

# From rare to common disease, from genetics to therapy

*Personalized lipid-lowering therapy?*

*Jan Albert Kuivenhoven*

*Department of Pediatrics, Section Molecular Genetics  
University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands*

# Worldwide impact of atherosclerosis

## the pathology underlying cardiovascular disease



Home Health topics ▾ Countries ▾ News ▾ Emergencies ▾ About us ▾

### Cardiovascular disease

- Cardiovascular disease
- Strategic priorities
- Global Hearts Initiative
- Research and global partnerships
- Regional activities
- Multisector partnerships
- WRIGHT project
- Publications

#### On World Heart Day WHO calls for accelerated action to prevent the world's leading global killer

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) take the lives of 17.9 million people every year, 31% of all global deaths. Triggering these diseases are tobacco smoking, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol. These in turn show up in people as raised blood pressure, elevated blood glucose and overweight and obesity. Through the Global Hearts Initiative, WHO is supporting governments to scale-up efforts on CVD prevention and control through three technical packages: MPOWER for tobacco control, SHAKE for salt reduction and HEARTS for strengthening CVD management in primary health care. Launched in September 2016, the initiative has been rolled out in several countries, where health workers are being trained to better deliver tested and affordable measures to protect people from CVDs and help them recover following a heart attack or stroke. A new global initiative - Resolve to Save Lives - will give renewed impetus to these efforts.

Sept 29, 2018

[http://www.who.int/cardiovascular\\_diseases/en/](http://www.who.int/cardiovascular_diseases/en/)

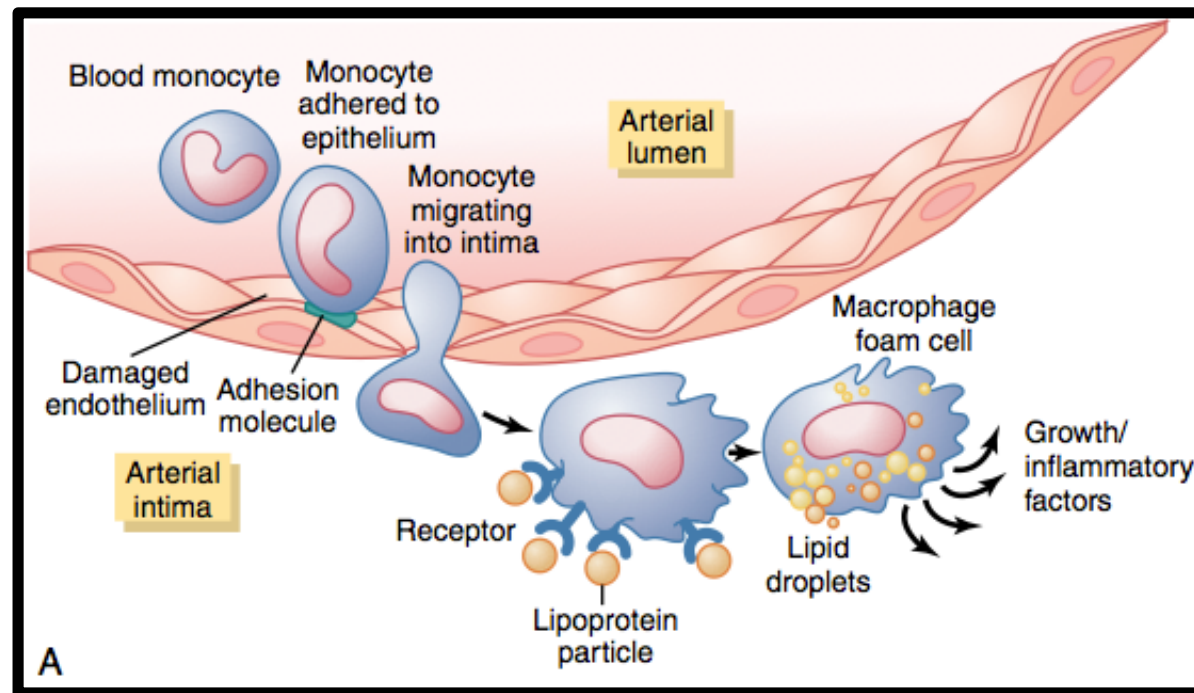
# Etiology of atherosclerosis

*'A lipid driven inflammatory disorder'*

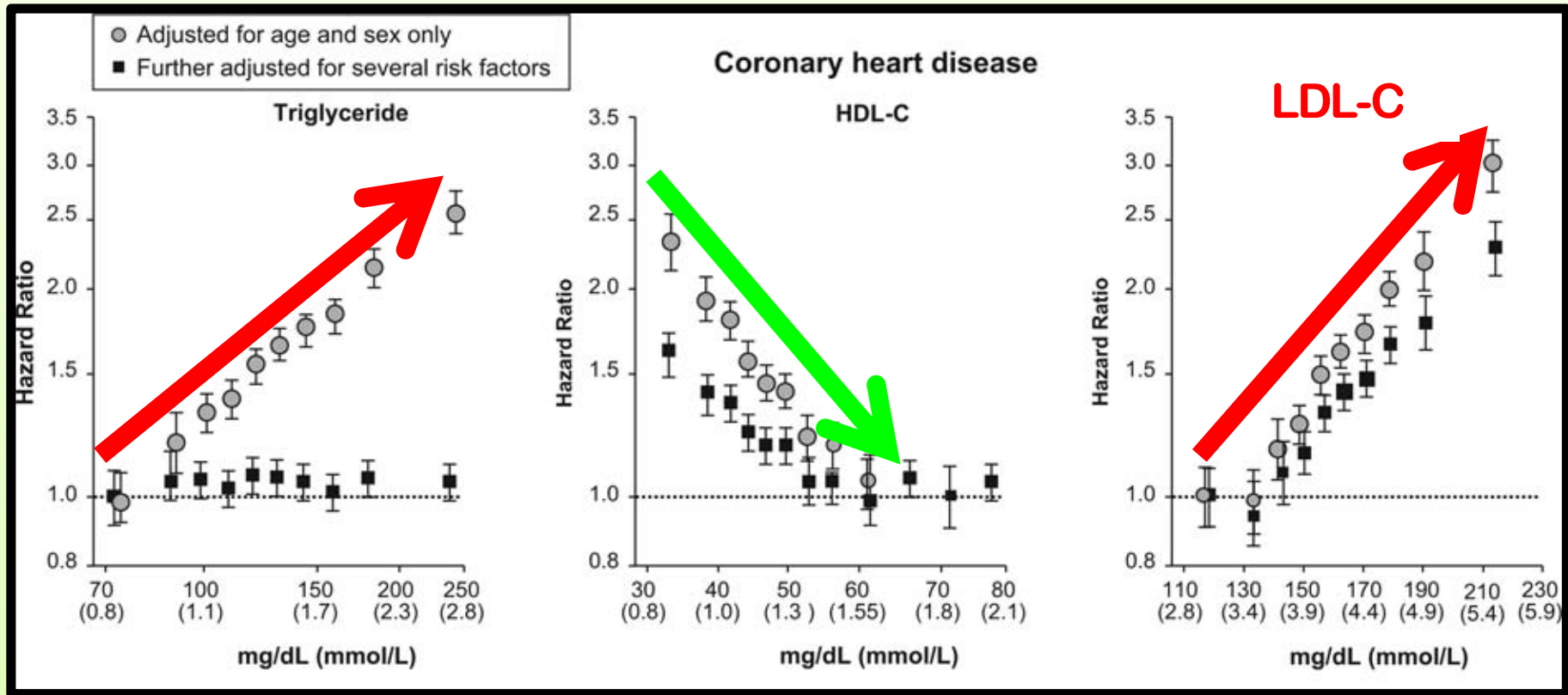
Blood lipids



Immunity



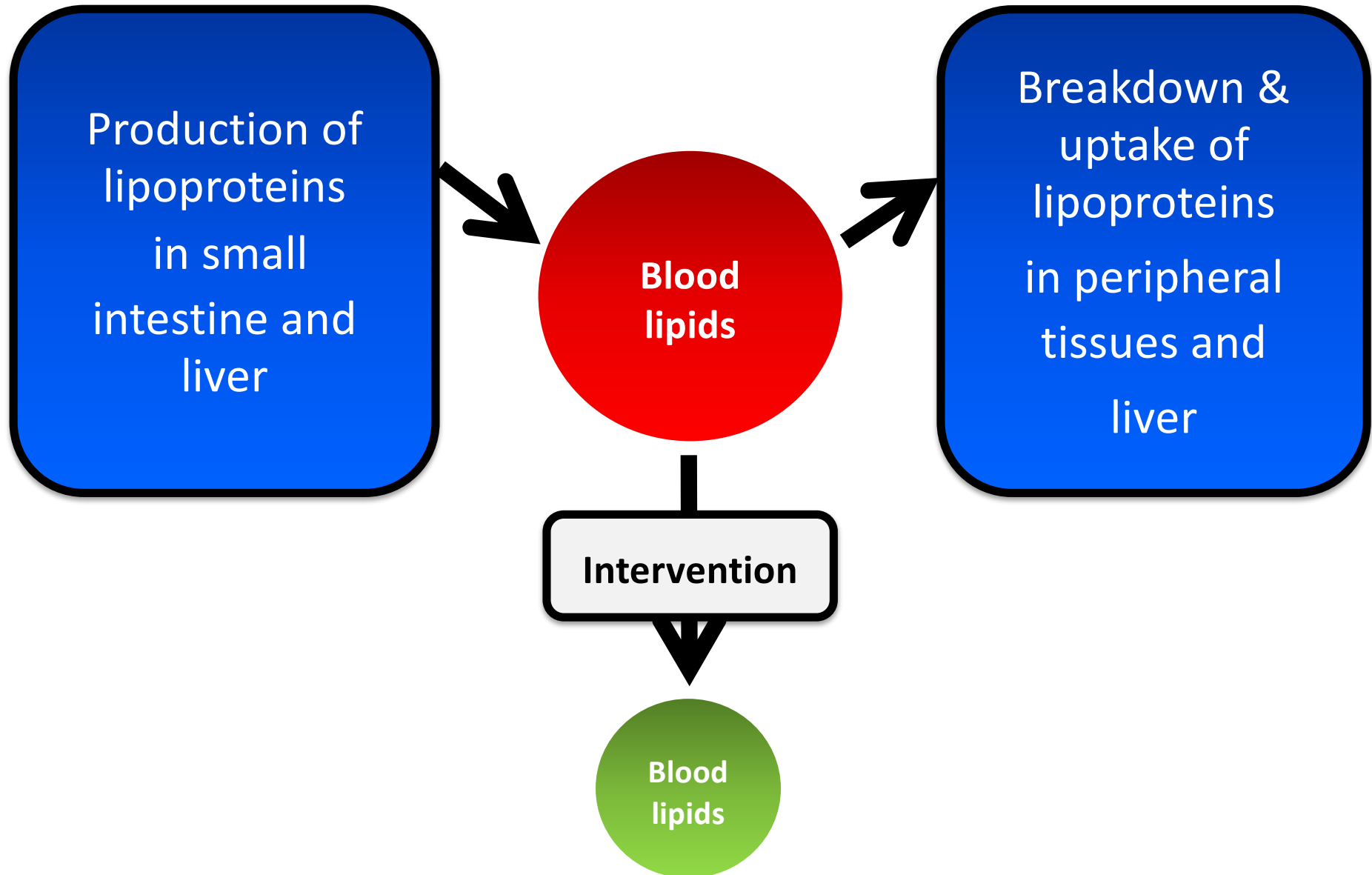
# Coronary heart disease risk and plasma lipid levels



General population. No prior CVD; 68 studies; n>300.000

*JAMA 2009;302:1993–2000*

# Regulation of blood lipid levels



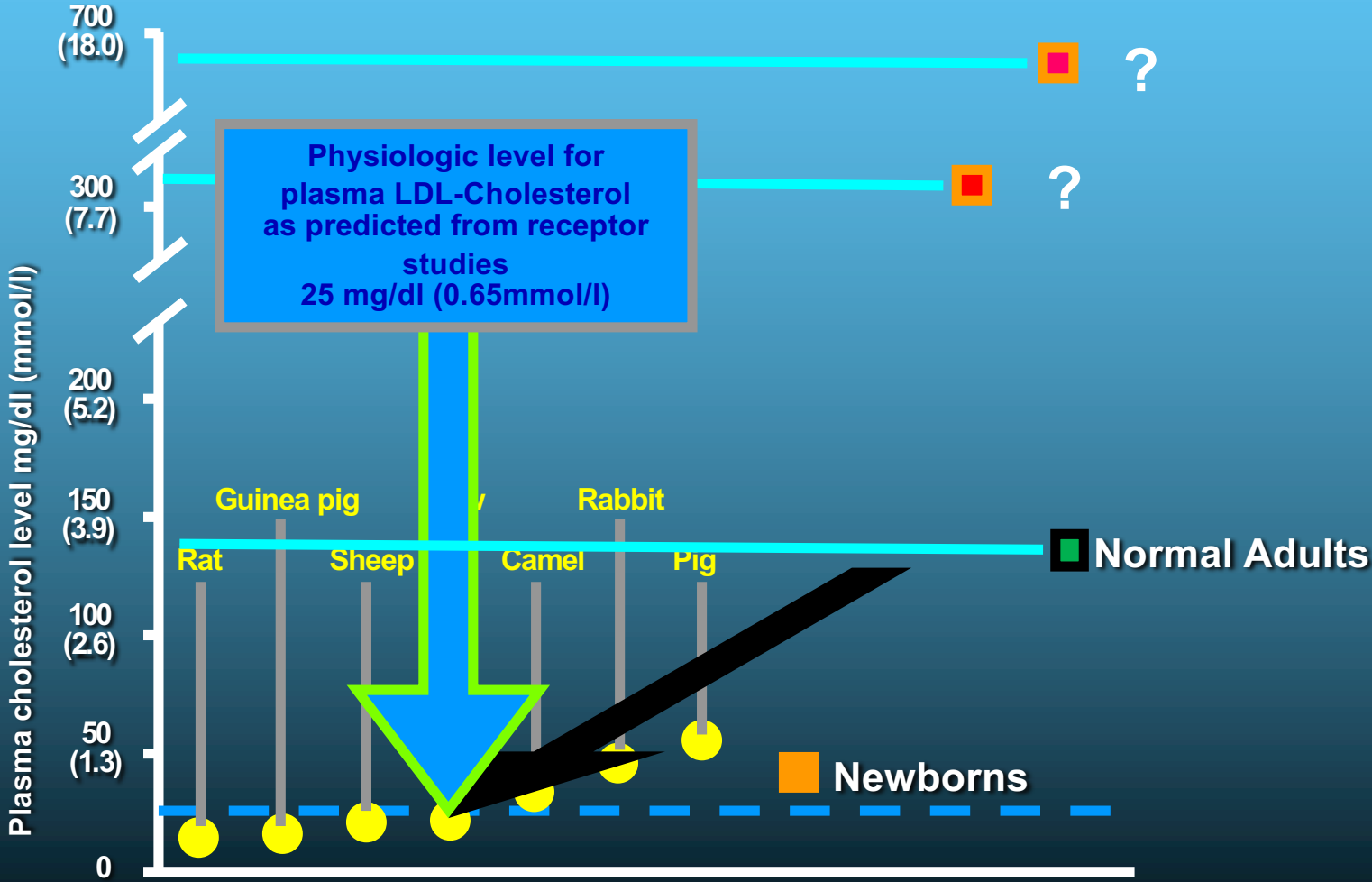
**Concept:** extreme human genetics  
to find targets for pharmaceutical  
intervention

