

Zhiheng Xu, Ph.D.  
Mathematical Statistician  
FDA/CDRH

# Tumor Profiling Assays

A Representative Approach in  
Analytical Accuracy Study



## *Disclaimer Statement*

*The views expressed during this presentation are those of the presenter and do not necessarily reflect finalized policy or position of the US FDA.*

# Outline

- Introduction
  - Tumor Profiling Assays
- Validation Studies
  - Analytical Accuracy
- Sampling Method
  - Representative Approach

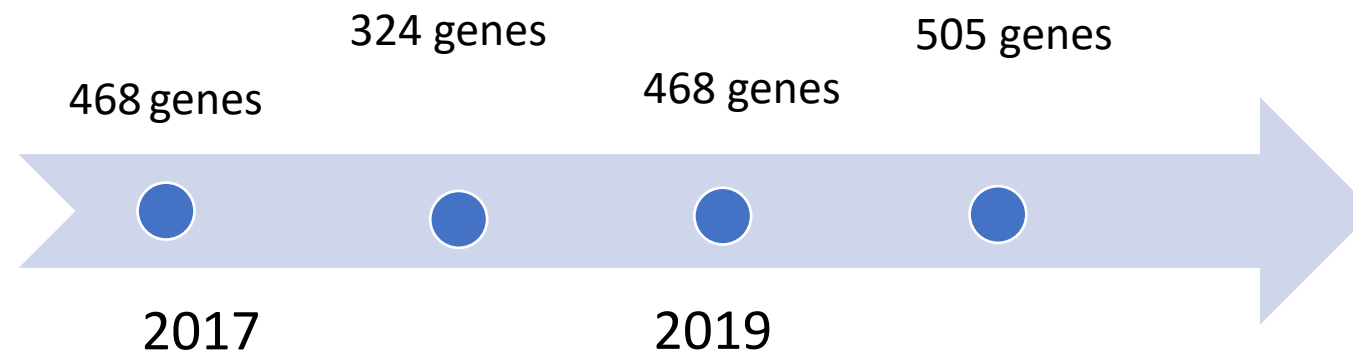
# Cancer Clinical Trials



Tumor  
Profiling

# What is tumor profiling assay?

“an in vitro diagnostic test that can identify a higher number of genetic mutations (biomarkers) that may be found in various cancers...” \*



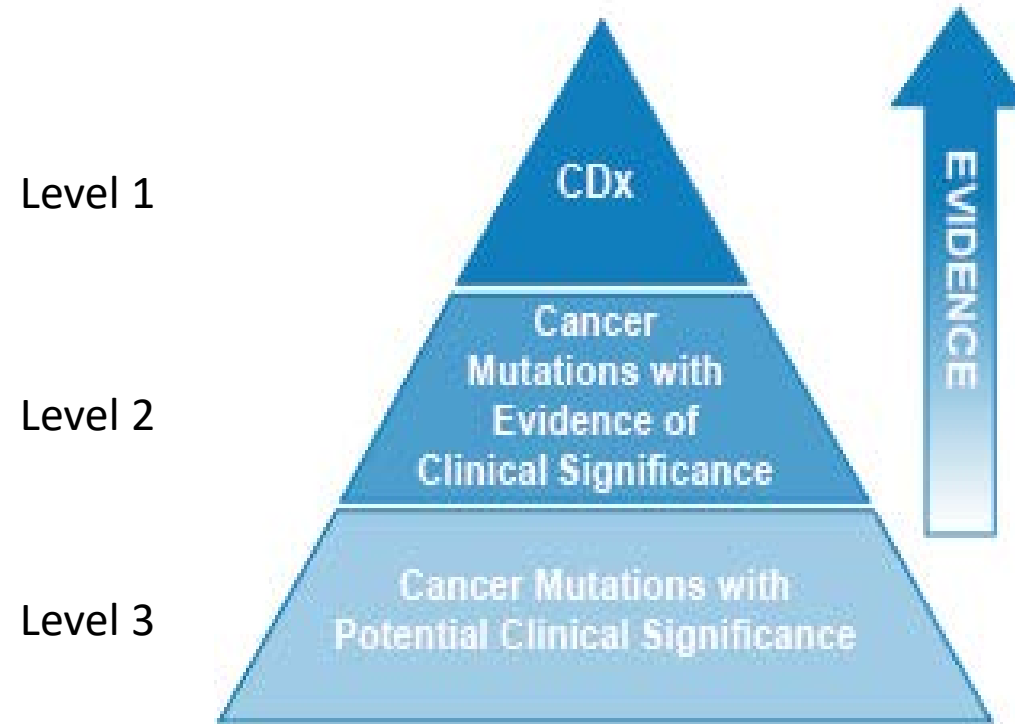
\* <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-unveils-streamlined-path-authorization-tumor-profiling-tests-alongside-its-latest-product-action>

