

Journal Pre-proof



Sarcoma_CellminerCDB: A tool to interrogate the genomic and functional characteristics of a comprehensive collection of sarcoma cell lines

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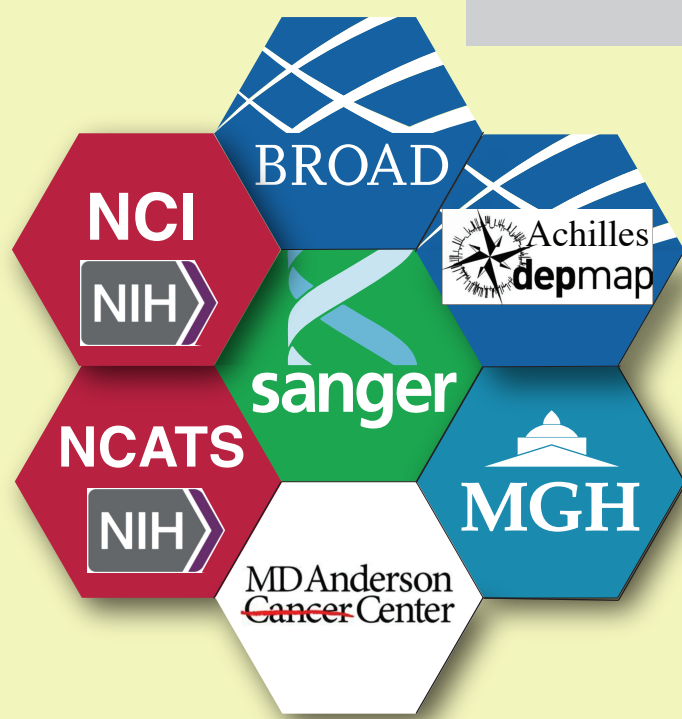
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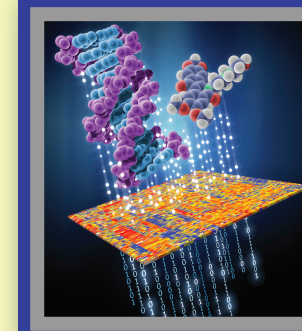
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133 Cell Lines

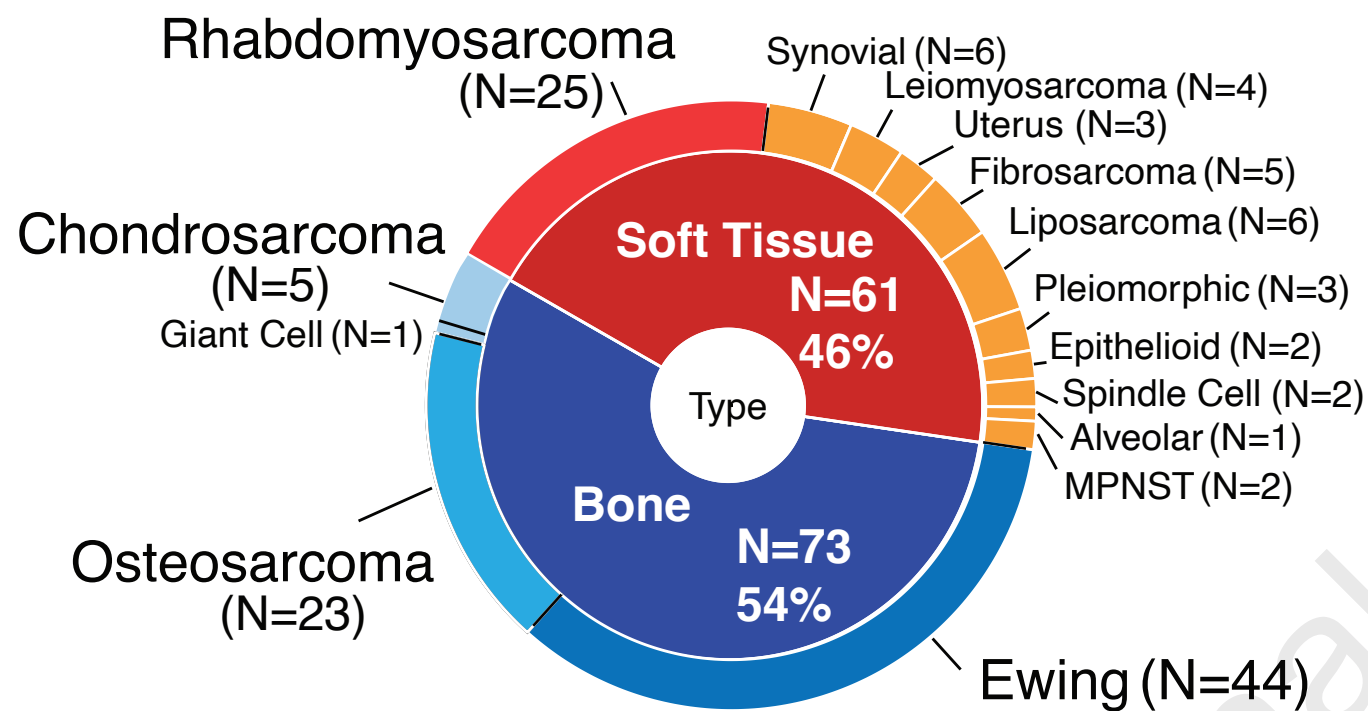
Journal Pre-proof
 Methyloome
 Transcriptome
 Mutations
 Translocations
 Gene copies
 DepMap
 Proteome
 Drug responses

Integrated Database

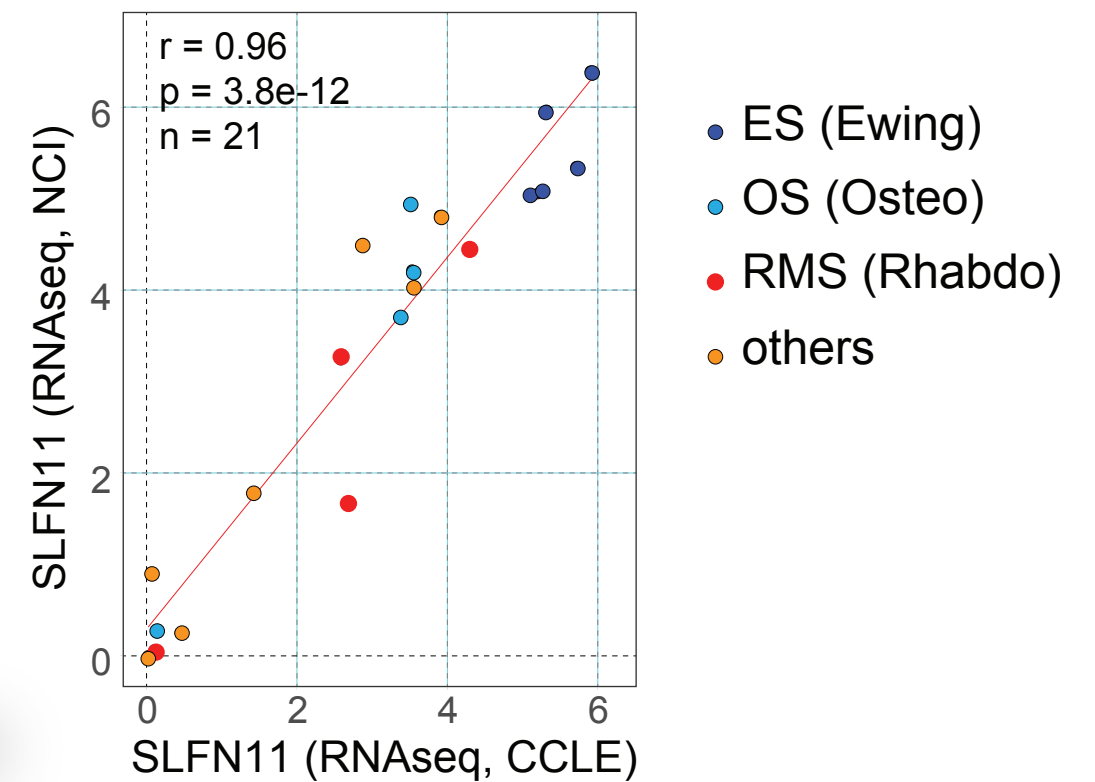
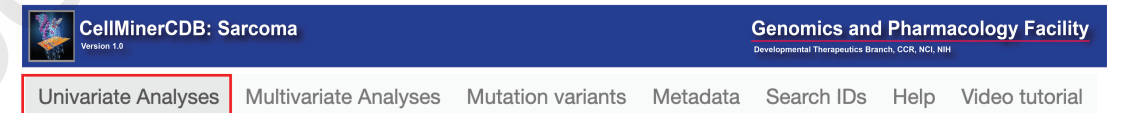


Sarcoma
 CellMinerCBD

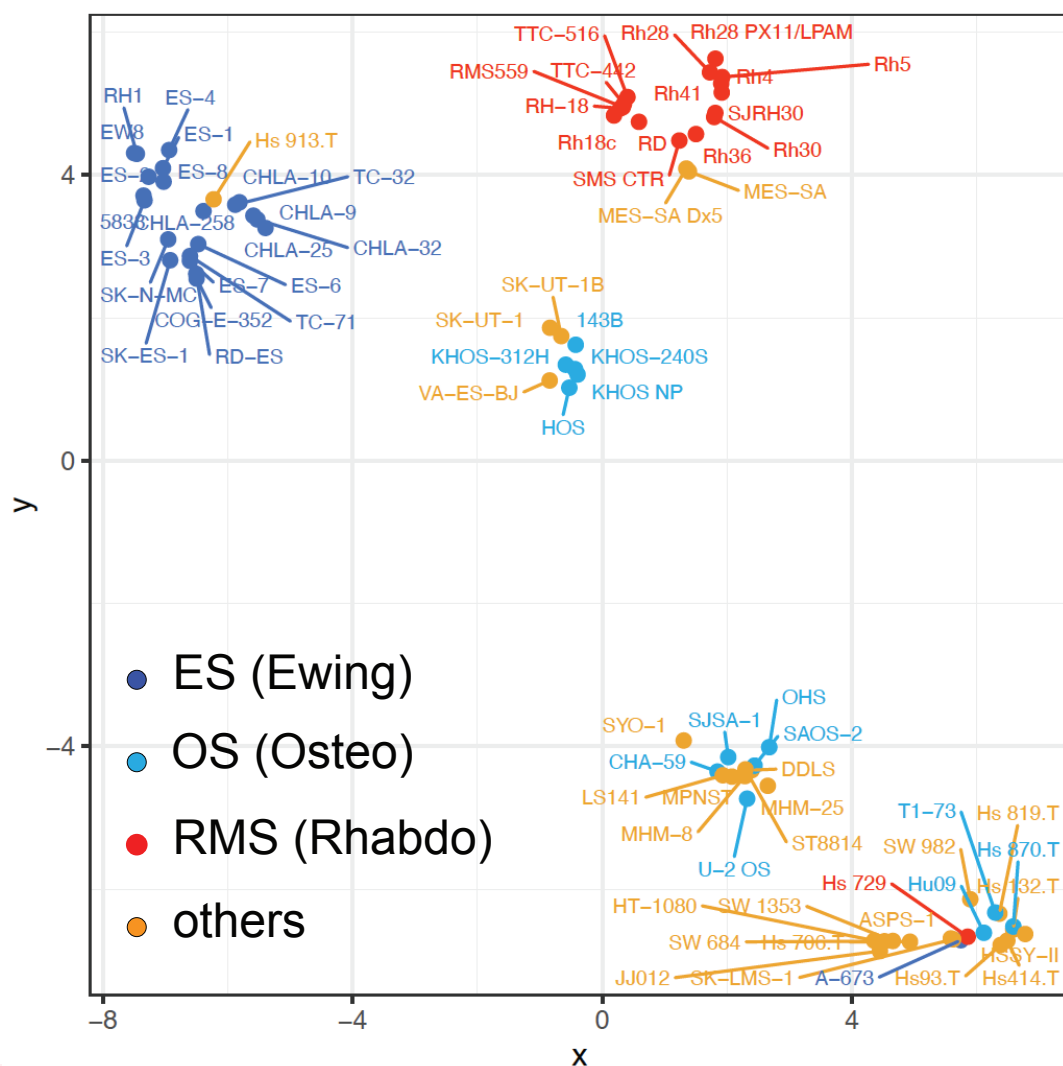
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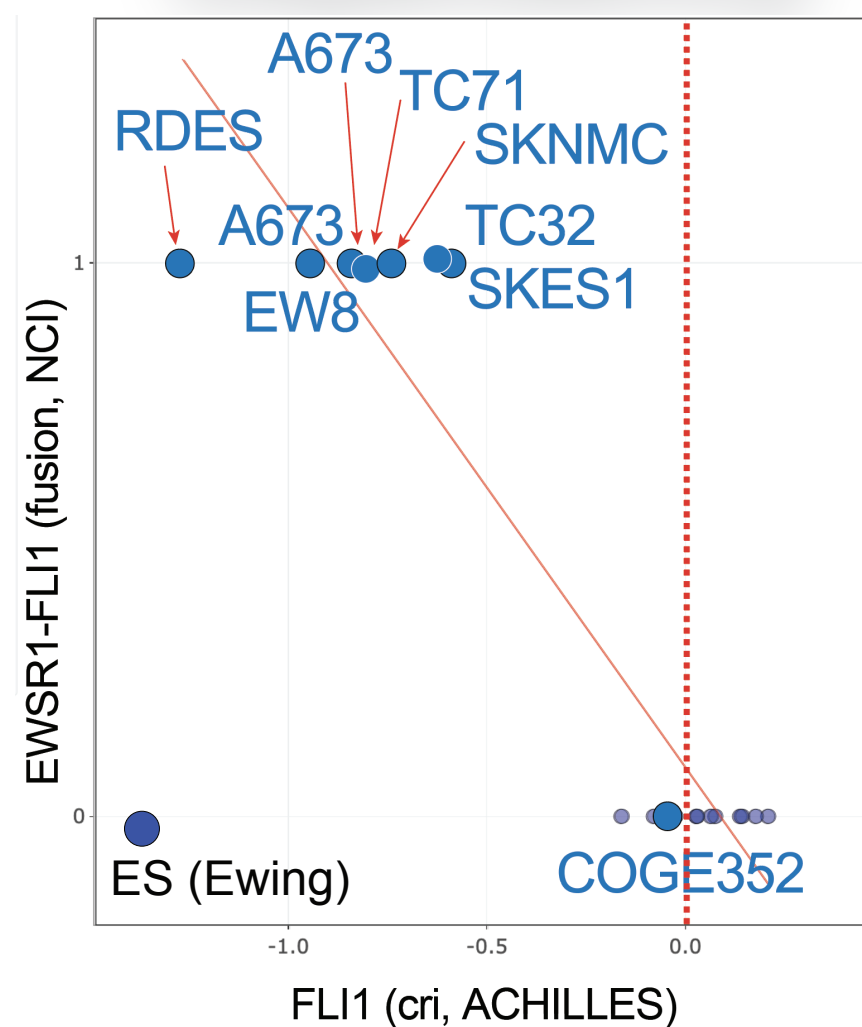
Data reproducibility



