

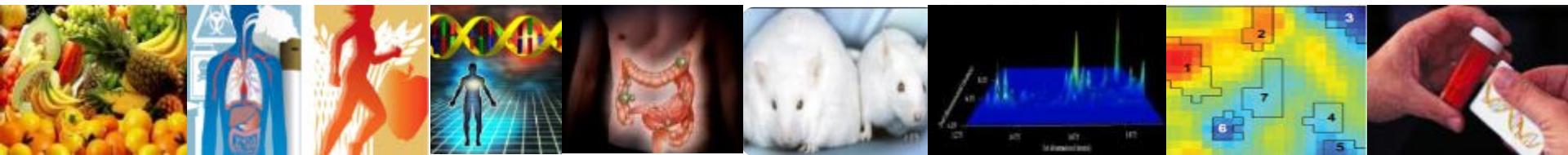
Linking of Omics-based Biomarkers with Nutrition and Metabolic Outcomes in Chinese

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Chinese Academy of Sciences**

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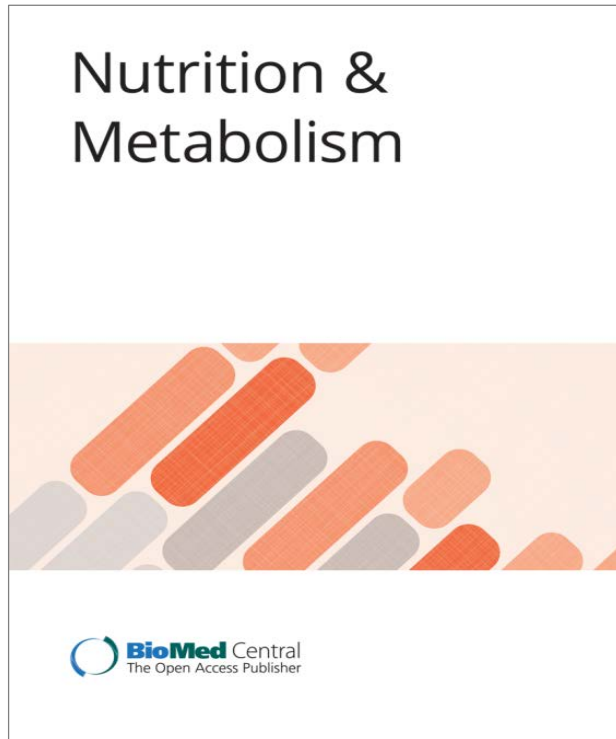
Nutrition & Metabolism Owned by [Springer Nature](#)

Editor-in-Chief:

- Dr. Xu Lin
- Dr. Malcolm Watford

Impact Factor:

- 5-yr Impact Fact: 3.525



- Timely and rigorous peer reviewed
Reputable OA journal over a decade
- **The main focused on**
Integrating nutrition, exercise physiology,
clinical investigations, and molecular and
cellular biochemistry of metabolism.
- **Journal scope:**
welcomes studies on molecular, cellular
and human metabolism

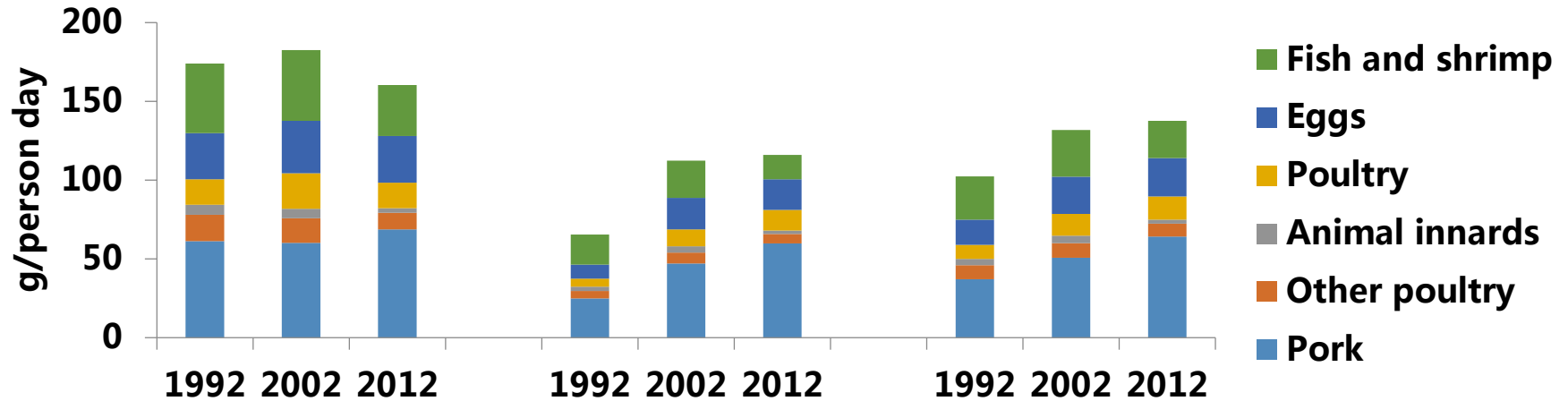
nutritionandmetabolism.biomedcentral.com

Outline

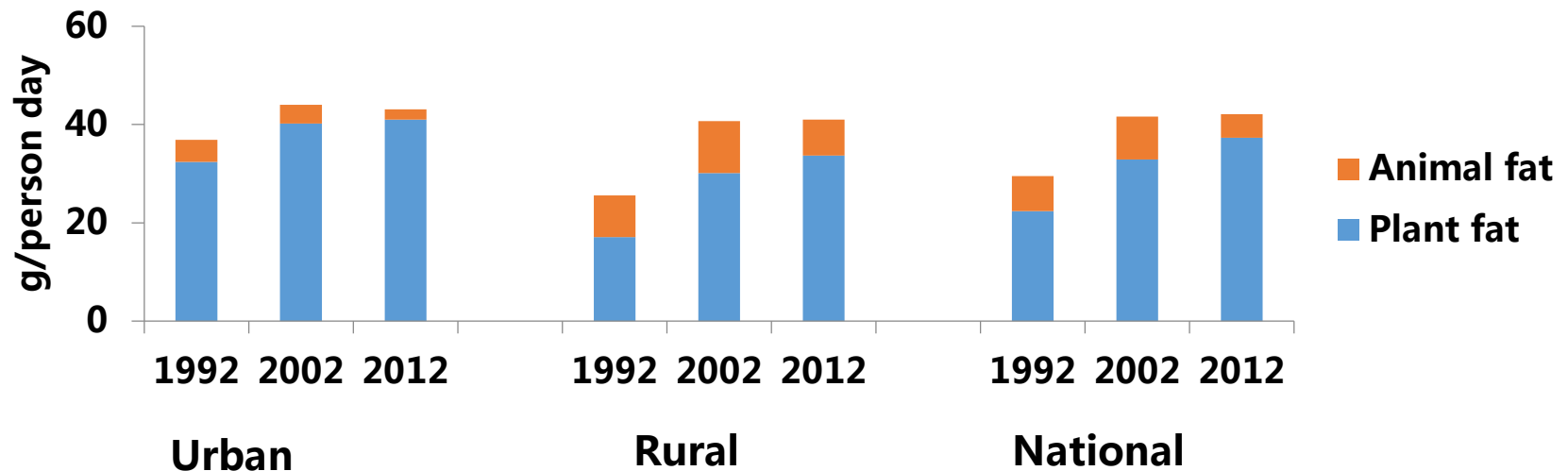
- **Background**
- **Finding from our studies**
 - **Observational studies**
 - **Intervention trials**
- **Currently ongoing studies**

Nutrition Transition in China

• ↑ Energy intake from animal foods



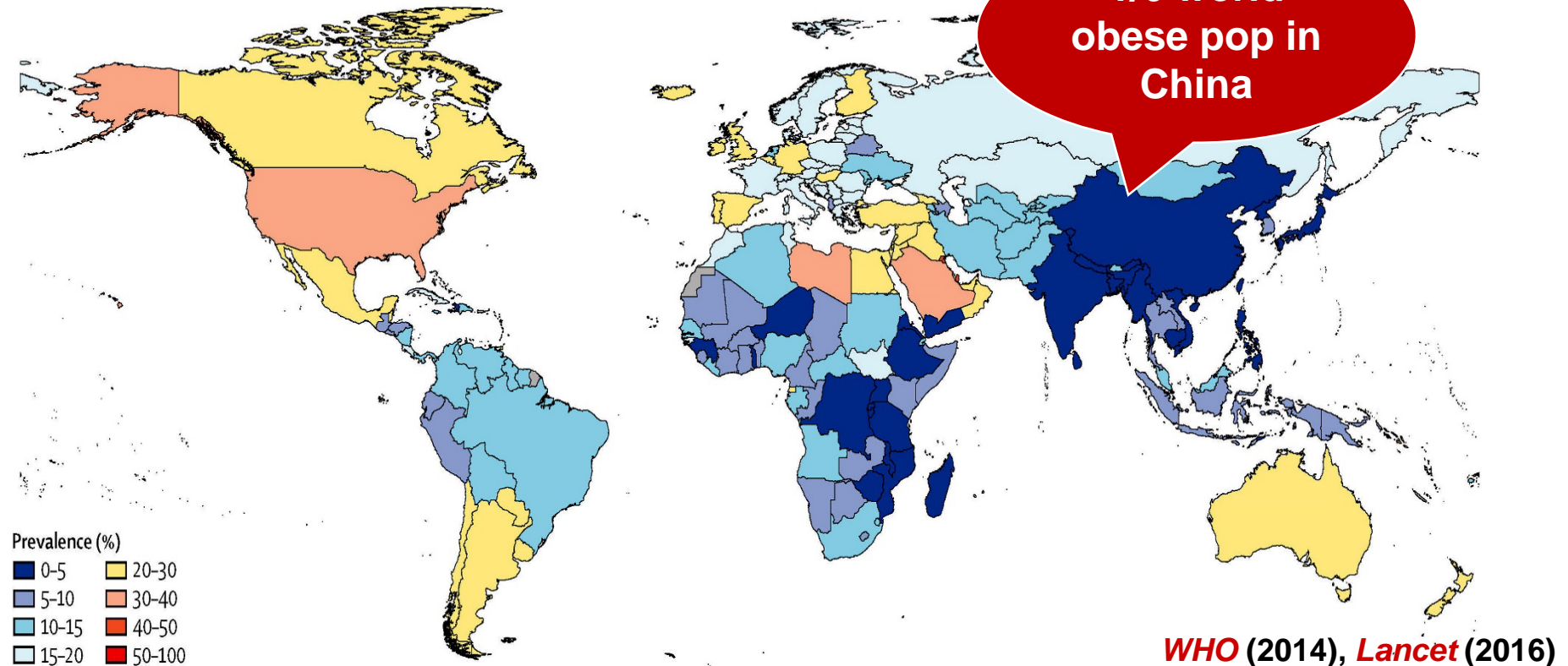
• ↑ Energy intake from fats



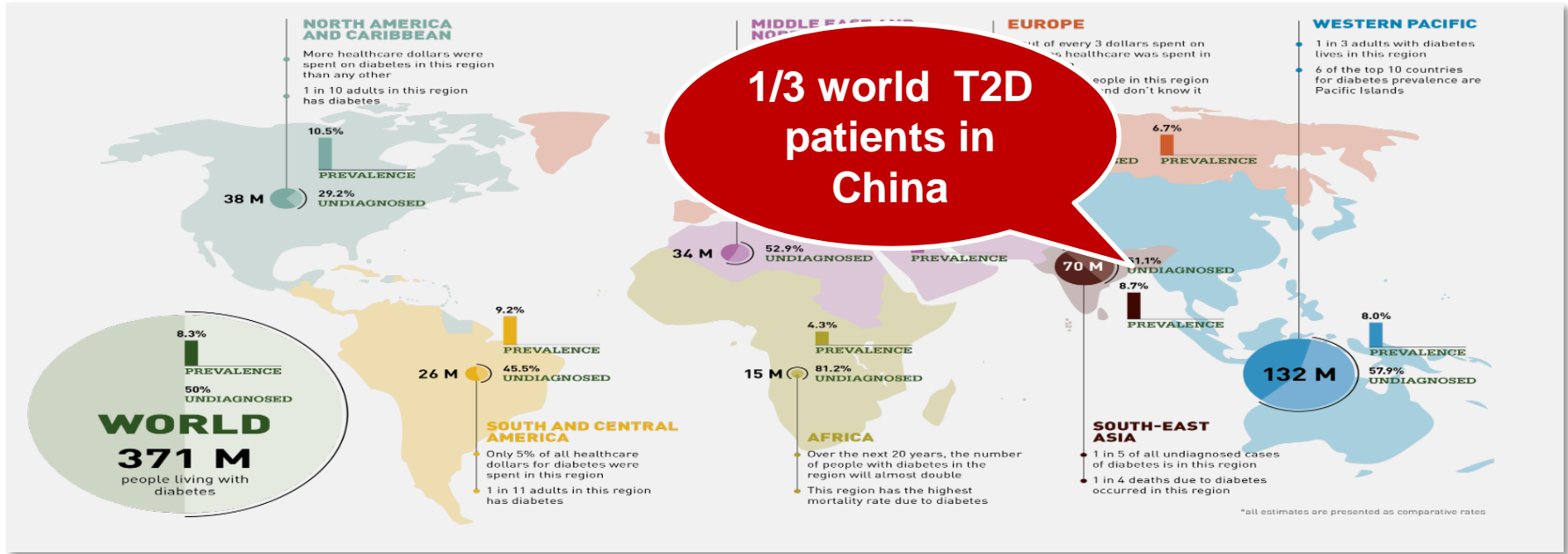
Epidemiology of Obesity

- Global: **39%** adults with overweight , **12.9%** adults with obesity
 - China: **34.4%** adults with overweight , **6.9%** adults with obesity
- the largest obese population in the world**

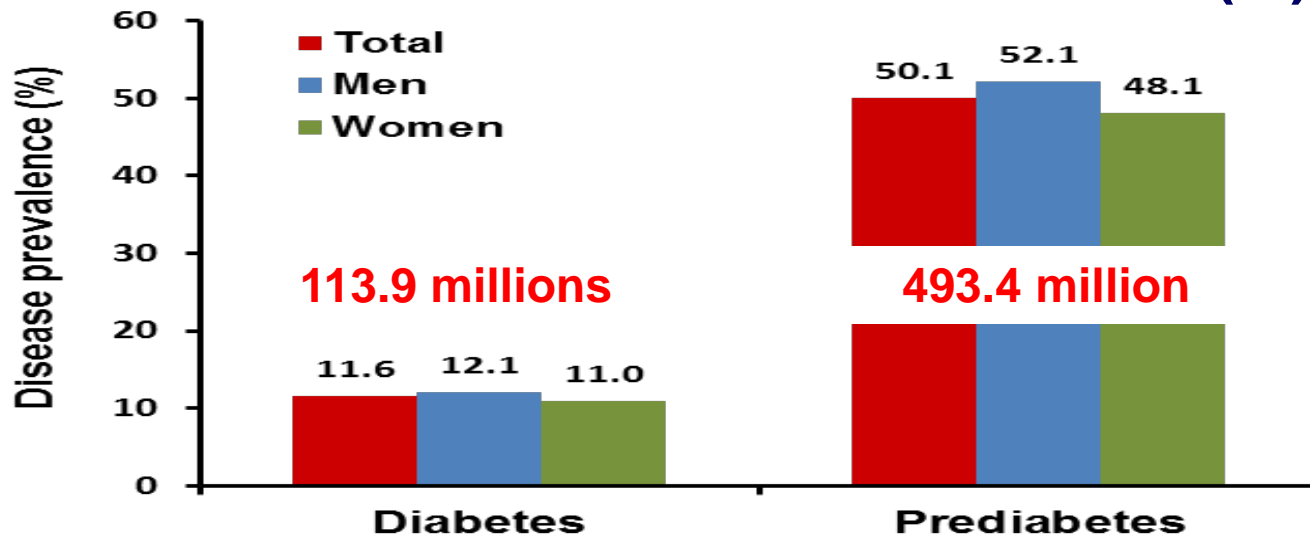
A Age-standardised prevalence of obesity (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²), ages ≥ 20 years, men, 2013



Prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes in Chinese

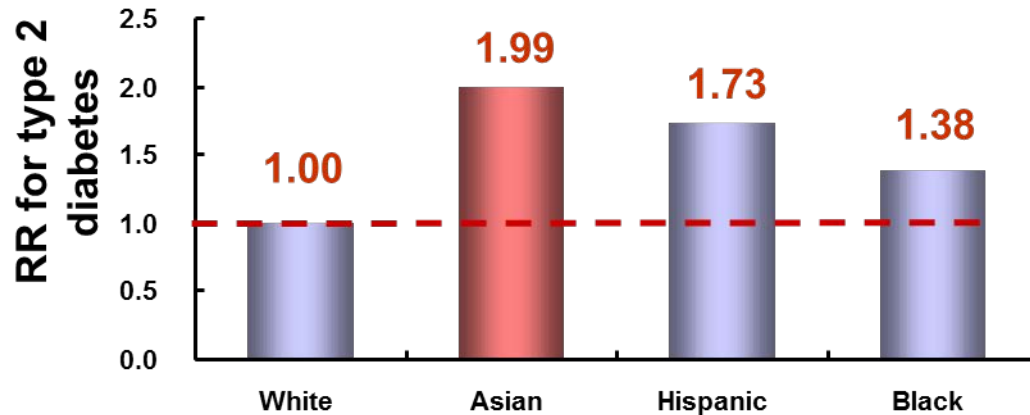


Prevalence of Diabetes in 2012 (%)



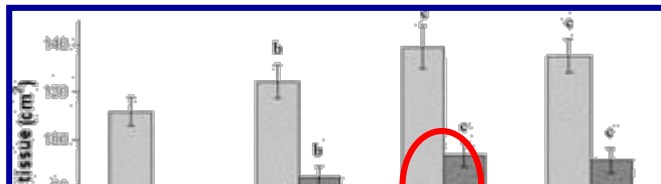
High Susceptibility of Metabolic Diseases in Asians

Multivariate RR of Diabetes among Women with Different Ethnical Backgrounds in the Nurses' Health Study

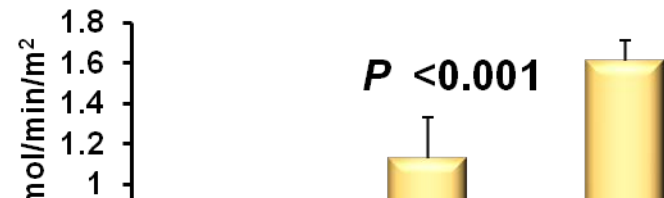


Diabetes Care (2006)

“Metabolic Obesity” in Asians

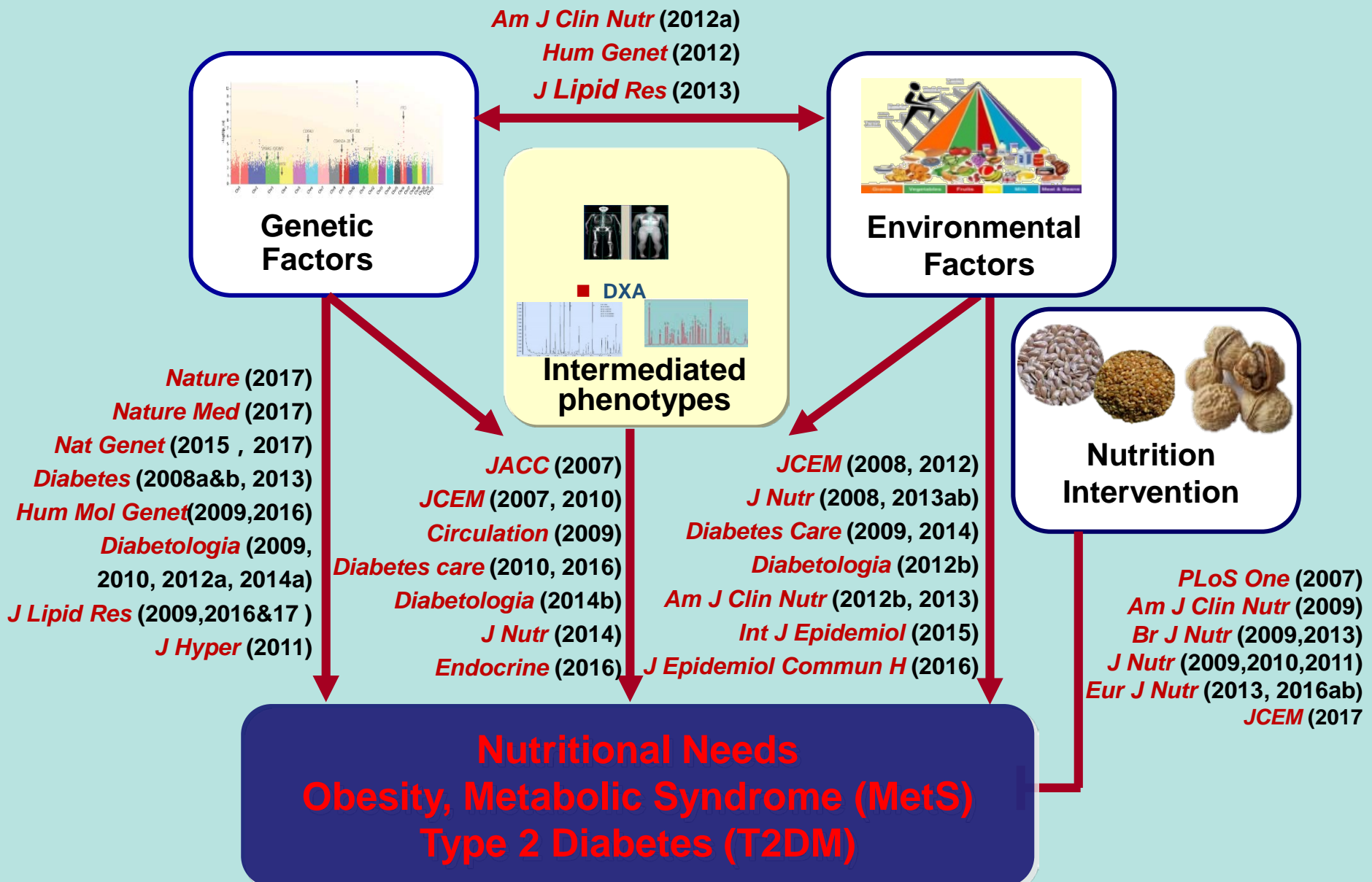


Insulin Sensitivity



Few Chinese cohort studies have systematically investigated the roles of genetic and environmental factors for metabolic diseases

What are nutritional needs and effects of genetic and environmental factors on metabolic risks in Chinese?

