

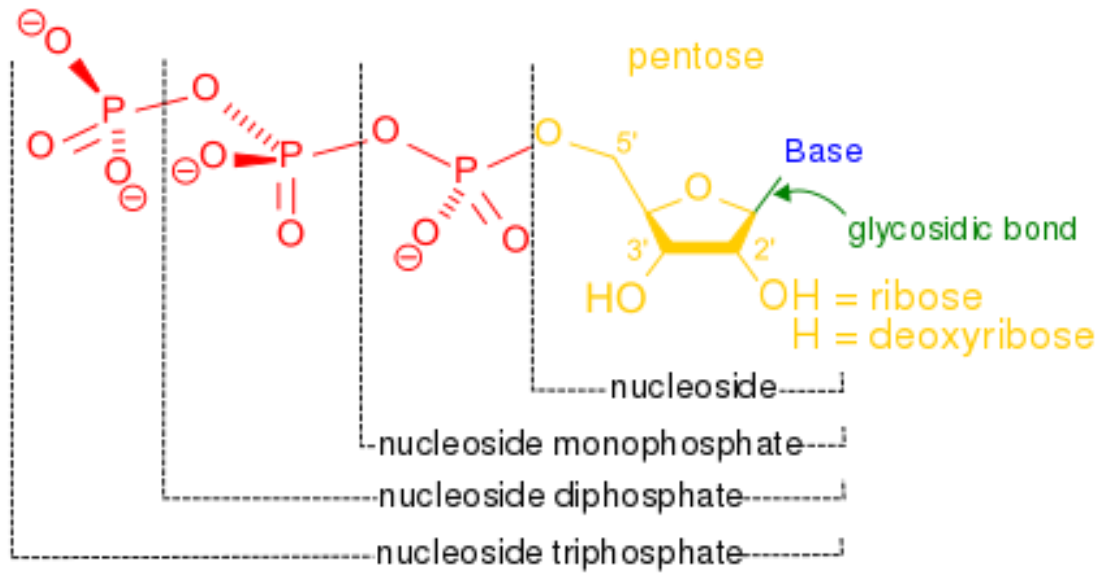
**Genetics of complex traits:  
genetics of human longevity as a case**

$$P = G \times E$$

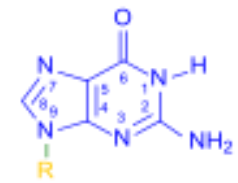
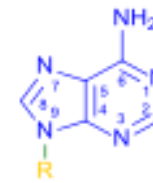
$$P = G \times E$$



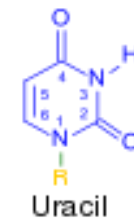
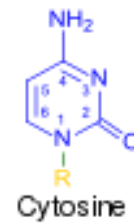
# NUCLEOTIDES

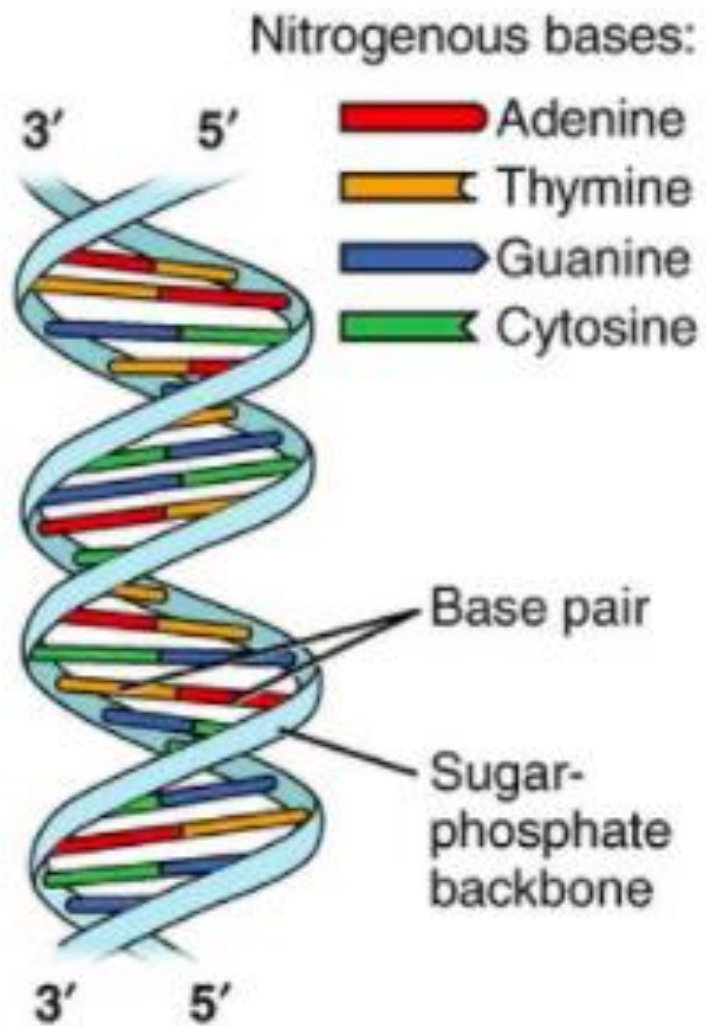


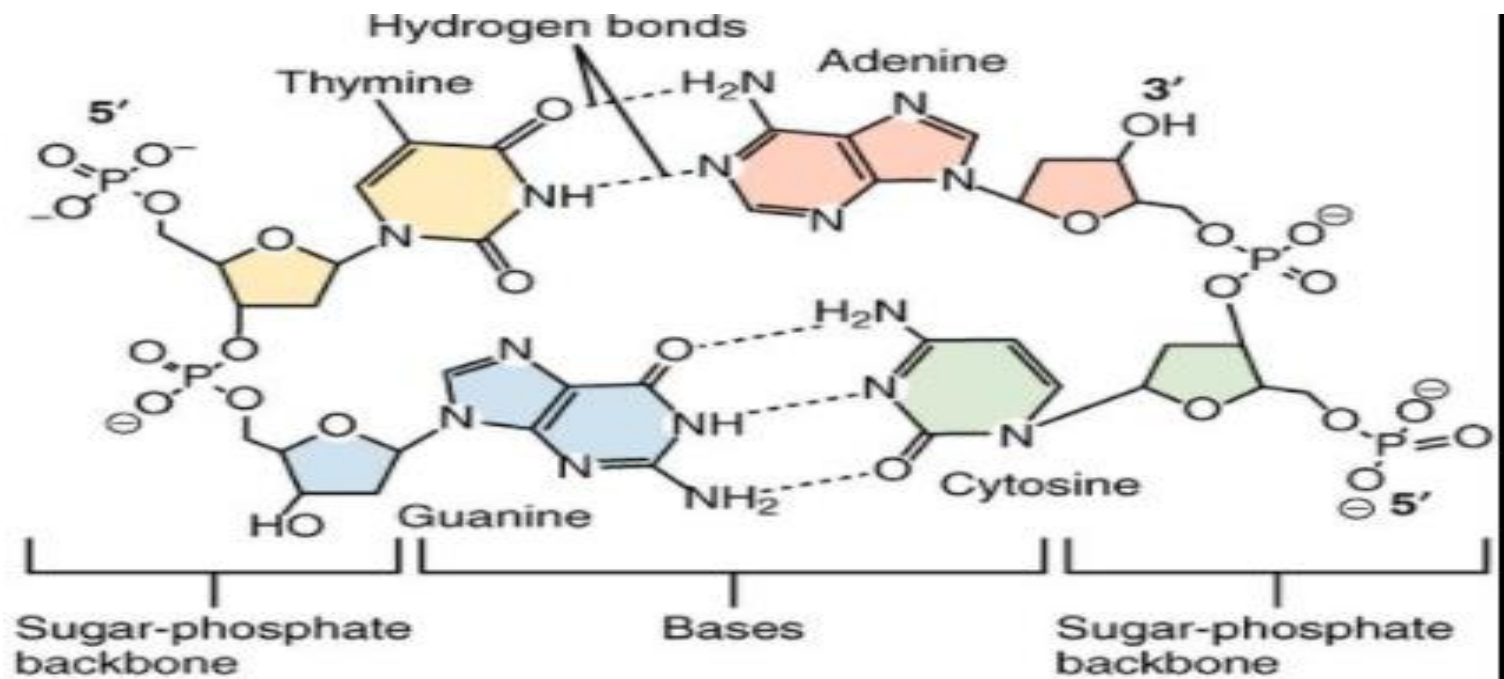
## Purines



## Pyrimidines





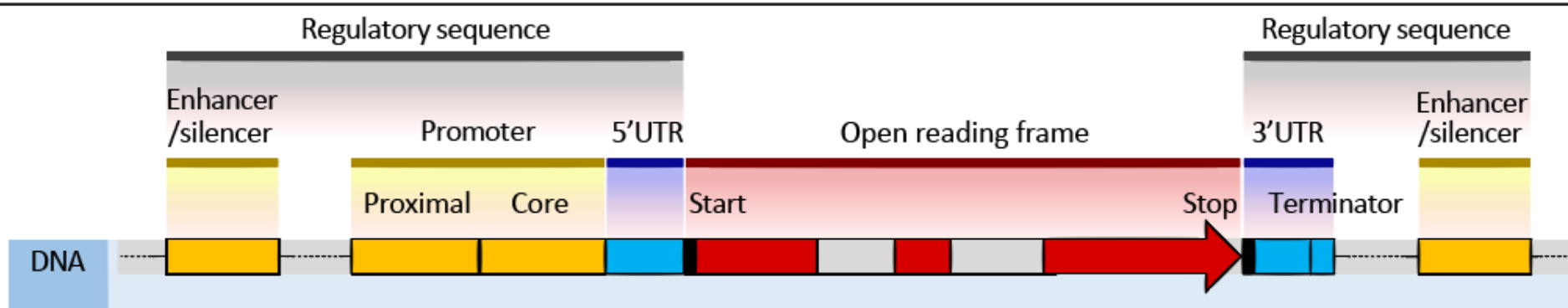


## GENOME ORGANIZATION

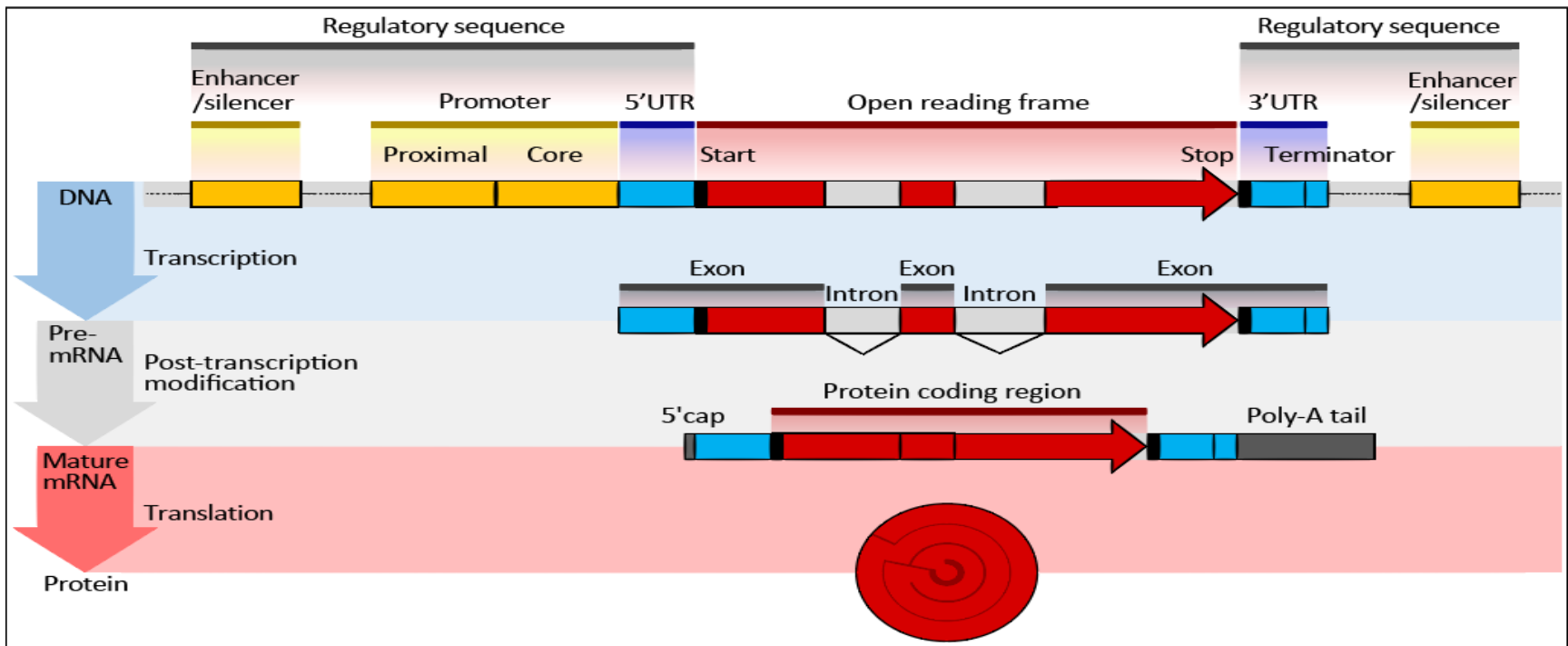
- DNA is organised in long linear molecules
- The human genome is composed by more than 3 billions of nucleotides (6 billions if we consider the diploid state)
- In each cells of an individual we found 2 copy of 23 DNA molecules, named chromosomes  
(44 autosomic chromosomes + 2 sex chromosomes)
- 1,5% of the genome encodes for genes (about 30K genes)
- 98.5% of the genome is constituted by not coding regions, characterised by low complexity sequence



# GENE



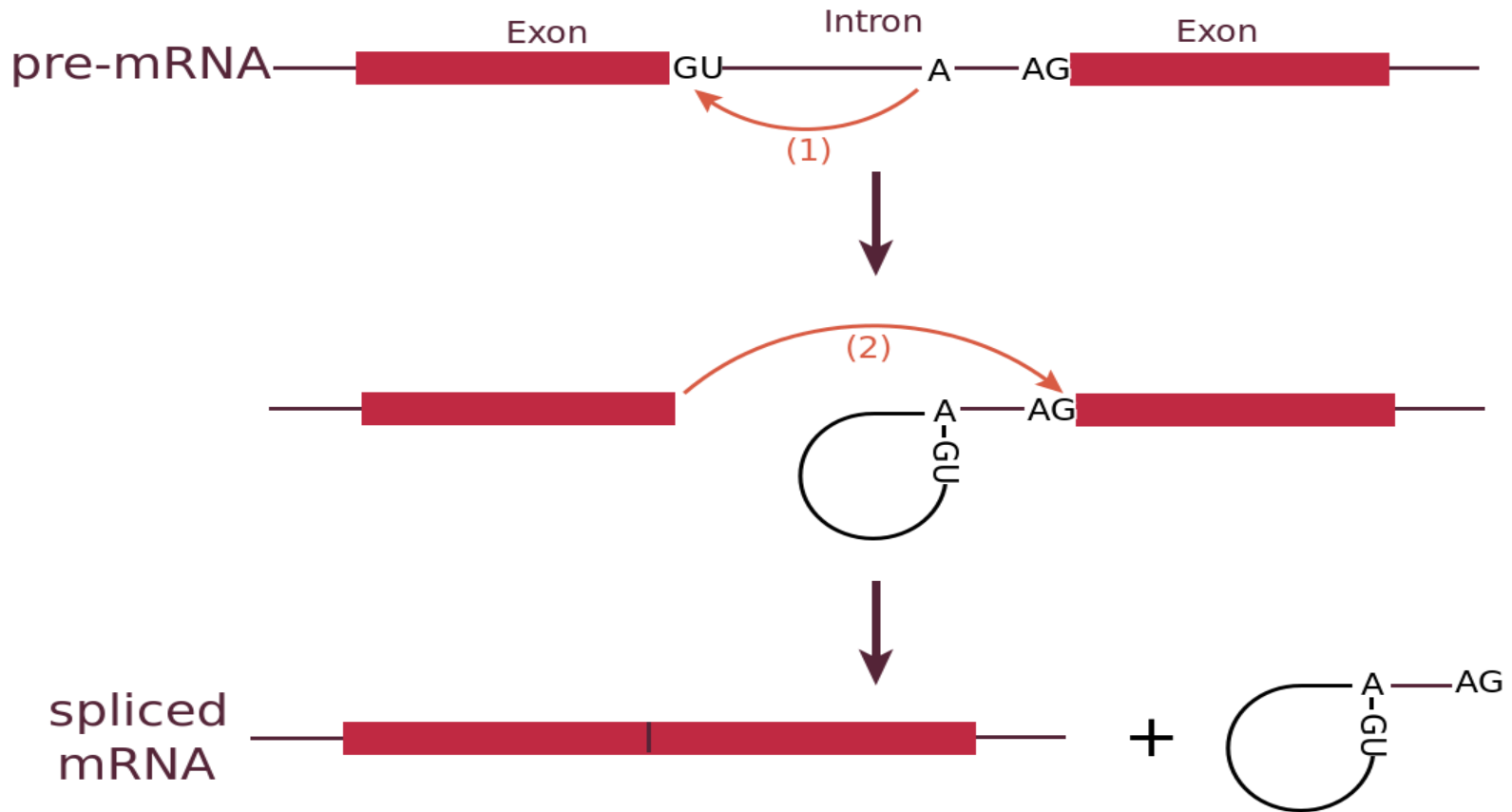
# GENE EXPRESSION



# Modificazioni Post-Trascrizionali

## Splicing

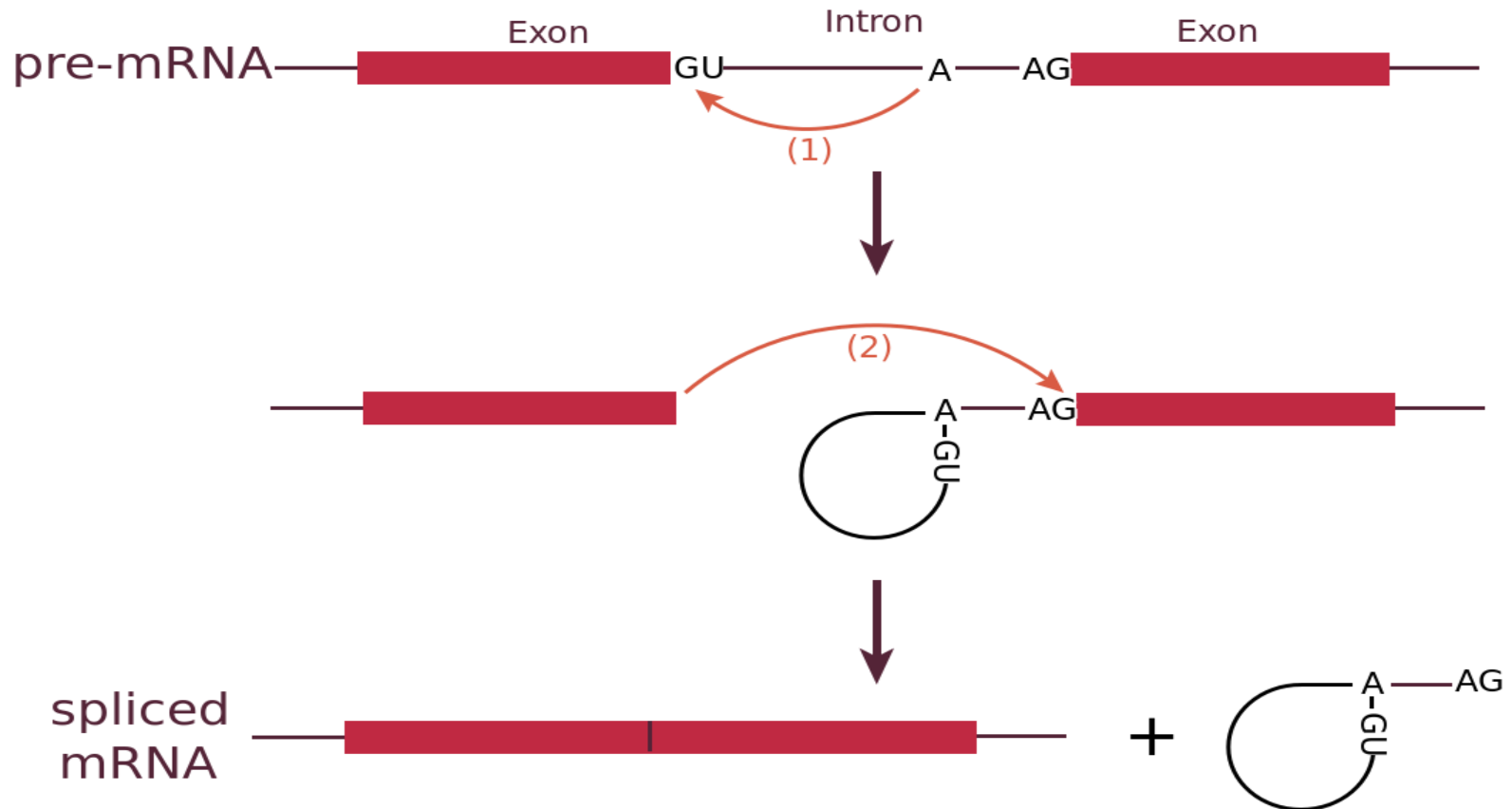
Per splicing si intende il meccanismo di rimozione degli introni dal filamento di RNA immaturo e l'associazione degli esoni così da costituire la sequenza codificante(CDS).



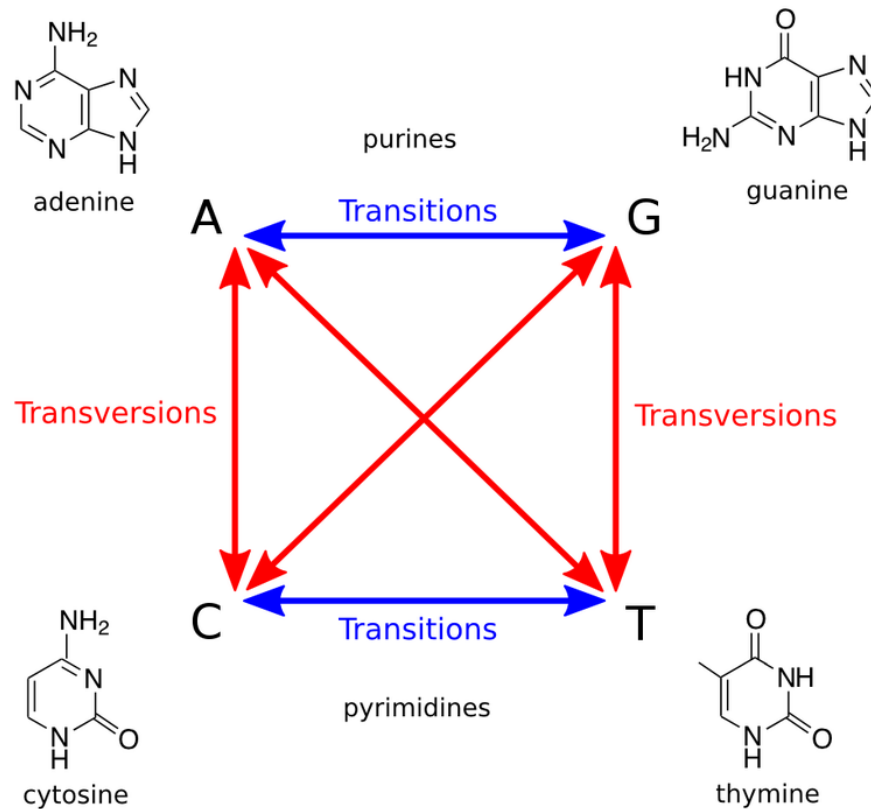
# Modificazioni Post-Trascrizionali

## Splicing

Per splicing si intende il meccanismo di rimozione degli introni dal filamento di RNA immaturo e l'associazione degli esoni così da costituire la sequenza codificante(CDS).

