



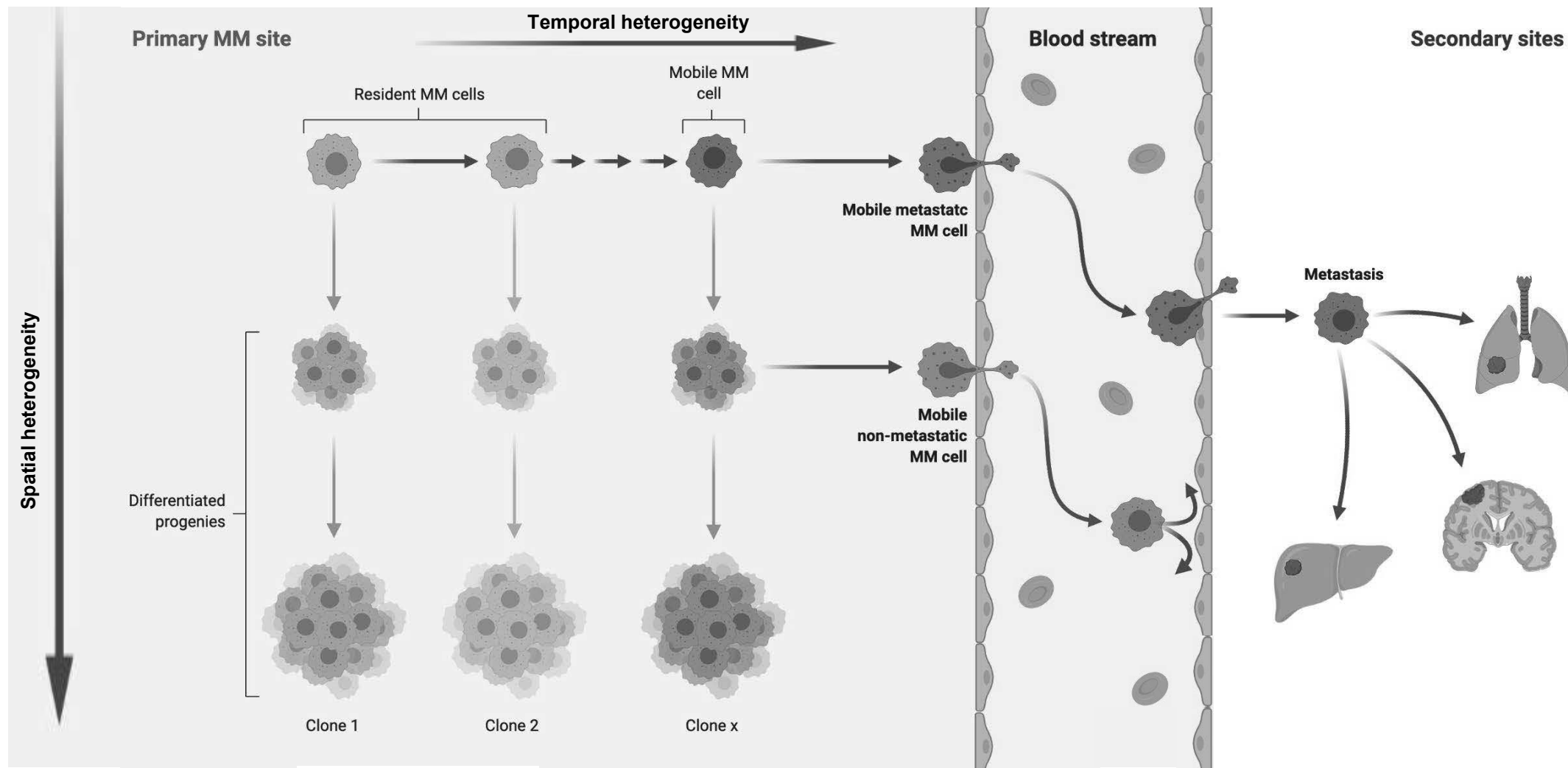
Epithelial-mesenchymal-transition regulated by Junctional Adhesion Molecule-A (JAM-A) associates with aggressive extramedullary multiple myeloma disease.

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# Disclosures

- No relevant conflict of interest to declare for this contents
- Personal financial interests, I received travel grants from:  
Amgen Inc., Janssen - Celgene, Bristol-Myers Squibb

# MM dissemination: a journey from medullary to extramedullary disease



Instigation

Intrinsic vs. extrinsic  
mechanisms

Cell-adhesion  
Dissemination

# Cell-adhesion

Gene	References	P value
ITGB2	• Schmidmaier R, <i>et al.</i> Int J Oncol 2007	< .0001
CXCR4	• Katz BZ. Seminar Cancer Biol, 2010 • Roccaro A, <i>et al.</i> Cell Rep, 2015	< .0001
SDC1	• Katz BZ. Seminar Cancer Biol, 2010	< .0001
CD44	• Katz BZ. Seminar Cancer Biol, 2010	< .0001
CXCL12	• Waldschmidt JM, Br J Haematol, 2017	< .0001
ITGB1	• Hazlehurst LA, <i>et al.</i> Oncogene, 2000	< .0001
ITGA4	• Noborio-Atano K, <i>et al.</i> Oncogene, 2009 • Waldschmidt JM, Br J Haematol, 2017	< .0001
ITGA5	• Andrade VC, <i>et al.</i> Leuk Lymphoma, 2010	=.002
VCAM1	• Okada T, <i>et al.</i> Clin Exp Metastasis, 1999	=.001
NCAM1	• Yoshida T, <i>et al.</i> PLoS One, 2018	=.003
MUC1	• Yin L, <i>et al.</i> Br J Haematol, 2017	=.002
SELP	• Muz B, <i>et al.</i> Biomed Res Int, 2015	< .0001
SELE	• Natoni A, <i>et al.</i> Leukemia, 2017	< .0001
CDH1	• Yao Q, <i>et al.</i> Clin Epigenetics, 2018	< .0001
CD38	• Nijhof I, <i>et al.</i> Blood, 2016	=.001
F11R/ JAM-A		< .0001



- Cell-adhesion
- Angiogenesis
- Hypoxia

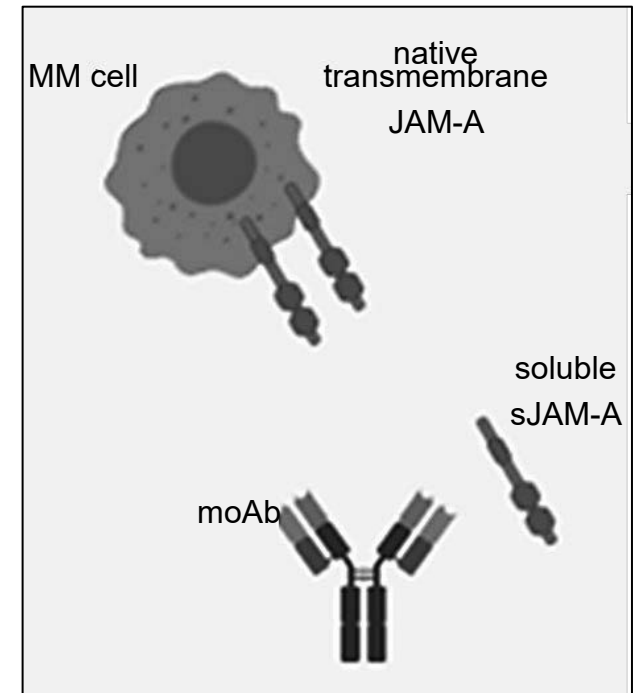
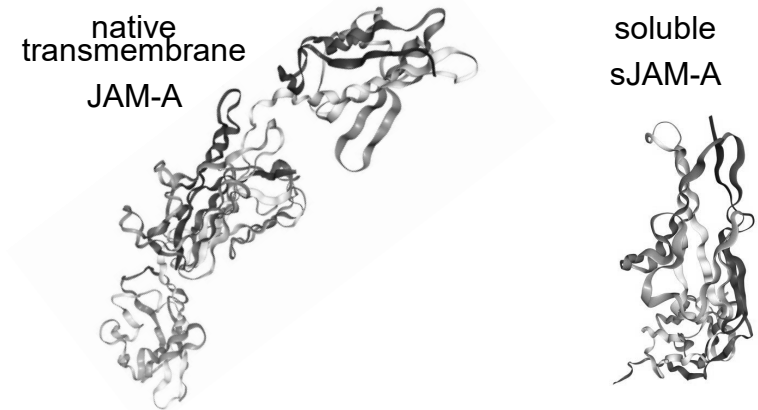


Fig. created in BioRender.com

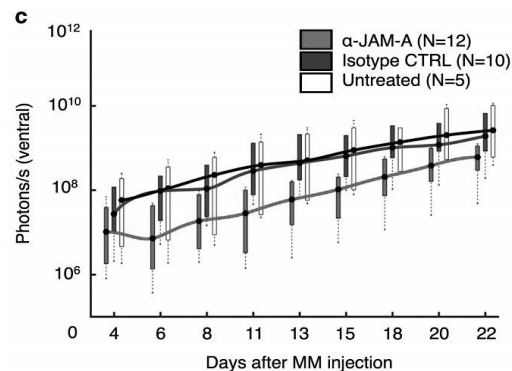
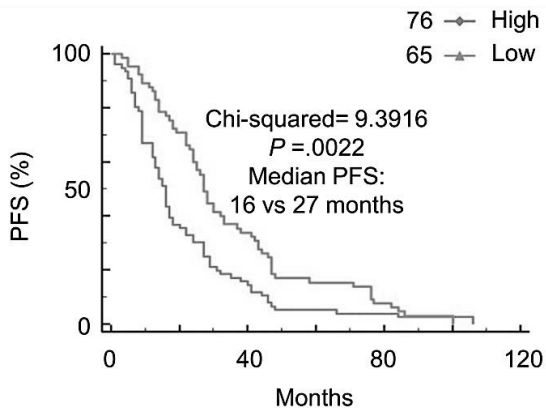
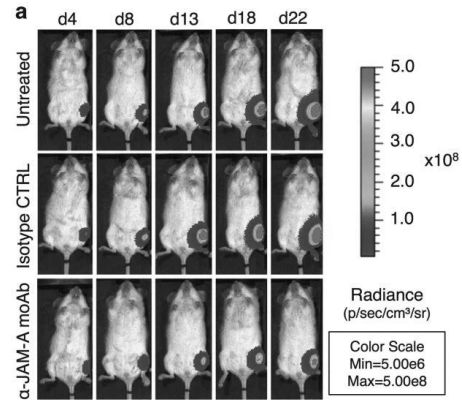
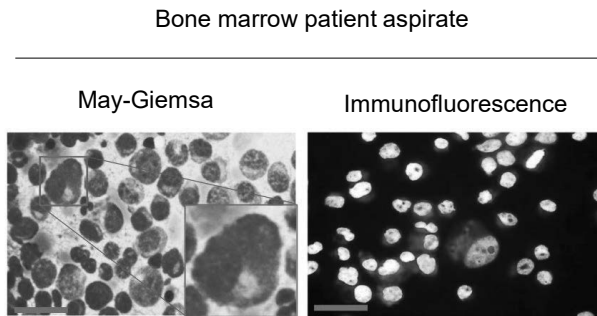


# JAM-A on primary MM PCs and Endothelial Cells correlates with poor OS

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

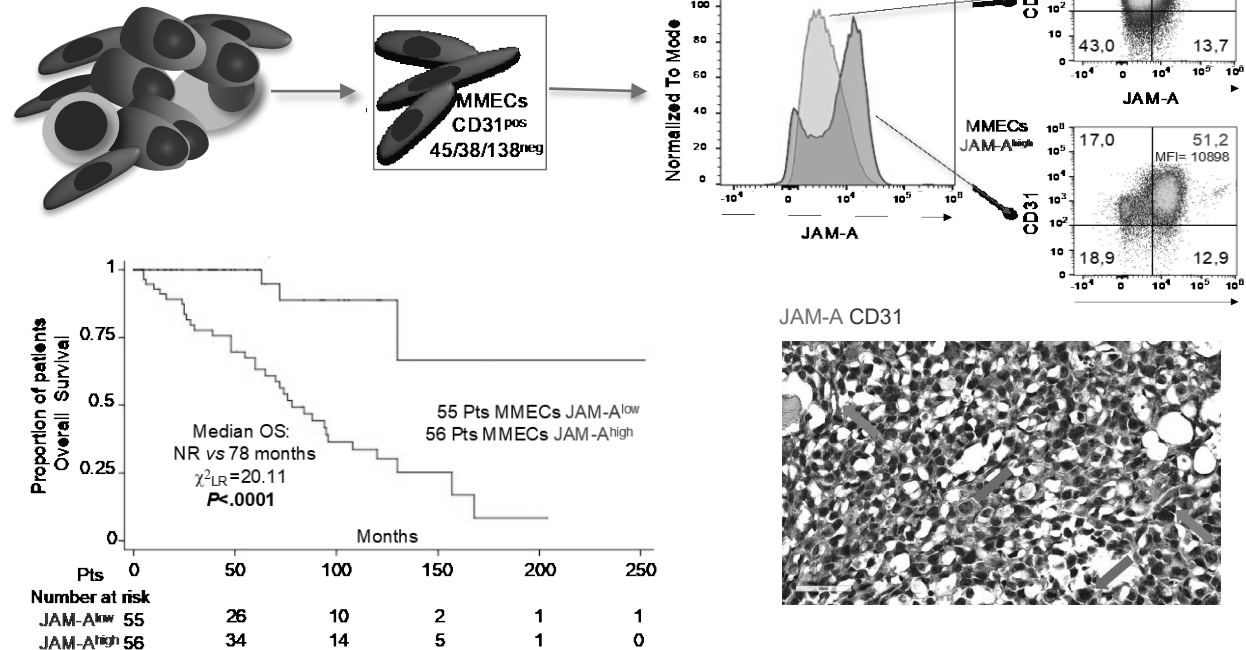
## JAM-A as a prognostic factor and new therapeutic target in multiple myeloma

