

# Bioinformatics and computational approaches for analyzing patient-derived disease models in cancer research

Gendoo, Deena M A

DOI:

[10.1016/j.csbj.2020.01.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csbj.2020.01.010)

License:

Creative Commons: Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)

*Document Version*

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Citation for published version (Harvard):*

Gendoo, DMA 2020, 'Bioinformatics and computational approaches for analyzing patient-derived disease models in cancer research', *Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal*, vol. 18, pp. 375-380. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csbj.2020.01.010>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

## General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

## Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact [UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk](mailto:UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk) providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.



## Review

# Bioinformatics and computational approaches for analyzing patient-derived disease models in cancer research



Deena M.A. Gendoo\*

Centre for Computational Biology, Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, United Kingdom

## ARTICLE INFO

## Article history:

Received 15 October 2019

Accepted 26 January 2020

Available online 5 February 2020

## Keywords:

Xenograft

Organoid

Disease model

Bioinformatics

Computational biology

## ABSTRACT

Patient-derived organoids (PDO) and patient-derived xenografts (PDX) continue to emerge as important preclinical platforms for investigations into the molecular landscape of cancer. While the advantages and disadvantage of these models have been described in detail, this review focuses in particular on the bioinformatics and state-of-the-art techniques that accompany preclinical model development. We discuss the strength and limitations of currently used technologies, particularly 'omics profiling and bioinformatics analyses, in addressing the 'efficacy' of preclinical models, both for tumour characterization as well as their use in identifying potential therapeutics. We select pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) as a case study to highlight the state of the art of the field, and address new avenues for improved bioinformatics characterization of preclinical models.

© 2020 The Author. Published by Elsevier B.V. on behalf of Research Network of Computational and Structural Biotechnology. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

## Contents

1. Introduction	375
2. Bioinformatics approaches towards preclinical disease modelling	376
3. A bioinformatics case study: pancreatic cancer	377
4. Platforms for growth	378
5. Summary & outlook	378
Declaration of Competing Interest	378
References	378

## 1. Introduction

A growing number of preclinical models are on the rise as surrogate biological systems that promise to elucidate disease pathogenesis, and which are hypothesized to be effective for preclinical treatment testing. This encompasses a range of engineered cells and tissues of varying genomic complexity, spanning both *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* models. Over the past decade of cancer research,

there has been an explosion of patient-derived tumour xenografts (PDX) and patient-derived organoids (PDO) for a variety of cancer types [1]. Development of these preclinical models in particular aims to serve multi-fold purposes: recapitulating genetic and phenotypic tumour heterogeneity, assessing cancer evolutionary dynamics, analyzing mechanisms of cancer progression, and identifying potentially viable therapeutics [1,2]. PDX and PDO models for personalized drug testing are superseding use of human cancer cell lines for several key reasons. The artificial environment of human cancer cell lines produces homogenous populations that no longer genetically recapitulate the original tumour, and there have been significant differences observed in the gene expression

\* Address: University of Birmingham, Edgbaston Campus, Haworth Building, Rm 321, Birmingham B15 2TT, United Kingdom.

E-mail address: [d.gendoo@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.gendoo@bham.ac.uk)

profiles of tumours and matching cell lines [3–7]. PDX models are developed by engrafting surgically resected tumour samples into immunocompromised mice, and can be propagated by serial passaging in mice [8–10]. Organoids are derived from stem cells (pluripotent stem cells or adult specific stem cells) that are grown in 3D in Matrigel alongside niche factors; these *ex-vivo* models mimic the *in vivo* architecture of the original tumour, and can be characterized using nucleic acid and proteomic methods [11,12].

