Variant prioritization

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http://bioinfo.cipf.es
http://www.babelomics.org
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University of Cambridge, 17-18 June, 2015

PRINCIPE FELIP CENTRO DE INVESTIGACION · Proyectos PROMETEO Generalitat Valenciana · MGP Medical Genome Project · HPC4G · INB · er ciberer CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN BIOMÉDICA EN RED DE ENFERMEDADES RARAS

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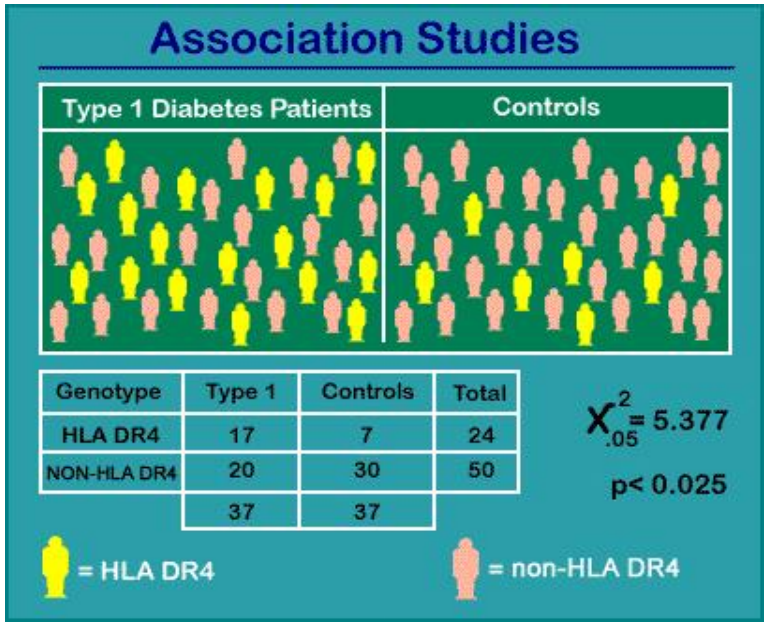
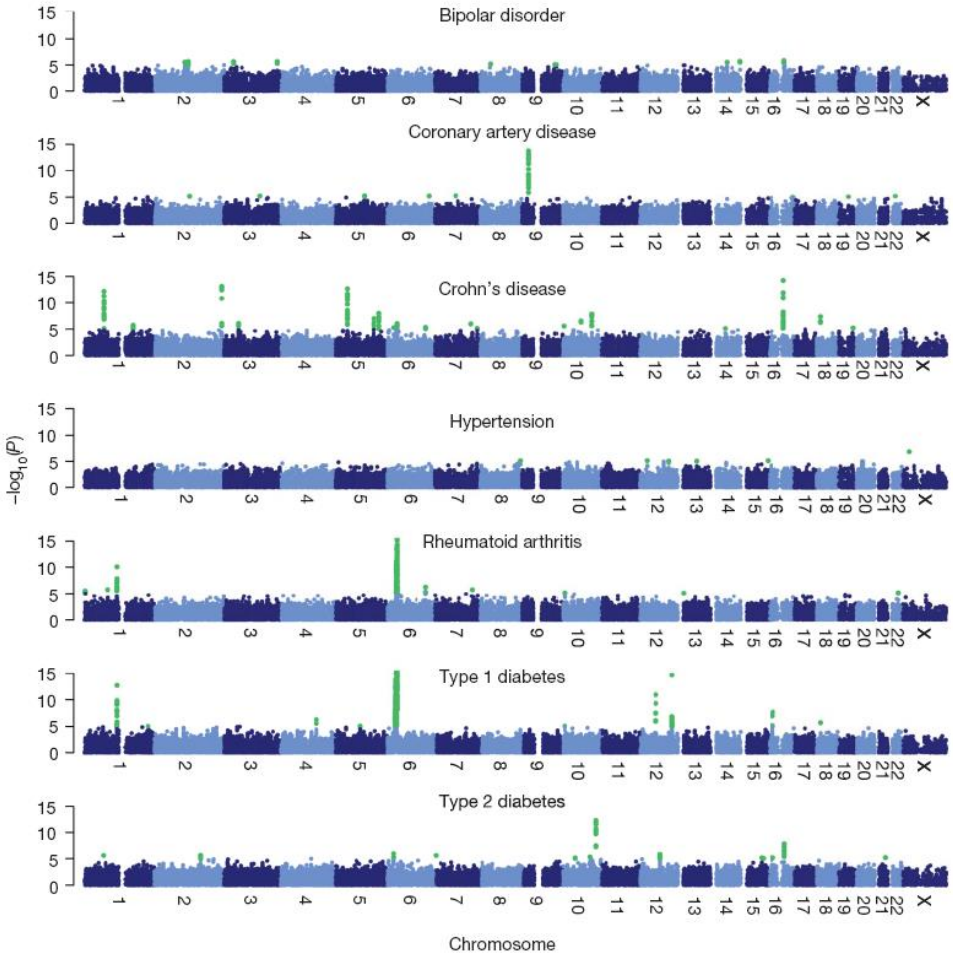
The dawn of genomic data production
Candidate gene studies using GWAS



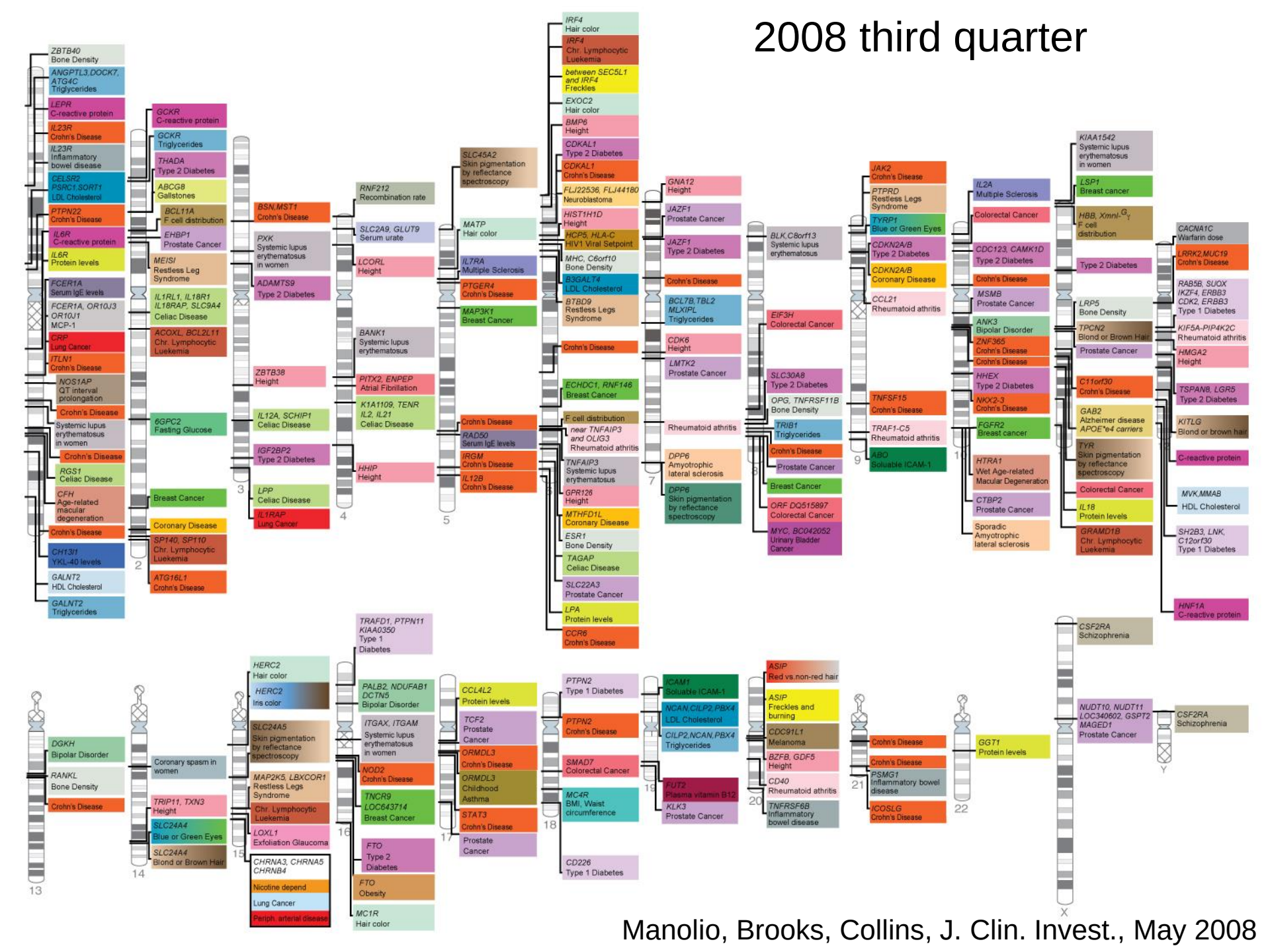
Odds Ratio: 3.6
95% CI = 1.3 to 10.4



WTCCC Home

The Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium

2008 third quarter



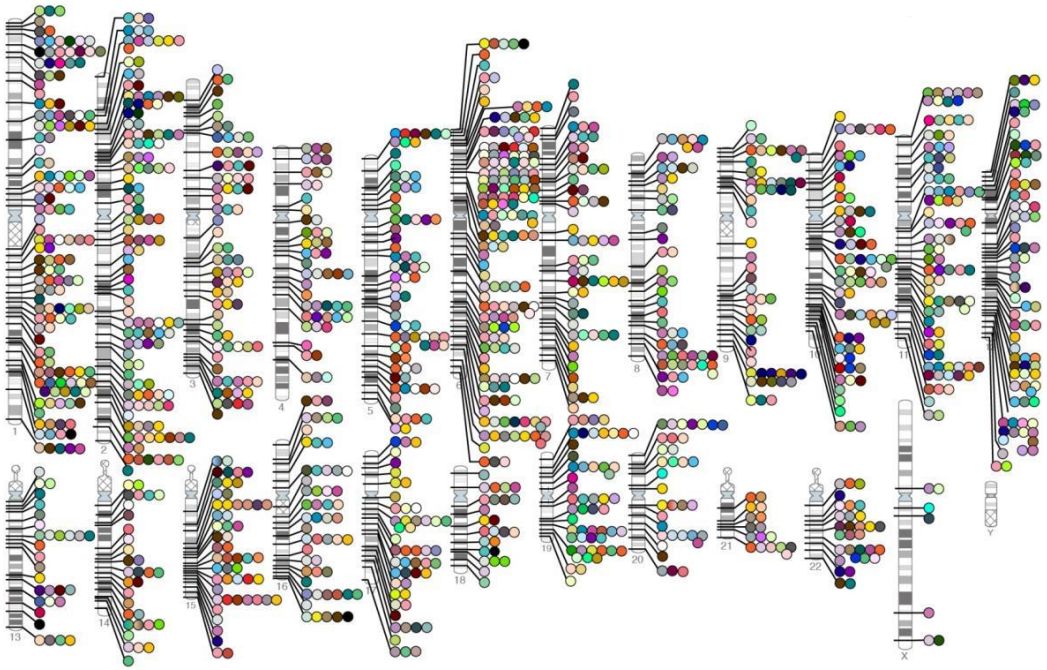
Manolio, Brooks, Collins, J. Clin. Invest., May 2008

Published Genome-Wide Associations

By the time of the completion of the human genome sequence, in **2005**, just a **few** genetic variants were known to be significantly associated to diseases.

When the first exhaustive catalogue of GWAS was compiled, in 2008, only three years later, more than **500** single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were associated to traits.

Today, the catalog has collected more than 1,900 papers reporting **14,012** SNPs significantly associated to more than **1,500** traits.



NHGRI GWA Catalog
www.genome.gov/GWAStudies

Lessons learned from GWAS

- **Many loci/variants** contribute to complex-trait variation
- There is evidence for **pleiotropy**, i.e., that the same **loci/variants** are associated with multiple traits.
- Much of the **heritability** of the trait **cannot be explained** by the **individual** loci/variants found associated to the trait.

Visscher et al, 2013 AJHG

Where did the heritability go?

The missing heritability problem: individual genes cannot explain the heritability of traits

NEWS FEATURE PERSONAL GENOMES

The case of the missing heritability

When scientists opened up the human genome, they expected to find the genetic components of common traits and diseases. But they were nowhere to be seen. **Brendan Maher** shines a light on six places where the missing loot could be stashed away.

Vol 461|8 October 2009|doi:10.1038/nature08494 nature

REVIEWS

Finding the missing heritability of complex diseases

Teri A. Manolio[1], Francis S. Collins[2], Nancy J. Cox[3], David B. Goldstein[4], Lucia A. Hindorff[5], David J. Hunter[6], Mark I. McCarthy[7], Erin M. Ramos[5], Lon R. Cardon[8], Aravinda Chakravarti[9], Judy H. Cho[10], Alan E. Guttmacher[1], Augustine Kong[11], Leonid Kruglyak[12], Elaine Mardis[13], Charles N. Rotimi[14], Montgomery Slatkin[15], David Valle[9], Alice S. Whittemore[16], Michael Boehnke[17], Andrew G. Clark[18], Evan E. Eichler[19], Greg Gibson[20], Jonathan L. Haines[21], Trudy F. C. Mackay[22], Steven A. McCarroll[23] & Peter M. Visscher[24]

Genome-wide association studies have identified hundreds of genetic variants associated with complex human diseases and traits, and have provided valuable insights into their genetic architecture. Most variants identified so far confer relatively small increments in risk, and explain only a small proportion of familial clustering, leading many to question how the remaining, 'missing' heritability can be explained. Here we examine potential sources of missing heritability and propose research strategies, including and extending beyond current genome-wide association approaches, to illuminate the genetics of complex diseases and enhance its potential to enable effective disease prevention or treatment.

How to explain this problem?

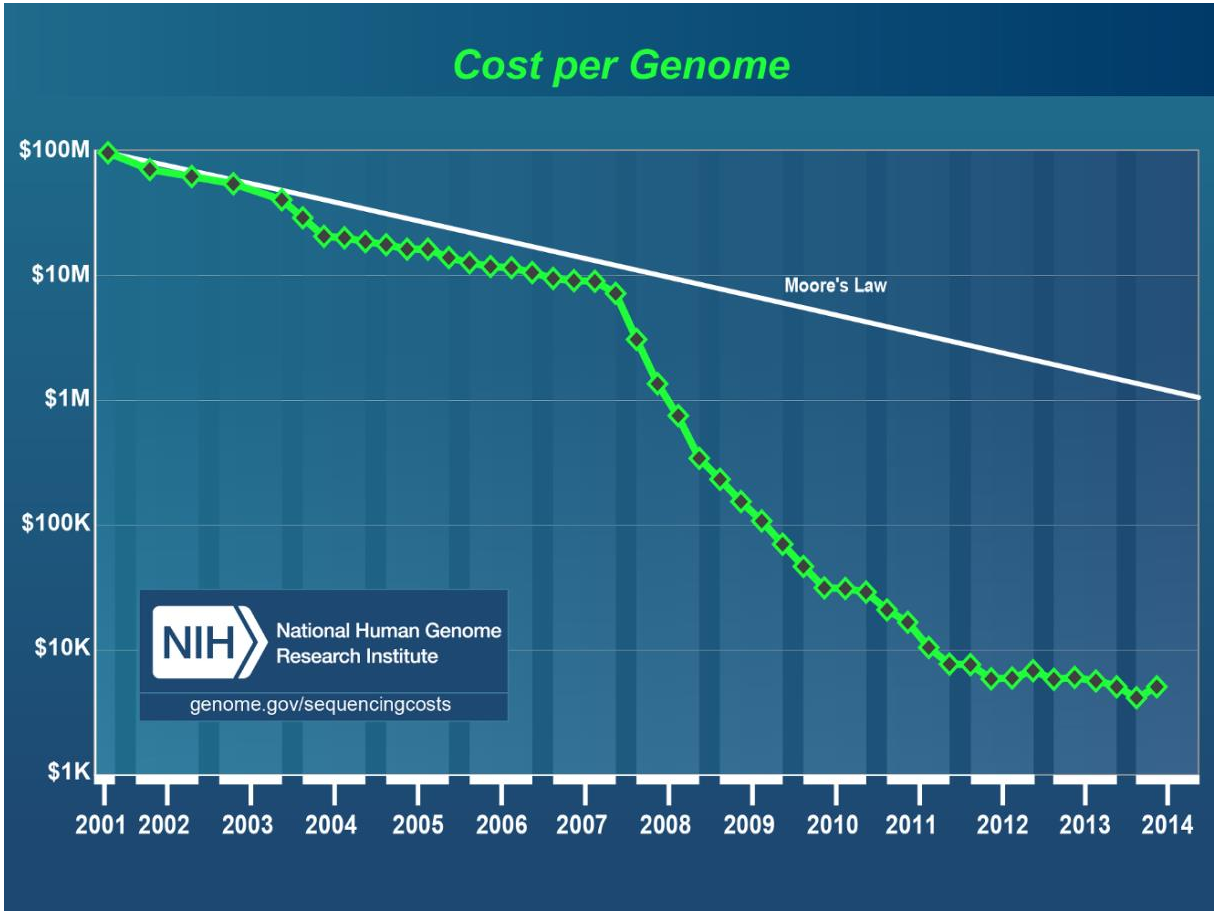
Rare Variants, rare CNVs, epigenetics or.. epistatic effects?

Table 1 | Estimates of heritability and number of loci for several complex traits

Disease	Number of loci	Proportion of heritability explained
Age-related macular degeneration[72]	5	50%
Crohn's disease[21]	32	20%
Systemic lupus erythematosus[73]	6	15%
Type 2 diabetes[74]	18	6%
HDL cholesterol[75]	7	5.2%
Height[15]	40	5%
Early onset myocardial infarction[76]	9	2.8%
Fasting glucose[77]	4	1.5%

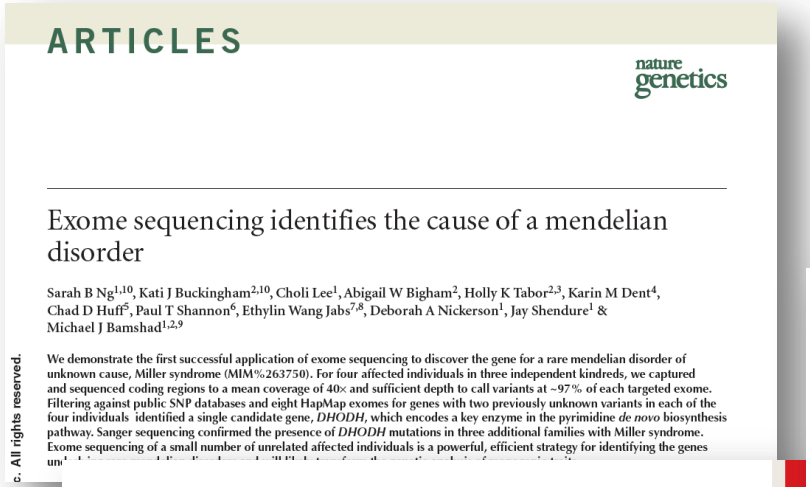
* Residual is after adjustment for age, gender, diabetes.