*'A naturally occurring genetic variant, which causes a clinically significant phenotype indicates that the mutated gene product - and thus the wild type gene product - must be relevant to physiology'*

*Kuivenhoven JA & Hegele RA; BBA. 2014*

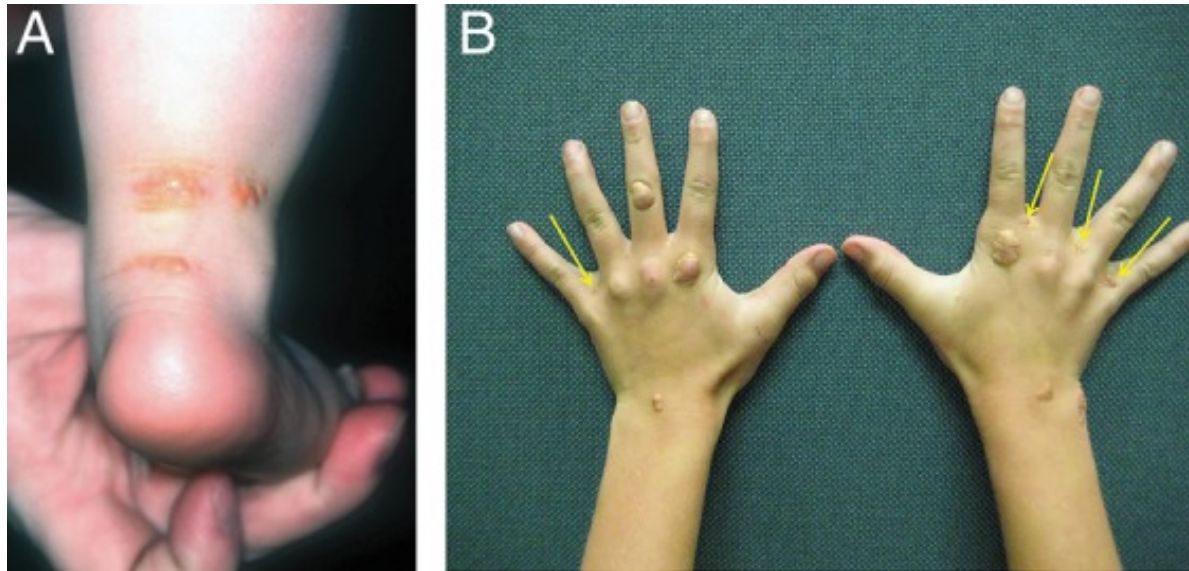
*PMID: 24798233*

# Extreme LDL cholesterol



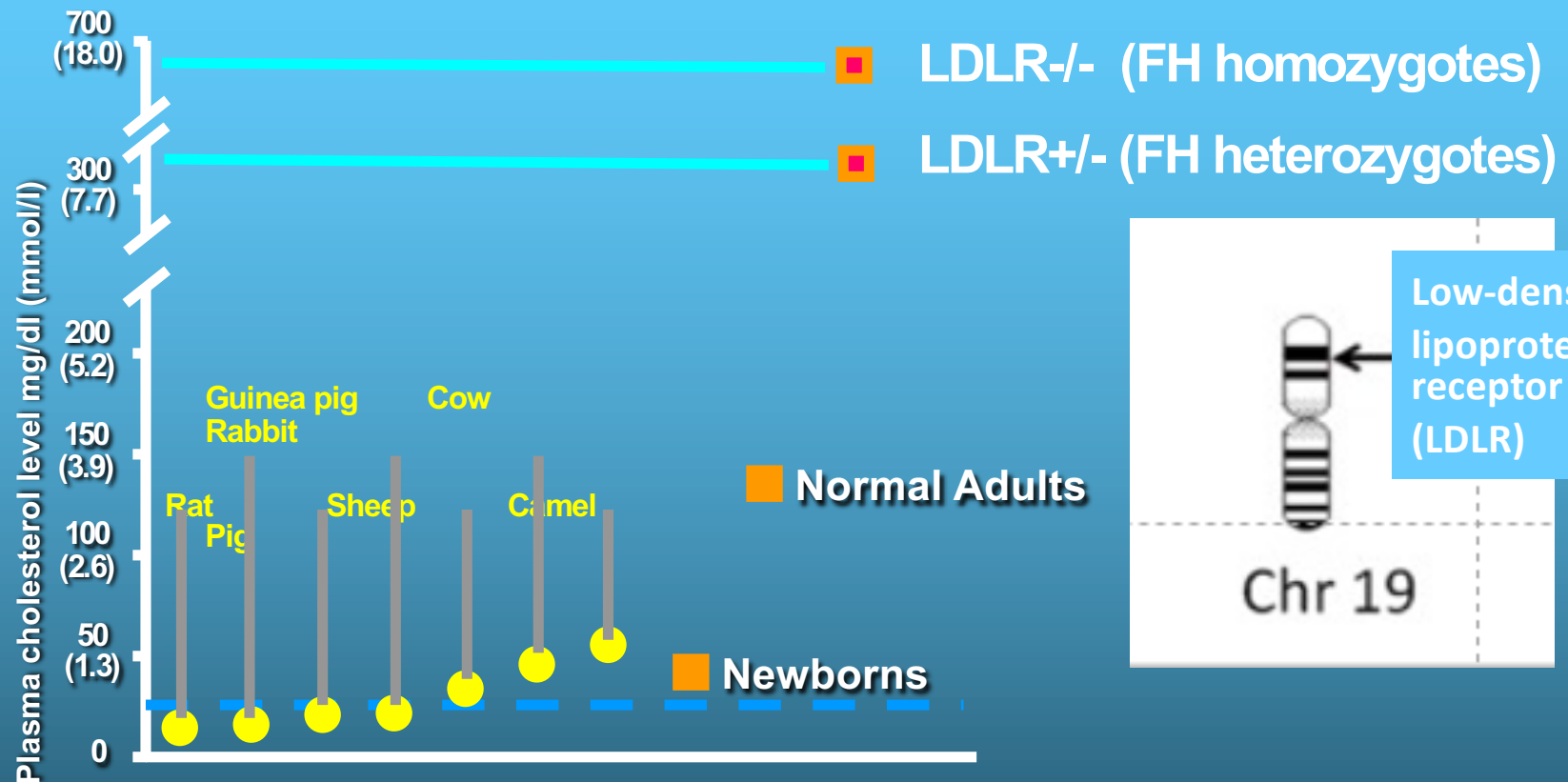
# Familial hypercholesterolemia (FH)

*Frequency 1:250*





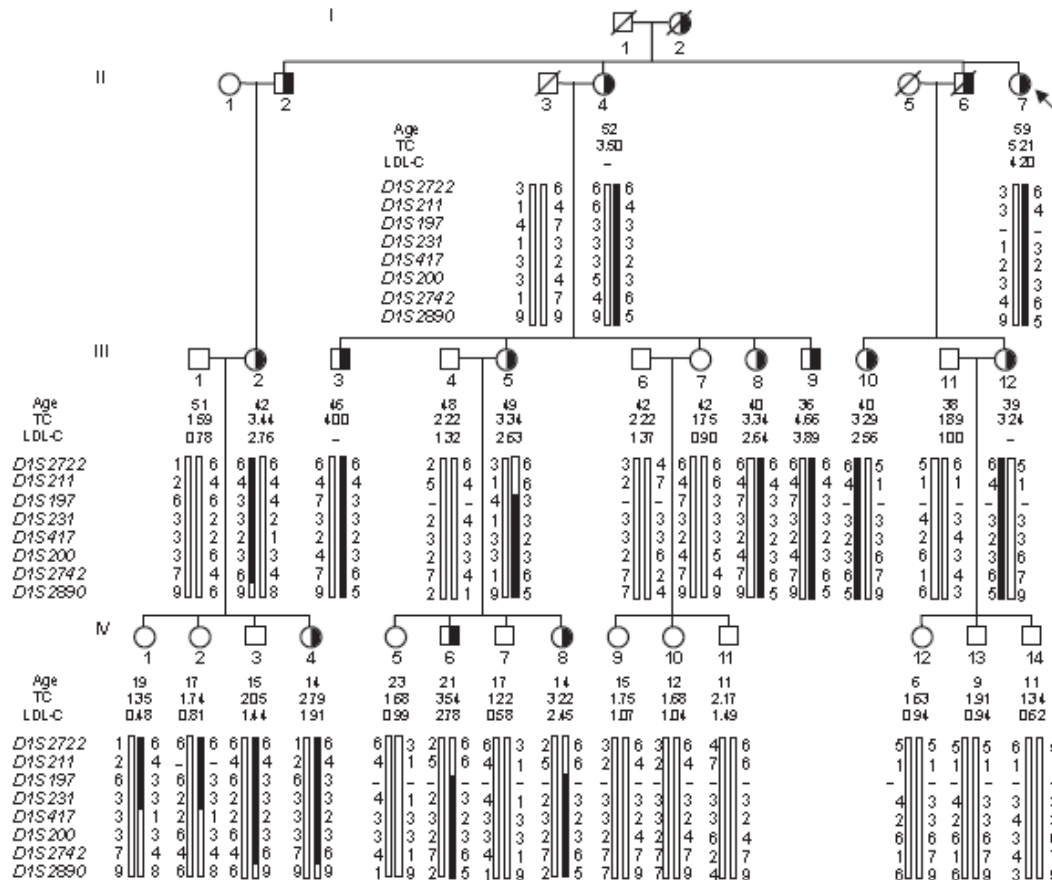
# Mutations in LDLR causing FH



Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine 1985 (Goldstein & Brown)

Their discoveries concerning the regulation of cholesterol metabolism provided the **basis to the development of statins.**

# A single family with FH of unknown etiology



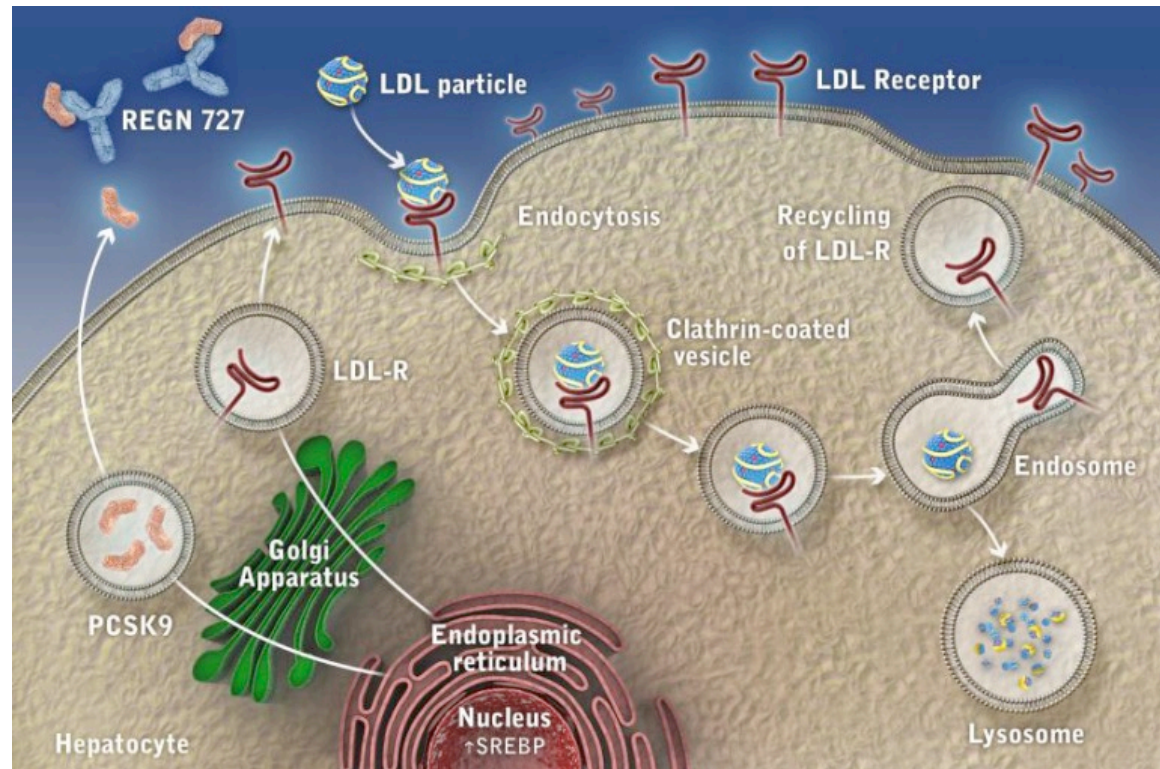
Abifadel M et al.  
NatGen 2003

Identification of **PCSK9**  
as a novel LDL  
candidate gene in a  
single family.

