

Genetic of Diabetic Nephropathy
Iran University of Medical Sciences
Tahereh Malakoutian, M.D

Multifactorial disease with complex inheritance mechanisms.

Leading cause of ESRD in the most developed countries.

It is important to note that only 30% to 40% of patients with diabetes develop diabetic nephropathy.

Prediction of diabetic nephropathy

It is impossible.

Duration of diabetes, tightness of glycemic control, and blood pressure are insufficient on their own to predict which patients will develop the complication.

Therefore, a patient with poor blood pressure and glycemic control might not develop diabetic renal disease even many years.

Familial clustering

Patients with DM with a first-degree relative with T1/T2DM and diabetic nephropathy have substantially more risk for developing diabetic nephropathy than those without an affected relative.

Variation among racial and ethnic groups

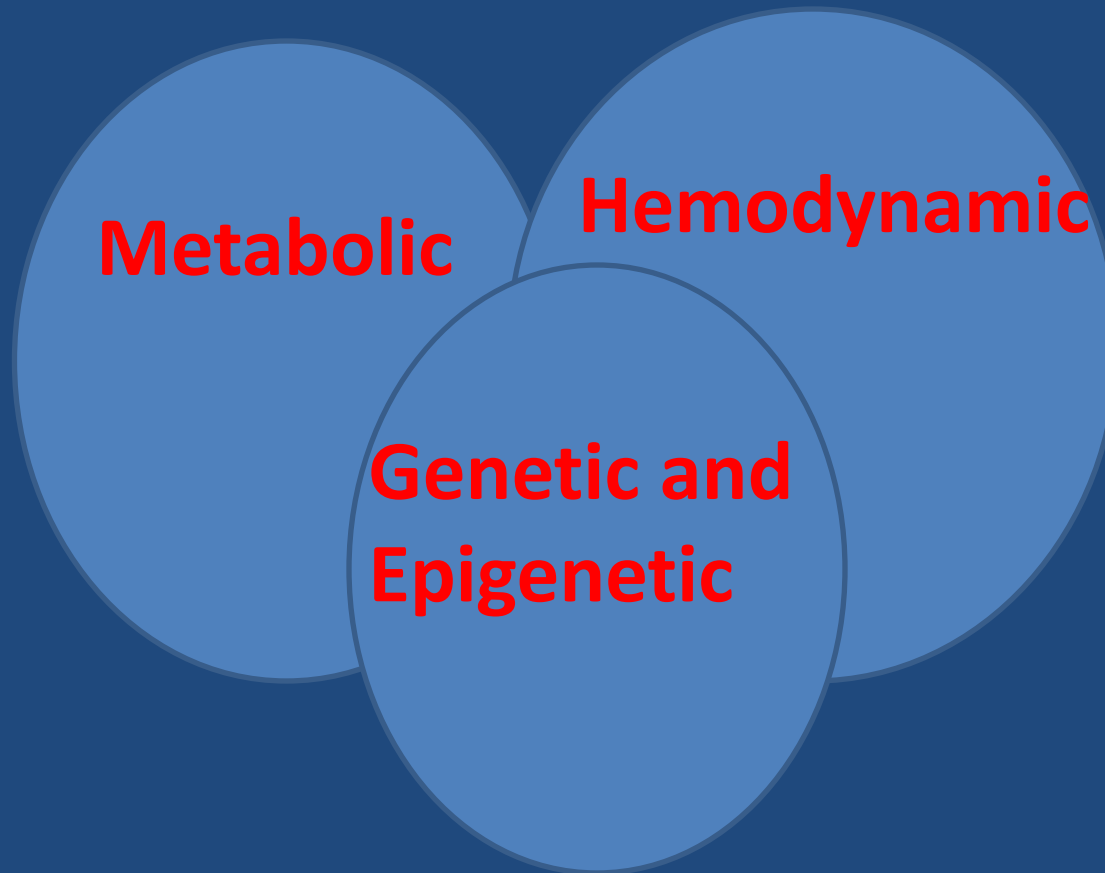
Native Americans / European Americans

Familial aggregation of DN is independent from family size, the number of relatives affected with diabetes and hypertension, socioeconomic status, and inadequate access to health care.

The prevalence of diabetic nephropathy varies worldwide .

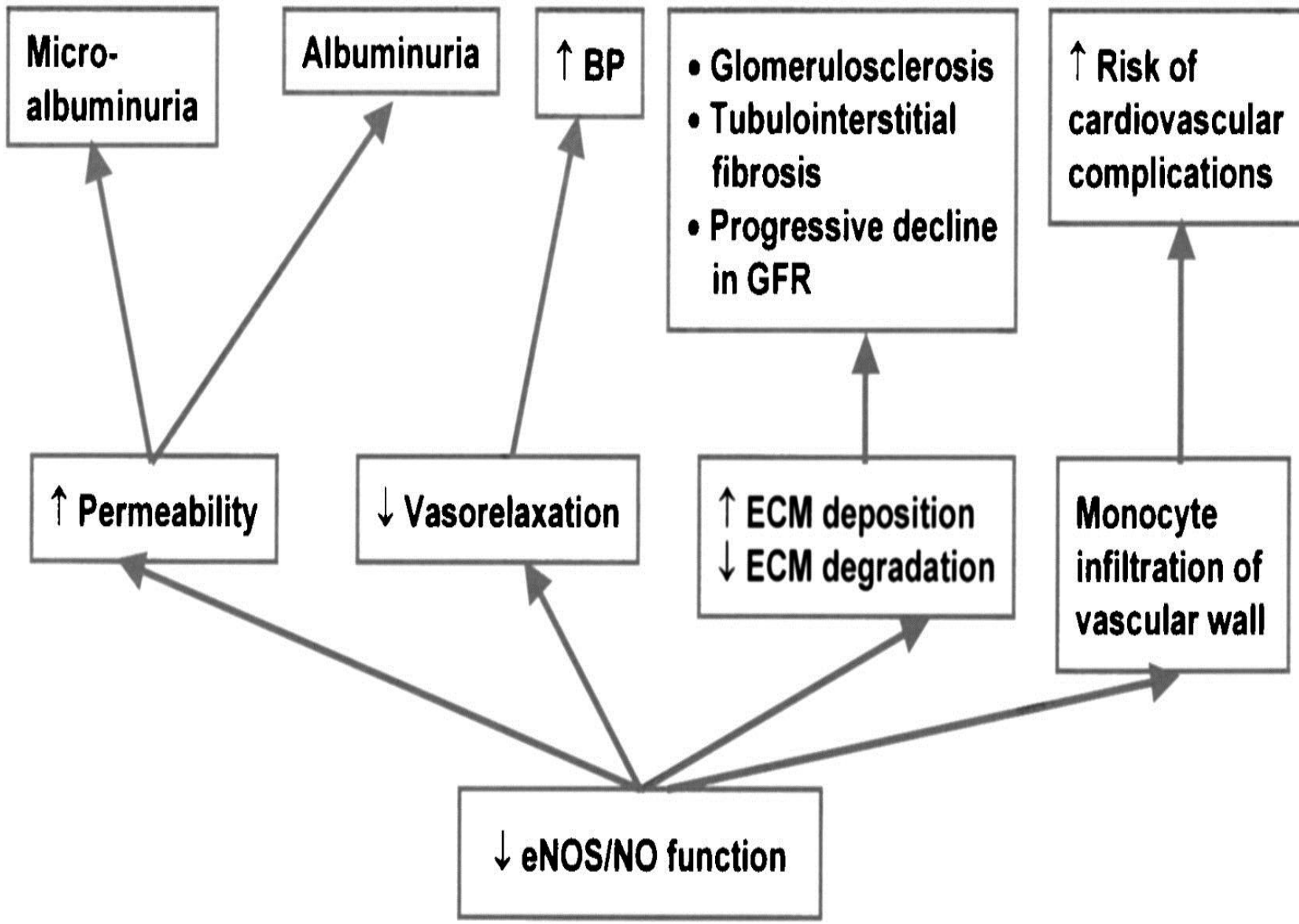
Singapore / Denmark

Factors Contributing to Development of DN



Pathophysiological mechanisms

Clinical manifestations



The contribution of a single gene to the development of diabetic nephropathy might be small, but diabetic nephropathy would develop in those with combination of a number of 'bad genes' and of environmental factors (dosage effect). Environmental factors include glycemic control, blood pressure control, and possibly intra-uterine malnutrition.

Polygenic (During the past Decade : identification of at least 75 independent genetic loci

If the contribution of a single gene were small, it would need large studies to be detected and replicated.

Genetic Studies

1- Linkage studies

2- Association studies

3- GWAS for millions of SNPs (NGS)

Table 1. Genetic linkage analysis for diabetic nephropathy.

Chromosome region	Population studied	Reference
2q14.1	Caucasian and African-Americans	26
3q	Pima Indians	21,27
7p	African-American-Americans	24,27
7q	Caucasian and African-Americans	25
7q21.1, 7q21.3	Caucasian and African-Americans	26
10p15.3	Caucasian and African-Americans	26
14q23.1	Caucasian and African-Americans	26
15q26.3	Caucasian and African-Americans	26
16q13	Japanese	23
18q, 18q22.3-23	Turkish	22,24
20p	Caucasian and African-Americans	27
22q	Caucasian and African-Americans	25

Genetic association analysis for diabetic nephropathy

Polymorphism	Candidate gene	Reference
rs1805101	<i>ENPP1/PC-1</i>	17,39
rs35448603	<i>CATALASE</i>	41
rs4673	<i>CYBA</i>	43
rs1800625	<i>RAGE</i>	44
rs1800624	<i>RAGE</i>	44
rs1799883	<i>FABP2</i>	45
rs1801282	<i>PPARγ2</i>	46
rs39059	<i>CPVL/CHN2</i>	21
rs39075	<i>CPVL/CHN2</i>	21
rs1888747	<i>FRMD3</i>	21
rs10868025	<i>FRMD3</i>	21
rs739401	<i>CARS</i>	21
rs451041	<i>CARS</i>	21
rs1411766	<i>IRS2/MYO16</i>	21
rs39075	<i>CPVL/CHN2</i>	21
rs1888746	<i>FRMD3</i>	21
rs13289150	<i>FRMD3</i>	21
rs451041	<i>CARS</i>	21

Table 1. Summary of results from genome-wide linkage scans for diabetic nephropathy^a

Chromosome	Region ^b	Maximum LOD	Population	Study	Phenotype	Characteristics	Reference
3q	13	4.55	Black	Sibling pairs	Type 2 DN	Age at ESRD onset	(23)
	21.3	2.67	Finnish	Discordant sibling pairs	Type 1 DN		(28)
	25.1	3.1	White	Discordant sibling pairs	Type 1 DN		(27)
7q	12.3	1.84	West African	Sibling pairs	Type 2 DN	CC	(24)
	21.1	(6.0×10^{-4})	White	90% sibling pairs	Predominantly type 2 DN	ACR	(26)
	21.3	(6.0×10^{-5})	Black	90% sibling pairs	Predominantly type 2 DN	Nephropathy	(26)
	33	2.04 to 2.73	Pima Indian	Sibling pairs	Type 2 DN	Nephropathy and retinopathy	(25)
	36.2 (99 cM)	3.1 (1.1×10^{-4})	94% white White	Families 90% sibling pairs	Type 2 DN Predominantly type 2 DN	ACR Nephropathy	(31) (38)
7p	21.3	4	94% white	Sibling pairs	Type 2 DN	CC-GFR	(14)
	32.1 (12 cM)	3.59 (1.6×10^{-4})	Black American Indian	Sibling pairs 90% sibling pairs	Type 2 DN Predominantly type 2 DN	Age at diabetes onset ACR	(23) (38)
	(78 cM)	(1.0×10^{-3})	Mexican American	90% sibling pairs	Predominantly type 2 DN	GFR	(39)
	10q	23.31	3.1	94% white	Sibling pairs	Type 2 DN	Diabetic/nondiabetic; CC-GFR
18q	26	2.47	Black	Sibling pairs	Type 2 DN	Age at ESRD onset	(32)
	22.1	3.72	Black	Sibling pairs	Type 2 DN	Age at diabetes onset	(23)
	22.1	(3.15×10^{-2})	White	Discordant sibling pairs	Predominantly type 2 DN	Nephropathy	(26)
	22.3–23	6.1	Turkish	Families	Type 2 DN	Nephropathy	(29)

