

1 **BCM PDX Portal: An Intuitive Web-based Tool for Patient-Derived Xenograft Collection Management,**
2 **as well as Visual Integration of Clinical and Omics Data.**

3 Heidi Dowst^{1,2}, Apollo McOwiti^{1,2}, Fei Zheng^{1,2}, Ramakrishnan Rajaram Srinivasan³, Anadulce
4 Hernandez-Herrera³, Nino Rainusso^{2,6,10}, Lisa Brubaker⁵, Qizhi Cathy Yao^{2,5,11,12}, Michelle Redell^{2,6,10},
5 Alexandra Stevens^{2,6,10}, Seth Lerner^{2,8}, Sarah Woodfield^{2,7,9}, Andres F. Espinoza^{5,7,9}, John D. Landua^{2,3},
6 Susan G. Hilsenbeck^{2,3}, Lacey E. Dobrolecki^{2,3} and Michael T. Lewis^{2,3,4*}

7 ¹ Biomedical Informatics Group. Baylor College of Medicine. Houston, TX 77030, USA.

8 ² Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Baylor College of Medicine. Houston, TX 77030, USA.

9 ³ Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center. Baylor College of Medicine. Houston, TX 77030, USA.

10 ⁴ Departments of Molecular and Cellular Biology and Radiology. Baylor College of Medicine. Houston,
11 TX 77030, USA.

12 ⁵ Michael E DeBakey Department of Surgery. Baylor College of Medicine. Houston, TX 77030, USA

13 ⁶ Department of Pediatrics, Section of Hematology Oncology. Baylor College of Medicine Houston, TX
14 77030, USA

15 ⁷ Pediatric Surgical Oncology Laboratory, Divisions of Pediatric Surgery and Surgical Research, Michael
16 E. DeBakey Department of Surgery, Texas Children's Surgical Oncology Program, Texas Children's Liver
17 Tumor Program, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX 77030, USA

18 ⁸ Scott Department of Urology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX 77030, USA

19 ⁹ Pediatric Surgical Oncology Laboratory, Texas Children's Hospital Liver Tumor Program. Baylor College
20 of Medicine, Houston, TX 77030, USA

21 ¹⁰ Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, TX 77030, USA

22 ¹¹ Department of Pathology & Immunology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, 77030, USA

23 ¹² Center for Translational Research on Inflammatory Diseases (CTRID), Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical
24 Center, Houston, TX, 77030, USA

25

26 **Running Title: BCM PDX Portal: A Tool for Patient-Derived Xenograft Management**

27

28 **Corresponding Author:**

29 Michael T. Lewis

30 Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center.

31 Baylor College of Medicine.

32 Houston TX, 77030

33 mtlewis@bcm.edu

34 713-562-4732

35 **Keywords:** Patient-derived Xenograft, Xenograft Model Drug Treatment Assays, Patient-Specific
36 Modeling, PDX model

37 **FINANCIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

38 MTL is Founder of, and an uncompensated Limited Partner in, StemMed Ltd. and a Founder of, and
39 uncompensated Manager in StemMed Holdings, its General Partner. MTL is also a Founder of, and
40 Equity Holder in, Tvardi Therapeutics Inc. L.E.D. is a compensated employee of StemMed Ltd. Some
41 PDXs are exclusively licensed to StemMed Ltd. resulting in royalty income to L.E.D.

42

43 **ABSTRACT**

44 **Objective:** Mouse Patient-Derived Xenograft (PDX) models are essential tools for evaluating
45 experimental therapeutics. Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) established a PDX Core to provide
46 technical support and infrastructure for PDX-based research. To manage PDX collections effectively, de-
47 identified patient clinical and omics data, as well as PDX-related information and omics data, must be
48 curated and stored. Data must then be analyzed and visualized for each case. To enhance PDX
49 collection management and data dissemination, the BCM Biomedical Informatics Core created the BCM
50 PDX Portal (<https://pdxportal.research.bcm.edu/>).

51 **Materials and Methods:** Patient clinical data are abstracted from medical records for each PDX and
52 stored in a central database. Annotations are reviewed by a clinician and de-identified. PDX
53 development method and biomarker expression are annotated. DNAseq, RNAseq, and proteomics
54 data are processed through standardized pipelines and stored. PDX gene expression (mRNA/protein),
55 copy number alterations, and mutations can be searched in combination with clinical markers to
56 identify models potentially useful as a PDX cohort.

57 **Results:** PDX collection management and PDX selection of models for drug evaluation are facilitated
58 using the PDX Portal.

59 **Discussion:** To improve the translational effectiveness of PDX models, it is beneficial to use a tool that
60 captures and displays multiple features of the patient clinical and molecular data. Selection of models
61 for studies should be representative of the patient cohort from which they originated.

62 **Conclusion:** The BCM PDX Portal is a highly effective PDX collection management tool allowing data
63 access in a visual, intuitive manner thereby enhancing the utility of PDX collections.

64 **BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE**

65 Several laboratories worldwide have developed patient-derived xenograft collections representing a
66 broad range of cancer types. Many of these individual laboratories now participate in PDX consortia,
67 including the NCI PDXNet and EuroPDX, where data standards and infrastructure in support of PDX-
68 based research are being developed.(1,2) While individual laboratory collections are likely to remain
69 the norm, many of these collections are being incorporated into large repositories (e.g. the NCI
70 Patient-Derived Models Repository (PDMR)).(3) In aggregate, these models are representative of a
71 significant cross-section of the patient population and are generally publicly available to researchers
72 upon request.

