

Nutrigenetics- Concepts of genetic studies in Nutrition

Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne
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Jörg Hager PhD
Jorg.Hager@RD.Nestle.com

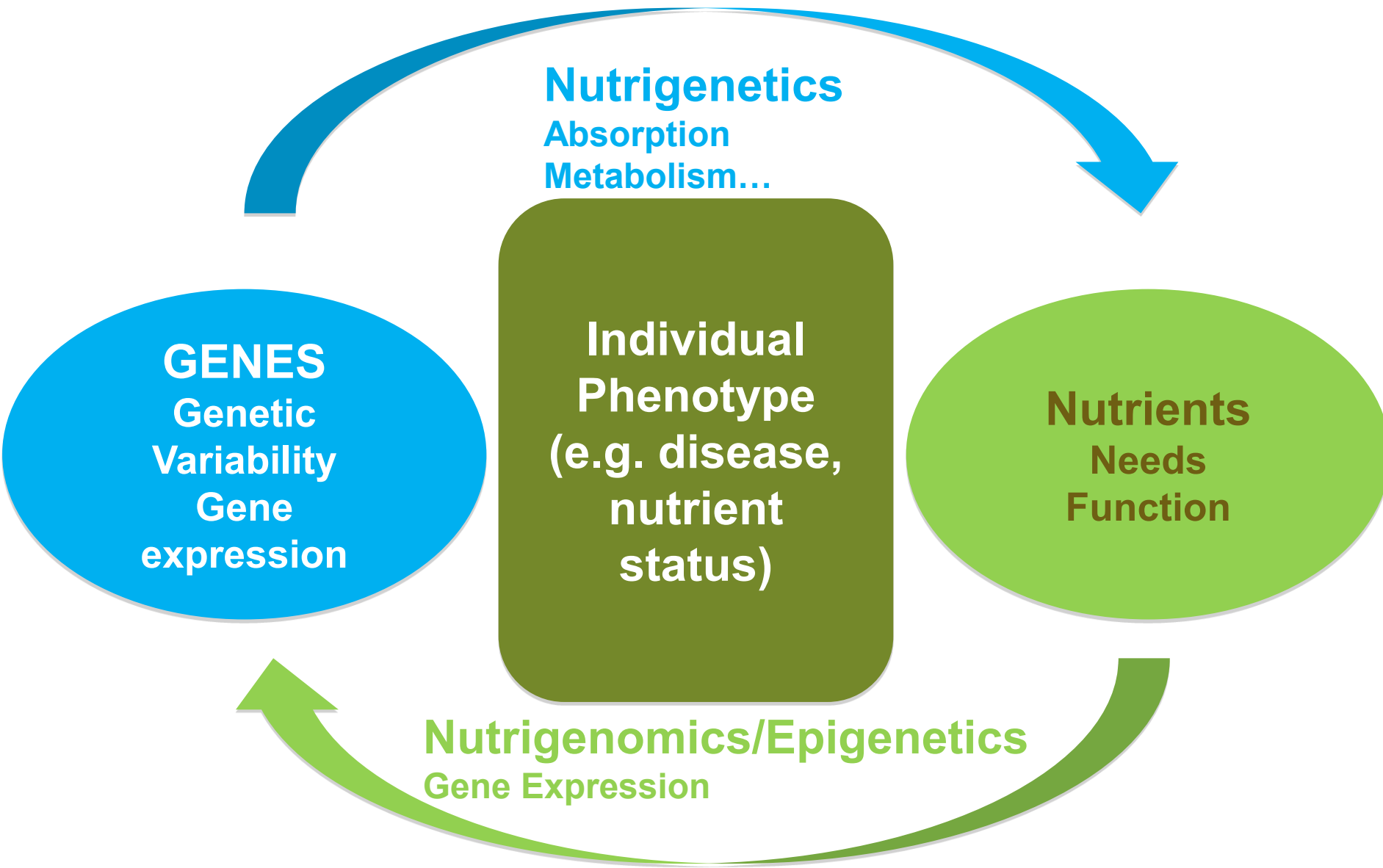
NutriGenetics

- Nutrigenetics identifies how genetic variability (i.e. differences in our DNA sequence) affect the response to and the bio-availability or activity of dietary nutrients.

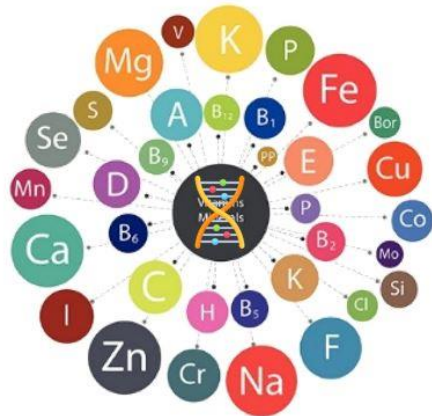
NutriGenomics: A Definition

- **Nutrigenomics**

- The study that investigates
 - How your nutrition affects the expression of your genes and vice versa
 - How subsequently your genes control your health



Genetic factors may influence nutrients on multiple levels

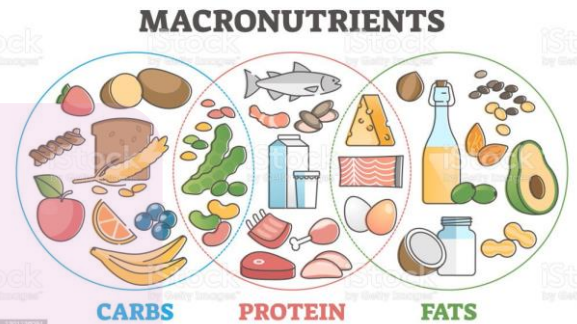


Micronutrients:

- Absorption
- Activity
- Clearance

Macronutrients:

- Digestion
- Transport
- Clearance



Bioactives:

- Absorption
- (In-) Activation
- Clearance

Nogueira et al. Polymers, 2020

Factors contributing to variable (micro-) nutrient levels at similar intake levels.

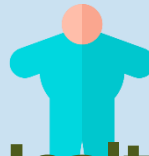


Genetic



Food intake/matrix

Life style



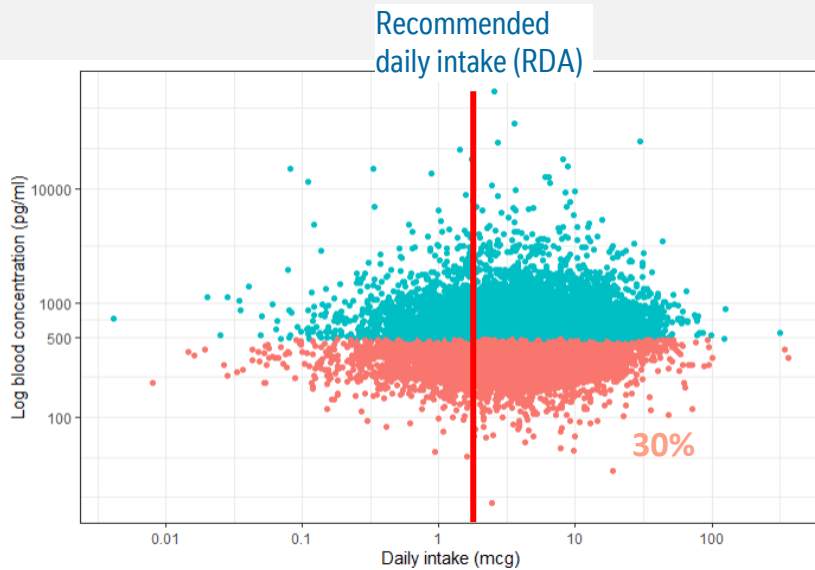
**Health
e.g. Obesity**

**Micro-
biome**



Genetic factors can influence nutrient levels (at identical intake levels).

VITAMIN B12 BLOOD LEVELS CORRELATE POORLY WITH INTAKE



BLOOD LEVELS OF B12 ARE INFLUENCED BY MANY DIFFERENT GENETIC VARIANTS (SNPS) SYNERGISTICALLY

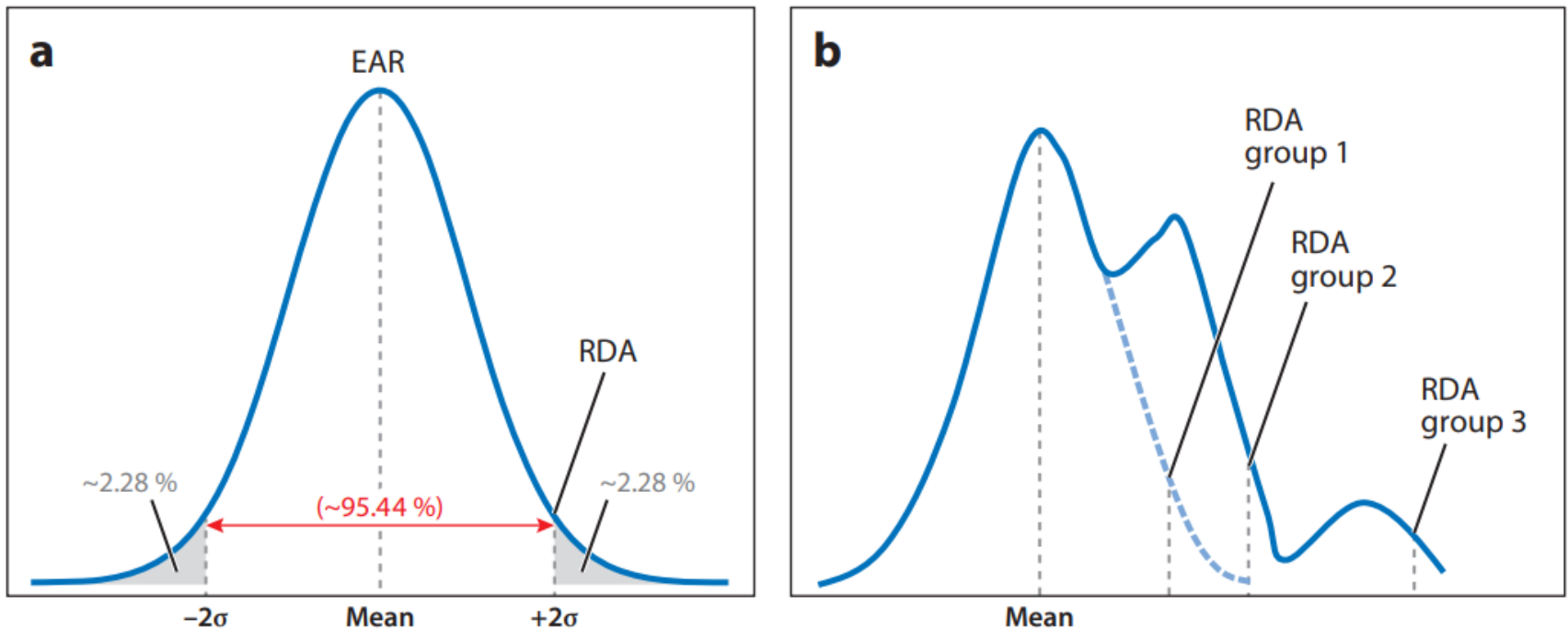
One phenotype (e.g. **type 2 diabetes**, **height**, **vitamin B12 levels**), many SNPs



Vitamin B12 1 Variant 4 pg/ml decrease
26 Variants 104 pg/ml decrease

*NHANES nutrition survey 2012-018

Genetic factors contribute to define our individual nutrient intake needs to reach sufficient (blood-) levels.



Borel & Desmarchelier. Annual Review of Nutrition. 2018

Characteristics of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms

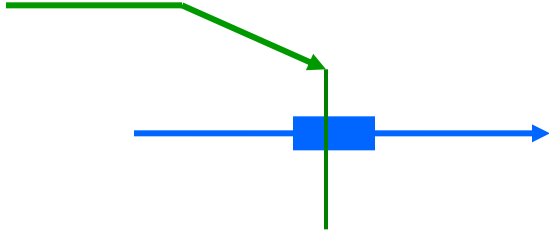
Reference SNP (refSNP) Cluster Report **rs9930506**

| RefSNP | Allele | HGVS Names | Links |
|---|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Organism: human (<i>Homo sapiens</i>) | Variation Class: SNV: single nucleotide variation | NC_000016.10:g.53796553A>G | ...more |
| Molecule Type: Genomic | RefSNP Alleles: A/G (FWD) | NC_000016.9:g.53830465A>G | |
| Created/Updated in build: 119/150 | Allele Origin: | NG_012969.1:g.97591A>G | |
| Map to Genome Build: 108/Weight 1 | Ancestral Allele: A | NM_001080432.2:c.46-13587A>G | |
| Validation Status: | Variation Viewer: varView | XM_011523313.2:c.46-13587A>G | |
| Citation: PubMed LitVar NEW | Clinical Significance: NA | XM_011523314.2:c.46-13587A>G | |
| Association: NHGRI GWAS PheGenI | MAF/MinorAlleleCount: G=0.2913/1459 (1000 Genomes) G=0.3248/9457 (TOPMED) | XM_011523315.2:c.46-13587A>G | |
| | | XM_011523316.2:c.46-13587A>G | |
| | | XM_017023654.1:c.46-13587A>G | |
| | | XM_017023655.1:c.46-13587A>G | |
| | | XM_017023656.1:c.46-13587A>G | |

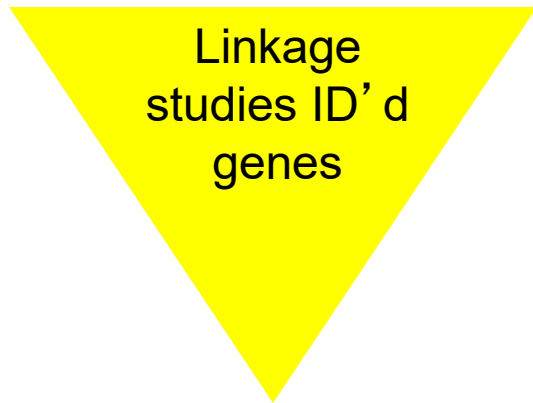
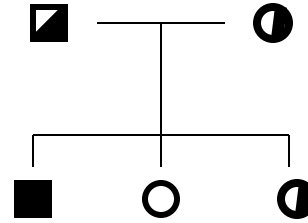
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/snp/>

Monogenic Trait (phenotype)

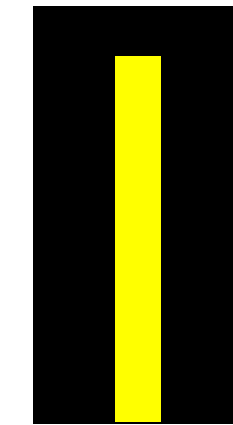
Mutation



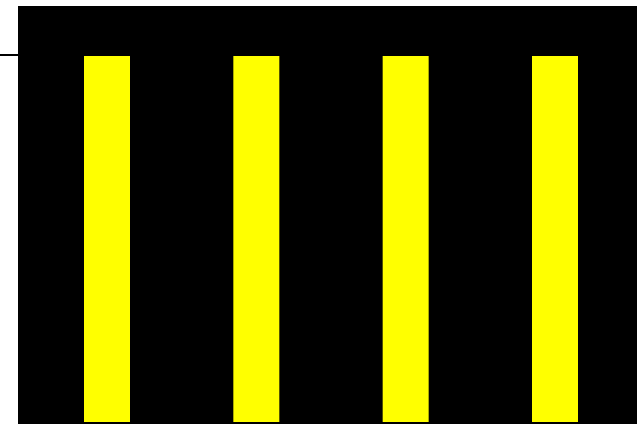
Loss of function mutation
- base pair change



