

Contributo delle scienze OMICHE nella medicina cardiovascolare

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THE NUMBER 1 KILLER

**Cardiovascular disease (CVD)
is the world's biggest killer.**

**At least 80% of premature
deaths from cardiovascular
disease could be avoided.**

17.9M

deaths per year

1 in 10

Aged 30-70
die from CVD

31%

of all deaths are
from CVD





CVDs include

- Hypertension
- Atherosclerosis
- Myocardial ischemia
- Cerebrovascular ischemia
- Renal ischemia
- GI ischemia
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Heart failure

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD)

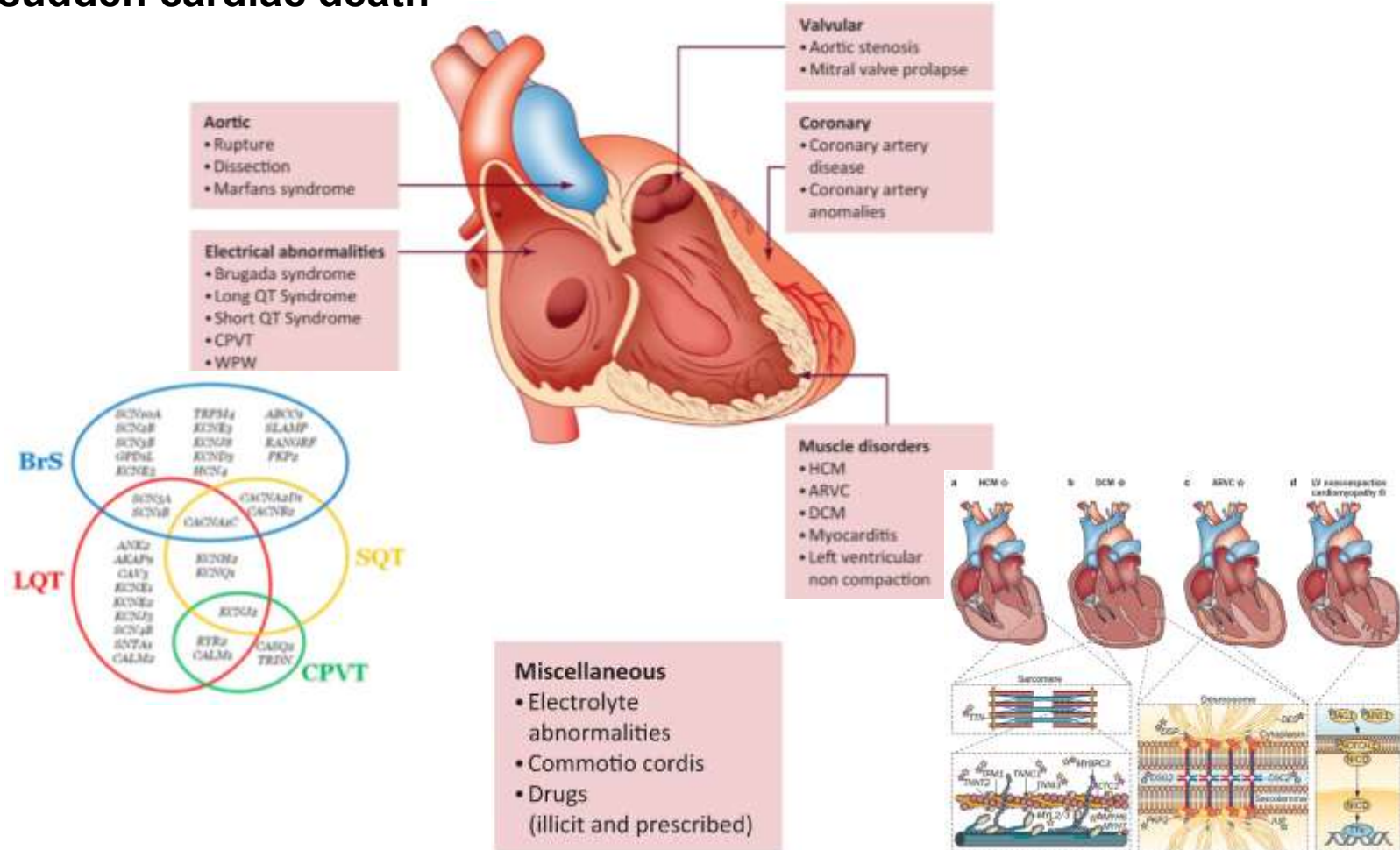
- **There have been significant advances in the understanding of the pathogenesis of CVD**
- **This has led to a significant decrease in mortality from CVD over the last 50 years**
- **Still, CVDs remain the primary cause of morbidity and death**

Genomics (Study of Genes and Their Functions)

- **Disease Risk Prediction:** Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have identified genetic variants linked to cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), such as coronary artery disease (CAD).
- **Monogenic Disorders:** Identification of mutations in genes like *MYH7* (hypertrophic cardiomyopathy), *LMNA* (DCM), and *KCNQ1* (Long QT syndrome).
- **Pharmacogenomics:** Tailoring antiplatelet (e.g., *CYP2C19* testing for clopidogrel response) and anticoagulant therapies (e.g., warfarin dosing based on **VKORC1/CYP2C9** variants).



Causes of sudden cardiac death

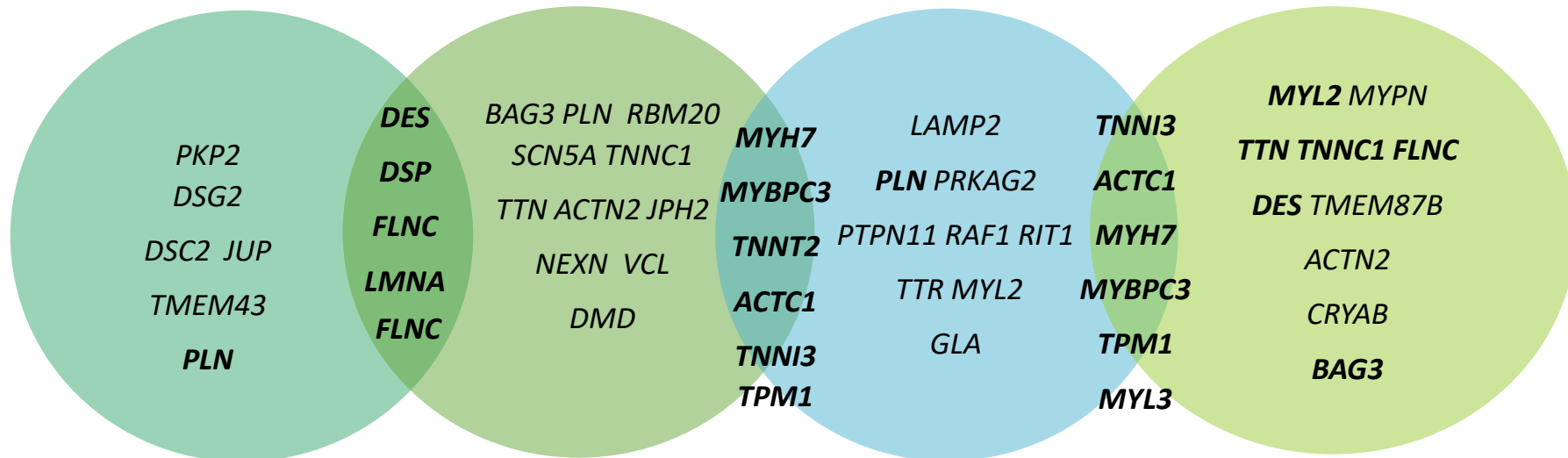


ACM

DCM

HCM

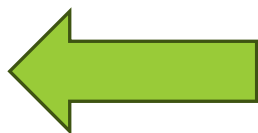
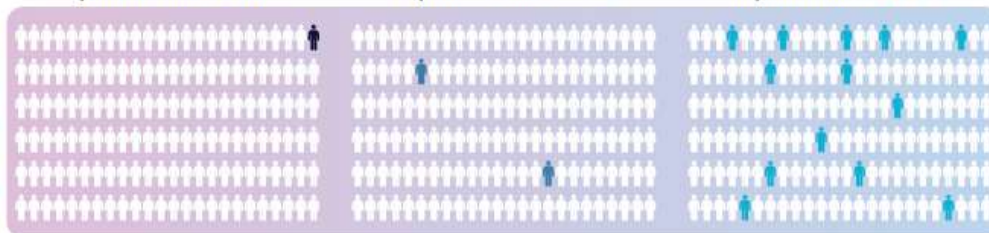
RCM



Rare Mendelian variant
Population MAF <0.01%

Intermediate effect variant
Population MAF <1–2%

Common variants (GWAS)
Population MAF >1–5%

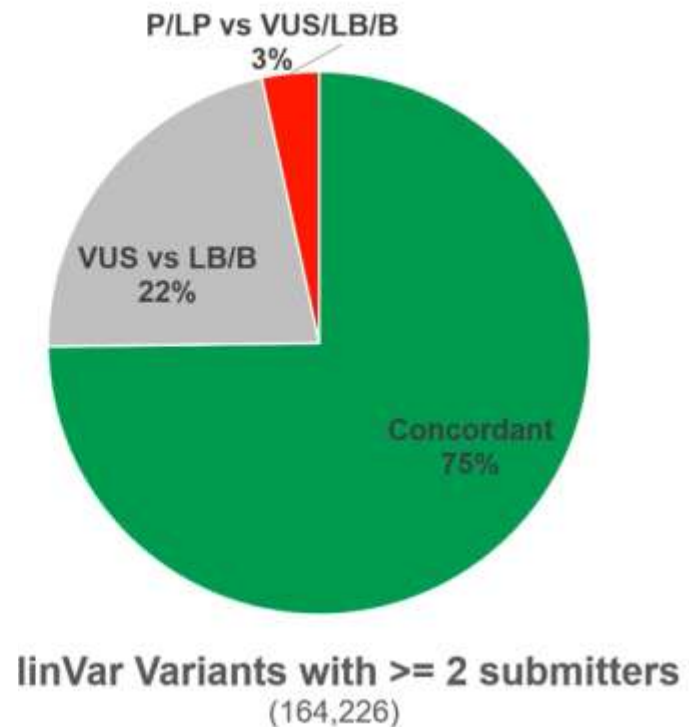


Discrepancies in variant interpretation

Variant interpretation is not black and white
Equally trained professionals can interpret
the same variant differently

Why?

- Lack of data available
- Use of different interpretation software
- Different interpretation of ACMG codes
- Biology.....



The “First Rule” in Variant Interpretation?

