Study Group – Melanoma

MelaRare is a platform for the identification and validation of novel biomarkers and treatment strategies for rare melanoma subtypes. The aim of this study is to build a biobank for mucosal melanoma in order to identify signatures and targets for treatments.
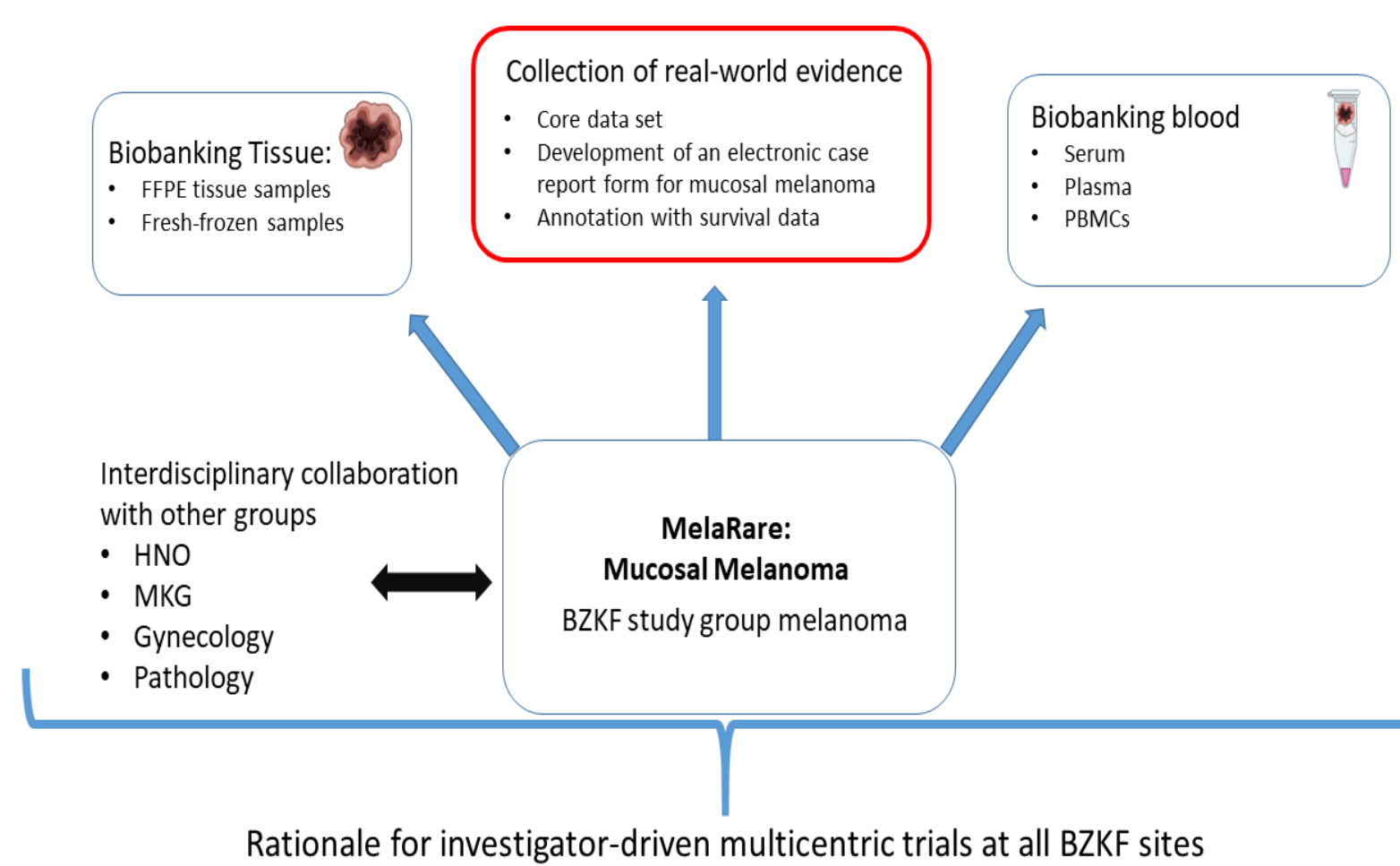
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Carola Berking, Erlangen

