



XIX CONGRESSO
NAZIONALE
SIES 2026

A Novel Preclinical Mouse Model of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Driven by BCOR Loss in B Cells

Daniele Sorcini

Firenze | 4-6 marzo 2026
Palazzo degli Affari

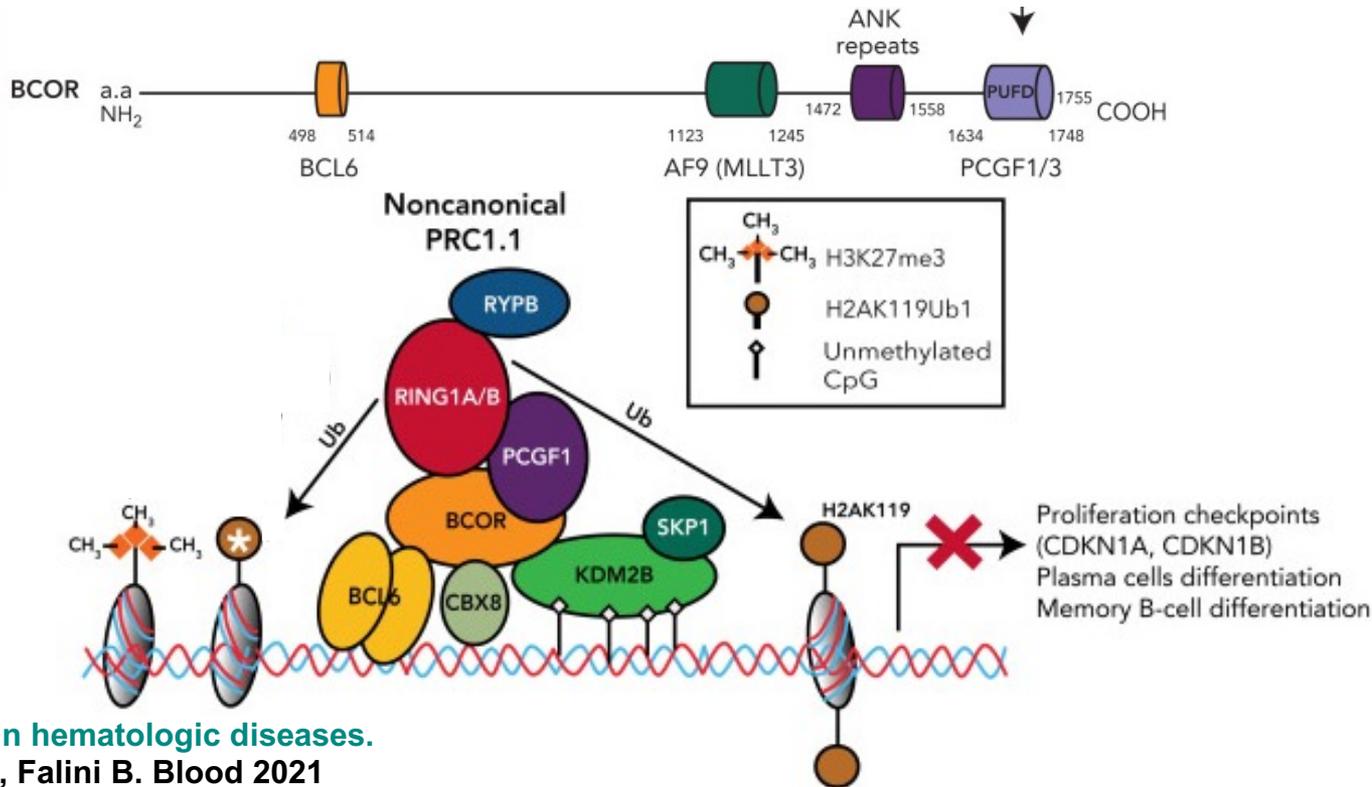


Disclosures of Name Surname

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
NOTHING TO DISCLOSE							



BCOR is a member of non Canonical Polycomb Repressor Complex (PRC1.1), a repressor complex required for B cell differentiation



BCOR gene alterations in hematologic diseases.
 Sportoletti P., Sorcini D., Falini B. Blood 2021