73 For PDX-based studies to be maximally useful, investigators need to identify a relevant PDX cohort in a
74 manner similar to that which would be applied to patient selection in clinical trials. While the number
75 and variety of models available for some organ sites is now sufficient to perform meaningful
76 translational research, often the clinical and genomics data needed to refine the PDX study are difficult
77 to access. Common clinical eligibility criteria categories in cancer studies may include patient
78 demographics, age at onset of the disease, staging, patient response to prior treatments, and
79 metastasis status, to name a few. Many of these data elements are now formalized in the Minimal
80 Information for Patient-Derived Tumor Xenograft Models (PDX-MI), a data standard developed jointly
81 by the NCI PDXNet and EuroPDX consortia, and adopted for use in this and other web-based tools
82 developed by these consortia and by governmental and commercial entities (e.g. PDXFinder
83 (<https://www.pdxfinder.org/>), NCI Patient-Derived Models Repository (<https://pdmr.cancer.gov/>),
84 PDXNet Portal (<https://portal.pdxnetwork.org/>), Mouse Models of Human Cancer database

85 (<https://www.jax.org/jax-mice-and-services/in-vivo-pharmacology/oncology-services/pdx-tumors>).(1-
86 4)

87

88 **OBJECTIVE**

89 To facilitate management of PDX collections and to address the problem of poorly accessible patient
90 annotations for PDX study design, the Baylor College of Medicine Patient-Derived Xenograft and
91 Advanced In Vivo Models Advanced Technology Core (BCM PDX-ATC Core)(
92 <https://www.bcm.edu/research/atc-core-labs/patient-derived-xenograft-and-advanced-in-vivo->
93 [models-core](#)) and the Biomedical Informatics Group in the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center
94 (DLDCCC), in conjunction with DLDCCC clinicians, designed and built a web portal, the BCM PDX Portal
95 (<https://pdxportal.research.bcm.edu/>). Unlike other existing PDX Portals, that allow data display for
96 PDX selection, the primary purpose of the BCM PDX Portal is to enhance PDX collection management.
97 In addition to collection management functions, and like some other portals, the BCM PDX Portal also
98 allows data integration, analysis, visualization, and dissemination.(5)

99 A primary use case of the portal is to allow researchers to select PDX models easily based on clinical
100 and omics data, including such categories as patient biomarker status, laboratory results, treatment
101 response, gene expression, and mutations. Cancer-specific Collection Summary pages in the portal
102 display disease specific fields that contribute to a determination of patient treatment or inclusion in
103 clinical trials, thus potentially increasing the clinical-translational value of the data derived using PDX
104 models. Detailed views for each model are provided, including a visualization of a patient's clinical
105 timeline, to chronicle the time point of specimen donation, as well as to summarize treatments and
106 responses that may impact PDX model behavior experimentally.

107 In addition to hosting BCM PDX-related data, the PDX Portal allows PDX-generating groups at any
108 institution worldwide to host and manage their own data independently. External contributors can
109 choose whether to make the data publicly available or to simply manage models privately. Currently,
110 the public PDX Portal displays data representing collections at Baylor College of Medicine, Texas
111 Children's Hospital, and the Huntsman Cancer Institute of the University of Utah. Private collections
112 include the University of Basel, Switzerland.

113

114 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

115 **Software Architecture**

116 The BCM PDX Portal architecture follows the micro-services architecture strategy. The core services
117 required by the PDX Portal user interface, application data, histology image viewer, genomic and copy
118 number variation (CNV) graphs, data management services, and user authentication and authorization
119 exist as separate software applications integrated together via an application programming interface
120 (API). This strategy allows us to address three important concerns typical in a project involving
121 bioinformatics and informatics components that require a heterogeneous development team to
122 implement. First, services are developed independently and deployed by individuals possessing the
123 relevant domain knowledge. For example, the genomics application uses genomic toolsets, while the
124 histology image services use NoSQL based toolsets. Secondly, it allows different services to be
125 developed using the most appropriate programming language. Lastly, services have different load
126 requirements and usage characteristics, so there is a need for independent scalability. For example,
127 the computation required for generation of genomics graphs is best suited for a managed cloud

128 environment such as Amazon Web Services (AWS) or Azure, where auto-scaling occurs without any
129 downtime.

130 The implementation details are as follows. The portal is composed of five separate, but interacting,
131 applications. The PDX Portal user interface (UI) application is designed as a web portal. This is
132 implemented as a JSF2 application, deployed on a JEE8 application server. The web UI is composed of
133 HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript web technologies. The portal UI components utilize Bootstrap4 UI
134 components, ReactJs DOM framework and HighCharts web graphics API. The UI is designed to be
135 highly responsive and thus easily viewable via various web-supporting devices. The portal web
136 application collects information from the other portal services and aggregates these to provide the
137 various portal UI elements. These other application services each expose a RESTful API for data
138 exchange with the PDX Portal web UI application. The UI components are secured by OpenID, while
139 RESTful endpoints are protected with the use of a token. The various applications are implemented
140 with a combination of JEE8 and Spring frameworks. The genomics analysis pipeline is based on Linked
141 Omics whose portal UI is PHP based.(6) The applications achieve persistence with a combination of a
142 relational database solution and a NoSQL database solution.

143

144 **Data Modeling**

145 PDX Portal relational data are stored in an Oracle 12c database schema; modeling is based on the PDX-
146 MI data standard, which allows for the BCM PDX Portal to export data in a format that facilitates
147 exchange with the PDXNet (<https://portal.pdxnetwork.org/>), the PDMR (<https://pdmr.cancer.gov/>),
148 and the EuroPDX PDXFinder (<http://www.pdxfinder.org/>).⁽¹⁻³⁾ Major additions to the BCM PDX Portal
149 data model include the adoption of customizable biomarkers linked to either the patient table for

150 clinical tests or the PDX model table for laboratory tests, pediatric cancer staging systems, and
151 additional measurements of treatment response, as seen in the entity relationship diagram provided in
152 Appendix 1.