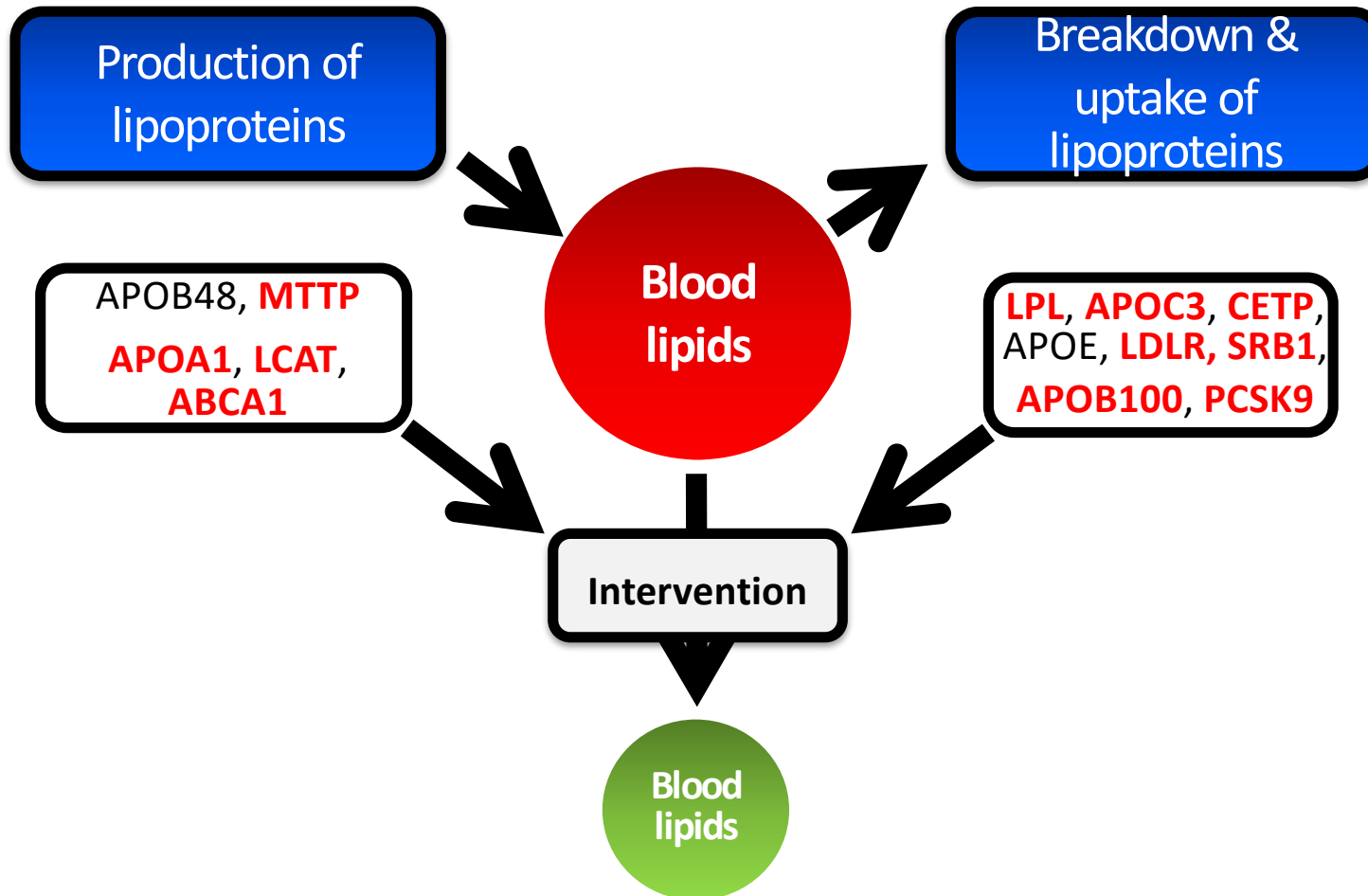
# From rare variants to treatment of common disease

- *PCSK9* mutations: 0.2% of patients with FH
- 2015: EMEA/FDA approval to use PCSK9i to lower LDLc

**Mechanism:  
promotion  
reuse of  
LDLR**

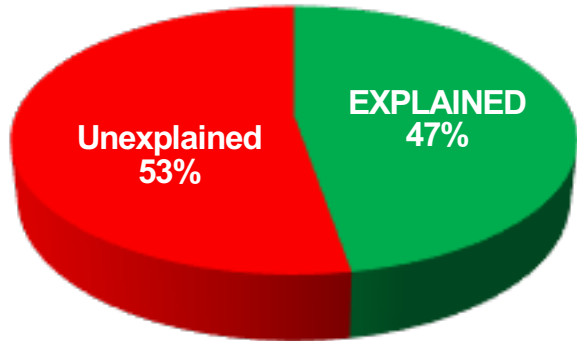


# Monogenic origins of human dyslipidemia are drug targets

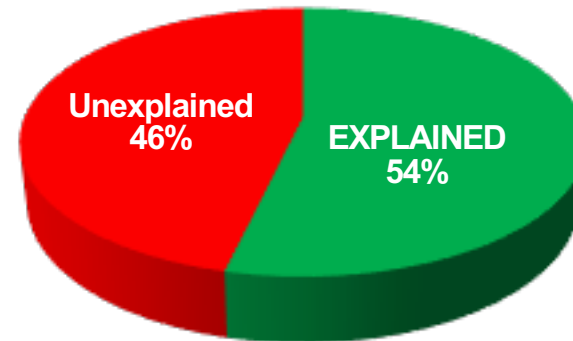


# Monogenic, polygenic and unexplained FH

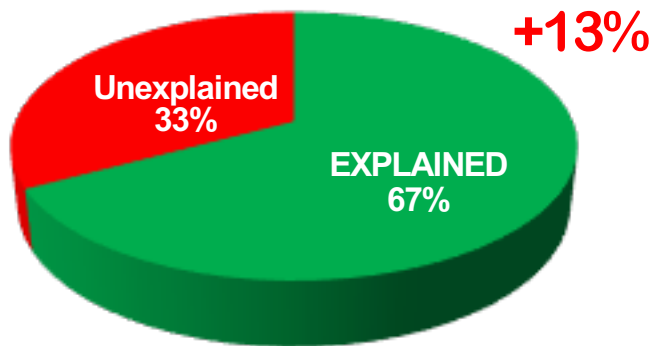
LDLc > 5.0 mmol/l  
Monogenic



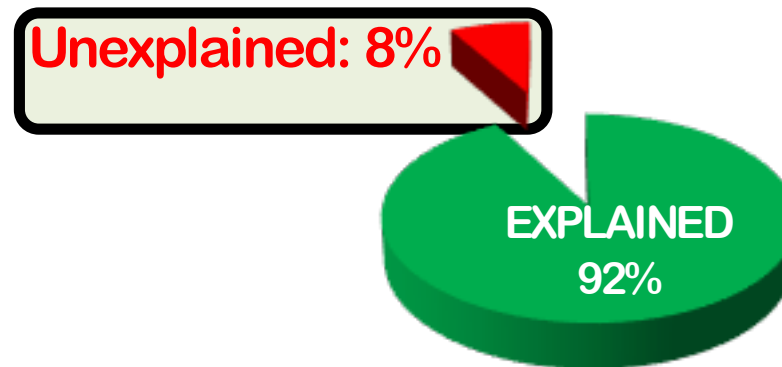
LDLc > 5.0 mmol/l  
Monogenic + CNV



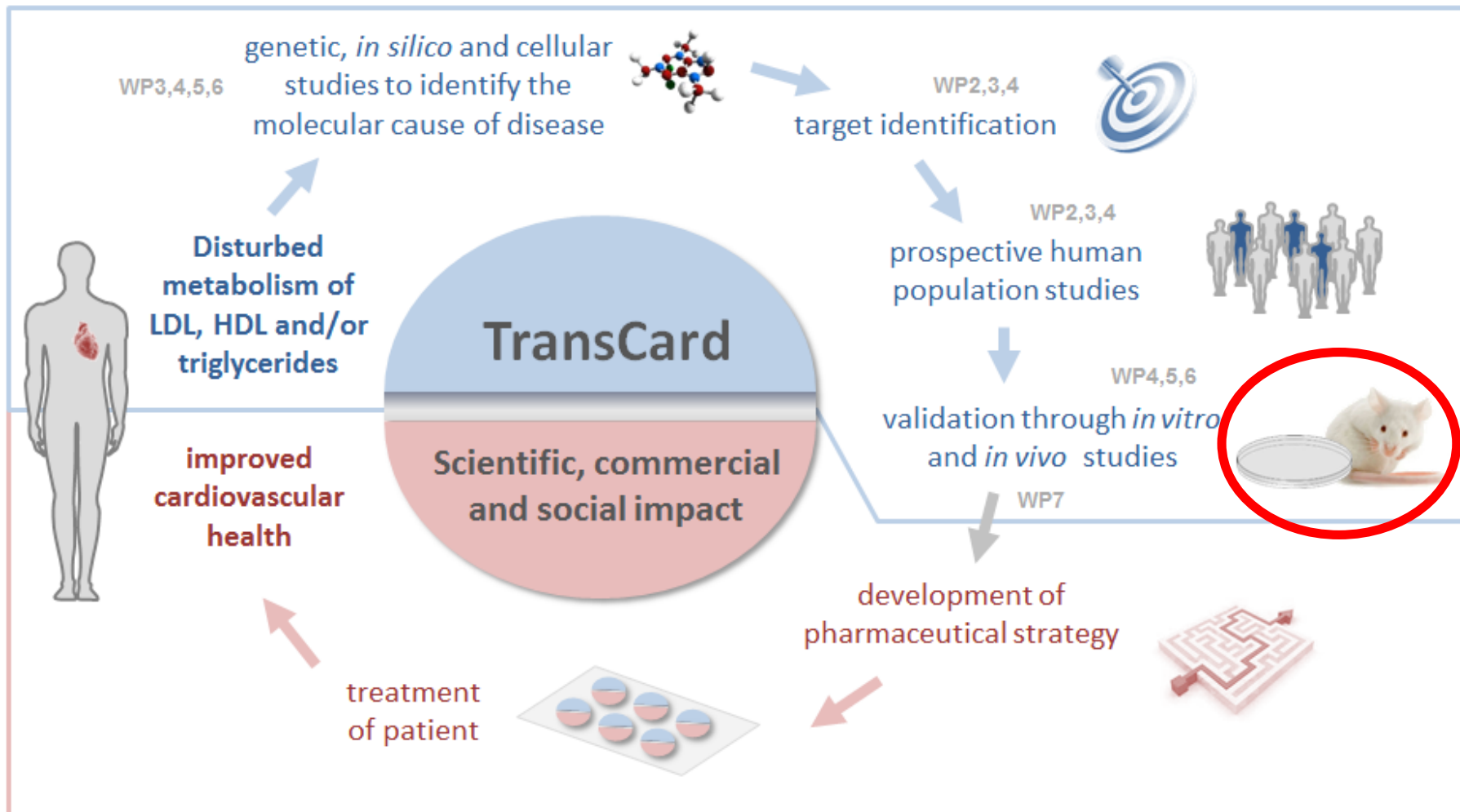
LDLc > 5.0 mmol/l  
Monogenic, CNV + Polygenic



LDLc > 8.0 mmol/l  
Monogenic





# Finding additional lipid pathways




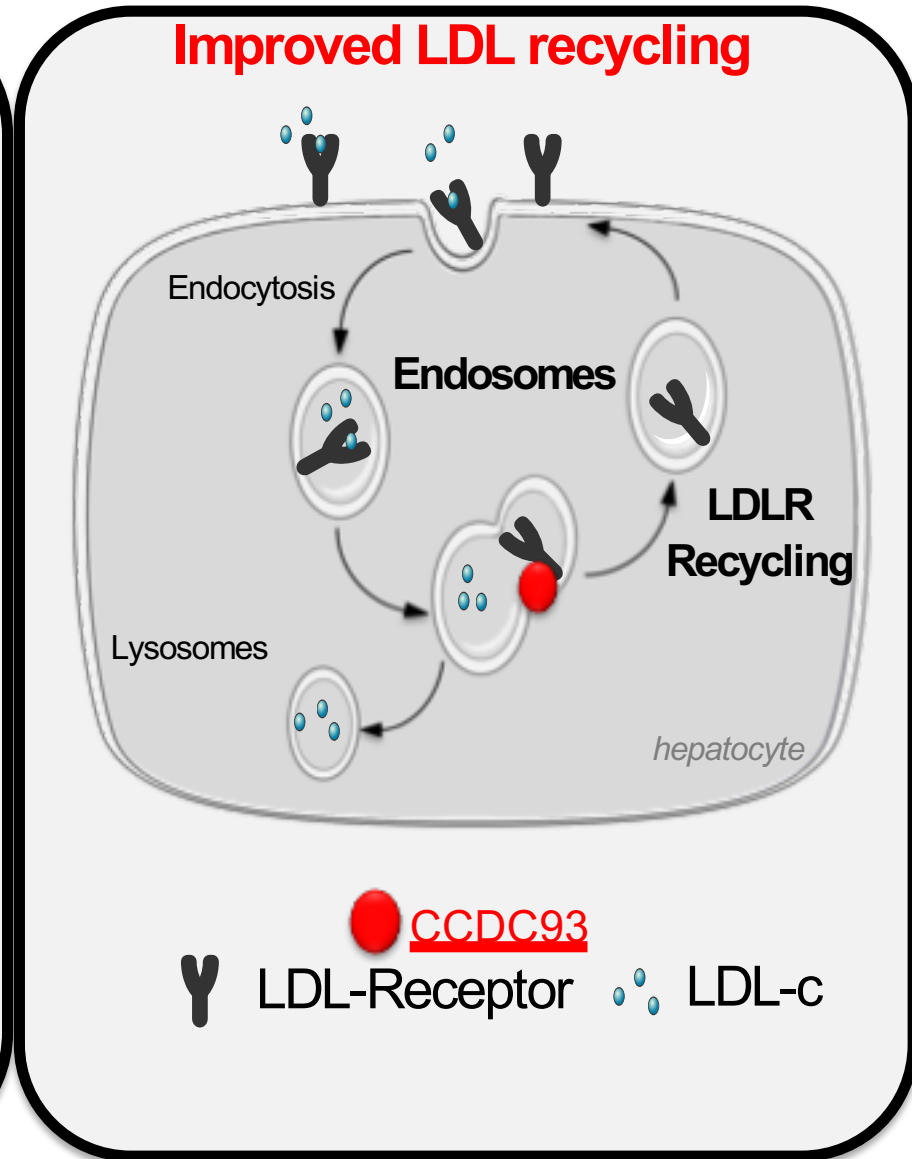
# Animal data & human genetics (GWAS)

