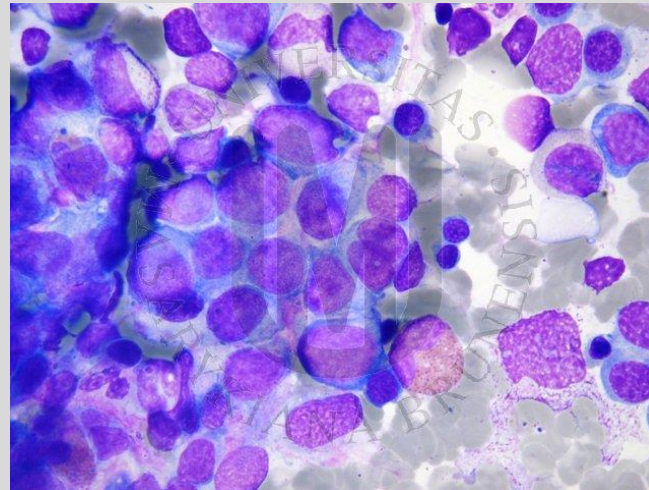


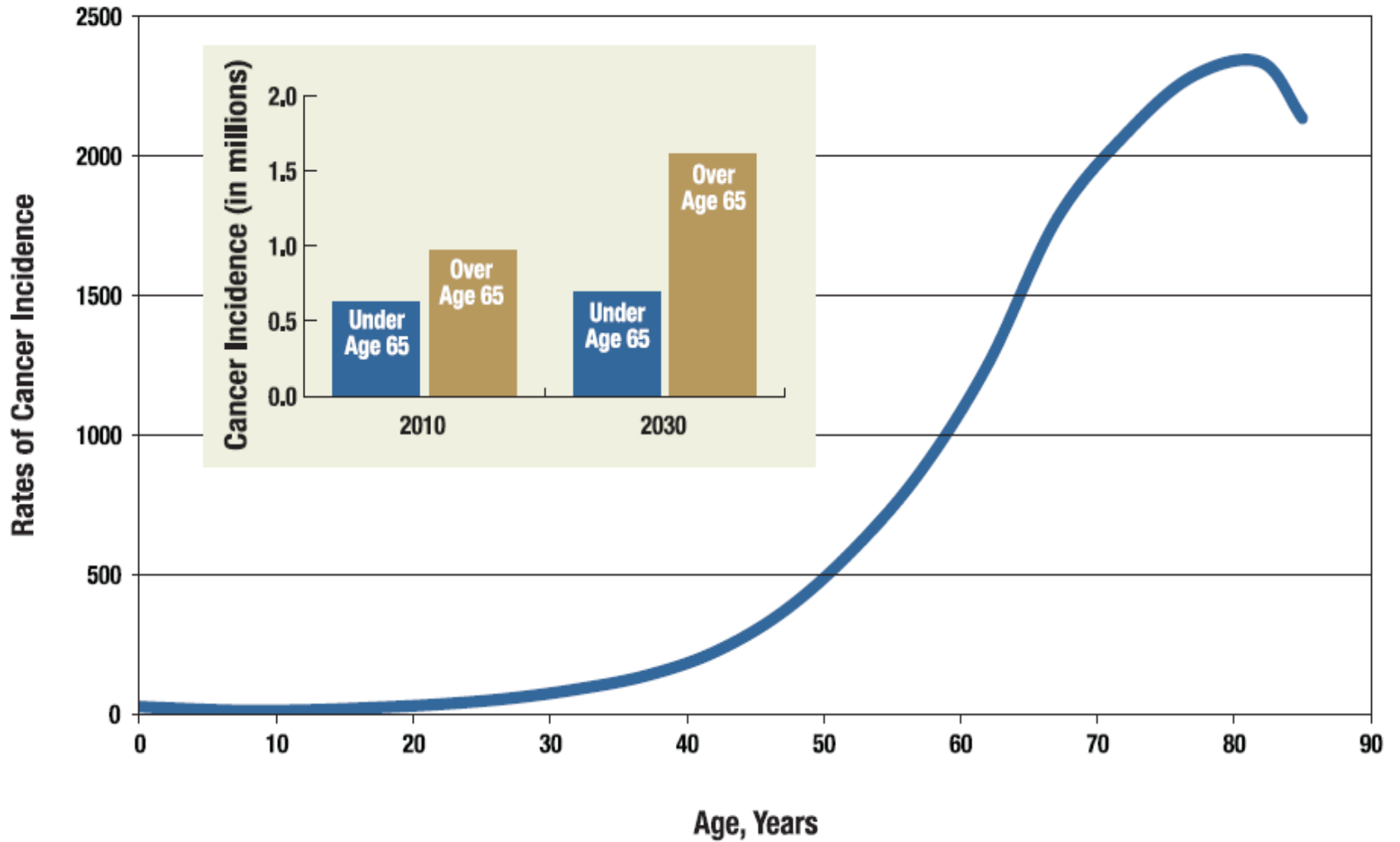
MUNI  
MED

# Cytostatic drugs and targeted therapy in oncology

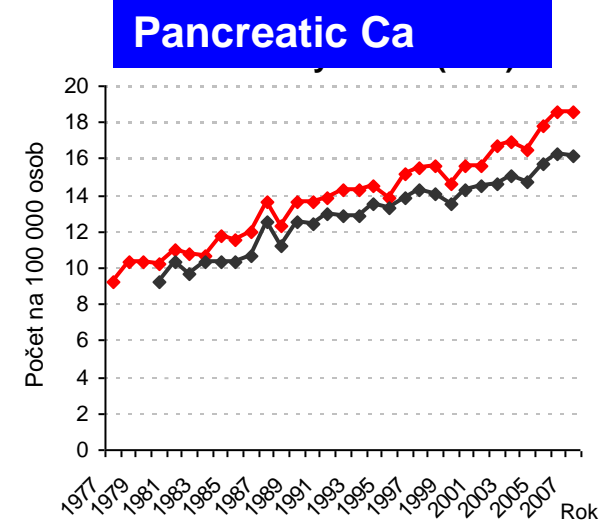
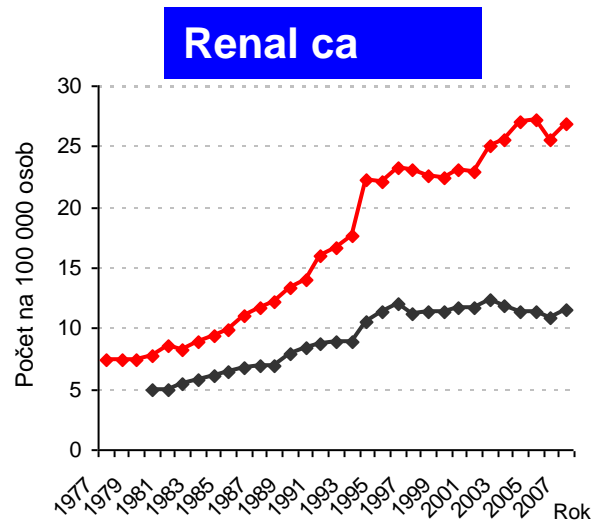
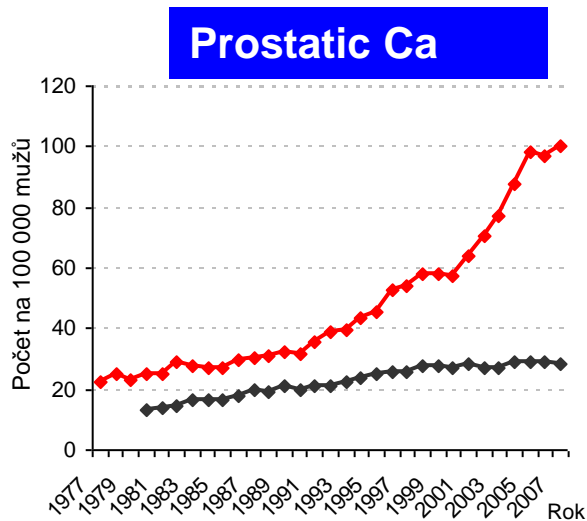
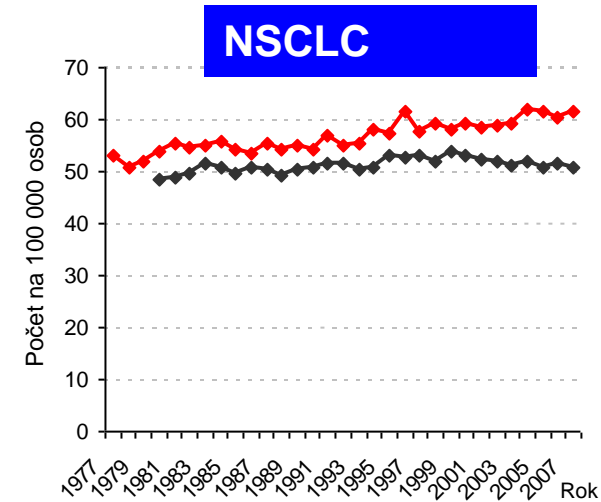
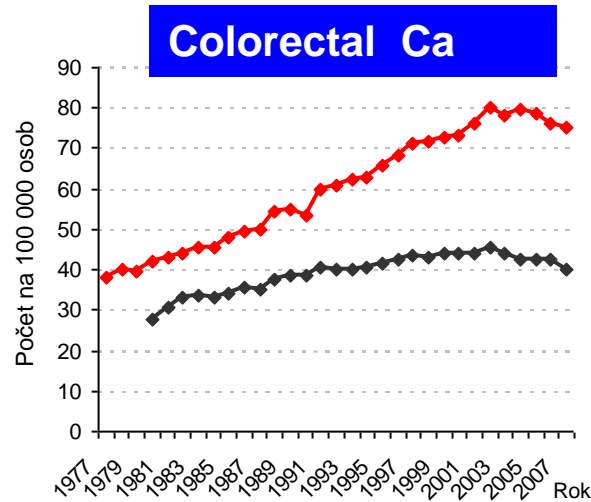
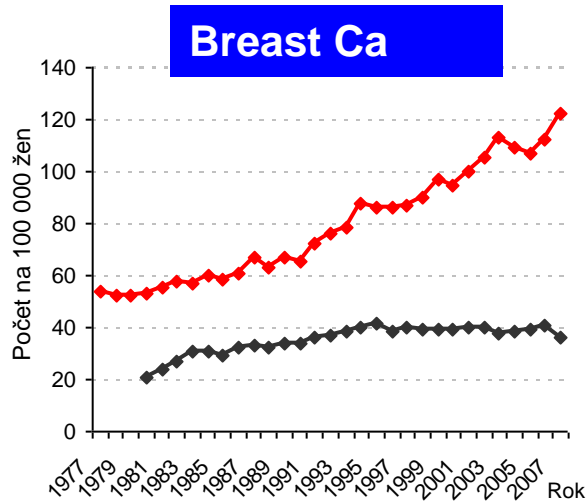


Regina Demlova, 2019

# AACR Cancer Progress Report 2012



# Cancer epidemiology - incidence and mortality in the Czech Republic



—◆— incidence    —◆— mortality

# Complex Cancer Treatment

- Surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Pharmacotherapy
- *Psychotherapy, physiotherapy, nutrition care*