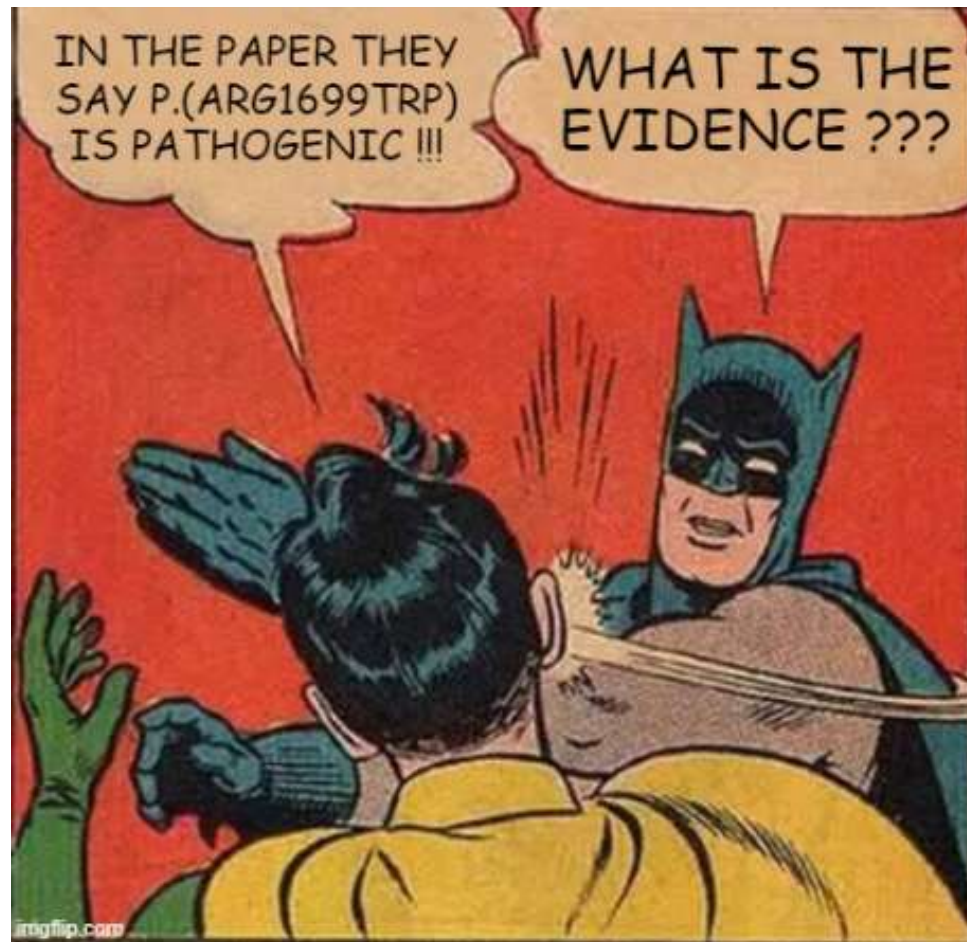
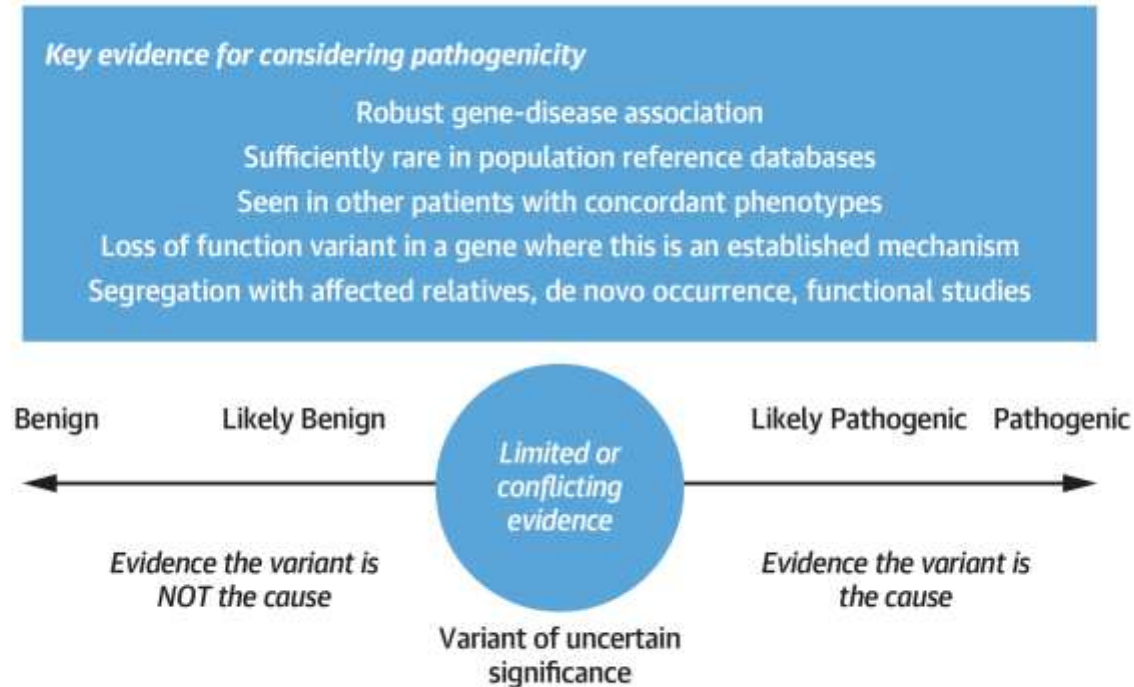


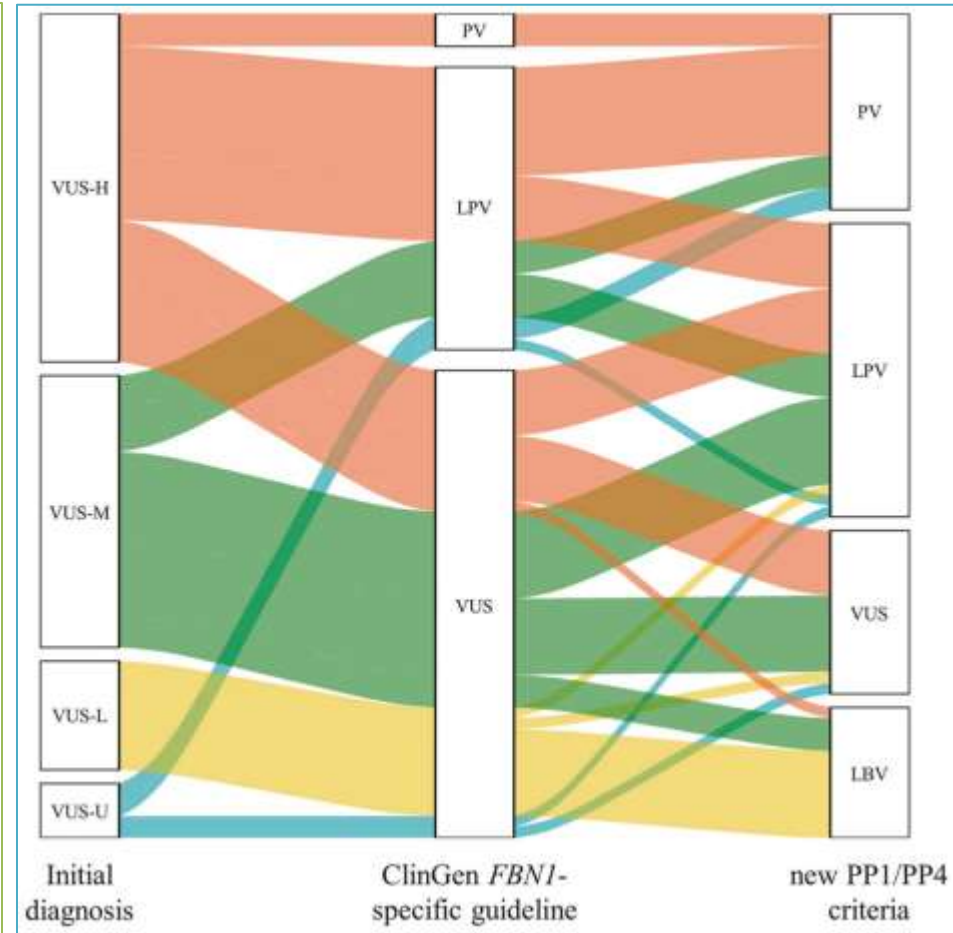
FIGURE 3 Key Aspects of Variant Classification



Range of evidence to classify variants along the pathogenicity spectrum from benign (no clinical utility) to pathogenic (most clinical utility).

Reassessment of FBN1 variants of uncertain significance using updated ClinGen guidance for PP1/BS4 and PP4 criteria

- FBN1 VUSs according to the new PP1/PP4 criteria, the rate of reclassification from VUS to PV/ LPV significantly increased from 40.3% to 62.5%.



Genotype-Phenotype correlation can be complex ... even in monogenic disorders

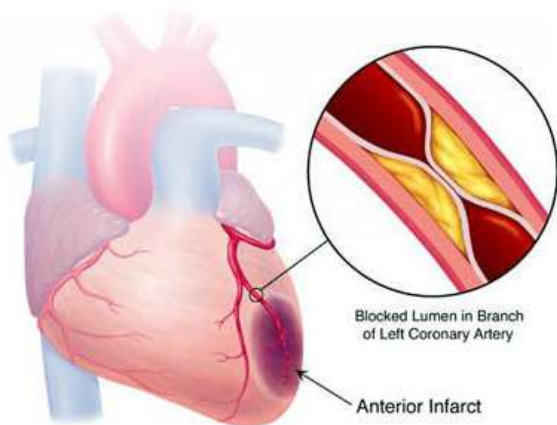
- Penetrance
- Expressivity
- Pleiotropy

Even in a single gene disorder, genotype does not equal a specific phenotype.

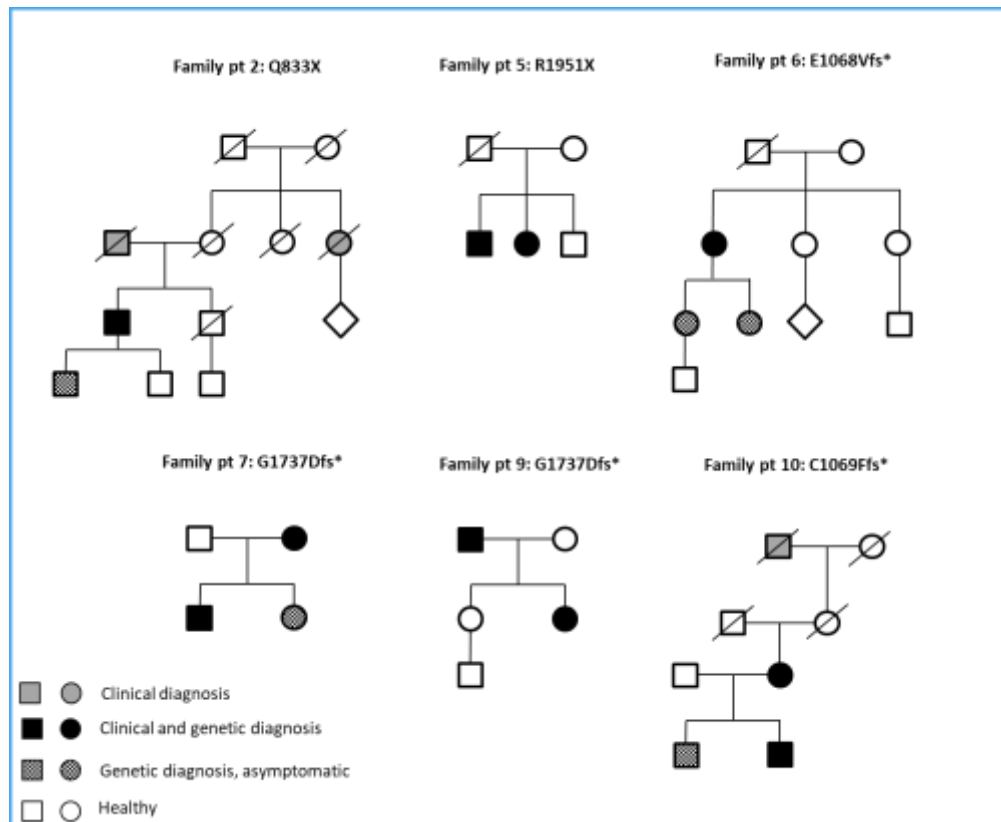
Kathiresan S et al. Cell 2012

MODIFIER GENES

ENVIRONMENT

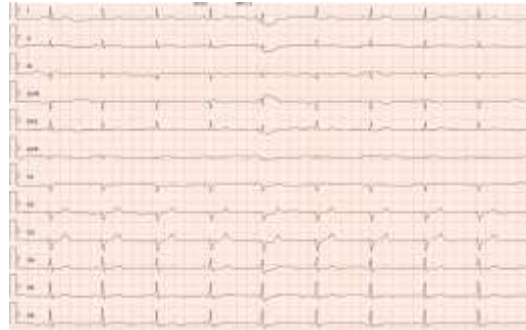
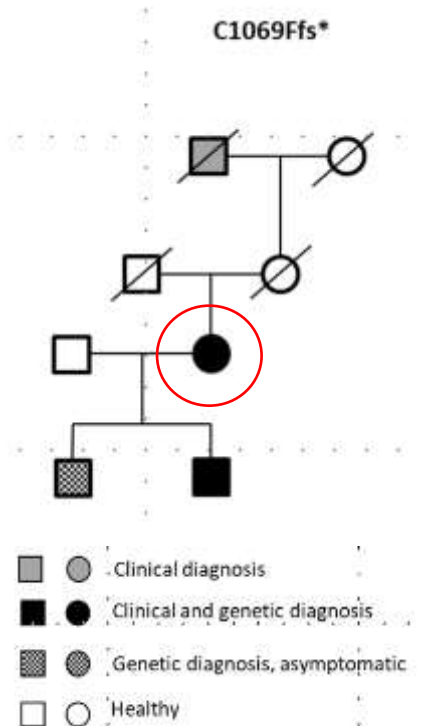


Also in the other families the subsequent family segregation study revealed several clinically affected, apparently asymptomatic relatives.

