



# With or without you? Red Blood Cell storage under hypoxic conditions

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**Trauma Hemostasis and Oxygenation Research Network**  
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Miami, Florida



## FUNDING



University of Colorado  
Anschutz Medical Campus

- *R01 HL146442 (NHLBI) (D'Alessandro) PI*
- *R01 HL149714 (NHLBI) (D'Alessandro) PI*
- *R01 HL148151 (NHLBI) (Spitalnik, D'Alessandro, Karafin, Zimring) MPI*
- *R01 HL161004 (NHLBI) (Buehler, D'Alessandro, Irwin) MPI*
- *R01DK136945 (NIDDK) (D'Alessandro, Marygold, Perrimon, Tennessen) MPI*
- *RM1 GM131968 (NIGMS) (Silliman, Jones, Hansen, Moore, Cohen, D'Alessandro) MPI*
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- *R21 HL150032 (NHLBI) (D'Alessandro) PI*
- *REDS IV-P (NHLBI) – Central Lab – Sub-contract PI*
- *Webb-Waring Early Career Award – Boettcher Foundation 2017 (D'Alessandro) PI*
- *NBF Early Career Grant 2016*

### Director of Metabolomics Core

- *School of Medicine – UC Denver – Anschutz Medical Campus;*
- *Cancer Center – UC Denver – Anschutz Medical Campus; (P30 CA046934-17 )*
- *Trauma Research Center; (RM1GM131968 )*

## PATENTS

- *PCT/US2019/032472 - “Compositions and Methods for Storage of Blood and Components Thereof”*
- *WO 2017/223377 A1 - “Methods for managing adverse events in patient populations requiring transfusion”*
- *US patent no. 11090331 - “Methods and treatment for reducing the risk of an inflammatory response”*
- *U. S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 63/147,438 “Use of BLRVB inhibitors to allow malaria eradication in patients with G6PD deficiency”*

## DISCLOSURES

- *Omix Technologies Inc - CSO;*
- *Altis Biosciences LLC - CSO;*
- *SAB for Hemanext Inc (formerly New Health Sciences Inc)*
- *SAB for Macopharma Inc*

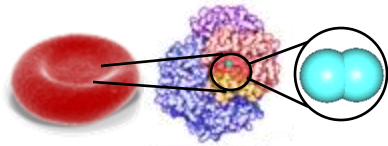
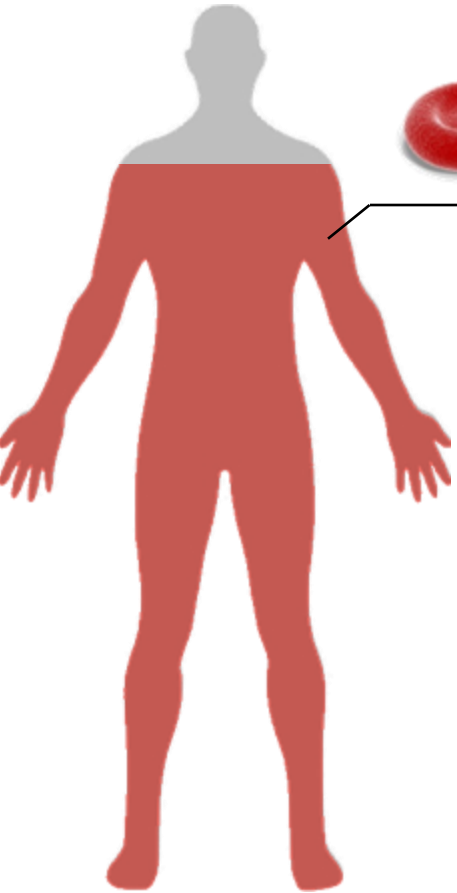


## SBIR FUNDING

- *PHASE I - R43GM130268*
- *PHASE II - R44 GM130268*
- *PHASE I - R43 CA239872*
- *PHASE II - R43 HL123074*
- *PHASE II - R44 HL127843*
- *PHASE I - R43 HL146014*
- *PHASE II - R44 HL132172*
- *PHASE II - R44 HL149579*



# Red Blood Cells – Abundant, Simple, Central to Human Metabolism



- Key numbers**
- RBCs ~83%
  - $25 \times 10^{12}$  RBCs/body
  - Lifespan of ~120 days
  - We spend a lot of energy to remove and generate 0.2 trillion RBCs/day



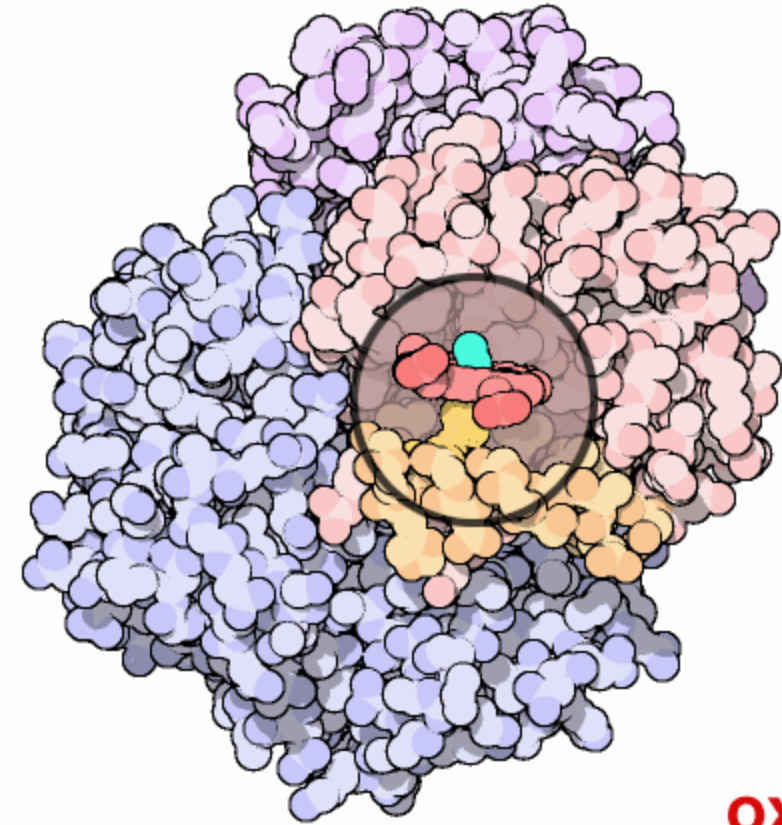
DNA



Proc

Bas  
erytl

Poly  
erytl



-HENOTYPE

1  
0



**250 million copies of Hemoglobin/RBC**

oxy

erythroblast

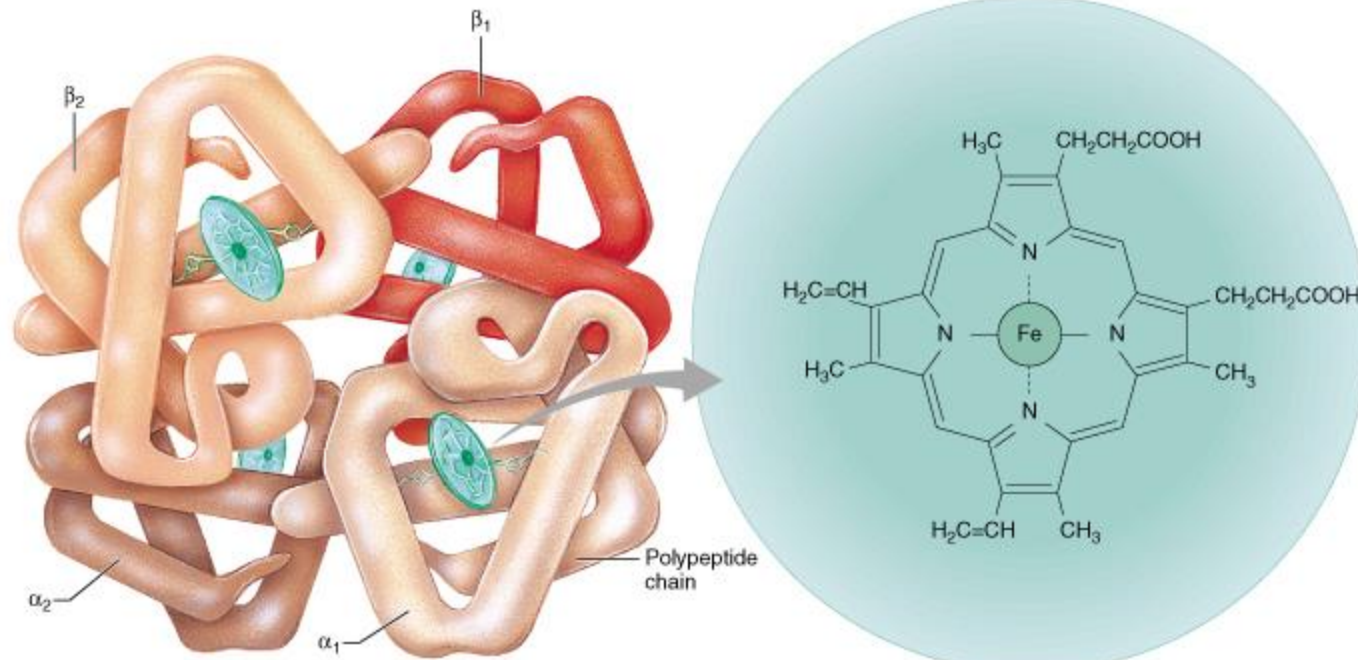
nucleus ejected

Pyknotic nucleus

Erythrocyte

Source: Mescher AL: *Junqueira's Basic Histology: Text and Atlas, 12th Edition*: <http://www.accessmedicine.com>  
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# Red Blood Cells – Perfect Model to study Energy and Redox Metabolism

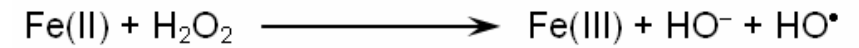


(a) Hemoglobin

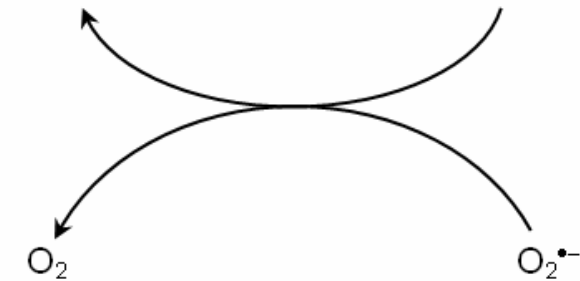
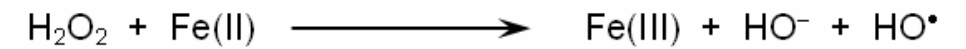
(b) Iron-containing heme group

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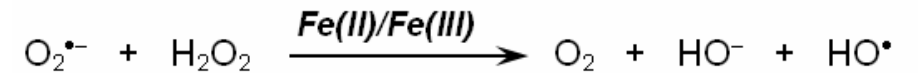
Fenton Reaction



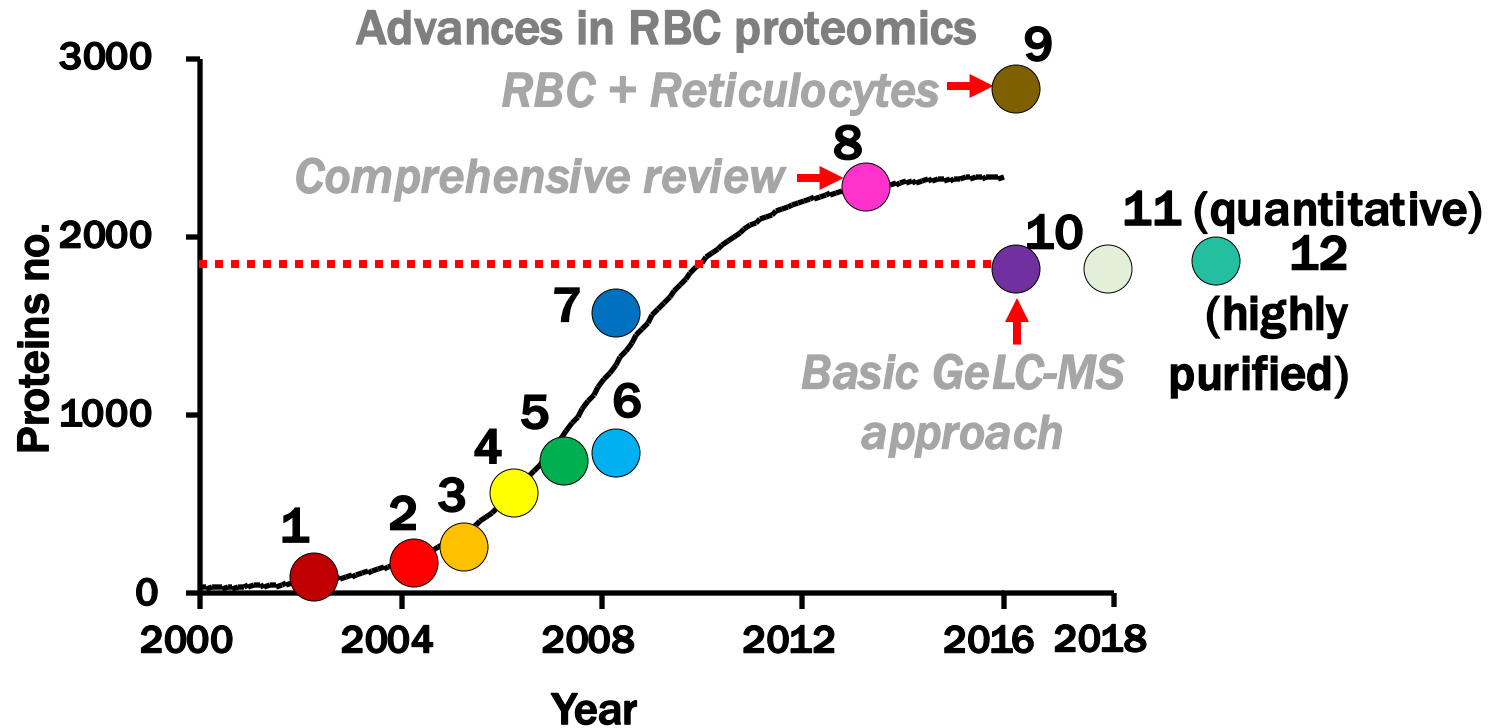
Haber–Weiss Reaction (Superoxide Driven Fenton Reaction)



Haber–Weiss Net Reaction



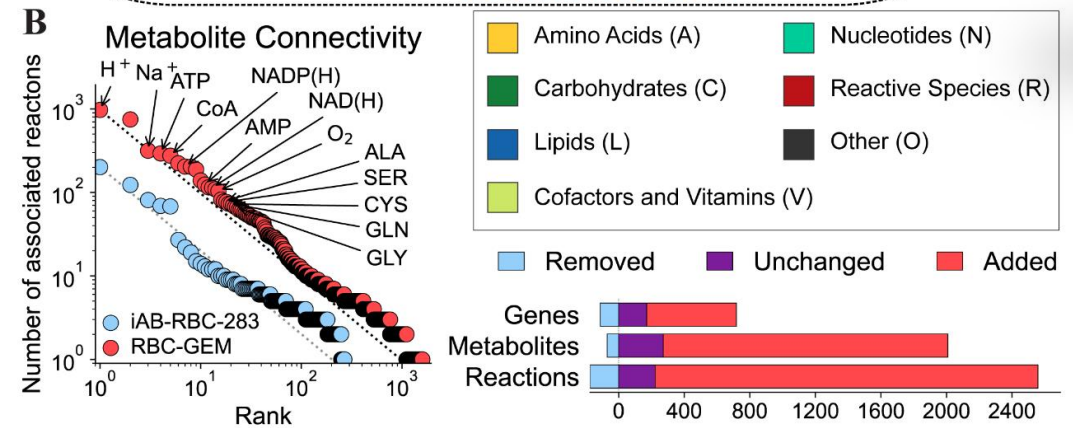
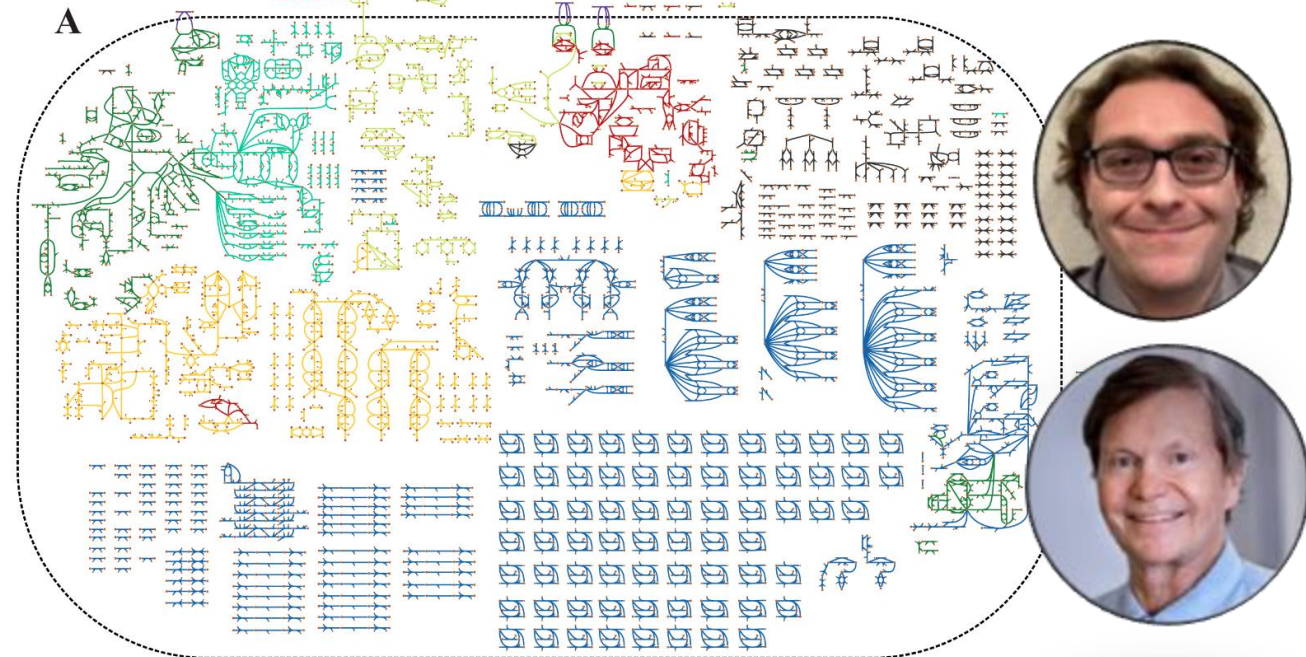
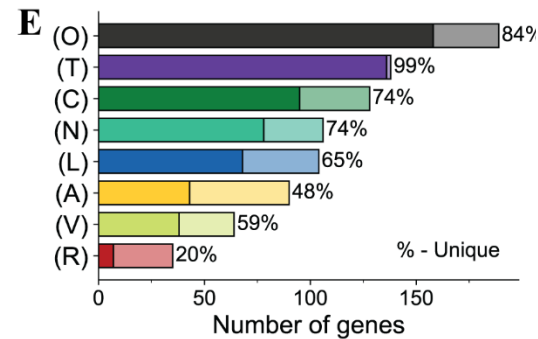
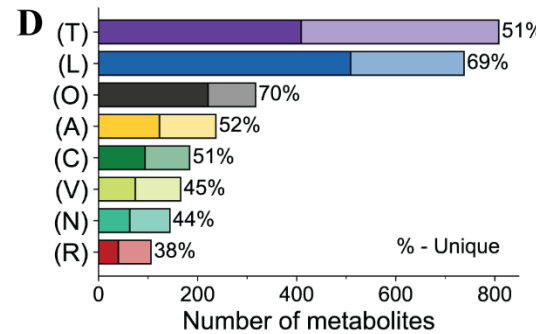
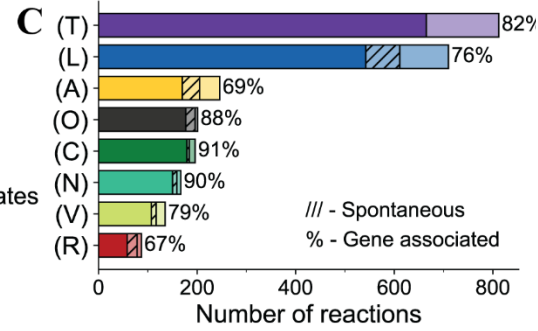
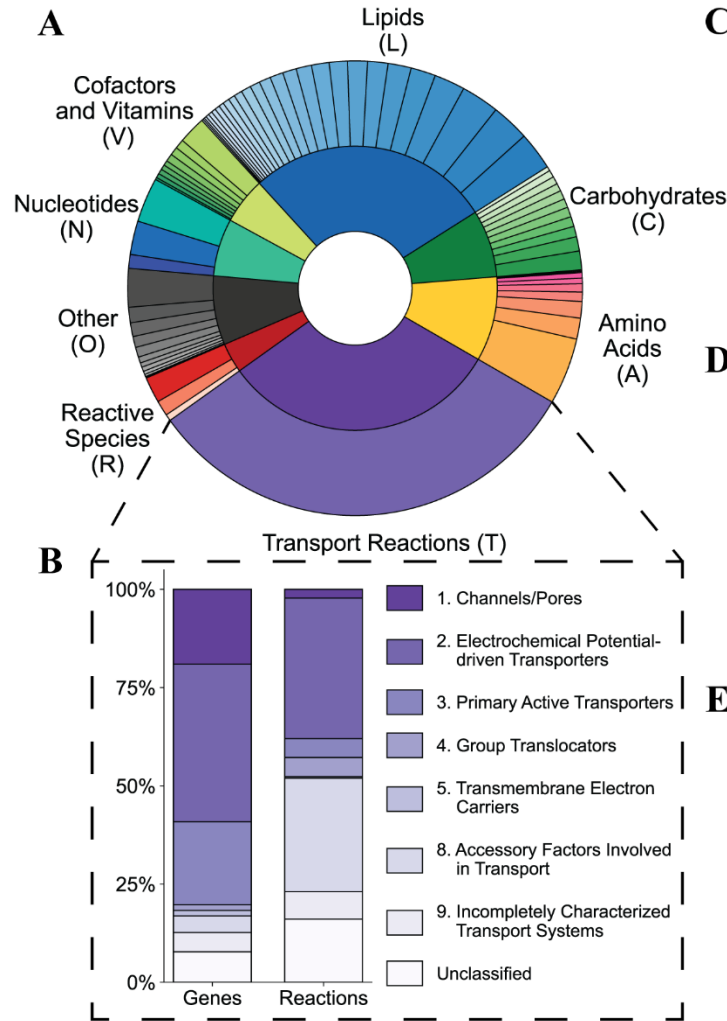
# Red Blood Cells – Not so simple after all



