

# **Apport de la Next Generation ddPCR dans les analyses génétiques: Exemples des applications Onco-génétique**

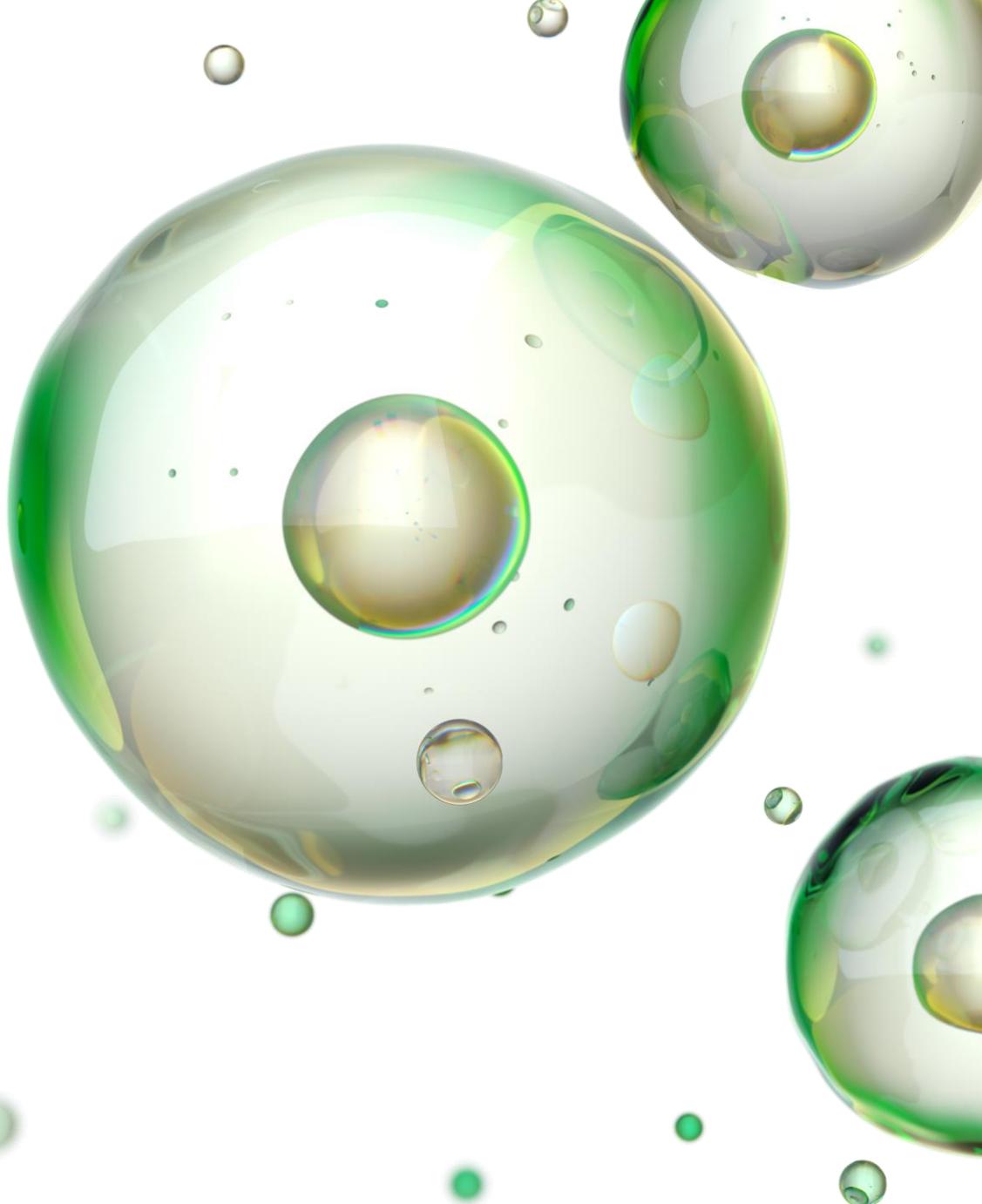
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**Field Application Scientist Manager**

**2025, November**

**28ème congrès national de cancérologie et de radiothérapie**



# Overcome FFPE & Liquid Biopsy analysis challenges with Droplet Digital PCR®

FFPE & Liquid Biopsy samples provides multiple analyte information (Methylation, cfDNA, cfRNA...)

Flexible method to address multiple targets

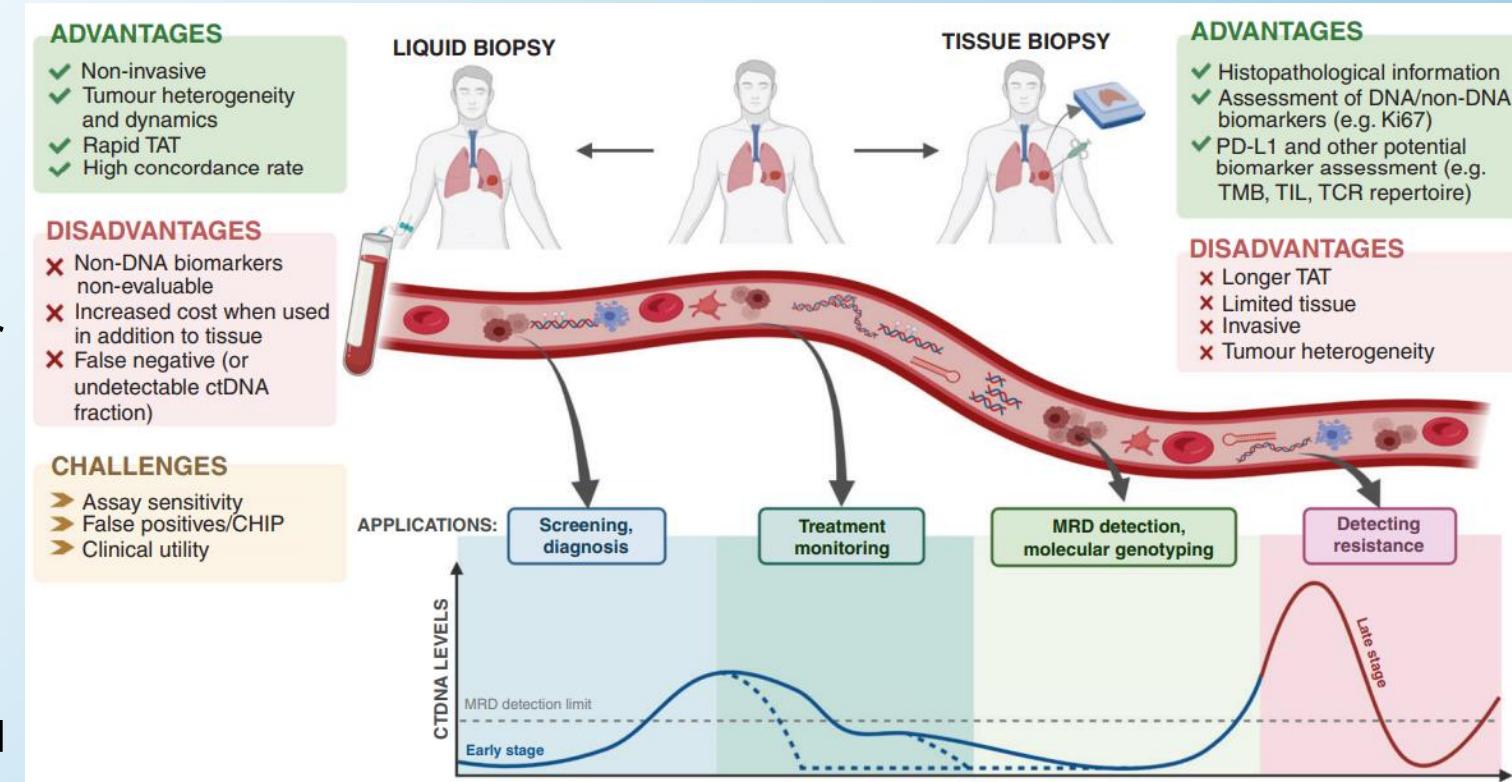
FFPE could be challenging for some molecular technologies

Poor DNA quality & quantity with variability

CtDNA concentration is too variable, and mutation frequency (MAF) is between 0,1-10%  
High detection sensitivity required

