

# Public Health in the Era of Genomics

**YY Teo**

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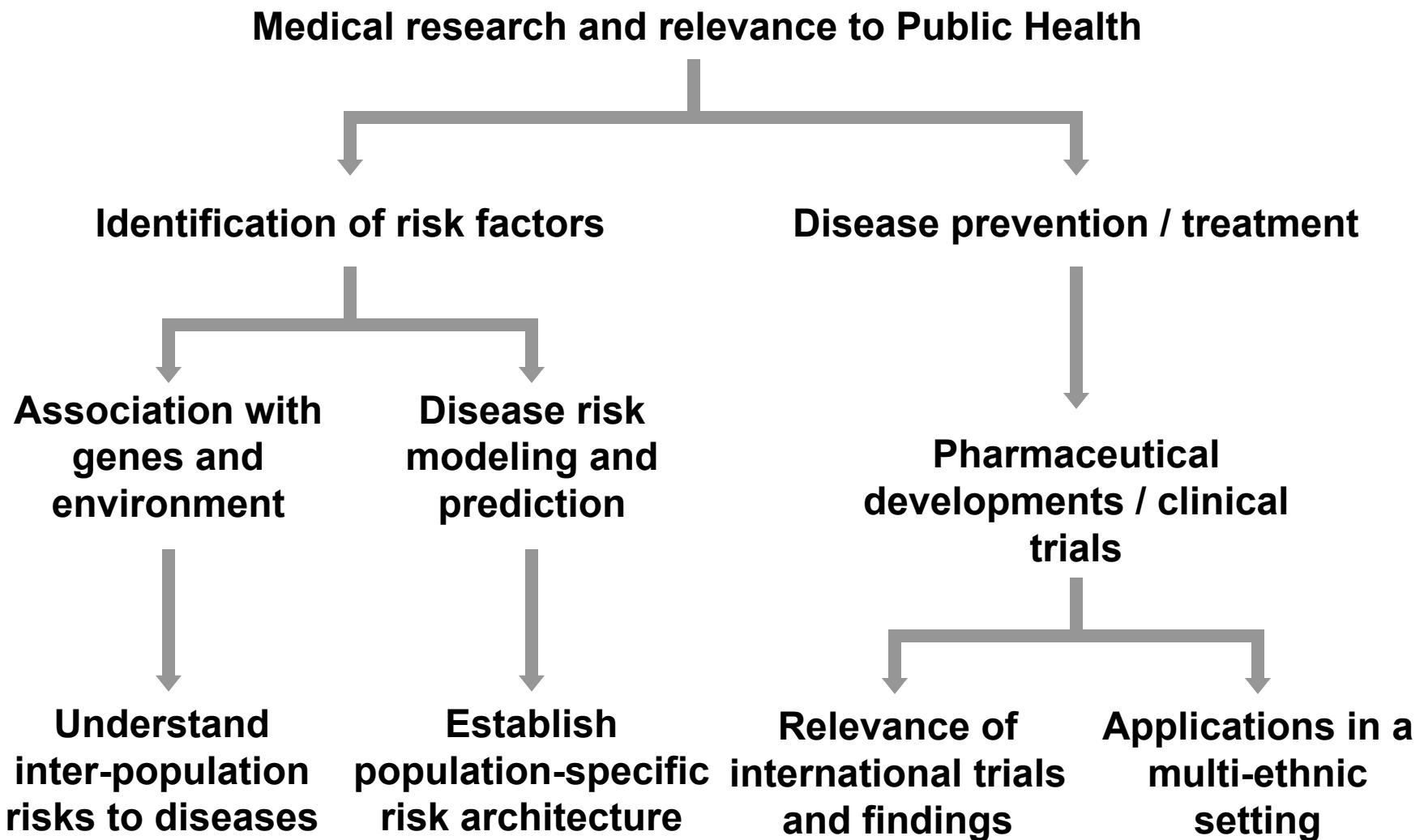
Life Sciences Institute, NUS

Genome Institute of Singapore, A\*STAR

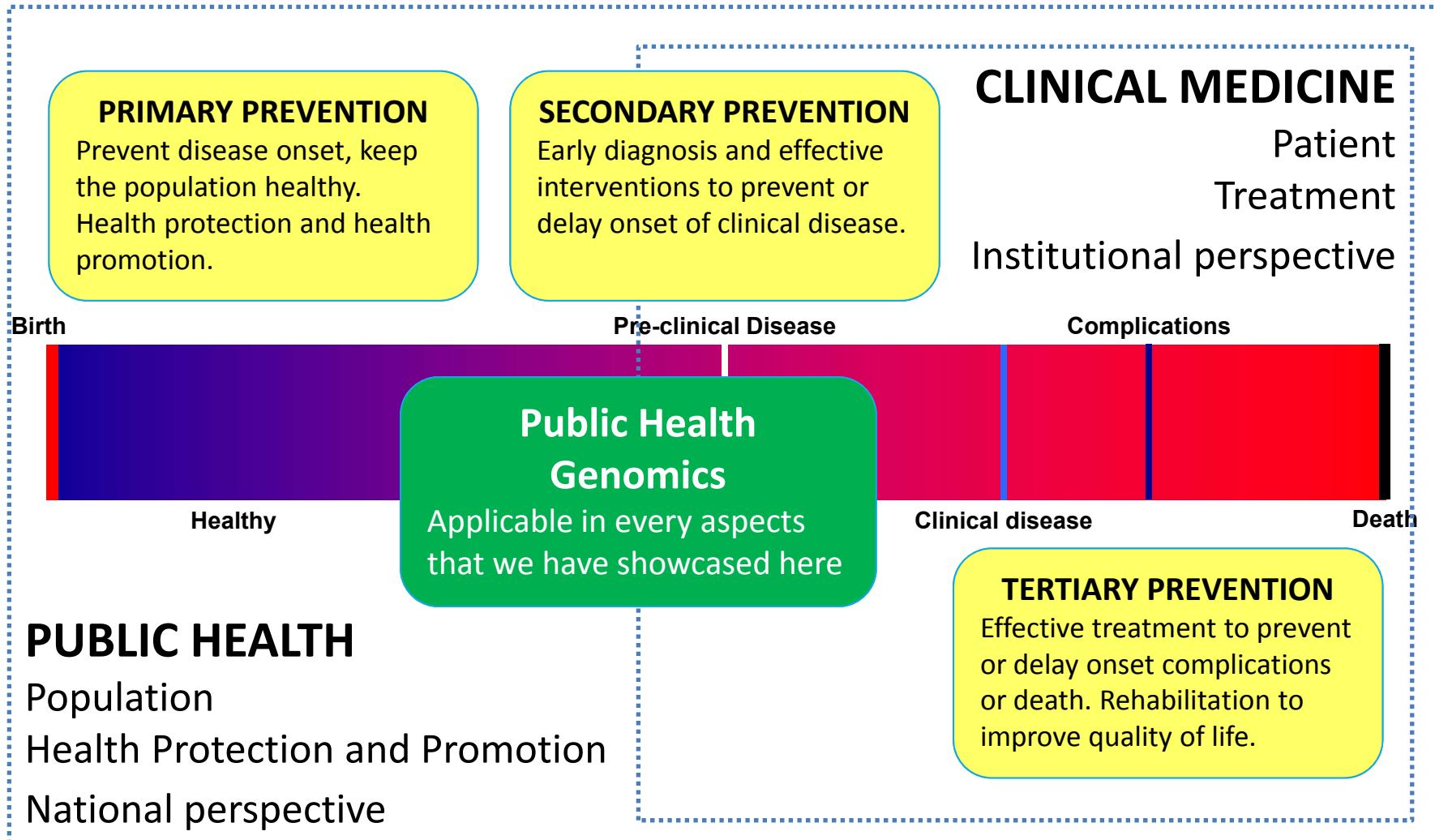
GEK



# Medical research and Public Health



# LEVELS OF “PREVENTION”



## PH 1.0

- Improvement of population health was primarily a by-product of economic and national development.
- Improvement in sanitation, housing, food and water supply.
- Little contribution from medical sciences.

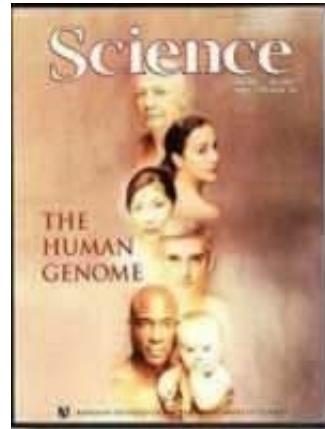
# Interesting Questions

- Can we identify from birth, who are the ones that are at risk for different health outcomes?
  - cystic fibrosis, G6PD deficiency, hemophilia
  - myopia, glaucoma, AMD, breast cancer, diabetes, malaria, Alzheimer's disease
  - eating disorders, risky behavior, violent tendencies
- What are the new modes of healthcare to prevent drug-resistance infectious diseases from emerging?
- Can we predict the risk of diabetes and cancer?
  - Using clinical biomarkers, genes, diet, exercise, alcohol intake, smoking, etc. other environmental factors?
- Does every drug treatment work the same for everyone?
  - If not, what are the new strategies for pharmaceutical developments and clinical medicine?

# Progress of genomics in the past decade



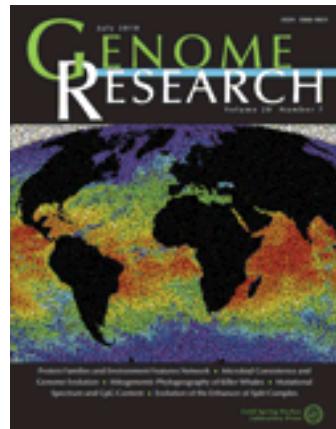
2001



2001



2003, 2006, 2010



2009



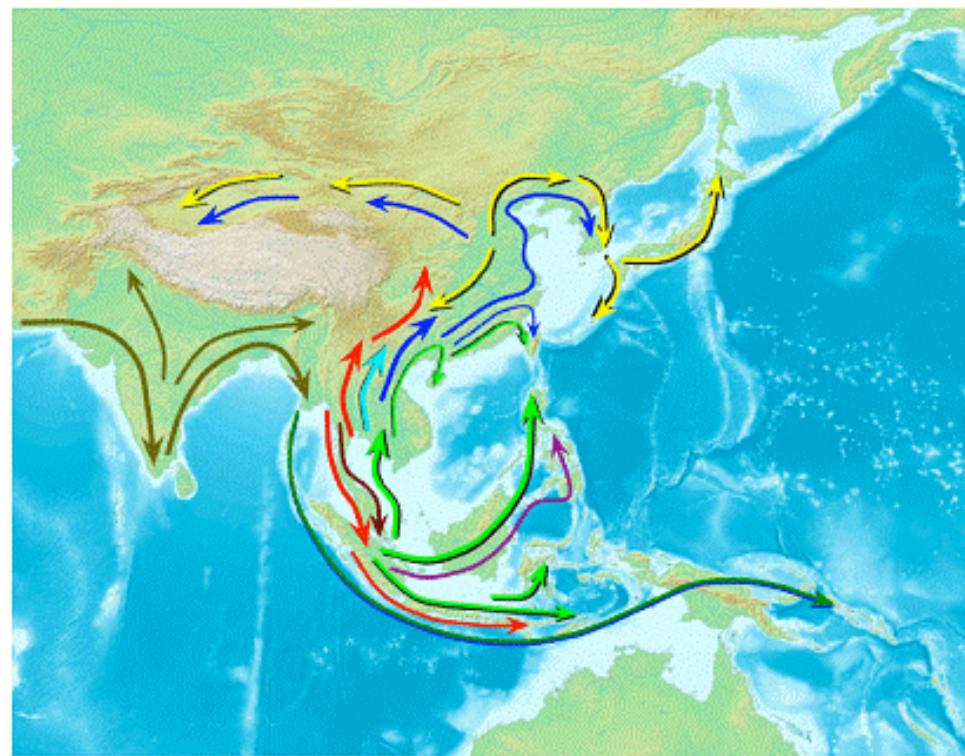
2010



2010

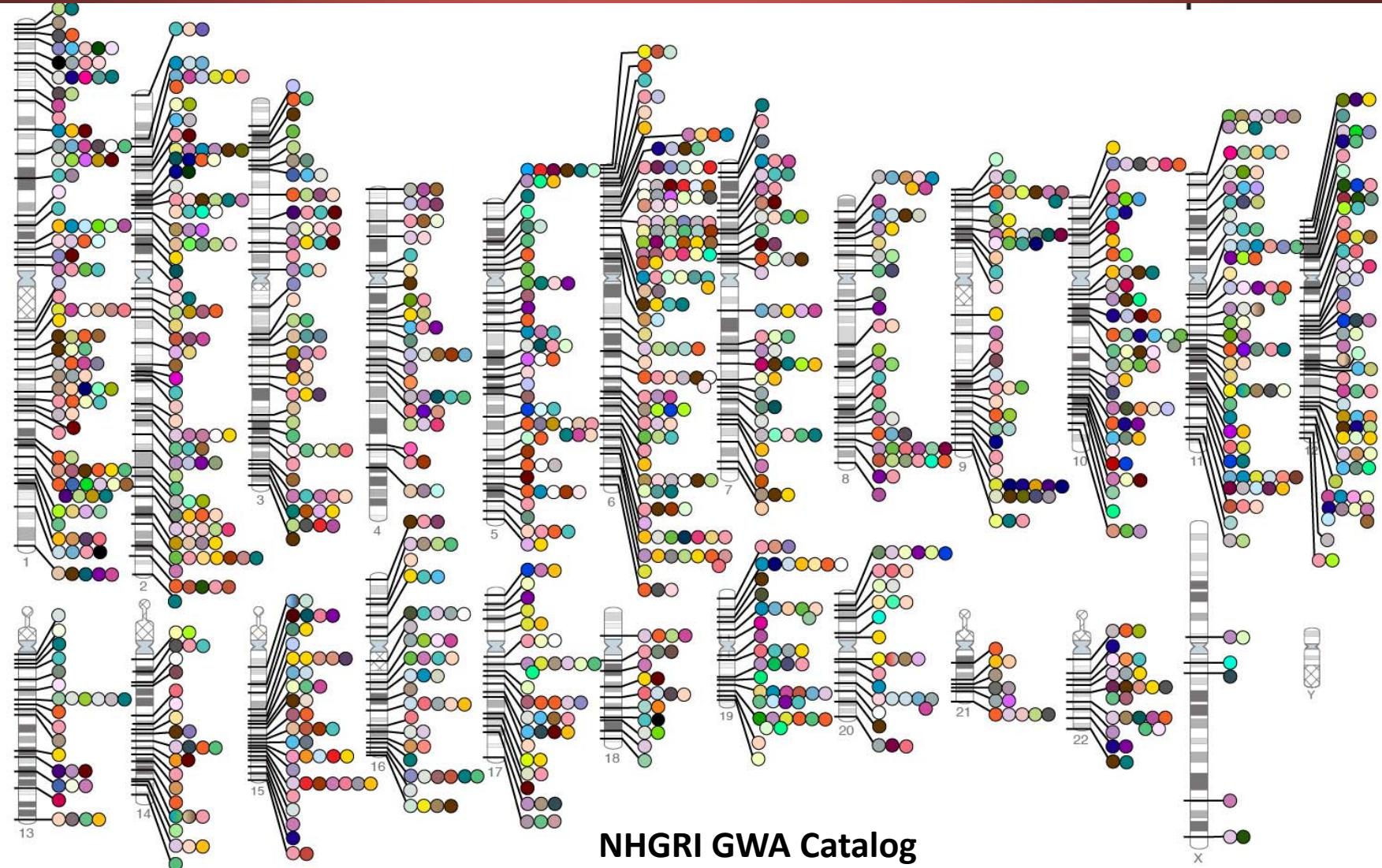


# Human Migration



- Aim to study the genetic diversity of at least 50 population groups in Asia
- Through whole-genome sequencing and high-density genotyping

# Complex Traits and Common Diseases



NHGRI GWA Catalog  
[www.genome.gov/GWASStudies](http://www.genome.gov/GWASStudies)

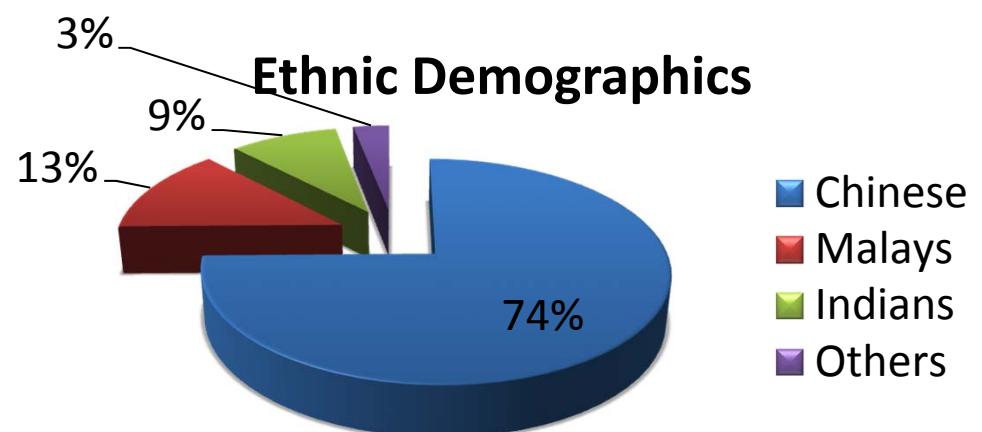
# Genomics and Spectrum of Health Impact

