

# Circadian disruption or induction in cancer therapy

Francis Lévi



### Outline of this talk

#### → **The circadian timing system**

(circadian biomarkers and molecular clocks)

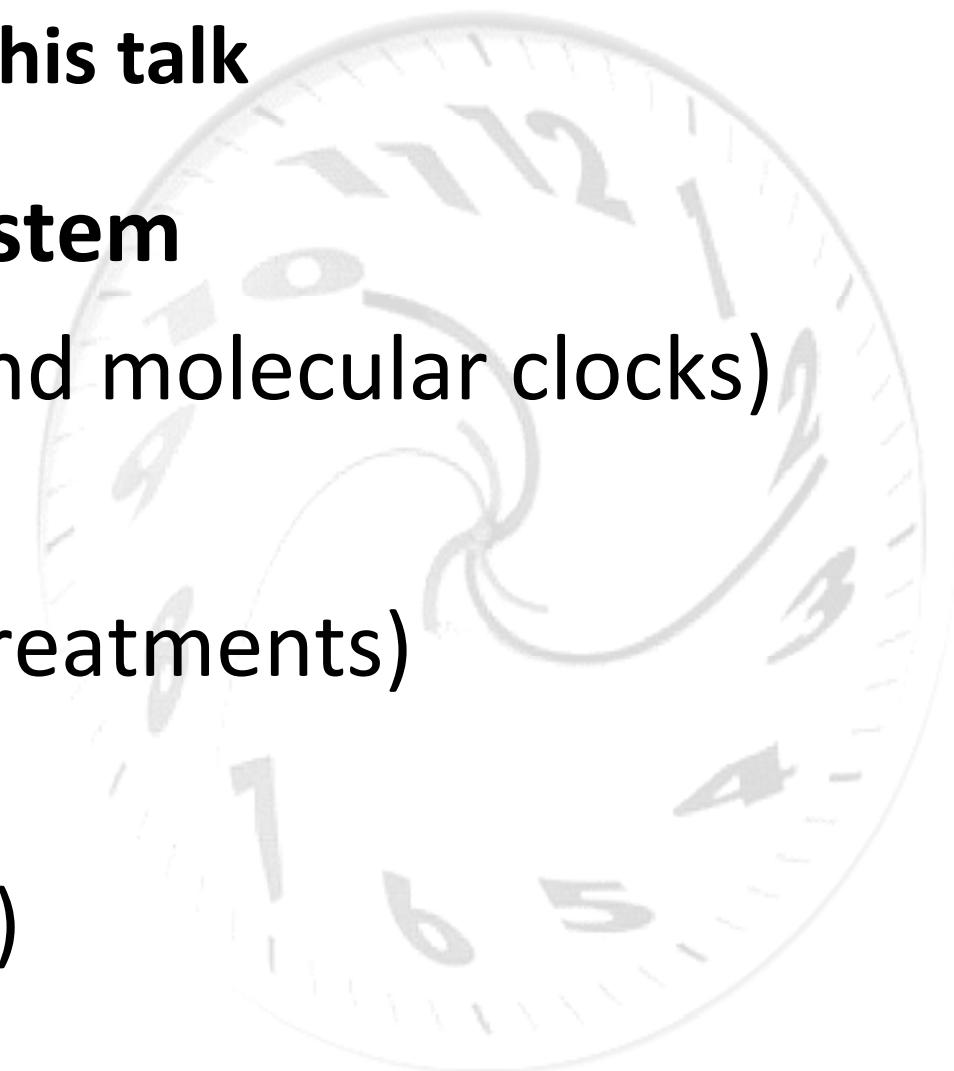
- **Circadian disruption**

(cancer processes and treatments)

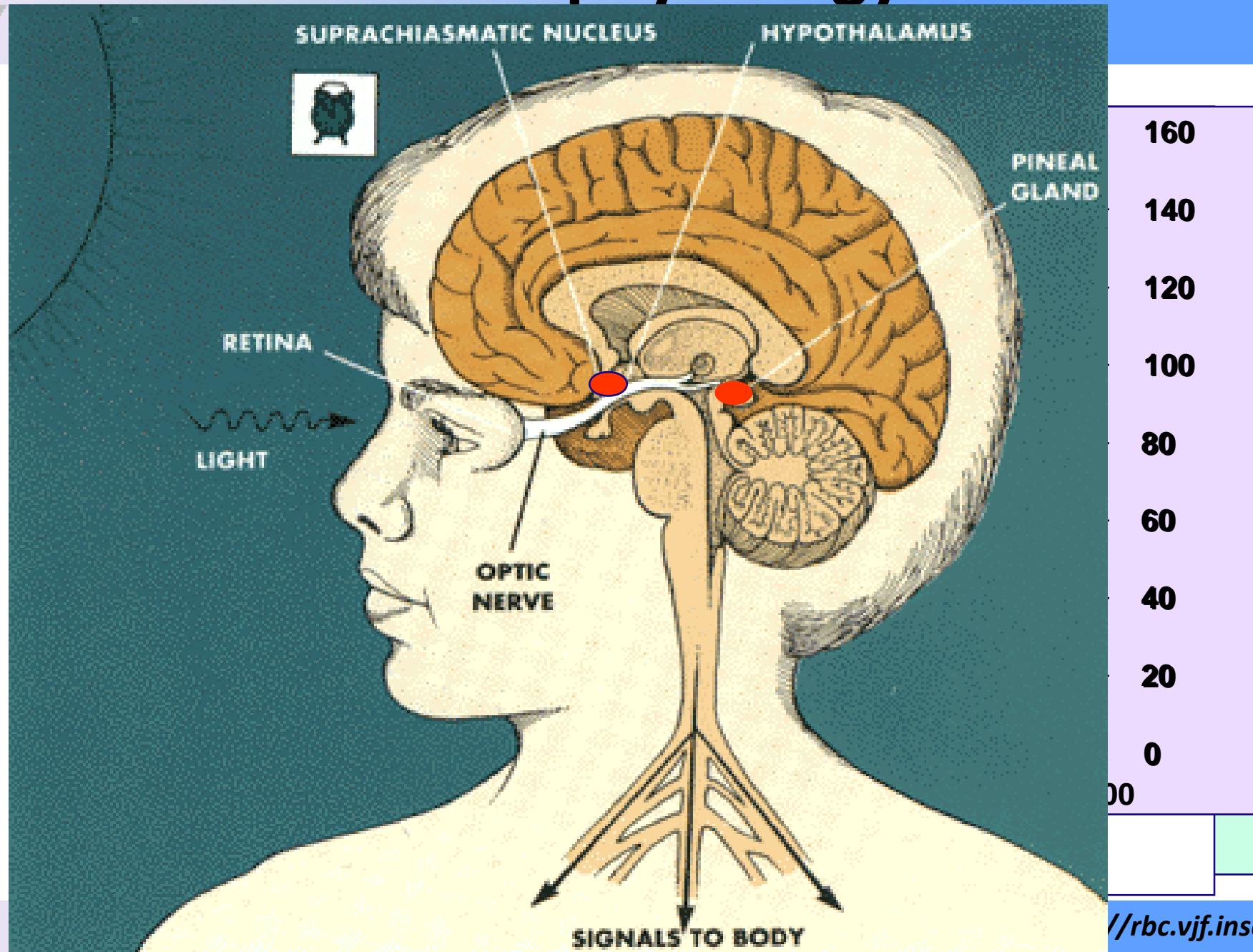
- **Circadian induction**

( host and cancer clocks)

- **Conclusions**



# Circadian physiology



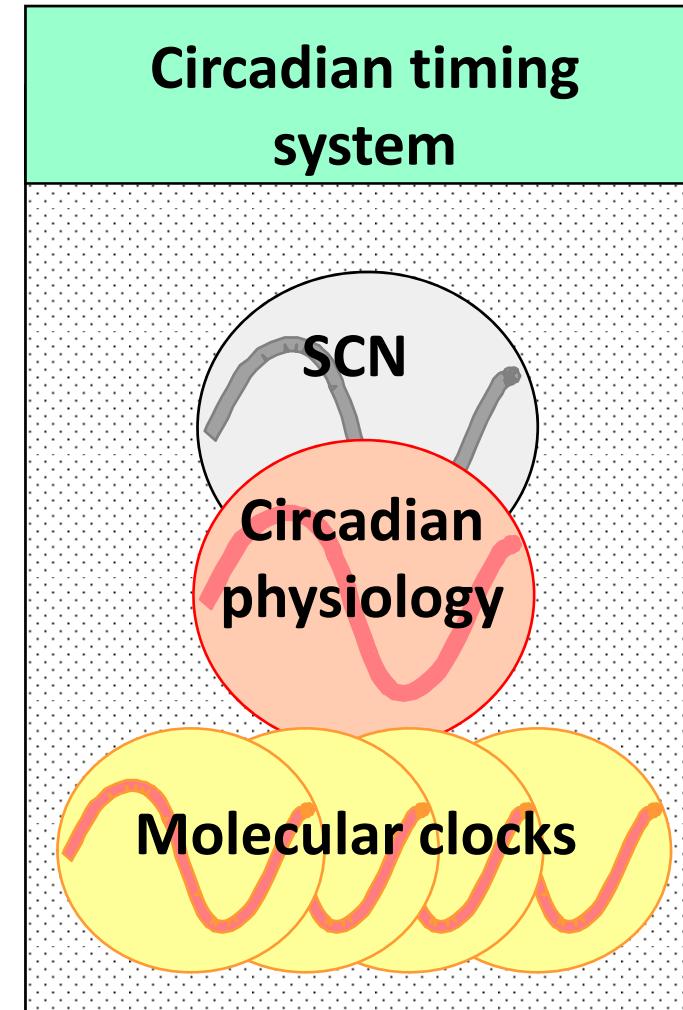
# **Circadian timing system in health and diseases**

- Rhythms in behavioral, cognitive, sensory, muscular, cardiovascular, respiratory, immune, renal, hepatic, GI, hormonal,... functions
- Circadian/circannual disease patterns
- Treatment timing for cancer, CNS, cardiovascular, respiratory, rheumatologic, psychiatric,...diseases

→Relevance for all medical specialties

## The Circadian Timing System

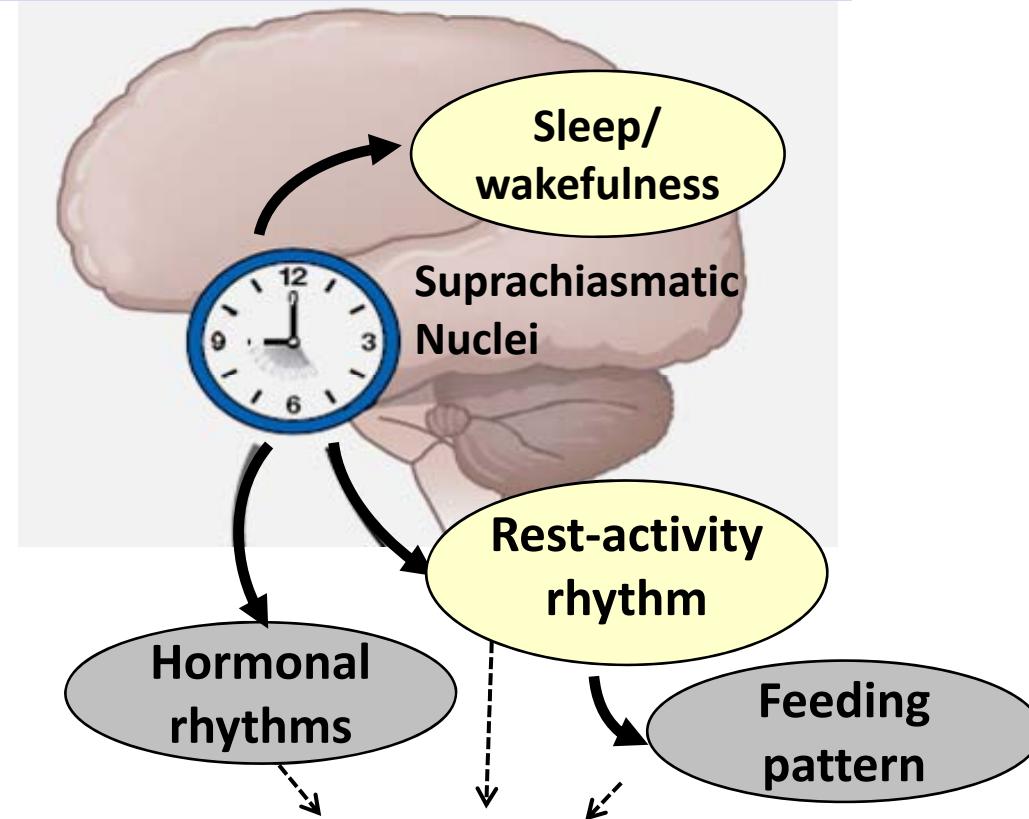
The temporal coordination of metabolism and proliferation along the 24 hours represent a major task of the mammalian circadian system, that is achieved through its organization in a hierarchical manner.