BCOR mutations in CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA (CLL)

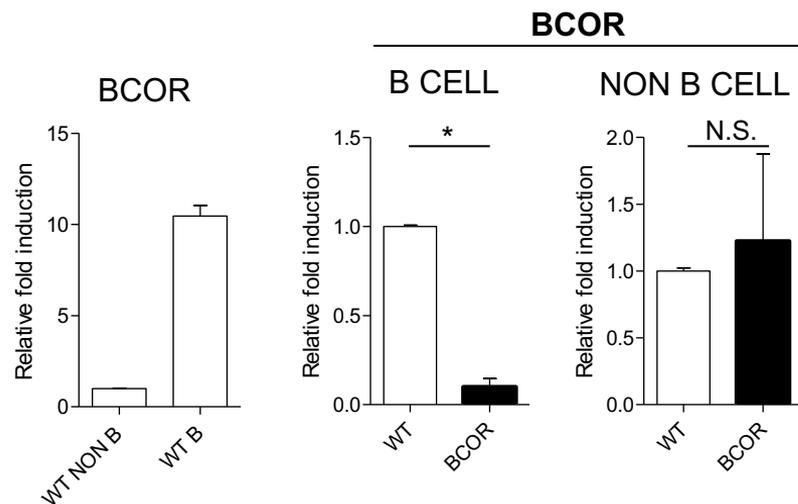
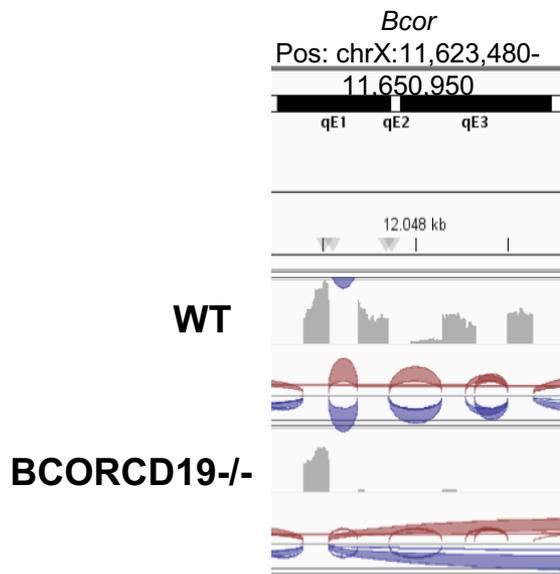
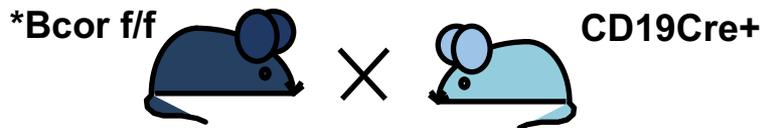
- Around 2% in CLL with unmutated IGHV, trisomy 12, and NOTCH1 mutations
- 9% of Asiatic people
- *BCOR* mutations are scattered across the whole length of coding sequence (>exon 4)

- Disruptive inducing premature STOP codons
- Predicted to trigger nonsense mediated mRNA decay
 - reduced *BCOR* mRNA levels
 - absence of full-length *BCOR* protein
 - lack or low expression of truncated *BCOR* protein



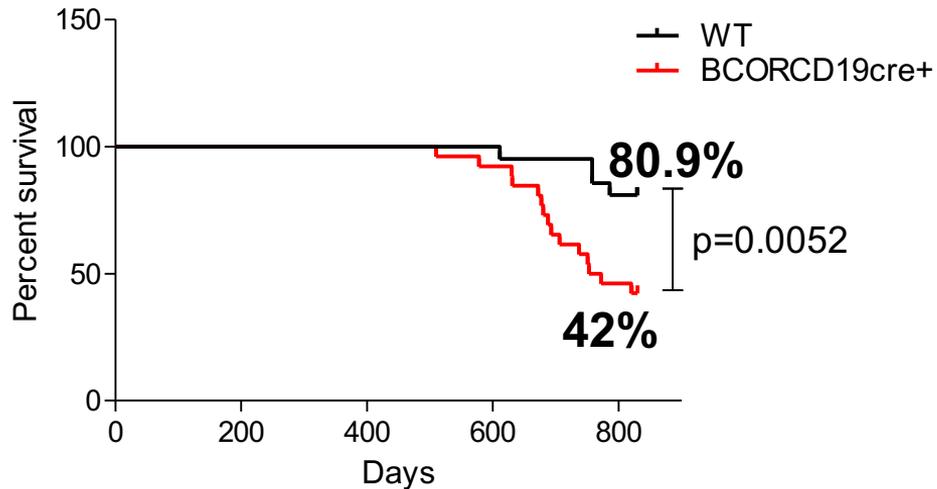
**characteristics of
loss-of-function mutations
in a tumor suppressor gene**

