

A microscopic image of cells, possibly from the gut, with a prominent red overlay that serves as a background for the text. The cells are shown in various colors like purple, blue, and green, with the red overlay being semi-transparent.

# Host genome and gut microbiome in health and disease

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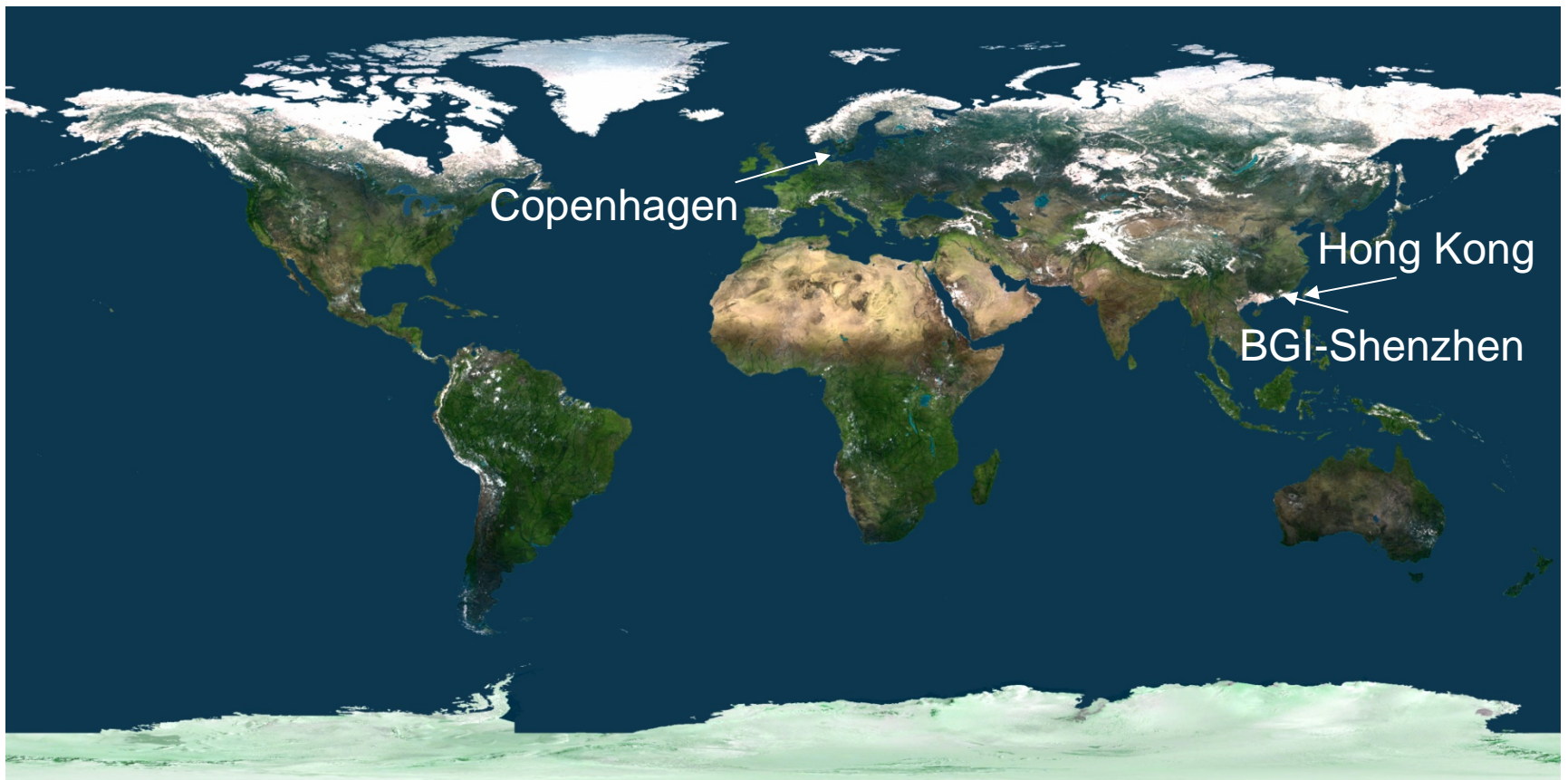
Department of Biology

University of Copenhagen

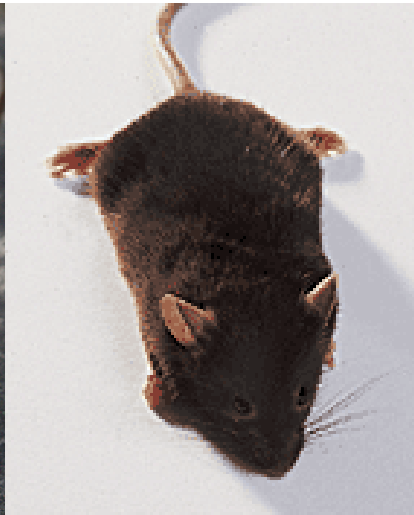
and

BGI-Shenzhen

# Where is Shenzhen?



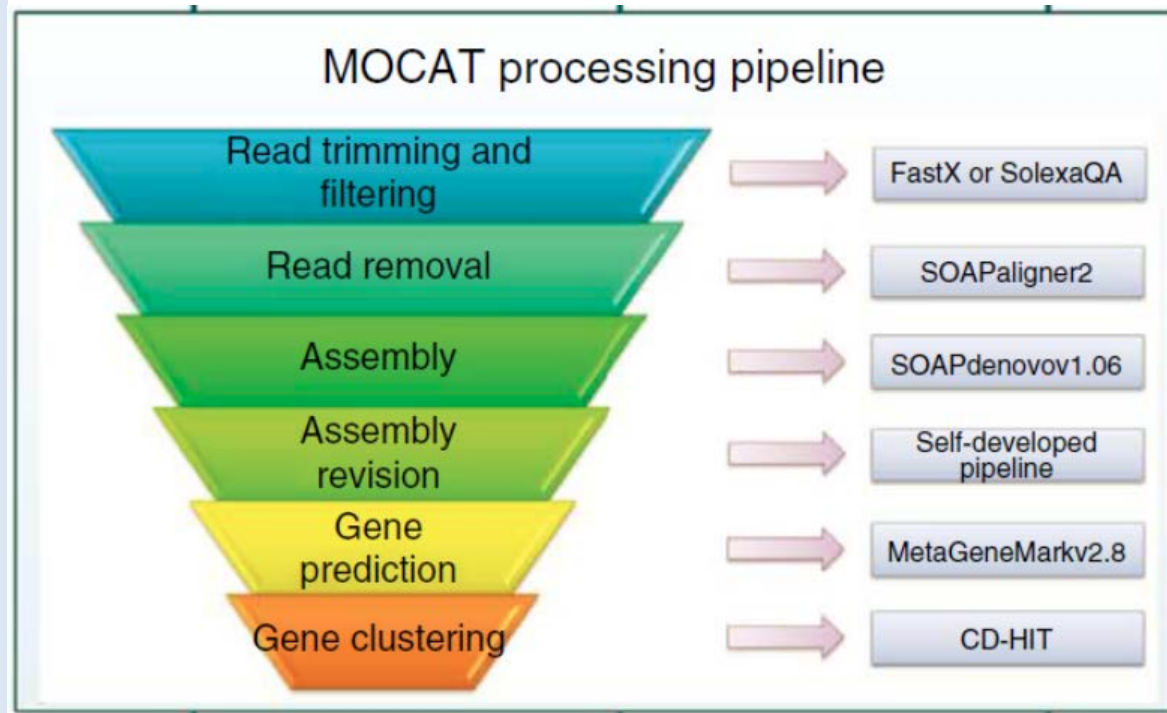
# The mouse and the pig gut metagenome





# Building a mouse gut microbial gene catalog

- 184 mice
  - different providers
  - different laboratories
  - different strains
  - different diets
  - males and females
- 1.13 Terabyte using Illumina HiSeq
- >5Gb on average
- 2.57 million non-redundant genes
- 541 metagenomic species



Li et al. Nature Biotech. 32, 834-841, 2014

# Building a pig gut microbial gene catalog

7,685,872 non redundant genes  
719 metagenomic species

**287 animals:** 17 breeds or selected lines,  
11 farms, various ages and diets, 3 countries

- Native pigs:
  - **France ,West Indies:** creole pigs
  - **China:** Bama, Ba Ring, Tibetan
- Selected breeds
  - **France:** Large White (LW), Large White X Landrace, (Large White X Landrace) X Pietrain, Pietrain, Meishan
  - **Denmark:** (Landrace x Yorkshire) X Duroc
  - **China:** Large White, binary mixed, tertiary mixed
- Miniature model pigs
  - Yucatan
  - Pitman-Moore
  - MeLiM
  - Vietnamese



