

A wide-angle photograph of the Stanford University campus. In the foreground, a large green lawn is bisected by a paved path that leads towards a large, historic building with a red-tiled roof and arched windows. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a clear blue sky. A large, circular flower bed with a red and white design is in the lower center of the frame.

# Ten Years and Hundreds of Novel Cardiovascular Loci: What Now?

ATVB/PVD 2016, MAY 5, 2016

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## Disclosure Information

### **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:**

**None.**

### **UNLABELED/UNAPPROVED USES DISCLOSURE:**

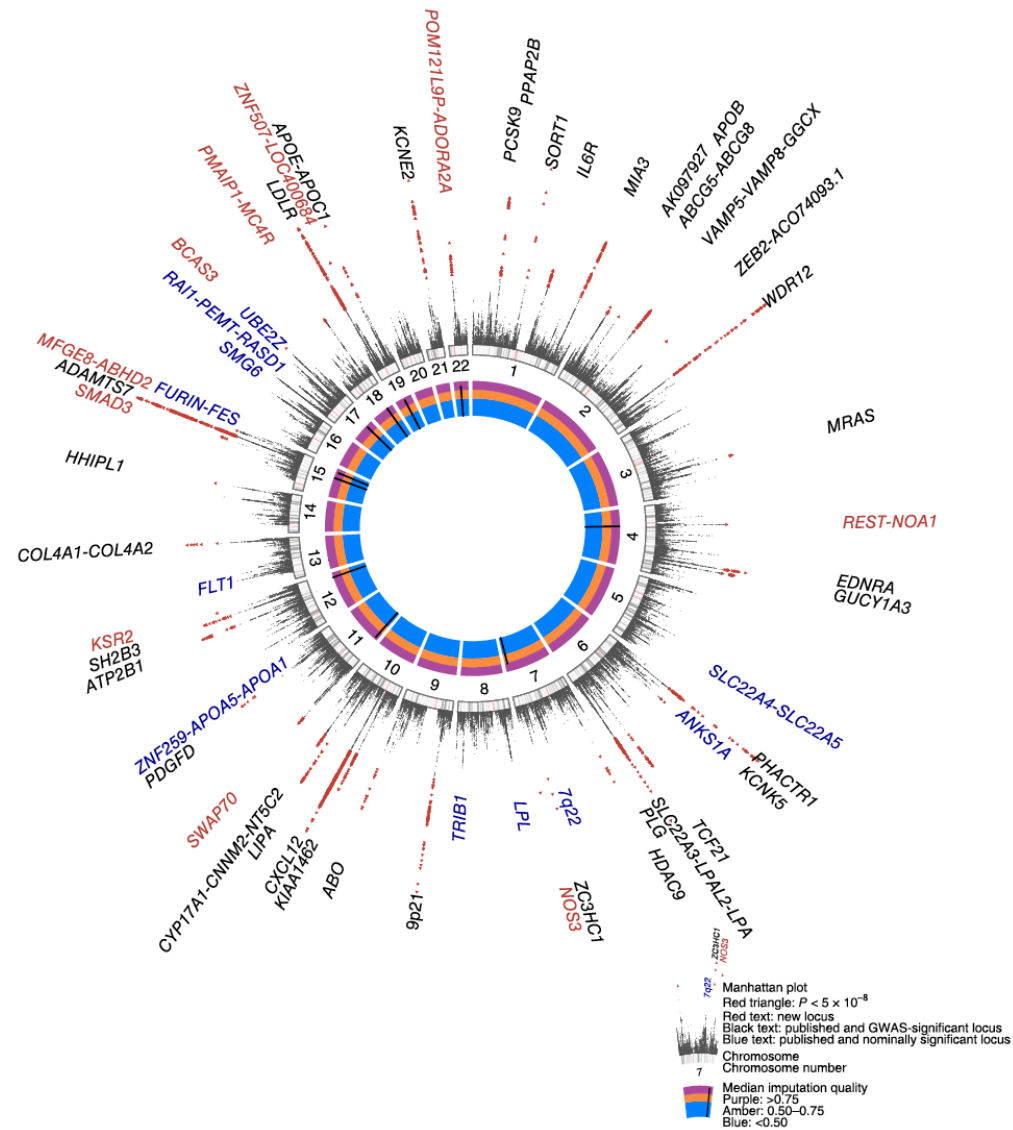
**None.**



## Outline

- What have we learned from ten years of GWAS?
- Overall strategies for post-GWAS studies
- Examples of follow-up studies informed by cardiovascular GWAS

# GWAS have discovered hundreds of CVD-related loci



Ref: CARDIoGRAMplusC4D. Nat Genet. 2015;47(10):1121-30; <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/gwas/>.

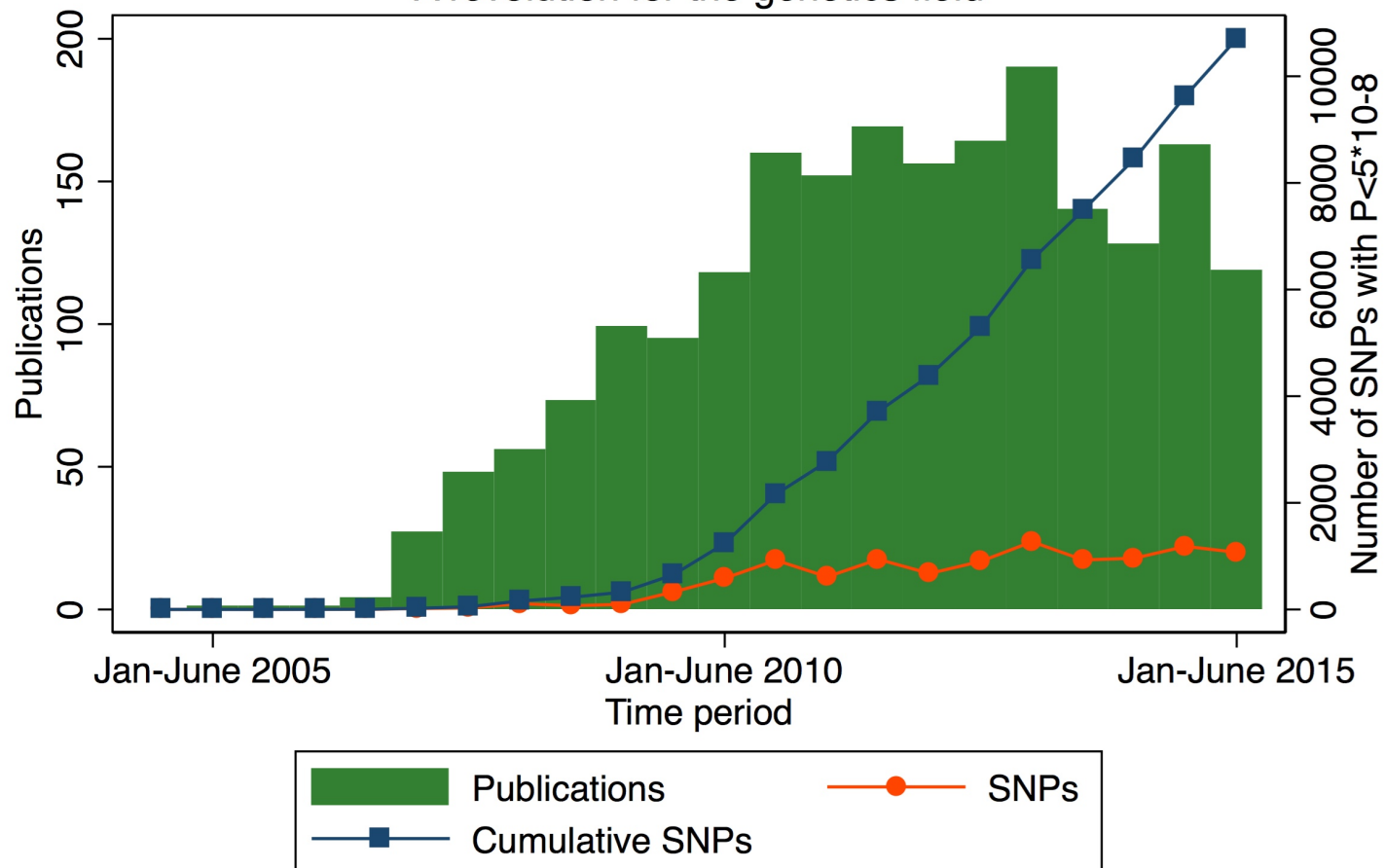
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# GWAS have discovered hundreds of CVD-related loci

## Genome-wide association studies 2005-2015

A revolution for the genetics field



Ref: CARDIoGRAMplusC4D. *Nat Genet.* 2015;47(10):1121-30; <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/gwas/>.

