

Kathmandu, Bir Hospital visit,  
August 2018



# Germline Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer Risk

Evidence-based Genetic Screening



## **Laureate Professor Rodney Scott**

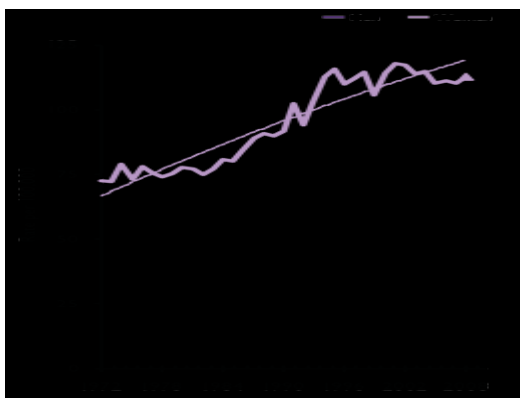
Laureate Professor  
School of Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy  
(Medical Genetics)

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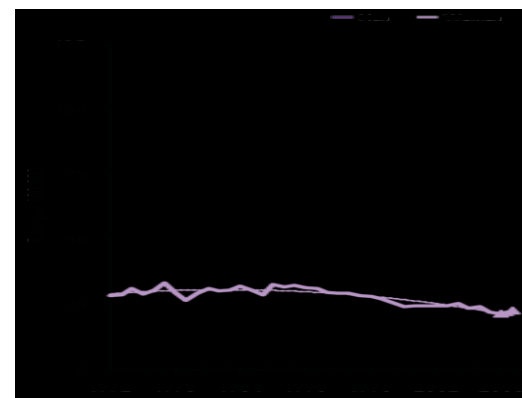
# Demography in New South Wales (total population ~ 7,000,000)

Breast Cancer Diagnoses: ~4,400/annum  
Breast Cancer Deaths: ~ 900/annum  
Relative survival: 88%

The most common malignancy in women



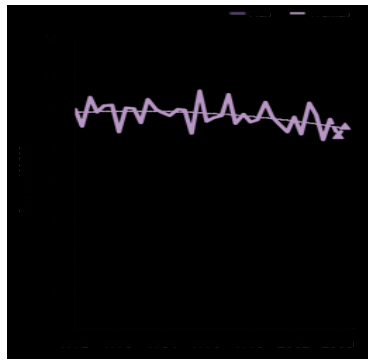
New Cases



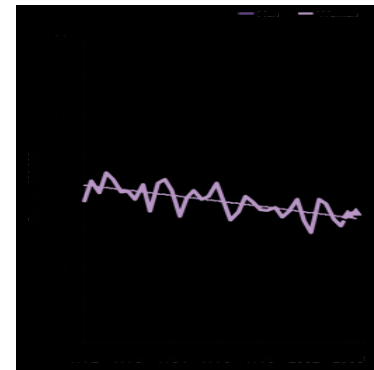
Age-standardised mortality

# Demography in New South Wales

- Ovarian Cancer Diagnoses: ~430/annum
- Ovarian Cancer Deaths: ~ 298/annum
- Relative survival: 44%
- 10<sup>TH</sup> most common malignancy in women



New Cases



Age-standardised mortality

MAY 27, 2013

TIME

# THE ANGELINA EFFECT

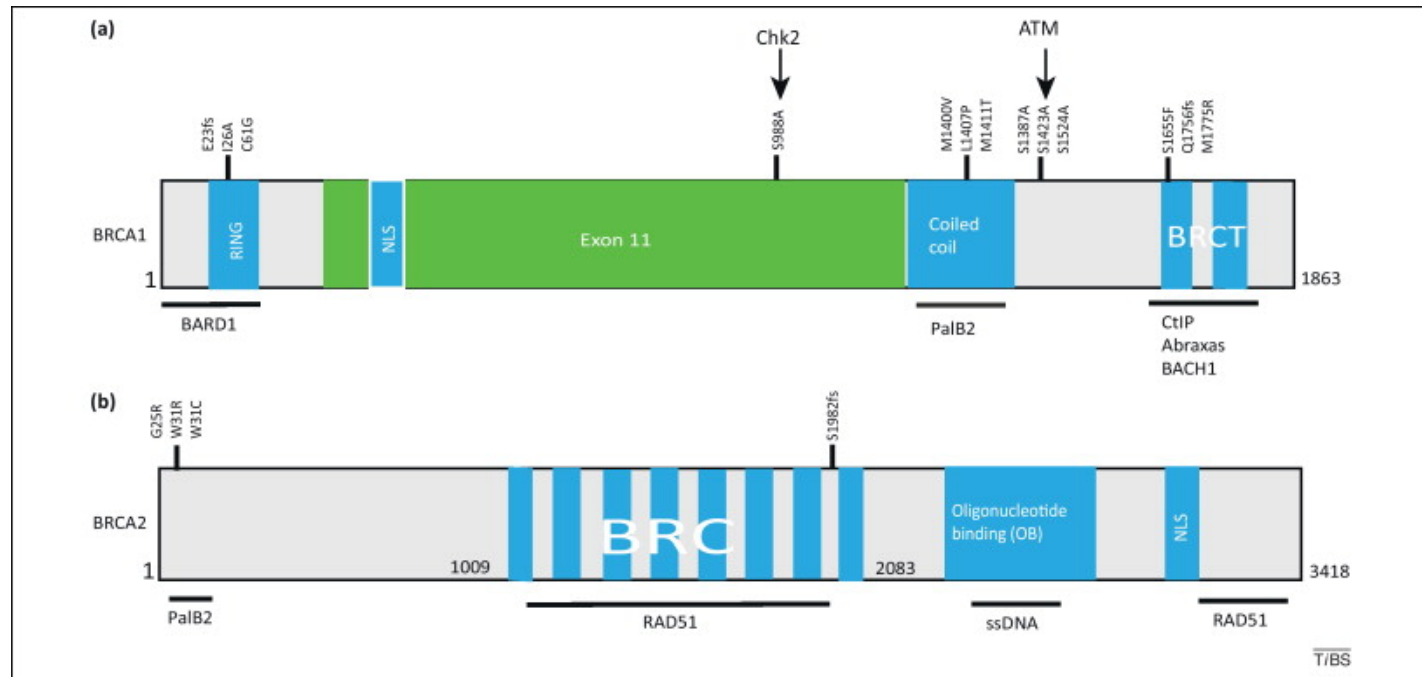
Angelina Jolie's double mastectomy puts genetic testing in the spotlight. What her choice reveals about calculating risk, cost and peace of mind