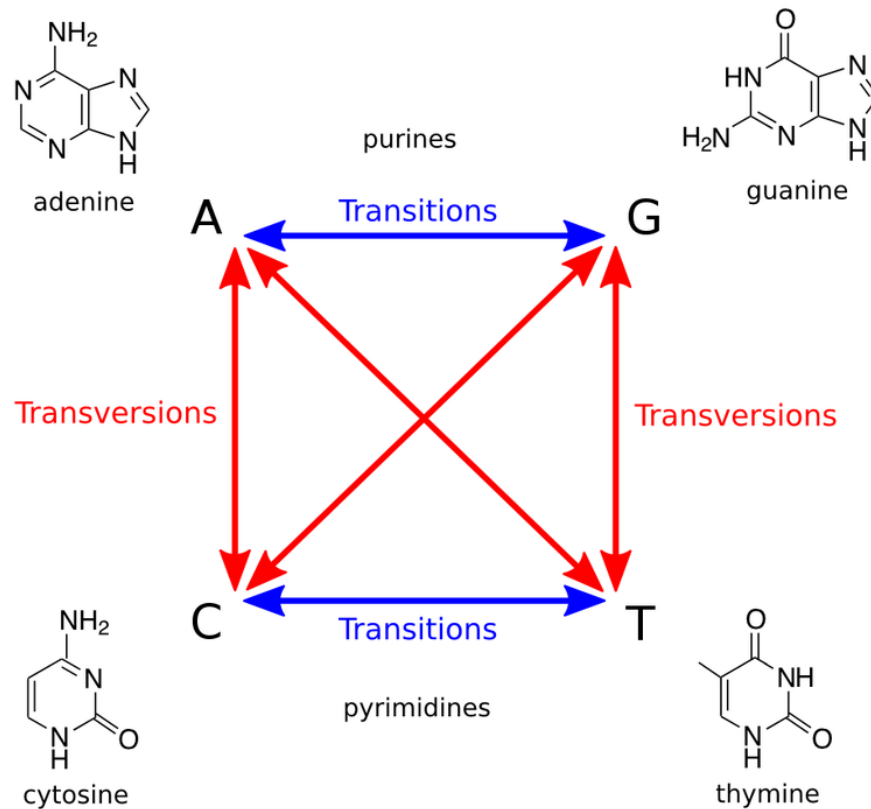


# POINT MUTATIONS



By Petulda - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=45586369>

# POINT MUTATIONS



By Petulda - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=45586369>

# SILENT MUTATIONS

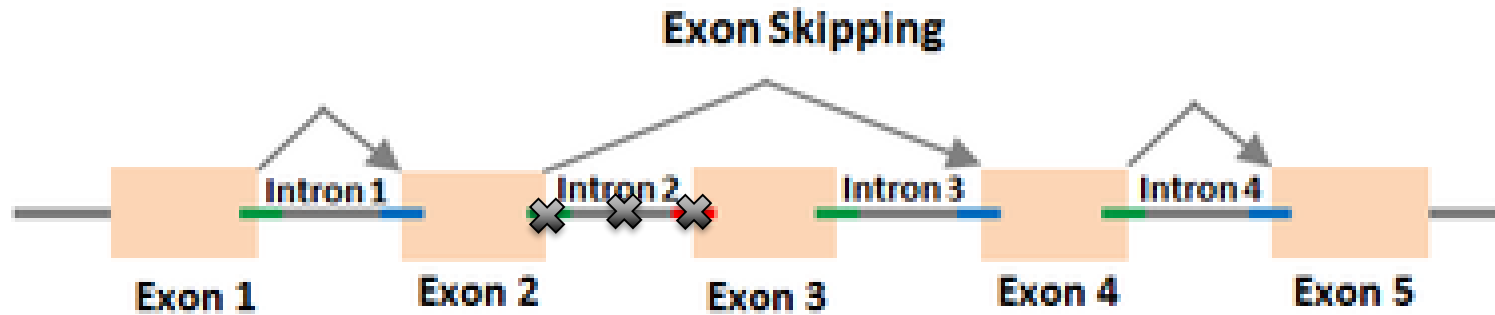
1st base	2nd base								3rd base
	T		C		A		G		
T	TTT	(Phe/F)	TCT	(Ser/S) Serine	TAT	(Tyr/Y) Tyrosine	TGT	(Cys/C) Cysteine	T
	TTC	Phenylalanine	TCC		TAC		TGC		C
	TTA		TCA		TAA <sup>[B]</sup>	Stop (Ochre)	TGA <sup>[B]</sup>	Stop (Opal)	A
	TTG		TCG		TAG <sup>[B]</sup>	Stop (Amber)	TGG	(Trp/W) Tryptophan	G
C	CTT	(Leu/L) Leucine	CCT	(Pro/P) Proline	CAT	(His/H) Histidine	CGT	(Arg/R) Arginine	T
	CTC		CCC		CAC		CGC		C
	CTA		CCA		CAA	(Gln/Q) Glutamine	CGA		A
	CTG		CCG		CAG		CGG		G
A	ATT	(Ile/I) Isoleucine	ACT	(Thr/T) Threonine	AAT	(Asn/N)	AGT	(Ser/S) Serine	T
	ATC		ACC		AAC	Asparagine	AGC		C
	ATA		ACA		AAA	(Lys/K) Lysine	AGA	(Arg/R) Arginine	A
	ATG <sup>[A]</sup>	(Met/M) Methionine	ACG		AAG		AGG		G
G	GTT	(Val/V) Valine	GCT	(Ala/A) Alanine	GAT	(Asp/D) Aspartic acid	GGT	(Gly/G) Glycine	T
	GTC		GCC		GAC		GGC		C
	GTA		GCA		GAA	(Glu/E) Glutamic acid	GGA		A
	GTG		GCG		GAG	GAG	G		



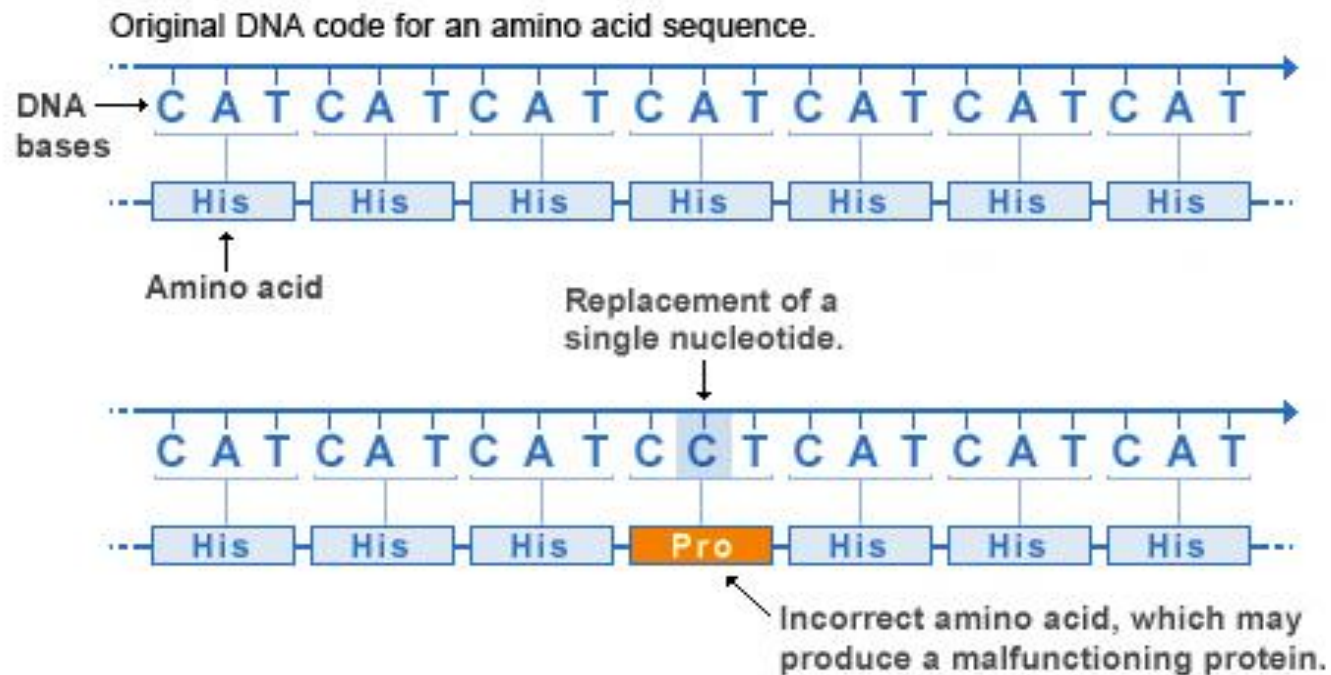




## Exon skipping



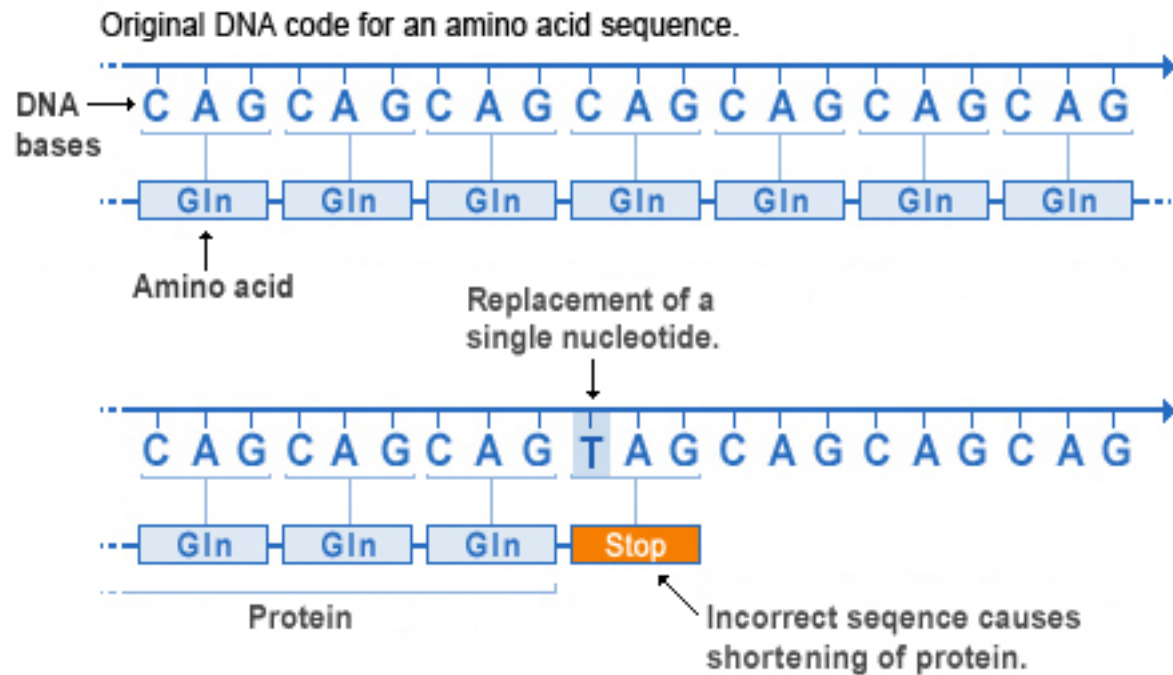
## Missense mutation



U.S. National Library of Medicine

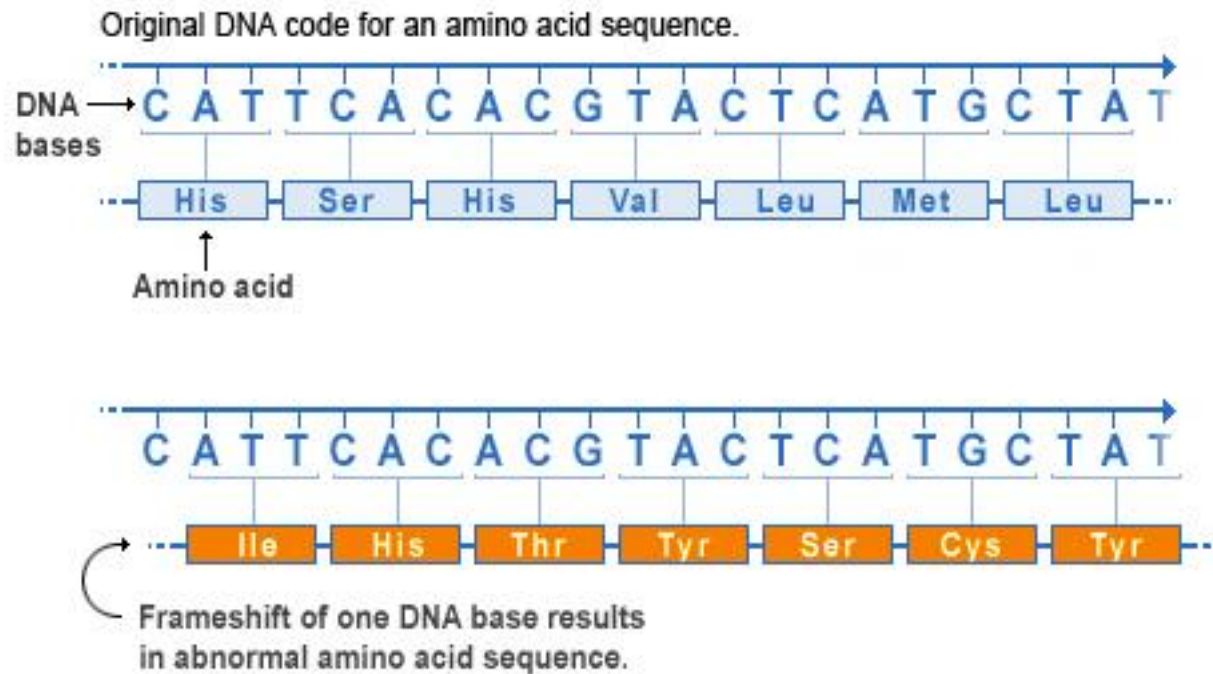
By U.S. National Library of Medicine - <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/handbook/illustrations/missense>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=25399199>

## Nonsense mutation



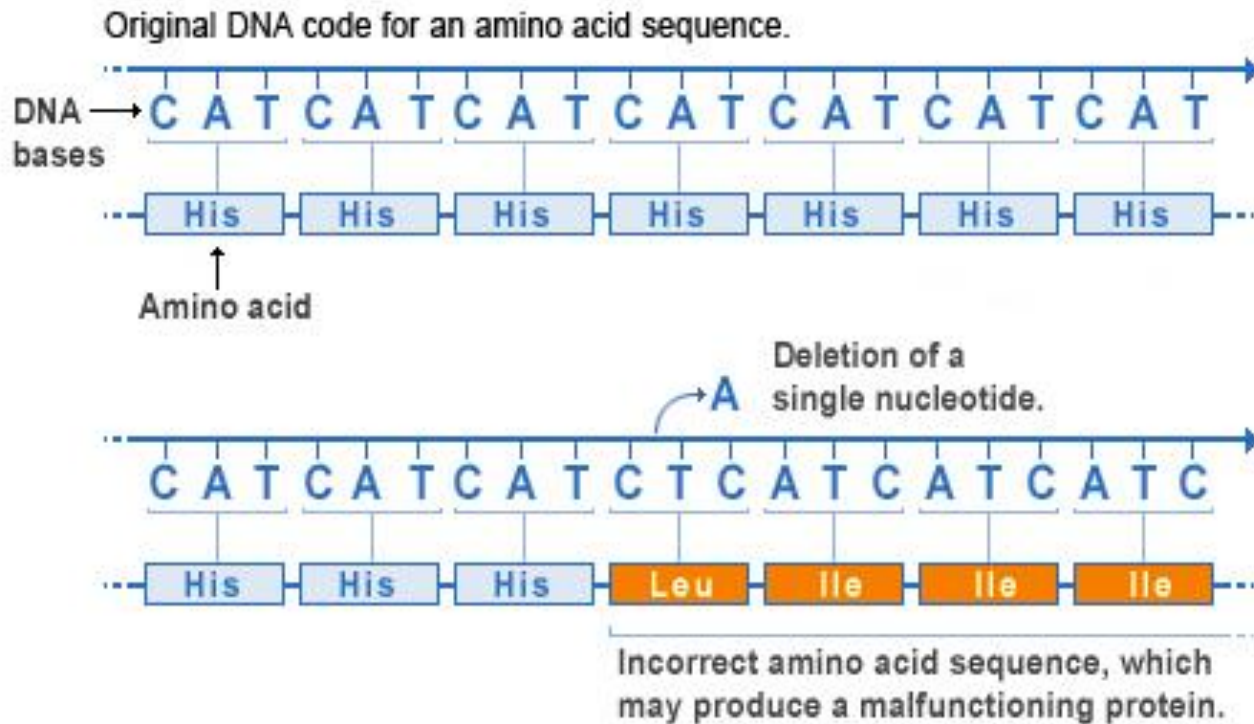
U.S. National Library of Medicine

## Frameshift mutation



U.S. National Library of Medicine

## Deletion mutation

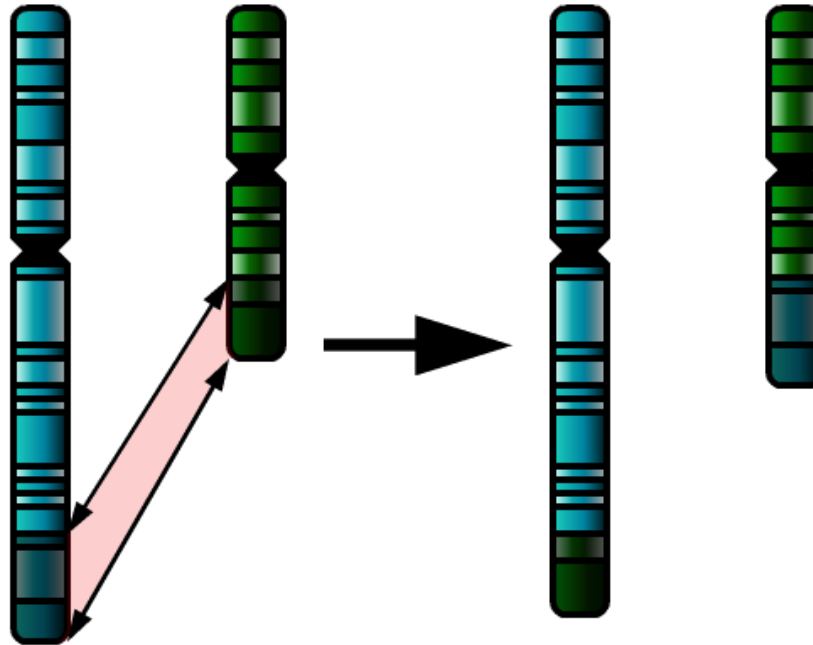


U.S. National Library of Medicine

<https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/primer/mutationsanddisorders/possiblemutations>

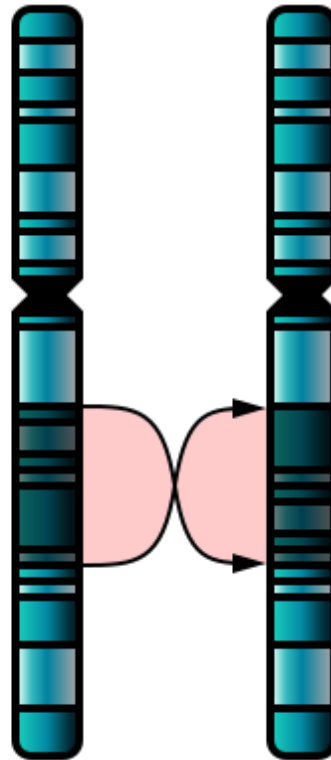
## 2. Traslocazione

Trasferimento di una regione di un cromosoma ad un altro



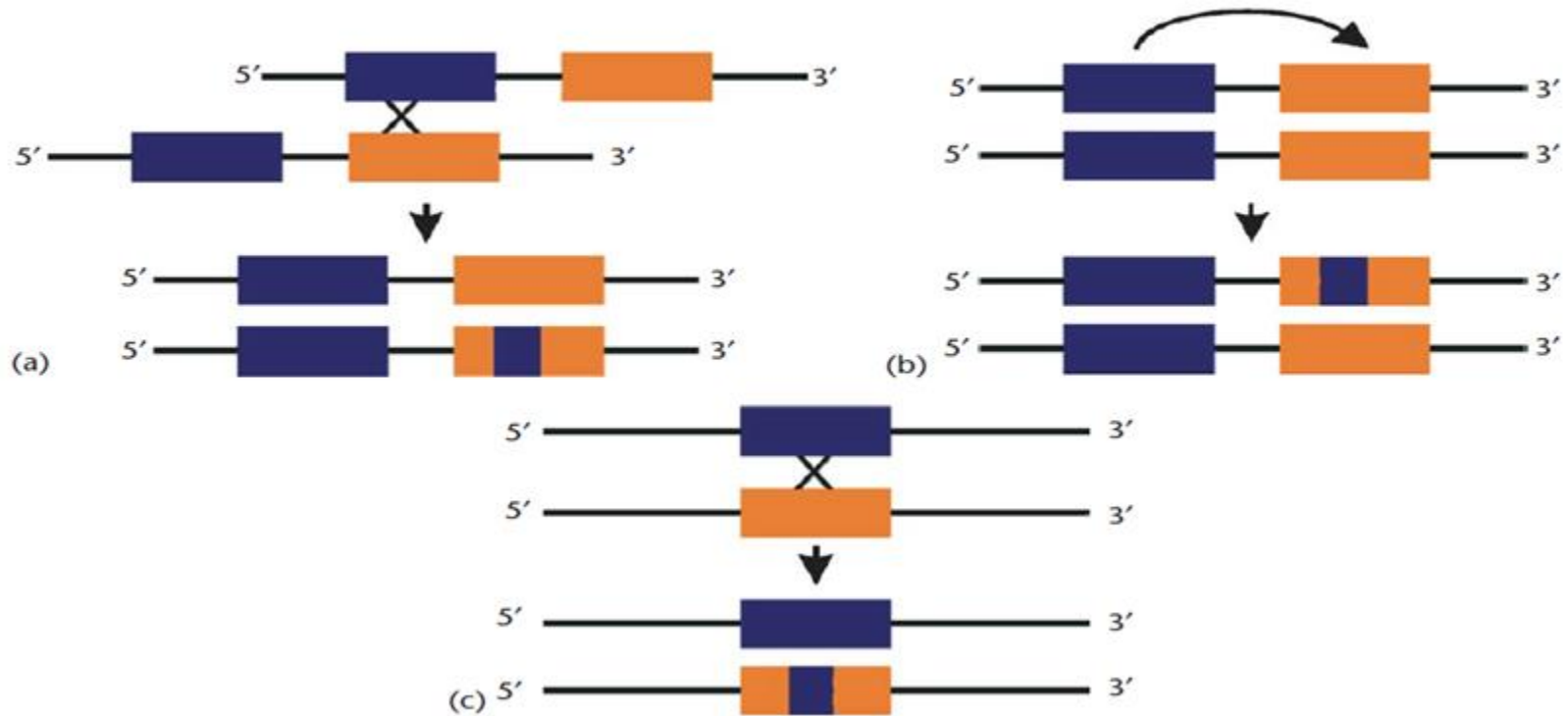
Di Zephyris at the English language Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3023439>

### 3. Inversions



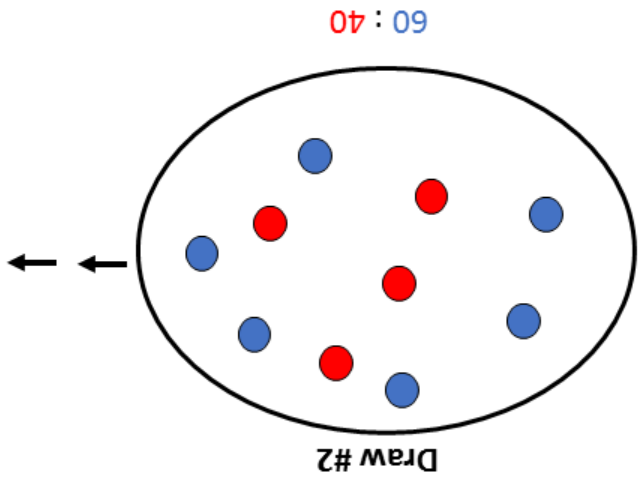
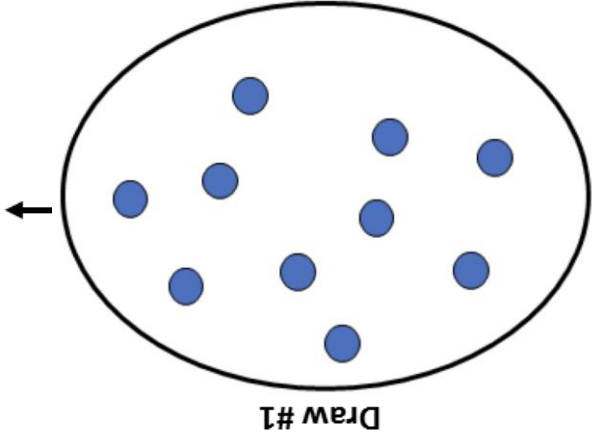
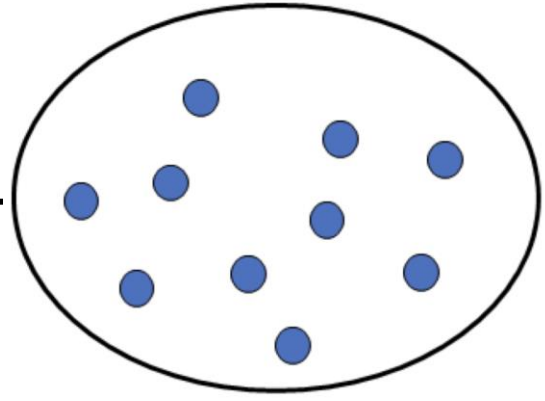
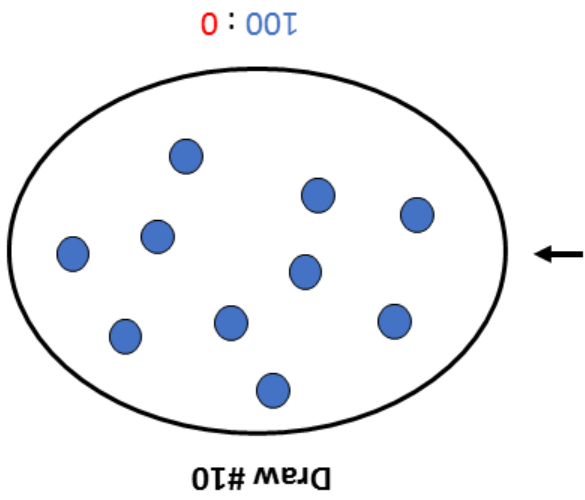
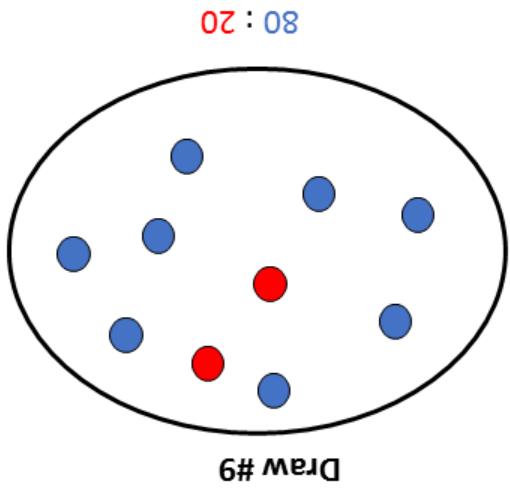
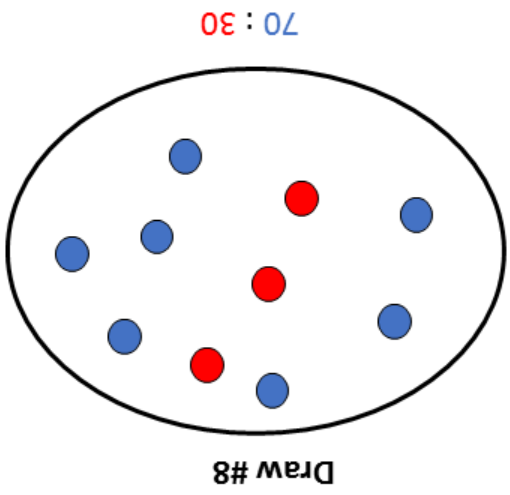
Di Richard Wheeler (Zephyris)\Vector version: NikNaks - File:Single Chromosome Mutations.png., CC BY-SA 3.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32951639>