## Environment

Day/night  
Social  
Familial  
Meals

## Circadian Timing system

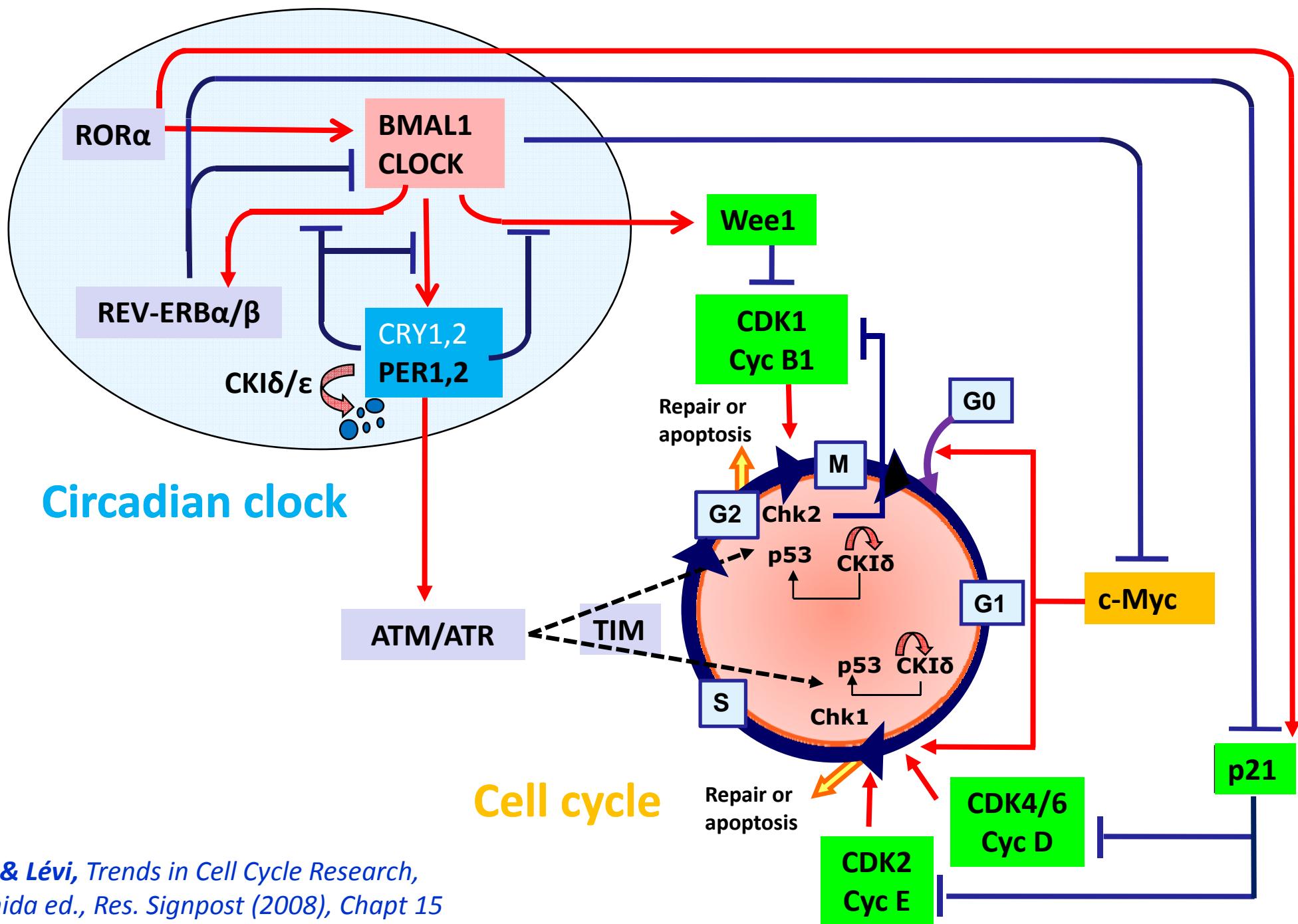


Circadian clocks in  
peripheral organs

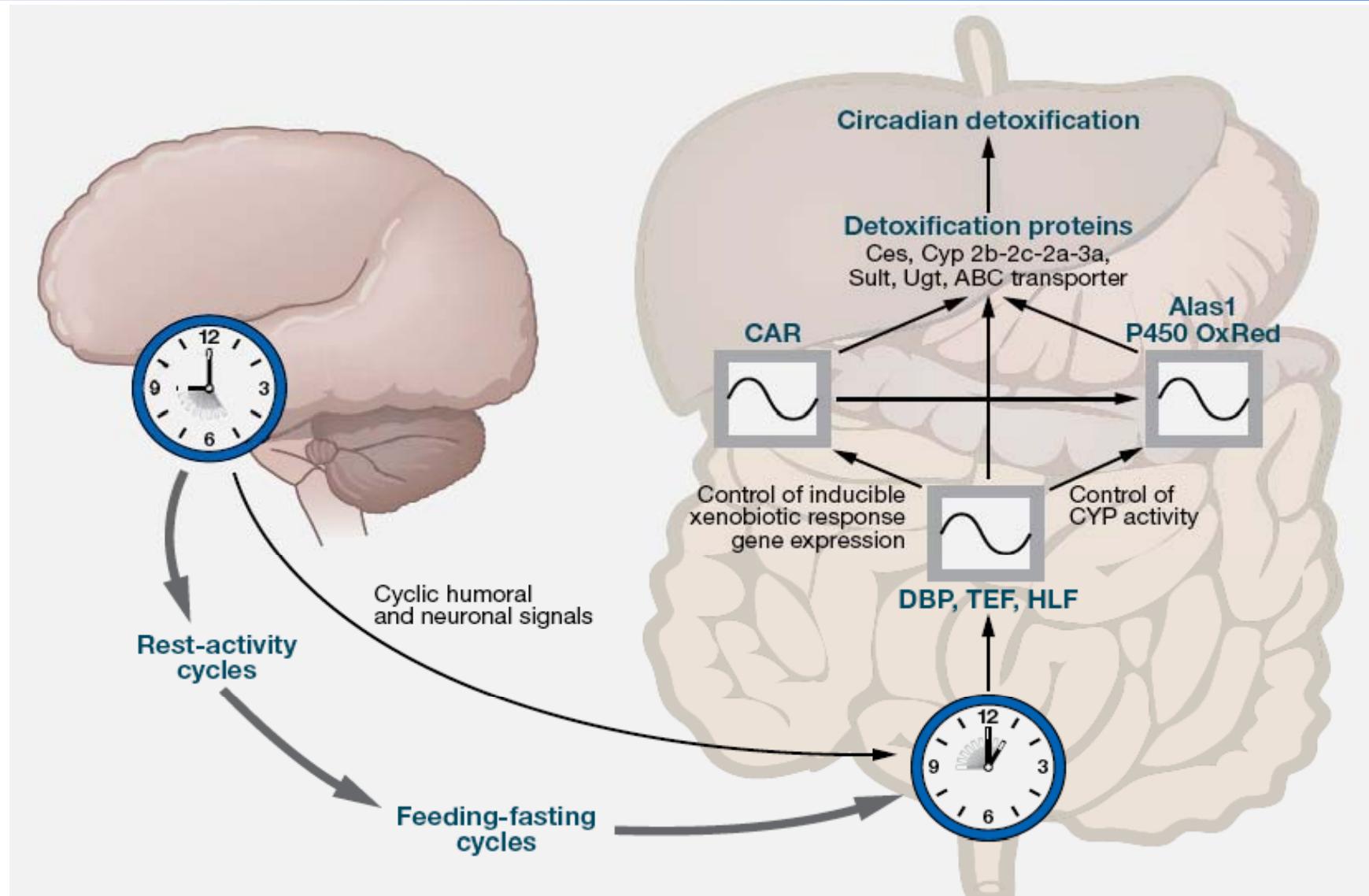


# Molecular circadian clocks

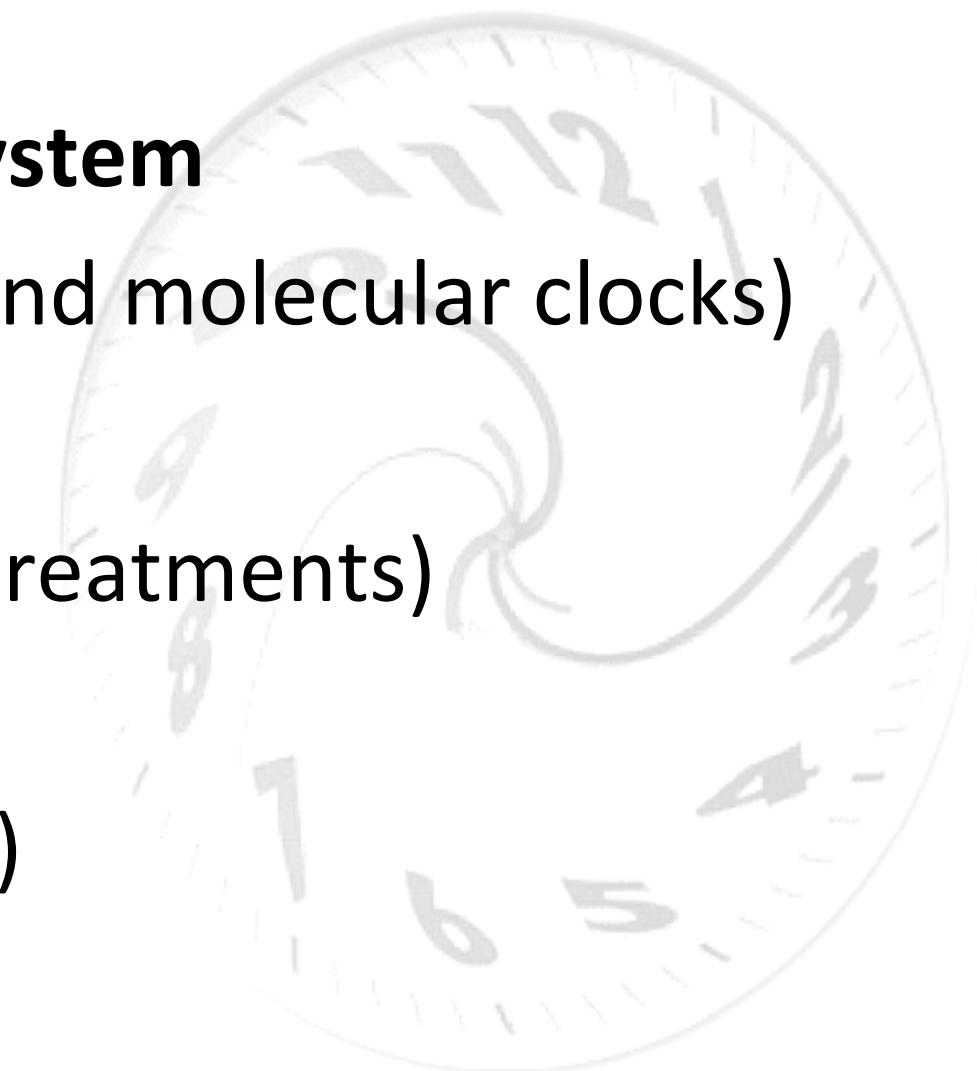
- 12 specific clock genes
- transcription/translation feedback loops
- all mammalian cells
- controls
  - cell division cycle, DNA repair, apoptosis
  - metabolism, drug detoxification



# Coordination of detoxification by the circadian timing system



- The circadian timing system  
(circadian biomarkers and molecular clocks)
- ➡ Circadian disruption  
(cancer processes and treatments)
- Circadian induction  
(cancer and host clocks)
- Conclusions

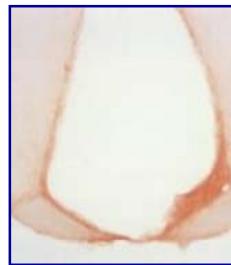


# Circadian disruption in mice

## Model



Intact SCN



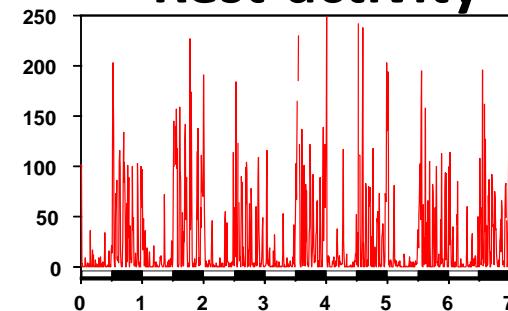
Ablated SCN



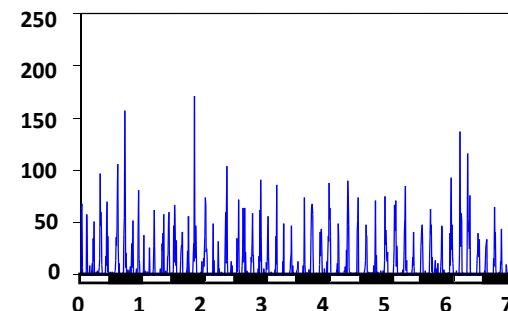
Chronic jet lag

## Biomarkers

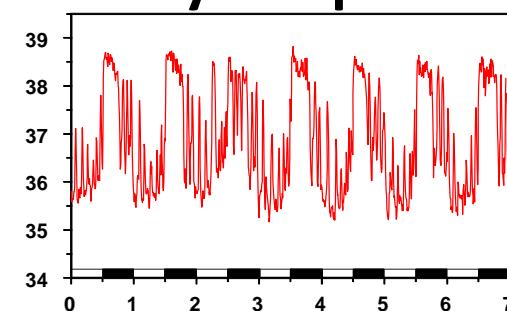
### Rest-activity



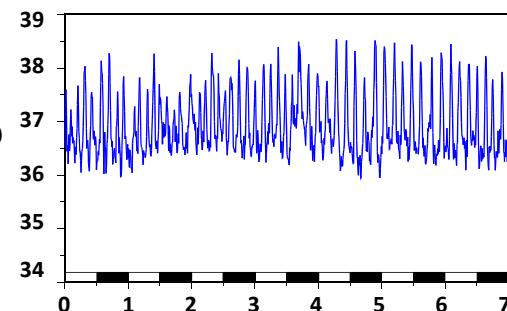
Uarbitrary units



### Body temperature



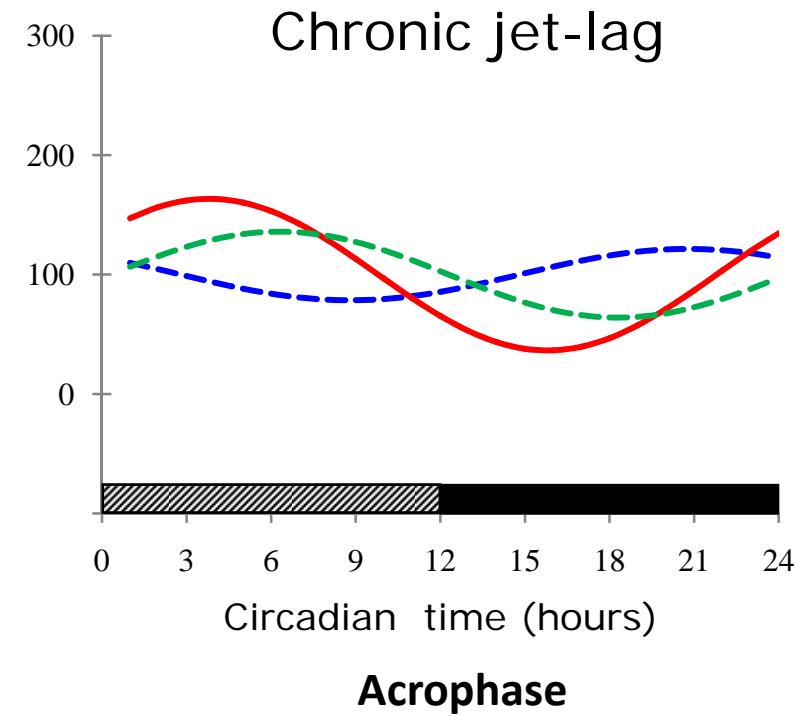
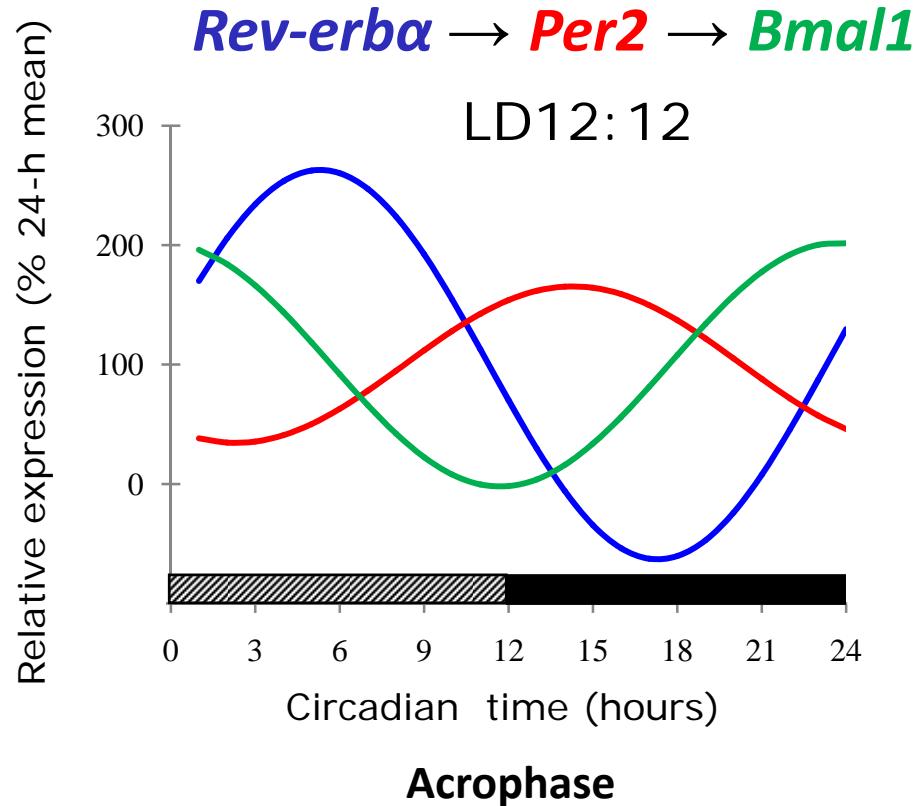
°C



Time (days)

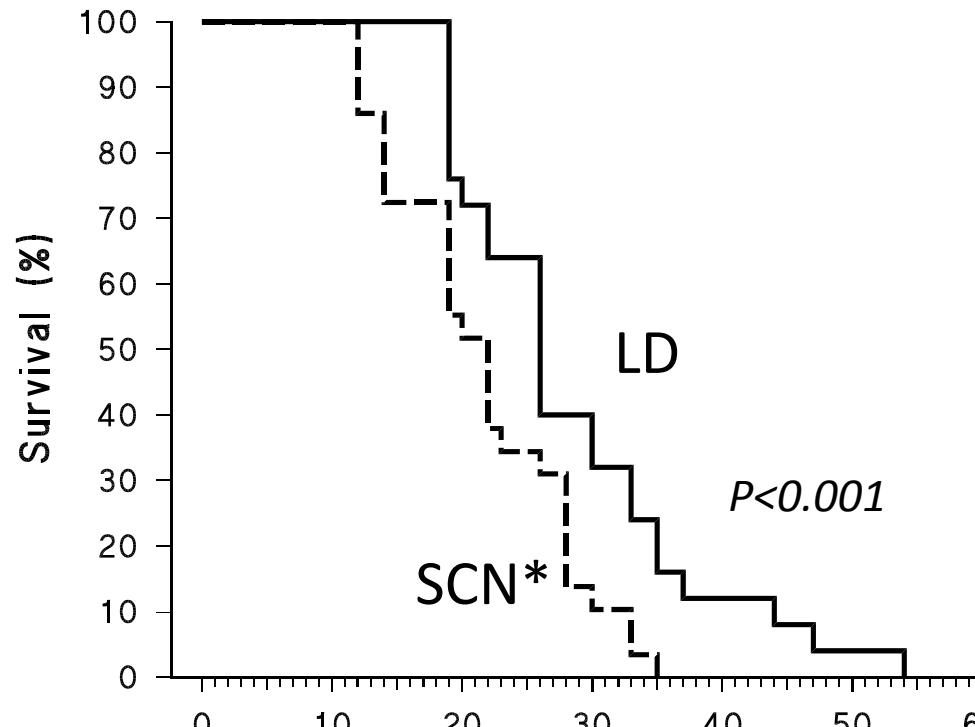
# Circadian disruption in mice

## 24-h cosine model of liver molecular clock

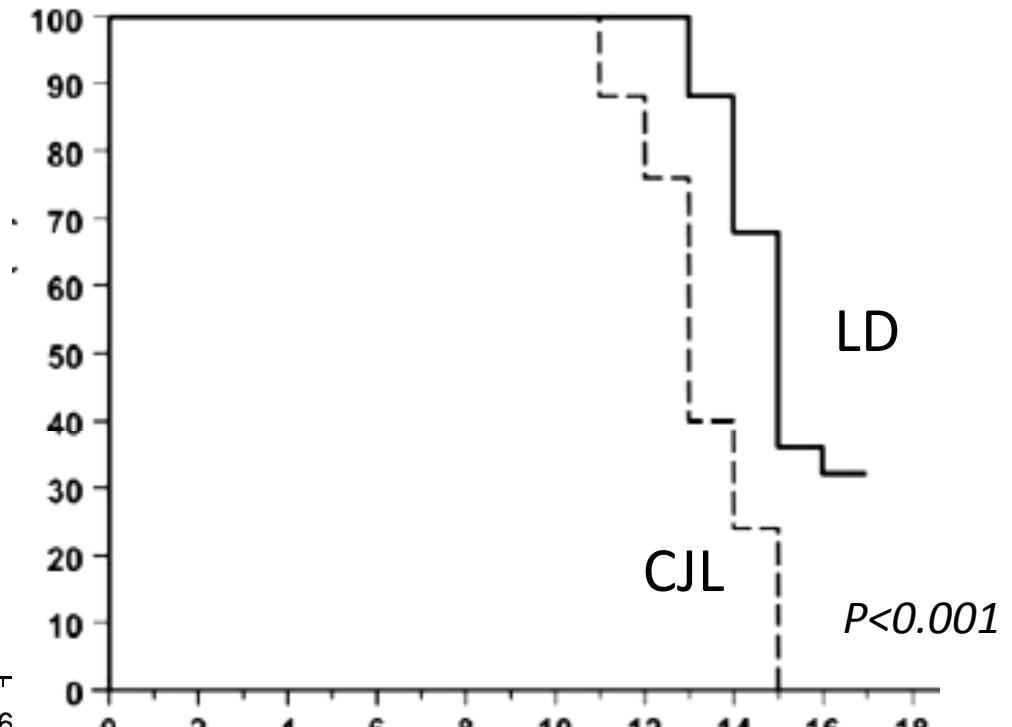


## Survival

SCN ablation vs sham



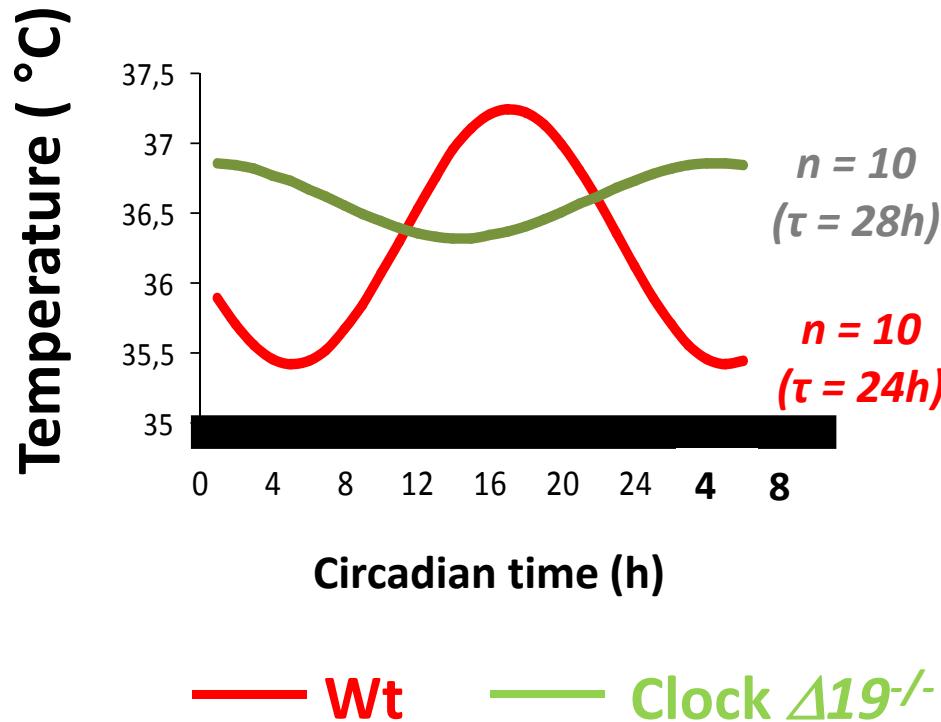
CJL vs LD12:12



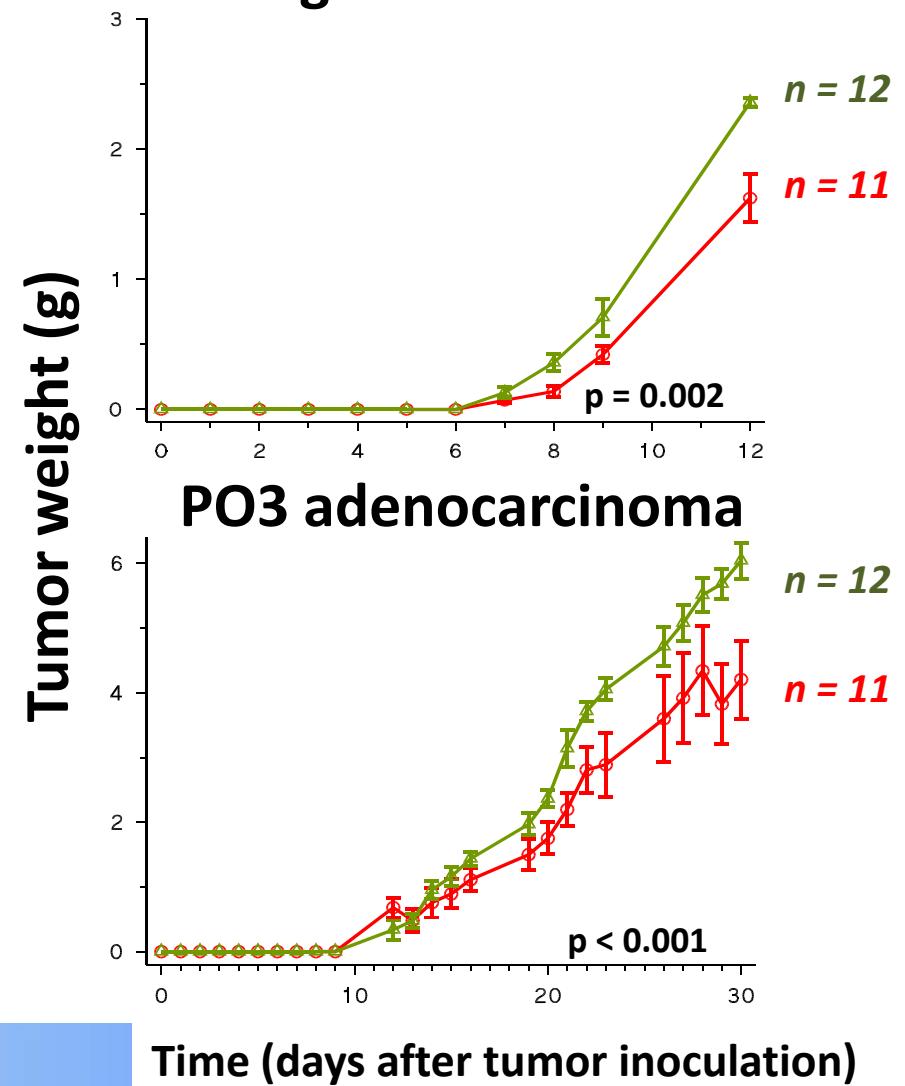
Time (days after tumor inoculation)

