

ATTUALITA' DALLA RICERCA: LA METABOLOMICA

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REDUCTIONIST approach

based on dividing biological systems on their constituent parts (genes, RNAs, proteins) and then studying these parts in isolation to finally infer the properties of the system as a whole (e.g. MB).

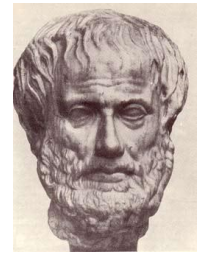


Galileo Galilei
1564-1642



SYSTEMS BIOLOGY approach An “holistic” strategy

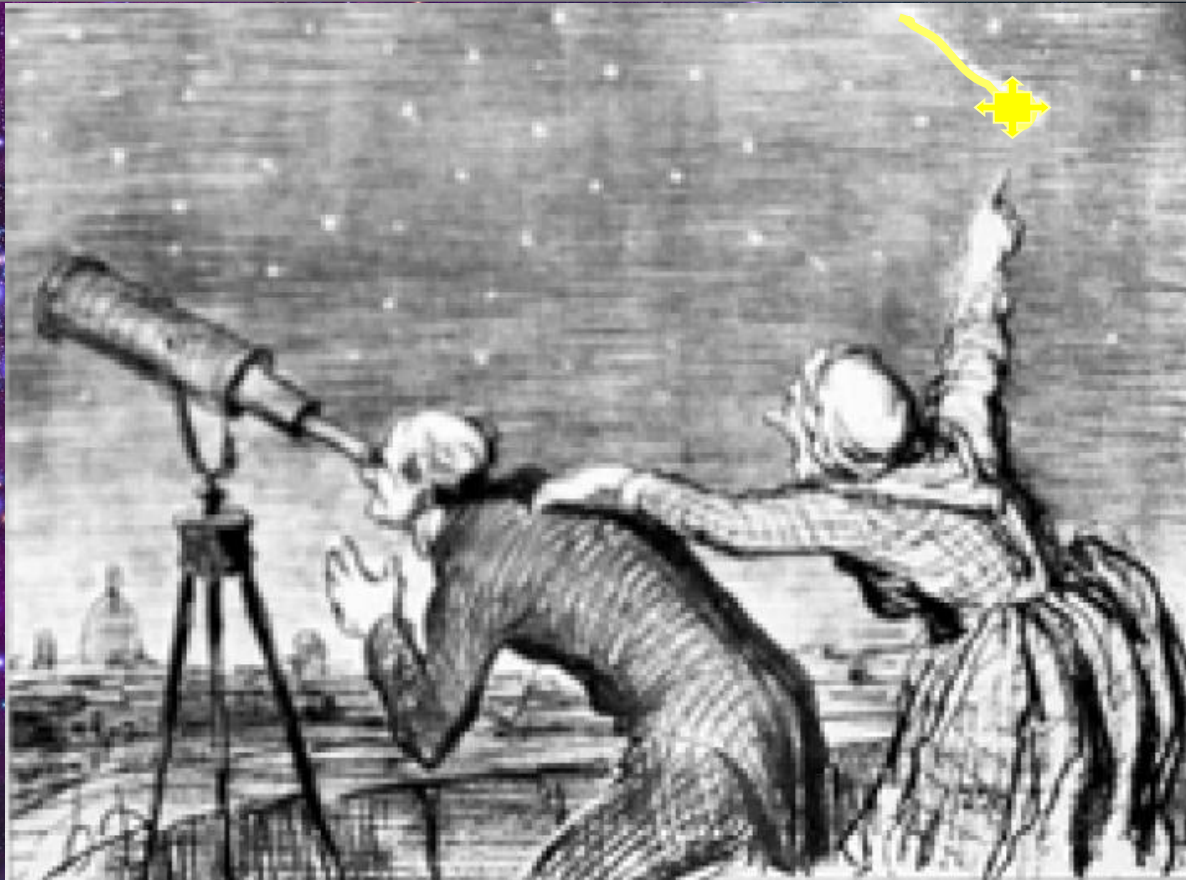
biological information is not obtained from the detailed properties of each component but from the analysis of the dynamic interaction between several components of a biological system.



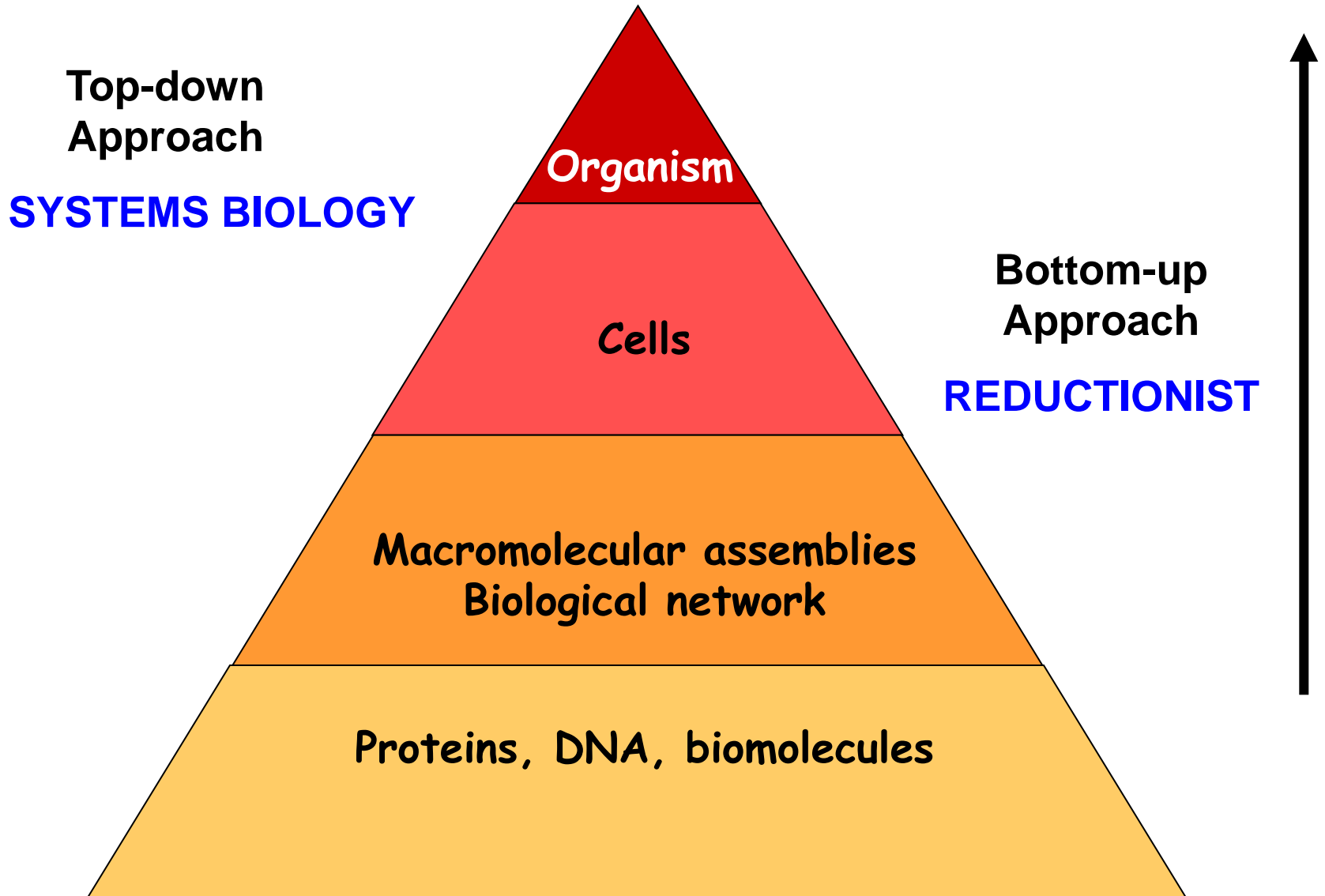
Aristotele

"The whole is more than the sum of its parts"

REDUCTIONISM *versus* SYSTEMS BIOLOGY



INTEGRATION



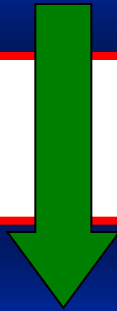


MOVING TOWARD “SYSTEMS MEDICINE”

