## The Genome in Primary Care

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## Disclosure

I have no financial interests or relationships to disclose.

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## **DNA AS A SECULAR ICON**











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## THE GENOME IN PRIMARY CARE

- A. The human genome
- B. The human genome and medicine
- C. The personal genome

#### **GENES DETERMINE PHENOTYPE**

**Determine** 



**Genes**: DNA in two cell nuclei fusing in the fertilized egg



**Phenotype:** The characteristics of an individual

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## **GENES ARE NOT DESTINY**





This is important to keep in mind

# THE INFORMATION CONTENT OF DNA IS ITS BASE SEQUENCE

DNA base sequence of the gene for human insulin

1
AGCCCTCCAGGACAGGCTGCATCAGAAGAGGCCATCAAG
CAGATCACTGTCCTTCTGCCATGGCCCTGTGGATGCGCCT
CCTGCCCCTGCTGGCGCTGCTGGCCCTCTGGGGACCTGA
CCCAGCCGCAGCCTTTGTGAACCAACACCTGTGCGGCTCA
CACCTGGTGGAAGCTCTCTACCTAGTGTGCGGGGAACGA
GGCTTCTTCTACACACCCAAGACCCGCGGGAGGCAGAG
GACCTGCAGGTGGGGCAGGTGGAGCTGGCCCTGGAGGG
GTCCCTGCAG AGCGTGGCATTGTGGAACAATGCTGTACC
AGCATCTGCTCCCTCTACCAGCTGGAGAACTACTGCAACT
AGACGCAGCCGCAGGCAGCCCCACACCCGCCGCCTCCT
GACCGAGAGAGATGGAATAAAGCCCTTGAACCAGCAAAA
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## **DNA CAN BE CHANGED (MUTATED)**

Normal DNA sequence: ATCGGTTAACT

Mutated DNA sequence: ATCAGTTAACT

Two ways to change DNA in any cell:

- Spontaneous: it's just chemistry
- Induced: the environment

#### **DNA TECHNOLOGIES**

Late 1960s: Sequencing a bacterial virus (5386 b)

**1 million years** to complete human genome (~3,000,000,000 b)

Late 1980s: sequencing techniques improved

**1,000's of years** to complete human genome

1990s: Human genome project: still faster methods

13 years to complete human genome; \$150M

THE WHOUSE

2020s: New sequencing technologies

Less than 1 day and about \$300

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#### **VIRAL GENOME SEQUENCES**

1918-19 flu pandemic: First case 4/18

- · No virus isolated or sequenced at the time
- Virus isolated and sequenced from Inuit burial area: 2005
- 86 years from disease to sequence

2002-3 SARS epidemic: First case: 12/02

- · Virus isolated and genome sequenced 4/03
- 4 months from disease to sequence

2019-present, SARS-COVID19 pandemic: First case 12/8/19

- Virus isolated and genome sequenced 1/5/20
- 28 days from disease to sequence

Test for COVID19 RNA: 1/15/20; RNA based vaccine: 1/30/20

Variants: From immune serotyping to sequencing

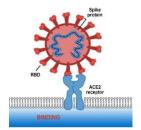
# CLINICAL VIGNETTE: GENOME SURVEILLANCE

- 70-year-old man, London area, UK, 4/8/21
- Exposure in family to COVID-19
- Seen by primary care practitioner (NHS)
- Office / lab test for COVID19: positive
- · Sequence RNA with one hour: 30,000 bases

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# CLINICAL VIGNETTE: GENOME SURVEILLANCE

- **Delta mutation** in gene encoding "spike" protein: better attachment receptor on airway cell surface
- First identified in India, 12/20
- Rapid spread: by 5/20/21: 90% new infections UK; 7/21: 80 % USA



Result: Intensive treatment
Further surveillance of sewage, etc.
Tailor made vaccine

#### **THE HUMAN GENOME: 2025**

- 3.1 billion base pairs of DNA; draft sequence 2000; verified full sequence 2021
- About 1.5% encode specific proteins: 21,000 genes
- About 2.5% are RNA-encoding sequences regulating the expression of protein-coding genes: 80,000 seq.
- Over 99.9% is the same in all people: 3 million bases differ
- Most of the differences between people are at single base pairs or short repeats

