

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE:
A NECESSITY OR AN OPPORTUNITY
The gastroenterologist's perspectives

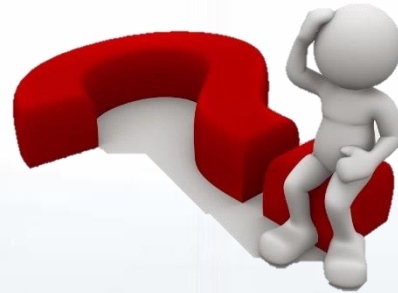
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Dep of Systems Medicine
University of Rome «Tor Vergata»



Personalized medicine: a necessity or an opportunity

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE

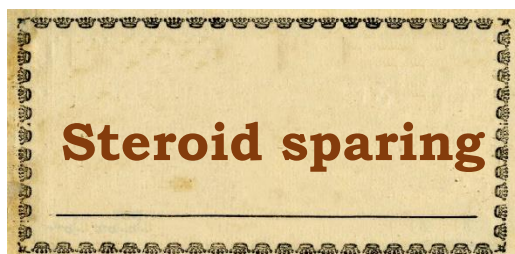
Is this a relevant problem in IBD?



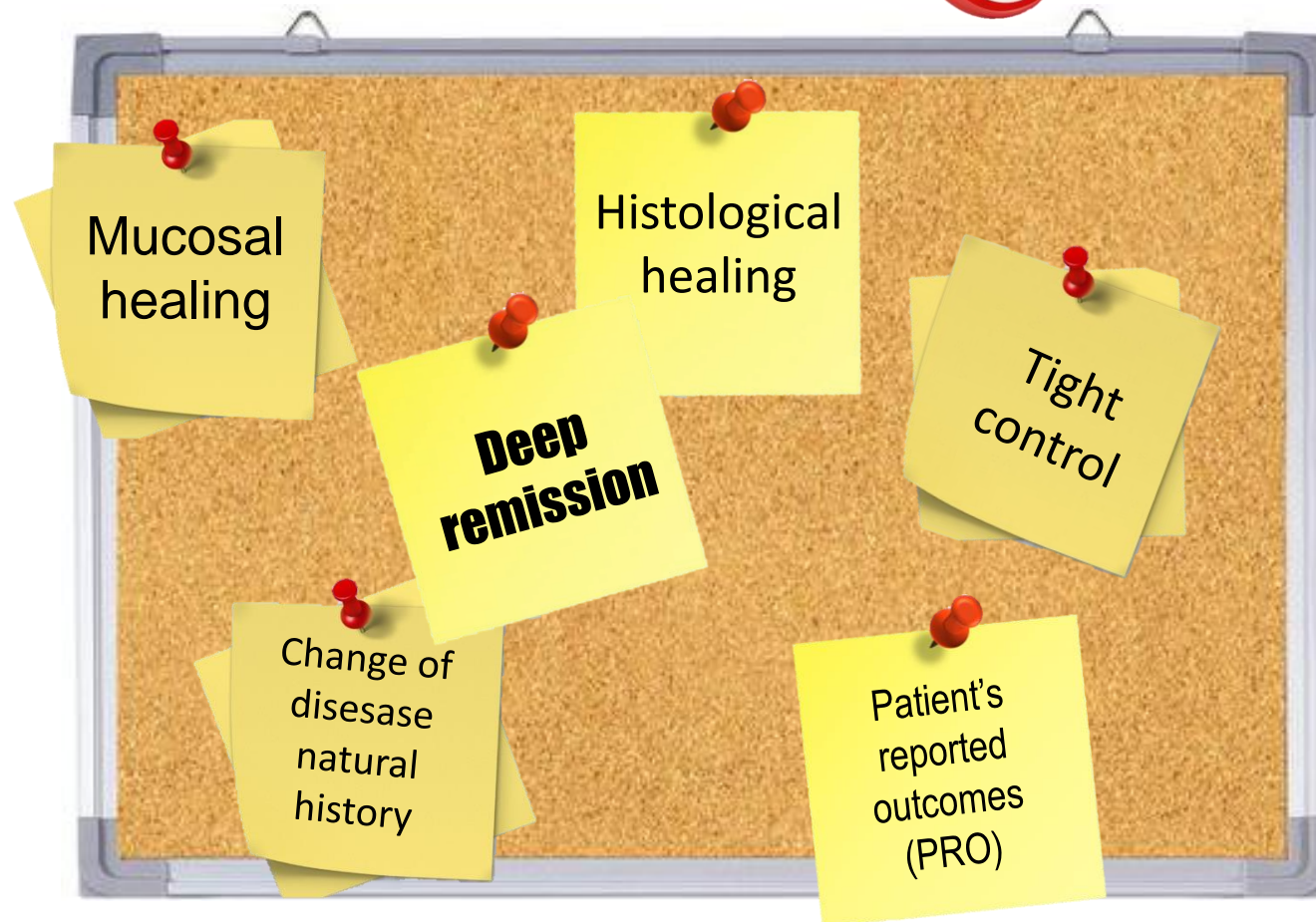
New therapeutic targets to hit!



OLD TARGETS

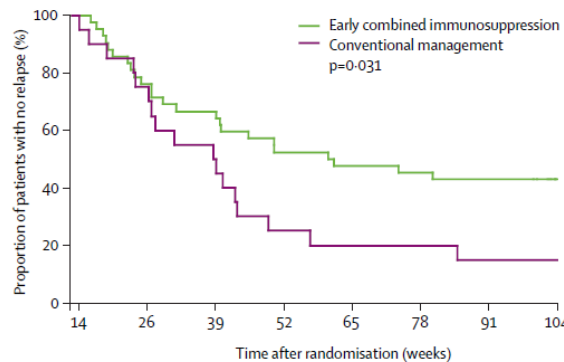
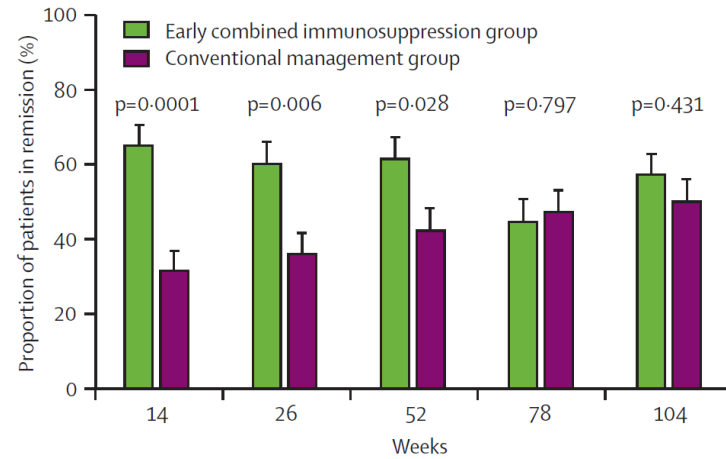


NEW TARGETS



Looking for new therapeutic strategies to reach ambitious targets

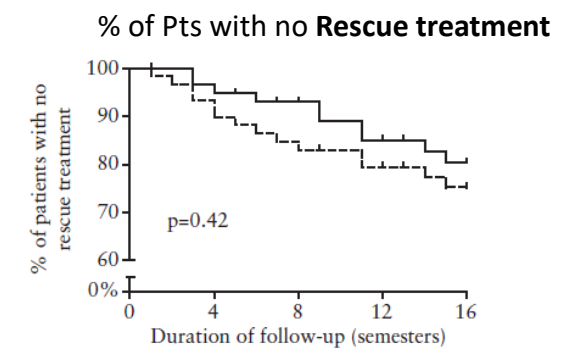
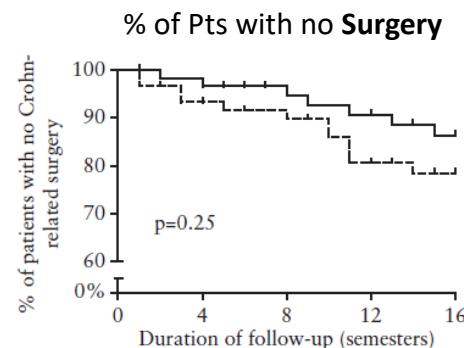
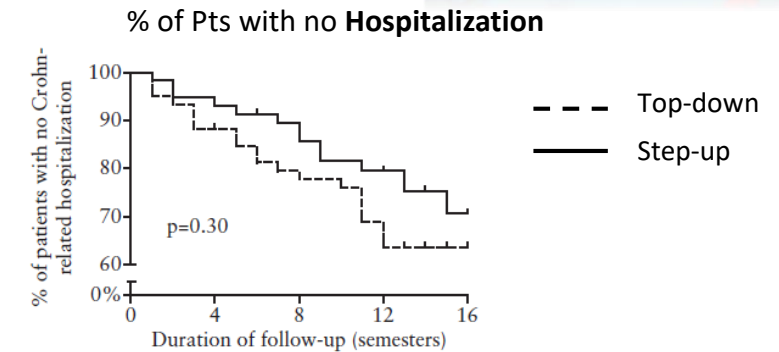
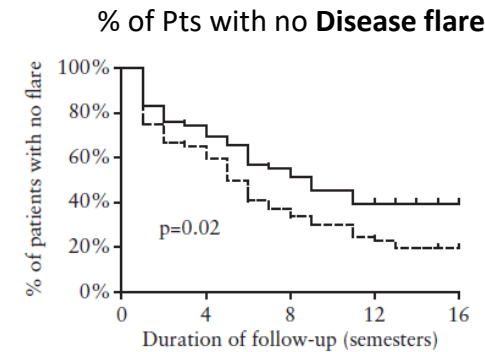
Step-up vs Top-down



Number at risk									
		14	26	39	52	65	78	91	104
Early combined immunosuppression	42	33	28	22	20	19	18	7	
Conventional management	20	15	10	5	4	4	3	3	
Total	62	47	38	27	24	23	21	10	

D'Haens G et al Lancet 2008

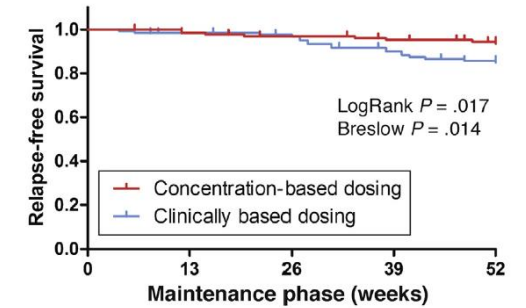
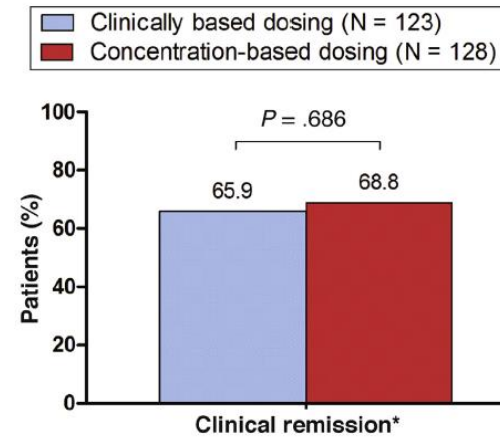
Step-up vs Top-down10 years later



Hoekman DR et al J Crohns Colitis 2018

Exploring new strategies I

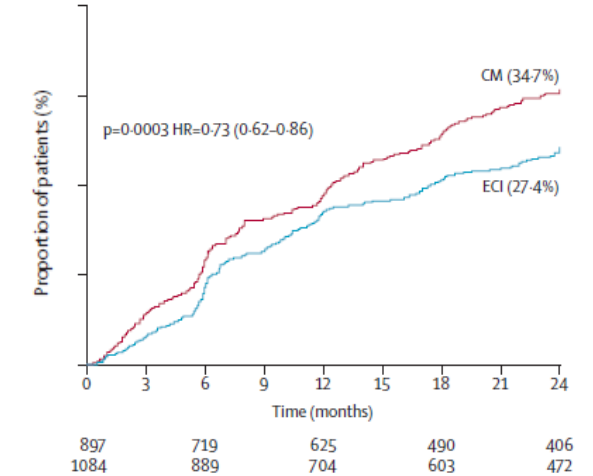
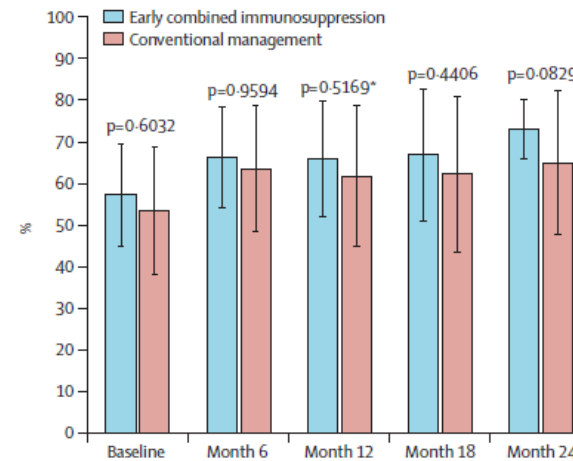
TAXIT study



Week	0	13	26	39	52
N at risk	128	127	121	117	111
	123	120	116	107	97

Castele NV et al Gastroenterology 2015

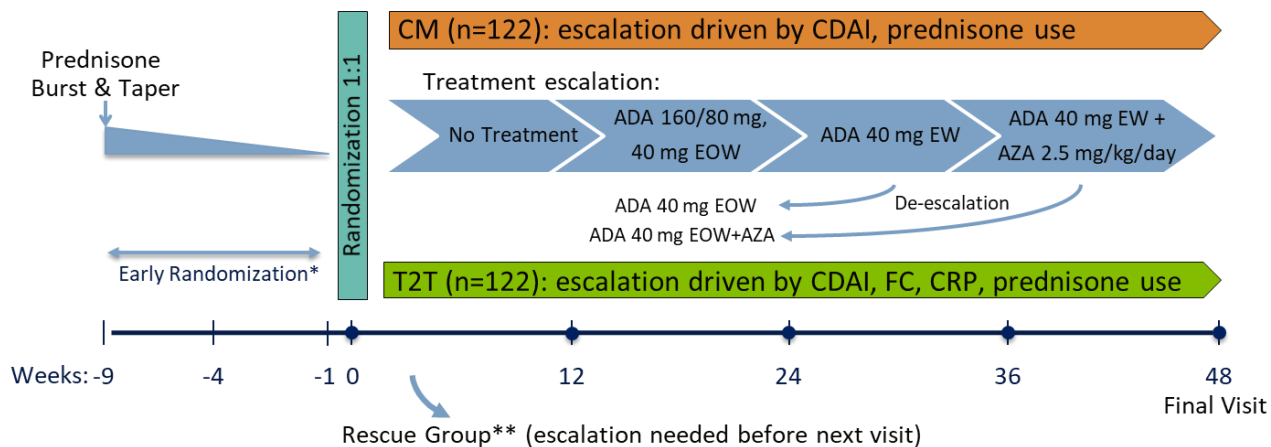
REACT trial



Khanna R et al Lancet 2015

Exploring new strategies II

The CALM study

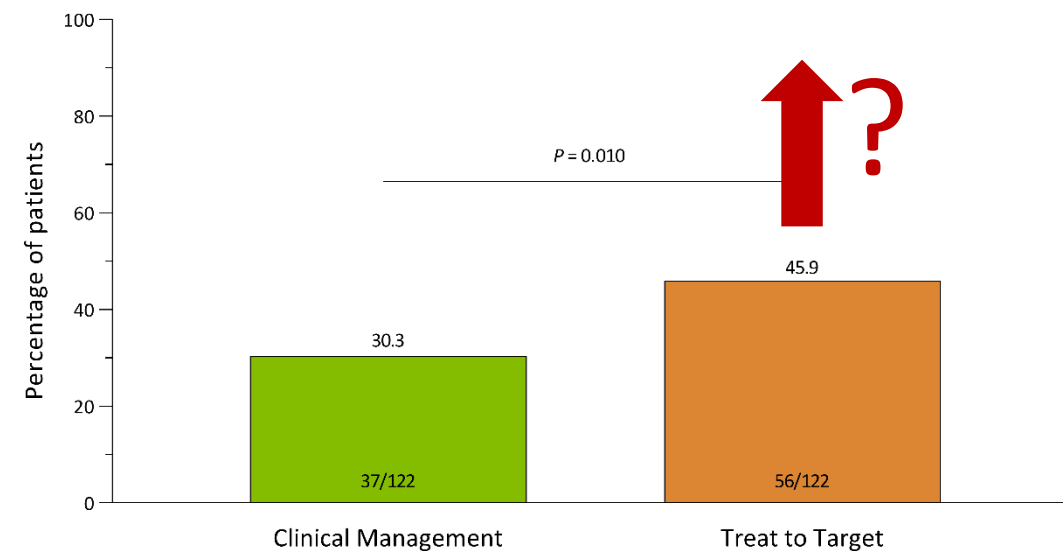


*CDAI>220 AND one of the following: steroid therapy > 4 weeks and best to taper per investigator assessment, intolerant/contraindication for steroid therapy, best interest of the patient per investigator assessment.