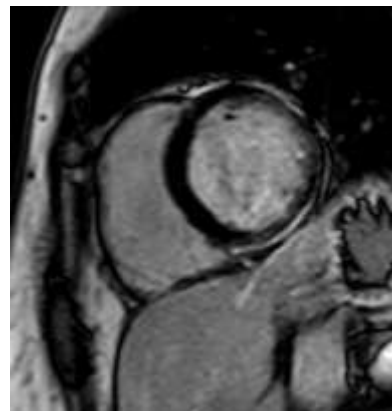


Clinical Features	Index Case
Mean age at diagnosis (years)	41.56 (IQR 49.75-31.25)
Sex:	
Female	50% (n=8)
Male	50% (n=8)
MAEs	12.5 % (n=2)
Syncope	12.5% (n=2)
Chest Pain	43.75% (n=7)
Palpitations	75% (n=12)
Myocarditis like episodes	43.75% (n=7)
NYHA Classification:	
Class I	56.25% (n=9)
Class II	43.75% (n=7)
Class III or IV	n=0
ICD:	56.25% (9/16)
Subcutaneous	22.22% (n=2)
Single-Chamber	22.22% (n=2)
Dual-Chamber	55.56% (n=5)
Left Ventricular Enlargement	56.25% (n=9)
Right Ventricular Enlargement	75% (n=4)
Mean LVEF% at diagnosis	48.56 (IQR 55.75 - 42)
Mean RVEF % at diagnosis	51.71 (IQR 57.75 - 43.75)
LGE:	100% (16/16)
Epicardial	6.25 % (n=1)
Subepicardial	56.25% (n=9)
Subendocardial	6.25% (n=1)
Intramural	25% (n=4)
Transmural	12.5% (n=2)
12 leads ECG anomalies:	81.25% (13/16)
QRS Complex:	75% (n=12)
Low voltage n=5	38.46% (n=5)
Fragmentation of QRS	38.46% (n=5)
Q wave	15.38% (n=2)
T Wave Inversion	15.38% (n=2)
Ventricular Ectopy:	
Frequent/Very Frequent	75% (n=12)
Occasional	25% (n=4)
Polymorphic	81% (n=13)

The family segregation test showed that the variant was inherited from the mother, who was apparently unaffected and subjected to instrumental tests.



The ECG-Holter revealed:
6727 isolated polymorphic BEVs, 624 mono and polymorphic pairs, sometimes in phases of ventricular bi and trigeminy, 41 interpolated BEVs, 71 NSVTs (polymorphic triplets, two runs of 4 polymorphic beats at a heart rate of 150 bpm).



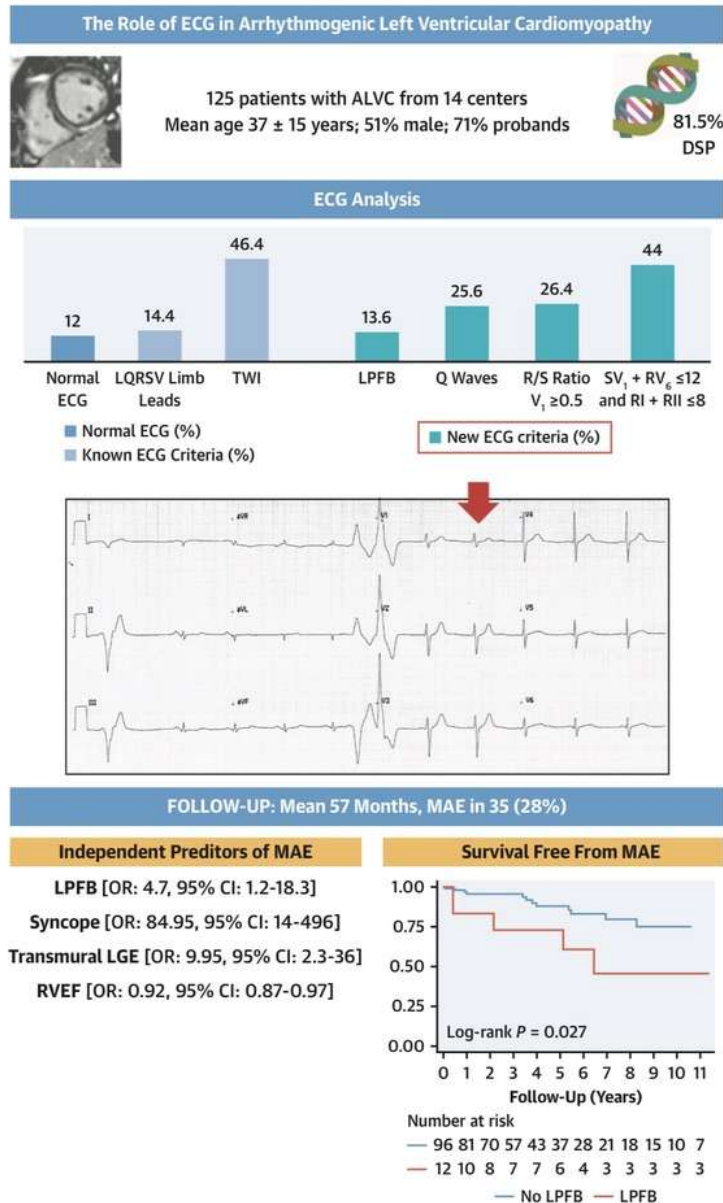
Cardiac MRI found: Left ventricle with end-diastolic and end-systolic volume indexed to the upper limits (FEVG 54%), right ventricle with end-diastolic and end-systolic volume indexed to the limits (FEVD 52%) Subepicardial LGE areas, also with mesocardial distribution, corresponding to the anterior, lateral and lower wall in the mid-basal segments, findings compatible with arrhythmogenic dysplasia with prevalent involvement of the Left ventricle

ORIGINAL RESEARCH



The Diagnostic and Prognostic Value of the 12-Lead ECG in Arrhythmogenic Left Ventricular Cardiomyopathy

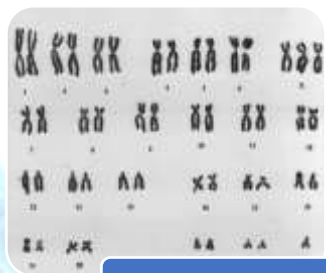
Leonardo Calò, MD,^{a,b} Cinzia Crescenzi, MD,^a Andrea Di Marco, MD, PhD,^c Francesca Fanisio, MD,^a Fabiana Romeo, MD,^a Alessio Gargaro, MSc,^d Annamaria Martino, MD, PhD,^a Chiara Cappelletto, MD,^e Marco Merlo, MD,^e Mattia Targetti, MD,^f Elisabetta Toso, MD,^g Federica Toto, MD,^a Maria Beatrice Musumeci, MD,^h Giacomo Tini, MD,^h Michele Ciabatti, MD,ⁱ Matteo Stefanini, MD,^j Stefano Canestrelli, MD,^a Elisa Fedele, MD,^a Chiara Lanzillo, MD, PhD,^a Armando Fusco, MD, PhD,^j Federica Carla Sangiuolo, MD, PhD,^k Cinzia Radesich, MD,^e Maria Perotto, MD,^e Maurizio Pieroni, MD,ⁱ Ruggiero Mango, MD, PhD,^l Alessio Gasperetti, MD, PhD,^m Camillo Autore, MD,ⁿ Michela Casella, MD, PhD,^o Antonio Dello Russo, MD, PhD,^o Davide Stolfo, MD, PhD,^{e,p} Mikael Laredo, MD, PhD,^q Estelle Gandjbakhch, MD, PhD,^q Maddalena Graziosi, MD, PhD,^r Elena Biagini, MD, PhD,^r Costantina Catalano, MD,^r Ludovica Barile, MD,^r Fabrizio Drago, MD,^s Marianna Cicien, MD,^s Anwar Baban, MD, PhD,^s Gemma Pelargonio, MD, PhD,^t Maria Lucia Narducci, MD,^t Federica Re, MD,^u Giovanni Peretto, MD,^v Elena Paiotti, MD,^v Carles Diez Lopez, MD,^w Iacopo Olivotto, MD,^{f,x} Fiorenzo Gaita, MD,^g Gianfranco Sinagra, MD,^{e,*} Giuseppe Novelli, MD, PhD^{k,*}



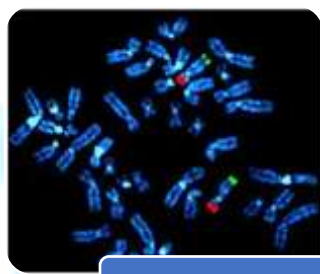
OBJECTIVES: analyze the electrocardiogram (ECG) characteristics of ALVC, to correlate ECG with cardiac magnetic resonance and genetic data, and to evaluate its prognostic value

- Patients with ALVC have a very high risk of ventricular arrhythmias and sudden death.
- ECG analysis remains a key element in the evaluation of patients with ALVC.
- Recognition of some new ECG signs, on top of classical signs such as T-wave inversion and low QRS voltage in limb leads, can help in early diagnosis and risk stratification in these patients.
- Among the ECG parameters, LPFB emerges as noteworthy predictor of ventricular arrhythmias or sudden death also in a primary prevention scenario, increasing the risk 4-fold

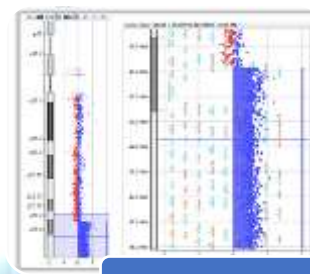
L'identificazione delle varianti strutturali. Tecniche; vantaggi e **limiti**



Cariotipo



FISH



CMA



OGM

- Intero genoma
- Non necessita di un'indicazione a priori
- Mosaicismi

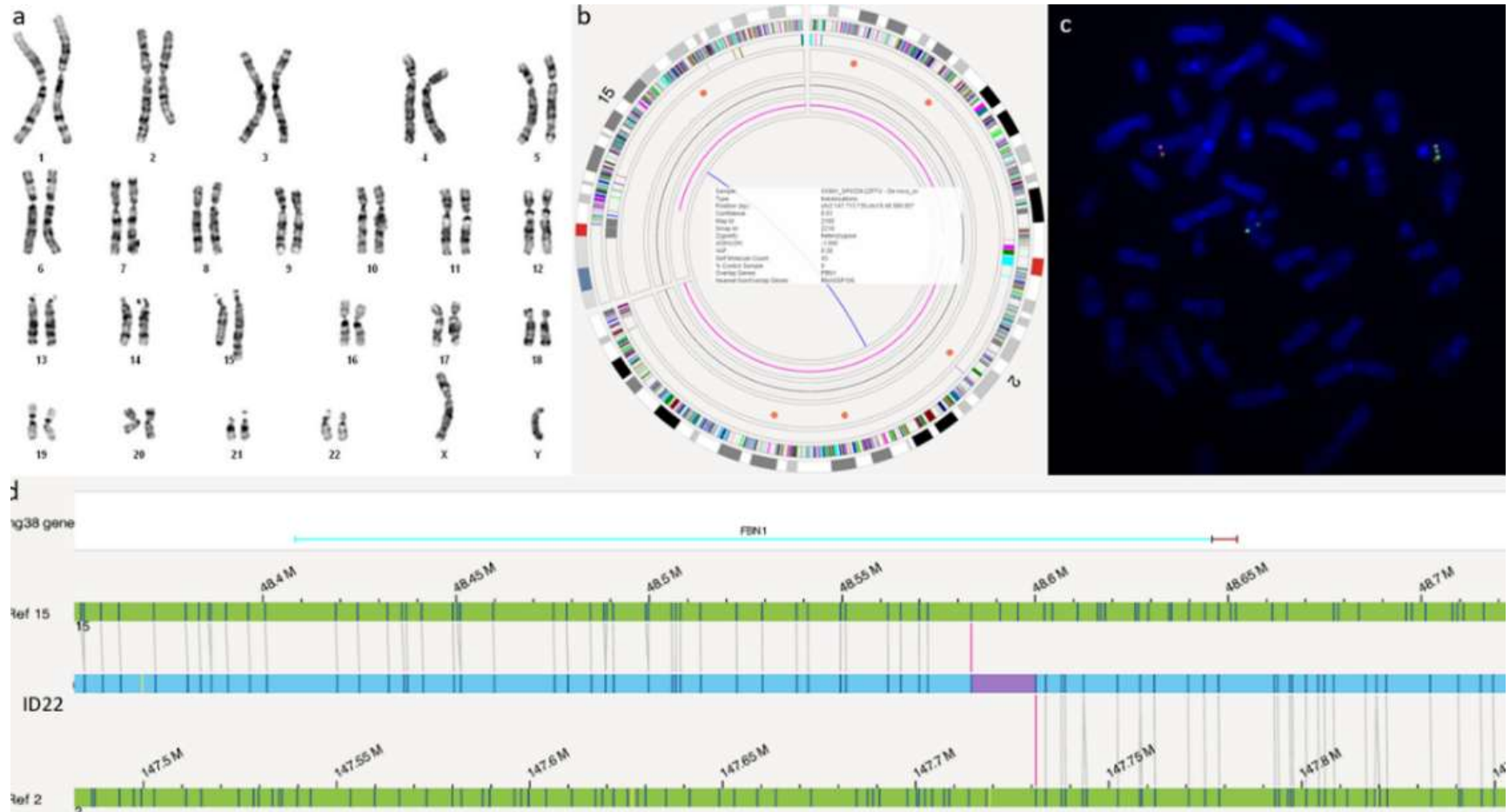
- Risoluzione (5-10 Mb)
- Necessita di materiale vitale o tessuti replicanti in vitro
- Contenuto genico
- Fenomeni di selezione o artefatti in vitro