Impact of mutation on phenotype



Risk in Population

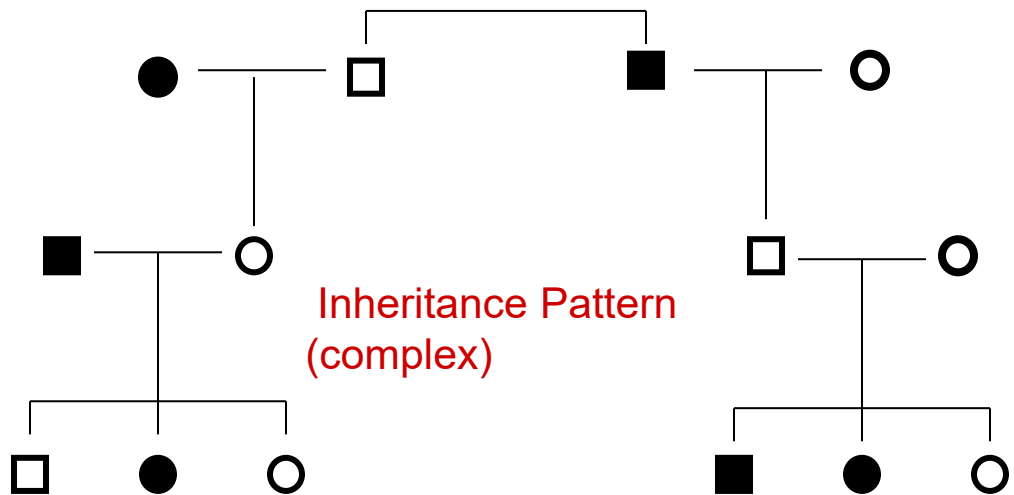


1 2 3 4
Risk in Families

Polygenic Trait

Allelic Variations

Common disease/
common variants
Several
genes

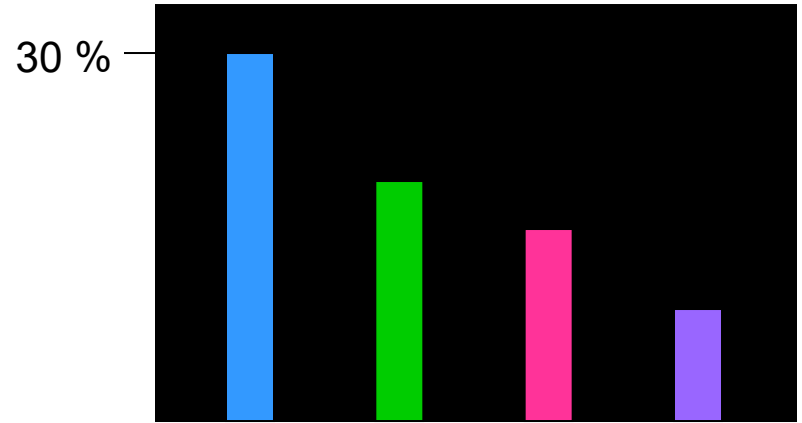


Polygenic trait

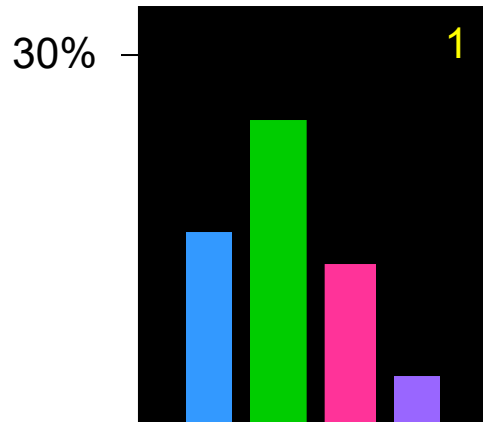


Variants in
A, B, C, D
genes

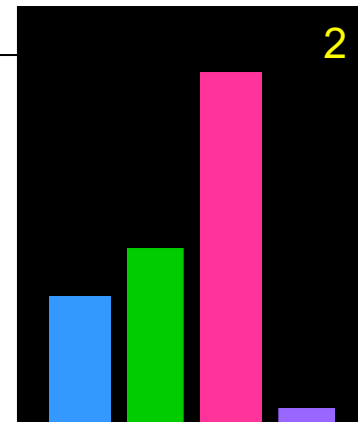
Impact of polymorphism
on phenotype



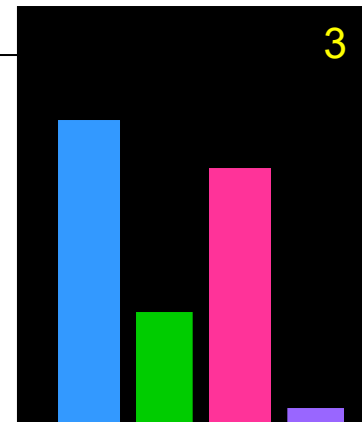
Risk in Population



1



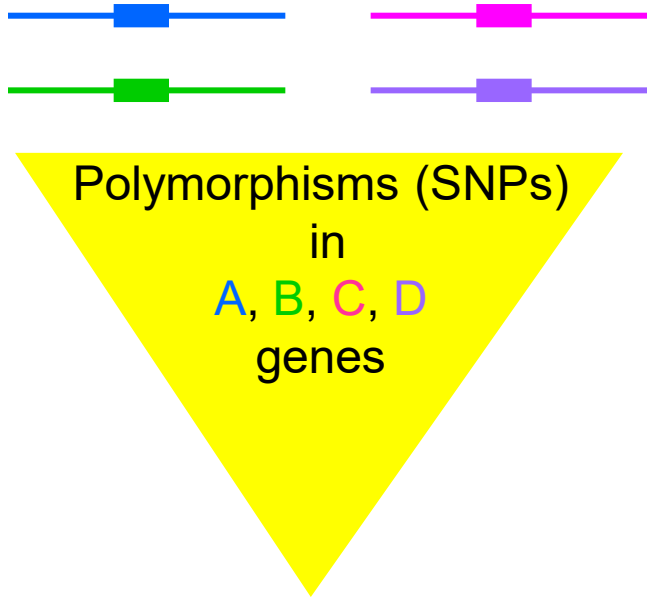
2



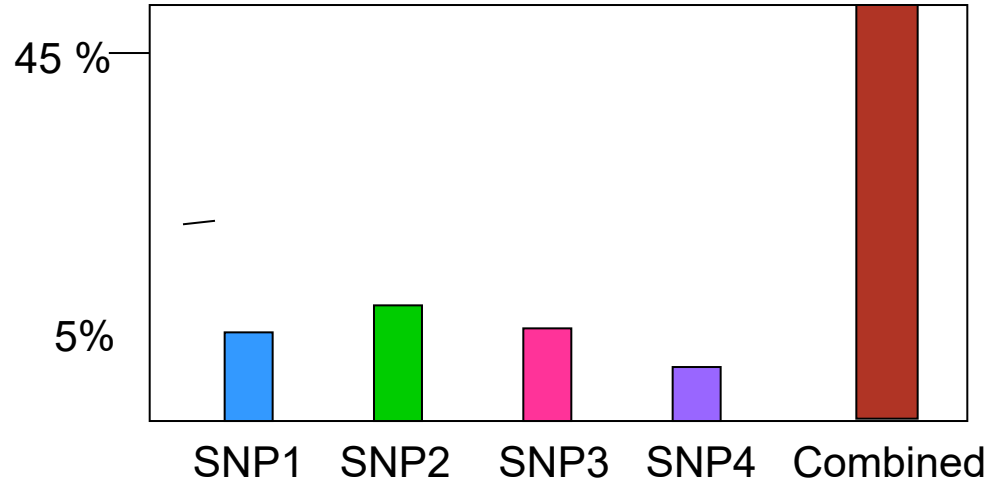
3

Risk in Families

Complex Disorder



Impact of polymorphism
on trait (e.g. vitamin level)



To summarize:

Most nutritional phenotypes are complex, due to polymorphisms in many different genes (loci).

The impact of each polymorphism on the phenotype is usually small but the combined impact can be large.



Dichotomous (qualitative) trait association studies

People **with** Disease (cases)



People **without** Disease (controls)



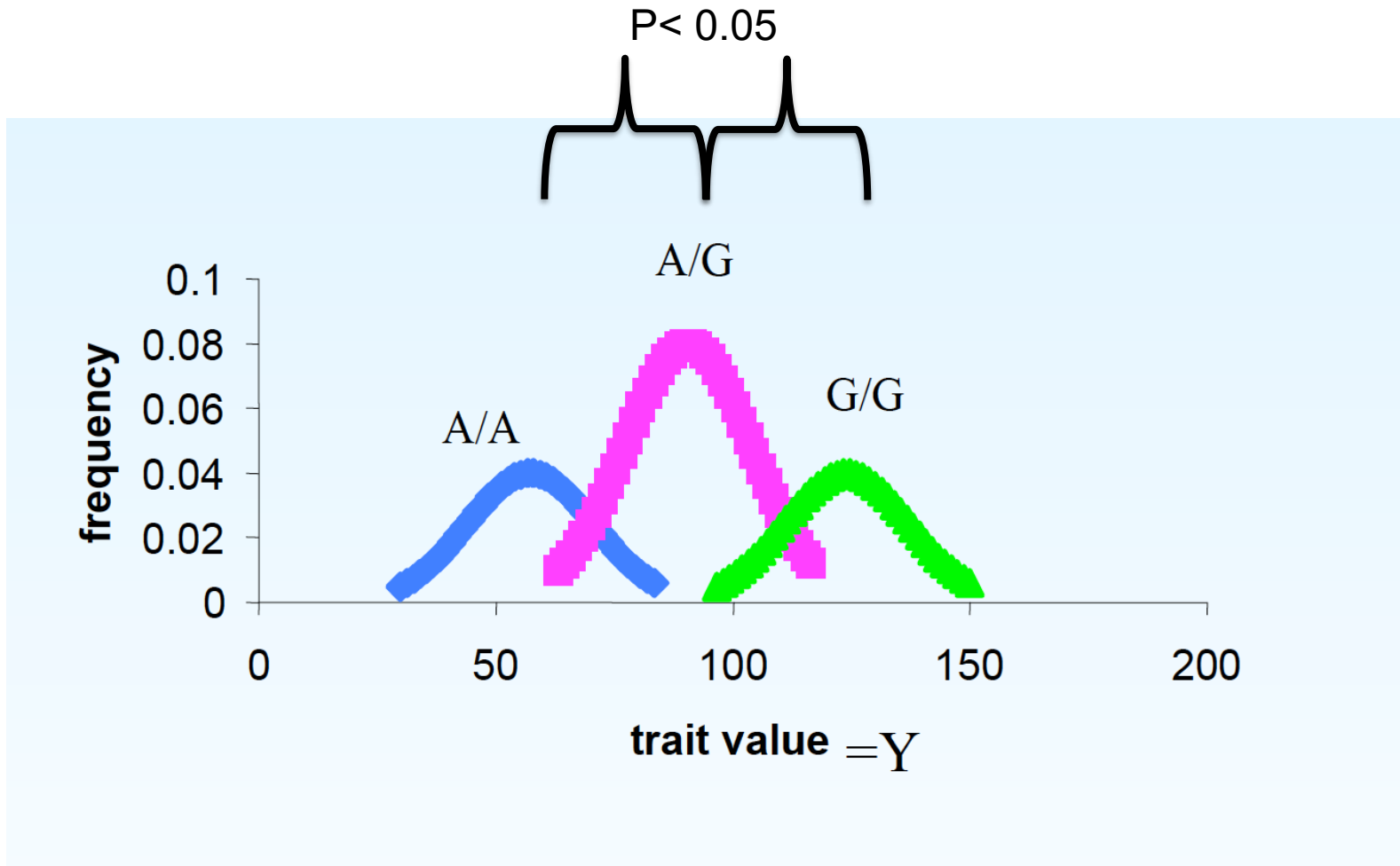
| | Genotype | With Disease | Without disease | Total | |
|--|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------------|
|  | Allele- C | 6 | 2 | 8 | $X^2 = 5.38$ $p < 0.025$ |
|  | Allele- T | 5 | 9 | 14 | |
| | | 11 | 11 | | |

...in reality we will use methods like logistic regression that allow to adjust for co-variates (e.g. sex, age, genetic background)

Quantitative trait association analyses: What is a quantitative trait?

- A quantitative trait has numerical values that can be ordered from lowest to highest;
- The values can be discrete or (more often) can be continuous. Most genetic association studies use continuous variables;
- Examples: cholesterol levels, blood pressure, weight, height, glucose levels, vitamin levels...

The basics: Quantitative trait values differ with genotype



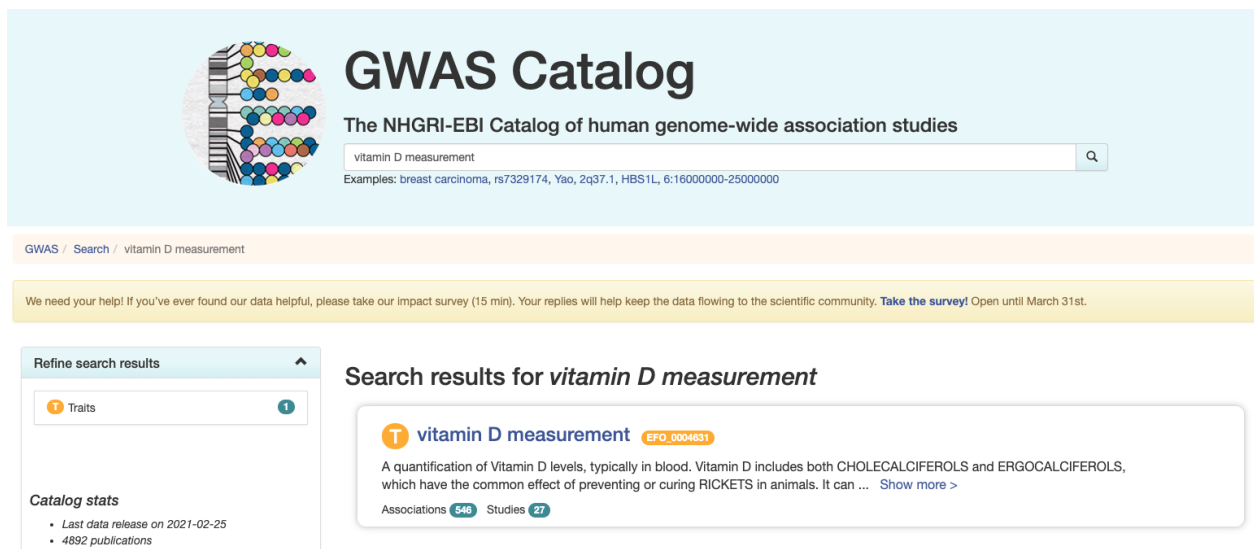
From: Janet Sinsheimer; Human Genetics, Biomathematics and Statistics

Quantitative trait association analyses: Why use them?

- More power than dichotomized traits i.e. fewer individuals are needed for the analysis;
- Genotype – phenotype relationship may be more direct (higher effect sizes) i.e. a disease may be the product of multiple affections like gene – environment interactions that may differ between people resulting in heterogeneity;
- **In nutrition we're mostly interested in quantitative outcomes on nutrients (e.g. vitamin levels).**

Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS)

- In reality we will not test just one or two genetic variants(SNPs) for an association but will test hundreds of thousands of SNPs in a large number of subjects (thousands) in parallel.
- The most comprehensive data base of human GWAS studies is the GWAS catalog (www.ebi.ac.uk/gwas/)



The screenshot displays the GWAS Catalog interface. At the top, the logo features a stylized DNA helix with colorful dots representing SNPs. The main heading is "GWAS Catalog" with the subtitle "The NHGRI-EBI Catalog of human genome-wide association studies". A search bar contains the text "vitamin D measurement" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, examples of search terms are listed: "breast carcinoma, rs7329174, Yao, 2q37.1, HBS1L, 6:16000000-25000000". A navigation bar shows "GWAS / Search / vitamin D measurement". A yellow banner below the navigation bar asks for user feedback: "We need your help! If you've ever found our data helpful, please take our impact survey (15 min). Your replies will help keep the data flowing to the scientific community. [Take the survey!](#) Open until March 31st." The main content area is titled "Search results for *vitamin D measurement*". On the left, a "Refine search results" sidebar shows "Traits" with a count of 1. Below this, "Catalog stats" are listed: "Last data release on 2021-02-25" and "4892 publications". The main search result for "vitamin D measurement" (EFO_0004631) is displayed, including a description: "A quantification of Vitamin D levels, typically in blood. Vitamin D includes both CHOLECALCIFEROLS and ERGOCALCIFEROLS, which have the common effect of preventing or curing RICKETS in animals. It can ..." and a "Show more >" link. At the bottom of the result, it shows "Associations 546" and "Studies 27".

