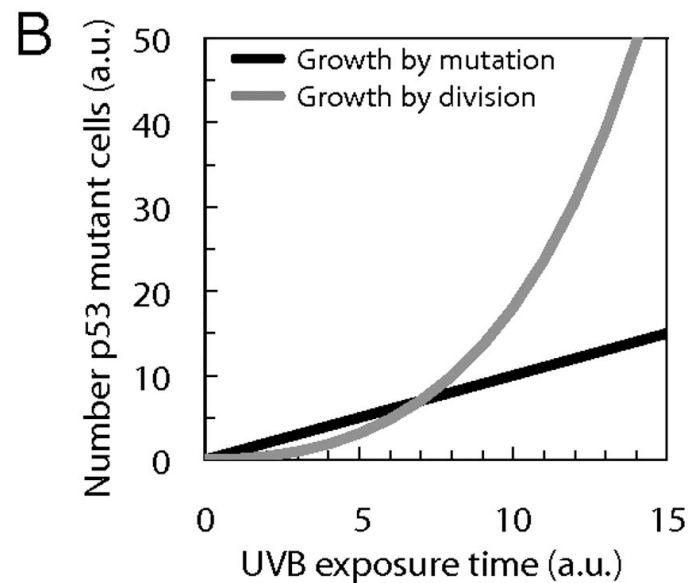
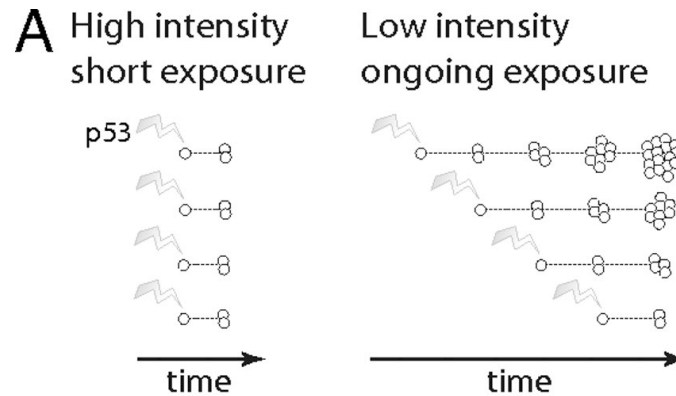


So *p53*-mutant clones are also growing, shrinking, going extinct – as long as UV is present.



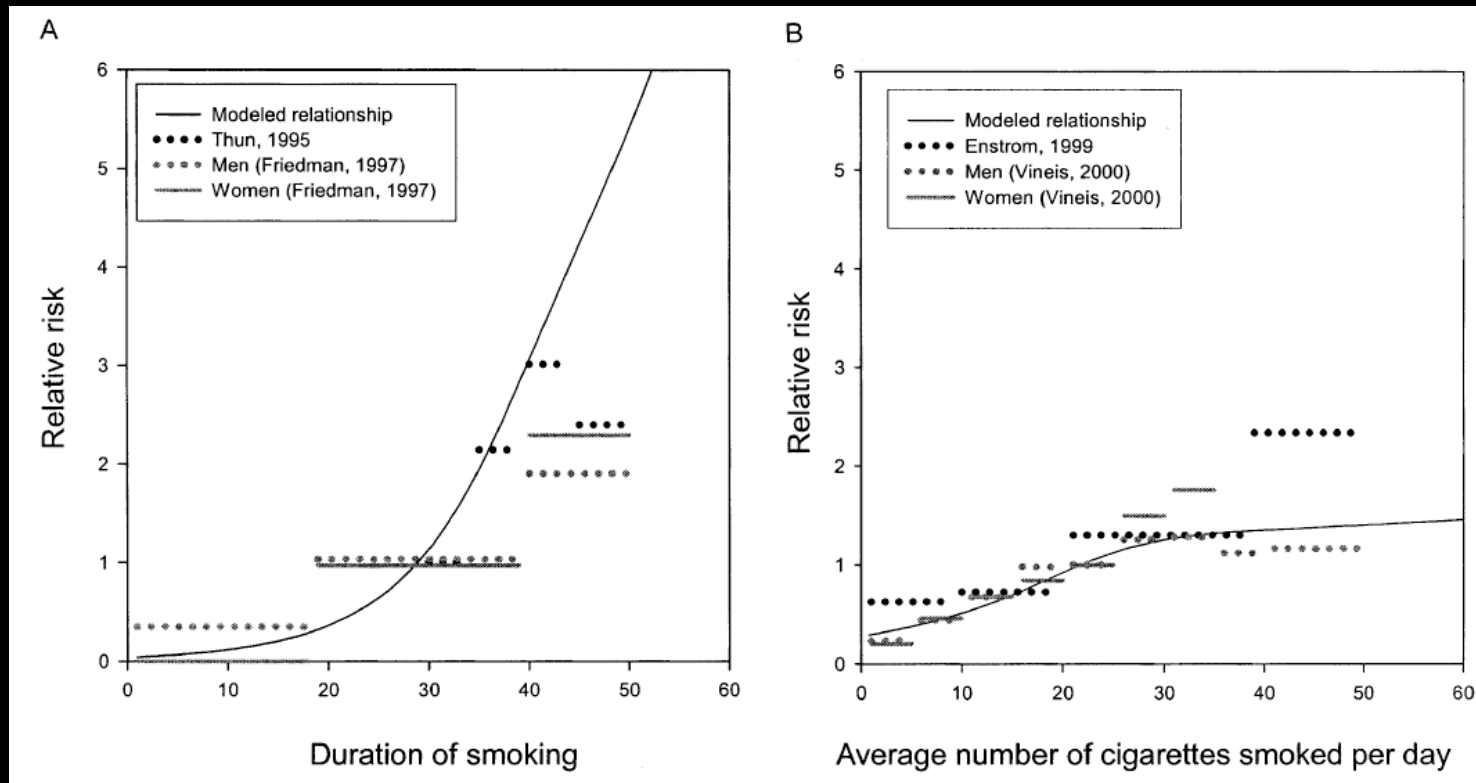
But only the *p53*-mutant cells are growing exponentially – or UV'd skin would get very thick.
Increasing the rate of proliferation and cell loss would just cause faster *linear* growth.