153 **Features**

154 *Home Page*

155 The focal point of the PDX Portal Home Page is a bar graph depicting the PDX collection size by disease
156 site, a subset of which may be available for distribution to the research community (Figure 1). Dark
157 blue columns in the graph represent publicly available PDX models, while crimson stacked columns,
158 visible only upon login and validation of collection specific permissions, represent private models.
159 Private models are typically those in development, obtained from elsewhere, or somehow problematic
160 (e.g. slow growing, unusual histology, divergent gene expression versus tumor-of-origin). A collection
161 can be selected from the graph by clicking on the interactive bar representing that collection or by use
162 of the Collections menu bar, which redirects the user to the PDX Collection Summary page tailored
163 specifically to a given organ site. This is the primary page available for initial cohort selection and is
164 segmented into up to four tabs when all data is available: Patient Clinical View, Gene View, CNV View,
165 and Mutation View tabs.

166 *Patient Clinical View*

167 The Patient Clinical View introduces the user to the patients represented by the PDX models with a
168 series of graphics (Figure 2). Information in this view has proven critical for appropriate study design
169 and cohort selection for PDX-based translational research. Ideally, patient data to be shown in the PDX
170 Portal is collected concurrently with receipt of tissue samples for transplantation.

171 Many of the data elements displayed in the summary page graphics are common across all PDX organ
172 sites such as Race and Ethnicity, Gender, Age at Diagnosis, Histology, Stage and Grade, Treatment
173 Naive (lack of treatment prior to specimen collection), Clinical Event Point at specimen collection
174 (Primary, Recurrence, Metastasis), and Treatments or Drugs. Other clinical data elements that are
175 critical for the identification of a specific cohort are disease specific and range from clinically performed
176 IHC/FISH tests such as CA 19-9 in pancreatic cancer, to blast counts performed serially on leukemia
177 patients. The list of disease specific attributes included in the BCM PDX Portal is shown by cancer type
178 in Table 1.

179 **Table 1.** Disease Specific Clinical Attributes. Clinically relevant patient attributes which contribute to
180 treatment decision making have been included in the PDX portal to enable model selection based real-
181 world evidence.

Pancreatic Cancer	Pediatric Liver Cancer	Sarcoma	Breast Cancer	Bladder Cancer	Leukemia
Carbohydrate Antigen 19-9	Nuclear Beta Catenin	Percentage of Tumor Necrosis after Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy	ER Status	Occupational Exposures	Presenting White Blood Cell Count
	Glypican 3	Tumor Histology		Smoking History	Patient Molecular Features
NCCN Stage Group	AFP: Alpha-fetoprotein	Translocation Associated Sarcomas (e.g. fusion positive rhabdomyosarcoma)	HER2 Status	MIBC/NMIBC: Muscle Invasiveness	Central Nervous System Involvement at Diagnosis
Risk Factors: Diabetes, Pancreatitis, Smoking BMI	Vascular Invasion at excision	Bone Sarcoma Staging or NRSTS Stage	Germline BRCA1	Lymphovascular Invasion	Down Syndrome
	Gestation Weeks	Rhabdomyosarcoma Clinical Group, TNM Staging and Group Risk	Germline BRCA2	Intravesical Therapies	Flow Blast at Diagnosis

		Classification			
Disease Free Survival	COG and Pretext	Germline Mutations such as P53 and RB	Carcinoma in Situ	Measurable Residual Disease	
Overall Survival	Stage	Cytogenetics		Cytogenetics	
		5 Year survival		Complete ISCN	

182

183 Other summary graphs include patient risk factors or co-morbidities such as pancreatitis, diabetes, and
 184 smoking history (Figure 2).(7) Attributes for model selection include clinically-tested patient germline
 185 or somatic mutations that have an established disease linkage such as germline BRCA1 or BRCA2
 186 (breast and ovarian cancer), as well as status for other clinically-relevant biomarkers (e.g.
 187 immunostaining for the estrogen and progesterone steroid hormone receptors and for ErbB2 (HER2)
 188 amplification and/or overexpression in the breast cancer PDX collection). Additional summary data
 189 may indicate environmental circumstances, such as premature birth as described on the pediatric liver
 190 PDX collection page reflecting the effect of NICU treatments to developing immature livers.(8) These
 191 disease specific data elements are real world tools used by oncologists when making treatment
 192 recommendations in the clinical setting.

193 **Table 2.** Disease-Specific Measurements of Treatment Response. Clinical evaluation of patient
 194 response to treatment is measured by a variety of evidence and clinical standards based on the cancer
 195 diagnosis. The PDX portal has incorporated the variety of treatment measurements found in table 2.

Disease Specific Collection	PDX Treatment Response Measurements
Solid tumor cancers	RECIST Response
	Pathologic Response
Pancreatic cancer	Changes in CA 19-9 Levels
Leukemia	Measurable Residual Disease/Flow Blast Cerebral Spinal Fluid Involvement
Osteosarcoma	Good Response (>90% of tumor necrosis) Poor Response (<90% of tumor necrosis)

Pediatric liver cancer

Changes in Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) Levels

196

197 Treatment response is another attribute included, whenever available, that incorporates defined data
198 elements for each PDX collection. While many solid cancers use pathologist assessments, magnetic
199 resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), or positron emission tomography (PET) scans to
200 measure change in tumor size in response to treatment and to estimate Residual Cancer Burden (RCB),
201 other cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma employ other markers as indicators of response as
202 shown in Table 2. For the Leukemia collection, the PDX Portal reports the Measurable Residual Disease
203 (MRD) value as an indicator of patient treatment response while for the Osteosarcoma collection, the
204 PDX Portal reports the percentage of tumor necrosis from surgical excision of the primary tumor after
205 neoadjuvant chemotherapy.(9-11) In the Texas Children's Hospital pediatric liver collection, Alpha-
206 fetoprotein (AFP), a serial clinical measurement, is an early indicator of patient treatment response and
207 is also displayed in the PDX Portal as model search criteria on the respective collection summary
208 page.(12)

209 The Collection Details table found at the bottom of the collection summary page, which displays a data
210 matrix researchers can use to view available models in the selected collection, can be used to filter
211 models by each of the general and specific disease markers. Searching and filtering can be applied to
212 individual columns in this table at the top of each column while a global search field and download
213 button are also provided on the upper right-hand corner of the table as seen in Figure 3. Models
214 meeting multiple clinical criteria are selected by filtering in each desired column.

