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(54) Title: MUTATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH RESISTANCE TO INHIBITORS OF BRUTON'S TYROSINE KINASE (BTK)

(57) Abstract: Described herein are mutations that confer resistance to treatment with a BTK inhibitor. Described herein are modified BTK polypeptides that exhibit decreased inhibition (i.e. are resistant) to a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. Also described herein modifications of PLC γ 2 and CARD 11 polypeptides that confer resistance to treatment with a BTK inhibitor. Described herein are diagnostic methods for detecting the modified polypeptides and nucleic acids encoding the modified polypeptides and applications of the methods thereof. Described herein are compositions, combinations, and kits containing the modified polypeptides and methods of using the modified polypeptides. Also described herein are methods of using modified BTK polypeptides as screening agents for the identification and design of second-generation BTK inhibitors.



MUTATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH RESISTANCE TO INHIBITORS OF BRUTON'S TYROSINE KINASE (BTK)

CROSS-REFERENCE

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial Nos. 61/675,303, filed July 24, 2012, 61/682,688, filed August 13, 2012, and 61/780,652, filed March 13, 2013, all of which are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE OF SEQUENCE LISTING SUBMITTED AS A TEXT FILE VIA EFS-WEB

[0002] The instant application contains a Sequence Listing, which has been submitted as a computer readable text file in ASCII format via EFS-Web and is hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference herein. The text file, created date of July 22, 2013, is named 25922-865-601seqlist.txt and is 130 KB in size.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) is member of the Tec family of non-receptor tyrosine kinases that is critically important for the growth, differentiation and activation of B-cells, myeloid cells, and mast cells. The BTK gene is located at cytogenetic band Xq21.33-q22 and comprises 19 exons, spanning 37 kb, encoding the full length BTK protein. Mutations in BTK are known in humans and result in the immunological disorder X-linked agammaglobulemia.

[0004] BTK is activated by membrane localization stimulated by PIP₃ (phosphatidylinositol-3, 4, 5-triphosphate) generation and bonding to the BTK pleckstrin homology (PH) domain, and transphosphorylation of Tyr-551 by Src family kinases. Activated BTK is involved in the phosphorylation of a number of signaling molecules involved in the PLC γ , JNK and p38 MAPK pathways, leading to Ca²⁺ mobilization, mRNA stabilization and the induction of NF- κ B and AP-1 transcription factors. BTK activity is negatively regulated by a number of proteins including inhibitor of BTK (IBTK), Sab and c-Cbl. During antigenic challenge, the classical NF- κ B pathway is strongly activated by B-cell receptor signaling, via formation of a "CBM" signaling complex consisting of CARD11, MALT1, and BCL10. The CBM lies downstream of PLC γ activation of BTK. The CBM pathway is pathologically altered in several lymphoma subtypes; mutations in CARD11 have been found to constitutively activate downstream NF- κ B signaling.

[0005] BTK is essential to B-cell receptor (BCR) signaling and in knockout mouse models its mutation has a B cell-specific phenotype. BTK protein and mRNA are significantly over expressed in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) compared with normal B-cells. Although BTK is not always constitutively active in CLL cells, B-cell receptor (BCR) or CD40 signaling

is accompanied by effective activation of this pathway. BTK activity is involved in the disease progression of B-cell malignancies, such as Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas, such as chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), mantle cell leukemia (MCL), follicular lymphoma (FL) and diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), and multiple myeloma (MM).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Described herein is the identification of mutations in the B-cell receptor pathway that confer resistance of patients to treatment of patients with an inhibitor of Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK). In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is one that covalently and/or irreversibly binds to BTK. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is one that covalently and/or irreversibly binds to Cysteine 481 of BTK. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib. In some embodiments, the patient has a B-cell proliferative disorder. In some embodiments, the patient has a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, the patient has a leukemia or a lymphoma. In some embodiments, the patient has Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In some embodiments, the patient has chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), mantle cell leukemia (MCL), follicular lymphoma (FL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), or multiple myeloma (MM). In some embodiments, the patient has a solid tumor, such as a carcinoma or a sarcoma.

[0007] Described herein is the identification of mutations in Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) that confer resistance of the kinase to inhibition by BTK inhibitors that covalently and/or irreversibly bind to Cysteine 481 of BTK. Described herein are isolated mutant BTK polypeptides and isolated nucleic acids encoding mutant BTK polypeptides. Identification of the mutations described herein allows for the selection of patients for BTK inhibitor therapy, monitoring patients receiving a BTK inhibitor therapy and modification of BTK inhibitor therapeutic regimens. Described herein are diagnostic methods for detecting mutant BTK polypeptides and nucleic acids encoding mutant BTK polypeptides and uses thereof of such method. Also described herein are methods for the identification of second-generation BTK inhibitors that inhibit the mutant BTK polypeptides.

[0008] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for determining whether a subject is or likely to become less responsive to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) inhibitor, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or likely to become resistant to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject.

[0009] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for characterizing a BTK as resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) characterizing the BTK as resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject.

[0010] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for monitoring whether a subject receiving a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer has developed or is likely to develop resistance to the therapy, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or is likely to become resistant to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification.

[0011] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) discontinuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject

has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification.

[0012] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for selecting a subject for therapy with a second generation BTK inhibitor, comprising: (a) testing the sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) characterizing the subject as a candidate for therapy with a second generation BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject.

[0013] In some embodiments, the modification comprises a substitution or a deletion of the amino acid at amino acid position 481 in the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, glycine, methionine, serine, threonine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, proline, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among serine, methionine, or threonine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a deletion of nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

[0014] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is RNA or DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is genomic DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is total RNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is mRNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the method further comprises isolating mRNA from the RNA sample.

[0015] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK

polypeptide. In some embodiments, PCR amplification comprises using a pair of oligonucleotide primers that flank the region encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the method comprises sequencing the amplified nucleic acid.

[0016] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises contacting the nucleic acid with a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (a) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK that is modified at amino acid position 481; and (b) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type BTK having cysteine at amino acid position 481. In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises PCR amplification using the sequence specific nucleic acid probe.

[0017] In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains one or more tumor cells from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA).

[0018] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid used in the method is isolated from a tumor cell sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample is a tumor biopsy sample, a blood sample, a serum sample, a lymph sample, or a bone marrow aspirate .

[0019] In some embodiments of the methods, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that covalently binds to cysteine 481 of the wild-type BTK. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib (PCI-32765), PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[0020] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic large cell lymphoma, precursor B-lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis. In some embodiments, the subject has a solid tumor.

[0021] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject is treated with the irreversible BTK inhibitor prior to obtaining the sample. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained at 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22 months, or 24 months following the first administration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 times over the course of treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the subject is responsive to the treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor when it is first administered.

[0022] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for screening compounds that inhibit a modified BTK, comprising: (a) providing a modified BTK, wherein the modified BTK is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; (b) contacting the modified BTK with a test compound; and (c) detecting the level of BTK activity, wherein a decrease in activity indicates that the compound inhibits the modified BTK. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution or deletion of the amino acid at position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, glycine, methionine, serine, threonine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, proline, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among serine, methionine and threonine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, detecting the level of BTK activity is assessed by an in vitro kinase assay. In some embodiments, the substrate used in the kinase assay is PLC γ , ERK1/2, or AKT. In some embodiments, the substrate used in the kinase assay is a peptide substrate. In some embodiments, ibrutinib is employed as a negative control.

[0023] In some embodiments, the modified BTK polypeptide is purified from a host cell expressing the modified BTK polypeptide prior to contacting the BTK with the test compound. In some embodiments, the host cell stably expresses the modified BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modified BTK polypeptide is purified by immunoaffinity or chromatography. In some embodiments, the cell is deficient for the expression of endogenous wild-type BTK. In some embodiments, the cell is chicken DT40 BTK $-/-$ B cell or human BTK $-/-$ B cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a non B-cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a mammalian non-B-cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a CHO cell or a Jurkat T cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a non-mammalian cell. In some embodiments, the cell is an insect cell, a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, or a plant cell.

[0024] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are isolated BTK polypeptides or variants thereof having BTK activity comprising a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the modification confers resistance of the modified BTK polypeptide or variant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the modification confers resistance of a cancer cell to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the modification comprises substitution of the amino acid at position 481 compared to a wild type BTK set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the substitution is C481S. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a deletion of amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, the BTK polypeptide comprises a substitution of the amino acid at position 481 compared to a wild type BTK set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 and one or more additional amino acid substitutions. In some embodiments, the BTK polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the amino acid at position 481 is not cysteine. In some embodiments, the isolated BTK polypeptide or a variant thereof is a recombinant protein. In some embodiments, the isolated BTK polypeptide or a variant thereof is a purified protein. In some embodiments, the isolated BTK polypeptide or a variant thereof is a purified from a cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a prokaryotic cell or a eukaryotic cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a mammalian cell, a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, an insect cell, a plant cell, or an amphibian cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a primate cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a human cell. In some embodiments, the modified BTK polypeptide is a recombinant polypeptide.

[0025] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid is a DNA or an RNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid is a cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid is a PCR amplification product. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid is a recombinant molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid is a synthetic molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 is modified, whereby the codon does not encode cysteine, or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 does not encode cysteine. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7, or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or

more sequence identity with the nucleic acid having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 does not encode cysteine. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8, or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the nucleic acid having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 does not encode cysteine. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22, or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the nucleic acid having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 does not encode cysteine. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the nucleic acid having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 does not encode cysteine. In some embodiments, the modified BTK polypeptide is a recombinant polypeptide.

[0026] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are vectors, comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein. In some embodiments, the vector is a viral or plasmid vector. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter. In some embodiments, the promoter is a constitutive or an inducible promoter. Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a host cell, comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein or a vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein. In some embodiments, the cell is a prokaryotic cell or a eukaryotic cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a mammalian cell, a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, an insect cell, a plant cell, or an amphibian cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a primate cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a human cell. Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a mutant BTK polypeptide expressed by the host cell.

[0027] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are kits comprising the mutant BTK polypeptide or a variant thereof having BTK activity comprising a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

[0028] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are microchips comprising the mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein or the nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided

herein. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

[0029] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are kits comprising the isolated nucleic acid of any encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein or a vector comprising such nucleic acid. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

[0030] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are kits comprising one or more reagents for the detection of a modified BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip comprising a mutant BTK polypeptide having a modification that is C481S.

[0031] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are kits comprising one or more reagents for the detection of nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide having a modification that is C481S.

[0032] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are isolated antibodies that bind to a modified BTK polypeptide having a modification and amino acid position 481, wherein the antibody does not bind to or binds with lower affinity to a wild-type BTK polypeptide having the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

[0033] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are systems for detecting a modified BTK that is resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a microarray comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide or a portion thereof that is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the microarray is contained on a microchip.

[0034] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are systems for detecting a modified BTK that is resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (i) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK that is modified at amino acid position 481; and (ii) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type BTK having cysteine at amino acid position 481.

[0035] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are systems for detecting a modified BTK that is resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from

the subject; and (b) a pair oligonucleotide primers that flank the nucleic acid region encoding amino acid 481 of a BTK polypeptide.

[0036] Described herein, in certain embodiments, are methods of maintenance therapy in a patient having a hematologic cancer, comprising: (a) administering to the patient a maintenance therapy regimen comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor; and (b) monitoring the patient at predetermined intervals of time over the course of the maintenance therapy regimen to determine whether the subject has mutation in an endogenous gene encoding BTK that results in a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, monitoring comprises: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing the maintenance therapy regimen if the subject has the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing the maintenance therapy regimen if the subject does not have the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified BTK if the subject has the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification in the BTK polypeptide is C481S. In some embodiments, the mutation in the nucleic acid is a mutation of guanine to cytosine at nucleic acid position corresponding to nucleic acid position 1635 in the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3. In some embodiments, the mutation in the nucleic acid is a mutation of thymine to adenine at nucleic acid position corresponding to nucleic acid position 1634 in the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3. In some embodiments, the predetermined interval of time is every month, every 2 months, every 3 months, every 4 months, every 5 months, every 6 months, every 7 months, every 8 months, every 9 months, every 10 months, every 11 months, or every year. In some embodiments, the sample contains one or more cancer cells. In some embodiments, the sample contains ctDNA. In some embodiments, the method further comprises testing a sample from the subject prior to treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the hematologic cancer is a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, the cancer is a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the cancer is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic

lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic large cell lymphoma, precursor B-lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis. In some embodiments, the subject has a solid tumor. In some embodiments, the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib. In some embodiments, ibrutinib is administered at a daily dosage of about 10 mg per day to about 2000 mg per day, about 50 mg per day to about 1500 mg per day, about 100 mg per day to about 1000 mg per day, about 250 mg per day to about 850 mg per day, or about 300 mg per day to about 600 mg per day. In some embodiments, ibrutinib is administered at a daily dosage of about 140 mg per day, 420 mg per day, 560 mg per day or 840 mg per day.

[0037] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for monitoring whether a subject receiving a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer has developed or is likely to develop resistance to the therapy, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or is likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a R665W or S707F substitution in PLC γ 2. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[0038] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving an irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer, comprising: (a) testing

a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11; and (b) discontinuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a R665W or S707F substitution in PLC γ 2. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[0039] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is RNA or DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule is a cDNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is genomic DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is total RNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is mRNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the method further comprises isolating mRNA from the RNA sample.

[0040] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 665 or 707 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, PCR amplification comprises using a pair of oligonucleotide primers that flank the region encoding amino acid position 665 or 707 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the method comprises sequencing the amplified nucleic acid.

[0041] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises contacting the nucleic acid with a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (a) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified PLC γ 2 that is modified at amino acid position 665; and (b) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type PLC γ 2 having Arginine at amino acid position 665 or 707. In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises PCR amplification using the sequence specific nucleic acid probe.

[0042] In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains one or more tumor cells from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA).

[0043] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid used in the method is isolated from a tumor cell sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample is a tumor biopsy sample, a blood sample, a serum sample, a lymph sample, or a bone marrow aspirate.

[0044] In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib (PCI-32765), PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the PLC γ 2 inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[0045] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic large cell lymphoma, precursor B-lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis. In some embodiments, the subject has a solid tumor.

[0046] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject is treated with the BTK inhibitor prior to obtaining the sample. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained at 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22 months, or 24 months following the first administration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 times over the course of treatment with the BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the subject is responsive the treatment with the BTK inhibitor when it is first administered.

[0047] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a kit comprising one or more reagents for the detection of a modified PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 665. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip comprising a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide having a modification that is R665W or S707F.

[0048] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a kit comprising one or more reagents for the detection of nucleic acid encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 665 or 707. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip

comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide having a modification that is R665W or S707F.

[0049] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified PLC γ 2 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a microarray comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide or a portion thereof that is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11. In some embodiments, the microarray is contained on a microchip.

[0050] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified PLC γ 2 that confers resistance to inhibition with a BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (i) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified PLC γ 2 that is modified at amino acid position 665 or 707; and (ii) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type PLC γ 2 having Arginine at amino acid position 665 or serine at position 707.

[0051] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified PLC γ 2 that confers resistance to inhibition with an BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a pair oligonucleotide primers that flank the nucleic acid region encoding amino acid 665 or 707 of a PLC γ 2 polypeptide.

[0052] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is method of maintenance therapy in a patient having a hematologic cancer, comprising: (a) administering to the patient a maintenance therapy regimen comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a BTK inhibitor; and (b) monitoring the patient at predetermined intervals of time over the course of the maintenance therapy regimen to determine whether the subject has mutation in an endogenous gene encoding PLC γ 2 that results in a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11. In some embodiments, monitoring comprises: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has

the modification. In some embodiments, the modification in the PLC γ 2 polypeptide is R665W or S707F. In some embodiments, the predetermined interval of time is every month, every 2 months, every 3 months, every 4 months, every 5 months, every 6 months, every 7 months, every 8

[0053] In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is administered at a daily dosage of about 10 mg per day to about 2000 mg per day, about 50 mg per day to about 1500 mg per day, about 100 mg per day to about 1000 mg per day, about 250 mg per day to about 850 mg per day, or about 300 mg per day to about 600 mg per day. In some embodiments, ibrutinib is administered at a daily dosage of about 140 mg per day, 420 mg per day, 560 mg per day or 840 mg per day. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib (PCI-32765), PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[0054] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for monitoring whether a subject receiving a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer has developed or is likely to develop resistance to the therapy, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or is likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a L232LL insertion in CARD11. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[0055] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving an irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19; and (b) discontinuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering

second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NFκB if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a L232LL insertion in CARD11. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[0056] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is RNA or DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule is a cDNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is genomic DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is total RNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is mRNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the method further comprises isolating mRNA from the RNA sample.

[0057] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 232 of the CARD11 polypeptide. In some embodiments, PCR amplification comprises using a pair of oligonucleotide primers that flank the region encoding amino acid position 232 of the CARD11 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the method comprises sequencing the amplified nucleic acid.

[0058] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises contacting the nucleic acid with a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (a) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified CARD11 that is modified at amino acid position 232; and (b) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type CARD11. In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises PCR amplification using the sequence specific nucleic acid probe.

[0059] In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains one or more tumor cells from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA).

[0060] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid used in the method is isolated from a tumor cell sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample is a tumor biopsy sample, a blood sample, a serum sample, a lymph sample, or a bone marrow aspirate.

[0061] In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib (PCI-32765), PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the CARD11 inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[0062] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In

some embodiments, the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic large cell lymphoma, precursor B-lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis. In some embodiments, the subject has a solid tumor.

[0063] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject is treated with the BTK inhibitor prior to obtaining the sample. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained at 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22 months, or 24 months following the first administration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 times over the course of treatment with the BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the subject is responsive the treatment with the BTK inhibitor when it is first administered.

[0064] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a kit comprising one or more reagents for the detection of a modified CARD11 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 232. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip comprising a mutant CARD11 polypeptide having a modification that is L232LL.

[0065] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a kit comprising one or more reagents for the detection of nucleic acid encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 232. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide having a modification that is L232LL.

[0066] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified CARD11 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a microarray comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide or a portion thereof that is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19. In some embodiments, the microarray is contained on a microchip.

[0067] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified CARD11 that confers resistance to inhibition with a BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (i) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified CARD11 that is modified at amino acid position 232; and (ii) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type CARD11.

[0068] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified CARD11 that confers resistance to inhibition with an BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a pair oligonucleotide primers that flank the nucleic acid region encoding amino acid 232 of a CARD11 polypeptide.

[0069] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is method of maintenance therapy in a patient having a hematologic cancer, comprising: (a) administering to the patient a maintenance therapy regimen comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a BTK inhibitor; and (b) monitoring the patient at predetermined intervals of time over the course of the maintenance therapy regimen to determine whether the subject has mutation in an endogenous gene encoding CARD11 that results in a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19. In some embodiments, monitoring comprises: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NFκB if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification in the CARD11 polypeptide is L232LL. In some embodiments, the predetermined interval of time is every month, every 2 months, every 3 months, every 4 months, every 5 months, every 6 months, every 7 months, every 8

[0070] In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is administered at a daily dosage of about 10 mg per day to about 2000 mg per day, about 50 mg per day to about 1500 mg per day, about 100 mg per day to about 1000 mg per day, about 250 mg per day to about 850 mg per day, or about 300 mg per day to about 600 mg per day. In some embodiments, ibrutinib is administered at a daily dosage of about 140 mg per day, 420 mg per day, 560 mg per day or 840 mg per day. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some

embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib (PCI-32765), PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0071] **Figure 1** depicts structural modeling of the wild-type and mutant BTK with ibrutinib. The red arrows points to the disrupted covalent bond.

[0072] **Figure 2A-C** demonstrates that the BTK mutation leads to reactivation of the BCR signaling pathway and changes in gene expression. **Figure 2A** depicts immunoblots of BTK phosphorylation and downstream BCR signaling in the four serial samples. GAPDH was included as the loading control. **Figure 2B** shows a graphical heat map with the expression profiles of a 27-gene BCR signature across all 4 serial samples. The RPKM-normalized expression counts were represented by colors using the color reference range shown below. **Figure 2C:** RPKM-normalized expression counts were plotted for each individual gene in the cluster of the BCR signature. Differences among the four specimens were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). * $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.001$.

[0073] **Figure 3A-C:** BTK mutation leads to increased ex vivo cell proliferation that remains sensitive to other BCR inhibitors. **Figure 3A:** Longitudinal changes in Ki67+ CLL cells over patient clinical course. **Figure 3B:** In vitro stroma-induced proliferation was eliminated by ibrutinib in Pre-Rx and Responding samples, but not in relapsed samples. Concentrations of ibrutinib were indicated on the top of the each column. Percentage of BrdU+ cells are indicated in each plot. Iso, isotype control. **Figure 3C:** Effects of other kinase inhibitors on CLL proliferation. Concentrations used in the experiment were indicated. Untreated cells (+NK) served as the control. PRT060318, a SYK inhibitor; PRT062070, a SYK/JAK dual inhibitor; CAL101, a PI3K δ inhibitor; tofacitinib, JAK inhibitor; and Dasatinib, a multi-kinase inhibitor.

[0074] **Figure 4:** Changes in cell size reflecting increased proliferation after relapse following treatment with ibrutinib.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Certain Terminology

[0075] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as is commonly understood by one of skill in the art to which the claimed subject matter belongs. All patents, patent applications, published applications and publications, GENBANK sequences, websites and other published materials referred to throughout the entire disclosure herein, unless noted otherwise, are incorporated by reference in their entirety. In the event that there is a plurality of definitions for terms herein, those in this section prevail. Where reference is made to a URL or other such identifier or address, it is understood that such

identifiers can change and particular information on the internet can come and go, but equivalent information is known and can be readily accessed, such as by searching the internet and/or appropriate databases. Reference thereto evidences the availability and public dissemination of such information. Generally, the procedures for cell culture, cell infection, antibody production and molecular biology methods are methods commonly used in the art. Such standard techniques can be found, for example, in reference manual, such as, for example, Sambrook et al. (2000) and Ausubel et al. (1994).

[0076] As used herein, the singular forms “a,” “an” and “the” include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. In this application, the use of the singular includes the plural unless specifically stated otherwise. As used herein, the use of “or” means “and/or” unless stated otherwise. Furthermore, use of the term “including” as well as other forms (e.g., “include”, “includes”, and “included”) is not limiting.

[0077] As used herein, ranges and amounts can be expressed as “about” a particular value or range. About also includes the exact amount. Hence “about 5 μ g” means “about 5 μ g” and also “5 μ g.” Generally, the term “about” includes an amount that would be expected to be within experimental error.

[0078] As used herein, a Bruton’s Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) polypeptide refers to any BTK protein or polypeptide, including, but not limited to, a recombinantly produced protein, a synthetically produced protein, a native BTK protein, and a BTK protein extracted from cells or tissues. A BTK polypeptide includes related polypeptides from different species including, but not limited to animals of human and non-human origin. BTK polypeptides of non-human origin include, but are not limited to, non-human primate (e.g. chimpanzee and ape), murine (e.g., mouse and rat), canine (dog), feline (cat), leporine (rabbit), avian (bird), bovine (cow), ovine (sheep), porcine (pig), equine (horse), piscine (fish), ranine (frog) and other mammalian or non-mammalian BTK polypeptides. Exemplary BTK polypeptides include, for example, orthologs from mouse (GenBank Accession No. AAB47246), dog (GenBank Accession No. XP_549139.), rat (GenBank Accession No. NP_001007799), chicken (GenBank Accession No. NP_989564), or zebra fish (GenBank Accession No. XP_698117), and fusion proteins of any of the foregoing that exhibit kinase activity towards one or more substrates of Bruton’s tyrosine kinase (e.g. a peptide substrate having the amino acid sequence “AVLESEEELYSSARQ”). Exemplary BTK polypeptides include, but are not limited to SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, and 4-6. A BTK polypeptide includes wild-type BTK, allelic variant isoforms, somatic mutations including those found in tumors or hematologic malignancies, synthetic molecules from nucleic acids, protein isolated from human tissue and cells, and modified forms thereof. The BTK polypeptides provided herein can be further modified by modification of the primary amino acid sequence, by deletion,

addition, or substitution of one or more amino acids. A BTK polypeptide includes any BTK polypeptide or a portion thereof having BTK activity, such as kinase activity.

[0079] As used herein, a mutant BTK polypeptide, a mutant BTK protein, a modified BTK polypeptide, or a modified BTK protein or are used interchangeably herein and refer to a BTK polypeptide that is modified at one or more amino acid positions. Exemplary modifications include, but are not limited to, substitutions, deletions or additions of amino acids.

[0080] As used herein, the term “BTK inhibitor” or “BTK antagonist” refers to an agent that inhibits or reduces at least one activity of a BTK polypeptide. BTK activities include direct and indirect activities. Exemplary direct activities include, but are not limited to, association with a target molecule or phosphorylation of a target substrate (i.e. kinase activity). Exemplary indirect activities include, but are not limited to, activation or inhibition of a downstream biological event, such as for example activation of NF- κ B-mediated gene transcription.

[0081] The term “irreversible inhibitor,” as used herein, refers to a compound that, upon contact with a target protein (e.g., a kinase) causes the formation of a new covalent bond with or within the protein, whereby one or more of the target protein's biological activities (e.g., phosphotransferase activity) is diminished or abolished notwithstanding the subsequent presence or absence of the irreversible inhibitor.

