The Open Pediatric Cancer Project

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## Authors

* **Eric Wafula** ORCID icon [0000-0001-8073-3797](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8073-3797) Department of Bioinformatics and Health Informatics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Sangeeta Shukla** ORCID icon [0000-0002-3727-9602](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3727-9602) Department of Bioinformatics and Health Informatics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Krutika S. Gaonkar** ORCID icon [0000-0003-0838-2405](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0838-2405) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Department of Bioinformatics and Health Informatics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Run Jin** ORCID icon [0000-0002-8958-9266](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8958-9266) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Komal S. Rathi** ORCID icon [0000-0001-5534-6904](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5534-6904) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Department of Bioinformatics and Health Informatics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Yuankun Zhu** ORCID icon [0000-0002-2455-9525](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2455-9525) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Bailey K. Farrow** ORCID icon [0000-0001-6727-6333](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6727-6333) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Daniel P. Miller** ORCID icon [0000-0002-2032-4358](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2032-4358) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Mariarita Santi** ORCID icon [0000-0002-6728-3450](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6728-3450) Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Adam A. Kraya** ORCID icon [0000-0002-8526-5694](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8526-5694) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Xiaoyan Huang** ORCID icon [0000-0001-7267-4512](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7267-4512) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Bo Zhang** ORCID icon [0000-0002-0743-5379](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0743-5379) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Brian M. Ennis** ORCID icon [0000-0002-2653-5009](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2653-5009) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Ryan J. Corbett** ORCID icon [0000-0002-3478-0784](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3478-0784) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Sharon J. Diskin** ORCID icon [0000-0002-7200-8939](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7200-8939) Division of Oncology, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Department of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Nicholas Van Kuren** ORCID icon [0000-0002-7414-9516](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7414-9516) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Noel Coleman** ORCID icon [0000-0001-6454-1285](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6454-1285) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Christopher Blackden** Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Jennifer L. Mason** Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Saksham Phul** ORCID icon [0000-0002-2771-2572](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2771-2572) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Miguel A. Brown** ORCID icon [0000-0001-6782-1442](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6782-1442) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Alex Sickler** ORCID icon [0000-0001-7830-7537](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7830-7537) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Adam C. Resnick** ORCID icon [0000-0003-0436-4189](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0436-4189) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA · Funded by Children’s Brain Tumor Network; NIH 3P30 CA016520-44S5, U2C HL138346-03, U24 CA220457-03; NCI/NIH Contract No. 75N91019D00024, Task Order No. 75N91020F00003; Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Division of Neurosurgery
* **Jo Lynne Rokita^** [✉](#correspondence) ORCID icon [0000-0003-2171-3627](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2171-3627) Center for Data-Driven Discovery in Biomedicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Division of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA; Department of Bioinformatics and Health Informatics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA · Funded by NCI/NIH Contract No. 75N91019D00024, Task Order No. 75N91020F00003
* **Kelsey Keith** ORCID icon [0000-0002-7451-5117](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7451-5117) Department of Biomedical and Health Informatics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA
* **Asif T Chinwalla** ORCID icon [0000-0001-7831-3996](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7831-3996) Department of Biomedical and Health Informatics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA

## Contact information

^Lead Contact: Jo Lynne Rokita [rokita@chop.edu](mailto:rokita@chop.edu)

✉Correspondence: Jo Lynne Rokita [rokita@chop.edu](mailto:rokita@chop.edu)

## In Brief

## Highlights

## Summary

## Keywords

## Introduction

## Results

## Discussion

## Acknowledgments

## Author Contributions

| Author | Contributions |
| --- | --- |
| Eric Wafula | Formal analysis, Software |
| Sangeeta Shukla | Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Software, Writing – Original draft, Writing - Review and editing |
| Krutika S. Gaonkar | Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Software, Writing – Original draft, Writing - Review and editing |
| Run Jin | Data curation, Formal analysis, Visualization, Writing – Original draft, Writing - Review and editing |
| Komal S. Rathi | Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Writing – Original draft |
| Yuankun Zhu | Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Supervision |
| Bailey K. Farrow | Data curation, Software |
| Daniel P. Miller | Formal analysis |
| Mariarita Santi | Investigation, Validation, Writing - Review and editing |
| Adam A. Kraya | Methodology |
| Xiaoyan Huang | Formal analysis |
| Bo Zhang | Data curation, Formal analysis |
| Brian M. Ennis | Data curation, Formal analysis |
| Ryan J. Corbett | Formal analysis |
| Sharon J. Diskin | Investigation, Supervision, Validation, Funding acquisition, Writing - Review and editing |
| Nicholas Van Kuren | Data curation, Software |
| Noel Coleman | Data curation |
| Christopher Blackden | Resources |
| Jennifer L. Mason | Supervision |
| Saksham Phul | Data curation, Methodology, Formal analysis |
| Miguel A. Brown | Data curation, Methodology, Formal analysis |
| Alex Sickler | Methodology, Formal analysis |
| Adam C. Resnick | Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Resources, Supervision |
| Jo Lynne Rokita^ | Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Software, Supervision, Writing – Original draft, Writing - Review and editing |
| Kelsey Keith | Software, Writing - original draft, API, Formal Analysis, Data Curation, Visualization |
| Asif T Chinwalla | Project Administration, Supervision, Methodology, Investigation, Validation, API |

