



# Molecular map of chronic lymphocytic leukemia and its impact on outcome

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**Recent advances in cancer characterization have consistently revealed marked heterogeneity, impeding the completion of integrated molecular and clinical maps for each malignancy. Here, we focus on chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), a B cell neoplasm with variable natural history that is conventionally categorized into two subtypes distinguished by extent of somatic mutations in the heavy-chain variable region of immunoglobulin genes (IGHV). To build the ‘CLL map,’ we integrated genomic, transcriptomic and epigenomic data from 1,148 patients. We identified 202 candidate genetic drivers of CLL (109 new) and refined the characterization of IGHV subtypes, which revealed distinct genomic landscapes and leukemogenic trajectories. Discovery of new gene expression subtypes further subcategorized this neoplasm and proved to be independent prognostic factors. Clinical outcomes were associated with a combination of genetic, epigenetic and gene expression features, further advancing our prognostic paradigm. Overall, this work reveals fresh insights into CLL oncogenesis and prognostication.**

Previous analyses have provided only fragments of the ‘CLL map,’ each focusing on particular patient populations or different data types<sup>1–9</sup>, but none have built a comprehensive atlas with sufficient power and resolution to fully characterize the whole bioclinical spectrum of the disease. We set out to assemble, from existing and newly generated data, the largest CLL dataset to date. This dataset encompassed samples from 1,095 patients with CLL and 54 patients with monoclonal B cell lymphocytosis (MBL) from which whole-exome

sequencing (WES) or whole-genome sequencing (WGS) ( $n = 1,074$ ), RNA-sequencing (RNA-seq) ( $n = 712$ ) and DNA methylation data ( $n = 999$ ) were analyzed (Extended Data Fig. 1a,b). Samples were collected during active surveillance ( $n = 680$ ), after treatment ( $n = 52$ ) or upon enrollment in therapeutic clinical trials<sup>1–3,10–13</sup> ( $n = 416$ ;  $n = 371$  treatment naive;  $n = 45$  relapsed/refractory) (Supplementary Table 1). This large dataset enabled more complete delineation of the biological underpinnings of CLL and its molecular subtypes.

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## Results

**Identification of new CLL drivers.** To generate a comprehensive catalog of drivers, we first focused on the 984 CLL samples with WES. To ensure consistency and highest accuracy of the mutation calls, we reprocessed the data with an updated suite of tools, detecting somatic single-nucleotide variants (sSNVs), short insertion/deletion mutations (indels) and somatic copy-number alterations (sCNAs). We also applied specialized tools for detecting recently described CLL driver events such as the g.3A>C mutation of the spliceosome-related small nuclear RNA U1 (ref. <sup>14</sup>) (U1) and the R110 mutation in the IGLV3-21 gene<sup>15,16</sup> (IGLV3-21<sup>R110</sup>) (Methods). Our prior power estimates<sup>17</sup> suggested that with ~1,000 WES samples and somatic background mutation rate of ~1/Mb in CLL, we should be able to discover >90% of drivers mutated in 2% of patients, whereas with ~500 samples, the power drops to 50%. To verify these estimates, we performed a down-sampling analysis and confirmed that the number of drivers almost doubled, increasing from an average of 38.8 with 500 cases to 74.5 with ~1,000 cases, with the majority of new drivers mutated in <2% of patients (Fig. 1a and Methods). Likewise, increased cohort size enabled discovery of significantly recurrent sCNAs across all frequencies, with the steepest increase in lower-frequency drivers (<3%; Fig. 1b).

Our dataset revealed 82 putative CLL driver genes based on recurrent sSNV/indel mutations ( $q < 0.1$ ), of which 37 were not previously identified as significantly altered in CLL<sup>1,2,18–20</sup> (Methods, Fig. 1c and Supplementary Tables 2–4). Beyond the previously known CLL drivers, such as *SF3B1*, *NOTCH1*, *ATM* and *TP53* (mutated in 17.5%, 12.3%, 11.2% and 9.1% of patients, respectively), as well as mutations in IGLV3-21<sup>R110</sup> and U1 (mutated in 9.5% and 3.8%, respectively), the frequencies of the remaining events form a long, gradually decreasing tail (59 of 82 drivers mutated in <2% of patients). Although most newly discovered genes were mutated at low frequency, 24.2% of patients harbored at least one mutation in a new putative driver. Notably, they were also the sole sSNV/indel driver in 4% of patients. Six additional putative drivers were discovered through spatial clustering of mutations in 3D protein structures, using CLUMPS<sup>21</sup>, including *MAP2K2*, *DIS3* and *DICER1* (Fig. 1d, Extended Data Fig. 1c and Supplementary Table 5). Three *MAP2K2* mutations were localized in the kinase domain, which activates ERK signaling and is functionally similar to *MAP2K1*, a previously identified CLL driver<sup>1</sup>. *DIS3* encodes the catalytic subunit of a critical RNA exosome complex<sup>22</sup> and is recurrently mutated in multiple myeloma<sup>23</sup>. Two of four altered sites in *DIS3* were in cancer hotspots (D479 and D488<sup>24</sup>) and located in the catalytic domain<sup>25</sup>. Beyond sSNV/indels in coding regions, an analysis of 177 WGS did not reveal novel noncoding CLL drivers<sup>2,14</sup> (Methods, Supplementary Table 3 and Supplementary Note).

In support of the newly discovered drivers, we noted that 7 (18.9%) had mutations clustered in functional domains (Extended Data Fig. 1d). For example, mutations were identified in the

DNA-binding domain of *INO80*, which encodes the catalytic subunit of a chromatin remodeling complex that regulates genome stability<sup>26</sup> and is frequently mutated in hepatosplenic T cell lymphoma<sup>27</sup>. Additionally, 7 (18.9%) have a role in other mature B cell malignancies, such as the tumor suppressor gene, *RFX7*, implicated in Burkitt lymphoma<sup>28</sup> and diffuse large B cell lymphoma<sup>29</sup>. These candidate drivers were also enriched in biological pathways known to contribute to CLL pathogenesis, such as DNA damage and chromatin modification<sup>1,2,14</sup>. However, they also identified processes not previously highlighted by driver genes, such as protein synthesis and stability, as well as regulation of cytoskeletal proteins and the extracellular matrix (Extended Data Fig. 2a,b and Supplementary Table 6).

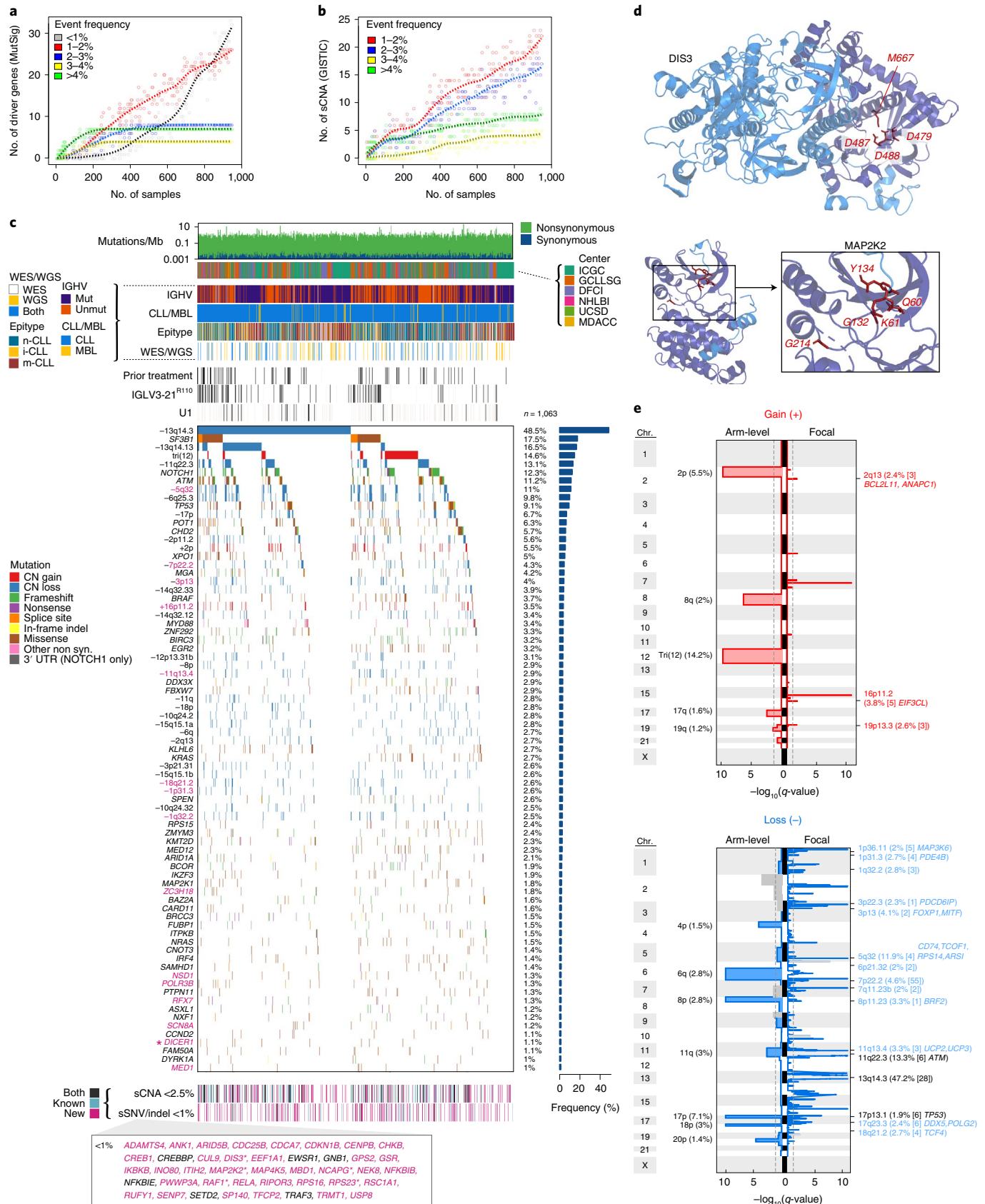
A striking finding provided by our increased statistical power was the abundance of yet-unreported focal sCNAs associated with CLL, including 5 new gains and 30 new losses (of 6 and 53 total, respectively)<sup>1,2,30–32</sup> (Fig. 1e and Supplementary Table 7). One such deletion in 5q32 (11.9% of samples) encompassed *ARSI*, *TCOF1*, *CD74* and *RPS14*, which is part of the common deleted region in 5q– syndrome, a low-risk subtype of myelodysplastic syndrome<sup>33</sup>. Two of these genes, *RPS14* and *TCOF1*, are involved in ribosome function or biogenesis and have been implicated in inflammatory Toll-like receptor signaling in myelodysplastic syndrome models<sup>34</sup> and in maintaining genomic integrity after DNA damage<sup>35</sup>, respectively, suggesting that multiple genes in this region are associated with pathways involved in CLL oncogenesis. Other deletions contain *UCP2* and *UCP3* in 11q13.4 (3.3%), which encode mitochondrial uncoupling proteins that function as tumor suppressors altering redox homeostasis<sup>36,37</sup> and multiple other regions that include known cancer-associated genes<sup>38</sup> (Supplementary Table 7). We were further enabled to identify rarely reported arm-level sCNAs, including 17q gain (1.6%) and 4p loss (1.5%)<sup>1,31</sup>. Altogether, our results vastly expand the map of CLL drivers and reveal convergent mechanisms through which cardinal cellular processes are altered in this disease.

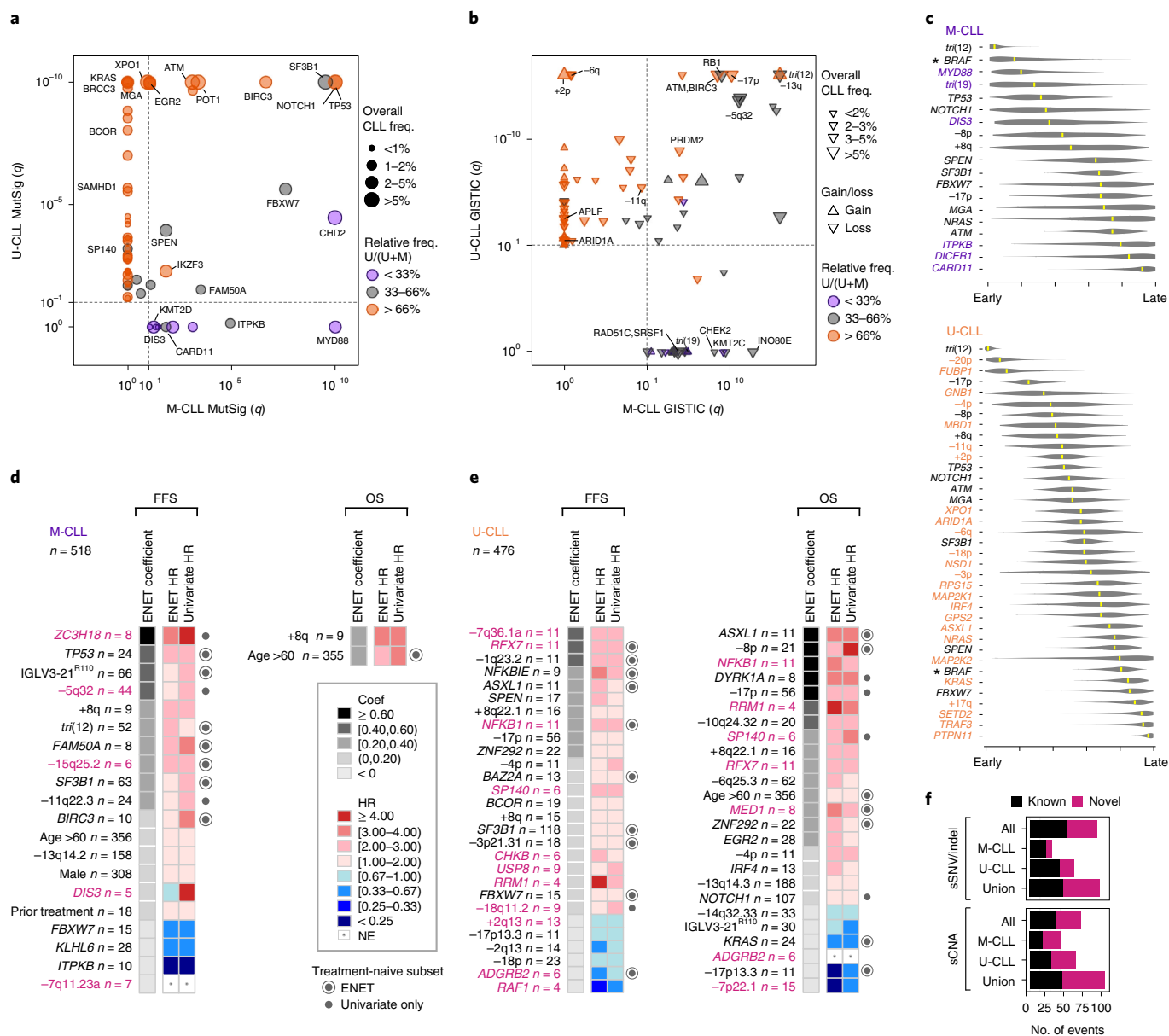
**Molecular profiles of IGHV subtypes.** We leveraged our increased cohort size to discover distinct candidate driver genes, sCNAs and structural variants (SVs) in 512 CLLs with mutated IGHV (M-CLLs) and 459 CLLs with unmutated IGHV (U-CLLs), expanding previous work that identified only a limited number of discrete molecular characteristics associated with IGHV status<sup>1,2,39</sup> (Methods and Supplementary Table 8). The IGHV subtype-specific mutation analyses increased our sensitivity to identify seven additional putative drivers that were not identified in the pan-CLL analysis (Extended Data Figs. 1e and 3 and Supplementary Table 4 and 5). In U-CLL, this included *NFKB1*, a regulator of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling<sup>40</sup>, and *RRM1*, which encodes the catalytic subunit of ribonucleotide reductase that is critical for DNA replication and repair as well as the target of nucleoside analogs, including fludarabine<sup>41</sup>.

**Fig. 1 | Increased power enables CLL driver gene detection.** **a, b**, By down-sampling analysis, driver gene (a) and sCNA (b) discovery increases with additional samples. Points represent a random subset of samples with smoothed fit line; analysis separated by frequency. **c**, Landscape of genetic alterations in CLL with frequency of alterations (right,  $n = 1,063$  patients). Header tracks show annotation of cohort, IGHV status, CLL or MBL sample, epigenetic subtype (epitype: naive-like (n-CLL), intermediate (i-CLL) and memory-like (m-CLL)), sequencing data type, prior treatment and U1 and IGLV3-21<sup>R110</sup> mutations (black) or new alterations (magenta label). Asterisks indicate discovery by CLUMPS. Bottom tracks show lower-frequency sSNV/indels and sCNAs, designated as new (magenta), known events (blue) or both (black). Bottom boxed inset shows candidate driver genes with frequency <1%. **d**, Representative genes identified by CLUMPS (Supplementary Table 5). 3D protein structure of *MAP2K2* and *DIS3*. Mutated residues (red labels) cluster in functional regions (purple). **e**, Recurrent copy-number gains (top) and losses (bottom) by GISTIC analysis showing arm-level (left) and focal events (right). Chromosome number - vertical axis; dashed line - significance,  $q = 0.1$ . Blacklisted regions are in gray. Arm-level events are labeled with cytoband and frequency ( $n = 984$ ). Focal events denote cytoband, frequency, number of genes encompassed in peak (bracketed) and genes of interest. Red/blue font indicates new focal events with frequency >2%. Black font indicates previously known events (Supplementary Table 7). CN, copy number; GCLLSG, German CLL Study Group; DFCl, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; GCLLSG, German CLL Study Group; ICGC, International Cancer Genome Consortium; MDACC, MD Anderson Cancer Center; NHLBI, National Heart Lung and Blood Institute; UCSD, University of California San Diego; Mut, mutated; UCSD, University of California, San Diego; Unmut, unmutated; UTR, untranslated region.

