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# Discovery of BLU-667 for *RET*-driven cancers

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AACR  
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# Disclosures

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- **I am an employee and shareholder of Blueprint Medicines**
- **BLU-667 is an investigational therapy discovered and currently in development by Blueprint Medicines**

# A robust and diverse portfolio focused on kinase inhibitor medicines

## HIGHLY SELECTIVE KINASE MEDICINES

**avapritinib:** *GIST*

**BLU-667:** *RET-altered cancers*

**BLU-554:** *FGFR4-activated HCC*

undisclosed discovery programs

GENOMICALLY  
DEFINED  
CANCERS

RARE  
DISEASES

CANCER  
IMMUNOTHERAPY

**avapritinib:** *systemic mastocytosis*

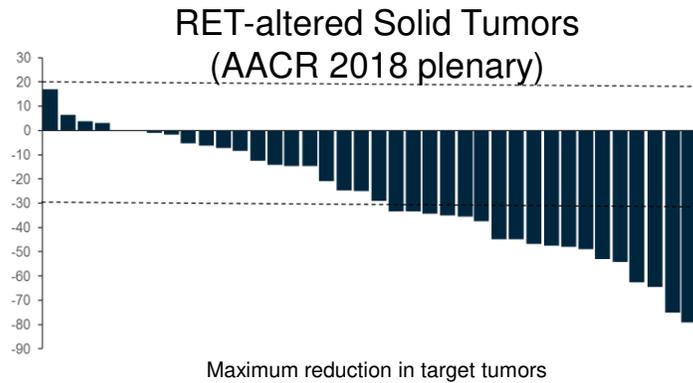
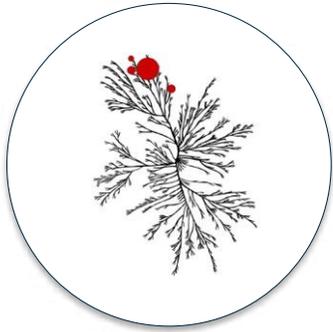
**BLU-782:** *FOP*

Up to 5 programs under Roche collaboration

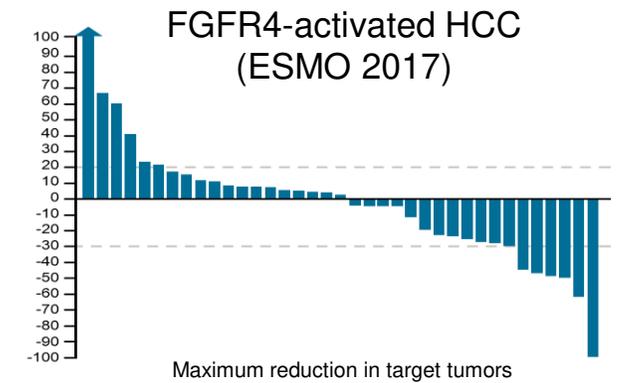
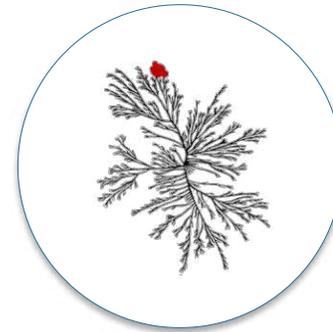
FOP, fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva

# Each clinical-stage TKI has achieved rapid proof-of-concept

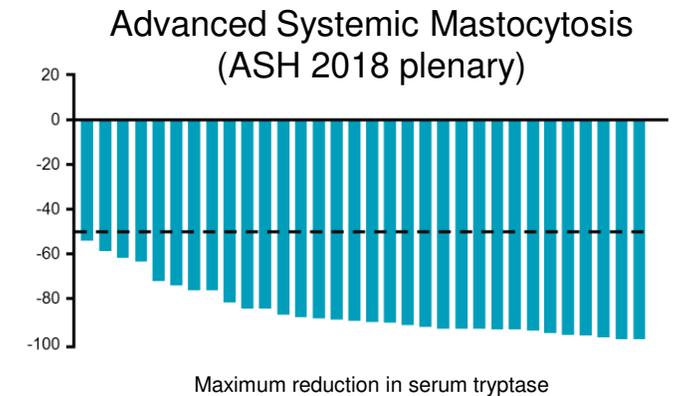
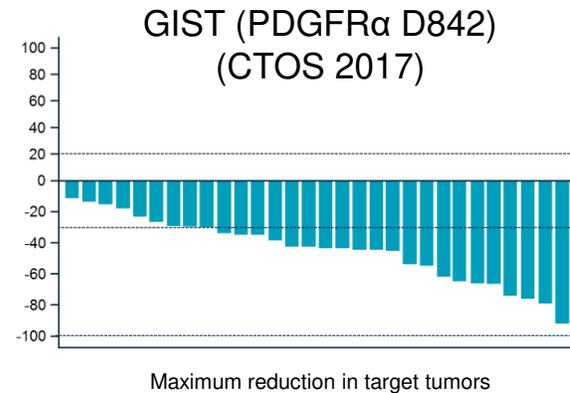
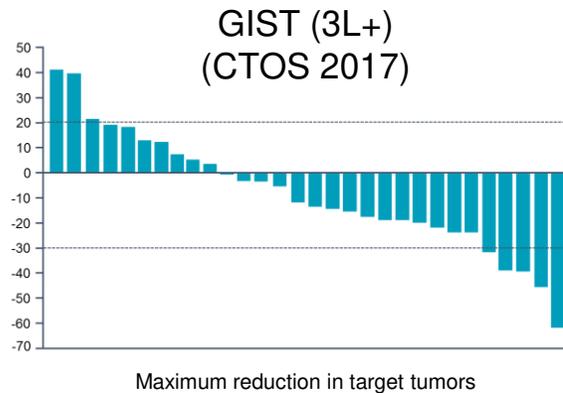
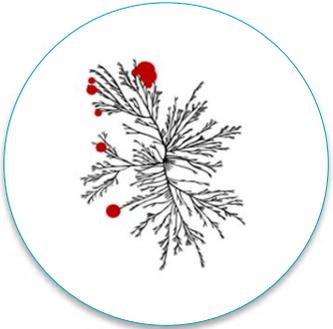
## BLU-667