AG Solimando<sup>1,2,3,8</sup>, A Brandl<sup>1,2,8</sup>, K Mattenheimer<sup>1,2</sup>, C Graf<sup>1,2</sup>, M Ritz<sup>1,2</sup>, A Ruckdeschel<sup>1,2</sup>, T Stühmer<sup>4</sup>, Z Mokhtari<sup>1,2</sup>, M Rudelius<sup>5</sup>, J Dotterweich<sup>6</sup>, M Bittrich<sup>2</sup>, V Desantis<sup>3</sup>, R Ebert<sup>9</sup>, P Trerotoli<sup>7</sup>, MA Frassanito<sup>3</sup>, A Rosenwald<sup>5</sup>, A Vacca<sup>3</sup>, H Einsele<sup>3</sup>, F Jakob<sup>9</sup> and A Beilhack<sup>1,2</sup>

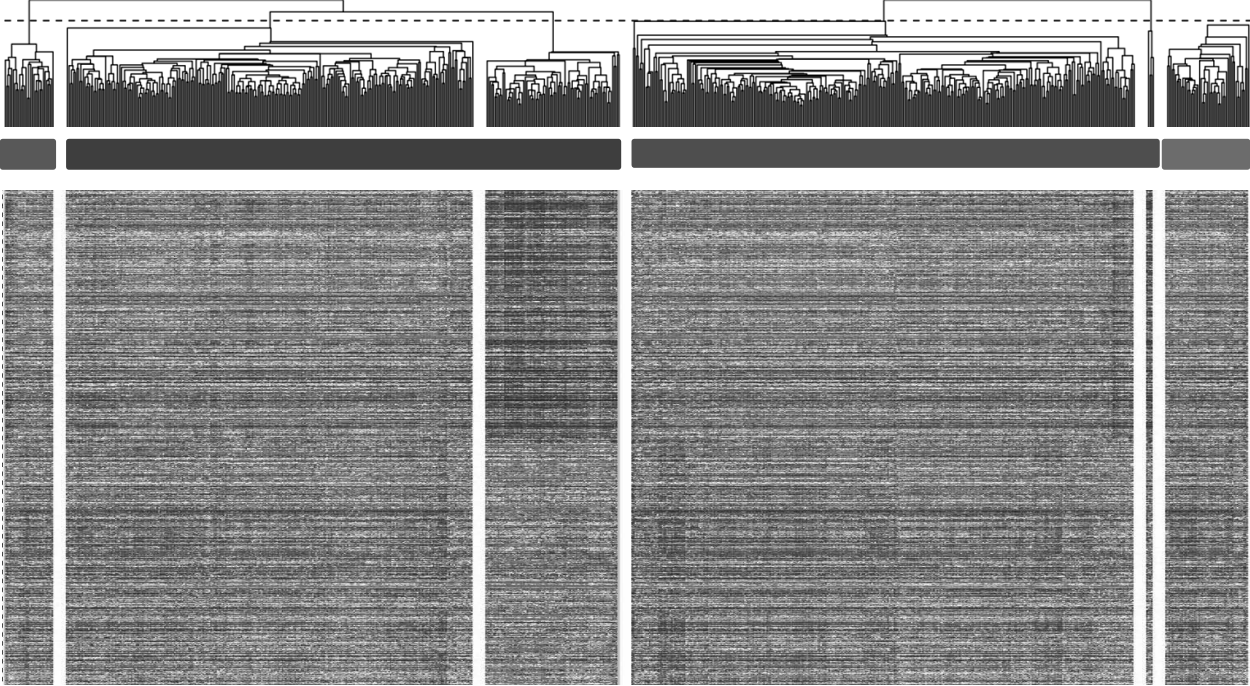


## Halting the vicious cycle within the multiple myeloma ecosystem: blocking JAM-A on bone marrow endothelial cells restores angiogenic homeostasis and suppresses tumor progression

Antonio G. Solimando<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Matteo C. Da Viá<sup>1,4,5</sup>, Patrizia Leone<sup>3</sup>, Paola Borrelli<sup>6</sup>, Giorgio A. Croci<sup>7,8</sup>, Paula Tabares<sup>1,9</sup>, Andreas Brandl<sup>1,9</sup>, Giuseppe Di Lernia<sup>3</sup>, Francesco P. Bianchi<sup>10</sup>, Silvio Tafuri<sup>10</sup>, Torsten Steinbrunn<sup>1</sup>, Alessandra Balduini<sup>11,12</sup>, Assunta Melaccio<sup>3</sup>, Simona De Summa<sup>13</sup>, Antonella Argentiero<sup>2</sup>, Hilka Rauert-Wunderlich<sup>14</sup>, Maria A. Frassanito<sup>3</sup>, Paolo Ditonno<sup>2</sup>, Erik Henke<sup>15</sup>, Wolfram Klapper<sup>7</sup>, Roberto Ria<sup>3</sup>, Carolina Terragna<sup>16</sup>, Leo Rasche<sup>1</sup>, Andreas Rosenwald<sup>14</sup>, K. Martin Kortüm<sup>1</sup>, Michele Cavo<sup>16</sup>, Domenico Ribatti<sup>17</sup>, Vito Racanelli<sup>3</sup>, Hermann Einsele<sup>1</sup>, Angelo Vacca<sup>3</sup> and Andreas Beilhack<sup>1,9</sup>



# JAM-A + NDMM with EMD display a unique gene-expression signature



**CELL CYCLE  
PROLIFERATION**

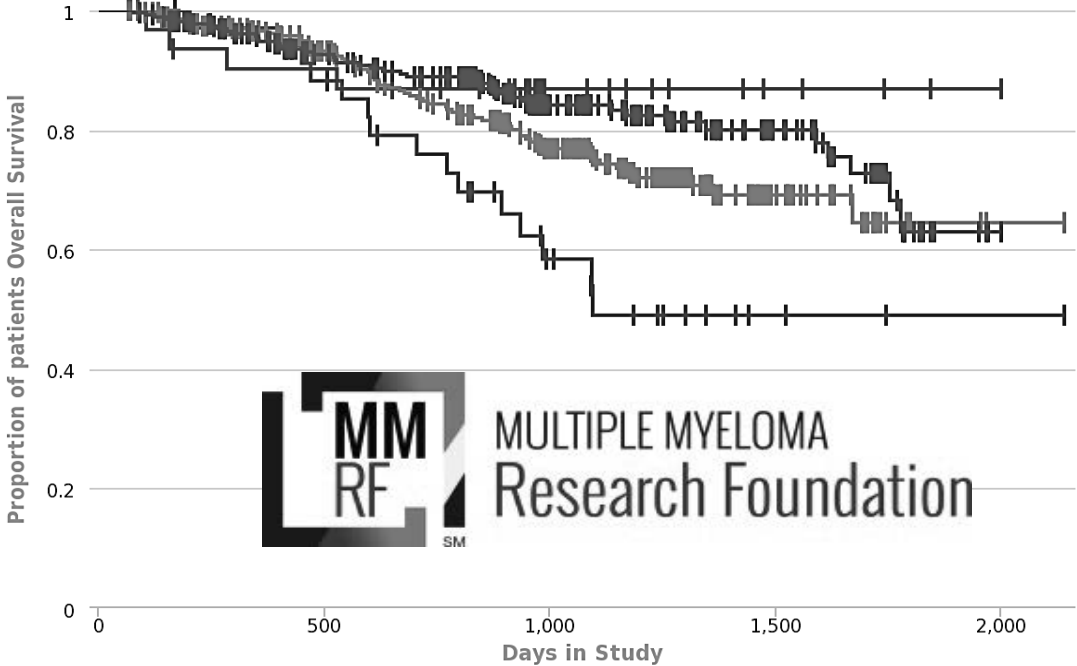
**EMT  
FOCAL ADHESION  
PI3K-AKT**

EMD JAM-A<sup>high</sup>  
 EMD JAM-A<sup>low</sup>  
 no EMD JAM-A<sup>high</sup>  
 no EMD JAM-A<sup>low</sup>

**P < .0001**  
N = 647



M.C. Da Vià

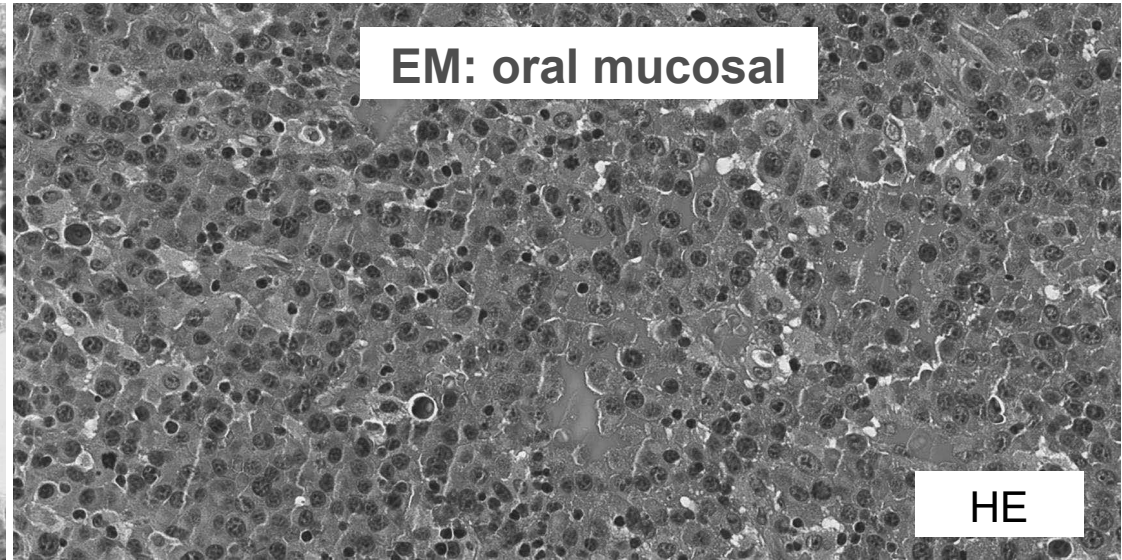
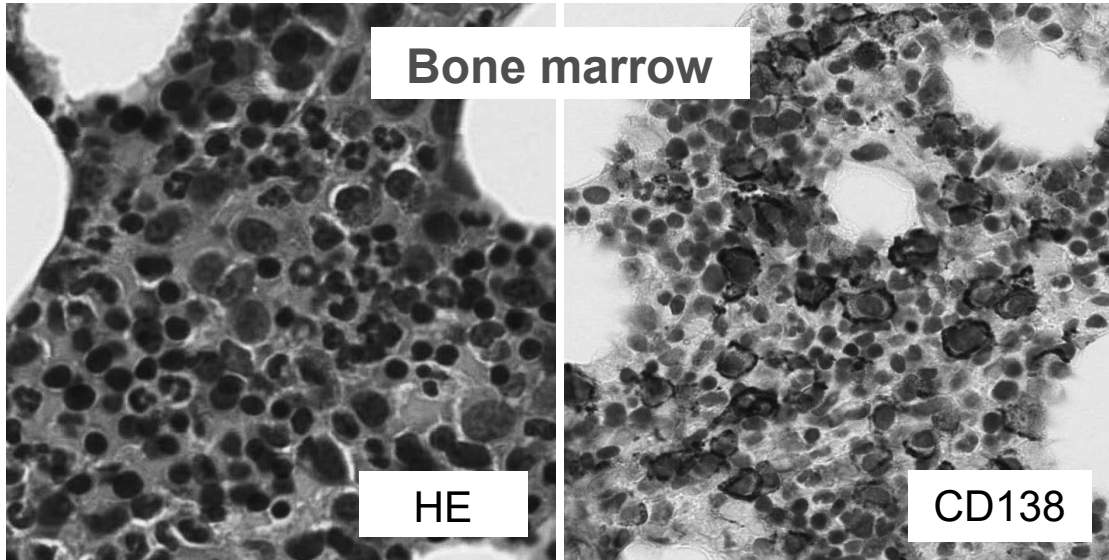


<https://research.themmr.org/rp/terms>

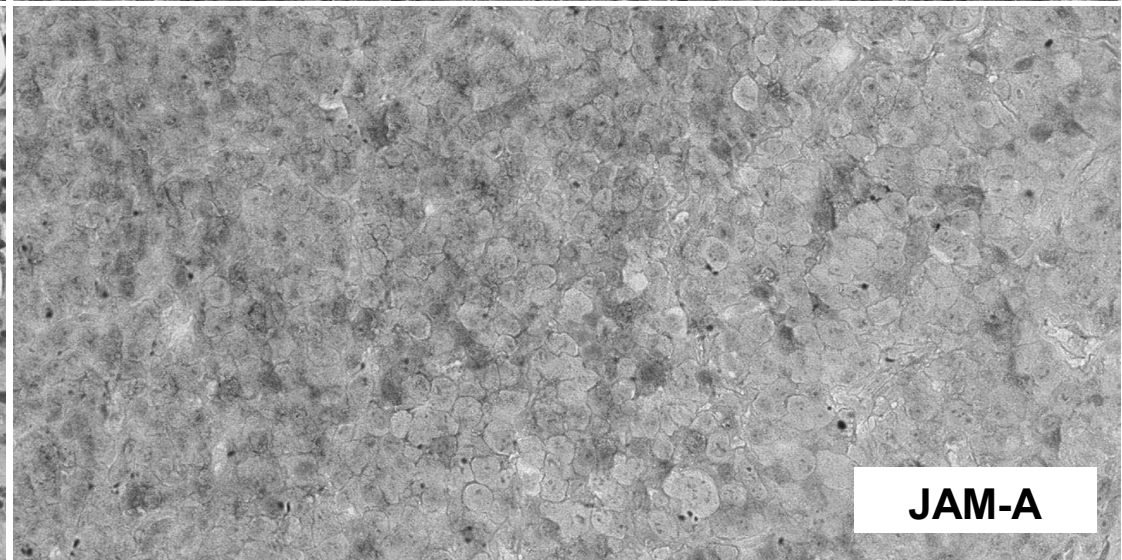
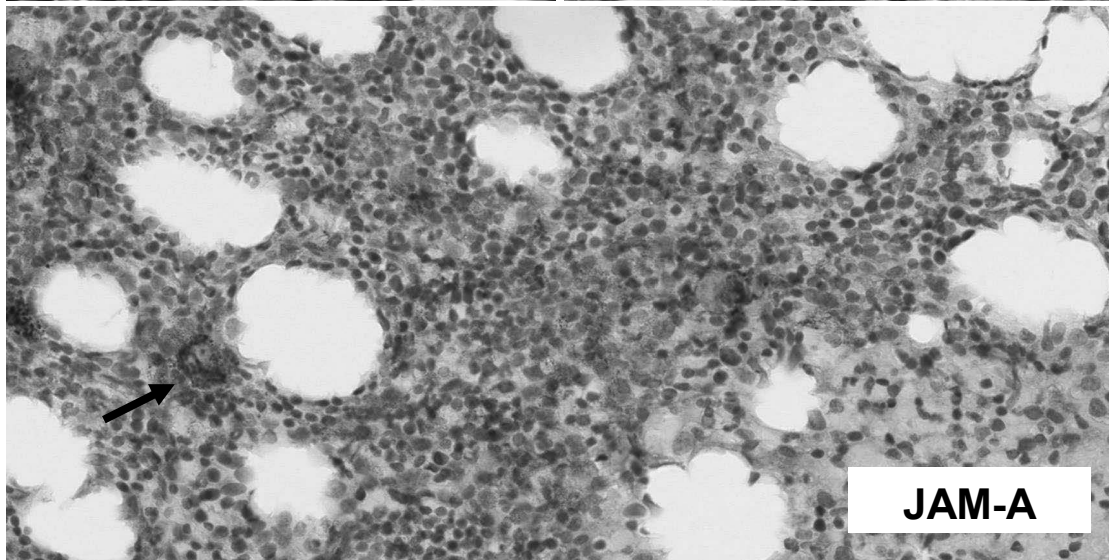
Those data were also generated as part of the MMRF Personalized Medicine Initiative

