



ERKNet
The European
Rare Kidney Disease
Reference Network

Clinical implications of genetics: nephrotic syndrome



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ERN

ORkid ORPHAN
KIDNEY
DISEASES

imagine
INSTITUT DES MALADIES GÉNÉTIQUES



UNIVERSITÉ
**PARIS
DESCARTES**

Idiopathic nephrotic syndrome in children

Pu/creatinine U > 200 mg/mmol, albuminemia < 25 g/l



Steroid sensitive
80-90%

No relapse
40%

Unfrequent
relapses
20%

Steroid-
dependant
frequent relapses
30%

Steroid resistant
10-20%

Secondary steroid
resistant
3%

ESKD – Transplantation
50-60% of SRNS

ISKDC, JASN 1997

Sengutuvan, Pediatr Nephrol 1990

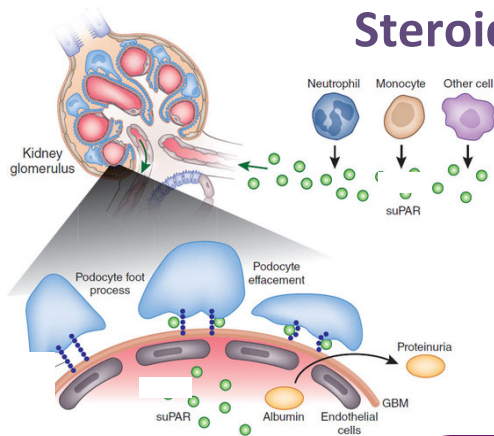
Weber, Transplantation 2005

Mahesh, Pediatr Transplant 2008

Different etiologies of nephrotic syndrome (NS)

Idiopathic NS

Circulating factor



Steroid sensitive

Steroid resistant

Complete remission with intensified immunosuppression
Recurrence after RTx

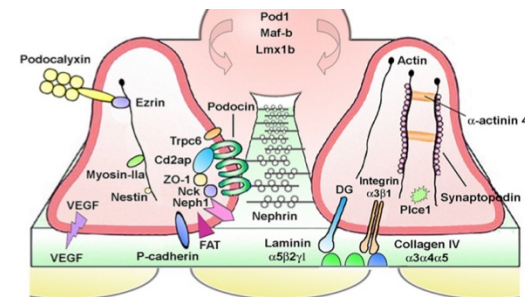
Dysimmune NS

Circulating factor of glomerular permeability ?

Monogenic NS

Structural anomalies of the glomerular filtration barrier

Podocyte proteins



- ▶ Congenital NS
- ▶ Steroid resistant NS
- ▶ AD FSGS

Partial remission may be observed with CNIs

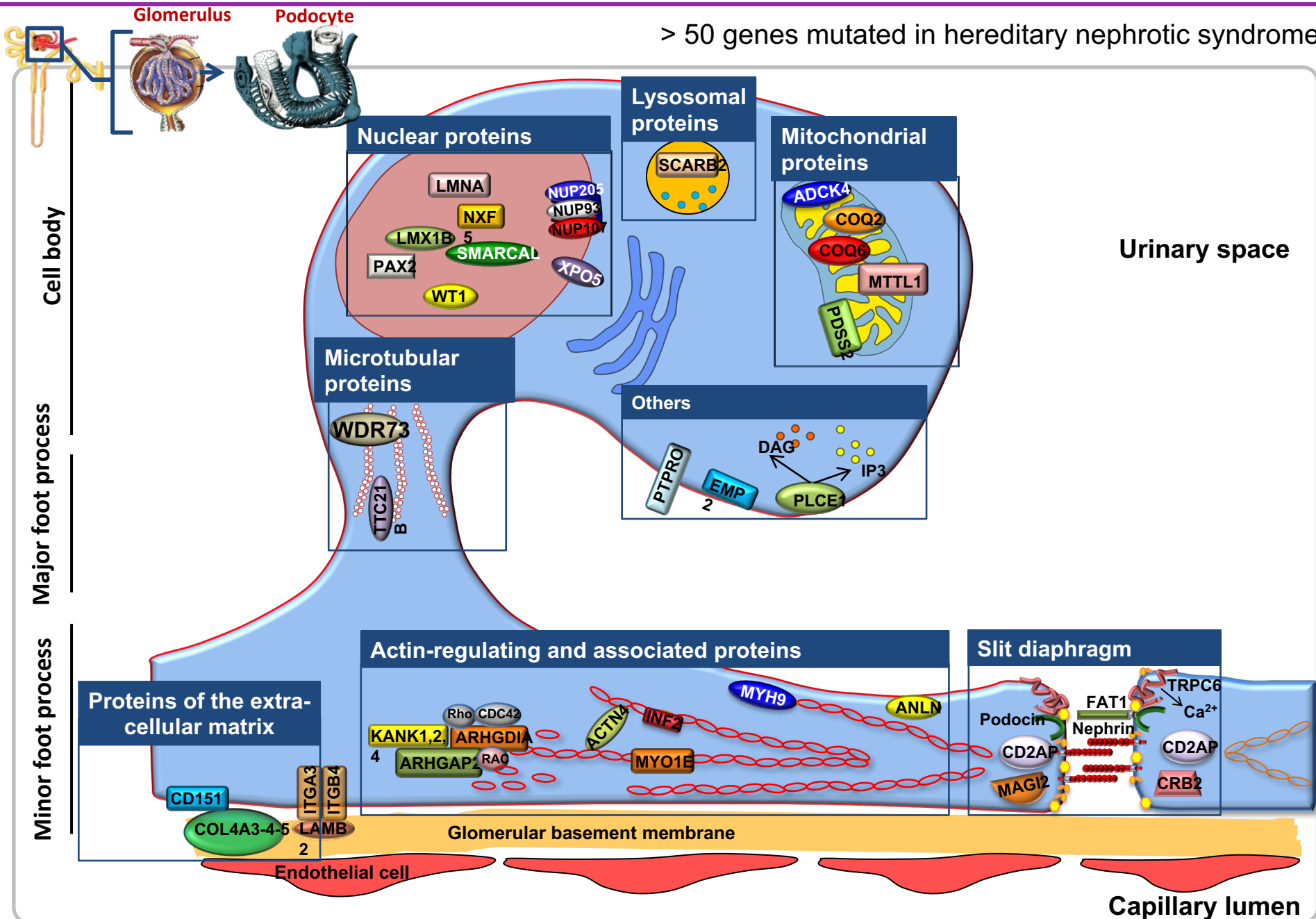
No monogenic cause

Shankland et al. Nature Med, 2011

Dorval, Pediatr Nephrol 2017

Molecular bases of nephrotic syndrome

> 50 genes mutated in hereditary nephrotic syndrome



Clinical implications of genetics: nephrotic syndrome

- **Make a diagnosis**
 - rule-out differential diagnoses
 - Identify potential syndromic forms with specific management
- **Provide genetic counseling**
- **Provide adequate therapeutic management**
- **Discover personalized treatments**
- **Evaluate the risk of recurrence after transplantation**
- **Select potential intra-familial kidney donors**

Clinical implications of genetics: nephrotic syndrome

- **Make a diagnosis**
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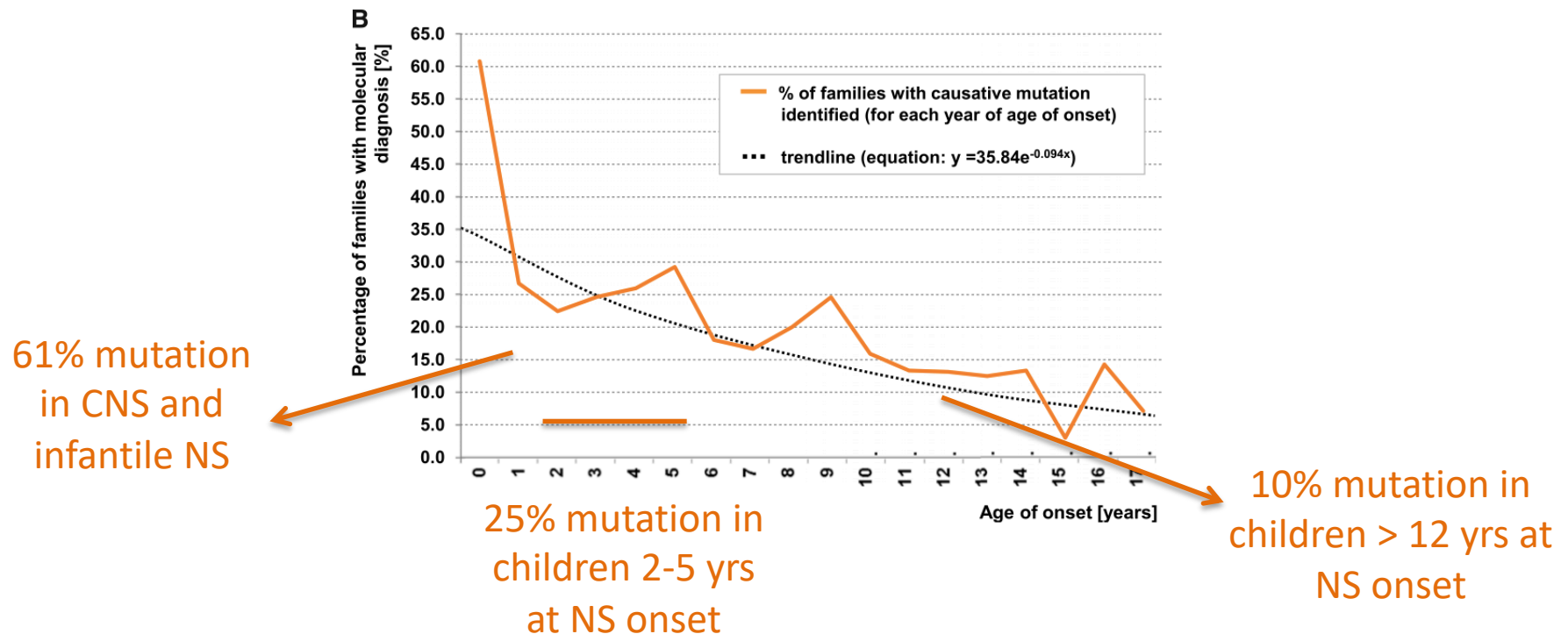
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What is the proportion of children with SRNS and identified causative mutations by next generation sequencing techniques?

- 10-15%
- 25-30%
- 35-40%
- 45-50%

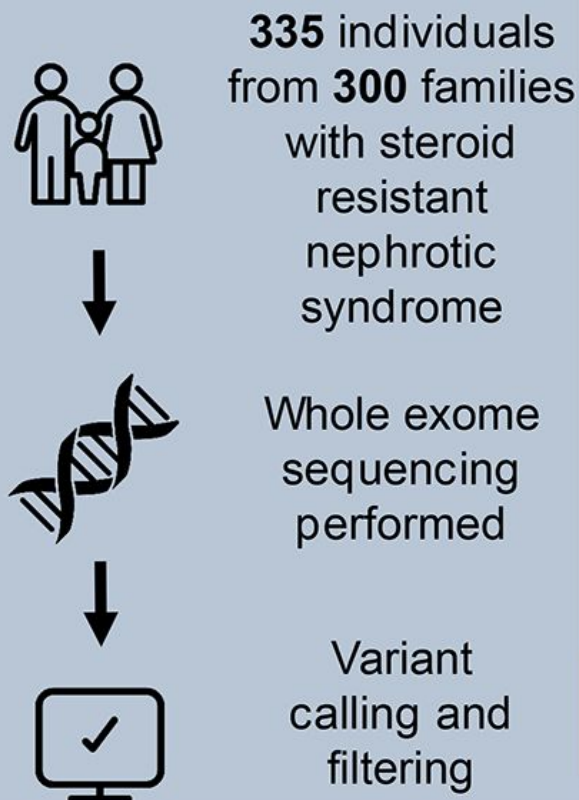
Targeted sequencing – Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) panel sequencing or WES in SRNS

- 1783 families with SRNS < 25 yrs : Sanger and targeted NGS of 27 genes
- **29.5% disease causing mutations in a single gene**
- **49.5% in consanguineous families** and only 25% in non consanguineous families