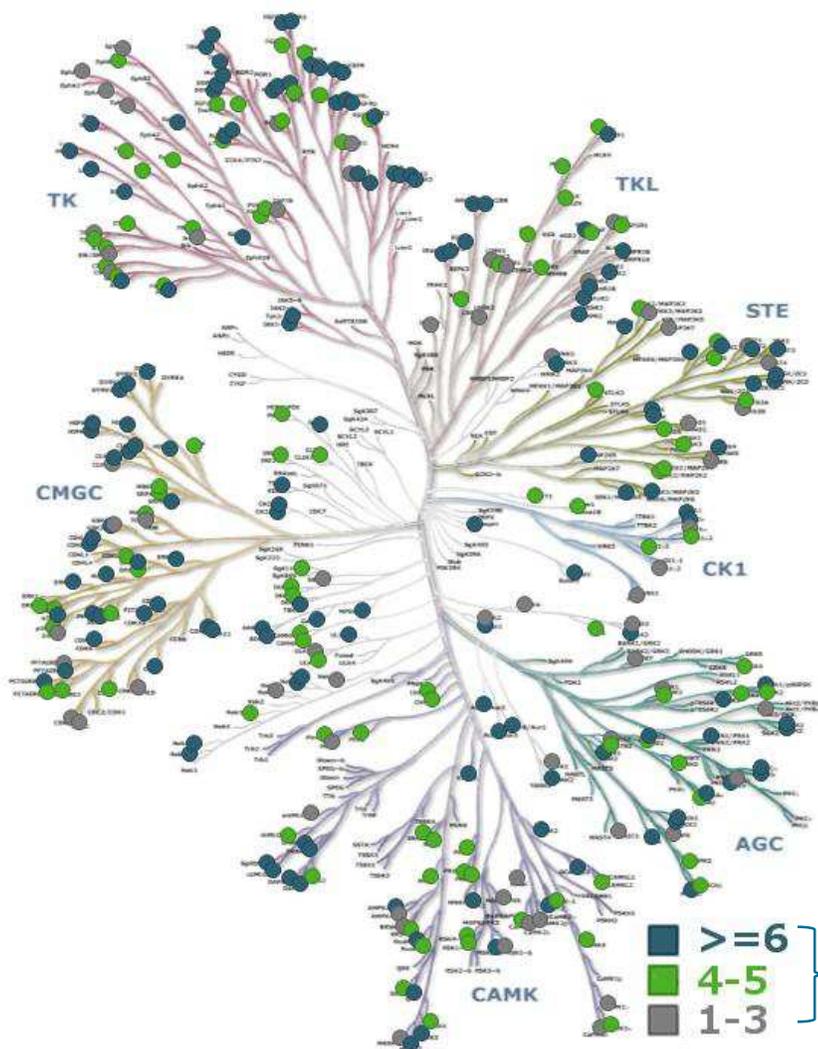
## BLU-554



## avapritinib (formerly BLU-285)



# Broad coverage of the kinome with highly diverse collection



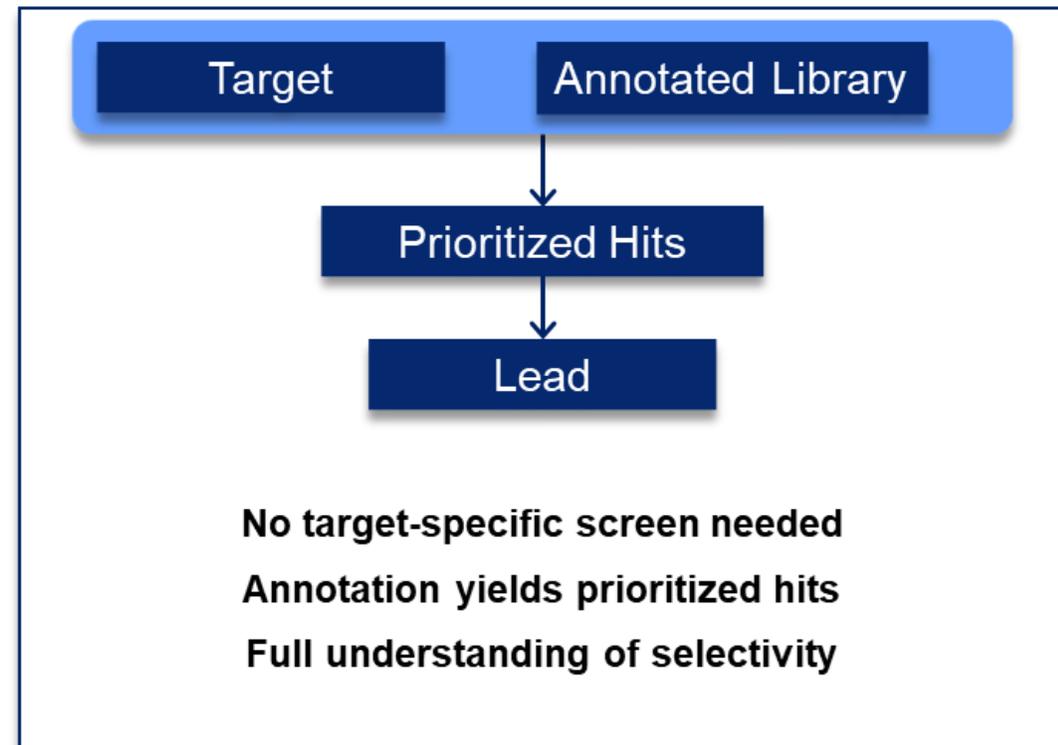
- 10,000+ carefully crafted and tested molecules from over 100 scaffolds
- Broad and deep coverage of kinome
  - >85% coverage - 1 scaffold
  - ~70% coverage - 3 scaffolds
  - ~45% coverage - 6 scaffolds
- High quality, differentiated med chem starting points
- Library compounds pre-screened against human wildtype kinases and several disease associated mutants

# The fully annotated library accelerates high quality hit identification

## Traditional Approach



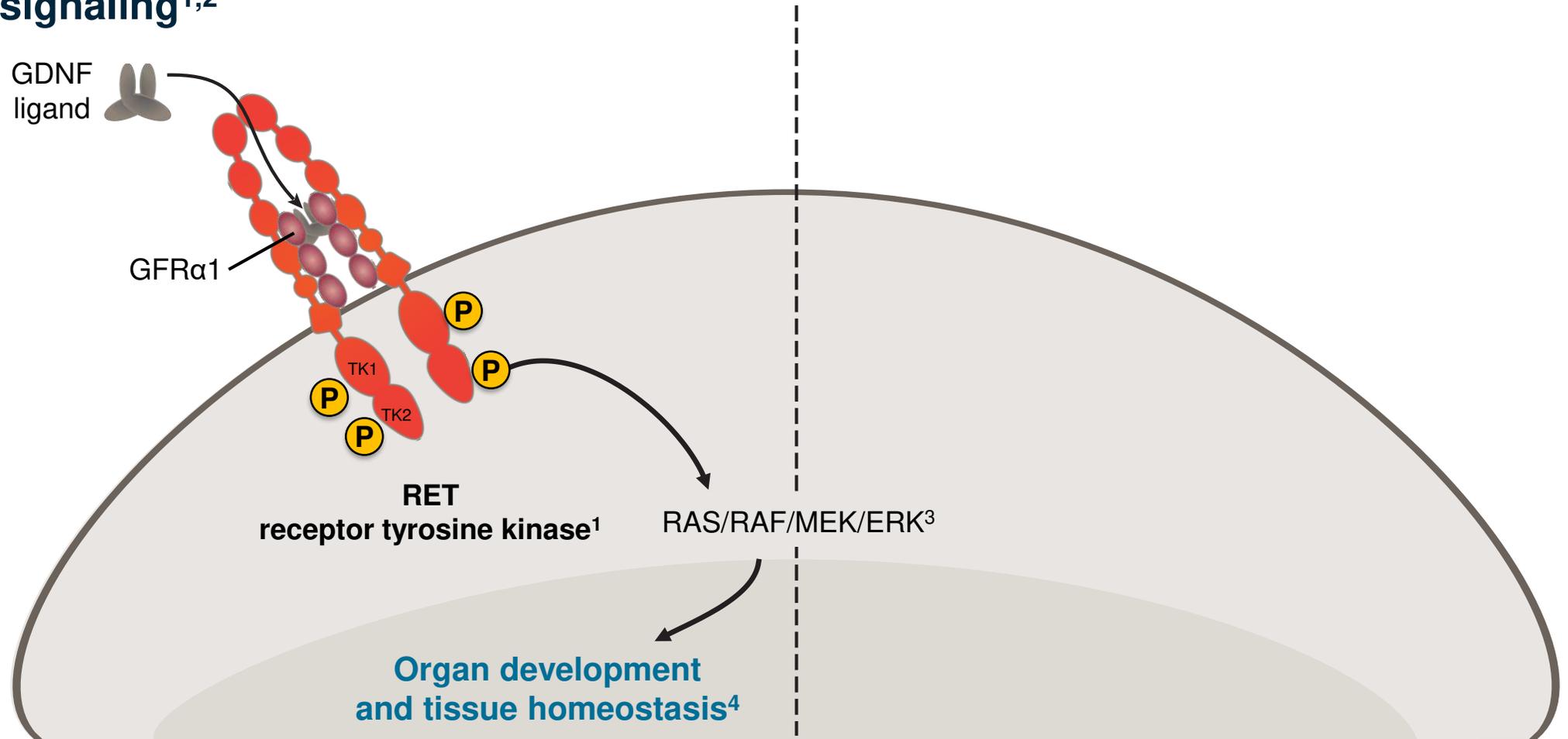
## Blueprint Approach



- Rapid program progression through accelerated hit identification, efficient prioritization, and informed optimization

# RET is an RTK required for normal development<sup>1</sup>

## Normal RET signaling<sup>1,2</sup>

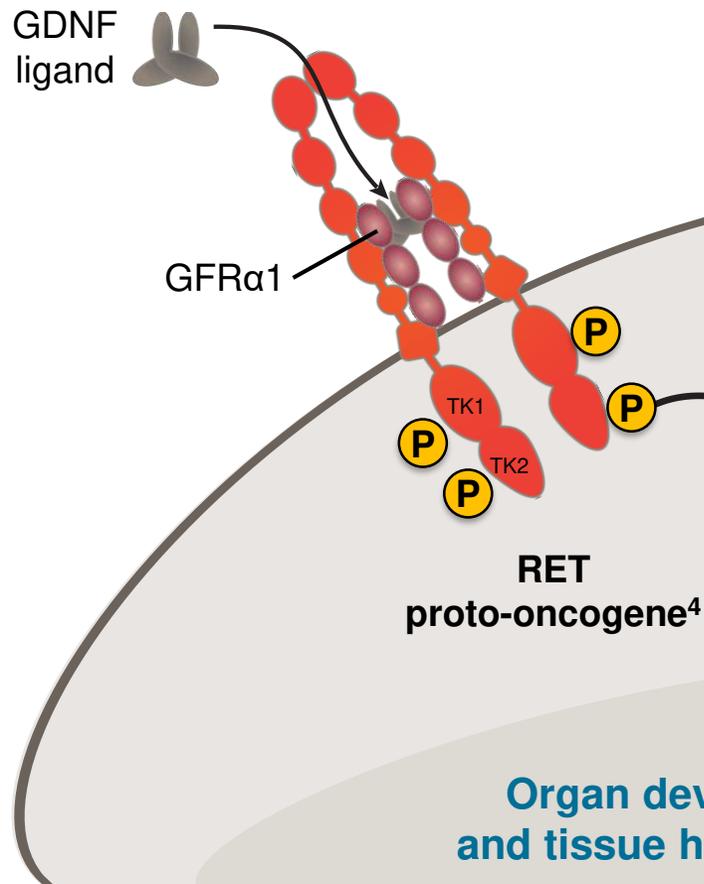


ERK, extracellular signal-regulated kinase; GDNF, glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor; GFR, GDNF family receptor; MAPK, mitogen-activated protein kinase; MEK, MAPK/ERK kinase; P, phosphorylation; RAF, rapidly accelerated fibrosarcoma; RAS, rat sarcoma; RET, rearranged during transfection; RTK, receptor tyrosine kinase; TK, tyrosine kinase.