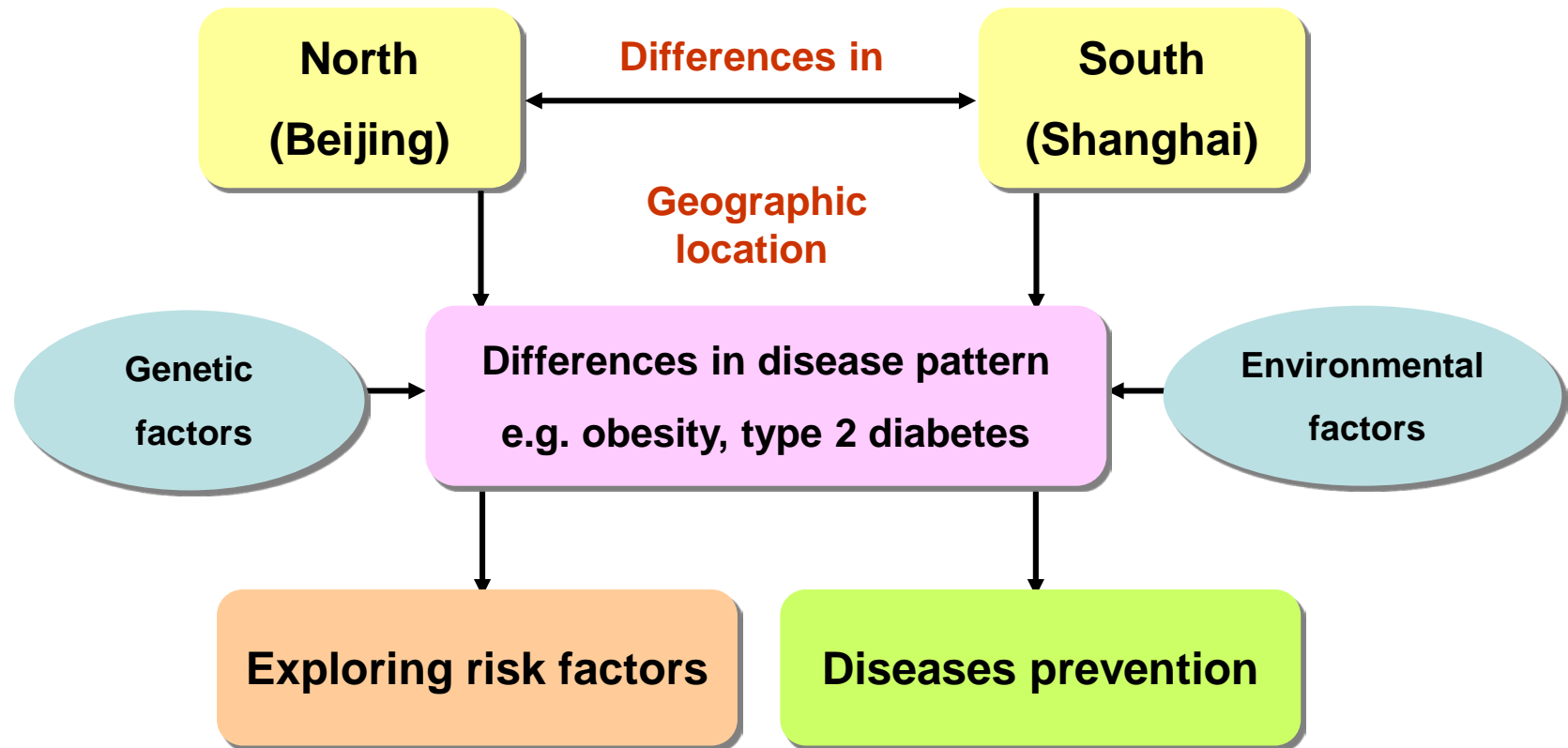


Outline

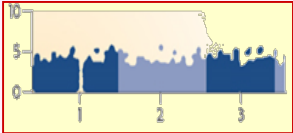
- Background
- **Finding from our studies**
 - **Observational studies**
 - Intervention trials
- Currently ongoing studies

Nutrition and Health of Ageing Population in China

To investigate the effect of genetic and environmental factors and their interactions on metabolic diseases



Nutrition and Health of Ageing Population in China

Baseline	Gene & Environment	Phenotype	Disease
<div>Beijing (n=1600)</div> <div>Shanghai (n=1600)</div>	<div>Genetic factors<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GWAS database– 2M SNPs– 100k CNVs• Exome SNPs</div> <div>Environments<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diet• Lifestyle• Mental health</div>	<div>Anthropometric Data: BP, BMI, waist/hip body composition (DXA)</div> <div>Biomarkers:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRP, IL6, TNFR1/2• Adiponectin, RBP4, Resistin, PAI-1• Glucose, Insulin, lipids, HbA1c• Ferritin, vitamin D, vitamin B1• Fatty acids profile• Amino acids profile• Acylcarnitine profile• Ionic profile</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Type 2 diabetes▪ Metabolic syndrome▪ Cardiovascular disease▪ Kidney function decline▪</div>

2005

2011



GWAS Database for Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes

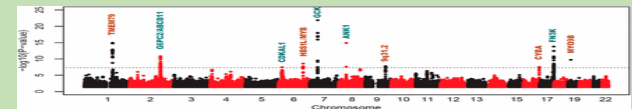
Lead National Type 2 Diabetes GWAS in China

- Identified **2** novel (***RASGRP1*** and ***GRK5***), 23 reported loci for T2D in ~43,000 individuals
- Acquired **>0.56M** SNPs covering **>92%** common variants and **>1000** common CNVs in Chinese
- Acquired **>15M SNPs and CNVs** imputed from HapMap and 1000Genome

Lead and joining >10 international GWAS collaborations

- **Obesity: 15 novel loci, 62 reported loci**
- **Height: 17 novel loci, 81 reported loci**
- **Blood pressure: 27 novel loci, 23 reported loci**
- **HbA1c: 4 novel loci, 5 reported loci**
- **Fatty acids: 7 novel loci, 11 reported loci**

***Hum Mol Genet* (2016)**

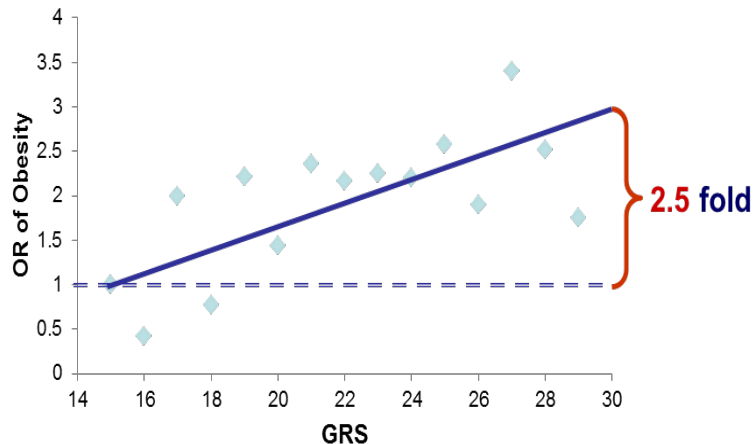


***Nature* (2017), *Nat Genet* (2015, 2017), *Nature Med* (2017), *JAMA oncology* (2016) , *Hum Mol Genet* (2016, 2014&2012), *Diabetes* (2013), *Hypertension* (2013), *Diabetes* (2013), *Diabetologia* (2014, 2012, 2011&2010) *J Lipid Res* (2013, 2017), *AJCN*(2012), *PLoS Genet* (2010)**

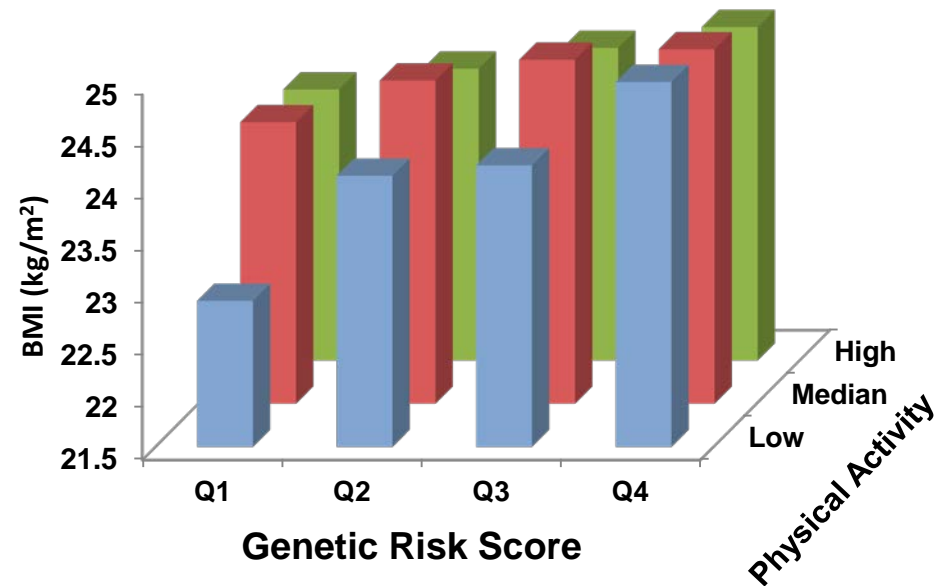
Genetic Predisposition of Obesity

- ↑ Genetic Risk Score (28 BMI-increasing risk loci like *FTO*, *MC4R*, *PCSK1*), ↑ BMI, ↑ total and trunk fat percentage (DXA)
- ↑ Physical activity ↓ genetic predisposition for raising BMI

Each additional BMI-increasing risk allele ↑ 7% obesity risk



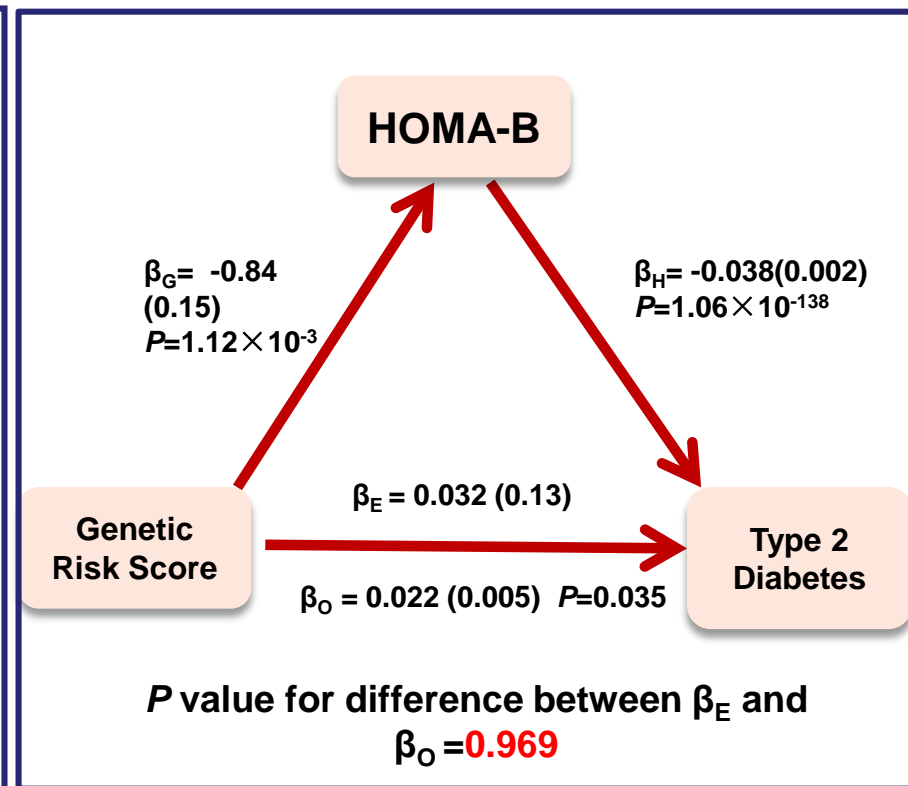
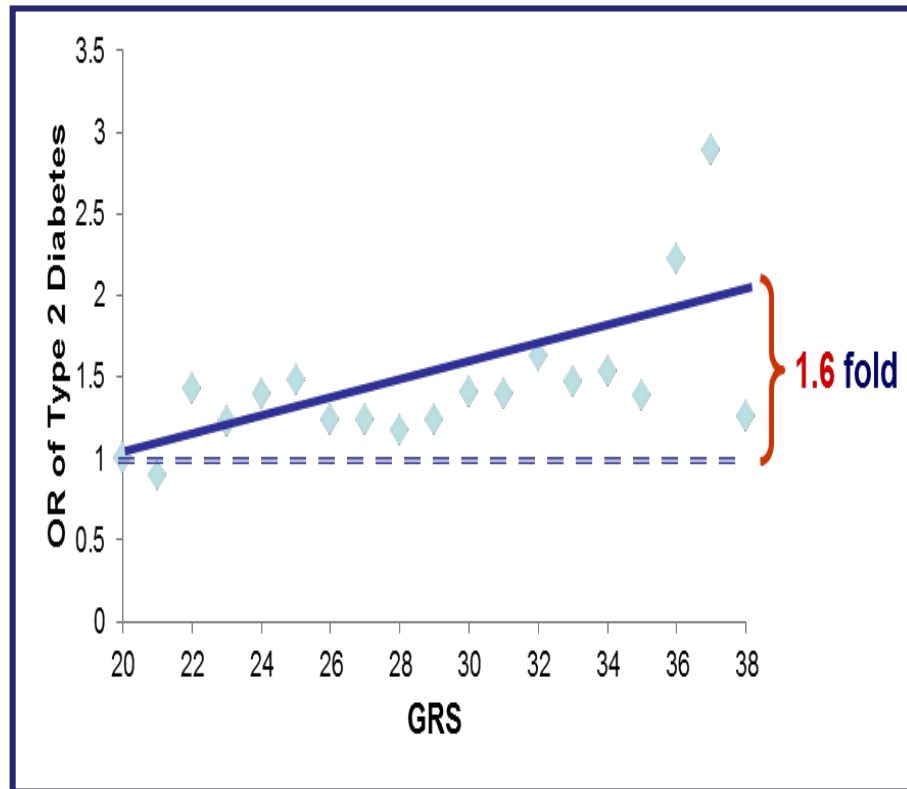
↑ Physical Activity
↓ Genetic Predisposition of ↑ BMI



P for interaction=0.022

Genetic Predisposition of Obesity with Diabetes

- \uparrow Genetic Risk Score (30 BMI-increasing risk loci, like *FTO*, *MC4R* and *PCSK1*) was associated with \uparrow T2D
- The association was **independent** of BMI in Chinese, partly mediated by **HOMA-B**



Established Erythrocyte Fatty Acid Database

A total of **28** types of fatty acids were detected in **3252** participants

- **Trans FA**

18:1t isomer 18:2n6 9c12t 18:2n6 9t12c

- **PUFA n-6**

18:2n6 18:3n6 20:2n6 20:3n6 20:4n6 22:2n6 22:4n6 22:5n6

- **PUFA n-3**

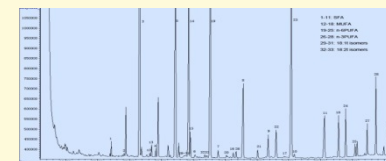
18:3n3 20:5n3 22:5n3 22:6n3

- **SFA**

14:0 16:0 18:0 20:0 22:0 24:00

- **MUFA**

16:1n9 16:1n7 18:1n9 18:1n7 20:1n9 22:1n9 24:1n9

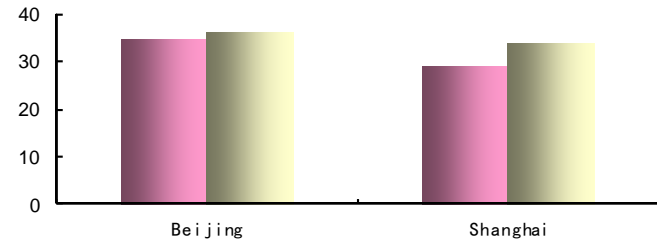
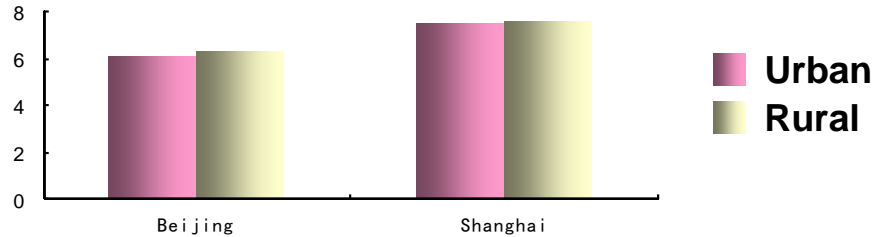


GC-FID

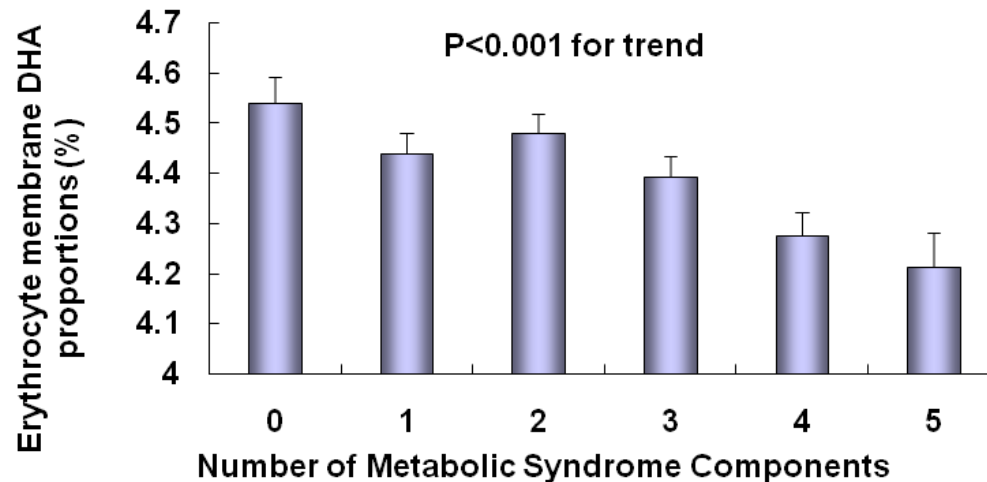
- Most of cohort studies were from western populations
- Commonly used dietary questionnaires could introduce many measurement errors
- Erythrocyte fatty acids reflect relatively long-term of intakes (essential and trans fatty acids), particularly important for countries without relevant food composition database like China
- Evidence regarding the relationships of blood fatty acids with MetS or T2D is limited, and remains controversial

n-3 Fatty Acids and Metabolic Syndrome

↑ Fish Intake are Associated with ↑ n-3 FA in Shanghai
↑ Plant Oil Intake are Associated with ↑ n-6 FA in Beijing



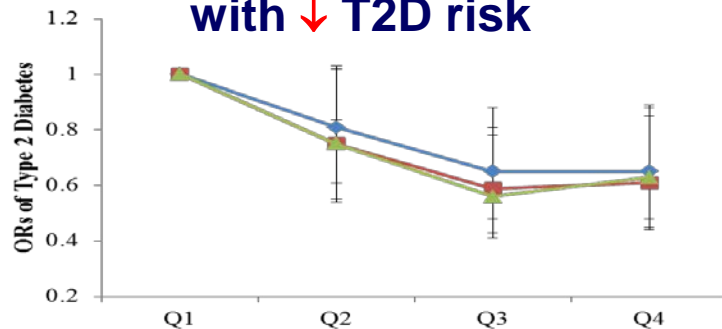
↓ DHA ↑ Number of Metabolic Syndrome Components



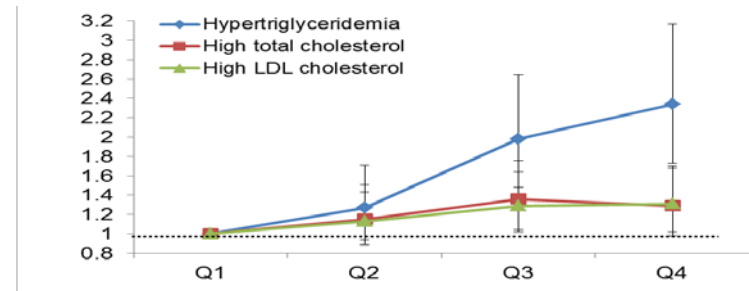
Trans-Fatty Acids and Metabolic Disorders

- Total of TFAs are low (**0.37 %** vs **1.8 %** in US studies)
- Trans-18:1 isomers (**>50%** of total TFA) was associated with dairy products

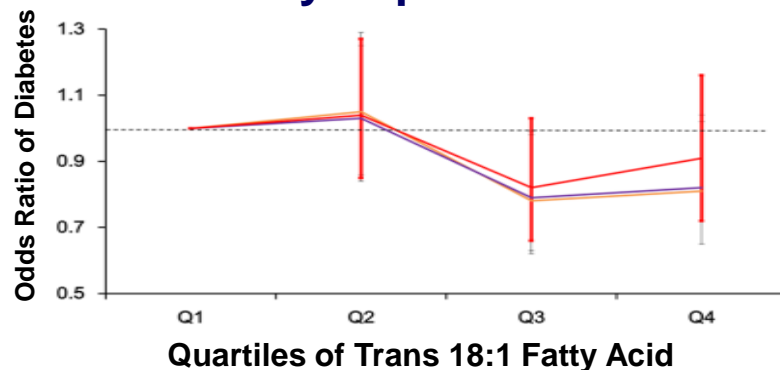
↑ Trans-18:1 was associated with ↓ T2D risk



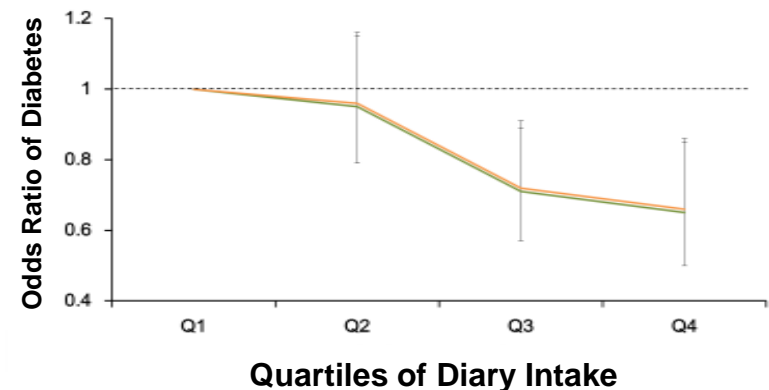
↑ Trans-18:2 was associated with ↑ dyslipidemia risk



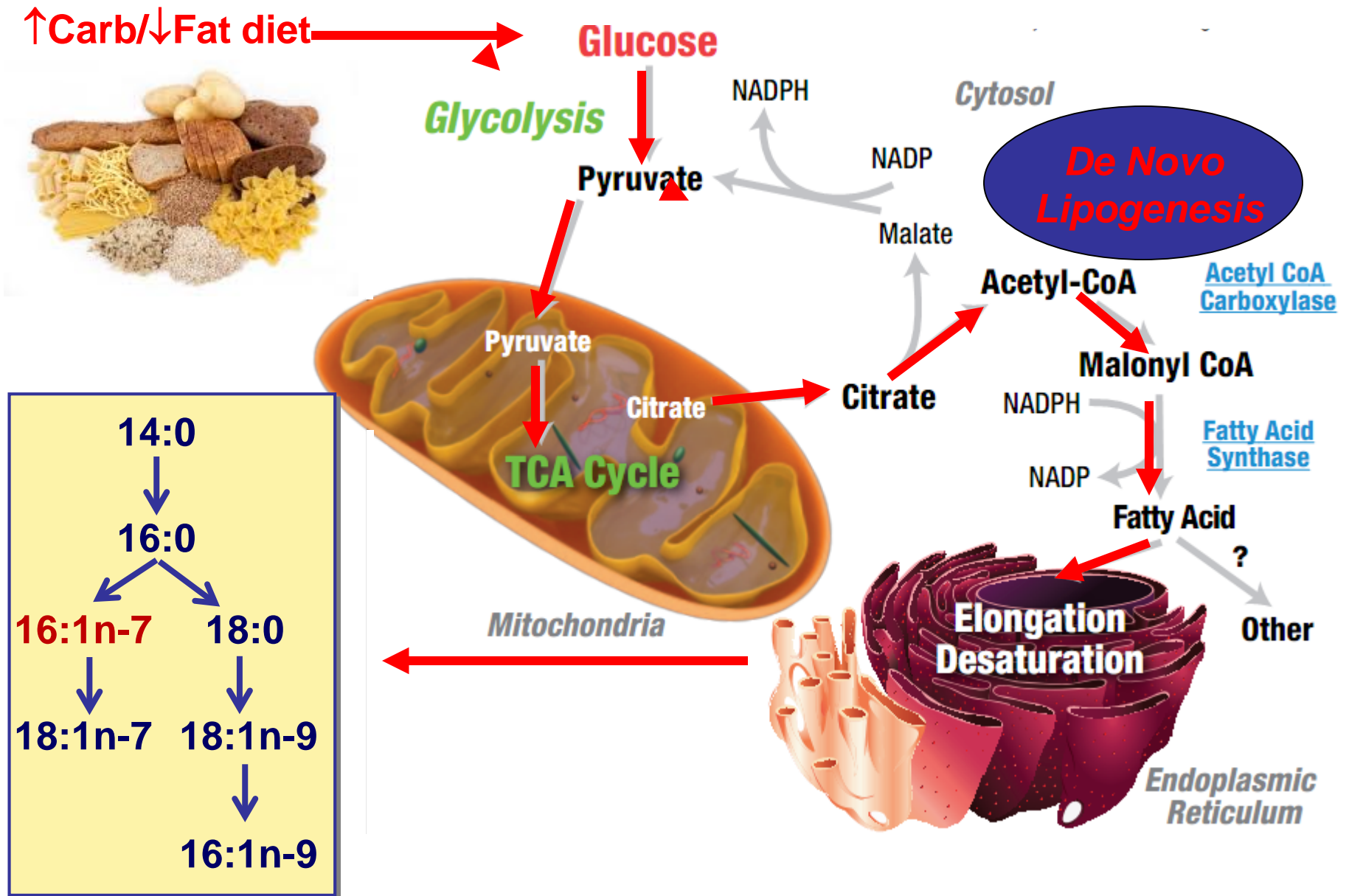
The association between ↑ Trans 18:1 and ↓ 6-yr T2D Incidence was dairy dependent