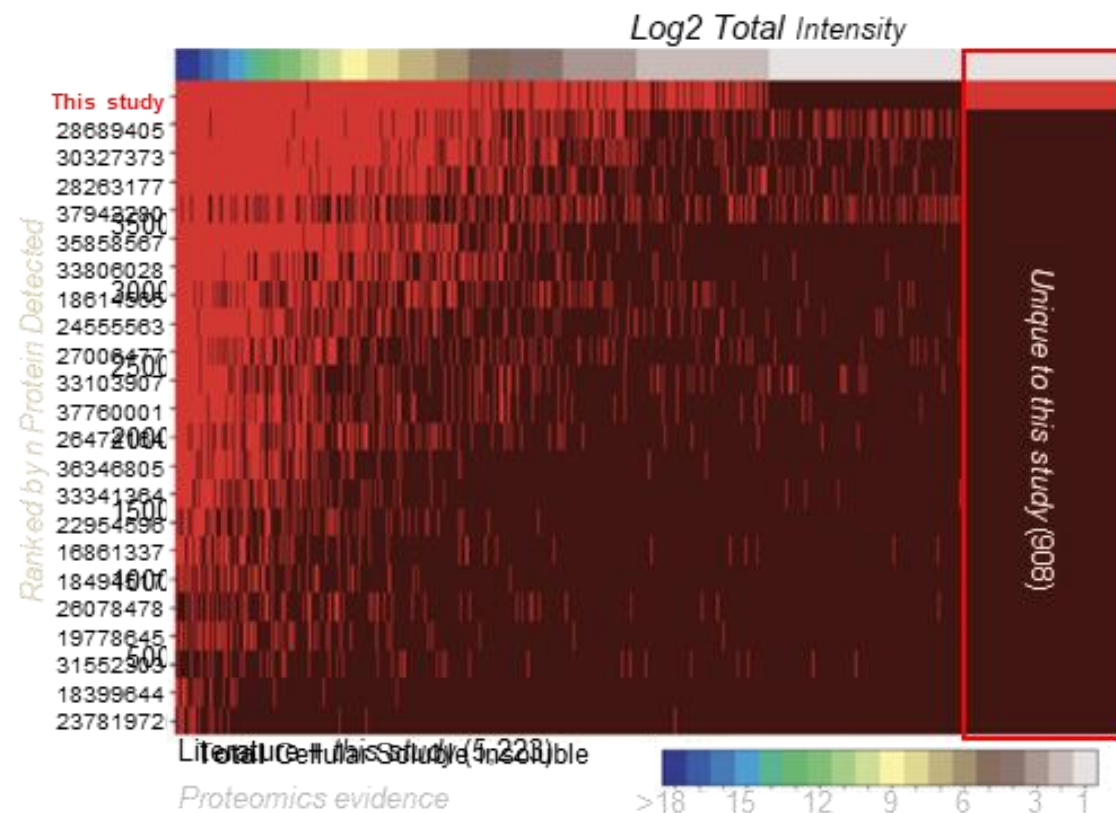
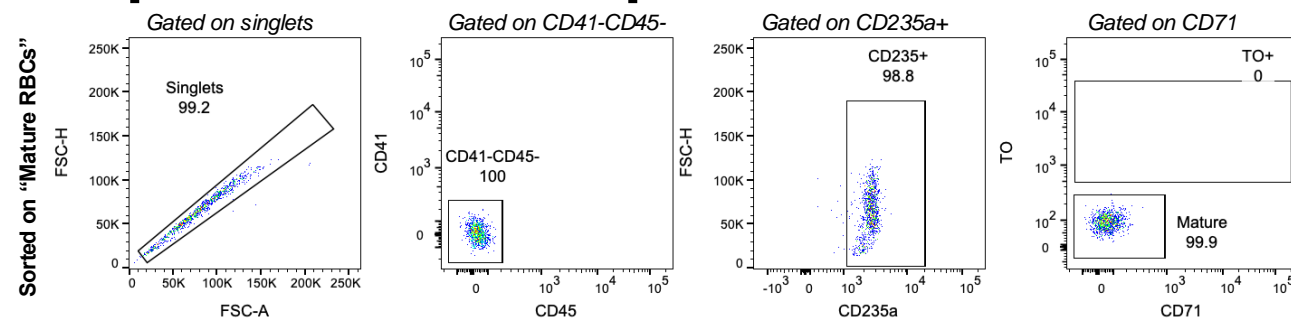
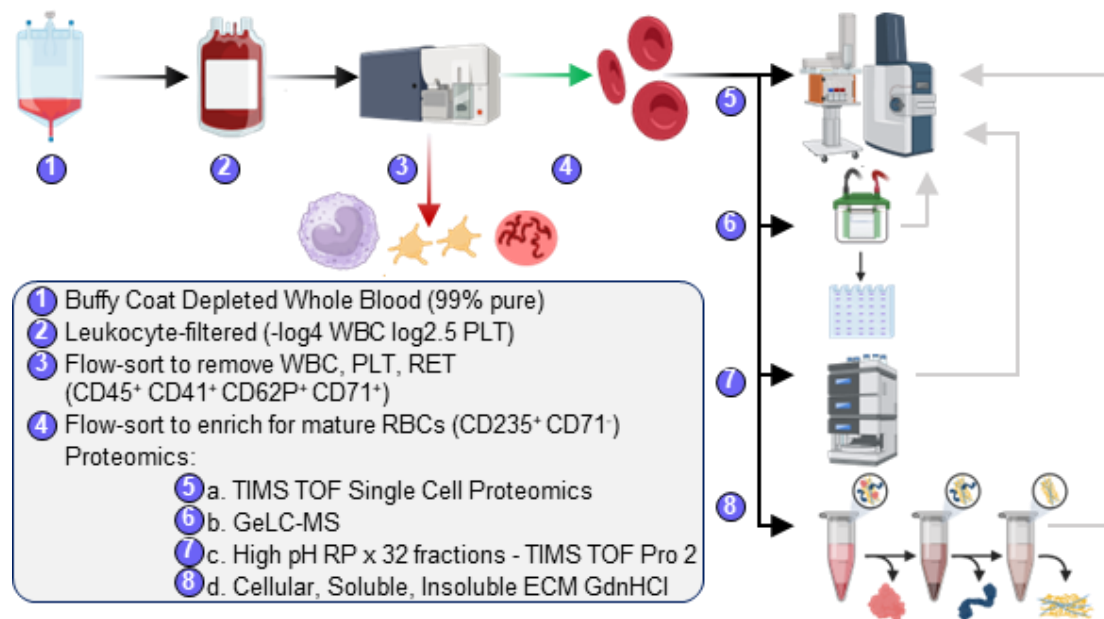
- 12** Gaultier et al
- 11** Bryk et al
- 10** D'Alessandro et al
- 9** Wilson et al.
- 8** Goodman et al.
- 7** Roux-Dalvai et al.
- 6** Bachi et al.
- 5** Goodman et al.
- 4** Pasini et al.
- 3** Kakhniashvili et al.
- 2** Tyan et al.
- 1** Low et al.



# RBC-GEM: a Knowledge Base for Systems Biology of Human RBC Metabolism



# RBC Proteome Updated – is PFKFB even expressed in ultra-pure mature RBCs?



# RBC as an organ: a window on systems-wide metabolic health



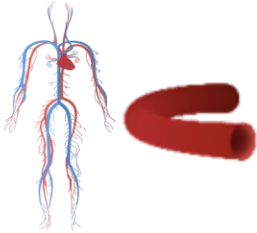
## GAS TRANSPORT

- Oxygen/Carbon dioxide Transport
- Nitric oxide metabolism



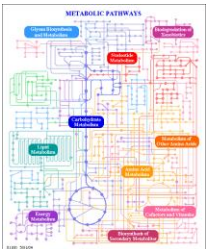
## ION HOMEOSTASIS

- Chloride and bicarbonate homeostasis
- Ion homeostasis ( $\text{Ca}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ )
- Iron metabolism ( $\text{Fe}^{++}$ )



## VASODILATION

- Sequestration and release of Nitric Oxide
- Generation and release of purinergic agonists
- Response to adenosine/purinergic stimuli



## SYSTEM METABOLISM

- Glucose metabolism and lactatemia
- Redox (and glutathione/sulfur/iron)
- Amino acid uptake and metabolism
- Scavenging/Response to neurotransmitters



## DETOXIFICATION

- Transamination reactions
- Glutathionylation of oxidized proteins/lipids
- Uptake and metabolism of drugs
- Uptake and release of dietary mediators (e.g dietary lipids)

## IMMUNOMODULATION

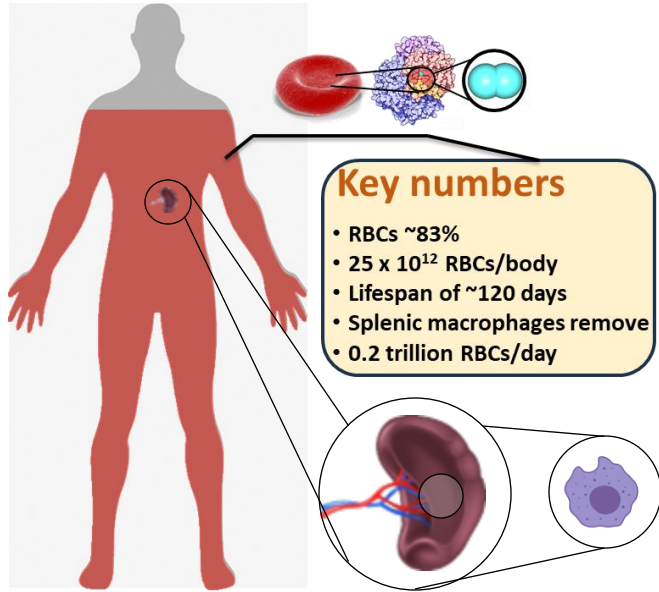
- Direct interaction through “eat me”/”do not eat me” signals
- Uptake and release of cytokines
- Generation and release of immunomodulatory
  - ATP, lactate
  - Uptake/release of succinate and carboxylic acids
  - Eicosanoids and oxylipins, Sphingosine 1-phosphate
  - Tryptophan and catabolites (kynurenine, NAD)
  - Arginine and catabolites (e.g. NO and polyamines)
  - heme and iron metabolism in phagocytosing macrophages
  - miRNA in phagocytosing cells

## CROSS-TALK with other RBCs or other cells

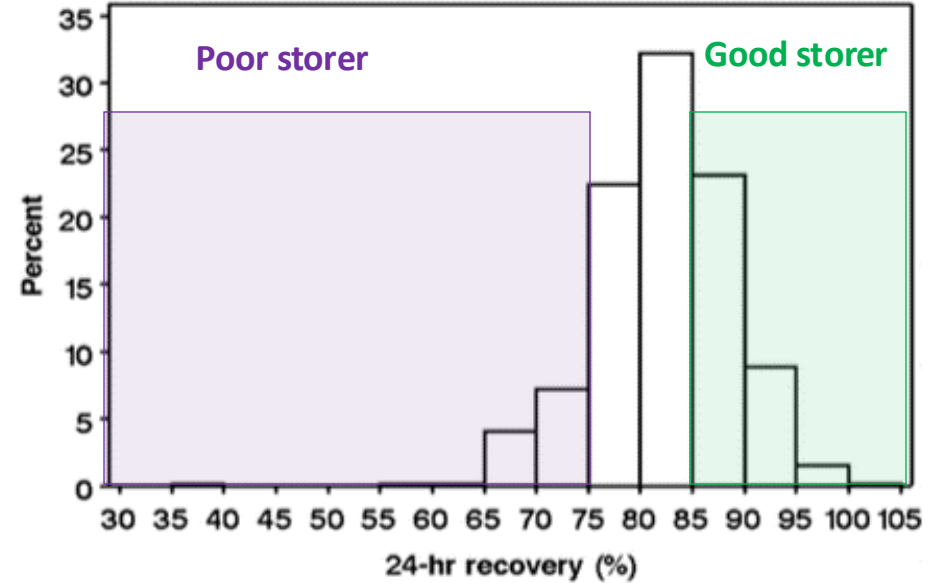
- Membrane antigens mediating cell-cell interactions
- Release of small molecule mediators
- Vesiculation
- Release of mediators of target cell physiology upon hemolysis
- Scavenging/release of metabolic substrates for other cells



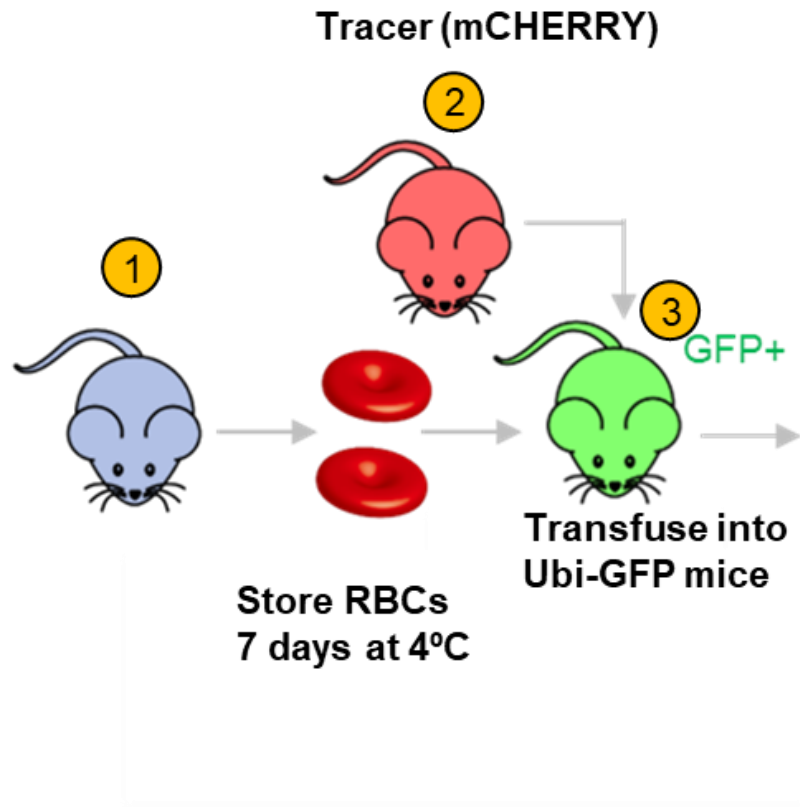
# Extravascular hemolysis of Red Blood Cells is a process essential to human biology and transfusion medicine



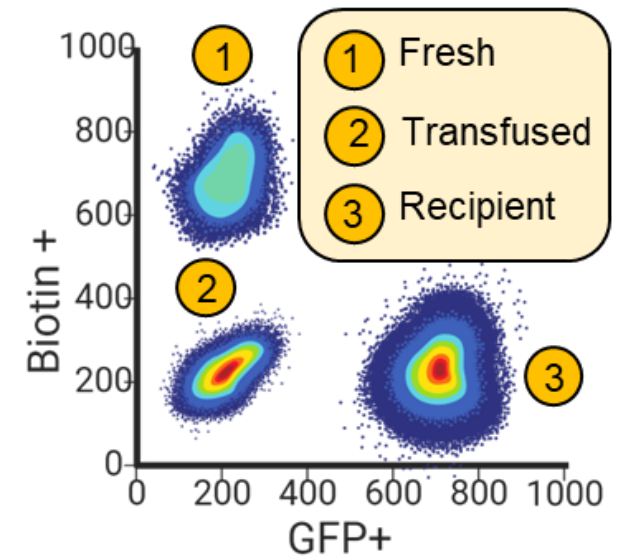
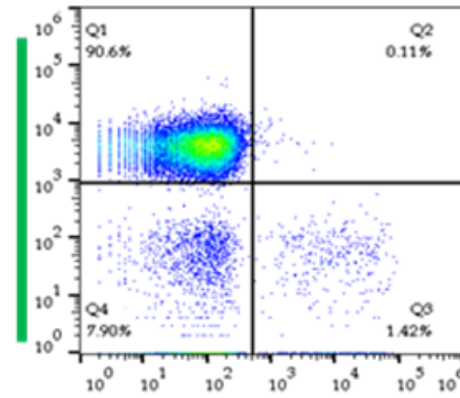
100 Million units of pRBC transfused every year  
Most common in hospital procedure after vaccination



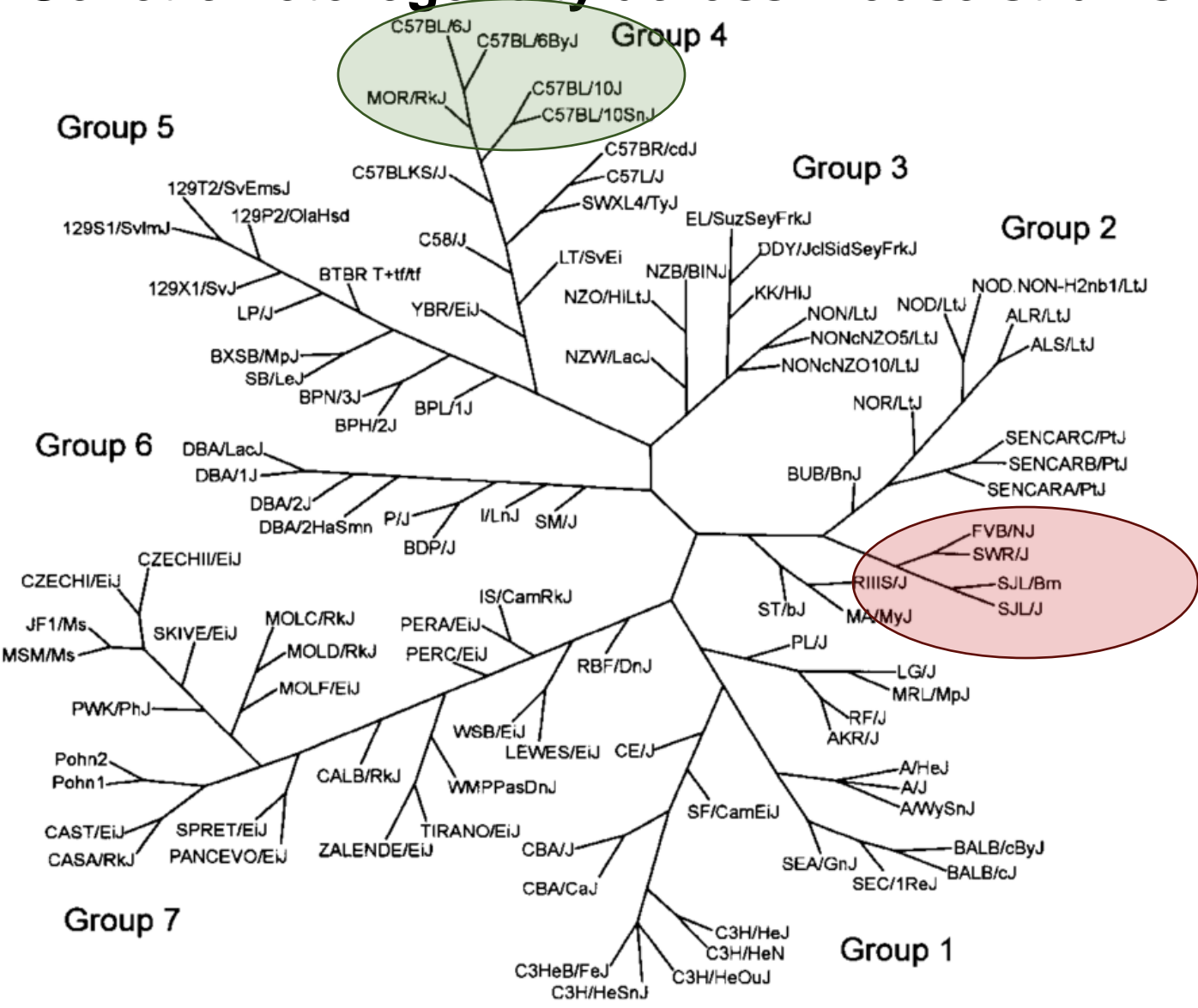
# Modeling diversity in RBC storability in mice



J:DO PTR mQTL vs  
137,192SNPs



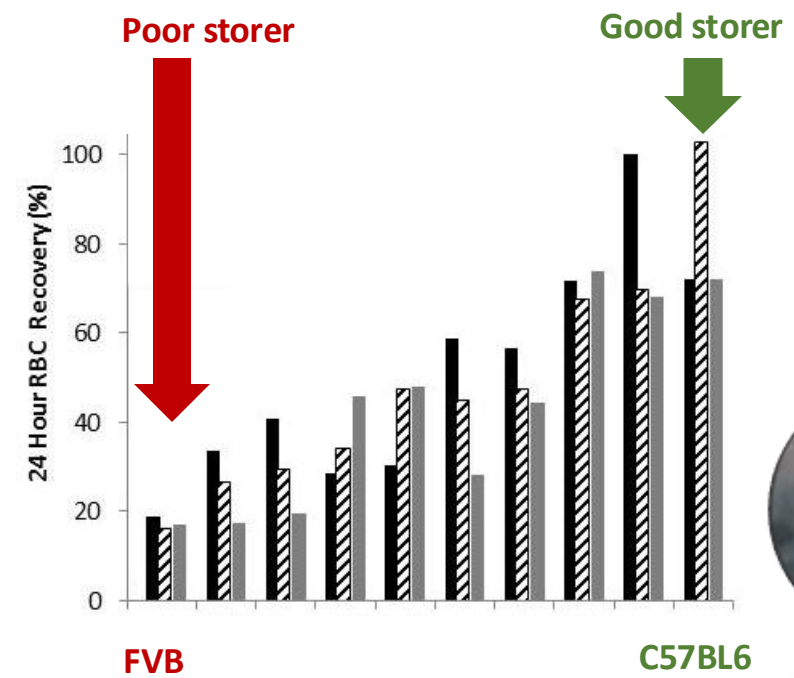
# Genetic heterogeneity across mouse strains



C57BL6/J



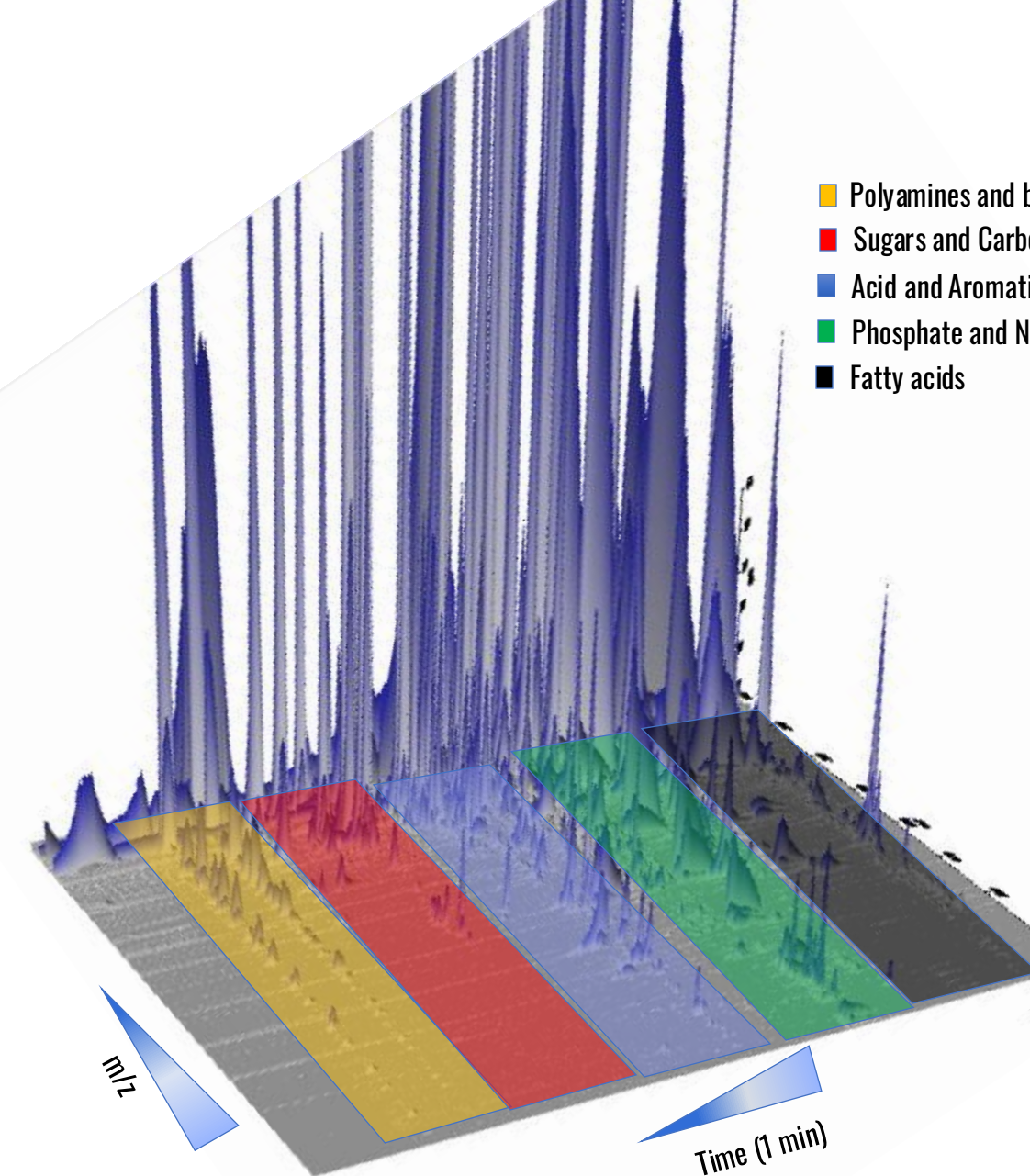
FVB/J



# 1 min METABOLOMICS and 5 min LIPIDOMICS



- Polyamines and basic AAs
- Sugars and Carboxylic acids
- Acid and Aromatic AAs and Small Peptides
- Phosphate and Nucleosides
- Fatty acids



» Life Sciences » Systems Biology and Bioinformatics

Methods in Molecular Biology



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## High-Throughput Metabolomics

Methods and Protocols

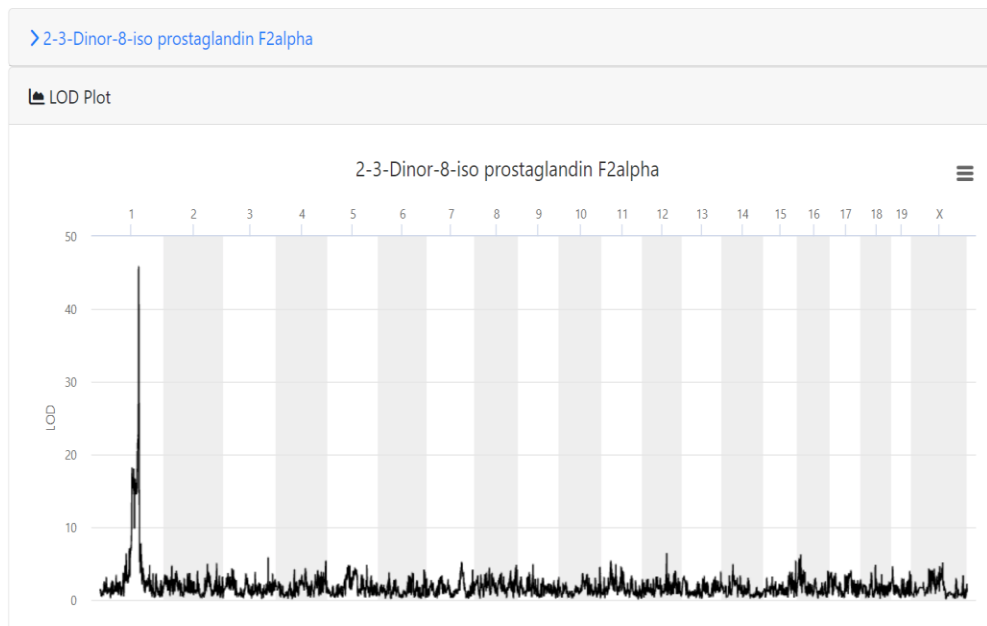
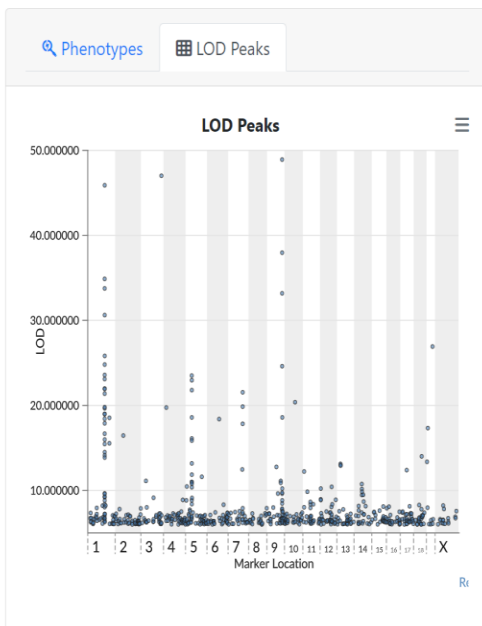
Editors: **D'Alessandro**, Angelo (Ed.)