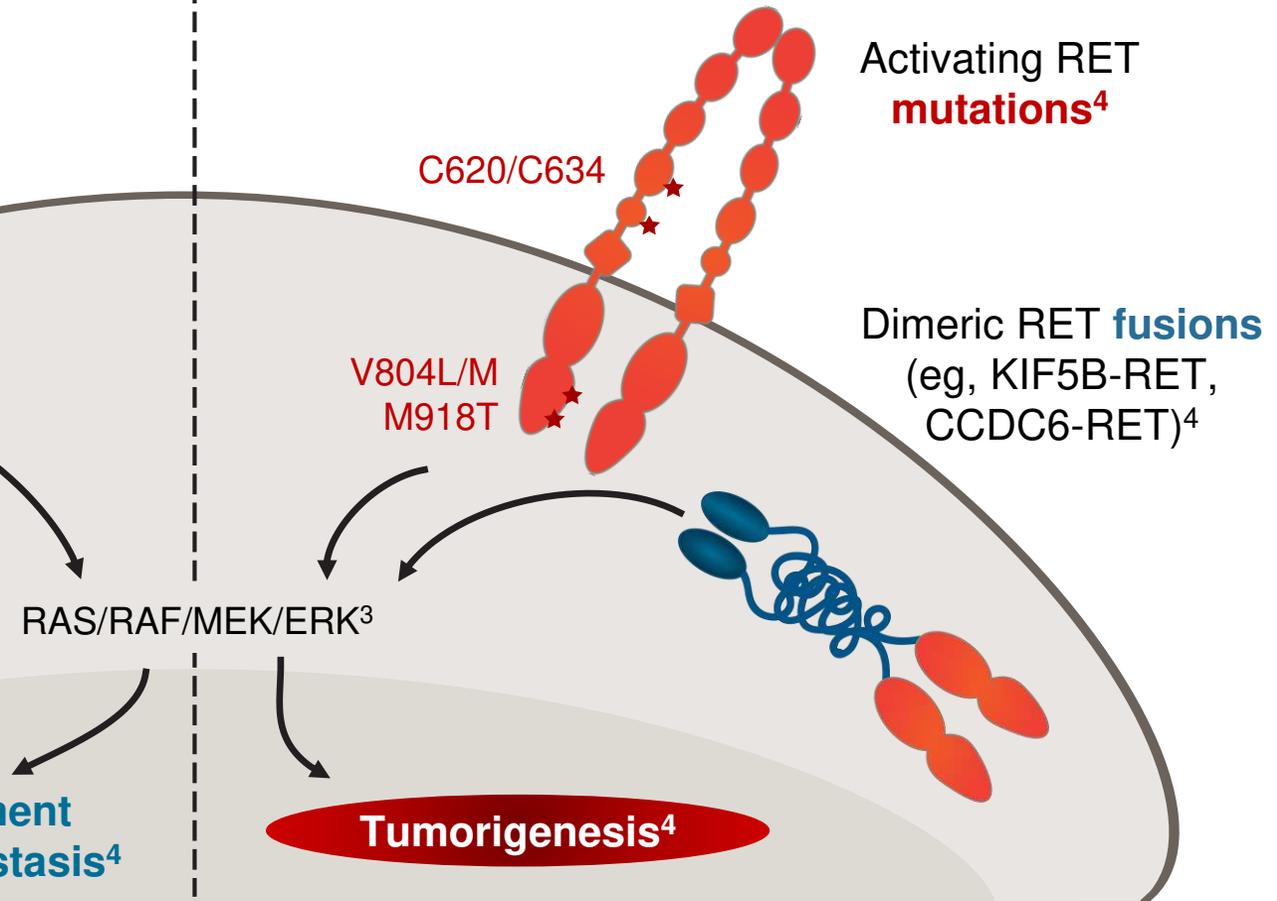
1. Mulligan LM. *Nat Rev Cancer*. 2014;14(3):173-186. 2. Pützer BM et al. In: Diamanti-Kandarakis E, ed. *Contemporary Aspects of Endocrinology*. IntechOpen; 2011. <https://www.intechopen.com/books/contemporary-aspects-of-endocrinology/molecular-diagnostics-in-treatment-of-medullary-thyroid-carcinoma>. Accessed August 23, 2018. 3. Pratilas CA et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2009;106(11):4519-4524. 4. Drilon A et al. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol*. 2018;15(3):151-167.

# Alterations in RET structure and function can lead to tumorigenesis<sup>1</sup>

## Normal RET signaling<sup>1,2</sup>



## Oncogenic RET signaling<sup>4</sup>



1. Mulligan LM. *Nat Rev Cancer*. 2014;14(3):173-186. 2. Pützer BM et al. In: Diamanti-Kandarakis E, ed. *Contemporary Aspects of Endocrinology*. IntechOpen; 2011. <https://www.intechopen.com/books/contemporary-aspects-of-endocrinology/molecular-diagnostics-in-treatment-of-medullary-thyroid-carcinoma>. Accessed August 23, 2018. 3. Pratilas CA et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2009;106(11):4519-4524. 4. Drilon A et al. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol*. 2018;15(3):151-167.

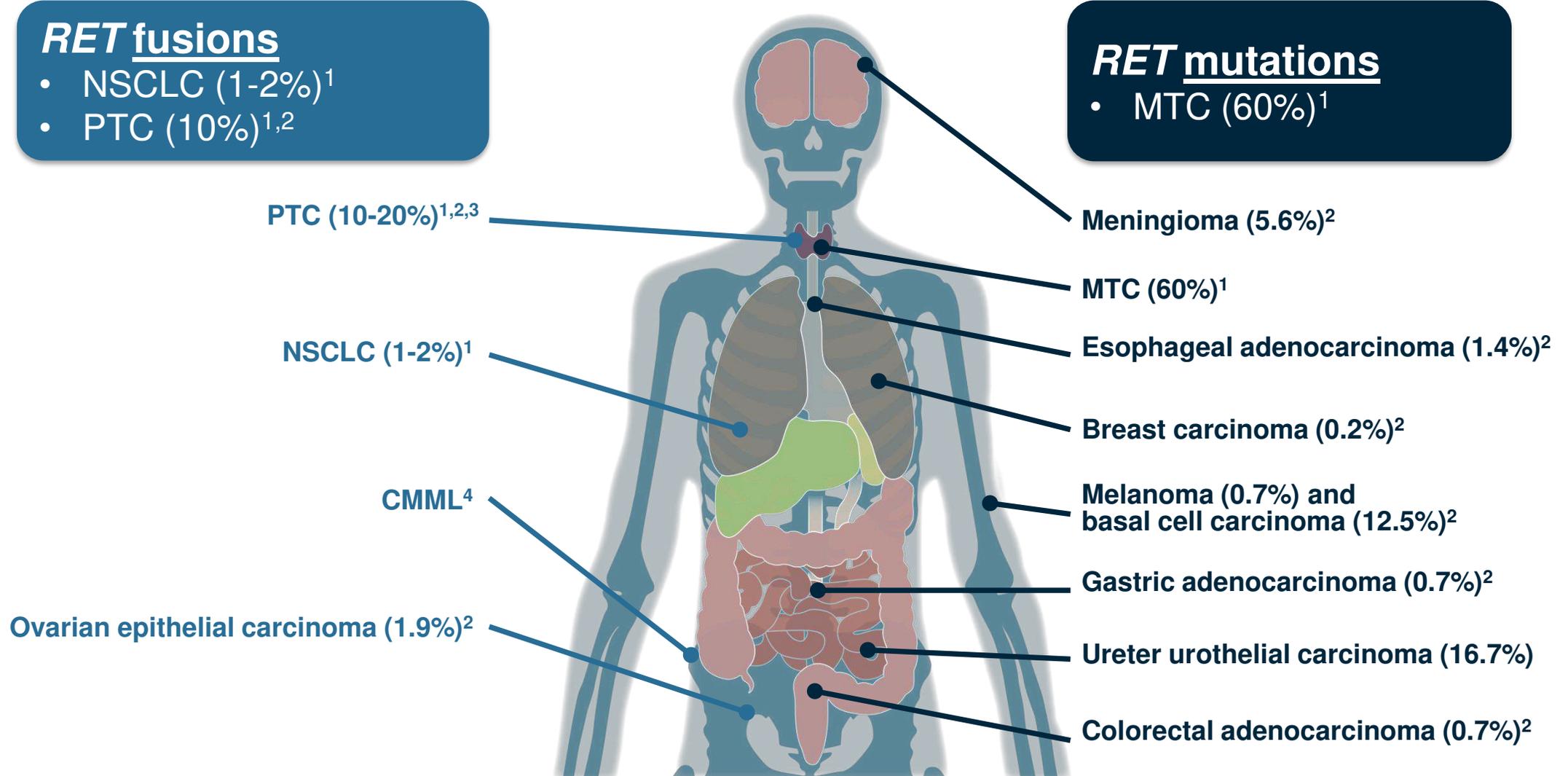
# RET alteration occurs in a wide range of tumor type<sup>1,2</sup>

## **RET fusions**

- NSCLC (1-2%)<sup>1</sup>
- PTC (10%)<sup>1,2</sup>

## **RET mutations**

- MTC (60%)<sup>1</sup>



MTC, medullary thyroid cancer; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; PTC, papillary thyroid cancer.