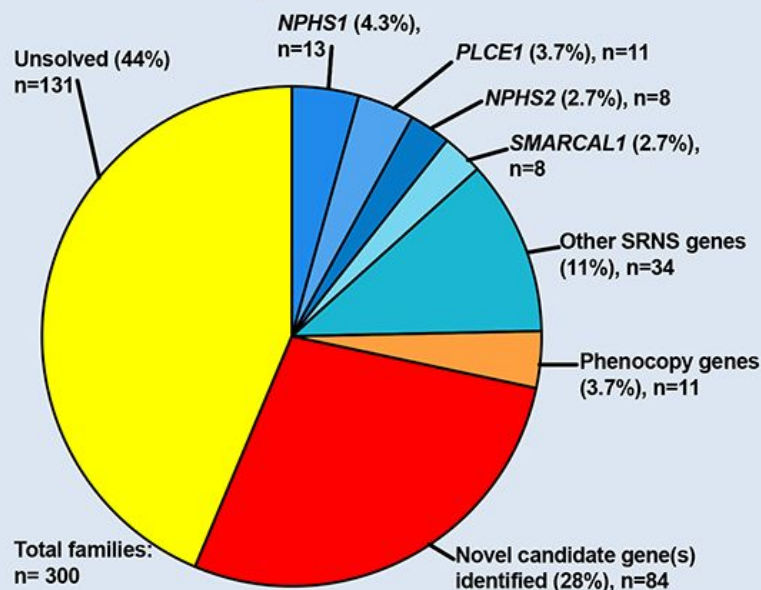


Whole Exome Sequencing of Patients with Steroid-Resistant Nephrotic Syndrome

METHODS

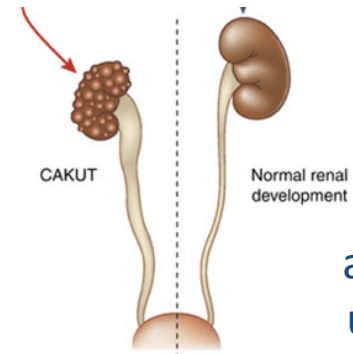


OUTCOMES: 25% of families had a causative mutation detected in candidate genes



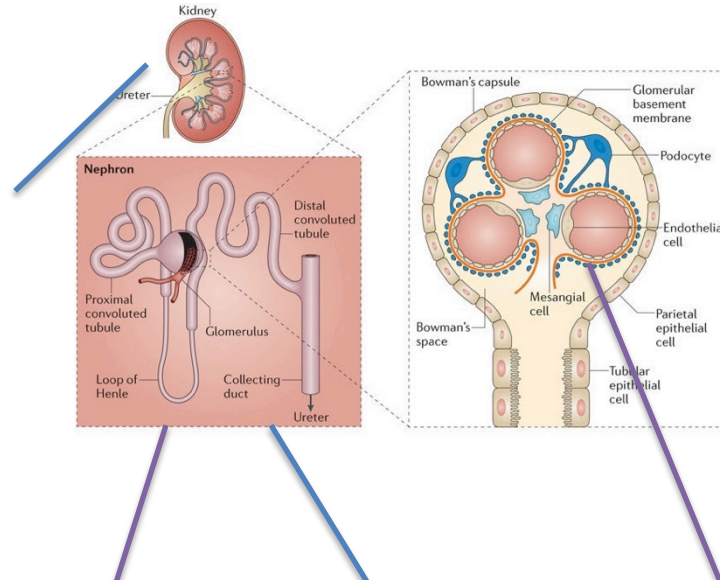
CONCLUSION A potentially causative genetic mutation can be identified in many patients with steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome.

1) Rule out differential diagnoses



**CAKUT
PKD**

abN kidney
ultrasound
LMW Pu

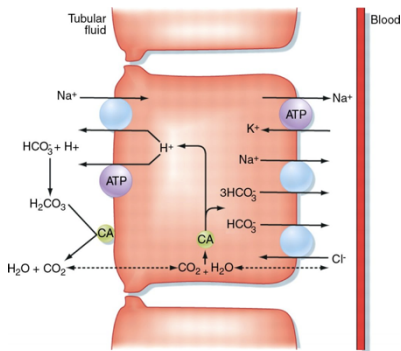


Ciliopathies (NPH)

Urinary sodium loss
Polyuria, LMW Pu

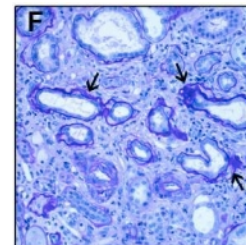
**Glomerular diseases
(SRNS, Alport)**

Albuminuria +/- Hu



Tubulopathies

Ion perturbances
LMW Pu





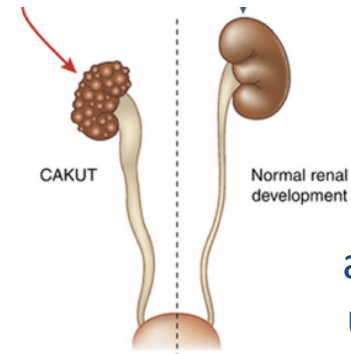
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Which of the following diseases may present as SRNS with FSGS lesions on kidney biopsy (MCQ, check all that apply) ?

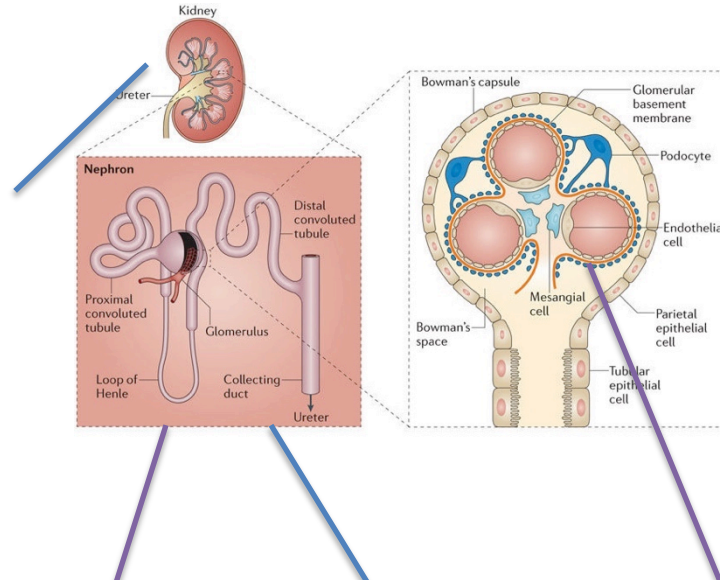
- renal-coloboma syndrome (*PAX2* mutations)
- Dent's disease (*CLCN5* mutation)
- Nephronophthisis (*TTC21B* mutation)
- Alport syndrome (*COL4A3-5* mutation)
- None of the above

1) Rule out differential diagnoses



**CAKUT
PKD**

abN kidney
ultrasound
LMW Pu

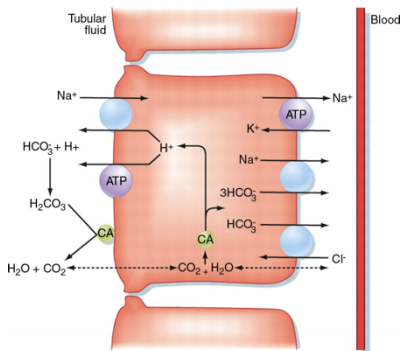


Ciliopathies (NPH)

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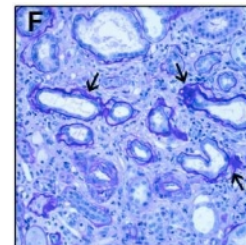
**Glomerular diseases
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Albuminuria +/- Hu

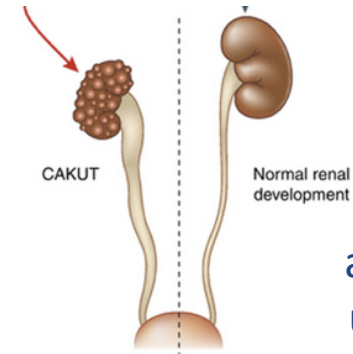


Tubulopathies

Ion perturbances
LMW Pu

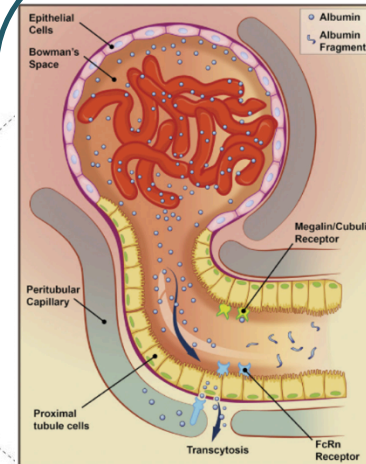
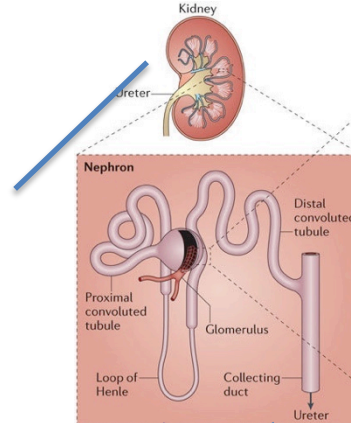


1) Rule out differential diagnoses

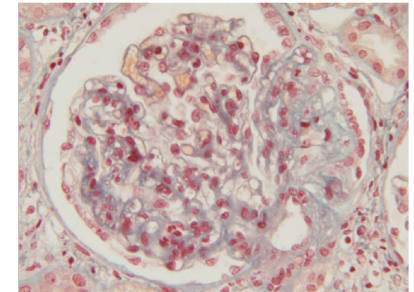


**CAKUT
PKD**

abN kidney
ultrasound
LMW Pu



*** Albumin filtration
greater than previously
thought**



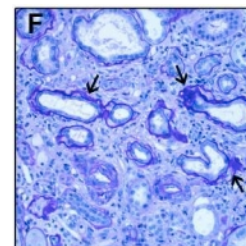
*** Chr nephropathies may =>
FSGS (non specific lesion)**

Ciliopathies

Urinary sodium loss
Polyuria, LMW Pu

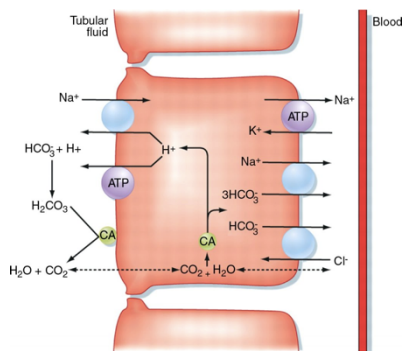
**Glomerular diseases
SRNS
Alport**

Albuminuria +/- Hu



Tubulopathies

Ion perturbances
LMW Pu

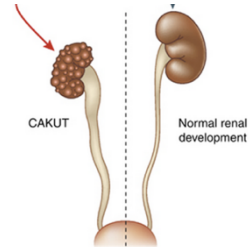


Dickson et al. JASN, 2014

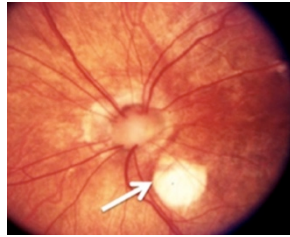


PAX2 (CAKUT)

- ⇒ CAKUT and papillo-renal syndrome
- ⇒ in 4% of adult-onset familial SRNS/FSGS and no extra-renal features



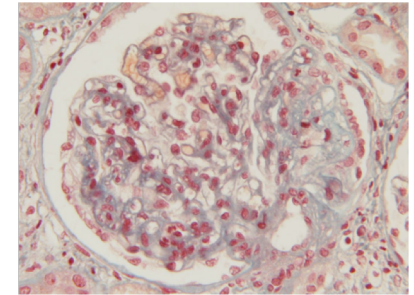
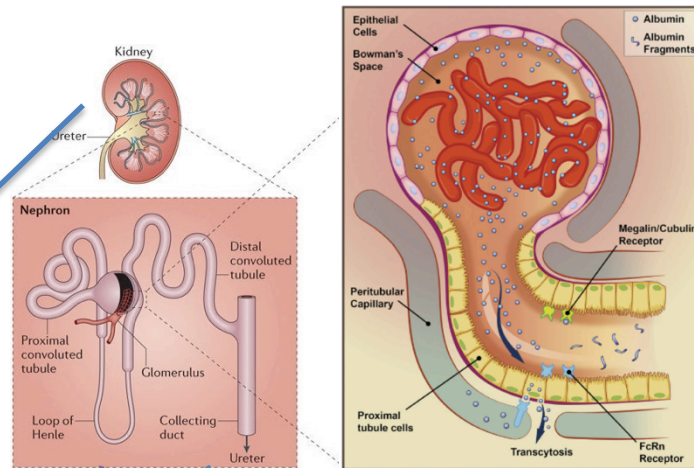
CAKUT



coloboma

Barua et al, JASN 2014

1) Rule out differential diagnoses/phenocopies



FSGS (non specific lesion)