Interrogation of anti-cancer therapeutics using PDX and PDO models focuses on two main directions. The first is precision and personalized medicine. The underlying assumption here, is that the complexity of human tumours, and the ensuing range of pharmacological responses, vary substantially from patient to patient [2,5,8]. Patient-specific organoids for individualistic treatment of cystic fibrosis patients has been met with success [13–15], and has served both as a proof-of-concept and trigger for drug testing in organoids across multiple cancer types. PDO models have become a more preferable model to PDX, owing to shorter time frames and versatility to produce a spectrum of drug-sensitivity data [8,16]. In addition to small-scale, personalized patient treatment, PDX and PDO models are being exploited for the purpose of grander preclinical decision making. In that context, the intention is to capture population diversity, and from it, identify clinically actionable genetic alterations [8,17]. Population-based drug screens also provides insight into mechanisms of therapeutic resistance, as well as large-scale genotype-phenotype correlations [8]. A pertinent example of this approach is a recent population-based drug screen has been carried out on the ‘PDX Encyclopedia’, a compendium of >1000 PDX models across a range of solid cancers [8,18]. In that screen, Gao et al. [18] used a  $1 \times 1 \times 1$  testing approach to assess population responses to 62 treatments across 6 indications, using PDX models that contain a diverse set of driver mutations. Through this analysis, they identified therapeutic candidates that had not been realized using *in vitro* models, and succeeded in using this large panel to validate previously proposed biomarkers of drug sensitivity [8,18]. Whether for precision medicine or population-wide screening, the use of omics profiling, and the ensuing bioinformatics and computational biology analyses, have played a large role in the assessment of model fidelity (Fig. 1). For precision medicine, single- and multi-omics profiling

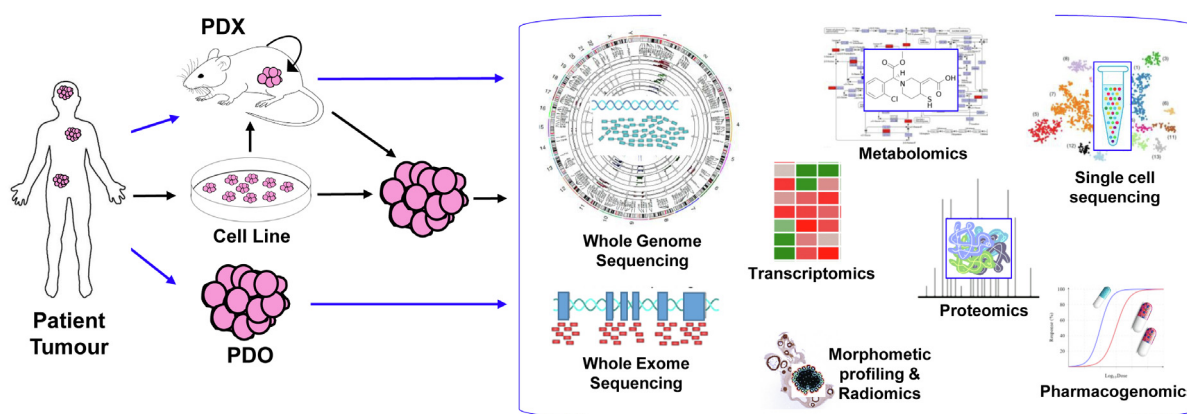
is employed to assess whether molecular changes in the patient are also identified when transplanted to the disease model. For population-wide screens, these omics platforms are used to highlight the spectrum of genetic changes that can be identified across both the population and sub-populations (in some cases, tumour subtypes), when the tumours are grown into *in vivo* or *ex vivo* models.

## 2. Bioinformatics approaches towards preclinical disease modelling

‘How well do PDX and PDO recapitulate the patient tumour?’ This remains a key question at the forefront of any analysis involving preclinical models, whether for the intended use of these models in tumour characterization, or for preclinical testing. Defining whether a given PDX or PDO model serves a representative tumour analog, or ‘patient avatar’, remains a rather complex question [16] that is largely dependent on the aspect of the tumour being modelled. A number of high-throughput ‘omics technologies and bioinformatics approaches (Fig. 1, Table 1) have been used to address the question from a number of angles. A large majority of publications (representative examples in Table 1) have focused on whole-genome sequencing (WGS), whole-exome sequencing (WES), RNA sequencing (RNAseq) and more recently, single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA). We highlight some of these technologies below.

Whole-exome sequencing approaches have been largely used to address model fidelity by demonstrating that a patient and matching disease model share similar mutation profiles, particularly for mutations pertaining to well-recognized driver genes of the tumour. Exome profiling demonstrates that PDO models recapitulate subtype-specific mutational profiles of key driver genes and pathways that are observed in patient tissues of gastric cancer [19]. Variant conservation, distribution of variant allele frequencies, and overlap of mutational load between primary tumours and PDX have also been used as metric to demonstrate PDX model fidelity [20].