**Unpublished data**

# Case 1 – MGUS IgG in BM, oral mucosal infiltrate, moderate cytologic atypia; low JAM-A expression

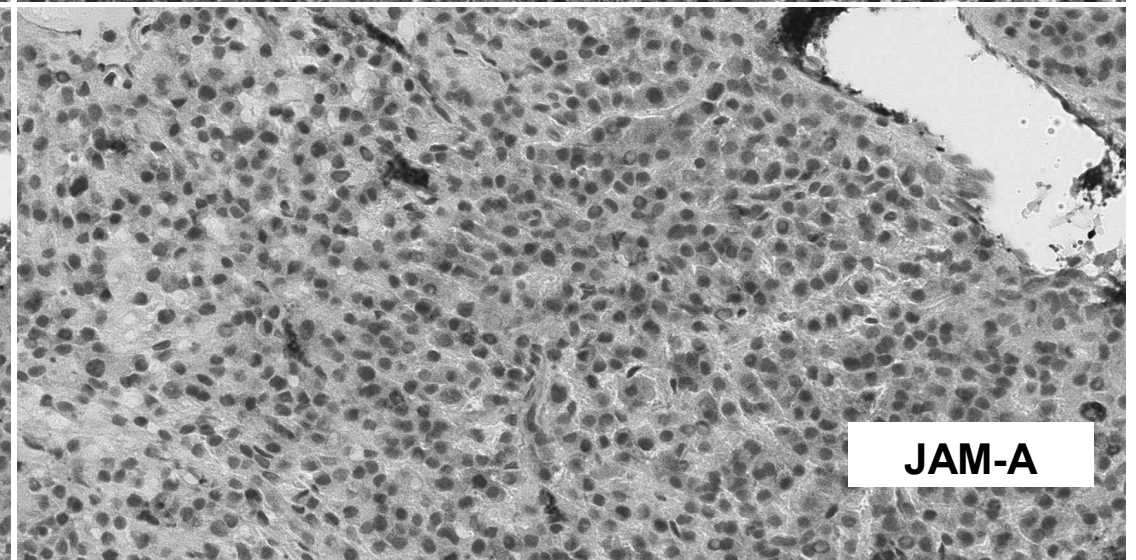
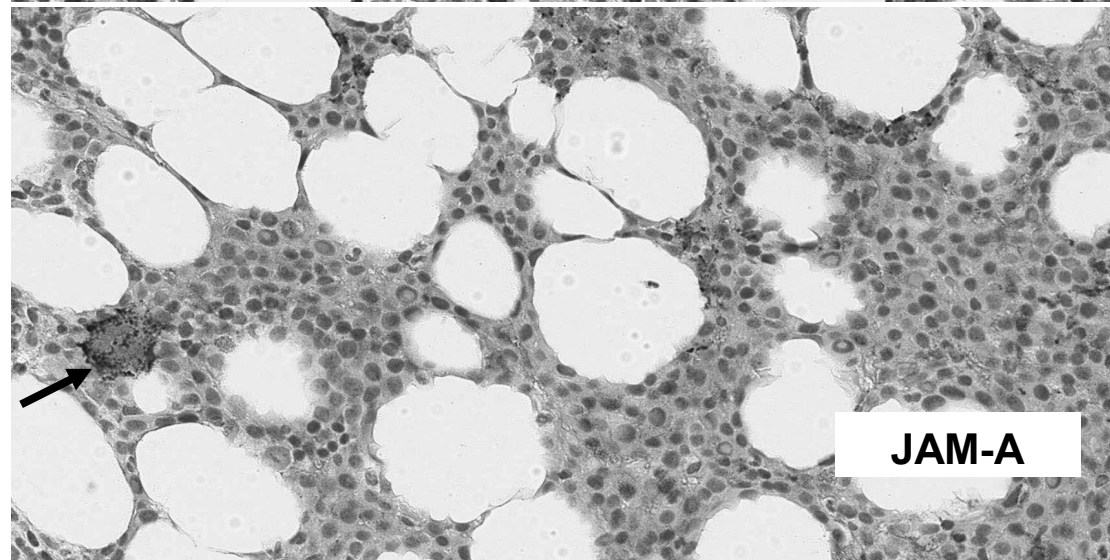
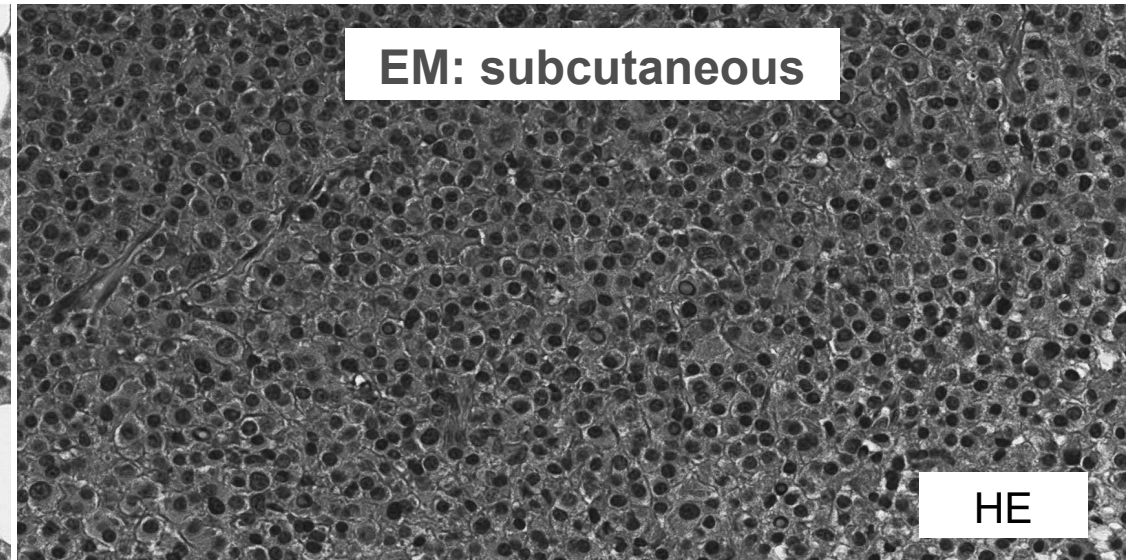
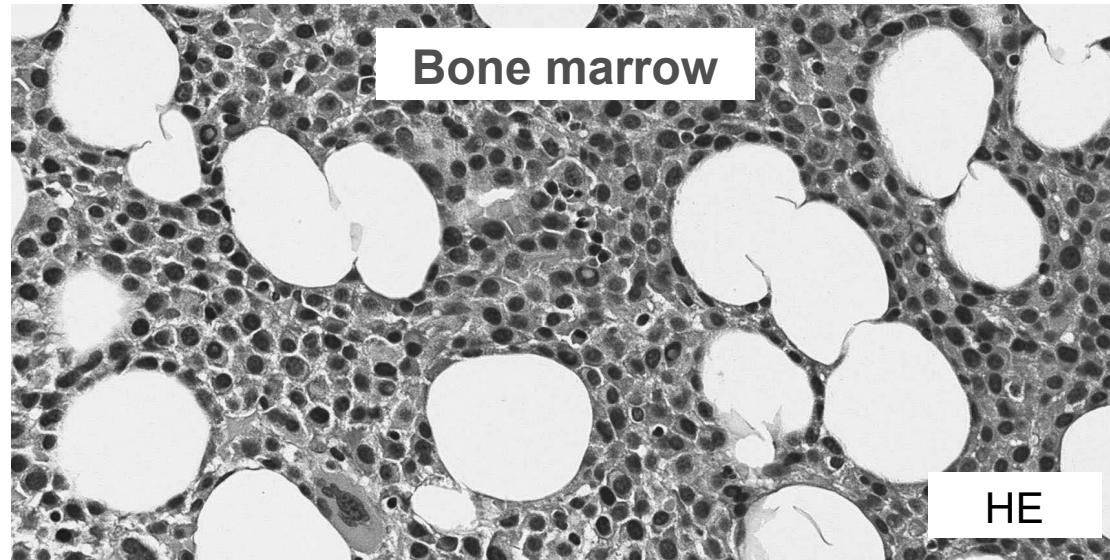


G. Croci

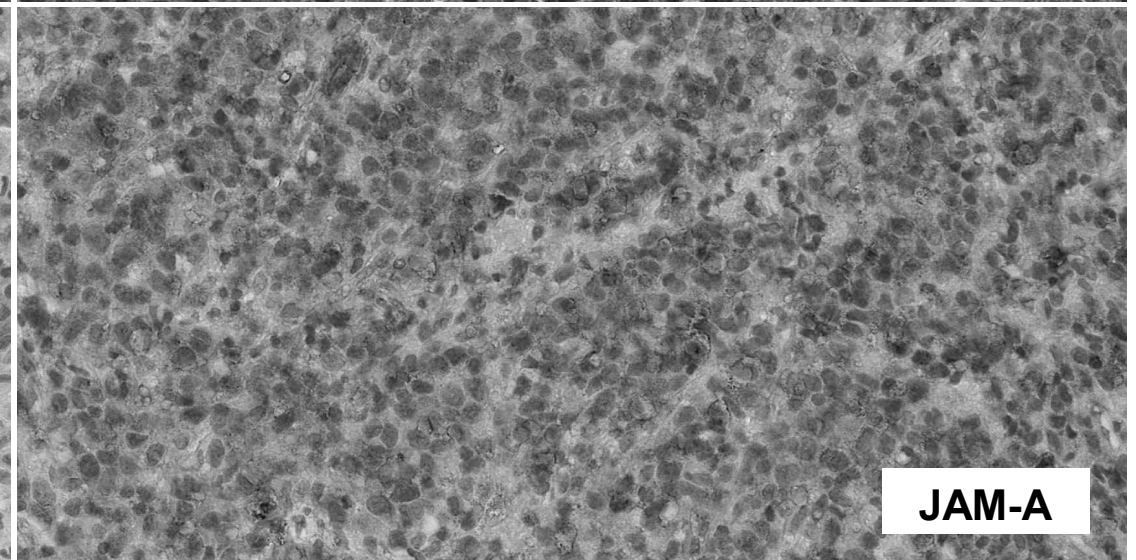
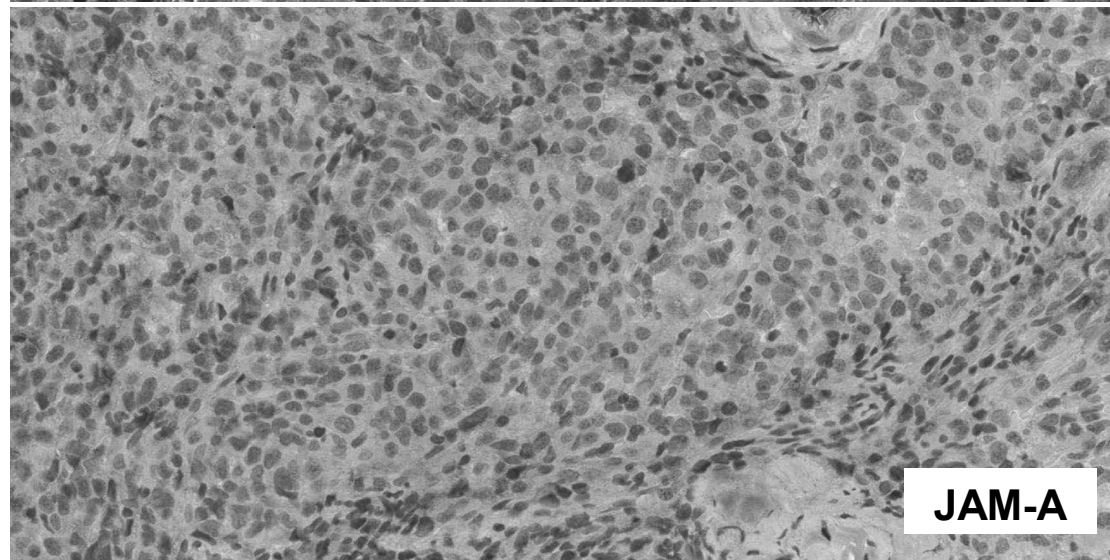
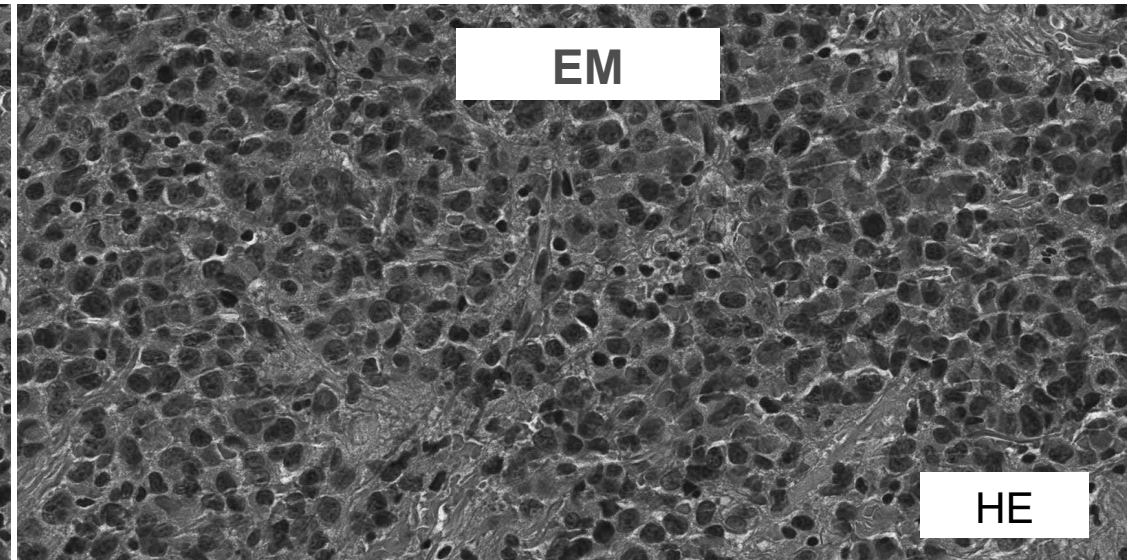
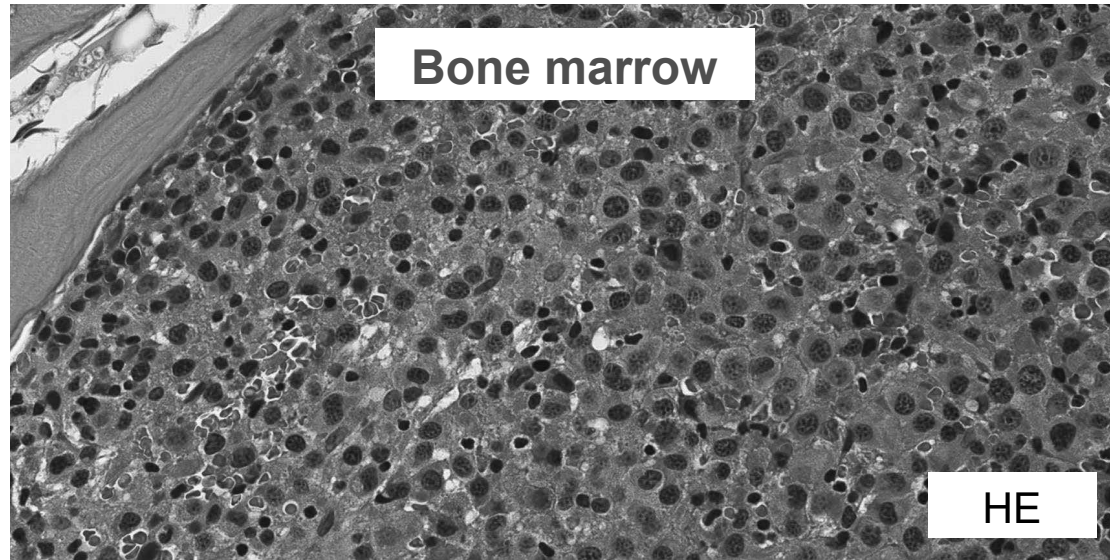