- Indagine locus-specifica
- Necessita di un'indicazione a priori

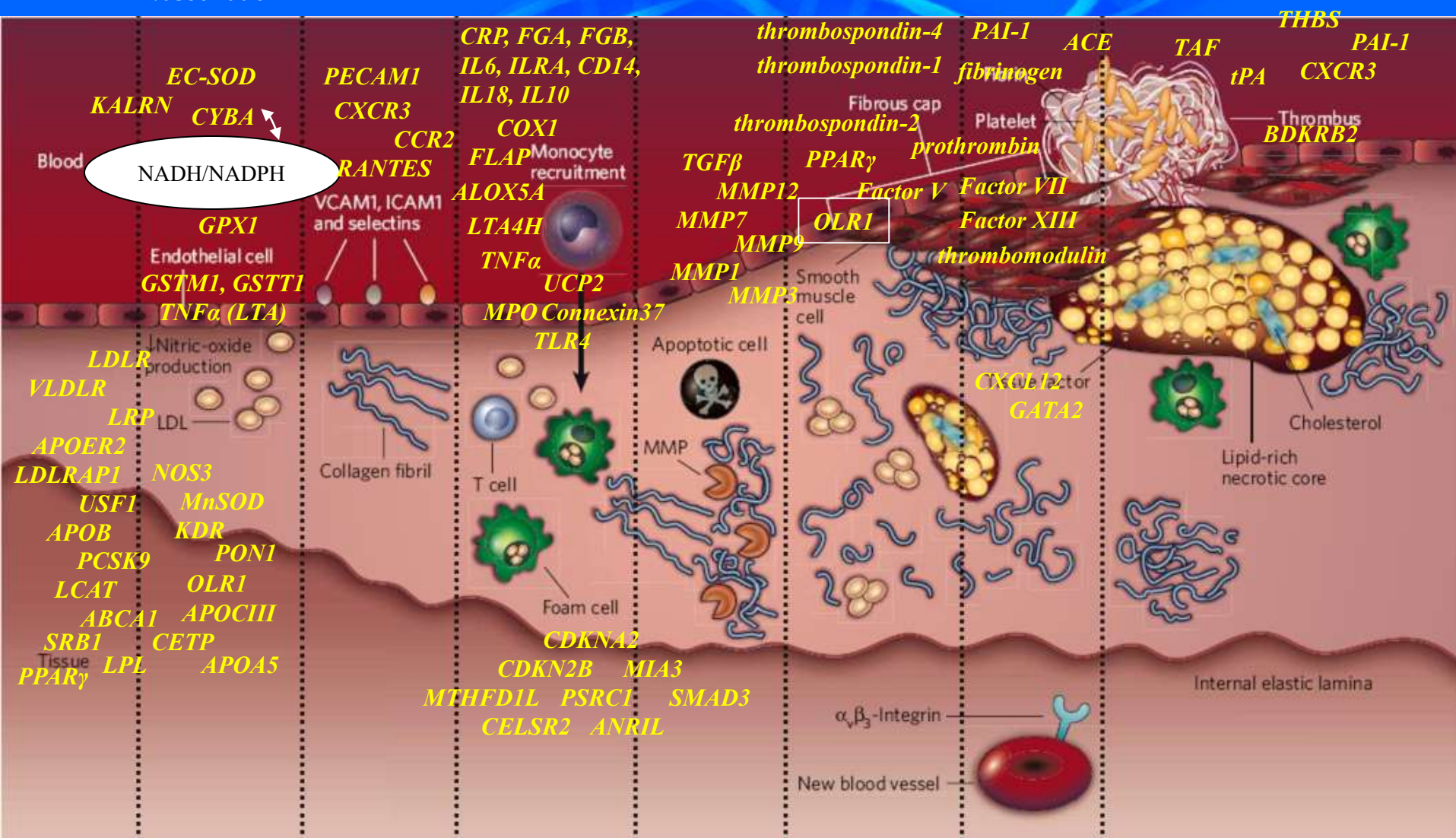
- Risoluzione (40-200 kb)
- Nuclei in interfase o preparati biotici in paraffina

- Risoluzione (10-20 kb)
- Genotipizzazione del campione
- Contenuto genico
- Riarrangiamenti bilanciati

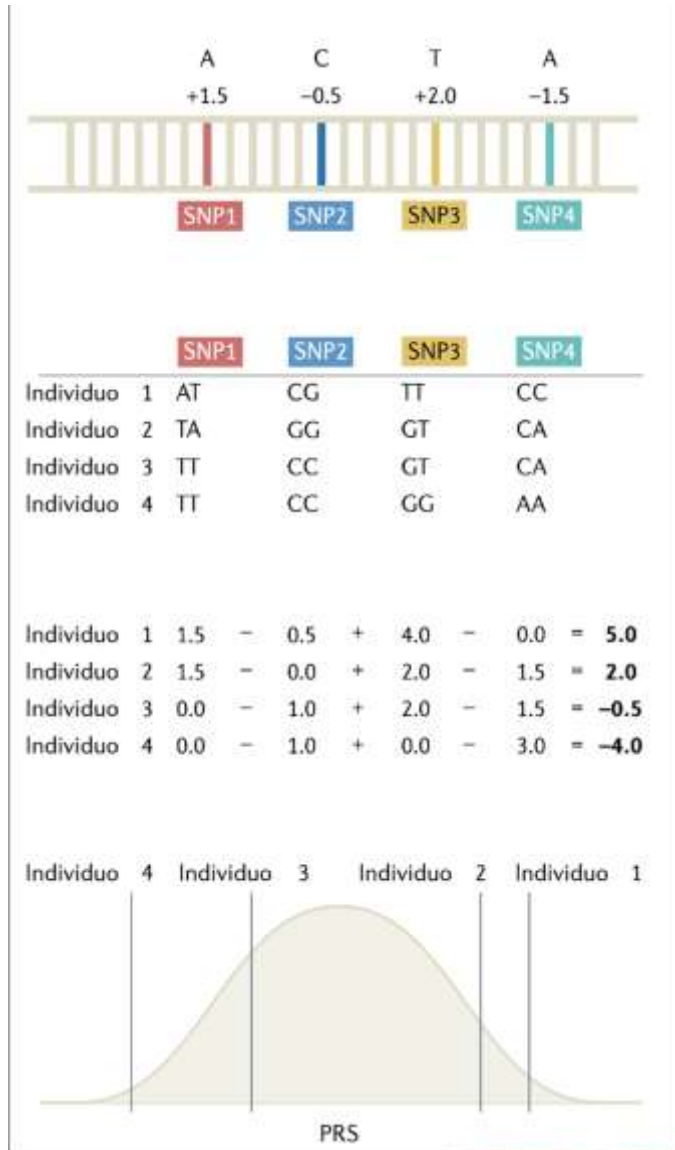
- Limiti di natura interpretativa
- Risoluzione (>500 bp)
- Non necessita di materiale vitale o tessuti replicanti in vitro

$$t(2;15)(5'-FBN1_bis+;3'-FBN1+)$$


Process	Endothelial cell dysfunction	Endothelial cell activation	Inflammation	Proteolysis Apoptosis	Lipid-core and fibrous-cap formation	Angiogenesis	Thrombosis
Target	Flow-mediated vasodilation	Adhesion molecules	Macrophages	MMPs Cathepsins	Lipid core Fibrous cap	$\alpha_v\beta_3$ -Integrin	Fibrin Platelets ($\alpha_v\beta_3$ -Integrin) Tissue factor



Polygenic Score



Dallapiccola – Novelli, Falco Ed. 2022



Polygenic Risk Score

- Some gene variants confer very high risk of getting a particular disease
- Some gene variants confer very small risk of getting a particular disease
- Some gene variants confer no risk of getting a particular disease
- Some gene variants protects from the risk of getting a particular disease

Polygenic Risk Score can help personalize preventive measures, treatment decisions and wellbeing.

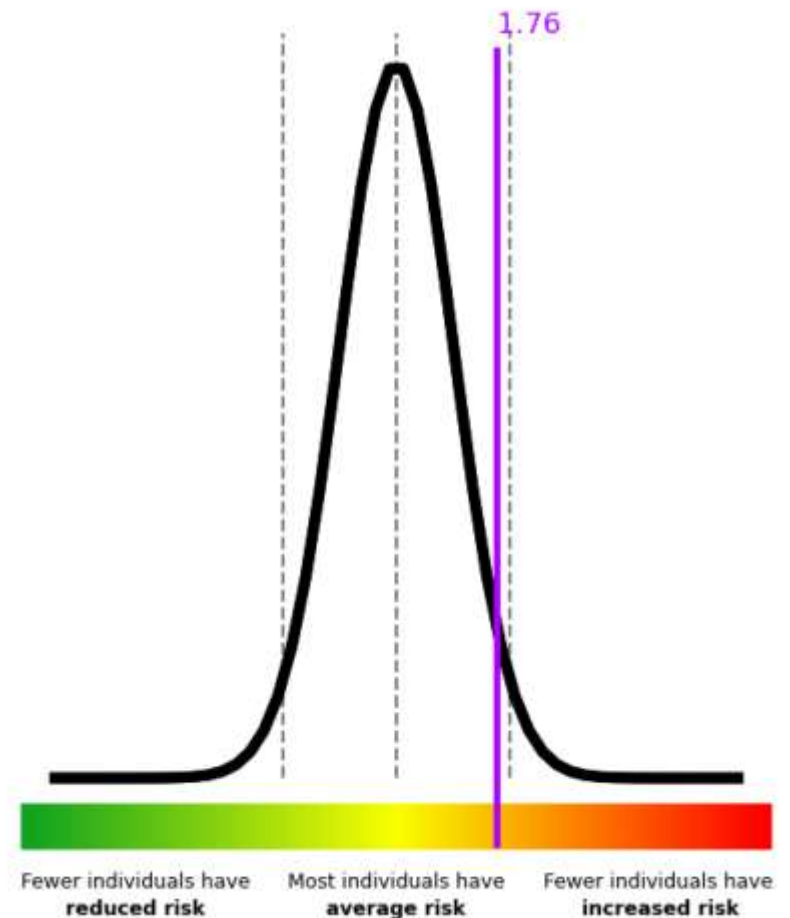
Polygenic risk score

The Polygenic Risk Score is a genomic test based on Whole Genome Sequencing that measures your genetic risk of developing PRS Coronary Artery Disease.