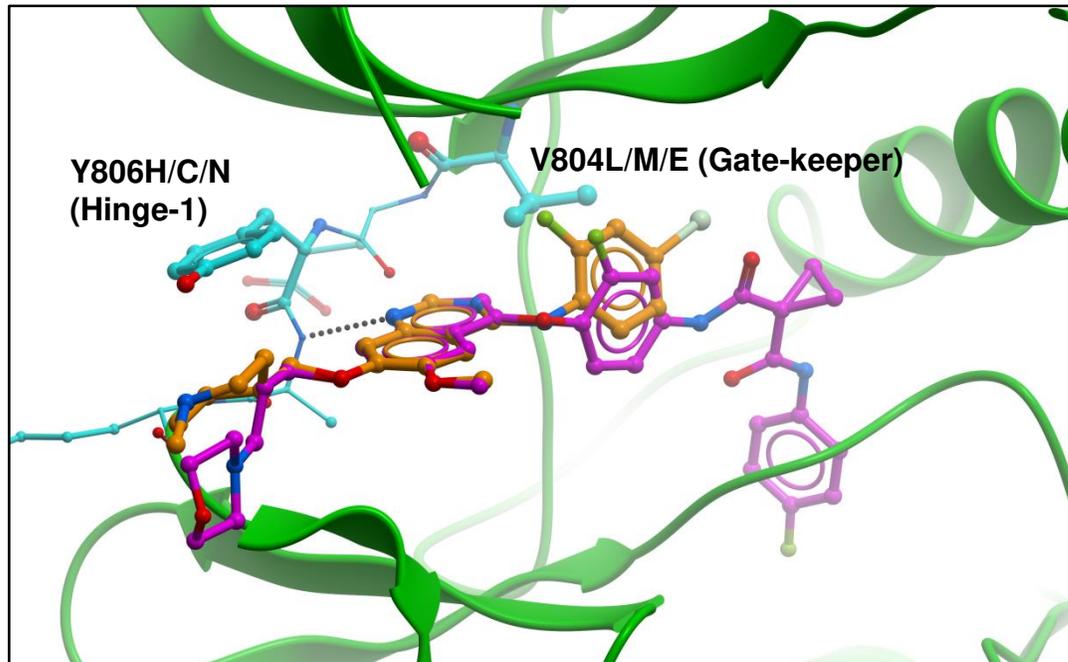
1. Drilon A et al. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol*. 2018;15(3):151-167. 2. Kato S et al. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2017;23(8):1988-1997.

3. Prescott JD et al. *Cancer*. 2015; 121(13):2137-2146. 4. Ballerini P et al. *Leukemia*. 2012;26(11):2384-2389.

# Patients with *RET*-altered cancers have not yet achieved the promise of precision therapy

## Ideal RET inhibitor profile:

1. Potently inhibit RET wild-type fusions (NSCLC & other cancers)
2. Potently inhibit oncogenic RET mutants (thyroid cancer)
3. Spare VEGFR2 in a kinome-selective manner
4. *Prevent on-target resistance mutations*

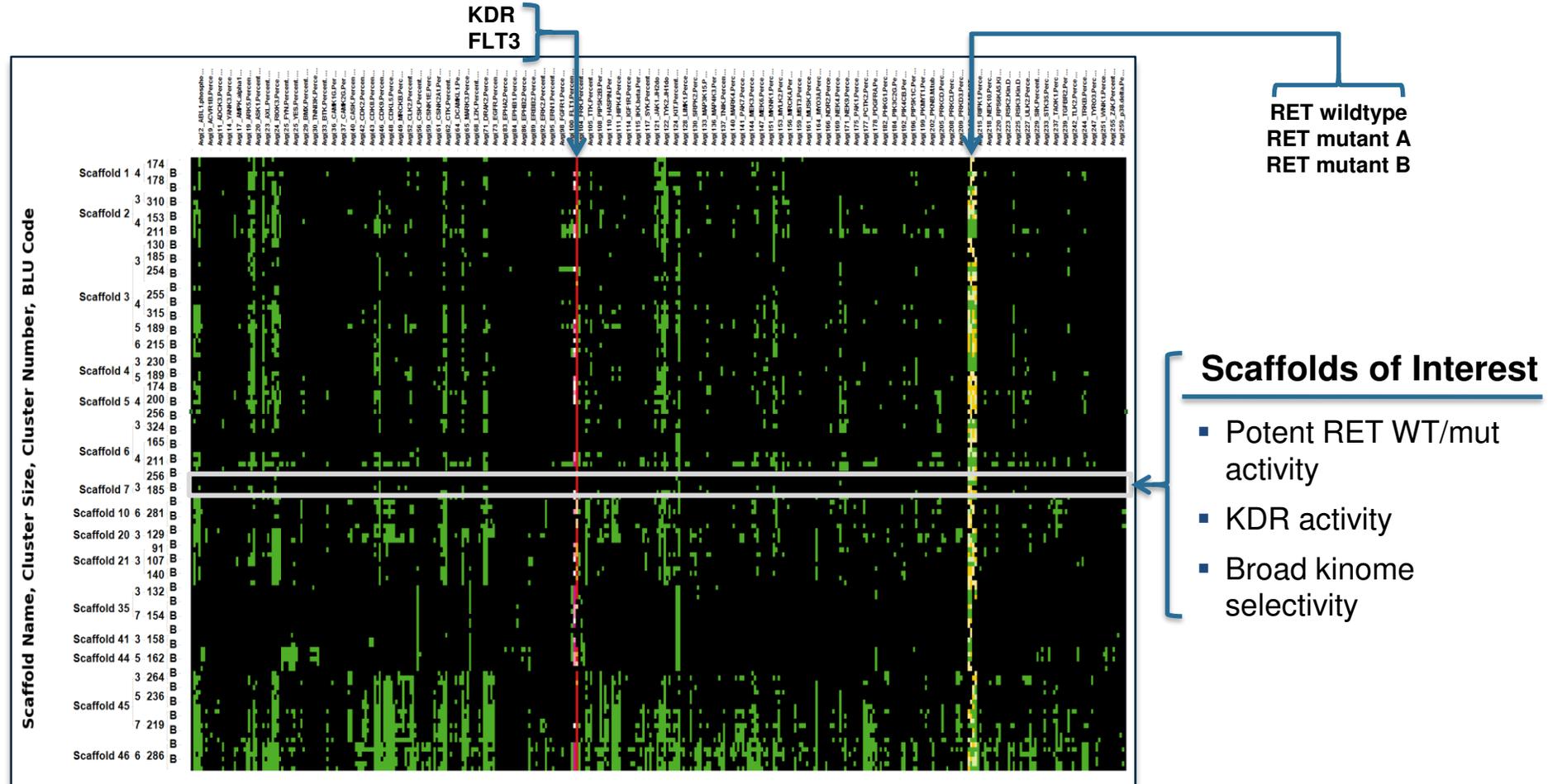


In vitro resistance screens have confirmed that multi-kinase inhibitors are vulnerable to RET mutations at V804(M/L/E) or Y806(H/C/N)

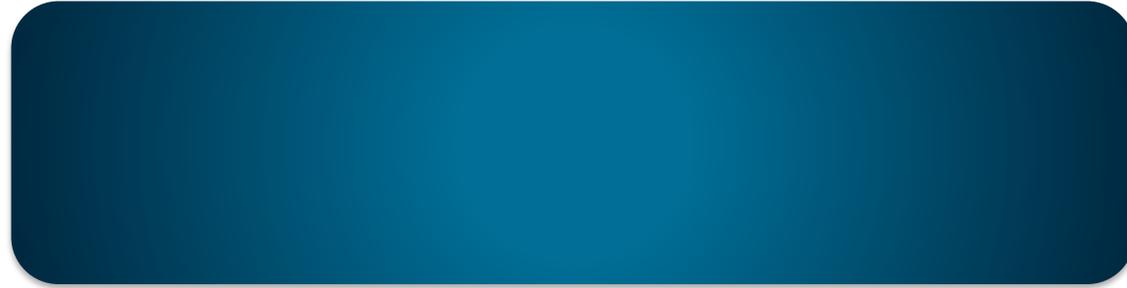
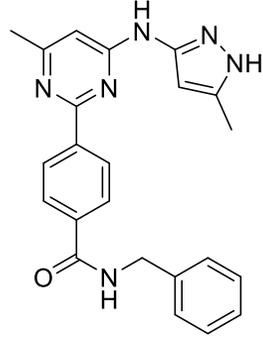
RET + Vandetanib Crystal Structure

# Activity-based clustering to identify hits from Blueprint library

## Optimized Spearman Method



# Blueprint library delivers multiple gatekeeper-agnostic RET inhibitor scaffolds

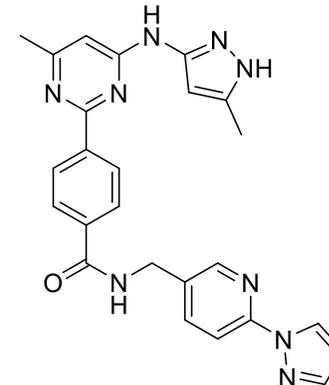
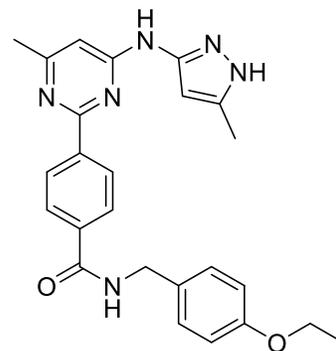
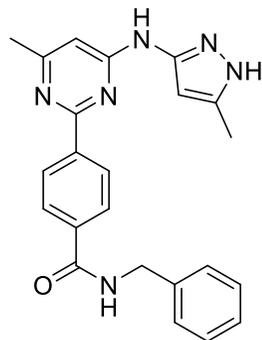
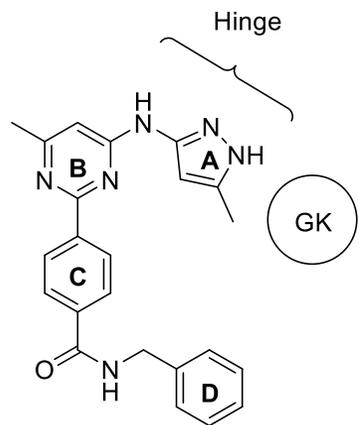


