

Ideas

- A mathematical/computational model to capture evolution of recipes, so as to capture the statistics of contemporary cuisines.
- A ‘recipe data structure’ that captures practically all quantifiable nuances of cooking.
- An app (web/mobile) for crowdsourcing recipes from lay users.
- What other kind of known data mining algorithms could be used to analyse cuisines?
- Mining the bipartite graph ingredient-disease associations

Ideas

- **Collecting/scraping data (from websites/books) and making a structured data repository:**
 - Preservatives used in processed food
 - Food Additives
 - Fermented food
 - Cocktails/Mocktails
 - Allergic foods and allergens
 - Nutritional profile of (say) Indian food (NIN)
 - Fortified food (list and statistics)
 - *Think of other sources of culinary data.*

Ideas

- **Improvised models of culinary evolution.**
- What if the evolution happens by choosing ingredient pairs (as opposed to ingredients)?
- What if the flavor plays a major role?
- FlavorDB/FlavorDB2 data analytics and visuals
- Chemical Elements (Fe/Ca/Zn etc.): Flavor-wise/Food-wise
- **Services:** A.Recipe.A.Day/An.Ingredient.A.Day *See: A.Word.A.Day*
- **Artificial Flavors:** Recreating natural flavors by combining and mixing flavor molecules. Data?
- **Fragrance/Perfumes:** The art of juxtaposing molecules. Data?
- A simple model of transformation of flavor molecules, when boiled/fried/roasted/etc.?

Why spices? Broad-spectrum benevolence of culinary herbs and spices



“Data-driven analysis of biomedical literature suggests broad-spectrum benefits of culinary herbs and spices,”
Rakhi NK, Tuwani R, Mukherjee J, Bagler G, PLoS ONE 13(5): e0198030 (2018).

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ANTIMICROBIAL FUNCTIONS OF SPICES:
WHY SOME LIKE IT HOT

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Darwinian Gastronomy: Why We Use Spices

Spices taste good because they are good for us

Paul W. Sherman and Jennifer Billing

Humans have borrowed plants' chemical “recipes” for evolutionary survival for use in cuisine to combat foodborne microorganisms and to reduce food poisoning

Darwinian Gastronomy: Why We Use Spices

Spices taste good because they are good for us

Paul W. Sherman and Jennifer Billing

Spices are plant products used in flavoring foods and beverages. For thousands of years, aromatic plant materials have been used in food preparation and preservation, as well as for embalming, in areas where the plants are native, such as Hindustan and the Spice Islands (Govindarajan 1985, Dillon and Board 1994). During and after the Middle Ages, seafarers such as Marco Polo, Ferdinand Magellan, and Christopher Columbus undertook hazardous voyages to establish routes to trading ports in primary spice-growing regions (Parry 1953). The spice trade was so crucial to national economies that rulers re-

**Humans have borrowed
plants' chemical "recipes"
for evolutionary survival
for use in cuisine to
combat foodborne
microorganisms and to
reduce food poisoning**

restaurants, or preparing exotic recipes at home. Japanese dishes are often "delicate," Indonesian and

fruits of herbaceous plants (Figure 1). Cookbooks generally distinguish between seasonings (spices used in food preparation) and condiments (spices added after food is served), but not between herbs and spices. However, herbs, which are defined botanically (as plants that do not develop woody, persistent tissue), usually are called for in their fresh state, whereas spices generally are dried (Figure 2). Salt is sometimes thought of as a spice, but it is a mineral.

Each spice has a unique aroma and flavor, which derive from compounds known as phytochemicals or "secondary compounds" (because

Table 1. Mean annual temperature, number of meat-based recipes analyzed (in 93 cookbooks), mean number of spices per recipe, and the four most frequently used spices (i.e., used in the highest proportion of recipes) for each of the 36 countries included in this study.

Country ^a	Mean annual temperature (°C)	Recipes analyzed	Spices per recipe	Frequently used spices ^b
Thailand	27.6	118	4.6	Garlic, onion, chilis ^c , pepper ^d
Philippines	27.0	118	3.0	Pepper, onion, garlic, lemon/lime
India	26.9	91	9.3	Ginger, onion, chilis, coriander
Malaysia	26.9	60	5.4	Onion, garlic, chilis, ginger
Indonesia	26.8	120	6.9	Garlic, onion, chilis, coriander
Nigeria	26.5	82	2.6	Chilis, onion, pepper, nutmeg
Ghana	25.9	95	2.2	Onion, pepper, chilis, ginger
Vietnam	24.6	84	4.5	Pepper, garlic, onion, chilis
Brazil	23.9	132	4.2	Onion, pepper, parsley, garlic
Mexico	23.1	123	4.4	Onion, garlic, chilis, pepper
Kenya	22.1	73	5.4	Garlic, onion, pepper, chilis
Ethiopia	21.1	56	7.5	Onion, garlic, chilis, ginger
Lebanon	20.6	98	4.7	Pepper, onion, cinnamon, garlic
Israel	19.1	145	3.9	Pepper, onion, garlic, lemon/lime
Australia	18.6	64	3.4	Pepper, onion, parsley, lemon/lime
Morocco	18.3	104	5.8	Onion, pepper, parsley, saffron
South Africa	17.2	108	2.6	Pepper, onion, lemon/lime, chilis
Greece	16.7	118	4.4	Pepper, onion, garlic, lemon/lime
Iran	16.7	85	5.0	Onion, pepper, lemon/lime, turmeric
Portugal	15.0	84	4.5	Pepper, garlic, parsley, onion
Japan	14.3	103	2.1	Onion, lemon/lime, ginger, chilis
Italy	14.0	86	3.4	Pepper, garlic, parsley, lemon/lime
Korea	12.1	81	3.5	Garlic, onion, pepper, sesame
France	12.1	216	3.8	Pepper, onion, garlic, parsley
Hungary	10.3	80	3.0	Onion, pepper, paprika, parsley
Ireland	9.6	90	3.2	Pepper, onion, garlic, parsley
England	8.8	223	2.1	Pepper, onion, lemon/lime, parsley
Germany	8.8	169	3.2	Onion, pepper, lemon/lime, parsley
Austria	8.8	188	2.7	Onion, pepper, parsley, lemon/lime
Denmark	8.3	87	1.9	Pepper, onion, bay leaf, parsley
Poland	7.8	141	0.3	Onion, pepper, bay leaf, parsley
Sweden	5.4	134	2.5	Pepper, onion, allspice, parsley
Finland	3.0	62	2.1	Pepper, onion, mustard, lemon/lime

Figure 6. Garlic (Liliaceae: *Allium sativum*; top), onion (Allium cepa; top), and chilis (Solanaceae: *Capsicum frutescens*; bottom) grow in all countries we sampled and have powerful antimicrobial effects. Photos: Thomas Neuhaus, Neuhaus Features.

ers (e.g., parsley and cilantro [i.e., coriander leaf]) are added near the end (Figure 10). According to cookbook authors, the “delicate” flavors of the latter would be destroyed by heat. If, as seems likely, thermostable spices are the ones added early and thermolabile spices are added later (or are used primarily as condiments), differences in timing of use may function to maintain beneficial antimicrobial properties (and corresponding flavors) until food is served.

Spice synergism

Pepper and lemon (and lime) juice are among the most frequently used spices (Figure 3).

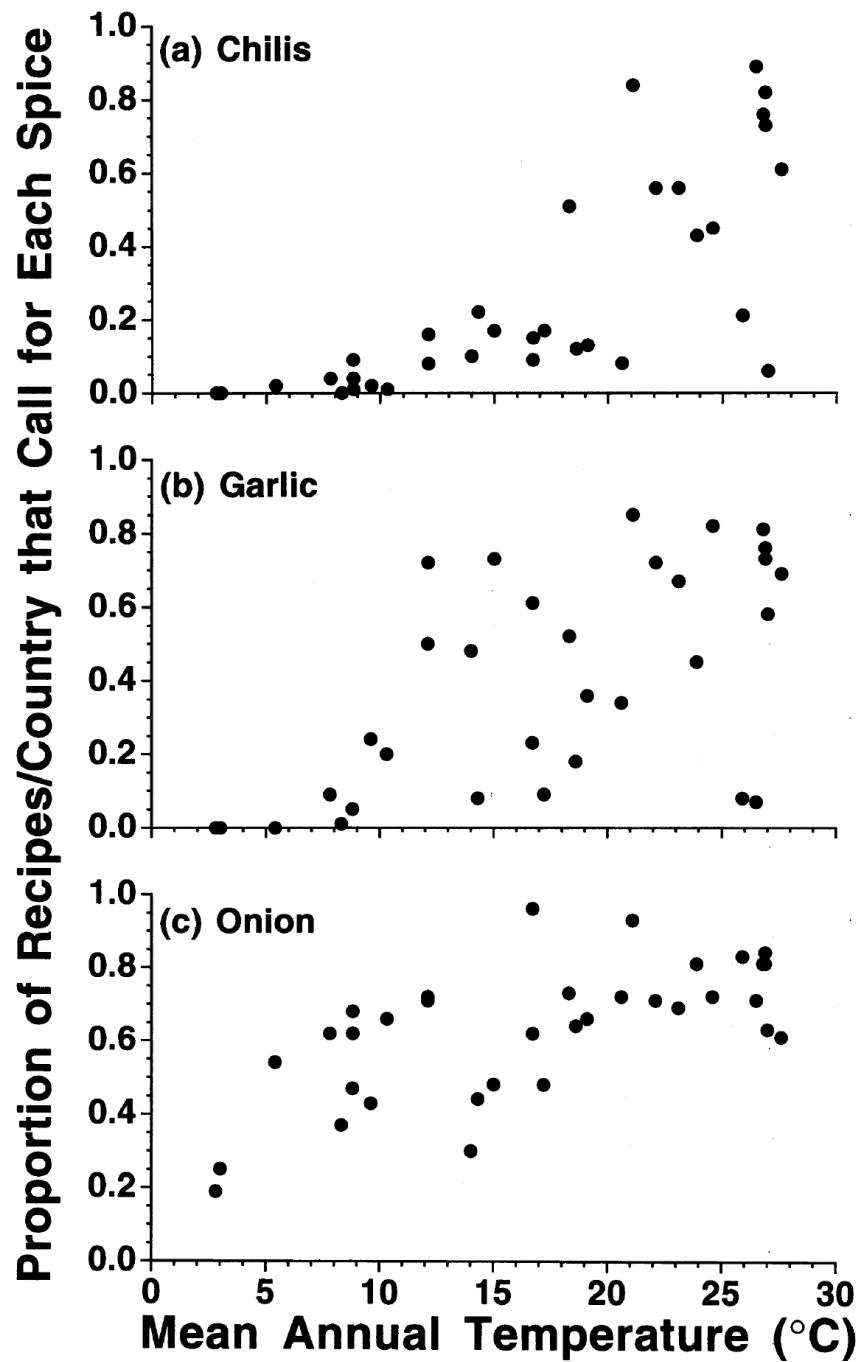


spices), pickling spice (15 spices), and chili powder (10 spices), are broad-spectrum antimicrobial melanges.

Other uses of spices

In addition to their uses in cooking, individual spices and blends are employed as coloring agents, antivirals (including suppressing HIV), brain stimulants, and aphrodisiacs (Hirasa and Takemasa 1998). Among traditional societies, many spice plants also have ethnopharmacological uses, often as topical or ingested antibacterials and vermicides (Chevallier 1996, Cichewicz and Thorpe 1996). A few spices, particularly garlic, ginger, cinnamon, and chilis, have for centuries been used to counteract a broad spectrum of ailments, including dysentery, kidney stones, arthritis, and high blood pressure (Johns 1990, Duke 1994).

However the use of



SpiceRx

A resource to explore health effects of culinary spices and herbs

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SpiceRx Summary

Spices and herbs are key dietary ingredients used in cuisines across the world. They have been reported to be of medicinal value for a wide variety of diseases through a large body of biomedical investigations. Bioactive phytochemicals in these plant products form the basis of their therapeutic potential as well as adverse effects.

SpiceRx is a systematic compilation of evidence-based knowledge pertaining to the health impacts of culinary spices and herbs. It provides a platform for exploring the health impact of culinary spices and herbs through a structured database of tripartite relationships, and facilitates disease-specific culinary recommendations as well as enquiry into molecular mechanisms underlying their health effects.