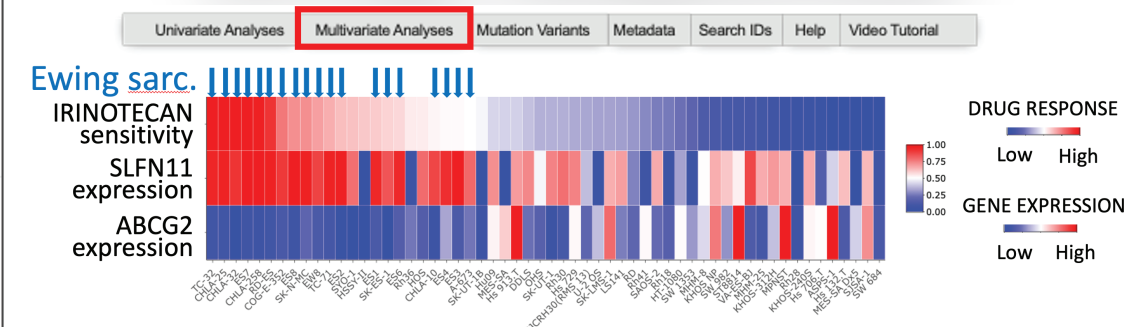
Methylome subtypes



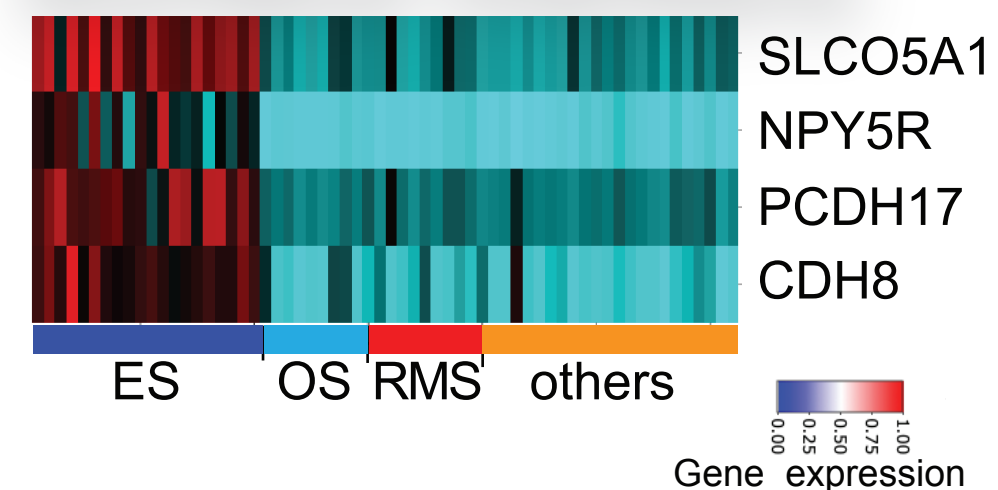
Fusions & Gene Dependency



Drug response



Surface markers



1 **Sarcoma_CellminerCDB: A tool to interrogate the genomic and functional characteristics**
2 **of a comprehensive collection of sarcoma cell lines**

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1 **Summary**

2 Sarcomas are a diverse group of rare malignancies comprised of multiple different clinical
3 and molecular subtypes. Due to their rarity and heterogeneity, basic, translational, and clinical
4 research in sarcoma has trailed behind that of other cancers. Outcomes for patients remain
5 generally poor due to an incomplete understanding of disease biology and a lack of novel
6 therapies. To address some of the limitations impeding preclinical sarcoma research, we have
7 developed Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB, a publicly-available interactive tool that merges publicly-
8 available sarcoma cell line data and newly generated omics data to create a comprehensive
9 database of genomic, transcriptomic, methylomic, proteomic, metabolic, and pharmacologic data
10 on 133 annotated sarcoma cell lines. The reproducibility, functionality, biological relevance, and
11 therapeutic applications of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB described herein are powerful tools to
12 address and generate biological questions and test hypotheses for translational research.
13 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB (<https://discover.nci.nih.gov/SarcomaCellMinerCDB>) aims to contribute
14 to advancing the preclinical study of sarcoma.

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1 Introduction

2 Sarcomas represent a heterogeneous group of rare cancers that affect children,
3 adolescents, and adults. This broad group of malignancies includes numerous distinct clinical and
4 molecular subtypes. There are two main categories of sarcomas, those that arise from bone, such
5 as osteosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma, and those that arise from soft tissue, such as
6 rhabdomyosarcoma, liposarcoma, leiomyosarcoma, and others. Moreover, even within these
7 general categories, sarcomas demonstrate strikingly heterogenous biology, which affects the
8 pathological diagnosis, clinical presentation, progression, and outcome of these cancers.¹

9 Biologically, sarcomas exhibit extreme molecular diversity. Some subtypes have recurrent
10 oncogenic alterations, including oncogenic fusion proteins or recurrent amplifications and point
11 mutations, whereas other subtypes demonstrate more complex genomic profiles.^{2,3} Due to the
12 relative rarity of sarcoma compared to other cancers, the collection of data, including genomic
13 clinical data, and the compilation of large datasets lags behind other malignancies.⁴ In addition,
14 the field suffers from a dearth of publicly shared and well-annotated preclinical models, particularly
15 for the rarer subtypes, which has hindered progress towards new therapeutic advances.⁵ As a
16 result, very few sarcomas are treated with a targeted approach, and therapy for most subtypes
17 still consists of multiagent systemic chemotherapy and local control, a highly toxic approach that
18 fails to cure all patients.⁶⁻⁸ Consequently, outcomes for patients with most sarcoma subtypes have
19 not improved in several decades due to an incomplete understanding of disease biology and a
20 lack of novel therapies.^{1,9-11}

21 To remedy some of the limitations hindering the preclinical study of sarcoma, we have
22 developed Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB, a publicly-available interactive tool for the research
23 community (<https://discover.nci.nih.gov/rsconnect/SarcomaCellMinerCDB/>).
24 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB merges both publicly-available sarcoma cell line data with additional
25 novel omics data to create a comprehensive database containing genomic, transcriptomic,
26 methylomic, proteomic, metabolic, and pharmacologic data on 133 annotated sarcoma cell lines.

1 Importantly, the data are displayed using an interface that allows for easy visualization, analysis
2 of the information, and development of hypotheses by users. Herein we introduce these unique
3 resources and data assembled in Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB, and describe the reproducibility,
4 functionality, biological relevance, and therapeutic applications of this database.

5

6 **Results**

7 ***Summary of resources and data included in Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB***

8 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB assembles data from 133 sarcoma cell lines, representing 15
9 distinct clinical entities (4 bone and 11 soft tissue) as shown in Figure 1A. Osteosarcoma (n=23
10 cell lines), Ewing sarcoma (n=42 cell lines), and rhabdomyosarcoma (n=26 cell lines), which are
11 the most common clinical entities, represent the largest groups of cell lines. However, rarer
12 sarcomas, including alveolar soft part sarcoma and fibrosarcoma are also represented. Genomic
13 and drug response data are compiled from six publicly-available sources (CTRP, CCLE, GDSC,
14 MD Anderson, Achilles, NCATS)^{12,13} with the addition of new previously unpublished data from
15 NCI. Data types include mutation (exome), gene expression (Affymetrix and RNAseq), gene copy
16 number, methylation, microRNA (Nanostring), pharmacologic, proteomic, metabolic and CRISPR
17 Cas9 knockout screen results. As previously described for SCLC-CellMiner,^{12,14} we also
18 developed Global Z-score expression sets by regrouping all datasets for expression (Affymetrix
19 and RNAseq) using Z-score normalization. This enables analyses of transcriptomic data across
20 all datasets. In addition, we used Affymetrix SNP6.0 Array data to generate GDSC copy number.
21 Figure 1B shows a summary of data sources and the number of cell lines per data source.
22 Detailed information regarding the data source and name of each individual cell line, as well as
23 available clinical data, is shown in Figure 1C and Supplemental Table S1. For many cell lines,
24 similar analyses were derived from multiple sources (data overlap). The extent and type of data
25 overlap are described in Figures 1C-E and Supplemental Figures S1A-B.

1 **Reproducibility and functionality of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB**

2 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB has multiple capabilities that are summarized in Table 1. To
3 validate the data across individual datasets, we first compared their general reproducibility by
4 performing Pearson and Spearman correlation analyses on methylation, expression, and copy
5 number data for overlapping cell lines from the different genomic databases. We found that
6 datasets are highly reproducible, with median Pearson correlations between 0.65 and 0.86 for
7 methylation data, between 0.68 and 0.92 for expression data, and between 0.55 and 0.83 for copy
8 number data across the data sources (Figure 2A and Supplemental Figure S2A). In addition,
9 comparison of our Global Z-score for expression to the expression data from the other data
10 sources revealed strong correlations (Pearson correlations between 0.92 and 0.97; Spearman
11 correlations between 0.89 and 0.95) (Supplemental Figures S2B-C). Taken together, these
12 analyses demonstrate that the expression, methylation, and copy number data are reproducible
13 across the data sources, and that the cell lines grown and analyzed independently have overall
14 conserved genotypes.

15 To illustrate the high reproducibility across datasets, we used the Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB
16 Univariate Analysis tool and visualized the expression of an exemplary gene (*SLFN11*; *Schlafen*
17 *11*),¹⁵ across the broad sarcoma cell line panel (Figure 2B). In this example, *SLFN11* expression
18 from the NCI database is highly correlated with *SLFN11* expression from the CCLE database
19 ($r=0.96$) and with the Global Z-score for *SLFN11* expression ($r=0.99$). Furthermore, when
20 assessed by individual sarcoma subtype, *SLFN11* expression level was found to be highest in
21 Ewing sarcoma and highly variable across cell lines in the other subtypes, across each of the
22 datasets. This both demonstrates that there is consistency across the database and confirms
23 what has been previously described regarding expression of *SLFN11* in Ewing sarcoma.^{16,17}

24 In addition to exploring and validating gene expression across databases, the Univariate
25 Analysis tool can be used to interrogate correlations between data on two genes, either in the full
26 sarcoma cell line panel or within individual sarcoma subtypes. For example, when expression of

1 the ETS family transcription factor *FLI1* is plotted against the expression of *SLFN11* or *CD99*
2 (encoding a cell surface and T-cell adhesion glycoprotein) in the full sarcoma cell line panel, the
3 scatter plots reveal highly significant correlations between *FLI1* and both *SLFN11* and *CD99*
4 expression in the majority of Ewing sarcoma cells, which is consistent with known disease biology
5 (Figure 2C, left and middle panels)^{16,18}. Importantly, even in subtypes with fewer available cell
6 lines, the Univariate Analysis tool can identify distinct biological features characteristic of those
7 subtypes. For example, the expression of *MDM2* (a key p53 ubiquitin ligase that downregulates
8 p53) is highest in liposarcoma cell lines LS141 and DDL5 and correlates with high *MDM2* copy
9 number (Figure 2C, right panel). This too is expected based on known disease biology.¹⁹

10 The Multivariate Analysis tool can be used to examine relationships between multiple
11 parameters across the cell line panel. In the example shown, expression of two genes *SLFN11*
12 and *ABCG2* (which encodes the drug efflux transporter BCRP) are plotted against sensitivity to
13 irinotecan across the broad sarcoma cell line panel (Figure 1D). This analysis demonstrates a
14 strong relationship between high *SLFN11* expression, low *ABCG2* expression, and high sensitivity
15 to irinotecan, particularly among Ewing sarcoma cell lines. High *SLFN11* expression has been
16 described as a biomarker for topoisomerase I (TOP1) inhibitor sensitivity in cancers including
17 Ewing sarcoma.^{16,17} While *ABCG2* expression has been described as a biomarker for TOP1
18 inhibitor sensitivity in some tumor types,²⁰ it has yet to be established in Ewing sarcoma. Taken
19 together, these examples highlight the reproducibility and functionality of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB
20 to confirm known biological features of sarcoma subtypes in the cell line models and potentially
21 making new discoveries that can be translated in the clinic.