## Declarations of Interest

## Figure Titles and Legends

## Table Titles and Legends

## OPENPEDCAN METHODS

### RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

#### Lead contact

Requests for access to OpenPedCan raw data and/or specimens may be directed to, and will be fulfilled by Jo Lynne Rokita (rokita@chop.edu).

#### Materials availability

This study did not create new, unique reagents.

#### Data and code availability

Within OpenPedCan (OPC), we harmonized, aggregated, and analyzed data from multiple sources. We harmonized data from the Therapeutically Applicable Research to Generate Effective Treatments (TARGET cohort) Initiative, an NCI-funded collection of disease-specific projects that seeks to identify the genomic changes of pediatric cancers [[1](#ref-17Erd7F9J)]. We included already harmonized neuroblastoma samples from the Gabriella Miller Kids First (GMKF cohort) Pediatric Research Program, a large-scale effort to accelerate research and gene discovery in pediatric cancers and structural birth defects [[2](#ref-UVwAVvuW)]. Additionally, we re-harmonized all samples from the Open Pediatric Brain Tumor Atlas (OpenPBTA, PBTA cohort), an open science initiative led by Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation Childhood Cancer Data Lab and the Center for Data-Driven Discovery (D3B) at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), which genomically characterized pediatric brain tumor data from the Children’s Brain Tumor Network (CBTN), and the Pacific Pediatric Neuro-oncology Consortium (PNOC) [[3](#ref-HyH6i3JM),[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)]. Building on the work of OpenPBTA, OPC added the PBTA X01 data [[5](#ref-HIcmeg1x)], the Chordoma Foundation data [[6](#ref-OePr0Q2g)/], and the MI-ONCOSEQ Study [[7](#ref-ygVj7a6q)], donated to CBTN by the University of Michigan, to the PBTA cohort. Finally, OPC includes the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) P30 Panel data generated by CHOP’s Division of Genomic Diagnostics (DGD cohort) which includes fusion panel data [[3](#ref-HyH6i3JM)]. In addition to pediatric cancer data, OpenPedCan contains adult data from large science consortiums as references. For normal gene expression, GTEx [[8](#ref-sh2asT80)] was used, and for comparison with adult cancers, The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) [[9](#ref-VcHKLBtL)] was included.

Merged summary files for OpenPedCan v12 are openly accessible in [CAVATICA](https://cavatica.sbgenomics.com/u/cavatica/opentarget) or via download-data.sh script in the <https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis> repository. Cancer group summary data are visible within the NCI’s pediatric [Molecular Targets Platform](https://moleculartargets.ccdi.cancer.gov/) and cohort, cancer group, and individual data are visible within [PedcBioPortal](https://pedcbioportal.kidsfirstdrc.org/study/summary?id=openpedcan_v12)

OpenPedCan analysis modules were developed within OpenPBTA [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)], modified based on OpenPBTA, or newly created and can be found within the following publicly available repositories. OpenPBTA module analyses can be found at <https://github.com/AlexsLemonade/OpenPBTA-analysis>. OpenPedCan module analyses can be found at <https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis>. OpenPedCan api code can be found at <https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-api>.

All original code was developed within the following modules in the OpenPedCan analyses repository as listed below. Links to the modules are available here, and within each module is a detailed README that describes the purpose and intended usage of the scripts, along with pointers to the results from the data those scripts process.