BY JEFFREY HUGGER & ALICE PARK

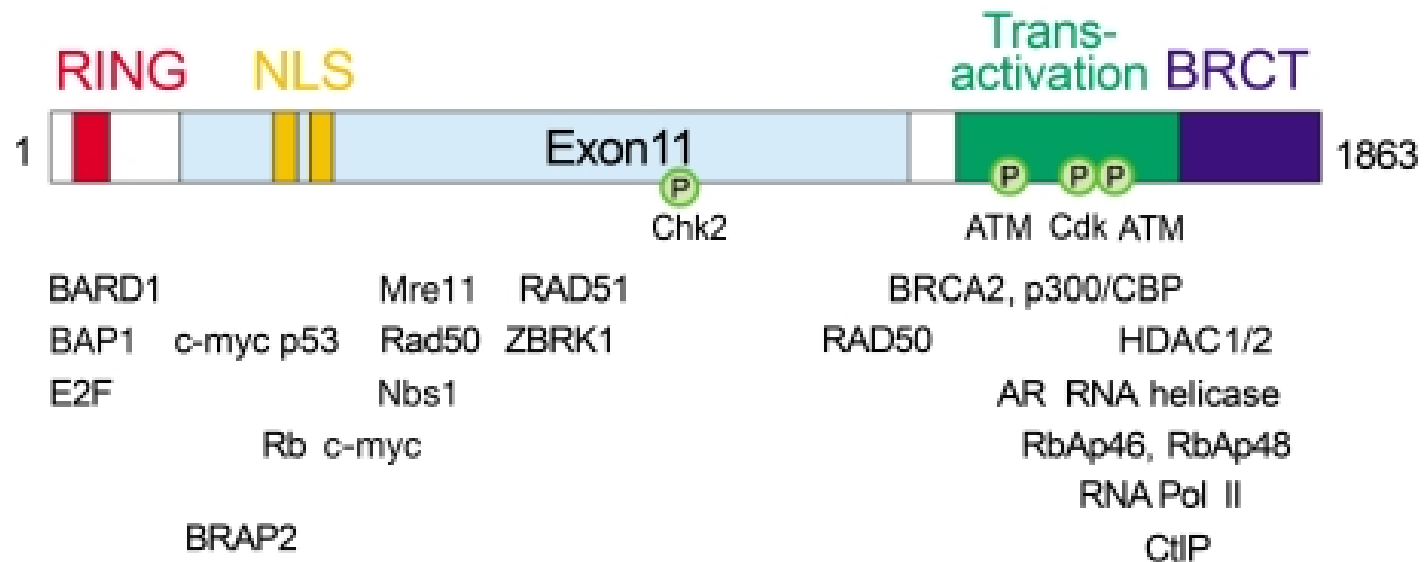
PHOTO: GARY

1. BRCA1 and BRCA2
2. How many BrCa genes are actionable
3. Genetic Testing – what you should do

# BRCA1 and BRCA2 Structure



# BRCA1

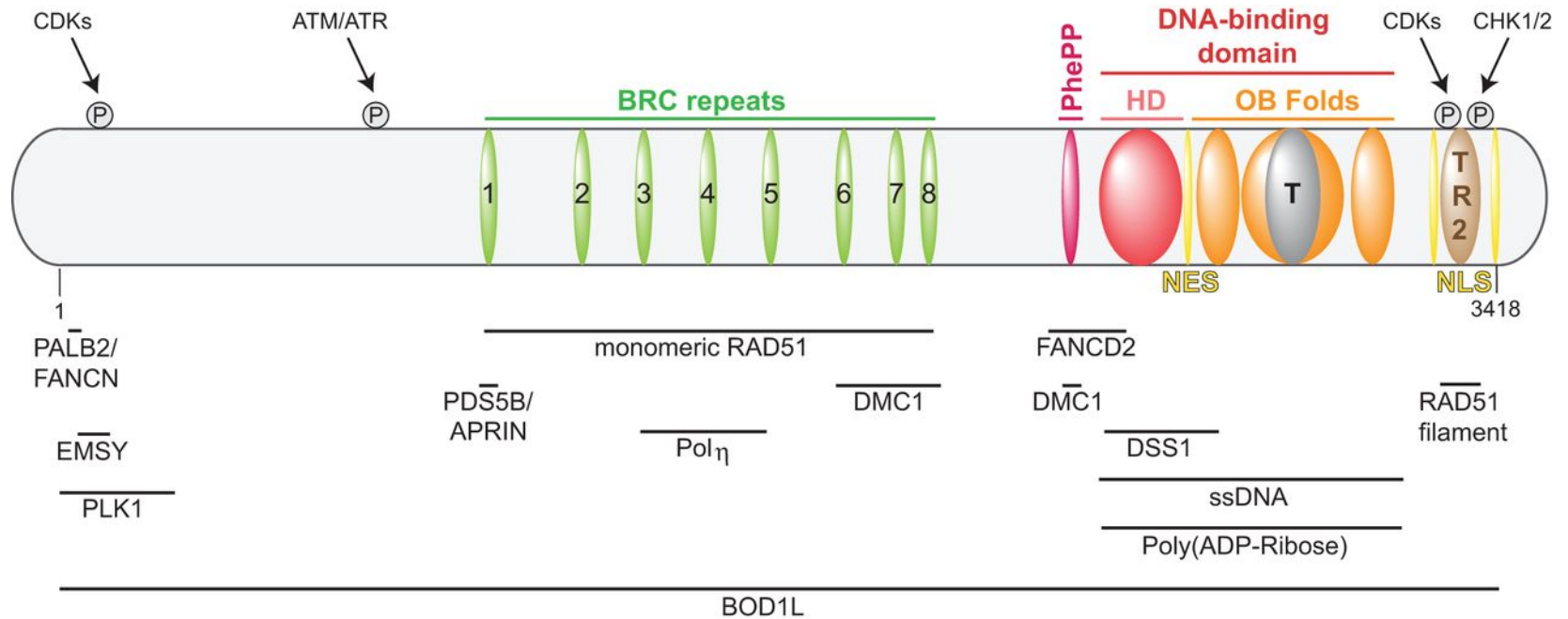


Centrosome proteins (p53, Rb, Nm23) H2AX

BASC(ATM, BLM, MSH2, MSH6, MLH1, RCF)