** CDAI > 300 for 2 consecutive visits 7 days apart or per investigator discretion (elevated CRP/FC, ulceration taken into consideration); moved to T2T group.

Primary Endpoint at 48 Weeks After Randomization

CDEIS < 4 AND NO DEEP ULCERATIONS



Colombel JF et al Lancet 2017

More drugs with different mode of action (MOA) to position

1st line



(Its cheaper!!)

Anti-TNFs

Infliximab

Adalimumab

Golimumab

Certolizumab

Phosphodiesterase-4-inhibitors

Apremilast

Anti-IL23p19

Risankuzumab

Brazikumab, MEDI2070

Guselkumab

Mirikizumab

2st line

Anti-Integrins

Vedolizumab



Tofacitinib
Upadacitinib
Filgotinib
Peficitinib

JAK inhibitors

Ozanimod
Etrasimod

Anti-IL12/IL23p40
Ustekinumab



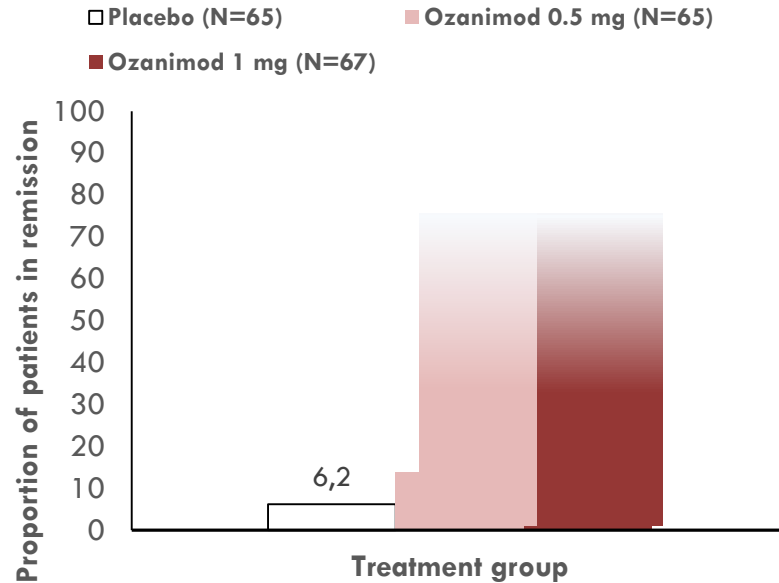
Anti MadCAM1

PF-00547659



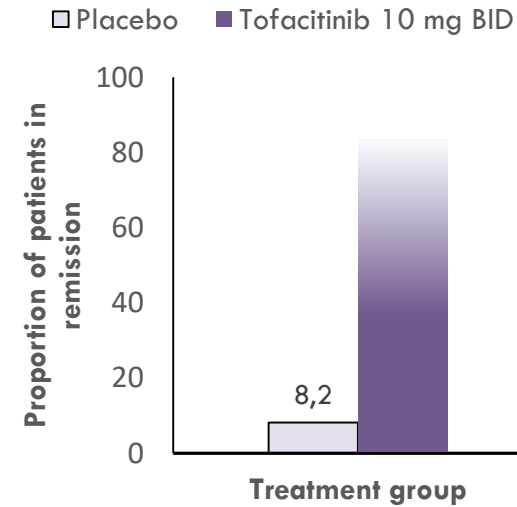
Limited efficacy of the new drugs

Ozanimod TOUCHSTONE

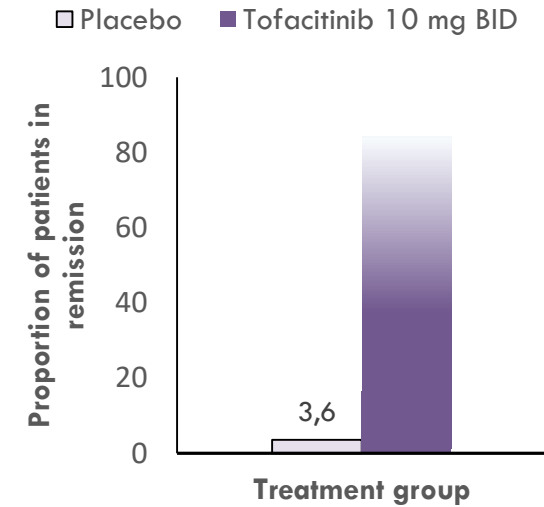


Tofacitinib

OCTAVE 1

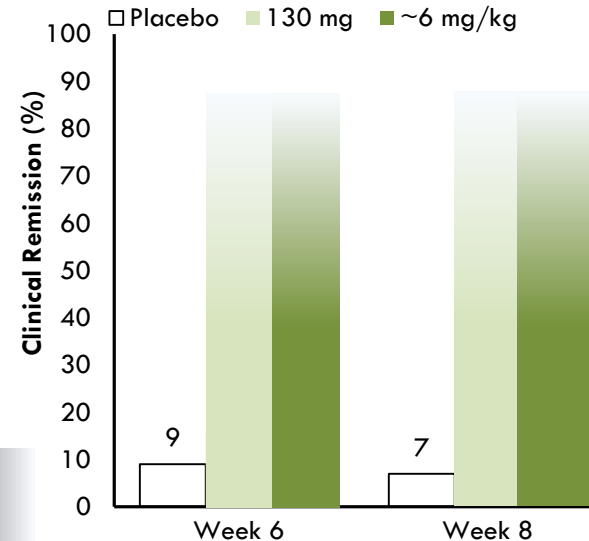


OCTAVE 2

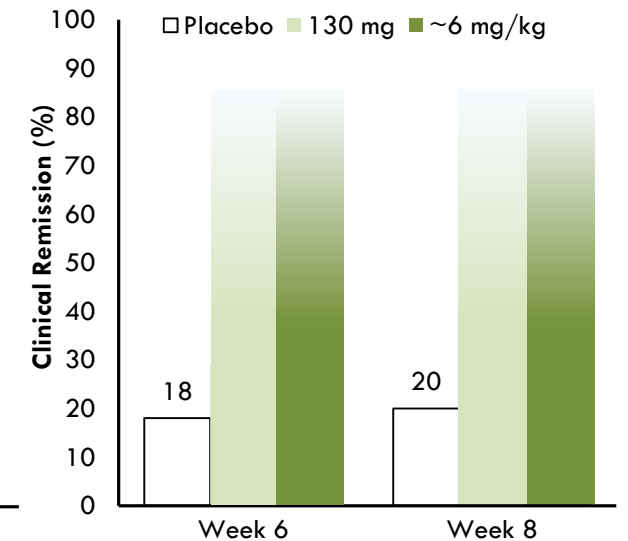


Ustekinumab

UNITI-1: antiTNF failure



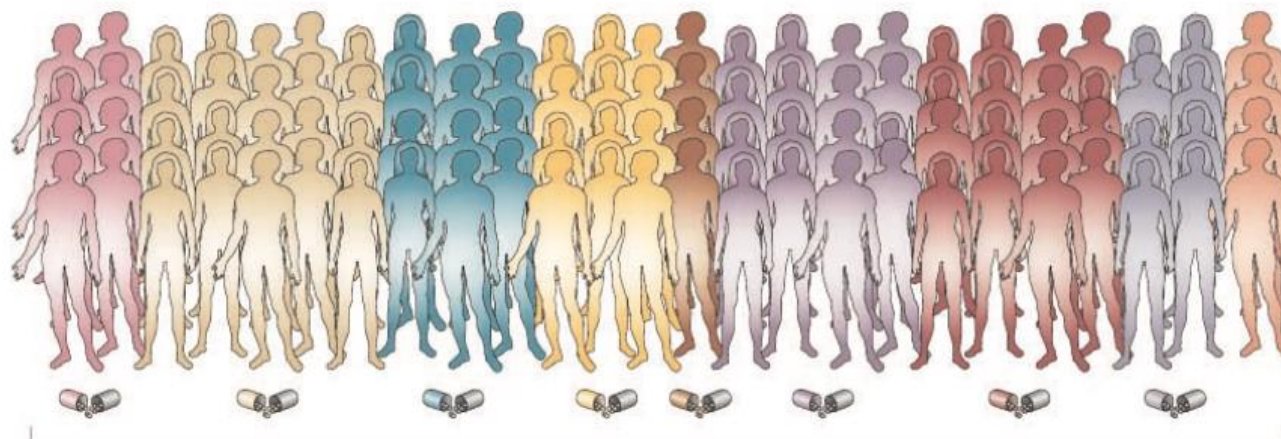
UNITI-2: Conv therapy failure



From a generalistic approach to personalized medicine

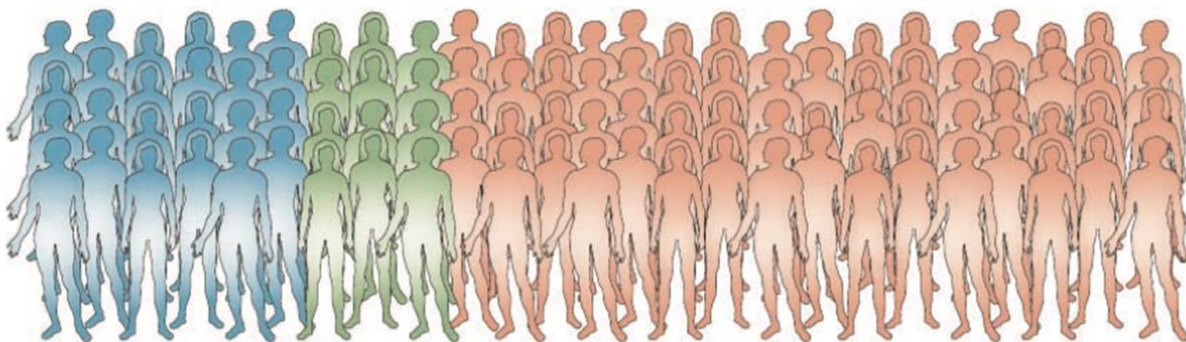
One-size-fits-all approach

Proportion of patients
who respond to drug



Population of patients with given disease:
or or nearly all respond to different drugs

Personalized medicine



Patients receiving drug

Population of patients with given disease

Where are we?.....The present



How to approach the problem

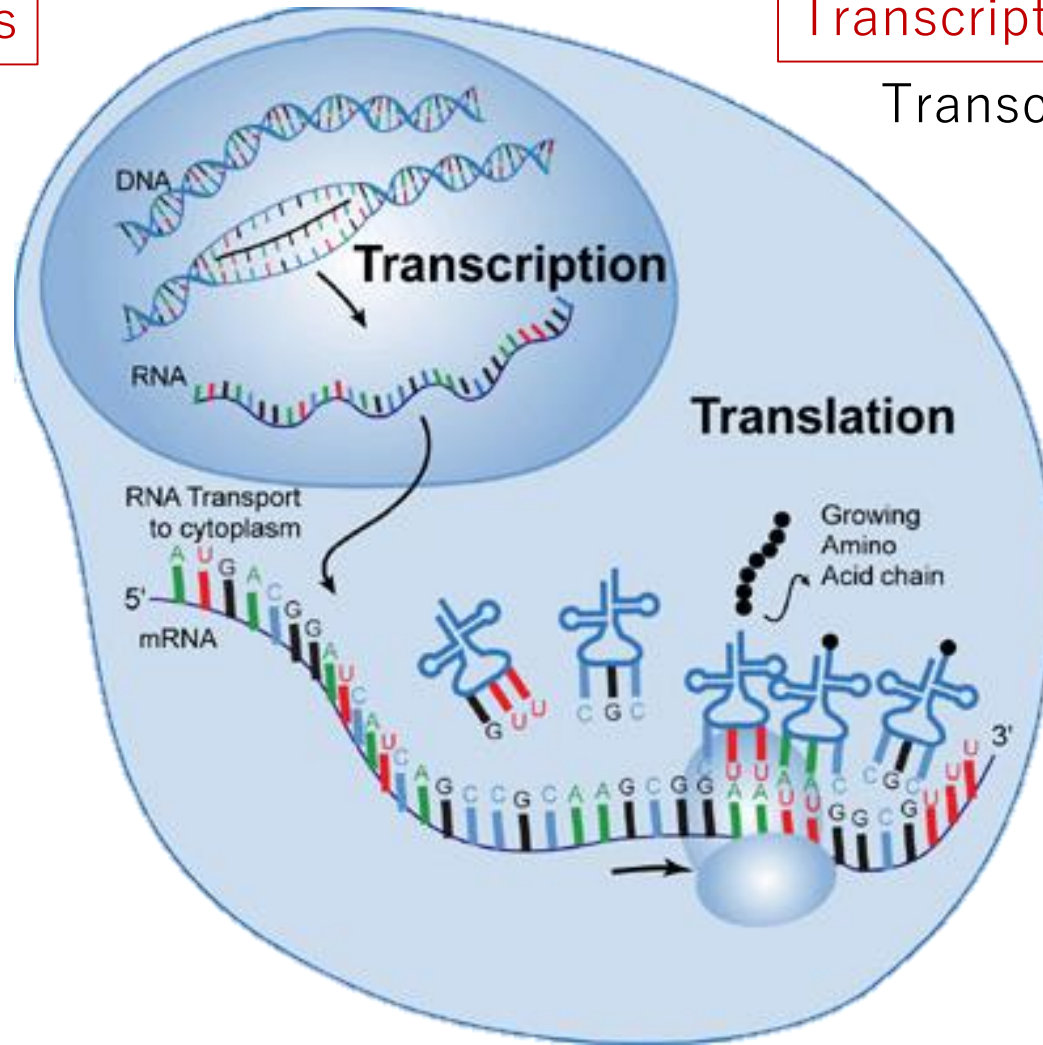
Genomics

Genes

Transcriptomics

Transcripts

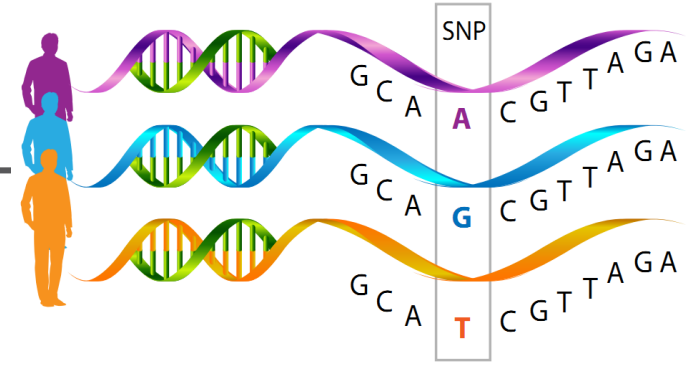
Response to therapies can be seen as a biologic phenomenon governed by the same mechanisms determining diseases.



Proteomics

Proteins

Pharmacogenomic to select the right drug



Point mutations and allele variants to predict response to therapy and side effects

Response to steroids:

- SNPs of **multidrug resistance protein 1 (MDR1)** coding gene are not associated with steroid resistance in IBD while SNP at position **-308 of the TNF α** gene has been associated with an increased rate of both steroid resistance and requirement for surgery in pts with CD

Cucchiara S et al J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr 2007

- SNPs in the **Glucocorticoid Receptor (GCR)** gene have been shown to decrease GCR protein level resulting in a drop of steroid potency, but no association with IBD pts not responding to steroid has been demonstrated.

Koyano S et al J Pharmacol Exp Ther 2003

Response to methotrexate:

In patients with IBD, the homozygous **MTHFR 1298C** variant was found to be associated with toxicity to Methotrexate (MTX) whereas the 677T variant was not.

