Phenotype plasticity is fundamental for tumor initiation, progression, and therapeutic resistance. Pharmacological targeting of plasticity could launch a new generation of cancer therapy, but current efforts in this space remain hindered by an incomplete understanding of the underlying mechanisms that govern plasticity throughout tumor evolution. Our research team is characterizing the transcriptional heterogeneity inherent to healthy human epidermal melanocytes and how the spectrum of available transcriptional programs—and a cell’s capacity to traverse this landscape—changes during the genetic progression of melanoma.

Host: Kathy Green, PhD