SpiceRx Search

[Spice/Herb](#)[Disease](#)[Phytochemical](#)

Common Name:

e.g. turmeric


[advanced search](#)

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Data-driven analysis of biomedical literature suggests broad-spectrum benefits of culinary herbs and spices

N. K. Rakhi , Rudraksh Tuwani , Jagriti Mukherjee, Ganesh Bagler

Published: May 29, 2018 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0198030>

Article	Authors	Metrics	Comments	Media Coverage

Abstract

Abstract

- Introduction
- Results
- Discussion
- Materials and methods
- Supporting information
- Acknowledgments
- References

-
- Reader Comments
 - Figures

Spices and herbs are key dietary ingredients used across cultures worldwide. Beyond their use as flavoring and coloring agents, the popularity of these aromatic plant products in culinary preparations has been attributed to their antimicrobial properties. Last few decades have witnessed an exponential growth of biomedical literature investigating the impact of spices and herbs on health, presenting an opportunity to mine for patterns from empirical evidence. Systematic investigation of empirical evidence to enumerate the health consequences of culinary herbs and spices can provide valuable insights into their therapeutic utility. We implemented a text mining protocol to assess the health impact of spices by assimilating, both, their positive and negative effects. We conclude that spices show broad-spectrum benevolence across a range of disease categories in contrast to negative effects that are comparatively narrow-spectrum. We also implement a strategy for disease-specific culinary recommendations of spices based on their therapeutic tradeoff against adverse effects. Further by integrating spice-phytochemical-disease associations, we identify bioactive spice phytochemicals potentially involved in their therapeutic effects. Our study provides a systems perspective on health effects of culinary spices and herbs with applications for dietary recommendations as well as identification of phytochemicals potentially involved in underlying molecular mechanisms.

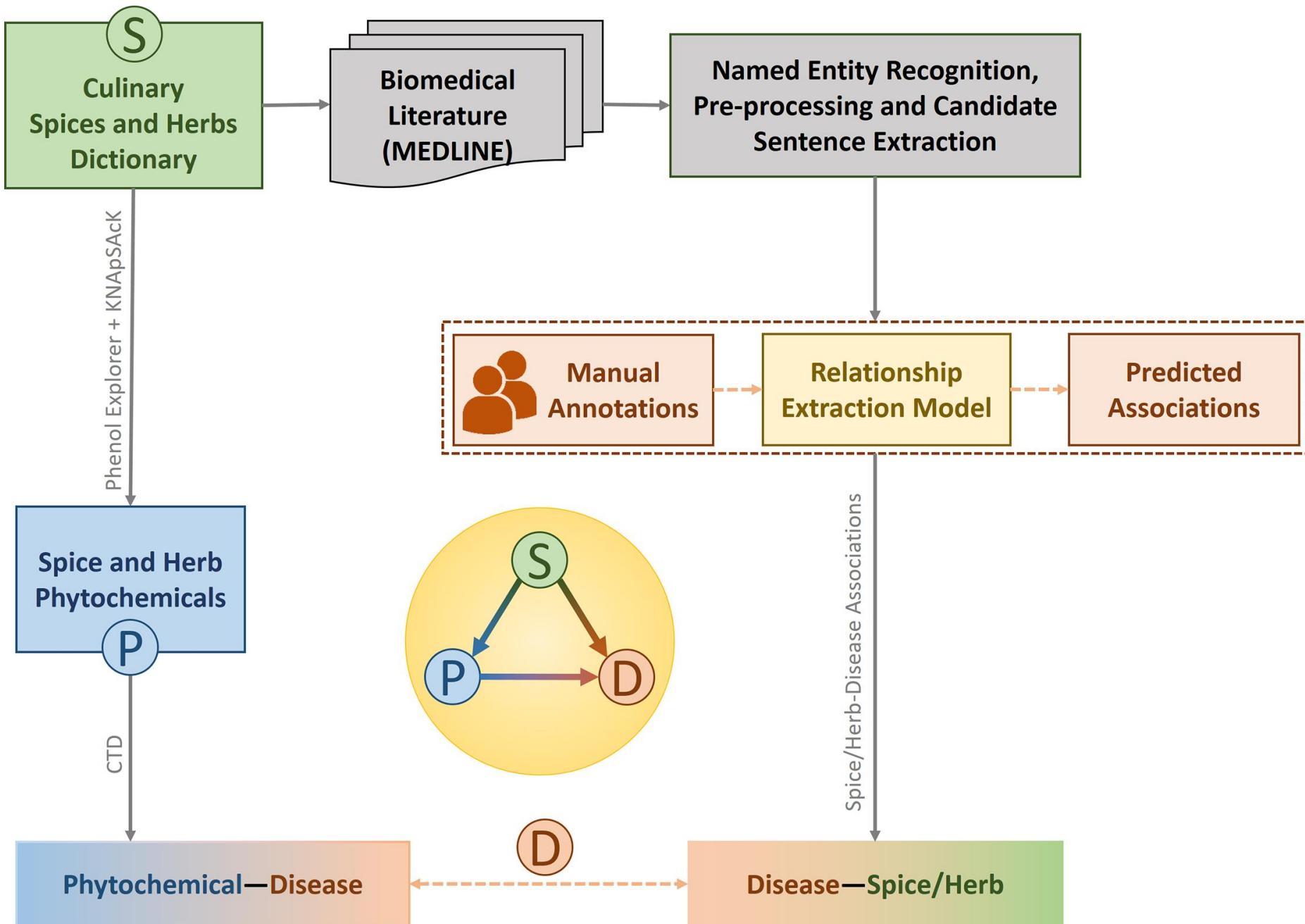
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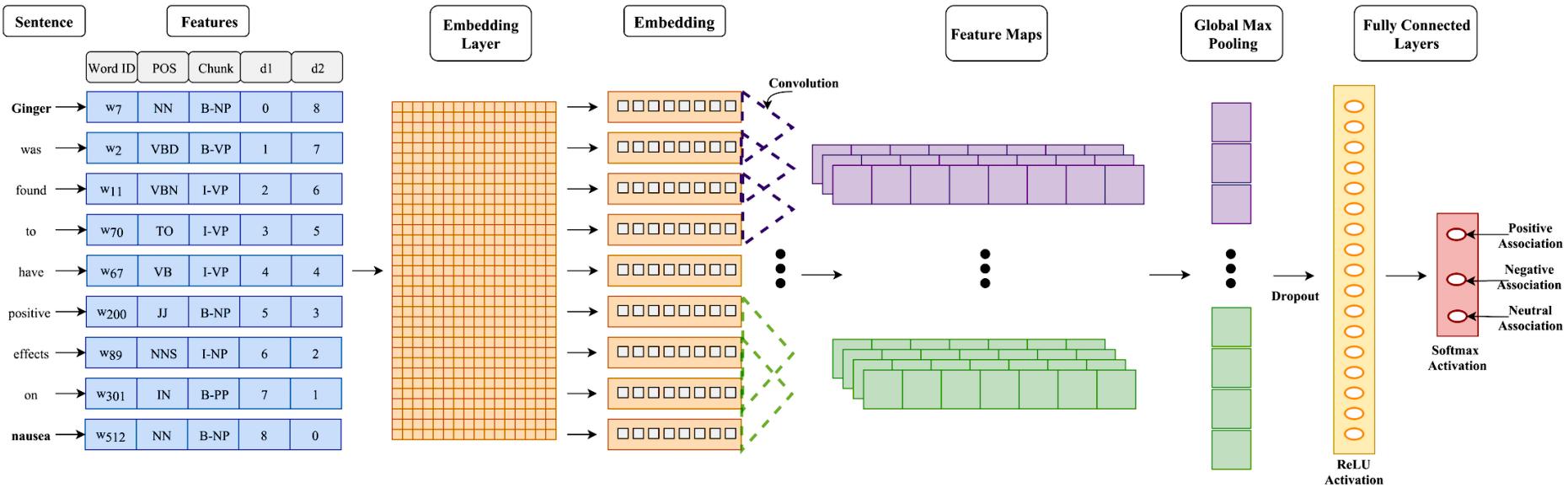
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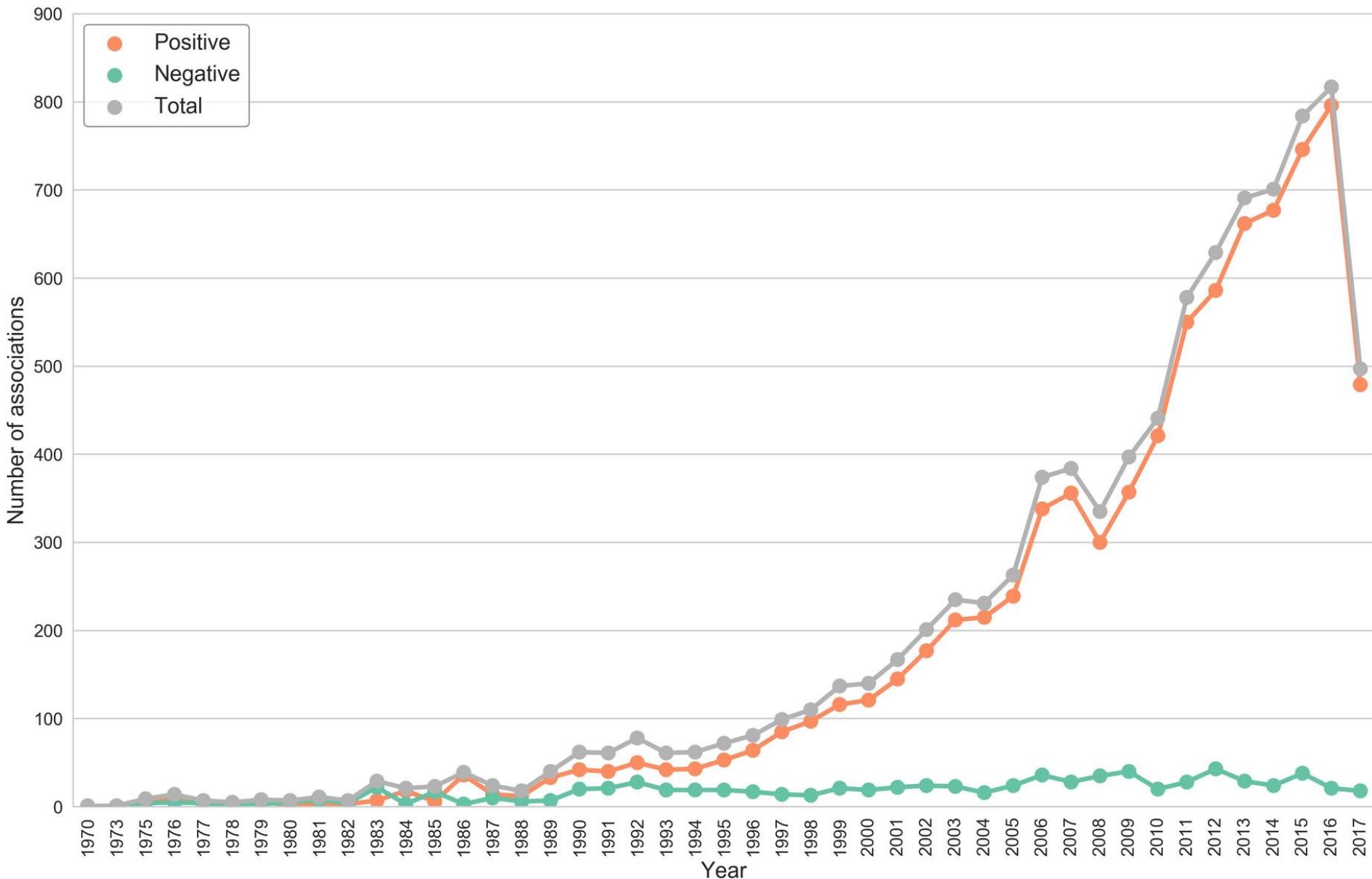
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MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)

Endocrine System Diseases [C19]

Disease Category

Level-1

Adrenal Gland Diseases [C19.053] +

Bone Diseases, Endocrine [C19.149]

Diabetes Mellitus [C19.246] -

Disease Sub-category

Level-2

Diabetes Complications [C19.246.099] +

Diabetes, Gestational [C19.246.200]

Diabetes Mellitus, Experimental [C19.246.240]