## Circadian physiology (DD)

### Body temperature curve

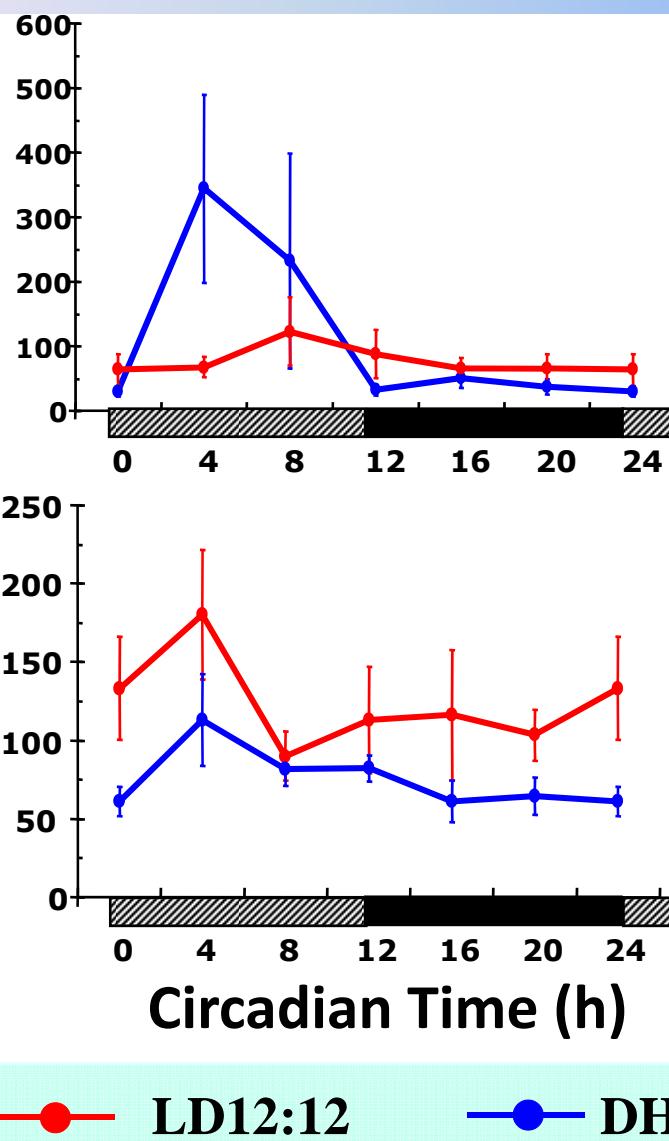


## Tumor progression Glasgow osteosarcoma

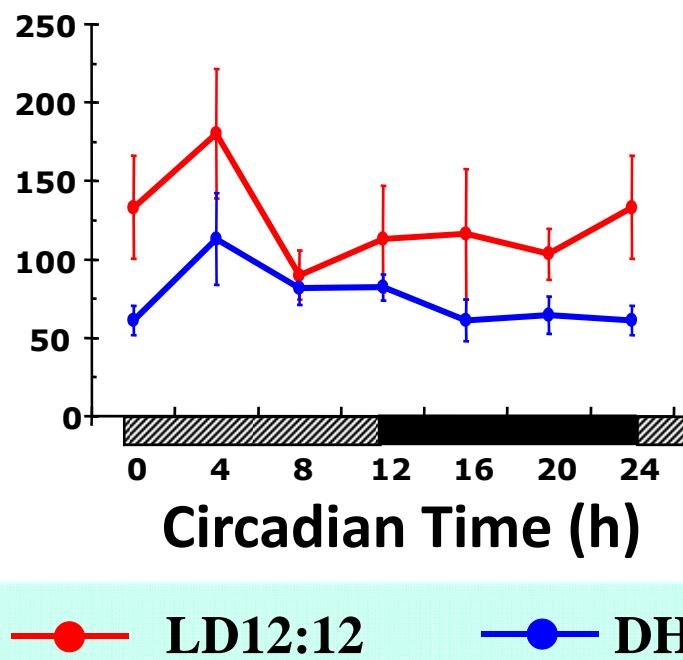


# Circadian disruption: cell cycle genes in liver (mRNA)

c-Myc

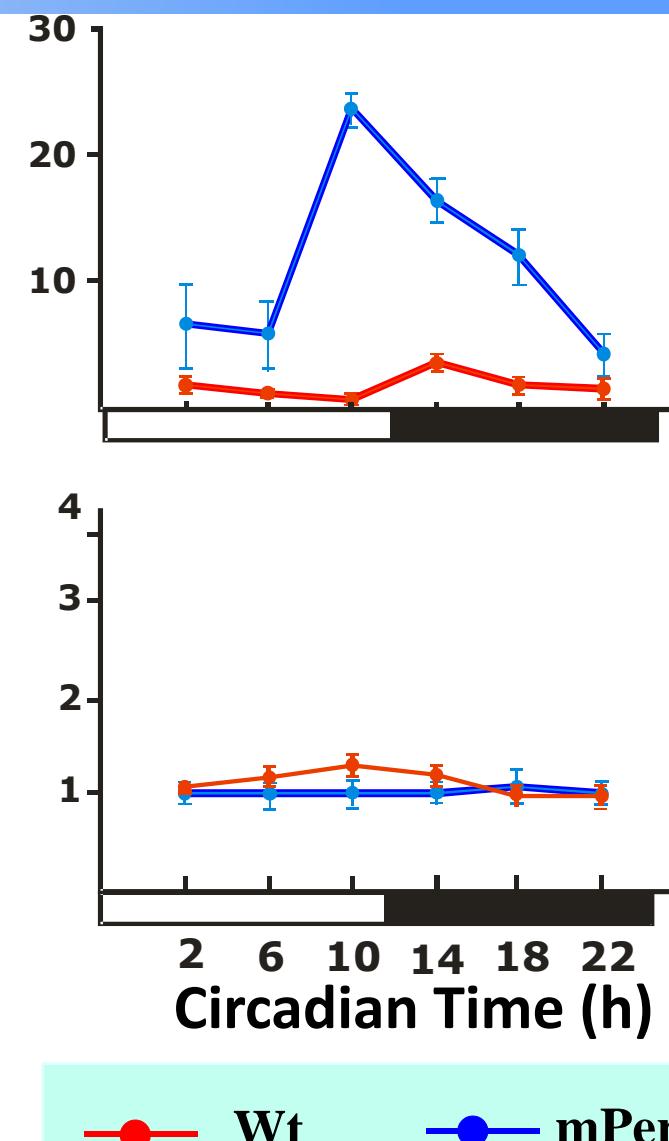


p53

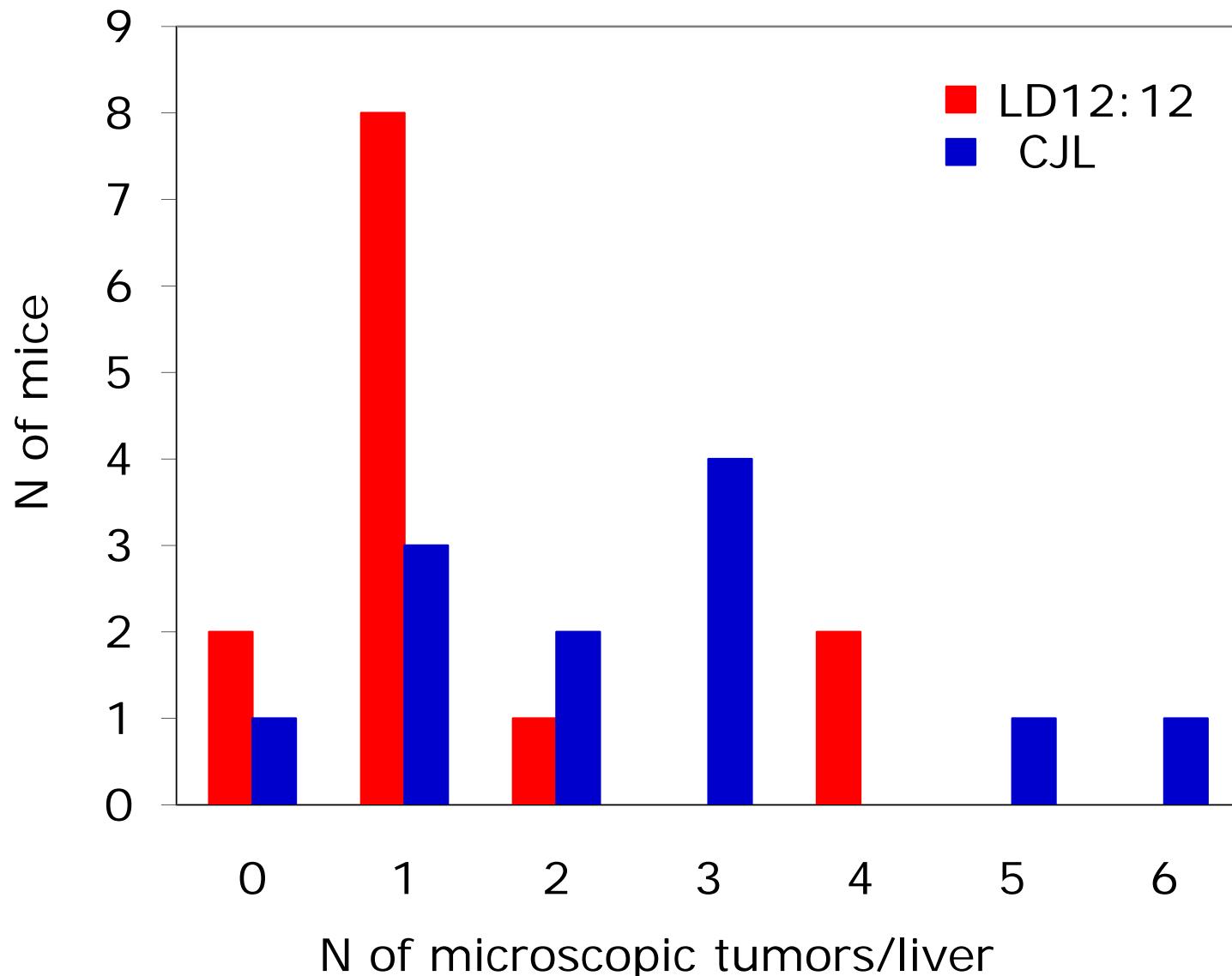


Circadian Time (h)

—●— LD12:12      —●— DHC



—●— Wt      —●— mPer2<sup>-/-</sup>



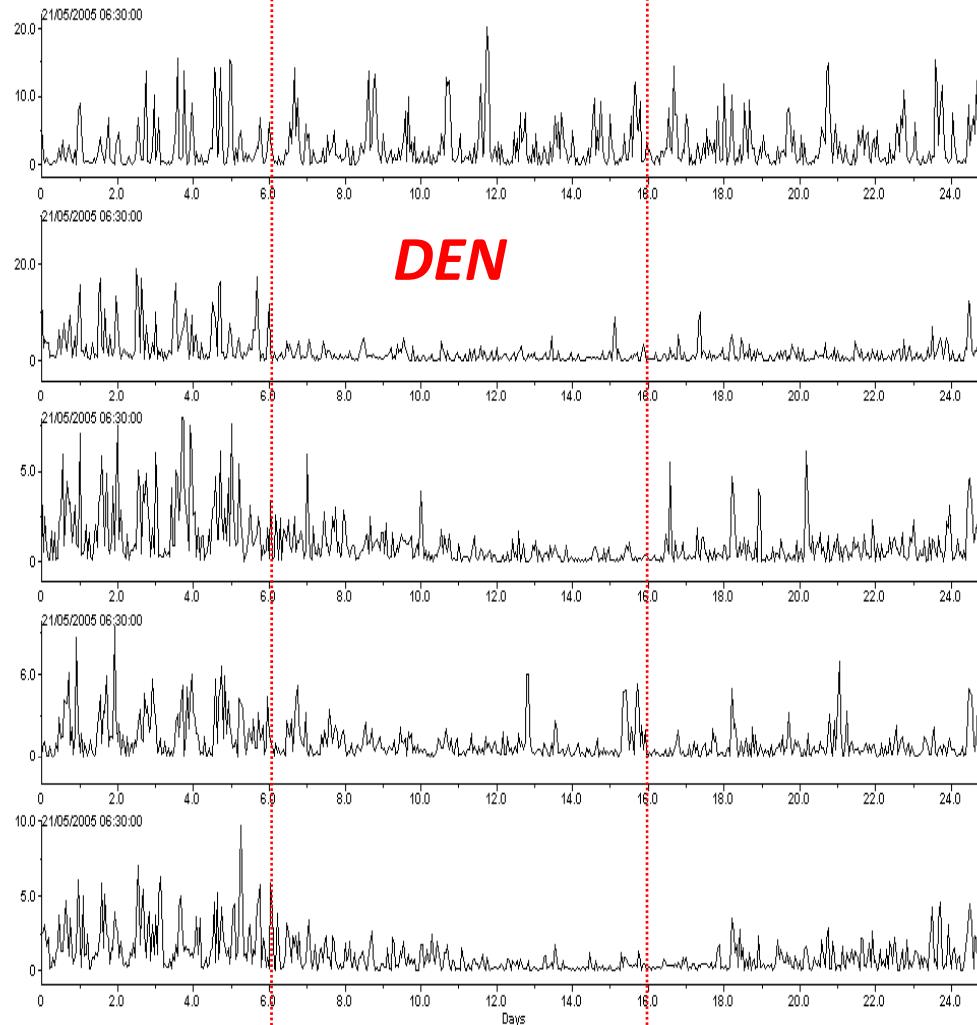
### Mean diameter (largest tumor)

- LD12:12: 4 mm
  - CJL : 8.5 mm
- $p=0.033$

# DEN effects on SCN biomarkers

## Rest-activity

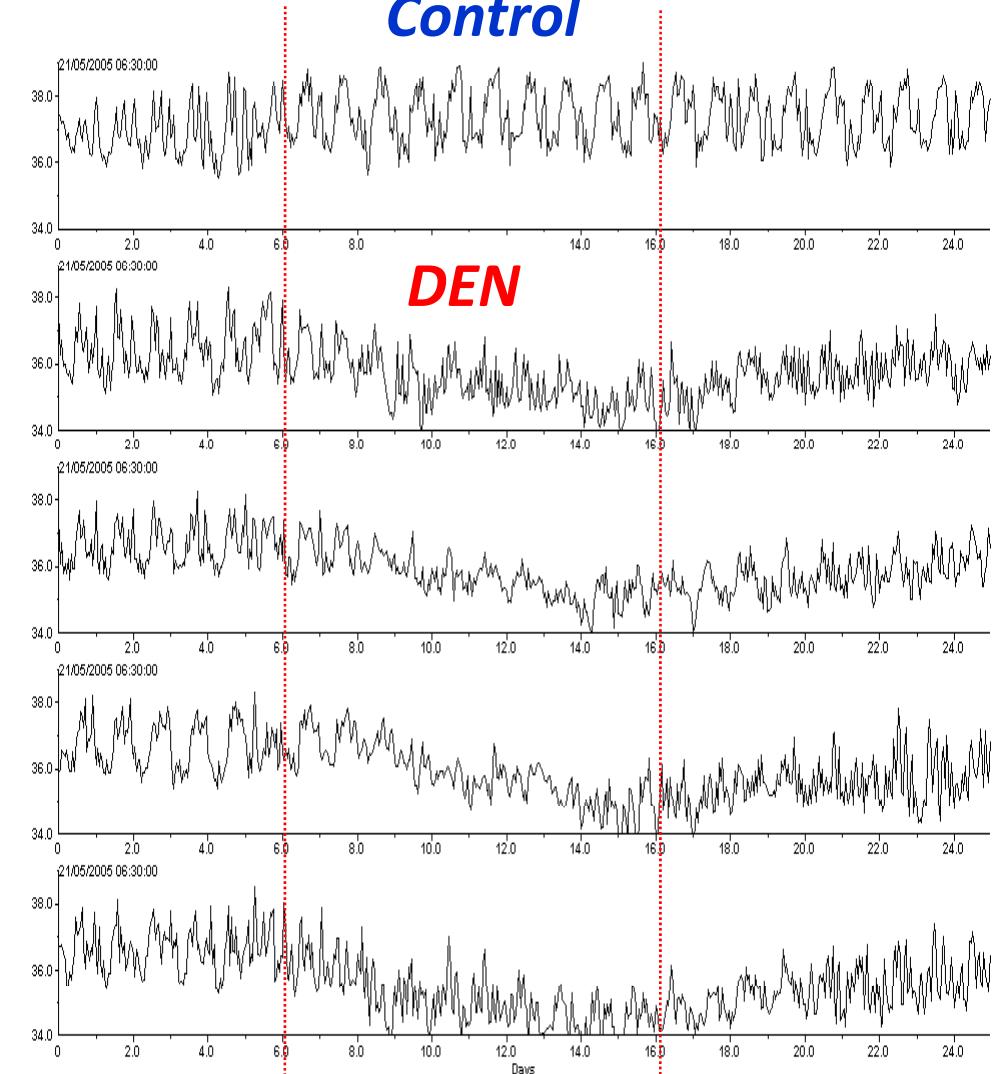
*Control*



**DEN**

## Body temperature

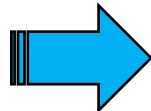
*Control*



**DEN**

# Relevance of experimental circadian disruption for malignant processes

**SCN ablation**  
**Chronic jet lag**  
**Constant light**  
**Per2, Clock mutations**



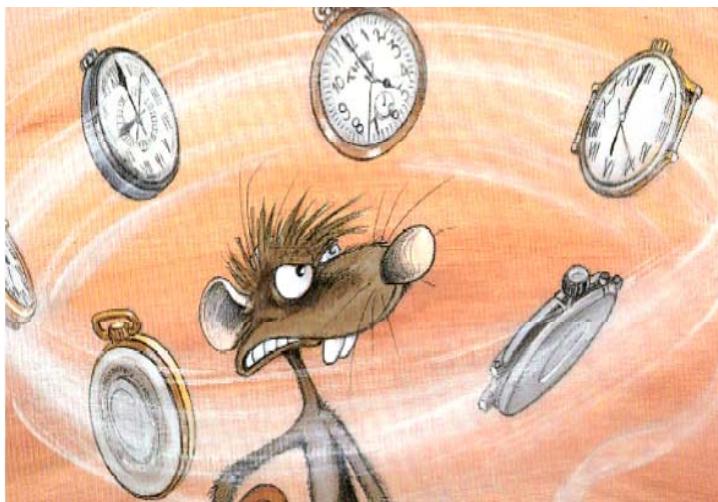
**Disruption of**  
• circadian physiology  
• host molecular clocks



**Genomic instability**  
**Accelerated cell cycling**



**Accelerated cancer growth**  
**Increased cancer incidence**



# Breast, colorectal or prostate cancers: increased risk in shift workers



European Journal of Cancer 41 (2005) 2023–2032

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European  
Journal of  
Cancer

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[www.ejconline.com](http://www.ejconline.com)

## Night work and breast cancer risk: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Sarah P. Megdal <sup>a</sup>, Candyce H. Kroenke <sup>b,c</sup>, Francine Laden <sup>b,c,d</sup>,  
Eero Pukkala <sup>e</sup>, Eva S. Schernhammer <sup>b,c,f,\*</sup>

- **13 studies (7 of airline cabin crew , 6 other night shift workers)**
- **Aggregate estimated risk: 1.48 (95% CI, 1.36–1.61)**
- **Female airline cabin crew: SIR: 1.44 (95% CI, 1.26–1.65)**
- **Female night workers : RR: 1.51 (95% CI, 1.36–1.68)**

“Studies on night shift work and breast cancer risk collectively show an increased breast cancer risk among women. Publication bias is unlikely to have influenced the results.”