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# GWAS have discovered hundreds of CVD-related loci



*Cardiovascular disease: 179*

*Cardiovascular measurements: 217*

*Lipids: 309*

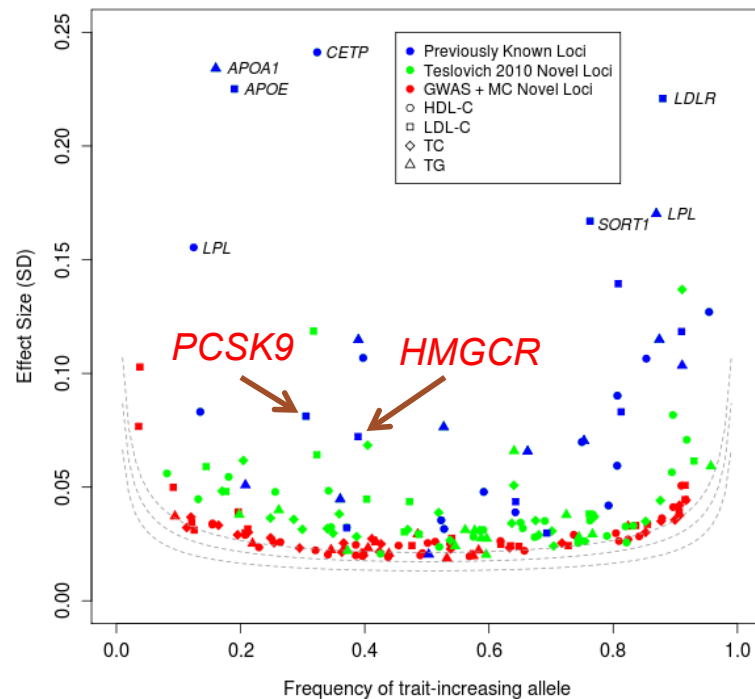
*Body weight and measures: 388*

*Metabolic disease: 142*

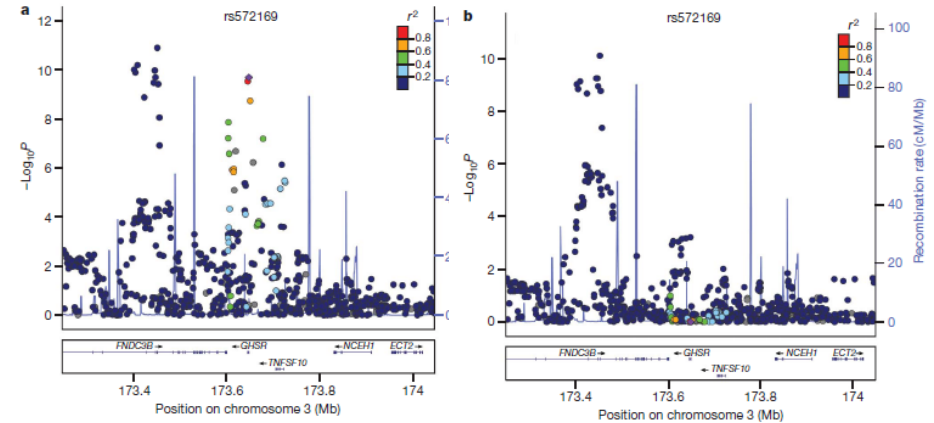
Ref: CARDIoGRAMplusC4D. *Nat Genet.* 2015;47(10):1121-30; <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/gwas/>.

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# Lessons learned: Genetic architecture



**Many loci with tiny effects**



**Allelic heterogeneity is common**



=

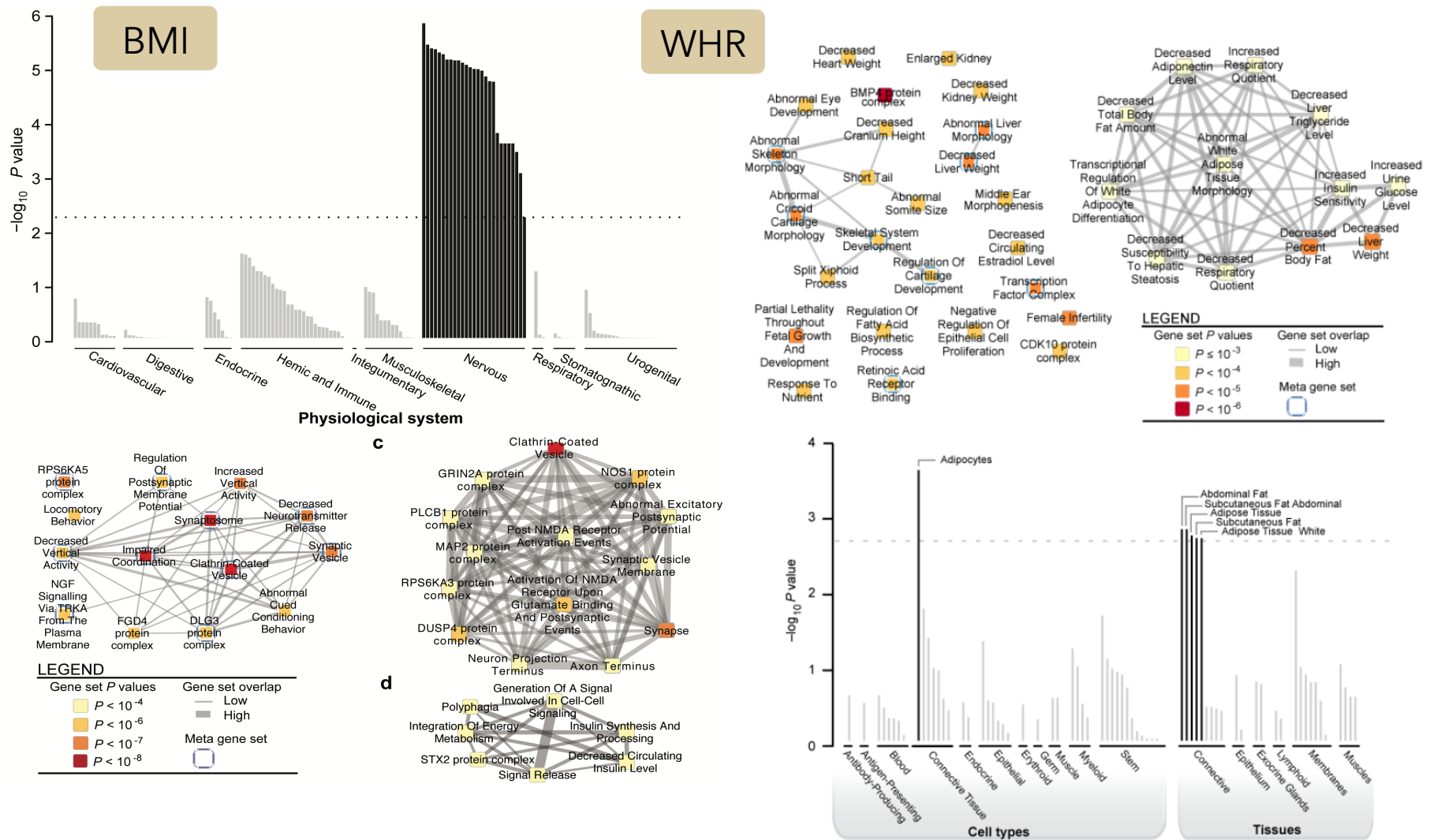


**Genetic architecture of extremes  
is similar to overall trait**

Ref: Willer CJ. *Nat Genet.* 2013;45(11):1274-83; Wood AR. *Nat Genet* 2014; 46(11):1173-86;  
Berndt SI et al. *Nat Genet* 2013;45(5):501-12.