215 *Gene View, CNV View, and Mutation View*

216 The Gene View, CNV View and Mutation View tabs allow for visualizing various omics data types across
217 samples. Minimally, mRNA expression by RNAseq or microarray should be included with each
218 collection. However, the portal is flexible and can display any quantitative omics data type including
219 proteomics and metabolomics. Each view has options to search for genes by HGNC symbols, aliases,
220 and gene name descriptions or to upload lists of HGNC symbols. The Gene Expression view additionally
221 enables creating a sub-plot to drill down on samples that match user-specified clinical biomarker
222 criteria, visualizing trends that differ between the overall dataset and a clinical subset of interest as
223 shown in Figure 4.

224 Because mouse and human mRNA or protein can be distinguished from one another computationally,
225 the Gene Expression view (Gene View) provides options to visualize expression levels in either the PDX
226 tumor or the mouse host.(13,14) Expression of two or more genes can be displayed in a heat map
227 using multiple color palettes: viridis for colorblind individuals, red-blue, or yellow-blue (Figure 4, top
228 panel). For two or more genes, data can be plotted using either “absolute expression”, which allows
229 comparison of gene expression levels both within a sample and across PDX models (Figure 4A), or a
230 “per gene Z-score” that displays relativistic expression for a given gene across samples (Figure 4B).
231 Gene expression level for single genes is displayed in a bar graph (Figure 4C). Both methods have
232 utility for model selection and data interpretation.

233 The CNV View tab affords methods to visualize calculated copy number alterations at the gene level.
234 These alterations can be visualized in terms of the relative intensity of the alteration compared to its
235 surrounding genomic region (Figure 5A) or the type of alteration, such as deletion, loss, gain, and
236 amplification (Figure 5B). These CNV plots can then be correlated with transcript, or protein
237 expression levels.

238 The Mutation View generates a mutation table for one or more genes of interest that includes the PDX
239 model identification (hyperlinked to the Model Detail Page), chromosomal location, cDNA change
240 relative to a reference sequence, codon change, protein change (amino acid substitution), the variant
241 allele frequency (VAF), the frequency of the alteration in the PDX collection, and mutation impact
242 (Figure 5C). Hyperlinks to outside databases such as dbSNP, COSMIC, and Clinvar are also provided in
243 the results table to annotate the gene mutations.

244 *Model Detail Page*

245 Moving back to the Collection Details table at the bottom of the Patient Clinical View page, an
246 individual model can be selected by double clicking on the model name, after which a specific Model
247 Details page loads. The Model Details page is also segmented by tabs: Patient, PDX Model, Histology,
248 Metastasis, and Patient Treatment. The Model Details page provides additional details specific to the
249 individual model selected from the collection summary page.

250 The focus of the Patient tab is the visualization of the clinical timeline of the patient beginning at
251 cancer diagnosis. The timeline contains procedures, treatments, responses, and follow-up, when
252 available (Figure 6). The patient clinical procedures are displayed in purple and are labeled with
253 chronological event ID numbers. Rolling the cursor over these procedure events displays information
254 about the event, along with patient age at event, disease progression, staging, and diagnosis, if
255 applicable. Rolling the cursor over the treatment events, colored in teal, displays the treatment
256 regimen or drug received along with the age at start, age at stop of treatment, duration of treatment,
257 and the tumor's response to the treatment, if available.

258 A critical element of the timeline is the mouse icon, which identifies the time point at which the
259 specimen for PDX generation was collected. Where multiple models were developed from the same

260 patient, each model is designated by a separate mouse icon. Rolling the cursor over the mouse icon on
261 the Clinical Timeline graph displays the official name of the PDX model. The clinical timeline quickly
262 identifies drugs that the patient received prior to specimen collection, and indicators of the PDX model
263 treatment response to drugs that the patient subsequently received after collection. Below the clinical
264 timeline, the line graph, or bar graph, depending on the collection, displays serial patient marker
265 expression over time. In a pancreatic cancer example (Figure 6) the graphic indicates a drop in the CA
266 19-9 marker at event 10, followed by an increase at event 15, possibly indicative of a response,
267 followed by a resurgence of the cancer in the patient.(15)

268 The PDX Model tab displays transplantation conditions for PDX development, as well as individual
269 model mutations and copy number variations, information useful for experimental planning if specific
270 tumor types are required (e.g. ESR1-positive). Another important feature of the BCM PDX Portal is the
271 ability for a researcher to evaluate the correlations between the PDX model and the patient. One
272 feature that enables this is the Metastasis tab, which displays known patient metastatic sites side-by-
273 side with organ sites evaluated in the PDX model. Similarly, the Histology tab displays images of
274 hematoxylin/eosin-stained tissue sections along with a selection of immunohistochemistry (IHC)
275 images from the patient and PDX model specimen side-by-side. From these images, correlations
276 between the histology of the PDX tumor and the patient's tumor-of-origin can be evaluated.

277 The final tab, Patient Treatment, is a chronological list of drugs received by the patient along with the
278 clinical response, pathologic response, and reason for stopping treatment, whenever available.
279 Unfortunately, these data are some of the more difficult clinical data to obtain. Often preferred
280 indicators of patient response are unavailable in the electronic health record (EHR), making it critical
281 for the data model to accept multiple indicators. The "Reason Stopped" field, although not collected in

282 a structured format in medical records, can provide insights into treatment side effects that may have
283 resulted in an incomplete course of treatment or worsening symptoms that that may indicate disease
284 progression. Since many of these patients were not enrolled in clinical trials, these may encompass
285 non-categorized adverse events. This additional treatment column allows for recording information
286 outside of the standard treatment criteria represented by RECIST 1.1 or College of American Pathology
287 (CAP) pathologic response values.