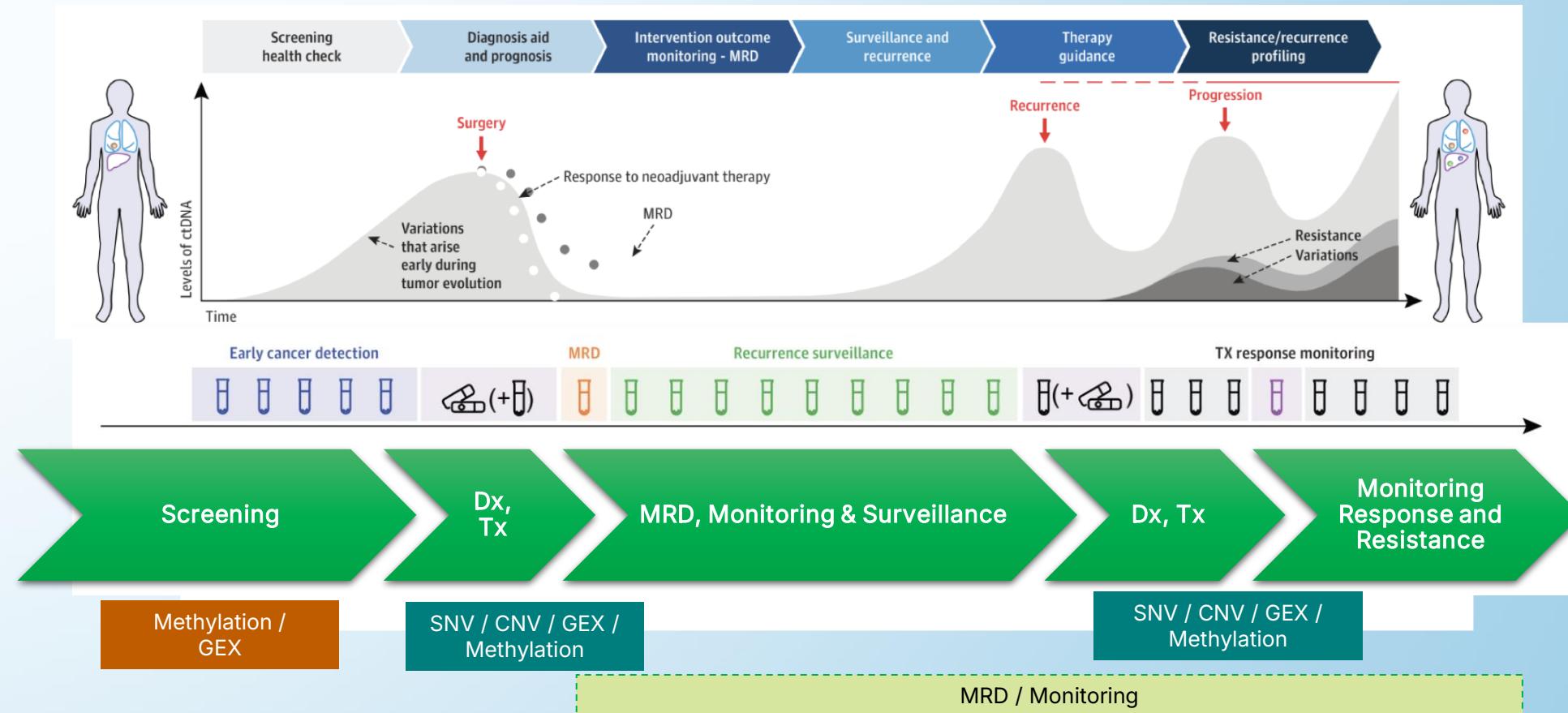
Mutation coverage as high as possible to avoid wasting precious samples

Detection methods needs to screen maximum information with minimum volumes



M. Garcia-Pardo et al.2022

# ddPCR Liquid Biopsy Solutions



Available

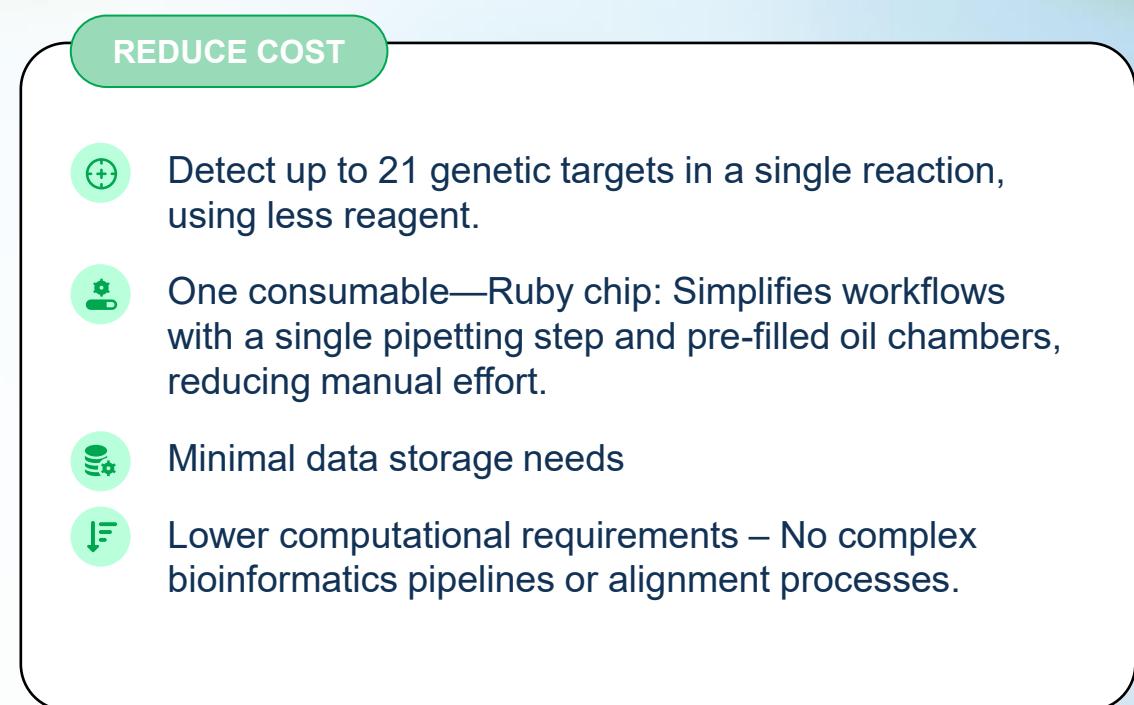
Partnership/  
Enablement

In Development:  
Internal and/or  
partnerships

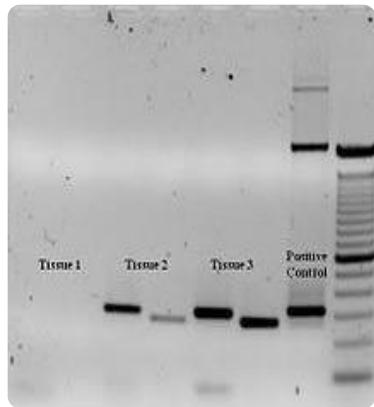
Modified from: Krebs, M., et al. "Practical Considerations for the Use of Circulating Tumor DNA in the Treatment of Patients With Cancer." JAMA Oncology, 8.12 (2022): 1830-1839.

**BIO-RAD**

# Simplifying Onco-genetics experiments

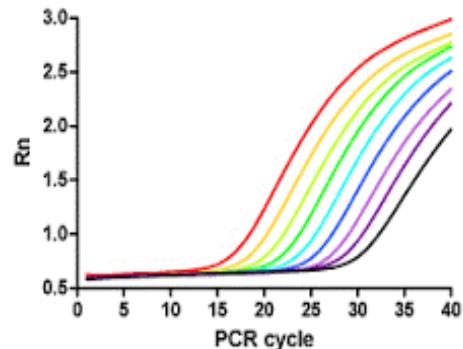


## PCR



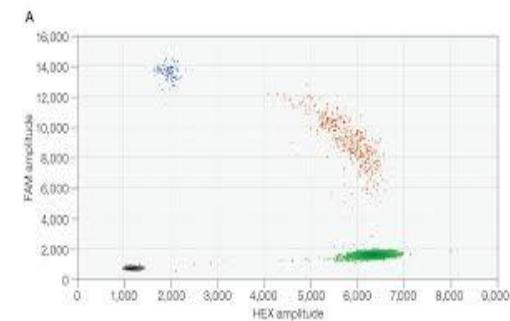
- Amplify Target RNA

## QUANTITATIVE PCR



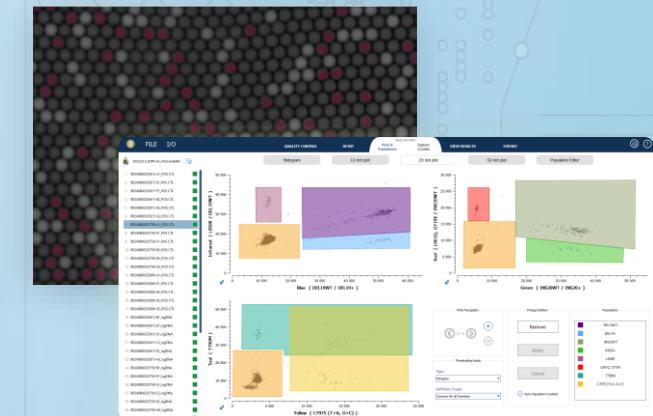
- Relative quantification
- Real-time with standard curves
- Ubiquitously spread method

