# Molecular Characteristics of Advanced clear cell Renal Cell Carcinoma (ccRCC) Harboring TERT Mutations

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#### INTRODUCTION



- TERT is a catalytic subunit of the telomerase enzyme
- TERT promoter mutations lead to increased telomerase activity, which promotes tumorigenesis by preventing telomere shortening
- Emerging data suggests a correlation between *TERT* promoter mutations and improved responses to immune checkpoint inhibitors in urothelial carcinoma (UC) but the role in RCC is unknown

This study aims to analyze the immune biomarker environment and co-mutational landscape in *TERT* mutated versus wildtype in RCC and UC

### **METHODS**



\*Tempus xT assay - DNA-seq of 648 genes at 500x coverage, full transcriptome RNA-seq

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## SUMMARY

- their use in clinical practice may be limited.

## RESULTS

Figure 1 – Tumor mutational burden in UC versus RCC cohorts and in TERT altered versus wt tumors. Note, TMB of bladder cohort is greater than Kidney's.



Figure 2 – Neoantigen tumor burden in UC versus RCC cohorts and in TERT altered versus wt tumors. Note, Neoantigen Tumor burden of bladder cohort is greater than Kidney's.

Figure 3 –

TERT altered

Note, more

PD-L1 in UC versus

RCC cohorts and in

versus wt tumors.

%PDL1+ pts in

Bladder cohort

versus kidney.





• This is the largest analysis of the molecular and immune landscape of TERT mutated ccRCC • This dataset showcases that traditional immune biomarkers (i.e. TMB and PD-L1) do not appear to be highly prevalent in RCC compared to UC and

• Our UC dataset displays similar trends as previously published that TERT altered tumors are associated with higher immune biomarker expression than *TERT* wt. Further investigation into the *TERT* biomarker candidate is warranted

