

# **Biomarker Based Non-Endoscopic Detection Of Barrett's Esophagus (BE) And Esophageal Adenocarcinoma (EAC)**

**Sanford Markowitz  
Helen Moinova  
Joseph E. Willis  
Amitabh Chak**

# COI DISCLOSURE

- **Sanford Markowitz receives royalties on methylated DNA technology licensed to Exact Sciences and is a founder, board member, consultant, and inventor on patents licensed to Lucid Diagnostics.**

# The Case Esophagus Team



**Helen Moinova**



**Amitabh Chak**



**Joe Willis**



**Tom LaFramboise**

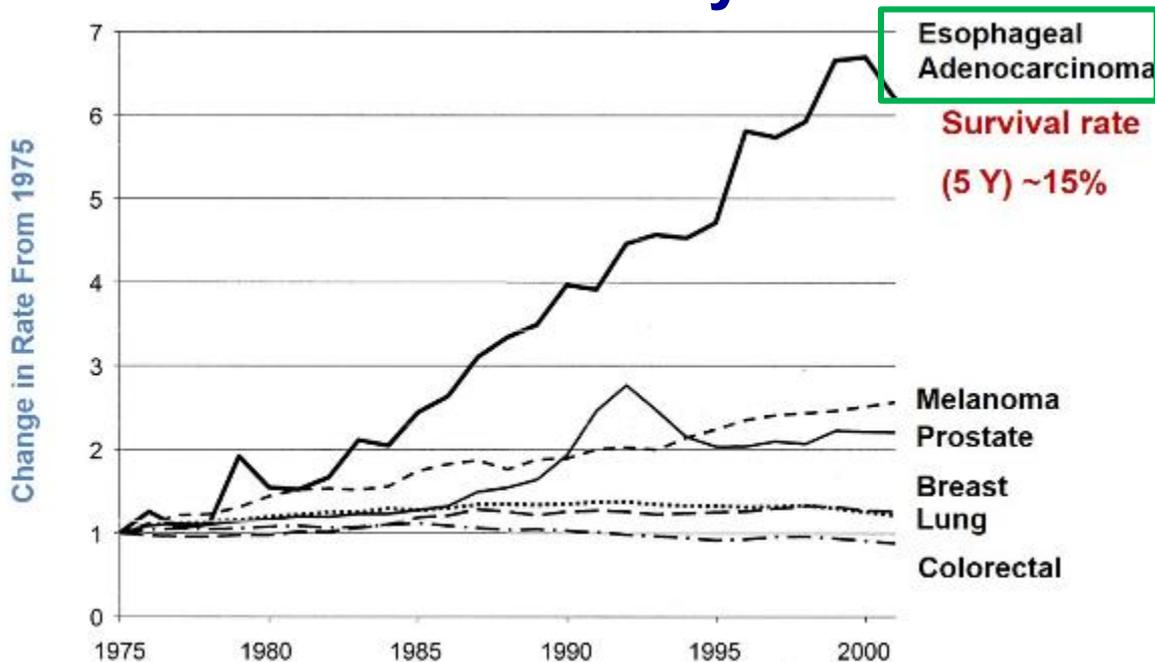


**Kishore Guda**

# The EAC Challenge

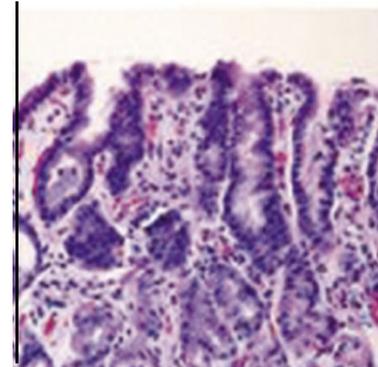
## Esophageal Cancer (EAC):

- Fastest growing cancer in U.S.
- 5-year survival < 20%
- Death toll now exceeds ovarian cancer
- Seldom detected early



Pohl & Welch 2005 JNCI

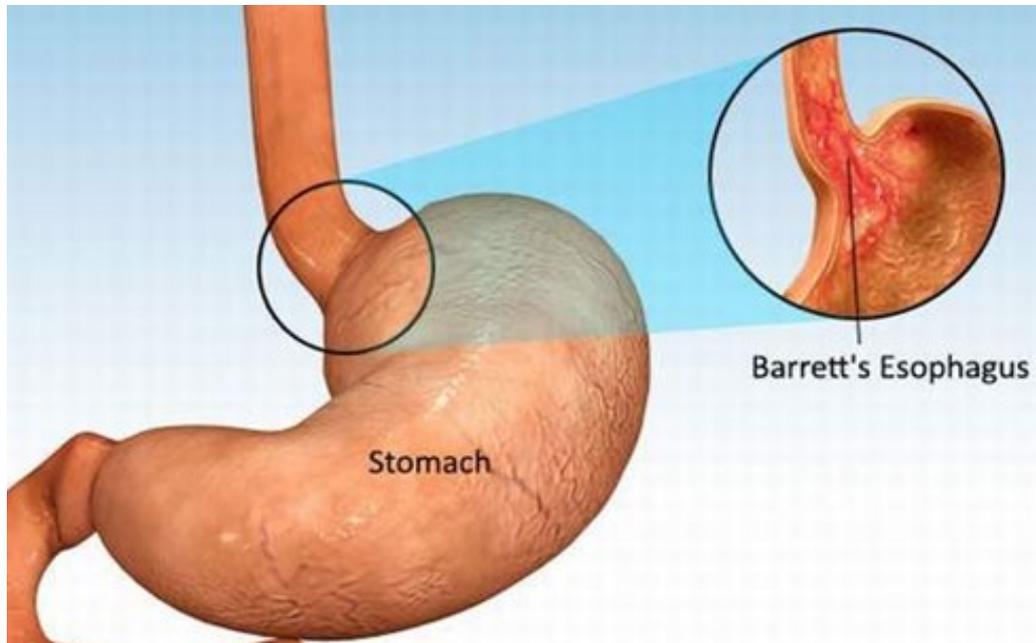
Cancer (EAC)