If rare variants eluded detection because were under represented among the SNPs, genomic sequencing would reveal them.



http://www.genome.gov/sequencingcosts/

Exome sequencing has been systematically used to identify Mendelian disease genes



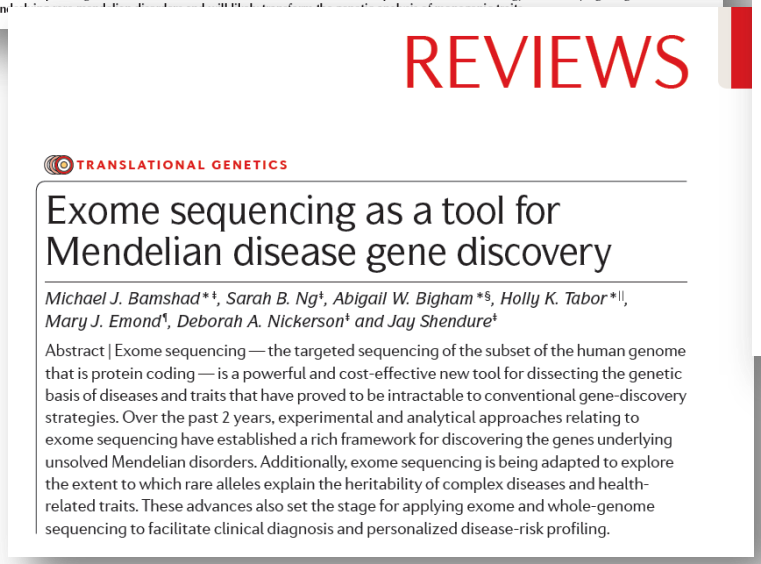
ARTICLES

nature genetics

Exome sequencing identifies the cause of a mendelian disorder

Sarah B Ng[1,10], Kati J Buckingham[2,10], Choli Lee[1], Abigail W Bigham[2], Holly K Tabor[2,3], Karin M Dent[4], Chad D Huff[5], Paul T Shannon[6], Ethylin Wang Jabs[7,8], Deborah A Nickerson[1], Jay Shendure[1] & Michael J Bamshad[1,2,9]

We demonstrate the first successful application of exome sequencing to discover the gene for a rare mendelian disorder of unknown cause, Miller syndrome (MIM%263750). For four affected individuals in three independent kindreds, we captured and sequenced coding regions to a mean coverage of 40× and sufficient depth to call variants at ~97% of each targeted exome. Filtering against public SNP databases and eight HapMap exomes for genes with two previously unknown variants in each of the four individuals identified a single candidate gene, *DHODH*, which encodes a key enzyme in the pyrimidine *de novo* biosynthesis pathway. Sanger sequencing confirmed the presence of *DHODH* mutations in three additional families with Miller syndrome. Exome sequencing of a small number of unrelated affected individuals is a powerful, efficient strategy for identifying the genes



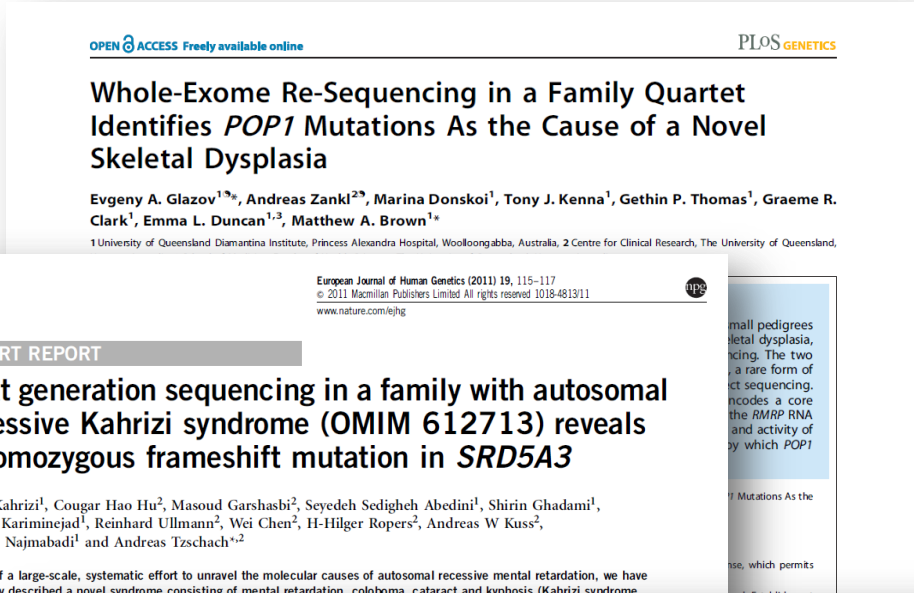
REVIEWS

TRANSLATIONAL GENETICS

Exome sequencing as a tool for Mendelian disease gene discovery

Michael J. Bamshad†‡, Sarah B. Ng‡, Abigail W. Bigham*§, Holly K. Tabor*||, Mary J. Emond¶, Deborah A. Nickerson‡ and Jay Shendure‡*

Abstract | Exome sequencing — the targeted sequencing of the subset of the human genome that is protein coding — is a powerful and cost-effective new tool for dissecting the genetic basis of diseases and traits that have proved to be intractable to conventional gene-discovery strategies. Over the past 2 years, experimental and analytical approaches relating to exome sequencing have established a rich framework for discovering the genes underlying unsolved Mendelian disorders. Additionally, exome sequencing is being adapted to explore the extent to which rare alleles explain the heritability of complex diseases and health-related traits. These advances also set the stage for applying exome and whole-genome sequencing to facilitate clinical diagnosis and personalized disease-risk profiling.



OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLoS GENETICS

Whole-Exome Re-Sequencing in a Family Quartet Identifies *POP1* Mutations As the Cause of a Novel Skeletal Dysplasia

Evgeny A. Glazov[1☯]*, Andreas Zankl[2☯], Marina Donskoi[1], Tony J. Kenna[1], Gethin P. Thomas[1], Graeme R. Clark[1], Emma L. Duncan[1,3], Matthew A. Brown[1]*

1 University of Queensland Diamantina Institute, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Woolloongabba, Australia, 2 Centre for Clinical Research, The University of Queensland,

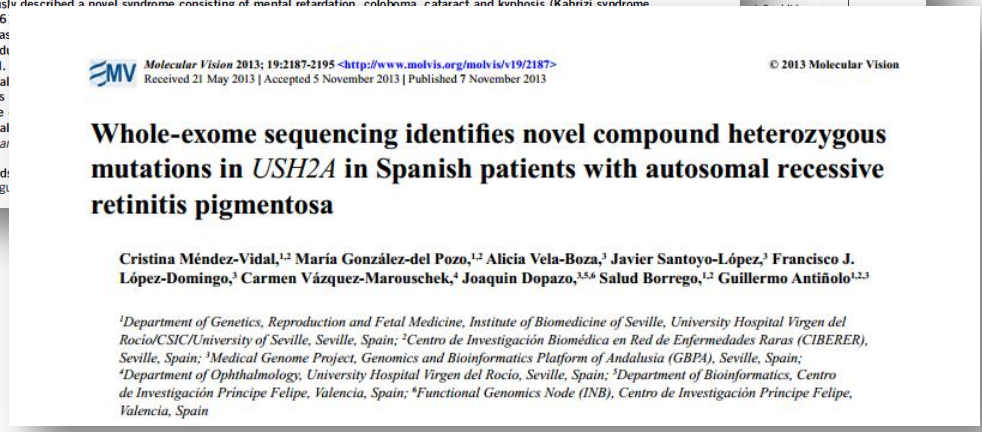
European Journal of Human Genetics (2011) 19, 115–117

www.nature.com/ejhg

SHORT REPORT

Next generation sequencing in a family with autosomal recessive Kahrizi syndrome (OMIM 612713) reveals a homozygous frameshift mutation in *SRD5A3*

Kimia Kahrizi[1], Cougar Hao Hu[2], Masoud Garshasbi[2], Seyedeh Sedigheh Abedini[1], Shirin Ghadami[1], Roxana Kariminejad[1], Reinhard Ullmann[2], Wei Chen[2], H-Hilger Ropers[2], Andreas W Kuss[2], Hossein Najmabadi[1] and Andreas Tzschach*[,2]



Molecular Vision 2013; 19:2187-2195 <http://www.molvis.org/molvis/v19/2187>

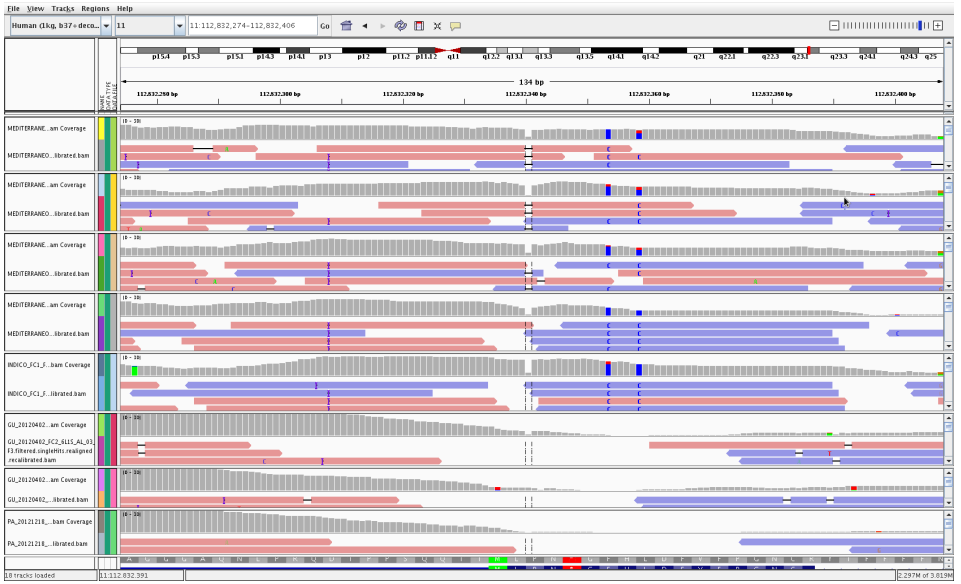
Received 21 May 2013 | Accepted 5 November 2013 | Published 7 November 2013

Whole-exome sequencing identifies novel compound heterozygous mutations in *USH2A* in Spanish patients with autosomal recessive retinitis pigmentosa

Cristina Méndez-Vidal,[1,2] María González-del Pozo,[1,2] Alicia Vela-Boza,[3] Javier Santoyo-López,[3] Francisco J. López-Domingo,[3] Carmen Vázquez-Marouschek,[4] Joaquin Dopazo,[3,5,6] Salud Borrego,[1,2] Guillermo Antiñolo[1,2,3]

[1]*Department of Genetics, Reproduction and Fetal Medicine, Institute of Biomedicine of Seville, University Hospital Virgen del Rocío/CSIC/University of Seville, Seville, Spain;* [2]*Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Enfermedades Raras (CIBERER), Seville, Spain;* [3]*Medical Genome Project, Genomics and Bioinformatics Platform of Andalusia (GBPA), Seville, Spain;* [4]*Department of Ophthalmology, University Hospital Virgen del Rocío, Seville, Spain;* [5]*Department of Bioinformatics, Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe, Valencia, Spain;* [6]*Functional Genomics Node (INB), Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe, Valencia, Spain*

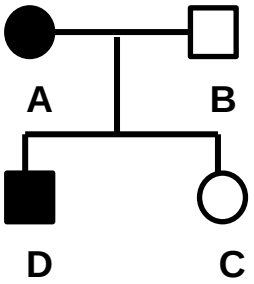
The principle: comparison of patients to reference controls or segregation within families

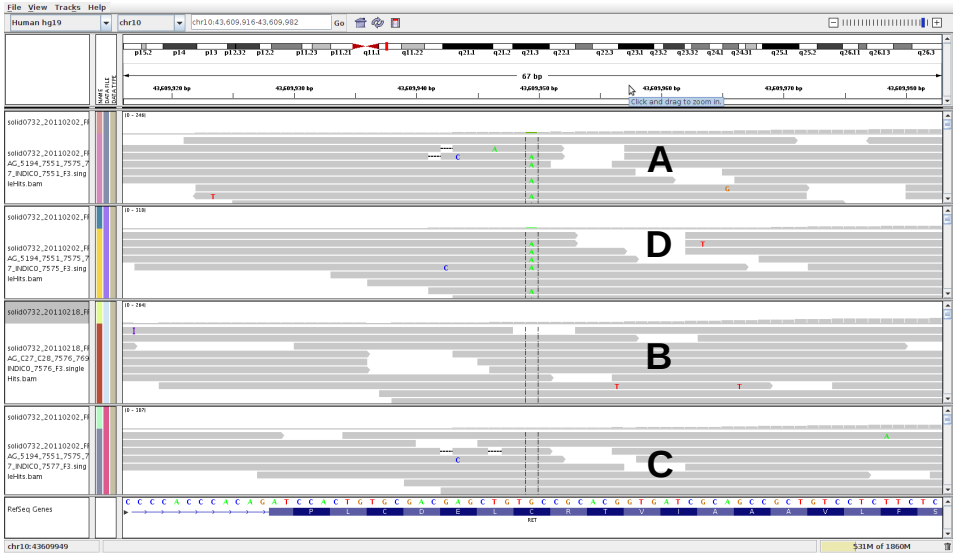


Cases

Controls

Segregation within a pedigree





Variant/gene prioritization by heuristic filtering

Variant level

Potential impact of the variant

Population frequencies

Experimental design level

Family(es)
Trios
Case / control

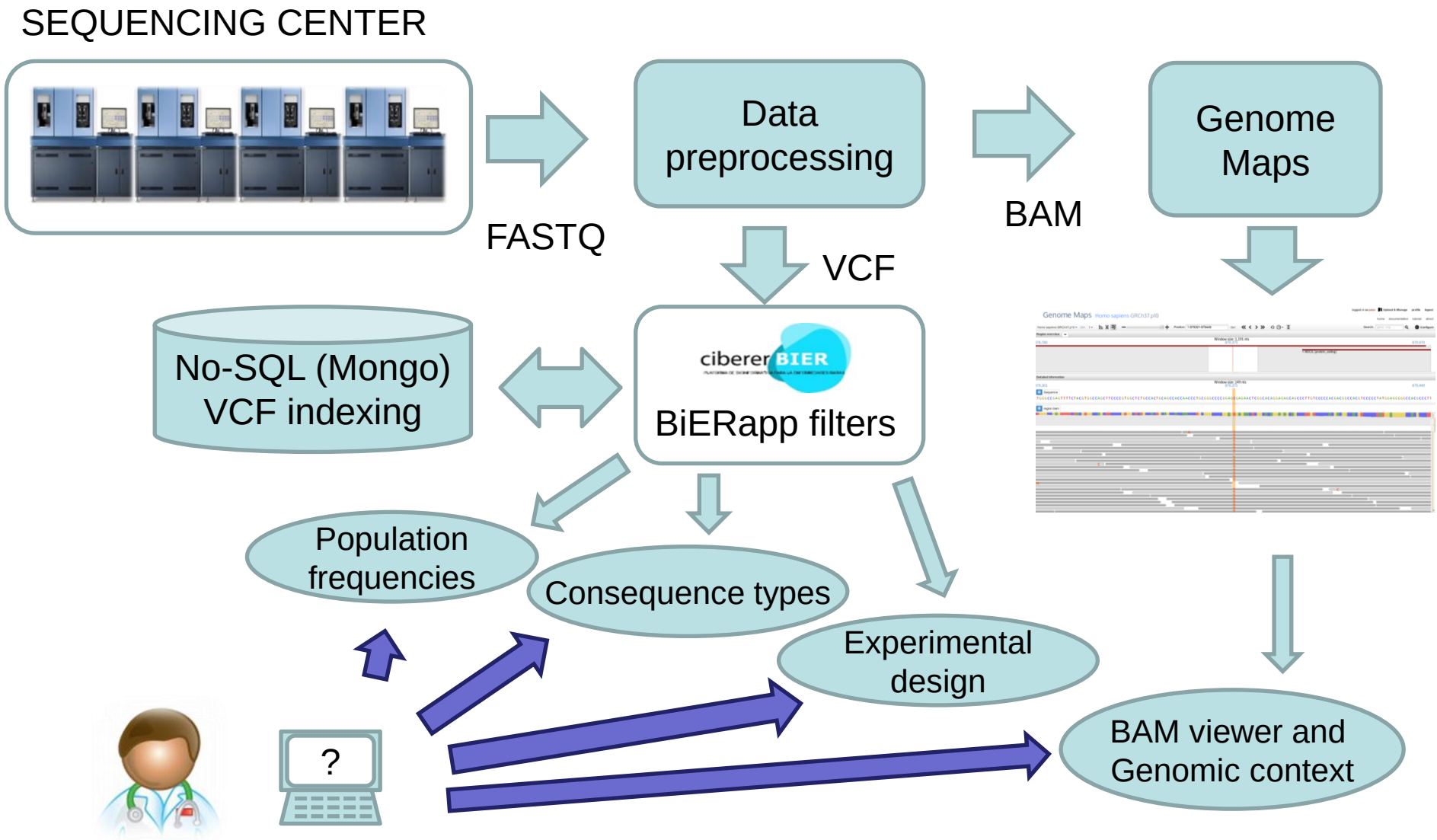
Functional (system) level

Gene set
Network analysis
Pathway analysis

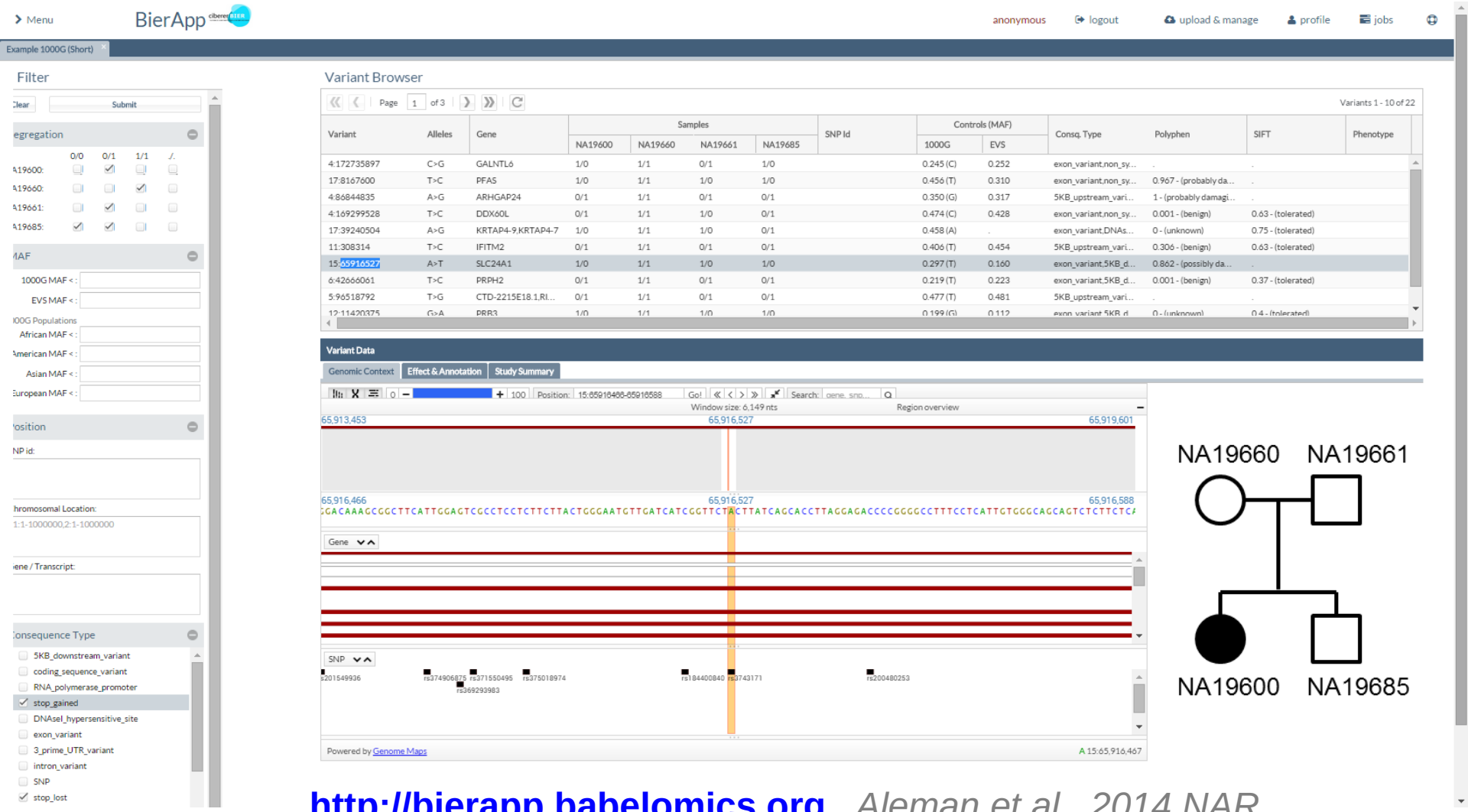
Control of sequencing errors (missing values)

Testing strategies

BiERapp: interactive web-based tool for easy candidate prioritization by heuristic filtering