**Refinement**  
**GWAS Locus 2q14**  
▲  
**Rs17512204**  
**CCDC93-p.Pro228Leu**

LDL-c 

Myocardial infarction 

LDL-Receptor recycling 



# Personalized lipid-lowering therapy?

*Facing the facts*

Atherosclerosis starts in childhood



Treated when clinical events have occurred  
at 60 euro/yr (statins)

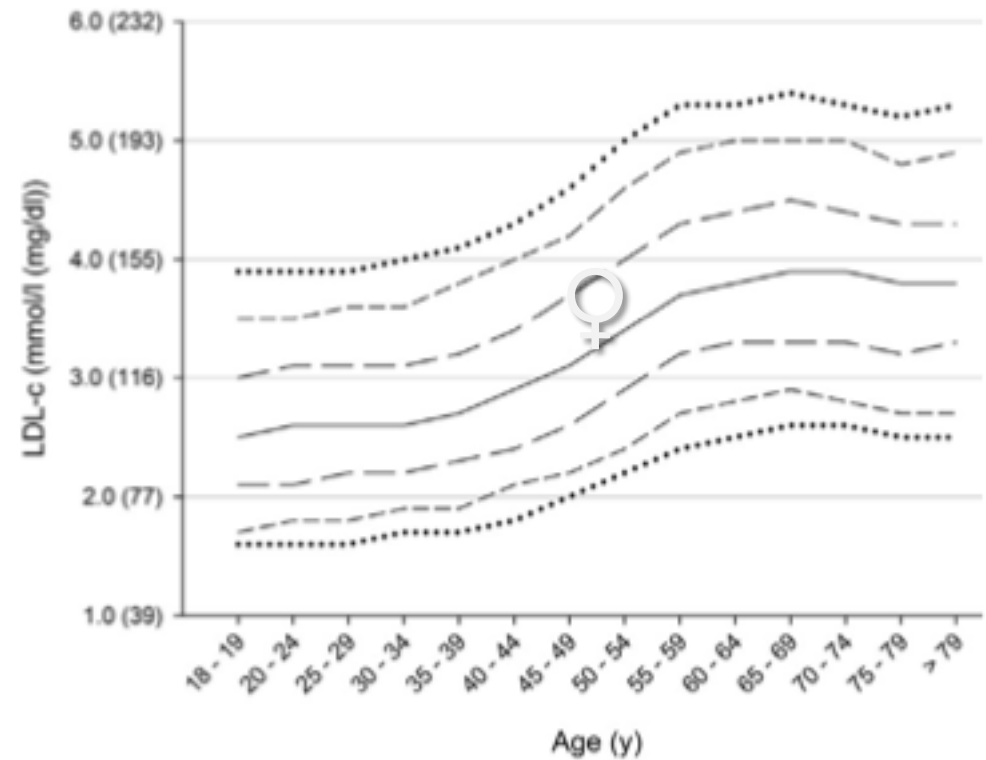
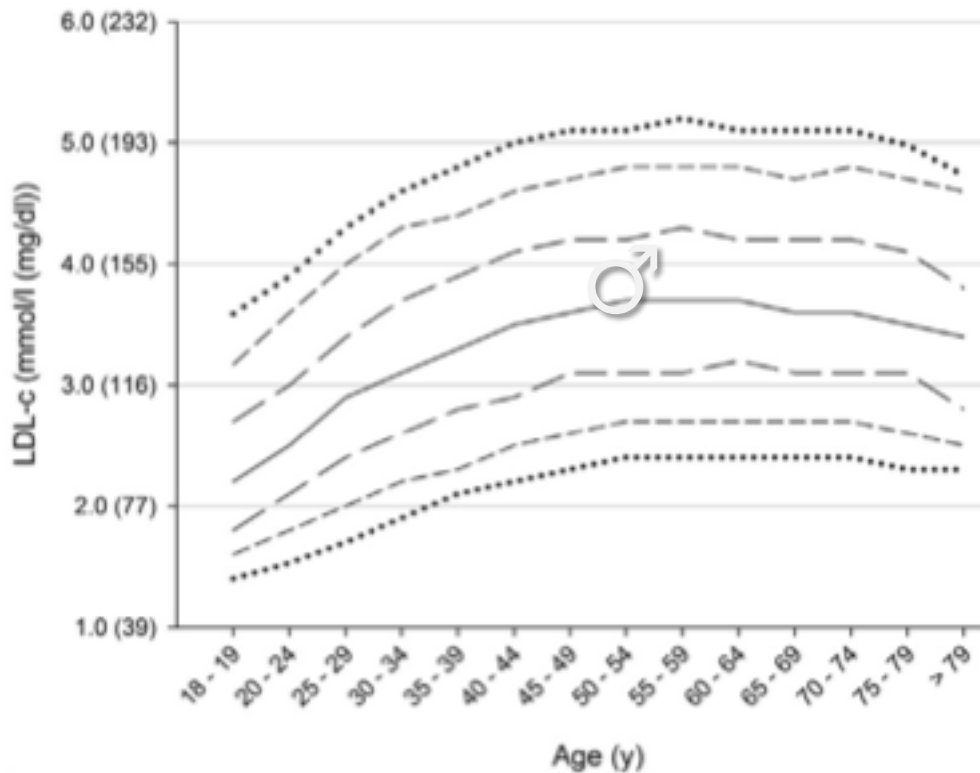
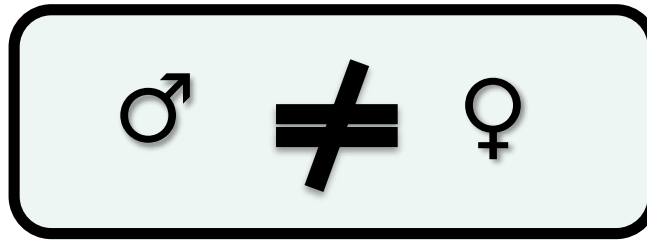


umcg



# Personalized lipid-lowering therapy?

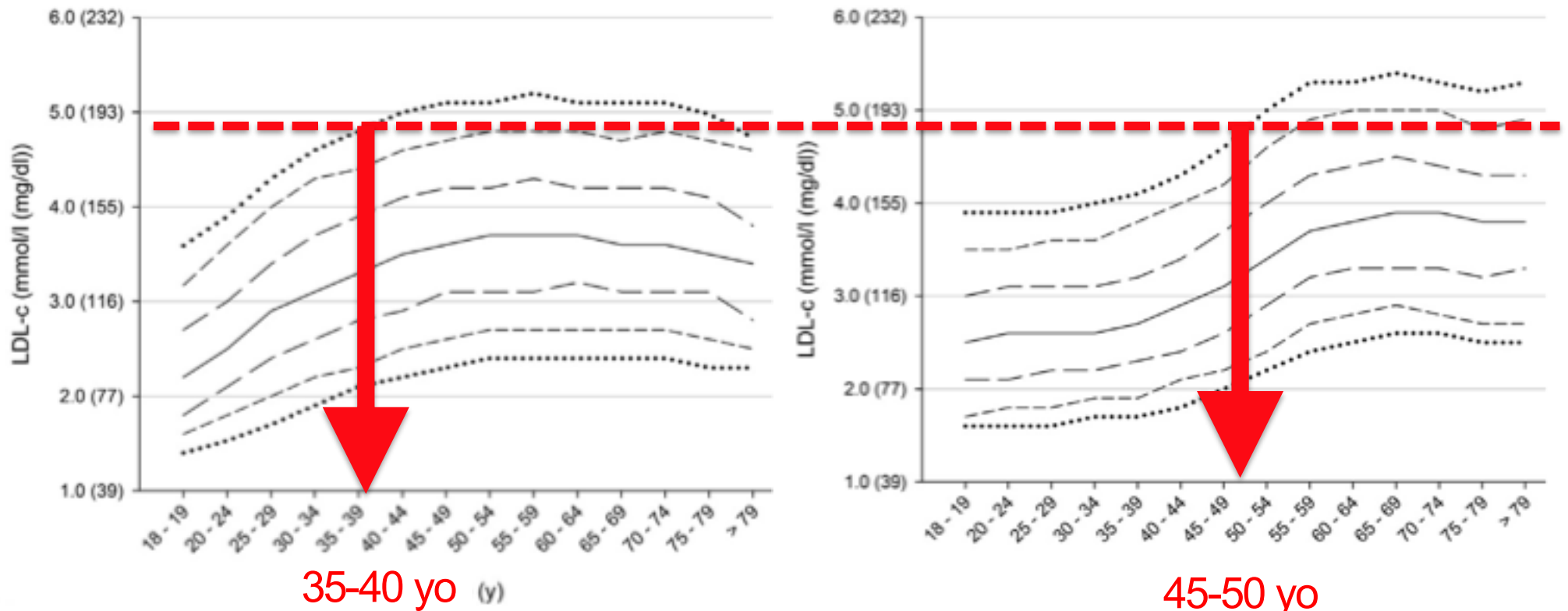
*Facing the facts: LDL cholesterol, age and gender*



# Personalized lipid-lowering therapy?

*Facing the facts: use of fixed LDLc cutoff*

Intervention criterion:  
4.9 mmol/L (200mg/dl)

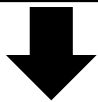


# Personalized lipid-lowering therapy?

*One treatment for all = general practice*

**Prediction of 10 year CVD risk (Framingham/Procam)**

**High / Medium** / Low risk



Lifestyle modification &  
Pharmaceutical intervention when LDL-c >  
4.9mmol/l (200mg/dl)



**Statins** - first choice (inhibition of *de novo*  
cholesterol synthesis)

Add on therapy (Colesevalam / Ezetimibe)  
(cholesterol absorption inhibition)

# Personalized lipid-lowering therapy?

*Special treatment driven by costs and orphan annotation*

PCSK9i at 17k dollar/yr (US) or 7k euro/yr (NL) for

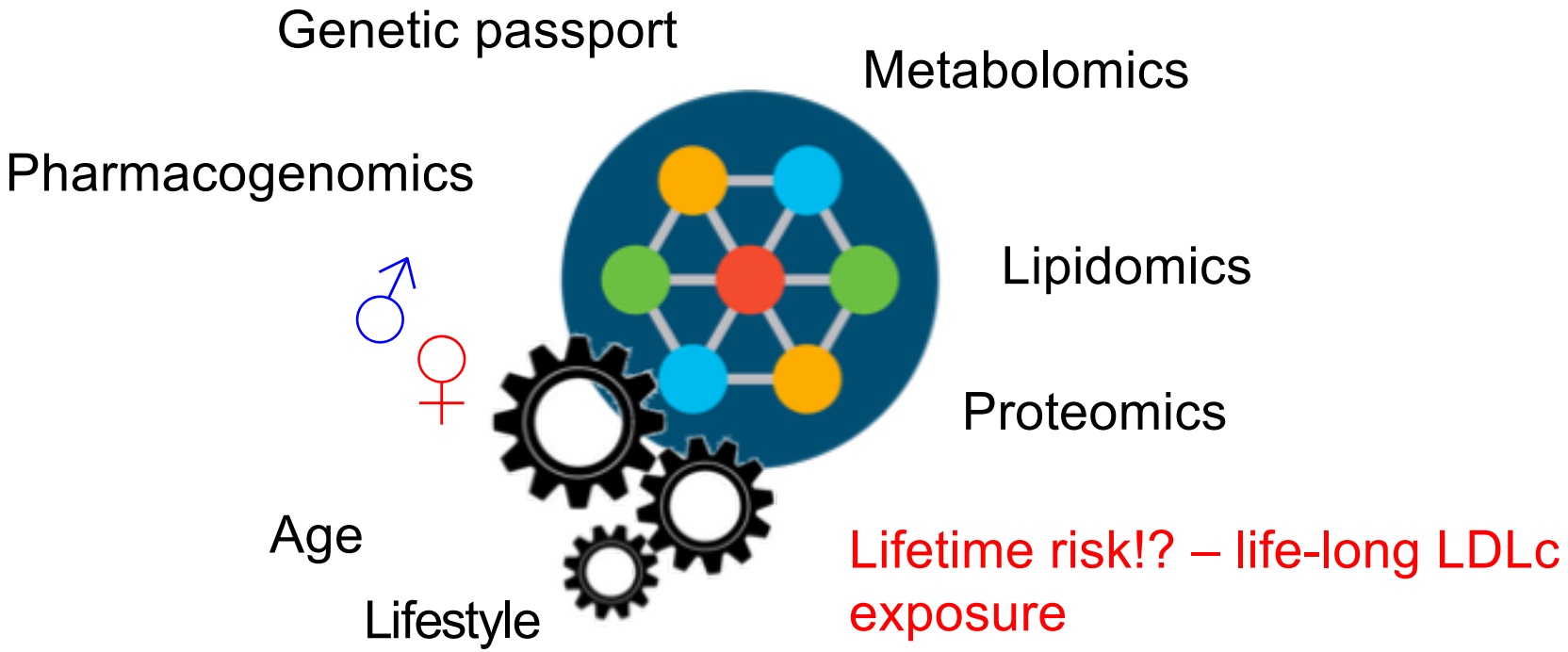
- homozygous FH
- high-risk patients not reaching LDLc targets
- statin-intolerance