# Pharmacotherapy

- **cytostatic agents**

  - classification according to the mechanism of action

- **endocrine (hormonal) therapy**

- **targeted therapy**

  - monoclonal antibodies

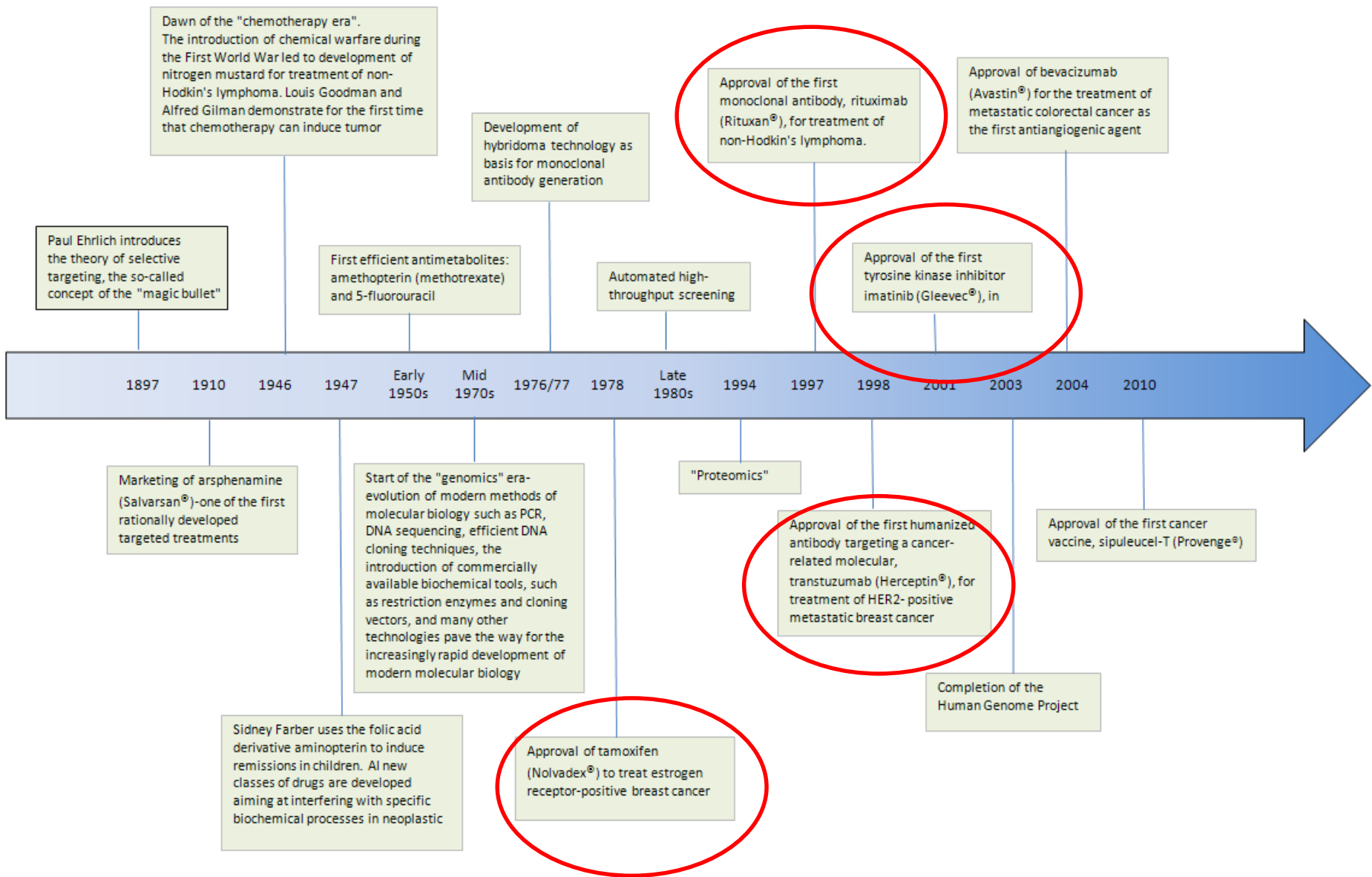
  - tyrosine kinase inhibitors

  - intracellular signaling cascades inhibitors

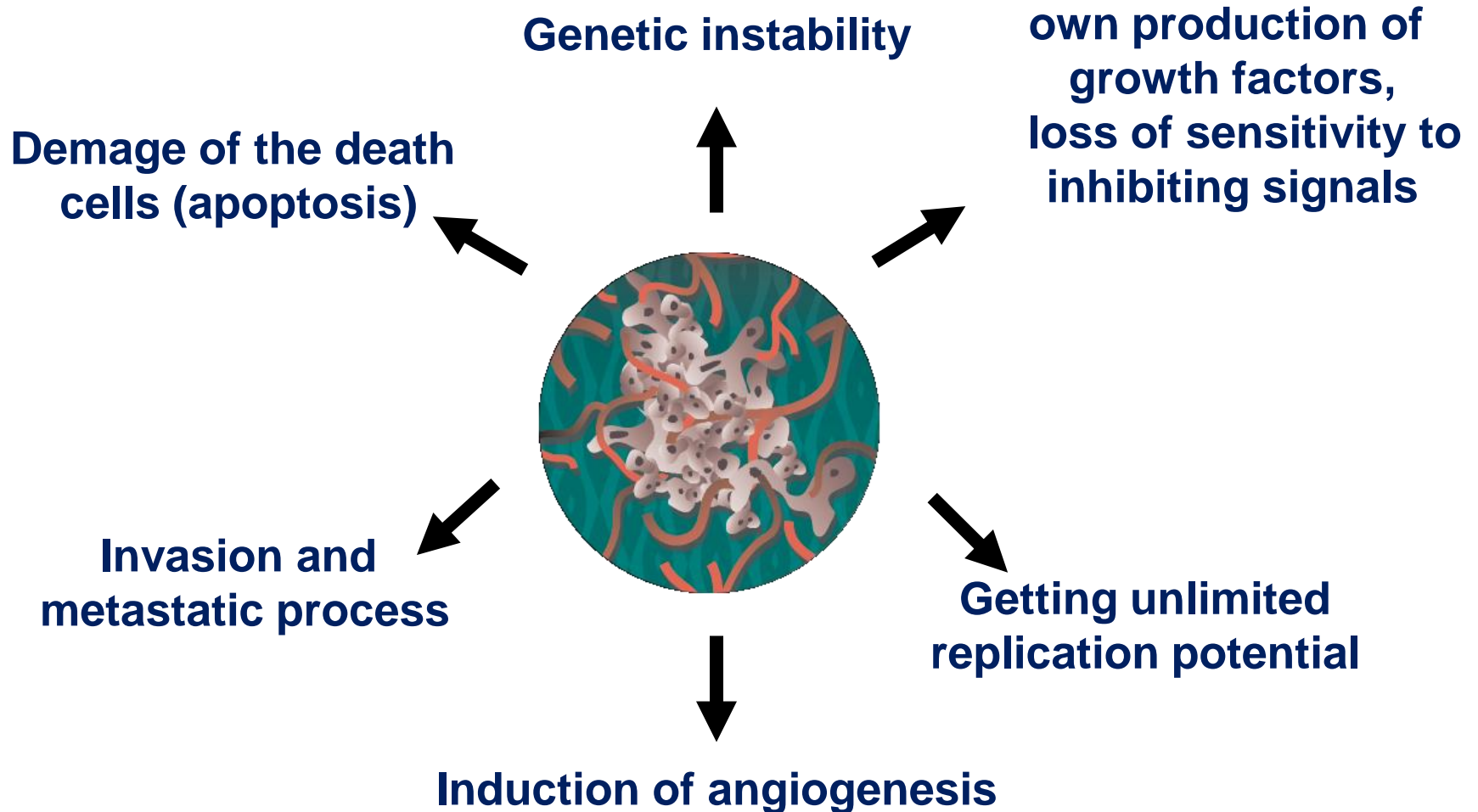
  - others

  - **targeted immunotherapy**

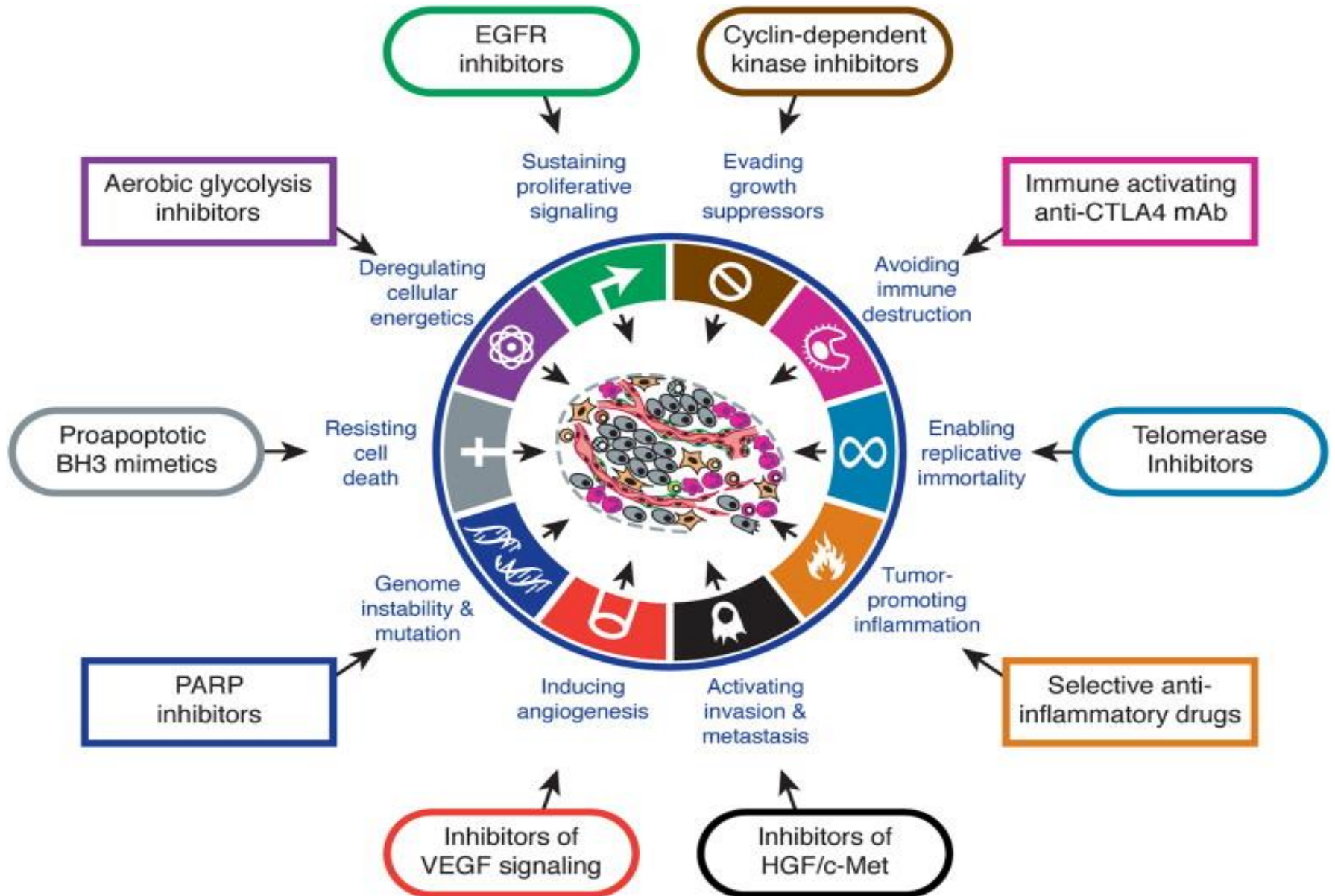
- **pain management, supportive care**



# Cancer cell



# „Cancer hallmarks“ (Hannahan D., Weinberg RA.) Cell; 2011 – therapeutic targets





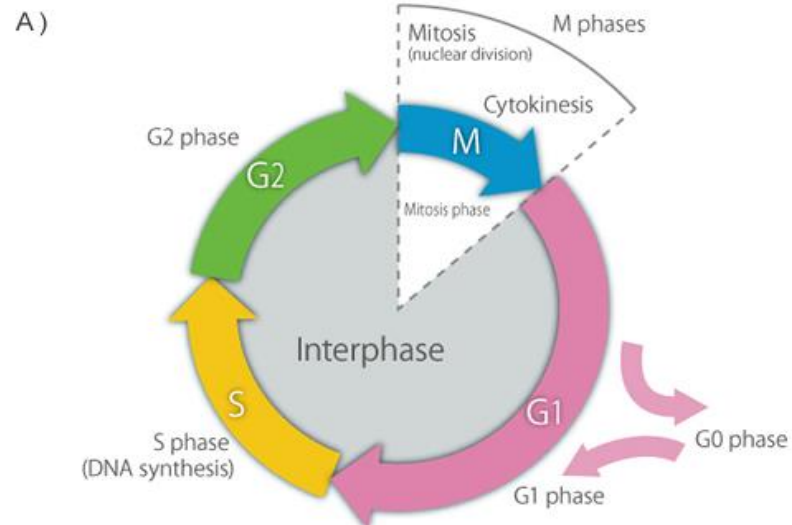
# 1. Cytostatic drugs

- therapeutic intention: curative, palliative
- route of administration:
  - parenterally (i.v. bolus, infusion, intrathecally, intravesically...)
  - orally
- posology: dose in mg/m<sup>2</sup> or mg/kg
- monotherapy and combination regimens
- repeated administration in cycles
  - pause = patient's recovery, prevention of severe AE
  - + „waking“ dormant cells in G<sub>0</sub> phase

# Cytostatic drugs

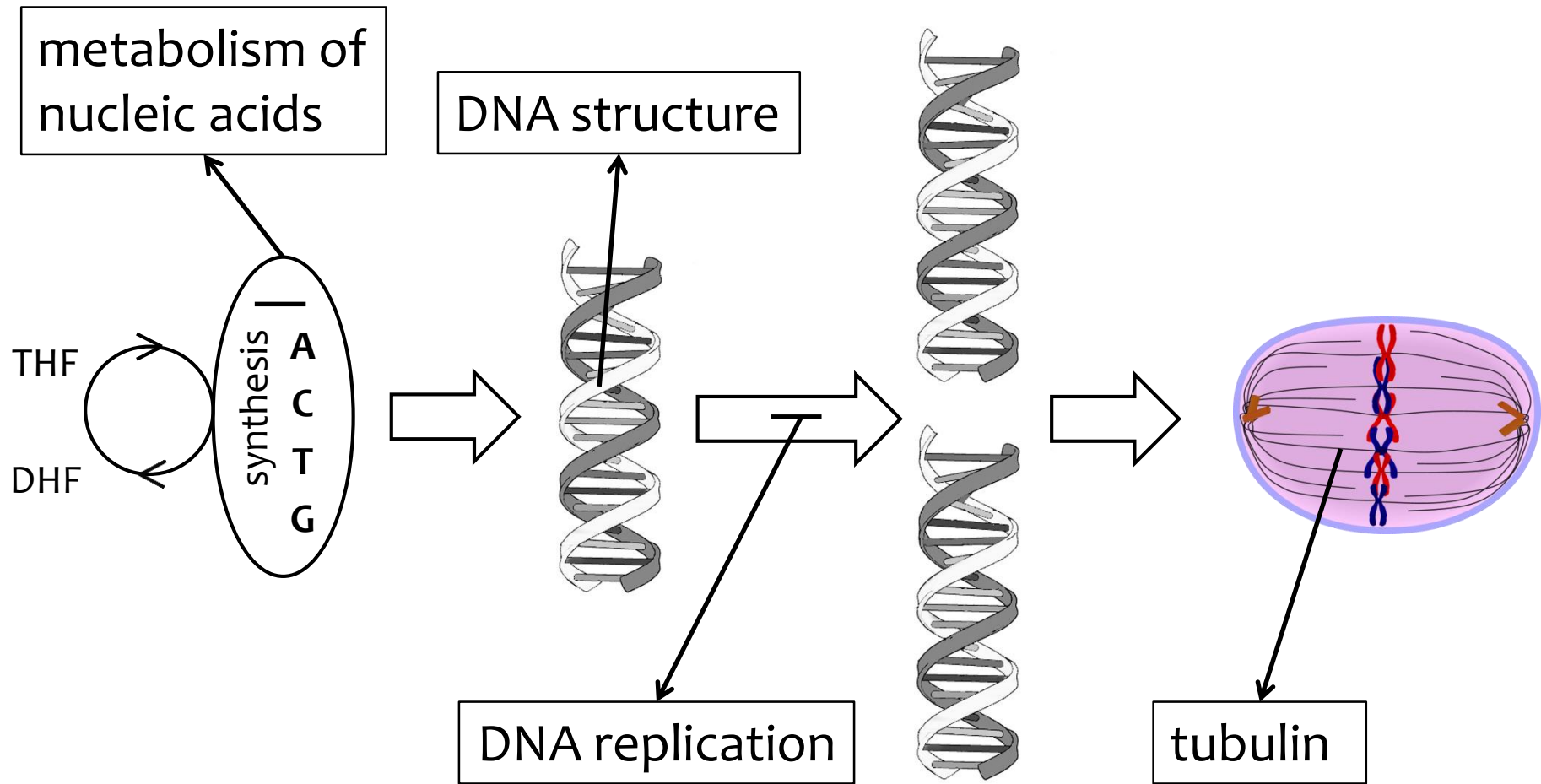
## Different efficacy according to the cell cycle phase:

- Cell cycle non-specific cytostatics (e.g., busulfan)
- Cell cycle specific cytostatics:
  - Phase-nonspecific (e.g., some of alkylating agents)
  - Phase-specific (e.g., antimetabolites, taxanes)

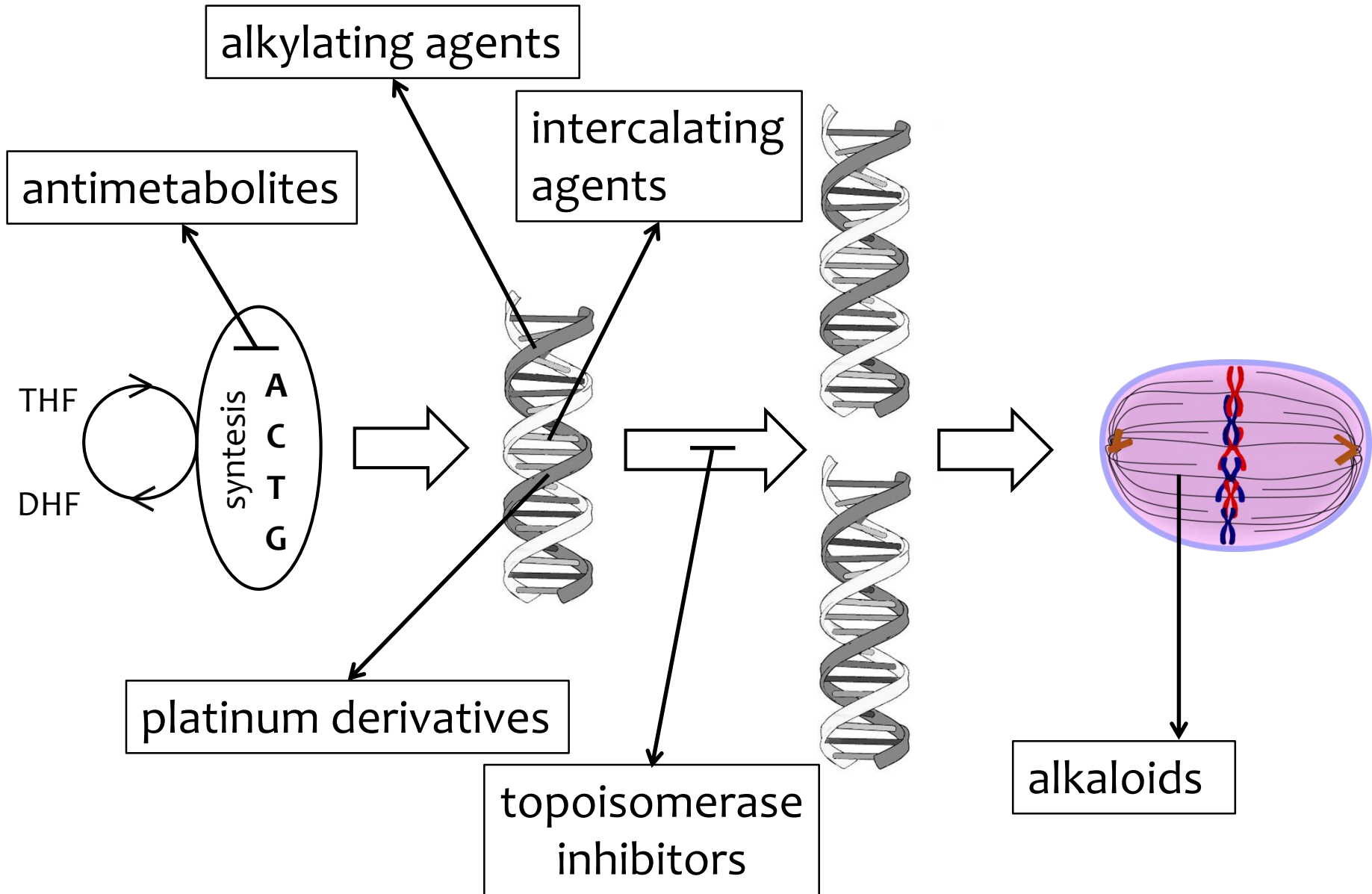


© CSLS/The University of Tokyo

# Intracellular targets of cytostatics



# Mechanisms of action

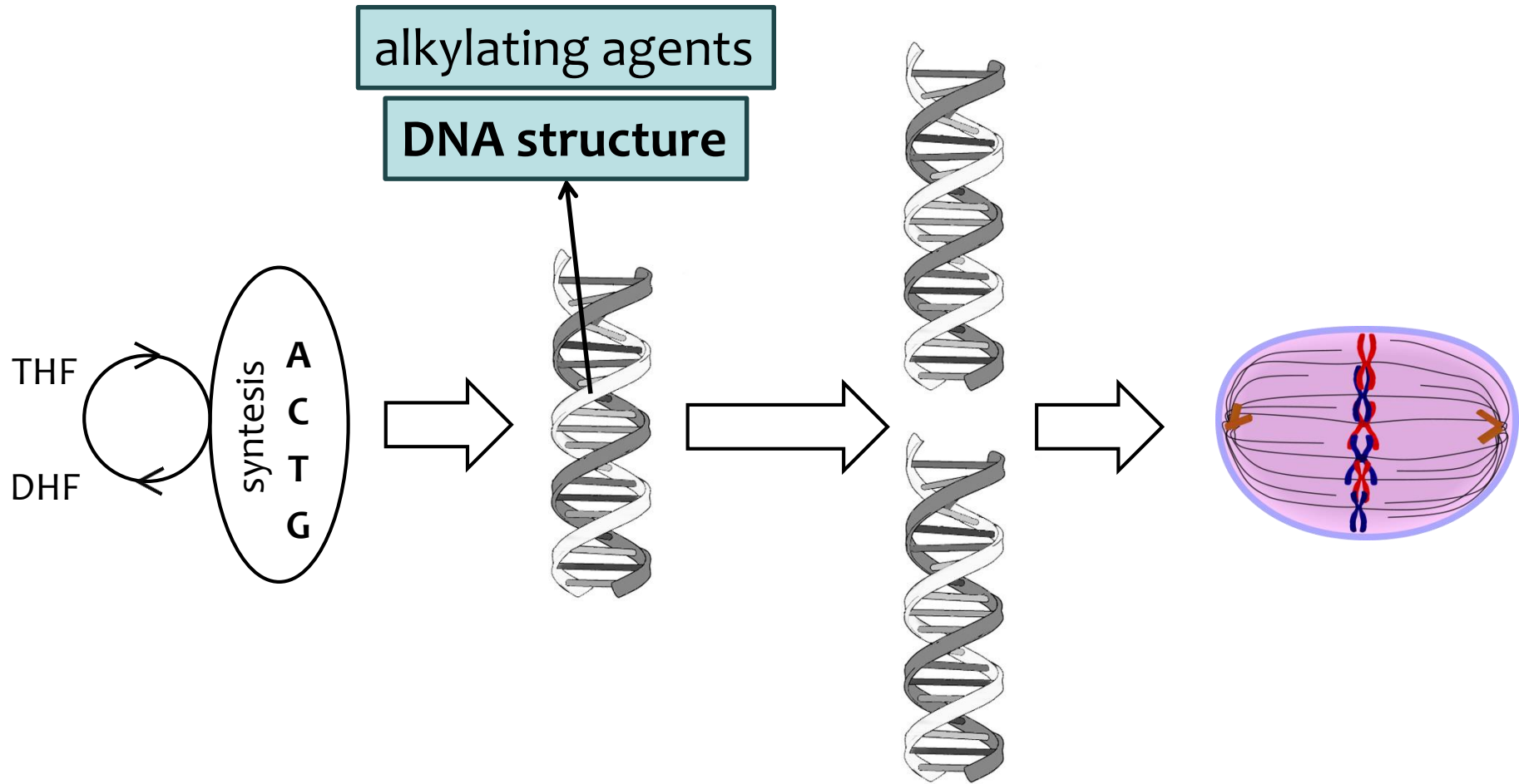


# Cytostatics according to their MoA

1. **Drugs that damage the structure of DNA**
  - a) Alkylating agents
  - b) Platinum derivatives
  - c) Intercalating agents
  - d) Bleomycin
2. **Drugs that inhibit key enzymes of DNA metabolism**
  - a) Antimetabolites:
    - i. Purine analogues
    - ii. Pyrimidine analogues
    - iii. Folic acid analogues
    - iv. Hydroxyurea
  - b) Topoisomerase inhibitors:
    - i. Inhibitors of topoisomerase I – camptothecins
    - ii. Inhibitors of topoisomerase II – podophyllotoxins
3. **Drugs that alter microtubules**
  - a) Inhibitors of tubulin polymerization – *Vinca* alkaloids
  - b) Inhibitors of tubulin depolymerization – taxanes
4. **Others**
  - a) Drugs that inhibit protein synthesis – L-asparaginase