Herrlinger KR et al Pharmacogenet Genomics 2005

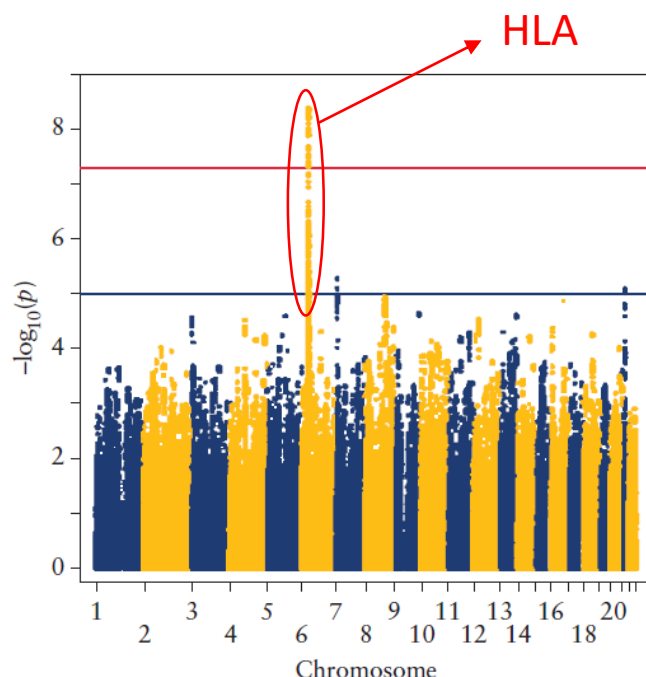
Pharmacogenomic to avoid side effects: 5-ASA

Clinical Features and HLA Association of 5-Aminosalicylate (5-ASA)-induced Nephrotoxicity in Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Graham A. Heap et al JCC 2015



Carriage of the risk allele (HLA region) is associated with a 3-fold increased risk of renal injury after 5-ASA administration.



Top genome-wide association study (GWAS) association signals from the combined GWAS and HLA imputation analysis.

Single-nucleotide polymorphism	Cohort	Chromosome	Position (hg19)	Effect allele	Control risk allele frequency	Risk allele frequency	Odds ratio (SE)	Odds ratio (95% confidence interval)	p-value
rs3135356	All	6	32391516	A	0.17	0.29	2.00 (0.13)		1×10^{-7}
	Biopsy only					0.39		3.11 (0.19)	4×10^{-9}
rs12204929	All	6	119396266	T	0.05	0.11	2.79 (0.20)		4×10^{-7}
	Biopsy only					0.10		2.26 (0.34)	0.02
rs10488193	All	7	12274220	G	0.11	0.21	2.15 (0.15)		3×10^{-6}
	Biopsy only					0.25		2.74 (0.23)	1×10^{-5}

- These data were not replicated in a validation cohort
- The high frequency of this SNP and the low frequency of the adverse event limits its clinical utility.
- Genetic testing could not be recommended in guiding treatment choice or monitoring intervals.

Pharmacogenomic to avoid side effects: Thiopurines

Allele variants of the Thiopurine S-Methyltransferase (TPMT) affect the conversion rate of 6-MP to 6-MMP

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA
Vol. 92, pp. 949–953, February 1995
Medical Sciences

A single point mutation leading to loss of catalytic activity in human thiopurine S-methyltransferase

EUGENE Y. KRYNETSKI, JOHN D. SCHUETZ, AMY J. GALPIN, CHING-HON PUI, MARY V. RELLING,
AND WILLIAM E. EVANS*

Pharmaceutical Department, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Center for Pediatric Pharmacokinetics and Therapeutics, Departments of Clinical Pharmacy and Pediatrics, University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN 38105

Communicated by Gertrude B. Elion, Burroughs Wellcome Co., Research Triangle Park, NC, November 1, 1994 (received for review October 6, 1994)

TPMT*2

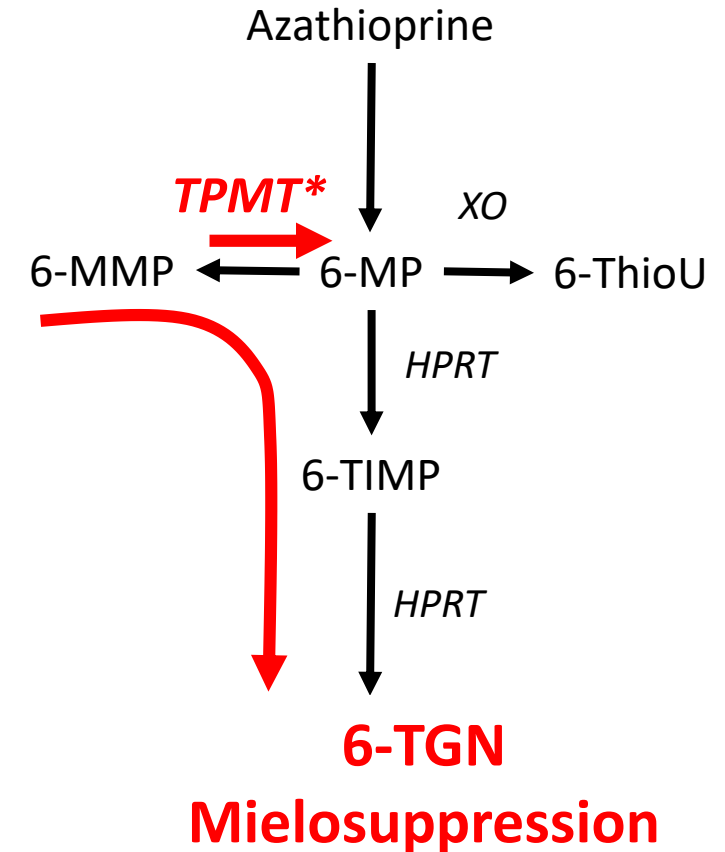
Am. J. Hum. Genet. 58:694–702, 1996

Thiopurine S-Methyltransferase Deficiency: Two Nucleotide Transitions Define the Most Prevalent Mutant Allele Associated with Loss of Catalytic Activity in Caucasians

Hung-Liang Tai, Eugene Y. Krynetski, Charles R. Yates, Thrina Loennechen,
Michael Y. Fessing, Natalia F. Krynetskaia, and William E. Evans

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; and Center for Pediatric Pharmacokinetics and Therapeutics, Departments of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmaceutics, and Pediatrics, University of Tennessee, Memphis

TPMT*3A
TPMT*3B
TPMT*3C



Pharmacogenomic to avoid side effects: the TOPIC trial

Intervention

IBD patients initiating
thiopurine therapy

Control

TPMT*2, TPMT*3A, and TPMT*3C
genotyping

WT

Heterozygous

Homozygous

100%
dose

50%
dose

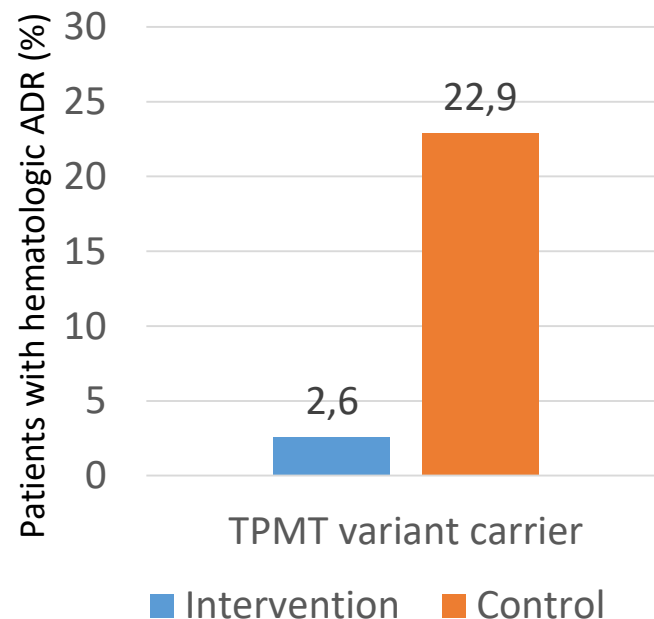
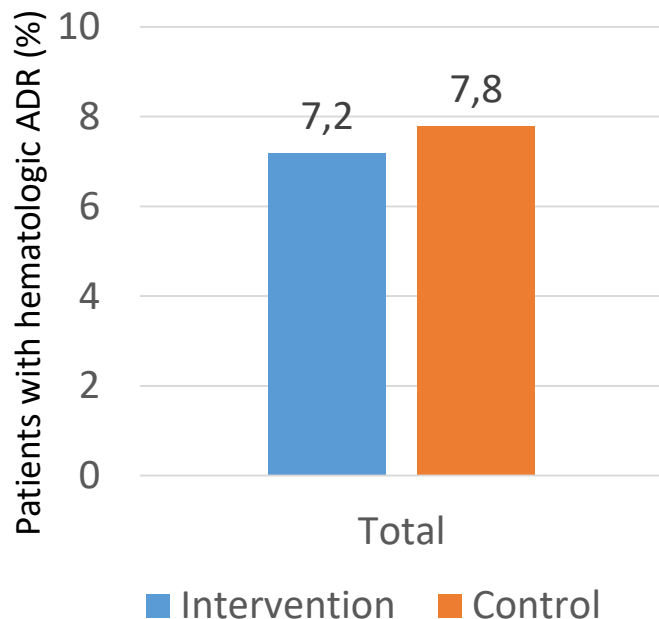
0-10%
dose

Regular therapy
(2–2.5 mg/kg/day azathioprine or 1–
1.5 mg/kg/day 6-MP)

TPMT genotyping

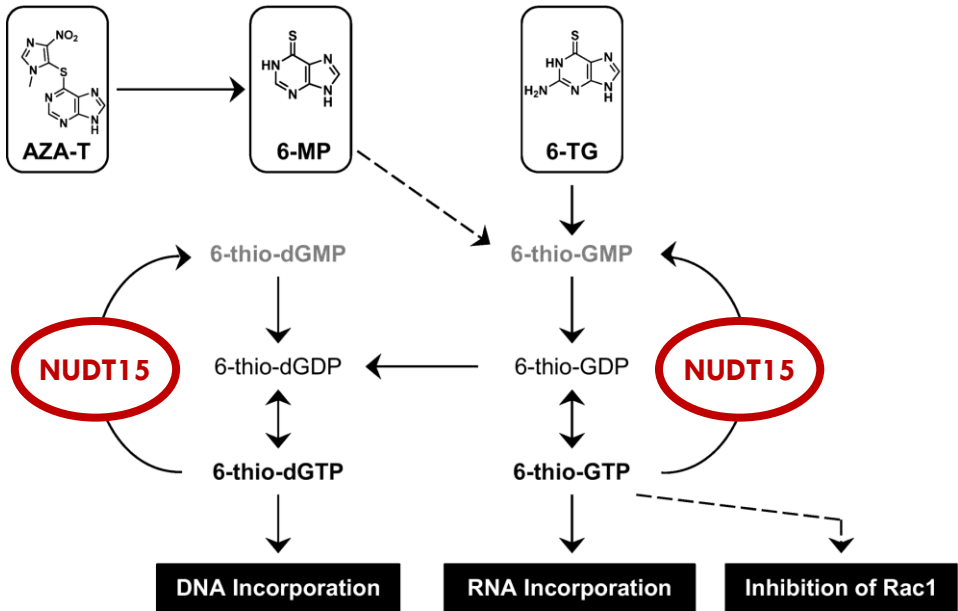
Coenen MJH. Gastroenterology 2015

Pharmacogenomic to avoid side effects: TOPIC trial results



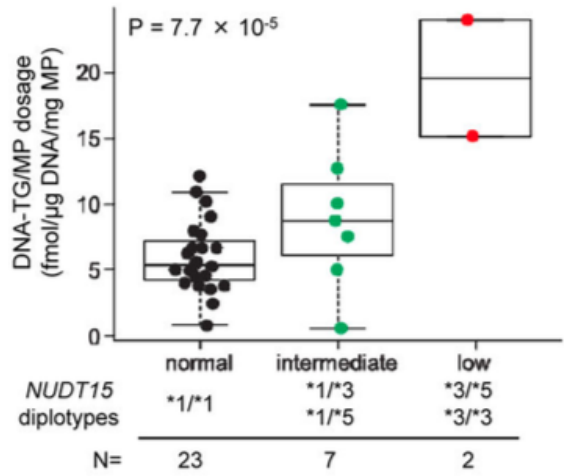
- Similar therapeutic efficacy
- 200 patients need to be genotyped to avoid 1 episode of hematologic ADR (7.4% vs 7.9%; i.e. 0.5% risk difference)
- Genetic testing should be considered as a cost-effective addition to hematological monitoring
- 1 patient of 11 with low enzyme activity TPMT variant developed leukopenia: **no all cases of leukopenia can be explained by the known TPMT known variants!**

NUDT15 genetic variants are associated with thiopurine-related toxicity



	Genotype			P value ^b
	Homozygote (TT) (n = 14)	Heterozygote (CT) (n = 133)	Non-carrier (CC) (n = 199)	
Azathioprine dose (mg/kg/d) ^a	0.86 (0.50–1.09)	1.06 (0.26–2.84)	1.53 (0.14–3.12)	4.93 × 10 ^{−11}
Interval from onset of therapy to leukopenia (d) ^a	19 (9–28)	135 (12–3,300)	465 (21–3,705)	1.03 × 10 ^{−17}
Leukopenia ^c				
Grade 3 or 4	14 (100.0)	10 (7.5)	4 (2.0)	4.85 × 10 ^{−19}
Grade 4	12 (85.7)	3 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	5.20 × 10 ^{−19}

Grade 3 leukopenia is defined by a WBC count between 1,000 and 2,000 cells/mm³. Grade 4 leukopenia is defined by a WBC count of less than 1,000 cells/mm³.



Yang SK. Nat Genet 2014

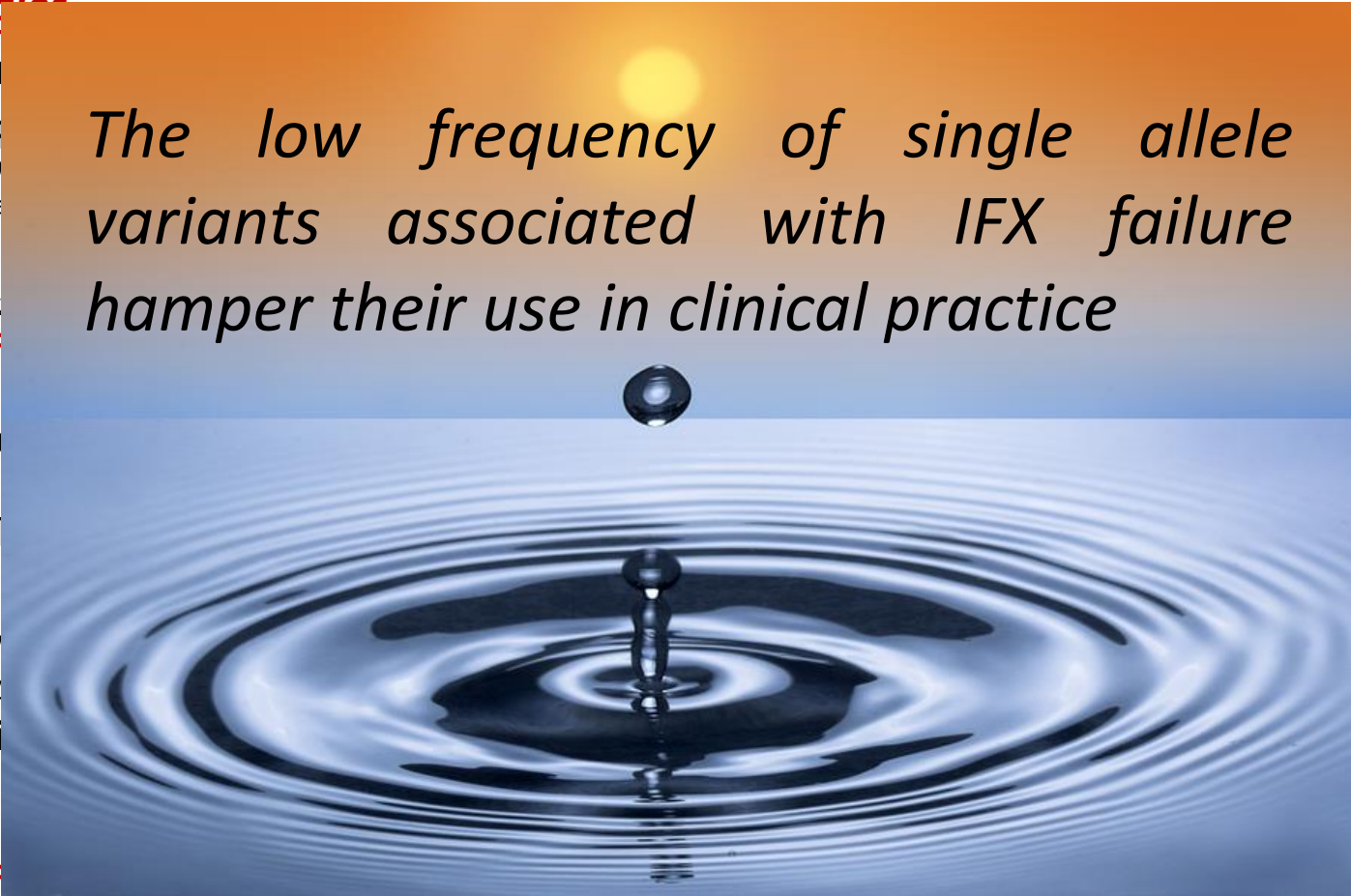
Genomic predictors of response to anti-TNF therapy

Single gene-association studies

SNPs of *tnfrsf1a*, *tnfrsf1b*, *tnfrsf1c* and *tnfrsf1d* were associated with response to anti-TNF α therapy.
Matsukura H et al Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2004
Magdelaine-Beuzelin C et al Pharmacogenet Genomics 2004
Prieto-Pérez R et al Pharmacogenomics J 2013
Prajapati R et al Pharmacogenomics 2011
Steenholdt C et al Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2011

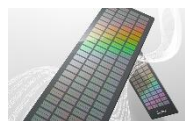
FCGR3A-158V/V polymorphism was associated with perhaps clinical responses to IFX.
Louis EJ et al Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2004
A sub-analysis of the ACCENT study showed that **FCGR3A** variants and clinical response were associated with a greater decrease in C-reactive protein.
Louis EJ et al Pharmacogenet Genomics 2004
FCGR3A-158 polymorphism was associated with CD by affecting ADCC.
Moroi R et al Immunogenetics 2013

No associations was found between response to IFX and genetic variants of **NOD2/CARD15**, **TNF α** and **TNF α R** genes
Niess JH et al Dig Dis Sci 2012



	Biologic
A and 1B)	Infliximab
ne)	Infliximab
	Infliximab
	Infliximab
	Infliximab
ne)	Infliximab
erization	Infliximab
	Adalimumab

Wide scale polymorphism association studies to predict response to IFX in CD



Illumina ImmunoChip-v1: genotyping platform containing 196 524 polymorphisms (718 small insertion deletions, 195 806 SNPs), with dense coverage of known major immune and inflammatory disease loci.