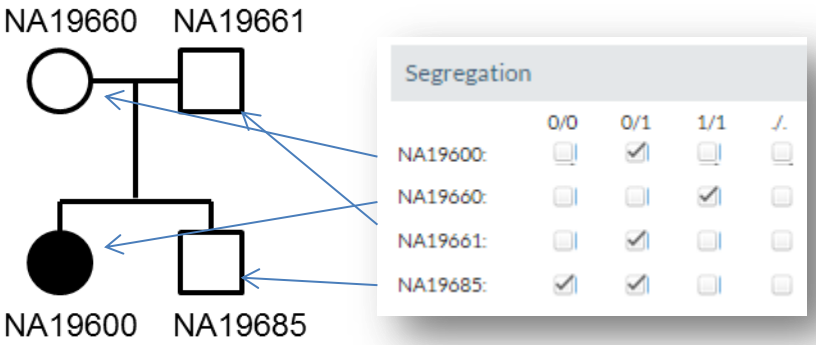


BiERapp: interactive heuristic filtering tool for candidate gene prioritization

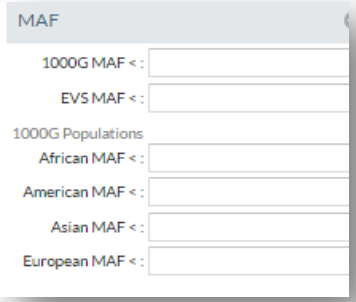


http://bierapp.babelomics.org *Aleman et al., 2014 NAR*

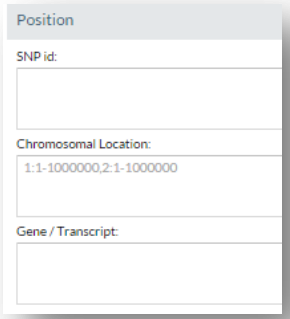
BiERapp interactive filters



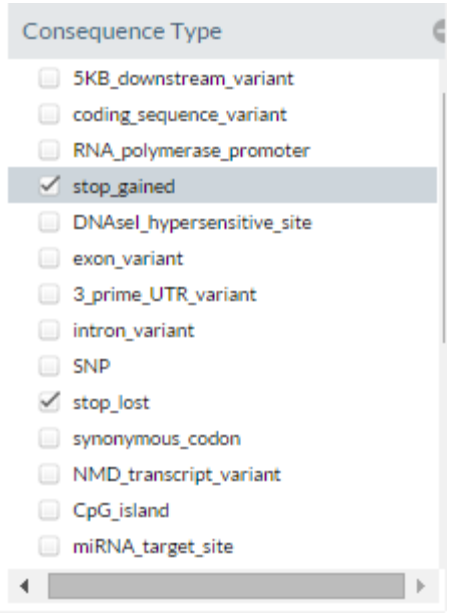
Any pedigree with any inheritance model can easily be defined



Different population frequencies can be used (including local population)



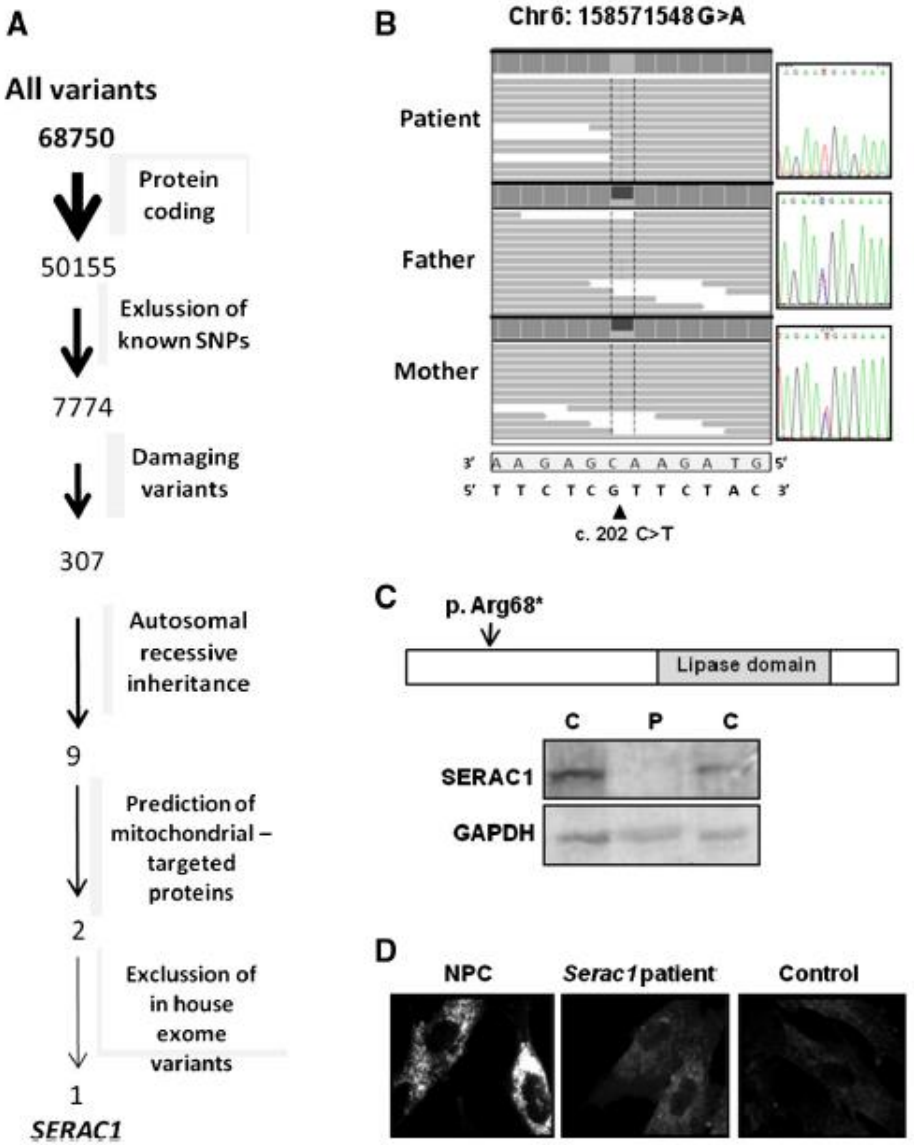
Regions, genes or known SNPs can be selected



Different consequence types can be selected.
Also SIFT, PolyPhen and PhastCons can be used

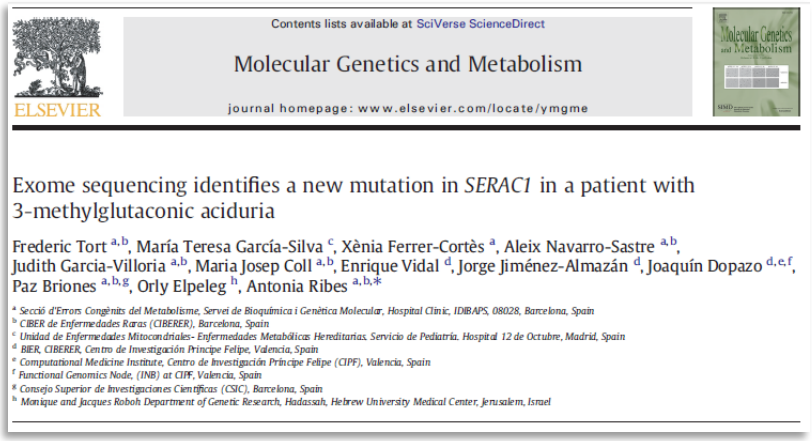
Heuristic Filtering approach

An example with 3-Methylglutaconic aciduria syndrome



3-Methylglutaconic aciduria (3-MGA-uria) is a heterogeneous group of syndromes characterized by an increased excretion of 3-methylglutaconic and 3-methylglutaric acids.

WES with a consecutive filter approach is enough to detect the new mutation in this case.


Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect
Molecular Genetics and Metabolism
journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ymgme
ELSEVIER

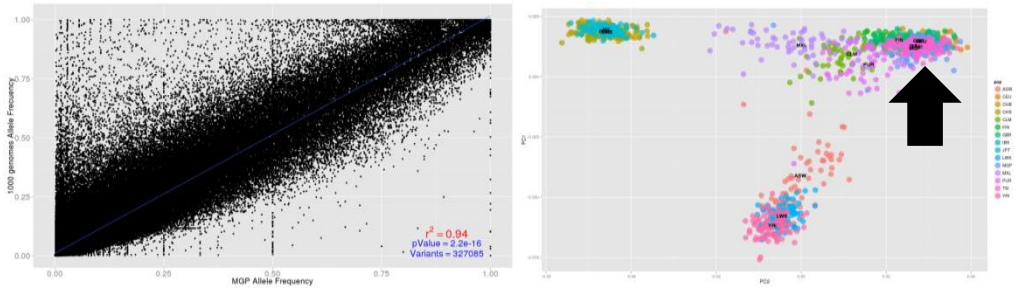
Exome sequencing identifies a new mutation in *SERAC1* in a patient with 3-methylglutaconic aciduria

Frederic Tort [a,b], María Teresa García-Silva [c], Xènia Ferrer-Cortès [a], Aleix Navarro-Sastre [a,b], Judith Garcia-Villoria [a,b], Maria Josep Coll [a,b], Enrique Vidal [d], Jorge Jiménez-Almazán [d], Joaquín Dopazo [d,e,f], Paz Briones [a,b,g], Orly Elpeleg [h], Antonia Ribes [a,b,*]

[a] Secció d'Errors Congènits del Metabolisme, Servei de Bioquímica i Genètica Molecular, Hospital Clínic, IDIBAPS, 08028, Barcelona, Spain
[b] CIBER de Enfermedades Raras (CIBERER), Barcelona, Spain
[c] Unidad de Enfermedades Mitocondriales- Enfermedades Metabólicas Hereditarias. Servicio de Pediatría, Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain
[d] BIER, CIBERER, Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe, Valencia, Spain
[e] Computational Medicine Institute, Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe (CIPF), Valencia, Spain
[f] Functional Genomics Node, (INB) at CIPF, Valencia, Spain
[g] Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Barcelona, Spain
[h] Monique and Jacques Roboh Department of Genetic Research, Hadassah, Hebrew University Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel

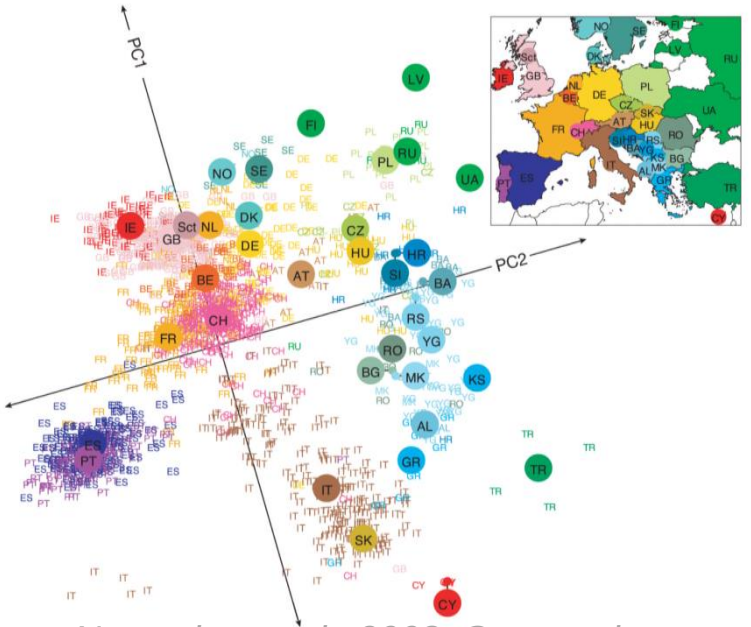
Use known variants and their population frequencies to filter out false candidates

- Typically dbSNP, 1000 genomes and the 6515 exomes from the ESP are used as sources of population frequencies.
- We sequenced **300 healthy controls** (rigorously phenotyped) to add and extra filtering step to the analysis pipeline



Comparison of MGP controls to 1000g

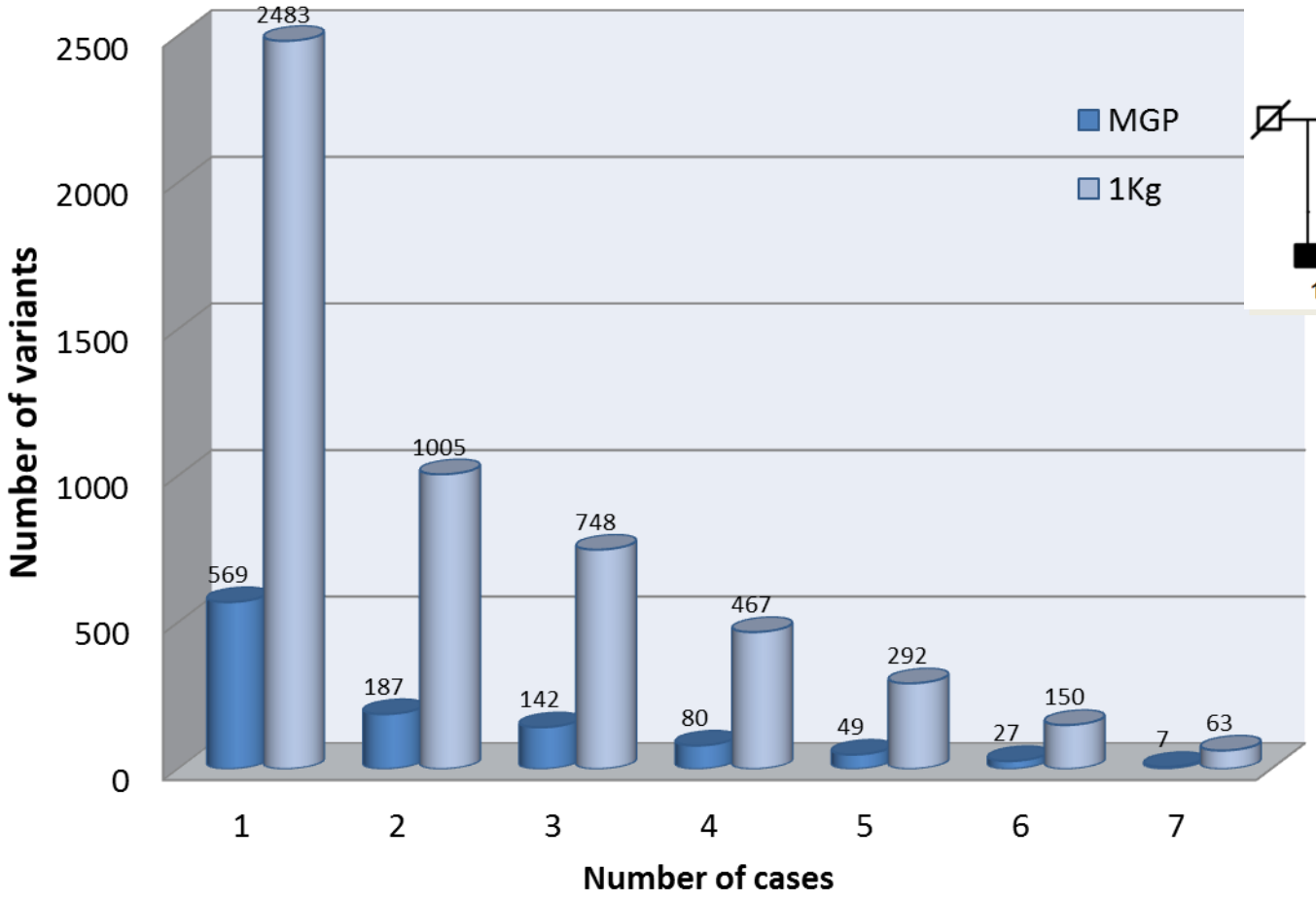
How important do you think is local information to detect disease genes?

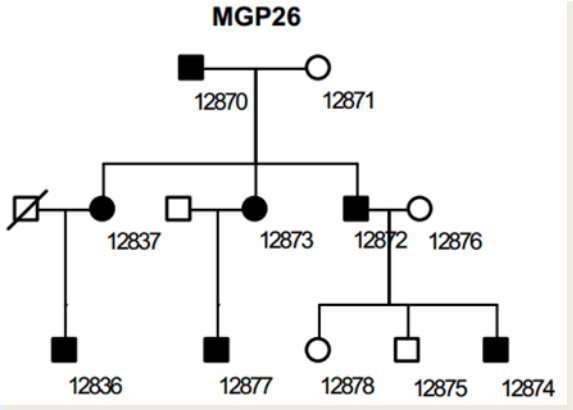


Novembre et al., 2008. Genes mirror geography within Europe. Nature

Filtering with or without local variants

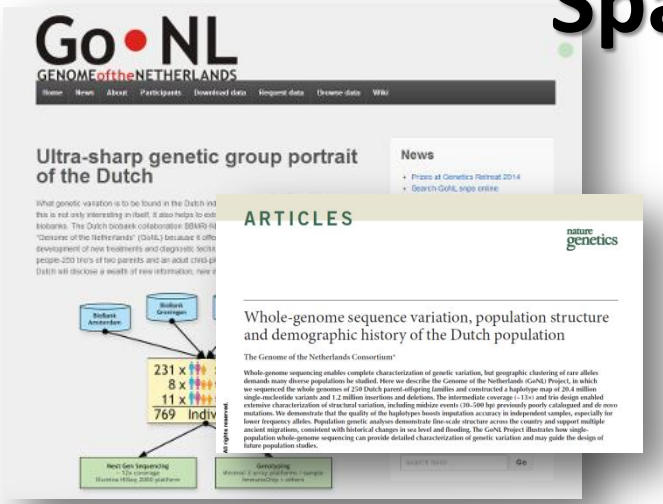
Number of genes as a function of individuals in the study of a dominant disease
Retinitis Pigmentosa autosomal dominant

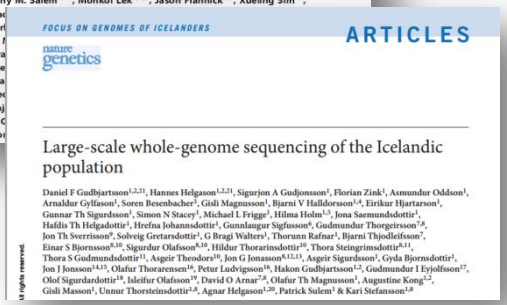


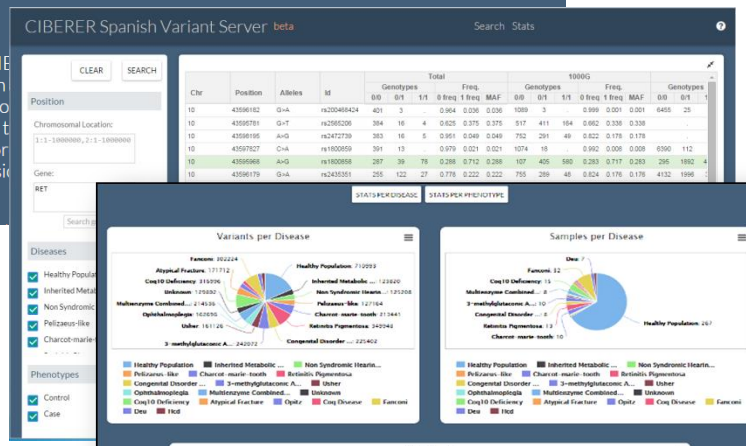


The use of local variants makes an enormous difference

The CIBERER Spanish Variant Server (CSVS): the first repository of variability of the Spanish population