COL4A3-5 (Alport)

- ⇒ Heterozygous COL4A3 mutation in ~10% AD-SRNS/FSGS families
- No known deafness before genetic testing



Malone et al., KI 2014

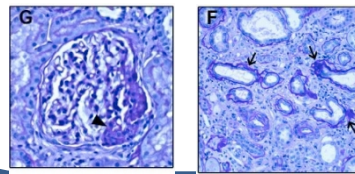
Tubulopathies

- CBN (cubilin) (Megaloblastic anemia)
- OCRL and CLCN5 (Dent)
- ⇒ Chronic albuminuria and FSGS

Ovuncet al, JASN 2011

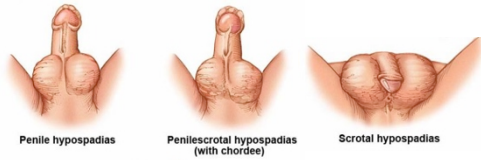
TTC21B (ciliopathy)

- AlbU (1-7 g/l) et HBP ++
- ESKD 22 yrs
- ⇒ SRNS and nephronophthisis
- Magrheb and Portugal

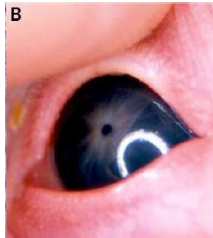


Huynh Cong E et al., JASN 2014

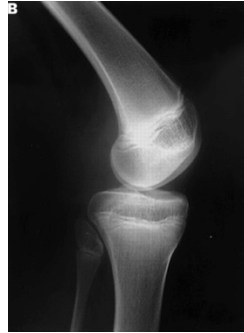
2) Identify potential syndromic forms with specific management



DDS and Frasier Sd



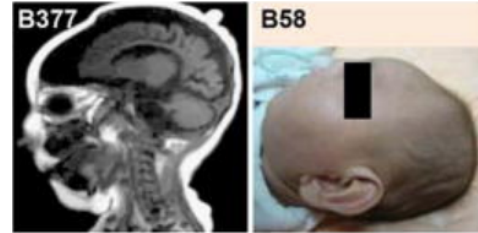
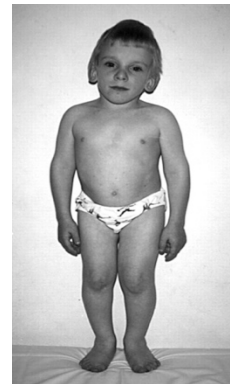
Pierson Sd



Nail Patella



Schimke



Galloway Mowatt



Mitochondrial disease

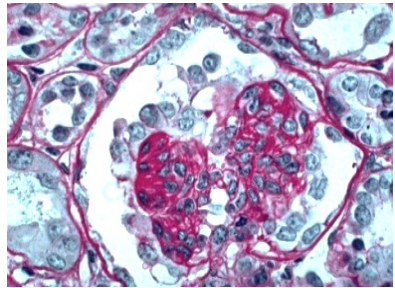


CMT

May develop immunodeficiency

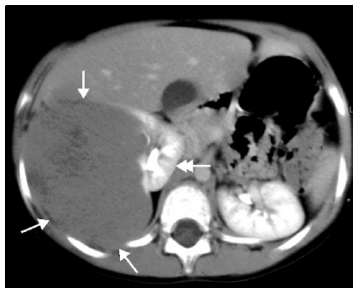
=> Should not be given IS

WT1 mutations in syndromic or non-syndromic AD-SRNS

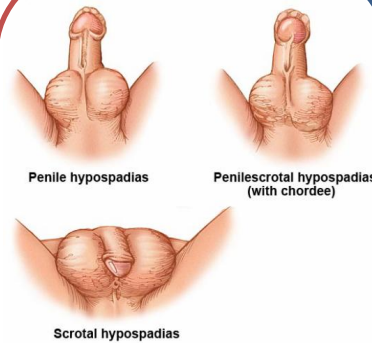


DMS

Mutation in exons 8 and 9

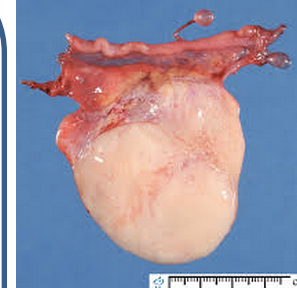


Wilm's



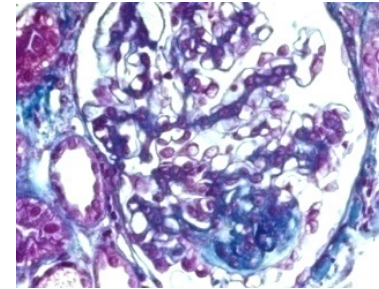
Male pseudo-hermaphroditism

Frasier



Gonadoblastoma
Streak gonades

Splice site mutation in intron 9



FSGS

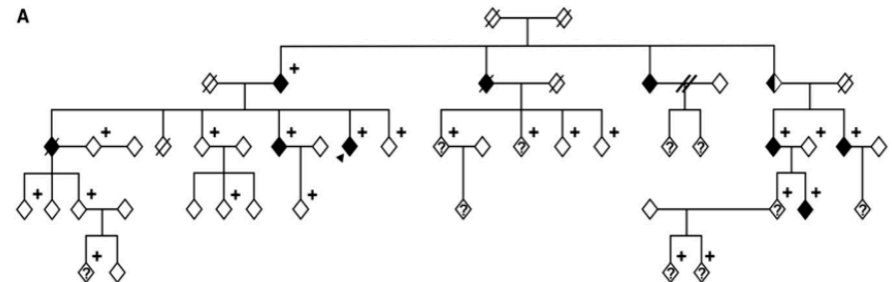
Mutation in exons 8 and 9 in **5% girls with non syndromic SRNS**

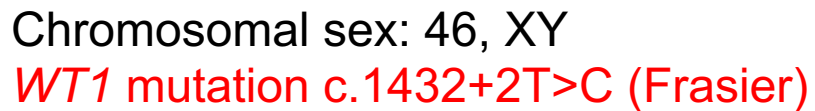
onset 3 yrs (0.1 – 6.9) and rarely in males

Identification of one mutation segregating with the disease in 2 large families (with > 5 males) with FSGS (onset 16-30 yrs)

Monitor kidney US/3 months

Karyotype (phenotypic girls)





Clinical implications in this patient?

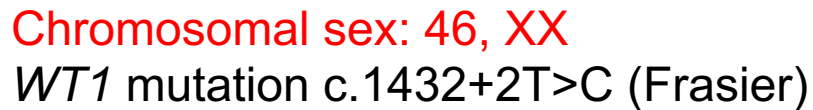


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**What are the clinical implications in this patient
(MCQ, check all that apply)?**

- Refer to an endocrinologist
- Refer to a surgeon for gonadal removal
- Abdominopelvic US every 6 months
- Refer to a psychologist
- 50% risk of having a child with SRNS



Genetic counselling in this patient?



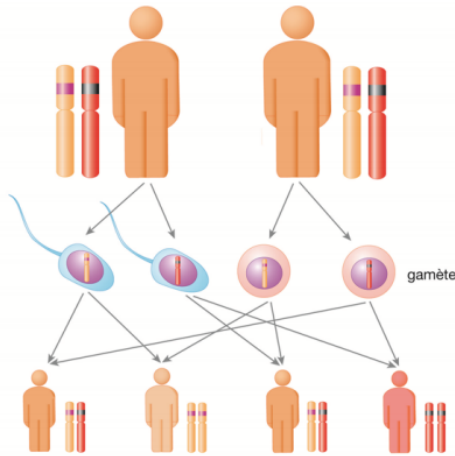
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What is the genetic counselling for this patient ?

- 25% risk of having a child with SRNS
- 50% risk of having a child with SRNS
- risk of having a child with gonadoblastoma
- risk of having a child with Wilm's tumor
- risk of having a child with male-to female sex reversal

3) Provide genetic counselling



Autosomal recessive

Unaffected parents
Frequent consanguinity

***NPHS2* (podocin) +++**

***NPHS1* (nephrin)**

***PLCE1 – NPHS3* (PLCE1)**

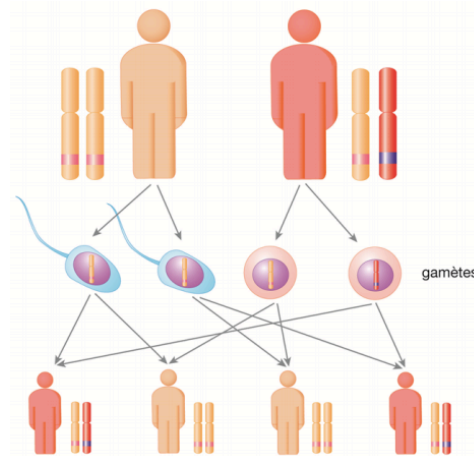
MYO1E (myosin 1E)

PTPRO (GLEPP1)

NUP93, 107, 205

KANK1,2,3

XP05



Autosomal dominant

One affected parent
Incomplete penetrance ++

WT1

***INF2* (inverted formin 2)**

TRPC6 (TRPC6)

ACTN4 (alpha-actinin 4)

LMX1B (LMX1B)

ARHGAP24

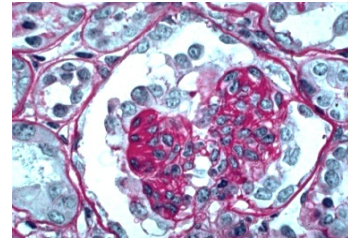
ARHGDIA

ANLN

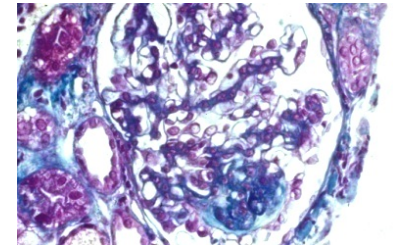
NPHS3 (PLCE1) mutations (AR) have an incomplete penetrance

- Onset : 2 mo (CNS) to 4 yrs (SRNS)
- FSGS or DMS
- ESKD < 7 yrs
- **INCOMPLETE PENETRANCE**

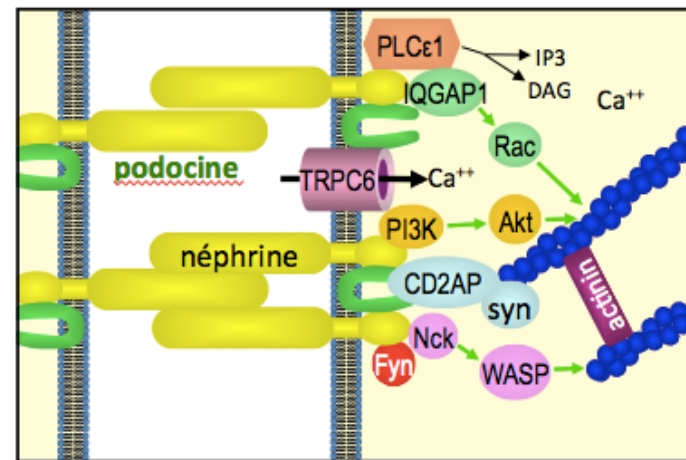
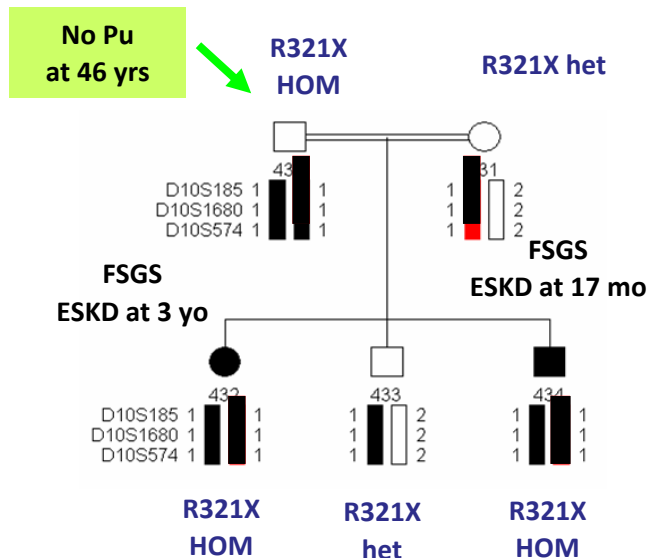
⇒ Oligogenic inheritance?
 ⇒ *Modifier genes?*
 ⇒ *environmental factors?*