Although M-CLL and U-CLL had similar cohort sizes and comparable mutational burdens in coding regions (1.14/Mb versus 1.11/Mb medians, respectively; Wilcoxon rank-sum test  $P=0.98$ ; though

the mean number of clonal mutations genome-wide was increased in M-CLL – 12.6 versus 9.6,  $P=6 \times 10^{-14}$ ), the number of significant putative drivers was much higher in U-CLL (54 versus 25 genes,





**Fig. 2 | M-CLL and U-CLL have unique genomic landscapes.** **a,b**, Comparison of candidate driver genes (a) or copy-number gains/losses (up/down triangle, respectively; b) in U-CLL (y axis, WES,  $n = 459$ ) versus M-CLL (x axis, WES,  $n = 512$ ) plotted by  $-\log_{10}(q\text{-value})$ . Dashed lines denote significance thresholds. Representative candidate drivers are annotated. Frequency in entire cohort ( $n = 984$ ) is indicated by the size of the circle (a) or triangle (b). Orange represents drivers predominantly in U-CLL, and purple indicates drivers predominantly in M-CLL. **c**, League model timing diagrams comparing acquisition of somatic mutation and arm-level sCNAs in M-CLL (top,  $n = 251$ ) and U-CLL (bottom,  $n = 354$ ). Higher timing score (x axis) denotes later event; median scores are represented by yellow marks (95% confidence interval, gray). Purple indicates events significant in M-CLL, orange indicates events significant in U-CLL and black indicates events shared by M-CLL and U-CLL. Asterisks indicate significant difference in timing ( $q < 0.1$ ). **d,e**, Somatic alterations associated with failure-free survival (FFS) and overall survival (OS) in M-CLL (d, WES/WGS,  $n = 518$  and U-CLL (e, WES/WGS,  $n = 476$ ). Events ranked by elastic net (ENET) coefficients, which identifies variables to be included in the model, shrinking coefficients to 0 when excluded. Heatmap denotes hazard ratios (HRs) for ENET and univariate Cox regressions. Events included by ENET model (concentric circle) or significant in univariate analysis only (closed circle) in treatment-naive, nontrial patients (M-CLL,  $n = 393$ ; U-CLL,  $n = 247$ ) annotated on the right. Magenta label indicates new alterations (Supplementary Table 11). **f**, Number of candidate drivers in three genomic driver detection analyses for the entire cohort (All,  $n = 984$ ), M-CLL ( $n = 512$ ) and U-CLL ( $n = 459$ ). For each analysis set, sSNV/indel represents candidate driver genes from MutSig2CV and CLUMPS, whereas sCNA represents recurrent events from GISTIC. Union indicates total putative drivers identified in any of the three analysis sets. freq., frequency; M, M-CLL; U, U-CLL.

respectively; ratio 2.16, binomial test  $P = 0.0015$ ). To ensure that this difference was not due to prior therapy, we compared only treatment-naive samples within each cohort ( $n = 375$ ; M-CLL was downsampled) and again found more drivers in U-CLL (ratio 2.82, one-sample  $t$ -test  $P = 5 \times 10^{-11}$ ). Most drivers were significant in either M-CLL ( $n = 9$ ) or U-CLL ( $n = 38$ ), whereas only a minority

were significant in both subgroups ( $n = 16$ , 25.4% of total) (Fig. 2a). Of these shared drivers, 10 of the 16 were twice as frequent in U-CLL, consistent with increased driver frequency in this subtype.

IGHV subtypes were also distinguished by sCNA profiles (70 in either M-CLL or U-CLL versus 20 shared) (Fig. 2b, Extended Data Fig. 4 and Supplementary Table 7). Trisomy 19 (1.8%) was only

observed in M-CLL, consistent with previous studies<sup>42</sup>. In contrast, eight arm-level events including 2p gain (11.1%) and loss of 6q (5.6%) were only significant in U-CLL. The majority of focal events distinguishing the IGHV subtypes were new<sup>1,2,30,31</sup>, comprising 18 of 23 events enriched in M-CLL and 25 of 37 in U-CLL, and some provided orthogonal evidence for CLL driver genes discovered through mutation analysis. For example, loss of 1p36.11 (4.4%) contained *ARID1A*, a known driver gene<sup>2</sup>, and both this sCNA and sSNV were only significant in U-CLL. The sCNAs identified also emphasized underlying biology important in CLL leukemogenesis. In M-CLL, the region in 7q36.1b loss (2.5%) included *KMT2C*, a lysine-specific methyltransferase involved in epigenetic regulation<sup>43</sup> (Fig. 2b and Extended Data Fig. 4). A related tumor suppressor, *KMT2D*, is a candidate driver<sup>44</sup> also enriched specifically in M-CLL (Fig. 2a and Extended Data Fig. 3), demonstrating a convergence of different genetic alteration mechanisms on the same biologic pathway in this IGHV subtype.

We further identified differences between M-CLL and U-CLL on the basis of SVs. From 177 WGS (88 M-CLL, 87 U-CLL and 2 nonevaluable), we discovered 681 SV breakpoints in 141 (79.7%) patients (average of 4.8 per patient; Methods and Supplementary Table 9). Approximately 46% of SVs were clonal, supporting a potential role for SVs in CLL initiation (Supplementary Table 9 and Methods). The most recurrent SVs involving the immunoglobulin loci (as identified by IgCaller<sup>45</sup>; Methods) distinguished M-CLL from U-CLL (Extended Data Fig. 5a,b and Supplementary Table 9). We confirmed that the most common Ig translocation partner in M-CLL was *BCL2* (5 of 88 cases, 5.7%)<sup>2</sup>. Conversely, a large 37-Mb deletion in chromosome 14 was identified in U-CLL (4 of 87 cases, 4.6%), which deletes candidate CLL drivers (*DICER1* and *TRAF3*) and directly perturbs *ZFP36L1*, a tumor suppressor gene that down-regulates *NOTCH1* (ref. 46). The rearrangement mechanism also differed between these events, with aberrant V(D)J recombination driving the *BCL2* events in M-CLL and class-switch recombination facilitating the *ZFP36L1*-associated deletions in U-CLL (Methods and Extended Data Fig. 5b), consistent with class-switch recombination events occurring before germinal cell commitment<sup>47,48</sup>. These different patterns and underlying mechanisms were confirmed in the WES cohort where IgCaller detected nine additional cases with *BCL2* translocations in M-CLL and only one in U-CLL (Supplementary Table 9 and Extended Data Fig. 5c).

To evaluate possible differences in mechanisms of somatic mutation generation in M-CLL and U-CLL, we performed mutation signature analysis on 177 WGS and identified activity of five mutational processes (Extended Data Fig. 6a and Supplementary Note). In addition to confirming the presence of the aging, canonical activation-induced cytidine deaminase (c-AID)- and non-canonical AID (nc-AID)-related signatures in both clonal and subclonal mutations<sup>11</sup>, we also found evidence of signature SBS18, likely due to damage from reactive oxygen species, and splitting of the c-AID signatures (SBS84 and SBS85). Of note, clustered mutations in U-CLL were enriched in SBS84 relative to M-CLL, although nonsignificantly (Wilcoxon rank-sum test,  $P=0.19$ ), whereas SBS85 was more prevalent in M-CLL, likely reflecting unique mutational processes arising from AID in each subtype ( $P=1.6 \times 10^{-9}$ ; Extended Data Fig. 6b,c).

Further highlighting the differences between M-CLL and U-CLL, we detected distinct inferred timing of acquired sSNV/indels and arm-level sCNAs when analyzed by PhylogicNDT<sup>49</sup> (Methods and Fig. 2c). Trisomy 12 was an early event, and shared drivers such as *TP53* and *NOTCH1* were intermediate in both CLL subtypes<sup>1</sup>. In contrast, acquisition of *BRAF* mutations was an early event in M-CLL but occurred late in U-CLL ( $q < 0.1$ ). Of those drivers specifically enriched per subtype, *MYD88* was an early event in M-CLL, whereas chromosome 20p loss and *FUBP1* alterations may be initiating lesions in U-CLL. We separately assessed the temporal

acquisition of sSNV/indels by analyzing their cancer cell fractions (CCFs) (Extended Data Fig. 6d). Only 12 (12.4%) driver genes had predominantly clonal events with a median CCF > 85%, and 6 of these 12 were new, including *MSL3* and *USP8* identified in M-CLL and U-CLL, respectively. This panoply of genetic differences underscores M-CLL and U-CLL as distinct molecular entities and supports their unique trajectories of leukemogenesis.

Given these differences, we analyzed the clinical impact of putative genetic drivers from each IGHV subtype (Methods, Fig. 2d,e, Table 1 and Supplementary Tables 10 and 11). Relative to M-CLL, U-CLL had more genetic changes associated with either failure-free survival (FFS) and/or overall survival (OS) (41 in U-CLL versus 18 in M-CLL, binomial test  $P=0.004$ ; Fig. 2d,e). Of these, 18 were new events (5 of 18 in M-CLL and 13 of 41 in U-CLL; Fig. 2d,e). In M-CLL, *ZC3H18* mutations and losses of 5q32 and 15q25.2 were new alterations associated with risk of short FFS in addition to known factors such as *TP53* and *IGLV3-21*<sup>R110</sup> mutations. The prognostic impact of many of these novel putative drivers was also supported when the dataset was restricted to only treatment-naive, nontrial samples ( $n=393$ ) (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 10). Only two features were associated with reduced survival in M-CLL, which were age >60 years and gain of 8q, the chromosomal arm containing *MYC*. In U-CLL, *RFX7* and *NFKB1* were new candidate drivers associated with poor FFS and OS, although only FFS was shorter in the treatment-naive subset ( $n=247$ ; Supplementary Table 10). The prognostic impact of known but less frequent drivers, such as *NFKBIE* and *ASXL1*, was also evident in addition to verifying the known effects of more common features like 17p deletion. Of note, 17p deletion and *TP53* mutations significantly cooccur<sup>1</sup>, which partially explains why only one was significant in our modeling. Further analysis of either alteration alone or in combination demonstrated that *TP53* mutation in the absence of 17p deletion was not associated with adverse outcomes in U-CLL (Supplementary Table 10). This observation likely reflects the use of contemporary therapies such as ibrutinib and venetoclax where *TP53* mutation alone has not been shown to influence prognosis<sup>50,51</sup>.

In summary, aggregation of three separate genomic analyses of the entire cohort ( $n=984$ ), M-CLL ( $n=512$ ) and U-CLL ( $n=459$ ) revealed a total of 97 putative CLL driver genes and 105 sCNAs in addition to U1 and *IGLV3-21*<sup>R110</sup> mutations (Fig. 2f). Our previous studies demonstrated that 8.9% of patients lacked an identifiable driver<sup>1,2</sup>. In our current analysis, the percentage of patients lacking at least one potential driver was reduced to 3.8%. These patients without identifiable drivers were predominantly M-CLL (Fisher's exact test  $P=1.04 \times 10^{-7}$ ; 6.6% relative to 0.6% in U-CLL), confirming yet another distinction between the IGHV subtypes<sup>2</sup>.

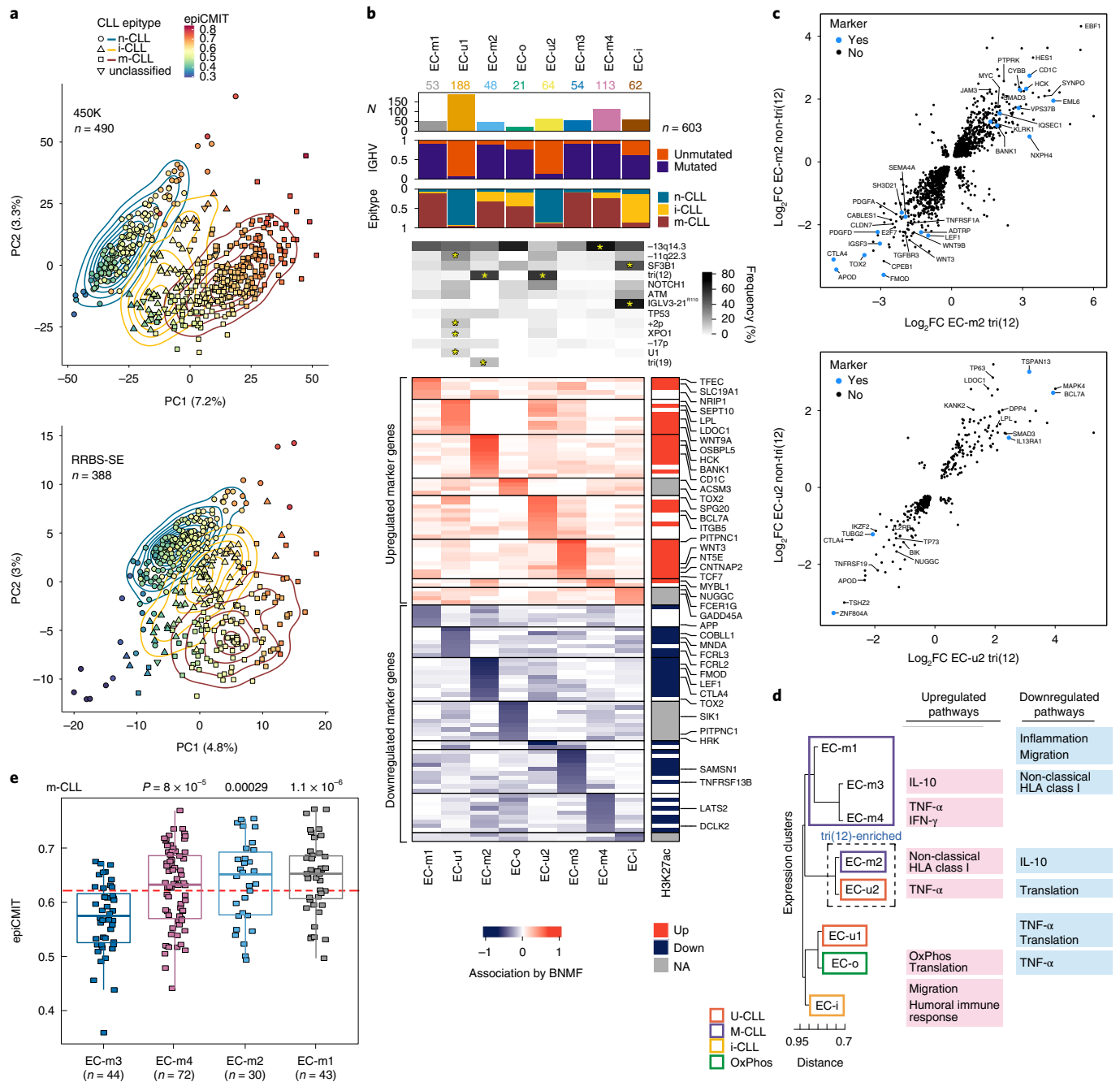
### CLL subtypes based on epigenomic and transcriptomic features.