↑ Dairy intake was associated with ↓ 6-yr T2D Incidence

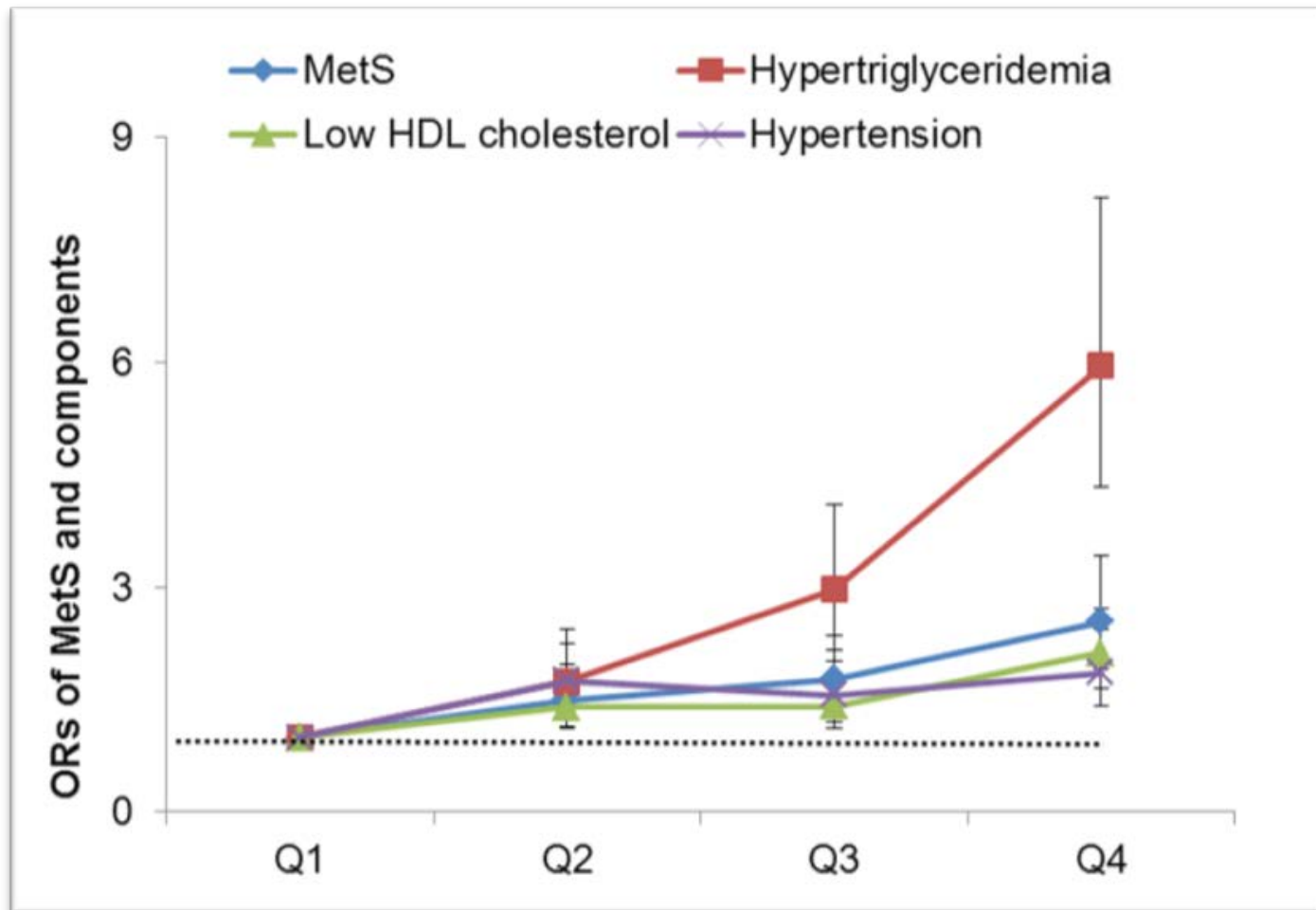


Carb Intake and *De Novo* Lipogenesis (DNL)



DNL Fatty Acid and Metabolic Syndrome - Baseline

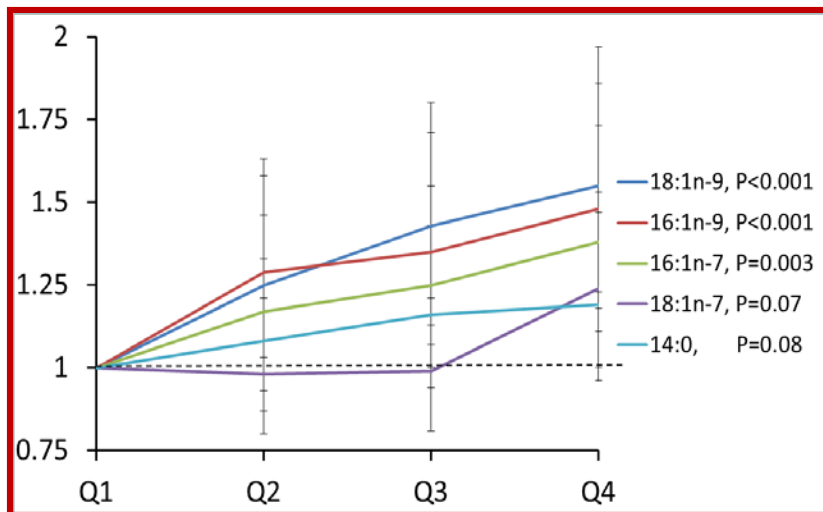
↑16:1n-7 was Associated with ↑ MetS Risk and Its Components



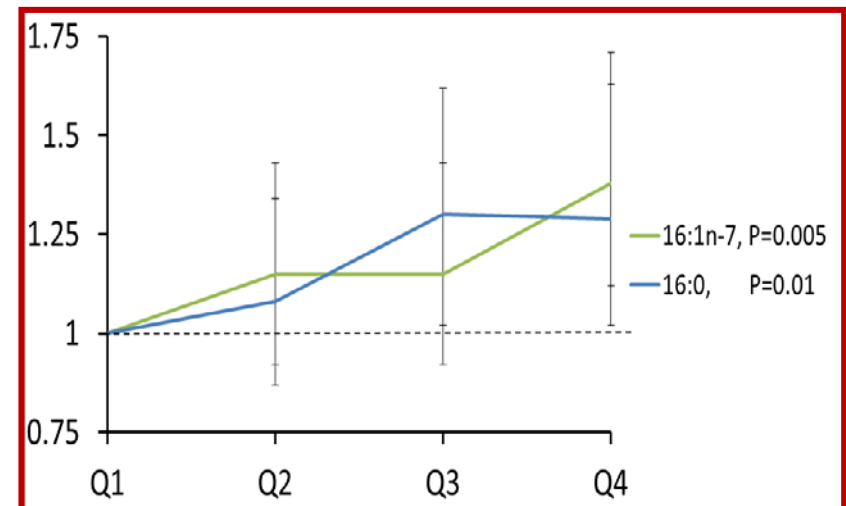
DNL Fatty Acids and 6-yr Risks of Metabolic Disease - Cohort

- ↑ DNL fatty acids were associated with ↑ 6-yr incident MetS by 30-51%
- ↑ DNL fatty acids associated with ↑ 6-yr incident T2DM by 20-30%

↑ 16:1n-7, 16:1n-9, and 18:1n-9
↑ 6-yr Incident MetS



↑ 16:0 and 16:1n-7
↑ 6-yr Incident T2DM



- Model 1: adjusted for age, sex, region, and residence
- Model 2: Model 1+ physical activity, education attainment, current smoking and drinking, family history of chronic diseases, total energy intake, carb intake of total energy, and energy-adjusted dietary glycemic index and energy-adjusted glycemic index;
- Model 3: Model 2+ BMI

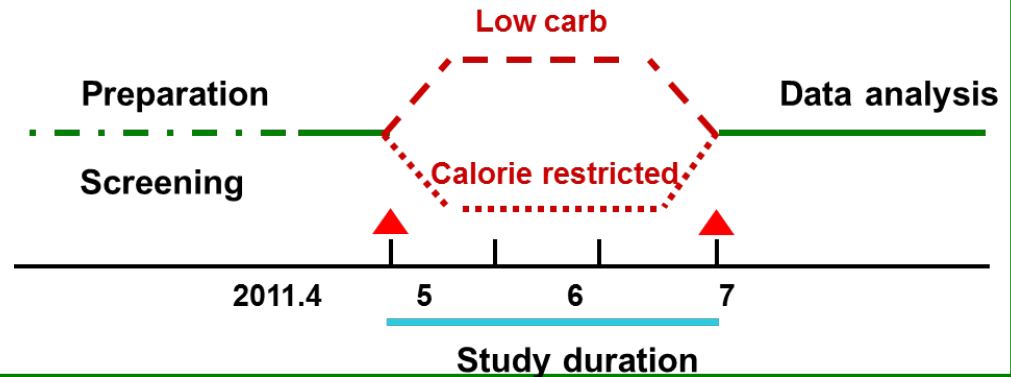
Low Carb Intervention Reduced Erythrocyte 16:1n7

Design: A randomized, controlled and parallel trial

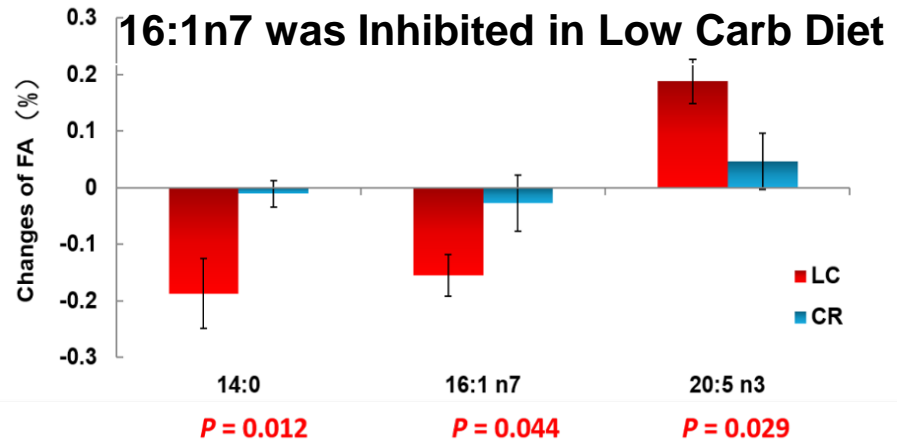
Subjects: 50 volunteers (BMI ≥ 24 kg/m²)

Duration: 12 weeks

- **Low Carb Group**
Carb: 20-120 g/d
- **High Carb + ↓Calorie Group**
35% calorie restricted
Carb: 55%; protein: 19%; fat:26%

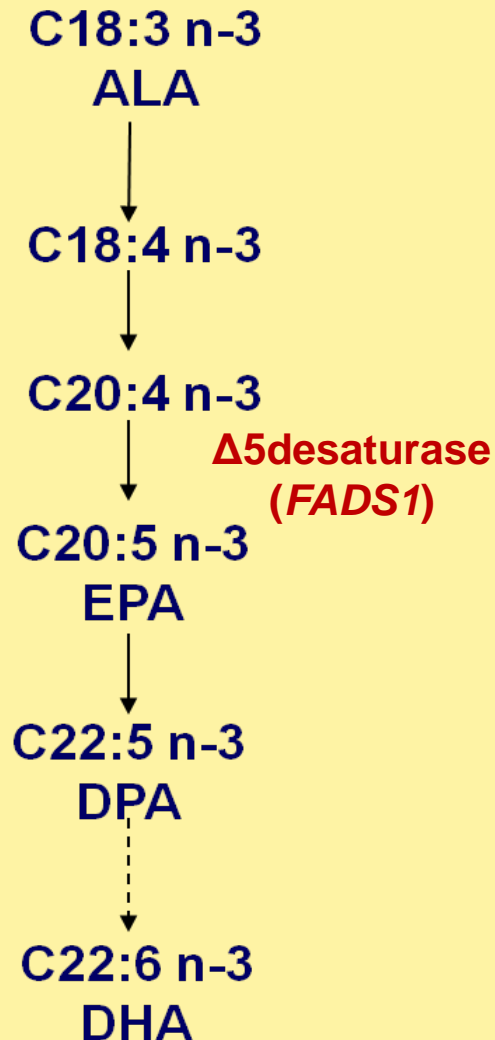


- Both diets ↓ (~5 kg BW)
- Low carb diet ↑ HDL-C
- Low carb diet ↓ 16:1n7

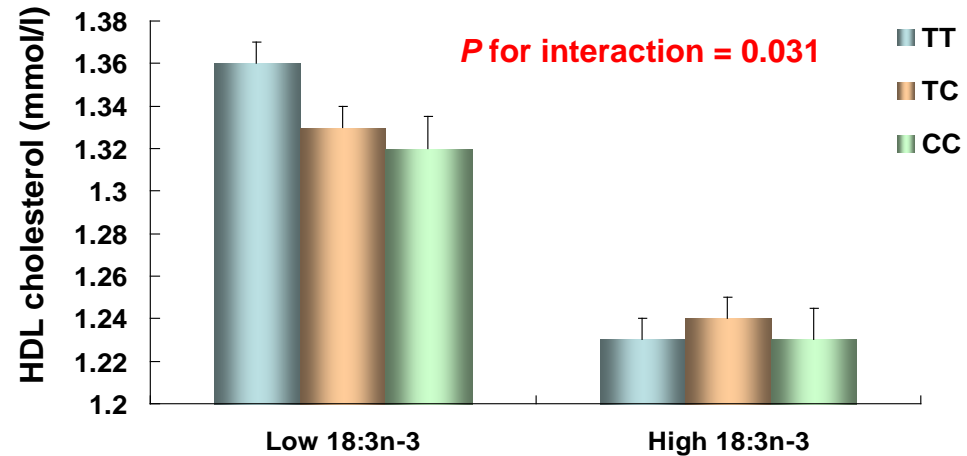


Interaction of Variant in *FADS1* and PUFA on Lipid Profile

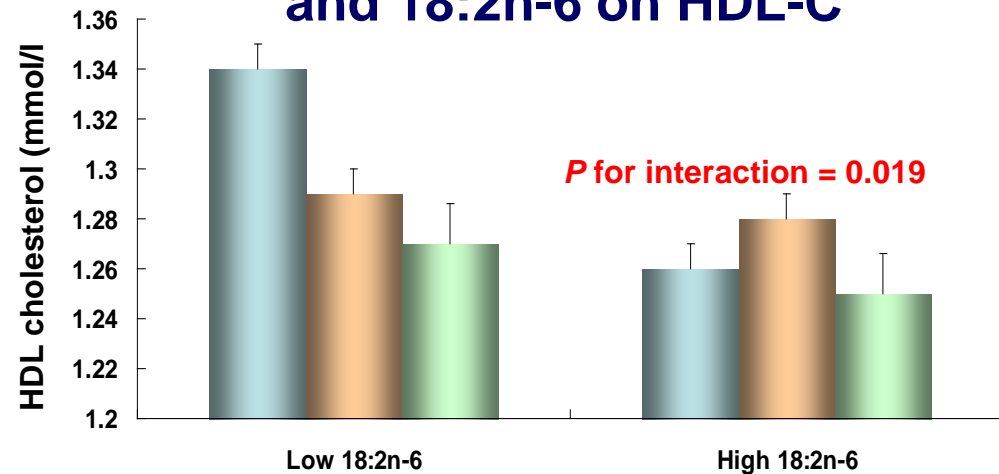
n-3 Pathway



Interaction between *FADS1*-rs174550 and 18:3n-3 on HDL-C

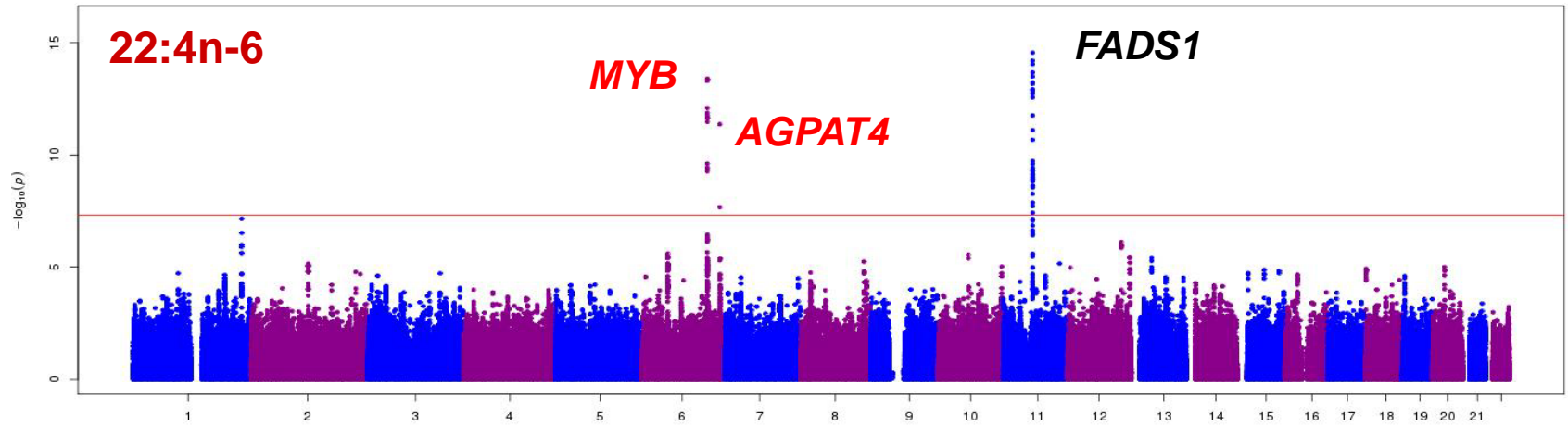


Interaction between *FADS1*-rs174550 and 18:2n-6 on HDL-C

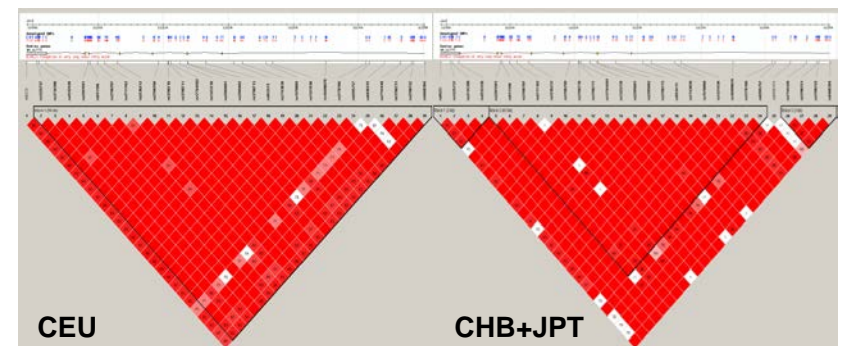
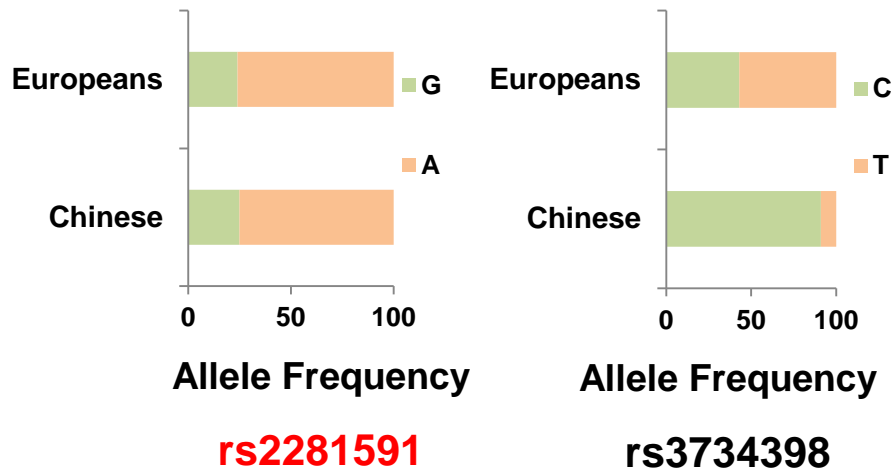


GWAS Meta of **PUFA** in Chinese and Europeans

Identified **2 Novel Loci** (*MYB* and *AGPAT4* for 22:4n-6) in Chinese



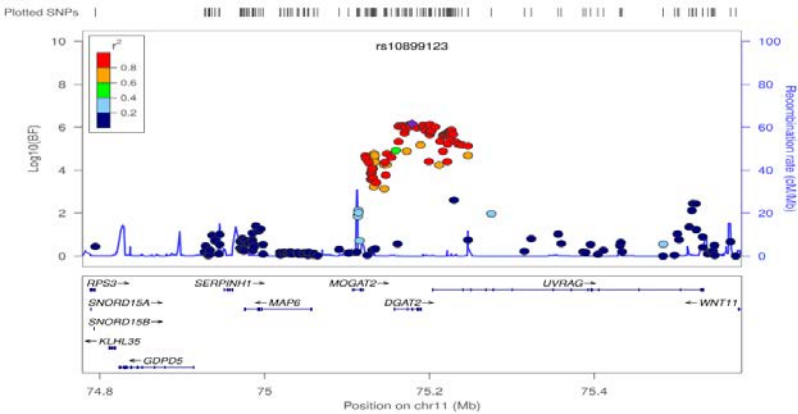
Identified **1 Independent Signal** (**rs2281591**) at *ELOVL2* for 22:5n-3 in Chinese



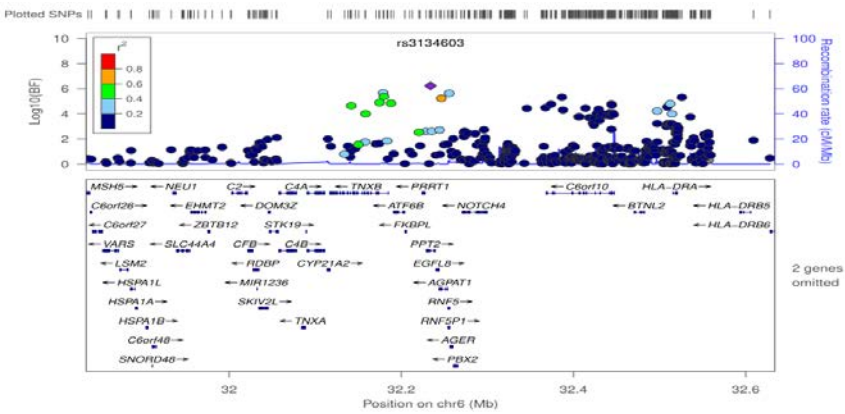
GWAS Meta of **PUFA** in Chinese and Europeans

Trans-Ethnic Meta
Identified **2 Additional Novel** and **Confirmed 5 Loci**

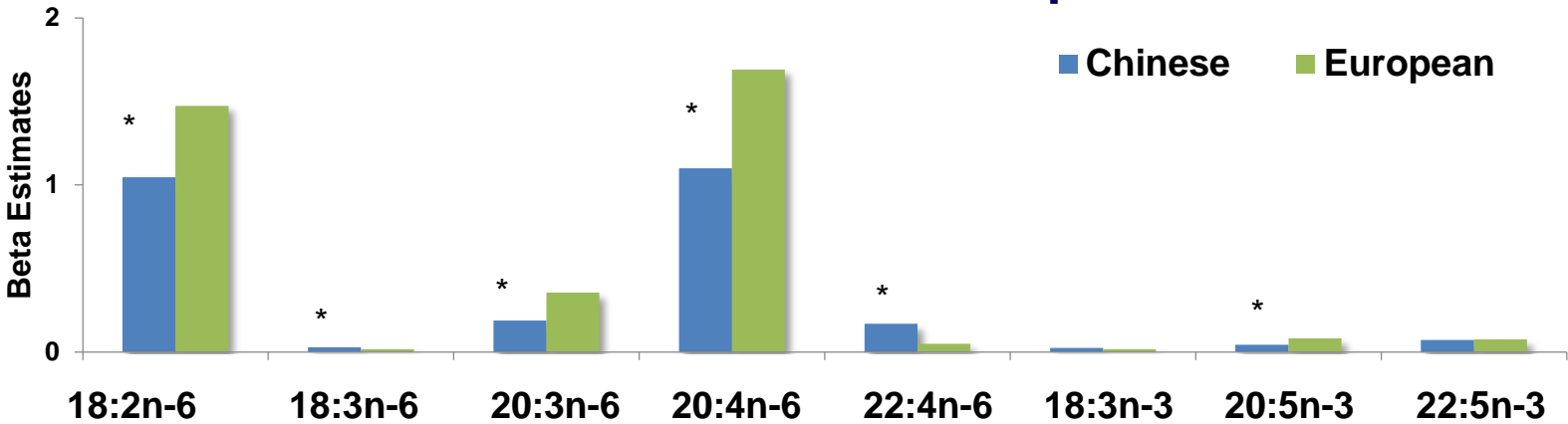
DGAT2-rs10899123 for 18:3n-6



PPT2-rs3134603 for 22:5n-3



Different Effect Sizes of *FADS1* Variants on PUFA Levels
between Chinese and Europeans