	Scaffold 1	Scaffold 2	Scaffold 3	Scaffold 4	Scaffold 5
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	56	13	9	7	85
RET V804L IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	30	17	12	5	52
pRET Cell IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	3300	765	1500	1725	
KDR/RET	26x	10x	56x	28x	9x
S(10) @ 3 μM*	0.089	0.071	0.041	0.046	0.054
Papp / efflux	16 / 3	7.5 / 6			22 / 1
HLM / RLM ER**	0.39 / 0.53	0.51 / 0.19	0.60 / 0.53	0.83 / 0.87	0.55 / 0.53
Solubility (μM)	13	96	1	5	6

\*number of kinases inhibited at <10 POC divided by total number of human wt kinases

\*\*human / rat liver microsome in vitro extraction ratio

# Progression of benzyl amide SAR leads to initial potency breakthrough



Compound	1
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	56
pRET Cell IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	3300
KDR/RET	26x
Papp / efflux	16 / 3
HLM / RLM ER	0.39 / 0.53
Solubility (μM)	13

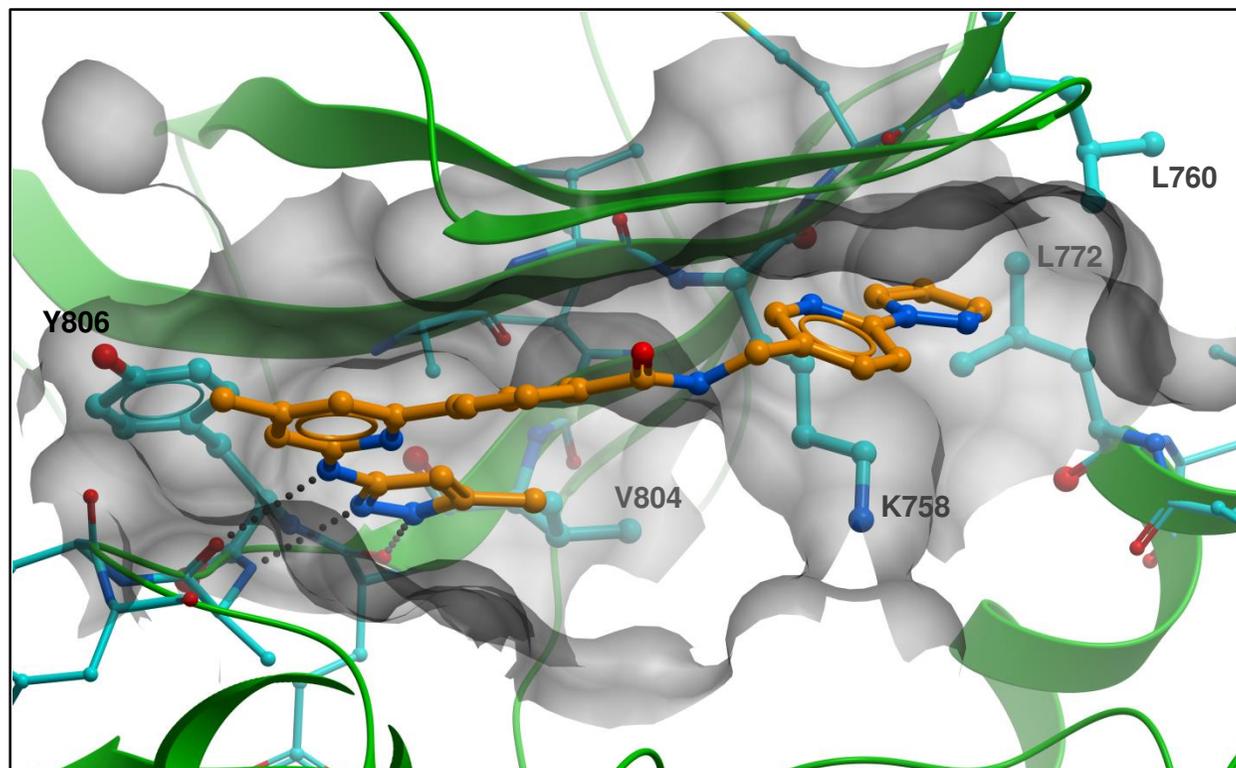
Compound	2
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	10
pRET Cell IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	409
KDR/RET	70x
Papp / efflux	21 / 2
HLM / RLM ER	0.54 / 0.49
Solubility (μM)	48

Compound	3
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	2.1
pRET Cell IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	29
KDR/RET	48x
Papp / efflux	3.0 / 17.4
HLM / RLM ER	0.00 / 0.28
Solubility (μM)	9

GK = Gatekeeper

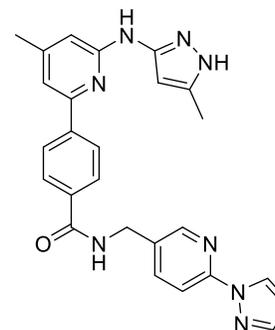
SAR = Structure activity relationship

# X-Ray crystal structure of Compound 4 (B-ring pyridine analog)



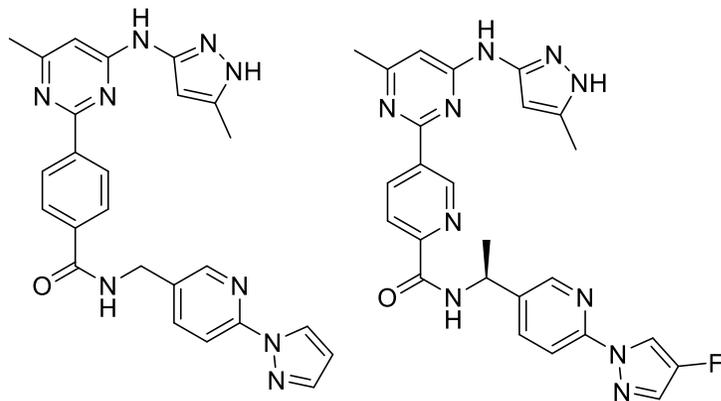
## Key features of scaffold

- Methylaminopyrazole hinge binder avoids gatekeeper pocket
- Aminopyrazole makes triplet H-bond interaction with kinase hinge
- Arylamide linker provides scaffolding to access pocket beyond catalytic Lys (K758); no specific protein interactions
- Terminal pyrazole accesses post-Lys pocket



Compound	4
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	1.8

# Further SAR development leads to advanced compound



Compound	3	5
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	2.1	1.6
pRET Cell IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	29	58
KDR/RET	48x	49x
Papp / efflux	3.0 / 17.4	11 / 1.3
HLM / RLM ER	0.00 / 0.28	0.35 / 0.27
Solubility (µM)	9	16
Mouse t <sub>1/2</sub> @ 15 mg/kg PO (h)	2	7

BID = twice daily dosing

fu = free fraction

## Compound 5:

- First project compound to show full tumor growth inhibition in mouse RET tumor model
- Confirmed IC<sub>90</sub> required for tumor regression
- Advanced to human dose projection – 6 g BID

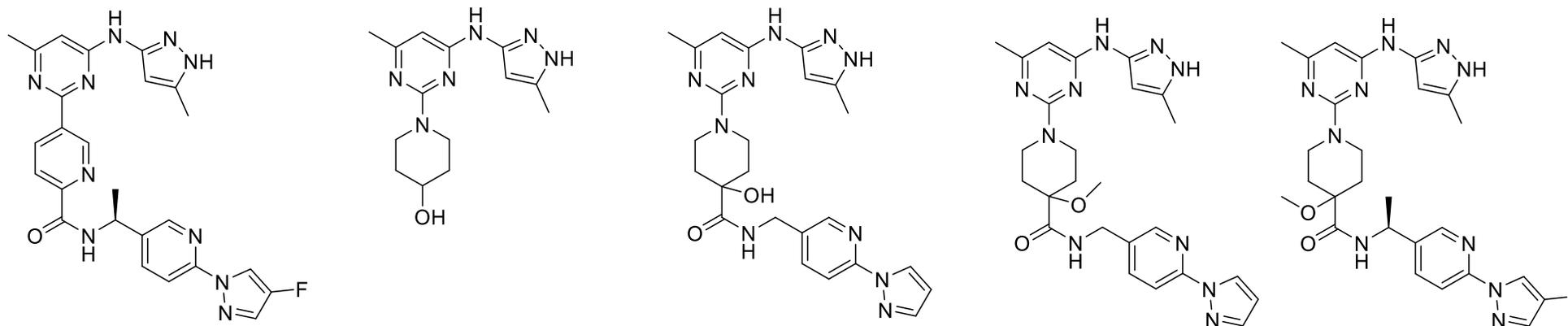
To lower dose projection, need to improve:

- Potency
- Higher species pharmacokinetics
- Intrinsic clearance (issue masked by high HLM binding)