**What are the biological basis and consequences of differences between ethnic/population groups**

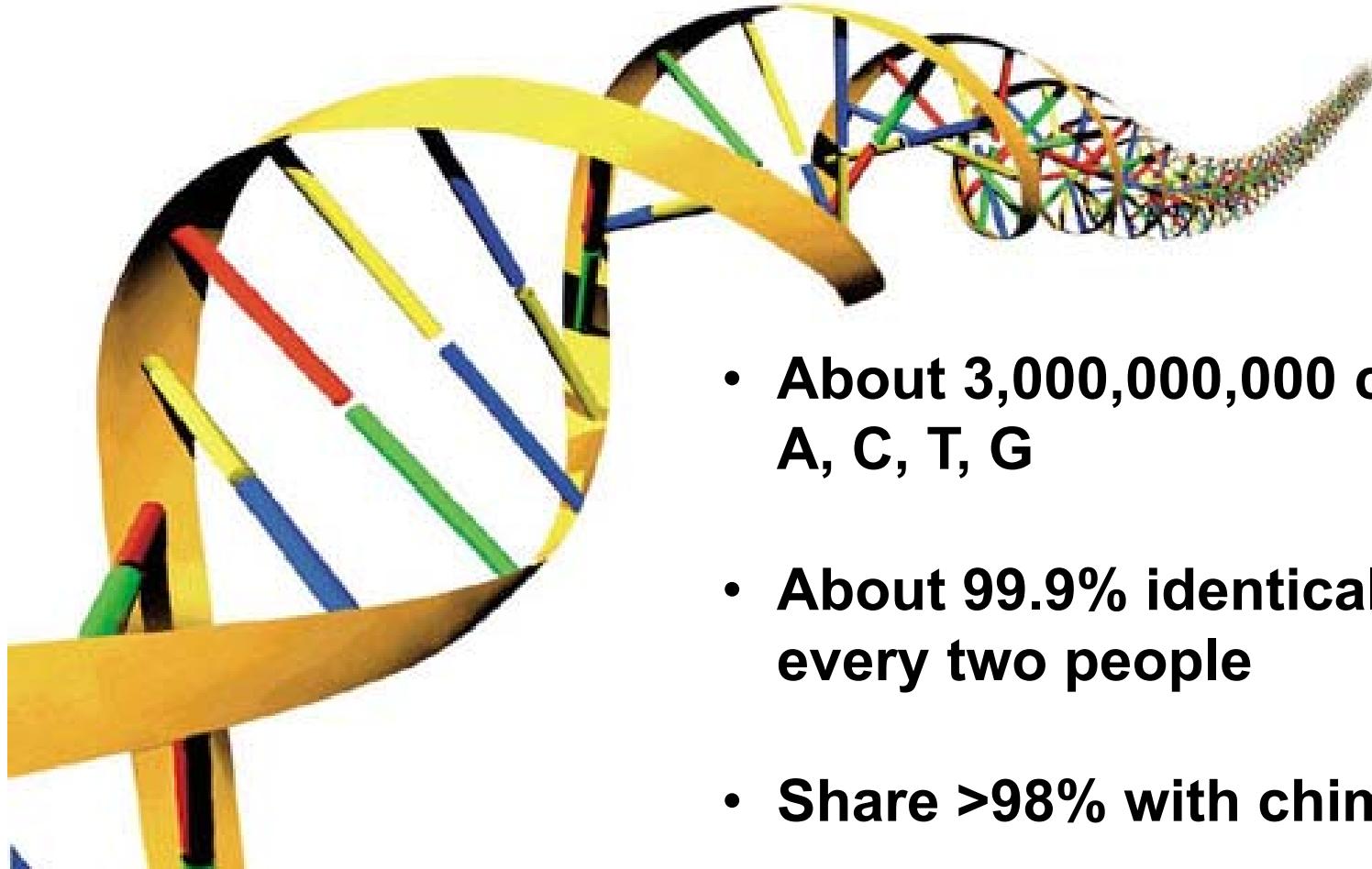
To Discovering the Causes of Diseases and Complex Traits

To Understanding the Clinical Implications to a Patient

To Designing Healthcare Policies and Education Strategies for a Nation



# The Human Genome

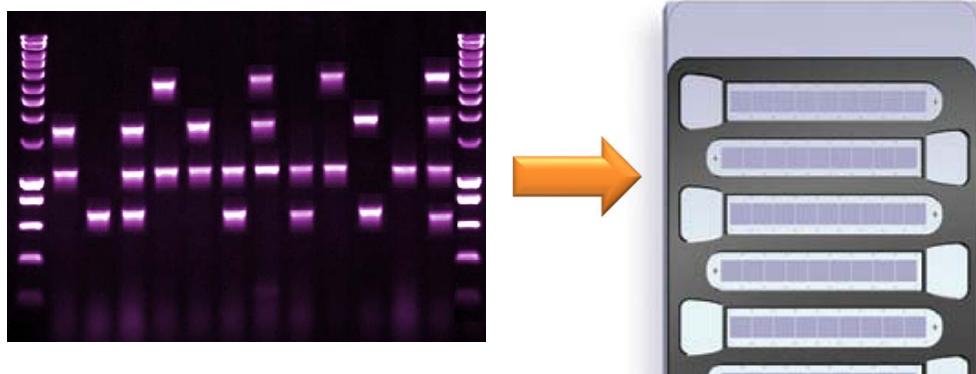


- About 3,000,000,000 copies of A, C, T, G
- About 99.9% identical between every two people
- Share >98% with chimpanzees
- Greater degree of sharing within populations

# What are the genomics technologies available?

## Genotyping

Looking at specific positions in the human genome, typically known sites.



## Sequencing

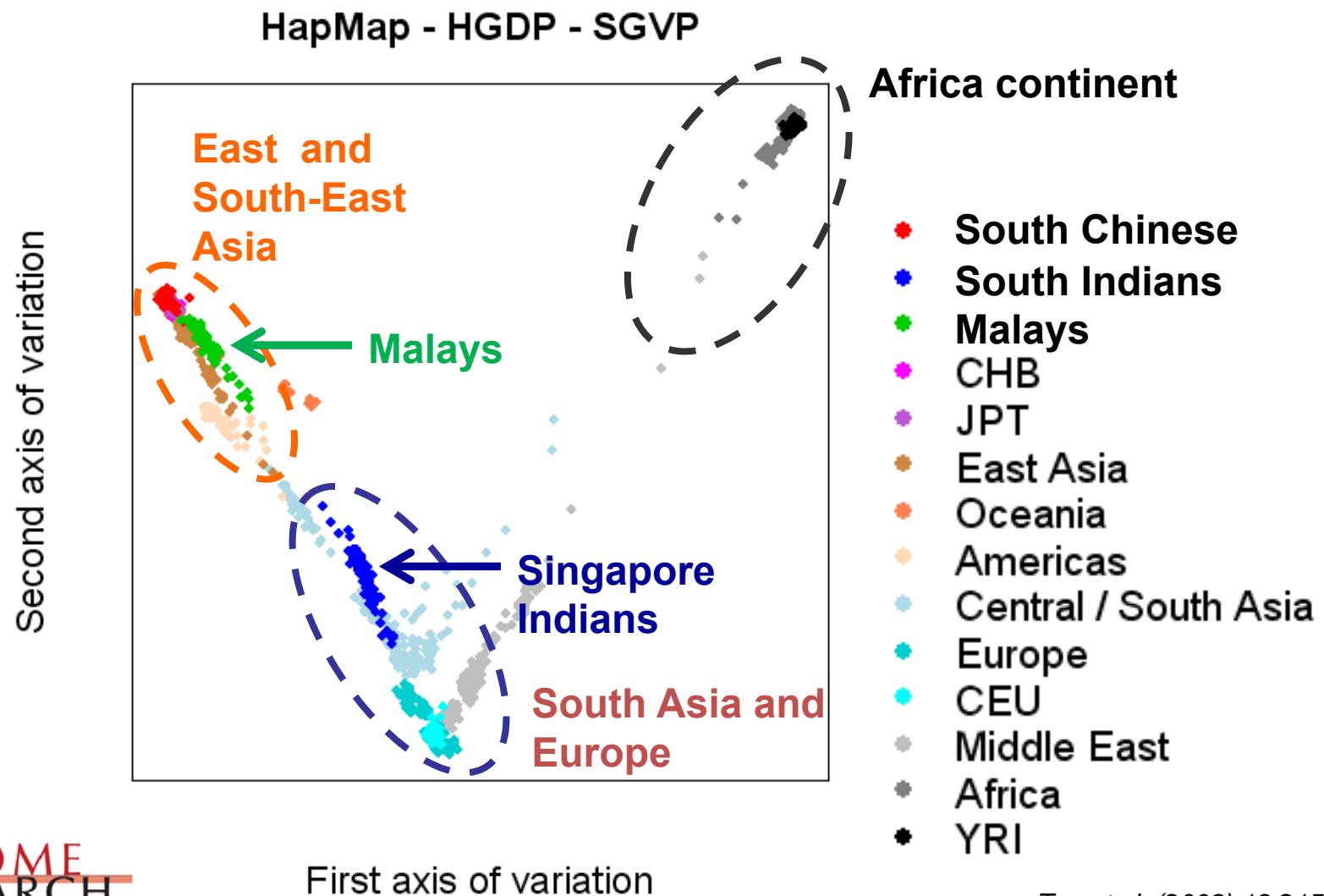
Agnostic investigation of the entire human genome across all  $3 \times 10^9$  bases



# Population Genetics

- Understanding differences between population groups, really is the very foundation to Public Health Genomics

# Genetic diversity across global populations



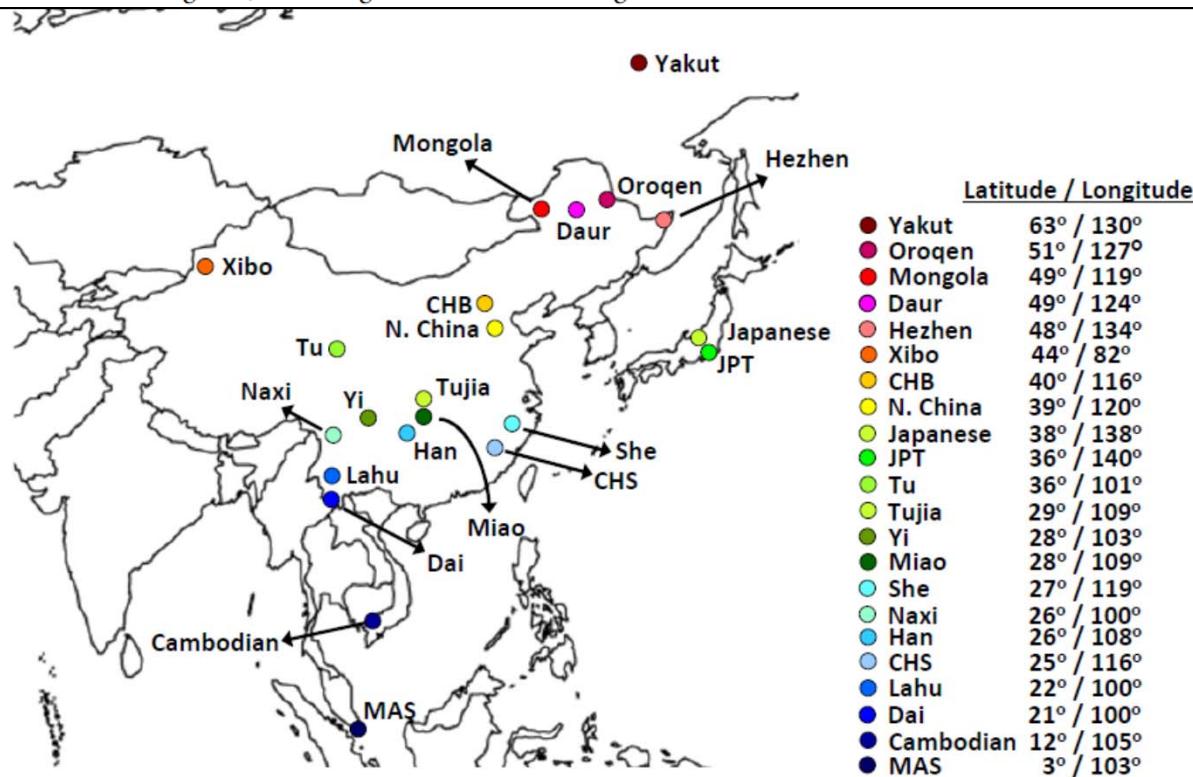
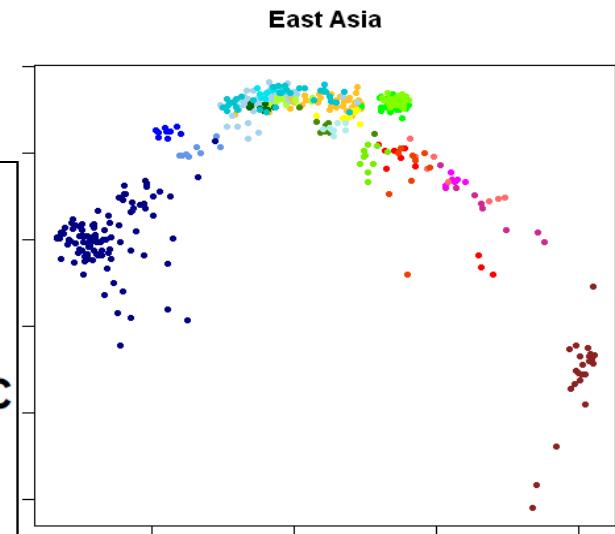
# East and South-East Asia

European Journal of Human Genetics (2012) 20, 102–110  
© 2012 Macmillan Publishers Limited All rights reserved 108-4813/12  
[www.nature.com/ejhg](http://www.nature.com/ejhg)

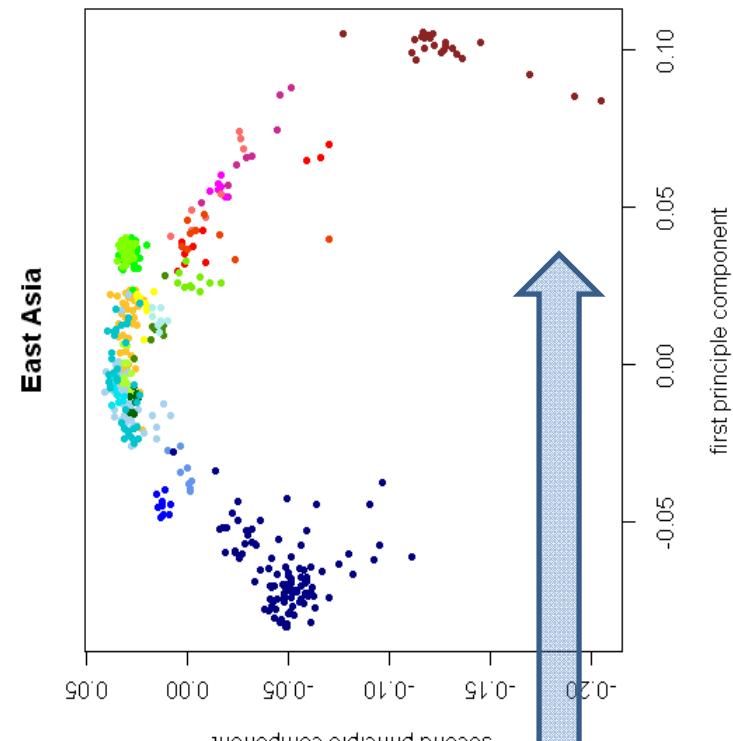
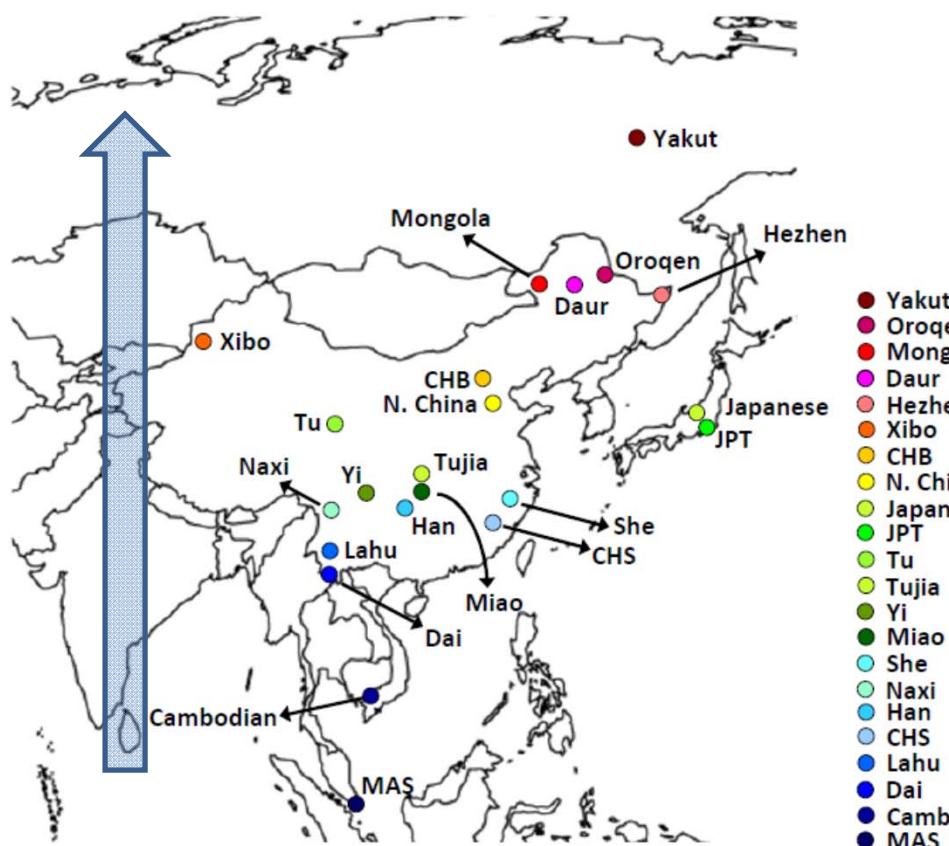
## ARTICLE