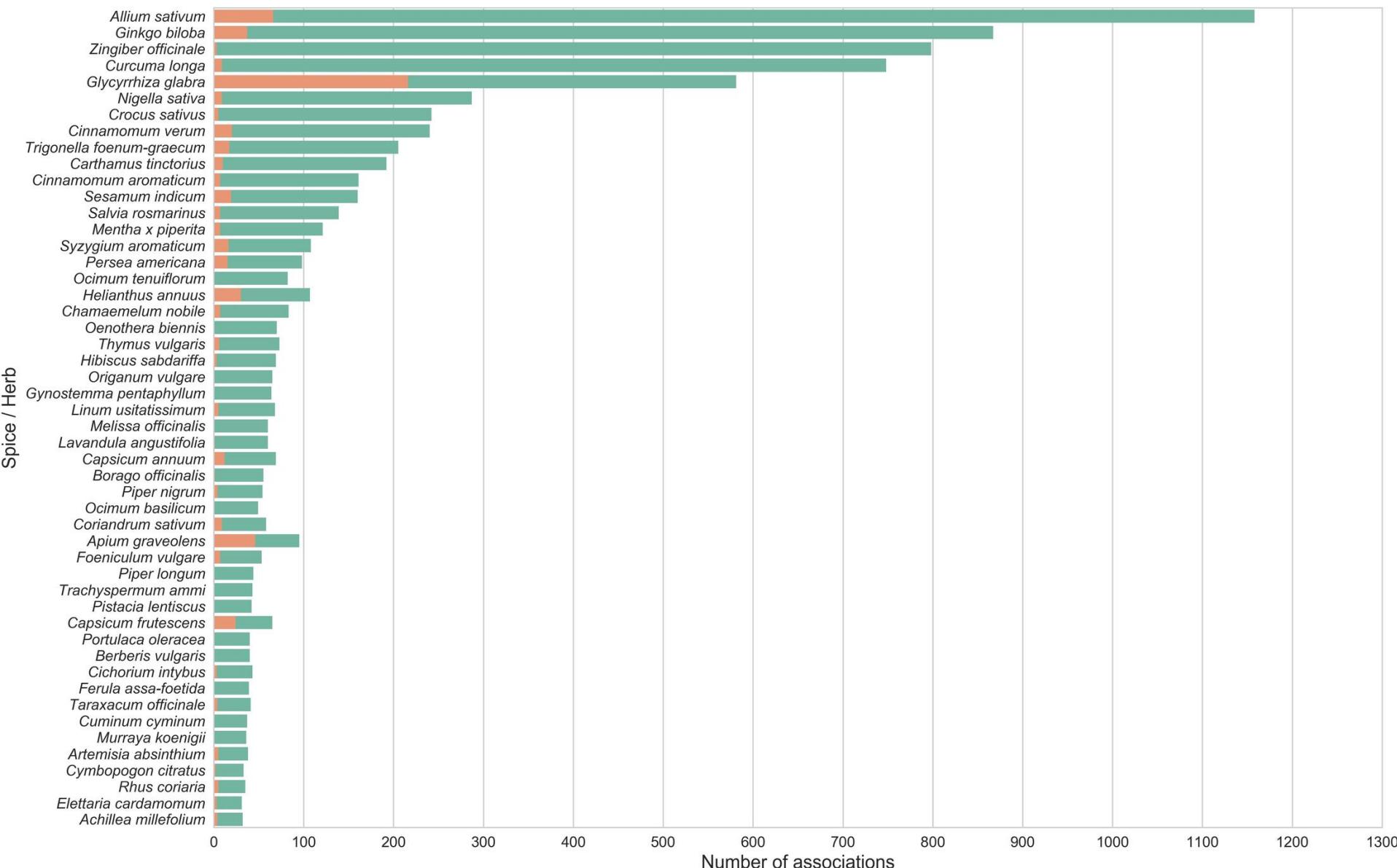
Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1 [C19.246.267] +

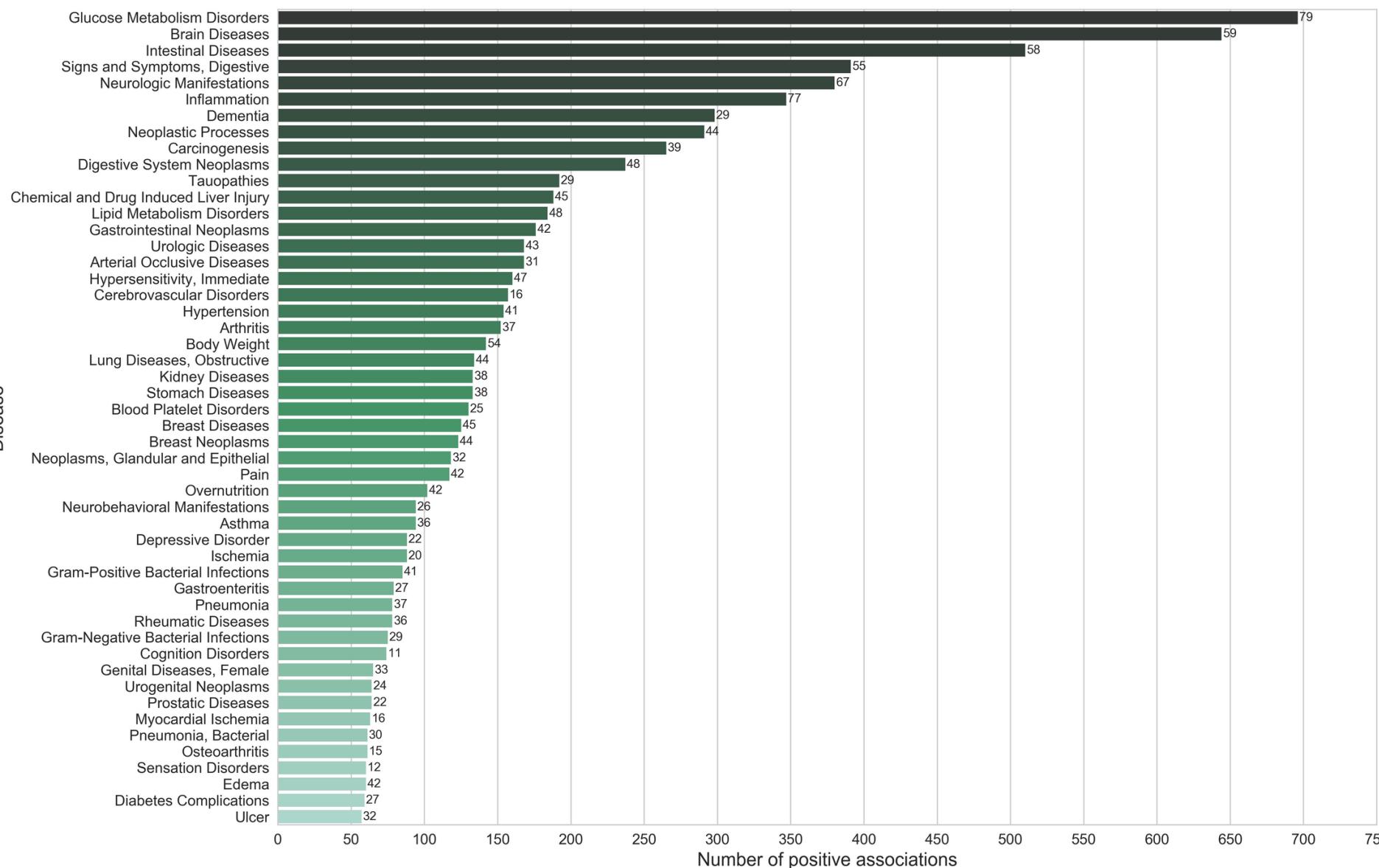
Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2 [C19.246.300] +

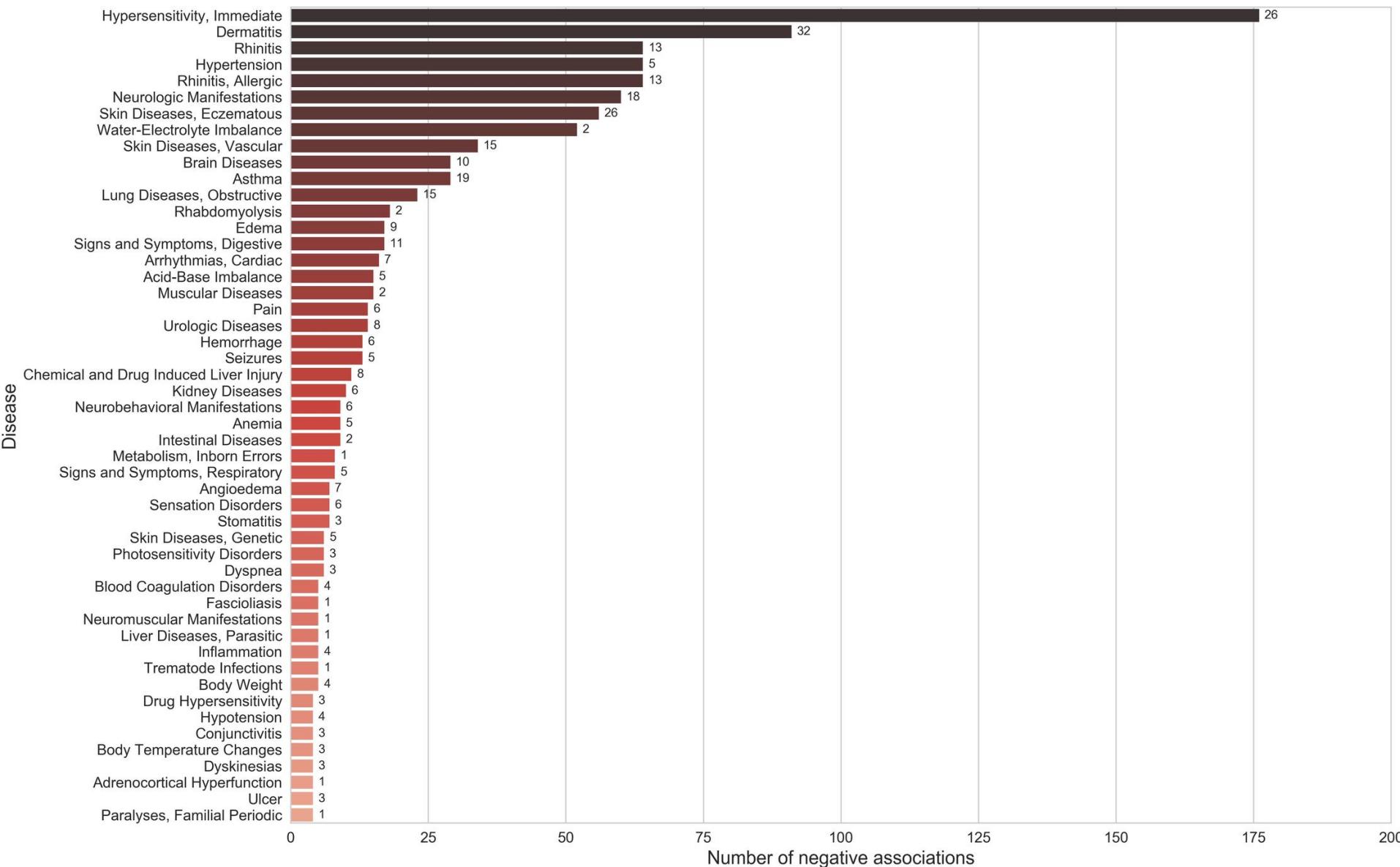
Donohue Syndrome [C19.246.537]

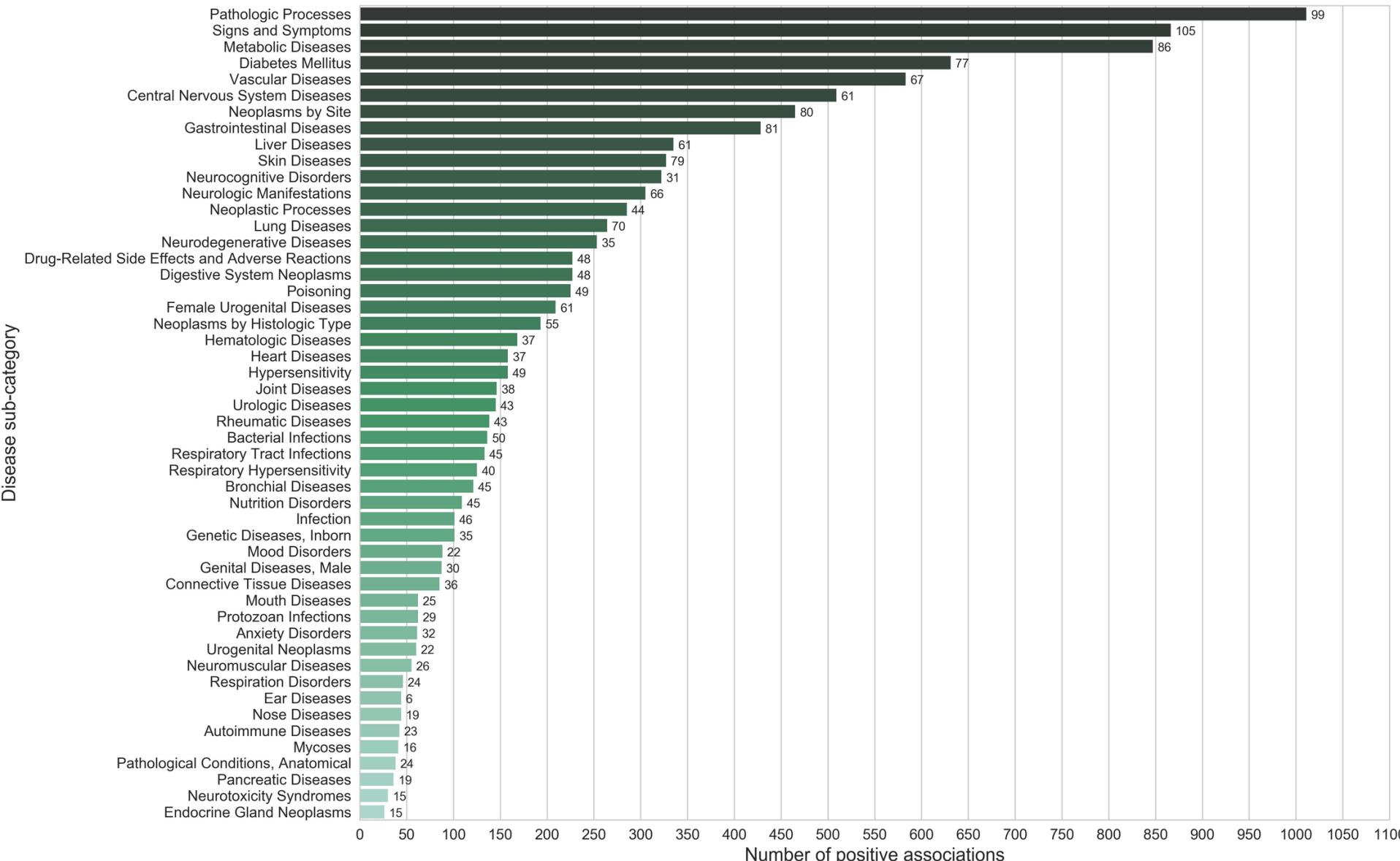
Latent Autoimmune Diabetes in Adults [C19.246.656]

