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GENETICS OF OBESITY



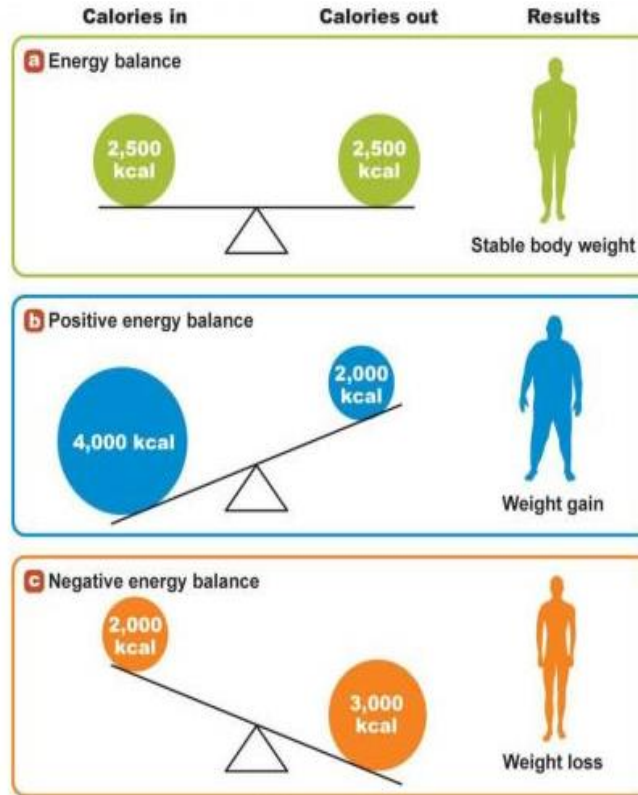
Sandro Loche

**SSD di Endocrinologia Pediatrica
e Centro Screening Neonatale
Ospedale Pediatrico Microcitemico "A. Cao"
AO Brotzu, Cagliari**

DISCLOSURES

No relevant financial information to disclose

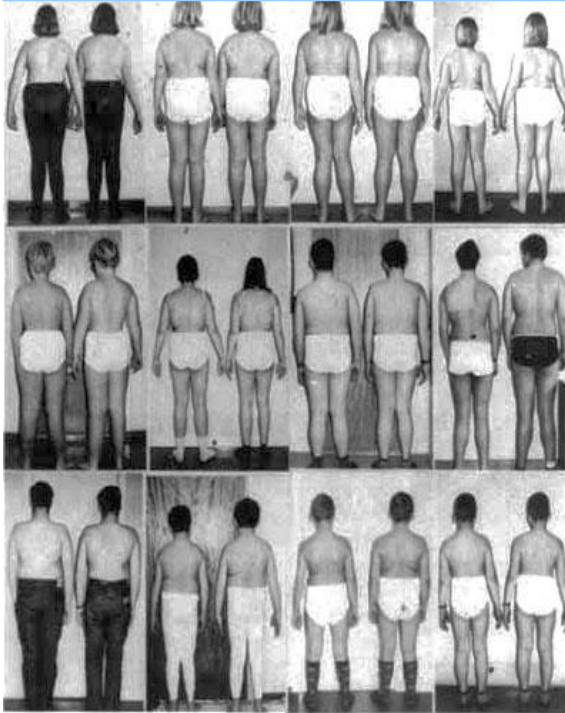
THE CONCEPT OF ENERGY BALANCE



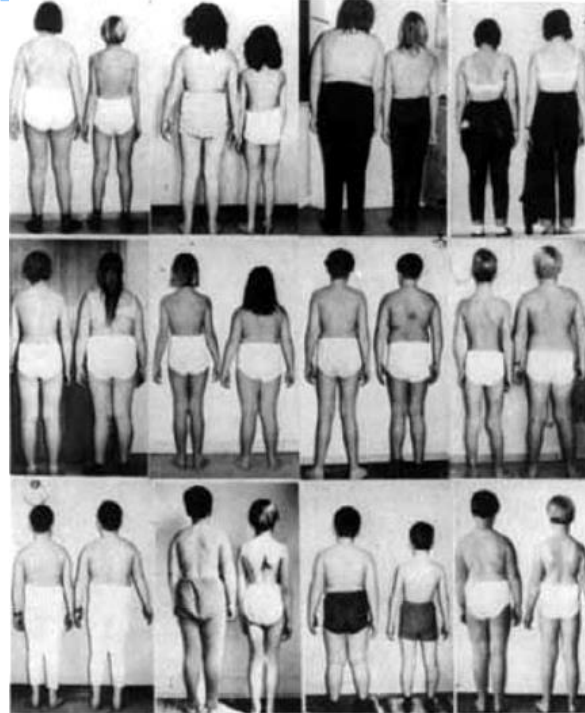


THE GENETIC CONTRIBUTION TO OBESITY

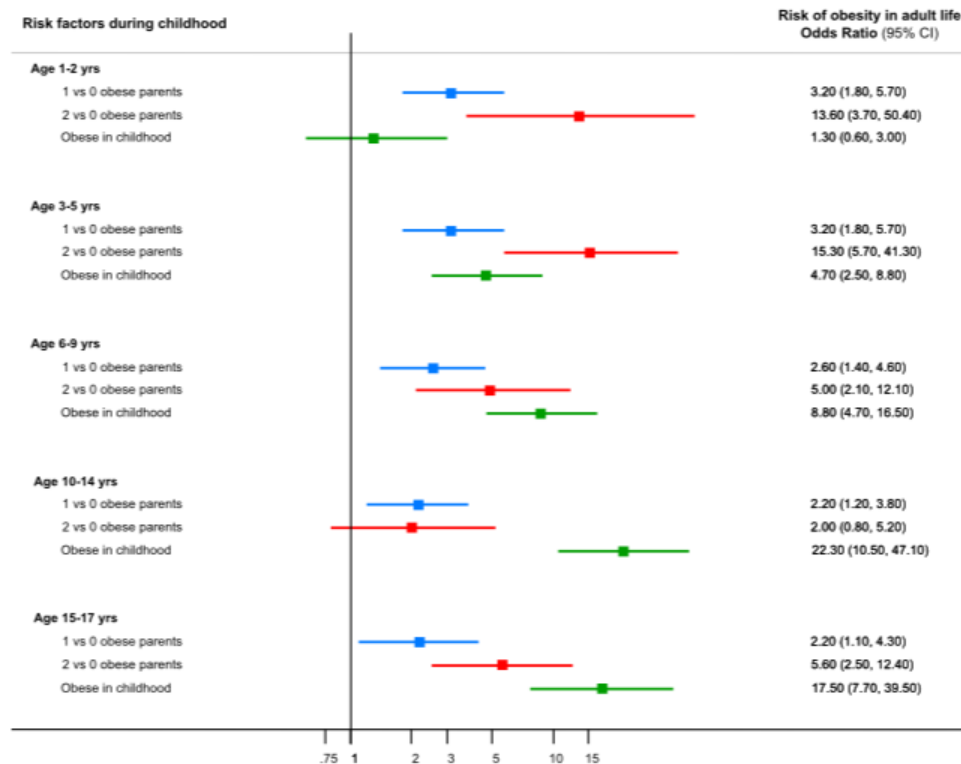
Monozygotic twins



Dizygotic twins



CONTRIBUTION OF PARENTAL AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY TO FUTURE RISK OF OBESITY



CI, confidence interval

Loos RJF, et al. Cell Metab. 2017;25:535-43

Positional cloning of the mouse *obese* gene and its human homologue

Yiying Zhang^{†}, Ricardo Proenca^{**†}, Margherita Maffei[†], Marisa Barone^{**†},
Lori Leopold^{**†} & Jeffrey M. Friedman^{**††}**

* Howard Hughes Medical Institute, † The Rockefeller University, 1230 York Avenue, New York, New York 10021, USA

Leptin
from Greek λεπτός
= lean, skinny



Congenital leptin deficiency is associated with severe early-onset obesity in humans

Carl T. Montague*†, I. Sadaf Farooqi*†‡, Jonathan P. Whitehead*‡, Maria A. Soos*‡, Harald Rau*‡, Nicholas J. Wareham§, Ciaran P. Sewter*‡, Janet E. Digby*‡, Shehla N. Mohammed||, Jane A. Hurst†, Christopher H. Cheetham#, Alison R. Earley#, Anthony H. Barnett☆, Johannes B. Prins*‡ & Stephen O'Rahilly*‡

*University of Cambridge, Departments of * Medicine, ‡ Clinical Biochemistry and § Community Medicine, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QR, UK*

