

#### Robust systems in control



15 March 2007 Gosau FEBSysBio2007

> 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Systems Biology:

From Molecules to Life Gosau, Austria, EU, March 10-16, 2007



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## First part: methodology

- Systems Biology as methodology:
  - Precise definition of biological concepts
  - Qualitative biological understanding through quantification
  - Silicon cell/JWS
  - Generality: mathematical proof & thought experiments
  - A definition of robustness



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#### Middle part: tutorial

Calculating robustness
Falsifying proposed constant robustness
Searching for new general principles
How to enhance robustness; a paradoxical principle



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#### Third part: results

Biochemical networks are highly robust
Robustness is not conserved
.... is conserved
Robustness through fragility
Robustness and signal transduction
Robustness as disease



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# To deal with Biological Systems.....

#### We should engage in Systems Biology

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Most remaining diseases are Systems Biology (network) diseases

Cf. Adriano Henney

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## To cure the network One should deal with the network An enormous paradigm shift

Cf. Lee Hood

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### Health and disease

• Classical:

Disease is .... dysfunction

Novel:
Disease is .... failure to be robust,
(or failure to be fragile....)



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### Assets of Systems Biology

- It is non dogmatic (neither reductionist nor holist)
- It does not evade the complexity of the real world
  - (one should simplify as much as possible but not more; Einstein)
- It adds precision to biology and this may enable one to solve issues that could not be solved before



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Example of non dogmatic and precise nature of Systems Biology

- Biochemistry/molecular biology:
   'the rate limiting step is the first irreversible step in the pathway'
- Systems Biology:

Control may be distributed:

$$C_1^J + C_2^J + C_3^J + C_4^J = 1$$

 $\triangleright$ 

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## The rate-limiting step





#### 'Criteria' for limitation originally in use

- There is only one
- Irreversible step
- First step
- Most regulated step
- When deleted, flux stops
- When inhibited flux decreases
- I like (work on) the enzyme, therefore it must be

important

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Problems arising

 More than one step was proposed to be the only rate-limiting step
 Criteria were muddy



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### A good definition

- Should enable us to figure out which of these definitions (if any) is right
  Should even enable us to find that there is
  - no rate-limiting step at all...



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#### How to measure whether a component is limiting = controlling ??







#### How to measure whether an component is limiting: the Control coefficient







#### Disadvantage

$$slope = \frac{dJ}{de}$$

## dJ: nmol/min/mgdryweightde: mg protein

 Control changes when expressed per gram protein



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### Relative changes

$$slope = \frac{dJ / J}{de / e}$$

dJ/J: dimensionless de/e: dimensionless

 Control changes when expressed per gram protein



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#### Qualitative conclusion

#### Control may be distributed

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#### Asset of Systems Biology

Discover qualitative properties By being sufficiently more precise (quantitative)

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#### Is control distributed?



We can now calculate this for some cases using the silicon cell



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#### Linked to FEBS Journal and Microbiology

New! Our discussion forums are now live: try the Forum pages.

2002/12/03: The Applets have been upgraded to use the Sun Microsystems JRE 1.4 or higher

www.siliconcell.net

© Brett Olivier and Jacky Snoep, Stellenbosch University and Vrije Universiteit - Amsterdam, 2002 Site last updated: 03 December 2002



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## Silicon cell live models: http://www.jjj.bio.vu.nl







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#### In one case

## Control is distributed (and in fact in many other cases)

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#### Silicon cell.....

#### As complex as reality 'Therefore not useful' (??)

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#### Where did the 1 go?