### Natural positive selection and north–south genetic diversity in East Asia

Chen Suo<sup>1,12</sup>, Haiyan Xu<sup>1,12</sup>, Chiea-Chuen Khor<sup>2</sup>, Rick TH Ong<sup>1,2</sup>, Xueling Sim<sup>1</sup>, Jieming Chen<sup>2</sup>, Wan-Ting Tay<sup>3</sup>, Kar-Seng Sim<sup>2</sup>, Yi-Xin Zeng<sup>4,5</sup>, Xuejun Zhang<sup>6,7</sup>, Jianjun Liu<sup>2</sup>, E-Shyong Tai<sup>8,9</sup>, Tien-Yin Wong<sup>3,9,10</sup>, Kee-Seng Chia<sup>1,8</sup> and Yik-Ying Teo<sup>\*,2,8,11</sup>

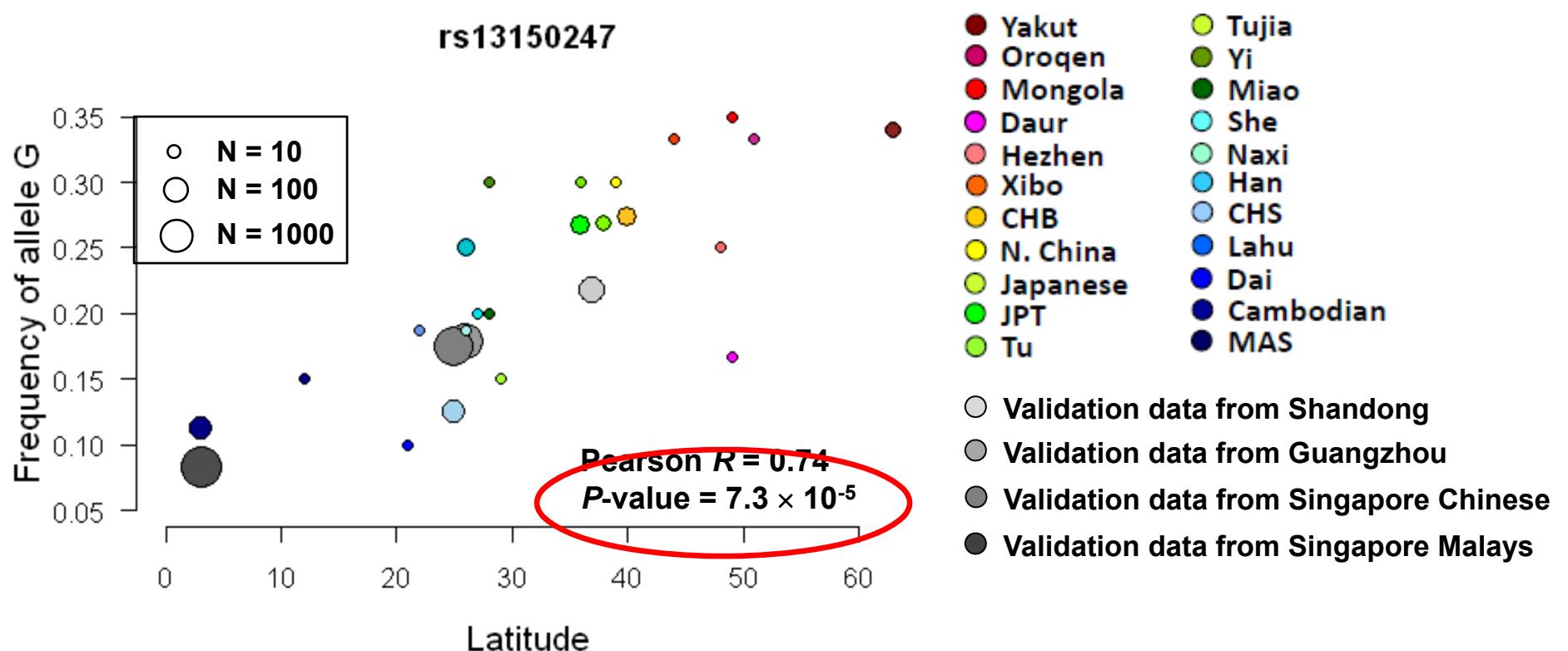


# East and South-East Asia



Latitude / Longitude	
Yakut	63° / 130°
Oroqen	51° / 127°
Mongola	49° / 119°
Daur	49° / 124°
Hezhen	48° / 134°
Xibo	44° / 82°
CHB	40° / 116°
N. China	39° / 120°
Tu	38° / 138°
Japanese	36° / 140°
JPT	36° / 101°
Naxi	29° / 109°
Yi	28° / 103°
Tujia	28° / 109°
Miao	27° / 119°
She	26° / 100°
Han	26° / 108°
CHS	25° / 116°
Lahu	22° / 100°
Dai	21° / 100°
Cambodian	12° / 105°
MAS	3° / 103°

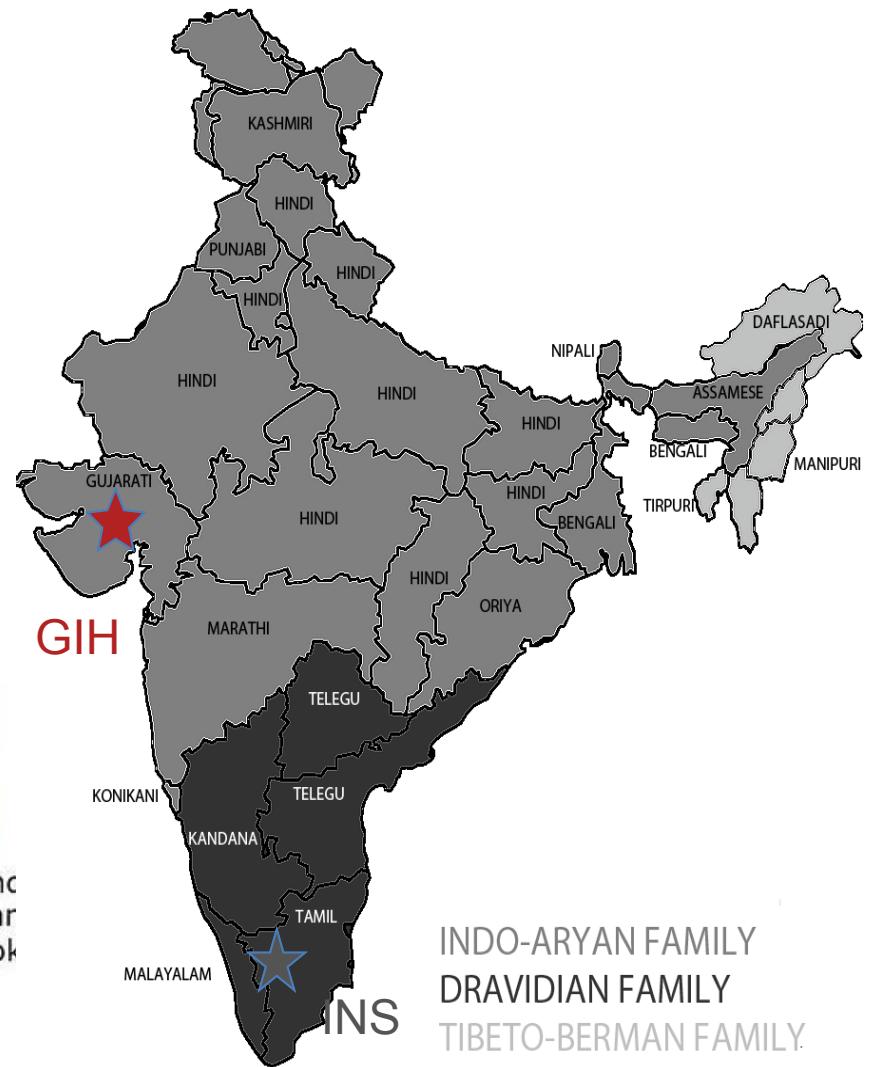
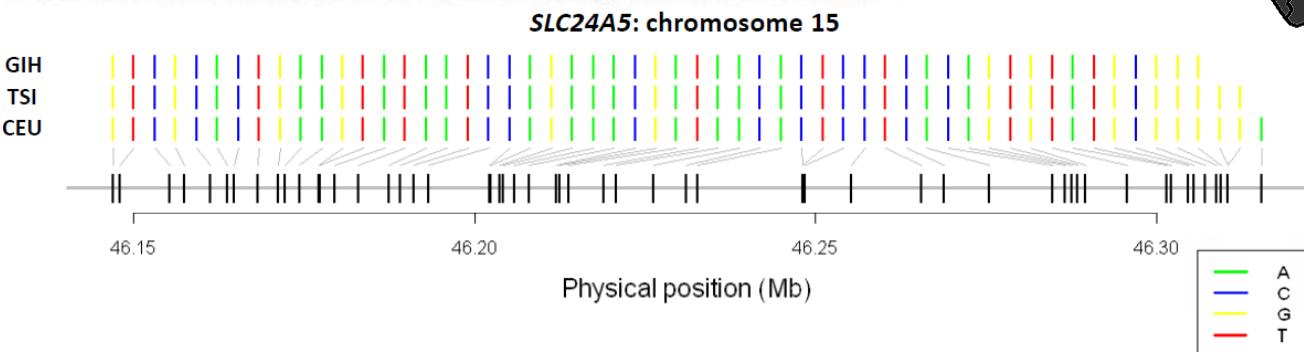
# Metabolism of alcohol?



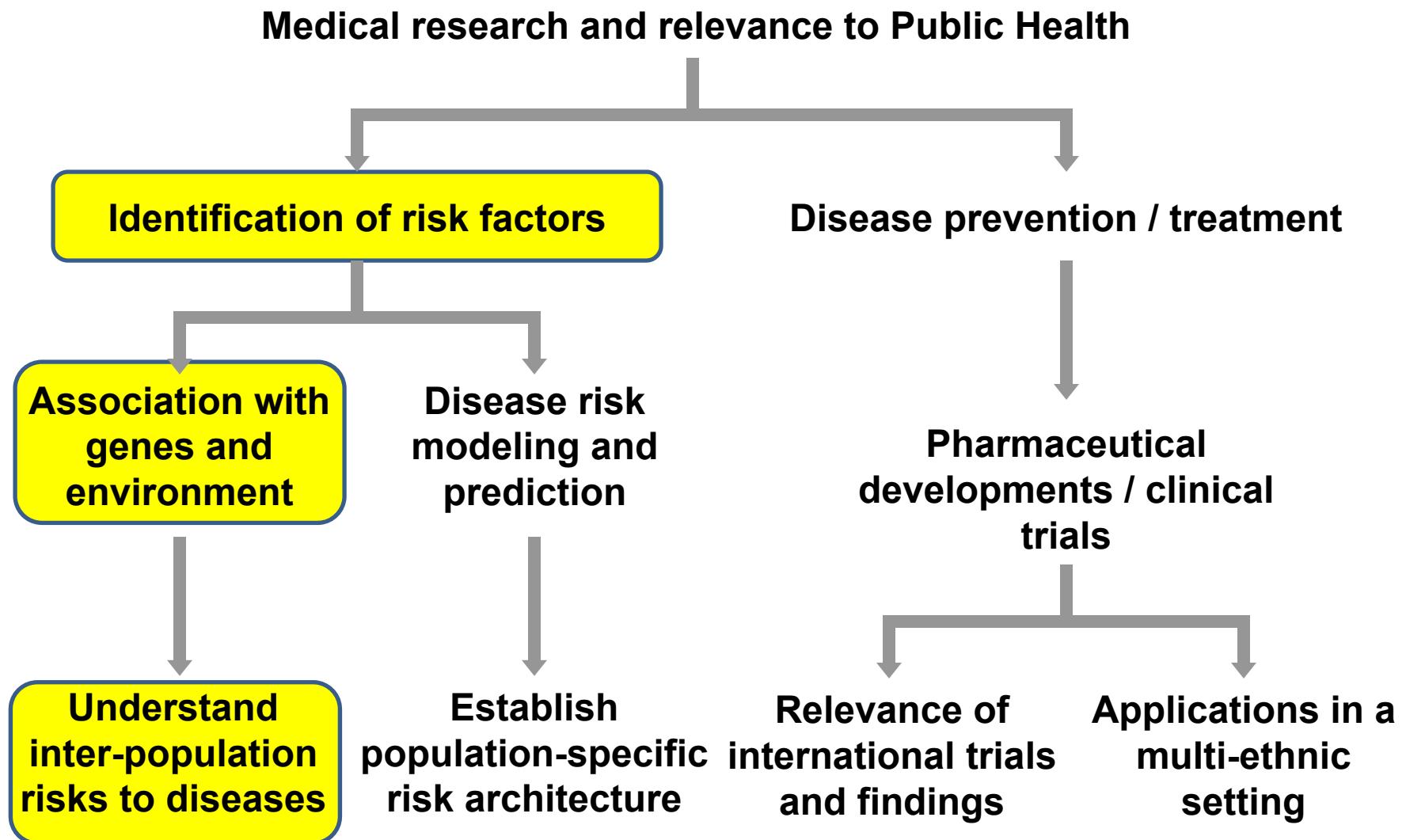
# North-South Indian differences



\* People of Southern India are much darker than people of Northern India. People of North India have narrower features, narrower noses, and are more Caucasoid than people of South India. People of North India look similar to people of Afghanistan, or the Middle East, while people of Southern India look similar to the Aboriginals of Australia.