Treating severe (homozygous) FH:

- Lomitapide (MTTPI): 500-600k Euro/yr.
- Mipomersen (antisense apoB): 167k/yr

# Personalized lipid-lowering therapy?

## *Perspective*



**Data integration to improve care?**

# Data integration to find new targets



Focus on groups of individuals with **similar 'fingerprints'** to help finding **new pathways that regulate plasma lipid levels**

# Acknowledgements

## UMCG Groningen

Antoine Rimbert – geneticist – PD

Bart van der Sluis – molecular biologist

Peter Lansberg – physician/lipidologist

## Collaborators

Prof. Kees Hovingh – Amsterdam, NL

Prof. Bertrand Cariou – Nantes, FR

Dr. Hinda Daggag – Abu Dhabi, UAE

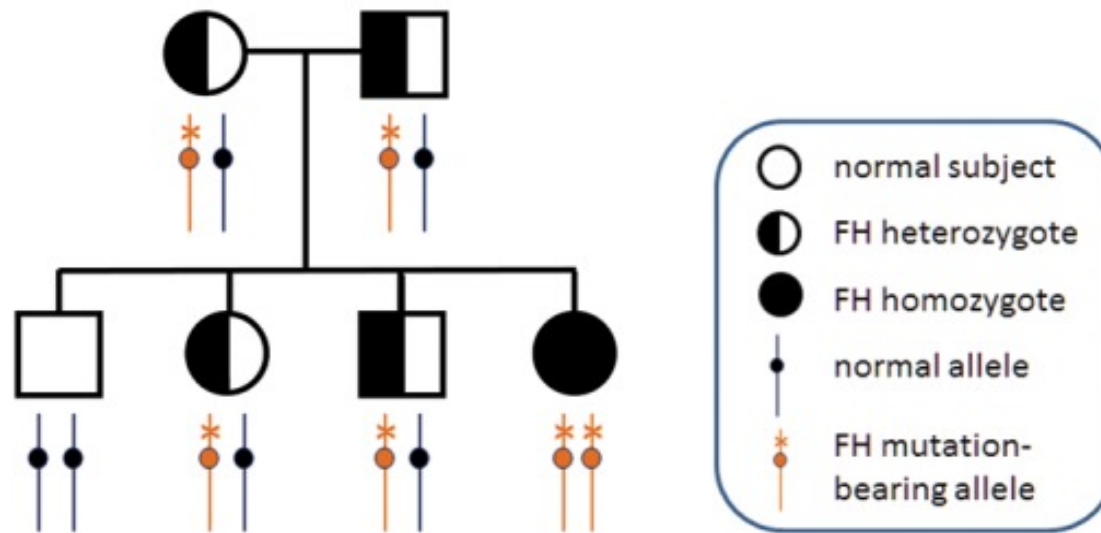
Dr. Jeanine Roeters van Lennep – Rotterdam, NL

Prof. Arnold von Eckardstein, Zurich, CH

## Funding bodies



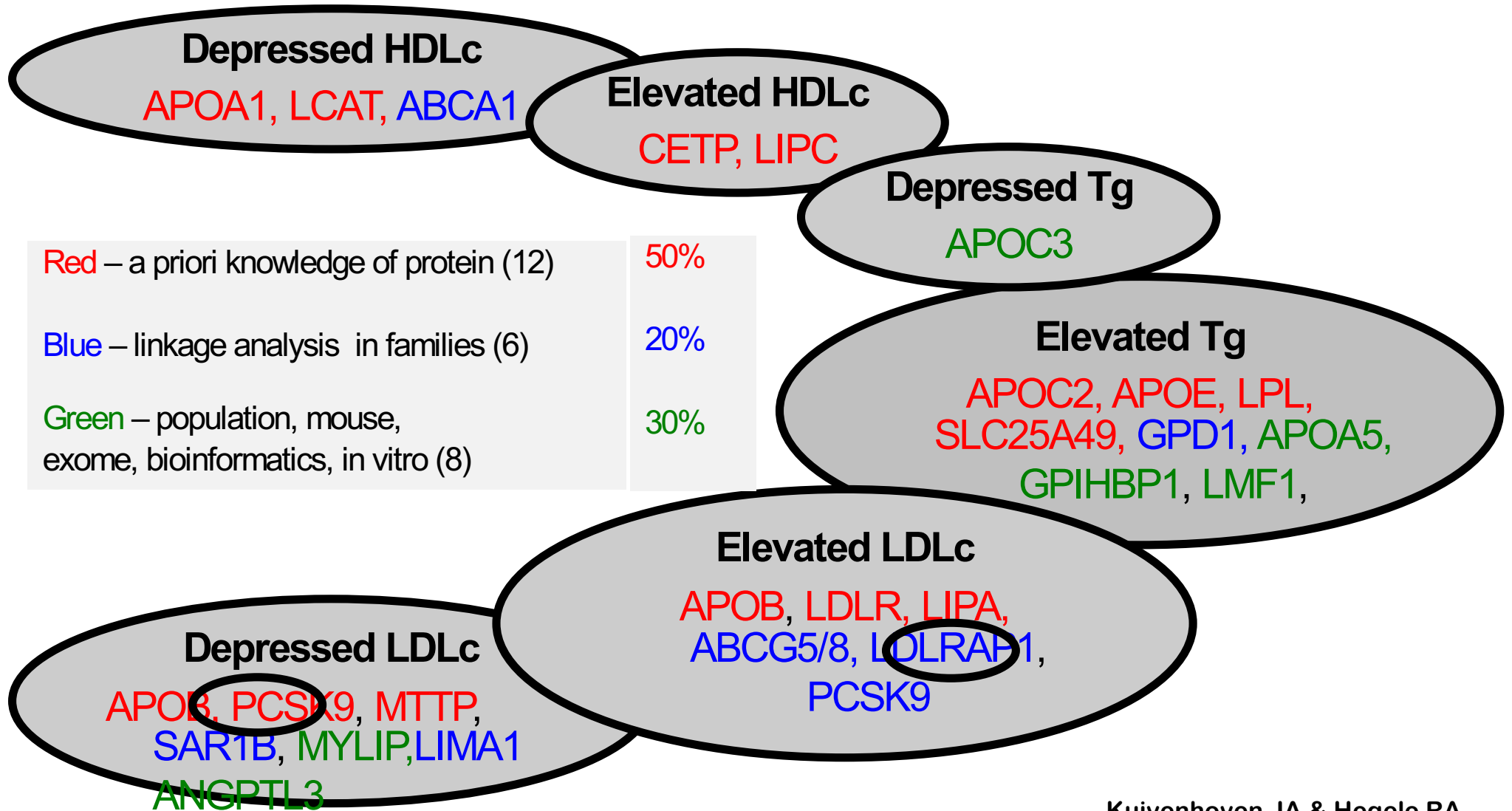
# Pattern of inheritance of FH







# Human monogenic lipid disorders





## Mutations in *PCSK9* cause autosomal dominant hypercholesterolemia

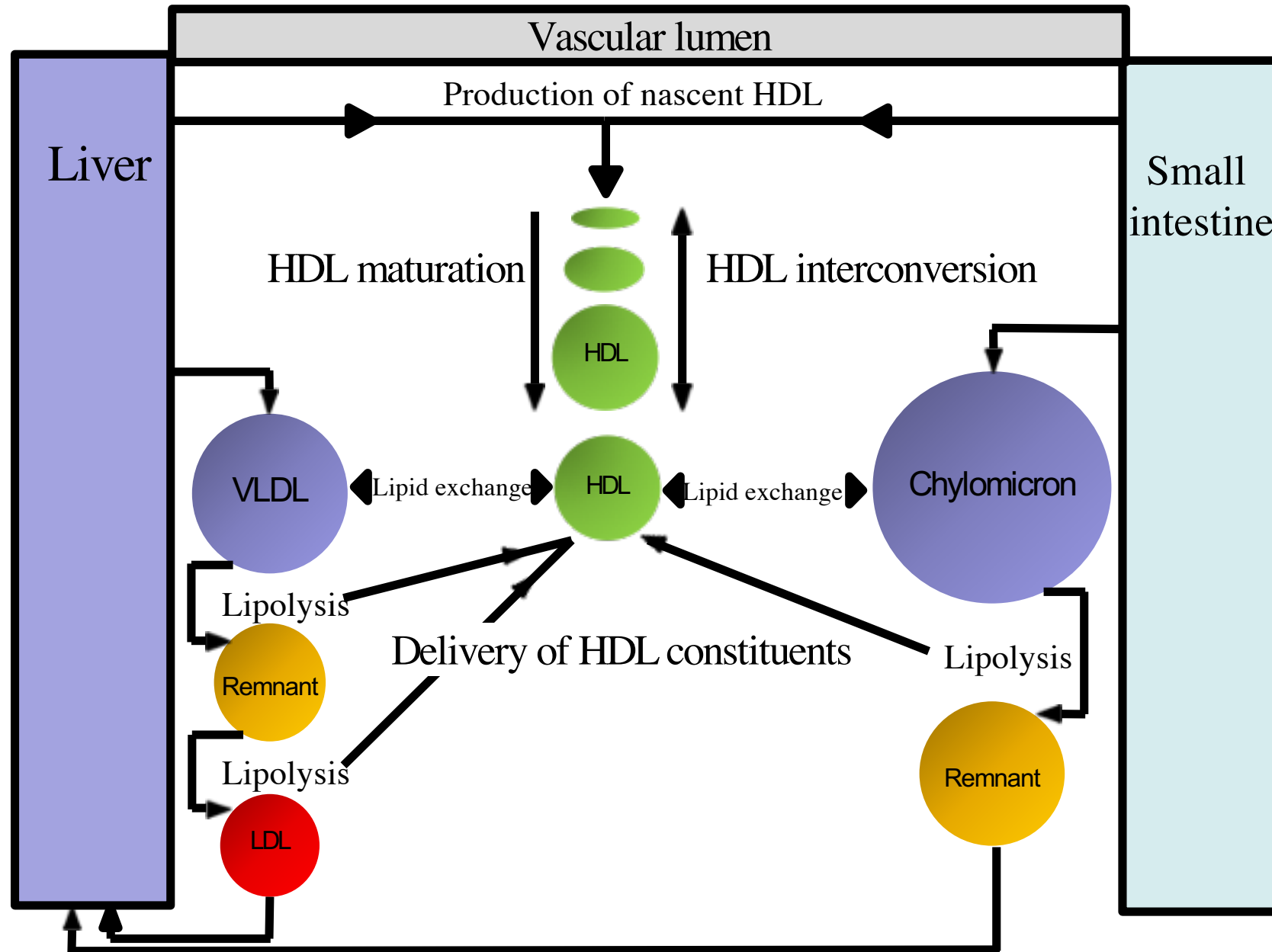
Marianne Abifadel<sup>1,2</sup>, Mathilde Varret<sup>1</sup>, Jean-Pierre Rabès<sup>1,3</sup>, Delphine Allard<sup>1</sup>, Khadija Ouguerram<sup>4</sup>, Martine Devillers<sup>1</sup>, Corinne Cruaud<sup>5</sup>, Suzanne Benjannet<sup>6</sup>, Louise Wickham<sup>6</sup>, Danièle Erlich<sup>1</sup>, Aurélie Derré<sup>1</sup>, Ludovic Villéger<sup>1</sup>, Michel Farnier<sup>7</sup>, Isabel Beucler<sup>8</sup>, Eric Bruckert<sup>9</sup>, Jean Chambaz<sup>10</sup>, Bernard Chanu<sup>11</sup>, Jean-Michel Lecerf<sup>12</sup>, Gerald Luc<sup>12</sup>, Philippe Moulin<sup>13</sup>, Jean Weissenbach<sup>5</sup>, Annick Prat<sup>6</sup>, Michel Krempf<sup>4</sup>, Claudine Junien<sup>1,3</sup>, Nabil G Seidah<sup>6</sup> & Catherine Boileau<sup>1,3</sup>

Autosomal dominant hypercholesterolemia (ADH; OMIM144400), a risk factor for coronary heart disease, is characterized by an increase in low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels that is associated with mutations in the genes *LDLR* (encoding low-density lipoprotein receptor) or *APOB* (encoding apolipoprotein B). We mapped a third locus associated with ADH, *HCHOLA3* at 1p32, and now report two mutations in the gene *PCSK9* (encoding proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9) that cause ADH. *PCSK9* encodes NARC-1 (neural apoptosis regulated convertase), a newly identified human subtilase that is highly expressed in the liver and contributes to cholesterol homeostasis.