Looking at GWAS data

| First author | Study accession | Publication date | Journal | Title | Reported trait | Trait(s) | Discovery sample number and ancestry | Replication sample number and ancestry | Ass |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|--|--|-----|
| Engelman CD | GCST000711 | 2010-06-26 | J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol | Genome-wide association study of vitamin D concentrations in Hispanic Americans: the IRAS family study. | Vitamin D levels | vitamin D measurement | • 229 Hispanic or Latin American | • 961 Hispanic or Latin American | 0 |
| Traglia M | GCST010171 | 2020-02-11 | Genetics | Genetic Contributions to Maternal and Neonatal Vitamin D Levels. | Midgestational total 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels (maternal genetic effect) | vitamin D measurement | • 323 Hispanic or Latin American • 269 European • 115 East Asian • 23 African American or Afro-Caribbean • 23 South Asian • 23 NR | - | 3 |
| Traglia M | GCST010170 | 2020-02-11 | Genetics | Genetic Contributions | Neonatal total 25-hydroxyvitamin D | vitamin D measurement | • 115 East Asian • 269 European | - | 7 |

Available data:

Associations **546**

Studies **27**

LocusZoom

Download Catalog data 

Include child trait data

Associations **546**

Search

| Variant and risk allele | P-value | P-value annotation | RAF | OR | Beta | CI | Mapped gene | Reported trait | Trait(s) | Study accession | Location |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------|----|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| rs184291421-C | 1 x 10 ⁻²⁸ | | 0.994155 | - | 0.170103 unit increase | [0.14-0.2] | AC068721.1, NPFFR2 | Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D levels | vitamin D measurement | GCST010144 | 4:71887129 |
| rs188838036-A | 3 x 10 ⁻²⁴ | | 0.995469 | - | 0.17944 unit increase | [0.14-0.21] | AC068721.1, NPFFR2 | Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D levels | vitamin D measurement | GCST010144 | 4:71917668 |
| rs186881826-A | 4 x 10 ⁻⁷⁷ | | 0.223069 | - | 0.045907 unit increase | [0.041-0.051] | NPFFR2, AC068721.1 | Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D levels | vitamin D measurement | GCST010144 | 4:71920026 |
| rs186441690-G | 2 x 10 ⁻¹⁸ | | 0.997189 | - | 0.26711 unit decrease | [0.21-0.33] | NPFFR2, AC068721.1 | Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D levels | vitamin D measurement | GCST010144 | 4:71955252 |

Beyond the p-value: Estimating effect sizes

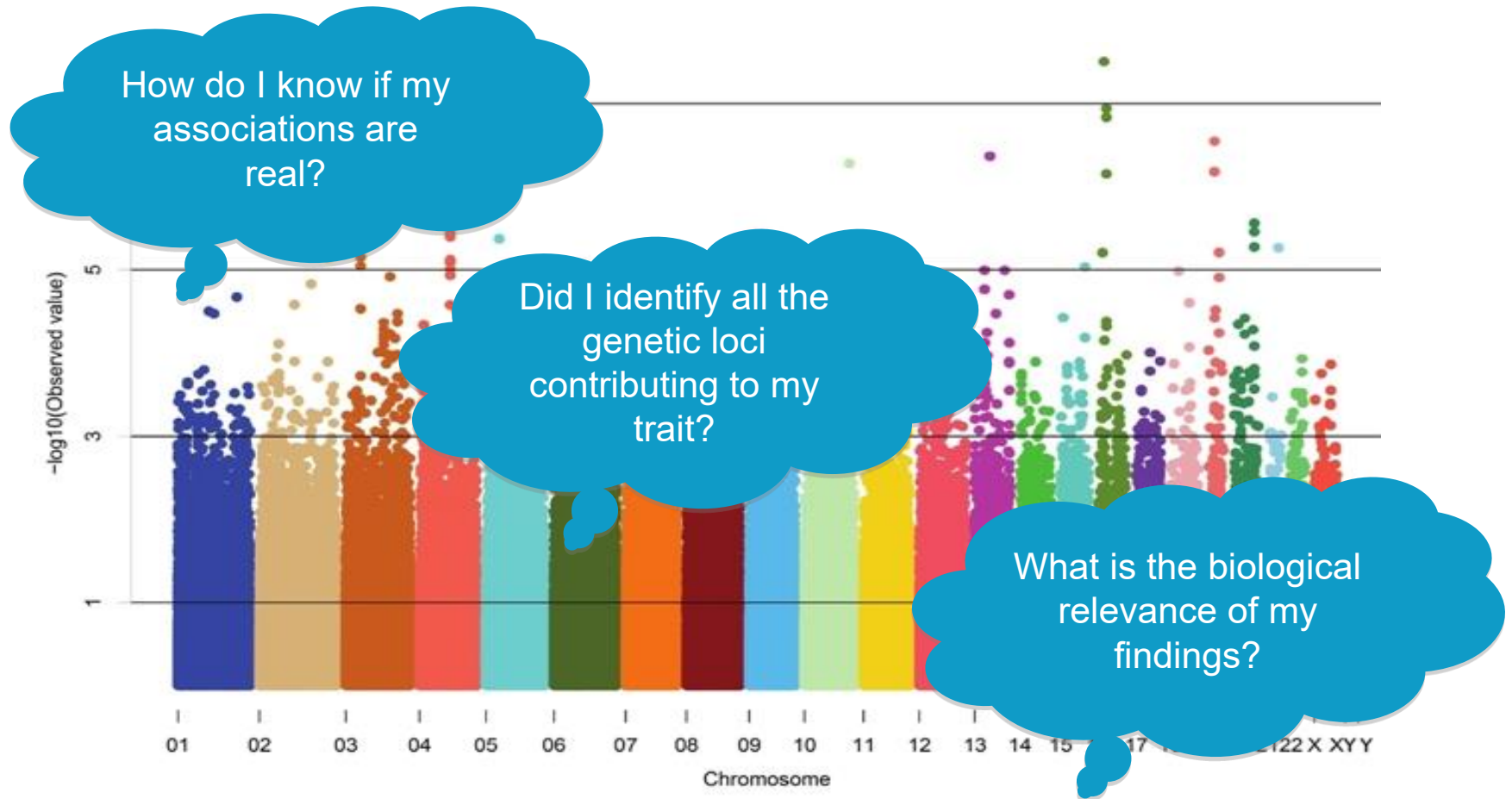
| Variant and risk allele | P-value | P-value annotation | RAF | OR | Beta | CI |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------|----|-----------------------|---------------|
| rs3755967-T | 5×10^{-343} | | NR | - | 0.089 unit decrease | [0.084-0.094] |
| rs186441690-G | 2×10^{-18} | | 0.997189 | - | 0.26711 unit decrease | [0.21-0.33] |

P-value= determines the likelihood of the null hypothesis (i.e. there is no association) being true. The smaller the p-value the less likely is the null hypothesis or in other words the more likely your association is true.

OR or beta (for quantitative traits)= estimates the effect of the allele. E.g. an OR of 2 for a disease trait means that the risk to get the disease given the genetic risk variant is increased 2-fold.

For quantitative traits the beta-coefficient corresponds to the average change in trait value per allele

Caveats of genome-wide association studies



Caveats of association studies:

Population stratification

- Genetic marker not associated with trait of interest but highly significant association is observed;
- Population stratification happens when allele frequencies differ between groups with and without the trait (example case – control groups) without being associated with the trait.

News & Views

Beware the chopsticks gene

D Hamer and L Sirota

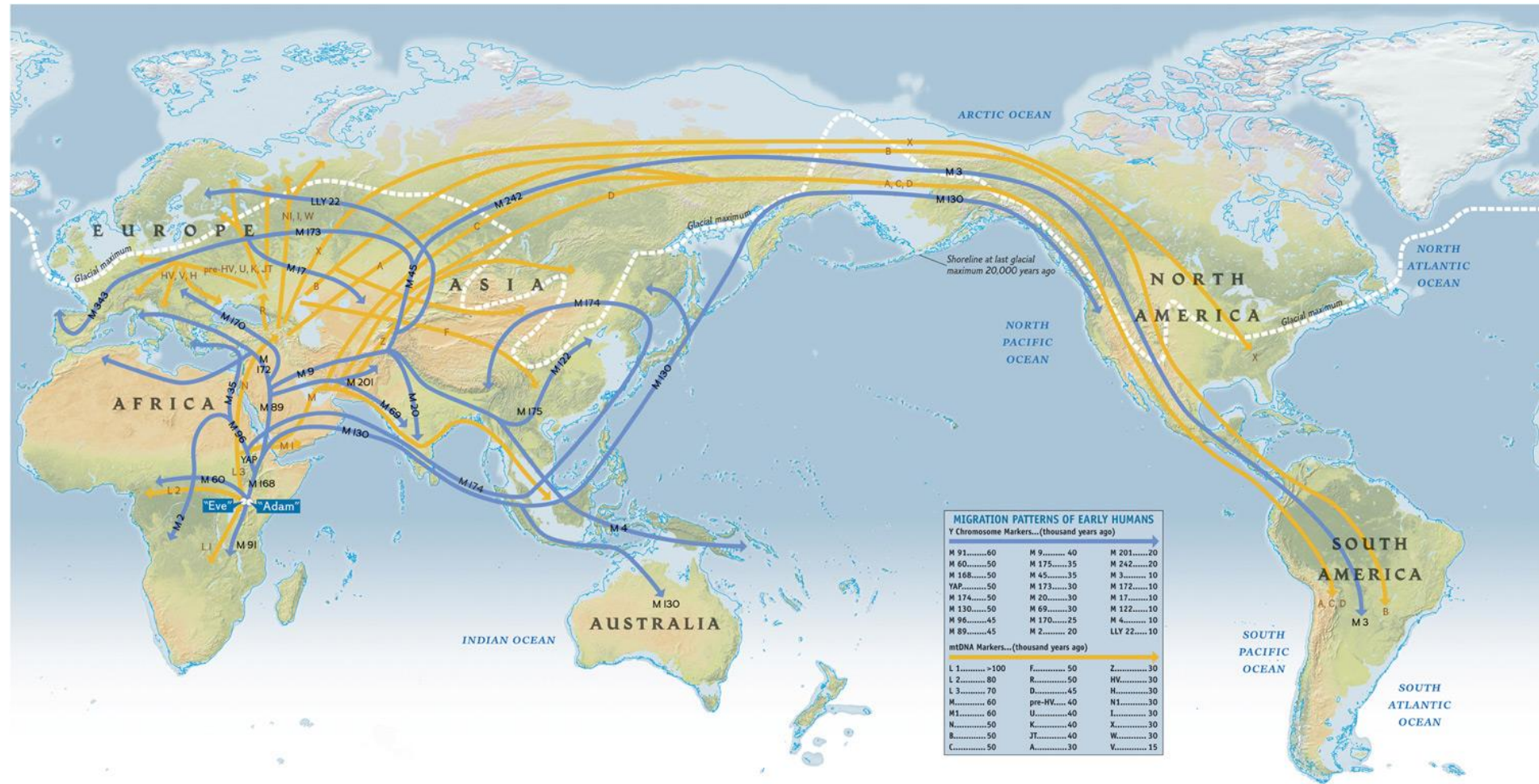
Laboratory of Biochemistry, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA

Correspondence to: Dr D H Hamer, NIH Building 37, Rm YA13, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA. deanh@helix.nih.gov

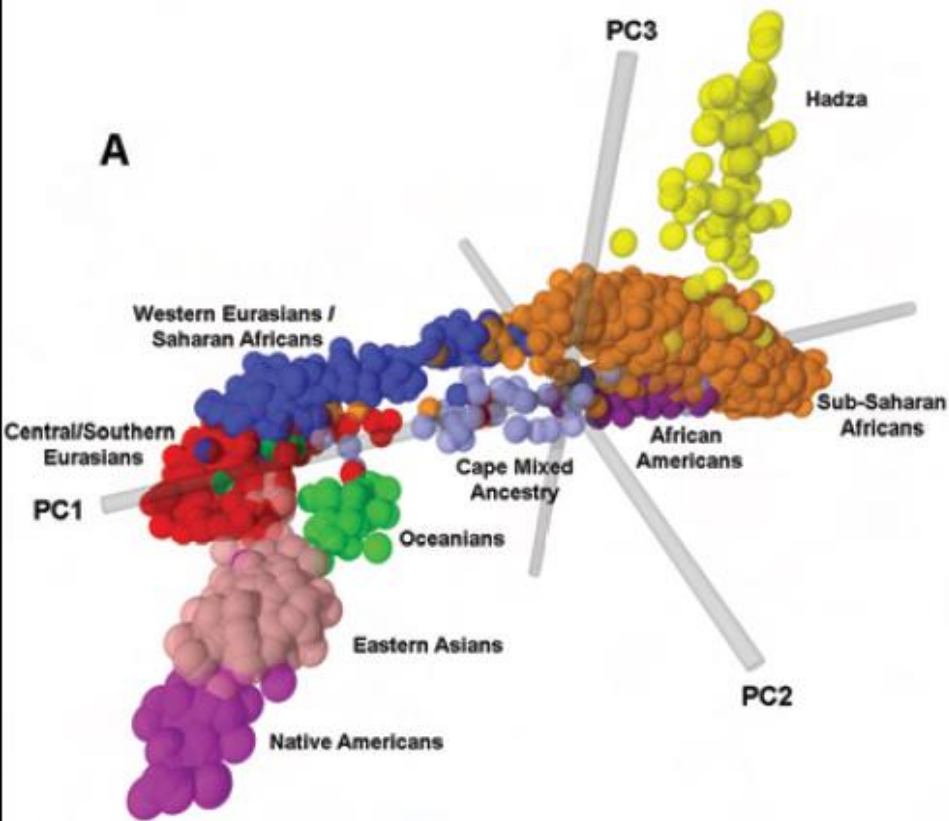
Once upon a time, an ethnogeneticist decided to figure out why some people eat with chopsticks and others do not. His experiment was simple. He rounded up several hundred students from a local university, asked them how often they used chopsticks, then collected buccal DNA samples and mapped them for a series of anonymous and candidate genes.

The results were astounding. One of the markers, located right in the middle of a region previously linked to several behavioral traits, showed a huge correlation to chopstick use, enough to account for nearly half of the observed variance. When the experiment was repeated with students

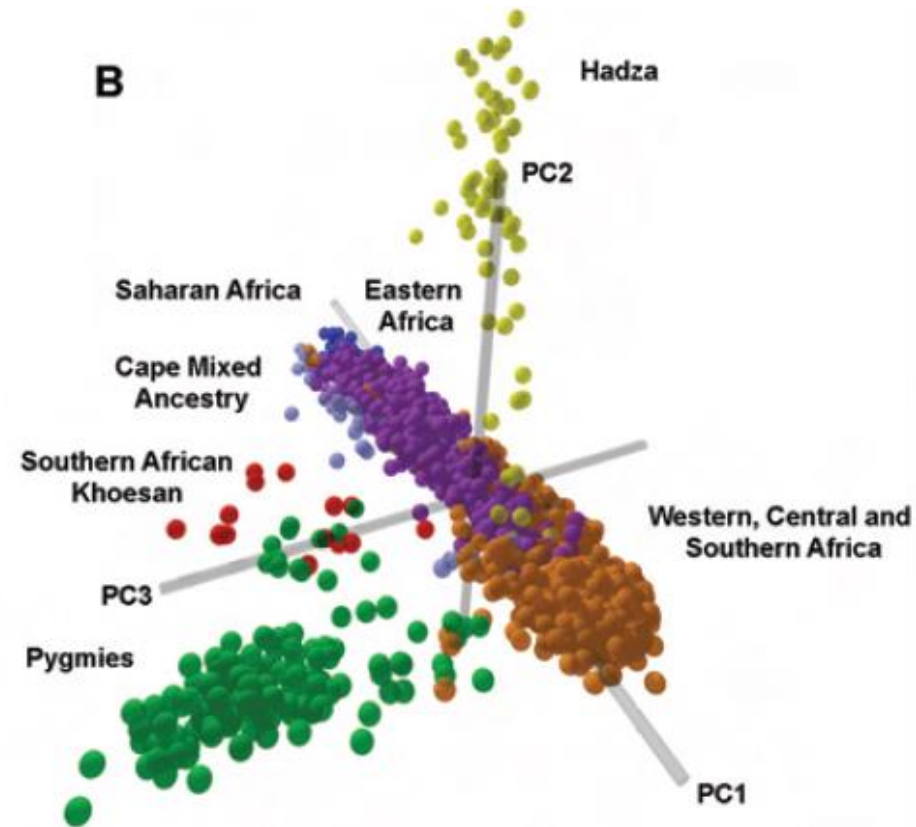
Facts & Challenges Human migrations



Geographical Genetics

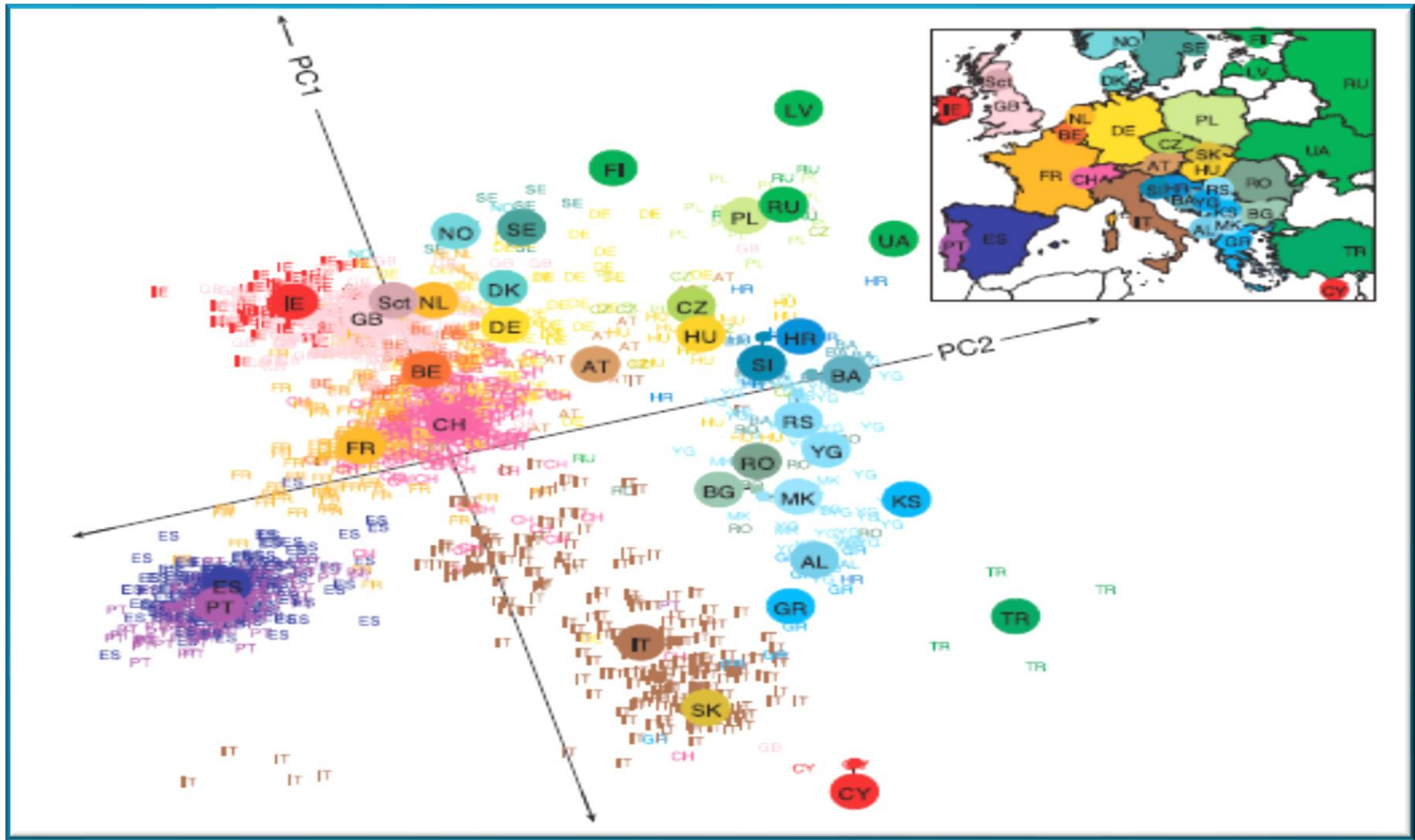


Human Populations



14 Major ancestral groups

Facts & Challenges Genetic Diversity



Caveats of association studies: Multiple testing problem

BUT...