Whole-genome sequencing approaches provide a more encompassing picture of complex genomic events, including mutations, structural variations, and copy number changes. Similar to WES,



**Fig. 1.** The range of bioinformatics and computational biology analyses applied to assessing disease model fidelity. In the most direct approach (blue arrows), tumour cells from the patient are grown directly into a xenograft model (*in-vivo*), or as a 3D organoid (*ex-vivo*). Other intermediate steps (black arrows) towards growing PDX and PDO involve propagation of tumour cells in cell lines (*in-vitro*), followed by transfer to PDX to PDO prior to profiling. Patient tumours and resultant disease models are then assessed using various ‘omics’ profiling technologies that can then be analyzed to determine molecular and functional changes, including: mutation load (WGS, WES), copy number and structural variation changes (WGS, WES), gene expression for bulk tumour (transcriptomics and RNAseq) or across individual cells (single-cell RNAseq), protein expression changes (proteomics), response to therapy (pharmacogenomics), enrichment of biological pathways (metabolomics) and tumour histoarchitectural agreement (morphometric profiling and radiomics). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

**Table 1**

Overview of commonly used bioinformatics and high-throughput analytical approaches towards assessing the molecular landscape, as well as donor fidelity, of PDX and PDO models across different cancer types.

Technology Used	Bioinformatics Analysis & Outcomes	Representative Examples and Organ type(s)
Whole Exome Sequencing (WES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Match tumour-model mutational profiles and genetic events for tumour suppressor and oncogenes (ex: identification of a frame-shift deletion in the same gene, across donors and matching models)</li> <li>– Assess allelic fractions of somatic mutations (distribution of MAF)</li> <li>– Compare trinucleotide alterations and mutation patterns (C → A, C → G, C → T, T → A, T → C, T → G)</li> <li>– Phylogenetic analysis</li> </ul>	[19,20,25] Gastric Pancreas Oral Cavity
Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Similar investigations to WES (see above)</li> <li>– Deeper exploration of structural variation events (insertions, deletions, duplications, translocations) that are retained when tumours are transplanted into PDX or PDO</li> <li>– Investigation into copy number changes due to model transplantation, including identification of clones and subclones.</li> </ul>	[20–23] Esophagus Breast Pancreas Oral Cavity
Single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– investigation of tumour heterogeneity (ex: intra-tumour diversification)</li> <li>– Deeper probe into clonal evolution as well as progression of somatic mutations</li> </ul>	[26–29] Brain Colorectal Lung Breast
Proteomic profiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– assess overlap of the transcriptome and proteome for given models</li> <li>– identify patient-specific, distinct proteomic signatures for PDX and PDO (ex: microsatellite stability)</li> </ul>	[30] Colorectal
Metabolomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– examine metabolite abundance in preclinical models</li> <li>– identify enriched pathways across patients and PDX or PDO</li> <li>– assess metabolic reprogramming in tumourigenesis and tumour progression</li> <li>– correlate metabolite enrichment against transcriptomic and proteomic profiles to obtain a system-wide understanding of tumourigenesis</li> </ul>	[31,32] Breast Intestine

WGS can shed deep insights into whether mutations are retained when tumours are transplanted into PDX and PDO. To this end, SNP-based sample clustering from WGS data has been used to assess the genetic distance between patient tissues and organoids across 33 breast cancer patients [21]. Distributions of mutations can also be analyzed to identify key mutational signatures in cancer; the expectation is there will be a concordance of signature types identified in matching tumour-model pairs [21]. Further characterization using WGS profiling focuses on more complex genomic events. Consistency of large-scale structural alterations and overall copy number profiles, compared to SNVs, has been

observed in esophageal organoids [22]. WGS has also been used to demonstrate that chromothriptic events, which represent concerted, chromosomal structural rearrangements, are retained in esophageal and pancreatic organoids [22,23]. Notably however, not all events are always concordant between donor-model pairs. Using the same technology, the authors also noted cases of discordance between tumour-donor pairs, including the addition or reduction of large-scale amplifications when tumours were transplanted to the PDX and PDO models [22,23]. In addition to complex genomic events, whole genome sequencing has also been exploited to assess copy number changes, as well as investigate clonal structure and dynamics. It has been demonstrated in breast and hematopoietic cancers that copy number aberrations acquired through PDX passaging are substantially different from their parental tumours [24]. Accordingly, assessment of copy number aberrations, and agreement across multiple passages of PDX and PDO, sheds light on the genomic stability of these models and their association with drug therapy [20–22].

