

Linking two temporal big data domains: The clinical and the omics worlds



CENTER FOR
BIOLOGICAL
SEQUENCE
ANALYSIS
CBS

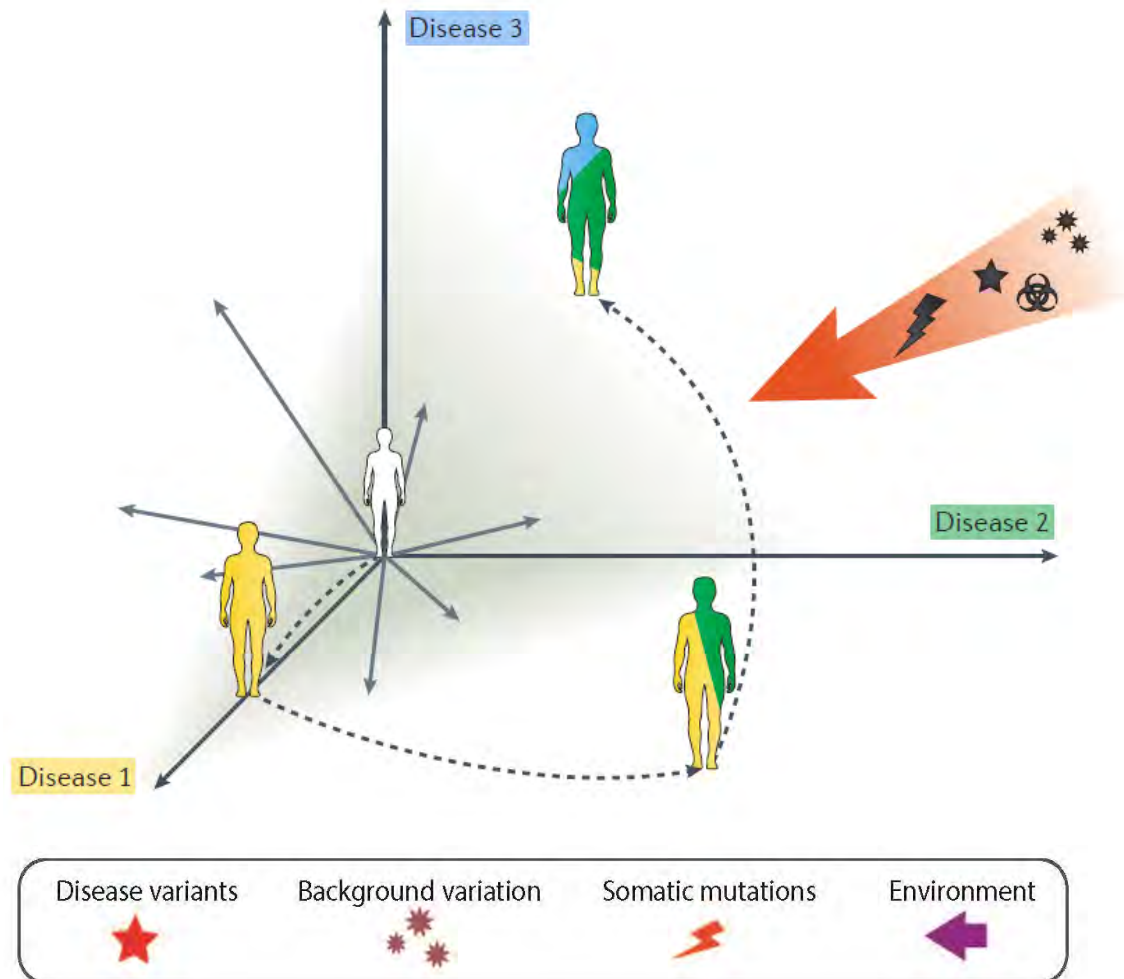
Søren Brunak

Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Protein Research
University of Copenhagen
soren.brunak@cpr.ku.dk

Rigshospitalet
soeren.brunak@regionh.dk

Center for Biological Sequence Analysis
Technical University of Denmark
brunak@cbs.dtu.dk

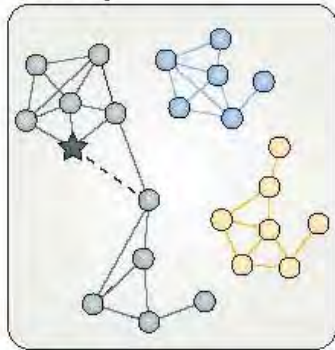
Lifelong **multimorbidity** journeys in disease space



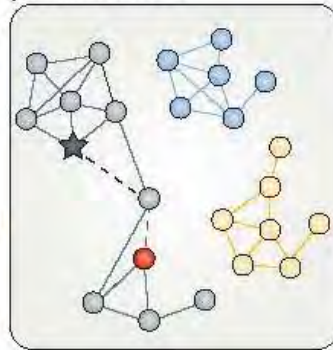
Rewiring

Disease progression

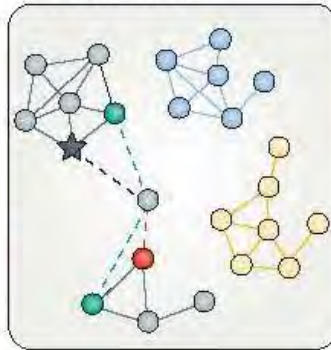
Healthy



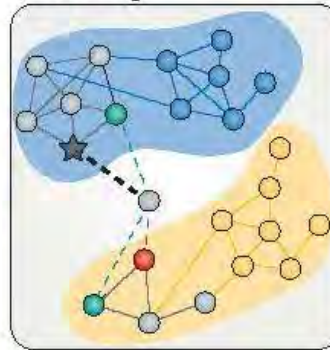
Stochastic perturbation



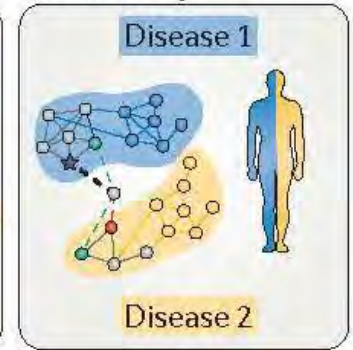
Environment



Rewiring



Comorbidity

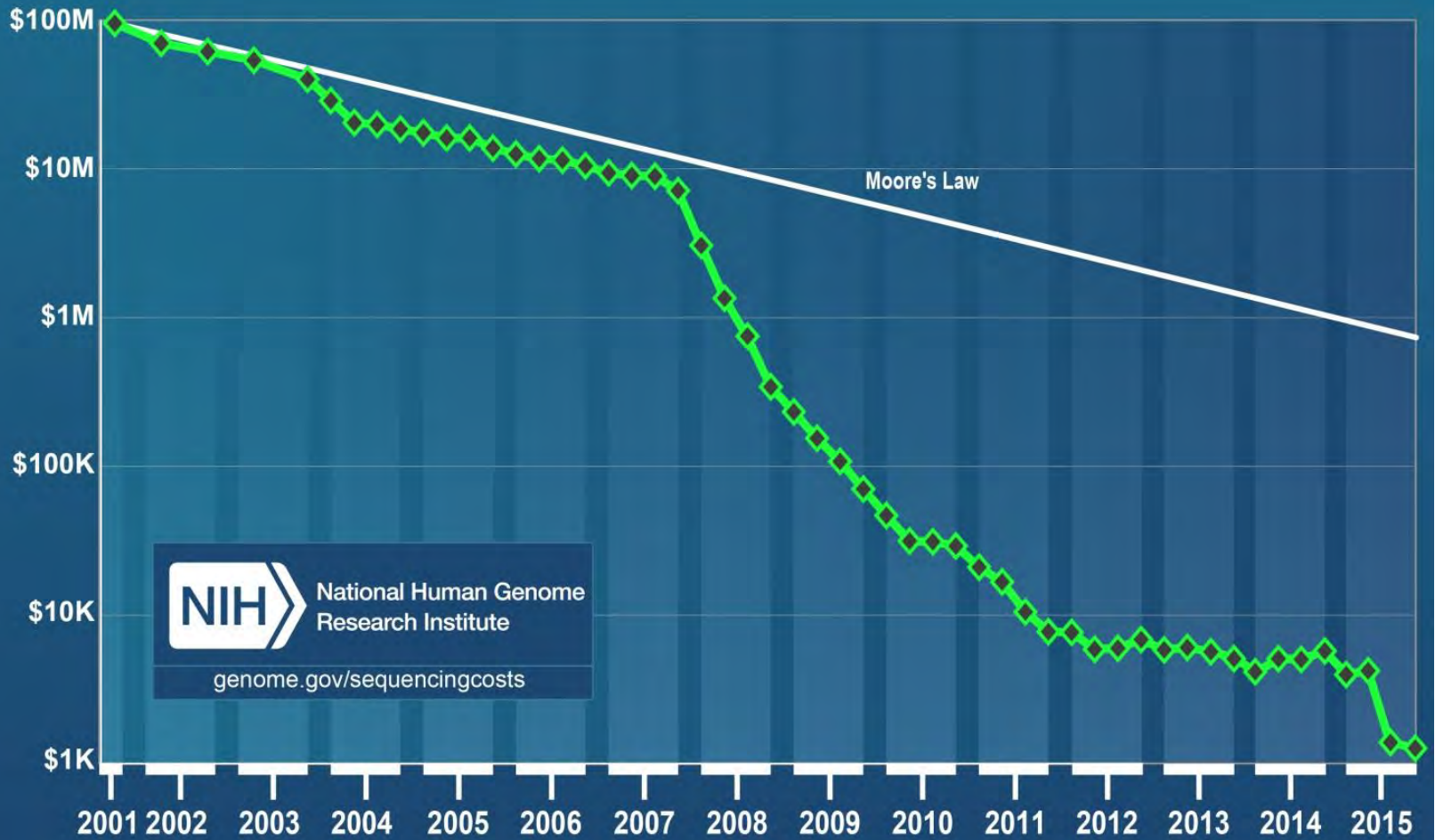


Healthy state robustness

Disease state robustness

● Protein ★ Common disease variant ● Genetic perturbation ● Environmental perturbation — PPI - - - Lost/weak PPI