		4 mM glucose		5 mM glucose		8 mM glucose	
	Reaction	$\mathbf{C}_{i}^{J}$	$\Gamma/\mathbf{K}_{eq}$	$\mathbf{C}_{i}^{J}$	$\Gamma/\mathbf{K}_{eq}$	$\mathbf{C}_{i}^{J}$	$\Gamma/\mathbf{K}_{eq}$
	Glucose transport					0.63	9.2.10-3
	нк	SE PE				0.04	<< 10 <sup>-3</sup>
	PFK			1-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2		0.01	<< 10 <sup>-3</sup>
-	XLD		Flux v	versus		0.10	0.17
	GAPDH		enzyn	ne/gene		0.09	0.20
	PGK		dosag	Je		0.06	3.4.10-3
	РҮК					0.01	<< 10 <sup>-3</sup>
	Pyruvate transport	0.5		$C_i' = \left(\frac{d\ln J}{T}\right)$	$\frac{dJ}{J} = \frac{dJ}{J} = \frac{'\% dJ}{J}$	0.00	<< 10 <sup>-3</sup>
	GDH	0			$\left( \begin{array}{c} e_{i} \\ e_{i} \end{array} \right)_{steadsyste} \left( \begin{array}{c} de_{i} \\ e_{i} \end{array} \right)^{2} \left( \begin{array}{c} e_{i} e_{i} \end{array} \right)^{2} \left( \left( \begin{array}{c} e_{i} \end{array} \right)^{2} \left( \left$	0.06	9.1.10-3
	GPO	0	0.5	1 1.5	2 2.5	0.01	<< 10 <sup>-3</sup>
	ATP utilization					0.00	
						+	
						1.01	



The first **law** of Systems Biology: summation law for flux control

 $C_{1}^{J} + C_{2}^{J} + C_{3}^{J} + \dots + C_{n}^{J}$ 

**Implication:** steady-state flux control need not be in single step; can be distributed, but must sum to 1



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#### Silicon cell.....

#### Made a discovery

This is a true story: **Kacser & Burns and for other** theorems: Van Dam et al. Bruggeman et al.



Systems Biology

The Life of Biology The quantitative experimentation of biochemistry/biophysics The precision of physics The certainty/generality of mathematics

Cf. Guy Shinar

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#### Ein Gedanken Experiment

#### A thought experiment



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# Intuitive proof of the summation law

- C<sup>J</sup><sub>1</sub> = the percentage increase in steady state flux if one activates only enzyme 1, keeping all other parameters constant
- C<sup>J</sup><sub>1</sub>+C<sup>J</sup><sub>2</sub>= the percentage increase in steady state flux if one activates both enzyme 1 and enzyme 2 by 1 %, keeping all other parameters constant
- C<sup>J</sup><sub>1</sub>+C<sup>J</sup><sub>2</sub>+C<sup>J</sup><sub>3</sub>+...+C<sup>J</sup><sub>n</sub>=the percentage increase in steady state flux if one activates all enzymes by 1 %, keeping all other parameters constant = ????



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$$\frac{dX}{dt} = v_1 - v_2 - v_3$$

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = 100 - 70 - 30 = 0$$

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = 110 - 77 - 33 = ?$$

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$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 110 - 77 - 33 = 0$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 110 - 77 - 33 = 0$$



$$\frac{dX}{dt} = v_1 - v_2 - v_3 \qquad Y - V_3$$

 $\frac{dX}{dt} = 100 - 70 - 30 = 0$ 

0

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = 110 - 77 - 33 = 0$$

Steady state is established immediately

No change in [X]

Same percentage change in fluxes



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Laws of Systems Biology: summation law for flux control...and..

 $C_1^J + C_2^J + C_3^J + C_4^J = \frac{10\%}{10\%}$ 



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#### Laws of Systems Biology: Summation law for flux control...and.. concentration control

10%  $C_1^J + C_2^J + C_3^J + C_4^J = \frac{1070}{1070}$ 10% 0%  $C_1^X + C_2^X + C_3^X + C_4^X$ 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Systems Biology:

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Laws of Systems Biology: summation law for flux control...and.. concentration control... and noise control

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 $C_1^J + C_2^J + C_3^J + C_4^J = \frac{10\%}{10\%}$ 0%  $C_1^{\sigma_x} + C_2^{\sigma_x} + C_3^{\sigma_x} + C_4^{\sigma_x} = \frac{0\%}{10\%}$ 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Systems Biology:

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## First part: methodology

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#### Robust systems in control



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We need a definition of robustness/health

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Example: Robustness of the flux When enzyme activities are eliminated



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Example: Robustness of the flux When enzyme activities are eliminated

When enzyme activities are perturbed



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### Definition of robustness

In the tutorial

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### Coffee & tutorial time!