Available Here



# Modeling diversity in RBC storability in mice

Zimring QTL Viewer Current Data Set → Stored red blood cell metabolites [Download Data](#)



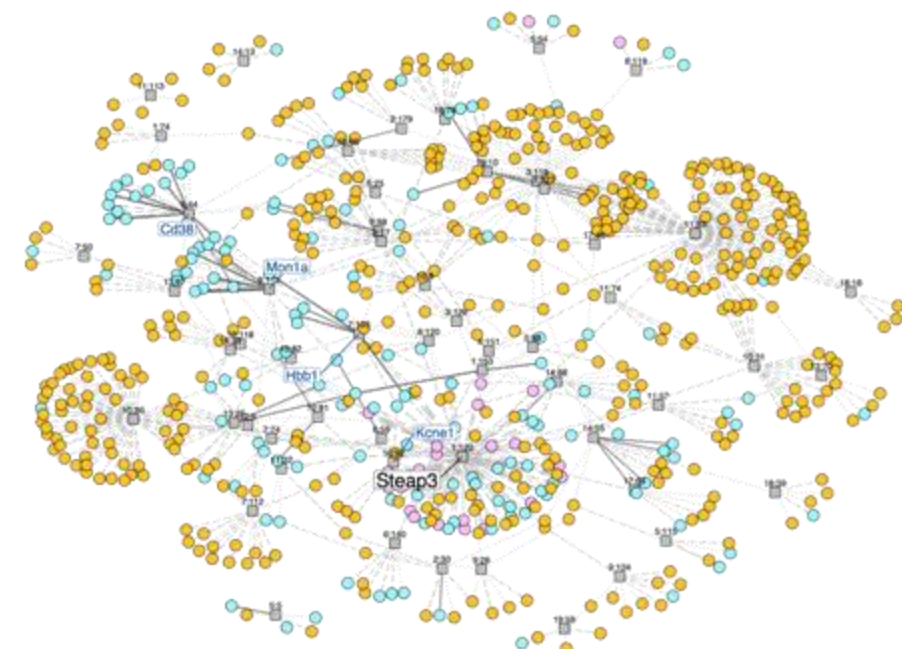
Profile Plot Correlation

Select your factors

Sex

Select a series to color

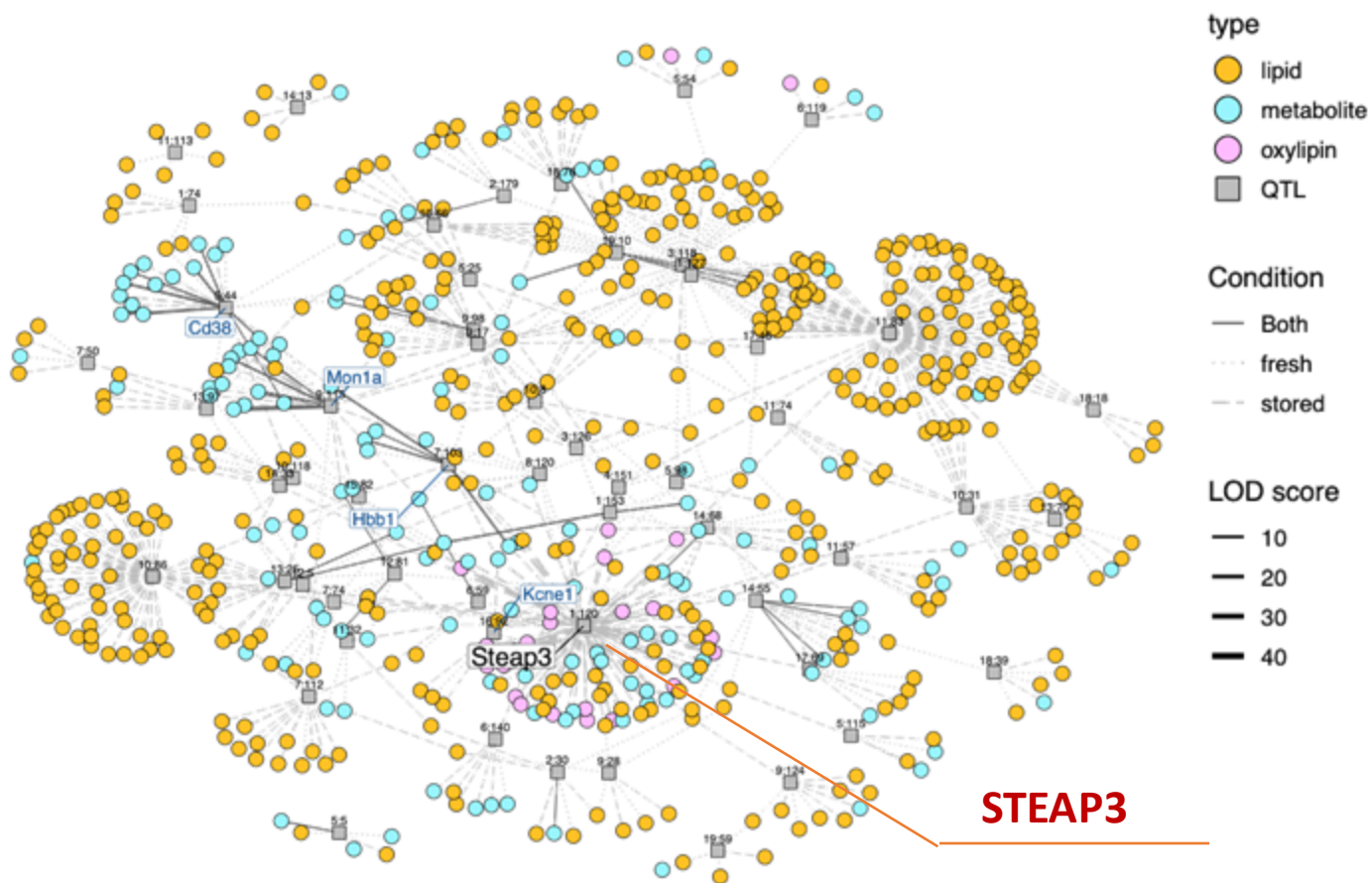
Sex



QTL Viewer

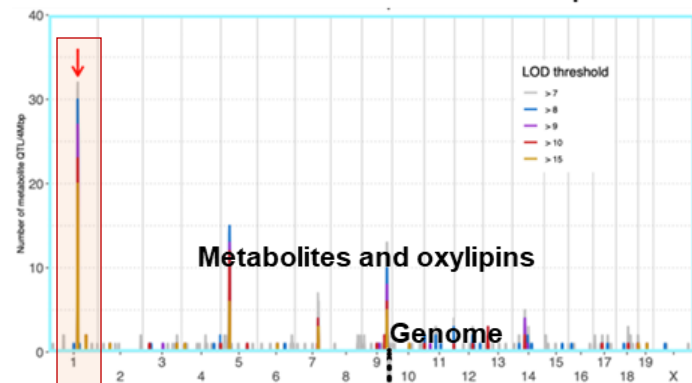


# Modeling diversity in RBC storability in mice



**STEAP3**

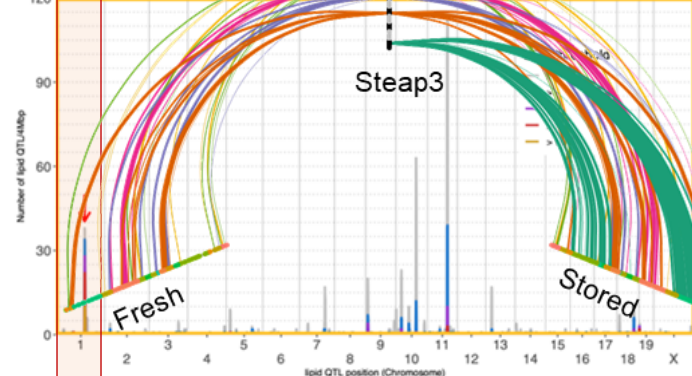
Metabolites – Stored – Chromosome 1 Hotspot



Metabolites and oxylipins

Genome

Lipids – Stored – Chromosome 1 Hotspot

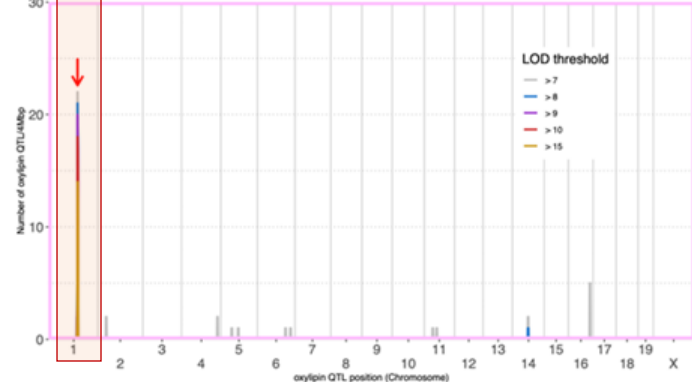


Fresh

Steap3

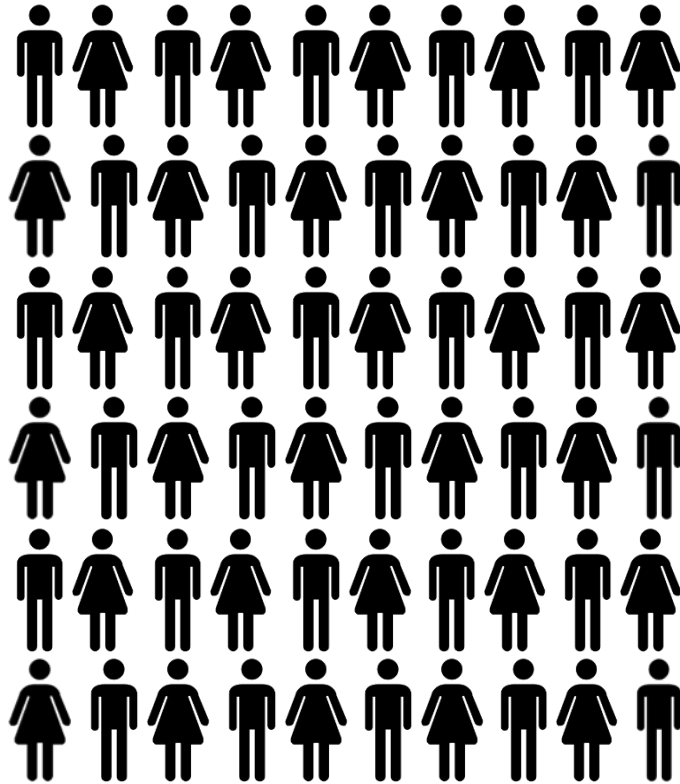
Stored

Oxylipins – Stored – Chromosome 1 Hotspot

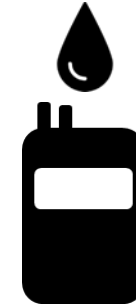


# Recipient Epidemiology and Donor Evaluation Study – REDS RBC Omics

Donor effect on Storability  
(n=13,403)



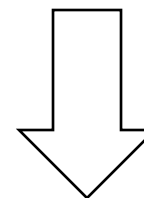
Blood storage for 42 days  
+ hemolysis



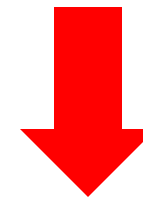
n=12,753



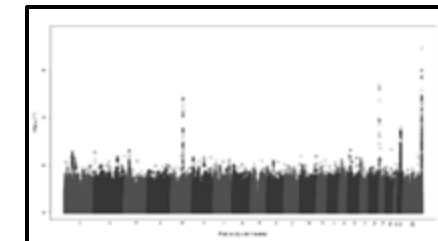
12,799



10,476



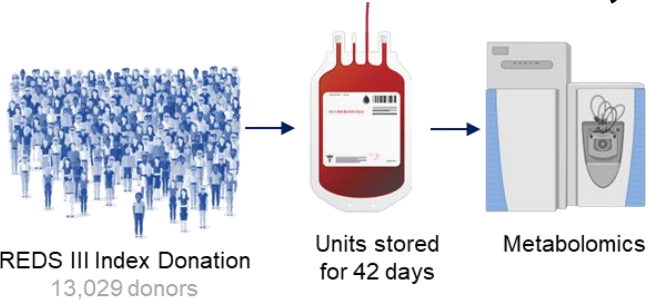
Genotyping  
(SNPs)



Correlation



# Metabolomics of 13,091 Blood Donors



**Sex**  
Male (n=6507) Female (n=6522)

**Age**  
18-87 (median 47)

**Blood Centers (BC)**

BC1 (n=3174) BC2 (n=3272) BC3 (n=3564) BC4 (n=3019)

**Additive Solution**

AS1 (n=6291) AS3 (n=678)

**BMI**  
10-76 (median 26.6)

**Blood Group**

A (n=4664) B (n=1970)  
AB (n=541) O (n=5854)

**Rh Status**

Rh+ (n=11334) Rh- (n=1695)

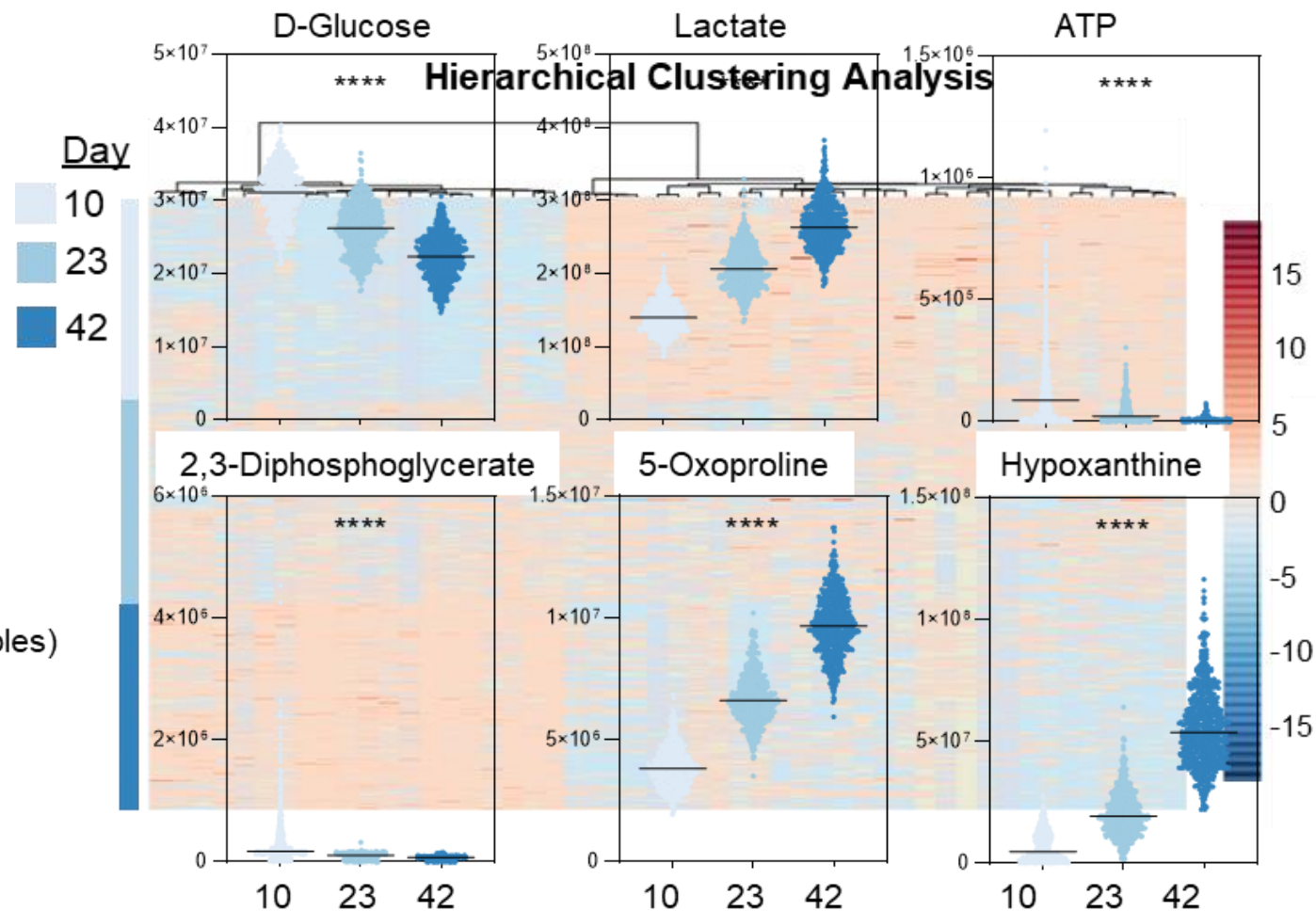
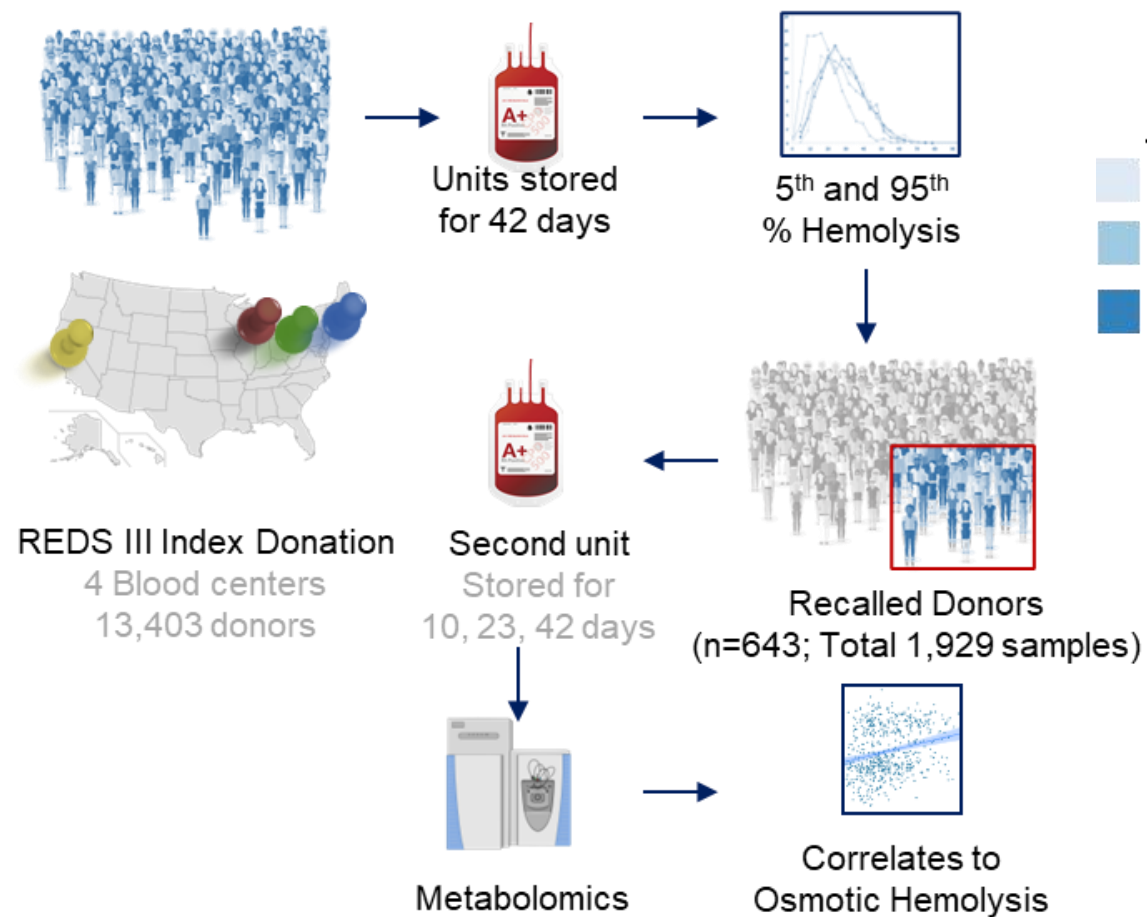
**Ethnicity**

Caucasian + Other (n=7037) Asian (n=1602) African (n=1542) Hispanic (n=1153)