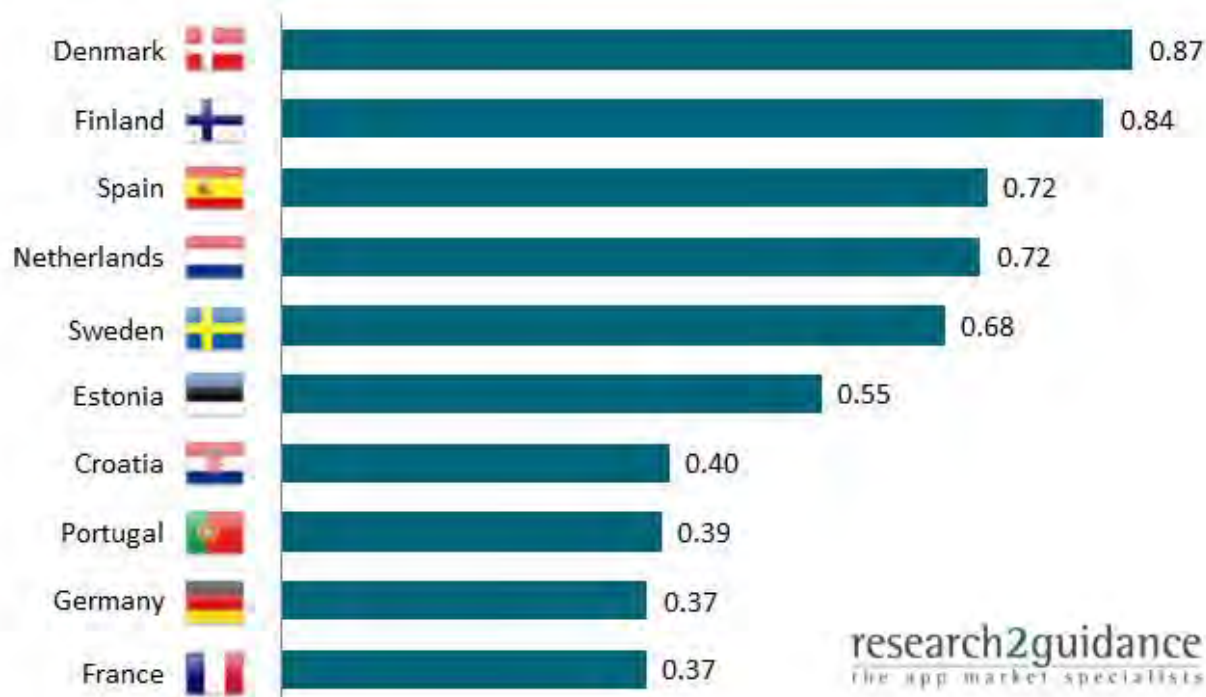
Cost per Genome





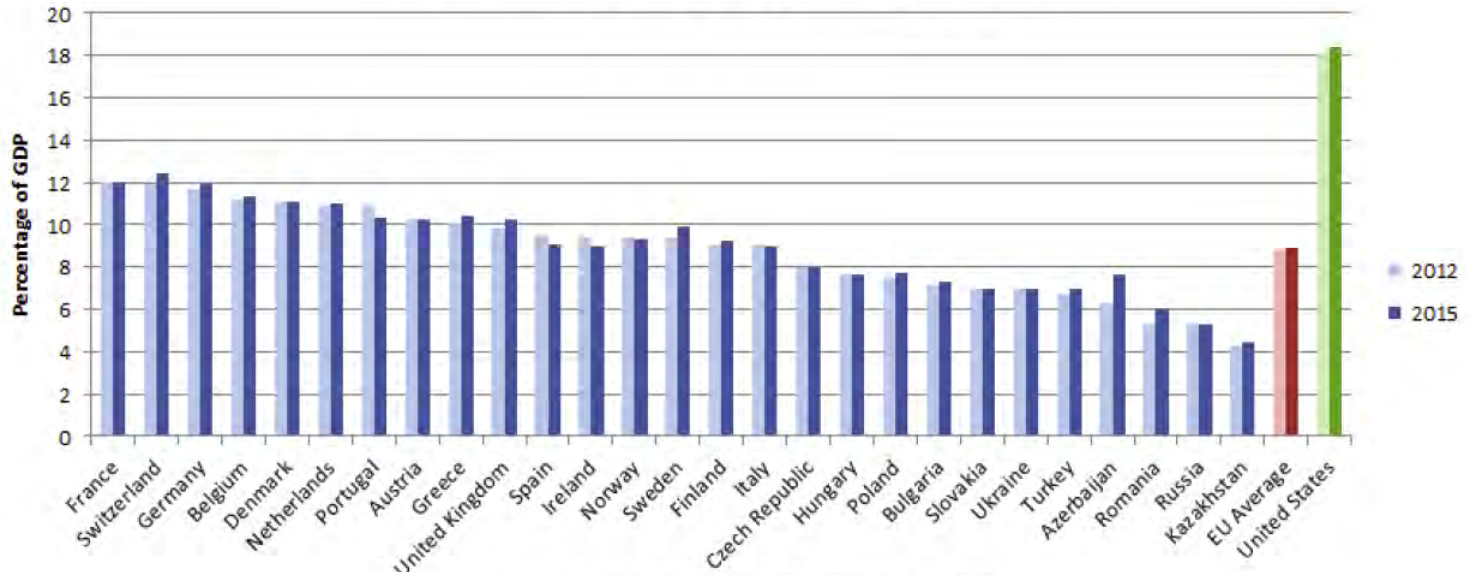
DENMARK IS THE LEADING COUNTRY IN EHEALTH ADOPTION

Top 10 EU countries by eHealth adoptions of patients and doctors

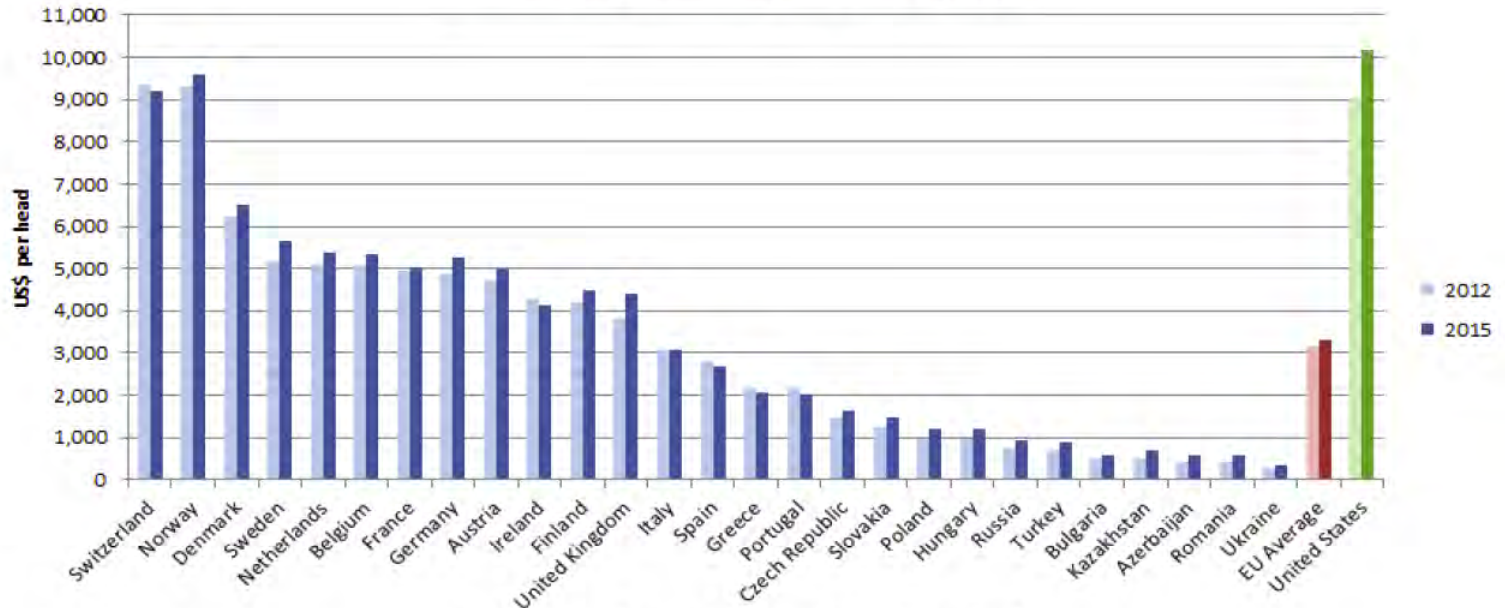


eHealth adoption – doctors transferring prescription electronically, doctors electronically exchanging medical patient data with other healthcare professionals, patients making appointment via website, patients seeking online information about health

Healthcare spending as percentage of GDP



Healthcare spending per head (US\$)



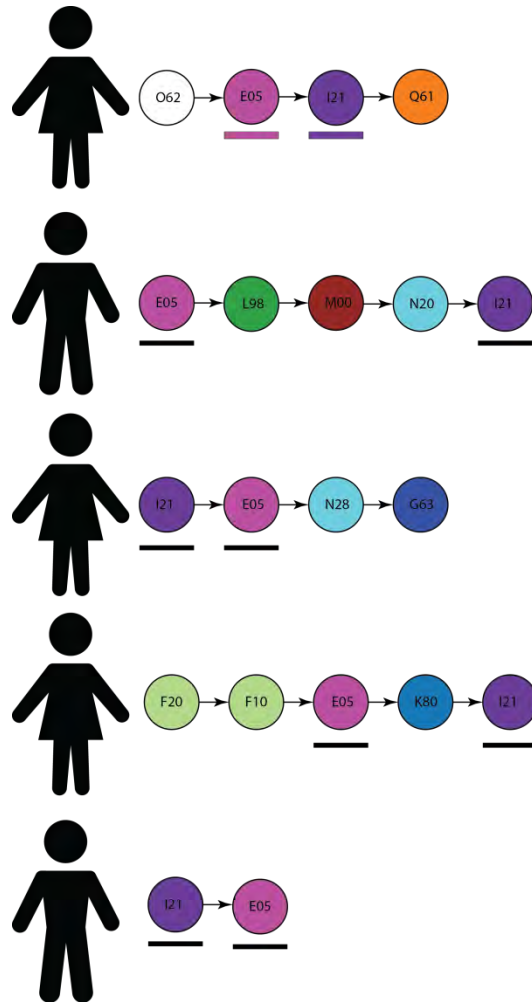
Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit (2012)

Disease risk

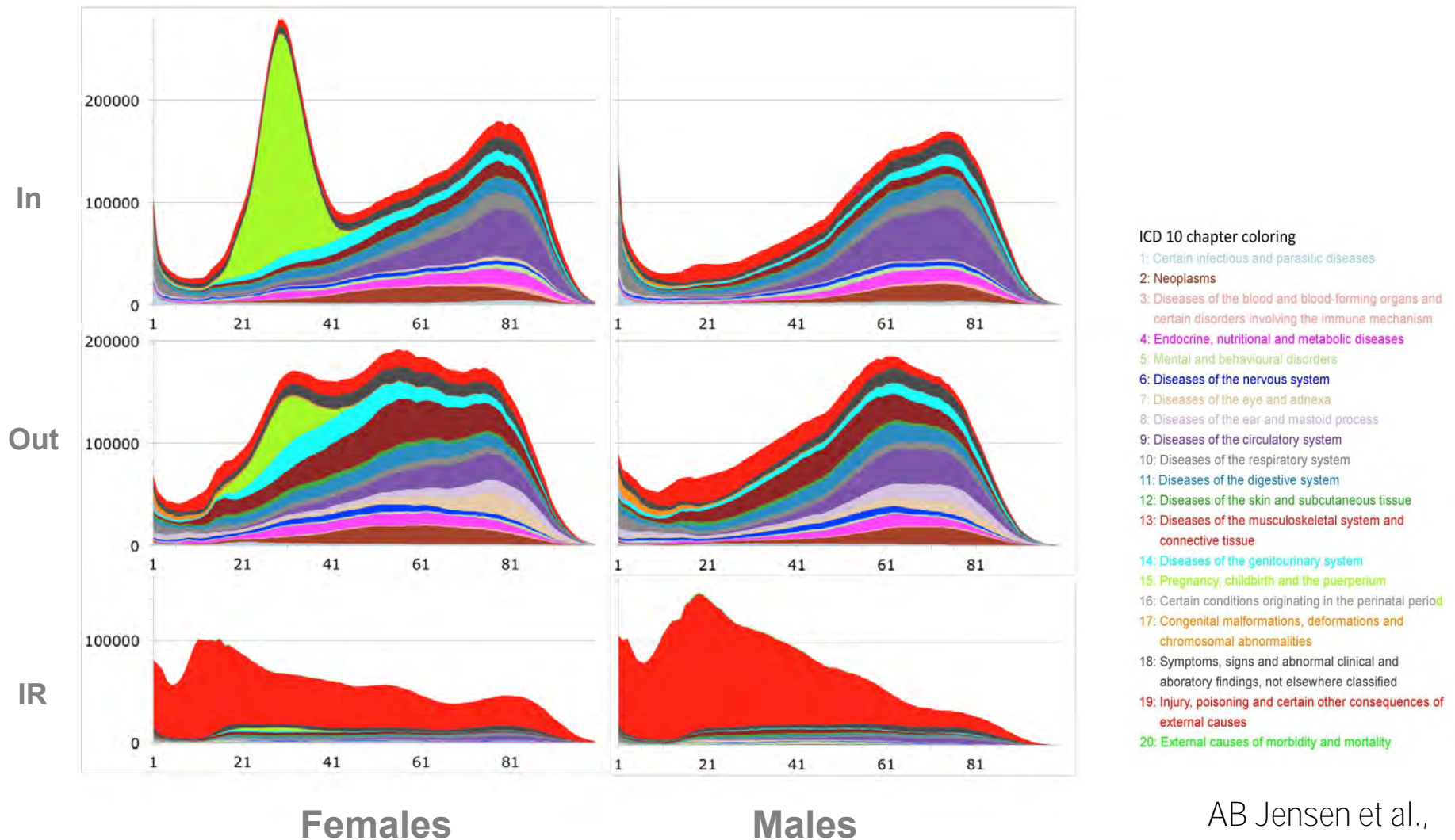
**– journey
versus
destination**

**Cancer
Diabetes
Obesity
Mental disorders**

Diagnosis trajectories across 6.2 million Danish individuals (ICD-10 era, 1994-2015)



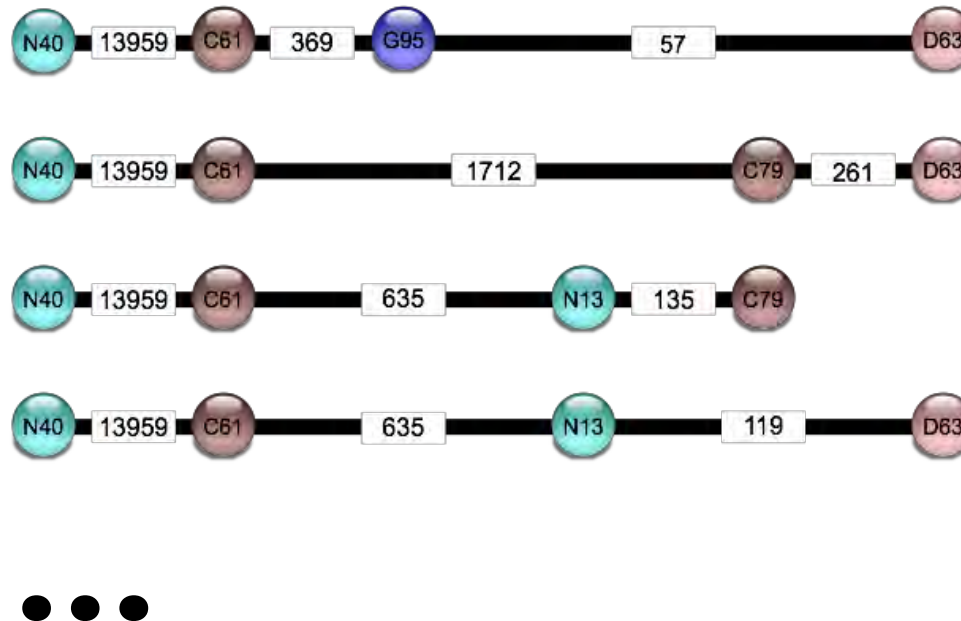
National Patient Registry (6.2M Danes) ICD10 diagnoses as a function of age