# Case 2 –MM in BM, subcutaneous localization; mild atypia, Dutcher bodies; low JAM-A expression EM > BM

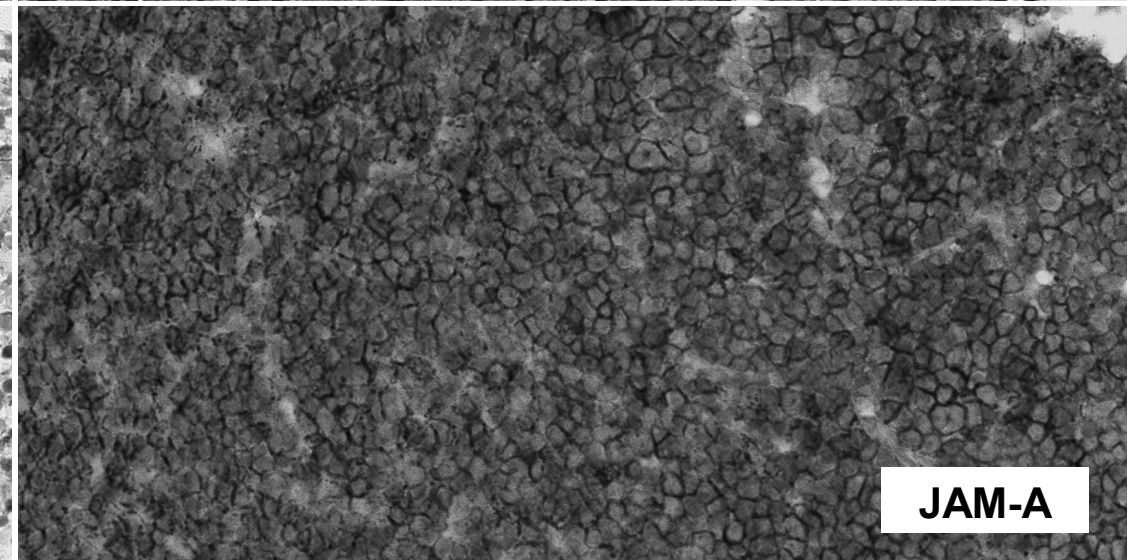
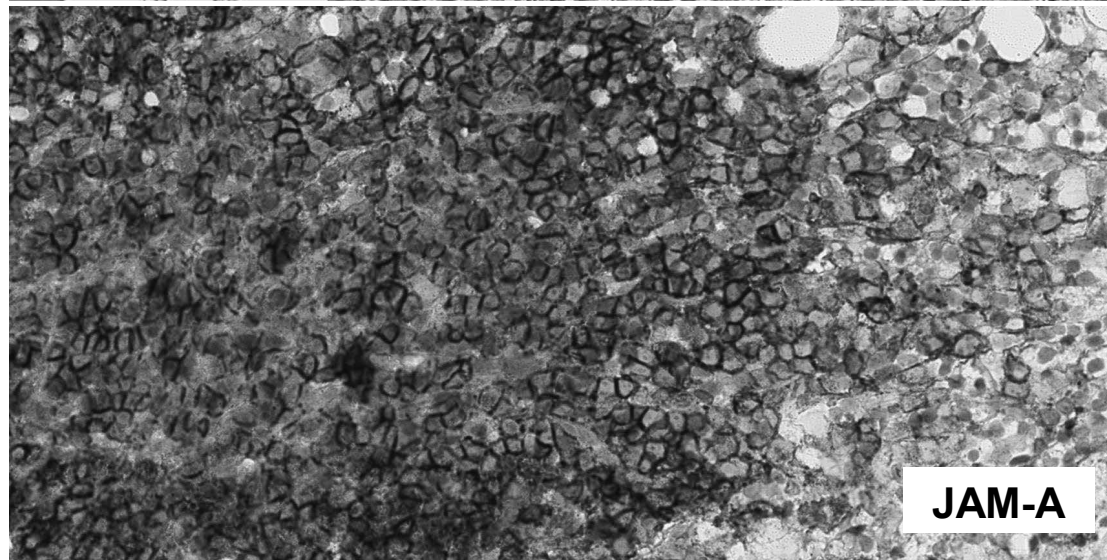
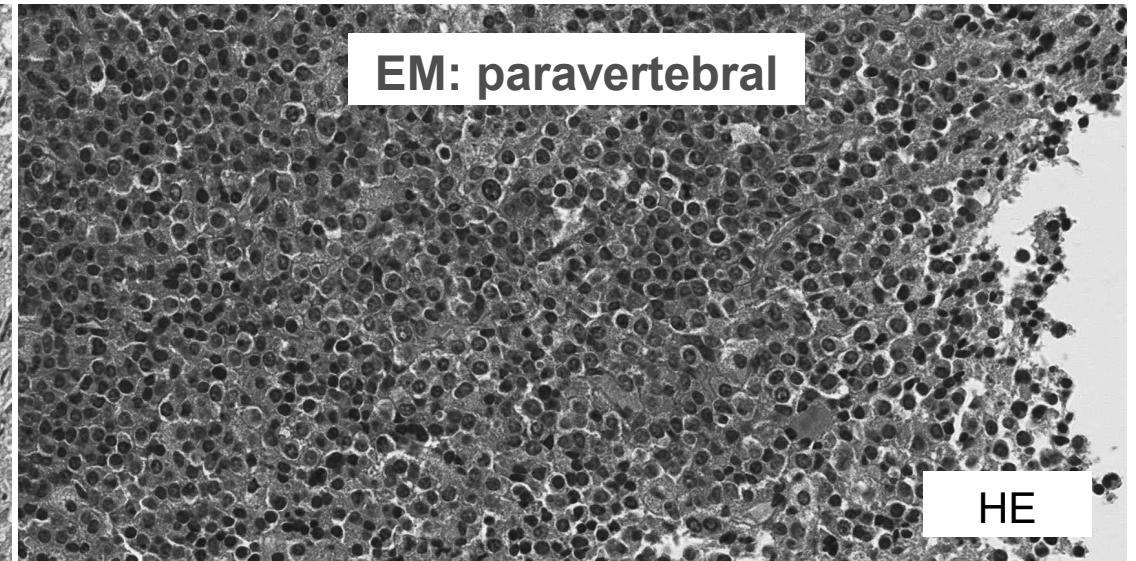
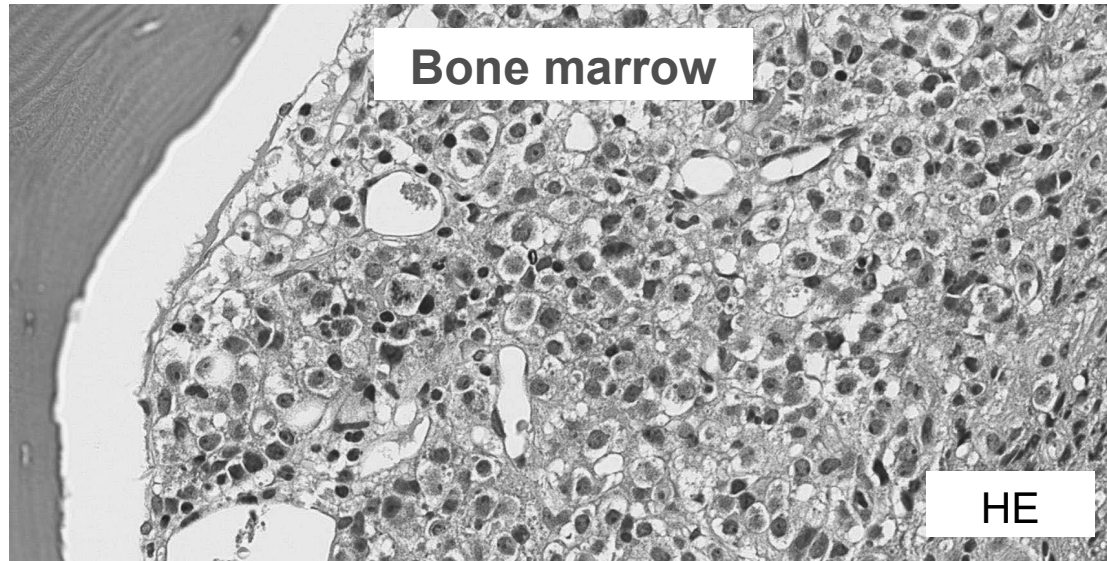


# Case 3 –MM in BM, pleural localization; moderate atypia; moderate JAM-A expression EM > BM

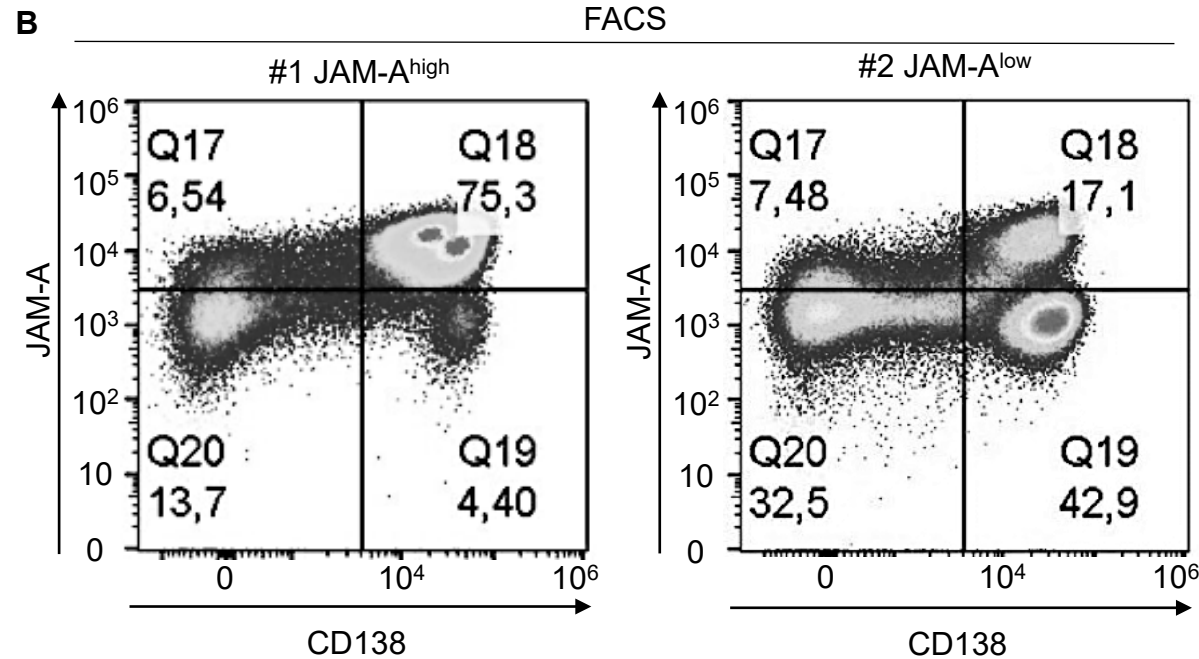
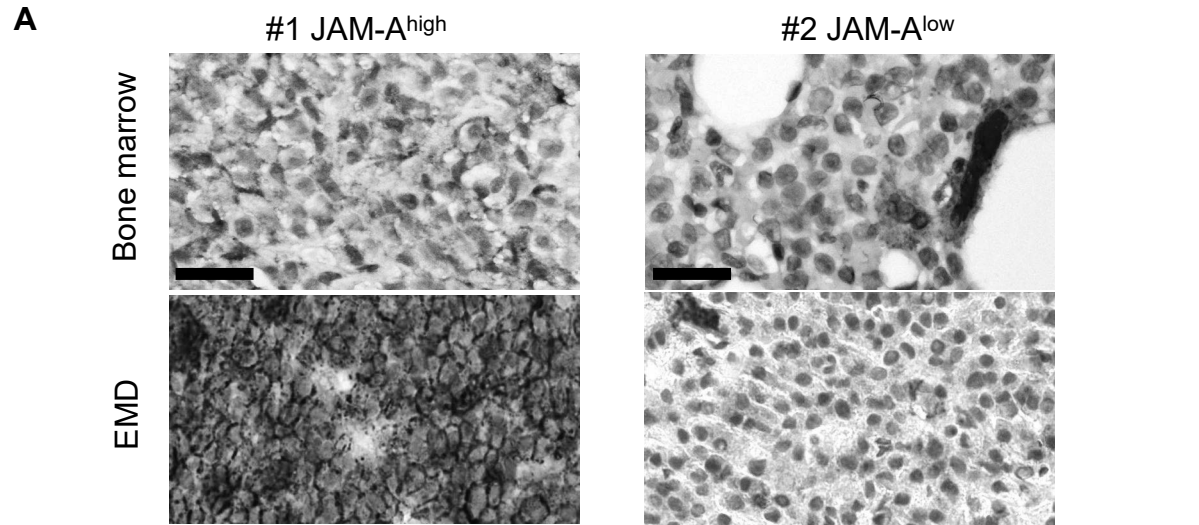