**Traditional
strategy**

**REACTIVE
Medicine**

**“doctors diagnose and
treat established disease”**



P4 Medicine

**PROSPECTIVE
Medicine**

**“centered in
preserving health”**

MOVING TOWARD “SYSTEMS MEDICINE” - ASTHMA

**Traditional
strategy**



**Symptoms and spirometry
measure the end result
of an established
inflammatory process**



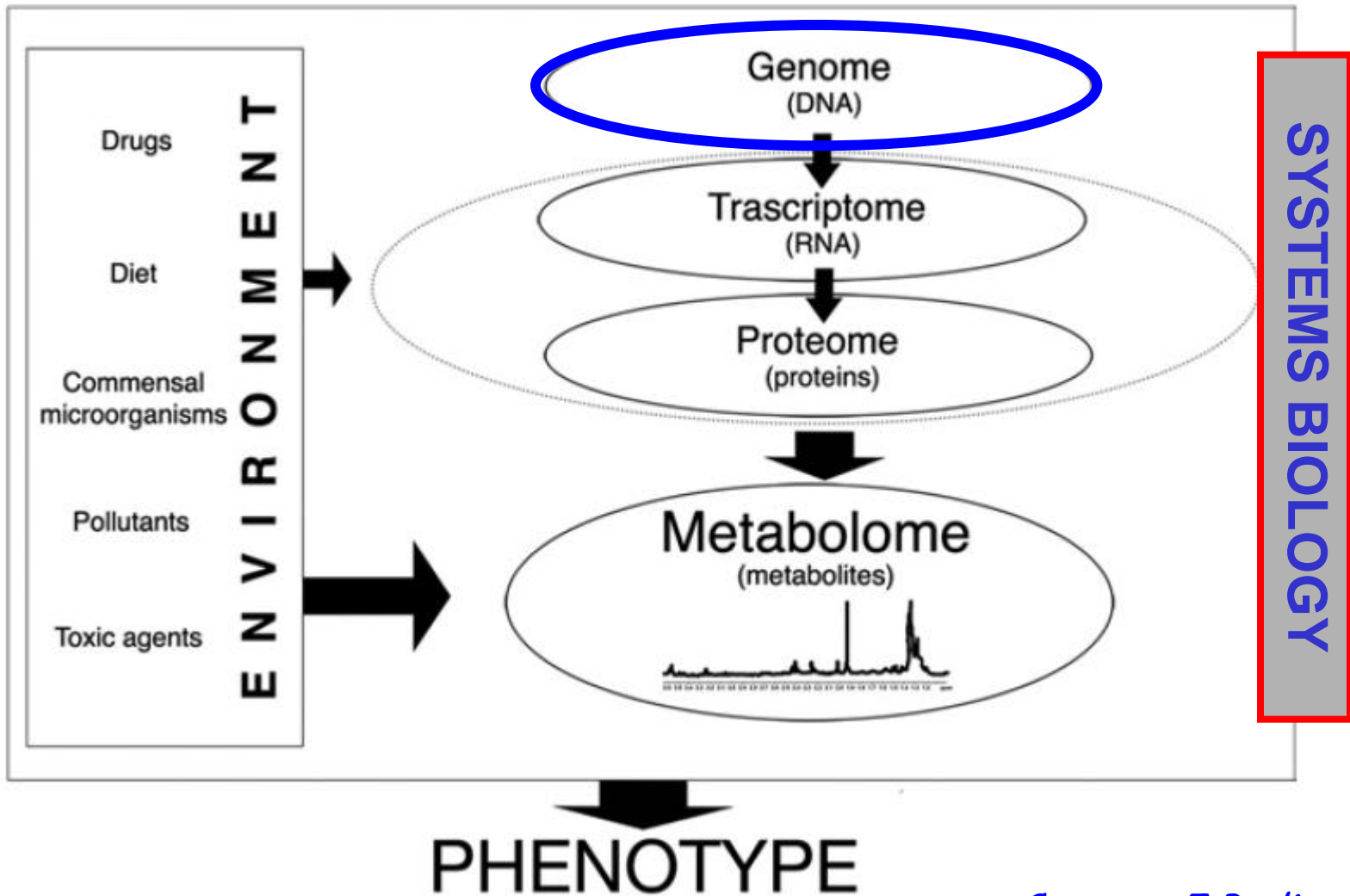
P4 Medicine



**Biomarkers for early
diagnosis before
damage has occurred**



'-OMIC' SCIENCES



Progetto Genoma Umano



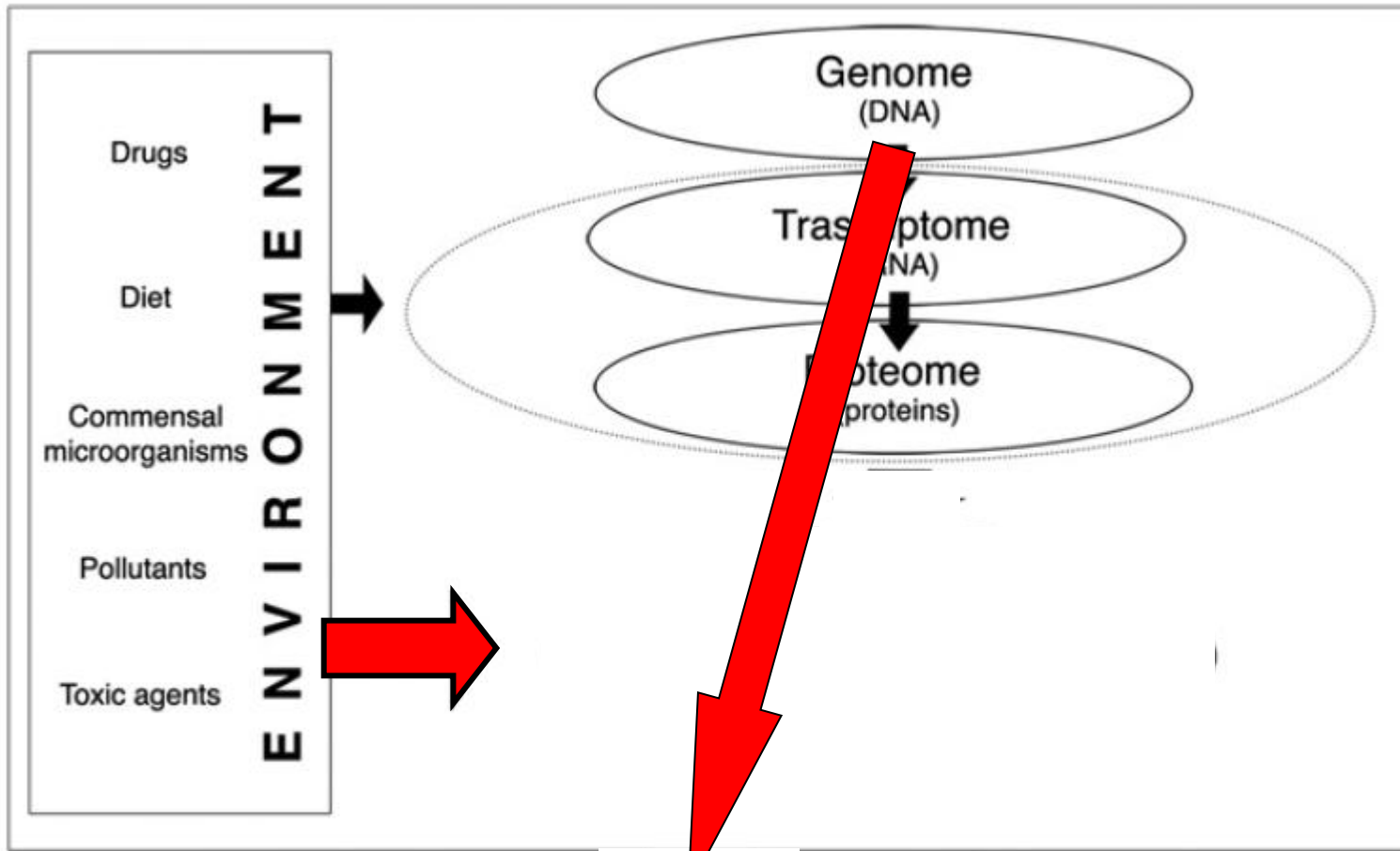
**Clinton 26 Giugno 2000
Conferenza alla Casa Bianca**