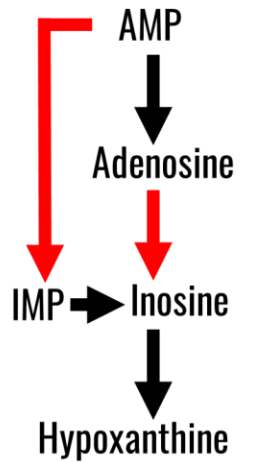
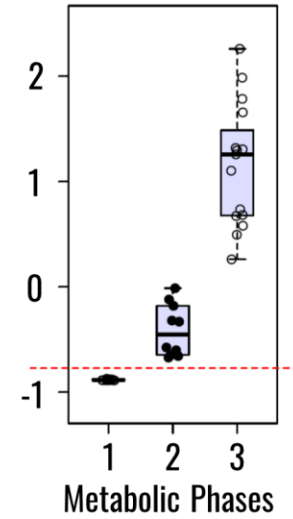
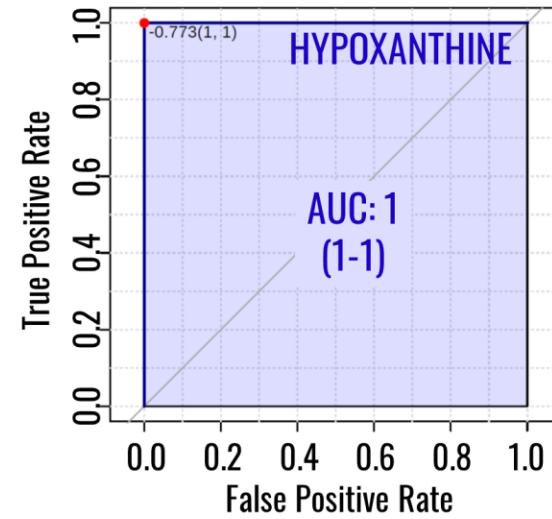
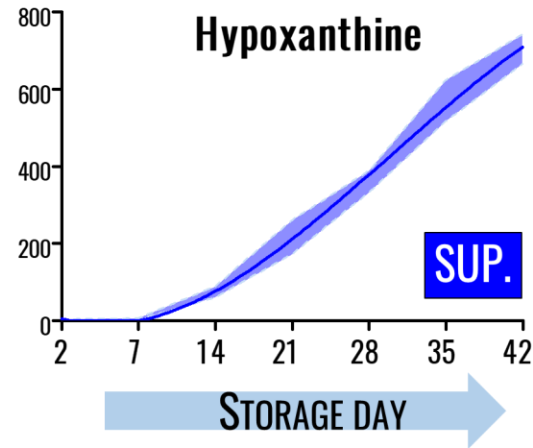
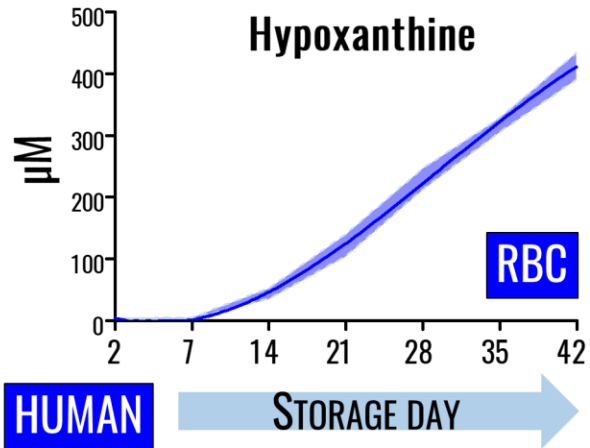
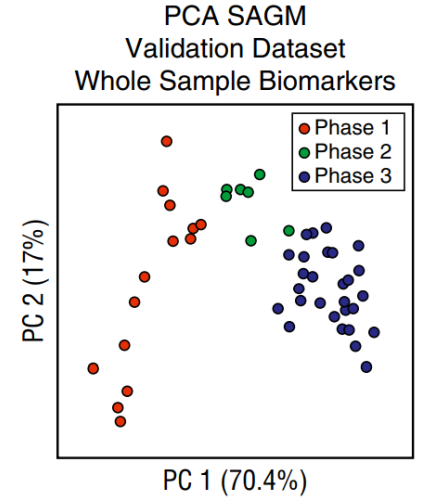
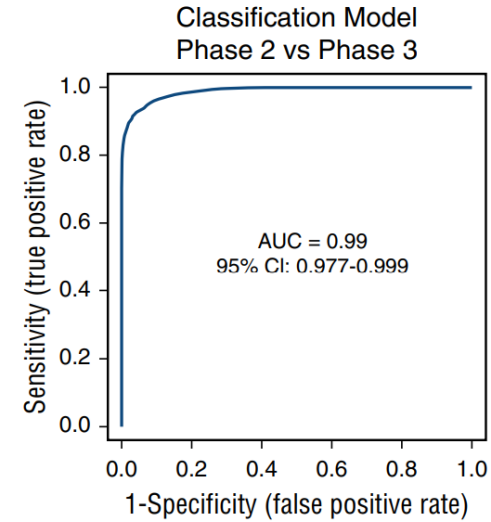
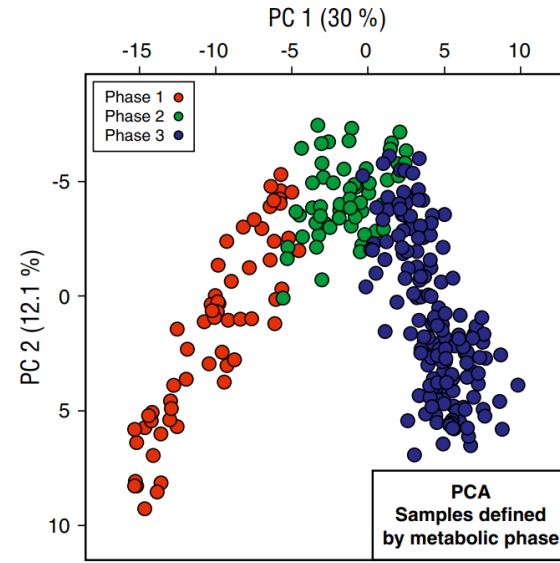
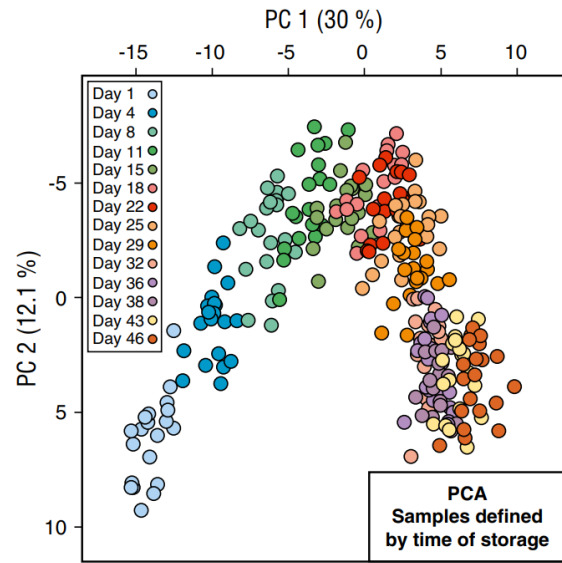




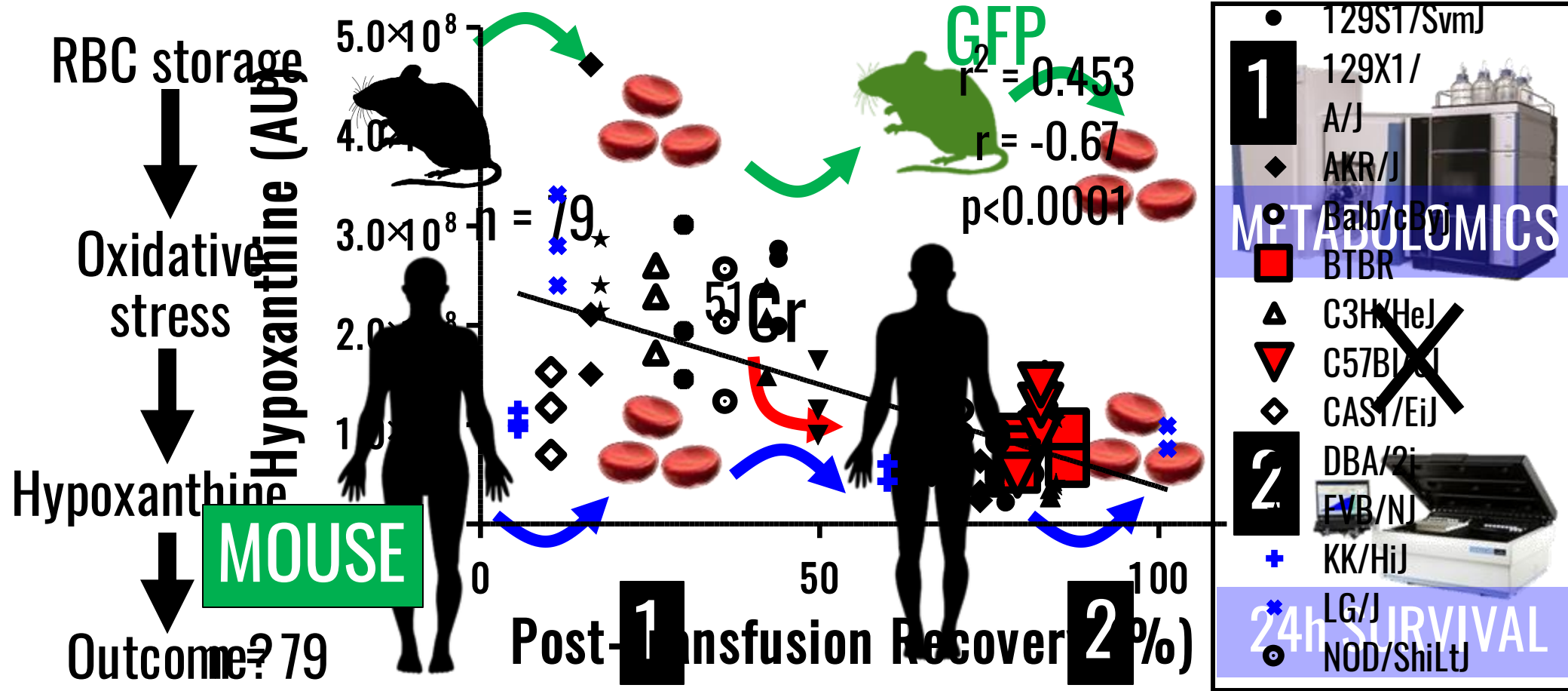
# RBC metabolism changes with storage



# Biomarkers of the RBC Metabolic Age



# High hypoxanthine (ATP breakdown and oxidation) correlates to low PTR in mice and humans

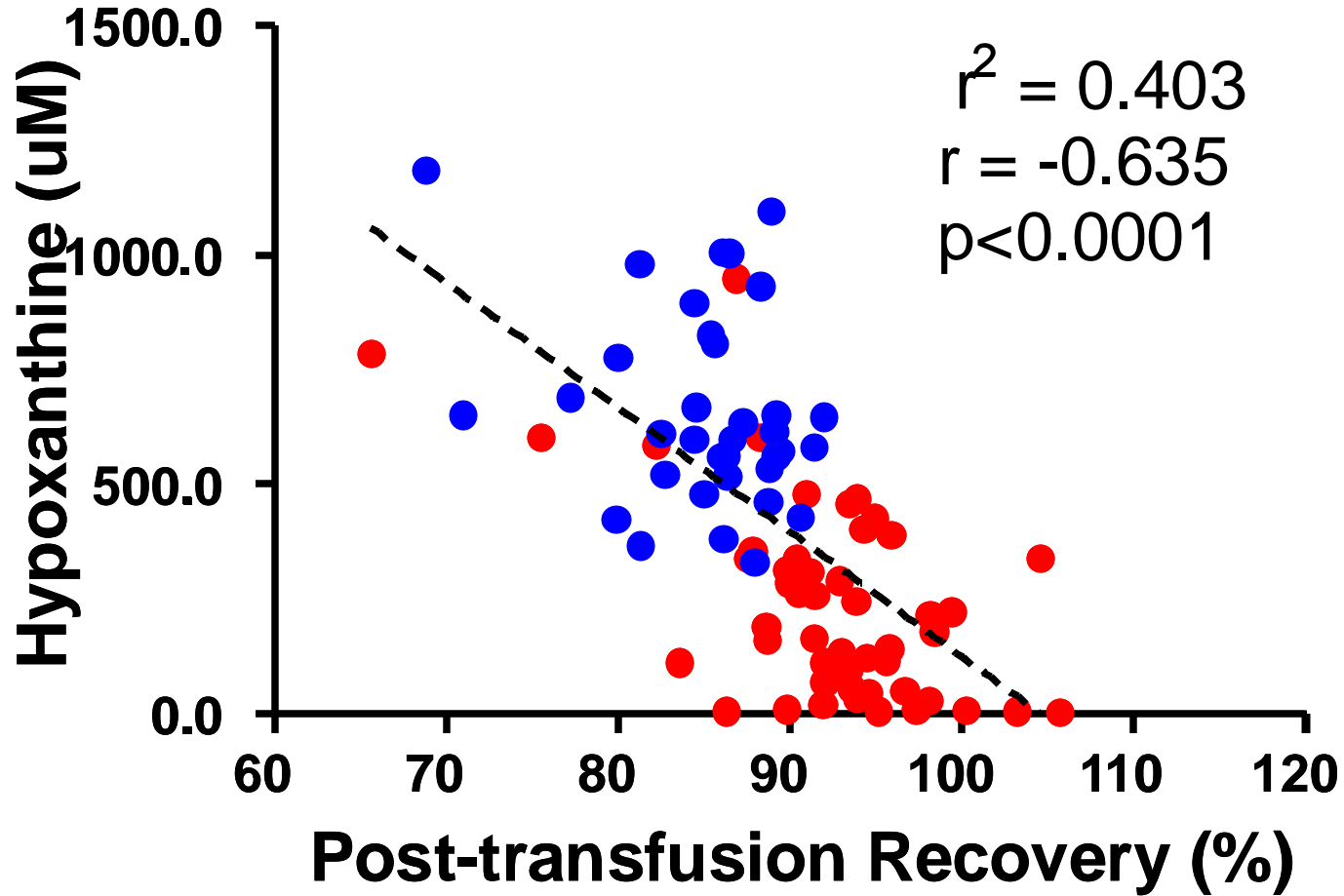


# High hypoxanthine (ATP breakdown and oxidation) correlates to low PTR in mice and humans



**HUMAN**

n = 52  
(all storage  
time points)

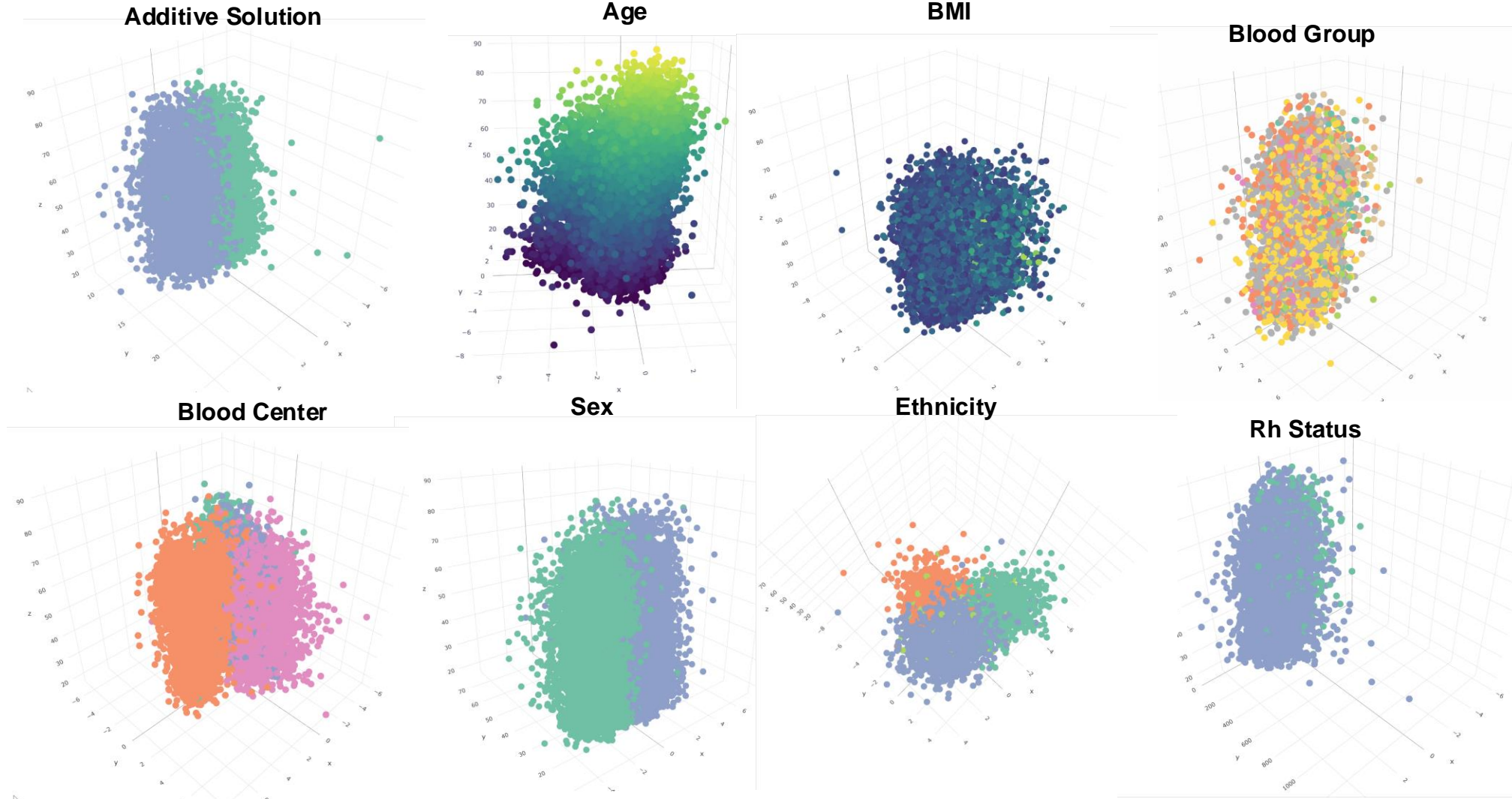


**HUMAN**

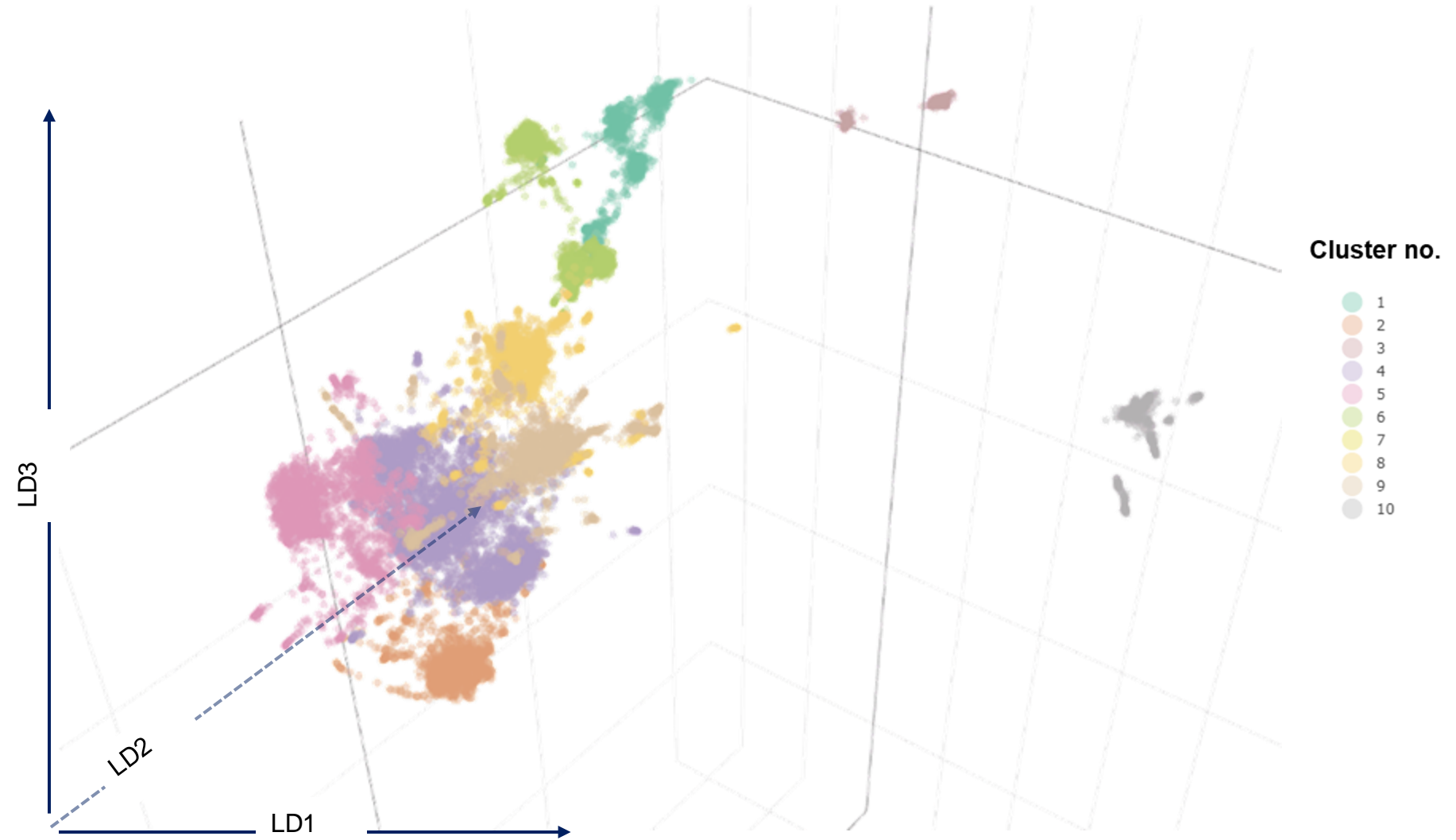
n = 37  
(day 42)



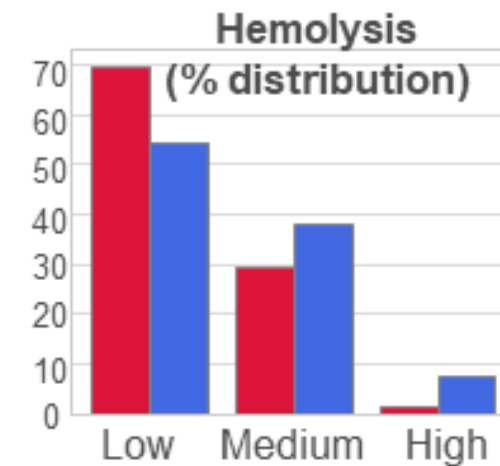
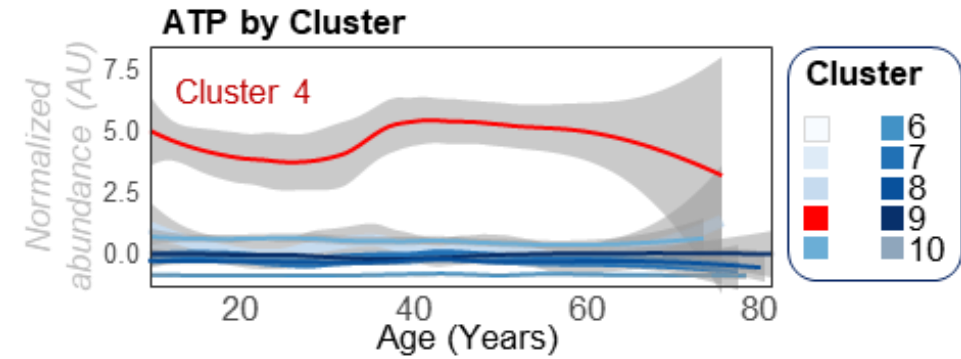
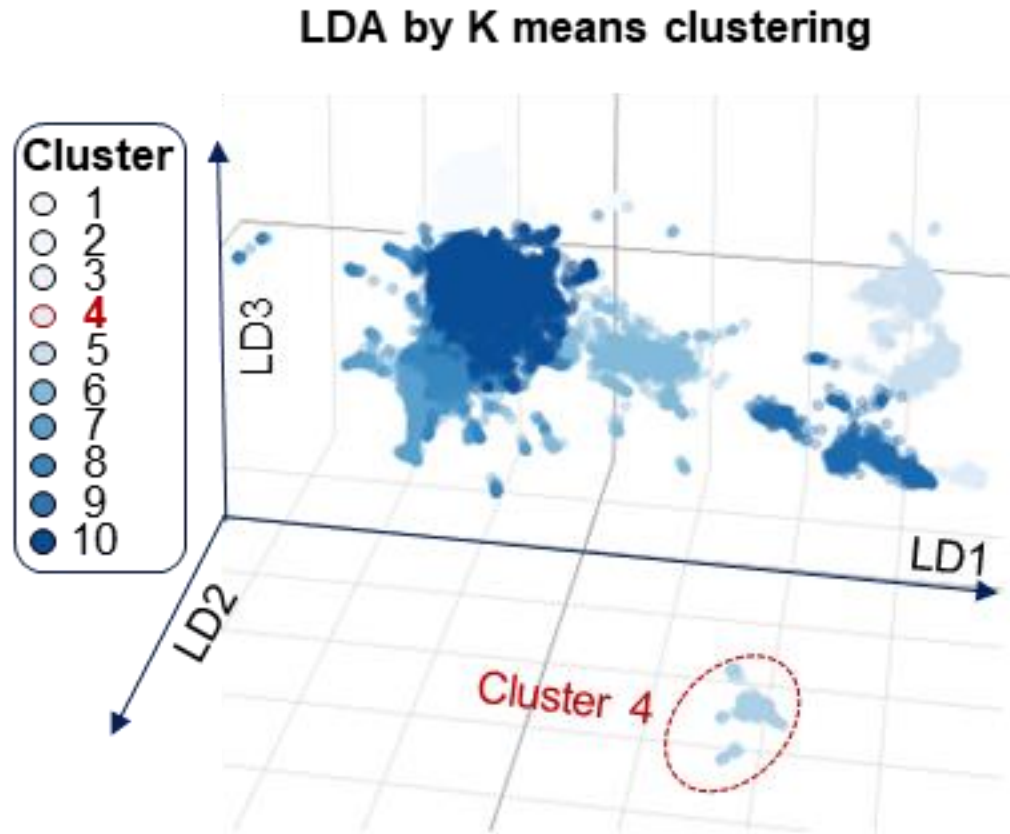
# Many iatrogenic and biological variables impact the metabolome of stored RBCs