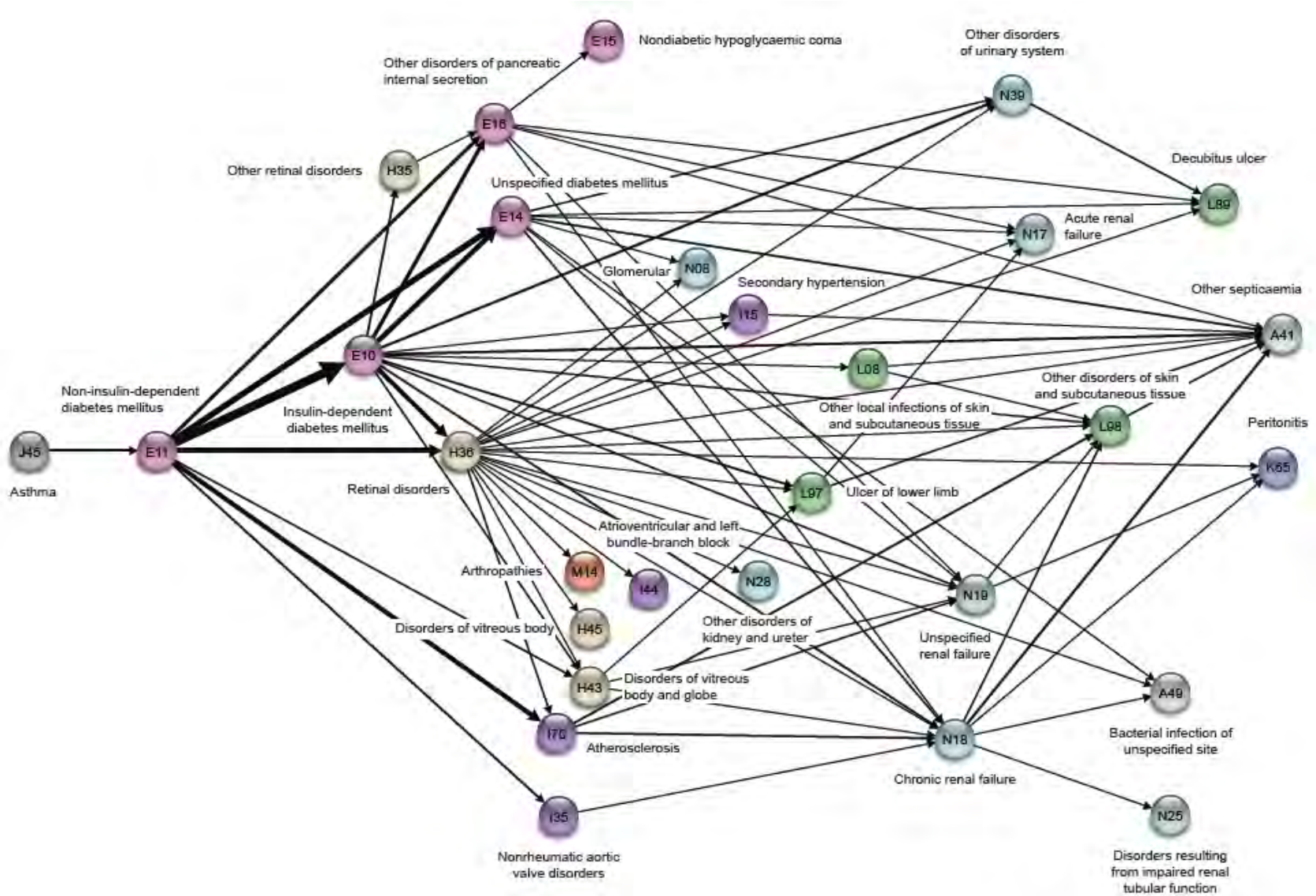
6-7 million trajectories



6.2 million individual trajectories condensed into 1,171 “recurrent” ones

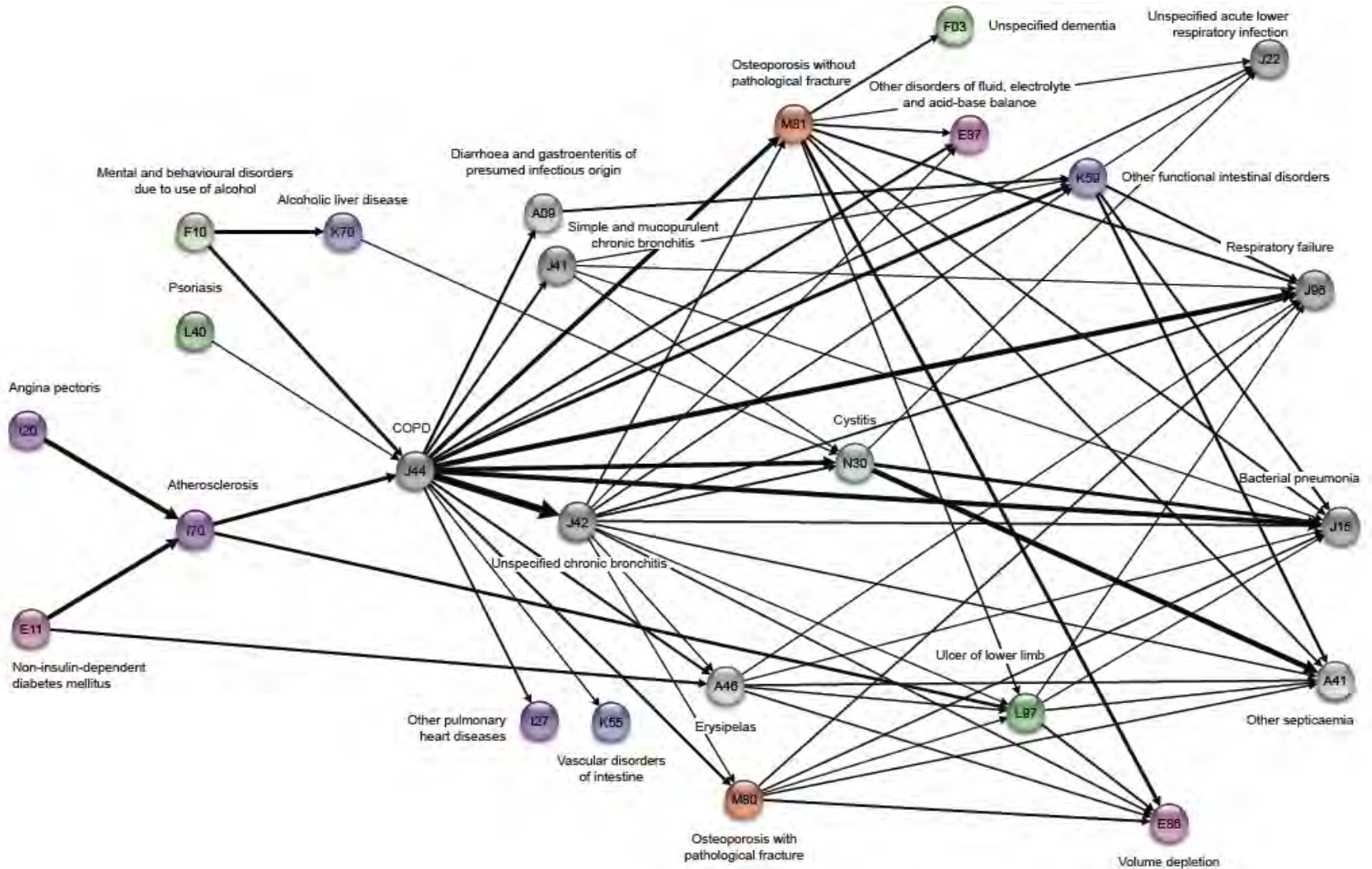


Diabetes trajectory network



COPD trajectory cluster

with five preceding diagnoses leading to COPD and some of the possible outcomes



DISEASE TRAJECTORY SEARCH:

ALL DIAGNOSES (UNION)

SEARCH:

FILTERS

EDGE ANNOTATION:

PATIENTS RELATIVE RISK OFF

NODE ANNOTATION:

ICD CODE TEXT DESC. NONE

INSTANT SEARCH

PERFORMANCE ISSUES?

Q SEARCH

Information

Data from: Danish National Patient Register (Landspatientregisteret)

Population: ~6,900,000 people

Analysis of five chronic inflammatory diseases identifies 27 new associations and highlights disease-specific patterns at shared loci

David Ellinghaus^{1,49}, Luke Jostins², Sarah L Spain², Adrian Cortes^{3,4}, Jörn Bethune¹, Buhm Han⁵, Yu Rang Park⁶, Soumya Raychaudhuri⁷⁻¹⁰, Jennie G Pouget^{11,12}, Matthias Hübenthal¹, Trine Folseraas¹³⁻¹⁶, Yunpeng Wang¹⁷, Tonu Esko¹⁸⁻²⁰, Andres Metspalu¹⁸, Harm-Jan Westra⁷⁻¹⁰, Lude Franke²¹, Tune H Pers^{7,20,22,23}, Rinse K Weersma²⁴, Valerie Collij²⁴, Mauro D'Amato^{25,26}, Jonas Halfvarson²⁷, Anders Boeck Jensen²⁸, Wolfgang Lieb^{29,30}, Franziska Degenhardt^{31,32}, Andreas J Forstner^{31,32}, Andrea Hofmann^{31,32}, The International IBD Genetics Consortium (IIBDGC)³³, International Genetics of Ankylosing Spondylitis Consortium (IGAS)³³, International PSC Study Group (IPSCSG)³³, Genetic Analysis of Psoriasis Consortium (GAPC)³³, Psoriasis Association Genetics Extension (PAGE)³³, Stefan Schreiber^{1,34}, Ulrich Mrowietz³⁵, Brian D Juran³⁶, Konstantinos N Lazaridis³⁶, Søren Brunak²⁸, Anders M Dale^{17,37}, Richard C Trembath³⁸, Stephan Weidinger³⁵, Michael Weichenthal³⁵, Eva Ellinghaus¹, James T Elder^{39,40}, Jonathan N W N Barker⁴¹, Ole A Andreassen^{42,43}, Dermot P McGovern^{44,45}, Tom H Karlsen¹³⁻¹⁶, Jeffrey C Barrett², Miles Parkes⁴⁶, Matthew A Brown^{47,48,50} & Andre Franke^{1,50}

We simultaneously investigated the genetic landscape of ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's disease, psoriasis, primary sclerosing cholangitis and ulcerative colitis to investigate pleiotropy and the relationship between these clinically related diseases. Using high-density genotype data from more than 86,000 individuals of European ancestry, we identified 244 independent multidisease signals, including 27 new genome-wide significant susceptibility loci and 3 unreported shared risk loci. Complex pleiotropy was supported when contrasting multidisease signals with expression data sets from human, rat and mouse together with epigenetic and expressed enhancer profiles. The comorbidities among the five immune diseases were best explained by biological pleiotropy rather than heterogeneity (a subgroup of cases genetically identical to those with another disease, possibly owing to diagnostic misclassification, molecular subtypes or excessive comorbidity). In particular, the strong comorbidity between primary sclerosing cholangitis and inflammatory bowel disease is likely the result of a unique disease, which is genetically distinct from classical inflammatory bowel disease phenotypes.

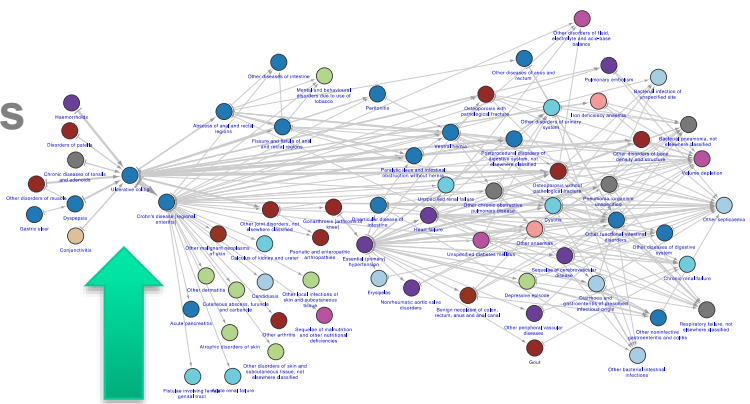
Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have shown overlap in the genetic susceptibility to human diseases that affect a range of In this study, we combined ImmunoChip genotype data for 52,262 cases and 34,213 controls of European ancestry, currently the largest available

**ImmunoChip
genotype data:
52,262 cases**

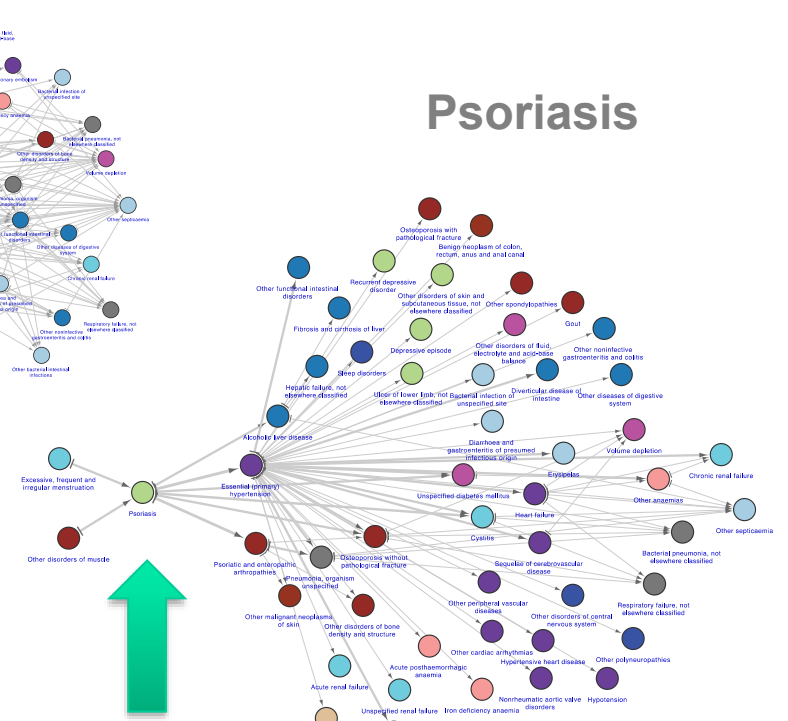
**Ankylosing
spondylitis (8,726)
Crohn's disease
(19,085)
Psoriasis (6,530)
Primary sclerosing
cholangitis (3,408)
Ulcerative colitis
(14,413)**