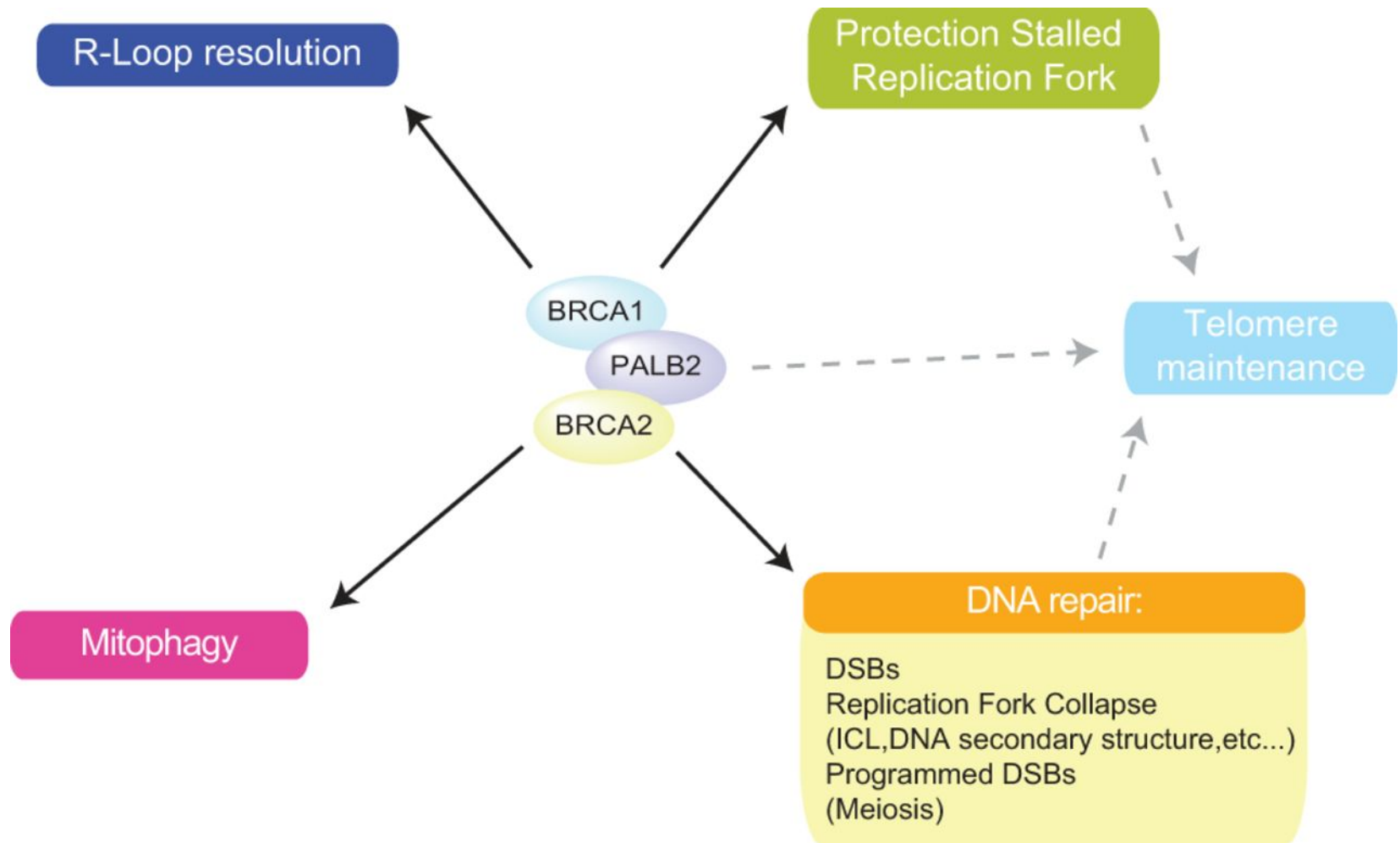
BRCA2 interacting proteins

## Structural domains and interaction partners of BRCA2.

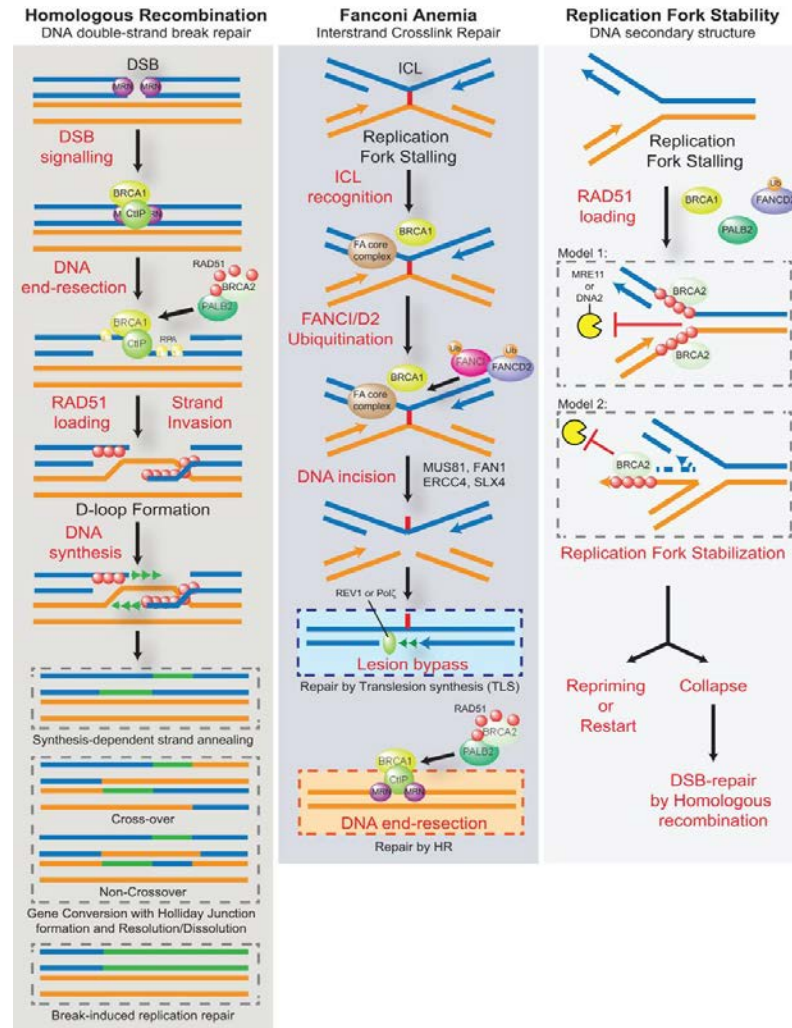




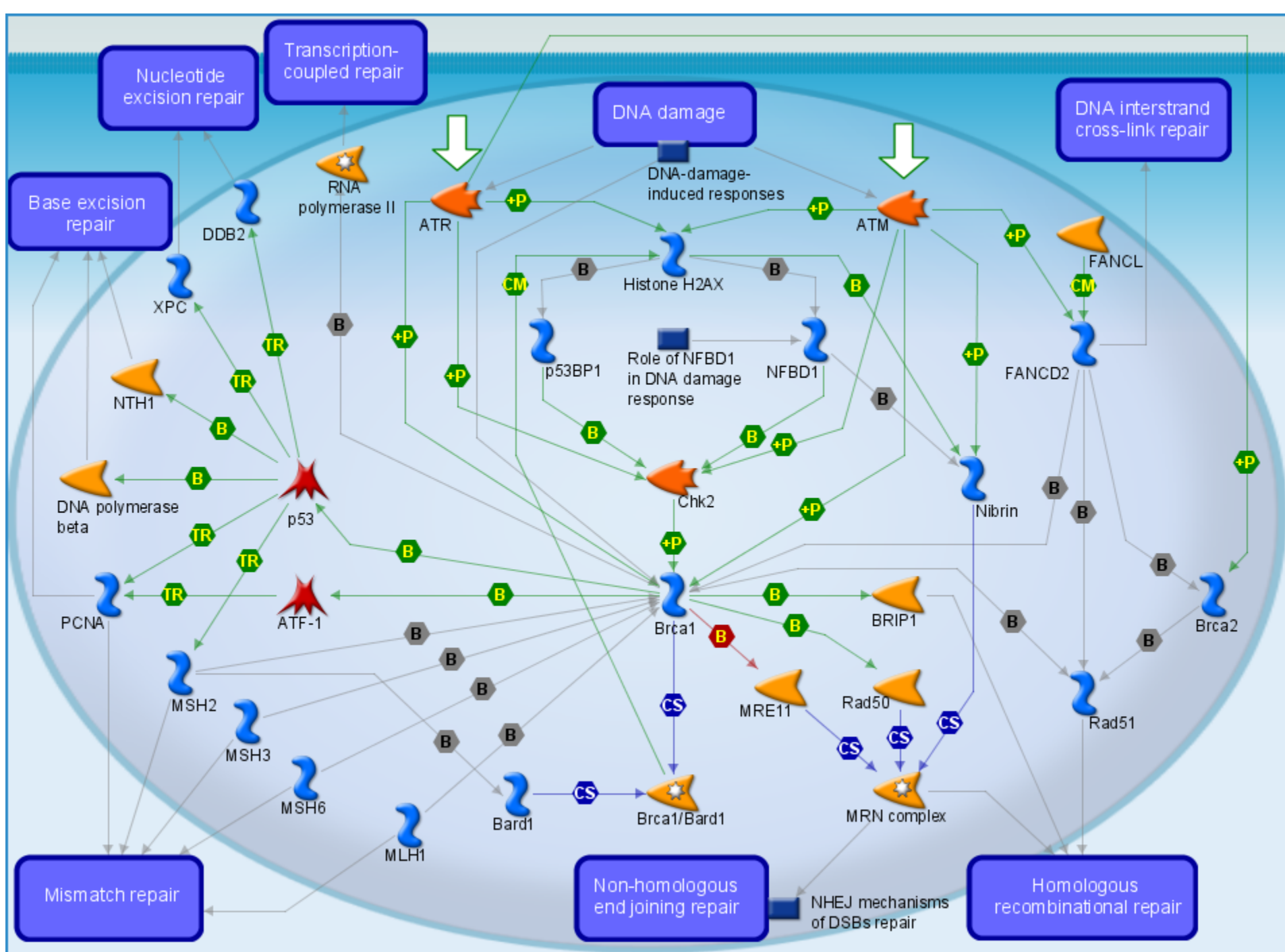
## BRCA2 functions in the maintenance of genome stability.

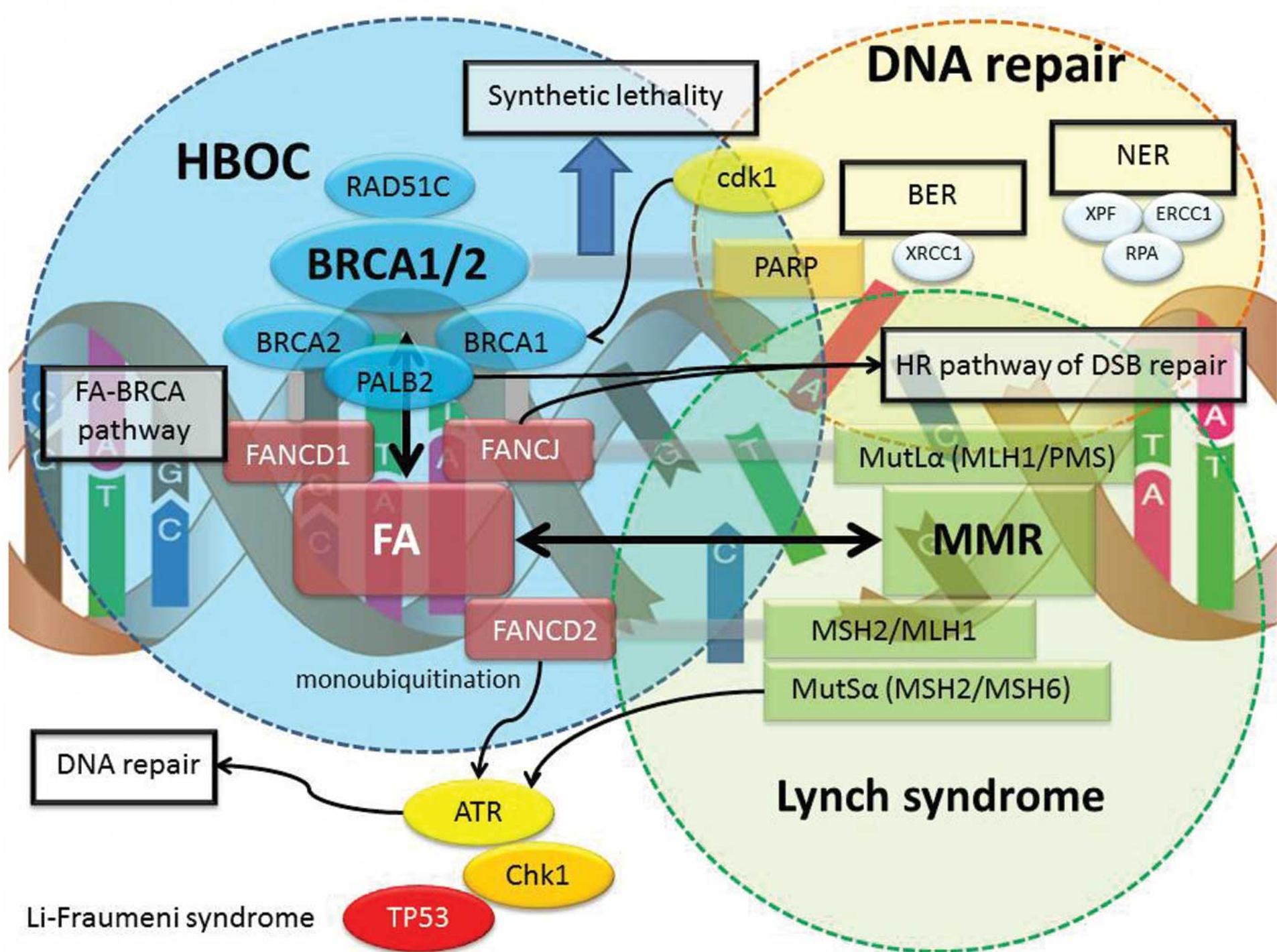


# Role of BRCA2 during DSB repair, ICL repair and stabilization of stalled replication forks.



Amélie Fradet-Turcotte et al. *Endocr Relat Cancer*  
2016;23:T1-T17





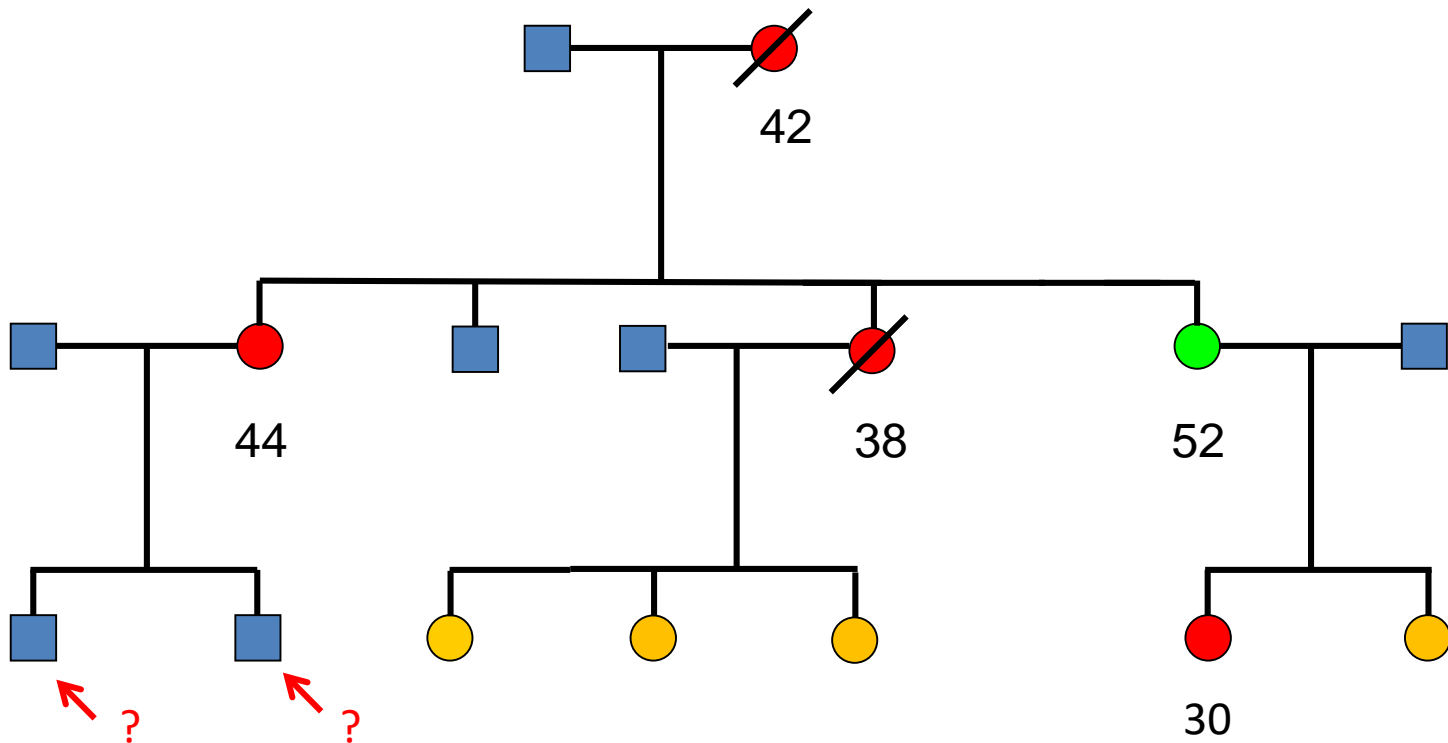
# The identification of patients with genetic a predisposition