## ddPCR



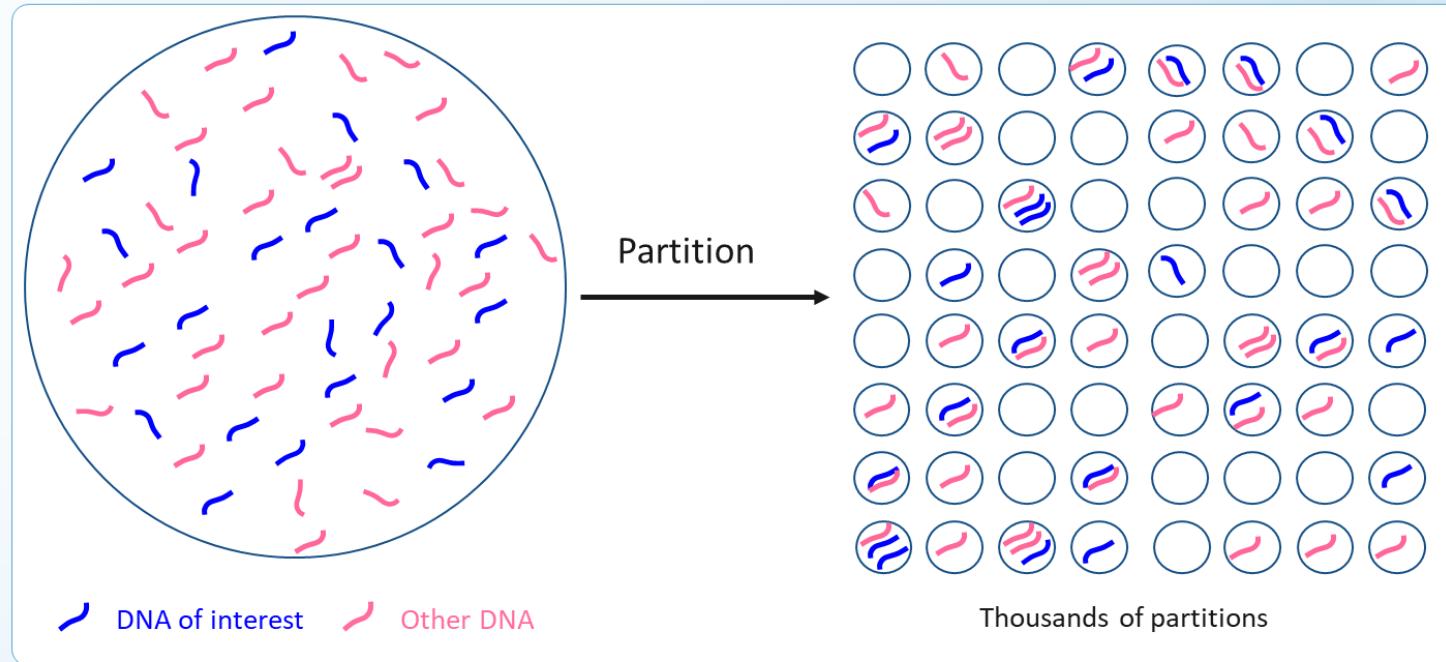
- Absolute quantification
- No standard curve
- Manual workflow & Cost

## The Next Generation ddPCR Droplet Digital PCR®



- Easy to use – fully automated
- Continuous loading
- High Multiplexing – 21 plex
- Absolute quantification
- No standard curve
- Increased sensitivity

# ddPCR basic principle: Limit of dilution



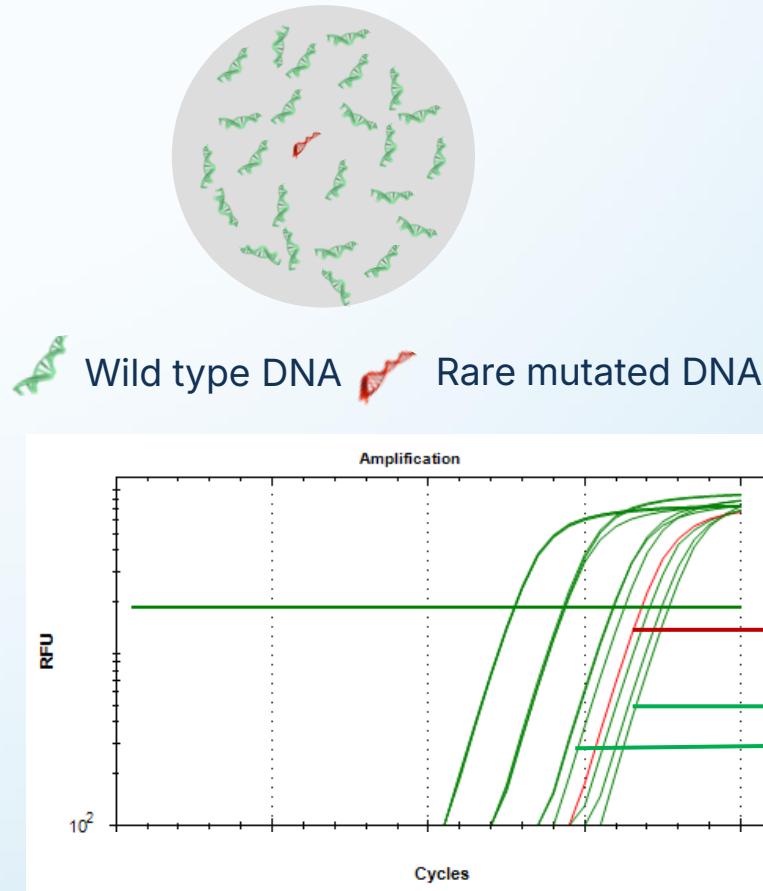
- Limit of dilution means each partition will be positive (1) or negative (0)
- The Limit of dilution is defined as the number of copies in the analyzed volume needed to reach a normal distribution of the results
- Optimal number of partitions and input DNA concentration minimizes number of partitions with 1.6 copy of each gene

## Partitioning advantages:

- decreases non-specific amplification and background noise → **improves sensitivity**
- allows for absolute quantification (see next slides) → **improves precision**
- highly dilutes inhibitors → **decreases inhibition effects**

# ddPCR can detect and quantify the needle in the haystack!

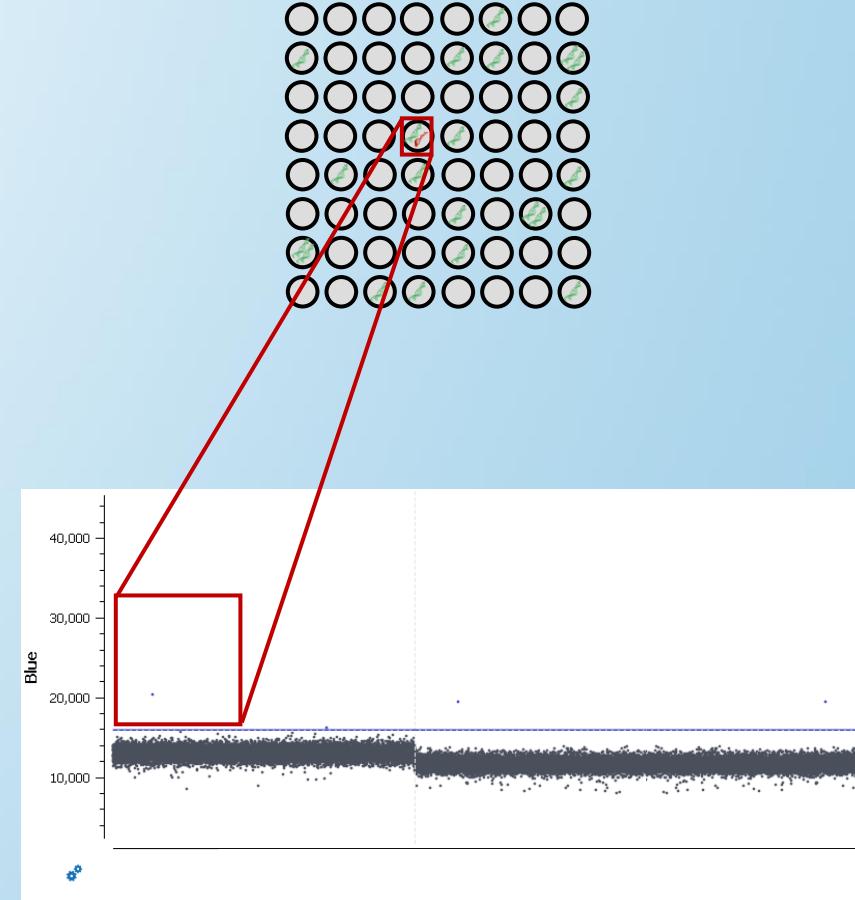
## In traditional PCR and qPCR



Potential PCR template discrimination

## PARTITIONING

## In Droplet Digital PCR



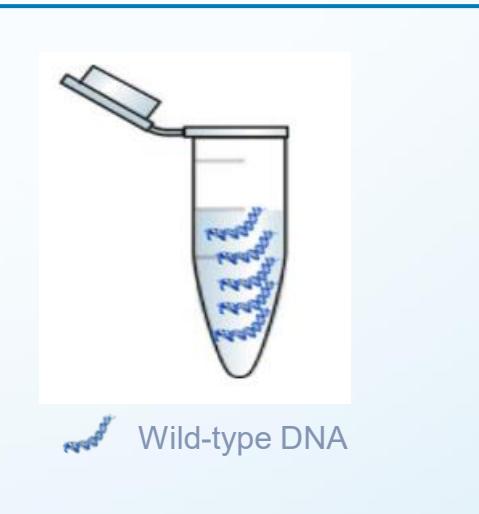
Reliable measurements

# Droplet Digital PCR®

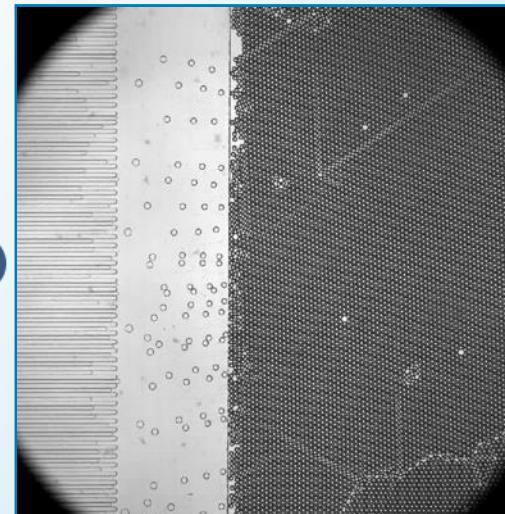
## Principle

 learn more about ddPCR please visit our learning center by following this link!