^aP values are used where logarithm of odds (LOD) scores were not reported. ACR, albumin-to-creatinine ratio; CC, creatinine clearance; DN, diabetic

Major critics of genetic research on DN

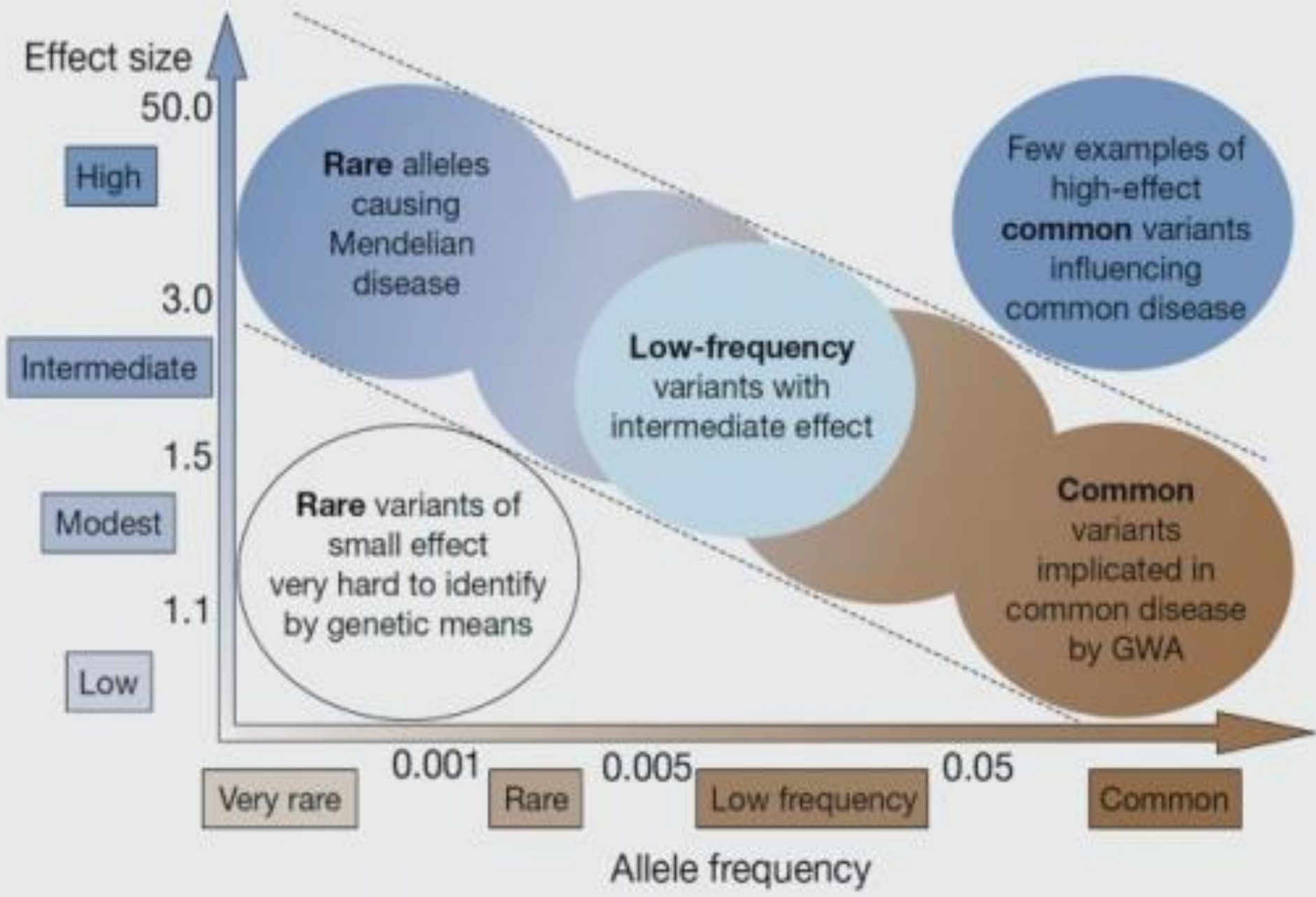
common variants with a relatively low effect size (odds ratio between 1.10 and 1.40) explain only 10–15% of the heritability.

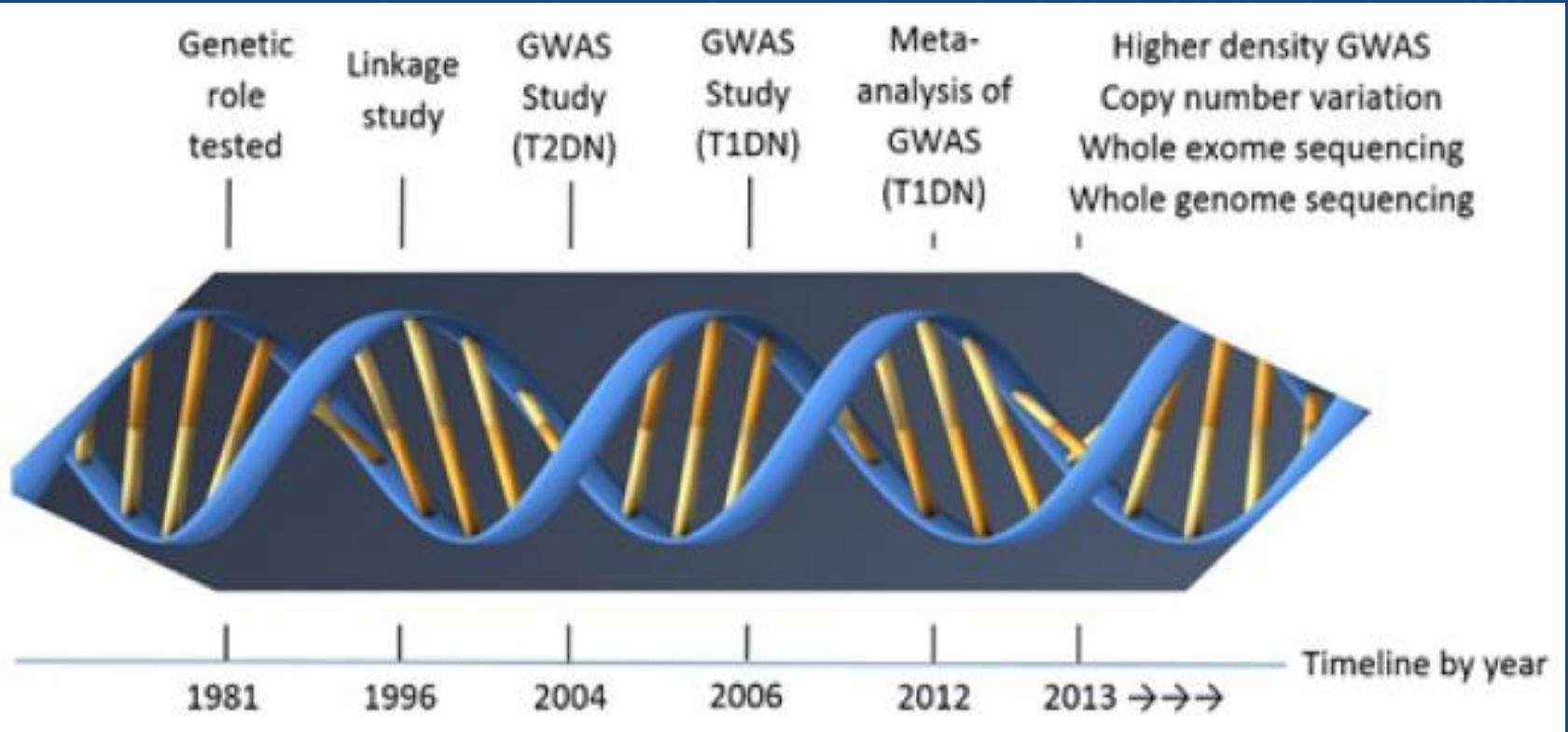
Most of the variants are located at intergenic or intronic region, where it is difficult to explain their functional consequences.

Recent progress in genetic and epigenetic research on type 2 diabetes.
Heon Kwak¹ and Kyong Soo Park^{1,2,3}. 2016

Introns and exons are parts of genes. Exons code for proteins.

Introns are parts of genes that do not directly code for proteins. Introns can range in size from 10's of bps to 1000's of bps.





International

HapMap

Project



International HapMap Projects

The DNA sequence of any two people is more than 99 percent identical.

SNPs (10 million)

Sets of nearby SNPs on the same chromosome are inherited in blocks. This pattern of SNPs on a block is a haplotype.

A few SNPs are enough to uniquely identify the haplotypes in a block.

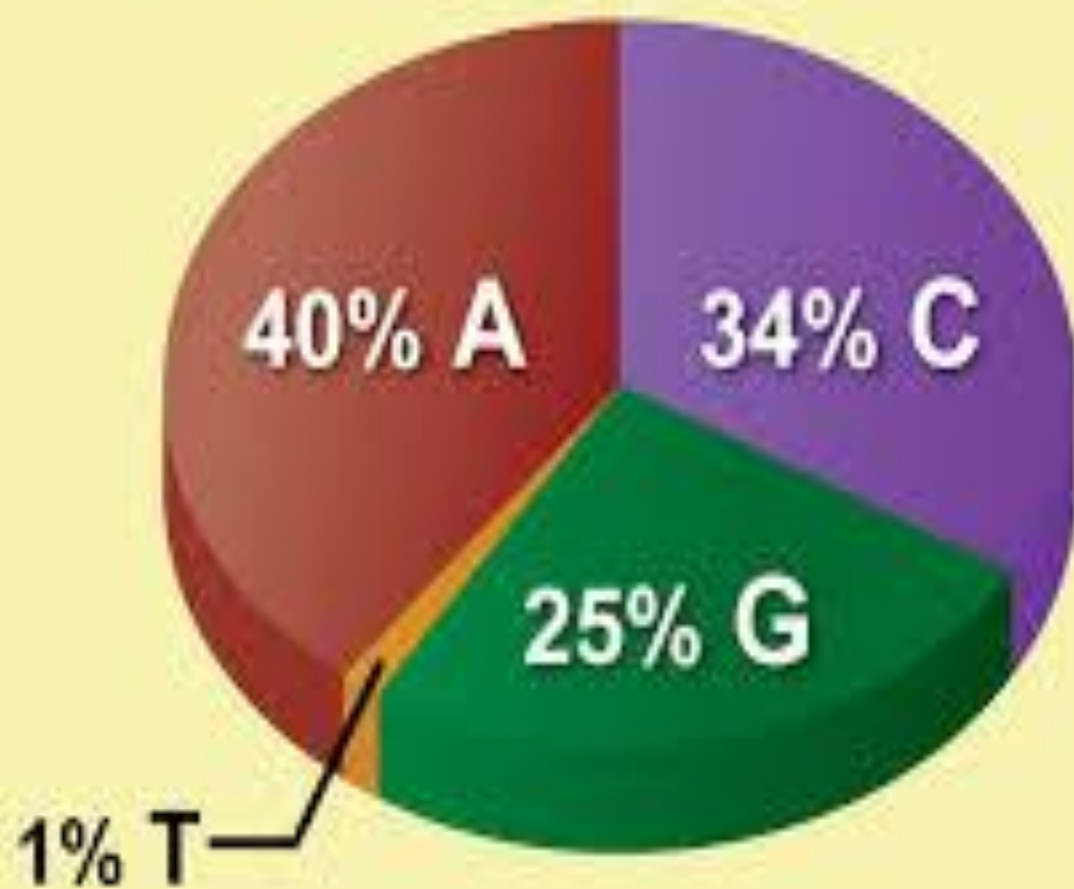
Variation : any change in a DNA sequence away from normal.

Mutation: Changes normal allele (that is prevalent in the population) to a rare and abnormal variant.

Polymorphism : a DNA sequence variation that is common in the population. In this case no single allele is regarded as the standard sequence. (two or more equally acceptable alternatives).