288

289 **RESULTS**

290 The BCM PDX Portal is designed to facilitate translational research using PDX models and is available
291 for public use. The portal differentiates itself from other PDX tools by providing PDX collection
292 management tools, as well as by providing integrated omics analysis and display functionality. When
293 models of interest are identified on the BCM PDX Portal, contact information for the program lead for
294 each organ site can be found on the Contact Us page. Models can then be requested via a Material
295 Transfer Agreement from the institution of record. For BCM models, investigators may use
296 MTA@bcm.edu. Once the MTA is executed, PDX models can be shipped either fresh (if available) or
297 viably frozen for re-transplantation.

298 The following PDX study use cases illustrate the use of the PDX Portal in study design. One such
299 completed study on triple negative (ER-, PR-, HER2-) breast cancer used nine PDX models in which
300 amplification of chromosome 12p was found to associate with emergence of docetaxel resistance and
301 with carboplatin sensitivity.(16) Although the work for this study was conducted prior to construction
302 of the BCM PDX Portal and without the benefit of fully abstracted clinical records, the use case
303 illustrates how model selection could have been accomplished more efficiently using the BCM PDX

304 portal. This study would have commenced by selecting the Breast Cancer PDX collection from the PDX
305 Portal home page and filtering the Collection Details table for “negative” in the ER, PR, and HER2
306 columns. Additionally, filtering on docetaxel in the Patient Treatment column identifies 24 models
307 where the patient received docetaxel as part of their treatment regimen. Further review of the Model
308 Details page and the Patient Treatment tab for the recorded patient responses to docetaxel would
309 have been used as a possible predictive measure. Viewing the patient clinical timeline also provides
310 insights into continuous drug exposure or companion drugs such as carboplatin where responsiveness
311 was also investigated in this article. As a follow-up to the study, the PDX Portal could be used further
312 to identify those lines with BRCA1/2 mutations (or any other) as well as specific copy number
313 variations for these models.

314 Another powerful use of PDX models is to aid in the evaluation of novel therapeutic agents for efficacy
315 in cancer treatment. Model selection for these types of studies can be done in a variety of ways.
316 Models can be selected randomly, which has proven less productive, or models can be selected
317 rationally based on the expression level of the drug target or other predictive biomarker (Figure 4) or
318 on the presence or absence of a genetic mutation (Figure 5C). Using the PDX Portal, investigators can
319 quickly identify models with increased or decreased gene expression, or harbor a mutation of interest.
320 Conversely, model selection can be based off of a specific clinical attribute of the patient.

321 To highlight the utility of such an approach, a search could be performed to identify models that might
322 be sensitive to an anti-TEM8 (Anthrax Receptor 1, ANTRX1) CAR-T cell treatment regimen. This would
323 be accomplished by mining the PDX Portal RNAseq data to find models expressing high levels of
324 ANTRX1 at the RNA and/or protein level. In this particular study, models expressing high levels of
325 ANTRX1 RNA were evaluated for their level of tumor vascularity since anti-TEM8 therapy targets

326 tumor-associated vascular endothelium and blocks neovascularization. Two models were selected for
327 treatment and both showed a reduction in tumor volume when treated with the CAR-T cell therapy,
328 with one showing a decrease in vascularization.(17)

329 Drug validation studies often require identification of tumors likely to and not likely to respond
330 (negative controls) based on the expression level of the target of interest. In a study of an ERN1 (IRE1)
331 inhibitor (ERN1 is a downstream target of MYC), RNAseq data were leveraged to determine the
332 expression level of MYC in TNBC PDX models. On the Gene View tab of the portal, the Clinical
333 Biomarkers were set to “negative” for ER, PR, and HER2, then the MYC gene was selected and the
334 search submitted. Models with varying levels of MYC mRNA were selected, and MYC protein
335 expression levels were validated subsequently by IHC staining. Four models with lower expression of
336 MYC (predicted non-responders or poor responders) and two models with higher expression of MYC
337 (predicted responders) were then treated with the inhibitor. As the level of MYC expression increased
338 across models, the response to the inhibitor increased, consistent with their likelihood of MYC
339 dependency.(18)

340

341 **DISCUSSION**

342 These published examples highlight the utility of the BCM PDX Portal to facilitate PDX-related
343 translational research. As more PDX models and their associated clinical- and PDX-related data are
344 incorporated into the site, opportunities will present themselves to enhance ongoing research
345 activities and open new research questions. For instance, data from the Gene View tab in the breast
346 collection are currently being mined to find additional PDX models that express genes in the Hedgehog
347 pathway for evaluation of their role in EMT and breast cancer metastasis.(19) Functionality to identify

348 pre- and post-treatment PDX pairs or primary and metastatic PDX pairs will also aid in the elucidation
349 of chemo-resistance and metastasis mechanisms, respectively.(20) Finally, given the racially and
350 ethnically diverse patient populations that Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital, and
351 other institutions served, models in these collections will be useful for study of tumor-intrinsic racial
352 disparities, as models derived from Hispanic or Latino and African American patients can be easily
353 identified and compared with those derived from Caucasian patients.

354

355 **CONCLUSION**

356 The BCM PDX Portal currently displays information for six of the twelve active cancer type-specific PDX
357 programs at BCM/TCH: bladder, breast, and pancreas, as well as pediatric liver, leukemia, and sarcoma.
358 Eventually, all twelve PDX collections will be incorporated. These additional cancer types include
359 ovarian, prostate, glioblastoma, lung, head and neck, as well as pediatric brain cancers. The portal will
360 continue to incorporate disease specific markers as they are identified, as well as candidate response
361 indicators given that differential expression of selected genes has already been demonstrated to be a
362 valuable resource for model selection in PDX-based preclinical studies. That said, the BCM PDX portal is
363 already capable of hosting data from anywhere in the world for PDX collection management and data
364 display, with data controlled virtually entirely by the contributors themselves.