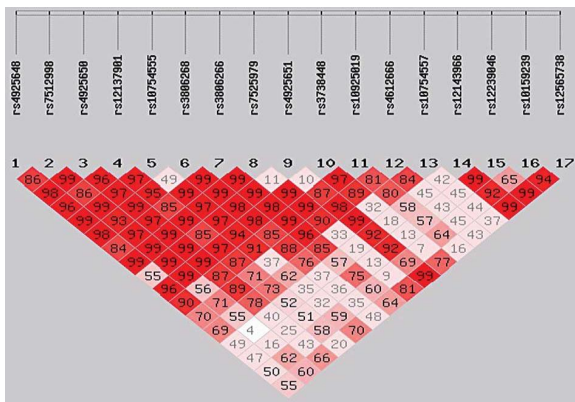
- The more markers we test, the greater are the odds to observe a significant p-value by chance
- Hence we need to adjust our results for the number of tests we have performed;
- The simplest adjustment is the Bonferroni correction=
 $p_{\text{value}}/\text{number of tests}$
- Example: 1000 markers tested:
New significance threshold
 $p = 0.05/1000 = 0.00005$



| Genotype | With Disease | Without disease | Total |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|-------|
| Allele- C | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Allele- T | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| | 11 | 11 | |

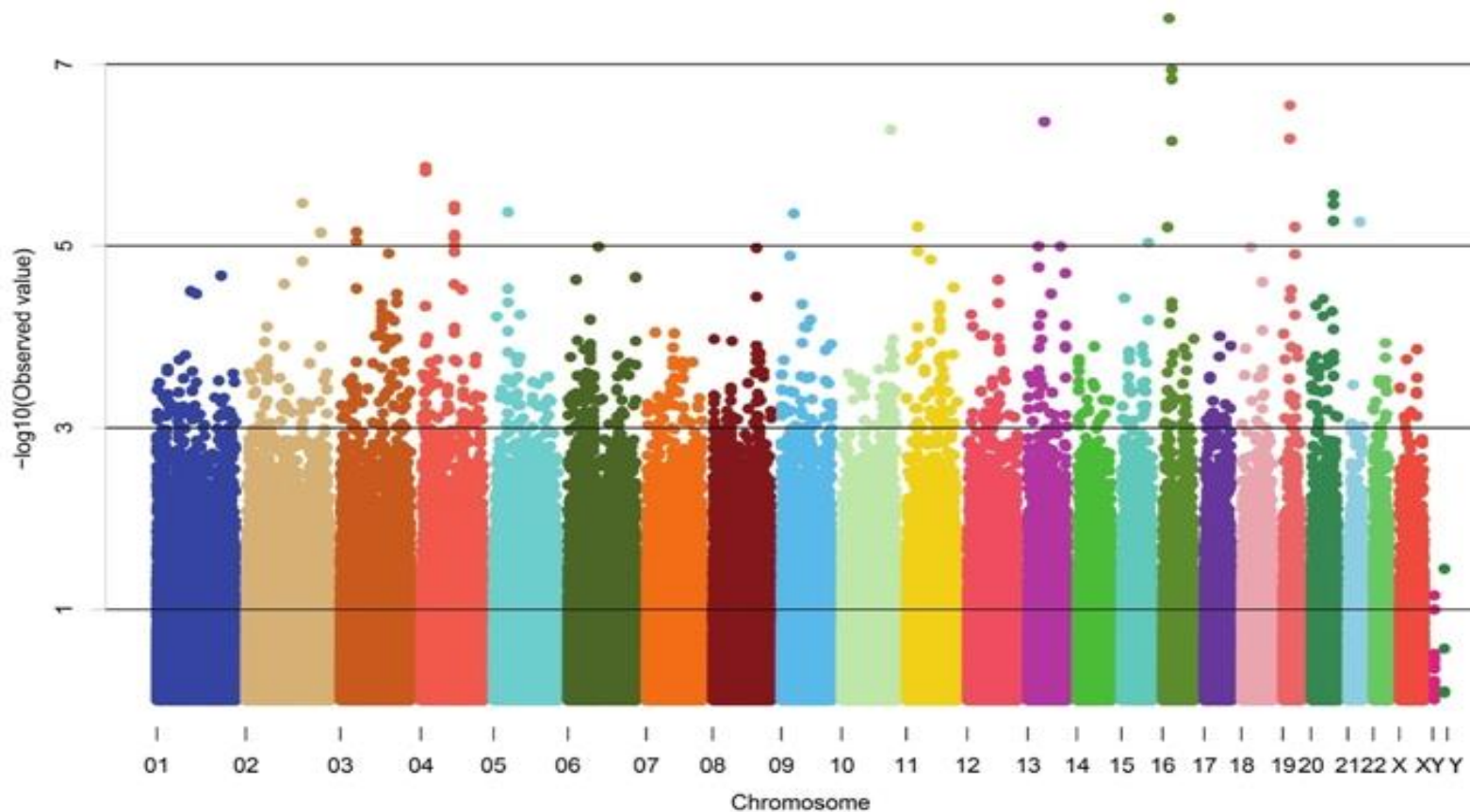
$$\chi^2 = 5.38$$

$$p < 0.025$$



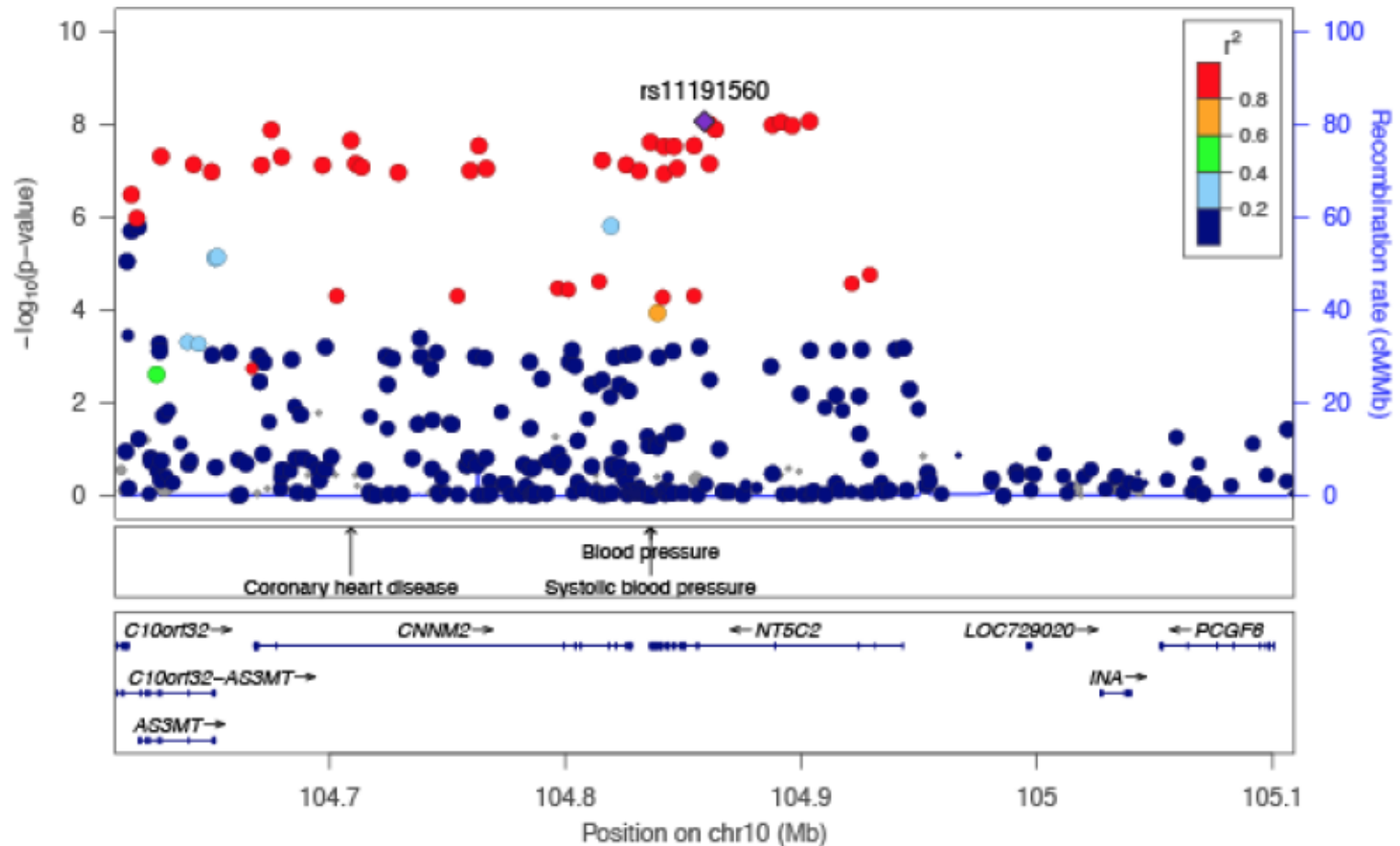
Caveats of association studies: Multiple testing problem

If we test hundreds of thousands of markers, the threshold becomes an important obstacle for trait locus identification



Limitations of GWAS studies

GWAS studies identify **genetic loci** NOT **genes**



Be careful when citing gene names in association studies....

Science. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2009 Feb 22.

Published in final edited form as:

Science. 2007 May 11; 316(5826): 889–894.

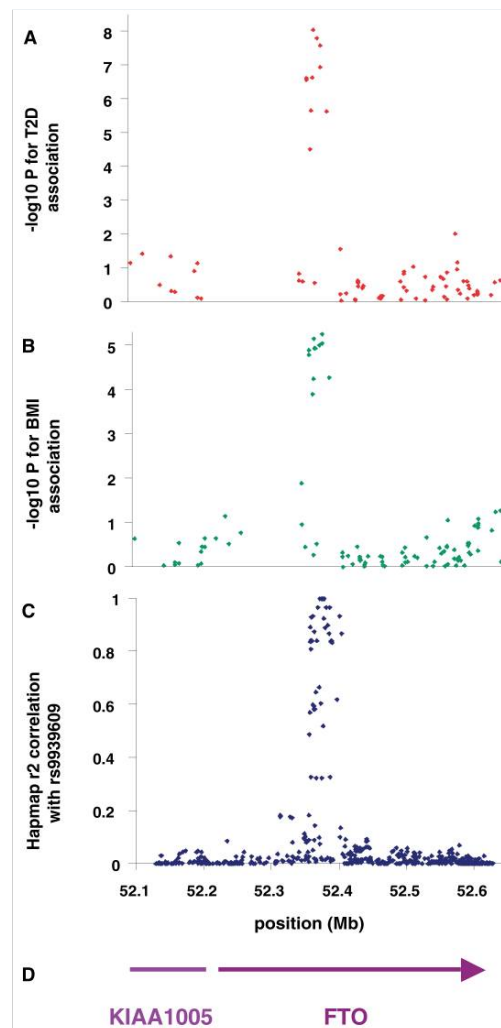
Published online 2007 Apr 12. doi: [10.1126/science.1141634](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1141634)

PMCID: PMC2646098

NIHMSID: NIHMS45574

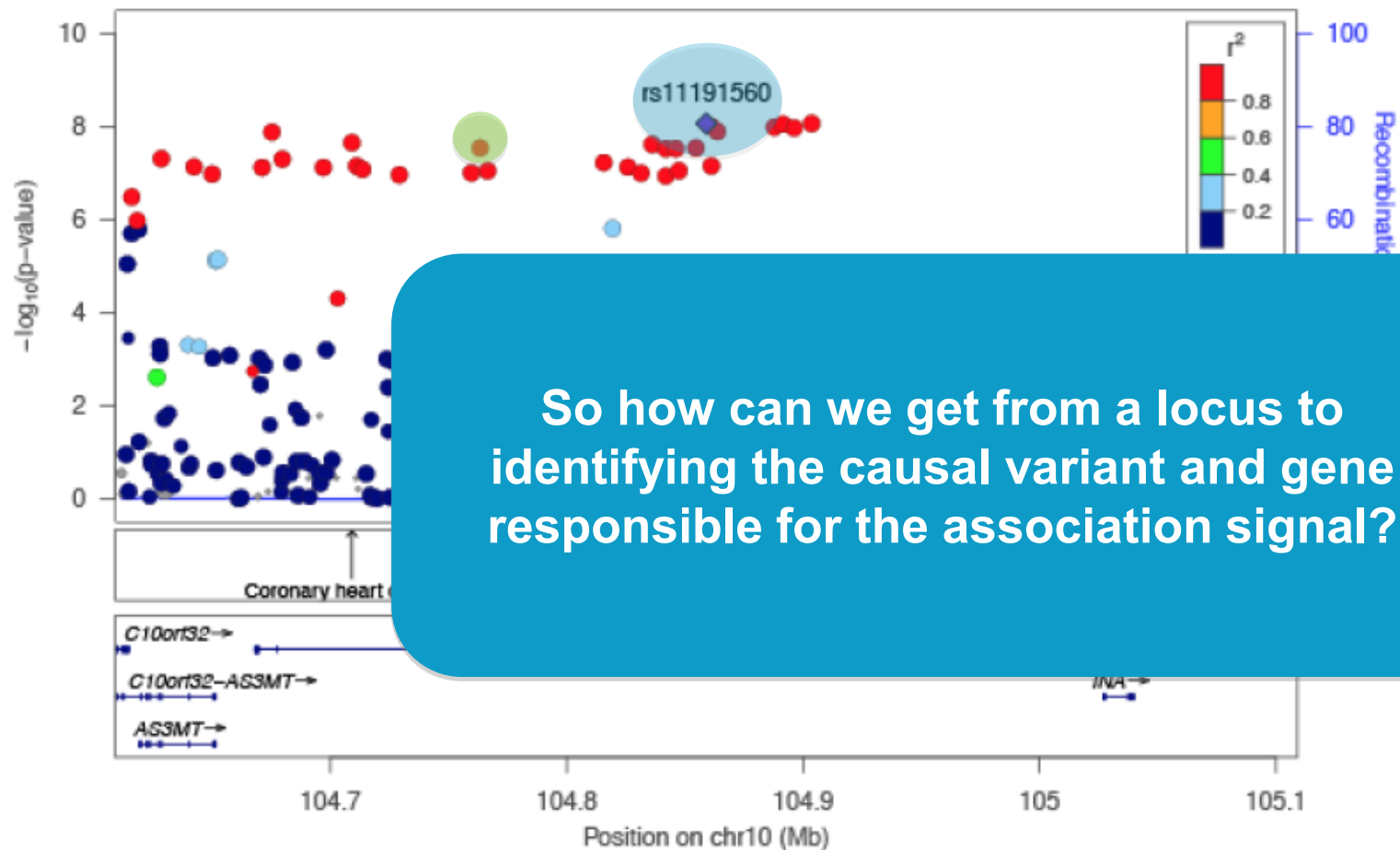
A Common Variant in the *FTO* Gene Is Associated with Body Mass Index and Predisposes to Childhood and Adult Obesity

Timothy M. Frayling,^{1,2,*} Nicholas J. Timpson,^{3,4,*} Michael N. Weedon,^{1,2,*} Eleftheria Zeggini,^{3,5,*} Rachel M. Freathy,^{1,2} Cecilia M. Lindgren,^{3,5} John R. B. Perry,^{1,2} Katherine S. Elliott,³ Hana Lango,^{1,2} Nigel W. Rayner,^{3,5} Beverley Shields,² Lorna W. Harries,² Jeffrey C. Barrett,³ Sian Ellard,^{2,6} Christopher J. Groves,⁵ Bridget Knight,² Ann-Marie Patch,^{2,6} Andrew R. Ness,⁷ Shah Ebrahim,⁸ Debbie A. Lawlor,⁹ Susan M. Ring,⁹ Yoav Ben-Shlomo,⁹ Marjo-Riitta Jarvelin,^{10,11} Ulla Sovio,^{10,11} Amanda J. Bennett,⁵ David Melzer,^{1,12} Luigi Ferrucci,¹³ Ruth J. F. Loos,¹⁴ Inês Barroso,¹⁵ Nicholas J. Wareham,¹⁴ Fredrik Karpe,⁵ Katharine R. Owen,⁵ Lon R. Cardon,³ Mark Walker,¹⁶ Graham A. Hitman,¹⁷ Colin N. A. Palmer,¹⁸ Alex S. F. Doney,¹⁹ Andrew D. Morris,¹⁹ George Davey Smith,⁴ The Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium,[†] Andrew T. Hattersley,^{1,2,†§} and Mark I. McCarthy^{3,5,‡}



Limitations of GWAS studies

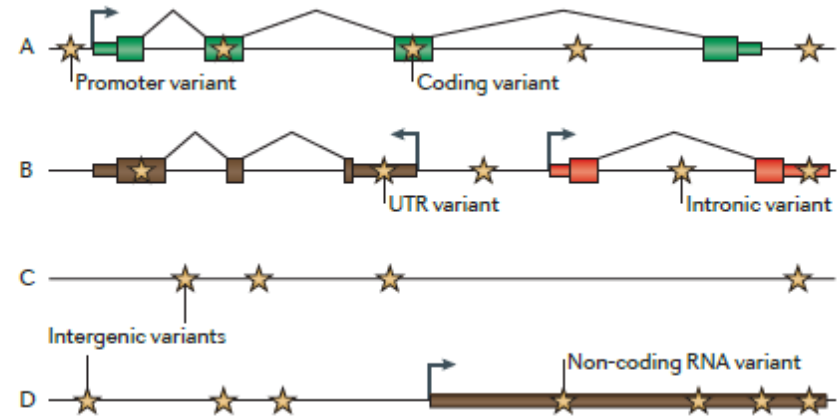
GWAS studies identify **genetic loci** NOT **genes**



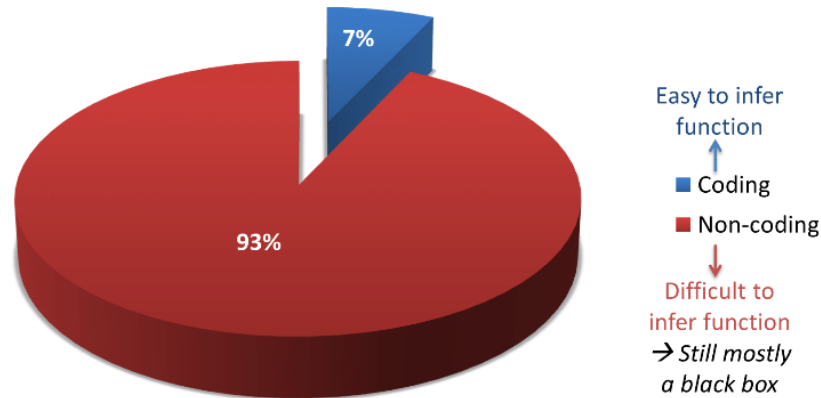
How to estimate deleteriousness of SNVs to prioritize disease-causal variants ?