1. Family Studies
2. Tumour Pathology

# **FAMILY STUDIES**



# HBOC Family



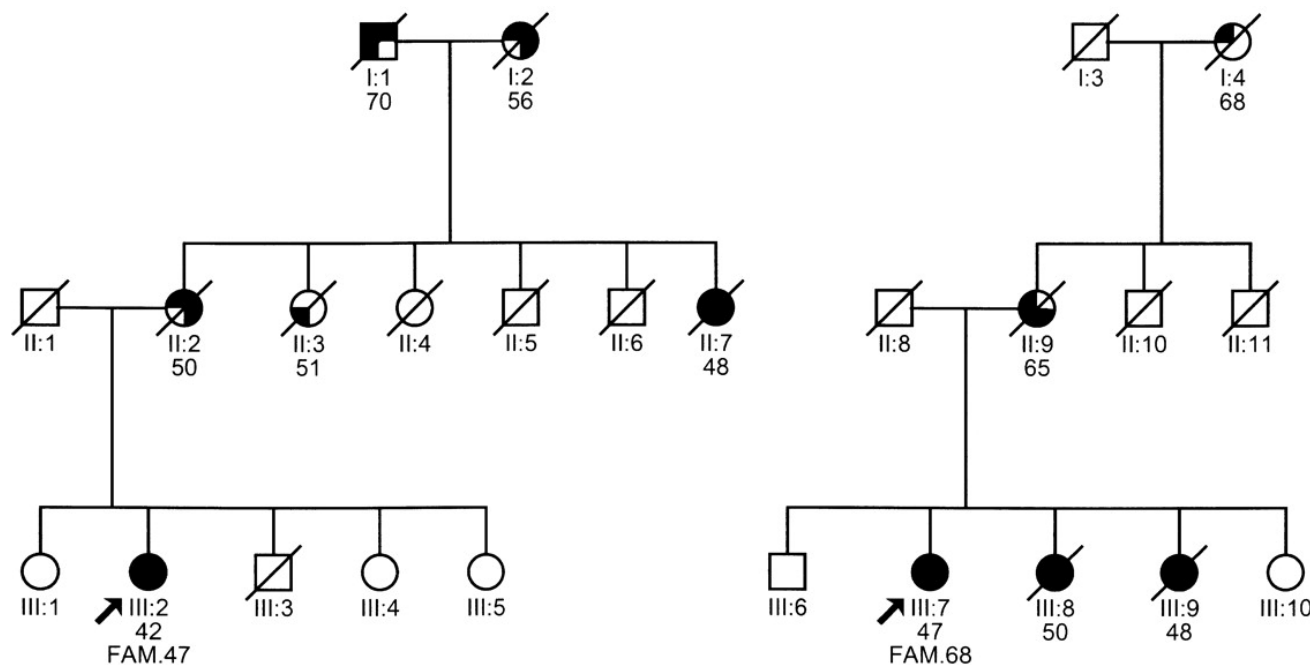
● = unaffected

● = at risk of BrCa or Ovca

● = BrCa affected

● = OvCa affected

**Figure 1. Breast–ovarian cancer families positive for BRCA1-Lys505ter.**

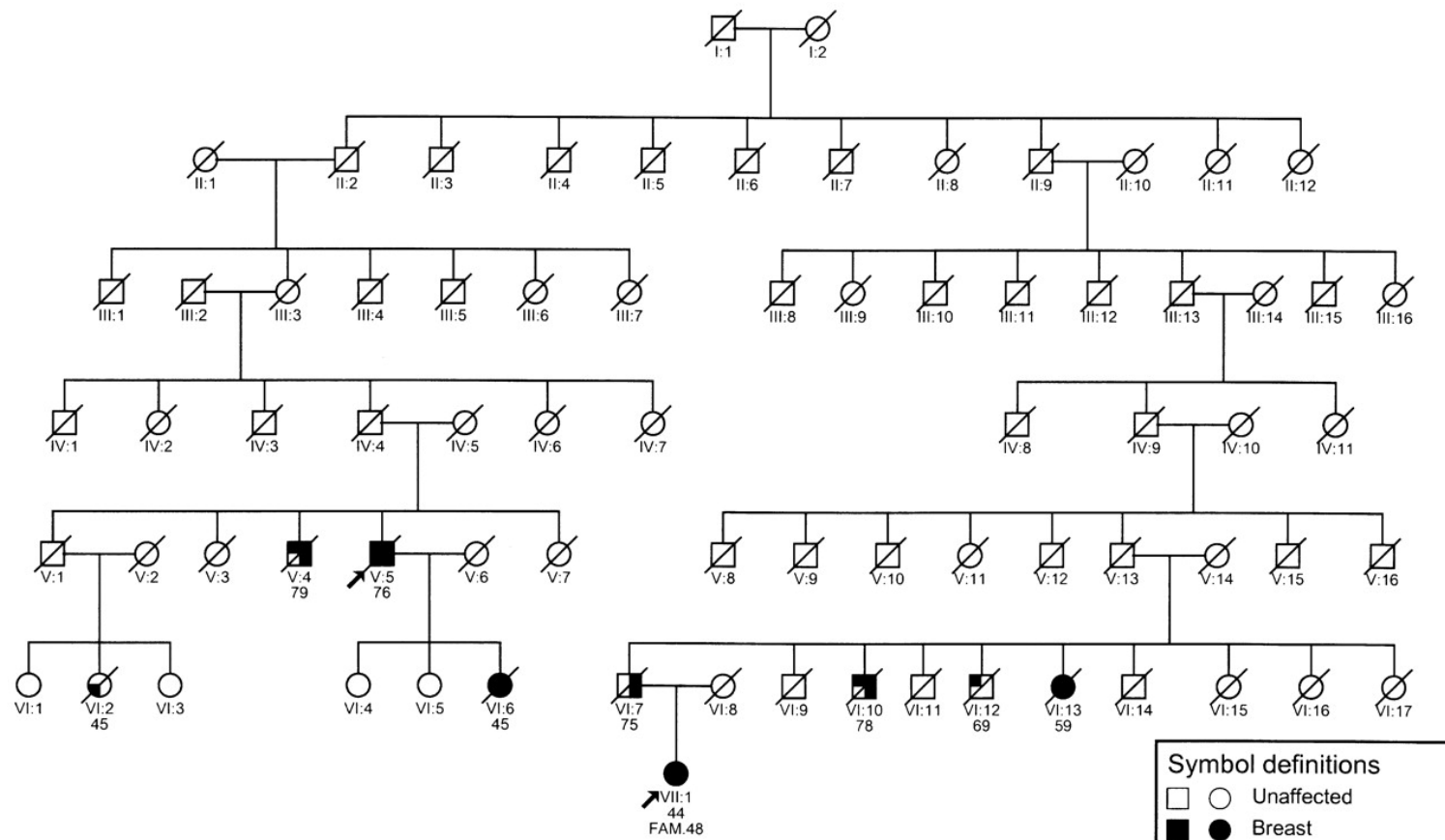


Symbol definitions	
□	Unaffected
●	Breast
◻	Endometrial
◐	Hematologic
◑	Ovarian
◒	Pancreas
◓	Gastrointestinal

Figure 1. Breast–ovarian cancer families positive for BRCA1-Lys505ter. Each individual is indicated with the generation identifier; age at diagnosis is reported for affected members. Arrows indicate the family probands (family numbers are as in Table 3).



**Figure 3. Pedigree of the breast cancer family from Thiesi.**



Symbol definitions	
	Unaffected
	Unaffected
	Breast
	Endometrial
	Hematologic
	Lung
	Prostate

**Figure 3. Pedigree of the breast cancer family from Thiesi.**  
 For each individual, a generation identifier is indicated; age at diagnosis is reported for affected members. Arrows indicate the two patients positive for BRCA2-8765delAG and independently identified during the breast cancer population screening (family number is as in Table 3).

# Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer

**BRCA1 (17q11.2-q23)**

**BRCA2 (13q12-13)**

**Carrier frequency: 1:433**

**No other evidence to suggest any other major autosomal dominant predisposition to breast cancer**

**Evidence to suggest that early onset breast cancer is a result of complex disease inheritance**

# Family History Summary

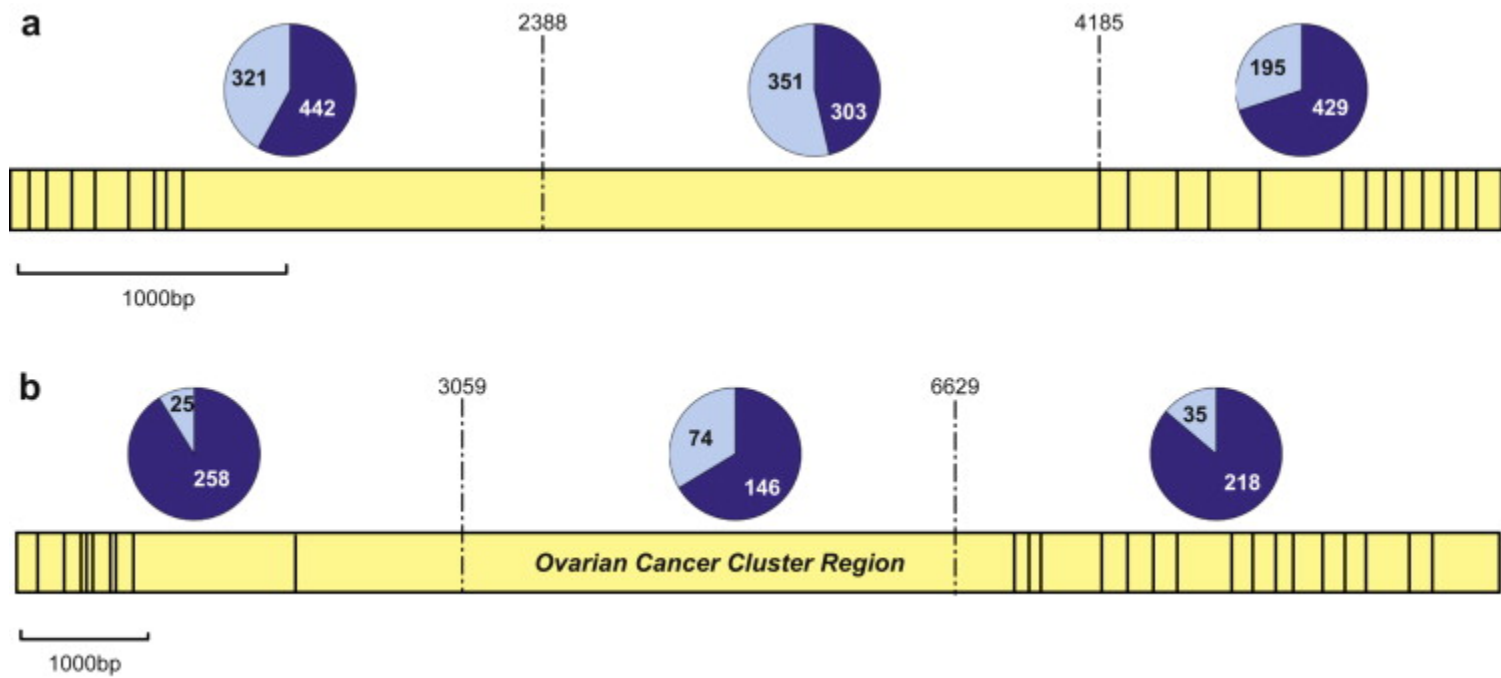
## How to identify familial breast/ovarian cancer

1. Early age of disease onset ( $< 40$  y.o.a)
2. Multiple affected family members (usually with one or more under 55 y.o.a.)
3. Family history of breast and ovarian cancer
4. Family history of breast cancer and other cancers
5. Need to be aware of several familial cancer syndromes

# Familial Breast Cancer

## BRCA1 associated with:

- Breast Cancer
- **HIGH GRADE SEROUS** Ovarian Cancer (accounts for ALL OvCa families)
- Pancreatic cancer, RR 2.26 (95%CI)
- Uterine body and cervix, RR 2.65 (95%CI)
- Prostate cancer (<65 y.o.a.) RR 1.82 (95%CI)
- Prostate cancer (>65 y.o.a.) RR 0.78
- Cancer incidence outside of Br or OvCa increased in women RR 2.30
- **No overall change in RR in men**



Ramus and Gayther 2009

# Familial Breast Cancer

## **BRCA2 associated with:**

- prostate cancer (rr 4.65)  
(2% of all early onset (<55 y.o.a.) - harbour BRCA2 mutations)
- pancreatic cancer (rr 3.51)
- gall bladder cancer (rr 4.97)
- buccal cavity & pharynx (rr 2.26)
- stomach cancer (rr 2.59)
- malignant melanoma (rr 2.58)

# TUMOUR PATHOLOGY

# The Pathology of BRCA1 and BRCA2 breast tumours

- *BRCA1* & *BRCA2* mut +ve tumours - higher grade
- *BRCA1* mut +ve tumours: basal-like, more pleomorphic, higher mitotic content, medullary & atypical medullary carcinoma more frequent, less ductal carcinoma *in situ*
- *BRCA2* mut +ve tumours: less tubule formation, no difference in pleomorphism or mitotic content compared to sporadic breast cancer
- **The ER-ve, PR-ve and HER2-ve tumour phenotype significantly over-represented**



# TNBC population

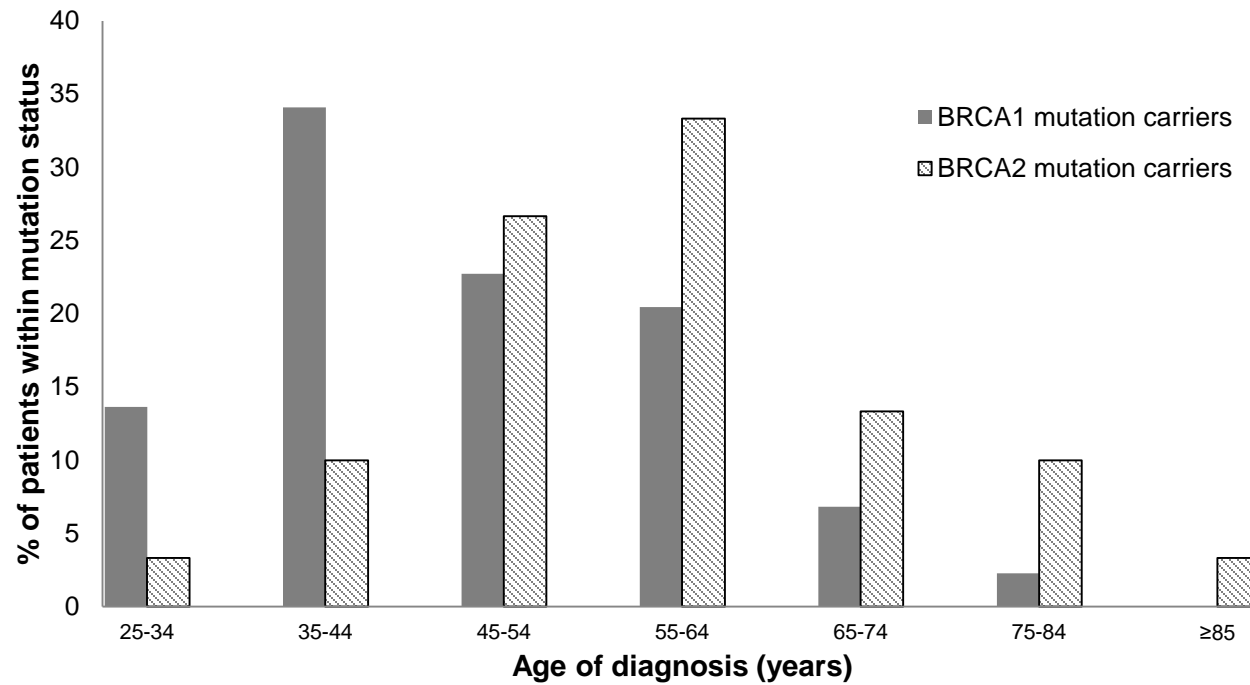
- Australian Cohort: n = 439
  - Average age at diagnosis  $57 \pm 15$  years
    - »  $\leq 50$  years n = 153 (34.9%)
    - »  $> 50$  years n = 286 (65.1%)
- Polish Cohort: n = 335
  - Average age of diagnosis  $59 \pm 10$  years
    - »  $< 50$  years 49 (14.6%)
    - »  $> 50$  years 286 (85.4%)
- Type of primary tumour:

	Aus.	Pol.
» Ductal	93.2%	67.8%
» Papillary	0.7%	0.6%
» Medullary	2.3%	12.5%
» Other	3.8%	19.1%

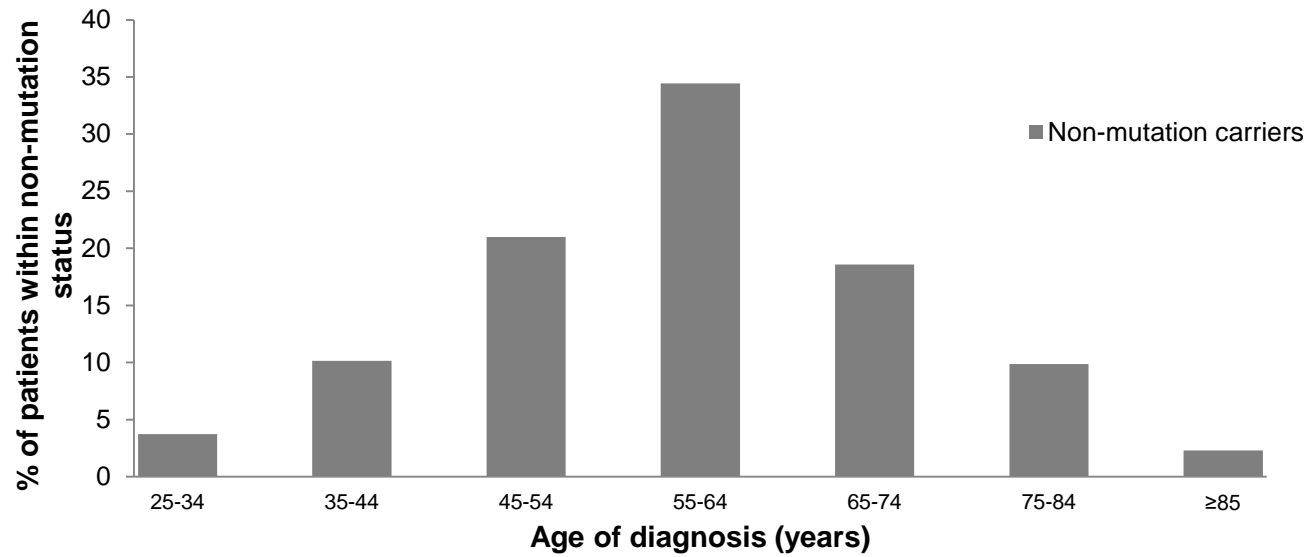
# TNBC Characteristics

- 36 patients **had a** family history of disease
- 38 had **NO** family history
- Mean age of disease onset for **BRCA** mutation carriers  $52.1 \pm 13.3$  years for non-carriers  $58.7 \pm 17.7$  years
- BRCA1 mutation carriers average age of disease diagnosis  $47.2 \pm 11.8$  years
- BRCA2 mutation carriers average age of disease diagnosis  $58.8 \pm 13.2$  years
- **NO difference in the average age of disease diagnosis of BRCA2 carriers and non-carriers**