## Carcinogenicity of shift-work, painting, and fire-fighting

Kurt Straif, Robert Baan, Yann Grosse, Béatrice Secretan, Fatiha El Ghissassi, Véronique Bouvard, Andrea Altieri, Lamia Benbrahim-Tallaa, Vincent Cogliano, on behalf of the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer Monograph Working Group

...About 15–20% of the working population in Europe and the USA is engaged in shift-work that involves night work, which is most prevalent (above 30%) in the health-care, industrial manufacturing, mining, transport, communication, leisure, and hospitality sectors.

Among the many different patterns of shift-work, those including nightwork are the most disruptive for the circadian clock....

...the Working Group concluded that  
“shift-work that involves circadian disruption is probably carcinogenic to humans” (Risk level 2A)

## Performance status (WHO)

**0** Able to carry out normal activity without restriction

**I** Restricted in physically strenuous activity  
but ambulatory and able to do light work.

**II** Ambulatory and capable of self-care  
but unable to carry out any work.  
Up and about >50% of waking hours

**III** Capable of only limited self-care,  
confined to bed or chair > 50% of waking hours

**IV** Completely disabled. Cannot carry on any self-care.  
Totally confined to bed or chair

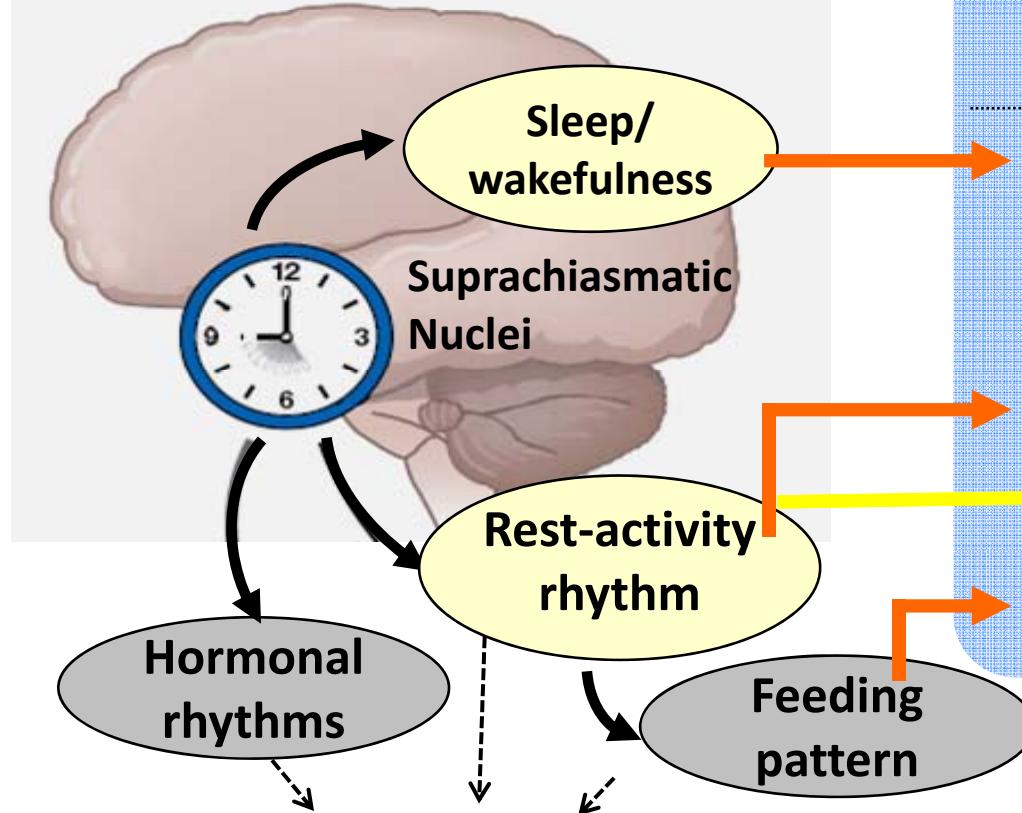
- **Performance status (PS) : the main prognostic variable of survival across all cancers.**
- **PS is based on a subjective rating of the patient's daily activities by the physician.**
- **Health-related Quality of Life through patient-rated questionnaires also appears as an independent prognostic factor of survival.**

# Circadian disruption in cancer patients: relations with symptoms and quality of life

## Environment

Day/night  
Social  
Familial  
Meals

## Circadian Timing system



Circadian clocks in  
peripheral organs

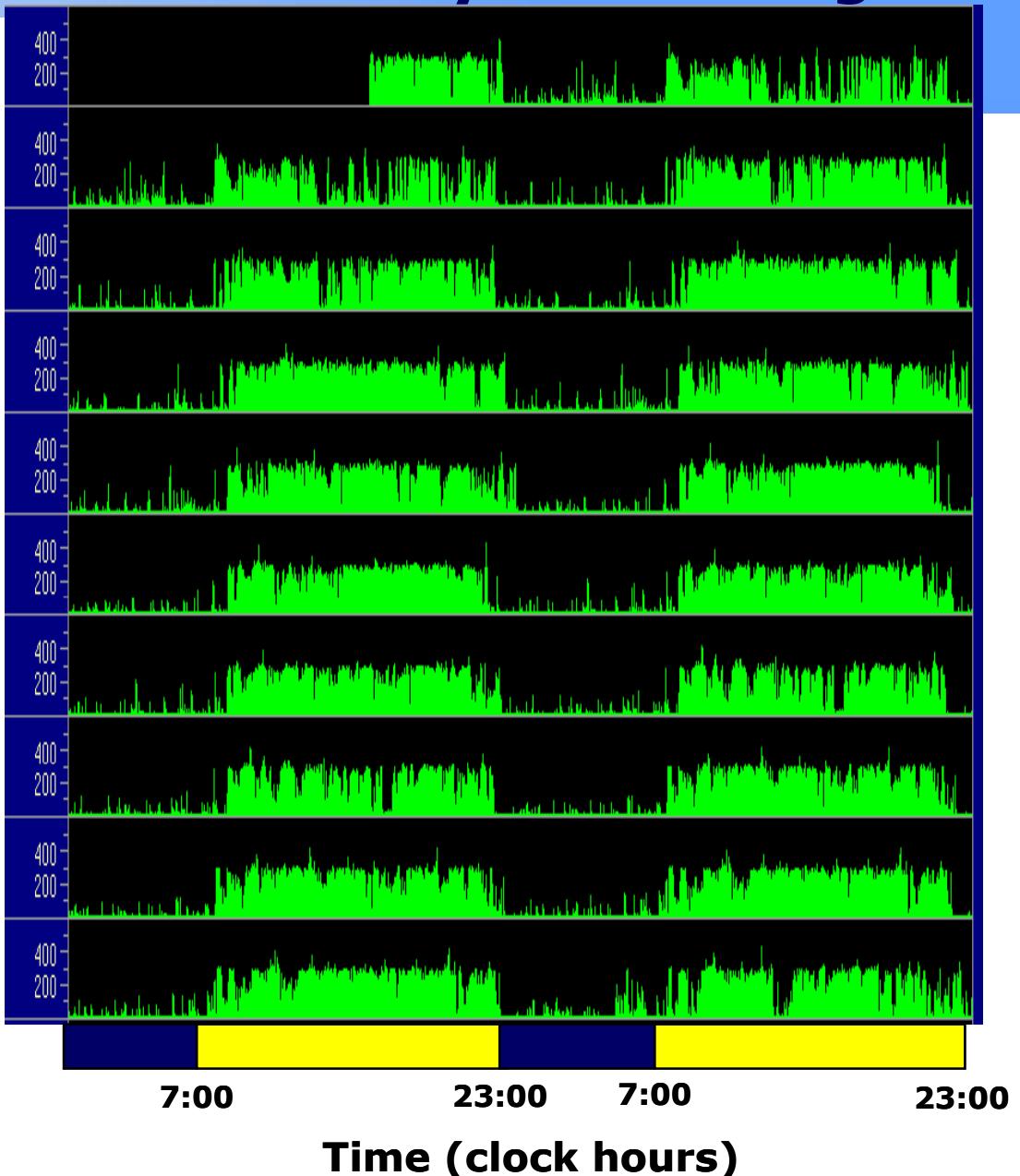


PS

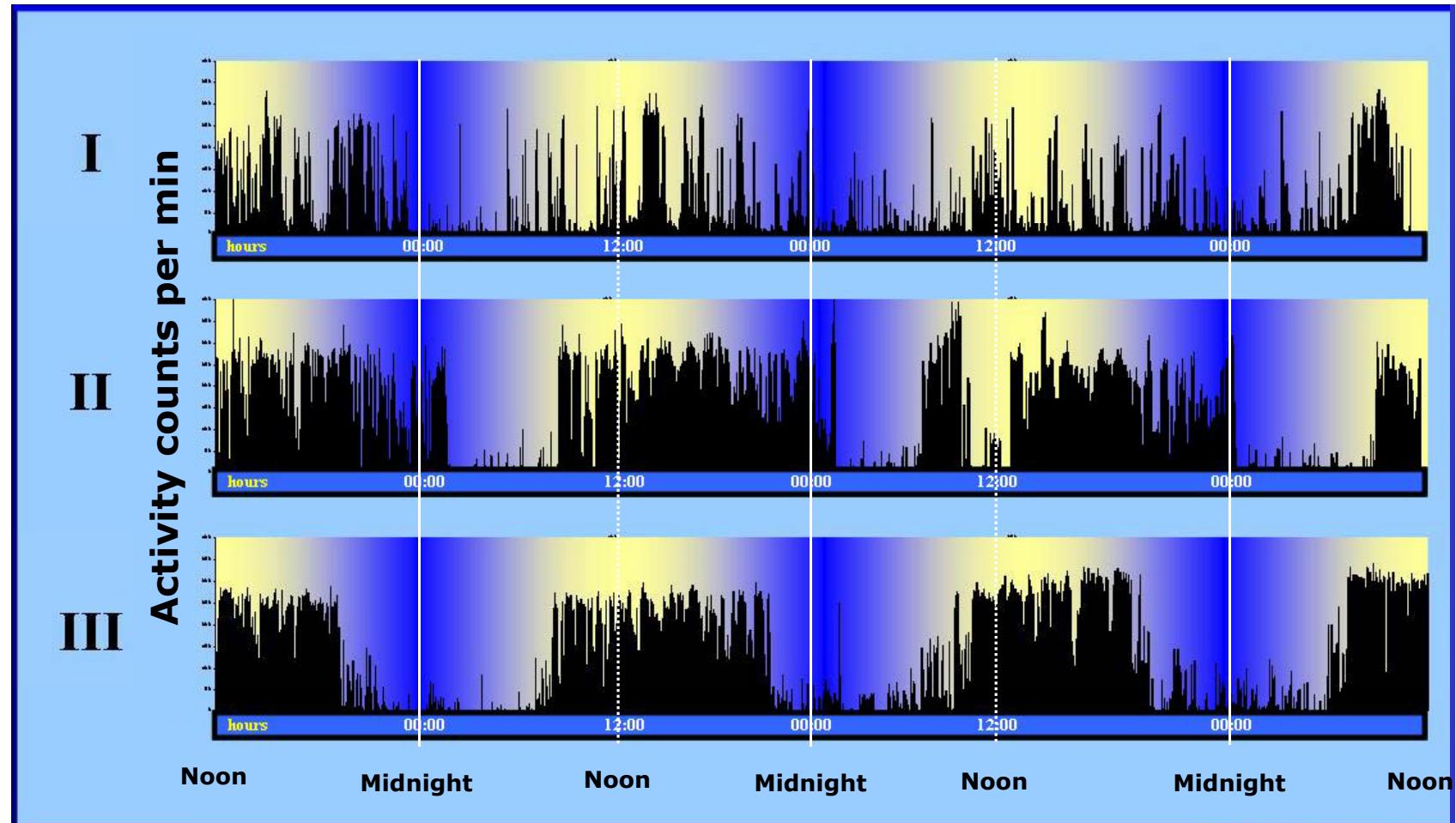
## Rest-activity monitoring



- Piezo-electric accelerometer
- Count of accelerations per min
- « Continuous » recording for days or weeks
- Zero-crossing vs PIM mode
- Quantified parameters ( $r_{24}$ ,  $I_{<0}$ )



# Variable interindividual patterns in rest-activity rhythm in cancer patients (metastatic colorectal cancer)



# Relation between rest-activity cycle and QoL (EORTC) 192 patients with metastatic colorectal cancer

**Table 3.** Differences in Mean Quality of Life Scores According to Patients'  $I < O$

QoL Parameter	$I < O$ Quartile Group*				<i>p</i> (Kruskal-Wallis)
	1	2	3	4	
Global QoL	53	54.2	63.2	68.4	0.001
Physical functioning	62.5	72.4	82.2	89.5	<0.0001
Social functioning	60.2	63	74.4	80.7	0.006
Fatigue	50.9	40.7	36	26.8	0.001
Appetite loss	37	24.6	18	11.7	0.01
Constipation	37.1	21.4	20.5	12.8	0.03
Pain	35.7	19.6	21.1	13.7	0.05
Depression	6.9	6.1	5	4	0.02

Only statistically validated differences appear in the table.

\*  $I < O$  quartile groups—1:  $I < O < 25\%$  quartile, 2:  $I < O > 25\%$  and  $< 50\%$  quartile, 3:  $I < O > 50\%$  and  $< 75\%$  quartile, 4:  $I < O > 75\%$  quartile.



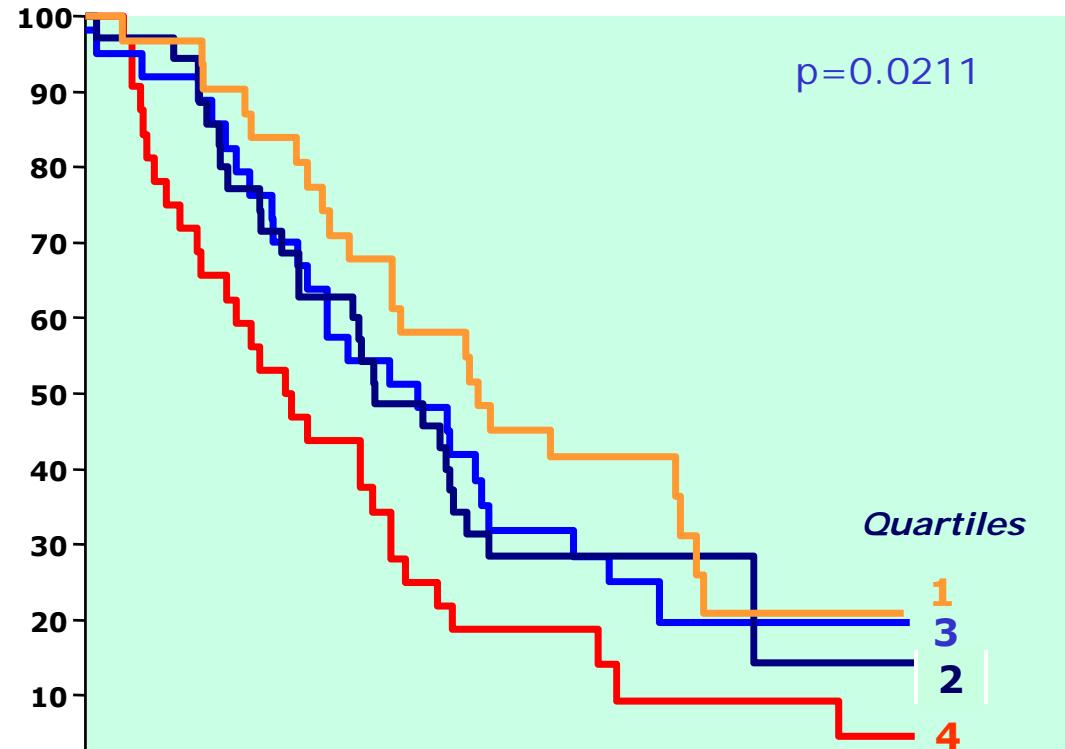
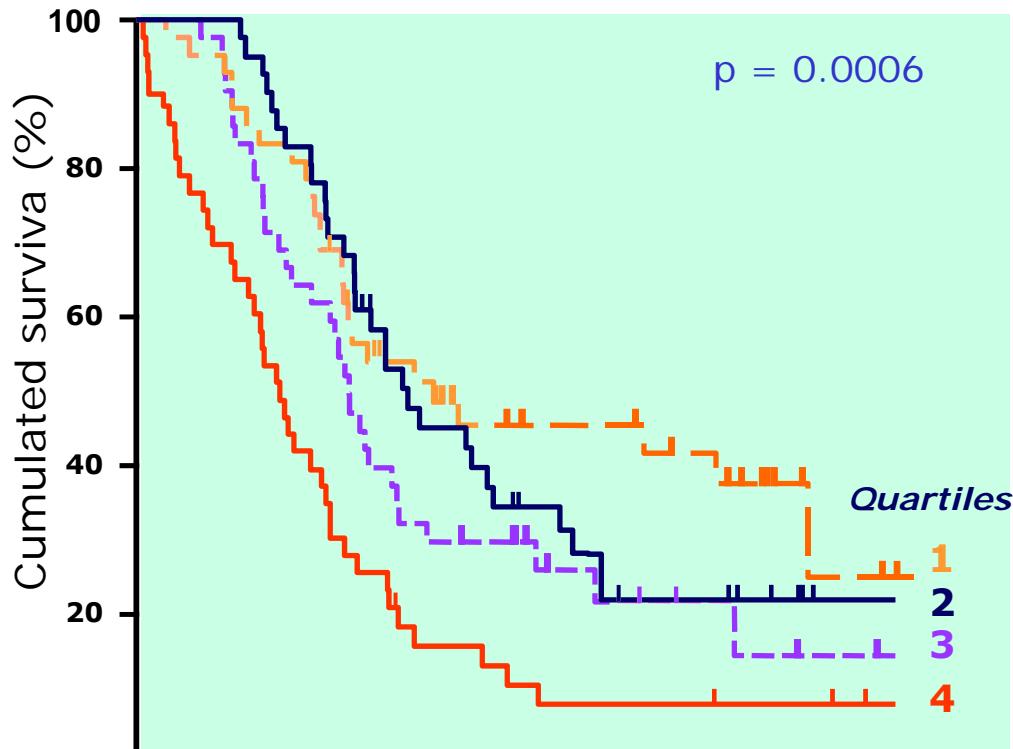
## Full Paper