Diffuse mesangial sclerosis



FSGS



Cytoplasmic protein
Podocyte signalling cascades

***NPHS2* mutations (podocin) are the 1st cause of autosomal recessive steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome**

AR-SRNS

NS \cong 4 years, ESKD \cong 10 years

> 110 mutations

- 42% familial cases
- 10% sporadic cases

R138Q (32%): retained in the endoplasmic reticulum

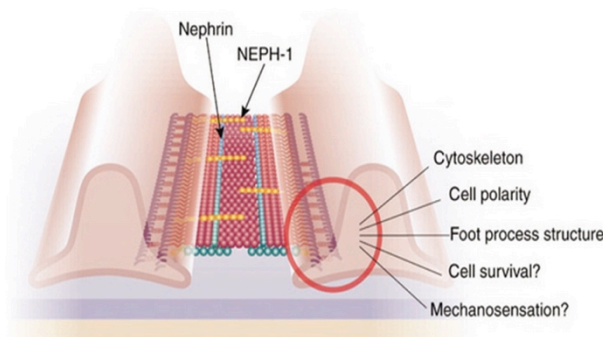
Age at Dx 2 years < 10 years for mutants located at the plasma membrane

Congenital NS

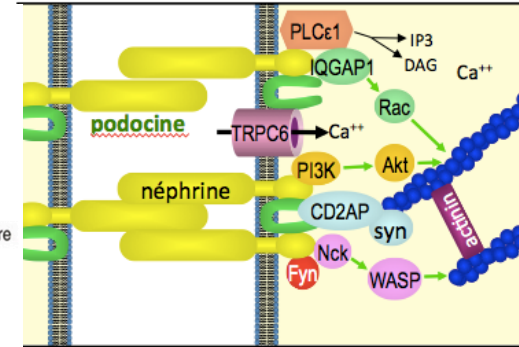
15-40 % of cases (ESKD \cong 6 years)

Late onset NS/Pu

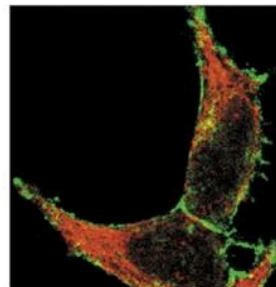
p.R229Q + 1 specific pathogenic mutation 19% of adult NS (Pu \cong 25 years, ESKD \cong 32 years)



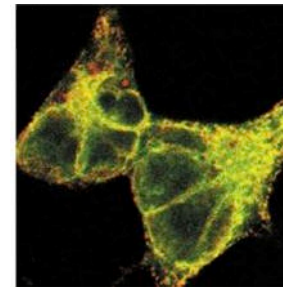
Slit diaphragm protein



Linked to the cytoskeleton



WT



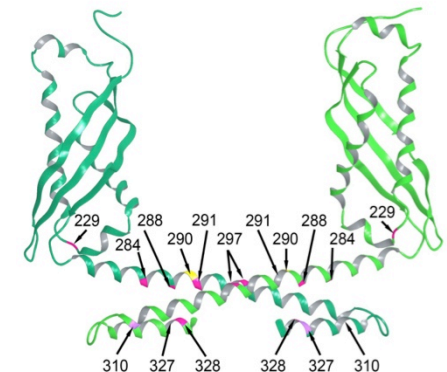
R138Q



Podocine



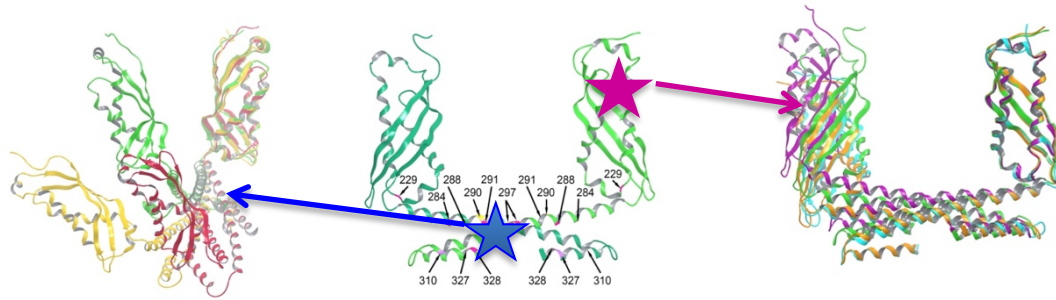
Calnexin (RE)



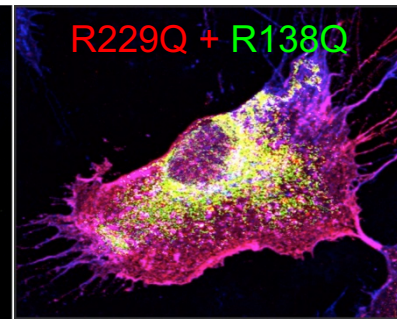
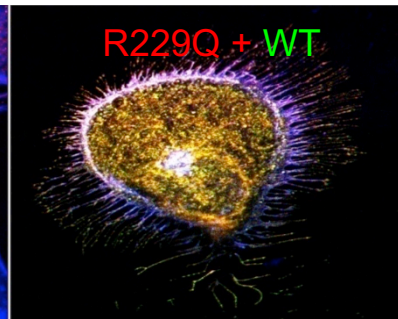
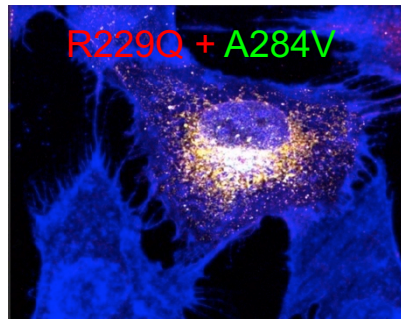
Homodimer

The effect of the p.R229Q *NPHS2* variant depends on the 2nd mutation

Pathogenic dimers
[p.R229Q];[C-terminal mutation]



Non pathogenic dimers
[p.R229Q];[N-terminal mutation]

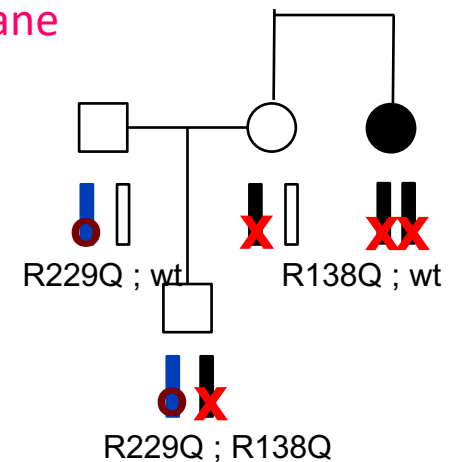


Podocin retained in the cell
SRNS/FSGS

Podocin at the plasma membrane
unaffected

→ [p.R229Q];[N-terminal mutation] DO NOT EXPLAIN NS => **immune NS?**

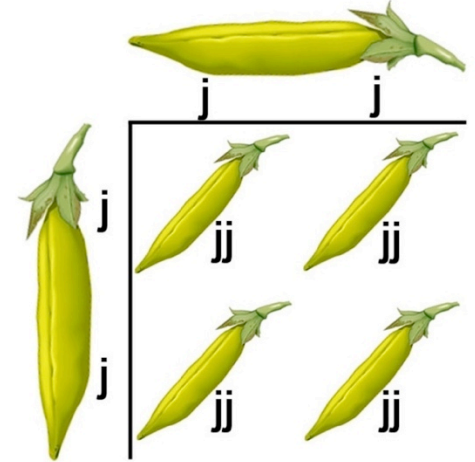
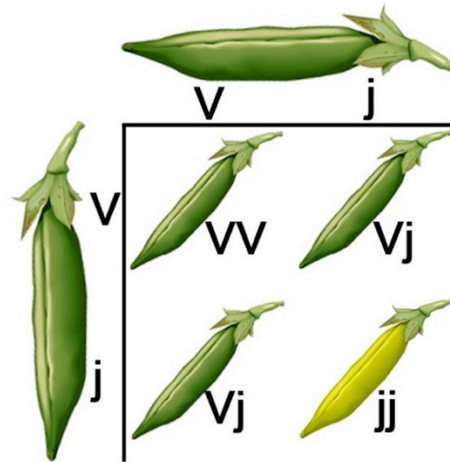
→ **Genetic counselling:** A couple carrying an *NPHS2* N-term mutation (exons 1–6) in one member and R229Q in the other is not at risk of having an affected child



The effect of the p.R229Q *NPHS2* variant depends on the 2nd mutation

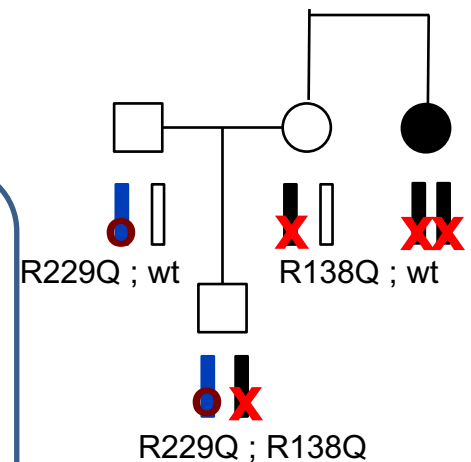


Gregor Mendel
(1822-1884)



→ [p.R229Q];[N-terminal mutation] DO NOT EXPLAIN NS => immune NS?

→ **Genetic counselling:** A couple carrying an *NPHS2* mutation in exons 1–6 in one member and R229Q in the other is not at risk of having an affected child



Clinical implications of genetics: nephrotic syndrome

- Make a diagnosis
- Provide genetic counseling
- Provide adequate therapeutic management
- Discover personalized treatments
- Evaluate the risk of recurrence after transplantation
- Select potential intrafamilial kidney donors

4) Provide adequate therapeutic management

prednisone, 60 mg/m²/day, 4 weeks
+/- 3 methylprednisolone pulses

↓
SRNS

↓
kidney Bx + genetic analyses

↓
Calcineurin inhibitor + prednisone qod

↓
complete remission

↓
No relapse

↓
Relapse often
steroid sensitive

↓
Genetic cause

↓
No remission

↓
Intensified immunosuppression

↓
Supportive care
(ACEi, ARBs)

↓
Frequent progression to ESKD

Do mutated patients benefit from ciclosporine?

1. Effects on the immune system

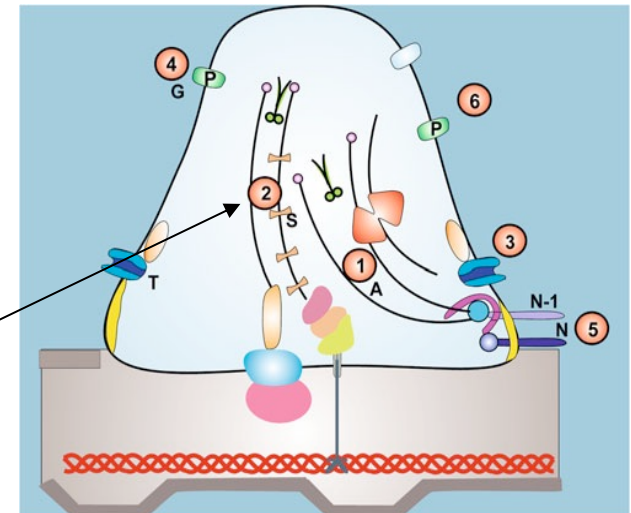
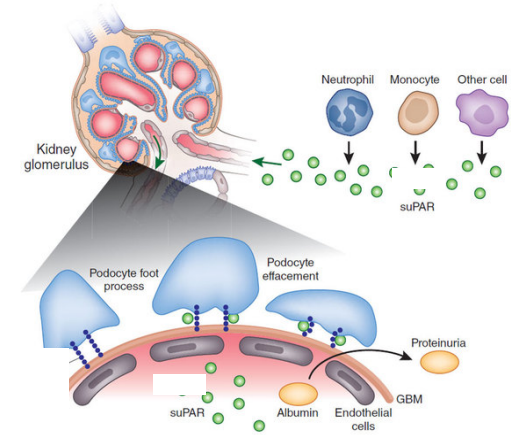
- T-helper cells : downregulates of transcription of cytokine gene: IL-2
- inhibits the proliferation of cytotoxic T-cells and B-cells in response to T-helper cell signaling.