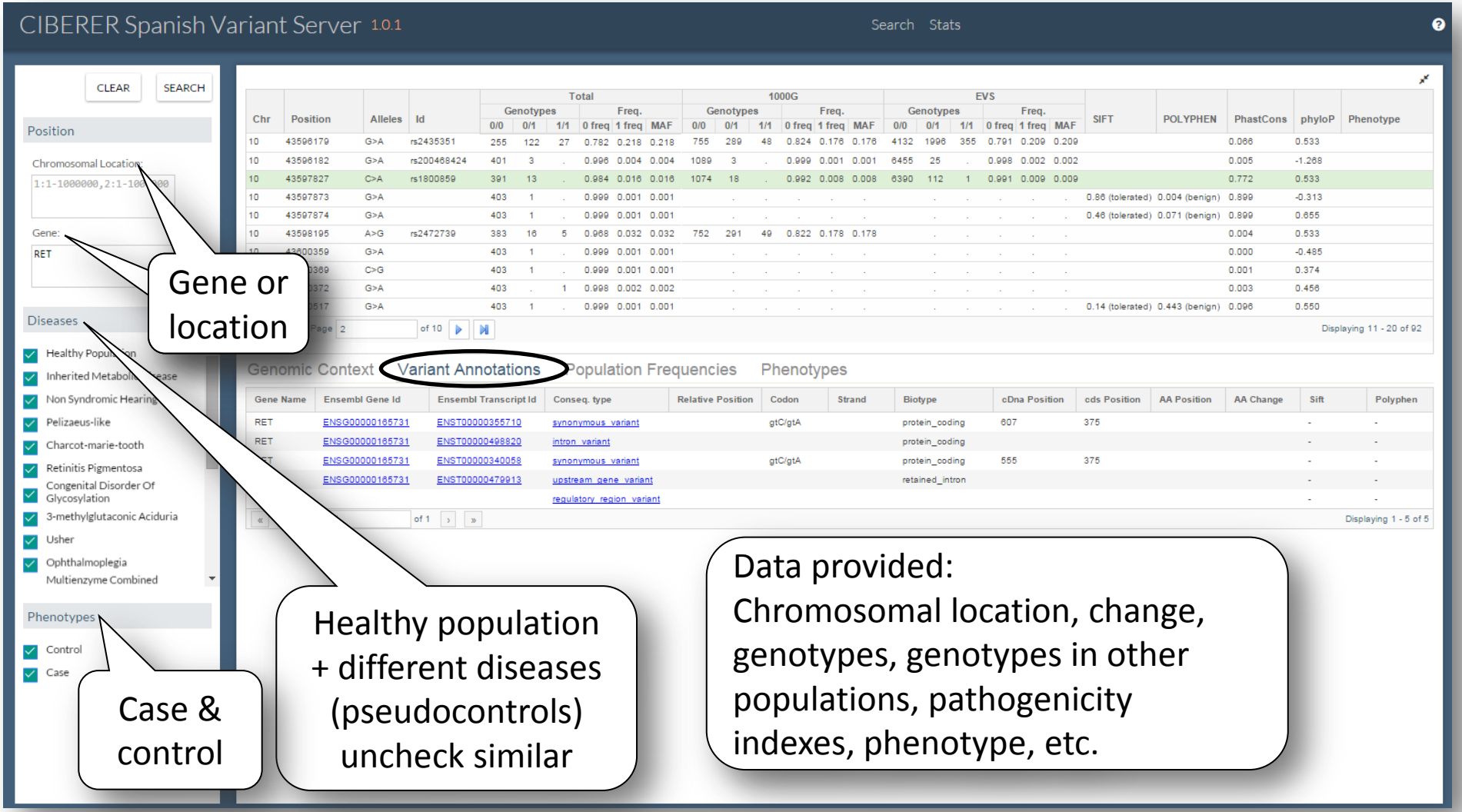


Only another similar initiative exists, the Dutch genome, and more recently Finnish and Icelander populations have also been sequenced

http://ciberer.es/bier/exome-server/

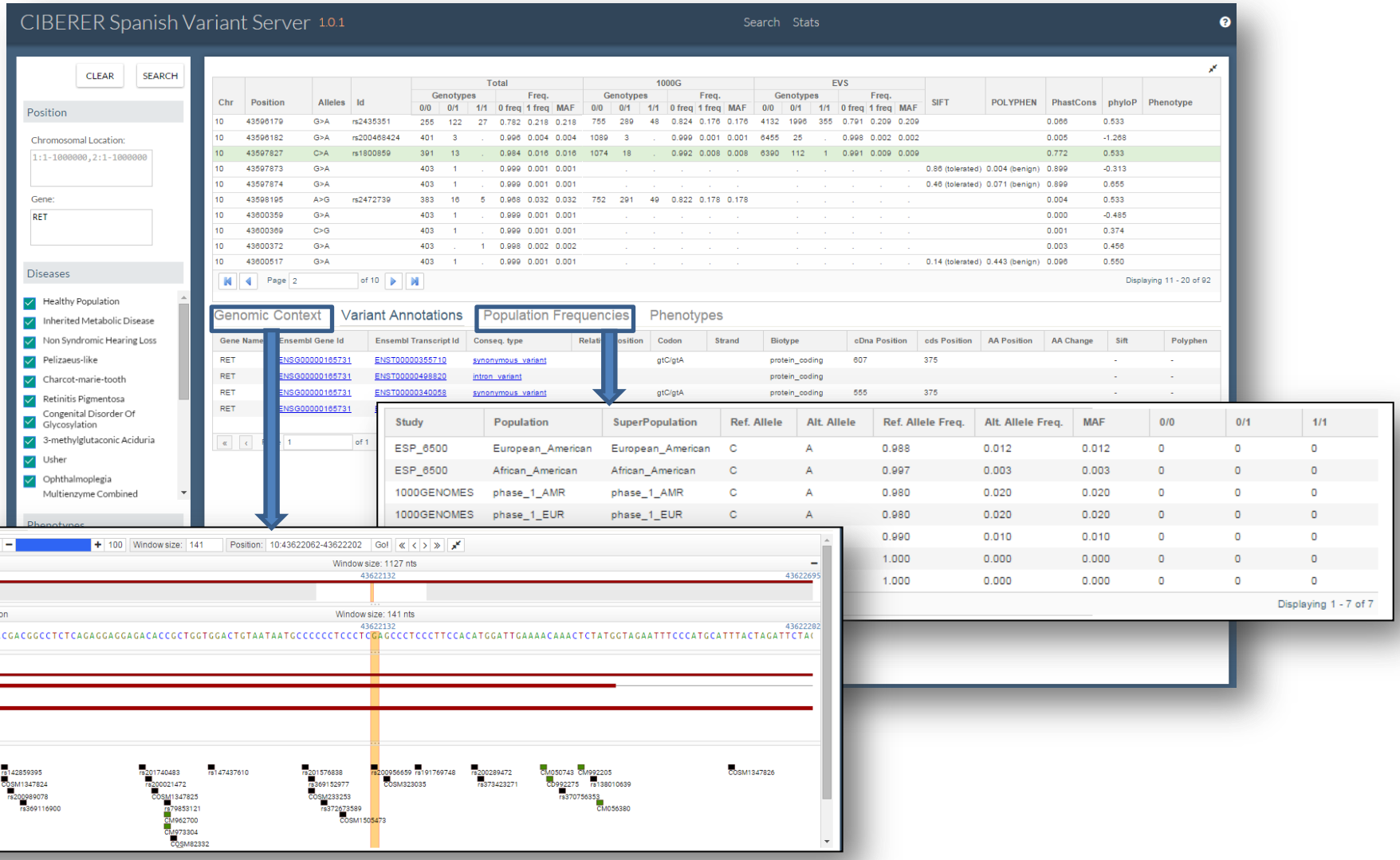
The CSVS can be accessed via web

http://ciberer.es/bier/exome-server/

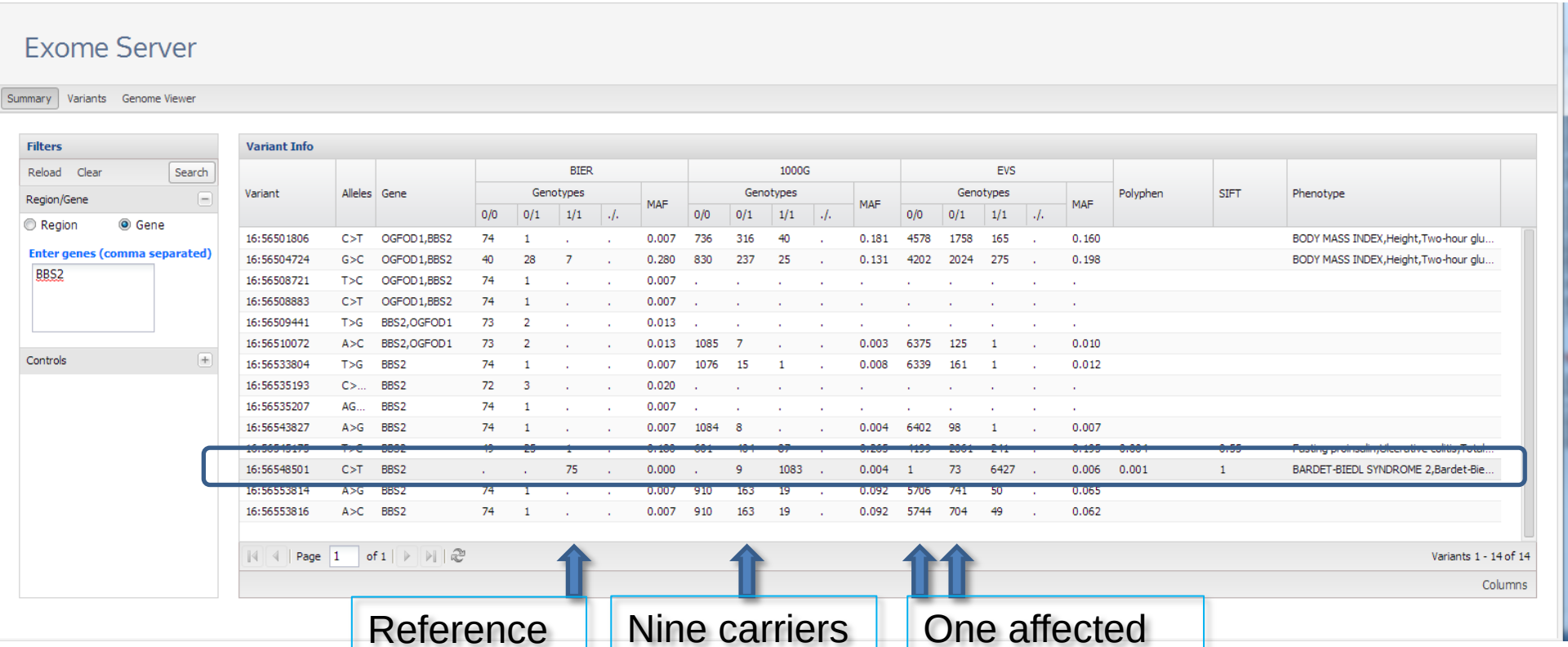


The CSVS can be accessed via web

http://ciberer.es/bier/exome-server/



Occurrence of pathological variants in “normal” population

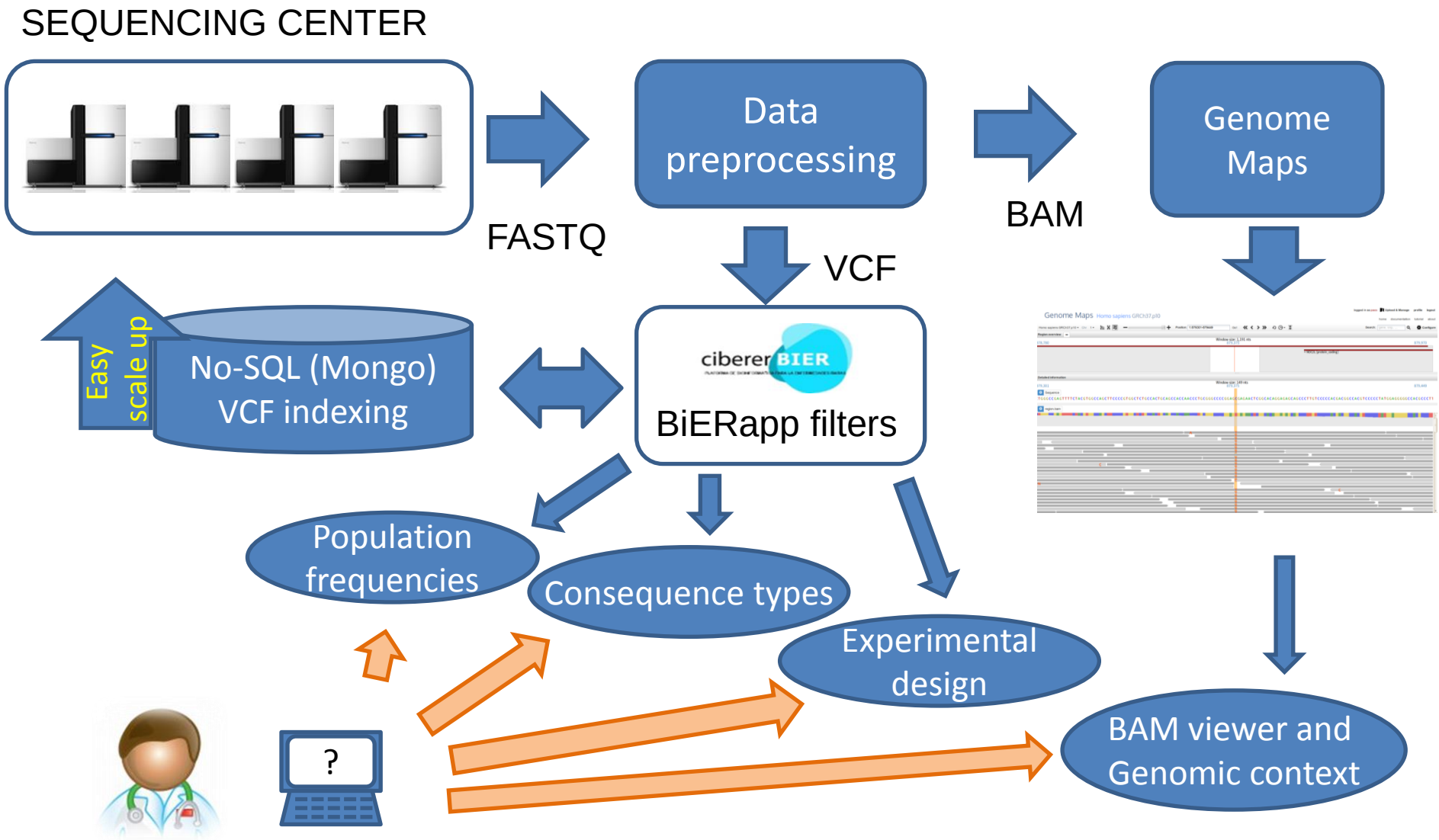


Reference genome is mutated

Nine carriers in 1000 genomes

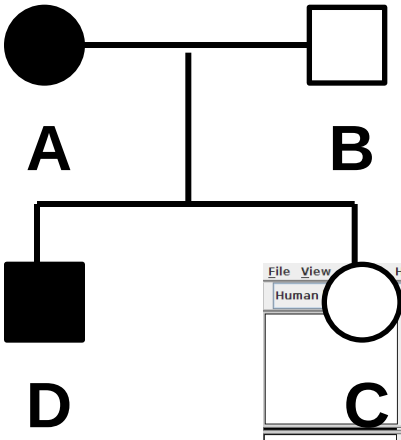
One affected and 73 carriers in EVS

An example of end user's tool
BiERapp: interactive web-based tool for easy candidate prioritization by heuristic filtering



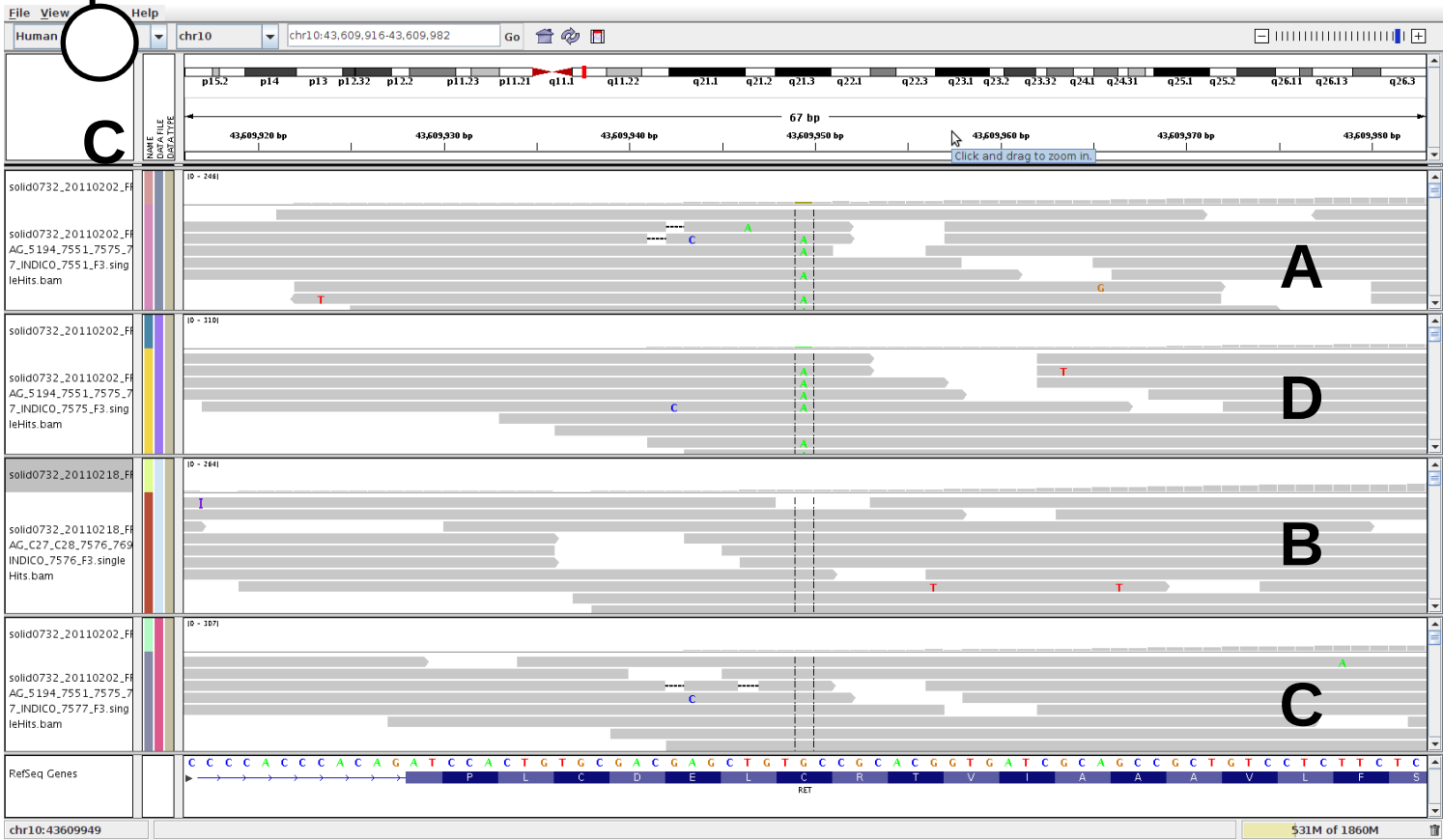
How efficient is exome/genome sequencing?

Low rate of false negatives. An example with MTC



Dominant:
Heterozygotic in A and D
Homozygotic reference allele in B and C
Homozygotic reference allele in controls

The codon 634 mutation



Heuristic filtering approach. Exome sequencing produces many false positives

Table 1 | **Mean number of coding variants in two populations**

Variant type	Mean number of variants (± sd) in African Americans	Mean number of variants (± sd) in European Americans
Novel variants		
Missense	303 (± 32)	192 (± 21)
Nonsense	5 (± 2)	5 (± 2)
Synonymous	209 (± 26)	109 (± 16)
Splice	2 (± 1)	2 (± 1)
Total	520 (± 53)	307 (± 33)
Non-novel variants		
Missense	10,828 (± 342)	9,319 (± 233)
Nonsense	98 (± 8)	89 (± 6)
Synonymous	12,567 (± 416)	10,536 (± 280)
Splice	36 (± 4)	32 (± 3)
Total	23,529 (± 751)	19,976 (± 505)
Total variants		
Missense	11,131 (± 364)	9,511 (± 244)
Nonsense	103(± 8)	93 (± 6)
Synonymous	12,776 (± 434)	10,645 (± 286)
Splice	38 (± 5)	34 (± 4)
Total	24,049 (± 791)	20,283 (± 523)

The table lists the mean number (± standard deviation (sd)) of novel and non-novel coding single nucleotide variants from 100 sampled African Americans and 100 European Americans. Non-novel variants refer to those found in dbSNP131 or in 200 other control exomes. Capture was performed using the Nimblegen V2 target. The analysis pipeline consisted of: alignment using the Burrows–Wheeler alignment tool; recalibration; realignment around insertion–deletions and merging with the Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK)[91]; and removal of duplicates with PICARD. Variants were called using the following parameters: quality score > 50, allele balance ratio < 0.75; homopolymer run > 3; and quality by depth < 8. Variants were called from a RefSeq37.2 target (35,804,408 bp).