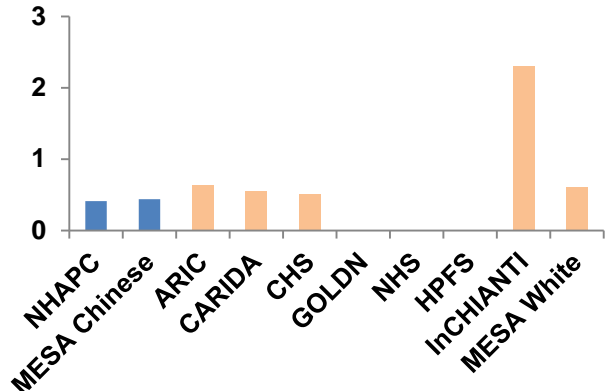


GWAS Meta of MUFA in Chinese and Europeans

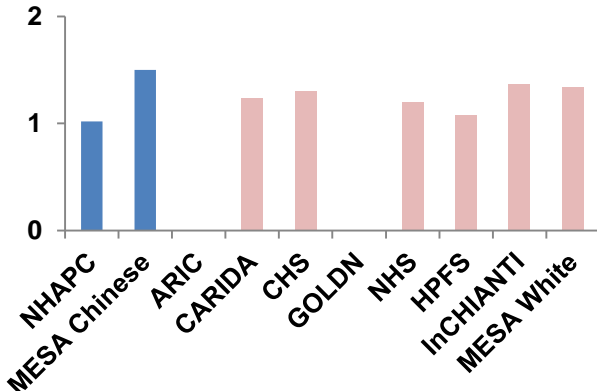
MUFA Profiles in Chinese and Europeans

Chinese Reported Europeans Europeans

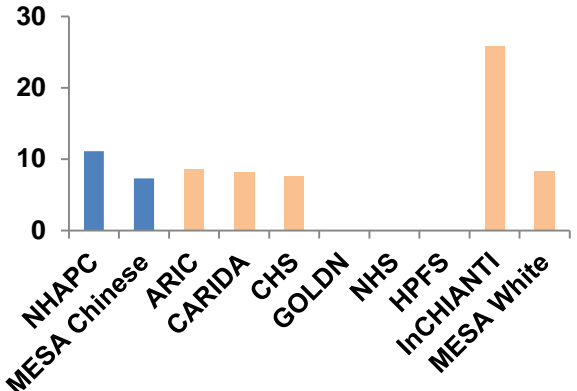
16:1n-7



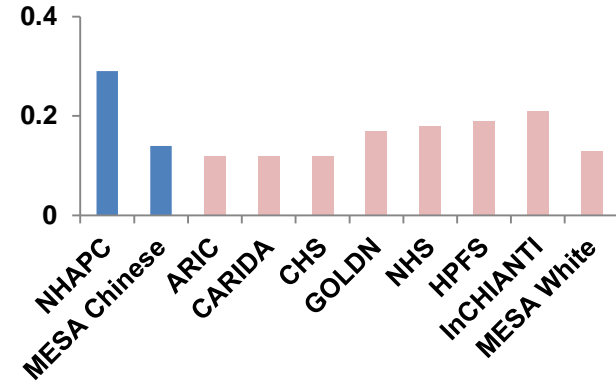
18:1n-7



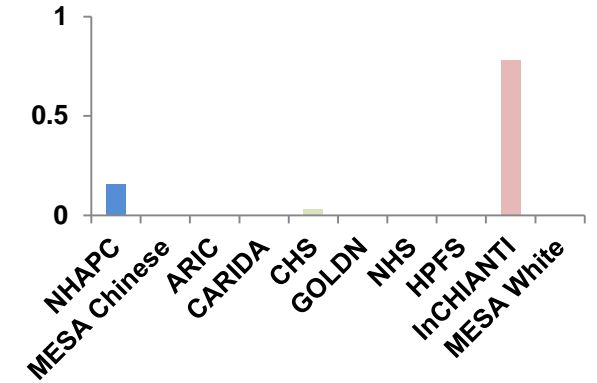
18:1n-9



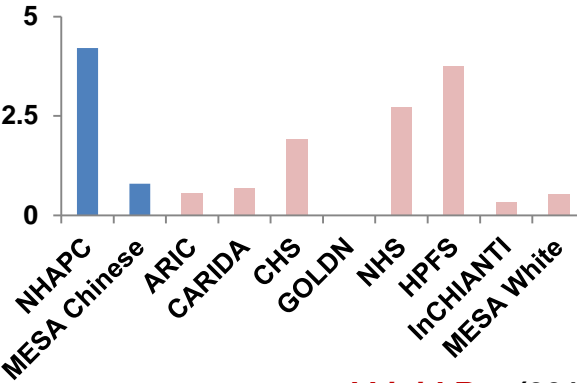
20:1n-9



22:1n-9

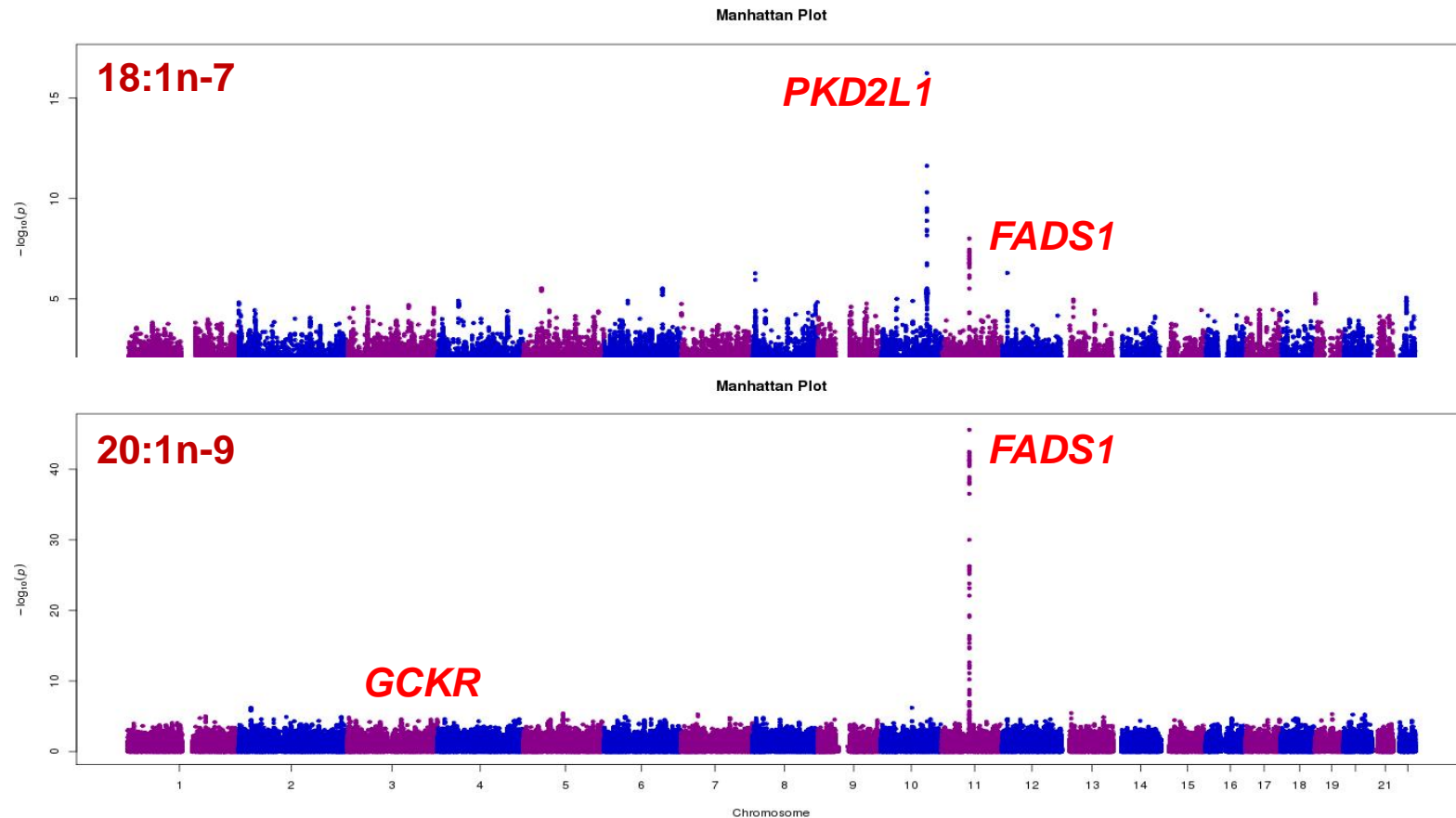


24:1n-9



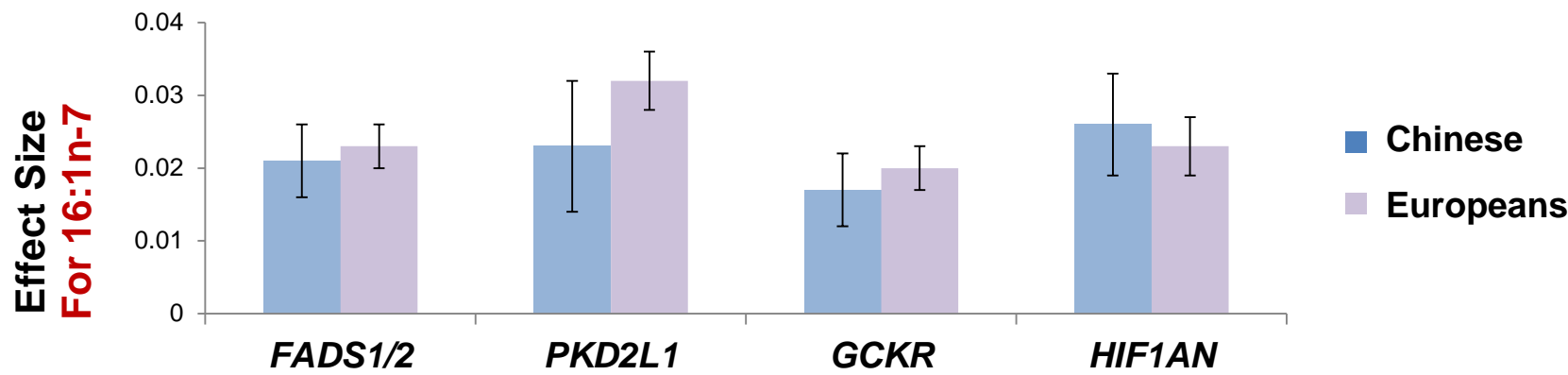
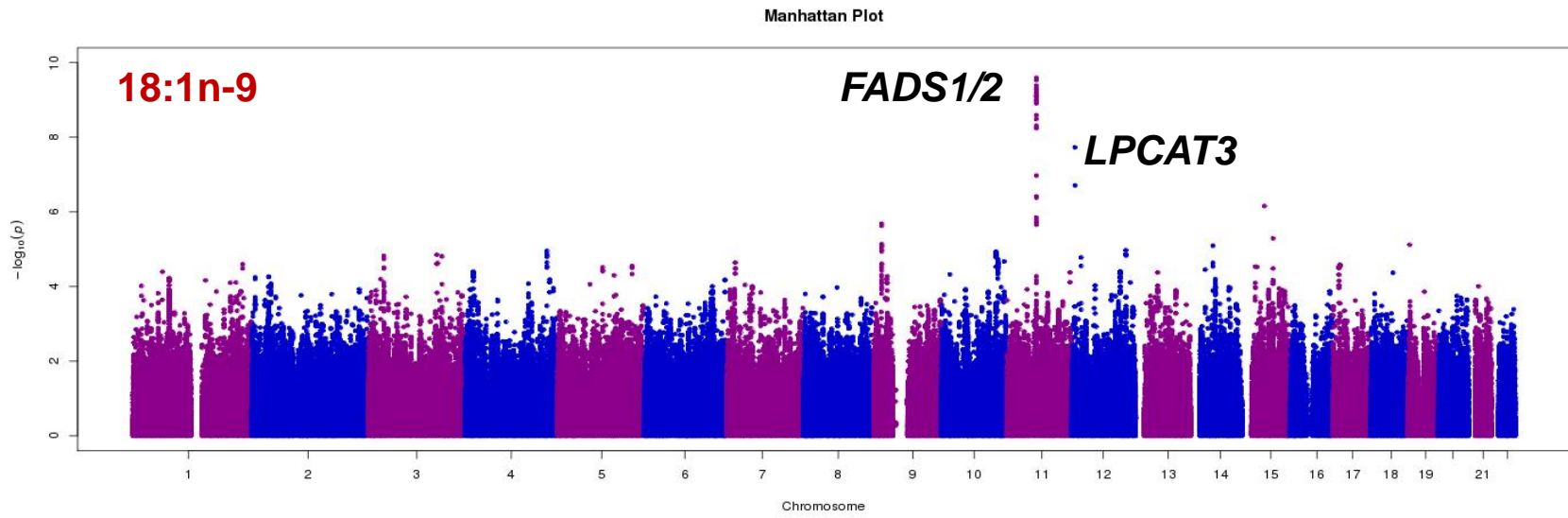
GWAS Meta of MUFA in Chinese and Europeans

Trans-Ethnic Meta found 4 Novel Associations



GWAS Meta of MUFA in Chinese and Europeans

Trans-Ethnic Meta Confirmed 6 Reported Associations

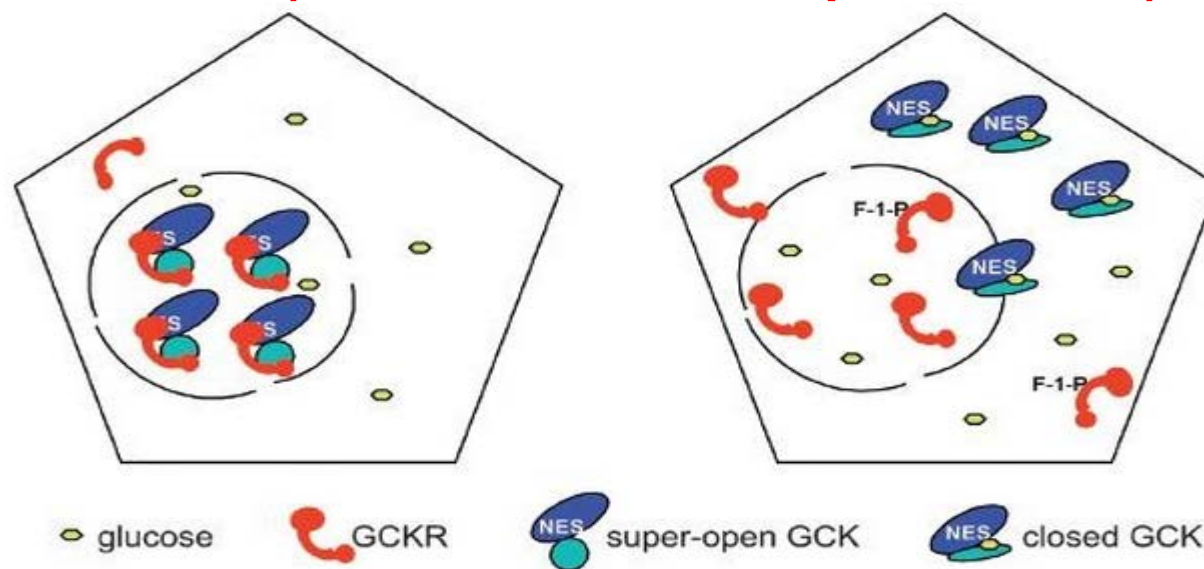


Potential Functional SNP at **GCKR**

GCKR: Encodes glucokinase (GCK) regulator (GCRP)



rs1260326(C/T, in the 15th exon, p.Pro446Leu)



Hum Mol Genet 2009

Glucose $\xrightarrow{\text{GCK}}$ Acetyl-CoA \rightarrow 16:0 \rightarrow 16:1n-7

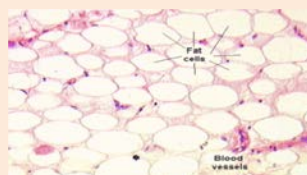
Functional Studies: rs1260326-T \rightarrow GSKRP-Leu \rightarrow \uparrow GSK activity

Our GWAS: rs1260326-T \rightarrow \uparrow 16:1n-7

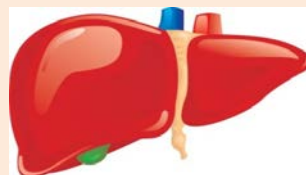
J Lipid Res (2017)

Potential mechanism of SNP at *PKD2L1*

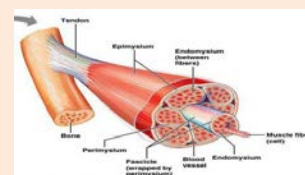
***PKD2L1*-rs603424 might influence 16:1n-7 and 18:1n-7 levels by ↓ expression of *SCD* (Δ9 desaturase)**



Liver



Skeletal Muscle



rs603424-A → ↓SCD RNA expression ($P=10^{-6}$)

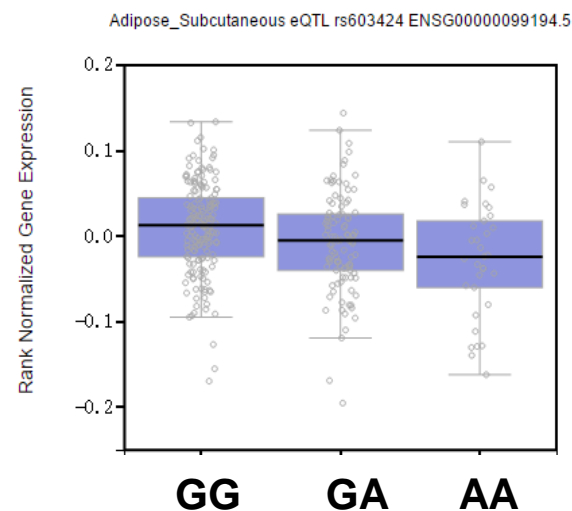
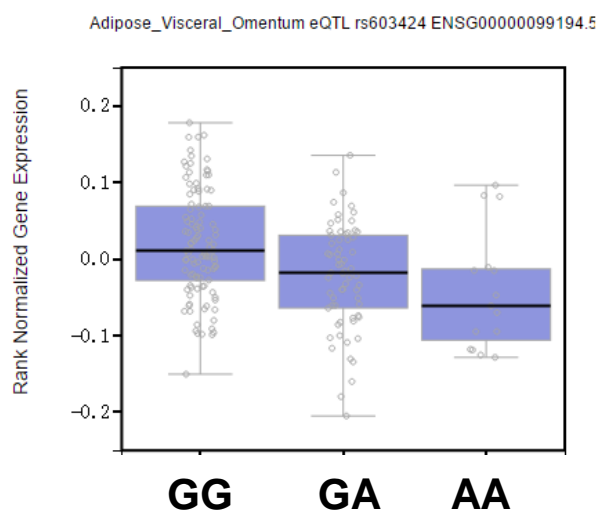
16:0



16:1n-7

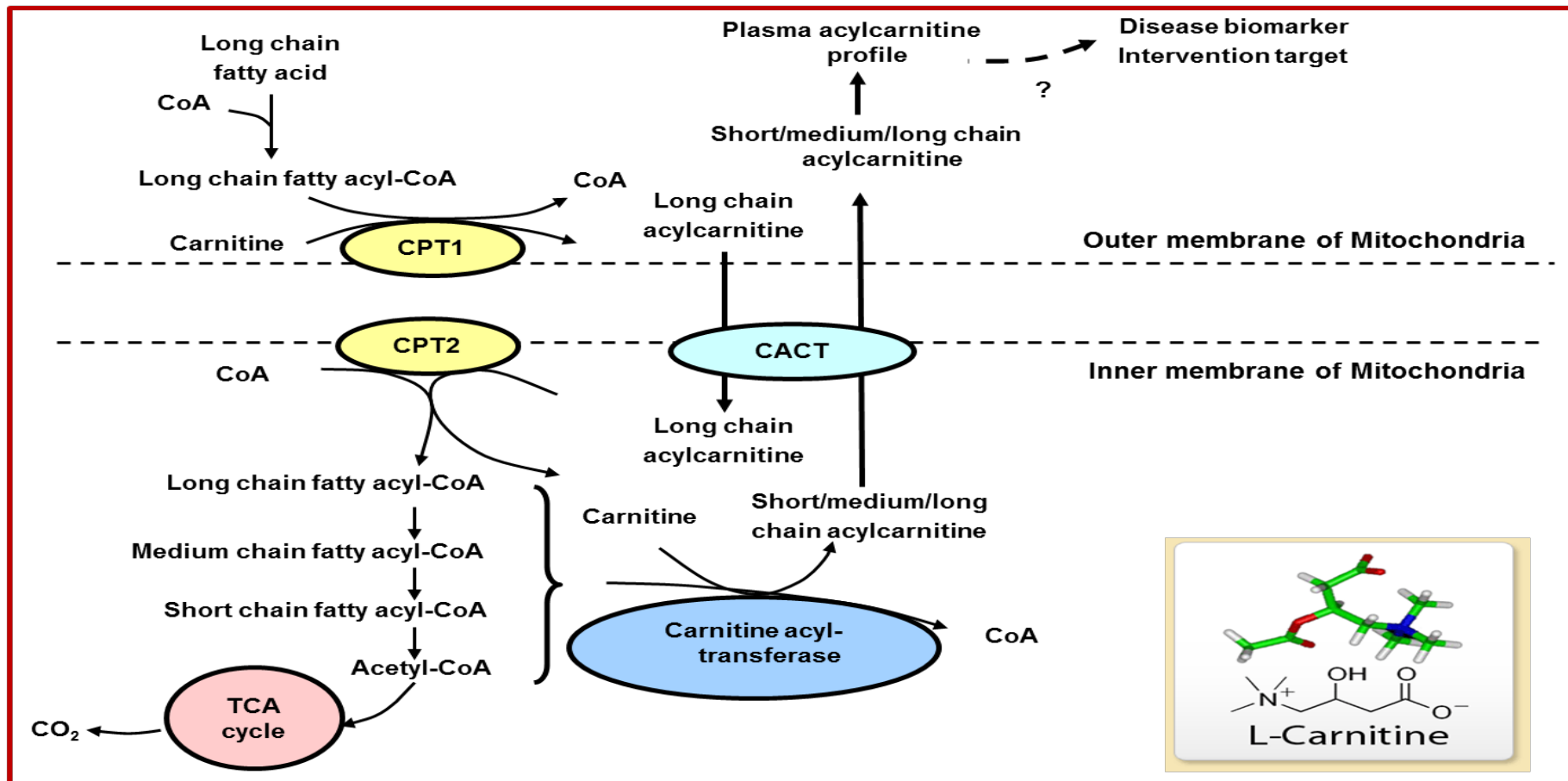


18:1 n-7



Acylcarnitines and Fatty Acid Oxidation

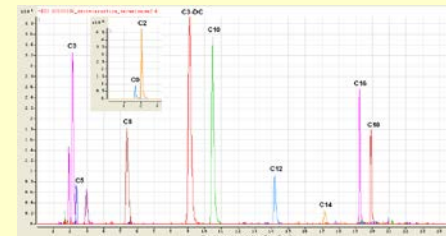
- Acylcarnitines, the intermediates *via* transferring acyl moiety from CoA to L-carnitine
- They transport long-chain (LC) fatty acids to mitochondrial inner membrane
- Hypothesis: **↑ LC-acylcarnitines reflect mitochondria stress and incomplete β -oxidation**



Established Acylcarnitines Database

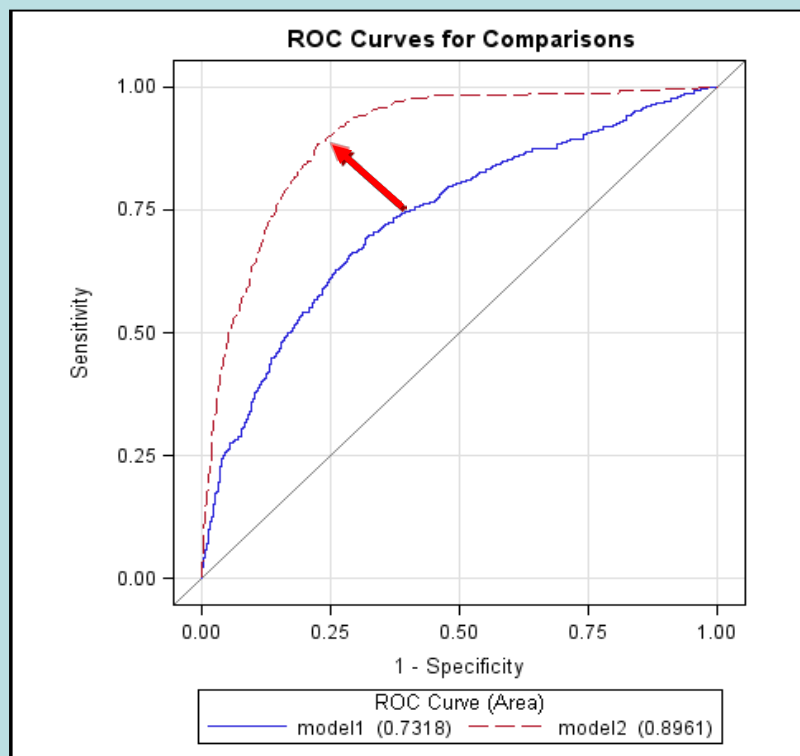
A total of **34** free and acylcarnitines were detected in **2,106** participants completed 6-yr follow-up

- Free carnitine and precursor
- Short-chain acylcarnitine
- Medium-chain acylcarnitine
- Long-chain acylcarnitine



LC-MS/MS

Acylcarnitines ↑ Prediction of 6-yr Incident Diabetes



Model 1: conventional model including age, sex, region, residence, smoke, drink, physical activity, family history of diabetes, systolic blood pressure, **BMI, glucose & HbA1c**,
AUC = 0.73;