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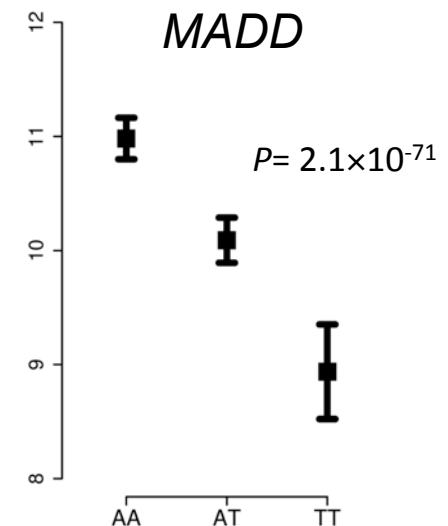
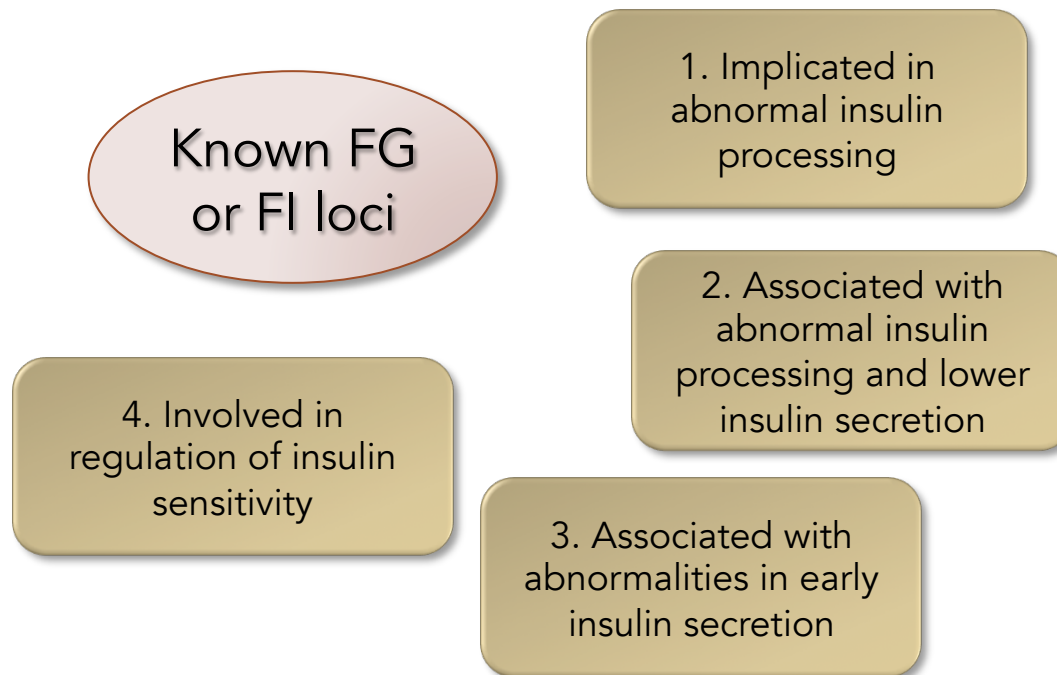
# Lessons learned: Biological insights directly from GWAS



Ref: Locke AE. *Nature* 2015;518(7538):197-206; Shungin D. *Nature* 2015. 518(7538):187-96.

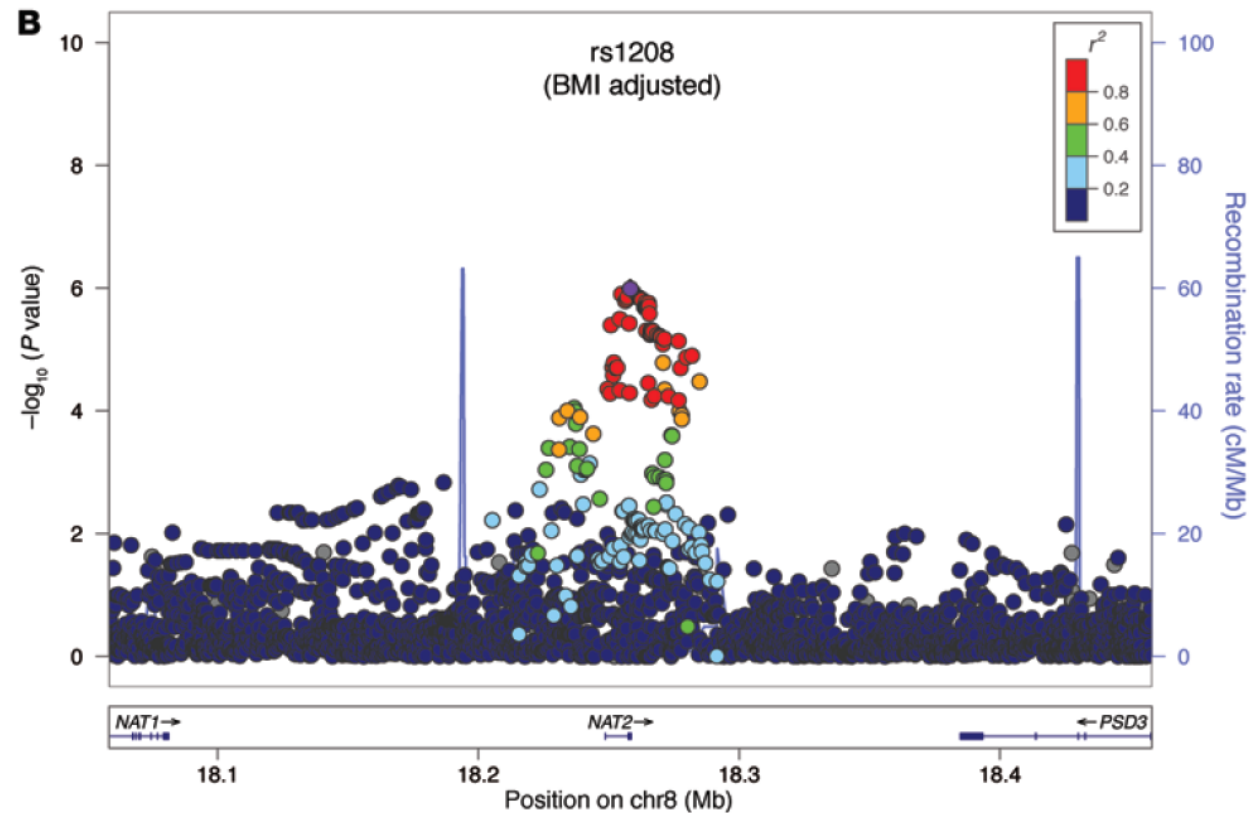
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## Lessons learned: Follow-up with deeper phenotyping

