

The CDGnet tool consists of an evidence-based network approach for recommending targeted cancer therapies. It is currently hosted at <http://epiviz.cbcb.umd.edu/shiny/CDGnet/>, with the code being available at <https://github.com/SiminaB/CDGnet>. A preprint describing it within the scientific context is available at <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/605261v1>. Its goal is to **prioritize targeted therapy assigned for cancer patients using drug-gene networks**. These networks include information from biological pathways, specially by looking at targets downstream of oncogenes (genes which are constitutively activated in cancer.) This is because once an oncogene is activated, it may only make sense to target and block genes and proteins that are found downstream of it, as upstream targeting may be ineffective.

Please note that this tool is for research purposes only. It is not intended for clinical care.

## 1) Necessary inputs

The assumption for users of this tool is that they will have:

- a **file with the molecular alterations** found in an individual tumor
- the individual's **cancer type** (currently restricted to cancer types that have existing KEGG pathways).

Users may either use the example molecular profile or input their own tsv or csv file with the same column headings. The landing page for CDGnet is shown below, with the example/allowable input format highlighted:

Therapy recommendations using biological networks

Warning! The following tool is for research purposes only. It is not intended for clinical care.

Select cancer type

Colorectal cancer

Input tsv or csv file with molecular alterations

Browse... No file selected

If a file is not uploaded, an example profile is loaded into the app.

Gene_protein	Data_type	Alteration
KRAS	mutation	G13V
PIK3CA	mutation	G1049S
BRCA2	mutation	deleterious

Filter Recommended Therapies

☒ Same Cancer Type

☒ Same Alteration

☒ FDA Approved Drugs

☒ FDA Approved Targeted Cancer Drugs

Category 1: FDA-approved drugs for which alterations in these genes/proteins are approved biomarkers in this tumor type:

Show 10 entries Search:

Note

1 There are no recommended therapies in this category.

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Previous 1 Next

Allowable input format

We also provide an example for a tumor that is ER+ and has overexpression of FGFR1 (both csv and tsv files) at <https://github.com/SiminaB/CDGnet/tree/master/data>; this example is also used in the preprint for a putative breast cancer patient. After deciding to use the example profile or loading a data file, users also need to select a cancer type if it is something besides the default “Colorectal cancer.”

## 2) Categories of therapies for a patient with a given molecular profile

CDGnet provides 4 categories of targeted therapies:

1. FDA-approved drugs for which the patient's alterations/genes/proteins are biomarkers **in type**
  2. FDA-approved drugs for which the patient's alterations/genes/proteins are biomarkers **in types**
  3. Drugs which have as targets these alterations/genes/proteins or as biomarkers/targets others that **are downstream oncogenes** when considering **the pathway corresponding to this tumor type**.\*
  4. Drugs which have as targets/biomarkers either alterations/genes/proteins or as biomarkers/targets others that **are downstream oncogenes** when considering **the pathways corresponding to other tumor types**.\*
- 
- Better evidence  
Worse evidence
- Fewer options  
More options
- their tumor  
other tumor  
of input  
these of input

\* Could be targeted drugs prescribed for their tumor type or other tumor types OR any FDA-approved drug OR any drug in DrugBank.

From category 1 to 4, the quality of evidence decreases, but the number of options decreases. Thus, category 1 therapies provide the highest level of evidence as they consist of FDA-approved therapies for which one or more of the alterations represent approved biomarkers. However, if there are no category 1 therapies, it may be necessary to move to the next categories.

## 3) Choosing therapy categories within the CDGnet tool

Each of these 4 categories corresponds to a combination of the first 2 checkboxes in the CDGnet webtool:

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Gene_protein	Data_type	Alteration
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PIK3CA	mutation	G1049S
BRCA2	mutation	deleterious

Filter Recommended Therapies

☒ Same Cancer Type → Category 1 therapies

☒ Same Alteration

☒ FDA Approved Drugs

☒ FDA Approved Targeted Cancer Drugs

Category 1: FDA-approved drugs for which alterations in these genes/proteins are approved biomarkers in this tumor type.  
Show: 10 entries

Note

1 There are no recommended therapies in this category.

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Previous 1 Next

☐ Same Cancer Type → Category 2 therapies

☒ Same Alteration → Category 3 therapies

☒ Same Cancer Type → Category 4 therapies

☐ Same Alteration

Additionally, for Categories 3 and 4, users may choose to display only FDA-approved drugs or only FDA-approved targeted cancer drugs vs. all drugs in DrugBank:

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Colorectal cancer

Input tsv or csv file with molecular alterations  
Browse... No file selected

If a file is not uploaded, an example profile is loaded into the app.