Bcor loss in B cell of mutant mice



*BCOR loss enhances NOTCH1 in the TCL1 mouse model to promote Richter Transformation
(Rompietti et al. Leukemia 2025)

BCORCD19^{-/-} mice exhibit a reduced survival

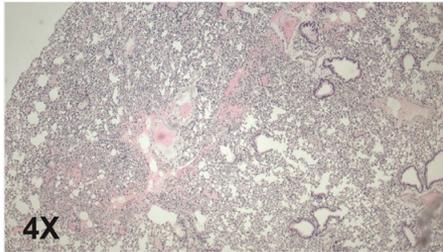


BCORCD19^{-/-} mice median survival 792.5 days, WT mice undefined

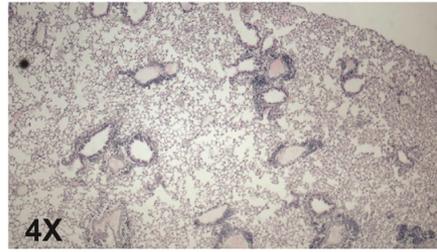


BCORCD19^{-/-} moribund mice show multiple organ infiltration

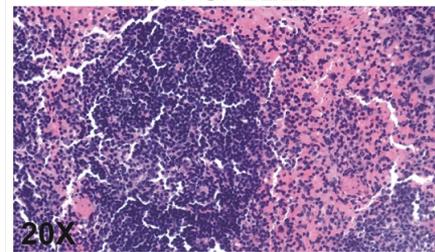
WT LUNG



