Cancer biomarker testing is now a mainstay of 21st century pathology practice, embracing the pathologist’s role in patient selection for specific targeted therapies. Pathologists, oncologists, and others require direction in adapting to this new ever-evolving paradigm.

The Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital in Texas hosted the Cancer Biomarker Conference (CBC) on March 22, 2014, at the Houston Methodist Research Institute in association with the department’s Houston Methodist Diagnostic Laboratories. The CBC was inspired by the work of the Cancer Biomarker Reporting Committee (CBRC) of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), which cosponsored the conference. The conference covered a range of issues from how to provide a cancer biomarker service and testing/interpretation/reporting/reimbursement issues for biomarker testing, to tissue management and biomarker testing/interpretation for specific solid cancers. Speakers included members of the CBRC, as well as other renowned experts who serve on related CAP committees, and presidents of the CAP, Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP), and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). The articles in this first part of a 2-part special section are derived from lectures at the CBC, as well as contributions from other members of the CBRC and faculty at Houston Methodist Hospital.

Other cosponsors of the CBC included the Texas Society of Pathologists, Association for Molecular Pathology, American Society for Investigative Pathology, Chinese American Pathologists Association, Florida Society of Pathologists, Oklahoma State Association of Pathologists, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Department of Translational Molecular Pathology, The University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Dallas, University of Arkansas for the Medical Sciences, The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and Baylor Scott & White Healthcare-Central. We would specifically like to recognize the following individuals:

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