13.1: Classification of Cancers

Cancers can be classified based on the tissues in which they originate. **Sarcomas** are cancers that originate in mesoderm tissues, such as bone or muscle, and cancers arising in glandular tissues (e.g. breast, prostate) are classified as **adenocarcinomas**. **Carcinomas** originate in epithelial cells (both inside the body and on its surface) and are the most common types of cancer (~85%). Each of these classifications may be further subdivided. For example, **squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)**, **basal cell carcinoma (BCC)**, and **melanoma** are all types of skin cancers originating respectively in the squamous cells, basal cells, or melanocytes of the skin.