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/vitro-diagnostics/nucleic-acid-based-tests>

# FDA Fact Sheet

## CDRH's Approach to Tumor Profiling NGS Tests

<https://www.fda.gov/media/109050/download>

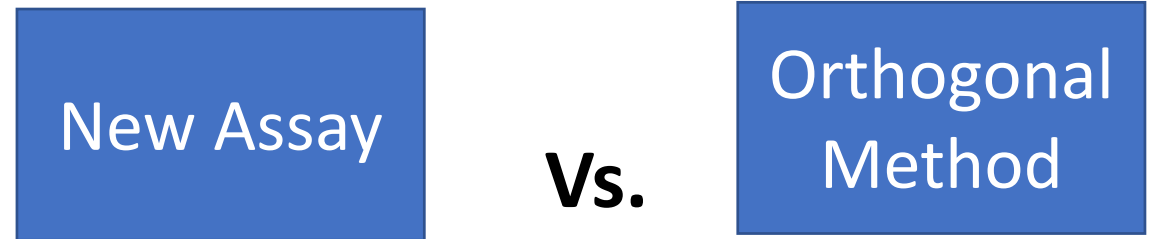


### Three-Tiered Approach for Reporting Biomarkers in Tumor Profiling NGS Tests

# Validation Studies

- Clinical Validation
  - CDx
- Analytical Validation
  - LoD
  - Precision
  - Interference
  - Accuracy
  - ....

## Analytical Accuracy Study



Do they agree?

# Analytical Accuracy

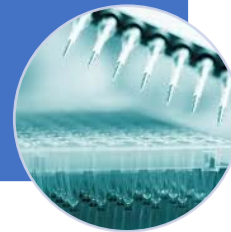
- Protocol
- SAP
- Sample Size

Study  
Design



- Clinical Specimens
- Contrived

Samples



- Primary Analysis (PPA/NPA)
- Sensitivity Analysis

Data  
Analysis

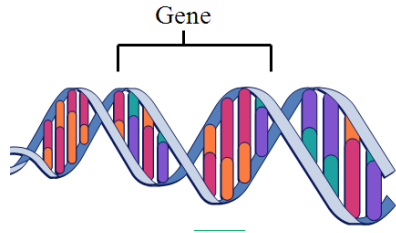




# Sample Size

When compared to orthogonal method, how many specimens are needed?

