



CONVEGNO

MICROBIOTA:

**Updates tra patologie
e terapia nutrizionale**

Microbiota e steatosi epatica non alcolica: nuove evidenze

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UMG
Dubium sapientae initium

1980:

WE ARE HERE

PubMed

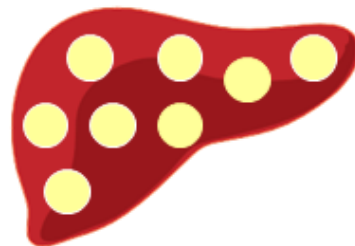
*Jürgen Ludwig coined the term:
“non-alcoholic steatohepatitis”*

Items: 18767

PAST

FUTURE

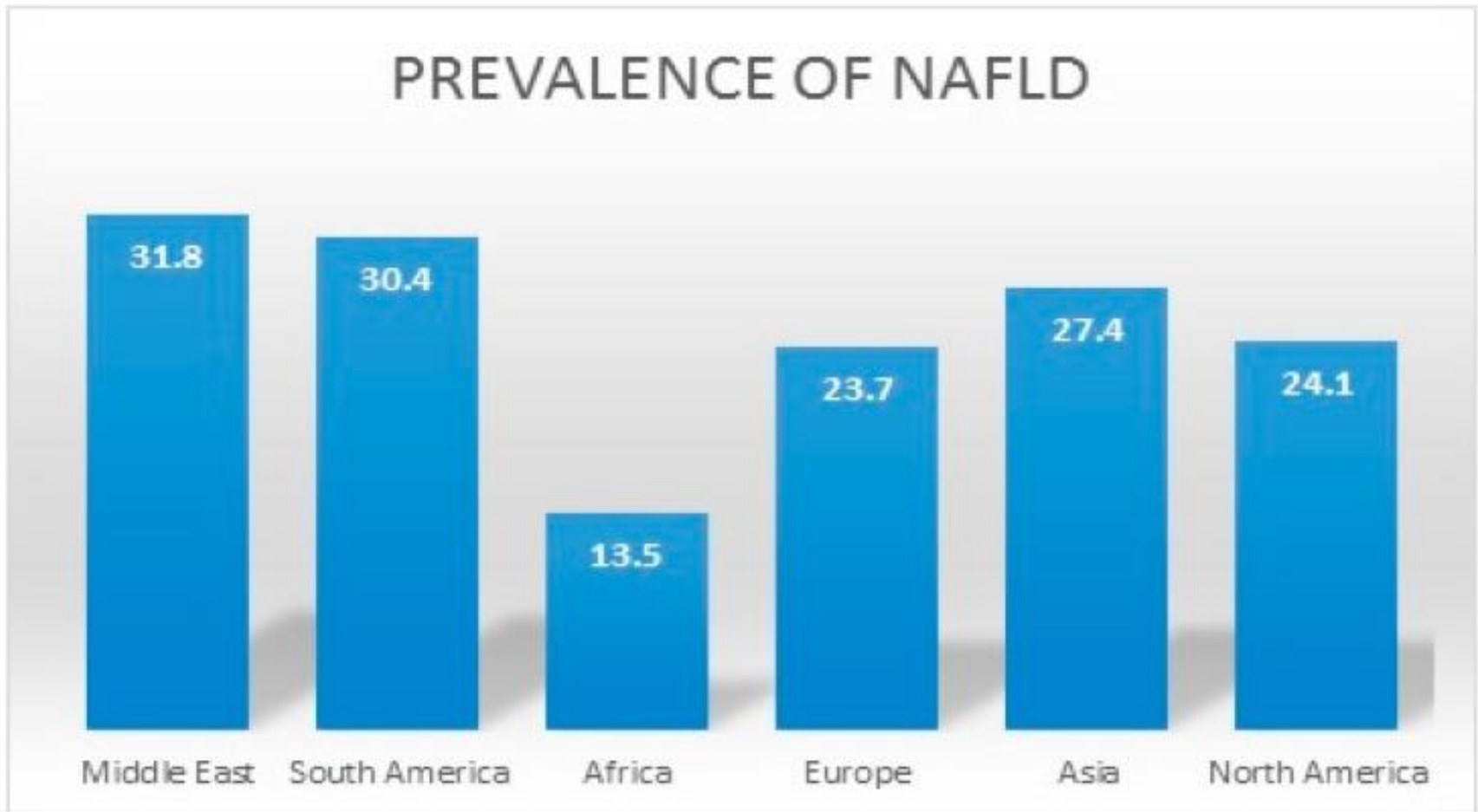
non-alcoholic fatty liver disease





EPIDEMIOLOGY

PREVALENCE OF NAFLD





EPIDEMIOLOGY

European population: 741.400.000

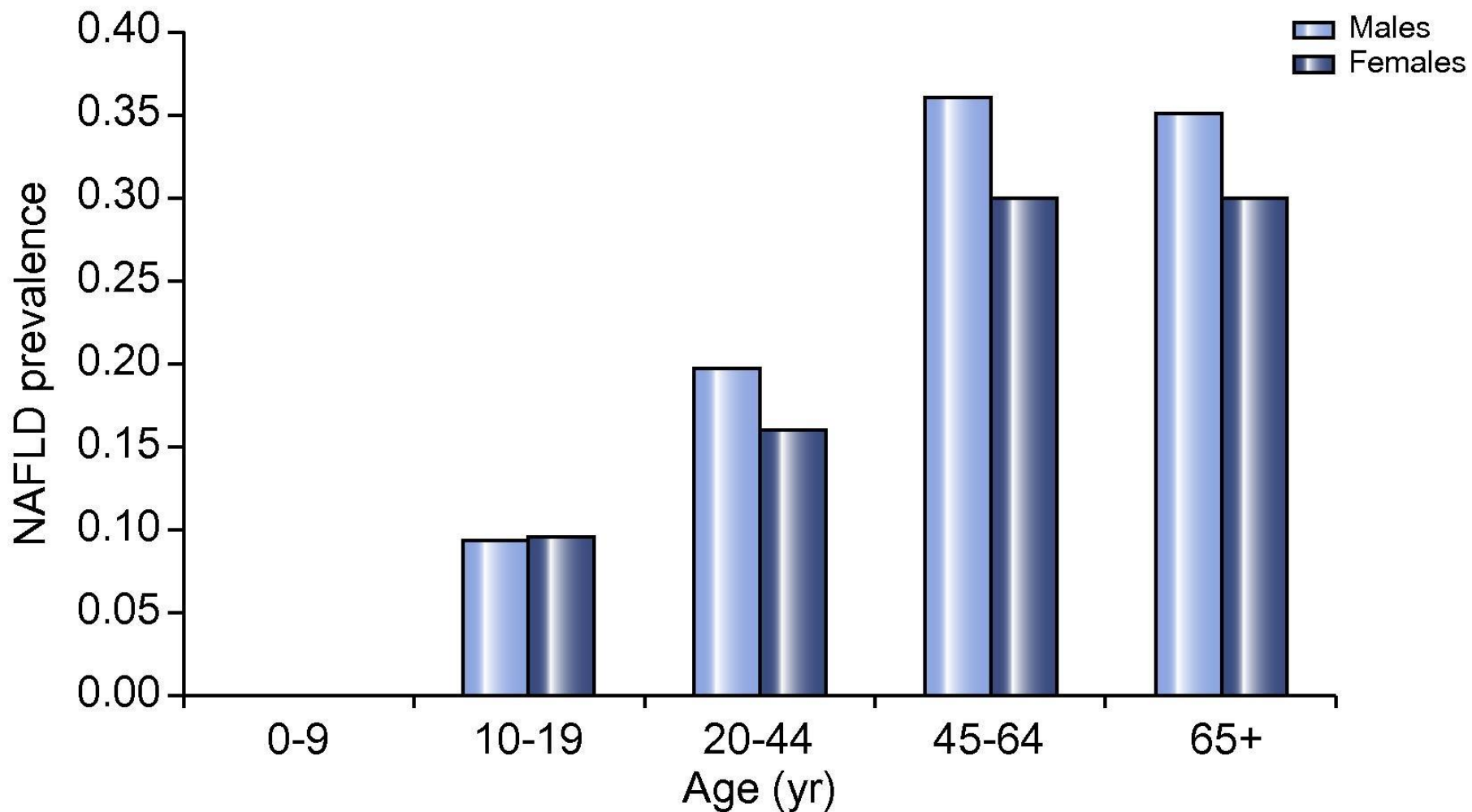
- prevalence: 33% (245 million)
- prevalence in obese adult: 50%
- prevalence in obese children: 40%
- prevalence in DM pts: 50%
- prevalence in MS pts: 80%



Yanoussi et al. Hepatology; 2016
Bellentani et al. Liver Int; 2017



EPIDEMIOLOGY





NAFLD AND HCC

HCC is the 3^o leading cause of cancer death worldwide, and fastest cause of cancer death in USA

The high risk to HCC development, is related to global increase of diabetes and obesity

5-25% pts with NASH will get HCC (retrospective data)

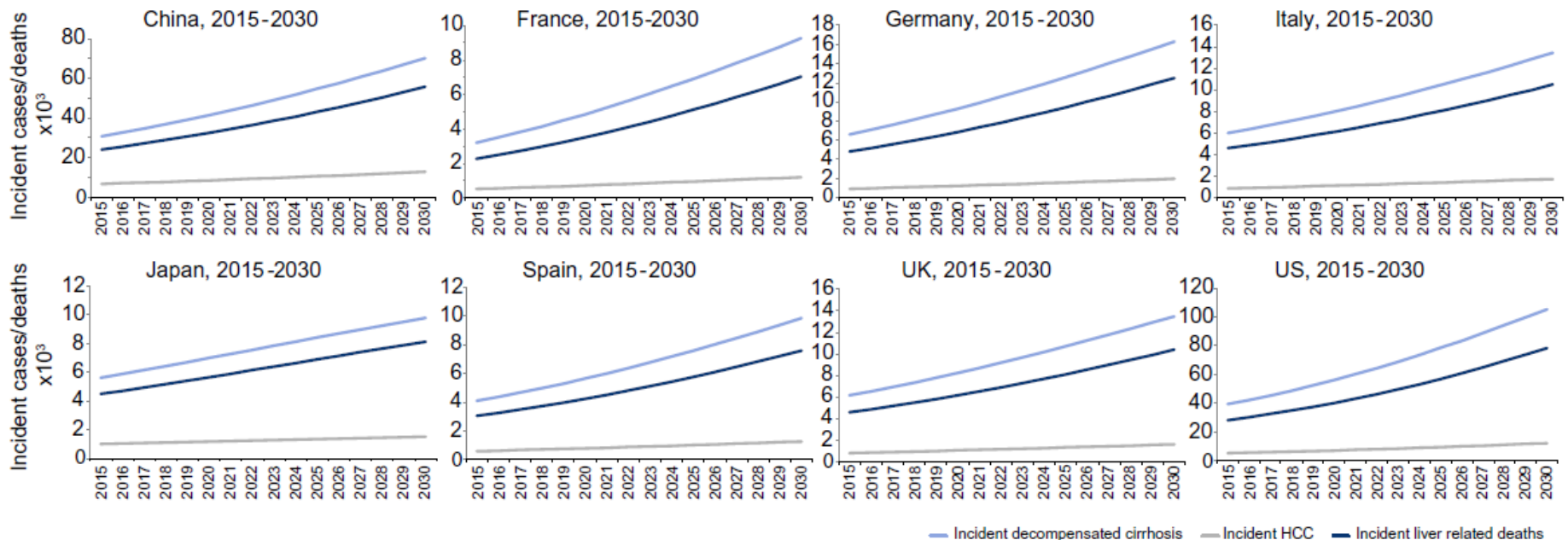
Povsic et al. Adv Ther; 2019





GLOBAL TREND

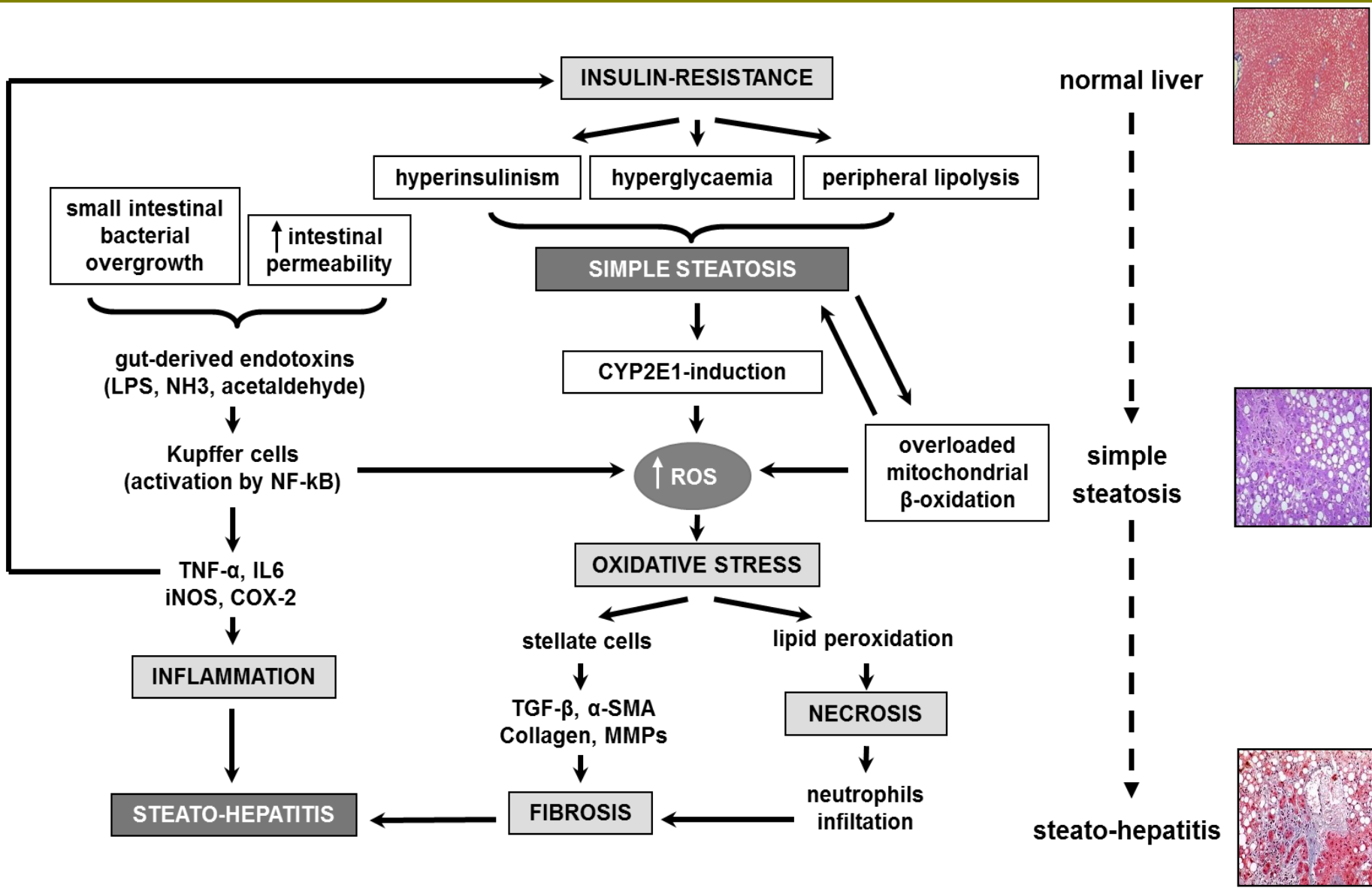
Incident decompensated cirrhosis, HCC and liver-related deaths in NAFLD population (2015–2030)