# The EAC Opportunity

## Barrett's esophagus (BE)

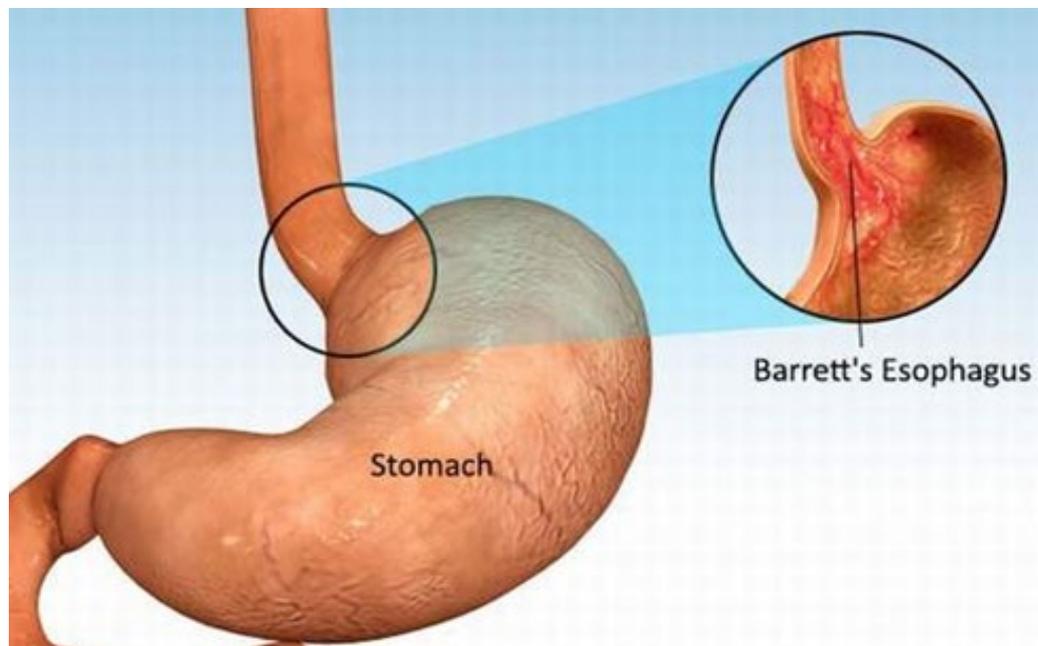
- Only known precursor to EAC
- Occurs in distal esophagus in patients with GERD



# The EAC Opportunity

## Barrett's esophagus (BE)

- Only known precursor to EAC
- Occurs in distal esophagus in patients with GERD
- Detection of BE and ablation of dysplastic BE can prevent cancer



# Challenges to BE Screening by EGD

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# Challenges to BE Screening by EGD



- **EGD is costly, requires sedation, day off work.**
- **EGD Screening only recommended by AGA, and only in those with chronic GERD + additional risk factors.**
- **EGD screening, even in GERD, not generally accepted by primary care physicians or patients.**
- **Challenge: Antecedent BE recognized beforehand in <10% of EAC cases.**

# The Need

- **Needed: Non-EGD Biomarker Driven approaches that can detect BE more easily and at less expense than EGD.**

# Biomarker Approach

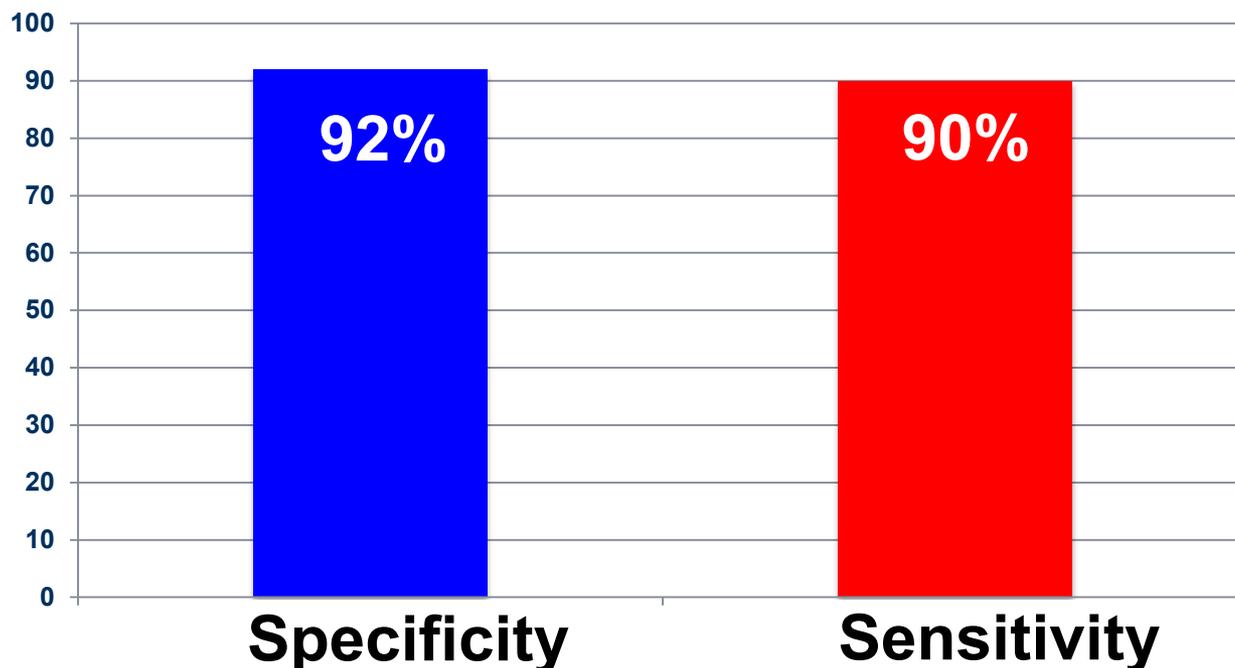
SCIENCE TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE | RESEARCH ARTICLE