CD

Primary Non-Response

Multivariable analysis of predictors of **PNR** to anti-TNF therapy in CD

	OR	95% CI	P value
Age at diagnosis	1.01	0.97–1.06	0.65
Disease duration	1.04	1.00–1.09	0.073
<i>Disease location</i>			
Ileal	1.00	–	–
Colonic	1.05	0.28–4.00	0.94
Ileocolonic	0.30	0.08–1.18	0.85
History of smoking	2.12	0.75–6.34	0.15
GRS (per 1 unit increase)	2.65	1.95–3.61	<0.001

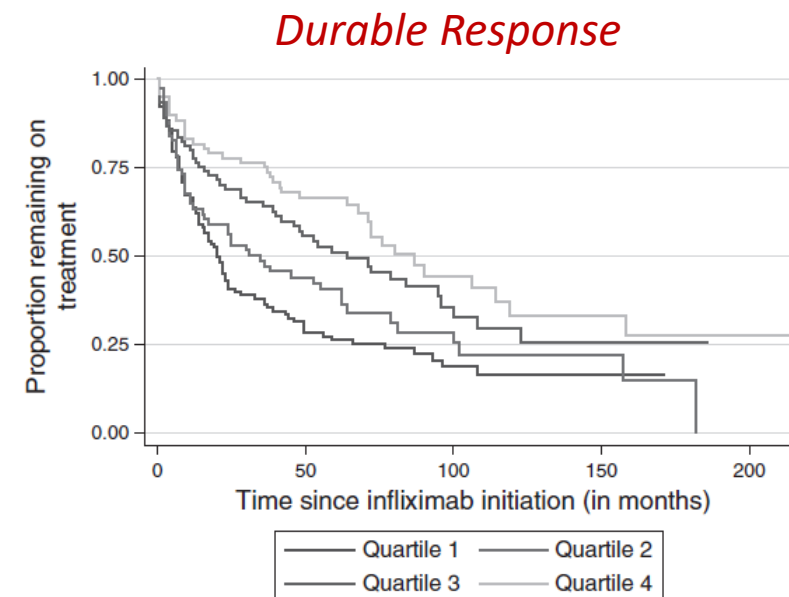
Anti-TNF, anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy; CD, Crohn's disease; CI, confidence interval; GRS, genetic risk score; OR, odds ratio; PNR, primary non-response.

Durable Response

Multivariable analysis of predictors of **DR** to anti-TNF therapy in CD

	OR	95% CI	P value
<i>Disease location</i>			
Ileal (reference)	1.00	–	–
Colonic	1.89	0.60–5.97	0.28
Ileocolonic	1.50	0.63–3.57	0.36
<i>Disease behavior</i>			
Inflammatory (reference)	1.00	–	–
Stricturing	1.15	0.45–2.92	0.77
Penetrating	1.39	0.58–3.34	0.46
Immunomodulator	1.90	0.94–3.83	0.07
Prior resection	0.38	0.18–0.83	0.02
History of smoking	0.73	0.35–1.51	0.39
GRS (per 1 unit increase)	1.60	1.41–1.83	<0.001

Anti-TNF, anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy; CD, Crohn's disease; CI, confidence interval; GRS, genetic risk score; OR, odds ratio.



Genetic Risk Score (GRS) quartiles

Genetic risk score (GRS) for PNR could not predict DR ($p=0.71$) and vice versa ($p=0.72$; $p<0.02$), suggesting that *the mechanisms underlining the genetic predisposition to PNR and DR might be distinct*.

Barber GE et al Am J Gastroenterol 2016

Wide scale polymorphism association studies to predict response to IFX in UC

Primary Non-Response

Multivariable analysis of predictors of **PNR** to anti-TNF therapy in UC

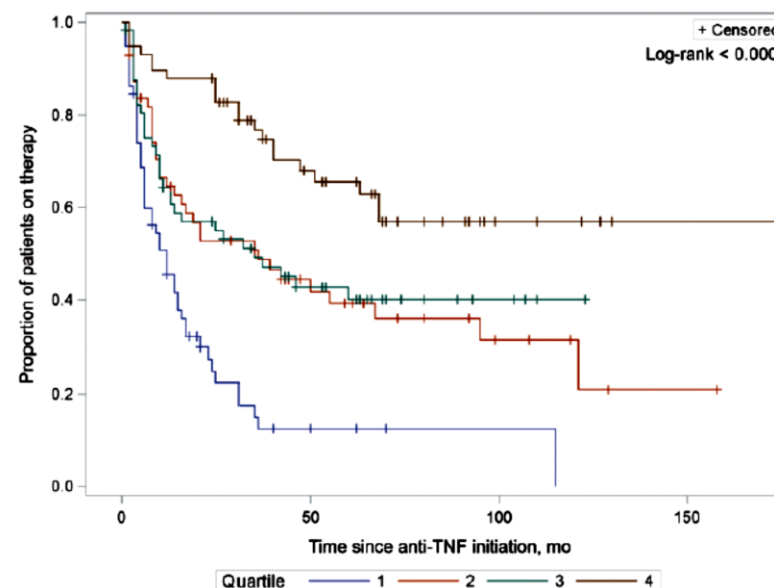
	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval	P
Age at diagnosis	0.980	0.940–1.019	0.319
Disease duration	0.959	0.887–1.026	0.249
Sex	1.055	0.383–2.888	0.916
Disease extent (pancolitis vs not)	0.680	0.236–1.935	0.467
Active tobacco use	0.135	0.002–2.316	0.284
Genetic risk score (per 1-unit increase)	3.419	2.294–5.562	3.87×10^{-4}

Durable Response

Multivariable analysis of predictors of **DR** to anti-TNF therapy in CD

	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval	P
Age at diagnosis	0.978	0.952–1.005	0.116
Disease duration	0.997	0.956–1.039	0.873
Sex	1.132	0.603–2.125	0.700
Disease extent	1.195	0.636–2.244	0.580
Active tobacco use	1.817	0.428–7.712	0.418
Genetic risk score (per 1-unit increase)	2.799	2.060–3.803	4.74×10^{-11}

UC



Genetic Risk Score (GRS) quartiles

Predictors of PNR and DR were again mutually exclusive

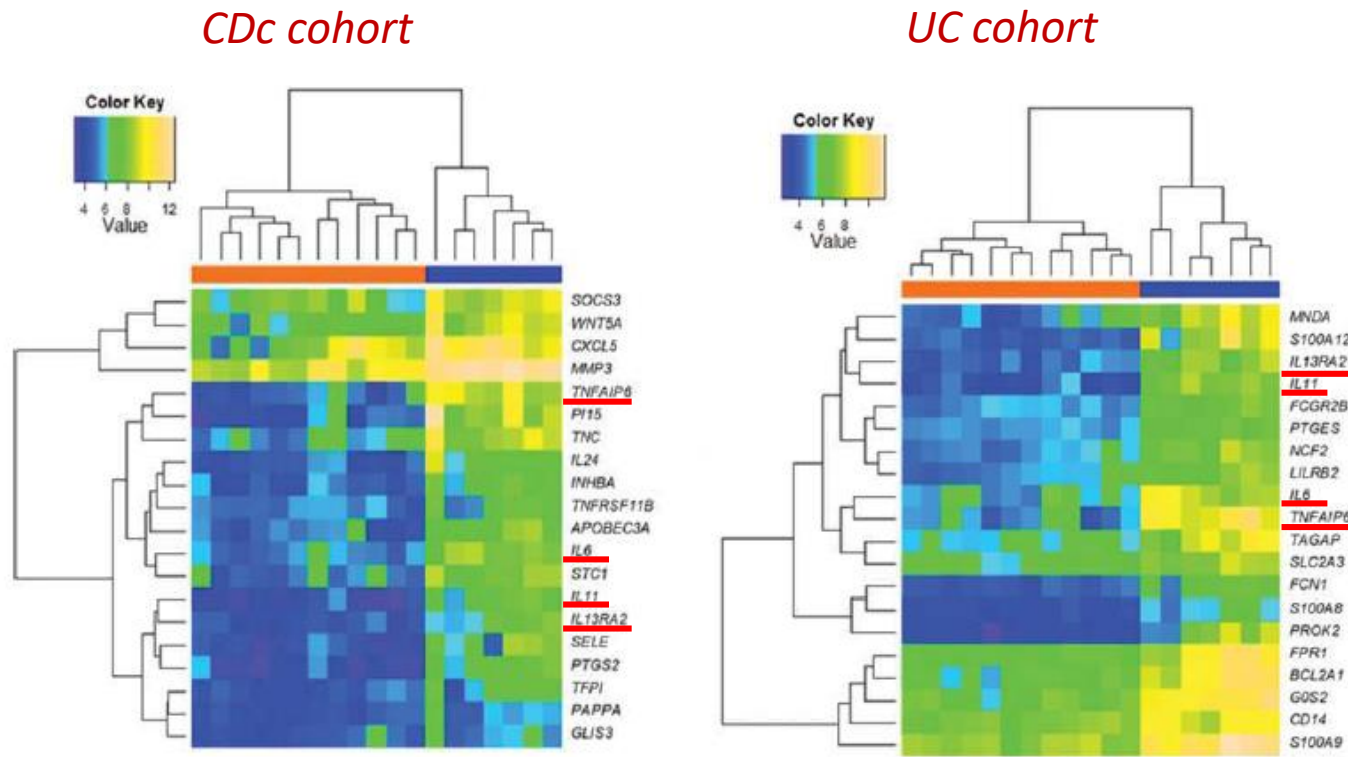
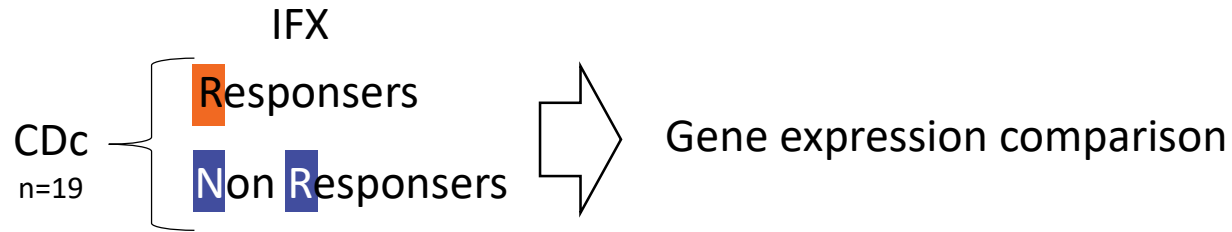
No association between genetic risk score for DR and anti-IFX antibodies

Burke K et al *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2018



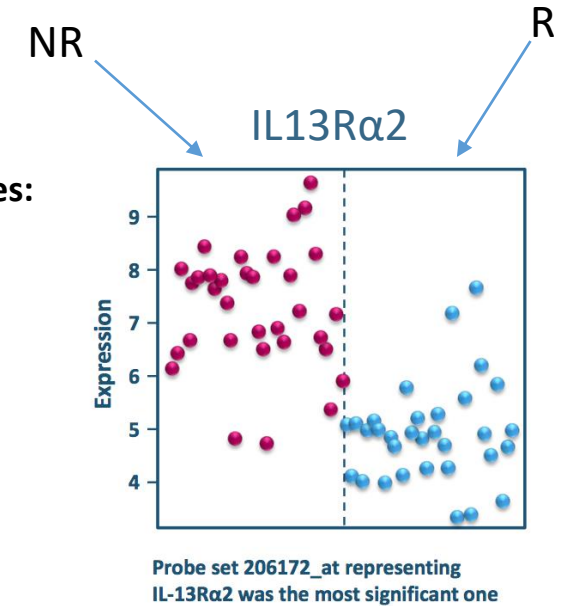
From genes to their expression: the TRANSCRIPTOMICS

Gene-expression screening to predict response to IFX



4 overlapping genes:

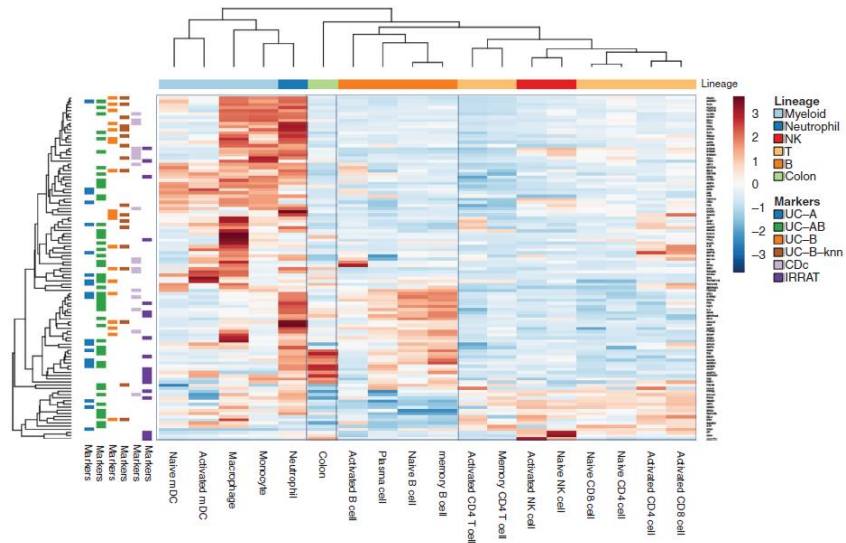
- IL13Rα2
- IL-11
- IL-6
- TNFAIP6



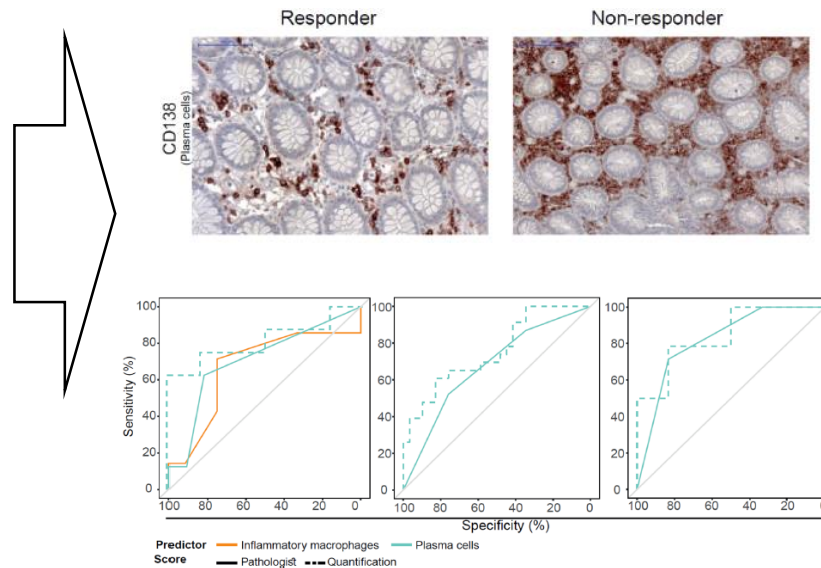
Arijs I et al Inflamm Bowel Dis 2010

Gene-expression screening to predict response to IFX

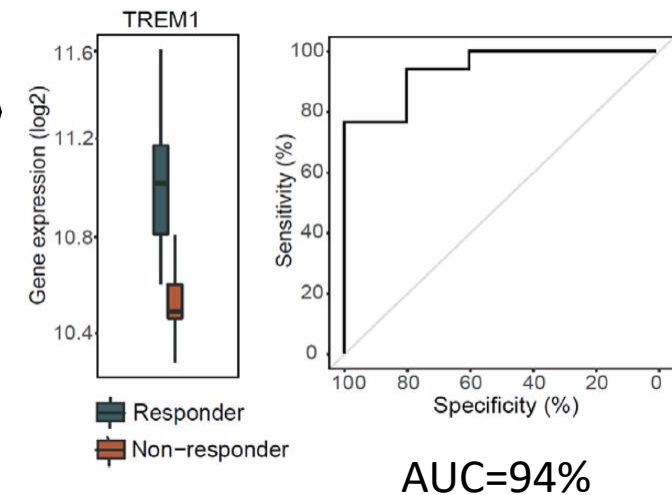
Gene expression profile



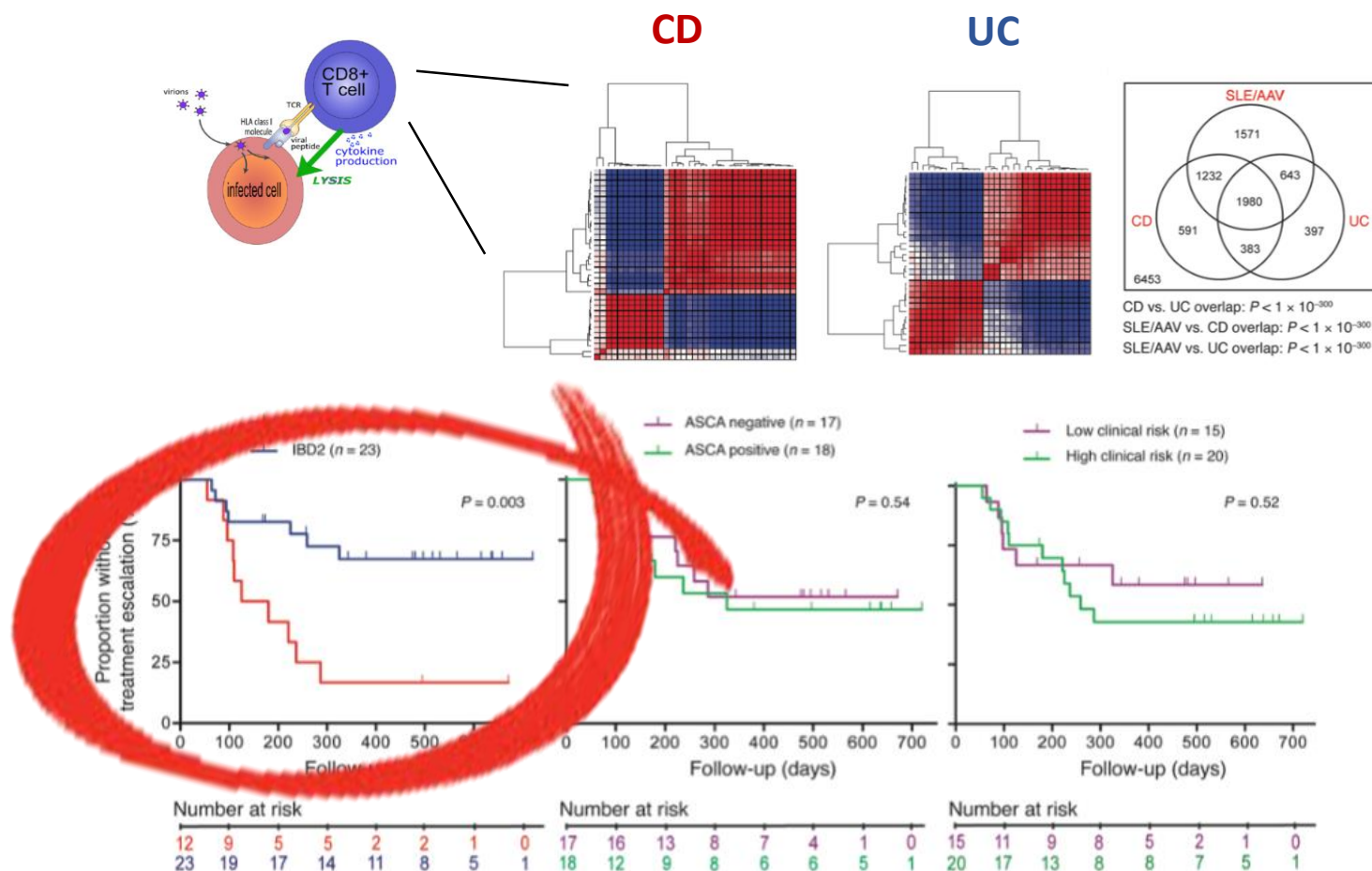
Prediction of cell subsets variation



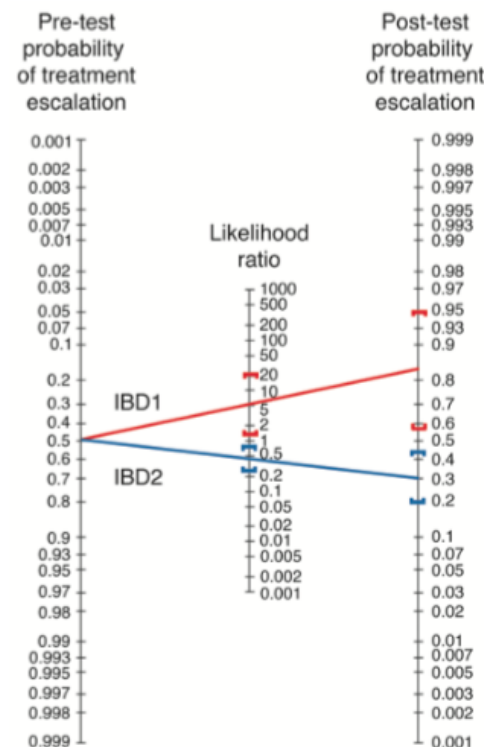
Adjusting samples for cell subset variation unmasks upregulated pathways in biopsies of anti-TNF non-responders.



Gene expression profiling of CD8+ T cells predicts prognosis in patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis



End point: treatment escalation

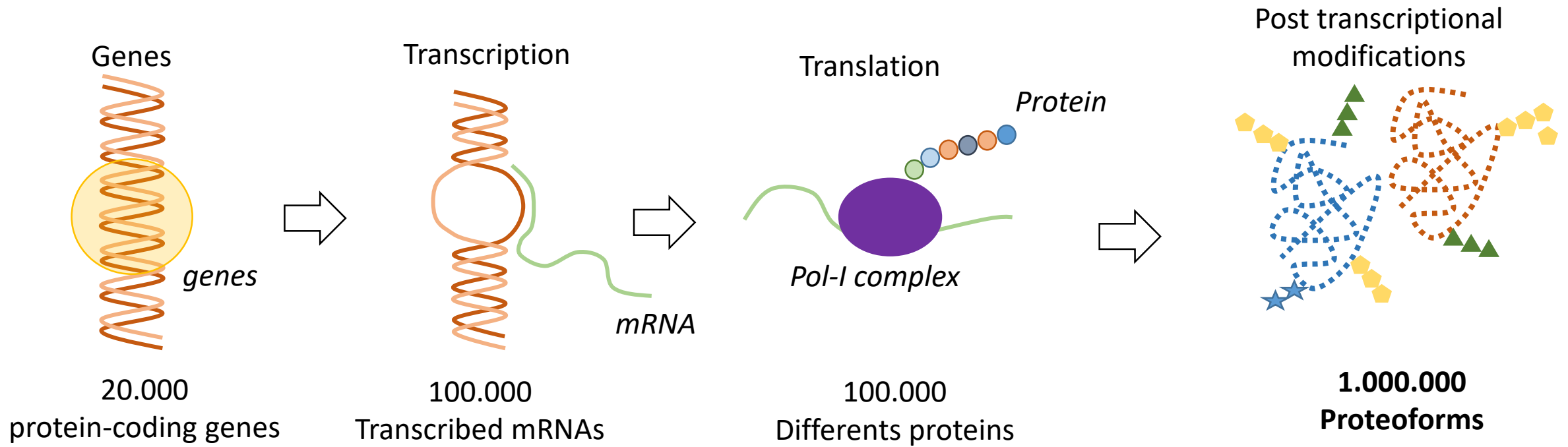


Lee JC. J Clin Invest 2011

From Genes to Proteins

The **Proteome** is defined as the full complement of proteins encoded by a genome.

- ❑ Allelic variants predisposing to disease are generally present in the general population thus limiting their use as diagnostic tool.
- ❑ The effect size of associations of genetic factors with clinical phenotypes is often small
- ❑ Biological and functional output of cells is governed primarily by proteins



Fifteen proteins corresponding to 240 spots were identified (more than one spot correspond to the same protein)

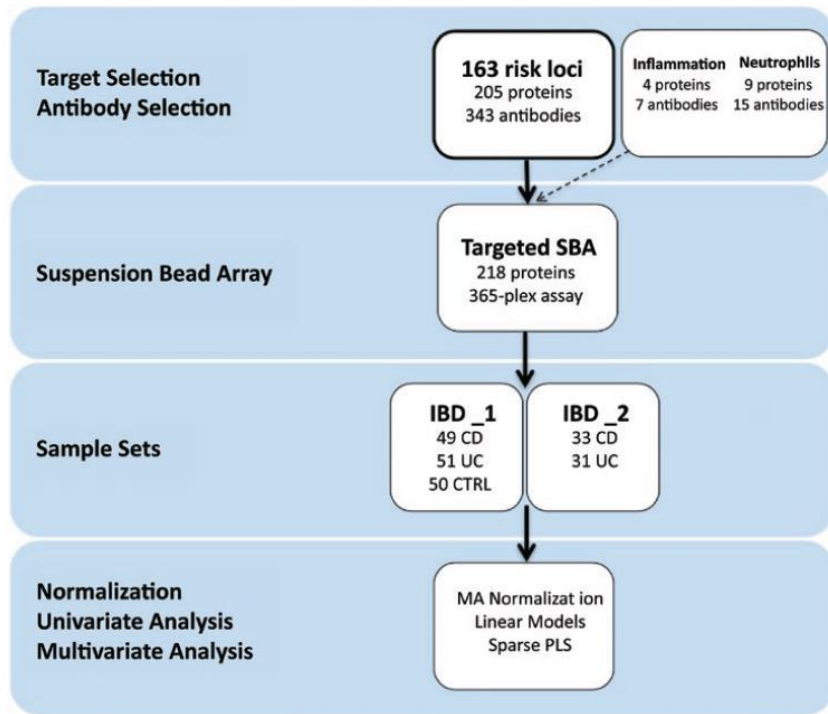
Gazouli M et al J Crohn Colitis 2013

Proteomic approach for the identification of disease markers

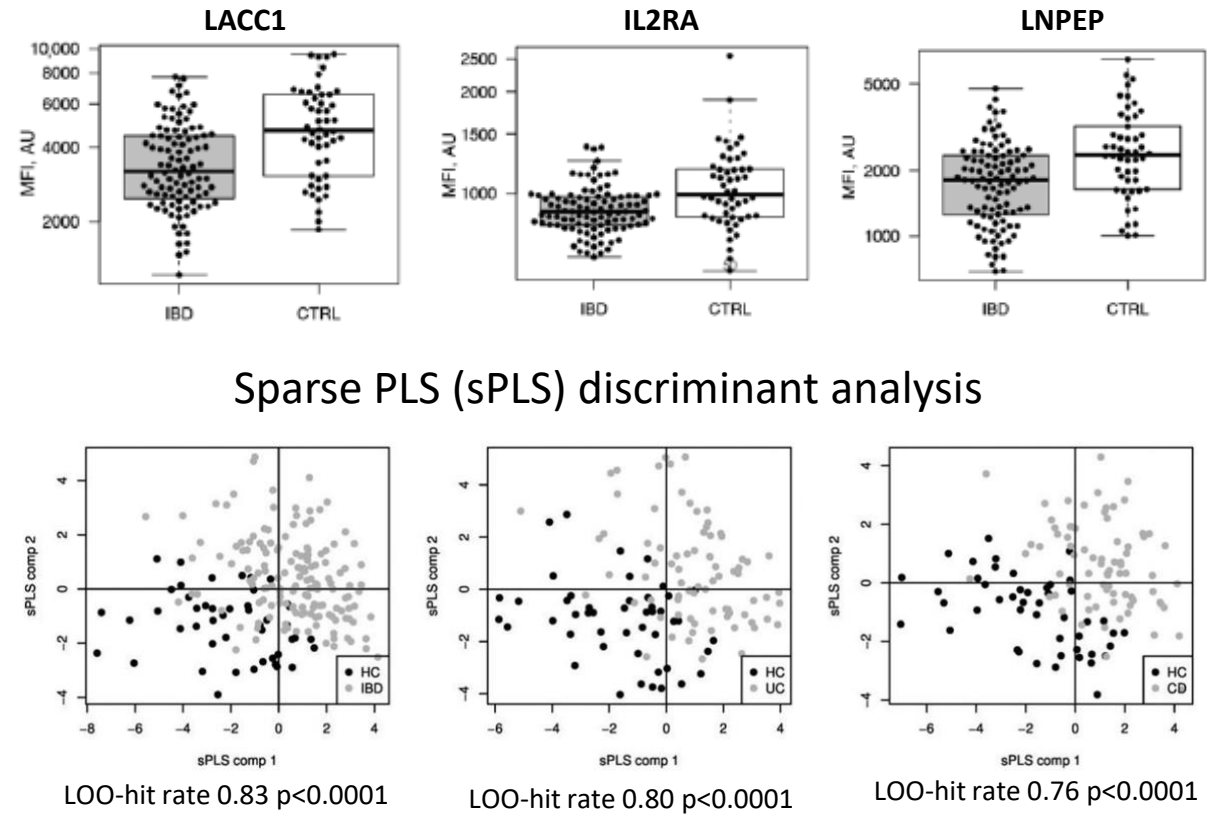
Targeted Analysis of Serum Proteins Encoded at Known Inflammatory Bowel Disease Risk Loci

Drobin K et al J Crohn Colitis 2018

THE HUMAN PROTEIN ATLAS



IBD risk loci
↓
Candidate proteins
↓
Proteomic analysis
↓
Serum markers identification