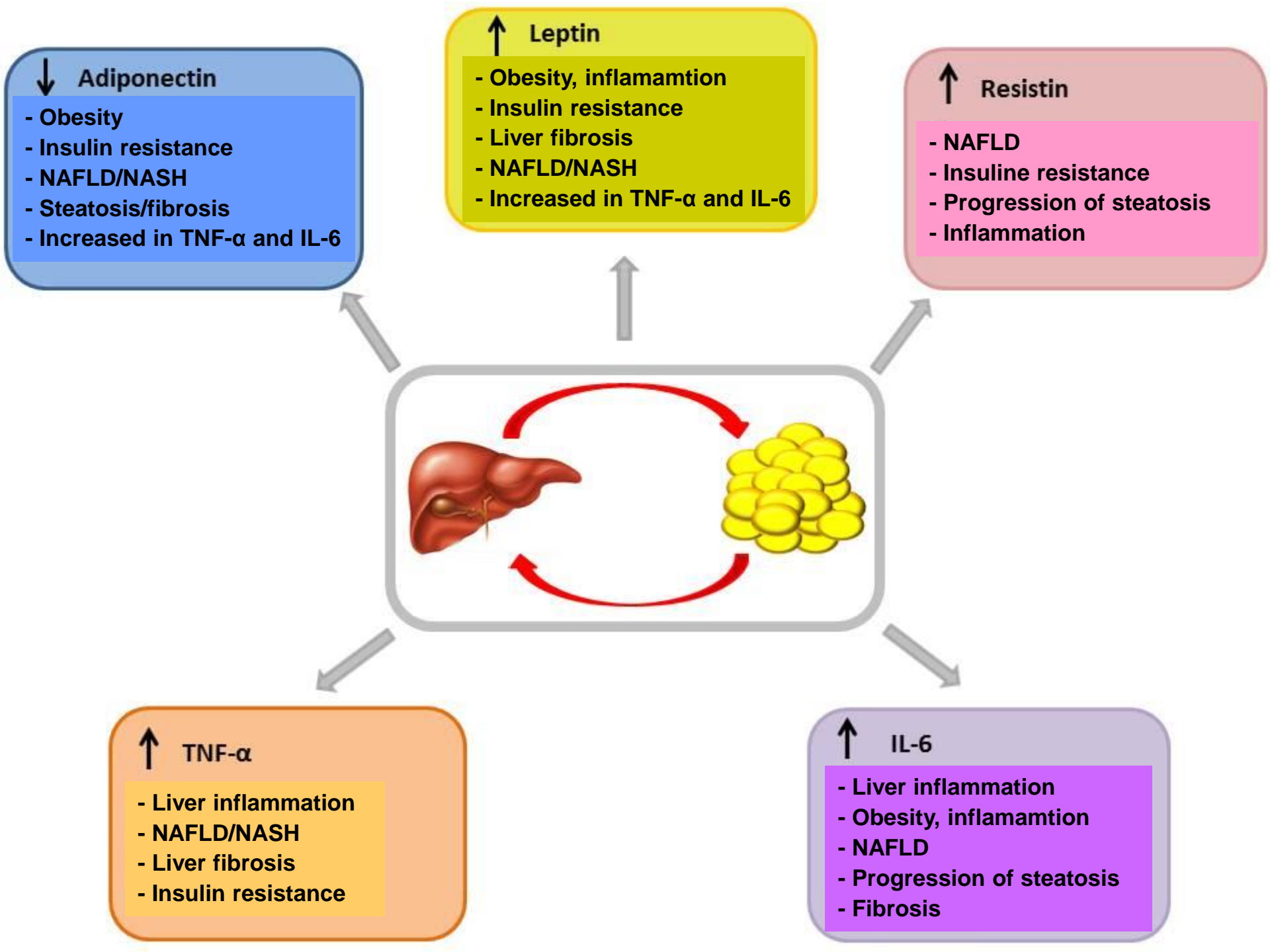


Estes *et al.* J Hepatol; 2018



PATHOGENESIS





↓ **Adiponectin**

- Obesity
- Insulin resistance
- NAFLD/NASH
- Steatosis/fibrosis
- Increased in TNF-α and IL-6

↑ **Leptin**

- Obesity, inflammation
- Insulin resistance
- Liver fibrosis
- NAFLD/NASH
- Increased in TNF-α and IL-6

↑ **Resistin**

- NAFLD
- Insulin resistance
- Progression of steatosis
- Inflammation

↑ **TNF-α**

- Liver inflammation
- NAFLD/NASH
- Liver fibrosis
- Insulin resistance

↑ **IL-6**

- Liver inflammation
- Obesity, inflammation
- NAFLD
- Progression of steatosis
- Fibrosis



RISK FACTORS FOR NASH PROGRESSION

- **age ≥ 50 years**
- **diet (high fat, carbohydrate, fructose)**
- **BMI $\geq 28/\text{Kg}/\text{m}^2$**
- **metabolic syndrome**
- **necro-inflammatory activity (biopsy)**
- **ALT $\geq 2\text{N}$**
- **TG ≥ 150 mg/dl**
- **HOMA-IR ≥ 2.5**
- **genetic polymorphism**

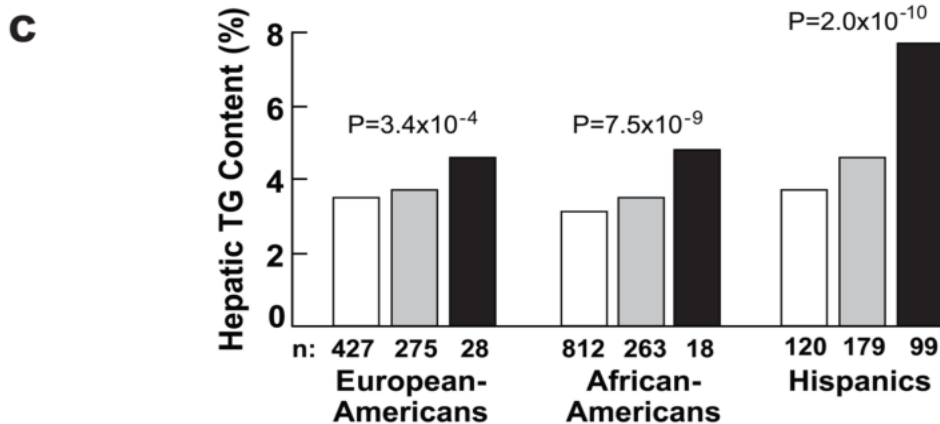
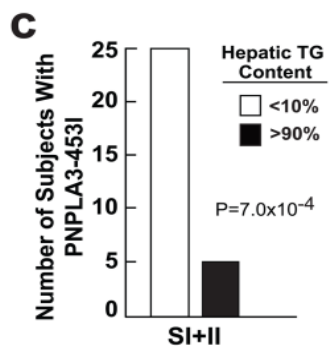
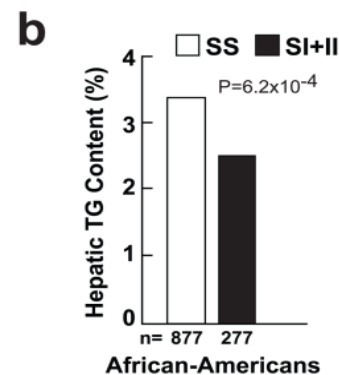
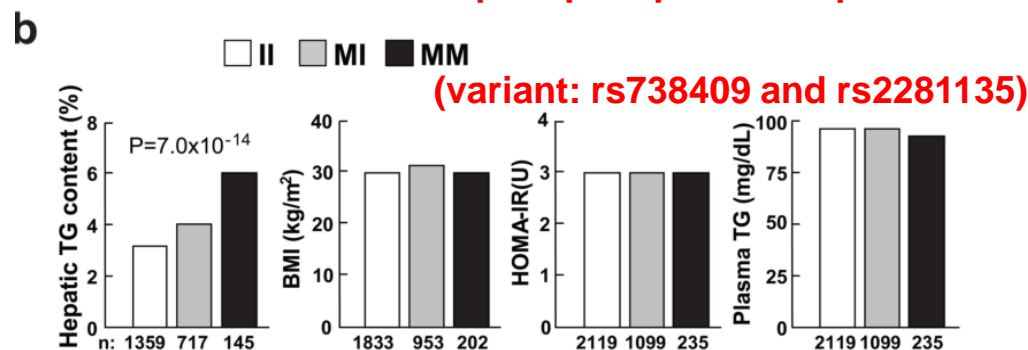
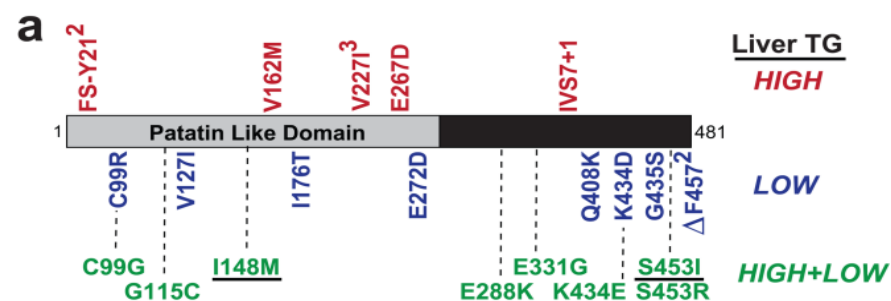
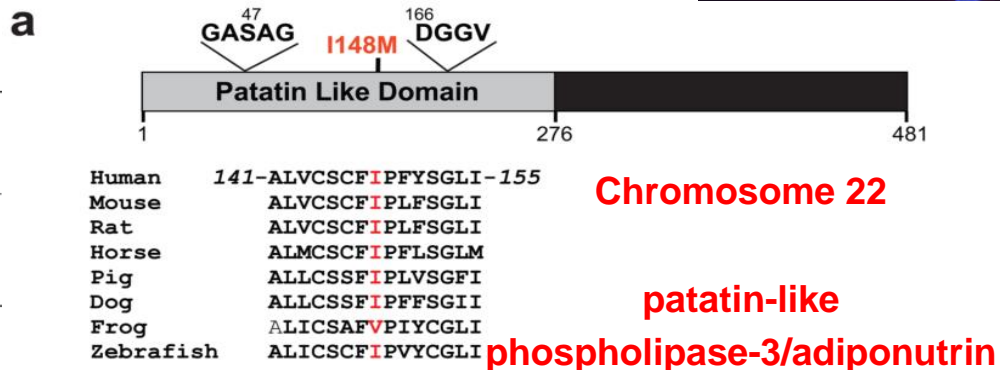
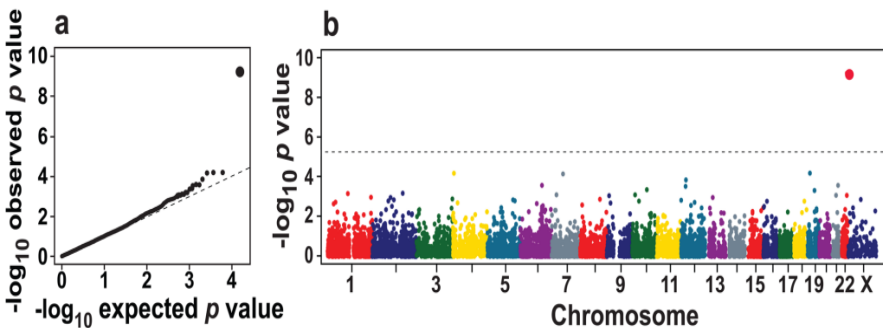
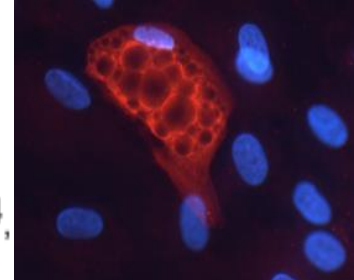


Yanoussi et al. *Hepatology*; 2016
Bellentani et al. *Liver Int*; 2017

Genetic variation in *PNPLA3* confers susceptibility to nonalcoholic fatty liver disease