# Medical research and Public Health

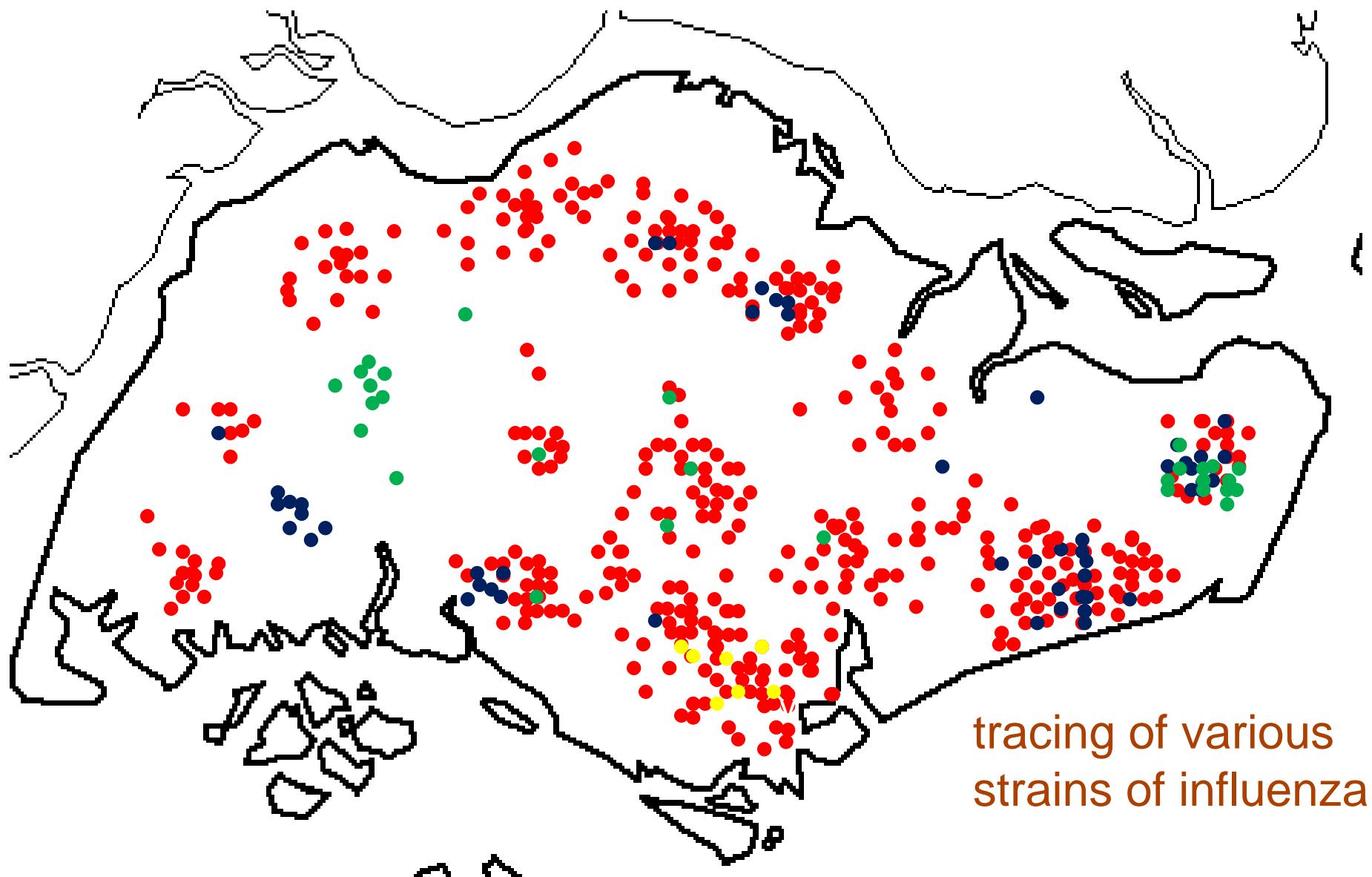


# Genomic Medicine

- Clinical medicine mainly reliant on observational evidence, with condition X + condition Y → disease onset.
- Already a reality in cancer medicine
  - Profile the tumours to identify the kind of cancer, and to recommend downstream therapeutic interventions
- Diabetes (complications include nephropathy, retinopathy, etc.)
- Early diagnosis of dengue versus normal flu (pathogen genomics)
- Use of genomics technology to track hospital-based or community-based spread of infectious diseases
  - Building a network or “infectivity tree” to track source/cause of the transmission, and to identify the introduction of new strains
  - Change in clinical practice and hospital operating procedures
  - Evaluate governmental policies to contain community infection

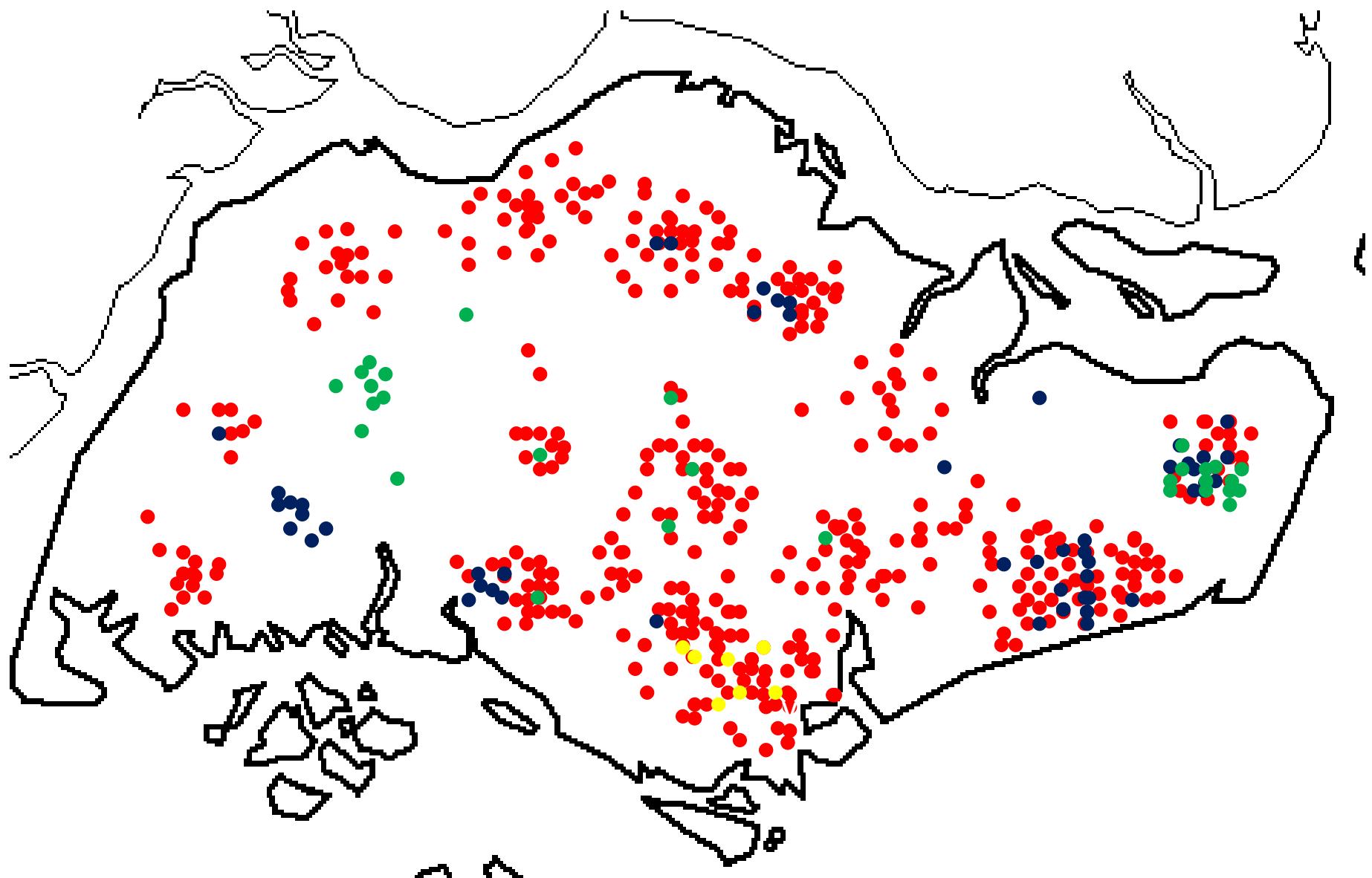
## Transmission Epidemiology

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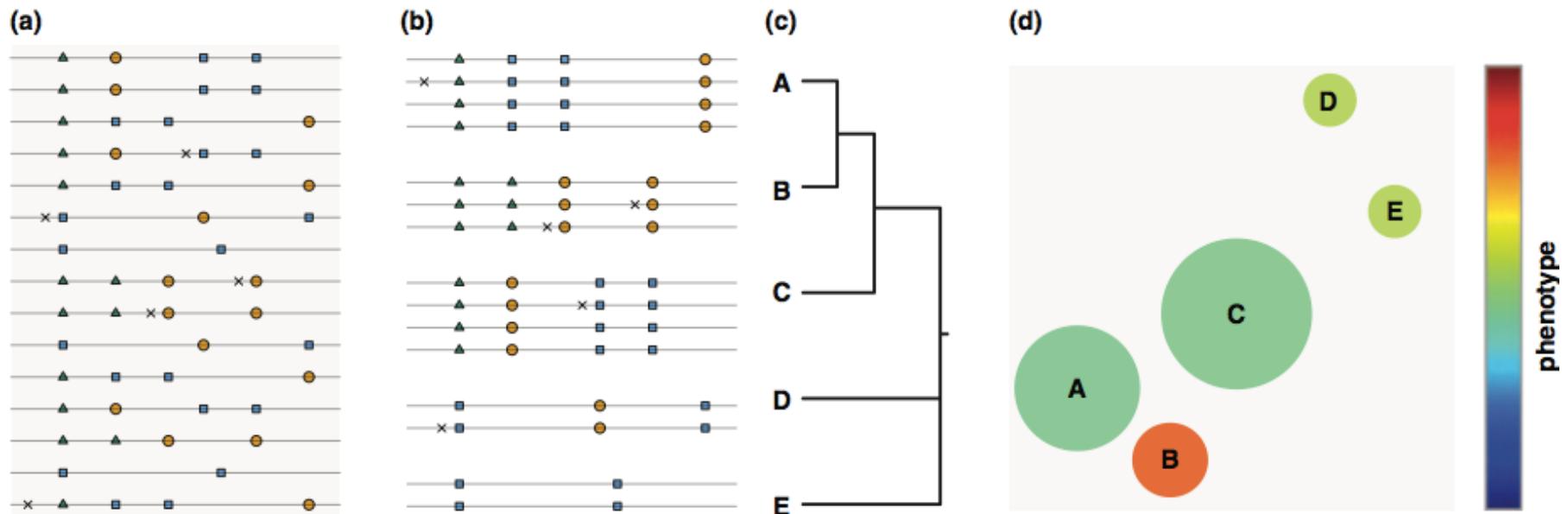
## Transmission Epidemiology

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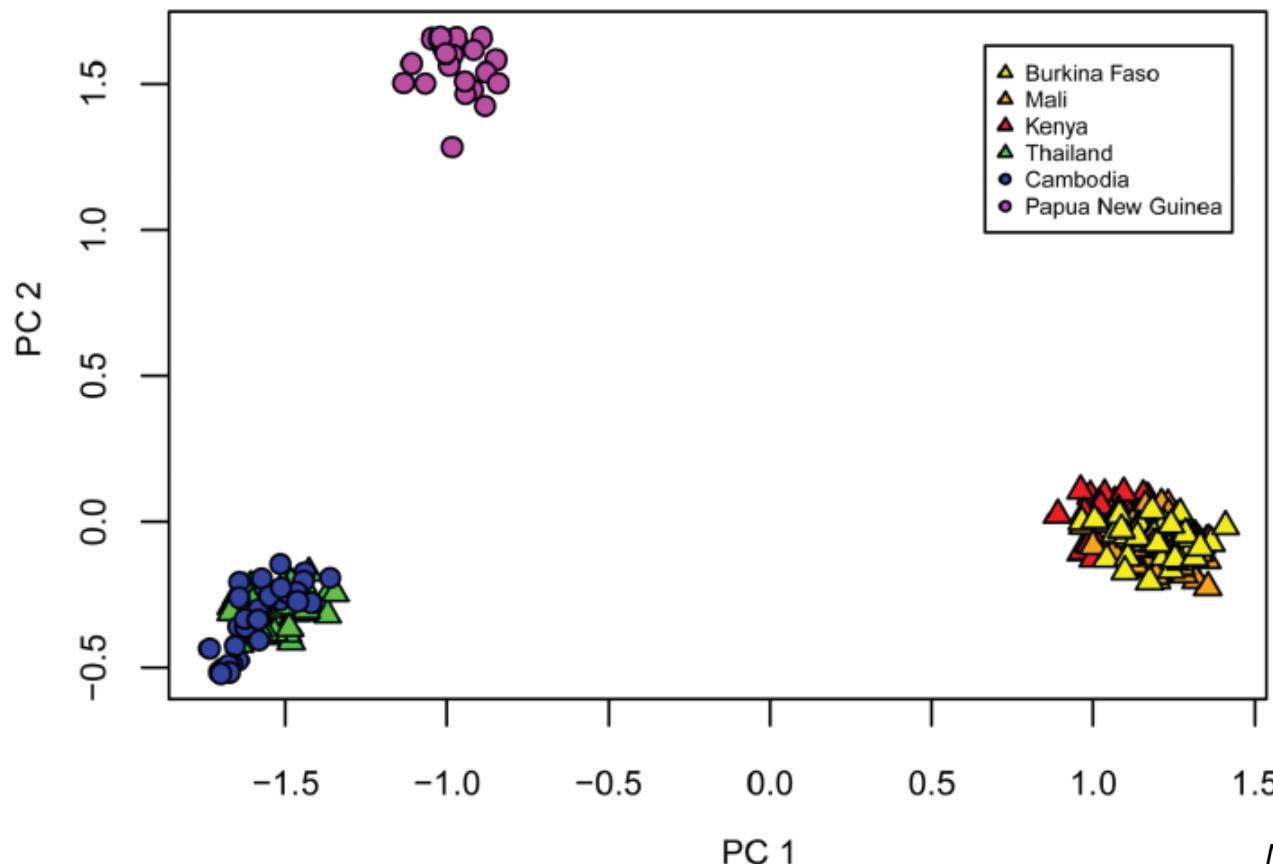
# Case Study: Viral pathogen genomics

- Methodology development to identify and characterize intra-host dengue virus quasi-species
- Longitudinal pathogen sampling, and host genetic data
- Investigate host and viral genetic factors to DF/DHF progression



# Malaria parasite genomics

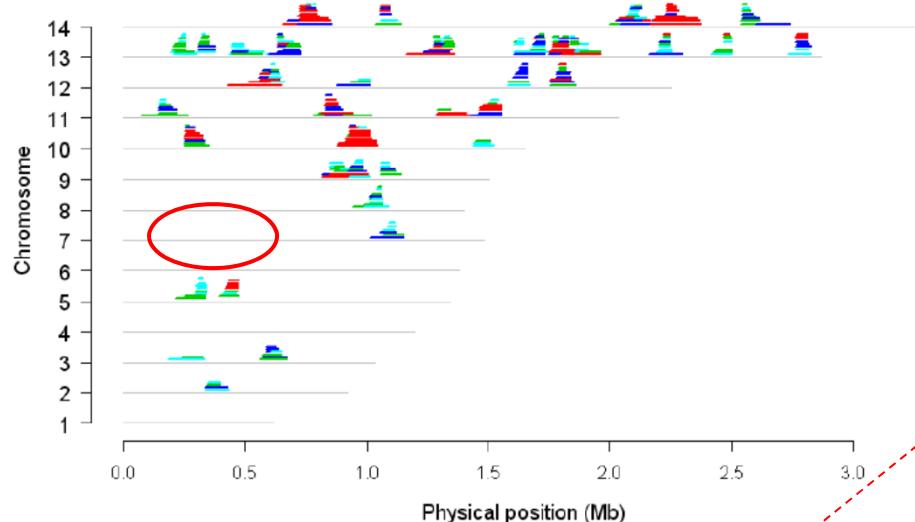
- Mapping genomic diversity of *P. falciparum*
- Genomics signatures of adaptation and drug-resistance (positive selection)



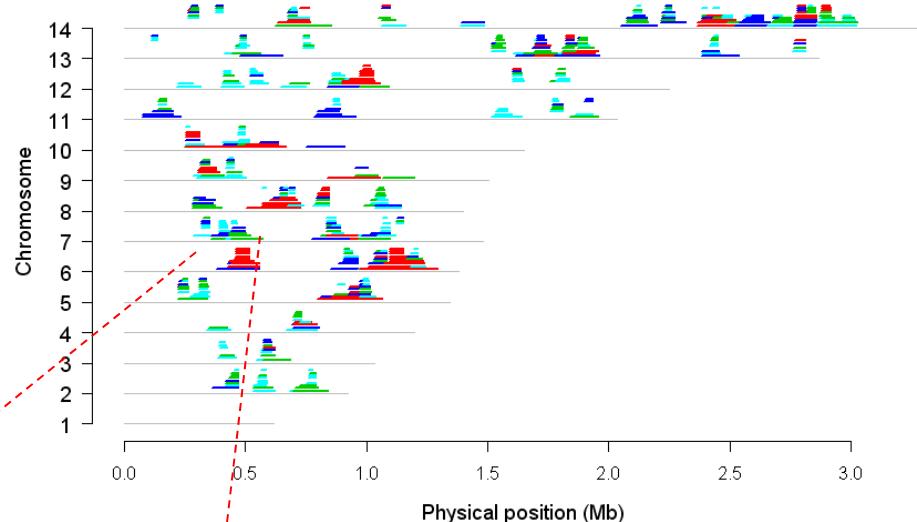
population differences  
that are linked to  
certain traits in  
humans

# Malaria parasite genomics

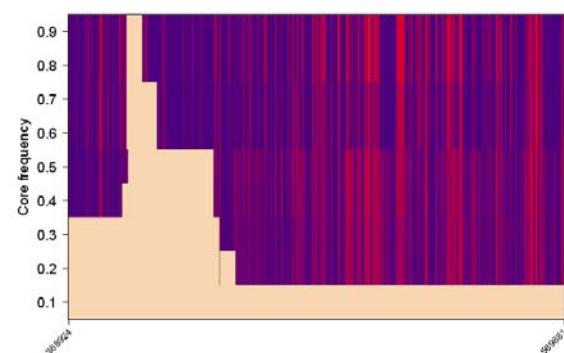
Candidate signals of positive selection for African isolates



Candidate signals of positive selection for Asian isolates



pfCRT



Chloroquine resistance  
(emerged in Asia)

# Surveillance and control of infectious diseases with genomic technology

- Vaccines, prophylaxis and treatment for infectious diseases have limited effective period
  - Think antibiotics resistance, antiretroviral resistance, antimalarial resistance

**BBC** News Sport Weather Capital Culture Auto

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7 April 2011 Last updated at 02:57 GMT

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### Europe 'losing' superbugs battle

By Michelle Roberts  
Health reporter, BBC News

Antibiotic-resistant infections have reached unprecedented levels and now outstrip our ability to fight them with existing drugs, European health experts are warning.