2. Direct anti-Pu effect

By altering glomerular hemodynamics

3. Direct podocyte-stabilizing effect

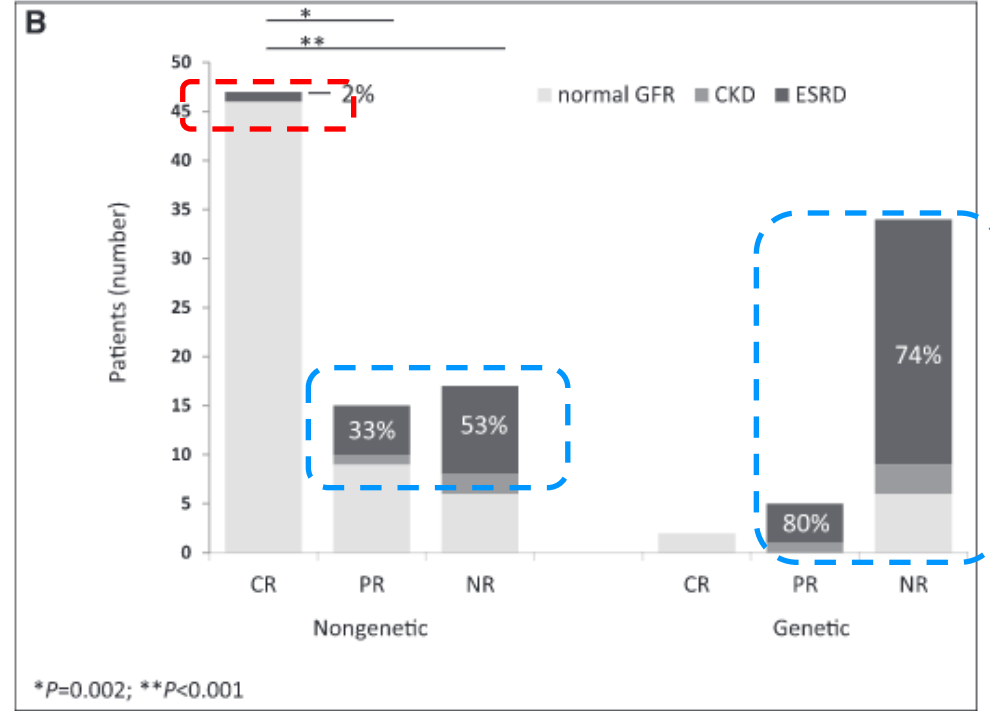
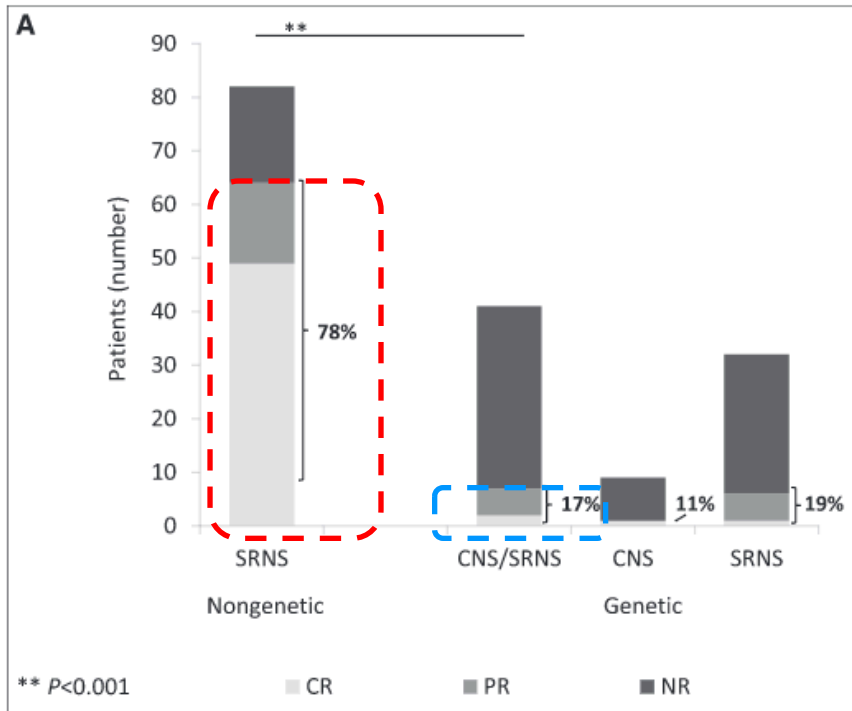
By blocking the calcineurin-mediated dephosphorylation of synaptopodin (that stabilizes the podocyte actin cytoskeleton by regulating of RhoA GTPases)



Gbadegesin et al. Ped Nephrol 2010

Faul et al., Nat Med 2008

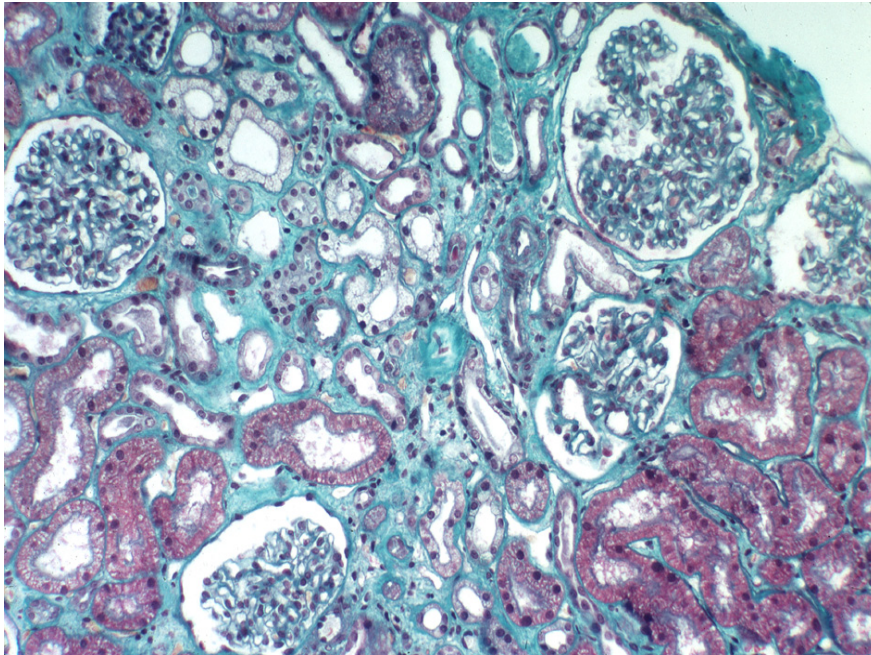
Most patients without any identified mutation respond to CNI and have a preserved renal function



- 231 SRNS and CNS, 131 with identified mutation
- 78% CR or PR in non mutated patients vs 17% PR only in mutated patients
- 2% ESKD if CR vs. 33% or 53% in case of PR or no remission, and 74% in mutated pts

➡ achieving complete remission is a major goal

However, prolonged exposure to CNIs
may have significant burden



nephrotoxicity



gum hypertrophy



hyperpilation

Picture courtesy of Marie Claire Gubler

4) Provide adequate therapeutic management

Do all mutated patients need ACEi?



➤ Imerslund-Gräsbeck syndrome (IGS)

CUBN gene mutations

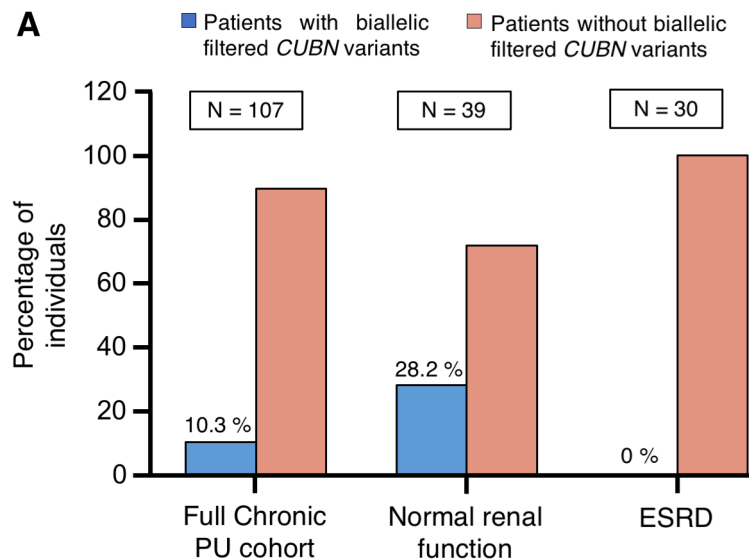
- Vitamin B12 malabsorption (anemia)
- **Proteinuria**

➤ **GWAS:** frequent variants associated with Pu

➤ **NGS: 49 biallelic cubilin mutations in**

- **14/759 (18%) pts** with suspected genetic cause for SRNS, AS, CAKUT, PKD, TIN (France)
- **13/1350 (10%)** with suspected genetic cause for SRNS, AS (Germany)
- **12/107 (11%) with chronic Pu** (France)

- Average age at onset of Pu: 10.9 years
- chronic Pu 0.5 to 3g/24h (>50% albumin)
- **Bx: MCD**
- **Normal eGFR 17 years then a lot of LTFU**
- **No effect of ACEi : indicated ?**



JCI

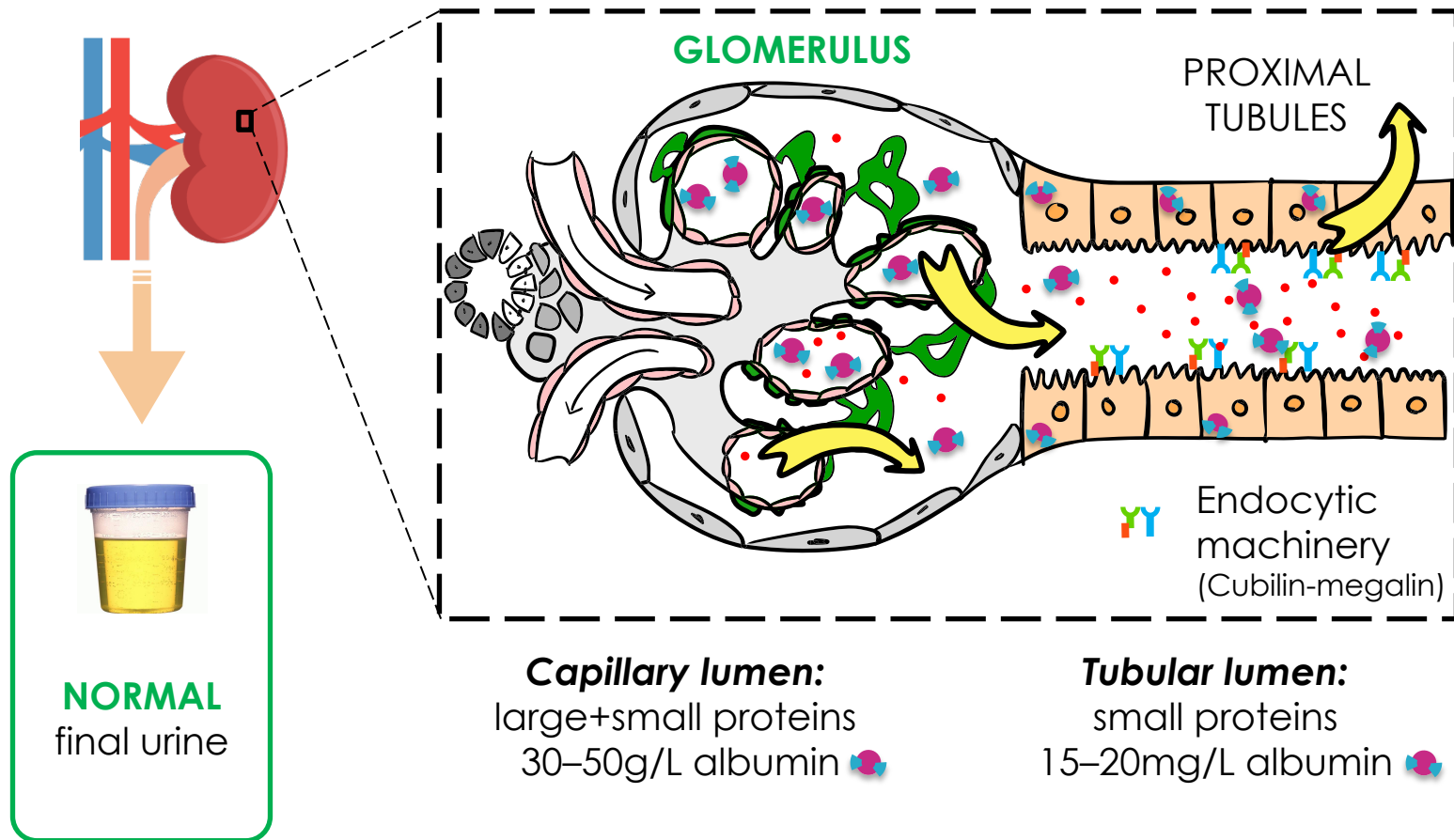
The Journal of Clinical Investigation

Human C-terminal CUBN variants associate with chronic proteinuria and normal renal function