**Il Prof Dolbecco, scienziato italiano
impegnato nella ricerca sul Genoma
Umano. Ha vinto il premio Nobel.**



‘-OMIC’ SCIENCES

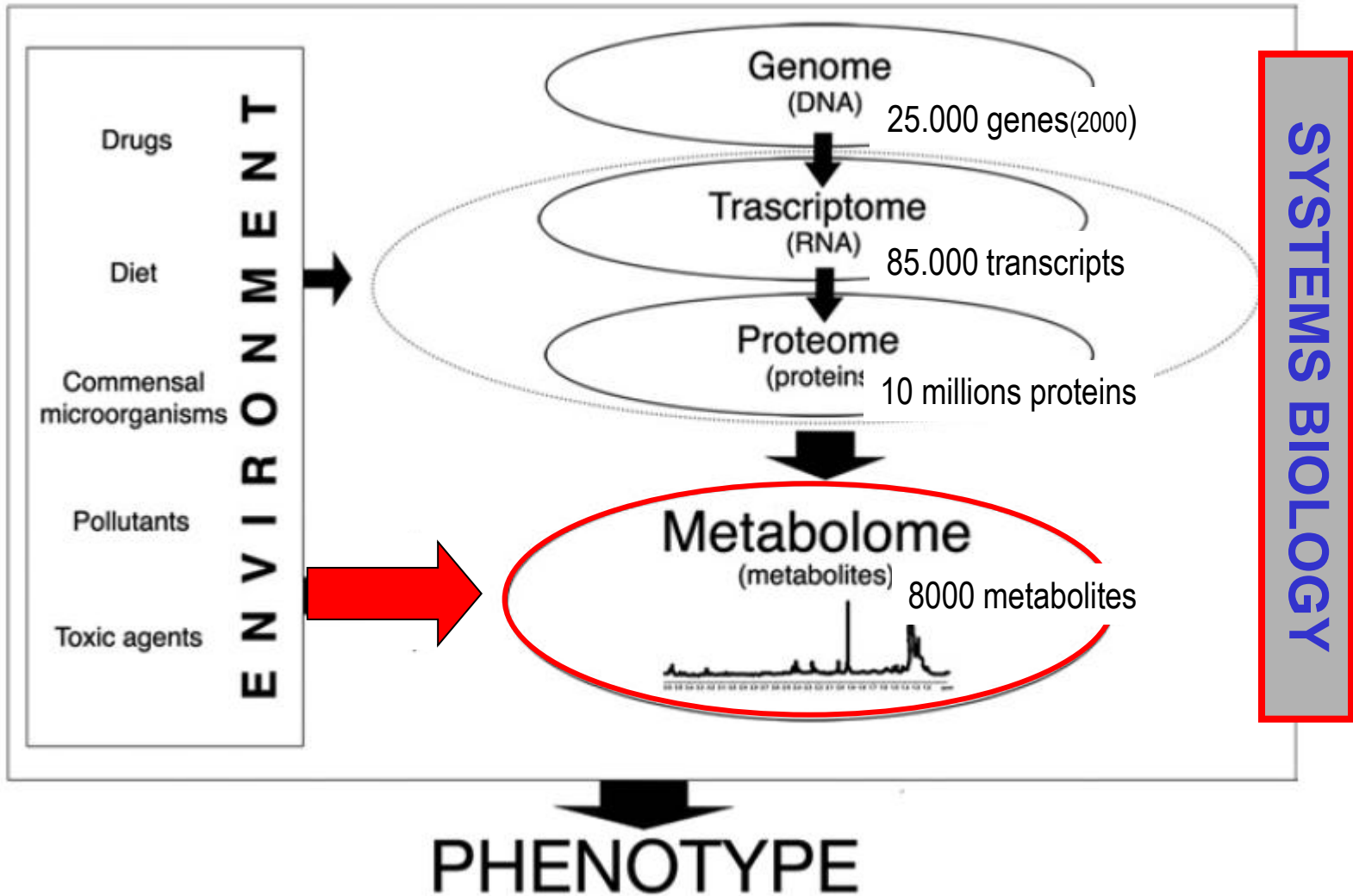


PHENOTYPE

Post-genomic techniques

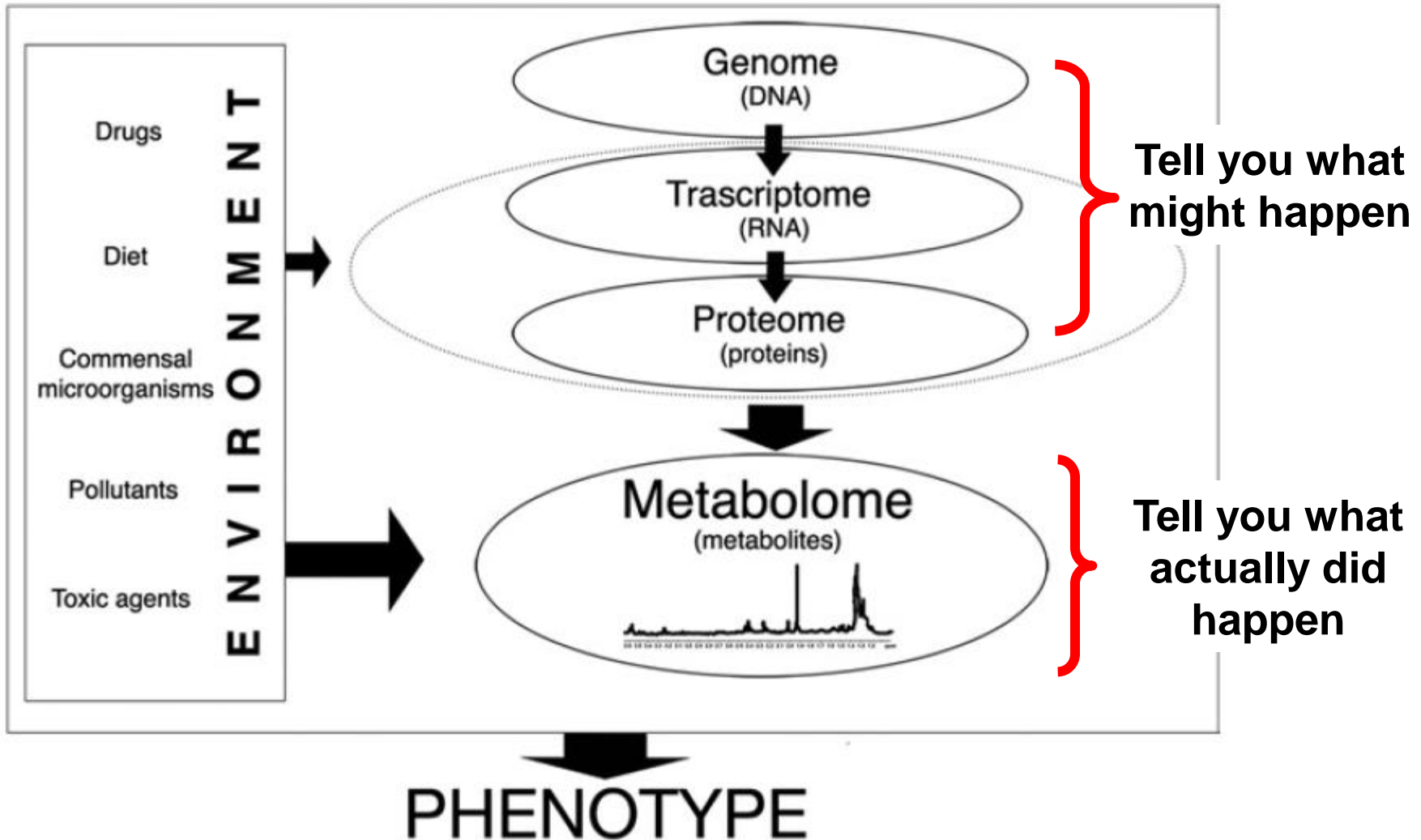


‘-OMIC’ SCIENCES



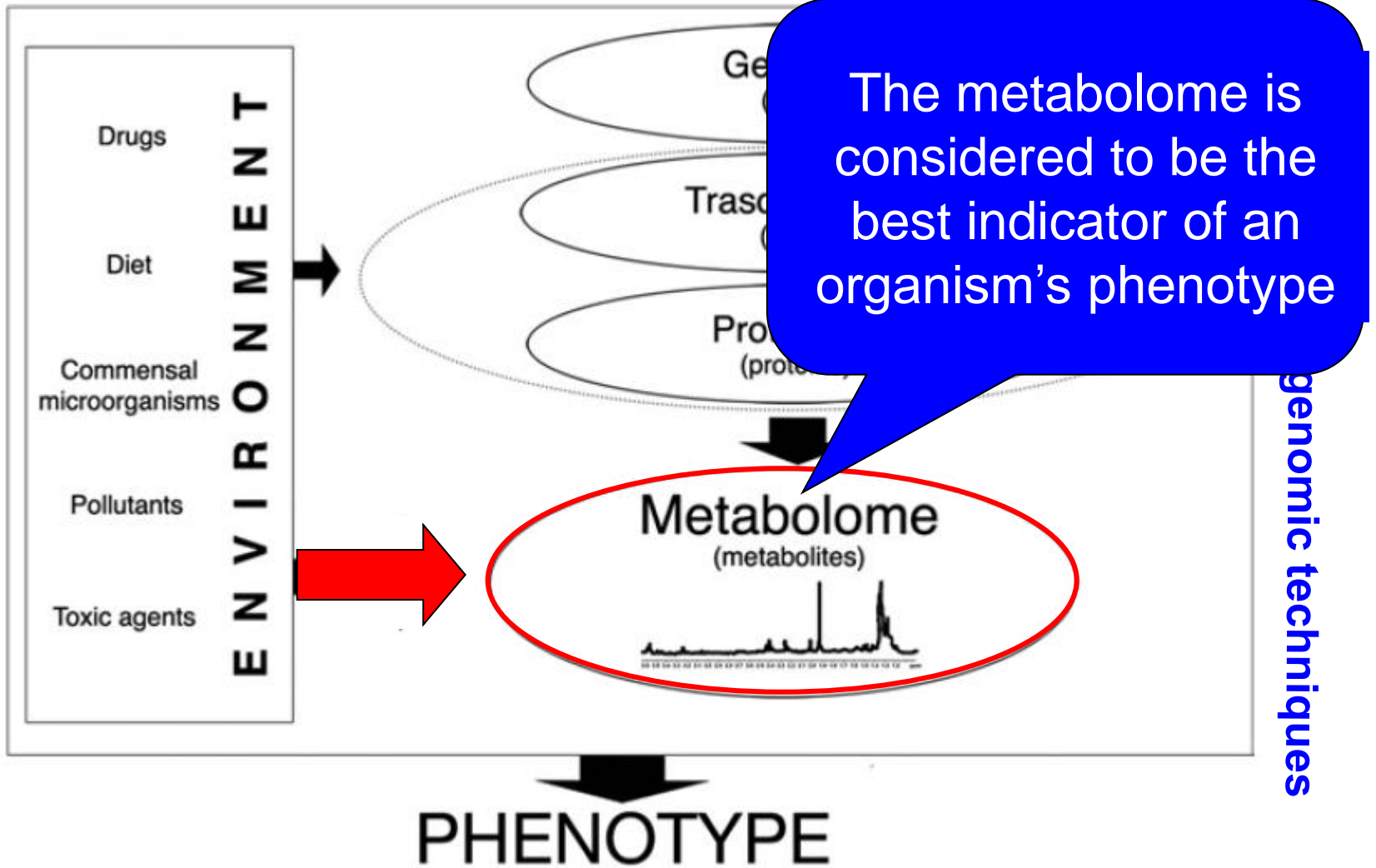


‘-OMIC’ SCIENCES





‘-OMIC’ SCIENCES

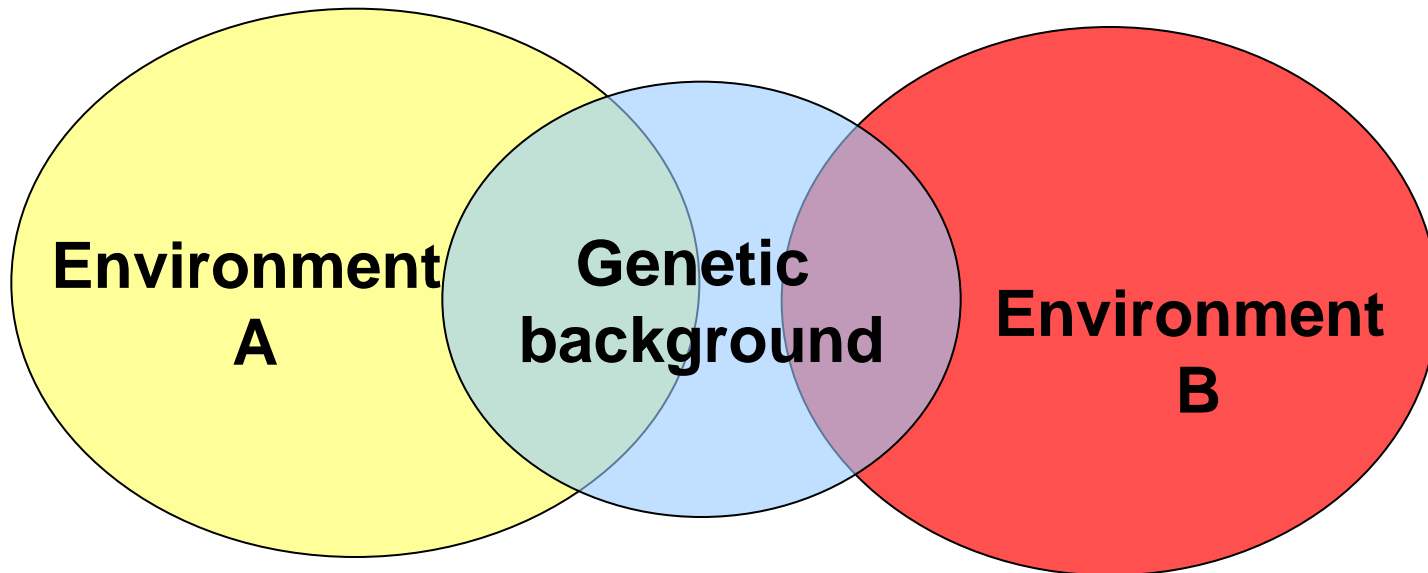




RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GENETIC VARIATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRIGGERS

Common variants of the fat mass and obesity-associated (FTO) gene* are associated with:

- higher level of obesity and type 2 diabetes in Western populations
- but not in Chinese population !



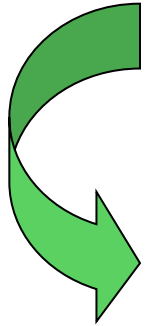
*rs9939609, re9930506, re8050136

Li et al Diabetes 2008; 57: 264-268



METABOLOMICS - small (<1kDA) non-peptide metabolites

Metabolomics is the nontargeted measurement of all of the small metabolites that appear in a particular biofluid in a living organism in response to:



- **pathological stimuli**
- **genetic modifications**
- **environmental exposures**

By measuring and mathematically modelling changes in the levels of products of metabolism found in biological fluids and tissues, metabolomics offers insight into the effect of diet, drugs and disease.

Metabolomics: A New Frontier for Research in Pediatrics

SILVIA CARRARO, MD, GIUSEPPE GIORDANO, PHD, FABIANO RENERO, PHD, GIORGIO PERILONGO, MD, AND EUGENIO BARALDI, MD

SYSTEMS BIOLOGY AND 'OMIC' SCIENCES

METABOLITE FINGERPRINTING

Metabolomics allows the characterization of the metabolite fingerprint of a biological sample **without any “a priori” hypothesis** allowing hypothesis free profiling of biomarkers, rather than a traditional hypothesis-driven approach.



UNTARGED APPROACH



Metabolomic analysis

The metabolomic approach can be applied in the analysis of several biofluids:

- ✓ Urine
- ✓ Blood/serum
- ✓ Cerebrospinal fluid
- ✓ Amniotic fluid
- ✓ Bronchoalveolar lavage
- ✓ Exhaled breath condensate





Analytical platforms for metabolomic analysis

NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE (NMR) – SPECTROSCOPY



- detects all hydrogen atoms in metabolites
- Advantages: fast, non destructive
- Limits: low sensitivity (*micro-molar*)

MASS SPECTROMETRY

- separation on the basis of mass-to-charge ratio
- combined with separation techniques (LC or GC)
- higher sensitivity (*nano-molar*)

Integration of NMR and MS

High definition MS

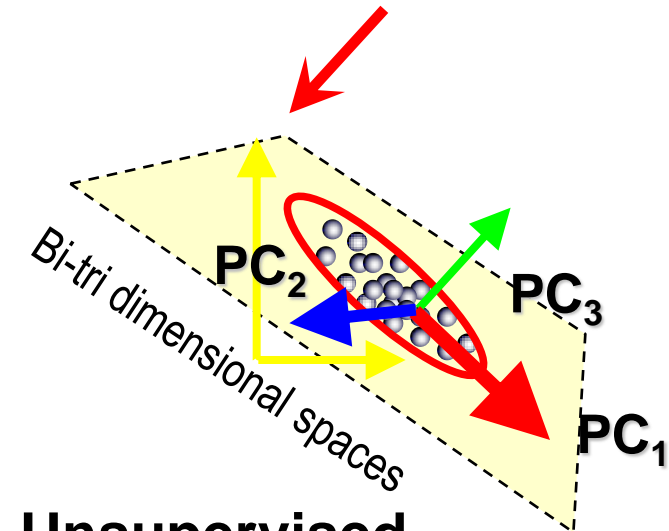




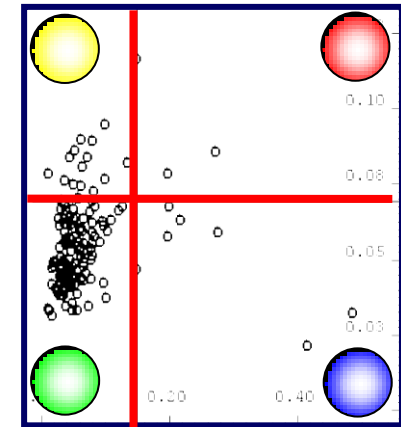
Steps of Metabolomic analysis



pattern recognition methods (multivariate statistical analysis)



Classification



Unsupervised

(PCA: Principal Component a.)