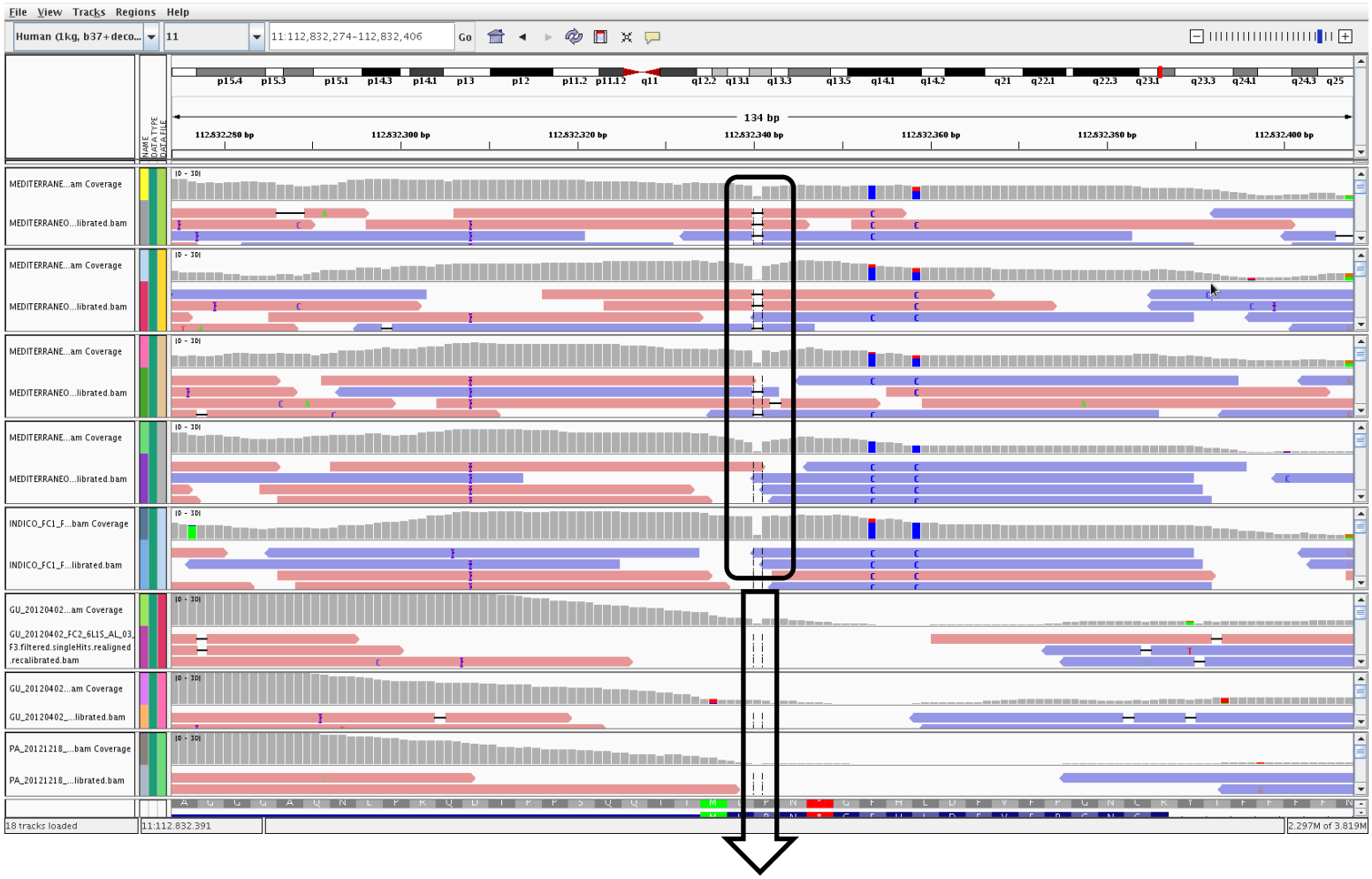
Bamshad et al., 2011, Nat.Rev.Genet.

Average values obtained per exome (>800)

After filtering by:	SNVs
Conventional filter QC, coverage…	60,000
Mapping and haplotype coherence, missing sites…	30,000
Nonsynonymous (nonsense and missense)	5,000
Unknown (not present in controls)	150-300
Segregate with the families	< 100

We can detect the disease mutation(s)… along with many other unrelated variants

Some false positives are errors that can easily be avoided. E.g. missing positions



The promising variant (a frameshift present in all patients but not detected in controls) was nor real. It was not properly covered by reads in controls.

And there are many real variants with potential phenotypic effect

Findings:
20.000 total variants
1000 new variants
300-500 LOF variants (>50 homozygous)
100 known variants associated to disease

A report must contain:
1) **Diagnostic variants**
2) **Therapy-related variants**
3) **Susceptibility variants**
4) **Incidental findings with risk for the patient**

My first exome…

List of variants

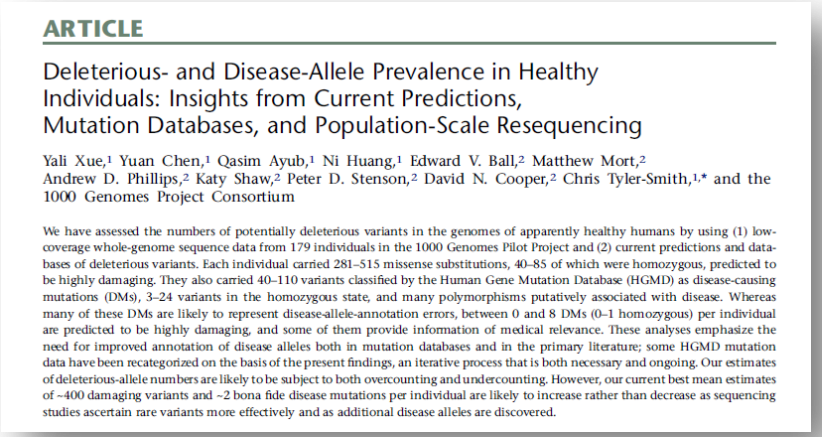
none	1	2116429	C	missense	0	PRKCZ,LOC10
none	1	2116429	C	missense	0	PRKCZ,LOC10
none	1	2116429	C	missense	0	PRKCZ,LOC10
none	1	2116429	C	utr-3	0	PRKCZ,LOC10
none	1	2318893	C	missense	0	MORN1
none	1	2452167	C	missense	0	PANK4
dbSNP_1000Genomes	1	2452569	T	coding-synonymous	2985862	PANK4
none	1	3680294	A	missense	0	CCDC27
none	1	3745852	T	missense	0	KIAA0562
none	1	3746432	G	missense	0	KIAA0562
dbSNP_1000Genomes	1	3755675	T	coding-synonymous	1891941	KIAA0562
none	1	6029181	G	missense	0	NPHP4
none	1	6101899	A	missense	0	KCNAB2
none	1	6101899	A	intron	0	KCNAB2
none	1	6132842	C	coding-synonymous	0	KCNAB2
none	1	6132842	C	coding-synonymous	0	KCNAB2
none	1	6535559	T	missense	0	PLEKHG5
none	1	6535559	T	missense	0	PLEKHG5
none	1	6535559	T	missense	0	PLEKHG5
none	1	6535559	T	missense	0	PLEKHG5
none	1	6535559	T	missense	0	PLEKHG5
none	1	6647590	A	missense	0	ZBTB48
none	1	6694129	T	missense	0	THAP3
none	1	6695719	T	utr-3	0	DNAJC11
none	1	6704720	C	missense	0	DNAJC11
none	1	6711636	C	coding-synonymous	0	DNAJC11
dbSNP_1000Genomes	1	7889941	C	coding-synonymous	2640908	PER3
dbSNP_1000Genomes	1	7890117	T	missense	2640909	PER3
dbSNP_1000Genomes	1	8425900	T	coding-synonymous	3753275	RERE
dbSNP_1000Genomes	1	8425900	T	utr-5	3753275	RERE
dbSNP_1000Genomes	1	8425900	T	coding-synonymous	3753275	RERE
none	1	9086361	C	missense	0	SLC2A7
none	1	9117600	A	missense	0	SLC2A5
none	1	9117600	A	missense	0	SLC2A5
none	1	9129619	C	utr-5	0	SLC2A5
none	1	9129619	C	utr-5	0	SLC2A5
none	1	9770594	C	coding-synonymous	0	PIK3CD
none	1	10042458	A	missense	0	NMNAT1

Known snps phenotypic effect

Hits	Description
8	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
7	Parkinson's disease
6	Rheumatoid Arthritis
5	common polymorphism
4	Multiple complex diseases–Crohn's disease, combined control dataset
3	Alzheimer's Disease
3	LDL cholesterol
3	Skin pigmentation
3	Type 1 diabetes
2	Coronary Artery Disease
2	in allele DQB1*0501 and allele DQB1*0502
2	Multiple complex diseases–Bipolar disorder
2	Multiple complex diseases–Coronary Artery Disease, gender differentiated
2	Multiple complex diseases–Crohn's disease, combined control dataset, gender differentiated
2	Multiple complex diseases–Type I Diabetes, combined control dataset
2	Multiple complex diseases–Type II Diabetes Mellitus, combined control dataset
2	Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), gender differentiated in women
2	Triglycerides
2	Type I Diabetes
1	893Ser–expressing (ABCB1:2677G>T (Ala893Ser)) cells showed 47% lower intracellular digo...
1	A study in 336 recipients of hematopoietic–cell transplants

A high level of deleterious variability exists in the human genome

- Variants predicted to severely affect the function of human protein coding genes known as loss-of-function (LOF) variants were thought:
  - To have a potential deleterious effect
  - To be associated to severe Mendelian disease



ARTICLE

Deleterious- and Disease-Allele Prevalence in Healthy Individuals: Insights from Current Predictions, Mutation Databases, and Population-Scale Resequencing

Yali Xue,[1] Yuan Chen,[1] Qasim Ayub,[1] Ni Huang,[1] Edward V. Ball,[2] Matthew Mort,[2] Andrew D. Phillips,[2] Katy Shaw,[2] Peter D. Stenson,[2] David N. Cooper,[2] Chris Tyler-Smith,[1,*] and the 1000 Genomes Project Consortium

We have assessed the numbers of potentially deleterious variants in the genomes of apparently healthy humans by using (1) low-coverage whole-genome sequence data from 179 individuals in the 1000 Genomes Pilot Project and (2) current predictions and databases of deleterious variants. Each individual carried 281–515 missense substitutions, 40–85 of which were homozygous, predicted to be highly damaging. They also carried 40–110 variants classified by the Human Gene Mutation Database (HGMD) as disease-causing mutations (DMs), 3–24 variants in the homozygous state, and many polymorphisms putatively associated with disease. Whereas many of these DMs are likely to represent disease-allele-annotation errors, between 0 and 8 DMs (0–1 homozygous) per individual are predicted to be highly damaging, and some of them provide information of medical relevance. These analyses emphasize the need for improved annotation of disease alleles both in mutation databases and in the primary literature; some HGMD mutation data have been recategorized on the basis of the present findings, an iterative process that is both necessary and ongoing. Our estimates of deleterious-allele numbers are likely to be subject to both overcounting and undercounting. However, our current best mean estimates of ~400 damaging variants and ~2 bona fide disease mutations per individual are likely to increase rather than decrease as sequencing studies ascertain rare variants more effectively and as additional disease alleles are discovered.

- However, an unexpectedly large number of LOF variants have been found in the genomes of apparently healthy individuals: 281-515 missense substitutions per individual, 40-85 of them in homozygous state and predicted to be highly damaging.

- A similar proportion was observed in miRNAs and possibly affect to any functional element in the genome

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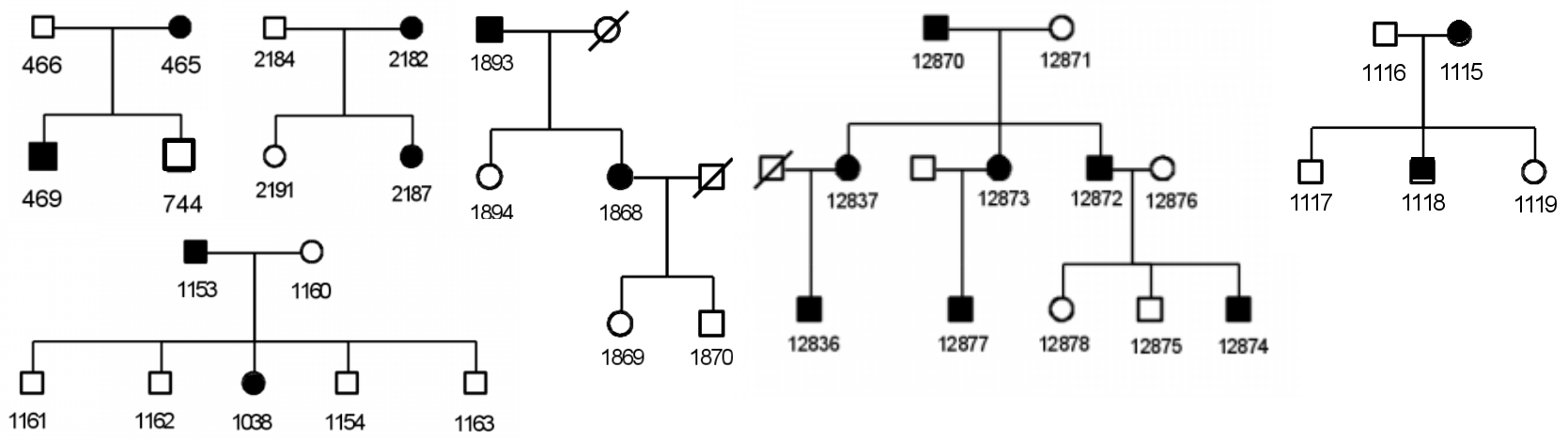
A map of human microRNA variation uncovers unexpectedly high levels of variability

Jose Carbonell, Eva Alloza, Pablo Arce, Salud Borrego, Javier Santoyo, Macarena Ruiz-Ferrer, Ignacio Medina, Jorge Jimenez-Almazan, Cristina Mendez-Vidal, Maria Gonzalez-del Pozo, Alicia Vela, Shomi S Bhattacharya, Guillermo Antinolo and Joaquin Dopazo

Such apparently deleterious mutation must be first detected and then distinguished from real pathological mutations

Moreover, even Mendelian genes can be elusive.

Intuitive belief: multiple family information should help



	Families					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Variants	3403	82	4	0	0	0
Genes	2560	331	35	8	1	0

Observation: this is not always true, not even in cases of Mendelian diseases

Is the single-gene approach realistic? Can we easily detect disease-related variants?

There are several problems:

a) Interrogating 60Mb sites (3000 Mb in genomes) produces too many variants. A large number of these segregating with our experimental design

b) There is a non-negligible amount of **apparently deleterious** variants that (apparently) has no pathologic effect

c) In many cases we are not targeting rare but **common** variants (which occur in normal population)

d) In many cases only one variant does not explain the disease but rather a **combination** of them (epistasis)

e) Consequently, the few individual variants found associated to the disease usually account for a **small portion** of the trait **heritability**

Is the heritability missing or are we looking at the wrong place?

How to explain missing heritability?
Rare Variants, rare CNVs, epigenetics or.. **epistatic effects**?

Table 1 | Estimates of heritability and number of loci for several complex traits

Disease	Number of loci	Proportion of heritability explained
Age-related macular degeneration[72]	5	50%
Crohn's disease[21]	32	20%
Systemic lupus erythematosus[73]	6	15%
Type 2 diabetes[74]	18	6%
HDL cholesterol[75]	7	5.2%
Height[15]	40	5%
Early onset myocardial infarction[76]	9	3.8%
Fasting glucose[77]	4	1.5%

* Residual is after adjustment for age, gender, diabetes.

nature genetics

Common SNPs explain a large proportion of the heritability for human height

Jian Yang[1], Beben Benyamin[1], Brian P McEvoy[1], Scott Gordon[1], Anjali K Henders[1], Dale R Nyholt[1], Pamela A Madden[2], Andrew C Heath[2], Nicholas G Martin[1], Grant W Montgomery[1], Michael E Goddard[3] & Peter M Visscher[1]

SNPs discovered by genome-wide association studies (GWASs) account for only a small fraction of the genetic variation of complex traits in human populations. Where is the remaining heritability? We estimated the proportion of variance for human height explained by 294,831 SNPs genotyped on 3,925 unrelated individuals using a linear model analysis, and validated the estimation method with simulations based on the observed genotype data. We show that 45% of variance can be explained by considering all SNPs simultaneously. Thus, most of the heritability is not missing but has not previously been detected because the individual effects are too small to pass stringent significance tests. We provide evidence that the remaining heritability is due to incomplete linkage disequilibrium between causal variants and genotyped SNPs, exacerbated by causal variants having lower minor allele frequency than the SNPs explored to date.

GWASs in human populations have discovered hundreds of SNPs

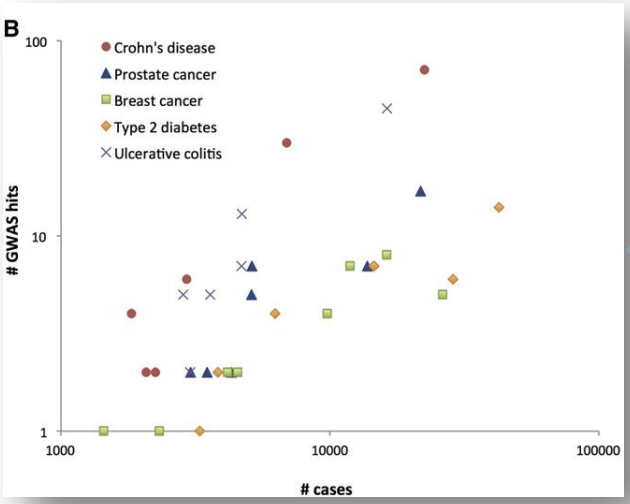
of variation that their effects do not reach stringent significance thresholds and/or the causal variants are not in complete linkage disequilibrium with the SNPs that have been genotyped [and] of complete [illegible], or [illegible] minor allele frequency (MAF) than genotyped SNPs. Here we test these two hypotheses and estimate the contribution of the heritability of [illegible]

Height in humans is a classical quantitative trait, easy to measure and studied for well over a century as a model for investigating the genetic basis [illegible] of height has been estimated to be ~0.8 (refs. 9,11–13). Rare mutations that cause extreme short or tall stature have been found[14,15], but these do not explain much of the variation in the general population. Recent GWASs on tens of thousands of individuals have detected ~50 variants that are associated with height in the population, but these in total account for only ~5% of phenotypic variance[16–19].

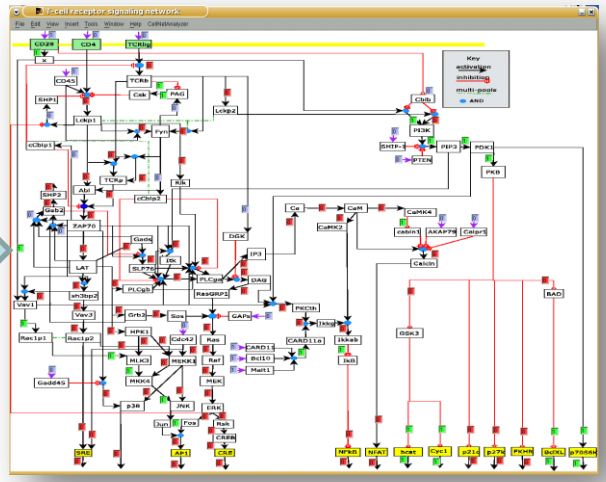
Data from a GWAS that are collected to detect statistical associations between SNPs and complex traits are usually analyzed by testing each

At the end, most of the heritability was there…

At the crossroad: how detection power of genomic technologies can be increased?



There are two (non mutually exclusive) ways



Scaling up: by increasing sample size.
It is known that larger size allows detecting more individual gene (biomarker) associations.
Limitations: Budget, patients availability and the own nature of the disease.