# Circadian function in patients with advanced non-small-cell lung cancer

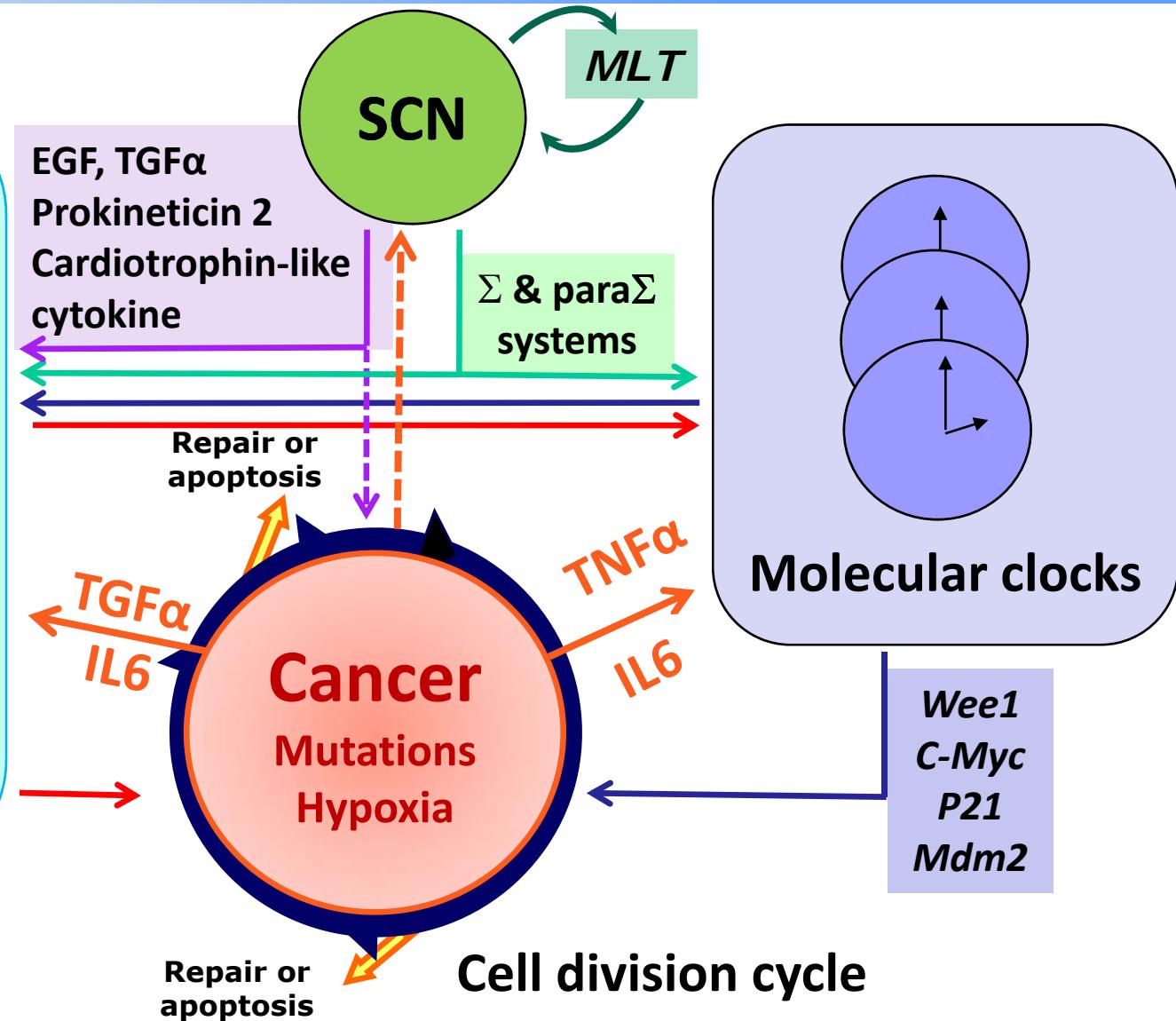
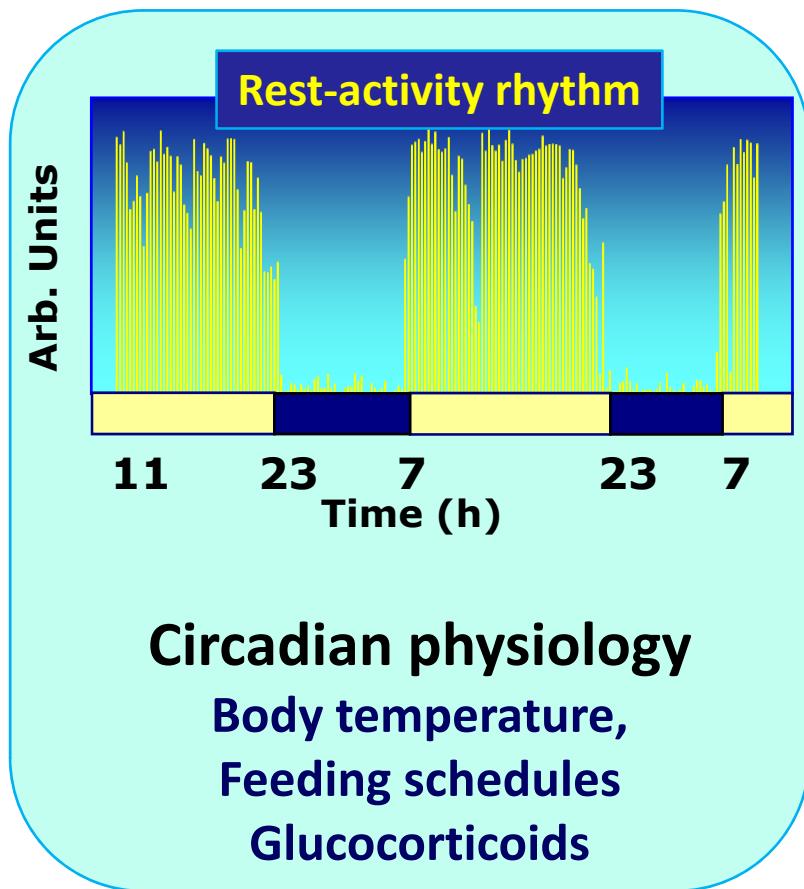
**RD Levin<sup>1</sup>, MA Daehler<sup>1</sup>, JF Grutsch<sup>1</sup>, J Quiton<sup>2</sup>, CG Lis<sup>\*,1</sup>, C Peterson<sup>1</sup>, D Gupta<sup>1</sup>, K Watson<sup>2</sup>, D Layer<sup>2</sup>, S Huff-Adams<sup>2</sup>, B Desai<sup>2</sup>, P Sharma<sup>2</sup>, M Wallam<sup>2</sup>, M Delioukina<sup>2</sup>, P Ball<sup>2</sup>, M Bryant<sup>2</sup>, M Ashford<sup>2</sup>, D Copeland<sup>2</sup>, M Ohmori<sup>2</sup>, PA Wood<sup>2</sup> and WJM Hrushesky<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA) at Midwestern Regional Medical Center, Zion, IL, USA; <sup>2</sup>WJB Dom Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Columbia, SC, USA

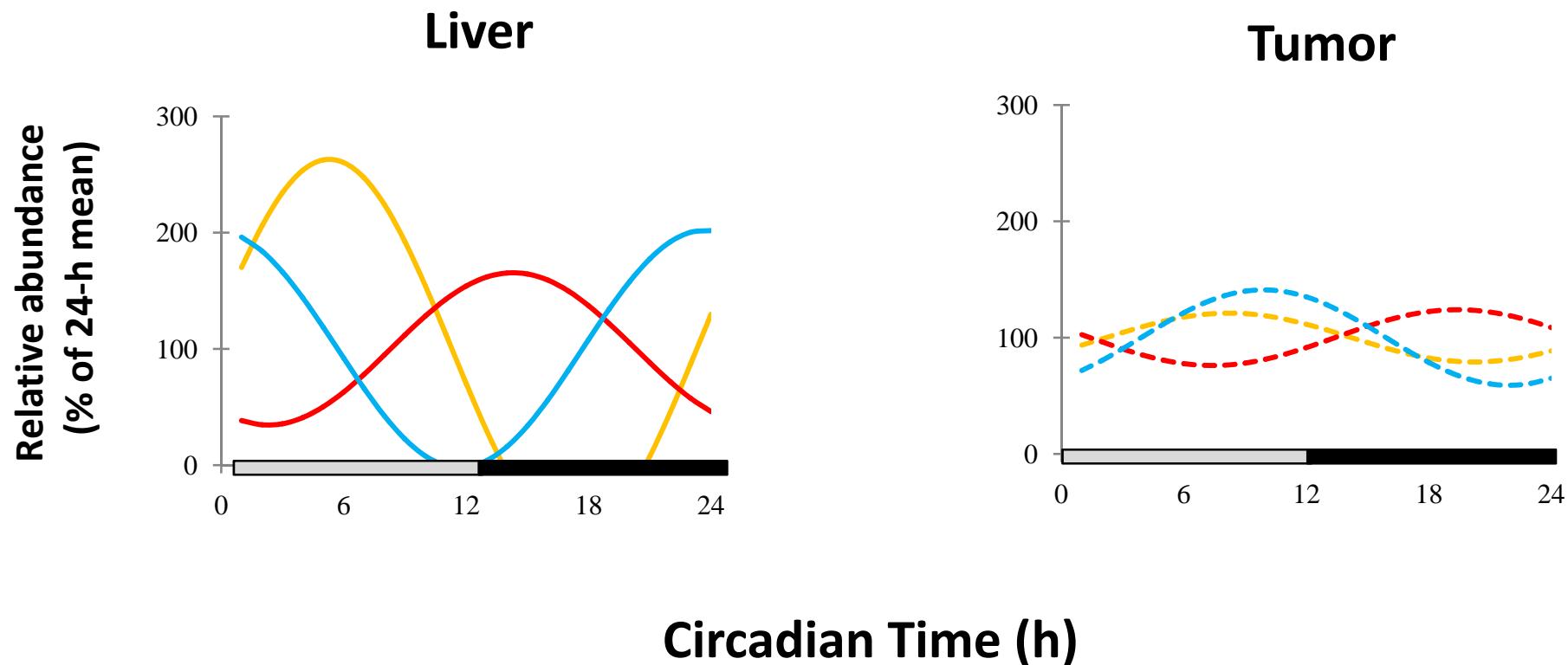
## 24-h rest-activity rhythm, independent prognostic factor of survival in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer



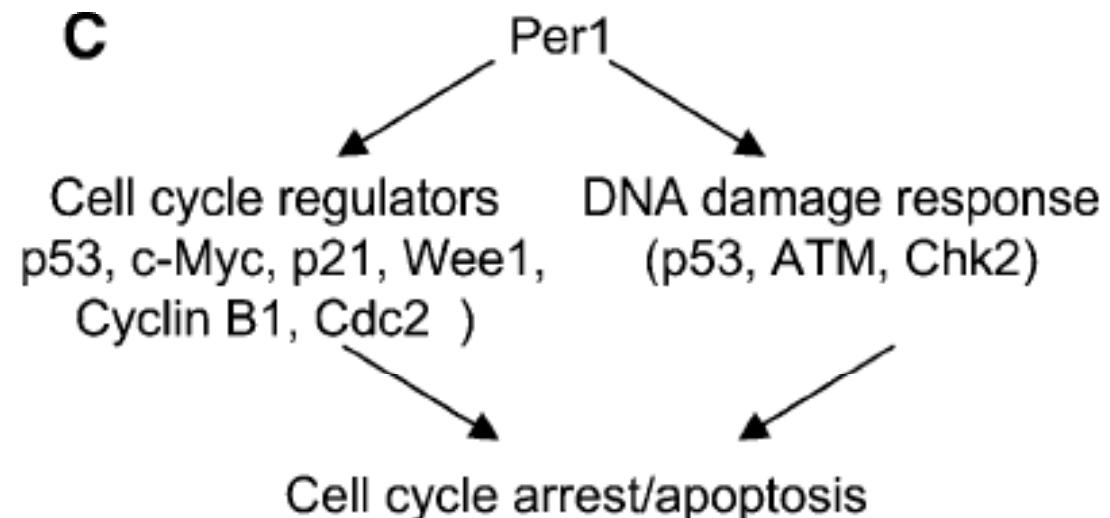
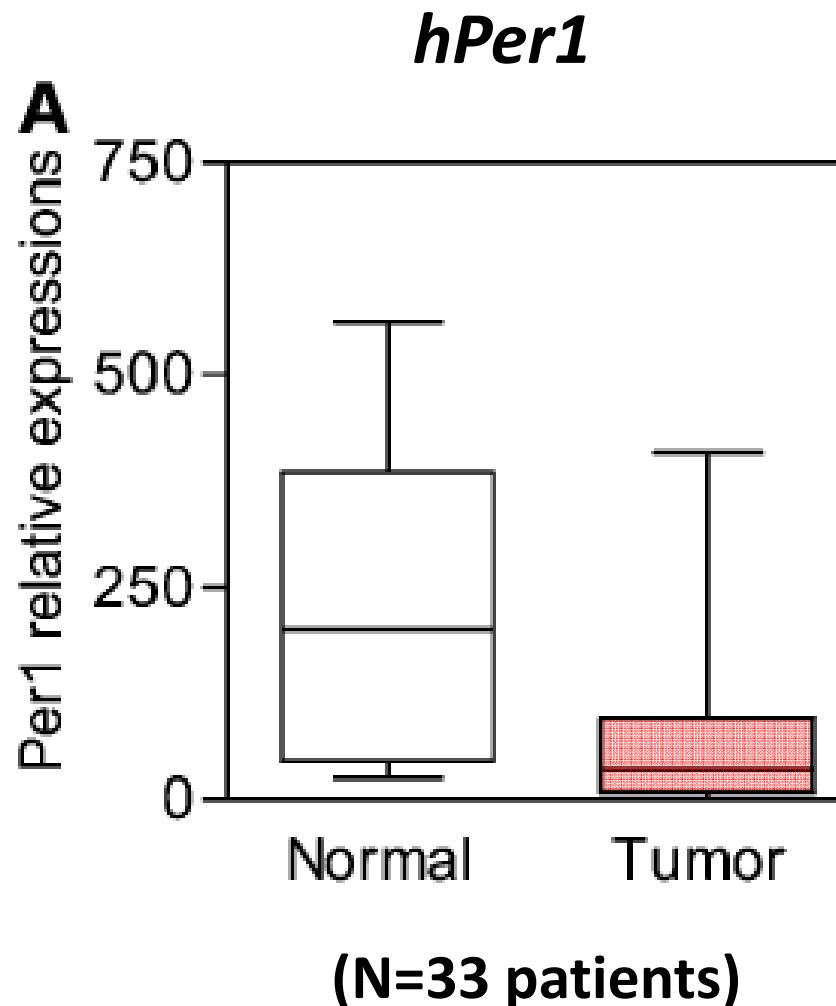
Relation between circadian rhythm and survival confirmed in advanced or metastatic lung, breast and GYN cancers and in metaanalysis in 500 pts with metastatic GI cancer



## Transcriptional rhythms of clock genes

**Rev-erba, Per2 and Bmal1**

# Clock genes mRNA expression in human lung cancer



# Clock genes expression in human cancers

Cancer type	Clock genes	mRNA expression	Ref.
Breast cancer	Per1	↓	[70]
Breast cancer*	Per1, Per2, Per3	↓	[89]
Familial-sporadic breast cancer	Per1, Per2	↓	[90]
Lung	Per1	↓	[5, 70]
Colon cancer	Per1	↓	[91]
Colon cancer	Per2 and Clock	= or ↓	[91]
Pancreatic cancer	Per1, Decl	↓	[92]
Endometrial cancer	Per1	↓	[93, 94]
Myeloid leukemia			
chronic	Per1, Per2, Per3	↓	[95]
acute	Per2	↓	[96]
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	NPas2	**	[97]

\* Disturbances in the expression of the genes through promoter methylation in 95% of the specimens.

\*\* Strong association between a functional polymorphism in the clock gene NPAS2 Ala 394 Thr and reduced risk for NHL.

