Modelling drug combinations for cancer

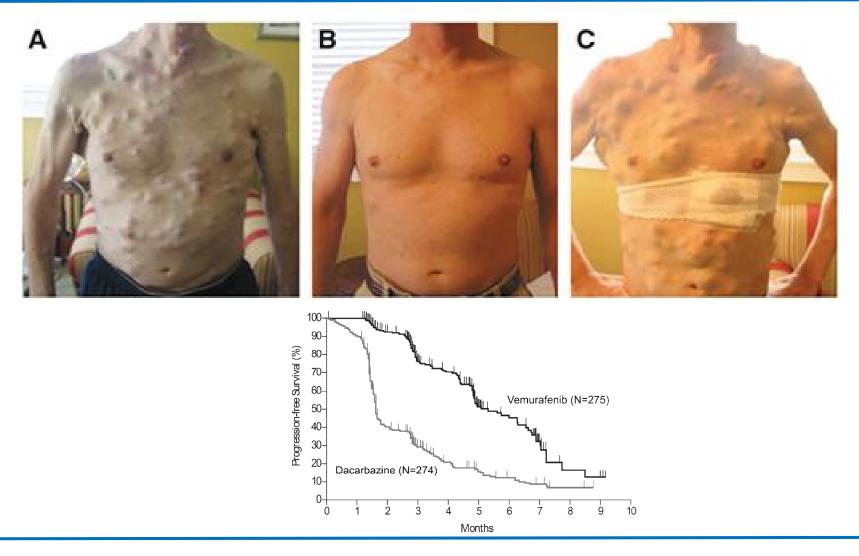
Jing Tang, PhD, Group leader Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland, University of Helsinki, Finland December 6, 2017







Fighting cancer



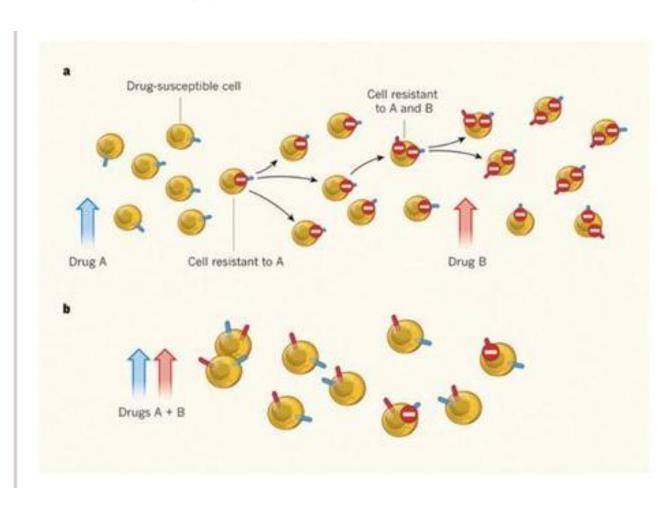
Two Drugs Are Better than One—Modeling Drug Combinations in Cancer Therapy

Margaret K. Callahan

+ Author Affiliations

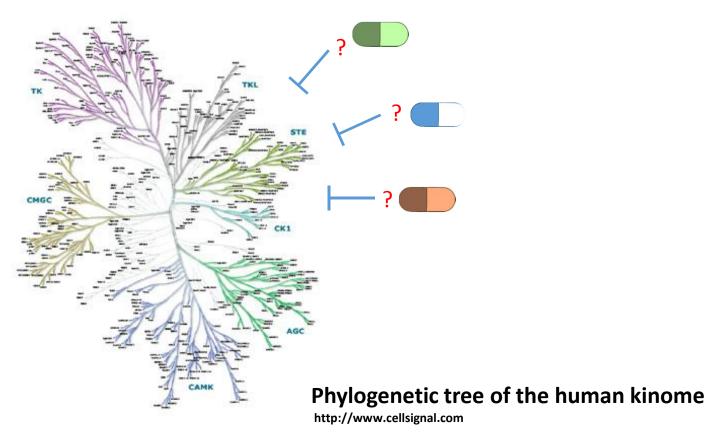
Science Translational Medicine 17 Jul 2013: Vol. 5, Issue 194, pp. 194ec116 DOI: 10.1126/scitranslmed.3006923