Changing the perspective: systems approach to understand variation
Interactions, multigenicity can be better detected and the role of variants understood in the context of disease mechanism.
Limitations: Available information

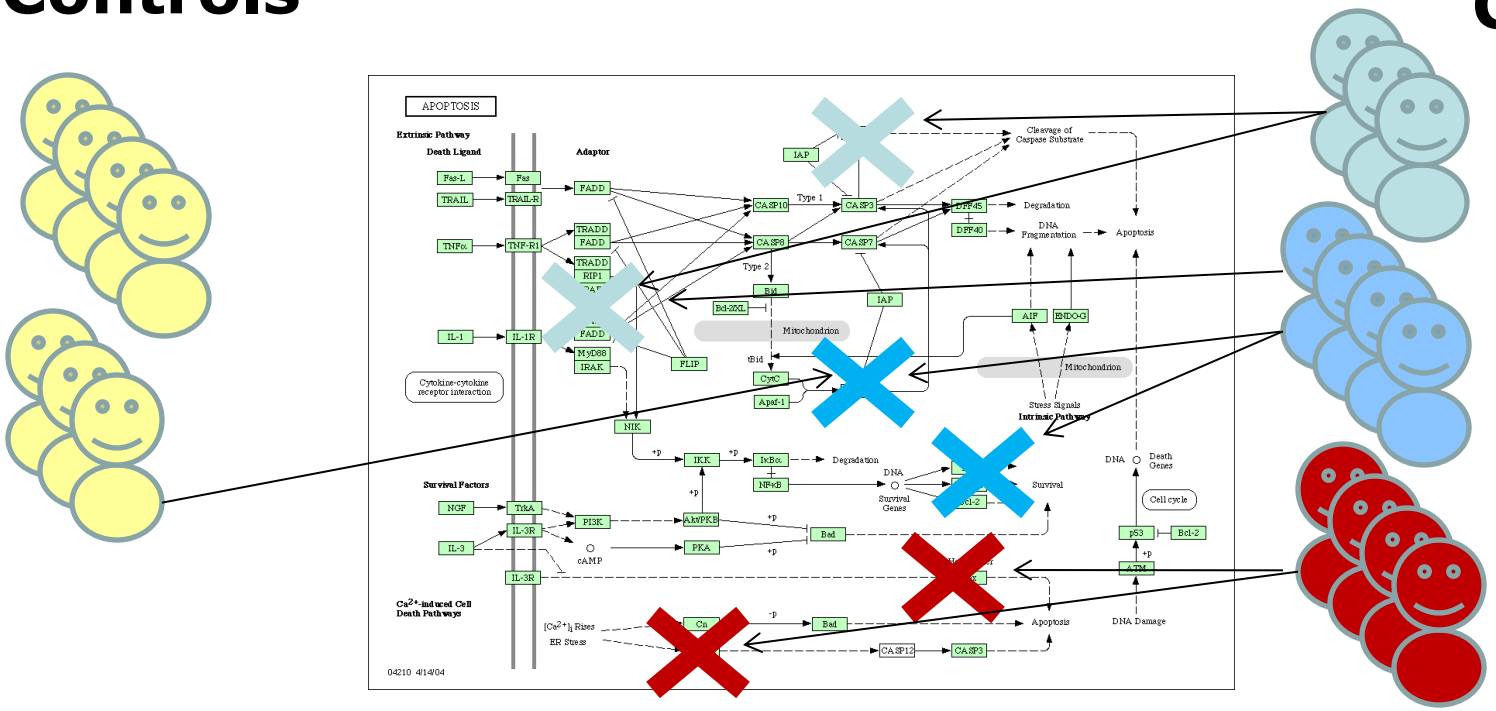
Modular nature of human genetic diseases

- With the development of **systems biology**, studies have shown that phenotypically similar diseases are often caused by **functionally related genes**, being referred to as the **modular nature of human genetic diseases** (Oti and Brunner, 2007; Oti et al, 2008).
- This modularity suggests that **causative genes** for the same or phenotypically similar diseases may generally reside in the same **biological module**, either a **protein complex** (Lage et al, 2007), a **sub-network** of protein interactions (Lim et al, 2006) , or a **pathway** (Wood et al, 2007)

An approach inspired on systems biology can help in detecting causal genes

Controls

Cases



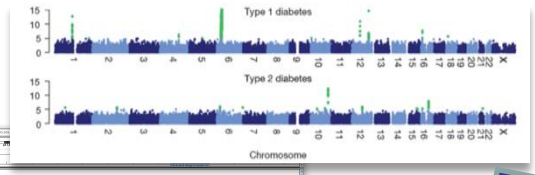
Affected **cases** in complex diseases will be a **heterogeneous** population with different mutations (or combinations).

Many cases and controls are needed to obtain significant associations.

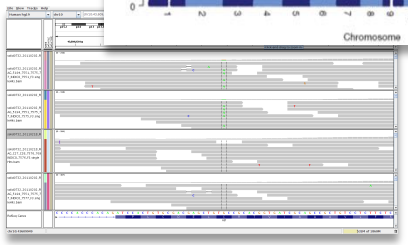
The only **common element** is the (know or unknown) **pathway affected**.

Disease understood as the failure of a functional module

From gene-based to function-based perspective



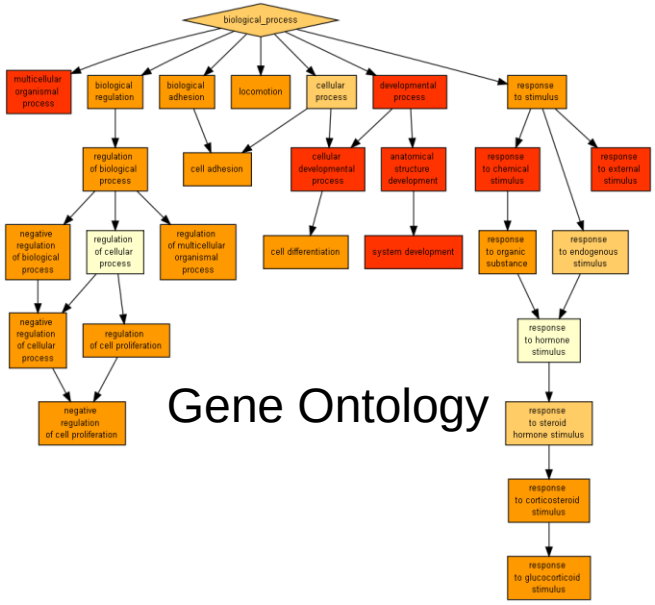
SNPs



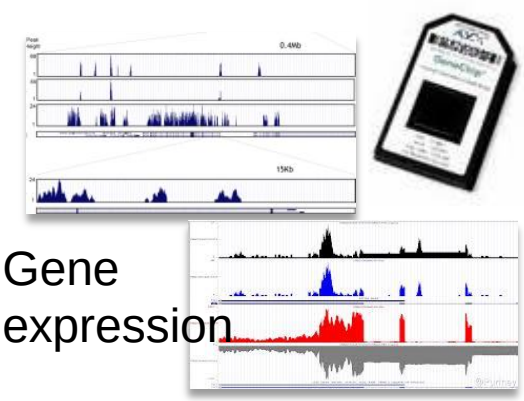
WES/WGS

Gene integrity

AND/OR



Gene Ontology



Gene activity

Gene expression

Gene Ontology are **labels** to genes that describe, by means of a controlled vocabulary (ontology), the **functional role(s)** played by the genes in the cell.
A set of genes **sharing** a **GO** annotation can be considered a **functional module**.

An example of GWAS

GWAS in Breast Cancer.

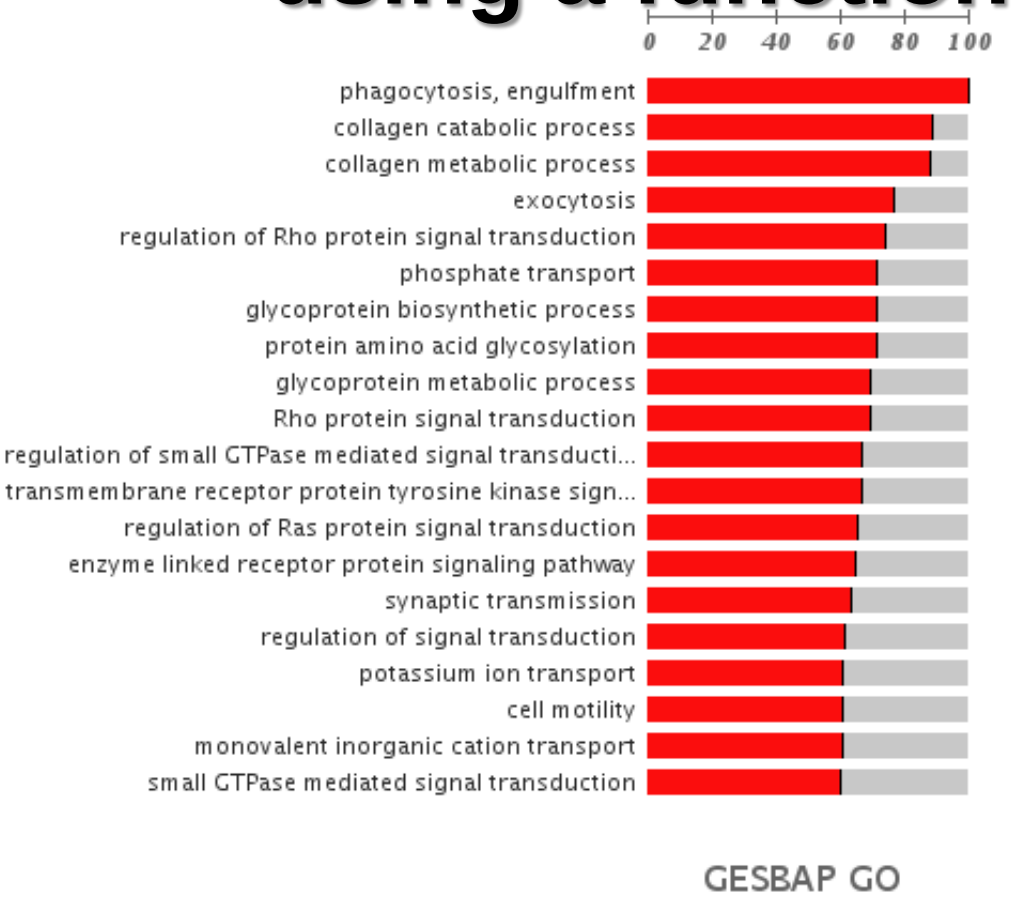
The CGEMS initiative. (Hunter et al. Nat Genet 2007)

1145 cases 1142 controls. Affy 500K

Conventional association test reports only 4 SNPs significantly mapping only on one gene: FGFR2

Conclusions: **conventional SNP-based** or **gene-based tests** are not providing much resolution.

The same GWAS data re-analyzed using a function-based test



Breast Cancer

CGEMS initiative.
(Hunter et al. Nat Genet 2007)

1145 cases 1142 controls. Affy 500K

Only 4 SNPs were significantly associated, mapping only in one gene: FGFR2

PBA reveals 19 GO categories including *regulation of signal transduction* (FDR-adjusted p-value=4.45×10^{-03}) in which FGFR2 is included.

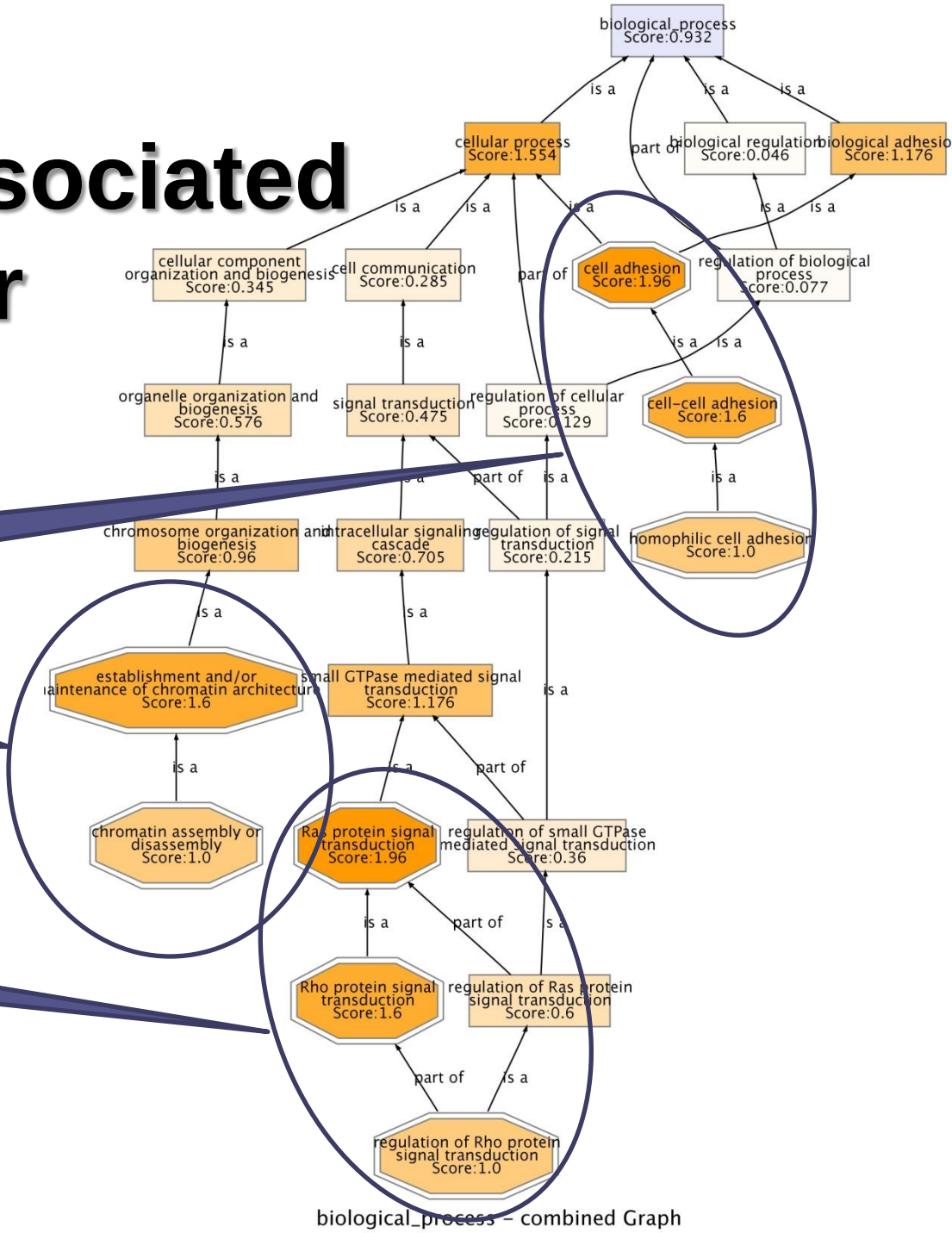
Bonifaci et al., BMC Medical Genomics 2008; Medina et al., 2009 NAR

GO processes significantly associated to breast cancer

Metastasis

Chromosomal instability

Rho pathway

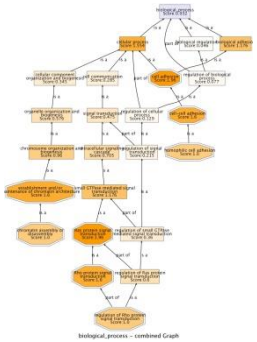


From gene-based to function-based perspective

SNPs,
Gene expression

$Gene_1$
$Gene_2$
$Gene_3$
$Gene_4$
:
:
:
$Gene_{22000}$

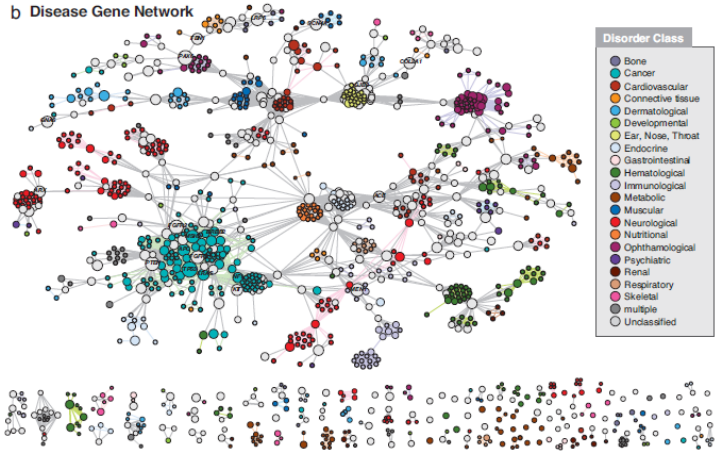
Gene Ontology



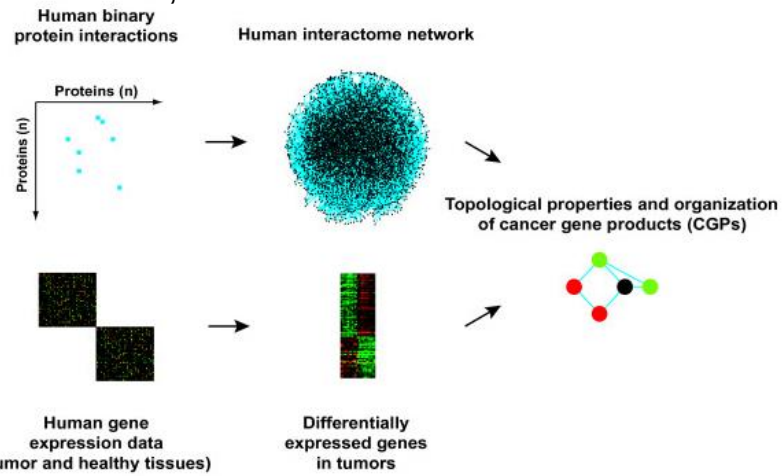
	SNPs, gene exp.	GO
Detection power	Low (only very prevalent genes)	high
Annotations available	many	many
Use	Biomarker	Illustrative, give hints

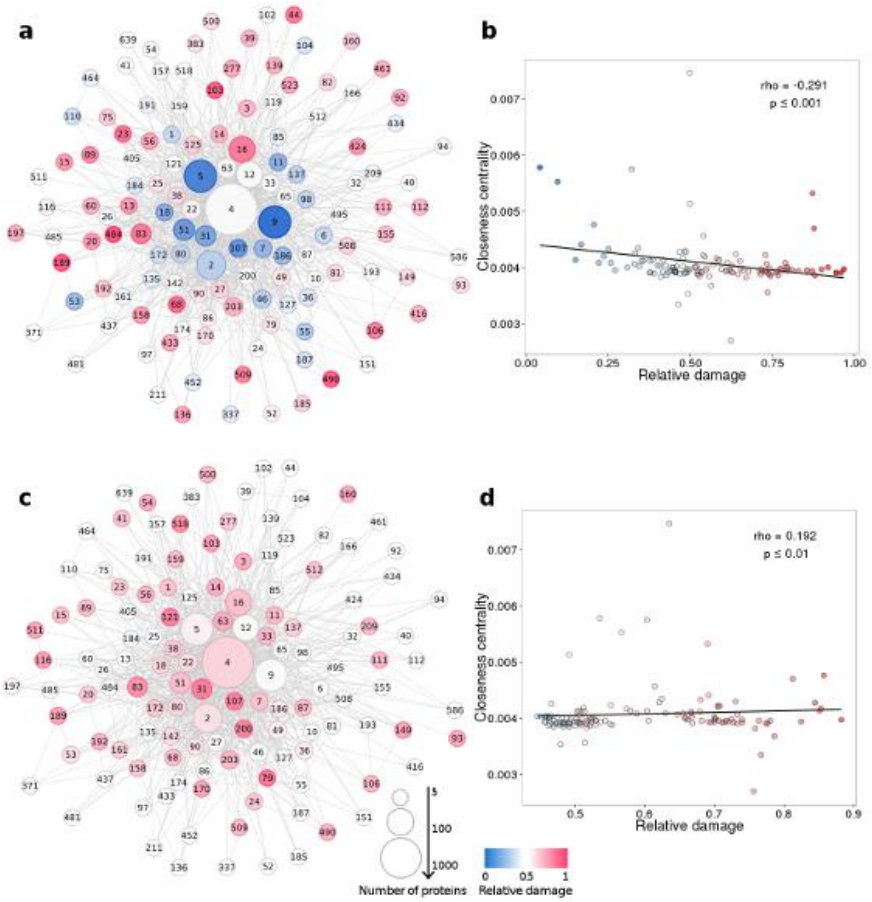
Can the interactome help to find disease mutations?