# Data analysis guides interpretation! Kmeans clustering + Linear Discriminant Analysis



# Finding the SUPER-DONORS (high energy metabolism, low oxidant stress)!

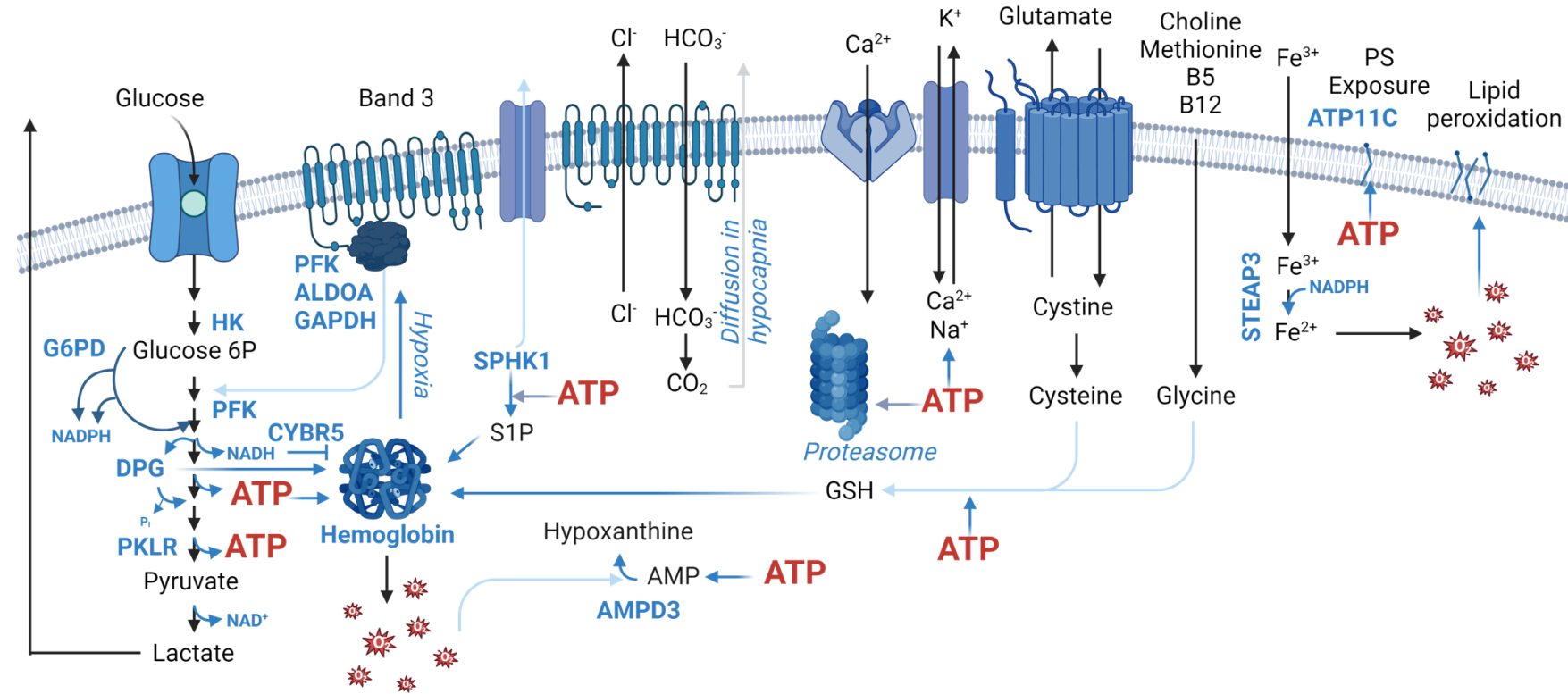


**Cluster 4 vs Other Clusters Combined**

# ATP: a central lynchpin in RBC metabolism, deformability, function

ATP regulates:

- Hemoglobin allostery with DPG and O<sub>2</sub> kinetics
- Proton pumps
- Membrane protein phosphorylation
- Structure and deformability
- Phospholipid asymmetry
- Proteasome activity
- Vesiculation
- Intra- or Extra-vascular Hemolysis

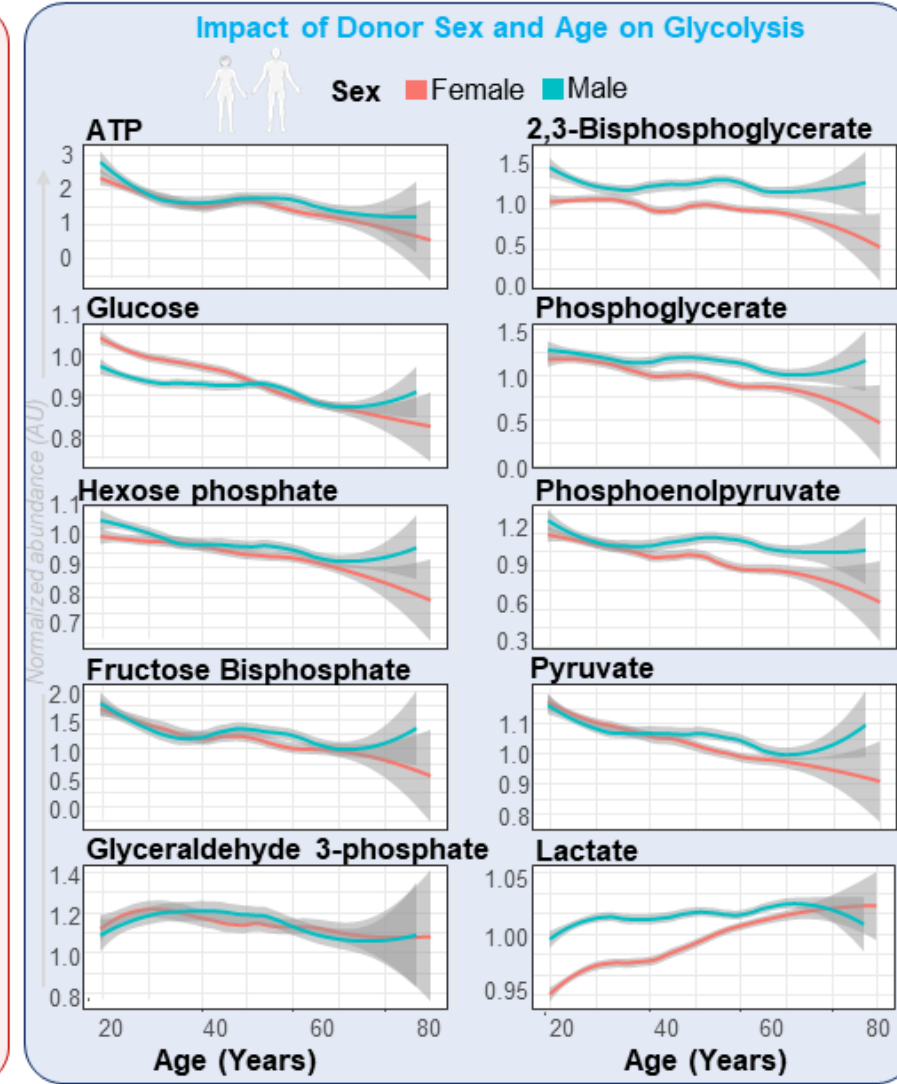
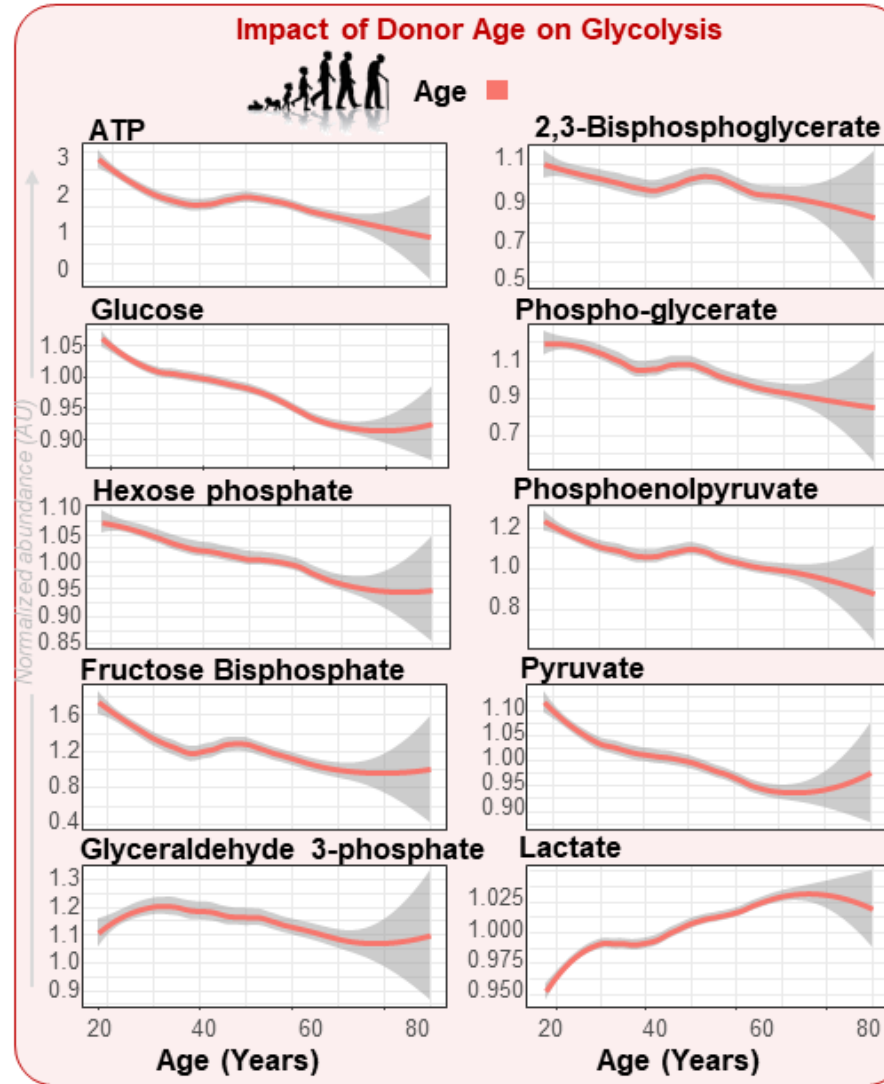
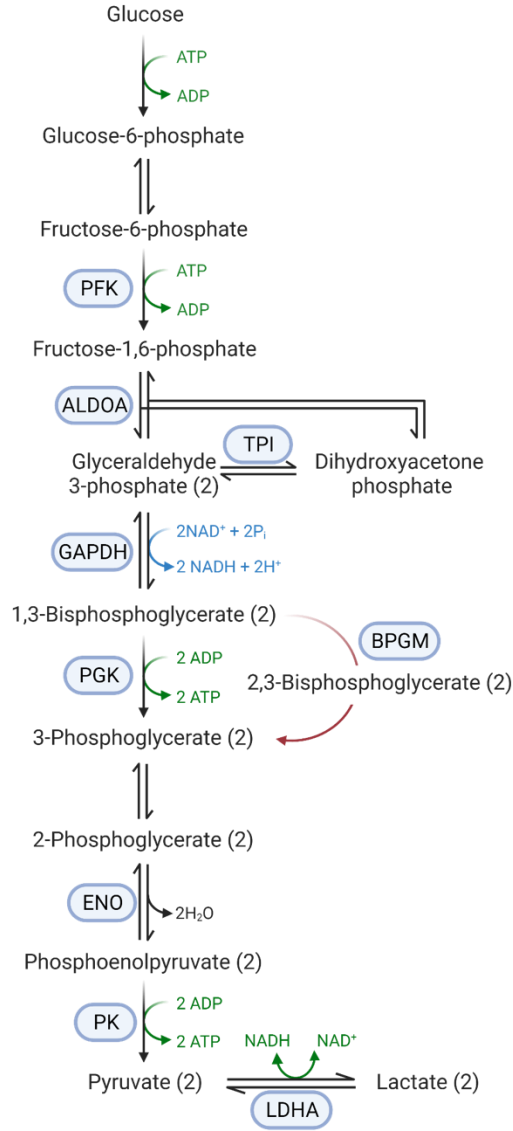


The energy-less red blood cell is lost: erythrocyte enzyme abnormalities of glycolysis

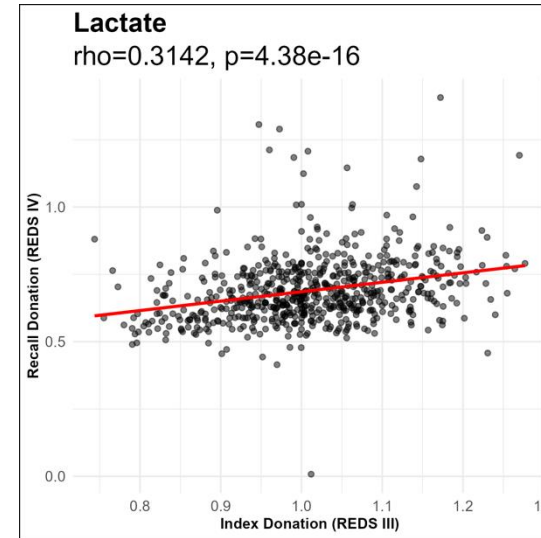
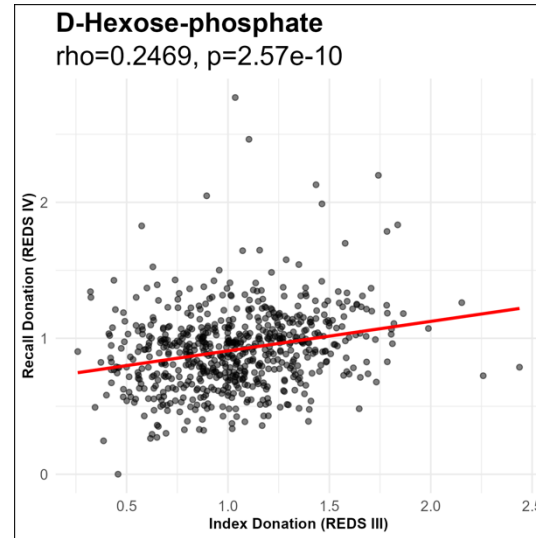
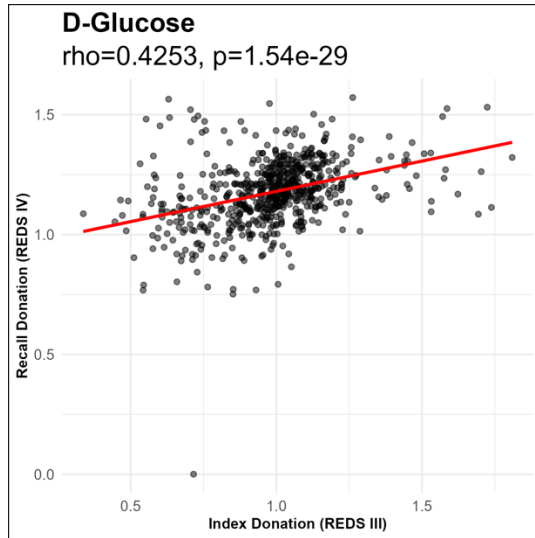
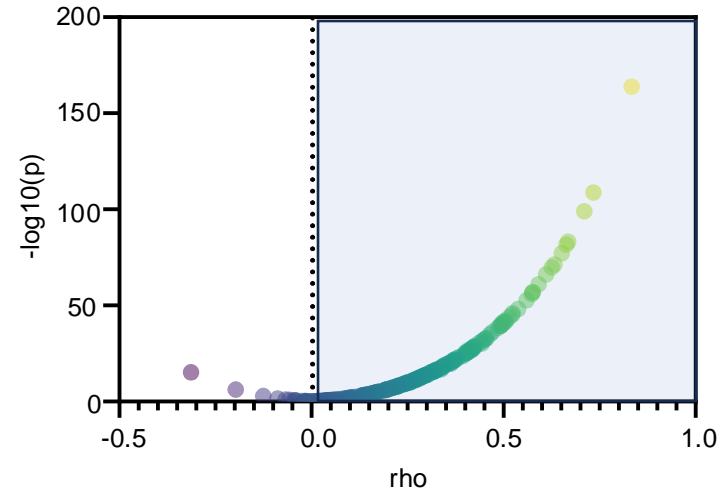
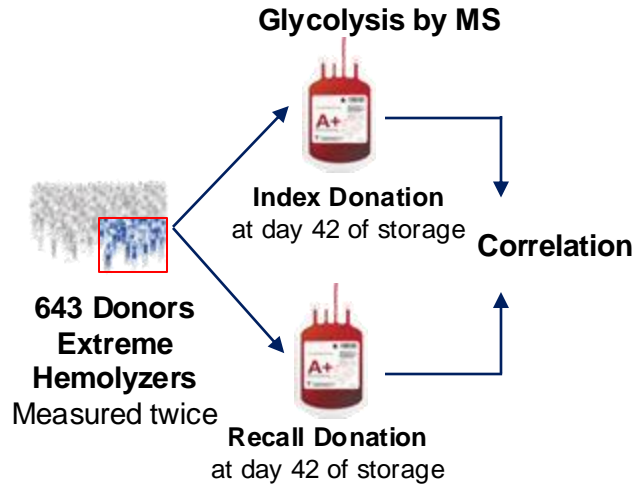
Richard van Wijk and Wouter W. van Solinge



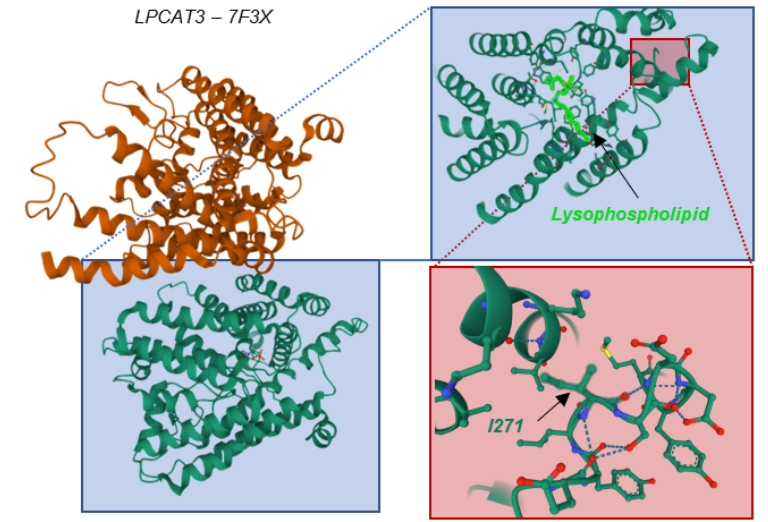
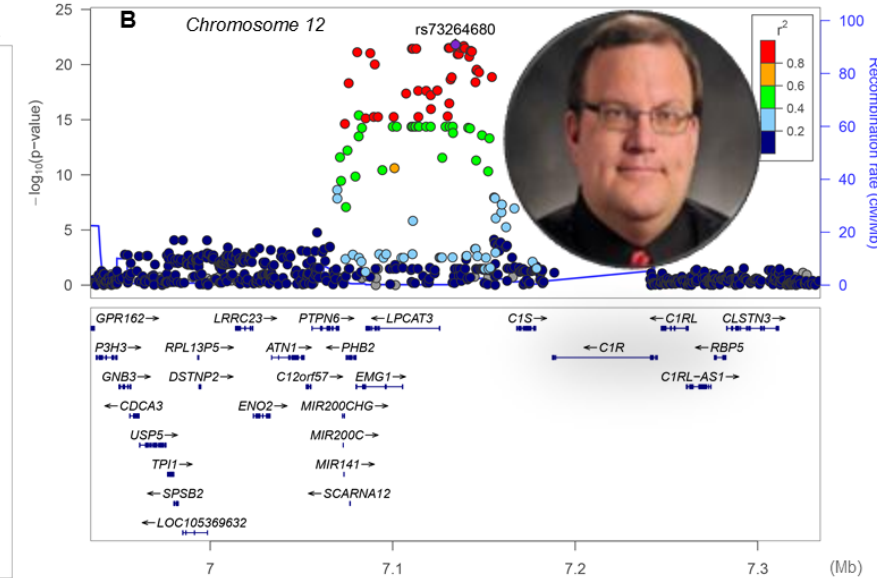
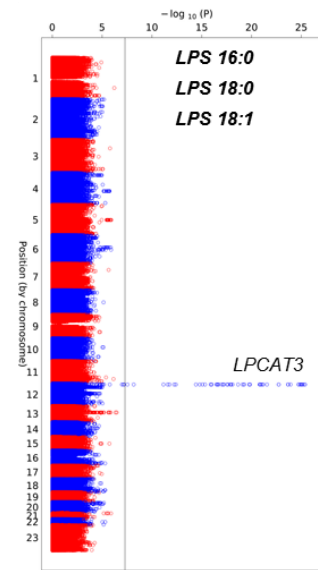
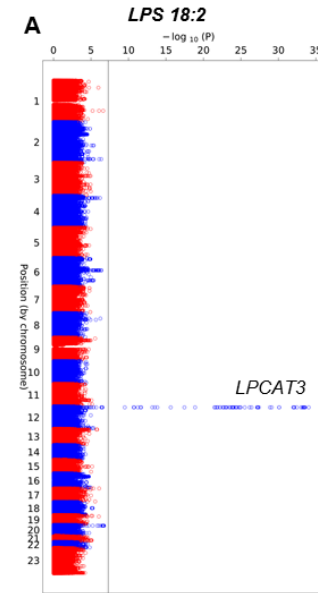
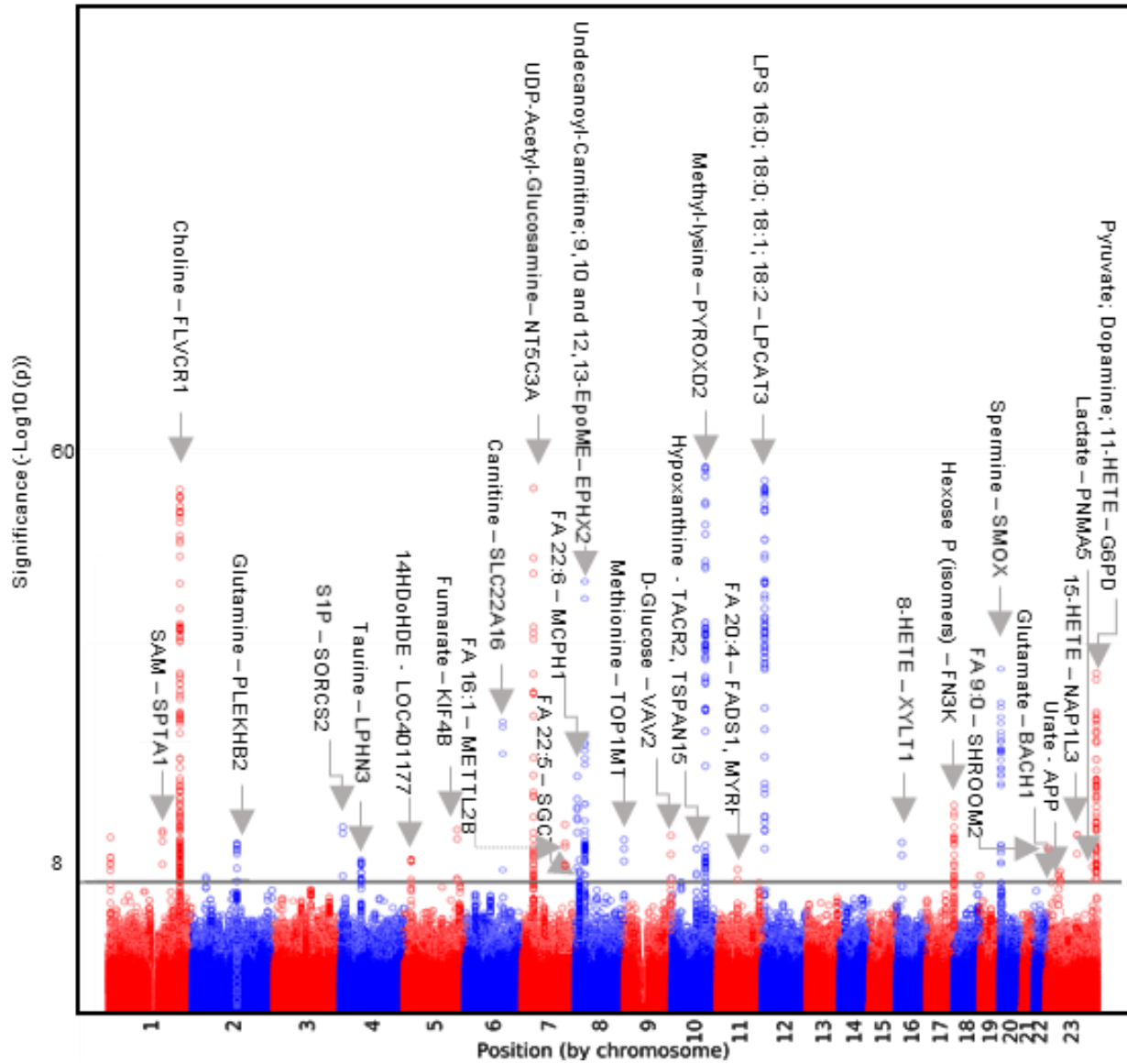
# Age and Sex impact RBC energy metabolism



# Levels of glycolytic metabolites are reproducible across donations

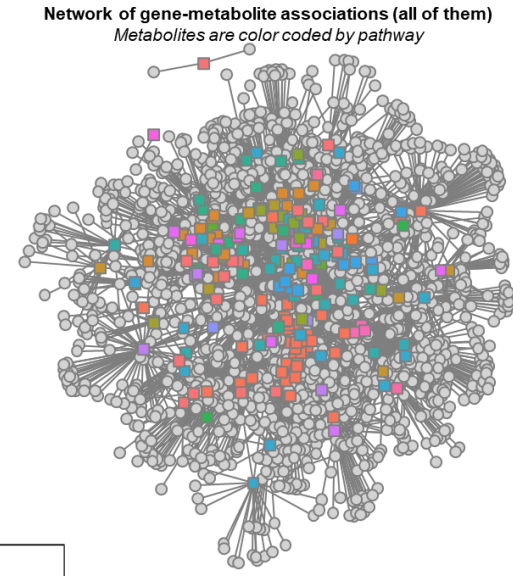
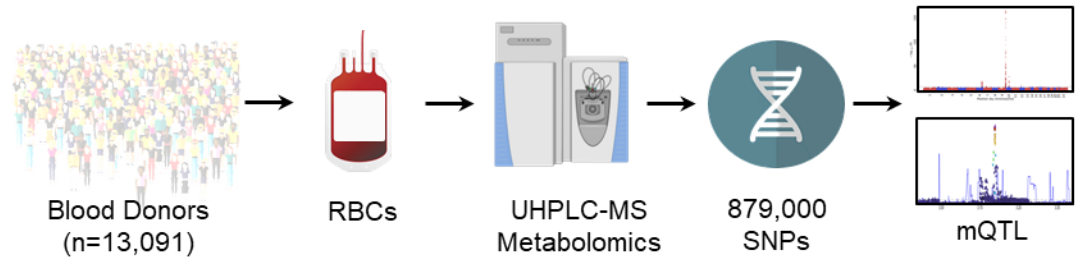