# PER2 protein expression in colorectal cancer

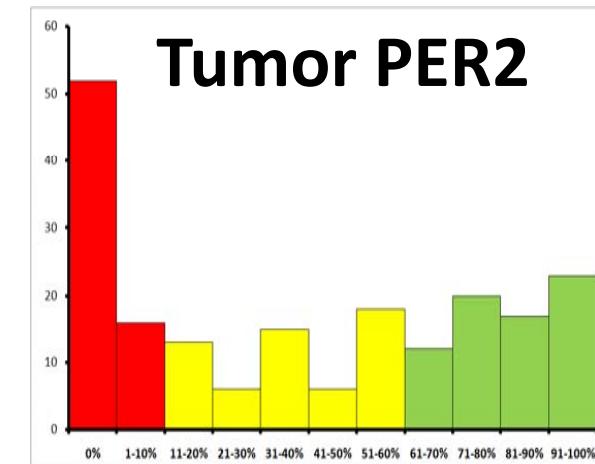
Patients with metastatic colorectal cancer

Multicenter trial

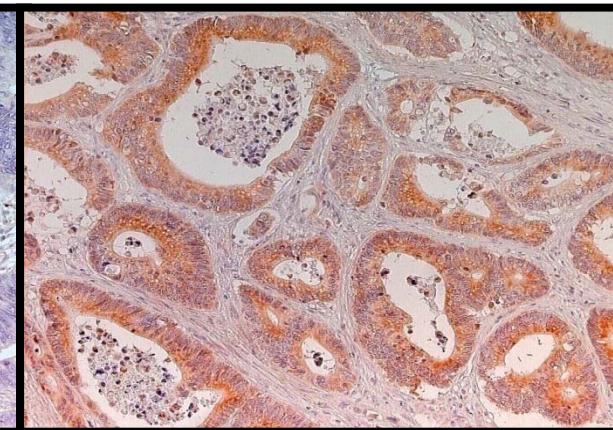
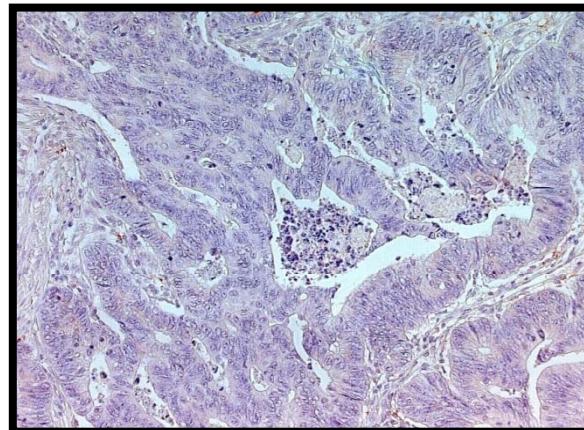
198 primary tumors before any chemo

IHC in triplicate (% labelled tumor cells)

Anti-PER1, anti-PER2, anti-PER3



0%



→

100%

PER2 expression

16.7

$P=0.013$

17.8

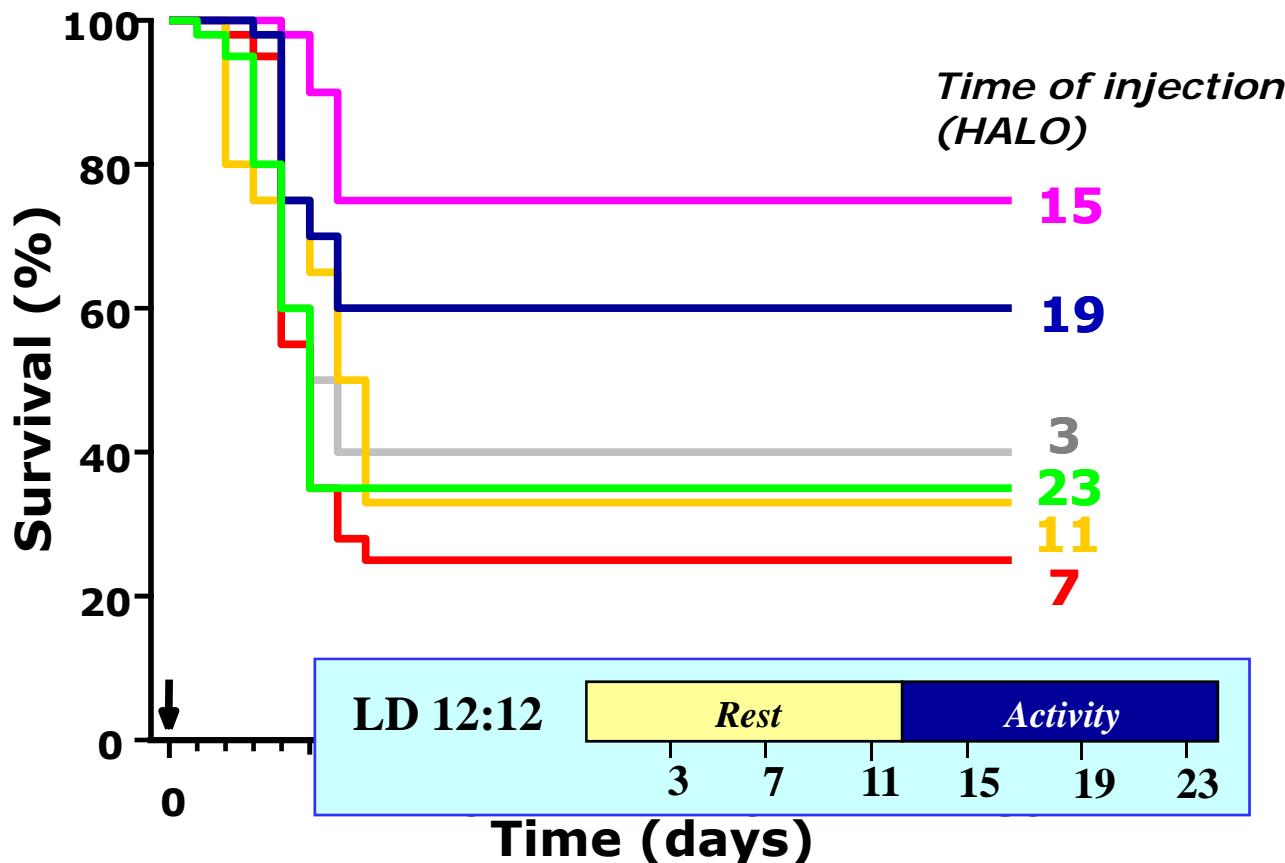
↓

19.5

Median survival (months)

- Toxicities and efficacy of anticancer treatments can be significantly reduced with appropriate timing
- Chronotherapeutics consist in the adaptation of anticancer drug delivery to circadian rhythms
  - Timing
  - Chonomodulated delivery

## Oxaliplatin in B6D2F1 mice



## Tolerability

42 anticancer drugs  
(all classes)

## Efficacy

19 anticancer drugs

## Best time

Similar for 90%

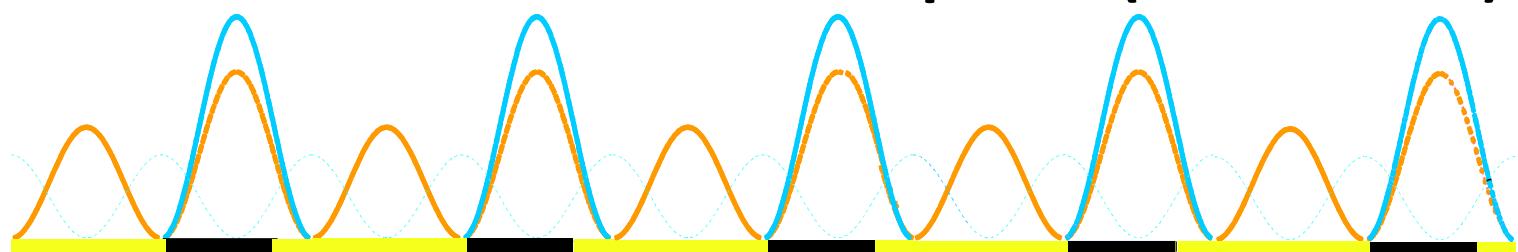
# Chronomodulated chemotherapy



Dosing time dependency in  
5-FU & oxaliplatin toxicities & efficacy



Chronomodulated 5-FU-LV-oxaliplatin (ChronoFLO)



vs constant rate    vs opposite chronoFLO  
278 pts (no prior chemo)    114 pts (prior chemo)

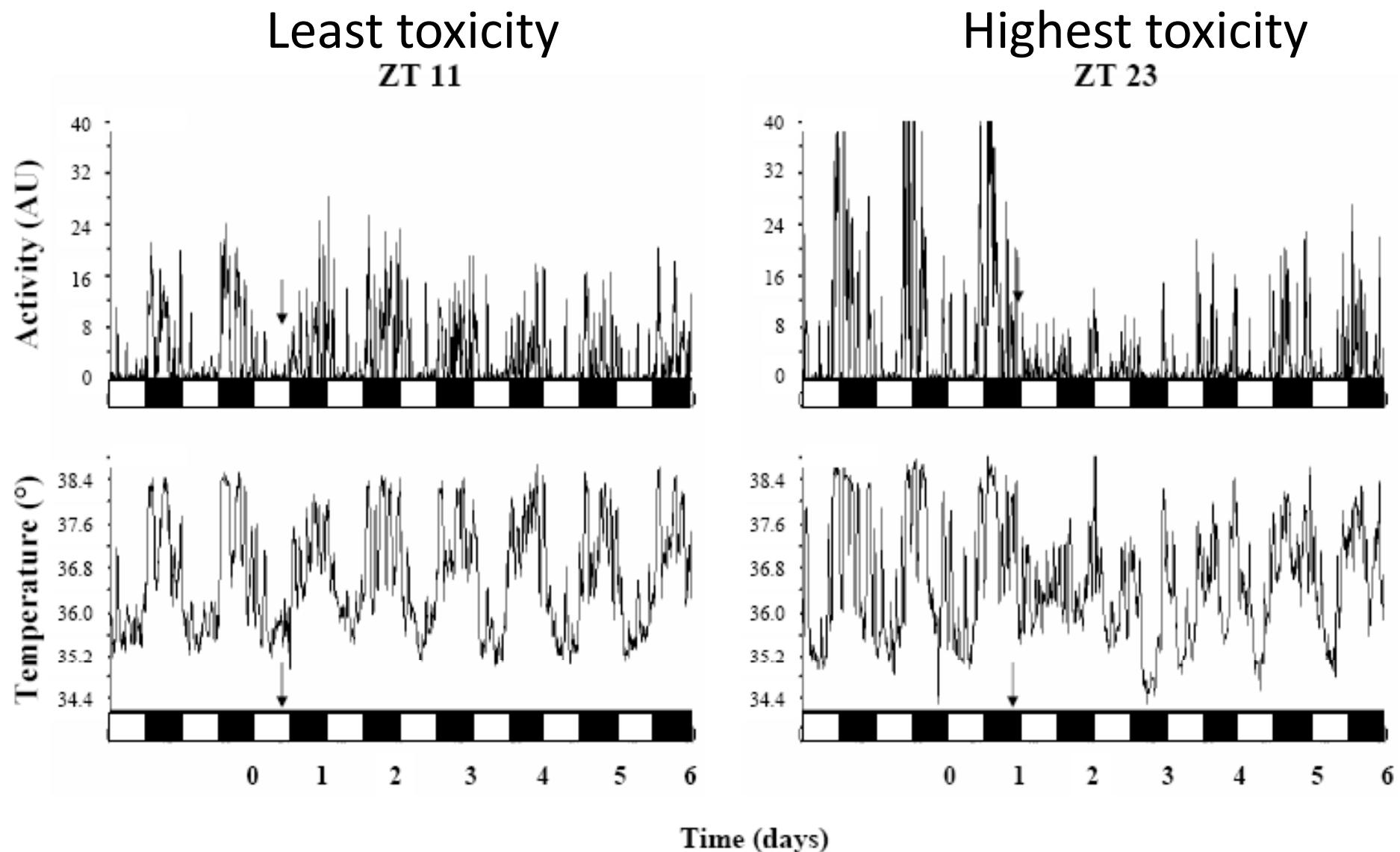
***Severe toxicity (gr 3-4)***    **14% vs 76%**

**16% vs 80%**

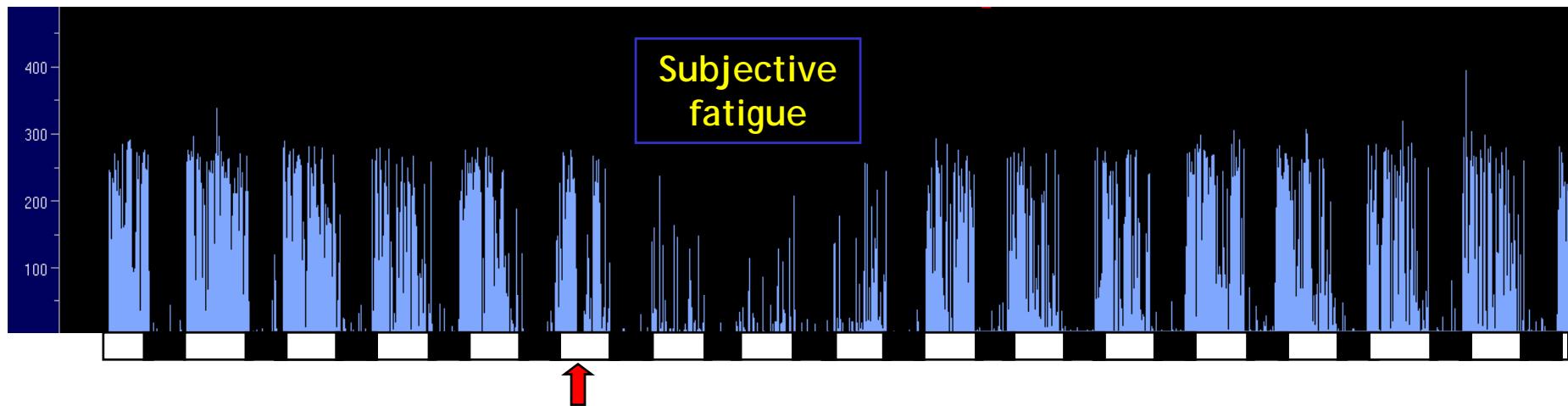
***Major tumor responses***    **51% vs 30%**

**30% vs 12%**

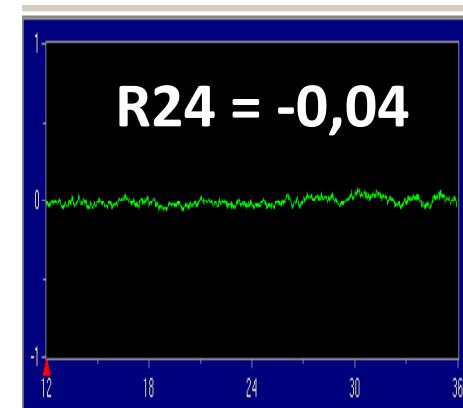
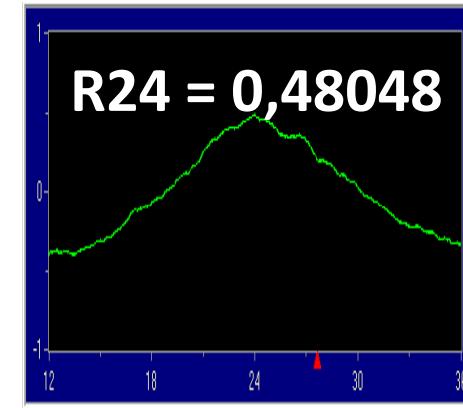
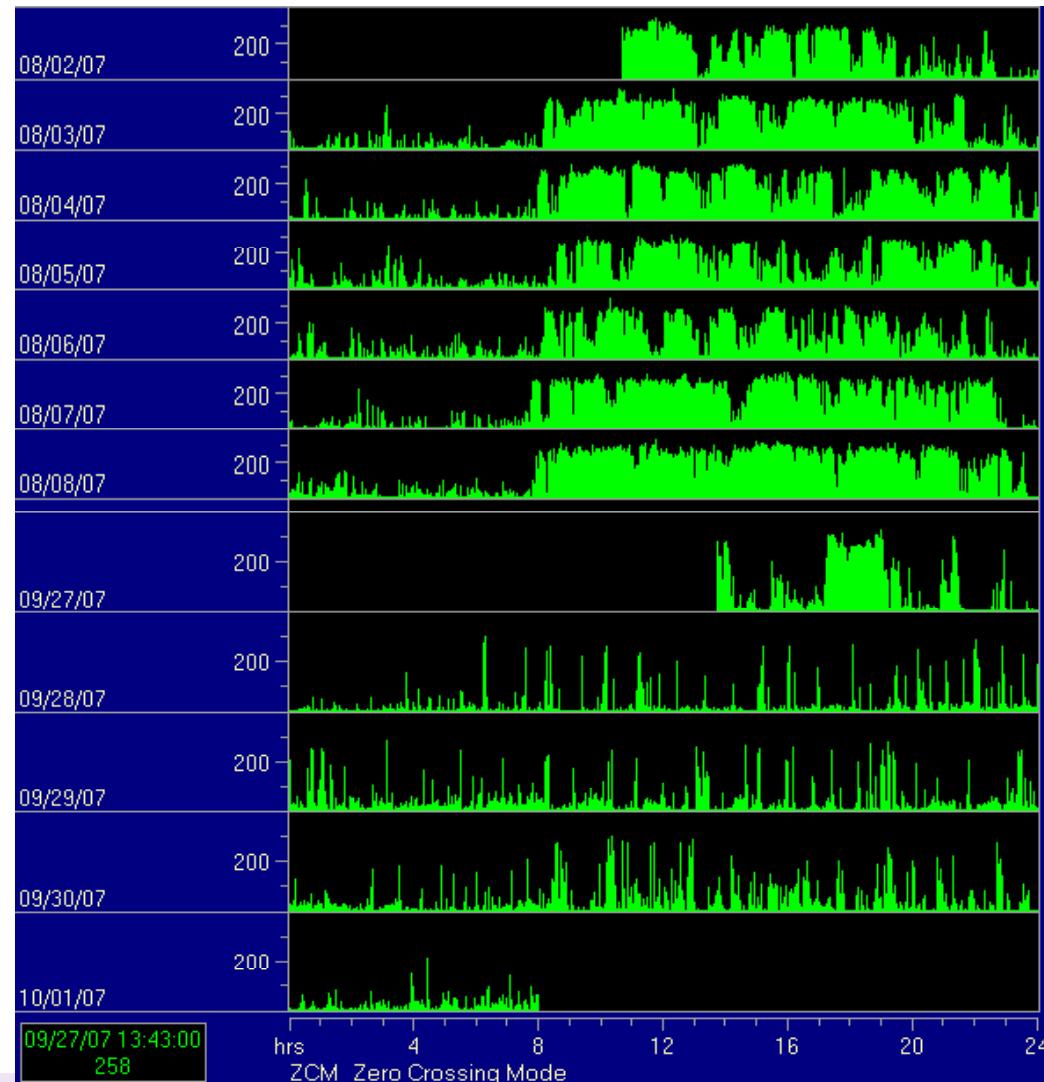
# Gemcitabine-induced circadian disruption according to drug timing (mice)