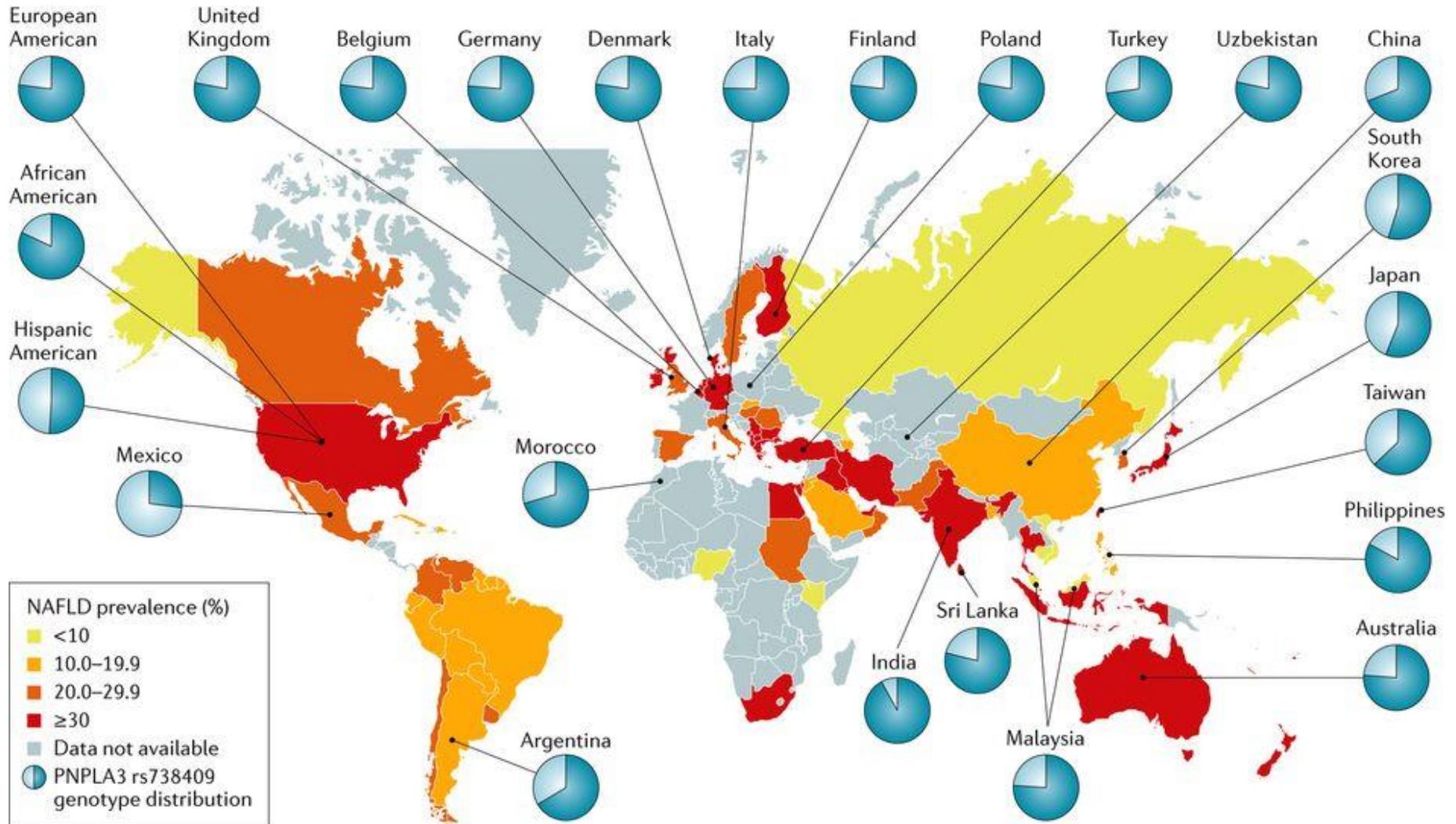
Nat Genet; 2008

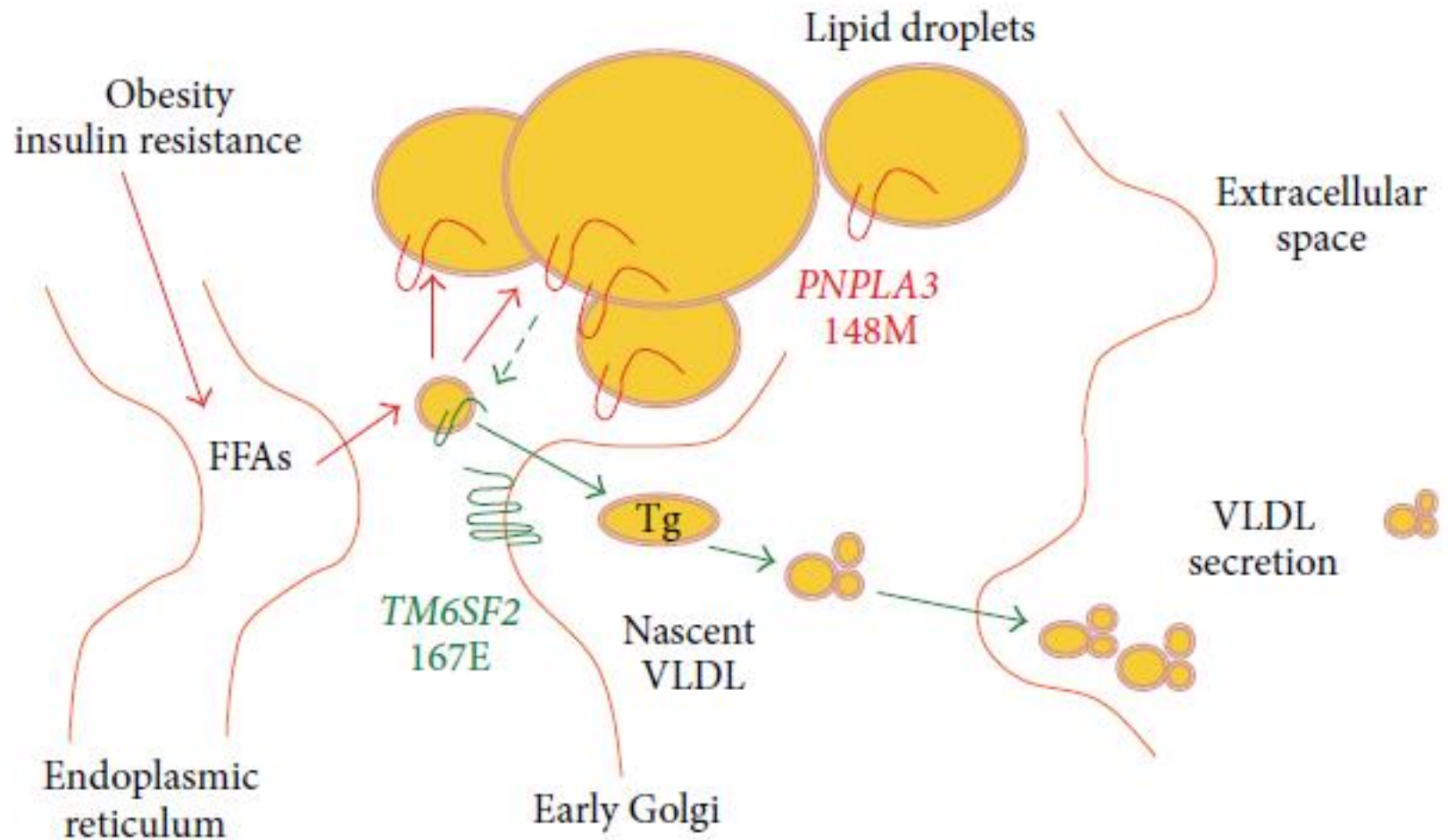
Stefano Romeo^{1,*}, Julia Kozlitina^{2,3,*}, Chao Xing^{1,2}, Alexander Pertsemlidis¹, David Cox⁴, Len A. Pennacchio⁵, Eric Boerwinkle⁶, Jonathan C. Cohen¹, and Helen H. Hobbs^{1,7}





PNPLA3 DISTRIBUTION





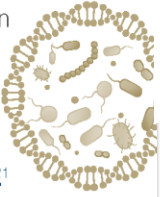
***PNPLA3* I148M variant C→G, is attached on the surface of lipid droplets reducing TG breakdown, with subsequent lipid retention in the hepatocyte and increased risk of liver steatosis, hepatic damage and fibrosis**

Homo bactericus

Brian Henderson (1996)

There are more than **3 MILLION MICROBIAL GENES** in our gut microbiota

150 TIMES more genes than in the **HUMAN GENOME!**



EFFECT OF ANTIBIOTICS

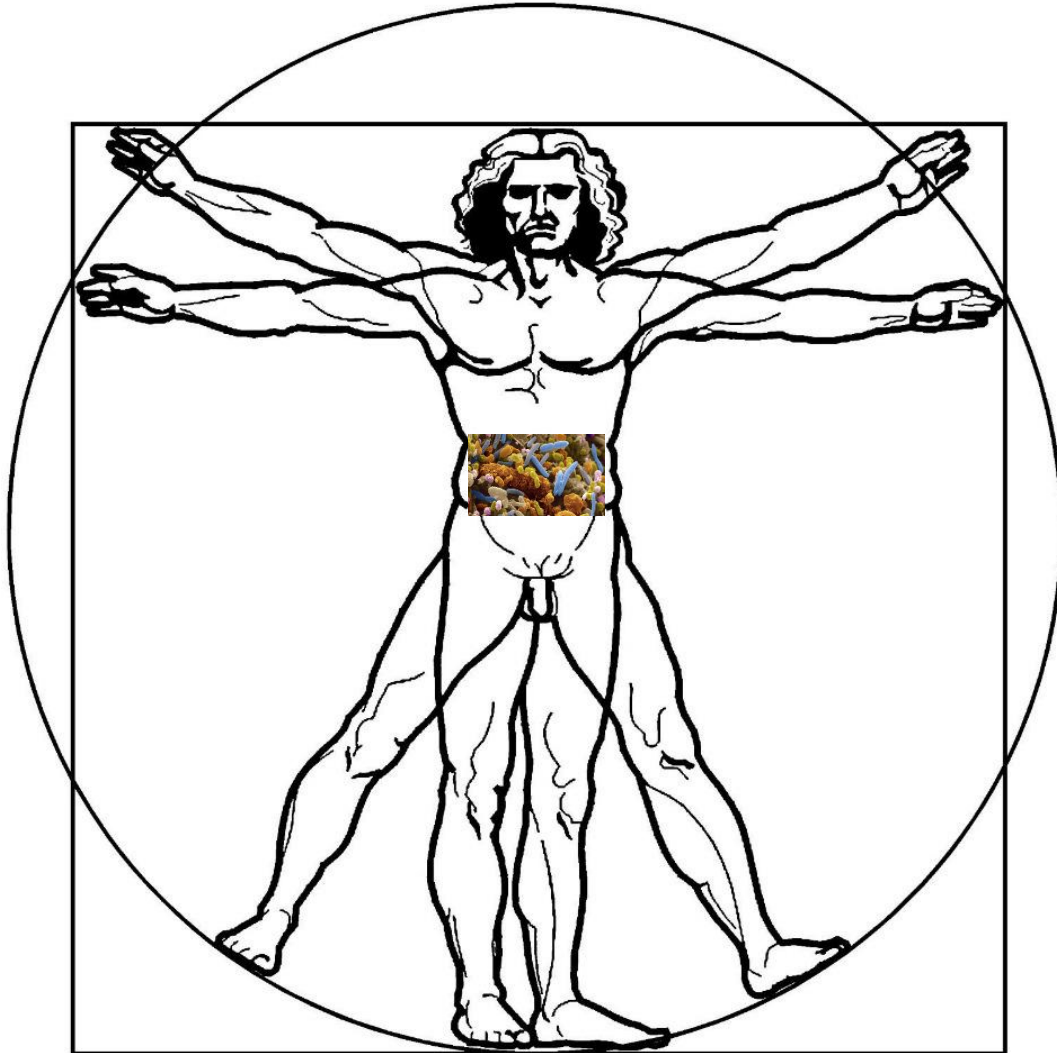
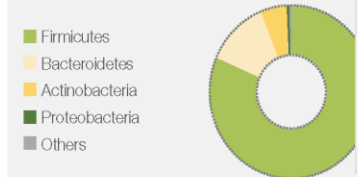
The **GUT MICROBIOTA** is the name for the microbe population living in the intestine. It is estimated to contain at least 1800 genera and 15,000-36,000 species, most of which have never been successfully cultured. The gut microbiota has co-evolved with its host over millennia and provides benefits to its host including digestion, nutrient production, detoxification and immunity. One of the ways pathogens and commensals interact with their host is via the expression of **microbe-associated molecular patterns (MAMPs)** which diffuse through the mucus layer and stimulate pattern-recognition receptors (PRRs) of dendritic cells, M cells and intestinal epithelial cells (IECs). In normal healthy individuals the gut microbiome is diverse and with an abundance of beneficial bacteria which promotes protective intestinal immune responses.

INTESTINAL EPITHELIAL CELLS (IECs) act as a physical barrier that prevents commensals from entering the lamina propria and integration of microbial signals. Tight junctions form a continuous intercellular barrier between IECs and regulate selective movement of solutes across the epithelium.

GOBLET CELLS secrete mucin (Muc2). They respond to the gut microbiome by increasing mucin production, increasing Muc2 sulfate incorporation (increase resistance to enzymatic degradation of mucin) and inhibit pathogen adherence.

- Mucins are secreted and devolve outer layer commensal proteins.
- GUT MACROPHAGES produce inflammatory response.
- DENDRITIC CELLS in the gut maintain anti-inflammatory response.
- M cells transport antigens.
- INTRAEPITHELIAL LYMPHOCYTES respond to changes in MAMP concentrations through decreased secretion of antimicrobial proteins.
- T CELLS decrease secretion of protective cytokines and increase secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines.
- DENDRITIC CELLS protect against infection while maintaining immune tolerance by producing high levels of anti-inflammatory cytokines, e.g. IL-10.
- MICROFOLD CELLS (M cells) transport pathogenic bacteria and bacterial antigens to immune cells which promotes an inflammatory immune response.

OVERVIEW OF RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF KEY PHYLUMS



The composition of **GUT MICROBIOTA IS UNIQUE** to each individual, just like our **FINGERPRINTS!**



Results in IT This is

Shifts in the the intestinal microbiota induce defects in mucin production and alterations in MAMP concentrations.

as, e.g. ans,

A defective **MUCUS LAYER** can lead to increased MAMP diffusion, commensal contact with IECs and commensal translocation to underlying lamina propria. Hyper-stimulation of IECs and commensal translocation lead to further disruption of intestinal homeostasis and further host pathology and inflammation.

ccus (e.g. E. coli), and species, e.g. Bacteroides, Clostridium, etc.

Each of these responses can be used to cover up the use of the immune system, e.g. gut dysregulation, autism.

GUT MACROPHAGES adopt an inflammatory phenotype and produce IL-6 and TNF-alpha which drives inflammation and cell damage.

INTRAEPITHELIAL LYMPHOCYTES respond to changes in MAMP concentrations through decreased secretion of antimicrobial proteins. This may promote inflammation and increased susceptibility to intestinal diseases.

Intestinal inflammation is

T CELLS decrease secretion of protective cytokines and increase secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines.

On the other hand, intestinal inflammation responses are not necessarily

DENDRITIC CELLS protect against infection while maintaining immune tolerance by producing high levels of anti-inflammatory cytokines, e.g. IL-10.

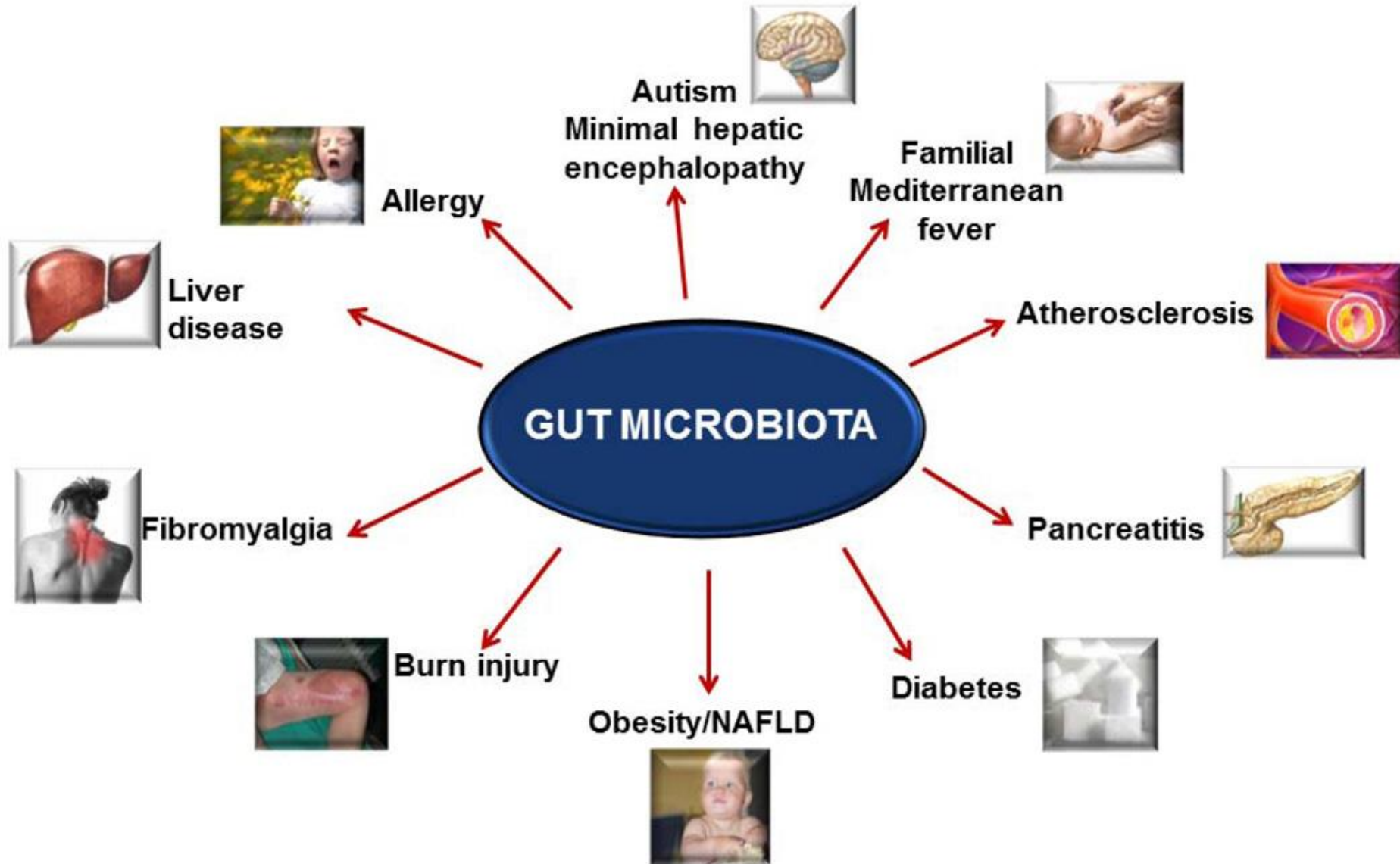
MICROFOLD CELLS (M cells) transport pathogenic bacteria and bacterial antigens to immune cells which promotes an inflammatory immune response.