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#### **HUMAN GENOME SEQUENCES**

As of 8/25, perhaps **3 million** human genomes have been fully sequenced

Many more partial sequences: e.g., protein encoding exomes

This is becoming more common in primary care



Illumina HiSeq 4000: 6 billion DNA bases sequenced and analyzed / day

#### **HUMAN GENOME VARIATIONS**

#### Source of DNA:

- Germline (inherited mutations)
- Tissue (somatic mutations)

#### Variants detected:

- Single base changes
- Short tandem repeats
- Polygenic risks (complex traits)
- Chromosome changes (numbers, rearrangements)

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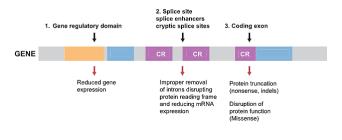
## GENOME VARIATIONS: SINGLE BASE CHANGES

Single base changes 1 every few

hundred bases

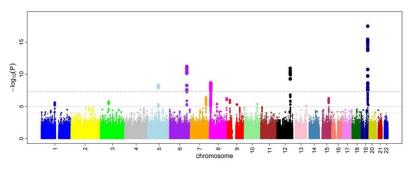
TGCATTACGTAGGC

Uses: Identify groups; ancestry TGCATTGCGTAGGC
 Diagnosis of genetic variations, diseases



# SNP: RELATING GENOME VARIANTS TO PHENOTYPE

Genome-wide association study:
e.g., microcirculation disorder
Look for variants that correlate with phenotype
Compare people with and without phenotype



SNPs on chromosomes 5,6,8,12,19 relate to disorder

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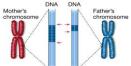
## GENOME VARIATIONS: SHORT TANDEM REPEATS

- Short tandem repeats (STR) repeat number
  - 1 every few thousand bases

TGCATTACGTAGGC

TGCTCATCATCATCAGC

Uses: Identify individuals



Tandem repeats are stable and passed on to the next generation

There are numerous different tandem repeats

Taken together, the pattern of tandem repeats is unique for each individual: a DNA barcode

# DNA BARCODE: IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUALS

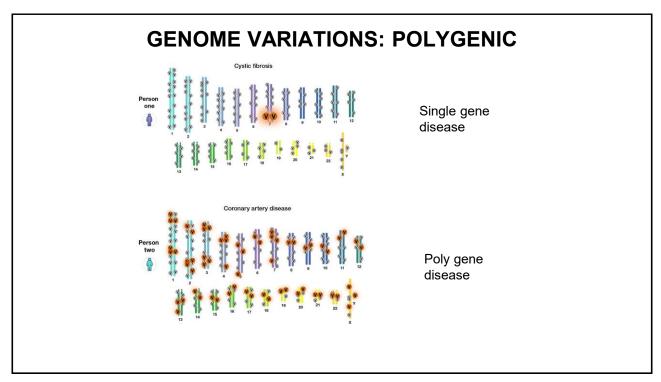


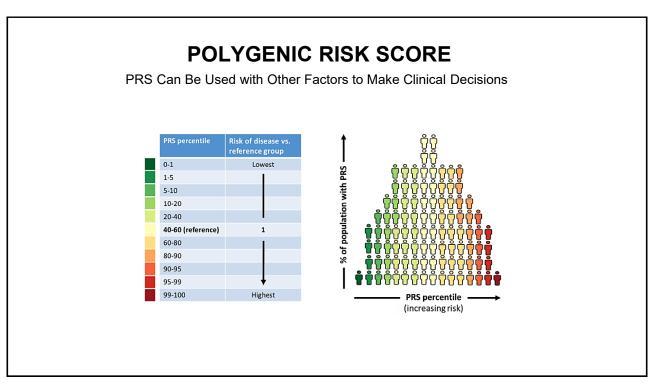






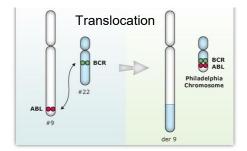
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### **GENOME VARIATION: CHROMOSOMES**