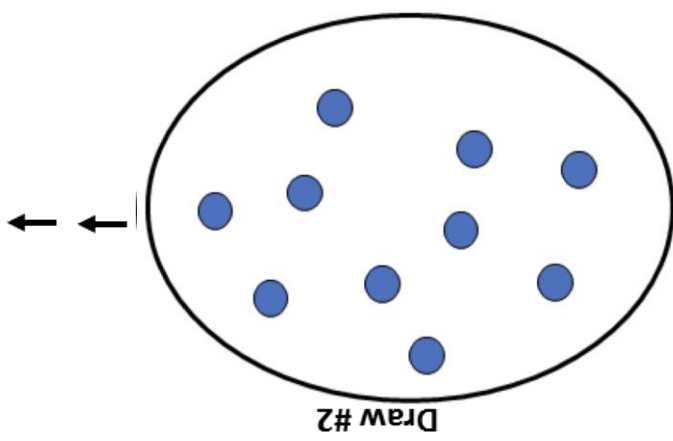
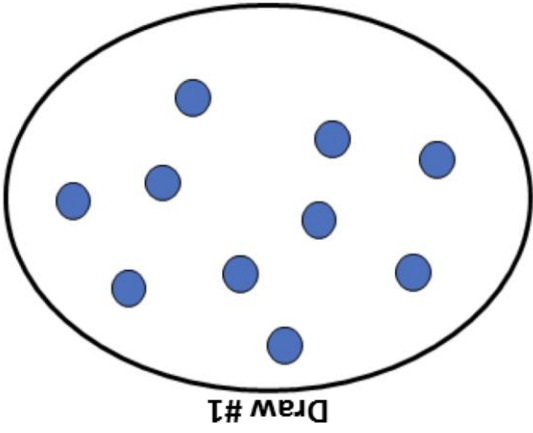
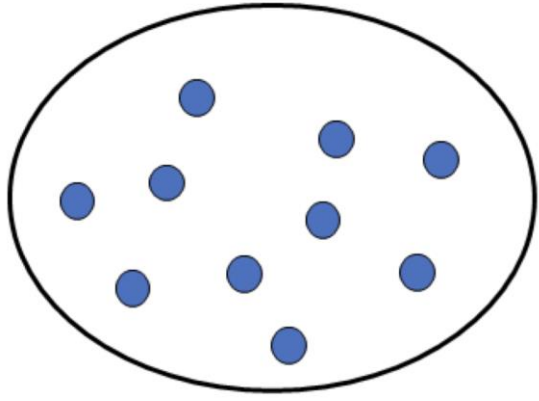
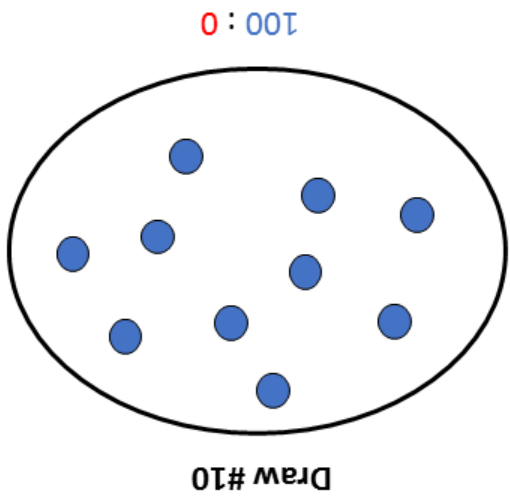
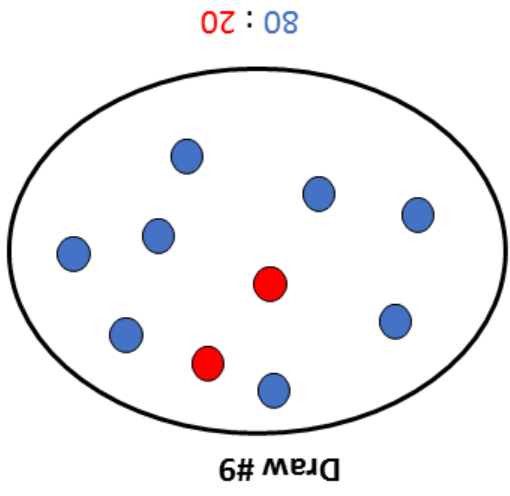
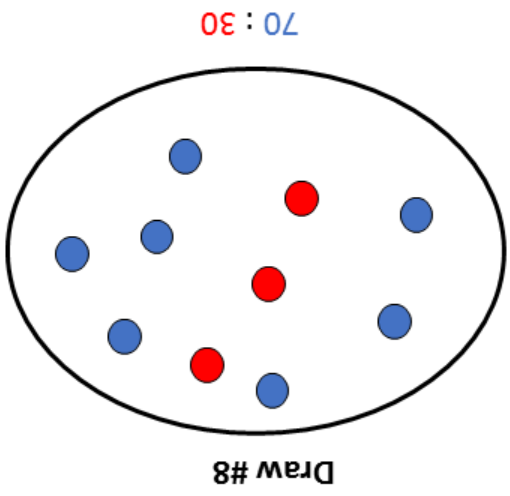


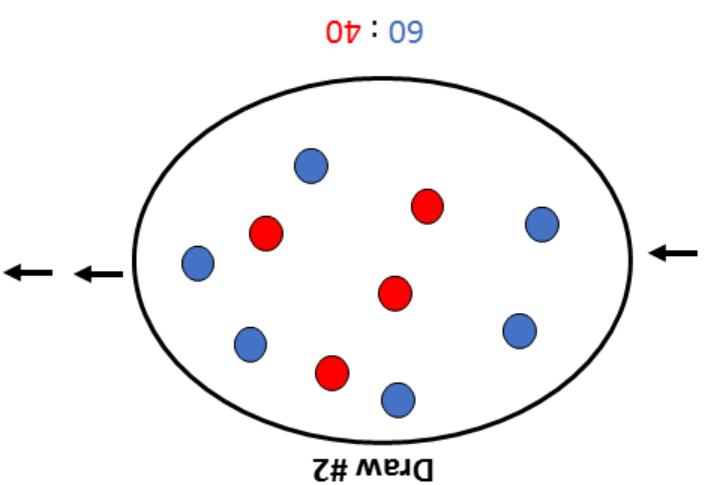
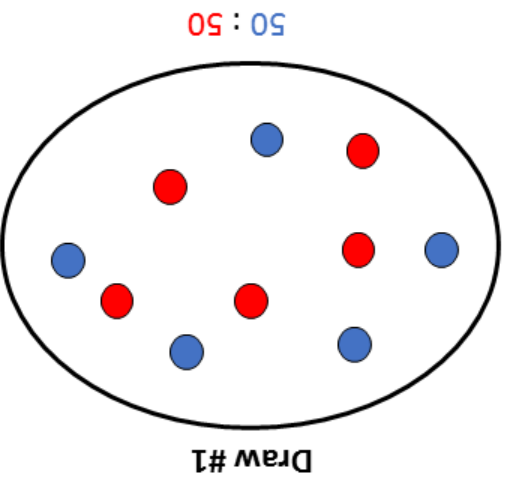
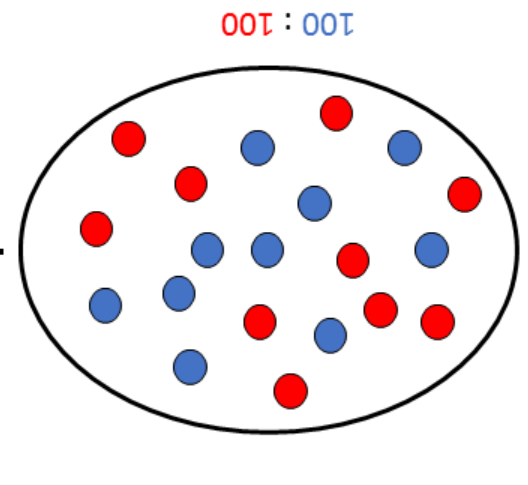
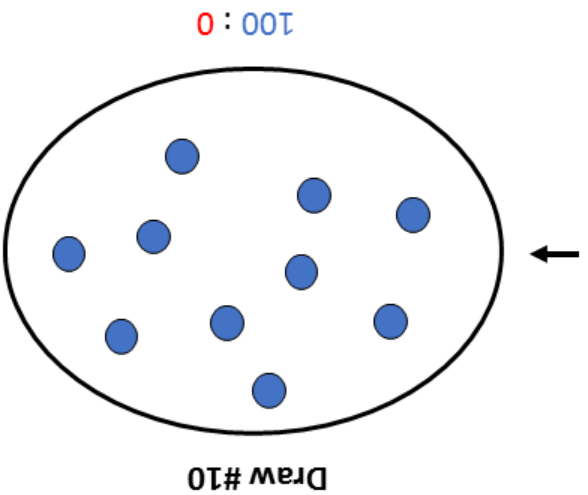
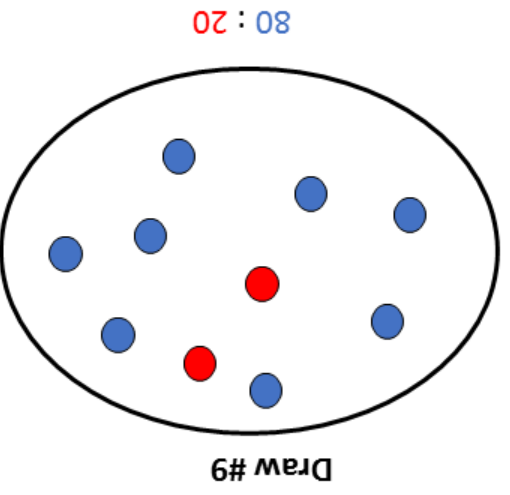
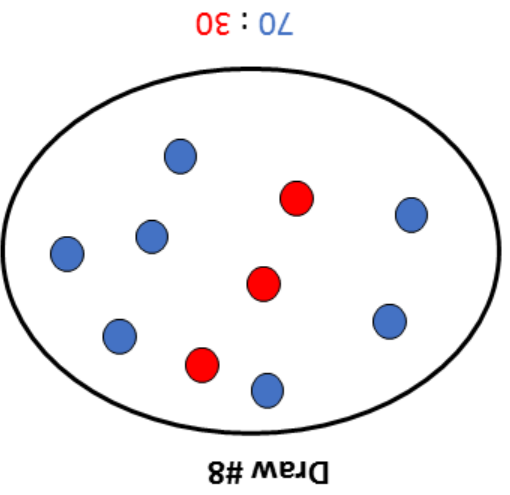


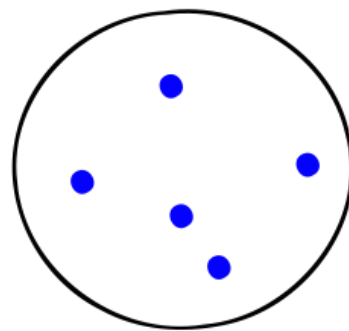
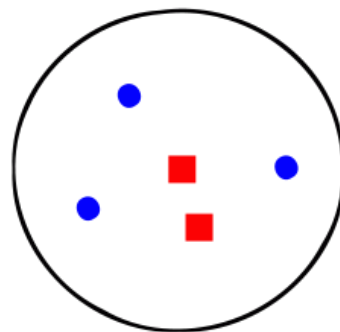
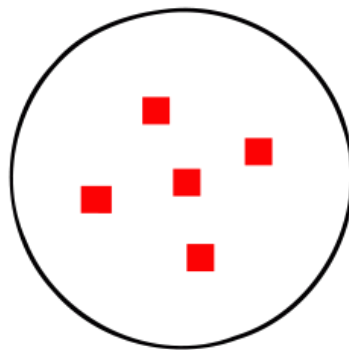
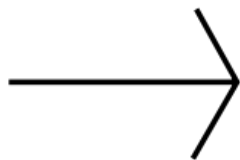
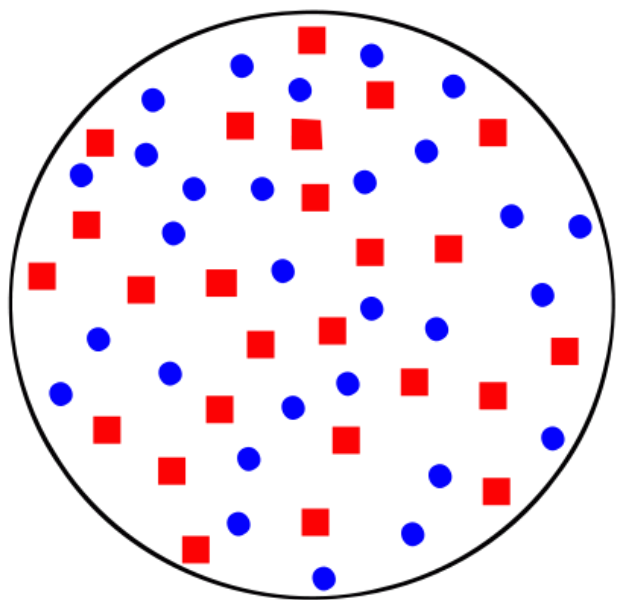
By Schandanam - My own in slide, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=35594815>

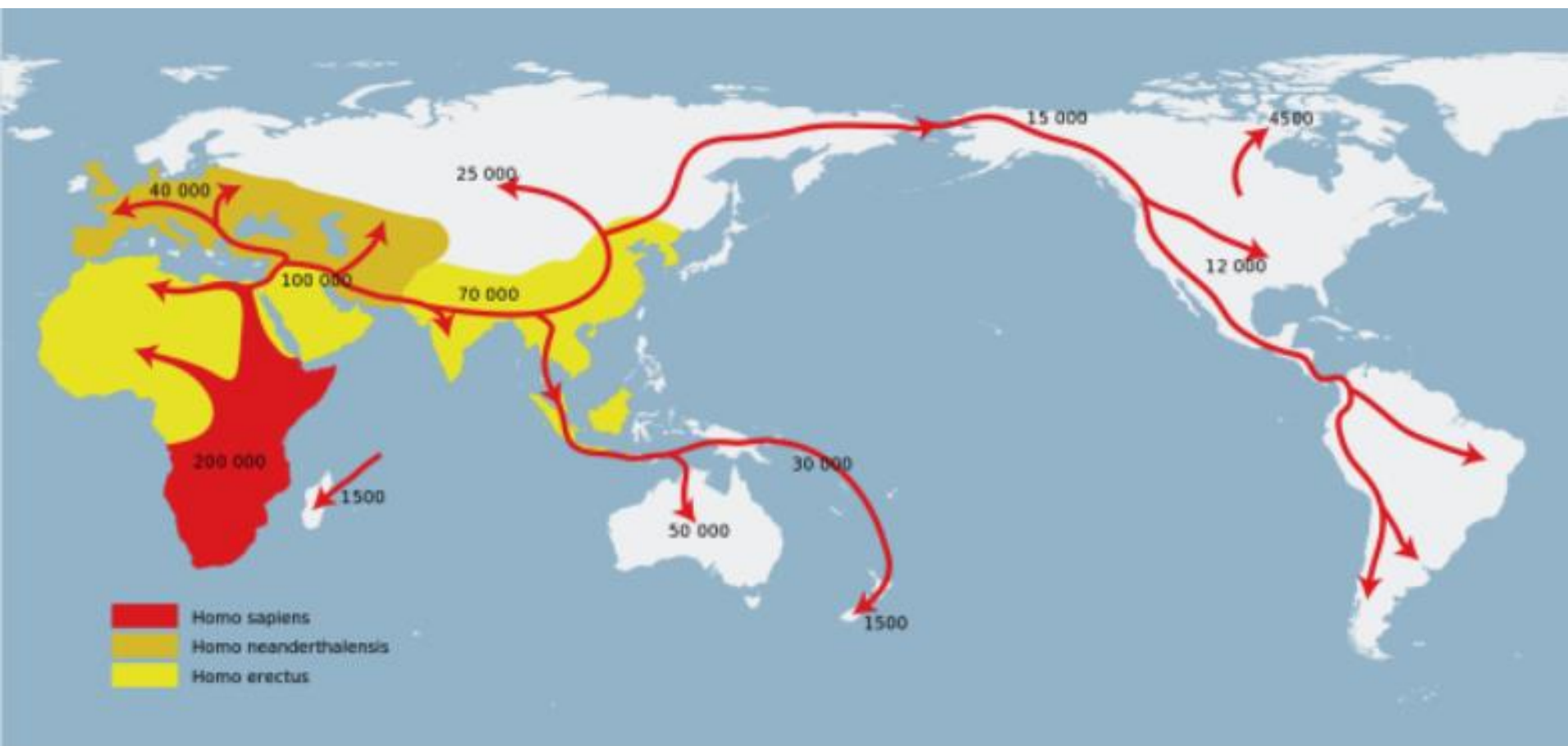
# MUTATION FATE

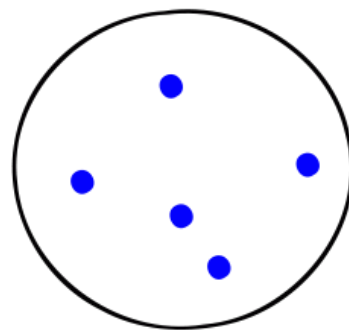
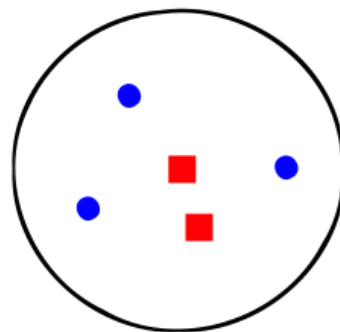
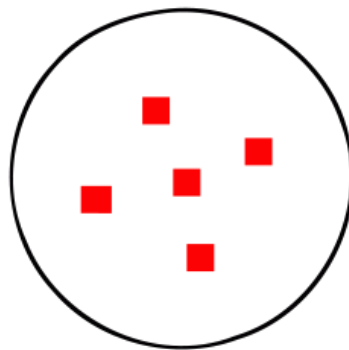
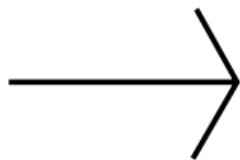
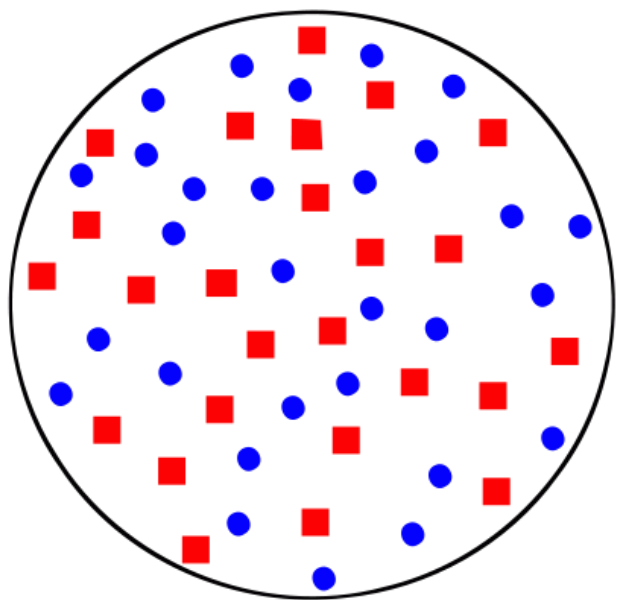