### 3. A bioinformatics case study: pancreatic cancer

Despite advancements in the use of PDX and PDO model to examine the molecular cancer landscape and to conduct preclinical testing, assessment of model fidelity for donor-model fidelity remains largely centered on *qualitative*, rather than *quantitative*, comparisons of genomic alterations. This poses a significant hurdle for translation of these models into the clinic, particularly for highly lethal and therapy-recalcitrant tumours [5,33–35]. As a representative example, we focus on Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC), which has a relatively unchanged 5-year survival rate, and is notoriously considered to have the worst prognosis amongst solid tumours [36,37].

WES profiling of PDAC cell lines and PDX models has been thoroughly conducted, across both primary and metastatic tumour [25,38,39]. Xie et al. [39] addressed somatic SNV characterization of paired primary tumours, metastasis, and matching PDX. In particular, the authors focused on allele frequency distributions and the agreement of functional mutations (driver genes and tumour suppressors) for matched data sets across three PDAC patients. Despite the limited patient and sample size of the study, the authors argue that their findings demonstrate that PDX models closely approximate PDAC genetics, particularly for advanced or end-stage disease [39]. Witkiewicz et al. [25], and Knudsen et al. [38] conducted a more detailed comparison of matched cell lines and PDX models that are derived from the same tumour, and demonstrated PDX utility in recapitulating patient-specific therapeutic sensitivities. Knudsen et al. [38] compared genetic events across 27 profiled PDAC patients, including primary tumour, matched PDX, and in some cases, cell lines derived from PDX. They indicated preservation of PDAC oncogenic driver mutations (ex: KRAS, TP53, SMAD4) and high allele frequencies in the cell lines, and conservation of >75% of nonsynonymous mutations across primary tumours and PDX [38]. In a similar vein, Wikiewicz et al. [25] conducted an interrogation into actionable genetic events that are retained in matched models, and a detailed investigation into therapeutic sensitivity of these models following drug treatment. Out of 28 cases, they identified a genetic event with sensitivity to a therapeutic strategy, and stressed upon the functional relevance of using patient-derived models to identify the significance of potentially actionable genetic events [25]. Collectively, these studies aimed to emphasize the fidelity of PDAC disease models at the genomic level based on mutational profiles. However, sole agreement of mutational profiles, and in particular for only a subset of driver genes, presents only a marginal characterization that is largely unreflective of the diverse molecular heterogeneity of the dis-



ease. Actionable driver mutations in PDAC remain to be identified; few patients with BRCA2 and KRAS mutations, for example, have been identified benefitting from targeted therapies [37,40]. As such, much more comprehensive analyses need to be undergone, that are reflective of PDAC tumours and disease models at different levels of genomic complexity.

As a larger encompassing 'omics platform, whole-genome sequencing has been used to assess the genomic complexity of resected PDAC tumours [37,41–43], and has shed light on complex genomic events, such as catastrophic mitotic phenomena (chromothripsis) that occur with high frequency [43]. WGS profiling has only been addressed very recently for PDAC PDX and PDO models [23,40], including work conducted by our laboratory [23]. To this end, WGS analysis is starting to play a role in assessing agreement of structural variation (SV) and copy number variation (CNV) across donor-model pairs in PDAC, with a focus on events which play a significant role in PDAC drug response and tumorigenesis [23,40,44–46]. Our laboratory in particular has conducted the first quantitative assessment of whole-genome comparisons between PDAC tissue and matched model systems; this presented a new opportunity for investigation of PDX and PDO fidelity at single-gene, chromosome- and genome-wide levels [23]. Our findings indicated that PDX and PDO demonstrate concordance of SV genomic events against patient tumours, particularly for chromosomes demonstrating chromothriptic behaviour [23]. Additionally, our assessment of a unique cohort of matched patient, PDX, and PDO 'trios' underscored that PDO models better recapitulate patients if grown using tumour tissue directly, rather than being grown from a PDX [23]. This is a pertinent observation, given increased findings that suggest PDO models are better able to reconstitute the PDAC tumour niche, compared to PDX and cell lines [47–50].

In comparison to PDX, PDO models pose several advantages as PDAC tumour surrogates, given their increased ability to demonstrate ductal- and stage-specific characteristics, and that their 3-D architecture promotes interaction between pancreatic cells that better reflect the original tumour [47,48,50,51]. Only recently, screening of large-scale PDAC organoid libraries has provided additional insight as to the efficacy of these models for widespread screening of therapeutics. Using a combination of whole-genome sequencing, transcriptomic profiling, and therapeutic profiling ('pharmacotyping'), Tiriach et al. demonstrated that PDO models demonstrate heterogeneity in chemotherapy response, and identified transcriptional signatures that mirrored patient outcomes in two clinical cohorts [40]. Such findings present new avenues for further use of these models in population-wide therapeutic screens, and highlight the role of computational analyses in validating the efficacy of these models.