[0082] The term “irreversible BTK inhibitor,” as used herein, refers to an inhibitor of BTK that can form a covalent bond with an amino acid residue of BTK. In one embodiment, the irreversible inhibitor of BTK can form a covalent bond with a Cysteine residue of BTK; in particular embodiments, the irreversible inhibitor can form a covalent bond with a Cysteine 481 residue (or a homolog thereof) of BTK or a cysteine residue in the homologous corresponding position of another tyrosine kinase.

[0083] As used herein, inhibition of BTK activity refers any decrease in BTK activity in the presence of an inhibitor compared to the same activity in the absence of the inhibitor.

[0084] As used herein, the phrase “confers resistance to a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor” refers to any decrease in the sensitivity of BTK to inhibition by a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments provided herein, a modification of BTK at cysteine 481 confers resistance to a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the modification prevents binding of the inhibitor to BTK. In some embodiments, the inhibitor reversibly binds to BTK. In some embodiments, the affinity of inhibitor for binding to modified BTK is decrease relative to binding to a wild-type BTK.

[0085] As used herein, the term “second-generation BTK inhibitor” refers to an agent that inhibits at least one activity of a BTK polypeptide containing an amino acid modification at cysteine 481. In some embodiments, the second-generation BTK inhibitor also inhibits the

activity of a wild-type BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the second-generation BTK inhibitor does not inhibit the activity of a wild-type BTK polypeptide.

[0086] As used herein, the term “first-generation BTK inhibitor” refers to an agent that inhibits an activity of wild-type BTK polypeptide, but exhibits decreased inhibition towards a BTK polypeptide containing an amino acid modification at cysteine 481. In some embodiments, the first-generation BTK inhibitor is a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor.

[0087] The terms “cancer” and “cancerous” refer to or describe the physiological condition in mammals that is typically characterized by unregulated cell growth. Examples of cancer include, but are not limited to, B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders (BCLDs), such as lymphoma and leukemia, and solid tumors. By “B cell-related cancer” or “cancer of B-cell lineage” is intended any type of cancer in which the dysregulated or unregulated cell growth is associated with B cells.

[0088] By “refractory” in the context of a cancer is intended the particular cancer is resistant to, or non-responsive to, therapy with a particular therapeutic agent. A cancer can be refractory to therapy with a particular therapeutic agent either from the onset of treatment with the particular therapeutic agent (i.e., non-responsive to initial exposure to the therapeutic agent), or as a result of developing resistance to the therapeutic agent, either over the course of a first treatment period with the therapeutic agent or during a subsequent treatment period with the therapeutic agent.

[0089] As used herein, “maintenance therapy” means the ongoing use of chemotherapy or another treatment to assist in lowering the risk of recurrence (return of cancer) following a beneficial response to initial therapy, for example remission. Maintenance therapy also may be used for patients with advanced cancer (e.g. cancer that cannot be cured) to help keep it from growing and spreading further.

[0090] By “BTK-mediated signaling” it is intended any of the biological activities that are dependent on, either directly or indirectly, the activity of BTK. Examples of BTK-mediated signaling are signals that lead to proliferation and survival of BTK-expressing cells, and stimulation of one or more BTK-signaling pathways within BTK-expressing cells.

[0091] A BTK “signaling pathway” or “signal transduction pathway” is intended to mean at least one biochemical reaction, or a group of biochemical reactions, that results from the activity of BTK, and which generates a signal that, when transmitted through the signal pathway, leads to activation of one or more downstream molecules in the signaling cascade. Signal transduction pathways involve a number of signal transduction molecules that lead to transmission of a signal from the cell-surface across the plasma membrane of a cell, and through one or more in a series of signal transduction molecules, through the cytoplasm of the cell, and in some instances, into the cell's nucleus. Of particular interest to the present invention are BTK signal transduction

pathways which ultimately regulate (either enhance or inhibit) the activation of NF- κ B via the NF- κ B signaling pathway.

[0092] The term “nucleic acid” refers to deoxyribonucleotides, deoxyribonucleosides, ribonucleosides, or ribonucleotides and polymers thereof in either single- or double-stranded form. Unless specifically limited, the term encompasses nucleic acids containing known analogs of natural nucleotides which have similar binding properties as the reference nucleic acid and are metabolized in a manner similar to naturally occurring nucleotides. Unless specifically limited otherwise, the term also refers to oligonucleotide analogs including PNA (peptidonucleic acid), analogs of DNA used in antisense technology (e.g., phosphorothioates, phosphoroamidates). Unless otherwise indicated, a particular nucleic acid sequence also implicitly encompasses conservatively modified variants thereof (including but not limited to, degenerate codon substitutions) and complementary sequences as well as the sequence explicitly indicated. Specifically, degenerate codon substitutions are achieved by generating sequences in which the third position of one or more selected (or all) codons is substituted with mixed-base and/or deoxyinosine residues (Batzer et al. (1991)*Nucleic Acid Res.* 19:5081; Ohtsuka et al. (1985)*J. Biol. Chem.* 260:2605-2608; and Cassol et al. (1992)*Mol. Cell. Probes* 6, 327-331; and Rossolini et al. (1994)*Mol. Cell. Probes* 8:91-98).

[0093] The term “amino acid” refers to naturally occurring and non-naturally occurring amino acids, as well as amino acid analogs and amino acid mimetics that function in a manner similar to the naturally occurring amino acids. Naturally encoded amino acids are the 20 common amino acids (alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamine, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, and valine) and pyrrolysine and selenocysteine. Amino acid analogs refers to agents that have the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid, i.e., an α carbon that is bound to a hydrogen, a carboxyl group, an amino group, and an R group, such as, homoserine, norleucine, methionine sulfoxide, methionine methyl sulfonium. Such analogs have modified R groups (such as, norleucine) or modified peptide backbones, but retain the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid.

[0094] Amino acids are referred to herein by either their commonly known three letter symbols or by the one-letter symbols recommended by the IUPAC-IUB Biochemical Nomenclature Commission. Nucleotides, likewise, are referred to by their commonly accepted single-letter codes.

[0095] The terms “polypeptide”, “peptide” and “protein” are used interchangeably herein to refer to a polymer of amino acid residues. The terms apply to naturally occurring amino acid polymers as well as amino acid polymers in which one or more amino acid residues is a non-naturally occurring amino acid, e.g., an amino acid analog. The terms encompass amino acid

chains of any length, including full length proteins, wherein the amino acid residues are linked by covalent peptide bonds.

[0096] As used herein, modification in reference to modification of a sequence of amino acids of a polypeptide or a sequence of nucleotides in a nucleic acid molecule and includes deletions, insertions, and replacements of amino acids and nucleotides, respectively.

[0097] To determine the percent homology of two amino acid sequences or of two nucleic acids, the sequences can be aligned for optimal comparison purposes (e.g., gaps are introduced in the sequence of a first amino acid or nucleic acid sequence for optimal alignment with a second amino or nucleic acid sequence). The amino acid residues or nucleotides at corresponding amino acid positions or nucleotide positions can then be compared. When a position in the first sequence is occupied by the same amino acid residue or nucleotide as the corresponding position in the second sequence, then the molecules are identical at that position. The percent homology between the two sequences is a function of the number of identical positions shared by the sequences (i.e., % identity = # of identical positions/total # of positions (e.g., overlapping positions) x 100). In some embodiments the two sequences are the same length.

[0098] To determine percent homology between two sequences, the algorithm of Karlin and Altschul (1990) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:2264-2268, modified as in Karlin and Altschul (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:5873-5877 is used. Such an algorithm is incorporated into the NBLAST and XBLAST programs of Altschul, et al. (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410. BLAST nucleotide searches are performed with the NBLAST program, score=100, wordlength=12 to obtain nucleotide sequences homologous to a nucleic acid molecules described or disclose herein. BLAST protein searches are performed with the XBLAST program, score=50, wordlength=3. To obtain gapped alignments for comparison purposes, Gapped BLAST is utilized as described in Altschul et al. (1997) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 25:3389-3402. When utilizing BLAST and Gapped BLAST programs, the default parameters of the respective programs (e.g., XBLAST and NBLAST) are used. See the website of the National Center for Biotechnology Information for further details (on the World Wide Web at ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). Proteins suitable for use in the methods described herein also includes proteins having between 1 to 15 amino acid changes, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15 amino acid substitutions, deletions, or additions, compared to the amino acid sequence of any protein described herein. In other embodiments, the altered amino acid sequence is at least 75% identical, e.g., 77%, 80%, 82%, 85%, 88%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, or 100% identical to the amino acid sequence of any protein described herein. Such sequence-variant proteins are suitable for the methods described herein as long as the altered amino acid sequence retains sufficient biological activity to be functional in the

compositions and methods described herein. Where amino acid substitutions are made, the substitutions should be conservative amino acid substitutions. Among the common amino acids, for example, a “conservative amino acid substitution” is illustrated by a substitution among amino acids within each of the following groups: (1) glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, and isoleucine, (2) phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan, (3) serine and threonine, (4) aspartate and glutamate, (5) glutamine and asparagine, and (6) lysine, arginine and histidine. Those of skill in this art recognize that, in general, single amino acid substitutions in non-essential regions of a polypeptide do not substantially alter biological activity (see, *e.g.*, Watson *et al.* Molecular Biology of the Gene, 4th Edition, 1987, The Benjamin/Cummings Pub. co., p.224). The BLOSUM62 table is an amino acid substitution matrix derived from about 2,000 local multiple alignments of protein sequence segments, representing highly conserved regions of more than 500 groups of related proteins (Henikoff et al (1992) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 89:10915-10919). Accordingly, the BLOSUM62 substitution frequencies are used to define conservative amino acid substitutions that, in some embodiments, are introduced into the amino acid sequences described or disclosed herein. Although it is possible to design amino acid substitutions based solely upon chemical properties (as discussed above), the language “conservative amino acid substitution” preferably refers to a substitution represented by a BLOSUM62 value of greater than -1. For example, an amino acid substitution is conservative if the substitution is characterized by a BLOSUM62 value of 0, 1, 2, or 3. According to this system, preferred conservative amino acid substitutions are characterized by a BLOSUM62 value of at least 1 (*e.g.*, 1, 2 or 3), while more preferred conservative amino acid substitutions are characterized by a BLOSUM62 value of at least 2 (*e.g.*, 2 or 3).

[0099] As used herein, corresponding residues refers to residues that occur at aligned loci. Related or variant polypeptides are aligned by any method known to those of skill in the art. Such methods typically maximize matches, and include methods such as using manual alignments and by using the numerous alignment programs available (for example, BLASTP) and others known to those of skill in the art. By aligning the sequences of polypeptides, one skilled in the art can identify corresponding residues, using conserved and identical amino acid residues as guides. Corresponding positions also can be based on structural alignments, for example by using computer simulated alignments of protein structure. In other instances, corresponding regions can be identified.

[00100] As used herein, an allelic variant or allelic variation references to a polypeptide encoded by a gene that differs from a reference form of a gene (*i.e.* is encoded by an allele). Typically the reference form of the gene encodes a wildtype form and/or predominant form of a polypeptide from a population or single reference member of a species. Typically, allelic variants, which include variants between and among species typically have at least 80%, 90% or

greater amino acid identity with a wildtype and/or predominant form from the same species; the degree of identity depends upon the gene and whether comparison is interspecies or intraspecies. Generally, intraspecies allelic variants have at least about 80%, 85%, 90% or 95% identity or greater with a wildtype and/or predominant form, including 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or greater identity with a wildtype and/or predominant form of a polypeptide.

[00101] The term “substantially purified,” as used herein, refers to a component of interest that may be substantially or essentially free of other components which normally accompany or interact with the component of interest prior to purification. By way of example only, a component of interest may be “substantially purified” when the preparation of the component of interest contains less than about 30%, less than about 25%, less than about 20%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, less than about 5%, less than about 4%, less than about 3%, less than about 2%, or less than about 1% (by dry weight) of contaminating components. Thus, a “substantially purified” component of interest may have a purity level of about 70%, about 75%, about 80%, about 85%, about 90%, about 95%, about 96%, about 97%, about 98%, about 99% or greater.

[00102] As used herein, species variants refer to variants of the same polypeptide between and among species. Generally, interspecies variants have at least about 60%, 70%, 80%, 85%, 90%, or 95% identity or greater with a wildtype and/or predominant form from another species, including 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or greater identity with a wildtype and/or predominant form of a polypeptide.

[00103] The term “subject” as used herein, refers to an animal which is the object of treatment, observation or experiment. By way of example only, a subject may be, but is not limited to, a mammal including, but not limited to, a human.

[00104] As used herein, the IC₅₀ refers to an amount, concentration or dosage of a particular test compound that achieves a 50% inhibition of a maximal response, such as inhibition of BTK, in an assay that measures such response.

[00105] As used herein, EC₅₀ refers to a dosage, concentration or amount of a particular test compound that elicits a dose-dependent response at 50% of maximal expression of a particular response that is induced, provoked or potentiated by the particular test compound.

[00106] As used herein, the terms “treat,” “treating” or “treatment,” and other grammatical equivalents, include alleviating, abating or ameliorating one or more symptoms of a disease or condition, ameliorating, preventing or reducing the appearance, severity or frequency of one or more additional symptoms of a disease or condition, ameliorating or preventing the underlying metabolic causes of one or more symptoms of a disease or condition, inhibiting the disease or condition, such as, for example, arresting the development of the disease or condition, relieving the disease or condition, causing regression of the disease or condition, relieving a condition

caused by the disease or condition, or inhibiting the symptoms of the disease or condition either prophylactically and/or therapeutically. In a non-limiting example, for prophylactic benefit, a third-generation BTK inhibitor compound disclosed herein is administered to an individual at risk of developing a particular disorder, predisposed to developing a particular disorder, or to an individual reporting one or more of the physiological symptoms of a disorder. In some embodiments, a third-generation BTK inhibitor compound disclosed herein is administered to a subject following treatment with one or more therapeutic agents. In some embodiments, a third-generation BTK inhibitor compound disclosed herein is administered to a subject in combination with treatment with one or more therapeutic agents.

[00107] As used herein, prevention or prophylaxis refers to the reduction in the risk of developing a disease or condition.

[00108] The terms "effective amount", "therapeutically effective amount" or "pharmaceutically effective amount" as used herein, refer to an amount of a BTK inhibitor compound that is sufficient to treat a disorder. In some embodiments, the result is a reduction in and/or alleviation of the signs, symptoms, or causes of a disorder, or any other desired alteration of a biological system. For example, an "effective amount" for therapeutic uses is the amount of the composition comprising a BTK inhibitor compound disclosed herein required to provide a clinically significant decrease in a disorder. An appropriate "effective" amount in any individual case is determined using any suitable technique, (e.g., a dose escalation study).

[00109] The term "pharmaceutically acceptable" as used herein, refers to a material, (e.g., a carrier or diluent), which does not abrogate the biological activity or properties of a BTK inhibitor compound described herein, and is relatively nontoxic (i.e., the material is administered to an individual without causing undesirable biological effects or interacting in a deleterious manner with any of the components of the composition in which it is contained).

[00110] As used herein, a control refers to a sample that is substantially identical to the test sample, except that it is not treated with a test parameter, or, if it is a plasma sample, it can be from a normal volunteer not affected with the condition of interest. A control also can be an internal control.

[00111] As used herein, the terms "subject", "individual" and "patient" are used interchangeably. None of the terms are to be interpreted as requiring the supervision of a medical professional (e.g., a doctor, nurse, physician's assistant, orderly, hospice worker). As used herein, the subject can be any animal, including mammals (e.g., a human or non-human animal) and non-mammals. In one embodiment of the methods and compositions provided herein, the mammal is a human.

[00112] As used herein, “contacting” refers to the act of touching, making contact, or of bringing substances into immediate proximity. “Contacting” can be achieved by mixing the components in a fluid or semi-fluid mixture.

Overview: BTK Function and Drug Resistance in Cancer

[00113] Drug resistance is a problem affecting several areas of medicine including infectious diseases and cancer. During the course of cancer treatment, spontaneous random mutations occur as the cancer cell population expands by repeated divisions, some of which confer resistance and hence a survival advantage. Described herein is a mutation in *BTK* gene that arose during treatment of a patient with CLL with the irreversible BTK inhibitor ibrutinib. Following approximately 18 months of treatment with ibrutinib, three patients in separated studies exhibited a rise in absolute lymphocyte count (ALC) and increased lymph node size. Disease progression continued even when the ibrutinib dose was escalated from 560 mg per day to 840 mg per day in one of the patients. A blood sample was isolated from the patients, and mRNA encoding BTK was analyzed from the cells contained in the sample. It was found in two patients that a mutation in the BTK protein had emerged. In one patient, the nucleic acid encoding BTK had a missense mutation of guanine (g)-1635 to cytosine (c)-1635 resulting the substitution of the Cysteine-481 codon, TGC, to TCC (Serine). In a second patient, the nucleic acid encoding BTK had a missense mutation of thymine (t)-1634 to adenine (a)-1634 resulting the substitution of the Cysteine-481 codon, TGC, to AGC (Serine). Sample taken from the same patients early in treatment with ibrutinib did not contain these mutations. The mutation in the Cys-481 codon suggests an adaptive response by the tumor to selective pressure supplied by ibrutinib treatment.

[00114] The acquisition of a resistance mutation has been described for all major tyrosine kinase inhibitors in oncology, including imatinib (Gleevec), and the EGFR inhibitors gefitinib, and erlotinib. In advanced CML, 66% of patients relapse on imatinib, and 5% of chronic CML patients relapse within the first few years. 30-50% of these relapsed patients have acquired resistance mutations in the target kinase (ABL). Such patients go on to other therapies including dasatinib, nilotinib, etc., but many of these eventually relapse with new resistance mutations. In lung cancer, erlotinib and gefitinib have produced impressive and durable clinical results, but nearly all become ineffective within 12-18 months due to resistance. ~50% of these resistant patients have a mutation in the target kinase (EGFR) called T790M, which changes a single amino acid.

[00115] Described herein are modified BTK polypeptides that contain an amino acid substitution of cysteine at position 481 of the wild-type BTK for serine (C481S) and nucleic acids encoding the polypeptides. Also described herein are methods of producing the modified BTK nucleic acids and polypeptides described herein. Also described herein are compositions, combinations and kits containing the modified BTK nucleic acids and polypeptides described

herein and reagents for detection of the modified BTK nucleic acids and polypeptides described herein. Also provided are methods of using the modified BTK polypeptides for identifying mutant BTK interacting molecules, including BTK inhibitors, including second-generation BTK inhibitors. Also described herein are modified BTK nucleic acids that are synthetic nucleic acids. Also described herein are modified BTK nucleic acids that are cDNA molecules. Also described herein are modified BTK polypeptides produced by modified BTK nucleic acids that are synthetic nucleic acids. Also described herein are modified BTK polypeptides produced by modified BTK nucleic acids that are cDNA molecules. Also described herein are modified BTK nucleic acids that do not contain BTK genomic DNA. Also described herein are modified BTK nucleic acids that are unmethylated. Also described herein are modified BTK nucleic acids that do not contain BTK intron sequences. Also described herein are modified BTK nucleic acids that comprises a sequence of nucleotides from two or more exons of the BTK genomic sequence. In some embodiments, the modified BTK nucleic acids comprise a sequence of nucleotides that encode serine at a position corresponding to position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide.

[00116] As described herein, identification of a mutation at amino acid position 481 in BTK, such as for example C481S, allows for the design and screening of inhibitors effective for inhibition of a mutant BTK having one or more resistance mutations. Such inhibitors are useful in clinical and therapeutic applications. In some embodiments, the inhibitors are useful for the treatment of a cancer, such as for example, a hematologic cancer, such as a B-cell malignancy.

[00117] As described herein, in some embodiments, subjects are screened for the identification of a mutation at amino acid position 481 in BTK, such as for example C481S. In some embodiments, identification of such a mutation allows for the prescription of a cancer treatment or modification of a cancer treatment. In some embodiments, identification of such a mutation is used to stratify subjects for a particular therapy, such as for example, therapy with an inhibitor that inhibits the activity of the mutant C481S (i.e. a second-generation BTK inhibitor). In some embodiments, identification of such a mutation is used to characterize a subject as having a high risk of relapse of a BTK-mediated disease or condition, such as, for example, a hematologic cancer, such as a B-cell cancer. In some embodiments, identification of such a mutation is used to characterize a subject as lacking responsiveness to particular BTK inhibitor, such as for example a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, such as ibrutinib.

[00118] As described herein in the example, separate mutations in downstream proteins of the BCR pathway also were identified in patients receiving therapy with a BTK inhibitor. For example, mutations in PLC γ 2 and CARD11 were identified. For PLC γ 2, missense mutations resulting in amino acid substitutions at R665 and S707 were found (e.g. R665W and S707F). For CARD11, an insertion of a leucine at position L232 was observed (i.e. L232LL). Such

mutations are predicted to result in constitutive activity for each protein. Accordingly, provided herein are method of screening for such mutations for the selection of patients for therapy, monitoring patients receiving a BTK inhibitor therapy, and optimizing a treatment regimen, such as a maintenance therapy.

Mutant BTK Polypeptides

[00119] Provided herein are mutant BTK polypeptides. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides are isolated mutant BTK polypeptides. In some embodiments, the isolated mutant BTK polypeptides are non-native mutant BTK polypeptides. In some embodiments, the isolated mutant BTK polypeptides are recombinant mutant BTK polypeptides. Typically, the mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein exhibit at least one BTK activity. For example, the mutant BTK polypeptides typically retain a BTK activity such as, for example, association with a target molecule or phosphorylation of a target substrate (i.e. kinase activity). In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein have decreased kinase activity relative to a wild-type BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein have increased kinase activity relative to a wild-type BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein have equivalent kinase activity relative to a wild-type BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides are recombinant proteins. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides are purified from a host cell.

[00120] In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor inhibits the kinase activity of a wild-type BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that covalently binds to cysteine at amino acid position 481 of a wild-type BTK set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 1. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib.

[00121] Provided herein is an isolated BTK polypeptide or a variant thereof having BTK activity comprising a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the modification confers resistance of the modified BTK polypeptide or variant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor.

[00122] In some embodiments, the modification comprises a substitution or a deletion of the amino acid at amino acid position 481 compared to a wild type BTK set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the modification comprises substitution of the amino acid at position 481 compared to a wild type BTK set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, glycine, methionine, serine, threonine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, proline, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among serine, methionine, or threonine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the substitution is C481S. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a deletion of amino acid position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

[00123] In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a substitution of the amino acid at position 481 compared to a wild type BTK set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 and one or more additional amino acid substitutions. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the amino acid at position 481 is not cysteine. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a polypeptide having a serine at the position corresponding to amino acid position 481 and having 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% amino acid sequence identity to the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

[00124] In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a modification at amino acid position 481 and a modification at one or more additional amino acid positions. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a modification at amino acid position 481 and a modification at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or more amino acid positions. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a modification at position 481 and a modification at one additional amino acid position. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a serine at amino acid position 481 and a modification at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or more additional amino acid positions. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises

a serine at position 481 and a modification at one additional amino acid position. In some embodiments, the modification at amino acid position 481 is a substitution that is C481S.

[00125] In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a portion of the mutant BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the portion exhibits an activity of a BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises the kinase domain of a BTK polypeptide comprising the modification at amino acid position 481 of the mutant BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

[00126] In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a modification at position 481 and a modification selected from among BTK modifications described in, for example, Vihinen et al. (1999) *Hum. Mutat.* 13: 280-285, de Weer et al. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* (1994) 3 (1): 161-166; Pérez de Diego et al. (2008) *Clin Exp Immunol.* 152(1):33-8; Kenegane et al. (2000) *Clin Exp Immunol.* 120(3): 512-517, Li et al. (1995) *Immunity* 2:451-460 and Baraldi et al. (1999) *Structure* 7:449-460. In some embodiments, the modification at amino acid position 481 is a substitution that is C481S. In some embodiments, the one or more additional modifications is selected from among substitutions at amino acid positions L11, K12, S14, K19, F25, K27, R28, R33, Y39, Y40, E41, I61, V64, R82, Q103, V113, S115, T117, Q127, C154, C155, T184, P189, P190, Y223, W251, R288, L295, G302, R307, D308, V319, Y334, L358, Y361, H362, H364, N365, S366, L369, I370M, R372, L408, G414, Y418, I429, K430, E445, G462, Y476, M477, C502, C506, A508, M509, L512, L518, R520, D521, A523, R525, N526, V535, L542, R544, Y551, F559, R562, W563, E567, S578, W581, A582, F583, M587, E589, S592, G594, Y598, A607, G613, Y617, P619, A622, V626, M630, C633, R641, F644, L647, L652, V1065, and A1185. In some embodiments, the one or more additional modifications is selected from among L11P, K12R, S14F, K19E, F25S, K27R, R28H, R28C, R28P, T33P, Y3S9, Y40C, Y40N, E41K, I61N, V64F, V64D, R82K, Q103QSFSSVR, V113D, S115F, T117P, Q127H, C154S, C155G, T184P, P189A, Y223F, W251L, R288W, R288Q, L295P, G302E, R307K, R307G, R307T, D308E, V319A, Y334S, L358F, Y361C, H362Q, H364P, N365Y, S366F, L369F, I370M, R372G, L408P, G414R, Y418H, I429N, K430E, E445D, G462D, G462V, Y476D, M477R, C502F, C502W, C506Y, C506R, A508D, M509I, M509V, L512P, L512Q, L518R, R520Q, D521G, D521H, D521N, A523E, R525G, R525P, R525Q, N526K, V535F, L542P, R544G, R544K, Y551F, F559S, R562W, R562P, W563L, E567K, S578Y, W581R, A582V, F583S, M587L, E589D, E589K, E589G, S592P, G594E, Y598C, A607D, G613D, Y617E, P619A, P619S, A622P, V626G, M630I, M630K, M630T, C633Y, R641C, F644L, F644S, L647P, L652P, V1065I, and A1185V.