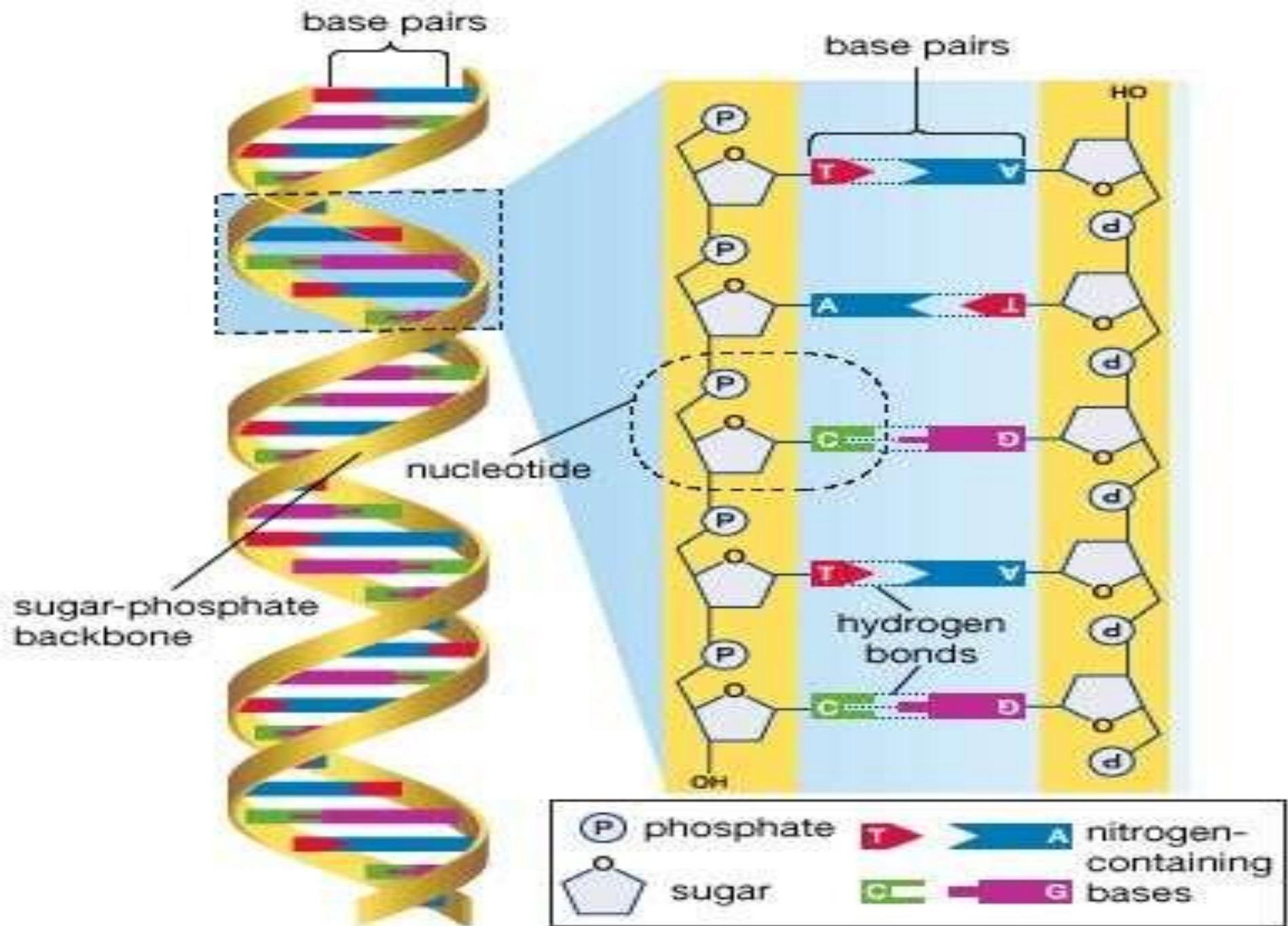
Cut-of point between a mutation and a polymorphism is 1 per cent.

SNP Population Distribution



Why is it important to study genetic variation?

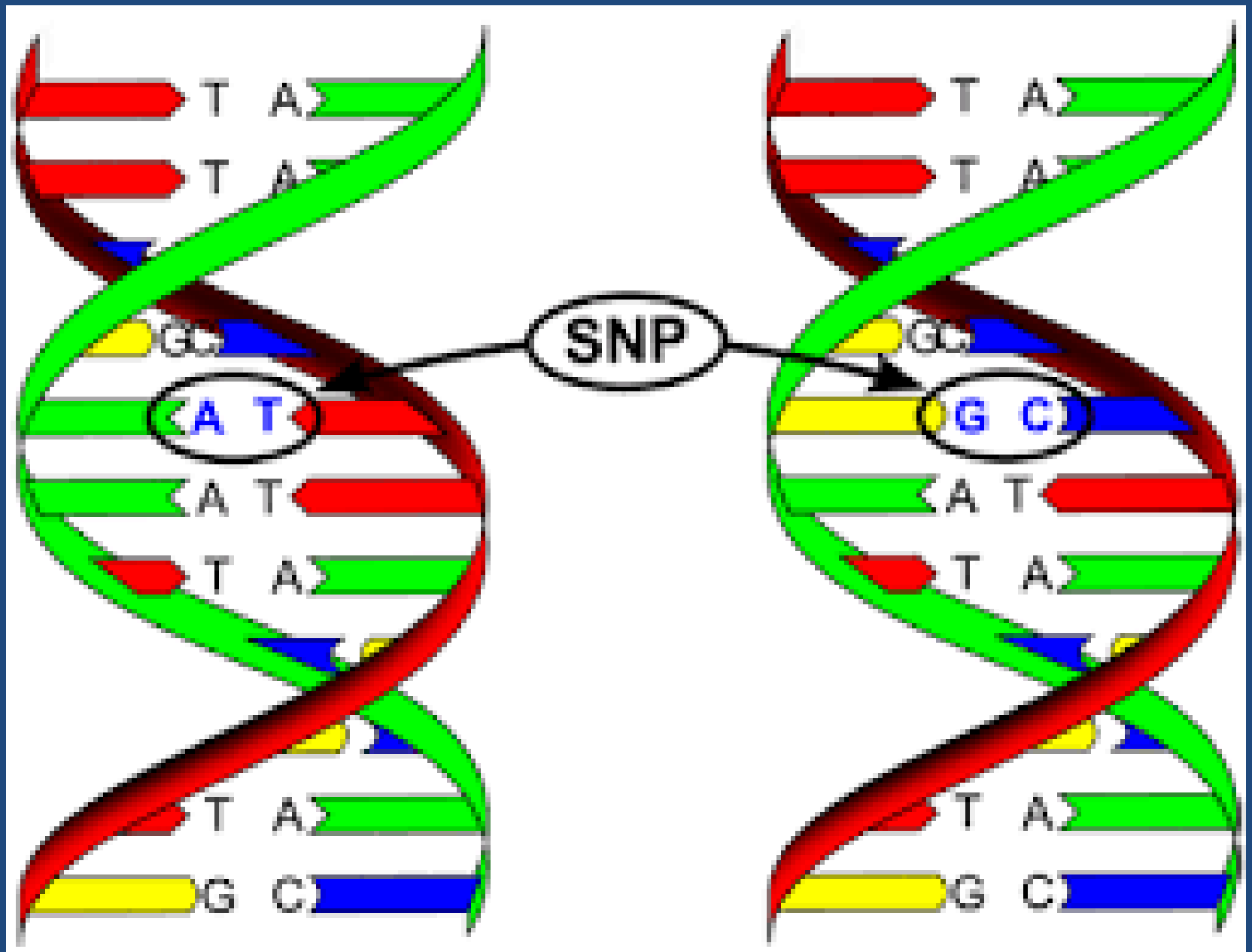
- Most common diseases, such as diabetes, are affected by many genes and environmental factors.
- Although any two unrelated people share about 99.9 percent of their DNA sequences, the remaining 0.1 percent is important because it contains the genetic variants that influence how people differ in their risk of disease or response to drugs.



SNPs

T A G C

T G G C



GLUT1, TGF β , NF κ B, eNO synthase

Isolating a definitive causal pathway has proved to be elusive

There is no simple Mendelian inheritance.

The interplay of several genes is likely involved

May differ between populations.

The Role of Transforming Growth Factor-Beta in Diabetic Nephropathy

Karina Braga Gomes,^{1,2,3} Kathryna Fontana Rodrigues,^{1,2} and Ana Paula Fernandes^{1,2}

¹ *Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, 31270-901 Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil*

² *Faculdade de Farmácia, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, 31270-901 Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil*

³ *Departamento de Análises Clínicas e Toxicológicas, Faculdade de Farmácia, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Avenida Antônio Carlos 6627, Pampulha, 31270-901 Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil*

Correspondence should be addressed to Karina Braga Gomes; karinabgb@gmail.com

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Several studies have demonstrated that chronic and low-grade inflammation is closely linked to type 2 diabetes mellitus. The associated mechanisms are related to synthesis and release of proinflammatory and anti-inflammatory cytokines, mainly by the adipose tissue. Moreover, there are evidences that cytokines and adhesion molecules are important for development of diabetic nephropathy. Among the cytokines associated with inflammatory responses in type 2 diabetes mellitus, the transforming growth factor- β (TGF- β) has been recognized as a central player in the diabetic nephropathy being involved in the development of glomerulosclerosis and interstitial fibrosis, as observed in the course of end-stage renal disease. Although TGF- β 1 is classically an anti-inflammatory immune mediator it has been shown that in the presence of IL-6, which increases before the onset of T2D, TGF- β 1 favors the differentiation of T helper 17 (Th17) cells that are activated in many pro-inflammatory conditions. Since TGF- β 1 mRNA and consequently serum TGF- β 1 levels are under genetic control, this review aims to discuss the relationship of TGF- β 1 levels and polymorphisms in the development of nephropathy in type 2 diabetes mellitus.

TGF- β

They regulate cellular functions such as proliferation, apoptosis, differentiation, and migration .

Activation of the TGF- β receptor induces phosphorylation of serine/threonine residues and triggers phosphorylation of intracellular effectors (Smads). Once activated, Smad proteins translocate to the nucleus and induce transcription of their target genes, regulating various processes and cellular functions.

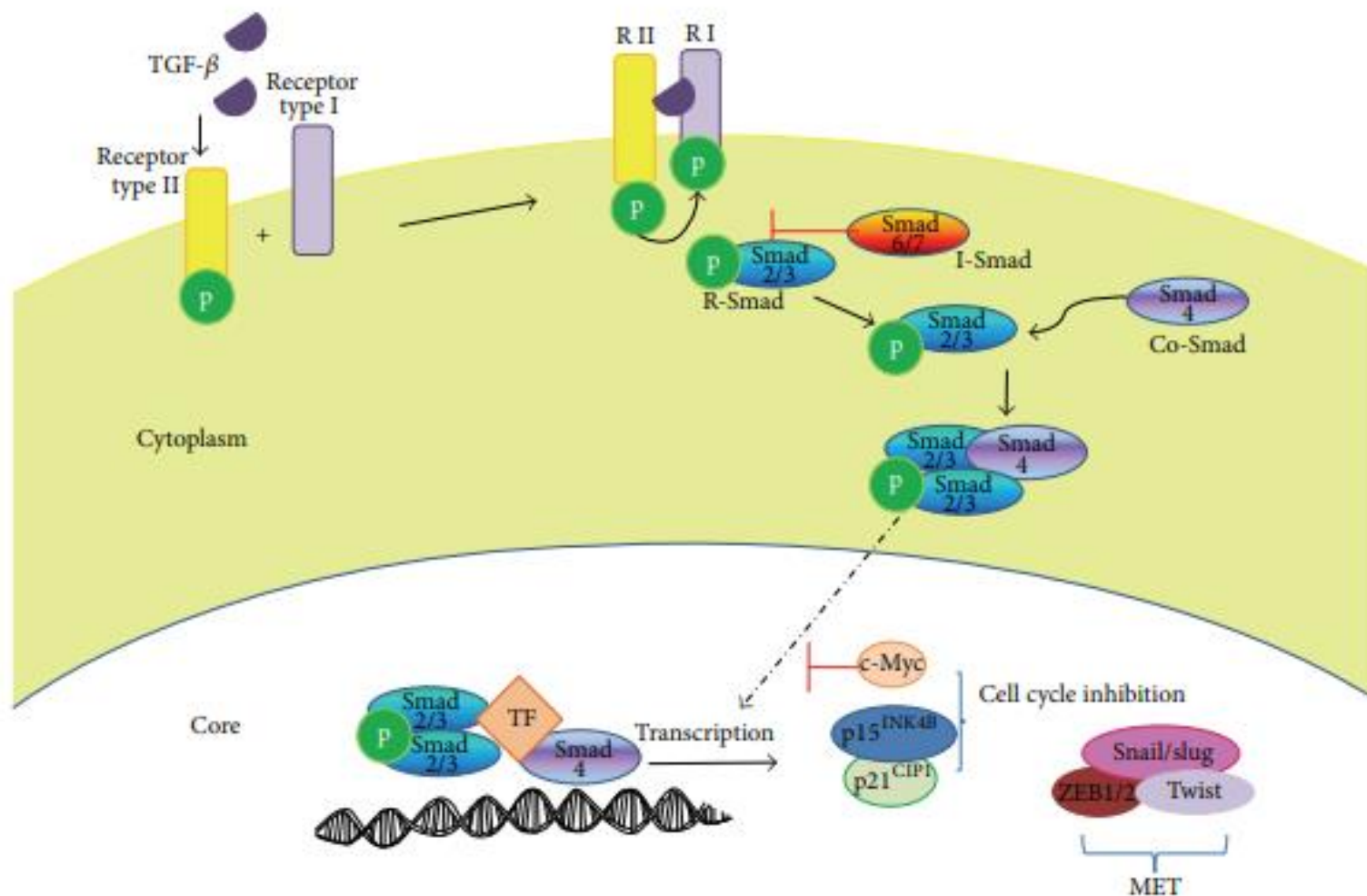


FIGURE 2: The TGF- β canonical signaling pathway. After the ligand binds to T β R II, the TGF- β receptors are dimerized and recruit Smad proteins. The Smad2 and/or Smad3 complex is phosphorylated by T β R I and forms a complex with Smad4. This complex subsequently translocates to the nucleus where it binds to specific transcription factors (TF) and induces the transcription of TGF- β dependent genes.