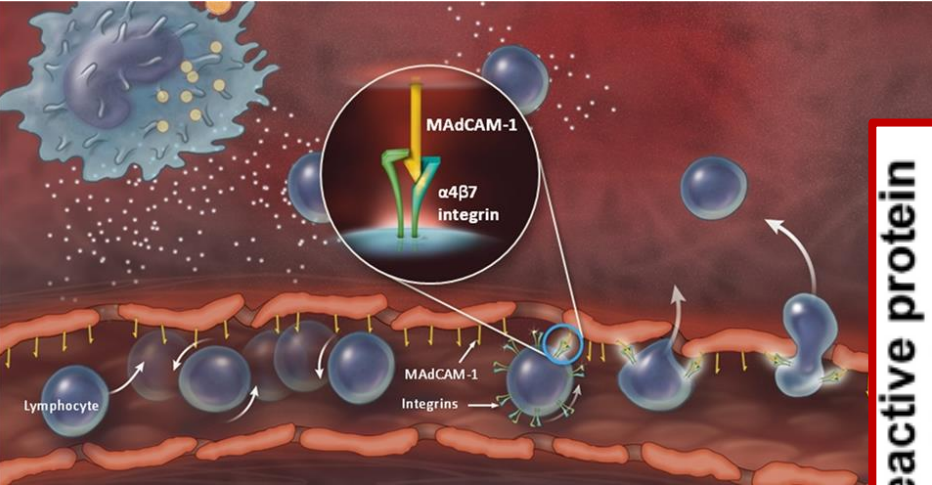


Profiling based on the drug specific mechanism of action

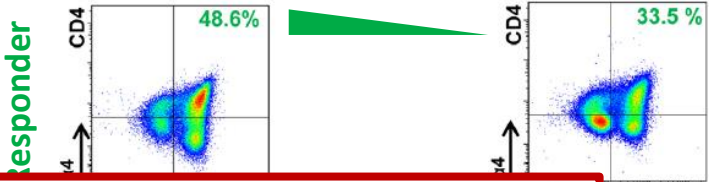
The candidate target approach

The expression of $\alpha4\beta7$ and $\alpha4\beta1$ integrin expression predict response to Vedolizumab

Vedolizumab (VDZ) mechanism of action

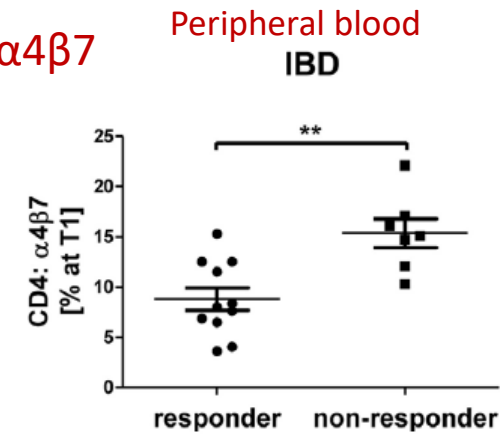
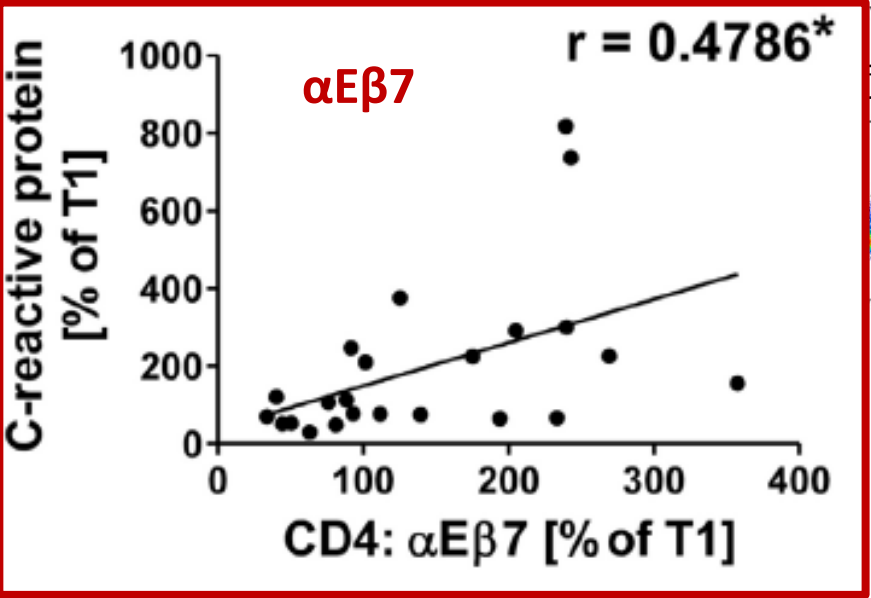


$\alpha4\beta1$

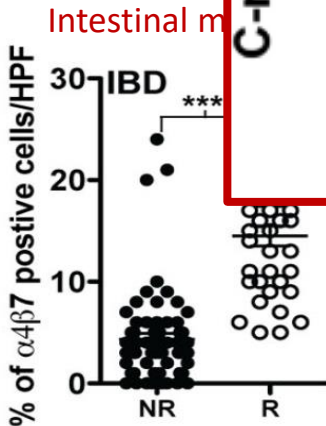


MCS:1

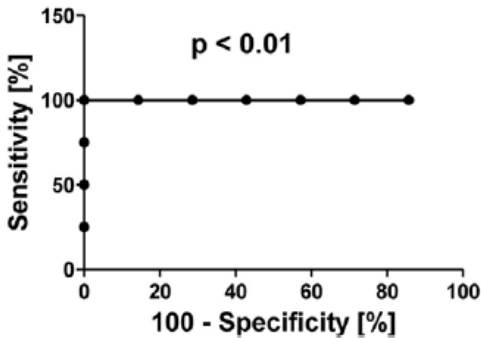
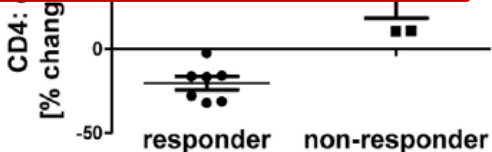
MCS:5



Peripheral blood IBD



Intestinal m

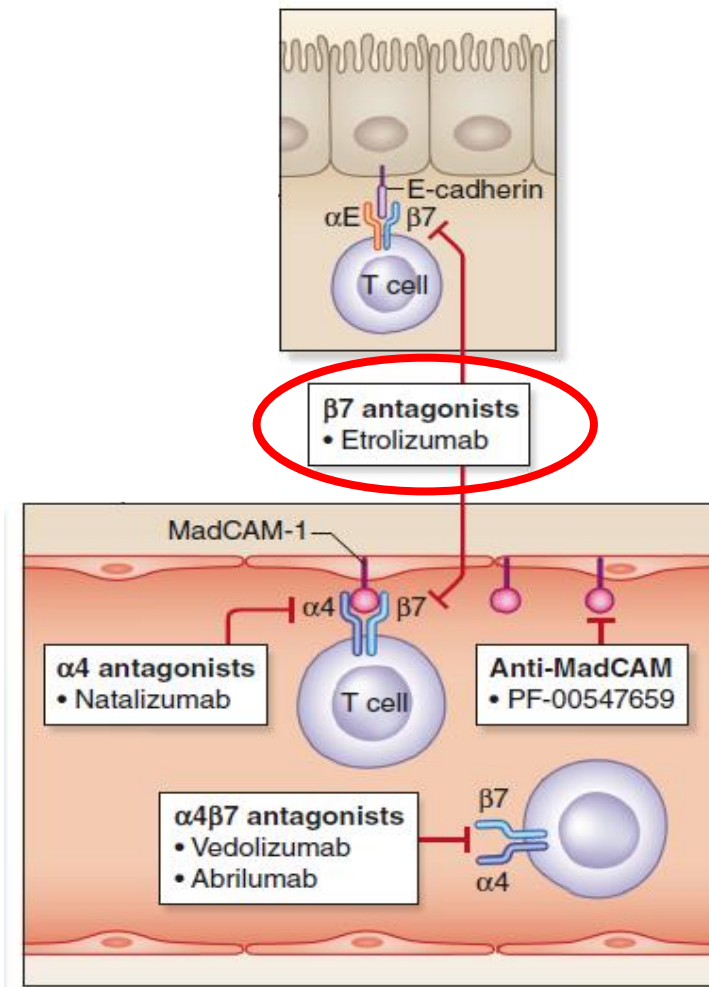


Fuchs F et al Front Immunol 2017

Fuchs F et al Front Immunol 2017

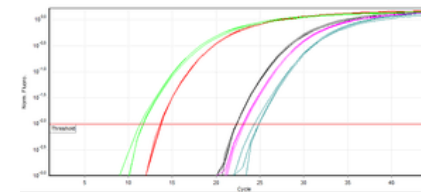
Rath T et al Front Immunol 2018

The expression of αE integrin predicts response to Etrolizumab

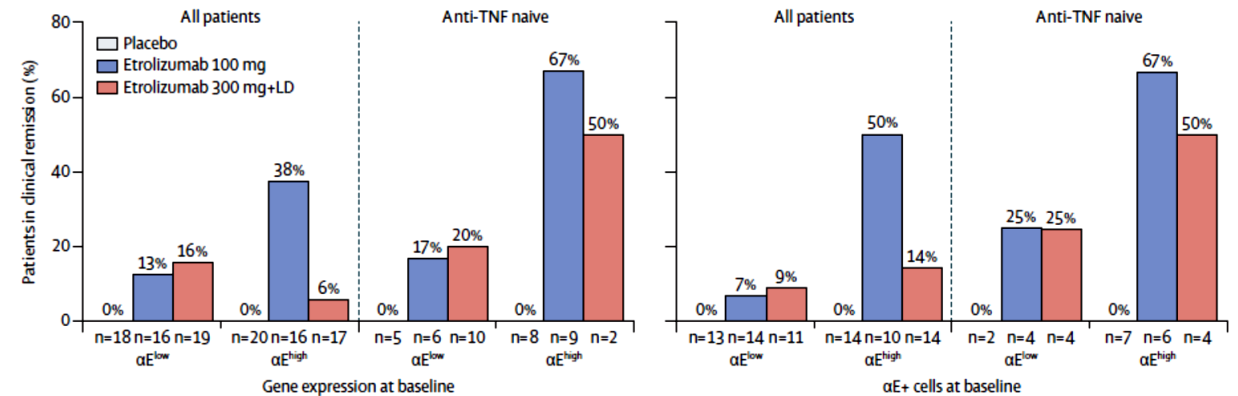
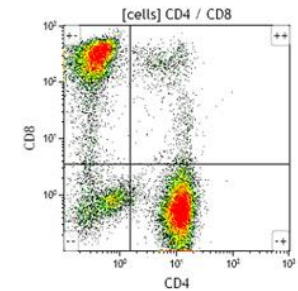


Colonic biopsies

αE gene expression



αE protein expression



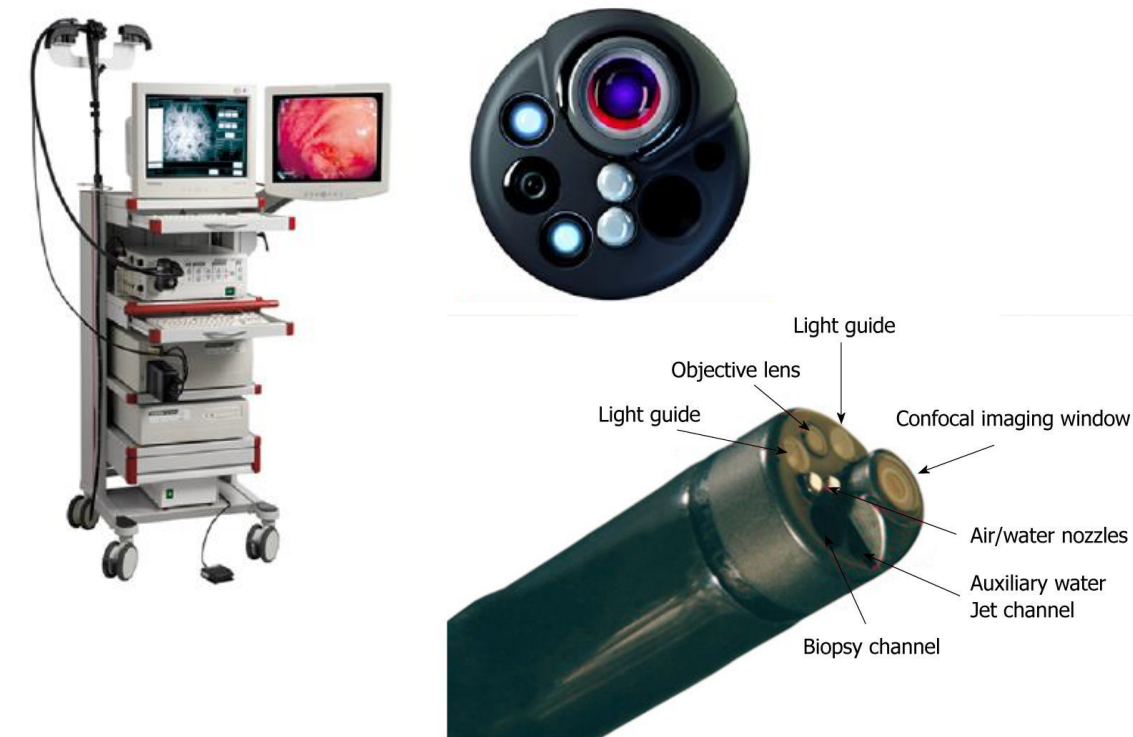
Vermeire S et al Lancet 2014

Paramsothy S et al Mucosal Immunol 2018

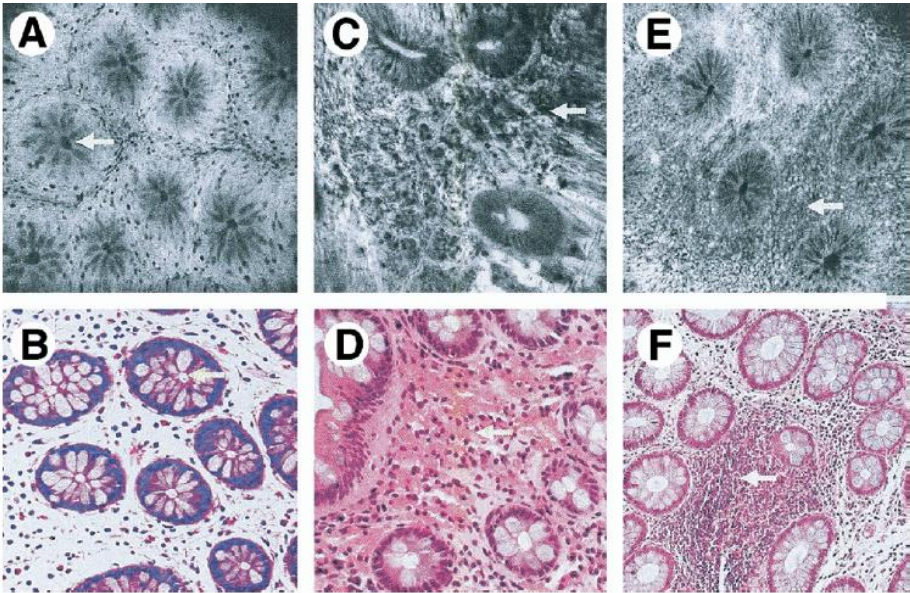
Novel imaging modalities for immune cell monitoring in the intestine

2005

Fluorescein-aided endomicroscopy



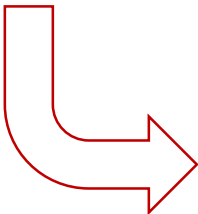
Neumann H et al Gastroenterology 2010



Ralf Kiesslich

2014

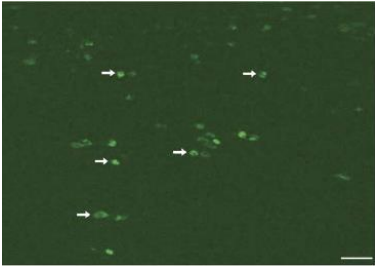
Kiesslich R et al Gastroenterology 2007



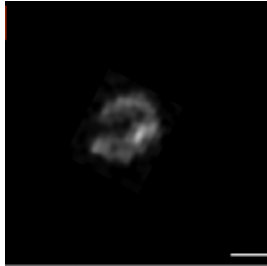
Type	Peptide	Antibody	Activatable probe	Nanoparticle
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy delivery to target structure • Low immunogenicity • Low cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High specificity • Defined target • Defined and approved therapeutic ab may be labeled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific activation • Optimized signal-to-noise ratio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loading with multiple proteins for multivalent targeting • Strong fluorescence
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable affinity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential immunogenicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internalization frequently required for activation • Undefined safety profile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential toxicity of non-biocompatible core • Renal clearance

Mucosal expression of mTNF as predictor of response to ADA

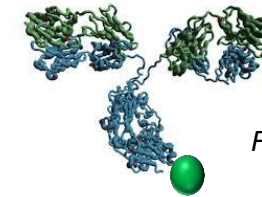
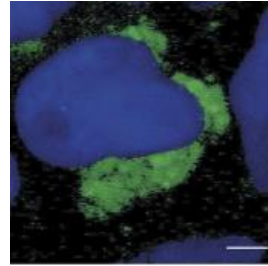
Enhanced confocal