Individuals who have been treated with antibiotics experience a loss of diversity and may cause permanent changes to phyla distribution. Firmicutes and actinobacteria can be observed immediately after

antibiotic treatment. The microbiota is yet to recover its former diversity and distribution. There is a significant increase in proteobacteria. All proteobacteria are members of the phylum Proteobacteria which is strongly associated with Proteobacteria phylum include escherichia, salmonella, vibrio,

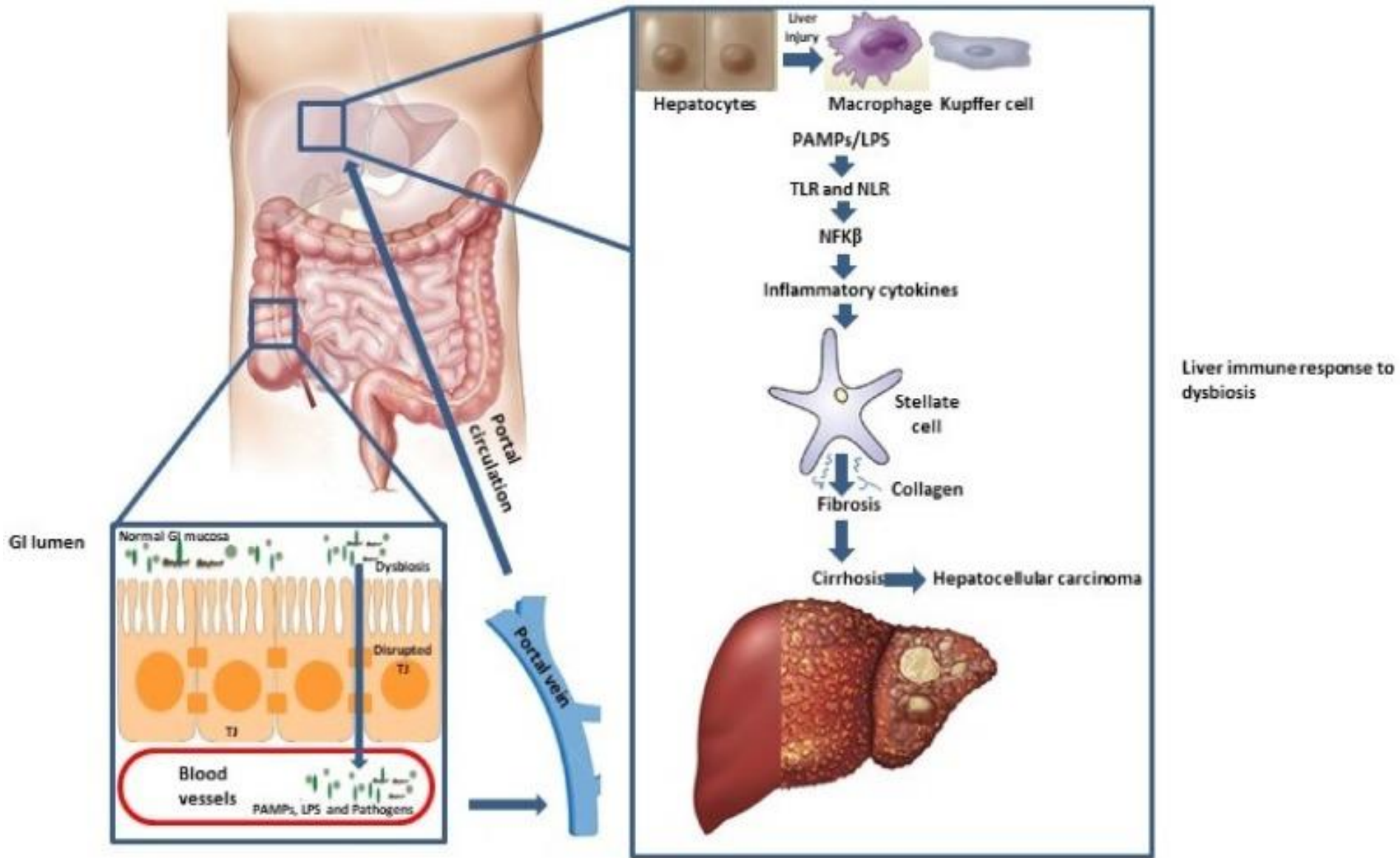


THE GUT MICROBIOTA



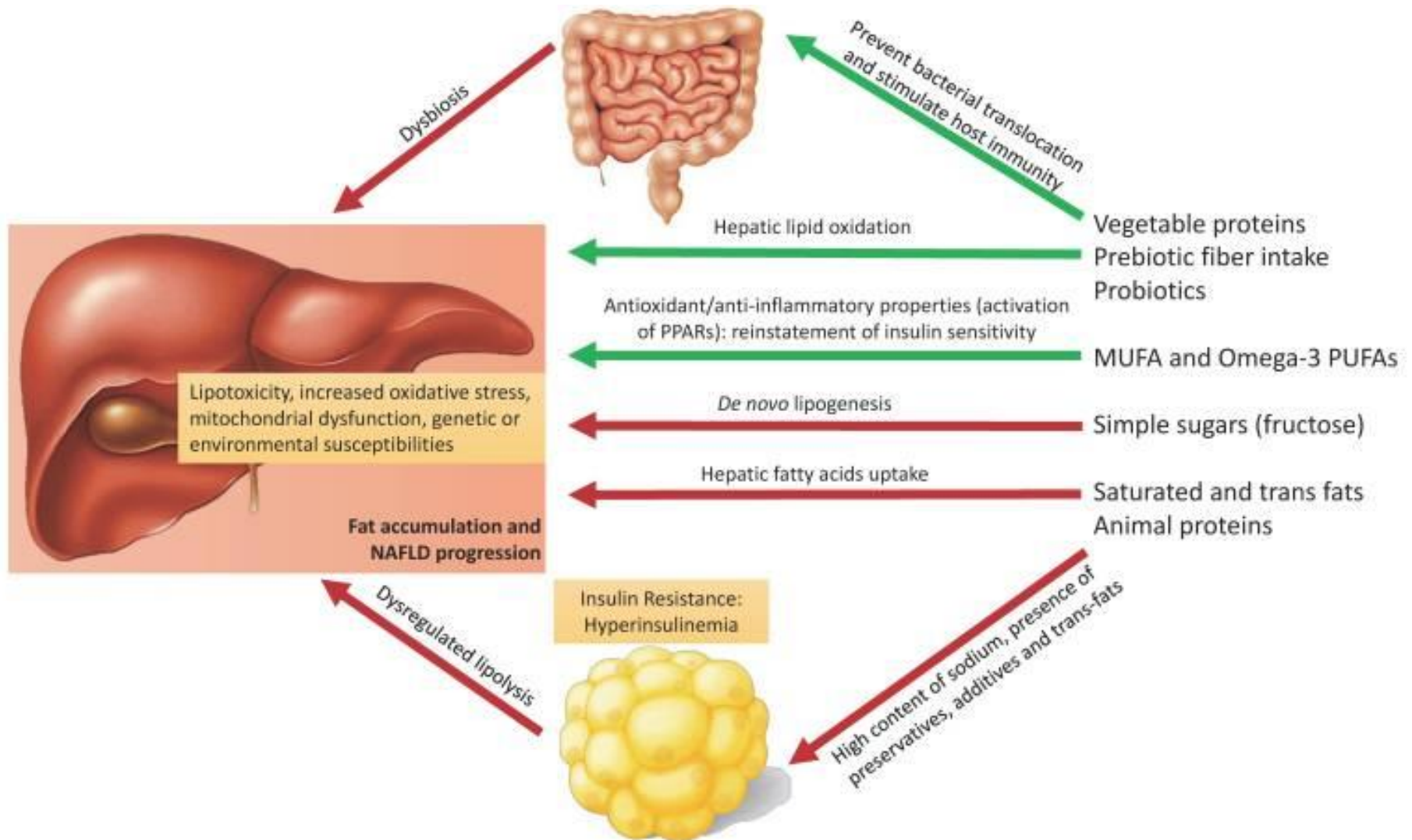


THE GUT-LIVER AXIS

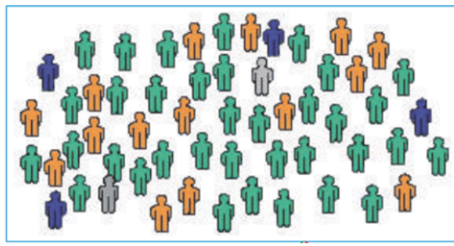




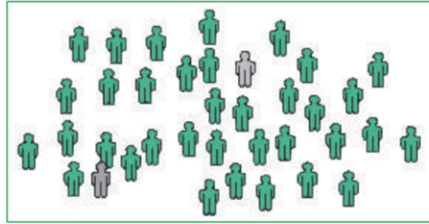
LIVER AND WESTERN DIET



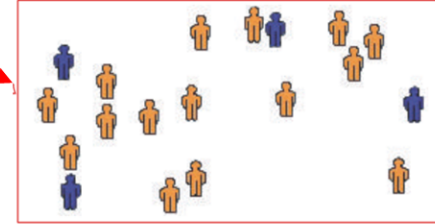
Diet
Lifestyle
Environmental factors







Genetic predisposition

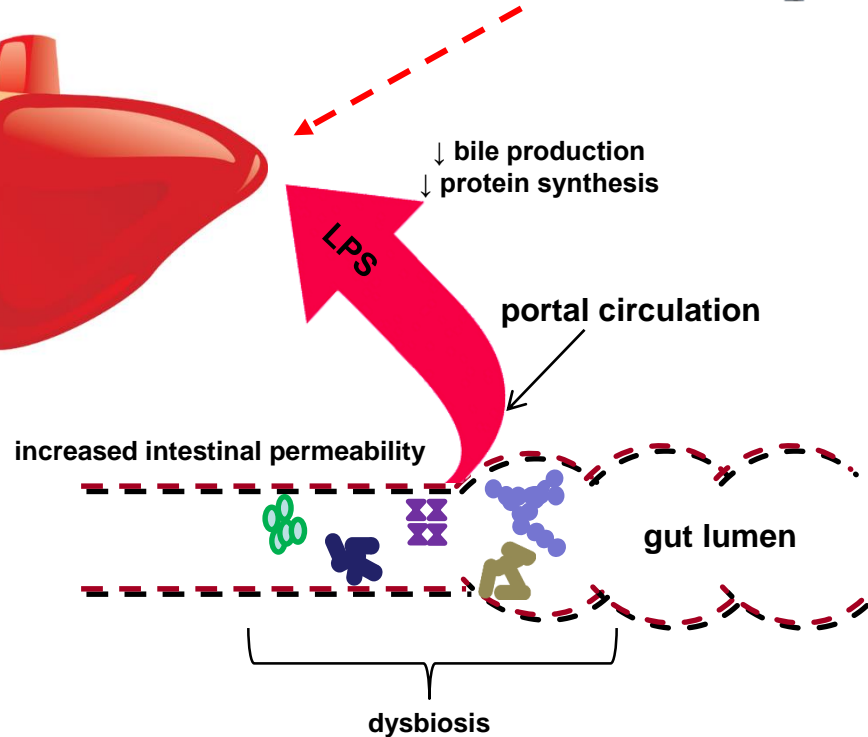
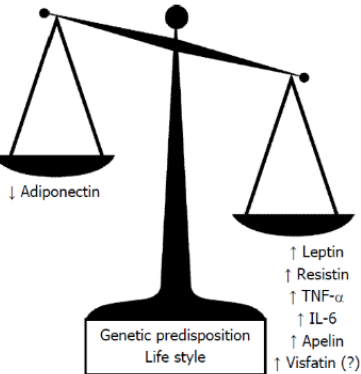
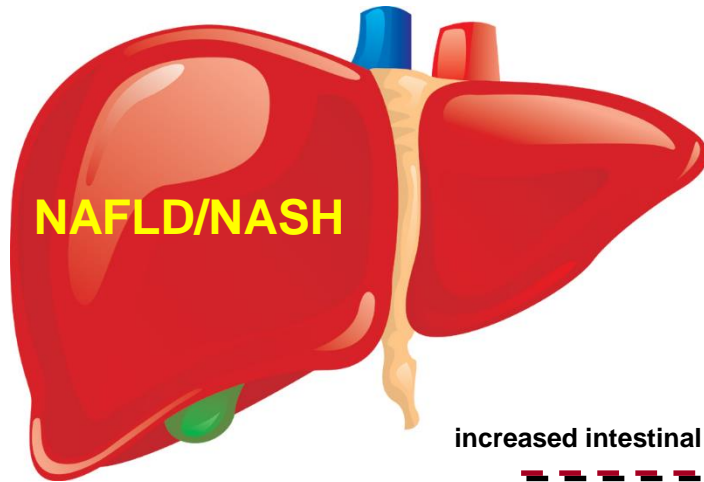


NAFLD population



 No genetic predisposition but IR
 No genetic predisposition and no IR

Genetic predisposition but no IR 
Genetic predisposition and IR 





Time

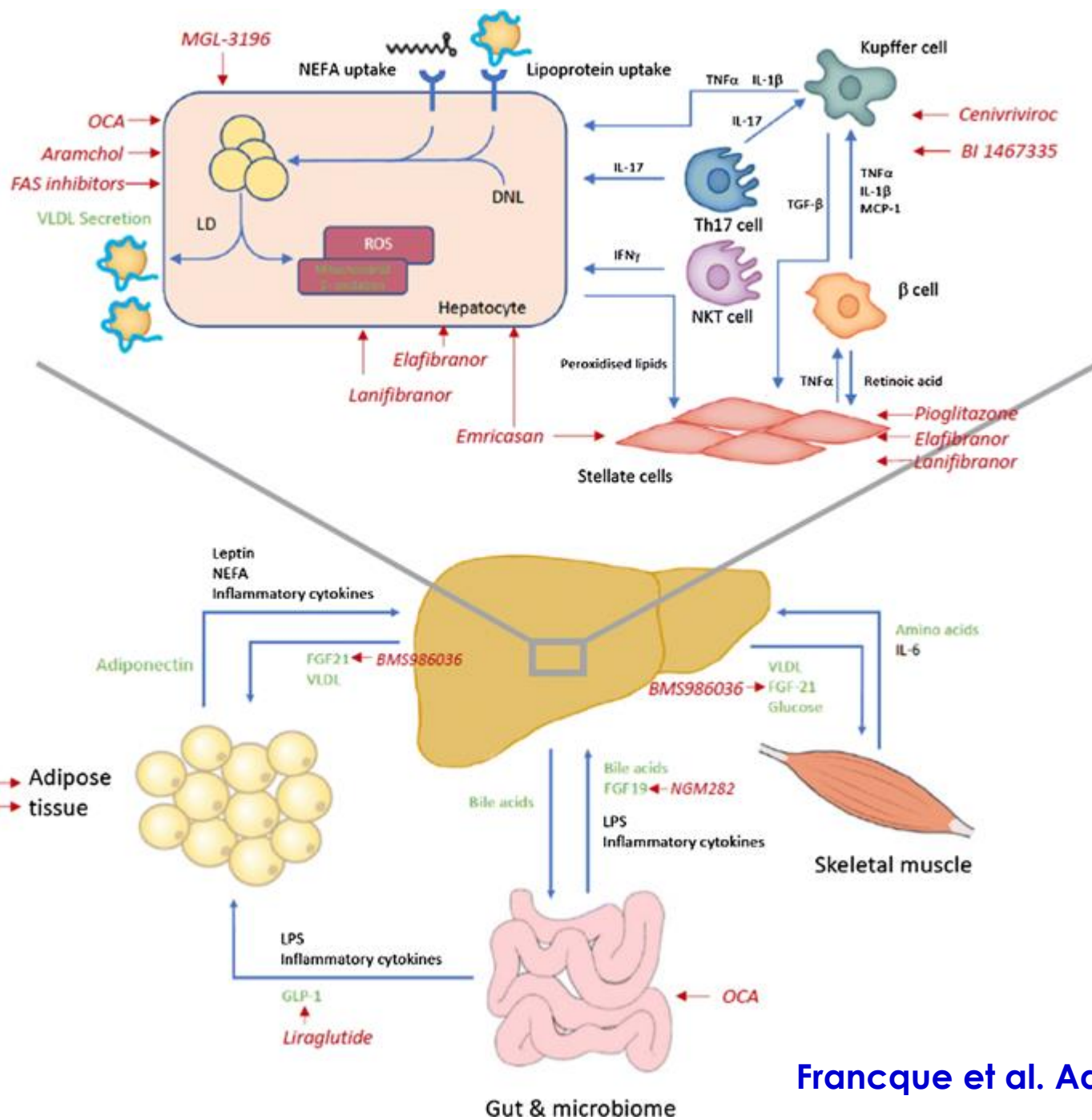
Therapy

Natural history



THERAPEUTIC APPROACH

Area	Suggested interventions
Total energy intake	Calorie restricted diet (600 calories fewer a day than you need)
Weight loss	To lose 0.5-1 kg per week Target weight of a BMI of 22 Lose higher than 10% body weight, lost over 6-12 month
Protein intake	Insufficient evidence to recommend about protein intake in NAFLD
Carbohydrate	Low glycemic index carbohydrate avoid high fructose corn syrup
Omega-3 PUFAs	>0.83 g/d (optimal dose not yet defined)
Physical activity	Increasing physical activity and decreased sedentary time are recommended Aerobic training and resistance exercise are all effective
Metformin	Not recommend as a specific treatment for NASH
Pioglitazone	Recommended for patients with biopsy-proven NASH at 45 mg/day (in patients with and without diabetes)
Vitamin E	800 IU/day in non-diabetic adults with biopsy proven NASH
UDCA	Not recommended
Probiotic	Insufficient evidence to recommend about type, dose, and treatment duration
Natural products	Bioactive food components and natural products have antifibrotic effects (i.e. curcumin, blueberry, silymarin, coffee, vitamins, resveratrol, choline)