Exponential clone growth means that skin cancer risk is highest for ongoing low exposures



In fact, most human and mouse cancers depend weakly on dose and strongly on duration of exposure – a mystery, if the role of a carcinogen is to mutate N genes !

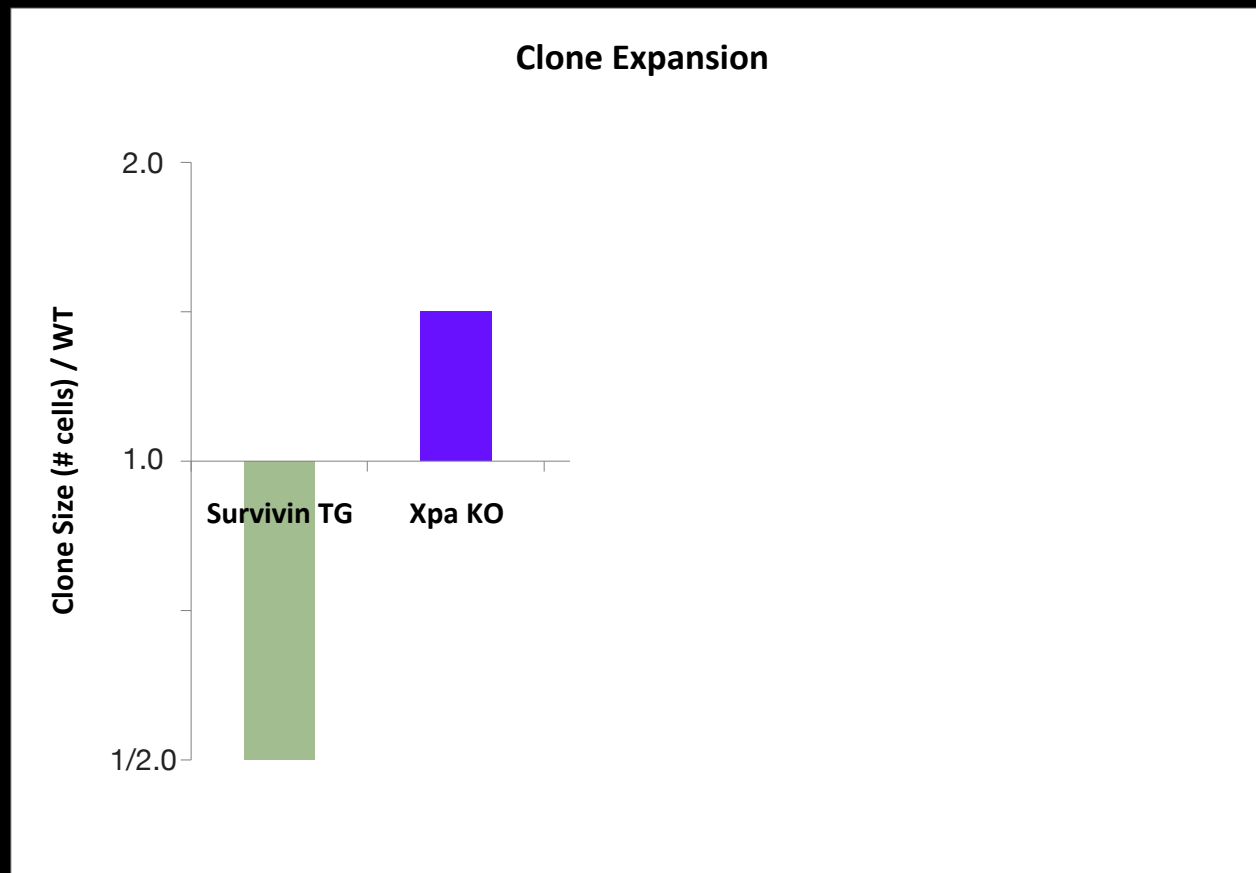
Most human and mouse cancers depend weakly on dose
& strongly on duration of exposure