[00127] In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a portion of the mutant BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the portion exhibits an activity of an BTK polypeptide. For example, in some embodiments, the portion exhibits kinase

activity. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises the kinase domain of a BTK polypeptide comprising the modification at amino acid position 481 of the mutant BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide consists essentially of the kinase domain of a BTK polypeptide comprising the modification at amino acid position 481 of the mutant BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids from about amino acid position 397 to about amino acid position 652 of the mutant BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids from about amino acid position 402 to about amino acid position 652 of the mutant BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

[00128] In some embodiments, an BTK polypeptide is a fusion protein comprising the kinase domain of an BTK polypeptide comprising the modification at amino acid position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 linked to a heterologous polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification at amino acid position 481 is an amino acid substitution that is C481S. Methods for the generation of fusion proteins are known in the art and include standard recombinant DNA techniques. For example, in some embodiments, DNA fragments coding for the different polypeptide sequences are ligated together in-frame in accordance with conventional techniques, for example by employing blunt-ended or stagger-ended termini for ligation, restriction enzyme digestion to provide for appropriate termini, filling-in of cohesive ends as appropriate, alkaline phosphatase treatment to avoid undesirable joining, and enzymatic ligation. In some embodiments, the fusion gene can be synthesized by conventional techniques including automated DNA synthesizers. In some embodiments, PCR amplification of gene fragments can be carried out using anchor primers which give rise to complementary overhangs between two consecutive gene fragments which can subsequently be annealed and reamplified to generate a chimeric gene sequence (see, for example, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, eds. Ausubel et al. John Wiley & Sons: 1992). In some embodiments, expression vectors are commercially available that encode a fusion moiety (e.g., a GST polypeptide). A nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK polypeptide can be cloned into such an expression vector such that the fusion moiety is linked in-frame to the modified BTK polypeptide.

[00129] In some embodiments, a BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 linked to a peptide tag. In some embodiments, the peptide tag is an epitope tag recognized by a tag-specific antibody. In some embodiments the tag is an epitope tag, such as, but not limited to a c-myc, V-5, hemagglutinin (HA), FLAG, tag. In some embodiments the tag is an affinity tag, such as, but not limited to, biotin, strep-tag, chitin binding protein (CBP), maltose binding protein (MBP), glutathione-S-transferase (GST), or a poly(His) tag. In some embodiments, a BTK polypeptide

comprising a modification at amino acid position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 linked to a detectable protein or moiety, such a luminescent, chemiluminescent, bioluminescent, or fluorescent protein or moiety. In some embodiments, the fluorescent protein is a green (GFP), red (RFP), cyan (CFP), yellow (YFP), or blue (BFP) fluorescent protein. In some embodiments, a BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 linked to an enzyme for example, a luciferase or a beta-galactosidase.

[00130] In some embodiments, provided herein is an array comprising a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide is bound to a microchip. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide is bound directly to the microchip. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide is bound indirectly to the microchip via a linker. In some embodiments, provided herein is a microchip array comprising a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein.

Nucleic Acids Encoding Mutant BTK Polypeptides

[00131] Provided herein are nucleic acids encoding mutant BTK polypeptides. Provided herein are nucleic acids encoding any of the mutant BTK polypeptides described herein. Methods for deducing nucleic acids that encode particular polypeptides are known in the art and involve standard molecular biology techniques. Exemplary nucleic acids encoding mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein are provided. It is understood that due to the degeneracy of the genetic code multiple variants nucleic acids exist that encode the same polypeptide. Nucleic acids that encode the mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein encompass such variants. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acids are synthetic nucleic acids. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acids are cDNA molecules. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acids do not contain genomic DNA. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acids are unmethylated. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acids do not contain BTK genomic intron sequences. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acids comprise a sequence of nucleotides from two or more exons of the BTK genomic sequence, including nucleic acid comprising the codon sequence encoding position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acids comprise a sequence of nucleotides that encode serine at a position corresponding to position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide.

[00132] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein is a DNA or an RNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a modification where the encoded polypeptide comprises a substitution of the amino acid cysteine at the position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some

embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 is modified, whereby the codon does not encode cysteine, or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 does not encode cysteine.

[00133] In some embodiments the nucleic acid modification is a missense mutation or a deletion of one or more codons that encode the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a missense mutation that changes the nucleic acid codon that encodes cysteine at amino position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid codon that encodes cysteine at amino position 481 of the BTK polypeptide is TGC or TGT. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid codon that encodes cysteine at amino position 481 of the BTK polypeptide is TGC. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid codon that encodes cysteine at amino position 481 of the BTK polypeptide is TGT. In some embodiments, the modification changes the nucleic acid codon that encodes cysteine at amino position 481 of the BTK polypeptide from TGC to a nucleic acid codon that encodes serine. In some embodiments, the modification changes the nucleic acid codon that encodes cysteine at amino position 481 of the BTK polypeptide from TGT to a nucleic acid codon that encodes serine. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid codon that encodes serine is selected from among TCT, TCC, TCA, TCG, AGT or AGC.

[00134] In some embodiments, the modification is a missense mutation that comprises a substitution of thymine (t) for adenine (a) at nucleic acid position 1634 in the nucleic acid set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3. In some embodiments, the modification changes the nucleic acid codon that encodes cysteine at amino position 481 of the BTK polypeptide from TGC to AGC (Serine). In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7 or 22.

[00135] In some embodiments, the modification is a missense mutation that comprises a substitution of guanine (g) for cytosine (g) at nucleic acid position 1635 in the nucleic acid set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3. In some embodiments, the modification changes the nucleic acid codon that encodes cysteine at amino position 481 of the BTK polypeptide from TGC to TCC (Serine). In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 23.

[00136] In some embodiments the nucleic acid encoding the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a nucleic acid having 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% nucleotide acid sequence identity to the nucleic acid having the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7 or 22, where the encoded mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a

modification relative to the wild-type BTK polypeptide at a position corresponding to amino acid position 481. In some embodiments the nucleic acid encoding the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a nucleic acid having 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% nucleotide acid sequence identity to the nucleic acid having the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 23, where the encoded mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a modification relative to the wild-type BTK polypeptide at a position corresponding to amino acid position 481. In some embodiments the nucleic acid encoding the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a nucleic acid having 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% nucleotide acid sequence identity to the nucleic acid having the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7 or 22, where the encoded mutant BTK polypeptide does not comprise a cysteine at the position corresponding to amino acid position 481. In some embodiments the nucleic acid encoding the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a nucleic acid having 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% nucleotide acid sequence identity to the nucleic acid having the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 23, where the encoded mutant BTK polypeptide does not comprise a cysteine at the position corresponding to amino acid position 481. In some embodiments the nucleic acid encoding the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a nucleic acid having 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% nucleotide acid sequence identity to the nucleic acid having the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7 or 22, where the encoded mutant BTK comprises a serine at the position corresponding to amino acid position 481. In some embodiments the nucleic acid encoding the mutant BTK polypeptide comprises a nucleic acid having 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% nucleotide acid sequence identity to the nucleic acid having the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8 or 23, where the encoded mutant BTK comprises a serine at the position corresponding to amino acid position 481.

[00137] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide is an isolated nucleic acid. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide is a DNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide is a cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide is an RNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide is an inhibitory RNA molecule (i.e. RNAi). In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein is a nucleic acid molecule that is complementary, or binds to, an nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide.

[00138] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide encodes a portion of a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein that comprises amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, the codon encodes an amino acid that is not

cysteine. In some embodiments, the codon encodes an amino acid that is serine. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide encodes one or more domains of a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide encodes a kinase domain of a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein.

[00139] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide or a portion thereof contains nucleic acid encoding an amino acid at position 481 that is not cysteine. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide or a portion thereof contains nucleic acid encoding serine at amino acid position 481.

[00140] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein is an oligonucleotide that encodes a portion of the mutant BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments the nucleic acid provided herein is an oligonucleotide that encodes a portion of the mutant BTK polypeptide that contains a nucleotide codon encoding the amino acid corresponding to amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, the codon encodes an amino acid that is not cysteine. In some embodiments, the codon encodes an amino acid that is serine.

[00141] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein is a vector that comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid provided herein is a vector that comprises nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein is an expression vector. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein is operably linked to a promoter. In some embodiments, the promoter is a constitutive or an inducible promoter. In some embodiments, provided herein is a host cell, comprising the vector or nucleic acid molecule encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein. In some embodiments, the cell is a prokaryotic cell or a eukaryotic cell. Also provided herein is a mutant BTK polypeptide expressed by the host cell.

[00142] In some embodiments, the vector is a viral or plasmid vector. In some embodiments, the viral vector is a DNA or RNA viral vector. Exemplary viral vectors include, but are not limited to, a vaccinia, adenovirus, adeno-associated virus (AAV), retrovirus, or herpesvirus vector.

[00143] In some embodiments, provided herein is an array comprising a nucleic acid encoding any of the mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acid is bound to a microchip. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acid is bound directly to the microchip. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK nucleic acid is bound indirectly to the microchip via a linker. In some embodiments, provided herein is a microchip array comprising a nucleic acid encoding any of the mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein.

Production of Nucleic Acids and Polypeptides

[00144] In some embodiments, an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein is generated by standard recombinant methods. In some embodiments, an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein is generated by amplification of a mutant BTK sequence from genomic DNA. In some embodiments, an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein is generated by polymerase chain reaction using BTK sequence specific primers. In some embodiments, an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide

[00145] In some embodiments, an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein is inserted into an expression vector and expressed in a host cell or a non-cell extract. In some embodiments, an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein is operatively linked to a promoter for expression of the encoding polypeptide in a cell or non-cell extract. In some embodiments, the promoter is a constitutive promoter. In some embodiments, the promoter is an inducible promoter.

[00146] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein is "exogenous" to a cell, which means that it is foreign to the cell into which the vector is being introduced or that the sequence is homologous to a sequence in the cell but in a position within the host cell nucleic acid in which the sequence is ordinarily not found. Vectors include plasmids, cosmids, viruses (bacteriophage, animal viruses, and plant viruses), and artificial chromosomes (e.g., YACs). One of skill in the art would be well equipped to construct a vector through standard recombinant techniques, which are described in Sambrook et al., 1989 and Ausubel et al., 1996, both incorporated herein by reference.

[00147] Methods for the expression of a protein in a cell are well known in the art and include, for example, expression in cells, such as animal and plant cells. Exemplary animal cells for the expression of mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein include but are not limited to bacteria, yeast, insect cells, amphibian, and mammalian cells, such as for example, human, primate, rodent, bovine, and ovine cells. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding the mutant BTK is integrated into the genome of the host cell.

[00148] In some embodiments, a method for the expression of a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein comprises culturing a host cell containing an expression vector encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide such that the mutant BTK polypeptide is produced by the cell. In some methods, the nucleic acid encoding a mutant polypeptide is connected to nucleic acid encoding a signal sequence such that the signal sequence is expressed as a fusion peptide with the mutant BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments the signal sequence allows for the secretion of the mutant BTK polypeptide by the host cell.

[00149] In some embodiments the mutant BTK polypeptide is isolated from a host cell expressing the mutant polypeptide. In some embodiments an extract is prepared from the host cell and the mutant BTK polypeptide is isolated by purification methods such as but not limited to chromatography or immunoaffinity with an antibody that is specific for BTK polypeptides or specific to the mutant BTK polypeptide in particular.

Antibodies

[00150] Provided herein are isolated antibodies that bind to a modified BTK polypeptide having a modification at amino acid position 481, wherein the antibodies do not bind to or bind with lower affinity to a wild-type BTK polypeptide having the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

[00151] In some embodiments, mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein are detected using antibodies that specifically recognize the mutant BTK polypeptides, but do not recognize wild-type BTK polypeptides. In some embodiments, mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein are detected using antibodies that specifically recognize a mutant BTK polypeptide having a serine at amino acid position 481, but do not recognize wild-type BTK polypeptides. In some embodiments, antibodies are raised against one or more allelic forms of the mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein. Techniques for using a specific protein or an oligopeptide as an antigen to elicit antibodies that specifically recognize epitopes on the peptide or protein are well known. In one embodiment, the DNA sequence of the desired allelic form of the target gene is cloned by insertion into an appropriate expression vector and translated into protein in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell. The protein is recovered and used as an antigen to elicit the production of specific antibodies. In another embodiment, the DNA of the desired allelic form of the target gene is amplified by PCR technology and is subsequently translated *in vitro* into protein to be used as the antigen to elicit the production of specific antibodies. In another embodiment, the DNA sequence of the alternative alleles is used as a basis for the generation of synthetic peptides representing the amino acid sequence of the alleles for use as the antigen to elicit the production of specific antibodies.

[00152] In some embodiments, antibodies are generated either by standard monoclonal antibody techniques or generated through recombinant based expression systems. See generally, Abbas, Lichtman, and Pober, Cellular and Molecular Immunology, W. B. Saunders Co. (1991). The term "antibodies" is meant to include intact antibody molecules as well as antibody fragments or derivatives, such as Fab and F(ab')₂, which are capable of specifically binding to antigen. The antibodies so produced preferentially bind only the mutant protein produced in the allelic form which was used as an antigen to create the antibody. Methods of generating allele-

specific antibodies are also described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,200,754 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,054,273, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[00153] In some embodiments, the antibody provided herein is a humanized antibody. A “humanized antibody” refers to a type of engineered antibody having its CDRs derived from a non-human donor immunoglobulin, the remaining immunoglobulin-derived parts of the molecule being derived from one or more human immunoglobulin(s). In some embodiments, framework support residues are altered to preserve binding affinity (see, e.g., Queen et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86:10029-10032 (1989), Hodgson et al. Bio/Technology, 9:421 (1991)). In some embodiments, a suitable human acceptor antibody is one selected from a conventional database, e.g., the KABAT® database, Los Alamos database, and Swiss Protein database, by homology to the nucleotide and amino acid sequences of the donor antibody. In some embodiments, a human antibody characterized by a homology to the framework regions of the donor antibody (on an amino acid basis) is suitable to provide a heavy chain constant region and/or a heavy chain variable framework region for insertion of the donor CDRs. In some embodiments, a suitable acceptor antibody capable of donating light chain constant or variable framework regions is selected in a similar manner. In some embodiments, the acceptor antibody heavy and light chains originate from the same acceptor antibody. In some embodiments, the acceptor antibody heavy and light chains originate from the different acceptor antibodies. The prior art describes several ways of producing such humanized antibodies—see, for example, EP-A-0239400 and EP-A-054951.

[00154] In some embodiments, antibodies specific for mutant BTK polypeptides provided herein are used to detect the presence of a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein in a sample, e.g., an assay sample, a cell sample, a cell extract, a biological sample, or a patient sample, using techniques known in the art. These techniques include, for example, Western blot, immunohistochemistry, indirect immunofluorescence, and antibody microarray. In some embodiments, an antibody which specifically recognizes a mutant BTK polypeptide is a second-generation BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the ability of an antibody which specifically recognizes a mutant BTK polypeptide to inhibit the biological activity of the mutant BTK polypeptide can be determined using the methods described herein for identifying second-generation BTK inhibitors.

Diagnostic Assays For Detecting Mutant BTK Polypeptides and Nucleic Acids Encoding Mutant BTK Polypeptides

[00155] Provided herein are diagnostic methods that involve the detection of a mutant BTK polypeptide in a subject or a nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide in a subject. In some embodiments, the subject has an BTK-mediated disease or condition. In some embodiments, the subject has an BTK-mediated disease or condition is a B-cell cancer. In some

embodiments, the diagnostic methods are employed for the screening subjects having a B-cell cancer that is resistant to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, identifying subjects for the treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, identifying subjects as likely or unlikely to respond to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, predicting whether a subject is likely to develop resistance to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, monitoring the therapy of subjects receiving therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, optimizing the therapy of subjects receiving a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor therapy, and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the methods comprises selecting a subject for therapy with a second-generation BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the methods further comprise administering to the subject a second-generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the mutant BTK. In some embodiments, the BTK modification confers resistance of a cancer cell to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor.

[00156] In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide detected comprises a modification at a position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK polypeptide detected comprises a substitution of the amino acid cysteine to serine at the position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the wild-type BTK polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, a subject having a mutant BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481 is resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, a subject having a mutant BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481 is resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib. In some embodiments, a subject having a mutant BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481 is resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that covalently binds to cysteine 481 of the wild-type BTK. In some embodiments, a subject having a mutant BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481 is resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, a subject having a mutant BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481 is resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib.

[00157] In some embodiments, provided is a method for determining whether a subject is or likely to become less responsive to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in

SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or likely to become resistant to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, step (a) is performed *ex vivo*. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments of the method, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. Exemplary B-cell malignancies are provided herein. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the method further comprises obtaining the sample from the subject.

[00158] In some embodiments, provided is a method for characterizing a BTK as resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) characterizing the BTK as resistant to inhibition with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, step (a) is performed *ex vivo*. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments of the method, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. Exemplary B-cell malignancies are provided herein. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the method further comprises obtaining the sample from the subject.

[00159] In some embodiments, provided is a method for monitoring whether a subject receiving a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer has developed or is likely to develop resistance to the therapy, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or is likely to become resistant to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, step (a) is performed *ex vivo*. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments of the method, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. Exemplary B-cell malignancies are provided herein. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the method further comprises obtaining the sample from the subject.

[00160] In some embodiments, provided is a method for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) discontinuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second-generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, step (a) is performed *ex vivo*. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject

has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments of the method, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. Exemplary B-cell malignancies are provided herein. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the method further comprises obtaining the sample from the subject.

[00161] In some embodiments, provided is a method for selecting a subject for therapy with a second-generation BTK inhibitor, comprising: (a) testing the sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) characterizing the subject as a candidate for therapy with a second generation BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, step (a) is performed *ex vivo*. In some embodiments of the method, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. Exemplary B-cell malignancies are provided herein. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the method further comprises obtaining the sample from the subject.

[00162] In some embodiments, the modification comprises a substitution or a deletion of the amino acid at amino acid position 481 in the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, glycine, methionine, serine, threonine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, proline, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among serine, methionine, or threonine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a deletion of nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

[00163] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is RNA or DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is genomic DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is total RNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is mRNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the method further comprises

isolating mRNA from the RNA sample. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is cDNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the method further comprises reverse transcribing an RNA sample into cDNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the method comprises analyzing the cDNA. In some embodiments, the sample is a plasma or serum sample containing circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA), RNA (ctRNA) or microRNA (see e.g. Chan et al. (2007) *Br J Cancer*. 96(5):681-5).

[00164] In some embodiments, the genomic nucleic acid sample is amplified by a nucleic acid amplification method. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid amplification method is polymerase chain reaction (PCR). In some embodiments, the genomic nucleic acid sample is amplified using a set of nucleotide primers specific for the BTK gene. In some embodiments, the set of nucleotide primers flank the nucleic acid sequence encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the amplification product is a nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, a sequence specific primer is conjugated to a detectable molecule, such as a fluorescent label, a bioluminescent label, a chemiluminescent label, a radiolabel, an enzyme label, a detectable substrate, or a peptide or molecule that binds to a second detectable molecule.

[00165] A variety of methods are available in the art for the detection of single point mutations in nucleic acids encoding mutant BTK polypeptides and amino acid changes in BTK polypeptides in a sample. The following methods for detection of mutations in nucleic acids and mutant polypeptides are meant to be exemplary and are not exclusive.

[00166] In some embodiments of the methods, testing the sample comprises performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, PCR amplification comprises using a pair of oligonucleotide primers that flank the region encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide and amplifying a nucleic acid sequence encoding the BTK polypeptide or portion thereof containing amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, the method comprises sequencing the amplified nucleic acid. In some embodiments, the method comprises sequencing the amplified nucleic acid using a sequence specific primer. In some embodiments, the method comprises ligating the amplified PCR fragment into a vector and then sequencing the nucleic acid encoding the BTK polypeptide or portion thereof containing amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, the method comprises sequencing the amplified nucleic acid in a vector using a vector sequence specific primer.

[00167] Exemplary sequencing methods for use in the methods provide herein are well known in the art and include, but are not limited to, dideoxy or chain termination methods, Maxam-Gilbert sequencing, massively parallel signature sequencing (or MPSS), polony sequencing, pyrosequencing, Illumina dye sequencing, SOLiD (or sequencing by ligation) sequencing, ion

semiconductor sequencing, DNA nanoball sequencing, heliscope sequencing, and single molecule real time (SMRT) sequencing.

[00168] In some embodiments of the methods, testing the sample comprises pyrosequencing. Pyrosequencing is based on sequencing by synthesis. It differs from Sanger sequencing, in that it relies on the detection of pyrophosphate release on nucleotide incorporation, rather than chain termination with dideoxynucleotides. "Sequencing by synthesis" involves taking a single strand of the DNA to be sequenced and then synthesizing its complementary strand enzymatically. The pyrosequencing method is based on detecting the activity of DNA polymerase (a DNA synthesizing enzyme) with another chemiluminescent enzyme. The method allows sequencing of a single strand of DNA by synthesizing the complementary strand along it, one base pair at a time, and detecting which base was actually added at each step. The template DNA is immobile, and solutions of A, C, G, and T nucleotides are sequentially added and removed from the reaction. Light is produced only when the nucleotide solution complements the first unpaired base of the template. The sequence of solutions which produce chemiluminescent signals allows the determination of the sequence of the template. The method is able to measure multi-allelic mutations in mixed populations and can detect mutations in a heterogeneous population of leukemic cells.

[00169] In some embodiments of the methods, testing the sample comprises contacting the nucleic acid with a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (a) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK that is modified at amino acid position 481; and (b) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type BTK having cysteine at amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, testing the sample comprises (a) contacting a sample with a mutant BTK nucleic acid sequence specific oligonucleotide probe, whereby if the mutant nucleic acid sequence is present in the sample, a probe-DNA complex is formed, and (b) detecting the probe-DNA complex. In some embodiments, the oligonucleotide probe is specific for nucleic acid encoding serine at a position corresponding to amino acid 481 of a BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the sequence specific probe is conjugated to a detectable molecule, such as a fluorescent label, a bioluminescent label, a chemiluminescent label, a radiolabel, an enzyme label, a detectable substrate, or a peptide or molecule that binds to a second detectable molecule.

[00170] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises using allele specific PCR. In some embodiments, single nucleotide changes are detectable by PCR using PCR-based cleaved amplified polymorphic sequences (CAPS) markers which create restriction sites in the mutant sequences (Michaels et al (1998) *Plant J.* 14(3):381-5) or sequence specific hairpin probes attached to detectable moieties, such as, but not limited to, a fluorophore (Mhlana and Malmberg (2001) *Methods* 25:463-471). In some embodiments, the sequence specific probe is

conjugated to a detectable molecule, such as a fluorescent label, a bioluminescent label, a chemiluminescent label, a radiolabel, an enzyme label, a detectable substrate, or a peptide or molecule that binds to a second detectable molecule. In some embodiments, the oligonucleotide probe is specific for nucleic acid encoding serine at a position corresponding to amino acid 481 of a BTK polypeptide.

[00171] In some embodiments, the DNA encoding the mutant BTK is assessed by BEAMing (beads, amplification, emulsion, magnetic) PCR sequencing method (see, e.g. Li et al. (2006) *Nat Methods*. 3(2):95-7; Li et al. (2006) *Nat Methods*. 3(7):551-9; and Diehl et al. (2008) *Nat Med*. 14(9): 985–990). BEAMing is a technique in which individual DNA molecules are attached to magnetic beads in water-in-oil emulsions and then subjected to compartmentalized PCR amplification. The mutational status of DNA bound to beads is then determined by hybridization to fluorescent allele-specific probes for mutant or wild-type BTK. Flow cytometry is then used to quantify the level of mutant DNA present in the plasma or serum (see e.g. Higgins et al. (2012) *Clin Cancer Res* 18: 3462-3469).

[00172] In some embodiments, testing the sample comprises denaturing high performance liquid chromatography (D-HPLC). D-HPLC relies upon the differential retention kinetics of heteroduplex/homoduplex DNA species within a cartridge matrix designed to separate DNA fragments according to charge density against an electrolyte gradient. (see e.g. Frueh et al (2003) *Clin Chem Lab Med*. 41(4):452-61).

[00173] In some embodiments, testing the sample comprises nanofluidics, including using NanoPro to determine the pI differences in a wild-type BTK polypeptide covalently bound to the irreversible BTK inhibitor at amino acid position cysteine 481 and mutant C481S BTK polypeptide that does not covalently bind to the irreversible BTK inhibitor. NanoPro is an instrument that can separate proteins based on small differences in isoelectric points. The covalent modification of cysteine 481 with the irreversible BTK inhibitor compared to the unconjugated mutant BTK will change its isoelectric point, which is used to detect drug binding to BTK.

[00174] In some embodiments, testing the sample comprises using a microarray. In some embodiments, the presence of DNA encoding the mutant BTK is assessed using an oligonucleotide array (see e.g. Hastia et al. (1999) *J Med Genet*. 36(10):730-6). In some embodiments, the oligonucleotide array is contained on a microchip. In some embodiments, single nucleotide changes are detectable using microchips. In some embodiments, nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein or a portion thereof that contains nucleic acid encoding the amino acid at position 481 that is not cysteine. In some embodiments, nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein or a portion thereof that contains nucleic acid encoding serine at amino acid position 481.