Disease genes are close in the interactome
Goh 2007 PNAS



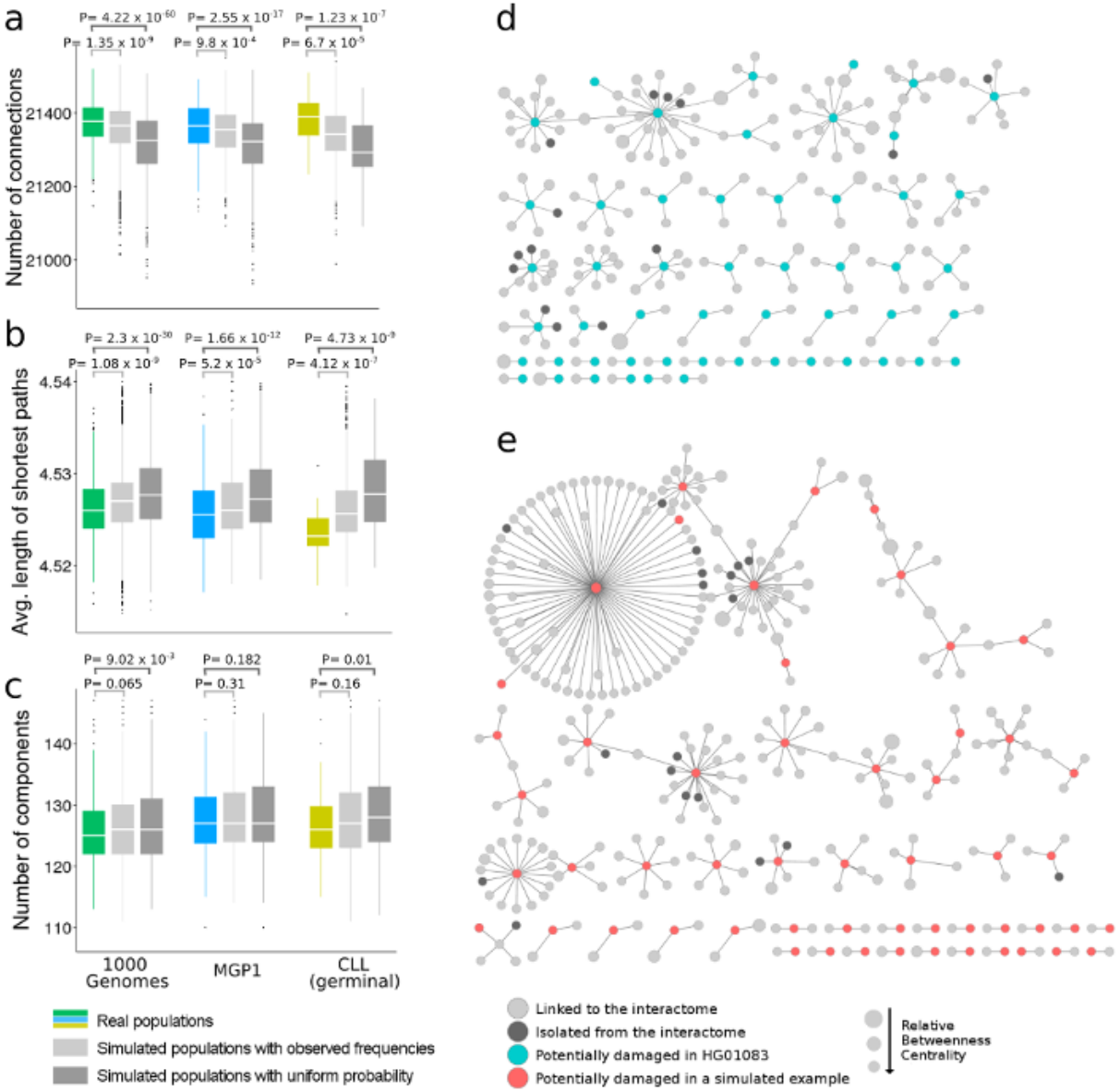
Cancer genes are central.
Hernandez, 2007 BMC Genomics





Deleterious mutations in 1000g (up) and somatic CLL deleterious mutations (down)
Garcia-Alonso 2014 Mol Syst Biol

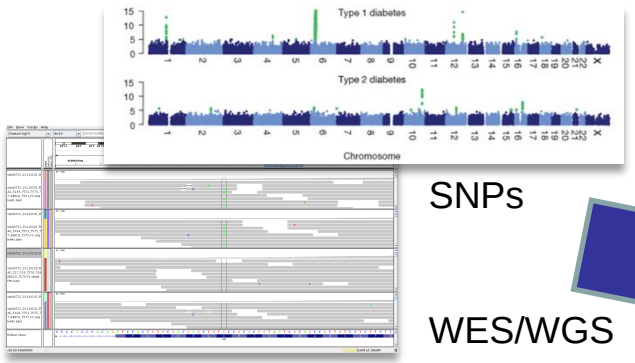
The role of interactome in buffering the deleteriousness of LoF mutations



Comparison of the interactome damage between real and random individuals after removing the nodes corresponding to proteins containing deleterious variants in both alleles (homozygote). Two different scenarios are simulated: Simulated populations with **uniform probability**, where proteins are randomly removed, and Simulated populations with **observed frequencies**, where proteins are removed with a probability proportional to the frequency of variation in the 1000 genomes population

Garcia-Alonso 2014 Mol Syst Biol

From gene-based to function-based perspective

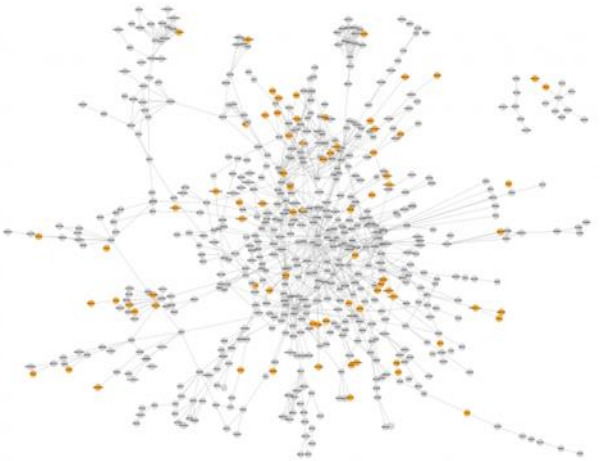


SNPs

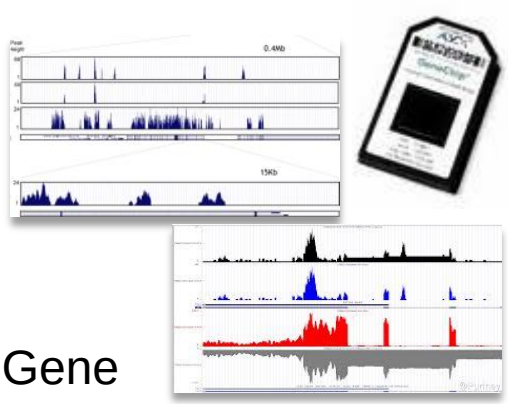
WES/WGS

Gene integrity

Using protein interaction networks as an scaffold to interpret the genomic data in a functionally-derived context



AND/OR



Gene expression

Gene activity

What part of the interactome is active and/or is damaged

Network analysis helps to find disease genes in complex diseases

Research

Open Access

Four new loci associations discovered by pathway-based and network analyses of the genome-wide variability profile of Hirschsprung's disease

Raquel Ma Fernández[1,2], Marta Bleda[2,3], Rocío Núñez-Torres[1,2], Ignacio Medina[3,4], Berta Luzón-Toro[1,2], Luz García-Alonso[3], Ana Torroglosa[1,2], Martina Marbà[3,4], Ma Valle Enguix-Riego[1,2], David Montaner[3], Guillermo Antiñolo[1,2], Joaquín Dopazo[2,3,4]* and Salud Borrego[1,2]*

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Nucleic Acids Research, 2009, 1–6
doi:10.1093/nar/gkp402

SNOW, a web-based tool for the statistical analysis of protein–protein interaction networks

Pablo Minguez[1], Stefan Götz[1,2], David Montaner[1], Fatima Al-Shahrour[1] and Joaquin Dopazo[1,2,3,*]

[1]Department of Bioinformatics and Genomics, Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe (CIPF), [2]CIBER de Enfermedades Raras (CIBERER) and [3]Functional Genomics Node (INB) at CIPF, Valencia, Spain

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Published online 27 July 2012 *Nucleic Acids Research, 2012, Vol. 40, No. 20 e158*
doi:10.1093/nar/gks699

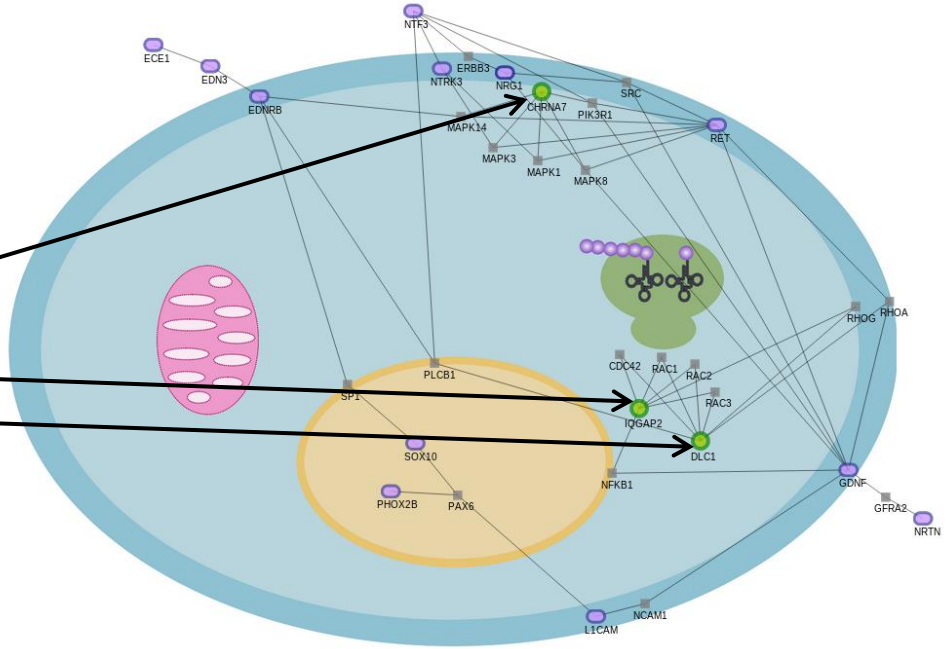
Discovering the hidden sub-network component in a ranked list of genes or proteins derived from genomic experiments

Luz García-Alonso[1], Roberto Alonso[1], Enrique Vidal[1], Alicia Amadoz[1], Alejandro de María[1], Pablo Minguez[2], Ignacio Medina[1,3] and Joaquín Dopazo[1,3,4,*]

[1]Department of Bioinformatics, Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe (CIPF), Valencia, Spain, [2]European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Meyerhofstrasse 1, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany, [3]Functional Genomics Node (INB) at CIPF, Valencia and [4]CIBER de Enfermedades Raras (CIBERER), Valencia, Spain

Received March 14, 2012; Revised June 1, 2012; Accepted June 26, 2012

CHRNA7 (rs2175886 p = 0.000607)
IQGAP2 (rs950643 p = 0.0003585)
DLC1 (rs1454947 p = 0.007526)



SNPs validated in independent cohorts

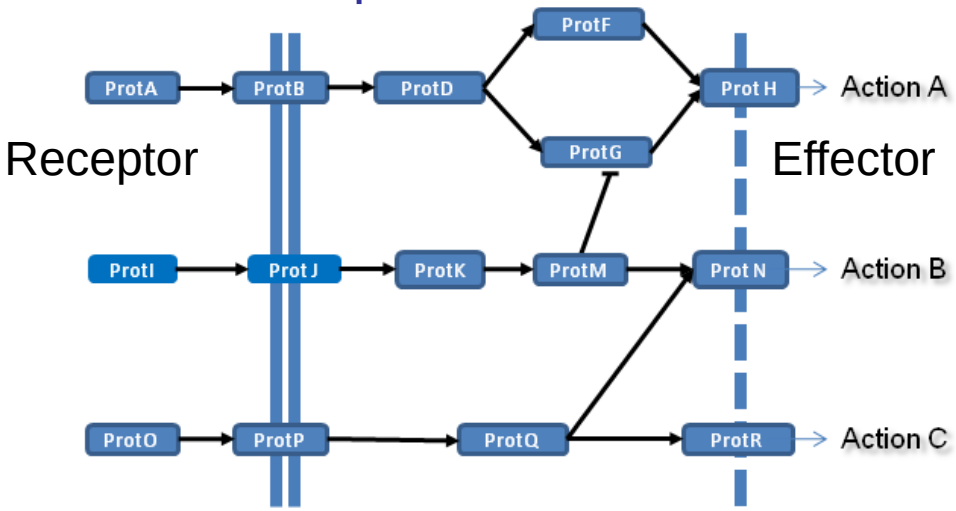
From gene-based to function-based perspective

	SNPs, gene expression, etc.	GO	Protein interaction networks
Detection power	Low (only very prevalent genes)	High	High
Information coverage	Almost all	Almost all	Less (~9000 genes in human)
Use	Biomarker	Illustrative, give hints	Biomarker*

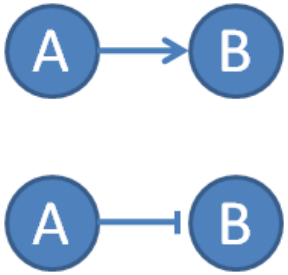
**Need of extra information (e.g. GO) to provide functional insights in the findings*

From gene-based to mechanism-based perspective

Transforming gene expression values into another value that **accounts for a function**. Easiest example of modeling function: **signaling pathways**. Function: transmission of a signal from a receptor to an effector



	ProtH	ProtN	ProtR
ProtA	1	0	0
ProtI	1	1	0
ProtQ	0	1	1
function	Action A	Action B	Action C



Activations and repressions occur

Modeling pathways

Sebastian-Leon *et al. BMC Systems Biology* 2014, **8**:121
http://www.biomedcentral.com/1752-0509/8/121

BMC Systems Biology

METHODOLOGY ARTICLE Open Access

Understanding disease mechanisms with models of signaling pathway activities

Patricia Sebastian-Leon[1], Enrique Vidal[1,2,3], Pablo Minguez[1,4], Ana Conesa[1], Sonia Tarazona[1], Alicia Amadoz[1], Carmen Armero[5], Francisco Salavert[1,2], Antonio Vidal-Puig[6], David Montaner[1] and Joaquín Dopazo[1,2,7*]

Published online 8 June 2013 *Nucleic Acids Research, 2013, Vol. 41, Web Server issue* **W213–W217**
doi:10.1093/nar/gkt451

Inferring the functional effect of gene expression changes in signaling pathways

Patricia Sebastián-León[1], José Carbonell[1], Francisco Salavert[1,2], Rubén Sanchez[3], Ignacio Medina[1] and Joaquín Dopazo[1,2,4,*]

[1]Department of Computational Genomics, Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe (CIPF), Valencia 46012, Spain, [2]CIBER de Enfermedades Raras (CIBERER), Valencia 46012, Spain, [3]Genometra S.L., Valencia, Spain and [4]Functional Genomics Node (INB) at CIPF, Valencia 46012, Spain

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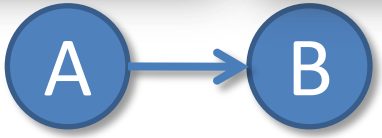
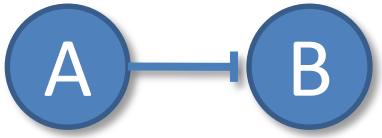
Activation



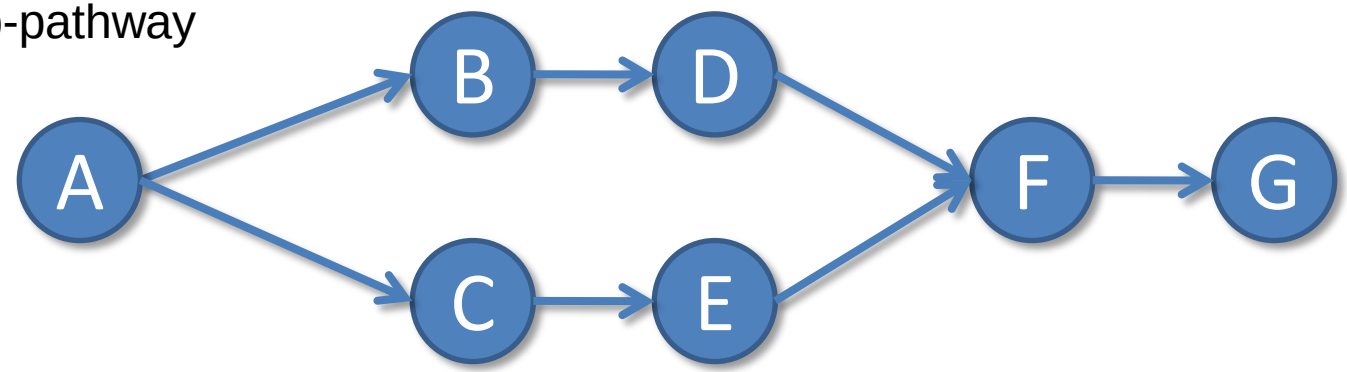
Prob. = P(A activated)P(B activated)

Inhibition



Prob. = [1-P(A activated)]P(B activated)

Sub-pathway

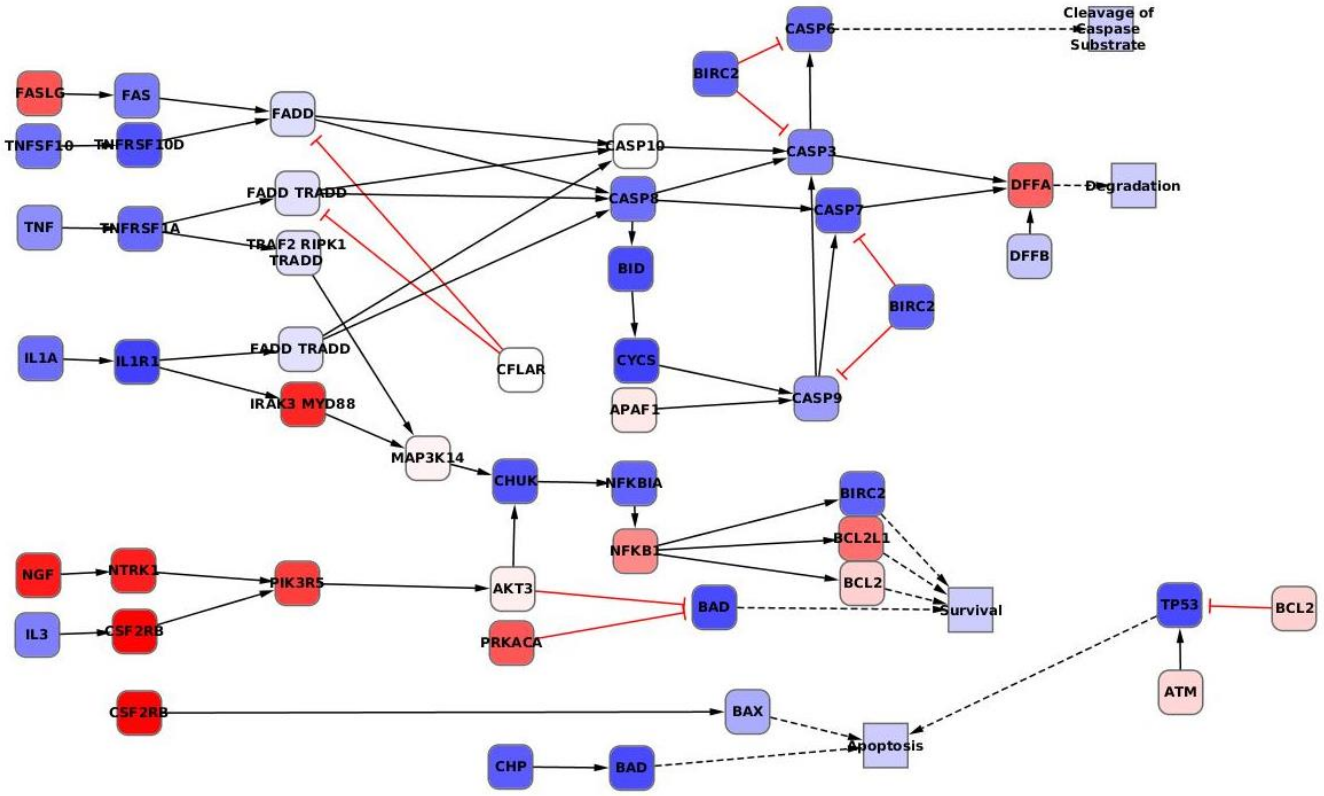


P(A→G activated) = P(A)P(B)P(D)P(F)P(G) + P(A)P(C)P(E)P(F)P(G) - P(A)P(F)P(G)P(B)P(C)P(D)P(E)

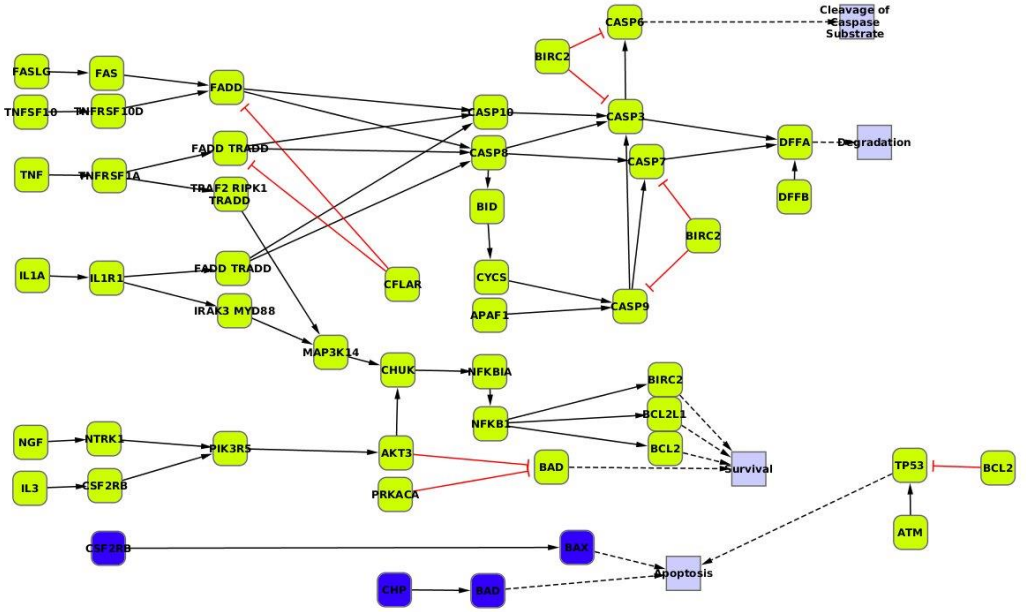
The effects of changes in gene activity are not obvious

What would you predict about the consequences of gene activity changes in the apoptosis pathway in a case control experiment of colorectal cancer?