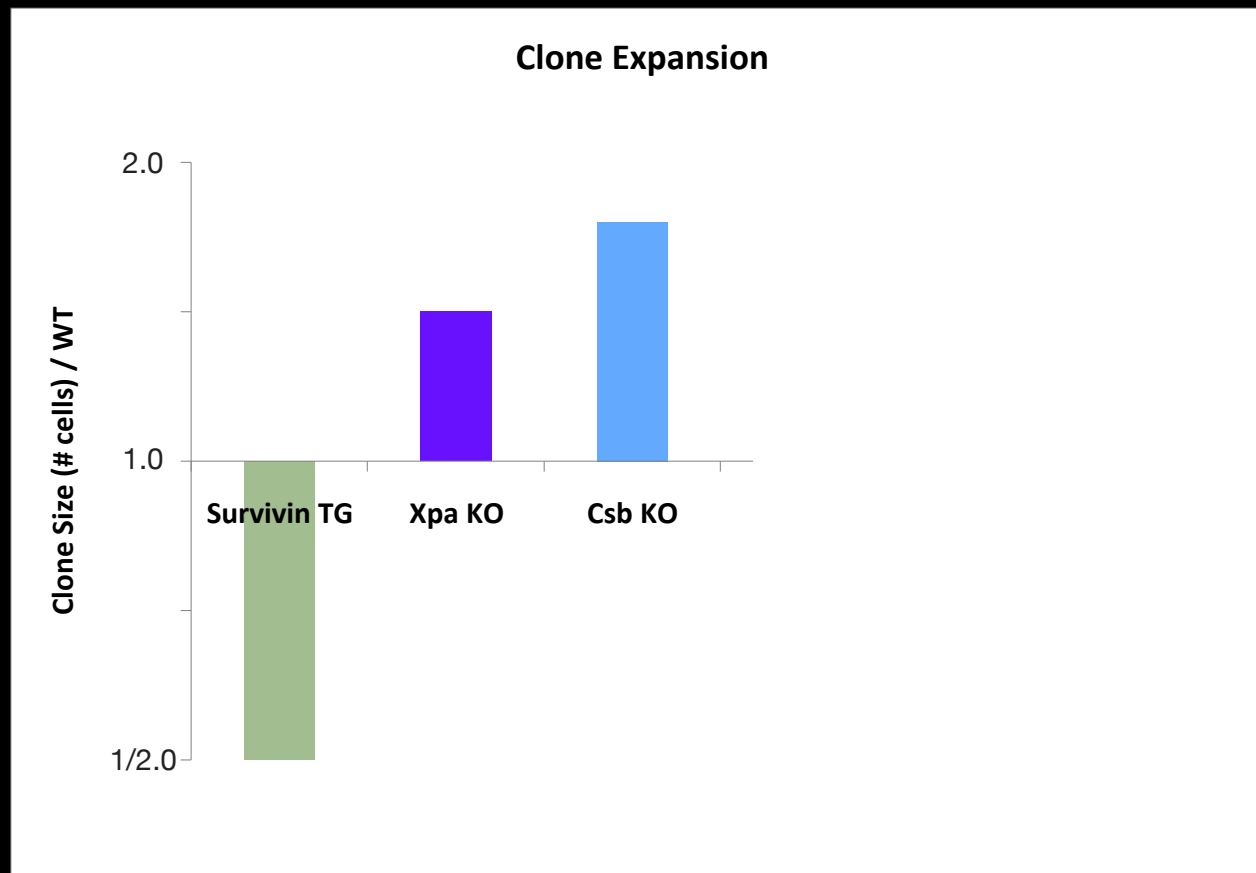
This is a mystery if the role of a carcinogen is to mutate N genes !