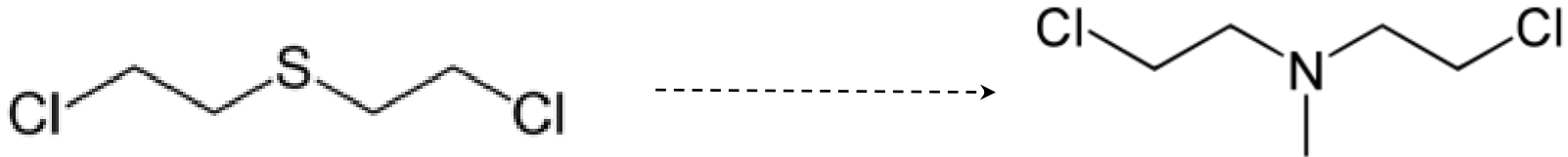
# **Drug groups overview**

# Intracellular targets of cytostatics



# Alkylating agents

- **MoA:** transfer of the alkyl group on nitrogen in nucleobases, covalent bond between two guanines of one or two DNA strands
  - Inhibition of replication, cell cycle arrest
- 50s: first derivatives of sulphur mustard in the clinical practice



- **AE – typical toxicity:** secondary malignancies – hematological



CHLORAMBUCIL

IFOSFAMIDE

**Nitrosourea derivatives:**

**MELPHALANE**

**CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE**

CARMUSTINE

**LOMUSTINE**

**ALKYLATING AGENTS**

**TEMOZOLOMIDE**

**BUSULFAN**

MITOMYCIN C

DACARBAZINE

# Alkylating agents

## Melphalane

- i.v., p.o. administration
- treatment of hematological malignancies and solid tumors

## Cyclophosphamide

- i.v., p.o. administration
- prodrugs → CYP450 → cytotoxic metabolites
- **AE:** urotoxicity, **emetogenicity**
- low doses – immunosuppressant
- hematological malignancies and solid tumors

## Lomustine

- p.o. administration
- lipophilic, crosses BBB → treatment of brain tumors

# Alkylating agents

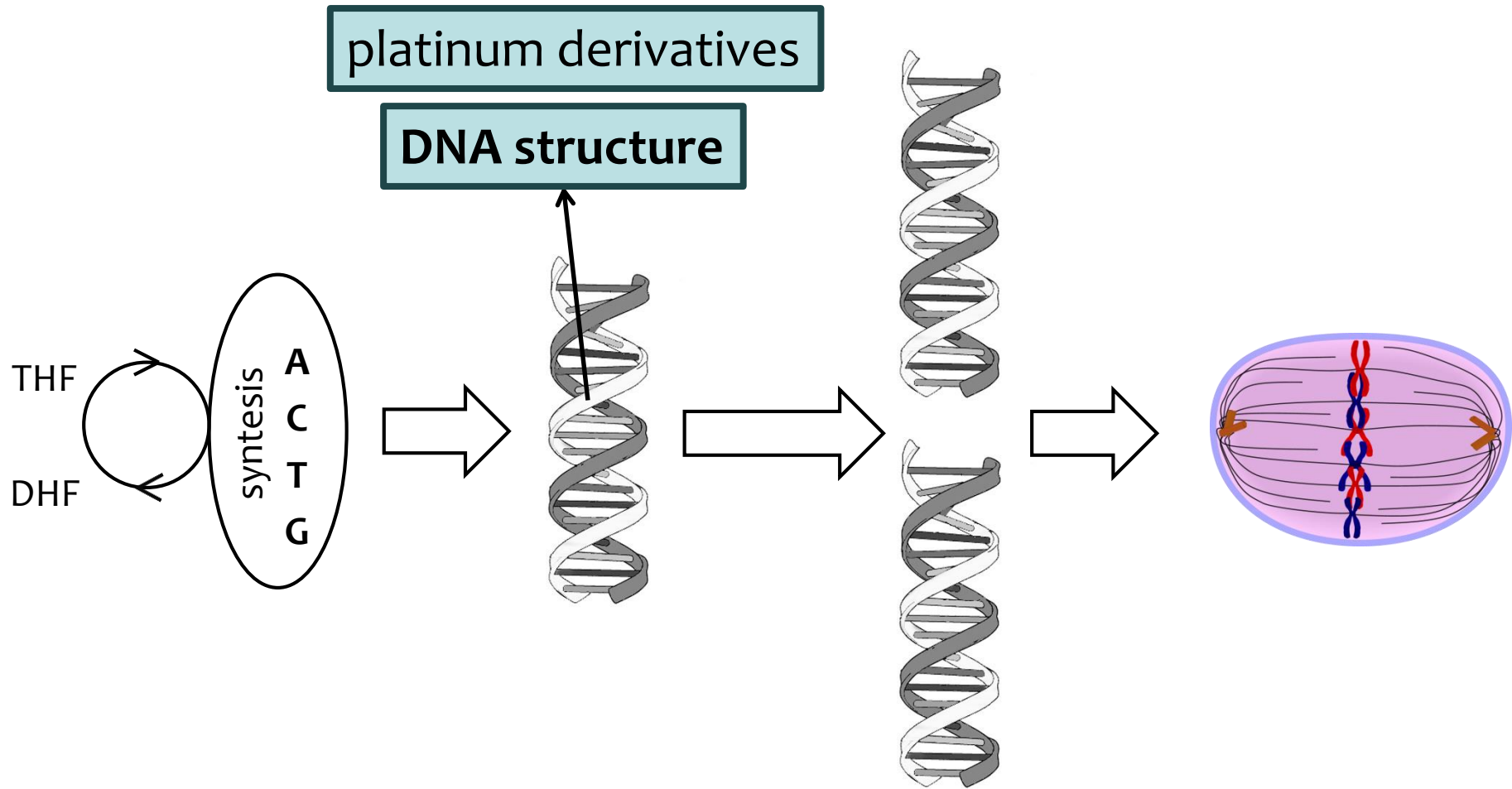
## Temozolomide

- 100% bioavailability after oral administration
- crosses BBB → treatment of brain tumors

## Busulfan

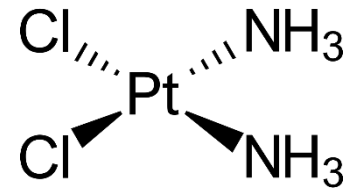
- i.v., p.o. administration
- bone marrow transplantation
- treatment of hematological malignancies

# Intracellular targets of cytostatics

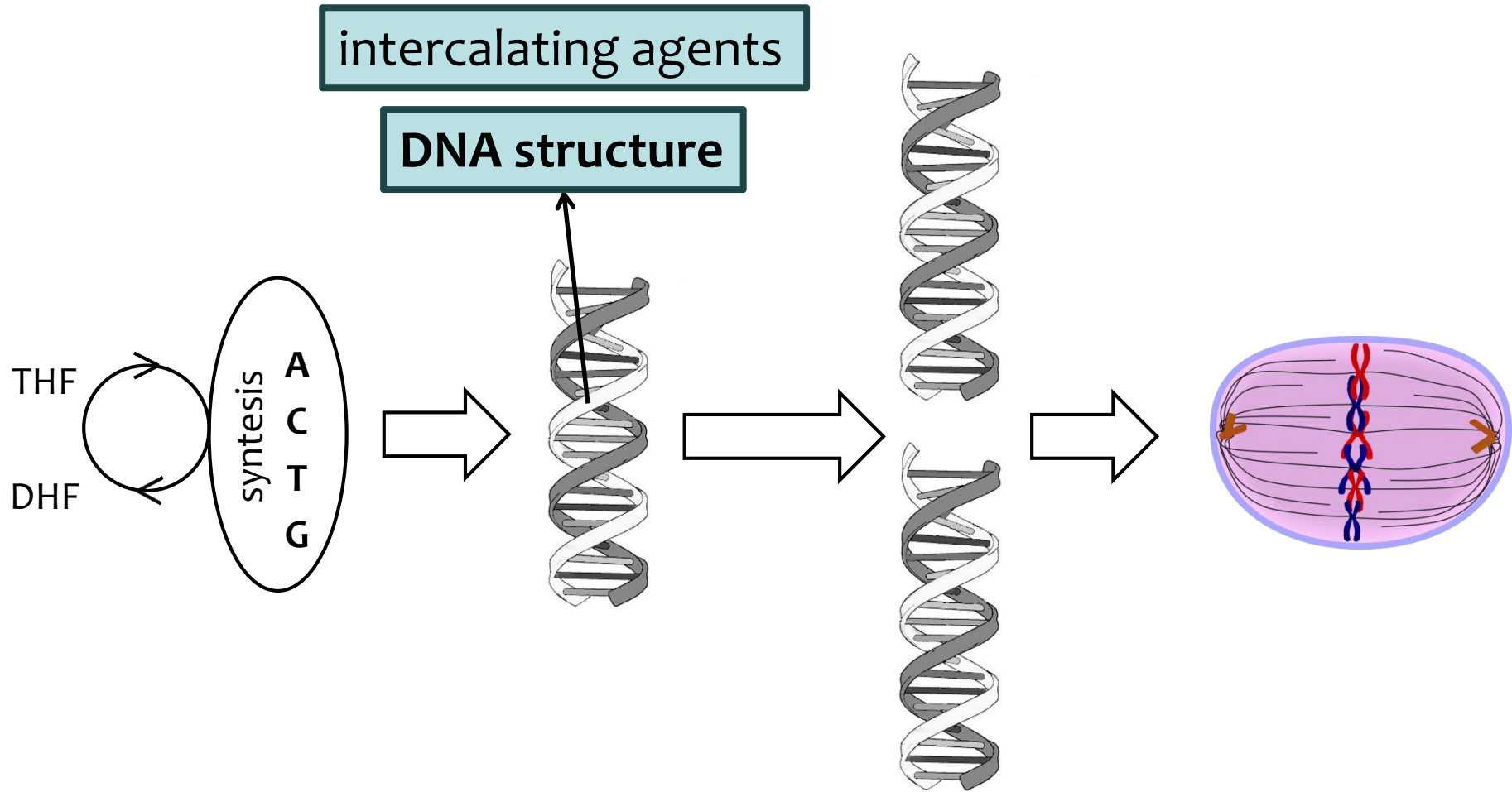


# Platinum derivatives

- **MoA:** binding on DNA, cross-linking of DNA strands, inhibition of topoisomerases
- **AE – most important: emetogenicity, nephrotoxicity**
  - AE are dose-dependent
  - prevention of nephrotoxicity: i.v. **hydration**, forced diuresis
- **cisplatin** – high nephrotoxicity
  - treatment of solid tumors
- others:
  - carboplatin
  - oxaliplatin – typical **neurotoxicity**



# Intracellular targets of cytostatics



# Intercalating agents

## Anthracyclines

- **MoA: intercalation** = insertion between base pairs, binding of DNA strands
- **AE – typical toxicity:** acute and chronic cardiotoxicity
- cardioprotective cumulative dose = restraint of therapy (e.g., doxorubicin 550 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- i.v., intravesical administration
- **doxorubicin**
  - treatment of hematological malignancies and solid tumors
  - modern dosage form (PEGylated liposomes) – higher cumulative dose (860 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- others: epirubicin...

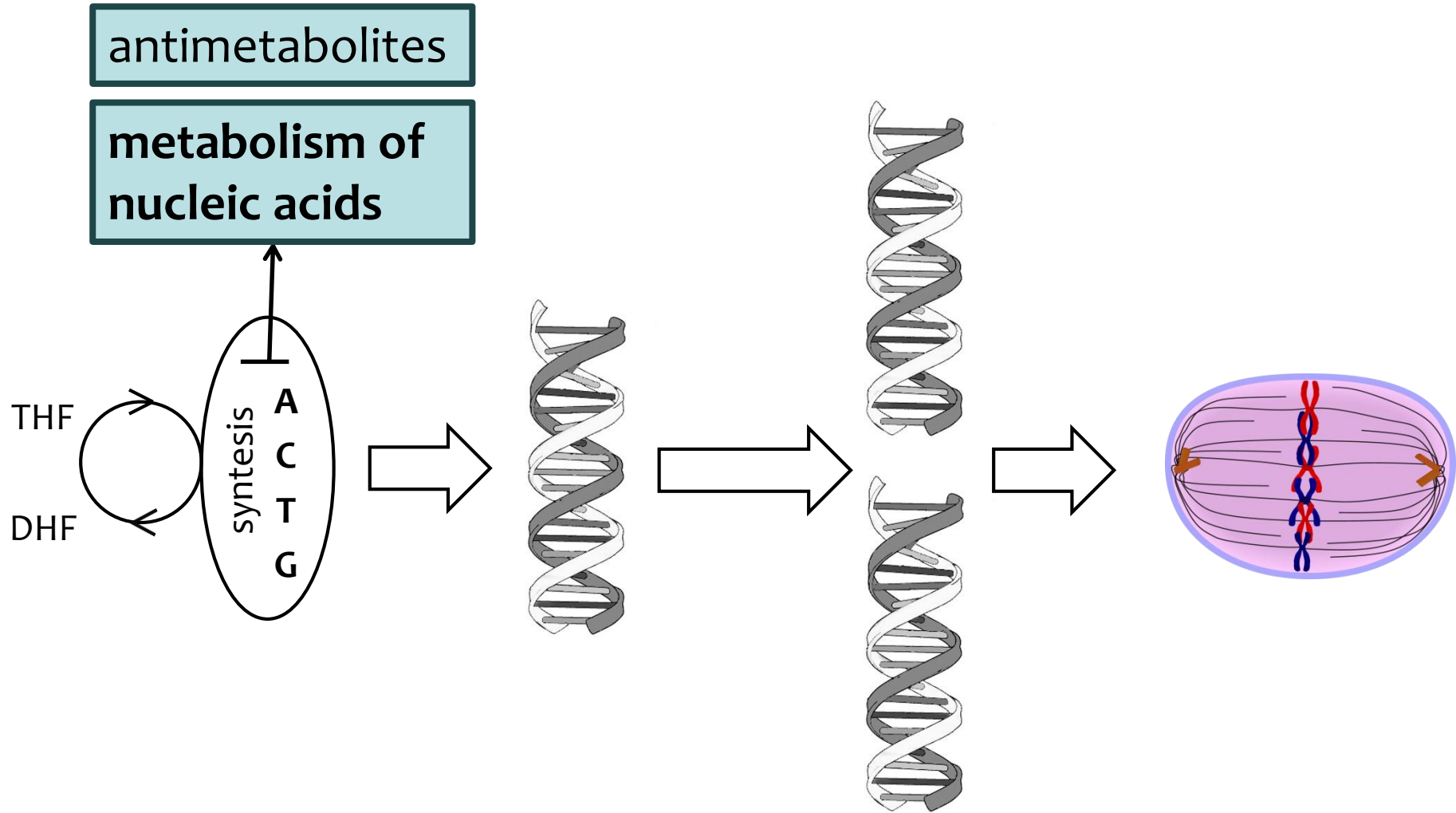
# Bleomycin

- mixture of glycopeptides
- **MoA:** intercalation between base pairs + inhibition of thymine incorporation → breaks → DNA fragmentation („radiomimetic“ effect)
- i.v. administration
- treatment of solid tumors
- **typical AE:** fever, hyperkeratosis and hyperpigmentation of skin (flagellate = whip-like)
- risk of anaphylactic reaction





# Intracellular targets of cytostatics



# Antimetabolites

- **MoA: false substrates** = affinity to target structure, loss of endogenous effect → blockade of nucleic acid synthesis, inhibition of nucleotides metabolism enzymes, production of *non-sense* DNA sequences
  - prodrugs: intracellular activation mostly by phosphorylation
- purine analogues*** – mercaptopurine, azathioprine, fludarabine...
  - pyrimidine analogues*** – fluorouracil, capecitabine, gemcitabine...
  - folic acid analogues*** – methotrexate, pemetrexed...