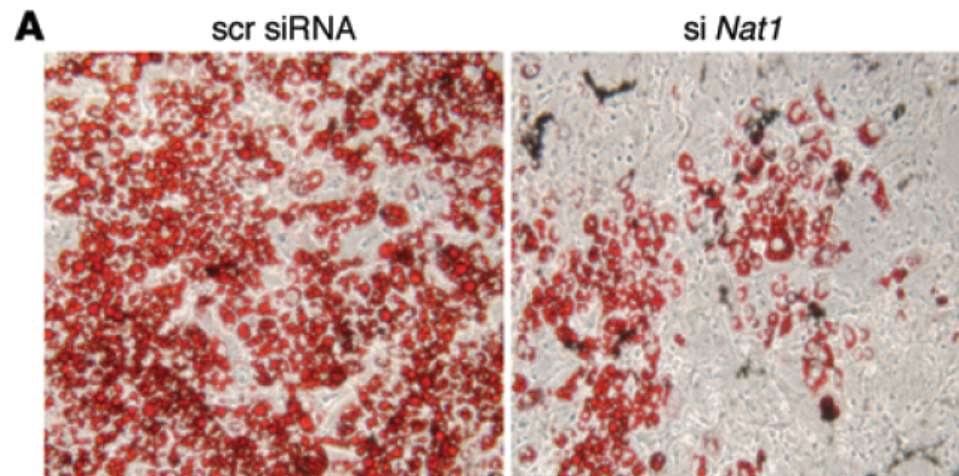
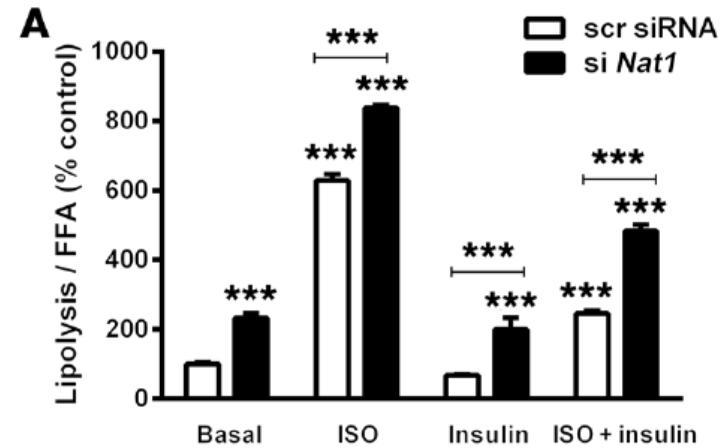
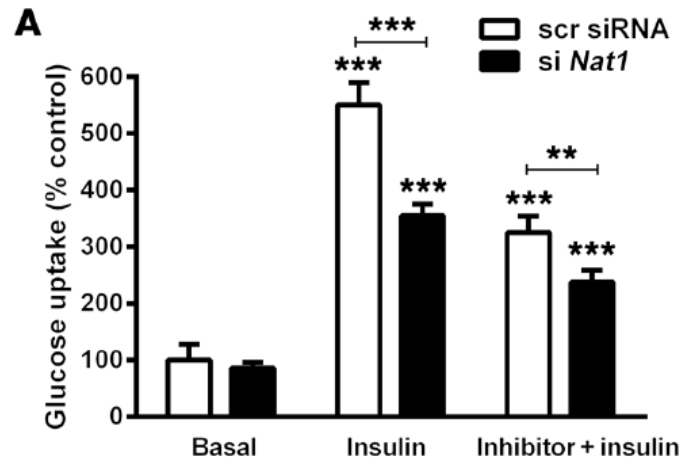




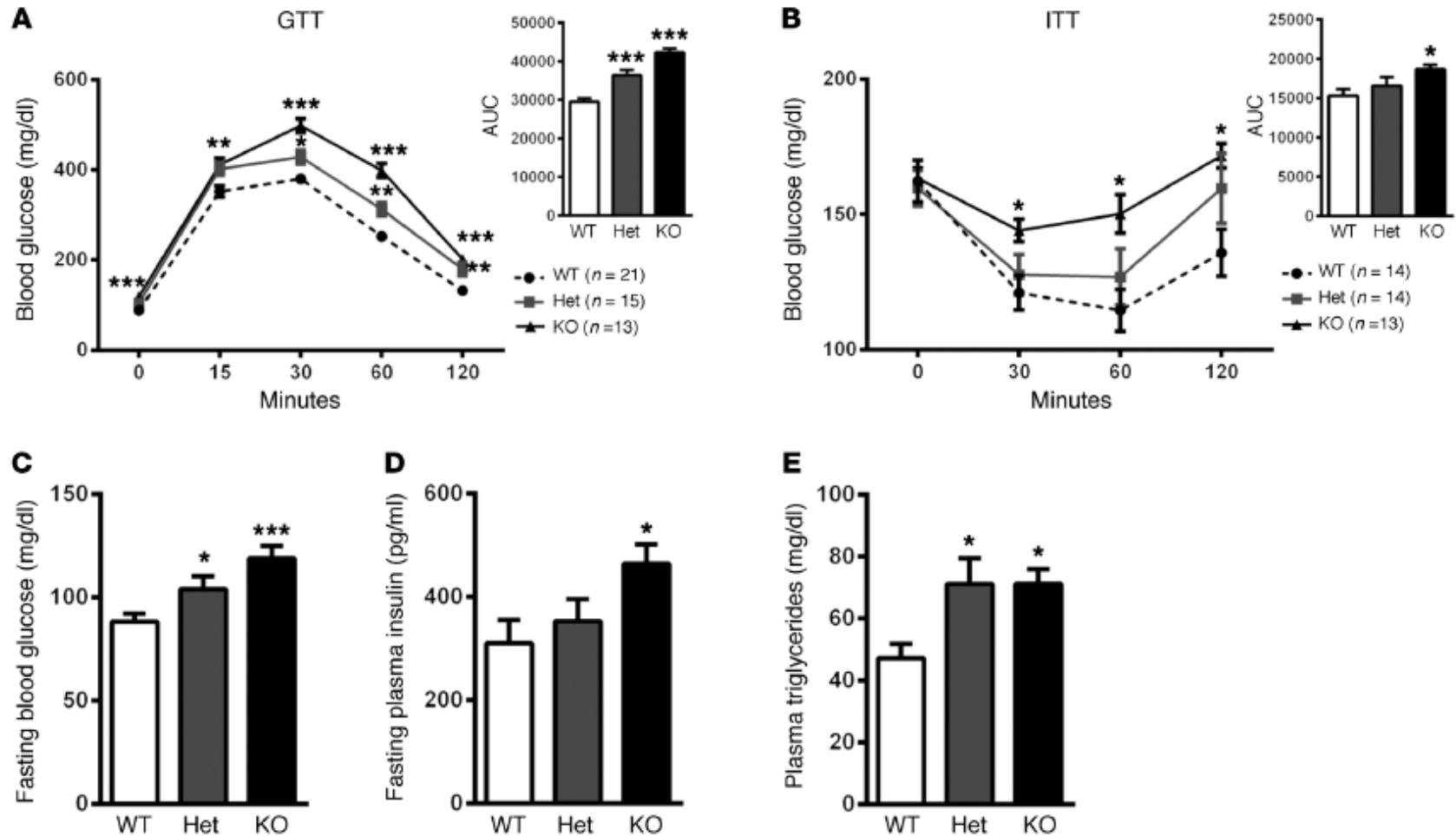
## Lessons learned: Functional follow-up in model systems



## Lessons learned: Functional follow-up in model systems



## Lessons learned: Functional follow-up in model systems



Ref: Knowles JW. *J Clin Invest* 2015;125(4):1739-51.

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# Outline

- What have we learned from ten years of GWAS?