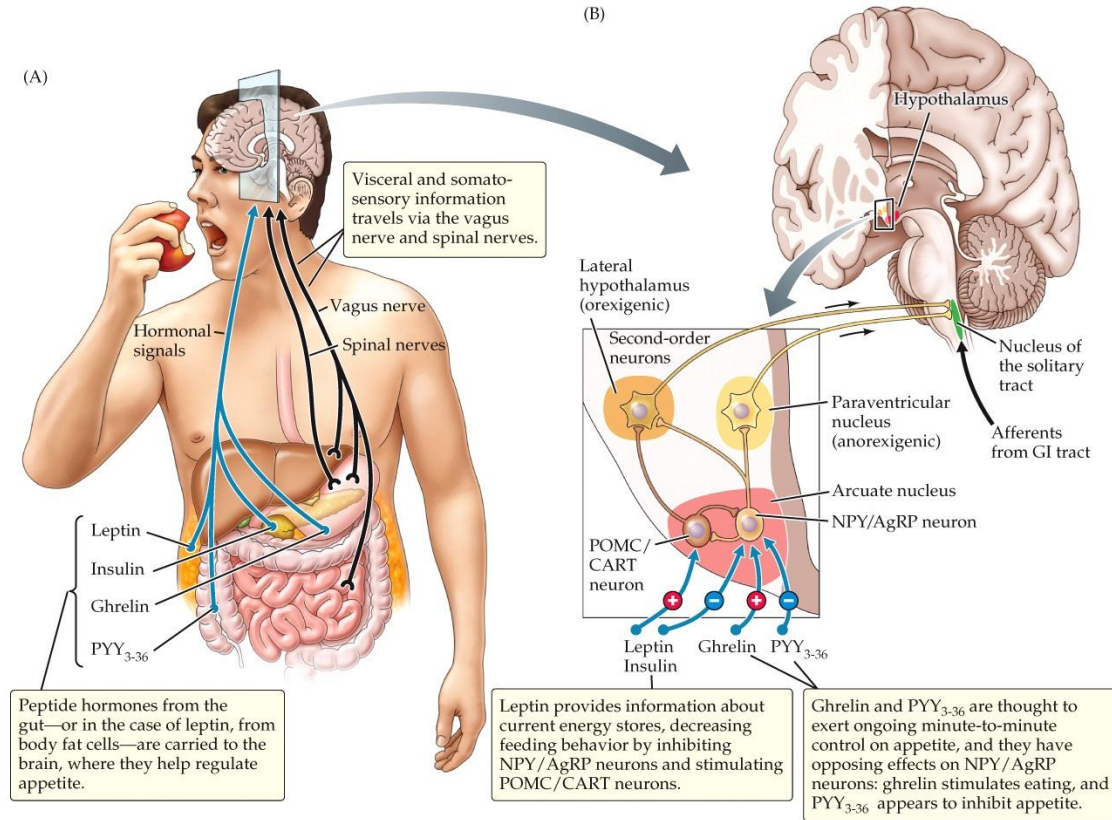


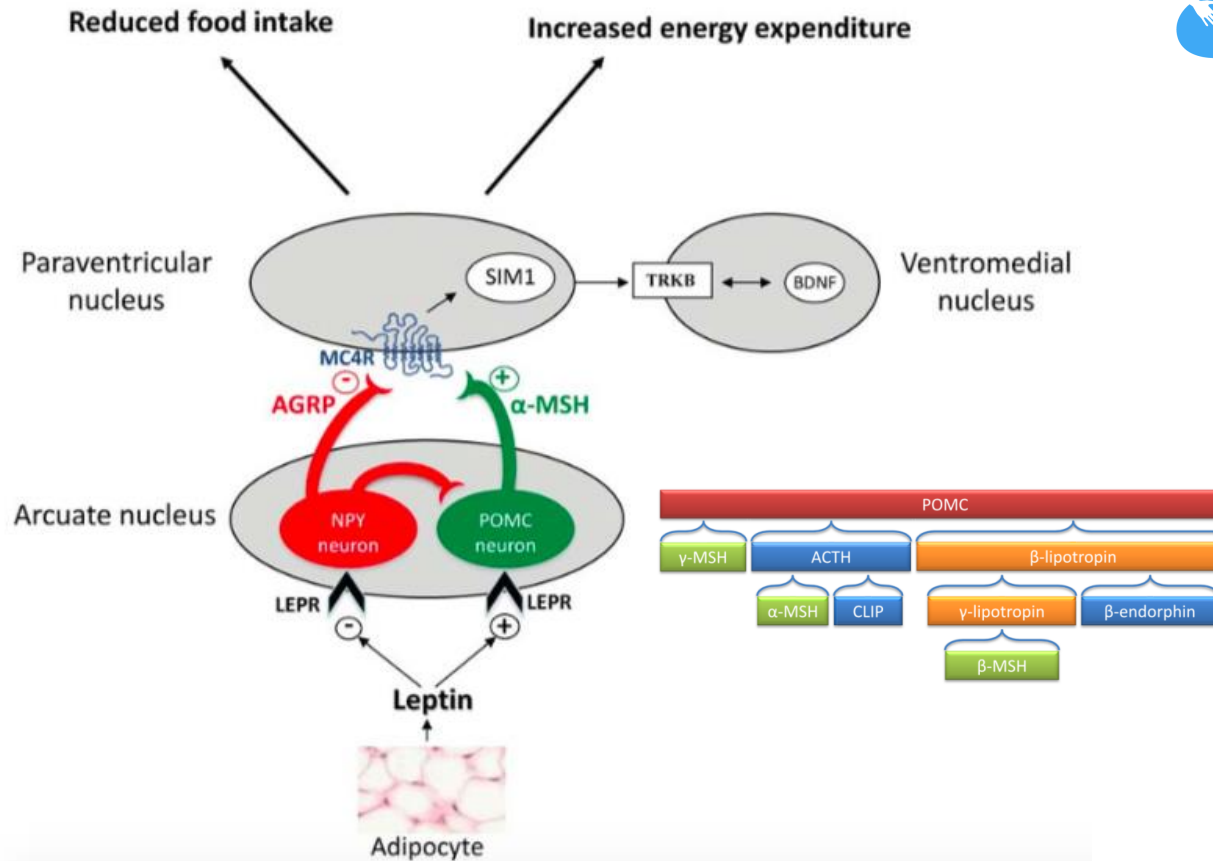
CONGENITAL LEPTIN DEFICIENCY: RESPONSE TO THERAPY

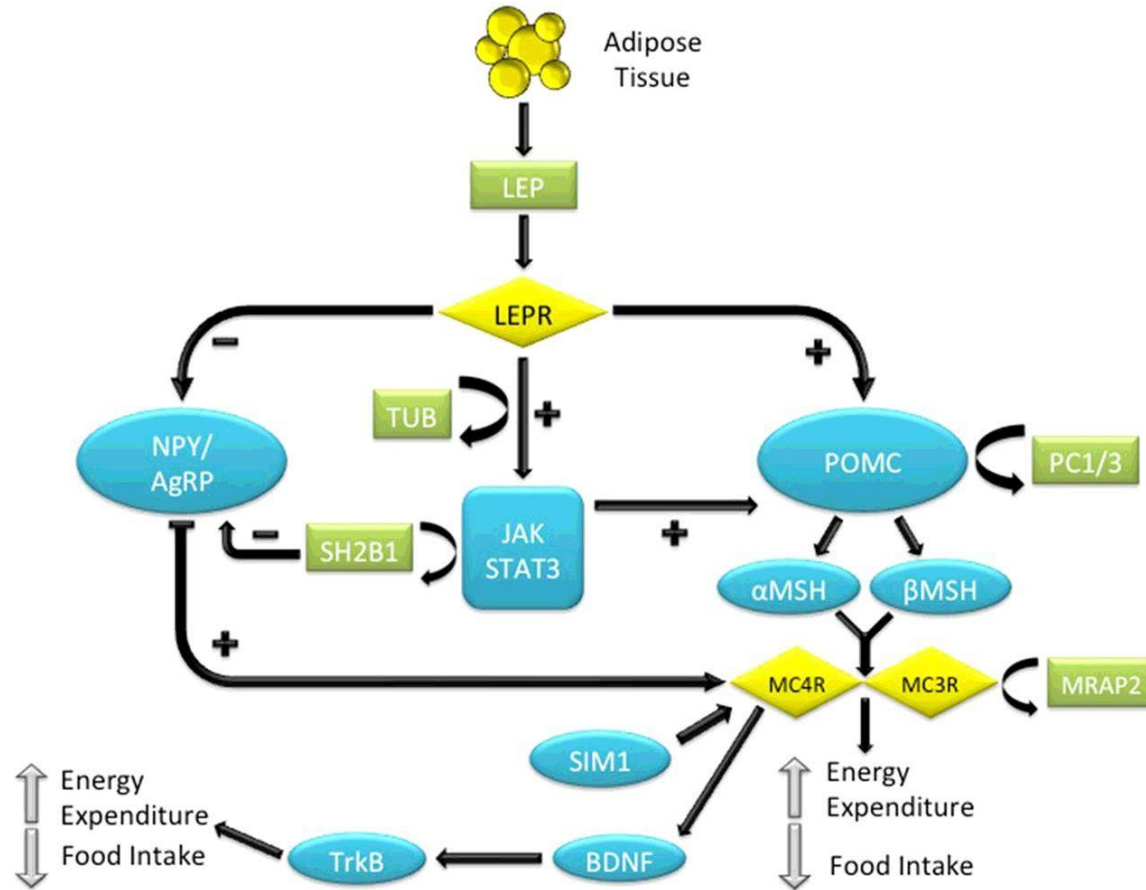


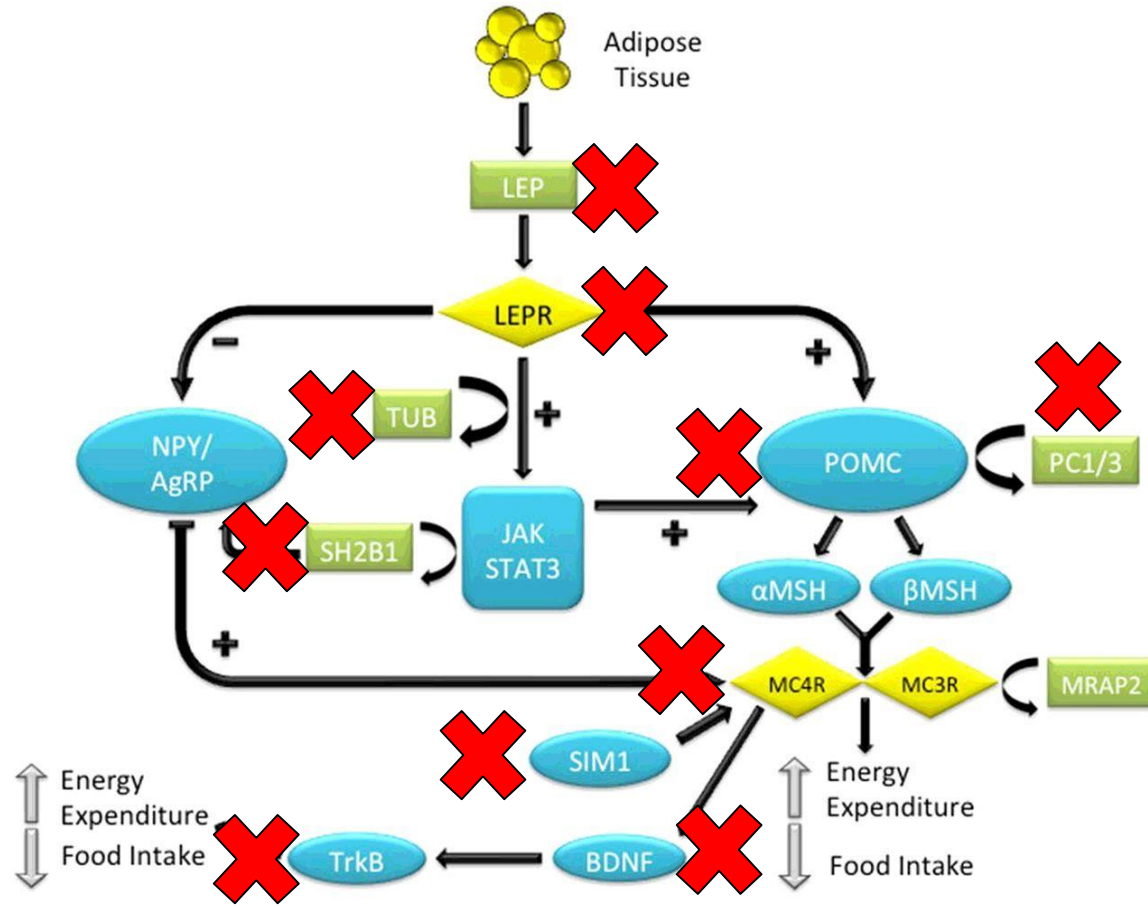
CONGENITAL LEPTIN DEFICIENCY: RESPONSE TO THERAPY











Leptin	Rapid weight gain, behavioural problems when food is denied, hyperphagia , hypogonadotrophic hypogonadism, defective T-cell mediated immunity, low blood pressure	Autosomal recessive	LEP
Leptin receptor	Rapid weight gain, behavioural problems when food is denied, hyperphagia , hypogonadotrophic hypogonadism, defective T-cell mediated immunity, low blood pressure	Autosomal recessive	LEPR
SH2B adaptor protein 1	Hyperphagia childhood onset obesity, insulin resistance, reduced height, behavioural abnormalities	NA	SH2B1
Proopiomelanocortin	Obesity, hypocortisolism, red hair and skin hypopigmentation, neonatal hypoglycaemia, seizures, cholestasis, voracious appetite	Autosomal recessive	POMC
Pro-protein convertase subtilisin / kexin type 1	Early-onset obesity, hyperphagia , postprandial hypoglycaemia, endocrine dysfunction, diarrhoea, diabetes insipidus	Autosomal dominant or recessive	PCSK1
Melanocortin 4 receptor	Hyperphagia rapid weight gain, hyperinsulinaemia, increased linear growth, increase in bone mass, increase in both fat and lean mass	Autosomal dominant or recessive	MC4R

Neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor type 2 (tyrosine receptor kinase B)	Early-onset obesity, hyperphagia, developmental delay, impairment in short-term memory, impaired nociception	NA	<i>NTRK2 (TrkB)</i>
Brain-derived neurotrophic factor	Hyperphagia severe obesity, cognitive impairment, hyperactivity	NA	<i>BDNF</i>
Single-minded homologue 1	Hyperphagia obesity, reduction in paraventricular nucleus, excessive growth, Prader-Willi like neurobehavioural features	NA	<i>SIM1</i>
Kinase suppressor of Ras 2	Hyperphagia early-onset obesity, low heart rate, reduced basal metabolic rate, severe insulin resistance	NA	<i>KSR2</i>
Tubby bipartite transcription factor	Deteriorating vision, obesity, normal glucose, cholesterol, triacylglycerols levels	Autosomal recessive	<i>TUB</i>