# Metabolite heterogeneity encrypted in our DNA: mQTL



# Genetic underpinnings of metabolite levels in donated blood

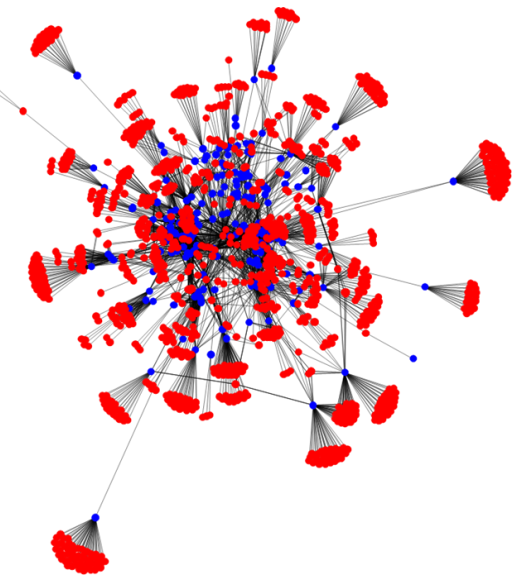
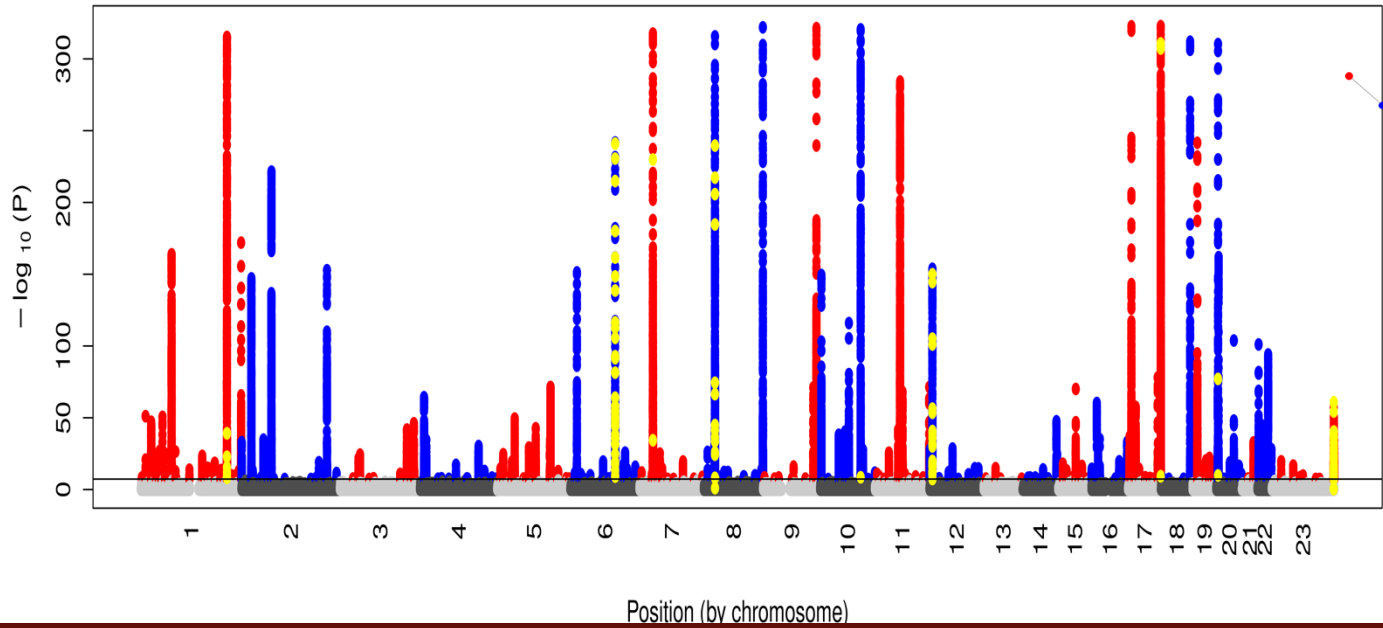
## >1 Million gene-metabolite associations



Pathway color legend

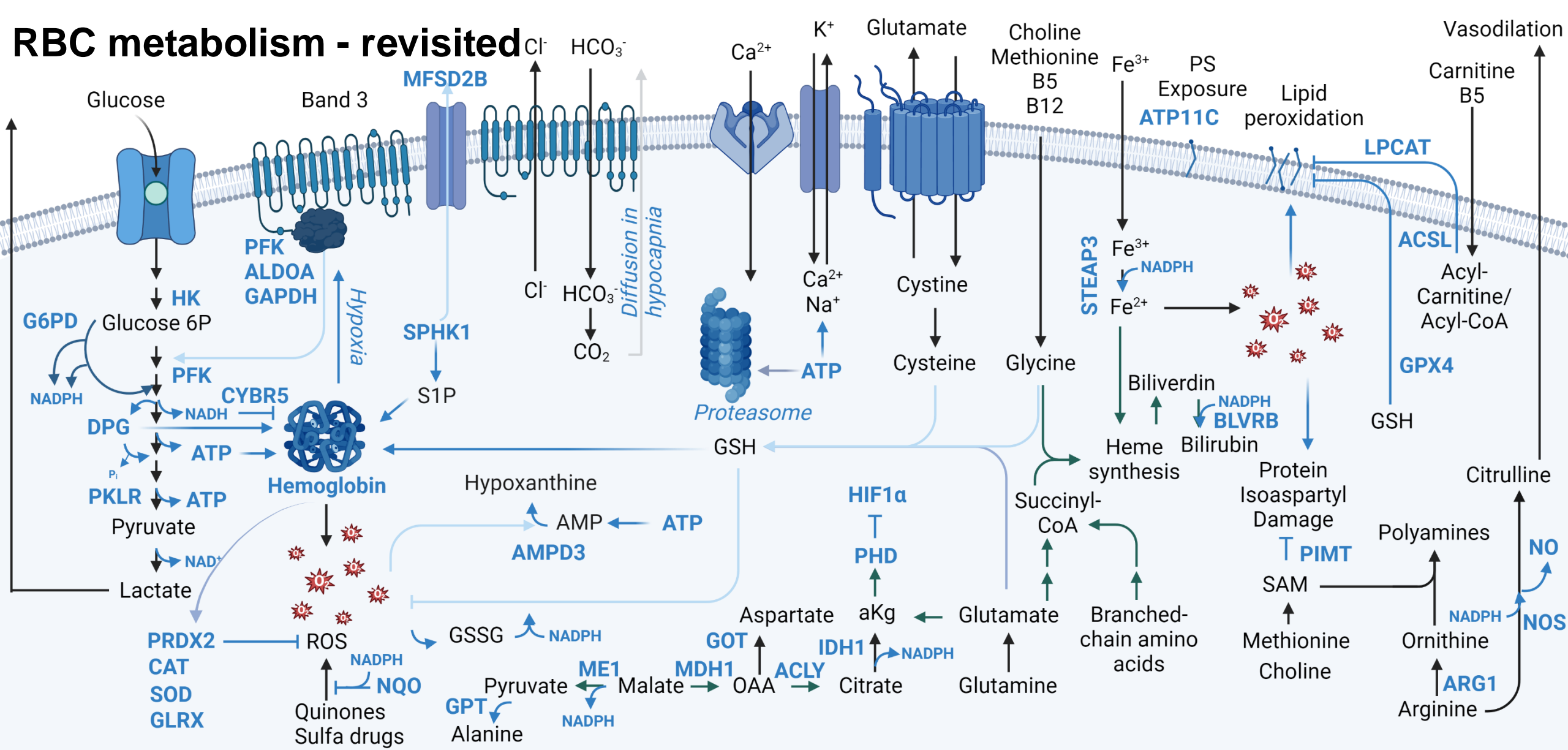
Bacterial	Phosphate
Carnitine	Monoamine
Acetate	Fatty acids
Purines	Gamma Glutamyl Cycle
Vitamin C metabolism	Lipid metabolism
Arginine	Bile acids
Amino acid	Glutamate metabolism
Heme	Glutamine metabolism
Antioxidant	Plasticizer
Cholesterol	Polyamine
Glycerophospholipid	NAD
Citric acid cycle	Pyrimidine
Sialic acid	CoA
Creatine metabolism	Polyamines
Glutathione	Vitamins
Sugars	Glyoxalate pathway
Ascorbate	Methionine metabolism
Pentose Phosphate Pathway	Sphingolipids
Glycolysis	Taurine and hypotaurine
Hexosamine	Diet
One carbon	

Manhattan plot – All Gene – Metabolite associations



● Gene  
● Metabolite

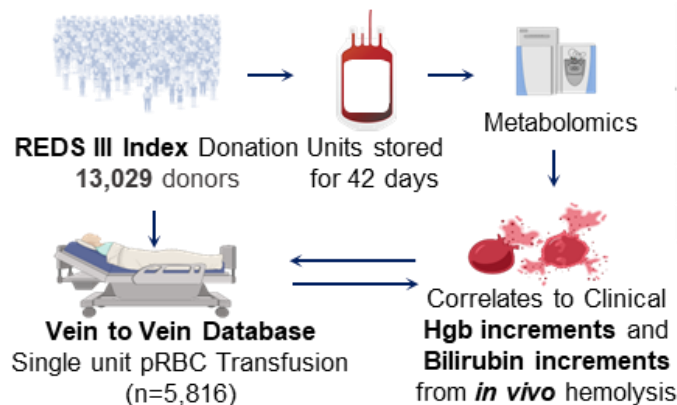
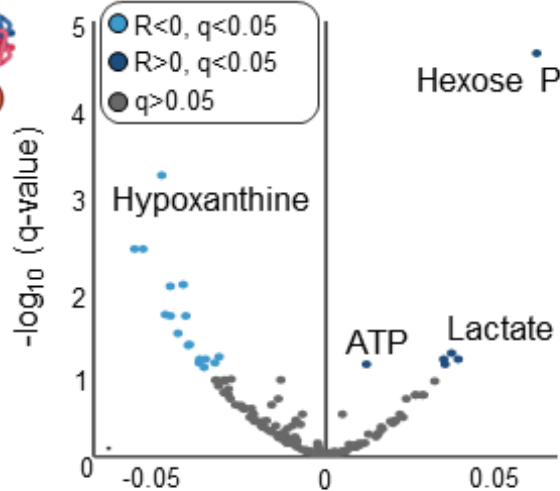
# RBC metabolism - revisited



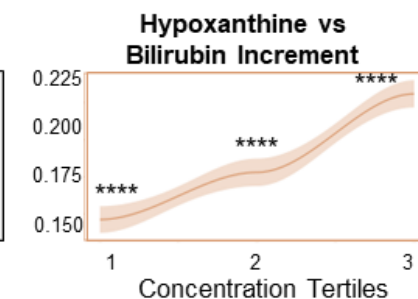
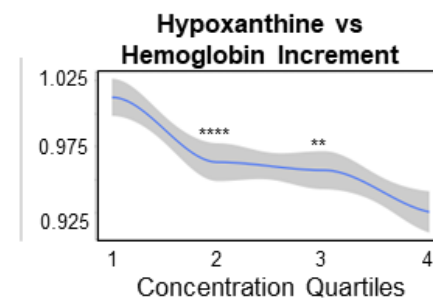
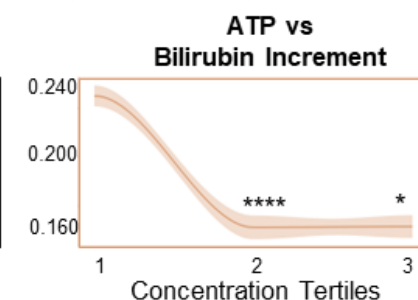
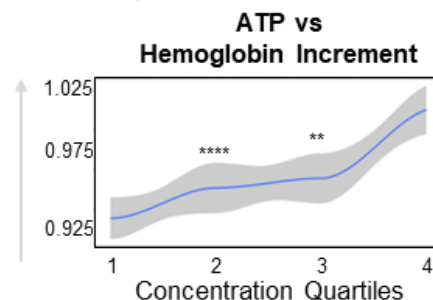
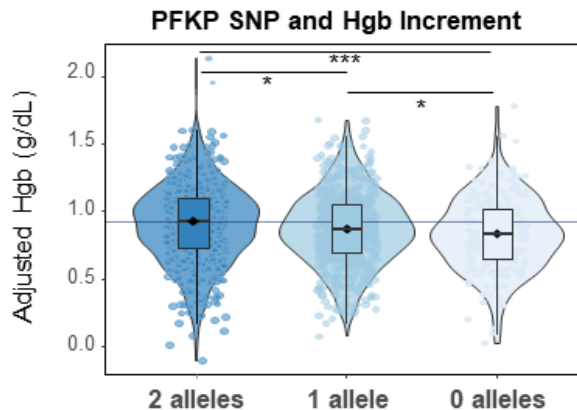
# ATP and Hypoxanthine correlate with PTR and hemoglobin increments in vivo in healthy autologous or ill heterologous recipients

**DIDS Cohort**  
79 blood donors  
2 Autologous Transfusions  
<sup>51</sup>Cr labeling for PTR

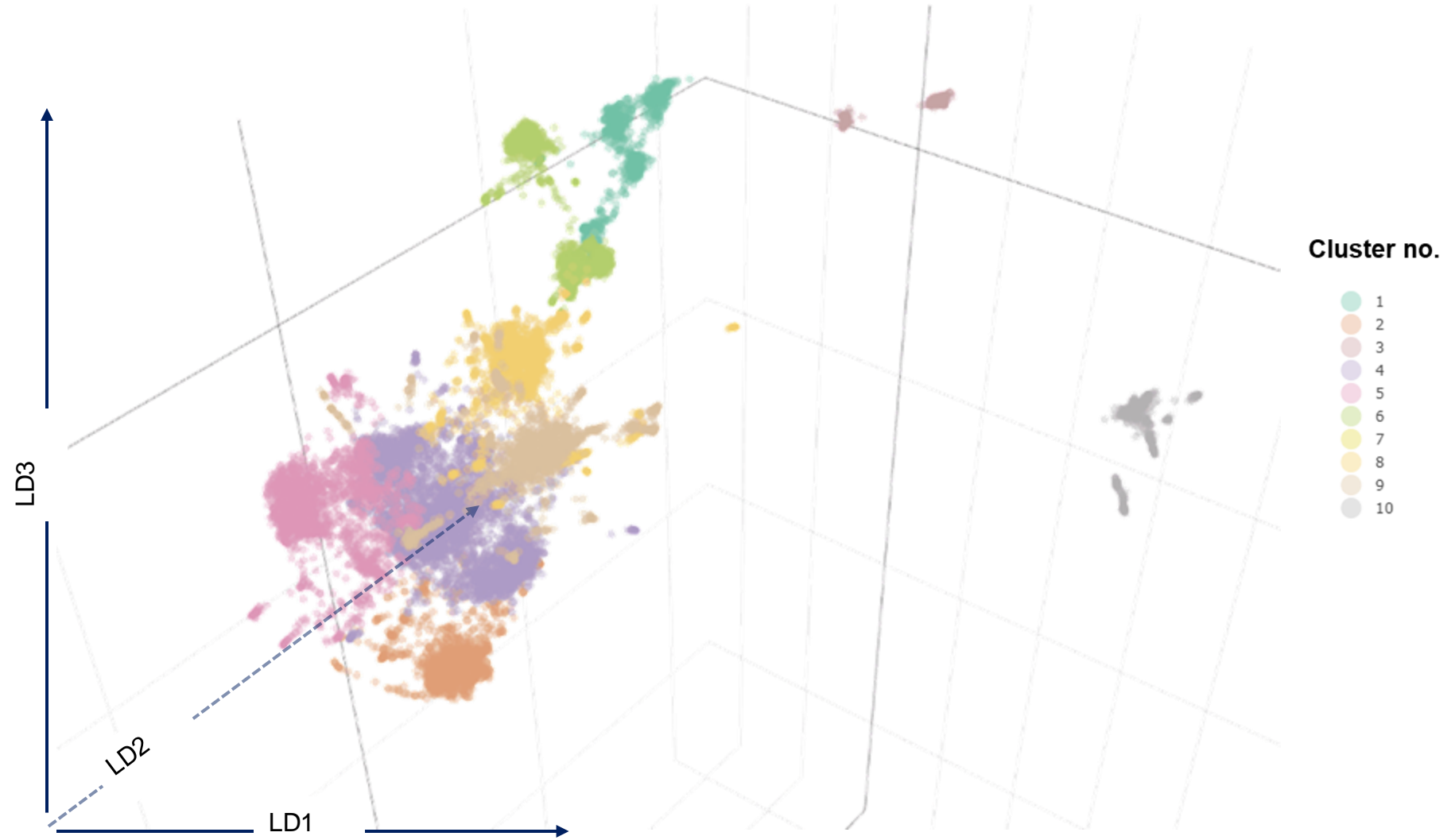
**Metabolic correlates with 24h Post-Transfusion Recovery**



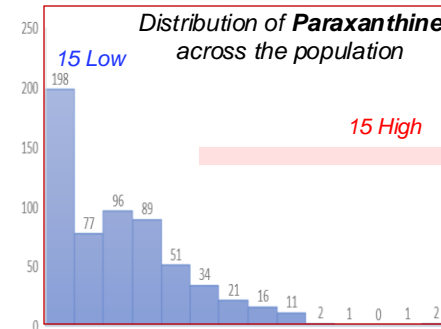
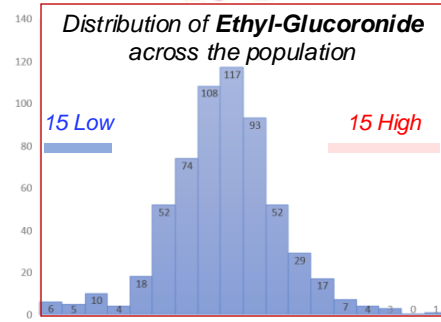
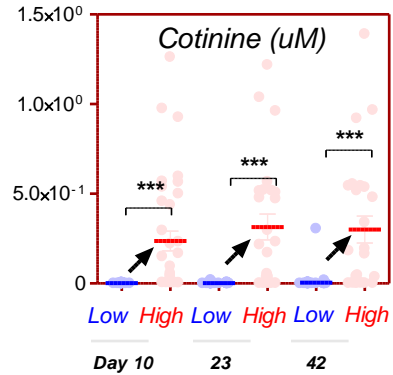
Change in hemoglobin increment after RBC transfusion for ATP and Hypoxanthine quartiles				
Values (g/dL)	1 <sup>st</sup> quartile	2 <sup>nd</sup> quartile	3 <sup>rd</sup> quartile	4 <sup>th</sup> quartile
Hypoxanthine	1.02 [0.9-1.06]	0.98 [0.94-1.02]	0.97 [0.93-1.01]	0.93 [0.89-0.97]
Adjusted	1.01 (0.28)	0.96 (0.28)	0.95 (0.29)	0.92 (0.29)
ATP	0.96 [0.92-1.00]	0.98 [0.94-1.03]	0.97 [0.93-1.02]	1.02 [0.98-1.07]
Adjusted	0.94 (0.30)	0.96 (0.29)	0.97 (0.28)	1.01 (0.28)



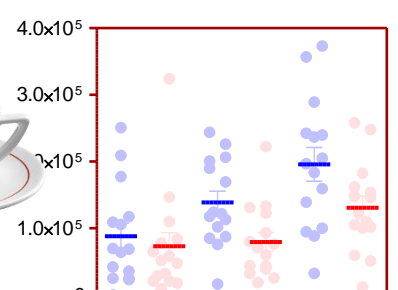
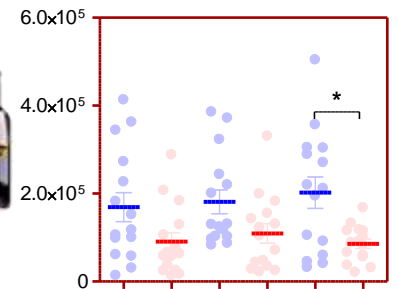
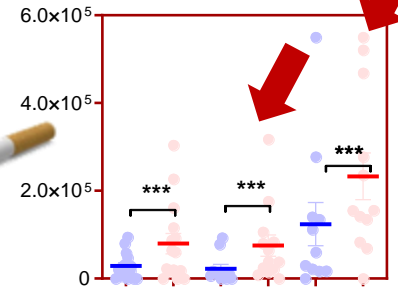
# There's more that defines a donor than just storage, genetics and demographics



# Donor habits matter!!! Smoking, drinking (alcohol or coffee), diet!



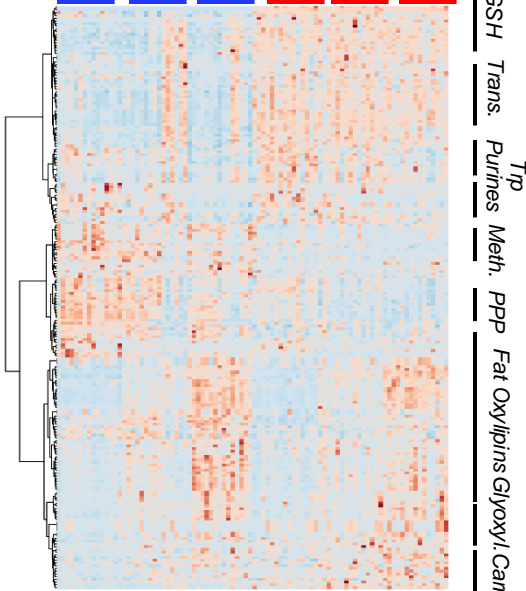
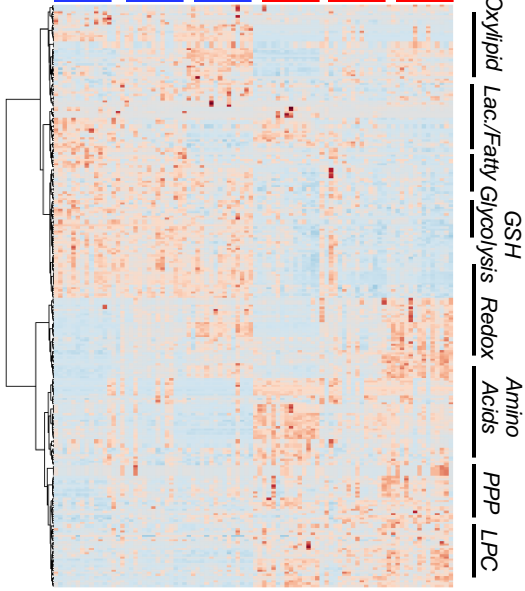
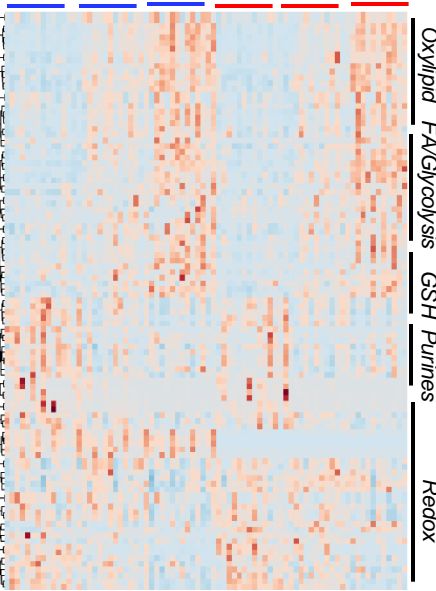
## Pentose Phosphate Pathway Metabolites