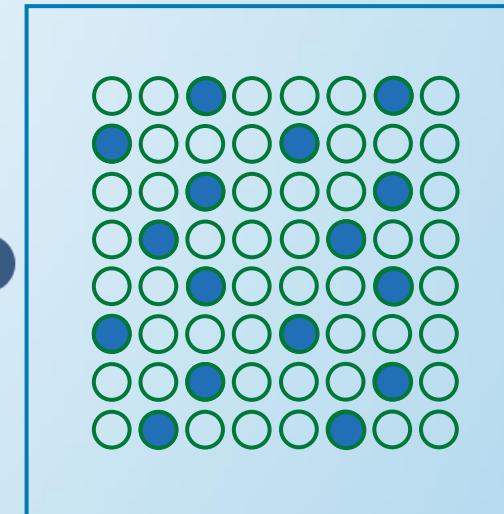
### Prepare



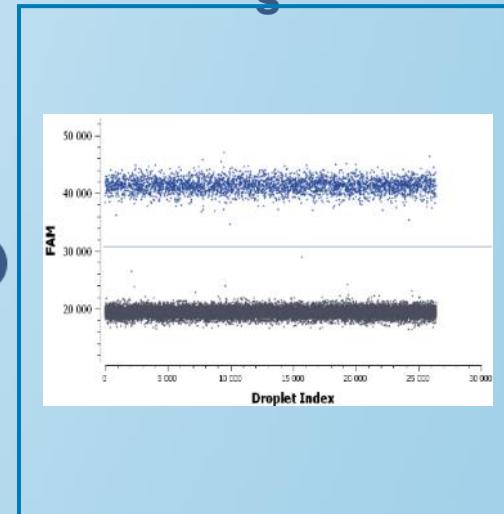
### Partition & amplification



### Reading



### Analysis



Absolute quantification  
Copies/uL

POISSON STATISTICS

$$\frac{N_{pos}}{N_{tot}}$$

# Next Generation ddPCR opens **new horizons** in wide of applications



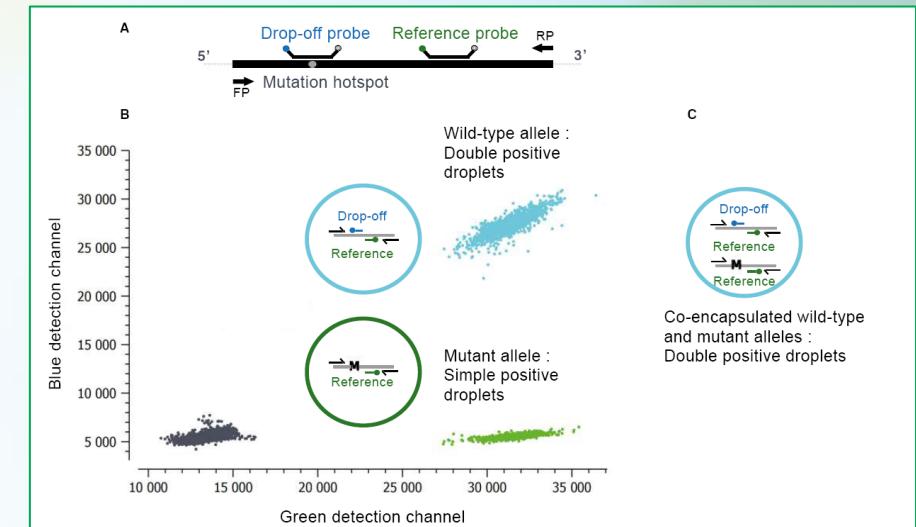
# Detection and quantification of BRAF/KRAS/NRAS biomarkers

Context: BRAF, KRAS, and NRAS mutations are associated with different cancer outcomes, such as lung cancer and melanoma

Challenge: Evaluate the robustness and sensitivity of BRAF/KRAS/NRAS mutation detection and quantification for low amounts of samples like liquid biopsy and with low mutation frequency

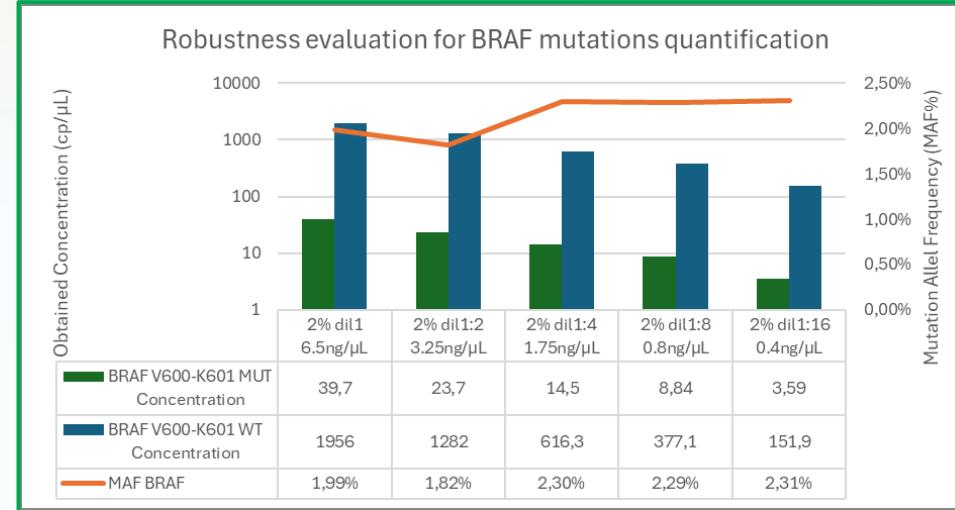
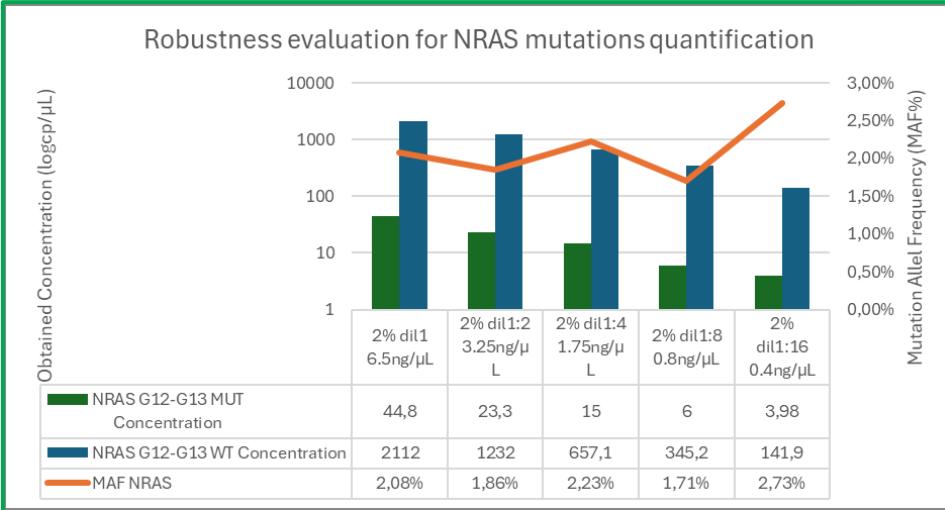
Method: 6-plex assay used on Ruby Chip with different input volumes to increase sensitivity depth for very low concentrated sample:

- Run 1: Sample at 2% of mutations diluted in water
- Run 2: Mutation dilution in WT up to 0.05% of MAF

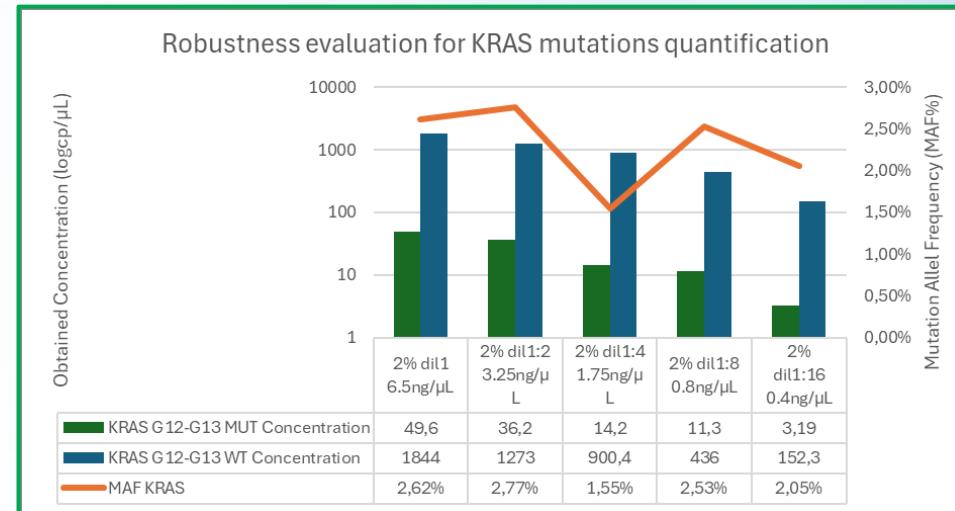


Targets	Blue	Teal	Green	Yellow	Red	Infra-Red
Wild-type (WT) KRAS G12-G13	X		X			
Mutant (MUT) KRAS G12-G13		X				
Wild-type (WT) NRAS G12-G13				X		X
Mutant (MUT) NRAS G12-G13				X		
Wild-type (WT) BRAF V600-K601					X	X
Mutant (MUT) BRAF V600-K601					X	