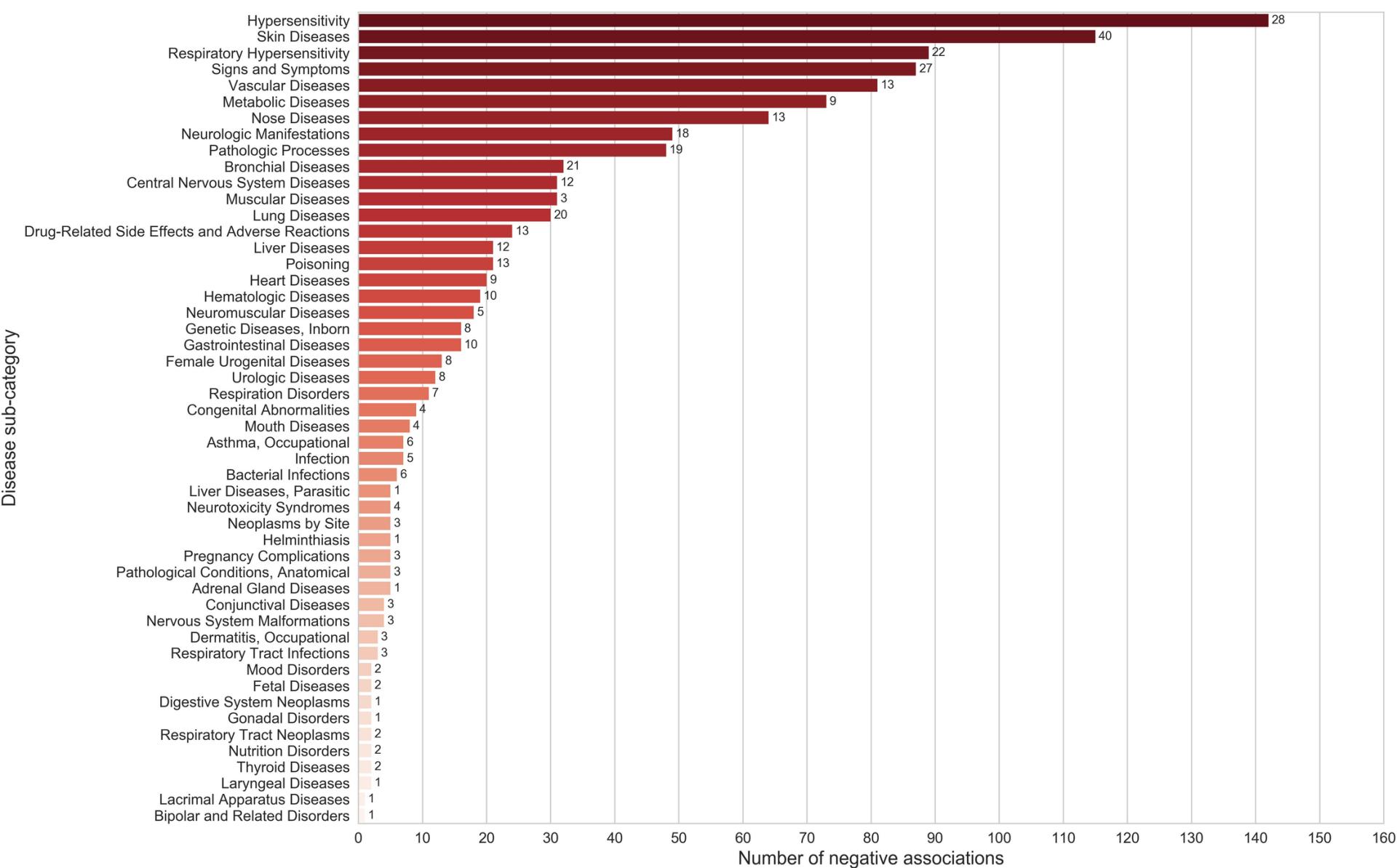
Disease
Level-3

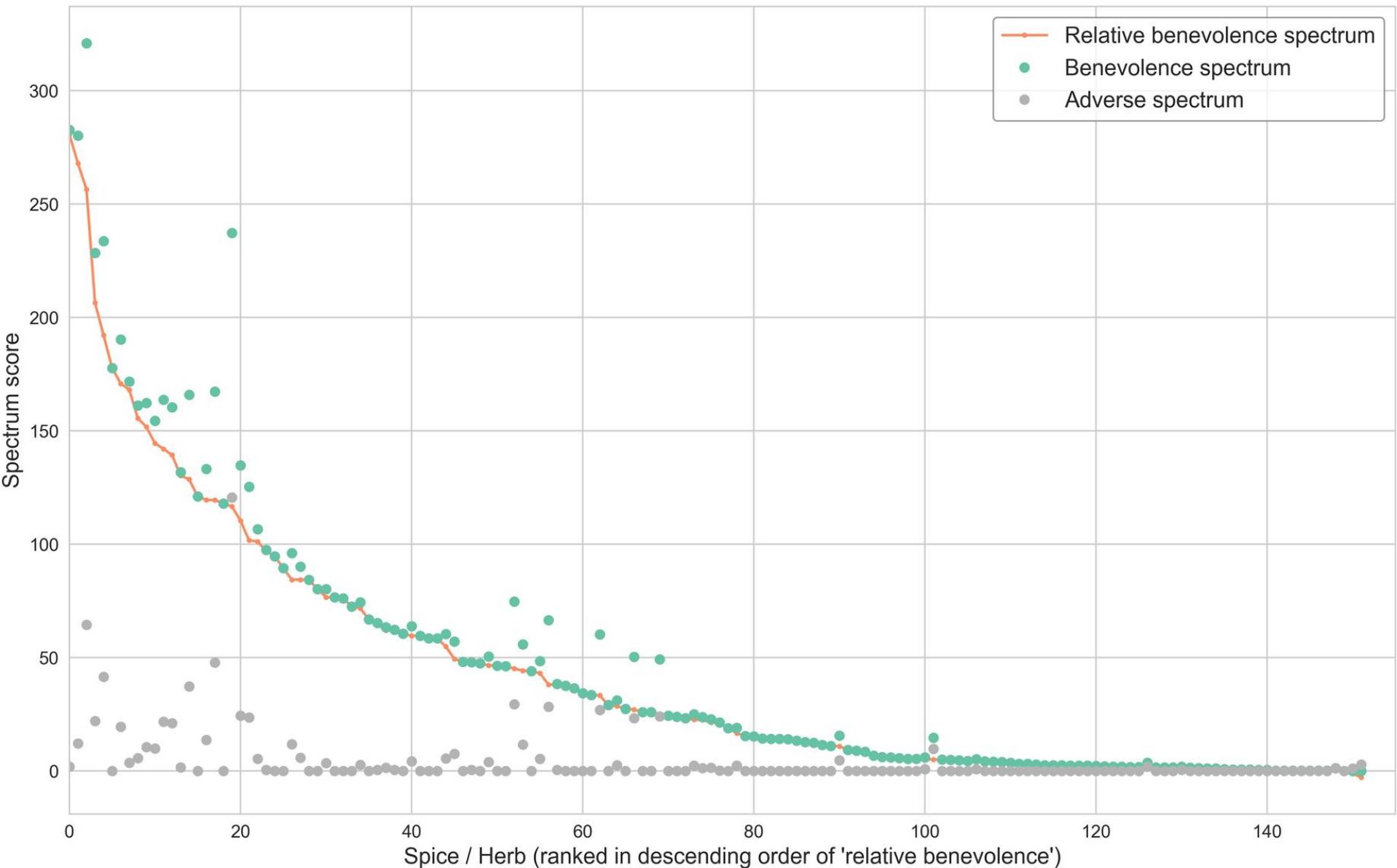












DietRx

An integrative resource to explore interrelationships among foods, diseases, genes and chemicals.

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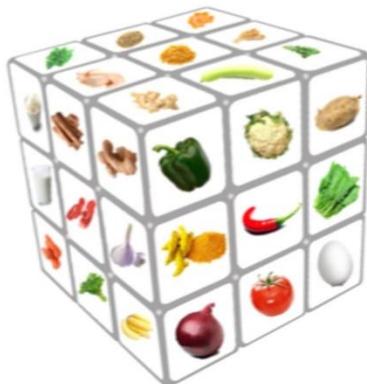
DietRx Summary

DietRx provides a platform for exploring health impacts of dietary ingredients by integrating interrelationships among food and key molecular agents. The resource assimilates dietary factors (food and chemicals), their health consequences (diseases) and genetic mechanisms to facilitate queries for investigating associations among these entities. At the core of the DietRx is the data of 21207 positive/negative food-disease associations for 1781 food entities belonging to 24 categories (vegetable, plant, fruit, meat & egg, herbs & spices etc.) text-mined from biomedical literature (27 million MEDLINE abstracts) using state-of-the-art named entity recognition tools, and a deep learning based relation classification model (Precision=0.87, Recall=0.8, and F1 Score = 0.84) which was trained with significant amount of manually curated data. These data are further interlinked with those involving 6992 food chemicals and 20550 genes, compiled from curated data sources, thereby creating a seamless platform for probing elements central to diet and their health consequences. DietRx facilitates the study of associations among food, disease, chemicals, and genes to enable data-driven inferences to be used for culinary interventions, nutrigenomics insights as well as for drug discovery endeavors.