15 Lowest Cotinine 15 Highest Cotinine  
Day 10 23 42 10 23 42

15 Lowest Cotinine 15 Highest Cotinine  
Day 10 23 42 10 23 42

15 Lowest Cotinine 15 Highest Cotinine  
Day 10 23 42 10 23 42



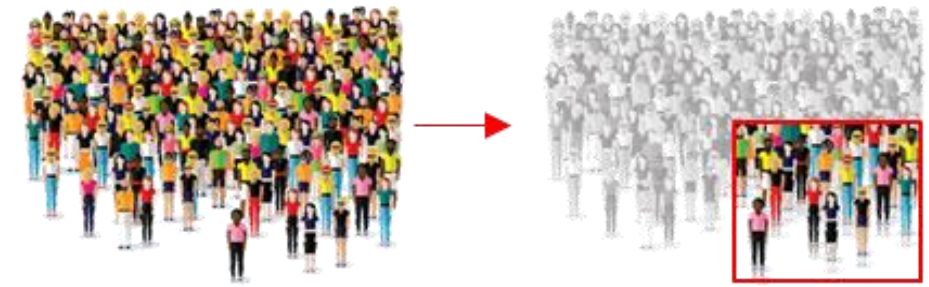
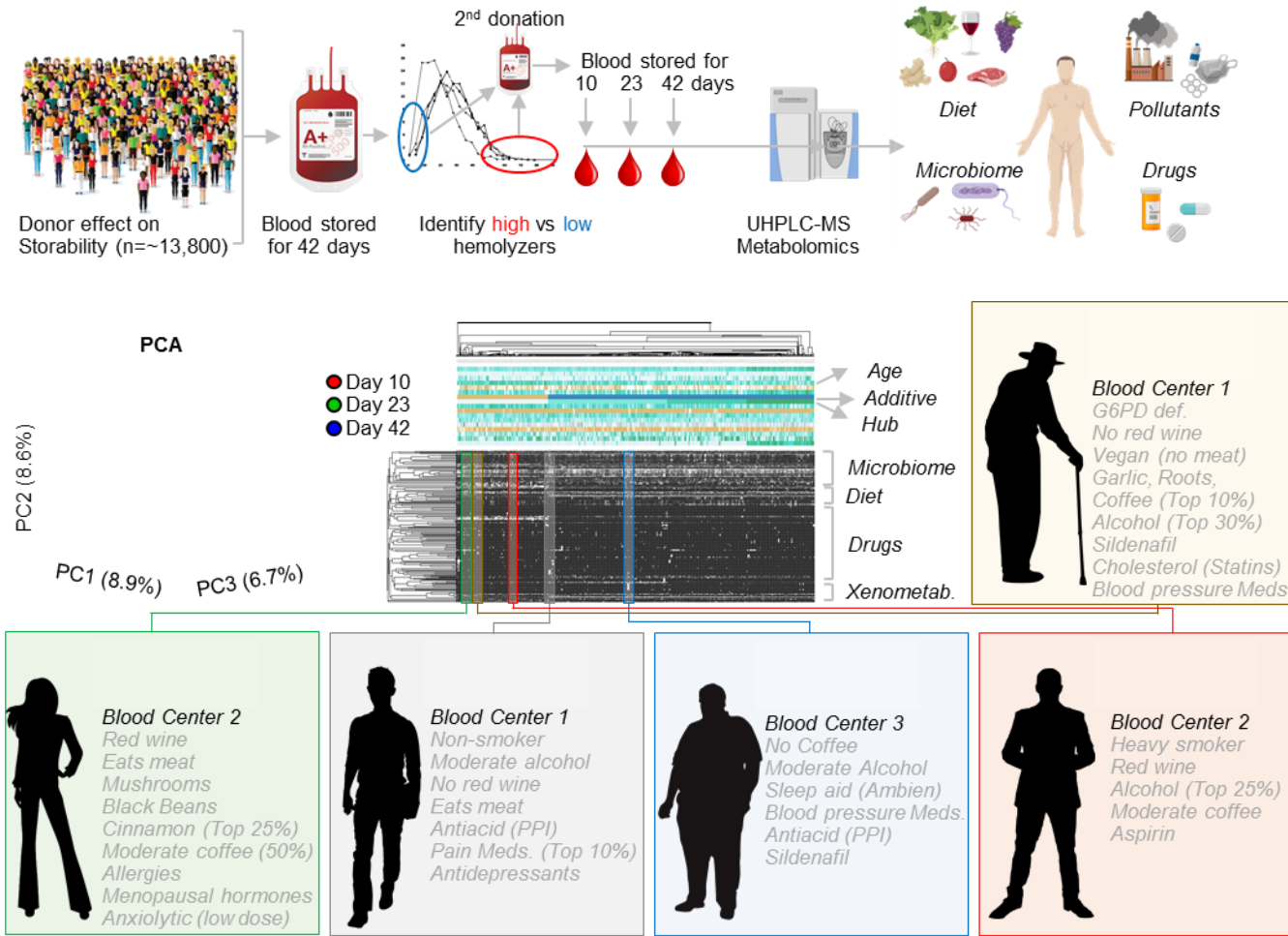
-6 0 6

-6 0 6

-6 0 6

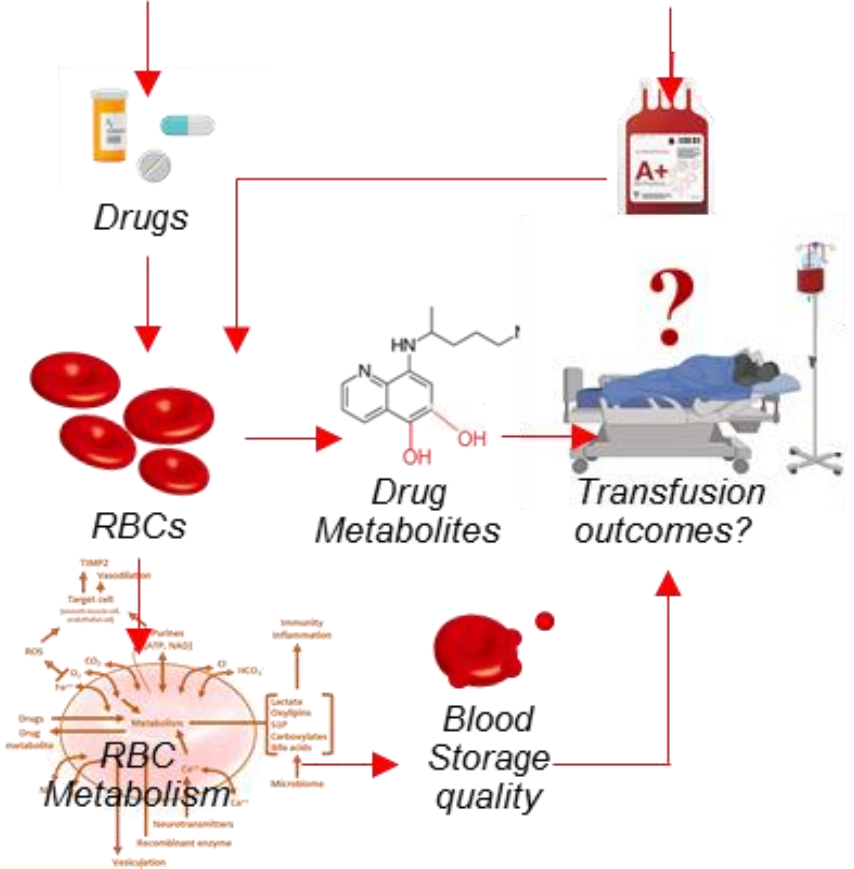


# DONOR EXPOSOME: a PANDORA's box

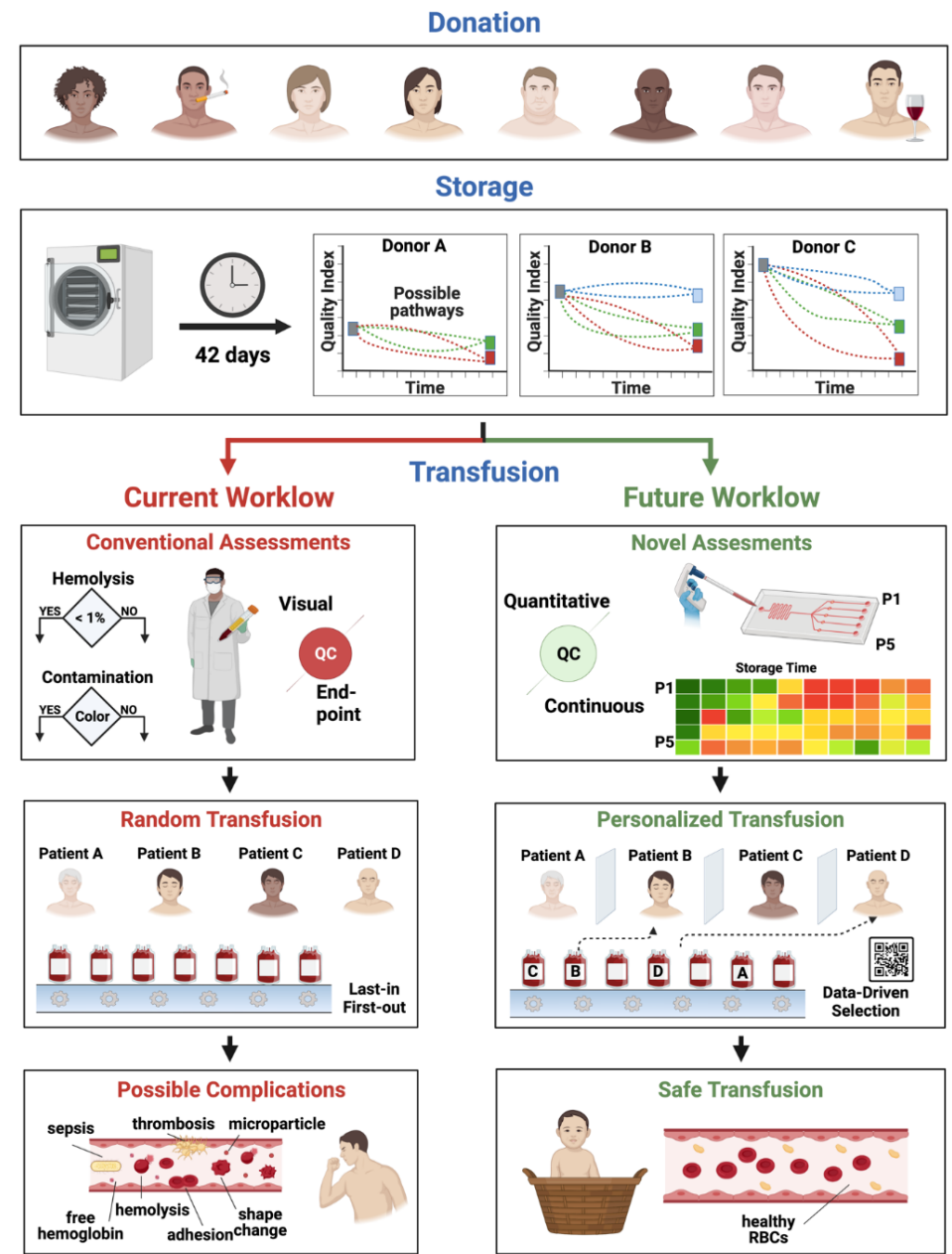
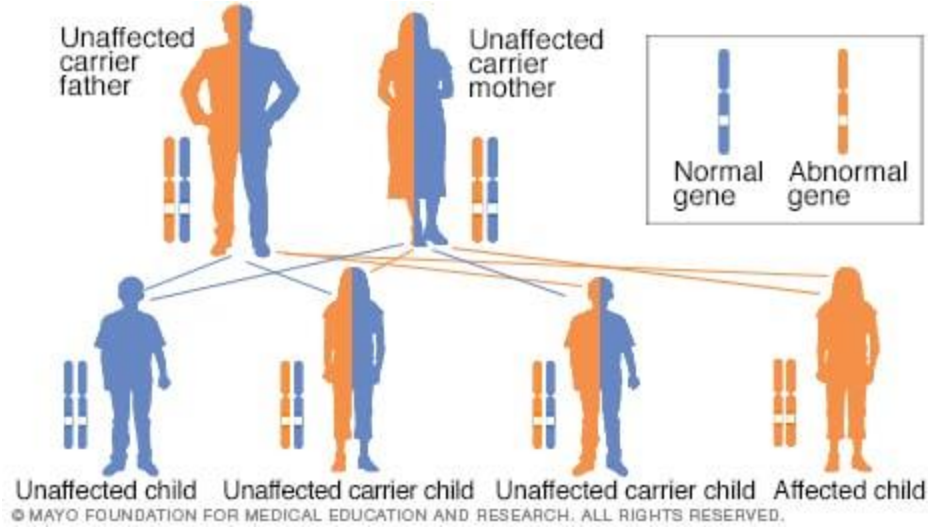
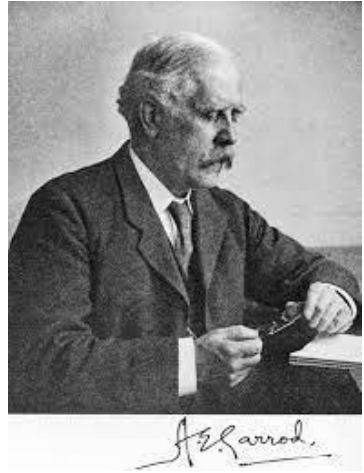


Population

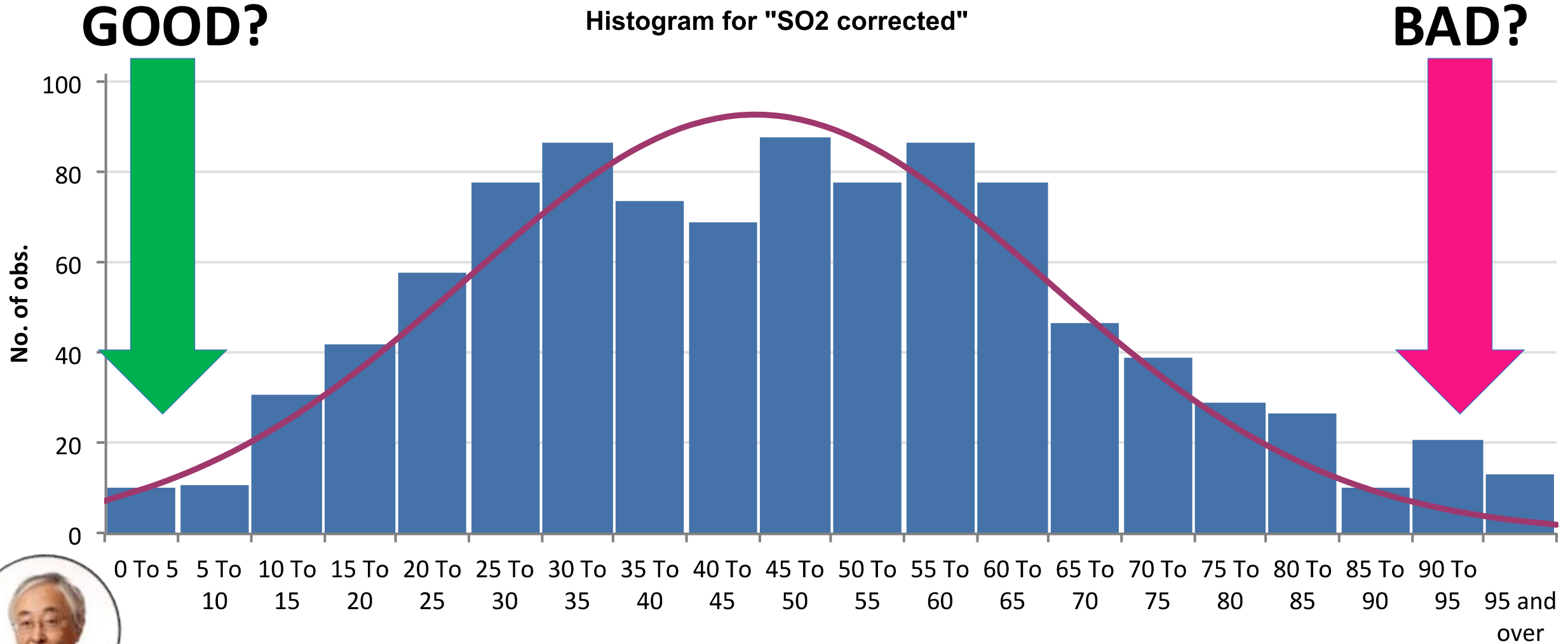
Blood donors



# Chemical Individuality: from Molecular Epidemiology to Precision Transfusion Medicine

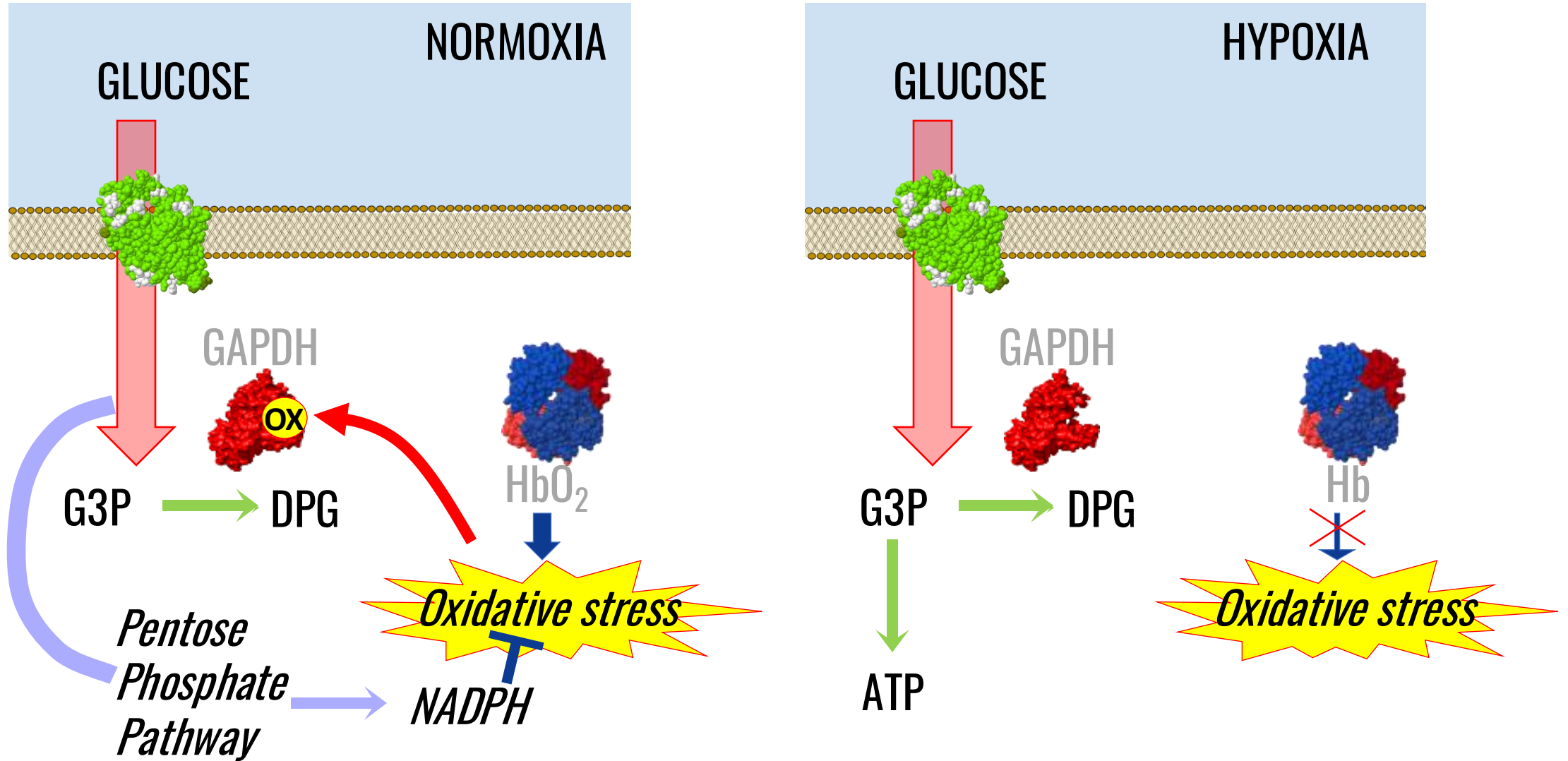


# From energy to redox: stored RBCs are challenged with oxidative stress

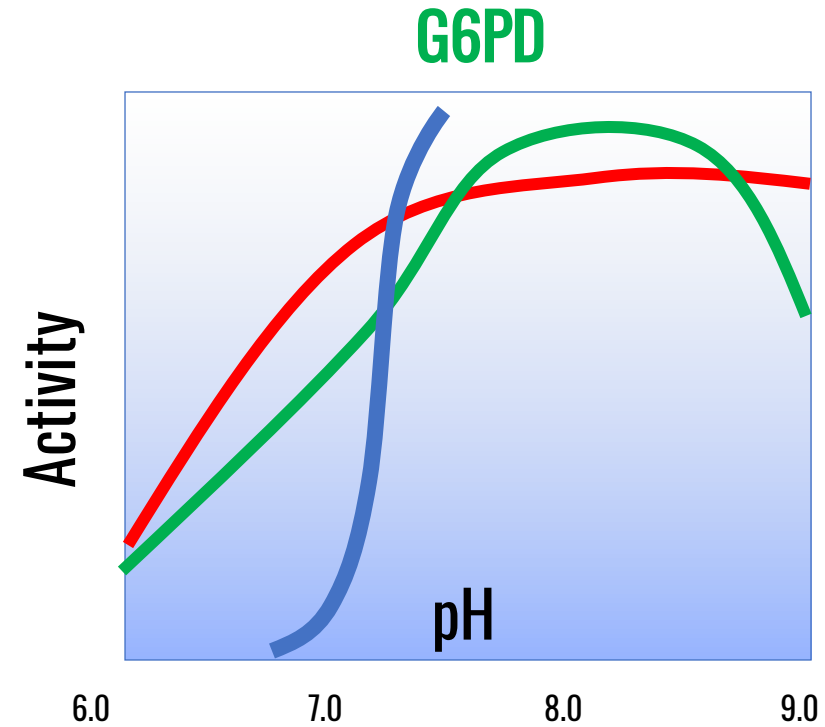
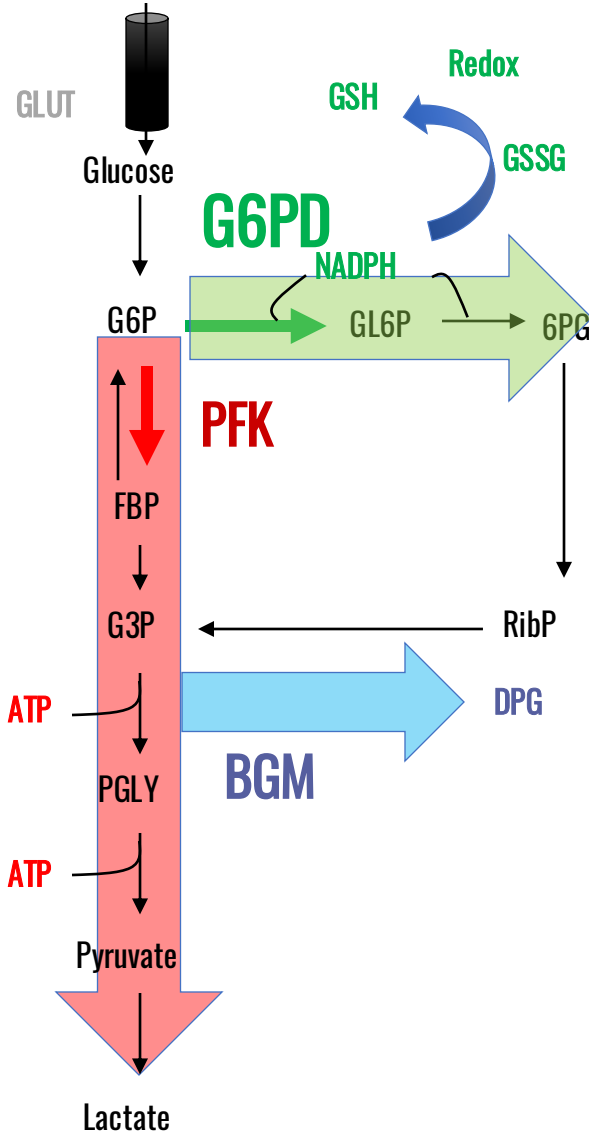