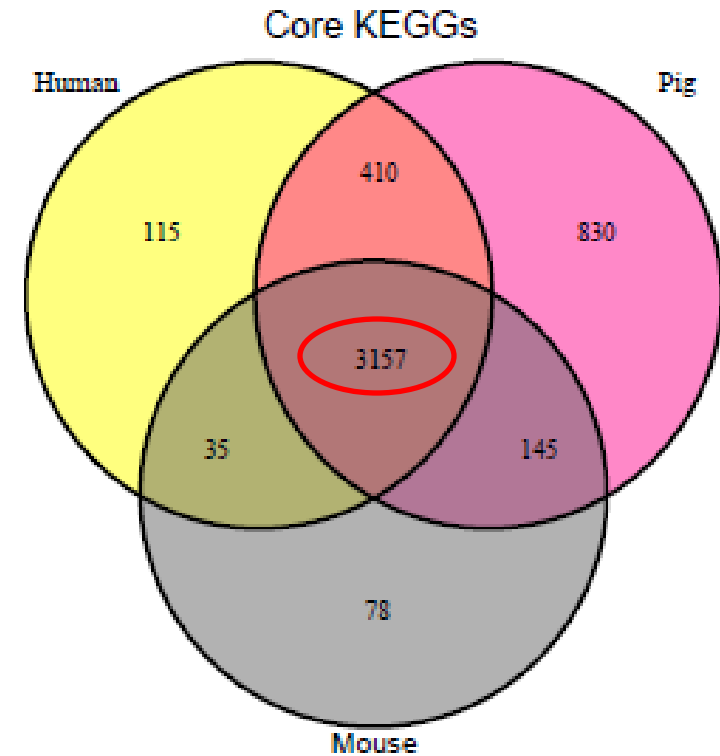
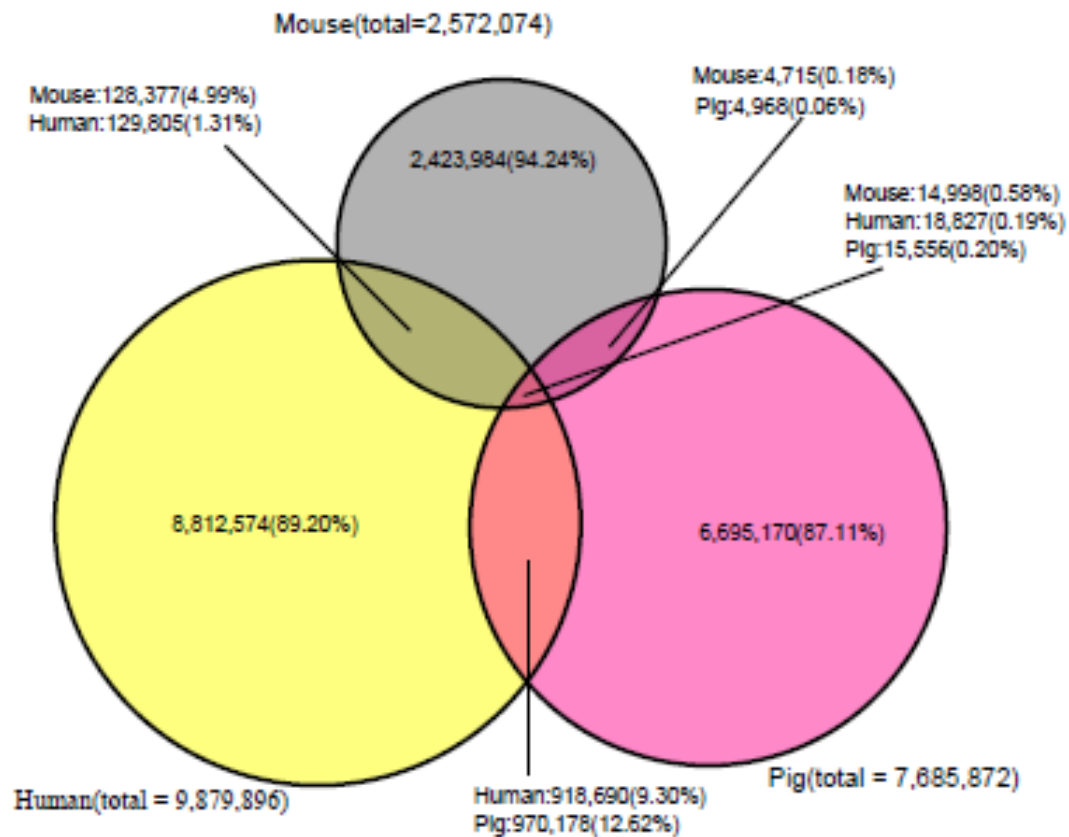
Xiao et al. Nature Microbiology, in press

# Of mice and men – and pigs

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# Comparison of catalogs



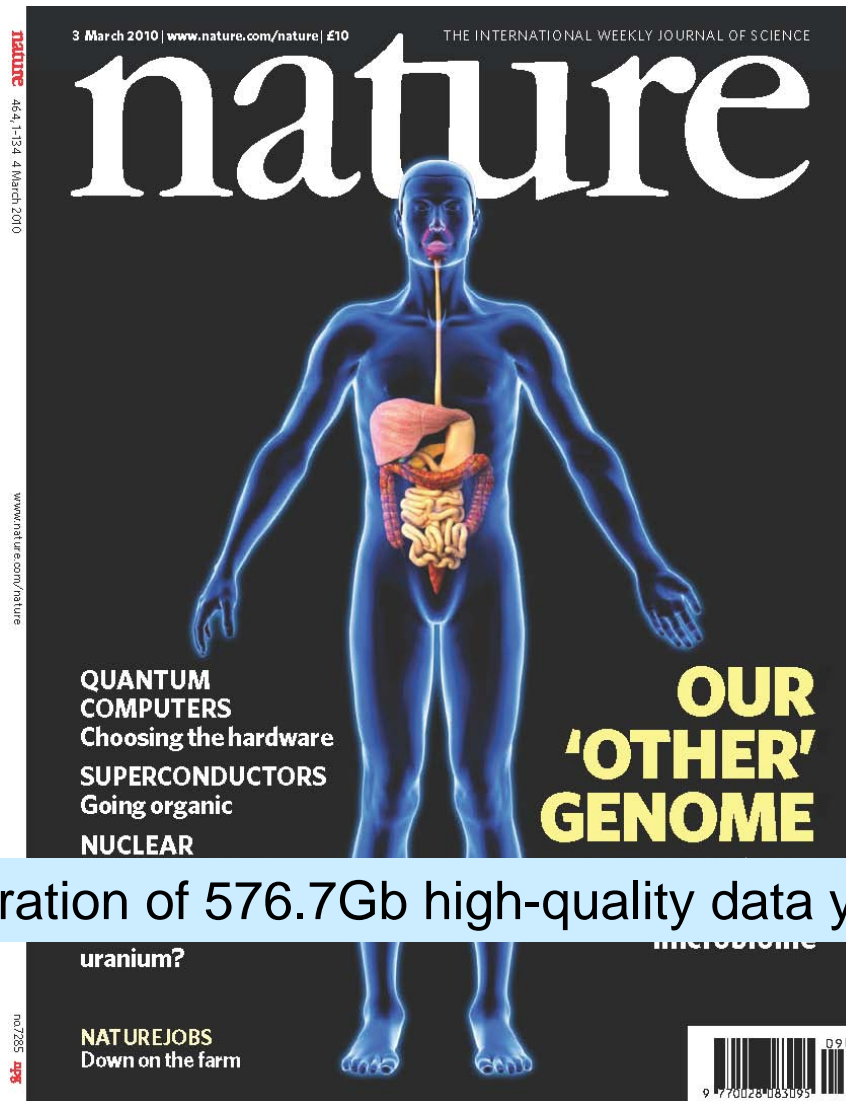
**Pigs – pink**  
**Human – yellow**  
**Mice - grey**

# Take home messages

- Comprehensive gene catalog of the gut microbiome of mice comprising  $2.57 \times 10^6$  non-redundant genes and 541 metagenomic species
- Comprehensive gene catalog of the gut microbiome of pigs comprising  $7.7 \times 10^6$  non redundant genes and 719 metagenomic species
- A larger set of genes shared between the pig and the human gut microbiomes than between the mouse and the human gut microbiomes, but overall limited overlap between species
- In spite of limited overlap of genes, substantial overlap between metabolic pathways and functions

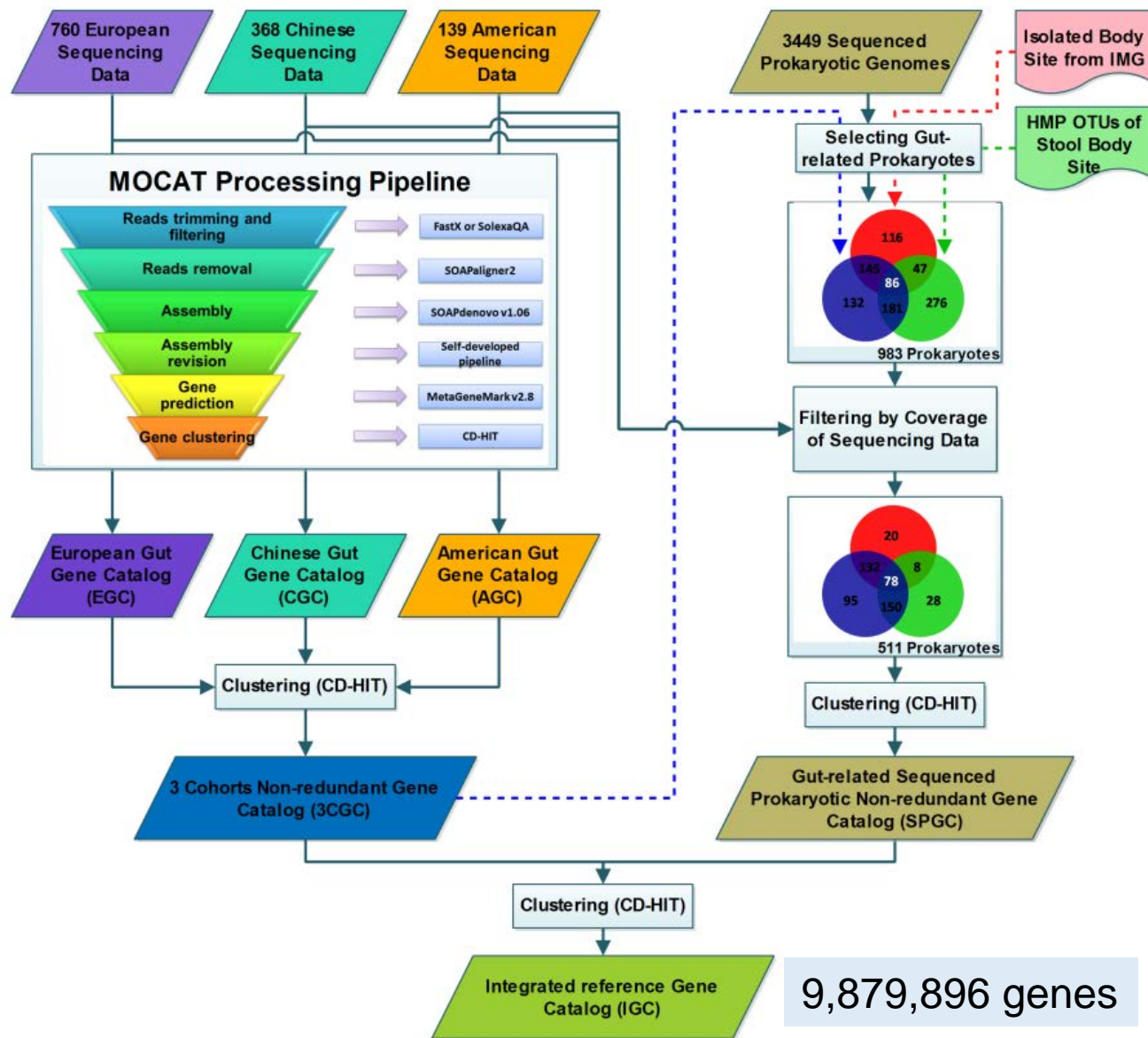


# Towards the human gut metagenome



2010: In total, generation of 576.7Gb high-quality data yielding 3.3 mio. genes

# 10 million human gut microbiome gene catalog



- 3 distinct cohorts
- 1,267 samples
- 6.4Tb data
- Illumina-based catalog construction pipeline
- Integrated with genomes from 511 gut-related prokaryotes
- ~10M genes in Integrated gene catalog
- IGC