Bedin M, Boyer O, ... Antignac C, Simons M. JCI 19

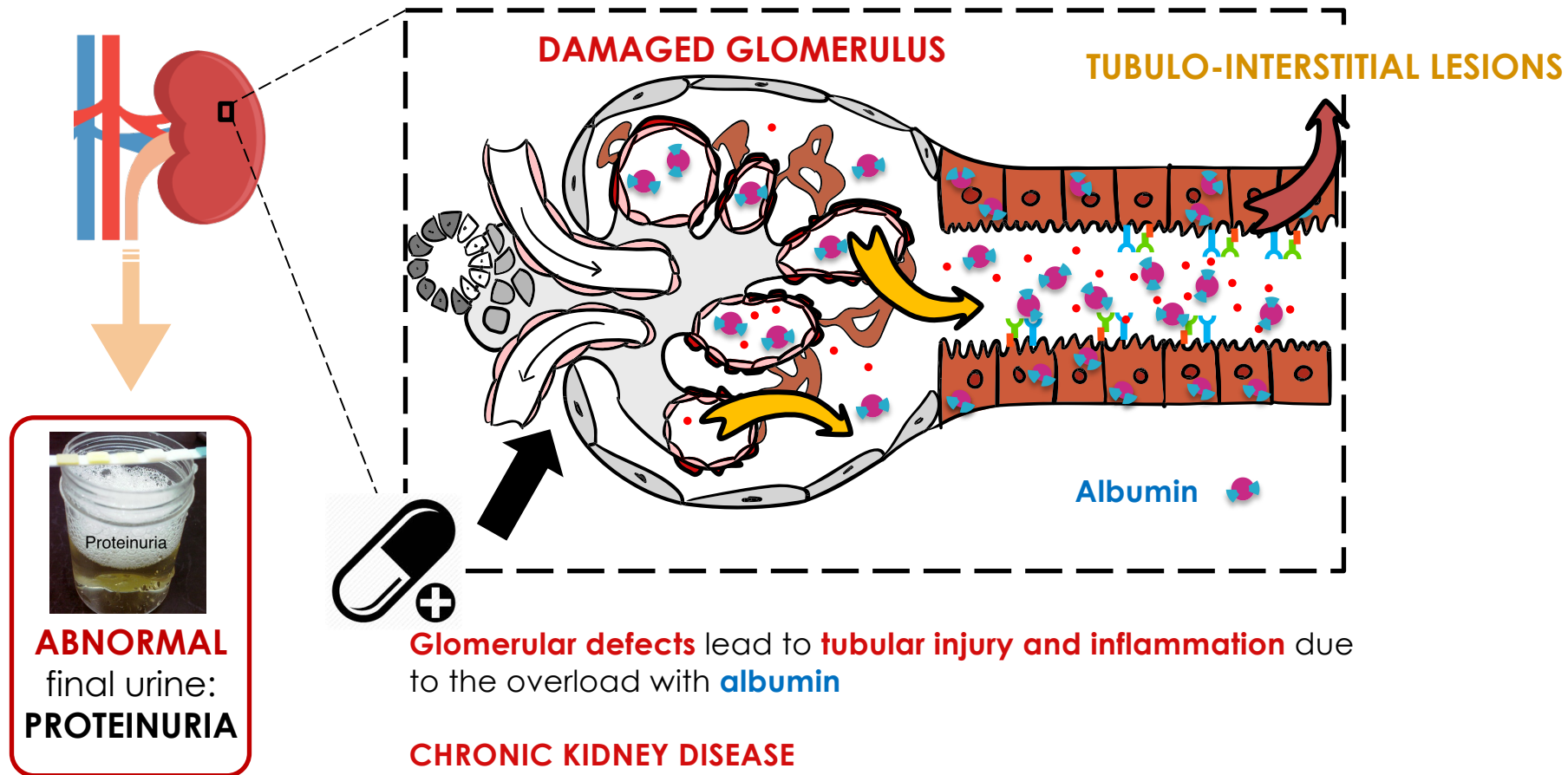


PROTEIN HANDLING BY THE PROXIMAL TUBULE





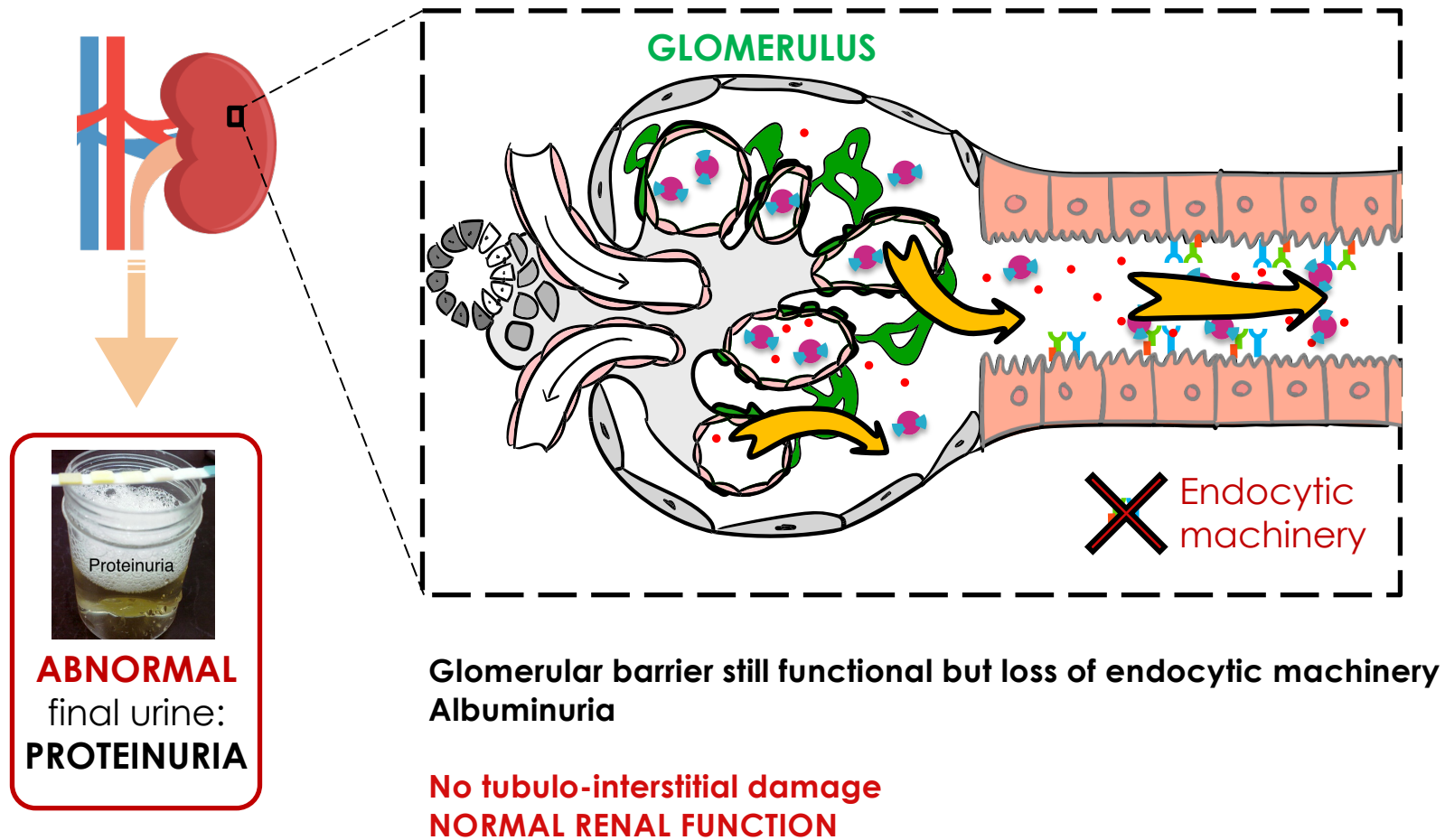
GLOMERULAR DAMAGE AND NEPHROTIC SYNDROME



ACEi => reduce albumin overload => nephroprotection

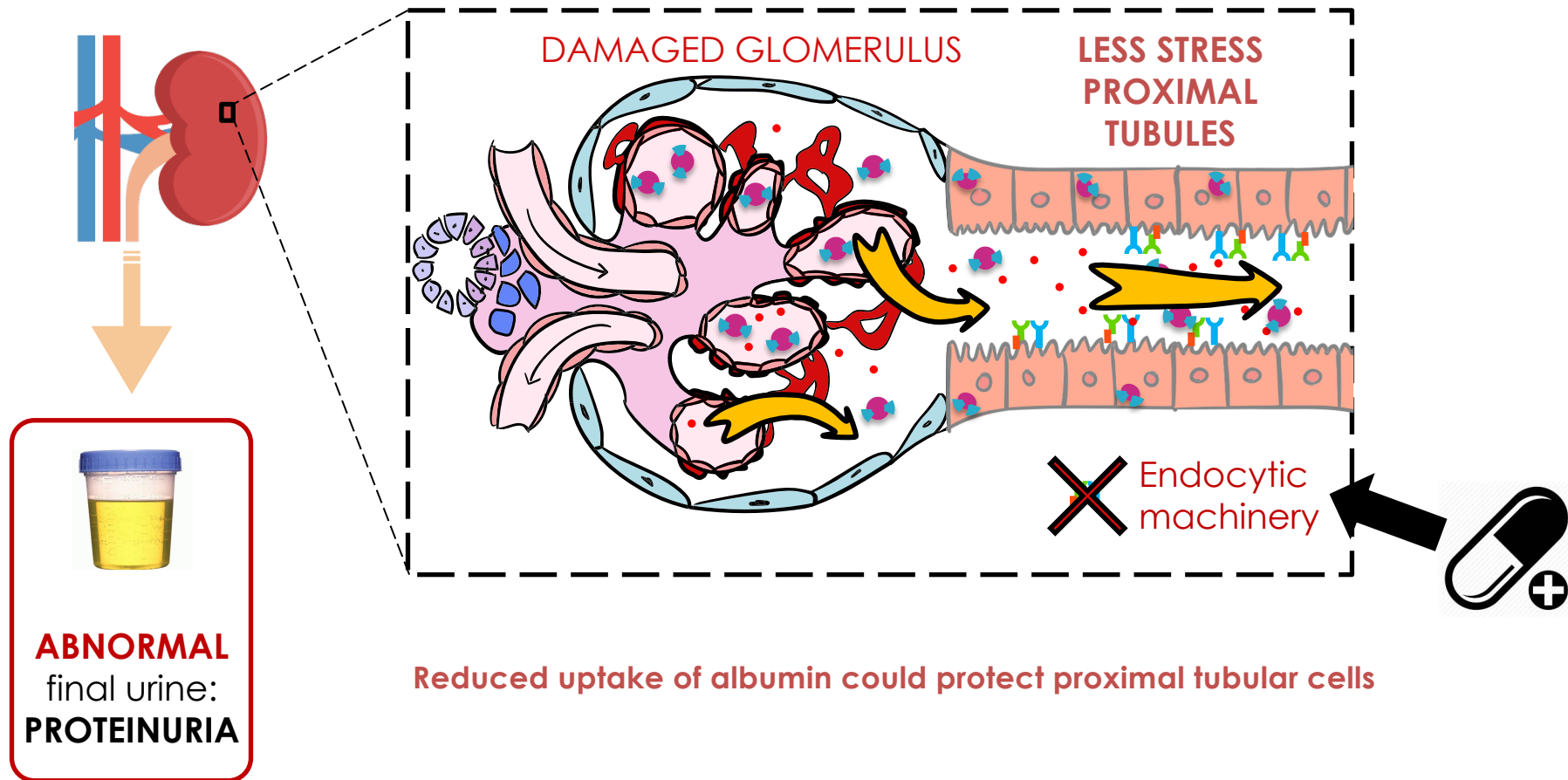


CUBN MUTATIONS



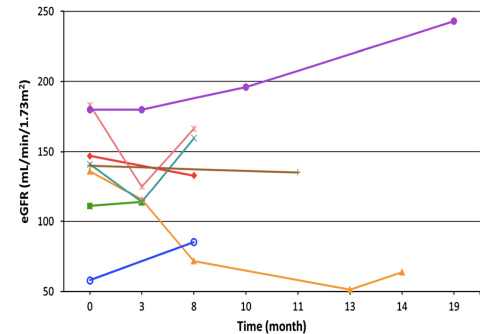
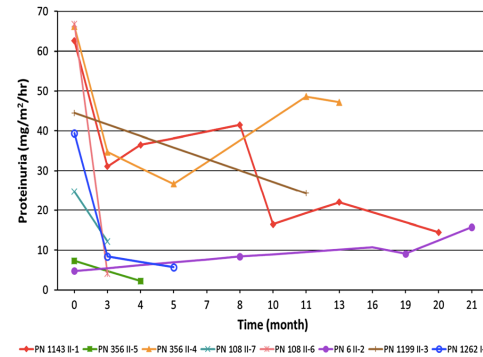
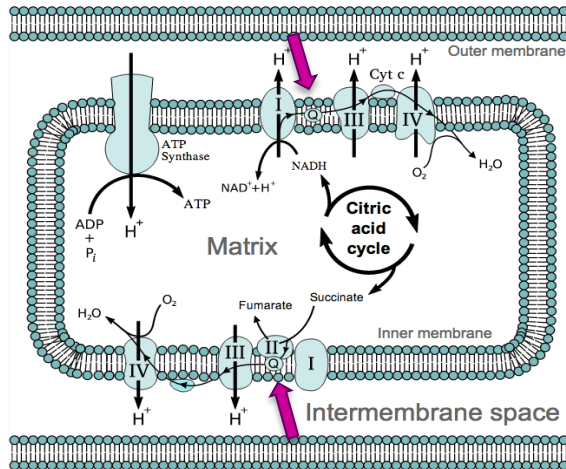


CUBN PROTEINURIA PROTECTION AGAINST KIDNEY DISEASE ?



5) Discover personalized treatments

Genes involved in coenzyme Q₁₀ (CoQ₁₀) biosynthesis



Atacama et al., Ped Nephrol 2017

Gene	Kidney phenotype	Extra-renal features	COQ10 effects
COQ2	CNS, SRNS (FSGS)	Encephalopathy, MOF	?
PDSS2	Congenital/infantile NS	Deafness, MR, Leigh	?
COQ6	CNS, SRNS (FSGS/DMS)	± Deafness, seizures, ataxia	↓ Pu ± deafness
COQ8 (ADCK4)	CNS, SRNS (FSGS): median age at Dx 14.1 yrs (11-17) At ESKD: 14-18 yrs	1 heart disease, 1 MR/15 Mostly isolated SRNS	↓ Pu