To identify the third locus associated with ADH (called *HCHOLA3* or *FH3*), which we previously mapped<sup>1</sup> to 1p34.1–p32 (OMIM 603776) and was confirmed in a large Utah kindred<sup>2</sup>, we carried out positional cloning using the family in whom linkage was originally identified

Abifadel M  
et al.  
NatGen  
2003

# Human lipoprotein metabolism



# Plasma Lipid Management to treat CVD

## *Perspective*

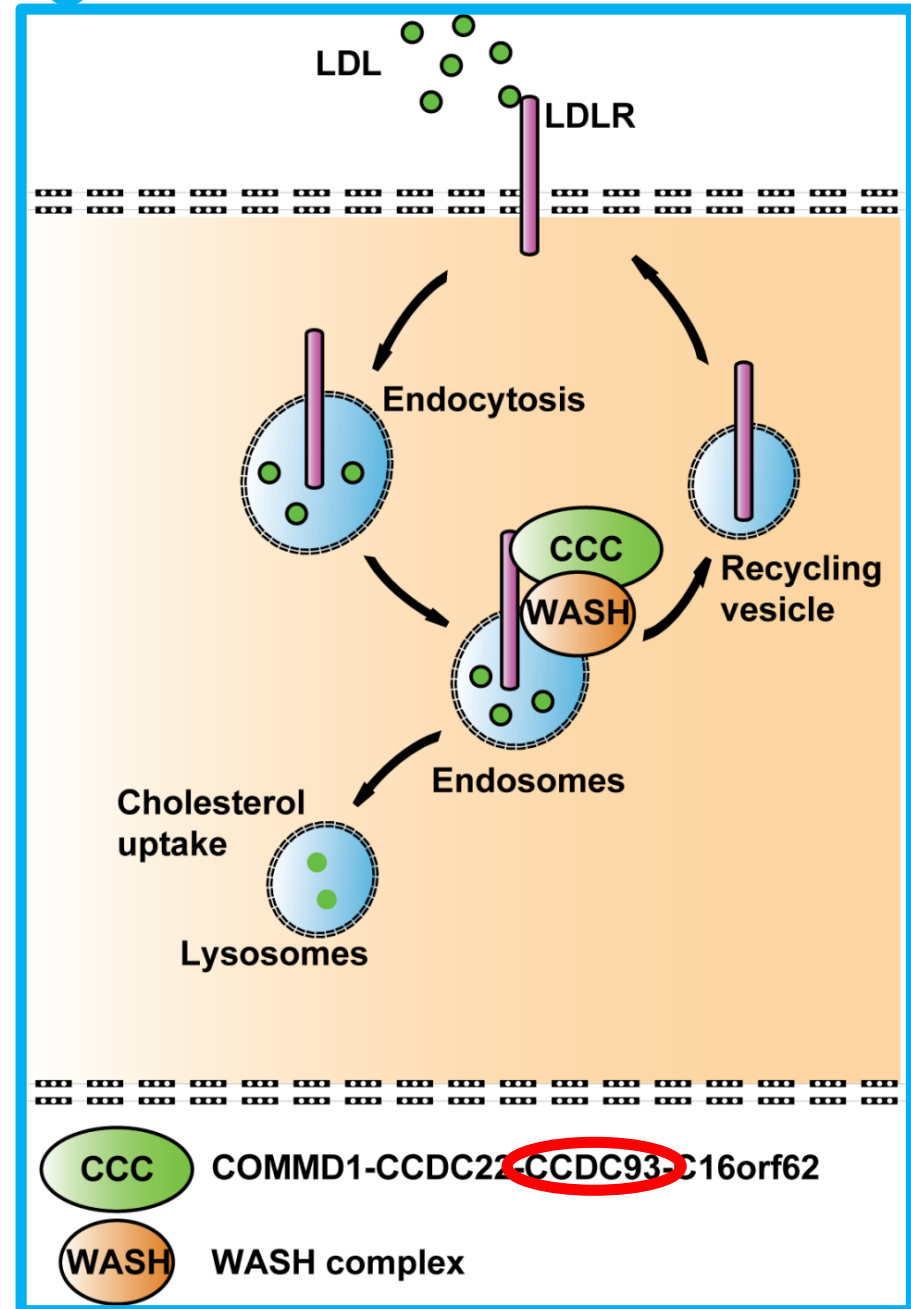
- Age- and gender specific criteria? = not evidence based
- Selection based genetic make-up?
- Pharmacogenetics?

# Increased understanding of LDL receptor trafficking

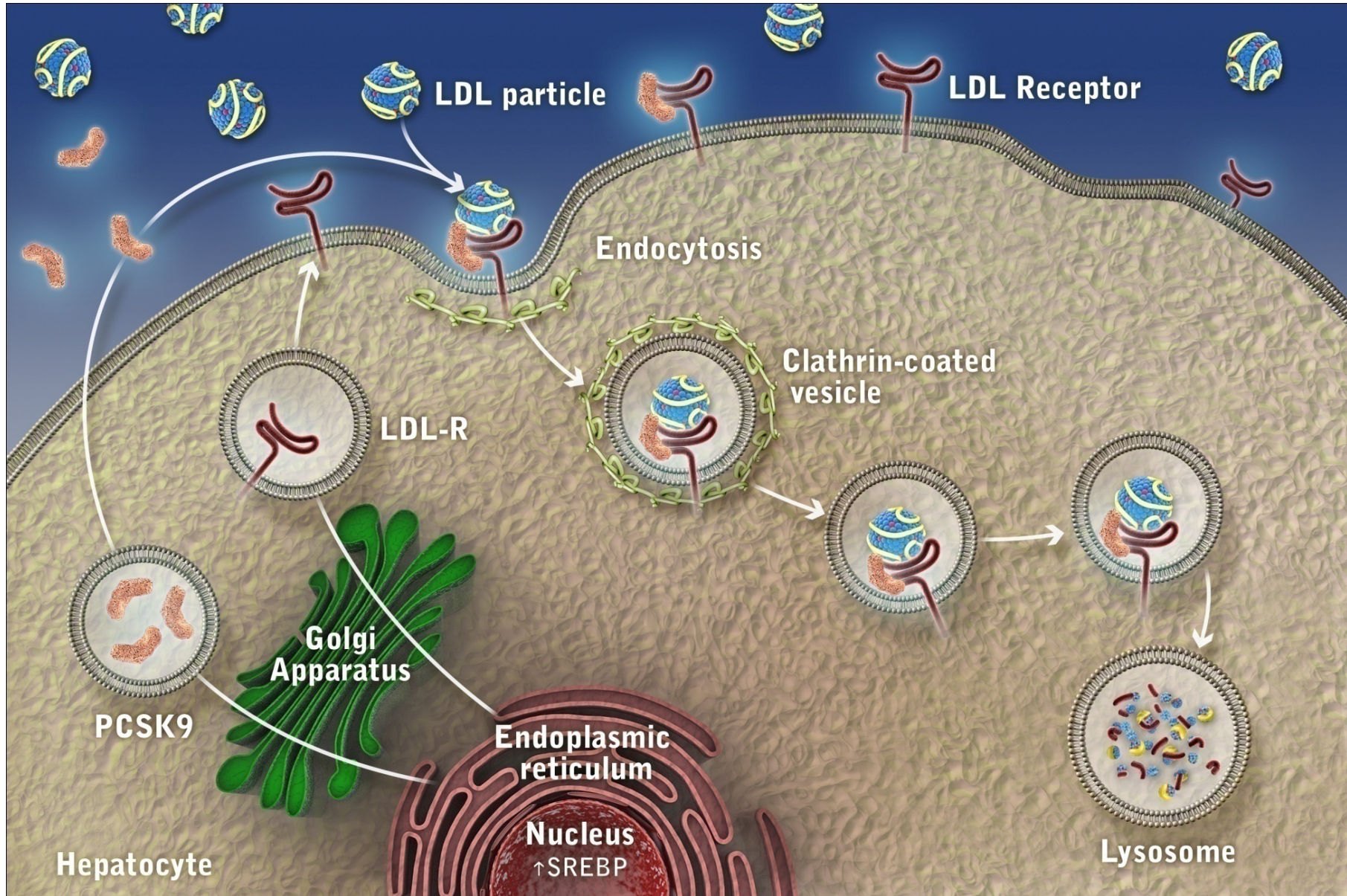
COMMD1 crucial component of a protein complex regulating the plasma LDL cholesterol levels in humans and mammals

CCC-complex mediates the endosomal sorting of LDLR

WASH complex involved in LDLR sorting



# The Role of PCSK9 in the Regulation of LDL Receptor Expression



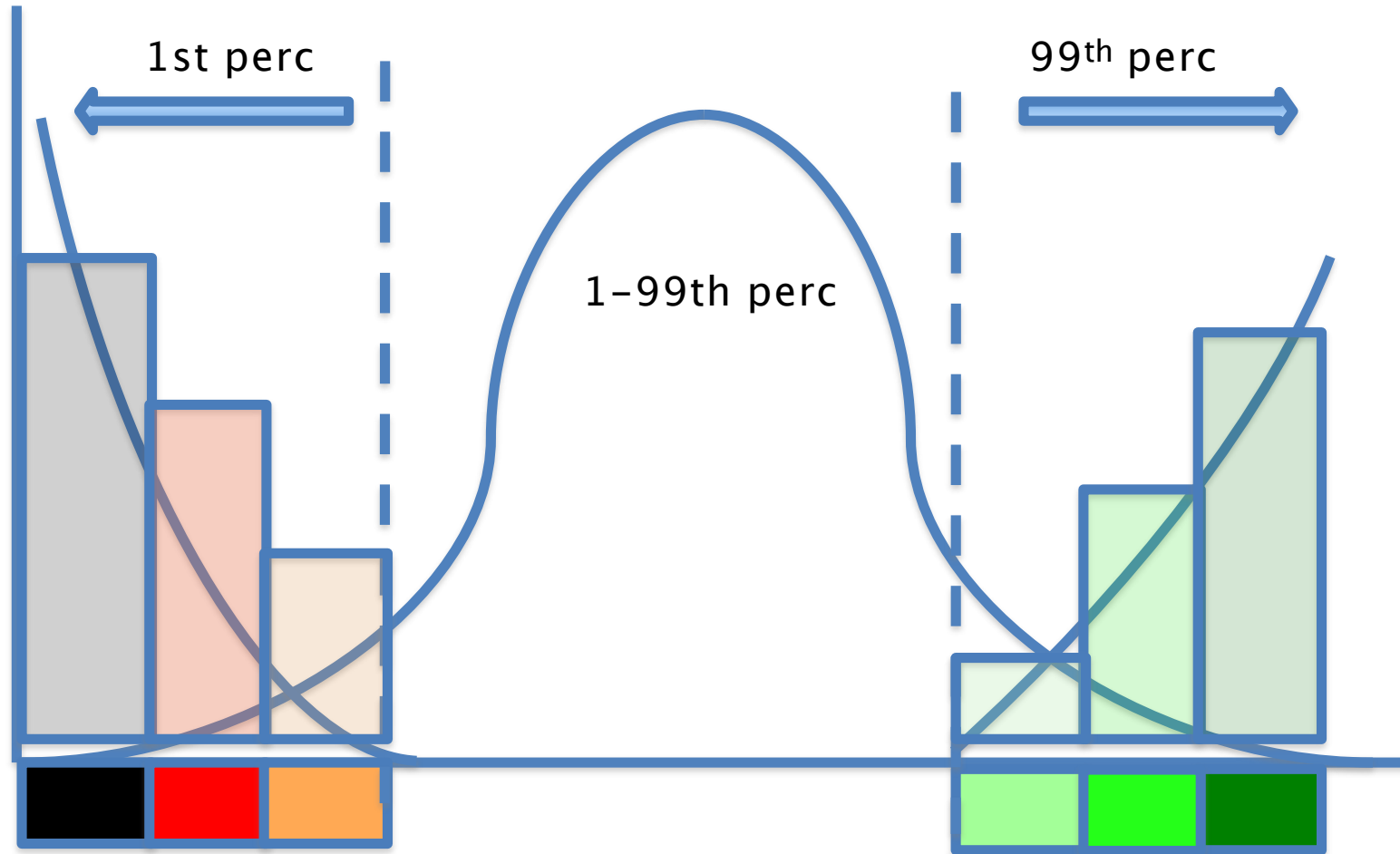
# Take home messages

- Extreme genetics has proven helpful to find new routes to treat dyslipidemia
- Extreme low and high LDL-c remains to a significant extent unexplained
- To date, lipid-lowering drugs are prescribed to all patients at increased risk of CVD irrespective of age, gender, lifestyle
- Individualized care may e.g. be feasible when treatment options are very expensive



# Studying extreme phenotypes

Total number of rare variants per ID (line) / tertile (blocks)









# A family with FH of unknown etiology



European Journal of Human Genetics (2010) 18, 1236–1242  
© 2010 Macmillan Publishers Limited All rights reserved 1018-4813/10  
www.nature.com/ejhg

## ARTICLE

# A fourth locus for autosomal dominant hypercholesterolemia maps at 16q22.1

Alice Marques-Pinheiro<sup>1</sup>, Marie Marduel<sup>1</sup>, Jean-Pierre Rabès<sup>1,2</sup>, Martine Devillers<sup>1</sup>, Ludovic Villéger<sup>1</sup>, Delphine Allard<sup>1</sup>, Jean Weissenbach<sup>3</sup>, Maryse Guerin<sup>4</sup>, Yassine Zair<sup>5</sup>, Danièle Erlich<sup>1</sup>, Claudine Junien<sup>1</sup>, Arnold Munnich<sup>1</sup>, Michel Krempf<sup>5</sup>, Marianne Abifadel<sup>1,6</sup>, Jean-Philippe Jaïs<sup>7</sup>, The French Research Network on ADH<sup>8</sup>, Catherine Boileau<sup>1,2</sup> and Mathilde Varret<sup>\*,1</sup>

Autosomal dominant hypercholesterolemia (ADH) is characterized by isolated increase in plasmatic low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels associated with high risk of premature cardiovascular disease. Mutations in *LDLR*, *APOB*, and *PCSK9* genes have been shown to cause ADH. We now report further genetic heterogeneity of ADH through the study of a large French family in which the involvement of these three genes was excluded. A genome-wide scan mapped the disease-causing gene, named *HCHOLA4*, at 16q22.1 in a 7.89-Mb interval containing 154 genes with a maximum LOD score of 3.9. To reduce the linked region, we genotyped 18 smaller non-*LDLR*/non-*APOB*/non-*PCSK9*-ADH families at the *HCHOLA4* locus. Six families did not

# Work performed

- No mutations candidate genes (exome seq)
- In vivo apoB kinetics – decreased LDL catabolism
- Fibroblasts
  - reduced number of LDL receptors at cell surface
  - LDLr trafficking appears delayed
- Proteomic analysis
  - overexpression RAB6A