Compound	5
HLM fu	0.09
cLogD	3.5
measured LogD	5.0

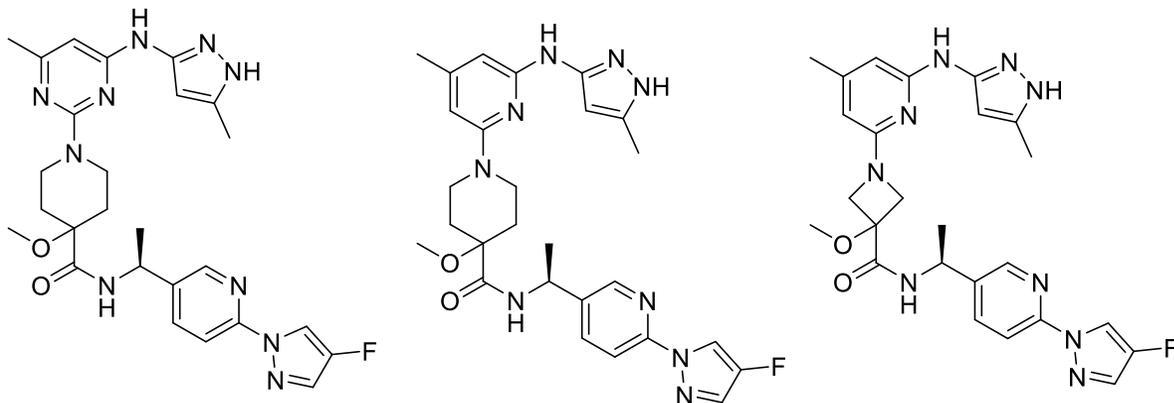
# Replacement of the aryl linker leads to potent alternate series

- Aryl linker replaced with saturated linker to improve physical properties
- Increased 3-dimensionality in linker leads to dramatic improvement in potency and solubility



Compound	5	6	7	8	9
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	1.6	402	4.9	4.0	0.5
pRET Cell IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	58		1660	58	3.0
KDR/RET	49x		29x	34x	67x
Papp / efflux	11 / 1.3		0.4 / 56	6 / 9	8 / 5
HLM / RLM ER	0.35 / 0.27		0.34 / 0.27	0.53 / 0.69	0.65 / 0.46
Solubility (μM)	16		88	>100	62

# Advanced N-Linked compounds plagued by high unbound clearance and short half-life



Compound	9	10	11
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	0.5	0.6	0.9
pRET Cell IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	3.0	2.4	10
KDR/RET	67x	176x	411x
HLM / RLM ER	0.65 / 0.46	0.24 / 0.26	0.46 / 0.28
Rat IV Cl (mL/min/kg)	29	15	23
Rat IV Clu (mL/min/kg)	916	9109	2431
Rat t <sub>1/2</sub> (h)	1.2	1.2	0.9

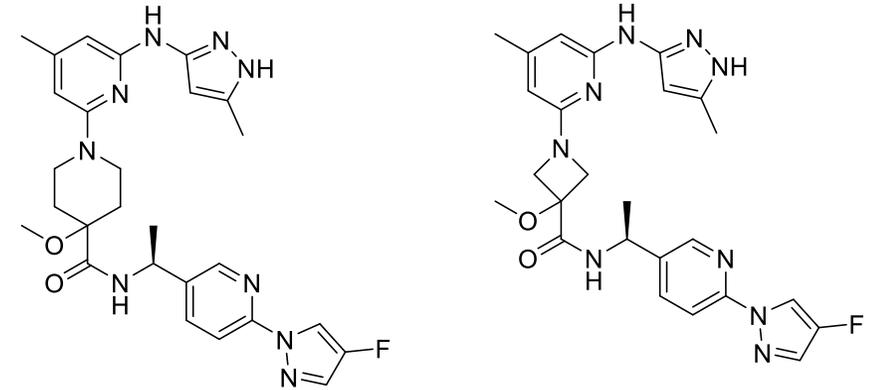
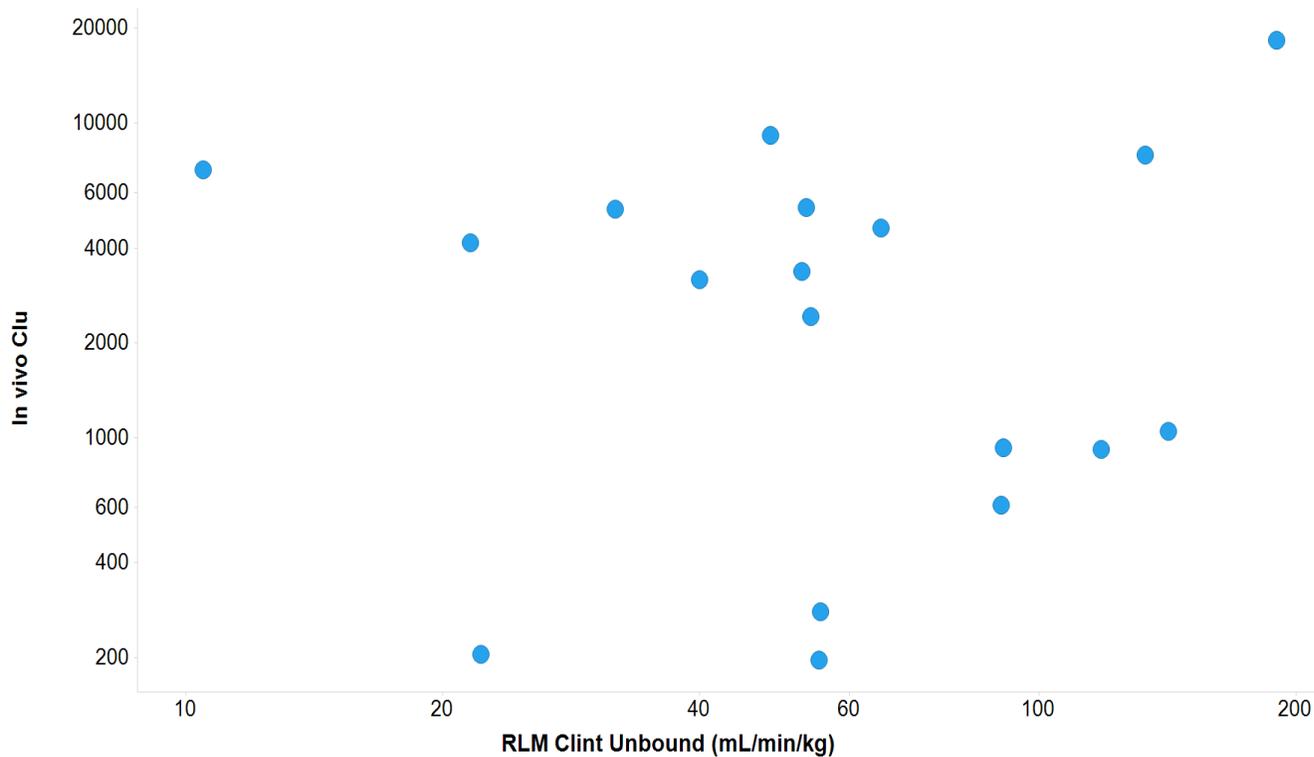
- N-linked series addressed only the potency aspect of an improved dose projection
- Still need to improve pharmacokinetic profile

Cl = Clearance

Clu = Unbound clearance

# No IVIVC or effect of ABT pretreatment on PK of N-linked series

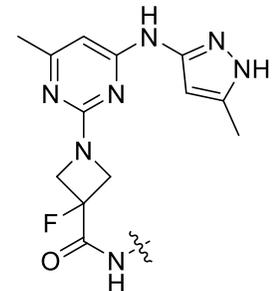
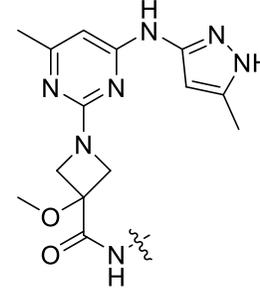
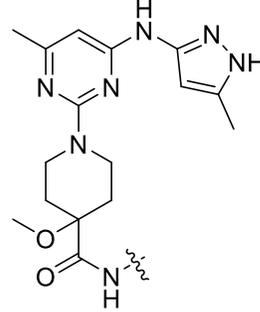
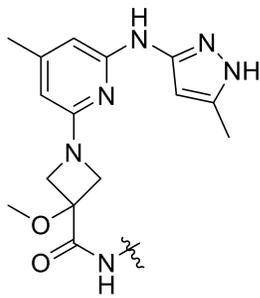
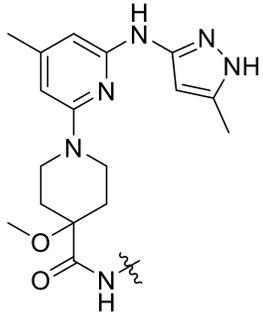
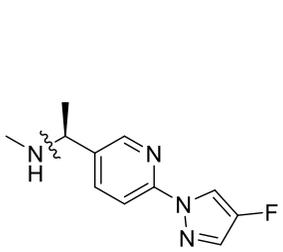
No in vitro – in vivo correlation (IVIVC):



Compound	10	10 + 50 mg/kg ABT	11	11 + 50 mg/kg ABT
Rat IV Cl (mL/min/kg)	15	15	22	19
Rat t <sub>1/2</sub> (h)	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2

- Oxidative metabolism not a driver of clearance
- Needed alternative hypothesis to improve CI / dose projection