Hundreds of loci



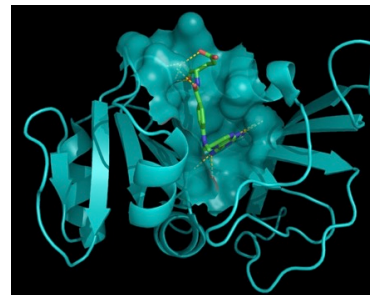
Few clinical applications



Insights to genetic architecture



New biology



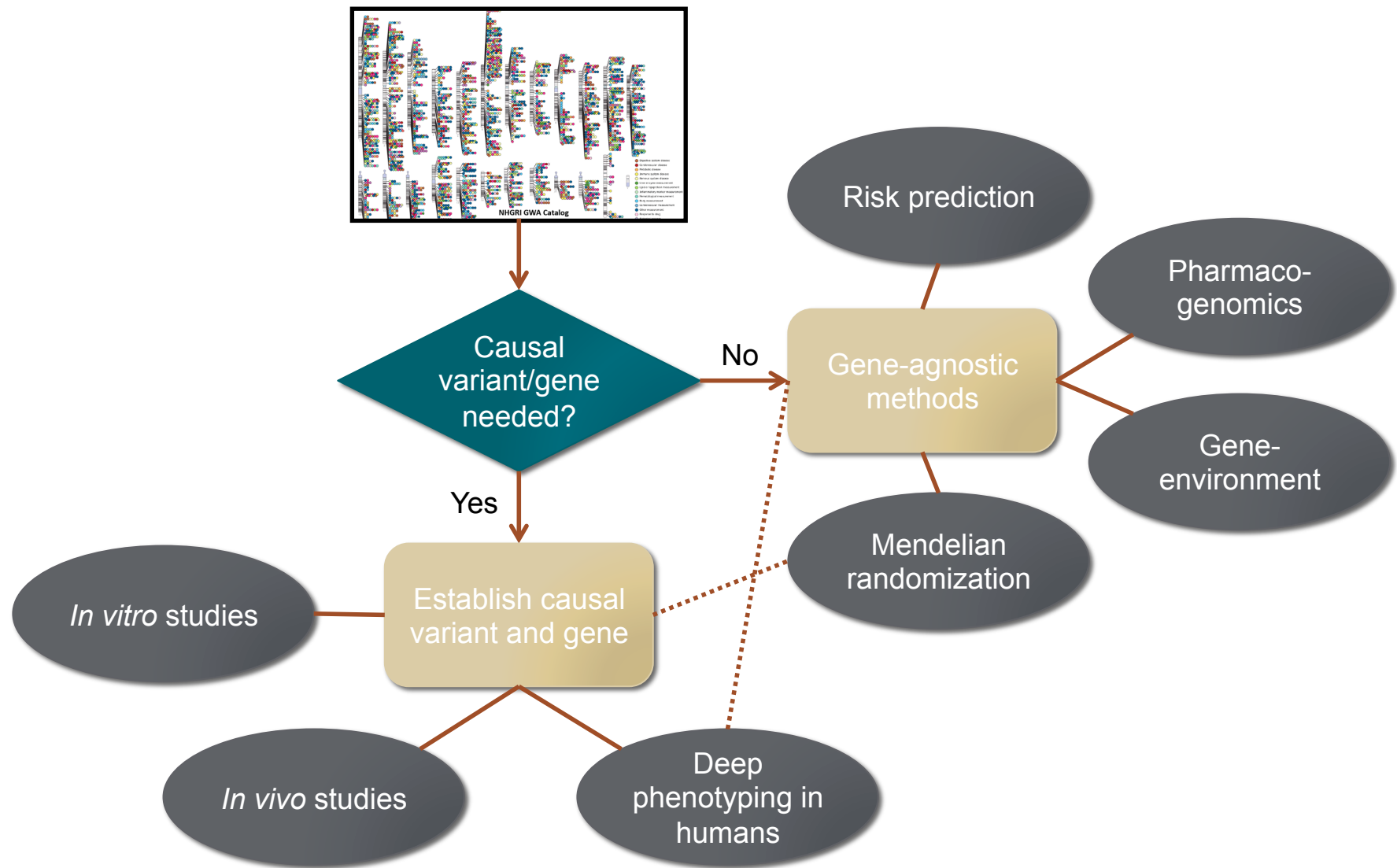


## Outline

- Overall strategies for post-GWAS studies

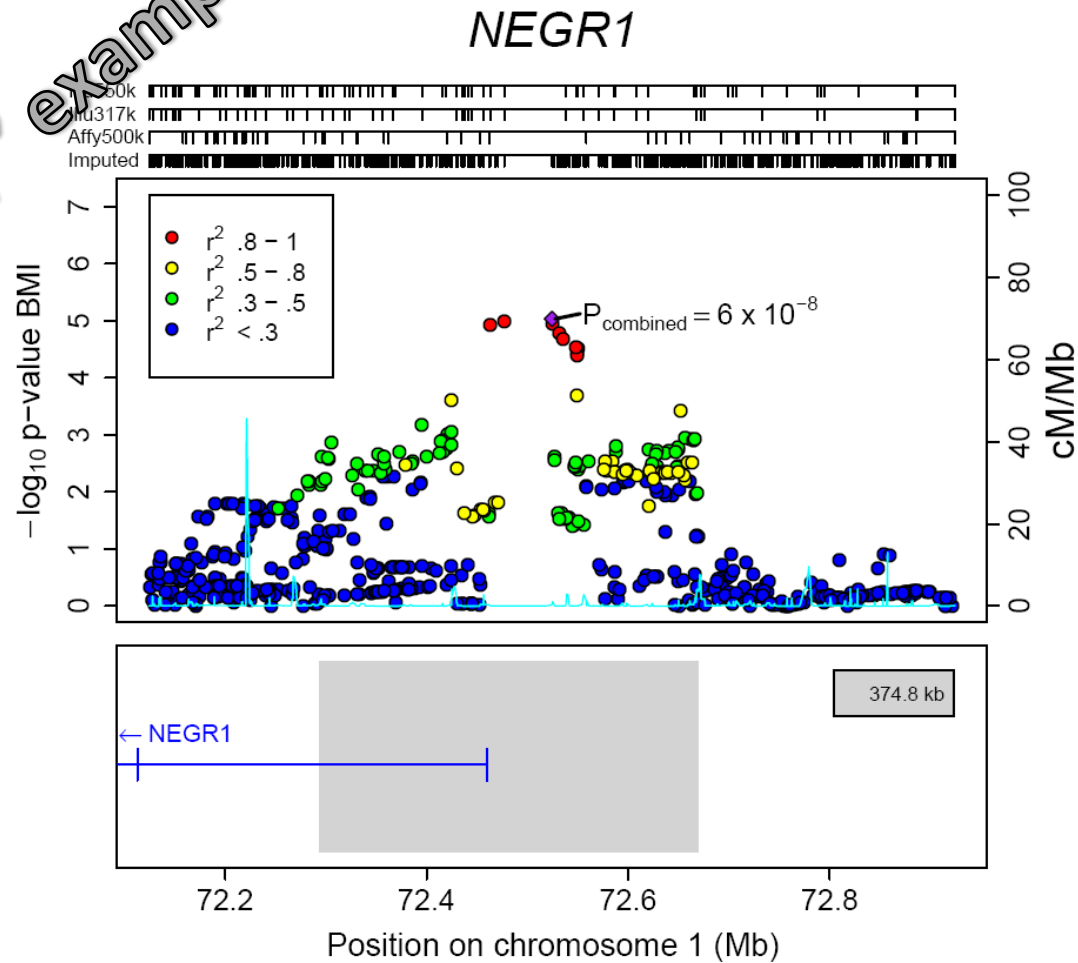


# Overall goals and strategies of post-GWAS studies



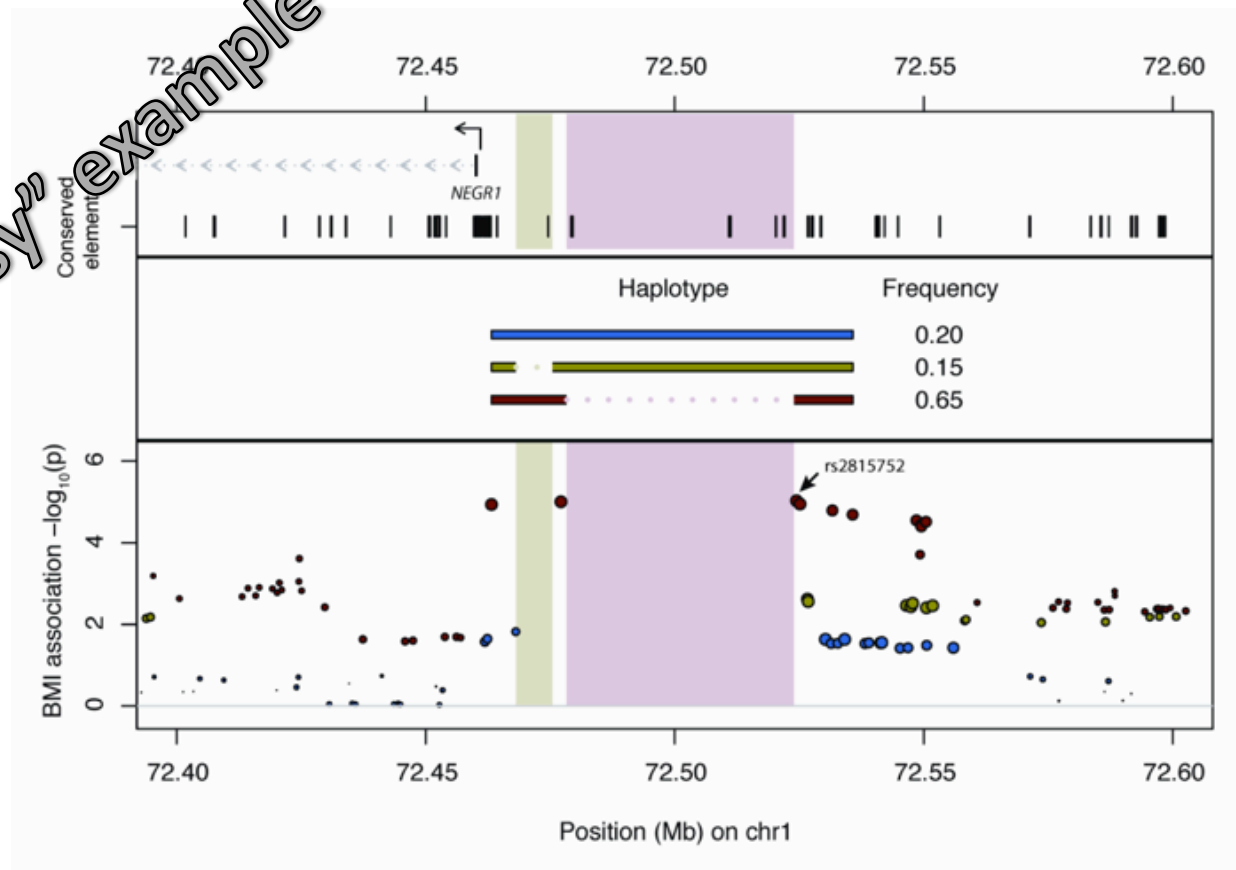
# Challenges of identifying the causal gene