Markers:

cen  
 D16S3043  
 D16S3031  
 rs725131  
 D16S3107  
 D16S496  
 D16S3067  
 rs1004330  
 D16S3106  
 D16S3018  
 rs1390902  
 rs254770  
 D16S518  
 tel

HCHOLA4  
 locus :  
 8.39 Mb

59y; 6.40 mmol/l

54y; 7.25 mmol/l

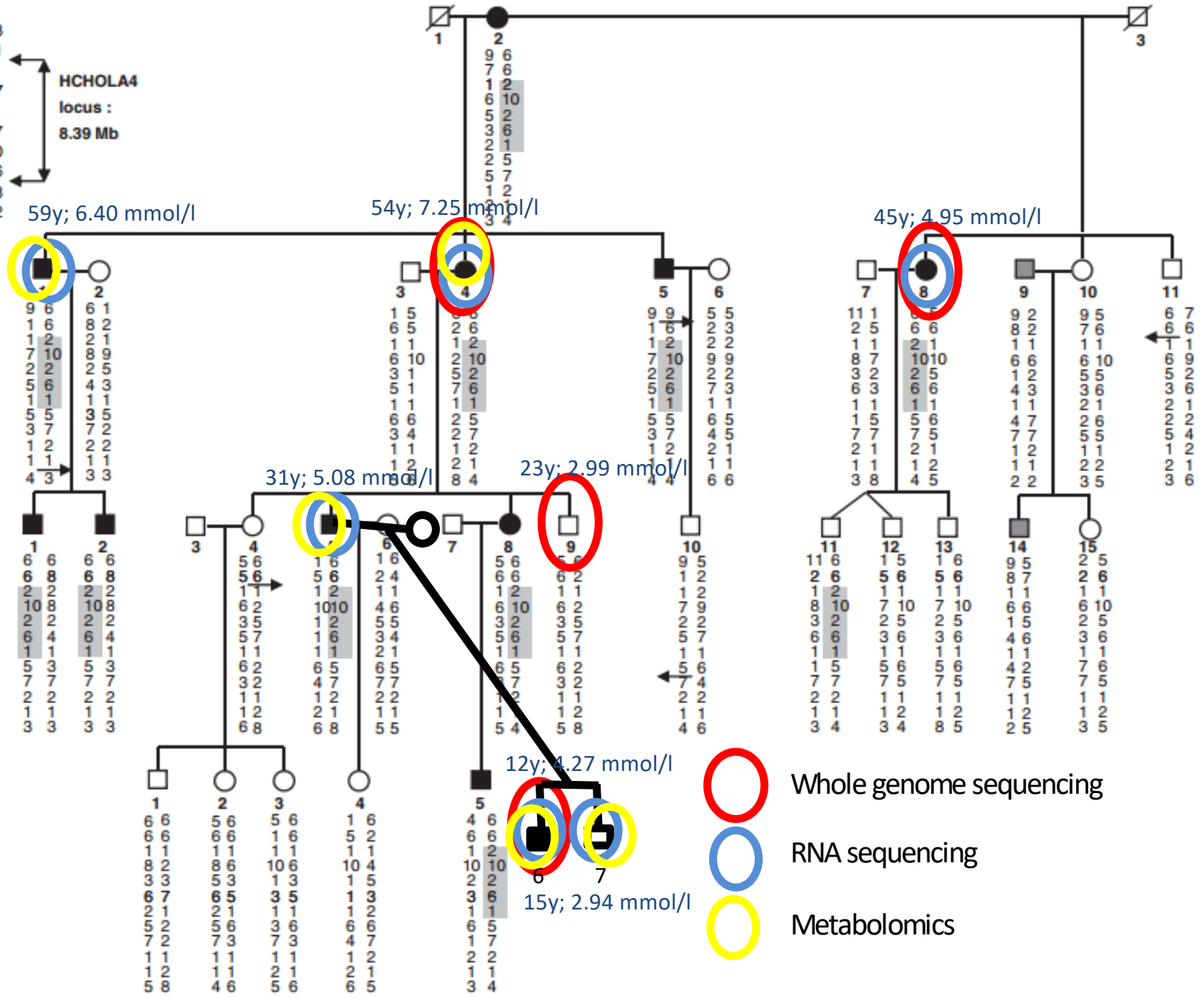
45y; 4.95 mmol/l

31y; 5.08 mmol/l

23y; 2.99 mmol/l

12y; 4.27 mmol/l

15y; 2.94 mmol/l



- Whole genome sequencing
- RNA sequencing
- Metabolomics

# Genome wide associations and lipid levels

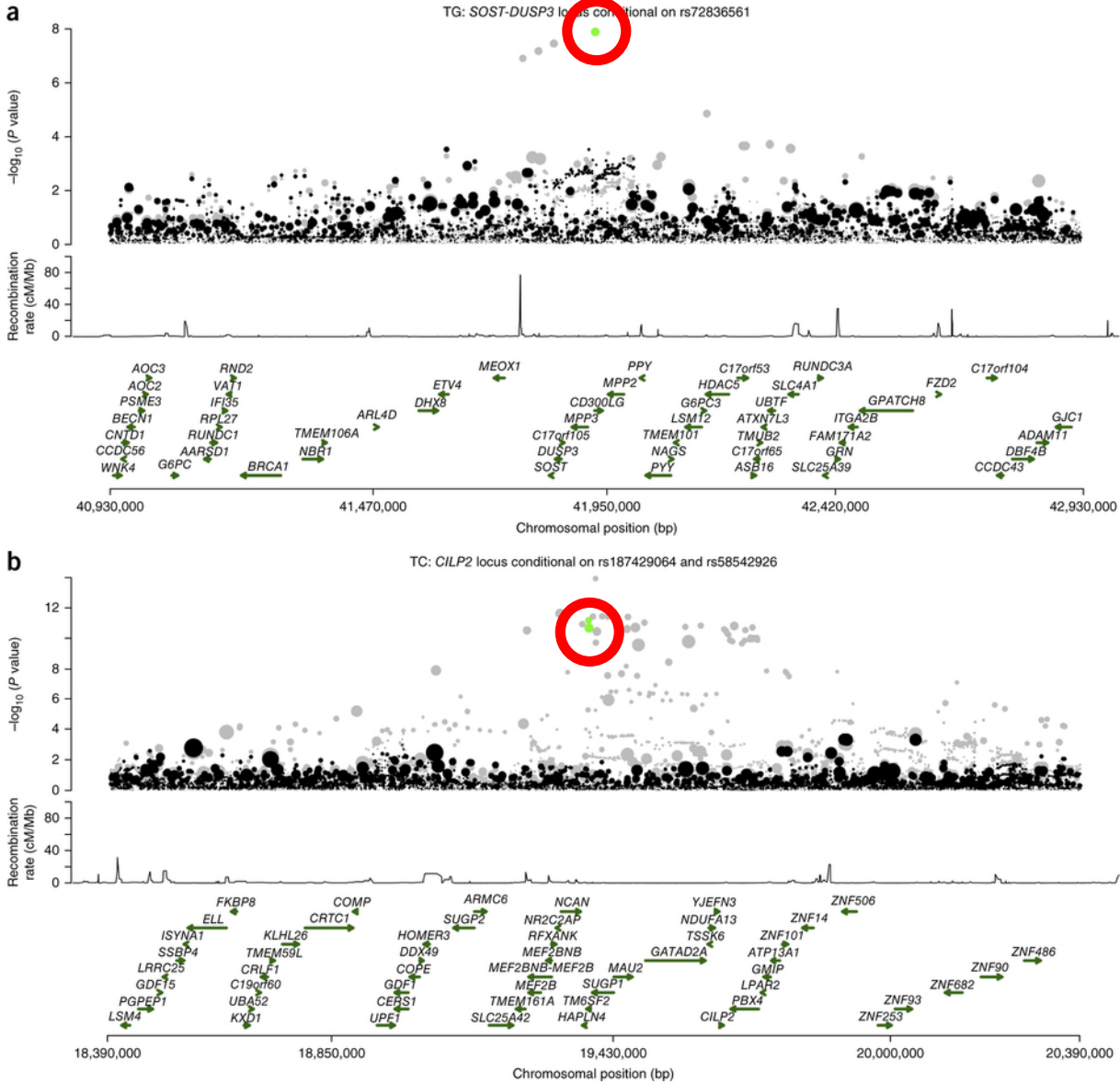
The impact of low-frequency and rare variants on lipid levels

**Table 1: Newly identified loci associated with HDL-C, LDL-C, TC and/or TG concentrations**

| Locus          | Chr. | Position B37 | rsID        | Annotation | Primary associated trait | Secondary associated trait | Alleles (effect/other) | EAF  | Meta-analysis     |                       |        |
|----------------|------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------|
|                |      |              |             |            |                          |                            |                        |      | Effect (SE)       | P                     | n      |
| <i>PROX1</i>   | 1    | 214,161,820  | rs340839    | 5' UTR     | TG                       |                            | A/G                    | 0.47 | 0.039<br>(0.006)  | $4.4 \times 10^{-10}$ | 54,836 |
| <i>CEP68</i>   | 2    | 65,284,623   | rs2540948   | Intronic   | TG                       |                            | C/T                    | 0.35 | -0.036<br>(0.006) | $6.6 \times 10^{-9}$  | 59,939 |
| <i>PRKAG3</i>  | 2    | 219,699,999  | rs78058190  | Intergenic | HDL-C                    |                            | A/G                    | 0.05 | -0.141<br>(0.020) | $5.7 \times 10^{-12}$ | 52,934 |
| <i>ADAMTS3</i> | 4    | 73,696,709   | rs117087731 | Intergenic | TC                       |                            | T/A                    | 0.01 | 0.308<br>(0.051)  | $2.3 \times 10^{-9}$  | 23,641 |
| <i>MTHFD2L</i> | 4    | 75,084,732   | rs182616603 | Intronic   | TC                       |                            | T/C                    | 0.01 | 0.374<br>(0.044)  | $1.8 \times 10^{-17}$ | 42,905 |
| <i>MTHFD2L</i> | 4    | 75,084,732   | rs182616603 | Intronic   |                          | LDL-C                      | T/C                    | 0.01 | 0.314<br>(0.045)  | $2.1 \times 10^{-12}$ | 38,420 |
| <i>GPR85</i>   | 7    | 112,722,196  | rs2255811   | 3' UTR     | TG                       |                            | G/A                    | 0.25 | 0.041<br>(0.007)  | $2.3 \times 10^{-8}$  | 59,962 |
| <i>RMI2</i>    | 16   | 11,454,650   | rs7188861   | Intergenic | HDL-C                    |                            | A/C                    | 0.20 | 0.044<br>(0.008)  | $6.9 \times 10^{-9}$  | 60,578 |
| <i>TM4SF5</i>  | 17   | 4,667,984    | rs193042029 | Intergenic | TG                       |                            | G/T                    | 0.01 | -0.170<br>(0.029) | $8.1 \times 10^{-9}$  | 50,105 |
| <i>GATA6</i>   | 18   | 19,907,770   | rs79588679  | Intergenic | LDL-C                    |                            | T/C                    | 0.17 | -0.049<br>(0.009) | $3.6 \times 10^{-8}$  | 53,108 |
| <i>ZNF274</i>  | 19   | 58,681,861   | rs117492019 | Intergenic | LDL-C                    |                            | T/G                    | 0.19 | -0.047<br>(0.008) | $1.2 \times 10^{-8}$  | 55,371 |
| <i>ZNF274</i>  | 19   | 58,671,267   | rs12983728  | Intergenic |                          | TC                         | A/G                    | 0.16 | -0.046<br>(0.008) | $4.9 \times 10^{-8}$  | 58,904 |



# Which genes or regulatory elements?



**Figure 2: Regional association plots of the conditional analysis in loci where the new candidate functional SNPs explain the genome-wide association.**

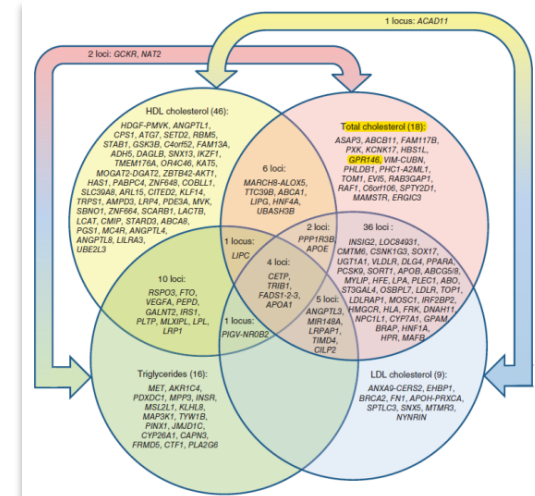
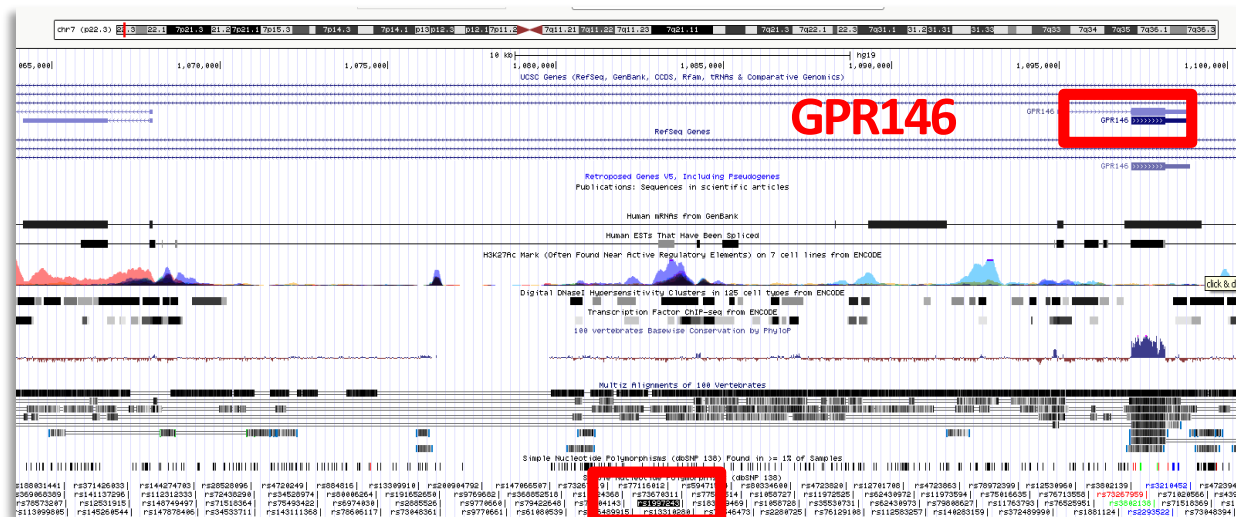
## ARTICLES