**34,213 healthy
controls**

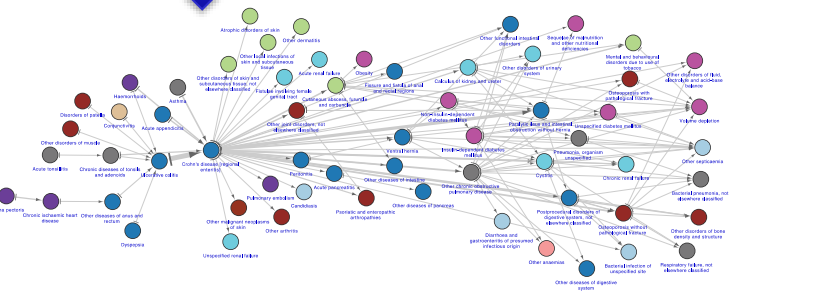
Ulcerative colitis



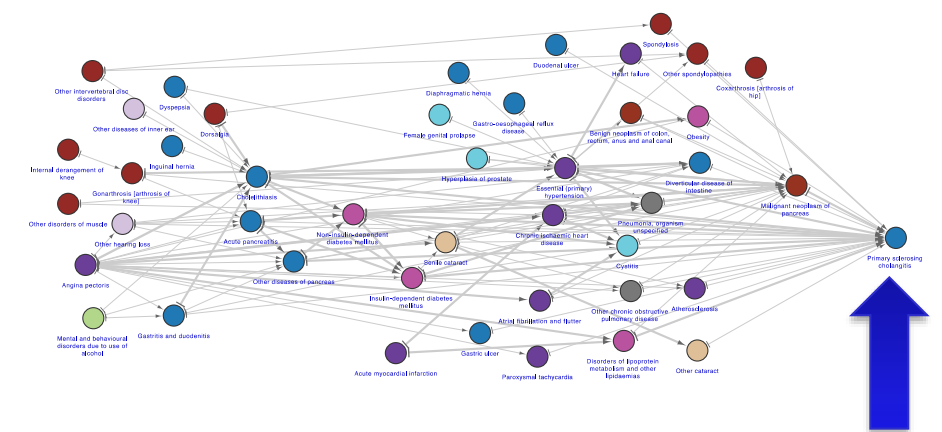
Psoriasis



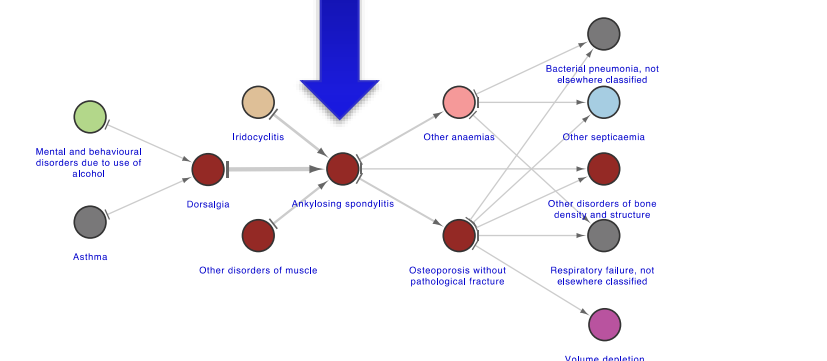
Crohn's disease



Sclerosing cholangitis

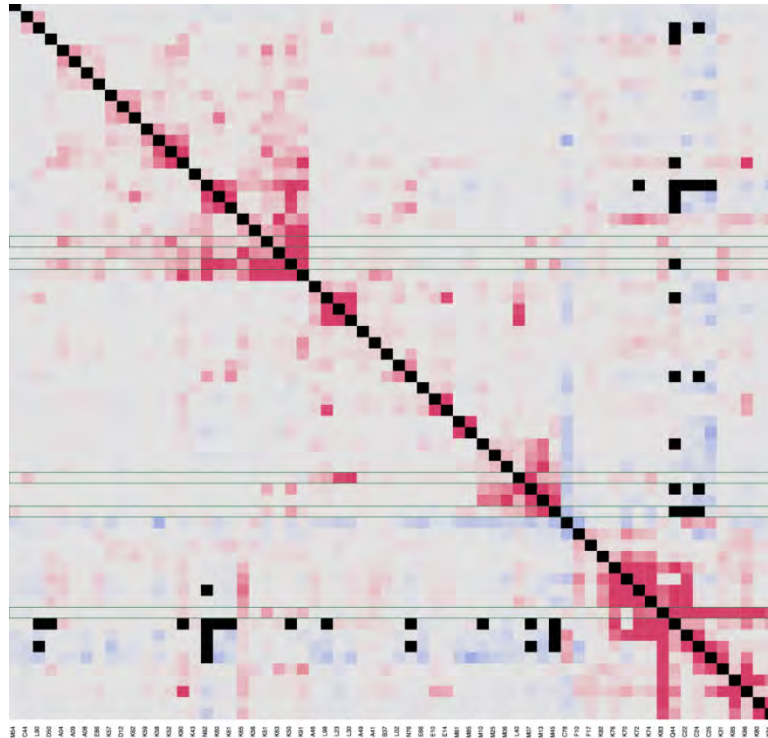


Ankylosing spondylitis

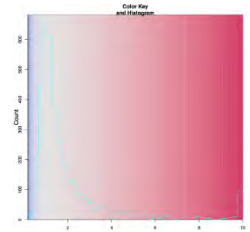
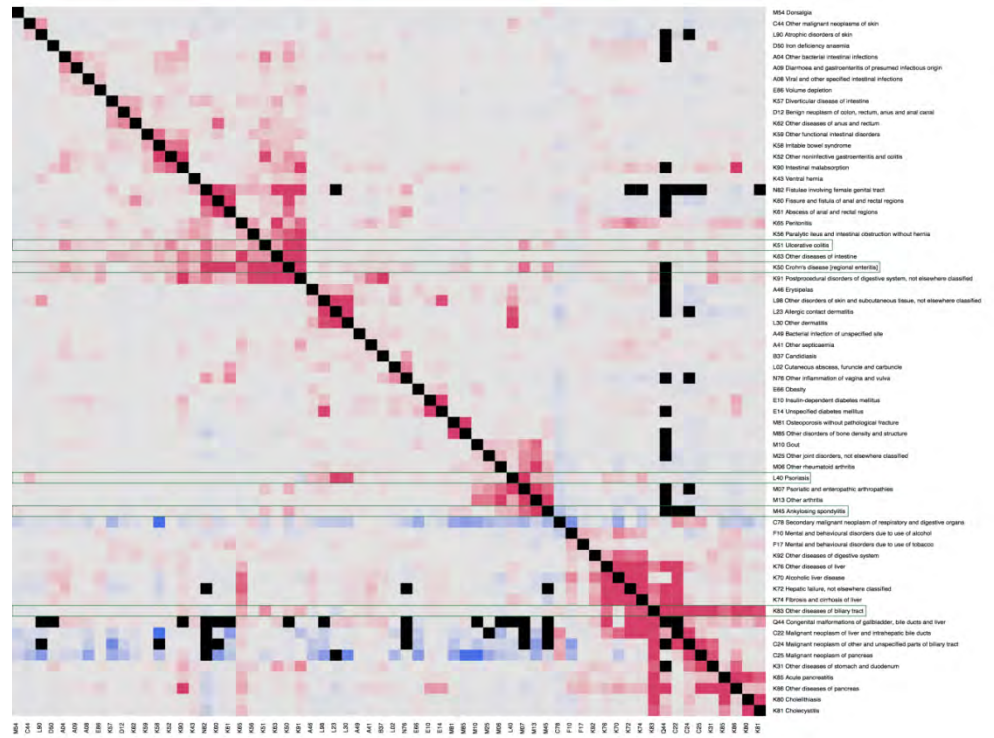


Temporal disease associations

A and B



A before B



Shared or distinct genetic etiology?

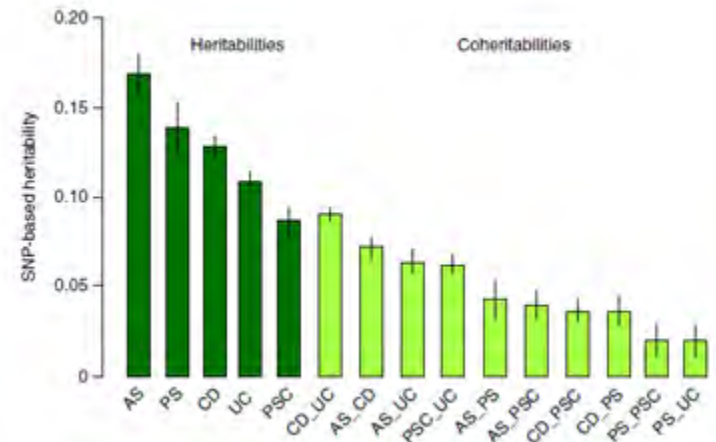
Pleiotropy (sharing of risk alleles by disease A and disease B) or **Heterogeneity** (a subgroup of disease A cases has a higher load of risk alleles for disease B)?

Genetic and healthdata overlap analyses shows

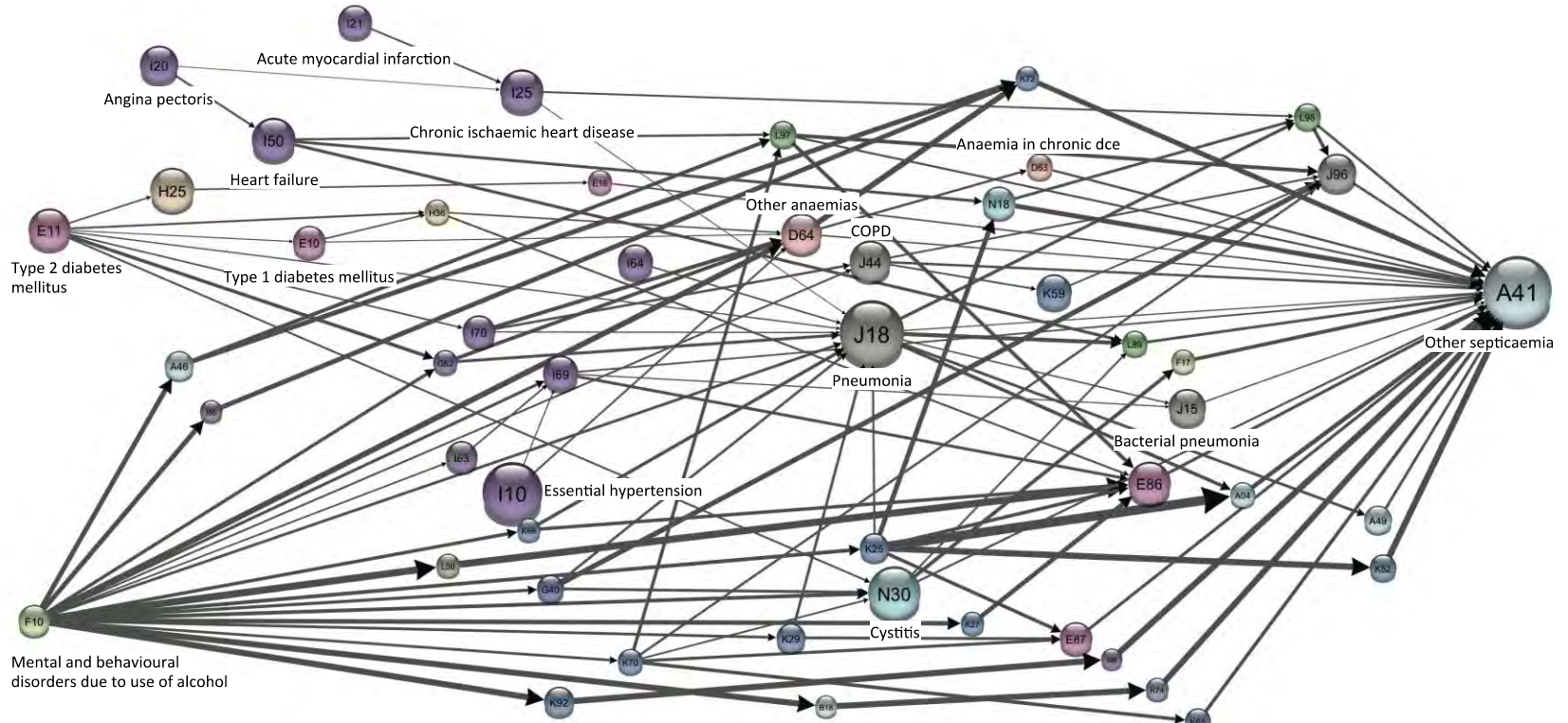
- **that shared pathophysiological pathways are the basis for clinical co-occurrence**
- that patients with concomitant syndromes are genetically distinct from patients without concomitant syndromes.