## CANCER

### Identifying DNA methylation biomarkers for non-endoscopic detection of Barrett's esophagus

Helen R. Moinova,<sup>1</sup> Thomas LaFramboise,<sup>2,3</sup> James D. Lutterbaugh,<sup>1</sup> Apoorva Krishna Chandar,<sup>1</sup> John Dumot,<sup>1</sup> Ashley Faulx,<sup>1</sup> Wendy Brock,<sup>1</sup> Omar De la Cruz Cabrera,<sup>4</sup> Kishore Guda,<sup>2</sup> Jill S. Barnholtz-Sloan,<sup>2</sup> Prasad G. Iyer,<sup>5</sup> Marcia I. Canto,<sup>6</sup> Jean S. Wang,<sup>7</sup> Nicholas J. Shaheen,<sup>8</sup> Prashanti N. Thota,<sup>9</sup> Joseph E. Willis,<sup>2,10,11\*†</sup> Amitabh Chak,<sup>1,2,11\*†</sup> Sanford D. Markowitz<sup>1,2,3,11\*†</sup>  
Moinova *et al.*, *Sci. Transl. Med.* **10**, eaao5848 (2018) 17 January 2018

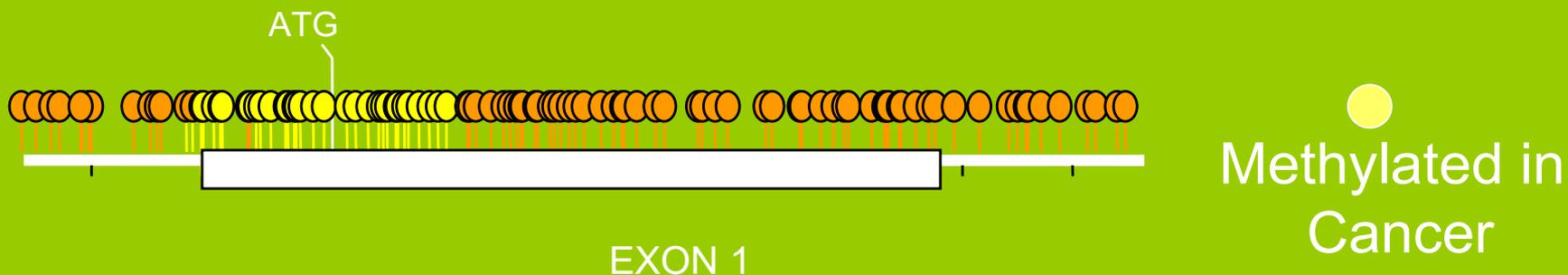
#### Non-Dysplastic Barrett's Detection



# Biomarker Approach

- i) Methylated DNA Biomarker Panel**
- ii) Swallowable Esophageal Sampling Device**

# Vimentin Gene Methylation (mVim) is a Colon Cancer Biomarker



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
N	T	N	T	N	T	N	T	N	T	N	T



**Methylated in 80% of Colon Cancer Cases**

# Vimentin Gene Methylation (mVim) is a Colon Cancer Biomarker

**Methylated Vimentin DNA:  
Commercialized by Exact  
Sciences For Stool DNA Detection  
of Colon Cancer (ColoSure™,  
LabCorp)**



Step 1.  
Collect a complete bowel movement at home.



Step 2.  
Pour entire contents of the preservation  
bottle into the sample bucket.



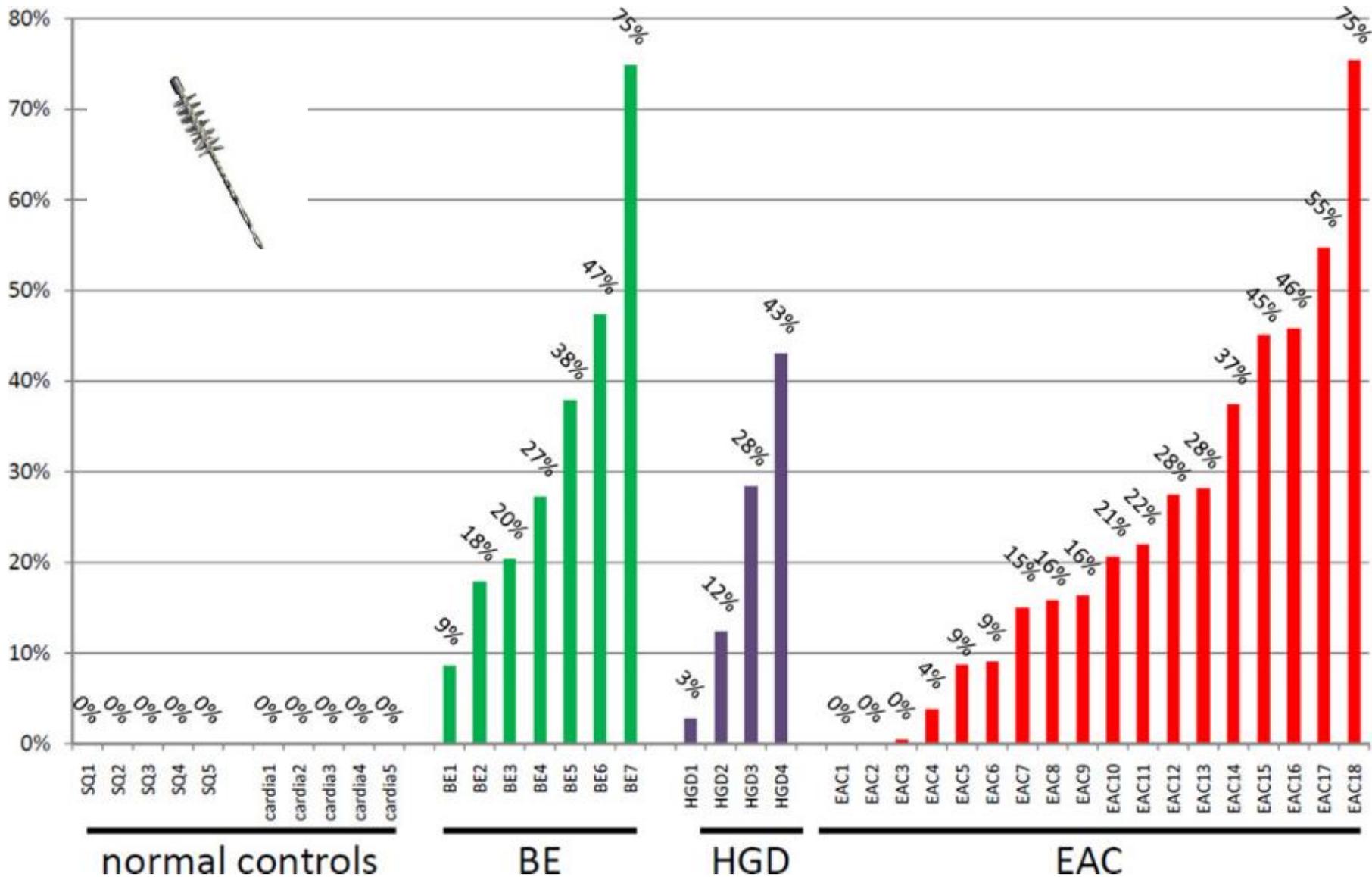
Step 3.  
Inside of lid should have inner rubber ring to ensure  
tight seal. Screw on the lid until you feel it click.