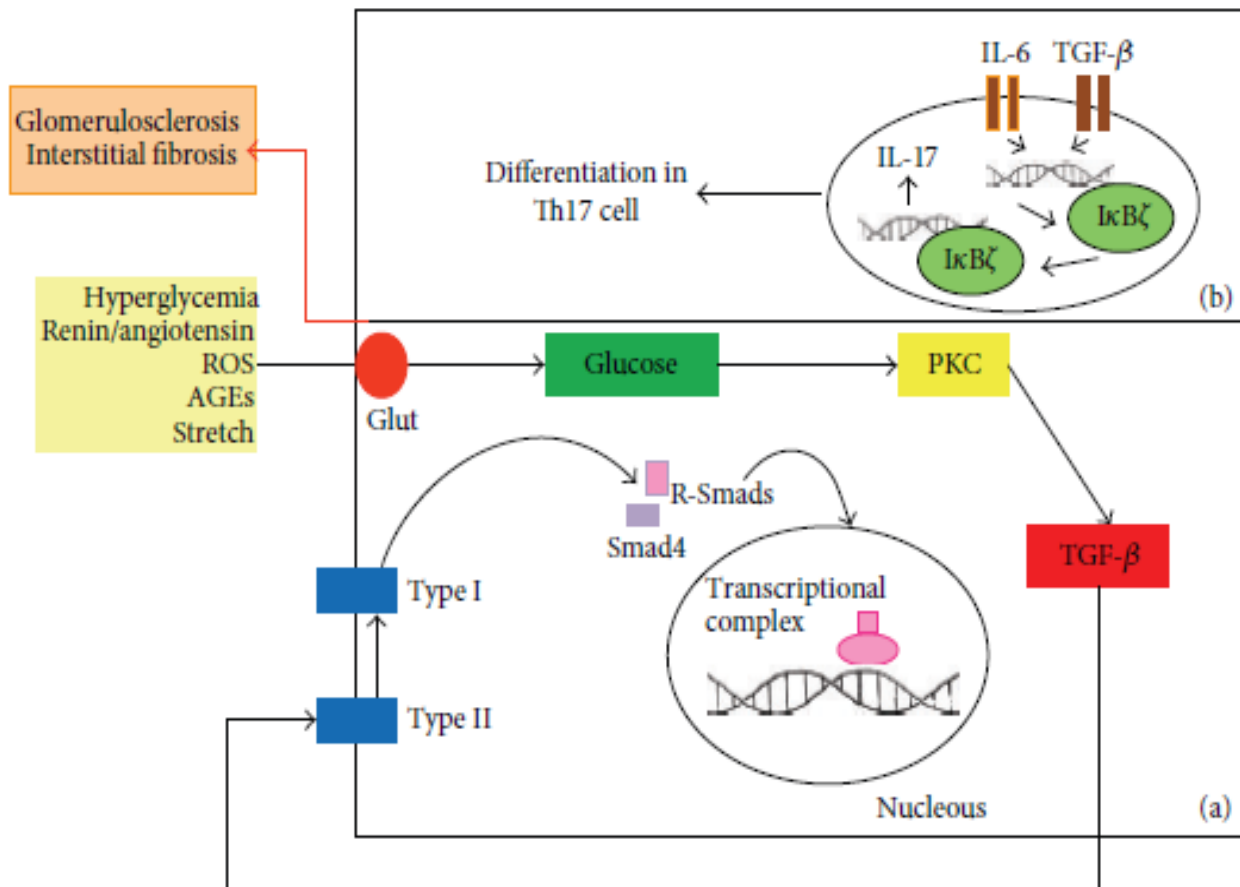


FIGURE 1: Activation of TGF- β synthesis and its role in proinflammatory mechanisms in T2D nephropathy. (a) Increased extracellular glucose levels, mesangial cell stretch, activation of renin-angiotensin system, reactive oxidant species (ROS), and advanced glycation end products (AGEs) activate TGF- β synthesis via protein kinase C. TGF- β stimulates its own pathway through autocrine or paracrine action. TGF- β assembles a receptor complex that activates Smads that regulate nuclear transcription. (b) TGF- β 1 and IL-6 promote the differentiation of naive T lymphocytes into proinflammatory T helper that produces IL17 through the transcription factor I κ B ζ . The outcomes of these processes are glomerulosclerosis and interstitial fibrosis.

More than 10 polymorphic loci

The **T869C** polymorphism in the human TGF-1 gene, leading to the L10P variant of the coding protein, is associated with an increased risk of diabetic nephropathy.(CC/CT genotypes)*

T29C SNP (TT genotype)**

Phenotypic effects of these polymorphisms in TGF- β levels or functionality are largely unknown.

The small sample size

*Transforming growth factor-1 and diabetic nephropathy

Albert S. Chang, Catherine K. 2016

**The Role of Transforming Growth Factor-Beta I Diabetic Nephropathy

Karina Braga Gomes. 2014

-Continued

The expression of nephrin is decreased in diabetes.

TGF- β 1 decreases renal mRNA levels of nephrin and increases the permeability of albumin in the podocyte.

TGF- β 1 decreases renal megalin mRNA levels in Akita type 1 diabetic mice which might attenuate the albumin endocytosis mediated by megalin.

manipulations which lead to decreased TGF-1 expression in the podocyte may be useful for preventing/ treating the decline in renal function in diabetic nephropathy.

Diabetes

Genetic / Epigenetic factors

- Susceptibility genes

Metabolic Stimulus

- Hyperglycemia
- Insulin resistance
- ROS

Haemodynamic Stimulus

- Hypertension
- Fluid/Salt Balance

Microalbuminuria

Signalling Pathway activation

- TGF β 1, CTGF, VEGF,
- PKC, Ang II
- AGEs
- NF κ B pathway
- miRNA responses



Renal consequences

- Infiltrating immune cells
- Matrix accumulation
- Endothelial dysfunction
- Podocyte loss
- Basement membrane thickening
- Proteinuria
- Renal tubule damage

Macroalbuminuria

ESRD

Glomerulosclerosis
Tubulointerstitial fibrosis

Association between the *ENPP1* K121Q Polymorphism and Risk of Diabetic Kidney Disease: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Denise Alves Sortica^{1,2}, Marjorie Piucco Buffon^{1,2}, Bianca Marmontel Souza^{1,2}, Bruna Bellicanta Nicoletto^{1,2}, Andressa Santer¹, Tais Silveira Assmann^{1,2}, Daisy Crispim^{1,2}, Luis Henrique Canani^{1,2*}

1 Endocrine Division, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil, **2** Postgraduate Program in Medical Sciences: Endocrinology, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

* luishenriquecanani@gmail.com



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Abstract

The potential association between the K121Q (A/C, rs1044498) polymorphism in the ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase (*ENPP1*) gene and risk of diabetic kidney disease (DKD) has been investigated. Nevertheless, the effect of this variant on DKD risk is still under debate, and conflicting results have been reported. To this date, no meta-analysis has evaluated the association of the K121Q polymorphism with DKD. This paper describes the first meta-analysis conducted to evaluate whether the *ENPP1*K121Q polymorphism is associated with DKD. A literature search was conducted to identify all case-control or cross-sectional studies that evaluated associations between the *ENPP1*K121Q polymorphism and DKD. Pooled odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) were calculated for allele contrast, additive, dominant and recessive inheritance models. Seven studies were eligible for inclusion in the meta-analysis, providing data on 9574 type 1 and type 2 dia-

GLUT1 Regulation of the Pro-Sclerotic Mediators of Diabetic Nephropathy

Charles W. Heilig^a Dilip K. Deb^b Afu Abdul^c Hasan Riaz^a Leighton R. James^a
Jamal Salameh^a N. Stanley Nahman Jr.^c

^aDepartment of Medicine, University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Fla.,

^bDepartment of Medicine, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, Chicago, Ill., and

^cDepartment of Medicine, Georgia Regents University and Charlie Norwood VAMC, Augusta, Ga., USA

Key Words

GLUT1 · Diabetic nephropathy · Glomerulosclerosis ·
Glucose transporter · Growth factors · Vascular endothelial
growth factor

Abstract

Diabetic glomerulosclerosis is characterized by accumulation of extracellular matrix proteins, mesangial expansion, and tubulointerstitial fibrosis. Hyperglycemia accelerates development of the disease, a direct result of increased intracellular glucose availability. The facilitative glucose transporter GLUT1 mediates mesangial cell glucose flux which leads to activation of signaling cascades favoring glomerulosclerosis, including pathways mediated by angiotensin II

tion of Ang II effects suppresses GLUT1 and cellular glucose uptake. GLUT1-mediated glucose flux leads to metabolism of glucose via glycolysis, with induction of DAG, PKC, TGF- β_1 , CTGF and VEGF. VEGF in turn triggers both GLUT1 and matrix synthesis. New roles for GLUT1-mTOR and GLUT1-mechano-growth factor interactions in diabetic glomerulosclerosis have also recently been suggested. Recent mouse models confirmed roles for GLUT1 in vivo in stimulating glomerular growth factor expression, growth factor receptors and development of glomerulosclerosis. GLUT1 may therefore act in concert with cytokines and growth factors to induce diabetic glomerulosclerosis. Further clarification of the pathways involved may prove useful for the therapy of diabetic nephropathy. New directions for investigation are discussed.

Prospective Study

Role of angiotensin converting enzyme and angiotensinogen gene polymorphisms in angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor-mediated antiproteinuric action in type 2 diabetic nephropathy patients

Neerja Aggarwal, Pawan Kumar Kare, Parul Varshney, Om Prakash Kalra, Sri Venkata Madhu, Basu Dev Banerjee, Anil Yadav, Alpana Raizada, Ashok Kumar Tripathi

Neerja Aggarwal, Parul Varshney, Om Prakash Kalra, Sri Venkata Madhu, Anil Yadav, Alpana Raizada, Department of Medicine, University College of Medical Sciences (University of Delhi) and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Delhi 110095, India

Data sharing statement: There is no additional data available.

Open-Access: This article is an open-access article which was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative

The ACE gene : 17q23

Association with the pathogenesis of DN, The
Highly polymorphic (160 polymorphisms)

I/D polymorphism is the most studied

The common polymorphism of the AGT gene
is M235T

Investigation of the association of *BMP* gene variants with nephropathy in Type 1 diabetes mellitus

A. J. McKnight, K. A. Pettigrew, C. C. Patterson*, J. Kilner, D. M. Sadliert, A. P. Maxwell and the Warren 3/UK GoKinD Study Group

Nephrology Research Group, *Epidemiology Research Group, Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, UK and †Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

Accepted 14 January 2010

Abstract

Aims Diabetic nephropathy is a leading cause of end-stage renal disease. The transforming growth factor β -bone morphogenic protein (BMP) pathway is implicated in the pathogenesis of diabetic nephropathy. The *BMP2*, *BMP4* and *BMP7* genes are located near linkage peaks for renal dysfunction, and we hypothesize that genetic polymorphisms in these biological and positional candidate genes may be risk factors for diabetic kidney disease.