New gene formed; detectable by DNA or chromosome analysis

#### **USES OF HUMAN DNA VARIATION**

- Medicine: Relate genetic variants to diseases for diagnosis and treatment
- Personal genome: Know thyself

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#### THE GENOME IN PRIMARY CARE

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#### PRINCIPLES OF SCREENING

- Test has low cost (e.g., < \$1?)</li>
- Test can be automated for large population
- Treatment beneficial if begun early
- High sensitivity (low false negatives) and high specificity (low false positives)

Interventions based on DNA tests assume genetic determinism

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#### **APPLICATIONS OF GENETIC SCREENING**

- · Prenatal screening
- · Newborn screening
- · Adult disease risk screening
- · Pharmacogenetic screening

## CLINICAL VIGNETTE: PRENATAL GENETIC SCREENING

- 40-year-old pregnant woman
- 1% chance of trisomy 21 (Down syndrome)
- 0.5% chance of another chromosome abnormality X chromosomes, trisomies 13, 18

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#### PRENATAL GENETIC SCREENING

Down syndrome (trisomy 21)

Screening: wk 11-13:



- Serum: HCG, PAPP-A (pregnancy associated plasma protein),
- *Ultrasound*: fetal nuchal translucency

85-90% detection rate, false positive 4%

Diagnosis: (invasive): wk 14-16

Chorionic villus sampling Amniocentesis

#### **NONINVASIVE PRENATAL DNA TESTING**

DNA in plasma from apoptotic cells:

 Maternal: adipocytes, blood cells

· Fetal: trophoblasts



20% of serum DNA is fetal

Screening: wk 8-12

99.99% detection rate, 0.05% false positives for trisomies 13, 18, 21 X, XYY and X monosomy

Reduces need for follow-up invasive tests

Can detect fetal sex

Can detect many non-chromosomal conditions

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## **NEWBORN SCREENING**



1978: 1 disorder (hypothyroidism)

1988: 6 disorders

1998: 17 disorders

2008: 48 disorders

2018: 84 disorders

Core treatable : 37 disorders (incl. hearing and pulse

oximetry)

"Action sheets" for each disorder

2024: USA 4 million babies born and screened, 12,500 treatable disorders (1 in 300)

Parents can opt out disc

#### **NEWBORN SCREENING**

	Detection	Frequency	Treatment
Congenital hypothyroidism	Immunoassay	1/3,500	Thyroxine
Phenylketonuria	Chemical analysis	1/12,000	Diet
Sickle-cell disease	Chemical analysis and DNA (1 mutation)	1/2,500	Transfusion, drugs
Cystic fibrosis	Chemical analysis and/or DNA (25 mutations)	1/3,500	Antibiotics, nasal sprays, etc.

Screening must be done on day 2 onwards

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#### **NEWBORN SCREENING: DNA SEQUENCING**

Can DNA sequencing reveal conditions that are actionable?

4000 Newborns, New York City

- DNA sequence for 156 early onset conditions that are treatable
- Interim result: 3.7% positive screen: many that are not on core newborn screening list
- · Treatment initiated
- Goal: 100,000 newborns

Will this replace standard newborn screening?

JAMA 333:232 (2025)

#### ADULT SCREENING: INBORN ERRORS

Hundreds of inborn errors, each determined by DNA mutation

Each inborn error is rare: 1/4000 to 1/100,000 newborns

Total is about 1/300 of all newborns; carrier is 1/6

Some are treatable: e.g., PKU (phenylketonuria)

Others are not treatable: e.g., Tay-Sachs disease

Many can be detected by genetic analysis: DNA

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# CLINICAL VIGNETTE: FAMILIAL HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIA

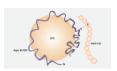
- 8-year-old boy: cholesterol 200 mg/dl (11.1 mmol/L)
- mother age 45 diagnosed with FH; treated with statins
- · her mother also diagnosed with FH; died age 50 CHD
- · FH is inherited as autosomal dominant: heterozygous
- 1/250 worldwide: most common monogenic disorder
- Early diagnosis and intervention are key