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## Definition of robustness vis-a-vis a perturbation

How robust is a function with respect to a perturbation in a property?By what percentage can I perturb that function and change system function by only 1 %?

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#### Robustness

- There is more than one definition:
  - John Doyle's/Kitano definition: frequency domain
  - Robustness vis-à-vis gene deletion
  - Guy Shinar: variation of concentration of protein form with total concentration of that protein
  - This one: steady state function with respect to parameters, such as catalytic activities







## But cells and tissues may not be classical, e.g. they are networks



We can now calculate this for some cases using the silicon cell



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#### T-L03-Toward the theory of biological robustness and its application to drug design

#### Hiroaki Kitano

Sony Computer Science Laboratories, Inc., The Systems Biology Institute, Department of Cancer Systems Biology, The Cancer Institute

Robustness is a ubiquitously observed property of biological systems. It is considered to be a fundamental feature of complex evolvable systems. It is attained by several underlying principles that are universal to both biological organisms and sophisticated engineering systems. Robustness facilitates evolvability and robust traits are often selected by evolution. Such a mutually beneficial process is made possible by specific architectural features observed in robust systems. But there are trade-offs between robustness, fragility, performance and resource demands, which explain system behaviour, including the patterns of failure. Insights into inherent properties of robust systems will provide us with a better understanding of complex diseases and a guiding principle for therapy design.

Many potential drugs that target causative disease genes have been found to be less effective than hoped, or to cause significant side-effects. The intrinsic robustness of living systems against various perturbations is a key factor that prevents such compounds from being successful. By studying complex network systems and reformulating control and communication theories that are well established in engineering, a solid theoretical foundation for a system to control the robustness of living systems, particularly at the cellular level, could be developed. Here, I use examples from drugs currently on the market to illustrate the concept of robustness and then discuss how greater consideration of the importance of robustness could influence the design of drugs that are ultimately intended to control complex systems.





#### **Definition of robustness**

By what percentage can I perturb a component process of the system and affect system function by only 1 %?

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#### Cells and tissues are systems



Let us see whether they tend to be more robust than processes in isolation



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#### Silicon cell live models: jjj.bio.vu.nl







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### Assignments

 Calculate robustnesses for silicon cell flux with respect to reactions
 Add them up
 Vary one of the activities
 Do the same
 Is total robustness constant?
 Take the inverses.
 Repeat

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#### Middle part: tutorial

Calculating robustness 
Falsifying proposed constant robustness 
Searching for new theorems 
How to enhance robustness; a paradoxical principle



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## Third part: results

Are biochemical networks robust?
Is robustness conserved ?
..... is conserved
Robustness through fragility
Robustness and signal transduction
Robustness as disease



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## End of tutorial

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#### Robustness of vital flux of Trypanosomes vis-à-vis perturbations of glycolytic steps

step	Rob	oustness	
Glctr		1.1	
GAPdh		42	
НК		42	
PGI		1546	
PFK		234	
ALD		38	
TPI		482	
GDH		66	
GPO		-251	
PGK		61	
РК		691	
ATPase		2744	
GlyK		389	
Sum	2 <sup>rd</sup> FEBS Advanced Lecture Course on Systems Biology: From Molecules to Life	6085	

Average robustness = 470 >>>1







#### 470 fold in this case

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## Third part: results

Biochemical networks are highly robust 
Is robustness conserved ?
..... is conserved
Robustness through fragility
Robustness and signal transduction
Robustness as disease



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#### Is robustness conserved?

Does total robustness remain constant when system is made more robust visà-vis perturbation of one of its steps?