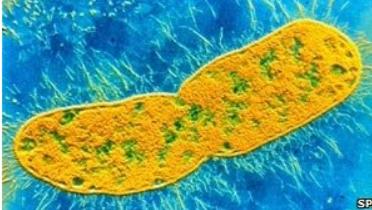
Each year in the EU over 25,000 people die of bacterial infections that are able to outsmart even the newest antibiotics.

The World Health Organization says the situation has reached a critical point.

A united push to make new drugs is urgently needed, it says.

Without a concerted effort, people could be dealing with the "nightmare scenario" of a worldwide spread of untreatable infections, says the WHO.

One example is the New Delhi or NDM-1 superbug recently found in UK

  
NDM-1 is carried by Gram-negative bacteria like Klebsiella

**Related Stories**

Researchers find India water bug  
Q&A: NDM-1

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5 April 2012 Last updated at 20:13 GMT

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### Resistance spread 'compromising' fight against malaria

By Matt McGrath  
Science reporter, BBC World Service

Scientists have found new evidence that resistance to the front-line treatments for malaria is increasing.

They have confirmed that resistant strains of the malaria parasite on the border between Thailand and Burma, 500 miles (800km) away from previous sites.

Researchers say that the rise of resistance means the effort to eliminate malaria is "seriously compromised".

The details have been published in **The Lancet** medical journal.

Malaria is spread by mosquitoes



**Related Stories**

Malaria drugs may affect babies

infectious diseases have a very large burden

# Surveillance and control of infectious

## Whole-Genome Sequencing for Rapid Susceptibility Testing of *M. tuberculosis*

Sharon J. Peacock, Ph.D.

University of Cambridge

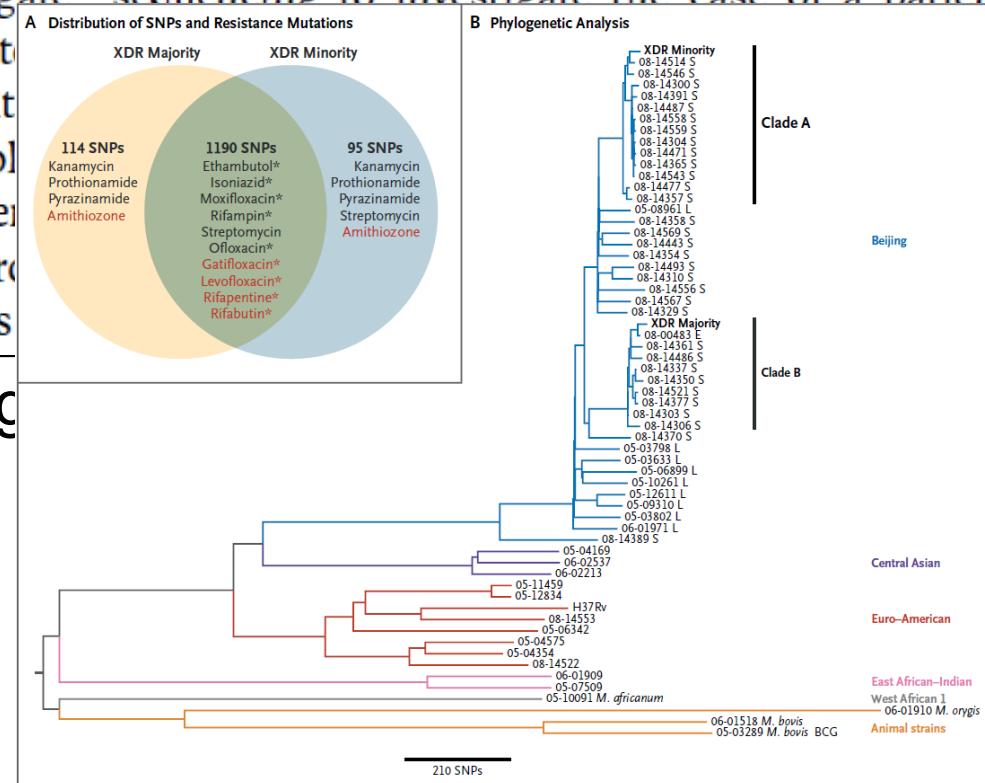
N ENGL J MED 369;3 NEJM.ORG JULY 18, 2013

**TO THE EDITOR:** Efforts to contain drug-resistant tuberculosis depend on the rapid detection and effective treatment of cases, together with public health interventions to prevent and investigate ongoing transmission. The necessary laboratory support for these activities includes the identification of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, antimicrobial susceptibility testing, and bacterial genotyping. However, even in well-resourced countries, it typically takes 1 to 2 months

to culture the bacterium, to perform an suscepti-

bility complex for several weeks, until sufficient DNA can be extracted.<sup>2,4</sup>

Here we report the use of rapid whole-genome sequencing to investigate the case of a patient



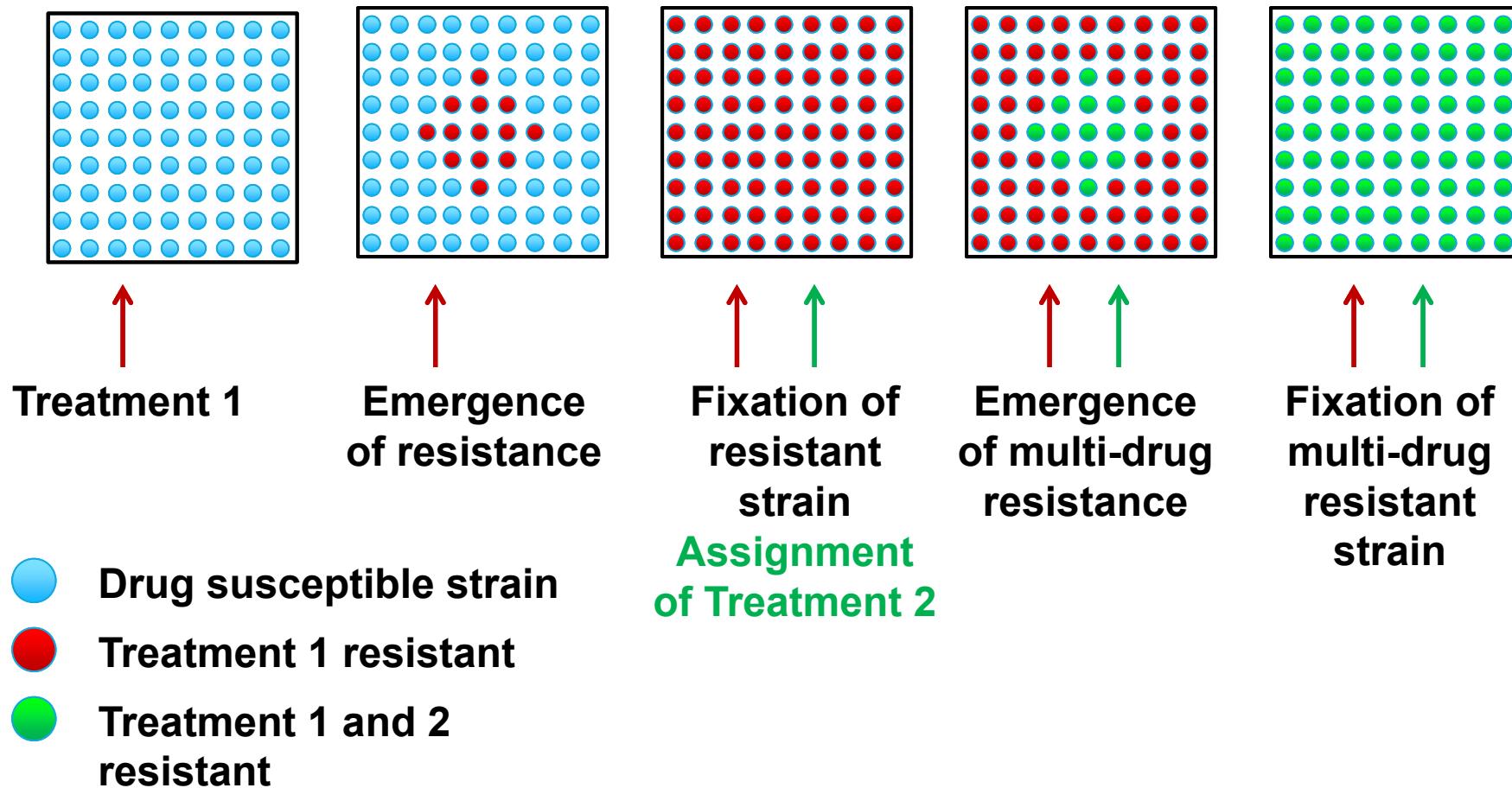
- Does genomic technology

# Concept of Genomic Surveillance



Saw Swee Hock  
School of Public Health

## NO GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE

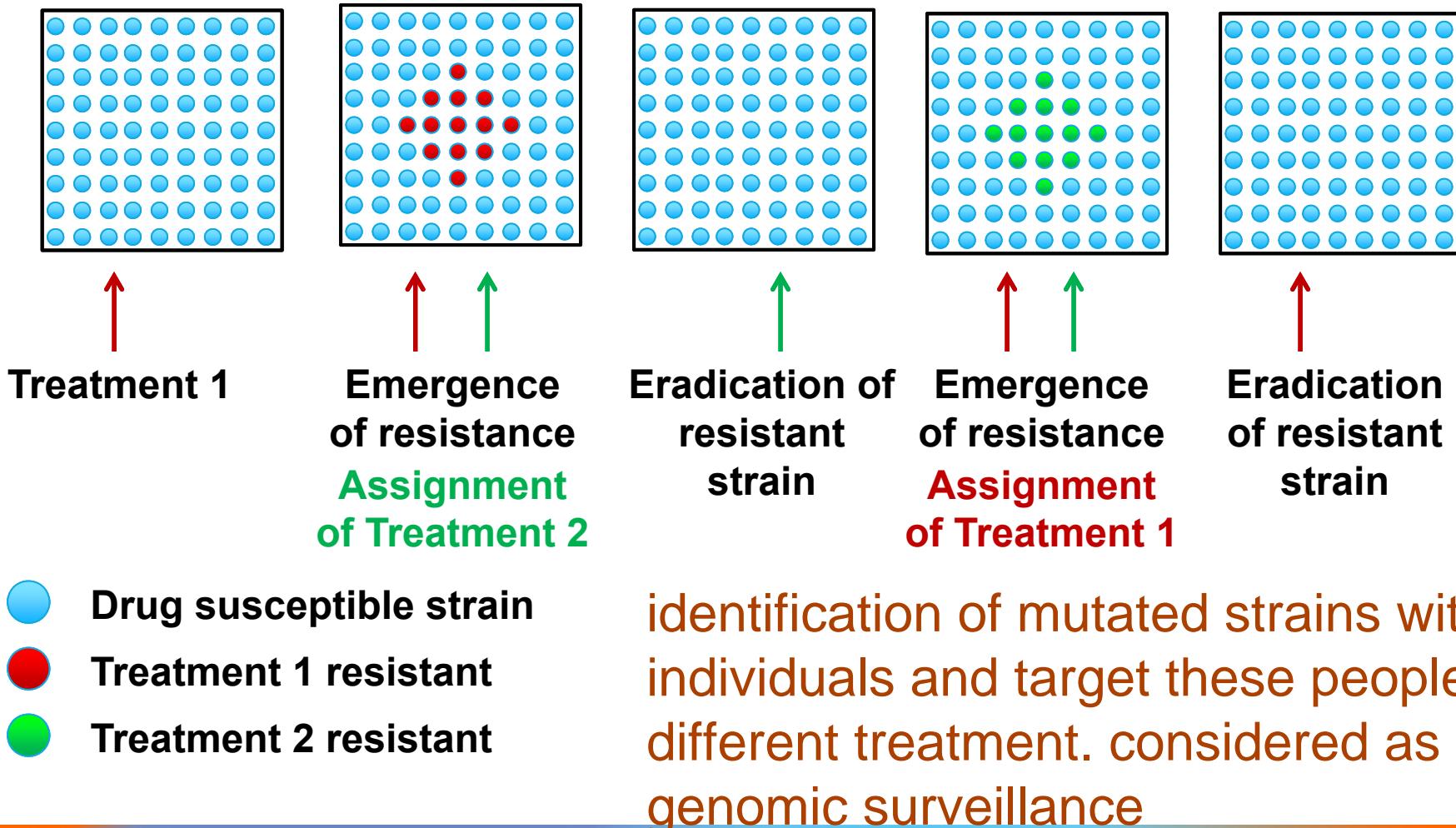


# Concept of Genomic Surveillance

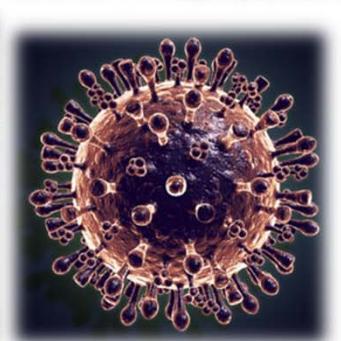
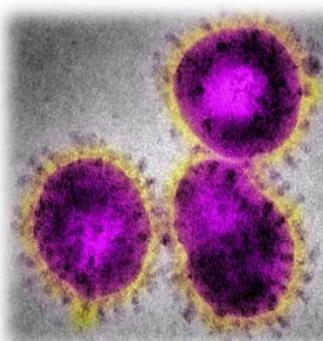
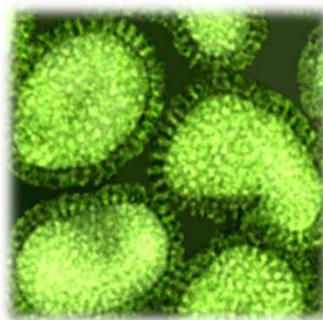
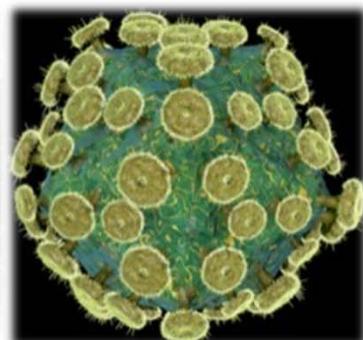
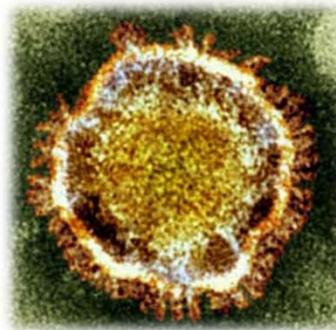