365 The BCM PDX Portal represents one of the leading examples of adoption of existing PDX data modeling
366 standards, where they exist, and establishing new data recommendations based on real world clinical
367 events. Time and effort put into promoting the adoption of data standards for PDX models will
368 facilitate inter-institutional PDX modeling and data sharing further. As collaborations and model
369 sharing occur, model annotations will continue to grow as additional studies increase the

370 knowledgebase for each model and PDX models in general. Finally, the BCM PDX Portal has been
371 integrated seamlessly with other web-based resources under development (e.g. the Molecular and
372 Imaging Response Analysis of Co-Clinical Trials (MIRACCL) resource
373 (<https://miraccl.research.bcm.edu/>)).

374

375

376 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

377 This work was supported, in part, by the Dan L Duncan Cancer Center P30 Cancer Center Support Grant
378 CA125123, an NCI PDXNet PDX Trial Center Cooperative Agreement U54 CA224076, a Co-clinical
379 Imaging Research Resource Program (CIRP) grant U24 CA226110, as well as a Core Facility Support
380 grants (RP170691 and RP220646) from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT).

381

382 The authors wish to thank Ping Gong, Christina M. Sallas, and Alaina N. Lewis for PDX model data entry.
383 The contents do not represent the views of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the United
384 States Government.

385

386 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

387 Conceptualization: MTL, HD
388 Software: AM, FZ, RRS, HD
389 Validation: LD, JL, AHH
390 Resources: LD, JL, AHH
391 Formal Analysis: SGH, RRS
392 Writing – OD: HD
393 Writing – Review & Editing: MTL, LD
394 Data Curation: AHH, LB, NR, QCY, MR, AS, SW, SL, AE
395 Visualization: LB, NR, QCY, MR, AS, SW, SL, AE
396 Supervision: MTL, HD, SGH
397 Funding Acquisition: MTL