# Antimetabolites – purines

## Mercaptopurin

- **MoA:** inhibition of purine nucleobases biosynthesis *de novo*, inhibition of mutual conversion of purine nucleotides
- thiopurin methyltransferase (TPMT):  $MP \rightarrow MeMP^{\text{inactive}}$ 
  - **genetic polymorphism** –  $\uparrow$  toxicity /  $\downarrow$  efficacy
  - available pharmacogenetic testing of *TPMT*
- p.o. administration, treatment of hematologic malignancies
- azathioprine – prodrug of MP, immunosuppressant

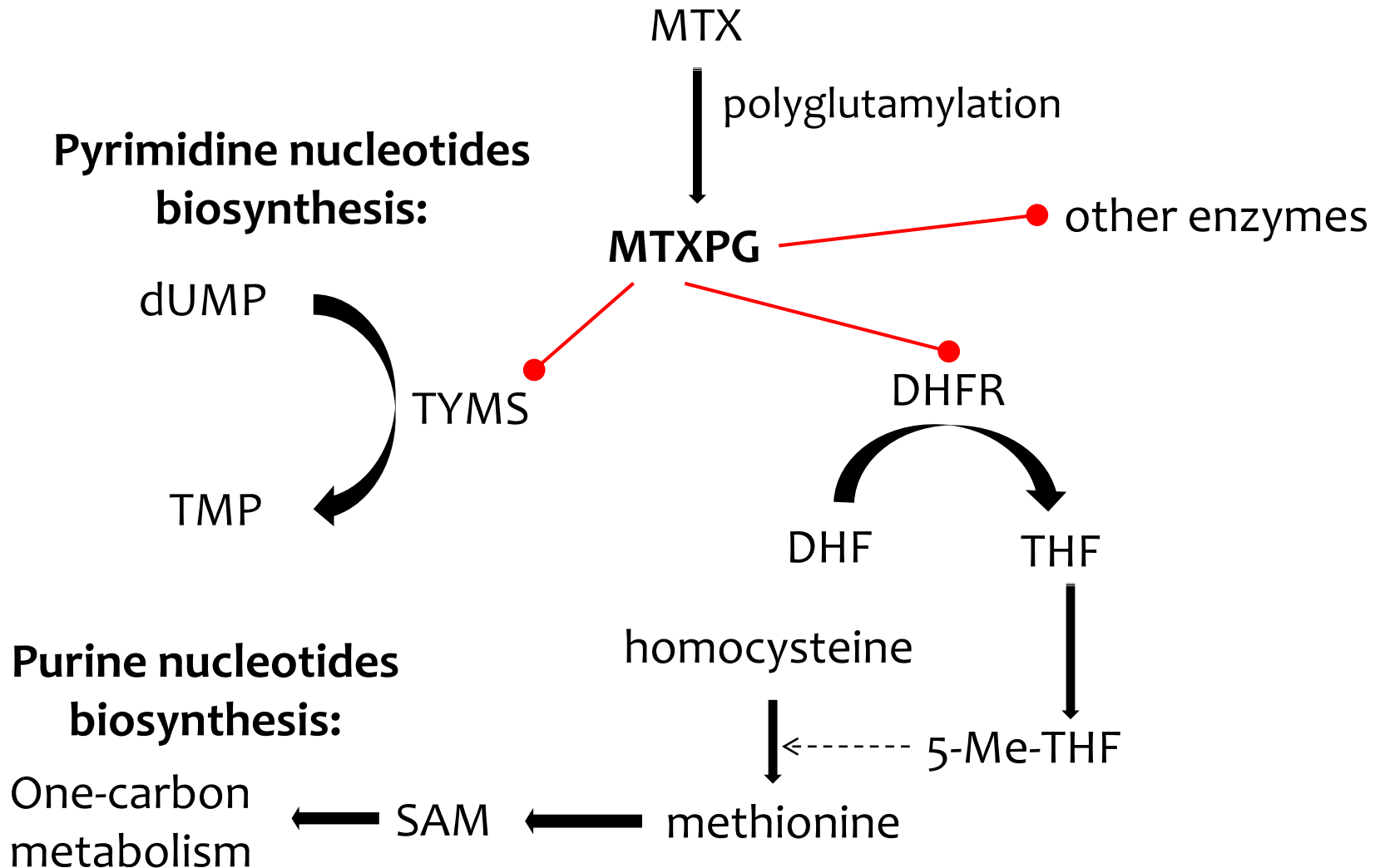
# Antimetabolites – pyrimidines

## Fluorouracil

- **MoA:** incorporation to RNA + inhibition of thymidylate synthetase
- combined chemotherapeutic regimens of solid cancers (i.v.)
- **AE – typical toxicity:** GIT toxicity (mucositis)
- biochemical modulation of effect: **leucovorin** (folinic acid)  
enhances binding on thymidylate synthetase, i.v. administered  
before FU
  - „FUFA“ regimen = colorectal carcinoma
- capecitabine – prodrug

# Antimetabolites – folic acid

Methotrexate – intracellular mechanism of action:

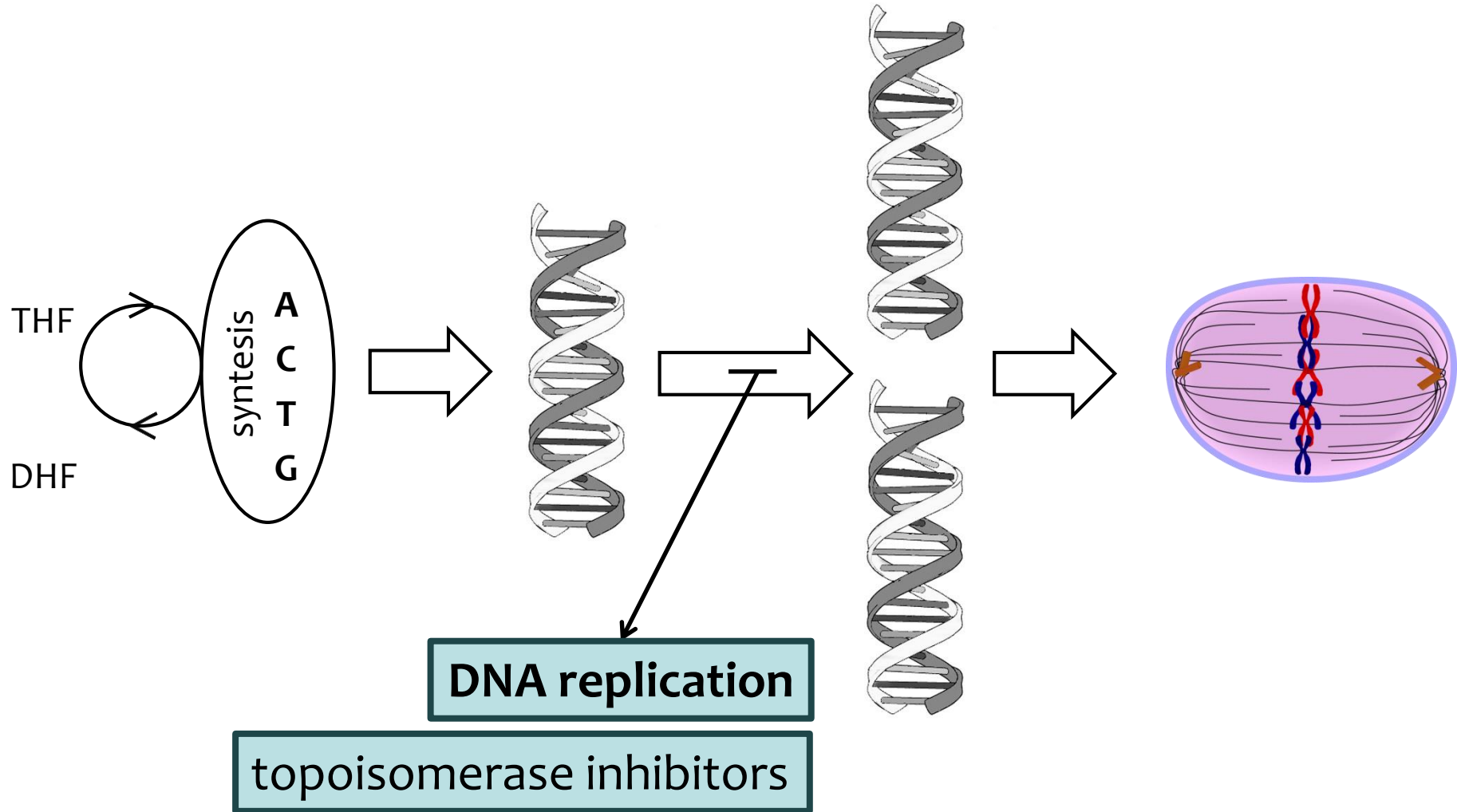


# Antimetabolites – folic acid

## Methotrexate

- **MoA:** inhibition of dihydrofolate reductase, thymidylate synthetase and other enzymes
- i.v., intrathecal administration, p.o.
- **leucovorin** (folinic acid) – „*rescue therapy*“, antidote
  - forces free MTX out of healthy cells ; in cancer cells, polyglutamylation is more intensive → more MTXPG → MTXPG cannot be forced out
- **TDM** – calculation of time interval from MTX administration, frequently in pediatric patients, less frequent in adults
- **AE – typical toxicity:**
  - **nephrotoxicity** – precipitation (acute renal failure)
    - prevention: hydration, urine alkalinization (pH 7–7,5)
  - pneumotoxicity
- low-dose MTX = immunosuppressant (p.o.)
- high-dose MTX = hematological malignancies and aggressive solid tumors

# Intracellular targets of cytostatics



# Topoisomerase inhibitors

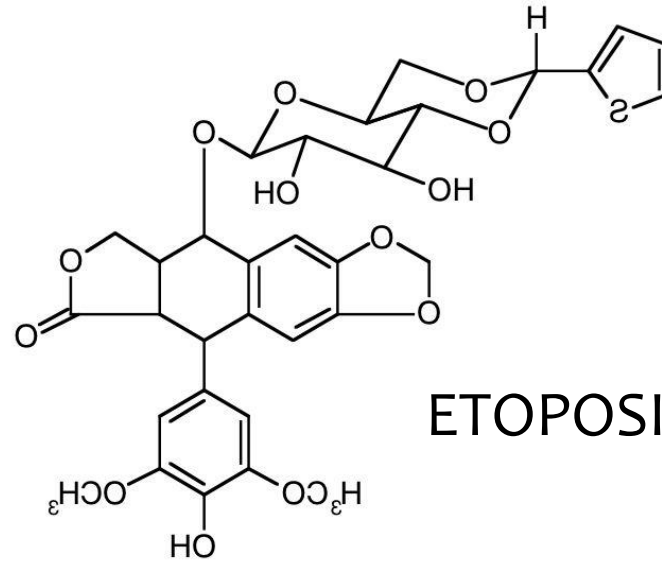
## Topoisomerase I inhibitors – camptothecins

- plant-derived drugs – identification in bark of the tree *Camptotheca acuminata*
- derivatives: **irinotecan**, topotecan
  - treatment of solid tumors

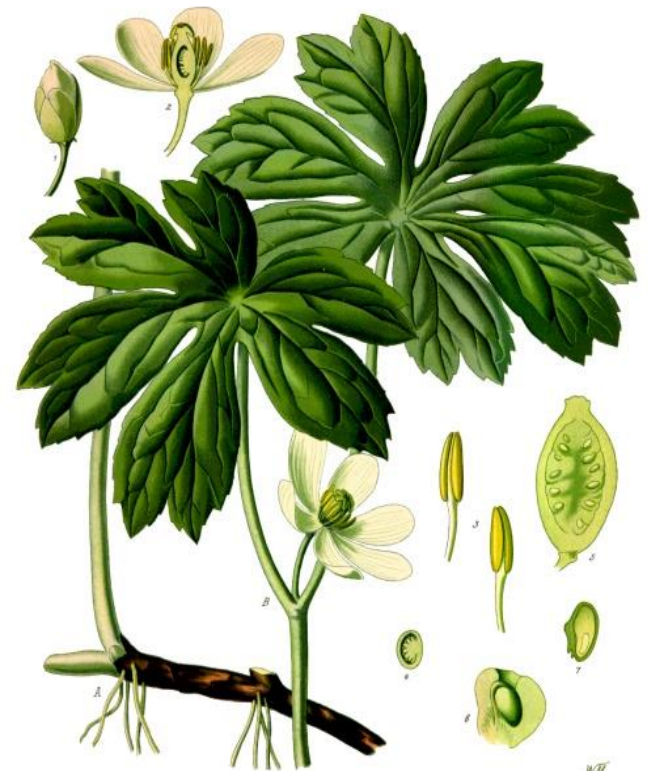
## Topoisomerase II inhibitors – podophyllotoxins

- plant-derived drugs – identification in *Podophyllum peltatum*
- derivatives: **etoposide**, teniposide
  - treatment of solid tumors (etoposide) and hematological malignancies (teniposid)