Step 4.  
Return the specimen using the  
instructions given to you.



# Pilot Study – Molecular Cytology: 90% of BE Detected by mVIM DNA on Esophageal Brushings

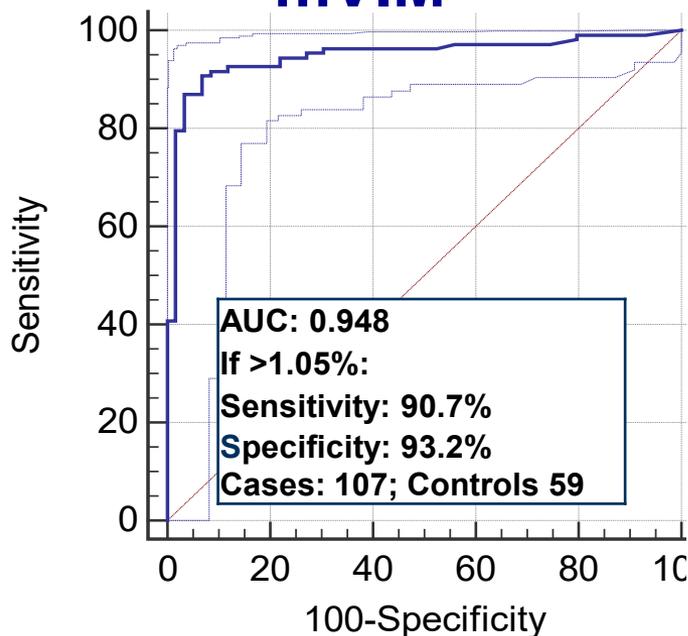


# Molecular Cytology: mVim in Esophagus Cytology Brushings (N=3110)



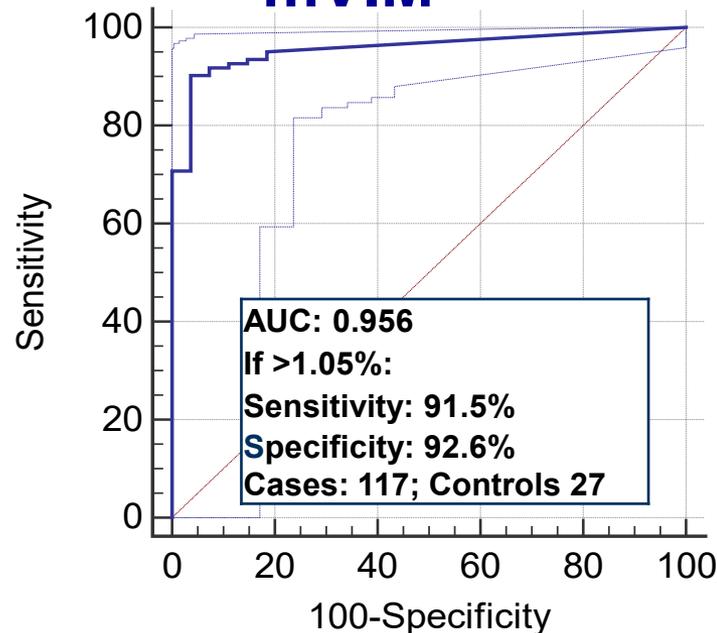
## Training set

**mVIM**



## Validation set

**mVIM**



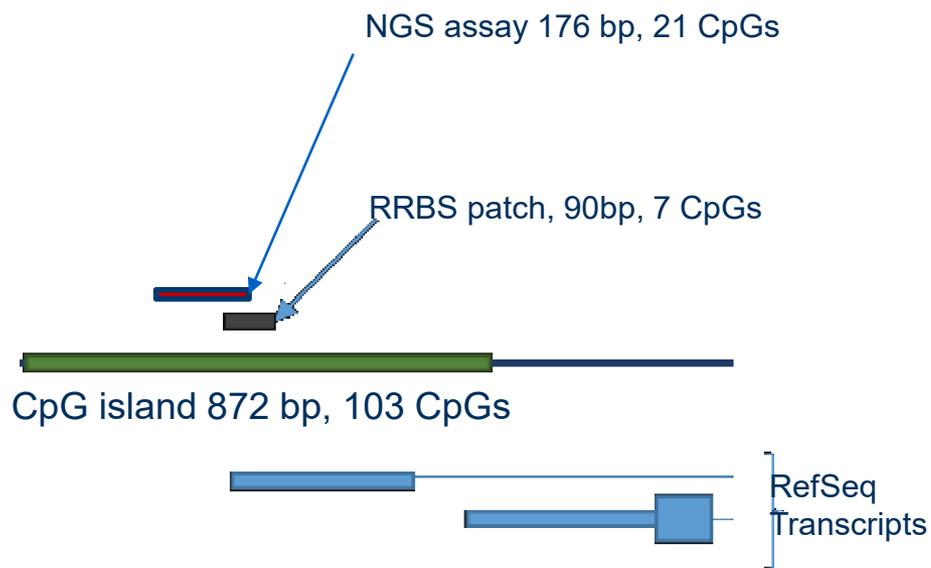
- **If One Marker is Good, Would Two Markers Be Better?**