22 ***Biological relevance of sarcoma cell lines as preclinical models based on oncogenic*** 23 ***fusions***

24 Oncogenic fusions are a hallmark of several subtypes of sarcomas, including Ewing
25 sarcoma,²¹ fusion-positive rhabdomyosarcoma,²² synovial sarcoma,²³ and alveolar soft part

1 sarcoma.²⁴ Identified fusions in the Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB cell lines are listed in Supplemental
2 Table S2. Fusion status can be accessed under the “NCI” dropdown in the x- or y-Axis Cell Line
3 Set and the “gene fusions” dropdown in the x- or y-Axis Data Type. The desired fusion can be
4 typed into the identifier field. Full fusion data from NCI cell lines can be downloaded from the
5 Metadata tab by again selecting the “NCI” Cell Line Set and “gene fusions” Data Type.

6 In fusion-driven sarcoma subtypes, the fusions act as the main drivers of disease biology
7 and impact numerous downstream processes. Examination of the relationship of fusion status to
8 other available omics data can be used to mine the biology in cell lines in the context of the
9 disease of origin, discover new correlations for future study, and define “outlier” cell lines that may
10 be useful for interrogating particular experimental questions. For example, Univariate Analysis
11 based on EWS-FLI1 fusion reveals the presence of the fusion in all Ewing sarcoma cell lines, with
12 two exceptions COG-E-352 and CHLA-25 (Figure 3A), which are known to harbor the EWS-ERG
13 fusion variant type.²⁵ In addition, Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB shows that none of the non-Ewing
14 sarcoma cell lines express the EWS-FLI1 fusion. When the EWS-FLI1 fusion status is compared
15 to expression of other known markers of Ewing sarcoma, notable data emerge. *FLI1* expression
16 is tightly correlated with EWS-FLI1 fusion status, with the lowest *FLI1* expression seen in the
17 EWS-ERG fusion cell lines. In contrast, *CD99*, a pathologic marker which is positive in nearly all
18 Ewing sarcoma tumors,¹⁸ is highly expressed in all but two Ewing sarcoma cell lines (TC32 and
19 RD-ES) but is independent of the fusion type. High expression of *SLFN11* is universal in Ewing
20 sarcoma lines and is also independent of fusion type. *NROB1* (encoding the Nuclear Receptor
21 Subfamily O Group B Member 1 that acts as a dominant-negative transcription regulator), which
22 has been described as a downstream target of EWS-FLI1,²⁶ is highly expressed only in EWS-
23 FLI1 fusion cell lines, but not universally (RD-ES does not express it highly). As expected, *CD99*,
24 *SLFN11*, and *NROB1* are all expressed more highly in Ewing cell lines than in any other sarcoma
25 cell lines, supporting the biological relevance of sarcoma cell lines as models.

1 Analyzing fusion-positive rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines demonstrates the value of
2 studying fusion in concert with other omics data (Figure 3B). The presence of a PAX3-FOXO1
3 fusion is identified in 2/5 rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines in the NCI dataset. Published data
4 describing differential gene expression between fusion-positive and fusion-negative
5 rhabdomyosarcoma patient tumors have identified a number of genes, including *MYOG*, *NOS1*,
6 *OLIG2*, and *PIPOX*, that are highly expressed in tumors with PAX3-FOXO1 fusions, compared to
7 those that lack the fusion (Figure 3B).²⁷⁻³⁰ Interrogation of the relationship of these four genes with
8 PAX3-FOXO1 using Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB reveals concordance between the cell line data and
9 the tumor data for each of these genes. Furthermore, no other sarcoma cell lines highly express
10 these genes, suggesting that across sarcomas, they may be specific to fusion-positive
11 rhabdomyosarcoma and can be used as a classifier of this subgroup. Additionally, as the
12 biological function of *NOS1*, *OLIG2*, and *PIPOX* remain largely unexplored in
13 rhabdomyosarcoma, there may be opportunities to study them as prognostic factors and potential
14 therapeutic targets.

15 Beyond the correlations between fusions and gene expression, the Univariate Analysis
16 tool of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB can be utilized to identify genetic dependencies. Using the
17 oncogenic fusions to illustrate this, CRISPR data from the Achilles database, which are integrated
18 in Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB (under the “Achilles” dropdown in the x- or y-Axis Cell Line Set),
19 confirms that *FLI1* is an essential gene for EWS-FLI1 fusion positive Ewing sarcoma cell lines,
20 but not for COG-E-352, the EWS-ERG fusion positive Ewing sarcoma cell line (Figure 3C).
21 Similarly, *FOXO1* (encoding the Forkhead Box O1 transcription factor) is essential only in
22 rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines harboring the PAX-FOXO1 fusion (Figure 3D). Taken together, the
23 fusion data highlight the authenticity of cell lines as biologically relevant models, and demonstrate
24 the diverse functionality of integrating transcriptomic, fusion, and CRISPR knockout data.

25

1 **Mutation and mutational burden characteristics of sarcoma cell lines**

2 The presence of somatic mutations and tumor mutational burden (TMB) are key features
3 that can be used to confirm diagnoses and/or dictate therapeutic decisions in certain subtypes of
4 sarcoma.³¹⁻³³ To first capture the overall mutational burden of each sarcoma cell line, we
5 calculated TMB using exome data (Figure 4A). Ewing sarcoma cell lines exhibited the lowest TMB
6 of all the sarcoma subtypes, which matches the known low mutation burden observed in patient
7 tumors and is a well-known feature of the disease.^{34,35} In contrast, soft-tissue sarcomas (excluding
8 rhabdomyosarcoma) exhibited the largest TMB range, with some cell lines having greater than
9 35 mutations/megabase, and others fewer than 10. Although this is an expected consequence of
10 analyzing such a heterogeneous group of tumors together, these data may be useful to identify
11 models of specific subtypes with certain features to be used for preclinical study. For example,
12 there is a clinical subset of leiomyosarcoma known to have *MSH2* mutations and high
13 microsatellite instability (MSI).³⁶ Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB identifies leiomyosarcoma cell lines SK-
14 UT-1 and SK-UT-1B as having the highest TMB of all the cell lines. Further analysis reveals that
15 these cell lines have pathogenic mutations in the mismatch repair gene *MSH2* (Figure 4B). This
16 is associated with low expression of *MSH2*, potentially conferring a mismatch repair deficiency
17 phenotype and explaining the accumulation of mutations and high TMB (Figure 4B). These cell
18 lines may represent valuable models to preclinically study this subgroup of leiomyosarcomas.

19 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB can also be applied to explore mutations for a particular disease
20 entity in specific cell lines. To test this feature for known disease-specific mutations, we looked
21 for cell lines with isocitrate dehydrogenase (*IDH*) mutations. We identified just two cell lines in the
22 whole panel with *IDH* mutations (one for *IDH1* and another for *IDH2*), both of which were in
23 chondrosarcoma cell lines (Supplemental Figure S3A). This result is consistent with the clinical
24 disease biology of chondrosarcoma, as *IDH* mutations are a known genetic feature of
25 chondrosarcoma and are found in approximately half of patients.³⁷

1 We also identified deleterious mutations in the *STAG2* gene (encoding Stromal Antigen 2,
2 a component of the cohesin complex) in seven Ewing sarcoma cell lines. Comparison of the
3 *STAG2* mutations present in the Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB Ewing sarcoma cell lines to those
4 described in Ewing sarcoma patient tumors confirmed that in the cell lines, as in the patient
5 tumors, the mutations are not hot-spot mutations (Figure 4C). Furthermore, based on the Achilles
6 data integrated in Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB, we confirmed that presence of *STAG2* is not a
7 dependency in Ewing sarcoma cell lines (Supplemental Figure S3B), which is consistent with the
8 known biological role of *STAG2* mutation as a marker of poor prognosis in Ewing sarcoma
9 tumors.^{35,38} However, our analysis did reveal that the frequency of *STAG2* mutations in the Ewing
10 sarcoma cell lines (35%) was higher than what would be expected in patient tumors (Figure
11 4D).^{35,39} Although this is a limitation associated with the use of all cell line models, the tool has
12 sufficient data to allow users to determine whether there are differences between the cell line
13 models and the patients, reducing the chance of misinterpretation of the data.

14 Using the Compare Patterns tool of the Univariate Analysis page of
15 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB,¹² we identified a correlation between *STAG2* mutational status and
16 sensitivity to the tyrosine kinase inhibitor cabozantinib in the Ewing sarcoma cell lines (Figure 4E).
17 Cabozantinib was recently studied in a clinical trial for patients with bone sarcoma, and in patients
18 with Ewing sarcoma, 25% of patients experienced a partial response.⁴⁰ Since no biomarkers of
19 response were studied in this clinical trial, our findings suggest that it may be worth evaluating
20 *STAG2* mutations as a predictive biomarker of response to this therapy. In summary, the mutation
21 data readily accessible in Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB is a rich resource for examining both tumor
22 mutational burden, as well as specific gene mutations in sarcoma cell lines.

23 ***Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres (ALT) in the sarcoma cell lines***

24 We next sought to characterize the presence of *TERT* mutations, as *TERT* promoter
25 mutations represent the most common non-coding mutations in cancer cells and have been

1 described in a subset of soft-tissue sarcomas.⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ *TERT* encodes the catalytic subunit of
2 telomerase which maintains telomere length, and mutations in *TERT* can reduce telomerase
3 function.⁴² *TERT* negative cancer cells use an alternative pathway called the ALT pathway which
4 is active in about 10-15% of cancers, especially in osteosarcomas, and may have therapeutic
5 implications.⁴⁵⁻⁴⁸ Using Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB, we analyzed osteosarcoma cell lines for *TERT*
6 mutations and expression. Among the 59 sarcoma cell lines sequenced in the NCI database, the
7 27 cell lines of the GDSC and the 30 cell lines of the CCLE, deleterious *TERT* mutations were
8 only found in one cell line sequenced at the NCI: the CHLA-59 osteosarcoma cell line.

9 Notably, as expected, known ALT positive osteosarcoma cell lines (U2OS, SAOS2, CAL-
10 72, Hu09 and NY),^{49,50} lack *TERT* expression (Supplemental Figure S4), whereas known ALT
11 negative cell lines express *TERT*.⁴⁹ Because for many sarcoma cell lines, the ALT status is
12 unknown, examination of *TERT* expression may therefore provide clues to their ALT status. For
13 example, the osteosarcoma cell line Hs 870.T and the spindle cell sarcoma Hs 321.T cells have
14 no *TERT* expression and may represent additional ALT positive bone sarcoma cell lines
15 (Supplemental Figure S4A). Additionally, based on lack of *TERT* expression, there may be a
16 significant number of other types of sarcoma cell lines with ALT positivity, including 3 out of the
17 25 rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines of the Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB database (Rh30, Rh41, and
18 SJCRH30) and 2 out of the 5 fibrosarcoma cell lines (Hs 414.T, Hs913.T and Hs 93.T). Notably,
19 a significant number of cell lines lack DAXX expression which is a signature of ALT (Supplemental
20 Figure S4B). Further experiments are warranted to expand these results in the cell lines and to
21 determine whether the frequency of ALT and its therapeutic implication are underappreciated in
22 soft tissue sarcomas.⁵¹

23 ***Methylome and methylation profiling***

24 Given the heterogeneity of sarcomas, particularly non-rhabdomyosarcoma soft-tissue
25 sarcomas, the diagnosis of certain subtypes remains a challenge. New approaches using

1 promoter methylation data as an adjunct to traditional pathological and molecular techniques are
2 increasingly being utilized.⁵² In addition, a lack of knowledge regarding the cell(s) of origin giving
3 rise to sarcomas remains a knowledge gap in the field, and access to methylation data may help
4 to answer this question. Using promoter methylation data from each cell line, we were able to
5 broadly classify sarcoma subtypes (Figure 5A).

6 All the Ewing sarcoma cell lines clustered tightly together, with the exception of A673, a
7 widely used cell line bearing the EWS-FLI1 fusion, that has been shown to paradoxically maintain
8 a normal growth rate in experiments silencing EWS-FLI1.⁵³ Hs 913.T, a fibrosarcoma cell line,
9 clusters with the Ewing sarcoma cell lines, although the reason for this is unclear. Similarly, most
10 of the rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines cluster together, with an apparent separation between
11 alveolar/fusion-positive and embryonal/fusion-negative lines, as has been previously reported for
12 patient samples.⁵⁴ The one exception to this is the Hs 729 cell line, which is a pleiomorphic
13 rhabdomyosarcoma and biologically distinct from the embryonal and fusion-positive subtypes; it
14 clusters with the non-rhabdomyosarcoma soft-tissue sarcomas. As expected, osteosarcomas and
15 other soft-tissue sarcomas do not separate as clearly into distinct clusters, likely due their
16 heterogeneity and complex genomic features.

17 A comparison of overall promoter methylation between the sarcoma subtypes
18 demonstrates that soft-tissue sarcomas, including rhabdomyosarcoma, have higher levels of
19 global promoter methylation than bone sarcomas (Figure 5B). Using hierarchical clustering,
20 comparison of promoter methylation profiles between each of the sarcoma subtypes
21 demonstrates the presence of six gene clusters (Figure 5C, Supplemental Tables S4, S5).
22 Pathway enrichment analysis identifies three clusters (1,2, and 4) with significant pathway
23 enrichment (Supplemental Figure S5A). As is the case with other methylation studies, this
24 clustering may be more reflective of the cell(s) of origin than the oncogenic pathways
25 themselves.⁵⁵

1 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB readily allows the visualization of the relationship between
2 expression and promoter methylation status (Table 1). As a representative gene, we used
3 *MYOD1*, a key gene in rhabdomyosarcoma, as an example. As expected, there is a negative
4 correlation between *MYOD1* expression and *MYOD1* promoter methylation in
5 rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines (Figure 5D). In contrast, there is no relationship between *MYOD1*
6 expression and promoter methylation in other sarcoma cell lines, suggesting that the expression
7 of *MYOD1* is regulated by promoter methylation status specifically in rhabdomyosarcoma.