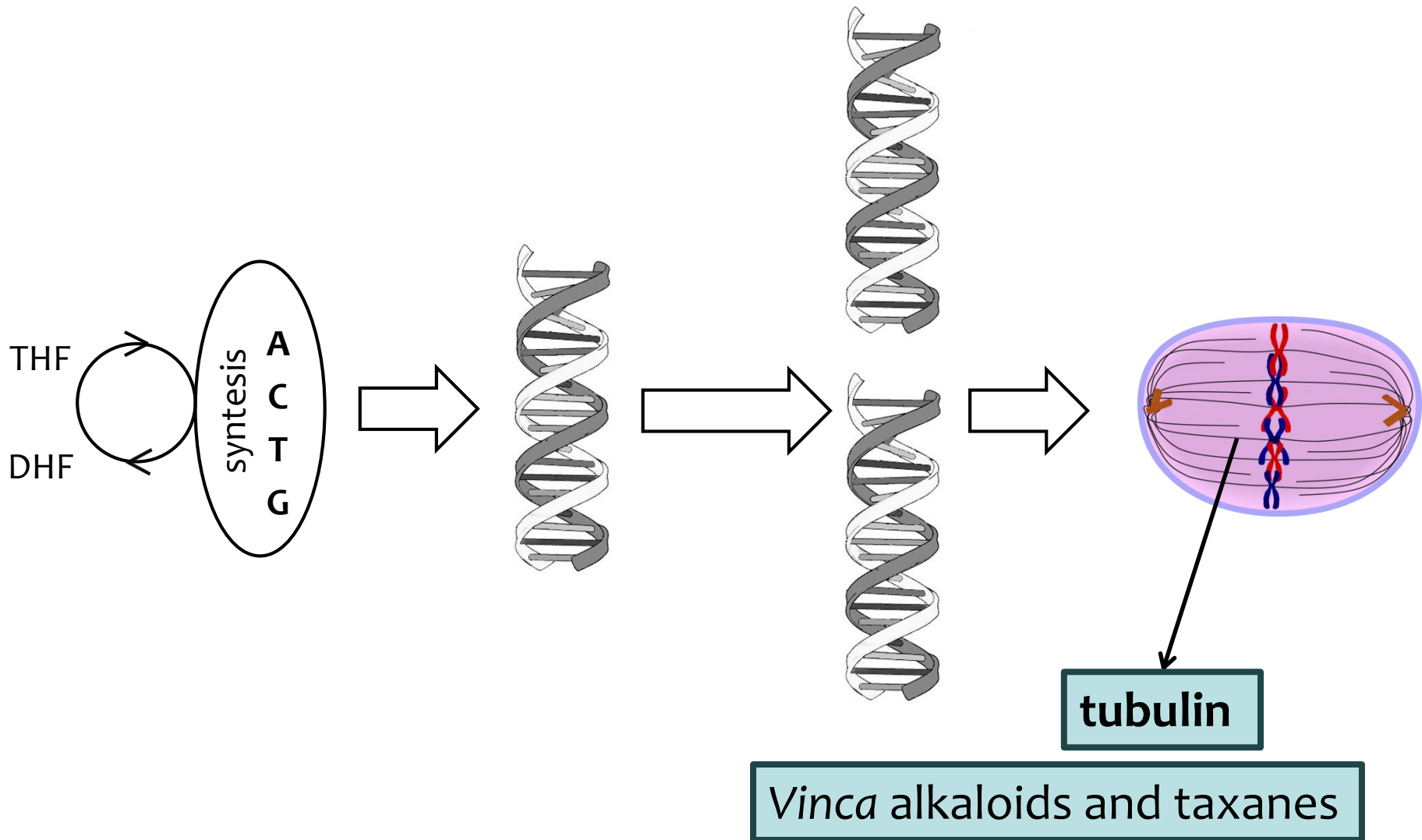


ETOPOSIDE



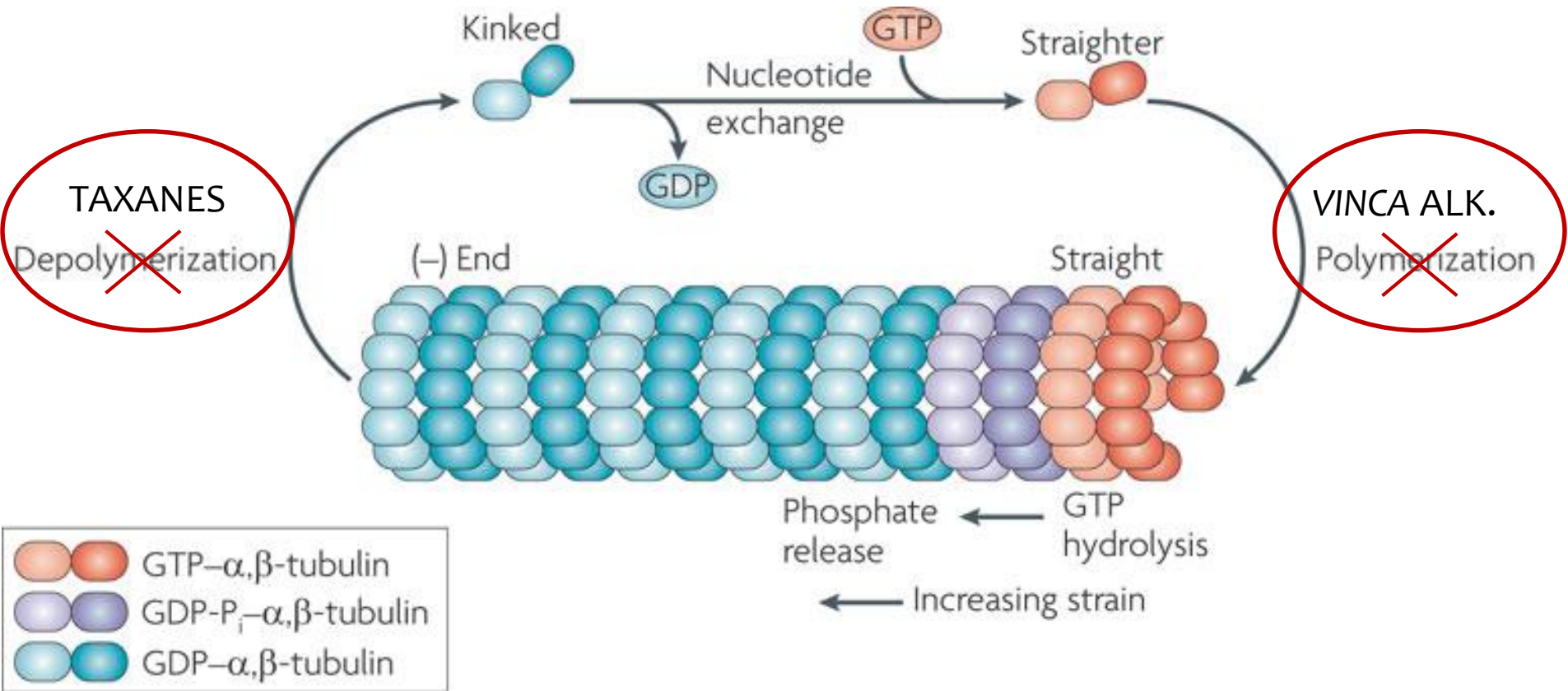
*Podophyllum peltatum* L.  
Image processed by Thomas Schoepke  
[www.plant-pictures.de](http://www.plant-pictures.de)

# Intracellular targets of cytostatics





# Cytostatics that alter microtubules



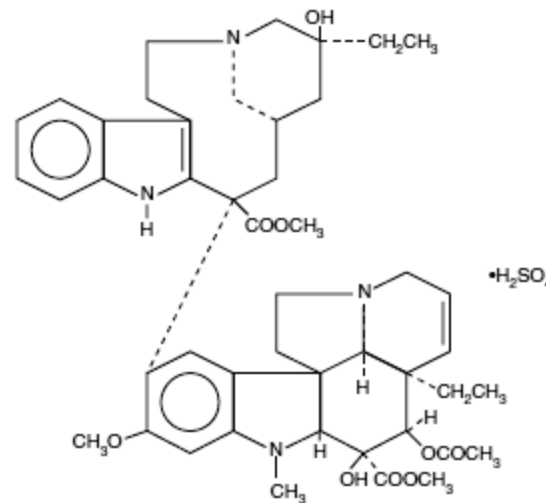
# *Vinca* alkaloids

- plant-derived drugs
- **MoA:** inhibition of tubulin dimers polymerization
  - inhibition of mitotic spindle formation, depolymerization prevails
- i.v. administration, some for p.o. (vinorelbine)
- treatment of hematological malignancies and solid tumors
- **AE – typical toxicity:** peripheral neuropathy
  
- original alkaloids: **vincristine**, vinblastine
- semisynthetic derivatives: vinorelbine, vindesine, vinflunine
  - increased affinity to mitotic spindle tubulin, ↓ AE



# Vinca alkaloids

- identification:  
lesser periwinkle  
(*Vinca minor*)
- isolation:  
*Cataranthus roseus*



VINBLASTINE

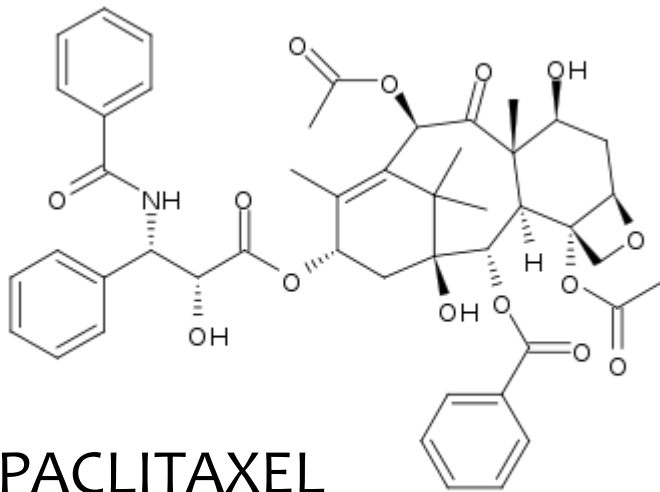
# Taxanes

- plant-based drugs
- **MoA:** inhibition of tubulin depolymerization
- i.v. administration – treatment of solid tumors
- **AE – typical toxicity:** neurotoxicity
- **paclitaxel, docetaxel, cabazitaxel**
  
- modern dosage form: paclitaxel conjugated with albumine nanoparticles
  - transporter protein for albumine in cancer cells = better distribution from circulation into the tissues
  - ↓ toxicity, ↑ efficacy



# Taxanes

- identification and isolation: *Taxus brevifolia* (Pacific yew) a *Taxus baccata* (European yew)



PACLITAXEL

# Combination of cytostatics

- monotherapy
- combination regimens – examples:

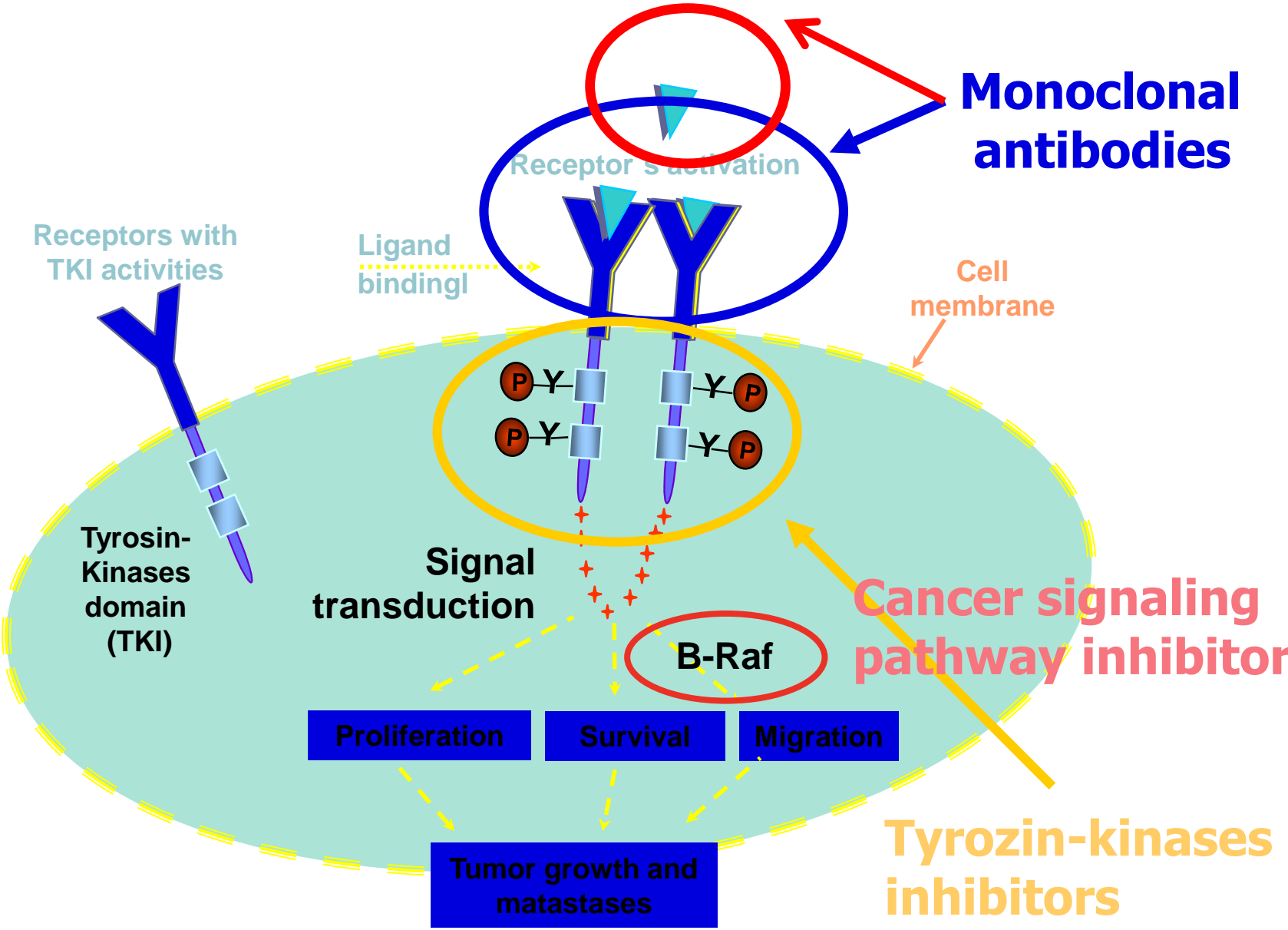
FUFA	fluorouracil, folinic acid
FOLFOX	folinic acid, fluorouracil, oxaliplatin
ABVD	doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine, dacarbazine
BEACOPP	bleomycin, etoposide, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristin, procarbazine, prednisone

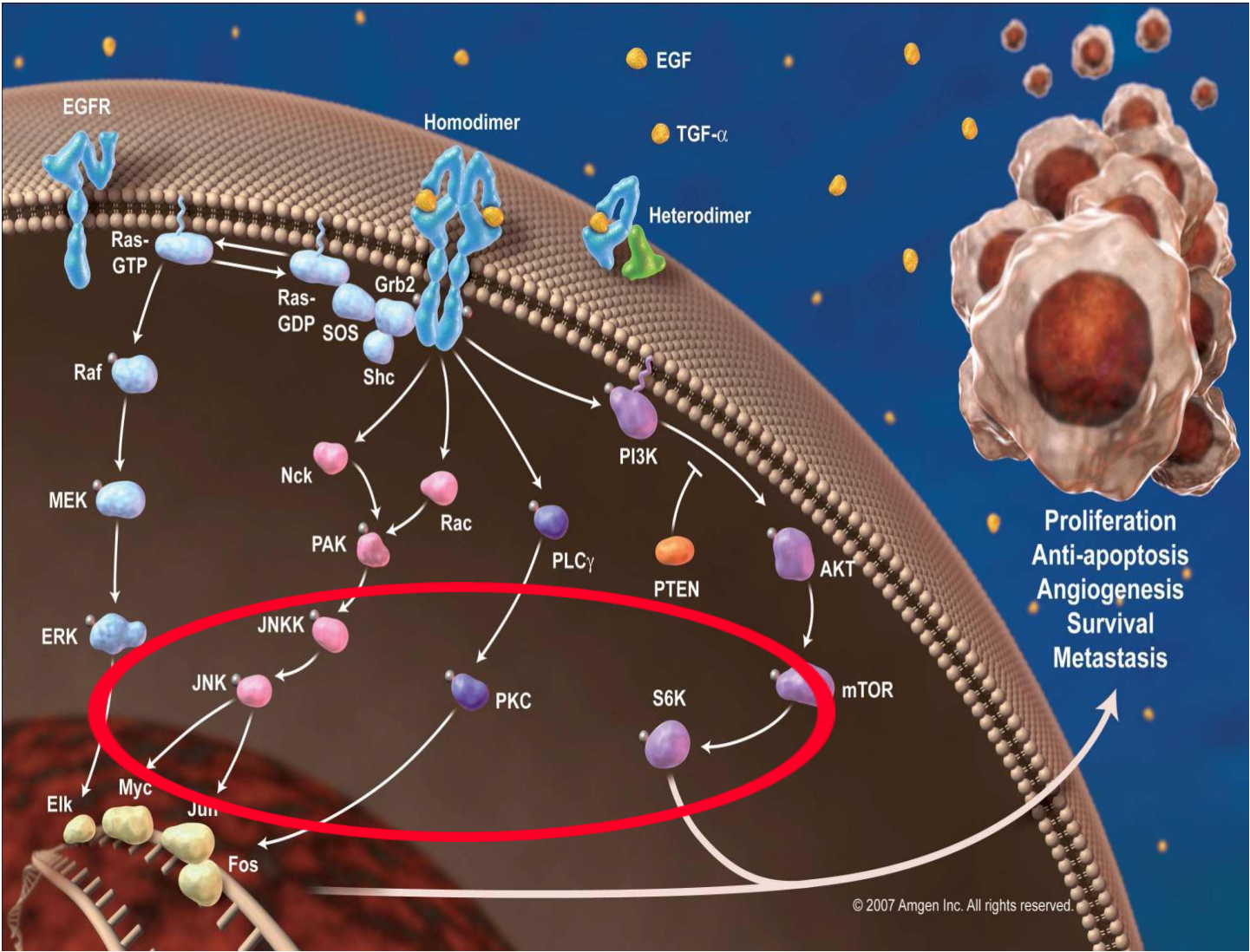


## 2. Targeted therapy in oncology

- „target“ in cancer cell
  - Extracellular part of receptors
  - Intracellular part of receptors
  - Intracellular signaling pathway
  
- „target“ in immune system (T-cell)
  - Immune check-point inhibitors (CTLA-4)

# Targeted therapy – „mAbs and –nibs“





© 2007 Amgen Inc. All rights reserved.

# Current „targets“

...on example of breast cancer

## Receptors

- **EGFR** (*epidermal growth factor receptor*)
- VEGF (*vascular endothelial growth factor receptor*)
- PDGF (*platelet derived growth factor receptor*)
- FGF (*fibroblast growth factor receptor*)

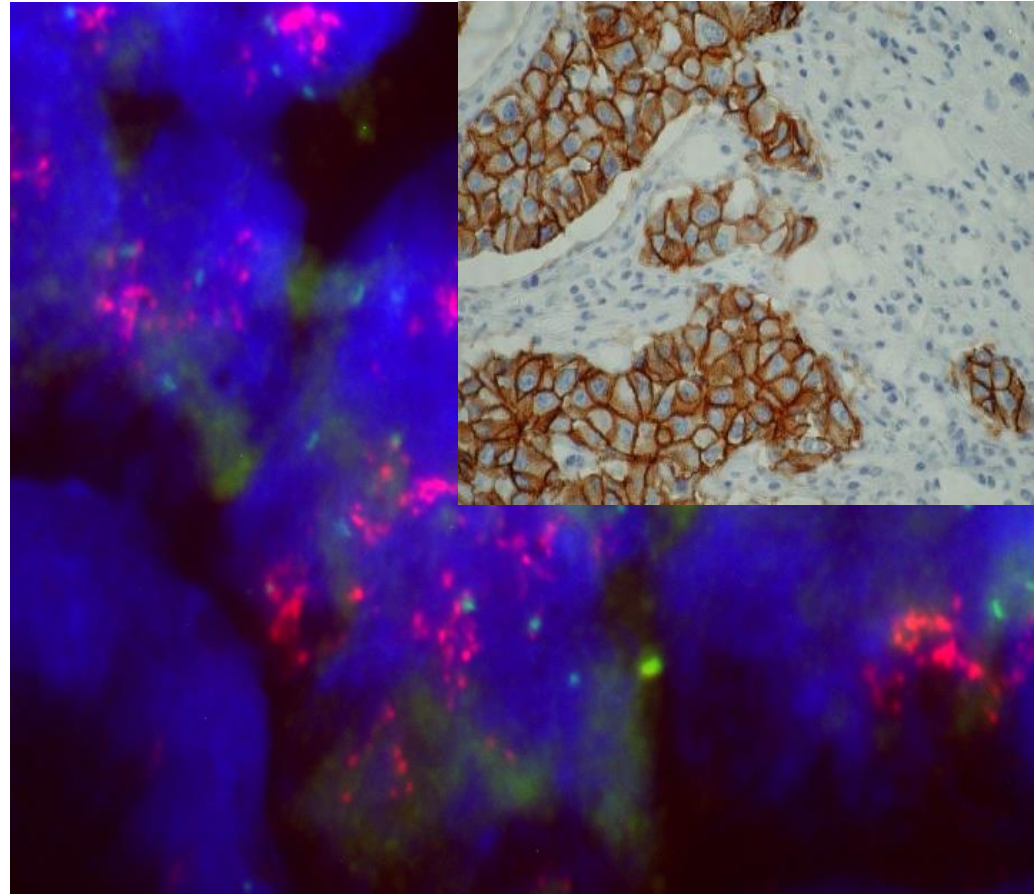
## HER-2 positive breast cancer

1985 – identification of the human Her-2/neu gene as a negative prognostic marker