BEHAVIOUR THERAPY

Multidisciplinary approach and work-team:

- personalised diet (dietitian)
- personalised physical activity (supervisor)
- motivational support (psychologist)
- long term monitoring program

Dietary recommendations:

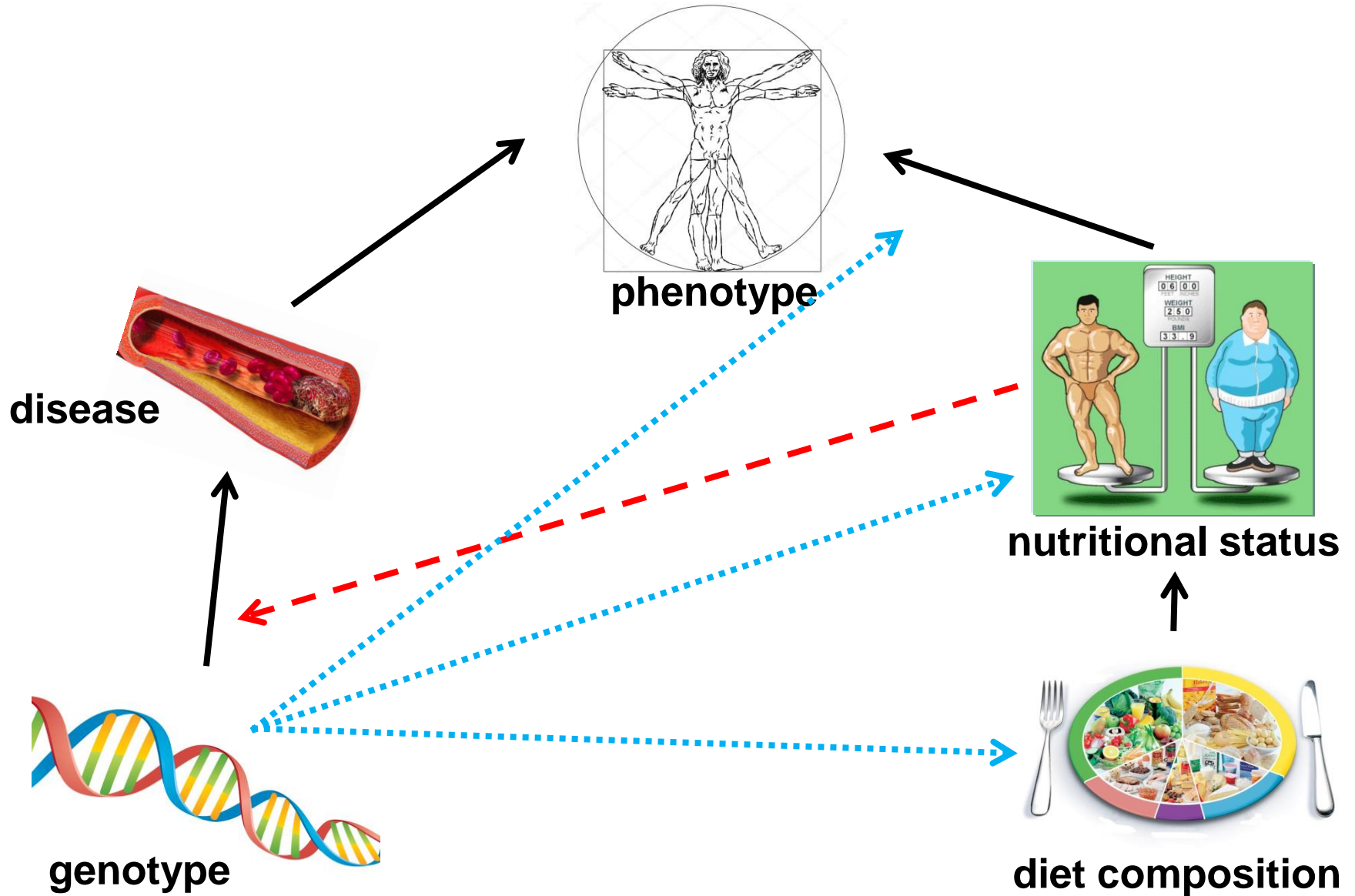
- 1.000/1.200 kcal/day for overweight women and 1.200/1.600 kcal/day for overweight men

Ideal diet: 50% carbohydrates, 30% lipids (7-10% saturated fatty acids), and 20% proteins

Diets are designed to create a calorie deficit of 500-1.000 kcal/day, producing a weight loss of 0.5-1.0 kg/week



NUTRIGENOMIC





ALIMENTARY APPROACH

- **The influence of the diet in the pathogenesis of NAFLD has been reported**
- **The cornerstone in the management of NAFLD implies a dietary modification to decrease the body weight and to increase the physical exercise**
- **A diet regimen rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and omega-3, fruit, vegetables, fiber and reduced intake of saturated fats, simple carbohydrates, sweetened drinks and moderate alcohol intake should be recommended to the NAFLD pts**



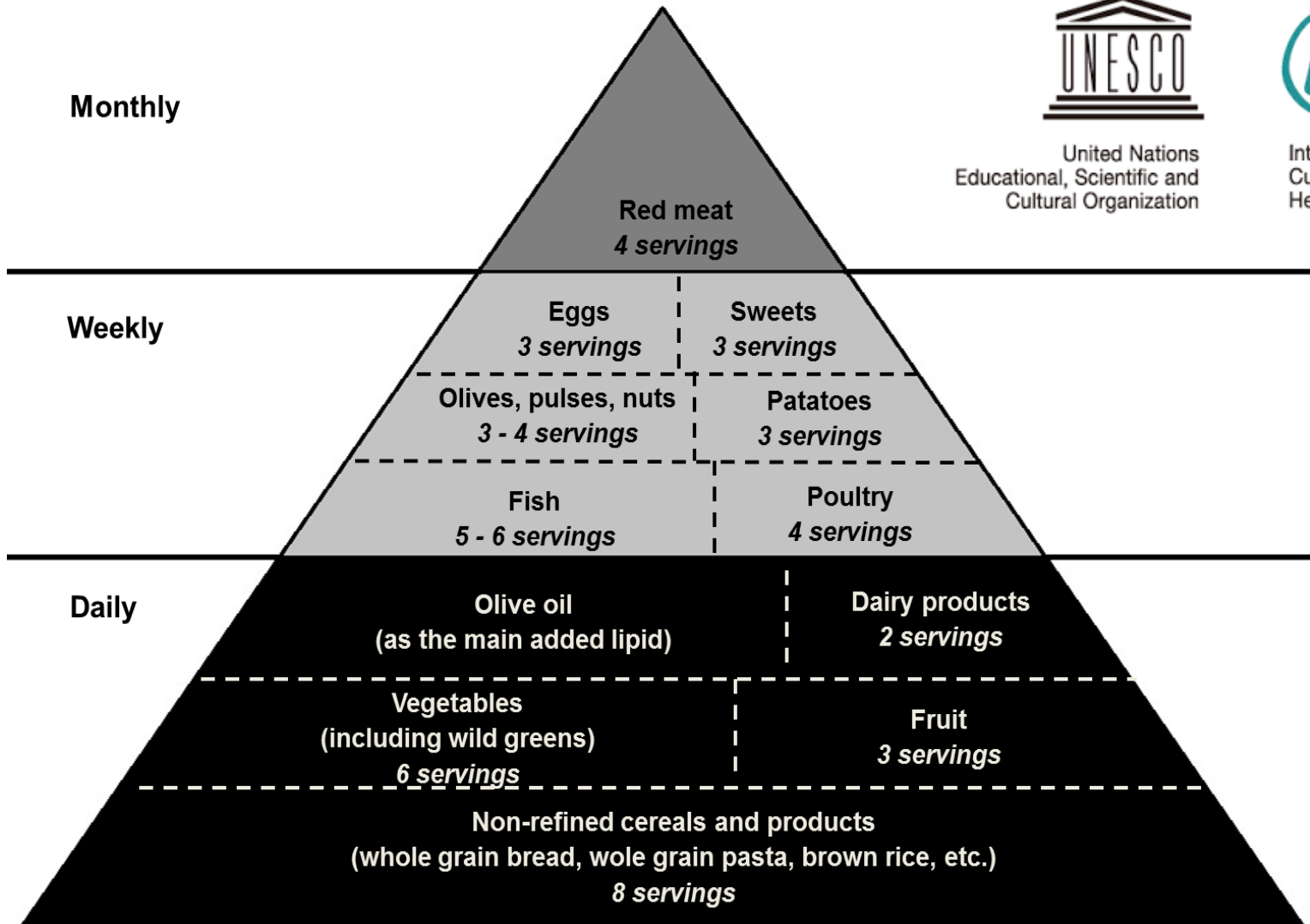
MEDITERRANEAN DIET



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



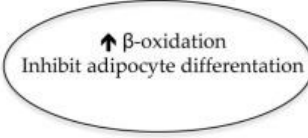
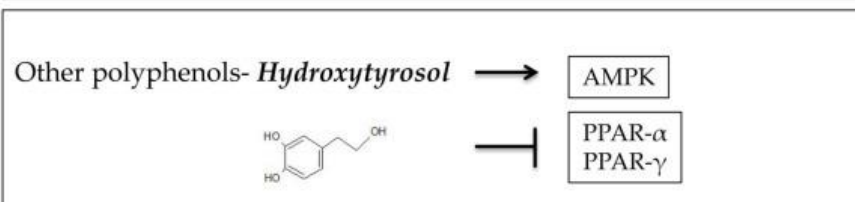
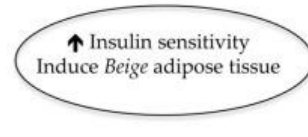
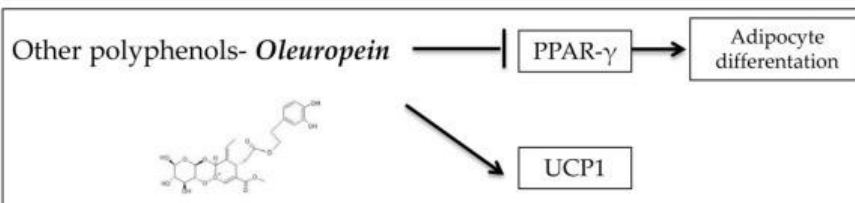
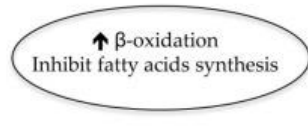
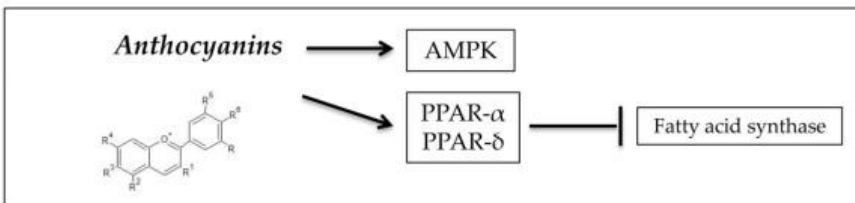
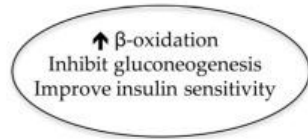
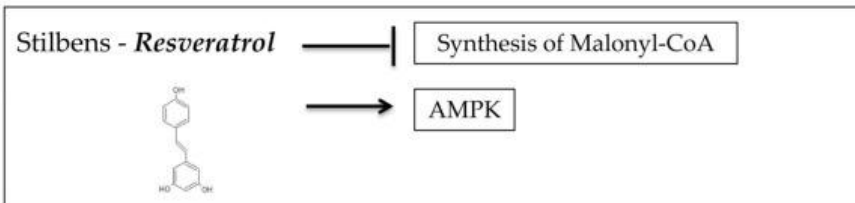
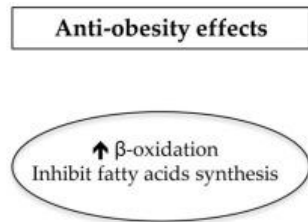
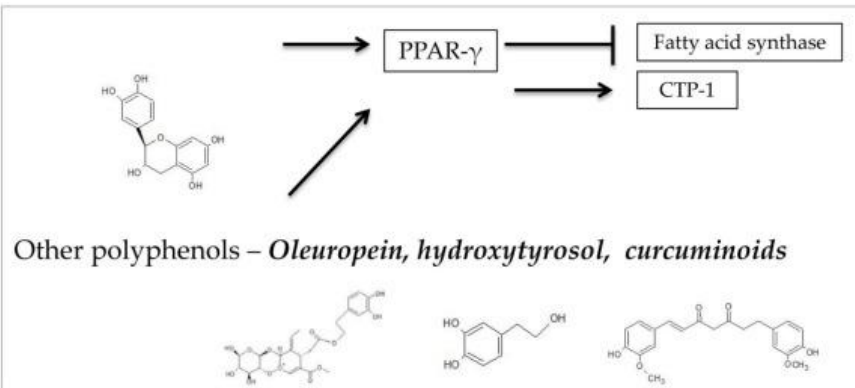
Intangible
Cultural
Heritage



Also daily: physical activity; wine in moderation; 6 glasses of water



MEDITERRANEAN DIET





MEDITERRANEAN DIET AND NAFLD

Clinical Practice Guidelines



- Dietary recommendations should consider energy restriction and exclusion of NAFLD-promoting components (processed food, and food and beverages high in added fructose. The macronutrient composition should be adjusted according to the Mediterranean diet (B1)

EASL–EASD–EASO Clinical Practice Guidelines for the management of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease[☆]

European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)*, European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) and European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO)



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Digestive and Liver Disease

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Position Paper

AISF position paper on nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD):
Updates and future directions[☆]