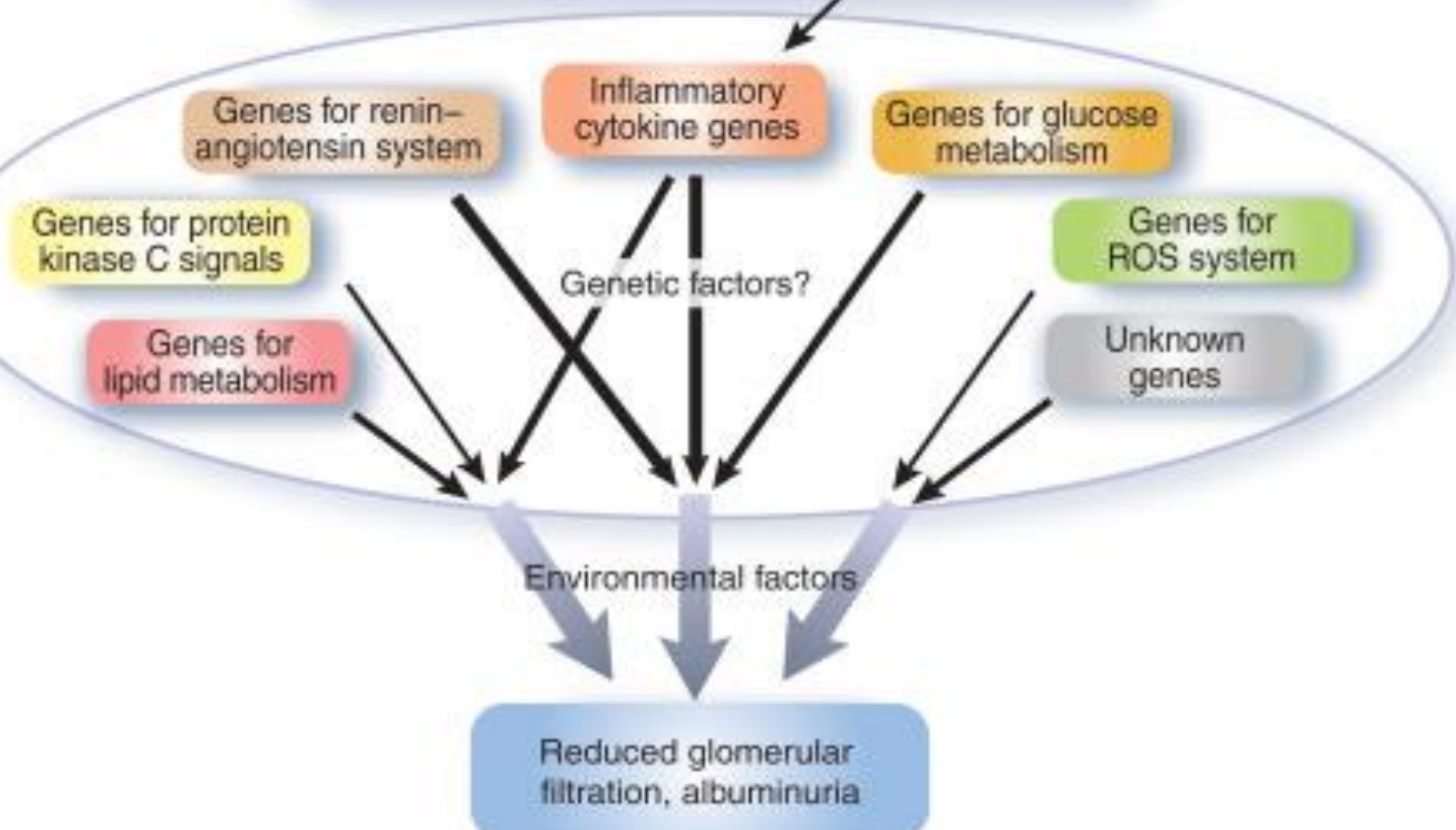
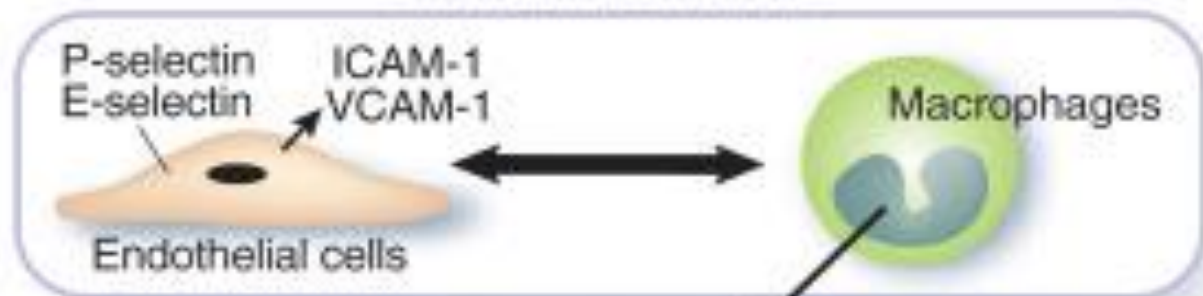
Methods The *BMP7* gene was screened, variants identified and allele frequencies determined by bidirectionally sequencing 46 individuals to facilitate selection of tag SNPs ($n = 4$). For *BMP2* and *BMP4* genes, data were downloaded for 19 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) from the International HapMap project and six tag SNPs selected.

Results The *BMP7* gene was screened for novel genetic polymorphisms, haplotypes were identified, an appropriate subset of variants selected for the investigation of common genetic risk factors, and *BMP2*, *BMP4* and *BMP7* genes assessed for association with diabetic nephropathy in 1808 individuals. Thirty-two SNPs were identified, of which 11 were novel, including an amino-acid changing SNP (+63639C>T). No significant differences ($P > 0.2$) were observed when comparing genotype or

BMP

- The transforming growth factor b–bone
- morphogenic protein (BMP) pathway is implicated in the pathogenesis of diabetic nephropathy. The BMP2, BMP4 and BMP7
- genes are located near linkage peaks for renal dysfunction.
- Common polymorphisms in these BMP genes do not strongly influence genetic susceptibility to diabetic nephropathy in White individuals with Type 1 diabetes mellitus.

Microinflammation



Questions

1-Why a proportion of diabetic individuals appear to be protected from serious complications (Unlike the progression to retinopathy) ?

2-Why not all people with diabetes complications experience more advanced forms of vascular disease?

Genetic variation does not adequately explain the disproportionate **distribution** and **severity** of diabetic vascular complications.

Not all people with microalbuminuria progress to macroalbuminuria or ESRD, apparently protected despite decades of chronic hyperglycemia and hemodynamic stress.

Thomas MC . Epigenetic mechanisms in diabetic kidney disease. Curr Diab Rep 16:31,2016

Metabolic Memory

- Clinical and experimental studies have shown that the risk and severity of diabetic complications , including DN, seem to persist even after glucose normalization , suggesting a“metabolic memory” of the prior exposure to HG

Epigenetic

Epigenetics is the study of changes in gene expression caused by mechanisms other than those that change the underlying DNA sequence, and helps to explain how cells with identical DNA can differentiate into different cell types with different phenotypes.

Epigenetic modifications can be passed from one cell generation to the next and between generations of humans.

May be regulated by environment factors.

1-DNA methylation (**hyperglycemia changes DNAm**)

2-Histone modification

3-MicroRNAs

Epigenetic Regulations in Diabetic Nephropathy. Zeyuan Lu. 2017

Histone deacetylase inhibitors proposed as novel therapy
miR192 increased

Differential DNA methylation in cell models

DNA methylation signature in blood $^{2/3}$ matched in kidney tissue

Histone modification associated with metabolic memory & possibly reversible

2007

2010

2013

2014

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

Number of publications

2007/2008

2009/2010

2011/2012

2013-Jan 2014

Year of publication

DNA methylation

diabetic status can induce epigenetic Changes. DNA methylation induced by elevated glucose in multiple target organs and cells, which contribute to the metabolic memory of diabetic vascular complications.

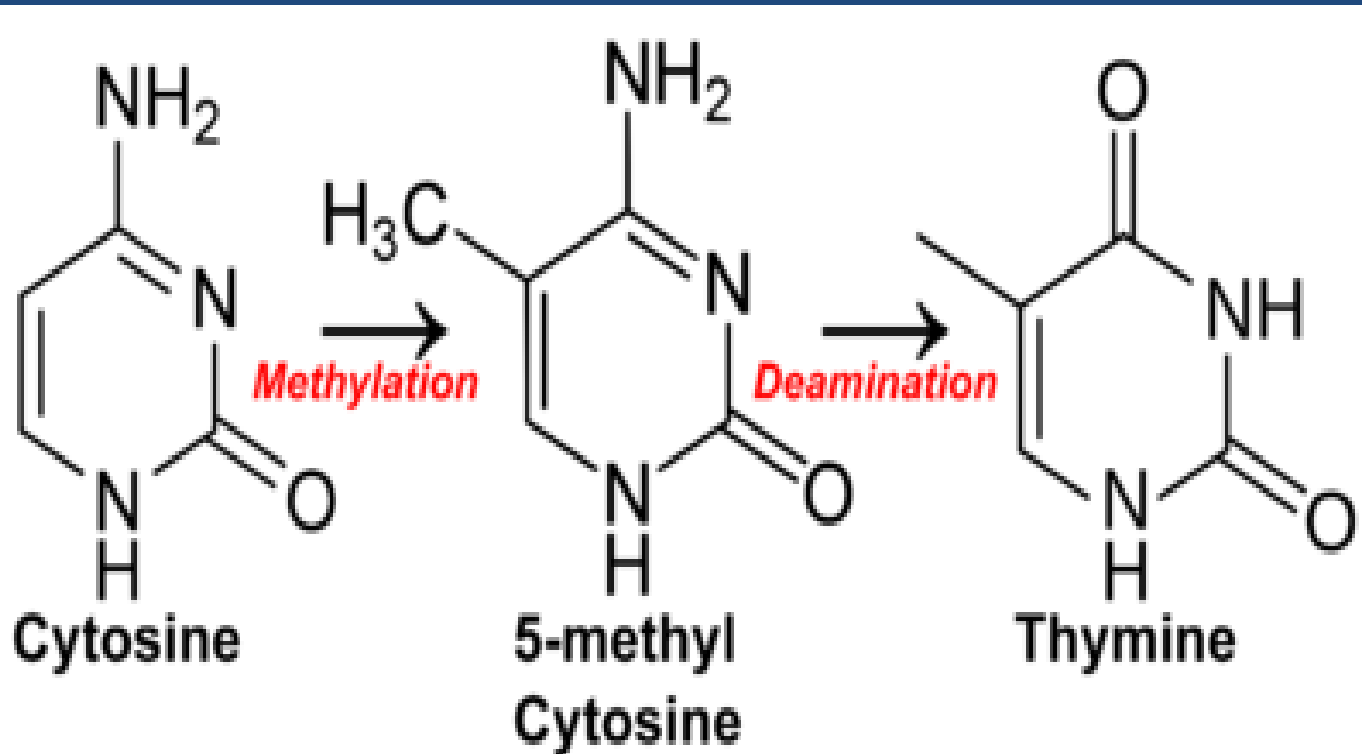
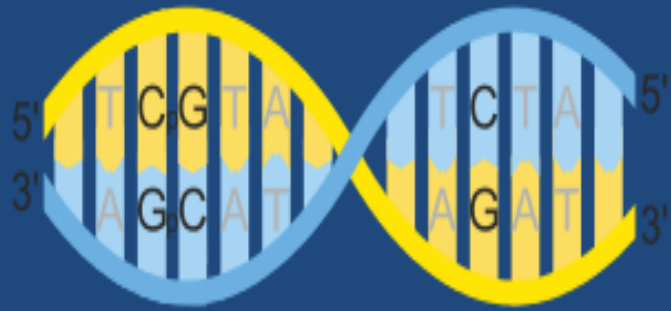
Cytosines in CpG dinucleotides can be methylated to form 5-methylcytosine. In mammals, methylating the cytosine within a gene can change its expression.