Methods : IHC, FISH

### Incidence:

- **worldwide: 10-25%**
- **european: 17%**
- **czech:**



EGF  
TGFalpha  
Amphiregulin  
Betacellulin  
Epiregulin

No known ligand

Epiregulin  
Neuregulins



HER 1  
EGFR  
ErbB1



HER 2  
ErbB2  
Neu

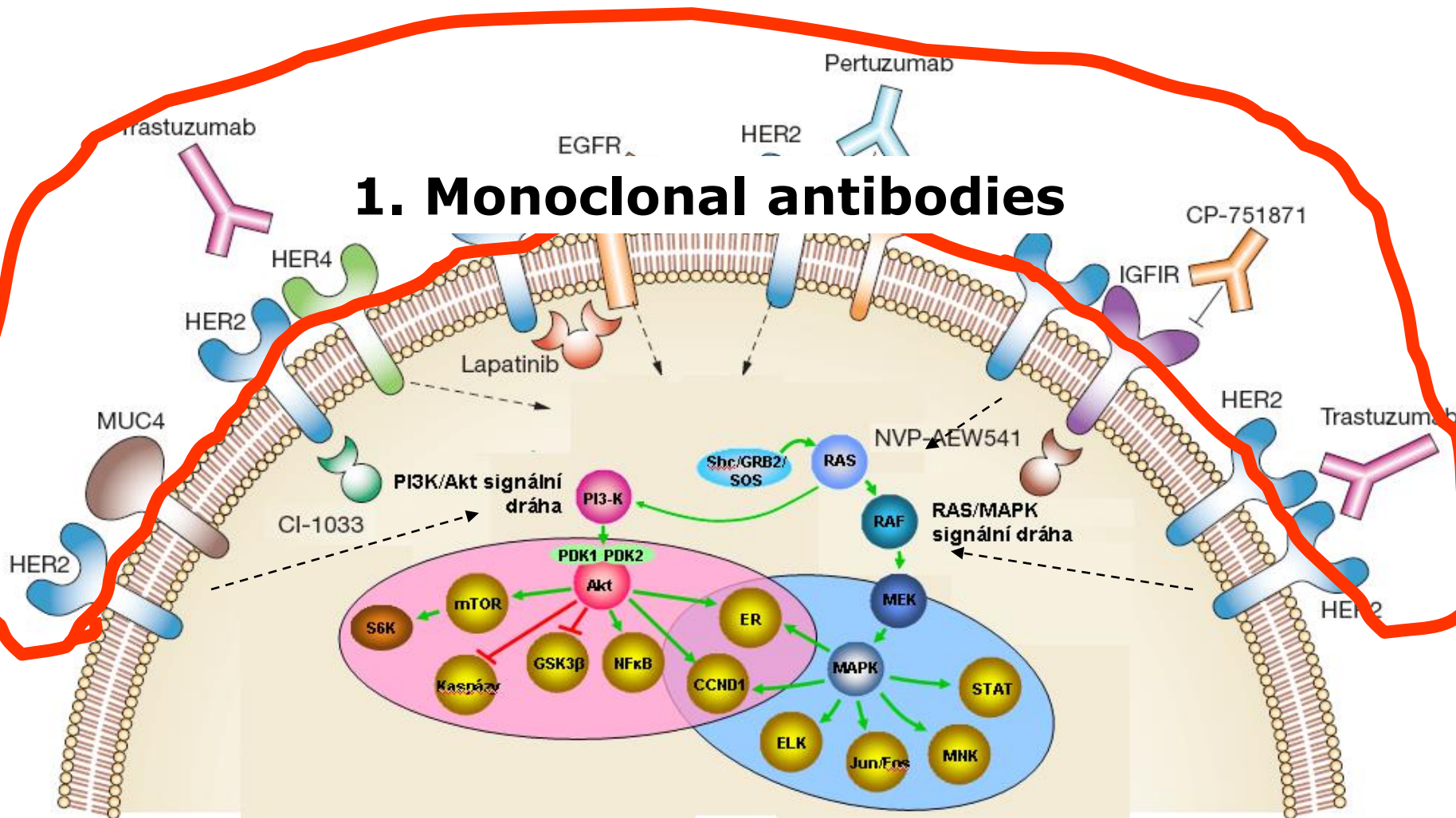


Her 3 and 4  
ErbB3  
ErbB4



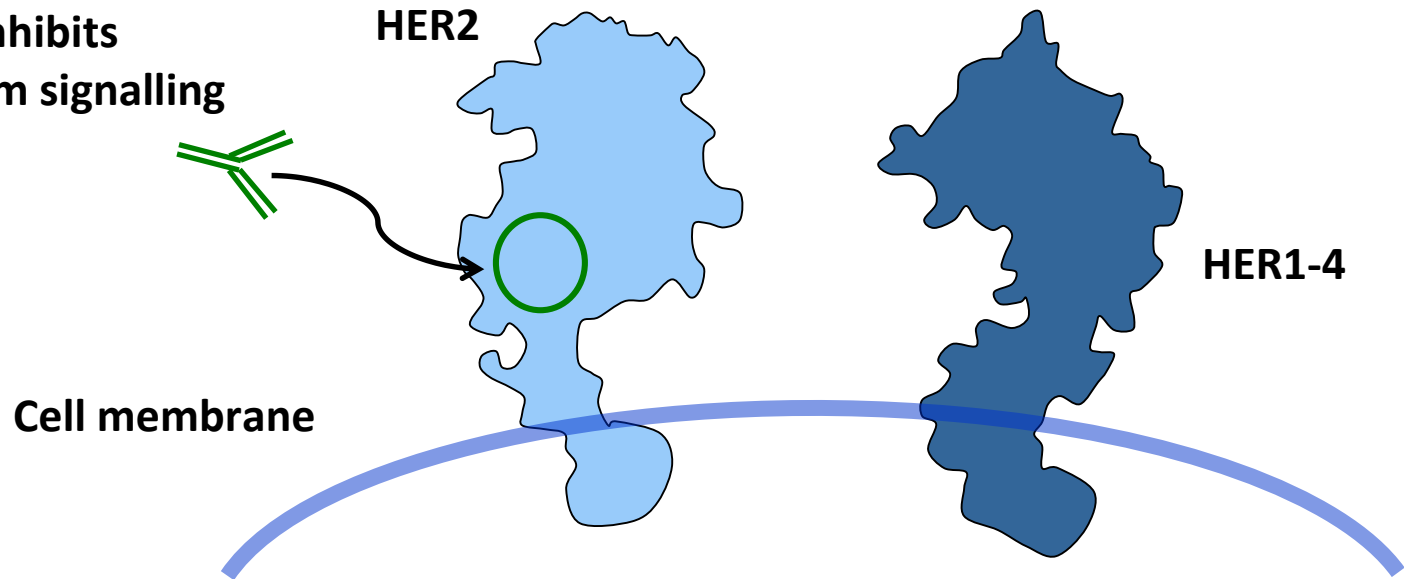
# HER-2 TARGETING

## 1. Monoclonal antibodies



# Trastuzumab (HERCEPTIN): Mechanisms of Action

**Trastuzumab**  
binds to subdomain IV  
and inhibits  
downstream signalling





## TRASTUZUMAB (Herceptin®)

---

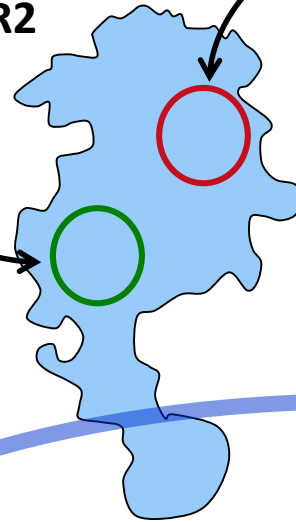
- INDICATIONS:  
treatment of locally advanced and metastatic HER-2 positive breast cancer
- ADVERSE EVENTS:  
allergic reaction, fever, chills, hypotension  
**cardiotoxicity**  
diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, rash  
muscle and joint pain  
pulmonary infiltrates, pneumonia

# Pertuzumab (PERJETA): Mechanisms of Action

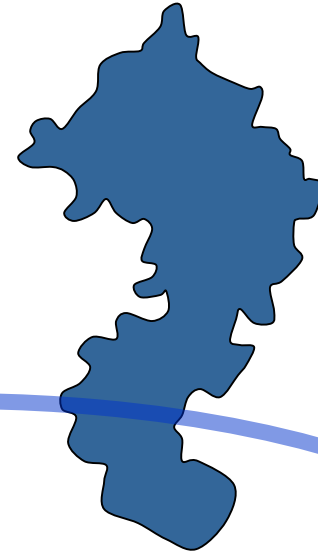
**Trastuzumab**  
binds to subdomain IV  
and inhibits  
downstream signalling



HER2



**Pertuzumab** binds to a  
specific domain II and  
inhibits ligand-activated  
dimerization

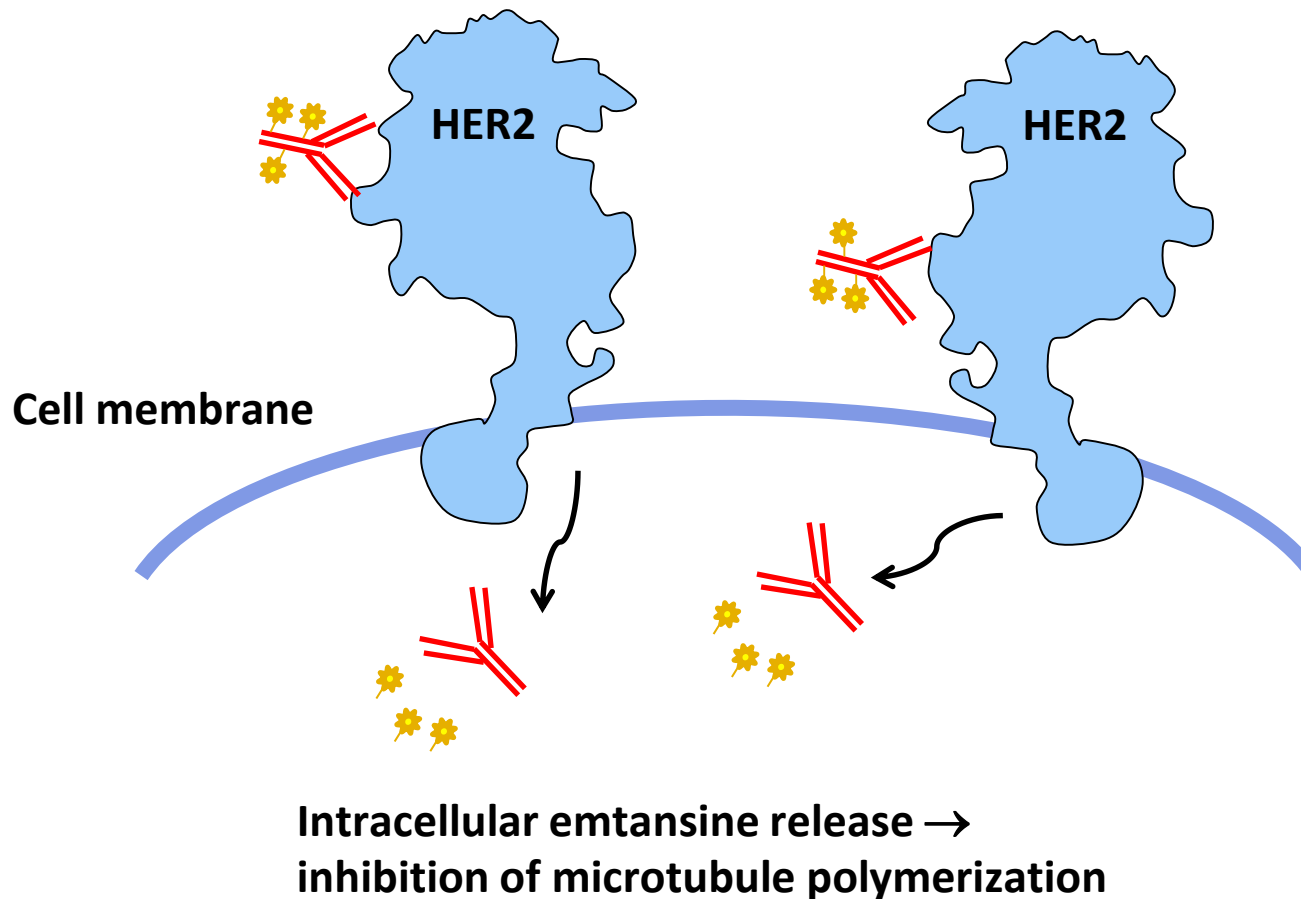


HER1-4

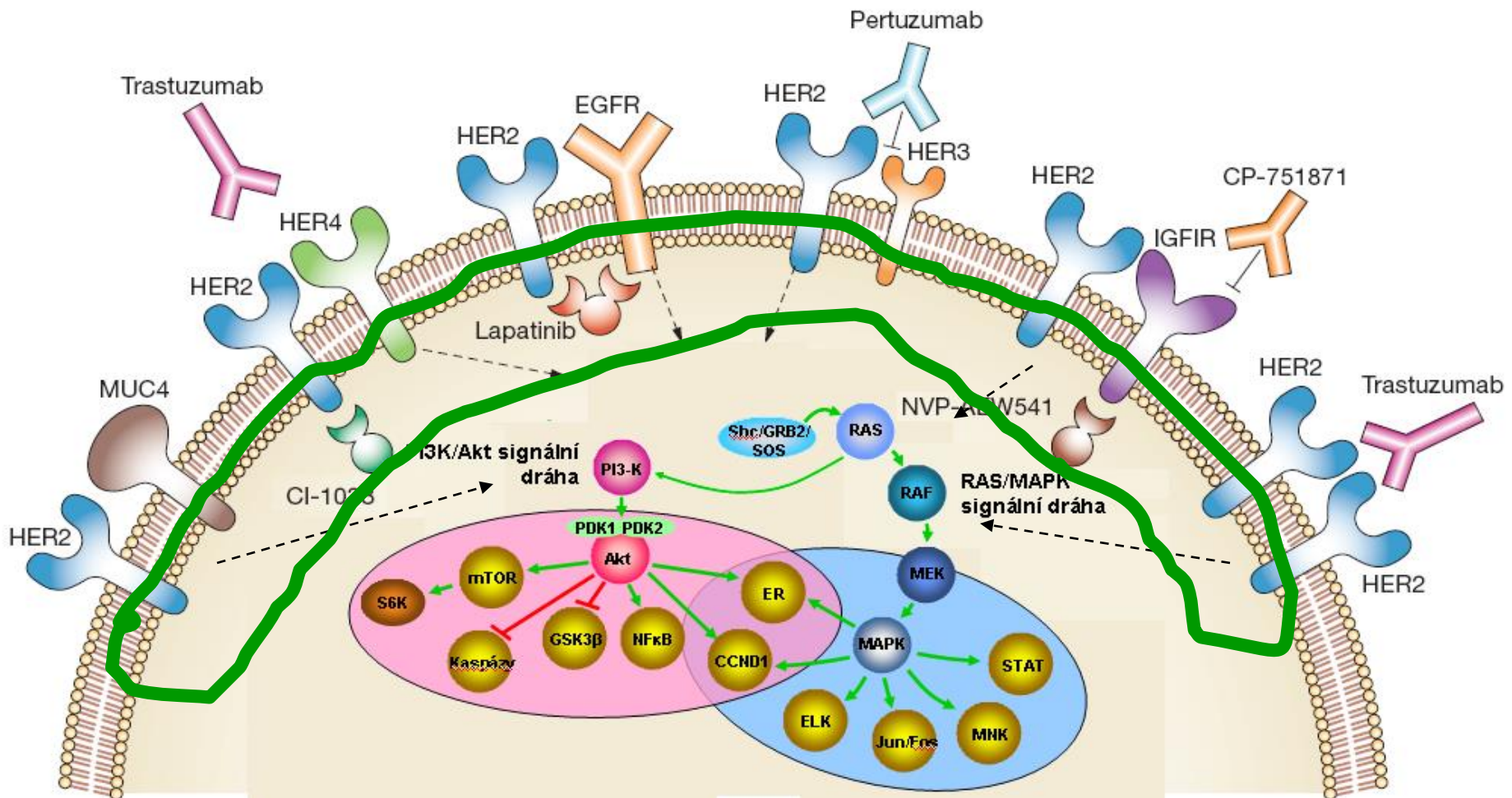
Cell membrane

The combined regimen of pertuzumab and trastuzumab offers the potential for a more comprehensive HER blockade