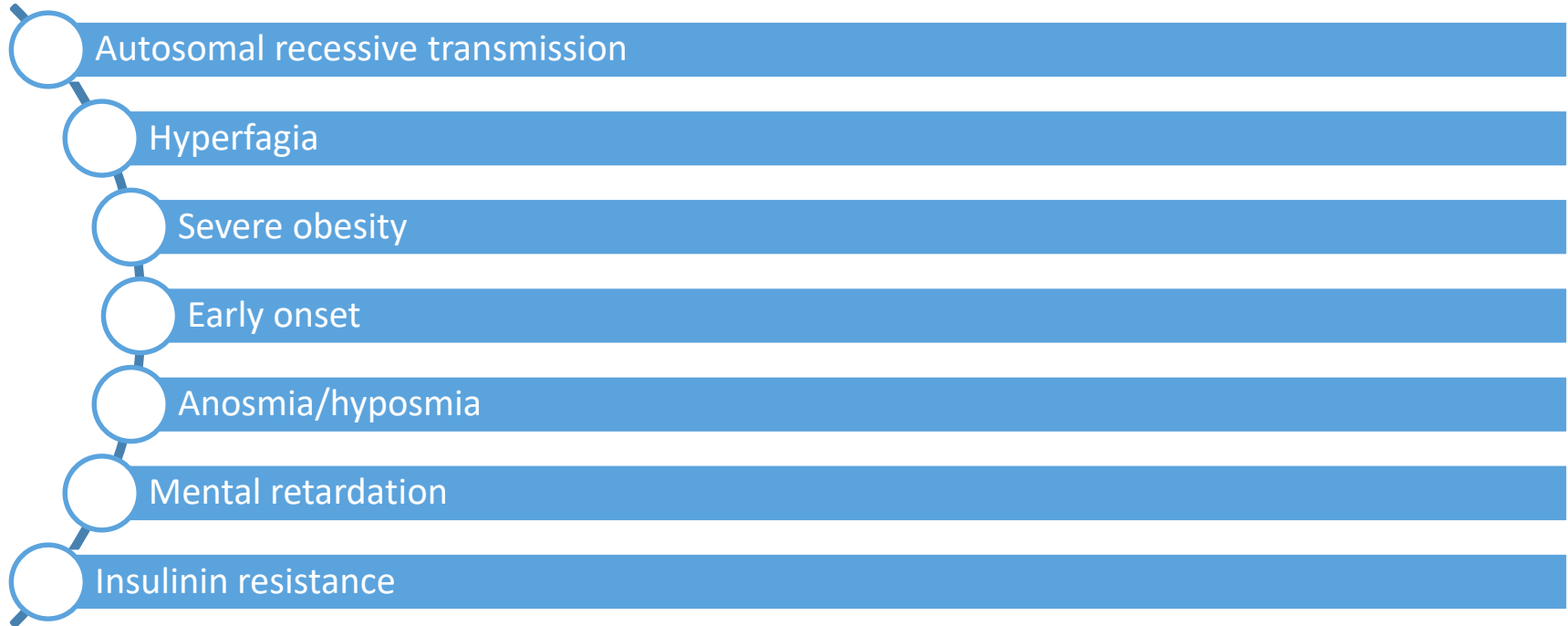
Loss-of-function mutations in *ADCY3* cause monogenic severe obesity

Sadia Saeed^{1,2}, Amélie Bonnefond¹, Filippo Tamanini², Muhammad Usman Mirza³, Jaida Manzoor⁴, Qasim M. Janjua⁵, Sadia M. Din⁶, Julien Gaitan^{7,8}, Alexandra Milochau^{7,8}, Emmanuelle Durand¹, Emmanuel Vaillant¹, Attiya Haseeb⁶, Franck De Graeve¹, Iandry Rabearivelo¹, Olivier Sand¹, Gurvan Queniat¹, Raphaël Boutry¹, Dina A. Schott⁹, Hina Ayesha¹⁰, Muhammad Ali¹¹, Waqas I. Khan¹², Taeed A. Butt¹³, Tuula Rinne¹⁴, Connie Stumpel¹⁵, Amar Abderrahmani^{1,2}, Jochen Lang^{7,8}, Muhammad Arslan^{5,6} and Philippe Froguel^{1,2*}

Loss-of-function variants in *ADCY3* increase risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes

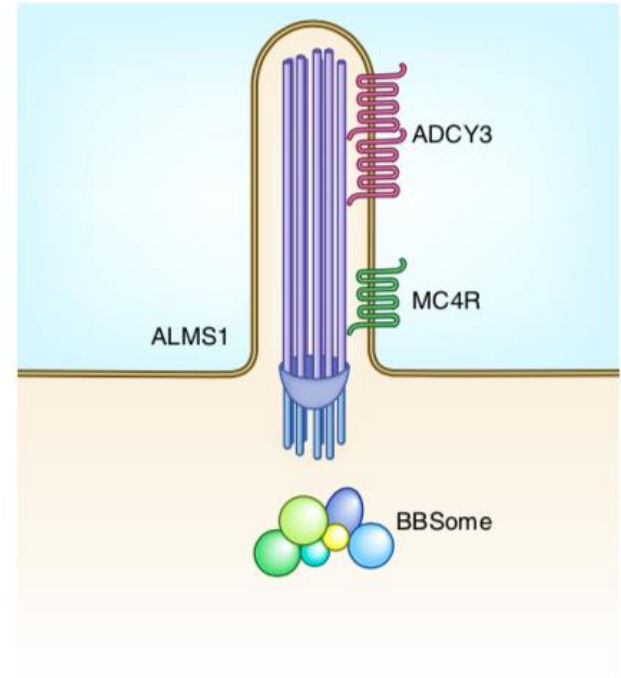
Niels Grarup^{#1}, Ida Moltke^{#2}, Mette K. Andersen¹, Maria Dalby², Kristoffer Vitting-Seerup^{2,3}, Timo Kern¹, Yuvaraj Mahendran¹, Emil Jørsboe², Christina V. L. Larsen^{4,5}, Inger K. Dahl-Petersen⁴, Arthur Gilly⁶, Daniel Suveges⁶, George Dedoussis⁷, Eleftheria Zeggini⁶, Oluf Pedersen¹, Robin Andersson², Peter Bjerregaard^{4,5}, Marit E. Jørgensen^{4,5,8}, Anders Albrechtsen², and Torben Hansen^{1,9}

ADCY3 MUTATIONS: PHENOTYPE

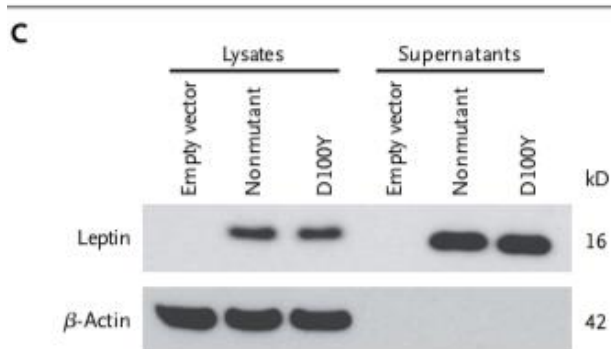
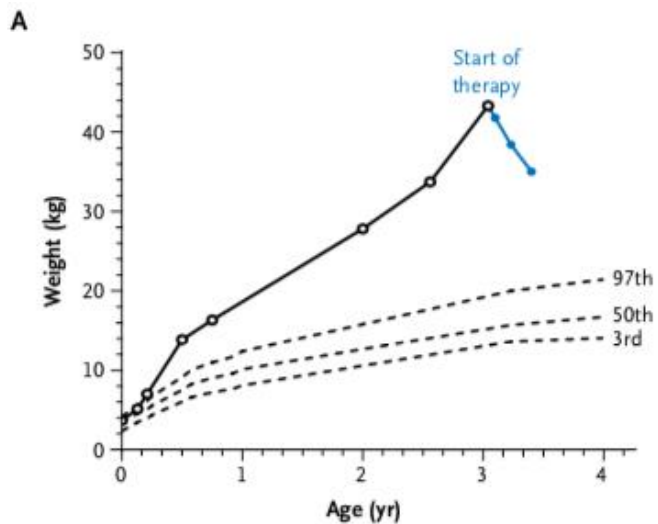


Subcellular localization of MC4R with ADCY3 at neuronal primary cilia underlies a common pathway for genetic predisposition to obesity

Jacqueline E. Siljee¹, Yi Wang¹, Adelaide A. Bernard¹, Baran A. Ersoy^{1,4}, Sumei Zhang¹, Aaron Marley², Mark Von Zastrow², Jeremy F. Reiter³ and Christian Vaisse^{1*}

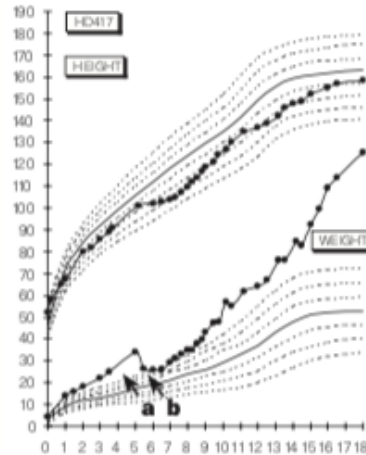
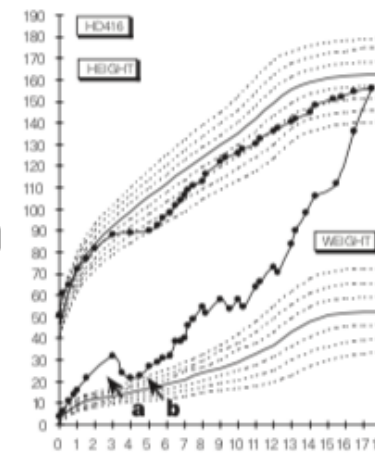
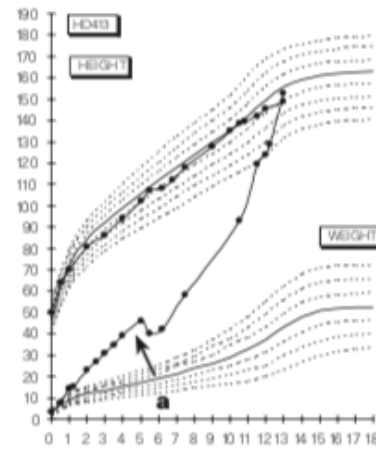


ALMS1, centrosome and basal body associated protein; ADCY3, adenylate cyclase 3; BBSome, complex of Bardet-Biedl syndrome proteins; MC4R, melanocortin 4 receptor



A mutation in the human leptin receptor gene causes obesity and pituitary dysfunction

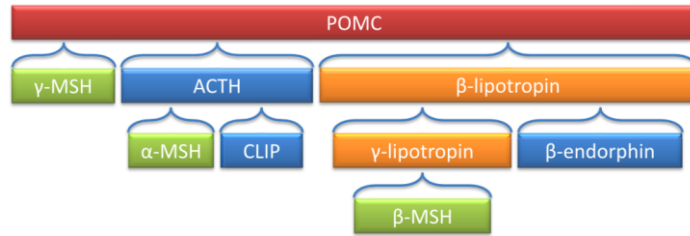
Karine Clément^{†‡}, Christian Vaisse^{†‡}, Najiba Lahlou[§], Sylvie Cabrol^{||}, Veronique Pelloux[†], Dominique Cassuto[†], Micheline Gourmelen^{||}, Christian Dina[†], Jean Chambaz[‡], Jean-Marc Lacorte[‡], Arnaud Basdevant^{††}, Pierre Bougnères[‡], Yves Lebouc^{||}, Philippe Froguel^{††} & Bernard Guy-Grand^{††}



- a) Period of food of food-intake restriction
- b) Start of treatment with levothyroxine and exogenous growth hormone

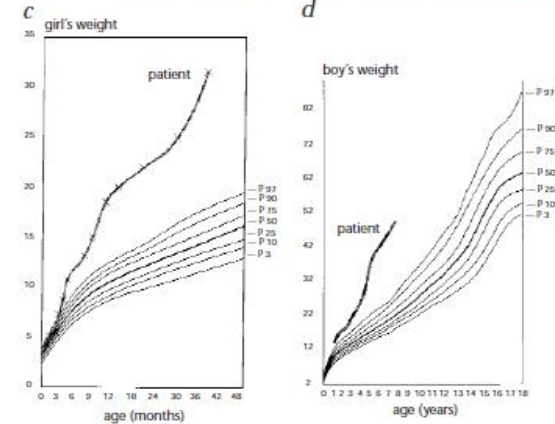
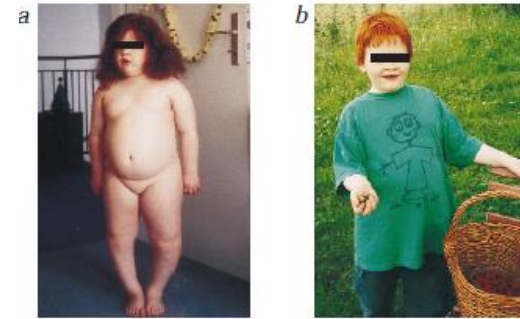
Severe early-onset obesity, adrenal insufficiency and red hair pigmentation caused by *POMC* mutations in humans

Heiko Krude¹, Heike Biebermann¹, Werner Luck¹, Rüdiger Horn², Georg Brabant² & Annette Grüters¹