In addition to subtypes based on IGHV status, genome-wide DNA methylation studies previously identified three epigenetic groups (epitypes), defined based on distinct methylation profiles of pre- and post-germinal center experienced B cells, including naive-like CLL (n-CLL; predominantly U-CLL), intermediate CLL (i-CLL; mix of M-CLL and U-CLL) and memory-like CLL (m-CLL; predominantly M-CLL)<sup>6,7</sup>. Furthermore, cell division results in epigenetic imprints that correlate with the proliferative history of the cell. A mitotic clock score called epigenetically determined cumulative mitoses (epiCMIT) has further delineated prognosis within epitypes where higher epiCMIT scores corresponded with worse prognosis<sup>52</sup>. Epitypes and epiCMIT were defined previously<sup>7,53</sup> using 450K DNA methylation arrays ( $n=490$ ), but we also developed and validated new methodologies to incorporate reduced representation bisulfite sequencing data (RRBS) ( $n=509$ ) (Methods, Extended Data Fig. 7a–f and Supplementary Tables 2 and 12). Evaluating the entire dataset ( $n=999$ ), we found that the two main sources of variation in the CLL DNA methylome are explained by components

**Table 1 | Patient characteristics in clinical analyses**

	Overall <sup>a</sup> , n (%)	IGHV, mutated, n (%)	IGHV unmutated, n (%)	Treatment naive <sup>b</sup> , n (%)	Treatment naive <sup>b</sup> , IGHV, mutated, n (%)	Treatment naive <sup>b</sup> , IGHV unmutated, n (%)	EC cohort, n (%)	Integrated analysis, n (%)
Number of patients	1,009	518	476	640	393	247	603	506
Site								
UCSD	21 (2)	8 (2)	13 (3)	21 (3)	8 (2)	13 (5)	20 (3)	17 (3)
DFCI	172 (17)	103 (20)	69 (15)	138 (22)	96 (24)	42 (17)	105 (17)	64 (13)
GCLLSG	278 (28)	107 (21)	160 (34)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	206 (34)	172 (34)
MDACC	22 (2)	0 (0)	21 (4)	2 (<1)	0 (0)	2 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
NHLBI	68 (7)	23 (4)	45 (9)	46 (7)	19 (5)	27 (11)	11 (2)	10 (2)
ICGC	448 (44)	277 (53)	168 (35)	433 (68)	270 (69)	163 (66)	261 (43)	243 (48)
Treatment naive	920 (91)	500 (97)	407 (86)	640 (100)	393 (100)	247 (100)	603 (100)	0 (0)
Age at time of sample (years), median (range)								
<60	375 (37)	163 (31)	208 (44)	227 (35)	118 (30)	109 (44)	226 (37)	189 (37)
≥60	634 (63)	355 (69)	268 (56)	413 (65)	275 (70)	138 (56)	377 (63)	317 (63)
Sex								
Male	655 (65)	308 (59)	336 (71)	384 (60)	218 (55)	166 (67)	405 (67)	342 (68)
Female	354 (35)	210 (41)	140 (29)	256 (40)	175 (45)	81 (33)	198 (33)	164 (32)
Rai stage at diagnosis								
0	368 (36)	250 (48)	115 (24)	347 (54)	241 (61)	106 (43)	222 (37)	185 (37)
1	192 (19)	74 (14)	113 (24)	105 (16)	53 (13)	52 (21)	122 (20)	101 (20)
2	114 (11)	47 (9)	65 (14)	30 (5)	13 (3)	17 (7)	67 (11)	56 (11)
3	15 (1)	4 (1)	11 (2)	7 (1)	1 (<1)	6 (2)	9 (1)	7 (1)
4	31 (3)	12 (2)	19 (4)	8 (1)	4 (1)	4 (2)	18 (3)	16 (3)
Unknown	290 (29)	132 (25)	153 (32)	143 (22)	81 (21)	62 (25)	165 (27)	141 (28)
IGHV								
Mutated	518 (51)	518 (0)	0 (0)	394 (61)	393 (100)	0 (0)	319 (53)	272 (54)
Unmutated	476 (47)	0 (0)	476 (0)	247 (39)	0 (0)	247 (100)	272 (45)	234 (46)
Unknown	15 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (2)	0 (0)
EC								
EC-m1	—	—	—	—	—	—	53 (9)	47 (9)
EC-u1	—	—	—	—	—	—	188 (31)	152 (30)
EC-m2	—	—	—	—	—	—	48 (8)	43 (9)
EC-o	—	—	—	—	—	—	21 (3)	19 (4)
EC-u2	—	—	—	—	—	—	64 (11)	53 (10)
EC-m3	—	—	—	—	—	—	54 (9)	47 (9)
EC-m4	—	—	—	—	—	—	113 (19)	92 (18)
EC-i	—	—	—	—	—	—	62 (10)	53 (10)
Epitype (n = 874) <sup>c</sup>								
Memory	342 (39)	—	—	—	—	—	—	216 (43)
Intermediate	141 (16)	—	—	—	—	—	—	79 (16)
Naive	391 (45)	—	—	—	—	—	—	211 (42)
Copy-number alterations <sup>d</sup>								
tri(12)	149 (15)	52 (10)	94 (20)	90 (14)	34 (9)	56 (23)	—	68 (13)
del(13q14.3)	488 (48)	293 (56)	188 (40)	306 (48)	219 (56)	87 (35)	—	255 (50)
del(11q)	169 (17)	24 (5)	163 (34)	83 (21)	11 (3)	72 (30)	—	87 (17)
del(17p)	89 (9)	13 (3)	56 (12)	30 (5)	9 (2)	21 (9)	—	31 (7)

Em dashes indicate data not analyzed in the cohort. EC, expression cluster. <sup>a</sup>With OS and sequencing data. <sup>b</sup>Excluding patients sampled because they had enrolled on a treatment trial. <sup>c</sup>Epitype was not included in the genetics analyses, but it is included for descriptive purposes. <sup>d</sup>All copy-number alterations were defined by GISTIC (Methods). del(17p) and del(11q) includes arm and focal events encompassing TP53 (del(17p) + del(17p13.1)) and ATM (del(11q) + del(11q22.3)).



**Fig. 3 | CLL subtypes based on epigenetic and transcriptomic features.** **a**, Main sources of variability in the DNA methylome are epitype and epiCMIT as determined by unsupervised principal-component (PC) analysis in samples analyzed by 450K methylation array (top,  $n = 490$ ) or single-end RRBS (RRBS-SE, bottom,  $n = 388$ ). **b**, Eight gene expression clusters (ECs; columns) were identified by Bayesian non-negative matrix factorization (BNMF) method in 603 treatment-naïve samples. Heatmap demonstrates associated upregulated (red) and downregulated (blue) marker genes for each cluster (rows) with select genes (right; Supplementary Table 13). Right vertical panel demonstrates upregulated (Up, red) or downregulated (Down, blue) histone 3 lysine 27 acetylation (H3K27ac) in regulatory regions for each marker gene; EC-o and EC-i H3K27ac was not assessed due to low sample size (NA, gray). Header shows the number of samples in ECs, association with IGHV subtype (M-CLL, purple; U-CLL, orange) or epitype (n-CLL, blue; i-CLL, yellow; m-CLL, red). Frequency of common CLL alterations is shown for each EC. Significant associations are marked with asterisks ( $q < 0.1$ , curveball algorithm; Methods). **c**, Differential gene expression of tri(12)-positive and negative cases in EC-m2 (top) and EC-u2 (bottom) compared to all other M-CLL or U-CLLs, respectively (EC marker genes shown in blue). **d**, Dendrogram of ECs with associated upregulated and downregulated biologic pathways determined by gene set enrichment analysis (Extended Data Fig. 9b). **e**, Cellular proliferative history, represented by epiCMIT, varied in ECs enriched with m-CLL epitype. EC-m3 had significantly lower epiCMIT relative to EC-m1, EC-m2 and EC-m4 ( $P$  values by two-sided  $t$ -test; unadjusted). The dashed red line marks the mean epiCMIT in all m-CLLs ( $n = 404$ ). In boxplots, the center line represents the median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, 1.5 $\times$  interquartile range. IL-10, interleukin-10; IFN, interferon; FC, fold change; OxPhos, oxidative phosphorylation; TNF, tumor necrosis factor.

of cellular memory: the cell of origin (epitype) and the proliferative history of the cell (epiCMIT) (Fig. 3a).

While the overall DNA methylome mainly reflects the cellular past of each CLL, the present phenotypic state can be determined by investigating transcriptomes. By applying Bayesian non-negative matrix factorization for unsupervised clustering of RNA-seq data from 603 treatment-naive CLL samples, we identified 8 robust expression clusters (ECs) (Fig. 3b, Extended Data Fig. 8a–d, Supplementary Table 13 and Supplementary Note). The ECs strongly associated with IGHV mutational status and/or epitype, revealing two subtypes of U-CLL/n-CLL (EC-u1 and EC-u2) and four subtypes of M-CLL/m-CLL (EC-m1, EC-m2, EC-m3 and EC-m4) (Supplementary Table 13). EC-i was best defined by the i-CLL epitype whereas EC-o, the smallest cluster ( $n=21$ ; 3.5%), was not significantly associated with any previously defined CLL group. Both EC-i and EC-o displayed borderline identity of somatic hypermutations in IGHV with germline, close to the 98% threshold distinguishing M-CLL from U-CLL (Extended Data Fig. 8e).

Although most ECs associated with IGHV status and epitype, expression-based clustering further refined and defined subsets within these conventional distinctions. However, 8% of samples had discordant IGHV status and EC assignment (i.e., M-CLLs included in EC-u clusters or vice versa). As an example of these discordant cases, we observed that eight M-CLLs clustered in EC-u2, comprising 13% of this EC-u cluster. IGHV mutation rate for discordant cases was compared to those with concordant expression profiles, and although a small difference in mean percent identity in U-CLL was detected ( $t$ -test  $P=0.032$ , 99.65% versus 99.96% means, respectively), no difference was found among M-CLL cases ( $P=0.24$ , 93.96% versus 93.25%) (Extended Data Fig. 8f). Although correctly classified, some discordant cases had borderline IGHV status (97.5–98.5% IGHV identity;  $n=7$ ) consistent with enrichment of the i-CLL epitype (17% in discordant versus 8.3% in concordant samples, Fisher's exact test  $P=0.03$ ). Interestingly, *CHD2* alterations were overrepresented in discordant M-CLL cases where 45% had either *CHD2* mutation or loss of 15q26.1 encompassing *CHD2* ( $P=0.002$ ).

We further explored whether the ECs were enriched with specific drivers. Indeed, EC-u1 was associated with loss of 11q22.3, gain 2p, and *XPO1* and *U1* mutations, whereas EC-u2 displayed enrichment of tri(12) ( $q<0.1$ ) (Fig. 3b and Supplementary Table 13). EC-m2 was also associated with tri(12), occurring in 56%, as well as tri(19)<sup>53</sup>, *SF3B1* and *IGLV3-21*<sup>R110</sup> mutations were both enriched in EC-i (53% and 77%, respectively), which is consistent with previous work demonstrating their association with the i-CLL epitype<sup>54</sup>. Conversely, EC-m1 was enriched with driverless patients (24% of M-CLLs, Fisher's exact test  $q=0.004$ , odds ratio 4.9; considering M-CLLs only). In addition to assessing genetic alterations, we analyzed which ECs displayed major stereotyped immunoglobulin genes, which are found in 13.5% of CLL and are divided into subsets that associate with clinical outcome<sup>55</sup>. All EC-m clusters had a lower proportion of major stereotyped B cell receptors (4–6%), whereas there was a higher incidence in the other ECs (14–20%) (Extended Data Fig. 8g). EC-i was associated with CLL stereotyped subset 2 and *IGLV3-21* gene expression consistent with *IGLV3-21*<sup>R110</sup> mutations previously described in this subset<sup>54</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 8h,i).

Although genetic events were associated with most ECs, they cannot fully capture these expression phenotypes, which reflect an ensemble of genetic, epigenetic and other biological effects. EC-m2 and EC-u2, for example, were strongly associated with tri(12) events, but these occurred in only 56% and 67% of their samples, respectively. To delineate if a nongenetic unifying phenotype was present, we separately compared the tri(12)-positive and negative subsets of EC-m2 and EC-u2 to M-CLL or U-CLL samples in other ECs, respectively (Fig. 3c). EC-m2 tri(12)-positive and negative cases shared overexpression of *HES1*, *MYC* and *EBF1*, which encode a

regulator of B cell differentiation previously associated with tri(12)<sup>9</sup>, as well as downregulation of Wnt signaling genes (*WNT3*, *WNT9B* and *LEF1*). EC-u2 cases shared downregulation of pro-apoptotic genes *TP73* (ref. <sup>56</sup>) and *BIK*<sup>57</sup> and overexpression of *MAPK4*, which activates prosurvival pathways<sup>58,59</sup>. Thus, non-tri(12) samples 'phenocopy' the tri(12) samples within each of these clusters.

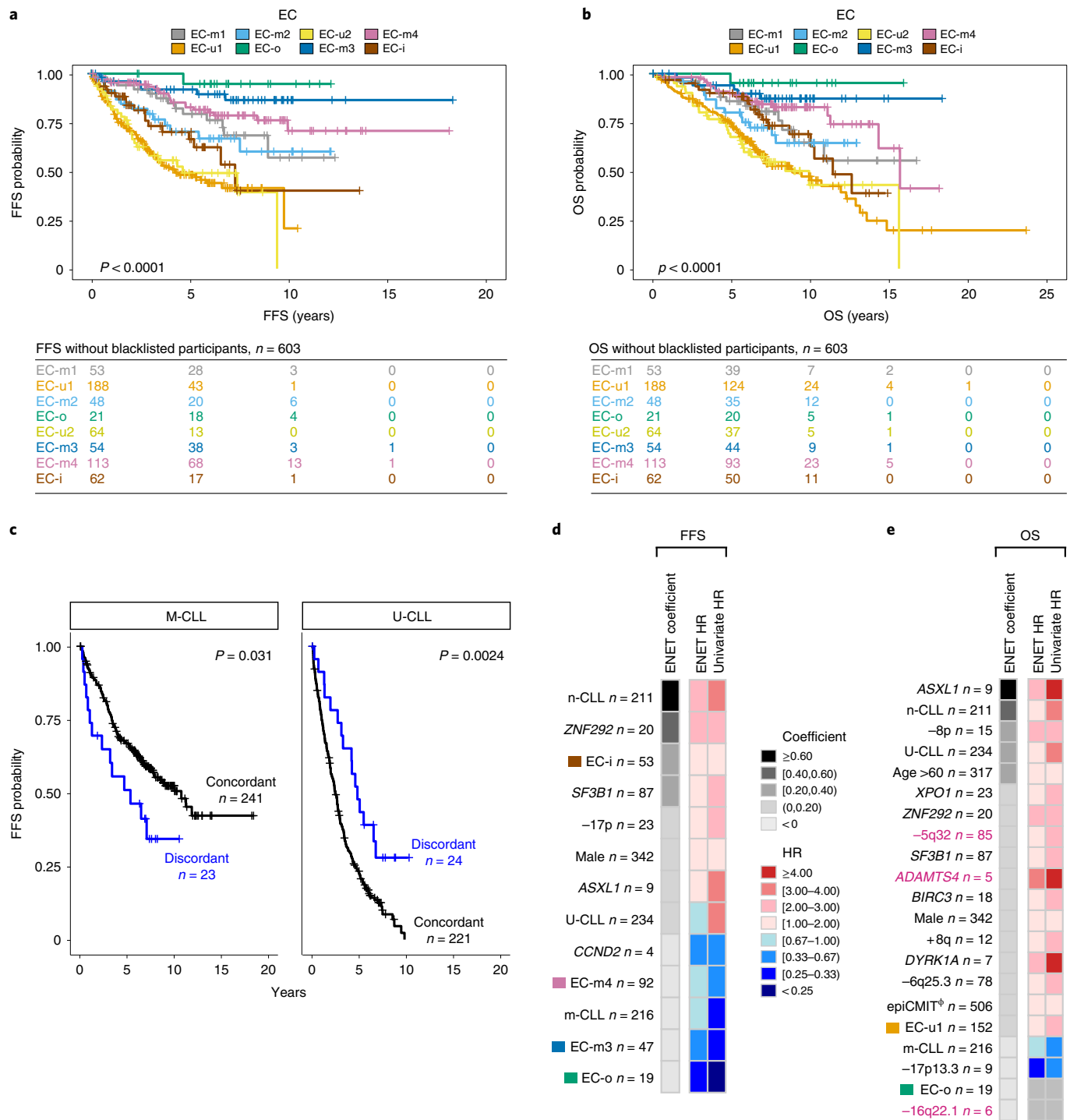
To further explore the biological differences among the ECs, we identified marker genes that were significantly upregulated or downregulated and were respectively supported by increased or decreased histone 3 lysine 27 acetylation levels (H3K27ac, a mark of active regulatory elements) (Methods, Fig. 3b, Extended Data Fig. 8j,k and Supplementary Table 13). The top upregulated marker genes in EC-u1 included *SEPT10* and *LPL*, which have been previously described in U-CLL and associated with poor prognosis<sup>60</sup>. Another upregulated EC-u1 gene, *OSBPL5*, was the top expression marker predicting shorter time to progression after treatment with fludarabine, cyclophosphamide and rituximab<sup>59</sup>.

Differentially expressed genes in each EC reflected heterogeneity in biological pathways that was captured by gene set enrichment analysis (Methods, Fig. 3d, Extended Data Fig. 9a,b and Supplementary Table 13). Although EC-o was not associated with IGHV status or epitype, it was defined by enrichment in oxidative phosphorylation signaling ( $q=4.7 \times 10^{-15}$ ). The EC-m clusters were distinguished by either upregulated or downregulated inflammatory signaling or antigen expression via nonclassical HLA class I. The EC-u clusters shared gene expression changes reflecting impaired protein translation but differed in TNF- $\alpha$  signaling. EC-i was enriched for pathways regulating migration and the humoral immune response, possibly reflecting autonomous B cell receptor signaling by *IGLV3-21*<sup>R110</sup>. Finally, we compared the epiCMIT scores of the ECs within each epitype. In EC-m clusters, EC-m3 had the lowest epiCMIT, consistent with a lower proliferative history and suggestive of better patient outcomes (Fig. 3e).

To evaluate the robustness of EC classification and its potential application for prognostication in new samples, we built an EC classifier based on differentially expressed genes, which achieved ~80% overall accuracy (Methods). Performance was particularly high for EC-m3 and EC-i, which had perfect positive predictive value at ~85% recall (Supplementary Table 13). By computing EC-specific precision–recall curves (average area under the curve = 0.88), we show that restricting predictions to the higher-confidence cases can improve performance (Supplementary Table 13 and Extended Data Fig. 9c–f). Importantly, similar performance was achieved when training the models with only 26 genes (Extended Data Fig. 9g). Applying the classifier to samples that were excluded from the initial EC discovery ( $n=105$ ; 44% were after treatment) and to an external CLL cohort ( $n=136$ )<sup>61</sup> showed comparable EC distributions per sample set and similar compositions of IGHV subtypes per EC, supporting the generalizability of these ECs (Extended Data Fig. 9h,i and Methods). Finally, by analyzing longitudinally sampled CLL specimens from 19 patients, we confirmed EC stability over years of disease in most cases ( $P<10^{-6}$  by permutation; Methods and Extended Data Fig. 9j). This finding provides further evidence that the ECs are generally a stable readout, with EC shifts potentially reflecting clonal evolution, both of which are useful for prognostication.