# Case 4 – Pleomorphic / plasmablastic MM in BM and paravertebral; high JAM-A expression EM > BM

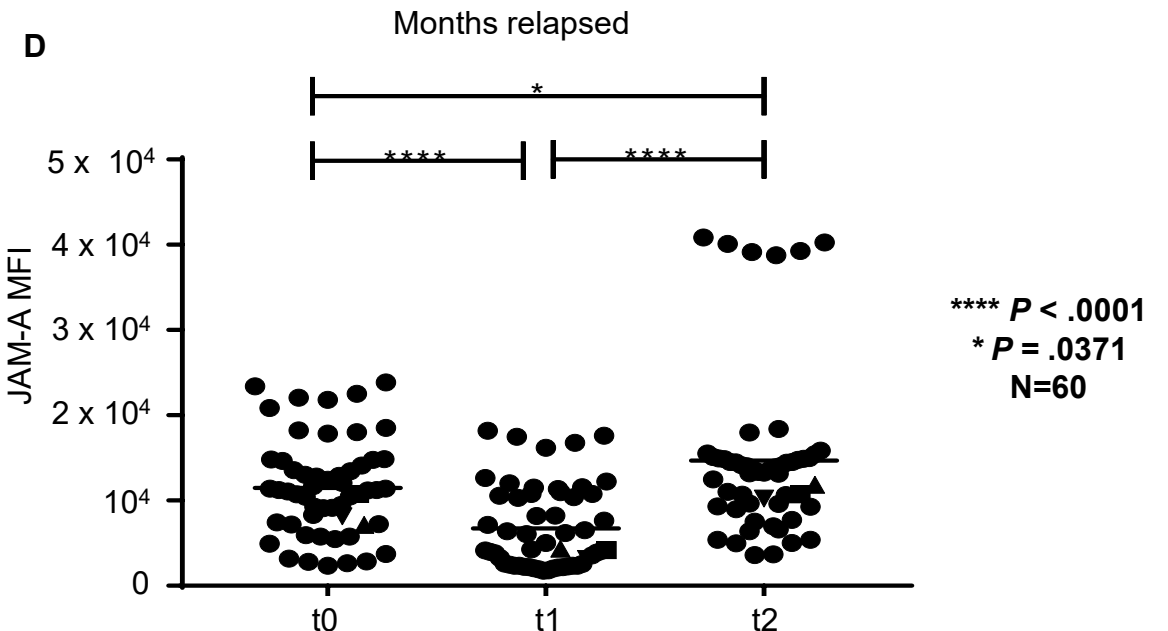


# JAM-A is differentially expressed in patients with extramedullary MM disease

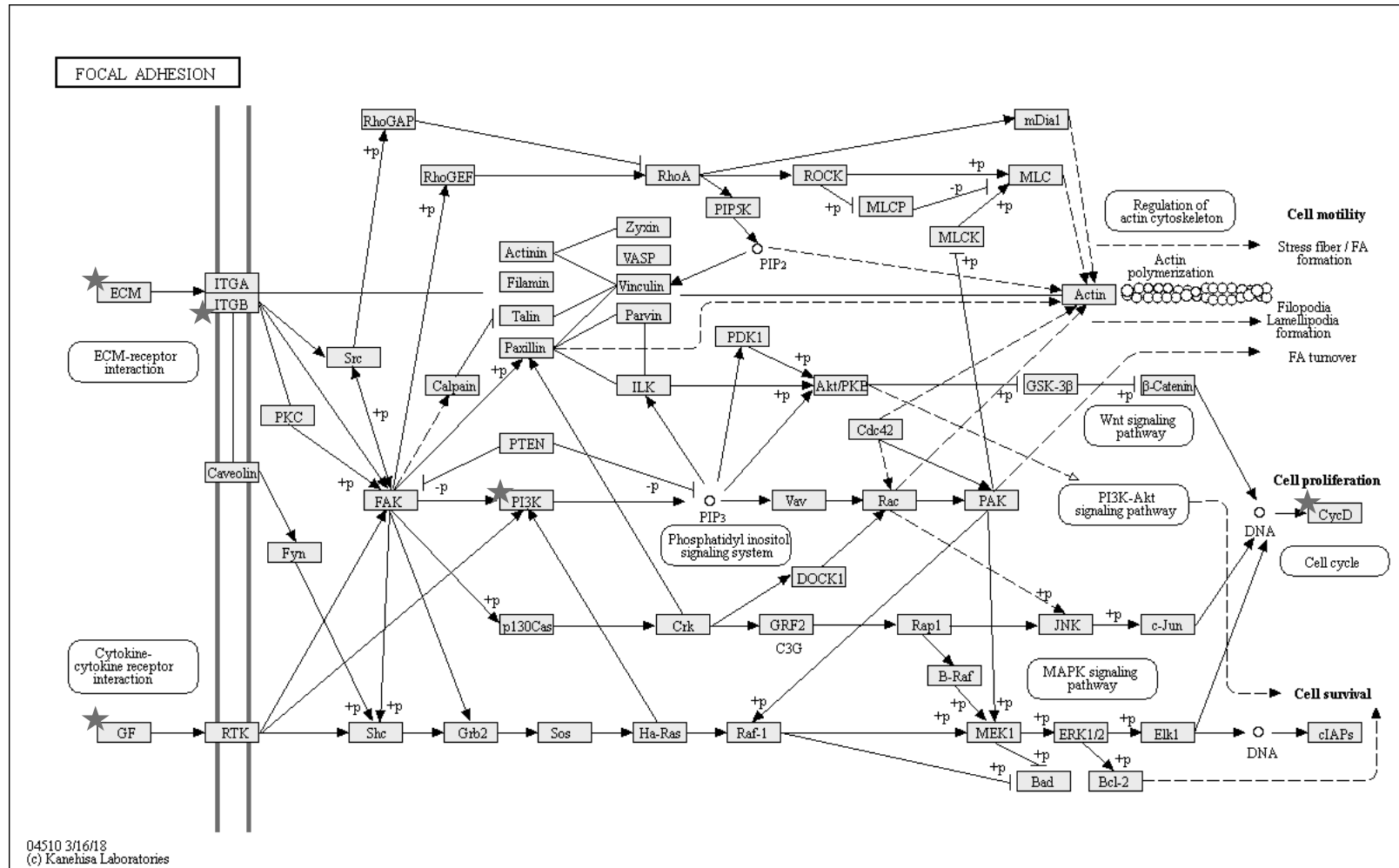


**C**

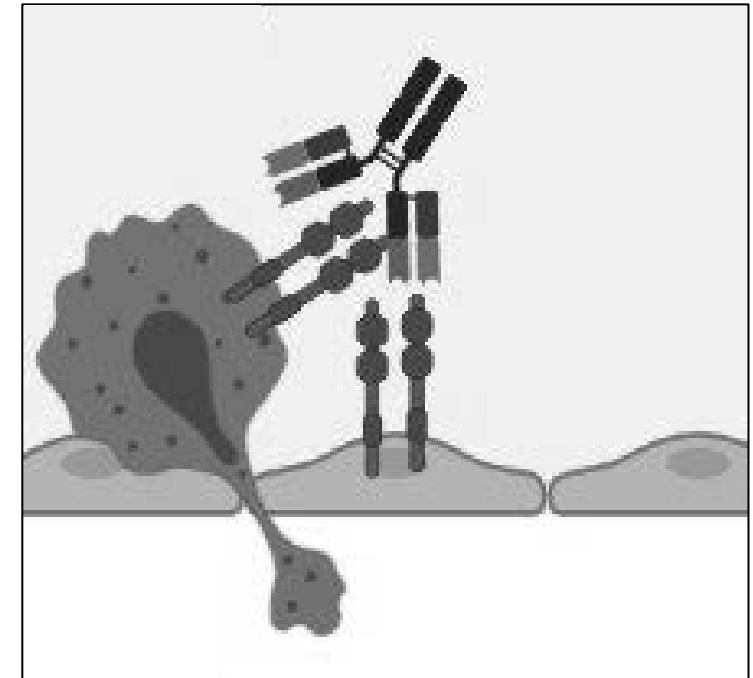
	*Cox model for Overall Survival			
	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
	HR (95%CI)	P value	HR (95%CI)	P value
PCs JAM-A surface expression (JAM-A <sup>high</sup> vs JAM-A <sup>low</sup> )	9.14 (2.80-29.76)	<0.001	9.11 (2.79-29.76)	<0.001
Bone Lesion (Yes vs No)	1.31 (0.60-2.89)	0.489	-	-
Hb (<10 vs >=10 g/dL)	1.44 (0.75-2.77)	0.271	-	-
R-ISS				
R-Stage I	1		-	-
R-Stage II	1.37 (0.55-3.39)	0.494		
R-Stage III	2.11 (0.76-5.86)	0.149		
Sex (M vs F)	0.58 (0.29-1.13)	0.110	0.65 (0.33-1.30)	0.233
Chronic kidney disease (Yes vs No)	2.04 (1.05-3.96)	<b>0.033</b>	2.11 (1.08-4.10)	<b>0.027</b>
Age	0.98 (0.94-1.02)	0.542	0.99 (0.95-1.04)	0.984



# Enriched genes in focal adhesion, PI3K/mTOR pathway, and regulation of actin cytoskeleton



Context dependent and dynamic JAM-A expression on bone marrow endothelial cells and invasive MM cells





# JAM-A mediates acquisition of EMT-like features in MM cells in vitro (I)

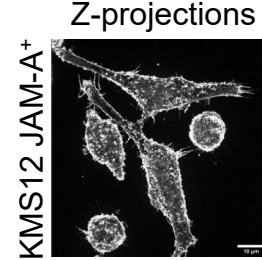
KMS12 JAM-A<sup>low</sup>



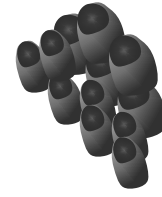
KMS12 E.V.



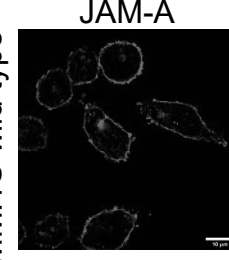
KMS12 JAM-A<sup>+</sup>



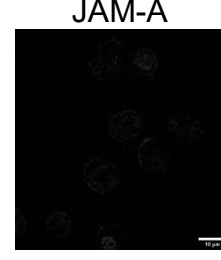
MM.1S JAM-A<sup>high</sup>



MM.1S wild type



MM.1S shJAM-A



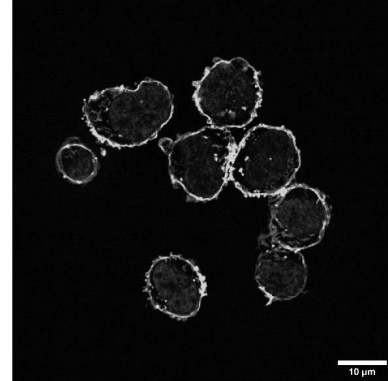
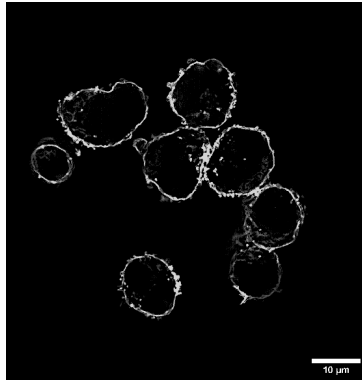
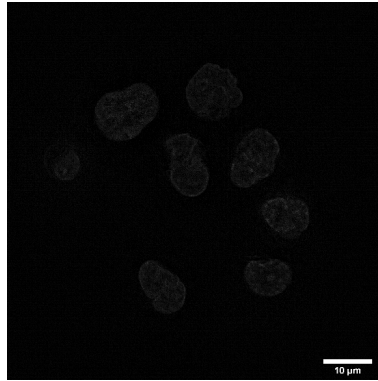
U. Terpitz

Nucleus

Actin

Merge

KMS12 E.V.