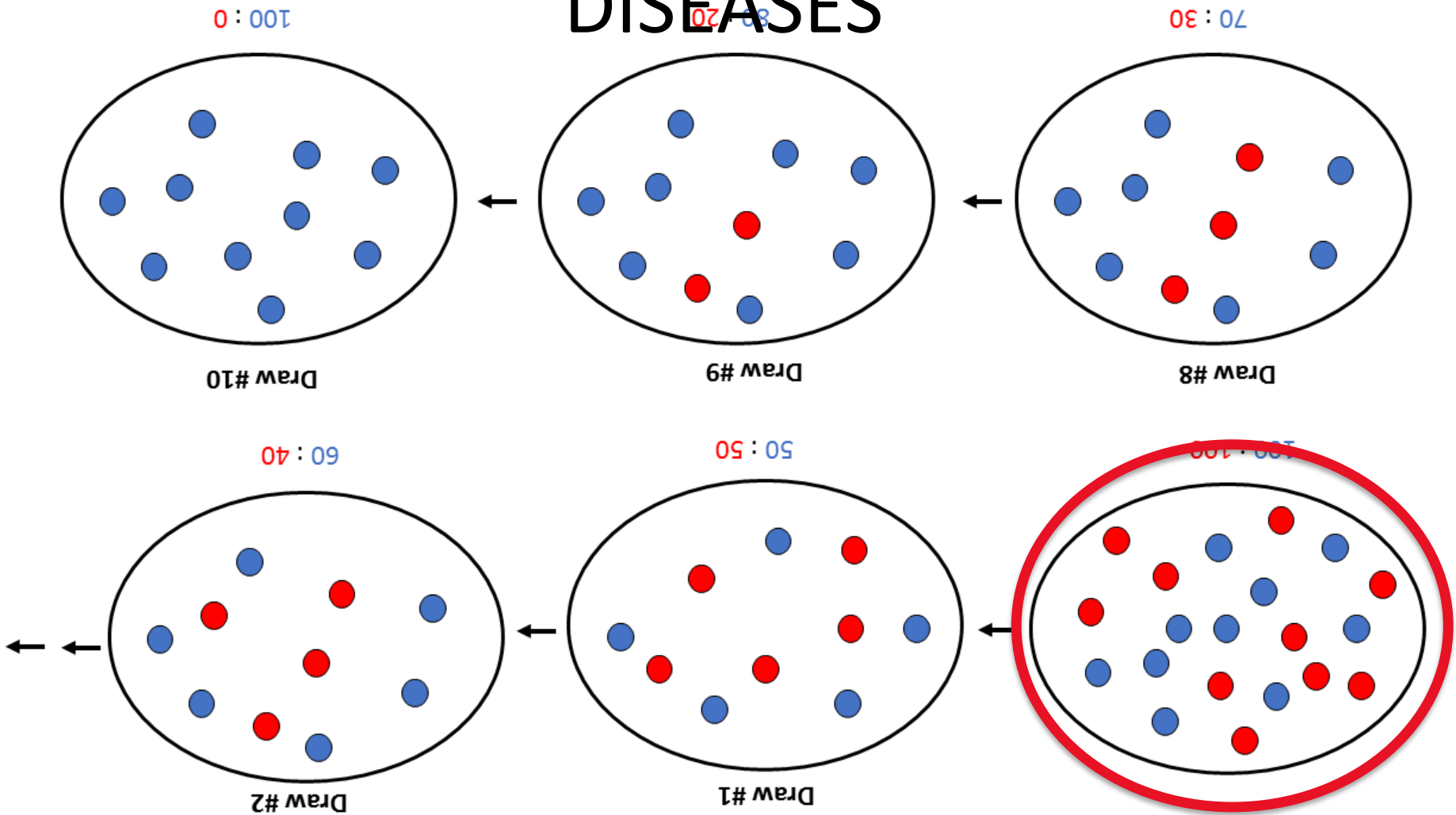
# TECHNOLOGIES TO ASSESS DNA VARIABILITY

# GWAS

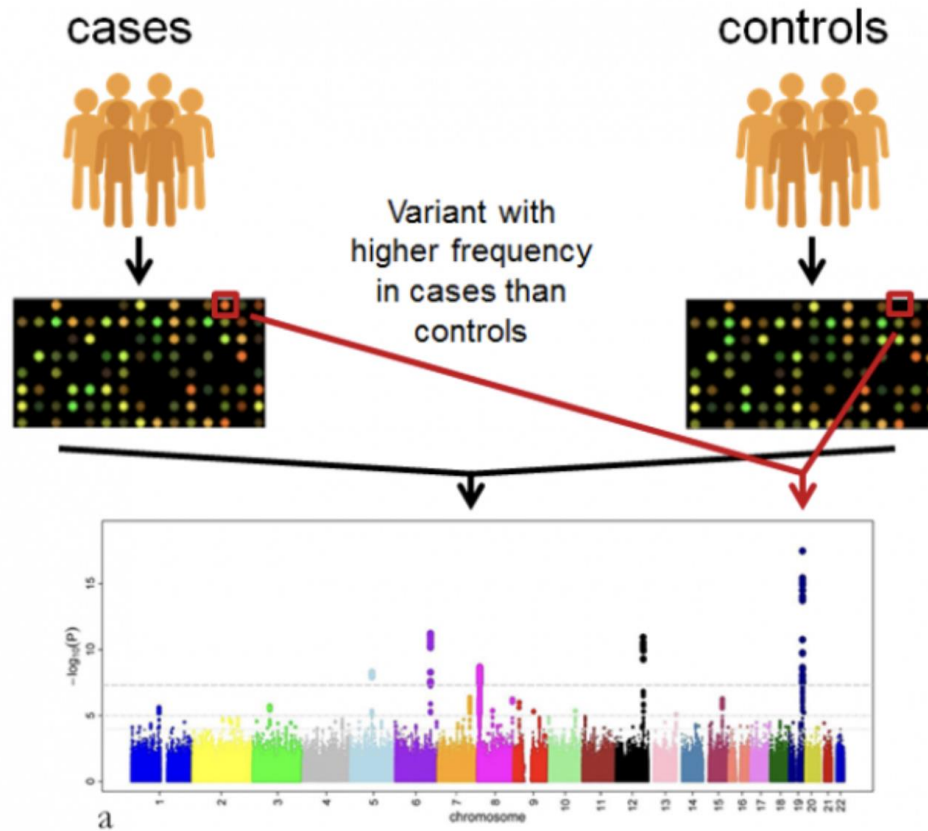


# SNPs MICROARRAY

# COMMON VARIANTS COMMON DISEASES

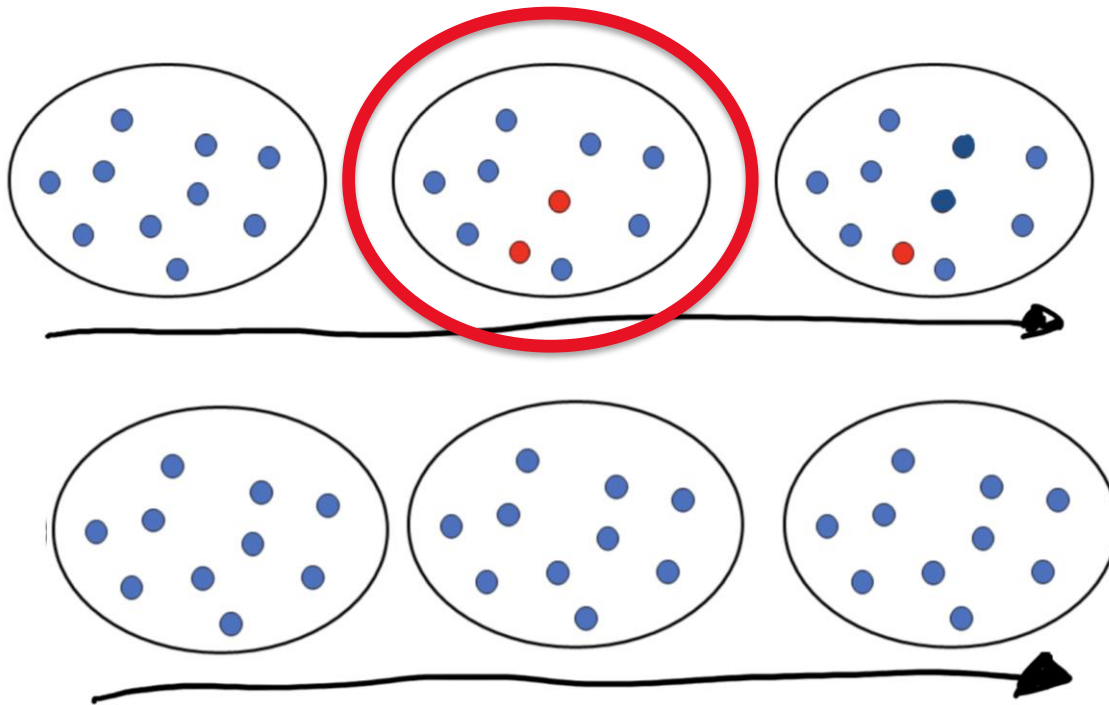


# COMMON VARIANTS COMMON DISEASES



# NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING

- WHOLE GENOME RE-SEQUENCING
- DATA ON RARE AND COMMON VARIANTS

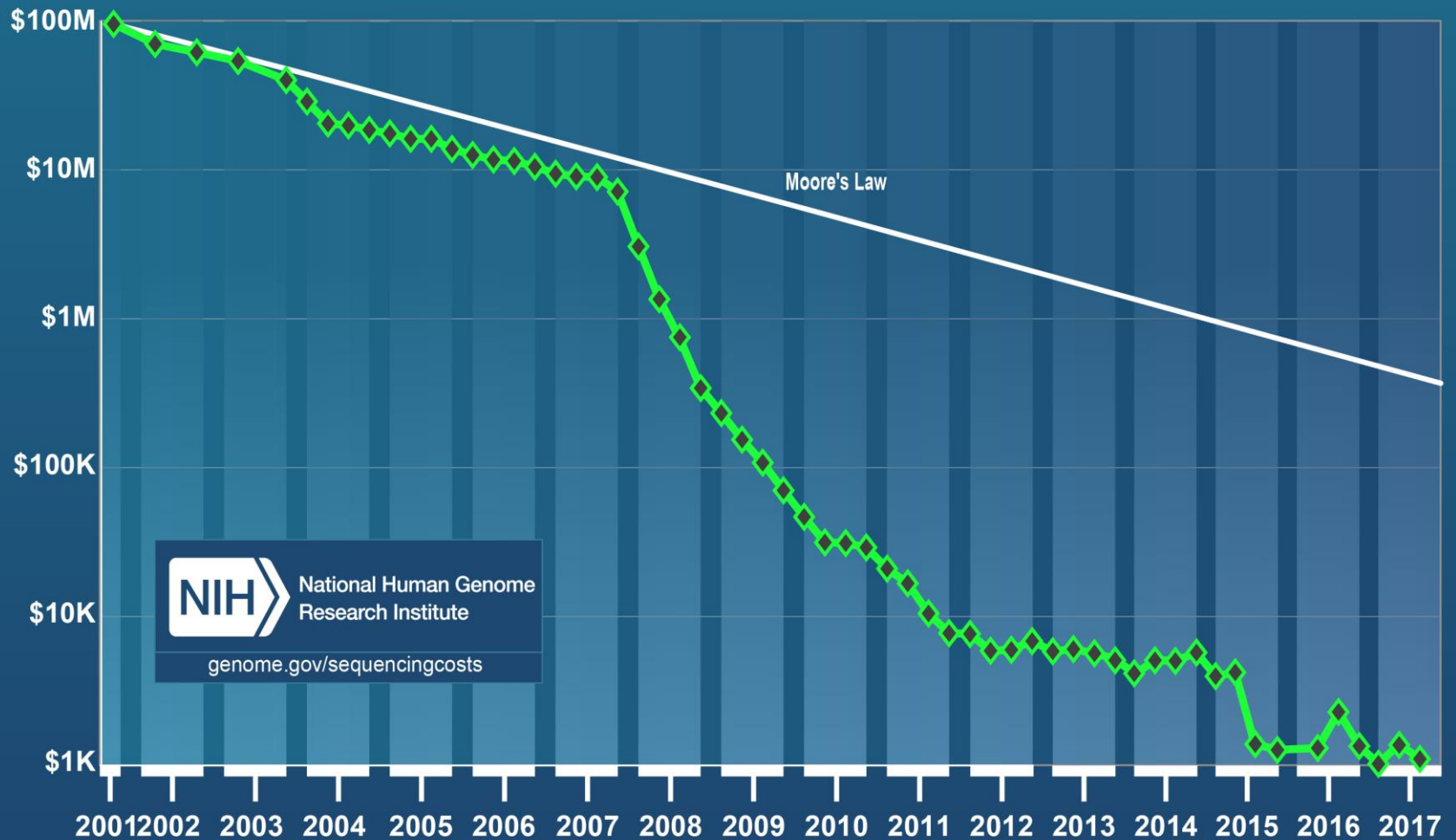


## Changes in sequencing cost

"A draft' human genome sequence was produced over a 15-month period (from April 1999 to June 2000).  
The estimated cost for generating that initial 'draft' human genome sequence is ~\$**300 million** worldwide."

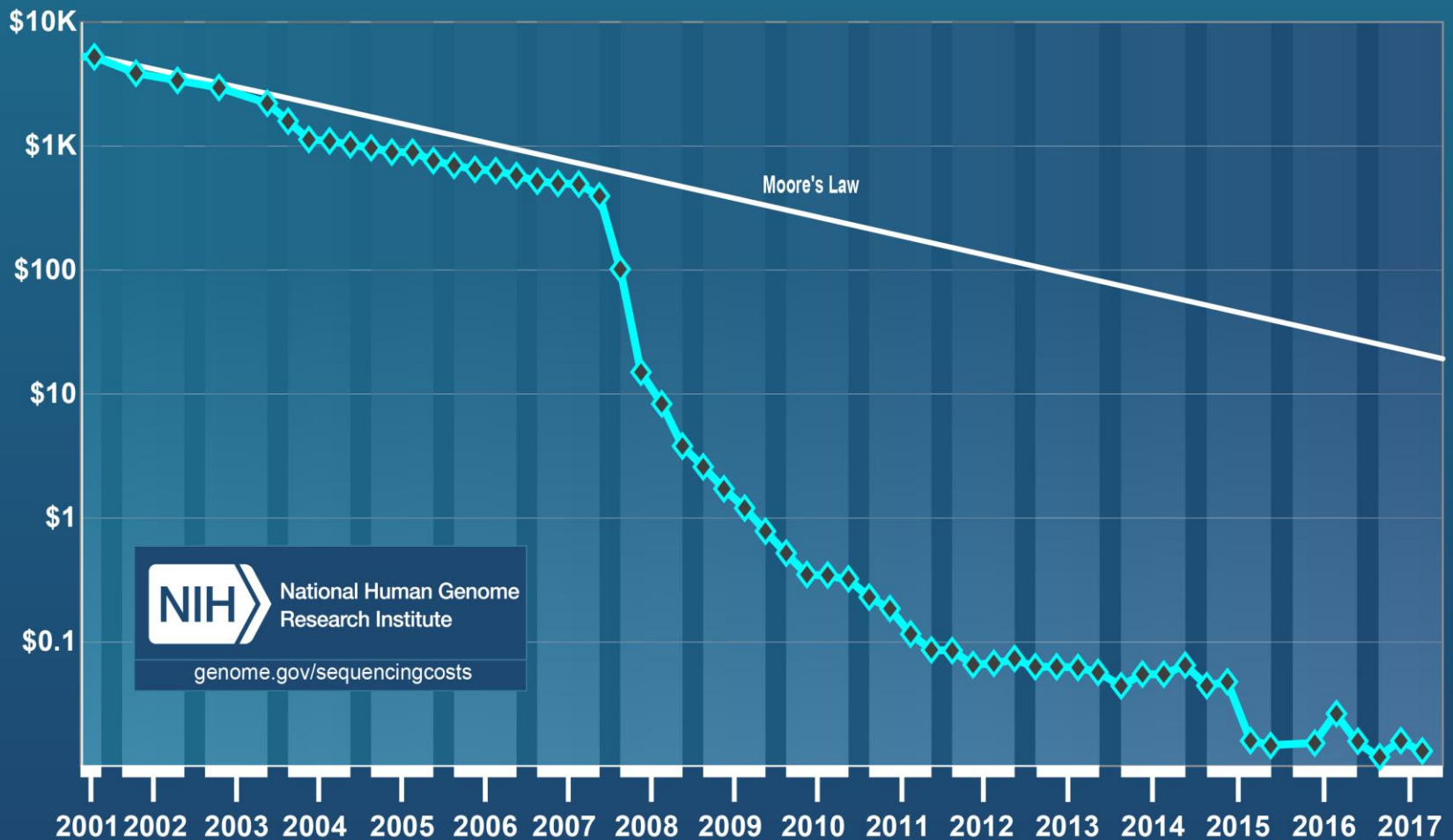
"The estimated cost for advancing the 'draft' human genome sequence to the 'finished' sequence was ~\$**150 million** worldwide."

## Cost per Genome



Wetterstrand KA. DNA Sequencing Costs: Data from the NHGRI Genome Sequencing Program (GSP) Available at: [www.genome.gov/sequencingcostsdata](http://www.genome.gov/sequencingcostsdata). Accessed [date of access].

# Cost per Raw Megabase of DNA Sequence



Wetterstrand KA. DNA Sequencing Costs: Data from the NHGRI Genome Sequencing Program (GSP) Available at: [www.genome.gov/sequencingcostsdata](http://www.genome.gov/sequencingcostsdata). Accessed [date of access].



"In mid-2015 the cost to generate a high-quality 'draft' whole human genome sequence was just above \$**4,000**."

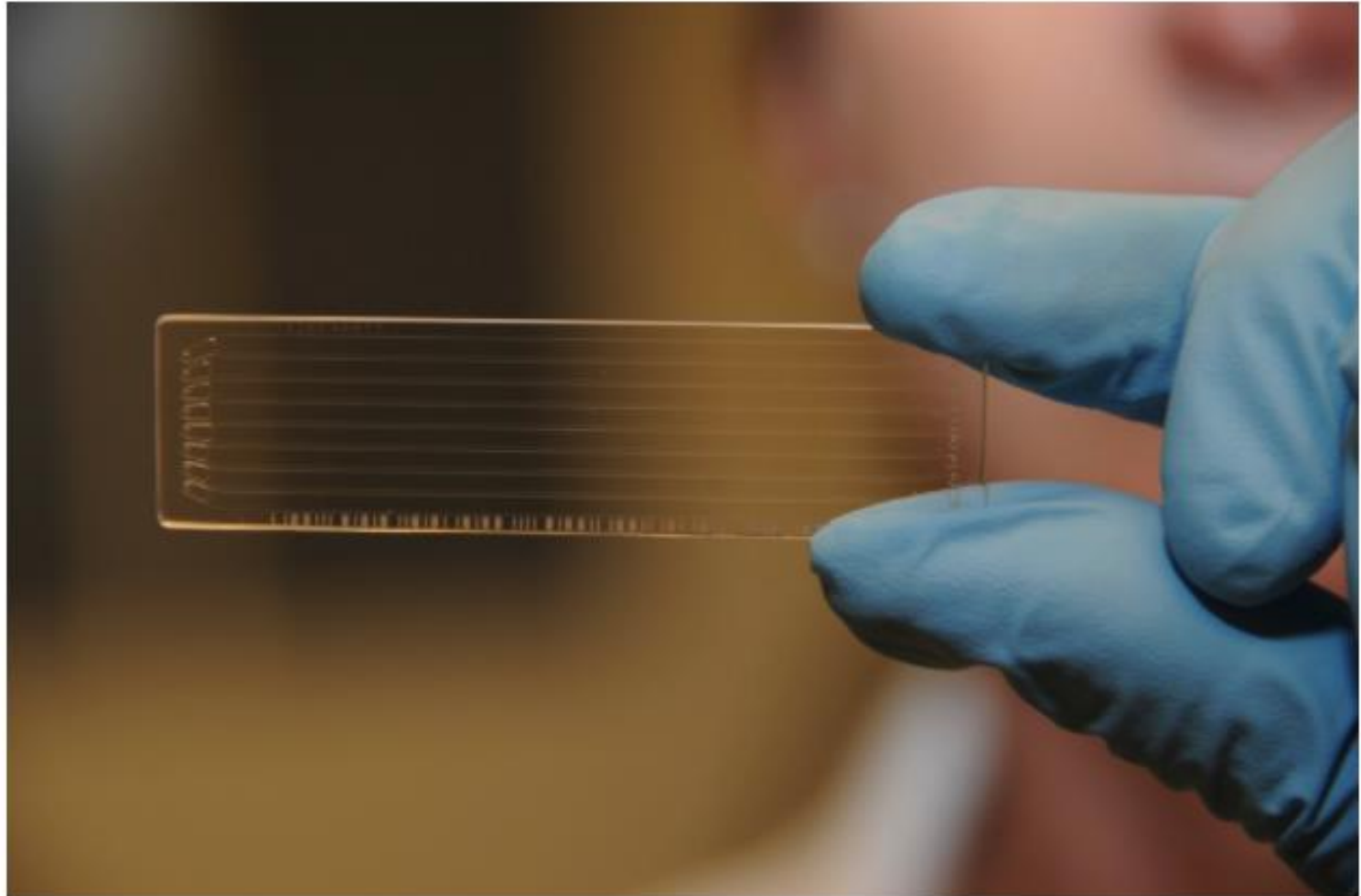
"By late in 2015, that figure had fallen below \$**1,500**. "

# Illumina wants to sequence your whole genome for \$100



Sarah Buhr @sarahbuhr / 2 years ago

 Comment



# **THE GENETICS OF HUMAN AGING/LONGEVITY**

**Why is it so difficult ?**

# THE GENETICS OF HUMAN LONGEVITY

In no species other than humans do **cultural, social, and biological factors interact with each other** in modulating complex phenotypes such as aging, longevity and age-related diseases

# THE GENETICS OF HUMAN LONGEVITY

several non mutually exclusive possibilities:

- 90+/100+ **do not have “disease-risk”** gene variants
- 90+/100+ **do have disease-risk** gene variants but their lifestyle /environment was not permissive
- 90+/100+ have **“protective”** gene variants for age-related diseases

# THE GENETICS OF HUMAN LONGEVITY

several non mutually exclusive possibilities:

- 90+/100+ **do not have “disease-risk”** gene variants **(WRONG)**
- 90+/100+ **do have disease-risk** gene variants but their lifestyle /environment was not permissive **(YES, some evidence)**
- 90+/100+ **have “protective”** gene variants for age-related diseases **(YES few evidence)**

# THE GENETICS OF HUMAN LONGEVITY

**burning questions:**

**if and how much is**

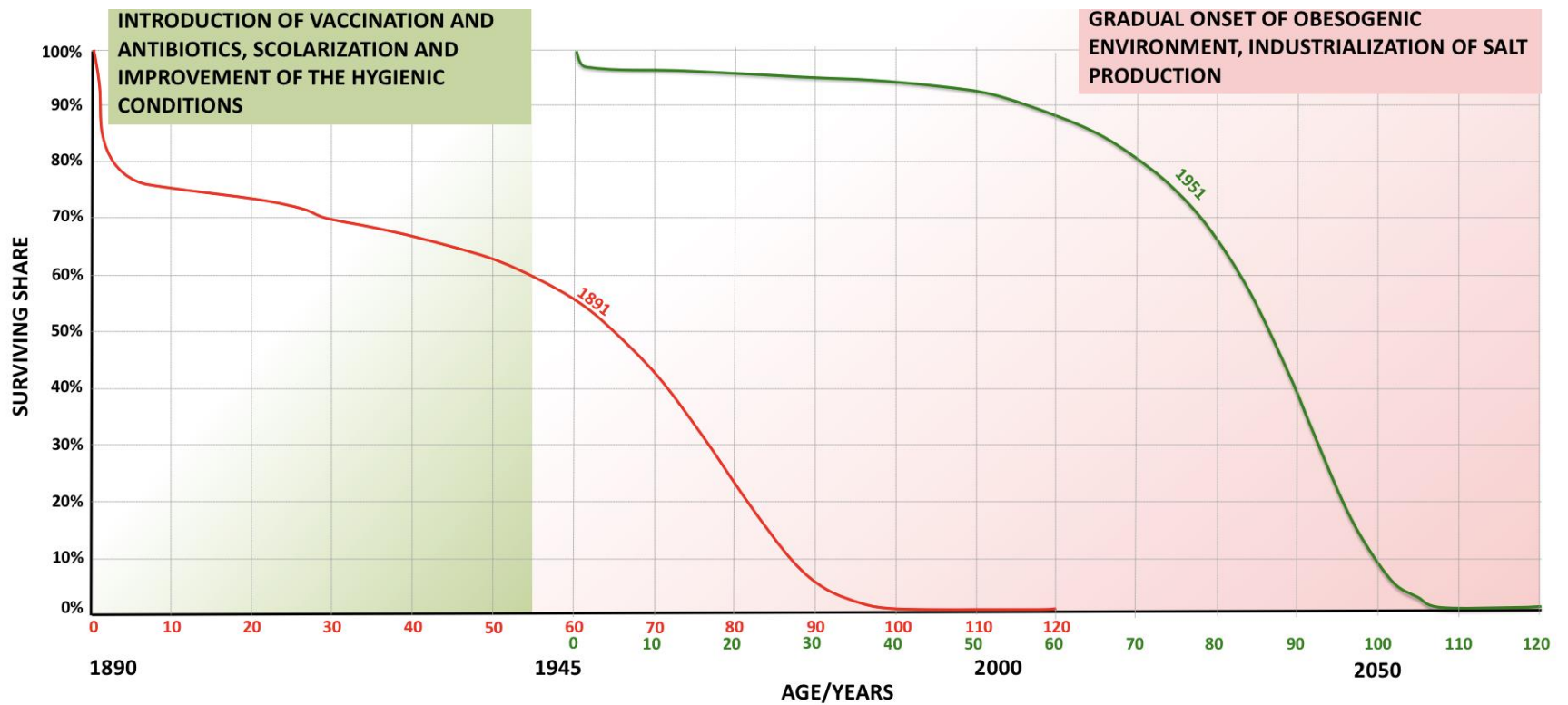
- **population-specific ?**
- **gender-specific ?**
- **“public” or “private” ?**

# THE GENETICS OF HUMAN LONGEVITY

## MODELS:

- CENTENARIANS
- FAMILIAL LONGEVITY
- PARENTAL LONGEVITY
- AGE RELATED DISEASES





# The genetics of human aging and longevity

- Human populations are characterized by **specific gene pools** that arise from the particular group's history in terms of chance (genetic drift) and environment (natural selection); furthermore, humans are unique in having linked **cultural and biological inheritance**.



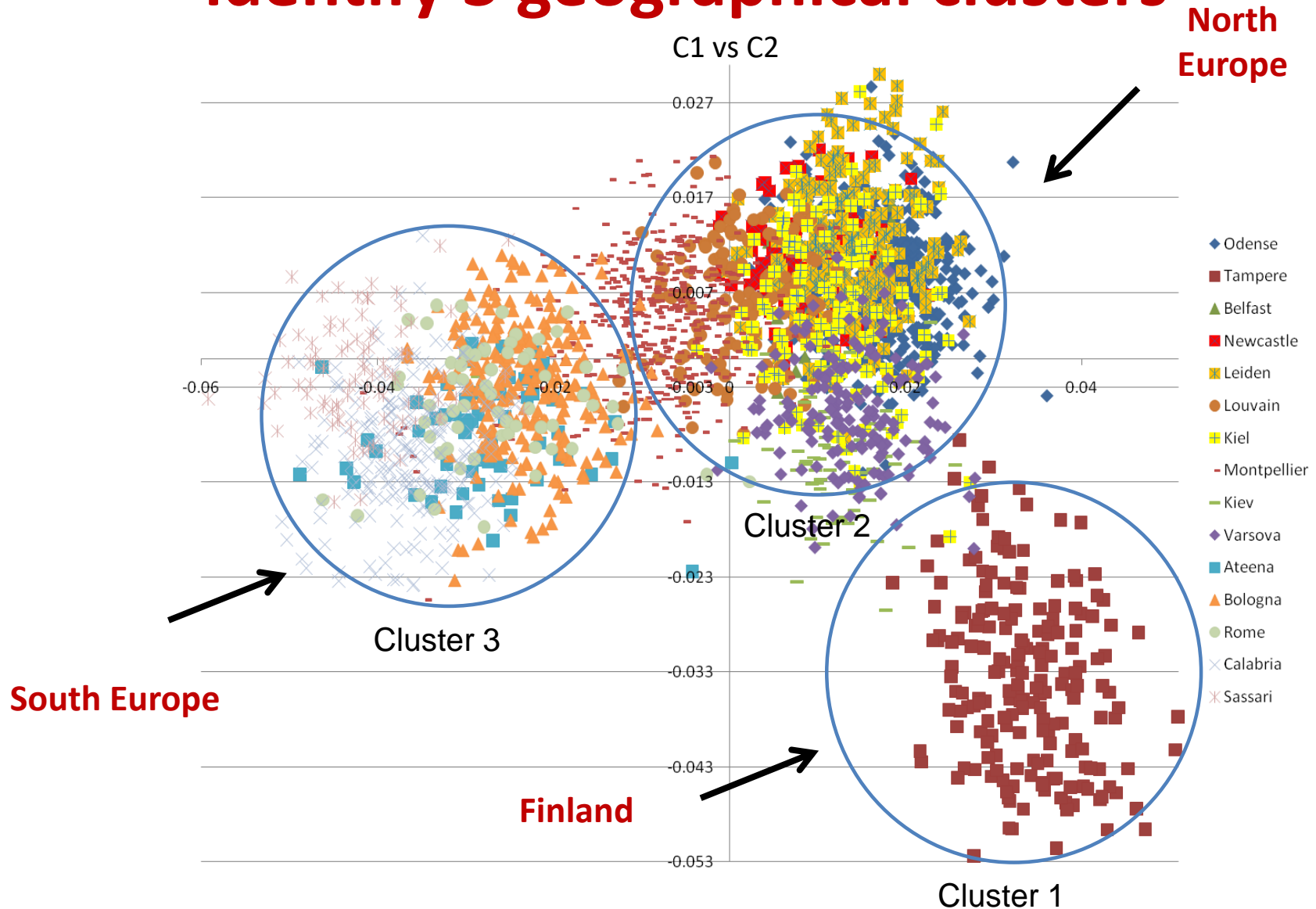
# AGING CELL, Jan 2013

- [Genome-wide linkage analysis for human longevity: Genetics of Healthy Ageing Study](#) Marian Beekman, Hélène Blanché, Markus Perola, Anti Hervonen, Vladyslav Bezrukov, Ewa Sikora, Frederieke Flachsbarth, Lene Christiansen, Anton J.M. De Craen, Thomas B.L. Kirkwood, Irene Maeve Rea, Michel Poulain, Jean-Marie Robine, Silvana Valensin, Maria Antonietta Stazi, Giuseppe Passarino, Luca Deiana, Efstathios S. Gonos, Lavinia Paternoster, Thorkild I.A. Sørensen, Qihua Tan, Quinta Helmer, Erik B. Van den Akker, Joris Deelen, Francesca Martella, Heather J. Cordell, Kristin L. Ayers, James W. Vaupel, Outi Törnwall, Thomas E. Johnson, Stefan Schreiber, Mark Lathrop, Axel Skytthe, Rudi G.J. Westendorp, Kaare Christensen, Jutta Gampe, Almut Nebel, Jeanine J. Houwing-Duistermaat, P. Eline Slagboom and Claudio Franceschi, The GEHA Consortium