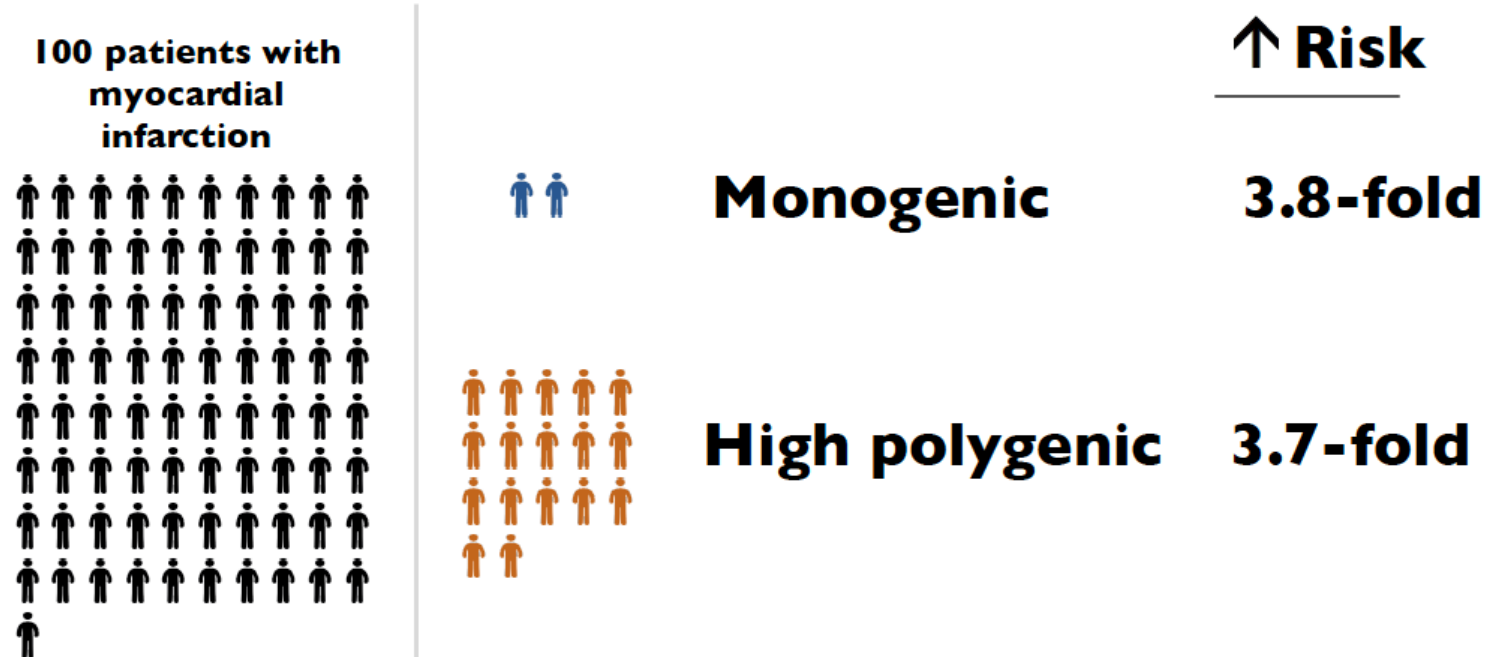
Your risk score
1.76

Disease Description

Coronary artery disease is a condition in which there is an inadequate supply of blood and oxygen to the myocardium. It results from occlusion of the coronary arteries and results in a demand-supply mismatch of oxygen. It typically involves the formation of plaques in the lumen of coronary arteries that impede blood flow. It is the major cause of death in the US and worldwide. At the beginning of the 20th century, it was an uncommon cause of death. Deaths due to CAD peaked in the mid-1960s and then decreased however, it still is the leading cause of death worldwide



High polygenic score identified in 17% of patients and confers a 3.7-fold increase in risk

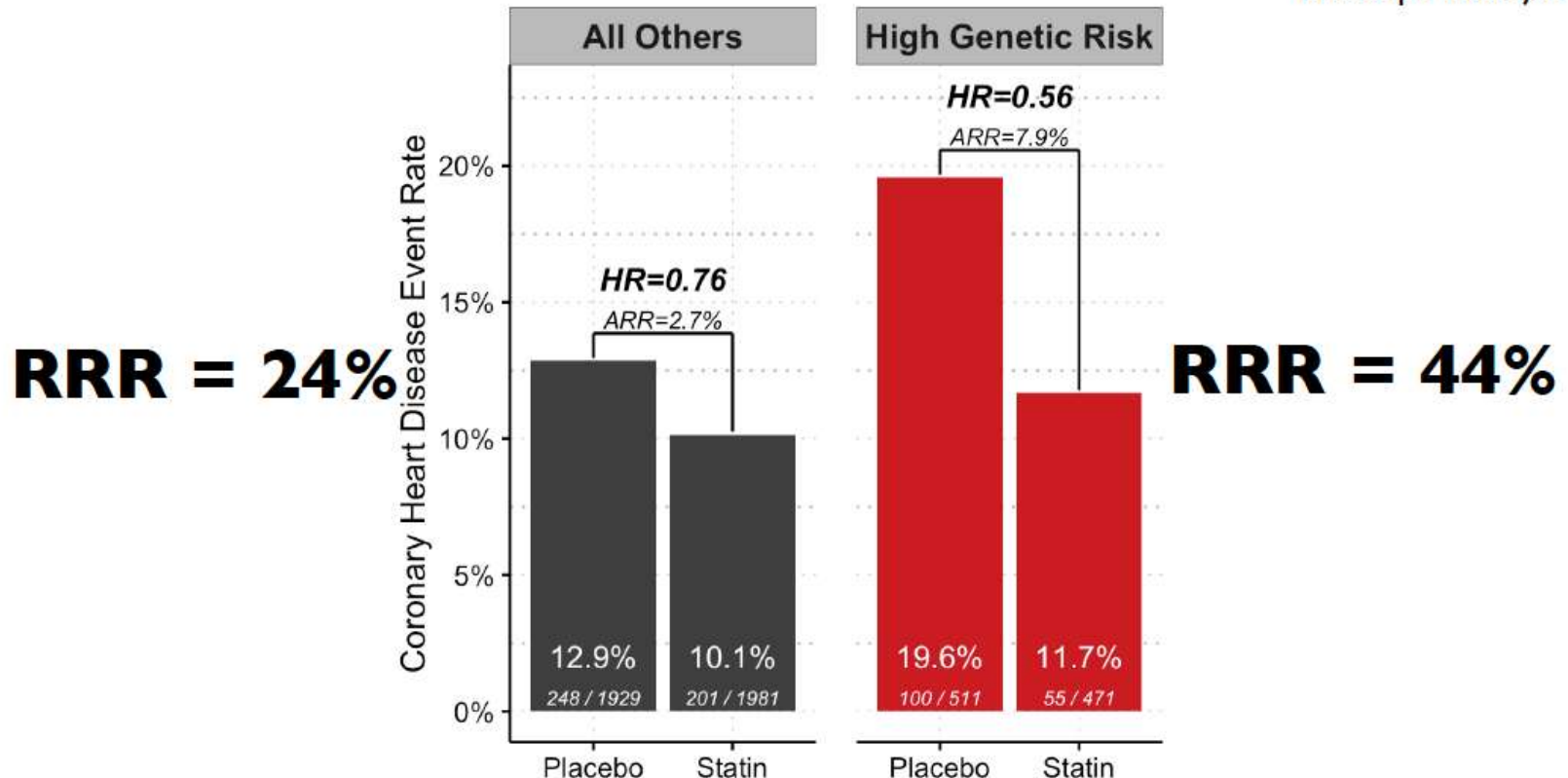


Khera*, Chaffin*, *under review*

Among those at high polygenic risk, statins confer greater benefit (to prevent first MI)



Pradeep Natarajan



Natarajan*, Young*, *Circulation* (2017)

“We envision polygenic risk scores as a way to identify people at high or low risk for a disease, perhaps as early as birth, and then use that information to target interventions — either lifestyle modifications or treatments — to prevent disease. For heart attack, I foresee that each patient will have the opportunity to know his or her polygenic risk number in the near future, similar to way they can know their cholesterol number right now.”



Sekar Kathiresan

GWAS: Missing Heritability

- **Missing heritability:** Significant GWAS SNPs explain a small proportion of disease heritability.
 - Possible reasons:
 - GxG and GxE interactions?
 - Many common causal variants: Each with a small effect?
 - **Rare variants?**
-

THE SAME GENOME

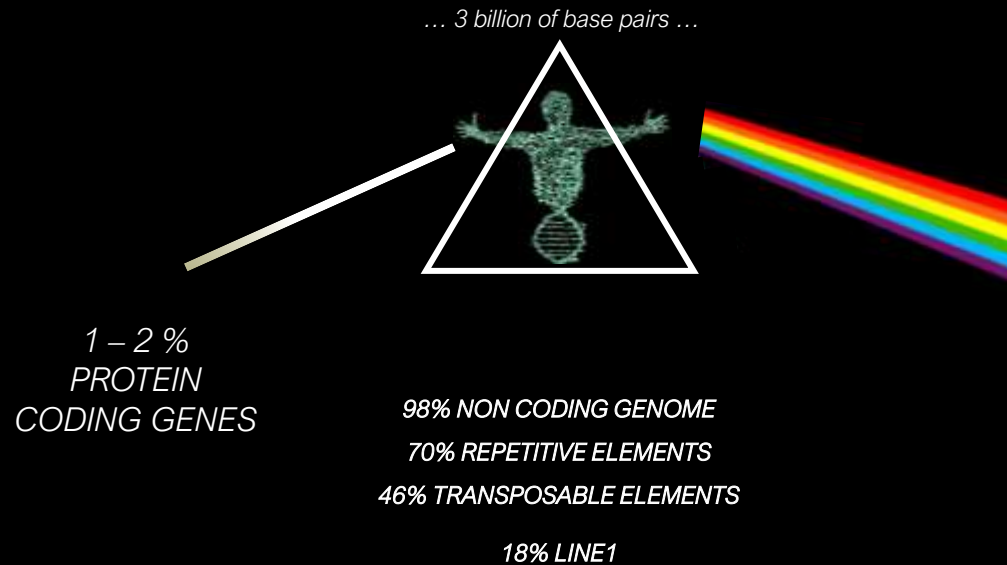


CATERPILLAR



BUTTERFLY

The dark side of the human genome



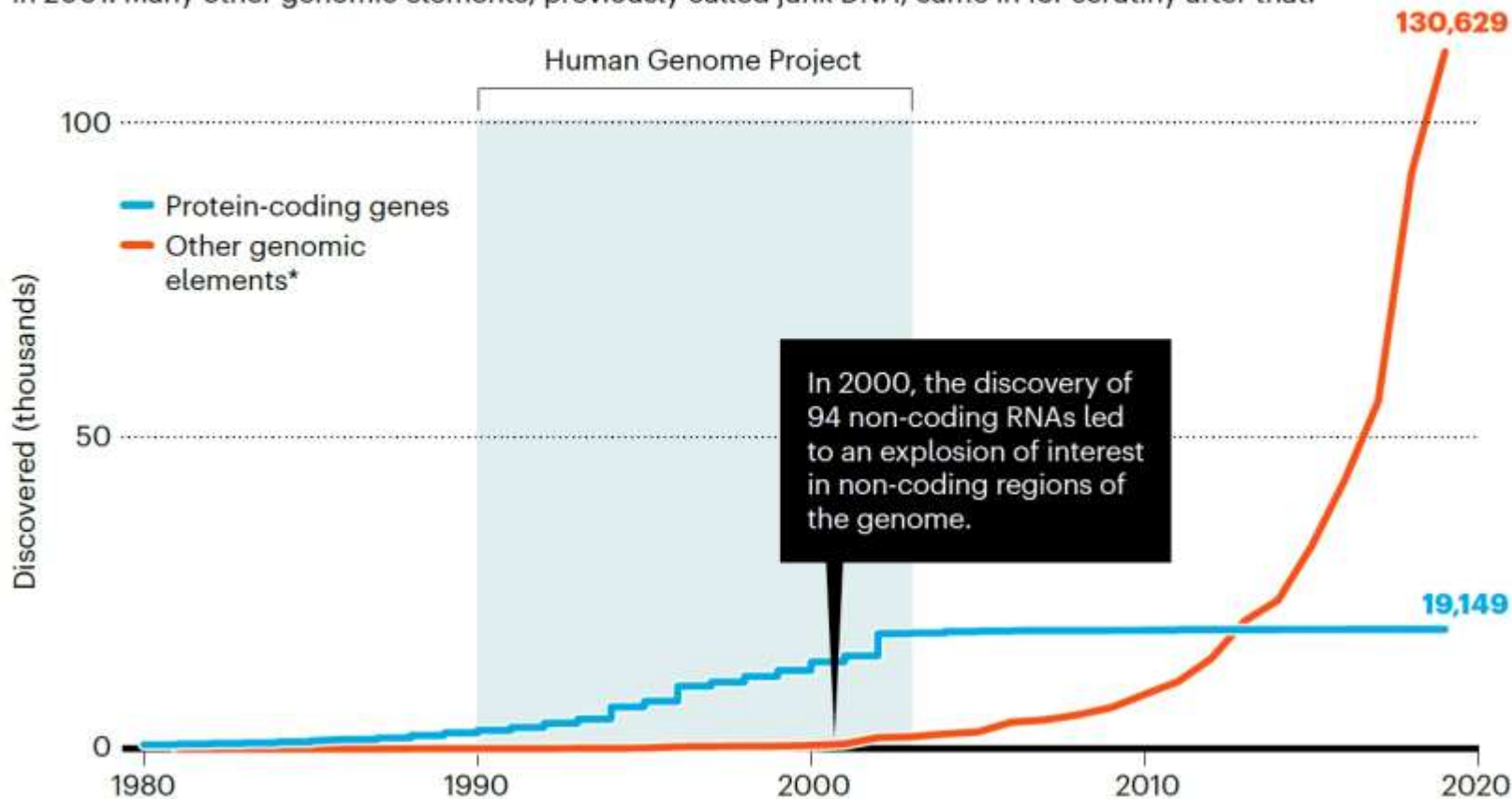
By Beatrice Bodega, HUMAN GENOME MEETING · Rome · April 8-10th 2024

TWENTY YEARS OF JUNK, STARS AND DRUGS

What genomics researchers have studied, when and why — as traced by bibliometric analysis.