# T-DM1: Antibody Drug Conjugate trastuzumab + emtansin conjugate



# HER-2 TARGETING – tyrosinkinase inhibitors

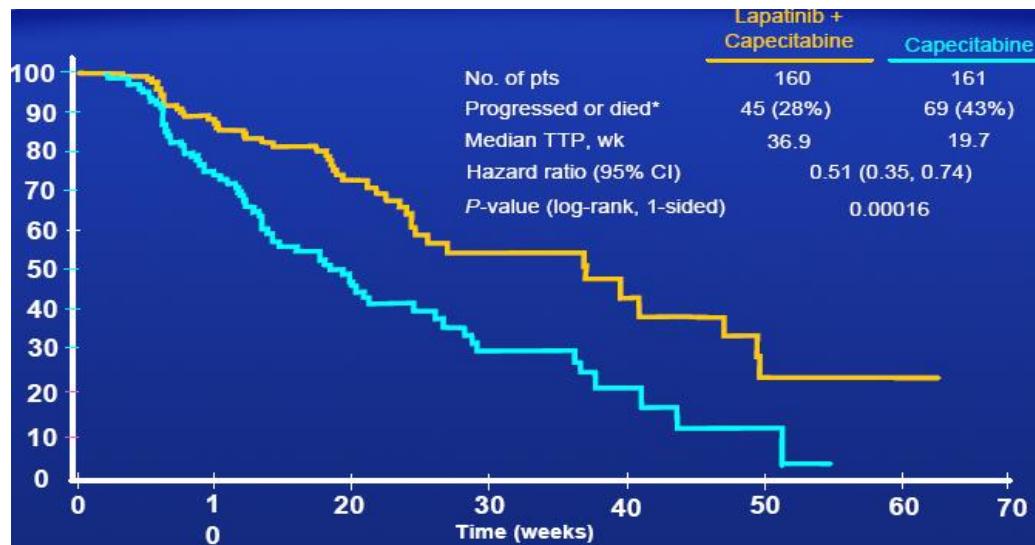


# LAPATINIB (Tyverb®) – tyrosinkinase inhibitor

- Reversible inhibitor EGFR (HER-1), HER-2
- Activity in trastuzumab-resistant tumors
- Oral administration, well tolerated

## INDICATION:

Metastatic breast carcinoma after trastuzumab failure



## LAPATINIB (Tyverb®)

---

### MAIN ADVERSE EVENTS:

- gastrointestinal toxicity (diarrhea, dehydration, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting)
- dermal toxicity - rash, pruritus, dry skin

### RARE ADVERSE EVENTS:

- cardiotoxicity (2,5% pts.)
- neutropenia
- lung toxicity
- hepatotoxicity
-

# Current „targets“

....on example of colorectal cancer

## Receptors

- EGFR (*epidermal growth factor receptor*)
- **VEGF (*vascular endothelial growth factor receptor*)**
- PDGF (*platelet derived growth factor receptor*)
- FGF (*fibroblast growth factor receptor*)

# Example : colorectal carcinoma and VEGF targeting

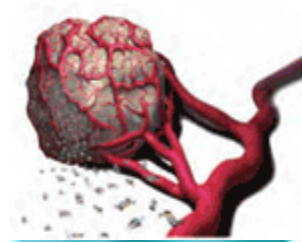
- The growth of malignant tumor needs the continuous supply of oxygen and nutrients
- Simple diffusion and not enough nutrition to the cells under the influence of hypoxia
- Tumor produced a series mediators, particularly VEGF (vascular endothelial factor).



# VEGF - bevacizumab

- Antibody against VEGF, Avastin (bevacizumab), binds to VEGF and prevents it from binding to receptors.
- This induced inhibition of angiogenesis and its long-term use leads to regression of tumor vasculature, the normalization of surviving tumor vessels and inhibition of recovery and growth of new blood vessels

# Bevacizumab (AVASTIN®)



## **INDICATION:**

- Metastatic colorectal carcinoma
- Metastatic breast Ca, renal Ca, NSCLC

## **ADVERSE EVENTS:**

- Acceleration of hypertension
- proteinuria
- Thrombotic complication

# Current „targets“

....on example of colorectal cancer

(overexpressed up to 90% of metastatic colorectal Ca)

## Receptors

- **EGFR** (*epidermal growth factor receptor*)
- VEGF (*vascular endothelial growth factor receptor*)
- PDGF (*platelet derived growth factor receptor*)
- FGF (*fibroblast growth factor receptor*)

# EGFR inhibition in mCRC

- Monoclonal antibodies antiEGFR
  - **Cetuximab, panitumumab**
- Tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs)
  - **regorafenib**

# Cetuximab (ERBITUX<sup>®</sup>)

EGFR overexpression up to 90%  
of metastatic colorectal Ca

## INDICATION:

- Anti - EGFR Mab
- **metastatic colorectal cancer**

## AE:

- Akneiform rash 76 – 90%
- Prognostic marker ??? !!!
- Allergic reaction
- Diarrhoea
- Fatigue



# Panitumumab (VECTIBIX<sup>®</sup>)

## INDICATION:

- Anti - EGFR Mab
- **metastatic colorectal cancer**

## AE:

- Akneiform rash
- Diarrhoea
- Fatigue

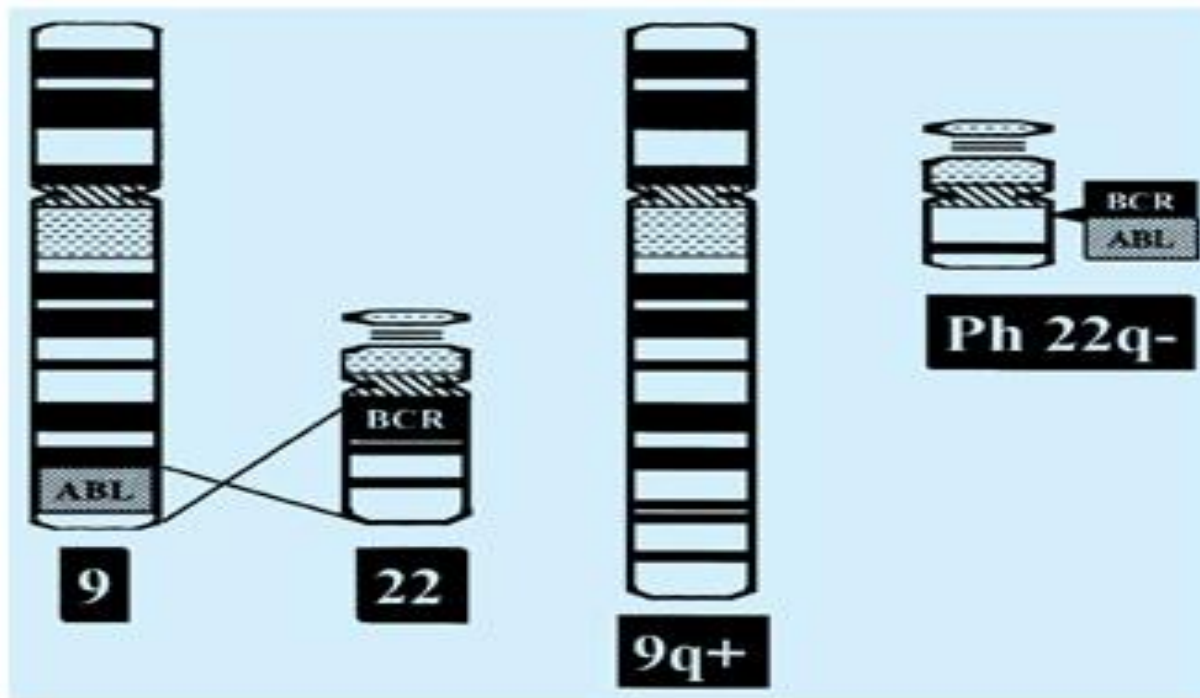


# PDGFR a c-KIT inhibitory

- PDGFR – endothelial growth
- C-KIT – formation of blood cells, melanocytes, intestinal cells
- **Mutation of c-KIT** – leukemia (CML), GIST....

# Philadelphia Chromosome

(BCR-ABL Translocation)





# Imatinib mesylát (GLIVEC®)

- **Bcr-abl inhibitor** – chronic myeloid leukémia
- **c-KIT inhibitor** – 1st line treatment of GIST (mutation c-KIT in 85% pts.) – 70% of the pts. Are responders!!!

## **AE:**

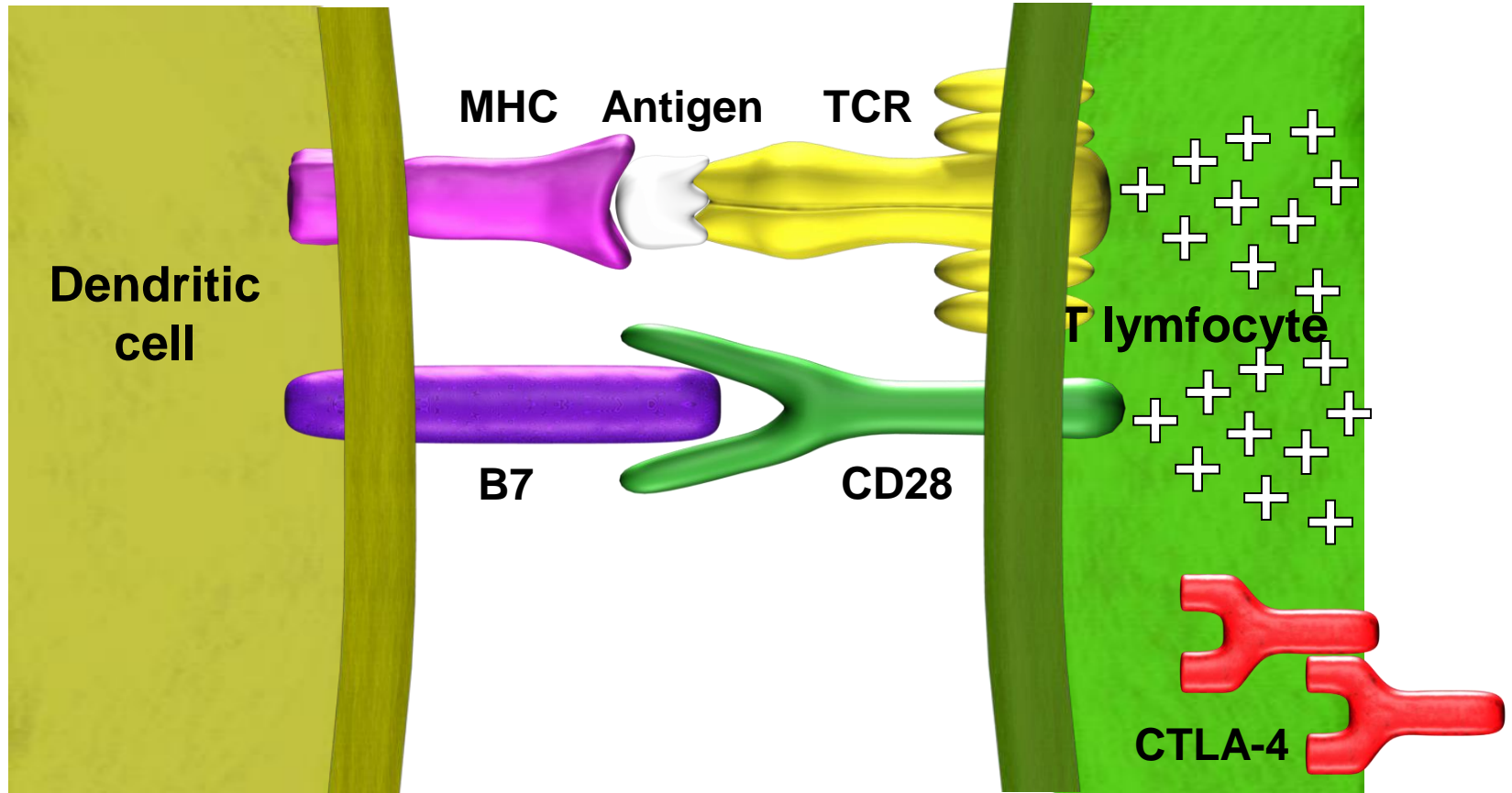
- neutropenia, trombocytopenia
- diarrhoea, vomiting
- joint pain

# Immunotherapy in oncology

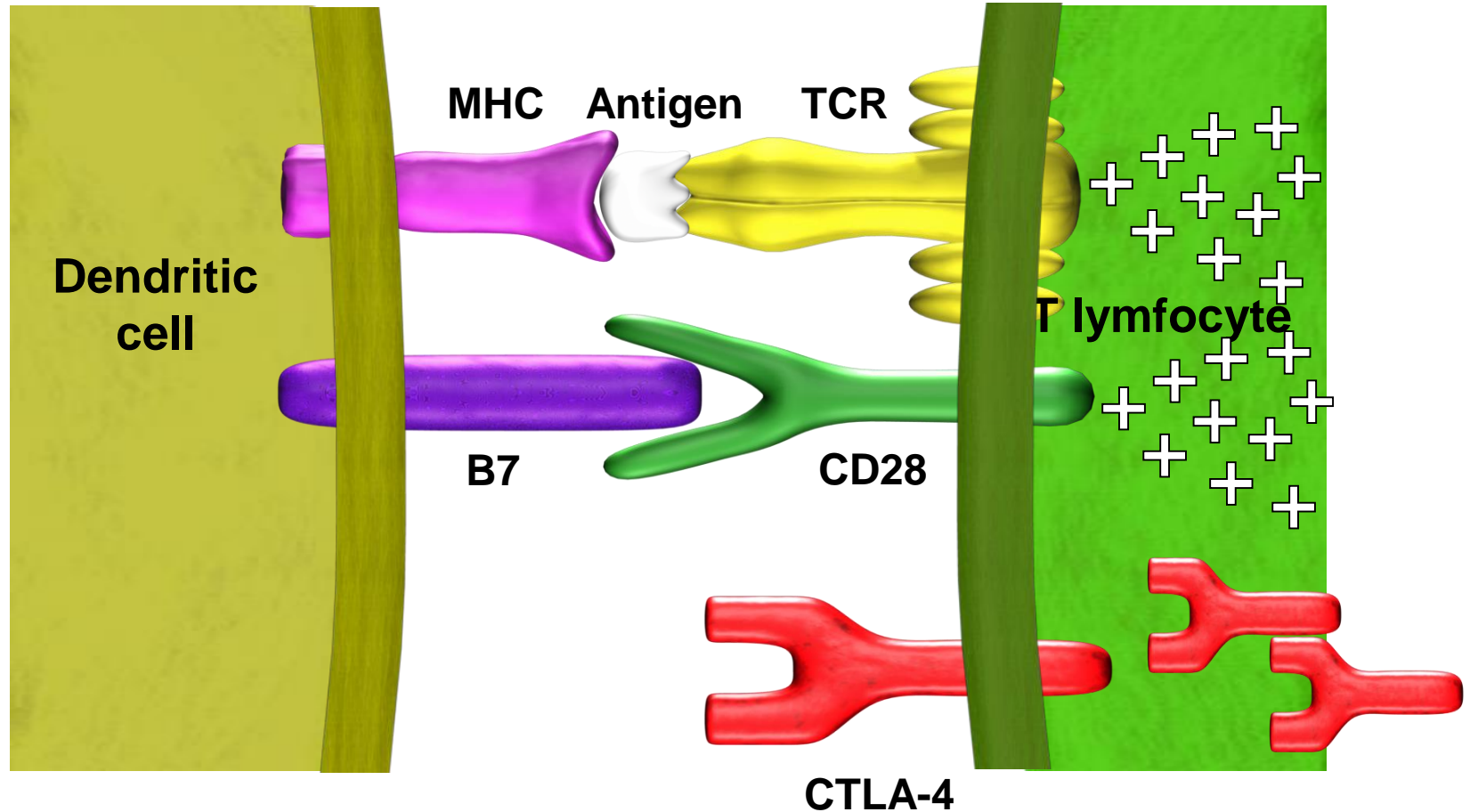
## „Checkpoint“ inhibitors – CTLA-4 a PD-1/PD-L1 antagonists

- **anti-CTLA-4 (cytotoxic T-lymphocyte antigen 4)** – **ipilimumab**, tremelimumab
- **anti-PD-1** (programmed death-1 receptor) - **nivolumab**, pembrolizumab
- **anti-PD-L1** – BMS-936559, MPDL3280A

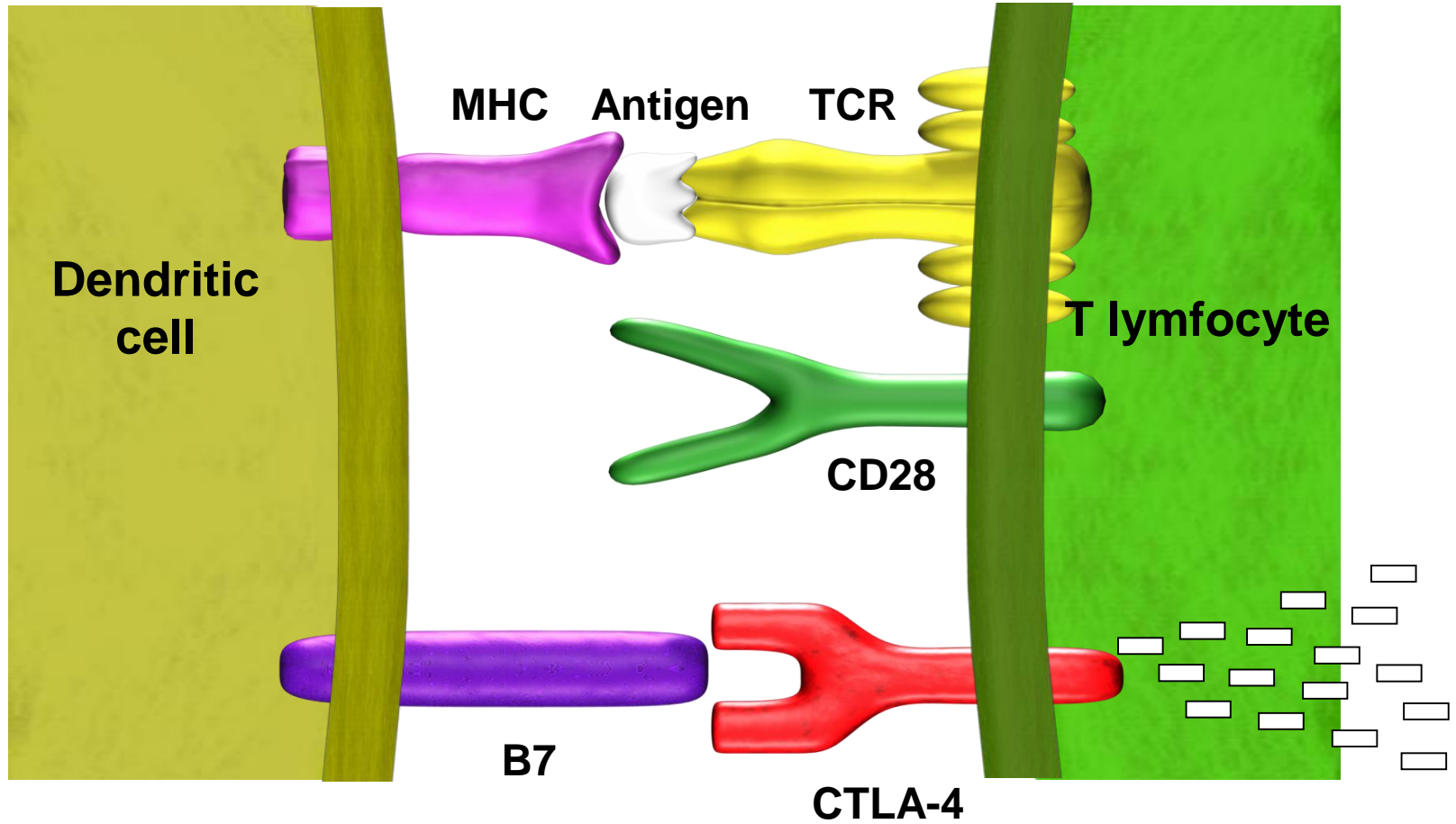
# Activation of T lymphocytes through TCR and co-stimulating molecule CD28