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#### Total robustness is not conserved

	Q	louble glucose					
step		transporter					
Glucose transport	1.1	87.8					
GAPdh	42	4					
НК	42	20					
PGI	1546	412					
PFK	234	56					
ALD	38	3					
TPI	482	64					
GDH	66	6					
GPO	-251	-15					
PGK	61	7					
РК	691	73					
ATPase	2744	313					
GlyK	389	26					
Sum	6085	1055					
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		Prove Malassian to 1 Ma					







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## Robustness is *not* constant

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## Third part: results

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## Robustness is not conserved

#### But fragility is

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#### Sum over all fragilities=inverse robustnesses = 1

step	1/robustness	(doubled glc transporter)
Glucose		Carlana and
transport	0.887	0.011
GAPdh	0.024	0.249
НК	0.024	0.051
PGI	0.001	0.002
PFK	0.004	0.018
ALD	0.026	0.354
TPI	0.002	0.016
GDH	0.015	0.166
GPO	-0.004	-0.068
PGK	0.016	0.144
РК	0.001	0.014
ATPase	0	0.003
GlyK	0.003	0.039
Sum	Systems Biology: From Molecules to je 9999	0.999

1 /robustnoss





## Definition of fragility





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## Third part: results

Biochemical networks are highly robust
Robustness is not conserved ?
Fragility is conserved ?
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## Implications

 If the robustness vis-à-vis an already fragile step is decreased, average robustness may increase
 Sacrifice principle: robustness through fragility



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#### By decreasing robustness vis-à-vis one step one can increase the total robustness

Robustness

		double glc
step	Robustness	transporter
Glctr	1.1	87.8
GAPdh	41.6	4
НК	42.4	19.7
PGI	1545.9	411.5
PFK	233.6	56.2
ALD	38.3	2.8
TPI	481.9	63.7
GDH	65.7	6
GPO	-250.7	-14.8
PGK	61	6.9
РК	691.3	72.6
ATPase	2743.5	313
GlyK	389.4	25.5
Sum	6085	1054.9
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Perhaps this is why robust systems tend to have Achilles heels

which should be the better drug targets

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## Third part: results

Biochemical networks are highly robust 
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#### Ri R $R \xrightarrow{1} Ri$ 2 Males versus the females x1p **3** fragile versus robust. x1p **x1** 5 **5** Kinases versus phosphatasesx2 x2p x2p **x**2 6 7 **x3** x3p **x3** 8

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#### in single cells upon EGF stimulation









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Green: total ERK Red: ERK-PP

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### **Research questions**

 To which perturbations are duration and amplitude robust (fragile)?
 Are these the same perturbations?



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#### Robustness of ERK-PP vis-à-vis perturbation

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#### Robustness of ERK-PP amplitude in model MAP kinase pathway: mostly robust

Section also			kinases			phosph	Sum				
a studie		1	2	3	1	2	3	R			
N ALTERNA	Ampli tude	6	4	2	-7	-5	-3	-6	-9	33	
										52	
1					2 <sup>nd</sup> FEBS Advai Syster From Mo Gosau, Austria	nced Lecture Course on ms Biology: lecules to Life h, EU, March 10-16, 2007					A

# Duration robustness in model MAP kinase

			kinases			phosp	Sum			
A CHARMEN AND A		1	2	3	1	2	3	R		
A MANADAR	Ampli tude	6	4	2	-7	-5	-3	-6	-9	33
ALL RIVER	Durat ion	17	11	8	-2	-3	-3	-8	20	52
					2 <sup>nd</sup> FEBS Advan Syster From Mo Gosau, Austria,	iced Lecture Course on ns Biology: lecules to Life , EU, March 10-16, 2007				



### **Research questions**

 To which perturbations is this signal transduction robust (fragile)? Most

#### • Are these the same perturbations? No



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# Robustness depends on function considered and is not conserved

Internation			kinases		phosphatases				Sum	
		1	2	3	1	2	3	R		
AN CONTRACTOR	Ampli tude	6	4	2	-7	-5	-3	-6	-9	33
ALL	Durat ion	17	11	8	-2	-3	-3	-8	20	52
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Systems Biology principle: total amplitude fragility = conserved and zero





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#### **Research questions**

To which perturbations is this signal transduction robust (fragile)? Most
Does robustness differ for the various aspects of the signal? Yes

#### Do you believe this?



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# Systems Biology principles concerning robustness differ

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{\Re_{e_i}^{amplitude}} \equiv 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{\Re_{e_i}^{duration}} \equiv -1$$

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# Robustness depends on function considered