# Trust in your data Robustness

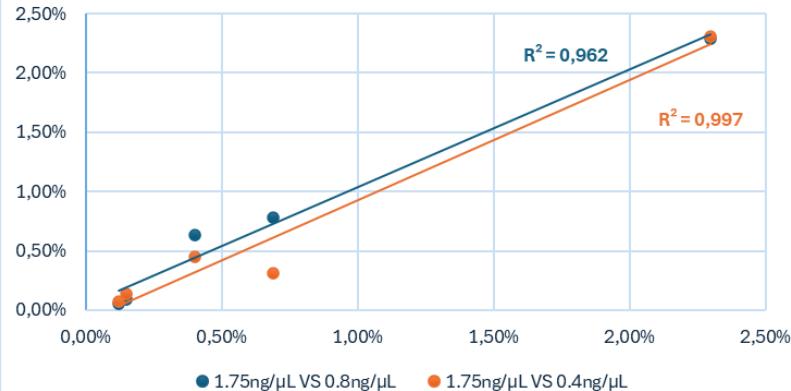


Low concentrated sample dilution shows great linearity in obtained concentrations with good reproducibility in MAF quantification even for low concentration (0.4ng/uL)

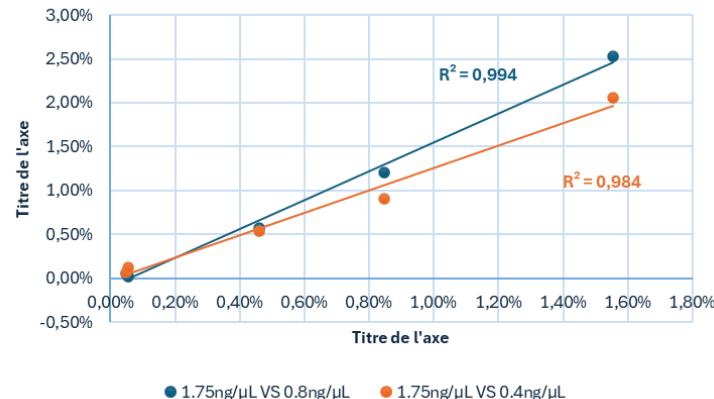


# Get the most from your precious samples

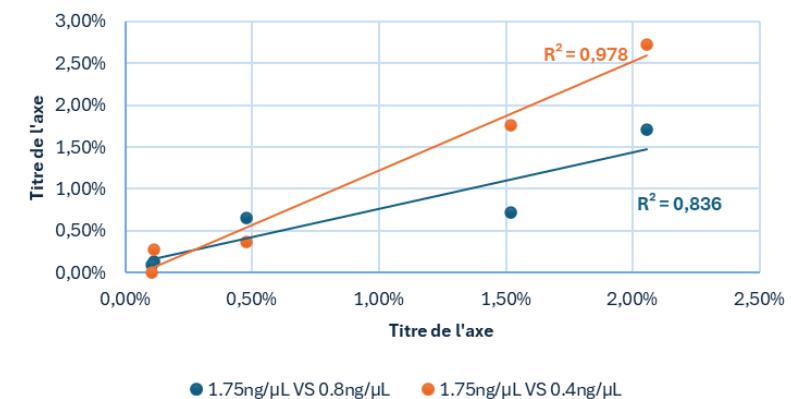
**BRAF conditions comparaison**



**KRAS conditions comparaison**



**NRAS conditions comparaison**



**MAF BRAF**

Sample Name	1.75ng/uL	0.8ng/uL	0.4ng/uL
2% MAF	2,30%	2,29%	2,31%
1% MAF	0,69%	0,78%	0,32%
0.5% MAF	0,40%	0,64%	0,45%
0.1% MAF	0,15%	0,09%	0,14%
0.05%			
MAF	0,12%	0,05%	0,08%
0% MAF	0,00%	0,10%	0,00%

**MAF KRAS**

Sample Name	1.75ng/uL	0.8ng/uL	0.4ng/uL
2% MAF	1,55%	2,53%	2,05%
1% MAF	0,85%	1,21%	0,90%
0.5% MAF	0,46%	0,57%	0,53%
0.1% MAF	0,05%	0,05%	0,06%
0.05%			
MAF	0,06%	0,02%	0,12%
0% MAF	0,00%	0,09%	0,00%

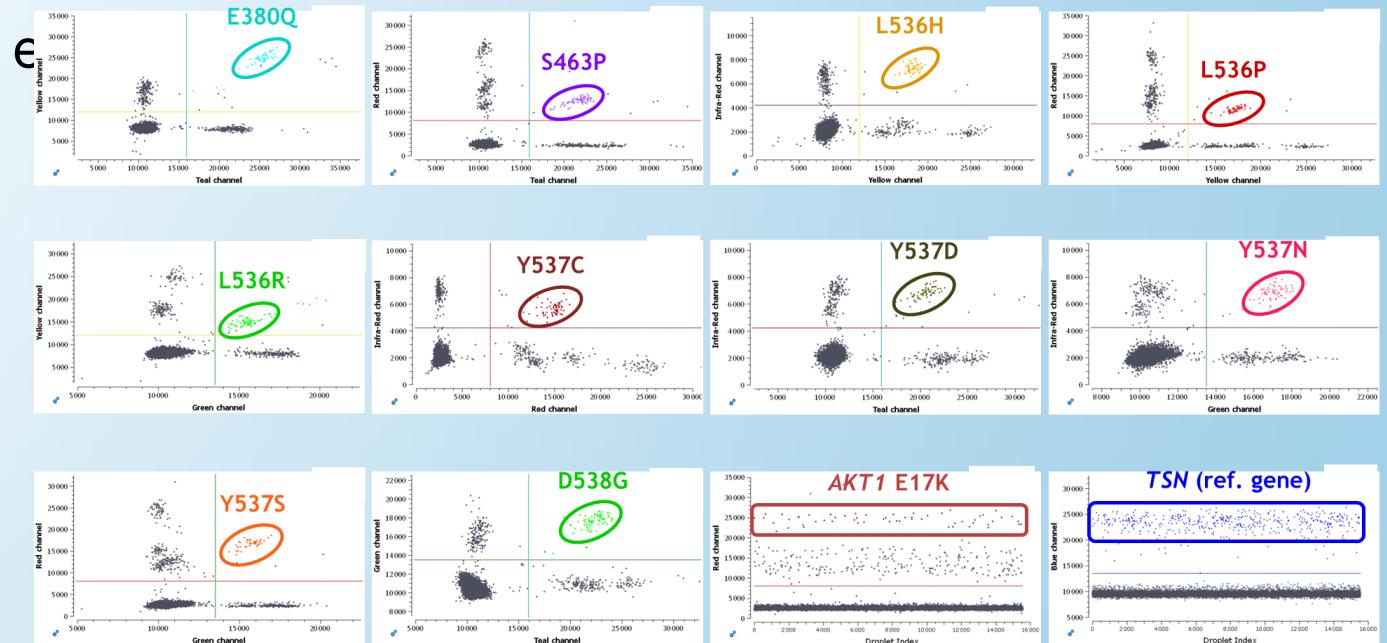
**MAF NRAS**

Sample Name	1.75ng/uL	0.8ng/uL	0.4ng/uL
2% MAF	2,06%	1,71%	2,73%
1% MAF	1,52%	0,71%	1,76%
0.5% MAF	0,48%	0,65%	0,37%
0.1% MAF	0,11%	0,13%	0,28%
0.05%			
MAF	0,10%	0,09%	0,00%
0% MAF	0,06%	0,00%	0,00%

Whatever the sample concentration, Ruby Chip can achieve great sensitivity up to 0.05% of mutated allele in wt with high reproducibility even in low-concentrated samples.

# ESR-1 assay: the power of multiplexing at your fingertips

Assay configuration						
Target	Mutation	Exon	Base changes	COSMIC ID	Detection channel 1	Detection channel 2
1	ESR1 exon 8	8	N/A	N/A	LSSD	N/A
2	E380Q	5	c.1138G>C	COSM3829320	Teal	Yellow
3	V422del	6	c.1265_1267del	COSM1074628	Blue	IR
4	S463P	7	c.1387T>C	COSM4771561	Teal	Red
5	D538G	8	c.1613A>G	COSM94250	Green	Yellow
6	D538N	8	c.1612G>A	N/A	Blue	Red
7	L536H	8	c.1607T>A	COSM6843697	Yellow	IR
8	L536P	8	c.1607T>C	COSM6906109	Yellow	Red
9	L536Q	8	c.1607_1608delinsAG	COSM4766050	Blue	Teal
10	L536R	8	c.1607T>G	COSM4774826	Teal	Green
11	Y537C	8	c.1610A>G	COSM1074637	Red	IR
12	Y537D	8	c.1609T>G	COSM6918757	Teal	IR
13	Y537H	8	c.1609T>C	COSM7449624	Blue	Yellow
14	Y537N	8	c.1609T>A	COSM1074635	Green	IR
15	Y537N_delinsTA	8	c.1608_1609delinsTA	N/A	Blue	Green
16	Y537S	8	c.1610A>C	COSM1074639	Green	Red
17	Y537S_delinsAG	8	c.1609_1610delinsAG	COSM6948665	Red	N/A
18	Y537S_delinsCA	8	c.1610_1611delinsCA	COSM6971270	Red	N/A

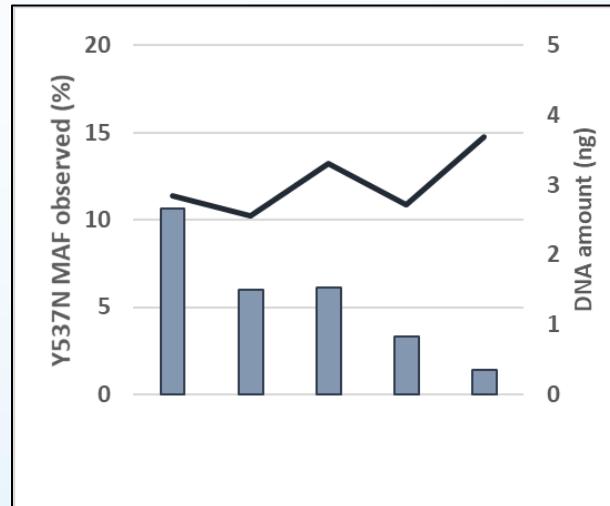


- 17- ESR-1 mutations detected in 2 colors using Droplet Flex Probes and color combination, one reference gene in single color
- Result concordance and MAF correlation with a previous cddPCR study performed with sequential lower multiplexed assays.