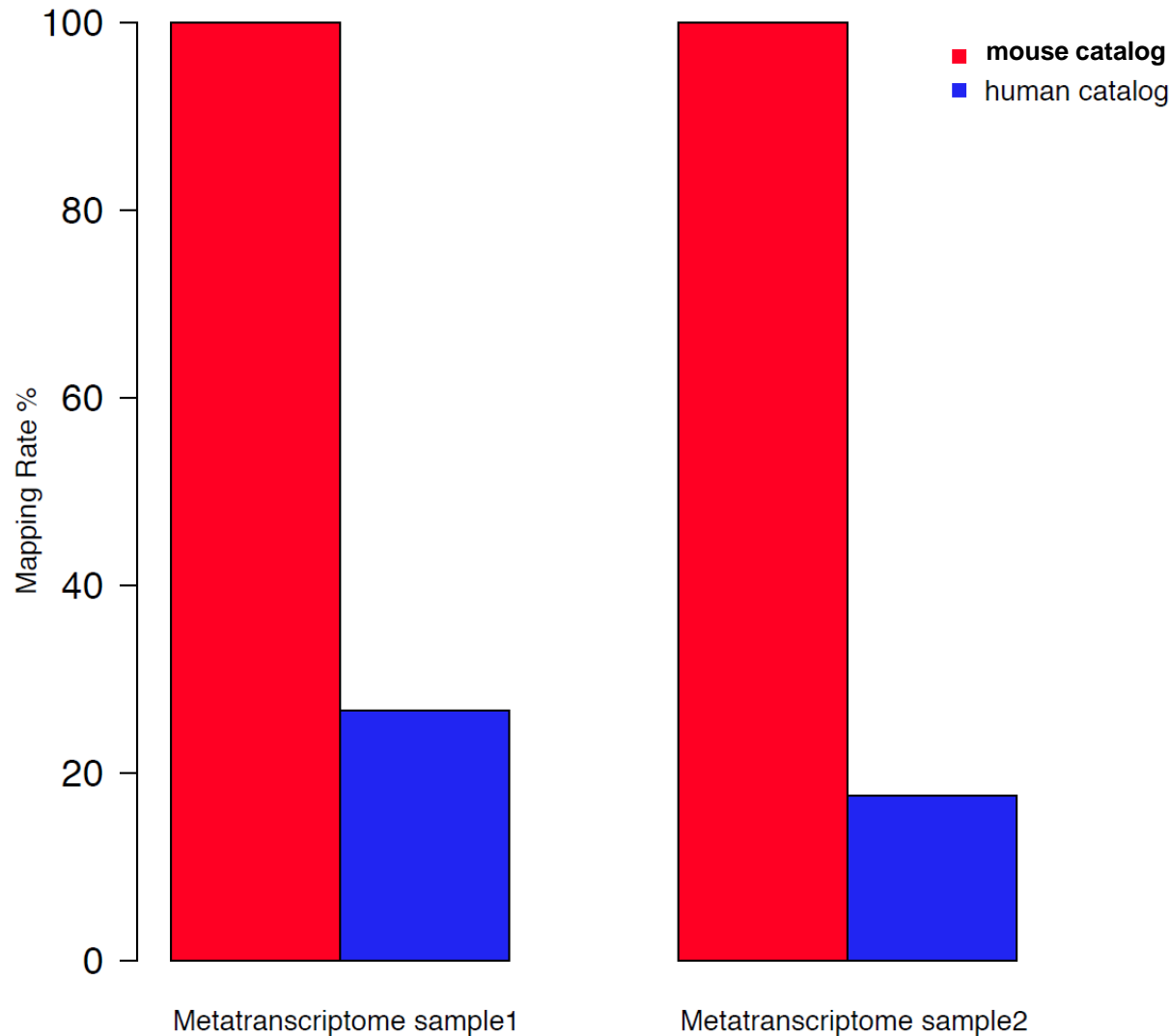
# Why do we need gut microbiome gene catalogs?

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- Better analyses of functional competence than possible based on 16S rDNA amplicon sequencing
- Important for comprehensive metatranscriptomics and metaproteomics
- Construction of metagenomic species/  
metagenomic linkage groups
- Eventually cheaper analyses using Complete Genomics technology and mapping onto reference catalogs

# Humans: not good enough for mice

## A meta-transcriptomics example



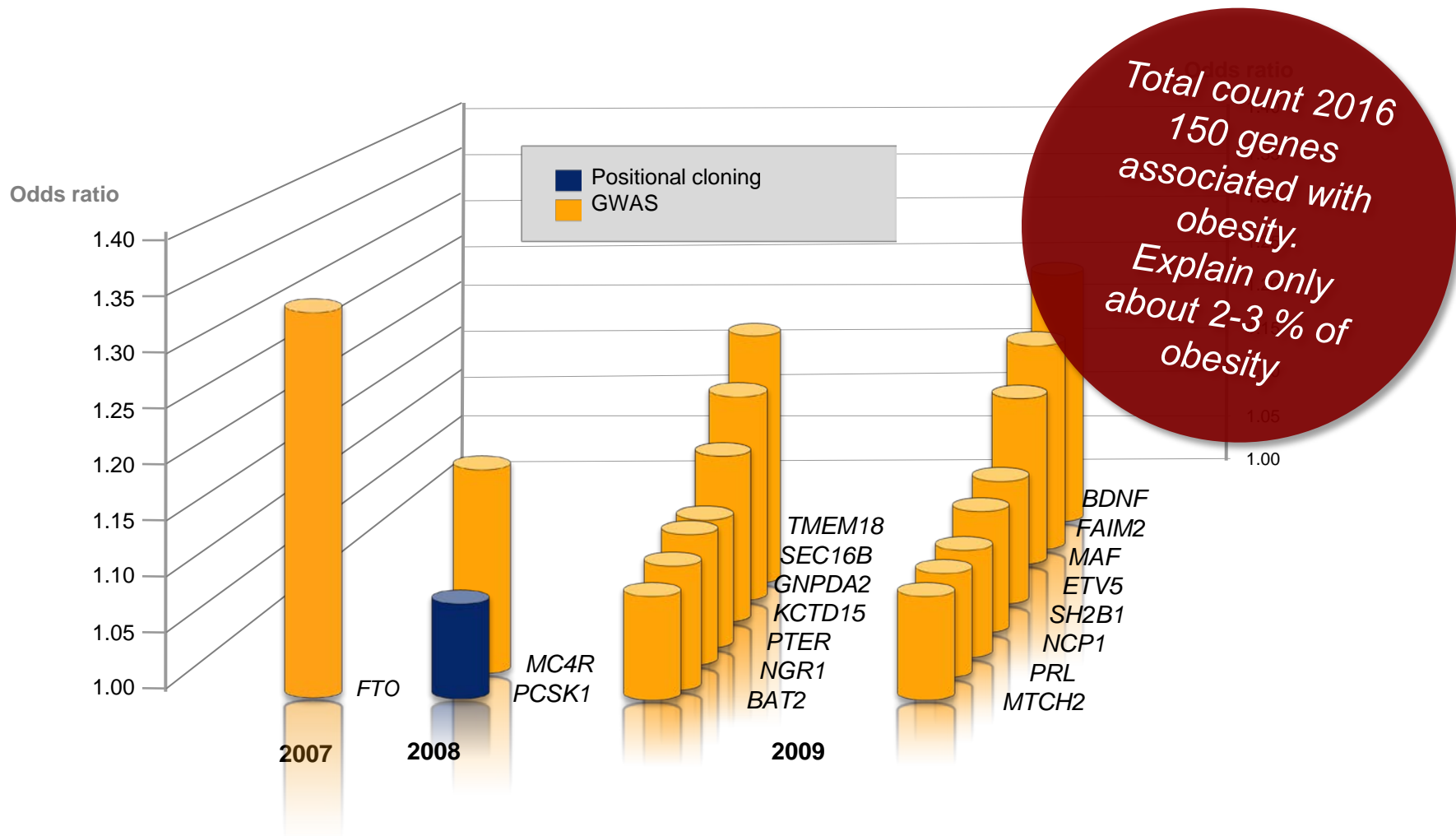


A close-up photograph of a person's midsection and legs, showing significant skin folds and a hand with red nail polish resting on the thigh. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the contours of the body.

What about the genetics of obesity?