# New Complementary Methylation Marker

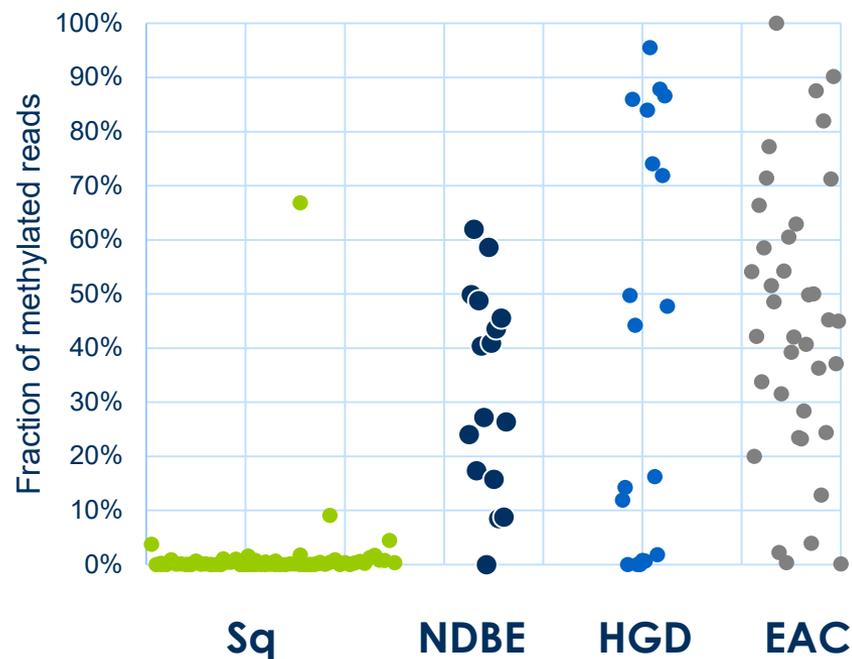
- **If One Marker is Good, Would Two Markers Be Better?**
- **Genome Wide RRBS in 72 Biopsies: 26 EAC/Sq pairs; 15 BE; 5 EAC Cell Lines**