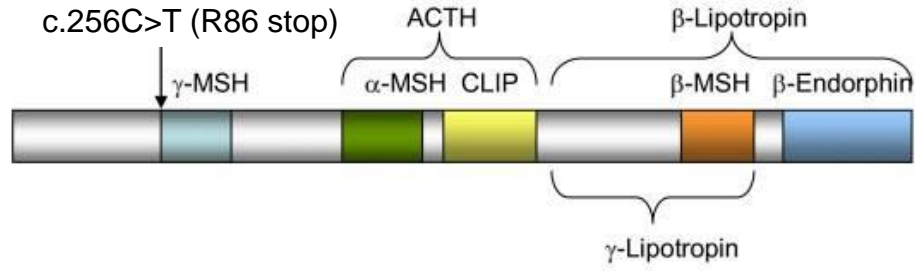
Phenotype:

- Red hair (MC1R)
- Adrenal insufficiency (MC2R)
- Obesity (MC4R)

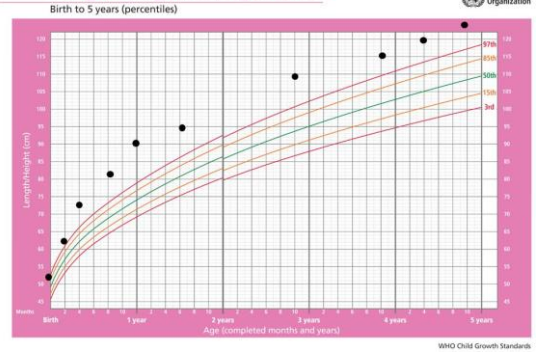


ACTH, adrenocorticotrophic hormone; CLIP, corticotropin-like intermediate peptide; MC1R, melanocortin 1 receptor; MC2R, melanocortin 2 receptor; MC4R, melanocortin 4 receptor; MSH, melanocyte-stimulating hormone; POMC, pro-opiomelanocortin

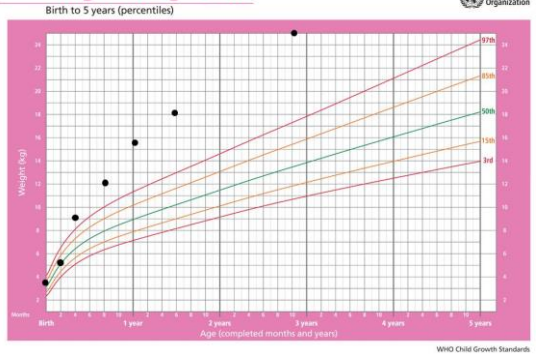
- Early onset obesity
- Adrenal insufficiency
- Mental retardation

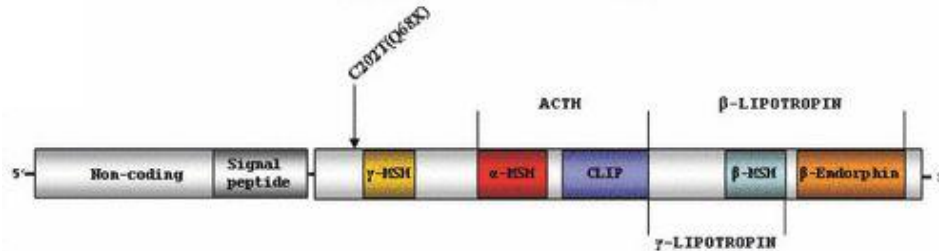
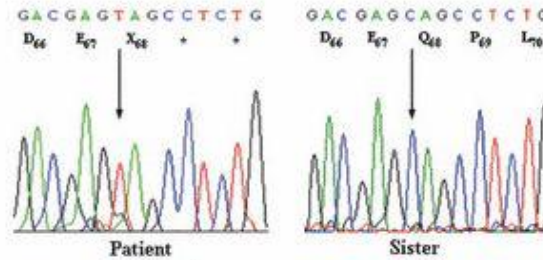


Length/height-for-age GIRLS



Weight-for-age GIRLS





ACTH, adrenocorticotrophic hormone; CLIP, corticotropin-like intermediate peptide; MSH; melanocyte-stimulating hormone

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

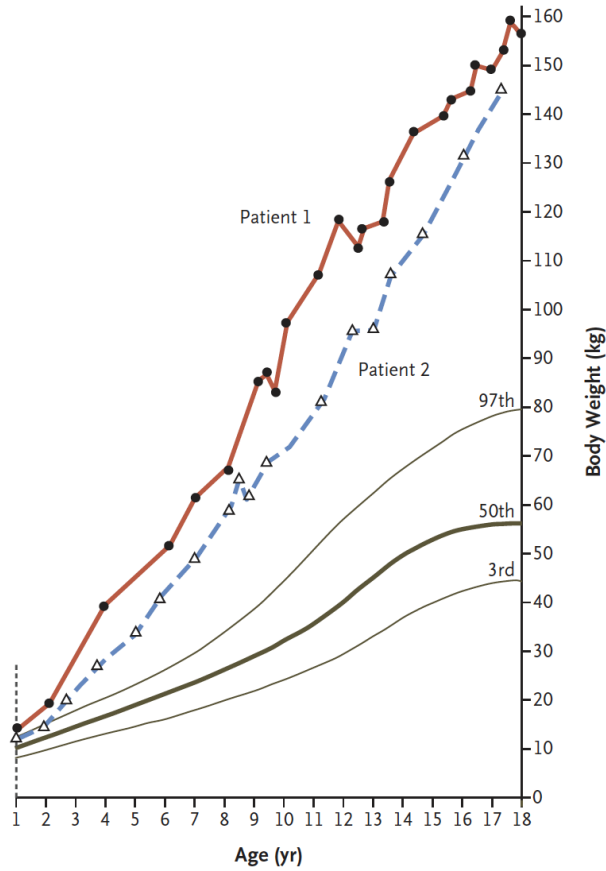
BRIEF REPORT

Proopiomelanocortin Deficiency Treated with a Melanocortin-4 Receptor Agonist

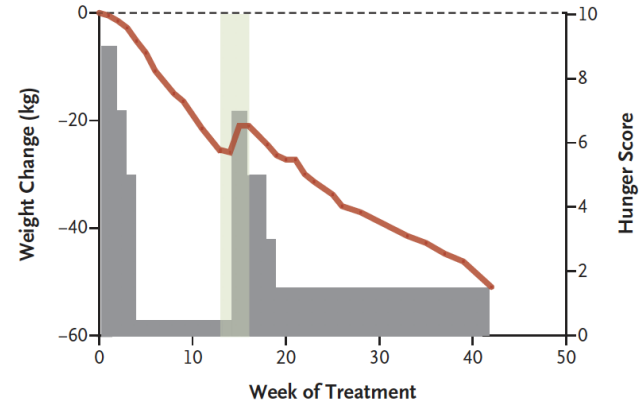
Peter Kühnen, M.D., Karine Clément, M.D., Ph.D., Susanna Wiegand, M.D.,
Oliver Blankenstein, M.D., Keith Gottesdiener, M.D., Lea L. Martini, M.D.,
Knut Mai, M.D., Ulrike Blume-Peytavi, M.D., Annette Grüters, M.D.,
and Heiko Krude, M.D.

July 2016

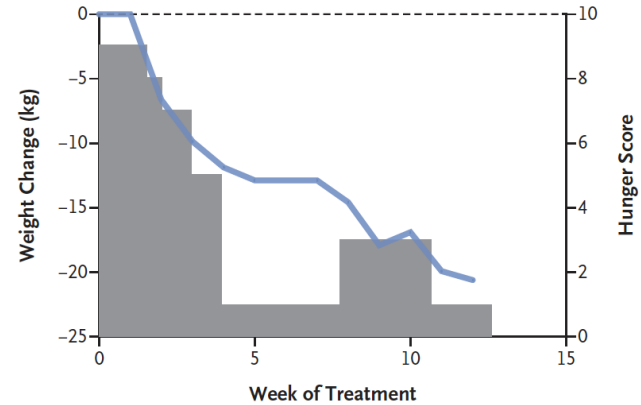
A Pretherapy Weight of the Two Patients



B Patient 1 during Therapy

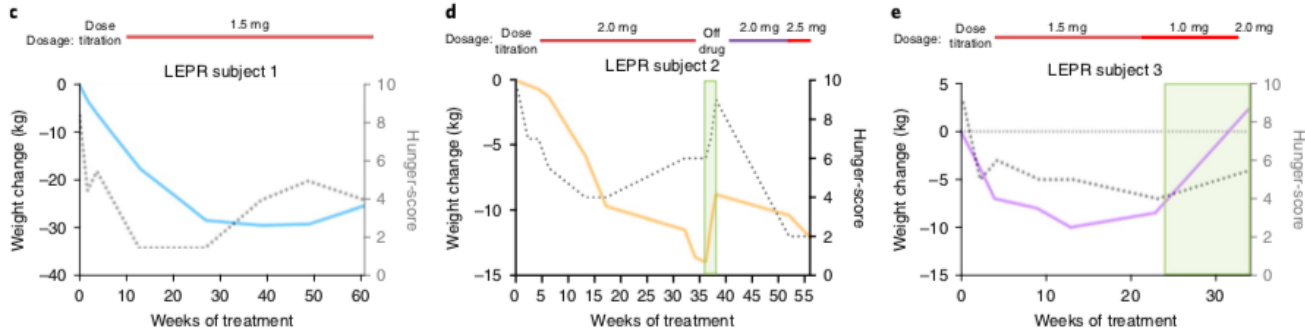


C Patient 2 during Therapy



MC4R agonism promotes durable weight loss in patients with leptin receptor deficiency

Karine Clément^{1,12}, Heike Biebermann^{2,12}, I. Sadaf Farooqi^{3,12}, Lex Van der Ploeg^{4,12}, Barbara Wolters², Christine Poitou¹, Lia Puder², Fred Fiedorek⁴, Keith Gottesdiener⁴, Gunnar Kleinau⁵, Nicolas Heyder⁵, Patrick Scheerer^{5,6}, Ulrike Blume-Peytavi⁷, Irina Jahnke⁷, Shubh Sharma⁴, Jacek Mokrosinski³, Susanna Wiegand⁸, Anne Müller², Katja Weiß⁹, Knut Mai^{6,10}, Joachim Spranger^{6,10}, Annette Grüters¹¹, Oliver Blankenstein², Heiko Krude² and Peter Kühnen^{2*}



LEPR, leptin receptor; MC4R, melanocortin 4 receptor

Clément K, et al. Nat Med. 2018;24:551-55

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

MARCH 20, 2003

VOL. 348 NO. 12

Clinical Spectrum of Obesity and Mutations in the Melanocortin 4 Receptor Gene

I. Sadaf Farooqi, M.D., Ph.D., Julia M. Keogh, B.Sc., Giles S.H. Yeo, Ph.D.,
Emma J. Lank, B.Sc., Tim Cheetham, M.D., and Stephen O'Rahilly, M.D.

Most frequent cause of monogenic obesity
Up to 6% in some studies

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH MC4R MUTATIONS DISPLAY A PARTICULAR PHENOTYPE

Autosomal
dominant
transmission

Hyperphagia

Severe obesity
(BMI SDS >3)

Early onset of
obesity
(<10 years)

Tall stature

Hyperinsulinemia

Increased bone
mineral density

PREVALENCE OF MC4R GENE MUTATIONS IN ITALIAN OBESE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

	JCEM '04 ¹	Clin. Chem. '05 ²	BMC Medical Genetics, 2009 ³
Number of patients	120	196	240
Age, years +/- SD (range)	12-71	17-70	1-11
Prevalence of mutations, %	1.7	2.5	1.6

Sardinia \approx 300 children $<1\%$ ⁴

SD, standard deviation; MC4R, melanocortin 4 receptor

1. Santini F, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2004;89:904-8. 2. Buono P, et al. Clin Chem. 2005;51:1358-64. 3. Santoro N, et al. BMC Med Genet. 2009;10:25.