“Needles in stacks of needles: finding disease-causal variants in a wealth of genomic data” (Cooper & Shendure, Nature Rev. Genet. 2011):

c Variants of various functional classes



>1,200 GWAS → 6,500 disease- or trait-predisposing SNPs



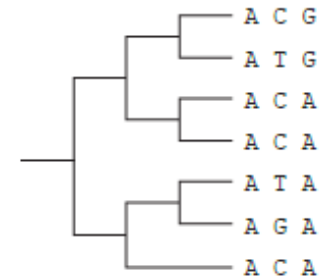
Hindorff et al., PNAS, 2010

How to estimate deleteriousness of SNVs to prioritize disease-causal variants ?

“Needles in stacks of needles: finding disease-causal variants in a wealth of genomic data (Cooper & Shendure, Nature Rev. Genet. 2011):

- Comparative genomics / cross-species conservation
- Reporter assays
- **Experimental** or **publicly** available data on functional variants:
 - Transcription Factor binding sites TFBS (*in silico* / Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP)
 - Epigenomic marks (histone modifications, Dnase seq, ATACseq)

d Comparative genomics



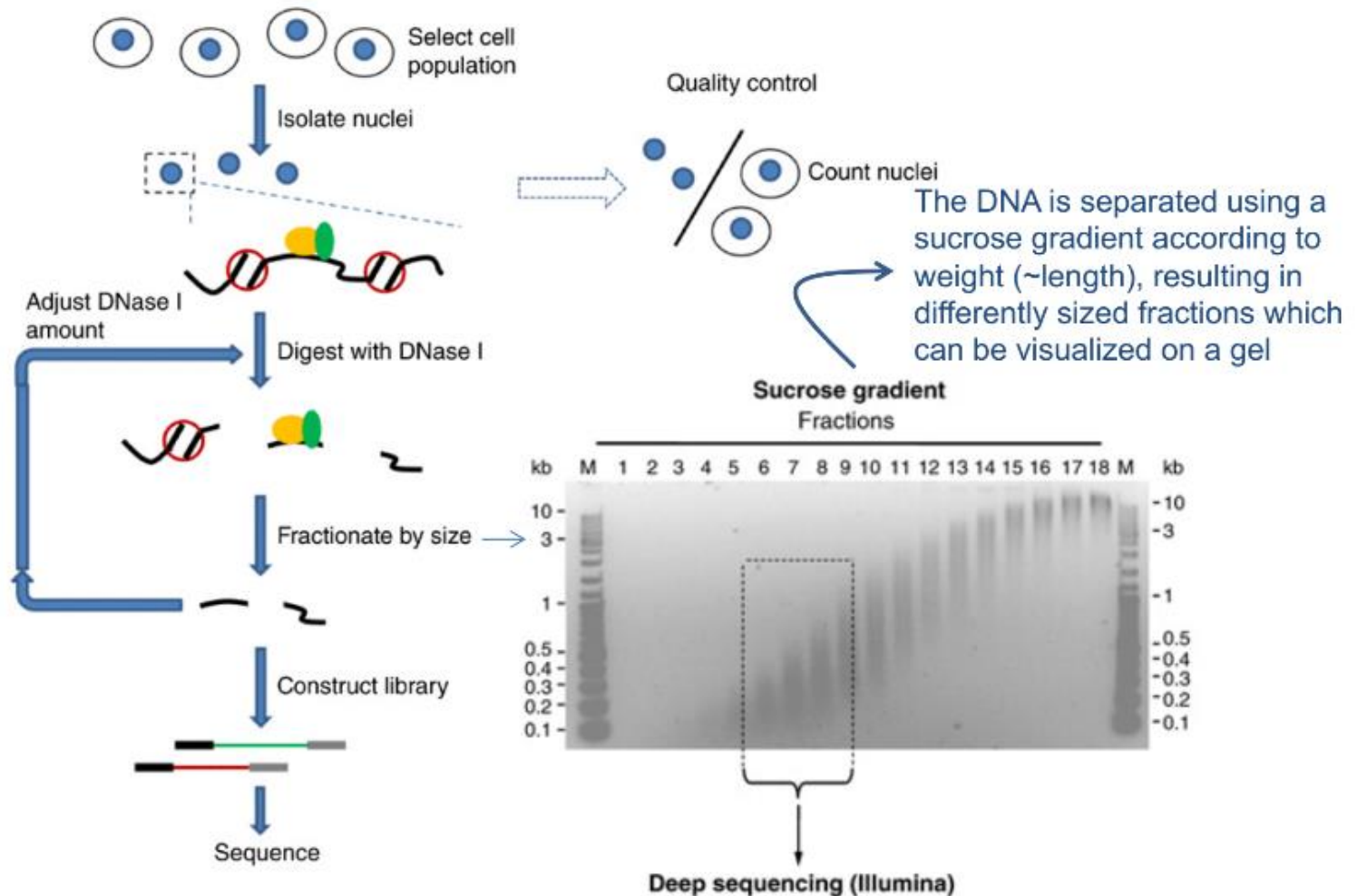
The ENCODE Project

• ENCyclopedia Of Dna Elements

• GOAL: Compile a comprehensive encyclopedia of all functional elements in the human genome



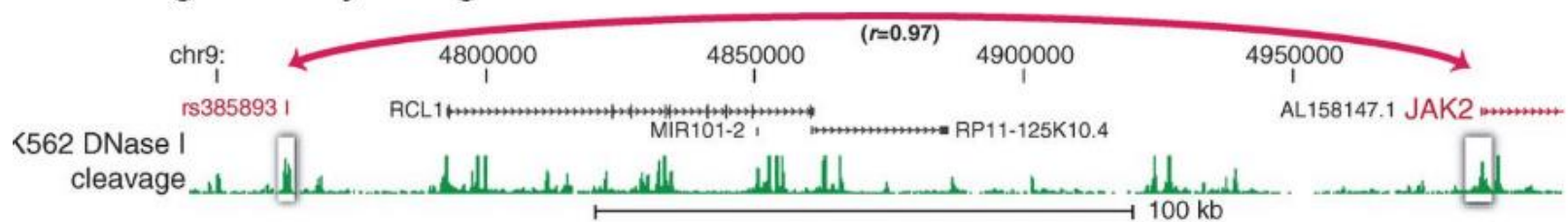
High-throughput DNase I hypersensitive assays: concept



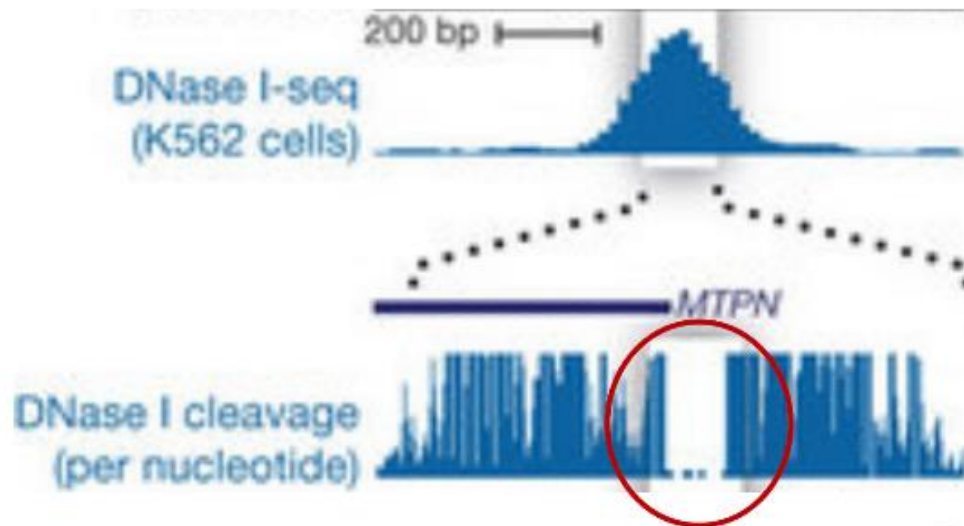
Zeng and Mortazavi, Nature Immunology, 2012

High-resolution DNase I cleavage patterns:

- provide a genome-wide high-resolution snapshot of “open”, and thus presumed “active” or relevant “regulatory” regions



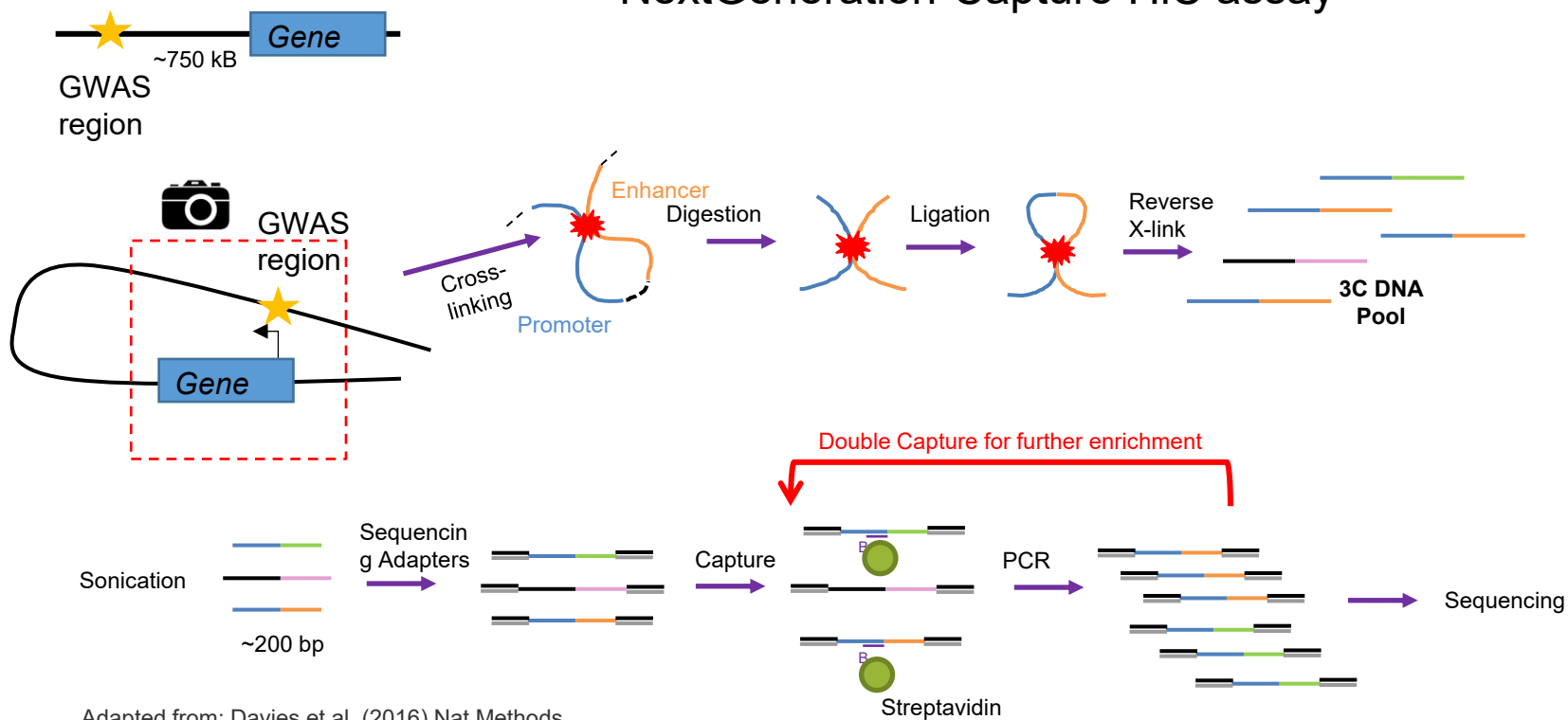
Green peaks are enriched for DNase I sensitive DNA, thus they likely point to "interesting" regulatory regions.



From Maurano et al., Science, 2012

Chromosome Conformation Capture (3C): 3D architecture of a GWAS Region

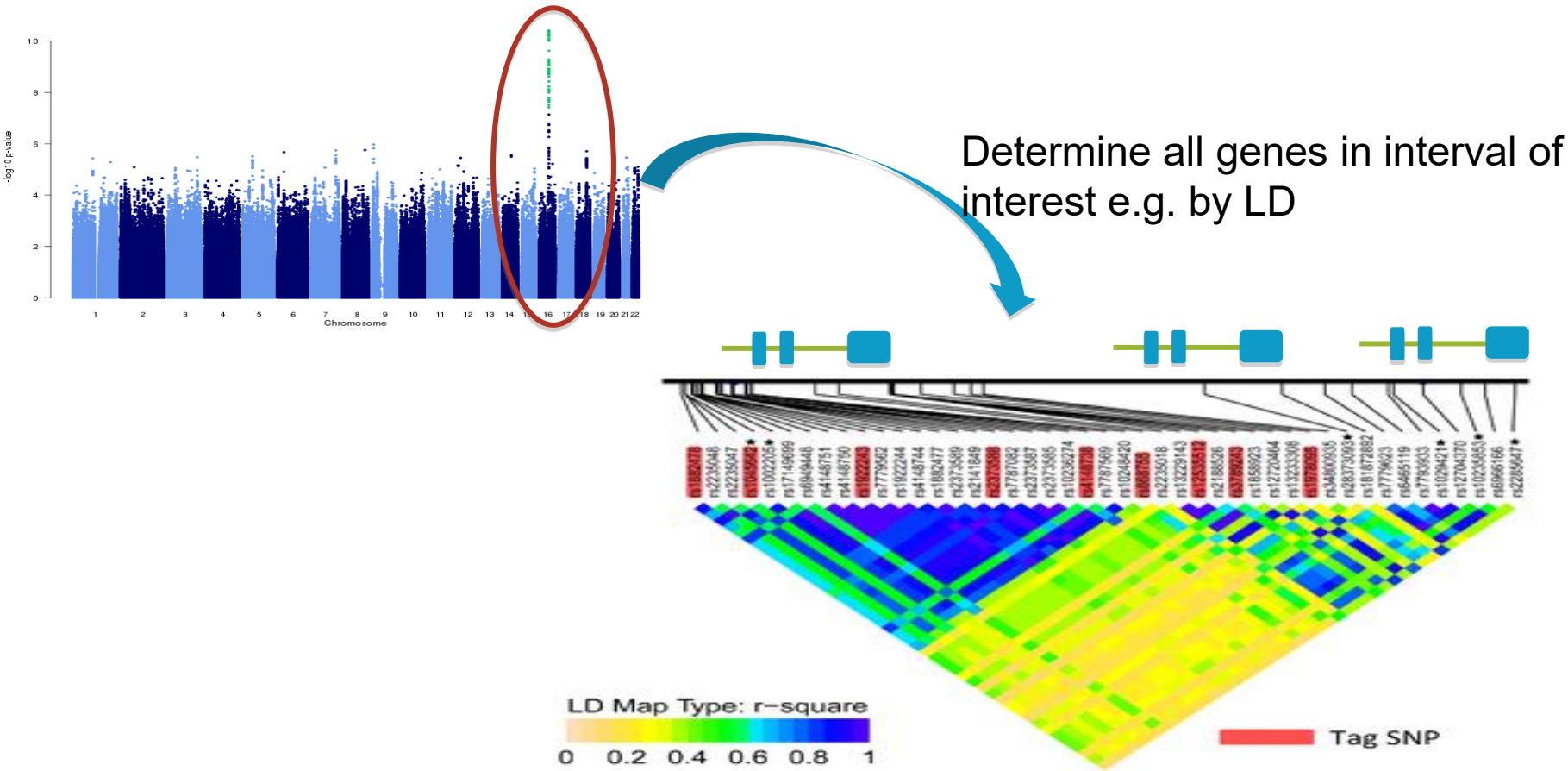
NextGeneration-Capture HiC assay



Adapted from: Davies et al. (2016) Nat Methods

Functional validation of GWAS hits using high throughput animal model techniques

GWAS region of interest



Functional validation of GWAS hits using *Drosophila melanogaster* ko models

GWAS hits (obesity)