[00175] In some embodiments of the method, the sample for detection of a mutant BTK is a protein sample that contains a BTK polypeptide. In such examples, testing comprises detection of the mutation with an antibody specific for the mutant BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the method of detecting a mutant BTK polypeptide comprises providing a sample from a subject, wherein the sample comprises an BTK polypeptide and testing the sample for the presence of a mutant BTK polypeptide by contacting the sample with an antibody that is specific for binding to the mutant BTK polypeptide, and does not bind or binds with decreased affinity for the wild-type BTK polypeptide, wherein the presence of the mutant BTK polypeptide creates an antibody-mutant BTK polypeptide complex. In some embodiments, the method further comprises detecting the antibody-mutant BTK polypeptide complex. In some embodiments, the method further comprises detecting the antibody-mutant BTK polypeptide complex with a detection reagent.. In some embodiments, the mutant BTK specific antibody is conjugated to a detectable molecule, such as a fluorescent label, a bioluminescent label, a chemiluminescent label, a radiolabel, an enzyme label, a detectable substrate, or a peptide or molecule that binds to a second detectable protein (e.g. a secondary antibody). In some embodiments, binding of the mutant BTK specific antibody is detected by assaying for the detectable molecule. In some embodiments, binding of the mutant BTK specific antibody is detected by using a secondary (e.g. anti-IgG) antibody.

[00176] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject has a BTK-mediated disease or disorder. In some embodiments of the methods, the subject has a B-cell proliferative disorder. In some embodiments of the methods, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic large cell lymphoma, precursor B-lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis. In some embodiments, the subject has a solid tumor.

[00177] In some embodiments, the subject has a solid tumor. In some embodiments, the subject has a sarcoma, carcinoma, a neurofibromatoma or a lymphoma.

[00178] In some embodiments, the subject has a cancer of the lung, breast, colon, brain, prostate, liver, pancreas, esophagus, kidney, stomach, thyroid, bladder, uterus, cervix or ovary. In some embodiments, the subject has a metastatic cancer. In some embodiments, the subject has a cancer that is acute lymphoblastic leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia, acute promyelocytic leukemia, adenocarcinoma, adenoma, adrenal cancer, adrenocortical carcinoma, AIDS-related cancer, AIDS-related lymphoma, anal cancer, appendix cancer, astrocytoma, basal cell carcinoma, bile duct cancer, bladder cancer, bone cancer, osteosarcoma/malignant fibrous histiocytoma, brainstem glioma, brain cancer, carcinoma, cerebellar astrocytoma, cerebral astrocytoma/malignant glioma, ependymoma, medulloblastoma, supratentorial primitive neuroectodermal tumor, visual pathway or hypothalamic glioma, breast cancer, bronchial adenoma/carcinoid, Burkitt lymphoma, carcinoid tumor, carcinoma, central nervous system lymphoma, cervical cancer, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, chronic myeloproliferative disorder, colon cancer, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, desmoplastic small round cell tumor, endometrial cancer, ependymoma, epidermoid carcinoma, esophageal cancer, Ewing's sarcoma, extracranial germ cell tumor, extragonadal germ cell tumor, extrahepatic bile duct cancer, eye cancer/intraocular melanoma, eye cancer/retinoblastoma, gallbladder cancer, gallstone tumor, gastric/stomach cancer, gastrointestinal carcinoid tumor, gastrointestinal stromal tumor, giant cell tumor, glioblastoma multiforme, glioma, hairy-cell tumor, head and neck cancer, heart cancer, hepatocellular/liver cancer, Hodgkin lymphoma, hyperplasia, hyperplastic corneal nerve tumor, in situ carcinoma, hypopharyngeal cancer, intestinal ganglioneuroma, islet cell tumor, Kaposi's sarcoma, kidney/renal cell cancer, laryngeal cancer, leiomyoma tumor, lip and oral cavity cancer, liposarcoma, liver cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, small cell lung cancer, lymphomas, macroglobulinemia, malignant carcinoid, malignant fibrous histiocytoma of bone, malignant hypercalcemia, malignant melanomas, marfanoid habitus tumor, medullary carcinoma, melanoma, merkel cell carcinoma, mesothelioma, metastatic skin carcinoma, metastatic squamous neck cancer, mouth cancer, mucosal neuromas, multiple myeloma, mycosis fungoides, myelodysplastic syndrome, myeloma, myeloproliferative disorder, nasal cavity and paranasal sinus cancer, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, neck cancer, neural tissue cancer, neuroblastoma, oral cancer, oropharyngeal cancer, osteosarcoma, ovarian cancer, ovarian epithelial tumor, ovarian germ cell tumor, pancreatic cancer, parathyroid cancer, penile cancer, pharyngeal cancer, pheochromocytoma, pineal astrocytoma, pineal germinoma, pineoblastoma, pituitary adenoma, pleuropulmonary blastoma, polycythemia vera, primary brain tumor, prostate cancer, rectal cancer, renal cell tumor, reticulum cell sarcoma, retinoblastoma,

rhabdomyosarcoma, salivary gland cancer, seminoma, Sezary syndrome, skin cancer, small intestine cancer, soft tissue sarcoma, squamous cell carcinoma, squamous neck carcinoma, stomach cancer, supratentorial primitive neuroectodermal tumor, testicular cancer, throat cancer, thymoma, thyroid cancer, topical skin lesion, trophoblastic tumor, urethral cancer, uterine/endometrial cancer, uterine sarcoma, vaginal cancer, vulvar cancer, Waldenström's macroglobulinemia or Wilm's tumor.

[00179] In some embodiments, the subject has a relapsed cancer. In some embodiments, the subject has a refractory cancer. In some embodiments, the subject has a refractory cancer where the cancer is refractory to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the subject has a refractory cancer where the subject exhibits a decrease in sensitivity to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the subject has a refractory cancer where the subject exhibits a decrease in sensitivity to a particular dosage of a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the subject has a refractory cancer where the subject exhibits an increase in severity or the appearance of one or more symptoms of a cancer (i.e. disease progression). In some embodiments, the subject exhibits a decrease in the regression of a cancer. In some embodiments, the regression of a cancer ceases. In some embodiments, the subject has a relapsed or refractory hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, the subject has a relapsed or refractory B-cell malignancy.

[00180] In some embodiments the subject is suspected of having a hematologic cancer or is at high risk of having a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments the subject is suspected of having a B-cell malignancy or is at high risk of having a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments the subject is suspected of having or is at high risk of having a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma.

[00181] In some embodiments, the subject exhibits one or more symptoms of a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, the subject exhibits one or more symptoms of a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, the subject exhibits one or more symptoms of a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the subject exhibits one or more symptoms such as, but not limited to, abnormal B- cell function, abnormal B- cell size or shape, abnormal B-cell count, fatigue, fever, night sweats, frequent infection, enlarged lymph nodes, paleness, anemia, easy bleeding or bruising, loss of appetite, weight loss, bone or joint pain, headaches, and petechiae.

[00182] In some embodiments, the subject is suffering from an autoimmune disease, e.g., inflammatory bowel disease, arthritis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, osteoarthritis, Still's disease, juvenile arthritis, diabetes, myasthenia gravis, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Ord's thyroiditis, Graves' disease Sjögren's syndrome, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, Addison's disease, opsoclonus-

myoclonus syndrome, ankylosing spondylitis, antiphospholipid antibody syndrome, aplastic anemia, autoimmune hepatitis, coeliac disease, Goodpasture's syndrome, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, optic neuritis, scleroderma, primary biliary cirrhosis, Reiter's syndrome, Takayasu's arteritis, temporal arteritis, warm autoimmune hemolytic anemia, Wegener's granulomatosis, psoriasis, alopecia universalis, Behçet's disease, chronic fatigue, dysautonomia, endometriosis, interstitial cystitis, neuromyotonia, scleroderma, or vulvodynia.

[00183] In other embodiments, the subject is suffering from a heteroimmune condition or disease, e.g., graft versus host disease, transplantation, transfusion, anaphylaxis, allergy, type I hypersensitivity, allergic conjunctivitis, allergic rhinitis, or atopic dermatitis.

[00184] In some embodiments, the subject has an inflammatory disease, e.g., asthma, appendicitis, blepharitis, bronchiolitis, bronchitis, bursitis, cervicitis, cholangitis, cholecystitis, colitis, conjunctivitis, cystitis, dacryoadenitis, dermatitis, dermatomyositis, encephalitis, endocarditis, endometritis, enteritis, enterocolitis, epicondylitis, epididymitis, fasciitis, fibrositis, gastritis, gastroenteritis, hepatitis, hidradenitis suppurativa, laryngitis, mastitis, meningitis, myelitis myocarditis, myositis, nephritis, oophoritis, orchitis, osteitis, otitis, pancreatitis, parotitis, pericarditis, peritonitis, pharyngitis, pleuritis, phlebitis, pneumonitis, pneumonia, proctitis, prostatitis, pyelonephritis, rhinitis, salpingitis, sinusitis, stomatitis, synovitis, tendonitis, tonsillitis, uveitis, vaginitis, vasculitis, or vulvitis.

[00185] In further embodiments, the subject is suffering from a thromboembolic disorder, e.g., myocardial infarct, angina pectoris, reocclusion after angioplasty, restenosis after angioplasty, reocclusion after aortocoronary bypass, restenosis after aortocoronary bypass, stroke, transitory ischemia, a peripheral arterial occlusive disorder, pulmonary embolism, or deep venous thrombosis.

[00186] In some embodiments, the subject is administered or has been administered one or more therapeutic agents for treatment of a disease or condition. In some embodiments, the subject is administered or has been administered a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a disease or condition. In some embodiments, the subject is administered or has been administered one or more therapeutic agents in addition to a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a disease or condition.

[00187] In some embodiments, the subject is administered or has been administered one or more chemotherapeutic agents for treatment of cancer. In some embodiments, the subject is administered or has been administered a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer. In some embodiments, the subject is administered or has been administered one or more chemotherapeutic agents in addition to a BTK inhibitor for treatment of cancer.

[00188] In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods is from any tissue or fluid from an organism. Samples include, but are not limited, to whole blood, dissociated bone marrow, bone marrow aspirate, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, central spinal fluid, abdominal

fluid, pancreatic fluid, cerebrospinal fluid, brain fluid, ascites, pericardial fluid, urine, saliva, bronchial lavage, sweat, tears, ear flow, sputum, hydrocele fluid, semen, vaginal flow, milk, amniotic fluid, and secretions of respiratory, intestinal or genitourinary tract. In particular embodiments, the sample is a tumor biopsy sample. In particular embodiments, the sample is from a fluid or tissue that is part of, or associated with, the lymphatic system or circulatory system. In some embodiments, the sample is a blood sample that is a venous, arterial, peripheral, tissue, cord blood sample. In particular embodiments, the sample is a blood cell sample containing one or more peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs). In some embodiments, the sample contains one or more circulating tumor cells (CTCs). In some embodiments, the sample contains one or more disseminated tumor cells (DTC, e.g. in a bone marrow aspirate sample).

[00189] Methods for the isolation of nucleic acids and proteins from cells contained in tissue and fluid samples are well-known in the art. In particular embodiments, the sample obtained from the subject is isolated from cells contained in a tumor biopsy from the subject. In particular embodiments, the sample obtained from the subject is isolated from cells in a bone marrow aspirate. In particular embodiments, the sample obtained from the subject is isolated from cells contained in a serum sample. In particular embodiments, the sample obtained from the subject is isolated from cells contained in a lymph sample. In particular embodiments, the sample contains circulating tumor nucleic acid not contained in a cell.

[00190] In some embodiments, the samples are obtained from the subject by any suitable means of obtaining the sample using well-known and routine clinical methods. Procedures for obtaining fluid samples from a subject are well known. For example, procedures for drawing and processing whole blood and lymph are well-known and can be employed to obtain a sample for use in the methods provided. Typically, for collection of a blood sample, an anti-coagulation agent (e.g. EDTA, or citrate and heparin or CPD (citrate, phosphate, dextrose) or comparable substances) is added to the sample to prevent coagulation of the blood. In some examples, the blood sample is collected in a collection tube that contains an amount of EDTA to prevent coagulation of the blood sample.

[00191] In some embodiments, the sample is a tissue biopsy and is obtained, for example, by needle biopsy, CT-guided needle biopsy, aspiration biopsy, endoscopic biopsy, bronchoscopic biopsy, bronchial lavage, incisional biopsy, excisional biopsy, punch biopsy, shave biopsy, skin biopsy, bone marrow biopsy, and the Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP).

Typically, a non-necrotic, sterile biopsy or specimen is obtained that is greater than 100 mg, but which can be smaller, such as less than 100 mg, 50 mg or less, 10 mg or less or 5 mg or less; or larger, such as more than 100 mg, 200 mg or more, or 500 mg or more, 1 gm or more, 2 gm or more, 3 gm or more, 4 gm or more or 5 gm or more. The sample size to be extracted for the

assay depends on a number of factors including, but not limited to, the number of assays to be performed, the health of the tissue sample, the type of cancer, and the condition of the patient. In some embodiments, the tissue is placed in a sterile vessel, such as a sterile tube or culture plate, and is optionally immersed in an appropriate media. Typically, the cells are dissociated into cell suspensions by mechanical means and/or enzymatic treatment as is well known in the art. Typically, the cells are collected and then subjected to standard procedures for the isolation of nucleic acid for the assay.

[00192] In some embodiments, the collection of a sample from the subject is performed at regular intervals, such as, for example, one day, two days, three days, four days, five days, six days, one week, two weeks, weeks, four weeks, one month, two months, three months, four months, five months, six months, one year, daily, weekly, bimonthly, quarterly, biyearly or yearly.

[00193] In some embodiments, the collection of a sample is performed at a predetermined time or at regular intervals relative to treatment with one or more anti-cancer agents. In some embodiments, anticancer agent is administered for the treatment of a leukemia, lymphoma or a myeloma. Exemplary anti-cancer agents for the treatment of a leukemia, lymphoma or a myeloma include but are not limited to adriamycin (doxorubicin), bexxar, bendamustine, bleomycin, blenoxane, bortezomib, dacarbazine, deltasone, cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, cytoxan, DTIC dacarbazine, dasatinib, doxorubicin, etoposide, fludarabine, granisetron, kytril, lenalidomide, matulane, mechlorethamine, mustargen, mustine, natulan, Rituxan (rituximab, anti-CD20 antibody), VCR, neosar, nitrogen mustard, oncovin, ondansetron, orasone, prednisone, procarbazine, thalidomide, VP-16, velban, velbe, velsar, VePesid, vinblastine, vincristine, Zevalin®, zofran, stem cell transplantation, radiation therapy or combination therapies, such as, for example, ABVD (adriamycin, bleomycin, vinblastine and dacarbazine), ChlvPP (chlorambucil, vinblastine, procarbazine and prednisolone), Stanford V (mustine, doxorubicin, vinblastine, vincristine, bleomycin, etoposide and steroids), BEACOPP (bleomycin, etoposide, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, procarbazine and prednisolone), BEAM (carmustine (BiCNU) etoposide, cytarabine (Ara-C, cytosine arabinoside), and melphalan), CHOP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone), R-CHOP (rituximab, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and prednisone), EPOCH (etoposide, vincristine, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, and prednisone), CVP (cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and prednisone), ICE (ifosfamide-carboplatin-etoposide), R-ACVBP (rituximab, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vindesine, bleomycin, and prednisone), DHAP (dexamethasone, high-dose cytarabine, (Ara C), cisplatin), R-DHAP(rituximab, dexamethasone, high-dose cytarabine, (Ara C), cisplatin), ESHAP (etoposide (VP-16), methyl-prednisolone, and high-dose cytarabine (Ara-C), cisplatin), CDE (cyclophosphamide,

doxorubicin and etoposide), Velcade® (bortezomib) plus Doxil® (liposomal doxorubicin), Revlimid® (lenalidomide) plus dexamethasone, and bortezomib plus dexamethasone. In some embodiments, anticancer agent is fludarabine. In some embodiments, anticancer agent is bendamustine. In some embodiments, the anticancer agent is Rituxan. In some embodiments, the anticancer agent is dasatinib. In some embodiments, a sample is collected at a predetermined time or at regular intervals prior to, during, or following treatment or between successive treatments with the anti-cancer agent. In particular examples, a sample is obtained from the subject prior to administration of an anti-cancer therapy and then again at regular intervals after treatment has been effected.

[00194] In some embodiments, the collection of a sample is performed at a predetermined time or at regular intervals relative to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. For example, a sample is collected at a predetermined time or at regular intervals prior to, during, or following treatment or between successive treatments. In particular examples, a sample is obtained from the subject prior to administration of a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor and then again at regular intervals after treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor has been effected. In some embodiments, the subject is administered a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor and one or more additional anti-cancer agents. In some embodiments, the subject is administered a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor and one or more additional anti-cancer agents that are not irreversible BTK inhibitors. In some embodiments, the subject is administered one or more irreversible BTK inhibitors. In some embodiments, the subject is administered one or more irreversible BTK inhibitors that covalently bind to cysteine 481 of the wild-type BTK. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[00195] Additional BTK inhibitors for use in any of the methods provided herein can be found, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 7,547,689, 7,960,396 and U.S. Patent Publication Nos. US 2009-0197853 A1 and US 2012-0065201 A1, all of which are incorporated by reference in their entirety. Additional BTK inhibitors for use in any of the methods provided herein also can be found, for example, in US20100029610, WO09051822, WO10123870, WO09158571, WO11034907, WO12021444, WO11029046, WO08110624, WO10080481, WO10144647, WO10056875, WO05047290, WO06053121, WO06099075, WO08033834, WO08033857, WO08033858, WO09137596, WO10056875, WO10068788, WO10068806, WO10068810, WO11140488, WO12030990, WO12031004, WO2010056875, WO05066156, WO10056875, US20120316148, WO09048307, WO09147190, WO11162515, WO11162515, WO06036941, WO10126960, WO07136790, WO12025186, WO2013010380, WO2013010868, WO2013010869, WO2013008095, WO11152351, WO2013060098, WO2013060098,

WO07002325, WO07002433, WO07013896, WO09143024, WO10065898, WO2012158764, WO2012158785, WO2012158795, WO2012158810, WO09053269, WO09156284, WO2012020008, WO2012156334, WO2013024078, WO08057252, WO03081210, WO03087051, US20130059847A1, WO06065946, WO07027594, and WO08092199 all of which are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

[00196] In some embodiments, the subject is administered a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that covalently binds to cysteine 481 of the wild-type BTK in combination with one or more reversible BTK inhibitors. For example, in some embodiments, the subject is administered a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that covalently binds to cysteine 481 of the wild-type BTK in combination with one or more reversible BTK inhibitors that are not dependent on cysteine 481 for binding. Reversible BTK inhibitors are known in the art and include, but are not limited to, dasatinib, PC-005, RN486, PCI-29732 or terreic acid. In a particular embodiment, the irreversible BTK inhibitor ibrutinib is administered in combination with the reversible BTK inhibitor dasatinib.

[00197] In some embodiments, the sample is obtained at 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22 months, 24 months, 26 months, 28 months, 30 months, 32 months, 34 months, 36 months or longer following the first administration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained at 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22 months, 24 months, 26 months, 28 months, 30 months, 32 months, 34 months, 36 months or longer following the first administration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor to a subject naïve for exposure to the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained at 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22 months, 24 months, 26 months, 28 months, 30 months, 32 months, 34 months, 36 months or longer following the first administration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor to a subject having a relapsed or refractory cancer. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 times or more over the course of treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the subject is responsive to the treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor when it is first administered.

Maintenance Therapy

[00198] Provided herein are methods for maintenance therapy of subject having a B-cell proliferative disorder. In some embodiments, B-cell proliferative disorder is cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, the methods for

maintenance therapy comprise treating a hematologic cancer with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for an initial treatment period, followed by a maintenance therapy regimen. In some embodiments, the methods for maintenance therapy comprise treating a hematologic cancer with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for a period of six months or longer, such as, for example, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 13 months, 14 months, 15 months, 16 months, 17 months, 18 months, 19 months, 20 months, 21 months, 22 months, 23 months, 24 months, 25 months, 26 months, 27 months, 28 months, 29 months, 30 months, 31 months, 32 months, 33 months, 34 months, 35 months, 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, 6 years, 7 years, 8 years, 9 years, 10 years or longer. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor covalently binds to cysteine 481 of the wild-type BTK. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[00199] In an exemplary method, a subject having a hematologic cancer is treated with an therapeutic effective amount of a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor and the subject is monitored at predetermined intervals of time to determine whether the subject acquires mutation in an endogenous gene encoding BTK that results in a modification at cysteine 481 of BTK. In some embodiments monitoring comprises testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the modification is C481S. In some embodiments, the sample contains one or more cancer cells or ctDNA. In some embodiments, a sample containing one or more cancer cells or ctDNA is obtained from the subject prior to treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor or early in treatment (e.g. after about 1 week to about 2 months) with the irreversible BTK inhibitor to determine whether the subject expresses a wildtype BTK prior to or early in treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor.

[00200] In some embodiments, provided is method of maintenance therapy in a patient having a hematologic cancer, comprising (a) administering to the patient a maintenance therapy regimen comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor; and (b) monitoring the patient at predetermined intervals of time over the course of the maintenance therapy regimen to determine whether the subject has mutation in an endogenous gene encoding BTK that results in a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments monitoring comprises testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK

polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the modification is C481S. In some embodiments, the sample contains one or more cancer cells or ctDNA. In some embodiments, a sample containing one or more cancer cells or ctDNA is obtained from the subject prior to treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor or early in treatment (e.g. after about 1 week to about 2 months) with the irreversible BTK inhibitor to determine whether the subject expresses a wildtype BTK.

[00201] In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification.

[00202] In some embodiments, the mutation is a missense mutation in the codon that encodes for cysteine 481 of BTK. In some embodiments, the mutation is a missense mutation results in the substitution of cysteine for another amino acid at amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, the mutation is a missense mutation results in the substitution of cysteine for serine at amino acid position 481. In some embodiments, the mutation is a missense mutation of guanine-1635 to cytosine-1635 resulting the substitution of the Cysteine-481 codon, TGC, to TCC (Serine). In some embodiments, the mutation is a missense mutation of thymine (t)-1634 to adenine (a)-1634 resulting the substitution of the Cysteine-481 codon, TGC, to AGC (Serine).

[00203] In some embodiments, the subject is monitored every month, every 2 months, every 3 months, every 4 months, every 5 months, every 6 months, every 7 months, every 8 months, every 9 months, every 10 months, every 11 months, or every year to determine whether the subject acquires mutation in an endogenous gene encoding BTK that results in a modification at cysteine 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

[00204] In some embodiments, hematologic cancer is a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma,

follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic large cell lymphoma, precursor B-lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis. In some embodiments, the subject has a solid tumor. In some embodiments, the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

[00205] In some embodiments, maintenance therapy comprises multiple cycles of administration. In some embodiments, a cycle of administration is one month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 6 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months or longer. In some embodiments, a cycle of administration comprises administration of a single therapeutic dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor over the cycle. In some embodiments, a cycle of administration comprises two or more different dosages of the irreversible BTK inhibitor over the cycle. In some embodiments, the dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor differs over consecutive cycles. In some embodiments, the dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor increases over consecutive cycles. In some embodiments, the dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor is the same over consecutive cycles.

[00206] In some embodiments, maintenance therapy comprises administration of a daily dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the daily dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor administered is at or about 10 mg per day to about 2000 mg per day, such as for example, about 50 mg per day to about 1500 mg per day, such as for example about 100 mg per day to about 1000 mg per day, such as for example about 250 mg per day to about 850 mg per day, such as for example about 300 mg per day to about 600 mg per day. In a particular embodiment, the maintenance dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor is about 840 mg per day. In a particular embodiment, where the irreversible inhibitor is ibrutinib, the maintenance dosage is about 840 mg ibrutinib per day. In a particular embodiment, the maintenance dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor is about 560 mg per day. In a particular embodiment, where the irreversible inhibitor is ibrutinib, the maintenance dosage is about 560 mg ibrutinib per day. In a particular embodiment, the maintenance dosage is about 420 mg per day. In a particular embodiment, where the irreversible inhibitor is ibrutinib, the maintenance dosage is about 420 mg ibrutinib per day. In a particular embodiment, the maintenance dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor is about 140 mg per day. In a particular embodiment, where the irreversible inhibitor is ibrutinib, the maintenance dosage is about 140 mg ibrutinib per day.

[00207] In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor is administered once per day, two times per day, three times per day or more frequent. In a particular embodiment, the irreversible

BTK inhibitor is administered once per day. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib is administered once per day, two times per day, three times per day or more frequent. In a particular embodiment, the irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib is administered once per day.

[00208] In some embodiments, the dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor is escalated over time. In some embodiments, the dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib is escalated over time. In some embodiments, the dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor is escalated from at or about 1.25 mg/kg/day to at or about 12.5 mg/kg/day over a predetermined period of time. In some embodiments, the dosage of the irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib is escalated from at or about 1.25 mg/kg/day to at or about 12.5 mg/kg/day over a predetermined period of time. In some embodiments the predetermined period of time is over 1 month, over 2 months, over 3 months, over 4 months, over 5 months, over 6 months, over 7 months, over 8 months, over 9 months, over 10 months, over 11 months, over 12 months, over 18 months, over 24 months or longer.