„Easy“ example

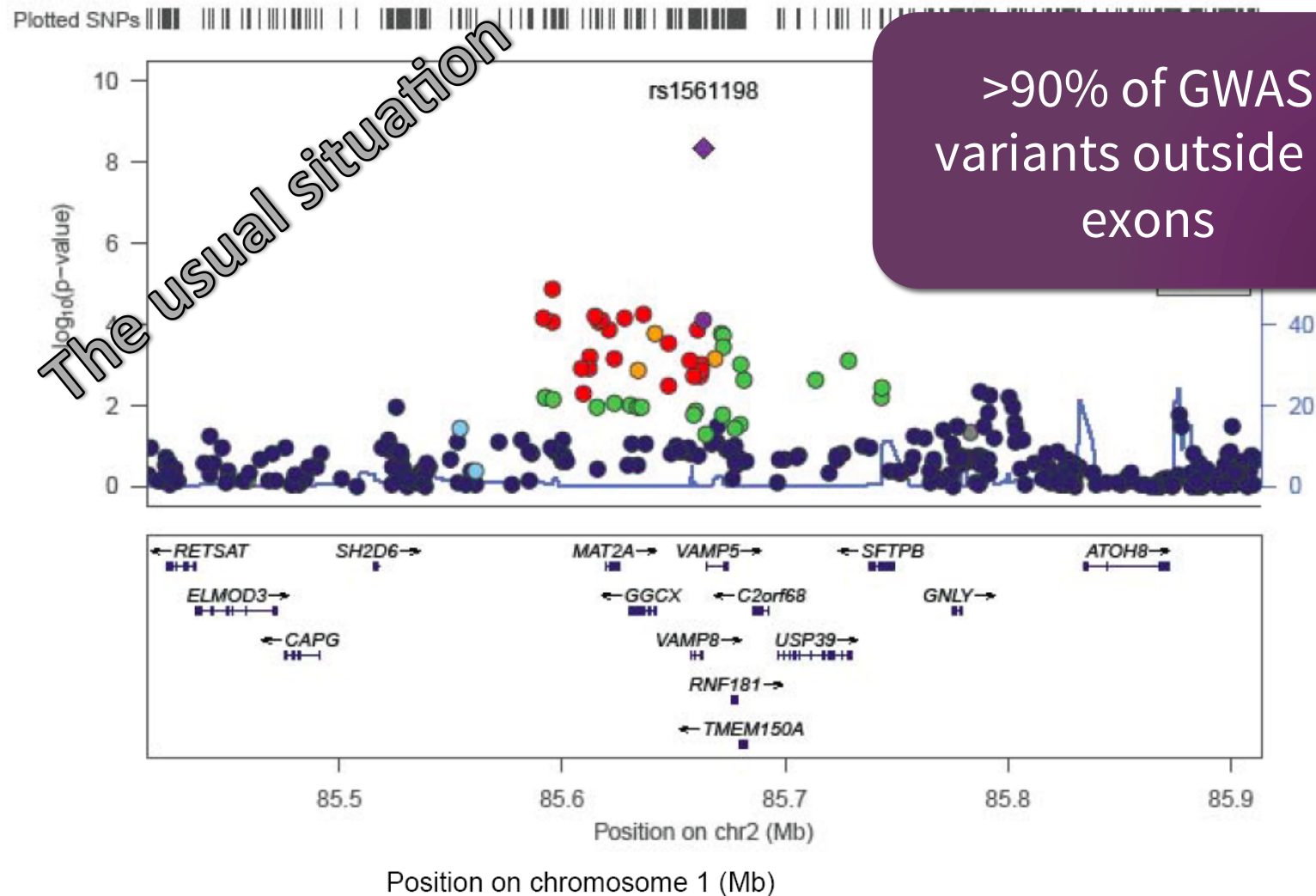


## Challenges of identifying the causal gene

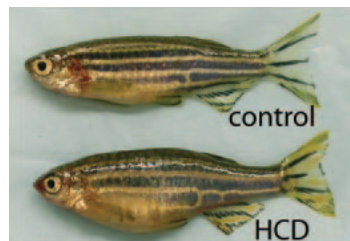
„Easy“ example



## Challenges of identifying the causal gene



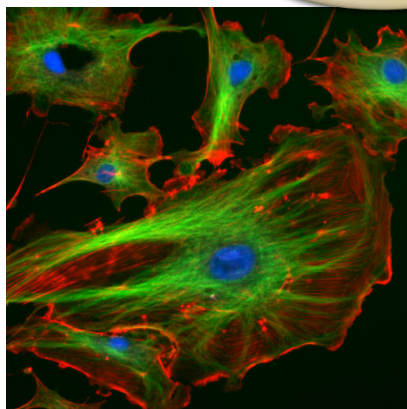
# Approaches to identify causal variants and genes



*In vivo*  
models



*In vitro*  
models



*In silico*  
information

RegulomeDB

ENCODE

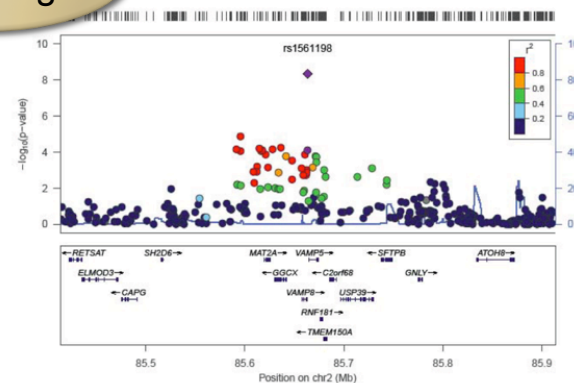
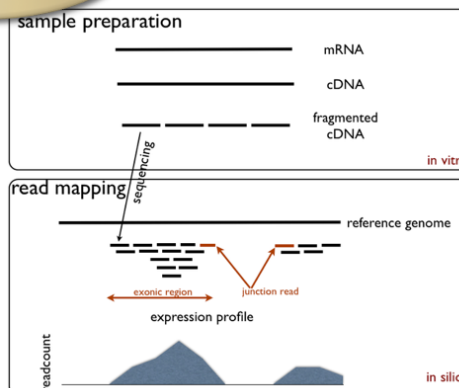
ExAC