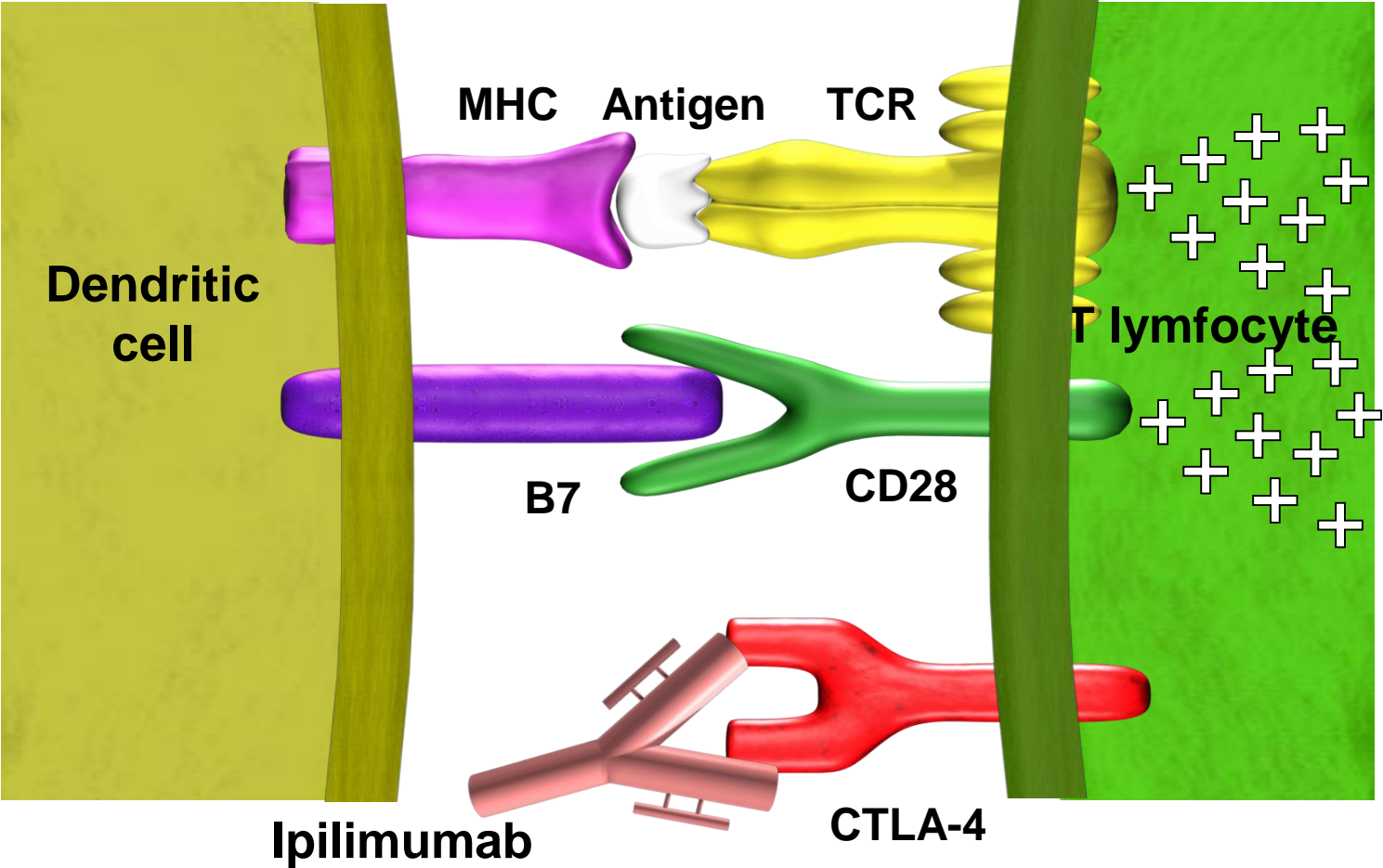
# Up-regulation of CTLA-4 receptors after T- cell activation



# CTLA-4 receptor inhibition

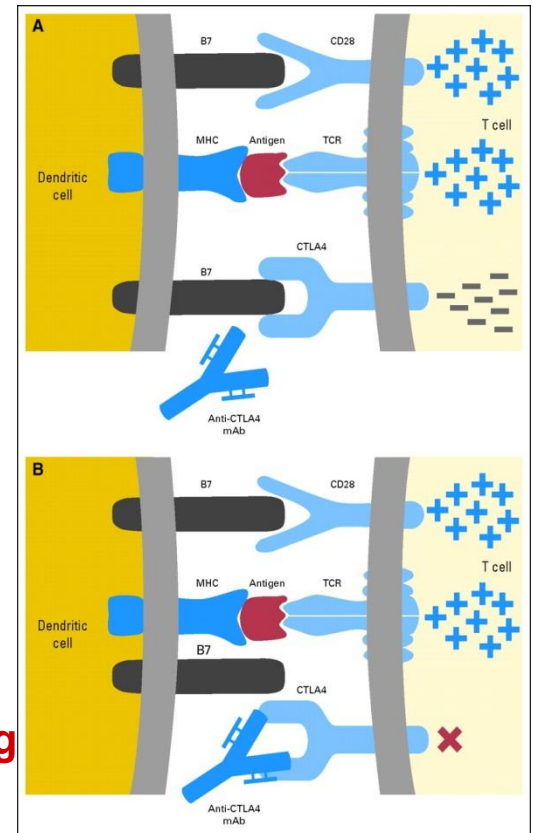


# Antagonisation of CTLA-4 receptors Ipilimumab



# anti-CTLA-4 mAbs

- **Tremelimumab (IgG2, Pfizer)**
  - Phase III ongoing
  - Tremelimumab 15 mg/kg vs DTIC/Temozolomid
- **Ipilimumab (IgG1, Bristol-Myers Squibb)**
  - **EMA registration**
  - I. line treatment of melanoma
    - Ipilimumab (10 mg/kg)
  - **II. line**
    - **Ipilimumab (3 mg/kg) vs Ipilimumab/gp100 vs g**



Kirkwood JM et al., JCO 2008;26:3445-3455  
Ribas A et al., JCO 2008;26;abstr.9011  
Robert C et al., NEJM 2011;364:2517-2526  
Hodi FS et al., NEJM 2010;363:711-723

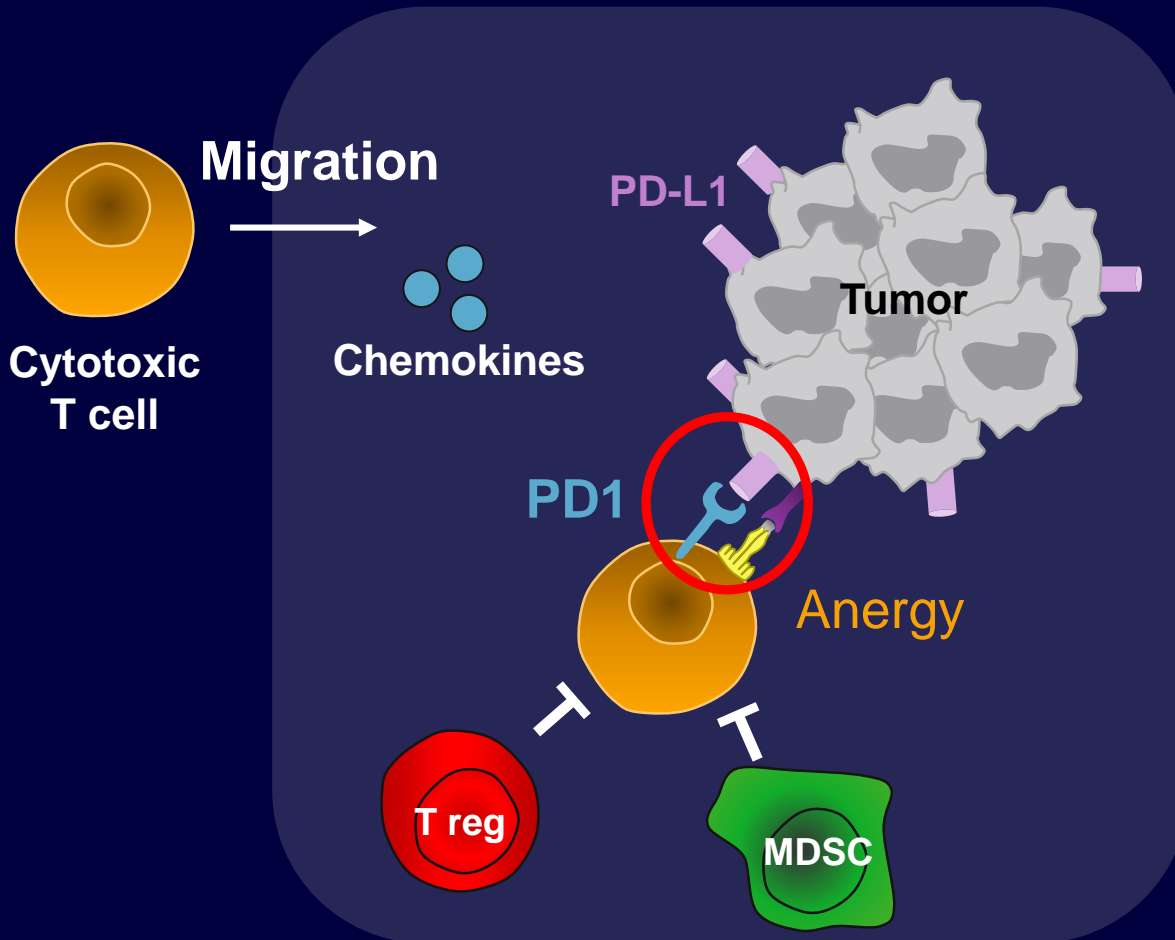
# Ipilimumab: Managing Immune-Related Adverse Events

System	Symptoms	Management
GI tract	Diarrhea Abdominal pain Dark, bloody stools	Moderate enterocolitis: hold ipilimumab, administer antidiarrheal. Persistent diarrhea (> 1 wk): systemic corticosteroids. 7+ stools/day: start methylprednisone, permanently discontinue ipilimumab. Consider infliximab for corticosteroid-refractory patients
Skin	Rash ( $\pm$ itching) Blistering/peeling Oral sores	Moderate/nonlocalized rash: hold ipilimumab, start topical or systemic corticosteroids. Severe dermatitis: permanently discontinue ipilimumab, start corticosteroids
Liver	Jaundice Nausea/vomiting	Assess ALT/AST, bilirubin, and thyroid function before each dose and as necessary. Hold ipilimumab if ALT/AST > 2.5 x but $\leq$ 5 x ULN; permanently discontinue if AST/ALT > 5 x ULN or bilirubin > 3 x ULN. The immunosuppressant mycophenolate can be used for hepatotoxicity in corticosteroid-refractory patients
CNS	Weakness in extremities Numbness/tingling Sensory changes	Moderate neuropathy: hold ipilimumab. New or worsening neuropathy: permanently discontinue ipilimumab. Consider corticosteroids
Endocrine	Headaches Fatigue Behavior/mood changes Menstruation changes Dizziness/light-headedness	Moderate endocrinopathy: hold ipilimumab, start corticosteroids. Endocrine abnormalities can be difficult to detect, due to nonspecific symptoms. Consider having an endocrinologist follow the patient
Eyes	Vision problems Irritation	Monitor for redness suggesting uveitis, treat with topical steroidal eye drops

Ipilimumab adverse reaction management guide.



# Checkpoint inhibitors – PD-(L)-1

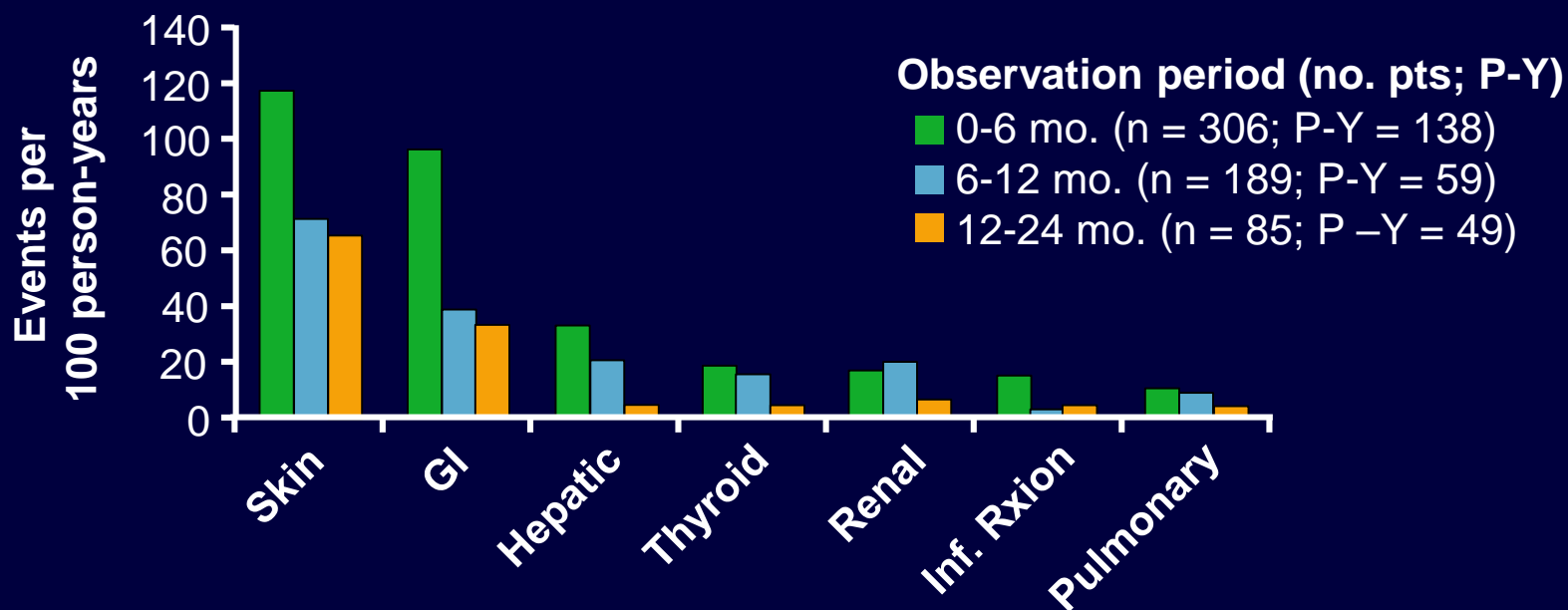


- T cell recruitment
  - High levels of innate immune signals
  - Chemokine expression
- Nevertheless, negative immune regulators dominate
- Blocking PD1:PD-L1 binding might activate immunity within the tumor microenvironment

# Clinical Development of Inhibitors of PD-1 Immune Checkpoint

Target	Antibody	Molecule	Development stage
PD-1	Nivolumab (BMS-936558)	Fully human IgG4	Phase III multiple tumors (melanoma, RCC, NSCLCa, HNSCC)
	Pembrolizumab (MK-3475)	Humanized IgG4	Phase I-II multiple tumors Phase III NSCLC/melanoma
	Pidilizumab (CT-011)	Humanized IgG1	Phase II multiple tumors
PD-L1	MEDI-4736	Engineered human IgG1	Phase I-II multiple tumors
	MPDL-3280A	Engineered human IgG1	Phase I-II multiple tumors Phase III NSCLC
	MSB0010718C	Fully human IgG1	Phase I solid tumors

# Nivolumab Exposure-adjusted irAEs: Toxicity Is Not Cumulative



- Multiple occurrences of all-cause select AEs in individual pts are included in this exposure-adjusted analysis.
- Treatment-related Gr 3-4 AEs occurred in 17% of pts, including select AEs in 6%.

**Thank you for your attention**