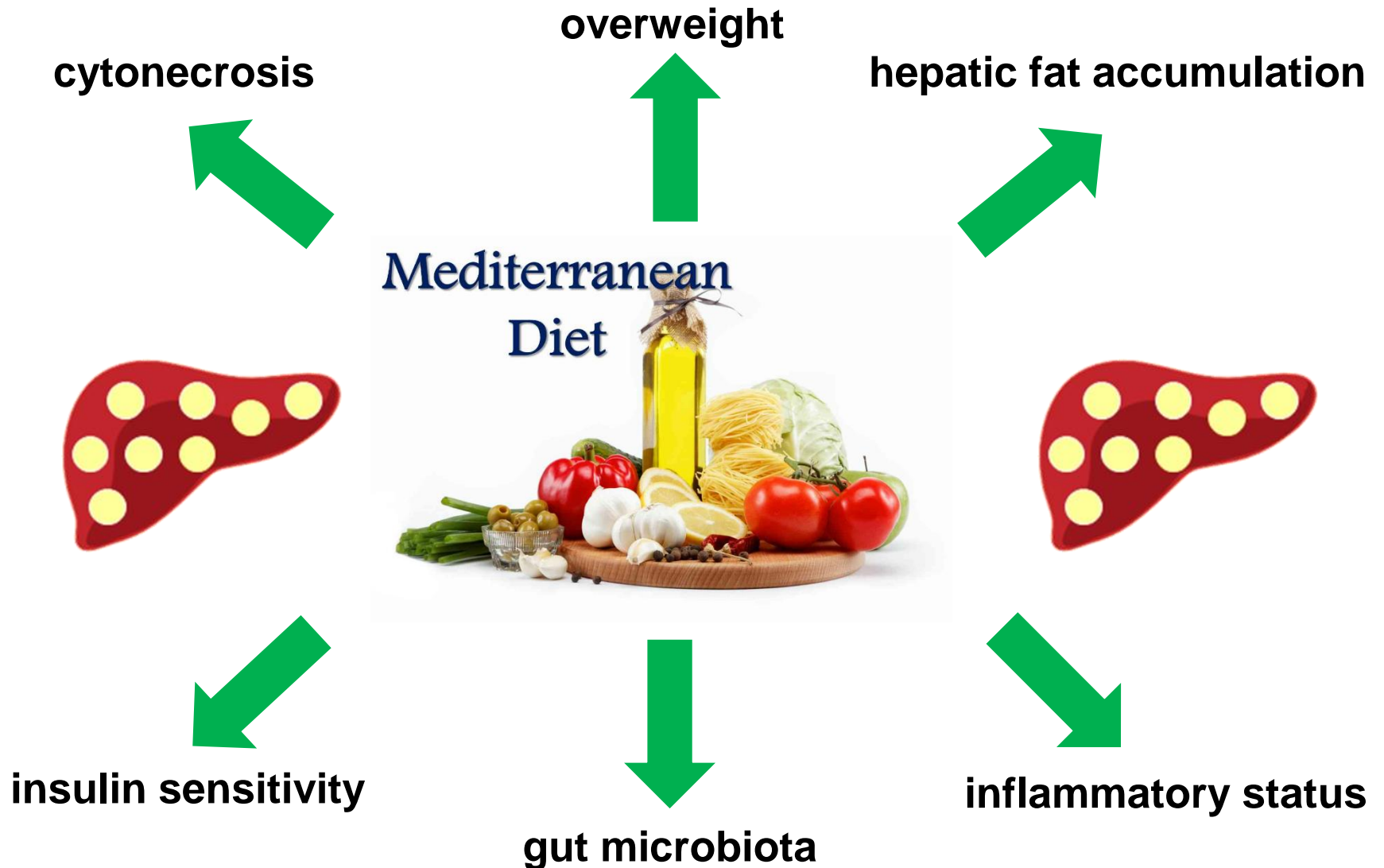
The Italian Association for the Study of the Liver (AISF)



Indeed, among all the proposed diets, the Mediterranean diet appears as the most effective dietary option for inducing a weight loss together with beneficial effects on all cardio-metabolic risk factors associated with NAFLD.

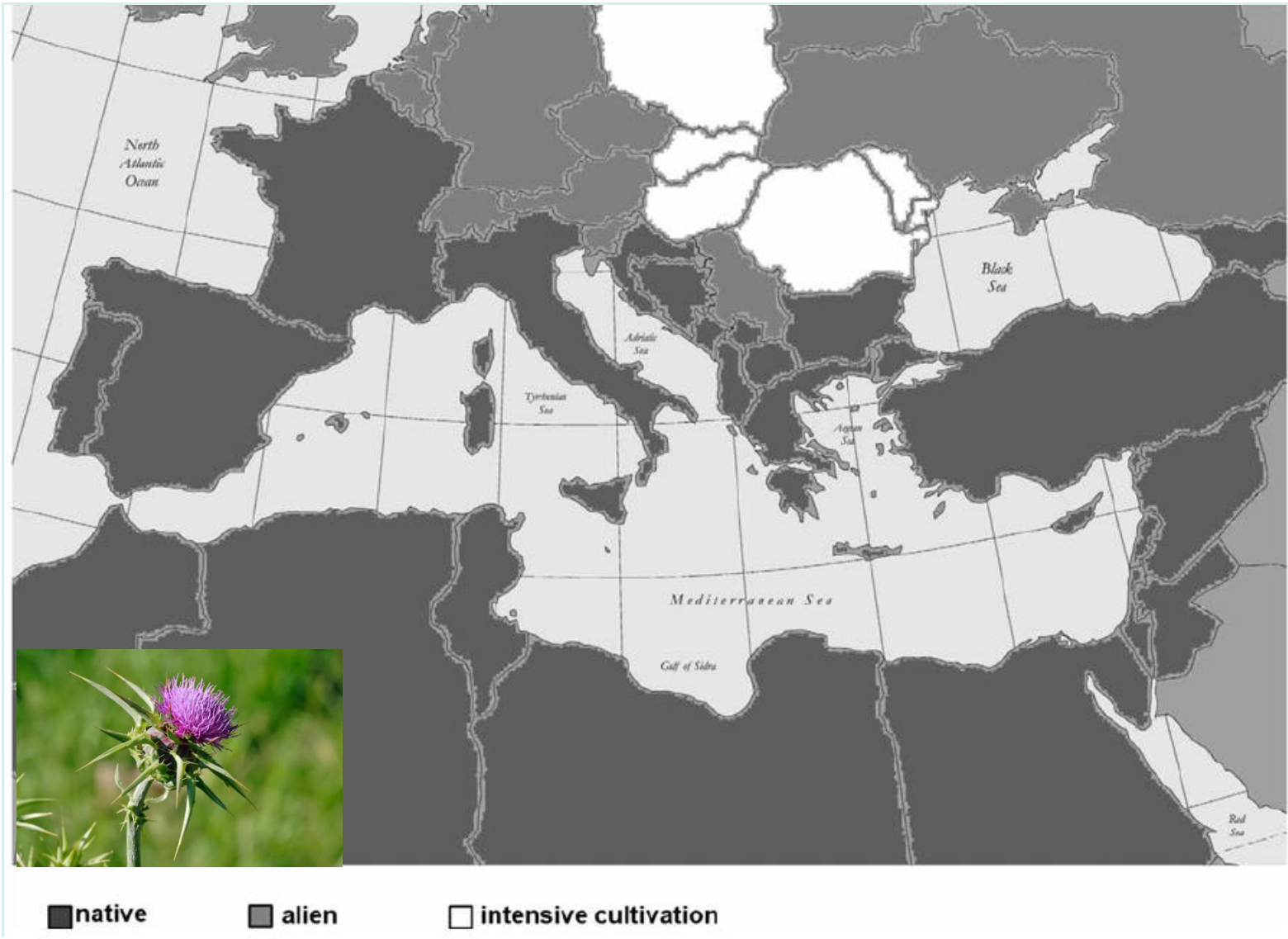


MEDITERRANEAN DIET AND NAFLD





MILK THISTLE CULTIVATION





MILK THISTLE AND NAFLD

Free Radical Biology & Medicine 52 (2012) 1658–1665



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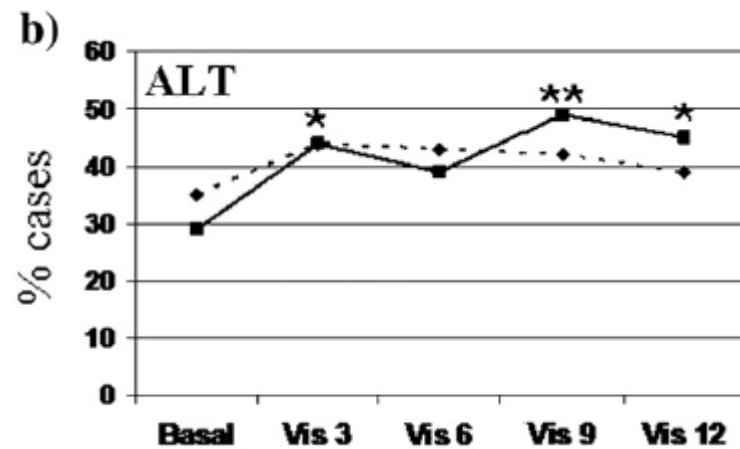
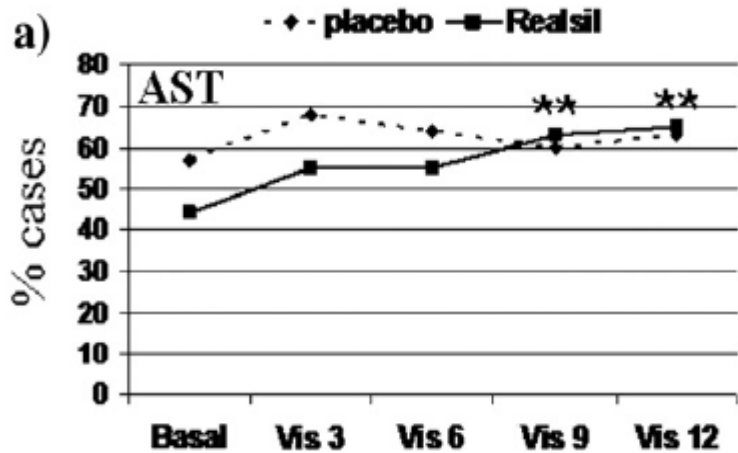


Original Contribution

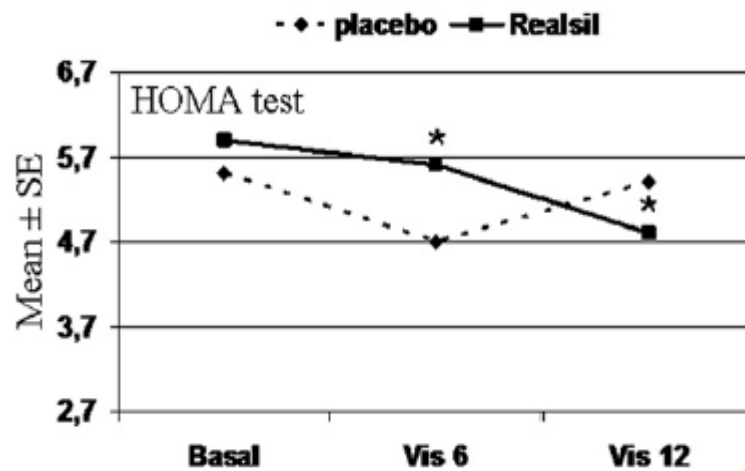
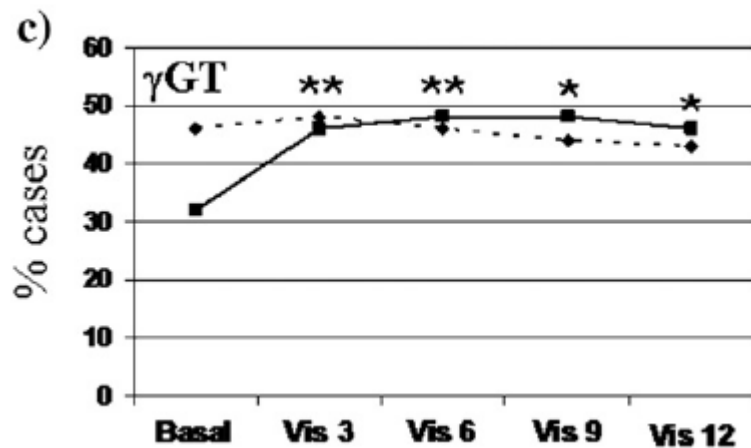
Silybin combined with phosphatidylcholine and vitamin E in patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: A randomized controlled trial

Carmela Loguercio ^{a,*}, Pietro Andreone ^b, Ciprian Brisc ^c, Michaela Cristina Brisc ^c, Elisabetta Bugianesi ^d, Maria Chiaramonte ^e, Carmela Cursaro ^b, Mirela Danila ^f, Ilario de Sio ^a, Annarosa Floreani ^g, Maria Antonietta Freni ^h, Antonio Grieco ⁱ, Marzia Groppo ^j, Roberta Lazzari ^g, Salvatore Lobello ^g, Elisabetta Lorefice ^k, Marzia Margotti ^b, Luca Miele ⁱ, Stefano Milani ^k, Lajos Okolicsanyi ^j, Giuseppe Palasciano ^l, Piero Portincasa ^l, Patrizia Saltarelli ^m, Antonina Smedile ^d, Francesco Somalvico ⁿ, Aldo Spadaro ^h, Ioan Sporea ^f, Paolo Sorrentino ^o, Raffaella Vecchione ^o, Concetta Tuccillo ^a, Camillo Del Vecchio Blanco ^a, Alessandro Federico ^a

First phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind controlled clinical trial on MT complex vs placebo (for 12 months) in pts with NAFLD



* $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.001$



Effect of RA or P treatment on liver histology at T_{12} .

	RA group			P group		
	T_0	T_{12}	$p(T_0 \text{ vs } T_{12})$	T_0	T_{12}	$p(T_0 \text{ vs } T_{12})$
Steatosis			0.004			0.32
Low/moderate	40	75		83	83	
Severe	60	25		17	17	
Lobular inflammation			0.013			0.11
Absent/low	63	89		100	100	
Moderate	37	11		0	0	
Ballooning			0.009			0.11
Absent/low	50	90		75	73	
Moderate	50	30		25	25	
Fibrosis			0.023			0.69
Absent/minimal	20	60		75	66	
Moderate	25	5		0	17	
Portal-periportal	15	25		17	9	
Perisinusoidal	35	5		0	0	
Bridging fibrosis	5	5		8	8	
NAS (mean \pm SD)	5.05 \pm 1.35	3.47 \pm 1.95	0.003	3.90 \pm 0.88	3.32 \pm 1.93	0.13

RA, Realsil; P, placebo; T_0 , baseline; T_{12} , 12 months of treatment; NAS, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease activity score.