As of yet, clonal analysis using single-cell sequencing, or other approaches, has not been thoroughly addressed for organoid models [52]. Single-cell RNAseq conducted on PDAC primary tumours [53] has been used to identify subsets of cells with different proliferative features that may serve as biomarkers for antitumor immune response. Comprehensive assessment of clonal heterogeneity in disease models, as well as primary tumours, is expected to provide further insight into the underlying factors behind chemo-refractory disease in patients [52], and as well as heterogeneous responses to drug treatment [27].

#### 4. Platforms for growth

Despite ongoing advancements, much remains to be done towards fully probing PDX and PDO at various molecular levels for several cancer types. One of the platforms that remains largely unaddressed is metabolomics (Fig. 1). Both NMR- and mass-spectrometry based metabolomics play a role in systems

biology understanding of tumorigenesis, by 1) linking metabolic changes and regulatory mechanisms with transcriptomics and proteomics, and 2) highlighting how microenvironmental factors ultimately influence the cancer phenotype [54–57]. Metabolic profiling of preclinical models has been addressed for a small number of cancer types including breast [31,58], pancreas [59], and colorectal cancers [32,60]. Nicolle et al. [59] incorporated metabolic profiles into a multi-omic clustering of PDAC xenografts; by harnessing information of metabolite transport and correlating it with transcriptomic profiles of pathway expression, they proposed pathways and molecular functions that could aid in the further characterization of PDAC subtypes (ex: distinguishing classical from basal subtypes). Similarly, integration of MS-based metabolomics and lipidomics of cell-enriched intestinal organoids [32], along with gene expression dynamics, highlighted several enzymatic activities and pathways that are reflective of different cell-enriched organoid populations. Such an integration of metabolomics and transcriptomics has also been harnessed to assess subtype-specific drug response to treatment in breast cancer PDX models [58]. These findings underscore how incorporation of metabolic profiles provides newer insights into disease model fidelity in a translational context, instead of remaining as of yet, a distal 'omics platform.

Integration of metabolomics, along with other technologies, emphasizes the importance of multi-omic, as opposed to single-omic, characterization of PDX and PDO. Indeed, optical imaging of metabolic heterogeneity, across both tumours and disease models, is proposed to provide spatially and temporally comprehensive picture of tumour metabolism [61], and can be harnessed to predict therapeutic response of PDX and PDO [31]. Despite advancements, poor model characterization still affects development of anticancer treatments, and attributes to only a small percent of potential drugs passing FDA approval at the clinical stage [62–64]. Accordingly, to efficiently identify whether these models can be used as disease surrogates, the focus needs to shift from limited snapshots of donor-model comparisons, towards sufficient integration of data which embodies different molecular and functional states of the tumour.

#### 5. Summary & outlook

PDX and PDO models continue to be utilized towards for the identification of both patient-specific patterns and population-wide trends that are characteristic of major cancer types. The main objective is to address whether such models can serve as disease model surrogates for patients, and to what molecular extent do they substitute for the original patient tumour. Bioinformatics approaches are in continuous demand to elucidate the molecular landscape of patient-derived xenografts and organoids, and to determine whether these models recapitulate genetic and phenotypic diversity of their parent tumours. There have already been great strides into 'omics profiling of PDX and PDO, particularly using WGS, WES, and transcriptomics, and these technologies and ensuing computational analyses have shed deep insight into the nature of these preclinical models. However, there still remains a need for comprehensive bioinformatics analysis that is focused on multi-omic integration, and which provides quantitative, rather than qualitative, assessments of model fidelity. Additionally, there remains untapped potential behind some technologies, including proteomics and metabolomics, which has yet to be fully realized. Shifting the approach of how bioinformatics and computational analyses are used to conduct donor-model comparisons promises to provide greater insight on the ability of PDX and PDO models to serve as tractable and transplantable systems across various tumour types.

## Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## References

- Bleijns M, van de Wetering M, Clevers H, Drost J. Xenograft and organoid model systems in cancer research. *EMBO J* 2019;38(15):e101654.
- Ben-David U, Beroukhi R, Golub TR. Genomic evolution of cancer models: perils and opportunities. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2019;19(2):97–109.
- de Ruiter JR, Wessels LFA, Jonkers J. Mouse models in the era of large human tumour sequencing studies. *Open Biol* 2018;8(8).
- Stein WD, Litman T, Fojo T, Bates SE. A Serial Analysis of Gene Expression (SAGE) database analysis of chemosensitivity: comparing solid tumors with cell lines and comparing solid tumors from different tissue origins. *Cancer Res* 2004;64(8):2805–16.
- Weeber F, Ooft SN, Dijkstra KK, Voest EE. Tumor organoids as a pre-clinical cancer model for drug discovery. *Cell Chem Biol* 2017;24(9):1092–100.
- Wilding JL, Bodmer WF. Cancer cell lines for drug discovery and development. *Cancer Res* 2014;74(9):2377–84.
- Domcke S, Sinha R, Levine DA, Sander C, Schultz N. Evaluating cell lines as tumour models by comparison of genomic profiles. *Nat Commun* 2013;4(1):2126.
- Byrne AT, Alferez DG, Amant F, Annibaldi D, Arribas J, Biankin AV, et al. Interrogating open issues in cancer precision medicine with patient-derived xenografts. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2017;17(4):254–68.
- Tentler JJ, Tan AC, Weekes CD, Jimeno A, Leong S, Pitts TM, et al. Patient-derived tumour xenografts as models for oncology drug development. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol* 2012;9(6):338–50.
- Sereti E, Karagianellou T, Kotsoni I, Magouliotis D, Kamposioras K, Ulukaya E, et al. Patient Derived Xenografts (PDX) for personalized treatment of pancreatic cancer: emerging allies in the war on a devastating cancer?. *J Proteomics* 2018;188:107–18.
- Clevers H, Tuveson DA. Organoid models for cancer research. *Ann Rev Cancer Biol* 2019;3(1):223–34.
- Dutta D, Heo I, Clevers H. Disease modeling in stem cell-derived 3D organoid systems. *Trends Mol Med* 2017;23(5):393–410.
- Chakradhar S. Put to the test: organoid-based testing becomes a clinical tool. *Nat Med* 2017;23(7):796–9.
- Dekkers JF, van der Ent CK, Beekman JM. Novel opportunities for CFTR-targeting drug development using organoids. *Rare Dis* 2013;1(1):e27112.
- Dekkers JF, Wiegerinck CL, de Jonge HR, Bronsveld I, Janssens HM, de Winter-de Groot KM, et al. A functional CFTR assay using primary cystic fibrosis intestinal organoids. *Nat Med* 2013;19:939.
- Aparicio S, Hidalgo M, Kung AL. Examining the utility of patient-derived xenograft mouse models. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2015;15(5):311–6.
- Le Magnen C, Dutta A, Abate-Shen C. Optimizing mouse models for precision cancer prevention. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2016;16(3):187–96.
- Gao H, Korn JM, Ferretti S, Monahan JE, Wang Y, Singh M, et al. High-throughput screening using patient-derived tumor xenografts to predict clinical trial drug response. *Nat Med* 2015;21:1318.
- Yan HHN, Siu HC, Law S, Ho SL, Yue SSK, Tsui WY, et al. A comprehensive human gastric cancer Organoid Biobank captures tumor subtype heterogeneity and enables therapeutic screening. *Cell Stem Cell* 2018;23(6):882–97.e11.
- Campbell KM, Lin T, Zolkind P, Barnell EK, Skidmore ZL, Winkler AE, et al. Oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma xenografts retain complex genotypes and intertumor molecular heterogeneity. *Cell Rep* 2018;24(8):2167–78.
- Sachs N, De Ligt J, Kopper O, Gogola E, Bounova G, Weeber F, et al. A living biobank of breast cancer organoids captures disease heterogeneity. *Cell* 2018;172(1–2):373–86.e10.
- Li X, Francies HE, Secrier M, Perner J, Miremadi A, Galeano-Dalmou N, et al. Organoid cultures recapitulate esophageal adenocarcinoma heterogeneity providing a model for clonality studies and precision therapeutics. *Nat Commun* 2018;9(1):2983.
- Gendoo DMA, Denroche RE, Zhang A, Radulovich N, Jang GH, Lemire M, et al. Whole genomes define concordance of matched primary, xenograft, and organoid models of pancreas cancer. *PLoS Comput Biol* 2019;15(1):e1006596.
- Ben-David U, Ha G, Tseng Y-Y, Greenwald NF, Oh C, Shih J, et al. Patient-derived xenografts undergo mouse-specific tumor evolution. *Nat Genet* 2017. advance online publication.
- Witkiewicz Agnieszka K, Balaji U, Eslinger C, McMillan E, Conway W, Posner B, et al. Integrated patient-derived models delineate individualized therapeutic vulnerabilities of pancreatic cancer. *Cell Rep* 2016;16(7):2017–31.
- Quadrato G, Nguyen T, Macosko EZ, Sherwood JL, Min Yang S, Berger DR, et al. Cell diversity and network dynamics in photosensitive human brain organoids. *Nature* 2017;545(7652):48–53.
- Roerink SF, Sasaki N, Lee-Six H, Young MD, Alexandrov LB, Behjati S, et al. Intra-tumour diversification in colorectal cancer at the single-cell level. *Nature* 2018;556(7702):457–62.
- Kim K-T, Lee HW, Lee H-O, Kim SC, Seo YJ, Chung W, et al. Single-cell mRNA sequencing identifies subclonal heterogeneity in anti-cancer drug responses of lung adenocarcinoma cells. *Genome Biol* 2015;16(1):127.