# CLINICAL VIGNETTE: FAMILIAL HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIA

- DNA analysis by gene or genome seg parents and children
- Also analyze other relatives
- LDLR: LDL receptor (defective synth., transp.) 94% of FH APOB: apolipoprotein B (binds LDL and LDLR) 5% of FH PCSK9 proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9: (degrades LDLR) 1% of FH
- Intervention: for pediatric patients with FH:
  - lifestyle; statins age 10; target cholesterol 160 mg/ dl

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## **GENETIC SCREENING FOR LIPOPROTEIN(a)**



Lp(a) similar to LDL, carries phospholipids

- Pro-inflammatory, pro-atherogenic
- Level is genetic: LPA gene; codominant
- Stable level throughout life not modifiable (yet)
   Lifetime risk factor
- Measure once in life; not yet part of lipid panel
- High level (>20<sup>th</sup> percentile): increased risk (2x) for cardiovasc. events
- If high level, modify other risk factors (not yet Lpa)
- DNA genetic test not useful at present

#### **ADULT SCREENING IN POPULATIONS**

#### Hypothetical vignette:

2041: Male, age 18; eligible for, voting, military service and genetic screening

What if everyone was screened for three CDC "Tier 1" conditions: Genetic syndromes with a significant impact of life expectancy that have effective therapies

Genetic variant	Increased risk	Treatment
BRCA1 and 2	Breast, ovarian cancer	Prophylactic mastectomy, oophorectomy
MLH, MSH, PMS (Lynch syndrome)	Colon cancer	Earlier screening, polypectomy
LDLR, APOB, (Familial hyperchol)	Heart attack, stroke	Statin therapy

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#### **ADULT SCREENING IN POPULATIONS**

Results: Model estimates for every 100,000 general population screened at age 30:

- 101 fewer cancer cases (breast, ovarian, colon)
- 15 fewer cardiovascular events (heart attack, stroke)
- 495 increased quality adjusted (good health) life years

#### Cost-benefit:

Cost: \$250 per test: \$25 million and \$9 million for treatments
 Total: \$34 million



Comparisons of cost-benefit: Hypertension screening: 27.5K; mammography screening: \$35K; coronary bypass: \$5K; heart transplant: \$65K

Guzauskas et al., 2023



#### DNA SCREENING: CHOOSING WISELY

American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

**Things Physicians and Patients Should Question** 

Don't order genetic sequencing before obtaining informed consent that includes the possibility of secondary findings

#### Example:

- 107 pregnant women prenatal testing for fetal aneuploidy
- · DNA sequencing done on maternal blood
- 52 (46%) had mutations implicated with cancer

ACMG 2021/ NEJM 391:22 (2024)

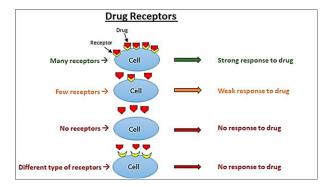
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#### PHARMACOGENETIC SCREENING

#### DNA mutations affecting drug activity:

- Drug receptor on or in cell: more, less
- · Drug uptake into target cells: more, less
- · Drug metabolism: more, less

# PHARMACOGENETIC SCREENING: RECEPTORS

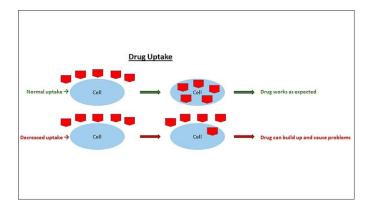


Clinical example: HER2 receptor on breast cancer cell: trastuzumab treatment

CDC

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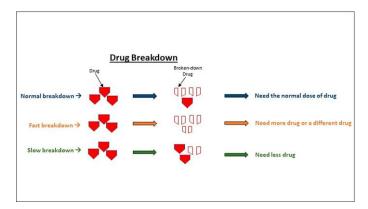
# PHARMACOGENETIC SCREENING: UPTAKE