# 50 risk loci associate with obesity/increased BMI with genome-wide significance

*Each of them are common but only increase risk of obesity with 8-33%*



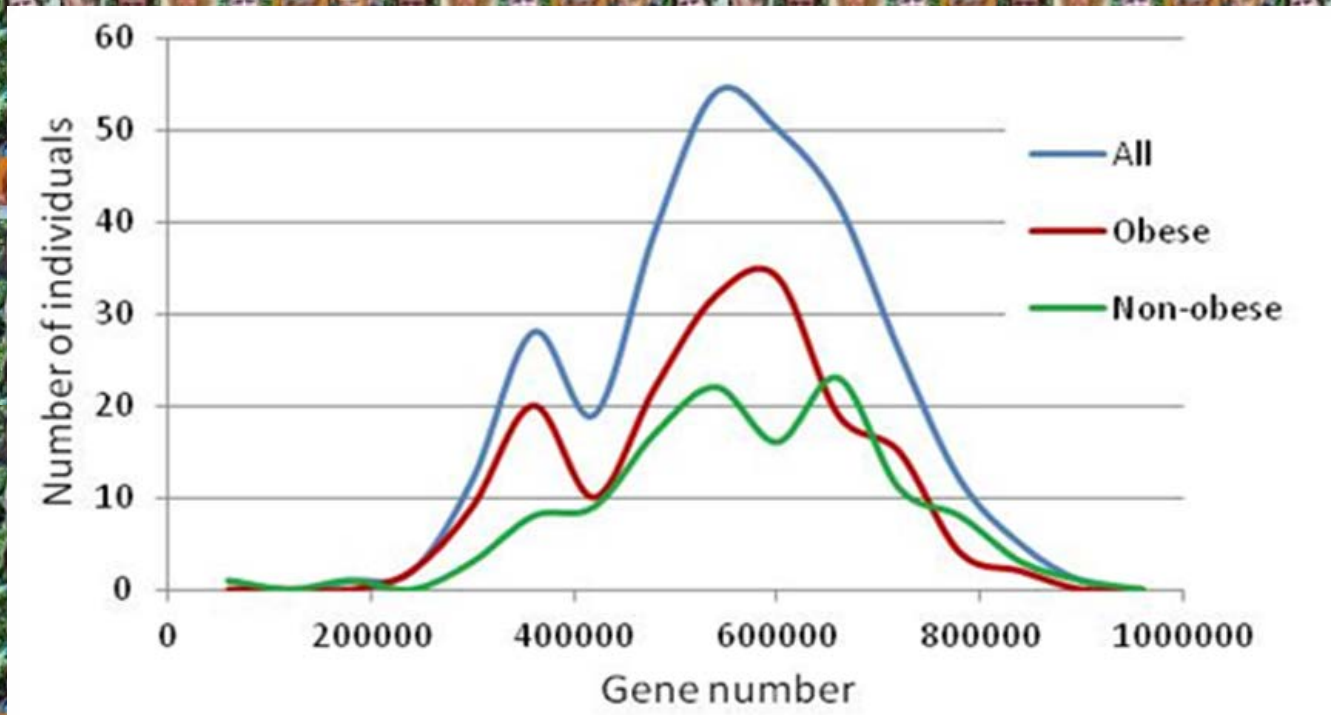


# The two faces of obesity – healthy or unhealthy





# Bimodal distribution of 292 non-diabetic Danish individuals

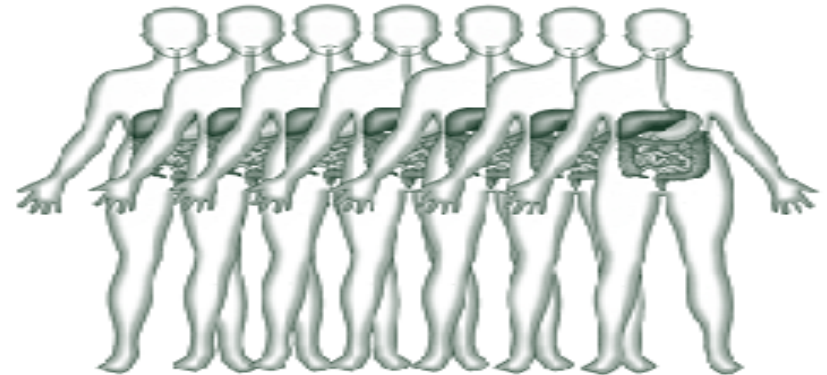




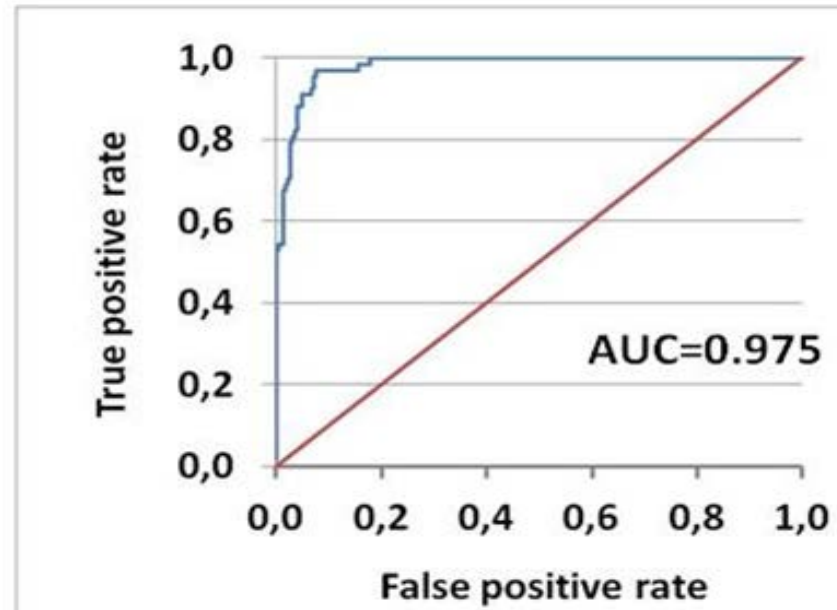
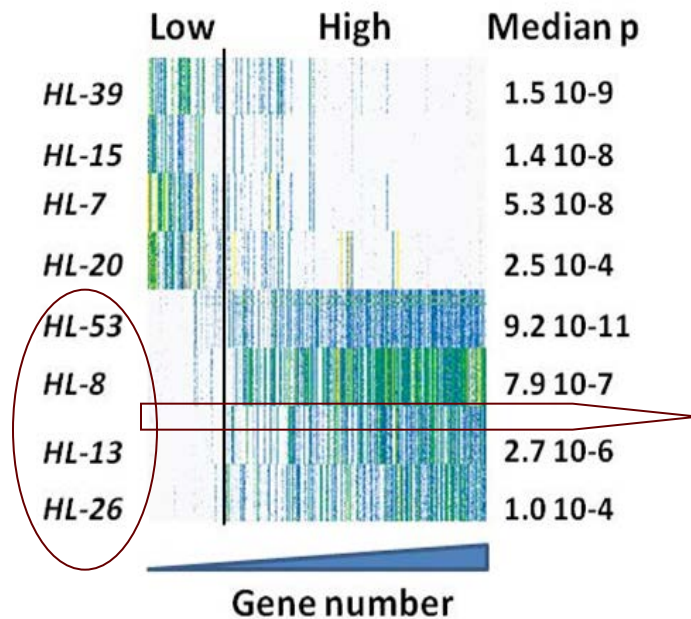
# LGC individuals are more obese, more insulin resistant and more proinflammatory than HGC individuals

Low gene count individuals constitute about 23% of the population in Denmark. Compared with high gene count individuals they are characterized by:

- overall adiposity
- elevated serum leptin,
- decreased serum adiponectin,
- insulin resistance and hyperinsulinaemia
- dyslipidaemia
- a more marked inflammatory phenotype



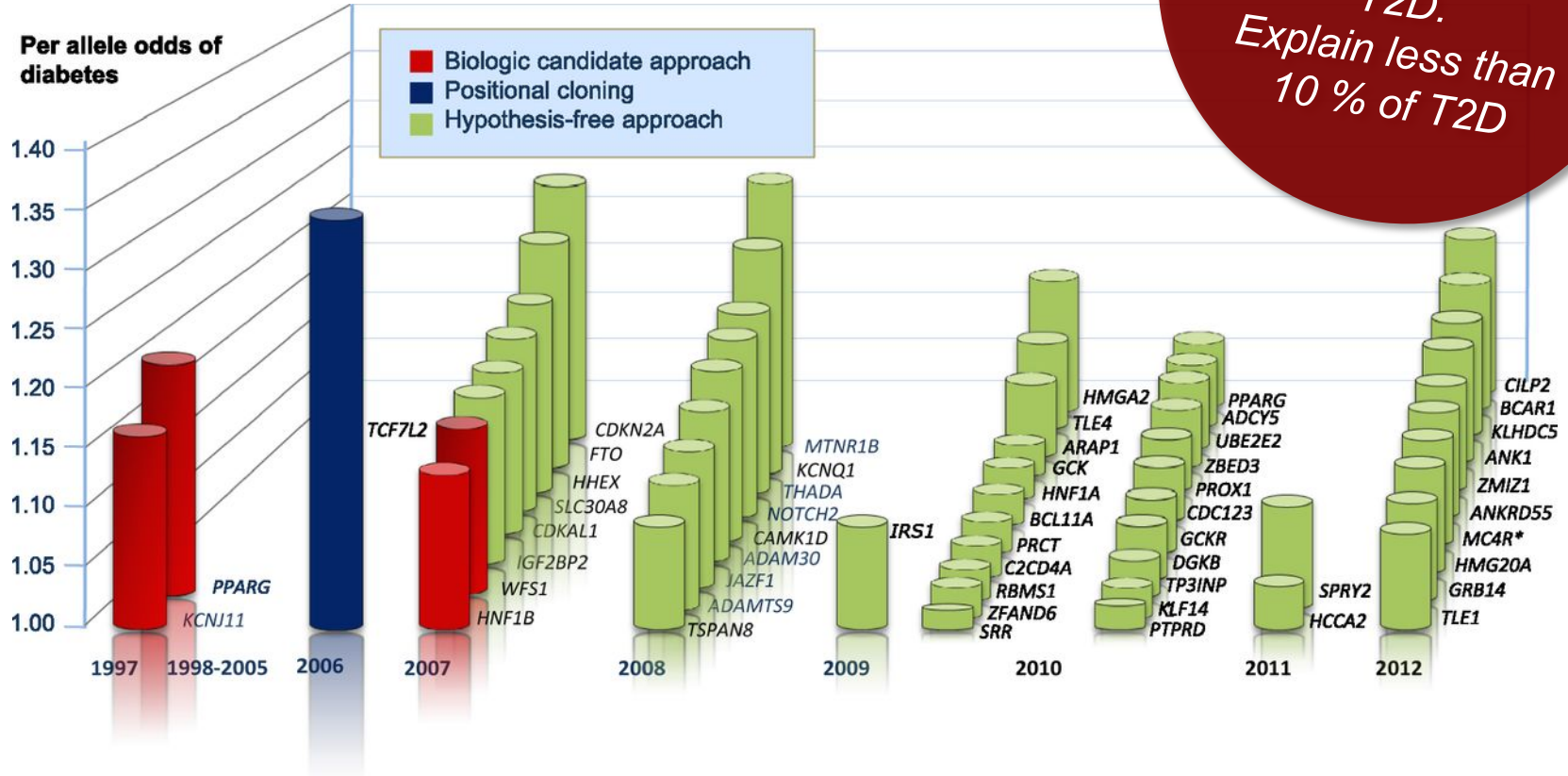
# Four metagenomics linkage groups characterize low and high gene count individuals



A close-up photograph of a person's midsection and legs, showing skin folds and a hand with red nail polish resting on the thigh. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the contours of the body.

What about the genetics of diabetes?