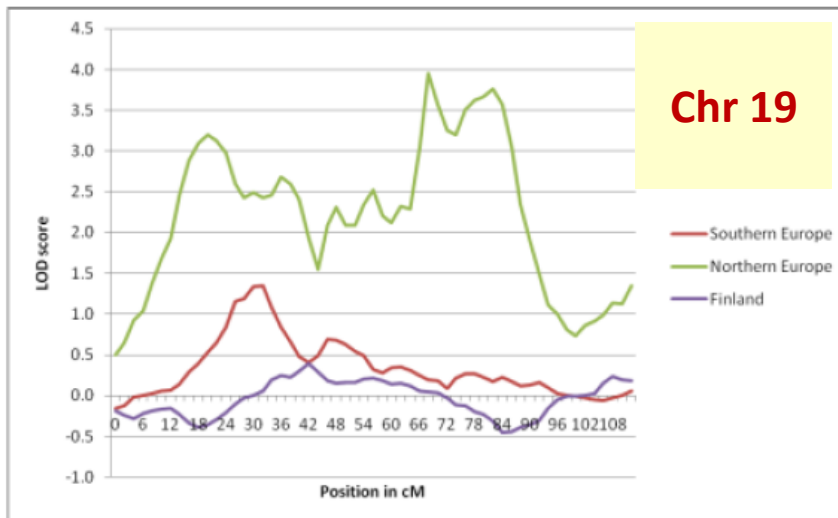
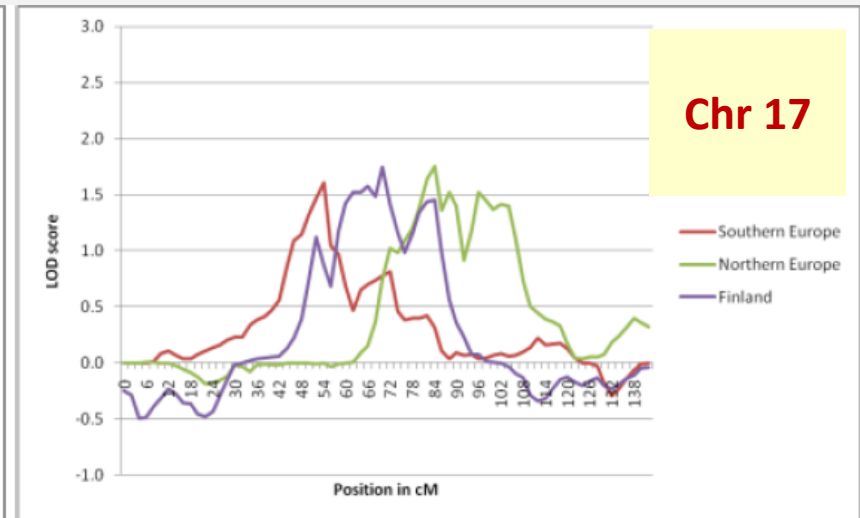
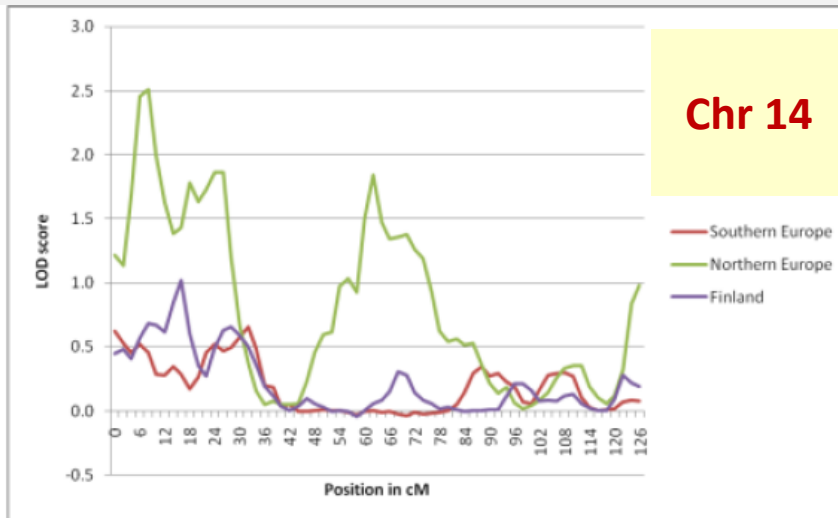


# GEHA linkage analysis

## identify 3 geographical clusters



# 4 Linkage regions in the 3 GEHA geographical clusters



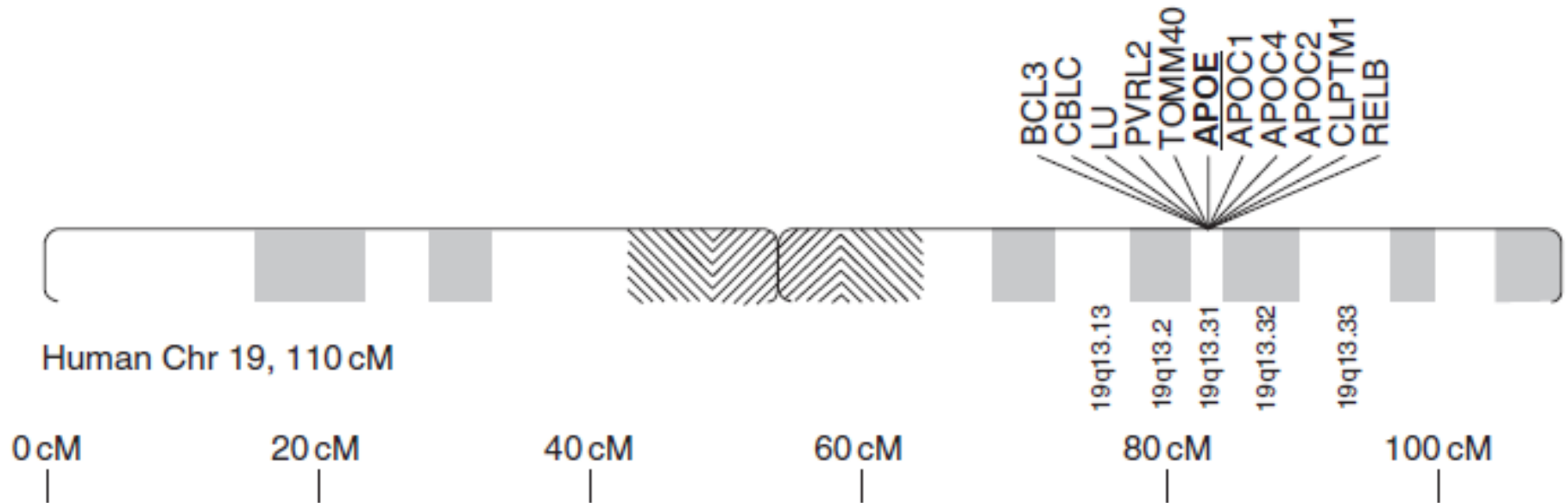
**The 3 European regions  
(populations) contributed  
differently to the 3 peaks  
emerged in the linkage  
study (LOD score >3)**

# The “bad” SNP(s)

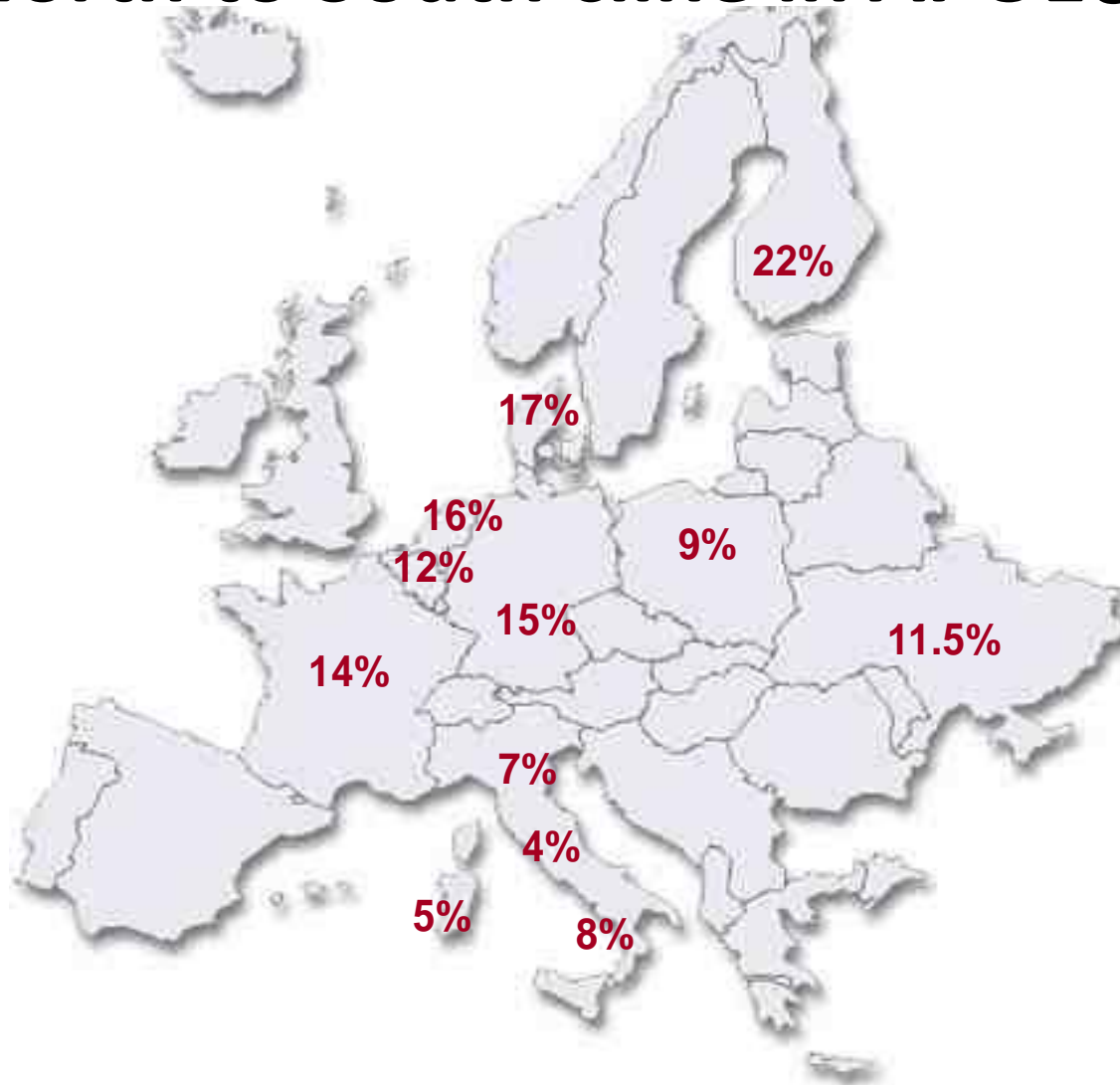
The previous **GEHA linkage study** on 2250 90+ sibships identified **genetic linkage with familial longevity at the APOE gene locus**.

Moreover, the **GEHA GWAS** showed that **rs4420638** (19q13.11-q13.32) at ***TOMM40/APOE/APOC1* gene locus** had a significant **negative** association with familial longevity (p value =  $9.6 \times 10^{-8}$ )

# Human chromosome 19 *APOE* locus



# In European populations there is a North to South cline in *APOE* $\epsilon$ 4 allele



All 8,067 subjects recruited within the GEHA Project have been genotyped for *APOE* variants



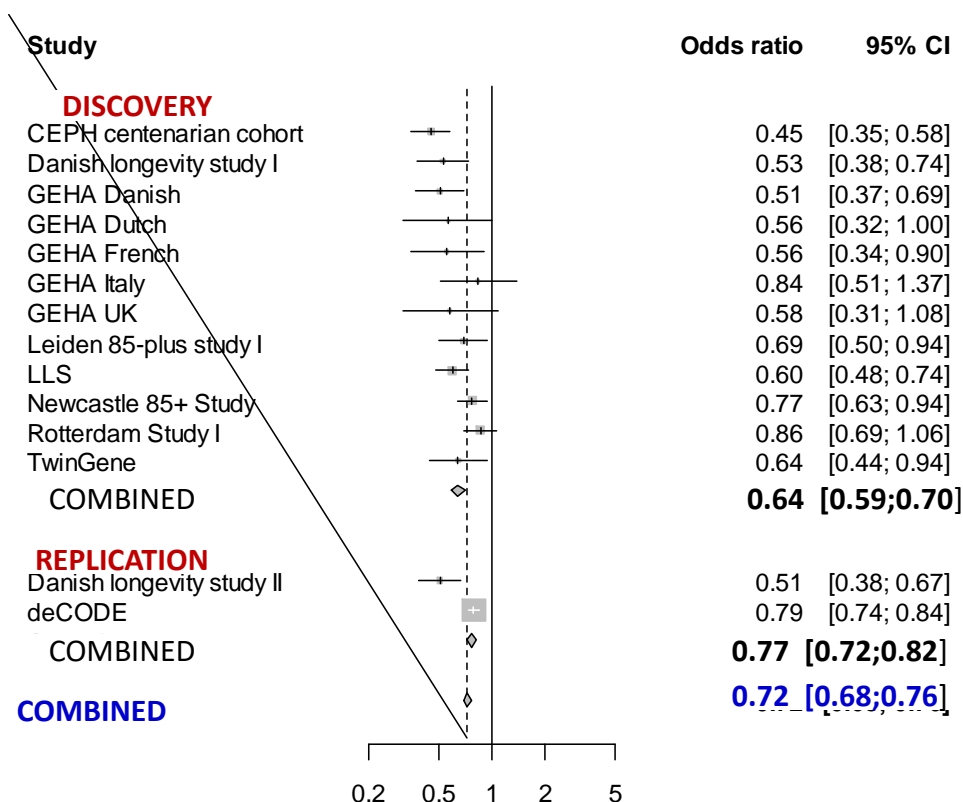
- **Genome-wide association meta-analysis of human longevity identifies a novel locus conferring survival beyond 90 years of age.**
- **Deelen J**, Beekman M, Uh HW, Broer L, Ayers KL, Tan Q, Kamatani Y, Bennet AM, Tamm R, Trompet S, Guðbjartsson DF, Flachsbart F, Rose G, Viktorin A, Fischer K, Nygaard M, Cordell HJ, Crocco P, van den Akker EB, Böhringer S, Helmer Q, Nelson CP, Saunders GI, Alver M, Andersen-Ranberg K, Breen ME, van der Breggen R, Caliebe A, **Capri M**, **Cevenini E**, Collerton JC, Dato S, Davies K, Ford I, Gampe J, **Garagnani P**, de Geus EJ, Harrow J, van Heemst D, Heijmans BT, Heinsen FA, Hottenga JJ, Hofman A, Jeune B, Jonsson PV, Lathrop M, Lechner D, Martin-Ruiz C, McNerlan SE, Mihailov E, Montesanto A, Mooijaart SP, Murphy A, Nohr EA, Paternoster L, Postmus I, Rivadeneira F, Ross OA, **Salvioli S**, Sattar N, Schreiber S, Stefánsson H, Stott DJ, Tiemeier H, Uitterlinden AG, Westendorp RG, Willemsen G, Samani NJ, Galan P, Sørensen TI, Boomsma DI, Jukema JW, Rea IM, Passarino G, de Craen AJ, Christensen K, Nebel A, Stefánsson K, Metspalu A, Magnusson P, Blanché H, Christiansen L, Kirkwood TB, van Duijn CM, **Franceschi C**, Houwing-Duistermaat JJ, **Slagboom PE**.
- Hum Mol Genet. 2014 Mar 31. [Epub ahead of print]

**The discovery and replication studies involved a total of 187170 subjects (85+, 90+ and controls)**

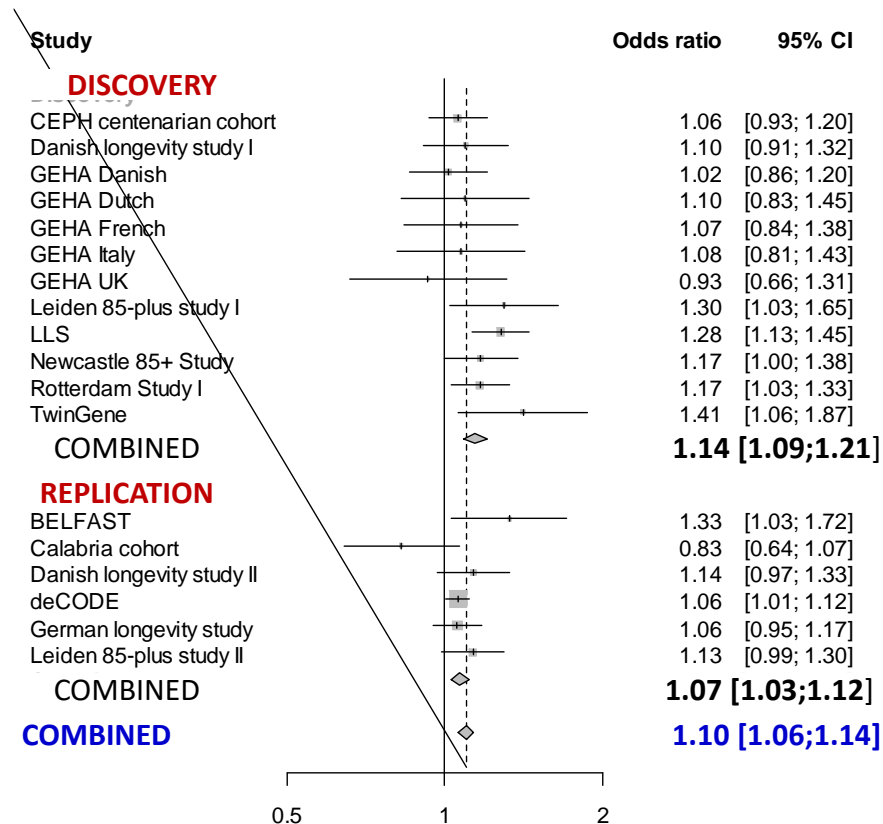
**The prospective study for mortality involved 34103 subjects (30-105 yrs)**

# Forest plots for **rs4420638** and **rs2149954**

Forest plots representing the odds ratios with 95% CI of rs4420638 and rs2149954 for the cohorts analyzed in the discovery and replication phase ( $\geq 90$  years). The size of the boxes represents the sample size of the cohort.



**rs4420638**  
**chr 19q13.32**



**rs2149954**  
**chr 5q33.3**

# The new “good” SNP

**rs2149954 (T)** is associated with:

1. **lower all-cause mortality**
2. **lower mortality risk for cardiovascular disease**
3. **a decreased risk for coronary artery disease**
4. **lower diastolic and systolic blood pressure**

# SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

## Novel loci and pathways significantly associated with longevity

Received: 25 August 2015

Accepted: 20 January 2016

Published: 25 February 2016

Yi Zeng<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Chao Nie<sup>3,\*</sup>, Junxia Min<sup>4,\*</sup>, Xiaomin Liu<sup>3,\*</sup>, Mengmeng Li<sup>5</sup>, Huashuai Chen<sup>1,6</sup>, Hanshi Xu<sup>3</sup>, Mingbang Wang<sup>3</sup>, Ting Ni<sup>7</sup>, Yang Li<sup>8</sup>, Han Yan<sup>8</sup>, Jin-Pei Zhang<sup>8</sup>, Chun Song<sup>8</sup>, Li-Qing Chi<sup>8</sup>, Han-Ming Wang<sup>8</sup>, Jie Dong<sup>8</sup>, Gu-Yan Zheng<sup>8</sup>, Li Lin<sup>5</sup>, Feng Qian<sup>5</sup>, Yanwei Qi<sup>3,9</sup>, Xiao Liu<sup>3</sup>, Hongzhi Cao<sup>3</sup>, Yinghao Wang<sup>3</sup>, Lijuan Zhang<sup>3</sup>, Zhaochun Li<sup>3</sup>, Yufeng Zhou<sup>3</sup>, Yan Wang<sup>3</sup>, Jiehua Lu<sup>10</sup>, Jianxin Li<sup>10</sup>, Ming Qi<sup>4</sup>, Lars Bolund<sup>3,11</sup>, Anatoliy Yashin<sup>12</sup>, Kenneth C. Land<sup>12</sup>, Simon Gregory<sup>13</sup>, Ze Yang<sup>14</sup>, William Gottschalk<sup>15</sup>, Wei Tao<sup>16</sup>, Jian Wang<sup>3,17</sup>, Jun Wang<sup>3,18</sup>, Xun Xu<sup>3</sup>, Harold Bae<sup>19</sup>, Marianne Nygaard<sup>20</sup>, Lene Christiansen<sup>20</sup>, Kaare Christensen<sup>20</sup>, Claudio Franceschi<sup>21</sup>, Michael W. Lutz<sup>15</sup>, Jun Gu<sup>16</sup>, Qihua Tan<sup>20</sup>, Thomas Perls<sup>22</sup>, Paola Sebastiani<sup>23</sup>, Joris Deelen<sup>24</sup>, Eline Slagboom<sup>24</sup>, Elizabeth Hauser<sup>13</sup>, Huji Xu<sup>5</sup>, Xiao-Li Tian<sup>8,†</sup>, Huanming Yang<sup>3,17,†</sup> & James W. Vaupel<sup>25</sup>

# GENETICS

## of Chinese, European and USA 100+

- **2178 Han Chinese centenarians** (mean age 102.7 years) and **2299 mid-age controls** (mean age 48.4 years)
- **Compared with European 90+ sibs** of EC-funded GEHA project (Genetics of Healthy Ageing 2005-2010; Coordinator: C. Franceschi) and **100+ of New England Centenarian (NEC) study**

# Two top loci emerged as genome-wide significant

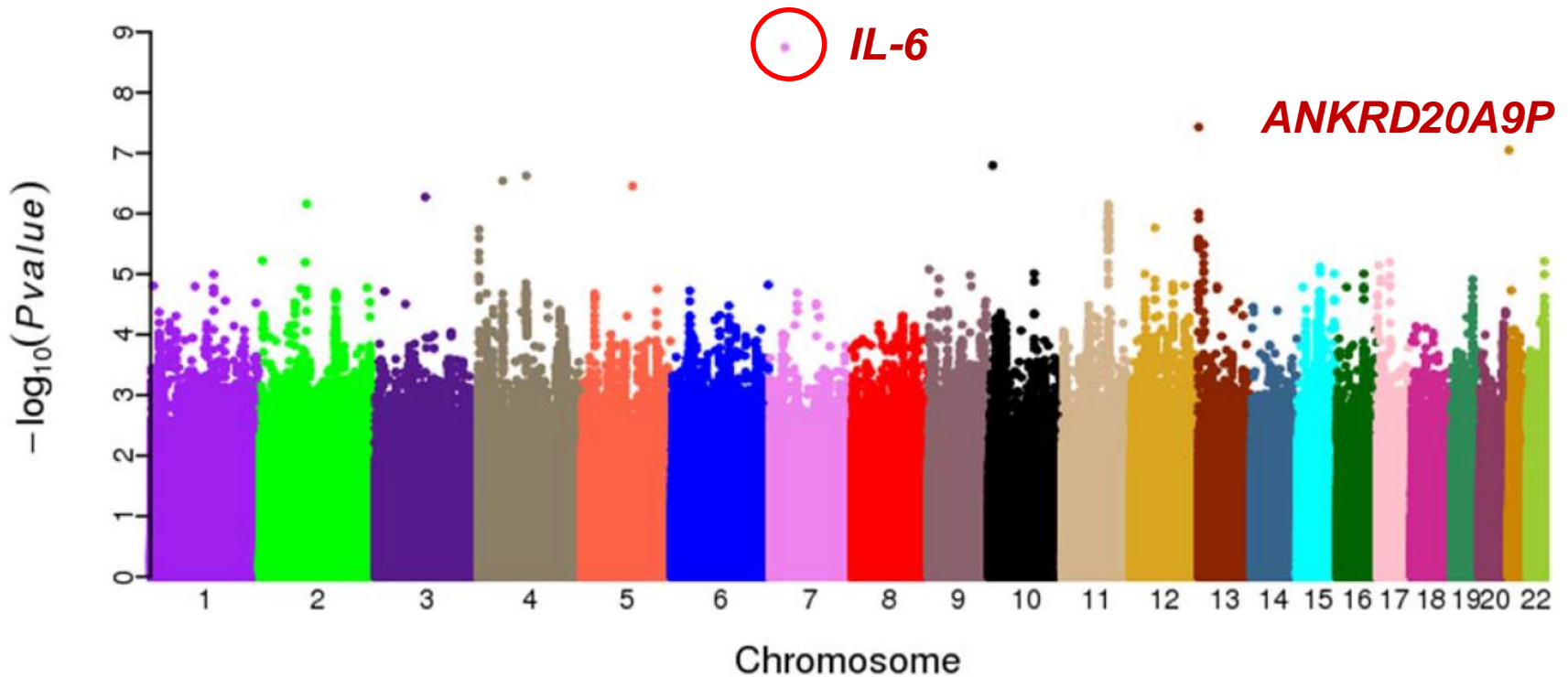
rs2069837, chr 7p15.3, *IL-6*,  $P = 1.80 \times 10^{-9}$

rs2069837- *IL-6* alone explained 1.0% of the variance

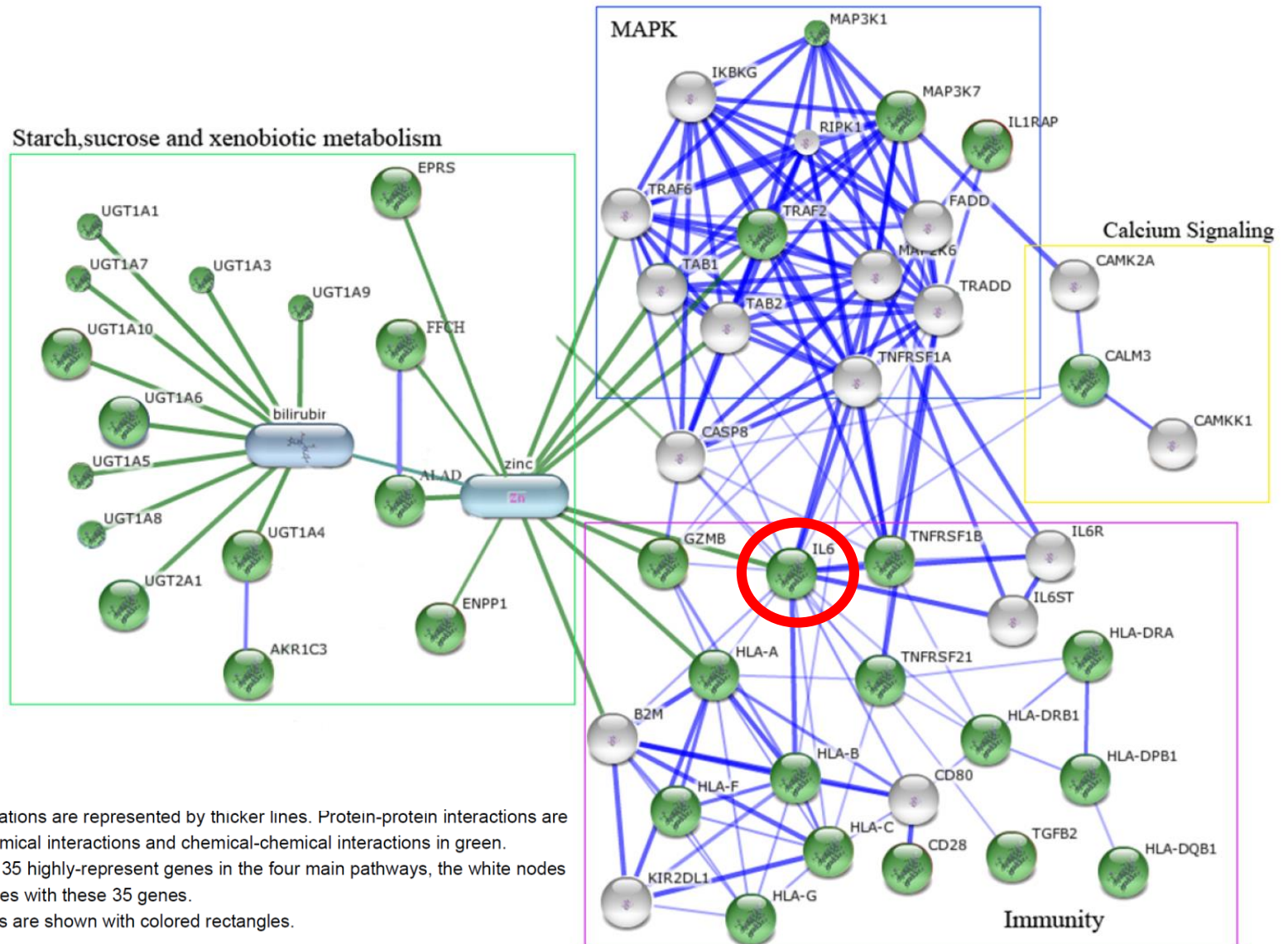
rs2440012, chr 13q12.12, *ANKRD20A9P*,  $P = 3.73 \times 10^{-8}$

rs2149954 (T) in chr 5q33.3 was confirmed

*ANKRD20A9P* is a pseudogene affiliated with the long non-coding RNAs (lncRNA) class.