Model 2: Model 1 + **selected acylcarnitines**,
AUC = 0.90

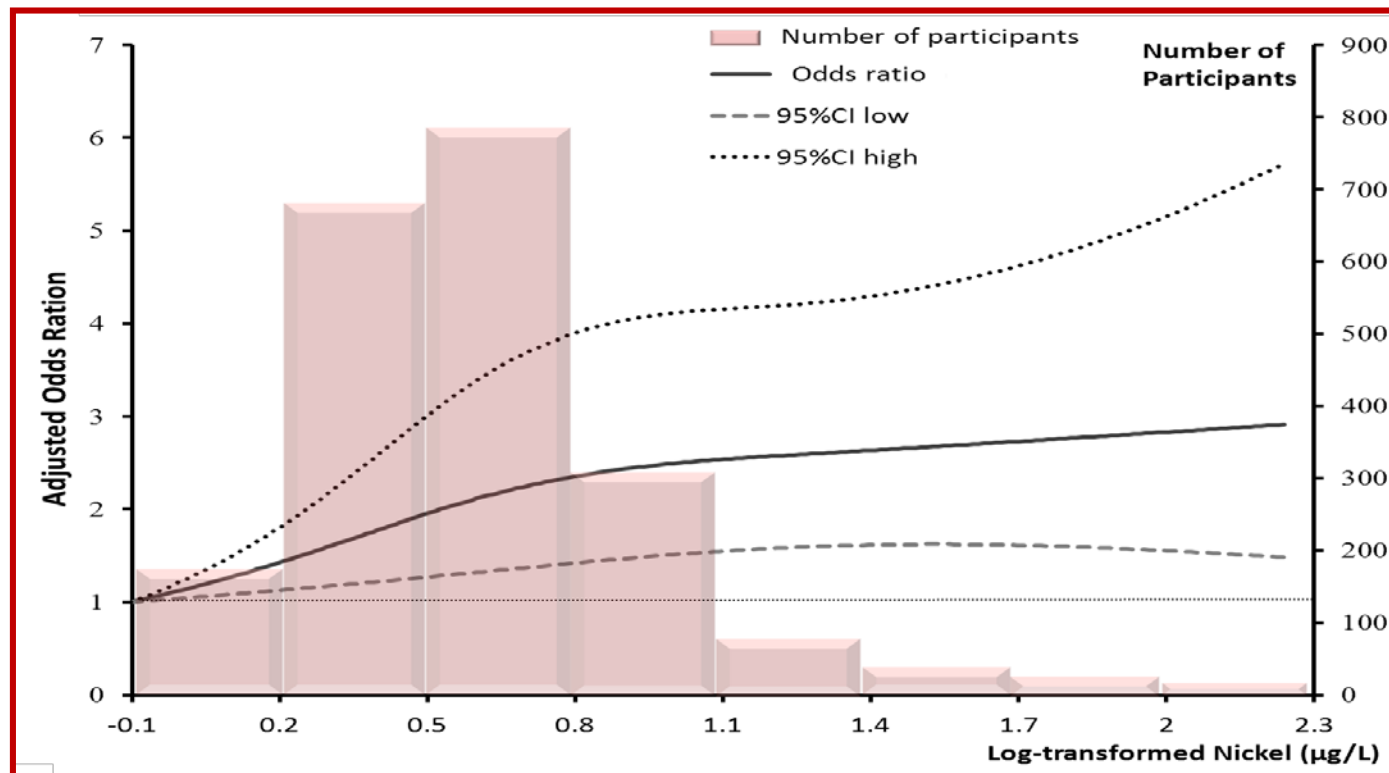
Diabetes Care (2016)

Ionomics and Metabolic Diseases

A total of **33** elements were detected in our 6-yr Follow up samples by ICP-MS:

Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Bi, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Na, Ni, P, Pb, Se, Sr, V, Zn, S, Mo, Pd, Re, Sb, Si, Sn, Ti and W

↑ Urinary Nickel Levels were Associated with ↑ T2D Risk



Adjustment including lifestyle factors, BMI, creatinine, C-reactive protein

Int J Epidemiol (2014)

Commentary: Environmental chemicals and diabetes: which ones are we missing?

International Journal of Epidemiology, 2015, 248–250

doi: 10.1093/ije/dyv004



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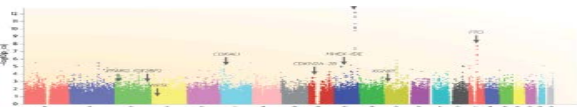
“ With the publication of the study by Liu et al., nickel appears as a potential new chemical that was missing in our list of environmental chemicals that may be related to diabetes. ”

International Journal of Epidemiology

What we have found so far?

Genetic Factors

- Found multiple obesity and T2D associated genetic variants
- Different gene structures cannot explain ↑ susceptibility



- *FADS1* (PUFA)
- *TMPRSS6* (Ferritin)
- *GC, NADSYN1*
- *DHCR7* (Vitamin D)

Environmental Factors

- Diet and nutrient biomarkers
 - DHA, Trans-18:1 (Dairy)
 - Trans-18:2 and DNL fatty acids
 - Ferritin, vitamin D, soy protein
- Lifestyle factors
 - Physical activity
 - Depression
 - Alcohol
- Pollutants



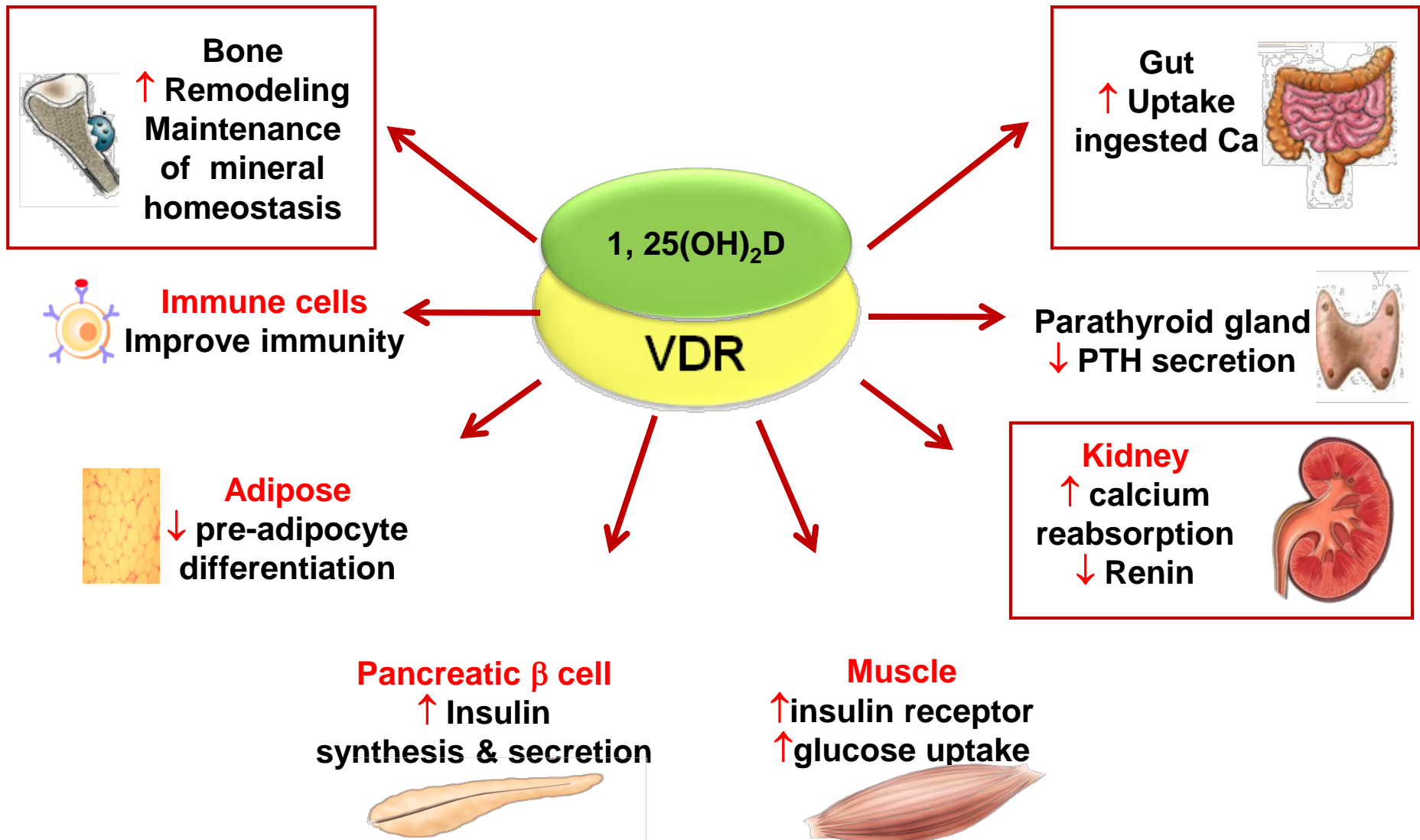
- CRP, IL6
- RBP4
- LBP
- Adiponectin
- Trunk fat

Suggesting potential roles of omics-based biomarkers in determining nutritional status and predicting metabolic diseases

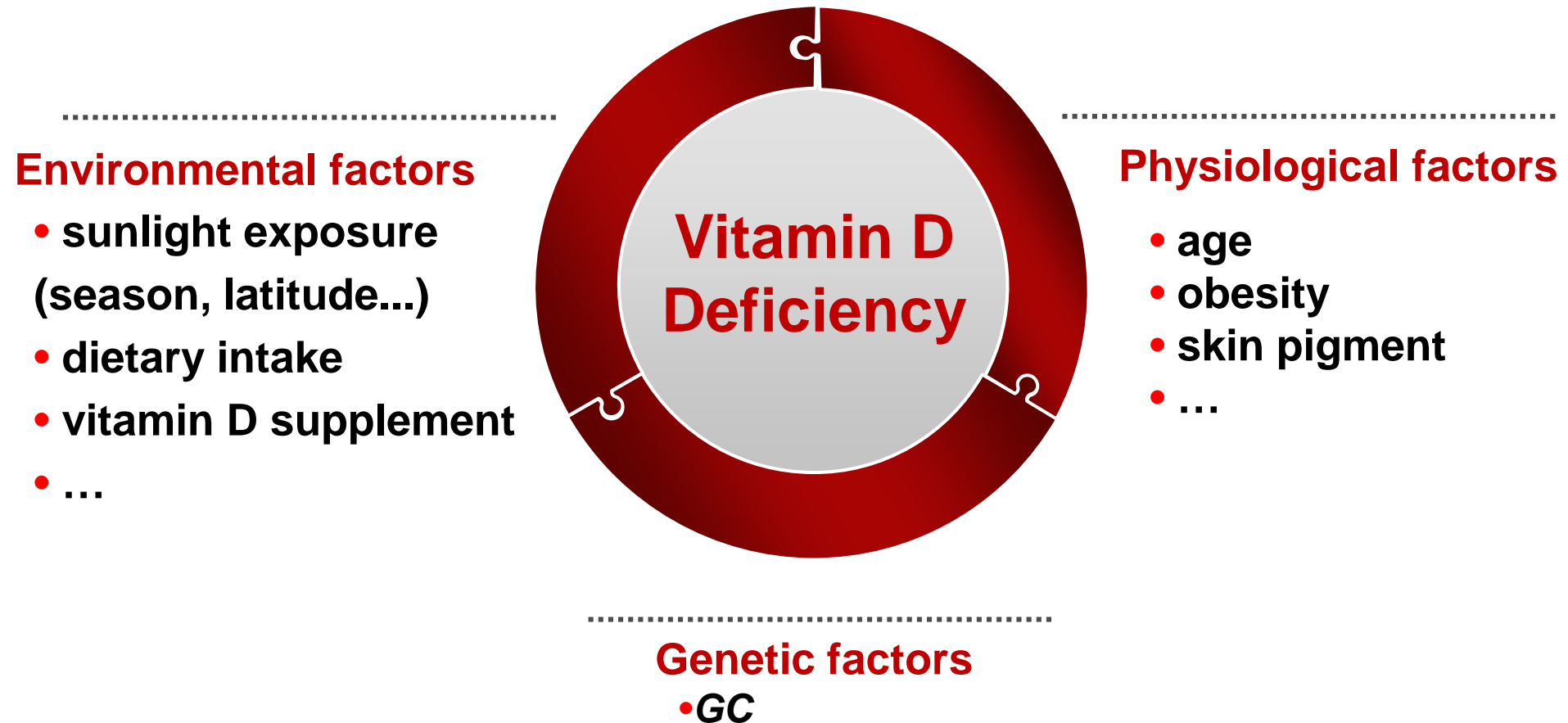
Outline

- Background
- **Finding from our studies**
 - Observational studies
 - **Intervention trials**
- Currently ongoing studies

Roles of Vitamin D on Health



Modifying Factors for Vitamin D Status



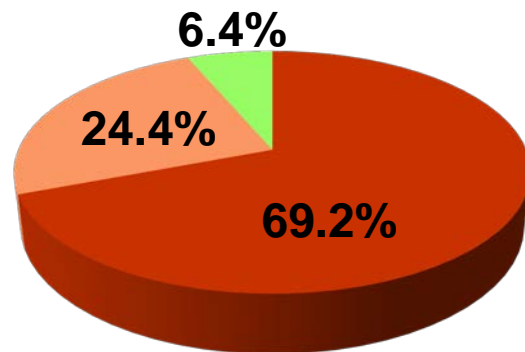
Few studies have systematically evaluated effect of genetic and non-genetic factors on vitamin D response

Vitamin D and Metabolic Disorders – Our data

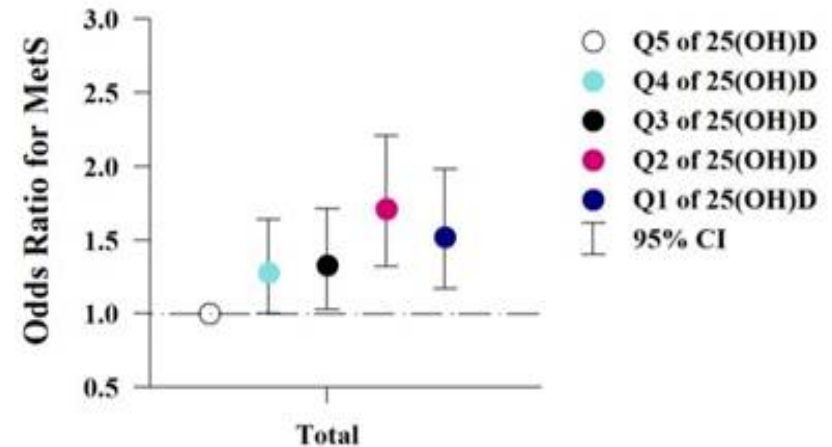
A population-based study (n=3280, aged 50-70 yrs)

Plasma 25(OH)D Profile

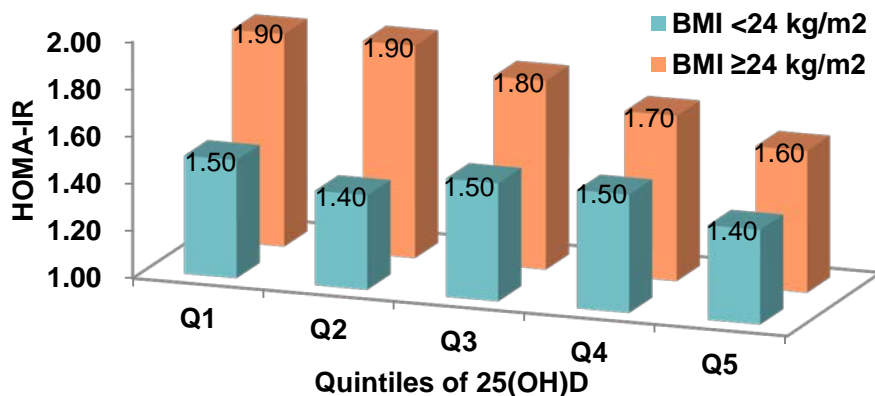
■ <50 nmol/l ■ 50 ≤ 25(OH)D < 75 nmol/l ■ ≥ 75 nmol/l



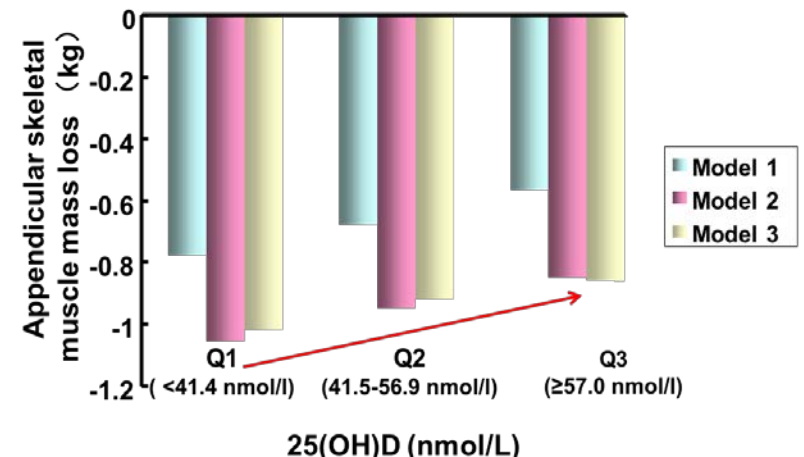
↓ 25(OH)D ↑ Metabolic Syndrome



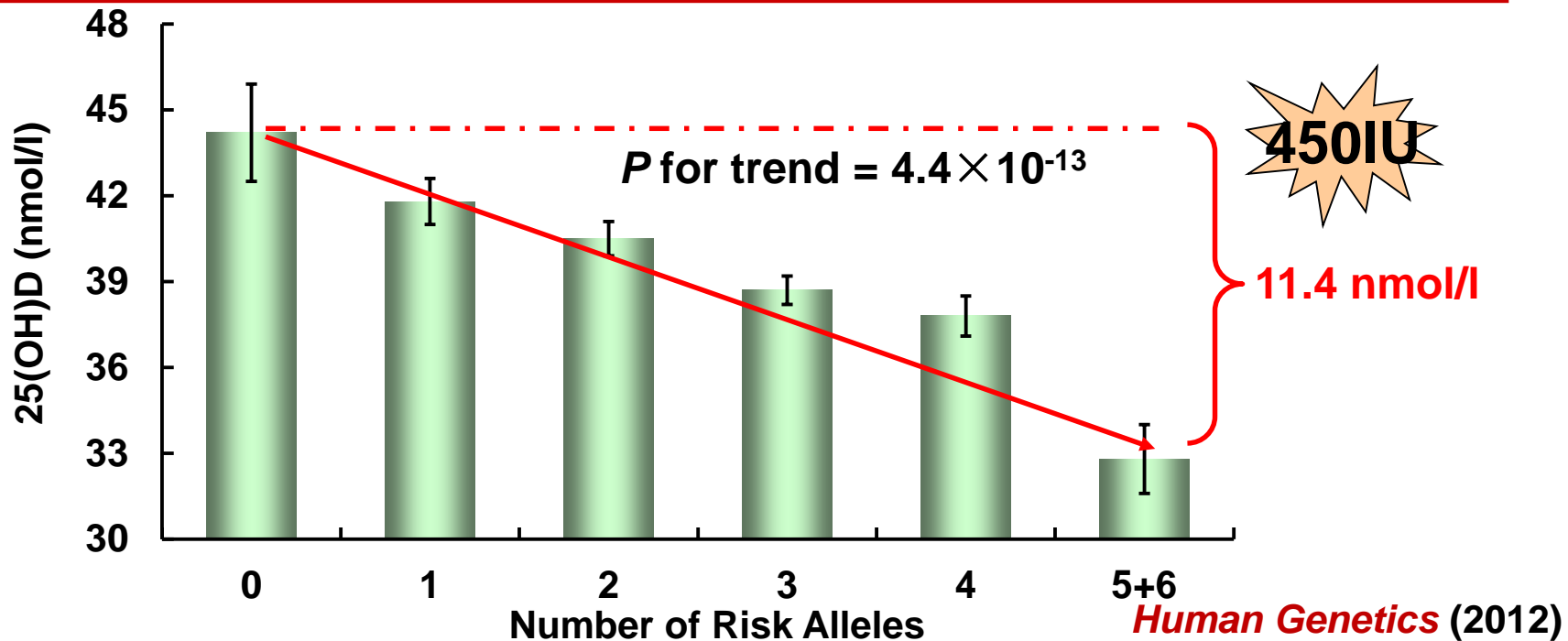
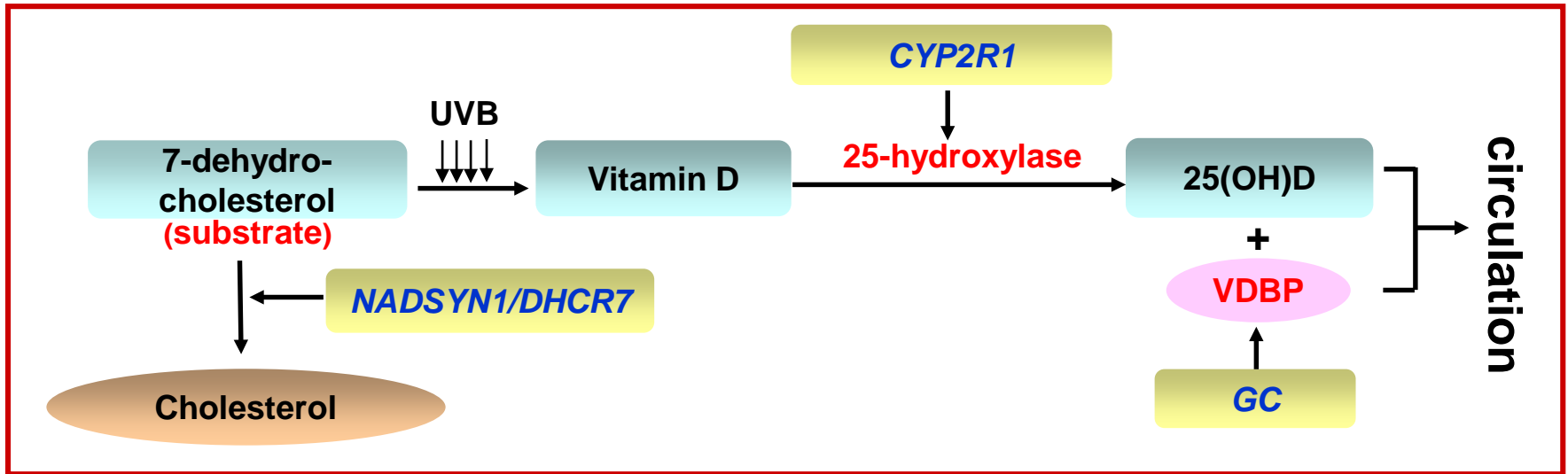
↓ 25(OH)D ↑ Insulin Resistance



↓ 25(OH)D ↑ 6yr Muscle Mass Loss



Vitamin D related Genetic Polymorphisms –Our data



Study Design for Vitamin D₃ Trials

Randomized Double-blind Placebo-controlled trials

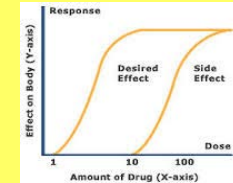
Trial I



75 Subjects
25(OH)D < 50 nmol/l

VitD₃ doses (IU/d)

- 0
- 400 Chinese RDA
- 800
- 1200
- 2000 Chinese UL



- Dose response
- Adverse effect

Dose



Time frame

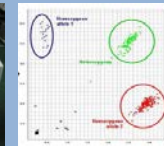
Trial II



400 Subjects
25(OH)D < 50 nmol/l

VitD₃ doses (IU/d)

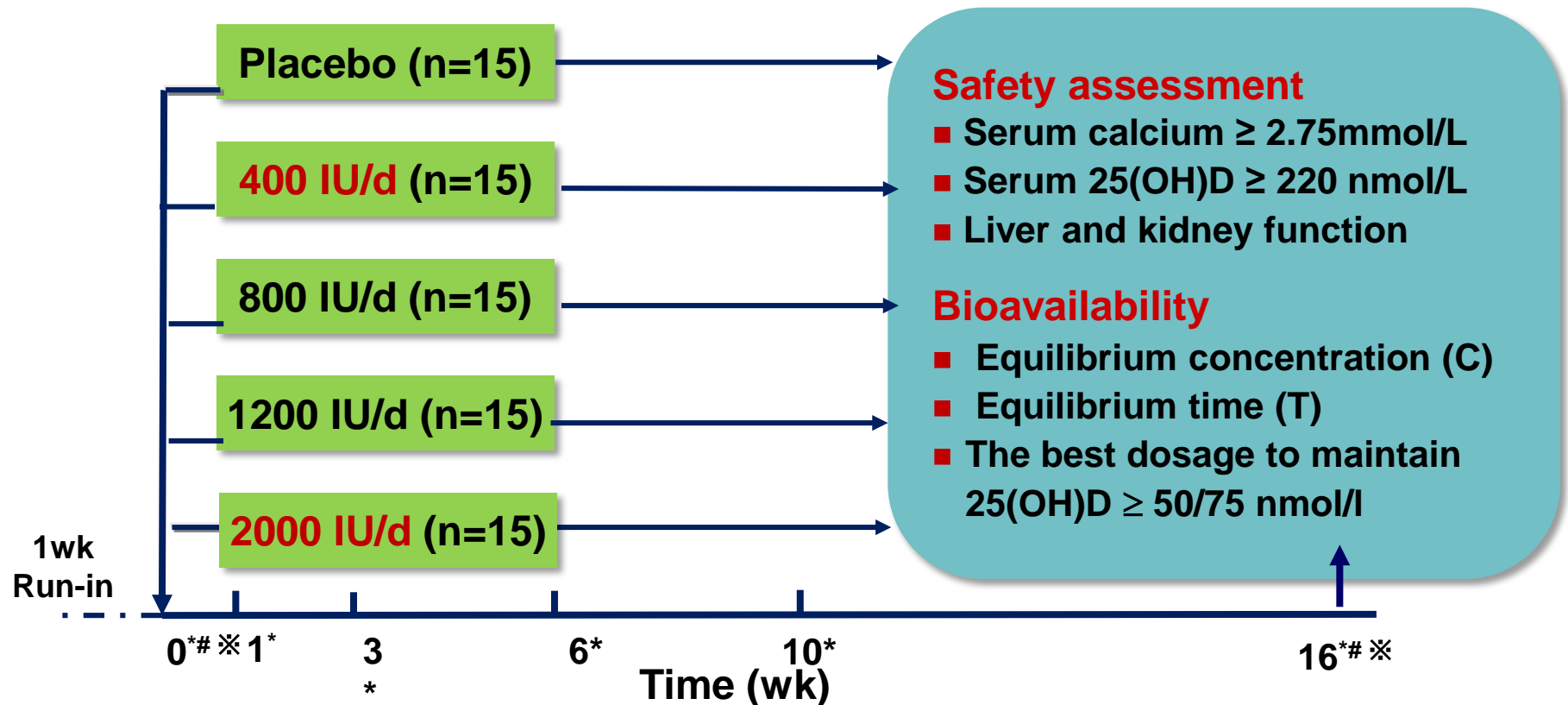
- 0
- 2000 IU



- VitD bioavailability
- Effects of genetic factor,
- VitD binding protein
- BMI, sex...