ImmunoChip-wide pleiotropy estimates

Ellinghaus et al. Nature Genetics, 48:510-518, 2016

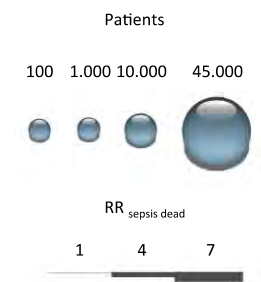


Sepsis survival across pre-history (120,000 patients, 56 significant trajectories)

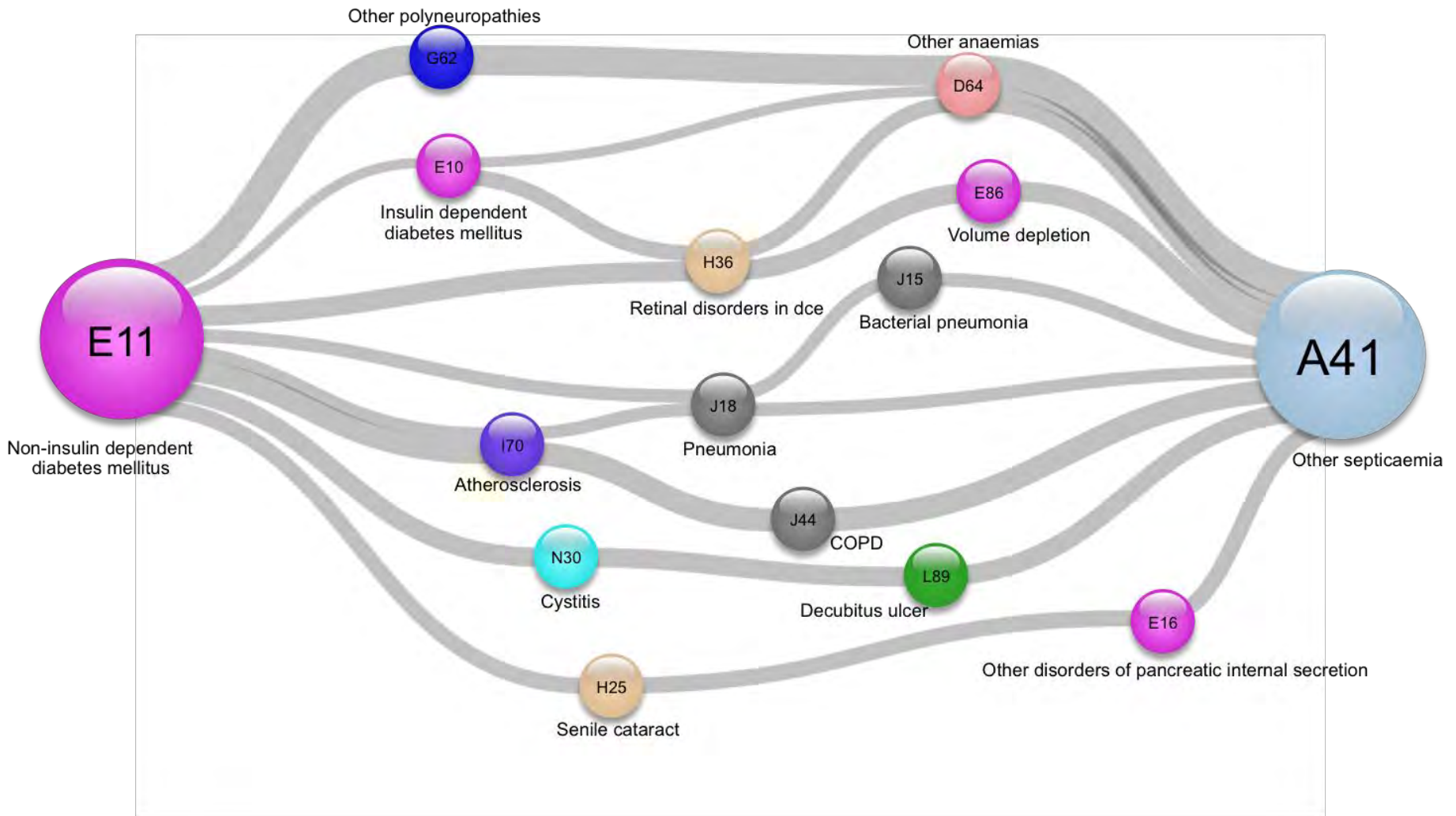


- A04 Other bacterial intestinal infections
- A46 Erysipelas
- A49 Bacterial infection of unspecified site
- B18 Chronic viral hepatitis
- E16 Other disorders of pancreatic internal secretion
- E87 Other disorders of fluid, electrolyte and acid-base balance
- G40 Epilepsy
- G62 Other polyneuropathies
- H25 Senile cataract
- H36 Retinal disorders in diseases classified elsewhere
- I63 Cerebral infarction
- I69 Sequelae of cerebrovascular disease
- I70 Atherosclerosis
- I85 Oesophageal varices
- I98 Other disorders of circulatory system in diseases classified elsewhere
- J96 Respiratory failure, not elsewhere classified

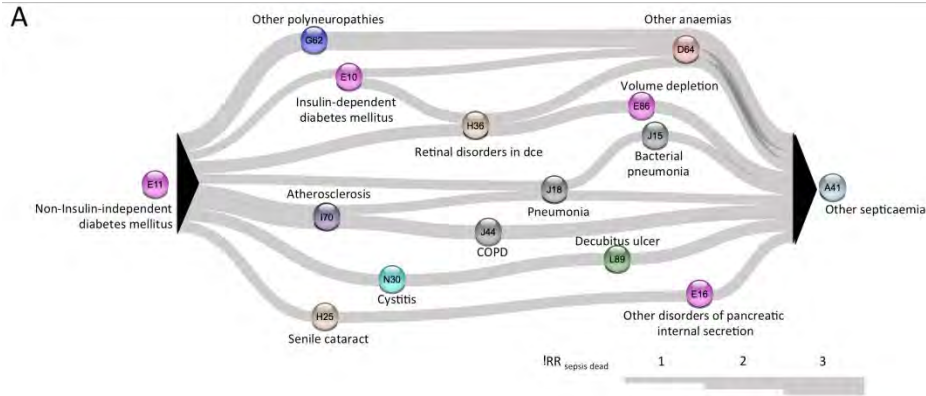
- K25 Gastric ulcer
- K27 Peptic ulcer, site unspecified
- K29 Gastritis and duodenitis
- K52 Other noninfective gastroenteritis and colitis
- K59 Other functional intestinal disorders
- K65 Peritonitis
- K70 Alcoholic liver disease
- K72 Hepatic failure, not elsewhere classified
- K74 Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
- K86 Other diseases of pancreas
- K92 Other diseases of digestive system
- L30 Other dermatitis
- L89 Decubitus ulcer
- L97 Ulcer of lower limb, not elsewhere classified
- N18 Chronic renal failure



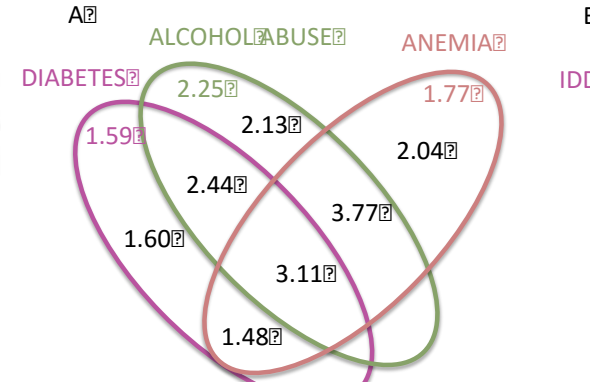
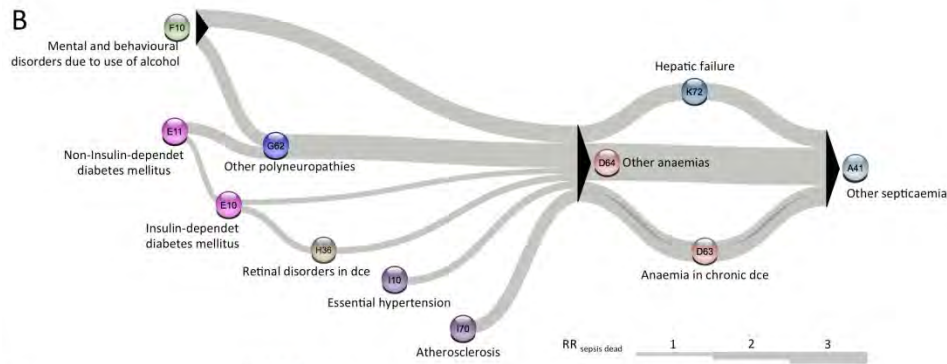
From diabetes to sepsis



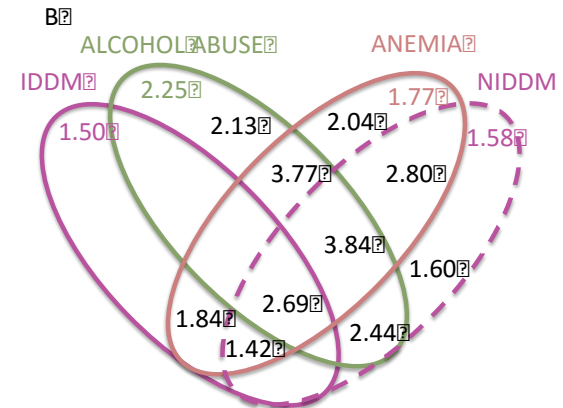
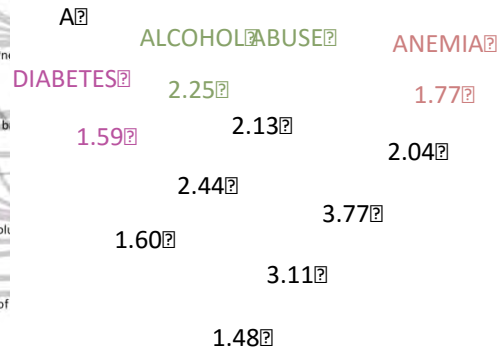
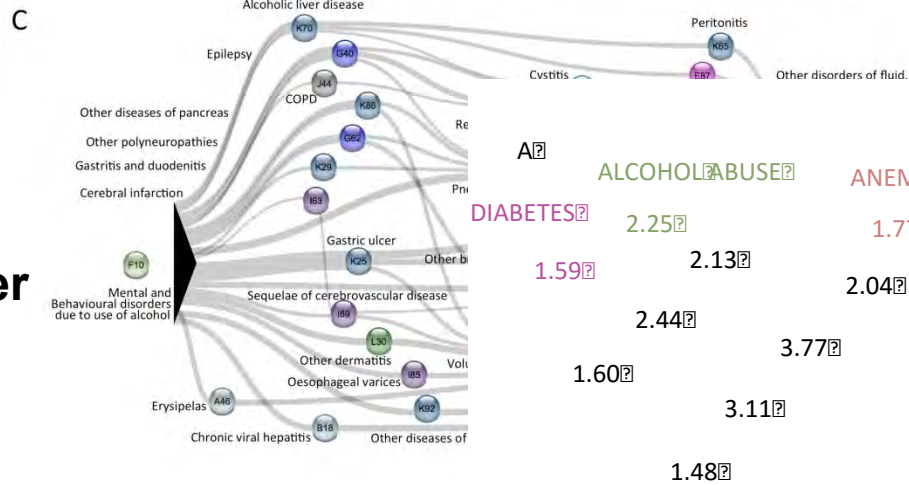
Diabetes



Anaemia



Mental disorder





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CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

A Wake-up Call for Type 2 Diabetes?

Shanta J. Persaud, Ph.D., and Peter M. Jones, Ph.D.

N Engl J Med 2016; 375:1090-1092 | [September 15, 2016](#) | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMcibr1607950

Share:     

This study examines an established association between a variant in a melatonin-receptor gene and type 2 diabetes, yielding insights into how the variant confers susceptibility to the disease.

[Disclosure forms](#) provided by the authors are available at NEJM.org.

SOURCE INFORMATION

From the Diabetes Research Group, Division of Diabetes and Nutritional Sciences, King's College London, London.

MEDIA IN THIS ARTICLE

FIGURE 1



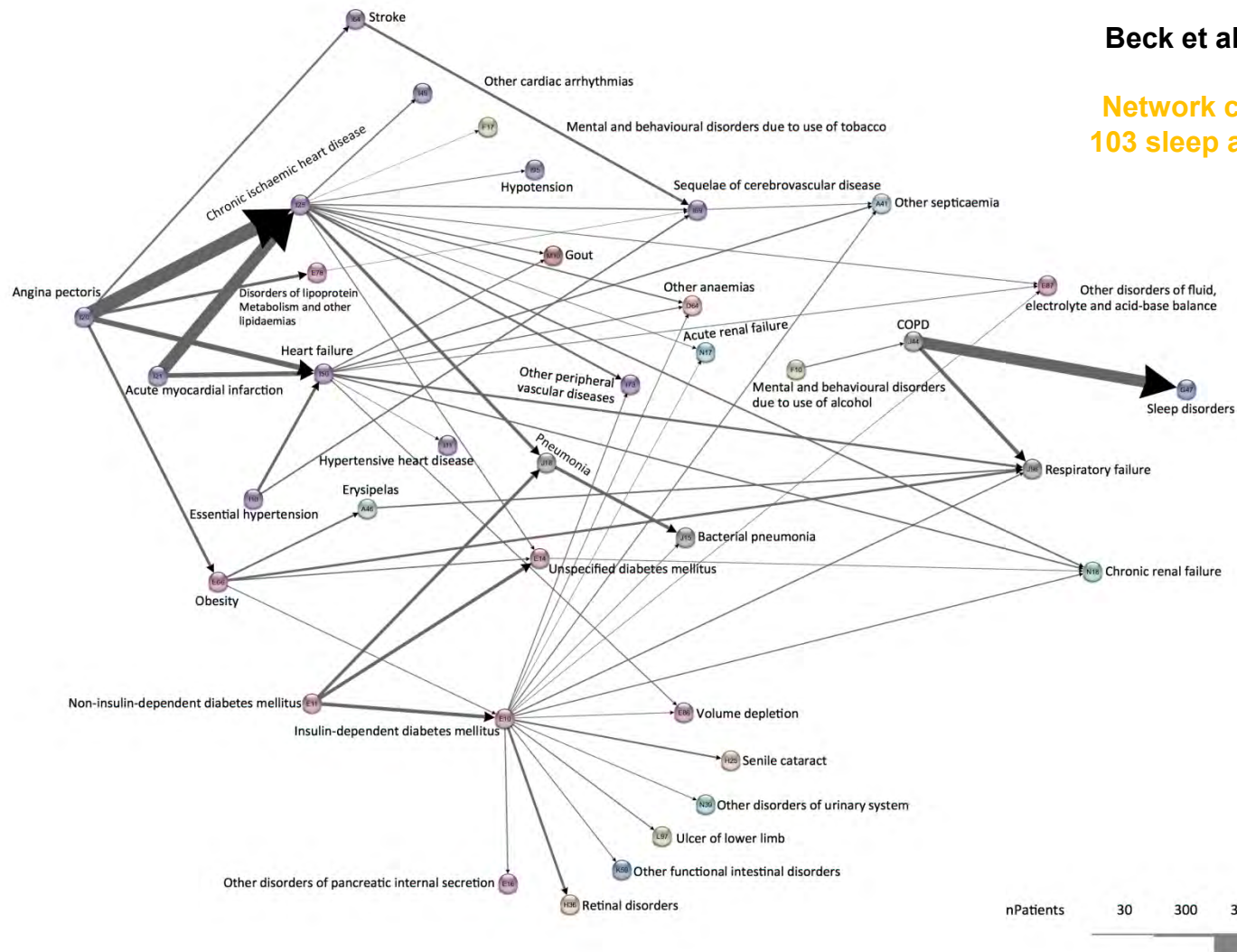
Effect of Variant *MTNR1B* on Melatonin Signaling in Islet Beta Cells.