1000 Genomes

A Deep Catalog of Human Genetic Variation



eQTLs



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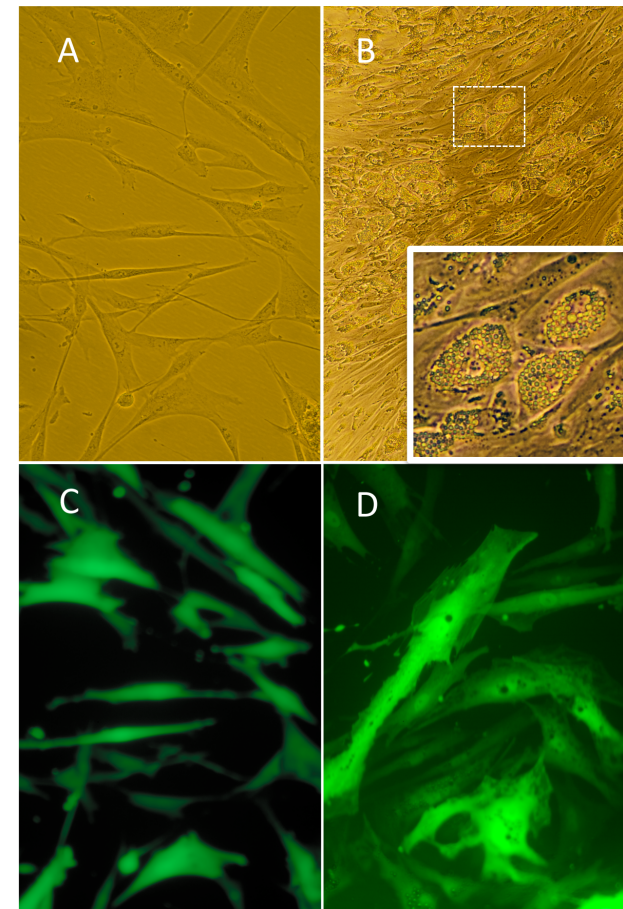


## Outline

- Examples of follow-up studies informed by cardiovascular GWAS

# Studies of insulin resistance and fat distribution loci in adipocytes, hepatocytes and myocytes

- Phenotypes
  - Glucose uptake
  - Lipolysis
  - Adipogenesis
  - Glycogen metabolism
  - Insulin signaling
  - Gene and protein expression
- SGBS, 3T3-L1, primary preadipocytes, HepG2 and C2C12
- CRISPR-Cas9 with lentiviral transduction
- Compound incubation



Casimiro  
Castillejo-Lopez



Naomi Cook

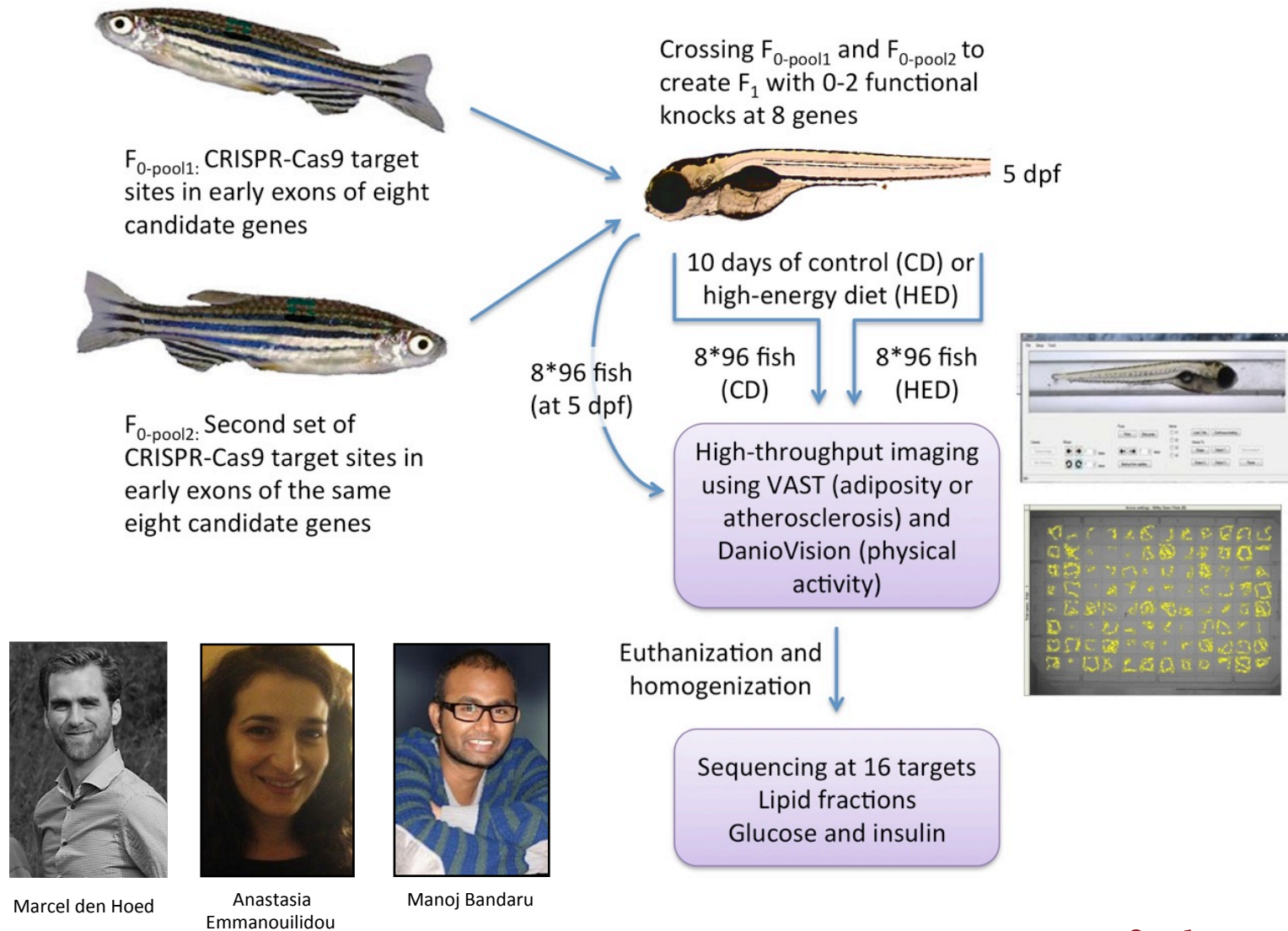


Susanne Trombley

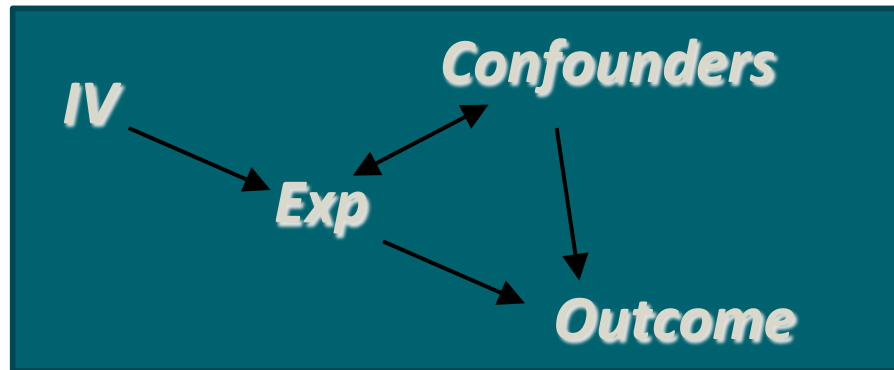


Christoph Nowak

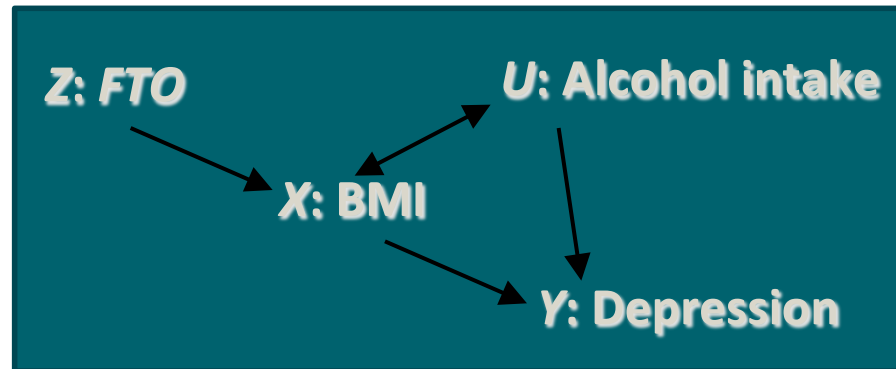
# Screening and characterization of causal genes using zebrafish