# Gene and Pathway Networks in Human Longevity



Notes: (1) Stronger associations are represented by thicker lines. Protein-protein interactions are shown in blue, protein-chemical interactions and chemical-chemical interactions in green.

(2) The green nodes mark 35 highly-represent genes in the four main pathways, the white nodes mark highly interacted genes with these 35 genes.

(3) The four main pathways are shown with colored rectangles.



# The genetics of human aging and longevity

- *Sci. Aging Knowl. Environ.*, 28 June 2006  
Vol. **2006**, Issue 10, p. pe20

## PERSPECTIVES

### The Unusual Genetics of Human Longevity

Giovanna De Benedictis, and Claudio Franceschi

- **Abstract**

... we discuss some recent findings (**the impact of geography and demography, ... homozygosity, the role of the nuclear-mitochondrial genome cross-talk**) and **new ideas, such as the concept of A COMPLEX ALLELE TIMING as a pivotal process in modulating the probability of achieving longevity**



# THE GENETICS OF HUMAN LONGEVITY

- **“Complex allele timing”** the same allele can have different effect at different ages.

**Moreover,**

- **the same gene can have pleiotropic effects** and participate in different pathways.
- **Epistasis, i.e. gene-gene interactions**

# “age remodelling”

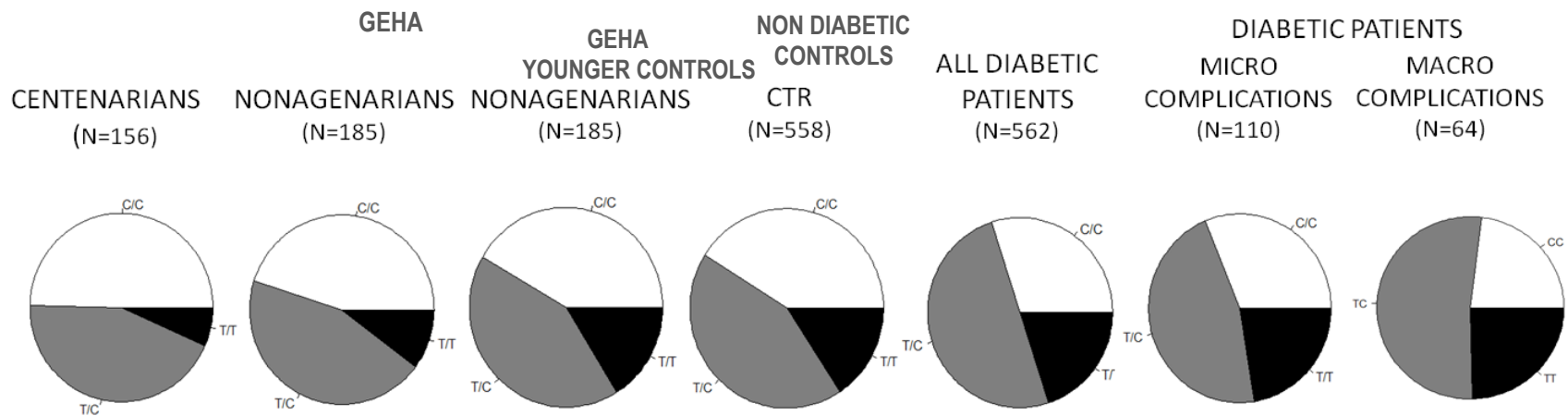
- The physiological changes that characterize the bodies of old people result from **adaptive strategies** (“remodelling”) at the molecular and cellular levels aimed at compensating for damage that accrued over time.
  - In such an adaptive process, **the cell microenvironment** plays a pivotal role (see heterochronic parabiosis).

# The Extreme Phenotypes Approach: 100+ vs T2D

candidate gene variants associated with T2D and its complications in a total of 1,646 subjects (including n. 156 100+ and n.185 90+)

TCF7L2, DDAH1, IRS1, TERC, IGF2BP, APM1, hTERT, EPO, CAT, KCNJ11, KCNQ1, HIF-1 $\alpha$ , FTO

## RESULTS of the rs7903146 in the TCF7L2 gene



rs 7903146 – TCF7L2							
	Genotypes frequencies (%)						
CC	49.7	45.1	41.6	41.1	30.0	29	23.4
TC	43.6	44.6	42.2	43.0	50.0	50	53.1
TT	6.7	10.3	16.2	15.8	20.0	21	23.4
	Allele frequencies (%)						
C	71.5	67.4	62.7	62.6	55	54.3	51.8
T	28.5	32.6	37.3	37.4	45	45.7	48.2

# Type 2 Diabetes *TCF7L2* Risk Genotypes Alter Birth Weight: A Study of 24,053 Individuals

Rachel M. Freathy, Michael N. Weedon, Amanda Bennett, Elina Hyppönen, Caroline L. Relton, Beatrice Knight, Beverley Shields, Kirstie S. Parnell, Christopher J. Groves, Susan M. Ring, Marcus E. Pembrey, Yoav Ben-Shlomo, David P. Strachan, Chris Power, Marjo-Riitta Jarvelin, Mark I. McCarthy, George Davey Smith, Andrew T. Hattersley, and Timothy M. Frayling

To conclude, we have shown that maternal *TCF7L2* type 2 diabetes–risk genotypes at *rs7903146* are associated with increased offspring birth weight, probably through impaired maternal insulin secretion.

*Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 2007;80:1150–1161. ©



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Ageing Research Reviews

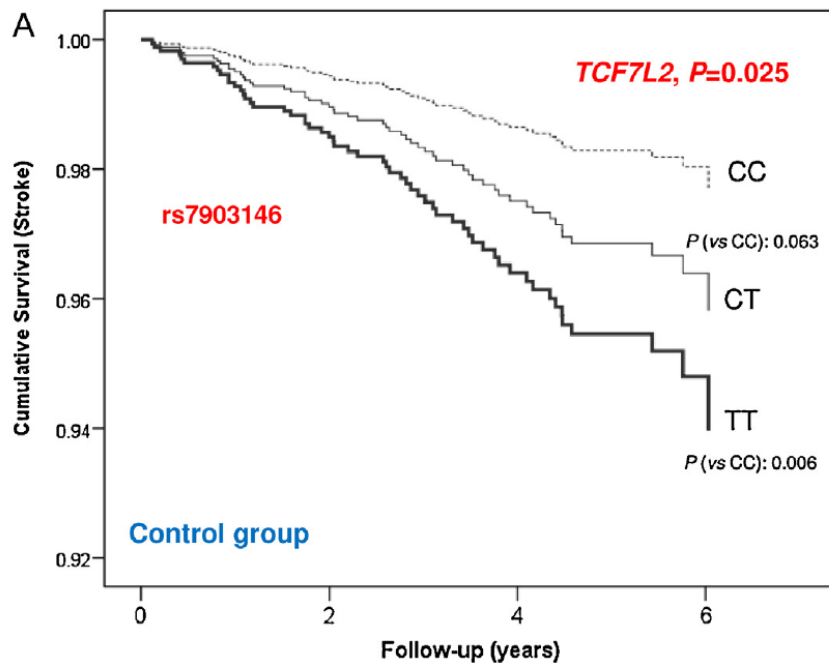
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/arr](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/arr)

Review

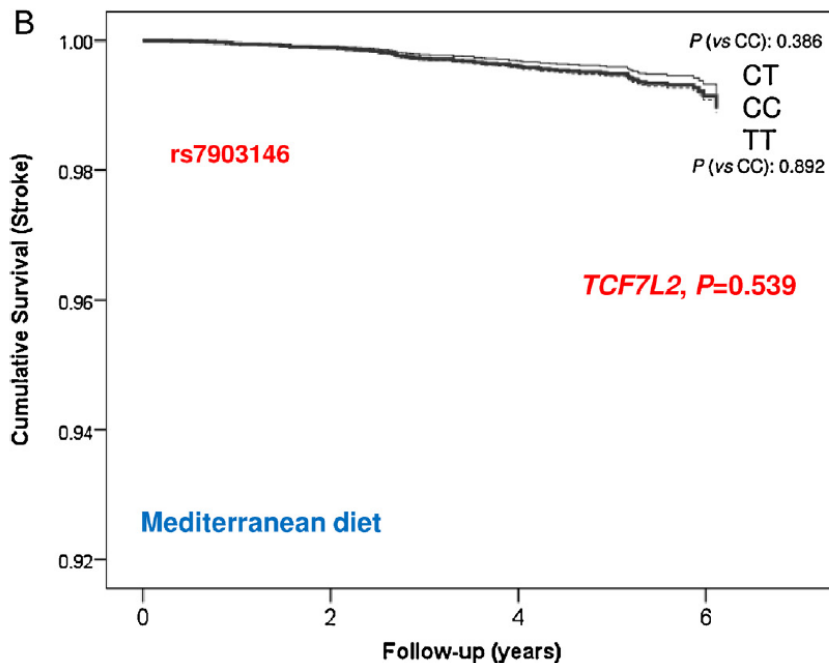
### Aging and cardiovascular diseases: The role of gene–diet interactions

Dolores Corella<sup>a,b</sup>, José M. Ordovás<sup>c,d,e,\*</sup>

- **TCF7L2-rs7903146 T-allele carriers have a higher risk of cardiovascular diseases.**
- **Strict adherence to Mediterranean diet is capable of counteracting the genetic risk of stroke.**
- **Our study on Italian centenarians (Garagnani et al., 2013) shows that rs7903146 behaves as an important genetic marker related to longevity**



**Panel A shows cumulative stroke free-survival by TCF7L2-rs7903146 genotypes (CC, CT and TT) in subjects in the control group (n = 2291)**



**Panel B shows cumulative stroke free-survival in subjects allocated in the Mediterranean diet Intervention groups (n = 4827) and who had a strict adherence to the Mediterranean diet**

**THE GENETICS OF LONGEVITY  
IS THE RESULT OF THE INTERACTION  
AMONG**

**MANY GENOMES**

**“ the *H. sapiens* metagenome ”**

# the *H. sapiens* metagenome

nuclear DNA x mtDNA

x microbiomes

(malleable and modifiable)

x environment/lifestyle



# mtDNA variants in aging and longevity

Aging Cell 2013

mtDNA = 16.569 bp

Open Access

N Raule, F Sevini, S Li, A Barbieri, F Tallaro, L Lomartire, D Vianello, J Moilanen, THE GEHA Group, K Majamaa, M Perola, TE Johnson, L Bolund, H Yang, G Passarino, C Franceschi

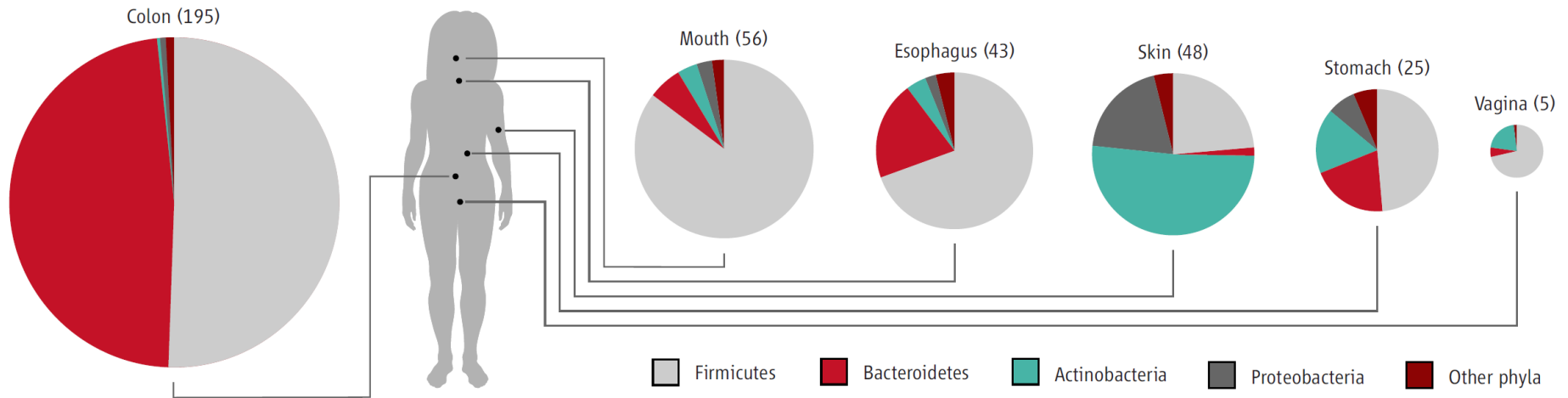
**The co-occurrence of mtDNA mutations on different oxidative phosphorylation subunits, not detected by haplogroup analysis, affects human longevity and is population specific.**

Owing the unprecedented number of subjects analysed (>2200 90+ and the same number of younger controls) and the high number of complete mtDNA sequences (1300) it was possible to show:

1. a **beneficial** effect of mutations in the subunits of OXPHOS **complex I**
2. a **detrimental** effect of mutations when they are present **concomitantly in subunits of complex I and III and complex I and V**
3. positive effects of mutations in tRNA genes, which had previously been found to be associated to a number of disorders

# Invisible Partners

## bacteria in the different body sites



# GUT MICROBIOTA

a

## very complex bacterial ecosystem

- 10 to 100 trillion of bacteria
- their collective genome (**microbiome**) contains >3 million non-redundant microbial genes, >100 times the genes of the human genome

Each human has a “**metagenome**” (human genome + microbiome) and has to be considered a “**metaorganism**”

- *Firmicutes* 65%
- *Bacteroidetes* 25%
- *Proteobacteria* 8%
- *Actinobacteria* 5%
- *Fusobacteria* 1%

# **Gut Microbiome Metagenomics (faeces) & Metabolomics (serum & urine) in 100+ and their offspring**

**In collaboration with**

**Patrizia Brigidi**

**University of Bologna**

**Serge Rezzi & Sebastiano Collino**

**NIHS, Nestlé Institute of Health Science,  
Lausanne**

# Through Ageing, and Beyond: Gut Microbiota and Inflammatory Status in Seniors and Centenarians

**Elena Biagi<sup>1\*</sup>, Lotta Nylund<sup>2,3</sup>, Marco Candela<sup>1</sup>, Rita Ostan<sup>4</sup>, Laura Bucci<sup>4</sup>, Elisa Pini<sup>4</sup>, Janne Nikkila<sup>3</sup>, Daniela Monti<sup>5</sup>, Reetta Satokari<sup>2</sup>, Claudio Franceschi<sup>4</sup>, Patrizia Brigidi<sup>1</sup>, Willem De Vos<sup>3,6</sup>**

**1** Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, **2** Functional Foods Forum, University of Turku, Turku, Finland, **3** Division of Microbiology and Epidemiology, Department of Basic Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, **4** Department of Experimental Pathology and CIG-Interdepartmental Center L. Galvani, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, **5** Department of Experimental Pathology and Oncology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy, **6** Laboratory of Microbiology, Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands

**PLOS One 2010**

# CONCLUSIONS

## The fecal microbiota of Centenarians

↓ BIODIVERSITY

↓ *Clostridium* cluster XIVa\*

↓ Bifidobacteria

Rearrangement of *Clostridium* cluster IV\*

↑ Facultative anaerobes, including Bacilli and Proteobacteria (“pathobionts”)

\* butyrate producer

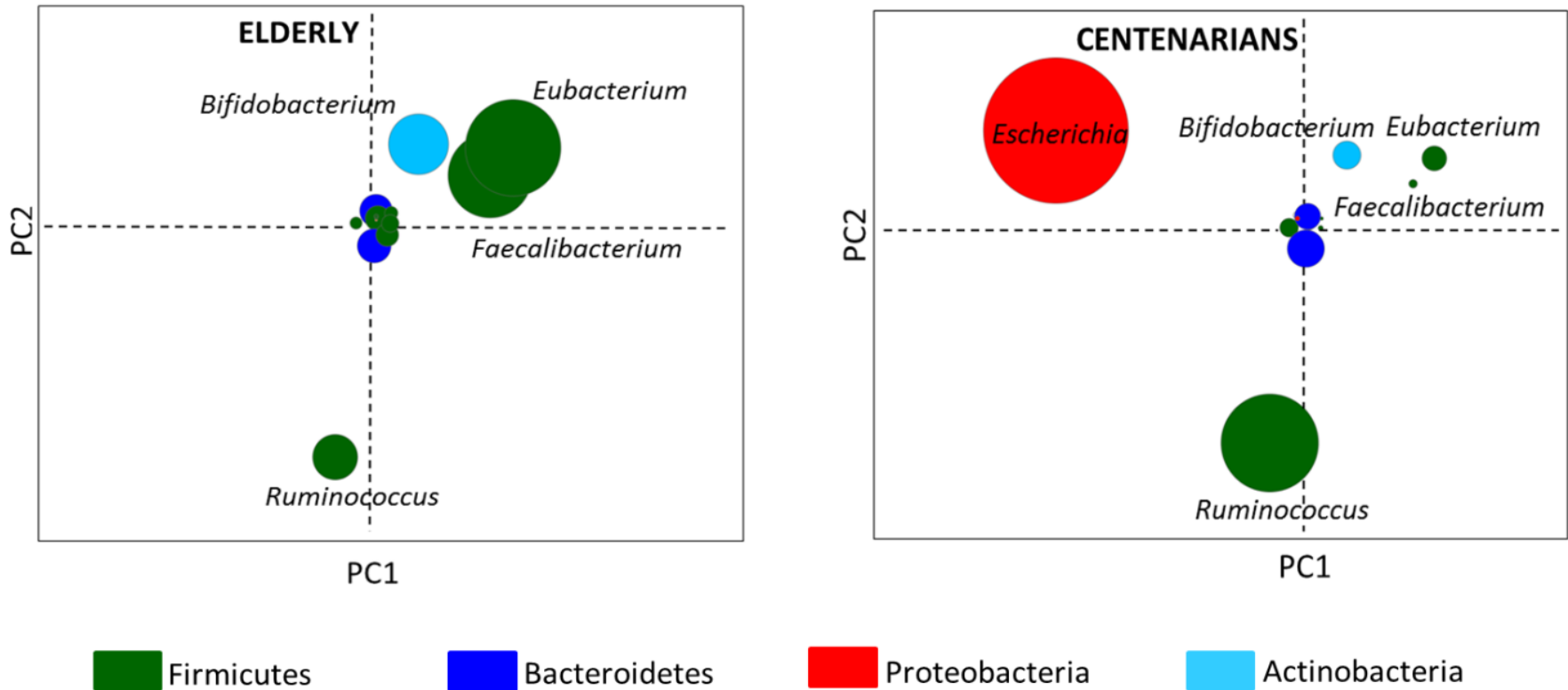
## Functional metagenomic profiling of intestinal microbiome in extreme ageing

Simone Rampelli <sup>1</sup>, Marco Candela <sup>1</sup>, Silvia Turroni <sup>1</sup>, Elena Biagi <sup>1</sup>, Sebastiano Collino <sup>2</sup>, Claudio Franceschi <sup>3</sup>, Paul W O'Toole <sup>4</sup>, and Patrizia Brigidi <sup>1</sup>

By **Illumina shotgun sequencing** of the fecal microbial DNA from the centenarians, elderly and young people, we generated **a total of 214.6 million paired-end reads**, with an average of **23.841 million ( $\pm 0.067$  SD) reads per subject**.

# Taxonomic fingerprint of aging

The genera *Escherichia* and *Ruminococcus* were over-represented in centenarians, whereas *Faecalibacterium*, *Eubacterium* and *Bifidobacterium* were more abundant in elderly.

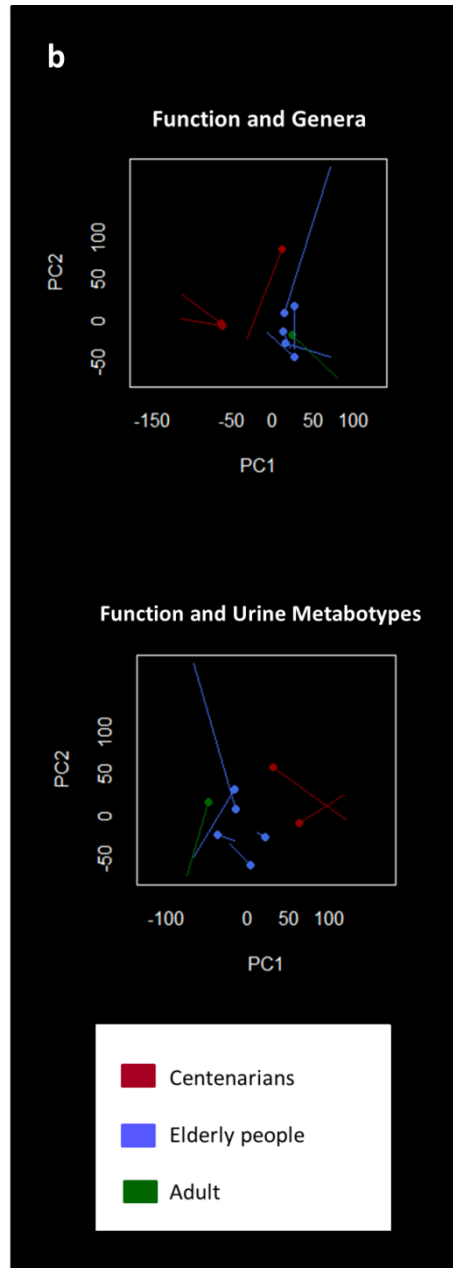
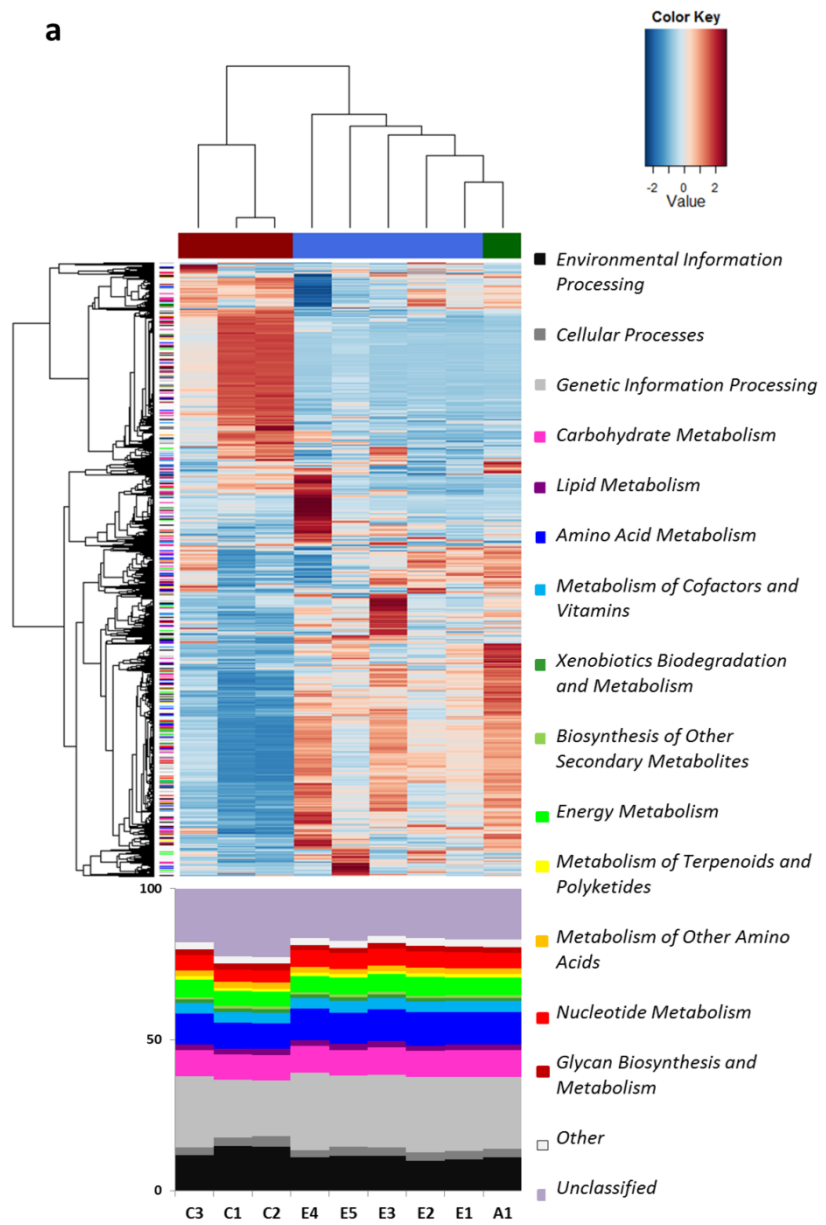




# Metagenome function analysis separates centenarians from the other subjects in agreement with genus and urine metabolite clustering.

a, Hierarchical Ward-linkage clustering based on the Pearson correlation coefficients of the abundance of KO genes, filtered for KO gene subject presence  $\geq 1$  in at least 8/9 subjects. KO genes are clustered in the vertical tree and color-coded according to the first level of KEGG classification or the second level for functions concerning metabolism. 2719 KO genes confidently classified in the KEGG database are visualized. The bottom panel shows the relative abundance of the KEGG categories.

b, Procrustes analysis combining Euclidean PCoA of functional microbiota (non-circle end of lines) with either Euclidean PCoA based on the genus dataset (circle-end of lines; upper graph) [8], or Euclidean PCoA based on the spectra of urine metabolites (circle-end of lines; lower graph).