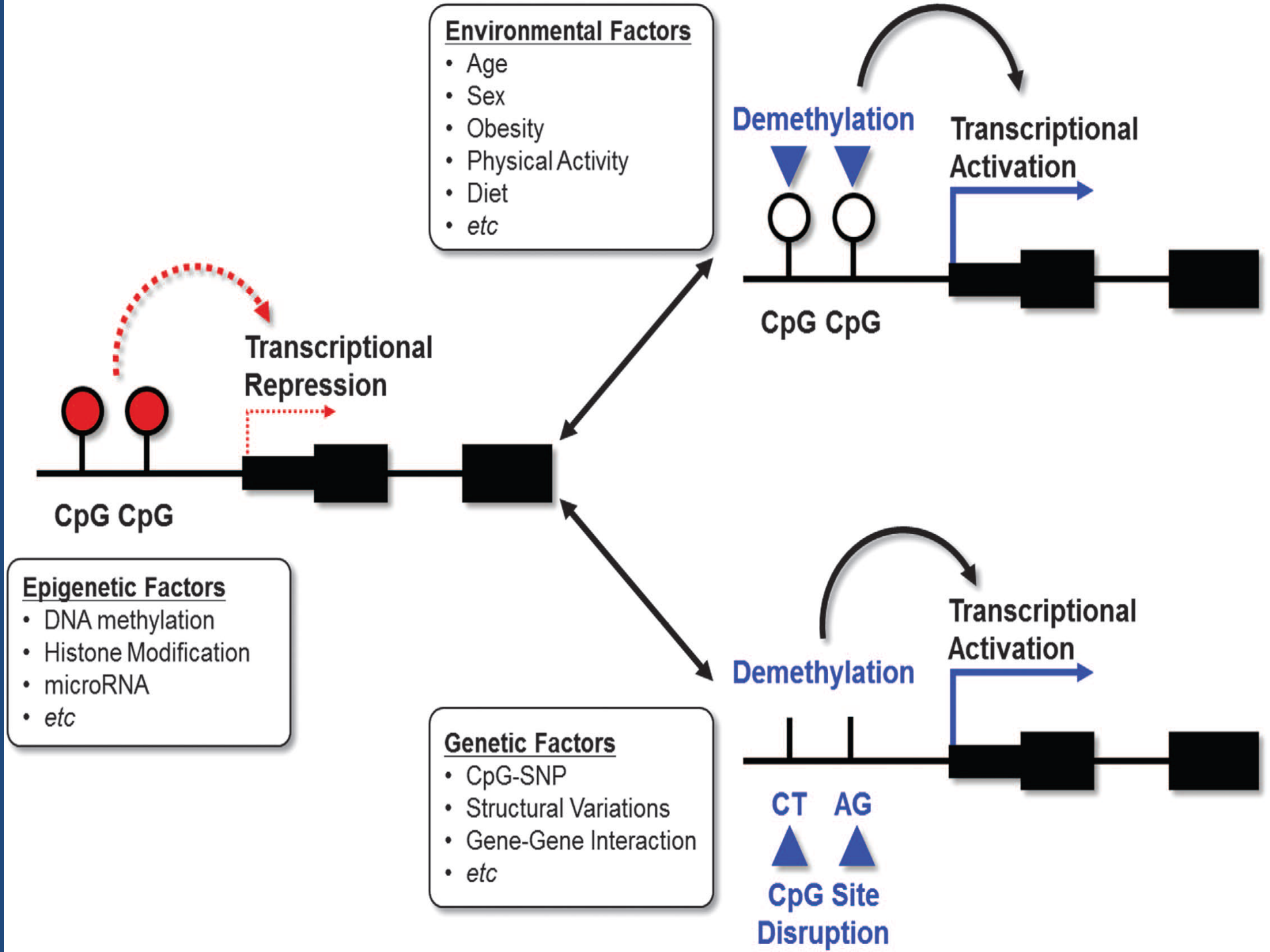
DNA Methylation

Cytosine bases of the DNA template at CpG dinucleotides and on the tails of chromatinised histones.

DNMT1, DNMT3a, and DNMT3b in humans
5mC

Transcriptional silencing by recruitment of specific factors that actively remodel the chromatin structure, as well as by the disruption of transcription factor binding sites.





MicroRNAs(miRNAs)

Are 22-nucleotide non-coding RNAs that can result in either posttranscriptional silencing or RNA degradation by binding the 3'-untranslated region of target mRNAs normally. miRNAs play critical roles in the tissue response to environmental stimuli without changing DNA sequence with a rapid and reversible means of gene regulation.

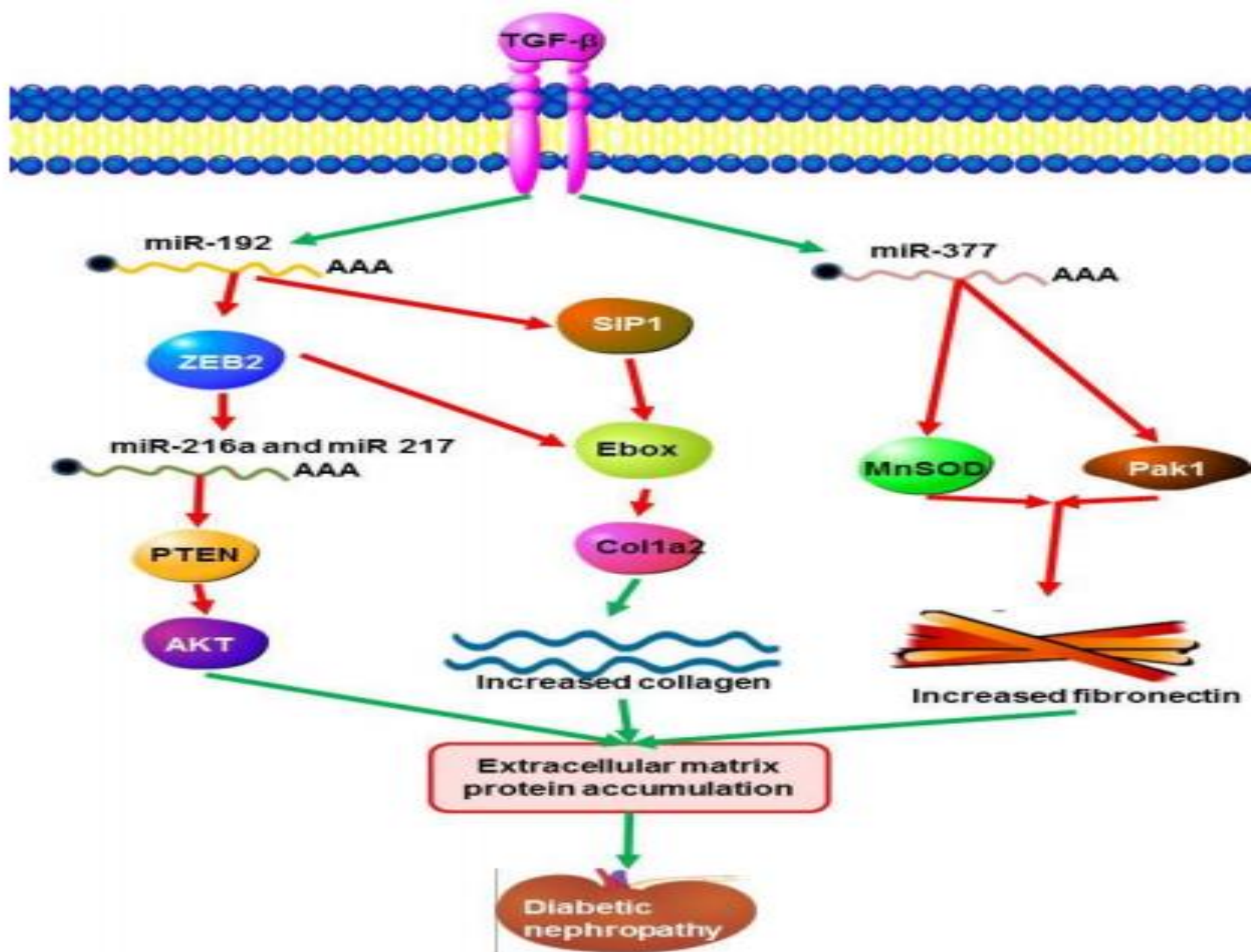
microRNA

14 up-regulated genes and 430 down-regulated ones were identified. Some DEGs related to cytoskeleton organization (MTSS1, ACTN4 and CALD1), cardiomyopathy (ITGB5) and immune response (C1S and C1R), as well as some regulators

LEF1 and hsa-miR-33a might play pivotal roles in the progression of DN.

miRNA involved in diabetic nephropathy

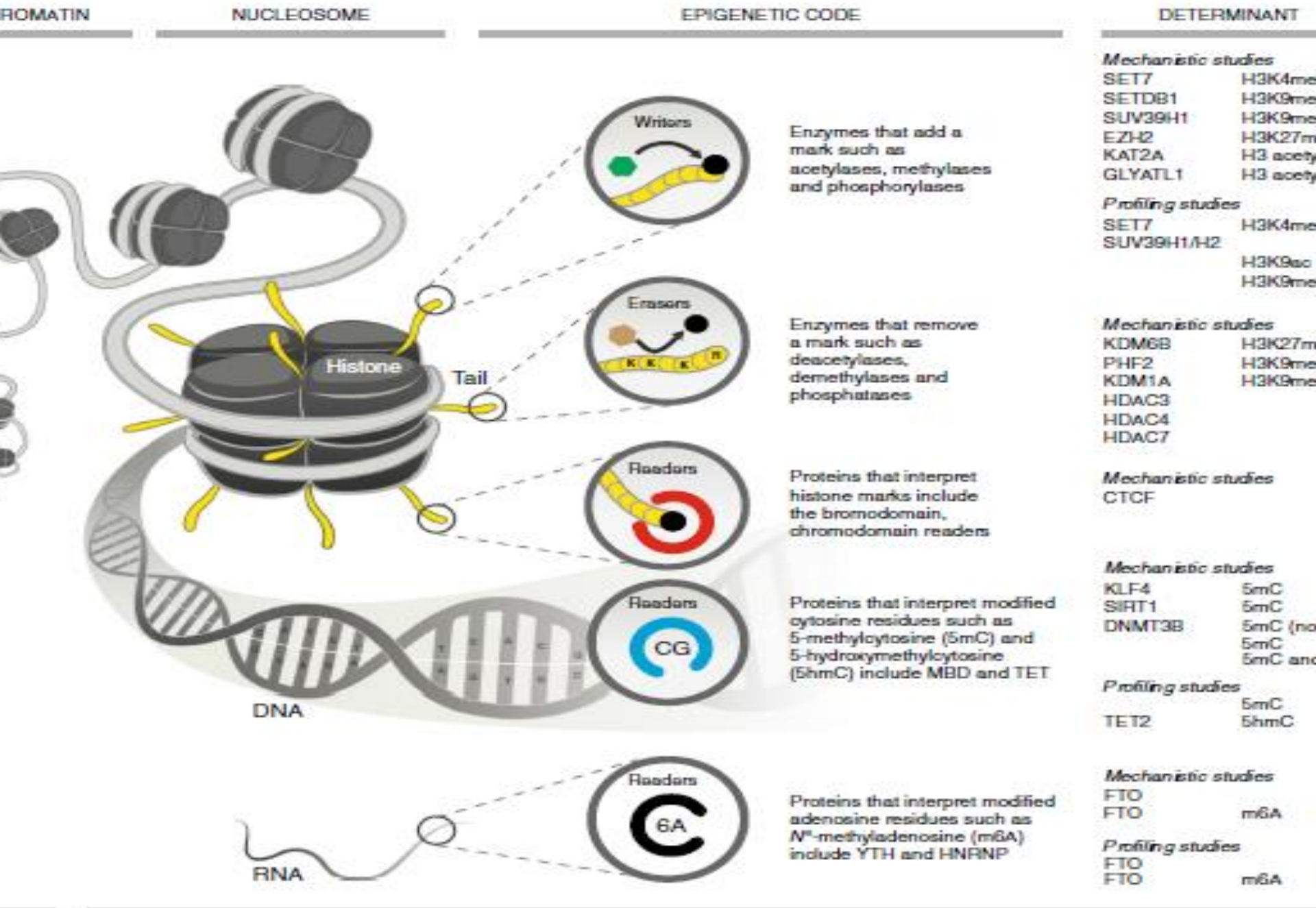
miRNA	Target tissue	Reference
miR-192	Kidney	122
miR-107	Pancreas, adipose	20,38
miR-125(a/b)	Liver, vascular tissue	8,123
miR-216a	Kidney	124,125
miR-217	Kidney	124,125
miR-320	Adipose, vascular endothelium	126,127



Histone Modification

Epigenetic mechanisms in chromatin :

Regulate gene expression , cellular identity, phenotypic variations , and disease states without any alterations in the underlying DNA sequence.