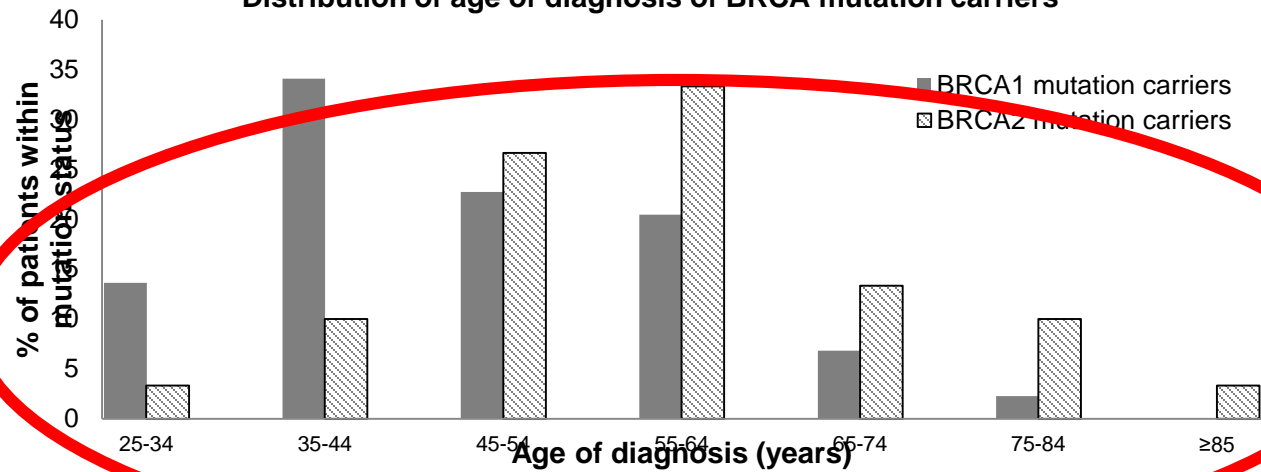
**Distribution of age of diagnosis of BRCA mutation carriers**



**Distribution of age of diagnosis of patients without mutations**



**Distribution of age of diagnosis of BRCA mutation carriers**

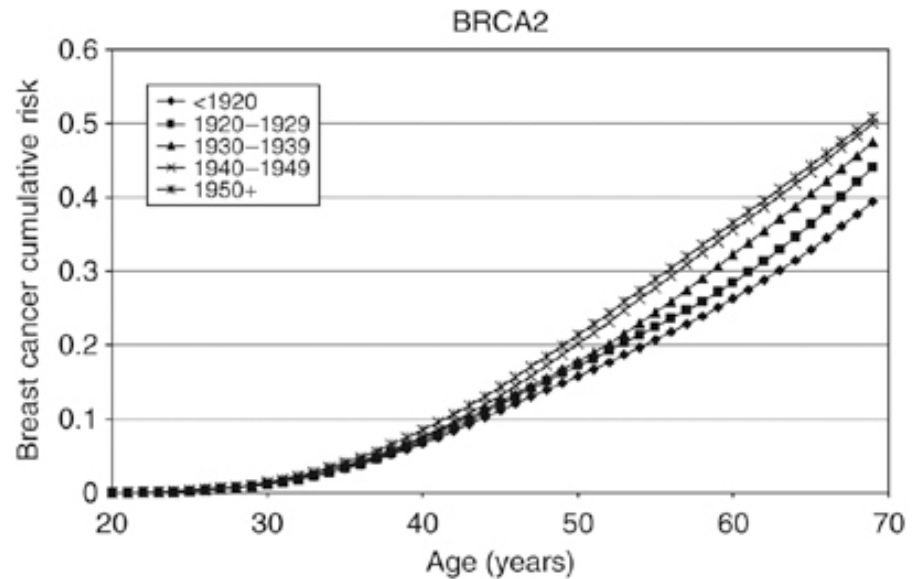
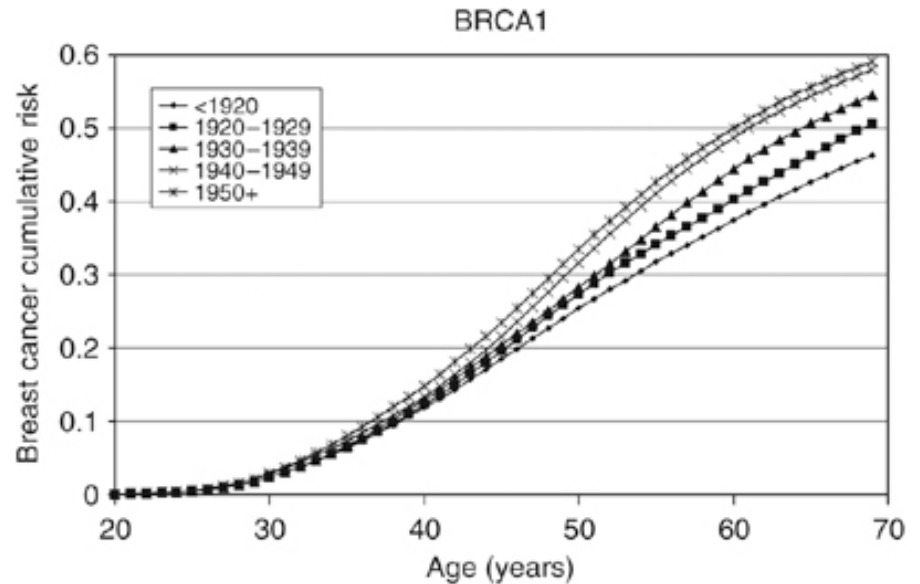




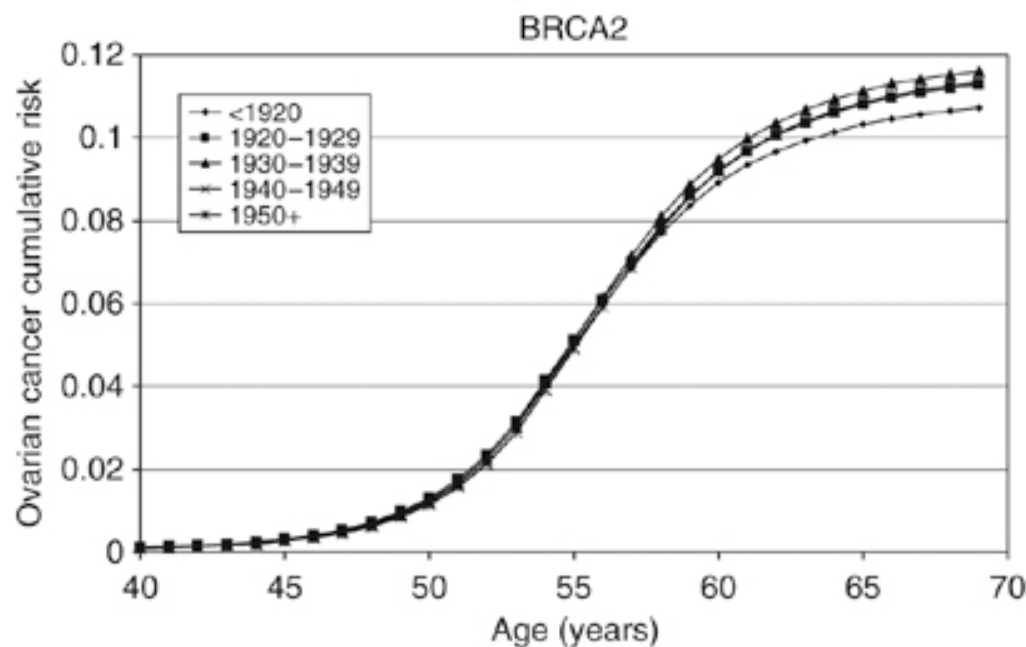
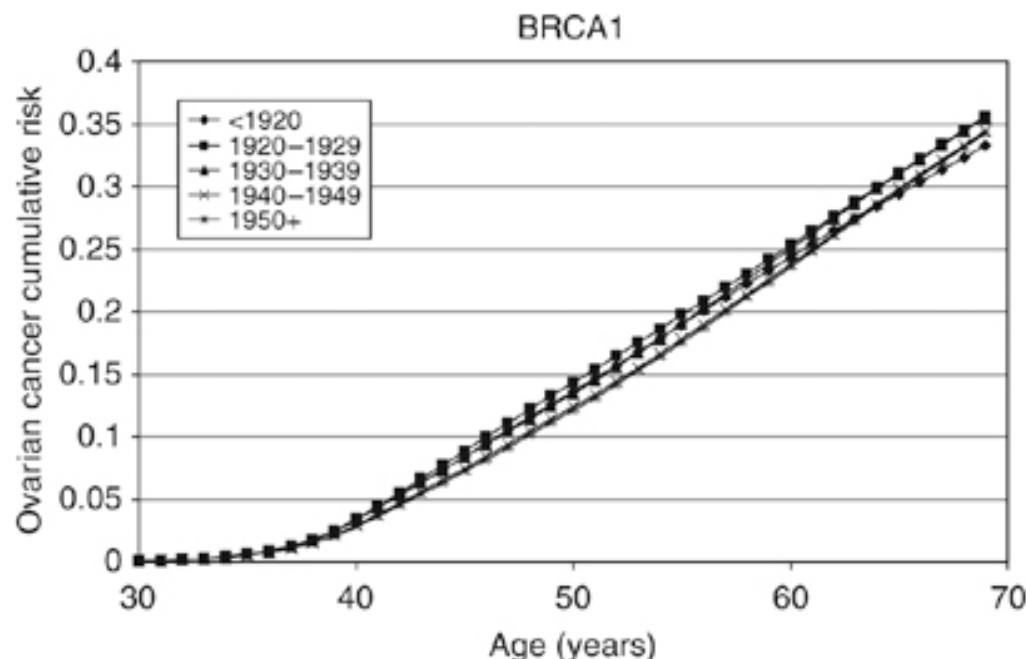
## CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ~10% of women with TNBC may have a *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* mutation
- Patients with TNBCs should be considered as candidates for genetic screening
- Should not restrict screening to women without a family history
- Age restrictions for BRCA testing should be relaxed (BRCA2...)
- A sub-population of TNBCs could receive better targeted therapy