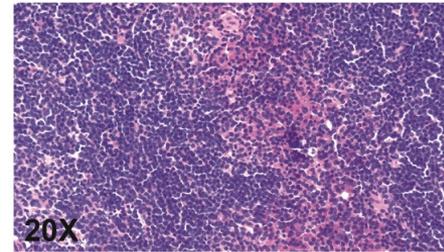
BCORCD19^{-/-} LUNG



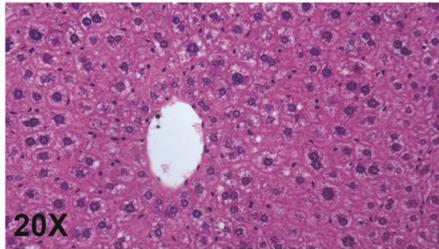
WT SPLEEN



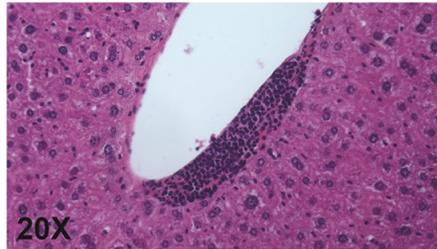
BCORCD19^{-/-} SPLEEN



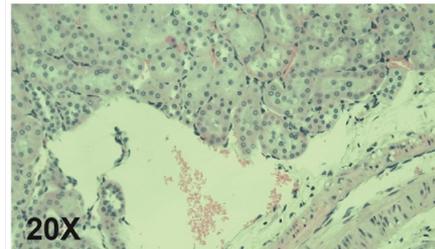
WT LIVER



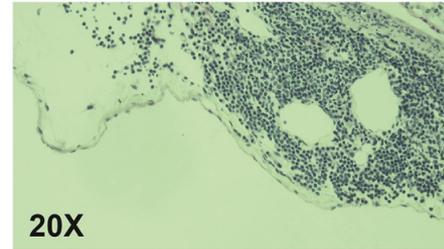
BCORCD19^{-/-} LIVER



WT KIDNEY

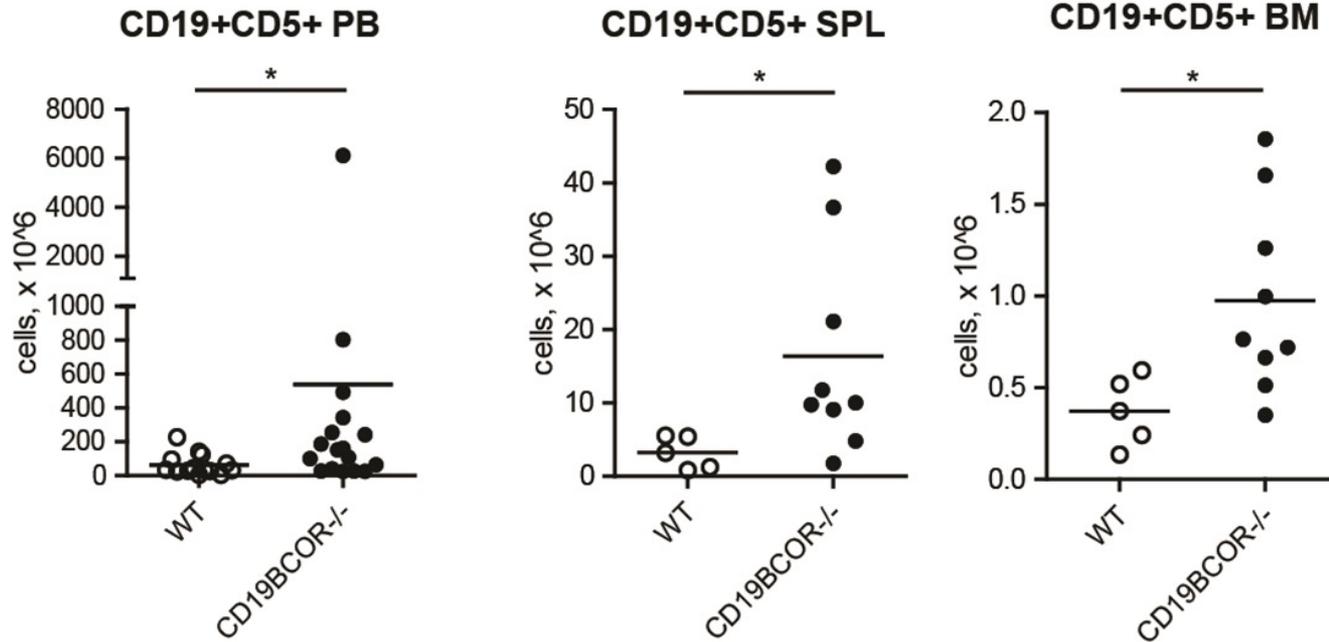


BCORCD19^{-/-} KIDNEY



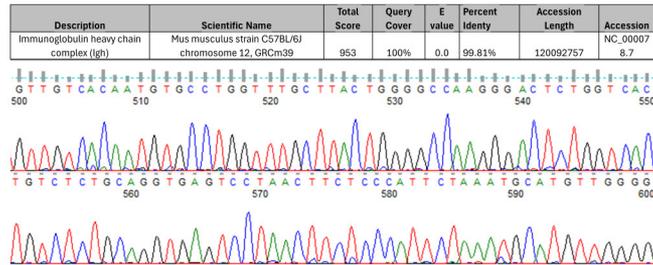
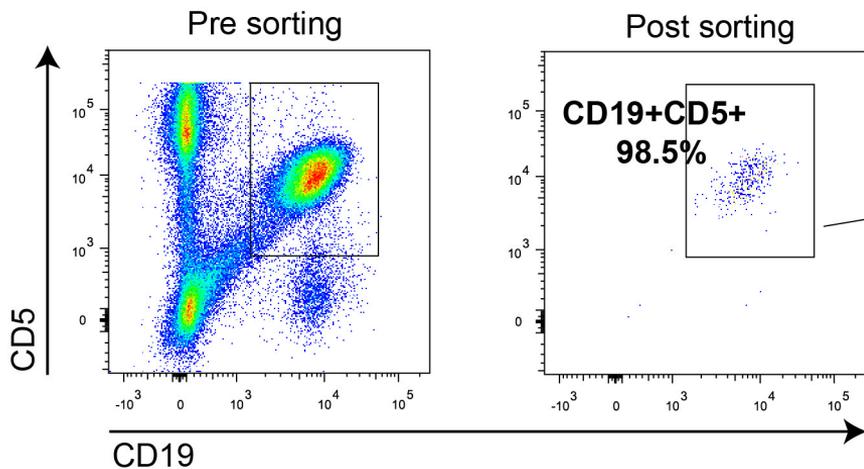