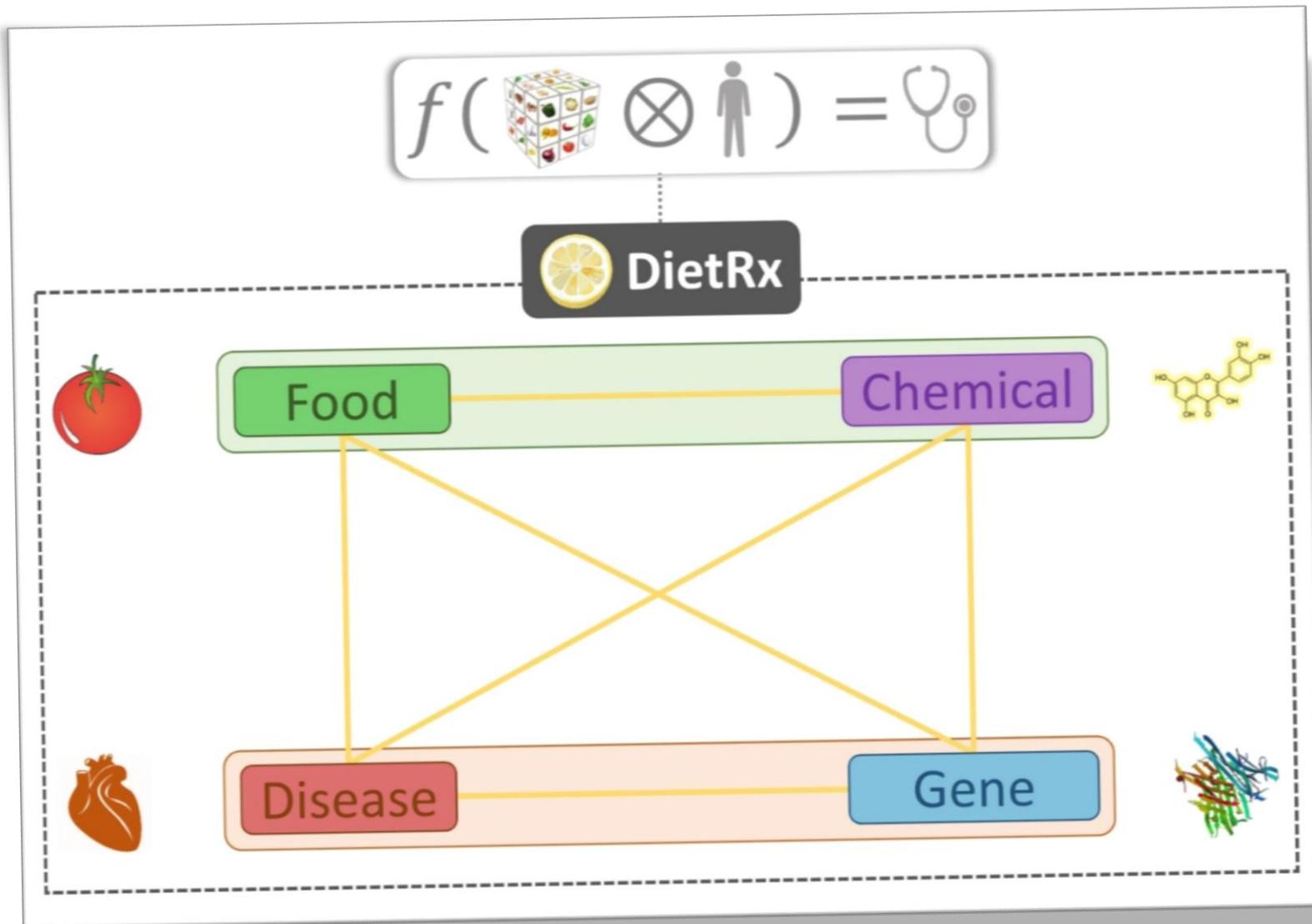


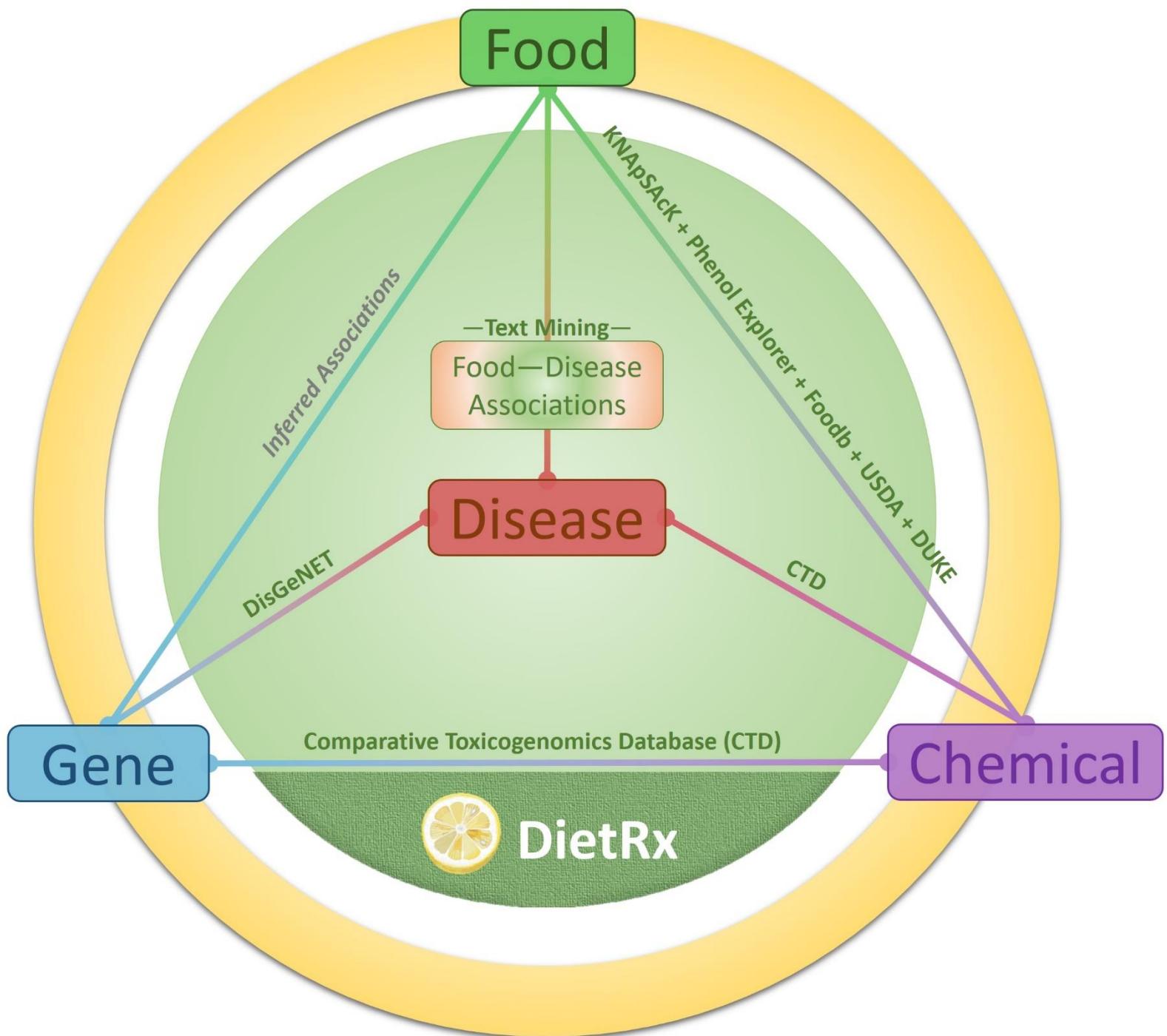
Dietary Interventions Strategies

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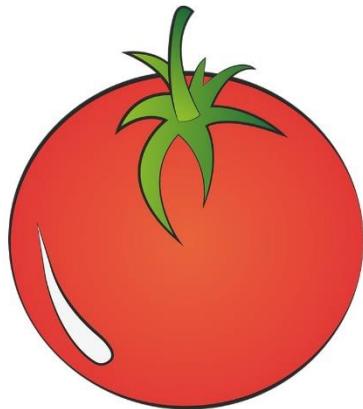


DietRx: An integrated resource for health impact of food





Food

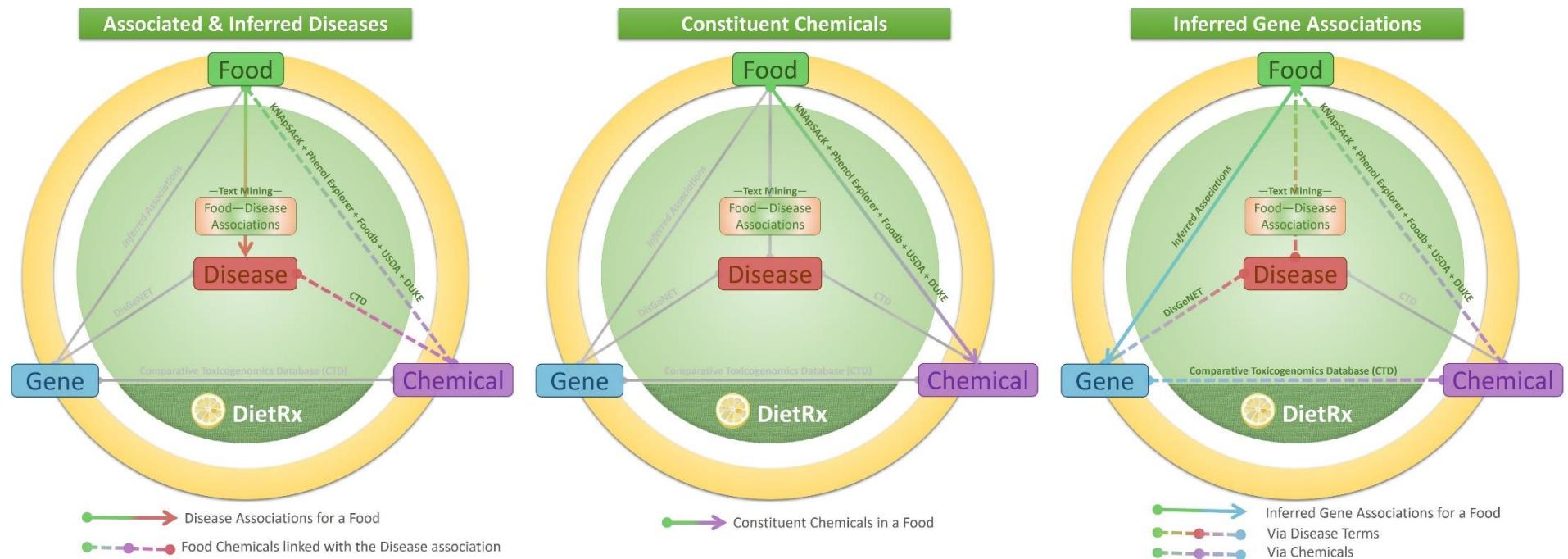


Common Names: Tomato, Cherry Tomato

NCBI Taxonomy ID: 4081

Scientific Name: *Solanum lycopersicum*

Category: Vegetable-Fruit



Disease

MeSH Disease ID: D002318

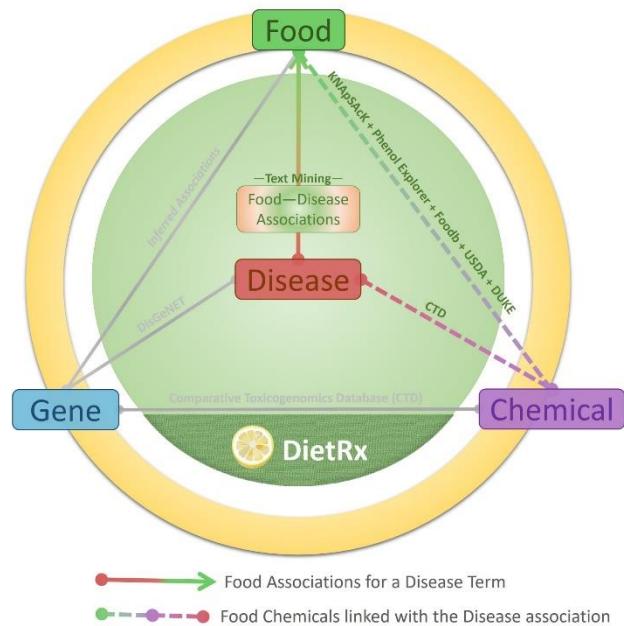


Disease Name: Cardiovascular Diseases

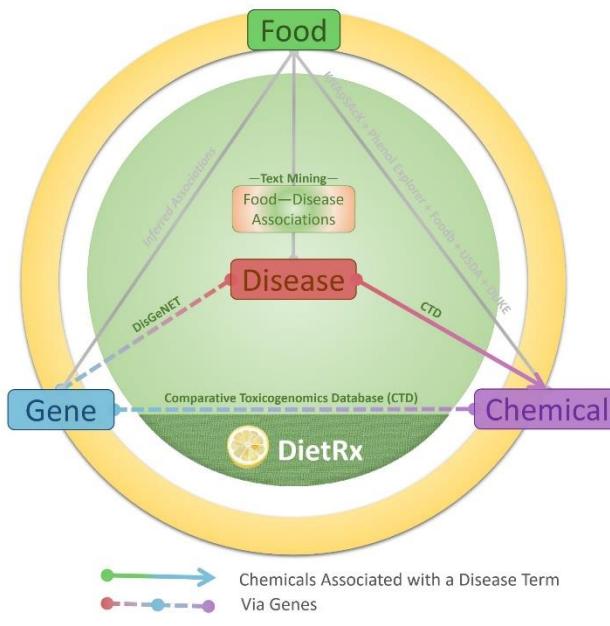
Synonyms: Cardiovascular Disease | Disease, Cardiovascular | Diseases, Cardiovascular

Category: Cardiovascular disease

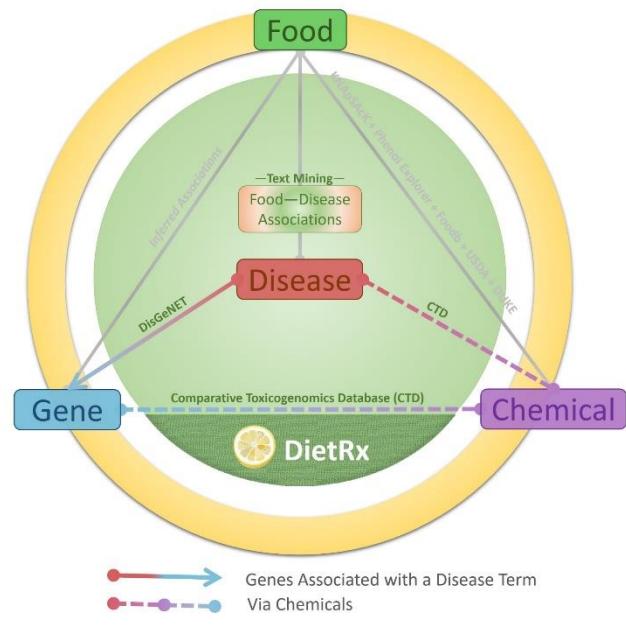
Associated & Inferred Foods



Associated and Inferred Chemicals



Associated and Inferred Genes

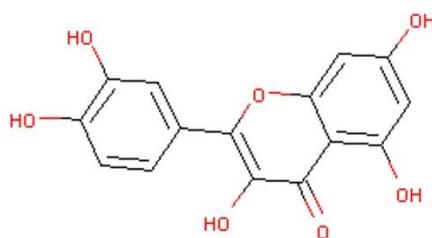


Chemical

PubChem CID: 5280343

SMILES:

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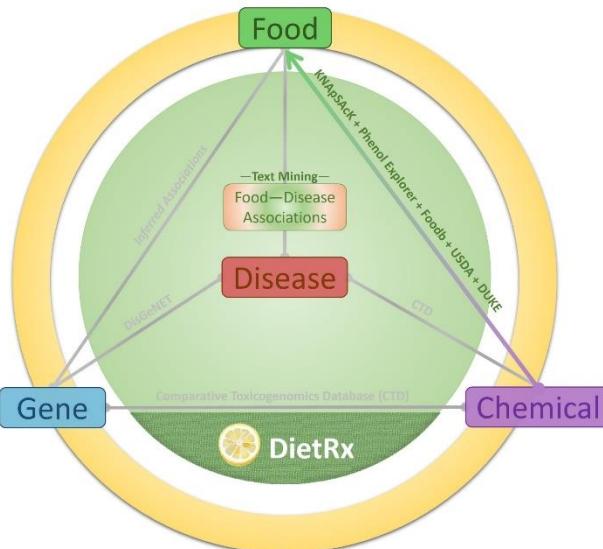


Common Name: Quercetin

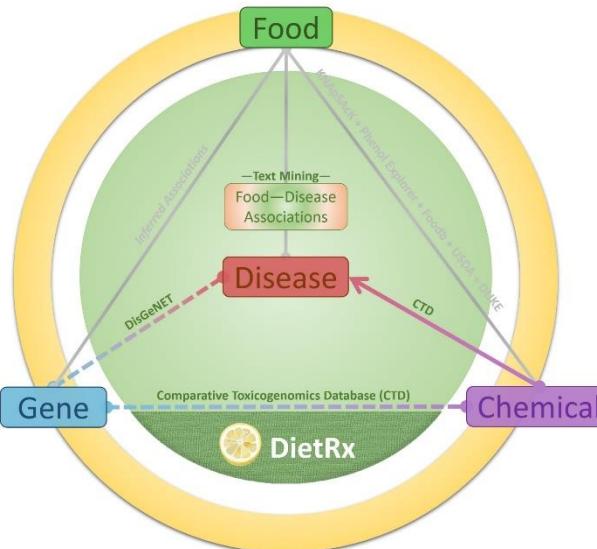
IUPAC Name: 2-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-3,5,7-trihydroxychromen-4-one

Functional Group(s): Carbonyl compound, Hydroxy compound, Phenol, 1,2-diphenol, Oxohetarene, Aromatic compound, Heterocyclic compound

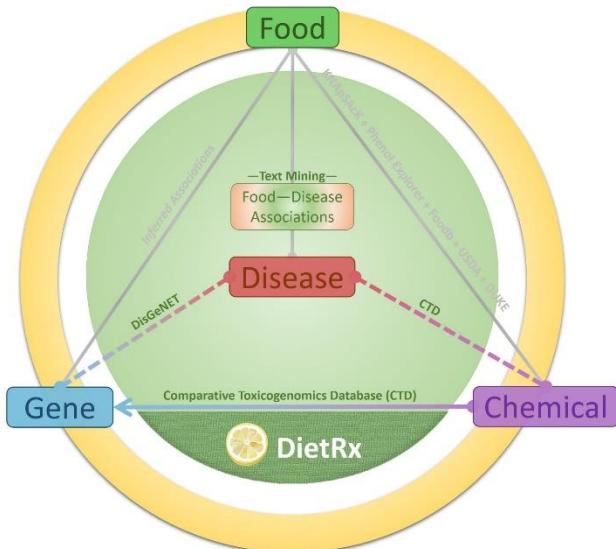
Associated Foods



Associated and Inferred Diseases



Associated and Inferred Genes



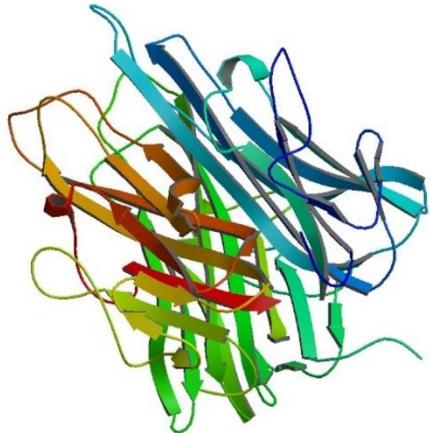
→ Foods Associated to a Chemical

→ Disease Terms Associated with a Chemical
Via Genes

→ Genes Associated with a Chemical
Via Disease Terms

Gene

Entrez Gene ID: 7132



Official Gene Symbol: TNFRSF1A

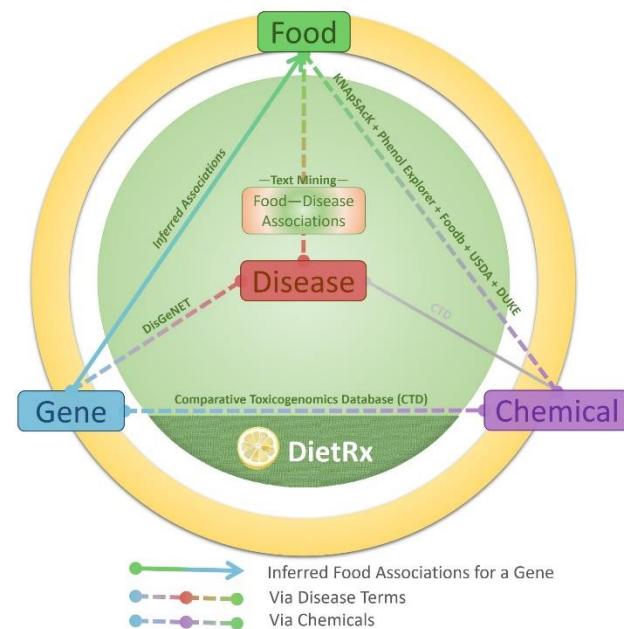
Official Gene Name: TNF receptor superfamily member 1A

Organism: Homo sapiens

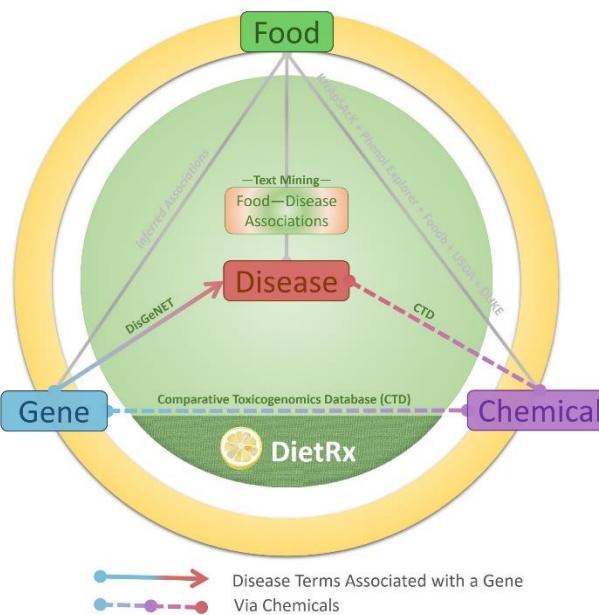
Other Symbols: CD120a, FPF, TBP1, TNF-R, TNF-R-I, TNF-R55, TNFAR, TNFR1, TNFR55, TNFR60, p55, p55-R, p60

Other Names: tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 1A|TNF-R1|TNF-RI|TNFR-I|tumor necrosis factor...