Concept & Achievements

Overall design and study goals

Mucosal melanoma (MuM) is a rare type of melanoma which arises from mucosal epithelia. The investigation of MuM is hampered by its clinical and biological heterogeneity and the low incidence. Thus, a multicentric effort is required to assemble a large enough cohort for translationsal research. **The aim** of this study is to
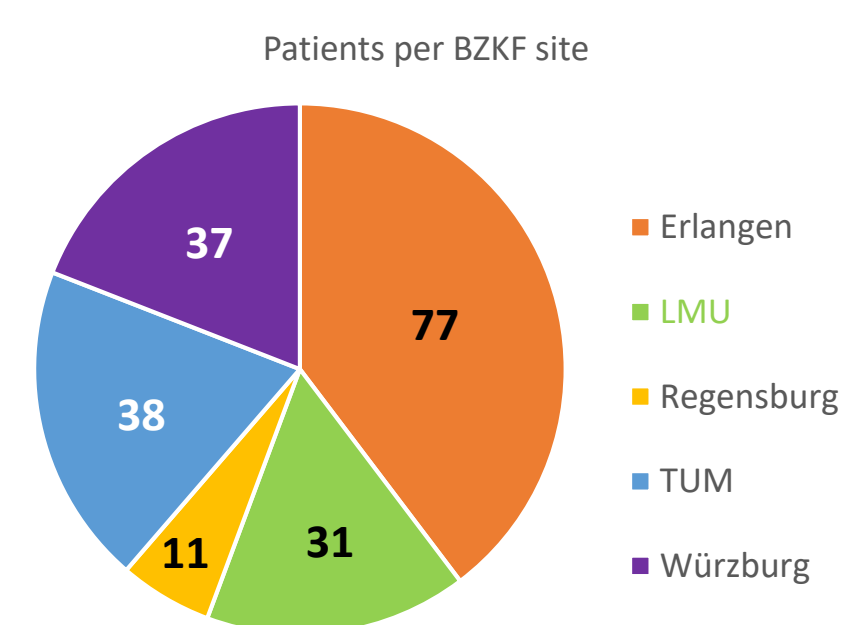
» **Create a multicentric biobank of MuM with annotated tumor samples.**

» **Better characterize MuM clinically and on molecular level.**

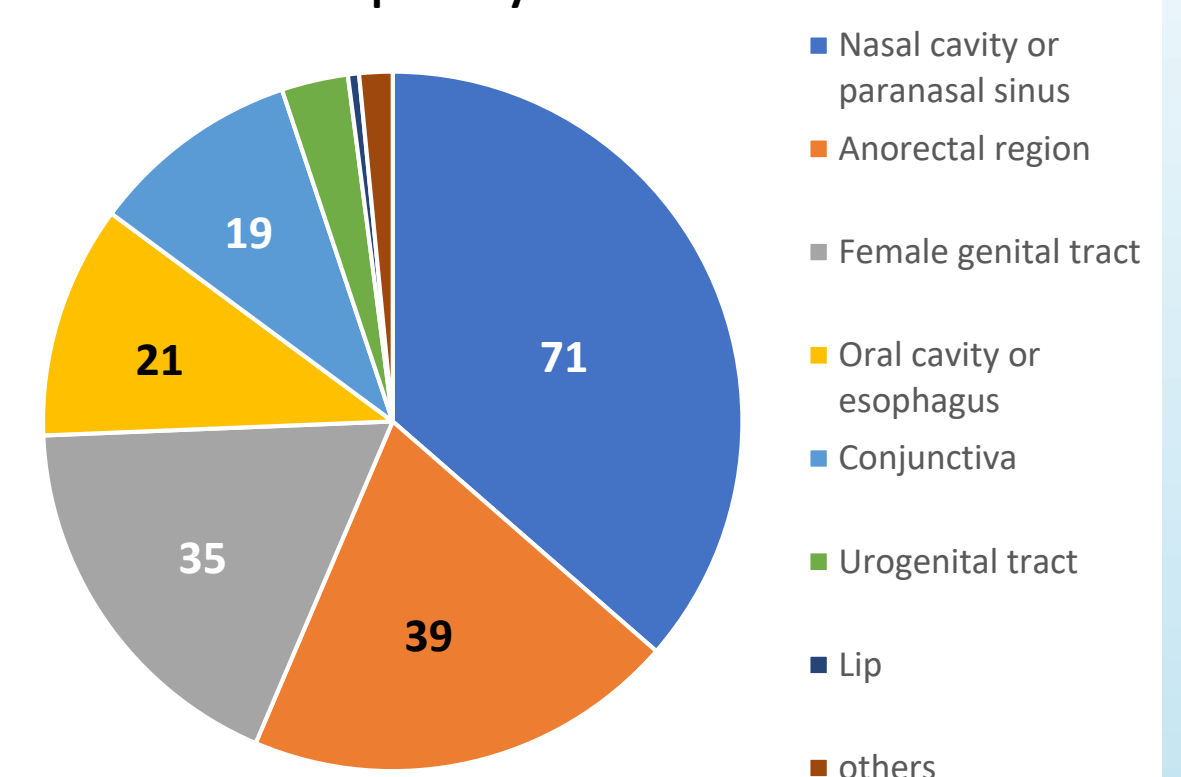» **Identify and validate novel targets for future investigator-driven trials.**