## Circadian disruption (rest-activity rhythm) on docetaxel chemotherapy

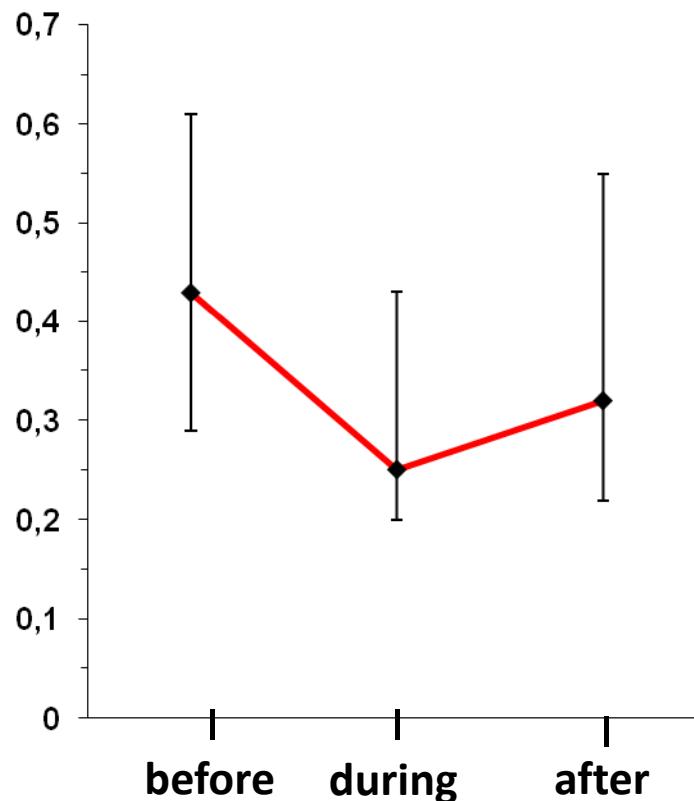


# Circadian disruption (rest-activity rhythm) on irinotecan chemotherapy (cancer patient)

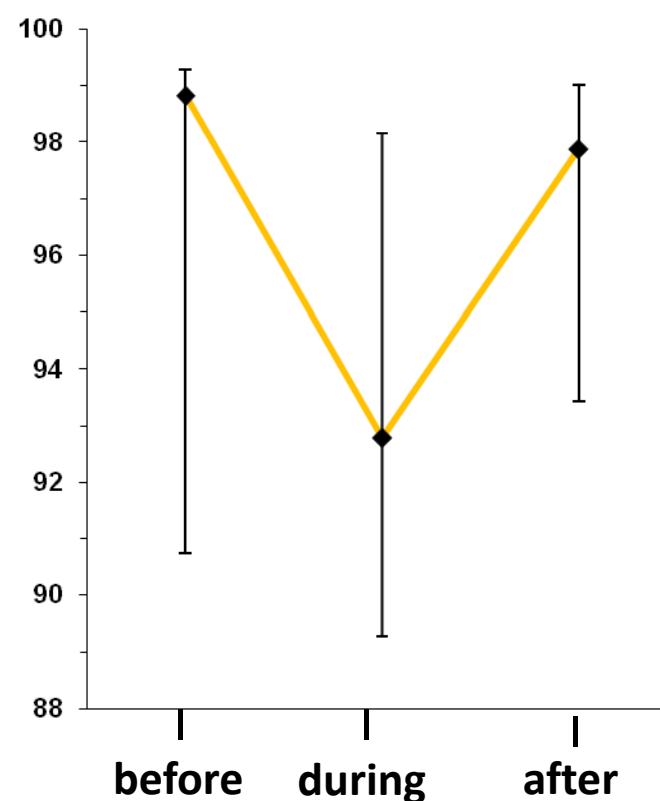


# Circadian disruption on chemotherapy (rest-activity rhythm in 20 cancer patients)

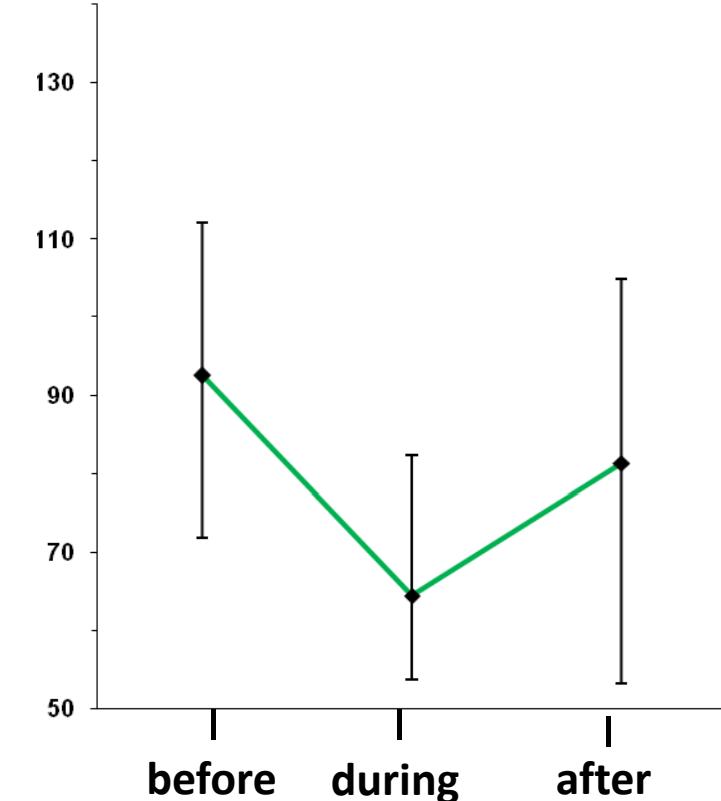
Autocorrelation r24



Dichotomy I<0

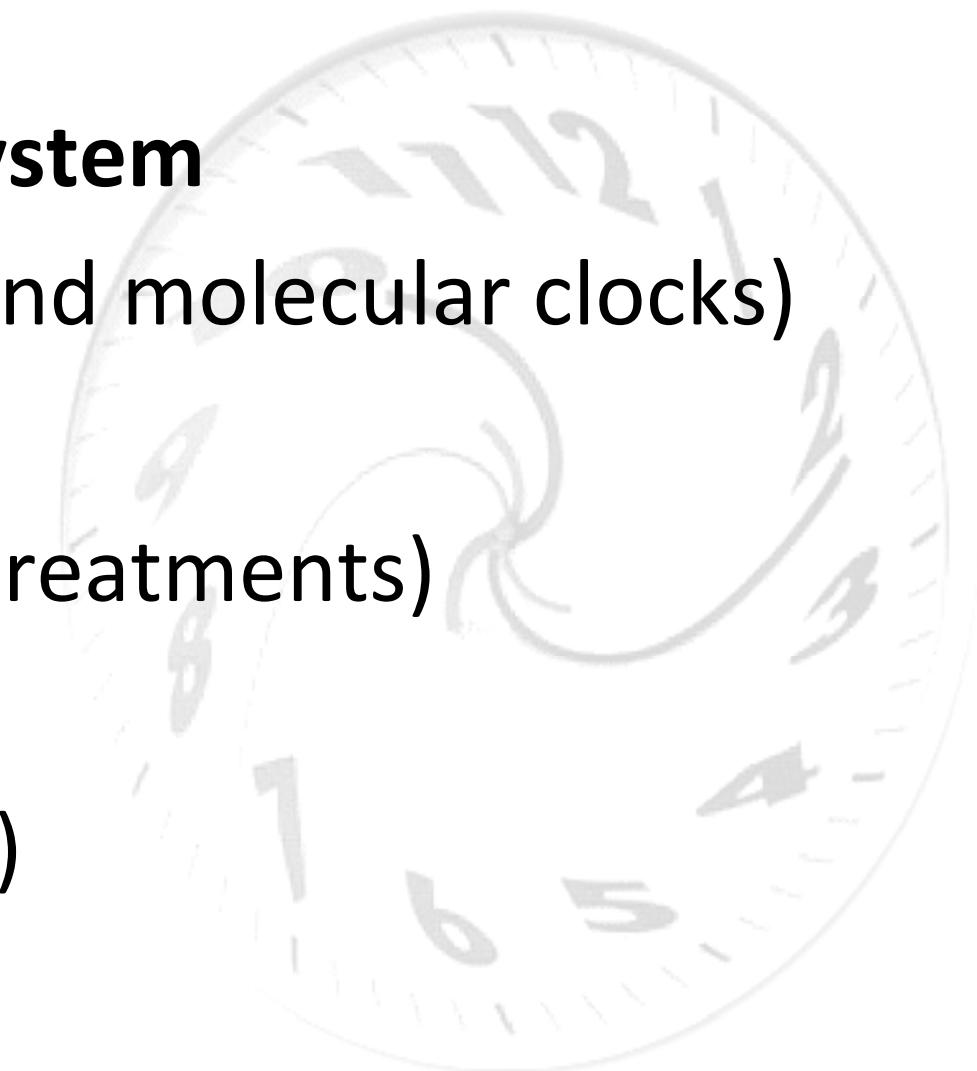


Circadian amplitude

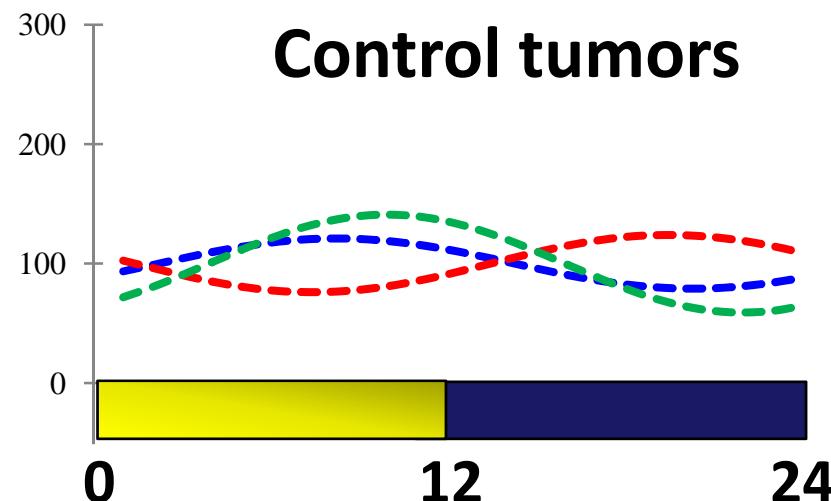


Median and 25<sup>th</sup> - 75<sup>th</sup> quartile of the parameters distributions;  
 $p$  from Wilcoxon for treatment effect <0.001 for each circadian parameter

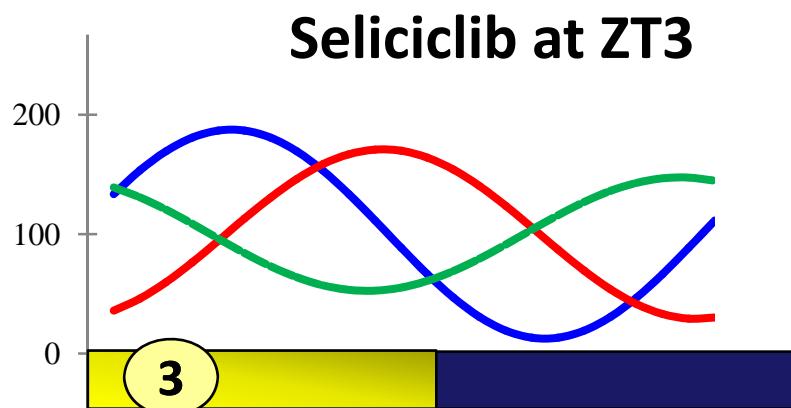
- **The circadian timing system**  
(circadian biomarkers and molecular clocks)
- **Circadian disruption**  
(cancer processes and treatments)
- ➔ **Circadian induction**  
(cancer and host clocks)
- **Conclusions**



Reverba → Per2 → Bmal1

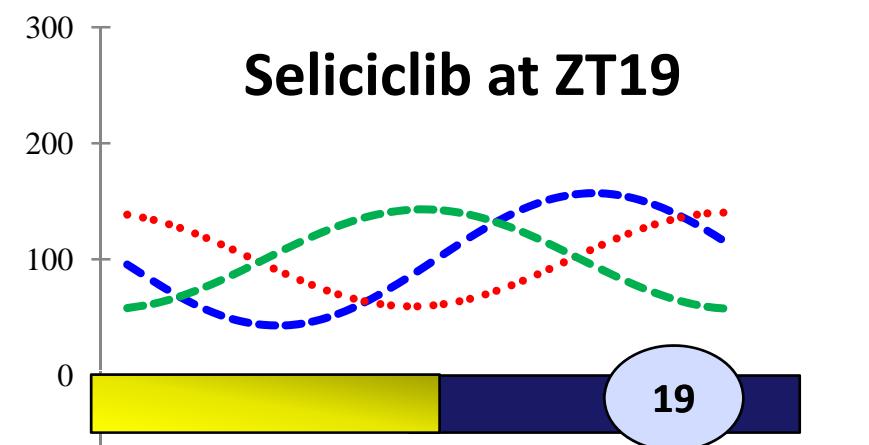


In GOS tumor,  
Seliciclib inhibits  
activities of  
CDK1, CDK2, CDK7,  
CDK9, cyclin H & CKI $\delta/\epsilon$



**60% tumor inhibition**

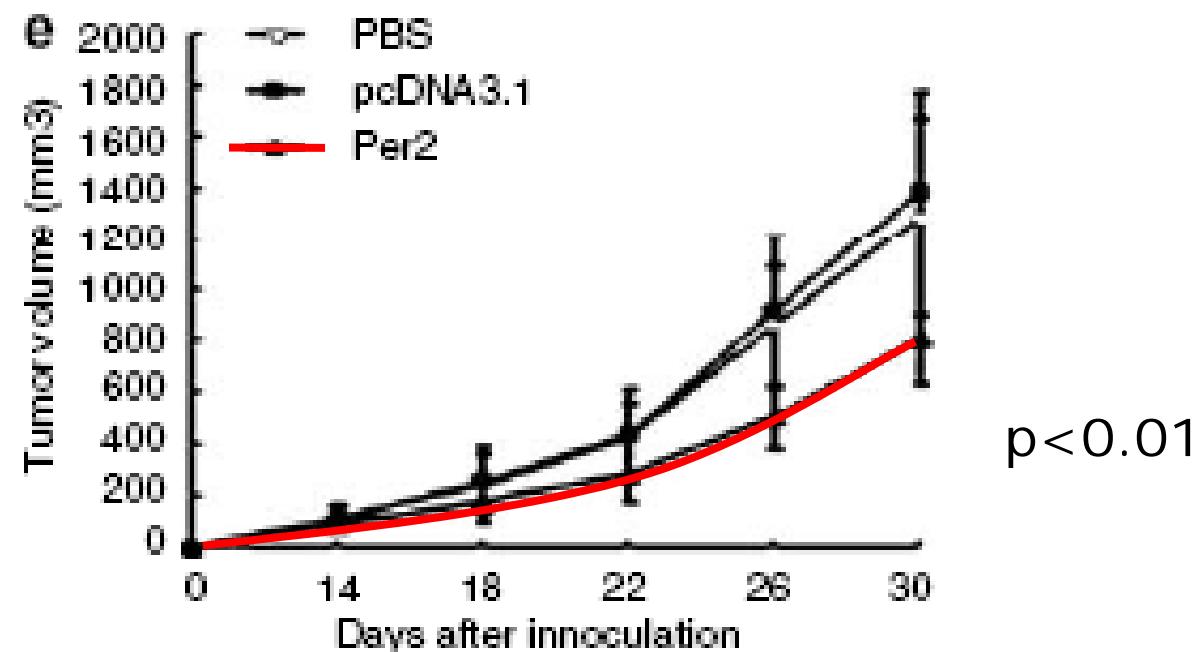
Circadian time (h)



**30% tumor inhibition**

## Per2 gene delivery as a novel therapeutic intervention for treatment of cancer

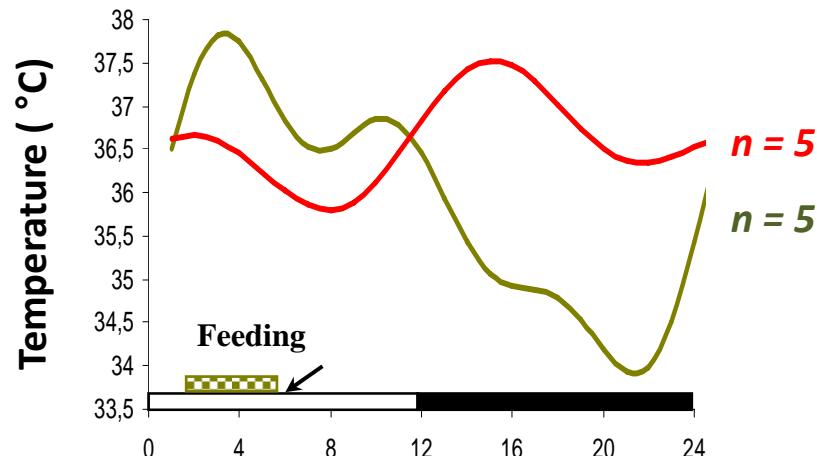
Intratumor delivery of *Per2* had significant antitumor effects in C57BL/6 mice transplanted with Lewis lung carcinoma. It inhibited PCNA expression and induced apoptosis. (*Hua et al Cancer Gene Ther, 2007 June 22*).



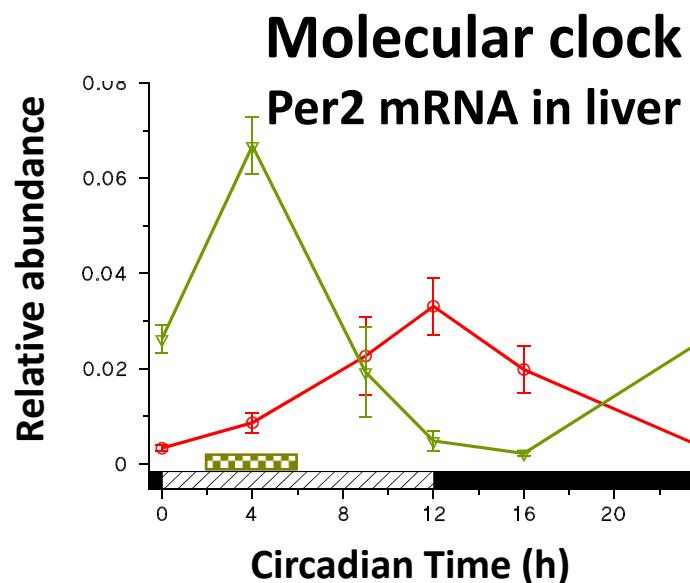
# Re-inforcement of circadian timing system (meal timing at light –MTL)

## Circadian Timing system Physiology

Body temperature curve

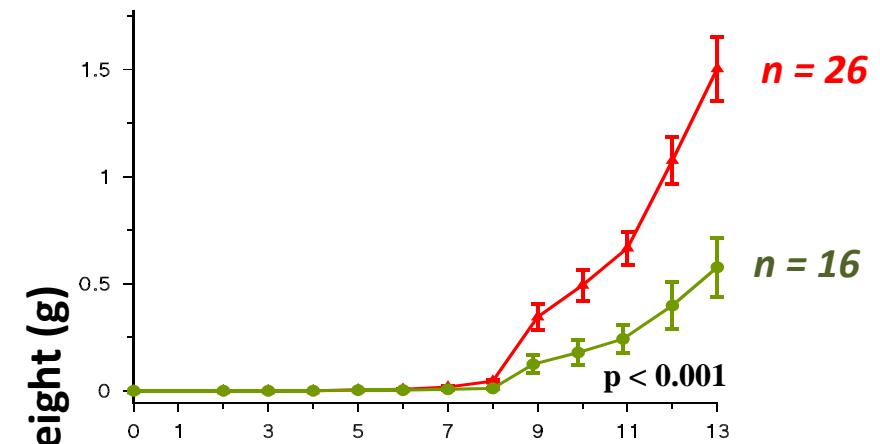


— Ad lib  
— MTL



## Tumor progression

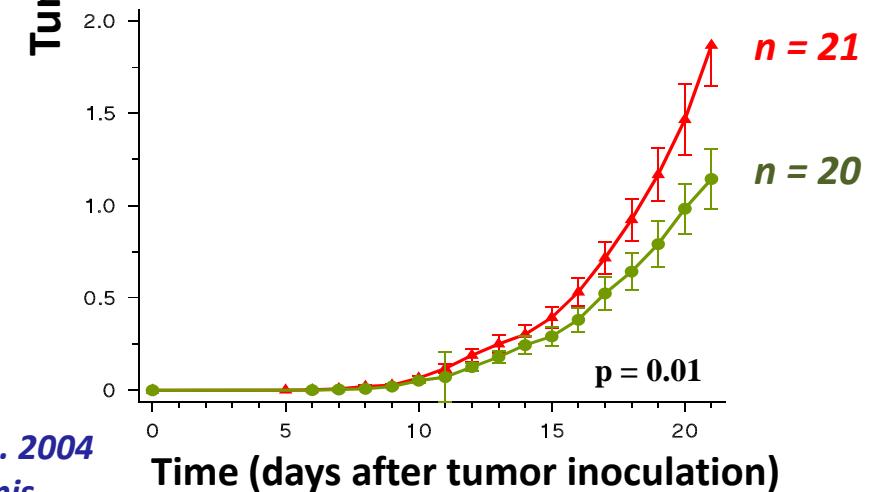
Glasgow osteosarcoma



PO3 adenocarcinoma

$n = 2-4/\text{point}$

Wu et al., Life Sci.; 2004  
Li et al., Soumis



## Pharmacologic treatment of circadian disruption

### Morning glucocorticoids in NSCLC patients

Parameters	Corticotherapy (6)	No corticotherapy (17)	p
MOY	104.8 ± 25.5	> 93.8 ± 38.2	0.26
R24	<b>0.388 ± 0.181</b>	<b>0.287 ± 0.149</b>	<b>0.089</b>
MOI	<b>91.77 ± 6.45</b>	<b>78.76 ± 28.36</b>	<b>0.14</b>
MIO	92.88 ± 5.49	> 82.45 ± 29.56	0.205