- Eirew P, Steif A, Khattra J, Ha G, Yap D, Farahani H, et al. Dynamics of genomic clones in breast cancer patient xenografts at single-cell resolution. *Nature* 2015;518(7539):422–6.
- Cristobal A, van den Toorn HWP, van de Wetering M, Clevers H, Heck AJR, Mohammed S. Personalized proteome profiles of healthy and tumor human colon organoids reveal both individual diversity and basic features of colorectal cancer. *Cell Rep* 2017;18(1):263–74.
- Walsh AJ, Cook RS, Sanders ME, Aurisicchio L, Ciliberto G, Arteaga CL, et al. Quantitative optical imaging of primary tumor organoid metabolism predicts drug response in breast cancer. *Cancer Res* 2014;74(18):5184–94.
- Lindeboom RG, van Voorthuisen L, Oost KC, Rodríguez-Colman MJ, Luna-Velez MV, Furlan C, et al. Integrative multi-omics analysis of intestinal organoid differentiation. *Mol Syst Biol* 2018;14(6):e8227.
- Bleijns M, van de Wetering M, Clevers H, Drost J. Xenograft and organoid model systems in cancer research. *EMBO J* 2019;38(15):e101654-e.
- Byrne AT, Alferez DG, Amant F, Annibaldi D, Arribas J, Biankin AV, et al. Interrogating open issues in cancer precision medicine with patient-derived xenografts. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2017;17:254.
- Muthuswamy SK. Organoid models of cancer explode with possibilities. *Cell Stem Cell* 2018;22(3):290–1.
- Biankin AV, Waddell N, Kassahn KS, Gingras M-C, Muthuswamy LB, Johns AL, et al. Pancreatic cancer genomes reveal aberrations in axon guidance pathway genes. *Nature* 2012;491(7424):399–405.
- Waddell N, Pajic M, Patch A-M, Chang DK, Kassahn KS, Bailey P, et al. Whole genomes redefine the mutational landscape of pancreatic cancer. *Nature* 2015;518(7540):495–501.
- Knudsen ES, Balaji U, Mannakee B, Vail P, Eslinger C, Moxom C, et al. Pancreatic cancer cell lines as patient-derived avatars: genetic characterisation and functional utility. *Gut* 2017.
- Xie T, Musteanu M, Lopez-Casas PP, Shields DJ, Olson P, Rejto PA, et al. Whole exome sequencing of rapid autopsy tumors and xenograft models reveals possible driver mutations underlying tumor progression. *PLoS ONE* 2015;10(11):e0142631.
- Tiriach H, Belleau P, Engle DD, Plenker D, Deschenes A, Somerville TDD, et al. Organoid profiling identifies common responders to chemotherapy in pancreatic cancer. *Cancer Discovery* 2018;8(9):1112–29.
- Bailey P, Chang DK, Nones K, Johns AL, Patch A-M, Gingras M-C, et al. Genomic analyses identify molecular subtypes of pancreatic cancer. *Nature* 2016;531(7592):47–52.
- Collisson EA, Sadanandam A, Olson P, Gibb WJ, Truitt M, Gu S, et al. Subtypes of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma and their differing responses to therapy. *Nat Med* 2011;17(4):500–3.
- Notta F, Chan-Seng-Yue M, Lemire M, Li Y, Wilson GW, Connor AA, et al. A renewed model of pancreatic cancer evolution based on genomic rearrangement patterns. *Nature* 2016;538(7625):378–82.
- Feuk L, Carson AR, Scherer SW. Structural variation in the human genome. *Nat Rev Genet* 2006;7(2):85–97.
- Pinto N, Dolan ME. Clinically relevant genetic variations in drug metabolizing enzymes. *Curr Drug Metab* 2011;12(5):487–97.
- Willyard C. Copy number variations' effect on drug response still overlooked. *Nat Med* 2015;21(3):206.
- Boj Sylvia F, Hwang C-I, Baker Lindsey A, Chio Iok In, Engle Dannielle D, Corbo V, et al. Organoid models of human and mouse ductal pancreatic cancer. *Cell* 2015;160(1–2):324–38.
- Greggio C, De Franceschi F, Figueiredo-Larsen M, Gobaa S, Ranga A, Semb H, et al. Artificial three-dimensional niches deconstruct pancreas development in vitro. *Development (Cambridge, England)* 2013;140(21):4452–62.
- Huang L, Holtzinger A, Jagan I, BeGora M, Lohse I, Ngai N, et al. Ductal pancreatic cancer modeling and drug screening using human pluripotent stem cell- and patient-derived tumor organoids. *Nat Med* 2015;21:1364.
- Krempley BD, Yu KH. Preclinical models of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Chin Clin Oncol* 2017;6(3):25.
- Seino T, Kawasaki S, Shimokawa M, Tamagawa H, Toshimitsu K, Fujii M, et al. Human pancreatic tumor organoids reveal loss of stem cell niche factor dependence during disease progression. *Cell Stem Cell* 2018;22(3):454–67.e6.
- Tiriach H, Plenker D, Baker LA, Tuveson DA. Organoid models for translational pancreatic cancer research. *Curr Opin Genet Dev* 2019;54:7–11.
- Peng J, Sun B-F, Chen C-Y, Zhou J-Y, Chen Y-S, Chen H, et al. Single-cell RNA-seq highlights intra-tumoral heterogeneity and malignant progression in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Cell Res* 2019;29(9):725–38.
- About OA, Weiss RH. New opportunities from the cancer metabolome. *Clin Chem* 2013;59(1):138–46.
- Kang YP, Ward NP, DeNicola GM. Recent advances in cancer metabolism: a technological perspective. *Exp Mol Med* 2018;50(4):31.
- Kaushik AK, DeBerardinis RJ. Applications of metabolomics to study cancer metabolism. *Biochim Biophys Acta, Rev Cancer* 2018;1870(1):2–14.
- Muir A, Danai LV, Vander Heiden MG. Microenvironmental regulation of cancer cell metabolism: implications for experimental design and translational studies. *Dis Models Mech* 2018;11(8):dmm035758.