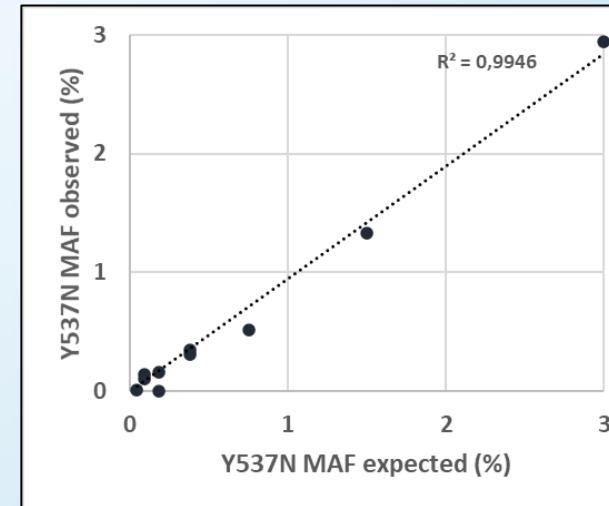
# Challenging ESR1 assay in liquid biopsy conditions

Check the Robustness and Ability to detect the Y537N mutation

- Range of diluted 10% mutation sample between 3,3ng and 0,3ng
- Mutation dilution in Wt up to 0.05% of MAF



Mutated sample diluted in H<sub>2</sub>O

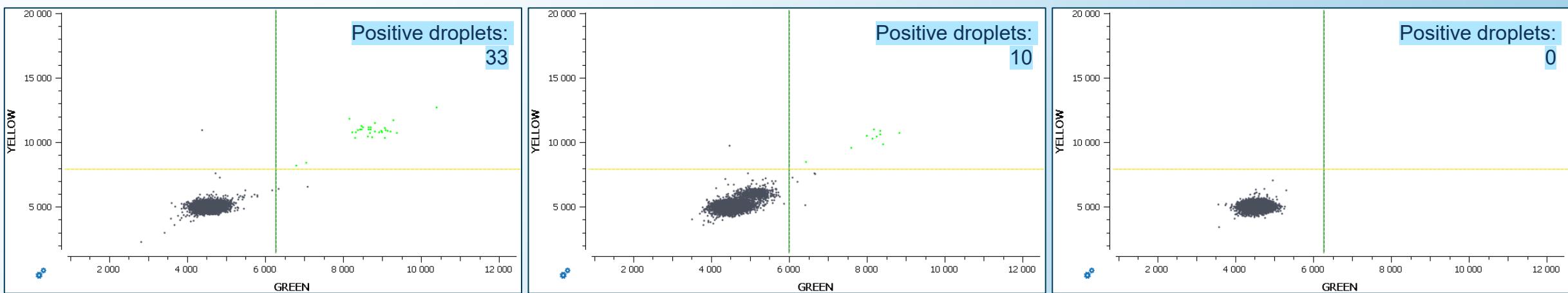


Mutated sample diluted in WT DNA

Mutation Y537N	Obtained MAF	Expected MAF
Sample1 3%	2,75	3
Sample1 1.5%	1,26	1,5
Sample1 0.75%	0,46	0,75
Sample1 0.375%	0,35	0,375
Sample1 0.1%	0,16	0,1
Sample1 0.05%	0,08	0,05

Easy mutations identification and quantification for routine usage

# Comparison: NGS vs cddPCR for low MAF samples



Sample 1 : D538G (NGS: 8% ddPCR: 10%)    Sample 2 : D538G (NGS: / ddPCR: 0,5%)    Sample 3 : D538G (NGS: / ddPCR: /)

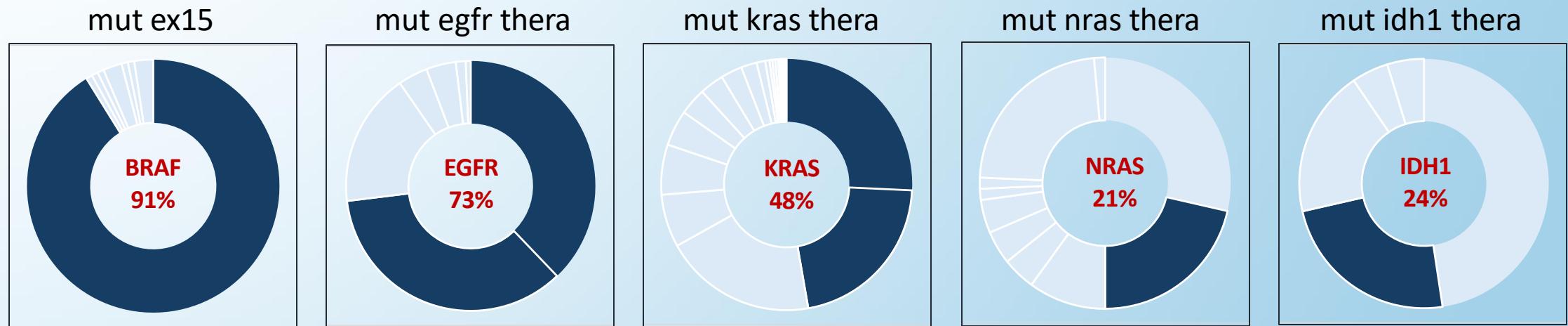
cddPCR shows better sensitivity than NGS for samples with low allele frequency

# Multi-Mutations Pan-Cancer Panel

EGFR wt	Blue	Teal
EGFR Ex19 del	Blue	AA754_759
EGFR L858R	Green	I-Red
KRAS G12C	Red	I-Red

Teal	AA744_749
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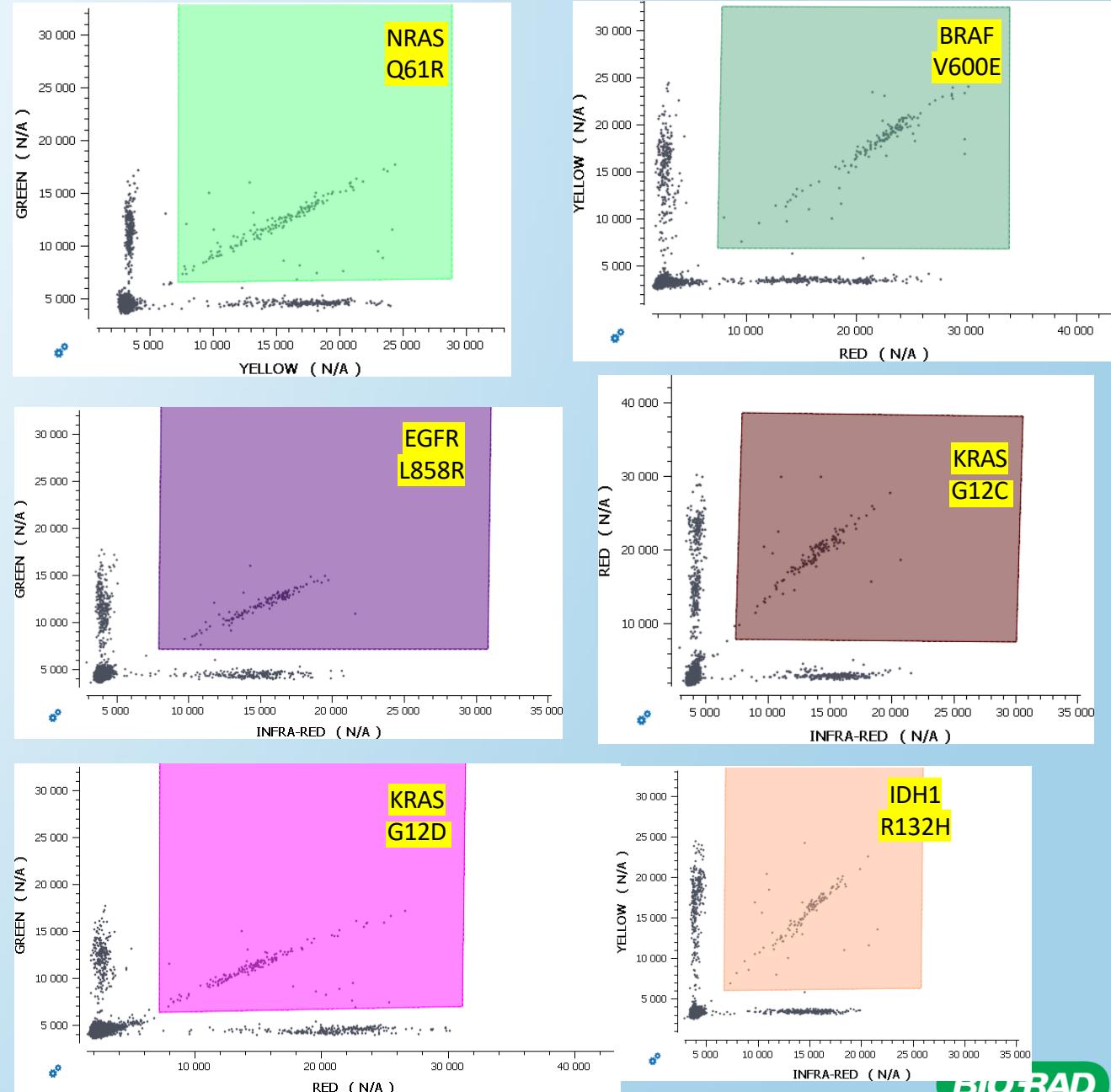
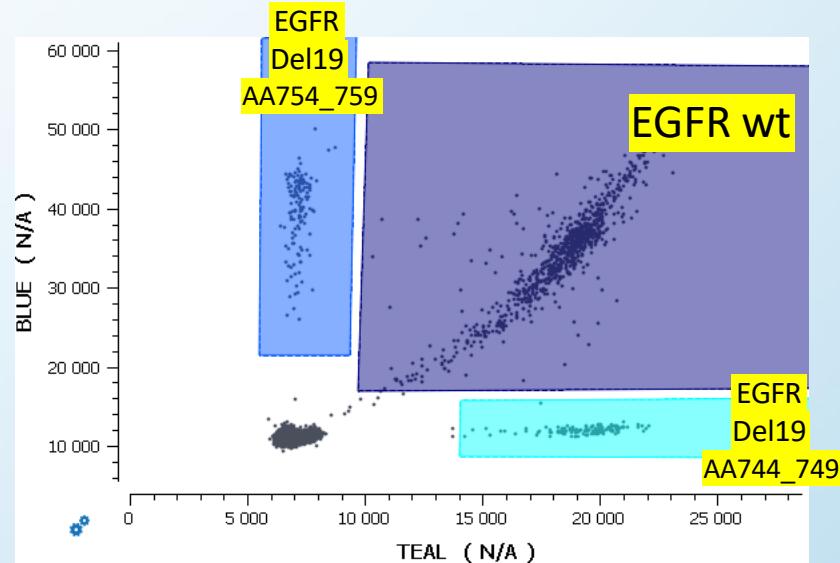
KRAS G12D	Green	Red
BRAF V600E	Yellow	Red
NRAS Q61R	Green	Yellow
IDH1 R132H	Yellow	I-Red