Heeringa et al., JCI 2011

Ashraf et al., JCI 2013

Kormaz et al., JASN 2015

5) Discover personalized treatments: chaperons ?

NPHS2 mutations (podocin)

AR-SRNS

NS \cong 4 years, ESKD \cong 10 years

> 110 mutations

- 42% familial cases

- 10-30% sporadic cases

R138Q (32%): retained in the endoplasmic reticulum

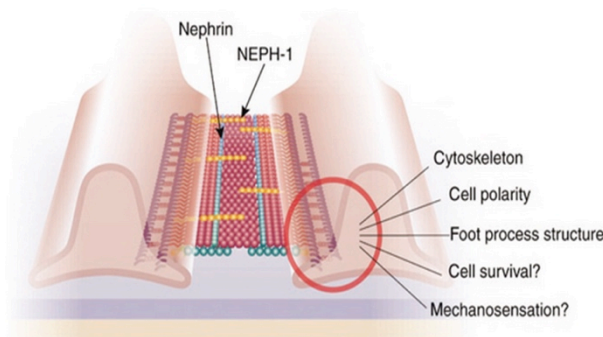
Age at Dx 2 years < 10 years for mutants located at the plasma membrane

Congenital NS

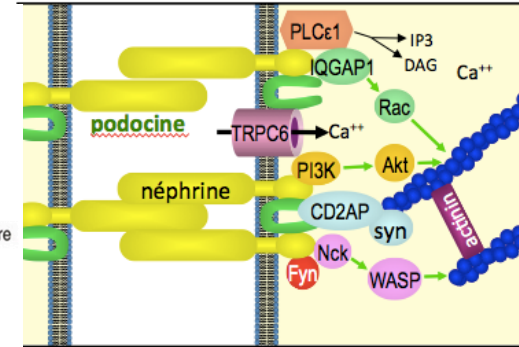
15-40 % of cases (ESKD \cong 6 years)

Late onset NS/Pu

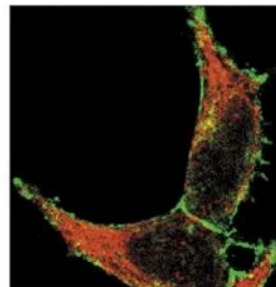
p.R229Q + 1 specific pathogenic mutation 19% of adult NS (Pu \cong 25 years, ESKD \cong 32 years)



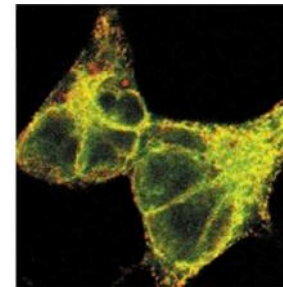
Slit diaphragm protein



Linked to the cytoskeleton



WT



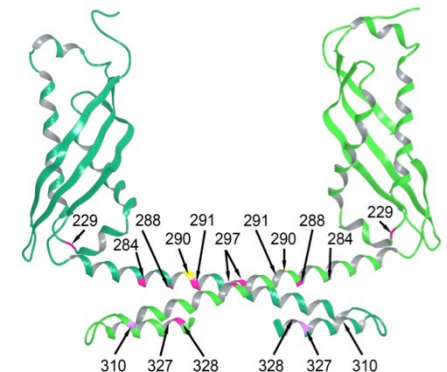
R138Q



Podocin

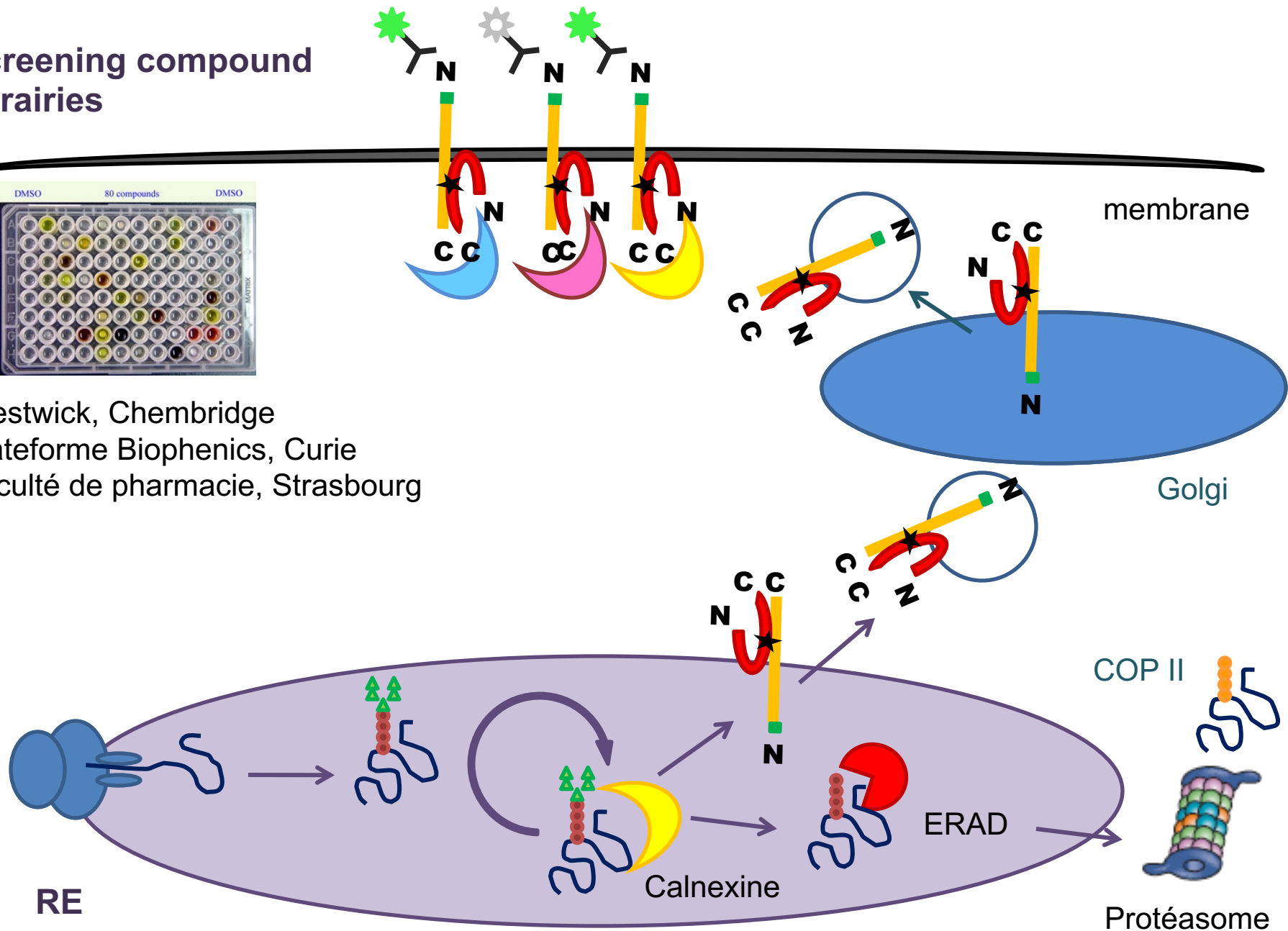
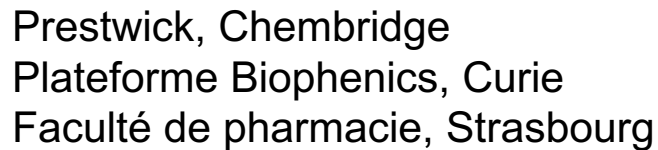


Calnexin (RE)