BCORCD19^{-/-} aged mice show an accumulation of leukemic-like B cells CD19⁺CD5⁺

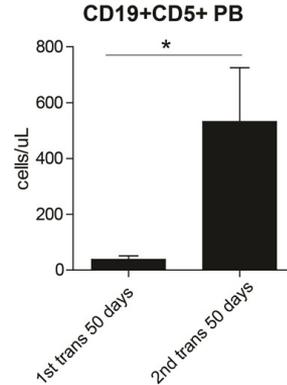
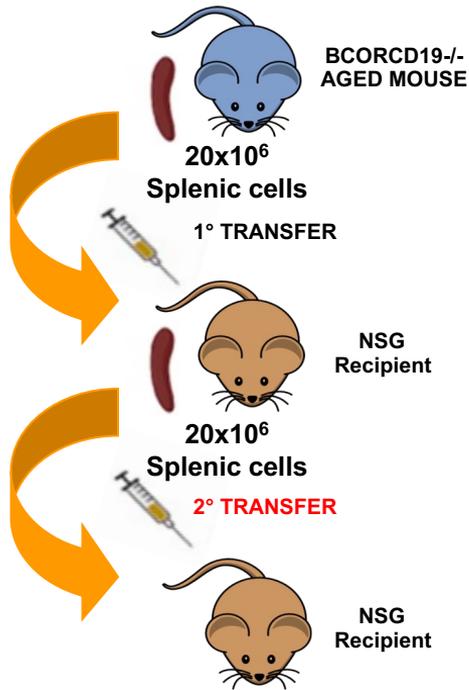


Splenic CD19+CD5+ cells of BCORCD19^{-/-} are monoclonal

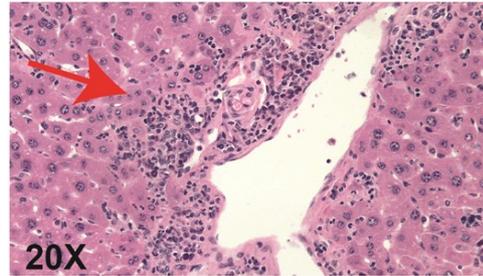
SPLEEN



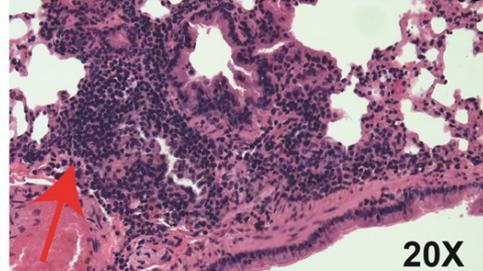
Adoptive transfer of CD19+CD5+ splenic cells from BCORCD19^{-/-} exacerbates disease progression in transplanted mice.