- + Maximize cancer selectivity
- Minimize drug resistance



Needs for predictive and testable models

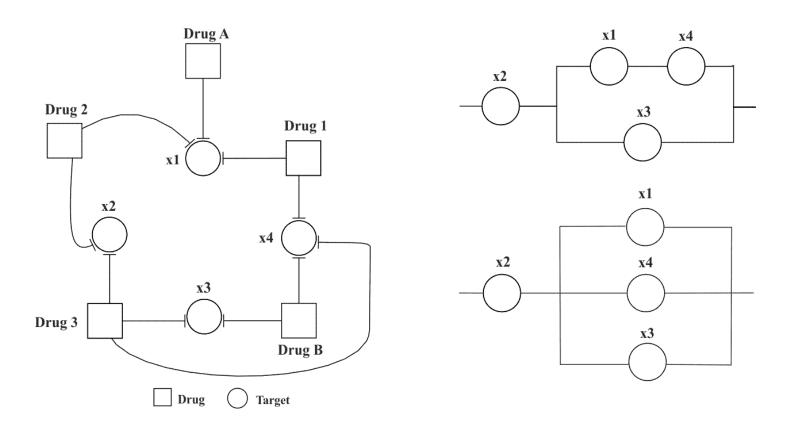
• If it is necessary to inhibit multiple targets, how do we choose/predict which ones?



The research questions

- If drug A kills 30% of the cancer cells and drug B kills 20%, can we answer the following questions:
 - 1) What is the effect if drug A and B are combined?
 - 2) Whether such a combinatorial effect is beneficial compared to monotherapies?
 - 3) How to evaluate the statistical and therapeutic significances?

Target inhibition network approach

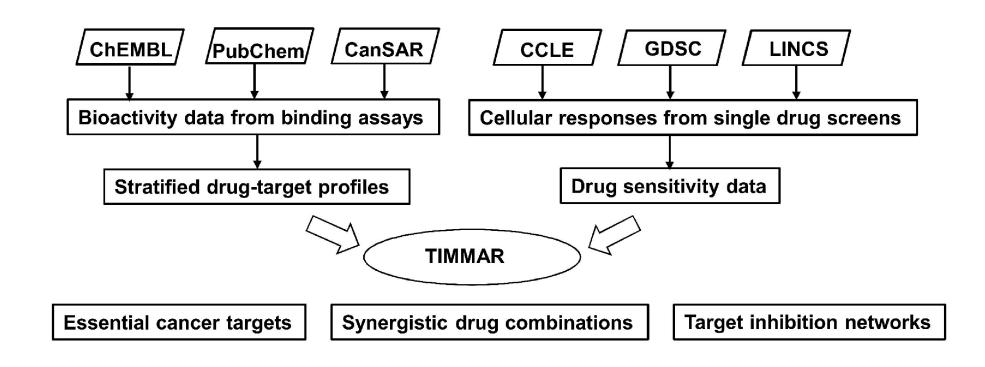


Drug target network + Drug sensitivity data = Target inhibition network

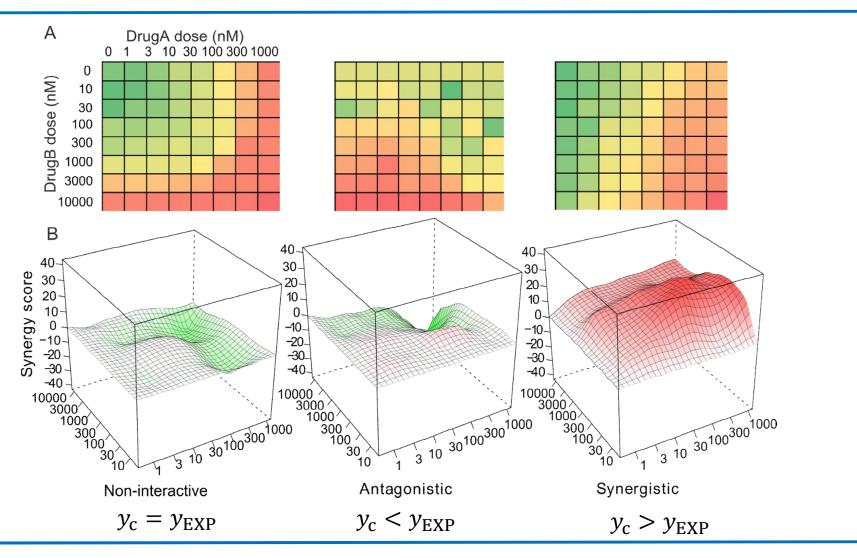
Assumption: A drug combination can be inferred from their target combinations

Pal and Berlow, 2012, Pacific Symposium on biocomputing, 351-362 Tang et al. PLoS Comput Biol 2013; 9(9): e1003226.

TIMMA @R



Test of drug combinations



Tang, et al., 2017; Methods Mol. Biol. 1636:485-506.