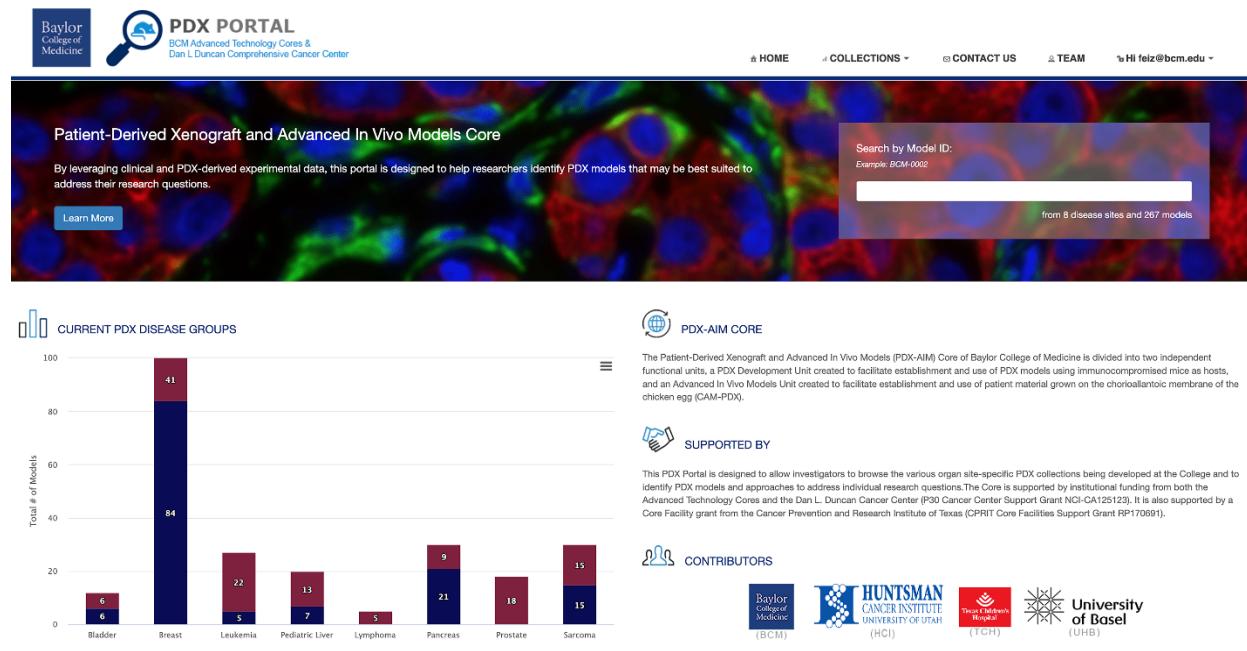
398

399 REFERENCES

400 1. Koc S, Lloyd MW, Grover JW, Xiao N, Seepo S, Subramanian SL, *et al.* PDXNet portal: patient-derived
401 Xenograft model, data, workflow and tool discovery. *NAR Cancer* **2022**;4:zcac014
402 2. Conte N, Mason JC, Halmagyi C, Neuhauser S, Mosaku A, Yordanova G, *et al.* PDX Finder: A portal for
403 patient-derived tumor xenograft model discovery. *Nucleic Acids Res* **2019**;47:D1073-D9
404 3. Evrard YA, Srivastava A, Randjelovic J, Doroshow JH, Dean DA, 2nd, Morris JS, *et al.* Systematic
405 Establishment of Robustness and Standards in Patient-Derived Xenograft Experiments and Analysis.
406 *Cancer Res* **2020**;80:2286-97
407 4. Meehan TF, Conte N, Goldstein T, Inghirami G, Murakami MA, Brabetz S, *et al.* PDX-MI: Minimal
408 Information for Patient-Derived Tumor Xenograft Models. *Cancer Res* **2017**;77:e62-e6
409 5. Dobrolecki LE, Airhart SD, Alferez DG, Aparicio S, Behbod F, Bentires-Alj M, *et al.* Patient-derived
410 xenograft (PDX) models in basic and translational breast cancer research. *Cancer Metastasis Rev*
411 **2016**;35:547-73
412 6. Vasaikar SV, Straub P, Wang J, Zhang B. LinkedOmics: analyzing multi-omics data within and across 32
413 cancer types. *Nucleic Acids Res* **2018**;46:D956-D63
414 7. Forsmark CE. Incretins, Diabetes, Pancreatitis and Pancreatic Cancer: What the GI specialist needs to
415 know. *Pancreatology* **2016**;16:10-3
416 8. Paquette K, Coltin H, Boivin A, Amre D, Nuyt AM, Luu TM. Cancer risk in children and young adults born
417 preterm: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS One* **2019**;14:e0210366
418 9. Odeny B. Cancer Special Issue: Early detection and minimal residual disease. *PLoS Med*
419 **2021**;18:e1003794
420 10. Smeland S, Bielack SS, Whelan J, Bernstein M, Hogendoorn P, Kralio MD, *et al.* Survival and prognosis
421 with osteosarcoma: outcomes in more than 2000 patients in the EURAMOS-1 (European and American
422 Osteosarcoma Study) cohort. *Eur J Cancer* **2019**;109:36-50
423 11. Rainusso N, Cleveland H, Hernandez JA, Quintanilla NM, Hicks J, Vasudevan S, *et al.* Generation of
424 patient-derived tumor xenografts from percutaneous tumor biopsies in children with bone sarcomas.
425 *Pediatr Blood Cancer* **2019**;66:e27579
426 12. Zhang J, Chen G, Zhang P, Zhang J, Li X, Gan D, *et al.* The threshold of alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) for the
427 diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS One*
428 **2020**;15:e0228857
429 13. Conway T, Wazny J, Bromage A, Tymms M, Sooraj D, Williams ED, *et al.* Xenome--a tool for classifying
430 reads from xenograft samples. *Bioinformatics* **2012**;28:i172-8
431 14. Saltzman AB, Leng M, Bhatt B, Singh P, Chan DW, Dobrolecki L, *et al.* gpGrouper: A Peptide Grouping
432 Algorithm for Gene-Centric Inference and Quantitation of Bottom-Up Proteomics Data. *Mol Cell
433 Proteomics* **2018**;17:2270-83
434 15. Malleo G. Dynamic Behavior of Ca 19-9 and Pancreatic Cancer Recurrence: Enough Data to Drive Salvage
435 Therapy? *Ann Surg Oncol* **2018**;25:3419-20
436 16. Gomez-Miragaya J, Diaz-Navarro A, Tonda R, Beltran S, Palomero L, Palafox M, *et al.* Chromosome 12p
437 Amplification in Triple-Negative/BRCA1-Mutated Breast Cancer Associates with Emergence of Docetaxel
438 Resistance and Carboplatin Sensitivity. *Cancer Res* **2019**;79:4258-70
439 17. Byrd TT, Fousek K, Pignata A, Szot C, Samaha H, Seaman S, *et al.* TEM8/ANTXR1-Specific CAR T Cells as a
440 Targeted Therapy for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer. *Cancer Res* **2018**;78:489-500
441 18. Zhao N, Cao J, Xu L, Tang Q, Dobrolecki LE, Lv X, *et al.* Pharmacological targeting of MYC-regulated
442 IRE1/XBP1 pathway suppresses MYC-driven breast cancer. *J Clin Invest* **2018**;128:1283-99
443 19. Neelakantan D, Zhou H, Oliphant MUJ, Zhang X, Simon LM, Henke DM, *et al.* EMT cells increase breast
444 cancer metastasis via paracrine GLI activation in neighbouring tumour cells. *Nat Commun* **2017**;8:15773
445 20. Franklin DA, Sharick JT, Ericsson-Gonzalez PI, Sanchez V, Dean PT, Opalenik SR, *et al.* MEK activation
446 modulates glycolysis and supports suppressive myeloid cells in TNBC. *JCI Insight* **2020**;5

447

448 FIGURES



449

450 FIGURE 1. PDX Portal Homepage. Bar plot is interactive and allows for clicking on a PDX collection to
451 view the collection details.

452

Collection Details:																					
Total models showing: 38																					
Model ID	Patient ID	Pathology Diagnosis			Patient Biomarkers at Diagnosis			PDX Biomarkers			Germline BRCA1 Status		Germline BRCA2 Status		Stage	Grade	Clinical Event	Age at Diagnosis	Race	Treatment	Patient Treatment
		Select One	ER neg	PR neg	ER2 neg	ER	PR	HER2	Wild type	Wild type	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported							
BCM-0046	2219	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Wild type	Wild type			G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Primary	53.47	Hispanic or Latino	No	Cyclophosph...			
BCM-24561	24561	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported			G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Primary	68.11	White	No	Paclitaxel			
BCM-0113	4661	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Wild type	Wild type	Not Reported		G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Distant Metastasis	63.38	Hispanic or Latino	No	Capecitabine,...			
BCM-0112	28918	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Wild type	Wild type	3b		G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Primary	58.93	Black or African American	Yes	Capecitabine,...			
BCM-15008	25272	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported			G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Distant Metastasis	63.96	White	No	Cisplatin, Cycl...			
BCM-16029	32158	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Wild type	Wild type			G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Second Primary	46.90	White, Hispanic or Latino	No	Carboplatin, C...			
BCM-1537	12072A	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported	IIA		High Grade	Primary	65.68	Hispanic or Latino	Yes	Anastrozole			
BCM-2147	24405	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported	3a		G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Primary	32.99	Black or African American	Yes	Bevacizumab...			
BCM-2277	24405	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported	3a		G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Primary	32.99	Black or African American	No	Bevacizumab...			
BCM-2655	24457	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported			G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Primary	60.30	Hispanic or Latino	No	Capecitabine,...			
BCM-3611	24465	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported			G2 (Moderately Differentiated)	Primary	58.41	Black or African American	Unknown	Capecitabine,...			
BCM-3904	24470	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported			G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Primary	72.68	Hispanic or Latino	No	Docetaxel			
BCM-4013	24473	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported			Not Reported	Primary	46.95	Black or African American	Yes				
BCM-4175	24488	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported			G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Primary	60.48	Hispanic or Latino	No				
BCM-4195	24478	Infiltrating duct carcinoma, NOS	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Not Reported	Not Reported			G3 (Poorly Differentiated)	Primary	51.95	Hispanic or Latino	No				