No a priori knowledge of classes



Bioinformatic tools



Supervised

(PLS-DA: Partial least squares -discriminant analysis)

Class information is provided

Structural identification



Human Metabolome Database



“2020 visions: Metabolomics”

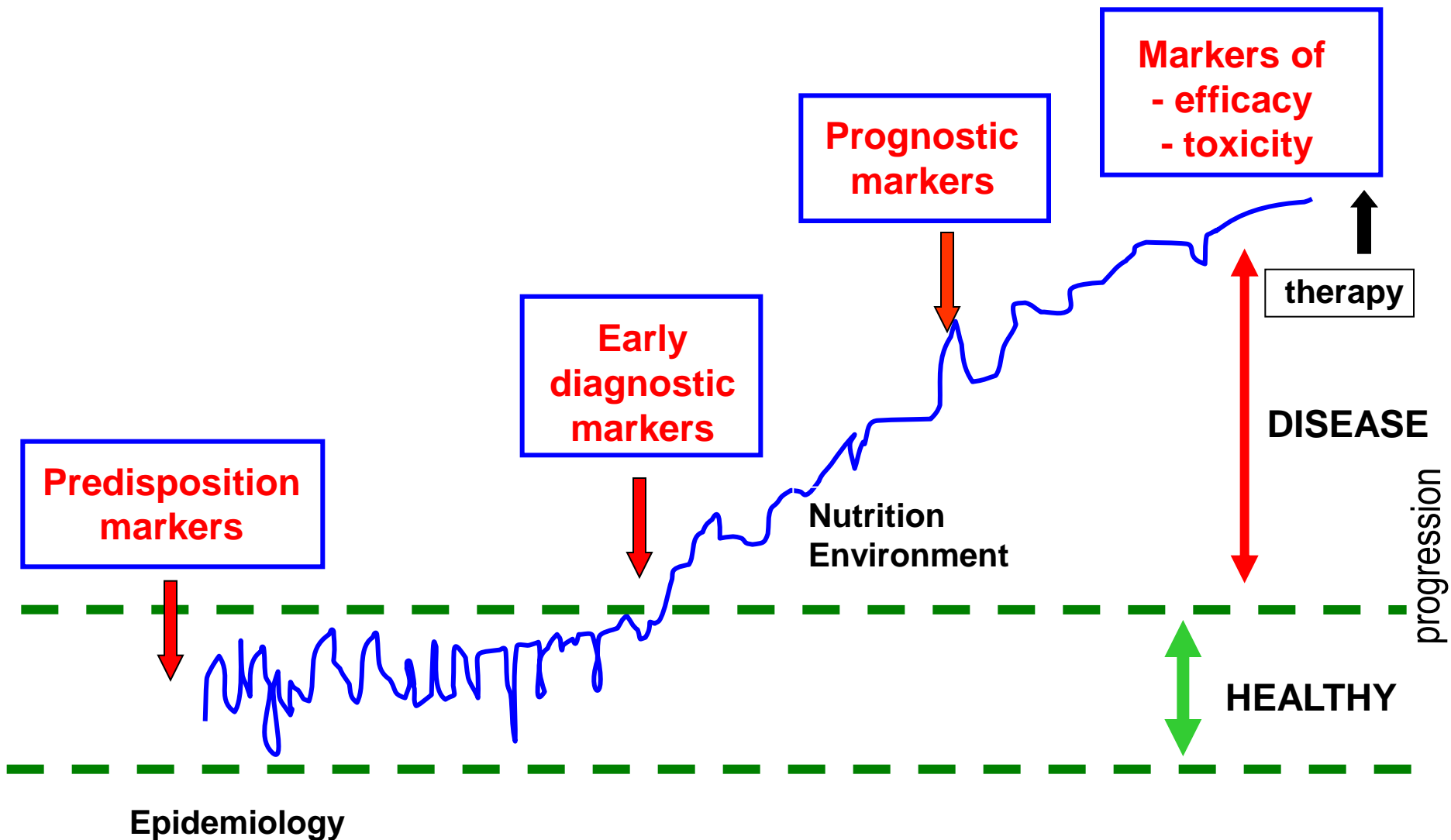
By 2020, personalized health could involve doctors monitoring the metabolic activities of a patient.....

The use of mathematical models to interpret metabolic data obtained using NMR and MS will help us to understand the changing patterns of human disease, and generate new targets for drug or nutritional interventions.

Nicholson, Nature 2010



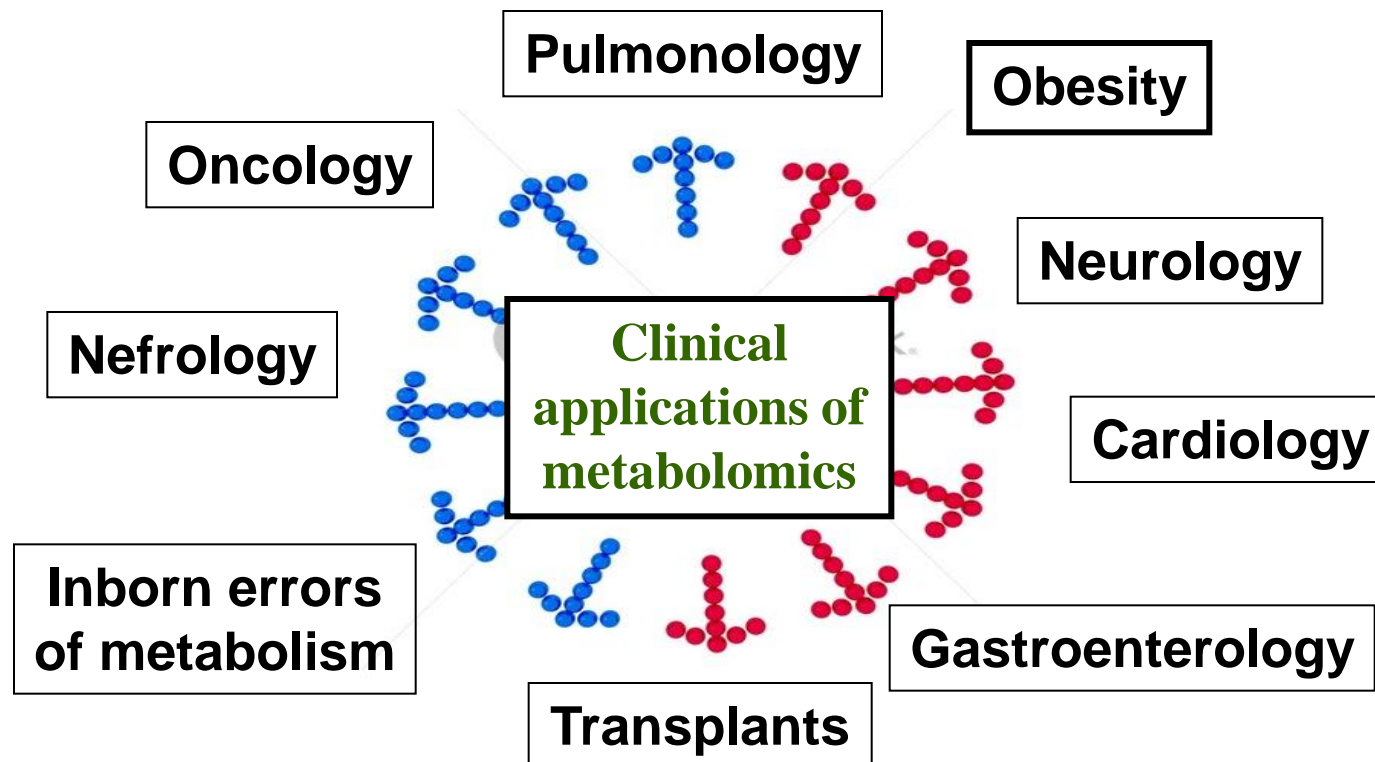
POTENTIAL ROLE OF BIOMARKERS



Metabolomics: A New Frontier for Research in Pediatrics

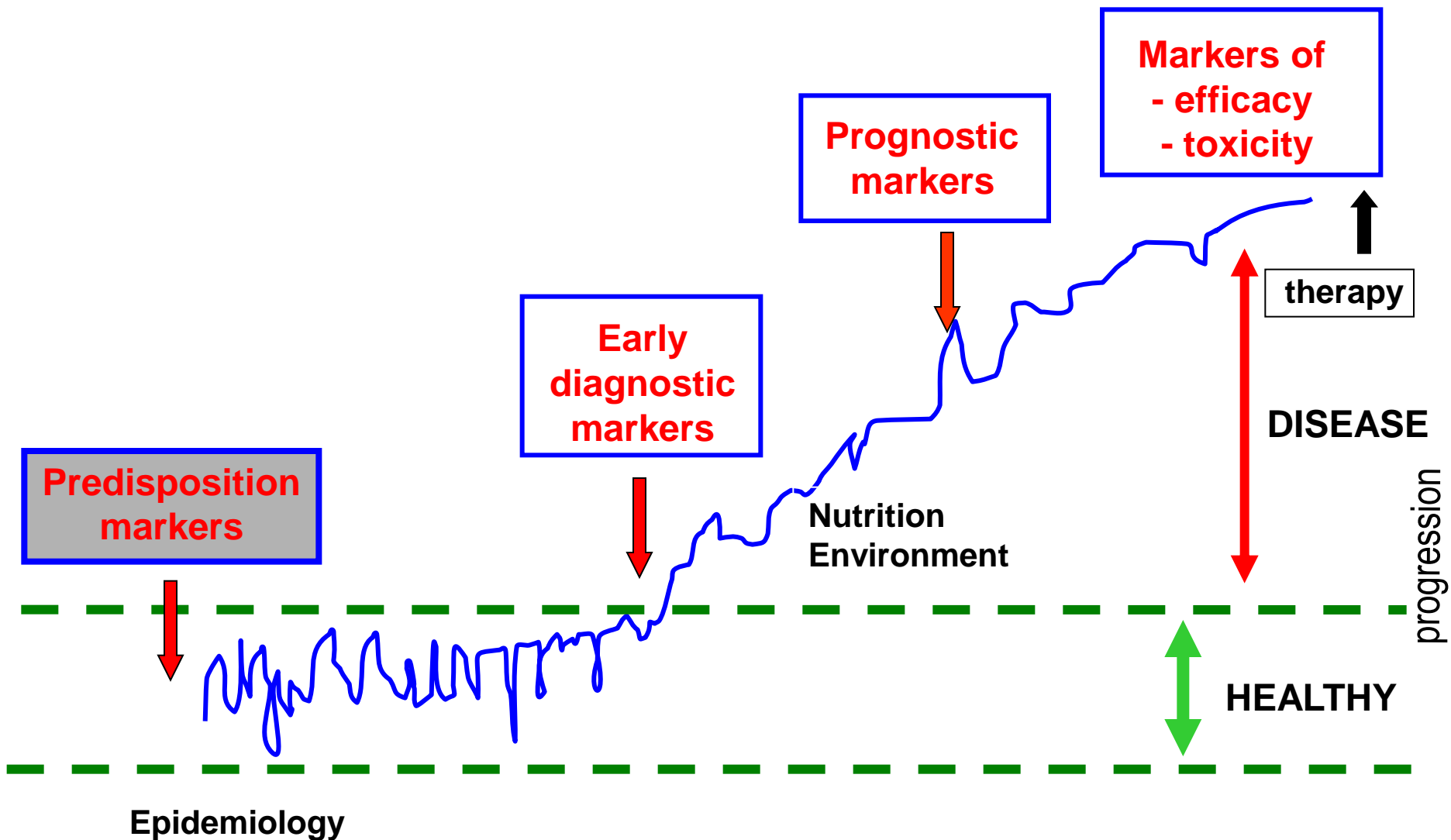
SILVIA CARRARO, MD, GIUSEPPE GIORDANO, PHD, FABIANO RENERO, PHD, GIORGIO PERILONGO, MD, AND EUGENIO BARALDI, MD