# The evolving landscape of established type 2 diabetes-associated genetic loci





# The genetic architecture of type 2 diabetes

A list of authors and affiliations appears in the online version of the paper

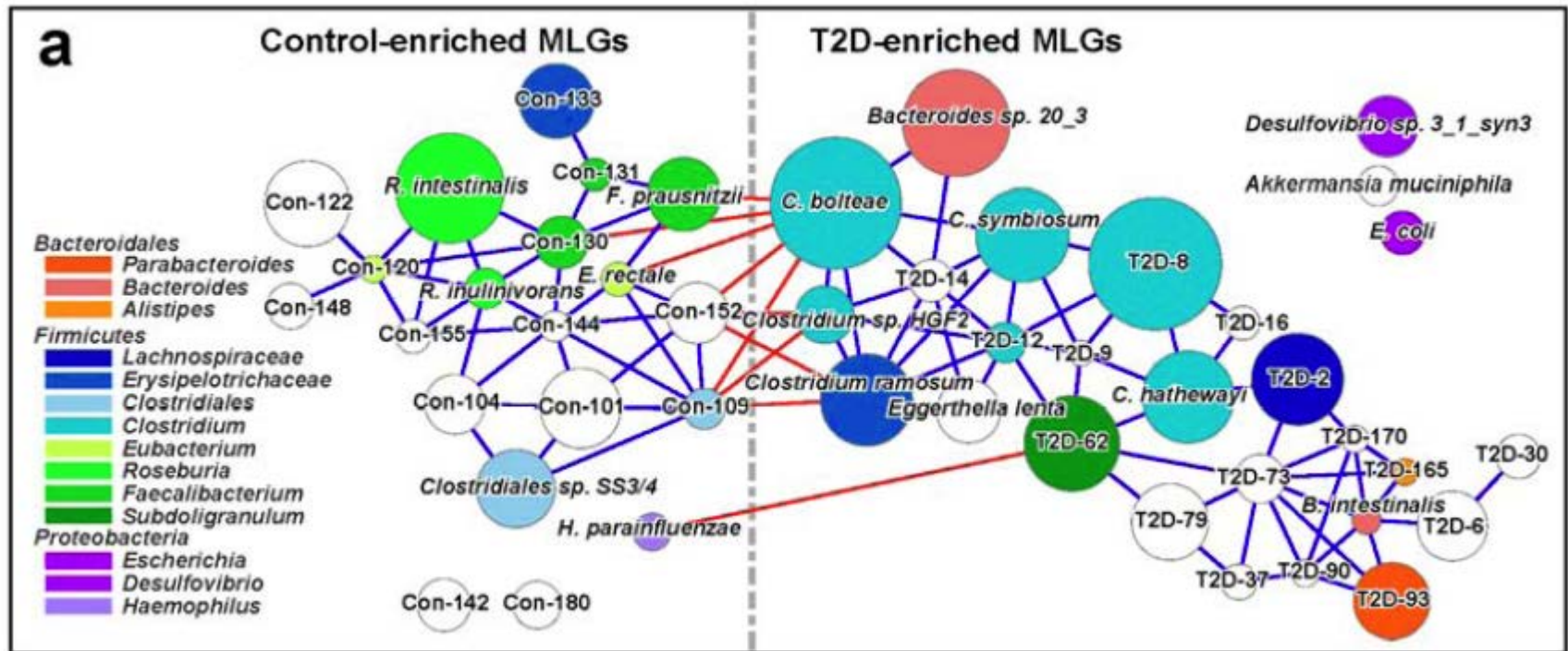
The genetic architecture of common traits, including the number, frequency, and effect sizes of inherited variants that contribute to individual risk, has been long debated. Genome-wide association studies have identified scores of common variants associated with type 2 diabetes, but in aggregate, these explain only a fraction of the heritability of this disease. Here, to test the hypothesis that lower-frequency variants explain much of the remainder, the GoT2D and T2D-GENES consortia performed whole-genome sequencing in 2,657 European individuals with and without diabetes, and exome sequencing in 12,940 individuals from five ancestry groups. To increase statistical power, we expanded the sample size via genotyping and imputation in a further 111,548 subjects. Variants associated with type 2 diabetes after sequencing were overwhelmingly common and most fell within regions previously identified by genome-wide association studies.

Comprehensive enumeration of sequence variation is necessary to identify functional alleles that provide important clues to disease pathophysiology, but large-scale sequencing does not support the idea that lower-frequency variants have a major role in predisposition to type 2 diabetes.

# The gut microbiota and type 2 diabetes



# Metagenomic Linkage Groups (MLGs) enriched in controls and T2D patients



# Bacteria associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes



Highest risk gene *TCF7L2*  
(Inuit specific *TBC1D4*)

Increased risk

1.47 X  
10.3 X)

*Clostridium bolteae*

5.89 X

*Clostridium hatheway*

23.1 X



A microscopic view of various bacteria, including rod-shaped and spherical forms, some with flagella, set against a black background. The bacteria are illuminated with a blue light, giving them a glowing appearance.

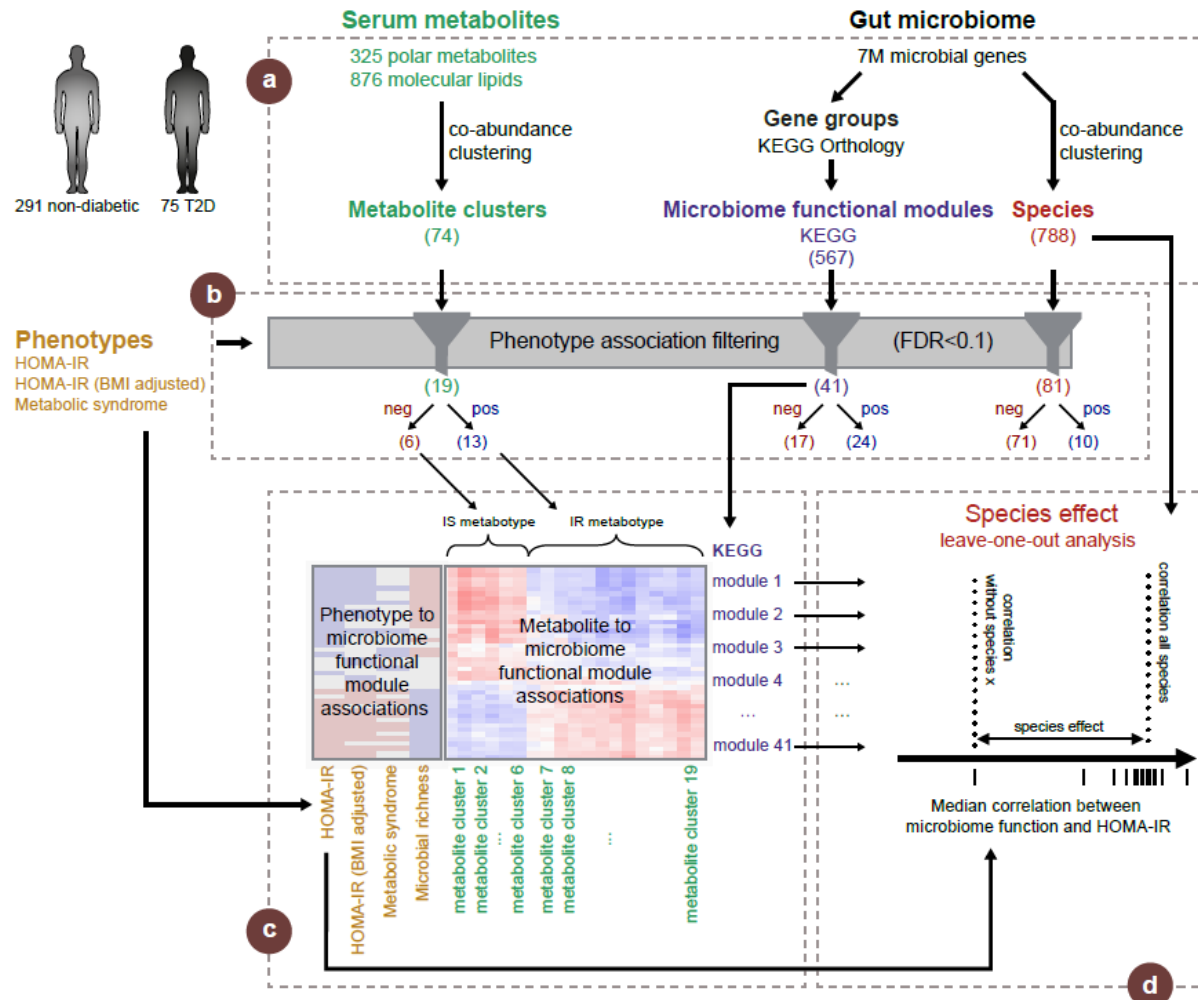
# Branched-chain amino acids (BCAAs) and insulin resistance

# Branched-chain amino acids and metabolism – a complex interplay

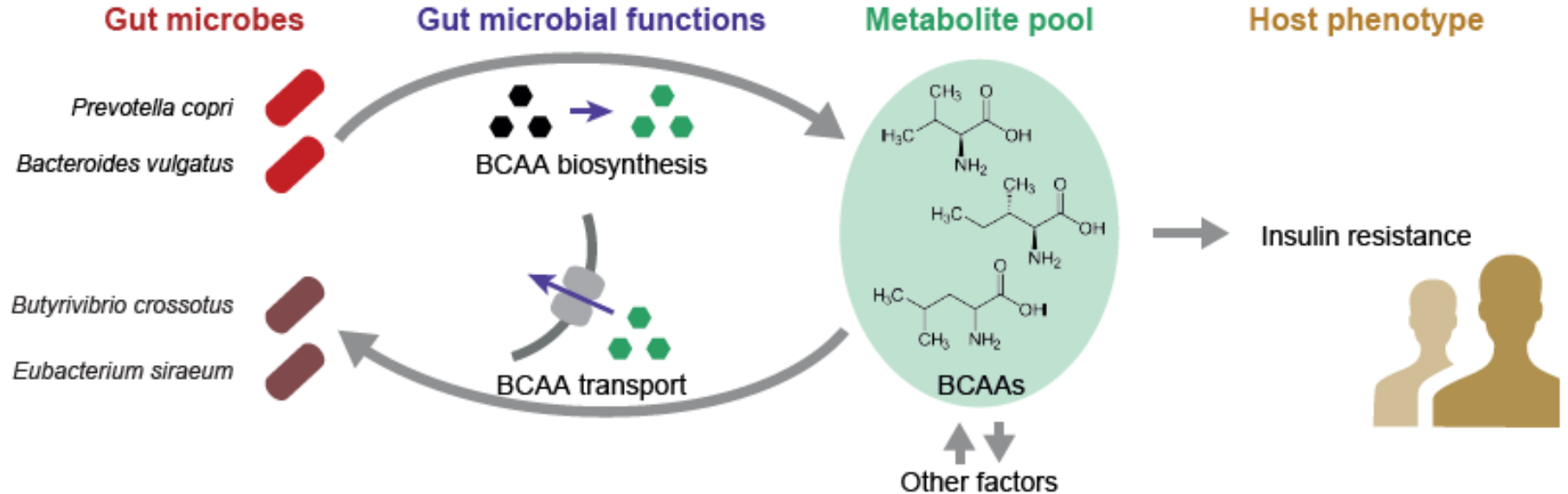
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- Fatty acids (FA) and FA-derived metabolites have long been implicated in the development of insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes
- Branched-chain amino acids (BCAA) and related metabolites are more strongly associated with insulin resistance than many common lipid species
- BCAA-related signature is predictive of incident diabetes and intervention outcomes and uniquely responsive to therapeutic interventions
- BCAA supplementation requires the background of a high-fat diet to promote insulin resistance