Clinical example: SCLO1B1 gene for statin uptake: simvastatin treatment (muscle side effects)

CDC

# PHARMACOGENETIC SCREENING: METABOLISM



Clinical example: CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 metabolize many drugs: amitriptyline breakdown, use alternate

CDC

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# CLINICAL VIGNETTE: PHARMACOGENETIC SCREENING NEW

75-year-old man 1 week after percutaneous coronary procedure

- · Cardiologist prescribes aspirin, clopidogrel, simvastatin
- · Pharmacogenetic screening:

CYP2C19: poor metabolizer of clopidogrel

Risk: increased side effects
SLCO1B1: poor uptake of simvastatin
Risk: increased side effects

# CLINICAL VIGNETTE: PHARMACOGENETIC SCREENING NEW

Consultation with primary care practitioner and pharmacist:

- Clopidogrel: reduce dose, alternatives also substrates for CYP2C19
- · Simvastatin: Switch to pravastatin: fewer side effects

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#### THE GENOME IN PRIMARY CARE

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#### THE PERSONAL GENOME

Genome-wide associations with phenotype: mostly SNP's

e.g., 23and Me: \$200, 30 million done

Total genome sequencing and scanning for mutations related to phenotype 3 million? done

e.g., DNA Complete (commercial - \$600); AllofUs (US public, free); UK Biobank (free)

Many more genome sequences in medical context (not consumer-driven)

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#### THE PERSONAL GENOME

Example



30 million people genotyped as of 1/25 (13 million by 23andMe; 17 million by Ancestry)

#### THE PERSONAL GENOME

Basis: DNA changes associated with phenotypes

- · Association is statistical argument; genetic determinism
- Mostly SNPs
- · Polygenic risk scores for some traits
- · DNA extracted from saliva: buccal epithelial cells and WBCs
- · Well-written, authoritative web site



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#### THE PERSONAL GENOME: ANCESTRY

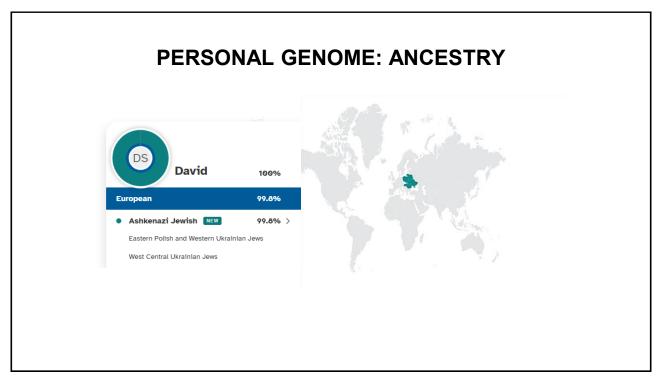
DNA variations associated with specific populations:

- HapMap: Groups of sequences in paternal (Y chromosomes) and maternal (mitochondria)
  - Maternal Haplogroup