# Metabolic Signatures of Extreme Longevity in Northern Italian Centenarians Reveal a Complex Remodeling of Lipids, Amino Acids, and Gut Microbiota Metabolism

Sebastiano Collino<sup>1\*</sup>, Ivan Montoliu<sup>2</sup>, François-Pierre J. Martin<sup>1</sup>, Max Scherer<sup>1</sup>, Daniela Mari<sup>3,4</sup>, Stefano Salvioli<sup>5,6</sup>, Laura Bucci<sup>5,6</sup>, Rita Ostan<sup>5,6</sup>, Daniela Monti<sup>7</sup>, Elena Biagi<sup>8</sup>, Patrizia Brigidi<sup>8</sup>, Claudio Franceschi<sup>5,6</sup>, Serge Rezzi<sup>1</sup>

**1** Proteomics and Metabonomics, Nestlé Institute of Health Sciences SA, Campus EPFL, Quartier de l'innovation, Lausanne, Switzerland, **2** Applied Mathematics, NESTEC SA, Nestlé Research Center, Lausanne, Switzerland, **3** Department of Medical Sciences, University of Milan, Milan, Italy, **4** Geriatric Unit Ca' Grande Foundation Maggiore Policlinico Hospital, Milan, Italy, **5** Department of Experimental Pathology, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, **6** Interdepartmental Centre L. Galvani, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, **7** Department of Experimental Pathology and Oncology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy, **8** Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

PLOS ONE March 2013 | Volume 8 | Issue 3 | e56564

**A total of 457 individuals:**

**N= 143 centenarians**

**N= 220 offspring of centenarians**

**N= 73 offspring of non long-lived  
parents**

**N= 21 young subjects**

## Serum profiling of healthy aging identifies phospho- and sphingolipid species as markers of human longevity

Ivan Montoliu<sup>1</sup>, Max Scherer<sup>2</sup>, Fiona Beguelin<sup>2</sup>, Laetitia DaSilva<sup>2</sup>, Daniela Mari<sup>3,4</sup>, Stefano Salvioli<sup>5,6</sup>, François-Pierre J. Martin<sup>2</sup>, Miriam Capri<sup>5,6</sup>, Laura Bucci<sup>5,6</sup>, Rita Ostan<sup>5,6</sup>, Paolo Garagnani<sup>5,6</sup>, Daniela Monti<sup>7</sup>, Elena Biagi<sup>8</sup>, Patrizia Brigidi<sup>8</sup>, Martin Kussmann<sup>2,9,10</sup>, Serge Rezzi<sup>2</sup>, Claudio Franceschi<sup>5,6</sup>, and Sebastiano Collino<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NESTEC SA, Nestlé Research Center, Vers-chez-les-Blanc, CH-1000 Lausanne 26, Switzerland;

<sup>2</sup>Nestlé Institute of Health Sciences SA, Campus EPFL, Molecular Biomarkers Core, Quartier de l'innovation, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland;

<sup>3</sup>Department of Medical Sciences, University of Milan, Milan, Italy;

<sup>4</sup>Geriatric Unit IRCCS Ca' Grande Foundation Maggiore Policlinico Hospital, Milan, Italy;

<sup>5</sup>Department of Experimental, Diagnostic and Specialty Medicine Experimental Pathology, University of Bologna, Via S. Giacomo 12, 40126 Bologna, Italy;

<sup>6</sup>Interdepartmental Centre "L. Galvani" CIG, University of Bologna, Piazza di Porta S. Donato 1, 40126 Bologna, Italy;

<sup>7</sup>Department of Clinical, Experimental and Biomedical Sciences, University of Florence, Viale Morgagni 50, 50134 Florence, Italy;

<sup>8</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bologna, Via Belmeloro 6, 40126 Bologna, Italy;

<sup>9</sup>Faculty of Life Sciences, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland;

<sup>10</sup>Faculty of Science, Interdisciplinary NanoScience Center (iNANO), Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark;

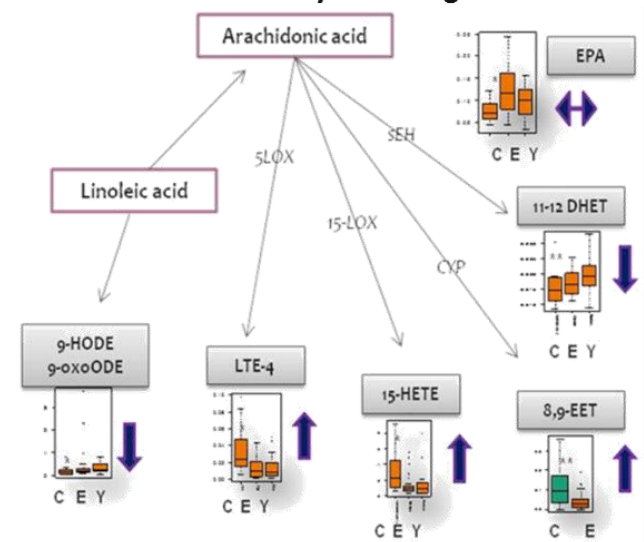
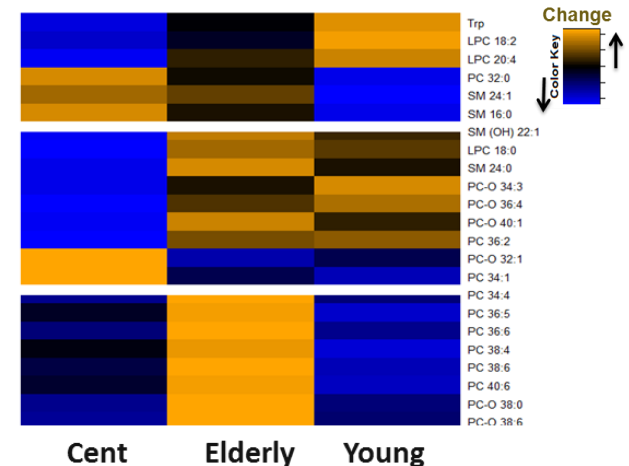
# Metabonomic and lipidomic biomarkers of human aging and longevity

Healthy Ageing is characterized by an unique capacity to adapt/respond to aging-induced accumulation of oxidative and chronic inflammatory conditions

## ➤ Decrease concentration of AA (Trp)

- Decrease concentration GPL (LPCs)
- Increase concentration of sphingolipids (SM)
- Different membrane FA composition/integrity (PC/PE ratio) with lower MUFA/PUFA ratio
- Increase proinflammatory synthesis (Leukotrienes)
- Activation anti-inflammatory mechanism (HETE, EET)
- Reduction of oxidative stress (9-HODE, 9-oxoODE)

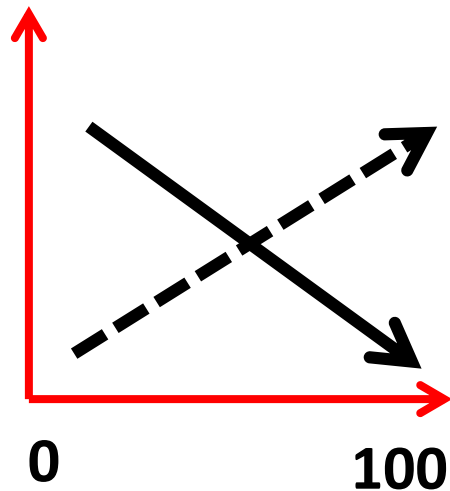
Lipidomics and Eicosanoids



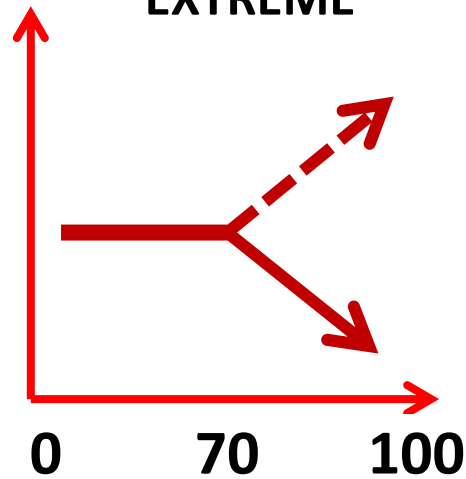
For the first time, a metabolic phenotype of centenarians is reported:  
a good reference model for human longevity and healthy ageing

# Age-Trajectories of Metabolomic Biomarkers (information molecules !)

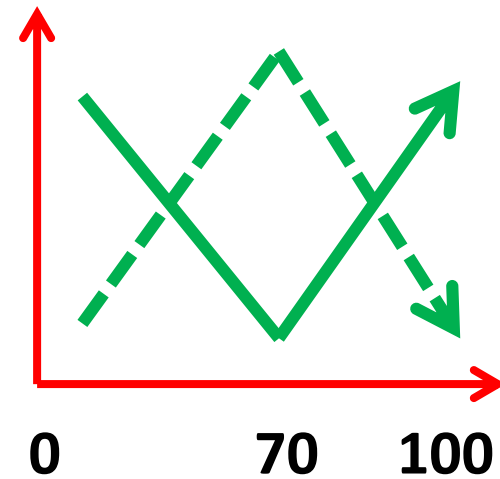
**AGING**



**AGING  
EXTREME**



**LONGEVITY**



**A G E**

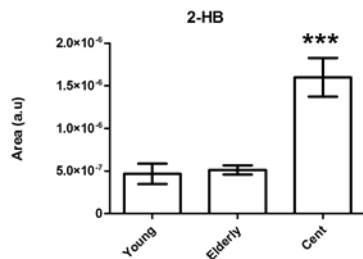
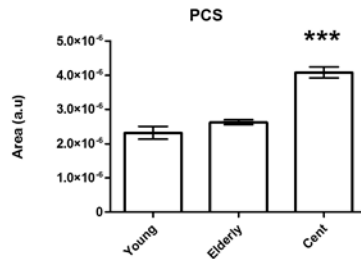
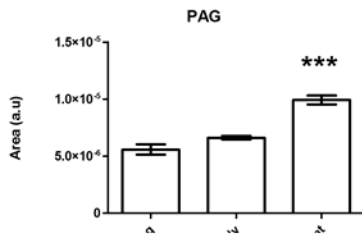
# Metabolomic Biomarkers of Aging and Longevity

- **monotonically increased or decreased with age :**
  - **decreased** concentrations of **Tryptophan** (Trp) & **lysophosphatidylcholines** (LPC 18:2, LPC 20:4);
  - **increased** levels of PC 32:0 and **sphingomyelins** (SM 24:1, SM 16:0);
- **remaining largely until age 70 and undergoing significant changes in centenarians**
  - **decreased** concentration in **sphingomyelins** and specific **glycerophospholipids** (SM-OH 22:1, LPC 18:0, SM 24:0, PC-O 34:3, PC-O 36:4, PC-O 40:1, PC 36:2);
  - **increased** concentration in specific **glycerophospholipids** (PC-O 32:1, PC-O 34:1)
- **remarkably similar in young subjects and centenarians**
  - specific **glycerophospholipids** (PC34:4, PC36:6, PC 36:5, PC 38:4, PC 38:6, PC 40:6, PC-O 38:0, PC-O 38:6).

# Specific metabolites of gut microbiota in the urine

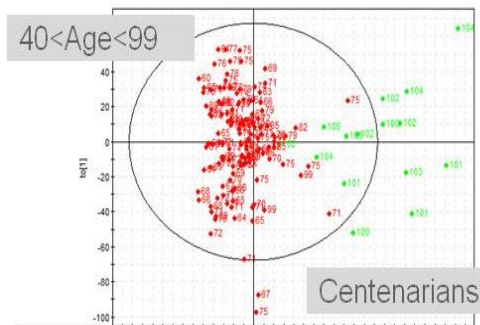
## Centenarian metabolic signature

➤ Phenylacetylglutamine (PAG)  
p-cresol sulfate (PCS), (2HB)2-hydroxybenzoate

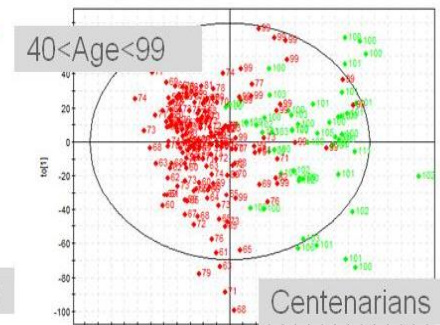


*Gut microbiota urinary metabolic features*

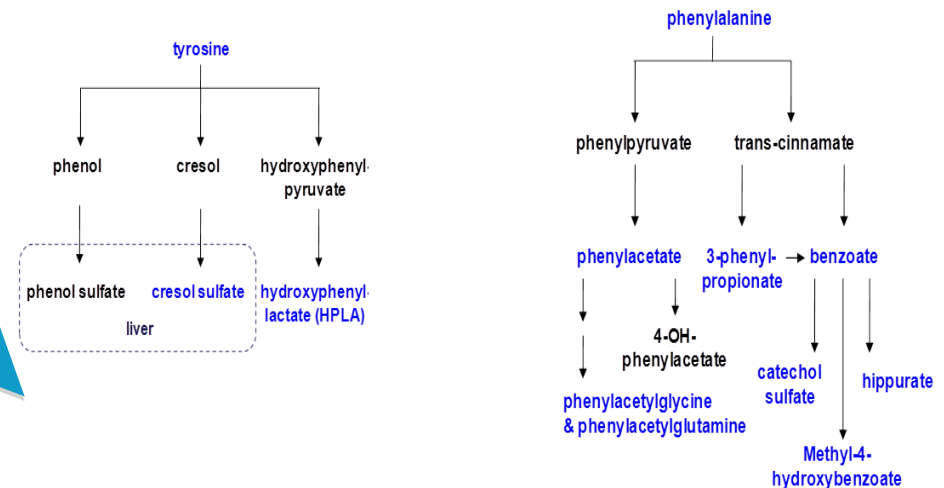
## Urine metabolic profile



Males



Females





in centenarians we found relatively

- **lower** amount of **glycerophosphocholine (GPC)**
- **higher** amounts of **N-acetylglycoproteins (NAC), glutamine, citrate, creatinine, and phenylalanine**



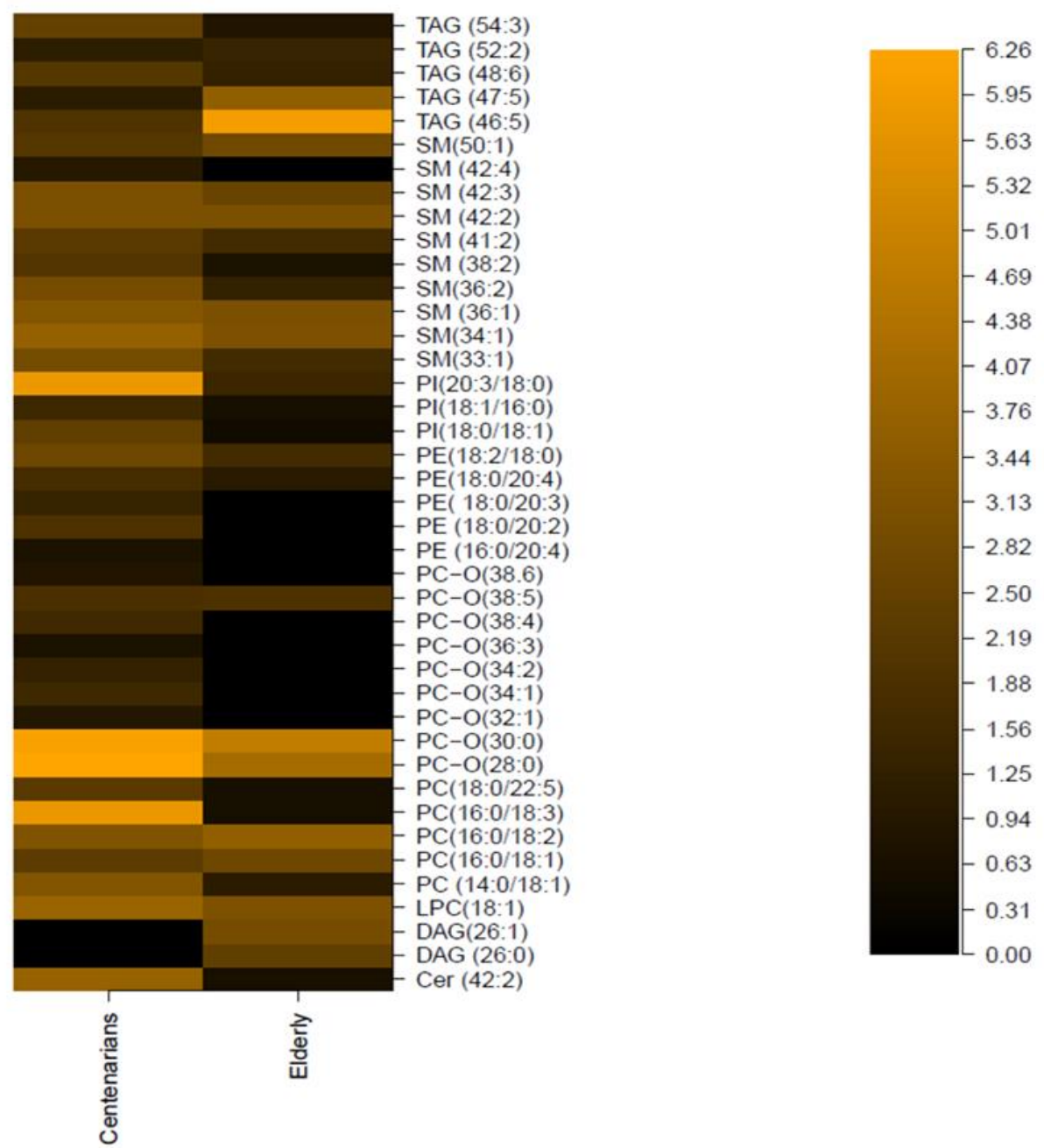
**metabolomics profiling revealed  
that **longevity** can be viewed as  
**a distinct metabolomic phenotype**  
marked by changes  
in amino acids and lipid  
metabolism.**

# **LIPIDOMICS: 12 different lipid classes (174 species) were analysed and quantified:**

- triacylglycerol **TAG** (n=30),
- sphingomyelin **SM** (n=25),
- lysophosphatidylcholine **LPC** (n=7),
- phosphatidylcholine **PC** (n=34),
- ether phosphatidylcholine **PC-O** (n=19),
- ceramides **Cer** (n=6),
- phosphatidylethanolamine **PE** (n=14),
- phosphatidylethanolamine based ether **PE-O** (n=9),
- lysophosphatidylethanolamine **LPE** (n=3),
- phosphatidylinositol **PI** (n=7),
- phosphatidic acid **PA** (n=1),
- diacylglycerol **DAG** (n=19).

Differences in mean ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) standardized lipids value between elderly and centenarians.

**Shot gun  
lipidomics  
approach shows  
unique changes  
in lipids  
biosynthesis  
in centenarians,  
with 41 lipid  
species  
associated to  
longevity.**



# The continuous remodeling with age of the gut microbiota (GM)

## Gut Microbiota and Extreme Longevity

Elena Biagi,<sup>1,\*</sup> Claudio Franceschi,<sup>2,3,4</sup> Simone Rampelli,<sup>1</sup> Marco Severgnini,<sup>5</sup> Rita Ostan,<sup>2,3</sup> Silvia Turrone,<sup>1</sup> Clarissa Consolandi,<sup>5</sup> Sara Quercia,<sup>1</sup> Maria Scurti,<sup>2,3</sup> Daniela Monti,<sup>6</sup> Miriam Capri,<sup>2,3</sup> Patrizia Brigidi,<sup>1</sup> and Marco Candela<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmacy and Biotechnology, Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, Bologna 40126, Italy

<sup>2</sup>DIMES-Department of Experimental, Diagnostic and Specialty Medicine, Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, Bologna 40126, Italy

<sup>3</sup>CIG-Interdepartmental Centre “L. Galvani,” Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, Bologna 40126, Italy

<sup>4</sup>IRCCS, Institute of Neurological Sciences of Bologna, Bologna 40139, Italy

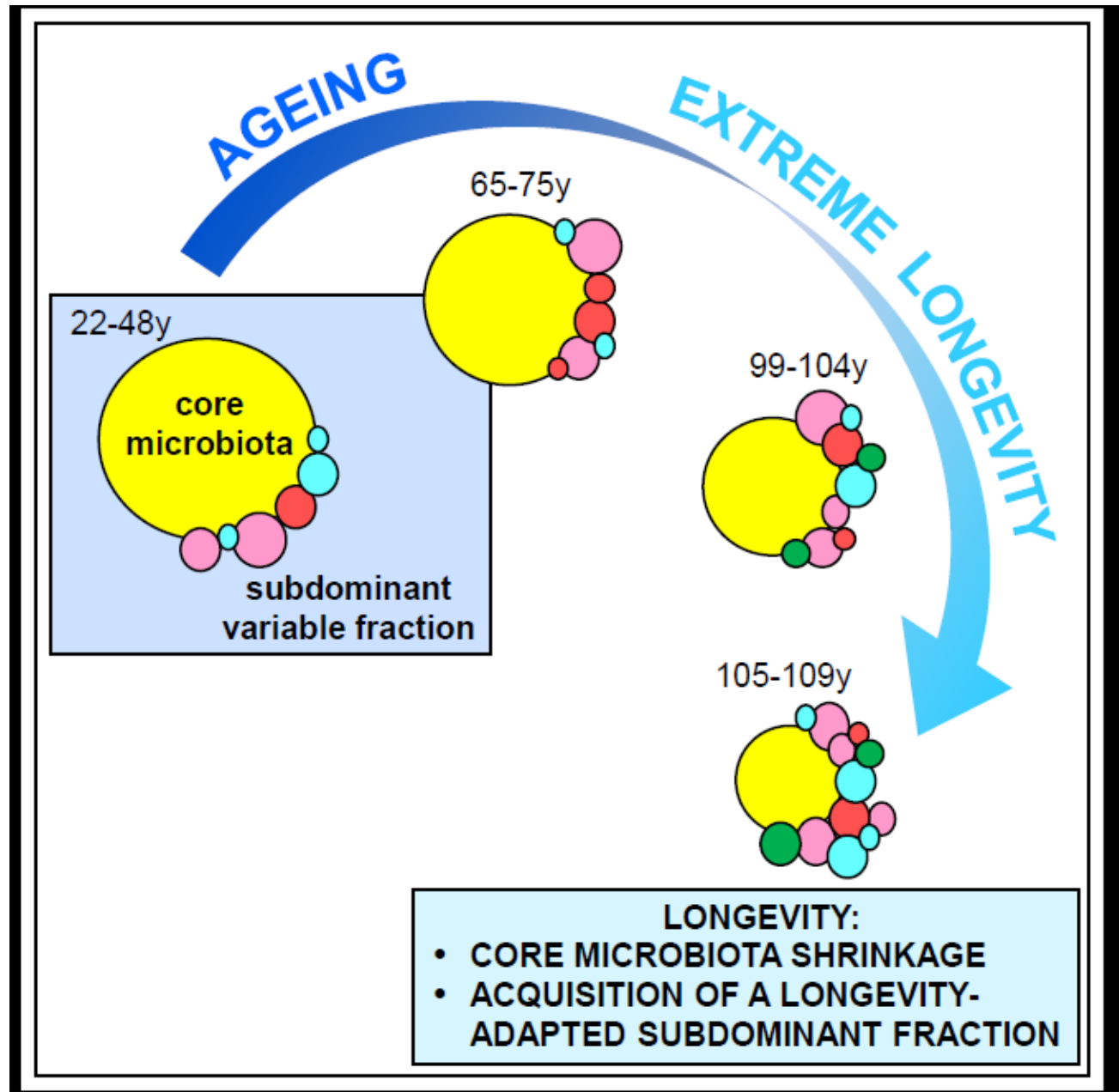
<sup>5</sup>Institute of Biomedical Technologies, National Research Council (ITB-CNR), Segrate, Milan 20090, Italy

<sup>6</sup>Department of Clinical, Experimental and Biomedical Sciences, University of Florence, Florence 50134, Italy