$$N=?$$



Indel examples

wild-type sequence

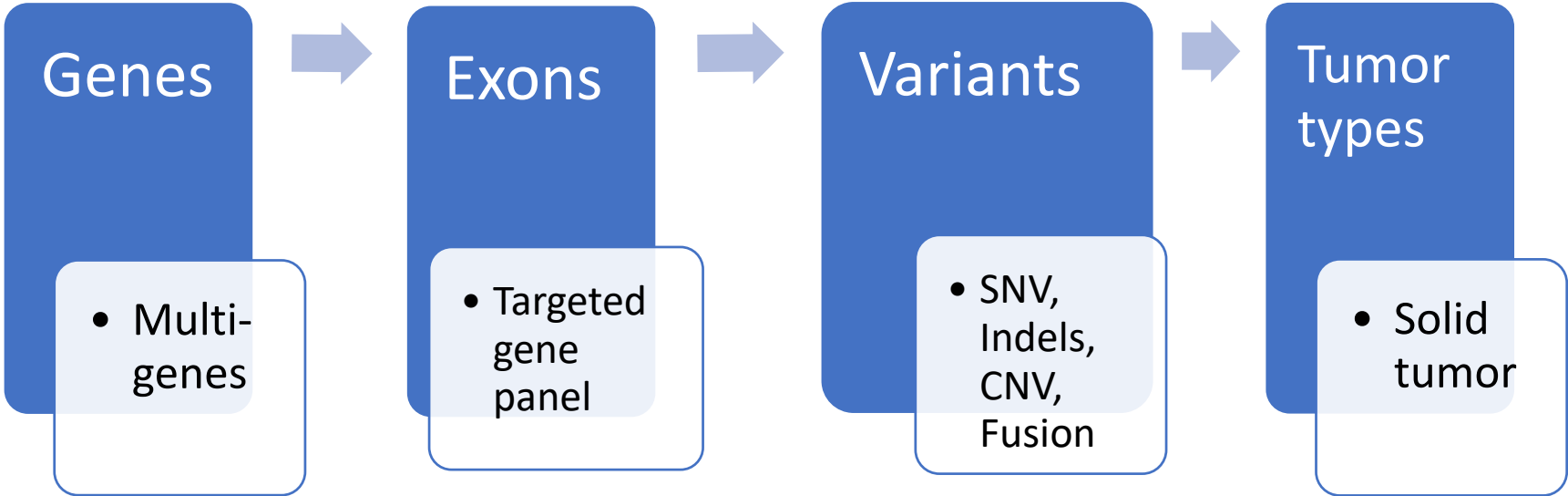
ATCTTCAGCCATAAAAAGATGAAGTT

3 bp deletion

ATCTTCAGCCAAAAGATGAAGTT

4 bp insertion (orange)

ATCTTCAGCCATATGTGAAAAGATGAAGTT



# A hypothetical example

# mutations:

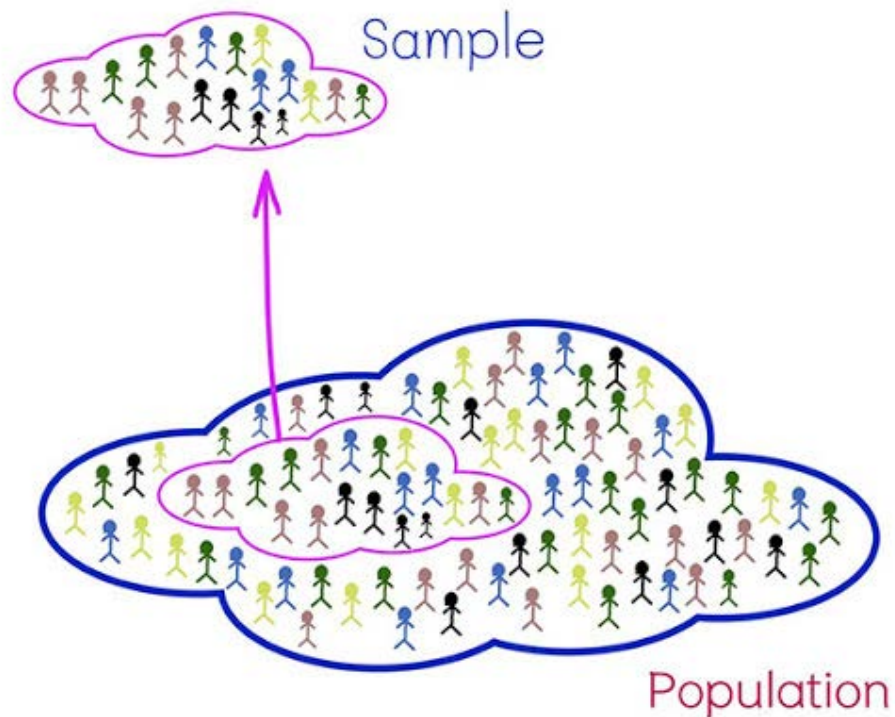
500 genes x 10 exons/gene x 300 base pairs per exon

= 1,500,000 **That's a lot!**

# Statistical Challenge

How many clinical specimens are needed to validate so many mutations?

# Survey sampling Techniques



- Simple Random Sampling
- Stratified Sampling
- Cluster Sampling
- Multi-stage Sampling



# Simple Random Sampling

1% Rule

**1%** x 1,500,000 = 15,000  
Still a lot!

## **The Least Burdensome Provisions: Concept and Principles**

### **Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff**

Document issued on February 5, 2019.

The draft of this document was issued on December 15, 2017.