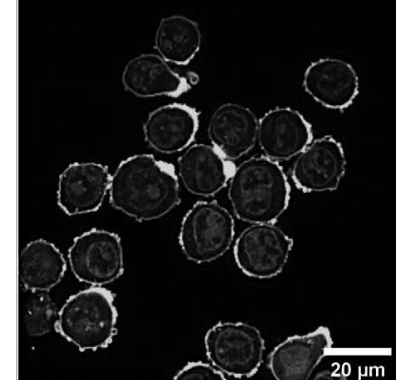
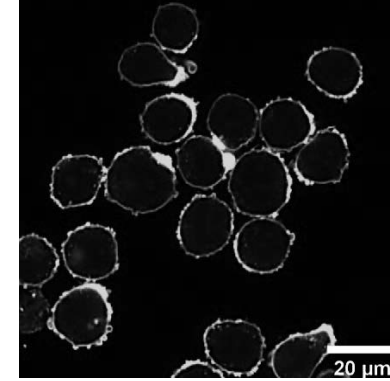
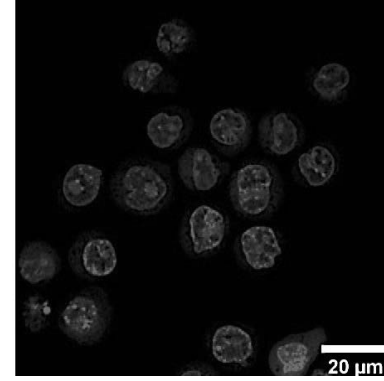


MM.1S shJAM-A

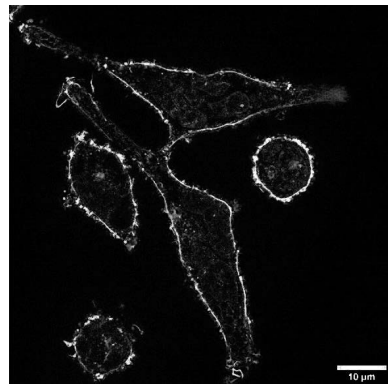
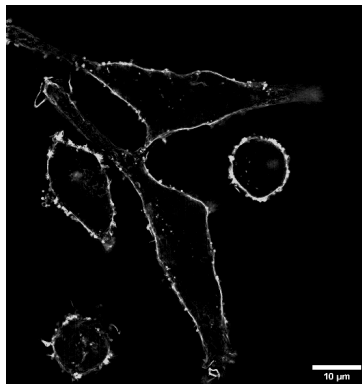
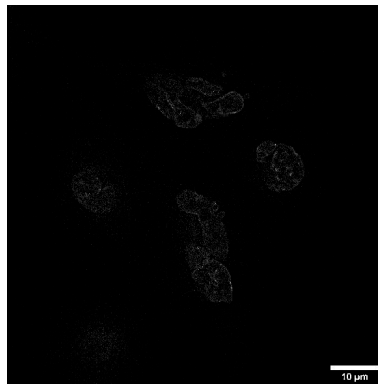
Nucleus

Actin

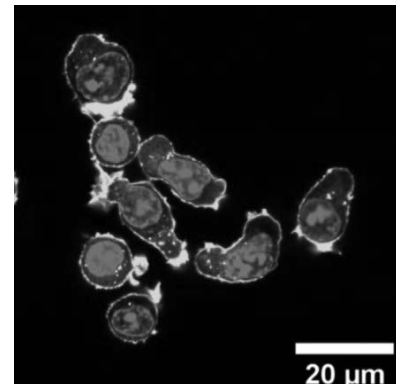
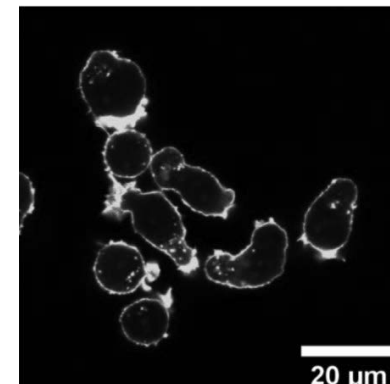
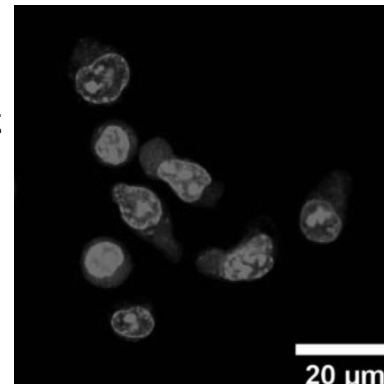
Merge



KMS12 JAM-A<sup>+</sup>

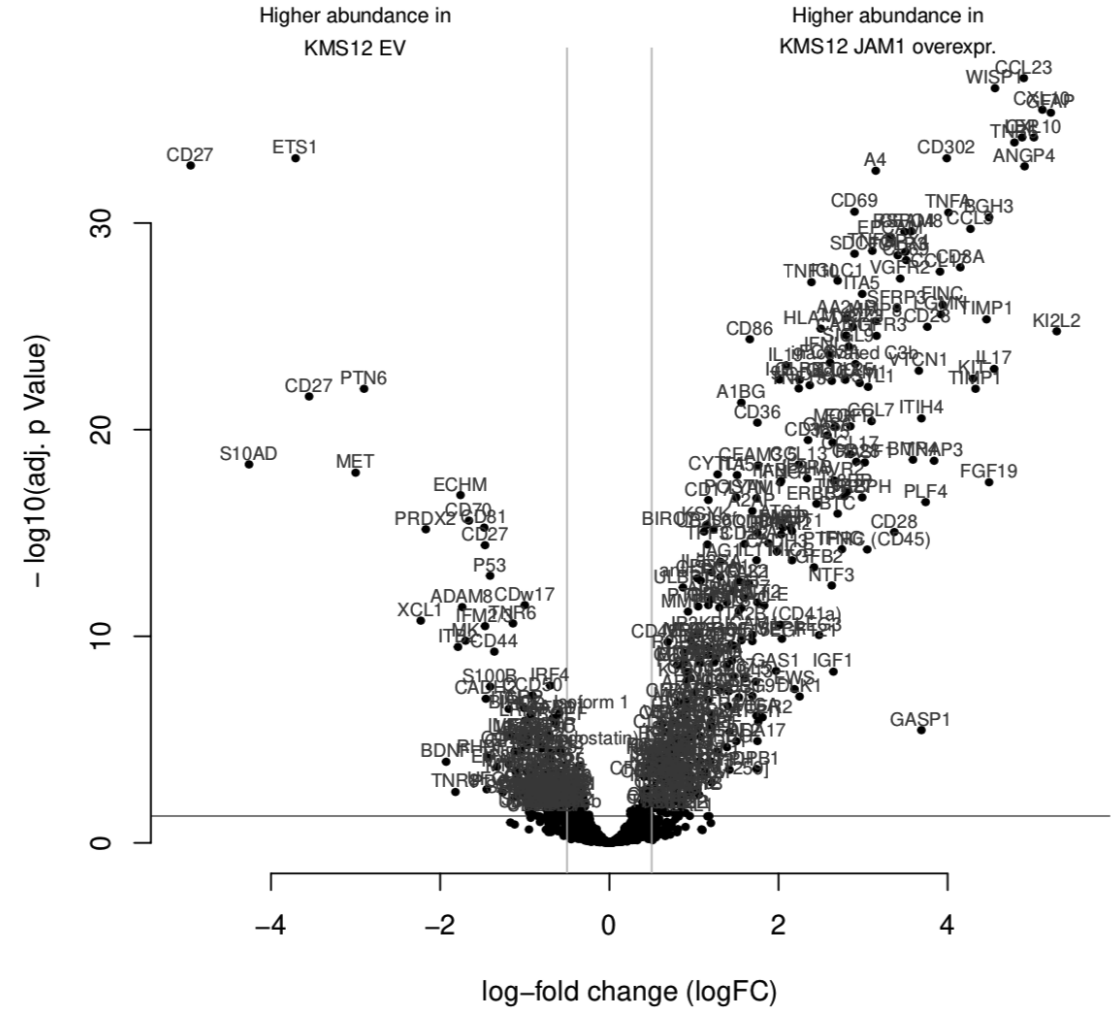
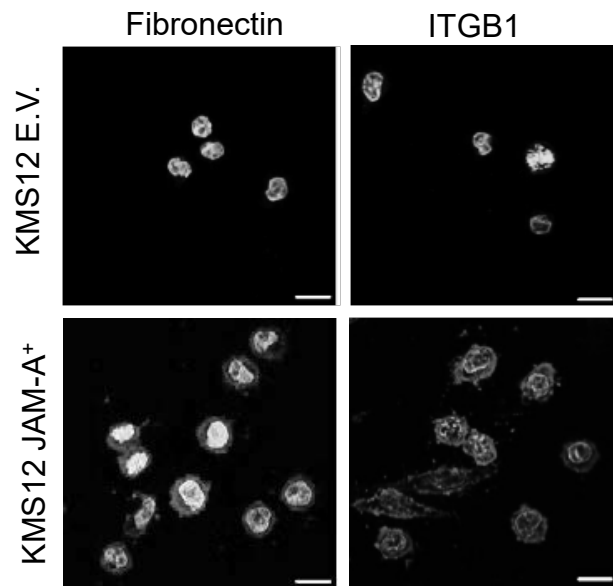
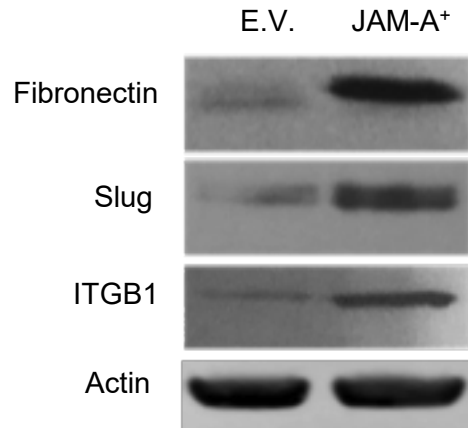


MM.1S wild type



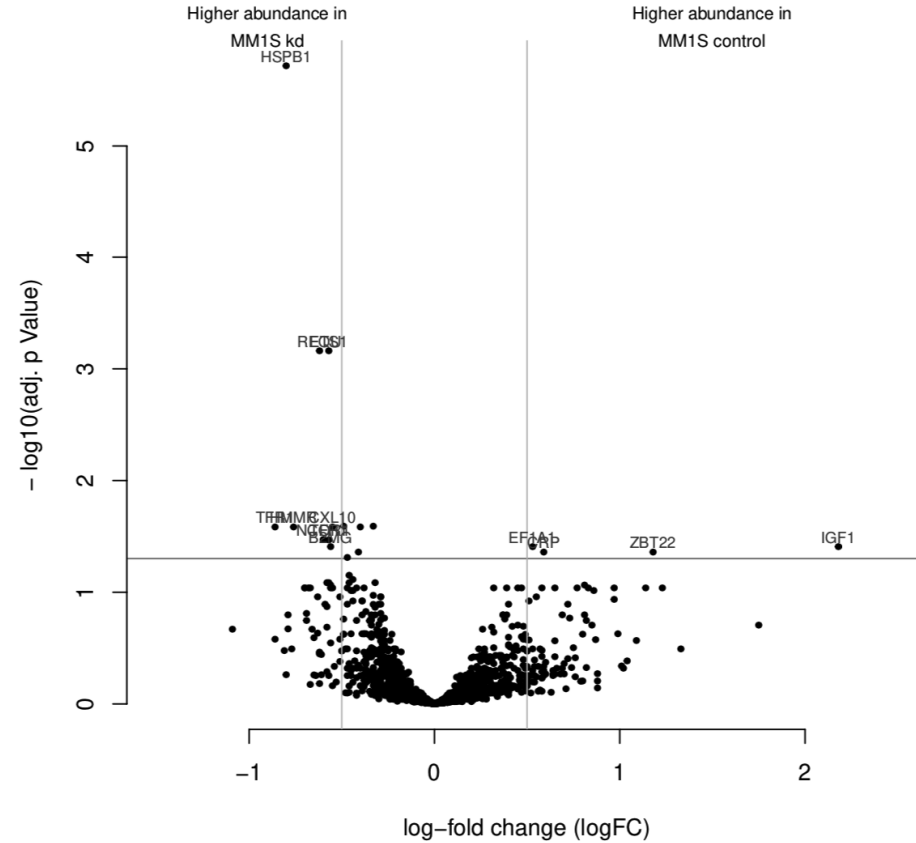
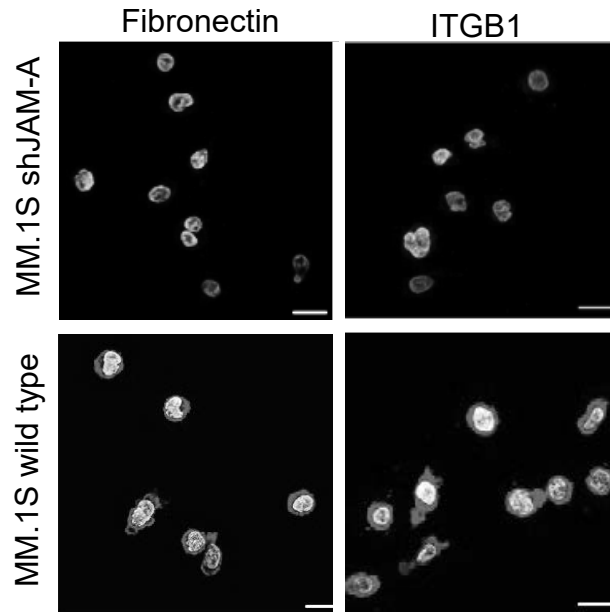
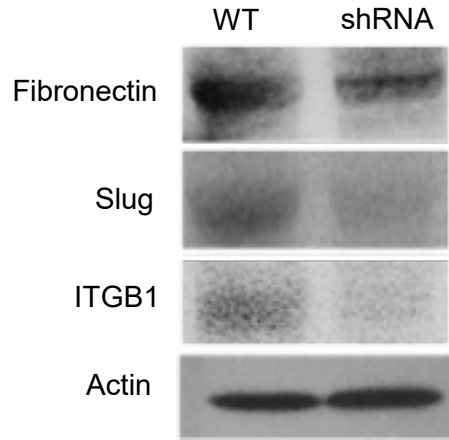
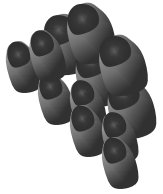
# JAM-A mediates acquisition of EMT-like features in MM cells (II)