## Population based risks of BrCa for BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers



# Population based risks of OvCa for BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers



# TYPES OF MUTATION

- THE BIG RED DOG BIT THE CAT - reference sequence
- THE BIG RED DOB BIT THE CAT – missense variant
- THE BIG RED OGB ITT HEC AT – nonsense variant
- THE BIG RED THE CAT – deletion
- THE BIG RED DOG RED DOG BIT THE CAT – insertion
- THE BIG GOD DER BIT THE CAT – inversion
- THE BIG RED DOg BIT THE CAT – “silent” variant
- Others include splice variants, cryptic splice sites, altered epigenetic marks, altered expression controlling elements...

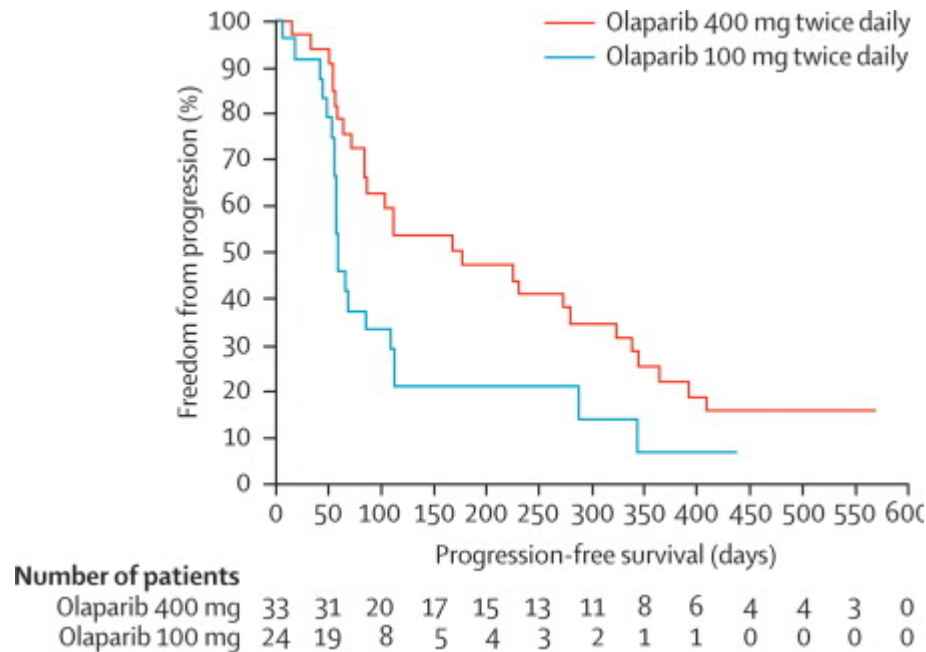


# BRCA Disease Phenotypes

- Breast Cancer
  - Triple Negative Breast Cancer – Over-represented
- Ovarian Cancer
  - High Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer

# PARP Inhibitors

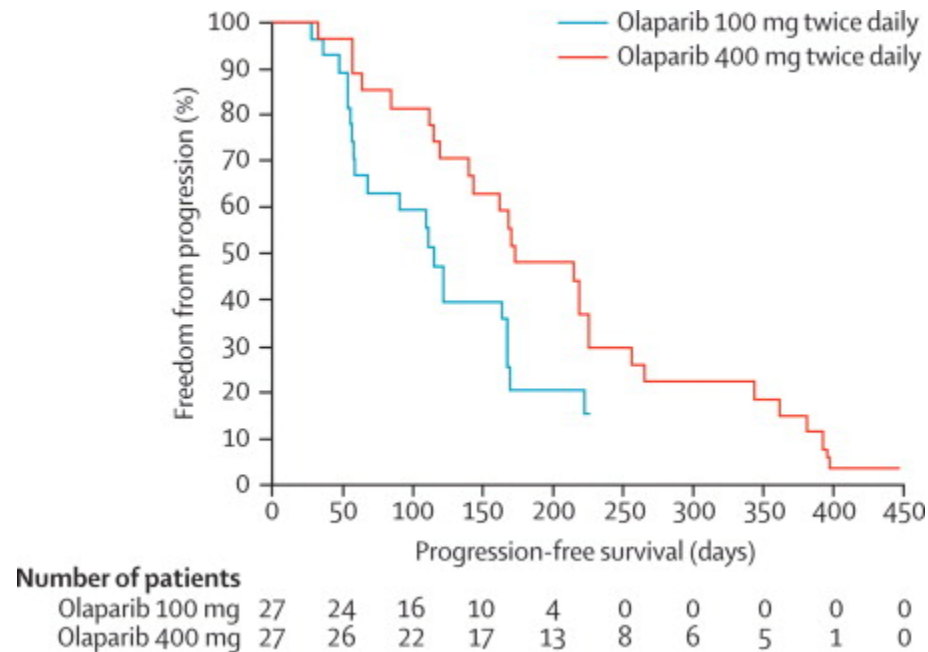
## A proof of concept trial for advanced ovarian cancer



Kaplan-Meier curves of progression-free survival for the intention-to-treat population

# PARP Inhibitors

## A proof of concept trial for advanced breast cancer

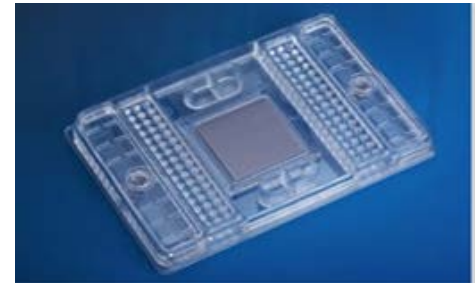


Kaplan-Meier curves of progression-free survival for the intention-to-treat population

How many BrCa genes are  
actionable

# Breast Cancer and Personal Genome Sequencing

- Technology of Mutation Detection has improved
  - Microfluidics
  - Massively Paralleled Sequencing (Next Generation Sequencing)



# Mutation Detection

- Next Generation DNA sequencing has revolutionised mutation detection
- More genes, less cost and decreased turn-around times
- Commercial entities driving genetic testing
- **Availability of “Gene Panels” that include a wide variety of breast cancer susceptibility genes**
- How many are clinically actionable???

# Genetic Predispositions to Breast Cancer

- Risk genes defined by the presence of Loss of Function (LoF) variants
- Many have not had population control data assessed
- Most do not have any disease penetrance estimates – therefore difficult to assign causality

# Genes associated with inherited breast cancer

***BRCA1***

***BRCA2***

*ATM*

*ATR*

*BARD1*

***BLM***

*BRIP1*

*CHEK2*

*MRE11A*

*NBN*

*NF1*

*CDH1*

***PALB2***

*PTEN*

*RAD50*

*STK11*

***TP53***

*XRCC2*



# What is required for a gene to be used for clinical purposes

1. Transmission of phenotype is obvious (often at younger than normal ages)
2. High to very high disease penetrance (>50%)
3. Mutations are unequivocally pathogenic
4. Mutations are absent (or present at very low rates) in a control population
5. Population carrier frequencies estimated

# Genes associated with inherited breast cancer

***BRCA1***

***BRCA2***

***TP53***

***PALB2***

# Options for someone with a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation

- Surveillance

- Mammography, clinical breast examination, MRI, transvaginal ultrasound, CA-125 antigen detection (for OvCa it is not known if this reduces the chance of dying of disease)

- Prophylactic Surgery

- Bilateral prophylactic mastectomy and salpingo-oophorectomy (protection may differ between BRCA1 and BRCA2 carriers). Residual risk of disease!!!