[chromosomal-instability](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/chromosomal-instability) [cnv-frequencies](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/cnv-frequencies) [collapse-rnaseq](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/collapse-rnaseq) [compare-gistic](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/compare-gistic) [copy\_number\_consensus\_call](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/copy_number_consensus_call) [create-subset-files](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/create-subset-files) [data-pre-release-qc](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/data-pre-release-qc) [efo-mondo-mapping](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/efo-mondo-mapping) [filter-mtp-tables](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/filter-mtp-tables) [focal-cn-file-preparation](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/focal-cn-file-preparation) [fusion-frequencies](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/fusion-frequencies) [fusion-summary](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/fusion-summary) [fusion\_filtering](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/fusion_filtering) [gene-set-enrichment-analysis](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/gene-set-enrichment-analysis) [gene\_match](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/gene_match) [immune-deconv](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/immune-deconv) [independent-samples](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/independent-samples) [long-format-table-utils](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/long-format-table-utils) [methylation-preprocessing](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/methylation-preprocessing) [methylation-summary](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/methylation-summary) [molecular-subtyping-ATRT](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-ATRT) [molecular-subtyping-CRANIO](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-CRANIO) [molecular-subtyping-EPN](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-EPN) [molecular-subtyping-EWS](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-EWS) [molecular-subtyping-HGG](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-HGG) [molecular-subtyping-LGAT](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-LGAT) [molecular-subtyping-MB](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-MB) [molecular-subtyping-NBL](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-NBL) [molecular-subtyping-chordoma](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-chordoma) [molecular-subtyping-embryonal](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-embryonal) [molecular-subtyping-integrate](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-integrate) [molecular-subtyping-neurocytoma](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-neurocytoma) [molecular-subtyping-pathology](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/molecular-subtyping-pathology) [mtp-annotations](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/mtp-annotations) [mtp-tables-qc-checks](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/mtp-tables-qc-checks) [mutational-signatures](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/mutational-signatures) [pedcbio-cnv-prepare](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/pedcbio-cnv-prepare) [pedcbio-sample-name](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/pedcbio-sample-name) [pedot-table-column-display-order-name](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/pedot-table-column-display-order-name) [rna-seq-expression-summary-stats](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/rna-seq-expression-summary-stats) [rnaseq-batch-correct](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/rnaseq-batch-correct) [run-gistic](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/run-gistic) [snv-frequencies](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/snv-frequencies) [tmb-calculation](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/tmb-calculation) [tp53\_nf1\_score](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/tp53_nf1_score) [tumor-gtex-plots](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/tumor-gtex-plots) [tumor-normal-differential-expression](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/tumor-normal-differential-expression)

Software versions are documented in **Table XX**.

#### Data releases

We maintained a data release folder on Amazon S3, downloadable directly from S3 or our open-access CAVATICA project, with merged files for each analysis (See data and code availability section). As we produced new results that we expected to be used across multiple analyses, or identified data issues, we created new data releases in a versioned manner.

### EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS

### METHOD DETAILS

#### Nucleic acids extraction and library preparation

#### Data generation

#### DNA WGS Alignment

Please refer to the OpenPBTA manuscript for details [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)].

#### Quality Control of Sequencing Data

Please refer to the OpenPBTA manuscript for details [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)].

##### SNP calling for B-allele Frequency (BAF) generation

Please refer to the OpenPBTA manuscript for details [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)].

#### Somatic Mutation Calling

##### SNV and indel calling

Please refer to the OpenPBTA manuscript for details [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)].

##### VCF annotation and MAF creation

##### Gather SNV and INDEL Hotspots

##### Consensus SNV Calling

#### Somatic Copy Number Variant Calling (WGS samples only)

##### Consensus CNV Calling

We adopted the consensus CNV calling described in OpenPBTA manuscript [doi:10.1016/j.xgen.2023.100340] with minor adjustments. For each caller and sample with WGS performed, we called CNVs based on consensus among Control-FREEC ([[10](#ref-lxeJKtdW)]; [[11](#ref-SkCgiJ0s)]), CNVkit ([[**doi?**](#ref-doi) 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1004873]), and GATK ([[**doi?**](#ref-doi) 10.1101/gr.107524.110]). Sample and consensus caller files with more than 2,500 CNVs were removed to de-noise and increase data quality, based on cutoffs used in GISTIC ([[12](#ref-Z38xUgBW)]). For each sample, we included the following regions in the final consensus set: 1) regions with reciprocal overlap of 50% or more between at least two of the callers; 2) smaller CNV regions in which more than 90% of regions were covered by another caller. For GATK, if a panel of normal was not able to be created (required 30 male and 30 female with the same sequencing platform), consensus was not run for tumors with WGS performed on that sequencing platform. We defined copy number as NA for any regions that had a neutral call for the samples included in the consensus file. We merged CNV regions within 10,000 bp of each other with the same direction of gain or loss into single region. Any CNVs that overlapped 50% or more with immunoglobulin, telomeric, centromeric, segment duplicated regions, or that were shorter than 3000 bp were filtered out. The CNVKit calls for WXS samples were appended to the consensus CNV file.

#### Somatic Structural Variant Calling (WGS samples only)

Please refer to the OpenPBTA manuscript for details [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)].