Trial I: A Dose–Response Study with VitD₃

- A 5-arm randomized, placebo-controlled trial
- 20-45 yrs with 25(OH)D <50nmol/l

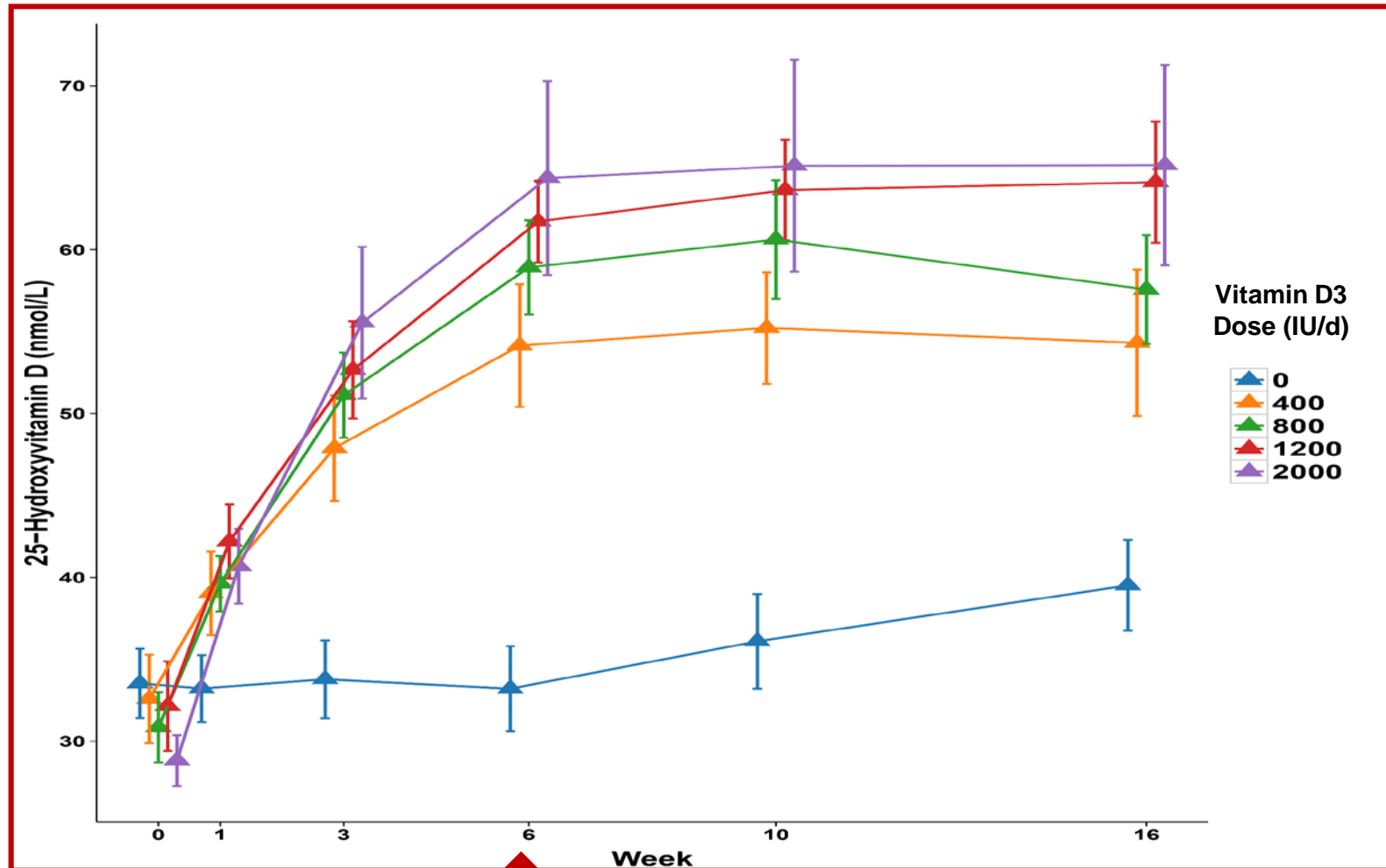


* Blood and urine collection # physical examination ✕ Questionnaires

A 3-day food record and information of sunlight exposure and supplement intake were collected every 4 wks

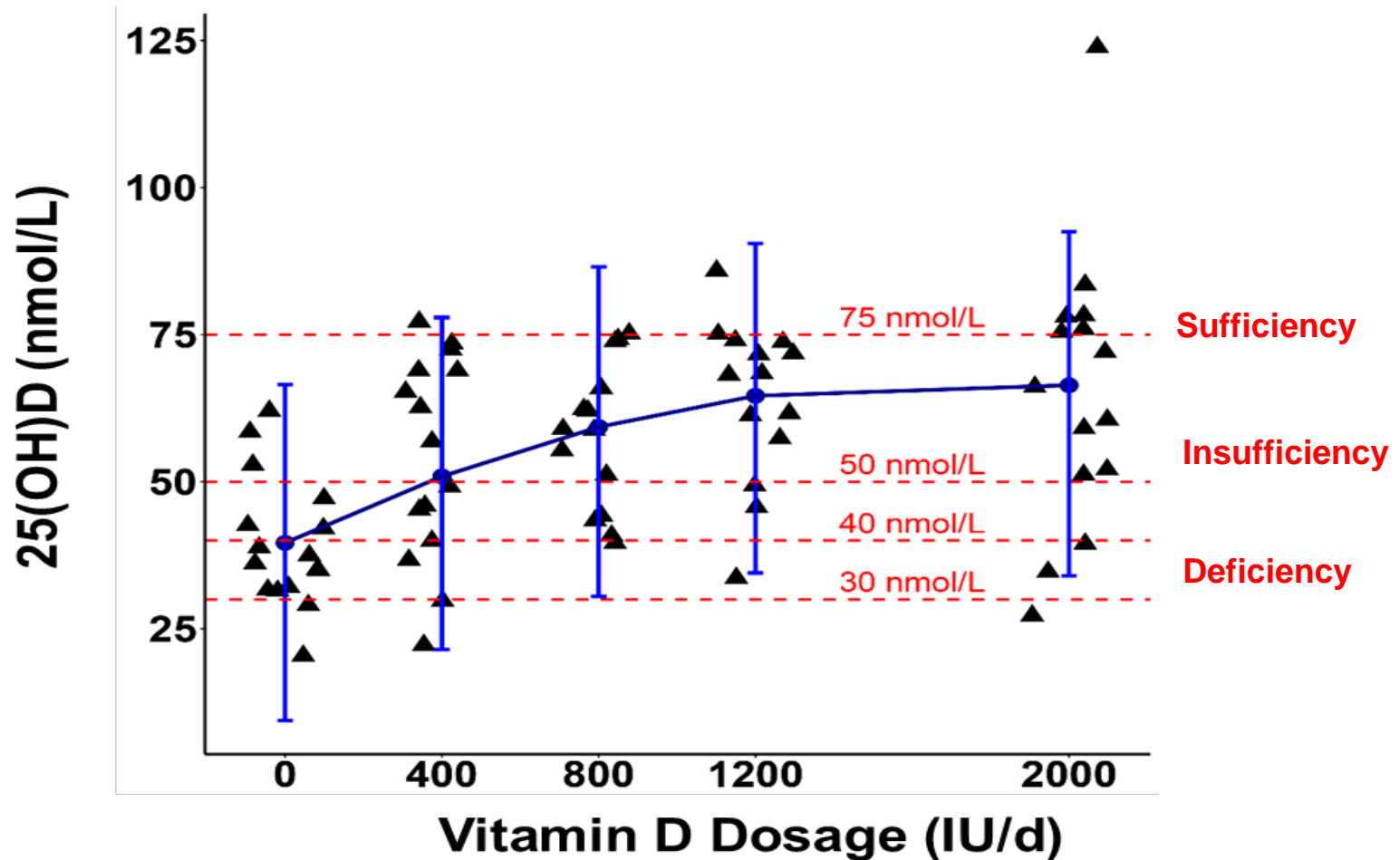
Trial I: Dose–Response

Serum 25(OH)D in all the doses (400-2000IU) of VitD₃ reached a plateau at about **week 6**



Trial I: Efficacy of VitD₃ Intervention

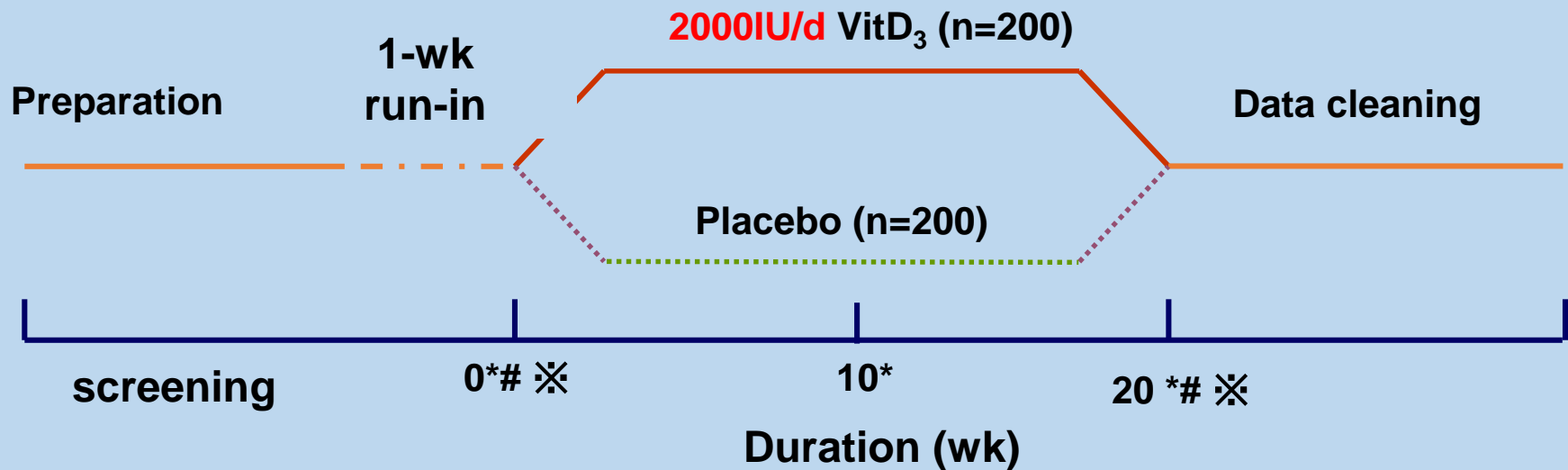
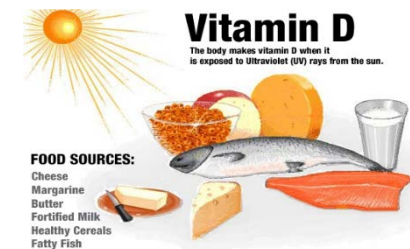
2000 IU/d VitD₃ for 16 weeks ↓80% deficiency without major adverse reactions



Trial II: Study Design

A double-blind randomized, controlled trial

- 20-40 yrs, 50% men
- $25(\text{OH})\text{D} < 50\text{nmol/L}$
- BMI: $18.5\text{-}28\text{ kg/m}^2$



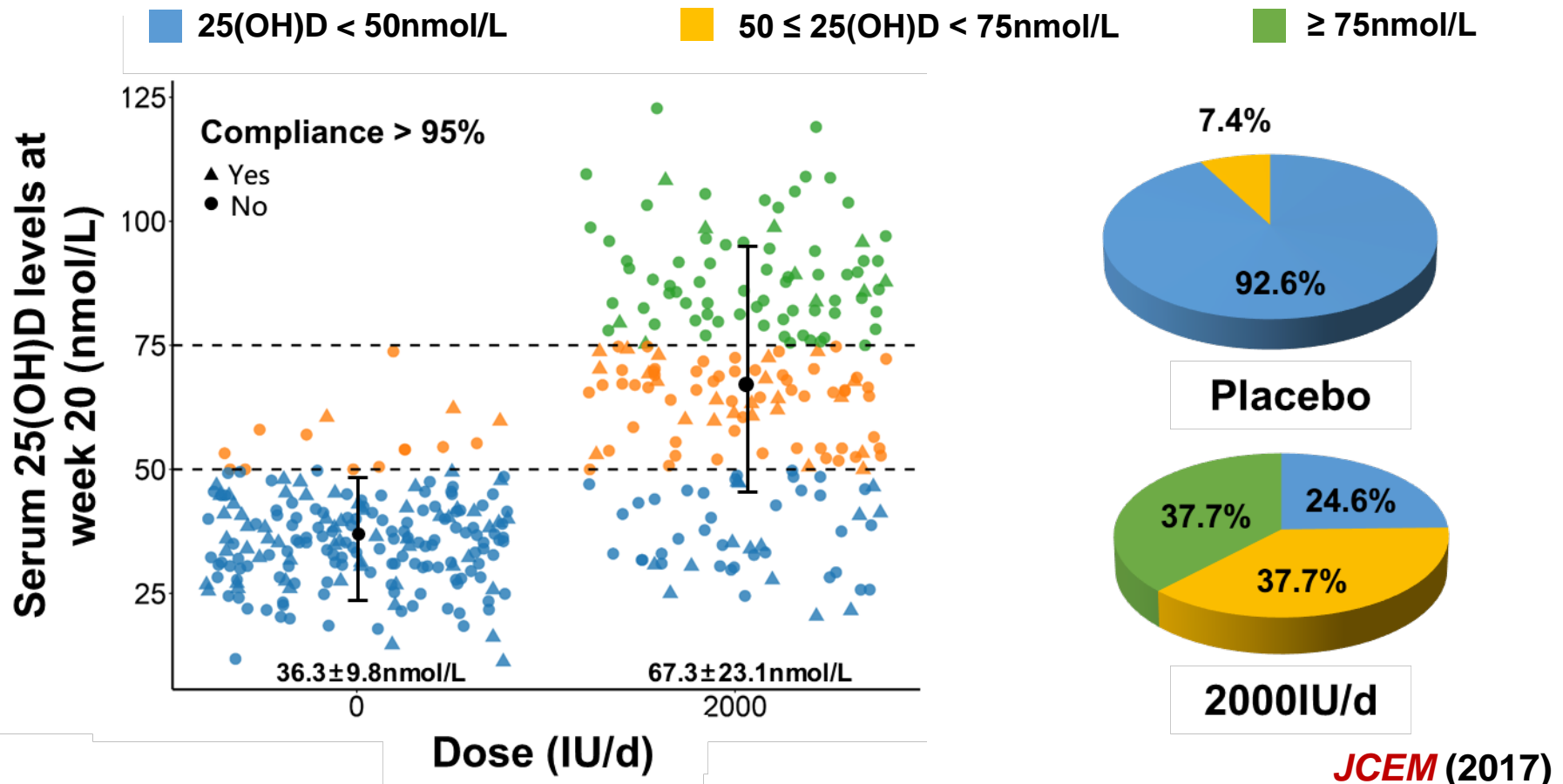
* Blood and urine collection # physical examination ✕ Questionnaires

A 3-d food record and information of sunlight exposure and supplement intake were collected at week 0, 10 and 20

Trial II: Changes of 25(OH)D Levels

Supplemented 2000IU/d VitD for 20 weeks:

- Net increase of 25(OH)D was $30.6 \pm 1.7 \text{ nmol/L}$
- There were **25%** participants with uncorrected deficiency



Vitamin D Bioavailability

“Vitamin D Paradox”? African Americans have a lower total serum 25(OH)D but superior bone health

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Vitamin D–Binding Protein and Vitamin D Status of Black Americans and White Americans

Community-dwelling black Americans, as compared with whites, had low levels of total 25-hydroxyvitamin D and vitamin D–binding protein, resulting in similar concentrations of estimated bioavailable 25-hydroxyvitamin D. Racial differences in the prevalence of common genetic polymorphisms provide a likely explanation for this observation. (Funded by the National Institute on Aging and others.)

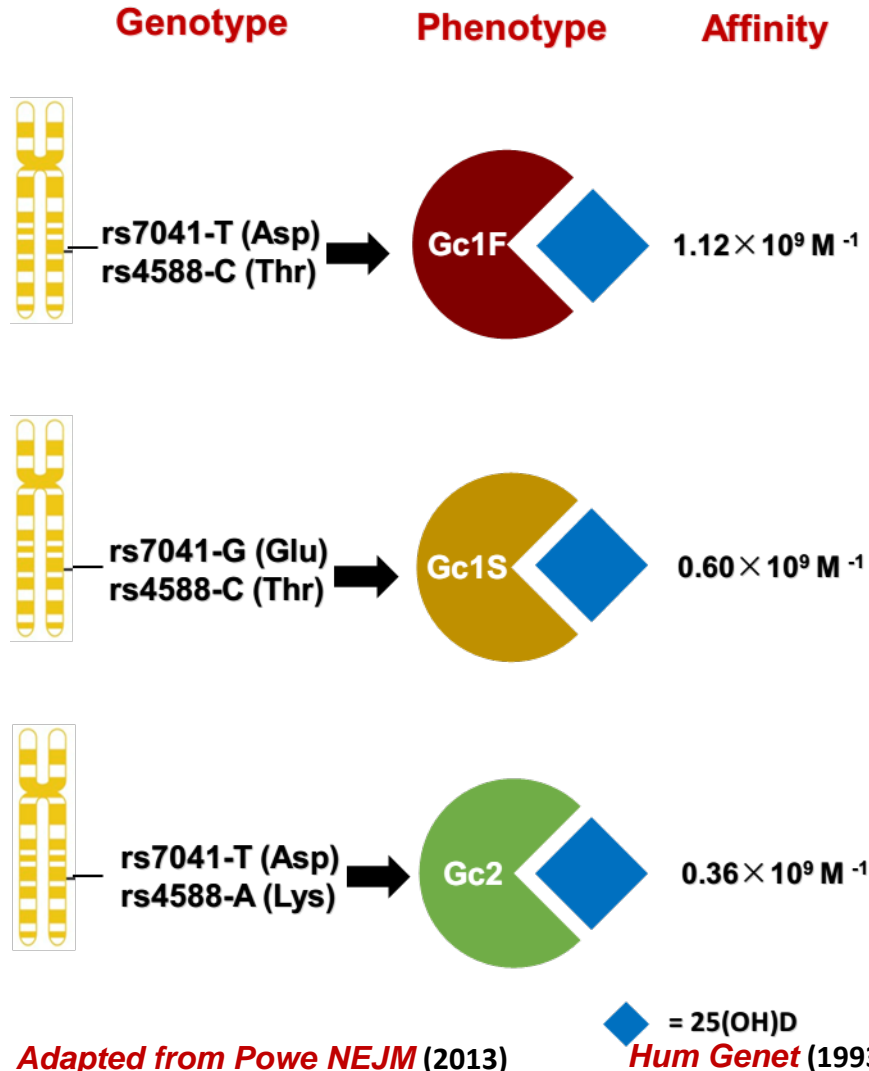
Total 25(OH)D: VDBP-bound (85-90%) + Albumin-bound (10-15%) + Free (< 1%)

Bioavailable 25(OH)D (25[OH]D_{Bio})

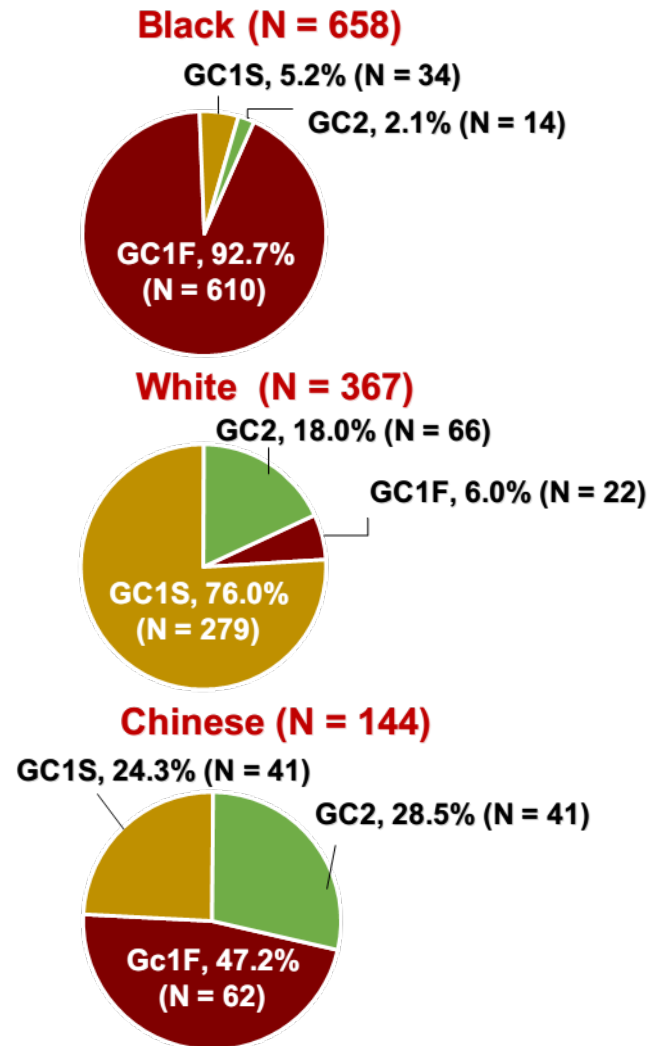
Cross-sectional studies suggested that associations of 25(OH)D_{Bio} with serum calcium, PTH or BMD status were stronger than those associations of 25(OH)D

GC Polymorphisms and VDBP Isoforms

SNPs in GC produce VDBP variants with different affinities



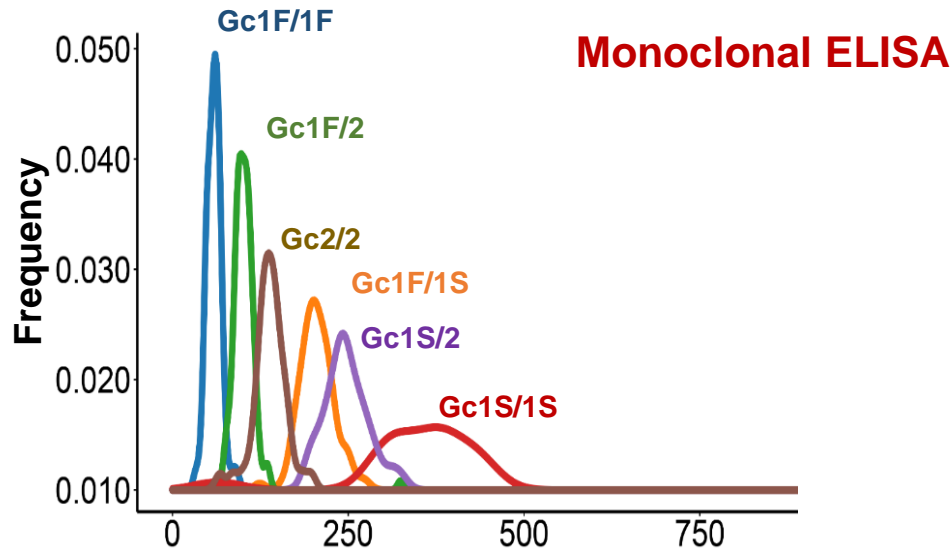
Ethnic difference in homozygotes distribution