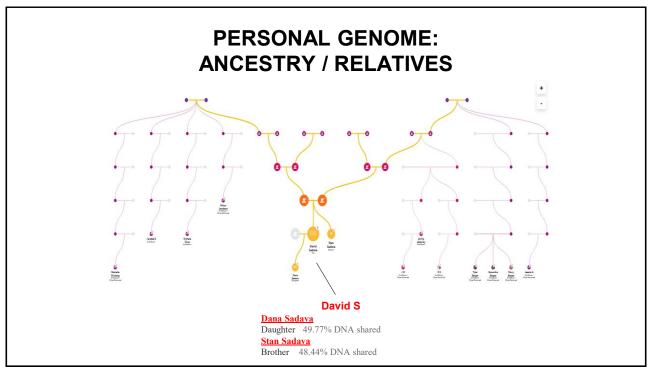
N1b2 >

Paternal Haplogroup

J-P58 >

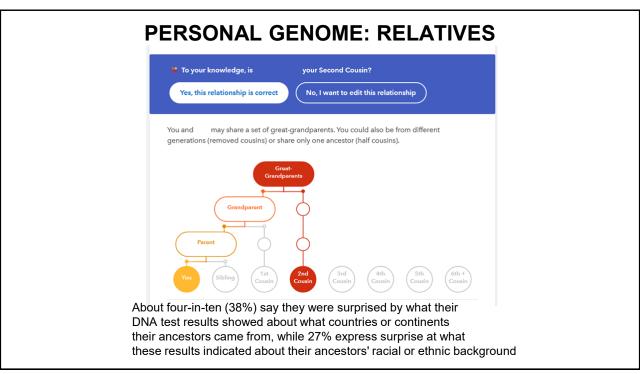


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# PERSONAL GENOME: RELATIVES Invited you to connect. Accepting this request will enable you to view each other's Ancestry results Accept Ignore By connection you will be able to explore each other's personal and genetic information, which may reveal surprises. Learn how sharing works. Sex. Birth Visar Active Female 1978 In the last day Location Plymouth, Minnesota, United States Send a message Your genetic relationship © Predictored relationship © Predictored relationship Second Cousin View DNA details ~

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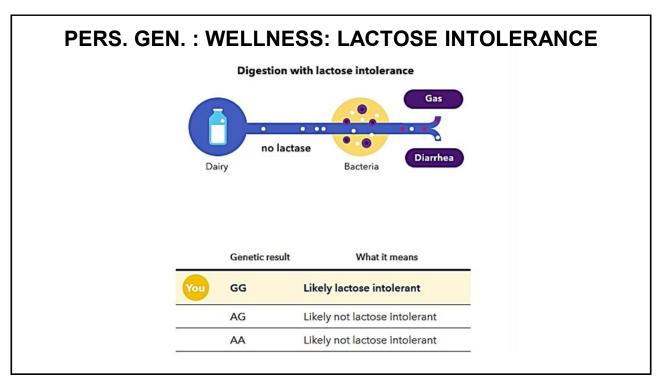


#### PERSONAL GENOME: HEALTH RISKS Age-Related Macular Degeneration Result summary: Variant detected, not likely at increased risk Variant ARMS gene; risk 2% Variant CYP22C19: CYP2C19 Drug Metabolism 23andMe+ Result summary: Predicted intermediate metabolizer increased metab Plavix Based on 2400 DNA Coronary Artery Disease 23andMe+ markers; for DS age 4% risk Result summary: Increased likelihood (3 x normal) Variant Leiden F5; increased Hereditary Thrombophilia clot risk surgery (1/500) Result summary: Slightly increased risk Based on 7500 markers: risk at DS age per year 4.5% Psoriasis 23andMe+ (normal 3%) Result summary: Increased likelihood

50 Diseases Tested for Risk Analysis

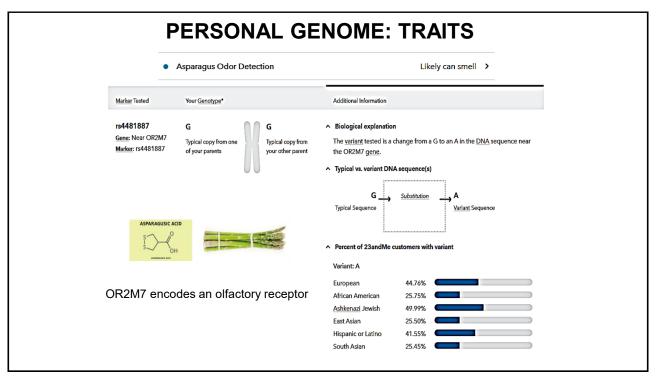
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## PERSONAL GENOME: WELLNESS Alcohol Flush Reaction Unlikely to flush > Caffeine Consumption Likely to consume less > Genetic Weight Predisposed to weigh about average > Lactose Intolerance Likely intolerant > Muscle Composition Uncommon in elite power athletes > Likely similar weight > Saturated Fat and Weight Sleep Movement Likely more than average movement > 14 Wellness Characteristics Tested