Confocal



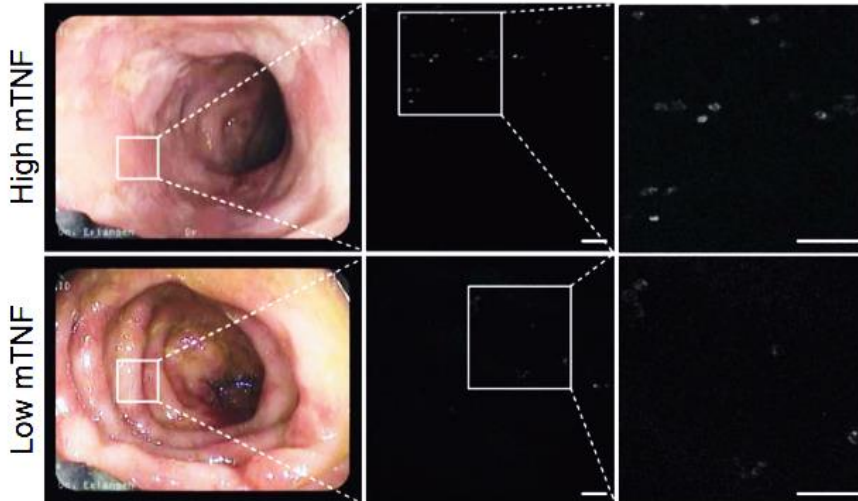
IF



Fluorescein (FITC)-labeled ADA

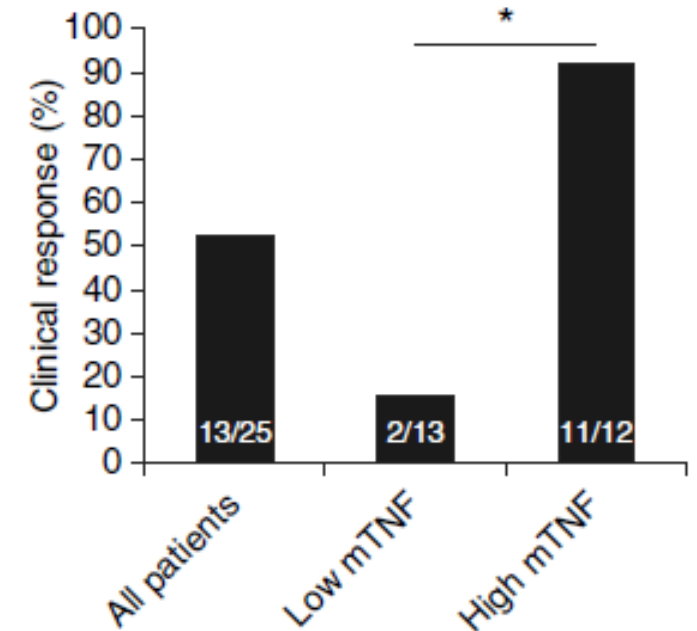
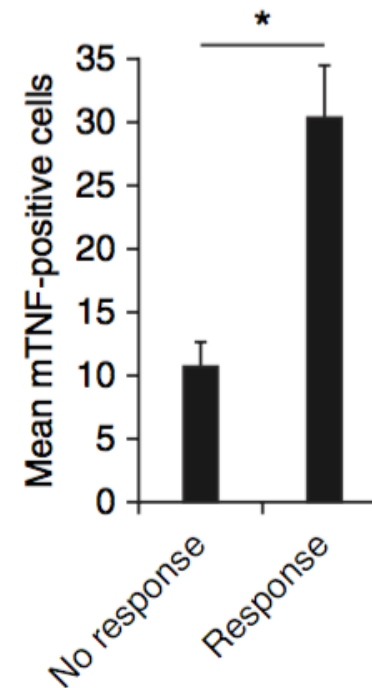
High-resolution endoscopy

Molecular imaging *in vivo*



High-resolution endoscopy

Molecular imaging *in vivo*

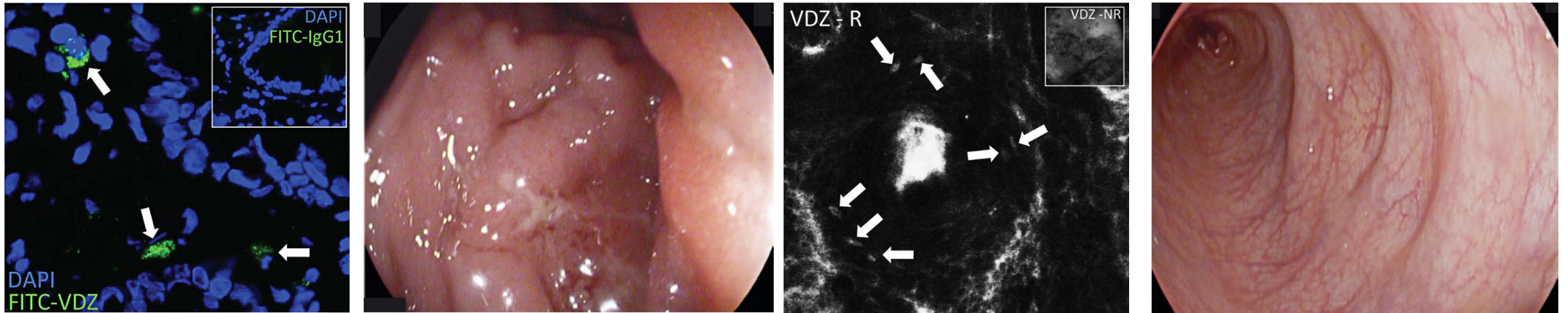


Atreya R et al Nat Med 2014

Vedolizumab *in vivo* mucosal staining as predictor of response

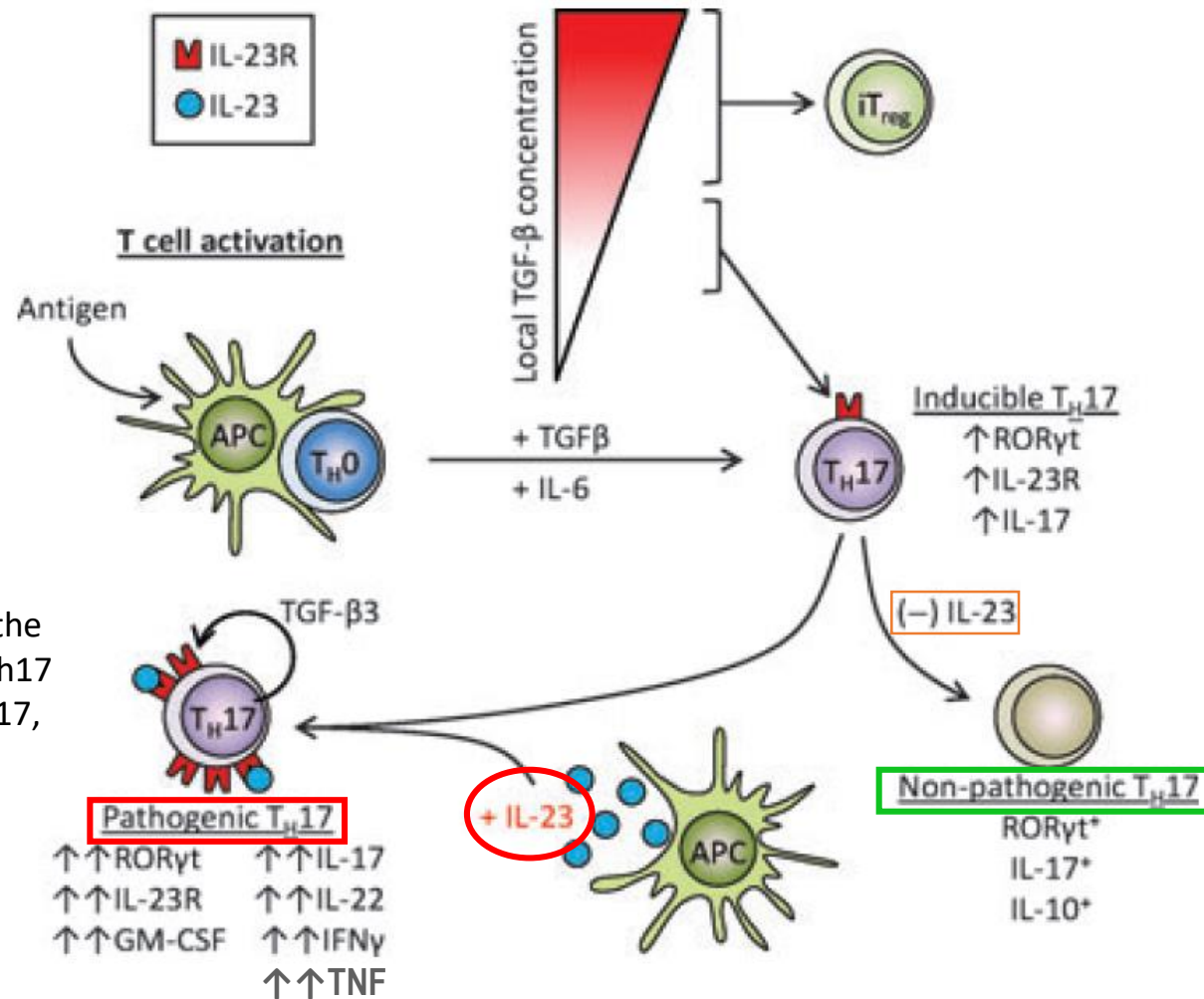
5 anti-TNF refractory CD patients with active mucosal inflammation underwent high definition endoscopy and evaluated for VDZ labeling by confocal endomicroscopy.

2 of the five Pts who showed pericryptal FITC-VDZ in vivo staining responded to VDZ therapy.



Rath T et al Gastrointest Endoscopy 2017

Predicting response to anti-(IL23)p19



Exposure to IL-23 is needed for the development of inflammatory Th17 cells producing high levels of IL-17, IL-22, IFNγ, and TNF.

In the absence of IL-23, Th17 cells differentiate into non-pathogenic IL-17⁺ and IL-10⁺ cells.

Zuniga LA, et al. *Immunol Rev.* 2013;252:78–88
 Gaffen SL, et al. *Nature Rev Immunol* 2014;14, 585-600

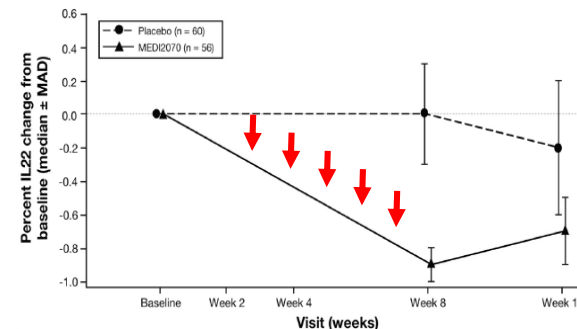
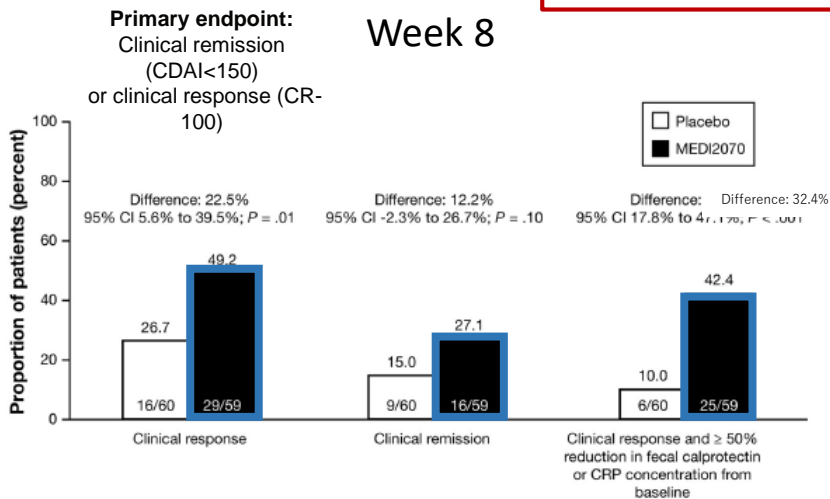
IL-22 basal serum expression predicts response to MEDI2070

Efficacy and Safety of MEDI2070, an Antibody Against Interleukin 23, in Patients With Moderate to Severe Crohn's Disease: A Phase 2a Study

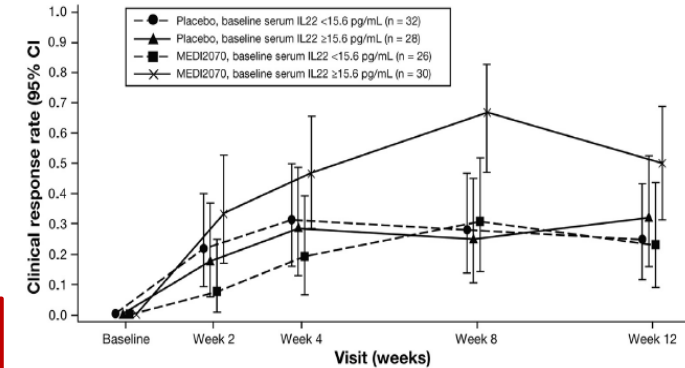


Bruce E. Sands,¹ Jingjing Chen,² Brian G. Feagan,³ Mark Penney,⁴ William A. Rees,² Silvio Danese,⁵ Peter D. R. Higgins,⁶ Paul Newbold,² Raffaella Faggioni,⁷ Kaushik Patra,² Jing Li,⁷ Paul Klekotka,⁸ Chris Morehouse,² Erik Pulkstenis,² Jörn Drappa,² René van der Merwe,⁴ and Robert A. Gasser Jr²

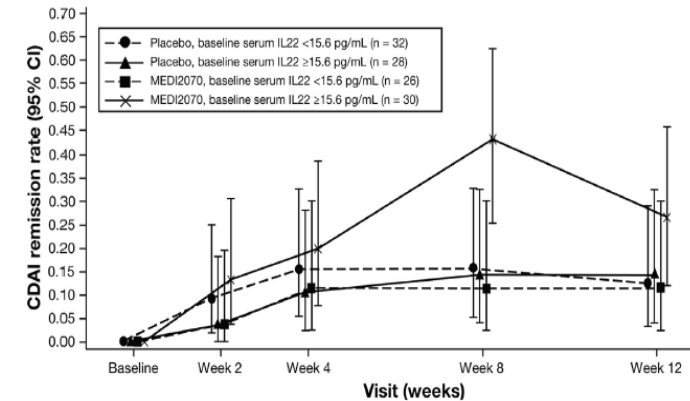
- IL22 serum level decreases after exposure to MEDI2070.
- Pretreatment serum IL22 above **15.6 pg/ml** is associated with higher rate of clinical response and remission.