**Integrative analysis predicts outcome.** Multivariable analysis integrating clinical features and IGHV status confirmed independent prognostic impact of the ECs on FFS ( $n=603$ ,  $P<0.001$ ) and OS ( $P=0.007$ ) (Methods, Table 1 and Supplementary Tables 11 and 14). The EC-u clusters had similarly short FFS and EC-i displayed intermediate FFS (Fig. 4a). However, outcomes in EC-m clusters were distinct, where EC-m1, EC-m2 and EC-m4 demonstrated shorter FFS relative to EC-m3, the cluster with the best prognosis and lowest epiCMIT score. Differentiation of EC-m clusters was also





**Fig. 4 | ECs and integrated analysis predict clinical outcome.** **a, b**, Kaplan-Meier analysis of the impact of ECs on FFS (a) and OS (b) probabilities in 603 treatment-naïve samples (log-rank test). **c**, Kaplan-Meier analysis assessing the difference in FFS probability between samples with concordant IGHV status and ECs (e.g., M-CLLs in EC-m clusters) versus those that are discordant (e.g., M-CLLs in EC-u clusters). M-CLLs, left; U-CLLs, right. Log-rank test (two sided; unadjusted  $P$  values). **d, e**, Genetic, epigenetic and transcriptomic features associated with FFS (d) and OS (e) in treatment-naïve samples ( $n = 506$ ). Events ranked by elastic net (ENET) coefficients, which identifies variables to be included in the model, shrinking coefficients to 0 when excluded. Heatmap denotes hazard ratios (HRs) for ENET and univariate Cox regressions (Supplementary Table 14). Continuous variable,  $\Phi$  (epiCMIT).

evident when evaluating OS (Fig. 4b). This confirmed ECs as an independent prognostic factor in CLL, particularly in distinguishing between EC-m clusters.

Focusing on 47 cases for which there was discordance between their IGHV status and EC, we asked whether this discordance

influenced outcome. FFS was shorter in discordant M-CLLs and longer in discordant U-CLLs relative to the concordant cases (log-rank test  $P = 0.031$  and  $P = 0.0024$ , respectively) (Fig. 4c). For instance, median FFS of discordant M-CLLs (i.e., M-CLLs in EC-u clusters) was 5.3 years compared to 10.7 years in concordant cases

(M-CLLs in EC-m clusters), thus revealing added prognostic value of the ECs relative to traditional classification.

To systematically assess the features contributing to outcome, we integrated IGHV subtype, genetic alterations, epitypes, epiCMT and ECs in a multivariable model (Fig. 4d,e and Supplementary Table 15). The n-CLL epitype emerged as a strong predictor of FFS and OS, emphasizing the known importance of cell of origin. IGHV status and epiCMT also influenced OS to a greater degree than FFS. A limited set of previously identified genetic alterations were associated with shorter FFS (*ZNF292*, *SF3B1*, *ASXL1* and 17p deletion), but 11 adversely affected OS including new events such as loss of 5q32. We noted the absence of known alterations, such as *ATM* and *NOTCH1*, which were significant by univariate analysis only. This likely reflects co-occurrence with other prognostic factors, similar to what we observed with *TP53* and 17p deletion (Supplementary Table 14). Specific ECs were particularly informative in the model, with EC-i associated with adverse FFS and EC-o, EC-m3 and EC-m4 as protective. Altogether, this integrated model reveals a refined prognostic paradigm where genetics, epigenetics and gene expression classification all contribute to clinical outcome.

## Discussion

Through integration of harmonized multiomic data, this work has expanded the molecular map of CLL and provided additional insights into its biological and clinical heterogeneity. The number of previously unrecognized putative drivers was doubled, thus achieving a more complete genetic basis for this cancer. These alterations highlight important cellular pathways not previously impacted by candidate drivers that may provide opportunities for development of new therapies in the future. Beyond cataloging the overall landscape, we delineated the distinction between its molecular subtypes by comprehensively analyzing the CLL genome, epigenome and transcriptome. IGHV subtypes were enriched in unique genetic driver alterations leading to divergent clonal trajectories. We found a significant increase in genetic heterogeneity in U-CLL with more putative drivers relative to M-CLL. Notably, the driverless samples were almost exclusively M-CLL<sup>2</sup>, suggestive of alternative mechanisms of leukemogenesis in this subtype. Despite lower genetic complexity, M-CLL displayed increased transcriptional diversity segregating mainly into four ECs, which had different proliferative histories. Furthermore, the discovery of ECs expands our contemporary disease framework. Although specific ECs were associated with IGHV status, epitypes and genetic events, none of these previously defined groups completely captured the phenotypic diversity exhibited in the expression profiles. Additionally, identifying discordant cases with gene expression profiles inconsistent with their IGHV status was prognostic, and *CHD2* alterations may be contributing to this changed phenotype in M-CLL. This study reveals the complex nature of CLL and provides a comprehensive molecular atlas of CLL that forms the basis for further exploration of unique mechanisms of pathogenesis.

By integrating these biological insights with patient outcomes, we highlighted the prognostic implications of even rare genetic events within IGHV subtypes, such as mutations in *ZC3H18* and *RFX7*. Incorporating these data in a unified model revealed the importance of integrating multiple data layers in this disease. Critical components associated with outcome included the ECs, new genetic alterations such as loss of 5q32 in addition to known factors including the cell of origin (IGHV status and epitype), proliferative history (epiCMT), 17p deletion and *SF3B1* mutations. This study refines our current disease paradigm and establishes a new spectrum of events contributing to leukemogenesis that may have implications beyond prognostication. In the future, this molecular foundation may allow for better prediction of response to therapy or provide the basis for rational combination of novel agents.

## Online content

Any methods, additional references, Nature Research reporting summaries, source data, extended data, supplementary information, acknowledgements, peer review information; details of author contributions and competing interests; and statements of data and code availability are available at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-022-01140-w>. The CLLmap project data portal is available at <https://cllmap.org>.

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## Methods

**Human samples.** The characteristics of the 1,154 CLL/MBL samples from 1,148 patients are described in Supplementary Table 1, and clinical characteristics of the 1,009 CLL samples used in the clinical analysis are listed in Table 1. These samples included tumor and germline samples collected either during active surveillance ( $n = 680$ ), after treatment ( $n = 52$ )<sup>1–3,11</sup> or at enrollment of a clinical trial before first cycle of therapy ( $n = 416$ ; treatment naive,  $n = 371$ ; relapsed/refractory,  $n = 45$ )<sup>10,12,13,62</sup>. Briefly, these trials included (1) comparison of fludarabine and cyclophosphamide (FC) to FC-rituximab (FCR) in previously untreated patients (CLL8 trial,  $n = 309$ )<sup>1,62</sup>; (2) treatment-naïve *TP53*-mutated patients within phase 2 CLL20 trial who all received alemtuzumab ( $n = 31$ )<sup>63</sup>; and (3) ibrutinib or R-ibrutinib in relapsed/refractory or untreated patients with 17p deletion, *TP53* mutation and/or 11q deletion ( $n = 76$ ; treatment naive,  $n = 31$ ; relapsed/refractory,  $n = 45$ )<sup>10,12,13</sup>. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients. Samples were collected via protocols approved by institutional review boards or ethics and policy committees from the ICGC; GCLLSG; DFCI; the CLL Research Consortium (CRC); the National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute; and MDACC. All clinical trials were conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and International Conference on Harmonization Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice. If multiple samples were obtained from a patient, then the earliest collected sample was selected for analysis. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells were isolated and DNA and/or RNA was extracted and prepared with protocols varying between the different studies<sup>1–3,10–13,62</sup>. Briefly, either positive or negative immunomagnetic selection of CLL cells was performed in either all samples or those with low white blood cell counts, depending on the study. DNA was extracted using Qiagen kits, and RNA was obtained either using RNeasy kit (Qiagen) or Trizol reagent (Invitrogen Life Technologies) per the manufacturer's instructions.

**Molecular data retrieval and assembly.** We retrieved previously reported sequencing data from CLL and MBL samples, including 984 whole-exome sequences<sup>1–3</sup>, 177 whole-genome sequences<sup>21</sup>, 448 RNA-seq<sup>2,3,10,13,64</sup>, 490 methylation 450K arrays<sup>2</sup> and 547 RRBS<sup>65</sup>. Additionally, we sequenced 264 RNA-seq samples and performed targeted DNA sequencing of the *NOTCH1* 3' untranslated region for 293 samples (Supplementary Note). Single-nucleotide polymorphism-based fingerprinting comparisons within and between these sequencing data types were conducted with CrosscheckFingerprints<sup>66</sup> for quality control to remove data redundancy and verify patient-matched data, where appropriate.

**Sequence data processing and analysis.** All sequencing data (WES, WGS, RNA-seq, RRBS and targeted *NOTCH1* sequencing) were processed and analyzed using methods implemented in the Broad Institute's cloud-based Terra platform (<https://app.terra.bio>). The main Terra methods are available at [https://app.terra.bio/#workspaces/broad-firecloud-wupo1/CLLmap\\_Methods\\_Apr2021](https://app.terra.bio/#workspaces/broad-firecloud-wupo1/CLLmap_Methods_Apr2021) in addition to the detailed descriptions herein.

**WES/WGS alignment and quality control.** We processed all DNA sequence data through the Broad Institute's data processing pipeline. For each sample, this pipeline combines data from multiple libraries and flow cell runs into a single BAM file. This file contains reads aligned to the human genome hg19 genome assembly (version b37) done by the Picard and Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK)<sup>67</sup> developed at the Broad Institute, a process that involves marking duplicate reads, recalibrating base qualities and realigning around indels. Reads were aligned to the hg19 genome assembly (version b37) using BWA-MEM (version 0.7.15-r1140).

**Mutation calling.** Before variant calling, the impact of oxidative damage (oxoG) to DNA during sequencing was quantified using DeToxoG<sup>68</sup>. The cross-sample contamination was measured with ContEst based on the allele fraction of homozygous single-nucleotide polymorphisms<sup>69</sup>, and this measurement was used in the downstream mutation calling pipeline. From the aligned BAM files, somatic alterations were identified using a set of tools developed at the Broad Institute ([www.broadinstitute.org/cancer/cga](http://www.broadinstitute.org/cancer/cga)). The details of our sequencing data processing have been described elsewhere<sup>23,70</sup>. Briefly, for sSNVs/indel detection, high-confidence somatic mutation calls were made by applying MuTect<sup>71</sup>, MuTect2<sup>72</sup> and Strelka2<sup>73</sup> to WES/WGS sequencing data. Given that normal blood samples might also contain CLL cells, we used DeTiN<sup>74</sup> to estimate tumor in normal contamination to recover falsely rejected sSNVs/indels. Next, we applied four types of filters: (1) a realignment-based filter, which removes variants that can be attributed entirely to ambiguously mapped reads; (2) an orientation bias filter, which removes possible oxoG and FFPE artifacts<sup>68</sup>; (3) a ContEst filter, which removes variants that might come from other samples due to contamination; and (4) an allele fraction specific panel-of-normals filter, which compares the detected variants to a large panel of normal exomes or genomes and removes variants that were observed in the two panel-of-normals; one consists of 8,334 normal samples in The Cancer Genome Atlas, whereas the other consists of 481 CLL-matched normal samples with tumor in normal estimates of 0. All four filters together contributed to the exclusion of potential false-positive events (e.g., commonly occurring germline variants or sequencing artifacts), which ultimately yielded the final list of mutations. All filtered events in candidate CLL driver genes were also manually reviewed using the Integrated Genomics Viewer (IGV)<sup>75</sup>.

To increase the sensitivity and precision of mutation calls in candidate driver genes, an additional variant calling step was performed for the candidate driver gene loci using Rfcaller (<https://github.com/xa-lab/Rfcaller>), a pipeline that uses read-level features and extra trees/random forest algorithms for the detection of somatic mutations. This pipeline was run with default parameters for WES or WGS data, as well as for RNA-seq data for *NOTCH1*, which has low coverage in hotspot regions in some samples due to high GC content. All candidate mutations that passed filters and were detected by both pipelines were considered positives. Mutations detected by only one of the callers were visually inspected by a set of at least four expert curators, considering the following exclusion criteria: (1) low evidence due to limited number of reads supporting the mutation in the tumor sample or excessive mutant reads in the normal sample, (2) low depth of coverage to rule out germline variant, (3) low base quality region, (4) low mapping quality region leading to multimapped reads and (5) calls supported by reads with a strong strand bias.

**Identification of significantly mutated genes.** To identify candidate cancer genes using our mutation calls from WES, we first used SignatureAnalyzer<sup>76</sup> to identify mutational processes and potential artifact signatures. We discovered a signature likely due to the bleedthrough sequencing artifact and then filtered mutations with greater than 95% chance attributed to that bleedthrough signature. Next, we ran MutSig2CV<sup>77</sup> to identify driver genes from the filtered WES mutation annotation format file. A stringent manual review was conducted using the IGV<sup>75</sup> to review the mutations in the driver genes and further exclude low-evidence calls. Then, we reran MutSig2CV on the filtered set of mutation calls from WES to identify the final candidate driver genes. In addition, we also used CLUMPS<sup>21</sup> (<https://github.com/getzlab/getzlab-CLUMPS2>) to identify driver genes based on clustering of mutations in the 3D structure of the protein product (Supplementary Table 5). For CLUMPS, we applied two false discovery rate corrections, one for all candidates and a second restricted hypothesis testing focused on genes in the COSMIC Cancer Gene Census<sup>38</sup>. Finally, for further stringency and to exclude candidates irrelevant to CLL biology, we discarded candidate genes that were not expressed in RNA-seq of 603 treatment-naïve CLL samples using a one-sided *t*-test testing for difference from 0 in transcripts per million (TPM) space. This process discarded 15 candidate genes (Supplementary Table 4).

**Copy-number analysis.** For detecting sCNAs, we used the GATK4 CNV pipeline (<http://github.com/gatk-workflows/gatk4-somatic-cnvs>), which involves the CalculateTargetCoverage, NormalizeSomaticReadCounts and Circular Binary Segmentation algorithms<sup>78</sup> for genome segmentation. To identify candidate sCNA drivers (genomic regions that are significantly amplified or deleted), we then applied GISTIC 2.0 (ref. <sup>79</sup>). To exclude potential germline CNAs, we first ran GISTIC 2.0 on the matched normal samples and then concatenated the recurrent CNAs this outputted ( $q < 0.1$ ) to the blacklisted regions. Then, we ran GISTIC 2.0 on the tumor samples to produce a list of candidate sCNA driver regions. A force-calling process was applied to identify the presence/absence of each sCNA driver event across tumor samples ([https://github.com/getzlab/GISTIC2\\_postprocessing](https://github.com/getzlab/GISTIC2_postprocessing)). To further filter the potential false-positive drivers, we only accepted sCNA drivers with population frequency greater than 1%. Finally, all filtered sCNA drivers were manually reviewed using IGV<sup>75</sup> to exclude drivers that are based on sCNA events with low supporting evidence or that were localized close to centromeres. sCNA drivers were annotated by intersection with our list of CLL mutation driver genes and with genes in the COSMIC Cancer Gene Census<sup>38</sup> (v90; Supplementary Table 7).

**SV calling.** For SV detection, our pipeline (the Broad Institute's Cancer Genome Analysis (CGA) SV pipeline)<sup>80</sup> integrates evidence from three structural variation detection algorithms (Manta<sup>81</sup>, SvABA<sup>82</sup> and dRanger<sup>23,70,83</sup>) to generate a list of structural variation events with high confidence. We followed the three SV detection tools with BreakPointer<sup>84</sup> to pinpoint the exact breakpoint at base-level resolution. SVs calls were filtered if called by less than two tools or if they were identified in a panel of normal samples<sup>80</sup>. Next, breakpoint information was aggregated per sample to identify (1) balanced translocations, which were defined as those with breakpoints on reverse strands within 1 kb of each other; (2) inversions supported on both ends; and (3) complex events, based on the number of clustered events within 50 kb of each other (Supplementary Table 9). Breakpoints were annotated by intersection with our lists of CLL driver genes and significant sCNA regions, as well as with genes in the COSMIC Cancer Gene Census (v90)<sup>38</sup> (Supplementary Table 9). These SV calls were compared to SVs called in Puente et al.<sup>2</sup>, from which an additional 90 SVs were added after manual review. Clonal events were defined as those with CCF  $\geq 0.75$  and identified using the CGA SV pipeline algorithm ([https://github.com/getzlab/REBC\\_tools](https://github.com/getzlab/REBC_tools); v1.1.3)<sup>80</sup>. This method could be applied to the 569 SVs detected by the CGA SV pipeline, which provides the required information for CCF calculation, out of which we could successfully estimate CCF for 558 (98%)<sup>80</sup>. IgCaller<sup>15</sup> (v1.1) was used to identify additional SVs involving immunoglobulin genes (Supplementary Note).

**Immunoglobulin gene characterization.** The immunoglobulin heavy (IGH) and light (IGL) chain gene rearrangements and mutational status were obtained

from WGS/WES and RNA-seq using IgCaller (v1.1)<sup>45</sup> and MiXCR (v3.0.10)<sup>85</sup>, respectively. The rearrangements obtained were visually inspected in IGV<sup>75</sup>. The obtained sequences were used as input in IMG/V-QUEST (v3.5.18; release 202018-4)<sup>86</sup> to confirm gene annotations and mutational status. IGH gene rearrangements were complemented with Sanger sequencing available for 1,076 cases. IGH and IGL characterization from the different sources were integrated and compared and used to infer IGLV3-21 R110 mutation status. See Supplementary Note and Supplementary Table 8 for more information.