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Ability to Match Musical Pitch	More likely to be able to match a musical pitch	>
Asparagus Odor Detection	Likely can smell	>
Back Hair	Likely little upper back hair	>
Bald Spot	Likely bald spot	>
Bitter Taste	Likely can't taste	>
Bunions	Less likely than average to have had a bunion	>
Cheek Dimples	Likely no dimples	>
Cilantro Taste Aversion	Slightly higher odds of disliking cilantro	>
Cleft Chin	Likely no cleft chin	>



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Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease Variant not detect			
Autosomat Recessive Potycystic Numey Disease	variant not detected		
Beta Thalassemia and Related Hemoglobinopathies	Variant not detected		
Bloom Syndrome	Variant not detected		
Canavan Disease	Variant not detected		
Congenital Disorder of Glycosylation Type 1a (PMM2-CDG)	Variant not detected		
Cystic Fibrosis	Variant not detected		
D-Bifunctional Protein Deficiency	Variant not detected		
Dihydrolipoamide Dehydrogenase Deficiency	Variant not detected		
Familial Dysautonomia	Variant not detected		
Familial Dysautonomia	Variant not detec		

#### PERSONAL GENOME: FURTHER ANALYSES

#### 23andMe raw data:

rsid chro	mosome	position	genotype
rs3094315	1	752566	AA
rs3934834	1	1005806	CT
rs9442372	1	1018704	AA
rs3737728	1	1021415	GG
rs11260588	1	1021658	GG

Etc....about 700,000 markers

XCODE LIFE

Example

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#### PERS. GEN.: FURTHER ANALYSES

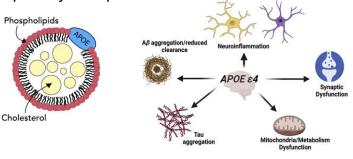
23andMe data downloaded to companies that analyze (DS examples):

- Allergy: low risk: contact dermatitis; moderate risk: pets; high risk: tree nuts
- Exercise capacity: higher endurance than aerobic;
   lower weight loss with exercise
- Health: Lacks harmful variant: APOEe3 (Alzheimers), HQAd2 (celiac), BRCA1185delAG (breast cancer)
   Has harmful variant: factor V Leiden (thrombophilia)

#### PERS. GEN.: CLINICAL VIGNETTE

62-year-old male with no cognitive impairment

- Purchased 23andMe DNA analysis
- Homozygous for APOEe4 allele: 2% US population; 20% of people with Alzheimer's disease have APOEe4
- Anxious about possible Alzheimer's disease
- Consults primary care practitioner: what to do?



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#### PERS. GEN.: CLINICAL VIGNETTE

Genotype Alzheimer's by age 80 (%) Onset of Alzheimer's

APOE e3/e3 2% Typical

APOE e3/e4 10% 2-5 years earlier
APOE e4/e4 35% 5-10 years earlier

Recommend: diet, hypertension, exercise, medication (new?)

Primary care practitioners are the front line for consultation in direct-to-consumer DNA testing

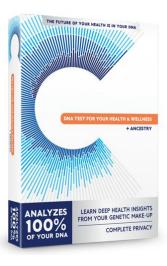
## PRS. GEN.: ISSUES FOR PRIMARY CARE PRACTICIONERS

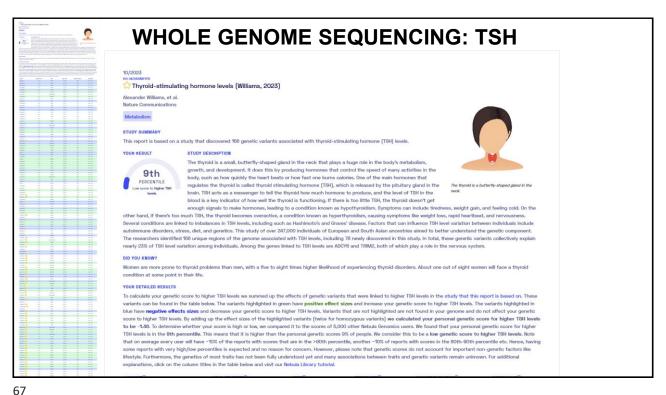
Primary care practitioners are the front line for consultation in direct-to-consumer DNA testing