Good coverage for the most common mutations for different cancers

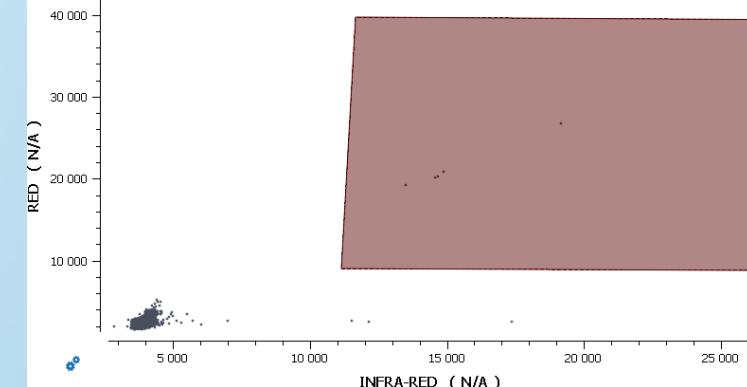
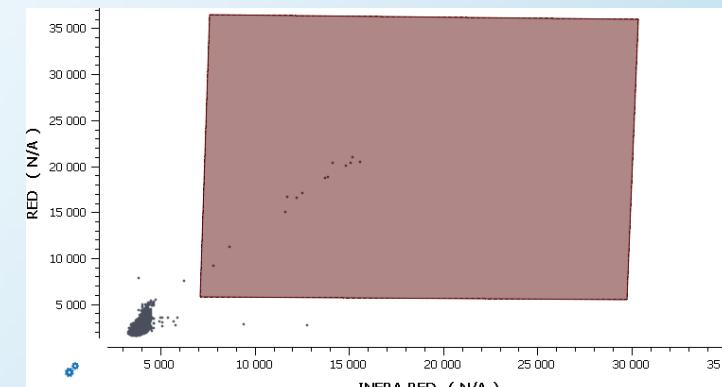
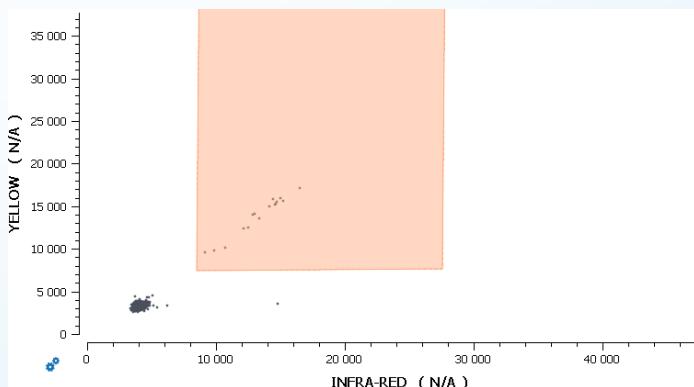
# Pan-Cancer mutations analysis

- 1 Upload template « Plot\_config »
- 2 Upload template « Analysis\_config »
- 3 Visual verification
- 4 Results Export



# Multi-Mutations Panel specificity

	BRAF_V600E	EGFR_Del19	EGFR_Del19b	EGFR_L858R	IDH1_R132H	KRAS_G12C	KRAS_G12D	NRAS_Q61R
VN	207	197	235	215	223	211	214	214
VP	31	41	3	23	14	25	24	24
FN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QUID ??	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
<b>sensibilite</b>	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%
<b>specificite</b>	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%



sample_id	indication	sample_type	tumor_content	result	vaf	targets_id	repos_droplet	centration(cp)	Ratio/VAF	Result
23-22130-A-02-00	melanoma	GSCALQDF	> 50 %	NRAS Ex3 c.182A>T, p.(Gln61Leu) (Q61L)	87	IDH1_R132H	16	5,2	0,9	QUID
24-11788-A-03-00	lung	GSCALQDF	25 à 50 %	EGFR Ex19 c.2240_2254del p.(Leu747_Thr751del) (L747_T751del)	25,7	KRAS_G12C	13	3,74	0,8	QUID
24-11788-A-03-00	lung	GSCALQDF	25 à 50 %	EGFR Ex19 c.2240_2254del p.(Leu747_Thr751del) (L747_T751del)	25,7	KRAS_G12C	5	1,48	1,1	QUID

3 true mutations not detected by NGS (reference methodology)

# Overview: ddPLEX EGFR KRAS BRAF Kit



NSCLC is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common cancer, with high mortality rate



Liquid Biopsy testing preferred (less invasive)



ddPCR has high sensitivity for rare biomarker detection



ddPCR has low run costs vs NGS

*Highly multiplexed ddPCR-based kit for simultaneous detection of relevant mutations in three genes related to NSCLC (non-small cell lung cancer) detection. Total of 37 variants detected*

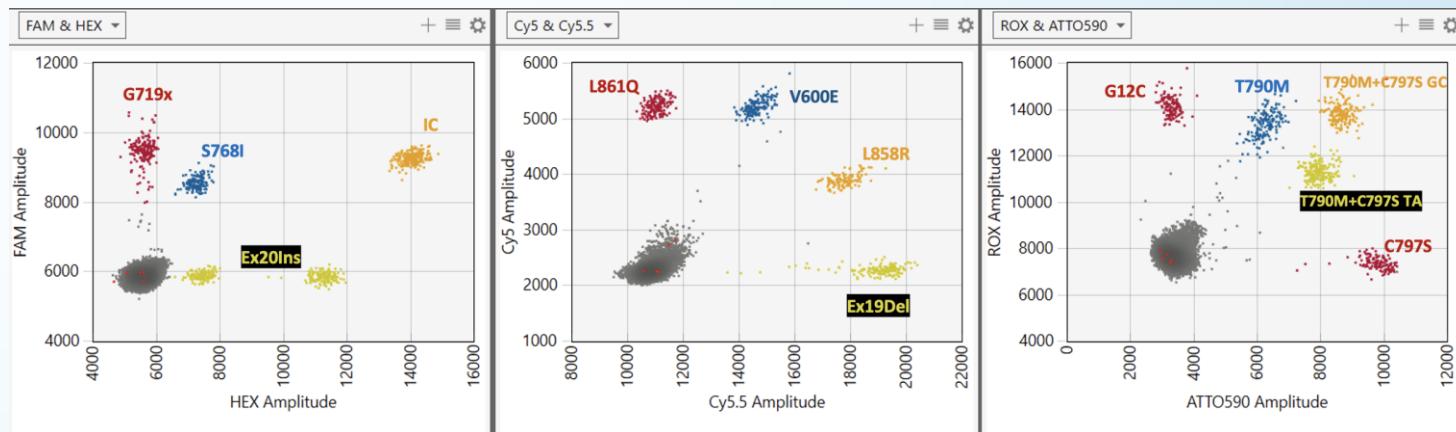
*Commonly actionable targets from NCCN, ESMO guidelines*

EGFR									KRAS	BRAF
Exon 18	Exon 19	Exon 20				Exon 21			Exon2	Exon15
G719A										
G719S	Del	Ins	C797S in cis/trans	T790M	S768I	S768I	L858R	L861Q	G12C	V600E

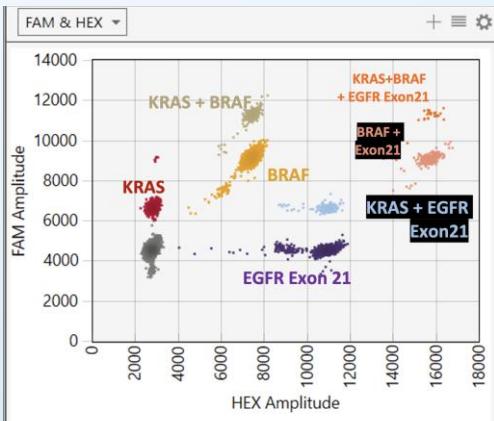
Key differentiator: Distinguishes emerging acquired C797S mutation and its trans and cis position with T790M for further treatment options (third or fourth generation TKI inhibitors)