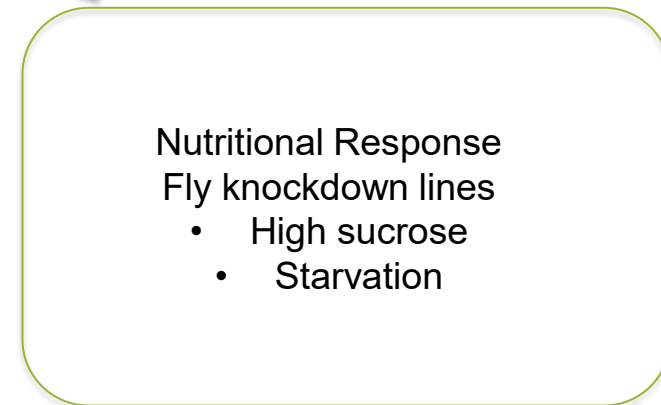
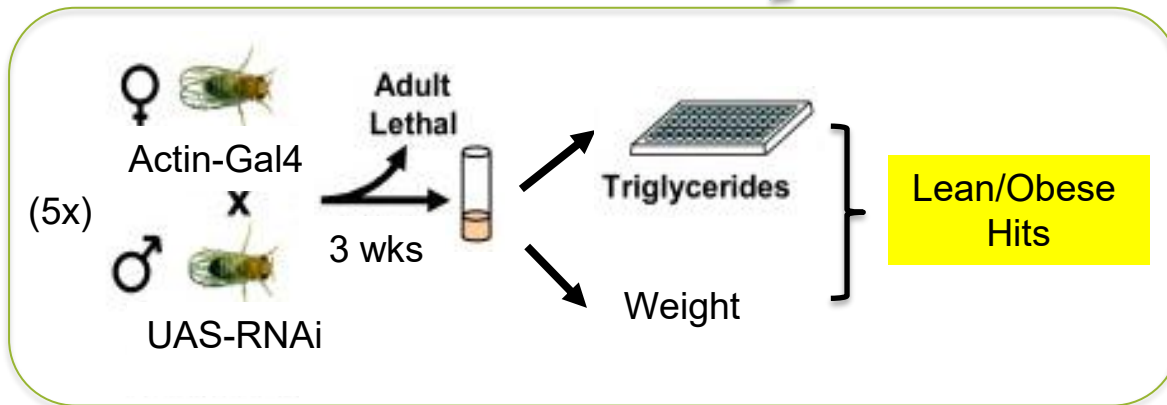
Target genes (90)



75 fly homologues + 20 positive controls

Phase 1

Phase 2

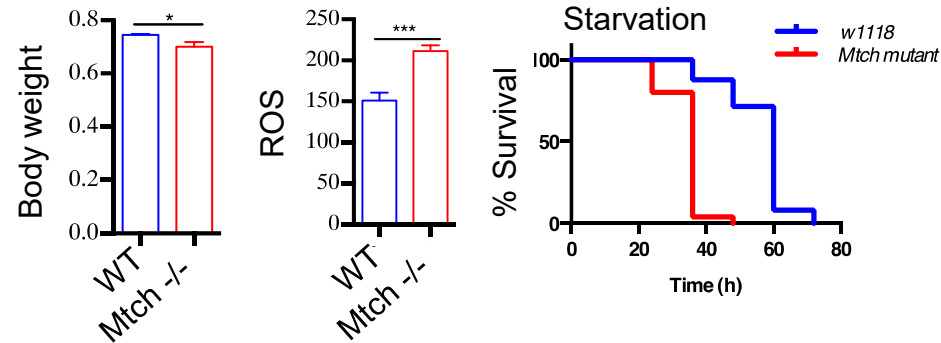


Example: Functional validation of GWAS hits using *Drosophila melanogaster* ko models

Determine mutants with GWAS related phenotypes

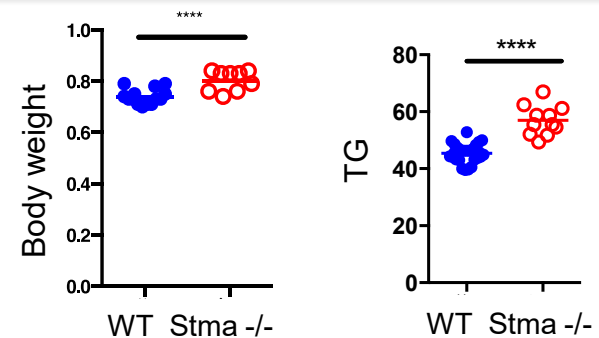
- **Example: MTCH2 (mt carrier 2):**

- Lower expressed in AT in Cases vs Controls
- OXPHOS repressor
- associated with increased BMI in humans



- **Example: EFR3B (regulator of PI4K):**

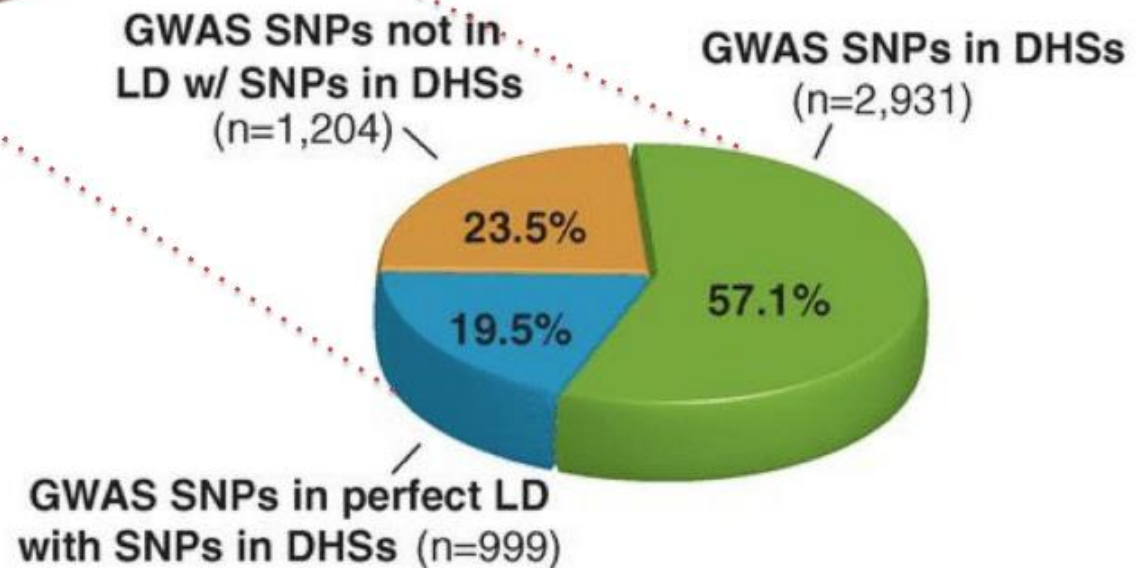
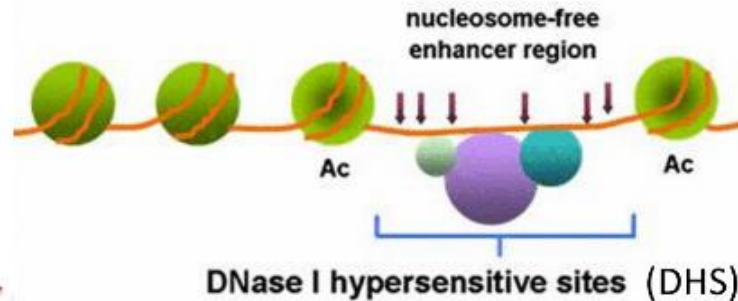
- Intronic SNP associated with weight phenotype
- Brain-specific expression



The majority of trait-associated variants (SNPs) map to *functional* non-coding regions

■ Coding

■ Non-coding



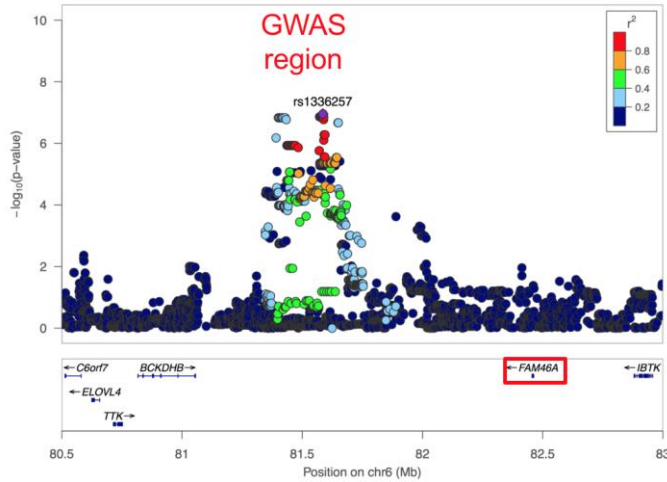
Maurano et al., Science, 2012

Expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) analysis: identify genetic variants that significantly contribute to the variation in RNA expression abundance

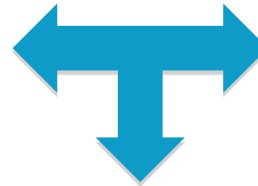
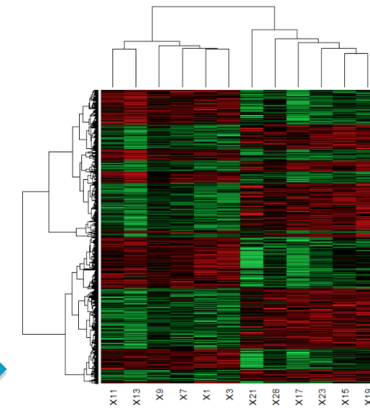
- eQTL analysis combines gene expression data with the SNP data for an associated locus
- In an eQTL analysis we perform an association analysis between the SNPs in a genetic location and the mRNA expression levels for the genes surrounding that locus.
- If the alleles for a given SNP show different level of expression for a surrounding gene, we can assume that this SNP is directly having an effect on the gene expression and hence has a functional impact as is a likely functional candidate for the initial association signal.

eQTL analysis of

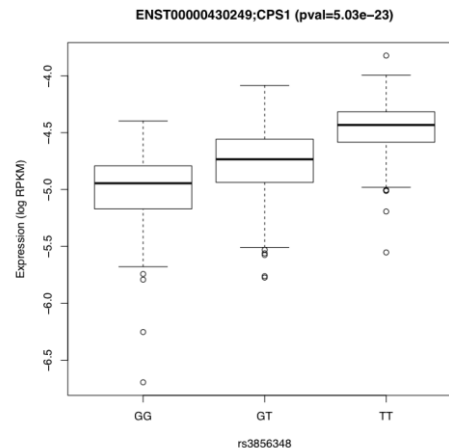
Select SNP's from positive GWAS signal



Determine gene expression levels in genes surrounding the GWAS locus



Combine data and perform association analysis between SNPs and expression levels



SNP alleles associated with differential expression of a specific gene in the GWAS region
=
Functional SNP for that gene

Expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) analysis: Limitations & *in silico* approaches

- In human intervention studies we often have tissue samples only from few, easily accessible tissues like blood, muscle, adipose tissue. Thus we rely on the functional GWAS gene being expressed in the available tissue.
- Often we have no tissue samples at all available to perform gene expression experiments on the study samples.

In those cases we can try to use in-silico approaches to identify potential SNPs that are eQTLs for the genes in a GWAS region.

Example: in silico eQTL mapping using GTEx (https://www.gtexportal.org/home/)

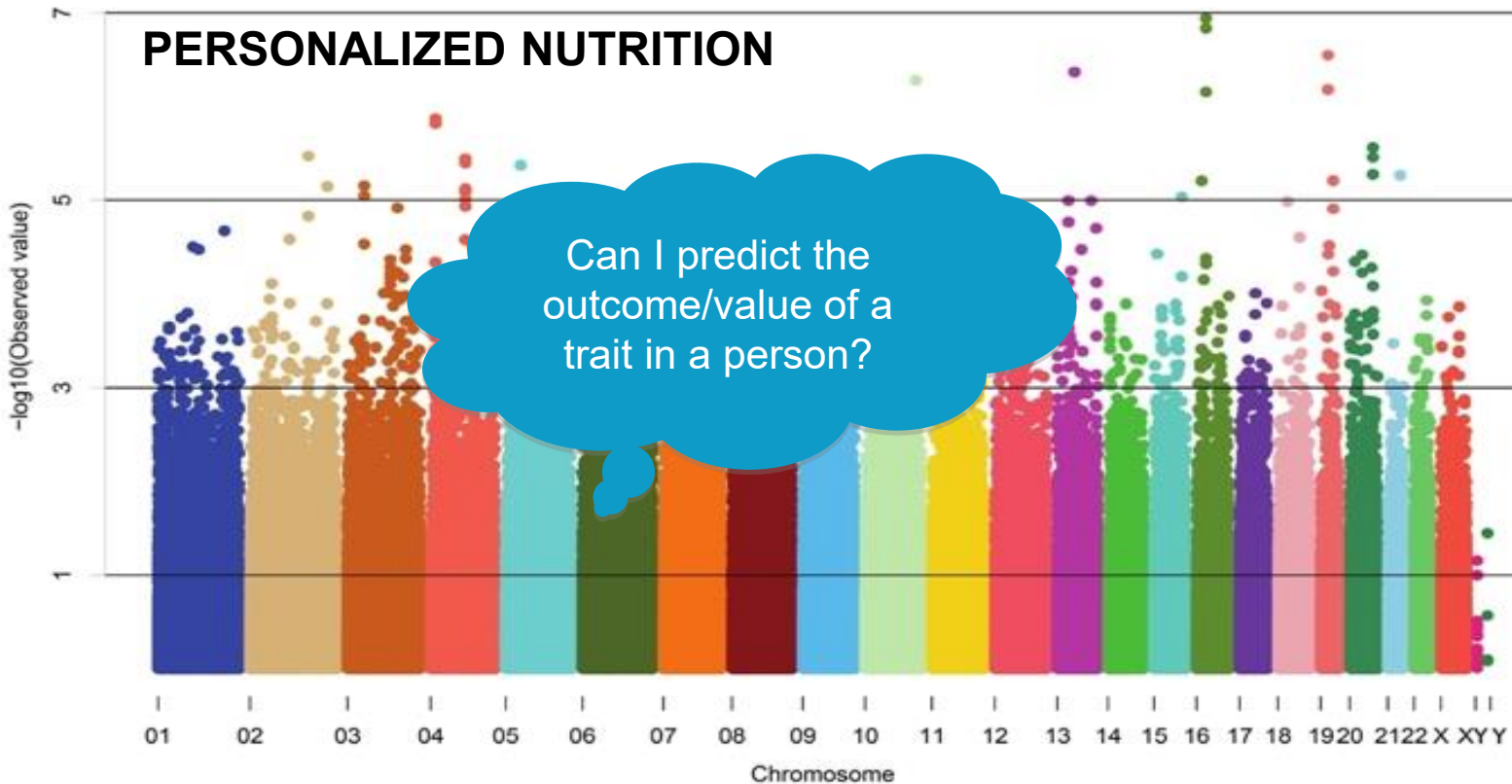
The screenshot displays the GTEx Portal interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes links for GTEx, Datasets, Gene Association, IGV eQTL Browser, Sample Data, Biobank, Documentation, Publications, Contact, and FAQs. A search bar is present for entering a gene or SNP ID. The main content area is divided into three panels: Current Release, Genetic Association, and Transcriptome. The Genetic Association panel features a search box for eQTLs and a plot showing significant eQTL SNPs in red. A blue arrow points from the search box to the plot, with the text "Significant eQTL SNPs appear colored". Below the plot, a horizontal axis shows genomic coordinates from 211,280 kb to 211,420 kb. A specific SNP is highlighted in red, with a blue arrow pointing to it from the text "This SNP is an eQTL for the CPS1 gene". Below the plot, a box plot shows the expression (log₂FPKM) for the CPS1 gene across three genotypes: Homo Ref, Het, and Homo Alt. The p-value for this association is 0.01. At the bottom, a gene track shows the locations of AC007970.1, LANCL1, and CPS1.

Enter your SNP (or SNP list) of interest

Significant eQTL SNPs appear colored

This SNP is an eQTL for the CPS1 gene

In this example using GTEx identified the same eQTL SNP that we could also identify using expression data from the study samples



In Nutrigenetics we would like to predict:

- The reaction of a person to food or nutrients (e.g. food intolerances like gluten intolerance);
- The change in interaction of nutrients (and/or other molecules) due to genetic variation (e.g. changes in bio-availability, nutrient-drug interactions);
- The quantitative impact of genetic variation on nutrient status

How do we study nutrigenetic effects in humans?

- Observational studies (case-control)
 - Large sample sizes, **but**
 - Heterogenous information about dynamics in the population,
 - Environmental factor including diet intake parameters not well controlled
 - Can be cross-sectional or longitudinal
- Clinical Intervention (experimental) studies (RCT, cross-over)
 - Well controlled for nutritional parameters
 - Capture changes during the intervention
 - Duration limited (long term),
 - Difficult to obtain large sample sizes
 - Can be homeostatic or responsive

Can identify genetic variants that influence nutrient and nutrient-metabolite levels

Can elaborate the effects of genetic variants on nutrient intake

Genetic variants influence susceptibility to food sensitivities

- Gluten;
- Lactose;
- Caffeine....