[00209] In some embodiments, a cycle of administration comprises administration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor in combination with an additional therapeutic agent. In some embodiments the additional therapeutic is administered simultaneously, sequentially, or intermittently with the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments the additional therapeutic agent is an anti-cancer agent. In some embodiments the additional therapeutic agent is an anti-cancer agent for the treatment of a leukemia, lymphoma or a myeloma. Exemplary anti-cancer agents for administration in a combination with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor are provided elsewhere herein. In a particular embodiment, the anti-cancer agent is an anti-CD 20 antibody (e.g. Rituxan). In a particular embodiment, the anti-cancer agent bendamustine. In some embodiments, the additional anti-cancer agent is a reversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the additional anti-cancer agent is a reversible BTK inhibitor that does not depend on cysteine 481 for binding to BTK. In some embodiments, the additional anti-cancer agent is dasatinib.

[00210] In some embodiments, provided is a method for monitoring whether a subject receiving maintenance therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a hematologic cancer has developed or is likely to develop resistance to the therapy, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or is likely to become resistant to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, step (a) is performed *ex vivo*. In some embodiments, the method further

comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments of the method, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, hematologic cancer is a B-cell malignancy. Exemplary B-cell malignancies are provided herein. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the method further comprises obtaining the sample from the subject.

[00211] In some embodiments, provided is a method for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving maintenance therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a hematologic cancer, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (b) discontinuing treatment with the covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second-generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481 if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, step (a) is performed *ex vivo*. In some embodiments, hematologic cancer is a B-cell malignancy. Exemplary B-cell malignancies are provided herein. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject.

Identification of Molecules that Interact with Mutant BTK

[00212] Provided herein are methods of using the mutant BTK polypeptides for screening of agents that interact with the mutant BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the agents that

interact with the mutant BTK polypeptide also inhibit the mutant BTK. Accordingly, provided herein are methods of using the mutant BTK polypeptides for screening of agents that inhibit the mutant BTK (i.e. second-generation BTK inhibitors). In some embodiments, the methods are employed for the identification of second-generation BTK inhibitors for the treatment of a B-cell cancer. In some embodiments, the methods are employed for the identification of second-generation BTK inhibitors for the treatment of resistant cancers, such as a B-cell cancer resistant to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, such as, for example, ibrutinib. In some embodiments, a second-generation BTK inhibitor identified using the methods provided also inhibits a wild-type BTK polypeptide. Accordingly, in some embodiments, a second-generation BTK inhibitor identified using the methods provided inhibits a mutant BTK polypeptide and a wild-type BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the second-generation BTK inhibitor does not inhibit the activity of a wild-type BTK polypeptide.

[00213] In some embodiments, a method for identifying second-generation BTK inhibitors comprises (a) providing a modified BTK, wherein the modified BTK is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; (b) contacting the modified BTK with a test compound; and (c) detecting the level of BTK activity, wherein a decrease in activity indicates that the compound inhibits the modified BTK. In some embodiments the cell is contacted with the test compound for about 1 hour, 2, hours, 3 hours, 4 hours, 5 hours, 6 hours, 8 hours, 10 hours, 12 hours, 14 hours, 16 hours, 18 hours, 20 hours, 22 hours, 24 hours or longer prior to detecting the level of BTK activity.

[00214] In some embodiments, the modification in BTK is a substitution or deletion of the amino acid at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, glycine, methionine, serine, threonine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, proline, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among serine, methionine and threonine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. Accordingly, in some embodiments, a second-generation BTK inhibitor identified using the methods provided inhibits a mutant BTK polypeptide having a modification at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, a second-generation BTK inhibitor identified using the methods provided inhibits a mutant BTK polypeptide having a serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, a second-

generation BTK inhibitor identified using the methods provided also inhibits a wild-type BTK polypeptide.

[00215] In some embodiments, detecting the level of BTK activity is assessed by an *in vitro* kinase assay. In some embodiments, the substrate used in the kinase assay is PLC γ . In some embodiments, the substrate used in the kinase assay is a peptide substrate. In some embodiments, where the modified BTK is resistant to inhibition with a particular irreversible inhibitor, such as ibrutinib, the inhibitor is employed as a control for comparison. In some embodiments, a wild-type BTK polypeptide is employed for comparison.

[00216] In some embodiments, detecting the level of BTK activity is assessed by measuring the level of phosphorylation of direct substrates of BTK or phosphorylated targets in the BTK kinase cascade within a cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a B lymphocyte, a monocytes, or a macrophage. In some embodiments, the cell is a cancer cell line, such as a lymphoma, leukemia, or myeloma cell line. In some embodiments, the cell line is a MCL, DBCL or a follicular lymphoma cell line. In some embodiments, the cell line is a BTK knockout B lymphoma cell line, such as the DT40 BTK knockout cell line. In some embodiments, phosphor-specific antibodies are used to detect the level of phosphorylation of particular BTK targets, such as PLC γ , ERK1/2 (MAPK), and AKT. in the cell in the presence or absence of the test compound. In some embodiments, the cells are first stimulated to activate BCR signaling pathway prior to, during or following exposure to the test compound. In some embodiments, the cells are first stimulated with anti-IgM or anti-IgG to activate BCR signaling pathway prior to, during or following exposure to the test compound. Methods to detect phosphorylated proteins are known in the art and include, for example, Western blotting or immunohistochemistry.

[00217] In some embodiments, the modified BTK polypeptide is purified from a host cell expressing the modified BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modified BTK polypeptide is a recombinant protein. In some embodiments, the purified BTK is used for testing the level of BTK activity. In some embodiments, the modified BTK polypeptide is purified by immunoaffinity or chromatography.

[00218] In some embodiments, a host cell line that can be transfected with nucleic acid encoding the modified BTK polypeptide and in which BTK activity can be monitored is used in the method. In some embodiments, the host cell does not express wild-type BTK. In some embodiments, the host cell is deficient for the expression of endogenous wild-type BTK. In some embodiments, the host cell expressing the modified BTK polypeptide stably expresses the modified BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding the modified BTK polypeptide is integrated into the genome of the cell.

[00219] In some embodiments, the host cell is a chicken DT40 BTK $-/-$ B cell or human BTK $-/-$ B cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a non B-cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a

mammalian non-B-cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a CHO cell or a Jurkat T cell. In some embodiments, the cell is a non-mammalian cell. In some embodiments, the cell is an insect cell, a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, or a plant cell.

[00220] In some embodiments, the level of BTK activity is assessed using a cell line that is resistant to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the cell line is a resistant MCL (e.g. Mino or Jeko), DLBCL (e.g. OCI-Ly1, OCI-Ly2, OCI-Ly3, OCI-Ly4, OCI-Ly6, OCI-Ly7, OCI-Ly10, OCI-Ly18, OCI-Ly19, U2932, HBL-1, RIVA, or TMD8) or follicular lymphoma (e.g. DoHH2, Granta 519 or HF-1) cell line that has been selected for resistance by long term exposure with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, selection is performed *in vitro*. In some embodiments, selection is performed *in vivo*, in an animal model that has been administered the cancer cells. In some embodiments, the resistant MCL or DLBCL cell line contains a modification of BTK at amino acid position C481. In some embodiments, the modification is C481S.

[00221] Cellular functional assays for BTK inhibition include measuring one or more cellular endpoints in response to stimulating a BTK-mediated pathway in a cell line (e.g., BCR activation in Ramos cells) in the absence or presence of a range of concentrations of a candidate BTK inhibitor compound. Useful endpoints for determining a response to BCR activation include, e.g., autophosphorylation of BTK, phosphorylation of a BTK target protein (e.g., PLC- γ), and cytoplasmic calcium flux.

[00222] In some embodiments, a downstream transcription target assay is employed to determine BTK activity in the presence or absence of the test compounds. In some embodiments, the downstream transcription target assay is an NF- κ B based assay. In some example, a gene encoding a reporter protein is operably linked to an NF- κ B responsive promoter that is sensitive to BCR pathway signaling and is inhibited when BTK is inhibited. In some embodiments, the reporter gene encodes a protein selected from among a luciferase, a fluorescent protein, a bioluminescent protein, or an enzyme. In some embodiments, the assay comprises a host cell that contains the reporter and the mutant BTK. Detection of the level of gene expression in the presence or absence of the test compound indicates whether the test compound inhibits the BCR pathway in the presence of the mutant BTK. In some embodiments, the test compound inhibits the mutant BTK directly.

[00223] High throughput assays for many acellular biochemical assays (e.g., kinase assays) and cellular functional assays (e.g., calcium flux) are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. In addition, high throughput screening systems are commercially available (see, e.g., Zymark Corp., Hopkinton, MA; Air Technical Industries, Mentor, OH; Beckman Instruments, Inc. Fullerton, CA; Precision Systems, Inc., Natick, MA, etc.). These systems typically automate

entire procedures including sample and reagent pipetting, liquid dispensing, timed incubations, and final readings of the microplate in detector(s) appropriate for the assay. Automated systems thereby allow the identification and characterization of a large number of BTK inhibitor compounds without undue effort.

[00224] In some embodiments, detecting the level of BTK activity is assessed by an *in vivo* assay. In some embodiments, detecting the level of BTK activity is assessed in animal model. In some embodiments the animal model is one that is a mouse model of leukemia. Such animal model are known in the art and include, for example, mouse models, of AML and CLL (see, e.g., Zuber, (2009) *Genes and Development* 23(7):877-89 and Pekarsky et al. (2007) *J Cell Biochem.* 100(5):1109-18. In some embodiments the animal model is a transgenic animal that expresses a modified BTK that is modified at Cys 481. In some embodiments, a test compound is administered to a transgenic animal that expresses a modified BTK that is modified at Cys 481 and the activity of BTK is assessed by one or more assays described herein. In some embodiments, the assay is a kinase assay performed with the mutant BTK polypeptide isolated from the transgenic animal administered the test compound and compared to a control. In some embodiments, the level of phosphorylation of one or more BTK targets is assessed in a B-cell sample from the from the transgenic animal administered the test compound and compared to a control. In some embodiments, the control is a sample from an animal not administered the test compound. In some embodiments, the control is a sample from an animal administered a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor.

Kits and Articles of Manufacture

[00225] For use in the diagnostic and therapeutic applications described herein, kits and articles of manufacture are also described herein. Such kits can comprise a carrier, package, or container that is compartmentalized to receive one or more containers such as vials, tubes, and the like, each of the container(s) comprising one of the separate elements to be used in a method described herein. Suitable containers include, for example, bottles, vials, syringes, and test tubes. The containers are formed from any acceptable material including, e.g., glass or plastic.

[00226] In some embodiments, the kits provided herein are for use in detecting nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK polypeptide in a subject or for detecting a modified BTK polypeptide in a subject. In some embodiments, the kits provided herein are for use as a companion diagnostic with one or more covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitors. In some embodiments the kits are employed for selecting patients for treatment with a second-generation BTK antagonist, for identifying subjects as resistant or likely to become resistant to a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, for monitoring the development of resistance to a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor, or combinations thereof. The kits provided herein contain one or more reagents for the detection of the nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK polypeptide, for

the detection of modified BTK polypeptides, for detection of BTK activity in cells from the subject, for detection of BTK activity *in vitro* or *in vivo* or combinations thereof. Exemplary reagents include but are not limited to, oligonucleotide, PCR reagents, buffers, antibodies, BTK substrates for determining kinase activity, substrates for enzymatic staining, chromagens or other materials, such as slides, containers, microtiter plates, and optionally, instructions for performing the methods. Those of skill in the art will recognize many other possible containers and plates and reagents that can be used for contacting the various materials. Kits also can contain control samples, such as for example, nucleic acids or proteins, such as for example a mutant BTK polypeptide provided herein or nucleic acids encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein. In some embodiments, kits contain one or more set of oligonucleotide primers for detection of mutant BTK expression.

[00227] In some embodiments, the container(s) can comprise one or more covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitors or one or more second-generation BTK inhibitors identified by the methods described herein, optionally in a composition or in combination with another agent as disclosed herein. The container(s) optionally have materials, such as syringes, needles, dosing cups or vials, for administration. Such kits optionally comprise a compound with an identifying description or label or instructions relating to its use in the methods described herein.

[00228] In some embodiment, a kit comprises a modified BTK polypeptide or a variant thereof having BTK activity comprising a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide. In some embodiments, a kit comprises a the isolated nucleic acid of any encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein or a vector comprising such nucleic acid. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

[00229] In some embodiment, a kit comprises a microchip comprising the modified BTK polypeptide provided herein or the nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK polypeptide provided herein. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

Production of Cell Lines Resistant to Treatment with a Covalent and/or Irreversible BTK Inhibitor

[00230] Provided herein are methods for producing B-cell cancer cell lines resistant to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the B-cell cancer cell lines are resistant to treatment with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that covalently binds to cysteine 481 of the wild-type BTK. In some embodiments, the B-cell cancer cell lines are resistant to treatment with ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291,

AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the B-cell cancer cell lines are resistant to treatment with ibrutinib. In some embodiments, the resistant cell lines generated by the method provided express a modified BTK protein. In some embodiments, the BTK protein is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

[00231] In some embodiments, the method comprises contacting a B-cell cancer cell line (i.e. parental cell line) with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor and culturing the cells for a predetermined period of time. In some embodiments, the method comprises culturing the cells in increasing concentrations of the irreversible BTK inhibitor for a predetermined period of time. In some embodiments, the concentration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor ranges from about 0.01 μM to about 100 μM , such as, for example, 0.1 μM to about 10 μM . In some embodiments, the cells are cultured at about 0.05 μM , 0.1 μM , 0.5 μM and 1 μM of the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the concentration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor is increased 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more times. In some embodiments, the concentration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor is increased 3 times. In some embodiments, the cells are cultured in the presence of the irreversible BTK inhibitor 1 day, 2 days, 3, days, 4 days, 5 days, 6 days, 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 4 weeks, 1 month, 1.5 months, 2 months, 2.5 months, 3 months or more. In some embodiments, the cells are divided and re-plated every 2 days, every 3 days, every 4 days, every 5 days, every 6 days, every week or longer. In some embodiments, the culture media containing the irreversible BTK inhibitor is refreshed every day, every 2 days, every 3 days, every 4 days, every 5 days, every 6 days, every week or longer. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor covalently binds to Cys 481 of a wild-type BTK. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the irreversible BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[00232] In some examples, the parental B-cell cancer cell line is a leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma cell line. In some examples, the parental B-cell cancer cell line is an DLBCL cell line. Exemplary DLBCL cell lines include ABC-DLBCL cell lines including, but not limited to, OCI-LY10, OCI-Ly3, U2932, RIVA, HBL-1, or TMD8 cell lines, and GCB-DLBCL cell lines, including, but not limited to, OCI-Ly19 or OCI-Ly7. In some examples, the parental B-cell cancer cell line is an MCL cell line. Exemplary MCL cell lines include, but are not limited to, Mino and Jeko cell lines. In some examples, the parental B-cell cancer cell line is an follicular lymphoma cell line. Exemplary follicular lymphoma cell lines include, but are not limited to, DoHH2 , Granta 519 and HF-1 cell lines.

[00233] In some embodiments, the resistant cell line is identified by an increase in B-cell receptor pathway activation. In some embodiments, an increase in B-cell receptor pathway

activation is identified by testing whether downstream targets in the treated cell line exhibit increased phosphorylation in the presence of ibrutinib compared to the parental cell line in the presence of ibrutinib. In some examples, the phosphorylated downstream target is a phosphorylated RAF or a phosphorylated MEK. In some embodiments, the resistant cell line is resistant to treatment with ibrutinib alone, but is sensitive to treatment with a MEK inhibitor with ibrutinib.

Non-BTK Mutations in Ibrutinib Resistant Patients - Detection, Compositions, and Uses

Thereof

[00234] As described herein, in certain instances, mutations in proteins other than BTK lead to resistance of a patient to treatment with a BTK inhibitor, such as, for example, a covalent and/or irreversible inhibitor. In some embodiments, the mutation is in a downstream effector protein in the BTK pathway. In some embodiments, the mutation is a gain of function mutation. In some embodiments, the mutation results in constitutive activation of a downstream effector protein in the BTK pathway.

[00235] PLC γ 2

[00236] In some embodiments, the downstream effector protein is Phospholipase C gamma 2 (PLC γ 2). PLC cleaves the phospholipid phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP2) into diacylglycerol (DAG) and inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP3). DAG remains bound to the membrane, and IP3 is released as a soluble structure into the cytosol. IP3 then diffuses through the cytosol to bind to IP3 receptors, particular calcium channels in the smooth endoplasmic reticulum (ER). This causes the cytosolic concentration of calcium to increase, causing a cascade of intracellular changes and activity. In addition, calcium and DAG together work to activate protein kinase C, which goes on to phosphorylate other molecules BTK kinase pathway, leading to altered cellular activity. In some embodiments, the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide are constitutively active (i.e. does not require phosphorylation by BTK).

[00237] In some embodiments, a mutation in PLC γ 2 results in resistance of a patient to treatment with a BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the mutation is a gain of function mutation in PLC γ 2. In some embodiments, the mutation results in constitutive activation of PLC γ 2. In some embodiments, constitutive activation of PLC γ 2 results in mobilization of intracellular calcium, activation of extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) and c-Jun NH2-terminal kinase (JNK) mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathways. In some embodiments, the mutation in PLC γ 2 results in amino acid substitution in the amino acid corresponding position R665 in PLC γ 2. In some embodiments, the mutation the mutation in PLC γ 2 results in a substitution of arginine for tryptophan (R665W). In some embodiments, the mutation in PLC γ 2 results in amino acid substitution in the amino acid corresponding position

S707 in PLC γ 2. In some embodiments, the mutation the mutation in PLC γ 2 results in a substitution of serine for phenylalanine (S707F).

[00238] Any of the methods provided herein for the detection of a modified BTK polypeptide also can be applied to the detection of a PLC γ 2 polypeptide. For example, mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides can be detected by PCR methods using mutant specific nucleic acids for detection of somatic mutation in the genome or PLC γ 2 mutant specific antibodies for detection of mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides.

[00239] In some embodiments, a nucleic acid encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide is provided. In some embodiments, a nucleic acid vector encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide is provided. In some embodiments the vector is a viral vector. In some embodiments, a host cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide is provided. In some embodiments, a host cell comprising an expressed PLC γ 2 polypeptide is provided.

[00240] Any of the methods provided herein and known in the art for the production of modified BTK polypeptides and nucleic acids provided herein, including the use of nucleic acid expression vectors and host cells, also can be applied to the production of mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides and nucleic acids provide herein.

[00241] Provided herein are mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides. In some embodiments, the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides are recombinant proteins. In some embodiments, the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides are purified from a host cell.

[00242] In some embodiments, the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a BTK inhibitor.

[00243] Provided herein is an isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide or a variant thereof having PLC γ 2 activity comprising a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11.

[00244] In some embodiments, the modification comprises a substitution or a deletion of the amino acid at amino acid position 665 or 707 compared to a wild type PLC γ 2 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11. In some embodiments, the modification comprises substitution of the amino acid at position 665 or 707 compared to a wild type PLC γ 2 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of arginine at position 665 to an amino acid selected from among leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, glycine, methionine, cysteine, threonine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, lysine, serine, histidine, proline, tyrosine, asparagine,

glutamine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid at amino acid position 665 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of arginine to tryptophan at amino acid position 665 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the substitution is R665W. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of arginine at position 707 to an amino acid selected from among leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, glycine, methionine, cysteine, threonine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, proline, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid at amino acid position 707 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a substitution of serine to phenylalanine at amino acid position 707 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the substitution is S707W.

[00245] In some embodiments, the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprises a substitution of the amino acid at position 665 or 707 compared to a wild type PLC γ 2 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11 and one or more additional amino acid substitutions. In some embodiments, the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprises a modification at amino acid position 665 or 707 and a modification at one or more additional amino acid positions. In some embodiments, the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprises a modification at amino acid position 665 or 707 and a modification at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or more amino acid positions. In some embodiments, the modification at amino acid position 665 is a substitution that is R665W. In some embodiments, the modification at amino acid position 707 is a substitution that is S707F.

[00246] In some embodiments, a PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 665 or 707 of the wild-type PLC γ 2 polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11 linked to a peptide tag. In some embodiments, the peptide tag is an epitope tag recognized by a tag-specific antibody. In some embodiments the tag is an epitope tag, such as, but not limited to a c-myc, V-5, hemagglutinin (HA), FLAG, tag. In some embodiments the tag is an affinity tag, such as, but not limited to, biotin, strep-tag, chitin binding protein (CBP), maltose binding protein (MBP), glutathione-S-transferase (GST), or a poly(His) tag. In some embodiments, a PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 665 or 707 of the wild-type PLC γ 2 polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11 linked to a detectable protein or moiety, such as a luminescent, chemiluminescent, bioluminescent, or fluorescent protein or moiety. In some embodiments, the fluorescent protein is a green (GFP), red (RFP), cyan (CFP), yellow (YFP), or blue (BFP) fluorescent protein. In some embodiments, a PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 665 or 707 of the wild-type PLC γ 2 polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11 linked to an enzyme for example, a luciferase or a beta-galactosidase.

[00247] Provided herein are nucleic acids encoding mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides. Provided herein are nucleic acids encoding any of the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides described herein. Methods for deducing nucleic acids that encode particular polypeptides are known in the art and

involve standard molecular biology techniques. Exemplary nucleic acids encoding mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides provided herein are provided. It is understood that due to the degeneracy of the genetic code multiple variants nucleic acids exist that encode the same polypeptide. Nucleic acids that encode the mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptides provided herein encompass such variants.

[00248] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding a modified PLC γ 2 polypeptide provided herein is a DNA or an RNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprises a modification where the encoded polypeptide comprises a substitution of the amino acid arginine at the position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the wild-type PLC γ 2 polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 12, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 665 is modified, whereby the codon does not encode arginine, or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 12, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 665 does not encode arginine or the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 707 does not encode serine.

[00249] In some embodiments the nucleic acid modification is a missense mutation or a deletion of one or more codons that encode the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a missense mutation that changes the nucleic acid codon that encodes arginine at amino position 665 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the modification is a missense mutation that changes the nucleic acid codon that encodes serine at amino position 707 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide.

[00250] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid codon that encodes Arginine at amino position 665 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide is CGT, CGC, CGA, CGG, AGA or AGG. In some embodiments, the modification changes the nucleic acid codon that encodes Arginine at amino position 665 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide to a nucleic acid codon that encodes Tryptophan. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid codon that encodes Tryptophan is TGG.

[00251] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid codon that encodes serine at amino position 707 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide is TCT, TCC, TCA, TCG, AGT, or AGC. In some embodiments, the modification changes the nucleic acid codon that encodes serine at amino position 707 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide to a nucleic acid codon that encodes Phenylalanine. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid codon that encodes Phenylalanine is TTT or TTC.

[00252] In some embodiments, methods are provided for determining whether a subject is or likely to become less responsive to therapy with a BTK inhibitor, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position

corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a R665W or S707F substitution in PLC γ 2. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[00253] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for monitoring whether a subject receiving a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer has developed or is likely to develop resistance to the therapy, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or is likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a R665W or S707F substitution in PLC γ 2. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[00254] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving an irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11; and (b) discontinuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a R665W or S707F substitution in PLC γ 2. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[00255] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is RNA or DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule is a cDNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is genomic DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is total RNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is mRNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the method further comprises isolating mRNA from the RNA sample.

[00256] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 665 or 707 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, PCR amplification comprises using a pair of oligonucleotide primers that flank the region encoding amino acid position 665 or 707 of the PLC γ 2 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the method comprises sequencing the amplified nucleic acid.

[00257] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises contacting the nucleic acid with a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (a) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified PLC γ 2 that is modified at amino acid position 665; and (b) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type PLC γ 2 having Arginine at amino acid position 665 or 707. In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises PCR amplification using the sequence specific nucleic acid probe.

[00258] In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains one or more tumor cells from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA).

[00259] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid used in the method is isolated from a tumor cell sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample is a tumor biopsy sample, a blood sample, a serum sample, a lymph sample, or a bone marrow aspirate.

[00260] In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib (PCI-32765), PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the PLC γ 2 inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[00261] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic large cell lymphoma, precursor B-

lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis. In some embodiments, the subject has a solid tumor.

[00262] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject is treated with the BTK inhibitor prior to obtaining the sample. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained at 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22 months, or 24 months following the first administration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 times over the course of treatment with the BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the subject is responsive the treatment with the BTK inhibitor when it is first administered.

[00263] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a kit comprising one or more reagents for the detection of a modified PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 665. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip comprising a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide having a modification that is R665W or S707F.

[00264] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a kit comprising one or more reagents for the detection of nucleic acid encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 665 or 707. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide having a modification that is R665W or S707F.

[00265] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified PLC γ 2 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a microarray comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant PLC γ 2 polypeptide or a portion thereof that is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11. In some embodiments, the microarray is contained on a microchip.

[00266] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified PLC γ 2 that that confers resistance to inhibition with a BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (i) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified PLC γ 2 that is modified at amino acid position 665 or

707; and (ii) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type PLC γ 2 having Arginine at amino acid position 665 or serine at position 707.

[00267] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified PLC γ 2 that that confers resistance to inhibition with an BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a pair oligonucleotide primers that flank the nucleic acid region encoding amino acid 665 or 707 of a PLC γ 2 polypeptide.