8 Recent work has shown that in addition to promoter methylation, gene body methylation
9 may be important for predicting gene expression.⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸ In Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB, we integrated
10 gene body methylation data to augment the predictive value of the promoter methylation data. A
11 representative comparison of gene expression and methylation of *SLFN11* at the promoter versus
12 at the gene body, shows the expected negative correlation with promoter methylation and a
13 positive correlation with body methylation. Importantly, both correlations show highly significant
14 p-values (Supplemental Figure S5B). Furthermore, the use of promoter and body methylation
15 together improves the significance of the predicted gene expression (Supplemental Figure S5C).
16 Taken together, the Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB methylation data provide comprehensive resource
17 of methylation status for sarcoma cell lines and could serve as the foundation for further epigenetic
18 studies, as we demonstrated for the small lung cancer cell lines.⁵⁸

19 ***Predictive biomarkers of drug response***

20 As an overarching feature of preclinical models is to uncover biological mechanisms that
21 may translate into a clinical impact on patient outcomes, a unique feature of
22 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB is the inclusion of drug activity data in the cell lines. These data
23 incorporate drug response data from the NCI, the Broad and Sanger Institutes, as well as the
24 recent data from the National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS) reporting on
25 drug activity for >2500 compounds in 183 cancer cell lines (see Figure 1C and 1E).¹³

1 Figure 6A displays data generated from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB showing seven
2 conventionally used therapeutics for the treatment of sarcoma, and their relative activity across
3 the sarcoma cell lines. These data are consistent with what is clinically known about the activity
4 of these agents for specific subtypes of sarcomas; for example, the high sensitivity of
5 rhabdomyosarcoma to dactinomycin, osteosarcoma to methotrexate, and some non-
6 rhabdomyosarcoma soft-tissue sarcomas to pazopanib. In addition, they suggest some new
7 insights for drugs that are not currently being implemented as upfront standard of care in the
8 clinic, such as the exquisite sensitivity of Ewing sarcoma to irinotecan. While irinotecan is a
9 common agent in relapse regimens for Ewing sarcoma, it is not presently part of first-line therapy,
10 and in these results, its activity appears to exceed that of current front-line agents. To understand
11 the genomic determinants of drug sensitivity, the Compare Patterns tool from the Univariate
12 Analysis page can be used to identify biomarkers of response.¹² This unbiased approach reveals
13 that *SLFN11* expression is highly correlated with irinotecan sensitivity in the Ewing sarcoma cell
14 lines (Figure 6B). *SLFN11* expression was also correlated with response to the PARP inhibitor,
15 talazoparib, in Ewing sarcoma cell lines (Figure 6B), which is consistent with independent
16 publications.^{16,17,59}

17 Presently, there are very few examples of targeted therapies that are effective in
18 sarcomas, and even fewer examples of immunotherapeutic approaches that have shown efficacy
19 in patients with sarcoma.⁶⁰⁻⁶² To interrogate the potential utility of repurposing approved targeted
20 therapies for other cancers in sarcoma, we generated a heatmap showing RNA expression of
21 surface targets with approved antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) across the full cell line panel
22 (Supplemental Figure S6A). For the three most common sarcoma subtypes, Ewing sarcoma,
23 osteosarcoma, and rhabdomyosarcoma, none of the targets of approved therapies were highly
24 expressed within or across the sarcoma subtypes, suggesting that approved targeted therapies
25 are unlikely to be an effective approach for most patients with these malignancies. However,
26 within the non-rhabdomyosarcoma soft-tissue sarcoma group, there were a small number of cell

1 lines expressing potential targets. For example, two chondrosarcoma cell lines (SW 1353 and
2 JJ012) exhibit high expression of CD33. This has not been reported in the literature but may
3 suggest that there is a role for testing an anti-CD33 therapeutic in a subset of patients with
4 chondrosarcoma, or at the very least examining chondrosarcoma tumors for CD33 positivity,
5 given that gentuzumab ozagamicin, an anti-CD33 ADC conjugated to the antineoplastic antibiotic
6 calicheamicin, is approved for acute myeloid leukemia and is available.

7 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB can be used to potentially identify new targets of diagnostic and
8 therapeutic interest for sarcoma. As an example, we generated a heatmap illustrating RNA
9 expression of surface markers across the panel of sarcoma cell lines (Figure 6C, Supplemental
10 Table S5). For each subtype, distinct expression patterns emerged. We focused further on the
11 genes from the heatmap for Ewing sarcoma, selecting four genes with high transcript levels
12 compared to other sarcoma types: *SLCO5A1*, *NPY5R*, *PCDH17*, and *CDH8*. Using *FLI1*
13 expression as a comparator, we verified high gene expression for each of the four genes in all
14 Ewing sarcoma cell lines (Figure 6D). Notably, the Ewing sarcoma cell line with an EWS-ERG
15 fusion also expressed high levels of each gene, and no non-Ewing cell lines expressed high
16 levels, confirming the high degree of specificity of these surface markers for Ewing sarcoma.
17 Notably, *NPY5R* expression was recently described as correlating with high SUV measurements
18 in FDG-PET scans of Ewing sarcoma tumors.⁶³ There are currently no reports describing an
19 association with or function of *SLCO5A1*, *PCDH17*, or *CDH8* in Ewing sarcoma.

20 Given that gene expression levels in cancer cells can be indicative of an overlapping
21 biology of normal tissues, we next examined the expression of the surface markers which are
22 overexpressed in Ewing sarcoma in 7862 normal tissues from 32 tissues of origin (Supplemental
23 Figure S6B). Several genes, including *ITM2A* and *FCGRT*, both of which had been previously
24 identified as EWS-FLI1 target genes,^{64,65} were widely expressed across nearly all normal tissue,
25 limiting their potential as therapeutic targets. In contrast, *SLCO5A1*, *NPY5R*, *PCDH17*, and *CDH8*
26 expression was low in most normal tissues, suggesting that these targets may be suitable for

1 future development of diagnostics, ADCs, and cellular immune therapies in Ewing sarcoma.
2 Overall, Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB is a powerful tool that can be used to elucidate patterns of drug
3 response and resistance in cell lines according to their genomic characteristics, which is crucial
4 given the overall heterogeneity of sarcoma subtypes. In addition, its multi-functionality can be
5 used to discover new therapeutic targets for patients with sarcoma.

6

7 **Discussion**

8 Herein we have described Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB, a unique web-based and exploratory
9 resource integrating comprehensive data from multiple sources together with novel data into a
10 single multi-omic research tool allowing easy interrogation of specific genomics and
11 pharmacological features of sarcoma cell line models. Building on new genomic data and the
12 existing previously unlinked databases comprising RNA expression, mutation analyses, and
13 promoter methylation, Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB allows the cross-comparison and full exploitation
14 of those data including gene fusion status, mutations, gene expression, TMB, genome body
15 methylation and large-scale drug screening from multiple sources comprising NCATS. In addition,
16 we built an integrated function, the Global Z-score to facilitate comparisons between 110 cell lines
17 and across the different but highly reproducible data sources. Given the heterogeneity of
18 sarcoma, Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB enables users to select analyses that either incorporate the
19 full group of sarcomas together, the major subtypes of sarcoma, or the rarest diagnoses
20 represented. These functionalities make Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB a unique resource to deeply
21 characterize preclinical sarcoma models, drive new biological questions, and generate
22 hypotheses for translational research. To our knowledge, this is the first public multi-omic
23 resource of its kind.

24 Although cell lines remain a mainstay for the progress of cancer research, including for
25 sarcoma, concerns have increasingly been raised regarding the reliability of cell lines as models
26 for disease biology. Potential limitations include the effects of immortalization and selection for

1 growth on plastic, which might transform the features of cells or reflect inherently altered biology.
2 However, cell lines have also been shown to be representative models, for example accurately
3 predicting drug responses and gene expression.⁶⁶⁻⁶⁸ Encouragingly, we were able to use
4 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB to confirm concordance between the genomic and drug response
5 features of the sarcoma cell lines in this database and those of human tumors, providing evidence
6 that these cell line models represent biologically relevant entities. Furthermore,
7 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB provides extensive characterization of each cell line and enables
8 comparisons between cell lines, which is especially helpful given the heterogeneity of sarcomas
9 overall. This information can be used to identify relevant differences between the models and
10 inform their use in particular experimental settings. For example, we demonstrated that in the
11 Ewing sarcoma cell lines TC32 and RD-ES, the surface marker *CD99* is not highly expressed.
12 This could be an important factor to consider when selecting representative cell lines for
13 experiments related to *CD99* expression and function, and this type of information can be rapidly
14 located using Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB. This tool may also potentially identify outlier cell lines.
15 For example, we showed through methylation analysis that the Ewing sarcoma cell line A673 did
16 not cluster with the rest of the Ewing sarcoma cell lines, which may suggest there is something
17 different about its origin or biology. This may be an important consideration before using certain
18 cell lines for experimentation or interpreting data generated from their use.

19 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB can also be used to identify new avenues for biological
20 discovery. Herein, we present examples of several novel hypothesis-generating insights.
21 Specifically, we describe an association between the PAX3-FOXO1 fusion in rhabdomyosarcoma
22 and several highly expressed genes, namely *NOS1*, *OLIG2*, and *PIPOX*. We show that these
23 genes are exclusively upregulated in rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines bearing the PAX3-FOXO1
24 fusion and not in any other subtypes of sarcoma. Presently, the function of these genes in fusion-
25 positive rhabdomyosarcoma has not been described, nor have they been studied as potential
26 therapeutic targets for this cancer. Thus, these preliminary findings suggest a new research

1 direction for understanding biological mechanisms in this rare malignancy. An additional biological
2 insight revealed by the Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB tool is the power of combining methylation data
3 from the gene promoter and body regions to better predict gene expression and pathway
4 analyses. We showed that the combined use of promoter and body methylation data increases
5 the significance of predicted expression for a particular gene.⁵⁸ Since high quality DNA is easier
6 to obtain than high quality RNA, particularly in clinical specimens of bone tumors,^{69,70} assays
7 relying exclusively on DNA may be more likely to provide insights on gene expression and
8 pathway activity. Thus, a DNA-based assay that reports both promoter and body methylation and
9 accurately reproduces RNA-based expression data may be an acceptable alternative when RNA-
10 based sequencing fails. This is of particular importance to clinical translation, as methylation
11 assays are increasingly being used as part of clinical specimen analysis. Currently, clinical
12 methylation assays report mostly promoter methylation. However, the increased predictive value
13 of adding body methylation data⁵⁸ may justify development of more comprehensive methylation
14 assays for the future.

15 Finally, given the relative dearth of novel clinical interventions for sarcoma, perhaps the
16 most impactful aspect of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB is its ability to provide preliminary data on
17 translationally relevant research questions. Here we report several examples of how the tool can
18 identify novel translational insights for further study. First, a clinical subgroup of leiomyosarcoma
19 with mismatch repair deficiency has been recently described.³⁶ In our cell line panel of
20 leiomyosarcoma, we identified a subset with pathogenic *MSH2* mutations and MSI phenotype.
21 These cell lines may represent robust preclinical models for this clinical subgroup. In addition, it
22 may be informative to compare the behavior of these *MSH2*-mutated leiomyosarcoma cell lines
23 to that of other cell lines representing MSI-high colon and non-leiomyosarcoma uterine cancers
24 to better evaluate whether therapies targeting MSI could be of use in this newly described subset
25 of leiomyosarcoma. A second illustrative example relates to the challenge of identifying specific
26 markers for diagnosis, prognostication, and therapeutic targeting in sarcoma, due to subtype

1 heterogeneity. Using an original approach based on RNA expression of cell surface markers, we
2 identified *CD33* expression as a candidate marker for chondrosarcoma, a sarcoma subtype with
3 limited therapeutic options.⁷¹ Given that CD33-targeting therapies are currently approved and in
4 use for other malignancies, such as CD33+ acute myeloid leukemia,⁷² this finding offers a novel
5 and potentially promising therapeutic strategy for patients with chondrosarcoma. Although further
6 preclinical validation is required, there is reason to be enthusiastic about future clinical testing of
7 the approved anti-CD33 drug conjugate gentuzumab ozagamicin in patients with
8 chondrosarcoma. The mechanism of action of gentuzumab ozagamicin is based on the payload
9 calicheamicin, which acts to induce double-stranded DNA breaks.⁷³ Some forms of
10 chondrosarcoma are known to be sensitive to other systemic cytotoxic agents, such as
11 doxorubicin, which shares this mechanism,^{74,75} suggesting that a subset of patients with
12 chondrosarcoma may benefit from this therapy. Further, ADC technology offers the promise of
13 more targeted tumor delivery, which may enhance antitumor efficacy and decrease systemic
14 toxicity for this subset of patients. Our approach further identified additional candidate surface
15 markers for other sarcoma subtypes, most notably Ewing sarcoma, that may be tractable targets
16 for the future development of diagnostics and therapies.

17 The sarcoma field has historically suffered from slow progress due to the rarity and
18 heterogeneity of the disease and a lack of models and novel therapeutics.
19 Sarcoma CellMinerCDB, a publicly-available and interactive resource, is a unique and
20 multifunctional tool that is designed to address some of these limitations. Overall, this resource
21 represents a crucial novel contribution for sarcoma researchers that has the ability to substantially
22 advance the preclinical study of multiple subtypes of sarcoma going forward.