# New Complementary Methylation Marker (mCCNA1)

## CCNA1 locus



## mCCNA1

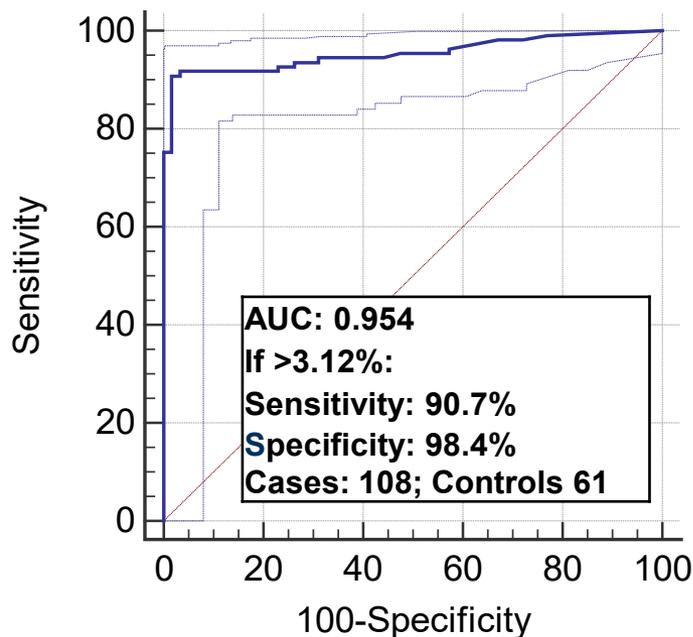


# Molecular Cytology: mCCNA1 in Esophagus Cytology Brushings (N=313)



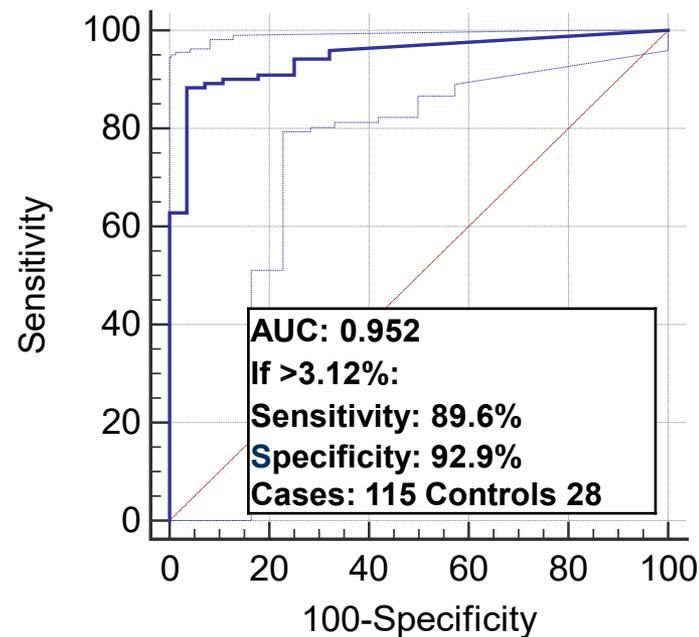
### Training set

#### mCCNA1



### Validation set

#### mCCNA1

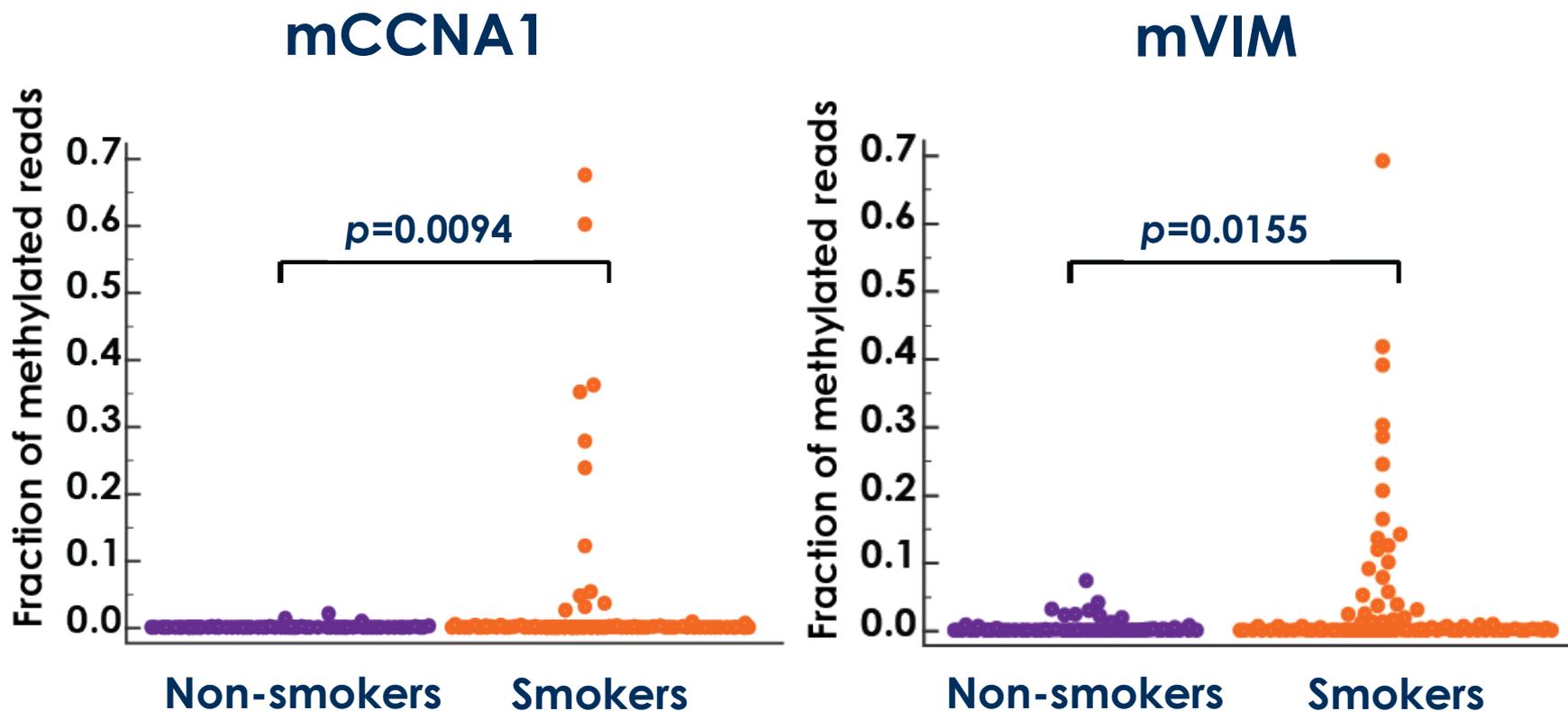


# Molecular Cytology: mVIM + mCCNA1 in 313 brushings

	<i>mVIM</i> (Positive if > 1.05%)		<i>mCCNA1</i> (Positive if > 3.12%)		<i>Either mVIM or mCCNA1 Positive</i>	
	%	#	%	#	%	#
<b>Specificity Control GEJ (GERD , EE, other)</b>	93%	86	97%	89	91%	84
<b>Sensitivity NDBE</b>	92%	71	80%	69	92%	72
<b>Sensitivity LGD</b>	94%	33	91%	32	94%	34
<b>Sensitivity HGD</b>	87%	23	100%	23	100%	23
<b>Sensitivity Cancer</b>	91%	97	95%	99	96%	100

# Additional Specificity Studies

## Smoking associated DNA methylation in proximal esophagus brushings



# The Challenge

- **Comfortable Non-Endoscopic Sampling of the Distal Esophagus / GE Junction**
- **Without Sampling the Proximal Esophagus and Throat**

# JASSS Balloon

## Joe/Amitabh/Sandy's Swallowable Sampling Balloon



Capsule sized balloon



Tethered balloon  
is swallowed



Balloon with structured  
surface:  
i) inflated in the stomach  
ii) pulled back to sample  
distal esophagus



Balloon deflated  
for retrieval

# JASSS Balloon – Commercialized as EsoCheck

[YouTube Video](#)

32 seconds

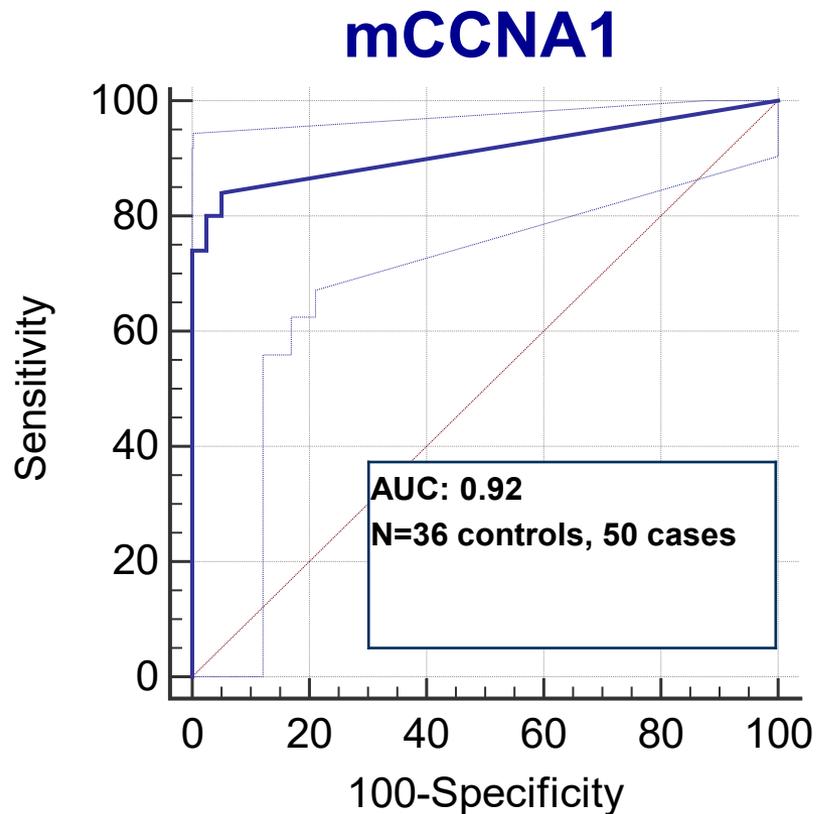
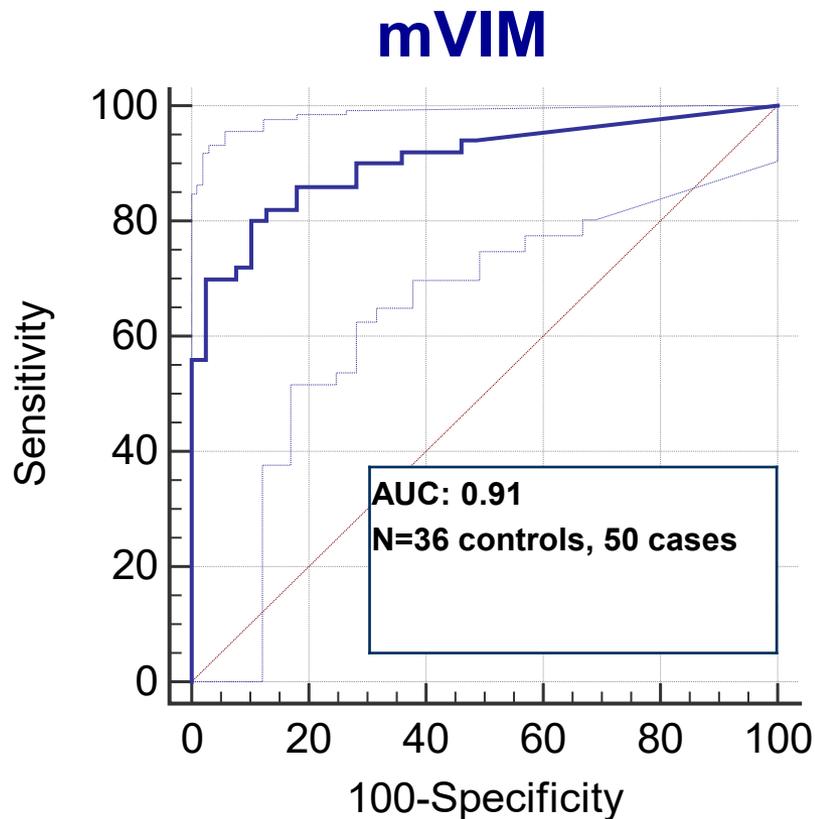
# Study Design