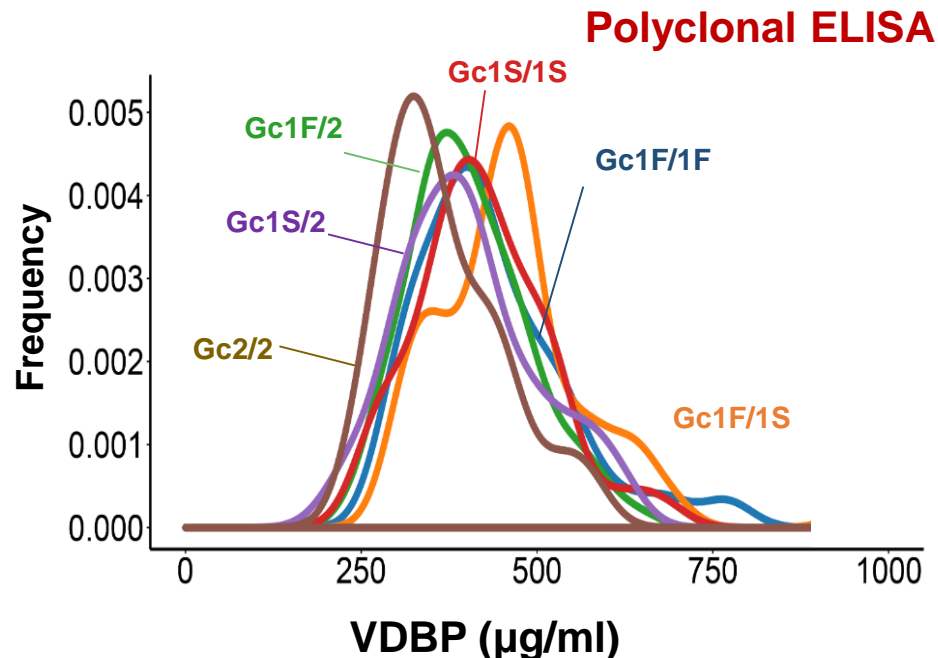
Adapted from Powe *NEJM* (2013)

JCEM (2017)

VDBP Measured by Mono- and Polyclonal ELISAs

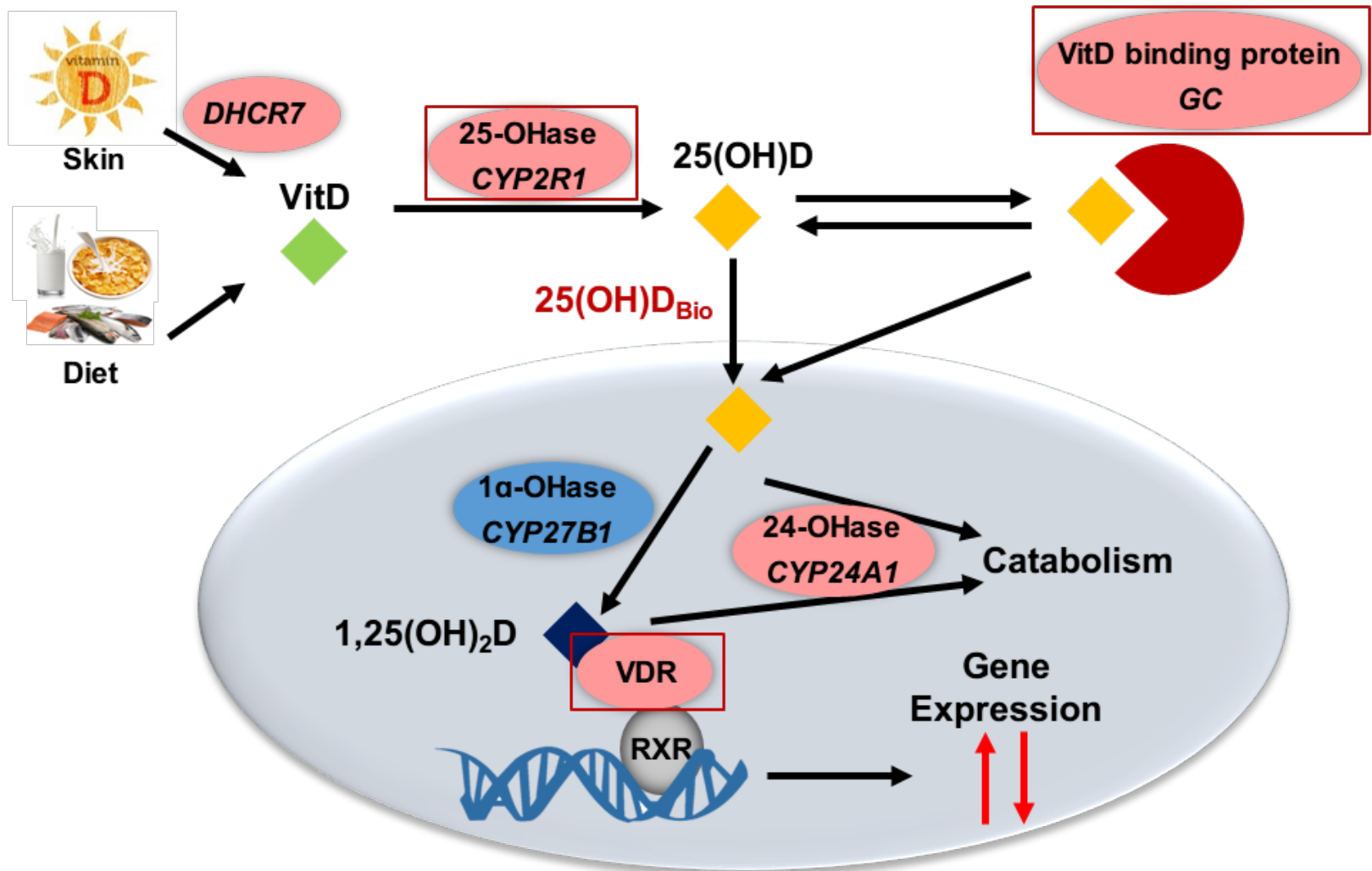


- **Monoclonal ELISA:**
 $165.3 \pm 90.4 \mu\text{g/ml}$
- **Polyclonal ELISA**
 $418.7 \pm 99.0 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ($P < 0.001$)



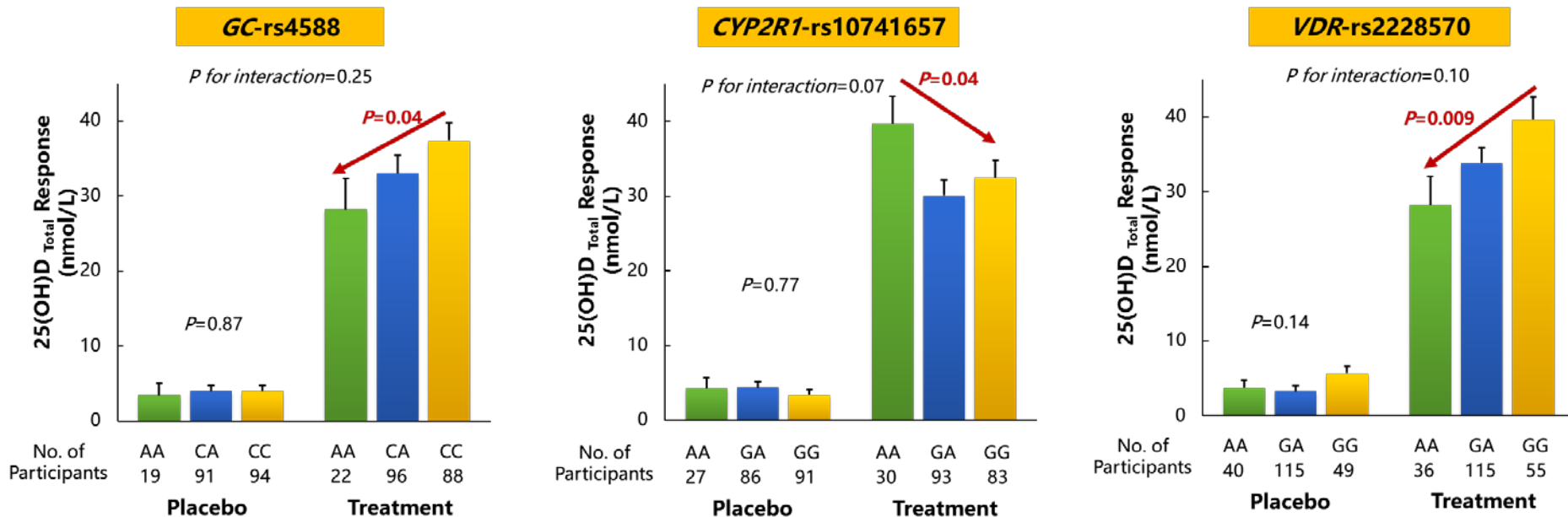
- **The polyclonal ELISA is a prefer method to assess VDBP and $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_{\text{Bio}}$ for populations with relatively higher **Gc1F/1F** frequency like Blacks and Chinese**

Vitamin D Metabolism Pathway



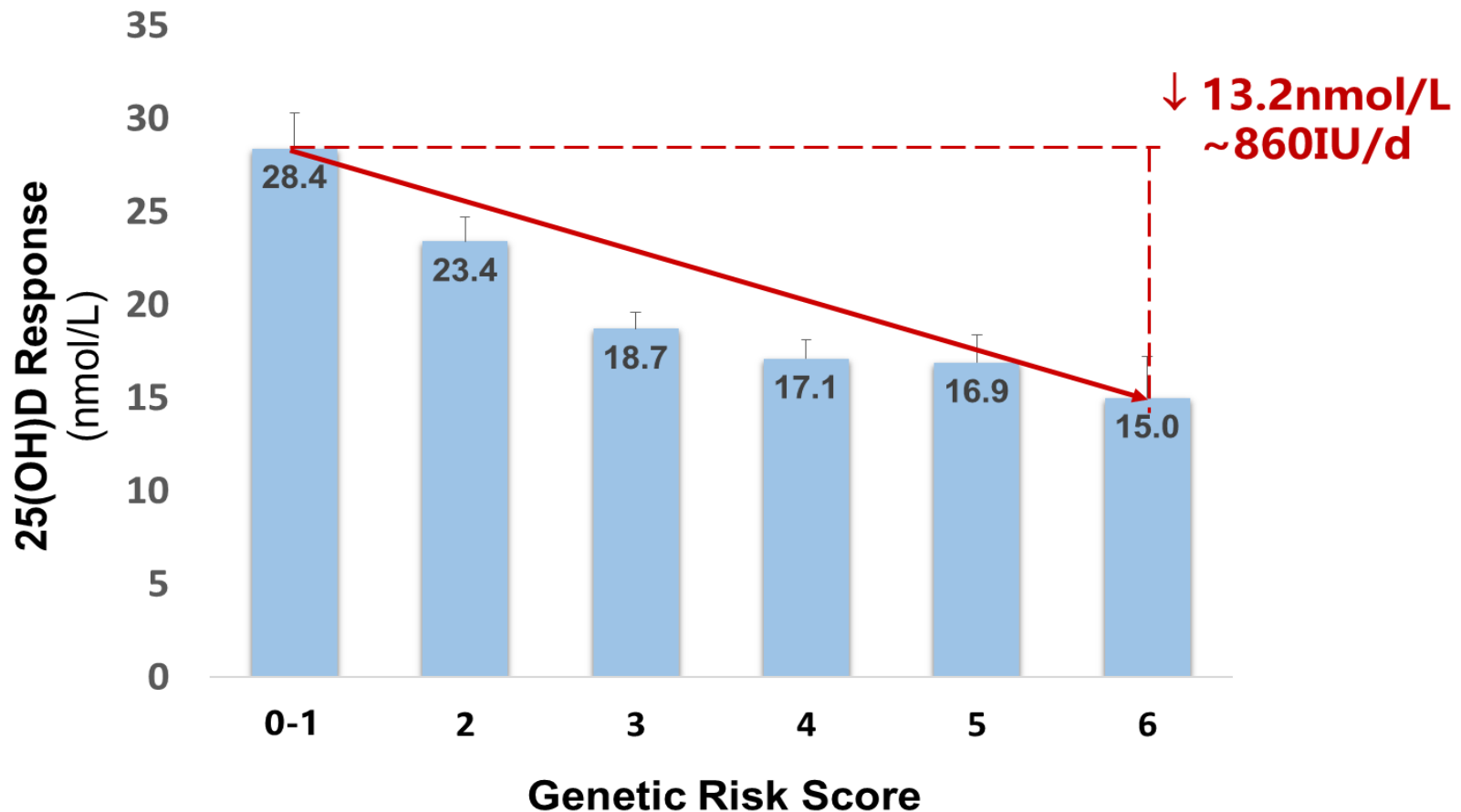
Trial II: Gene Variants and 25(OH)D Responses

GC-rs4588 A, CYP2R1-rs10741657 G and VDR-rs2228570 A alleles were associated with ↓ 25(OH)D responses



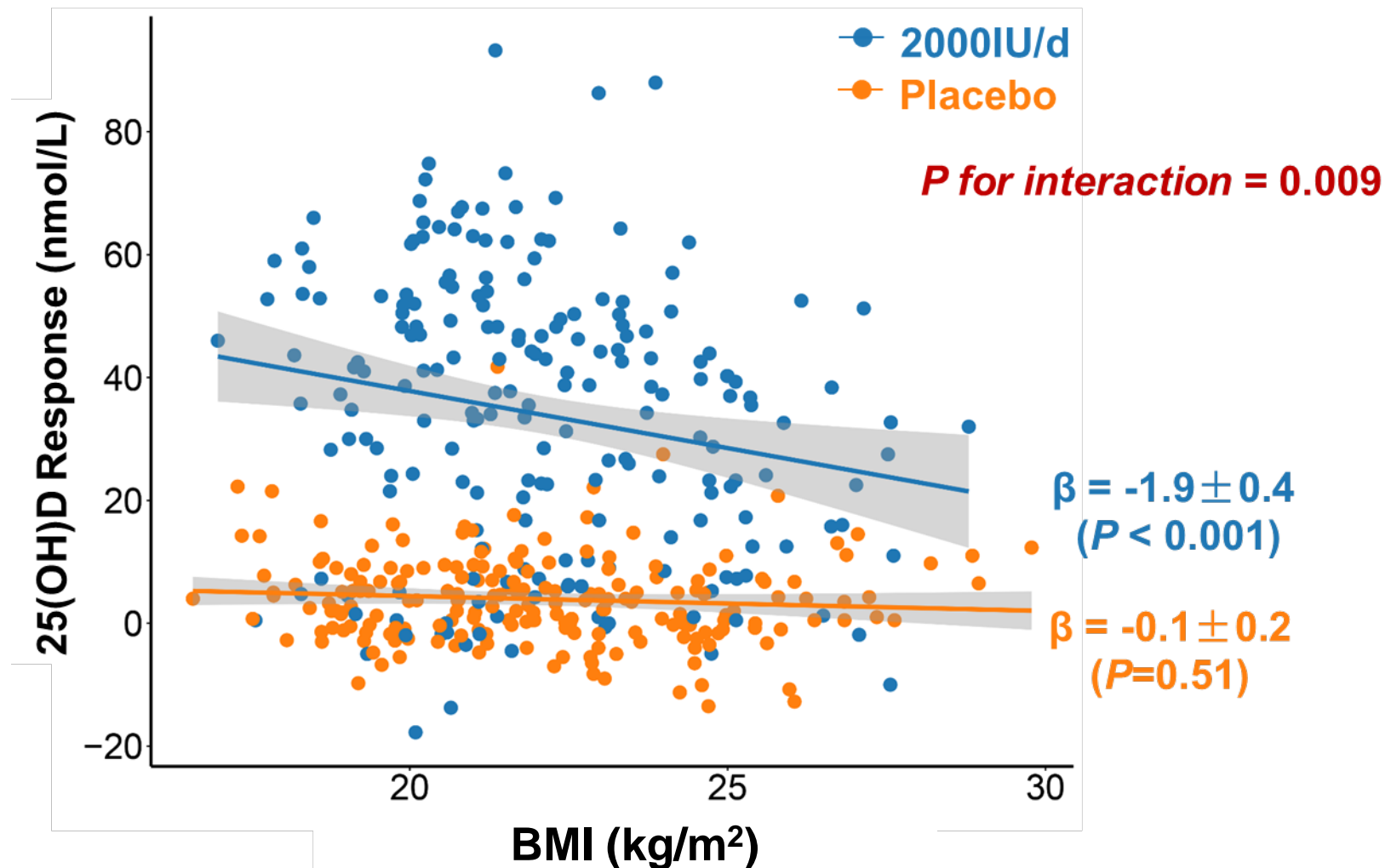
Trial II: GRS×Treatment Interaction and 25(OH)D Responses

- **Genetic risk score (GRS)** = rs4588-A + rs10741657-G + rs2228570-A
- **GRS×Treatment interaction** ($P_{for\ interaction} = 0.04$)



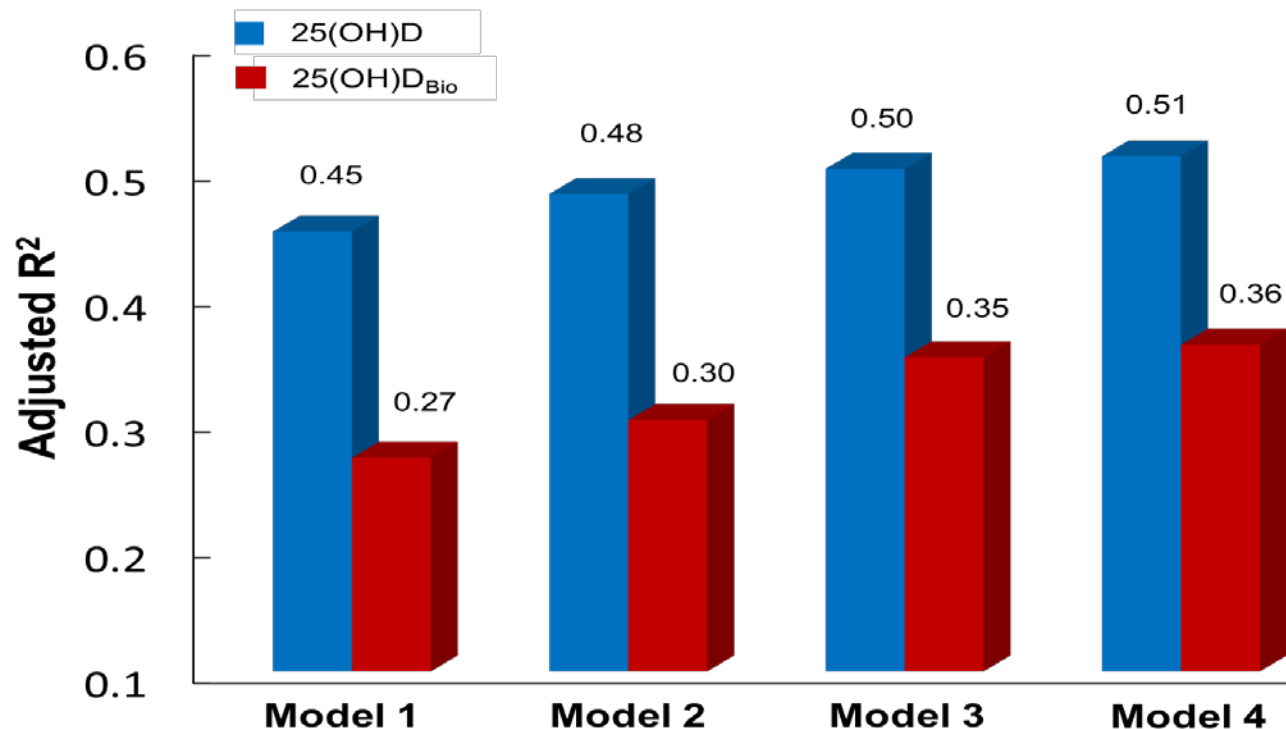
Trial II: BMI and 25(OH)D Responses

↑ BMI per unit → ↓ 25(OH)D responses by 1.9nmol/L



Trial II: Effects of Genetic and Non-genetic Factors

Genetic factors showed stronger impacts than non-genetic factors on 25(OH)D and 25(OH)D_{Bio} responses



Model 1: dose

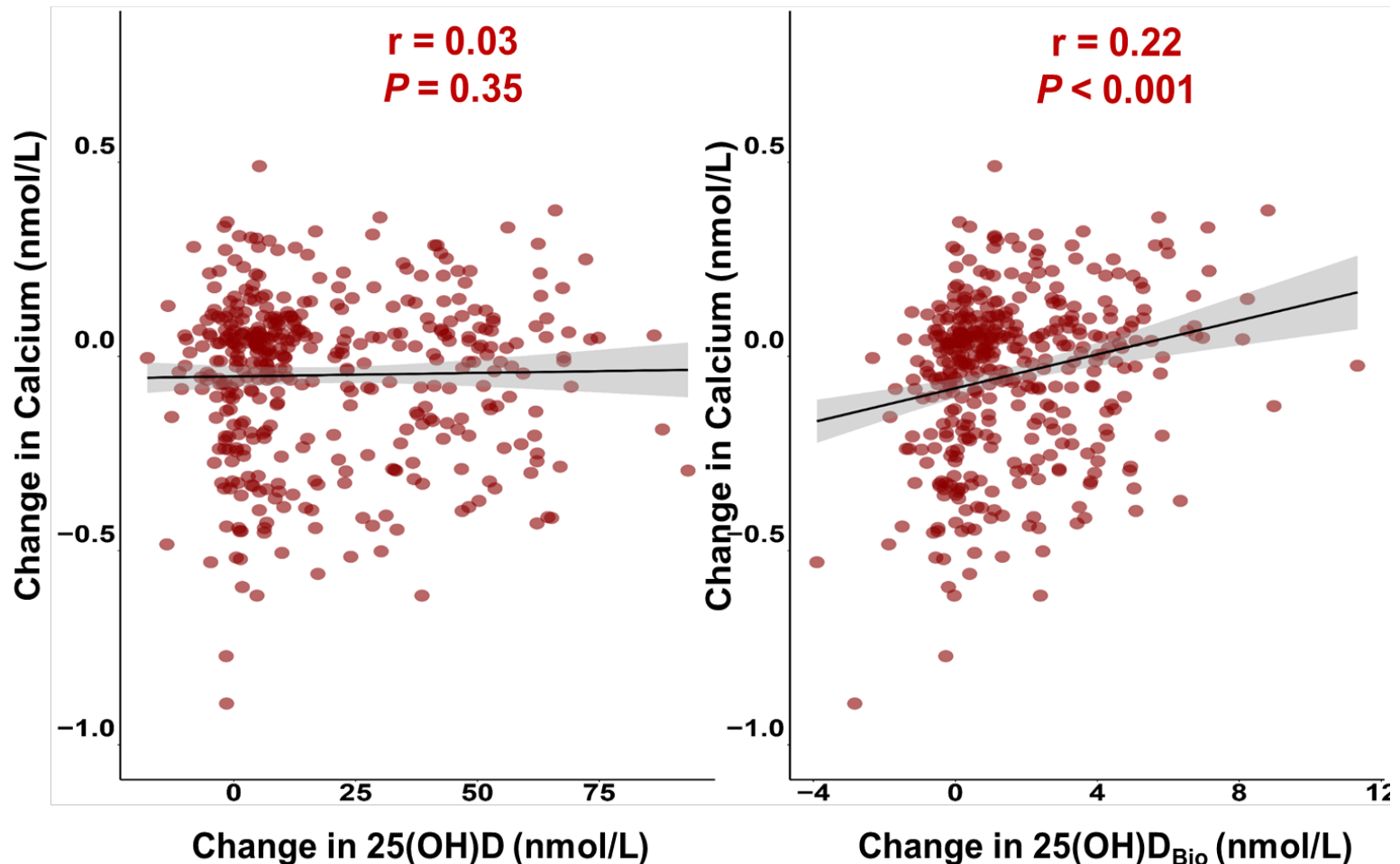
Model 2: model 1 + non-genetic factors (basal values, gender, BMI)

Model 3: model 1 + genetic factors (genetic risk score)