Genetic variation effects on nutrient metabolism: caffeine

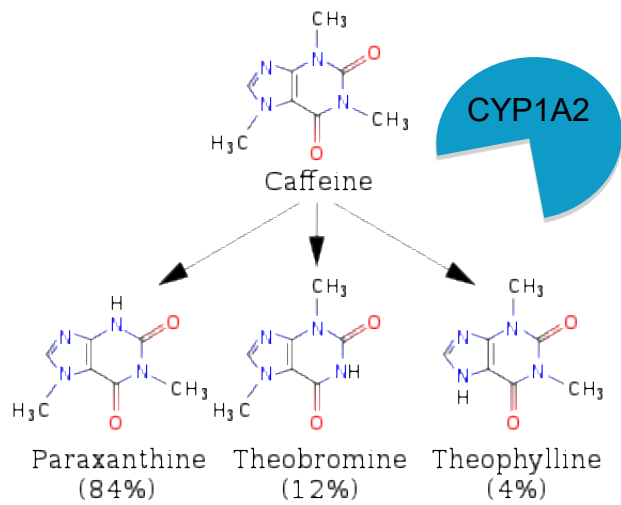
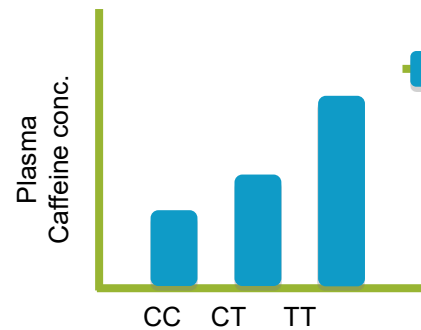
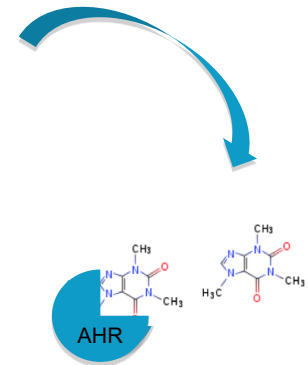
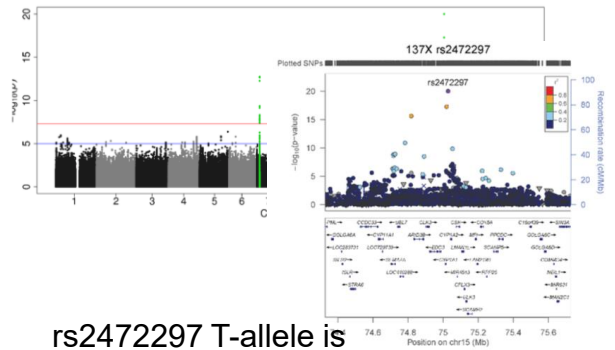


Figure S1. GWAS of plasma caffeine (137X)



CYP1A1 5'-TGNG**C/T**GTGACG/CA-3' **CYP1A2**

*AHR response element

Environmental Heterogeneity: Lactose intolerance

N. European

Indian children

Afr American children

Indian adults

Mex American - adult

Cretans

Cypriots

N. American Jews

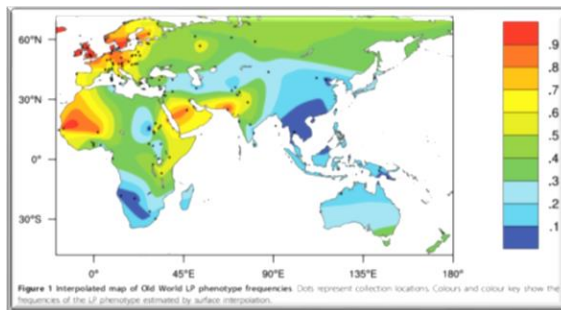
Mexicans - rural

Afr American - adult

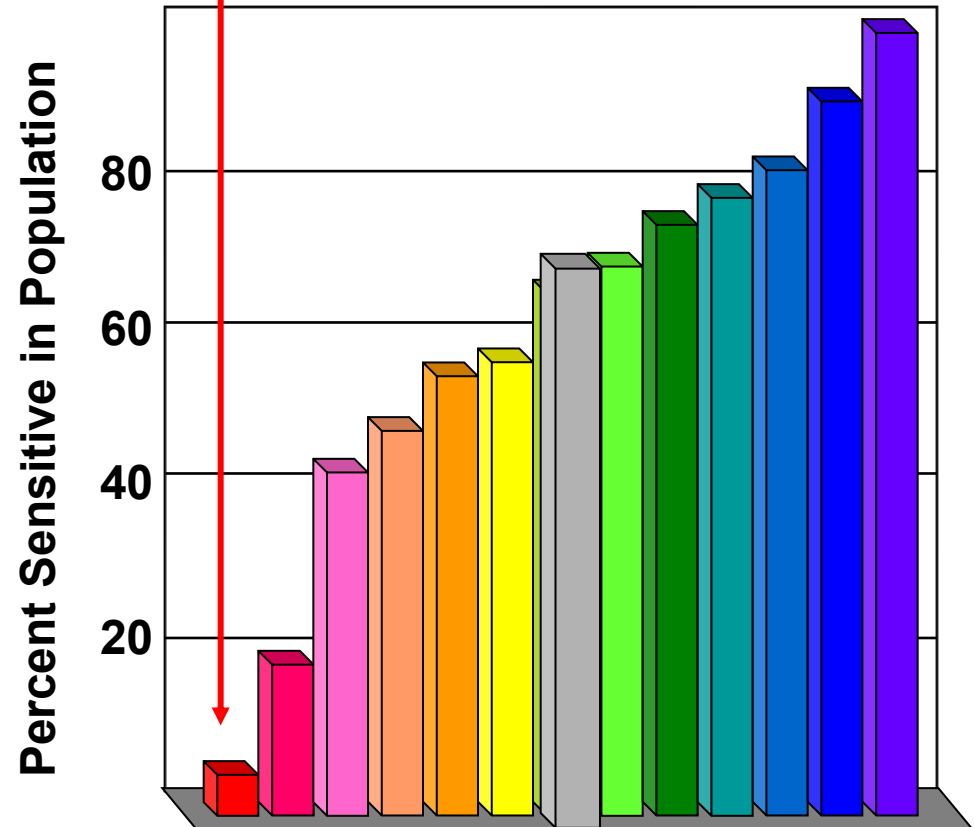
Eskimo

Asian Americans

SE Asians



C-13910T In Africa: G-14010C

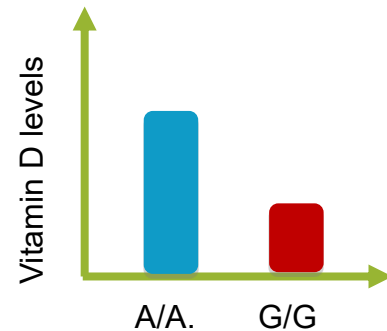
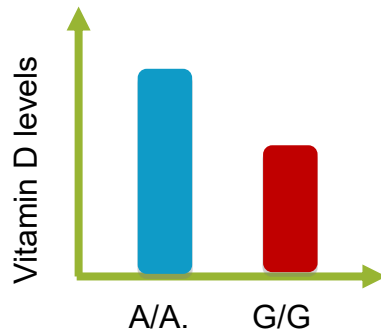


Kaput and Rodriguez, *Physiological Genomics* 16, 166 (2004)

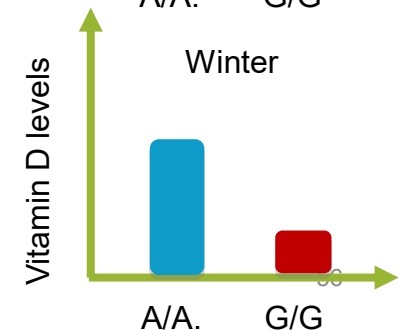
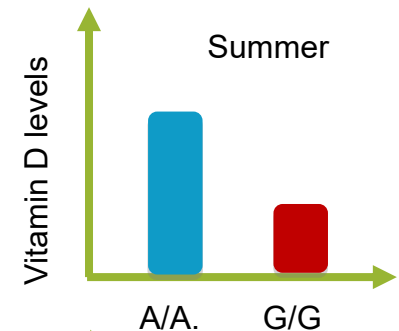
Itan et al. *BMC Evolutionary Biology* 2010, **10**:36
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2148/10/36>

Environment dependent genotype effects: vitamin D levels

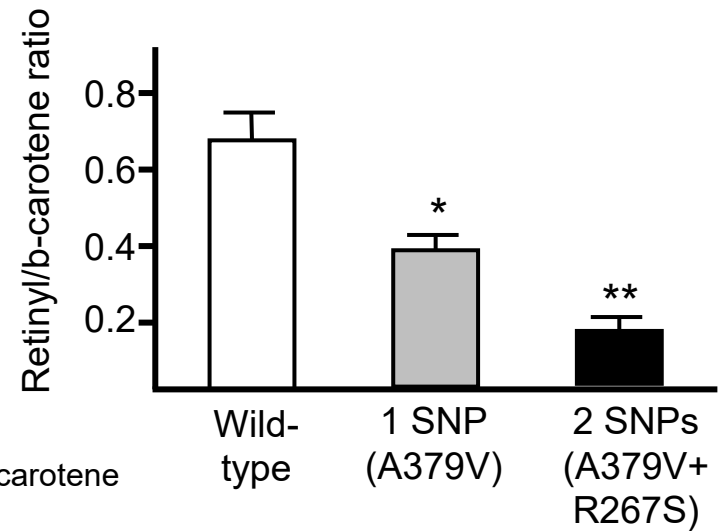
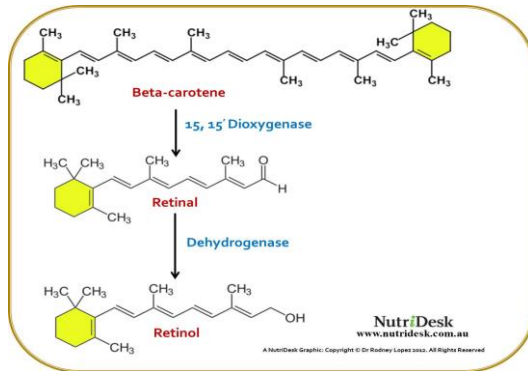
CYP2R1
rs10741657



Current GWAS status- identified >140 loci that influence vitamin D levels



Complex genetic effects: Vitamin A metabolism

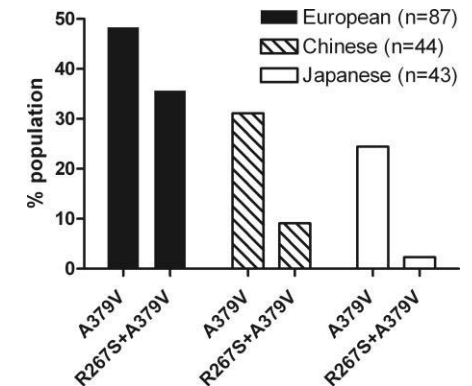


Leung et al. FASEB, 2009: Two missense mutations associated with b-carotene conversion levels

| <i>BCMO1</i> variant | K_m [μM] | V_{max} [$\text{nmol} \cdot \text{mg protein}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$] |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Wild type | 18.3 | 2.3 |
| 267S (rs12934922) | 17.9 | 2.2 |
| 379V (rs7501331) | 12.3 | 2.0 |
| 267S+379V | 19.5 | 1.0* |

TABLE 5. *BCMO1* R267S and A379V SNP frequencies (n= 131)

| SNP | Genotype | n | % |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|------|
| R267S (rs12934922) | A/A | 50 | 38.2 |
| | A/T | 52 | 39.7 |
| | T/T | 29 | 22.1 |
| A379V (rs7501331) | C/C | 74 | 56.5 |
| | C/T | 51 | 38.9 |
| | T/T | 6 | 4.6 |
| R267S + A379V (combined) | AA/CC, AA/CT, AA/TT, AT/CC, TT/CC | 100 | 76.3 |
| | AT/CT, AT/TT, TT/CT | 31 | 23.7 |



The majority of nutrients are influenced by MANY independent genetic variants



GWAS Catalog

The NHGRI-EBI Catalog of human genome-wide association studies



Examples: breast carcinoma, rs7329174, Yao, 2q37.1, HBS1L, 6:16000000-25000000

GWAS / Search / vitamin D measurement

Refine search results

T Traits

1

Catalog stats

- Last data release on 2022-03-23
- 5675 publications
- 202969 SNPs
- 353558 associations
- Genome assembly GRCh38.p13
- dbSNP Build 154
- Ensembl Build 105

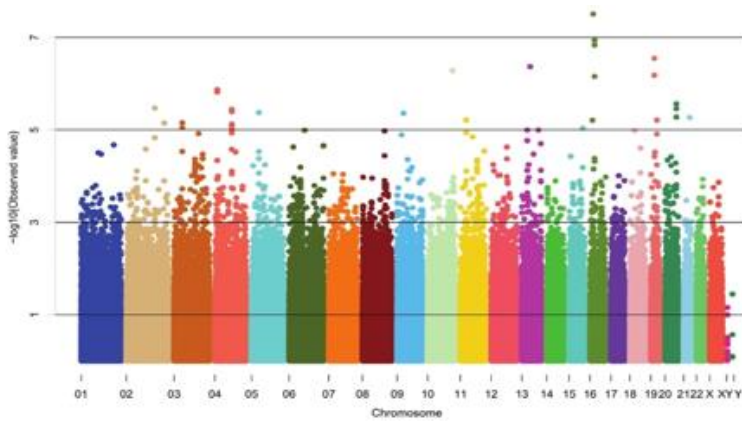
Search results for *vitamin D measurement*

T vitamin D measurement **EFO_0004631**

A quantification of Vitamin D levels, typically in blood. Vitamin D includes both CHOLECALCIFEROLS and ERGOCALCIFEROLS, which have the common effect of preventing or curing RICKETS in animals. It can ... [Show more >](#)

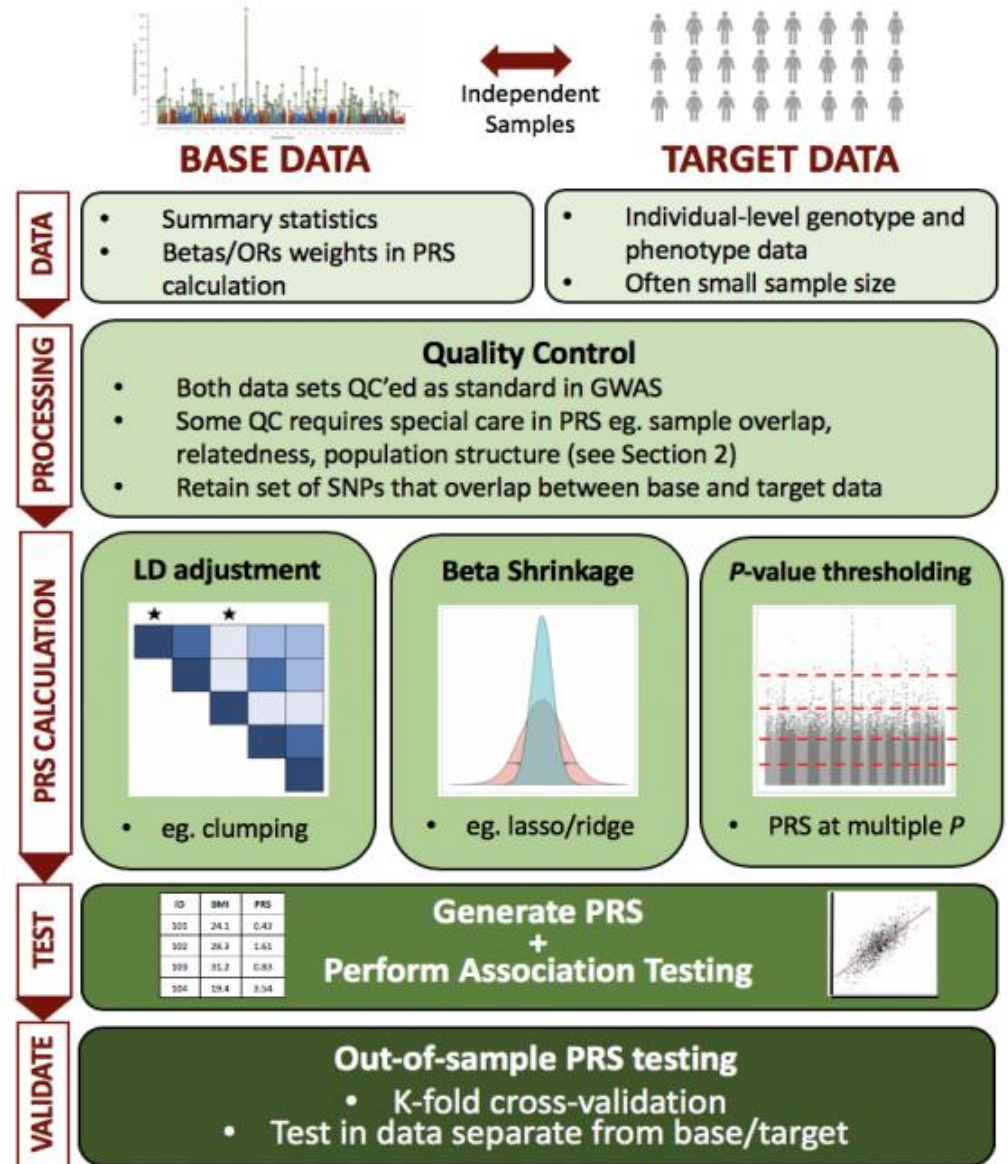
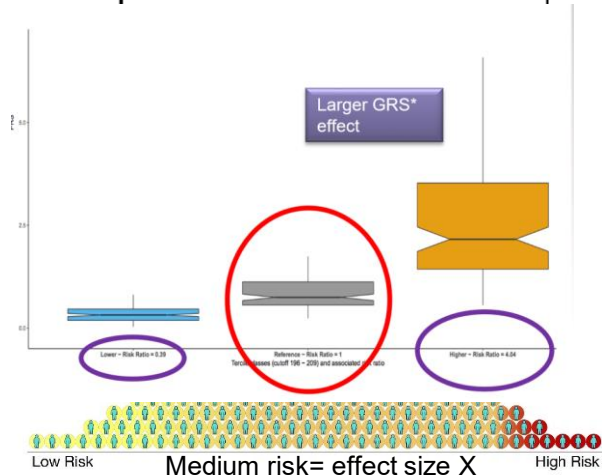
Associations **713** Studies **52**