- **Patients with BE, EAC, or GERD controls were recruited for EsoCheck prior to EGD**
- **EsoCheck sampling was performed**
- **Balloons were placed in vials and frozen**
- **DNA was extracted from balloons, bisulfite converted, and sequenced with NGS**
- **A software pipeline calculated % DNA reads arising from bisulfite converted methylated versus unmethylated Vim and CCNA1 templates**

# Results - Tolerance

- **Procedure took mean 3.1 minutes (range, 1 – 14 min).**
- **72% of the subjects rated overall tolerance as excellent**
- **93% preferred EsoCheck to EGD and were willing to repeat it again.**
- **Scores of 1 or 2 on a 10-point Likert scale, denoting little to no anxiety, pain, or choking, were reported by 75%, 95%, and 82% of subjects, respectively.**

# Performance Equals Endoscopic Brushings



# Performance in 86 Subjects

	Sample #	<i>mVIM</i> (Positive if >1.0%)	<i>mCCNA1</i> (Positive if >1.0%)	<i>Either mVIM Or mCCNA1 Positive</i>
<b>Specificity on Controls</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Sensitivity: Non-Dysplastic BE (&gt;1cm)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Sensitivity: All Dysplastic BE</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Sensitivity: All Cases</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>88%</b>

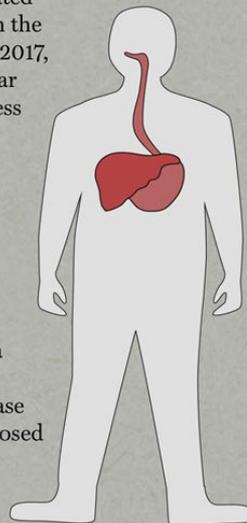
# CONCLUSIONS

- **EsoCheck encapsulated balloon can sample the distal esophagus with excellent tolerability and acceptability.**
- **Methylated Vimentin and CCNA1 can be successfully assayed on EsoCheck samples by NGS bisulfite sequencing.**
- **BE and EAC detected with high sensitivity and specificity, demonstrating the feasibility of non-endoscopic unsedated BE screening.**

# Summary

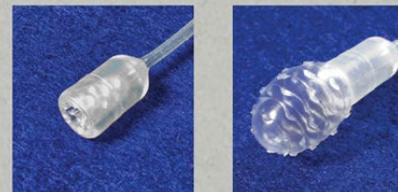
## ESOPHAGEAL CARCINOMA

Esophageal Carcinoma caused an estimated **15,690 deaths** in the United States in 2017, and has a five-year survival rate of less than **20%**



Esophageal Carcinoma is associated with a poor prognosis because the disease is typically diagnosed at late stages

Barrett's Esophagus is the precursor for Esophageal Carcinoma, but routine clinical visits do not check patients for this lesion



Detecting Barrett's Esophagus currently requires endoscopic evaluation, but a new DNA biomarker screening method and balloon-based sampling device could allow for quick and non-invasive diagnosis