# Trend observed in ring electronics and unbound clearance leads to C-linked designs

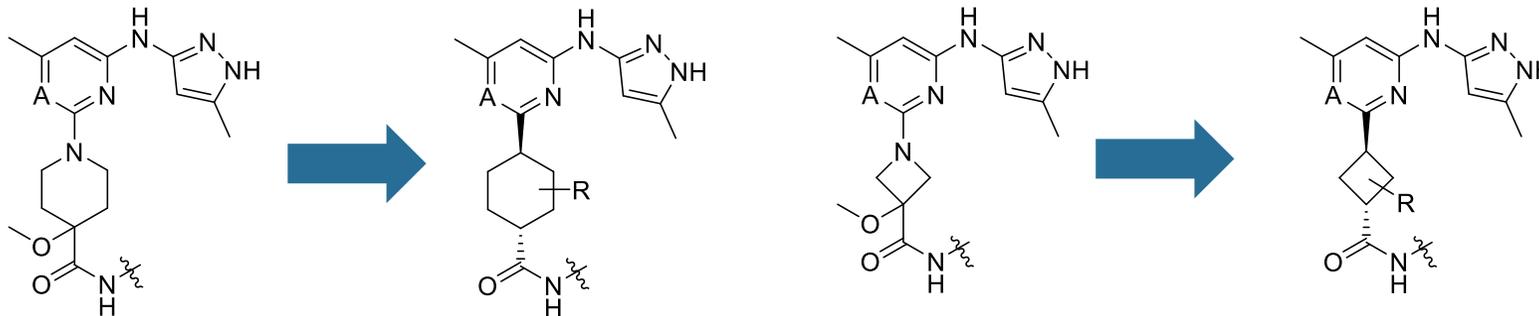


Compound	10	11	9	13	14
Rat IV Clu (mL/min/kg)	9109	2431	916	608	279



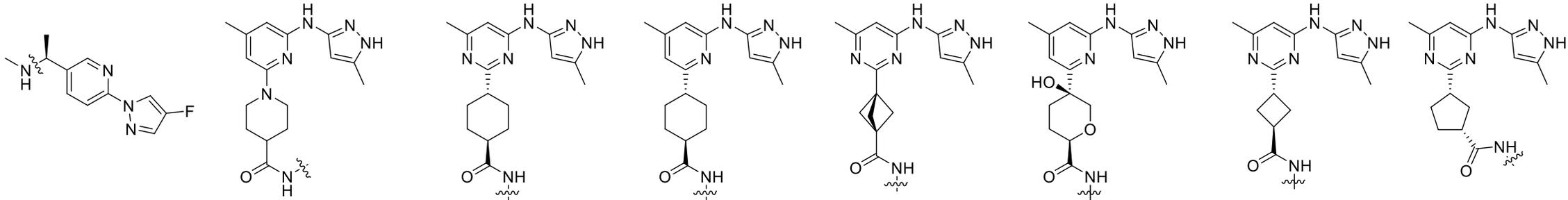
Hypothesis: Decreasing pKa of B ring leads to dramatic improvements in Clu

Design:  $sp^3$  carbon linked analogs will decrease electron density of B ring and improve Clu



# Broad exploration of carbon linkers shows improved unbound clearance and half-lives

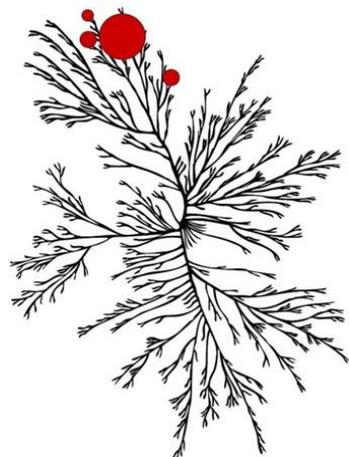
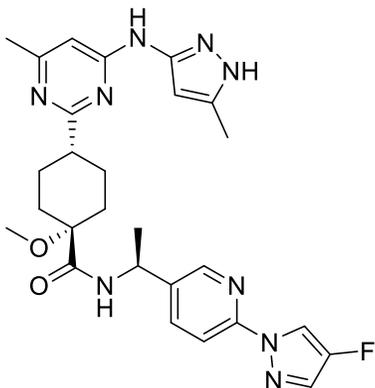
- Synthesized and profiled a wide array of C-linked compounds to pick best linkers for further development



Compound	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	1.7	0.8	5.5	2.0	1.0	0.3	0.4
pRET Cell IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	90	35	232	319	15	14	8.9
Rat IV Cl (mL/min/kg)	11	17	3.4	24	2.7	26	14
Rat IV Cl <sub>u</sub> (mL/min/kg)	8461	420	1848	383	1353	515	465
Rat t <sub>1/2</sub> (h)	1.1	3.8	3.9	3.1	4.4	1.2	1.8

- Trans cyclohexyl linker gives excellent balance of potency, unbound clearance, and half-life

# Advancement of trans cyclohexyl series leads to discovery of BLU-667



Physicochemical Properties	
MW	533
LogD (pH 7.4)	3.0
TPSA	127
FaSSIF ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	48
Caco-2 (efflux ratio)	21 (1.0)

Enzymatic IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	
RET WT	0.4
RET CCD6	0.4
RET M918T	0.4
RET V804L	0.3
RET V804M	0.4
RET V804E	0.7
RET Y806H	1.0
KDR/RET	80x

Cellular IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	
RET WT IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	4.0

In vivo potency (nM)	
RET IC <sub>50</sub> , u	1.1
RET IC <sub>90</sub> , u	6.9

In vitro Stability	
HLM ER	0.14
RLM ER	0.10
DLM ER	0.21
MkLM ER	0.48

## Pharmacokinetic Profile (IV Dosing)

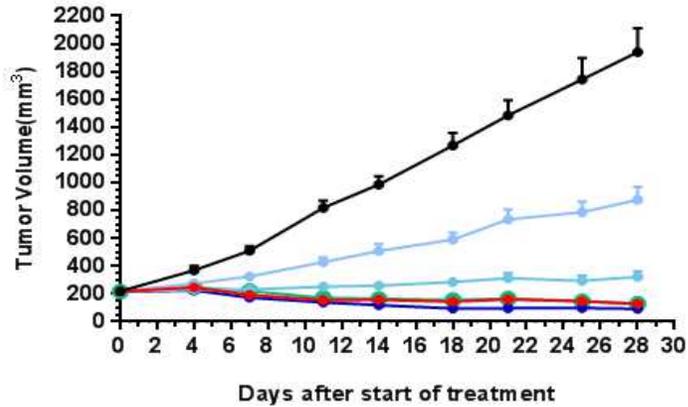
	Cl (mL/min/kg)	Cl <sub>u</sub> (mL/min/kg)	V <sub>dss</sub> (L/kg)	t <sub>1/2</sub> (h)
Rat	14	710	3.3	3.8
Dog	2.0	235	0.49	3.5
Monkey	6.5	131	1.7	3.7

## PO Dosing

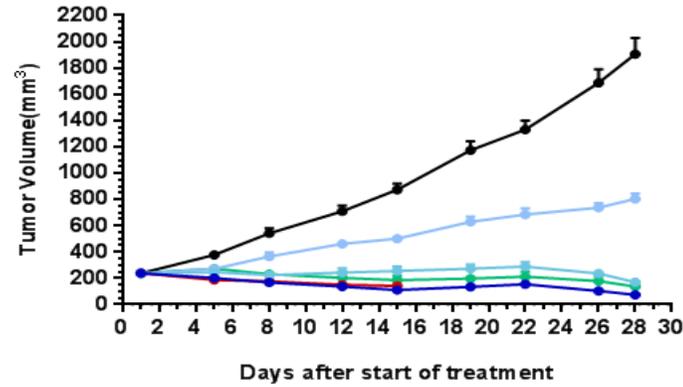
%F
>100
>100
100

# Targeted RET inhibition induces regression in RET-altered in vivo tumor models

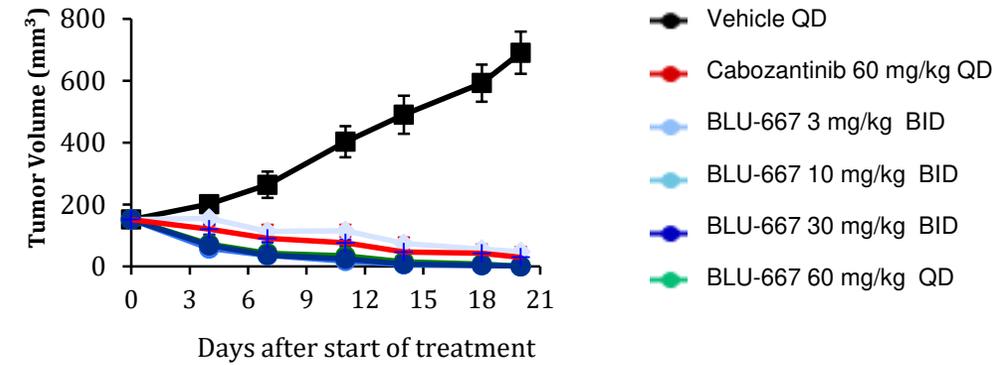
Lung Adenocarcinoma PDX  
*KIF5B-RET* Fusion



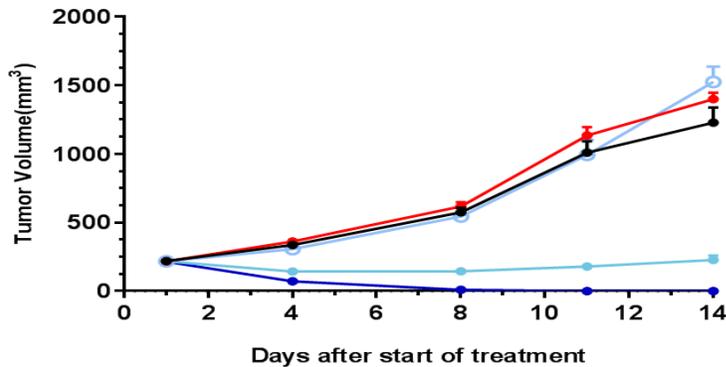
Medullary Thyroid Cancer Xenograft  
Mutant (*RET C634W*)