23 **Limitations of the study**

24 A major limitation to this work is the reliance on cell lines as models of disease biology.
25 As previously described, these limitations include the effects of immortalization and selection for

1 growth on plastic, which might select for certain features that lack fidelity with human tumor
2 biology. In addition, cell lines lack the heterogeneity present in human tumors and do not reflect
3 microenvironmental conditions. An additional limitation is the small number of cell lines for some
4 of the sarcoma subtypes in the panel, particularly some of the non-rhabdomyosarcoma soft tissue
5 sarcomas. Small sample sizes make it more difficult to generate and test hypothesis and likely do
6 not reflect the full spectrum of disease for these subtypes. Our goal is to update
7 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB with additional cell lines for these rarer subtypes as they become
8 available. In addition, we anticipate the development of a similar tool that will include data from
9 sarcoma patient samples.

10

11 **Author Contributions**

12 Conceptualization: W.C.R., Y.P.

13 Methodology: F.E., L.P., S.V., W.C.R., Y.P.

14 Software: F.E., L.P., S.V., W.C.R.

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20 Writing – Original Draft: C.T., C.M.H.

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22 Visualization: C.T., C.M.H., F.E., L.P., P.K., S.V., W.C.R., Y.P.

23 Supervision: W.C.R., Y.P.

24 Project Administration: Y.P.

25 Funding Acquisition: Y.P.

26

27

28 **Declarations of Interests:** The authors declare no competing interests.

29

30

1 **Figure Titles and Legends**

2 **Figure 1: Summary of resources and data of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB**

3 **(A)** Donut plot summarizing the distribution of 133 sarcoma cell lines by subtype and tissue of
4 origin.

5 **(B)** Summary of the genomic, proteomic, metabolic and drug response data in
6 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB. For mutations, expression (Affymetrix microarray), copy number,
7 methylation and CRISPR data (Achilles), the numbers indicate the number of genes included. For
8 the RNAseq data, the numbers indicate the number of transcripts. For the microRNA data, the
9 numbers indicate the number of microRNA included. For the drug response data, including
10 NCATS, the numbers indicate the number of drugs included. For the proteomic and metabolic
11 data, the numbers indicate the number of proteins included. The bottom row shows the total
12 number of cell lines with data in each category, which are part of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB. Yellow
13 highlighting indicates Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB data not previously publicly available.

14 **(C)** Data available from each data source (listed at the top) for each individual cell line (listed in
15 the left column). Different sarcoma subtypes (Ewing sarcoma, osteosarcoma, other bone
16 sarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, other soft tissue sarcoma) are identified by color. Black fill-in
17 represents presence of data from indicated source for each cell line (NCI database (NCATS
18 (n=14), Achilles (n = 54), MD Anderson (n = 32), GDSC (n = 52), CCLE (n = 42), CTRP (n = 30),
19 and NCI (n = 78). Full cell line details are provided in Table S1.

20 **(D)** Cell line overlap between data sources.

21 **(E)** Drug response data overlap between data sources.

22

23 **Figure 2: Reproducibility and functionalities of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB**

24 **(A)** Violin plots depicting reproducibility between the data sources for gene expression data using
25 Pearson correlations. Correlations between the indicated individual data sources for matched cell

1 lines were 0.92 for NCI_{exp}/NCI_{RNAseq} , 0.76 for $NCI_{RNAseq}/CCLE_{RNAseq}$, 0.76 for $GDSC_{exp}/CCLE_{exp}$,
 2 0.77 for $NCI_{exp}/CCLE_{exp}$ and 0.68 for $NCI_{exp}/GDSC_{exp}$.

3 **(B)** Representative scatter plot from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB showing reproducibility of *SLFN11*
 4 gene expression in the NCI database (y-axis) vs. the CCLE database (x-axis, left panel) and the
 5 Global dataset (x-axis, right panel) across the common cell lines. Each dot represents an
 6 individual cell line; sarcoma subtype is indicated by color. Ewing sarcoma cell lines (dark blue
 7 dots) have the highest *SLFN11* expression compared to all other sarcoma subtype cell lines.

8 **(C)** Representative scatter plots from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB demonstrating the Univariate
 9 Analysis tool. In each plot, individual dots represent a cell line; sarcoma subtypes are indicated
 10 by color. Left panel shows a significant positive correlation between *FLI1* expression (x-axis) and
 11 *SLFN11* expression (y-axis) across all sarcoma cell lines. Middle panel shows *CD99* expression
 12 (x-axis) v. *FLI1* expression (y-axis) in all sarcoma cell lines, which Ewing sarcoma cell lines (dark
 13 blue) demonstrating the highest expression of *CD99*. Cell lines with the lowest *FLI1* expression
 14 represents COG-E-352, which harbors an EWS-ERG fusion. Right panel shows a significant
 15 positive correlation between *MDM2* expression (x-axis) and copy number (y-axis). The highest
 16 *MDM2* expression level is found in liposarcoma cell lines LS141 and DDLS, which are highlighted
 17 in orange and is expected based on known disease biology.

18 **(D)** Representative example from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB demonstrating the Multivariate
 19 Analysis tool using the Linear Regression option. Irinotecan sensitivity is highly associated with
 20 high *SLFN11* expression (microarray) and low *ABCG2* expression (microarray). This is
 21 particularly the case for Ewing sarcoma cell lines, indicated with the red arrows.

22

23 **Figure 3: Gene fusions and alternative lengthening of telomeres (ALT) in the**
 24 **Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB cell lines**

25 **(A)** Representative scatter plots from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB showing correlations between
 26 presence of the *EWSR1-FLI1* fusion in Ewing sarcoma cell lines (red) and other sarcomas (blue)

1 (x-axis: 0 means *EWSR1-FLI1* fusion is absent, 1 means *EWSR1-FLI1* fusion is present) and four
2 key genes known to be upregulated in Ewing sarcoma. Each dot represents a cell line. The plots
3 show the high correlation between the presence of *EWSR1-FLI1* fusion and *FLI1*, *CD99*, *SLFN11*,
4 and *NROB1* gene expression (y-axes).

5 **(B)** Representative scatter plots from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB showing correlations between the
6 presence of the *PAX3-FOXO1* fusion in rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines (red) and other sarcomas
7 (blue) (x-axis: 0 means *PAX3-FOXO1* fusion is absent, 1 means *PAX3-FOXO1* fusion is present)
8 and four key genes involved in *PAX3-FOXO1* fusion-positive rhabdomyosarcoma. Each dot
9 represents a cell line. The plots show the high correlation between the presence of the *PAX3-*
10 *FOXO1* fusion *MYOG*, *NOS1*, *OLIG2* and *PIPOX* gene expression (y-axes).

11 **(C)** Representative scatter plots from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB demonstrating the essentiality of
12 the *EWSR1-FLI1* fusion in Ewing sarcoma cell lines (red). Each dot represents a cell line. The
13 *EWSR1-FLI1* fusions are shown on the y-axis: 0 and 1 mean absence or presence of *EWSR1-*
14 *FLI1* fusion, respectively. The dependency score is shown in the x-axis, based on CRISPR
15 knockout of *FLI1* in the CCLE Achilles project (see Fig. 1).

16 **(D)** Representative scatter plots from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB showing the essentiality of the
17 *PAX3-FOXO1* fusion in rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines (red). On the y-axis: 0 means *PAX3-FOXO1*
18 fusion is absent, and 1 indicates *PAX3-FOXO1* fusion. The dependency score is shown in the x-
19 axis, based on CRISPR knockout of *FOXO1* in the Achilles project (see Fig. 1).

20

21 **Figure 4: Mutations in Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB cell lines**

22 **(A)** Tumor mutational burden (TMB) (number of mutations per megabase, y-axis) for Ewing
23 sarcoma cell lines (dark blue), osteosarcoma cell lines (light blue), rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines
24 (red), and other soft tissue sarcoma cell lines (orange). Each circle represents a cell line. For each
25 category, the median (dashed line) and standard deviations (dotted lines) are represented. The
26 median number of mutations per megabase is statistically lower in Ewing sarcoma cell lines

1 compared to osteosarcoma ($p < 0.0001$), rhabdomyosarcoma ($p = 0.0015$) and soft tissue sarcomas
2 (STS) ($p = 0.0016$) cell lines.

3 **(B)** Representative scatter plot from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB showing the correlations between
4 TMB (tumor mutational burden, the number of non-inherited mutations per megabase, x-axis) and
5 *MSH2* mutation score (y-axis) (left plot). Each dot represents a cell line. The cell lines with a high
6 mutational burden (SK-UT-1 and SK-UT-1B, both uterine leiomyosarcomas) have a high *MSH2*
7 mutation score. The plot to the right shows the correlation between *MSH2* expression (x-axis) and
8 the *MSH2* mutation score (y-axis). The cell lines with a high *MSH2* mutation score (SK-UT-1 and
9 SK-UT-1B) also have low *MSH2* expression. The cell line with a moderate *MSH2* mutation score
10 (SW-684, synovial sarcoma) has an intermediate *MSH2* expression.

11 **(C)** Lollipop plot representing published *STAG2* mutations in Ewing sarcoma tumor patients from
12 the Institut Curie 2014 cohort. Black dots indicate truncating driver mutation, gray dots indicate
13 truncating variant of unknown significance (VUS), and orange dots indicate splice driver
14 mutations. The location of the seven *STAG2* mutations identified in Ewing sarcoma cell lines
15 through Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB are designated in red.

16 **(D)** Proportion of *STAG2* mutations in Ewing sarcoma cell lines.

17 **(E)** Representative scatter plot plots from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB showing the correlation
18 between *STAG2* mutations (x-axis) and cabozantinib sensitivity (y-axis) (left plot). Each dot
19 represents a cell line. Sarcoma subtypes are defined by colors, with light blue for osteosarcoma,
20 dark blue for Ewing sarcoma, red for rhabdomyosarcoma, orange for other soft tissue sarcoma
21 (see legend). The majority of cell lines with *STAG2* mutations exhibit increased sensitivity to
22 cabozantinib compared to those without *STAG2* mutations.

23

24 **Figure 5: Gene promoter methylation of the Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB cell lines**

25 **(A)** t-Distributed stochastic neighbor embedding clustering plot using methylation data from the
26 79 sarcoma cell lines from the NCI data source. Each dot represents a cell line (Ewing sarcoma

1 in dark blue, osteosarcoma in light blue, rhabdomyosarcoma in red, and other soft tissue
2 sarcomas (STS) in orange).

3 **(B)** Violin plots showing the median levels of promoter methylation in the sarcoma cell lines. Each
4 point represents the median methylation level of an individual cell line for the total set of 23,202
5 genes. Ewing sarcoma cell lines are in dark blue, osteosarcoma in light blue, rhabdomyosarcoma
6 in red, and other soft tissue sarcomas in orange. ** $p=0.0075$; **** $p<0.0001$.

7 **(C)** Comparison of promoter methylation profiles for 79 sarcoma cell lines from the NCI data
8 source according to sarcoma subtype (rhabdomyosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma, osteosarcoma, and
9 other soft tissue sarcomas (STS)). The heatmap displays the levels of methylation of 744 genes
10 with a high dynamic range. Six gene clusters are obtained using hierarchical clustering. Clusters
11 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 include 82, 172, 161, 45, 136, and 148 genes, respectively. The details of the
12 cell lines and gene names by cluster are provided in Supplemental Tables 3 and 4.

13 **(D)** Representative scatter plots from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB showing the negative correlation
14 between *MYOD1* expression (x-axis) and *MYOD1* promoter methylation (y-axis) for the
15 rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines. The left panel shows the correlation with rhabdomyosarcomas cell
16 lines only and the right panel shows the correlation with all sarcoma cell lines.

17

18 **Figure 6: Therapeutic implications of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB**

19 **(A)** Relative drug sensitivity of the Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB NCI cell lines to standard therapeutic
20 agents. Each dot represents a cell line. Sarcoma subtype is indicated by the color of the dot
21 (Ewing sarcoma in dark blue, osteosarcoma in light blue, rhabdomyosarcoma in red, and other
22 soft tissue sarcomas (STS) in orange). Arrows represent agents that are part of the therapy for
23 upfront or relapsed disease for each specific subtype. Drug activity is presented for each of the
24 drugs across the (x-axis) and was calculated using $-\log_{10} IC_{50}$ molar measurements converted to
25 z-scores across cell lines (y-axis).

1 **(B)** Representative scatter plots from Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB showing *SLFN11* expression (x-
2 axis) versus irinotecan sensitivity (left panel) and talazoparib sensitivity (right panel). Each dot
3 represents an individual cell line. Ewing sarcoma cell lines, shown in red, highly express *SLFN11*
4 and demonstrate high sensitivity to both irinotecan and talazoparib, as compared to the other
5 sarcoma cell types.

6 **(C)** Heat map showing RNA expression of genes coding for surface markers. Highly expressed
7 genes specific to each sarcoma subtype are listed on the left. Sarcoma subtypes are indicated by
8 the colored bar on the top. Individual cell line names are shown at the bottom. Additional
9 information is included in Supplemental Figure S5.

10 **(D)** Representative scatter plots showing *FLI1* expression (x-axis) versus *SLCOSA1* expression
11 (y-axis) (upper left panel), *NPY5R* expression (y-axis) (upper right panel), *PCDH17* expression
12 (y-axis) (lower left panel), and *CDH8* expression (y-axis) (lower right panel) in all CCLE cell lines.
13 Each dot represents a cell line. Ewing sarcoma cell lines are shown in red.

14

15 **STAR METHODS**

16 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

17 **Lead contact**

18 Further information and requests for reagents may be directed to and will be fulfilled by
19 Lead Contact Yves Pommier (pommier@nih.gov).

20 **Materials availability**

21 The Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB software is the same as CellMinerCDB and is freely
22 available, open source, and hosted in GitHub at github.com/CBIIT/cellminerfdb.