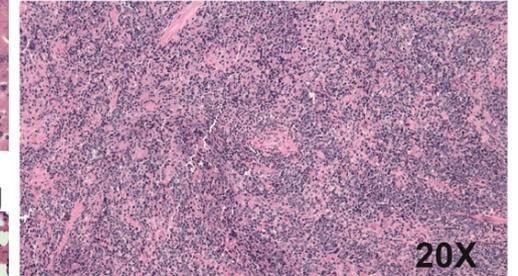
2nd trans BCORCD19^{-/-} Liver



2nd trans BCORCD19^{-/-} Lung

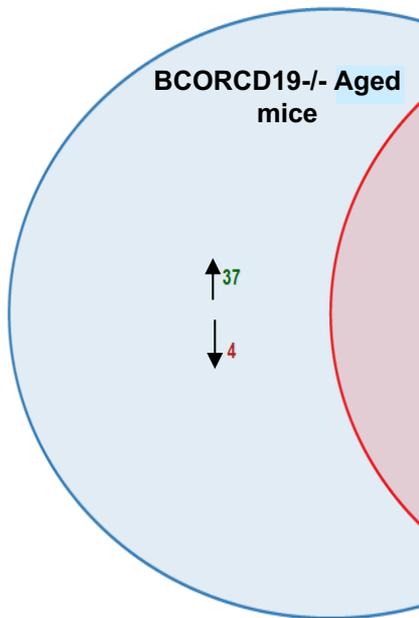


2nd trans BCORCD19^{-/-} Spleen



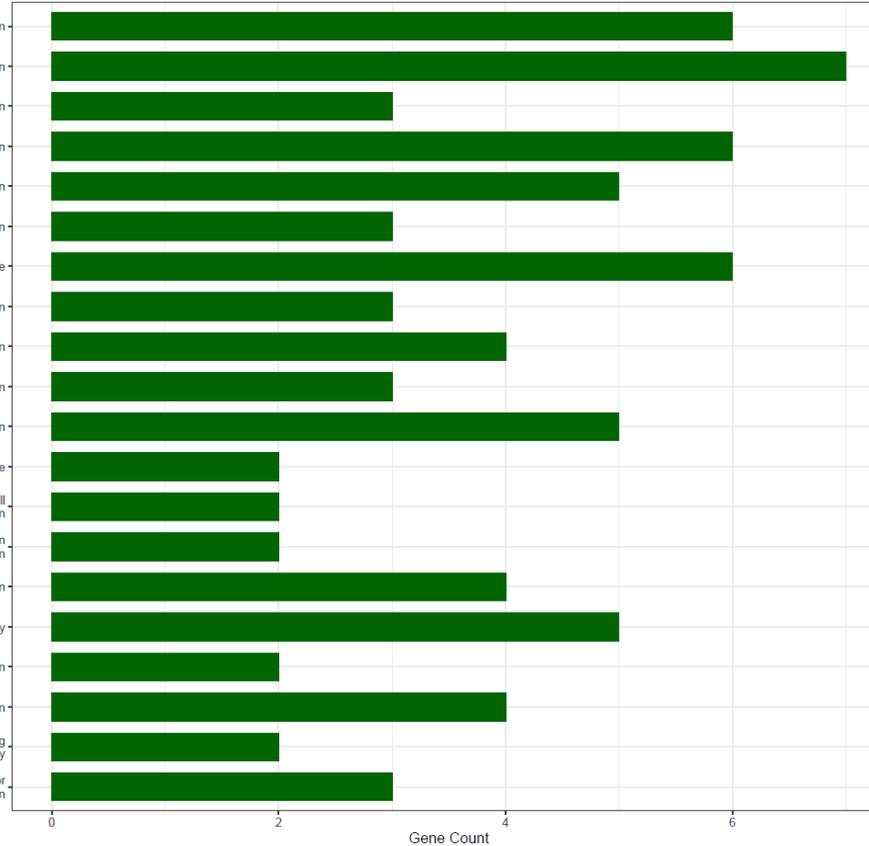


BCORCD19^{-/-} mice



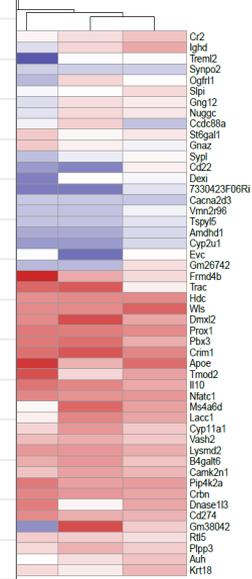
GO UP: WT vs BCOR Old vs Trans

- negative regulation of cell activation
- regulation of epithelial cell proliferation
- regulation of heterotypic cell-cell adhesion
- positive regulation of cell-cell adhesion
- negative regulation of leukocyte activation
- negative regulation of B cell activation
- regulation of inflammatory response
- mature B cell differentiation
- regulation of endothelial cell proliferation
- heterotypic cell-cell adhesion
- negative regulation of cell adhesion
- regulation of chronic inflammatory response
- negative regulation of heterotypic cell-cell adhesion
- regulation of cell-cell adhesion involved in gastrulation
- endothelial cell proliferation
- regulation of Wnt signaling pathway
- cell-cell adhesion involved in gastrulation
- negative regulation of lymphocyte activation
- MyD88-independent toll-like receptor signaling pathway
- negative regulation of tumor necrosis factor superfamily cytokine production