4. Ibba et al., unpublished



Monogenic obesity

- A single gene mutation causes the disease
- Rare
- Some can be treated



Syndromic obesity

- At least 20 syndromes
- All rare conditions
- Often associated with mental retardation

PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME

Hyperphagia

Growth retardation

Hypothermia

Hypotonia

Hypogonadism

Nocturnal apnoea

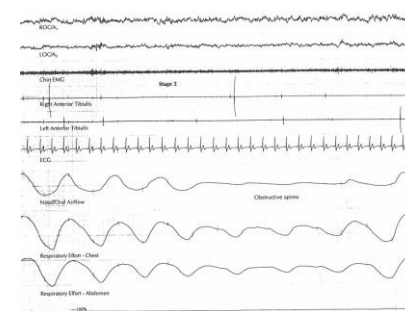


Polysomnography

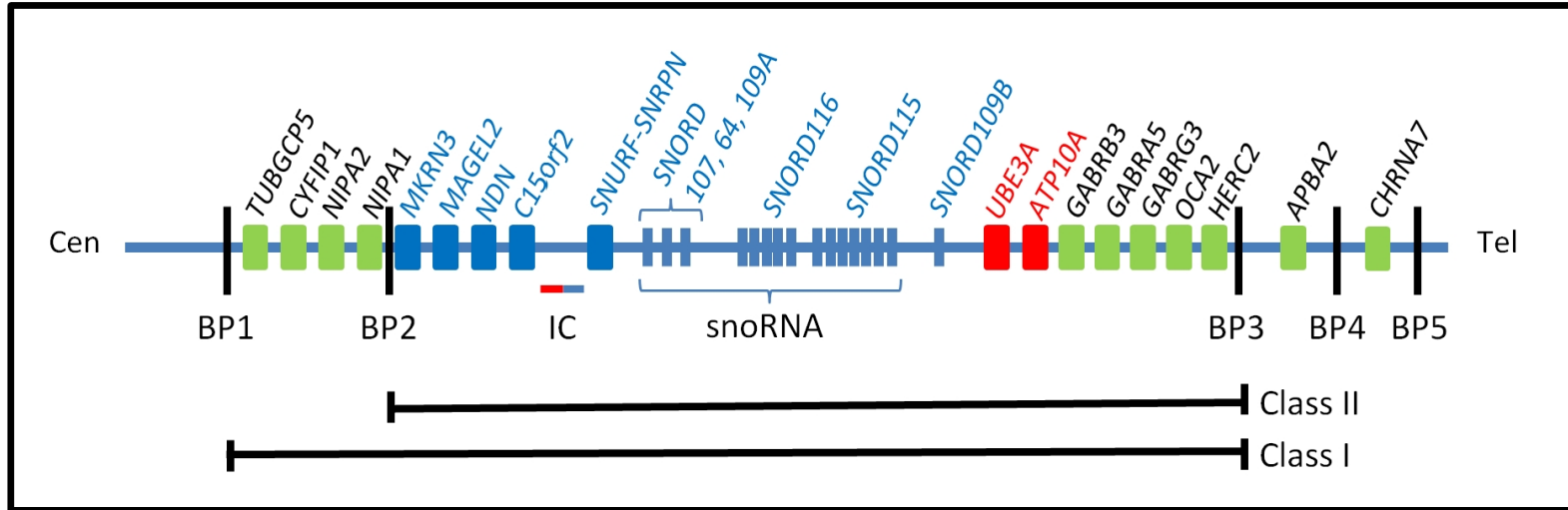
Dysmorphism

Mental retardation

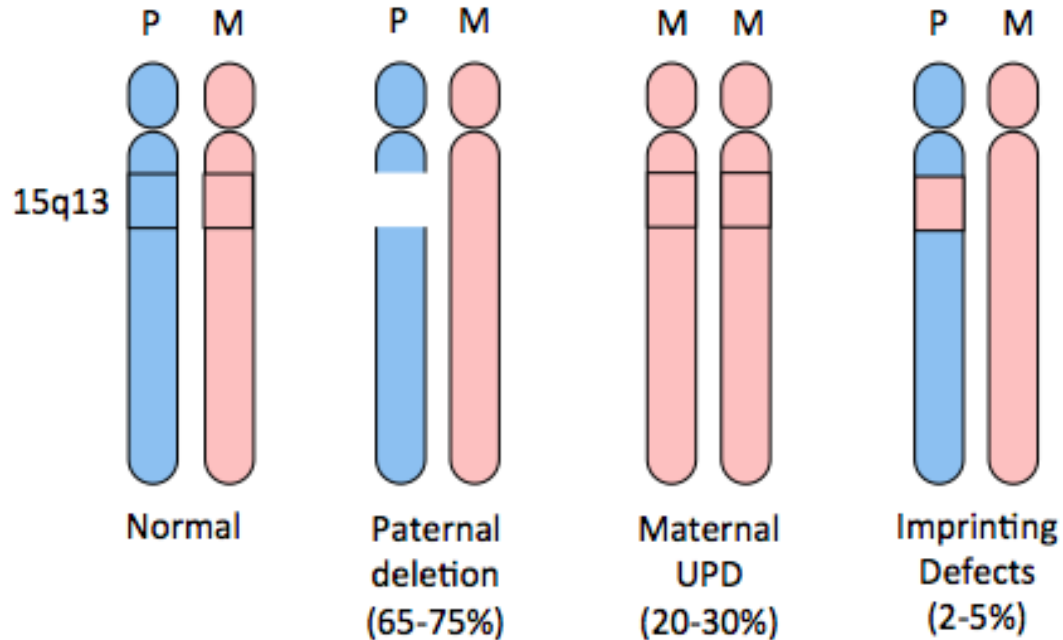
Behavioural problems



LOCUS 15q11q13



PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME: GENETIC MECHANISMS



M, maternal; P, paternal; UPD, uniparental disomy

<http://genetics4medics.com/prader-willi-syndrome.html>. Accessed on January 7, 2020.

BARDET BIEDL SYNDROME

Table 1

Clinical phenotypes associated with ciliopathies

	MKS	BBS	JBTS	JATD	OFD1	MKKS	SLS	NPH	LCA
Retinopathy	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
Polydactyly	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-
Kidney disease	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-
Situs inversus	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
Mental retardation/developmental delay	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+
Hypoplasia of cerebellum	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-
Hydrometrocolpos	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Obesity	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hepatic dysfunction	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-

JATD, Jeune syndrome; OFD1, orofacioidigital syndrome 1; MKKS, McKusick-Kaufman syndrome; SLS, Senior-Loken syndrome.

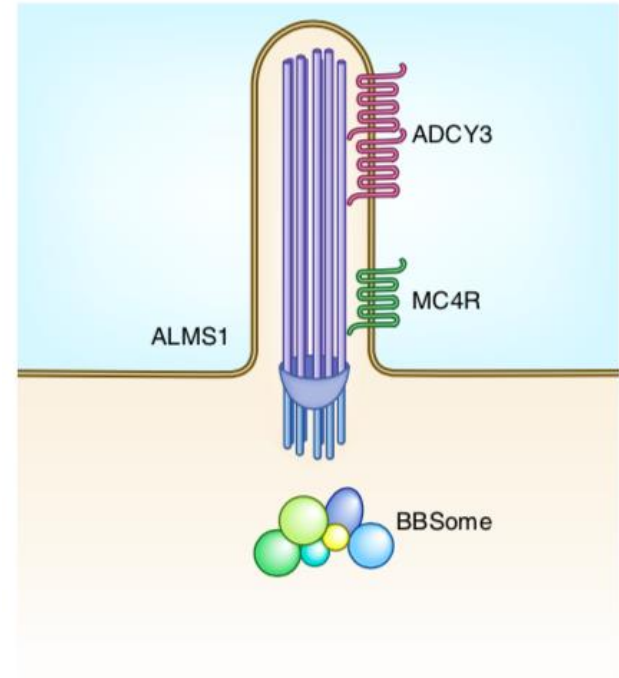
Bardet-Biedl	Mental retardation, retinal dystrophy or pigmentary retinopathy, dysmorphic extremities, hypogonadism, kidney anomalies	1/125,000 to 1/175,000 births	BBS1 (11q13); BBS2 (16q12.2); BBS3 (<i>ARL6</i> , 3q11); BBS4 (15q24.1); BBS5 (2q31.1); BBS6 (<i>MKKS</i> , 20p12); BBS7 (4q27); BBS8 (<i>TTC8</i> , 14q31); BBS9 (<i>PTHB1</i> , 7p14); BBS10 (<i>C12ORF58</i> , 12q21.2); BBS11 (<i>TRIM32</i> , 9q33.1); BBS12 (<i>FLJ35630</i> , 4q27); BBS13 (<i>MKS1</i> , 17q23); BBS14 (<i>CEP290</i> , 12q21.3); BBS15 (<i>WDPCP</i> , 2p15); BBS16 (<i>SDCCAG8</i> , 1q43); BBS17 (<i>LZTFL1</i> , 3p21); BBS18 (<i>BBIP1</i> , 10q25); BBS19 (<i>IFT27</i> , 22q12)
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BBS, Bardet Biedl syndrome; JATD, Jeune syndrome; JBTS, Joubert syndrome; LCA, Leber congenital amaurosis; OFD1, orofacioidigital syndrome 1; MKKS, McKusick-Kaufman syndrome; MKS, Meckel-Gruber syndrome; NPH, nephronophthisis; SLS, Senior-Loken syndrome.

Zaghloul NA, et al. J Clin Invest. 2009;119:428-37; Huvenne H, et al. Obesity Facts 2016; 9:158-173

Subcellular localization of MC4R with ADCY3 at neuronal primary cilia underlies a common pathway for genetic predisposition to obesity

Jacqueline E. Siljee¹, Yi Wang¹, Adelaide A. Bernard¹, Baran A. Ersoy^{1,4}, Sumei Zhang¹, Aaron Marley², Mark Von Zastrow², Jeremy F. Reiter³ and Christian Vaisse^{1*}



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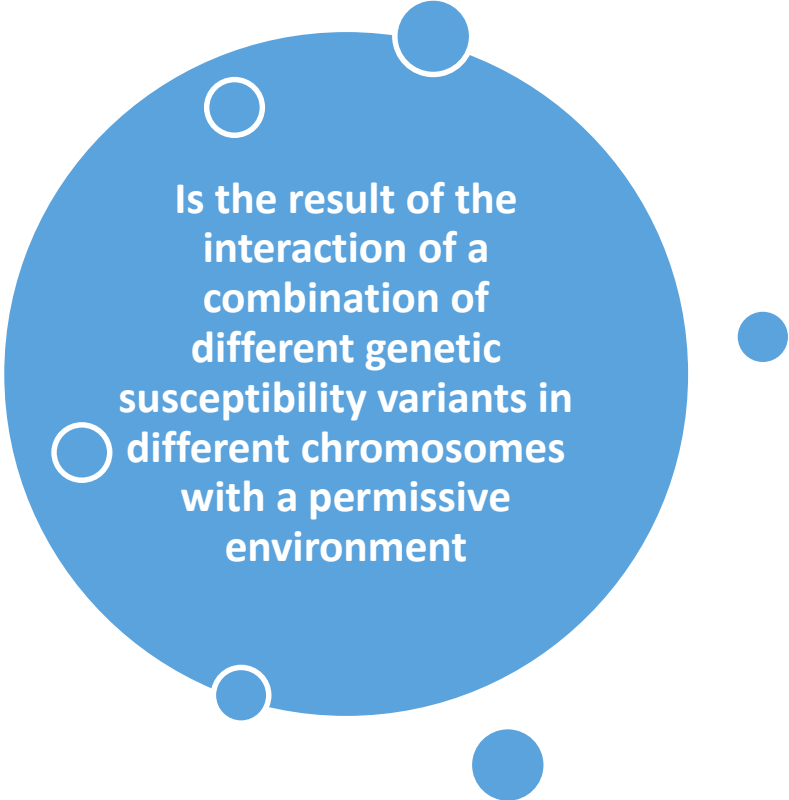
Polygenic obesity

- ~30% of obese children have ≥ 1 obese parent
- Common condition!
- Overall 40-60% of the obesity susceptibility is due to genetic influences