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School of Public Health

## WITH ACTIVE GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE

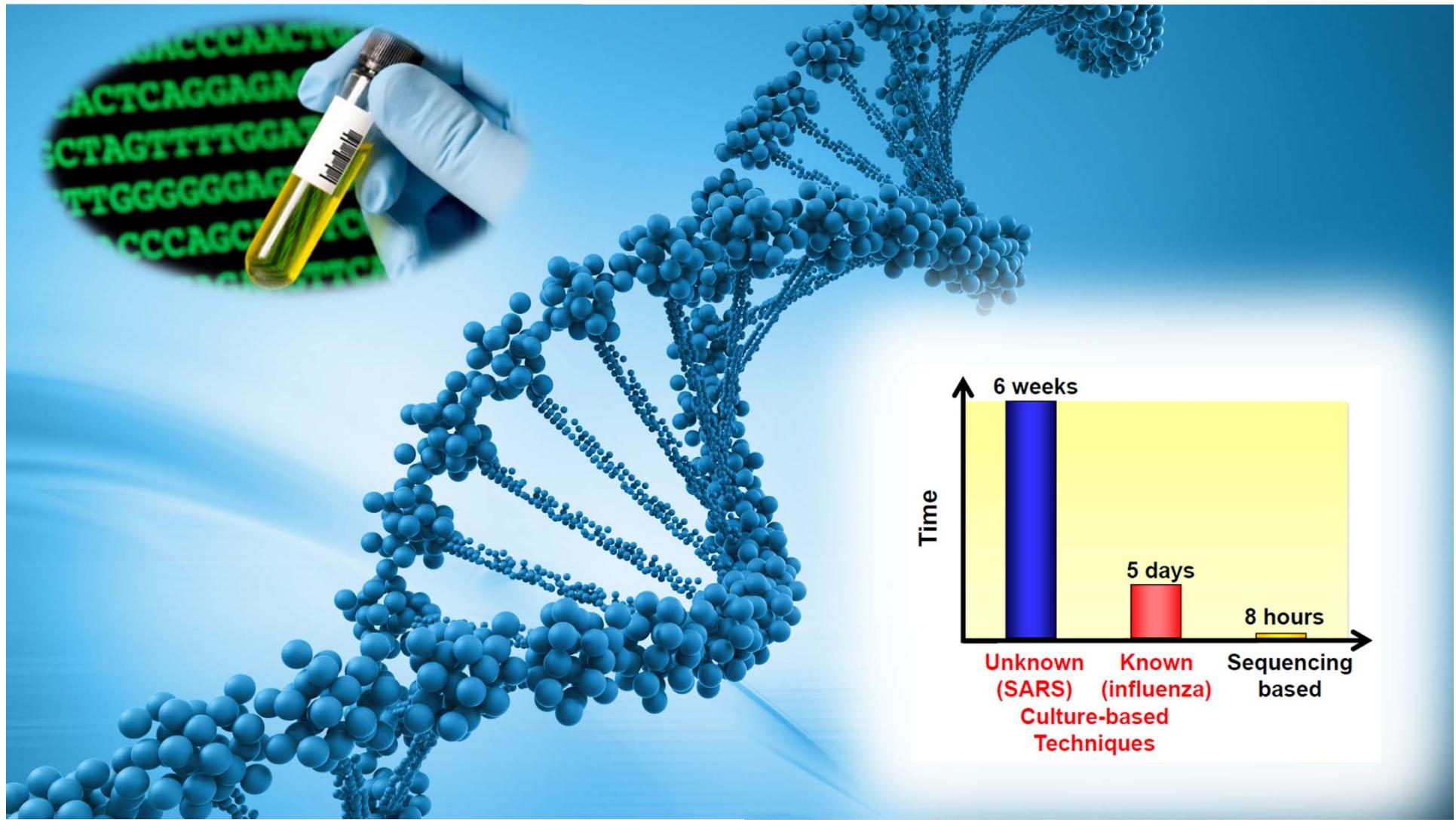


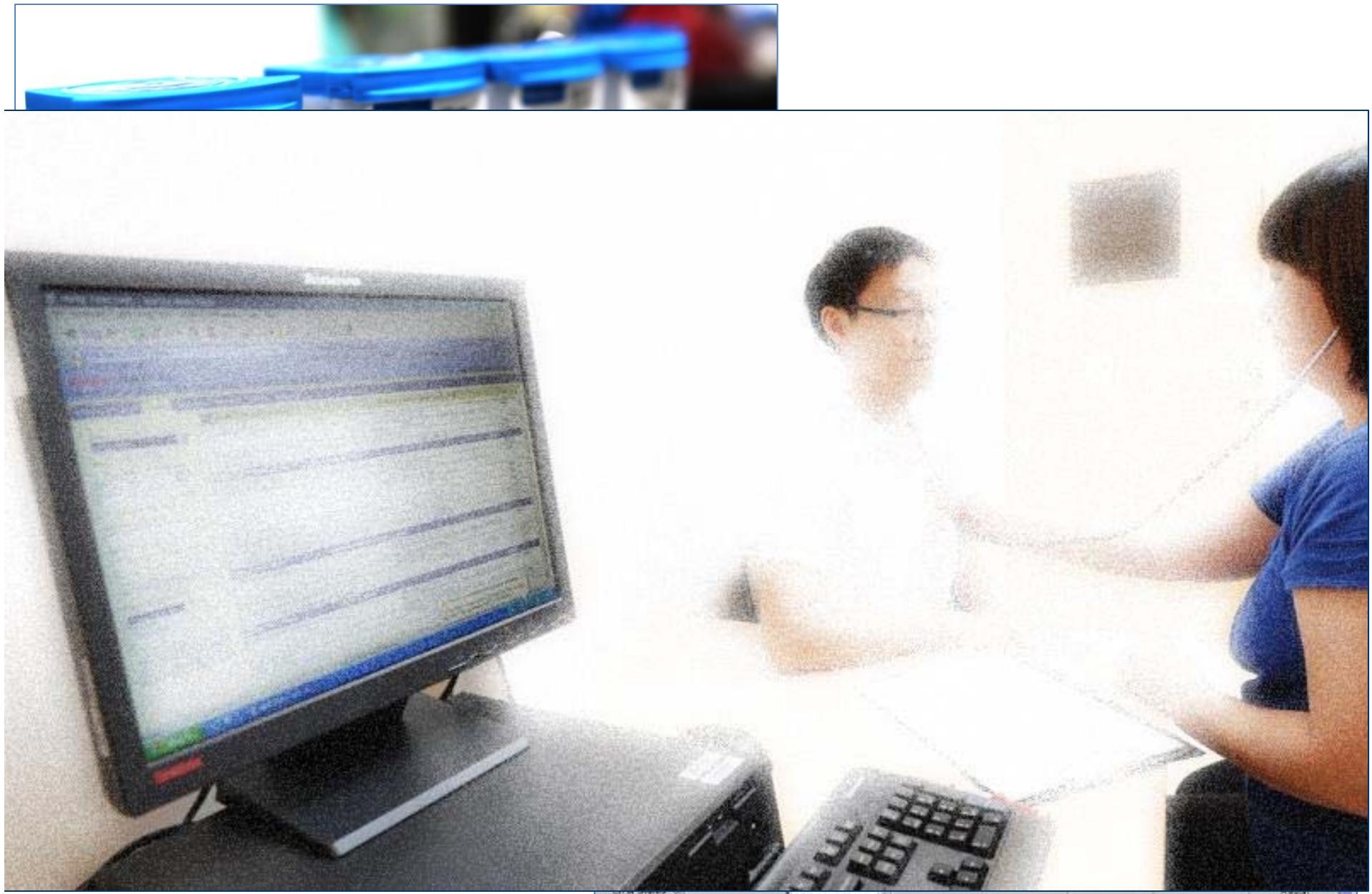




## QUINOLONES







User Report	2nd Derivative			
SAW Version: 2.1				
Instrument/Media S/N: 762298600012				
		Probe D:	19.1	348.0
		Probe C:	17.7	279.0
		Probe E:	18.4	274.0
		Probe B:	18.8	214.0
		Bg:	27.4	268.0
		Probe A:	17.3	228.0
			Pos:	PASS
			Pos:	PASS
			Pos:	PASS
			NA:	PASS
			Pos:	PASS

# Concept of Genomic Surveillance



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School of Public Health

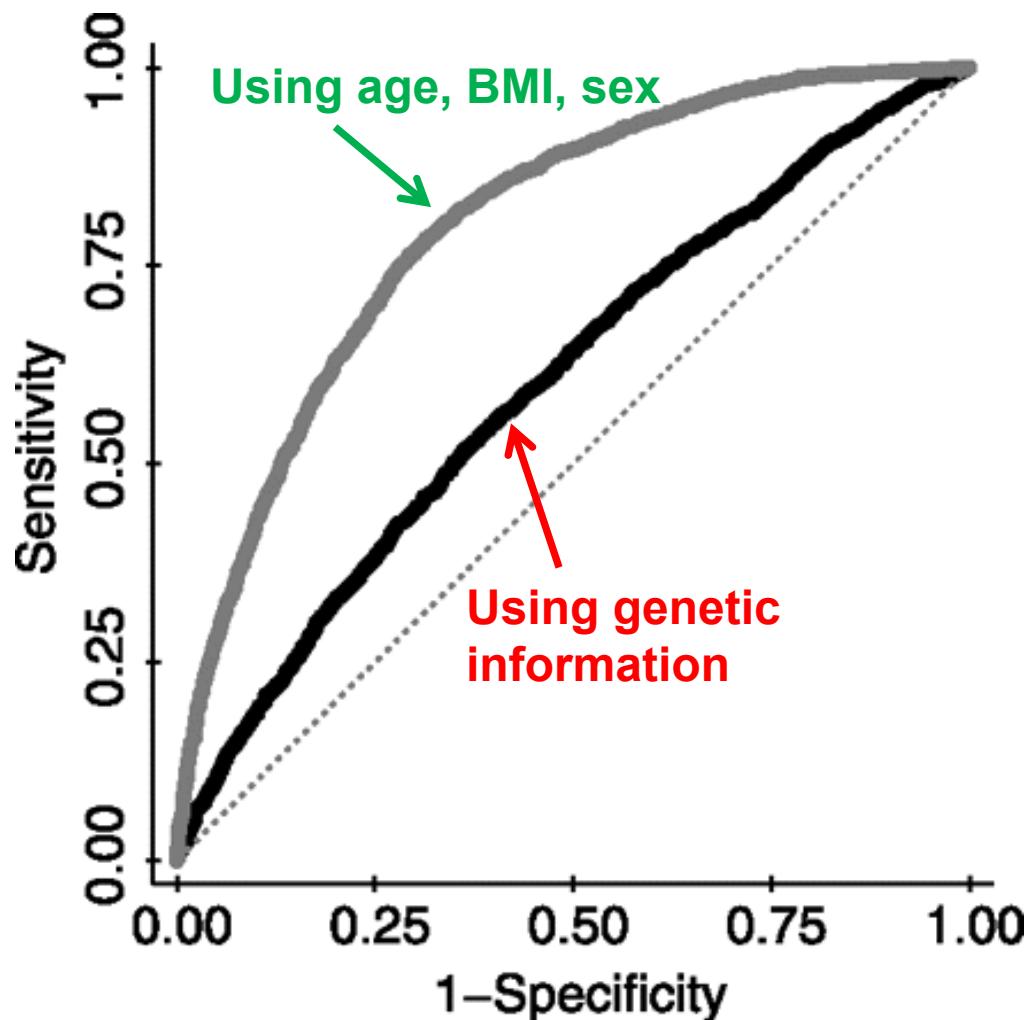
## Three major gains

- Rapid molecular identification of **source and type** of infection, particular in zoonosis, by comparing against databases of known infections
- **Improve treatment efficacy** by recognising presence of drug-resistant pathogen strains, which together with GIS can **evaluate health systems** failure that encourage resistance
- Minimise **further progression to multi/extensive drug-resistance** to control against eventual total failure of existing treatment regimes

# Questions

- Can we accurately define a medical condition (e.g. diabetes or cancer), and identify the most appropriate treatments?
- Can we predict the risk of diabetes and cancer?
  - Using clinical biomarkers, genes, diet, exercise, alcohol intake, smoking, etc. other environmental factors?
- Can we predict who is more susceptible to dengue?
  - Why are some people more protected against certain infectious diseases (dengue, malaria, HIV, etc.)?
- Does every drug treatment work the same for everyone?
  - If not, what are the new strategies for pharmaceutical developments?

# Genetic risk prediction for Type 2 Diabetes



## Sensitivity

Correct identification  
of diabetics

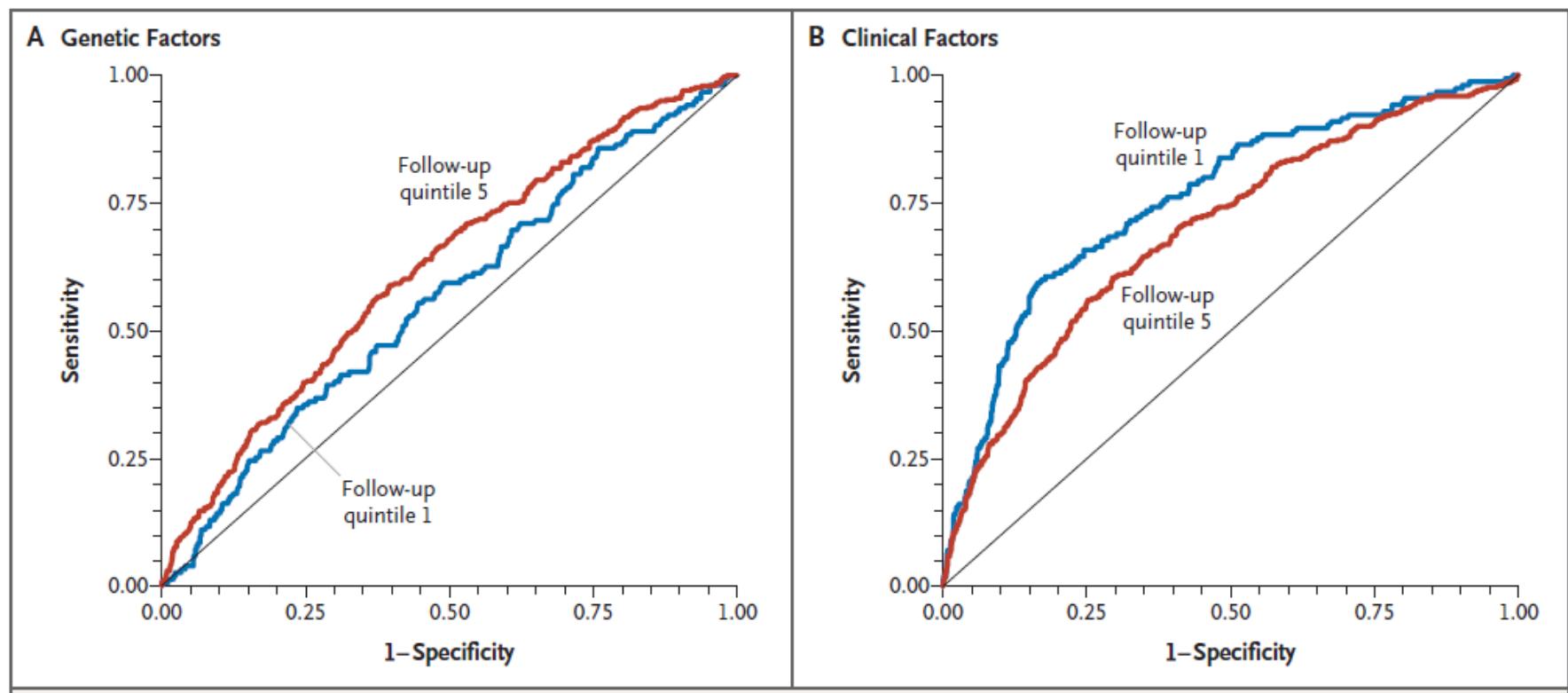
## Specificity

Correct identification  
of non-diabetics

## Area under the curve

= Overall performance  
of the prediction

# Impact of duration of follow-up on prediction using clinical vs. genetic factors



Lyssenko et al. N Engl J Med. 2008 Nov 20;359(21):2220-32

# Genetic risk prediction

- Especially valuable to delay or prevent the onset of systemic diseases
  - individuals with high genetic risk can undertake lifestyle modifications and dietary interventions **earlier in life**
  - Relevance and informativeness of clinical biomarkers often **vary significantly with age**
  - Often, when clinical biomarkers are predictive, may already be **too late for non-clinical lifestyle interventions**, need clinical and therapeutic interventions.
  - But again, we all know about exercising and healthy eating... so again, does genetics really matter?

# Empowerment and lifestyle modifications



BBC News US & Canada

14 May 2013 Last updated at 17:02 GMT

51K Share

Angelina Jolie has double mastectomy due to cancer gene

COMMENTS (393)

The BBC's Fergus Walsh explains the background to Angelina Jolie's decision

Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie has undergone a double mastectomy to reduce her chances of getting breast cancer.

Related Stories

"Jolie effect" on breast

A portrait photograph of Angelina Jolie, looking slightly to the side with a gentle smile. She is wearing a dark blazer over a white top and small pearl earrings.