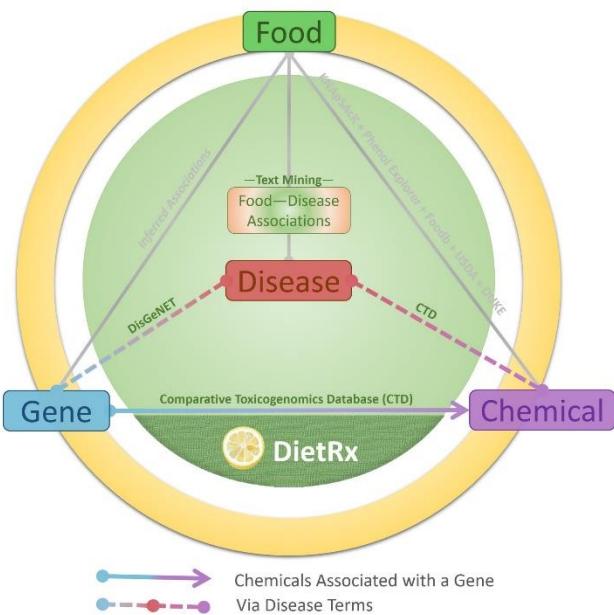
Inferred Food Associations

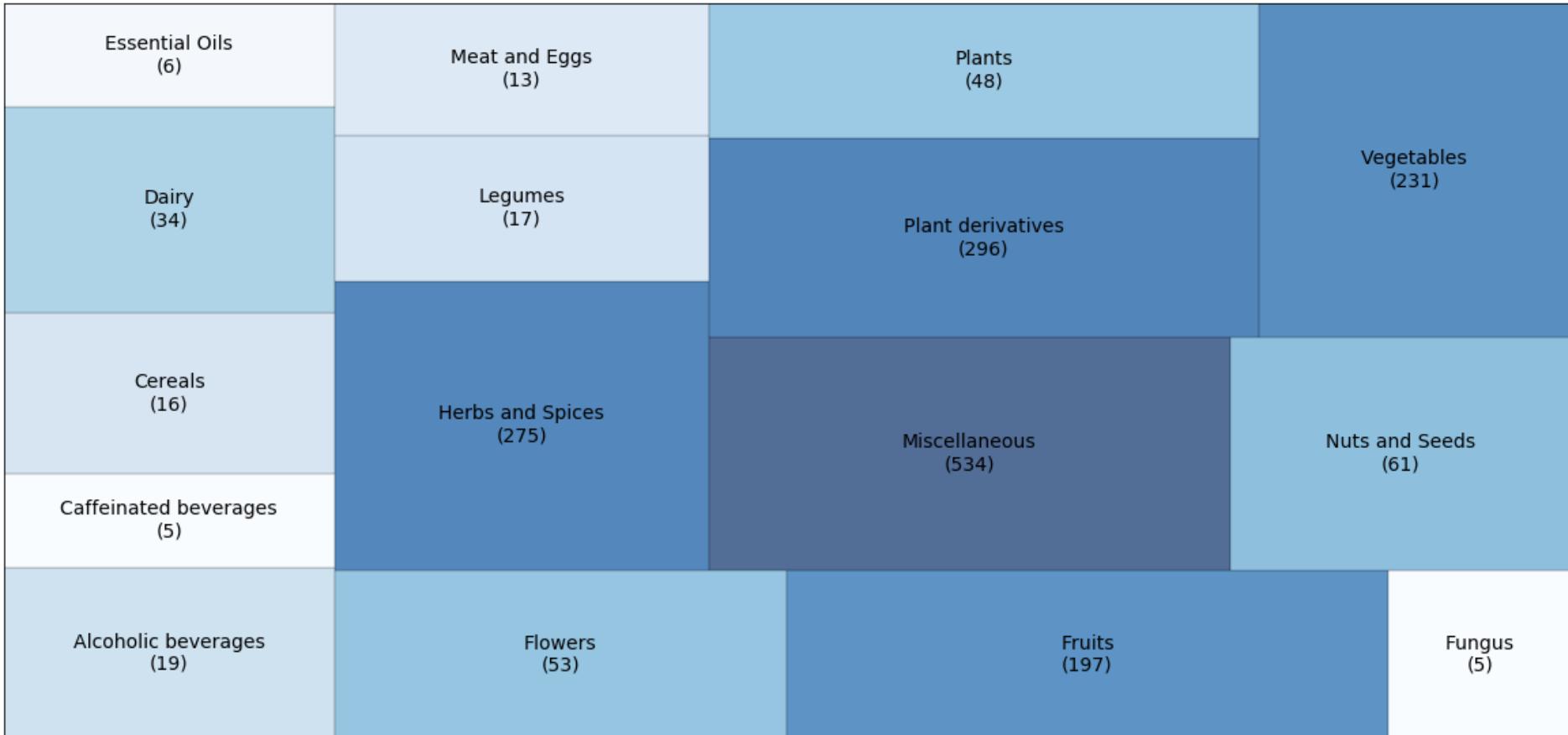


Associated & Inferred Diseases



Associated & Inferred Chemicals

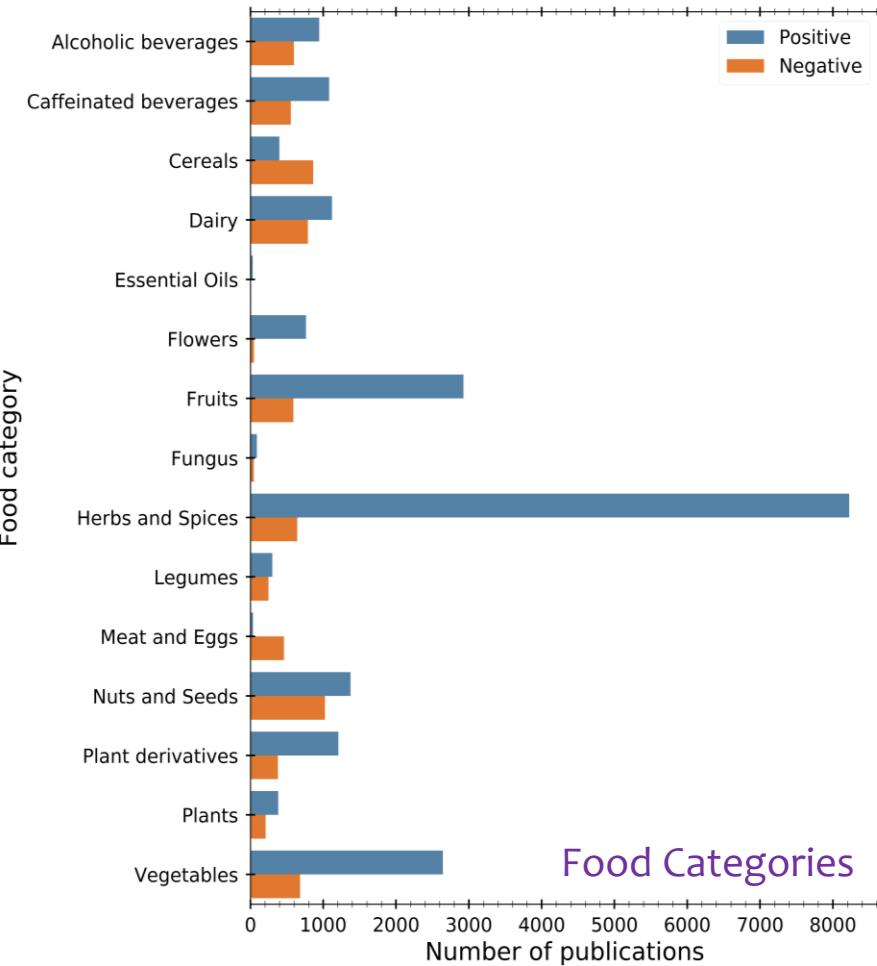
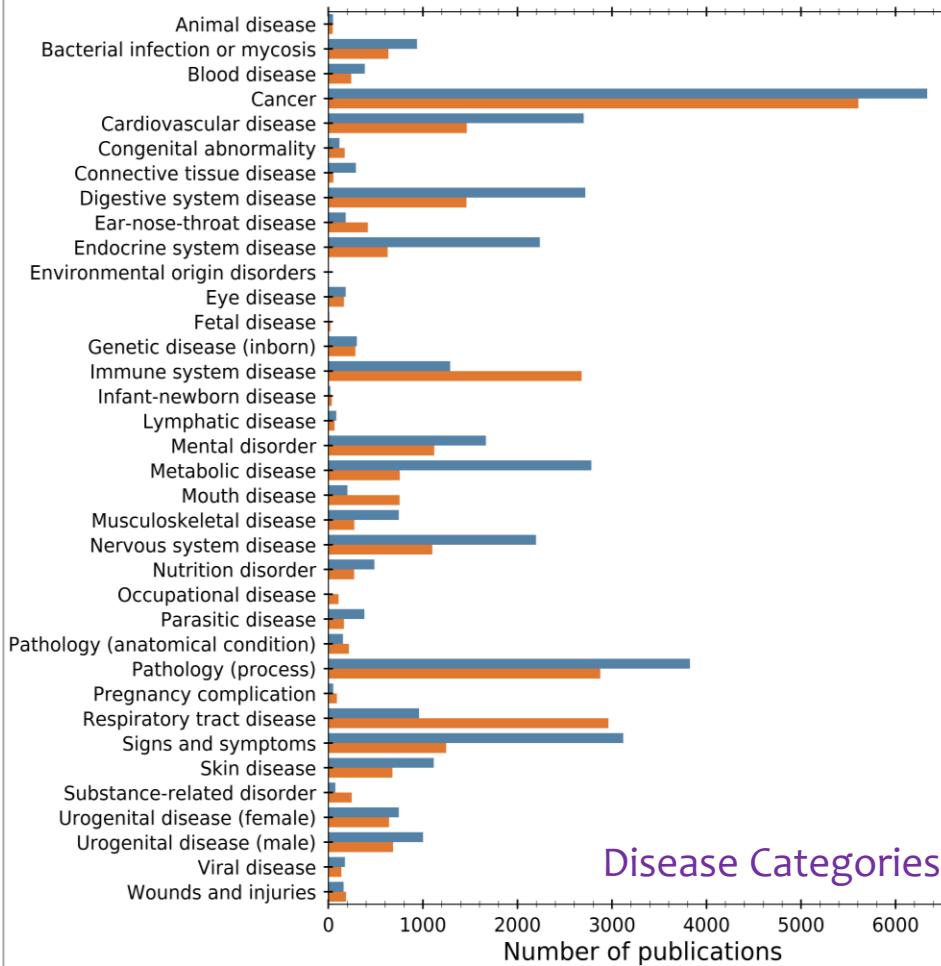




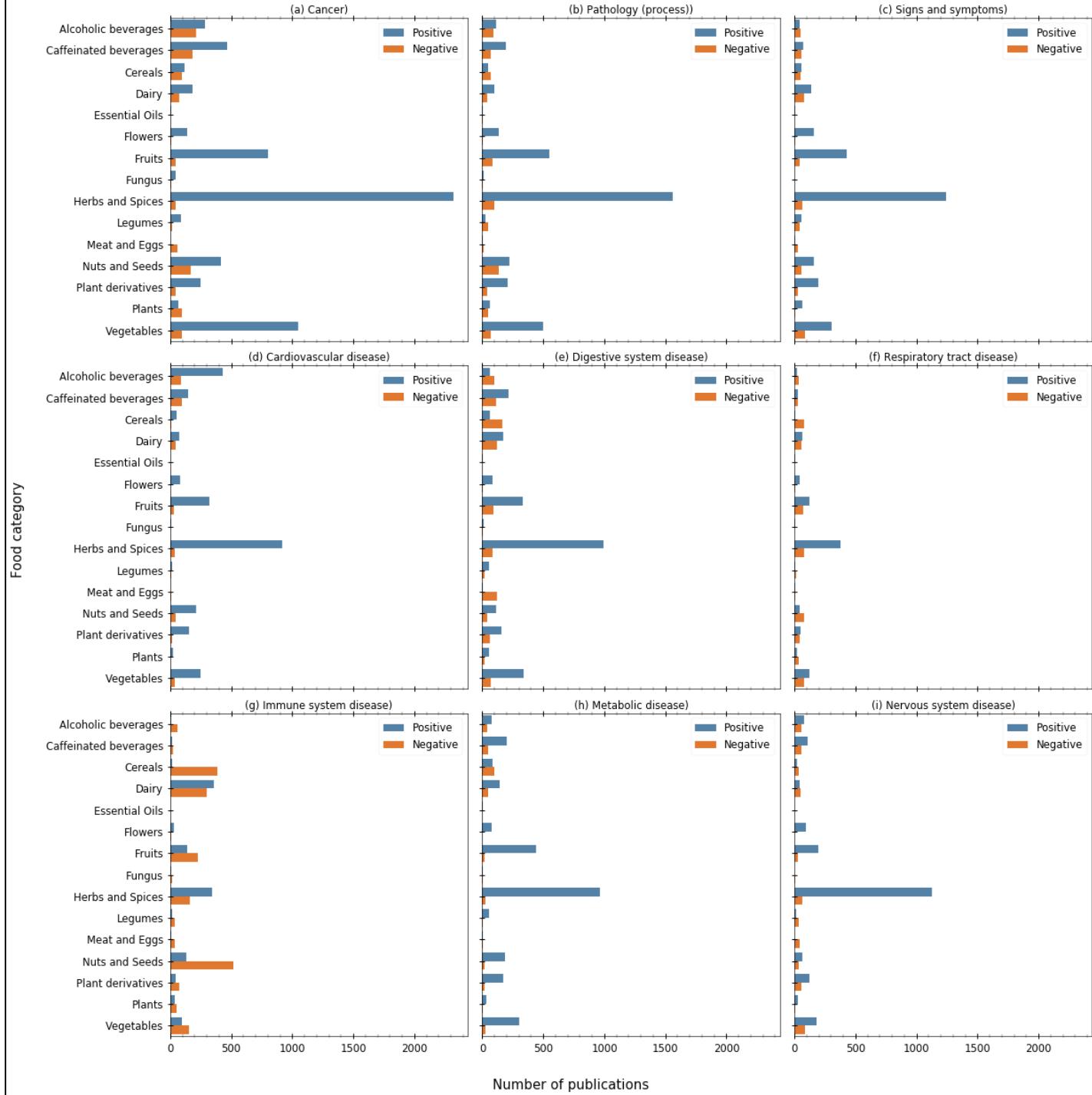
Number of entities

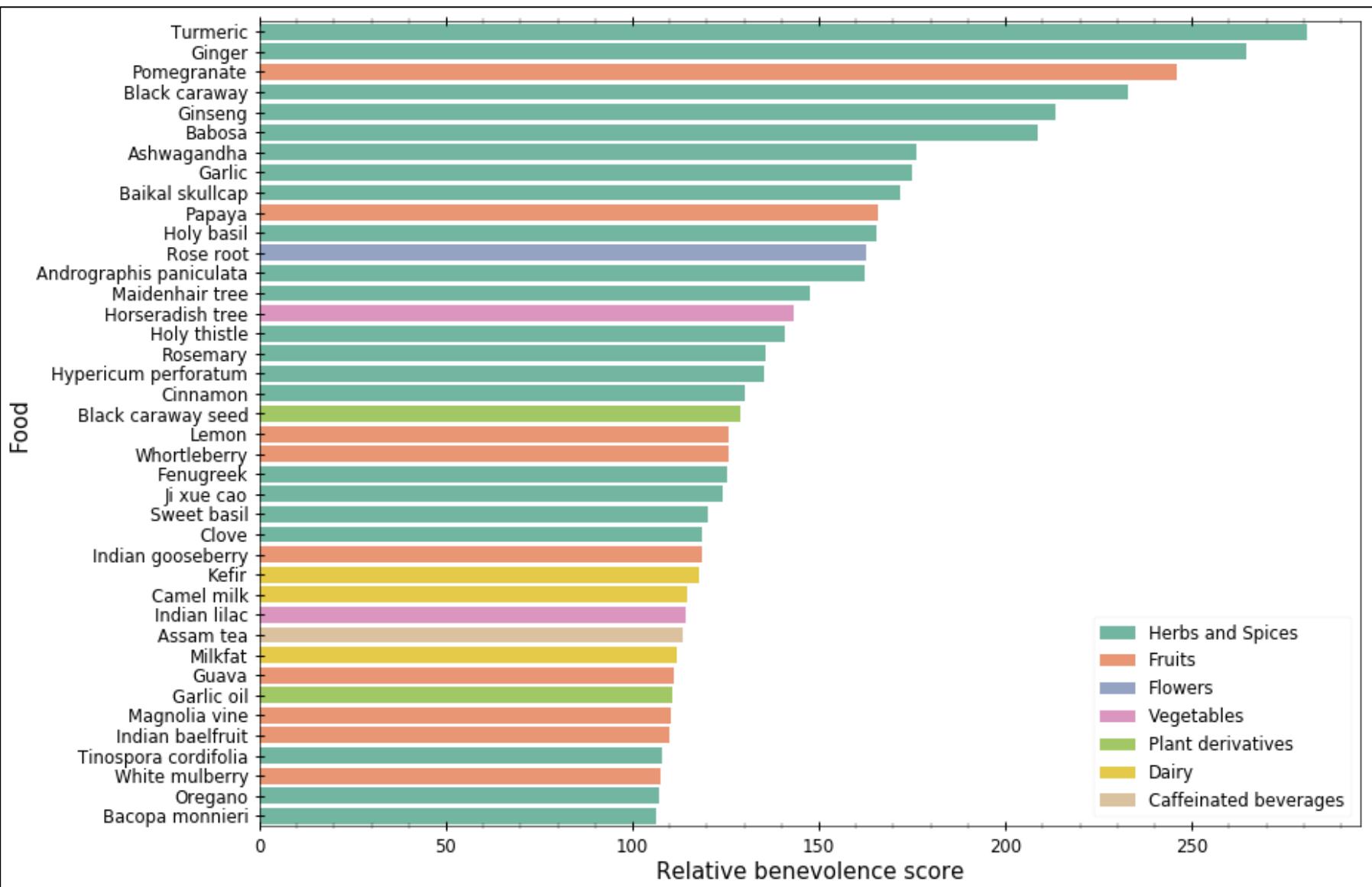
Coarse-grained categories of foods along with the number of foods in each.