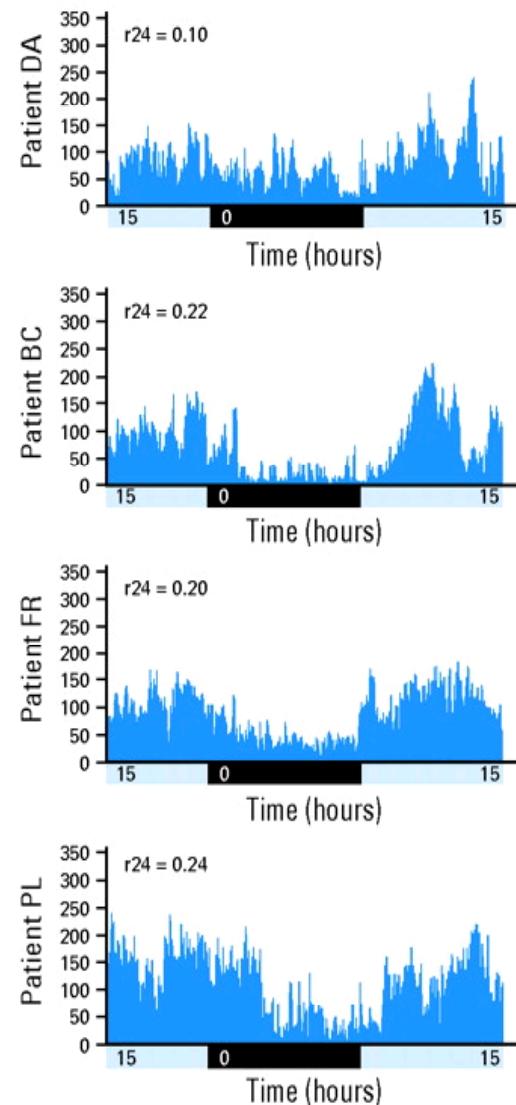
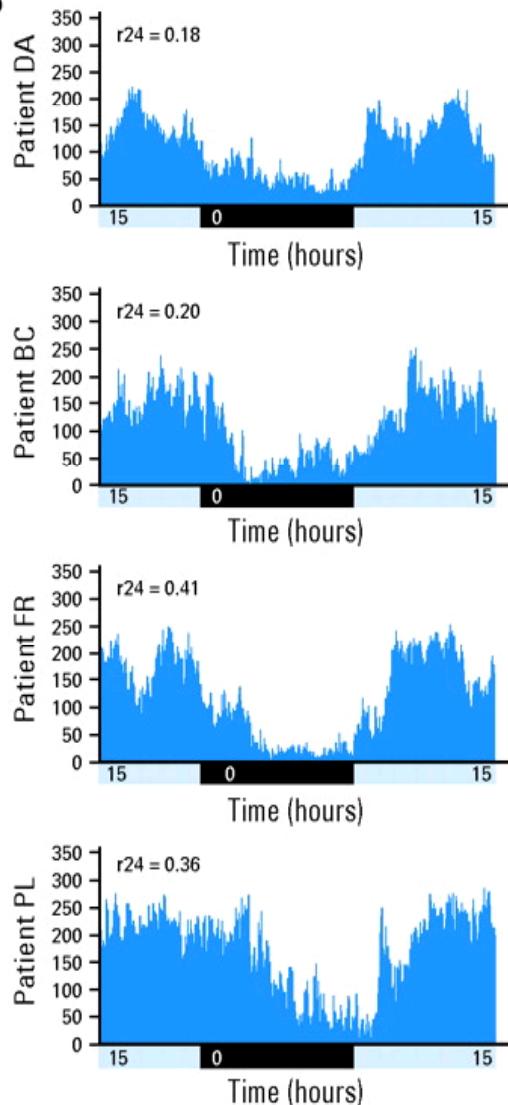
# Pharmacologic treatment of circadian disruption

## Gefitinib (TKI) in NSCLC patients

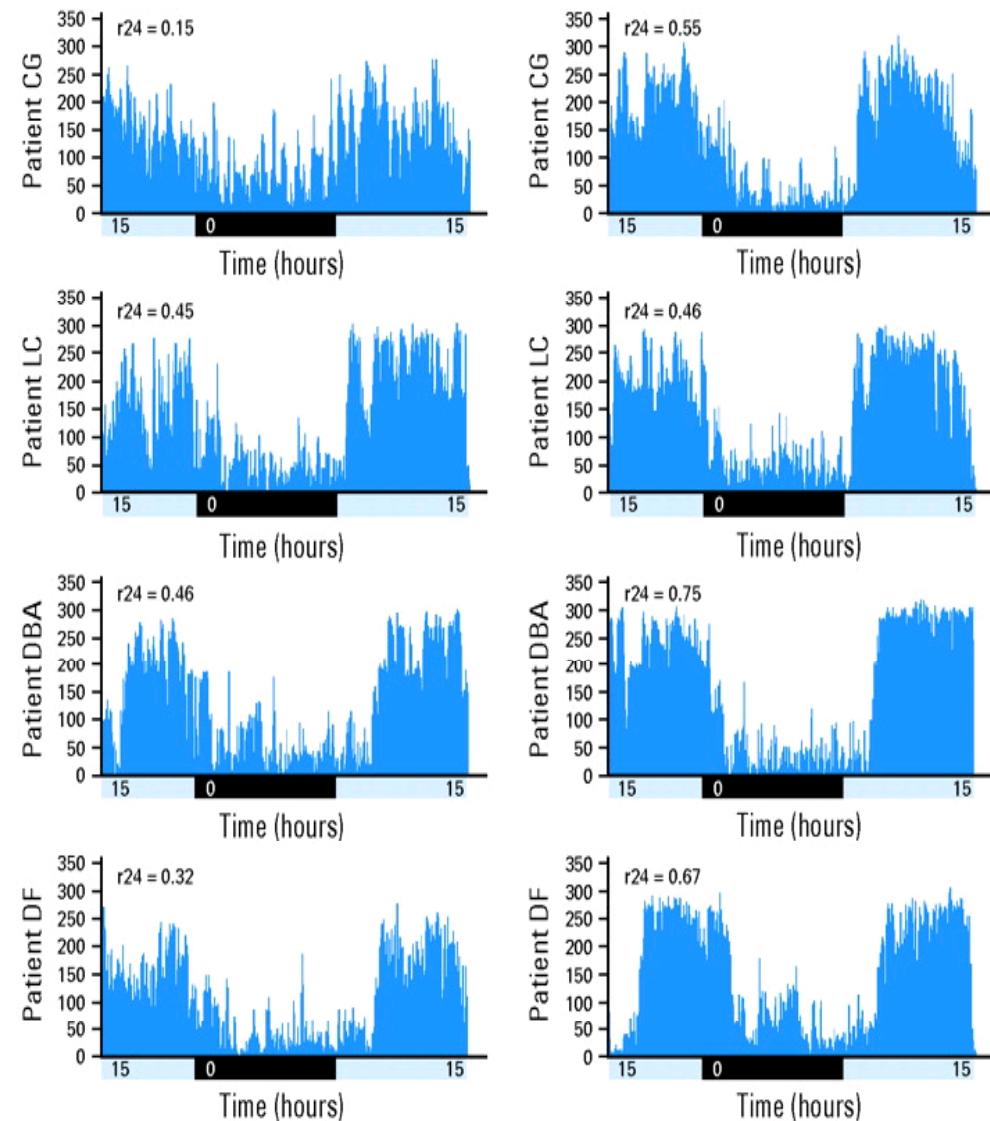
- 10 patients treated with gefitinib (250 mg daily)
- 4 patients treated with chemotherapy as controls

# Circadian disruption or induction in cancer therapy

## Chemotherapy (4 patients)

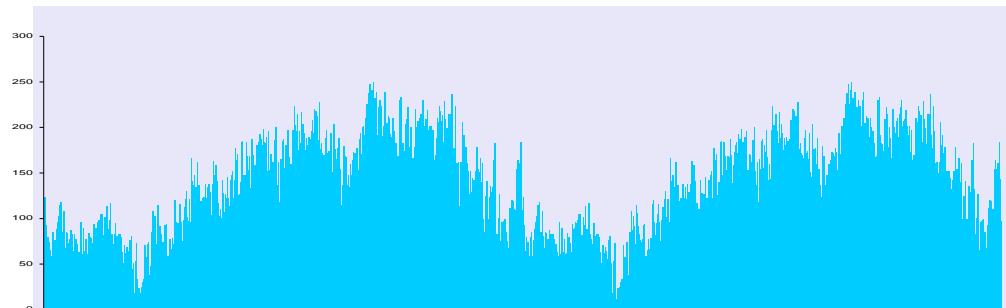


## Gefitinib (10 patients)



# Erlotinib (TKI) on the rest-activity rhythm of a NSCLC patient

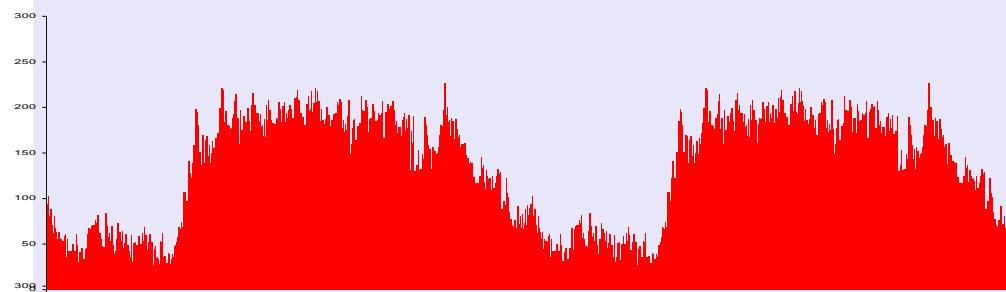
**Before**



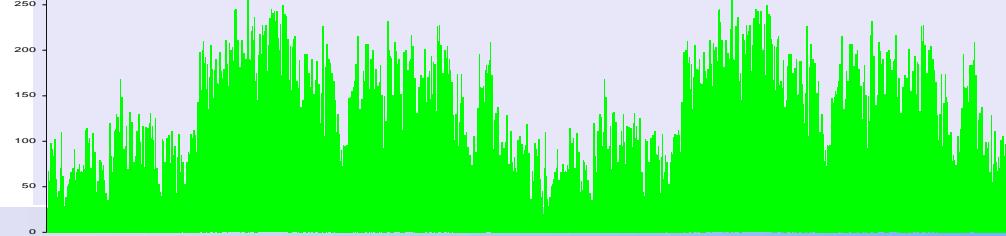
**Morning  
erlotinib**



**Evening  
erlotinib**



**After**



**R24 I<0**

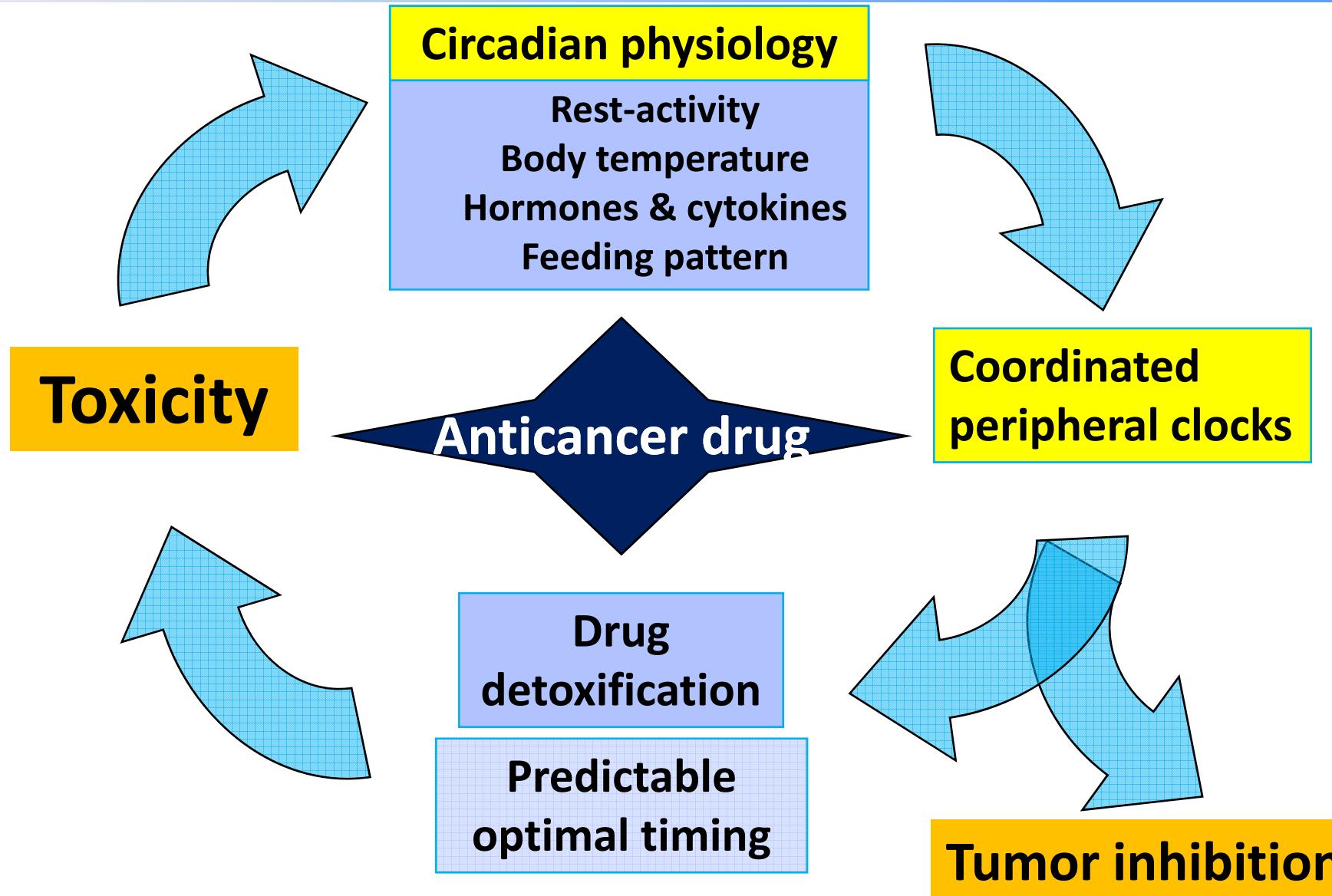
**0.27 94.6**

**0.17 89.9**

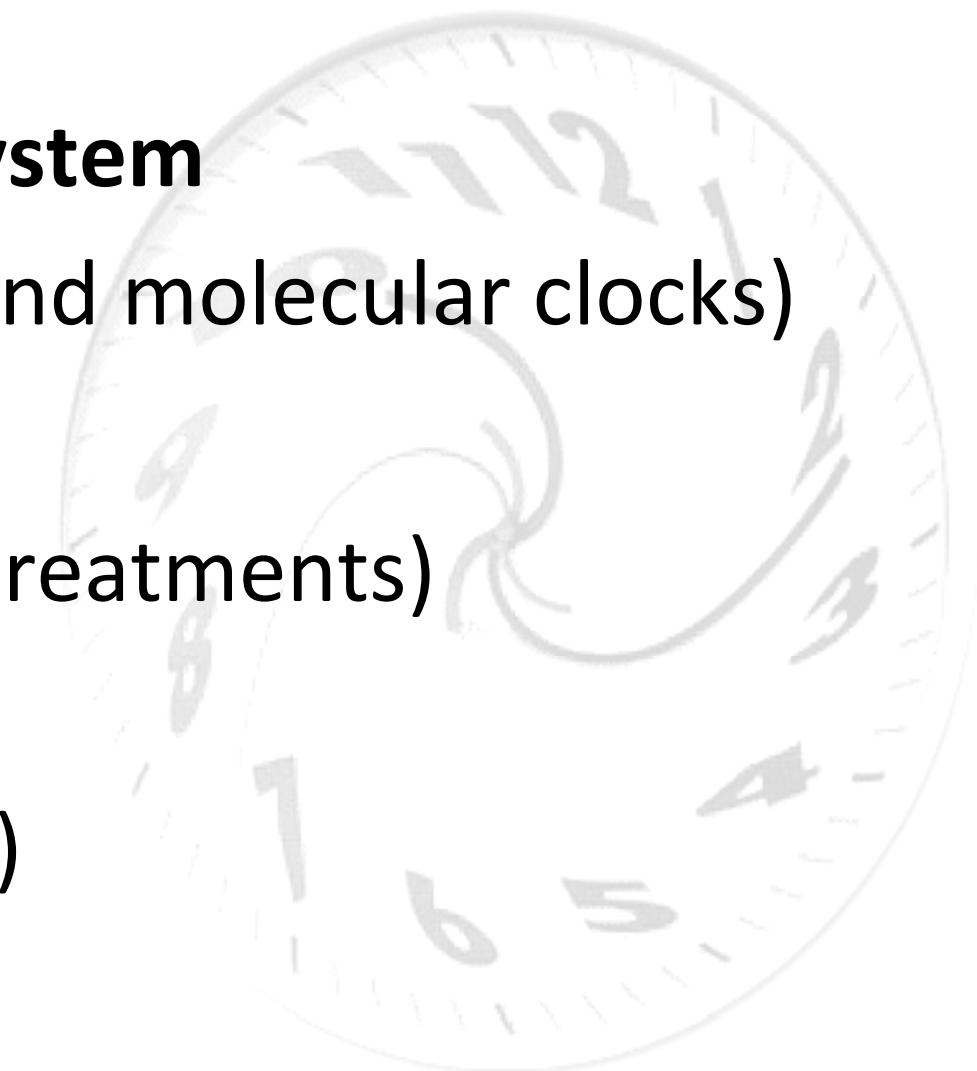
**0.40 98.5**

**0.29 95.5**

# Hypothetical relations between circadian timing system, toxicity and efficacy of anticancer treatments



- **The circadian timing system**  
(circadian biomarkers and molecular clocks)
  - **Circadian disruption**  
(cancer processes and treatments)
  - **Circadian induction**  
(cancer and host clocks)
- ➡ **Conclusions**



## Conclusions & perspectives

- Down regulation of tumor growth by the circadian timing system
- Implications for cancer prevention and treatments
- The circadian timing system: a potential target to be shielded or reinforced in cancer therapy



# INSEMR U 776

## Rythmes Biologiques et Cancers



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*Network of Excellence  
Biosimulation, a new tool for drug development*



Temporal genomics for  
tailored chronotherapeutics



The time dimension in  
functional genomics

**GENES AT WORK  
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Torino  
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