**RNA-seq analysis.** RNA-seq data were processed in Terra using the GTEx V7 pipeline (<https://github.com/broadinstitute/gtex-pipeline>). Briefly, reads were aligned with STAR (v2.6.1d)<sup>87</sup> to hg19 (b37) using the GENCODE v19 annotation, and quality control metrics and gene expression were computed with RNA-SeQC v2.3.6 (<https://github.com/getzlab/rnaseqc>). A collapsed version of the GENCODE annotation was used to quantify gene-level expression (available at [gs://gtex-resources/GENCODE/gencode.v19.genes.v7.collapsed\\_only.patched\\_contigs.gtf](gs://gtex-resources/GENCODE/gencode.v19.genes.v7.collapsed_only.patched_contigs.gtf)). TPMs were used for sample clustering, whereas gene counts were used for differential gene expression, as required. See Supplementary Table 2 for sequencing and quality metrics.

**RNA EC detection.** Gene-level TPMs were estimated with RNA-SeQC (v2.3.6) for RNA-seq from 603 treatment-naive CLL samples (<https://github.com/getzlab/rnaseqc>). Genes expressed at less than 0.1 TPM in 10% of samples were discarded, retaining 11,119 genes, which were batch corrected (as described below), followed by selection of the top 2,500 most varying genes. The clustering methodology combines consensus hierarchical clustering and Bayesian non-negative matrix factorization, as previously described<sup>90</sup>. Further details about the methodology and machine learning classifier are provided in Supplementary Note.

**DNA methylation data processing.** We analyzed DNA methylome data for a total of 1,037 samples, including 490 samples profiled with Illumina 450K array previously analyzed<sup>52</sup> (European Genome-phenome Archive (EGA) accession EGAD00010001975), and 547 samples profiled using RRBS with either single-end or paired-end approaches (Supplementary Table 2)<sup>65</sup>. We developed a pipeline in Terra to obtain the CpG methylation estimates from RRBS data (Supplementary Note). The epitype classifier and the epICMIT mitotic clock were previously developed for Illumina 450K and EPIC array data<sup>52</sup>, and we therefore adapted the methods for the RRBS data (Supplementary Note).

**Statistical methods.** Unless otherwise stated, two-sided *t*-test was used for mean comparison and multiple testing was corrected to compute false discovery rate (*q*) by the Benjamini–Hochberg procedure<sup>90</sup>. Categorical enrichments were computed using a two-sided Fisher's exact test unless otherwise stated.

**Clinical outcome modeling.** FFS was calculated for treatment-naive patients as the time from the date of the sequenced sample to the date of first treatment ('natural progression'), progression (if the patient was sampled at the time of enrollment on a clinical trial) or death, and censored at the last known event-free date. In the genetics-focused analysis (Supplementary Table 10), the first event was defined as time to next treatment in patients who received therapy within 30 days. Subset analysis included patients who were treatment-naive at the time of the sequenced sample and not enrolled on a therapeutic clinical trial; in this analysis, time between sample and date of first treatment was used. Overall survival was calculated as the time from the date of the sequenced sample to the date of death and censored at the date last known alive. Patient characteristics and number included in each clinical outcome analysis are defined in Table 1. Univariable and multivariable Cox regression models were constructed for each subset of data. Final models were selected using the glmnet function for regularized Cox regression using an elastic net penalty within the Coxnet package in R. Tenfold cross-validation using the cv.glmnet function with a partial-likelihood deviance metric to minimize  $\lambda$  was performed and the minimum CV-error model was used. The alpha was set to 1 corresponding to a Lasso penalty. The maximum iterations (maxit) parameter was set to 1,000. Features identified as having non-zero coefficient values using elastic net and selected in the final model were then included in a Cox regression model to obtain the hazard ratios. These hazard ratios estimate the magnitude of effect, but *P* values and confidence intervals are not readily interpretable in the elastic net model and are therefore not reported. For the integrated analysis of all available data types (Supplementary Table 14), variables including EC and epitype categories were dummy coded. Prognostic significance of EC and IGHV status were also considered using a chi-squared test with the difference in  $-2 \log$  likelihood ( $-2\log L$ ) between models including sSNVs and sCNAs. The Breslow approximation was used for handling ties in survival time.

**Reporting summary.** Further information on research design is available in the Nature Research Reporting Summary linked to this article.

## Data availability

The molecular data used in this study are publicly available and are included in the following patient cohorts (Table 1, Supplementary Tables 1 and 2 and

Extended Data Fig. 1a): DFCl, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; GCLLSG, German CLL Study Group; ICGC, International Cancer Genome Consortium; MDACC, MD Anderson Cancer Center; NHLBI, National Heart Lung and Blood Institute; UCSD, University of California San Diego. Sequencing, expression, and genotyping is available at EGA (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ega/>), which is hosted at the European Bioinformatics Institute, under accession number EGAS00000000092 (ICGC cohort) and in dbGaP under accession numbers phs001473.v2.p1 (MDACC, NHLBI), phs000922.v2.p1 (GCLLSG), phs001431.v2.p1 (DFCI, UCSD), phs001091.v1.p1 (MDACC), phs000435.v3.p1 (DFCI), phs002297.v2.p1 (NHLBI) and phs000879.v1.p1 (DFCI) and GEO accession number GSE143673 (GCLLSG). 450K array data are available at EGA under accession number EGAD00010001975 (ICGC). The project data portal is available at <https://cclmap.org>.

## Code availability

Terra methods used in the study can be found at [https://app.terra.bio/#workspaces/broad-firecloud-wupo1/CLLmap\\_Methods\\_Apr2021](https://app.terra.bio/#workspaces/broad-firecloud-wupo1/CLLmap_Methods_Apr2021). Source code used in the study can be found at <https://github.com/getzlab/CLLmap>. The Rfcaller pipeline is available at <https://github.com/xa-lab/Rfcaller>. The new epICMIT suitable for Illumina arrays and NGS approaches as well as the CLL epitype classifier can be found at <https://github.com/Duran-FerrerM/CLLmap-epigenetics>.

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## Author contributions

C.J.W., G.G., E.C. and S.S. conceived the study. E.T., J.D., S.M.F., C. Sun, M.S., L.Z.R., C. Schneider, L.P., J.A.B., A.W., T.J.K., J.R.B., M.H. and S.S. collected and contributed samples and annotations. B.A.K., Z.L., C.K.H., K.E.S., A.T.-W. and J.G.-A. assembled the data. B.A.K., Z.L., F.N., M.D.-F., K.E.S., A.B.-M., A.T.-W., P.B.-M., A.D.-N., A.D., S.A., H.K., F.A. and C. Stewart wrote analytic pipelines. B.A.K., Z.L., F.N., M.D.-F., K.E.S., A.B.-M., P.B.-M., A.D.-N., S.A. and C. Stewart performed the analysis. B.A.K., Z.L., C.K.H., F.N., M.D.-F., K.E.S., E.T., J.D., A.B.-M., P.B.-M., A.D.-N., S.L.-T., A.M., F.A., C. Stewart, J.R.B., D.S.N., J.I.M.-S., X.S.P., S.S., C.J.W., E.C. and G.G. contributed to study design and interpreted the data. S.L. performed targeted sequencing. C.K.H., B.A.K., Z.L., C.J.W. and G.G. prepared the manuscript with input from all authors.

## Competing interests

The authors declare the following conflicts related to the CLLmap project: C.J.W. receives research support from Pharmacyclics. E.C. has been a consultant for Illumina. G.G. receives research funds from IBM and Pharmacyclics; and is an inventor on patent applications related to SignatureAnalyzer-GPU. S.S. reports honoraria for consultancy, advisory board membership, speaker honoraria, research grants and travel support from AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Celgene, Gilead, GSK, Hoffmann La-Roche, Janssen, Novartis. C.J.W., G.G., B.A.K., Z.L. and C.K.H. are inventors on a patent “Compositions, panels, and methods for characterizing chronic lymphocytic leukemia” (PCT/US21/45144). The following conflicts are unrelated to the CLLmap project: F.N. has received honoraria from Janssen for speaking at educational activities. E.T. declares research support by AbbVie and Roche; Advisory Boards and Speakers Bureau for Janssen, AbbVie and Roche. A.W. received research funding from Pharmacyclics, Acerta, Merck, Verastem, Genmab, Nurix. J.R.B. has served as a consultant for AbbVie, Acerta/AstraZeneca, Beigene, Bristol-Myers Squibb/Juno/Celgene, Catapult, Genentech/Roche, Janssen, MEI Pharma, Morphosys AG, Novartis, Pfizer, Rigil; received research funding from Gilead, Loxo/Lilly, Verastem/SecuraBio, Sun, TG Therapeutics; and served on the data safety monitoring committee for Invecity. J.A.B. received research support from AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Gilead, and Pharmacyclics; travel and speaker honoraria from Janssen. X.S.P. is a cofounder of and holds an equity stake in DREAMgenics. C.J.W. holds equity in BioNTech, Inc.. E.C. has been a consultant for Takeda and NanoString Technologies; has received honoraria from Janssen and Roche for speaking at educational activities; and is an inventor on a Lymphoma and Leukemia Molecular Profiling Project patent “Method for subtyping lymphoma subtypes by means of expression profiling” (PCT/US2014/64161). G.G. is an inventor on patent applications related to MSMuTect, MSMuSig, MSIDetect and POLYSOLVER; and is a founder and consultant of and holds privately held equity in Scorpion Therapeutics. The other authors declare no competing interests.

## Additional information

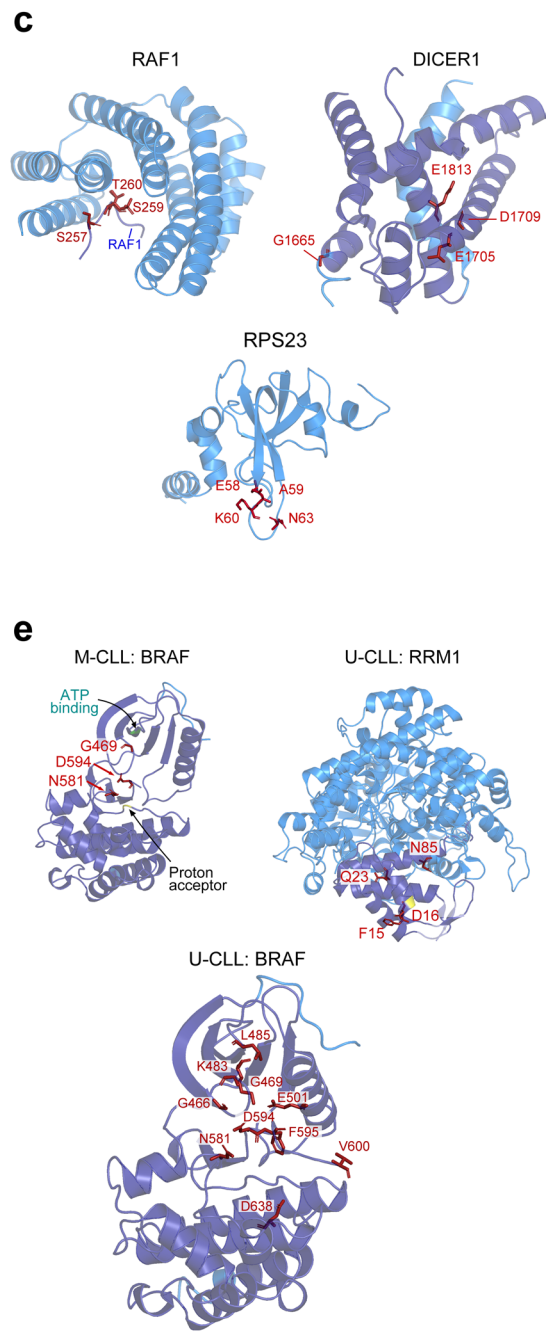
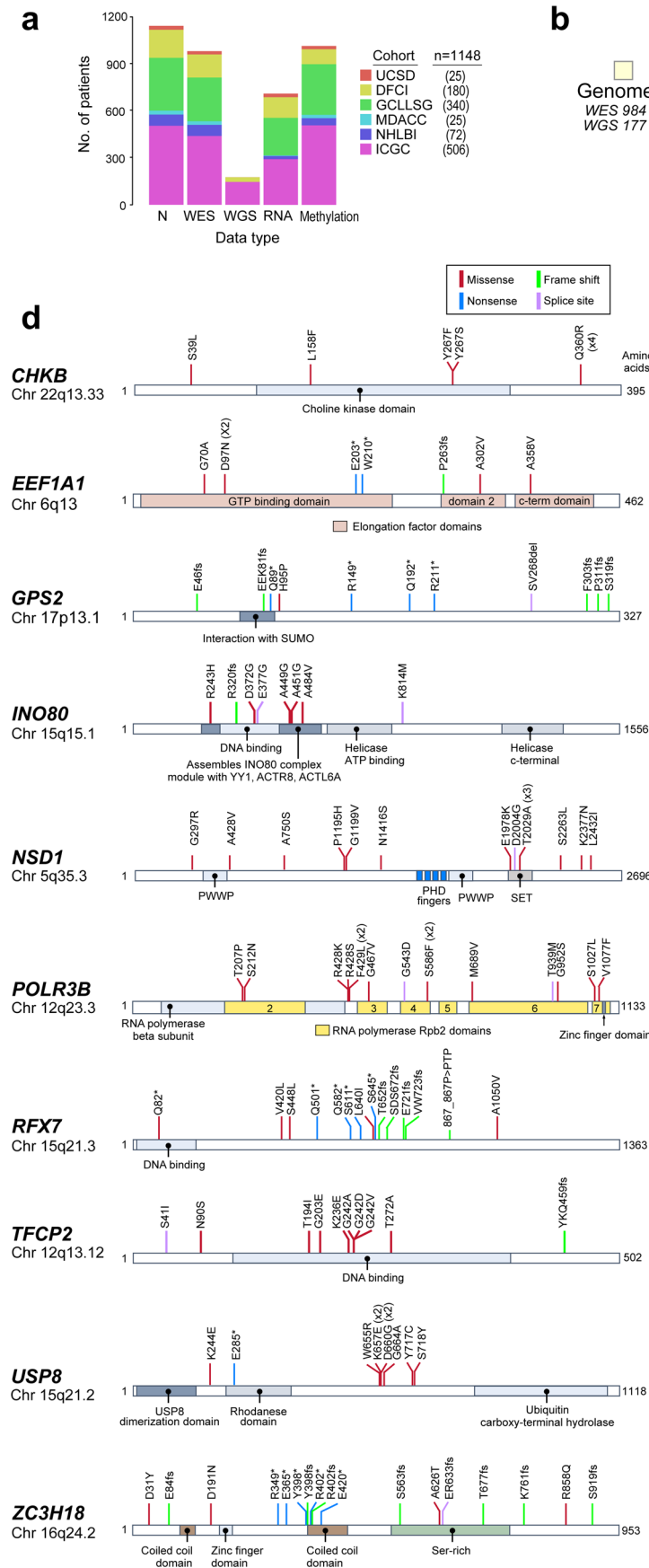
**Extended data** is available for this paper at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-022-01140-w>.

**Supplementary information** The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-022-01140-w>.

**Correspondence and requests for materials** should be addressed to Catherine J. Wu or Gad Getz.

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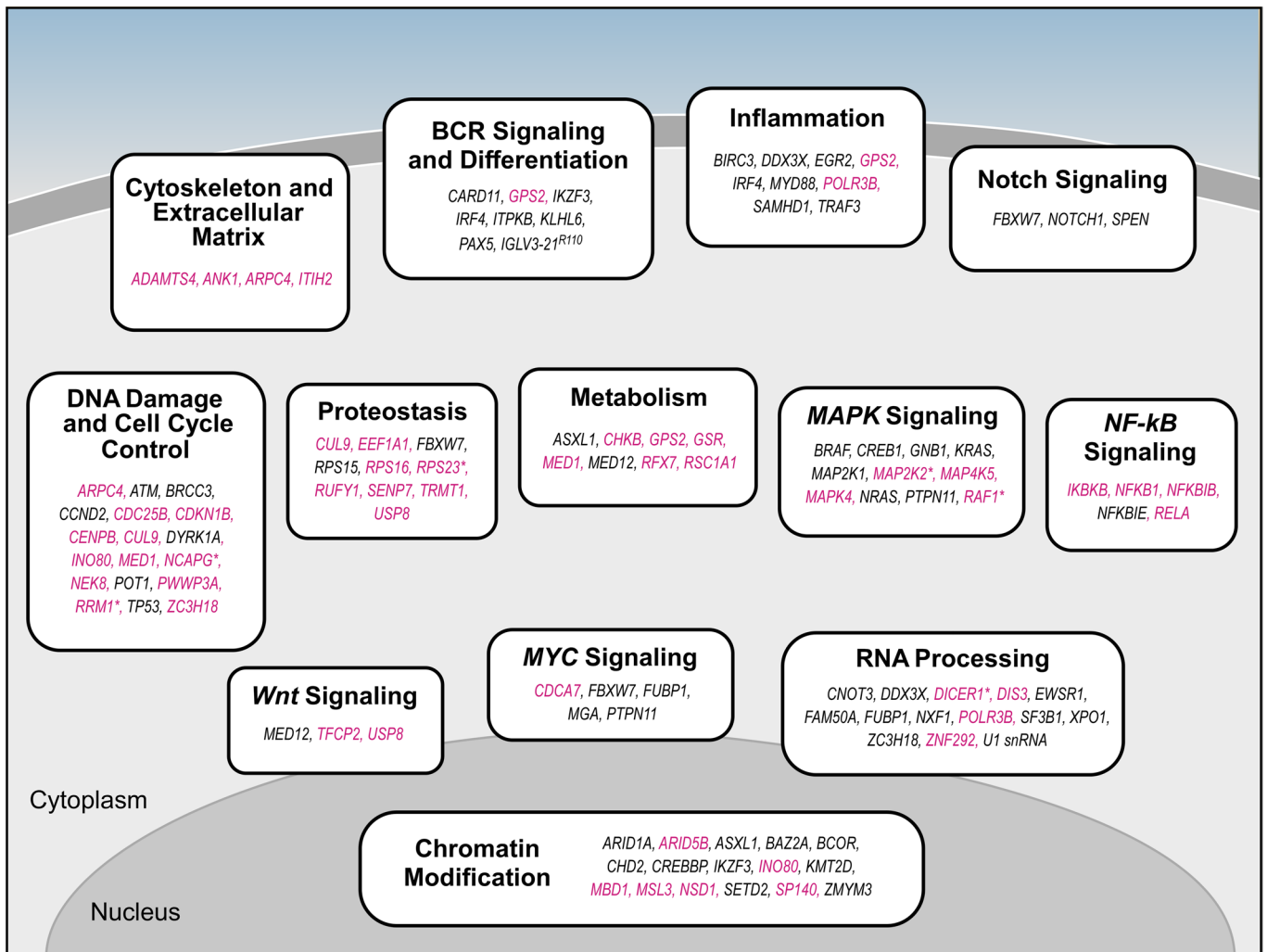


Extended Data Fig. 1 | See next page for caption.