[00268] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is method of maintenance therapy in a patient having a hematologic cancer, comprising: (a) administering to the patient a maintenance therapy regimen comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a BTK inhibitor; and (b) monitoring the patient at predetermined intervals of time over the course of the maintenance therapy regimen to determine whether the subject has mutation in an endogenous gene encoding PLC γ 2 that results in a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11. In some embodiments, monitoring comprises: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification in the PLC γ 2 polypeptide is R665W or S707F. In some embodiments, the predetermined interval of time is every month, every 2 months, every 3 months, every 4 months, every 5 months, every 6 months, every 7 months, every 8

[00269] In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is administered at a daily dosage of about 10 mg per day to about 2000 mg per day, about 50 mg per day to about 1500 mg per day, about 100 mg per day to about 1000 mg per day, about 250 mg per day to about 850 mg per day, or about 300 mg per day to about 600 mg per day. In some embodiments, ibrutinib is administered at a daily dosage of about 140 mg per day, 420 mg per day, 560 mg per day or 840 mg per day. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib (PCI-32765), PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[00270] CARD11

[00271] In some embodiments, the downstream effector protein is Caspase recruitment domain-containing protein 11 (CARD11) also known as CARD-containing MAGUK protein 1 (Carma 1). CARD11 belongs to the MAGUK (membrane-associated guanylate kinase) family that typically function as molecular scaffolds in the assembly of multiprotein complexes. MAGUK family members contain an SH3 domain, a PDZ domain and a GuK domain homologous to guanylate kinase. In addition, CARD11 contains an amino-terminal CARD domain (caspase recruitment domain). This domain plays an important role in forming interactions with a number of proteins containing CARD domains that are involved in regulating apoptosis and NF- κ B activation. CARD11 is predominately expressed in lymphocytes and associates with the CARD domain of Bcl10. When overexpressed, CARD11 leads to the phosphorylation of Bcl10 and activation of NF- κ B.

[00272] In some embodiments, a mutation in CARD11 results in resistance of a patient to treatment with a BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the mutation is a gain of function mutation in CARD11. In some embodiments, the mutation results in constitutive activation of the NF- κ B mediated transcription. In some embodiments, the mutation in CARD11 results in amino acid insertion at amino acid position 232 in CARD11. In some embodiments, the mutation the mutation in CARD11 results in an insertion of leucine at amino acid position L232. In some embodiments, the modification is L232LL. In some embodiments, the mutation the mutation in CARD11 results in an insertion of isoleucine at amino acid position L232. In some embodiments, the modification is L232IL or L232LI.

[00273] Any of the methods provided herein for the detection of a modified BTK polypeptide also can be applied to the detection of a CARD11 polypeptide. For example, mutant CARD11 polypeptides can be detected by PCR methods using mutant specific nucleic acids for detection of somatic mutation in the genome or CARD11 mutant specific antibodies for detection of mutant CARD11 polypeptides.

[00274] In some embodiments, a nucleic acid encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide is provided. In some embodiments, a nucleic acid vector encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide is provided. In some embodiments the vector is a viral vector. In some embodiments, a host cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide is provided. In some embodiments, a host cell comprising an expressed CARD11 polypeptide is provided.

[00275] Any of the methods provided herein and known in the art for the production of modified BTK polypeptides and nucleic acids provided herein, including the use of nucleic acid expression vectors and host cells, also can be applied to the production of mutant CARD11 polypeptides and nucleic acids provide herein.

[00276] Provided herein are mutant CARD11 polypeptides. In some embodiments, the mutant CARD11 polypeptides are recombinant proteins. In some embodiments, the mutant CARD11 polypeptides are purified from a host cell.

[00277] In some embodiments, the mutant CARD11 polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the mutant CARD11 polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the mutant CARD11 polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor that is ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the mutant CARD11 polypeptides contain one or more amino acid substitutions that confers resistance to inhibition by a BTK inhibitor.

[00278] Provided herein is an isolated CARD11 polypeptide or a variant thereof having CARD11 activity comprising a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position L232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19.

[00279] In some embodiments, the modification comprises a substitution or a deletion of the amino acid at amino acid position L232 compared to a wild type CARD11 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19. In some embodiments, the modification comprises substitution of the amino acid at position L232 compared to a wild type CARD11 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19. In some embodiments, the modification is an insertion of leucine at amino acid 232 of the CARD11 polypeptide (e.g. L232LL).

[00280] In some embodiments, the mutant CARD11 polypeptide comprises an insertion of leucine at amino acid 232 of the CARD11 polypeptide compared to a wild type CARD11 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 and one or more additional amino acid substitutions. In some embodiments, the mutant CARD11 polypeptide comprises an insertion of leucine at amino acid 232 and a modification at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or more amino acid positions. In some embodiments, the modification at amino acid position 232 is L232LL.

[00281] In some embodiments, a CARD11 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 232 of the wild-type CARD11 polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 linked to a peptide tag. In some embodiments, the peptide tag is an epitope tag recognized by a tag-specific antibody. In some embodiments the tag is an epitope tag, such as, but not limited to a c-myc, V-5, hemagglutinin (HA), FLAG, tag. In some embodiments the tag is an affinity tag, such as, but not limited to, biotin, strep-tag, chitin binding protein (CBP), maltose binding protein (MBP), glutathione-S-transferase (GST), or a poly(His) tag. In some embodiments, a CARD11 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 232 of the wild-type CARD11

polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 linked to a detectable protein or moiety, such a luminescent, chemiluminescent, bioluminescent, or fluorescent protein or moiety. In some embodiments, the fluorescent protein is a green (GFP), red (RFP), cyan (CFP), yellow (YFP), or blue (BFP) fluorescent protein. In some embodiments, a CARD11 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 232 of the wild-type CARD11 polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 linked to an enzyme for example, a luciferase or a beta-galactosidase.

[00282] Provided herein are nucleic acids encoding mutant CARD11 polypeptides. Provided herein are nucleic acids encoding any of the mutant CARD11 polypeptides described herein. Methods for deducing nucleic acids that encode particular polypeptides are known in the art and involve standard molecular biology techniques. Exemplary nucleic acids encoding mutant CARD11 polypeptides provided herein are provided. It is understood that due to the degeneracy of the genetic code multiple variants nucleic acids exist that encode the same polypeptide. Nucleic acids that encode the mutant CARD11 polypeptides provided herein encompass such variants.

[00283] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding a modified CARD11 polypeptide provided herein is a DNA or an RNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide comprises a modification where the encoded polypeptide comprises a insertion of an amino acid at the position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the wild-type CARD11 polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20.

[00284] In some embodiments, methods are provided for determining whether a subject is or likely to become less responsive to therapy with a BTK inhibitor, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a L232LL insertion in CARD11. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[00285] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for monitoring whether a subject receiving a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer has developed or is likely to develop resistance to the therapy, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule

encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19; and (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or is likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NFκB if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a L232LL insertion in CARD11. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[00286] Described herein, in certain embodiments are methods for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving an irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer, comprising: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19; and (b) discontinuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified kinase if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the method further comprises a step of obtaining the sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NFκB if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification comprises a L232LL insertion in CARD11. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent or irreversible inhibitor.

[00287] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is RNA or DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule is a cDNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is genomic DNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is total RNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid molecule for use in the assay is mRNA. In some embodiments of the methods, the method further comprises isolating mRNA from the RNA sample.

[00288] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 232 of the CARD11 polypeptide. In some embodiments, PCR amplification comprises using a pair of oligonucleotide

primers that flank the region encoding amino acid position 232 of the CARD11 polypeptide. In some embodiments, the method comprises sequencing the amplified nucleic acid.

[00289] In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises contacting the nucleic acid with a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (a) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified CARD11 that is modified at amino acid position 232; and (b) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type CARD11. In some embodiments of the methods, testing comprises PCR amplification using the sequence specific nucleic acid probe.

[00290] In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains one or more tumor cells from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample for use in the methods contains circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA).

[00291] In some embodiments of the methods, the nucleic acid used in the method is isolated from a tumor cell sample from the subject. In some embodiments, the sample is a tumor biopsy sample, a blood sample, a serum sample, a lymph sample, or a bone marrow aspirate.

[00292] In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib (PCI-32765), PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the CARD11 inhibitor is ibrutinib.

[00293] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject has cancer. In some embodiments, the cancer is a hematologic cancer. In some embodiments, cancer is a B-cell malignancy. In some embodiments, cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma. In some embodiments, the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic large cell lymphoma, precursor B-lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis. In some embodiments, the subject has a solid tumor.

[00294] In some embodiments of the methods, the subject is treated with the BTK inhibitor prior to obtaining the sample. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained at 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22

months, or 24 months following the first administration of the irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the sample is obtained 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 times over the course of treatment with the BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the subject is responsive the treatment with the BTK inhibitor when it is first administered.

[00295] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a kit comprising one or more reagents for the detection of a modified CARD11 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 232. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip comprising a mutant CARD11 polypeptide having a modification that is L232LL.

[00296] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a kit comprising one or more reagents for the detection of nucleic acid encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 232. In some embodiments, the kit comprises a microchip comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide having a modification that is L232LL.

[00297] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified CARD11 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a microarray comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant CARD11 polypeptide or a portion thereof that is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19. In some embodiments, the microarray is contained on a microchip.

[00298] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified CARD11 that that confers resistance to inhibition with a BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe: (i) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified CARD11 that is modified at amino acid position 232; and (ii) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type CARD11.

[00299] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is a system for detecting a modified CARD11 that that confers resistance to inhibition with an BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising: (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject; and (b) a pair oligonucleotide primers that flank the nucleic acid region encoding amino acid 232 of a CARD11 polypeptide.

[00300] Described herein, in certain embodiments, is method of maintenance therapy in a patient having a hematologic cancer, comprising: (a) administering to the patient a maintenance therapy regimen comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a BTK inhibitor; and (b) monitoring the patient at predetermined intervals of time over the course of the maintenance therapy regimen to determine whether the subject has mutation in an endogenous gene encoding CARD11 that results in a modification at an amino acid position corresponding

to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19. In some embodiments, monitoring comprises: (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19. In some embodiments, the method further comprises discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises continuing treatment with a BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the mutation. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, MAPK, MEK, or NFκB if the subject has the modification. In some embodiments, the modification in the CARD11 polypeptide is L232LL. In some embodiments, the predetermined interval of time is every month, every 2 months, every 3 months, every 4 months, every 5 months, every 6 months, every 7 months, every 8

[00301] In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is administered at a daily dosage of about 10 mg per day to about 2000 mg per day, about 50 mg per day to about 1500 mg per day, about 100 mg per day to about 1000 mg per day, about 250 mg per day to about 850 mg per day, or about 300 mg per day to about 600 mg per day. In some embodiments, ibrutinib is administered at a daily dosage of about 140 mg per day, 420 mg per day, 560 mg per day or 840 mg per day. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib (PCI-32765), PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37. In some embodiments, the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

EXAMPLES

[00302] These examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and not to limit the scope of the claims provided herein.

Example 1

[00303] In this example, mutations in Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) were identified in leukemia patients receiving therapy with the covalent BTK inhibitor ibrutinib.

[00304] Patients suffering from chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) were treated with multiple cycles of ibrutinib therapy at a dosage of 560 mg per day. After approximately 18 months of treatment, one patient exhibited clinical disease progression. Progression was characterized by a rise in absolute lymphocyte count (ALC) and increased lymph node size. The dosage of ibrutinib was then increased from 560 mg to 840 mg per day. The increased dosage, however did not inhibit disease progression. Another patient in a subsequent study was treated with cycles of 420 mg ibrutinib in combination with Bendamustine and Rituxan. This patient also exhibited clinical disease progression after approximately 12 months of treatment.

[00305] Whole blood was collected from patients before study, during treatment, and when the patient was considered disease progressed by set IWCLL assessment criteria. Whole blood was collected into BD Vacutainer Cell Preparation Tubes (CPT) with sodium citrate as a coagulant. Collected whole blood was shipped within 48 hrs of blood draw to analysis site where the CPT collection tubes were centrifuged immediately for 20 min in a horizontal rotor centrifuge at 1800 RCF at RT. The peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC) layer under the plasma layer was carefully collected with a pipette after aspiration of the upper plasma component. The collected cells were resuspended in Sigma Red Blood Cell (RBC) Lysing buffer (Cat No. R 7757) for 5 min to remove residual RBC, and subsequently washed twice with PBS to stop the lysis and centrifuged to collect the cell pellet. In some instances, the PBMC pellets were sorted with magnetic beads for enrichment of B cells, T cells or monocytes at this point. For RNA assays described below, the PBMC cell pellets were resuspended in Qiagen RLT Lysis buffer and placed into a -80°C freezer until analysis. For storage and use in later assays, the cell pellets were frozen as viable cells and resuspended in 90% FBS, and 10% DMSO solution added dropwise to the pellet gently and slowly. These vials were pre-chilled in Mister Frosty containers (Nalgene®) and placed in a -80°C freezer for 24 hrs before permanently storing in the liquid nitrogen tank.

[00306] Total DNA, RNA, and protein were isolated from PBMC using the Qiagen All Prep kit. A first-strand cDNA of the BTK mRNA was synthesized via reverse transcription using a kit purchased from Agilent Technologies (catalog #600184) using the following reverse direction BTK primer (called BTK#2R): 5'-aagtgaattgggcttg-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 9). The manufacturer's directions were followed for the reaction. Template RNA, gene-specific primer, dNTP mixture, and buffer were mixed in a microtube. The mixture was denatured at 65°C for 5 minutes and primer annealed at 25°C for 5 minutes. DTT and AccuScript High Fidelity reverse transcriptase were then added and the DNA was extend at 42°C for 30 to 90 minutes, cooled to 4°C, then held at -20°C.

[00307] The mRNA-cDNA hybrid from the reverse transcription reaction was then amplified via polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using PfuUltra II HS polymerase from Agilent Technologies. One to three microliters of the reverse transcription reaction was used in the PCR reaction. The same reverse primer BTK#2R was used with a forward primer: (called BTK#2F) 5'-agtcacacattccaagtct-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 10). The following PCR protocol was used for amplification using a thermocycler: Step 1 - denature at 95°C for 2 minutes; Step 2 - denature 95°C for 30 seconds, anneal 55°C for 30 seconds, extend at 68°C for 1.25 min; Step 3 - repeat step 2 thirty-nine times; Step 4 - extend 68°C for 5 minutes, cool to 4°C, and then hold at -20°C.

10% of the PCR product was analyzed by ethidium bromide agarose gel electrophoresis. The remainder of the sample was then purified using QiaQuick PCR product purification kit.

[00308] Sequencing of both strands of the entire BTK open reading frame was performed at Sequetech Corporation (Mountain View, CA) using primers designed and synthesized by Sequetech. The wild type mRNA sequence of BTK (accession number NM_000061.2) is set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 3. The DNA sequence of Resistant Patient #1 (200-004/200-007) is set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 7. The DNA sequence of Resistant Patient #2 (350-105) is set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 8. Sequencing revealed that the mRNA sequence in the cells that were collected from two patients prior to receiving Ibrutinib/early in treatment is wild-type, i.e. the RNA encodes a normal Cysteine at position 481 in the amino acid protein sequence of BTK. In cells from the end-of-study (EOS)/later in treatment from resistant patients, the sequence of the mRNA is altered such that the mRNA now codes for Serine instead of Cysteine at position 481 of BTK. Resistant Patient #1 had a missense mutation at thymine (t)-1634 to adenine (a)-1634 (i.e. t1634a). This mutation changes the Cysteine-481 codon, TGC, to AGC (Serine). Resistant Patient #2 had a missense mutation at guanine (g) -1635 to cytosine (c)-1635 (i.e. g1635c). This mutation also changes the Cysteine-481 codon, TGC, to TCC (Serine).

[00309] A highly sensitive allele-specific PCR assay (1% analytic sensitivity) further confirmed the unique presence of the mutation in the genomic DNA of relapsed samples suggesting the mutation was acquired during the patient's treatment. For PCR of genomic BTK DNA, the following 4 primers were used: BTKg-F1: TGATGGGCTCCAAATCCCTG (SEQ ID NO: 13); BTKg-R1: AATGATGGCACCAGCAGC (SEQ ID NO: 14); BTKg-F2: AATCCCTGCTTGCTTCCACA (SEQ ID NO: 15); BTKg-R2: TTGATGGGCTCAGCACTGG (SEQ ID NO: 16).

[00310] In a separate method for preparation of samples for sequencing, total RNA was isolated from patients' PBMC before treatment and after disease progression using QIAamp RNA Blood Mini Kit. mRNA is first purified using polyA selection, cleared for globin RNA (Expression Analysis) and then chemically fragmented. The mRNA fragments were converted into single-stranded cDNAs using random hexamer primer of reverse transcription. Next, the second strand was generated to create double-stranded cDNA, followed by end repair and the addition of a single-A base at each end of the molecule. Adapters that enable attachment to the flow cell surface was then ligated to each end of the fragments. The adapters contain unique index sequences (Expression Analysis) which allow the libraries to be pooled during multiplexing. PCR was then performed to amplify and enrich ligated material to create the cDNA library, followed by cluster generation and direct Illumina (Illumina HiSeq 2000) sequencing-by-synthesis using the TruSeq SBS kit. Paired-end sequencing was conducted with each sample

running in a separate sequencing lane. More than 100 millions reads were yielded with an average of 88x coverage/sample.

Example 2

[00311] In this example cell lines are generated that express the BTK C481S mutant. The nucleic acid encoding the BTK C481S mutant is inserted into an expression vector construct, whereby the nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter for expression of the mutant protein. The BTK C481S constructs are stably transfected into cell lines such as insect cells for recombinant protein production or into cell lines deficient for BTK such as CHO cells or Jurkat T cells or chicken DT40 BTK ^{-/-} B cell lines or human BTK knocked out B cell lines.

[00312] The cell lines are used for screening second generation compounds or for the production of purified protein for use in *in vitro* assays, such as a kinase assay.

[00313] For *in vitro* assays, C481S BTK recombinant protein is produced in cells, such as insect cells, purified to homogeneity and evaluated for its tyrosine kinase specific activity towards various substrates, including universal peptides or specific downstream substrates (such as PLC γ) and subjected to *in vitro* kinase assays (C481S, ATP, cofactors Mg/Mn, peptide substrate). PCi-32765 (ibrutinib) is used as a negative control.

[00314] The chicken DT40 BTK^{-/-} or human BTK^{-/-} are stably transfected with either wild type BTK or C481S BTK and used in HTS type functional assays. In one example the cells are stimulated with anti-IgM/G to ligate and activate B cell receptor (BCR) and therefore downstream BTK in these cell lines. Following 18 hrs of stimulation, surface CD69 activation is evaluated in these cells with and without serial diluted compounds. A BTK inhibitor that covalent binds to C481S is expected to inhibit and reduce CD69 following cell washout experiments.

Example 3

[00315] Ibrutinib binds covalently to BTK, an essential component of BCR signaling, via a Michael addition with the sulfhydryl group of C481 in the active site resulting in potent and irreversible inhibition of kinase activity (Honigberg et al, PNAS 107(29): 13075–13080. Structural modeling demonstrates that the C481S mutation would disrupt this covalent binding, but not the ability of ibrutinib to fit into the enzyme's active site (Figure 1). In response to BCR signaling, LYN and SYK phosphorylate BTK at Y551, inducing BTK autophosphorylation at Y223 leading to kinase activation. Thus, the phosphorylation of Y223 thus reflects BTK enzyme activity. Immunoblot analysis of demonstrates that p-BTK (Y223) was decreased relative to baseline when the patient was responding to ibrutinib, and elevated with disease relapse (Figure 2A, Lanes 3 and 4). Changes in p-ERK displayed a similar trend as p-BTK, decreasing during the patient's clinical response, and subsequently rising above baseline at the time of disease relapse, increasing further when reassessed four weeks later. On the other hand, p-AKT

increased with ibrutinib treatment and did not change depending upon clinical course. Overall, changes in the levels of p-BTK and p-ERK correlated with each other and suggest that the mutation allows BCR signaling in the presence of ibrutinib.

[00316] In exemplary methods, BTK phosphorylation at site Y551 and certain related signaling events are also monitored by a flow cytometric assay using cultured cells (e.g. HEK293T cells) that are transfected with a plasmid encoding human BTK. Expression in HEK293T cells results in constitutive phosphorylation of the Y551 site in BTK and this is detectable by flow cytometry using a fluorescently-coupled antibody (BD Biosciences catalog #558134). Expression of BTK in HEK293T cells also results in phosphorylation of Erk at T202/Y204, and this is detectable by flow cytometry using BD Biosciences catalog #612566. Phosphorylation of both Y551 in BTK and T202/Y204 in Erk are dose-dependently inhibited by treatment with Ibrutinib (and dasatinib) and constitutive phosphorylation does not occur when a kinase-inactive mutant of BTK is expressed instead of wild type or C481S BTK, indicating that BTK kinase activity is required for these phosphorylation events to occur. Expression levels of total BTK are monitored by flow cytometry using BD Biosciences catalog#558527.

[00317] An exemplary procedure for the preparation of the cells is as follows: HEK293T cells are seeded into 10 cm plates and allowed to adhere overnight. Cells are transfected using the calcium phosphate method with a plasmid containing human wild type or C481S mutant BTK or C481A mutant BTK or K430A mutant BTK (carboxyl-terminal 6His fusions) under the control of the CMV promoter. Approximately 16 hours post-transfection, cells are detached and seeded into multi-well plates. Approximately 24 hours later, the cells are treated with Ibrutinib or other inhibitors and either fixed in situ with paraformaldehyde; or mechanically detached, washed into fresh drug-free medium and incubated for 1.5 hours, and then fixed. Permeabilized cells are stained with the indicated BD Biosciences fluorescently-labeled antibodies and analyzed on a BD CantoII flow cytometer. FlowJo software and fluorescence-minus-one controls are used to gate on positive cell populations and gates are equally applied to each sample. Total positive cell counts are taken as a ratio of BTK-expressing cells.

Example 4

[00318] In this example, gene expression data in patients was analyzed. RNA-Seq data for gene expression using an established 27-gene BCR expression signature (Blood. 2011 Jan 13;117(2):563-74) demonstrated a responding patient's BCR signature was down-regulated relative to baseline pre-treatment (Figure 2B). However, the expression of this cluster of genes increased in both relapse stages, initially assessed and four weeks later.

[00319] To perform RNA-Seq, total RNA was isolated from patients' PBMC before treatment and after disease progression using QIAamp RNA Blood Mini Kit. mRNA is first purified using polyA selection, cleared for globin RNA (Expression Analysis) and then chemically fragmented.

The mRNA fragments are converted into single-stranded cDNA using random hexamer primer of reverse transcription. Next, the second strand is generated to create double-stranded cDNA, followed by end repair and the addition of a single-A base at each end of the molecule. Adapters that enable attachment to the flow cell surface are then ligated to each end of the fragments. The adapters contain unique index sequences (Expression Analysis) which allow the libraries to be pooled during multiplexing. PCR is then performed to amplify and enrich ligated material to create the cDNA library, followed by cluster generation and direct Illumina (Illumina HiSeq 2000) sequencing-by-synthesis using the TruSeq SBS kit. Paired-end sequencing was conducted with each sample running in a separate sequencing lane. More than 100 millions reads were yielded with an average of 88x coverage/sample. The reads were aligned to the HG19 genome assembly using TopHat package with Bowtie2 aligner. Reads not mapped to the genome or potential PCR duplicates were excluded with samtools. Cufflinks and cuffmerge were used to quantify levels of transcript expression. Reads per kilobase per million mapped reads (RPKM) were computed: the number of reads mapped to each transcript sequence was normalized by the template length in kbs and divided by the number of reads mapping to the whole transcriptome. Hierarchical cluster analysis for BCR signature genes was performed using Cluster 3.0 software, and heat map was generated using TreeView.

[00320] Notably, the trend of changes in gene expression was analogous to the trend of changes in p-BTK and p-ERK. Taken together, the data from the mutation analyses, signal transduction and gene expression profiling strongly suggest that 1) gain of BTK C481S mutation allows BCR signaling in CLL cells in the presence of ibrutinib and 2) BCR signaling activity over the treatment course correlates with the status of the patient's disease.

Example 5

[00321] This example demonstrates that ibrutinib inhibits proliferation of CLL cells from responding patients' peripheral blood, but not those from patients that have relapsed with the BTK C481S mutation. The number of Ki-67+ cells and cell size decreased over the ibrutinib treatment course in responding patients, but not those relapsed with the mutation. Analysis of serial samples from the current patient also demonstrated a reduction in the percentage of Ki-67+ positive CLL cells from 4.5% to 0.53% during in the Responding sample. In Relapse 1, the number of Ki-67+ cells increased to 5.3%, and then to 8.0% in Relapse 2 (Figure 3A). As further evidence for ibrutinib's impact upon proliferation, changes in cell size reflecting increased proliferation after relapse were also demonstrated (Figure 4). In the current study, the size of the proliferative CLL population increased from 19-20% to 35-36% in relapsed samples (Fig. 3B, second column). Treatment of the patient's CLL cells with ibrutinib (250 or 500 nM) completely blocked BrdU incorporation in the pre-Rx and responding samples (Fig. 3B, top two rows, 3rd and 4th vs 2nd columns). However, in both relapsed samples some proliferative CLL cells

remained (Fig. 3B, bottom two rows, 2nd, 3rd and 4th vs 1st columns). Thus, CLL *in vitro* proliferative response to ibrutinib agrees with the patient's clinical course and acquired resistance to ibrutinib treatment.