23 **Data and code availability**

24 • **Data:** Data are from CellMinerCDB (<https://discover.nci.nih.gov/rsconnect/cellminerfdb>) and
25 the NCI database (<https://sarcomacelllines.cancer.gov/sarcoma>). The data sources and the

1 method used to obtain the new generated data are detailed below in Method Details. The
2 data are publicly available at <https://discover.nci.nih.gov/SarcomaCellMinerCDB>).
3 • **Code:** All codes used are publicly available in GitHub at github.com/CBIIT/cellminerfdb.
4 • **Other:** Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is
5 available from the lead contact upon request.

6

7 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS**

8 The cell line sets included in Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB are from the National Cancer
9 Institute (NCI) Sarcoma cell lines from the Developmental Therapeutics Program (DTP) and
10 Center for Cancer Research (CCR), Cancer Cell Line Encyclopedia (CCLE), Genomics and Drug
11 Sensitivity in Cancer (GDSC), Cancer Therapeutics Response Portal (CTRP), MD-Anderson,
12 Achilles, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and a new resource,
13 Global Z-score. The data source details are described in “Help” section of the
14 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB website.

15

16 **METHOD DETAILS**

17 **Data Sources**

18 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB is a dedicated CellMinerCDB version for sarcoma cell lines ⁷⁶⁻⁷⁹
19 <https://discover.nci.nih.gov/cellminerfdb/>).

20 Most of the data including drug activity and genomics experiments were processed at the
21 institute of origin and were downloaded from their website or provided from their principal
22 investigator. The genomic data from CTRP and CCLE are common for the overlapping cell lines.
23 However, expression, methylation, mutation and copy number data were processed at
24 Development Therapeutics Branch (DTB), CCR, NCI to generate a gene level summary as
25 described previously.⁸⁰⁻⁸⁴ The new Global Z-score was developed at DTB by merging the gene
26 expression of all the data sources.¹⁴

1 **Newly Generated Data**

2 The following section will detail methods for generation and analysis of previously
3 unpublished data present in Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB.

4 **NCI Mutation data**

5 We ran the CCBR exome sequencing pipeline as previously described
6 (https://github.com/mtandon09/CCBR_GATK4_Exome_Seq_Pipeline). In summary, BWA MEM
7 (version 0.7.17) was run to map reads to Hg38 reference genome. Then Mutect2 in GATK 4.2
8 was used to call the variants with a panel of normal (PON). We processed the variants in a similar
9 fashion to that detailed for the previous dataset.⁷⁷ The variants were filtered for those with 6 or
10 more reads. For insertions and deletions we had a further filter of Quality>60 while for other
11 mutations we had a filter of Quality>30. The processing was the same, resulting in a gene
12 mutation summary between 0 and 100 for each gene for each sample as previously described.⁷⁷

13 **Tumor Mutation Burden (TMB)**

14 The TMB was computed using the R package MAFtools based on Mutect2 variants and
15 the following filtering criteria:

- 16 1. Minimum read depth of 20
- 17 2. VAF>=10%
- 18 3. Population AF<0.5% (in the ExAC database)
- 19 4. Amino acid changing variant (any one of "frameshift", "missense",
20 "nonframeshift", "nonsense", "read_through", "splicesense" or "initiation_loss")

21 **Fusion Data**

22 Fusion data were obtained for 40 cell lines using RNAseq from NCI.
23 Expressed fusion transcript were detected using three different algorithms FusionCatcher,⁸⁵
24 Star Fusion,⁸⁶ and TophatFusion⁸⁷ and further filtered using the following criteria:

- 25 1. Remove fusions present in normal samples
- 26 2. Keep fusions classified as one of these "Tier 1.1", "Tier 1.2", "Tier 1.3", "Tier 2.1"

- 1 3. Remove fusions called by only "Star Fusion" or "Fusioncatcher", but to keep any called by
- 2 two or more callers regardless of spanning reads
- 3 4. Keep fusions with spanning reads ≥ 5 for Tophat only.
- 4 5. For right gene intact look at the gene expression value of the right gene, if high then likely
- 5 true positive
- 6 6. In frame fusions were classified as having more credence.

7 **Promoter Gene Level Methylation Data**

8 Promoter gene-level methylation using the 850K Illumina Infinium MethylationEPIC
9 BeadChip array was summarized based on.⁷⁶ In short, methylation data were normalized using
10 the minfi package using default parameters, where probe-level beta-values and detection p-
11 values were calculated for each probe. This provided 866,091 methylation probe measurements.
12 Methylation probe beta-values for individual cell lines with detection p-values $\geq 10^{-3}$ were set to
13 missing. Also probes with median p-value $\geq 10^{-6}$ were set to missing for all cells and removed
14 from the analysis. Probe locations on the human genome (hg19 version) defined by Illumina was
15 used for the analysis, annotating proximal gene transcripts and CpG islands. Probes were
16 designated as category "1" or "2", with category "1" considered to be most informative. Category
17 "1" probes overlapped CpG islands and they overlapped either the TSS region within a 1.5kb
18 distance, the first exon or 5'-UTR region. Additionally, probes on the upstream shore of a CpG
19 island with a maximal distance of 200bp from the TSS were also included as category "1" probes.
20 Category "2" probes were positioned either in the upstream- or downstream shore of a CpG island
21 and overlapping the first exon, or on the downstream shore of CpG islands overlapping a 200bp
22 region from the TSS, or in 5'-UTR. In case of genes with multiple transcript start sites, the
23 transcript methylation with the most negative correlation to the gene level expression was used.
24 The analysis resulted in gene-level methylation values for 23,202 genes.

25 **Gene Body Level Methylation**

1 We used the gene body methylation quantification introduced in ⁵⁸. Briefly, raw methylation
2 files (idat) format were processed in R using the minfi (v1.34.0) package,⁸⁸ and the gene body
3 methylation was computed for each gene in each sample as the average methylation of the
4 probes overlapping gene bodies (excluding CpG probes, and probes that overlap promoter
5 areas). For genes with multiple transcripts, the transcript with the most positive correlation was
6 selected.

7 **Copy Number Analysis**

8 Genome wide copy number for the cell lines was estimated from the methylation array
9 data using the Chip Analysis Methylation Pipeline (*ChAMP*) package.⁸⁹ *ChAMP* returns lists of
10 genomic segments with putative copy number estimates. However, the estimate is not valid for
11 regions with high methylation detection p-values. For this reason, regions spanning more than
12 1kb with at least 5 probes with high detection p-values ($p > 0.05$) were filtered out. The copy
13 number estimates were set to missing for those areas. Gene level copy number (for $n=25,568$
14 genes) was calculated for each gene individually, by calculating the average estimate between
15 the transcription start sites and transcription end sites.

16 **Global Expression Data**

17 We generated a new Global Z-score using all combined cell line resources: NCI, CCLE,
18 CTRP and GDSC. The data sources have a mixture of microarray and RNA-seq gene expression.
19 For each experiment, genes were scaled across all cell lines to create a z-score normalized
20 dataset. The Global Z-score expression was calculated by averaging the z-scored gene
21 expressions from all sources.

22

23 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSES**

24

25 **t-SNE Clustering of NCI Sarcoma Cell Lines Using Promoter Methylation**

26 Sarcoma cell line grouping was performed with the gene expression data from the NCI
27 promoter methylation dataset using the t-SNE algorithm in R (v3.5.1). The random seed was set

1 to 1, the Euclidean distance of genes was calculated with the *dist()* function with default settings.
2 The t-SNE grouping was calculated using the *Rtsne()* function from the *Rtsne*⁹⁰ package (v0.15)
3 using the calculated distance matrix, with perplexity set to 10, and 5k maximum iterations.

4 **Methylome Cluster Analysis**

5 The methylation cluster analysis was performed using the methylation data from the 79
6 NCI-sarcoma cell lines. Genes with high standard deviation (>0.25) in the NCI sarcoma cell lines
7 were selected for the analysis. The number of reported clusters was selected based on the
8 *cutreeDynamic()* function of the *dynamicTreeCut* R package (v1.63-1), which split genes into 6
9 main clusters and sarcoma cell line subtypes (rhabdomyosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma,
10 osteosarcoma, non-rhabdomyosarcoma soft tissue sarcoma as reported in the figure). The
11 methylation heatmap was created with the *ComplexHeatmap*⁹¹ R package (version 1.20.0).

12 **Drug Analysis**

13 The scatter plot of the drug activities of 12 standard of care sarcoma drug activities was
14 created using drug activity data downloaded from the Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB\ Metadata for NCI
15 selections. The 61 NCI cell lines were analyzed. The data was z scored across cell lines and then
16 plotted using R Computing.⁹²

17 The cluster image map (CIM) in the drug analysis section was generated using the
18 Genomics and Pharmacology Facilities CIMMiner tool (<https://discover.nci.nih.gov/cimminer/>)
19 selecting the One Matrix CIM, with the Equal width Binning method. The input data is from
20 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB\ Metadata\ NCI cell line set\ exp: mRNA Expression (log2) microarray
21 data.

22 **Statistical Methods**

23 Correlations, heatmaps, and histograms were generated mostly using The R Project for
24 Statistical Computing. we clustered the cell lines based on gene expression using the raw data
25 and the normalized data in R using the *hclust()* for clustering, and the *ape* package (version 5.3)
26 to create the clustering dendrograms.

1 Some plots and analysis (such as the Kruskal Willis test) were generated using Partek
2 Genomics suite v7.17.1222 (<https://www.partek.com/partek-genomics-suite/>), The Xena
3 Functional Genomics Explorer portal (<https://xenabrowser.net/>),⁹³ or using
4 Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB and CellMinerCDB (<http://discover.nci.nih.gov/cellminerfdb>).

5 Wilcoxon rank-sum tests were used to test the difference between continuous variables
6 such as drug sensitivity or gene expression. We considered changes significant if p-values were
7 below 0.05. In the figures, p-values below 0.00005 were summarized with four asterisks, p-values
8 below 0.0005 were summarized with three asterisks, p-values below 0.005 were summarized with
9 two asterisks and p-values below 0.05 were summarized with one asterisk.

10

11

1 KEY RESOURCES TABLES

2

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Deposited data		
CellMinerCDB cell line data	Rajapakse et al ⁹⁴	https://discover.nci.nih.gov/cellminerfdb/
Sarcoma cell line data	NCI DTP	https://sarcomacelllines.cancer.gov/sarcoma/
Software and algorithms		
ChAMP	Tian et al ⁸⁹	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/ChAMP.html
STAR aligner	Dobin et al ⁹⁵	https://github.com/alexdobin/STAR
Cufflinks	Trapnell et al ⁹⁶	http://cole-trapnell-lab.github.io/cufflinks/
Mutation pipeline	CCBR mutation pipeline	https://github.com/mtandon09/CCBR_GATK4_Exome_Seq_Pipeline
ape	Paradis et al ⁹⁷	https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ape/index.html
relaimpo	Gromping et al ⁹⁸	https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/relaimpo/index.html
dynamicTreeCut	Langfelder et al ⁹⁹	https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/dynamicTreeCut/index.html
ComplexHeatmap	Gu et al ⁹¹	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/ComplexHeatmap.html
Rtsne	Van der Maaten et al ⁹⁰	https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/Rtsne/index.html
clusterProfiler	Yu et al ¹⁰⁰	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/clusterProfiler.html
ReactomePA	Yu et al ¹⁰¹	https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/ReactomePA.html
Partek Genomics Suite (software for analysis of microarray data)	Partek	http://www.partek.com/partek-genomics-suite/
Xena Functional Genomics Explorer portal	⁹³ Goldman et al	https://xenabrowser.net/
The cluster image map (CIM)	CIM	https://discover.nci.nih.gov/cimminer/
GraphPad Prism 10 (software for drawing graphs and statistics analysis)	GraphPad	N/A
Analysis scripts	This paper	The Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB software is the same as CellMinerCDB and is freely available, open source, and hosted in GitHub at github.com/CBIIT/cellminerfdb