Test of drug combinations

Reference models

- Highest single agency $y_{HSA} = \max(y_1, y_2)$
- Bliss independence
- Loewe additivity

$$y_{\text{HSA}} = \max(y_1, y_2)$$

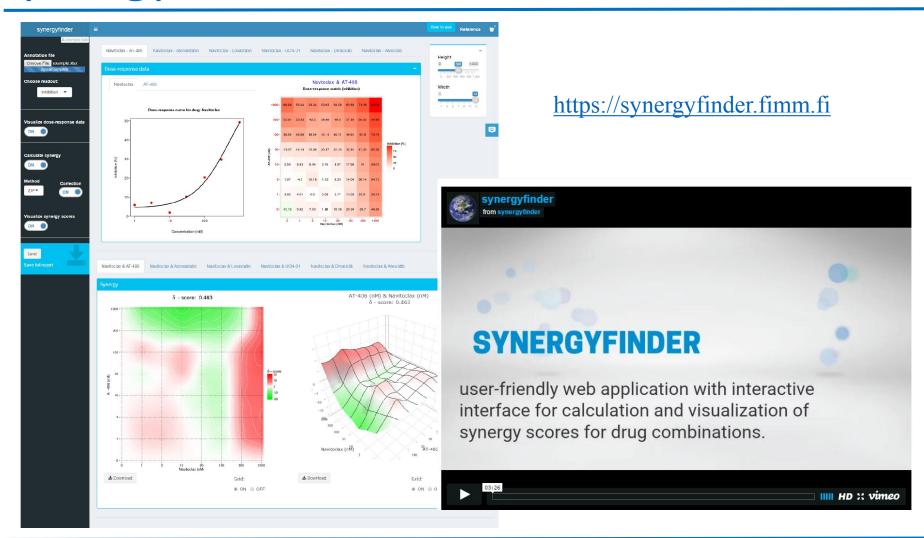
$$y_{\text{BLISS}} = y_1 + y_2 - y_1 y_2.$$

$$\frac{x_1}{X_{\text{LOEWE}}^1} + \frac{x_2}{X_{\text{LOEWE}}^2} = 1,$$

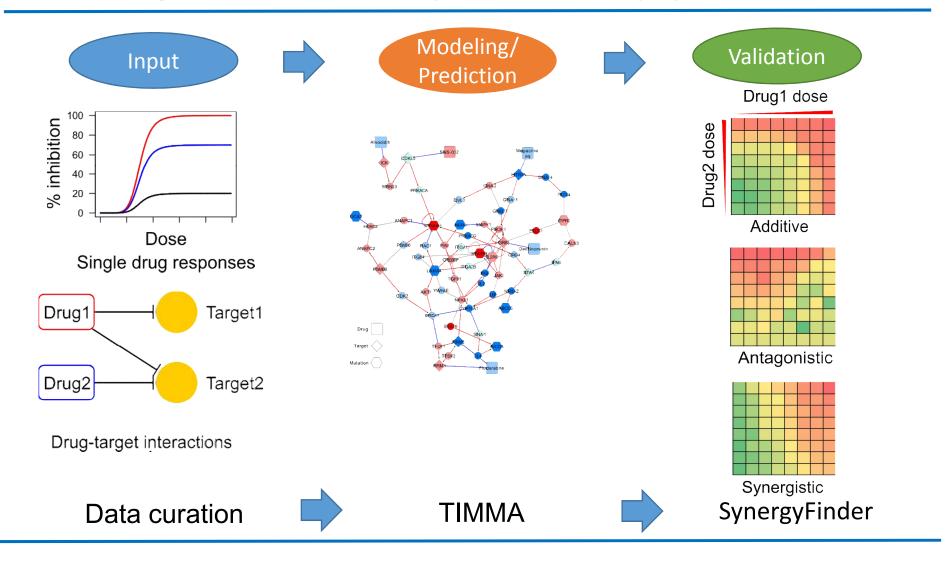
Zero interaction potency

$$\delta(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\frac{1}{1 + (\frac{m_1}{m_2})^{\lambda_2}} + (\frac{x_1}{m_{2 \to 1}})^{\lambda_{2 \to 1}}}{1 + (\frac{x_1}{m_{2 \to 1}})^{\lambda_{2 \to 1}}} + \frac{\frac{1}{1 + (\frac{m_1}{m_1})^{\lambda_1}} + (\frac{x_2}{m_{1 \to 2}})^{\lambda_{1 \to 2}}}{1 + (\frac{x_2}{m_{2 \to 1}})^{\lambda_{1 \to 2}}} \right) - \left(\frac{(\frac{x_1}{m_1})^{\lambda_1}}{1 + (\frac{x_2}{m_2})^{\lambda_2}} + (\frac{x_2}{m_2})^{\lambda_2}}{1 + (\frac{x_1}{m_1})^{\lambda_1}} + (\frac{x_2}{m_2})^{\lambda_2}} - \frac{(\frac{x_1}{m_1})^{\lambda_1}}{1 + (\frac{x_2}{m_2})^{\lambda_2}} + (\frac{x_2}{m_2})^{\lambda_2}} \right),$$

SynergyFinder @Bioconductor @web



The drug combination prediction pipeline



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