## Mendelian randomization to address causality

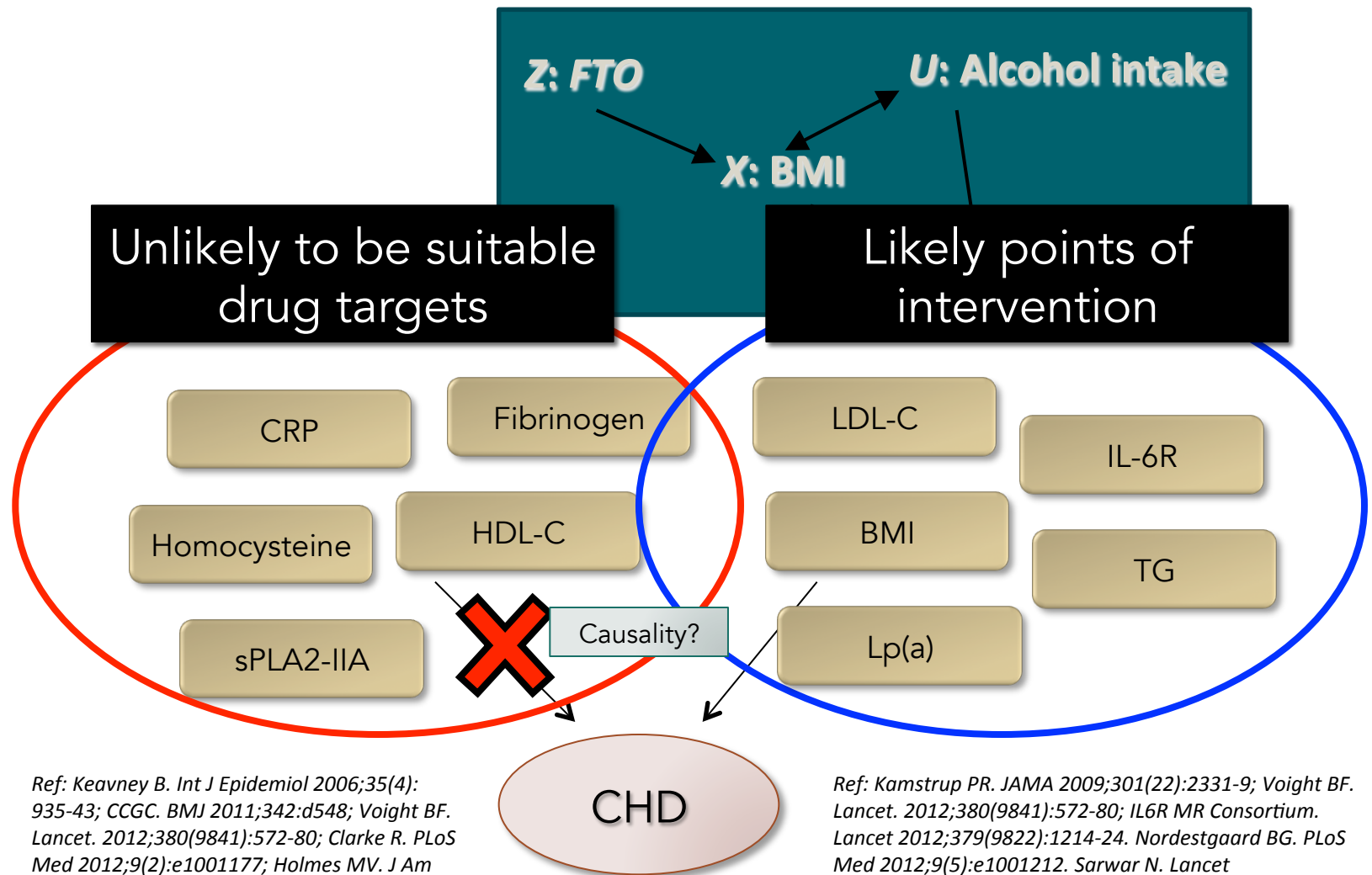


## Mendelian randomization to address causality





## Mendelian randomization to address causality

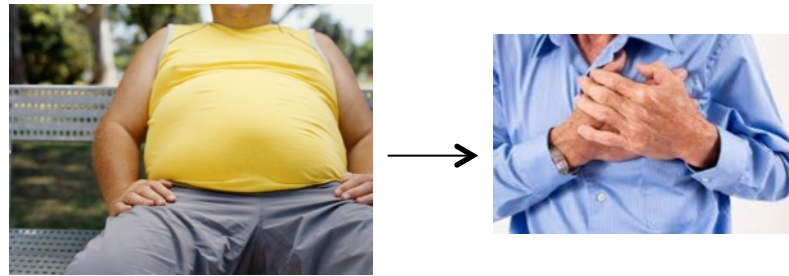


Ref: Keavney B. *Int J Epidemiol* 2006;35(4): 935-43; CCGC. *BMJ* 2011;342:d548; Voight BF. *Lancet*. 2012;380(9841):572-80; Clarke R. *PLoS Med* 2012;9(2):e1001177; Holmes MV. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2013; 62(21):1966-76.

Ref: Kamstrup PR. *JAMA* 2009;301(22):2331-9; Voight BF. *Lancet*. 2012;380(9841):572-80; IL6R MR Consortium. *Lancet* 2012;379(9822):1214-24. Nordestgaard BG. *PLoS Med* 2012;9(5):e1001212. Sarwar N. *Lancet* 2010;375(9726):1634-9. GLGC. *Nat Genet* 2013;45(11): 1345-52

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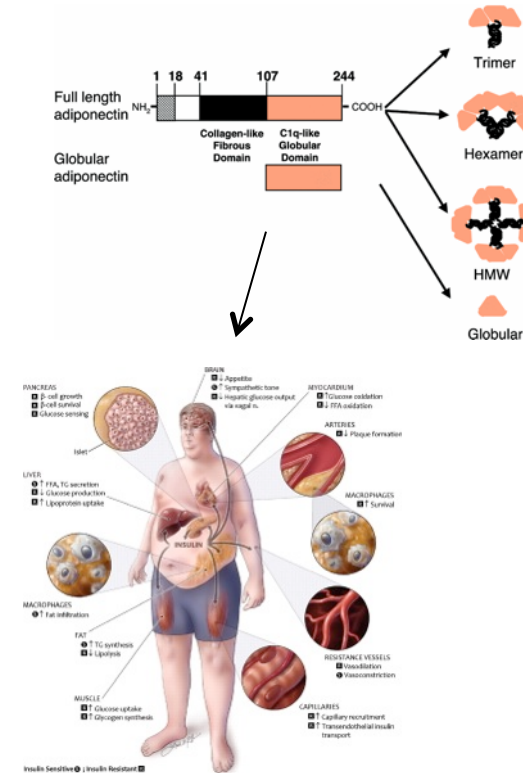
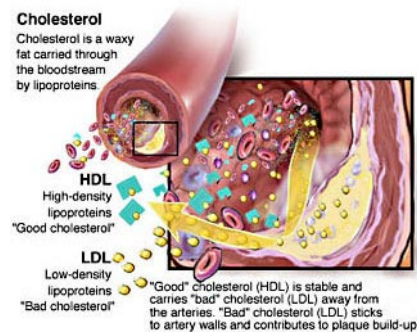
# MR studies of obesity and insulin resistance



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Tove Fall



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Ref: Gao H et al. *Diabetes* 2013; 62(4):1338-44; Fall T et al. *PLoS Med* 2013; 10(6):e1001474; Fall T et al. *Diabetes* 2015; 64(5):1841-52; Fall T et al. *Diabetes* 2015; 64(7):2676-84; Hägg S et al. *Int J Epidemiol.* 2015;44(2):578-86.

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## Concluding remarks

- GWAS has provided us with:
  - Hundreds of cardiovascular loci to follow-up upon
  - New knowledge about genetic architecture
  - Initial biological insights
- Now, we need to:
  - Establish causal variants and genes
  - Perform various kinds of follow-up studies to better understand biology and initiate translation
- Plenty of work, but many important discoveries to be made



Thanks for your attention!  
Questions or comments?

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