- Chemoprevention

- Tamoxifen reduces BrCa risk ~50% and reduces recurrence. Raloxifen may also reduce BrCa risk (no direct studies to date)

# Genes that have been associated with breast cancer risk – but where information is lacking

*ATM*

*CHEK2*

*NF1*

*ATR*

*CDH1*

*PTEN*

*BARD1*

*MRE11A*

*RAD50*

*BRIP1*

*NBN*

*STK11*

*BLM*

*XRCC2*

# What is the problem

- No or little information about disease penetrance i.e. age dependant risk
- Very small numbers of patients identified to date with causative mutations
- Little, if any, information about what diseases are associated with causative mutations
  - Is it just BrCa or are other cancers over-represented
- No or little information about the presence of genetic variants in a healthy population
- No information about environmental risk factors

# Addressing the shortfall in knowledge

- Examine the frequency of mutations in case/control populations
- Try to define disease penetrance
- Determine if mutations in specific genes alter risk of a specific malignancy
- Assess whether single gene associated with multiple tumour types (i.e. PaCa and BrCa)

# How to address the problem

Can't answer all questions at once – it requires time and resources

Can construct an approach to begin to address these issues

# The Study

- 2000 index patients (>95% BrCa; <5% OvCa) all pre-screened for *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* mutations
- All patients were <50 y.o.a OR had a strong family history of disease
- All patients collected between 1997 - 2014
- 1997 population controls (*LifePool* Study) cancer free censored Jan. 2015. Average age 59.9 (range 40 – 92)
- Institutional review board approved study



# What did we observe

- 3994 samples sequenced – 94% of the coding regions of all genes covered
- 6 actionable mutations identified in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*: frequency in patient group 0.4 % and control group 0.2%
- *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* mutation carriers not included in further analysis

Gene	Cases n=2,000			Controls n= 1,997			P value <sup>a</sup>	OR (95% CI)
	LoF	Pathogenic missense	Total (carrier frequency %)	LoF	Pathogenic missense	Total (carrier frequency %)		
BRCA1	2	2	4	4	0	4 (0.2%)	na	na
BRCA2	1	1	2	8	0	8 (0.4%)	na	na
ATM	7	1	8 (0.4%)	4	0	4 (0.20%)	P=0.14	2.67 (95% CI, 0.71 to 10.1)
ATR	3	0	3 (0.15%)	1	0	1 (0.05%)	P=0.37	3.03 (95% CI, 0.31 to 29.1)
BARD1	3	0	3 (0.15%)	0	0	0	P=0.12	7 (95% CI, 0.36 to 136)
BLM	3	0	3 (0.15%)	3	0	3 (0.15%)	P=1.00	1.00 (95% CI, 0.20 to 5.0)
BRIP1*	7	0	7 (0.35%)	1	0	1 (0.05%)	P=0.04	7.05 (95% CI, 0.87 to 57.4)
CDH1	1	0	1 (0.05%)	0	0	0	P=0.50	3.01 (95% CI, 0.12 to 74.1)
CHEK2	1	6	7 (0.35%)	0	6	6 (0.3%)	P=0.99	1.17 (95% CI, 0.39 to 3.49)
MRE11A	3	0	3 (0.15%)	0	0	0	P=0.12	7.0 (95% CI, 0.36 to 136)
NBN	2	0	2 (0.1%)	3	0	3 (0.15%)	P=1.00	0.67 (95% CI, 0.11 to 4.0)
NF1	1	0	1 (0.05%)	1	0	1 (0.05%)	P=1.00	1.0 (95% CI, 0.06 to 16)
PALB2	22	0	22 (1.1%)	3	0	3 (0.15%)	P= <0.0001	7.43 (95% CI, 2.22-24.9)
PTEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	na
RAD50	2	0	2 (0.1%)	4	0	4 (0.2%)	P=0.69	0.50 (95% CI, 0.09-2.74)
STK11	0	0	0	0	0	0	na	na
TP53	1	4	5 (0.25%)	0	0	0	P=0.03	11 (95% CI, 0.61 to 201)
XRCC2	2	0	2 (0.1%)	0	0	0	P=0.25	5.05 (95% CI, 0.24-105)

- In **1994 patients** 69 variants identified; **1985 controls** 26 variants identified
- *PALB2* contributed 22 causative changes in the patient group and 3 in the control population\*
- 5 patients harboured a pathogenic *TP53* mutation (none had a family history of disease)
- **BrCa** is not a criteria to select for *PTEN* or *STK11* testing (Cowden's Syndrome and Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome)

\*see later

- Mutation detection rate stratified by age did **NOT** differ between the two groups
- Presence of a significant number of mutations in the CONTROL group => Positive predictive value **0.73** (95% CI 0.62-0.81)
- Population attributable risk (PAR) = **2.1%** - just over half of the PAR due to *PALB2*

- Aside from *TP53* and *PALB2* the contribution of the remaining 12 genes was modest
- 2.1% (42 individuals) patients harboured Loss of Function change vs 1.15% (23 individuals) in the control population
- Consistent with a modest risk OR 1.83 (95%CI 1.32-2.34) in patient group

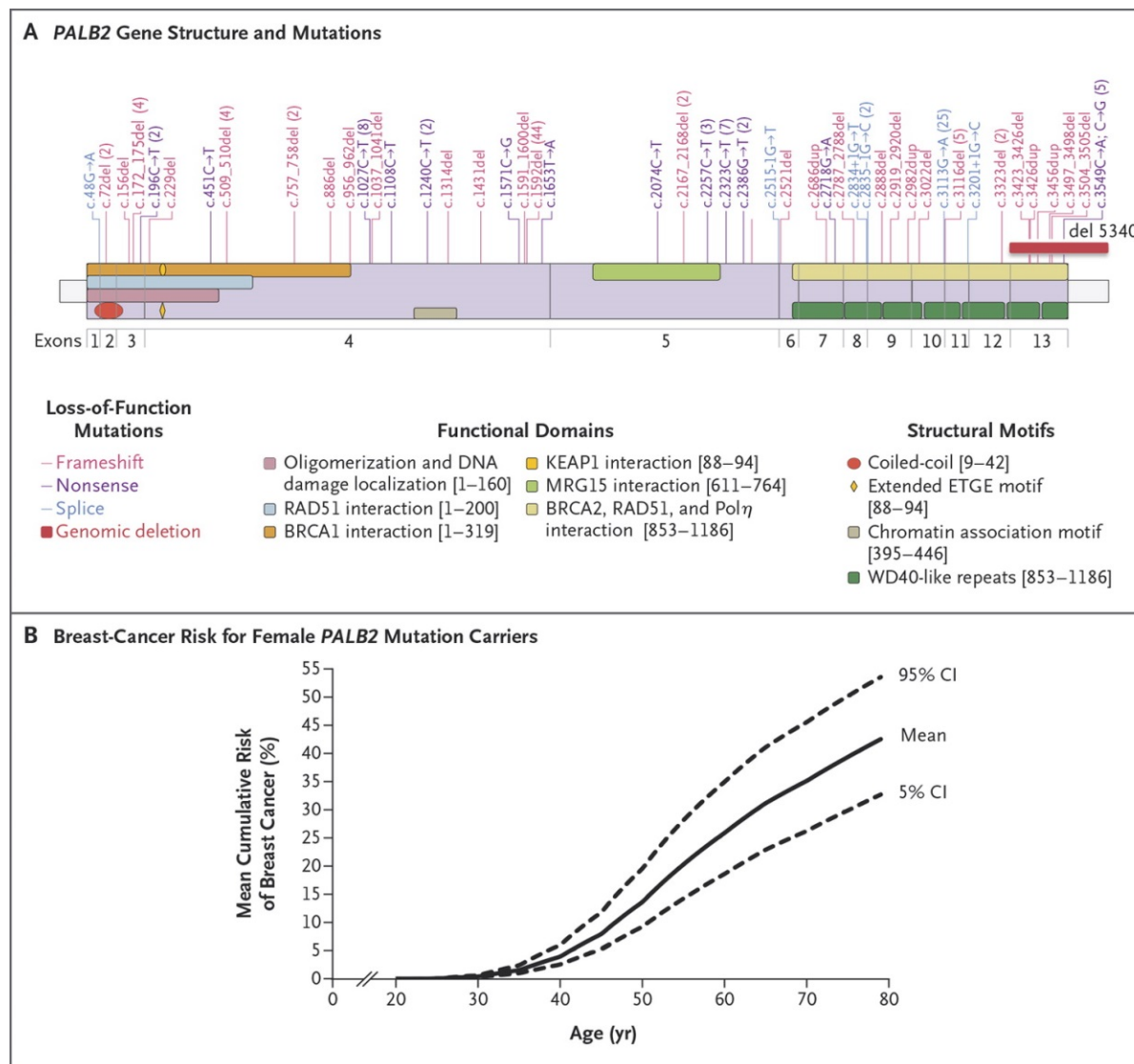
- *NBN* & *RAD50* more mutations in controls!
- *CHEK2* and *ATM* similar frequencies
- *PALB2*\*, *TP53* & *BRIP1*\* variants: Patients > Controls

\* see later

# *PALB2*

- Compared to UK population based data
  - *PALB2* mutation carriers have **9.47** fold increase in BrCa risk
  - i.e. 47.5% risk of BrCa by 70 y.o.a.
  - Suggestion that BrCa risk was greater for younger women (RR = 17.6 for women 20 – 39 y.o.a. & 8.7 for women 40 – 70 y.o.a.
  - Best fitting model (taking family history into account) suggests the RR between 20 - 24 y.o.a. is 9.01 decreasing to 4.56 at >75 y.o.a

# Loss-of-Function *PALB2* Germline Mutations in Relation to Functional Domains and Structural Motifs of the *PALB2* Protein, and Cumulative Breast-Cancer Risk for Female Mutation Carriers





# *PALB2*

- Ovarian Cancer risk increased relative to population figures
- Overall risk 2.31
- Birth cohort seemed to be associated with risk of BrCa in *PALB2* carriers, with greatest risk in women born after 1960 compared to those born between 1940 and 1959 or before 1940.
- <1940: RR = 1.00
- 1940-1959: RR 2.84
- ≥ 1960: RR 6.29

# *PALB2*

- What we do not know
  - Mastectomy or oophorectomy and ↓risk
  - Epidemiological risk factors
  - Accurate population frequency information
  - Treatment effects (i.e. Cisplatin for *BRCA1* & *BRCA2* carriers is v. effective)
  - Accurate disease penetrance estimates

# *BRIP1*

- >64,000 cases and 51,500 controls
- Causative changes found in:  
77 cases: 42 controls  
OR 0.99 (95% CI 0.61-1.61, P=0.98)

NOT ASSOCIATED WITH BREAST CANCER RISK BUT  
IS LINKED TO OVARIAN CANCER RISK

# Summary

- Family history (FH) is the simplest method to identify women at risk
- Tumour pathology reveals the same percentage of *BRCA* variant carriers compared to FH
- New genes associated with breast cancer being identified
- Many of the new genes require more supportive evidence of causality