[00322] Antibodies used in flow cytometry were purchased from BD (San Jose, CA) and used according to instructions: CD3-V500, CD19-APCCy7, CD19-APC, CD5-PerCPCy5.5, CD5-FITC, CXCR4-PECy7, CXCR4-PE, CD38-PE, CD62L-PE, CCR7-V450, CXCR3-Alexa488, CXCR5-Alexa647, CD49d-APC, CD29-PE, CD44-V450, CD54-PE, CD11a-APC, CD11c-V450, CD18-FITC, CD40-PECy7, Ki67-Alexa488, Ig k light chain-APC, Ig l light chain-FITC. Antibodies used for Western blots: phospho-p44/42 MAP kinase [T202/Y204] against ERK1 and 2, phospho-AKT [Ser473] against PKB/AKT (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA), phospho-BTK [Y551] against BTK (BD Biosciences), phospho-BTK [Y223] against BTK (Epitomics, Burlingame, CA) and phospho-PLC γ 2 [Y759] against PLC γ 2 (BD Biosciences); anti-ERK2 (C-14; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA), anti-AKT (H-136; Santa Cruz Biotechnology), anti-BTK (Clone 53; BD Biosciences), goat F(ab)₂ anti-human IgM (LE/AF; Southern Biotech, Birmingham, AL), horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated rabbit anti-mouse and HRP-conjugated goat anti-rabbit (DAKO, Houston, TX).

Example 6

[00323] This example demonstrates that other inhibitors of the BCR or alternative pathways can suppress CLL proliferation and override the resistance caused by the C481S mutation. Using the *in vitro* CLL proliferation model, cells were treated with GS-1101 (CAL-101, a PI3Kdelta inhibitor), dasatinib (downstream BCR targets LYN and BTK), PRT062070 (a SYK/JAK dual inhibitor), PRT060318 (a highly specific SYK inhibitor, ref) and tofacitinib (a JAK inhibitor) in addition to ibrutinib. Fig. 3C demonstrates that ibrutinib and GS-1101 brought proliferation down from 31% to 12 and 14% while tofacitinib decreased the proliferation only to 21%. Dasatinib and the two inhibitors with activity against SYK (PRT062070 and PRT060318) led to complete inhibition of proliferation. These results suggest the BTK-mutated CLL cells remain sensitive to BCR inhibition. Accordingly, additional or alternative inhibitors of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, NF κ B other covalent inhibitors of BTK or other reversible inhibitors of BTK are also predicted to be effective in patients with the C481S mutations.

Example 7

[00324] Early trials of ibrutinib mono- or combination therapy enrolled 246 CLL patients receiving a median of 14 months of ibrutinib. RNAseq and whole exome sequencing (WES) followed by comparative genome analysis was performed at baseline and after relapse or progressive disease (PD) and confirmed by Sanger sequencing for 3 patients that acquired resistance to ibrutinib. RNAseq and WES data were aligned using TopHat and BWA software.

Single nucleotide variations (SNVs) were identified using SAMtools mpileup. Compared to patients who relapsed from conventional chemotherapy, minimal genomic changes were acquired in ibrutinib resistant patients, reflecting relative genomic stability. SNVs were discovered in 3 patients specific to the relapse sample. 2 out of 3 patients had distinct SNVs that each encode a cysteine-to-serine substitution at position 481 of BTK (C481S). Homologous cysteine residues in BMX, ITK, TEC and BLK were wild-type (WT). Ibrutinib inhibited recombinant C481S 25 fold less potently than WT, and could not covalently bind C481S expressed in cells. The third patient had WT BTK, but acquired a potential gain-of-function mutation, c1993t in exon 19 of PLC γ 2, encoding a R665W substitution, a substrate of BTK, consistent with constitutive PLC γ 2 activation.

[00325] In subsequent studies of patients that initially responded to ibrutinib and later became drug-resistant, two additional mutations were identified. Nucleic acid sequencing revealed that patient blood samples taken at the beginning of treatment were wild-type, while samples collected upon physician-designated disease-progression were mutated at the following sites: 1) One patient was found to have acquired a mutation in PLC γ 2. The mutation is an in-frame single-nucleotide point mutation: c2120t (i.e. thymine at position 2120 instead of cytosine of the PLC γ 2 coding region. The mutation results in a PLC γ 2 protein with substitution of a serine at codon 707 for phenylalanine (S707F). 2) One patient was found to have acquired a mutation in CARD11. The mutation is an insertion of three thymine nucleotides between nucleotide positions 694 and 695 of the CARD11 coding region. The mutation was named 694_695insTTT. The mutation results in a CARD11 protein with insertion of a leucine codon between leucine-232 and lysine-233. The mutant is called L232_K233insL or L232LL. (Note that there are alternative start sites for translation of CARD11 mRNA. In some instances, CARD11 mutation at this site is noted as position 225 instead of 232).

[00326] The S707F mutation is expected to be a gain-of-function mutation that results in constitutive activity of the PLC γ 2 protein. A similar mutation (S707Y) in PLC γ 2 was described by Zhou et al. in American Journal of Human Genetics (2012) 91; 713-720, confers constitutive activity to the PLC γ 2 protein, and results in an autoinflammatory and immunodeficiency disease. Like the R665W mutation, S707F is in the auto-inhibitory carboxyl-terminal SH2 domain. Given that PLC γ 2 is downstream of BTK, the effect of conferring gain-of-function constitutive PLC γ 2 activity supports drug resistance to ibrutinib.

[00327] The CARD11 L232LL mutant protein is also expected to have constitutive activity. A similar mutation was found in B cell lymphoma patient samples (isoleucine insertion between 232 and 233) as described by Lenz et al. in Science (2008) 319; 1676-1679. As described by Lenz et al., the mutation confers constitutive activity of the downstream NF- κ B pathway and

enhanced cellular survival. Like PLC γ 2, CARD11 is a protein that is activated downstream of Btk. CARD11 is phosphorylated and activated by PKC β , which is a downstream effector of Btk and PLC γ 2. Thus, gain-of-function mutations in CARD11 that confer constitutive activity may bypass Btk and allow cells to activate growth and anti-apoptotic signaling pathways in the presence of Btk inhibitors such as ibrutinib. The L232LL mutation is in the amino-terminal coiled-coil domain, which is important for CARD11 oligomerization and NF- κ B activation, and where several different mutations in CARD11 have been found in B cell lymphoma patient specimens.

[00328] The examples and embodiments described herein are for illustrative purposes only and various modifications or changes suggested to persons skilled in the art are to be included within the spirit and purview of this application and scope of the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for determining whether a subject is or likely to become less responsive to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) inhibitor, comprising:
 - (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or likely to become resistant to therapy with a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject has been administered a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer.
3. A method for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer, comprising:
 - (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - (b) discontinuing treatment with the covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification.
4. A method for selecting a subject for therapy with a second generation BTK inhibitor, comprising:
 - (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - (b) characterizing the subject as a candidate for therapy with a second generation BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification.
5. The method of claim 2, further comprising discontinuing treatment with the covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification.
6. The method of any of claims 1-5, further comprising administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified BTK if the subject has the modification.

7. The method of any of claims 1-6, further comprising administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK or NF κ B if the subject has the modification.
8. The method of any of claims 1-7, further comprising administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481.
9. The method of any of claims 1-6, further comprising administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification.
10. The method of any of claims 1-8, wherein the method further comprises obtaining the sample from the subject.
11. The method of any of claims 1-10, wherein the modification comprises a substitution or a deletion of the amino acid at amino acid position 481 in the BTK polypeptide.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, glycine, methionine, serine, threonine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, proline, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among serine, methionine, or threonine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.
15. The method of any of claims 1-10, wherein the modification comprises a deletion of nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.
16. The method of any of claims 1-10, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the modified BTK polypeptide has a mutation of guanine to cytosine at nucleic acid position corresponding to nucleic acid position 1635 in the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 or thymine to adenine at nucleic acid position corresponding to nucleic acid position 1634 in the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.
17. The method of any of claims 1-16, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is RNA or DNA.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the DNA is genomic DNA.
19. The method of any of claims 1-17, wherein the method further comprises isolating mRNA from the sample.
20. The method of any of claims 1-19, wherein testing comprises amplifying the nucleic acid encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein amplification is by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

22. The method of claim 21, wherein PCR amplification comprises using a pair of oligonucleotide primers that flank the region encoding amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein testing comprises sequencing the amplified nucleic acid.

24. The method of any of claims 1-19, wherein testing comprises contacting the nucleic acid with a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe:

(a) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK that is modified at amino acid position 481; and

(b) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type BTK having cysteine at amino acid position 481.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein testing comprises PCR amplification using the sequence specific nucleic acid probe.

26. The method of any of claims 1-25, wherein the sample contains one or more tumor cells from the subject.

27. The method of any of claims 1-26, wherein the sample contains circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA).

28. The method of any of claims 1-27, wherein the sample is a tumor biopsy sample, a blood sample, a serum sample, a lymph sample, or a bone marrow aspirate .

29. The method of any of claims 1-28, wherein the covalent or irreversible BTK inhibitor covalently binds to cysteine 481 of a wild-type BTK.

30. The method of any of claims 1-29, wherein the covalent or irreversible BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

32. The method of any of claims 1-31, wherein the subject has cancer.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the cancer is a hematologic cancer.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the cancer is a B-cell malignancy.

35. The method of claim 33 or 34, wherein the cancer is selected from among a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma.

36. The method of claim 34 or claim 35, wherein the B-cell malignancy is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic

large cell lymphoma, precursor B-lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis.

37. The method of any of claims 1-36, wherein the subject has a solid tumor.

38. The method of any of claims 2, 3, or 5-37, wherein the sample is a sample obtained at 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 4 months, 5 months, 6 months, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22 months, or 24 months following the first administration of the covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor.

39. The method of any of claims 2, 3, or 5-38, wherein the sample is obtained 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 times over the course of treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor.

40. The method of claim 38 or 39, wherein the subject is responsive the treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor when it is first administered.

41. A method for screening compounds that inhibit a modified BTK, comprising:

(a) providing a modified BTK, wherein the modified BTK is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) contacting the modified BTK with a test compound; and

(c) detecting the level of BTK activity, wherein a decrease in activity indicates that the compound inhibits the modified BTK.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the modification is a substitution or deletion of the amino acid at position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, glycine, methionine, serine, threonine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, proline, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein the modification is a substitution of cysteine to an amino acid selected from among serine, methionine and threonine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the modification is a substitution of cysteine to serine at amino acid position 481 of the BTK polypeptide.

46. The method of any of claims 41-45, wherein detecting the level of BTK activity is assessed by an *in vitro* kinase assay.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein the substrate used in the kinase assay is PLC γ , ERK1/2, or AKT.

48. The method of any of claims 41-47, wherein the modified BTK polypeptide is purified from a host cell expressing the modified BTK polypeptide prior to contacting the BTK with the test compound.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the host cell stably expresses the modified BTK polypeptide.

50. The method of claim 48 or claim 49, wherein the cell is deficient for the expression of endogenous wild-type BTK.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell, a non-mammalian cell, an avian cell, an insect cell, a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, or a plant cell.

52. The method of claim 50, wherein the cell is chicken DT40 BTK -/- B cell or human BTK -/- B cell.

53. An isolated BTK polypeptide or a variant thereof having BTK activity comprising a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the modification confers resistance of the modified BTK polypeptide or variant to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor.

54. The isolated BTK polypeptide of claim 53, wherein the modification comprises substitution of the amino acid at position 481 compared to a wild type BTK set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

55. The isolated BTK polypeptide of claim 53 or claim 54, wherein the substitution is C481S.

56. The isolated BTK polypeptide of claim 53, wherein the modification comprises a deletion of amino acid position 481.

57. The isolated BTK polypeptide of any of claims 53-56, wherein the polypeptide comprises a substitution of the amino acid at position 481 compared to a wild type BTK set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 and one or more additional amino acid substitutions.

58. The isolated BTK polypeptide of any of claims 53-57, wherein the polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the amino acid at position 481 is not cysteine.

59. The isolated BTK polypeptide of any of claims 53-58, wherein the polypeptide is a purified protein.

60. The isolated BTK polypeptide of claim 59, wherein the polypeptide is purified from a cell.

61. The isolated BTK polypeptide of claim 60, the cell is a mammalian cell, a human cell, a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, an avian cell, an insect cell, a plant cell, or an amphibian cell.

62. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the isolated BTK polypeptide of any of claims 53-61.

63. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 62, wherein the nucleic acid is a DNA or an RNA molecule.

64. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 62, wherein the nucleic acid is a cDNA molecule.

65. The isolated nucleic acid of any of claim 62-64, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 is modified, whereby the codon does not encode cysteine, or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the nucleic acid having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 does not encode cysteine.

66. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 62 or claim 63, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7, 8, 22 or 23 or a variant thereof that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the nucleic acid having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7, 8, 22 or 23, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 481 does not encode cysteine.

67. A vector, comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any of claims 62-66.

68. The vector of claim 67, wherein the vector is a viral or plasmid vector.

69. The vector of claim 67 or claim 68, wherein the nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter.

70. A host cell, comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any of claims 62-66 or the vector of any of claims 67-69.

71. The host cell of claim 70, wherein the cell is a prokaryotic cell or a eukaryotic cell.

72. The host cell of claim 71, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell, a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, an insect cell, a plant cell, or an amphibian cell.

73. The host cell of claim 72, wherein the cell is a primate cell.

74. The host cell of claim 73, wherein the cell is a human cell.
75. A mutant BTK polypeptide expressed by the host cell of any of claims 70-74.
76. A microchip comprising the mutant BTK polypeptide of any of claims 53-58 or the nucleic acid of any of claims 62-66.
77. A kit comprising one or more reagents for the detection of a mutant BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481 or a nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide comprising a modification at amino acid position 481.
78. The kit of claim 77, comprising a pair oligonucleotide primers that flank the nucleic acid region encoding amino acid 481 of a BTK polypeptide.
79. The kit of claim 77, comprising an oligonucleotide primer that
- (a) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK that is modified at amino acid position 481; and
 - (b) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type BTK having cysteine at amino acid position 481.
80. The kit of claim 77, comprising a microchip comprising
- (a) a modified BTK polypeptide having a modification that is C481S, or a portion thereof comprising a modification that is C481S; or
 - (b) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide having a modification that is C481S, or a portion thereof comprising a modification that is C481S.
81. A system for detecting a modified BTK that is resistant to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising:
- (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject; and
 - (b) a microarray comprising nucleic acid encoding a mutant BTK polypeptide or a portion thereof that is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
82. The system of claim 81, wherein the microarray is contained on a microchip.
83. A system for detecting a modified BTK that is resistant to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising:
- (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject; and
 - (b) a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe:
 - (i) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified BTK that is modified at amino acid position 481; and

(ii) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type BTK having cysteine at amino acid position 481.

84. A system for detecting a modified BTK that is resistant to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising:

(a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject; and

(b) a pair oligonucleotide primers that flank the nucleic acid region encoding amino acid 481 of a BTK polypeptide.

85. A method of maintenance therapy in a patient having a hematologic cancer, comprising:

(a) administering to the patient a maintenance therapy regimen comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor; and

(b) monitoring the patient at predetermined intervals of time over the course of the maintenance therapy regimen to determine whether the subject has mutation in an endogenous gene encoding BTK that results in a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

86. The method of claim 85, wherein monitoring comprises:

testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a BTK polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded BTK polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 481 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

87. The method of claim 85 or 86, wherein the method further comprises discontinuing maintenance therapy regimen if the subject has the mutation or continuing maintenance therapy regimen if the subject does not have the mutation.

88. The method of claim 85 or 86, wherein the method further comprises administering second generation BTK inhibitor that inhibits the modified BTK if the subject has the mutation.

89. The method of any of claims 85-88, further comprising administering an inhibitor of LYN, SYK, JAK, PI3K, PLC γ , MAPK, MEK, or NF κ B if the subject has the modification.

90. The method of any of claims 85-88, further comprising administering a covalent inhibitor of BTK that does not bind to C481.

91. The method of any of claims 85-88, further comprising administering a reversible inhibitor of BTK if the subject has the modification.

92. The method of any of claims 85-91, wherein the modification in the BTK polypeptide is C481S.

93. The method of any of claims 85-92, wherein the mutation in the nucleic acid is a mutation of guanine to cytosine at nucleic acid position corresponding to nucleic acid position 1635 in the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 or thymine to adenine at nucleic acid position corresponding to nucleic acid position 1634 in the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

94. The method of any of claims 85-93, wherein the predetermined interval of time is every week, every month, every 2 months, every 3 months, every 4 months, every 5 months, every 6 months, every 7 months, every 8 months, every 9 months, every 10 months, every 11 months, or every year.

95. The method of any of claims 85-94, wherein the sample contains one or more cancer cells.

96. The method of any of claims 85-94, wherein the sample contains ctDNA.

97. The method of any of claims 85-96, wherein the method further comprises testing a sample from the subject prior to treatment with the irreversible BTK inhibitor.

98. The method of any of claims 85-97, wherein the hematologic cancer is a B-cell malignancy.

99. The method of any of claims 85-98, wherein the cancer is a leukemia, a lymphoma, or a myeloma.

100. The method of any of claims 85-99, wherein the cancer is chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), activated B-cell diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (ABC-DLBCL), germinal center diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (GCB DLBCL), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBL), non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, immunoblastic large cell lymphoma, precursor B-lymphoblastic lymphoma, precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, B cell prolymphocytic leukemia, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenström macroglobulinemia, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, plasma cell myeloma, plasmacytoma, extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, nodal marginal zone B cell lymphoma, mediastinal (thymic) large B cell lymphoma, intravascular large B cell lymphoma, primary effusion lymphoma, or lymphomatoid granulomatosis.

101. The method of claim 100, wherein the B-cell malignancy is CLL.

102. The method of any of claims 85-101, wherein the covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37.

103. The method of claim 102, wherein the covalent and/or irreversible BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

104. The method of claim 103, wherein the maintenance therapy regimen comprises administering the BTK inhibitor at a daily dosage of about 10 mg per day to about 2000 mg per day, about 50 mg per day to about 1500 mg per day, about 100 mg per day to about 1000 mg per day, about 250 mg per day to about 850 mg per day, or about 300 mg per day to about 600 mg per day.

105. A method for determining whether a subject is or likely to become less responsive to therapy with a BTK inhibitor, comprising:

(a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11; and

(b) characterizing the subject as resistant or likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification at amino acid position 665 or 707.

106. A method for monitoring whether a subject receiving a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer has developed or is likely to develop resistance to the therapy, comprising:

(a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11; and

(b) characterizing the subject as resistant or is likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification at amino acid position 665 or 707.

107. A method for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer, comprising:

(a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded PLC γ 2 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11; and

(b) discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification at amino acid position 665 or 707.

108. The method of any of claims 105-107, wherein the modification in the PLC γ 2 polypeptide is R665W or S707F.

109. The method of any of claims 105-108, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the modified PLC γ 2 polypeptide has a mutation of cytosine to thymidine at nucleic acid position corresponding to nucleic acid position 1993 in the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 or cytosine to thymidine at nucleic acid position corresponding to nucleic acid position 2120 in the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26.

110. The method of any of claims 105-109, wherein the BTK inhibitor is a reversible or reversible BTK inhibitor.

111. The method of any of claims 105-108, wherein the BTK inhibitor is a covalent BTK inhibitor.

112. The method of any of claims 105-108, wherein the BTK inhibitor covalently binds to cysteine 481 of BTK.

113. The method of any of claims 105-108, wherein the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37.

114. The method of any of claims 105-108, wherein the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

115. An isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide or a variant thereof having PLC γ 2 activity comprising a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11, wherein the modification confers resistance of a cancer cell to inhibition with a BTK inhibitor.

116. The isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide of claim 115, wherein the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

117. The isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide of claim 115 or 116, wherein the isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17, wherein the amino acid at position 665 is not arginine.

118. The isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide of claim 117, wherein the amino acid at position 665 is tryptophan.

119. The isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide of claim 115 or 116, wherein the isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, wherein the amino acid at position 707 is not serine.

120. The isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide of claim 119, wherein the amino acid at position 707 is phenylalanine.

121. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the isolated PLC γ 2 polypeptide of any of claims 115-120.

122. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 121, wherein the nucleic acid is a DNA or an RNA molecule.

123. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 121, wherein the nucleic acid is a cDNA molecule.

124. The isolated nucleic acid of any of claim 121-123, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 or 27 or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the nucleic acid having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 or 27, wherein the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 665 does not encode arginine or the nucleic acid codon encoding amino acid at position 707 does not encode serine.

125. A system for detecting a modified PLC γ 2 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising:

- (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject; and
- (b) a microarray comprising nucleic acid encoding a modified PLC γ 2 polypeptide or a portion thereof that is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11.

126. The system of claim 125, wherein the microarray is contained on a microchip.

127. A system for detecting a modified PLC γ 2 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising:

- (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject; and
- (b) a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe:
 - (i) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified PLC γ 2 that is modified at amino acid position 665 or 707; and
 - (ii) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type PLC γ 2 having arginine at amino acid position 665 or serine at amino acid position 707.

128. A system for detecting a modified PLC γ 2 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising:

- (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a PLC γ 2 polypeptide from the subject; and
- (b) a pair oligonucleotide primers that flank the nucleic acid region encoding amino acid 665 or amino acid 707 of a PLC γ 2 polypeptide.

129. The system of any of claims 125-128, wherein the modification in the PLC γ 2 polypeptide is R665W or S707F.

130. A method of maintenance therapy in a patient having a hematologic cancer, comprising:

- (a) administering to the patient a maintenance therapy regimen comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a BTK inhibitor; and
- (b) monitoring the patient at predetermined intervals of time over the course of the maintenance therapy regimen to determine whether the subject has mutation in an endogenous gene encoding PLC γ 2 that results in a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 665 or 707 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11.

131. The method claim 129, wherein the modification in the PLC γ 2 polypeptide is R665W or S707F.

132. A method for determining whether a subject is or likely to become less responsive to therapy with a BTK inhibitor, comprising:

- (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19; and
- (b) characterizing the subject as resistant or likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification at amino acid position 232.

133. A method for monitoring whether a subject receiving a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer has developed or is likely to develop resistance to the therapy, comprising:

- (a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19; and

(b) characterizing the subject as resistant or is likely to become resistant to therapy with a BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification at amino acid position 232.

134. A method for optimizing the therapy of a subject receiving a BTK inhibitor for treatment of a cancer, comprising:

(a) testing a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject to determine whether the encoded CARD11 polypeptide is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19; and

(b) discontinuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject has the modification or continuing treatment with the BTK inhibitor if the subject does not have the modification at amino acid position 232.

135. The method of any of claims 132-134, wherein the modification in the CARD11 polypeptide is an insertion of an amino acid following amino acid 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19.

136. The method of any of claims 132-135, wherein the modification in the CARD11 polypeptide is L232LL.

137. The method of any of claims 132-136, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the modified CARD11 polypeptide has an insertion of three thymidine nucleotides at nucleic acid position corresponding to nucleic acid position 694 in the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24.

138. The method of any of claims 132-137, wherein the BTK inhibitor is a reversible or reversible BTK inhibitor.

139. The method of any of claims 132-137, wherein the BTK inhibitor is a covalent BTK inhibitor.

140. The method of any of claims 132-137, wherein the BTK inhibitor covalently binds to cysteine 481 of BTK.

141. The method of any of claims 132-137, wherein the BTK inhibitor is selected from among ibrutinib, PCI-45292, PCI-45466, AVL-101, AVL-291, AVL-292, or ONO-WG-37.

142. The method of any of claims 132-137, wherein the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

143. An isolated CARD11 polypeptide or a variant thereof having CARD11 activity comprising a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19, wherein the modification confers resistance of a cancer cell to inhibition with a BTK inhibitor.

144. The isolated CARD11 polypeptide of claim 143, wherein the BTK inhibitor is ibrutinib.

145. The isolated CARD11 polypeptide of claim 143 or 144, wherein the isolated CARD11 polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20 or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20.

146. The isolated CARD11 polypeptide of claim 145, wherein the CARD11 polypeptide has an insertion of an amino acid following amino acid 232 relative to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19.

147. The isolated CARD11 polypeptide of claim 146, wherein the amino acid is leucine.

148. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the isolated CARD11 polypeptide of any of claims 143-147.

149. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 148, wherein the nucleic acid is a DNA or an RNA molecule.

150. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 148, wherein the nucleic acid is a cDNA molecule.

151. The isolated nucleic acid of any of claim 148-150, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleic acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25 or a variant that has at least or at least about 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity with the nucleic acid having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25.

152. A system for detecting a modified CARD11 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising:

- (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject; and
- (b) a microarray comprising nucleic acid encoding a modified CARD11 polypeptide or a portion thereof that is modified at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19.

153. The system of claim 152, wherein the microarray is contained on a microchip.

154. A system for detecting a modified CARD11 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising:

- (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject; and
- (b) a sequence specific nucleic acid probe, wherein the sequence specific nucleic acid probe:

- (i) binds to nucleic acid encoding a modified CARD11 that is modified at amino acid position 232; and
- (ii) does not bind to nucleic acid encoding the wild-type CARD11 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19.