- *BRCA1* mutations, 87% risk of breast cancer and 50% risk of ovarian cancer
- Mastectomy reduces risk from 87% to 5%

# Questions

- Can we accurately define a medical condition (e.g. diabetes or cancer), and identify the most appropriate treatments?
- Can we predict the risk of diabetes and cancer?
  - Using clinical biomarkers, genes, diet, exercise, alcohol intake, smoking, etc. other environmental factors?
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# Public Health Pharmacogenomics

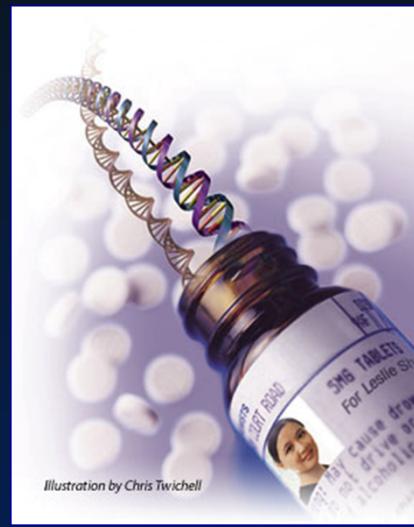
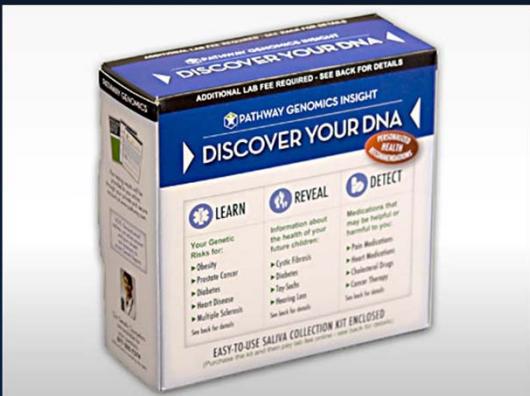
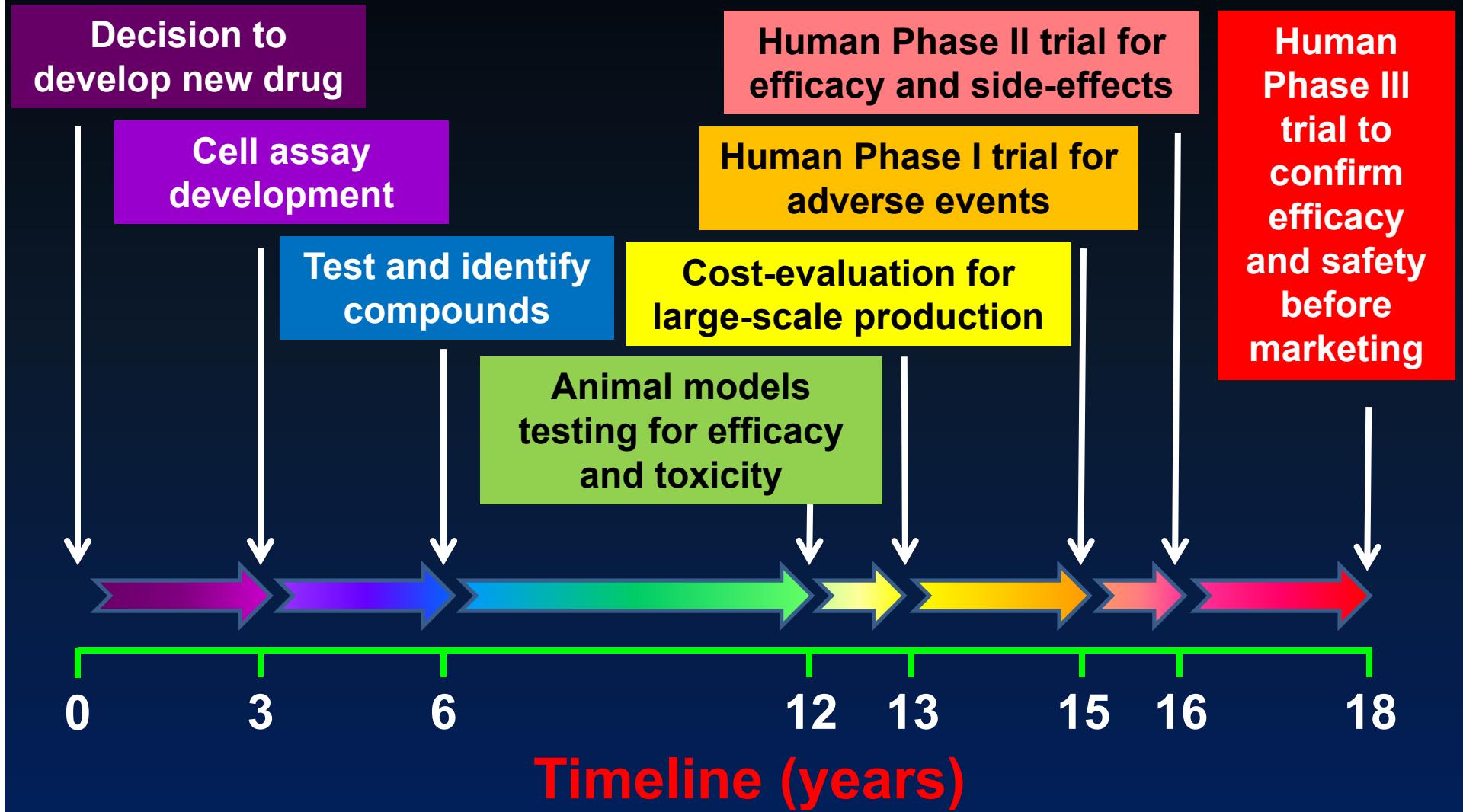


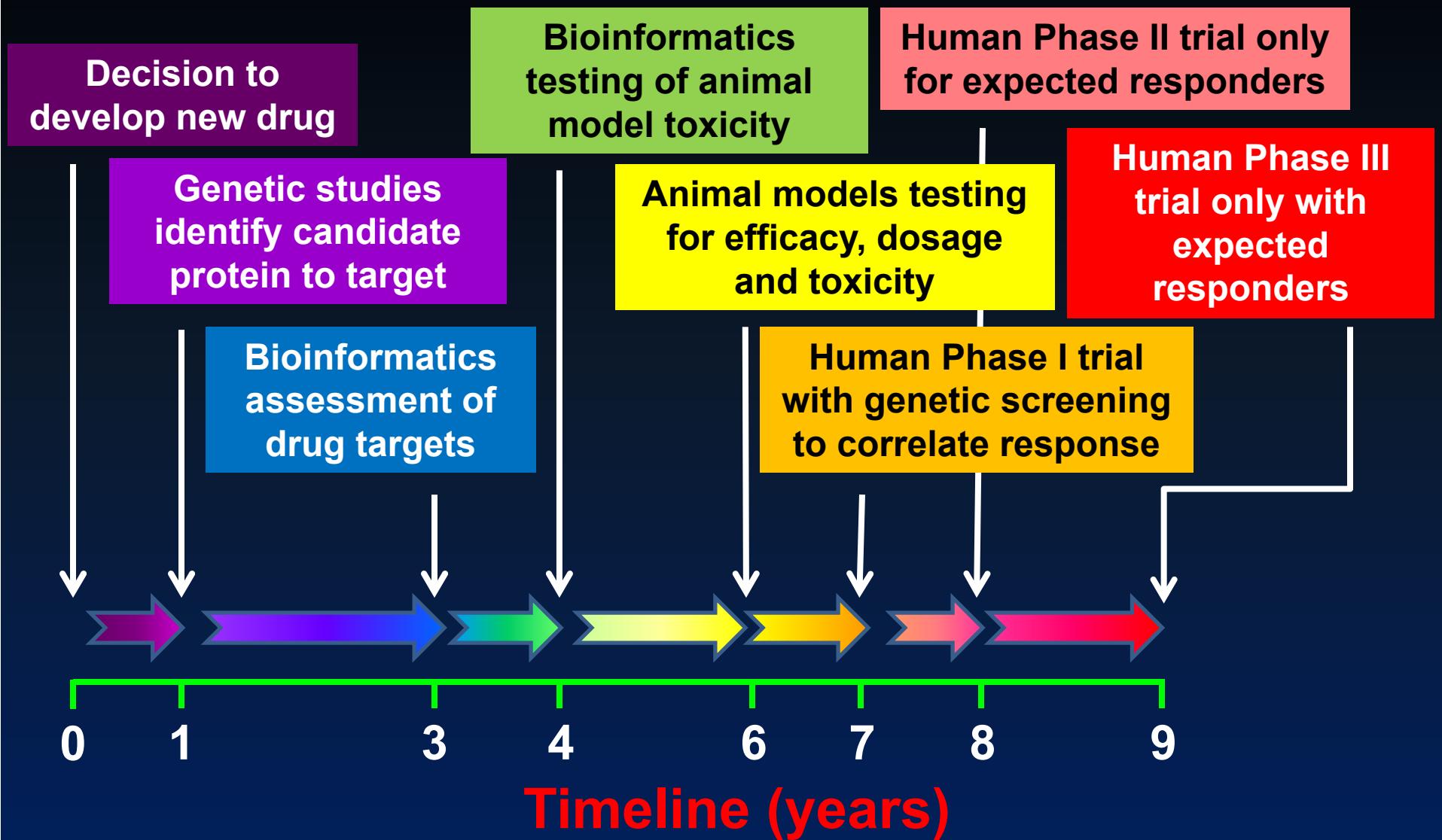
Illustration by Chris Twichell



# Drug discovery, design and trials



# Future (current) Drug Development

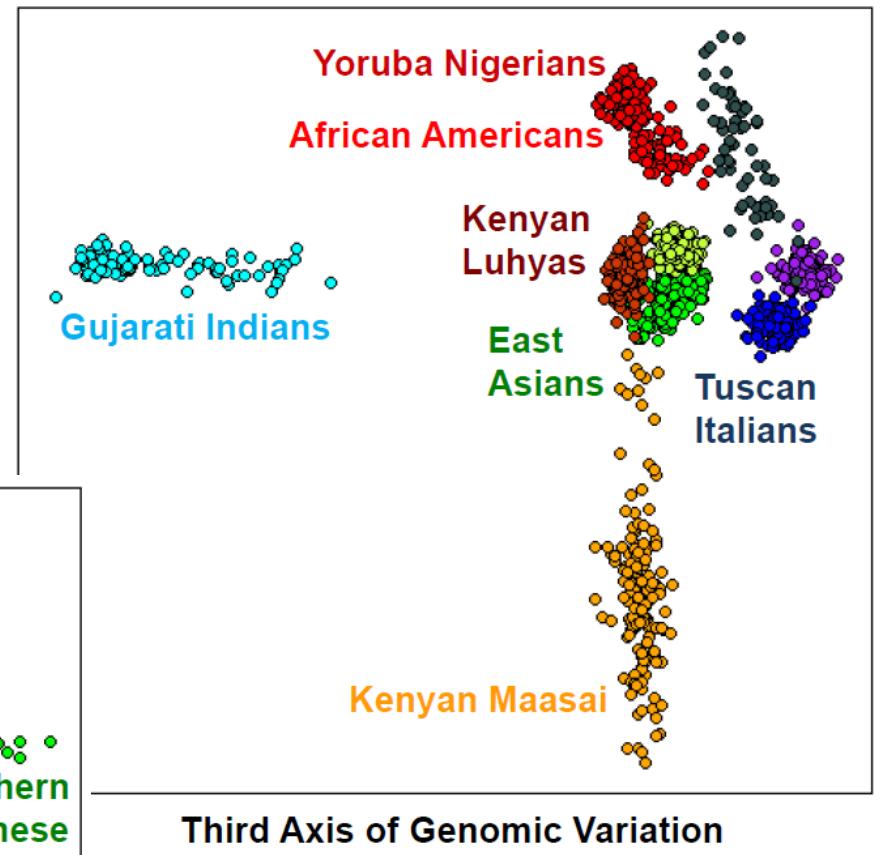
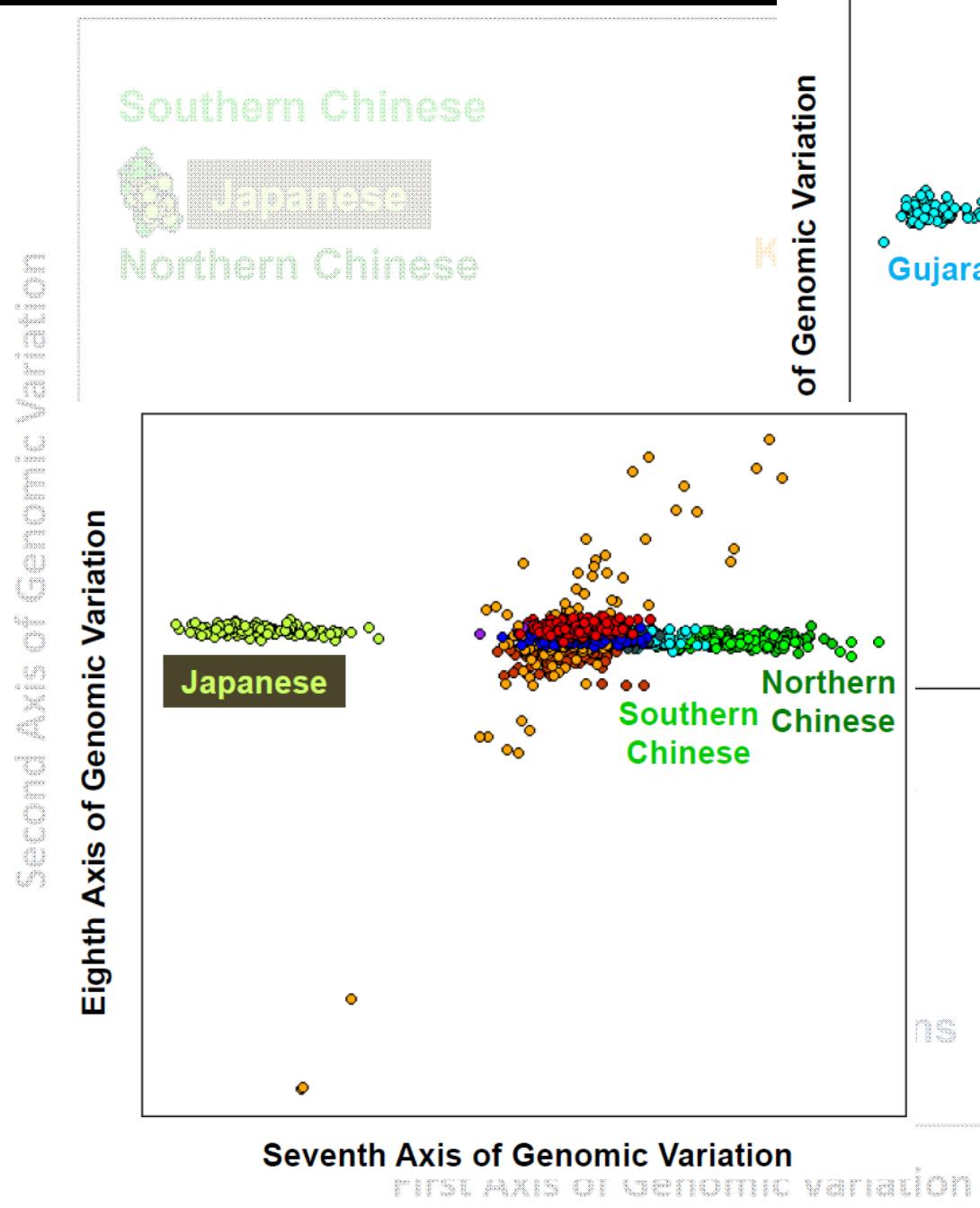


large decrease in time and costs to come up with a new drug



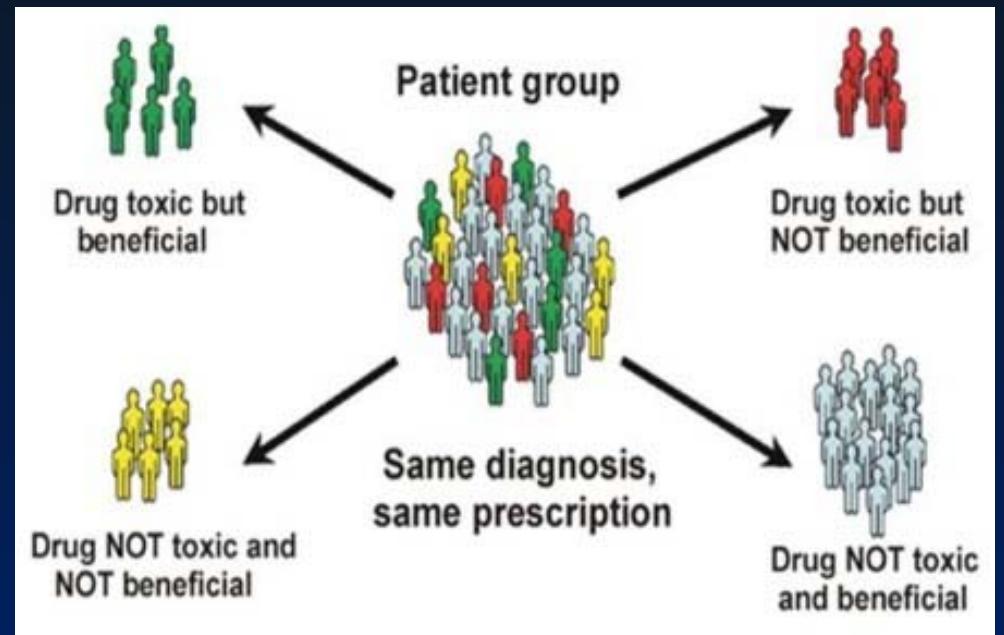
# Genetics and Human Diversity





# What's the difference

- Cheaper and faster to design a new drug therapy
- Better knowledge of the efficacy and target population
- **Practice of clinical medicine to rely on genomic information  
(due to the way drugs are designed)**



# Examples of Current PGx

Drug	EMA/US FDA	Indication
Tamoxifen	None/None	Poor response to postmenopausal breast cancer treatment
Statins	None/None	Define maximum statin dosage
Clopidogrel	None/ <b>Props</b>	Poor response to postmyocardial infarction treatment
Warfarin	None/ <b>Recm</b>	Initial warfarin dosing
Abacavir	<b>Mand/Mand</b>	Hypersensitivity in HIV treatment

EMA: European Medicines Agency;

PGx: Pharmacogenomics

US FDA: Food and Drug Administration in USA

Adapted from *Pharmacogenomics* (2011) **12**: 113-124

# Warfarin

- Anticoagulant, accurate dosaging is important
- Dosaging appears to vary with populations
- Genetic basis to the variation
- USFDA recommended genetic screening to

## Interethnic variability of warfarin

maintenance requirement is explained by

3% Singapore Ethnic Demographics

Table 1. Range of expected therapeutic warfarin doses based on CYP2C9 and VKORC1 genotypes<sup>†</sup>.