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Sleep Apnea and Diabetes

Beck et al., to appear 2017

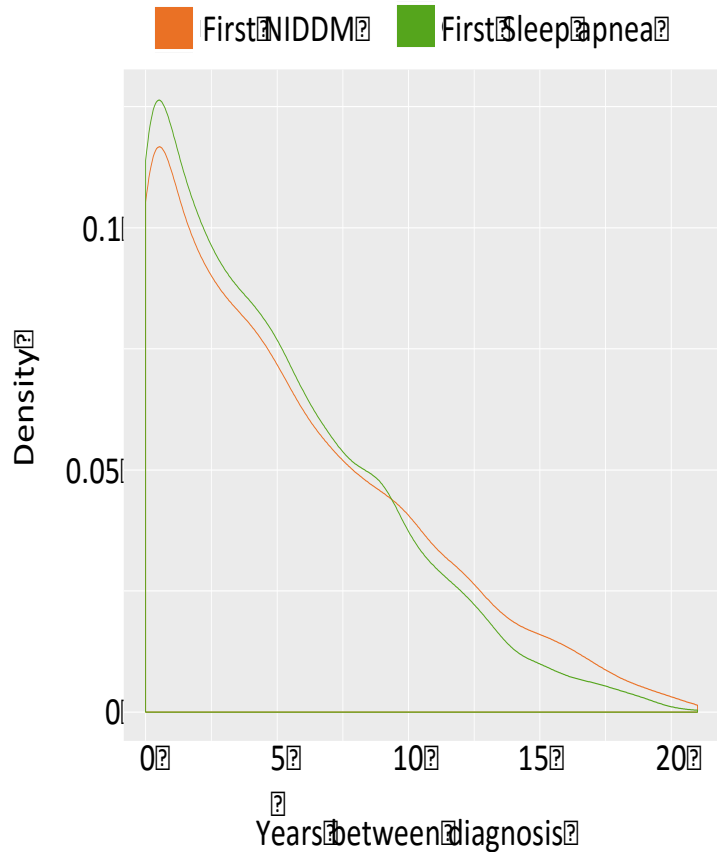
Network constructed from 103 sleep apnea trajectories



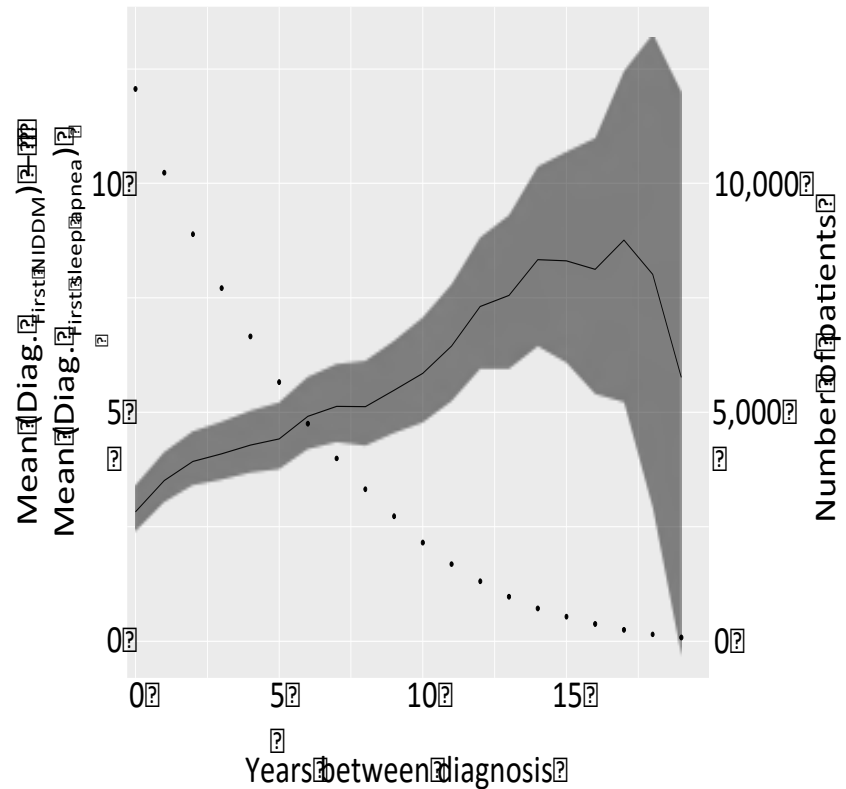
No significant diagnosis direction, but patients diagnosed with diabetes before sleep apnea have significantly more comorbidities than patients diagnosed with sleep apnea before diabetes.

Excess number of comorbidities if diabetes is first

A



B

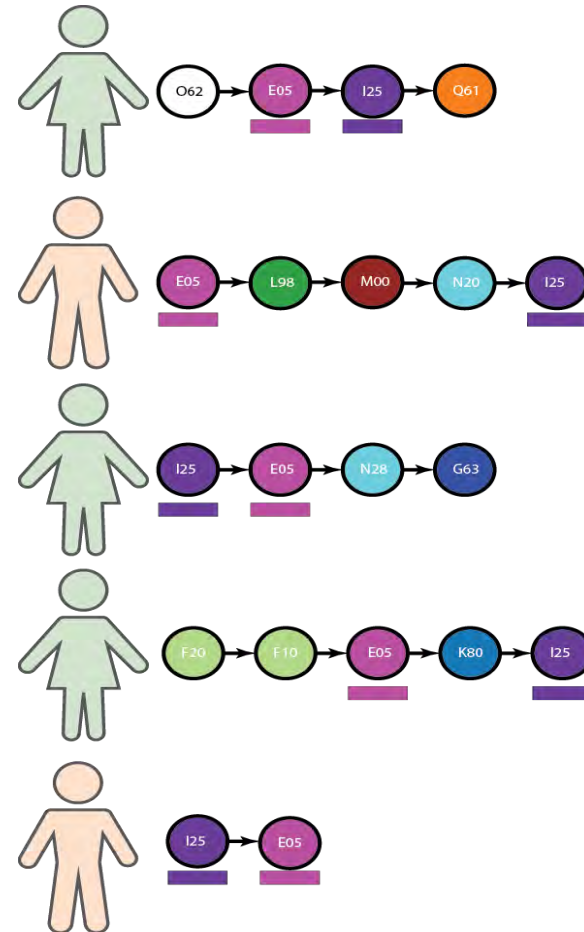


(A) Distribution of years between NIDDM and sleep apnea for patients diagnosed with NIDDM first (orange) and for patients diagnosed with sleep apnea first (green). (B) The plot shows the excess number of comorbidities for patients diagnosed with NIDDM first compared to those diagnosed with sleep apnea first (black line) with the 95% confidence interval (grey area). The dots indicate the number of patients having the minimum years between the two diagnoses.

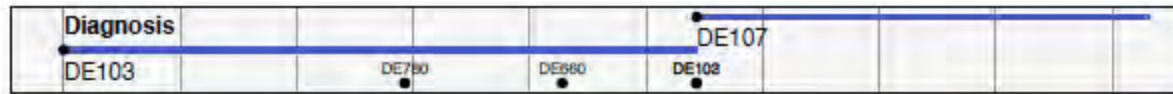
Gender medicine:

Gender specific disease trajectories

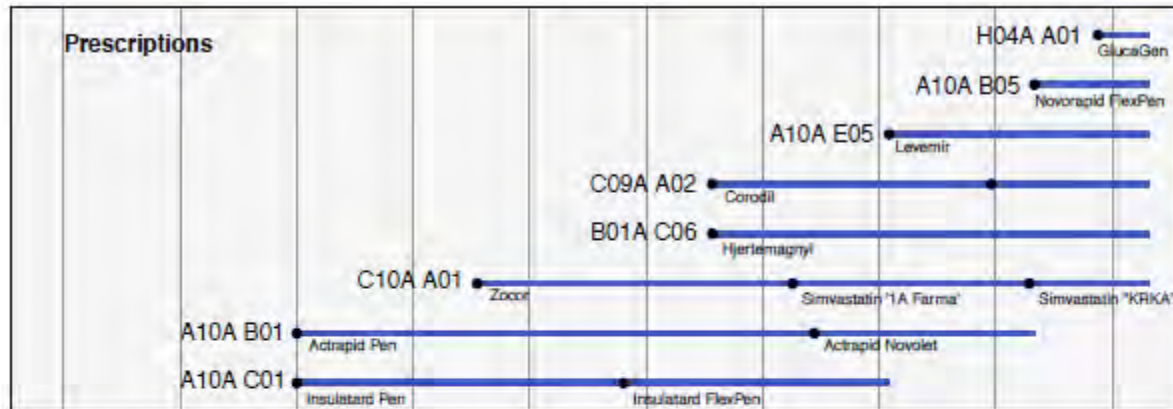
- Males and females have some differences in physiology which may predispose or protect against certain diseases and their comorbidities



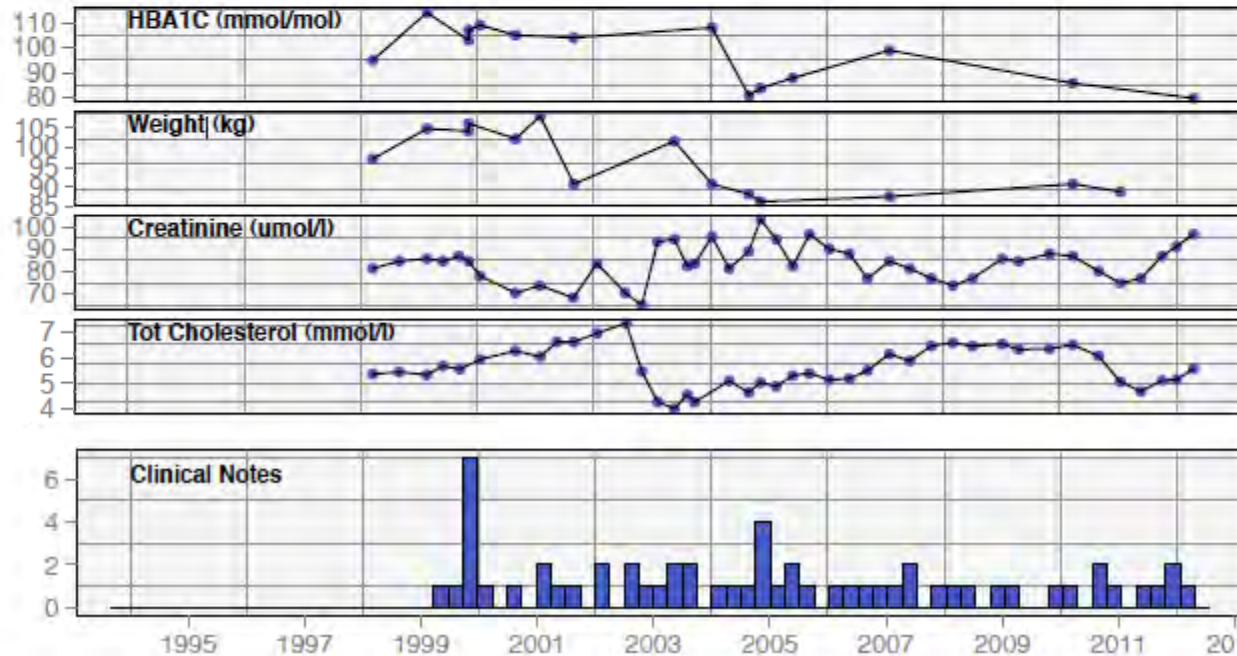
Diagnoses



Drugs



Lab tests



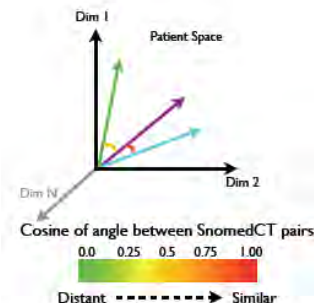
Text

Deep-phenotyping by text mining of ICD10 terms in patient records

det drejer sig om en 36-årig sygemeldt mand der overflyttes fra frederiksberg hospital, afdeling m.h.p. længerevarende rehabiliteringsophold. , er allergisk overfor kat og parfume, men tåler penicillin. er i besiddelse af en vis indsigt og virker svært forpint. ang. det at vi tilråder, at hun har brug for at være mere i afd. , siger hun til det, at det for hende er som at vælge mellem pest eller kolera. Har stadig mange spørgsmål omkring skizofreni og er meget bekymret for hvordan hendes fremtid ser ud. er meget plaget af tanketræghed og er bange for at det er et led i sygdommen. der siges til hende at det godt kan være bivirkning af risperdal men at der ikke laves op på medicinen, før vi har lært hende bedre at kende.Har aldrig haft hallucinationer på nogen af sanserne har været til lægesamtale idag. der snakkes en del om diagnose og at Pernille har svært ved at forholde sig til at have diagnosen skizofreni. ,det virker som om Pernille er blevet lidt mere afslappet, selvom hun stadig har gang i mange ting. pt. møder til samtale i dag, hvor vi gennemgår mit udkast til erklæringen til pensionskassen. endvidere udspørges der til pt.s diverse symptomer på paranoid skizofreni. i denne beskriver hun at "hendes største problem nok er den manglende sociale evne, som er en følge af sygdommen (paranoid skizofreni) og henviser til kontras beskrivelse" Pt. Nævner sin mor, som han mener har en nervøs lidelse, muligvis social fobi pt. har her til aften angivet tiltagende bivirkninger i form af trækninger i nakken, indre uro og stivhed af fingre. pt. har fået svar på sit ekg, som viser sinus rytme med enkelte ventrikulære ekstrasystoler uforandret fra tidl. med baggrund i oplysninger om tidligere maniske episoder præget af irritabilitet, hyperaktivitet og øget seksuel interesse revurderes diagnosen til bipolar affektiv sindslidelse. følges i distrikt vest med psykologsamtaler. har i dag tydeligvis brug for en faglig forklaring på hendes symptomer. det drejer sig om paranoia , uvirkelighedsfølelser , influenssympt. og koncentrationsbesvær. det største problem er dog samværet med andre. det er specielt om natten det påvirker hendes astma., klg. desuden over uro i benene. ,xxx nævner på et tidspunkt, hun er bange for, tidligere tiders spiseforstyrrelser er ved at dukke op igen. xxx har haft søvnbesvær og har af vagtlægen i aftes fået tabl. imovane 7,5 mg med god effekt. kl 19, pinex, tabletter 500 mg indtaget dosis: 1 gram for hovedpine pt. er henvist til at