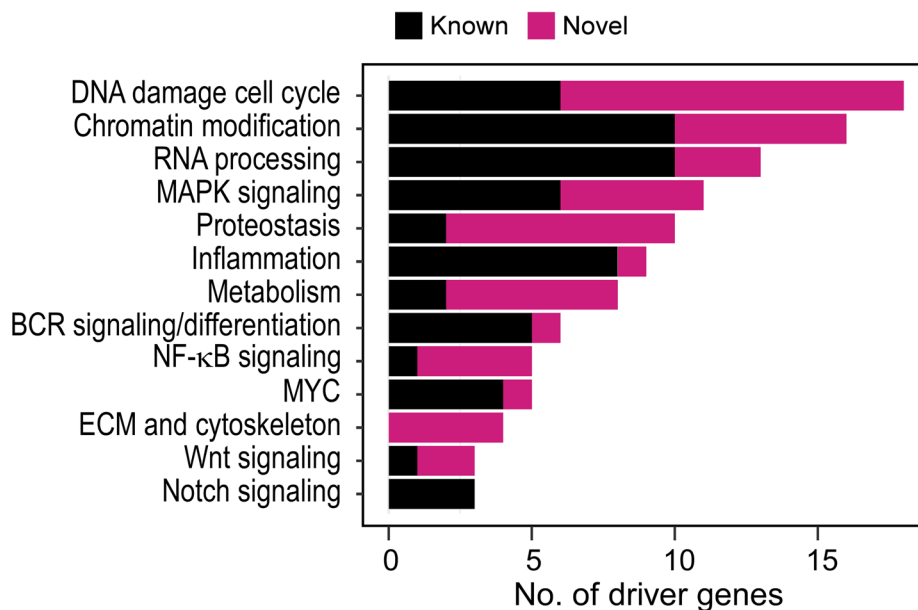
**Extended Data Fig. 1 | Dataset description and representative driver gene maps.** **a.** Full dataset ( $n = 1148$ ), with contributions by cohort and data type delineated (see Supplementary Table 1). **b.** Numbers of samples with genomic, epigenomic, and transcriptomic data. **c.** 3D protein structures of representative genes identified by CLUMPS in pan-CLL analysis ( $n = 984$ , see Supplementary Table 5). Mutated residues - red labels. A peptide from *RAF1* (designated at bottom-center, in complex with 14-3-3 zeta) shows clustered mutations around S259, whose phosphorylation regulates *RAF1* activity and is a cancer mutational hotspot<sup>91</sup> that, when mutated, perturbs the interaction with the 14-3-3 zeta and upregulates *RAF1* kinase activity<sup>92,93</sup>. In *DICER1*, mutations occur in the RNase III domain (purple), including the cancer hotspot residue E1813<sup>21,94</sup>. This region is critical for  $Mg^{2+}$  binding and is required for ribonuclease activity to process microRNAs and mediate post-transcriptional gene regulation<sup>95</sup>. *RPS23* mutations are clustered in a conserved loop of the ribosomal decoding center, surrounding P62, whose post-translational hydroxylation affects translation termination accuracy<sup>96</sup>. These *RPS23* mutations have a median CCF > 80% (Extended Data Fig. 6d; Supplementary Table 3). **d.** Individual mutations maps of selected novel, putative driver genes. Mutation subtype and position are shown. **e.** Selected genes identified by CLUMPS in IGHV subtypes; mutated residues - red. Although *BRAF* was not identified as a potential M-CLL driver via MutSig2CV (see Extended Data Fig. 3, Methods), CLUMPS revealed three mutated sites clustered in the kinase domain (purple) that are cancer hotspots<sup>25</sup>, thus confirming *BRAF* as a shared driver (left). Mutated residues in *BRAF* in U-CLL (bottom) are shown for comparison, revealing a greater number of clustered mutations relative to M-CLL. In U-CLL, novel mutations were found in *RRM1* (right). Somatic alterations were clustered in the N-terminal ATP-binding site (purple) and therefore have potential to impact enzymatic activity<sup>97</sup>.



a

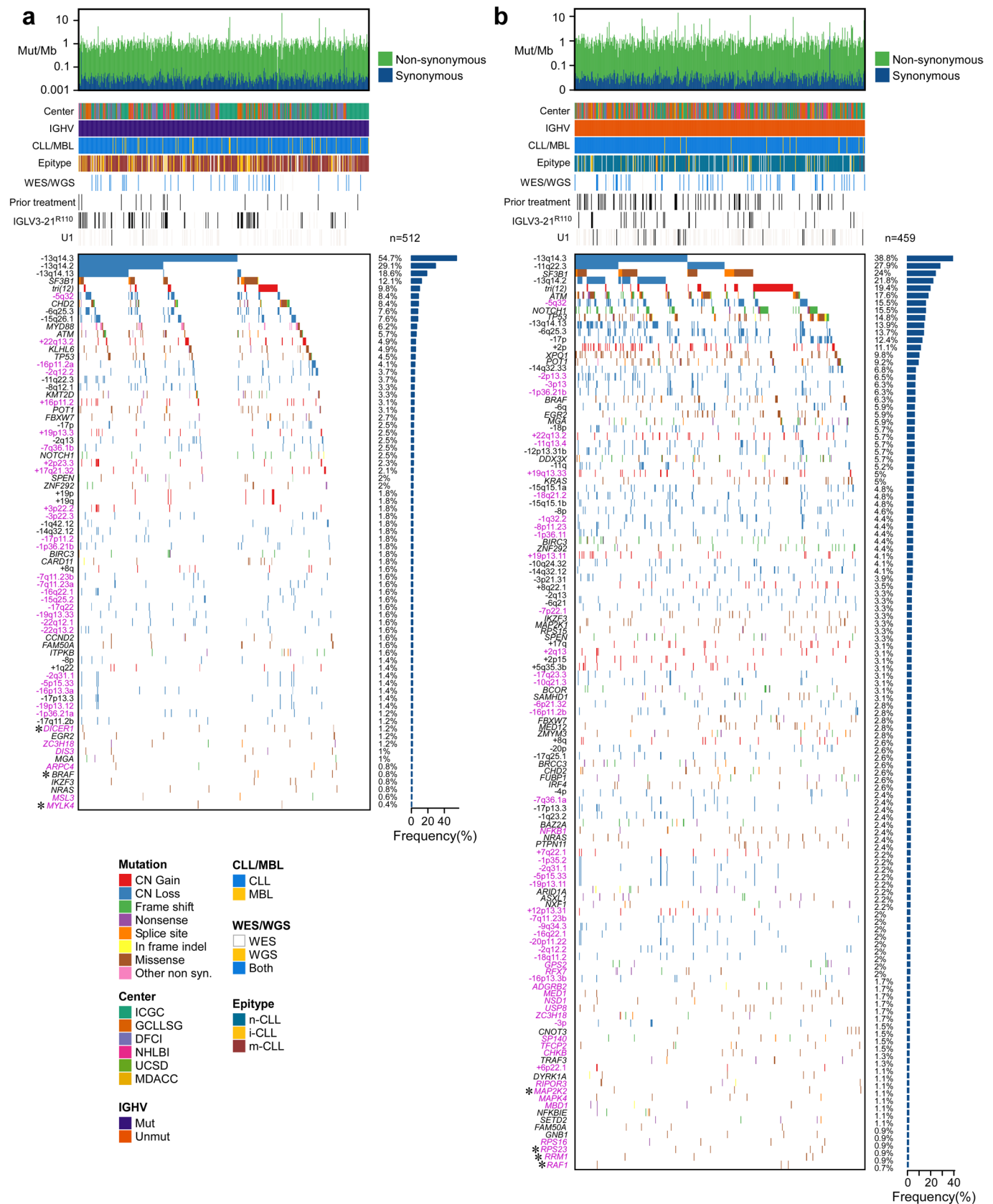


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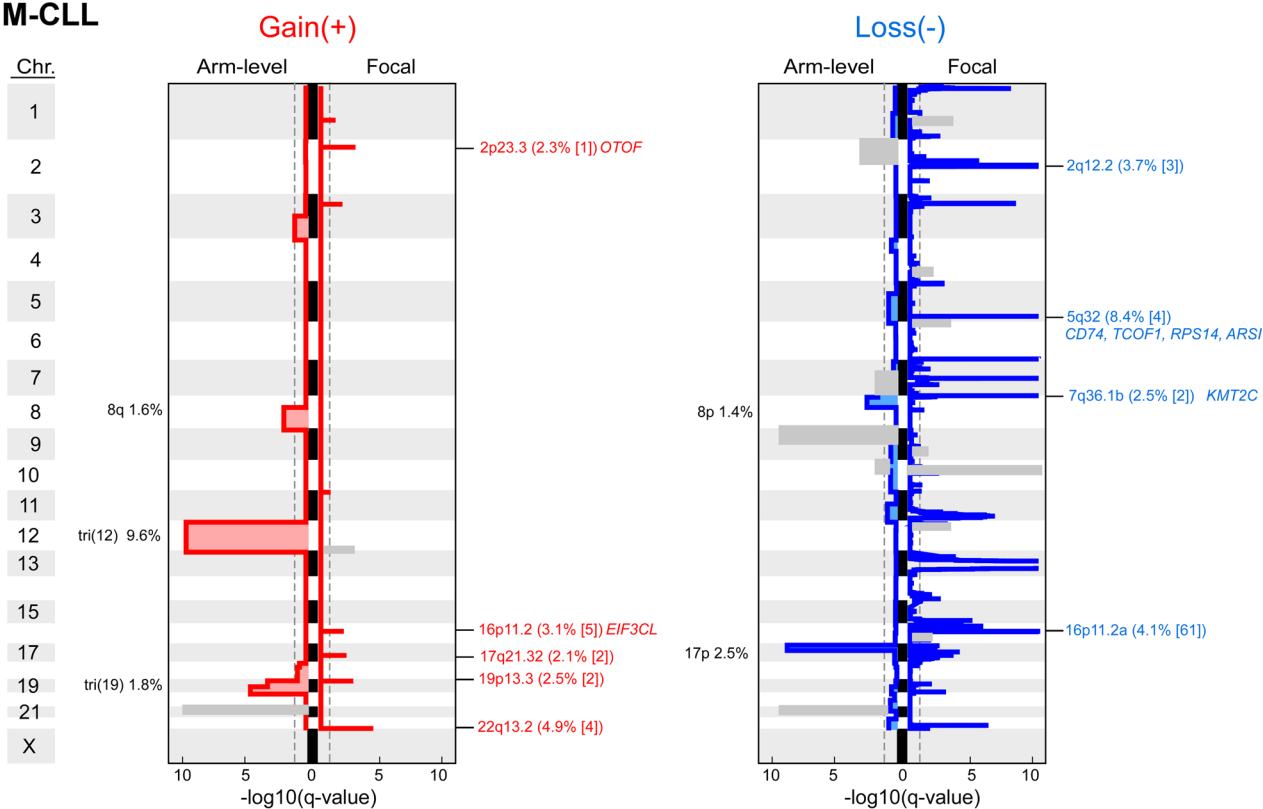


Extended Data Fig. 2 | See next page for caption.

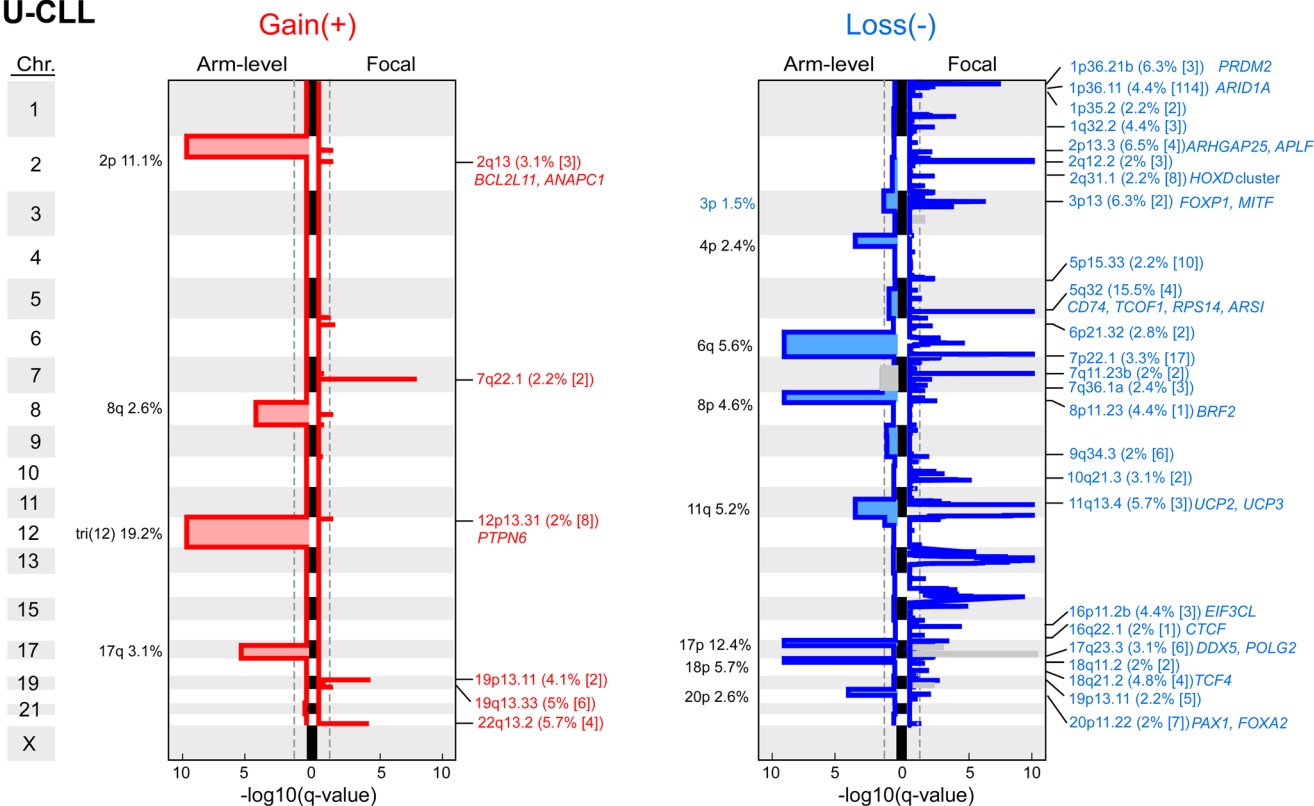
**Extended Data Fig. 2 | CLL biological pathways affected by candidate driver genes.** **a.** Schema of CLL pathways containing previously identified (black) and novel (magenta) putative driver genes (see Supplementary Table 6). Novel drivers cluster in central processes driving CLL (for example, DNA damage, chromatin modification, RNA processing)<sup>1,2</sup>, but also highlight new pathways not previously implicated by driver genes (for example, cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix, proteostasis, metabolism). Asterisks - mutated genes discovered by CLUMPs. **b.** Stacked barplot ranked by the number of candidate driver genes per CLL pathway. Magenta bars show the number of newly identified drivers in each pathway.