# Insulin resistance correlates with increased levels of serum BCAAs and fecal *Prevotella copri*



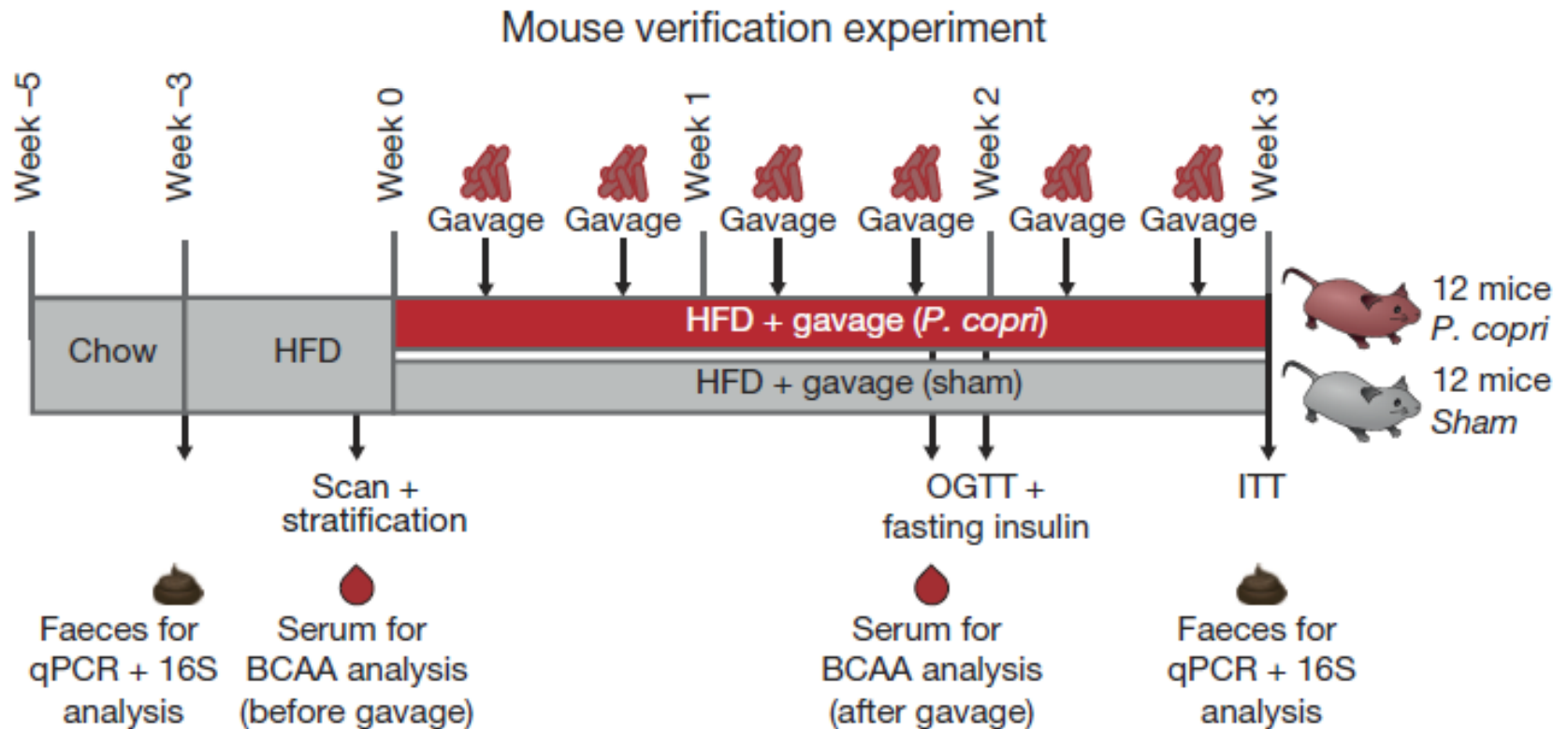
# Insulin resistance correlates with increased levels of serum BCAAs and fecal *Prevotella copri*



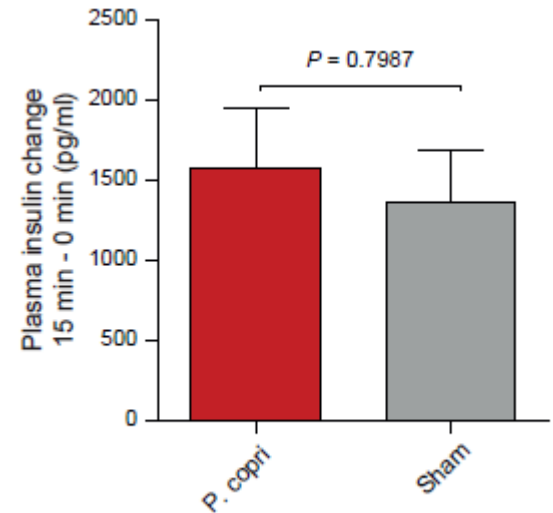
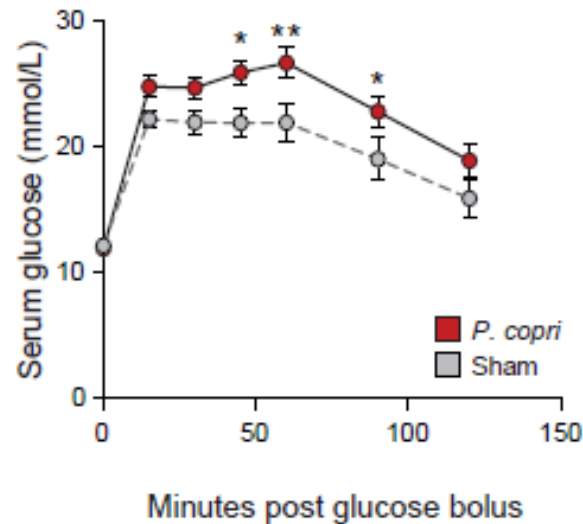
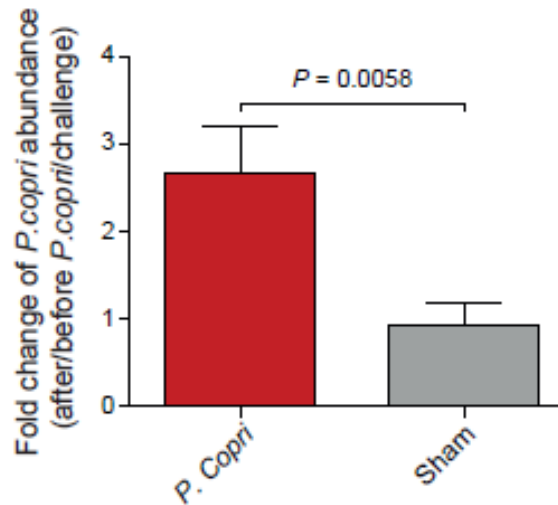


# Causal relationship between *P. copri* and plasma BCAAs, glucose intolerance and insulin resistance

e

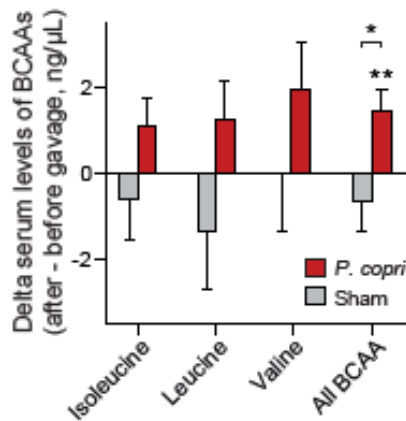


# Gavage with *P. copri* increases the relative abundance in fecal samples and impairs glucose tolerance

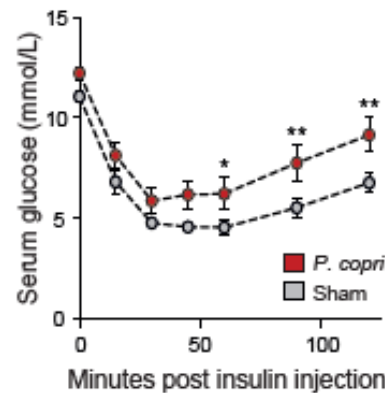


# Gavage with *P. copri* increases serum BCAAs and decreases insulin sensitivity

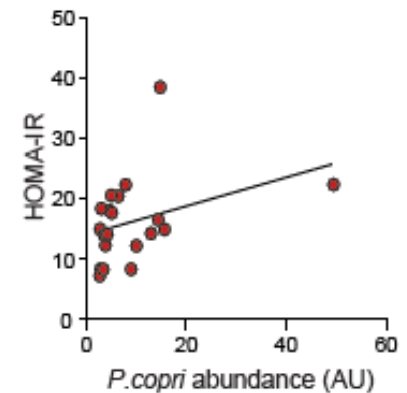
f Serum BCAA levels are increased in *P. copri* compared to Sham gavaged mice



g Insulin sensitivity is diminished in *P. copri* compared to Sham gavaged mice



h Fecal *P. copri* abundance correlates with HOMA-IR



A microscopic view of various bacteria, including rod-shaped and spherical forms, some with flagella, set against a dark background. The bacteria are illuminated in shades of purple and blue, creating a high-contrast, detailed image of microbial structures.