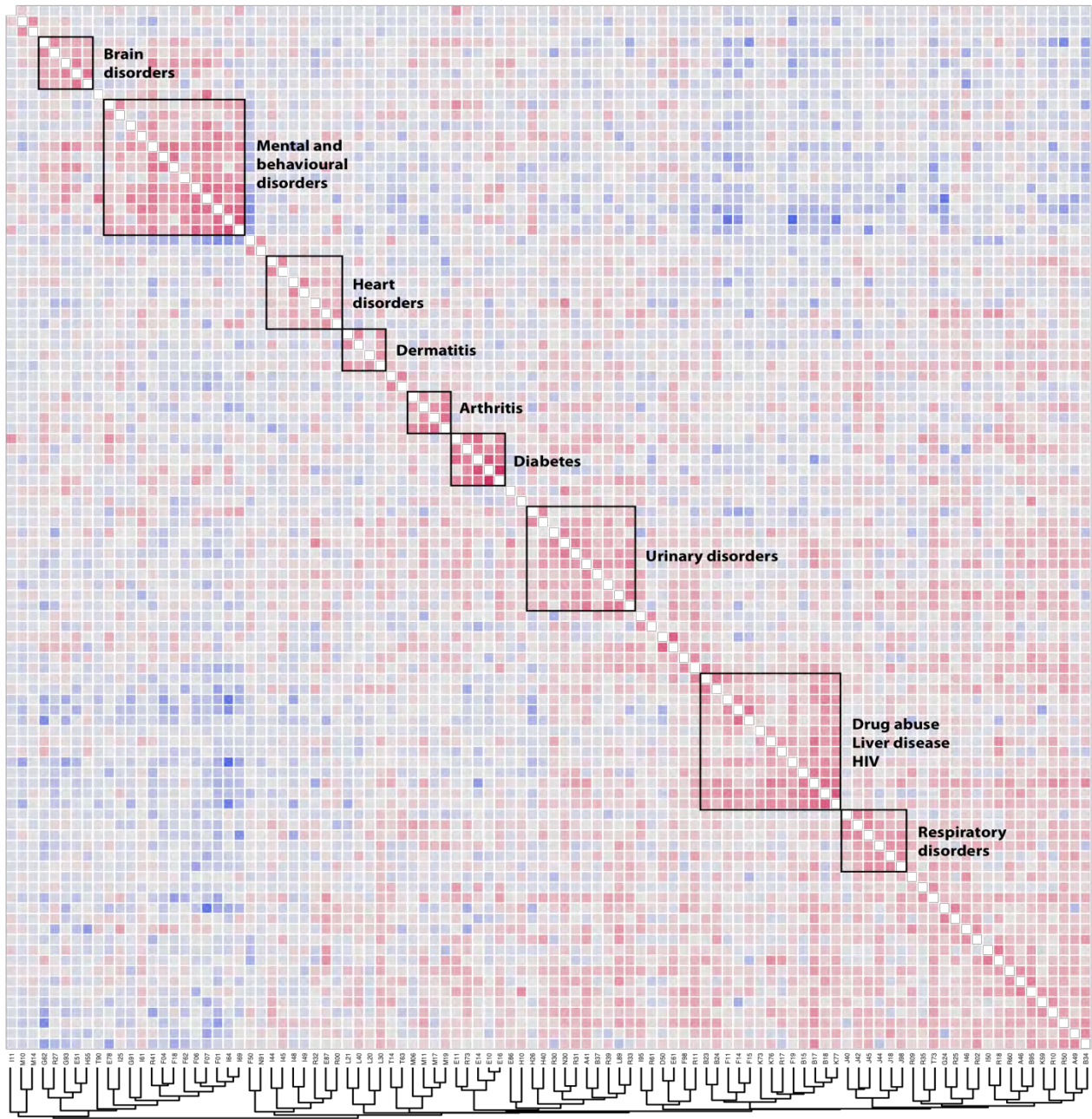
F20

F200

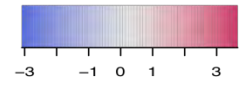


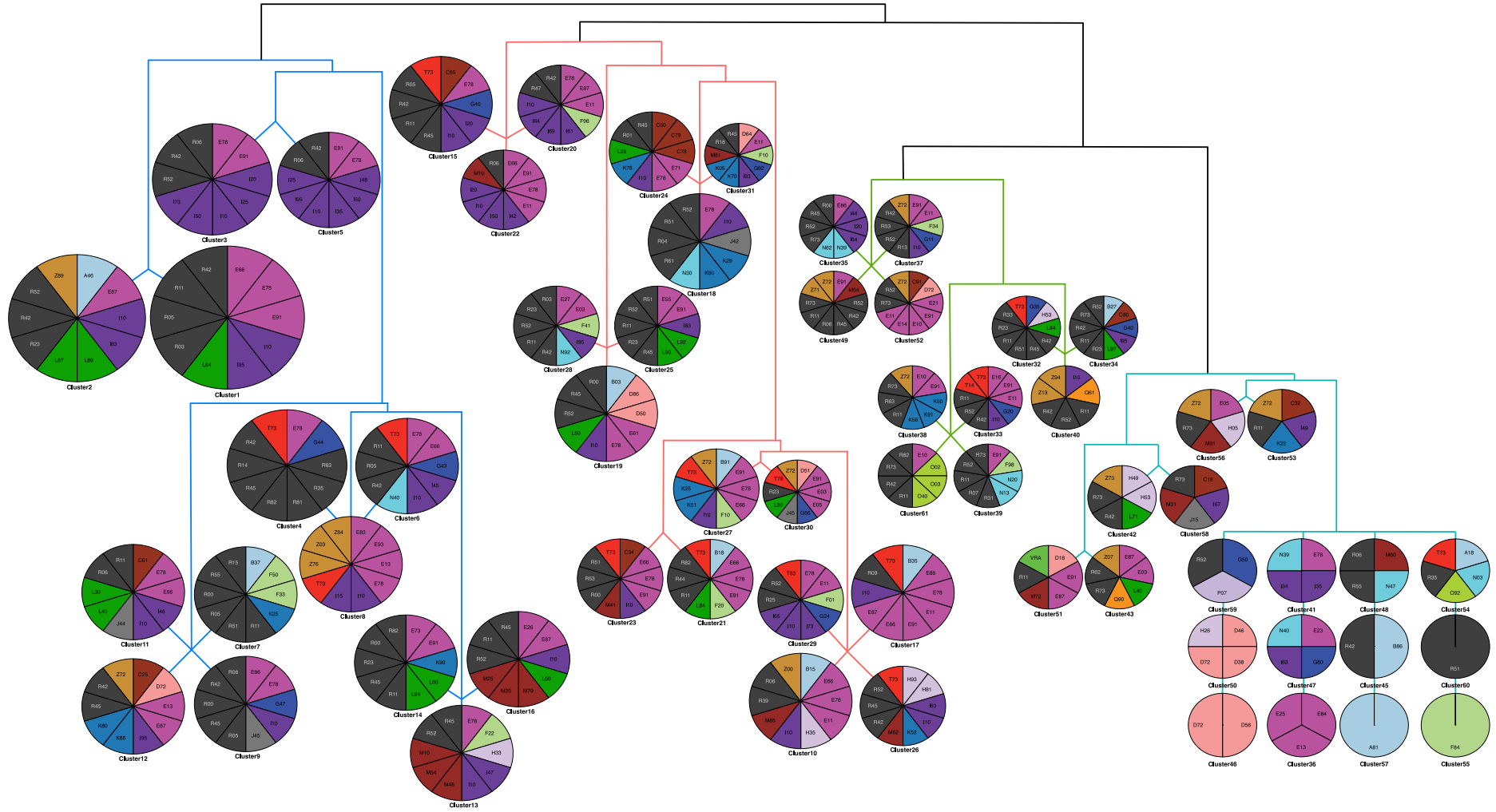
Negation

Family

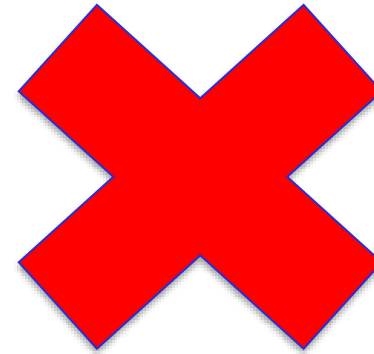


- M11 HYPERTENSIVE HEART DISEASE
- M10 GOUT
- M14 ARTHROPATHIES IN OTHER DISEASES CLASSIFIED ELSEWHERE
- G82 OTHER POLYNEUROPATHIES
- R27 OTHER LACK OF COORDINATION
- G93 OTHER DISORDERS OF BRAIN
- E51 THIAMINE DEFICIENCY
- M55 NYSTAGMUS AND OTHER IRREGULAR EYE MOVEMENTS
- T90 SEQUELAE OF INJURIES OF HEAD
- E78 DISORDERS OF LIPOPROTEIN METABOLISM AND OTHER LIPIDAEMIAS
- I25 CHRONIC ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE
- G91 HYDROCEPHALUS
- I61 INTRACEREBRAL HAEMORRHAGE
- R41 OTHER SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS INVOLVING COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS AND AWARENESS
- F04 ORGANIC AMNESIC SYNDROME, NOT INDUCED BY ALCOHOL AND OTHER PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES
- F18 MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS DUE TO USE OF VOLATILE SOLVENTS
- F62 ENDURING PERSONALITY CHANGES, NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO BRAIN DAMAGE AND DISEASE
- F06 OTHER MENTAL DISORDERS DUE TO BRAIN DAMAGE AND DYSFUNCTION AND TO PHYSICAL DISEASE
- F07 PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS DUE TO BRAIN DISEASE, DAMAGE AND DYSFUNCTION
- F01 VASCULAR DEMENTIA
- I64 STROKE, NOT SPECIFIED AS HAEMORRHAGE OR INFARCTION
- I69 SEQUELAE OF CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE
- F50 EATING DISORDERS
- N61 ABSENT, SCANTY AND RARE MENSTRUATION
- I44 ATRIOVENTRICULAR AND LEFT BUNDLE-BRANCH BLOCK
- I45 OTHER CONDUCTION DISORDERS
- I48 ATRIAL FIBRILLATION AND FLUTTER
- I49 OTHER CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS
- R32 UNSPECIFIED URINARY INCONTINENCE
- E87 OTHER DISORDERS OF FLUID, ELECTROLYTE AND ACID-BASE BALANCE
- R00 ABNORMALITIES OF HEART BEAT
- L21 SEBORRHOEIC DERMATITIS
- L40 PSORIASIS
- L20 ATOPIC DERMATITIS
- L30 OTHER DERMATITIS
- T14 INJURY OF UNSPECIFIED BODY REGION
- T63 TOXIC EFFECT OF CONTACT WITH VENOMOUS ANIMALS
- M06 OTHER RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS
- M11 OTHER CRYSTAL ARTHROPATHIES
- M17 GONARTHROSIS [ARTHRITIS OF KNEE]
- M19 OTHER ARTHROSIS
- E11 NON-INSULIN-DEPENDENT DIABETES MELLITUS
- R73 ELEVATED BLOOD GLUCOSE LEVEL
- E14 UNSPECIFIED DIABETES MELLITUS
- E10 INSULIN-DEPENDENT DIABETES MELLITUS
- E16 OTHER DISORDERS OF PANCREATIC INTERNAL SECRETION
- E86 VOLUME DEPLETION
- H10 CONJUNCTIVITIS
- H26 OTHER CATARACT
- H40 GLAUCOMA
- R30 PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH MICTURITION
- R30 CYSTITIS
- E51 UNSPECIFIED HAEMATURIA
- A41 OTHER SEPTICAEMIA
- B37 CANDIDIASIS
- R59 OTHER SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS INVOLVING THE URINARY SYSTEM
- L89 DECUBITUS ULCER
- R33 RETENTION OF URINE
- I95 HYPOTENSION
- R61 HYPERTHYROIDISM
- D50 IRON DEFICIENCY ANAEMIA
- E61 DEFICIENCY OF OTHER NUTRIENT ELEMENTS
- F98 OTHER BEHAVIOURAL AND EMOTIONAL DISORDERS WITH ONSET USUALLY OCCURRING IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE
- R11 NAUSEA AND VOMITING
- B23 HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS [HIV] DISEASE RESULTING IN OTHER CONDITIONS
- B24 UNSPECIFIED HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS [HIV] DISEASE
- F11 MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS DUE TO USE OF OPIOIDS
- F14 MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS DUE TO USE OF COCAINE
- F16 MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS DUE TO USE OF OTHER STIMULANTS, INCLUDING CAFFEINE
- K73 CHRONIC HEPATITIS, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED
- K76 OTHER DISEASES OF LIVER
- R17 UNSPECIFIED JAUNDICE
- F19 MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS DUE TO MULTIPLE DRUG USE AND USE OF OTHER PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES
- B15 ACUTE HEPATITIS A
- B17 OTHER ACUTE VIRAL HEPATITIS
- B18 CHRONIC VIRAL HEPATITIS
- K77 LIVER DISORDERS IN DISEASES CLASSIFIED ELSEWHERE
- J40 BRONCHITIS, NOT SPECIFIED AS ACUTE OR CHRONIC
- J42 UNSPECIFIED CHRONIC BRONCHITIS
- J45 ASTHMA
- J44 OTHER CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE
- J18 PNEUMONIA, ORGANISM UNSPECIFIED
- J98 OTHER RESPIRATORY DISORDERS
- R09 OTHER SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS INVOLVING THE CIRCULATORY AND RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS
- R35 POLYURIA
- T73 EFFECTS OF OTHER DEPRIVATION
- G24 DYSTONIA
- R25 ABNORMAL INVOLUNTARY MOVEMENTS
- I46 CARDIAC ARREST
- R02 GANGRENE, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED
- I50 HEART FAILURE
- R18 ASCITES
- R60 OEDEMA, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED
- A46 ERYSIPELAS
- B95 STREPTOCOCCUS AND STAPHYLOCOCCUS AS THE CAUSE OF DISEASES CLASSIFIED TO OTHER CHAPTERS
- K59 OTHER FUNCTIONAL INTESTINAL DISORDERS
- R10 ABDOMINAL AND PELVIC PAIN
- R50 FEVER OF OTHER AND UNKNOWN ORIGIN
- A49 BACTERIAL INFECTION OF UNSPECIFIED SITE
- B34 VIRAL INFECTION OF UNSPECIFIED SITE





Which disease-disease and symptom correlations are treatment related?