Statistics of Positive and Negative Associations



Number of publications reporting positive/negative associations for: (a) Disease categories (with foods); (b) Food categories (with diseases). The ‘Miscellaneous’ food category consisting of heterogeneous ingredients is excluded from display in (b).

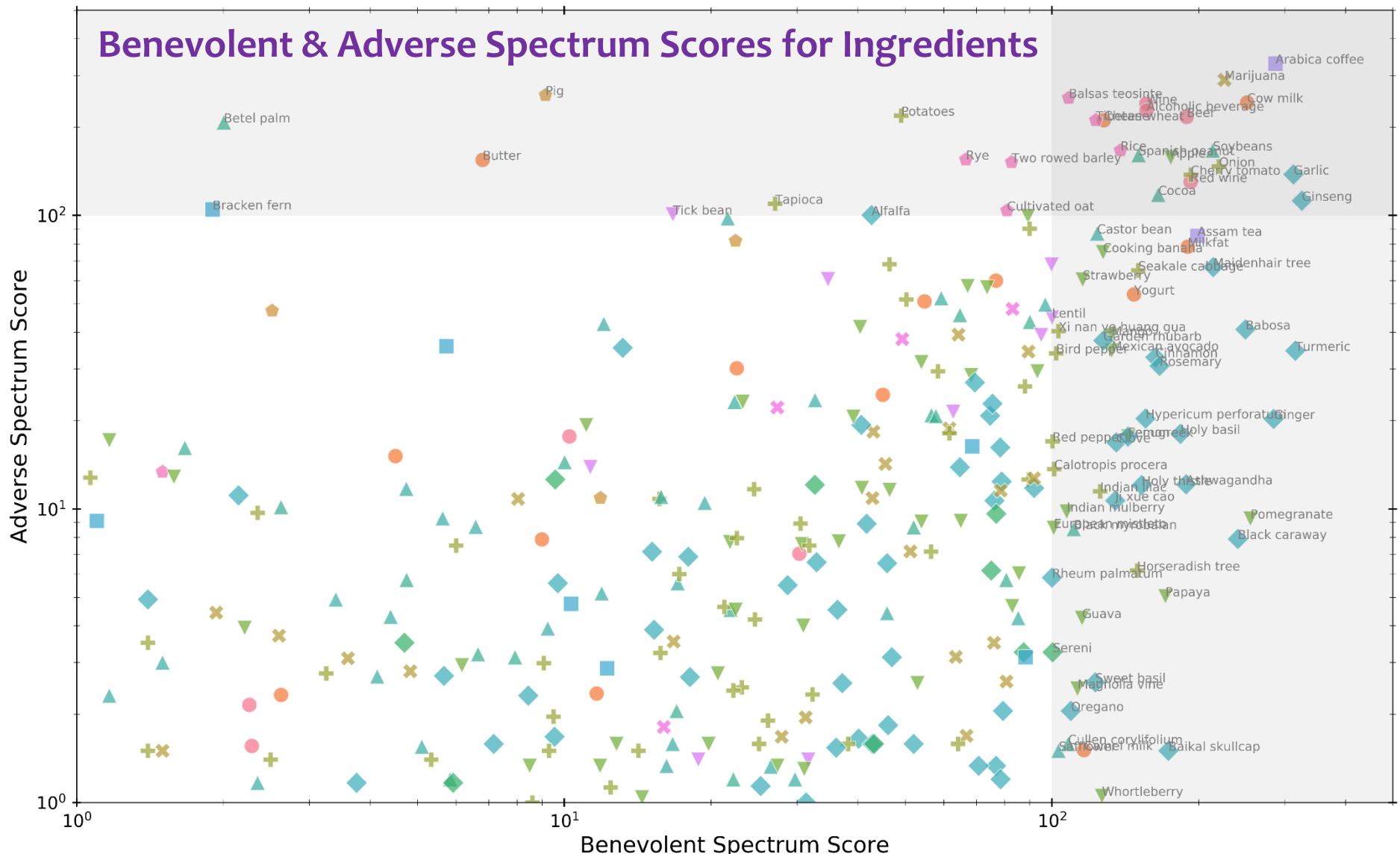




Foods with the highest relative benevolence scores.

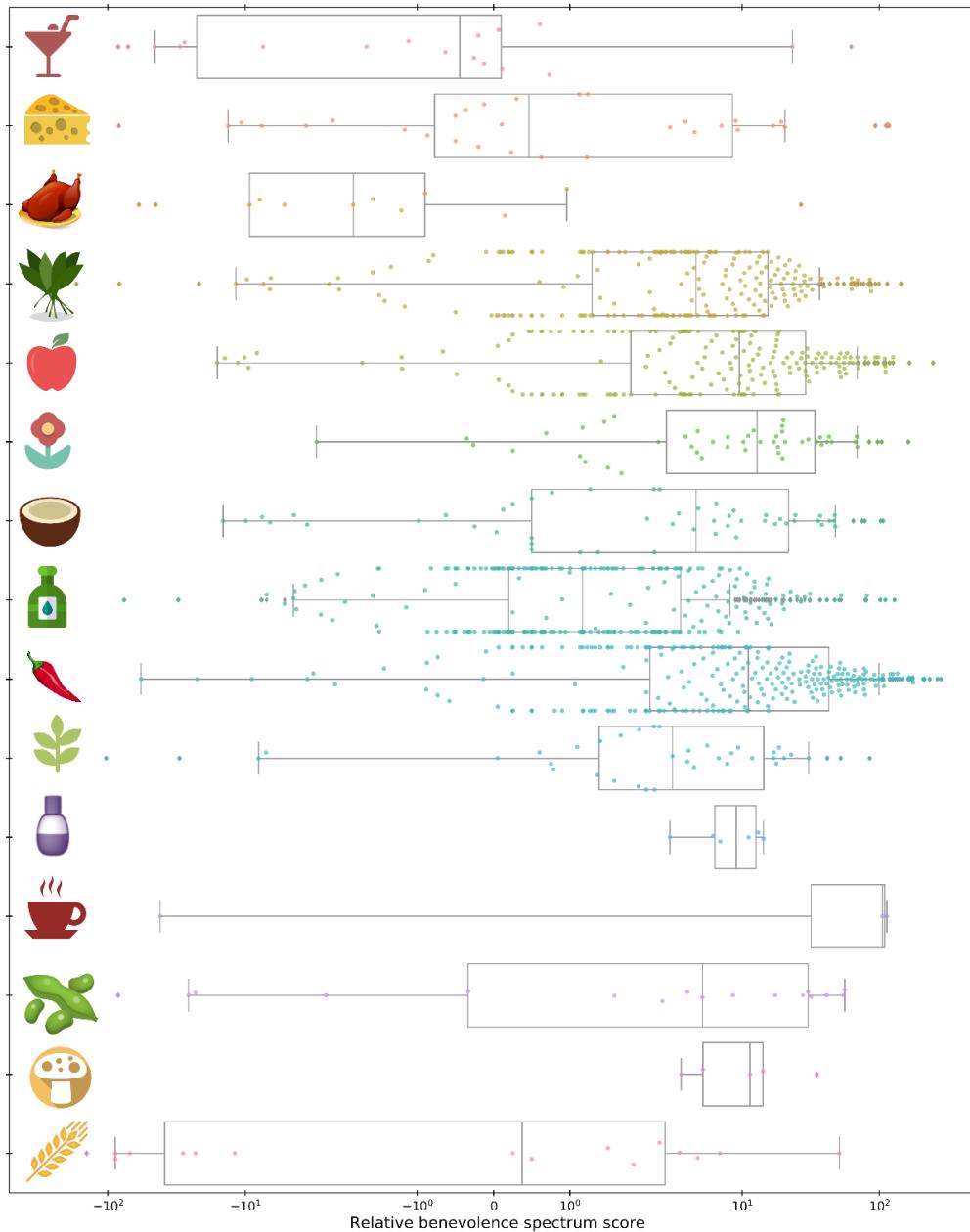
Benevolent & Adverse Spectrum Scores of Food

Benevolent & Adverse Spectrum Scores for Ingredients

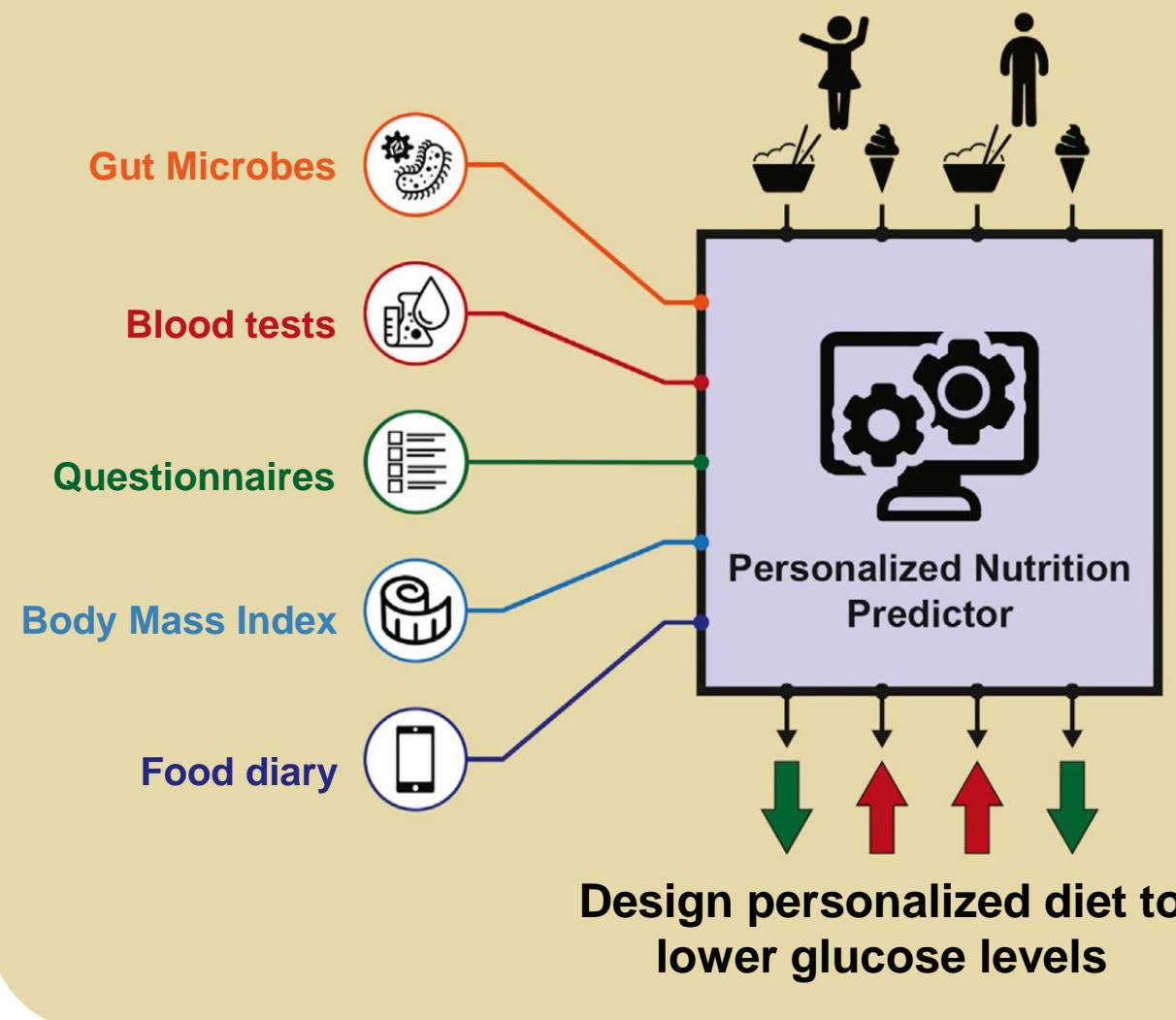


Scatterplot representing benevolence and adverse spectrum scores of different foods.

Relative Benevolence of Food



Personalized Nutrition



ED Sonnenburg and JL Sonnenburg, Nature, 528, 484 (2015).
Zeevi et al., "Personalized nutrition by prediction of glycemic response", Cell, 163, 1079 (2015).