SYSTEMS BIOLOGY AND 'OMIC' SCIENCES



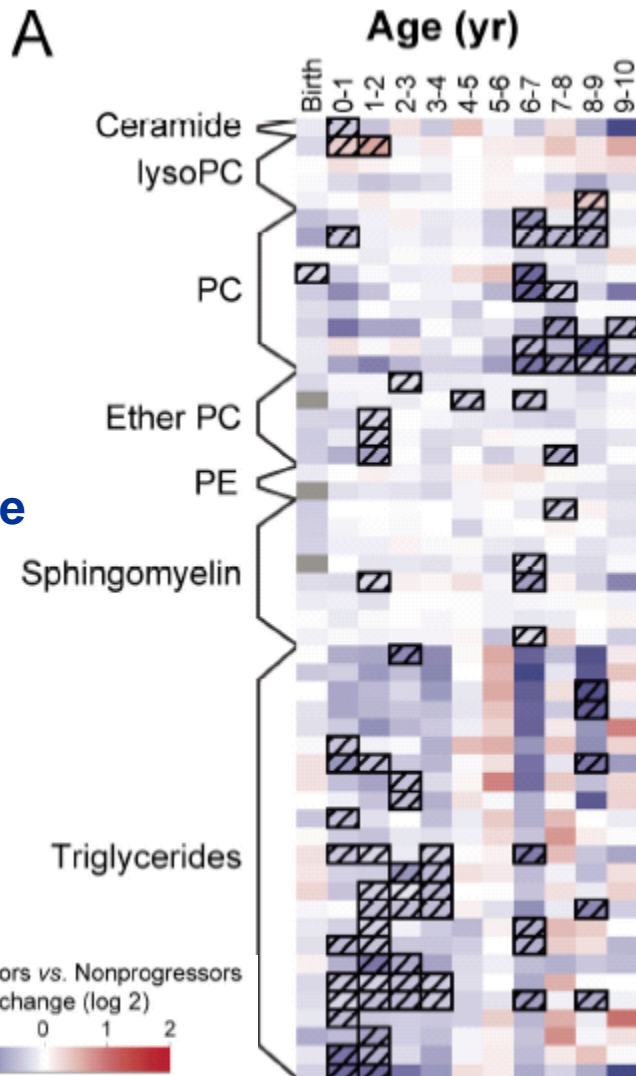


POTENTIAL ROLE OF BIOMARKERS





Metabolomics in early diagnosis of type 1 diabetes



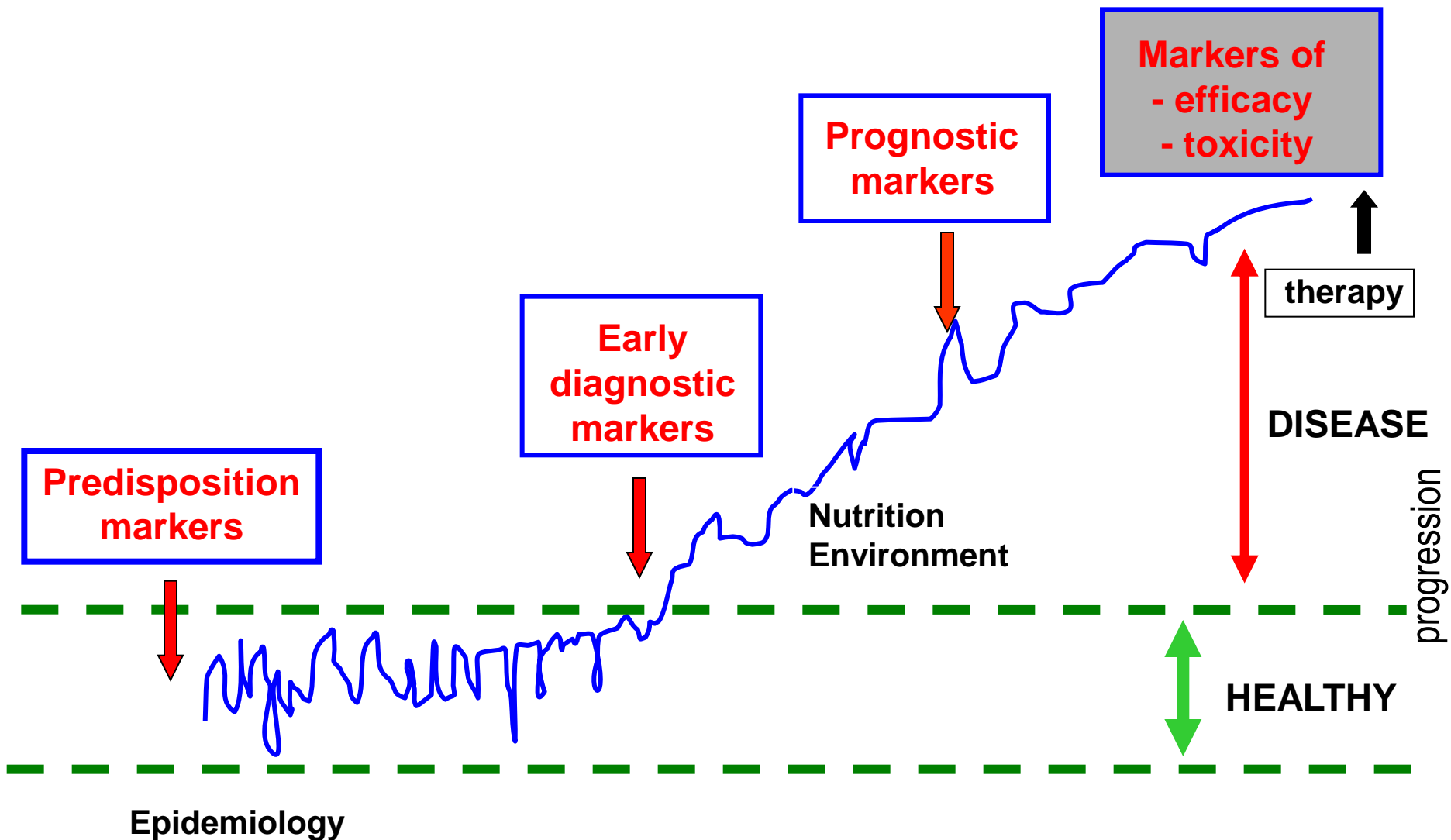
Finland birth cohort study (1994) – 12 yrs newborns with genetic risks (HLA)

Metabolic dysregulation precedes overt autoimmunity (islet autoantibodies) in type 1 diabetes

Immunomodulatory intervention before the onset of the disease?



POTENTIAL ROLE OF BIOMARKERS

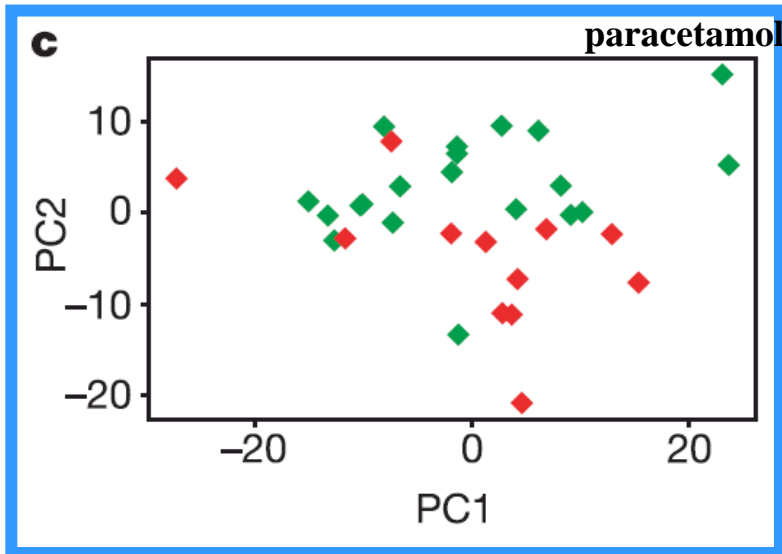


Epidemiology

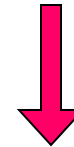


Metabolomics in prediction of response to therapy

Clayton, Nicholson, Nature 2006



Significant association between pre-dose urinary biochemical profile and post-dose extent of liver damage sustained after paracetamol administration.



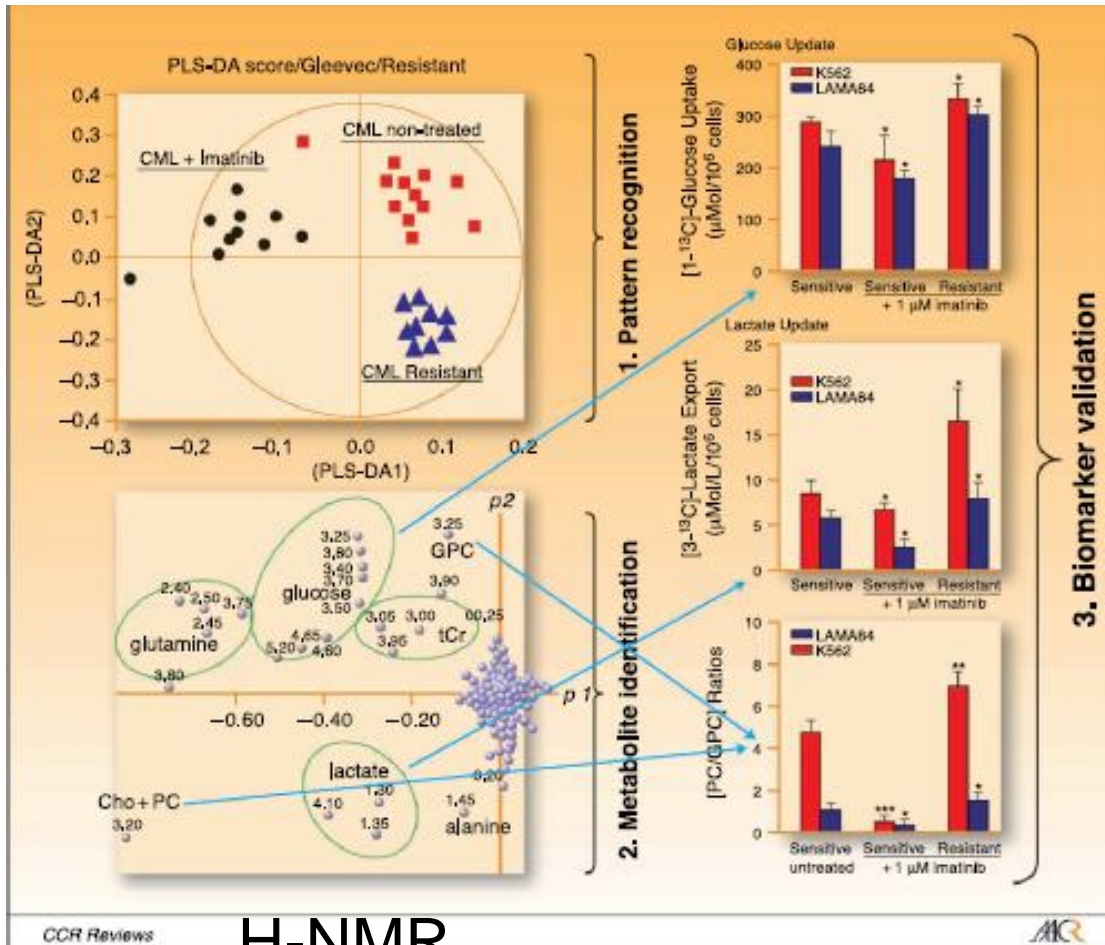
pharmacometabolomics

To predict the effectiveness and/or toxicity of a drug on the basis of the individual pretreatment metabolomic characteristics



Clinical Applications of Metabolomics in Oncology: A Review

Jennifer L. Spratlin,¹ Natalie J. Serkova,² and S. Gail Eckhardt¹



IMATINIBIB treatment in chronic myeloid leukemia

Markers validation to distinguish metabolic signatures of responsiveness and resistance to Imatinib

Clin Cancer Res 2009



Metabolomic analysis

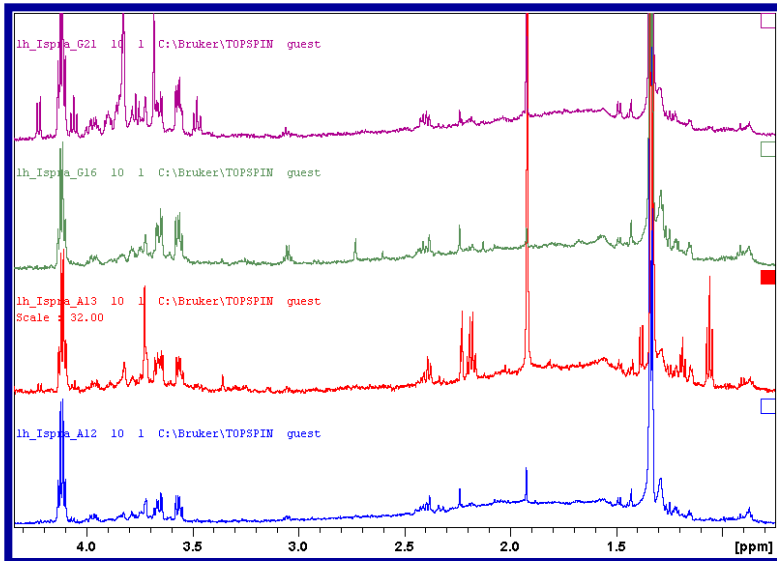
The metabolomic approach can be applied in the analysis of several biofluids:

- ✓ Urine
- ✓ Blood/serum
- ✓ Cerebrospinal fluid
- ✓ Bronchoalveolar lavage
- ✓ Exhaled breath condensate



BACKGROUND

“Breathomics”: application of the metabolomics approach to exhaled breath condensate



Metabolomics: biofluid analysis based on spectroscopic techniques such as mass spectrometry and NMR based spectroscopy



EBC: a biofluid non invasively collected, which is believed to mirror the composition of airway lining fluid

Metabolomics analysis of EBC: “breathomics”

Study subjects:

- 25 asthmatic children with well-controlled asthma
- 11 healthy controls

Procedures:

- FE_{NO} measurement
- spirometry
- EBC collection and storage at –80 °C

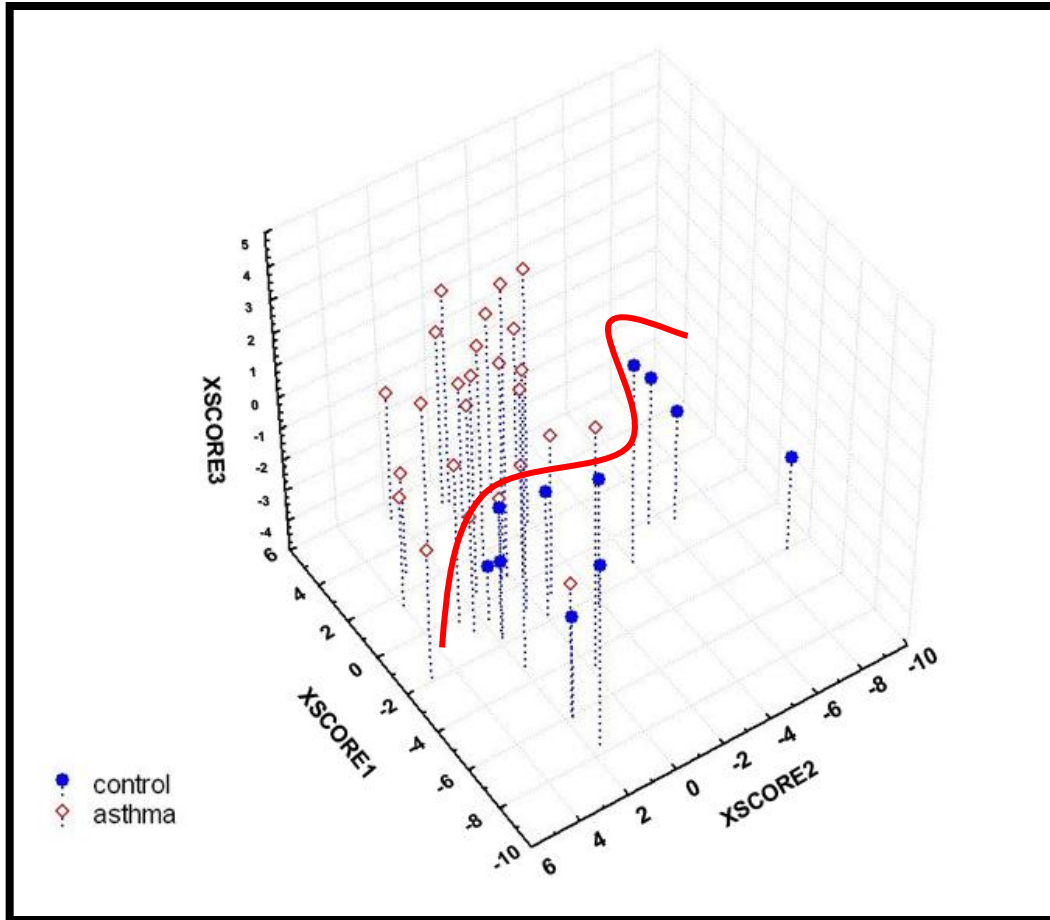
Metabolomic analysis:

- NMR analysis
 - 600 MHz Bruker Biospin spectrometer
 - 3 mm cryogenic probe at 300 °K



METABOLOMIC analysis of Exhaled Breath Condensate

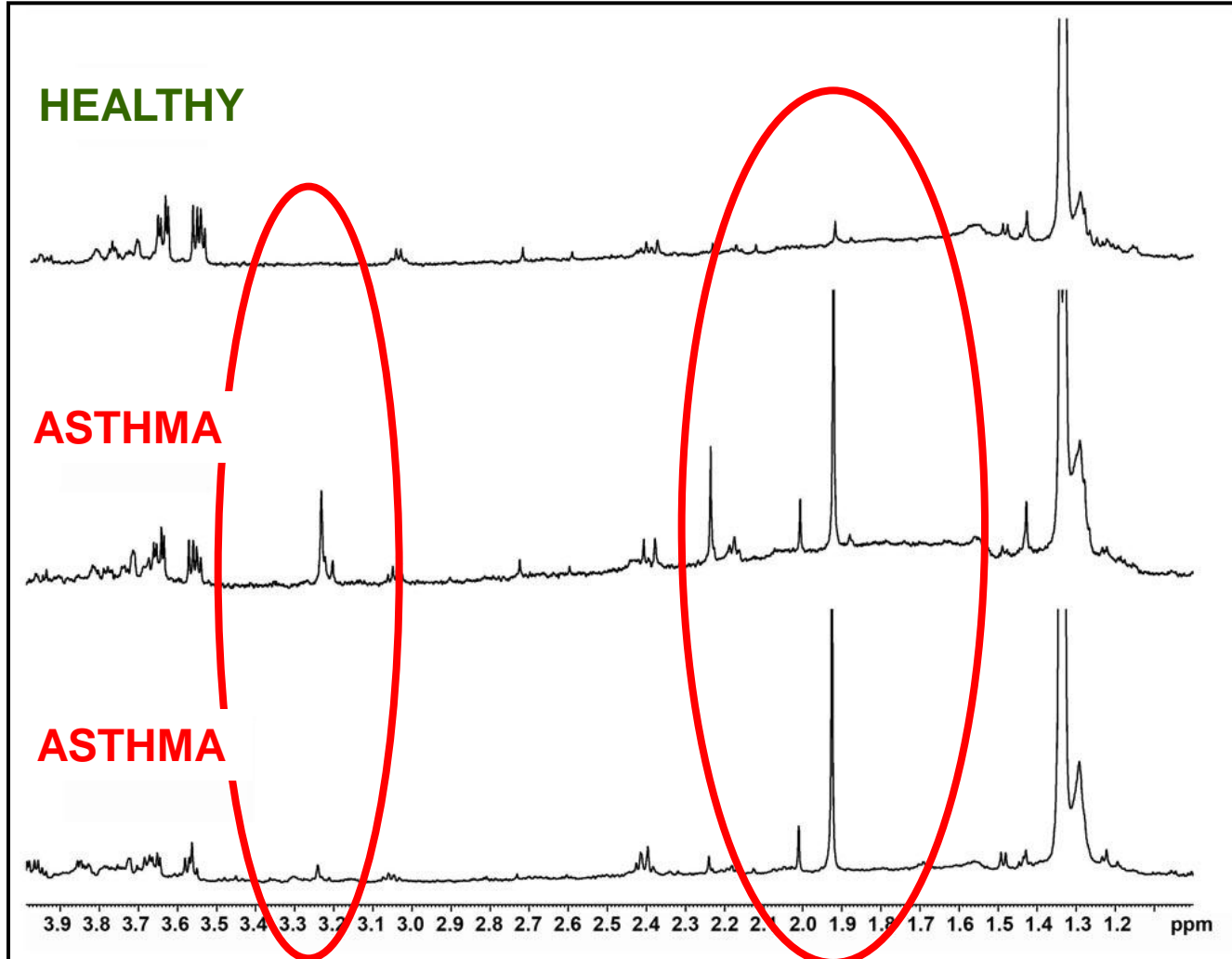
“BREATHOMICS”



Pattern recognition methods (PLS-DA) applied to NMR-metabolomics spectra discriminates healthy and asthmatic children with a 95% success rate



Metabolomics analysis of EBC: NMR spectra



oxidized
compounds

acetylated
compounds

Problematic severe asthma in children, not one problem but many: a GA²LEN initiative

G. Hedlin^{*,¶¶}, A. Bush^{#,¶¶}, K. Lødrup Carlsen^{¶,¶¶}, G. Wennergren^{+,¶¶},
F.M. de Benedictis[§], E. Melén^{f,¶¶}, J. Paton^{**}, N. Wilson^{#,¶¶} and K-H. Carlsen^{##,¶¶}
on behalf of the Problematic Severe Asthma in Childhood Initiative group⁺⁺

Problematic severe asthma
(poor control before consideration of other issues)



Difficult-to-treat asthma

Additional issues:

- Comorbid conditions
- Medication, adherence and technique
- Smoking
- Allergen exposure
- Environmental exposure
- Psychosocial

Severe therapy-resistant asthma

(despite high-dose therapy)
Consider for treatment beyond guidelines

EBC METABOLOMIC PROFILING IN CHILDREN WITH SEVERE ASTHMA

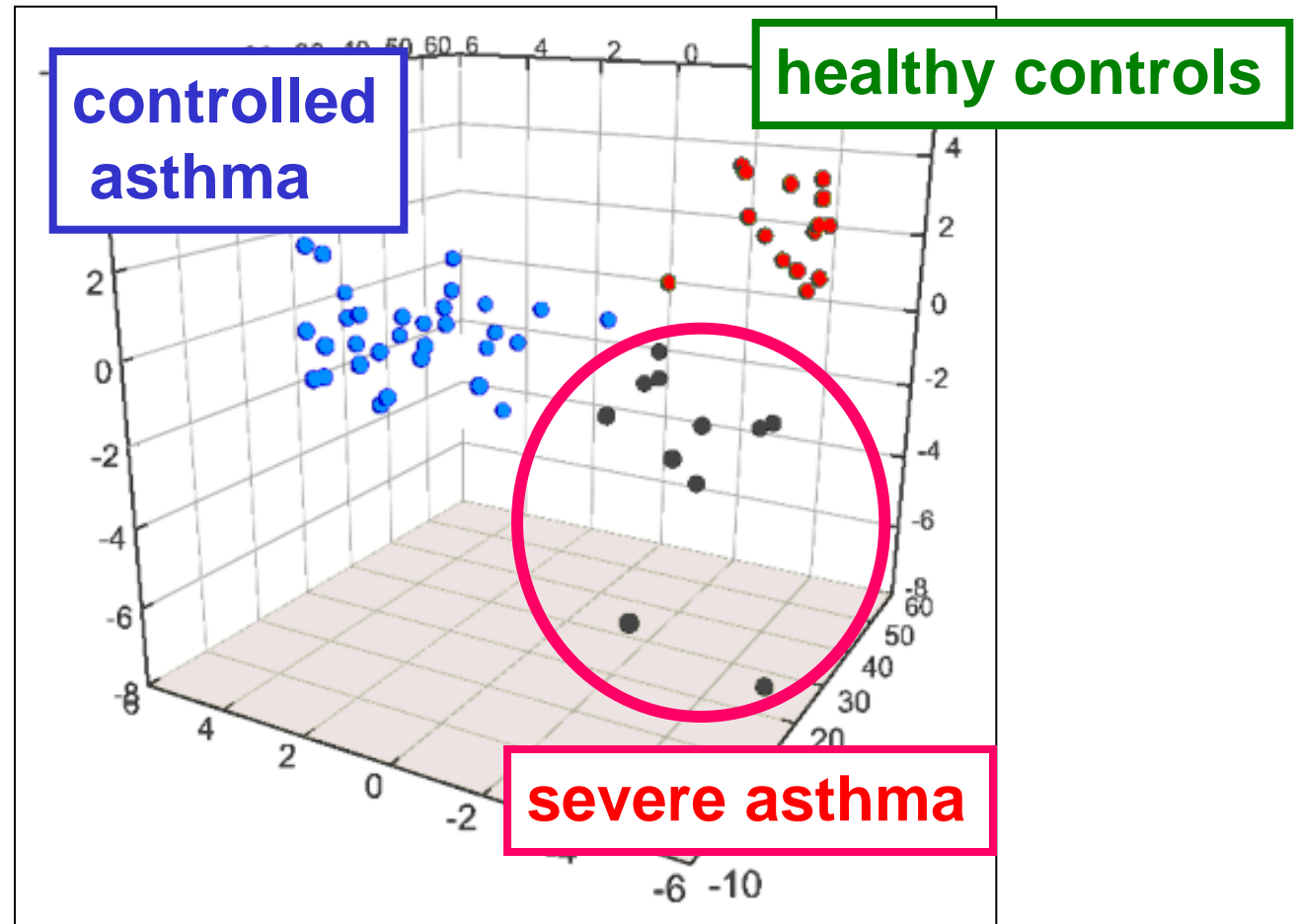
STUDY SUBJECTS

- **Well-controlled asthma:** 14 children steroid-naïve, 17 children ICS treated
- **Severe asthma:** 11 children (age 8-16) with poorly controlled asthma although treated with high dose ICS and multiple controller medications (LABA, montelukast..).
- **Healthy children:** 15 children (age 9-17)