- PCP knowledge of consumer resources for personal genome
- Anxiety and emotional support
- · PCP knowledge about genetic risks and effects
- · Security of genomic information
- · Implications of costs, insurance
- Relationship with genetic professionals / information

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## PERSONAL WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING





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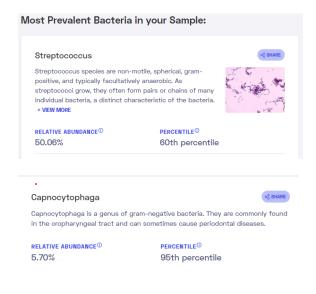
#### WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING: TSH

VARIANT <sup>®</sup>	YOUR GENOTYPE <sup>©</sup>	GENE <sup>®</sup>	EFFECT SIZE®	VARIANT FREQUENCY <sup>⊕</sup>
rs989759_C	C/C	PDE8B	-0.14 (↓)	64%
rs2983511_C	C/C	PDE10A	-0.12 (↓)	31%
rs11728154_A	G / A	NR3C2	-0.12 (↓)	20%
rs10799824_A	G / G	CAPZB	-0.12 (-)	16%
rs1861628_A	A / A	IGFBP5	-0.10 (↓)	27%
rs10223666_C	G / C	VEGFA	0.09 (1)	69%
rs17767419_T	C/C	LOC102467146	-0.09 (-)	32%
rs73398264_T	Т/Т	FAM227B	0.08 (1)	75%
rs1398868_T	Т/Т	FAF1	0.04 (1)	69%
rs30234_T	T/C	MIR193B	0.03 (†)	39%
rs57395851_T	т/т	BCAS3	0.08 (1)	95%
rs700750_A	A / A	TNS3	0.03 (1)	63%
rs9497965_T	T/T	SASH1	0.03 (1)	40%

- · Study of 247,000 people, Europe and S Asia
- 156 DNA var. relate to TSH level: Some increase Some decrease
- · Var. collectively account for 24% of TSH variation

DS polygenic score for high TSH: 9%

#### PERSONAL GENOME: ORAL MICROBIOME



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#### PERSONAL GENOME SEQUENCING



NIH funded; free to participants; confidential

Aim: Create database of 1 million Americans by 2026:

- · Complete genome sequence (analysis sent to participants)
- · Blood analysis for all analytes and proteins
- Urine analysis
- · Electronic medical record

So far: about 700,000 people have participated

## PERSONAL GENOME SEQUENCING



#### Genome sequence information and analysis made available to participants:

**Ancestry** 

#### Disease risks:

 3% of participants have a DNA change leading to a disease that is treatable or preventable

**Traits** 

#### Pharmacogenomics:

70% of participants have a DNA change that predicts variations in drug activity

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# PERSONAL GENOME SEQUENCING: DISEASE RISKS

OUR RESULT

We did not find anything significant for your health in the genes we looked at.

#### Some genes sequenced:

BRCA1: breast-ovarian cancerKCNH2: long QT syndrome

LDLR: familial hypercholesterolemia
 MLH1: Lynch syndrome (colon cancer)
 TNNI3: hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

etc....

59 genes sequenced

# PERSONAL GENOME INFORMATION: ISSUES

Human genome data are concerning because:

- They can predict inherited predispositions at the time or later in life
- They can impact many more than an individual: family, group, next generation
- · They can have cultural significance for an individual or group

Genome data must be protected

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## PERSONAL GENOME INFORMATION: GINA

#### Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (US, 2008)

 Health insurers cannot use a person's genetic information to deny or adjust coverage

Exceptions: life ins., disability ins., long-term care

 Employers cannot use a person's genetic information to make employment decisions

Exceptions: small businesses (<15)

#### DNA AND PERSONAL HEALTH: FUTURE?

Personalized medicine: N of 1

Data: genome DNA, transcriptome mRNA, proteome, metabolome, microbiome, environment

**Predictive** 

Preventive

Personalized

**Participatory** 



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