**Current Biology 26, 1–6 June, 2016**

**There is a GM signature of aging and longevity**

The  
adaptive  
remodeling  
of  
gut  
microbiota  
with  
age  
from 22 to  
109 years



# Unexpected INCREASE of GM DIVERSITY in Italian, Chinese and Japanese centenarians

Diversity	GM diversity in Centenarians according to:				
	Biagi et al., 2016	Wang et al., 2015	Kong et al., 2016	Odamaki et al., 2016	
Simpson reciprocal index of diversity	↑				
Alpha diversity (Chao index)	↑	↑	↑	↑	
Shannon index	↑	=	↑	↑	

In chronic age-associated diseases the  
GM diversity decreases

## Functional metagenomic profiling of intestinal microbiome in extreme ageing

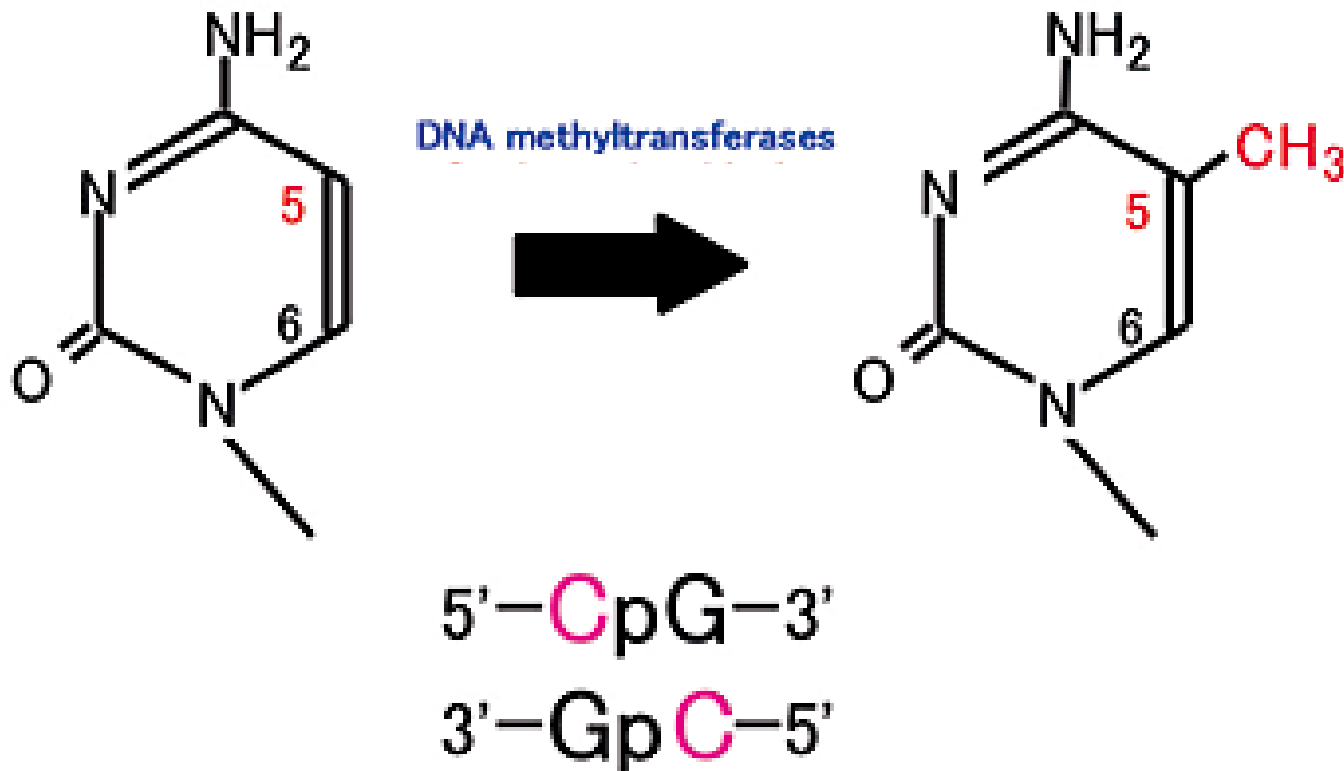
Simone Rampelli <sup>1</sup>, Marco Candela <sup>1</sup>, Silvia Turrone <sup>1</sup>, Elena Biagi <sup>1</sup>, Sebastiano Collino <sup>2</sup>, Claudio Franceschi <sup>3</sup>, Paul W O'Toole <sup>4</sup>, and Patrizia Brigidi <sup>1</sup>

By **Illumina shotgun sequencing** of the fecal microbial DNA from the centenarians, elderly and young people, **a total of 214.6 million paired-end reads**, with an average of **23.841 million ( $\pm 0.067$  SD) reads per subject**, were generated.

**We observed an age-related increased abundance of genes involved in the tryptophan metabolism pathway, in agreement with the reduction of tryptophan found in serum of centenarians [Collino et al, 2013].**

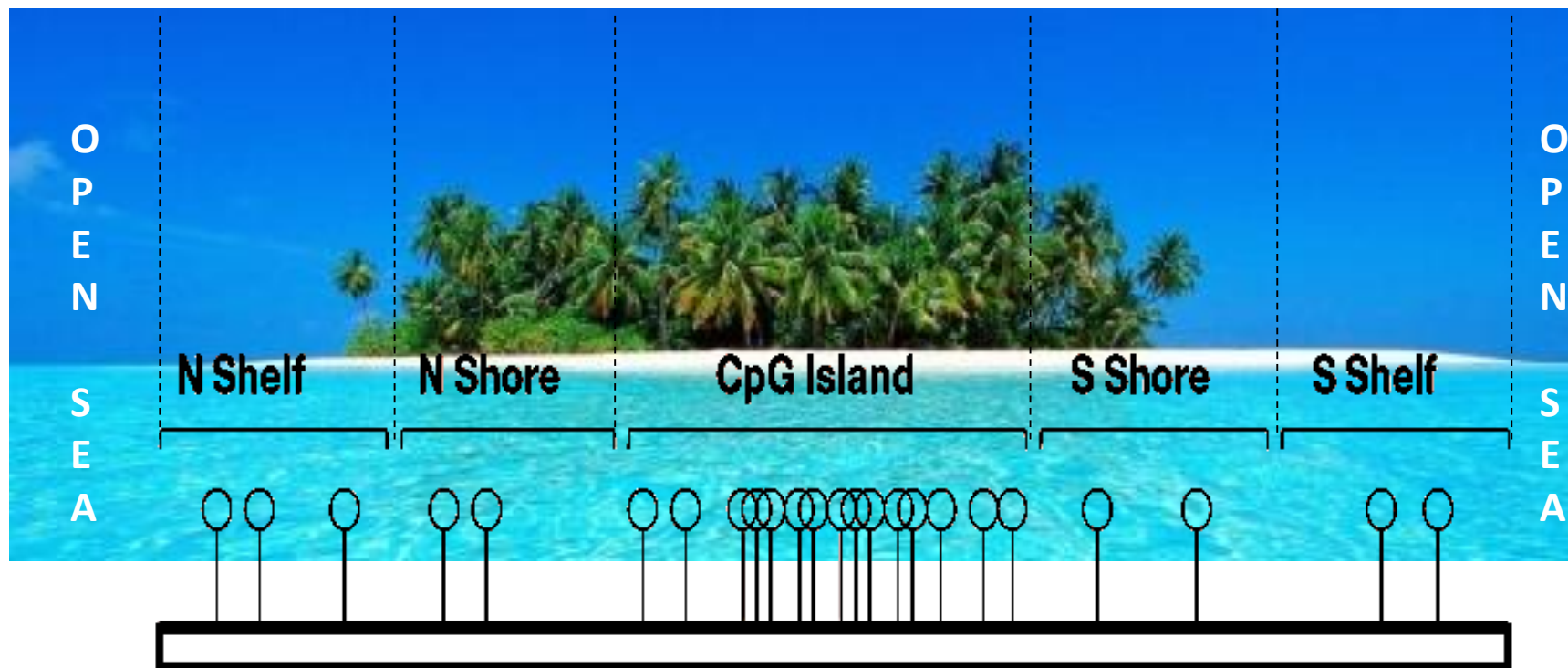
# EPIGENETICS: DNA METHYLATION

Methylation of Cytosine



Creates new phenotypes (sensitive to lifestyle, diet, stressors...) without changing the DNA sequence





**Illumina *Infinium* HumanMethylation450 BeadChip  
(480,000 CpG/genoma)**

# DNA methylation profile

of 105+, Offspring and Controls

Illumina *Infinium* HumanMethylation450 BeadChip  
(480,000 CpG/genoma)

	Milano **	Bologna *	Calabria ***	TOTAL	Mean Age ( $\pm$ std)	Male (N)	Female (N)
105+	29	33	20	82	105.5 $\pm$ 1.7	18	64
Offspring	28	22	13	63	69.8 $\pm$ 7.2	22	25
Controls	17	16	14	47	71.6 $\pm$ 8.0	26	37
TOTAL	74	71	47	192			

\* PI: **Prof. Claudio Franceschi**, DIMES, UNIBO

\*\* PI: **Prof. Daniela Mari**, DIP. DI SCIENZE CLINICHE E DI COMUNITA', UNIVERSITÀ DI MILANO

\*\*\*PI: **Prof. Giuseppe Passarino**, DIP. DI BIOLOGIA, ECOLOGIA E SCIENZE DELLA TERRA,  
UNIVERSITÀ DELLA CALABRIA

**DATA ANALYSIS:**

**Paolo Garagnani, Chiara Pirazzini, Steve Horvath**

# THE EPIGENETIC CLOCK

Using data of more than 8000 samples present in 82 databases on DNA methylation data obtained by Illumina platforms (Infinium 450K and 27K) Steve Horvath identified in the whole genome **353 CpGs** whose methylation level is a

## **MULTI-TISSUES PREDICTOR OF AGE**

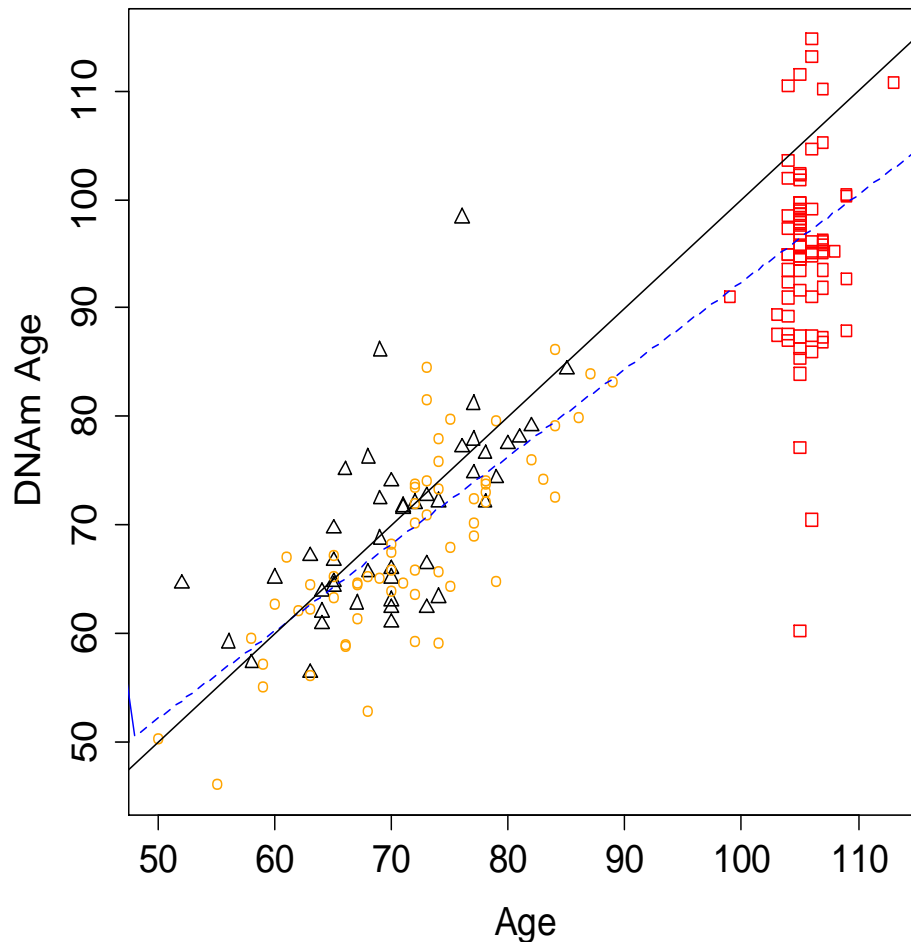
which allows to estimate epigenetic age *versus* chronological age, *i.e.* the DNA METHYLATION AGE  
**(DNAm Age)**

DNA methylation age of human tissues and cell types

Steve Horvath

Genome Biology 2013, 14:R115

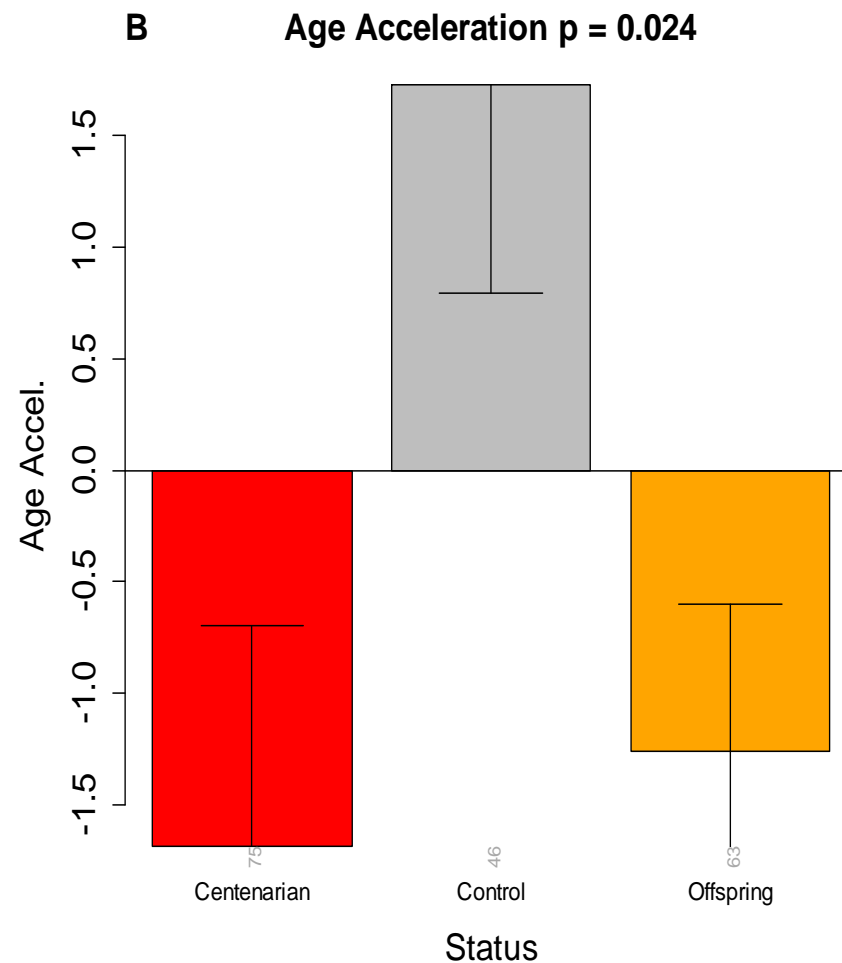
**A** DNAm Age cor=0.89, p=5.6e-64



Age Accel.

The dashed blue line corresponds to a regression line through the samples who are younger than 90 years old.

**DNAm age *versus* chronological age.** AGE ACCELERATION is defined as the (vertical) difference of each sample to the blue regression line.



- **105+** are on average **10.8 years younger** than expected
- **controls** are only **-0.09 years younger** than expected (not significantly different from zero).
- **offspring** are **5.2 years younger** than controls.

# Accelerated epigenetic aging in Down syndrome

Steve Horvath,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Paolo Garagnani,<sup>3,4,5,\*</sup> Maria Giulia Bacalini,<sup>3,4,6</sup> Chiara Pirazzini,<sup>3,4</sup> Stefano Salvioli,<sup>3,4</sup> Davide Gentilini,<sup>7</sup> Anna Maria Di Blasio,<sup>7</sup> Cristina Giuliani,<sup>8</sup> Spencer Tung,<sup>9</sup> Harry V. Vinters<sup>9</sup> and Claudio Franceschi<sup>4,10</sup>

Here, we utilize a quantitative molecular marker of aging (known as the epigenetic clock) to demonstrate that trisomy 21 significantly increases the age of blood and brain tissue (on average by 6.6 years,  $P = 7.0 \times 10^{-14}$ ).

## Age acceleration for DS:

Leukocytes:	3.9 years
Brain:	11.5 years
Whole blood:	4.6 years
Buccal epithel:	2.8 years

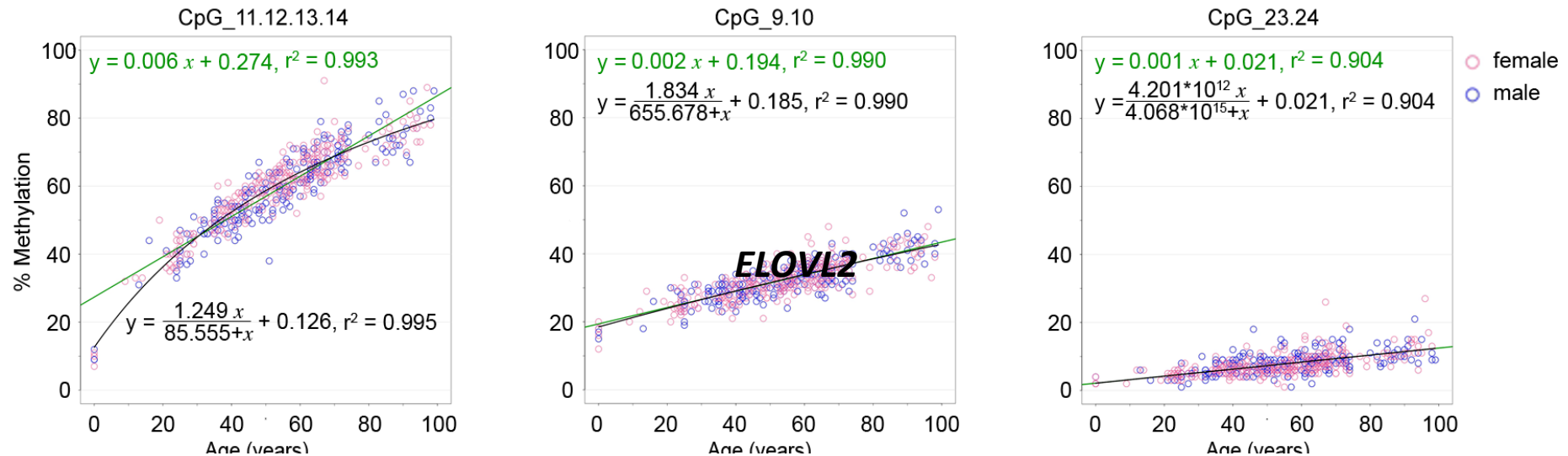
**Different methylated regions (DMR) between 32 mothers and their offspring using the Illumina *Infinium* HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (480,000 CpG/genome)**

**The top 5 loci mapped within the CpG islands of 3 genes:**

***ELOVL2*** (cg16867657), ***FHL2*** (cg06639320, cg22454769, cg24079702) and ***PENK*** (cg16419235).

The CpG islands of *ELOVL2*, *FHL2* and *PENK* resulted **hypermethylated in mothers respect to the offspring cohort** with no sex- or family-associated differences in methylation levels.

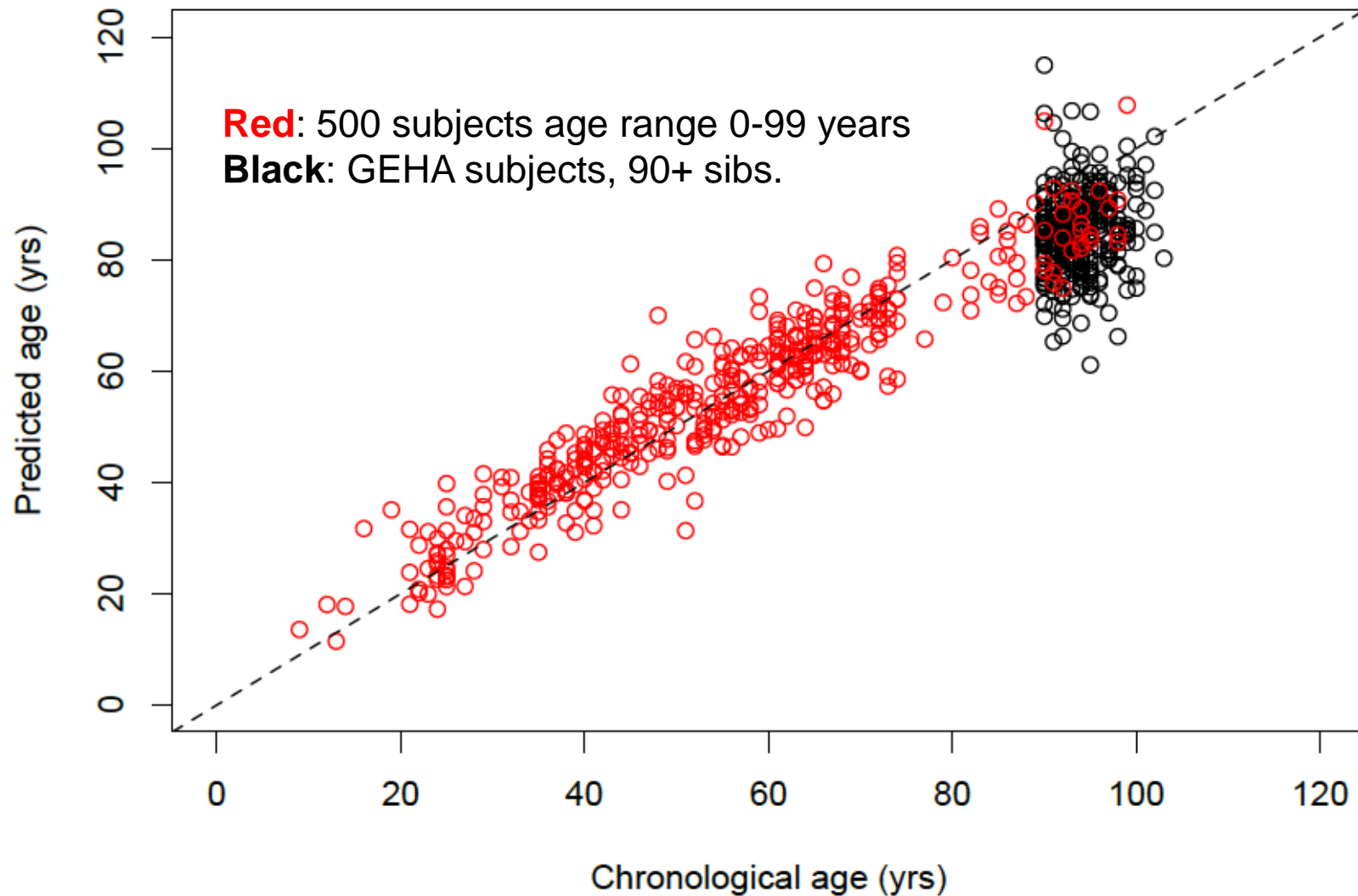
# Methylation of *ELOVL2*, *FHL2* & *PENK* CpG islands in 501 healthy subjects from newborns to 100+ (Sequenom EpiTYPER)



***ELOVL2* the most powerful  
single biomarker of aging**

Garagnani *et al.*, AGING CELL 2012





**DNAm age of n. 330 GEHA 90+ sibs**  
(methylation of ELOVL2 and FHL2 genes) is on average  
**8.8 years younger**  
than their chronological age (average 93.76 years)

# Metabolic Signatures of Extreme Longevity in Northern Italian Centenarians Reveal a Complex Remodeling of Lipids, Amino Acids, and Gut Microbiota Metabolism

Sebastiano Collino<sup>1\*</sup>, Ivan Montoliu<sup>2</sup>, François-Pierre J. Martin<sup>1</sup>, Max Scherer<sup>1</sup>, Daniela Mari<sup>3,4</sup>, Stefano Salvioli<sup>5,6</sup>, Laura Bucci<sup>5,6</sup>, Rita Ostan<sup>5,6</sup>, Daniela Monti<sup>7</sup>, Elena Biagi<sup>8</sup>, Patrizia Brigidi<sup>8</sup>, Claudio Franceschi<sup>5,6</sup>, Serge Rezzi<sup>1</sup>

**1** Proteomics and Metabonomics, Nestlé Institute of Health Sciences SA, Campus EPFL, Quartier de l'innovation, Lausanne, Switzerland, **2** Applied Mathematics, NESTEC SA, Nestlé Research Center, Lausanne, Switzerland, **3** Department of Medical Sciences, University of Milan, Milan, Italy, **4** Geriatric Unit Ca' Grande Foundation Maggiore Policlinico Hospital, Milan, Italy, **5** Department of Experimental Pathology, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, **6** Interdepartmental Centre L. Galvani, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, **7** Department of Experimental Pathology and Oncology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy, **8** Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

PLOS ONE March 2013 | Volume 8 | Issue 3 | e56564

**A total of 457 individuals:**  
**N= 143 centenarians**  
**N= 220 offspring of centenarians**  
**N= 73 offspring of non long-lived parents**  
**N= 21 young subjects**

# Metabolomic biomarkers of human aging and longevity

**A peculiar metabolic phenotype of centenarians is reported for the first time and assumed as a GOLD STANDARD for human healthy ageing and longevity**

- **Decreased concentration of AA (Trp)**
- **Decreased concentration GPL (LPCs)**
- **Increased concentration of sphingolipids (SM)**
- **Different membrane FA composition/integrity (PC/PE ratio) with lower MUFA/PUFA ratio**
- **Increased proinflammatory synthesis (Leukotrienes)**
- **Activation anti-inflammatory mechanism (HETE, EET)**
- **Reduction of oxidative stress (9-HODE, 9-oxoODE)**