red to WT

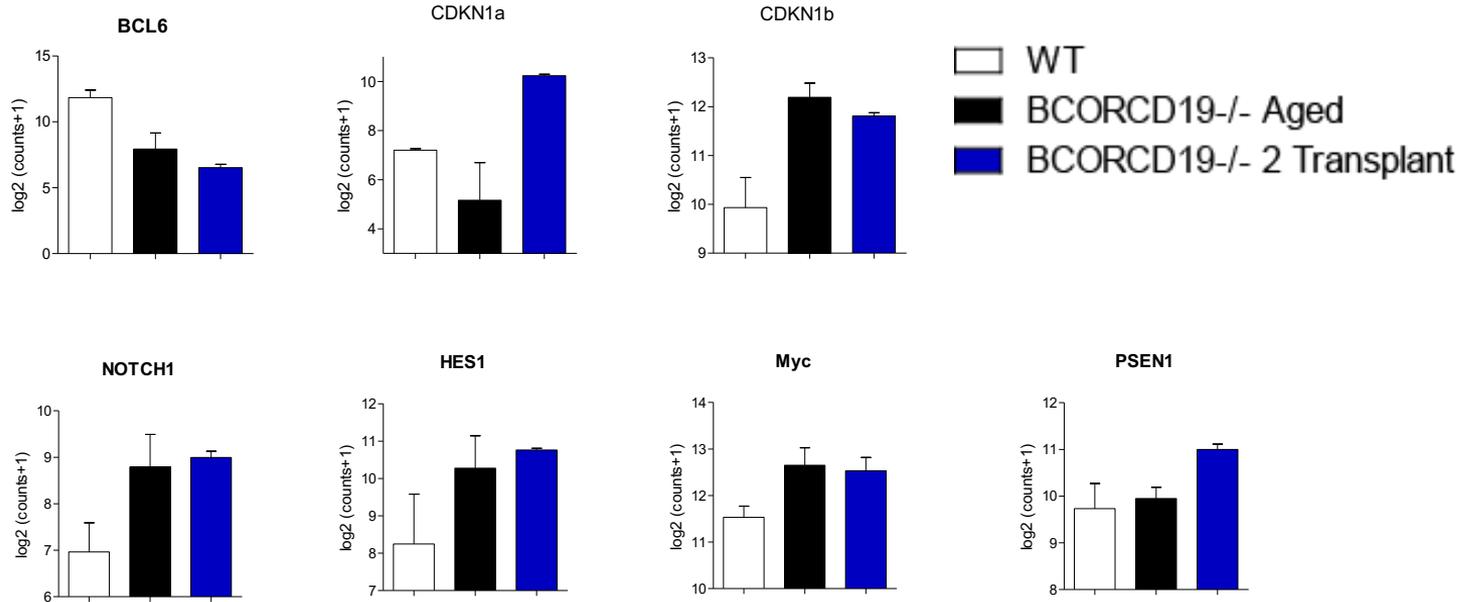
Rcd19^{-/-} transplanted



Aged 2
BCORCD19^{-/-} Aged 3
BCORCD19^{-/-} Aged 4
Aged 4



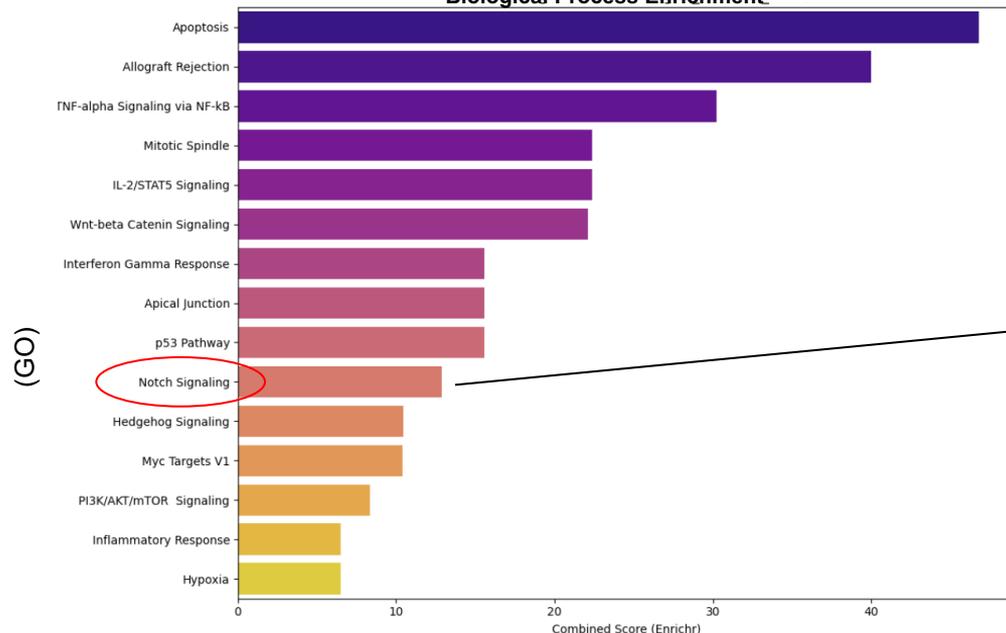
BCORCD19^{-/-} mice show a deregulation on PRC1.1 targets and on NOTCH1 pathway



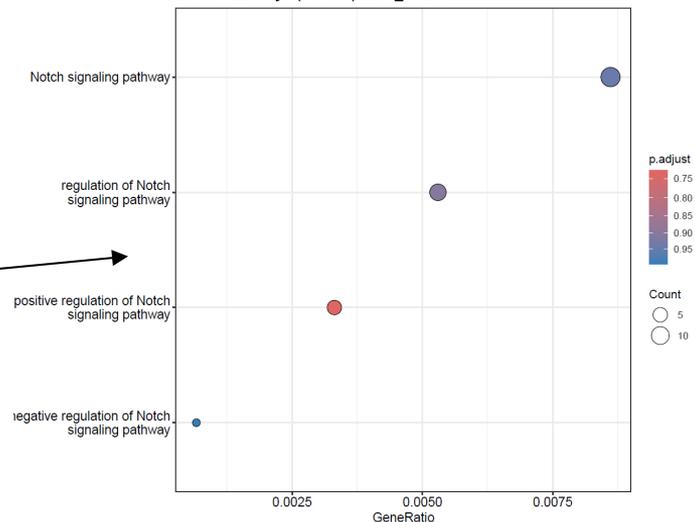


Enrichment for *notch1* pathway genes is present in human and mouse BCOR^{-/-} CLL

Biological Process Enrichment



Notch Pathways (Forced) - UP_Genes



CONCLUSION

- BCOR loss in B cell promote a late onset CLL in mice
- NOTCH1 pathway deregulation is an event that perturbs B cell in the absence of BCOR
- BCOR^{-/-} murine CLL resembles the molecular features of human BCOR-mutant CLL
- BCOR^{CD19}^{-/-} mice represent a novel preclinical model of CLL and a valid platform to test new specific target drugs;

GRAZIE A TUTTI PER L'ATTENZIONE



Sezione di Ematologia ed Immunologia clinica

Maria Paola Martelli, Direttore

**Laboratorio di Differenziazione Cellulare e Diagnostica
Molecolare, Sezione di Ematologia**

Paolo Sportoletti PI

Sorcini Daniele
De Falco Filomena
Arcaleni Roberta
Gurrieri Fabio
Esposito Angela
Valmarini Letizia

Moretti Lorenzo
Mameli Maria Grazia
Atzeni Andrea
Miriam Pugliese
Valentina Puglisi
Gabriele Astolfi