3

4

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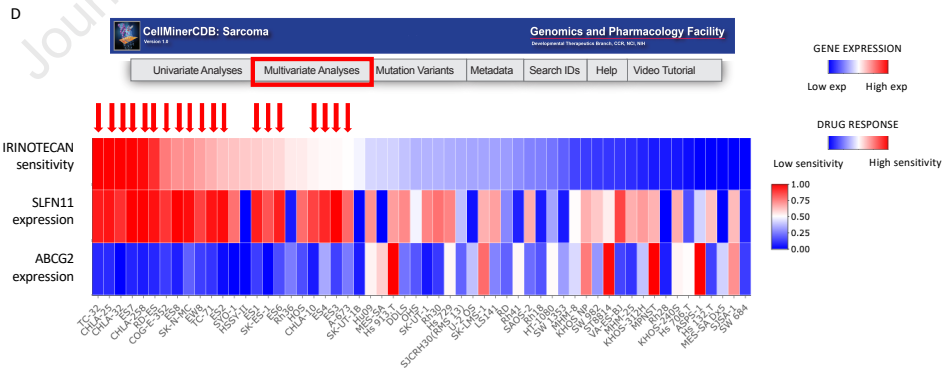
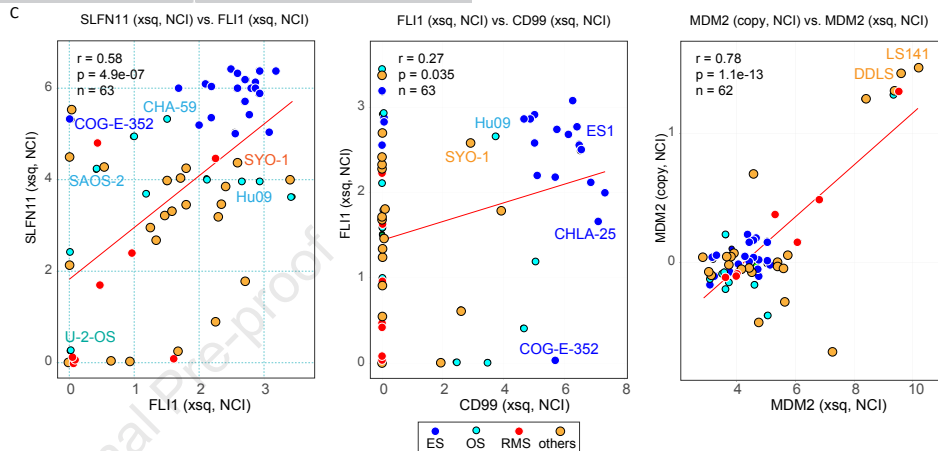
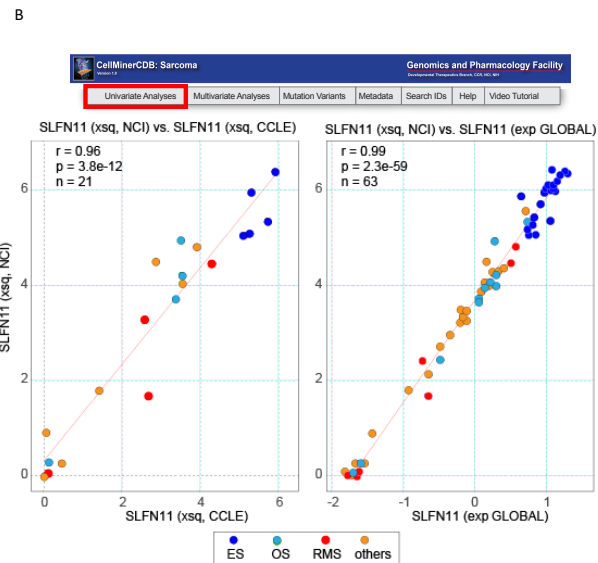
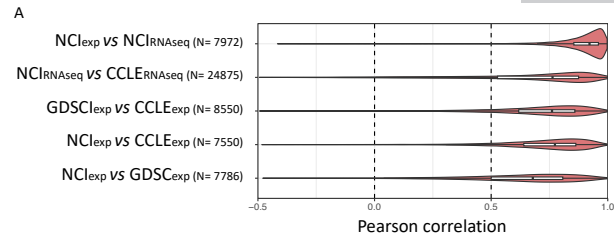
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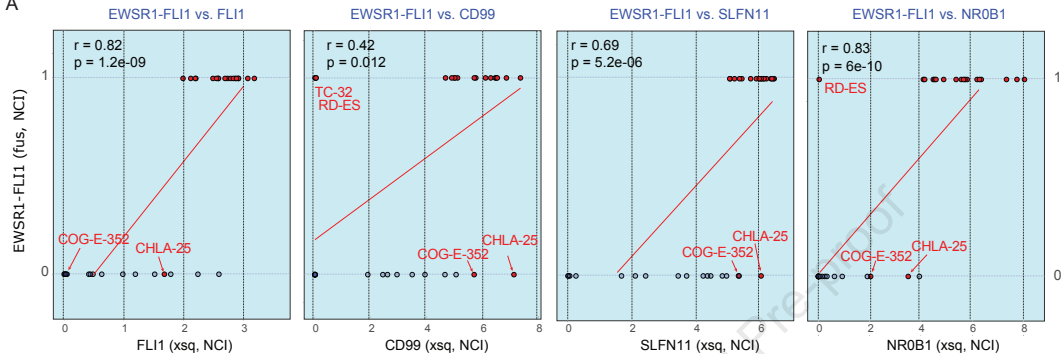
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Table 1: Examples of Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB capabilities.

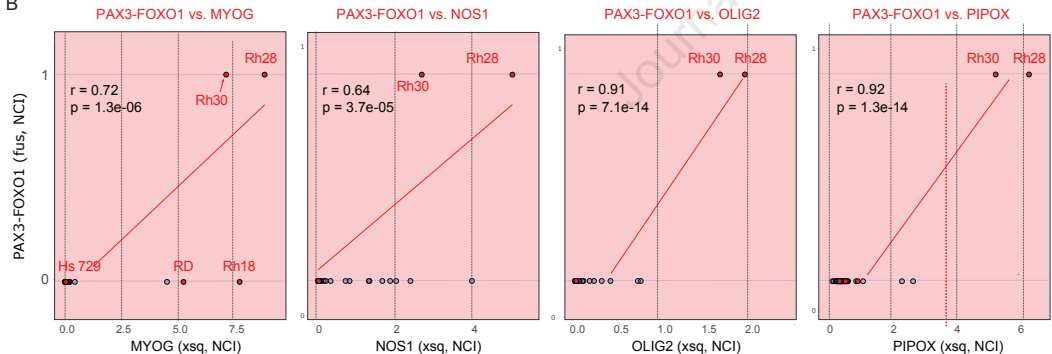
	Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB Explores & Validates	Method	Examples	Examples of Findings
1	Cell line reproducibility, robustness & consistency	Univariate Analyses: Plot Data: Expression of the same gene across different datasets (X & Y)	Fig. 2B	Cell lines are highly reproducible across datasets.
3	Integrates all the Sarcoma cell line genomic datasets under Global Z score (NCI, GDSC, CCLE, CTRP)	Use the pull-down tabs for Cell Line Sets and choose "Global"	Figs. 2B ; S2C-D	110 sarcoma cell lines can be compared using gene expression status. Among them, highest SLFN11 expression are observed in Ewing sarcoma cell lines.
5	Select and compare subsets of cell lines based on sarcoma subtypes	Univariate Analyses: select Y axis: Select Tissue or Show color	Figs. 2B-C; 3C-D-F ; 4E ; 5D ; 6B-D	SLCOSA1, NPYSR, PCDH17 and CDH8 surface cell markers are selectively expressed in Ewing sarcoma cell lines.
6	Select and compare subsets of sarcoma cell lines based on recurrent fusion data	Univariate Analyses: select NCI : gene fusions and write the gene of interest	Figs. 3A-B-C-D	Fusion positive rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines selectively over expressed specific genes such as MYOG, NOS1, OLIG2, PIPOX.
	Identify essential genes (Achilles) in a subset of sarcoma cell lines	Univariate Analyses: Plot Data select Achilles and write the gene of interest (X & Y)	Figs. 3C-D	FOXO1 is essential only in fusion positive rhabdomyosarcoma cell lines.
	Select and compare subsets of sarcoma cell lines based on the Tumor Mutation Burden (TMB)	Univariate Analyses: select NCI : mda: Signatures, Miscellaneous data and TMB	Fig. 4B	Identification of a subset of leiomyosarcoma cell lines with a high TMB.
	Mutation visualization for each gene	Mutation variants: select NCI : and write the gene name	Figs. 4C-D ; S3	50% of the chondrosarcoma cell lines of our collection have a IDH1 or IDH2 mutation
8	Epigenetics: promoter and body methylation for any given gene	Univariate analyses: Plot Data: Expression of a given gene vs its body or promoter methylation (X & Y Data Type) within a given Cell Line Set or across datasets (independent datasets can be tested for missing Data Type and confirmation)	Fig. S4B	Both promoter and body methylation of SLFN11 are highly negatively and positively respectively correlated with SLFN11 expression.
9	Gene amplification and deletions for any given gene	Univariate analyses: Plot Data: Expression of a given gene vs copy number (X & Y Data Type) within a given Cell Line Set or across datasets (independent datasets can be tested for validation and missing Data Type)	Fig. 2C	MDM2 expression is as expected driven by copy number variation in dedifferentiated liposarcoma cell lines.
10	Integrate and complement different datasets for common cell lines	Univariate Analyses: Plot Data: Plot different parameters (Data Type for genomic or drug response) across Cell Line Sets (X & Y) to counter missing data in one dataset	Figs. 3C-D ; S3B	FLI1 is essential (CRISPR/Achilles data) only in ES sarcoma cell lines with a recurrent EWSR1-FLI1 fusion (NCI data).
12	Discover determinants of drug response and targeted drug delivery	Univariate Analyses: Plot Data: Compare Patterns: Coregulated genes for a given gene (X or Y) within a given dataset (independent datasets can be tested for confirmation)	Figs. 4E ; 6B	SLFN11 expression is associated with response to talozoparib in Ewing sarcoma cell lines.
14	Examine drug correlations: COMPARE analyses	Univariate Analyses: Plot Data: Data Type: drug vs drug (X or Y); also select Compare patterns to identify drug-drug or drug/molecular data correlations	Fig. 4E	STAG2 mutation in Ewing sarcoma cell lines is associated with response to cabozantinib.
15	Multivariate models of drug response & genomic features	Multivariate Analyses: Cell Line Set; Response Data Type; Predictor Data Type/s; Predictor Identifier: enter drug and genomic parameters to be tested as identifier or use LASSO to discover additional non-redundant determinants of response or compare response according to sarcoma subtypes	Figs 2D ; 6A	ABCG2 transporter expression is negatively correlated with SLFN11 expression and response to irinotecan in sarcoma cell lines.
16	Data download	Univariate Analyses: View Data: Download tabs or Multivariate Analyses: Download tab	-	Allow further in depth analyses and data download in Excel
17	Drug identifier conversion	Not applicable	-	Allow drug identification across different sources
	Integration with CellMinerCDB	Open in parallel: http://discover.nci.nih.gov/cellminerfdb	-	Identify genes that are selective for sarcomas comparing with the entire NCI cell line collection including several tissues.



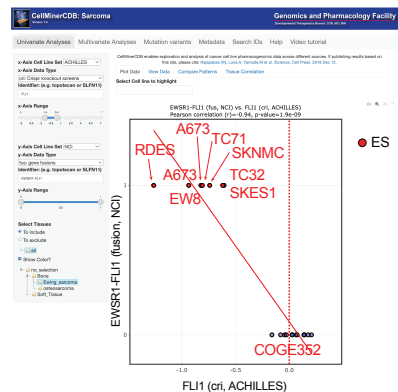
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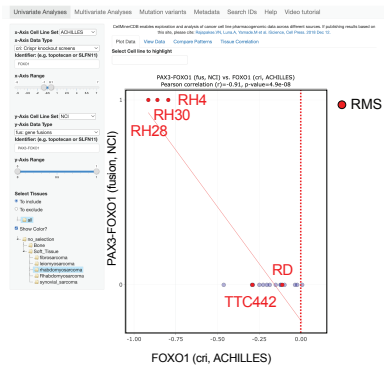
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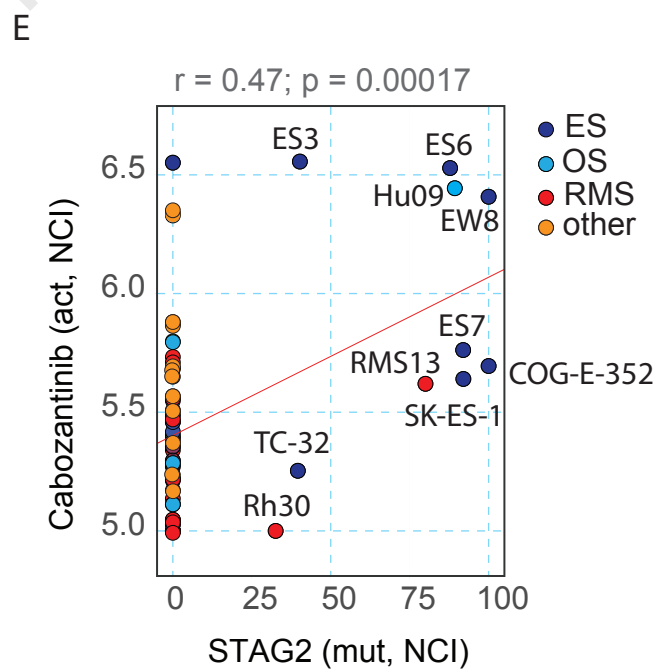
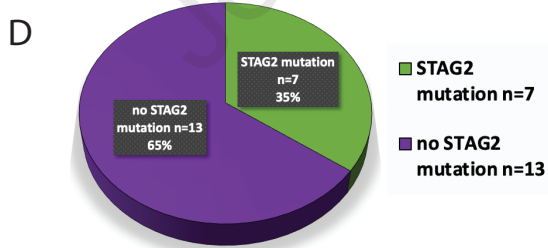
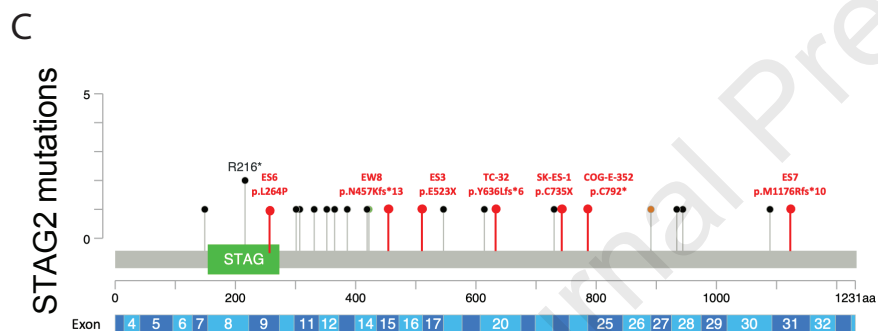
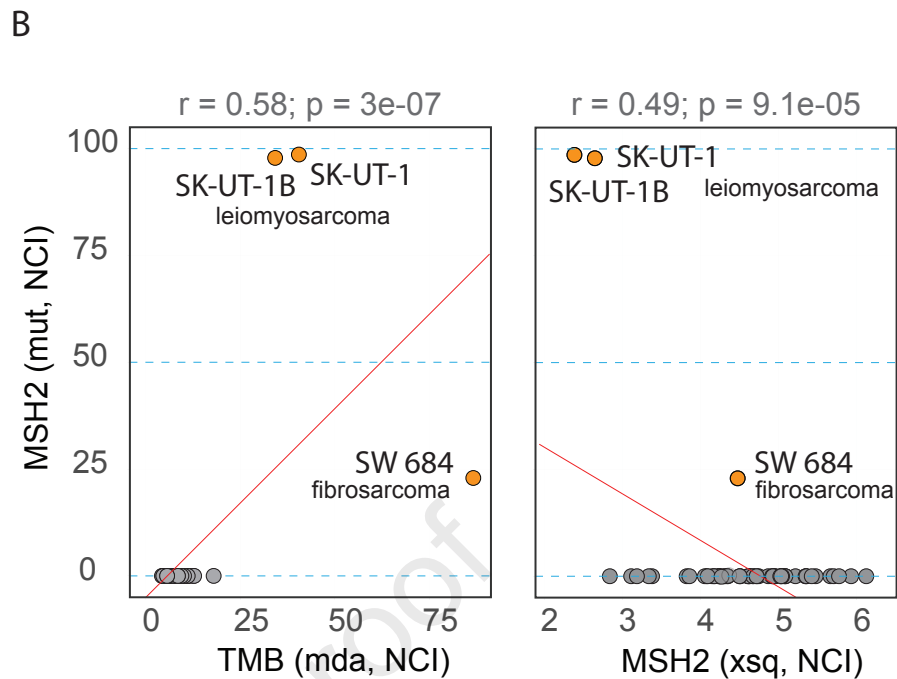
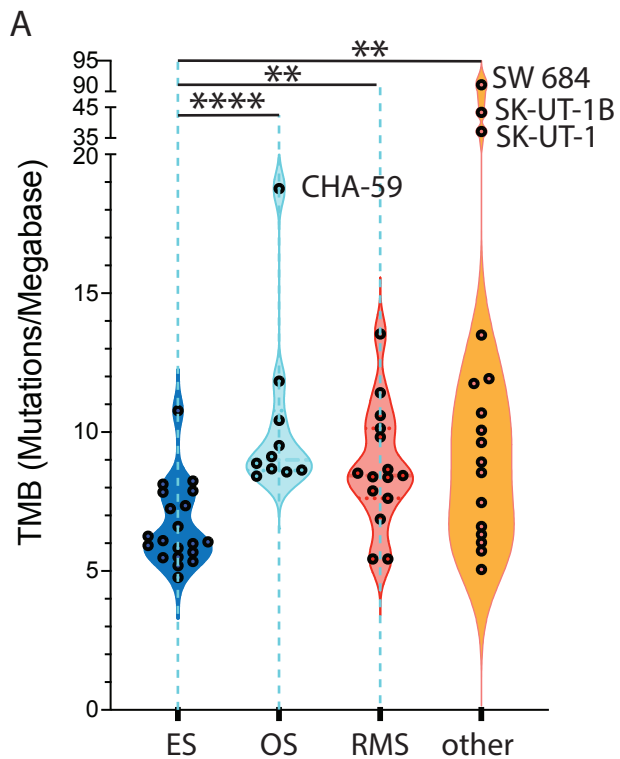