KMS12 JAM-A<sup>low</sup>



# JAM-A mediates acquisition of EMT-like features in MM cells (III)

MM.1S JAM-A<sup>high</sup>

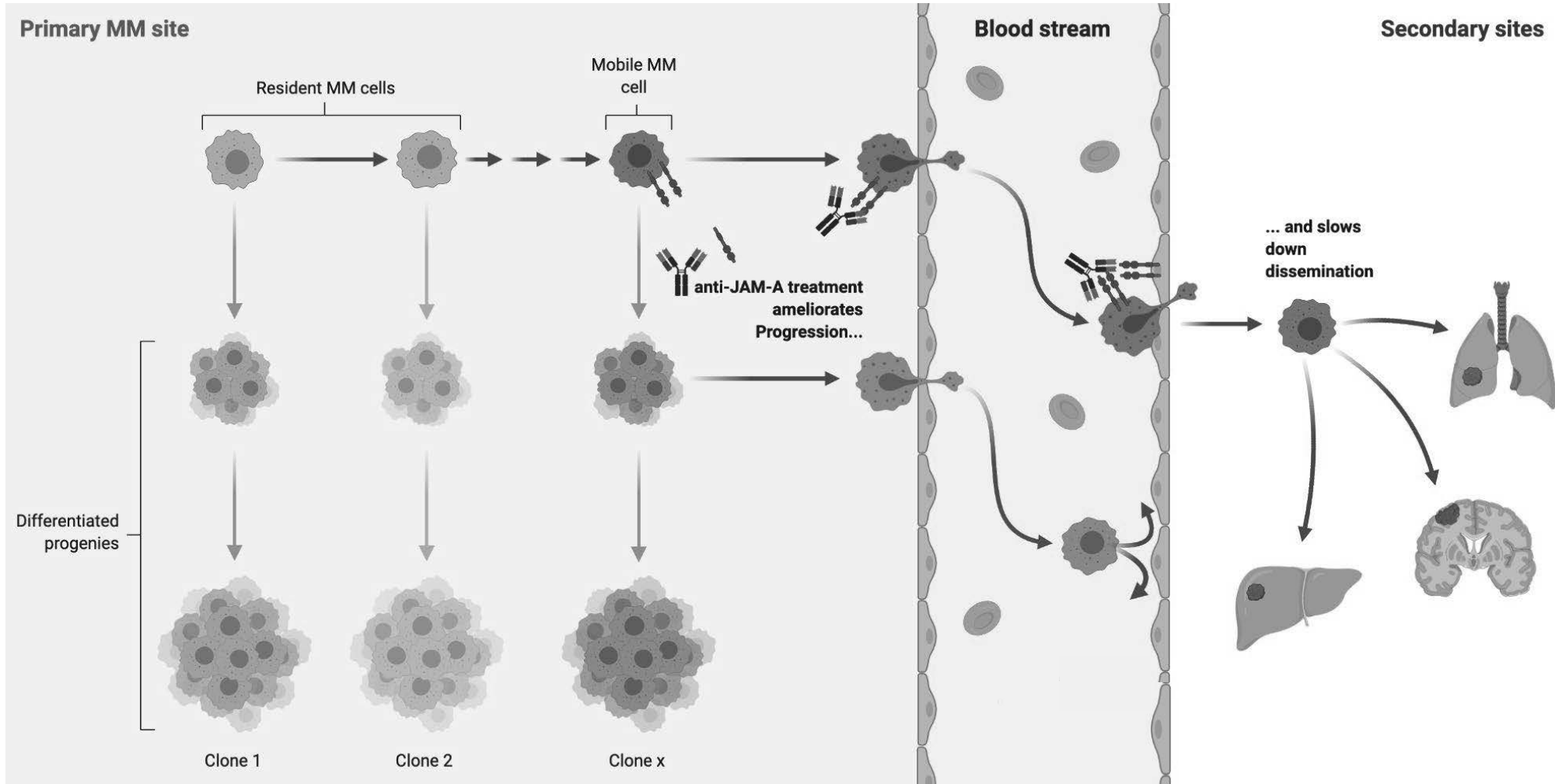


KEGG

→ hsa04060	Cytokine-cytokine receptor interaction	30	263	2.24e-26
→ hsa04514	Cell adhesion molecules (CAMs)	11	139	6.08e-08
→ hsa04657	IL-17 signaling pathway	9	92	2.50e-07
→ hsa04010	MAPK signaling pathway	13	293	8.01e-07
→ hsa04630	Jak-STAT signaling pathway	10	160	1.28e-06
→ hsa04668	TNF signaling pathway	7	108	3.93e-05
→ hsa04510	Focal adhesion	9	197	3.04e-05

Unpublished data

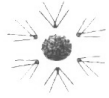
# JAM-A regulation of EMT in MM dissemination as druggable target



- JAM-A as a potential modulator of MM-TME dynamics, anchoring connections, context dependency
- Inhibiting JAM-A could restricts MM progression, potentially influencing EMD progression: a novel theragnostic window



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI BARI  
ALDO MORO**



**ISTITUTO TUMORI "GIOVANNI PAOLO II"**  
*ISTITUTO DI RICOVERO E CURA A CARATTERE SCIENTIFICO*

**Uniklinikum  
Würzburg**



Bayerische  
Forschungsförderung



**FORTITher**  
Forschungsverbund  
Tumordiagnostik für  
Individualisierte Therapie

SPP 2084 Colonization and interaction of tumor  
**µbone** cells in the bone microenvironment

**Bari University**

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**Bologna University**

M. Cavo  
C. Terragna

**Pavia University**

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P. Borrelli

**Milan University**

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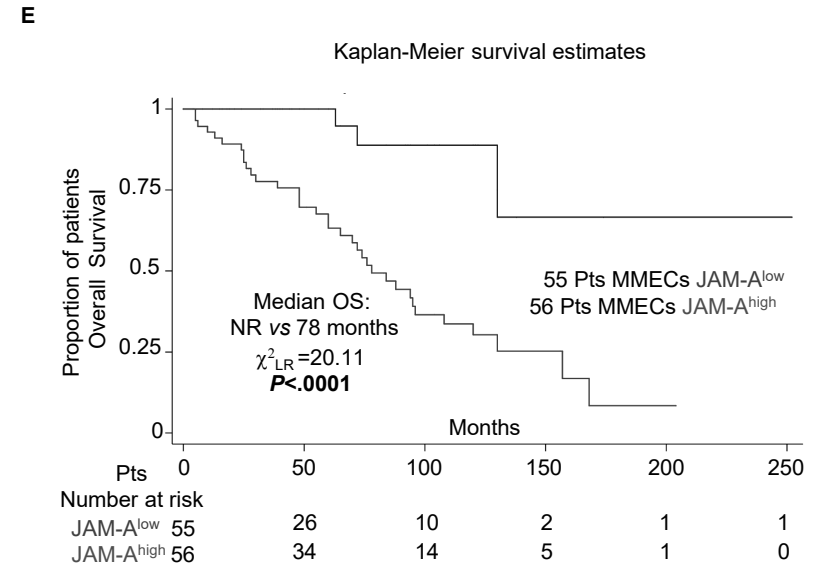
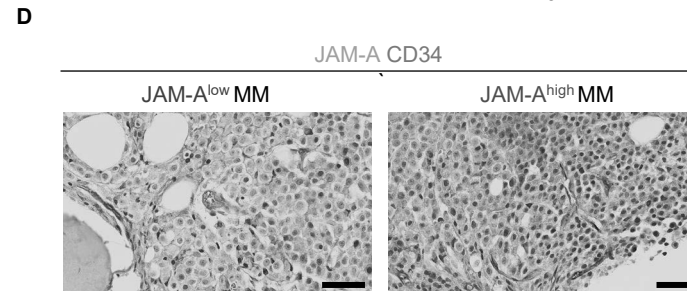
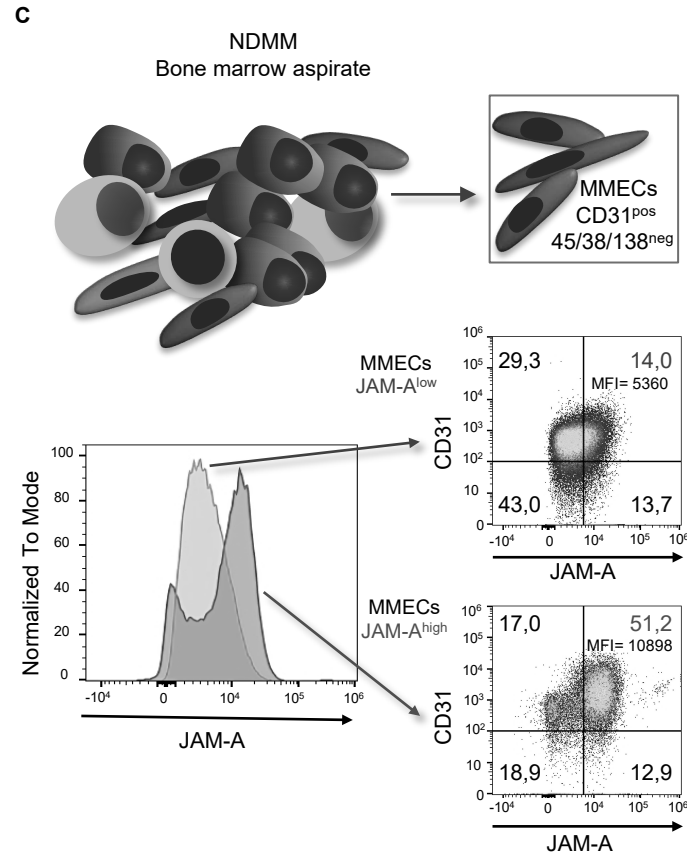
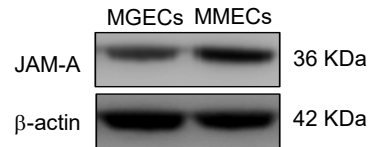
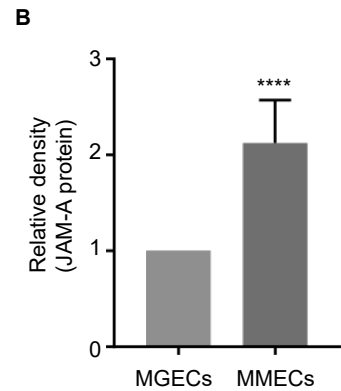
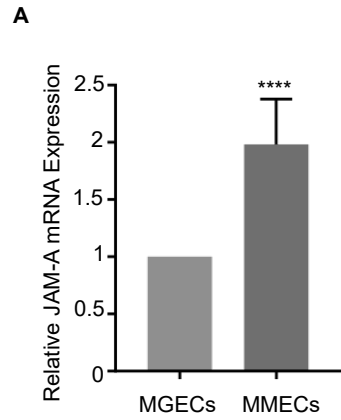
Julius-Maximilians-  
**UNIVERSITÄT  
WÜRZBURG**



**MULTIPLE MYELOMA  
Research Foundation**

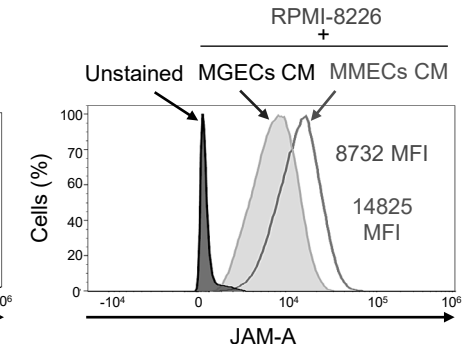
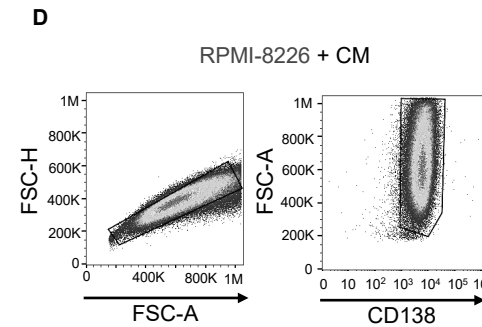
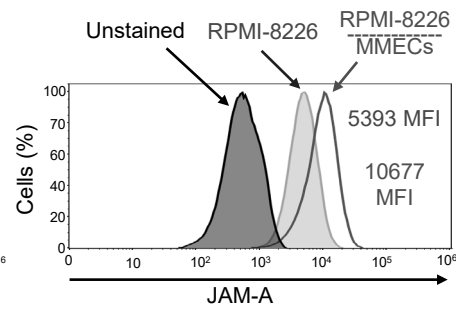
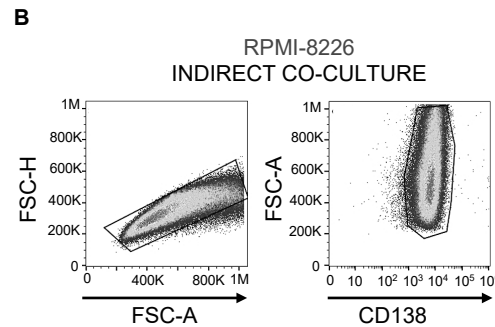
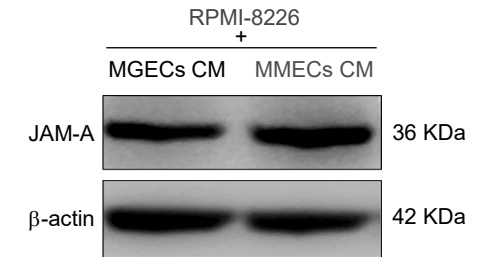
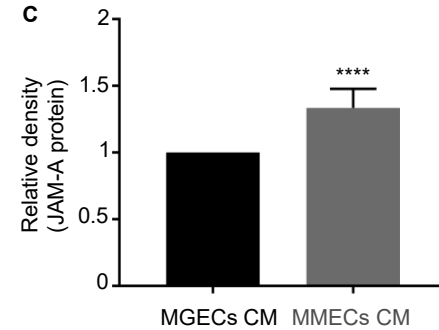
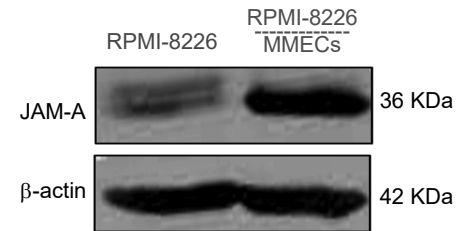
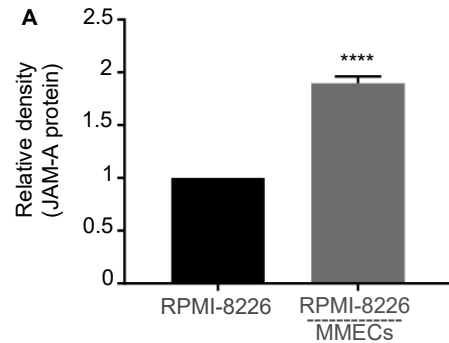
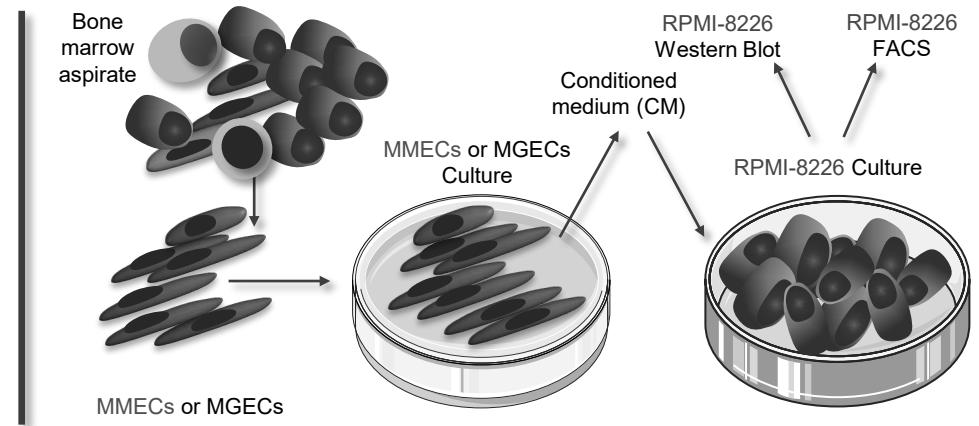
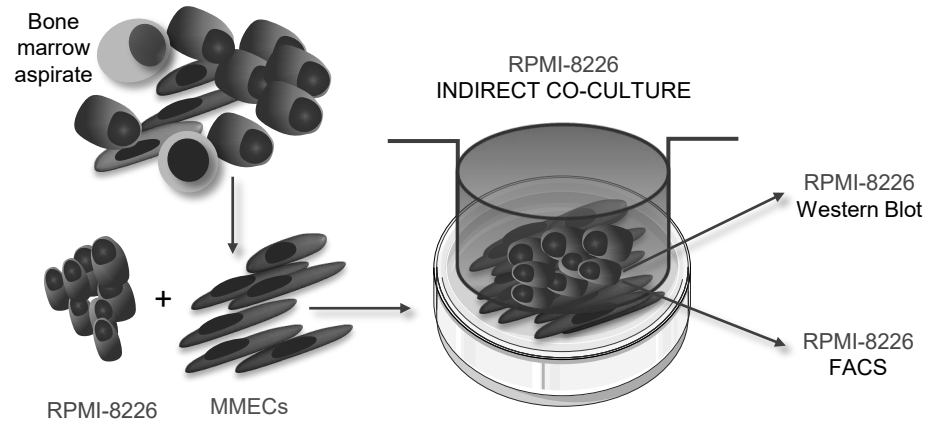