- [58] Borgan E, Lindholm EM, Moestue S, Maelandsmo GM, Lingjaerde OC, Gribbestad IS, et al. Subtype-specific response to bevacizumab is reflected in the metabolome and transcriptome of breast cancer xenografts. *Mol Oncol* 2013;7(1):130–42.
- [59] Nicolle R, Blum Y, Marisa L, Loncle C, Gayet O, Moutardier V, et al. Pancreatic adenocarcinoma therapeutic targets revealed by tumor-stroma cross-talk analyses in patient-derived xenografts. *Cell Rep* 2017;21(9):2458–70.
- [60] Lu M, Sanderson SM, Zessin A, Ashcraft KA, Jones LW, Dewhirst MW, et al. Exercise inhibits tumor growth and central carbon metabolism in patient-derived xenograft models of colorectal cancer. *Cancer Metabol* 2018;6(1):14.
- [61] Sengupta D, Pratz G. Imaging metabolic heterogeneity in cancer. *Mol Cancer* 2016;15(1):4.
- [62] Begley CG, Ellis LM. Drug development: raise standards for preclinical cancer research. *Nature* 2012;483(7391):531–3.
- [63] Hutchinson L, Kirk R. High drug attrition rates—where are we going?. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol* 2011;8(4):189–90.
- [64] Kola I, Landis J. Can the pharmaceutical industry reduce attrition rates?. *Nat Rev Drug Discovery* 2004;3(8):711–5.