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	kinases				phosph	Sum			
	1	2	3	1	2	3	R		
Ampli tude	6	4	2	-7	-5	-3	-6	-9	33
Durat ion	17	11	8	-2	-3	-3	-8	20	52

From Molecules to Life



## Duration robust *vis-à-vis* kinase perturbation, fragile *vis-à-vis* phosphatase perturbation

			kinases			phosph	Sum			
Hard The Association		1	2	3	1	2	3	R		
	Ampli tude	6	4	2	-7	-5	-3	-6	-9	33
N. N. N. N.	Durat ion	17	11	8	-2	-3	-3	-8	20	52 🖂
,					2 <sup>nd</sup> FEBS Advan Systen From Mo Gosau, Austria	nced Lecture Course on ns Biology: lecules to Life , EU, March 10-16, 2007				






# Amplitude is less robust vis-à-vis kinase perturbation than is duration









## Third part: results

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## Oncogenesis

## Which type of step is amplified? Robust or fragile?

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**Moving targets** 



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#### Detailed kinetic model of signaling by EGF





#### MAP kinase signaling: which steps are robust?

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#### Mutations of the BRAF gene in human cancer

Centrum

write Universiteit

Helen Davies<sup>1,2</sup>, Graham R. Bignell<sup>1,2</sup>, Charles Cox<sup>1,2</sup>, Philip Stephens<sup>1,2</sup>, Sarah Edkins<sup>1</sup>, Sheila Clegg<sup>1</sup>, Jon Teague<sup>1</sup>, Hayley Woffendin<sup>1</sup>, Mathew J. Garnett<sup>3</sup>, William Bottomley<sup>1</sup>, Neil Davis<sup>1</sup>, Ed Dicks<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca Ewing<sup>1</sup>, Yvonne Floyd<sup>1</sup>, Kristian Gray<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Hall<sup>1</sup>, Rachel Hawes<sup>1</sup>, Jaime Hughes<sup>1</sup>, Vivian Kosmidou<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Menzies<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Mould<sup>1</sup>, Adrian Parker<sup>1</sup>, Claire Stevens<sup>1</sup>, Stephen Watt<sup>1</sup>, Steven Hooper<sup>3</sup>, Rebecca Wilson<sup>3</sup>, Hiran Jayatilake<sup>4</sup>, Barry A. Gusterson<sup>5</sup>, Colin Cooper<sup>6</sup>, Janet Shipley<sup>6</sup>, Darren Hargrave<sup>7</sup>, Katherine Pritchard-Jones7, Norman Maitland8, Georgia Chenevix-Trench9, Gregory J. Riggins<sup>10</sup>, Darell D. Bigner<sup>10</sup>, Giuseppe Palmieri<sup>11</sup>, Antonio Cossu<sup>12</sup>, Adrienne Flanagan<sup>13</sup>, Andrew Nicholson<sup>14</sup> Judy W. C. Ho<sup>15</sup>, Suet Y. Leung<sup>16</sup>, Siu T. Yuen<sup>16</sup>, Barbara L. Weber<sup>17</sup>, Hilliard F. Seigler<sup>18</sup>, Timothy L. Darrow<sup>18</sup>, Hugh Paterson<sup>3</sup>, Richard Marais<sup>3</sup>, Christopher J. Marshall<sup>3</sup>, Richard Wooster<sup>1,6</sup>, Michael R. Stratton<sup>1,4</sup> & P. Andrew Futreal<sup>1</sup>

> 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBS Advanc System From Mol Gosau, Austria.



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## Oncogenes may affect fragile steps

### and make the cells more robust:

### robustness as disease

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## Drug designers do not like moving targets

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## That should be the drug target

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## Step 2 has become more fragile



Ves: 3 less fragile; 2 more fragile

Hence: tumor cell less sensitive to inhibitor of amplified step: Not step 3 but step 2 is the preferred target!!

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**10 x** 

 $\xrightarrow{1}$  Ri

x1p

5

x2p

7

8

x3p

60

**R** -

 $\mathbf{x}\mathbf{2}$ 

6

**x3** 

**x1** 







EBS Advan

Barbara Bakker Frank Bruggeman Jacky L. Snoep

and many others

and mon



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