#### Methylation Analysis

##### Methylation array preprocessing

We preprocessed raw Illumina 450K and EPIC 850K Infinium Human Methylation Bead Array intensities using the array preprocessing methods implemented in the minfi Bioconductor package [[13](#ref-dxeON3tz)]. We utilized either preprocessFunnorm when an array dataset had both tumor and normal samples or multiple OpenPedcan-defined cancer\_groups and preprocessQuantile when an array dataset had only tumor samples from a single OpenPedcan-defined cancer\_group to estimate usable methylation measurements (beta-values and m-values) and copy number (cn-values). Some Illumina Infinium array probes targeting CpG loci contain single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) near or within the probe [[14](#ref-15Yz3j9AA)], which could affect DNA methylation measurements [[15](#ref-HOfcb651)]. As the minfi preprocessing workflow recommends, we dropped probes containing common SNPs in dbSNP (minor allele frequency > 1%) at the CpG interrogation or the single nucleotide extensions.

Details of methylation array preprocessing are available in the [OpenPedCan methylation-preprocessing module](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/methylation-preprocessing).

##### Methylation beta-values summaries

We comprehensively summarized gene-level and isoform-level metrics for the methylation beta-values estimated by array preprocessing to provide insight into the variations in overall genomic DNA methylation levels observed across different pediatric tumors by computing CpG probe-level summary metrics in each cancer group within a cohort, including 1) beta-values quantiles, 2) gene expression (TPM) and methylation (beta-values) correlation, 3) TPM median expression, and 4) transcript representation - a proxy for percent isoform expression in a gene. In addition, each CpG probe was annotated with a gene feature to identify the genomic regions likely involved in regulating gene expression.

Details of the analysis are available in the [OpenPedCan methylation-summary module](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/methylation-summary).

##### Methylation sample classification

We ran the [dkfz’s brain classifier version 12.5](https://www.molecularneuropathology.org/mnp/classifiers/11), a comprehensive DNA methylation-based classification of CNS tumors across all entities and age groups [[16](#ref-19a3Xf4h3)]. Unprocessed IDAT-files from the [Children’s Brain Tumor Network (CBTN)](https://cbtn.org/) Infinium Human Methylation EPIC (850k) BeadChip arrays were used as input and the following information was compiled into the histologies.tsv file: dkfz\_v12\_methylation\_subclass (predicted methylation subtype), dkfz\_v12\_methylation\_subclass\_score (classification score), dkfz\_v12\_methylation\_mgmt\_status (*MGMT* methylation status), and dkfz\_v12\_methylation\_mgmt\_estimated (estimated *MGMT* methylation fraction).

#### Gene Expression

##### Abundance Estimation

Among the data sources used for OpenPedCan, GTEx and TCGA used GENCODE versions v26 and v36, respectively. Moreover, the gene symbols used in these different GENCODE versions also varied. Therefore, the gene symbols had to be harmonized for compatibility to map unique gene identifiers to their gene symbols. ENSG IDs from each data source were pulled and mapped to the GTF/GFF3 file from [GENCODE v39](https://www.gencodegenes.org/human/release_39.html) to extract unique gene symbols and remove duplicates. Additionally, the gene expression matrices had some instances where multiple Ensembl gene identifiers mapped to the same gene symbol. This was dealt with by filtering the expression matrix to only genes with [FPKM/TPM] > 0 and then selecting the instance of the gene symbol with the maximum mean [FPKM/TPM/Expected\_count] value across samples. This enabled many downstream modules that require RNA-seq data have gene symbols as unique gene identifiers. Refer to [collapse-rnaseq](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/collapse-rnaseq) module for scripts and details.

##### Gene Expression Summary Statistics

We generated RNA-Seq gene expression (TPM) summary statistics for independent tumor samples from the combined OpenPedCan gene expression matrices, including cancers from pediatric cohorts (PBTA, GMKF, and TARGET) and adult cancers from the TCGA cohort. We grouped selected samples into two groups containing samples from a cancer group in either each cohort or all cohorts, and calculated TPM means, standard deviations, gene-wise z-scores, group-wise z-scores, and ranks for each group as described in the [OpenPedCan rna-seq-expression-summary-stats module](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/rna-seq-expression-summary-stats) in detail. The resulting gene-wise and group-wise summary statistics tables were annotated with EFO and MONDO disease codes associated with the cancer groups.