## Take home message

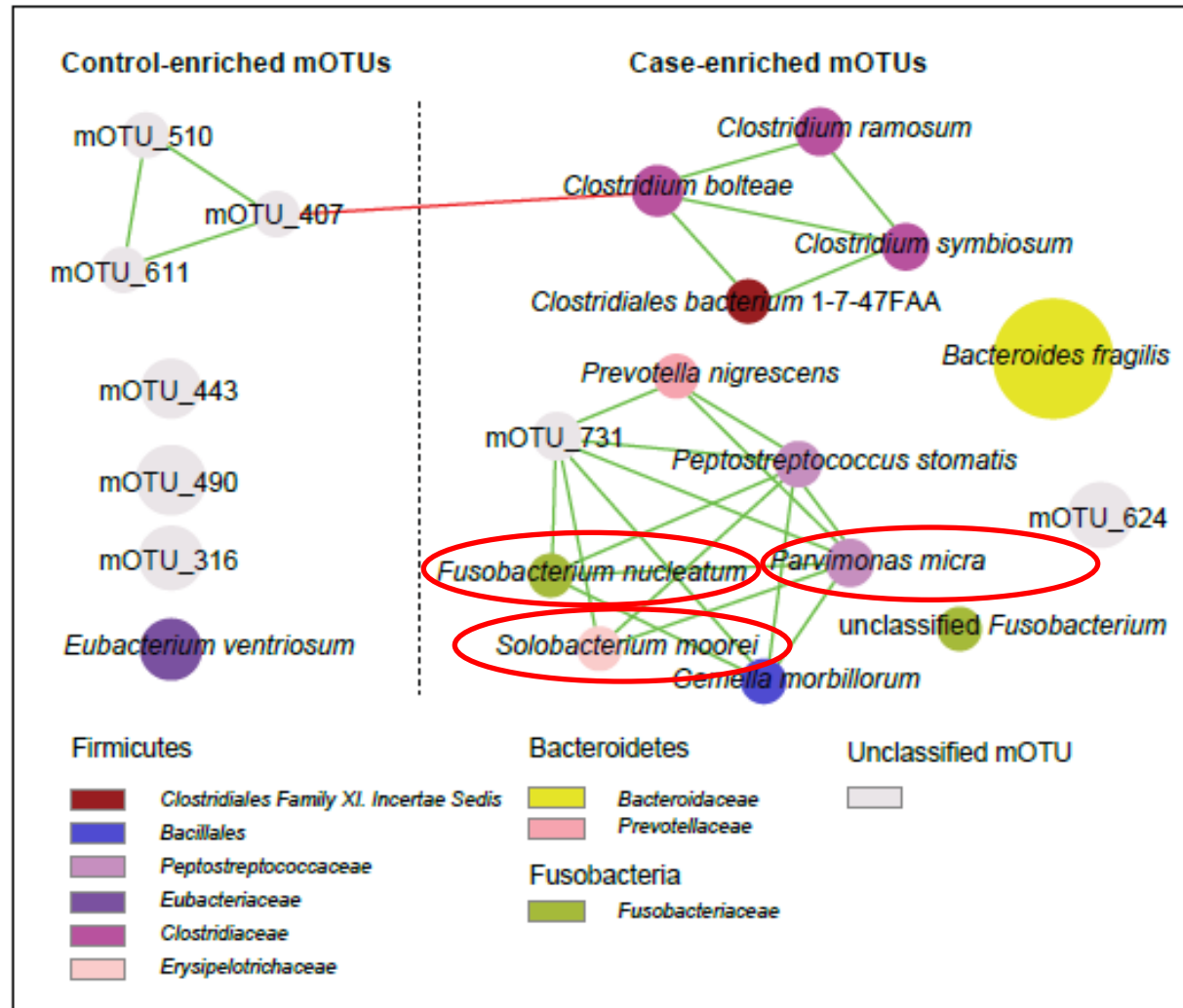
Microbial synthesis of branched chain amino acids seems to be causally associate with insulin resistance



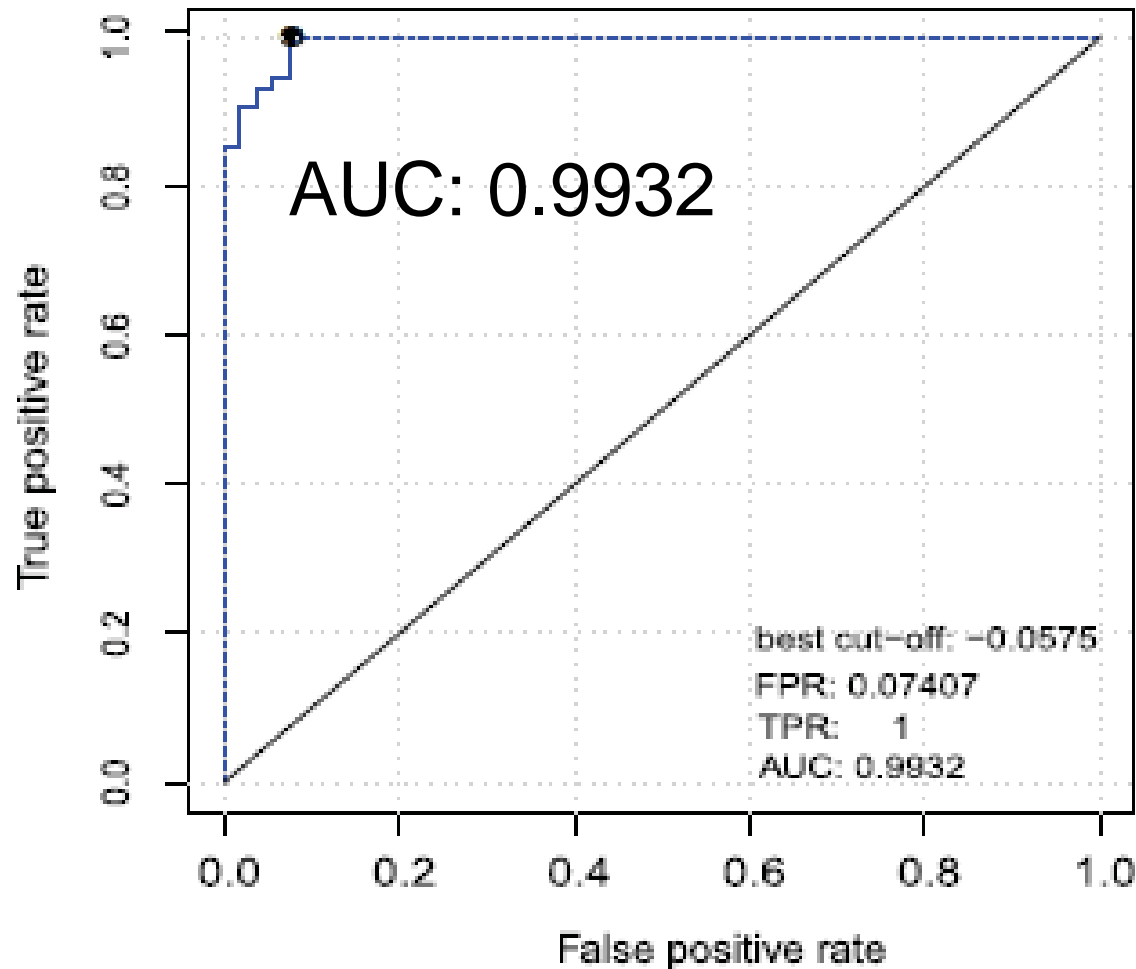
# Colorectal cancer

- 74 Han Chinese colorectal cancer patients
- 54 Healthy Han Chinese individuals
- 16 Danish colorectal cancer patients
- 24 Healthy Danish individuals
- Discovery phase using Chinese samples
- Validation phase using Danish samples supplemented by published data on Austrian and French patients

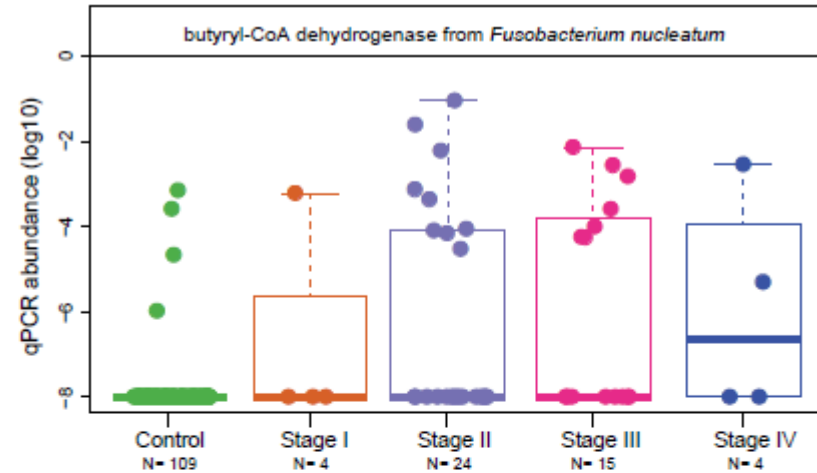
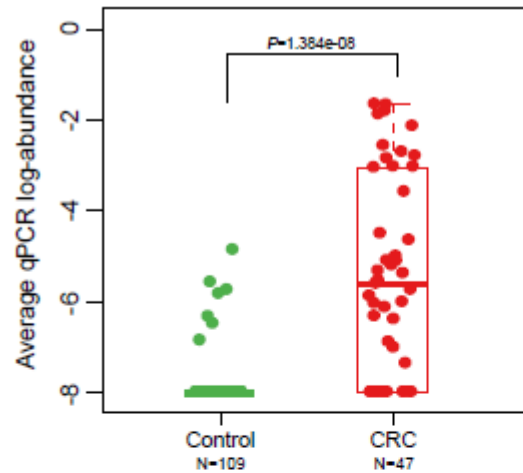
# Co-occurrence network deduced from relative abundance of 21 mOTUs associated with CRC