### ENDOSCOPE DIAGNOSIS

Time-consuming

Patients must be sedated

Based on tissue characteristics

Expensive

### DNA BIOMARKER

Samples collected in less than five minutes

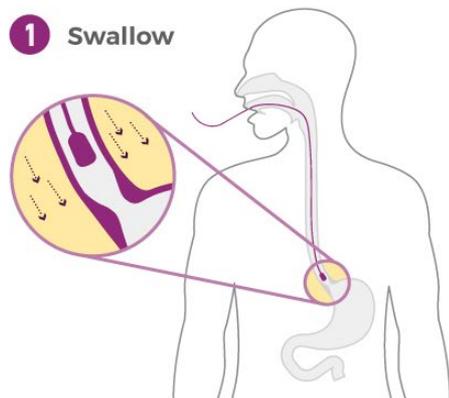
Patients fully conscious

DNA-sequence based

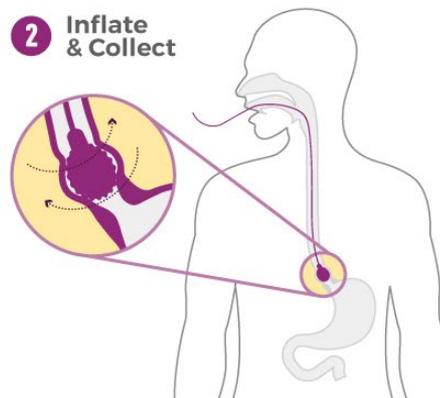
Inexpensive

# Highlighted in September 2018 NCI Director's Annual Report to Congress

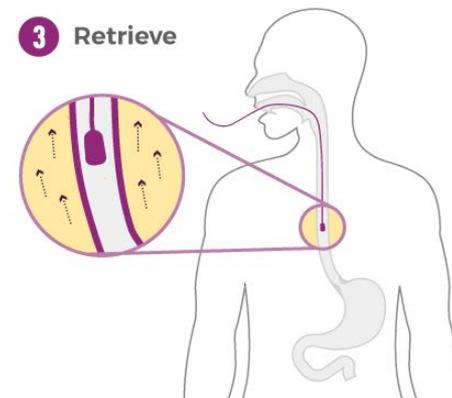
## How the Swallowable Balloon Device Helps Detect Barrett Esophagus



Instead of undergoing standard endoscopy, patients can swallow a pill-sized capsule attached to a thin silicone catheter. The capsule passes through the esophagus and stops near the stomach.



Once the capsule nears the stomach, a balloon with a textured surface is inflated and maneuvered to swab the lower esophagus, where Barrett esophagus (BE) typically begins. A sample of the cells lining the lower esophagus is collected.



The balloon is deflated through the catheter and inverted back into the capsule, thus protecting the sample from dilution or contamination. After retrieving the capsule through the mouth, DNA is extracted from the balloon's surface for a DNA methylation test.



### Device capsule and catheter in comparison to a vitamin pill and a dime.

The small dimensions of the balloon device allow clinicians to retrieve samples quickly and easily without sedation during an outpatient exam.

Source: Moinova HR et al., *Sci. Transl. Med.*, Vol. 10, Issue 424, eaao5848 (2018). Reprinted with permission from AAAS.

# CLIA Implementation of Biomarker Assay

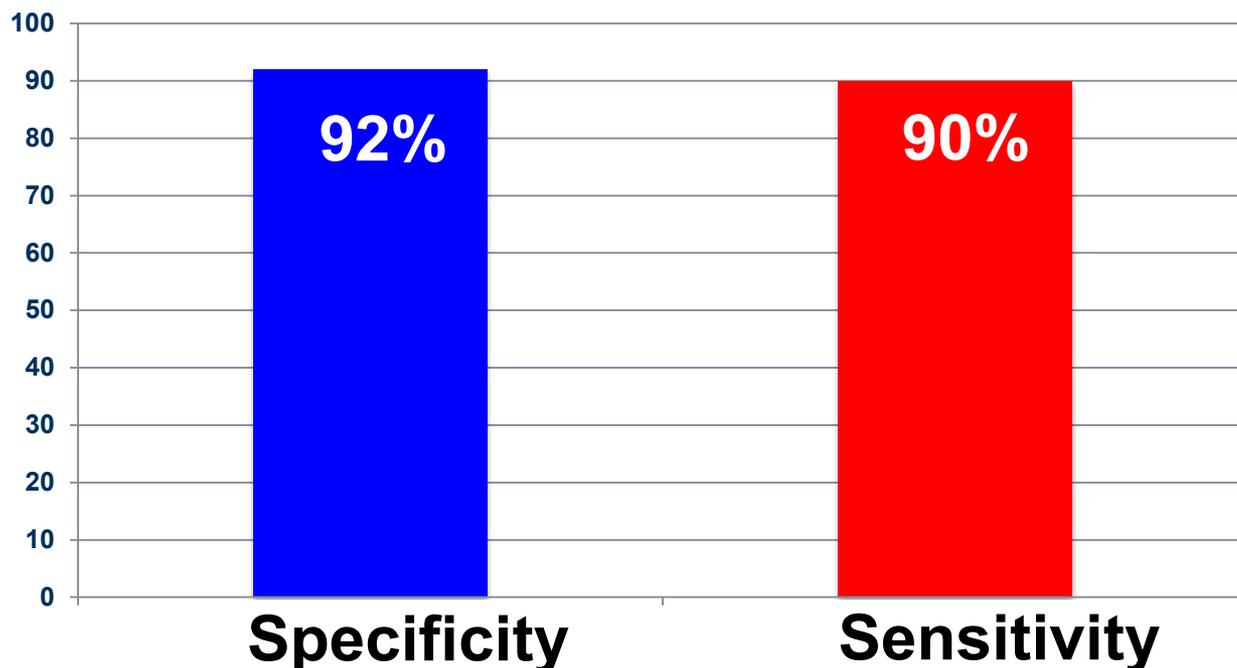
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CANCER

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Moinova *et al.*, *Sci. Transl. Med.* **10**, eaao5848 (2018) 17 January 2018

### Non-Dysplastic Barrett's Detection





CASE  
COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER

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*Introducing*

## EsoCheck

a five minute office based procedure  
to sample cells from the esophagus

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### ADVANCING POSSIBLE

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Lucid Diagnostics is developing a revolutionary non-invasive, office based diagnostic test for biomarkers to esophageal cancer.

# FDA 510K Approval for EsoCheck Balloon Device



*Introducing*

## **EsoCheck**

a five minute office based procedure  
to sample cells from the esophagus



# 2020 Silver Edison Award for Innovation in Medical Testing



*Introducing*

## **EsoCheck**

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# Biomarker Assay (EsoGuard) Awarded FDA Breakthrough Designation



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**ADVANCING POSSIBLE**

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# PLA Code for EsoGuard LDT Awarded



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### ADVANCING POSSIBLE

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# Current Status

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Generation EsoCheck Balloon with Improved Swallowability and Increased DNA Collection**
- **Case Control Study to define optimal performance of New Balloon with Marker Panel**
- **Multi-center BE detection study in at risk screening population.**
- **Biomarker Discovery to Distinguish BE versus Dysplasias and Cancers to Enable Non-Endoscopic BE Surveillance**

# Thank You EDRN!



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### ADVANCING POSSIBLE

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# Molecular Cytology: mVIM + mCCNA1 in 313 brushings

mVIM and mCCNA1 in combined esophageal brushings from 229 cases of BE/EAC and 84 controls