Non-coding elements

Most protein-coding genes were discovered before the first draft of the Human Genome Project (HGP) in 2001. Many other genomic elements, previously called junk DNA, came in for scrutiny after that.



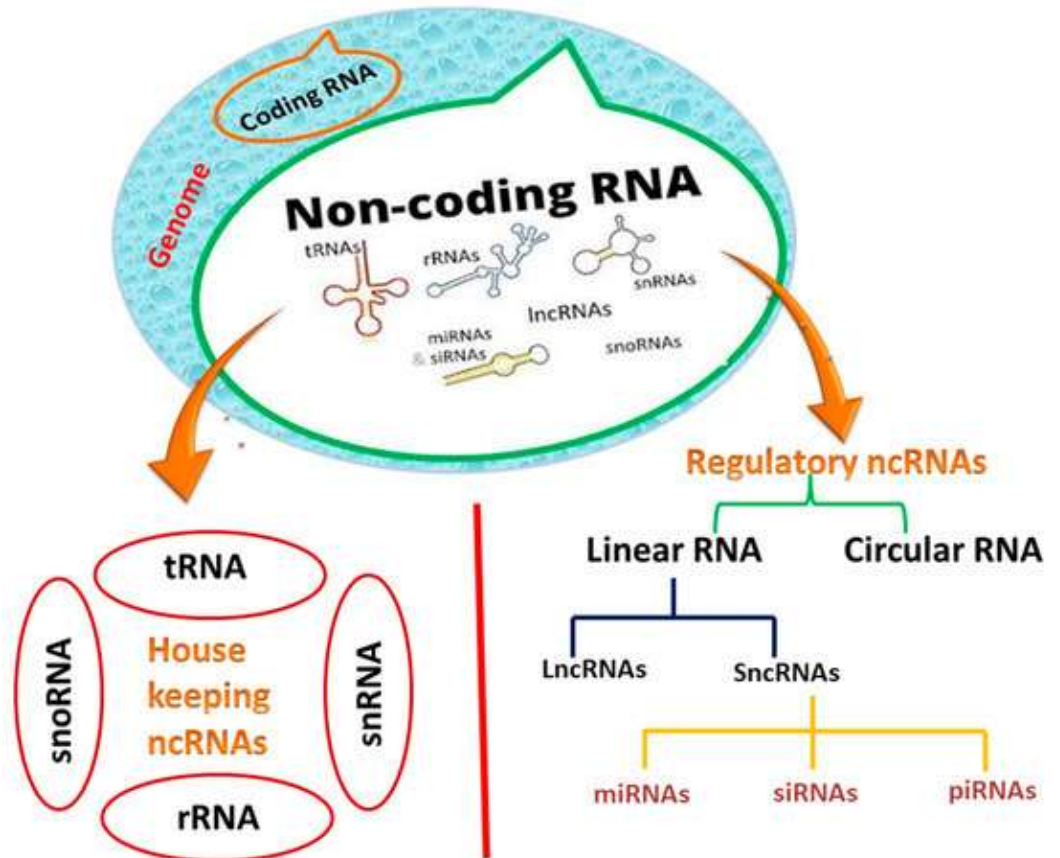
Transcriptomics (Study of RNA Expression Patterns)

Biomarker Discovery: RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) reveals dysregulated genes in heart failure (e.g., *BNP*, *ANP*) and atherosclerosis.

Non-Coding RNAs: MicroRNAs (miR-208a in myocardial infarction) and long non-coding RNAs (e.g., *MALAT1* in vascular remodeling) serve as diagnostic markers.

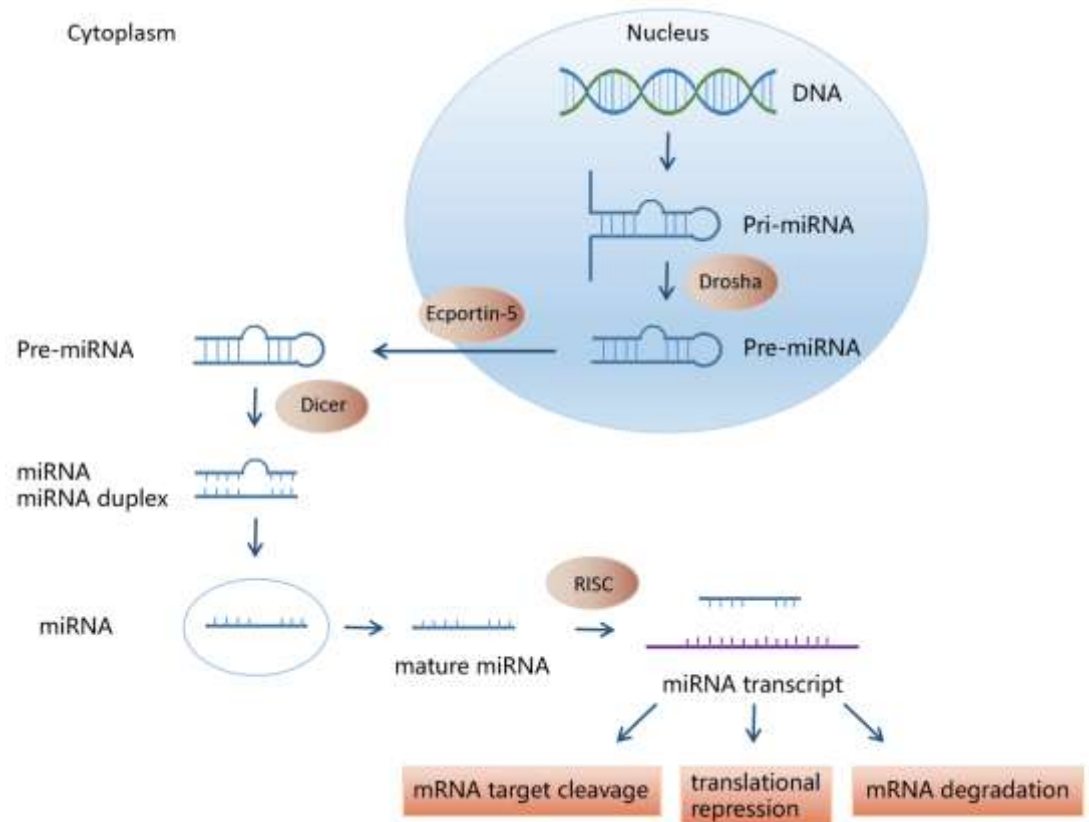
Single-Cell RNA-seq: Identifies cell-specific pathways in cardiac fibrosis and endothelial dysfunction.

- ~25,000 - 95,243 lncRNA genes
- 323,950 transcripts



- **~2,000 mature miRNAs** (recorded in the latest version of **miRBase**, the primary miRNA database, v22.1 as of 2023).

- These are derived from **~1,900 miRNA genes** (since some miRNAs arise from the same primary transcript).



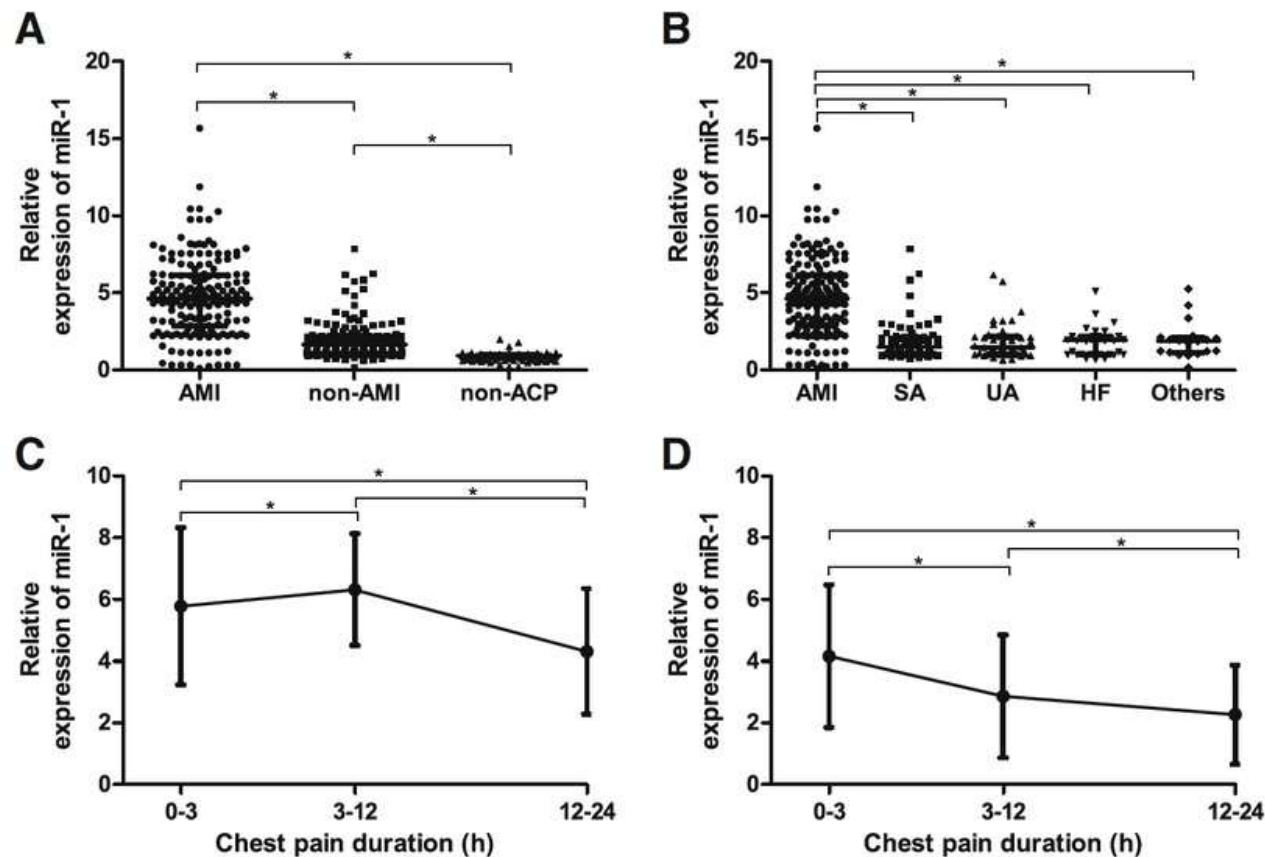


Fig. 1 The plasma concentrations of miR-1 in AMI group, non-AMI group and non-ACP group (a). The levels of plasma miR-1 in subgroups of the non-AMI patients (b). The changes in different time of miR-1 concentrations in patients without reperfusion therapy (c) and with primary percutaneous coronary intervention in AMI group (d). * = $P < 0.001$

Role in Cardiovascular Diseases

- **Arrhythmias & Cardiac Conduction**

- **Targets:** *GJA1* (Connexin 43, gap junction protein), *KCNJ2* (Kir2.1, inward rectifier K⁺ channel).
- **Effect:**
 - Overexpression → Slowed conduction, **prolonged QT interval**, arrhythmias.