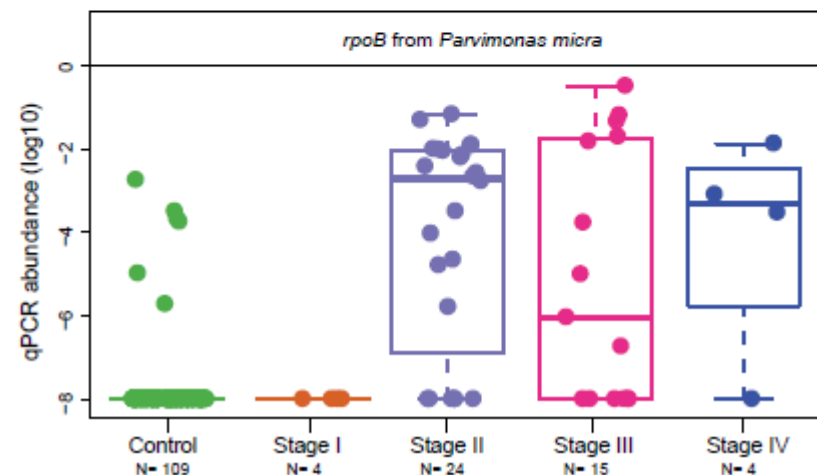
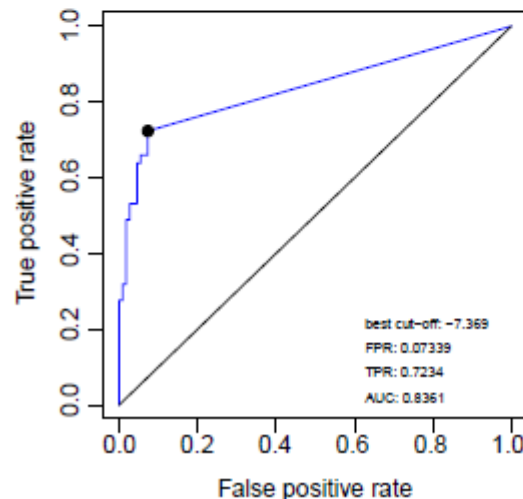
# Discovering gut microbial gene markers associated with CRC based on 31 markers



# Validating a few robust gene markers associated with CRC

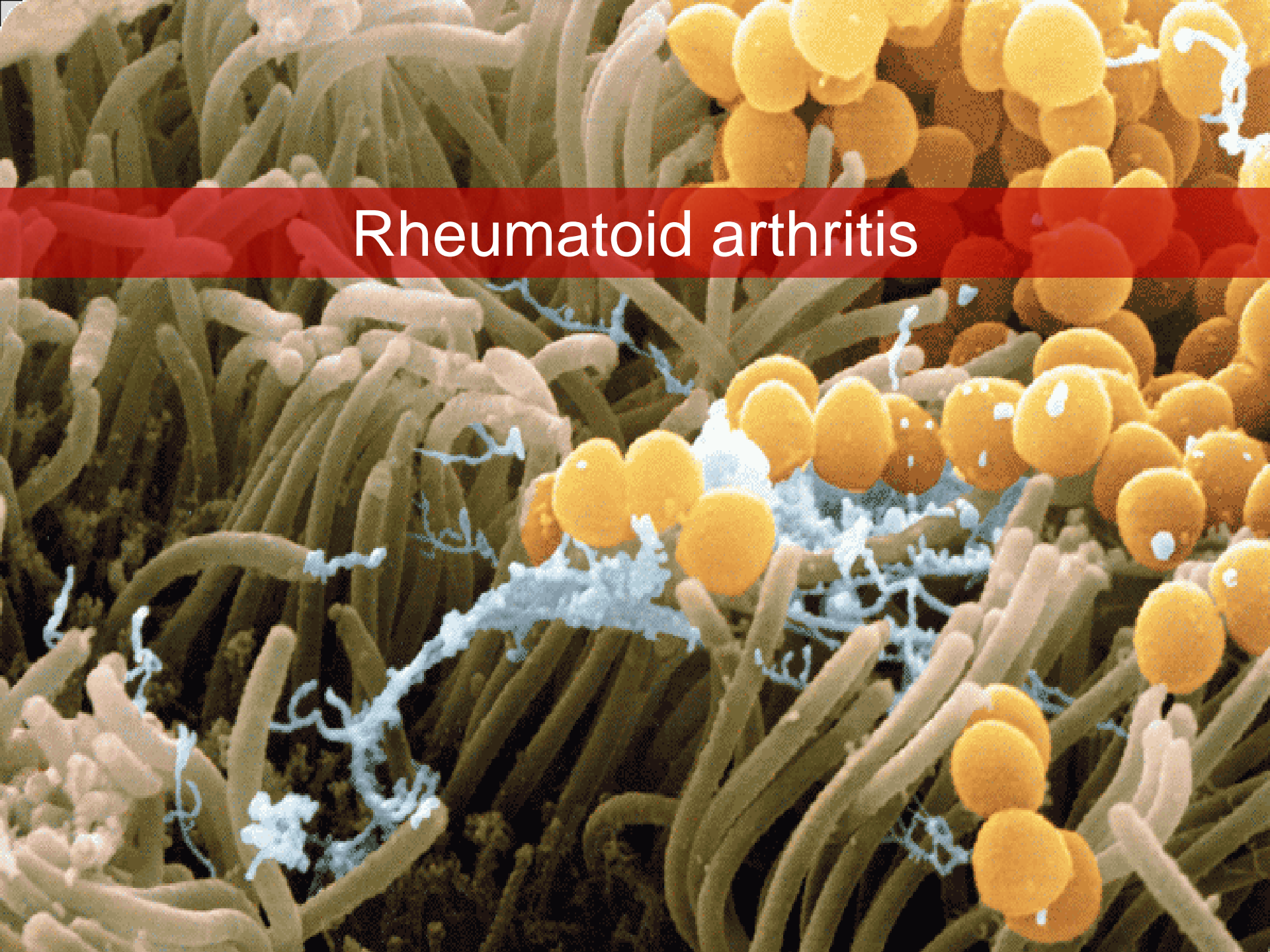


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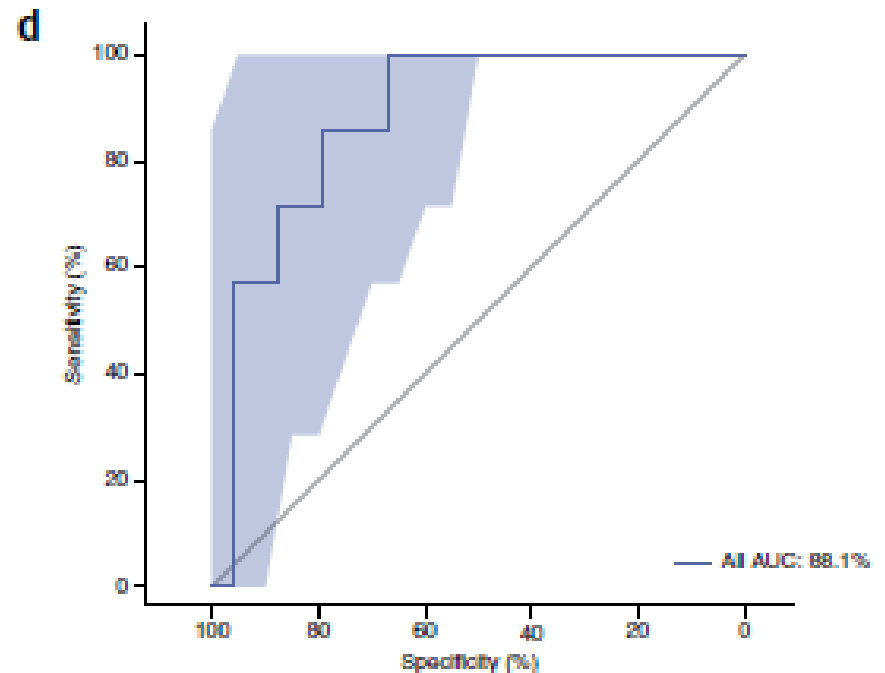
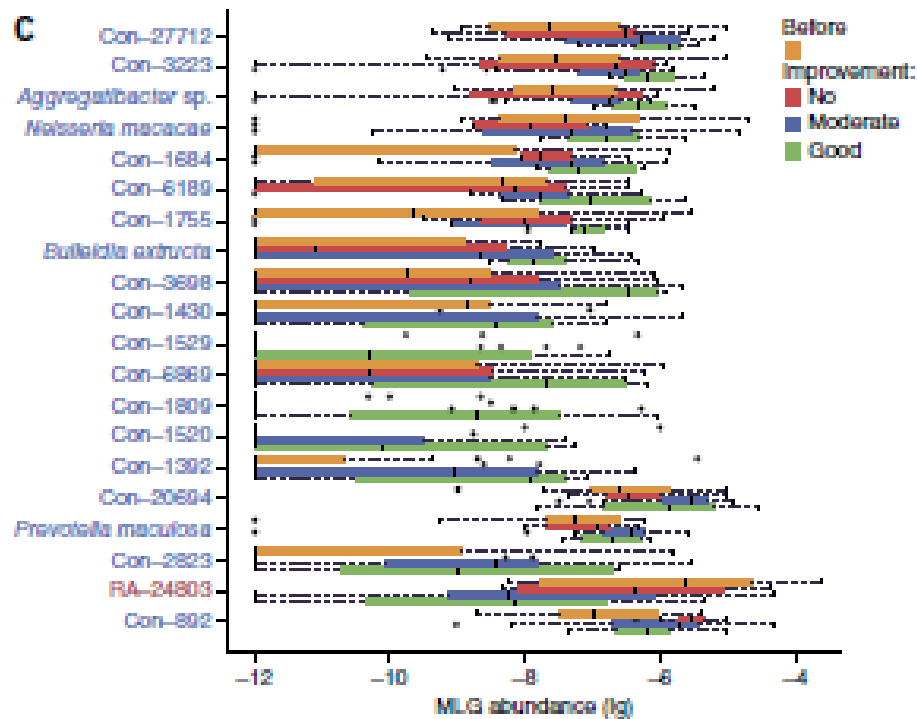


# Rheumatoid arthritis





# Enrichment of dental control MLGs by DMARD treatment



# Take home messages

- Even without knowledge of causality, microbial markers have great potential in relation to diagnosing of patients
- Few robust gut microbial markers are associated with colorectal cancer and rheumatoid arthritis in different populations
- Potential for improved early diagnosis based on microbiome analyses
- Potential for stratification of patients prior to treatment
- Much larger sample sizes needed to validate our findings



# Status and concluding remarks



**What we think we know**

**What we do not know**

**What is needed:**

**Much more knowledge**

**Understanding network and  
communities**

**Functional characterization**

**Host-microbial interaction**

**Causality - Causality - Causality**



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Thank you for listening