VKORC1	CYP2C9					
	*1/*1 (mg)	*1/*2 (mg)	*1/*3 (mg)	*2/*2 (mg)	*2/*3 (mg)	*3/*3 (mg)
GG	5–7	5–7	3–4	3–4	3–4	0.5–2
GA	5–7	3–4	3–4	3–4	0.5–2	0.5–2
AA	3–4	3–4	0.5–2	0.5–2	0.5–2	0.5–2

# Abacavir

- Anti-retroviral used for HIV treatment
  - ~5-10% of Caucasian patients experienced hypersensitivity side-effects, some with fatal outcomes
  - Withdrawal of abacavir
  - Hypersensitivity strongly associated with a particular genetic variant, HLA-B\*5701
  - Abacavir use with legislation for compulsory genetic screening before prescription (in Europe and US)
- it works but it makes a small fraction of people ill, thus is a waste. impacting clinical medicine

# Genetic Screening and Society

- Already a routine procedure, and accepted in most instances
- Newborn screening of treatable diseases, early interventions can be recommended
- Four crucial questions of:
  - Who to screen
  - What to screen for
  - Who has access to the data
  - Who pays for the screening

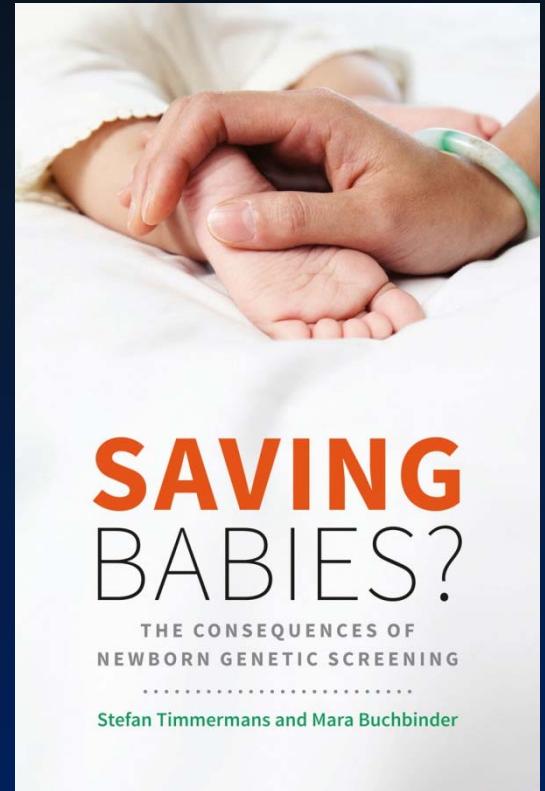


Photo credit: University of Chicago Press

# Is genomics screening even cost-effective?



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School of Public Health

- **Health Technology and Cost-Effectiveness Assessments**
  - New technologies for screening, diagnostics and prognostics
  - **Clinically relevant, but is it cost-effective?**
  - Background information on hospitalization costs, to work closely with hospital administrators, in addition to clinicians and having population level information
  - Economic evaluator, and assess burden to healthcare system

Cost-effectiveness of HLA-B\*1502 genotyping in adult patients with newly diagnosed epilepsy in Singapore

**ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** Asians who carry the HLA-B\*1502 allele have an elevated risk of developing Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) when treated with the antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) carbamazepine (CBZ) and phenytoin (PHT). With a focus on Singapore, this analysis identifies circumstances in which genotyping and targeted treatment with alternative AEDs that do not induce SJS/TEN is likely to be more cost-effective than 1) treatment with CBZ or PHT without genotyping or 2) providing a more expensive drug that does not induce SJS/TEN to all patients without genotyping.

**THE STRAITS TIMES**

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2013

## Epilepsy patients should take genetic test: HSA

Screening detects predisposition to possibly fatal skin reactions to drug

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and toxic epidermal necrolysis, among patients here over the past decade. These involve burn-like rashes and painful ulcers.

Last year, about 49 cases of the two conditions were reported, after a high of 110 in 2010.

In 2009, HSA, three public hospitals and other agencies began investigating. They found the reactions were linked to the presence of the HLA-B\*1502 genetic variation in local patients. Singapore

most common among Malays here, a fifth of whom carry it.

On April 30, HSA urged doctors to send new patients for a test to detect the allele. A letter is...  
The test costs about \$190 but

should be subsidised to about \$50. It takes about two to four days for a result. Those testing positive can then be given alternative drugs.

Patients on the drug for many than three months without problems do not have to be tested.

A 44-year-old who had Stevens-Johnson syndrome in 2003 after taking carbamazepine for a nerve injury, feels the genetic test will help. He was in a brief coma within days of falling ill, his skin

— Professor Edmund Lee, from the National University of Singapore's pharmacology department, on how the links between genes and drugs





## Public Health in an Age of Genomics

OECD

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- While the application of genomics for the development of stratified medicine remains predominantly a research field, with relatively few actual examples of successful implementation to show to date, the use of genomics more broadly for infectious disease control is already yielding significant public health benefits, both in terms of the ability to diagnose and track the movement of infectious disease outbreaks and in terms of the ability to enhance and accelerate the production of effective vaccines.
- It is generally agreed that international collaboration in both research and implementation is essential if the full potential of genomics for infectious disease control both nationally and globally is to be realised. By contrast the development of stratified medicine tends to be seen as primarily a national issue, with international initiatives in this area directed towards fostering an appropriate regulatory and economic environment supportive of national innovation.
- There appear to be significant differences of priority between higher income countries, which have already completed the epidemiological transition, and which are motivated primarily by the promise of stratified medicine as a means of addressing their growing burden of chronic disease, and lower and middle income countries, which tend to concentrate more heavily on efforts to control the infectious diseases that still beset them.

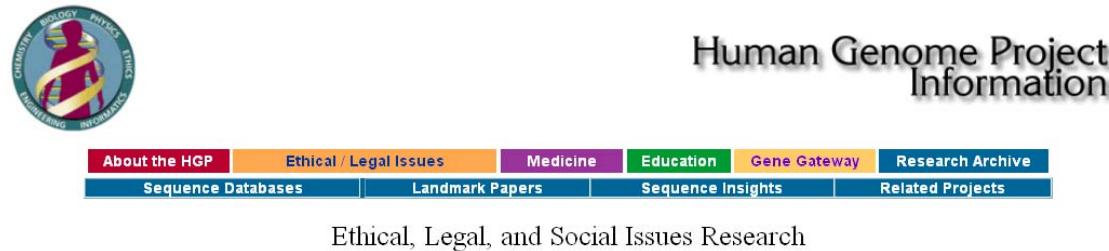
# Challenges of Big Data in health and healthcare

- How do we **interpret** the data
  - Computing costs
  - Computing skills
  - Public health impact of rare variants
- Do the clinicians, healthcare workers and policy makers even understand the importance and relevance of Big Data information?

<sup>1</sup> Manolio, *Nature* 461, 747-753 (8 October 2009), <sup>2</sup> Makowsky PLOS Genetics, Beyond Missing Heritability: Prediction of Complex Traits

# Challenges of Big Data in health and healthcare

- How do we **manage** the data – Ethical Challenges



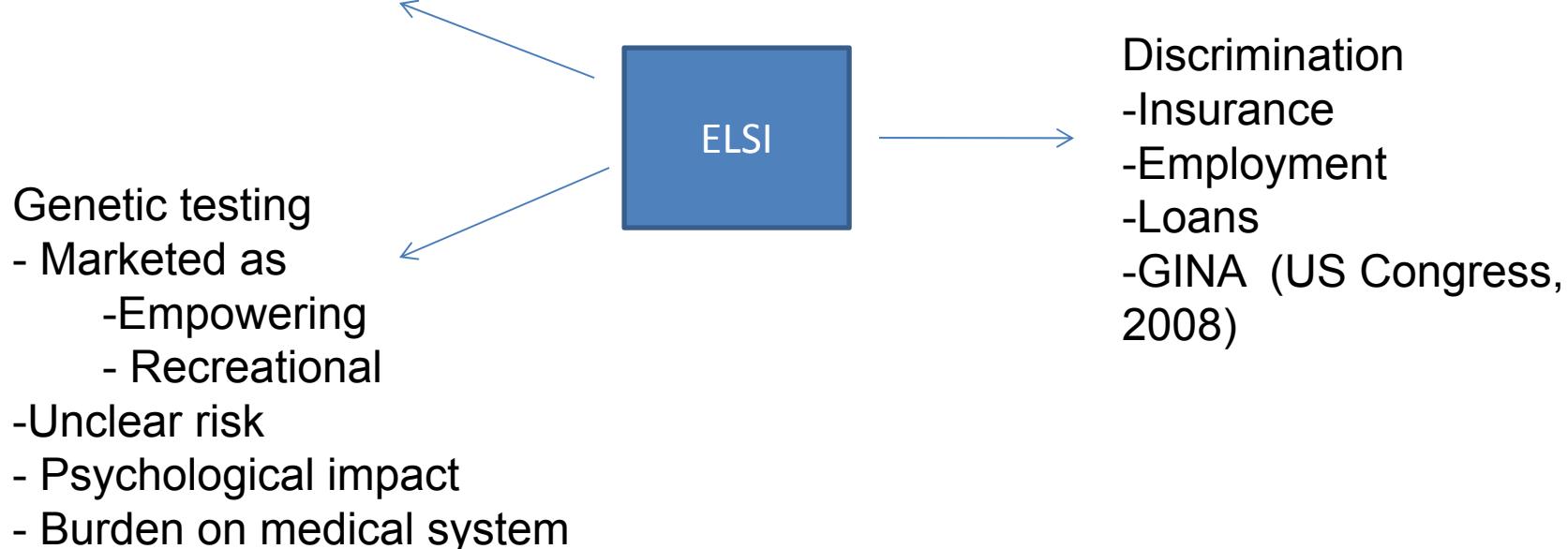
## – ESLI (Ethical, Social & Legal Issues Research)

- About 3-5% of the budget
- Current operating budget – 30 M USD

# Challenges of Big Data in health and healthcare

## How do we manage the data – Ethical Challenges

Confidentiality

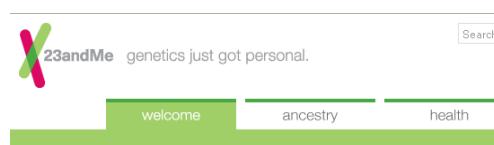


deCODE your health

Calculate genetic risk – Empower prevention  
your genes are a road-map to better health

Results for 47 conditions and traits

LEARN MORE



Kaye et al, 2008, Sharp, R. (2007),  
<http://hstalks.com.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/bio>

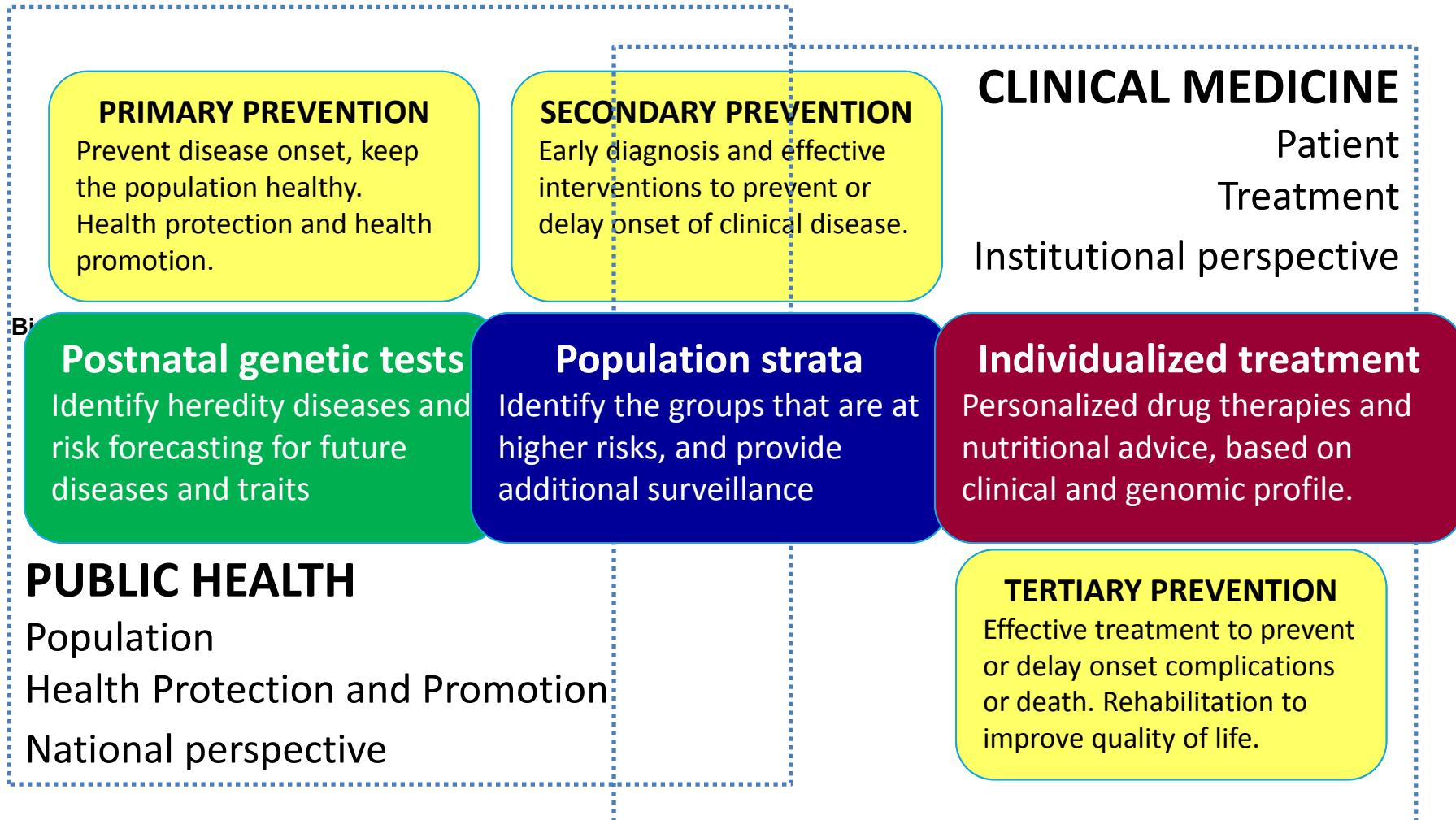
# Era of “Big Data” in health research

- So overwhelmingly large that standard computational tools are not able to cope (think Excel, Access, even SPSS, R!)
- Typically in order of gigabytes onwards...
  - Bytes (enough for coding numbers)
  - Kilobytes (think early generation computer games in ‘90s)
  - Megabytes (one VCD movie ~ 700Mb)
  - Gigabytes (one HD movie ~ 4Gb)
  - Terabytes (one human genome sequence ~ 1Tb)
  - Petabytes (expected storage for health research by 2014 – 5Pb)
  - Exabytes (expected storage before end 2020)
- Very common in omics: genomics, nutriomics, lipidomics, enviromics,

# Challenges of Big Data

- Storage
  - Costs, space, infrastructure, power
- Access and search
  - Tools to access and search?
  - Linux-based, versus Windows-based
  - Time taken to access and search, in order of days
- Sharing and transfers
  - FTP (geekspeak for “file transfer protocol”)
  - Time taken to transfer, in order of months (bandwidth issues)
  - Fed-Ex hard-disks around
- Analysis (multiple hypotheses, data dredging, too much data!)
- Visualization (how to condense the information in a figure?)

# LEVELS OF “PREVENTION”



# Precision Health and Healthcare

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- Personalized nutrition and dietary advice?
- Personalized medicine?
- Personalized lifestyle management?