How does UV tip the CP/PM fate-decision toward CP ?

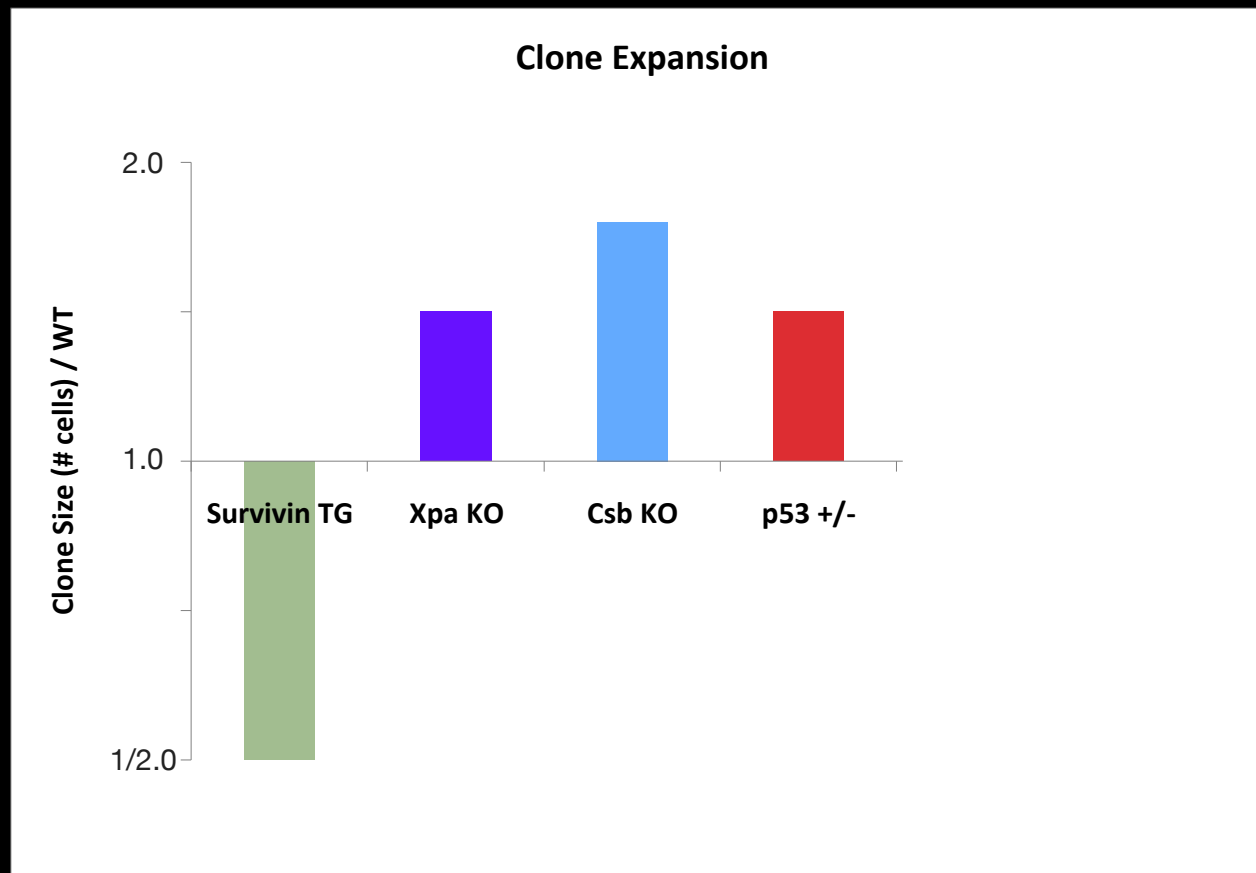
The clone expansion signal comes from DNA photoproducts



The clone expansion signal comes from DNA photoproducts
in active genes



P53 suppresses clonal expansion



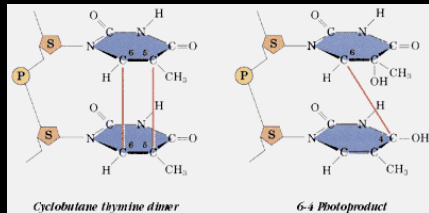
Normal cells: UV signal from active genes i) upregulates CP self-renewal, favoring clone growth but ii) inhibits CP self-renewal via P53 ($\uparrow$ P21, $\downarrow$ Nanog, $\downarrow$ Notch?).

p53-mutant cells: Don't get the 'no' signal.