# Elevated JAM-A expression on BM primary MM endothelial cells (MMECs) in newly diagnosed patients correlates with poor OS



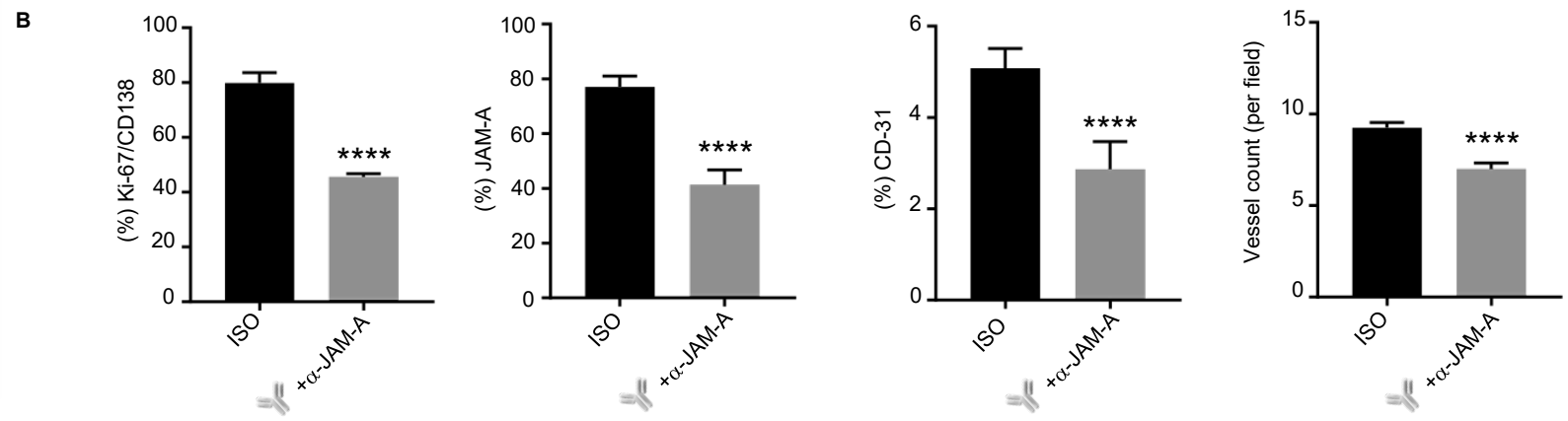
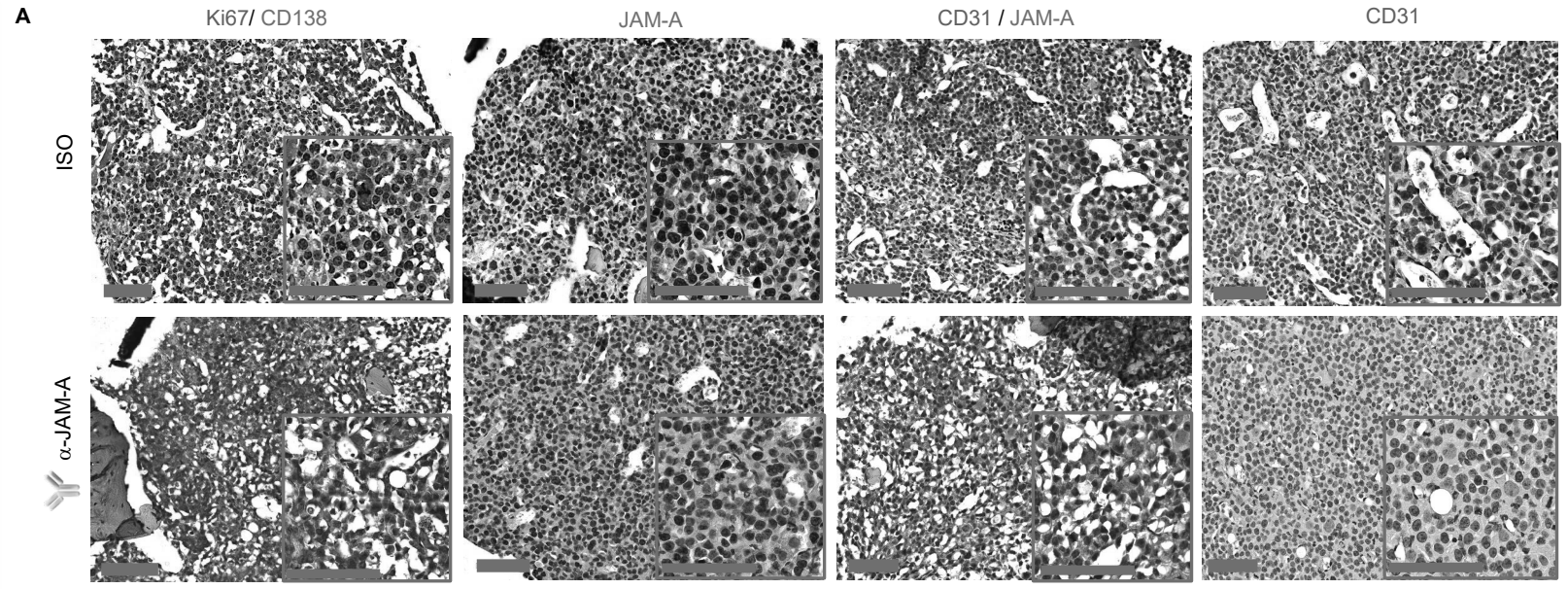
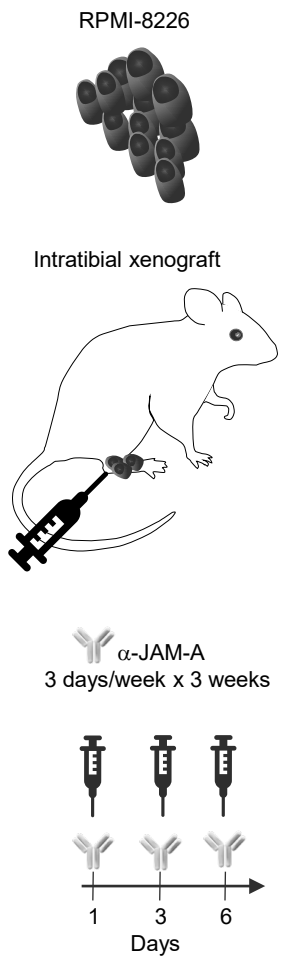
	*Cox model for Overall Survival			
	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
	HR (95%CI)	P value	HR (95%CI)	P value
MMECs JAM-A surface expression (JAM-A <sup>high</sup> vs JAM-A <sup>low</sup> )	9.14 (2.80-29.76)	<0.001	9.11 (2.79-29.76)	<0.001
Bone Lesion (Yes vs No)	1.31 (0.60-2.89)	0.489	-	-
Hb (<10 vs >=10 g/dL)	1.44 (0.75-2.77)	0.271	-	-
R-ISS				
R-Stage I	1		-	-
R-Stage II	1.37 (0.55-3.39)	0.494		
R-Stage III	2.11 (0.76-5.86)	0.149		
Sex (M vs F)	0.58 (0.29-1.13)	0.110	0.65 (0.33-1.30)	0.233
Chronic kidney disease (Yes vs No)	2.04 (1.05-3.96)	<b>0.033</b>	2.11 (1.08-4.10)	<b>0.027</b>
Age	0.98 (0.94-1.02)	0.542	0.99 (0.95-1.04)	0.984

# MMECs enhance JAM-A expression on MM-cells

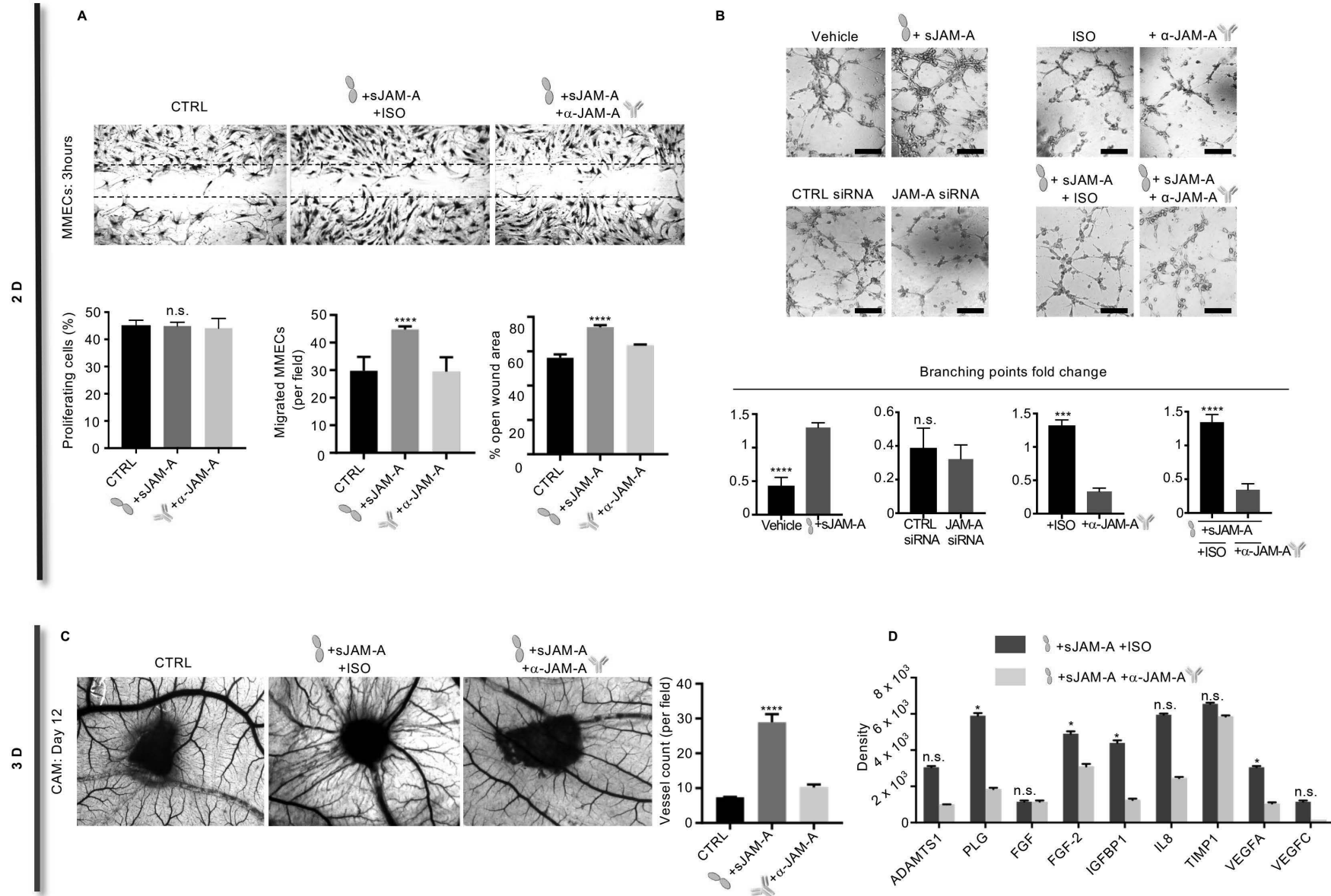




# JAM-A inhibition reduces MM proliferation and vasculature in intratibial MM *in vivo* model



# Pivotal role of JAM-A in MM associated angiogenesis in 2D and 3D conditions



# Conclusions

- JAM-A is a potent driver of MM-associated angiogenesis, besides impacting patient's prognosis
- Inhibiting JAM-A restricts angiogenesis in vitro, in embryo and in vivo and MM progression, and influencing EMD progression