METABOLOMIC ANALYSIS:

HPLC coupled with MS (Orbitrap-Fischer)

METABOLOMIC PROFILING OF CHILDREN WITH SEVERE ASTHMA



METABOLOMIC PROFILING OF CHILDREN WITH SEVERE ASTHMA

By searching the Human Metabolome Database (HMDB), we were able to characterize, from a chemical point of view, the putative biomarkers potentially having a role in asthma pathophysiology

SEVERE ASTHMA

Var **225** → compound chemically related to retinoic acid
Var **127** → deoxyadenosine

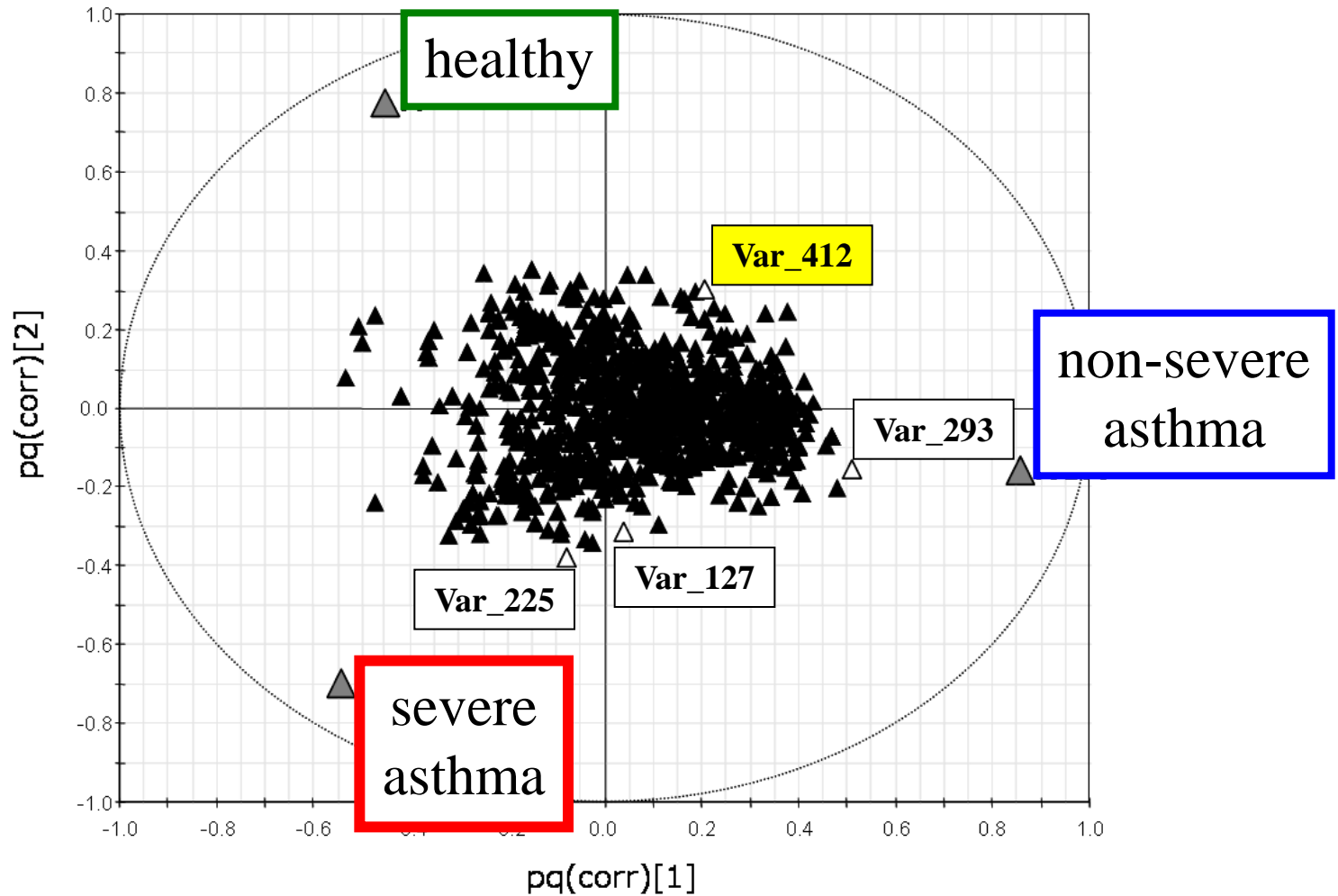
NONSEVERE ASTHMA

Var **293** → prostanoid (thromboxane B2?)
Var **412** → vit.D metabolite

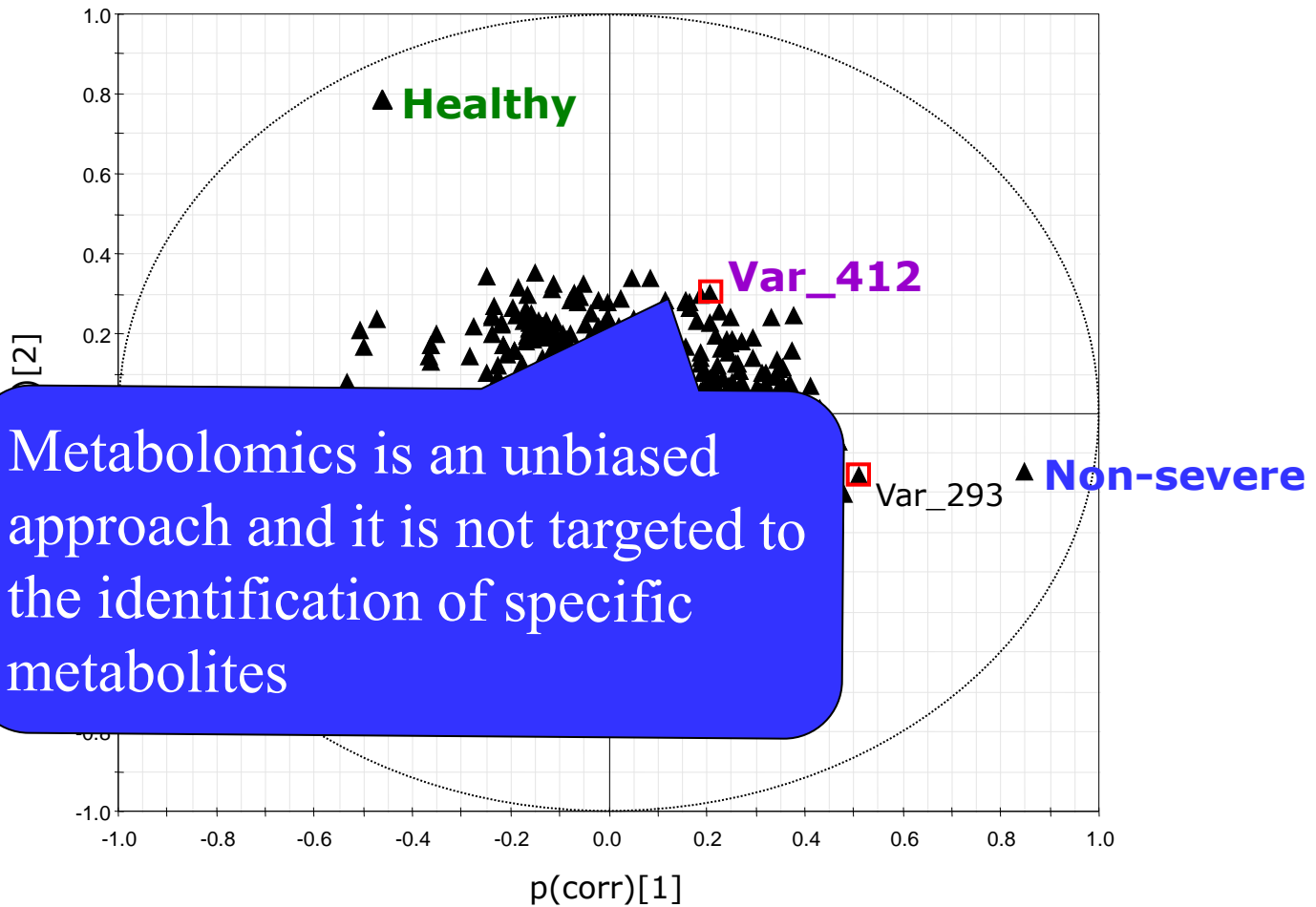
HEALTHY

Var **412** → vit.D metabolite

Breathomics and severe asthma in children



O2PLS-Discriminant Analysis: comparison of the 3 groups



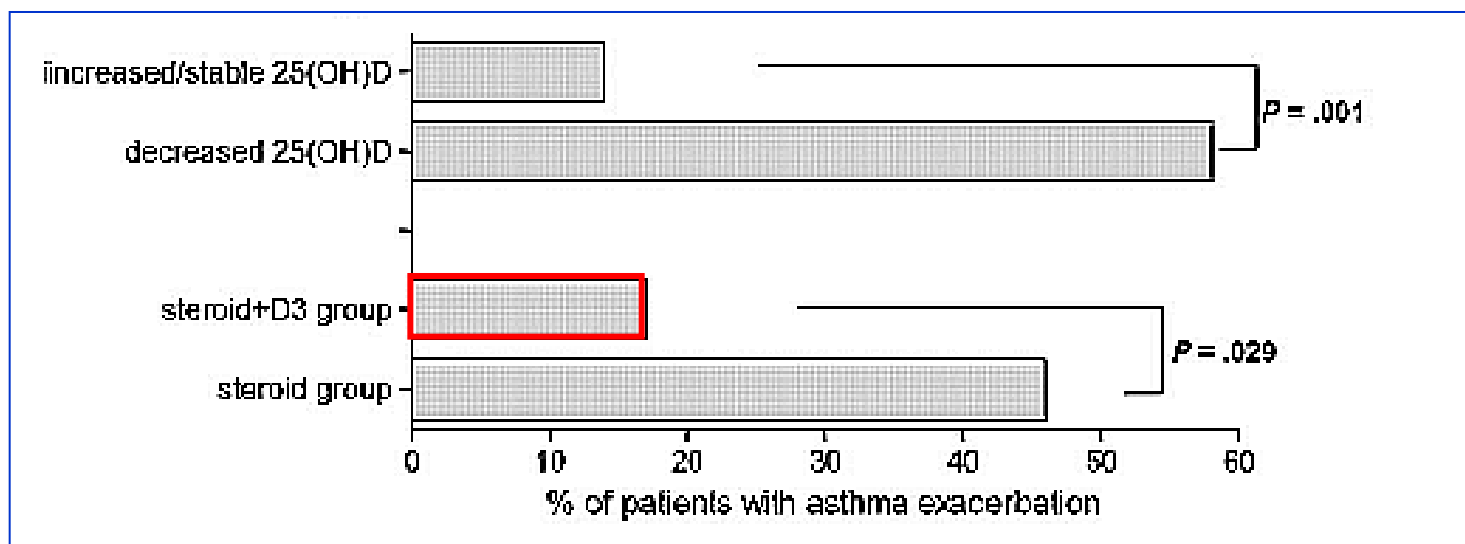
Correlation loading plot (pq(corr) plot)