This document supersedes “The Least Burdensome Provisions of the FDA Modernization Act of 1997: Concept and Principles,” issued on October 4, 2002.

For questions about this document regarding CDRH-regulated devices, contact the Office of the Center Director at (301) 796-6900. For questions about this document regarding CBER-regulated devices, contact the Office of Communication, Outreach and Development in CBER at 1-800-835-4709 or 240-402-8010 or by email at [ocod@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:ocod@fda.hhs.gov).



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Devices and Radiological Health  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research

# Law of Large Population (LLP)\*

“A simple random draw of 400 subjects can achieve the same effect as a test of 10,000 out of 1 million subjects (f=1%) assuming the positivity rate is 0.5% ( $\rho=0.005$ )... “

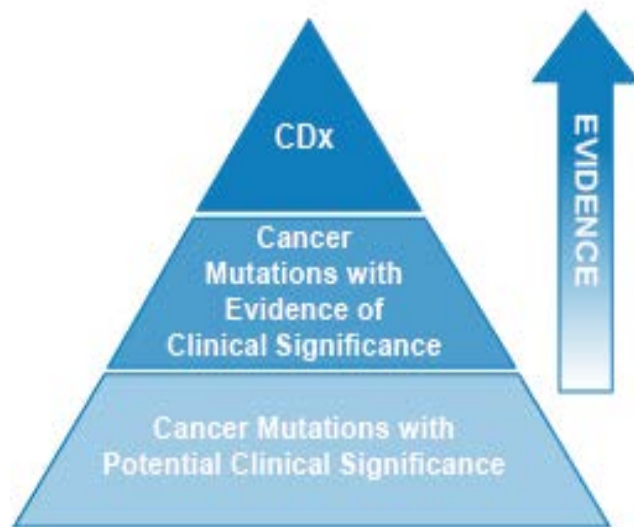
$$n = \frac{1}{\rho^2} \times \frac{f}{1-f}$$

Mean-squared  
Error (MSE)

$$MSE(\bar{G}_n) = E[\bar{G}_n - \bar{G}_N]^2$$

\* Xiao-li, Meng. Statistical Paradise and Paradoxes in Big Data. The Annals of Applied Statistics. 2018: 12(2), 685-726.

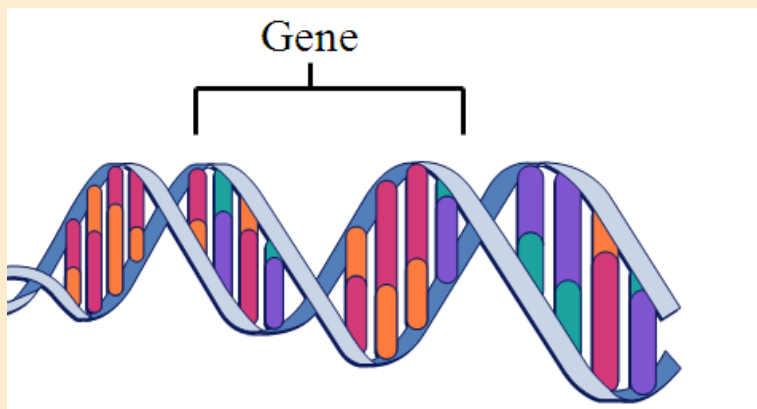
Will a random sample of 400 specimens be adequate for the accuracy study for tumor profiling assays?



Three-Tiered Approach for Reporting Biomarkers in Tumor Profiling NGS Tests



# Representative approach



## Indel examples

wild-type sequence

ATCTTCAGCCATAAAAATGATGAAGTT

3 bp deletion

ATCTTCAGCCAAAATGATGAAGTT

4 bp insertion (orange)

ATCTTCAGCCATATGTGAAAATGATGAAGTT



Gene

- Representative
- Level 2 genes

Variant

- SNV and indels
- CNV and fusion

Tumor type

- Major tumors
- Challenging

How many clinical specimens are needed to validate tumor profiling assays?

$N=?$

Genes

Variants

Tumor Types

# Conclusion



## Representative Approach

- A Least Burdensome Approach
- Good clinical input
- Sound statistical explanation
- Consistent regulatory consideration



# Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Drs. Bipasa Biswas, Changhong Song and other colleagues at FDA/CDRH for their feedback.



Thank you!

Questions?