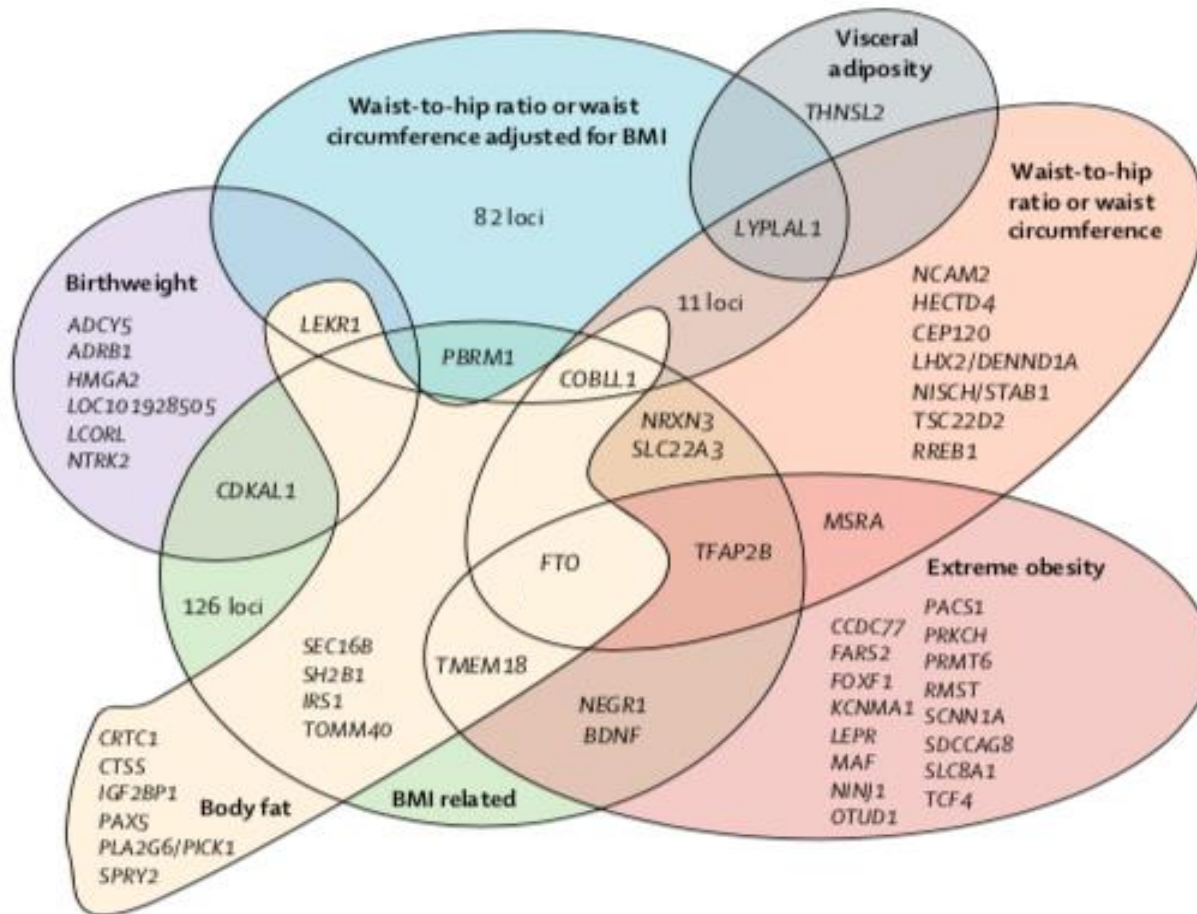




POLYGENIC OBESITY



Is the result of the interaction of a combination of different genetic susceptibility variants in different chromosomes with a permissive environment



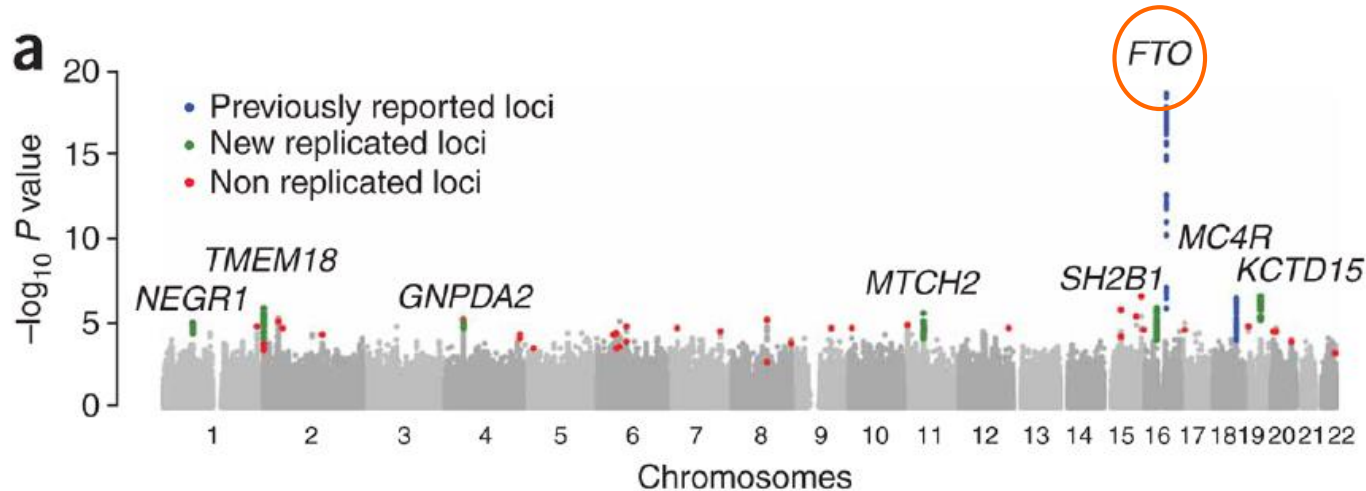
BMI, body mass index; FTO, fat mass and obesity-associated gene

Goodarzi MO. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2018;6:223-36

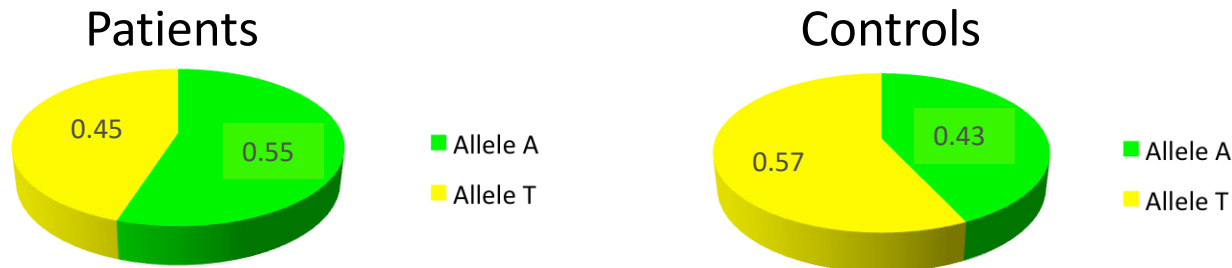
FTO IS A DNA DEMETHYLASE



Genetic effect: Homozygous for the most significantly associated SNP carry 1.67 higher risk of developing obesity



FTO IN 912 OBESE CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS FROM SARDINIA



FTO (rs9939609)	Patients		Controls		Odds ratio	95% CI	χ ²	P value
	Observed	Frequency	Observed	Frequency				
N. samples	912		543					
Allele A	1000	0.55	466	0.43	1.6	1.3–1.8	35.5	<1 × 10 ⁻⁵
Allele T	824	0.45	620	0.57				
Individuals AA	285	0.31	106	0.20				
Individuals AT	430	0.47	254	0.47				
Individuals TT	197	0.22	183	0.34				

Homozygous for the A variant have 1.6 increased risk to develop obesity

Overexpression of *Fto* leads to increased food intake and results in obesity

Chris Church¹, Lee Moir¹, Fiona McMurray¹, Christophe Girard², Gareth T Banks¹, Lydia Teboul¹, Sara Wells¹, Jens C Brüning³, Patrick M Nolan¹, Frances M Ashcroft² & Roger D Cox¹



Loss-of-Function Mutation in the Dioxygenase-Encoding *FTO* Gene Causes Severe Growth Retardation and Multiple Malformations

Sarah Boissel,^{1,7} Orit Reish,^{2,7} Karine Proulx,^{3,7} Hiroko Kawagoe-Takaki,⁴ Barbara Sedgwick,⁴
Giles S.H. Yeo,³ David Meyre,⁵ Christelle Golzio,¹ Florence Molinari,¹ Noman Kadhom,¹
Heather C. Etchevers,¹ Vladimir Saudek,³ I. Sadaf Farooqi,³ Philippe Froguel,^{5,6} Tomas Lindahl,⁴
Stephen O'Rahilly,³ Arnold Munnich,¹ and Laurence Colleaux^{1,*}

8 cases described
All died in the first three years of life

Prevalence of Loss-of-Function *FTO* Mutations in Lean and Obese Individuals

David Meyre,¹ Karine Proulx,² Hiroko Kawagoe-Takaki,³ Vincent Vatin,¹ Ruth Gutiérrez-Aguilar,¹ Debbie Lyon,³ Marcella Ma,² Helene Choquet,¹ Fritz Horber,⁴ Wim Van Hul,⁵ Luc Van Gaal,⁶ Beverley Balkau,⁷ Sophie Visvikis-Siest,⁸ François Pattou,⁹ I. Sadaf Farooqi,² Vladimir Saudek,² Stephen O'Rahilly,² Philippe Froguel,^{1,10} Barbara Sedgwick,³ and Giles S.H. Yeo²

TABLE 3
Summary of nonsynonymous mutations unique to the lean or the obese group

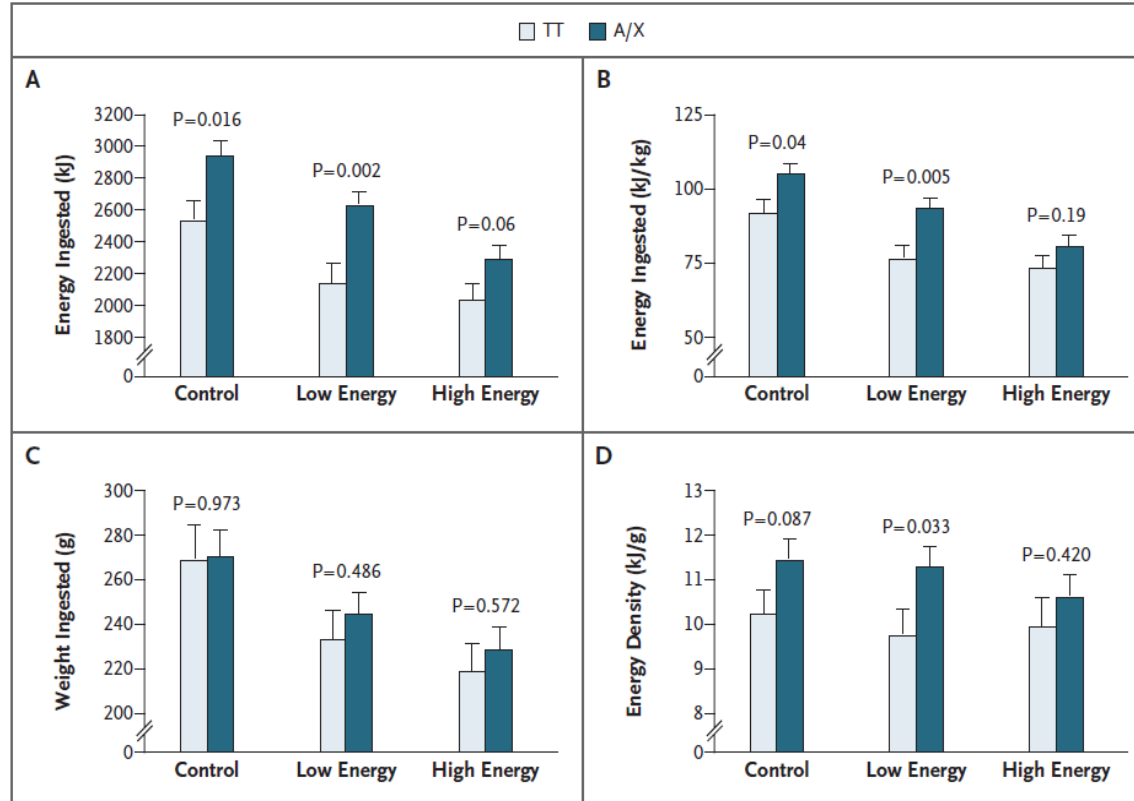
Nonsynonymous mutations	<i>n</i>
Obese subjects	
A134T	1
G187A	2
M223V	1
A241T	2
H419R	1
E471G	1
I492V	1
V493F	1
Prevalence of mutations (%)	0.91
Lean subjects	
P5L	1
E24K	1
R80P	1
P93R	1
V94I	1
N143S	1
I148R	1
D189N	1
E234D	1
R316Q	1
P399H	1
Prevalence of mutations (%)	0.77

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

An Obesity-Associated *FTO* Gene Variant and Increased Energy Intake in Children

Joanne E. Cecil, Ph.D., Roger Tavendale, Ph.D., Peter Watt, Ph.D.,
Marion M. Hetherington, Ph.D., and Colin N.A. Palmer, Ph.D.