##### Gene fusion detection

### QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

##### Focal Copy Number Calling (focal-cn-file-preparation analysis module)

Please refer to the OpenPBTA manuscript for details on assignment of copy number status values to CNV segments, cytobands, and genes [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)]. We applied criteria to resolve instances of multiple conflicting status calls for the same gene and sample, which are described in detail in the [focal-cn-file-preparation](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/dev/analyses/focal-cn-file-preparation) module. Briefly, we prioritized 1) non-neutral status calls, 2) calls made from dominant segments with respect to gene overlap, and 3) amplification and deep deletion status calls over gain and loss calls, respectively, when selecting a dominant status call per gene and sample. These methods resolved >99% of duplicated gene-level status calls.

##### Gene Set Variation Analysis (gene-set-enrichment-analysis analysis module)

Please refer to the OpenPBTA manuscript for details [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)].

##### Fusion prioritization (fusion\_filtering analysis module)

#### Mutational Signatures (mutational-signatures analysis module)

### Tumor Mutation Burden (snv-callers analysis module)

#### Clinical Data Harmonization

##### WHO Classification of Disease Types

##### Molecular Subtyping

Here, we build upon the molecular subtyping performed in OpenPBTA [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)].

**High-grade gliomas.**

A new high-grade glioma entity called infant-type hemispheric gliomas (IHGs), characterized by distinct gene fusions enriched in receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK) genes including *ALK*, *NTRK1/2/3*, *ROS1* or *MET*, was identified in 2021 [[**doi?**](#ref-doi) 10.1038/s41467-019-12187-5]. To identify IHG tumors, first, tumors which were classified as “IHG” by the DKFZ methylation classifier or diagnosed as “infant type hemispheric glioma” from pathology\_free\_text\_diagnosis were selected [[16](#ref-19a3Xf4h3)]. Then, the corresponding tumor RNA-seq data were utilized to seek the evidence for RTK gene fusion. Based on the specific RTK gene fusion present in the samples, IHGs were further classified as “IHG, ALK-altered”, “IHG, NTRK-altered”, “IHG, ROS1-altered”, or “IHG, MET-altered”. If no fusion was observed, the samples were identified as “IHG, To be classified”.

**Atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumors.**

Atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumors (ATRT) tumors were categorized into three subtypes: “ATRT, MYC”, “ATRT, SHH”, and “ATRT, TYR” [[17](#ref-5NHLHVO3)]. In OpenPedCan, the molecular subtyping of ATRT was based solely on the DNA methylation data. Briefly, ATRT samples with a high confidence DKFZ methylation subclass score (>= 0.8) were selected and subtypes were assigned based on the DKFZ methylation subclass [[**doi10.1038/nature26000?**](#ref-doi10.1038/nature26000)]. Samples with low confidence DKFZ methylation subclass scores (< 0.8) were identified as “ATRT, To be classified”.

**Neuroblastoma tumors.**

Neuroblastoma (NBL) tumors with a pathology diagnosis of neuroblastoma, ganglioneuroblastoma, or ganglioneuroma were subtyped based on their MYCN copy number status as either “NBL, MYCN amplified” or “NBL, MYCN non-amplified”. If pathology\_free\_text\_diagnosis was “NBL, MYCN non-amplified” and the genetic data suggested MYCN amplification, the samples were subtyped as “NBL, MYCN amplified”. On the other hand, if pathology\_free\_text\_diagnosis was “NBL, MYCN amplified” and the genetic data suggested MYCN non-amplification, the RNA-Seq gene expression level of *MYCN* was used as a prediction indicator. In those cases, samples with *MYCN* gene expression above or below the cutoff (TPM >= 140.83 based on visual inspection of MYCN CNV status) were subtyped as “NBL, MYCN amplified” and “NBL, MYCN non-amplified”, respectively. *MYCN* gene expression was also used to subtype samples without DNA sequencing data. If a sample did not fit none of these situations, it was denoted as “NBL, To be classified”.

###### Integration of brain tumor methylation classifications

#### TP53 Alteration Annotation (tp53\_nf1\_score analysis module)

Please refer to the OpenPBTA manuscript for details [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)].

#### Prediction of participants’ genetic sex

Please refer to the OpenPBTA manuscript for details [[4](#ref-5VXMHJ7N)].

#### Selection of independent samples (independent-samples analysis module)

For analyses that require all input biospecimens to be independent, we use the OpenPedCan-analysis [independent-samples](https://github.com/PediatricOpenTargets/OpenPedCan-analysis/tree/d397339d567ddeff17e7a8cdca892f6a9dd2a0ba/analyses/independent-samples) module to select only one biospecimen from each input participant. For each input participant of an analysis, the independent biospecimen is selected based on the analysis-specific filters and preferences for the biospecimen metadata, such as experimental strategy, cancer group, and tumor descriptor.

## Supplemental Information Titles and Legends

## Consortia

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