MILK THISTLE AND NAFLD

“Effect of Mediterranean Diet and Antioxidant Formulation in Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: A Randomized Study” *Abenavoli et al. Nutrients; 2017*

	Group A	Group B	Group C	<i>p</i>
Weight (Kg)	6% (-)	7% (-)	0.5% (-)	A vs C 0.0001 B vs C 0.030 A vs B 0.665
BMI (Kg/m ²)	7.5% (-)	9% (-)	0.45% (-)	A vs C 0.0001 B vs C 0.0001 A vs B 0.935
Waist circumference (cm)	2.8% (-)	6% (-)	0.3% (-)	A vs C 0.0001 B vs C 0.0001 A vs B 0.030
Hip circumference (cm)	3.3% (-)	4% (-)	0.7% (-)	A vs C 0.001 B vs C 0.001 A vs B 0.206
Fasting glucose (mg/dL)	3.5% (-)	11% (-)	0.5% (-)	A vs C 0.724 B vs C 0.006 A vs B 0.016
Insulin (mU/L)	10% (+)	38% (-)	25% (+)	A vs C 0.045 B vs C 0.0001 A vs B 0.0001
Triglycerides (mg/dL)	32.16% (-)	21% (-)	2.8% (+)	A vs C 0.001 B vs C 0.002 A vs B 0.935
Total cholesterol (mg/dL)	14.8% (-)	17% (-)	9.3% (+)	A vs C 0.0001 B vs C 0.0001 A vs B 0.626
LDL-C (mg/dL)	15% (-)	9% (-)	29% (-)	A vs C 0.217 B vs C 0.234 A vs B 0.705
HOMA-IR	6.2% (+)	43% (-)	46% (+)	A vs C 0.021 B vs C 0.001 A vs B 0.0001
TyG index	3.3% (-)	1.2% (-)	1% (+)	A vs C 0.020 B vs C 0.010 A vs B 0.131
FL index	19% (-)	27% (-)	4.7% (+)	A vs C 0.017 B vs C 0.0001 A vs B 0.626
TE	21% (-)	27% (-)	8.7% (+)	A vs C 0.001 B vs C 0.0001 A vs B 0.053



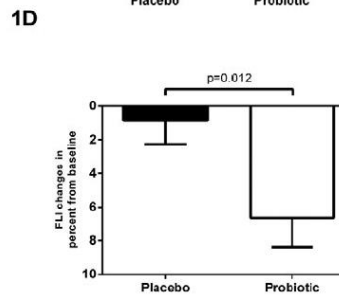
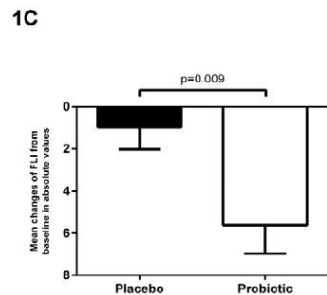
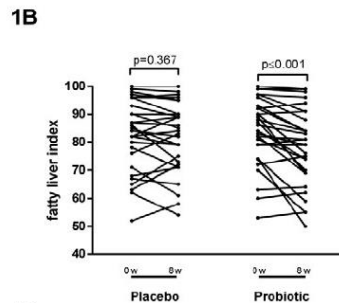
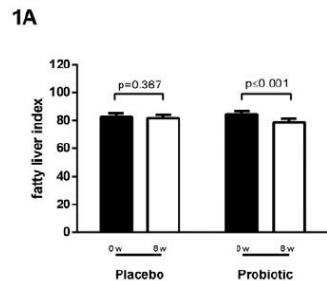
PROBIOTICS AND NAFLD

ORIGINAL PAPER

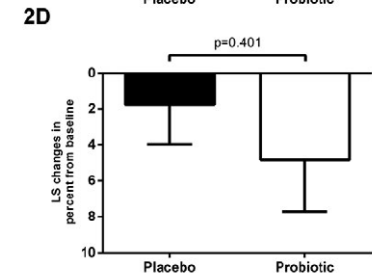
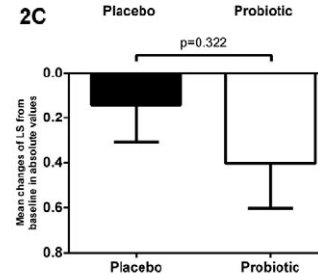
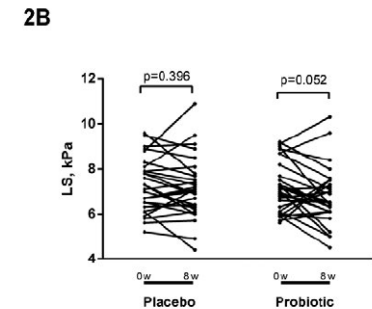
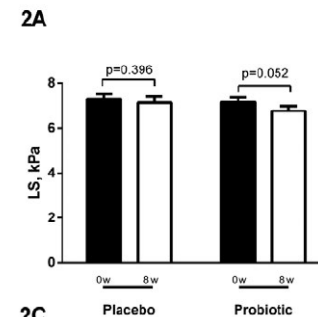
Available from: <http://www.jgld.ro/wp/archive/y2018/n1/a8>
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15403/jgld.2014.1121.271.kby>

A Multi-strain Probiotic Reduces the Fatty Liver Index, Cytokines and Aminotransferase levels in NAFLD Patients: Evidence from a Randomized Clinical Trial

Nazarii Kobylak¹, Ludovico Abenavoli², Galyna Mykhalchyshyn¹, Liudmyla Kononenko¹, Luigi Boccutto³, Dmytro Kyriienko^{1,4}, Oleg Dynnyk⁵

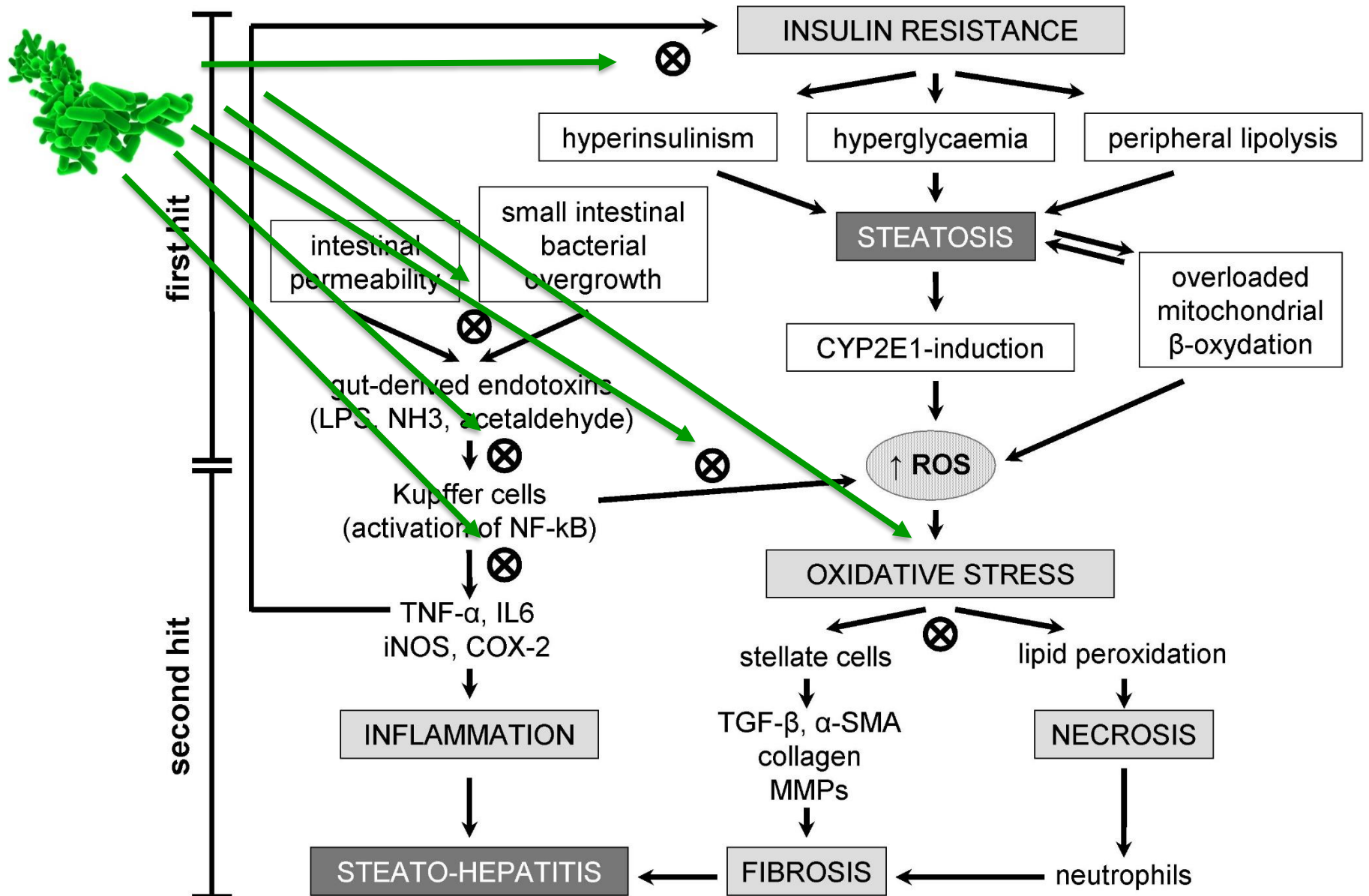


Bifidobacterium
Lactobacillus
Lactococcus
Propionibacterium



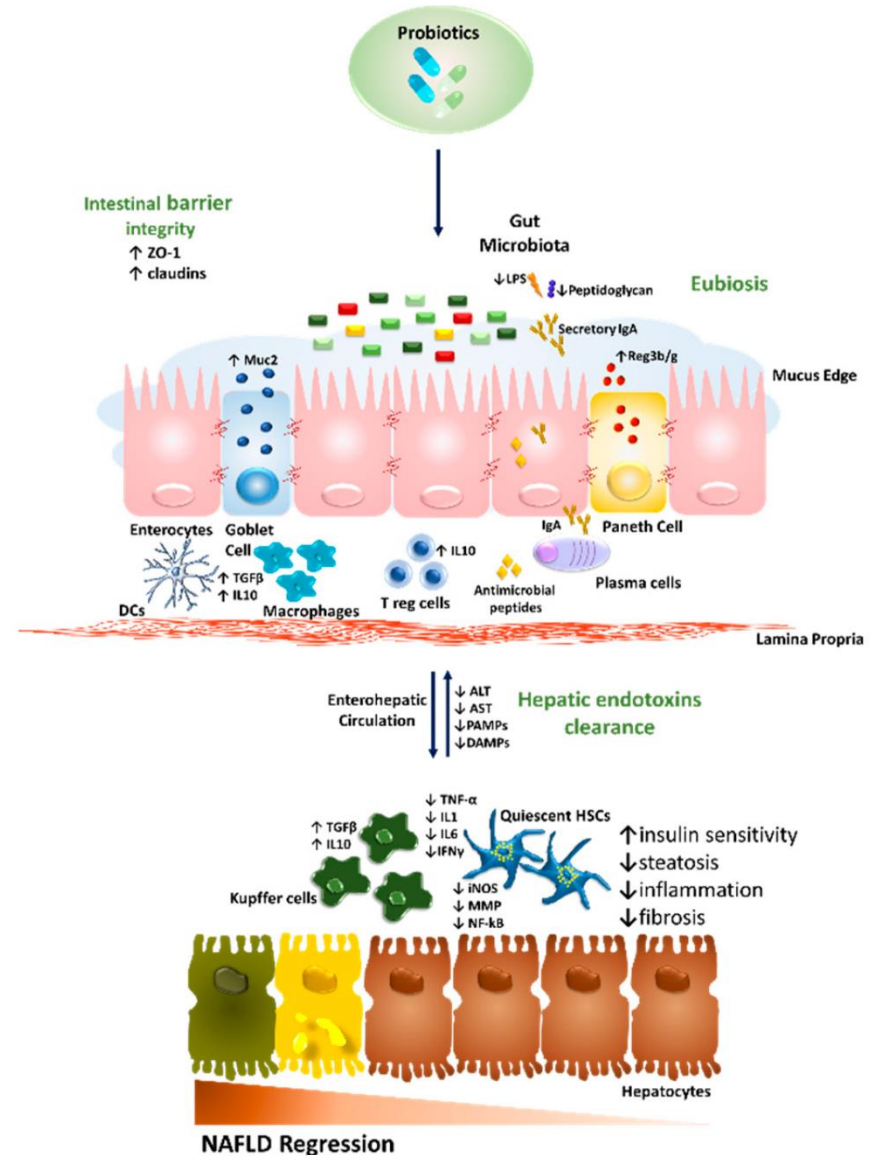
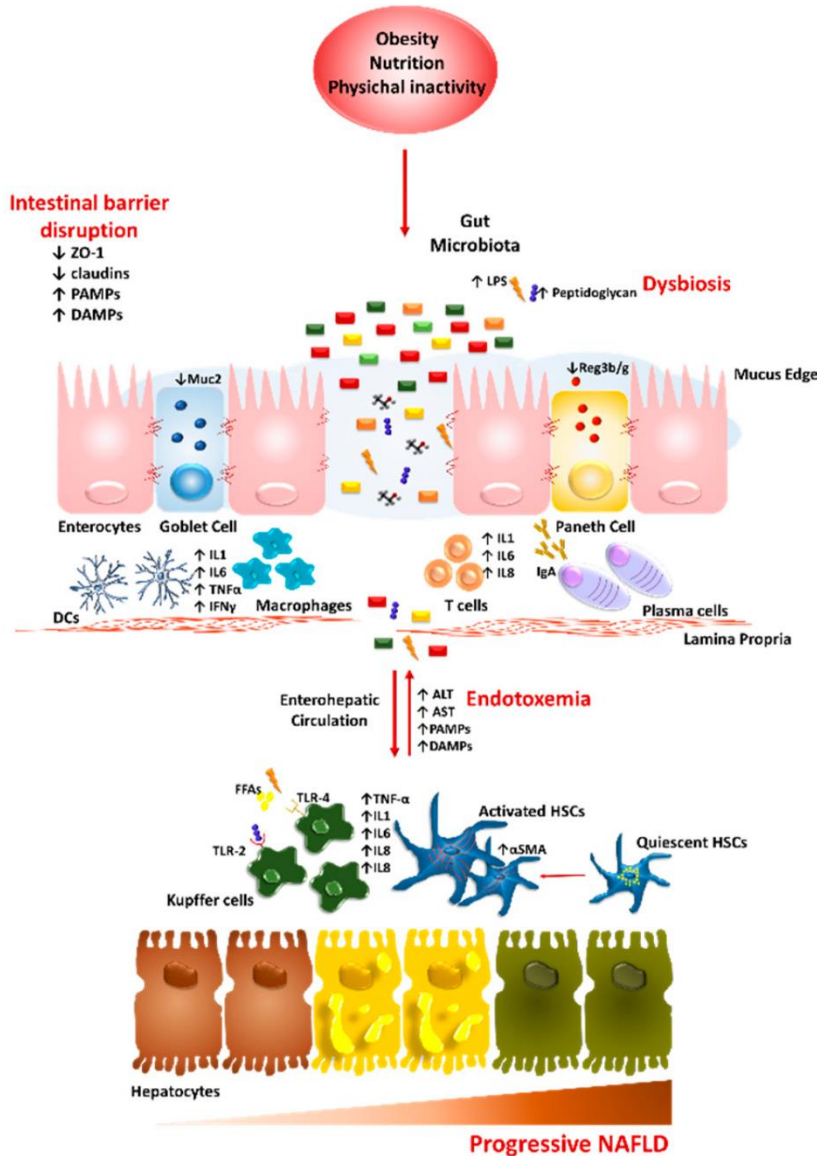


PROBIOTICS AND NAFLD



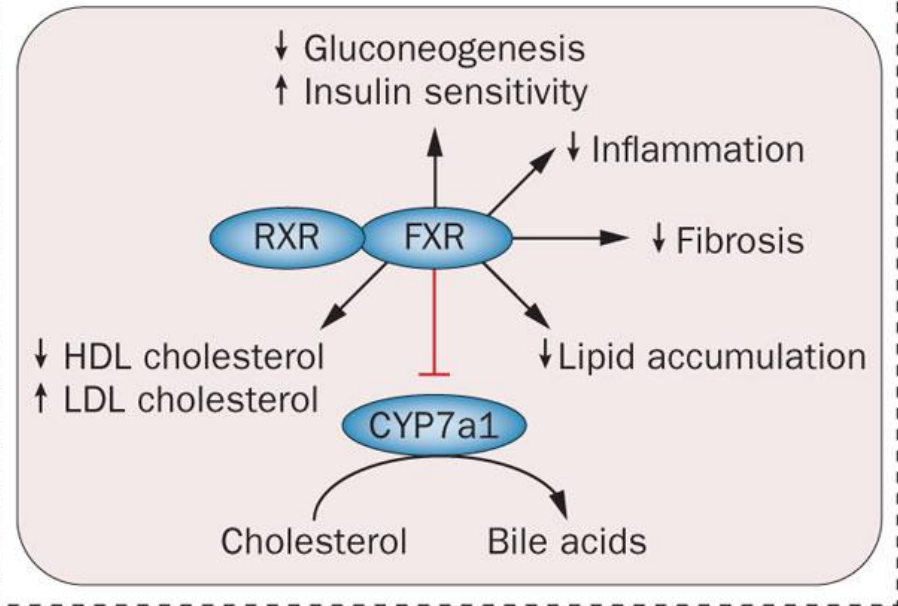
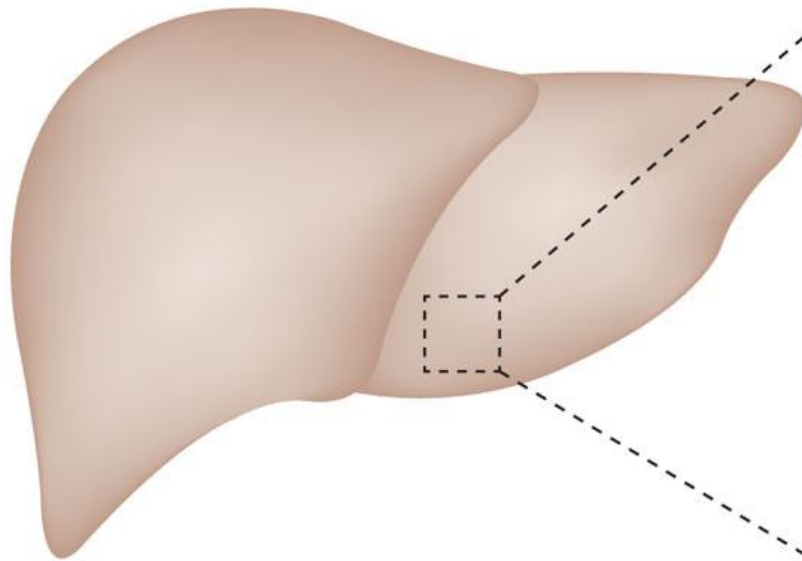