# Highest sensitivity available with ddPLEX

## ddPLEX EGFR KRAS BRAF Mutant Assay



## ddPLEX EGFR KRAS BRAF Total Quant Assay



Gene	Target	LOD (%VAF)
EGFR	G719X (n=3)	0.05-0.1
EGFR	S768I	0.05
EGFR	EX20INS (n=7)	0.025-0.1
EGFR	L861Q	0.025
BRAF	V600E	0.05
EGFR	L858R	0.05
EGFR	EX19DEL (n=7)	0.025-0.05
KRAS	G12C	0.025
EGFR	T790M	0.1
EGFR	T790MC797SGC	0.025
EGFR	T790MC797STA	0.05
EGFR	C797S (n=2)	0.05

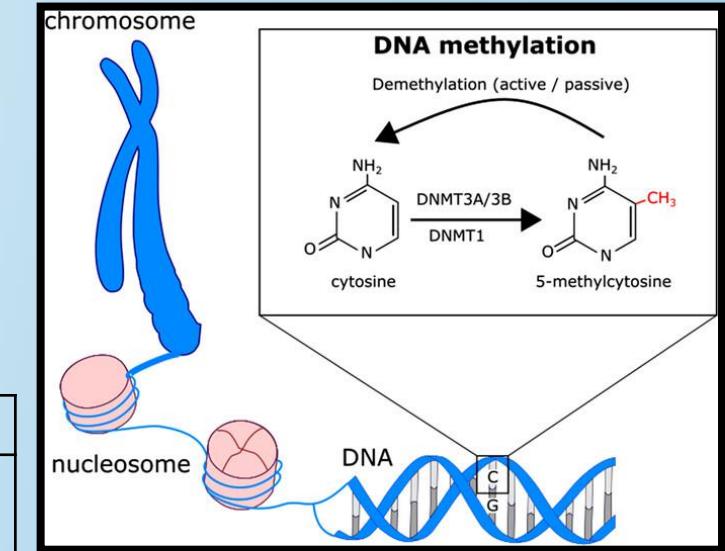
Robust cluster separation with many multiplexed targets  
VAFs 0.1% or better (down to 0.025% in some cases)

# Epigenetic biomarkers like Methylation for Ovarian cancer

## Protocol:

- FFPE samples
- Bisulfite conversion with 50ng DNA (EZ DNA Methylation-Lightning Zymo)
- Elution with 12ul
- Use 2ul of elution for pcr reaction (around 8ng of converted DNA per chamber)

GIS status	Meth. status (Institut Curie technique HRM)	Digital PCR results				NC
		BRCA1_meth	RAD51C_meth	BRCA1_unmeth RAD51C_unmeth		
10 HRD	BRCA1_meth	7	-	-	-	-
	RAD51C_meth	-	1	-	-	-
	BRCA1_&_RAD51C_unmeth	-	-	2	-	-
25 HRD (deficient)	/	14	3	7	1	
25 HRP (efficient)	/	-	-	24	1	
10 NC	/	-	-	8	2	



Heikkinen.A et al.  
2022

Target	Color 1 (Ref)	Color 2 (Spe)
RAD51C_UnMeth	IR	Red
RAD51C_Meth	IR	Green
BRCA1_UnMeth	Yellow	IR
BRCA1_Meth	Yellow	Red

Satisfactory results compatible with routine activity.  
100% concordance with reference technique(s), 5% non- contributive results.

# ddPCR Platforms Serving Broad Requirements

			
System	QX200 (QXDX)	QX600	QX700 Series
Colors	2	6	7
Targets <sup>1</sup>	4	12	21
Samples <sup>2</sup>	Up to 96	Up to 96	Up to 384 (depending on model)
Time to data <sup>3</sup>	~6hr (96 wells)	~6hr (96 wells)	~2-6hrs
Automation	Manual	Semi-Automated	Automated
Regulatory Status	US FDA cleared & EU IVDR Dx version	On pathway for FDA clearance in 2025; subsequent IVDR	Research Use Only

+ Software for set-up and analysis (automated in some cases) for all platforms

<sup>1</sup>For discrimination (higher multiplexing if not all targets need to be discriminated)

<sup>2</sup>Actual number of test samples depends on controls used number of wells per assay

<sup>3</sup>Does not include sample extraction, data analysis etc

# Example of Droplet Digital PCR in laboratory workflow

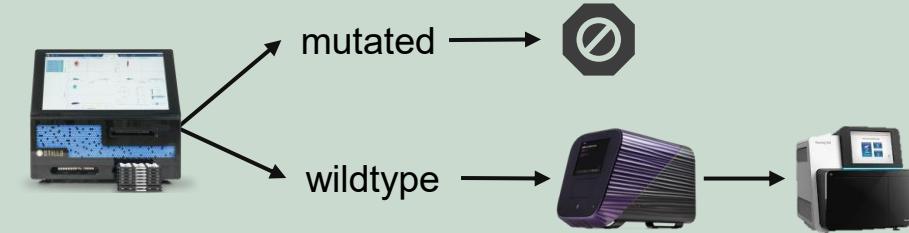
## Digital PCR analysis prior to NGS analysis (ffpe and liquid biopsy)

Lung cancer: EGFR<sub>T790M</sub>, KRAS<sub>G12C G12D</sub>, BRAF<sub>V600E</sub>

Melanoma: BRAF<sub>V600E</sub>

Breast Cancer: ESR1<sub>Ex8, Ex5</sub>

...



## Digital PCR analysis in addition to NGS analysis (ffpe)

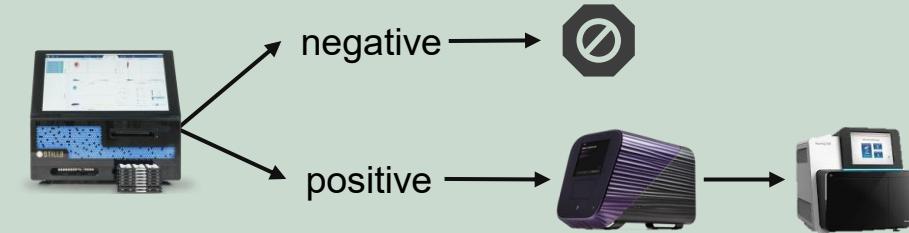
Ovarian cancer: methylation of the promotors: BRCA1, RAD51C + BRCA1/2 by NGS

...

## Digital PCR analysis to detect the presence of tumor DNA (liquid biopsy)

Colorectal cancer: methylation of the promotors: WIF1 and NPY

...

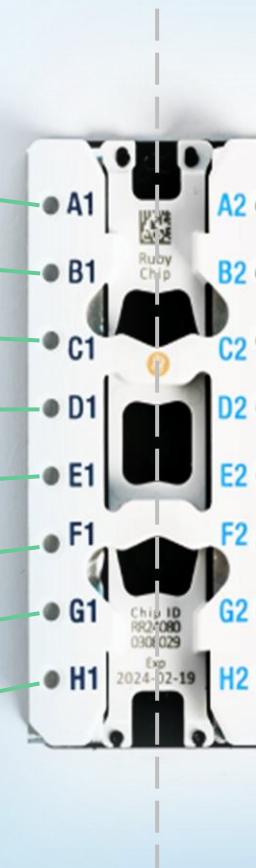


# Next Generation Digital PCR

Roadmap to routine sample testing with comprehensive 100-plex panels

## Routine testing with mid-plex assays

Sample 1	ESR1 18-plex assay
Sample 2	ESR1 18-plex assay
Sample 3	ESR1 18-plex assay
Sample 4	ESR1 18-plex assay
Sample 5	ESR1 18-plex assay
Sample 6	ESR1 18-plex assay
Sample 7	ESR1 18-plex assay
Sample 8	ESR1 18-plex assay



## Sample profiling with >100-plex panels

PIK3CA 15-plex assay	Sample 1
ESR1 18-plex assay	Sample 1
ERBB2 assay	Sample 1
TP53 20-plex assay #1	Sample 1
TP53 20-plex assay #2	Sample 1
Methylation assay	Sample 1
...	Sample 1
Sample identity assay	Sample 1

# Our Industry Leading Solutions Menu

Bio-Rad Maintains a catalog of over 490,000 assays for the research community



## High Value Tests

in oncology, cell & gene therapy, and public health



## Powerful Design Algorithms

and expert design services to advance scientific discoveries



## External Partnerships

to expand the clinical assay menu globally

# Oncology Solutions Portfolio

Multiple options covering the broad range of critical biomarkers

## Tumor Specific Panels

Multiplexed solutions, fully kitted for specific set of tumor biomarkers

Developed under strict quality control protocols and with technical validation

## Individual Assays

Comprehensive library of assays for variants (SNV, CNV, Gene Expression) relevant as cancer biomarkers

Wet-lab or in-silico validated

## Expert & Custom Design

Expert Design Assays (multiplexed or single-plex) developed by Bio-Rad scientists or through collaborations

Custom Design or build your own assay services

Pre-designed

Custom Designed

# Empower you with Next Generation ddPCR



**Enable high-sensitivity analysis** for low-concentrated samples & targets.

**Maximum information** analysis from precious samples using high-multiplexing.

Easy workflow with **minimum hands-on time**, reducing experimental variability

**Flexible throughput** depending on the level of sensitivity and precision expected

**Time and cost saving** for targeted screening compared to other technologies or ddPCR systems.

We advance science and save lives,  
together.



Thank you for your attention