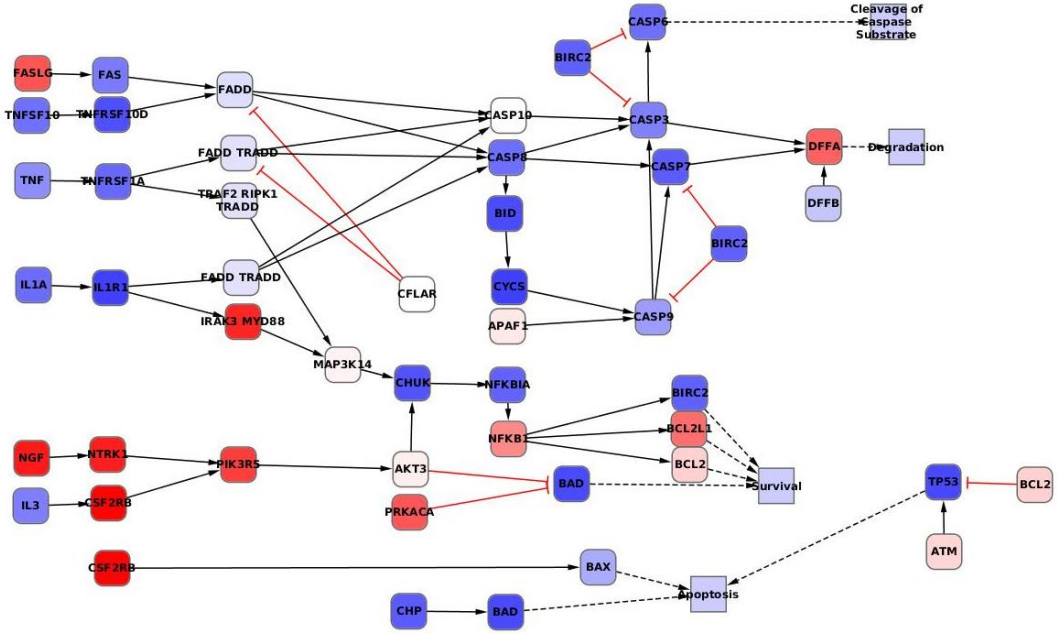
The figure shows the gene up-regulations (red) and down-regulations (blue)



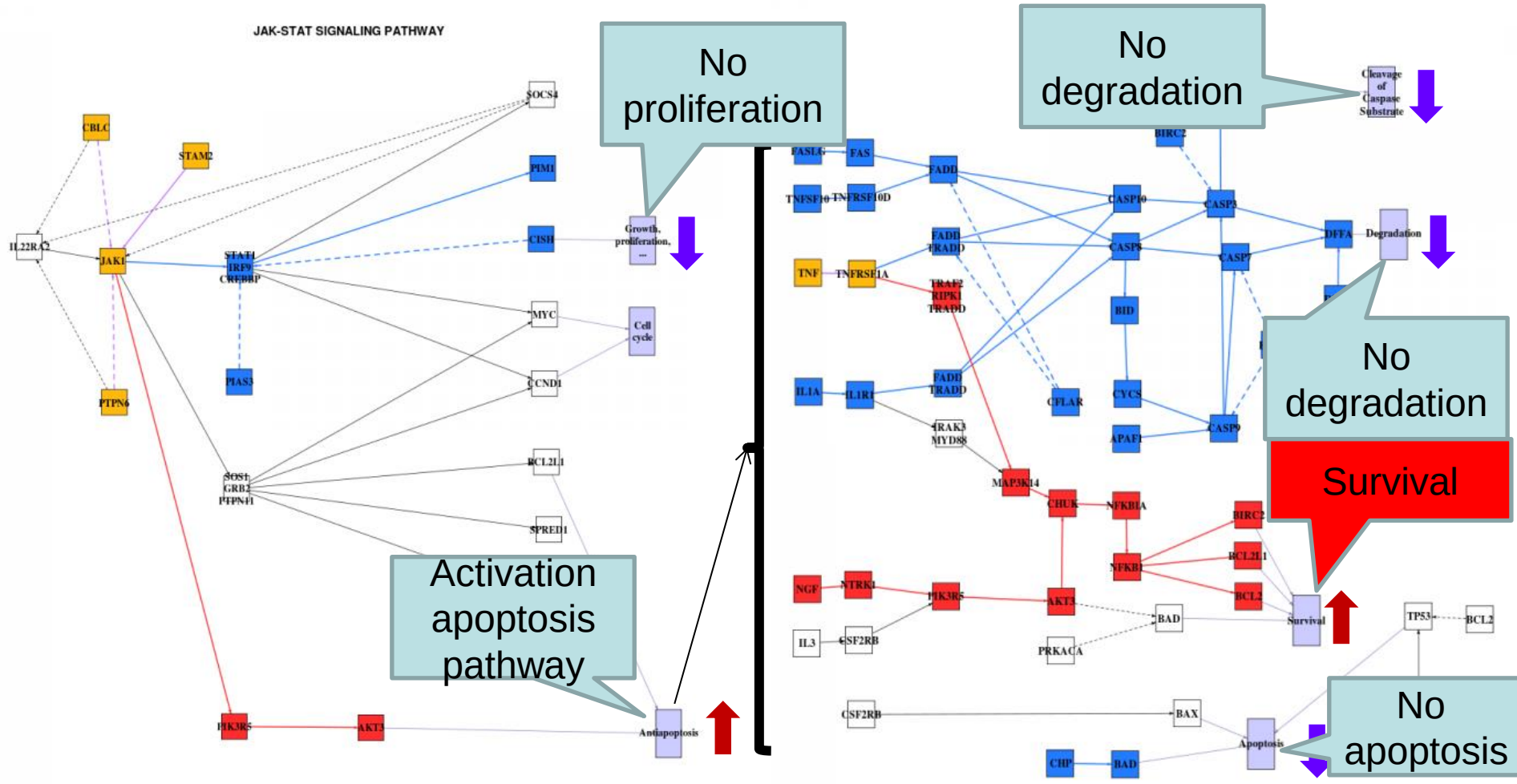
Apoptosis inhibition is not obvious from gene expression



Two of the three possible sub-pathways leading to apoptosis are inhibited in colorectal cancer. Upper panel shows the inhibited sub-pathways in blue. Lower panel shows the actual gene up-regulations (red) and down-regulations (blue) that justify this change in the activity of the sub-pathways



Different pathways cross-talk to deregulate programmed death in Fanconi anemia

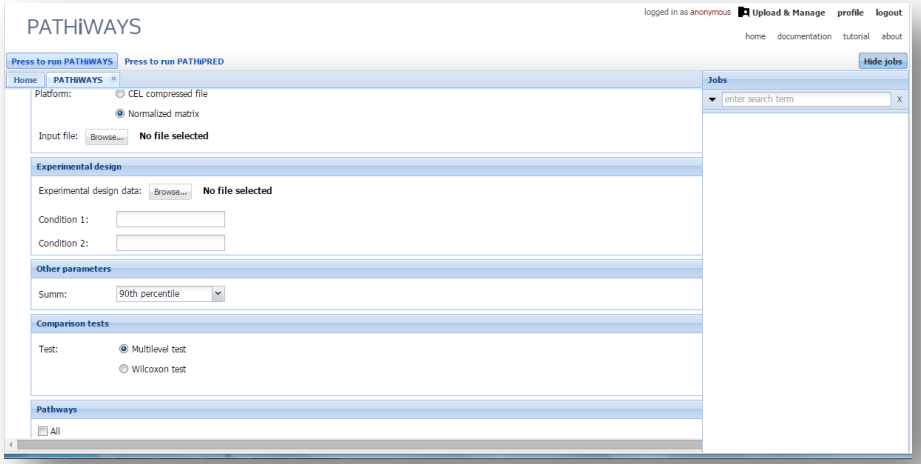


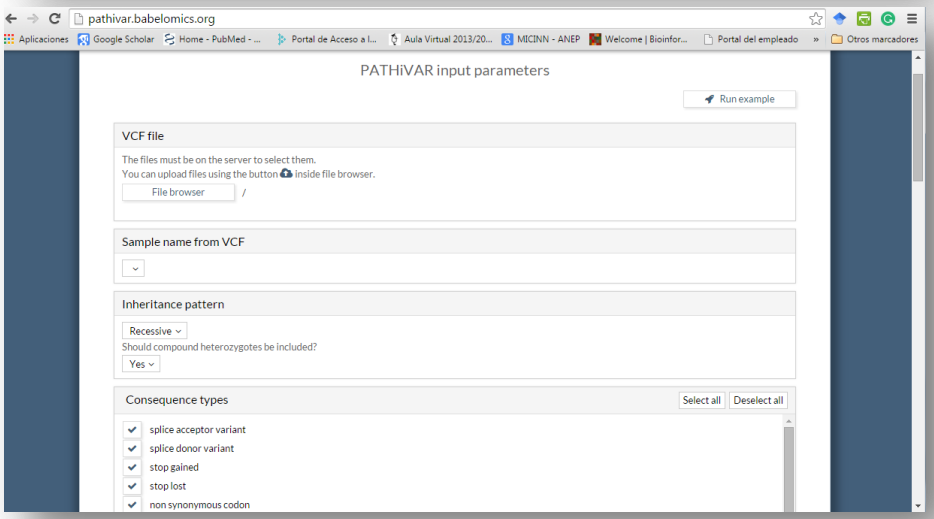
FA is a rare chromosome instability syndrome characterized by aplastic anemia and cancer and leukemia susceptibility. It has been proposed that disruption of the apoptotic control, a hallmark of FA, accounts for part of the phenotype of the disease.

Tools to study the impact of gene deregulation or mutations over signaling pathways

Pathiways: study the impact of differences in gene expression levels on signaling
PathiPred: Builds a predictor based on signaling circuits using gene expression levels as data.
Available at:
http://pathiways.babelomics.org/

PathiVar: Study the impact of the variants found in a VCF file over the signaling circuits of the pathways.
Available at:
http://pathivar.babelomics.org/





From gene-based to function-based perspective

	SNPs, gene expression, etc.	GO	Protein interaction networks	Models of cellular functions
Detection power	Low (only very prevalent genes)	High	High	Very high
Information coverage	Almost all	Almost all	Low (~9000 genes in human)	Low (~6700 genes in human)*
Use	Biomarker	Illustrative, give hints	Biomarker	Biomarker that explain disease mechanism

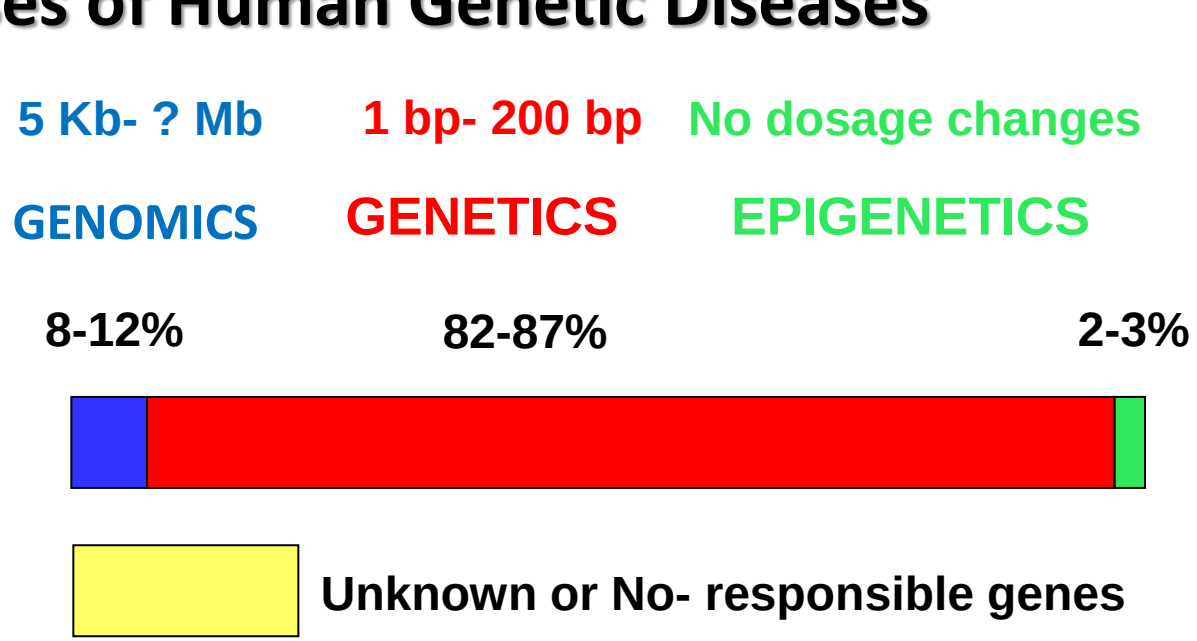
*Only ~800 genes in human signaling pathways

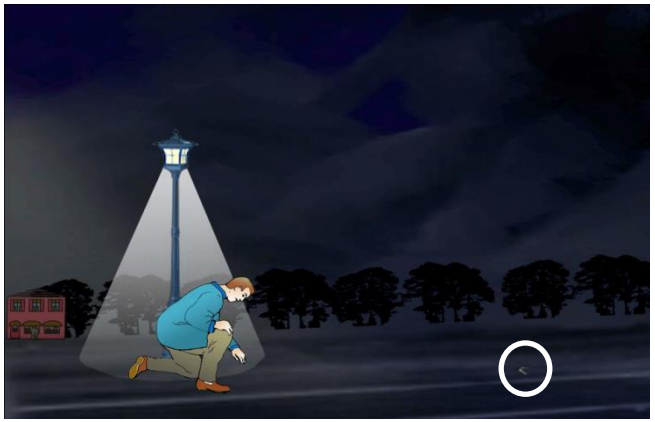
Future prospects

Known causes of Human Genetic Diseases

Pablo Lapunzina, Personal communication

All genetic/genomic or epigenetic diseases with known cause:
~ 5000 disorders



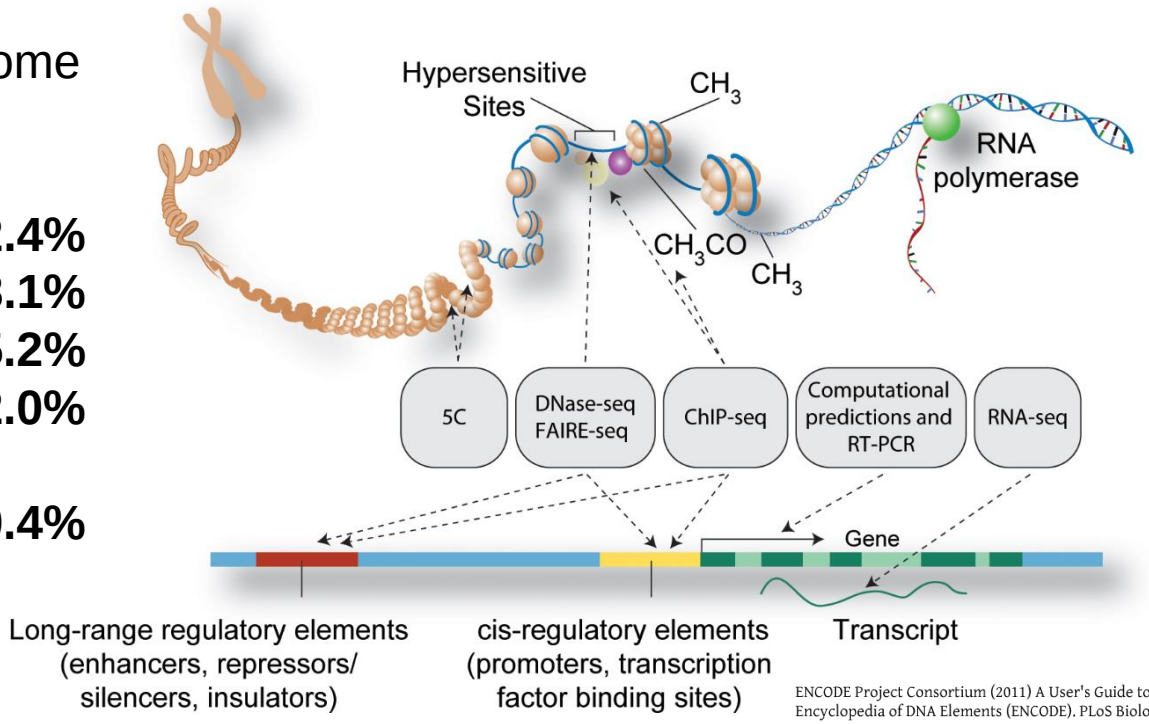


Fact: exons represent a comparatively small part of the complete genome
Other fact: there is still a lot of missing heritability

The ENCODE project suggests a functional role for a large fraction of the genome

Which percentage of the genome is occupied by:

Coding genes:	**2.4%**
TFBSs	**8.1%**
Open chromatin regions	**15.2%**
Different RNA types	**62.0%**
Total annotated elements:	**80.4%**



ENCODE Project Consortium (2011) A User's Guide to the Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE). PLoS Biology 9: 1-24

Exomes are only covering a small fraction of the potential functionality of the genome (2.4%).
Is the **missing heritability** hidden in the remaining 78%?
If so, what type of variant should be expect to discover? SNVs? SVs?

Future prospects

We need to efficiently query all the information contained in the genome, including all the epigenomic signatures.

This means **data integration** and "**epistatic**" queries

We need to prepare our **health systems** to deal with all the genomic data flood

Information about variations	Processed	Raw
Genome variant information (VCF)	150 MB	250 GB
Epigenome	150 MB	250 GB
Each transcriptome	20 MB	80 GB
Individual complete variability	400 MB	525 GB
Hospital (100.000 patients)	40 TB	50 PB

There are **technical** problems and **conceptual** problems on how genomic information is managed that must be addressed in the near future.