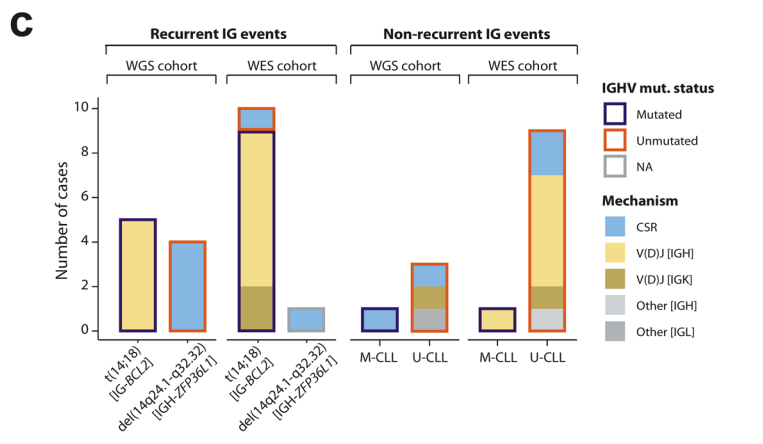
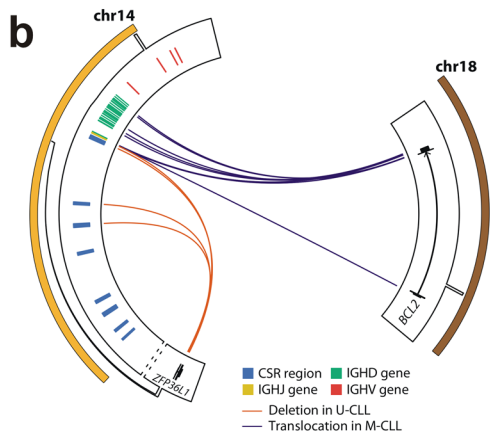
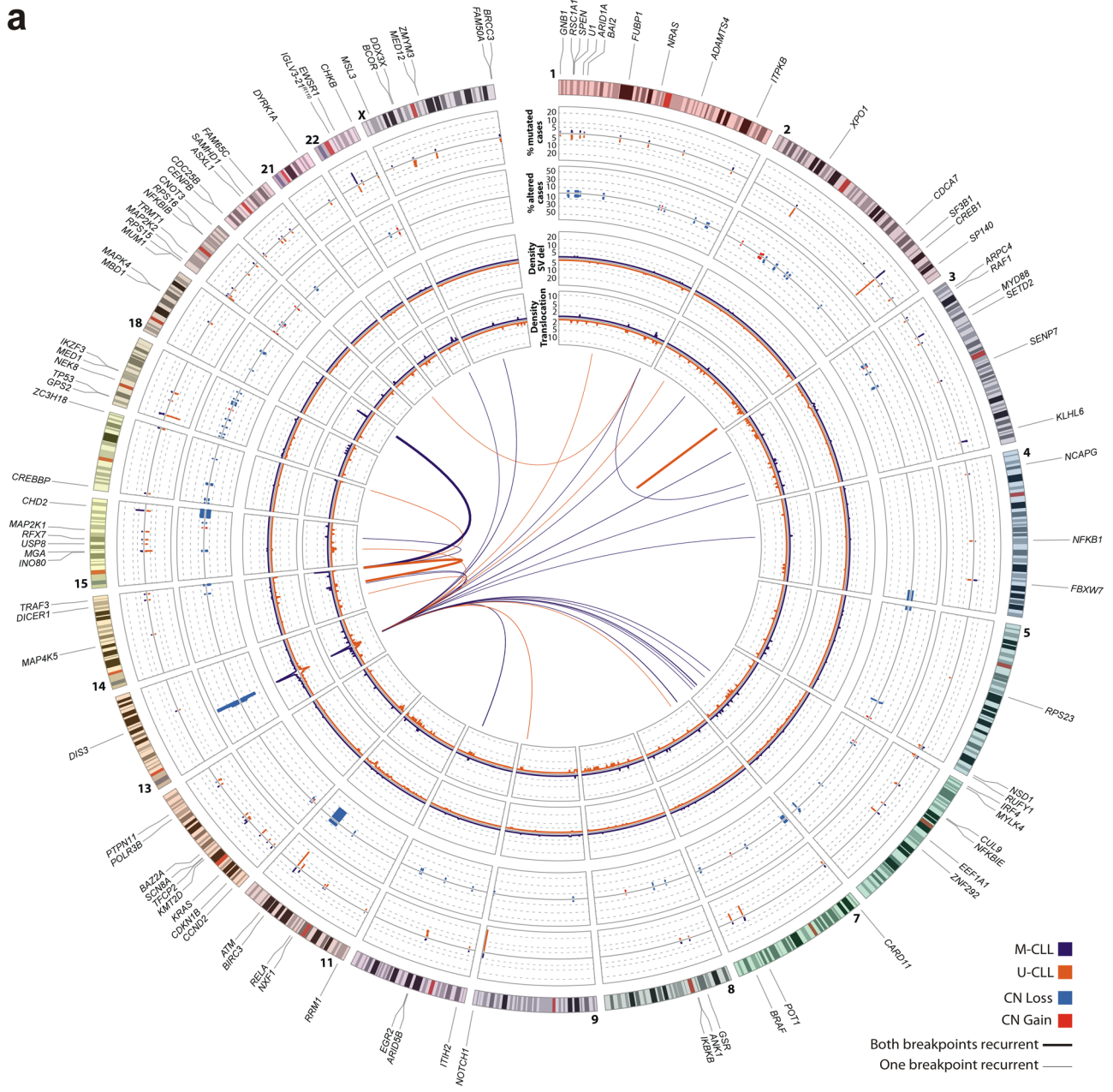
**a M-CLL**



**b U-CLL**

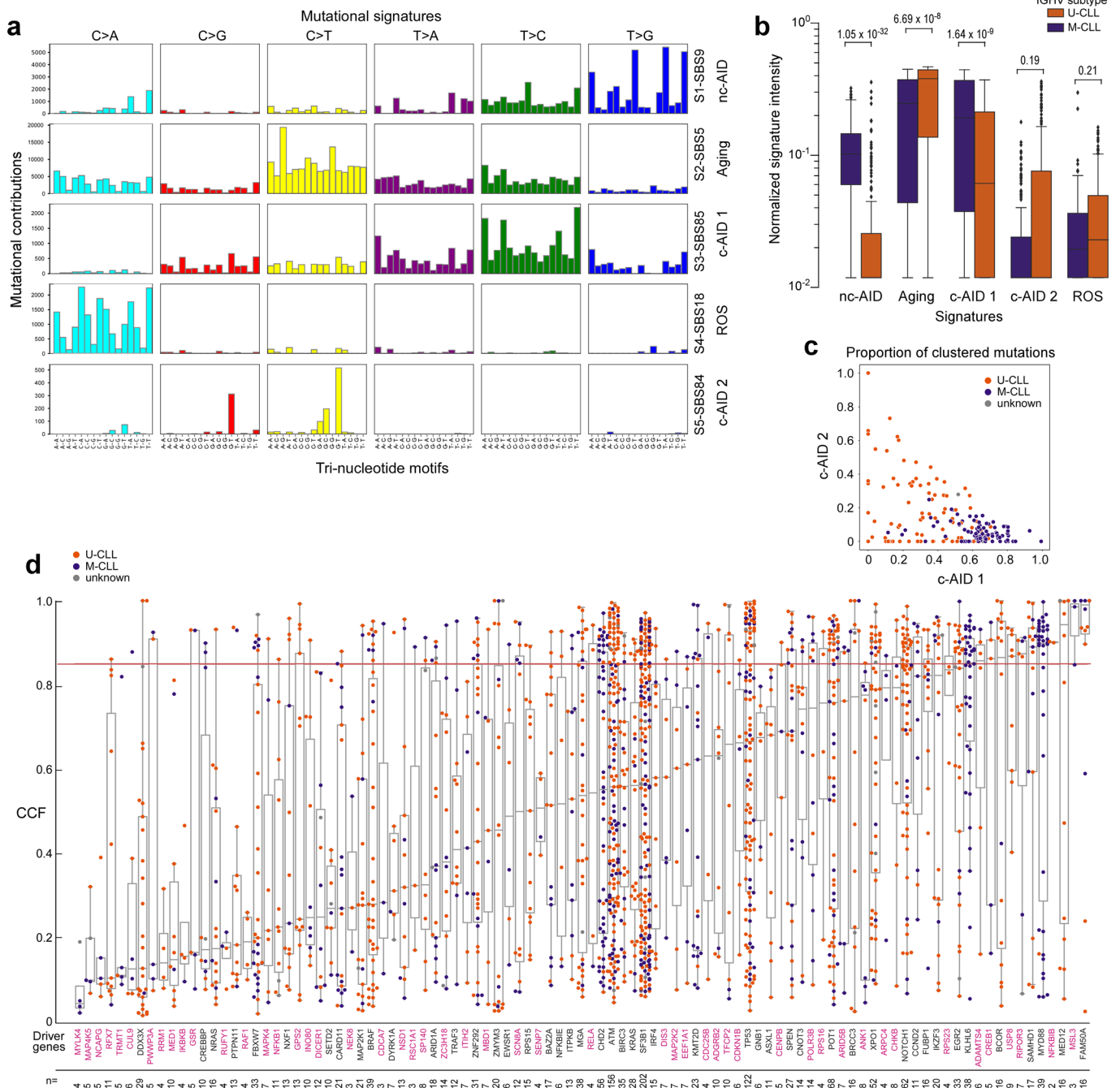


**Extended Data Fig. 4 | Chromosomal gains and losses identified in IGHV subtypes. a-b.** Recurrent copy-number gains (left) and losses (right) by GISTIC analysis showing arm-level (left per plot) and focal events (right per plot) in M-CLL (**a**, n = 512) and U-CLL (**b**, n = 459). Chromosomes are labeled along the vertical axis; dashed line - significance at q = 0.1. Blacklisted regions are colored gray. All arm-level events are labeled with cytoband arm and frequency in cohort. Focal events are annotated by cytoband, frequency, number of genes encompassed in peak (bracketed), and genes of interest. Red/blue font: novel focal events with frequency > 2%. Black font: previously identified events (see Supplementary Table 7).

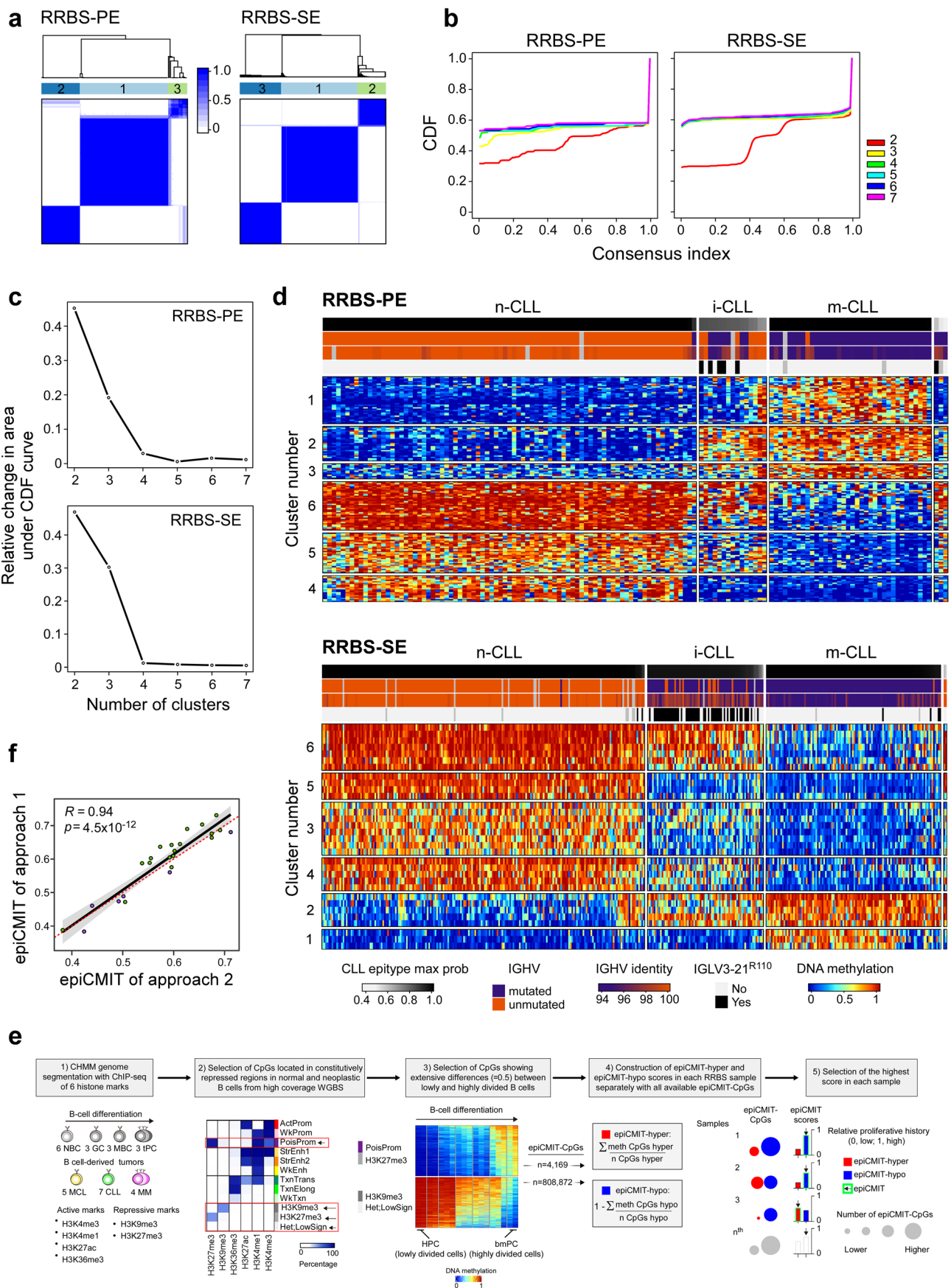


Extended Data Fig. 5 | See next page for caption.

**Extended Data Fig. 5 | Landscape of driver alterations and chromosomal aberrations in IGHV subtypes. a.** The genomic landscape of CLL IGHV subtypes. Driver genes, U1 and IGLV3-21<sup>R110</sup> mutations are labeled according to their genomic location (outside ring, numbered by chromosome). The tracks show the frequency and locations of driver genes in M-CLL (purple) vs. U-CLL (orange) (track 1; outermost), focal sCNAs (track 2; gains, red; losses, blue), and density of SV breakpoints of deletions (track 3) and translocations (track 4) (M-CLL n = 88; U-CLL n = 87; WGS, windows of 1-Mb). Innermost plot highlights translocations in which either one or both breakpoints are recurrent in at least 3 cases (windows of 1-Mb considered to define recurrence) in M-CLL (purple) and U-CLL (orange). Deletions, inversions, and tandem duplications where both breakpoints were found in at least 2 cases and did not overlap with a driver sCNA are shown (Note: only focal deletion in *SP140* in two U-CLL cases met this criterion). **b.** Schema of recurrent IG-*BCL2* translocation and IGH-*ZFP36L1* deletion in the WGS cohort. All 5 *BCL2* translocations were in M-CLL with immunoglobulin (IG) breakpoints in J or D genes, suggesting mediation by aberrant V(D)J recombination. In contrast, 4 U-CLL cases carried IGH-*ZFP36L1* truncating deletions, which were all clonal (CCF = 1). Breakpoints in IGH class-switch regions suggested mediation by aberrant class-switch recombination (CSR). **c.** Immunoglobulin (IG) SVs in 177 WGS and 984 WES. In WES, 9 of 10 *BCL2* translocations were in M-CLL and mediated by aberrant V(D)J recombination in IGH (n = 7) or IGK (n = 2). The sole *BCL2* translocation in U-CLL was due to aberrant CSR. One CSR-mediated IGH-*ZFP36L1* deletion was observed in a case with unclassified IGHV status due to presence of two populations (one M-CLL, one U-CLL; the latter was more prevalent). Of note, in WES, U-CLLs carry a higher number of non-recurrent IG events than M-CLL.



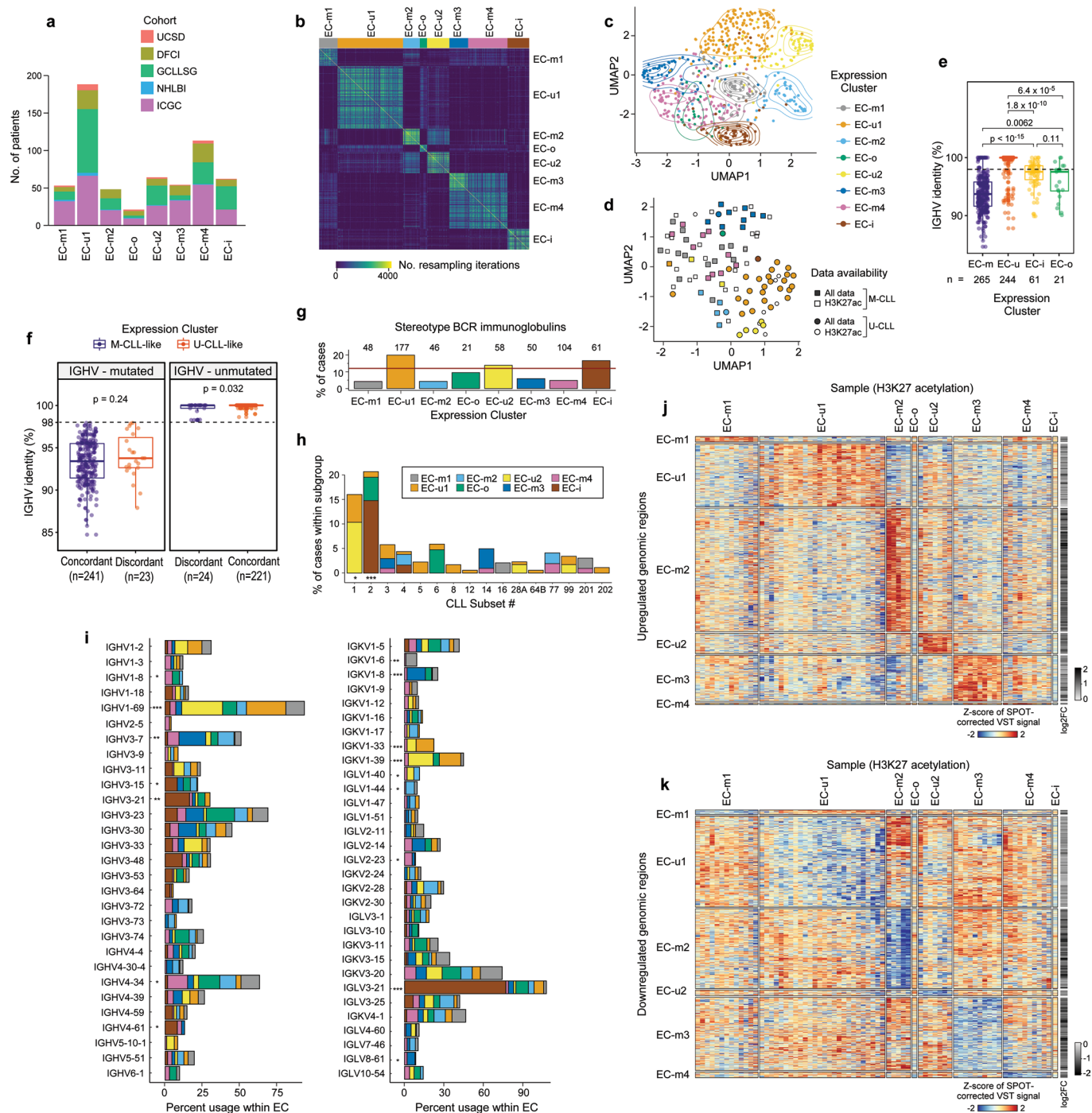
**Extended Data Fig. 6 | Mutational mechanisms and cancer cell fractions of candidate drivers.** **a**, Eight mutational signatures were identified in 177 WGS, but 3 signatures corresponded to known artifacts and were therefore excluded (see Supplementary Note 2). Boxplots demonstrating mutation contribution for each of the 5 signatures are labeled with single-base substitution (SBS) number and identity (per COSMIC v3.1). **b**, Comparison of the normalized signature intensity of the mutational signatures in U-CLL (orange, n=87) vs. M-CLL (purple, n=88). The nc-AID and c-AID 1 signatures were enriched in M-CLL, whereas the aging signature was more prevalent in U-CLL. Although not significant, there was a trend of increased mutations due to the c-AID 2 signature in U-CLL. All p-values were calculated with Wilcoxon rank-sum test, two-sided. Boxplots: center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, 1.5x interquartile range; points, outliers. **c**, Proportions of clustered mutations contributed by the two c-AID related signatures (SBS84, c-AID 1 vs. SBS85, c-AID 2) for each IGHV subtype (M-CLL, purple; U-CLL, orange) **d**, Mean cancer cell fraction (CCF) for each non-silent mutation across all candidate driver genes identified in WES samples (n=984). Color of dots depicts the IGHV subtype (M-CLL, purple; U-CLL, orange). The horizontal red line is the threshold for clonality (CCF > 85%). Magenta labels - newly identified putative driver genes. The number of non-silent mutations per driver gene is shown at the bottom. Boxplots: center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, 1.5x interquartile range.