How Sunlight Works



Mutates a Gene



1 cell with
C → T in
p53
PTCH

Drives Clonal Expansion

DNA photoproducts
in active genes

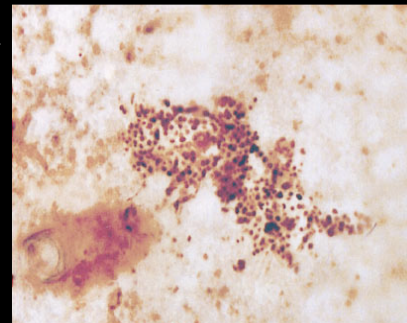
repeated UV



apoptosis
but not in p53⁻ cells



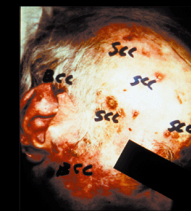
stem cell renewal vs differentiation
tilts to renewal
But only in p53⁻ cells



p53-mutant clones
30/cm²
in normal skin



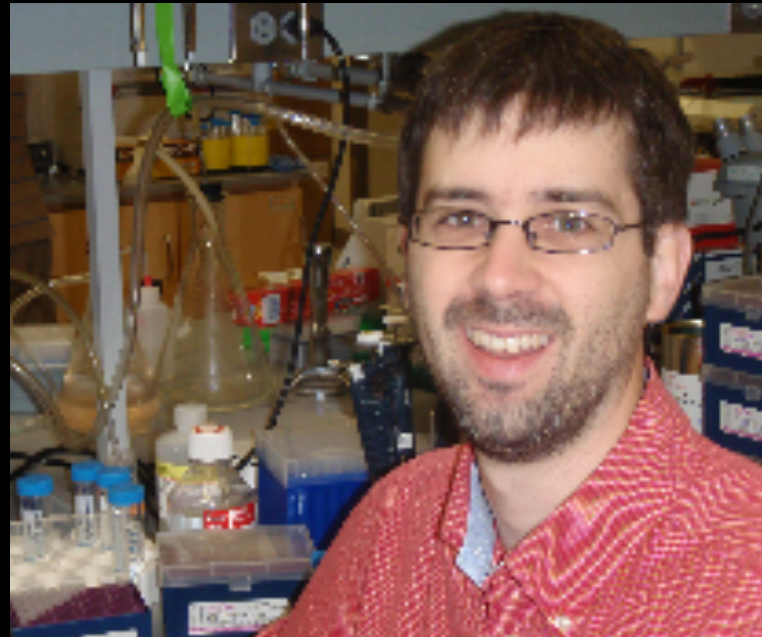
actinic keratosis



squamous
cell carcinoma



Wengeng Zhang & Dejan Knezevic



Pat Rochette

Colleagues – clonal expansion, melanin, IPoD

Brash lab

Clonal expansion

Alan Jonason
Norbert Wikonkal
Eva Remenyik
Wengeng Zhang

Melanin

Seiji Takeuchi

IPoD

Pat Rochette

Yale

Clonal expansion

David Leffell
Gary Price
John Persing
Richard Restifo
Henry Spinelli
Daniel Zelterman
Dario Altieri

Imaging

Rob Roorda
Len Milstone
Bob Tigelaar
Rick Edelson

Melanoma

Ruth Halaban
Marcus Bosenberg

IPoD Bioinformatics

Chao Cheng
Mark Gerstein

Elsewhere

Clonal expansion

Doug Grossman
Ken Boucher
(Huntsman Ca Inst)

Clone computational biology

Allon Klein
(Harvard)
Ben Simons
(U Cambridge)

Melanin

Ken Kraemer
Vince Hearing
(NCI)
Kazu Wakamatsu
Shosuke Ito
(Fujita Univ.)



Thank you



Robert Leet & Clara Guthrie Patterson Trust