Legend: **Writer** (Green circle), **Eraser** (Brown circle), **Histone mark** (Black circle), **Histone reader** (Red circle), **DNA reader** (Blue circle), **RNA reader** (Black circle)

Table 1. Histone modifications and their function in the transcription regulation*

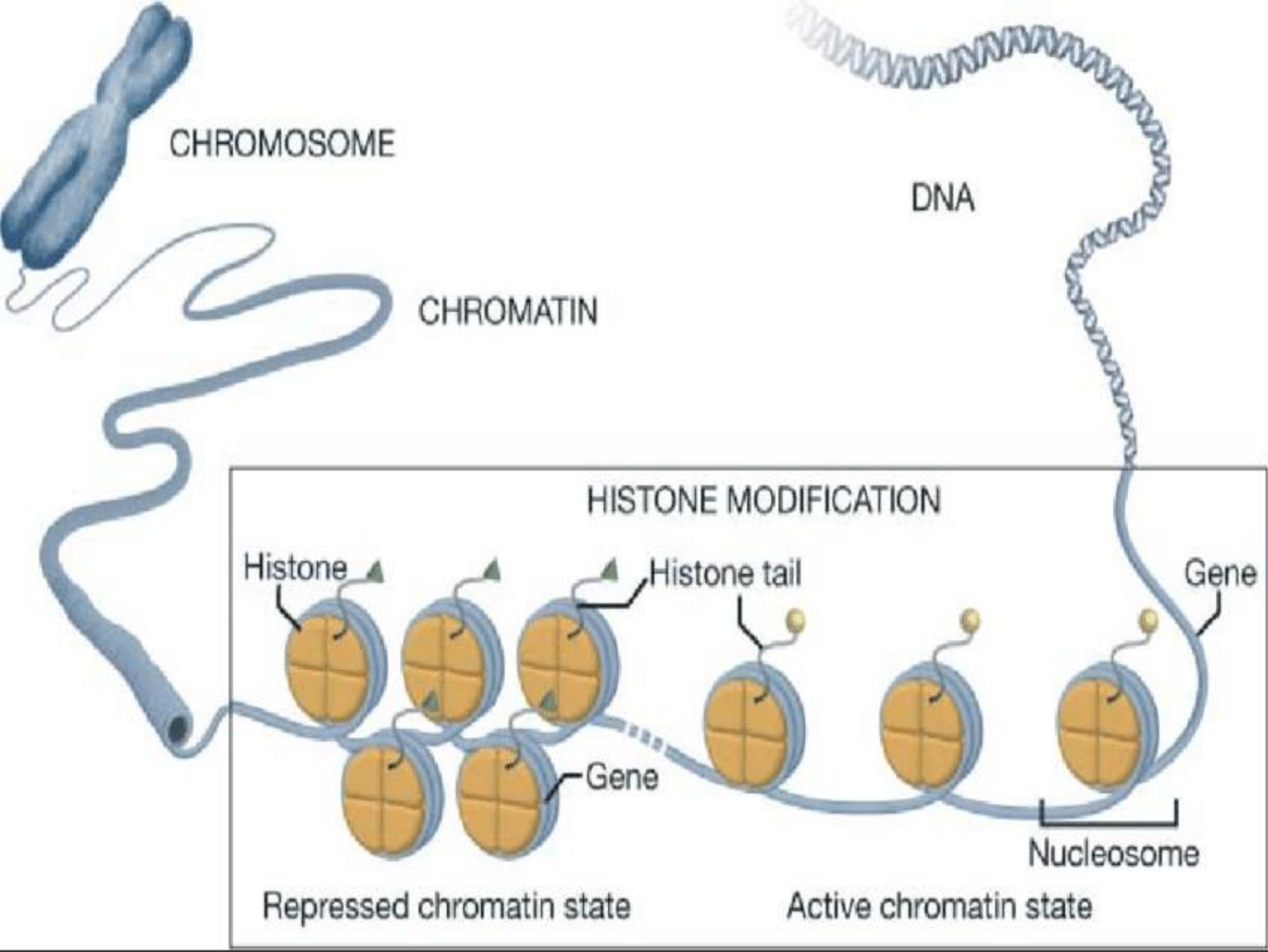
Modification	Histone	Modifying enzyme	Proposed function
Acetylation	H2A, H3, H4	ATF2, ELP3, GCN5, GTF3C4, HAT1, MOREF, MOZ, p300, PCAF, SRC-1, TAF1, Tip 60	Activation
Deacetylation	H2A, H3, H4	HDAC1–HDAC11, SIRT1–SIRT7	Repression
Methylation	H1K26, H3K27	Ezh2	Repression
	H3K9	ESET, G9a, SUV39H1, SUV39H2, SETDB1	Repression
	H3K4	MLL, SET7, SET9, SMYD3	Activation
	H3K36	SETD2, NSD1	Activation
	H3K79	DOT1L	Activation
	H4K20	PR-SET7, SUV4-20H1, SUV4-20H2	Repression
	H3R17	CARM1	Activation
	H4R3	PRMT1	Activation
	H3R8	PRMT5	Repression
	H4R3	PRMT5	Repression
Demethylation	H3K4	LSD1	Repression
	H3K4	JARID1A, JARID1B, JARID1C, JARID1D	Repression
	H3K9	JMJD1A	Activation
	H3K9/H3K36	JMJD2A, JMJD2B, JMJD2C, JMJD2D	Activation/Repression
	H3K36	JHDM1A, JHDM1B	Repression
	H3K27	JMJD3, UTX	Activation
Phosphorylation	H2AS1, H3S10, H3S28	MSK1	Repression
	H3S10	Aurora-B, IKK- α , MSK2, RSK2	Activation
	H2AS1, H2AS139, H4S1	ATR, ATM, DNA-PK, CK2, Tel1	DNA repair
Ubiquitylation	H2AK119	RING1B	Activation/repression
	H2BK120	UbcH6	Activation/repression
Biotinylation	H2AK9, H2AK13, H3K4, H3K9, H3K18, H4K12	Biotinidase	Activation

HDACs play an important role in TGF β 1-mediated ECM production and kidney fibrosis in DN.

HDACs play a role in the pathogenesis of renal fibrosis and in models of chronic renal injury induced by TGF- β 1 modulation of key protective genes.

Losartan

Human genetics of diabetic nephropathy .Zi-Hui Tang, Fengfang Zeng. 2016



Transient high glucose causes persistent epigenetic changes and altered gene expression during subsequent normoglycemia

Assam El-Osta,¹ Daniella Brasacchio,¹ Dachun Yao,³ Alessandro Pocai,⁴ Peter L. Jones,⁵ Robert G. Roeder,⁶ Mark E. Cooper,^{2,3} and Michael Brownlee³

¹Diabetes and Metabolism Division, Baker Epigenetics in Human Health and Disease, and ²Diabetes and Metabolism Division, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Danielle Alberti Memorial Centre for Diabetic Complications, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, the Alfred Medical Research and Education Precinct, Commercial Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia

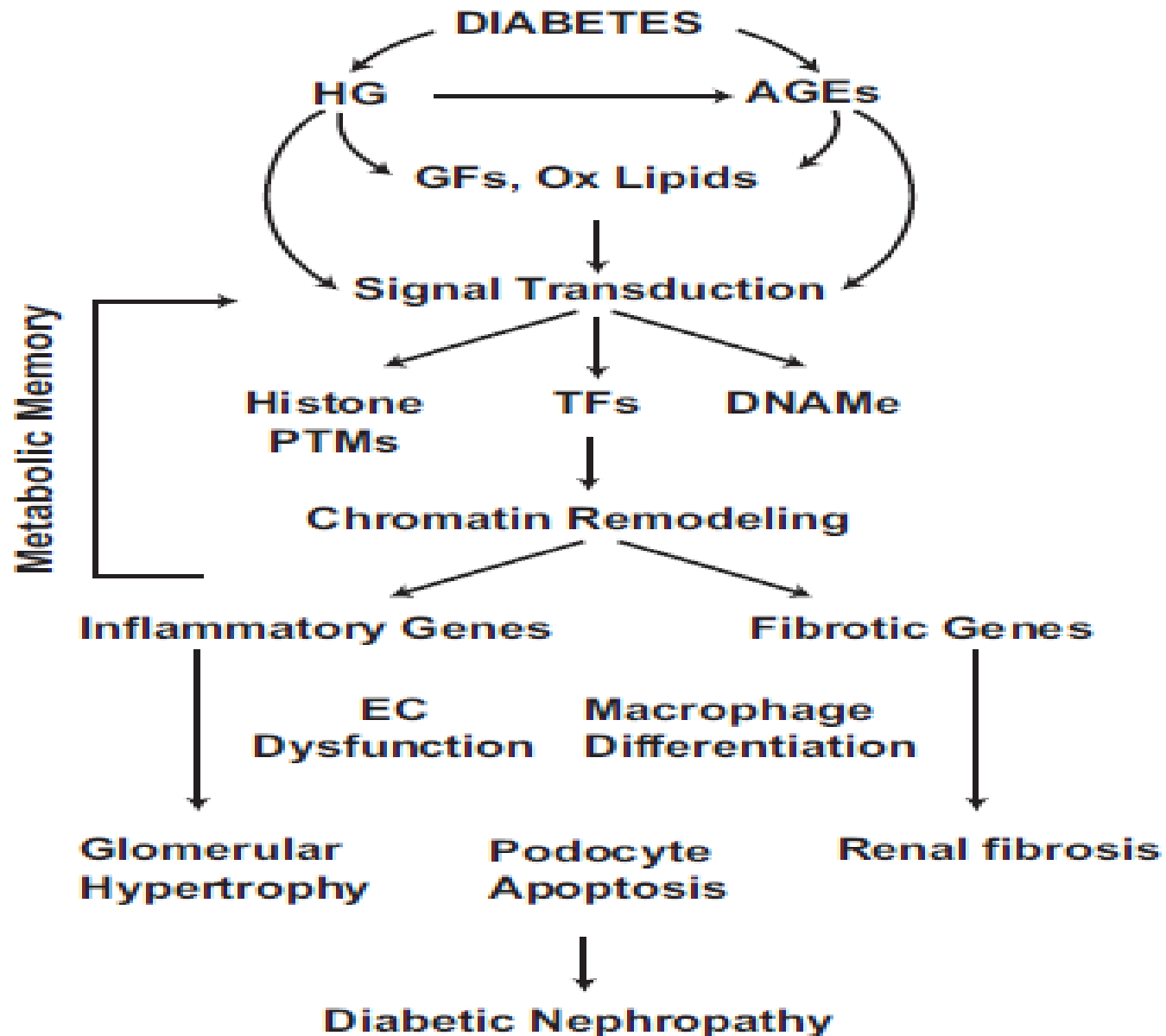
³Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International Center for Diabetic Complications Research