- **B. Cardiac Hypertrophy & Heart Failure**

- **Targets:** Represses growth-related genes (*IGF-1, calmodulin, HDAC4*).
- **Effect:**
 - **Upregulated miR-1** → Attenuates pathological hypertrophy.
 - **Downregulated miR-1** (in human heart failure) → Loss of anti-hypertrophic control.

- **C. Myocardial Ischemia & Infarction**

- **Targets:** *HSP60*, *HSP70* (heat shock proteins), *Bcl-2* (anti-apoptotic).
- **Effect:**
 - **Ischemia-induced miR-1↑** → Promotes **apoptosis** of cardiomyocytes.
 - **miR-1 inhibition** → Reduces infarct size in animal models.

- **D. Atherosclerosis & Vascular Remodeling**

- **Targets:** *PIM1* (anti-apoptotic kinase), *ET-1* (endothelin-1, vasoconstrictor).
- **Effect:**
 - **Endothelial miR-1↓** → Contributes to inflammation and plaque instability.
 - **Smooth muscle miR-1↑** → Inhibits proliferation (protective against stenosis).

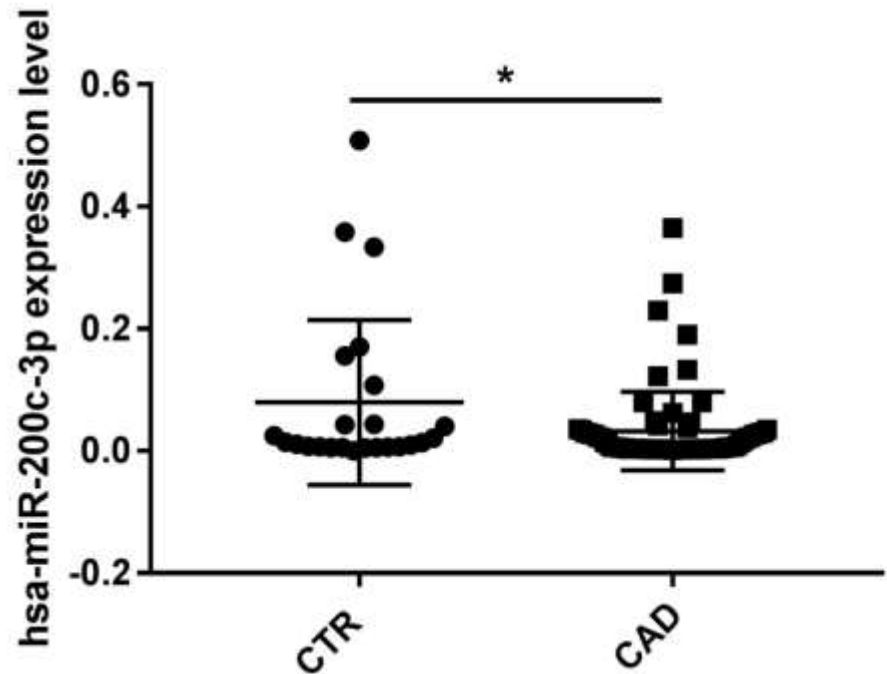
Cardiovascular Diseases

- **Endothelial Dysfunction & Atherosclerosis:**
 - artery disease (CAD) patients.
- **Myocardial Fibrosis & Hypertrophy:**
 - Regulates **TGF- β /Smad3** signaling (key in fibrosis).
 - Overexpression reduces **cardiac fibroblast activation**.
- **Anti-fibrotic Effects:**
 - Inhibits **collagen synthesis** (targets *COL1A1*, *COL3A1*).
 - Blocks **TGF- β -driven fibroblast activation**.

TGF- β overdrive → Fibroblast-to-myofibroblast transition → **Fibrosis, aortic aneurysm, valve dysfunction.**

Downregulation of circulating hsa-miR-200c-3p correlates with dyslipidemia in patients with stable coronary artery disease

Chiara Vancheri ¹, Elena Morini ¹, Francesca Romana Prandi ², Francesco Barillà ², Francesco Romeo ^{2,3}, Giuseppe Novelli ^{1,4,5} and Francesca Amati ^{1,6}



Proteomics (Study of Protein Expression and Modifications)



Diagnostic Biomarkers: Troponins (myocardial injury), natriuretic peptides (heart failure), and novel markers like GDF-15.



Post-Translational Modifications (PTMs): Phosphorylation, acetylation, and glycosylation changes in heart disease.



Personalized Medicine: Mass spectrometry-based proteomics helps stratify patients for targeted therapies.



Cardiovascular proteomics – a route to biomarker search



European Heart Journal - Digital Health (2023) 00, 1–11
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ehjdh/etad036>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Machine learning–based biomarker profile derived from 4210 serially measured proteins predicts clinical outcome of patients with heart failure

Marie de Bakker¹, Teun B. Petersen^{1,2}, Anja J. Rueten-Budde², K. Martijn Akkerhuis¹, Victor A. Umans³, Jasper J. Brugts¹, Tjeerd Germans², Marcel J.T. Reinders⁴, Peter D. Katsikis⁵, Peter J. van der Spek⁶, Rachel Ostroff⁷, Ruicong She⁸, David Lanfear^{9,10}, Folkert W. Asselbergs^{11,12}, Eric Boersma¹, Dimitris Rizopoulos^{3,13}, and Isabella Kardys^{1,4}

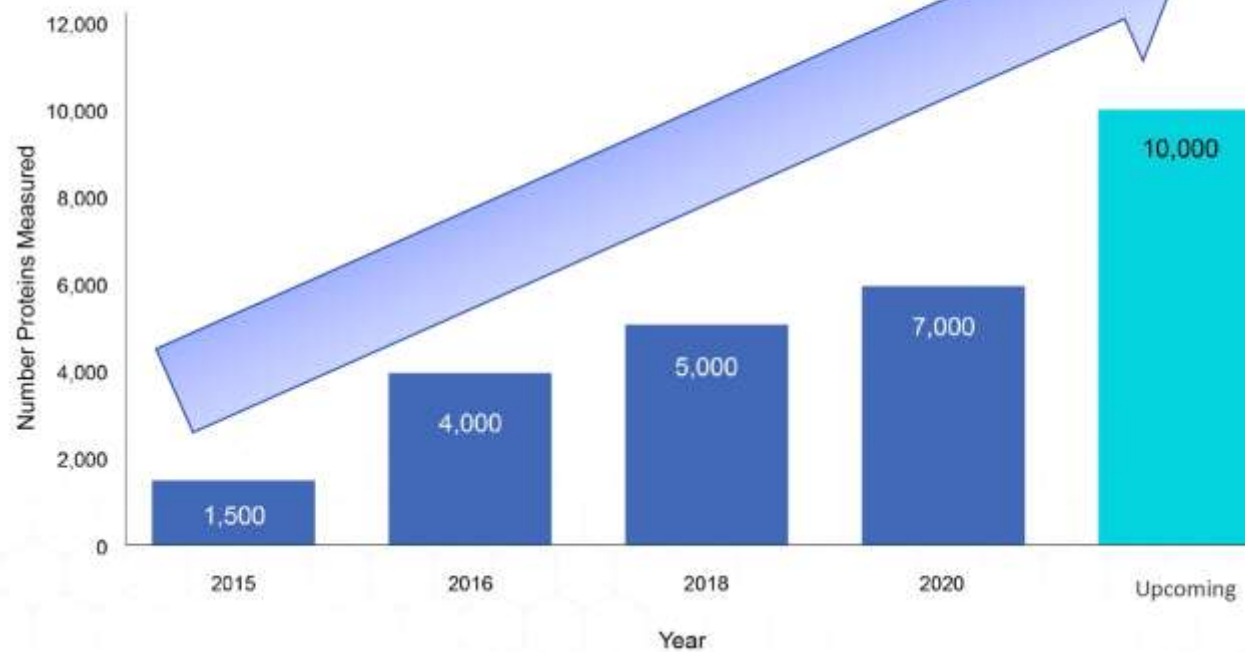
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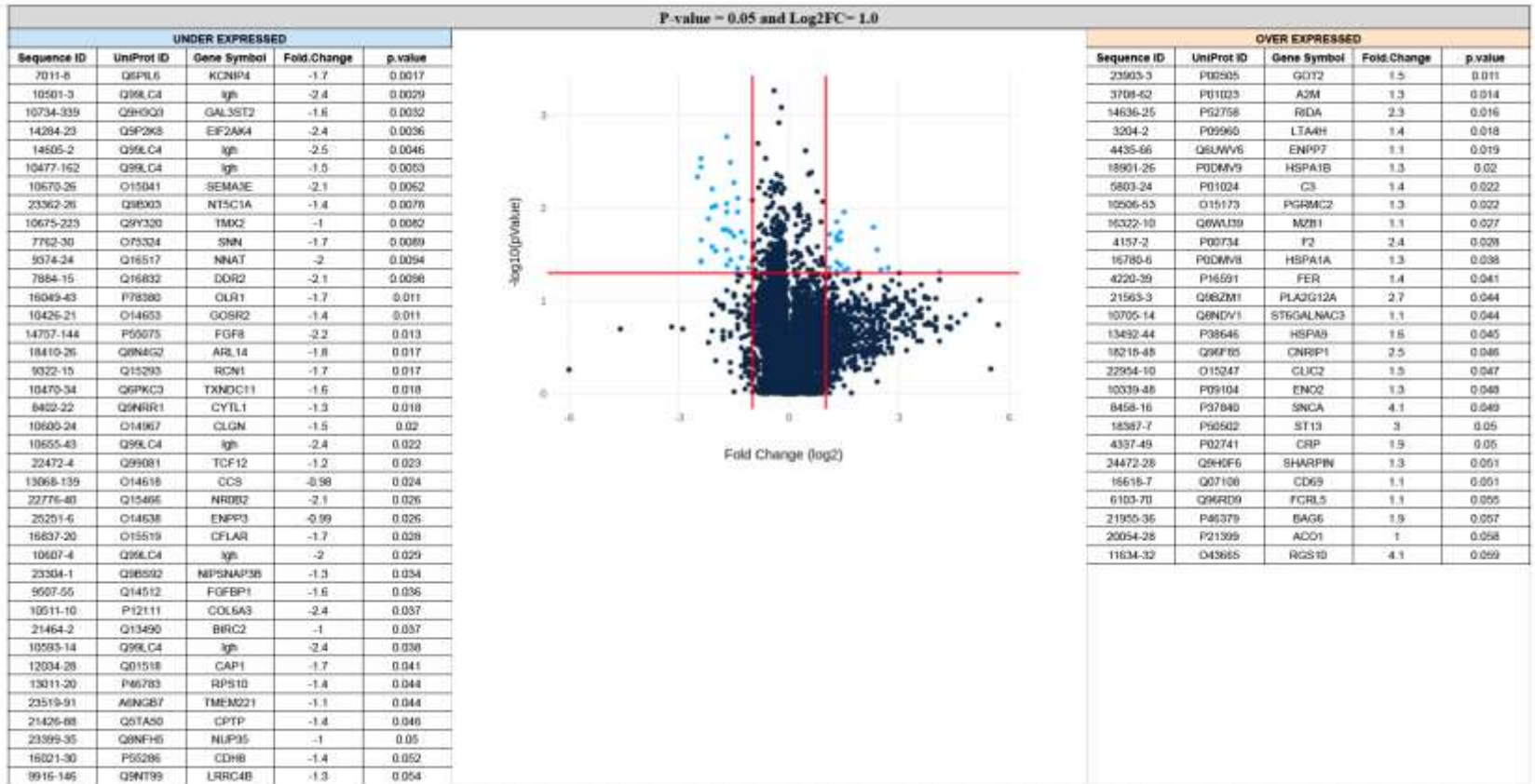
Received 31 June 2022; revised 6 September 2022; accepted 3 October 2022; online publication of paper 4 October 2022

Conclusions

Nine proteins, related to cardiac remodelling and atherosclerosis, and derived from 4210 serially measured circulating proteins, provided the optimal multivariable, dynamic model for the occurrence of adverse clinical events in patients with HFrEF, along with the MAGGIC risk score, NT-proBNP, and hs-TnT: ST2, TrpRS, HIST3H2A, angiotensinogen, deltex-1, TSP-4, ADAMTSL-2, ANTXR1, and cathepsin D. Two proteins showed the strongest associations (NT-proBNP and angiotensinogen). Altogether, our study shows that proteomic profiling could provide information for risk assessment beyond established risk factors, and underlines that repeated measurements of multiple circulating proteins may convey incremental prognostic value over clinical characteristics and repeatedly measured established biomarkers.