Jane Wardle, Susan Carnell, Claire M. A. Haworth, I. Sadaf Farooqi, Stephen O'Rahilly,
and Robert Plomin

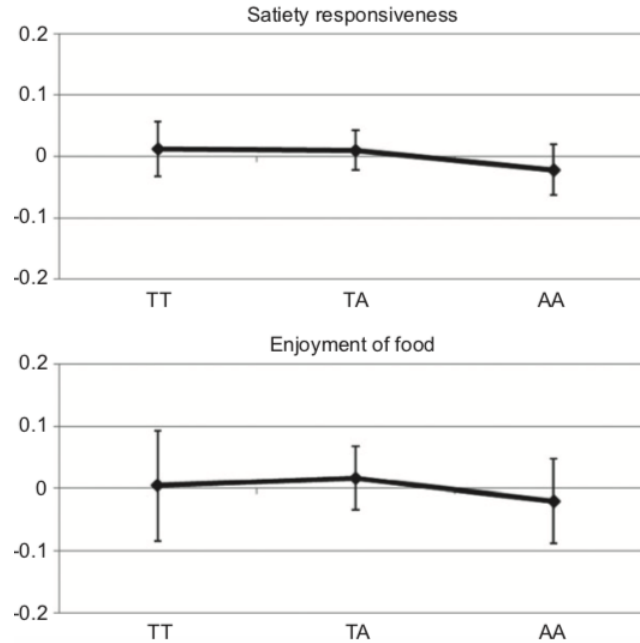


A/X, heterozygous carriers; TT, noncarriers

Cecil JE, et al. N Engl J Med. 2008;359:2558-66

Anastasia Ibba, Sabrina Pilia, Patrizia Zavattari, Alberto Loche, Chiara Guzzetti,
Maria Rosaria Casini, Luigi Minerba and Sandro Loche*

The role of *FTO* genotype on eating behavior in obese Sardinian children and adolescents

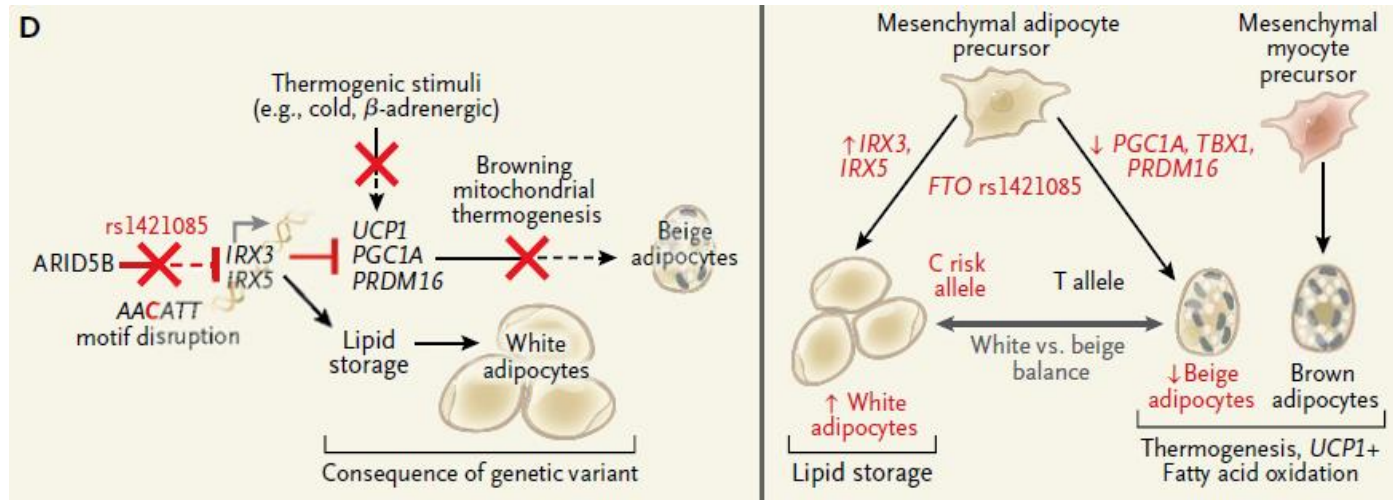


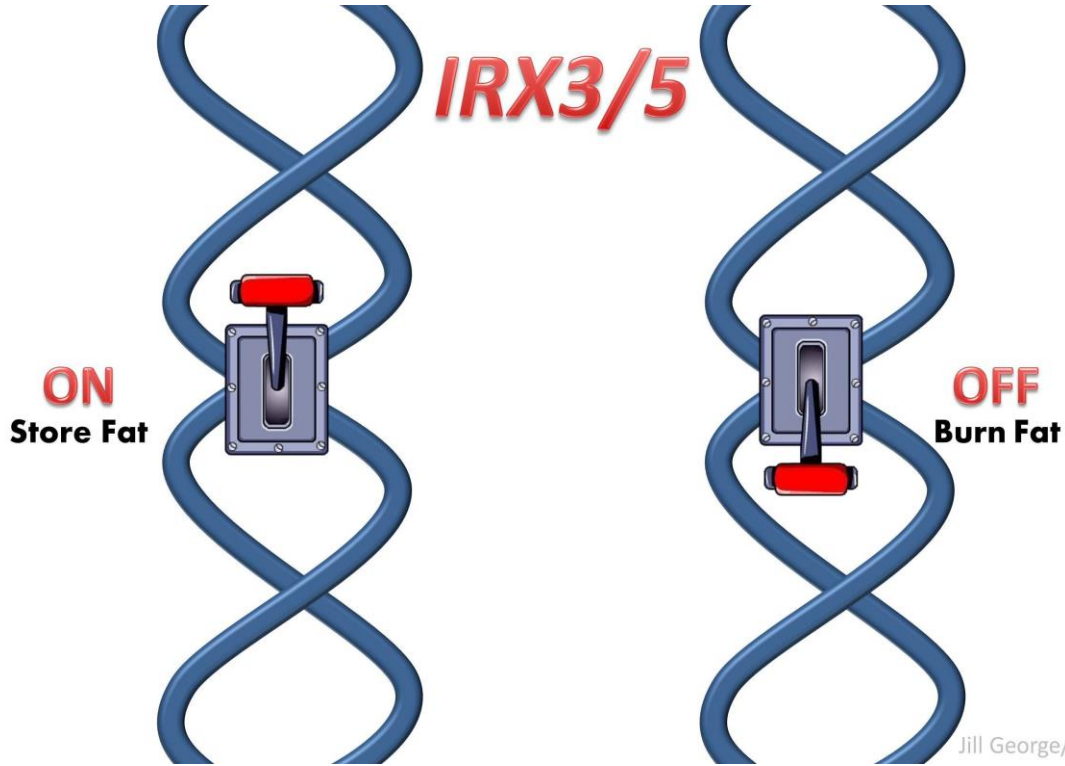
AA, homozygous carriers; TA, heterozygous carriers; TT, noncarriers

Ibba A, et al. J Pediatr Endocrinol Metab. 2013;26(5-6):539-44

FTO Obesity Variant Circuitry and Adipocyte Browning in Humans

Melina Claussnitzer, Ph.D., Simon N. Dankel, Ph.D., Kyoung-Han Kim, Ph.D., Gerald Quon, Ph.D., Wouter Meuleman, Ph.D., Christine Haugen, M.Sc., Viktoria Glunk, M.Sc., Isabel S. Sousa, M.Sc., Jacqueline L. Beaudry, Ph.D., Vijitha Puvindran, B.Sc., Nezar A. Abdennur, M.Sc., Jannel Liu, B.Sc., Per-Arne Svensson, Ph.D., Yi-Hsiang Hsu, Ph.D., Daniel J. Drucker, M.D., Gunnar Mellgren, M.D., Ph.D., Chi-Chung Hui, Ph.D., Hans Hauner, M.D., and Manolis Kellis, Ph.D.





Jill George/NIH

COMPLICATIONS OF OBESITY

**Insulin
resistance/
Type II diabetes**

Dyslipidaemia

**Liver steatosis
(NAFLD)**

Tumours

Hypertension

**Cardiovascular
complications**

Review

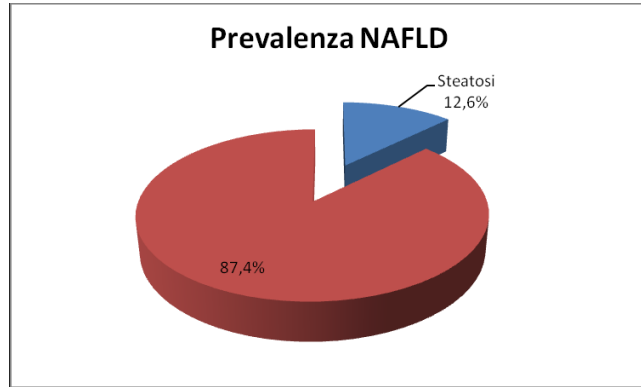
2013

A 360-degree overview of paediatric NAFLD: Recent insights

Valerio Nobili^{1,*}, Gianluca Svegliati-Baroni², Anna Alisi¹, Luca Miele³, Luca Valenti⁴, Pietro Vajro⁵

Overweight and obesity are consistently indicated as the most significant risk factors for the development of NAFLD. About 25% of obese children have increased ALT.

PREVALENCE OF NAFLD IN OUR COHORT OF 410 OBESE CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS



	Gruppo 1	Gruppo 2	p-value
Età (anni±DS)	11.77±2.94	10.24±3.27	0,0008
Sesso (maschi/femmine)	29/23	172/358	
Prepuberi/puberi	20/32	211/147	
BMI-SDS	2.72±0.44	2.64±0.52	0.11
Glicemia (mg/dl)	90.23±6.24	89.05±8.11	0.17
Colesterolo totale	165.10±20.73	171.5±30.35	0.15
Colesterolo HDL	50.54±13.12	53.10±13.51	0.09
Colesterolo LDL	99.94±27.32	104.2±27.37	0.29
Trigliceridi	74.50±45.16	69.51±42.06	0.74
AST	28.77±8.68	23.99±5.99	<0.0001
ALT	37.29±22.42	22.12±9.72	<0.0001
HOMA-IR	4.09±2.65	2.8±2.2	<0.0001

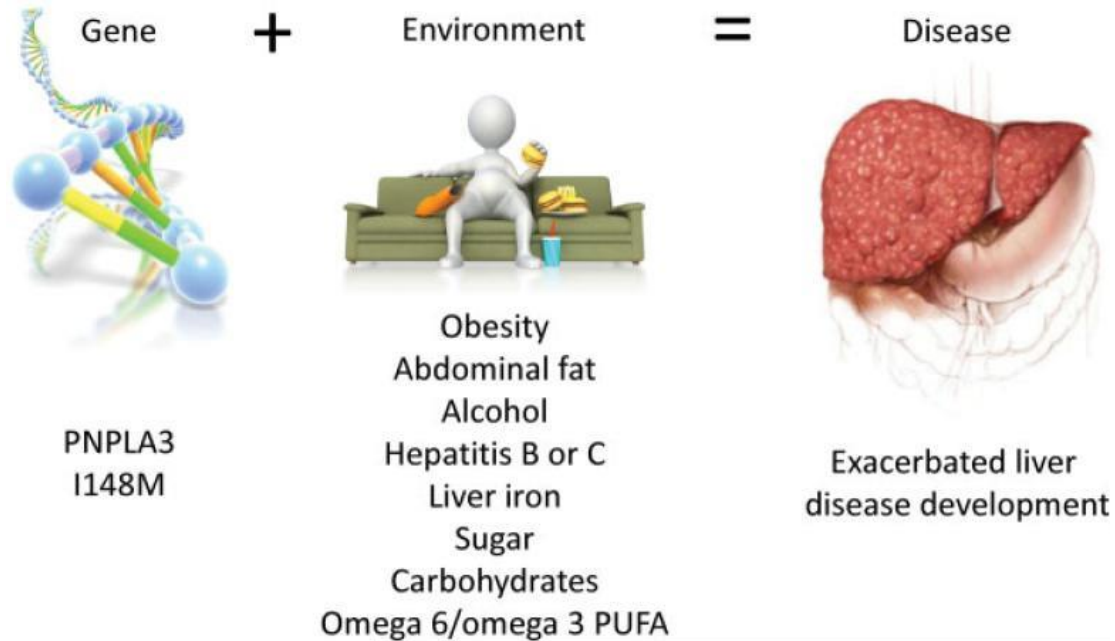
ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; BMI, body mass index; HDL, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HOMA-IR, Homeostatic Model Assessment of Insulin Resistance; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; NAFLD, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease; SDS, standard deviation score

SNPs REPRODUCIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH PEDIATRIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE

Gene	SNP	Function	Hepatic Fat	Circulating Lipids
<i>PNPLA3</i>	rs738409	Remodeling of lipid droplets	↑	=
<i>GCKR</i>	rs1260360	Modulation of hepatic lipogenesis	↑	↑
<i>TM6SF2</i>	rs58542926	Modulation lipoprotein secretion	↑	↓

GCKR: Glucokinase Regulatory Protein; *PNPLA3*: Patatin-like phospholipase domain-containing 3; *TM6SF2*: Transmembrane 6 Superfamily Member 2; SNP: Single Nucleotide Polymorphism.