nature  
genetics

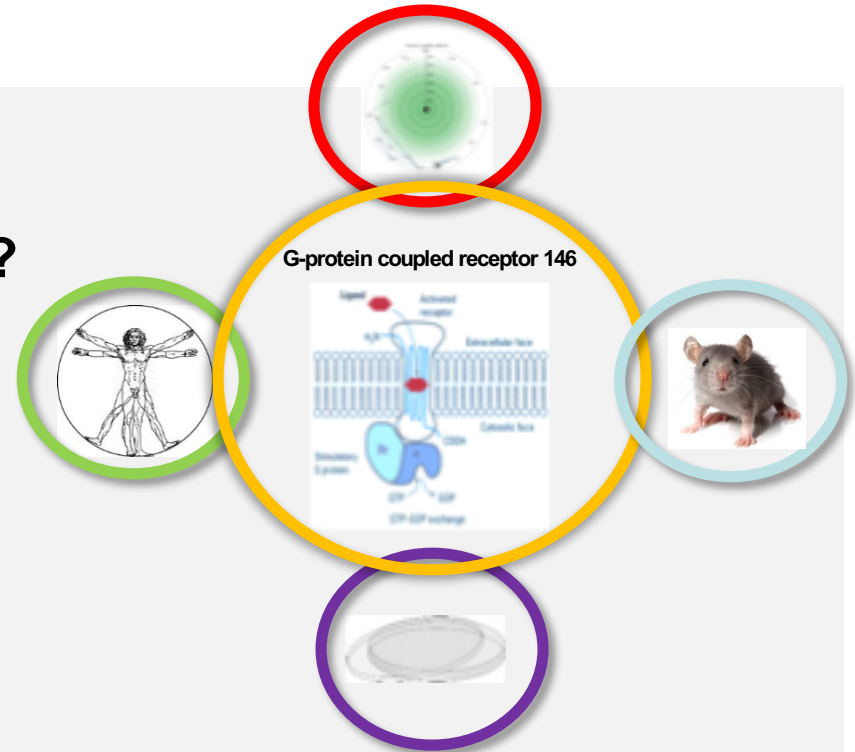
### Discovery and refinement of loci associated with lipid levels

Global Lipids Genetics Consortium\*

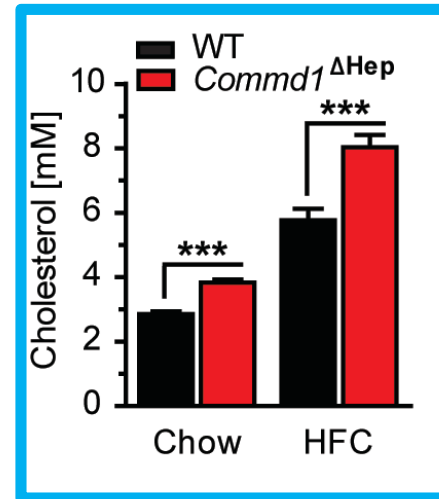
Levels of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, triglycerides and total cholesterol are heritable, modifiable risk factors for coronary artery disease. To identify new loci and refine known loci influencing these lipids, we examined 188,577 individuals using genome-wide and custom genotyping arrays. We identify and annotate 157 loci associated with lipid levels at  $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ , including 62 loci not previously associated with lipid levels in humans. Using dense genotyping in individuals of European, East Asian, South Asian and African ancestry, we narrow association signals in 12 loci. We find that loci associated with blood lipid levels are often associated with cardiovascular and metabolic traits, including coronary artery disease, type 2 diabetes, blood pressure, waist-hip ratio and body mass index. Our results demonstrate the value of using genetic data from individuals of diverse ancestry and provide insights into the biological mechanisms regulating blood lipids to guide future genetic, biological and therapeutic research.



- What`s the role of Gpr146 in lipid homeostasis in mice and humans?
- Which are the mechanism(s) reducing cholesterol and TG?
- What`s the role of Gpr146 in atherosclerosis development?
- What`s the role of Gpr146 in glucose homeostasis ?
- Does genetic variation in *GPR146* associate with CVD endpoints?

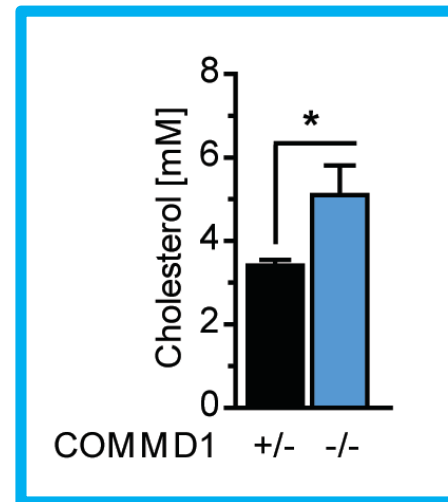


# Commd1 deficiency - increased cholesterol

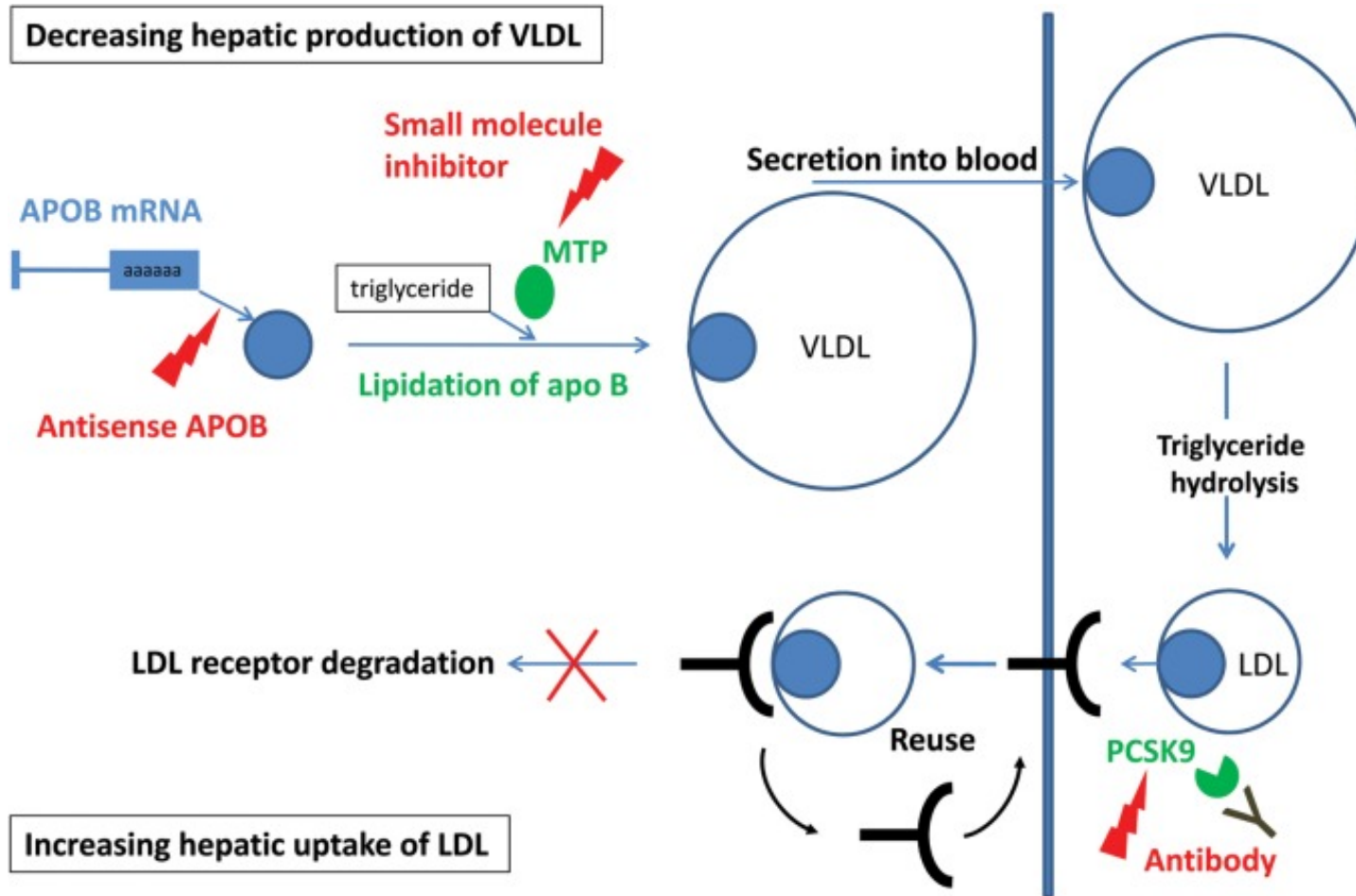


*Beagleton dogs (Bedlington x Beagle);*

*Received from R.Favier*



# Treating FH



# TG and HDL modulating drugs

10 years of failure

**FIELD**  
No reduction of CAD  
- *Lancet* 2005 -

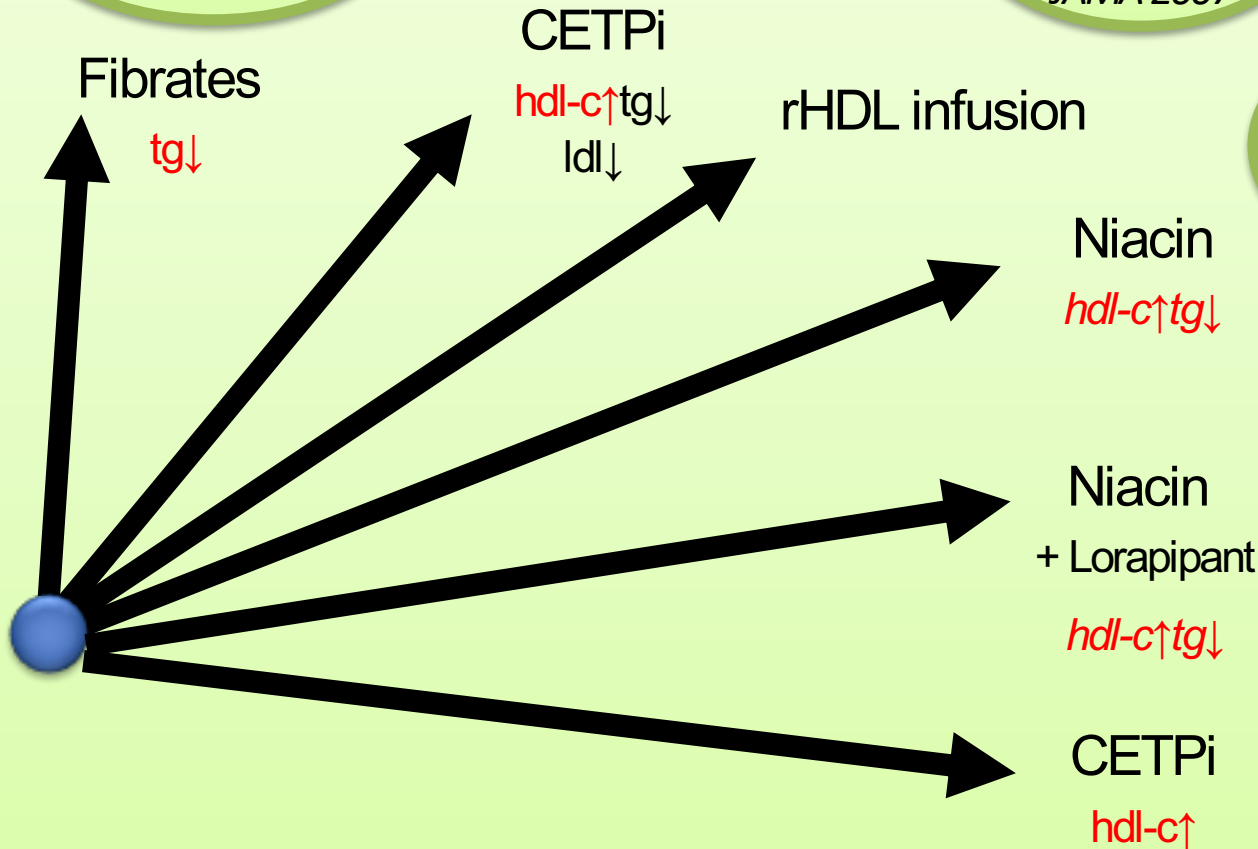
**ILLUMINATE**  
Increased mortality  
- *NEJM*, 2007 -

**ERASE**  
No effect on coronary atherosclerosis vs. placebo  
- *JAMA* 2007 -

**HATS, ARBITER**  
Good results in small studies  
- *Am J Cardiol.* 2009 -

**AIM-HIGH/HPS2-THRIVE**  
No effect vs. placebo  
Serious side effects  
*NEJM*, 2011  
*ACC*, Febr 2013

**DALCETRAPIB stop**  
Futility  
2012



# Atherogenesis

- Damage to the vascular endothelium wall
- Accumulation of monocytes-macrophages and LDLs
- Formation of fatty streak & plaque
- Plaque can burst and disrupt the artery, or remain as it is and still cause dysfunctions leading to cardiovascular disease