The SomaScan[®] Assay Continues to Grow





Metabolomics (Study of Metabolic Pathways)

- **Metabolic Signatures:** Elevated TMAO (trimethylamine N-oxide) predicts atherosclerosis; altered fatty acid oxidation in heart failure.
- **Energy Metabolism:** Shifts from glucose to ketone utilization in failing hearts.
- **Therapeutic Targets:** Modulating metabolites like succinate (ischemia-reperfusion injury)

Present Day Healthcare is Broken

We need to be keeping people healthy instead of waiting until they are ill



Travel to a physician for a health check



The office looks the way it did **40 years ago**



A large aliquot of blood is drawn **which hurts!**



Very **few measurements** are made, many questionable



Treat you based on **population averages**

Health is a product of Genome & Exposome

Genome



Exercise



Pathogens



Food

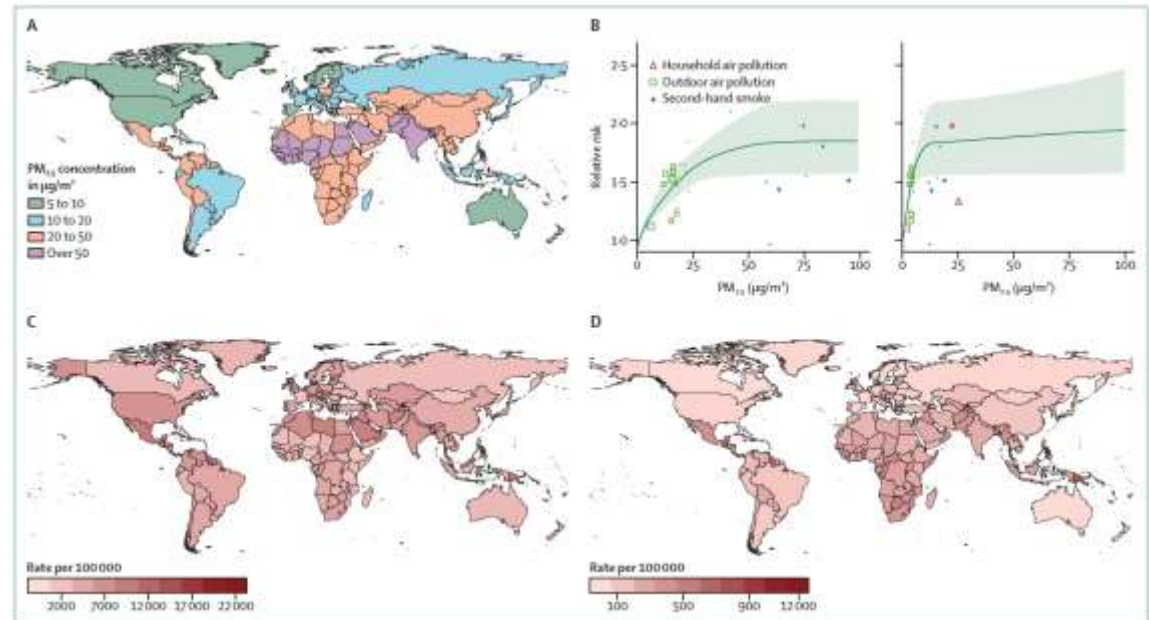


Environmental
Exposures

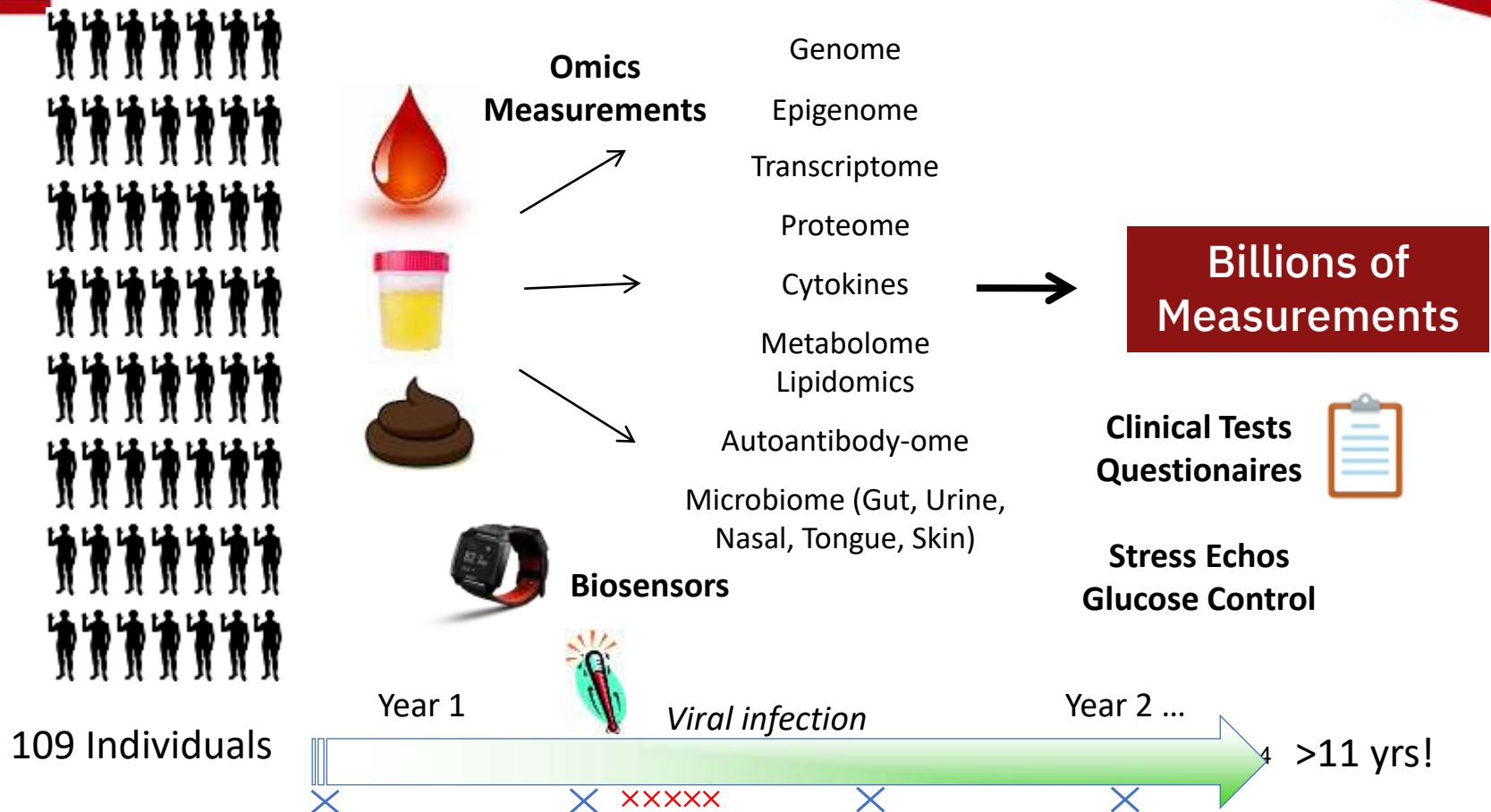


Menta
|
Health

Air pollution exposure and cardiometabolic risk



Longitudinal Personal Omics Profiling



Zhou, ... Snyder Nature 2019

Remote Monitoring Using Microsampling

Mitra
Microsampling
Collection



Overnight Delivery



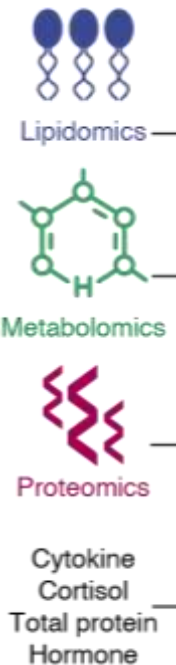
Lab Processing



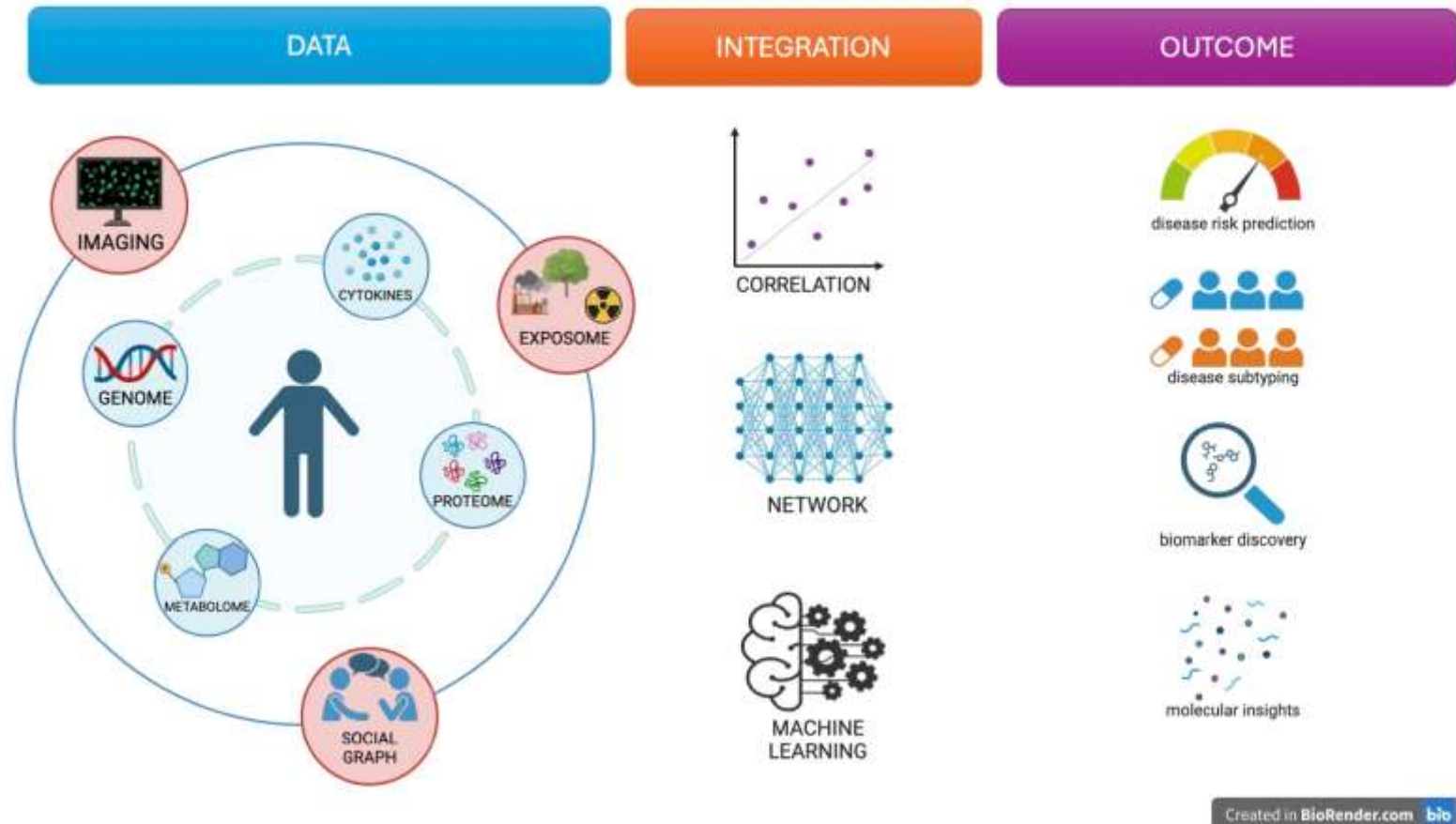
Measure >2200
analytes



Lab Analysis



Genomic and Exposomic Analyses to Elucidate Environmental and Molecular Drivers of Chest Pain and Cardiovascular Disease Risk



Tor Vergata, Yale, Abano Terme hospital, in progress

Clinical Applications & Future Directions



Precision Medicine: Integrating multi-OMICS data for tailored therapies.



Early Disease Detection: Liquid biopsies for circulating biomarkers.



Drug Development: Targeting OMICS-identified pathways (e.g., PCSK9 inhibitors from genomics).

*“La biologia moderna
è diventata così
genocentrica che
abbiamo dimenticato
che le vere unità di
funzione e struttura in
un organismo sono le
cellule e non i geni”.*

Sydney Brenner (2002)



Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2002