Model 4: model 2 + model 3

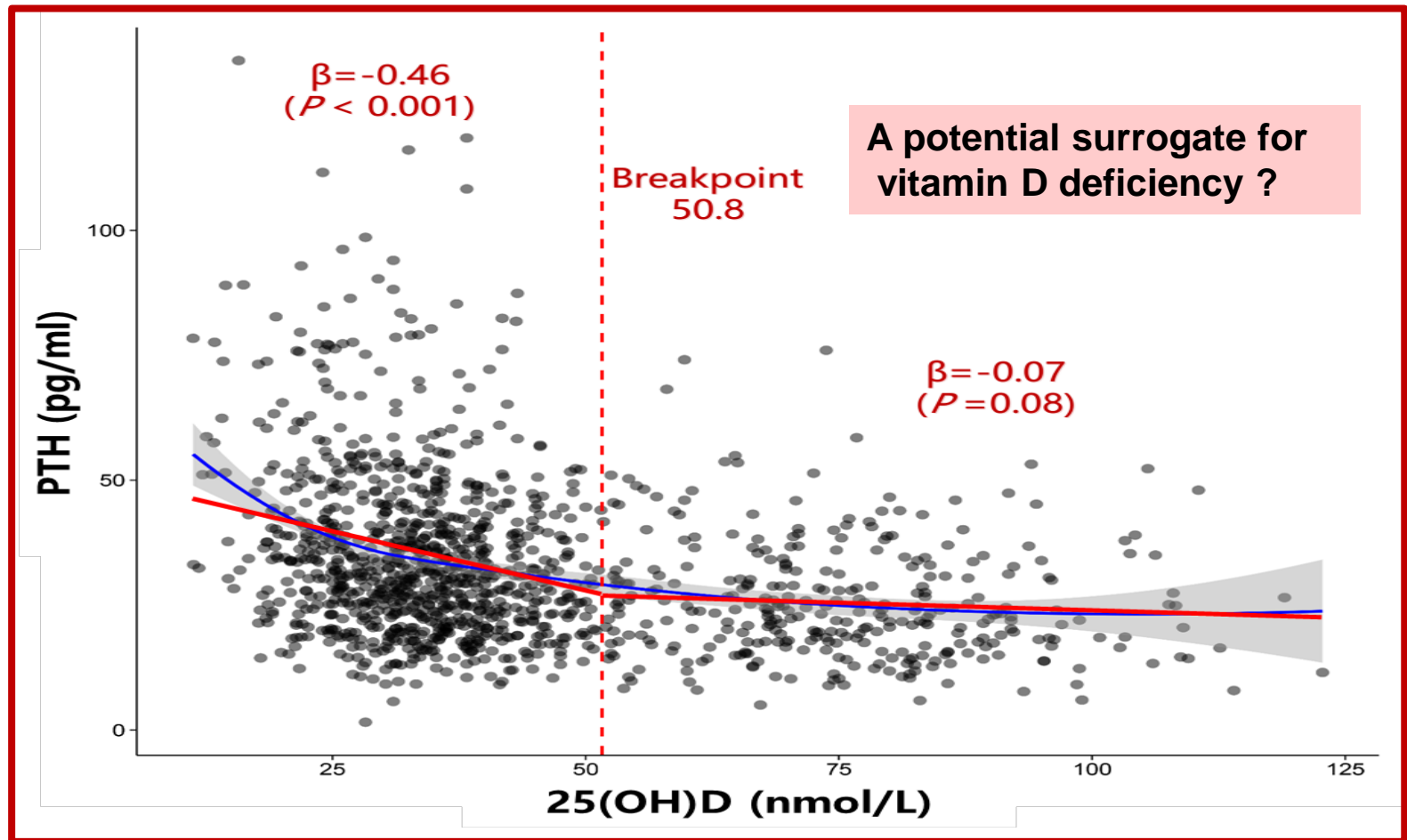
Trial II: Serum Calcium and 25(OH)D

Only change of 25(OH)D_{Bio} was positively associated with change of serum calcium



Trial II: 25(OH)D Threshold for PTH Suppression

Serum PTH level was maximally suppressed when
 $25(\text{OH})\text{D} \geq 50.8 \text{ nmol/L}$



Summary

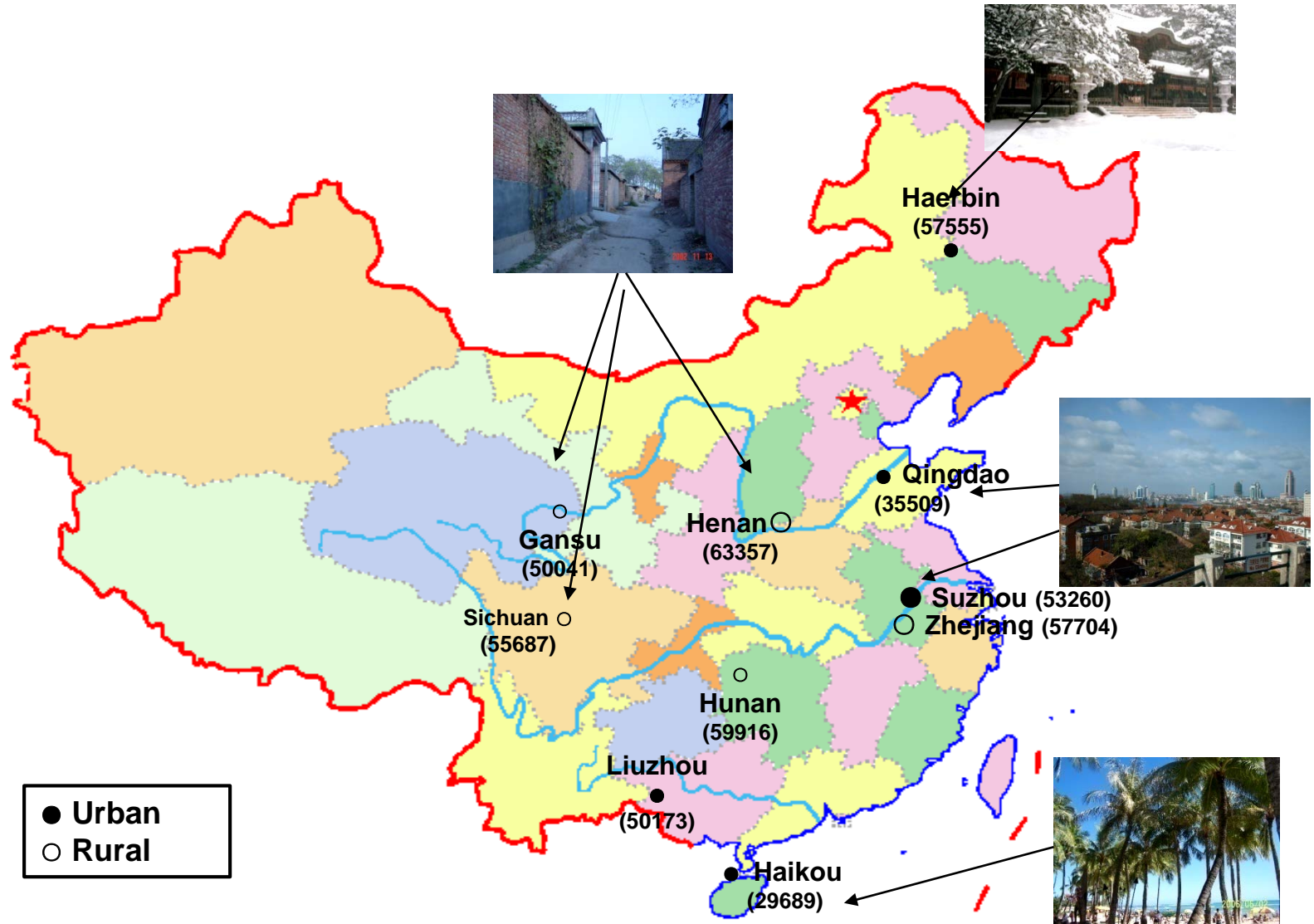
- Daily supplemented 2000 IU VitD₃ ↑ total and bioavailable 25(OH)D levels, but still left uncorrected deficiency
- 25(OH)D_{Bio} might provide additional information reflecting vitamin

When waiting for more studies with bone and cardiovascular outcomes, it is important to take trans-ethnic and interpersonal variations of genetic and non-genetic factors into account for precise vitamin D recommendation and assessment

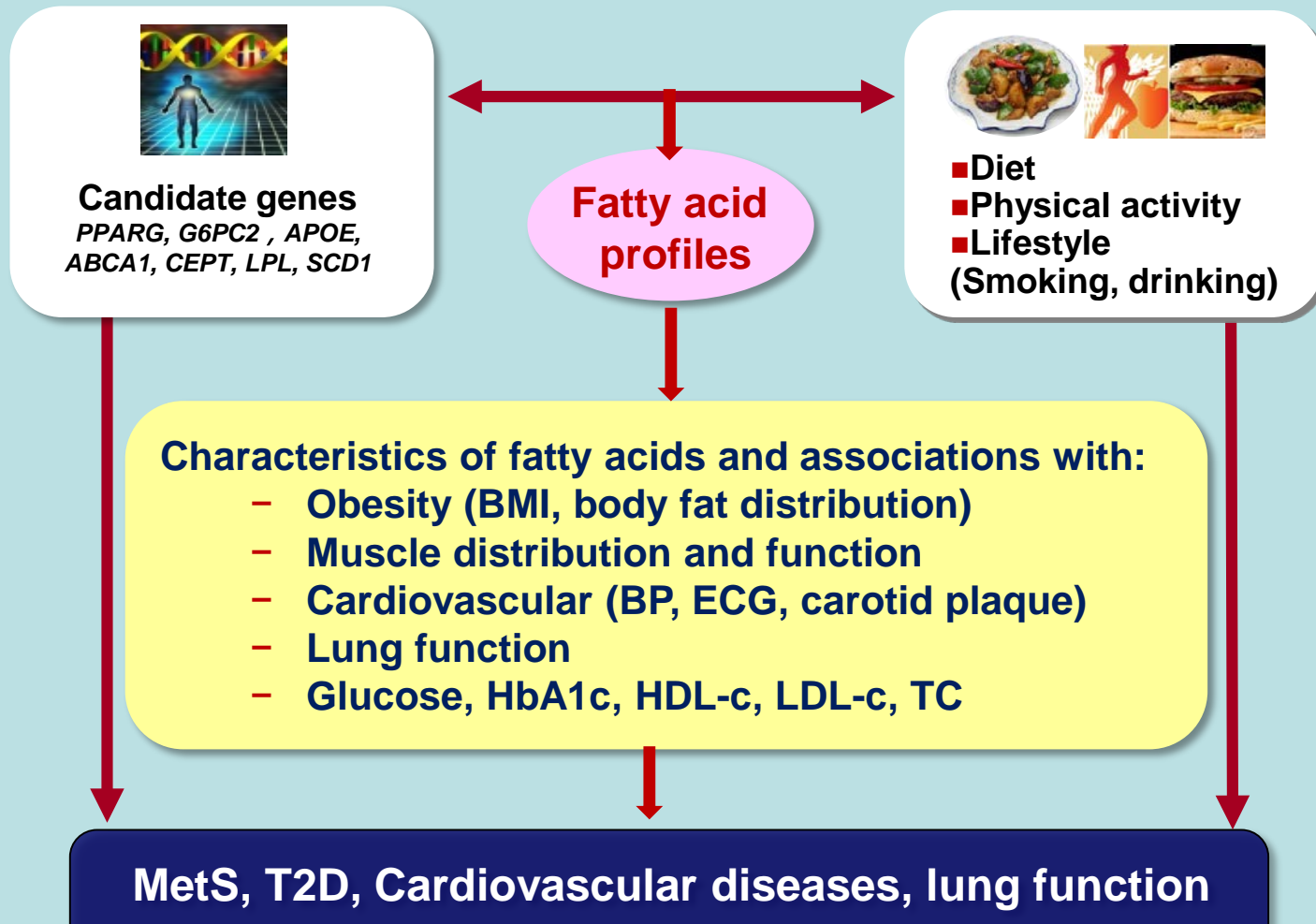
Outline

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 - Observational studies
 - Intervention trials
- **Currently ongoing studies**

Measuring Fatty Acids (N= 10,000) from China Kadoorie Biobank Study (n=0.5 million, 10 locations)

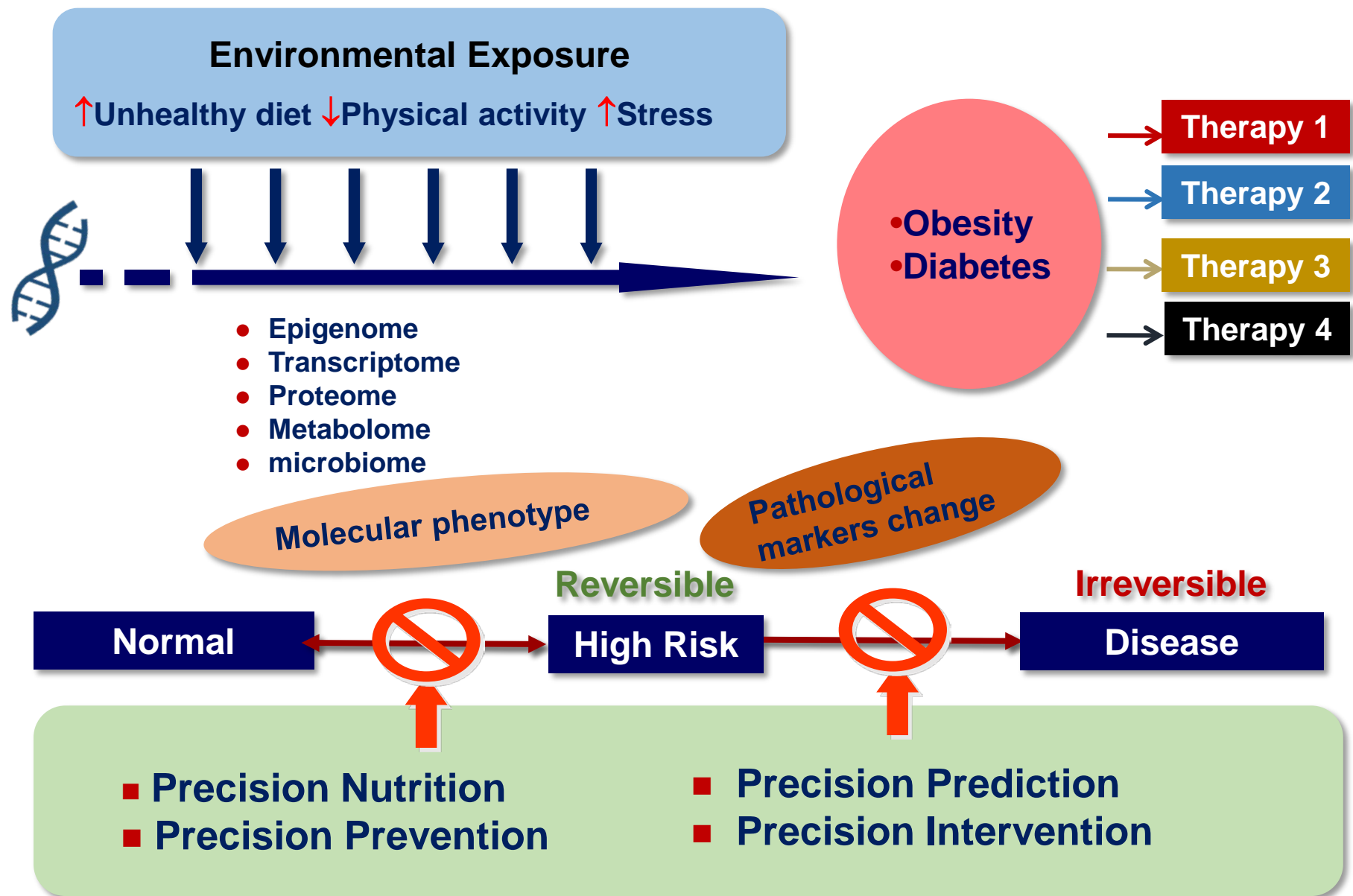


Fatty acids and Metabolic Diseases

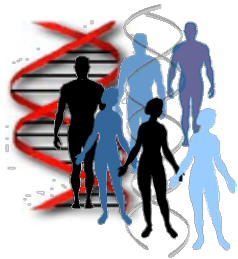


- Identify fatty acids that are closely associated with diseases.
- Genetic and environmental factors contributing to fatty acid levels.
- Lay foundation for disease prediction.

National Precision Medicine Project for Metabolic Disease



What We Could Do Together?



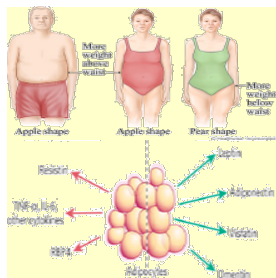
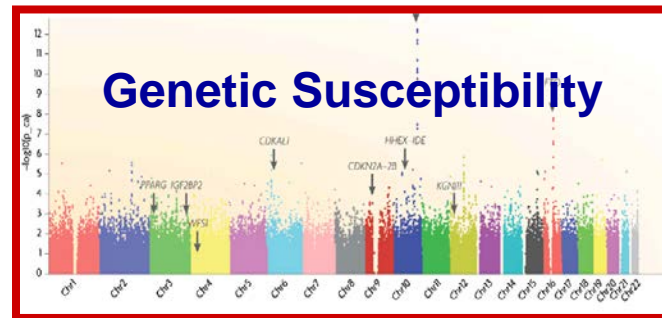
Gene-Gene



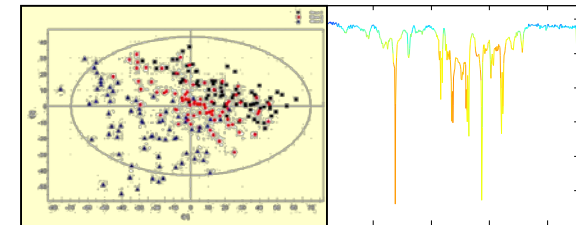
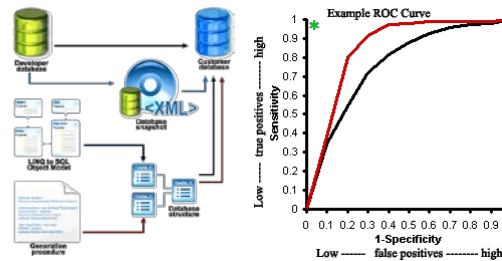
Ethnic Differences



Gene-Environment



Gene-Phenotype



Matebolomics

Better Nutrition and Better Health

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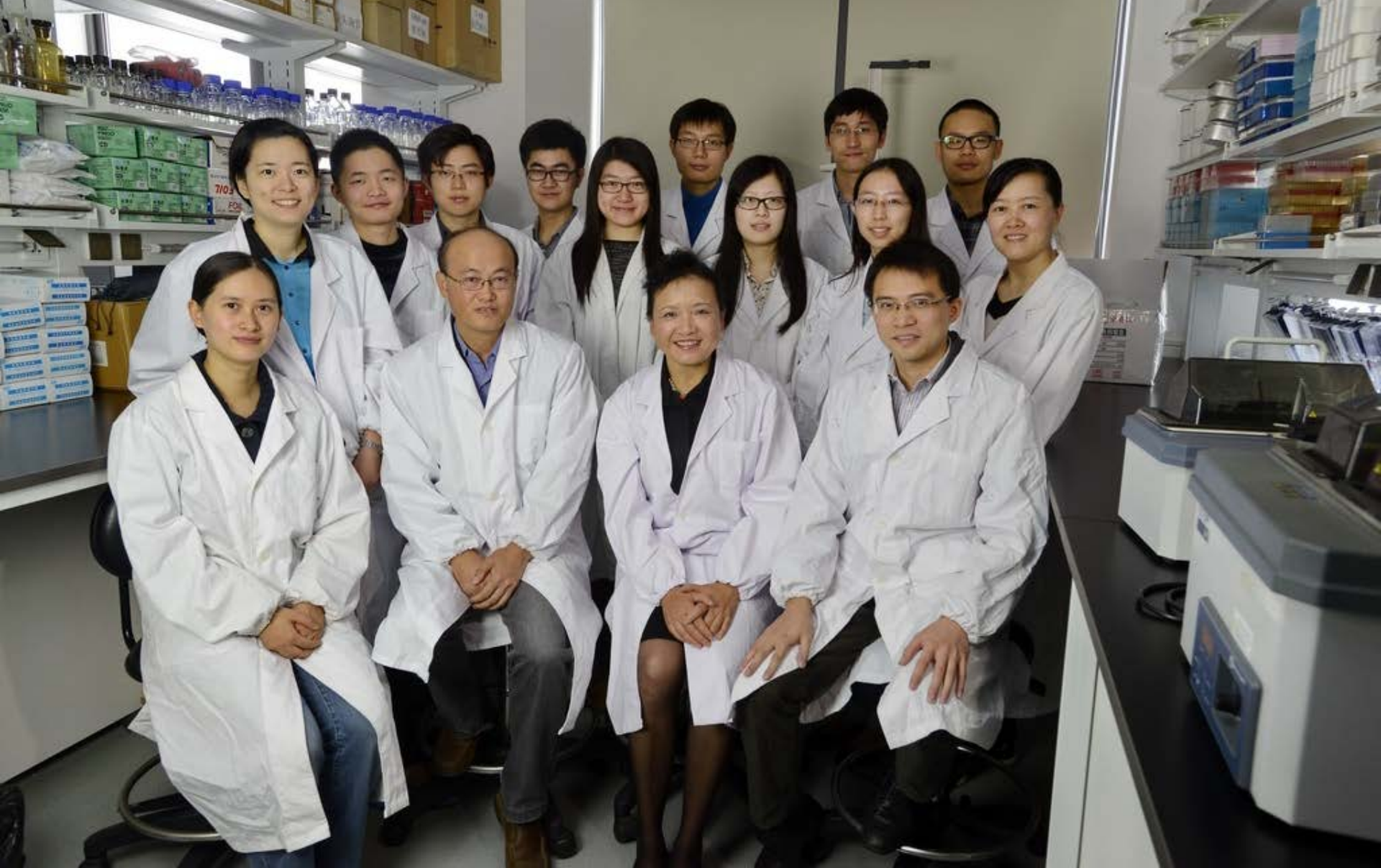
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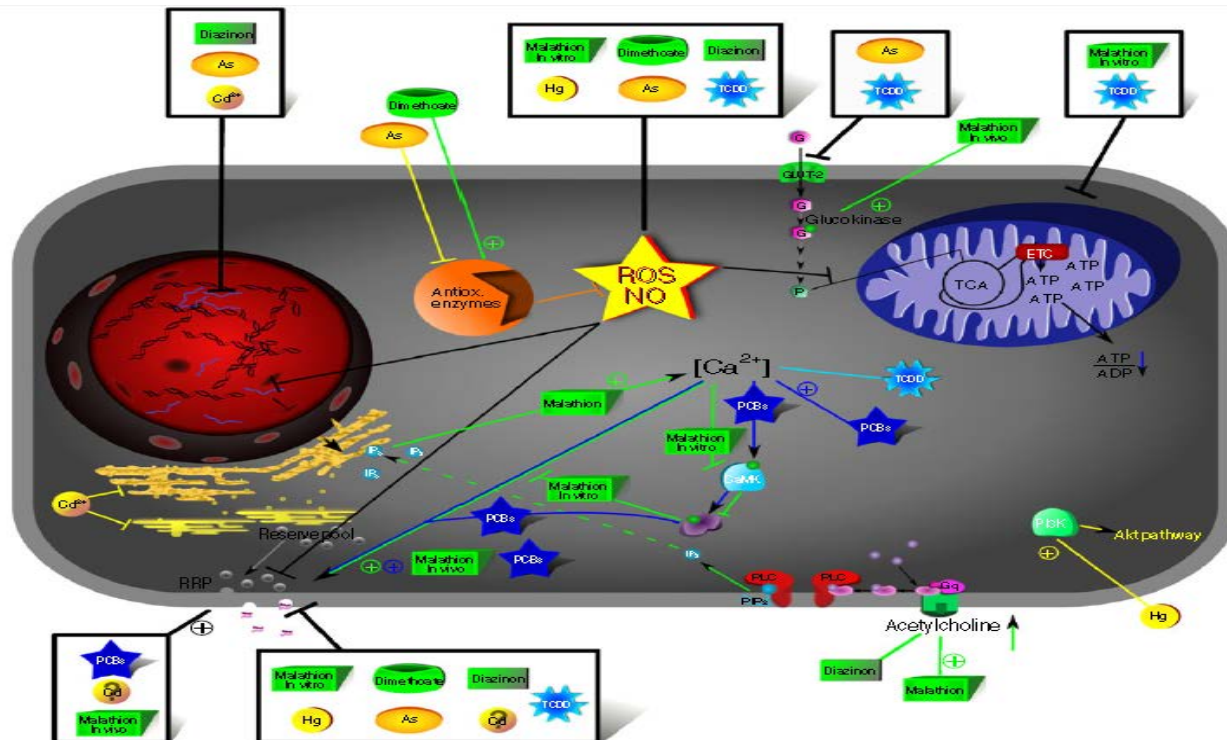
Dr. Xiafei Chen



Thanks!

Nickel and Type 2 Diabetes

- Source: alloy, electroplating, nickel-cadmium battery, burning coal, fuel oil and waste.
- Animal studies: induced hyperglycemia.
- Human population-based data : **not available**



Toxicology (1992)

Diabetologia (2011)

Ecotoxicol Environ Saf (2012)