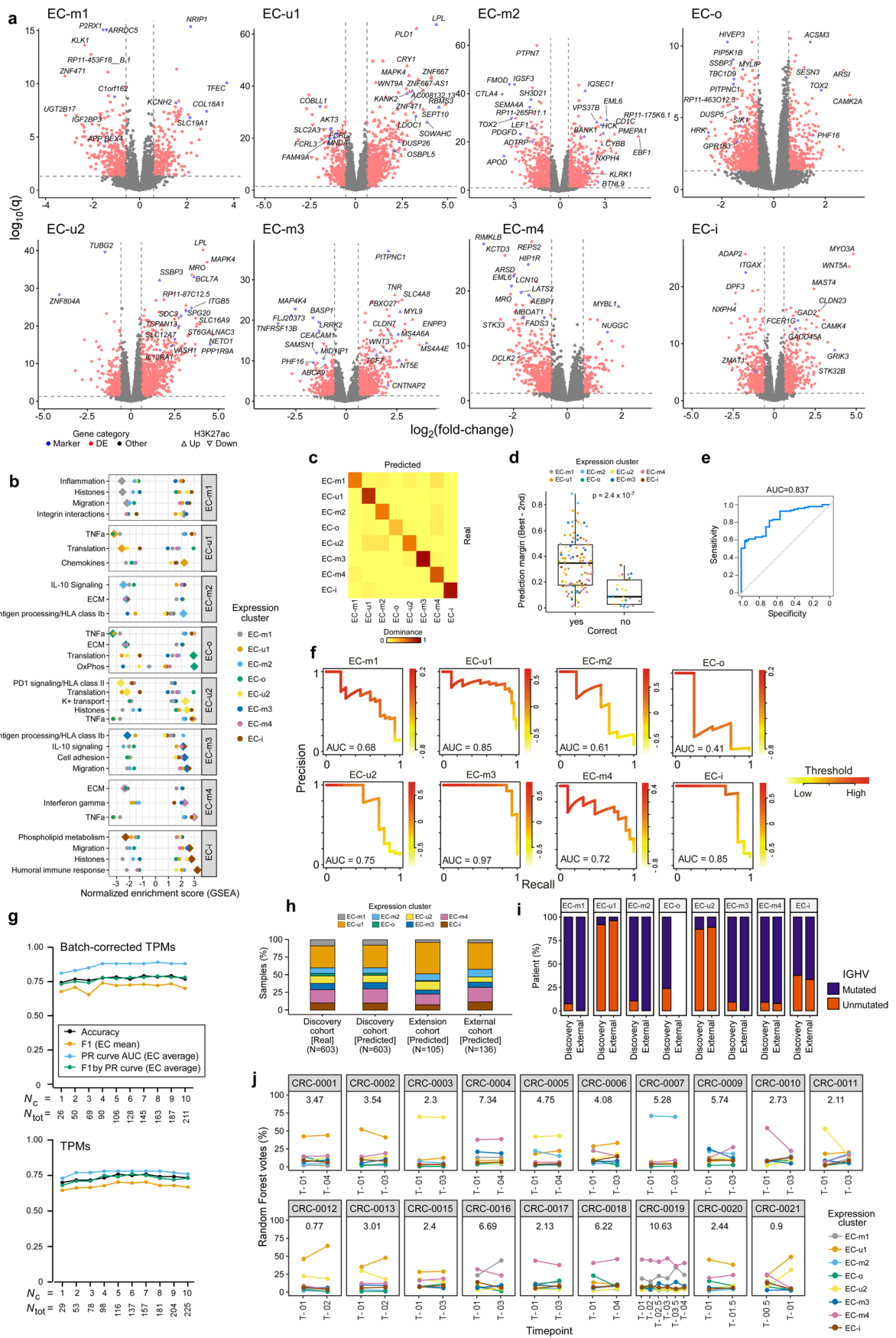
Extended Data Fig. 7 | See next page for caption.



**Extended Data Fig. 7 | Development and validation of epitype assignment and epiCMIT in RRBS data.** **a.** Consensus clustering matrices for  $K=3$  groups for paired-end ( $n=136$ ; 153 CpGs in consensus matrix) and single-end ( $n=388$ ; 32 CpGs) RRBS data. **(d).** **b.** Empirical cumulative distribution functions (CDFs) for consensus matrices with  $K=2$  to  $K=7$ . **c.** Relative change under the CDF for  $K=2$  to  $K=7$ . **d.** Heatmaps of the CpGs used for consensus clustering in **(a)**. Each sample (columns) is annotated by tracks: epitype max probability, IGHV status (M-CLL, purple; U-CLL, orange), IGHV percent identity, and presence of IGLV3-21<sup>R110</sup> mutation (black). **e.** The development of the new epiCMIT methodology for RRBS data. The genome was segmented into Chromatin Hidden Markov Model (CHMM)<sup>24</sup> states using ChIP-seq data to get repressed chromatin regions, where differential DNA methylation analyses was performed in high coverage whole-genome bisulfite sequencing (WGBS) data between the cells with the lowest and highest accumulated cell divisions in the B cell lineage, namely the hematopoietic precursor cells (HPC) and bone-marrow plasma cells (bmPC). Only CPGs showing extensive differences were retained and constituted the epiCMIT-hyper CpGs or epiCMIT-hypo CpGs depending whether they gain or lose DNA methylation from  $<0.1$  to  $\geq 0.5$  and from  $>0.9$  to  $\leq 0.5$  from HPC to bmPC, respectively. EpiCMIT-hyper and epiCMIT-hypo scores were calculated according to the available epiCMIT-CpGs per sample, and the higher score in each sample was then selected. **f.** epiCMIT values on the same samples profiled twice with different platforms. Approach 1 - profiled with Illumina-450K (green); approach 2 - profiled with RRBS-PE (violet). In samples profiled with Illumina 450K, the original epiCMIT-CpGs were used<sup>52</sup>. In samples profiled with RRBS, epiCMIT was calculated with all available epiCMIT-CpGs for the new catalog (**e**, Methods). P-value by Pearson correlation test, two-sided; Error band – 95% confidence intervals of the Pearson correlation coefficient.



**Extended Data Fig. 8 | Identification of expression clusters with associated biologic features.** **a.** Cohort representation in each expression cluster. **b.** Consensus matrix for RNA expression profiles of 603 treatment-naive CLLs by repeated hierarchical clustering with 80% resampling and varying cutoffs for number of clusters, which is inputted to the BayesNMF procedure (Methods). **c.** Uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) showing clustering of ECs ( $n = 603$ ; EC-u clusters (top), EC-m and EC-o (middle), EC-i (bottom)). Analysis was performed using the marker genes identified by BayesNMF. **d.** UMAP of H3K27ac profiles ( $n = 104$ )<sup>8</sup> denoting EC designation where available (colored points,  $n = 73$ ) and IGHV status. **e.** Comparison of the percent IGHV identity among ECs. Dotted line: 98% threshold defining M-CLL and U-CLL. P-values by two-sided t-tests. Boxplots: center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, 1.5x interquartile range. **f.** Comparison of the percent IGHV identity between those samples with concordant IGHV status and ECs (for example, M-CLLs in EC-m clusters) versus the discordant samples (for example, M-CLLs in EC-u clusters). IGHV-mutated cases - left; IGHV unmutated samples - right. P-values by two-sided t-tests. Boxplots: center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, 1.5x interquartile range. **g.** Percentage of cases carrying stereotyped immunoglobulin genes within each EC. Red horizontal line: percentage of stereotyped cases in the whole cohort. **h.** Fraction of cases classified in each CLL stereotype subset according to their EC. **i.** Percentage of IGHV (left) and IG(K/L)V (right) gene usage within each EC. IGKV genes from proximal and distal clusters were merged for simplification. All p-values were calculated using Chi-squared tests corrected by the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure ( $q$ -values,  $q$ ).  $q < 0.1$ ; \*,  $q < 0.05$ ; \*\*,  $q < 0.001$ ; \*\*\*,  $q < 0.0001$ . **j-k.** Heatmaps showing upregulated (**j**) and downregulated (**k**) H3K27ac levels of EC marker genes and 2,000 bp upstream to capture regulatory regions (Methods).



Extended Data Fig. 9 | See next page for caption.

**Extended Data Fig. 9 | EC differential gene expression, pathway activity, and classifier.** **a.** Differentially expressed genes per EC (red) using discovery set ( $n = 603$ ); EC marker genes by BayesNMF (blue). Significant up- or downregulation of H3K27ac levels are directionally marked with triangles (ChIP-seq available for  $n = 73$ ;  $n = 1$  for EC-o and EC-i, thus unevaluable). **b.** EC gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA). Diamond denotes the EC compared to all others (circles). **c.** Confusion matrix for the EC classifier on the test set (“Dominance” defined in Methods). **d.** Confidence in correctly classified samples ( $n = 95$ ) is greater than for incorrectly classified samples ( $n = 25$ ; two-sided t-test). “Prediction margin” defined in Methods. Boxplots: center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, 1.5x interquartile range. **e.** Receiver-operator curve (ROC) showing the tradeoff between sensitivity and specificity for the range of cutoffs that can be applied based on the “prediction margin”, where samples under the cutoff are excluded from performance evaluation. AUC, area under curve. **f.** Precision-recall (PR) curves for EC classification performance on the test set ( $n = 120$ ), using the selected model (see Methods). The weighted average of AUC is 0.88. **g.** Performance metrics for models trained with differing amounts of input genes, demonstrating accuracy even with smaller gene sets. Metrics: Accuracy, overall; Average, weighted average across ECs (Methods).  $N_e$ ,  $N_{tot}$  - number of genes (see Methods). **h.** EC distributions by BayesNMF compared to classifier predictions on the discovery cohort ( $n = 603$ ), an extension cohort not included discovery ( $n = 105$ ), and an external CLL cohort ( $n = 136$ )<sup>61</sup>. **i.** IGHV status distributions per EC in discovery ( $n = 603$ ) and external ( $n = 136$ ) cohorts. The difference in IGHV-mutated samples per EC is 2-10% ( $p > 0.05$ , Fisher’s Exact, Methods). **j.** Stability of the ECs over time in longitudinally sampled CLL samples<sup>3</sup>. Sample timepoints (x-axis); years between first and last sample (above curve).

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### Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

Data analysis

Detailed descriptions of our analytical pipelines are provided in the Methods section and/or Supplementary Information. Software versions used: BWA-MEM v0.7.15-r1140, CrosscheckFingerprints from GATK v4.0.5.1, Oxog v17, MuTect v1.1.6, MuTect2 v4.0.5.1, Strelka2 v1.0.11, DeTiN v1.8.9, MutSig2CV v3.1, GISTIC2 v2.0.23, ABSOLUTE v1.5, PhylogicNDT v1 (2020-01-08), SignatureAnalyzer v1.2.3, CLUMPS (<https://github.com/getzlab/getzlab-CLUMPS2>; 2020-01-27), REBC\_tools v1.1.3, g:profiler v2\_0.1.9, igraph v1.2.5, IgCaller v1.1, IMGT/V-QUEST v3.5.18, MiXCR v3.0.10, STAR v2.6.1d, RNA-SeQC v2.3.6, CIBERSORT v1.0.5, limma v3.42.2, GSV v1.34.0, fgsea v1.15.1, sklearn v0.22.2 (for expression cluster classifier) and v0.21.3 (for KMeans), imblearn v0.6.2, pROC v1.17.0.1, PRROC v1.3.1, BSMAP v2.90, MOABS v1.3.9.6, ConsensusClusterPlus v1.52.0, CHMM v1.17, DESeq2 v1.34.0.

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Sequencing, expression, and genotyping is available at European Genome-Phenome Archive (EGA, <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ega/>), which is hosted at the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), under accession numbers EGAS00000000092 and in dbGaP under accession numbers: phs001473.v2.p1, phs000922.v2.p1, phs001431.v2.p1, phs001091.v1.p1, phs000435.v3.p1, phs002297.v2.p1, phs000879.v1.p1 and GEO accession number GSE143673. 450k array data is available at EGA under accession number EGAD00010001975. Patient data were collected from medical records by the contributing institutes. All other data that support the findings of this study are publicly available. Project data portal: <https://cillmap.org>.

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## Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size	1.) Composition and description of the cohort: Table 1, Supplementary Tables 1,2; Extended Data Fig. 1a-b and Online Methods. 2.) For candidate cancer driver gene detection, our prior power estimates (Lawrence et al., Nature, 2014) suggested that with the ~1000 WES samples used in this study and somatic background mutation rate of ~1/Mb in CLL, we should be able to discover >90% of drivers mutated in 2% of patients.
Data exclusions	No data were excluded other than a limited number of samples excluded prior to analysis due to low quality or data redundancy.
Replication	The genetic analysis incorporates data from previous studies and shows replication with previous findings (e.g., Landau et al., Nature, 2015 and Puente et al., Nature, 2015). RNA expression clusters show comparable cluster membership frequencies in independent cohorts (Extended Data Fig. 8h). RNA expression clustering after downsampling the samples shows consistency with clustering using the full cohort (Supplementary figure 3) Epigenetic analysis shows replication of epigenetic feature inference across different platforms (Extended Data Fig. 7f) and consistency with previous epigenetic analyses (Kulis, Nature Genetics, 2012) IGHV characterization shows high agreement by different technologies (Sanger sequencing and computational inference from high-throughput sequencing data).
Randomization	Training and test sets for random forest classifiers were chosen randomly.
Blinding	Computational IGHV mutational status inference, expression cluster detection and epitope assignment were performed independently and blinded to clinical endpoints. Blinding was not relevant to other genomic analyses unrelated to patient outcome.

## Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology and archaeology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human research participants
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual use research of concern

### Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging

## Human research participants

Policy information about [studies involving human research participants](#)

### Population characteristics

The characteristics of the 1148 CLL/MBL samples are described in Supplementary Table 1 and clinical characteristics of the 1009 CLL samples used in the clinical analysis are listed in Table 1. These included tumor and germline samples collected either during active surveillance (n=680), post-treatment (n=52), or at enrollment of a clinical trial prior to first cycle of therapy (n=416; treatment-naive n=371, relapsed/refractory n=45). Briefly, these trials included: (i) comparison of fludarabine and cyclophosphamide (FC) to FC-rituximab (FCR) in previously untreated patients (CLL8 trial, n=309); (ii) treatment-naive TP53 mutated patients within phase 2 CLL20 trial who all received alemtuzumab (n=31); (iii) ibrutinib or R-ibrutinib in relapsed/refractory (R/R) or untreated patients with del(17p), TP53 mutation, and/or del(11q) (n=76; treatment-naive n=31; R/R n=45).

### Recruitment

CLL/MBL patients were recruited to studies at individual centers per local protocols regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or other characteristics. Those enrolled on clinical trials were required to meet inclusion and exclusion criteria as defined in each respective study (note, patients were excluded if they declined to provide a research sample). Written informed consent was obtained from all patients.

### Ethics oversight

Samples were collected via protocols approved by institutional review boards or ethics and policy committees from the International Cancer Genome Consortium, German CLL Study Group, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the CLL Research Consortium, National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute, and MD Anderson Cancer Center. All clinical trials were conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and International Conference on Harmonization Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.