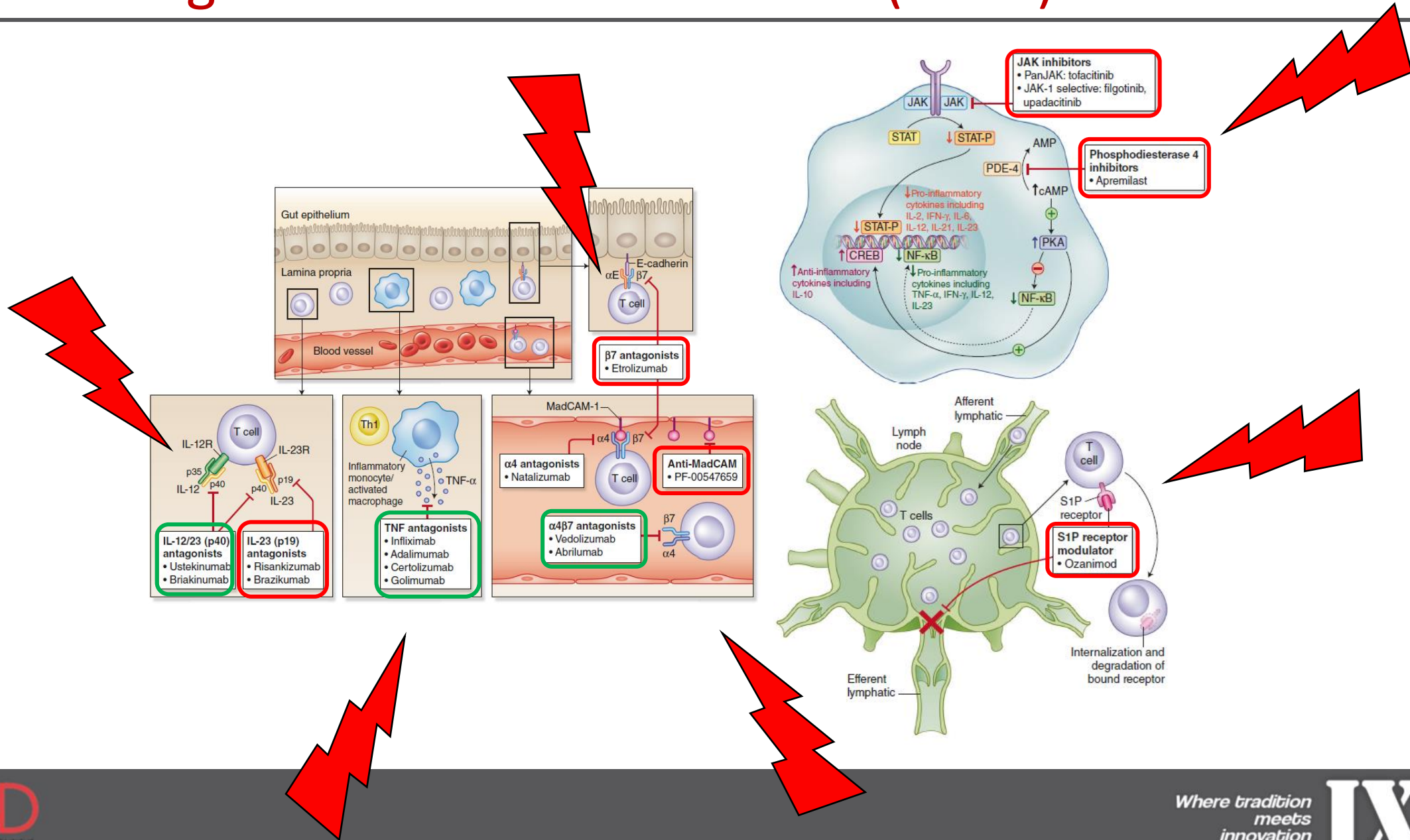
Clinical Response



Clinical Remission



Combining different Mode of Action (MOA)

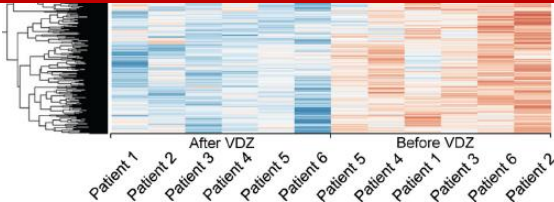


Combining different Mode of Action (MOA)

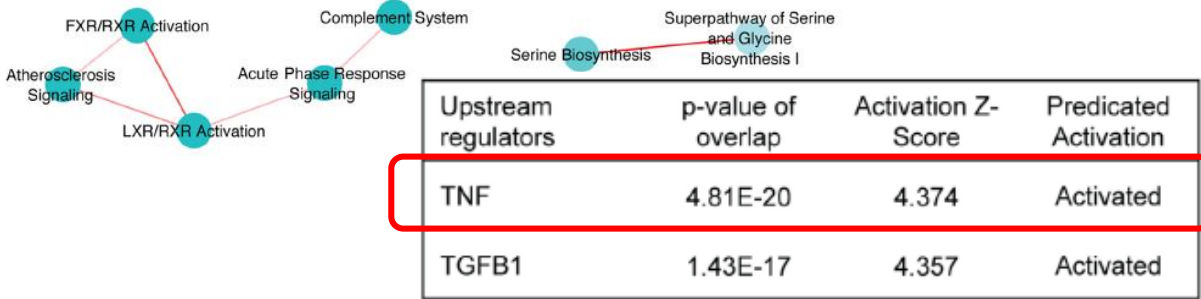
Gene expression in intestinal mucosa at week 0 and week 14 after VDZ therapy

	CD	
	Remitters (n = 8)	Non-remitters (n = 8)
Baseline characteristics		
Sex (m/f)		
Age (years)		
Mean ± SD		
Disease manifestation		
Ileum		
Ileum + colon		
Ileum + colon + upper GI tract	2	1
Disease duration		
Mean ± SD (years)	6.7 ± 1.6	7.3 ± 4.5
Prior anti-TNF treatment	3	3
Concomitant medication		
Glucocorticoids only	1	1
Immunosuppressants only*		1
No glucocorticoids and immunosuppressants	2	1

Might these patients benefit from an anti-integrin plus an anti-TNF combined therapy?



Upstream regulators associated with Non-Response



Rath T et al Front Immunol 2018

Combining different MOA

FUTURE DIRECT

Combining Anti-TNF- α and Vedolizumab in the Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A Case Series

Lydia C.T. Buer MD^{*,†,1}, Marte L. Høivik MD, PhD^{*}, David J. Warren MD[‡], Asle W. Medhus MD, PhD^{*} and Bjørn A. Moum MD, PhD^{*,†}

Bruet L et al *Inflamm Boel Dis* 2018

Long-term Combination Therapy with Anti-TNF plus Vedolizumab Induces and Maintains Remission in Therapy-refractory Ulcerative Colitis







Sarah Fischer, MD¹, Timo Rath, MD¹, Carol-Immanuel Geppert, MD², Bernhard Manger, MD³, Georg Schett, MD³, Markus F. Neurath, MD¹ and Raja Atreya, MD¹

Fischer S et al *An J Gastroenterol* 2017

**NO SAFETY ISSUES
WERE REPORTED**

WILEY AP&T Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Safety, efficacy and pharmacokinetics of vedolizumab in patients with simultaneous exposure to an anti-tumour necrosis factor

S. Ben-Horin^{1,2}  | B. Ungar¹  | U. Kopylov¹  | A. Lahat¹  | M. Yavzori¹ | E. Fudim¹ | O. Picard¹ | Y. Peled³ | R. Eliakim¹ | E. Del Tedesco⁴ | S. Paul⁴  | X. Roblin⁴ 

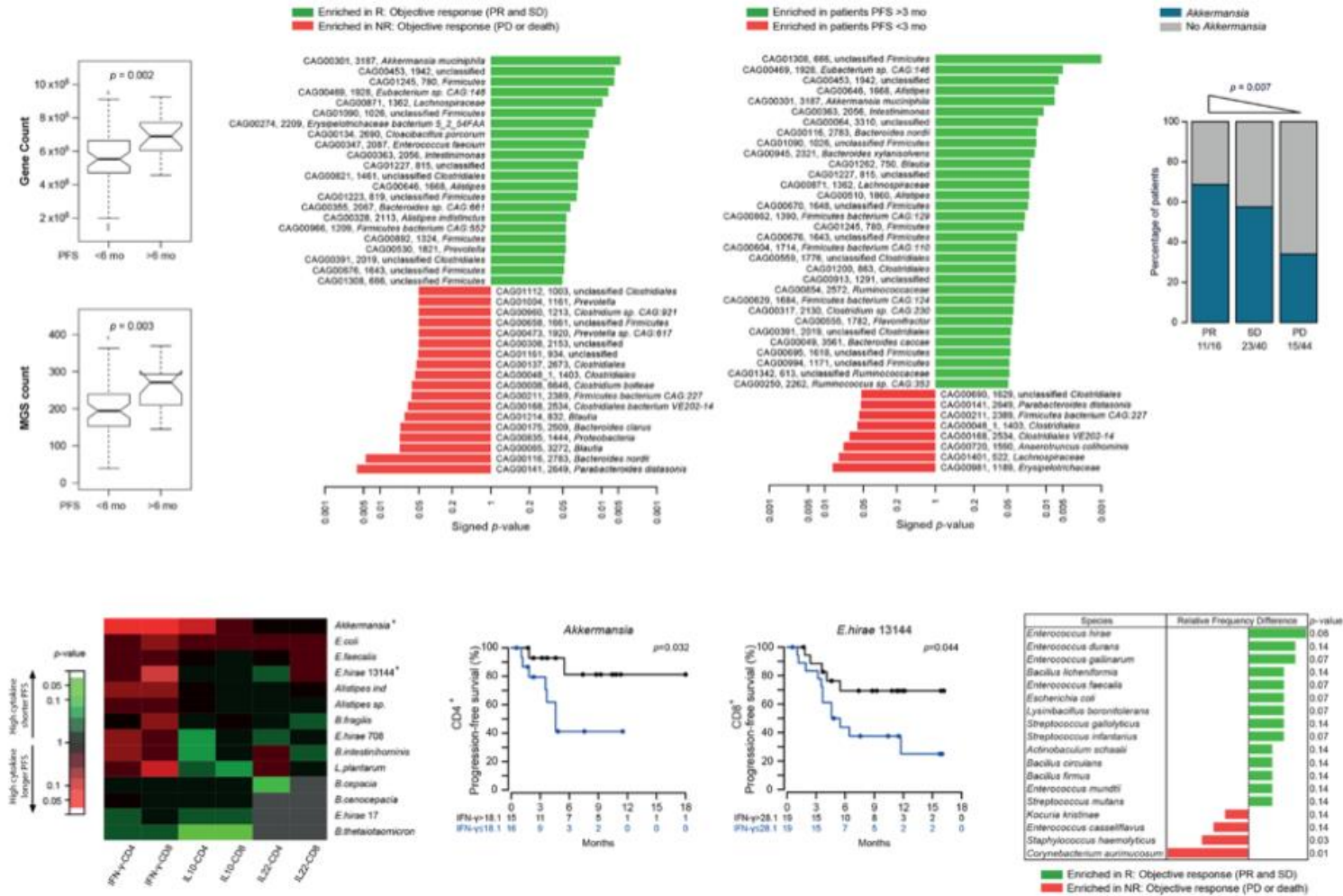
Ben-Horin S et al *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2018

Microbiota

Microbiota and personalized medicine: does it play a role?

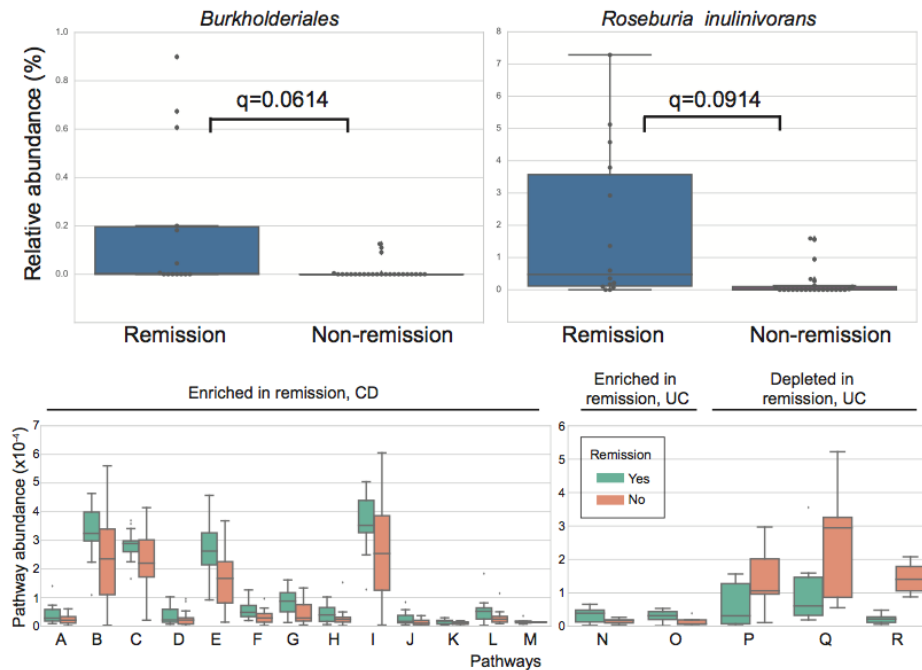


Role of microbiome in anti PD-1 response

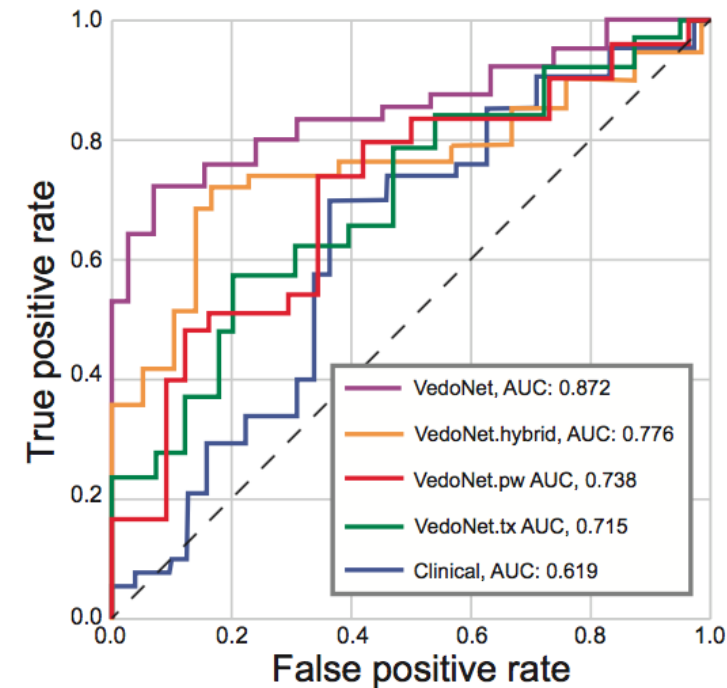


Routy B et al Science 2017

Role of microbiome in predicting response to VDZ



VedoNet (a neural network algorithm) incorporates microbiome and clinical data



VedoNet containing 40 microbiome variables provided the highest classifying power (AUC=0.872), >80 of true positive discovery rate and <25% false negative discovery rate.

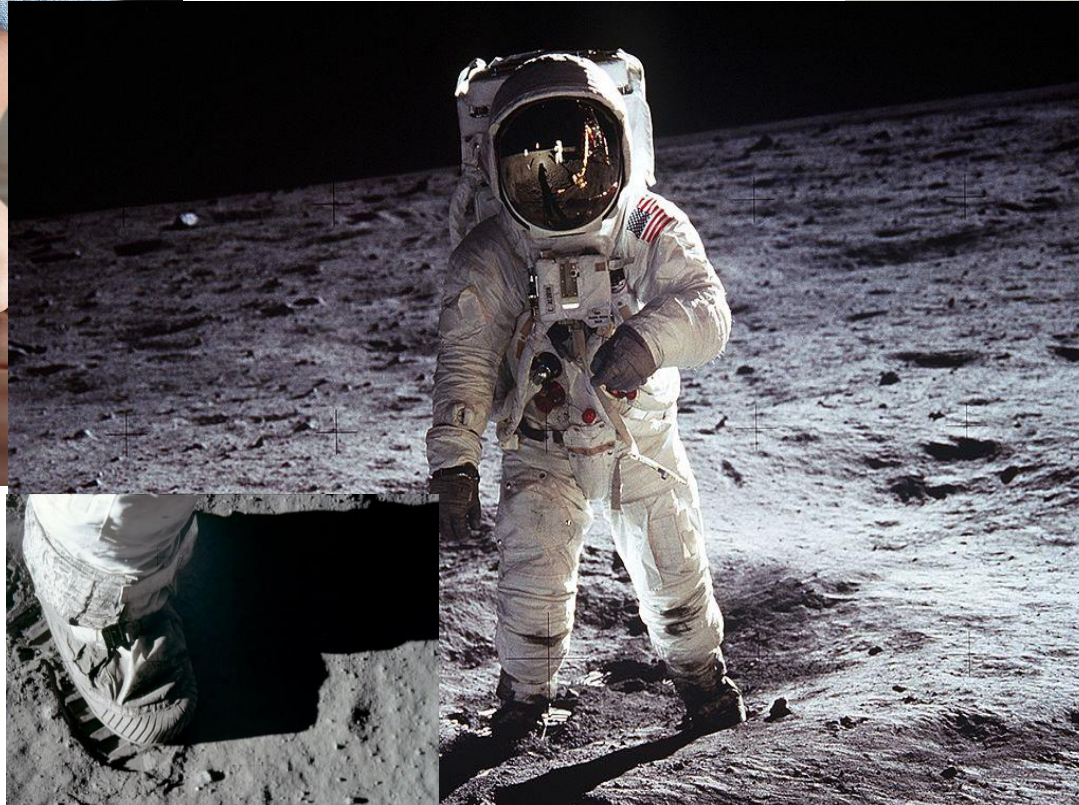
Ananthakrishnan AN et al Cell Host & Microbe 2017

The long way to success

The **infancy** of personalized medicine in IBD



Thanks for you attention



Signals from the future