C

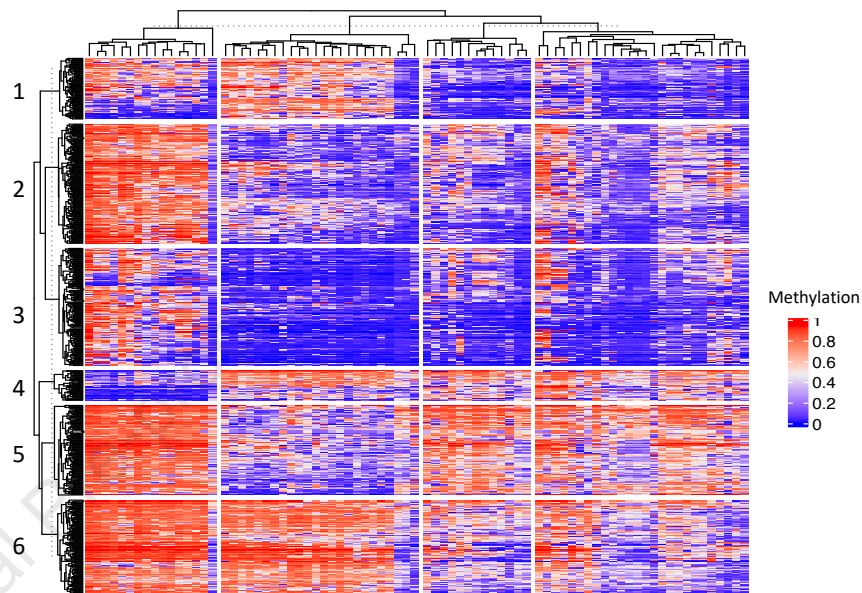
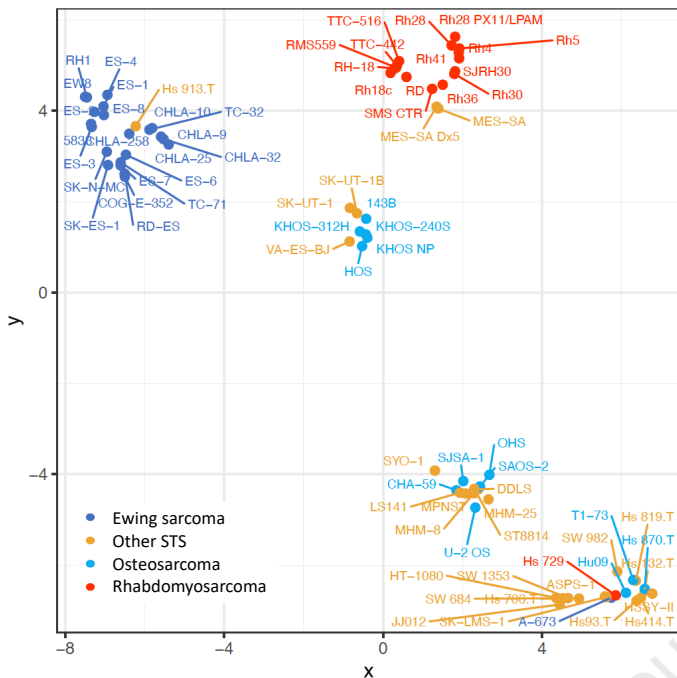


D

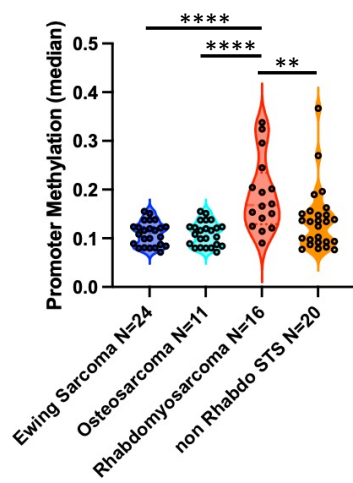




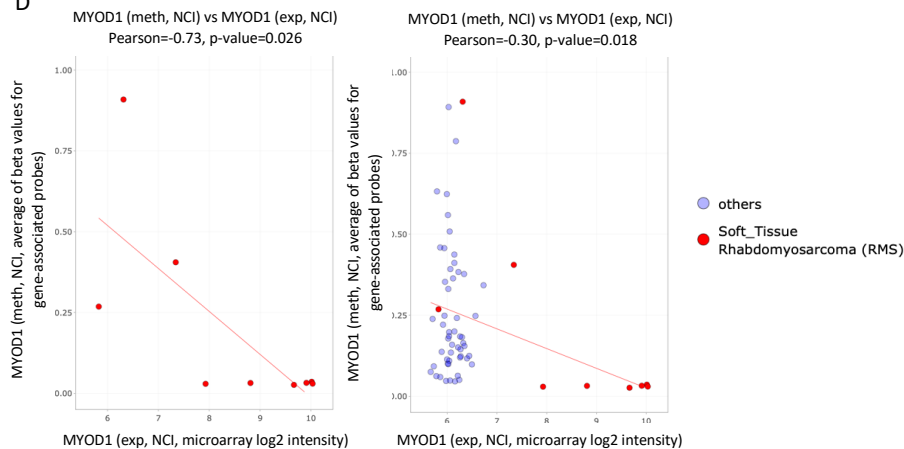
A



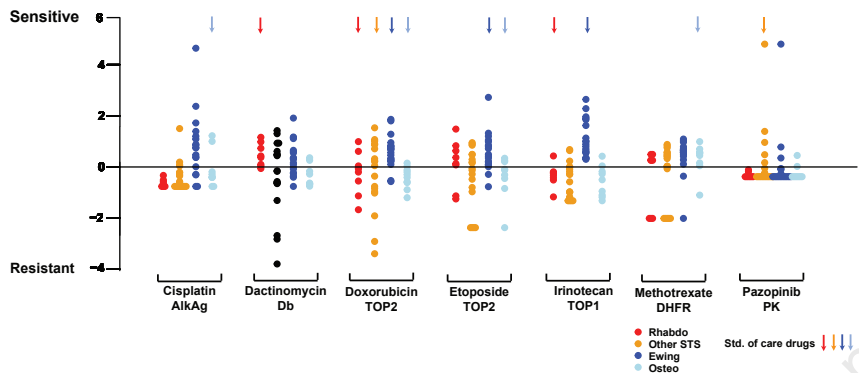
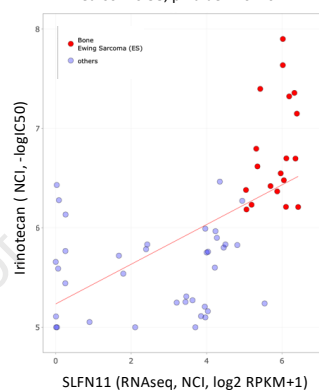
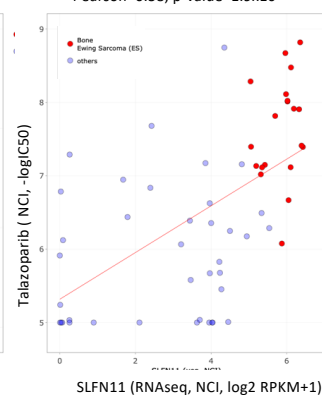
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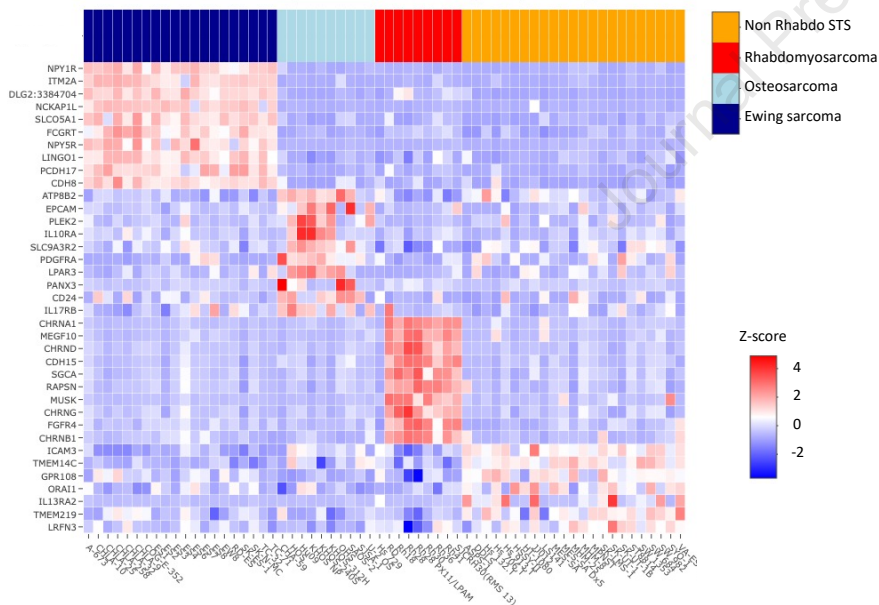
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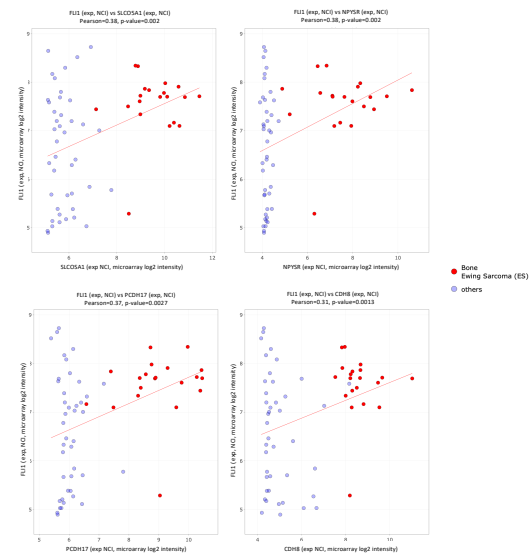
A

Irinotecan (NCI) vs SLFN11 (RNAseq, NCI)
Pearson=0.58, p-value=2.6x10⁻⁶Talazoparib (NCI) vs SLFN11 (RNAseq, NCI)
Pearson=0.58, p-value=1.9x10⁻⁶

C



D



Highlights

- Sarcoma_CellMinerCDB merges publicly-available and new sarcoma cell line data
- It includes reproducible genomic and pharmacologic data for 133 sarcoma cell lines
- It is a novel comprehensive resource including the methylome of sarcoma cell lines
- Its multi-functionality can be used to identify new therapeutic targets for sarcoma

Journal Pre-proof