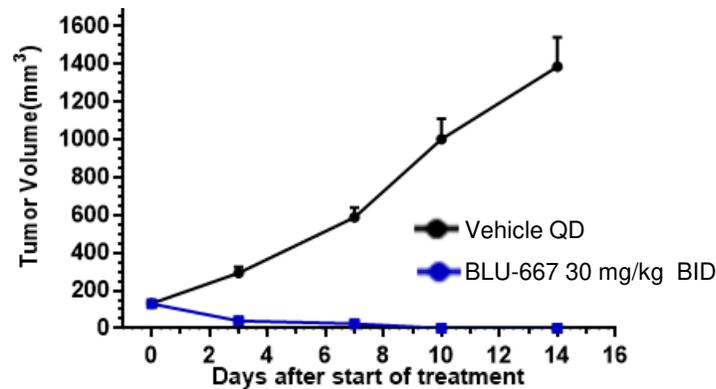
Colorectal Cancer PDX  
*CCDC6-RET* Fusion



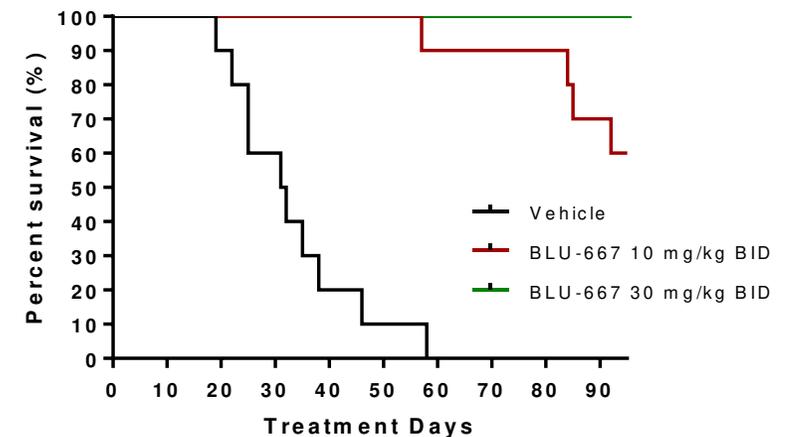
Ba/F3 *KIF5B-RET(V804L)*



Ba/F3 *KIF5B-RET(V804E)*



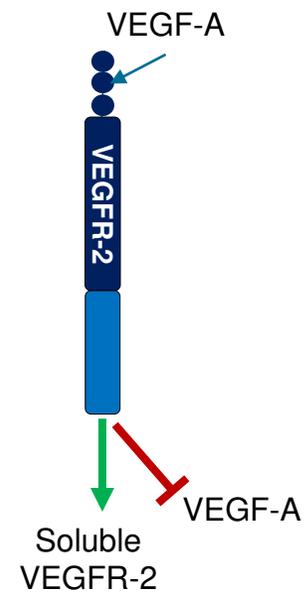
Intracranial *CCDC6-RET* CRC



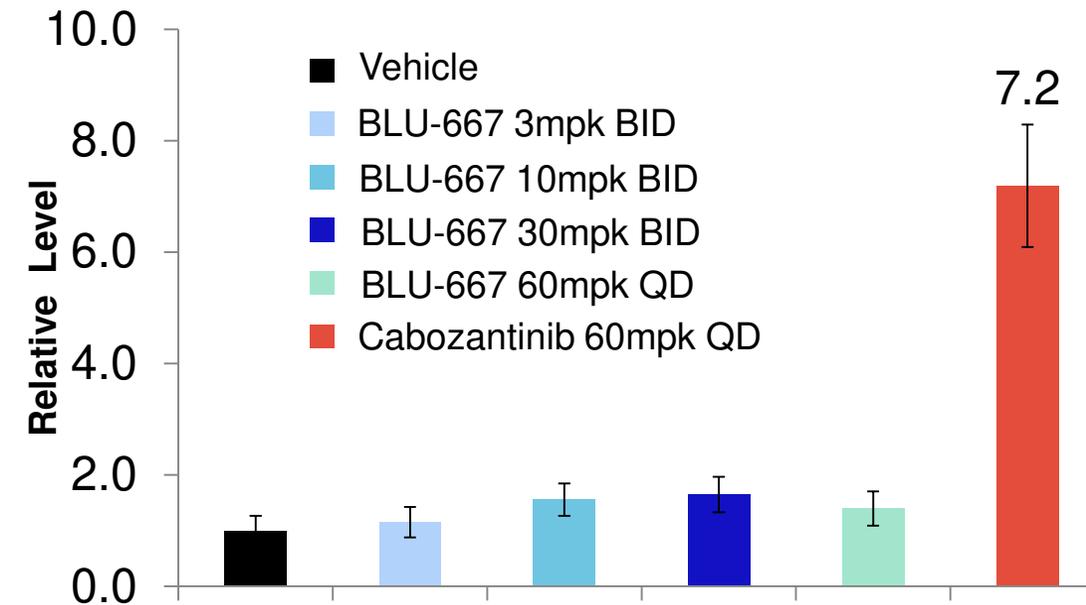
# Active doses of BLU-667 do not functionally impact VEGFR-2 in PDX models

Drug	VEGF-A	sVEGFR-2
<b>Cabozantinib</b>	↑	↓
<b>Vandetanib</b>	↑	↓
Sunitinib	↑	↓
Axitinib	↑	↓
Sorafenib	↑	↓
Telatinib	↑	↓
Brivanib	↑	↓
Motesanib	↑	↓
Cediranib	↑	↓

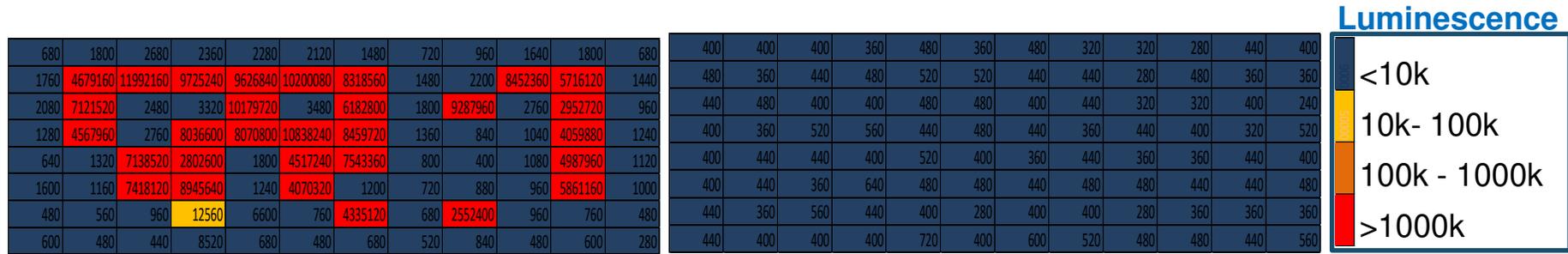
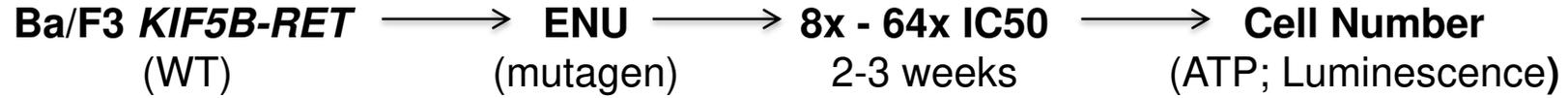
## VEGFR-2/KDR Signaling



Plasma VEGF-A Levels Following Treatment of *KIF5B-RET* Tumor-bearing Mice with BLU-667 or Cabozantinib

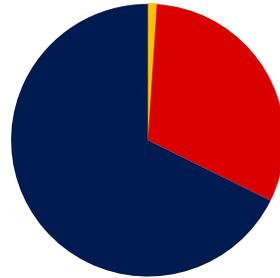


# BLU-667 prevents RET resistance mutants

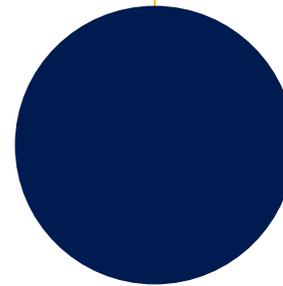


16x IC50 Cabozantinib

8x IC50 BLU-667



**V804E**  
**V804M**  
**V804L**  
**Y806C**



By suppressing resistance mutants that confer resistance to MKIs, BLU-667 has the potential to overcome and prevent emergence of clinical resistance

# Conclusions

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- Blueprint Medicines Library provided multiple starting scaffolds with activity against RET wt and predicted resistance mutations
- Cell potency was improved ~1000x while retaining broad activity against resistance mutants and KDR sparing profile
- DMPK optimization faced with poor IVIVC was overcome by identifying a trend in electronic properties and unbound clearance
- BLU-667 is active in WT, gatekeeper mutant, and intracranial preclinical tumor models at doses that spare in vivo KDR activity
- Potently inhibits RET wild-type fusions (NSCLC & other cancers) and oncogenic mutations (MTC)
  - High preliminary response rates and durable activity in phase 1 dose escalation
  - BLU-667 has been generally well tolerated with most AEs being Grade 1/2

# Program outlook and anticipated milestones

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- BLU-667 phase 1 dose expansion is open and enrolling globally
- Plan to initiate a Phase 3 trial in first-line RET-fusion NSCLC in the second half of 2019
- Plan to initiate a Phase 2 combination trial of BLU-667 and osimertinib in treatment-resistant, EGFR-mutant NSCLC harboring an acquired RET alteration in the second half of 2019
- Plan to submit an NDA to the FDA for second-line RET-fusion NSCLC and second-line RET-mutant MTC in the first half of 2020

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