Rationale for investigator-driven multicentric trials at all BZKF sites
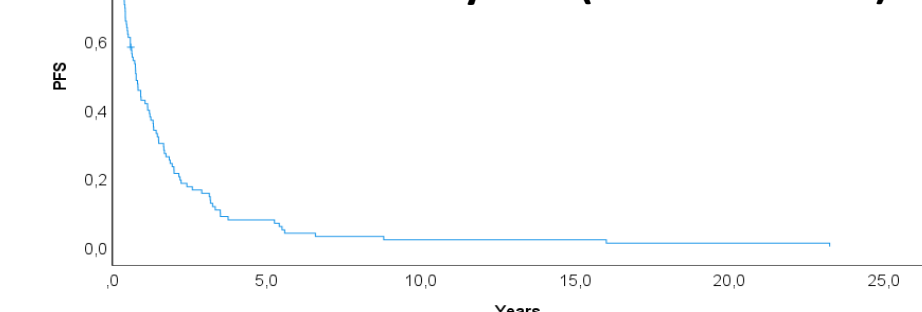
Current achievements

In total, clinical data and oncologic follow-up data from **203 patients** have been collected and processed. Currently, data from 194 patients are being analyzed for different subgroups such as localization of the primary tumor, treatments applied, response to treatment, and survival data.
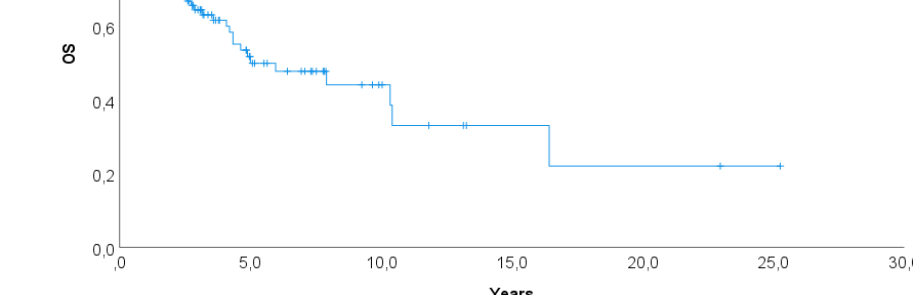

Site of the primary tumor

Patients per BZKF site

Relapse-free survival:
Median 0.8 years (95% CI 0.5-1.0)

Overall survival:
Median 6.0 years (95% CI 2.3-9.6)

Future Milestones

» **Continue and further advance the MelaRare platform with prospectively included patients and biological specimen.**

» **Analyze archived and prospectively collected samples with large-scale tissue microarrays.**

» **Investigate immune signatures and the composition of the tumor microenvironment of tumor cores and the tumor-stroma interface**

» **Refine a rationale for a multicenter investigator-initiated trial for patients with MuM.**

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