Gene_protein	Data_type	Alteration
KRAS	mutation	G13V
PIK3CA	mutation	G1049S
BRCA2	mutation	deleterious

Filter Recommended Therapies

- ☒ Same Cancer Type
- ☒ Same Alteration
- ☒ FDA Approved Drugs
- ☒ FDA Approved Targeted Cancer Drugs

Category 1: FDA-approved drugs for which alterations in these genes/proteins are approved biomarkers in this tumor type:  
Show 10 entries Search:

Note

1 There are no recommended therapies in this category.

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries Previous 1 Next

Additional options to display only FDA-approved drugs or only FDA-approved targeted cancer drugs for categories 3 and 4 vs all drugs in DrugBank

### 4) Step-by-step analysis for built-in example

We now show the results for the different categories for the built-in example, of a patient with colorectal cancer and a G13V mutation in KRAS, a G1049S mutation PIK3CA, and a deleterious mutation in BRCA2. Note that there are no recommended Category 1 therapies for this patient:

## Therapy recommendations using biological networks

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Colorectal cancer

Input tsv or csv file with molecular alterations  
Browse... No file selected

If a file is not uploaded, an example profile is loaded into the app.

Gene_protein	Data_type	Alteration
KRAS	mutation	G13V
PIK3CA	mutation	G1049S
BRCA2	mutation	deleterious

Filter Recommended Therapies

- ☒ Same Cancer Type
- ☒ Same Alteration
- ☒ FDA Approved Drugs
- ☒ FDA Approved Targeted Cancer Drugs

Category 1: FDA-approved drugs for which alterations in these genes/proteins are approved biomarkers in this tumor type:  
Show 10 entries Search:

Note

1 There are no recommended therapies in this category.

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries Previous 1 Next

We observe that there are a number of recommended Category 2 therapies, which are approved for deleterious BRCA2 mutations in breast, ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancers. We note that g.mutation stands for “germline mutation:”

## Therapy recommendations using biological networks

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Colorectal cancer

Input tsv or csv file with molecular alterations  
Browse... No file selected

If a file is not uploaded, an example profile is loaded into the app.

Gene_protein	Data_type	Alteration
KRAS	mutation	G13V
PIK3CA	mutation	G1049S
BRCA2	mutation	deleterious

Filter Recommended Therapies  
☐ Same Cancer Type  
☒ Same Alteration  
☒ FDA Approved Drugs  
☒ FDA Approved Targeted Cancer Drugs

Category 2: FDA-approved drugs for which alterations in these genes/proteins are approved biomarkers in other tumor types:  
Show 10 entries

	Drug	Gene or Protein	Type	Alteration	Tumor in which it is approved
1	LYNPARZA	BRCA2	g.mutation	deleterious	Breast cancer
2	LYNPARZA	BRCA2	g.mutation	deleterious	Ovarian cancer
3	RUBRACA	BRCA2	mutation	deleterious	Fallopian tube cancer
4	RUBRACA	BRCA2	mutation	deleterious	Ovarian cancer
5	RUBRACA	BRCA2	mutation	deleterious	Primary peritoneal cancer

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

Previous 1 Next

Moving on to Category 3 therapies, we can now also see a visualization of our network-based approach using a Sankey diagram, which provides PubChem links for selected therapies, as well as the ability to mouse over the edges to obtain information on how they connect the nodes. Category 3 therapies have targets downstream of the input oncogenes, considering only the KEGG pathway corresponding to the input cancer type. In this scenario, the recommended therapies include BRAF and MEK inhibitors:

## Therapy recommendations using biological networks

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Colorectal cancer

Input tsv or csv file with molecular alterations  
Browse... No file selected

If a file is not uploaded, an example profile is loaded into the app.

Gene_protein	Data_type	Alteration
KRAS	mutation	G13V
PIK3CA	mutation	G1049S
BRCA2	mutation	deleterious

Filter Recommended Therapies  
☒ Same Cancer Type  
☐ Same Alteration  
☒ FDA Approved Drugs  
☒ FDA Approved Targeted Cancer Drugs

Category 3: FDA-approved drugs that either have as targets these alterations or genes/proteins or as biomarkers or targets other alterations or genes/proteins in the KEGG pathway corresponding to the specific cancer type, as well as additional drugs that have the above-mentioned genes/proteins as targets. Only consider the genes/proteins downstream of the genes/proteins found altered via molecular profiling that are also specified as oncogenes (in that cancer type) for the specific cancer type in KEGG.