155. A system for detecting a modified CARD11 that confers resistance to inhibition with an irreversible BTK inhibitor in a subject, comprising:

- (a) a sample containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a CARD11 polypeptide from the subject; and
- (b) a pair oligonucleotide primers that flank the nucleic acid region encoding amino acid 232 of a CARD11 polypeptide.

156. The system of any of claims 152-155, wherein the modification in the CARD11 polypeptide is L232LL.

157. A method of maintenance therapy in a patient having a hematologic cancer, comprising:

- (a) administering to the patient a maintenance therapy regimen comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a BTK inhibitor; and
- (b) monitoring the patient at predetermined intervals of time over the course of the maintenance therapy regimen to determine whether the subject has mutation in an endogenous gene encoding CARD11 that results in a modification at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 232 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19.

158. The method claim 157, wherein the modification in the CARD11 polypeptide is L232LL.

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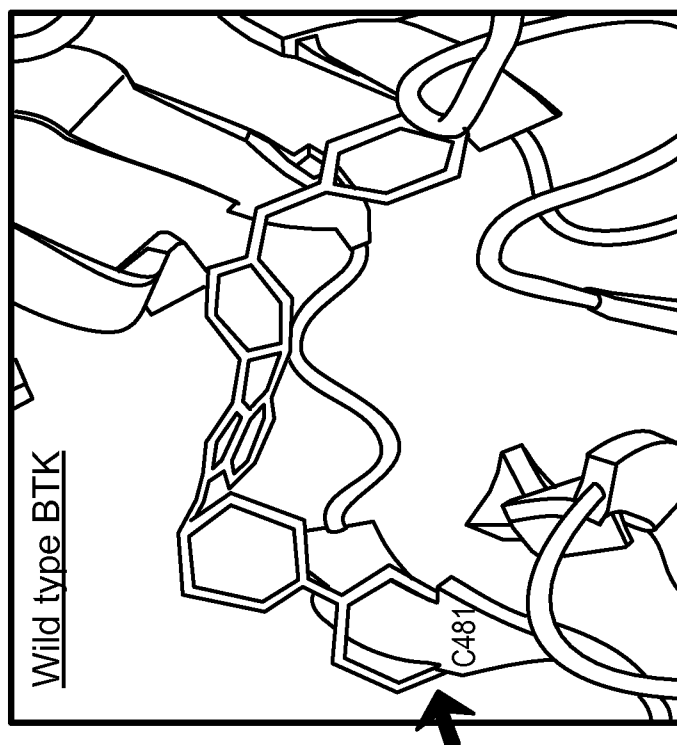
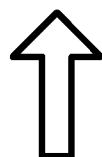
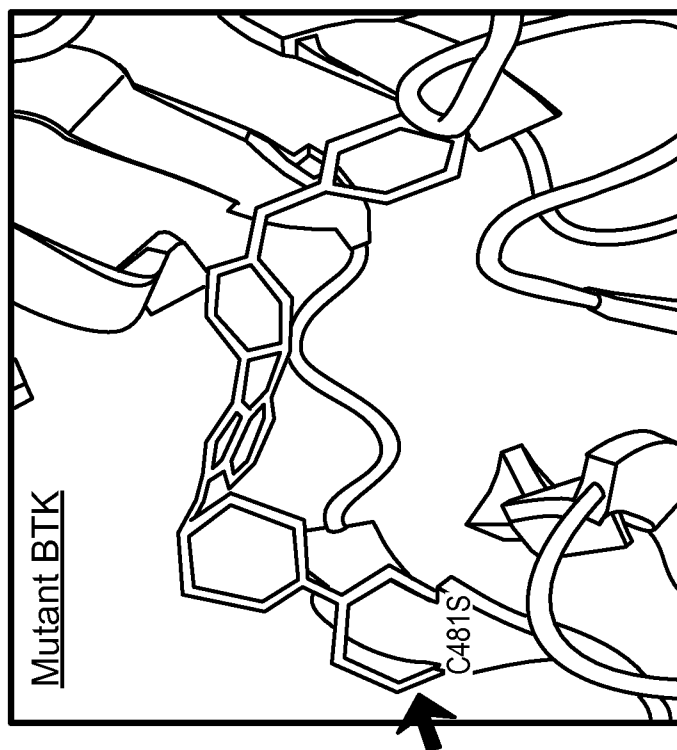
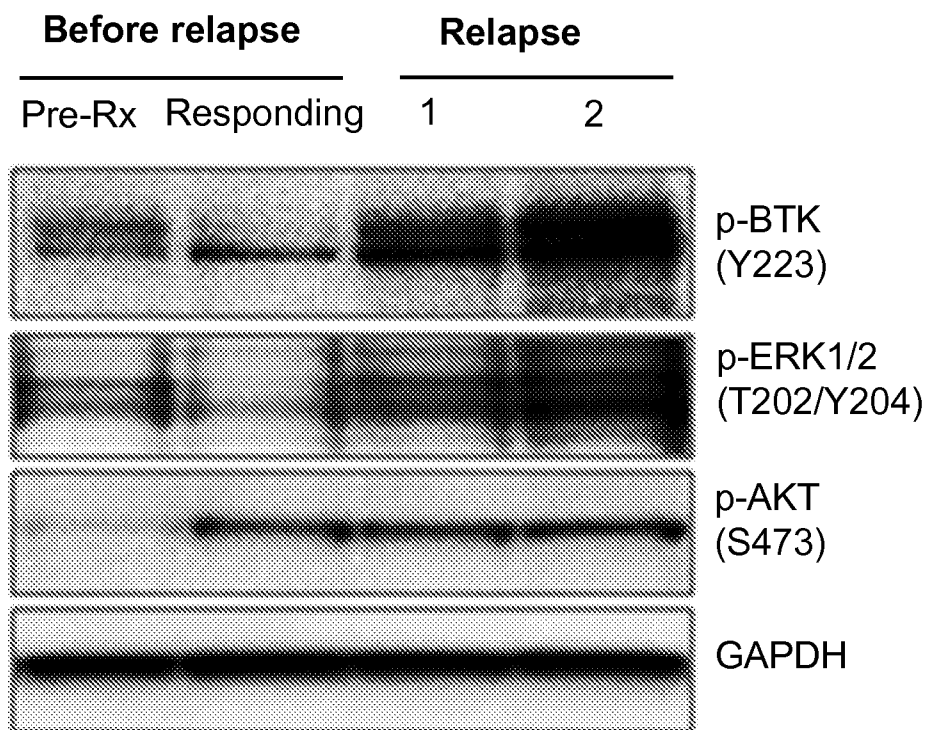


FIG. 1

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**FIG. 2A**

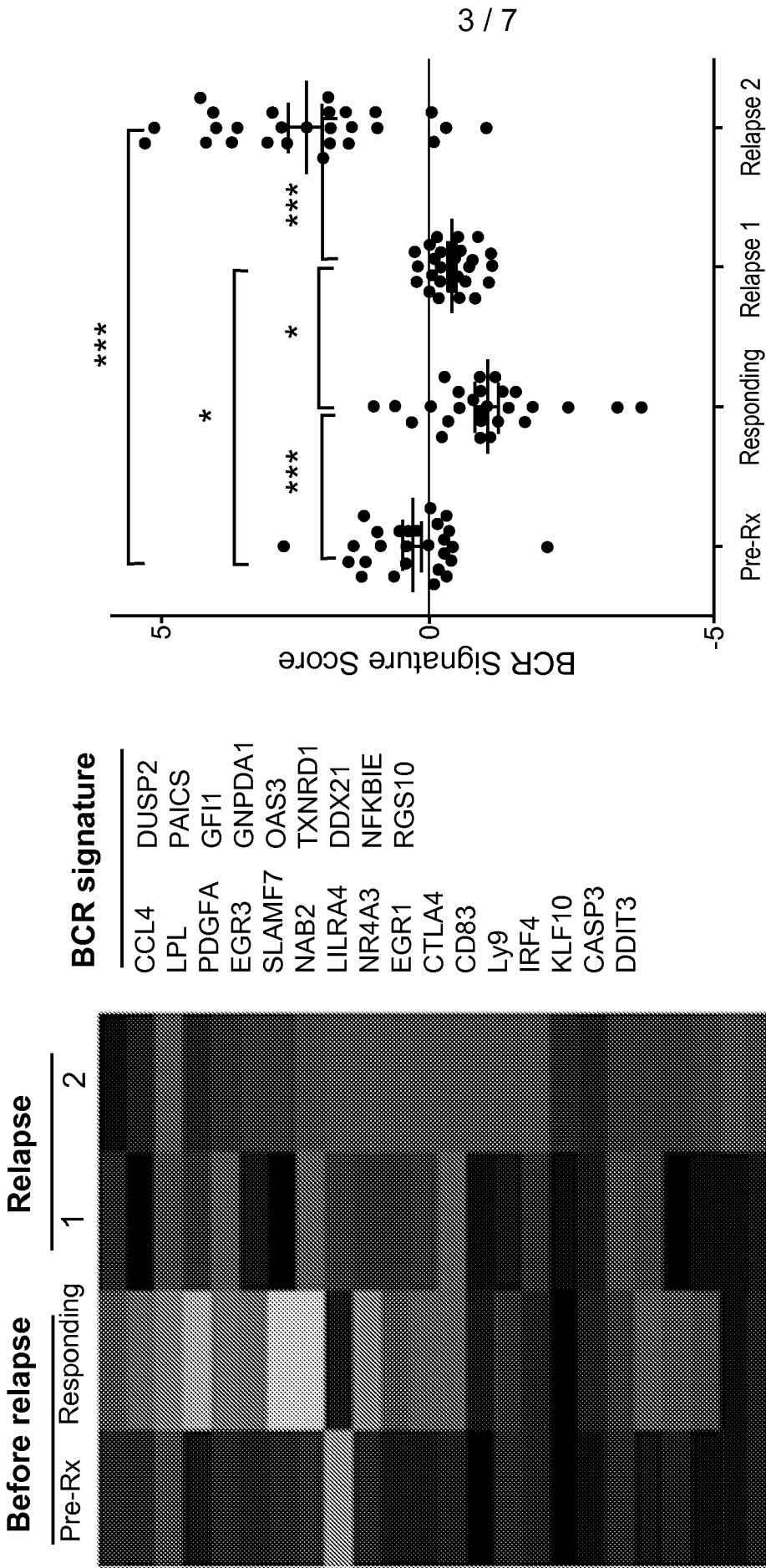
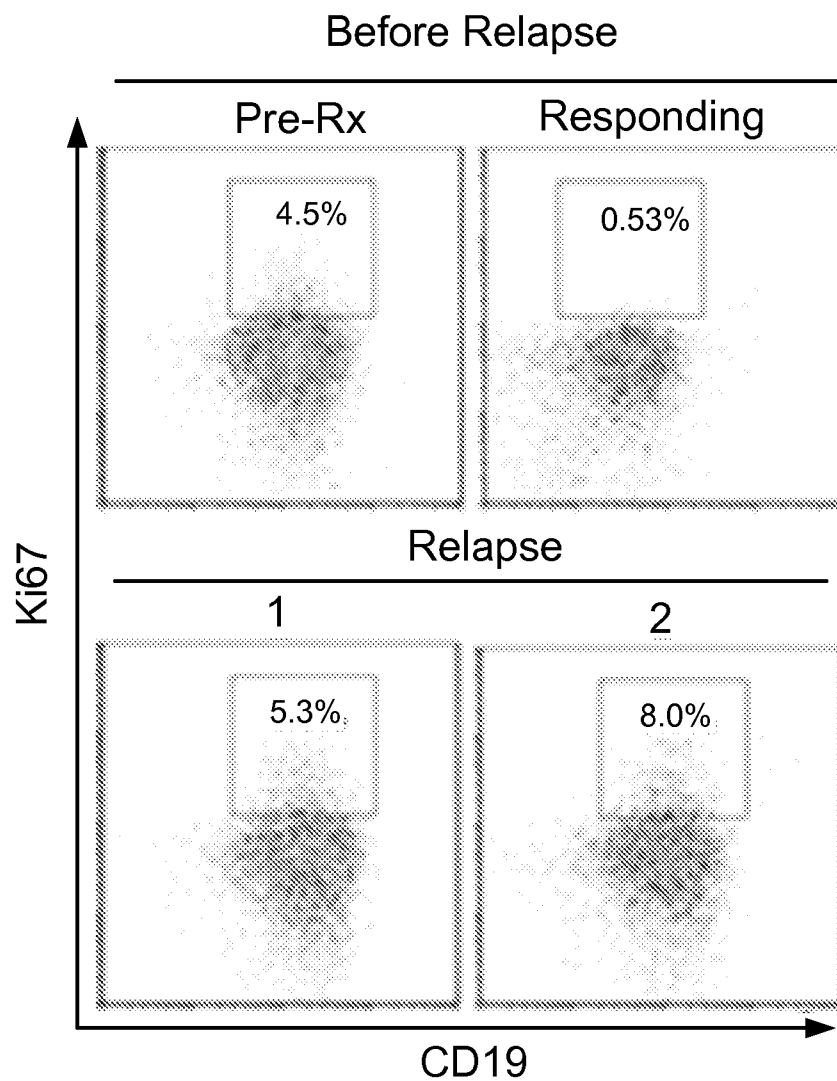
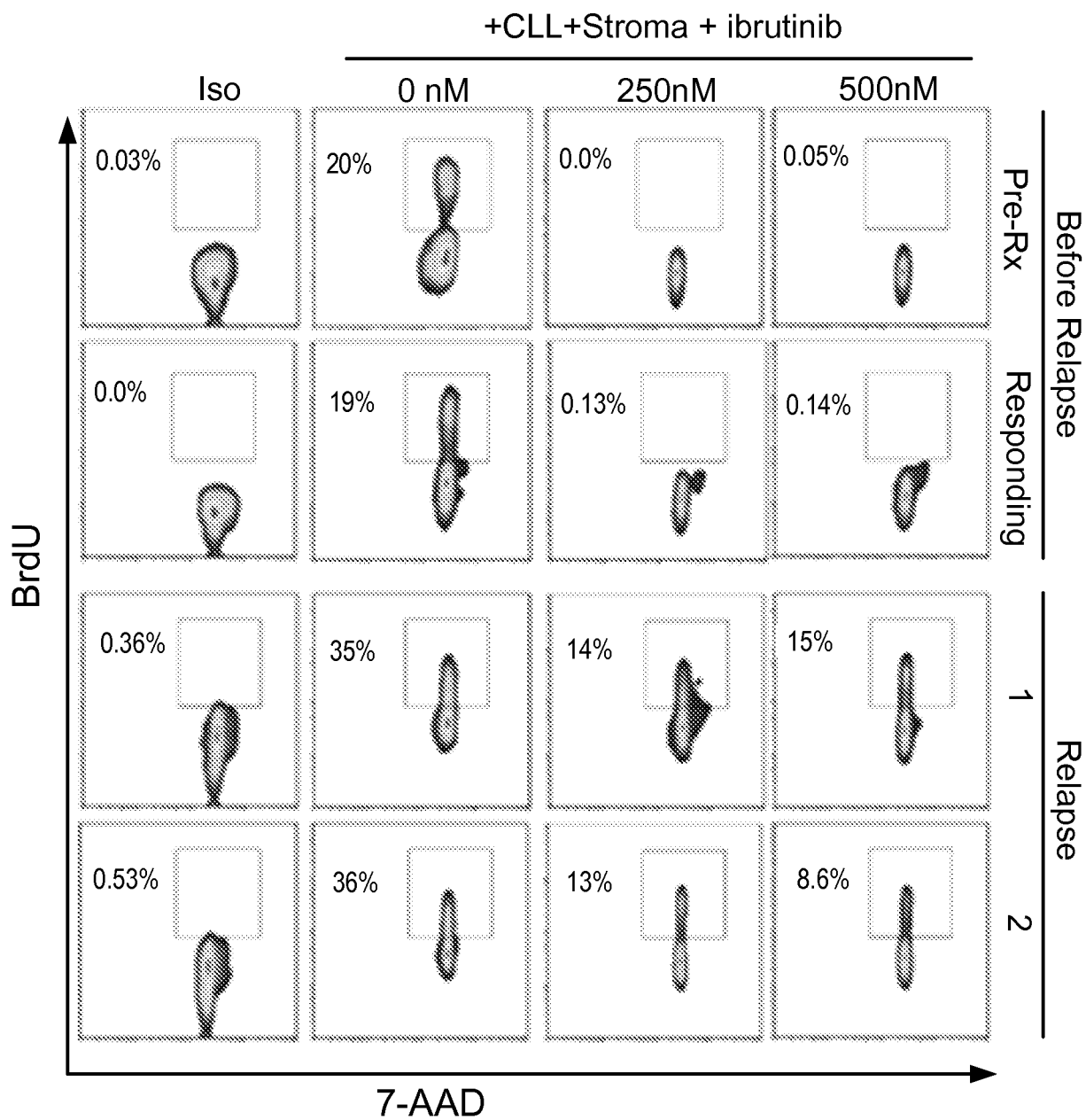


FIG. 2B

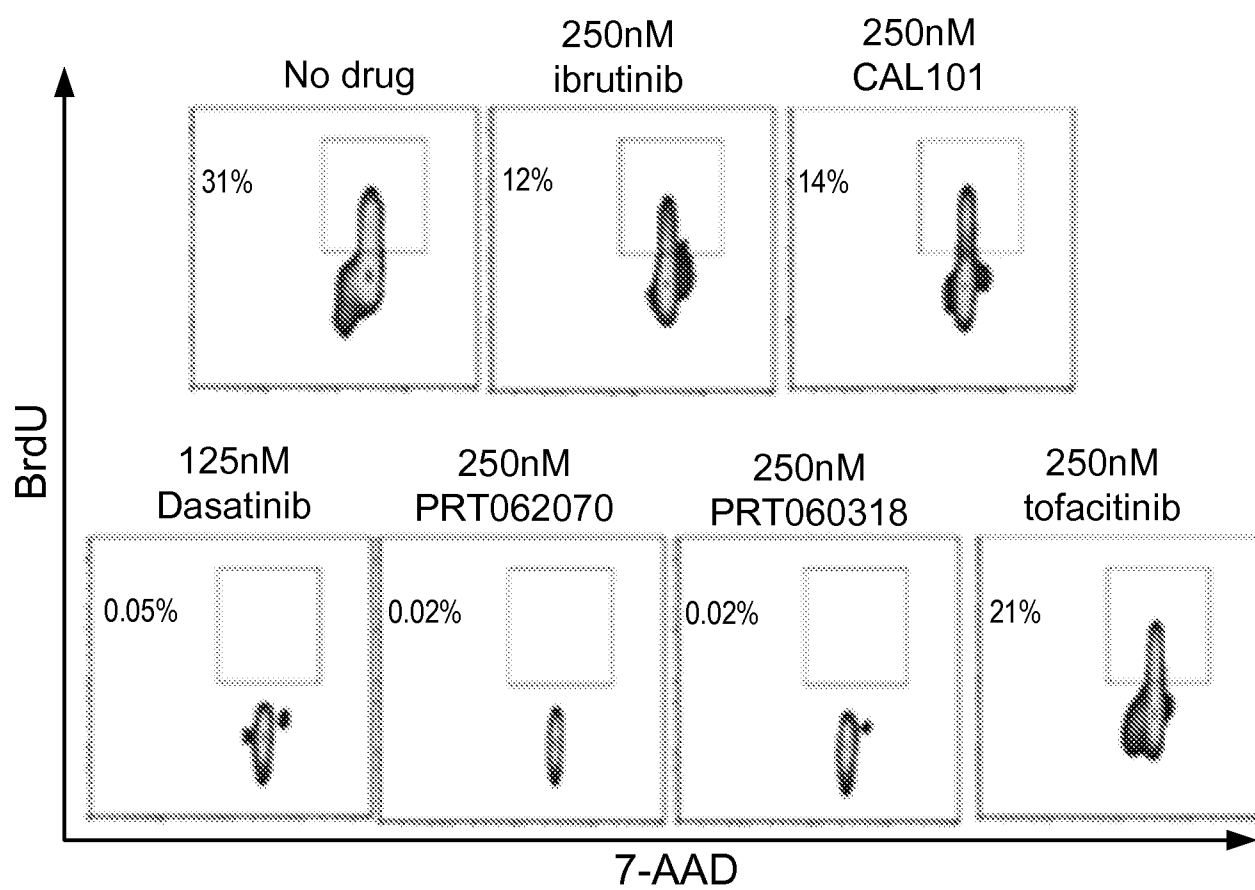
4 / 7

**FIG. 3A**

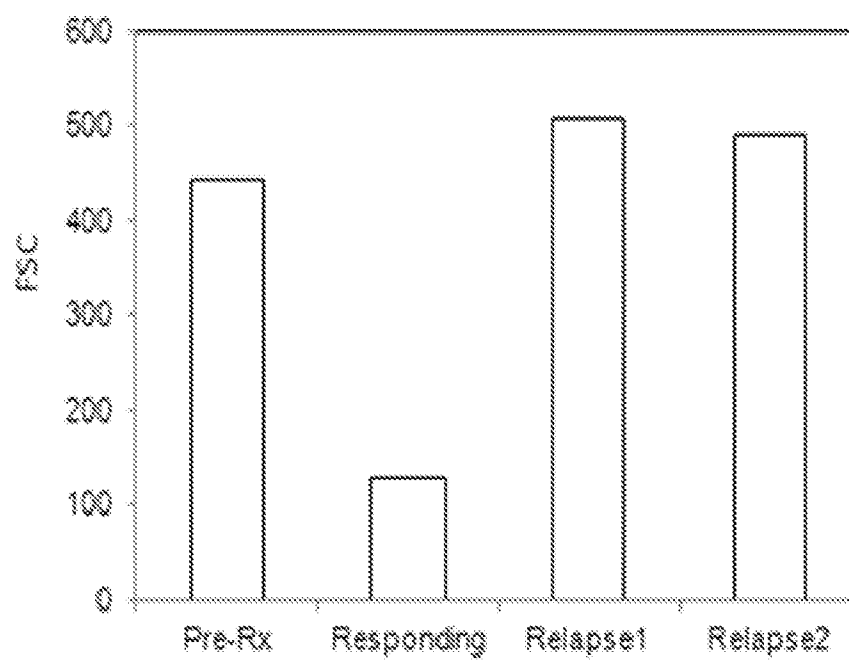
5 / 7

**FIG. 3B**

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**FIG. 3C**

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**FIG. 4**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2013/051741

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. C12Q1/68
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EP0-Internal, BIOSIS, Sequence Search, EMBASE, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>HANTSCHER OLIVER ET AL: "Systematic profiling and novel targets of the Bcr-Abl kinase inhibitors imatinib, nilotinib and dasatinib", BLOOD, vol. 110, no. 11, Part 2, November 2007 (2007-11), page 207B, XP002714015, & 49TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN-SOCIETY-OF-HEMATOLOGY; ATLANTA, GA, USA; DECEMBER 08 -11, 2007 ISSN: 0006-4971 the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/--</p>	1-104

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 October 2013

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/01/2014

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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Authorized officer

Dolce, Luca

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2013/051741

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	OLIVER HANTSCH ET AL: "The Btk Tyrosine Kinase is a Major Target of the Bcr- Abl Inhibitor Dasatinib", PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES - PNAS, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, US, vol. 104, no. 33, 14 August 2007 (2007-08-14), pages 13283-13288, XP008141134, ISSN: 0027-8424, DOI: 10.1073/PNAS.0702654104 [retrieved on 2007-08-07] the whole document	1-104
X	----- WO 2008/054827 A2 (PHARMACYCLICS INC [US]; PAN ZHENGYING [US]; LI SHYR JIANN [US]; SCHERE) 8 May 2008 (2008-05-08) paragraph [0118]	53,67, 70, 75-77, 81,83-85
A	----- VILLUENDAS R ET AL: "Identification of genes involved in imatinib resistance in CML: a gene-expression profiling approach", LEUKEMIA, MACMILLAN PRESS LTD, US, vol. 20, no. 6, 1 June 2006 (2006-06-01), pages 1047-1054, XP008096484, ISSN: 0887-6924, DOI: 10.1038/SJ.LEU.2404197 [retrieved on 2006-04-06]	1-104
A	----- WO 2008/121742 A2 (PHARMACYCLICS INC [US]; HONIGBERG LEE [US]; VERNER ERIK [US]; BUGGY JO) 9 October 2008 (2008-10-09) the whole document	1-104
A	----- WO 2011/133609 A2 (TRANSLATIONAL GENOMICS RES INST [US]; HAN HAIYONG [US]; VON HOFF DANIE) 27 October 2011 (2011-10-27) the whole document	1-104
A	----- BALASUBRAMANIAN SRIRAM ET AL: "Identification of MicroRNA Markers of Sensitivity to the Novel Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) Inhibitor PCI-32765 in Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma", BLOOD, vol. 112, no. 11, November 2008 (2008-11), pages 1155-1156, XP002714016, & 50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN-SOCIETY-OF-HEMATOLOGY; SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA; DECEMBER 06 -09, 2008 ISSN: 0006-4971 the whole document	1-104

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2013/051741

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-104

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-104

Methods and products all based on a mutation in amino acid position 481 of BTK (SEQ ID NO: 1)

2. claims: 105-131

same as above for the mutations in PCL gamma 2

3. claims: 132-158

same as above for the mutation in CARD 11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2013/051741

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2008054827	A2	08-05-2008	CA 2668286 A1 08-05-2008
		EP 2089391 A2 19-08-2009	
		ES 2403546 T3 20-05-2013	
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		KR 20100007864 A 22-01-2010	
		NZ 579911 A 25-05-2012	
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			WO 2011133609 A2 27-10-2011