PROBIOTICS AND NAFLD





OBETICHOLIC ACID AND NAFLD



[Rinella and Sanyal. Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol; 2014](#)

The farnesoid X receptor (FXR) is a metabolic nuclear receptor expressed in the liver, involved in the regulation of the expression and function of genes involved in bile acids synthesis, uptake and excretion

Obeticholic acid, a semi-synthetic bile acid ligand for FXR, 100× more potent than its natural ligand, might be able to ameliorate several metabolic derangements seen in NASH by inhibiting hepatic stellate cell activity

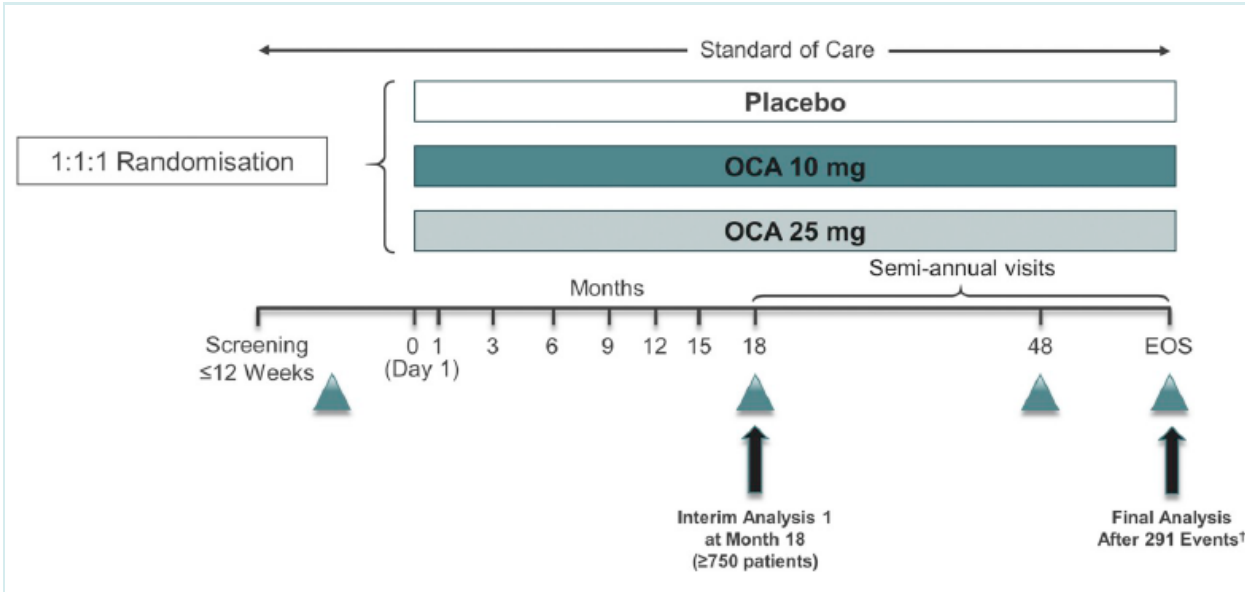
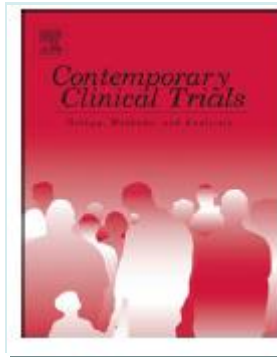


OBETICHOLIC ACID AND NAFLD

Authors	Phase/ Status	Patient population	Duration	Primary/ Secondary Endpoints	Intervention dosage/ Subjects	Findings
FLINT study (NCT01265498)	III / Completed	Biopsy proven NASH	72 weeks	Histological Improvement in NAS (no worsening in fibrosis; and decrease in NAFLD Activity Score (NAS) of at least 2 points	25 mg OCA (n=141) Placebo (n=142)	Primary endpoint was achieved in 45% of the patients receiving OCA and 21% of those receiving placebo
Mudaliar et al. (NCT00501592)	II / Completed	Type 2 diabetes patient with presumed NAFLD	6 weeks	Assessing changes in insulin resistance and glucose homeostasis / Hepatocellular function	25 mg OCA (n=20) 50 mg OCA (n=21) Placebo (n=23)	Administration of 25 or 50 mg OCA increased insulin sensitivity, and reduced markers of liver inflammation and fibrosis
REVERSE study (NCT03439254)	III / Recruitment	Patient with compensated cirrhosis due to NASH	12 months	% subjects with improvement in fibrosis by at least 1 stage with no worsening of NASH, using NASH CRN/ % subjects with improvement in fibrosis by at least 2 stage or with NASH resolution	10 mg OCA 10 up to 25 mg OCA Placebo Totally (n=540)	
RE-GENERATE study (NCT02548351)	III / Recruitment	Patient with non-cirrhotic NASH with liver fibrosis	18 months	% patients that achieve at least one stage of liver fibrosis improvement with no worsening of NASH, or NASH resolution with no worsening of liver fibrosis / liver-related clinical outcomes	10 mg OCA 25 mg OCA Placebo Totally (n=2370)	
CONTROL study (NCT02633956)	II / Recruitment completed	Biopsy proven NASH with fibrosis stage 1-4	16 weeks	Effect on LDL and LDL particle concentration, LDL particle size	5mg OCA/20mg Atorvastatin (n=20) 10mg OCA/20mg Atorvastatin (n=21) 25mg OCA/20mg Atorvastatin (n=22) Placebo/20mg Atorvastatin (n=21)	

REGENERATE: Design of a pivotal, randomised, phase 3 study evaluating the safety and efficacy of obeticholic acid in patients with fibrosis due to nonalcoholic steatohepatitis

Vlad Ratziu^{a,*}, Arun J. Sanyal^b, Rohit Loomba^c, Mary Rinella^d, Stephen Harrison^e, Quentin M. Anstee^f, Zachary Goodman^g, Pierre Bedossa^h, Leigh MacConellⁱ, Reshma Shringarpureⁱ, Amrik Shahⁱ, Zobair Younossi^g



Month 18 Interim analyses (All patients)

Primary objectives

Assessment (Based on liver biopsy using NASH CRN criteria)

Improvement in fibrosis with no worsening of NASH

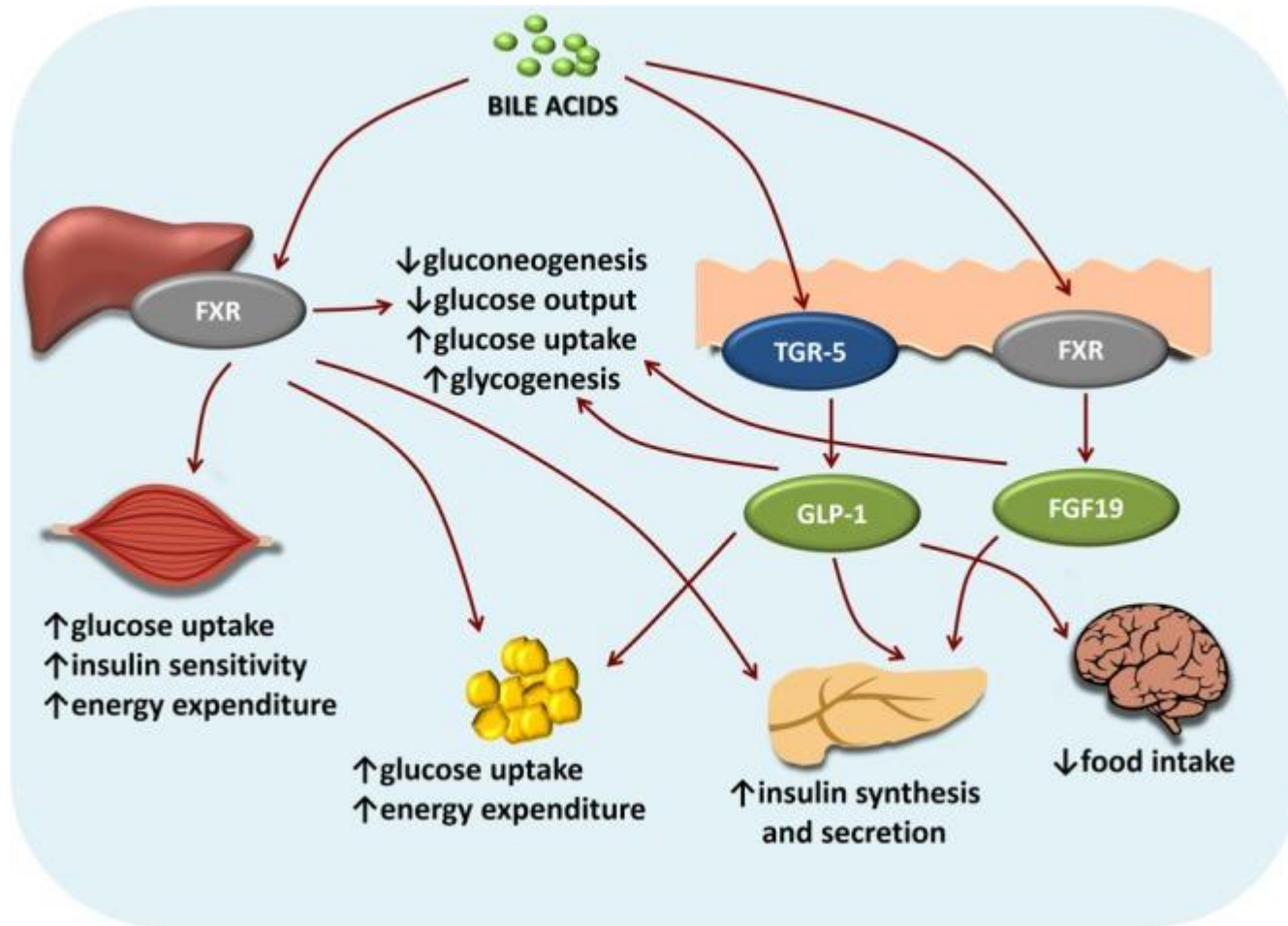
A ≥ 1 -stage reduction in fibrosis and no increase in hepatocellular ballooning, lobular inflammation, or steatosis from baseline

Resolution of NASH with no worsening of fibrosis

NASH resolution defined as the overall histopathologic interpretation of I) “no fatty liver disease” or II) “fatty liver disease (simple or isolated steatosis) without steatohepatitis” AND a NAS of 0 for ballooning and 0–1 for inflammation with no increase in fibrosis stage from baseline

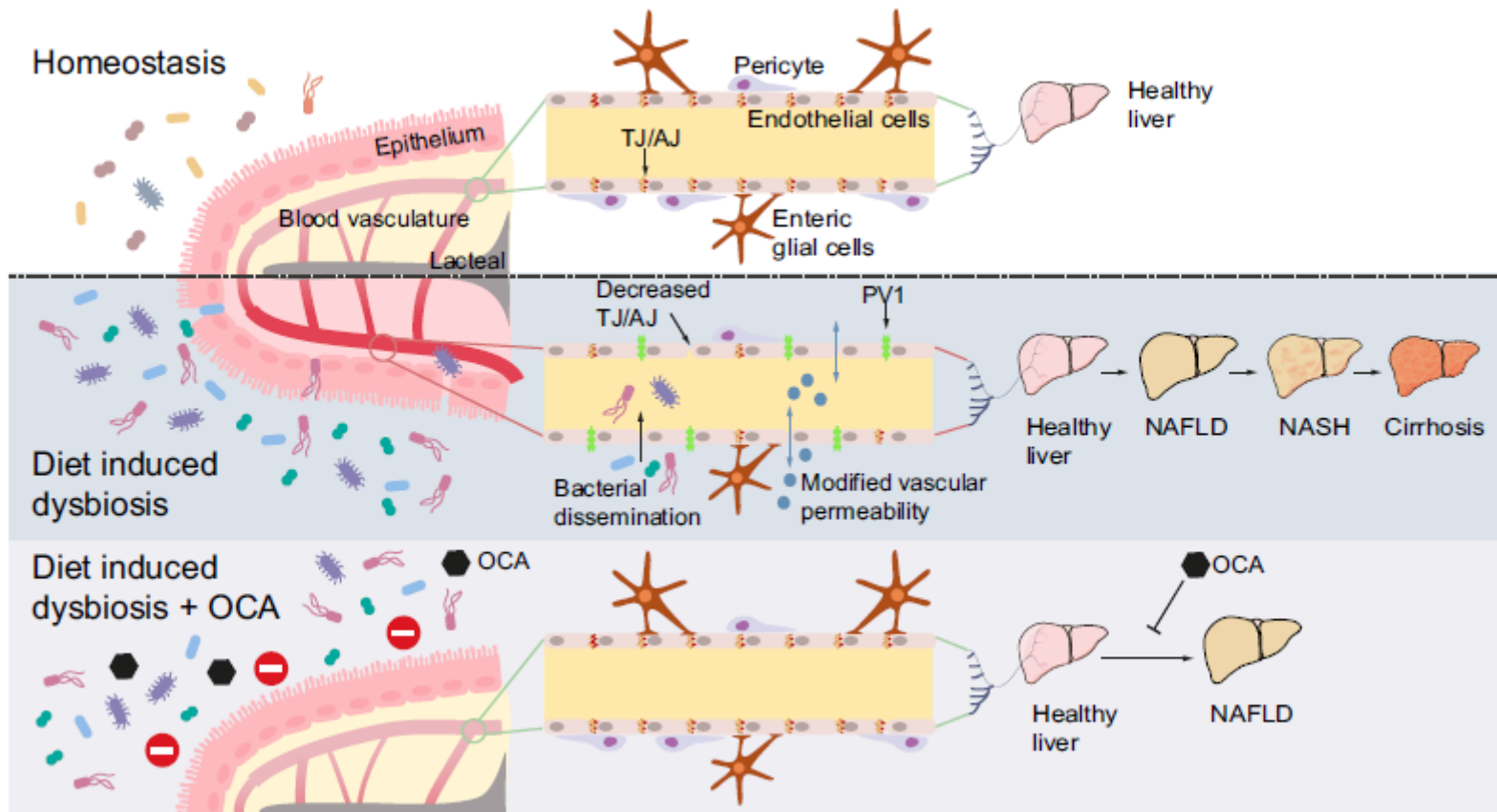


OBETICHOIC ACID AND NAFLD





OBETIC ACID AND MICROBIOTA





OLT AND NAFLD

- **NASH is the second most common indication for LT in USA (21.5%) and Europe (8.4%), after alcohol-related cirrhosis**
- **During the past 10 years, the prevalence of NAFLD as an indication for LT has increased by 170%**
- **NASH is the second leading etiology for HCC in adults requiring LT in USA**

Pais et al. J Hepatol; 2016

Loomba and Adams. Hepatology; 2019



NAFLD: THE CHALLENGES

NAFLD represents the most common form of chronic liver disease worldwide

Pts with NAFLD should be screened for the different components of MS

The development of new therapeutic strategies of NAFLD is mandatory

In this way, gut microbiota modulation is a promising area for medical research

AND A DIET COKE PLEASE...



THANK YOU



...I DONT WANT TO GET FAT!!!