* indicates the model is private.

453

454 FIGURE 2. PDX and Patient Clinical Summary View. Summary graphs displaying the distribution of
455 patients and PDX models in each disease collection. A few patient samples generated more than one
456 model based on variations in the transplant conditions.

457



458

459 FIGURE 3. Collection Details Table. Summary collection data table which allows for filtering by multiple
460 data variables to identify models of interest.

461



463

463 FIGURE 4. Gene Expression View: Top Panel) Search and display parameters; A) Multi-gene heatmap
 464 (absolute expression). B) Multi-gene heatmap (per-gene Z-scores); C) Single gene expression bar graph



465

466 FIGURE 5. Copy Number and Mutation Views: A) CNV View (intensity plot); B) CNV View (type plot); C.)
467 Mutation View

468

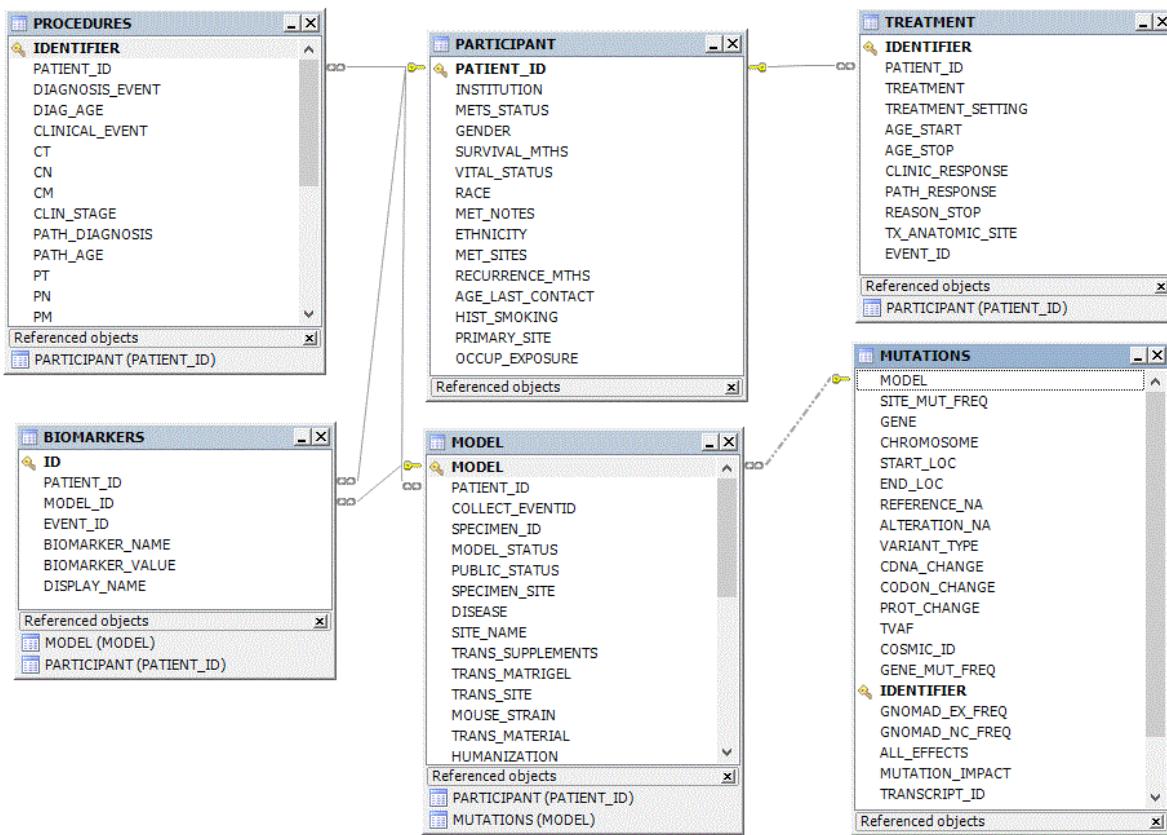


469

470 FIGURE 6. Patient Clinical Timeline. Clinical events relating to the patient's history of cancer are show
471 on the timeline along with treatment events which detail treatment response when available.

472

473 APPENDIX I



474

475 APPENDIX 1. PDX Portal Entity Relationship Diagram: While the complete data model contains
476 additional tables which enable application operations, the essential data is represented by the six
477 tables shown in this Entity Relationship Diagram. The Patient table, containing patient demographics
478 and risk factors, is the parent table with a foreign key to the Model table. These two tables are both
479 linked by foreign keys to the biomarker table, listing all unique patient and model biomarkers. The
480 patient table is linked by a foreign key in a one-to-many relationship to the Procedures and Treatments
481 tables which enables chronological tracking of the patient clinical timeline. The Mutations table
482 containing all gene annotations is linked by a foreign key to model table.