Using Polygenic risk scores to quantify the genetic effects

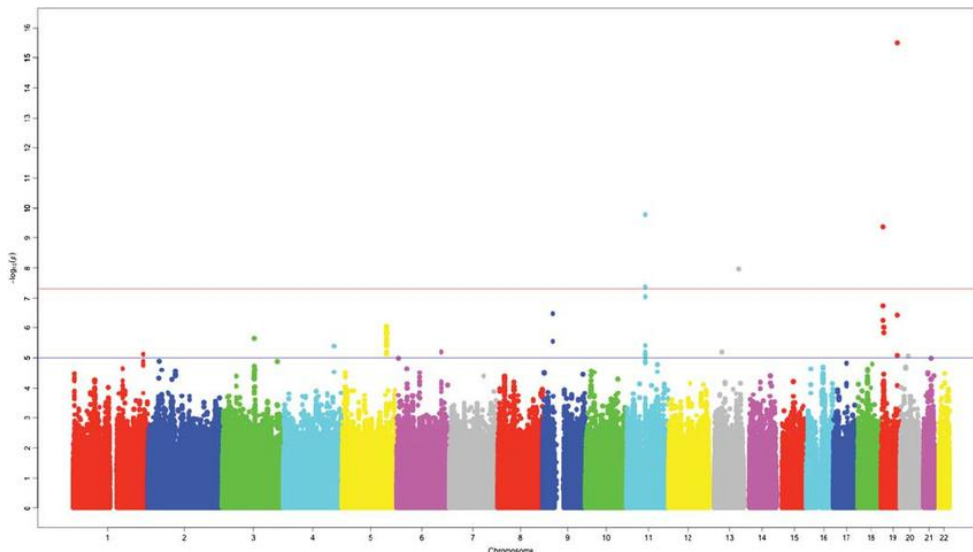


Sample

| SNP | S ₁ | S ₂ | S ₃ | S ₄ | S ₅ | S ₆ | S ₇ | S ₈ | ... |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----|
| SNP ₁ | AA | AA | BB | NC | AA | AA | AA | AB | |
| SNP ₂ | BB | AB | BB | BB | AB | BB | BB | NC | |
| SNP ₃ | AA | AA | AB | AB | AA | BB | AA | AA | |
| SNP ₄ | AB | AA | AB | AB | BB | AB | NC | BB | ... |
| SNP ₅ | BB | AB | BB | BB | NC | BB | BB | AA | |
| SNP ₆ | AB | BB | AB | AB | BB | AB | AA | AB | |



GWAS data to calculate quantitative polygenic risk scores for vitamin B12



Search Catalog Home Diagram Download Documentation About EMBL-EBI NIH National Human Genome Research Institute

B12 measurement

vitamin B12 measurement
EFO_0004620
vitamin B12 levels

Trait in OLS [↗](#)
Trait in OXO [↗](#)
Trait in Open Targets [↗](#)

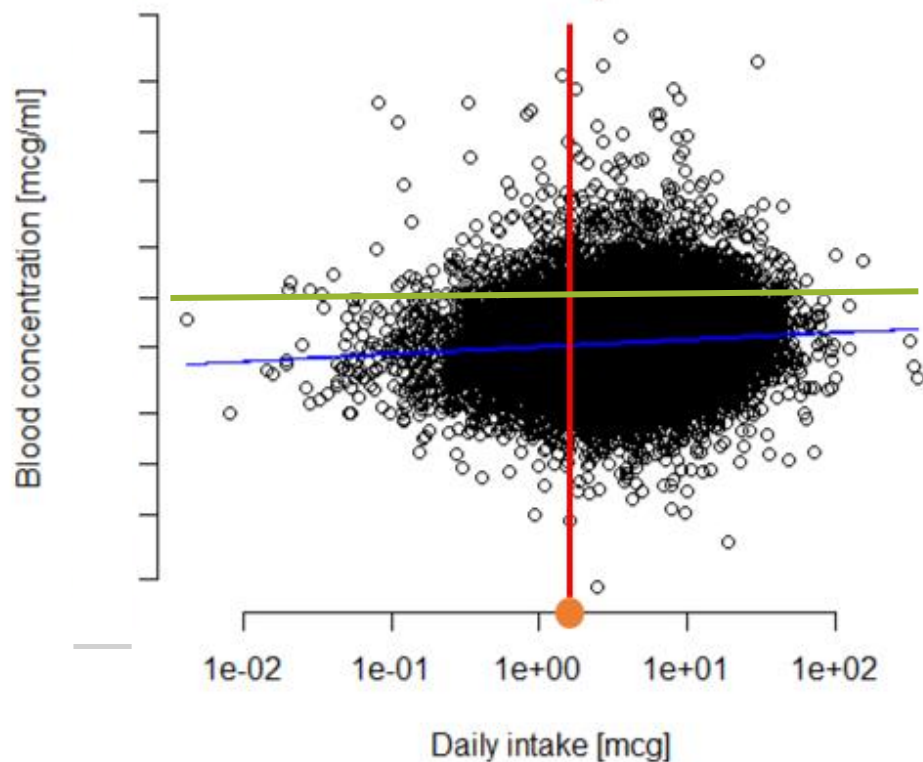
is a quantification of Vitamin B12, vitamin B12 or vitamin B-12, is a water-soluble vitamin with a key role in the normal functioning of the brain and nervous system, and for the formation of blood. It is one of the eight B vitamins. It is normally involved in the metabolism of every cell of the human body, especially affecting DNA synthesis and regulation, but also fatty acid synthesis and energy production. It is the largest and most structurally complicated vitamin and can be produced industrially only through bacterial fermentation-synthesis.

Xialing Lin Human Molecular Genetics · March 2012

| Variant and risk allele | P-value | RAF | Beta | Mapped gene | Trait(s) | Study accession | Location |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| rs41281112-T | 9 x 10 ⁻¹⁸ | NR | 83.6 pg/ml decrease | AL137139.2, CLYBL | vitamin B12 measurement | GCST001424 | 13:98666380 |
| rs2295855-T | 3 x 10 ⁻¹⁵ | NR | 71.8 pg/ml increase | MS4A3 | vitamin B12 measurement | GCST001424 | 11:60059719 |
| rs1047781-T | 4 x 10 ⁻¹⁶ | NR | 70.21 pg/ml increase | FUT2 | vitamin B12 measurement | GCST001424 | 19:48703374 |
| rs3760776-T | 4 x 10 ⁻¹³ | NR | 49.76 pg/ml increase | FUT6, FUT3 | vitamin B12 measurement | GCST001424 | 19:5839735 |
| rs602662-A | 3 x 10 ⁻²⁹ | 0.53 | 49.77 pg/ml increase | FUT2 | vitamin B12 measurement | GCST000358 | 19:48703728 |
| rs10515552-T | 4 x 10 ⁻⁶ | NR | 43.93 pg/ml increase | PRELID2 | vitamin B12 measurement | GCST001424 | 5:145659268 |
| rs12277462-T | 2 x 10 ⁻⁶ | NR | 28.53 pg/ml increase | APTX | vitamin B12 measurement | GCST001424 | 9:32914591 |
| rs526934-A | 2 x 10 ⁻⁶ | 0.67 | 27.62 pg/ml increase | TCN1 | vitamin B12 measurement | GCST000358 | 11:59686020 |
| rs11254363-A | 1 x 10 ⁻⁶ | 0.70 | 21.49 pg/ml decrease | CUBN | vitamin B12 measurement | GCST000358 | 10:17088694 |

| Trait | Measurement Method in Arivale | Units | Reference Lab Range | Range in Arivale Sample | Arivale Sample Size for PRS | Number of SNPs from GWAS | Number of SNPs included in the PRS | PRS Risk Allele Range in dataset | PRS Coefficient in Model | PRS P-value in Model | R2 of Model |
|-------|-------------------------------|----------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| B12 | Methylmalonic Acid Serum | (nmol/L) | <270 | 53-874 | 1737 | 21 | 13 | 5-22 | 4.03431124 | 6.95E-05 | 0.3 |

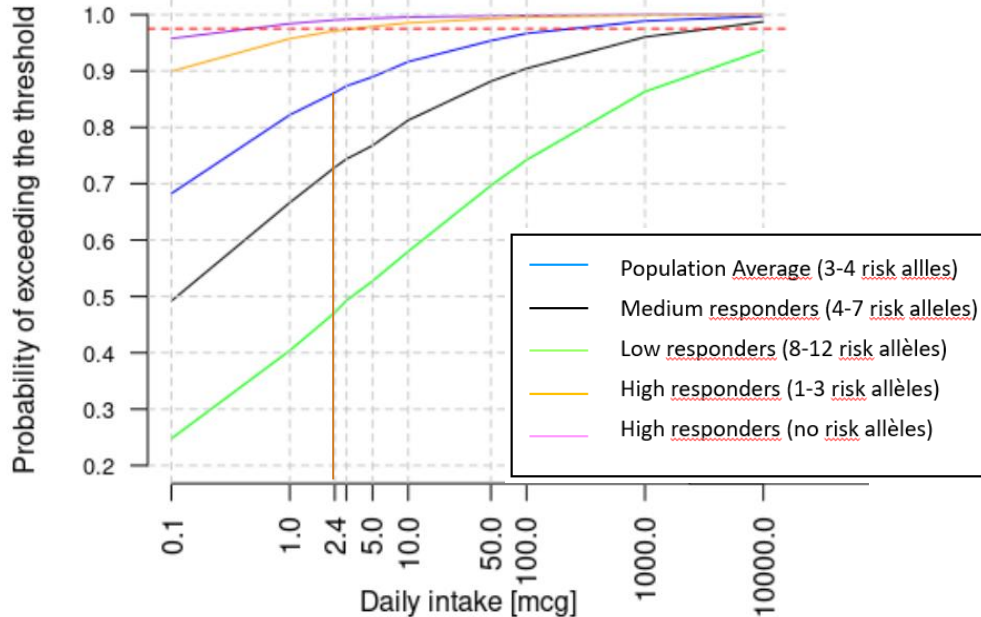
Case example: Genetic risk score provides basis for quantitative vitamin B12 recommendations



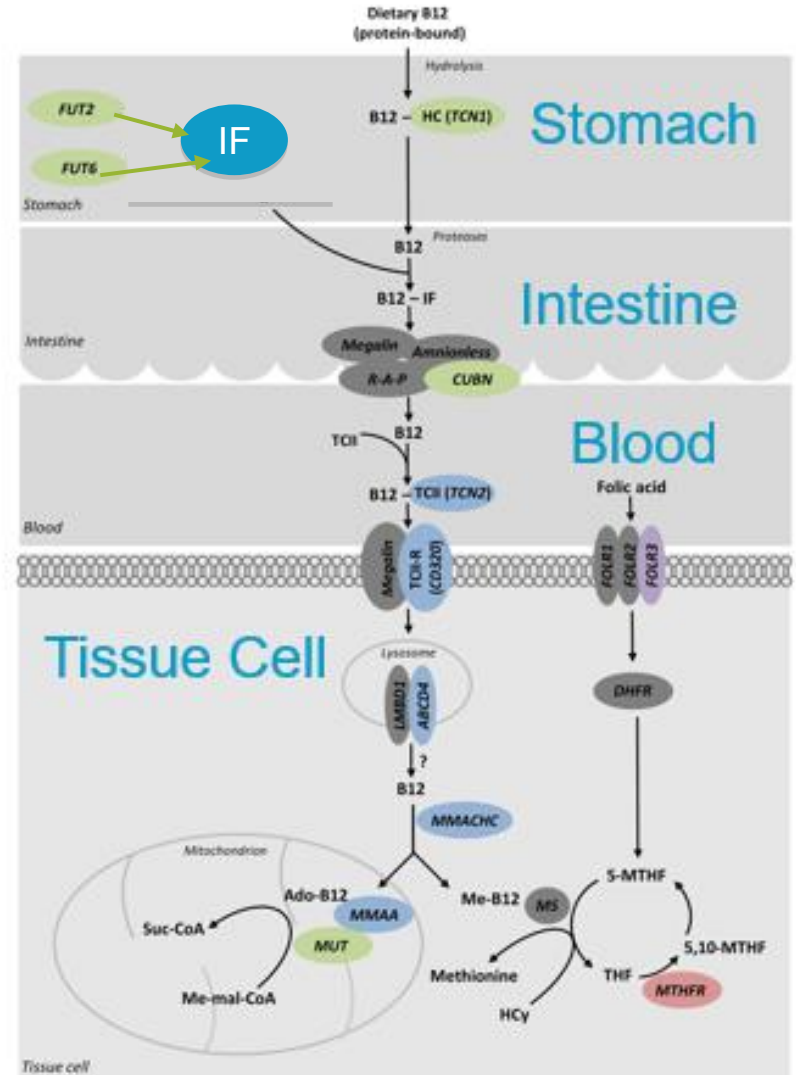
- 13 SNPs capture most of the variability in vitamin B12 levels
- Highest polygenic risk score associated with a app. **104 pg/ml** decrease in blood concentration.
- US population between 156 – 560 pg/ml (median 384 pg/ml). Sufficiency is defined as **400 pg/ml**. Deficiency if concentration is **<250 pg/ml**

Gene variants affect key proteins involved in vitamin B12 absorption

Threshold: 400 pcg/ml, Age: 25, Gender: M



- Low responders with the highest polygenic risk score do not reach sufficiency, even at extreme high (single) doses of B12;
- Depending on the risk SNPs one carries the recommendations can be adapted to ensure efficient supplementation



Source: Grarup et al. Genetic architecture of vitamin B12 and folate levels. PLOS Genetics, 2013

Genetically guided omega-3 supplementation

GWAS have identified 94 SNPs associated with 9 genes: ELOVL2, FAD1, FAD2, SYCP2L, HERV-FRD, C15orf27, TRPA1, ME3, LRRRC4C

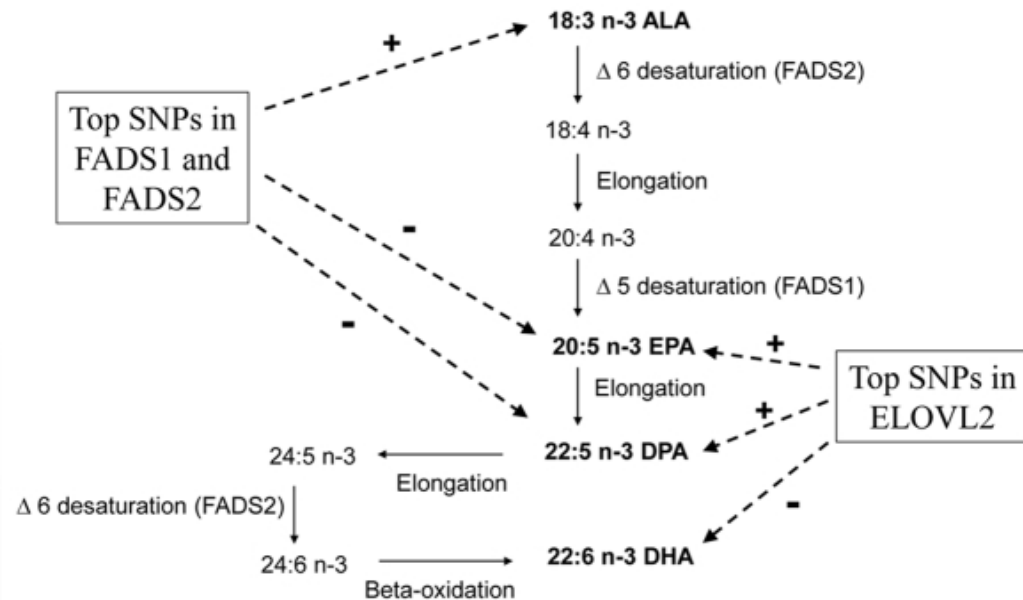
Genetic effects on base-line omega-3 levels



Genetic effects on change (delta) for omega-3 Levels after supplementation with DHA



n-3 PUFA metabolic pathway and summary of GWAS in this pathway



What genetic variation can tell us about Nutrition?

Nutrigenetics can inform us about individuals that are at risk to develop nutritional deficiencies AND can estimate the nutritional needs for such an individual

Nutrigenetics can tell us something about geographical differences in nutrient efficiency- possibility to adapt regional recommendations;

Nutrigenetics & Nutrigenomics can help us identify other health related environmental factors that influence a phenotype;

Q & A

Time to take a break....