ADIPONUTRIN-LIKE PHOSPHOLIPASE-3 GENE (PNPLA3) IS EXPRESSED IN THE LIVER AND ADIPOSE TISSUE IT CAN BOTH SYNTHESIZE AND HYDROLYSE TRIGLYCERIDES



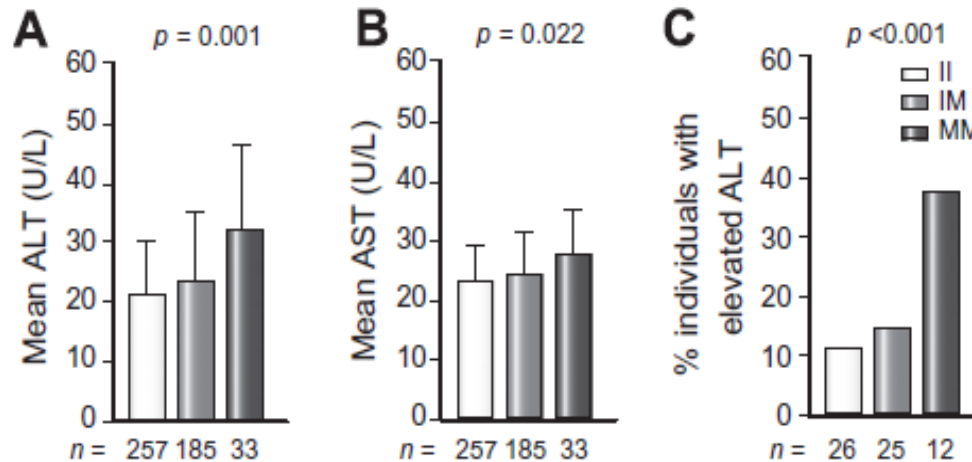
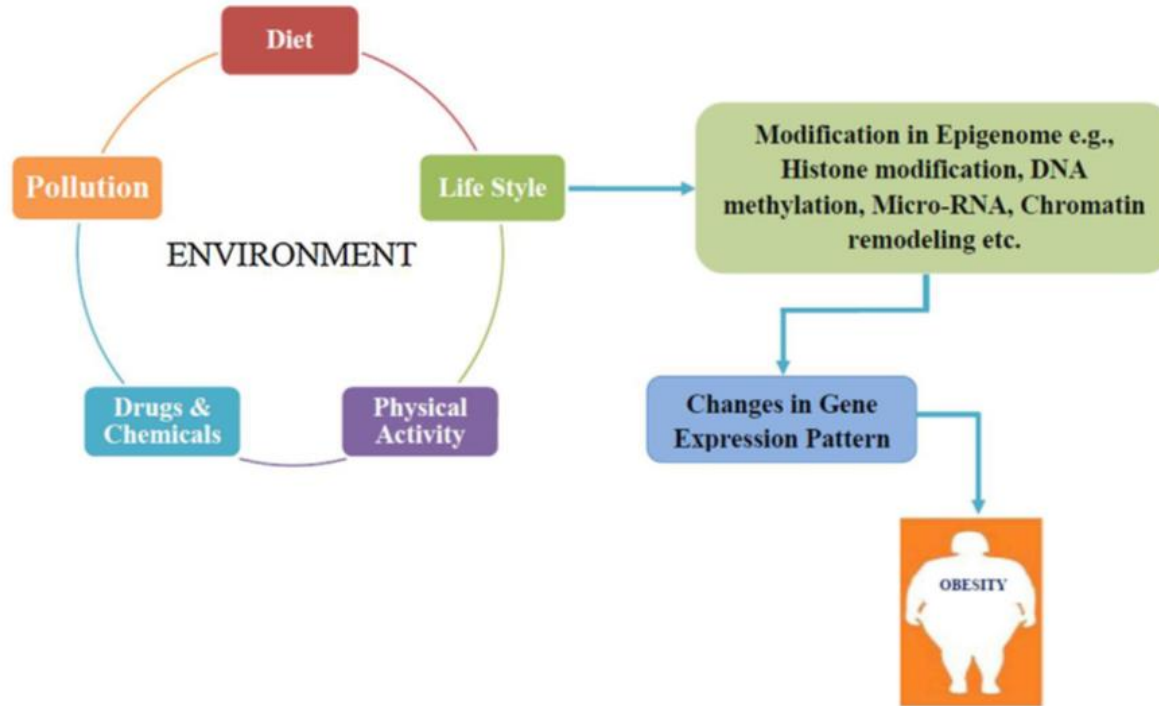


Fig. 1. Association between *PNPLA3* I148 M (rs738409) and transaminase levels in a cohort of obese children and adolescents ($n = 475$). Mean plasma levels \pm standard deviations of (A) alanine transaminase (ALT) and (B) aspartate transaminase (AST) stratified by *PNPLA3* genotype. p -values are calculated using linear regression including age, gender, BMI, and Tanner stage as covariates. (C) Distribution of obese children and adolescents with pathological levels of circulating alanine transferase (ALT) in the different *PNPLA3* genotypes. ALT >30 U/L was classified as elevated. The p value is calculated from χ^2 . II = individuals with two I 148 alleles, MM = individuals with two M alleles, IM heterozygotes.

EPIGENETICS AND OBESITY



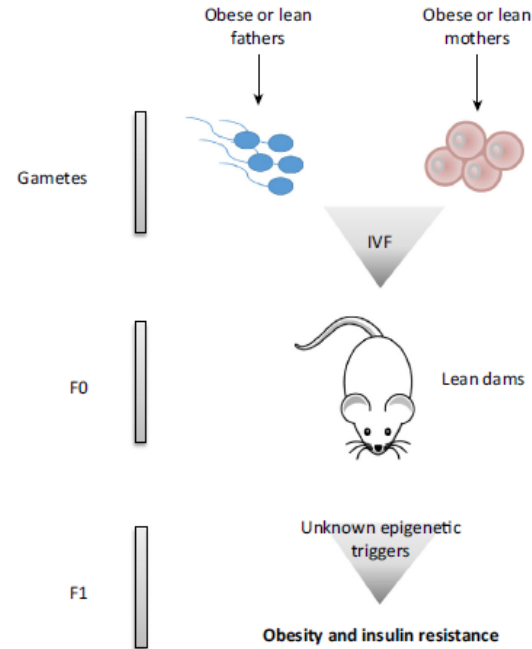
OBESITY: A POLYGENIC, EPIGENETIC AND MULTIFACTORIAL DISEASE

Spotlight

Non-Genetic Transmission of Obesity – It's in Your Epigenes

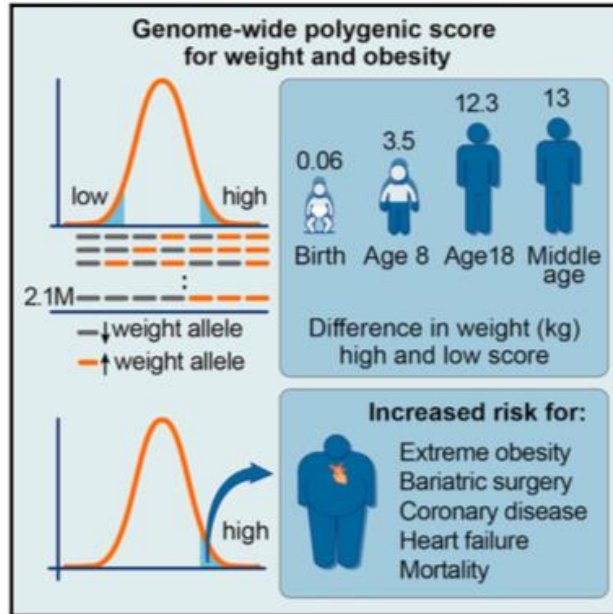
Elena Loche¹ and
Susan E. Ozanne^{1,*}

Obesity and its related metabolic comorbidities can be inherited across generations through non-genetic mechanisms. In a recent report, Huypens *et al.*, using an *in vitro* fertilization approach, provide evidence that exposure to a high-fat diet modifies egg and sperm epigenetic information, rendering the progeny more prone to obesity.



Polygenic Prediction of Weight and Obesity Trajectories from Birth to Adulthood

Graphical Abstract



Authors

Amit V. Khera, Mark Chaffin, Kaitlin H. Wade, ..., Nicholas J. Timpson, Lee M. Kaplan, Sekar Kathiresan

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In Brief

A genome-wide polygenic score quantifies inherited susceptibility to obesity, integrating information from 2.1 million common genetic variants to identify adults at risk of severe obesity.

POLYGENIC PREDICTION OF WEIGHT AND OBESITY TRAJECTORIES



A genome-wide polygenic score can quantify inherited susceptibility to obesity



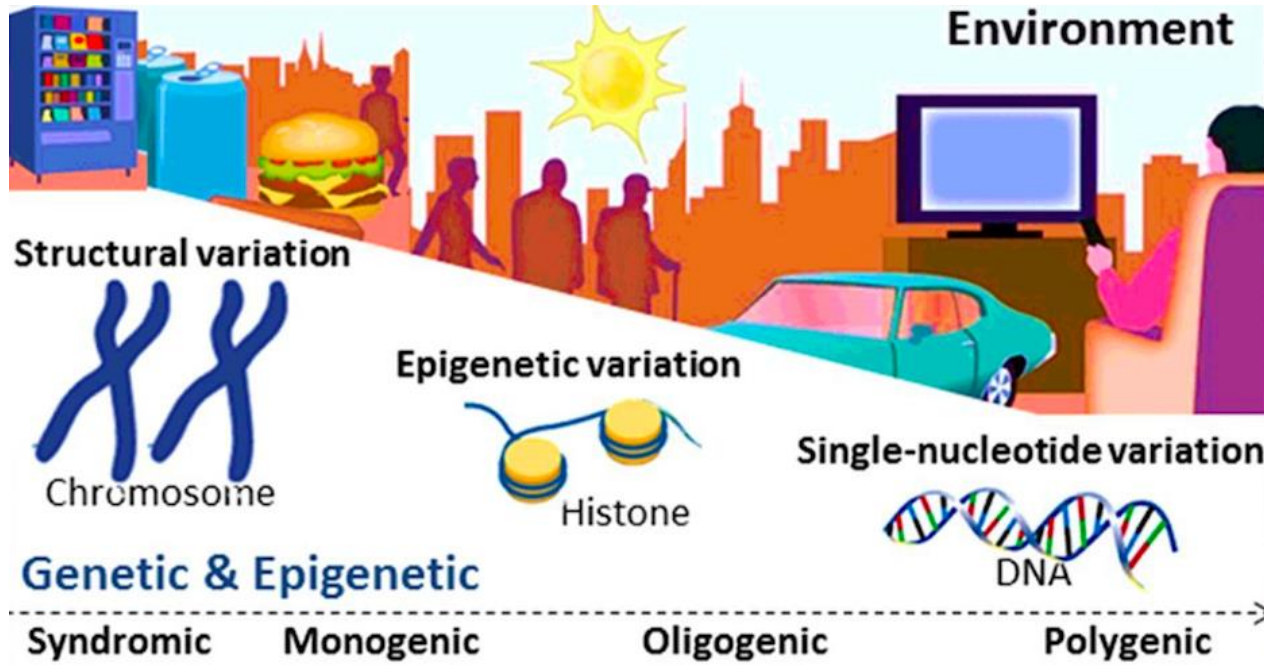
Polygenic score effect on weight emerges early in life and increases into adulthood



Effect of polygenic score can be similar to a rare, monogenic obesity mutation



High polygenic score is a strong risk factor for severe obesity and associated diseases



OBESITY



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