Homodimer

Screening compound libraries



Clinical implications of genetics: nephrotic syndrome

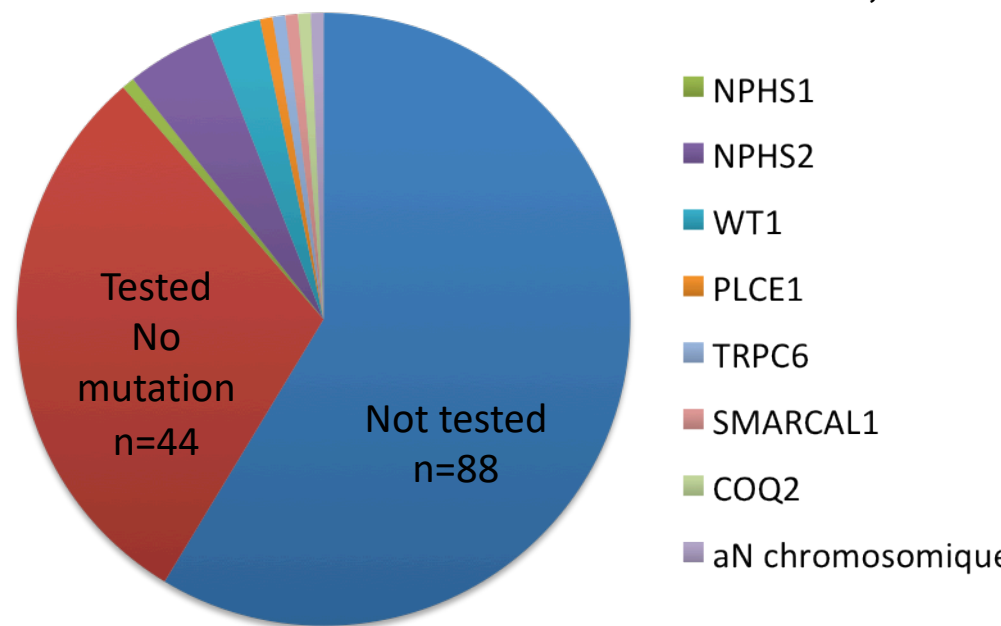
- Make a diagnosis
- Provide genetic counseling
- Provide adequate therapeutic management
- Discover personalized treatments
- Evaluate the risk of recurrence after transplantation
- Select potential intra-familial kidney donors

6) Evaluate the recurrence risk after RTx



**Moin Saleem,
Bristol, UK**

- **150 transplanted patients** (1^e graft) for SRNS between 1981 and 2012
- **105 from Necker** – 45 from 2 UK centers (Bristol, London)
- Median age at diagnosis: **4.0 yrs** (0.3-15.5)
- Median time to ESKD: **3.0 yrs** (0-17 yrs)
- Median age at Tx: **11.5 yrs** (2.5-23.5)
- 18 patients with identified gene mutations
- 7 familial cases/syndromic cases



Recurrence rate after Tx 38%
Double rate of Post-Tx complications

Nephrotic syndrome (n=150)
Necker n = 105 – UK n = 45

Steroids not used
initially (n =9)
Unable to qualify
recurrence (n=2)

Identified mutation
Familial/syndromic NS
(n = 25)

Recurrence
0/25 (0%)

Nephrotic syndrome (n=150)
Necker n = 105 – UK n = 45

Steroids not used
initially (n =9)
Unable to qualify
recurrence (n=2)

Identified mutation
Familial/syndromic NS
(n = 25)

Primary steroid-
resistance
(n = 86)

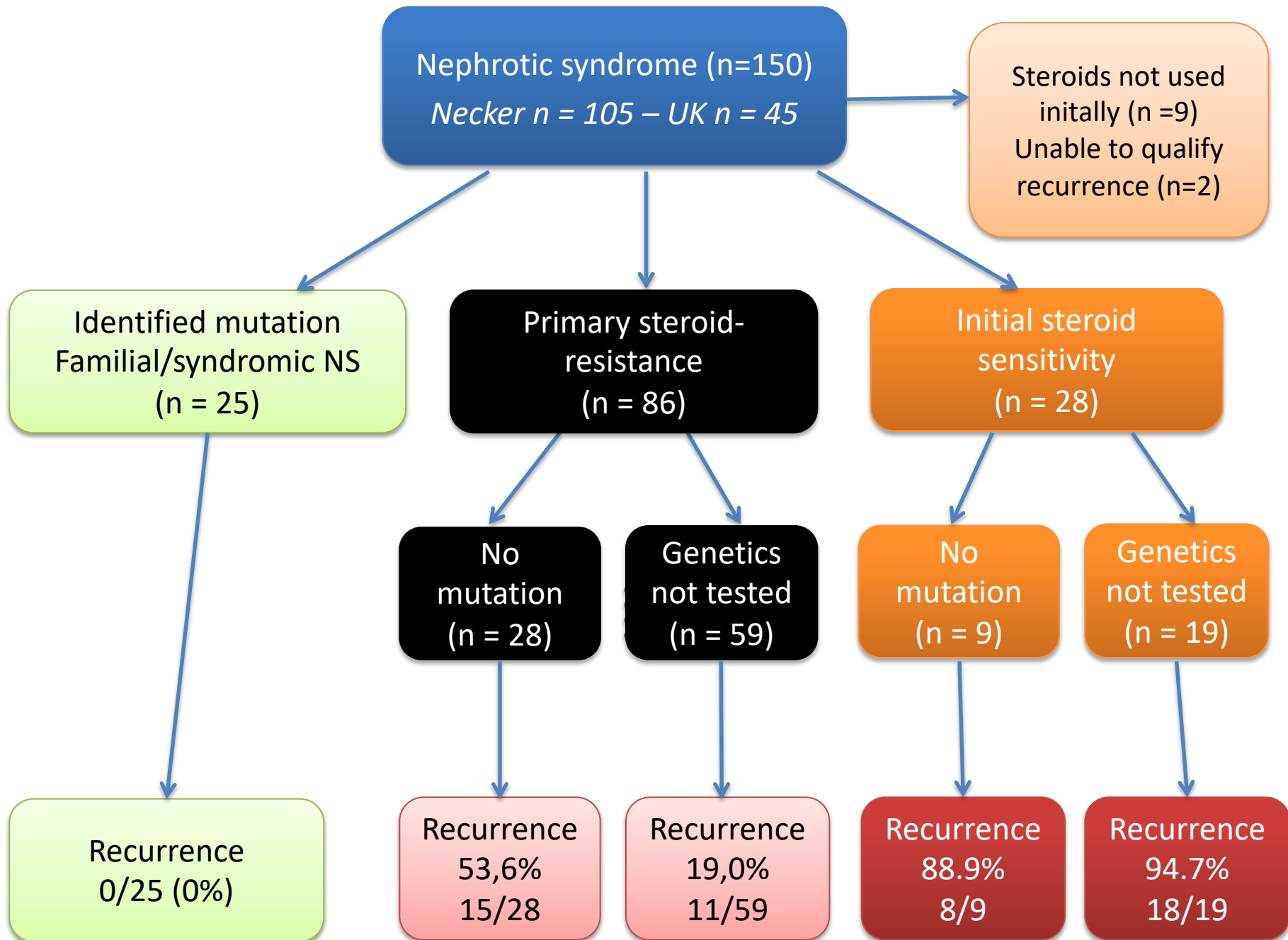
No
mutation
(n = 28)

Genetics
not tested
(n = 59)

Recurrence
0/25 (0%)

Recurrence
53.6%
15/28

Recurrence
19.0%
11/59



6) Evaluate the recurrence risk after RTx

2 major factors predict the risk of recurrence

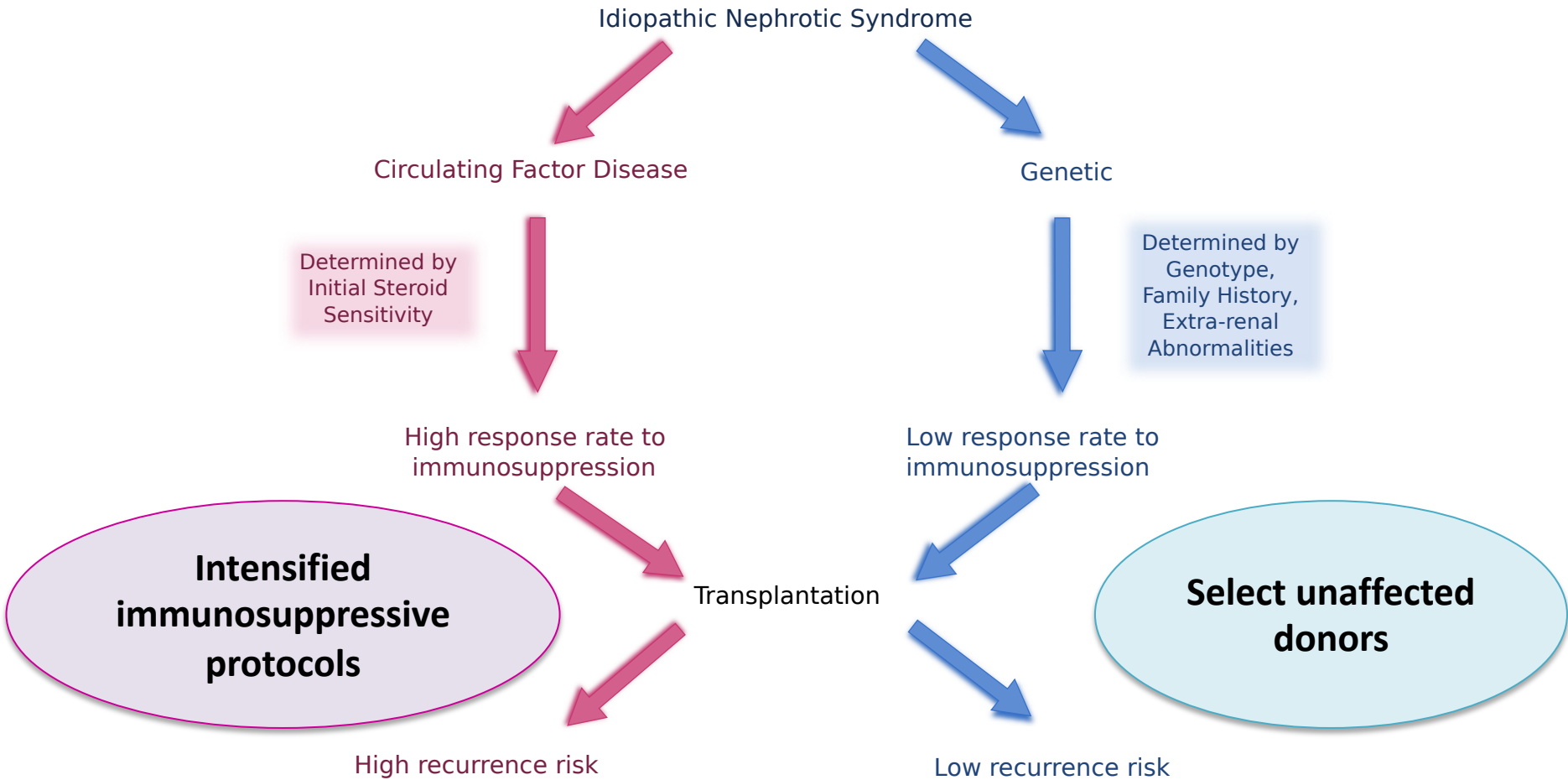
- Genetic origin : very low risk
- Initial steroid sensitivity : very high risk

Table 2. ORs for post-transplant recurrence in children with nongenetic/nonfamilial SRNS

Characteristic	OR (95% CI)	P Value
Age of diagnosis <6 yr	0.88 (0.40 to 1.90)	0.84
Time to ESRF <3 yr	0.68 (0.31 to 1.47)	0.44
Age of first transplant <12 yr	0.74 (0.36 to 1.53)	0.47
Time on dialysis <2 yr	0.56 (0.26 to 1.19)	0.18
African-European race	0.92 (0.24 to 3.61)	>0.99
Living donor transplant	6.00 (1.24 to 29.06)	0.02
Steroid sensitivity	30.00 (6.62 to 135.86)	<0.001

6) Evaluate the recurrence risk after RTx

7) Select unaffected donors



Clinical implications of genetics: nephrotic syndrome

- Make a diagnosis
 - Some non-podocyte related diseases may mimic SRNS
 - Search and follow extra-renal features
- Provide genetic counselling
 - monogenic diseases
 - Issue of incomplete penetrance
 - Issue of interallelic influence of mutations
- Avoid inefficient immunosuppressive treatments with potential side effects
 - but complete remission with CNIs in a subset of patients?
- Discover personalized treatments: COQ10, anti-cubilin?
Chaperons?
- Predict a low risk of recurrence after transplantation
- Select potential intra-familial kidney donors

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Beata Lipska (Gdansk)





ERKNet

The European
Rare Kidney Disease
Reference Network

Next webinar

Fabry disease: new great imposter
Olivier LIDOVE

Paris (Hôpital de la Croix St Simon), France

Tuesday December 3rd 4 pm CET