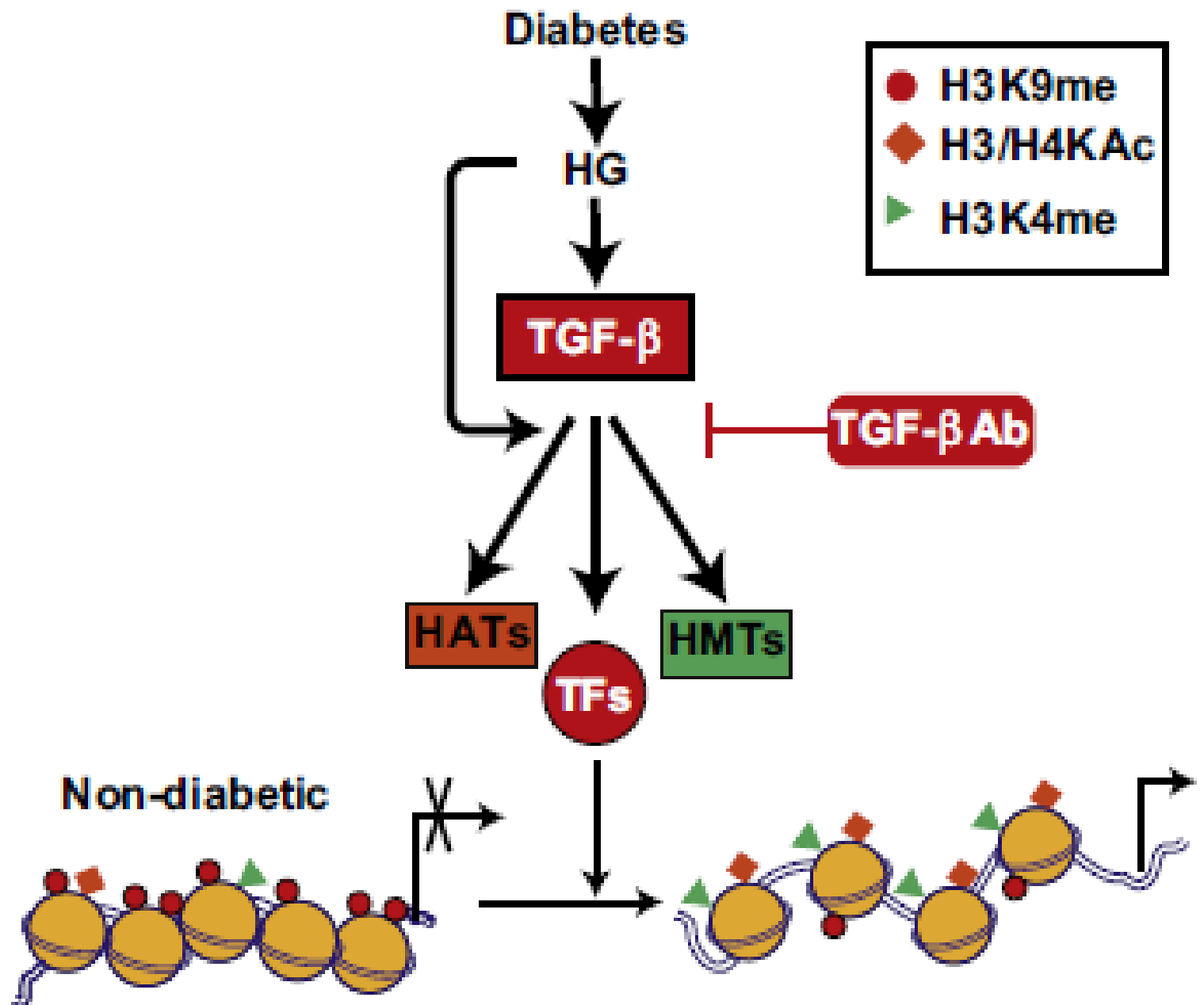
and ⁴Department of Medicine and Diabetes Research Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY 10461

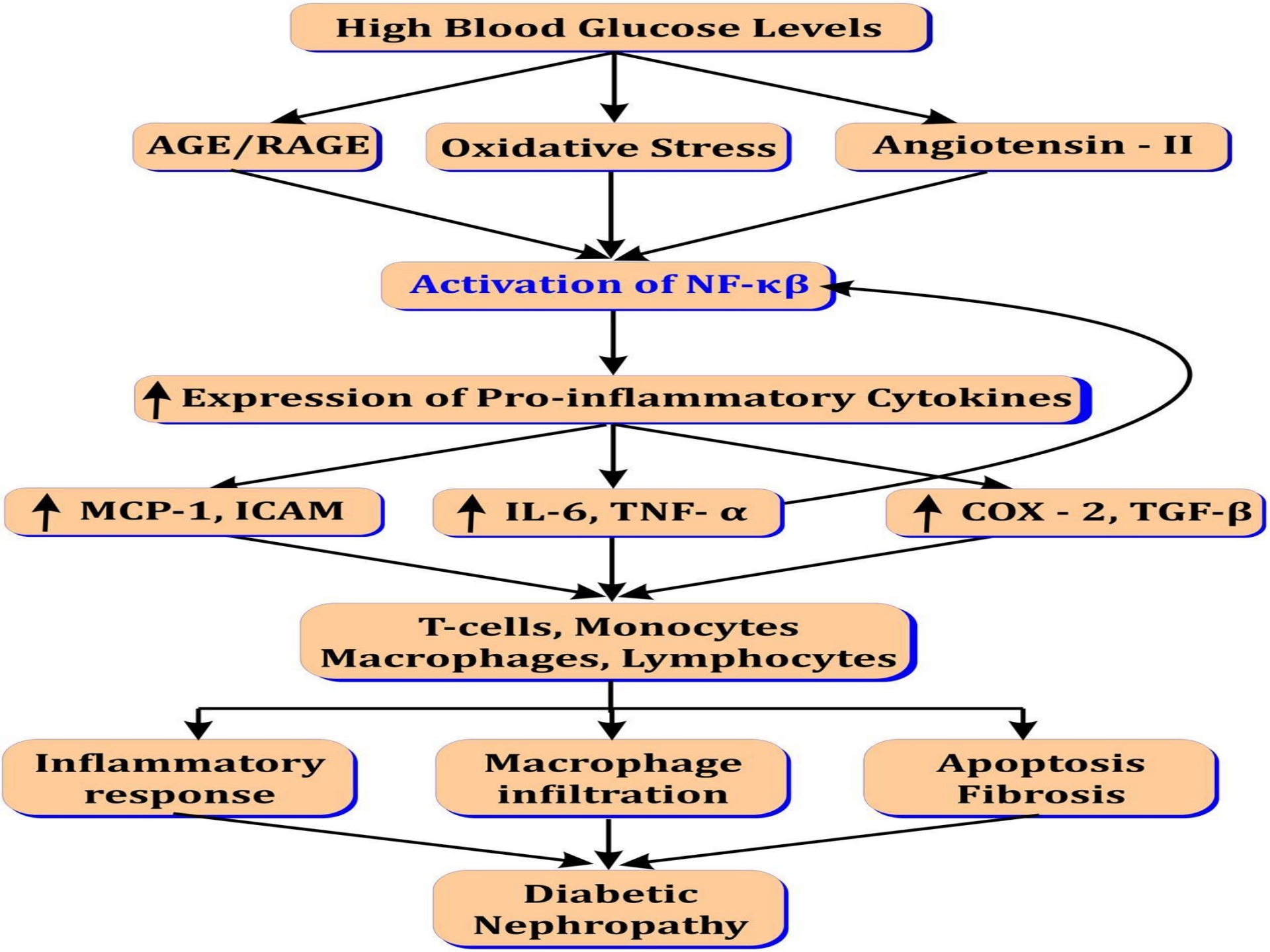
⁵Department of Cell and Structural Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL 61802

⁶Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY 10021

The current goal of diabetes therapy is to reduce time-averaged mean levels of glycemia, measured as HbA1c, to prevent diabetic complications. However, HbA1c only explains <25% of the variation in risk of developing complications. Because HbA1c does not correlate with glycemic variability when adjusted for mean blood glucose, we hypothesized that transient spikes of hyperglycemia may be an HbA1c-independent risk factor for diabetic complications. We show that transient hyperglycemia induces long-lasting activating epigenetic changes in the promoter of the nuclear factor κ B (NF- κ B) subunit p65 in aortic endothelial cells both in vitro and in nondiabetic mice, which cause increased p65 gene expression. Both the epigenetic changes and the gene expression changes persist for at least 6 d of subsequent normal glycemia, as do NF- κ B-induced increases in monocyte chemoattractant protein 1 and vascular cell adhesion molecule 1 expression. Hyperglycemia-induced epigenetic changes and increased p65 expression are prevented by reducing mitochondrial superoxide production or superoxide-induced α -oxoaldehydes. These results







Original Article

NF- κ B activation and overexpression of regulated genes in human diabetic nephropathy

Sergio Mezzano¹, Claudio Aros¹, Alejandra Droguett¹, M. Eugenia Burgos¹, Leopoldo Ardiles¹, Claudio Flores¹, Herman Schneider¹, Marta Ruiz-Ortega² and Jesús Egido²

¹Division of Nephrology, School of Medicine, Universidad Austral, Valdivia, Chile and ²Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Universidad Autónoma, Madrid, Spain

Abstract

Background. Nuclear factor κ B (NF κ B) regulates

Proteinuria might be one of the main factors inducing the observed pro-inflammatory phenotype

Set7

Chromatin modifying enzyme Set7 is upregulated in diabetic patients and involved in the regulation of transcription factor NF- κ B, inflammation, oxidative stress, and endothelial dysfunction.

T2DM



Set 7

H3K4M1

CH3

CH3

CH3

Promoter

CH3

H3

Lysin

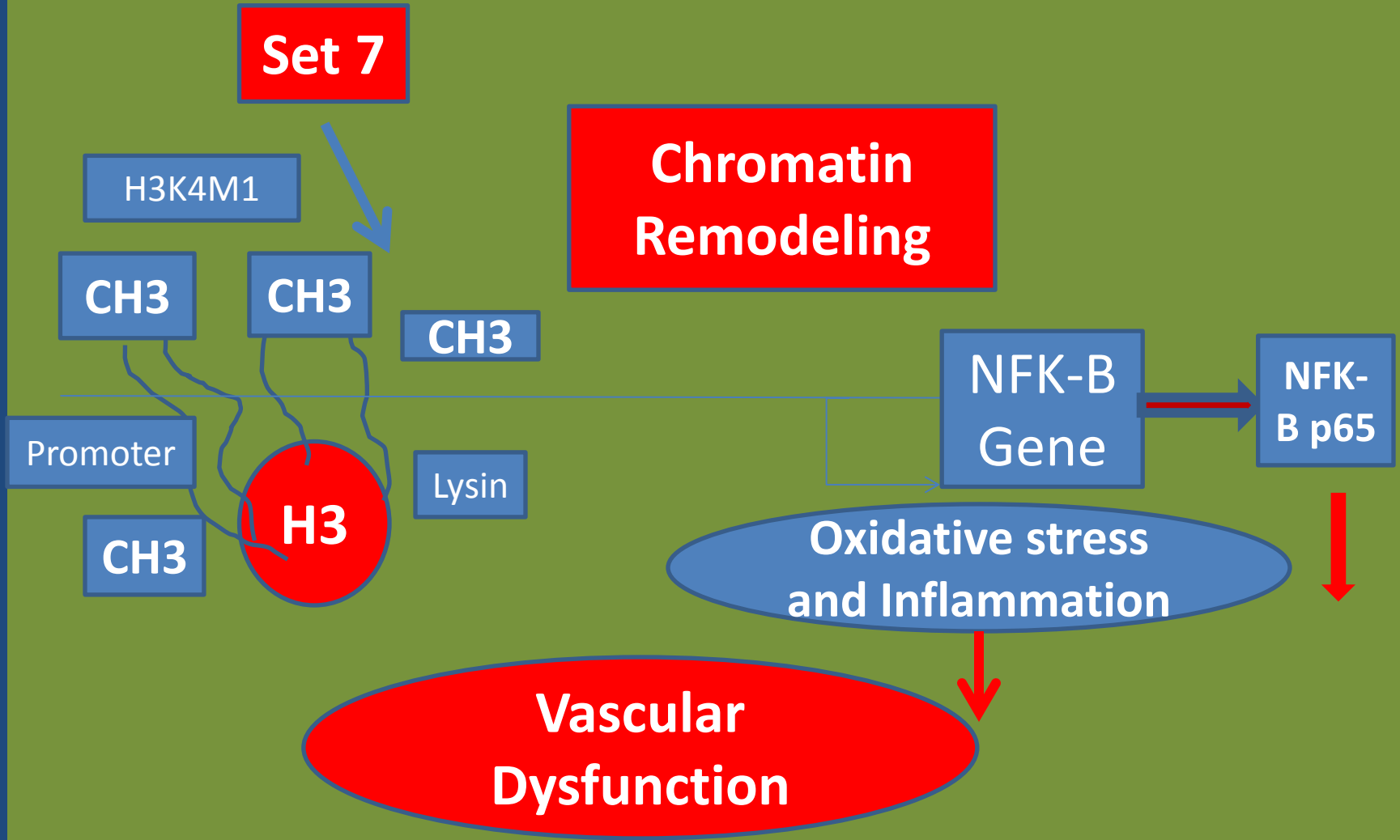
Chromatin Remodeling

NFK-B
Gene

NFK-B
p65

Oxidative stress
and Inflammation

**Vascular
Dysfunction**



Conclusions

Clinical and epidemiological studies have identified a genetic component to DN, although so far no specific gene has been identified.

Combined with classical genetic approaches, epigenomic profiling has potential to identify molecular trajectories underlying diabetic vascular disease development.

The clinical applicability of epigenetic interventions will be greatly advanced by a deeper understanding of the cell type specific functions and interactions of chromatin-modifying machinery in the diabetic vasculature