Vitamin D supplementation in children may prevent asthma exacerbation triggered by acute respiratory infection

Majak JACI 2011

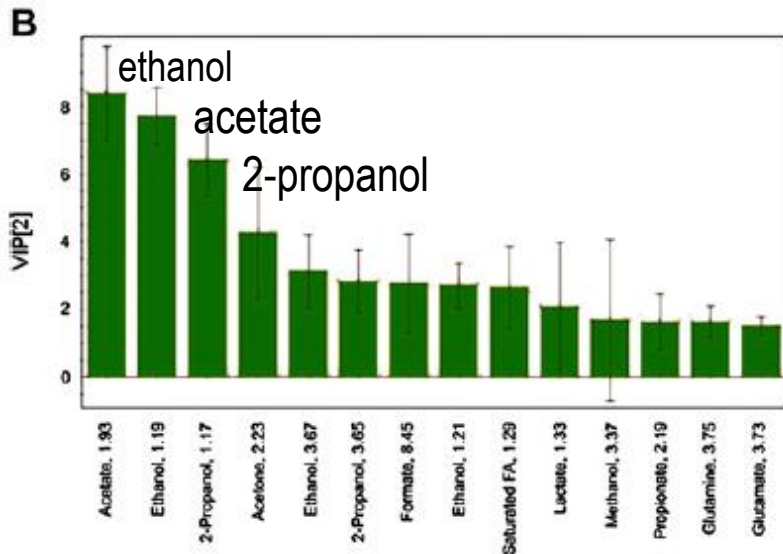
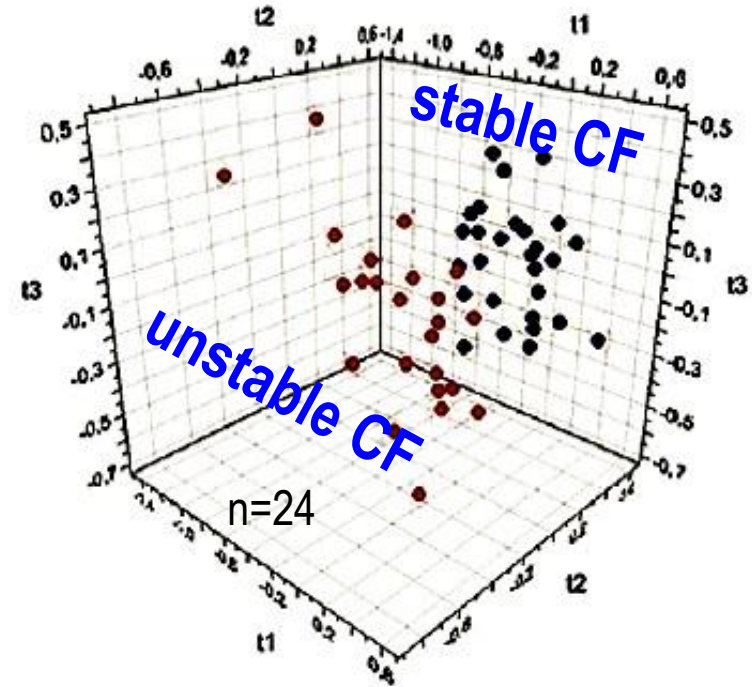
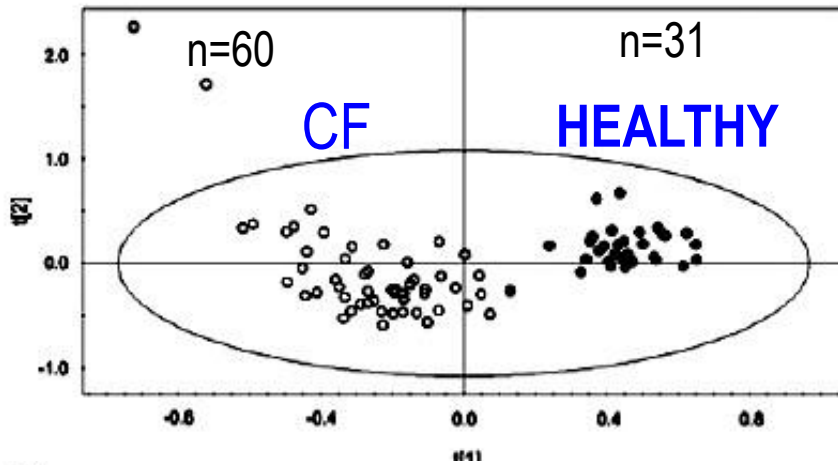
6 months trial, ICS or ICS+ Vit D 500 UI



Asthma exacerbations triggered by viral infections were lower in the ICS+ Vit D group

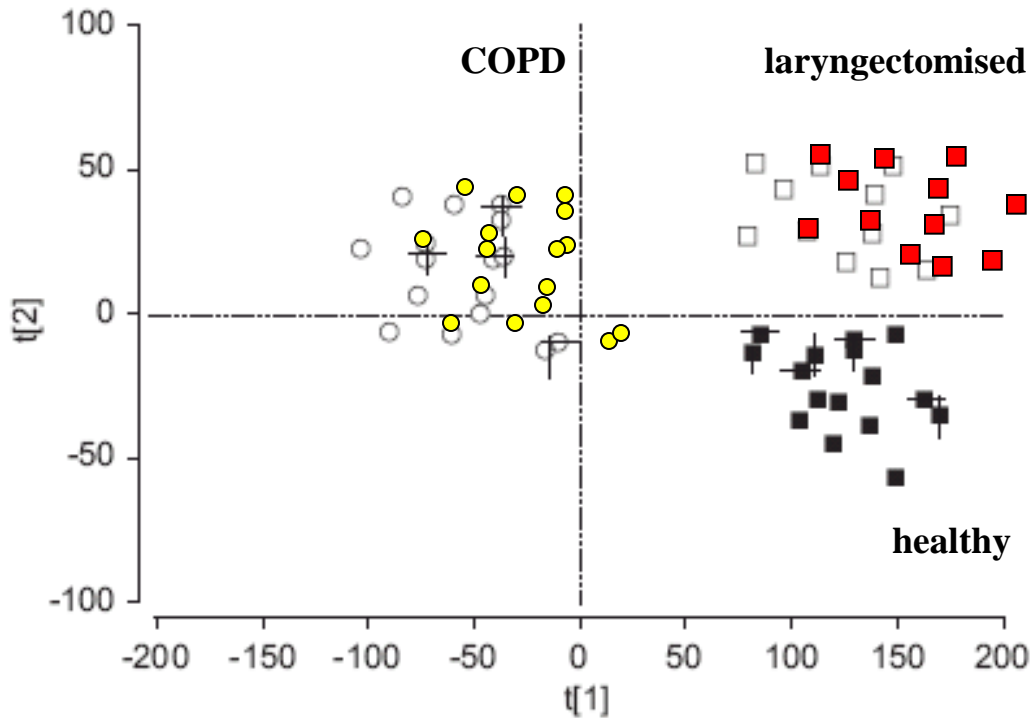
Children with decreased 25(OH)D levels: risk of exacerbation x 8

NMR SPECTROSCOPY METABOLOMIC PROFILING OF EBC IN PATIENTS WITH STABLE AND UNSTABLE CYSTIC FIBROSIS





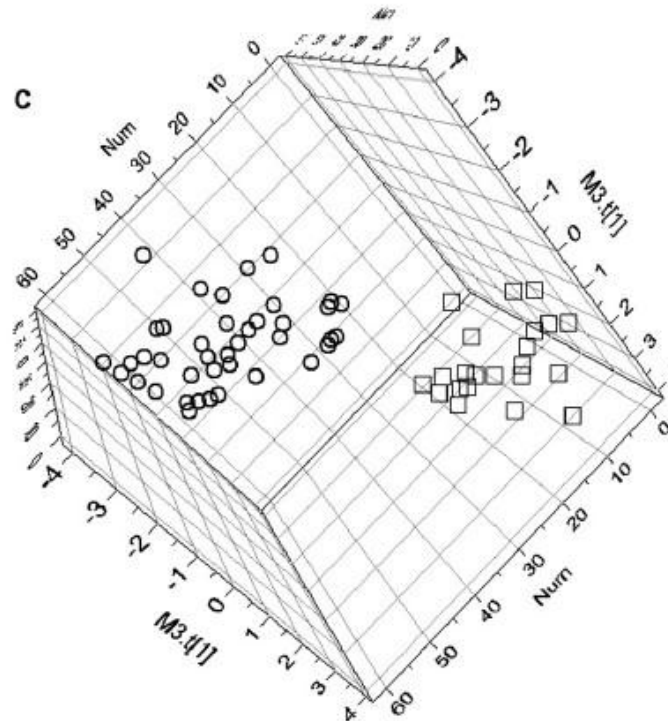
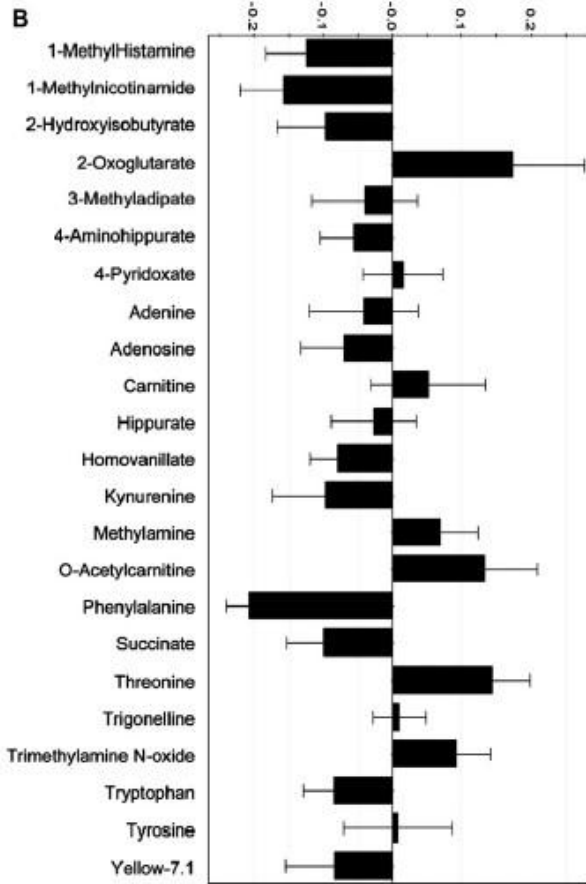
Metabolomics analysis of EBC - COPD



5 NMR-metabolomics signals differentiate between COPD and “non respiratory” subjects



Metabolomic profiling of asthma: Diagnostic utility of urine nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy



PROFILO METABOLOMICO DI BAMBINI CON INFEZIONI RESPIRATORIE RICORRENTI



Obiettivi dello studio:

- 1) ricerca di biomarkers che permettano una caratterizzazione biochimico-metabolica dei bambini con IRR
- 2) valutare se vi sono biomarkers predittivi di risposta alla terapia con Pidotimod

REVIEW

Metabolomics: A new tool for the neonatologist

LUIGI ATZORI^{1,4}, ROBERTO ANTONUCCI², LUIGI BARBERINI³, JULIAN L. GRIFFIN⁴, & VASSILIOS FANOS²

¹*Department of Toxicology, University of Cagliari, Italy,* ²*Section of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Department of Paediatrics and Clinical Medicine, University of Cagliari, Italy,* ³*Department of Neurological Sciences, University of Cagliari, Italy, and* ⁴*Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK*



Science fiction?

✓ Metabolomics characterization of biological sample *without*

Just remember that only a few years ago none of us had a mobile phone, e-mail or access to Internet

biological

✓ Metabolomics has the potential for the identification of *early biomarkers of disease* and novel drug targets.

✓ Metabolomics is one of the platforms paving the way to the development of a *personalized medicine*