Molecular Profile

Inferred Targets

Recommended Therapies

Info panel

We can also explore the results for Categories 3 and 4 in more detail via a sortable and searchable table:

	Drug	Gene or Protein	Type	Alteration	Path	Tumor in which it is approved	Predicted effect
1	COTELLIC	BRAF	mutation	V600E	KRAS -> BRAF	Melanoma	sensitive
2	COTELLIC	BRAF	mutation	V600K	KRAS -> BRAF	Melanoma	sensitive
3	TAFINLAR	BRAF	mutation	V600E	KRAS -> BRAF	Non-small cell lung cancer	sensitive
4	TAFINLAR	BRAF	mutation	V600E	KRAS -> BRAF	Melanoma	sensitive
5	TAFINLAR	BRAF	mutation	V600K	KRAS -> BRAF	Melanoma	sensitive
6	TAFINLAR	BRAF	mutation	V600E	KRAS -> BRAF	Anaplastic thyroid cancer	sensitive
12	MEKINIST	BRAF	mutation	V600E	KRAS -> BRAF	Non-small cell lung cancer	sensitive

If instead we look at all FDA-approved drugs, the number of therapies increases rapidly:

## Therapy recommendations using biological networks

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Select cancer type

Colorectal cancer

Input tsv or csv file with molecular alterations

Browse... No file selected

If a file is not uploaded, an example profile is loaded into the app.

Gene_protein	Data_type	Alteration
KRAS	mutation	G13V
PIK3CA	mutation	G1049S
BRCA2	mutation	deleterious

Filter Recommended Therapies

☒ Same Cancer Type
 ☐ Same Alteration
 ☒ FDA Approved Drugs
 ☐ FDA Approved Targeted Cancer Drugs

Category 3: FDA-approved drugs that either have as targets these alterations or genes/proteins or as biomarkers or targets other alterations or genes/proteins in the KEGG pathway corresponding to the specific cancer type, as well as additional drugs that have the above-mentioned genes/proteins as targets. Only consider the genes/proteins downstream of the genes/proteins found altered via molecular profiling that are also specified as oncogenes (in that cancer type) for the specific cancer type in KEGG.

Molecular Profile

KRAS

PIK3CA

BRCA2

FDA Approved Drugs

ILYNPARZA

IRUBRACA

Inferred Targets

BRAF

PIK3CA

PIK3CD

MAP2K1

RAF1

BCL2

MAPK3

RAC1

JUN

Recommended Thera

COTELLIC

TAFINLAR

MEKINIST

I ZELBORAF

ALIQUOPA

BOSULIF

NEXAVAR

STIVARGA

IVENCLEXTA

SULINDAC

AZATHIOPRINE

AVAPRO

PACLITAXEL

TAXOTERE

Info panel

Therapy Selected: [AZATHIOPRINE](#)

[PUBCHEM >](#)  
[AZATHIOPRINE \(COMPOUND\) >](#)  
[3D CONFORMER](#)

CID 2265

Azathioprine

3D Conformer ?

Get Image
 Download

Interactive Chemical Structure Model

We can also expand further to all drugs in DrugBank:



**Warning!** The following tool is for research purposes only. It is not intended for clinical care.

Finally, we can look at Category 4 therapies. These are based on targets downstream of the input oncogenes using all the KEGG cancer pathways, not just the pathway corresponding to the input cancer type:

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**Select cancer type**

Colorectal cancer

**Input tsv or csv file with molecular alterations**

Browse... No file selected

If a file is not uploaded, an example profile is loaded into the app.

Gene_protein	Data_type	Alteration
KRAS	mutation	G13V
PIK3CA	mutation	G1049S
BRCA2	mutation	deleterious

**Filter Recommended Therapies**

☐ Same Cancer Type

☐ Same Alteration

☒ FDA Approved Targeted Cancer Drugs

Category 4: FDA-approved drugs that either have as targets these alterations or genes/proteins or as biomarkers or targets other alterations or genes/proteins in the KEGG pathways corresponding to other cancer types, as well as additional drugs that have the above-mentioned genes/proteins as targets. Only consider the genes/proteins downstream of the genes/proteins found altered via molecular profiling that are also specified as oncogenes for various cancer types in KEGG.

**Molecular Profile**

KRAS

BRCA2

FDA Approved Drugs

LYNPARZA

RUBRAKA

**Inferred Targets**

ERBB2

EGFR

PDGFRB

NRAS

MTOR

IMET

IGF1R

VEGFA

MAP2K2

CDK2

IAR

PDGFRA

CDK4

CDK6

IFGFR2

FGFR1

JAK1

**Recommended Thera**

KADCYLA

GLOTRIF

BRCEVA

GLOTRIF

TYKERB

NEVRYN

VEGISA

PERLETA

AFINATOR

ALUNBRIG

BKISTIN

BKISTIN

CAPIRELSA

ERFADA

ERANCE

ICLUSIG

OSAL

PARTRIVO

MEVING

NEVRYN

RYVCEL

STIVARGA

SUTENT

VERVENO

VOTRIENT

AKKIP

ZALTRAP

**Info panel**

Therapy Selected: GLOTRIF

PUBCHEM >

AFATINIB DIMALEATE (COMPOUND)

> 3D CONFORMER

CID 15606394

Afatinib dimaleate

3D Conformer

Get Image

Download

Interactive Chemical Structure Model of Parent CID 10184653