Text mining of drug names, ADE/ADRs, diagnoses, ...

Removed ADR - no corresponding structured data

Behandlet med Zyprexa 5 mg fra 3. til 24.6.99 og 10 mg fra 24. til 29.6.99 med nogen effekt på tankeløshedsfølelse, men seponeret pga appetitøgning. Herefter Risperdal 2 mg stigende til 4 mg i perioden 29.6. til 12.7.99, men seponeret på grund af uro i kroppen og "osteklokkefølelse". Herefter Orap 2 mg fra 2.8. stigende til 3 mg fra 30.8.99 med god effekt på tankeekko og tankemylder. Behandlet med Zoloft 50 mg fra maj 98 til maj 99 med noget virkning på depressive symptomer, men seponeret på grund af natlig svedtendens. Siden 14.7.99 Efexor 75 mg med nogen effekt på antallet og sværhedsgraden af kortvarige depressive episoder.

se venligst under allergier: Desuden forsøgt beh med Zyprexa, sep grundet vægtøgning, træthed og manglende effekt Risperdal ord med nogen effekt tillagt dogmatil (1999). Efterfølgende aurox beh seponeret i 1999. Startede istedet remeron. Aktual medicindois, jvf udskrivningsnotat fra U12 samt EPJmedicinliste.

tbl. leponex 100+0+0+200 mg, tbl. lyotril 0,5 +0+1+ 0 mg, tbl. arintapin 0+0+0+30 mg, tbl. klomipramin 0+0+0+25 mg, tbl. moclober 7,5 mg nocte, tbl. lyotril 2 mg p.n. max x 1 dgl, tbl. marevan a 2,5 mg efter skema, tbl. magnesia 1 g p.n. laxoberaldr: 7,5 mg /ml 15 dr. p.n. mix. lmk 150 mg /ml 15 ml p.n. max x 3 dgl. Figensaft 20+0+20+0 ml, Pt. er aktuelt, CAVE, tricykliske antidepressiva. Dette kan dog ikke bekræftes og pt. har tidl. fået imipramin, som han har tålt godt, hvorfor der er ansøgt om ophævelser af denne cave på højere niveau. Har tidl. fået zyprexa som blev sep. grundet vægtøgning, træthed og manglende effekt

Removed ADR - negation and subject identification

...Jeg mener fortsat, at han har brug for medicin, da han i går fx var meget vred og følte sig utryk og angst og har haft svært ved at sove. Dette synes pt. at accepterer. Jeg tilbyder herefter Zyprexa i stedet for Risperdal, pt. afviser dette, da han ved medpatient har fået denne medicin og har fået angstappet, dette vil han ikke. Har ikke tidligere fået antipsykotisk medicin. Accepterer herefter Cisordinol, startende på en lille dosis. Accepterer også angstdæmpende medicin i dagtiden. Angiver, at når han bliver vred kan han godt styre det. Synes det hjælp i går noget at få Nozinat. Virker fortsat gaderet. Siger intet uopfordret. Sparsomt sygdomsindsigt. Er ikke trodsat. Er i dag heller latent sygdom...

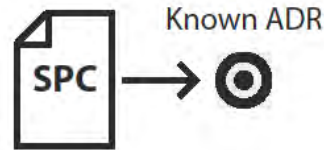
Text mining Adverse Drug Reactions

(using 7,500 drug names and 21,000 ADRs)

Identification of indications



Identification of known ADRs

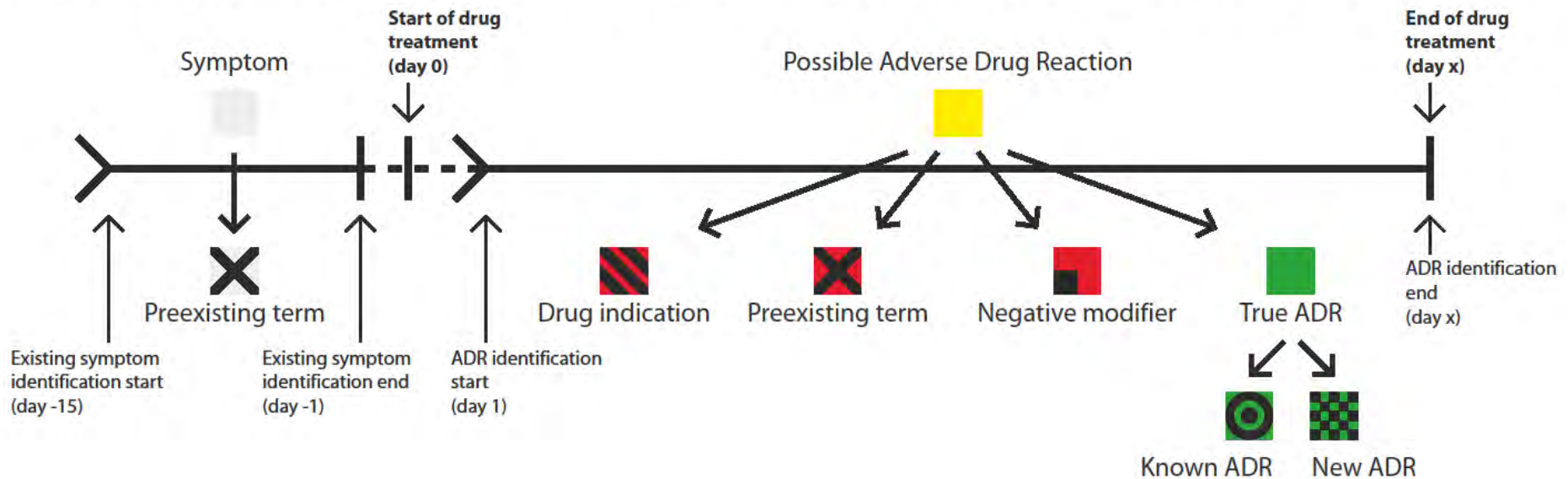


Creation of negative modifiers



Identification of existing symptoms

Identification of possible Adverse Drug Reactions

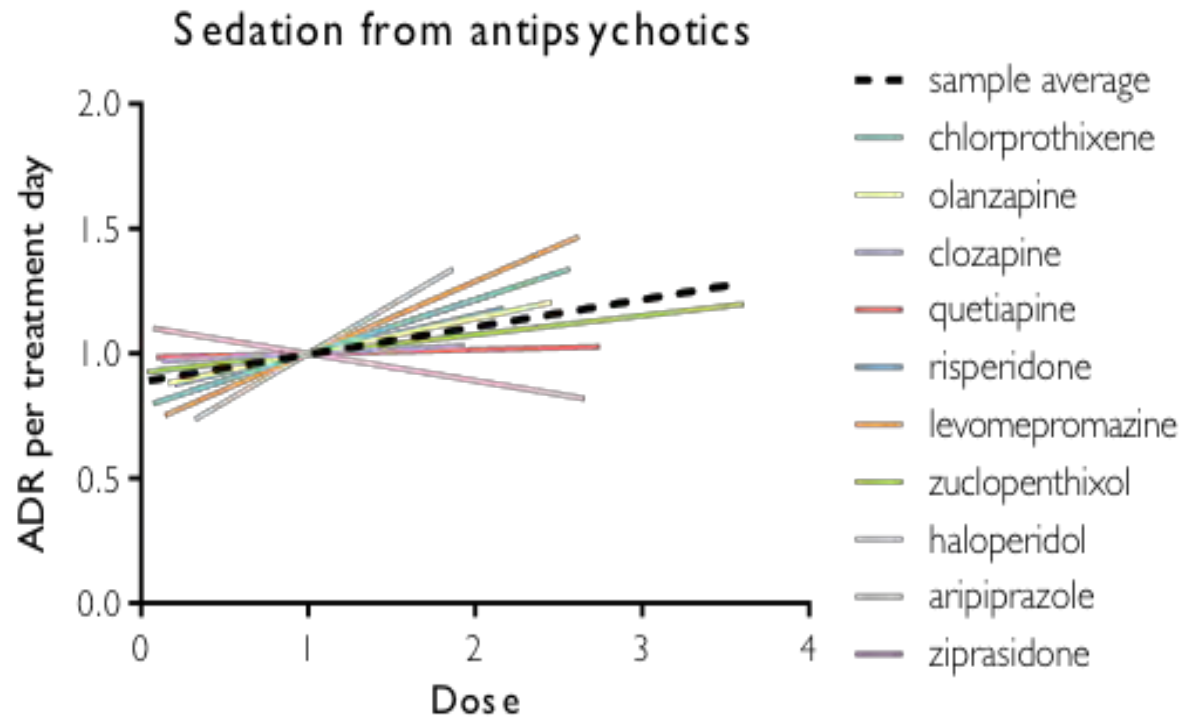


Data from two Danish regions



ADR-dose dependencies

Dosages from structured medication data



ADRs and doses are normalized on multiples of the minimum dose prescribed of each drug.

Plot for 21 days steady dosage data is visualized, sample average slope 0.1105 (95% CI, 0.03085-0.1901), non-zero slope p-value was 0,0074, all individual drug slopes are positive except for haloperidol.

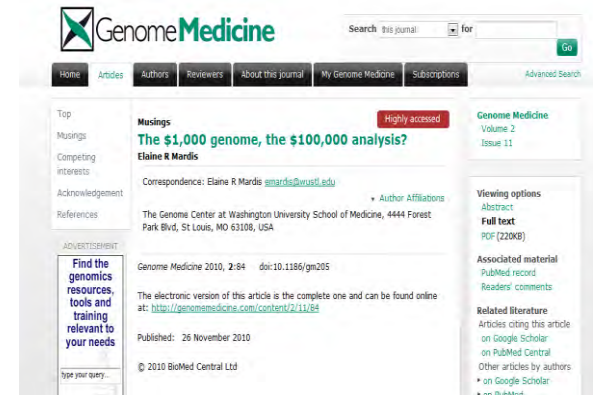
△ population health data

- **Health data driven:**

- **Redefine phenotypes as trajectories**
- **Enable prediction using predictable trajectories?**

- **Include what is not in patient records in new ways:**

- **Diet,**
- **Income, ...**
- **Education, grades in exams, ...**
- **Behavior, risk-taking, ...**





Personlig Medicin og Individualiseret Behandling

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 TRANSLATIONAL GENETICS

Mining electronic health records: towards better research applications and clinical care

Peter B. Jensen¹, Lars J. Jensen¹ and Søren Brunak^{1,2}

Abstract | Clinical data describing the phenotypes and treatment of patients represents an underused data source that has much greater research potential than is currently realized. Mining of electronic health records (EHRs) has the potential for establishing new patient-stratification principles and for revealing unknown disease correlations. Integrating EHR data with genetic data will also give a finer understanding of genotype–phenotype relationships. However, a broad range of ethical, legal and technical reasons currently hinder the systematic deposition of these data in EHRs and their mining. Here, we consider the potential for furthering medical research and clinical care using EHR data and the challenges that must be overcome before this is a reality.

Clinical decision support (CDS). Software systems providing support for decision making to physicians through the application of health knowledge and logical rules to patient data.

Biobanks
Central repositories of biological material that are mainly used for research. They facilitate the re-use of collected samples in different research projects.

Information technology has transformed the way health care is carried out and documented. Presently, the practice of health care generates, exchanges and stores huge amounts of patient-specific information. In addition to the traditional clinical narrative, databases in modern health centres automatically capture structured data relating to all aspects of care, including diagnosis, medication, laboratory test results and radiological imaging data.

This transformation holds great promise for the individual patient as richer information, coupled with clinical decision support (CDS) systems, becomes readily available at the bedside to support informed decision making and to improve patient safety^{1,2}

especially interesting when traditional health-care-sector data is linked with biobanks and genetic data⁴.

Despite the great potential, researchers who wish to analyse large amounts of patient data are still faced with technical challenges of integrating scattered, heterogeneous data, in addition to ethical and legal obstacles that limit access to the data^{5,6}. It is hoped that large-scale adoption of health information technology (HIT) infrastructure in the form of electronic health records (EHRs) and agreed standards for interoperability and schemes for privacy and consent, will improve this situation (TABLE 1). With incentives for improved public health and the expected health budget savings^{7,8}, these matters