N=997 - Data kindly provided by Dr. Tatsuro Yoshida, *New Health Sciences inc*

# Hypothesis: anaerobic storage should promote glycolysis by decreasing oxidative stress

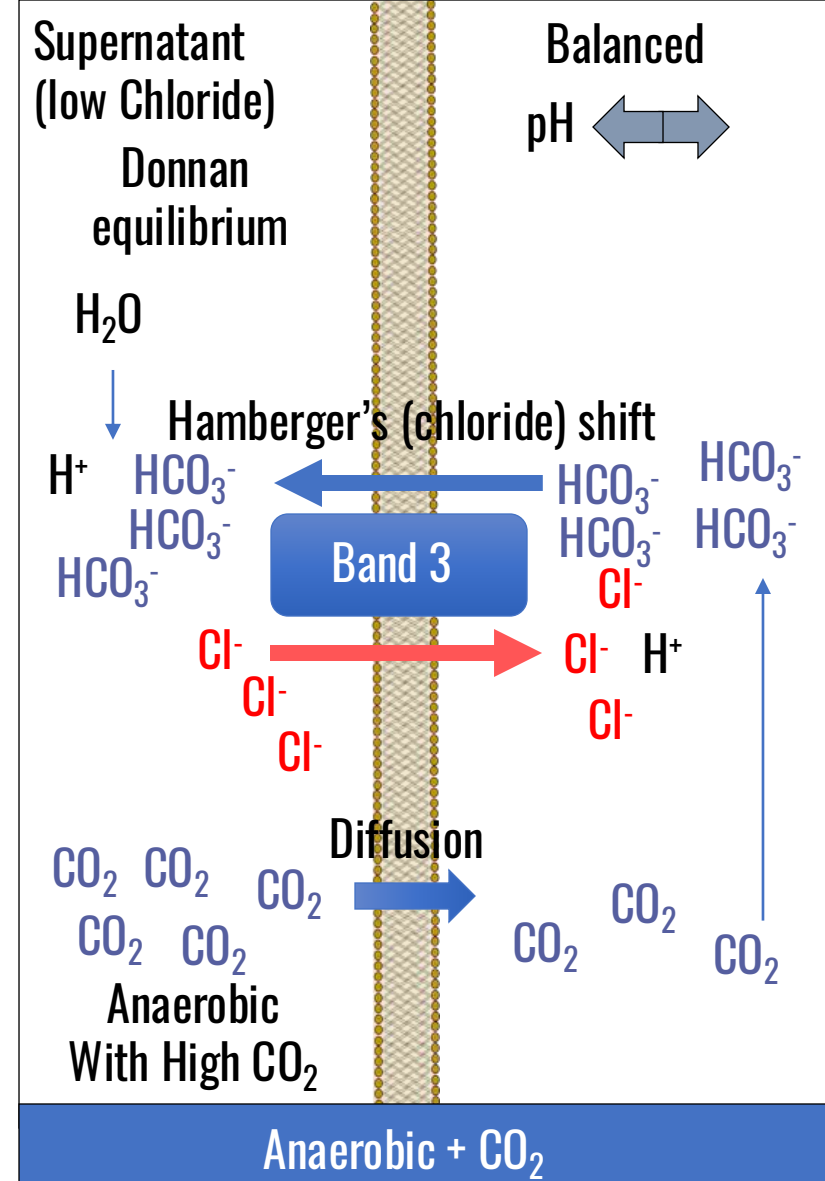
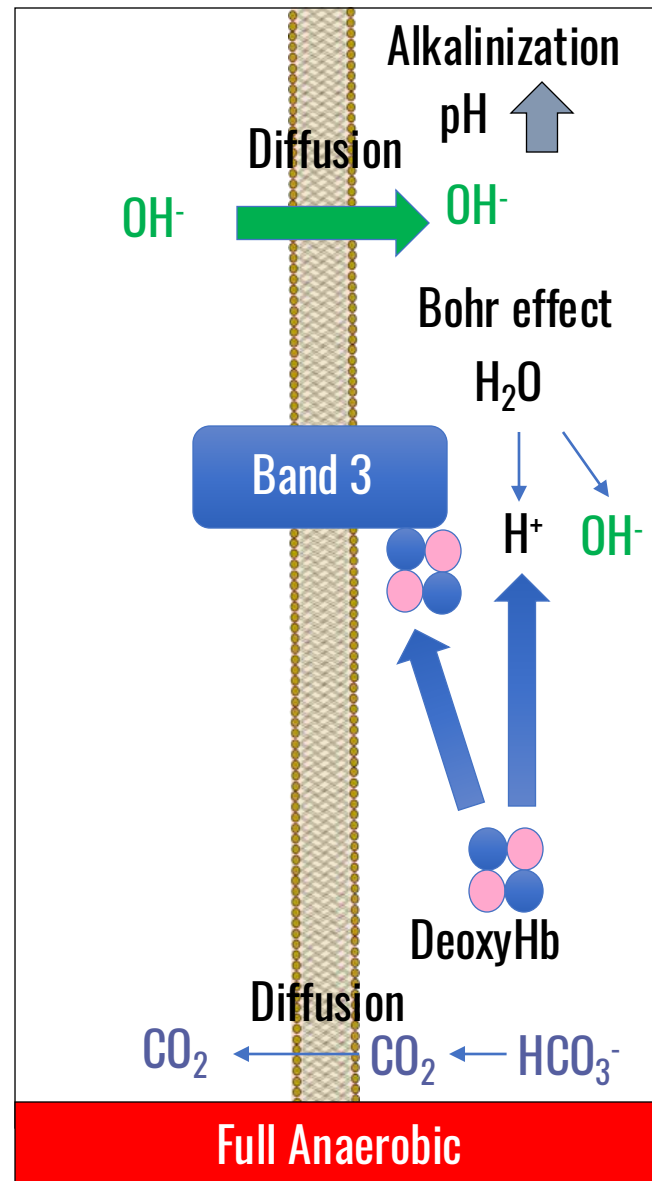
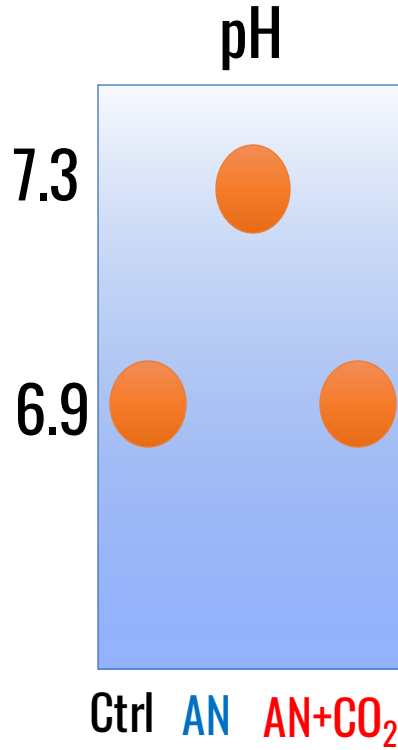


# Biochemical rationale beyond removing O2: intracellular alkalinization favors glycolysis, PPP and Rapoport-Luebering

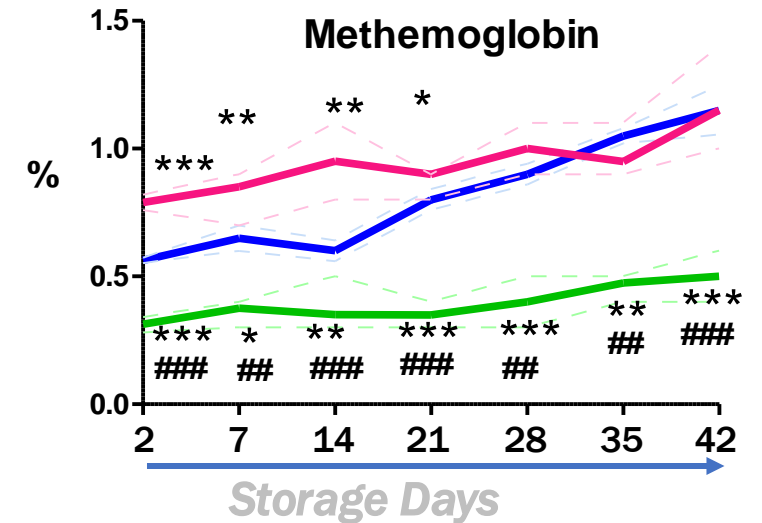
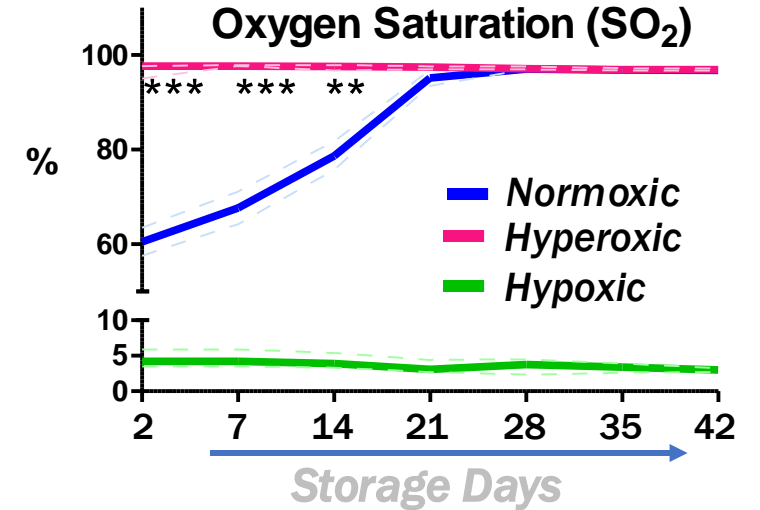
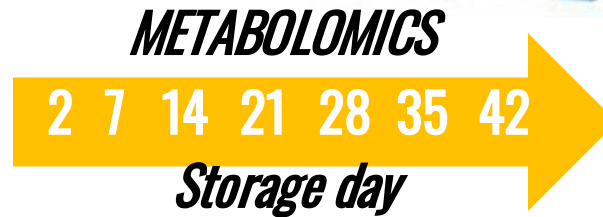
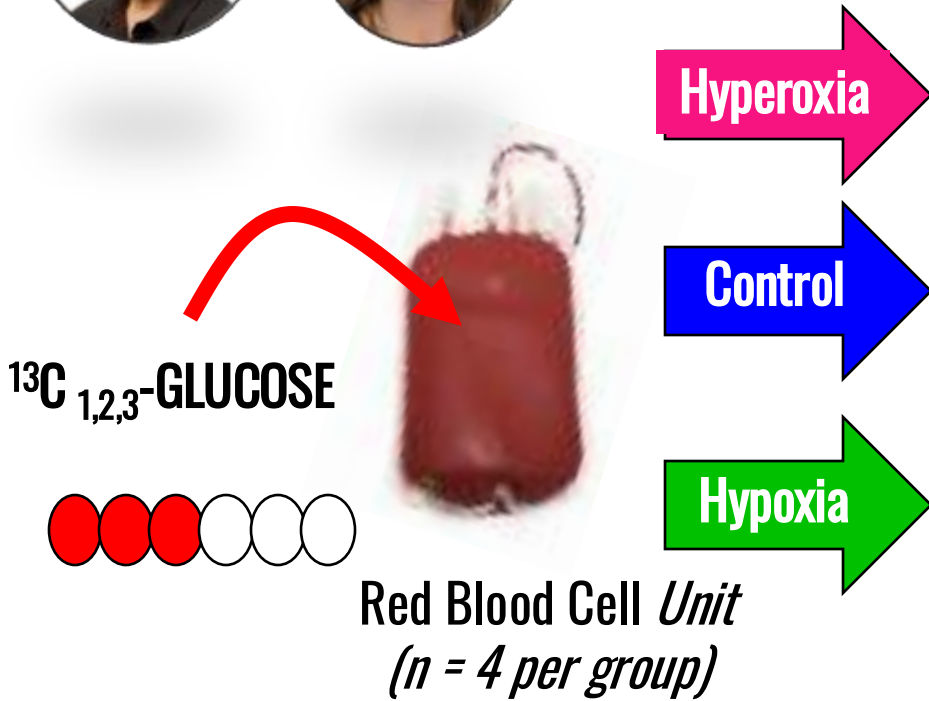


# Anerobic storage: are anaerobiosis benefits pH dependent?

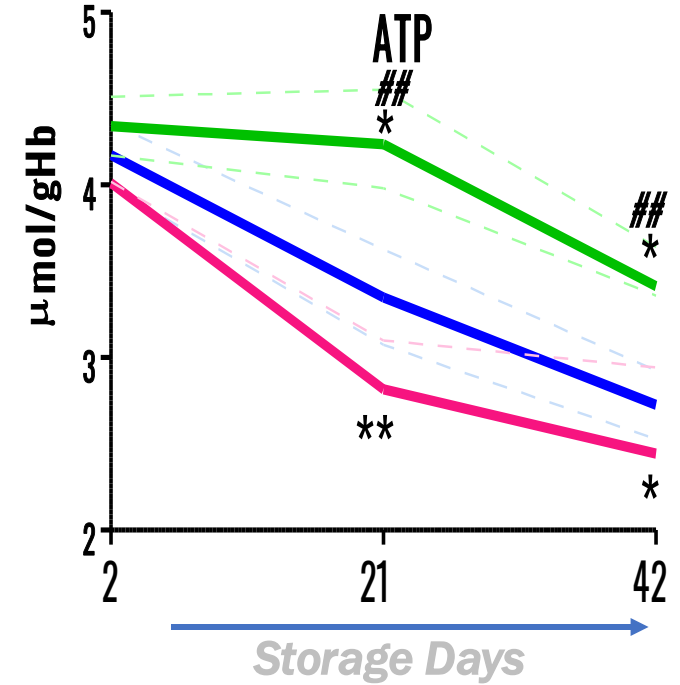
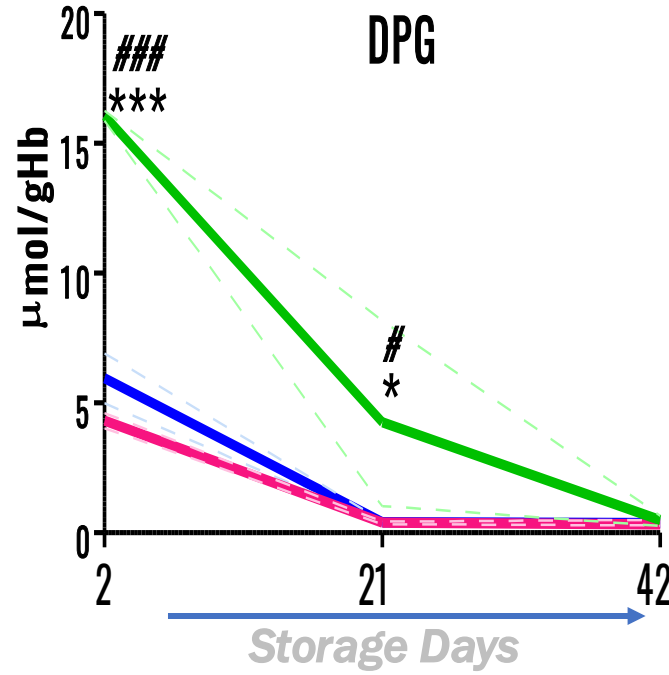
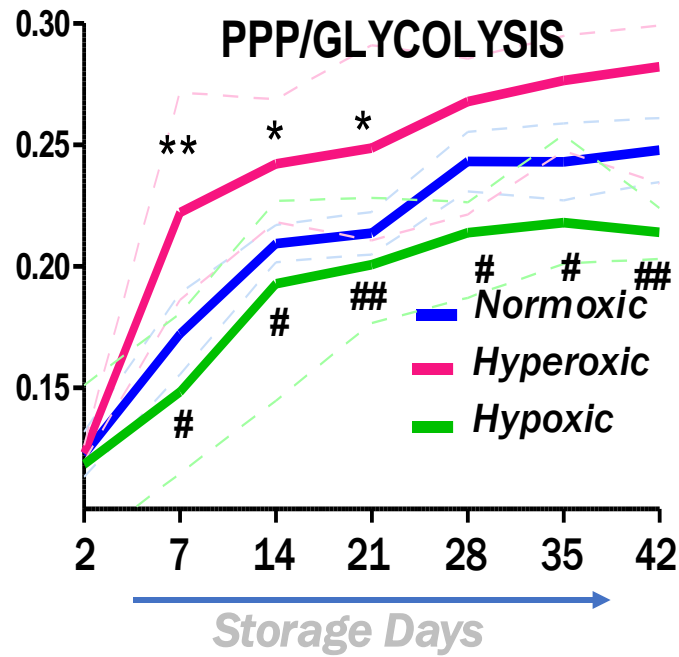
## Anaerobic storage + 5% CO<sub>2</sub>



# RBC storage: Hyperoxia promotes the storage lesion, hypoxia ameliorates it

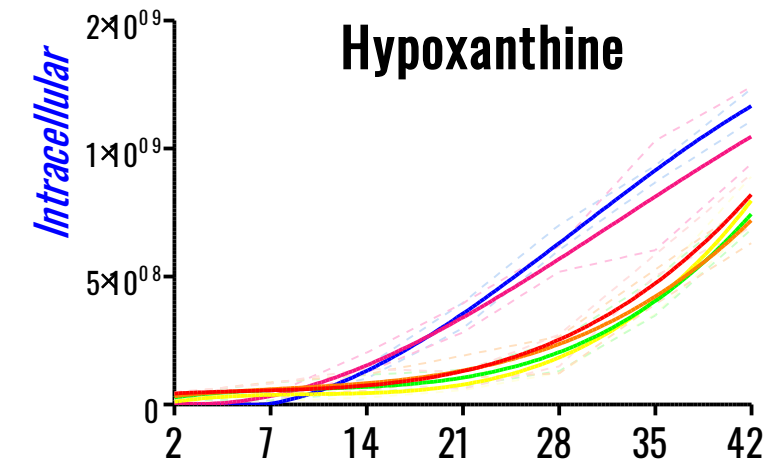
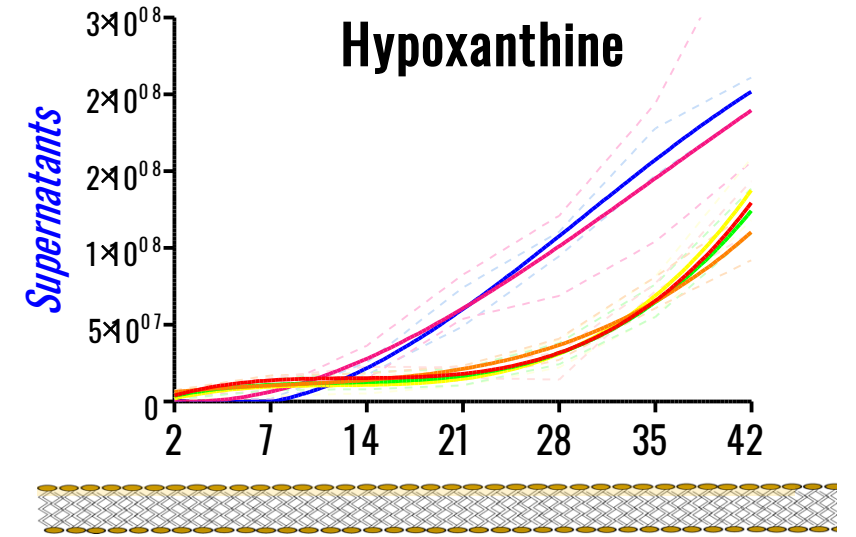
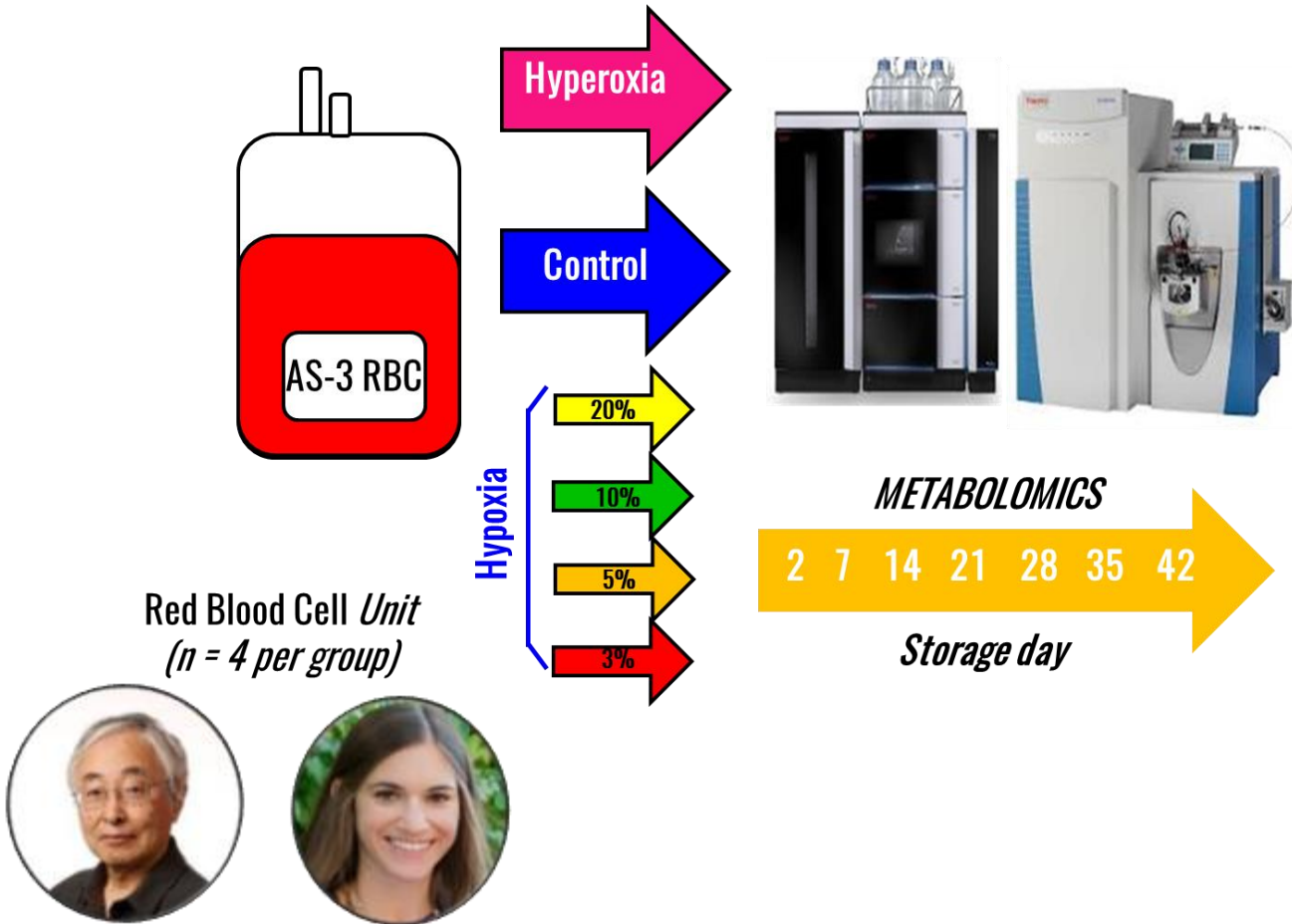


# RBC storage: Hypoxia improves energy metabolism

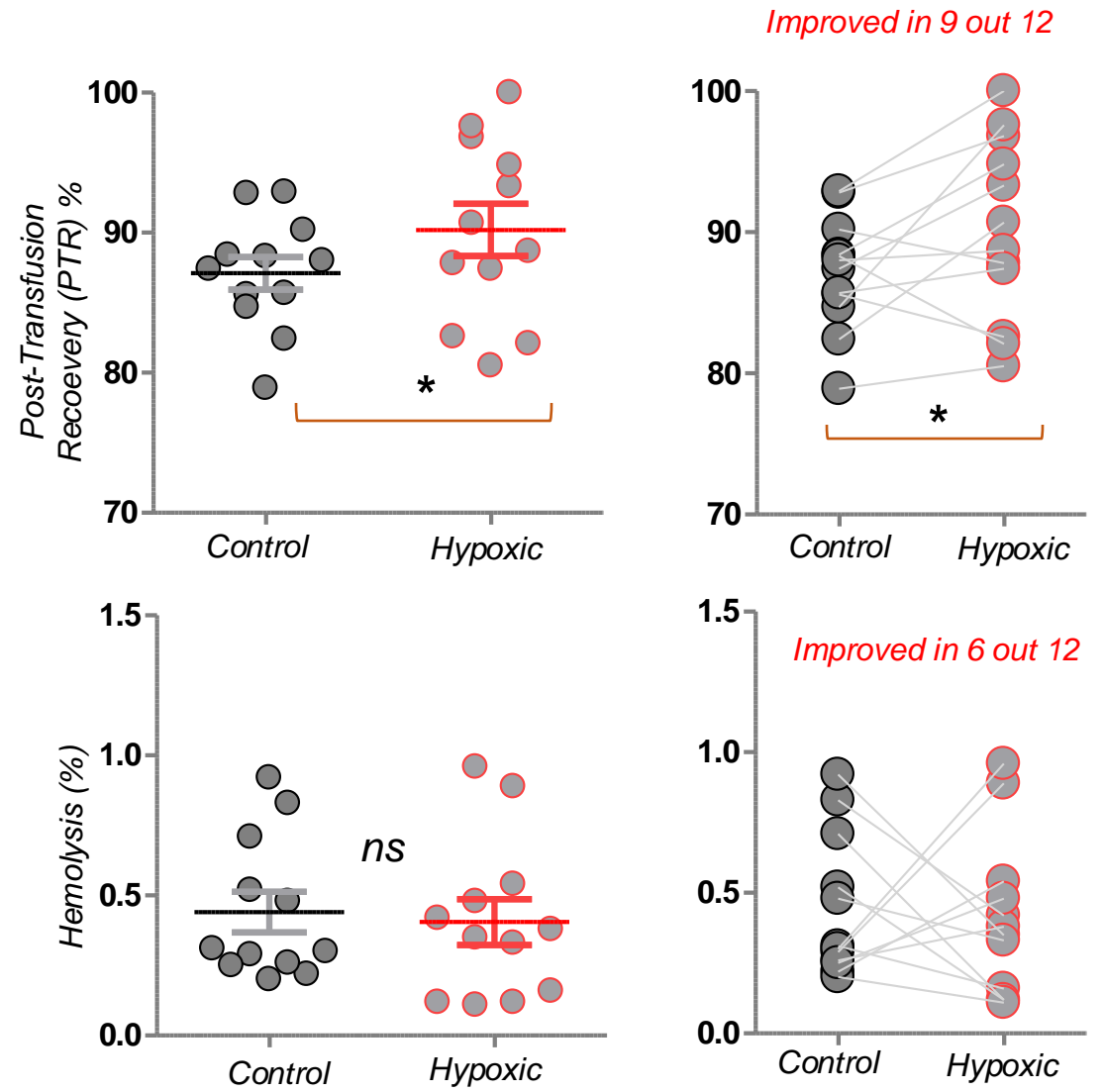
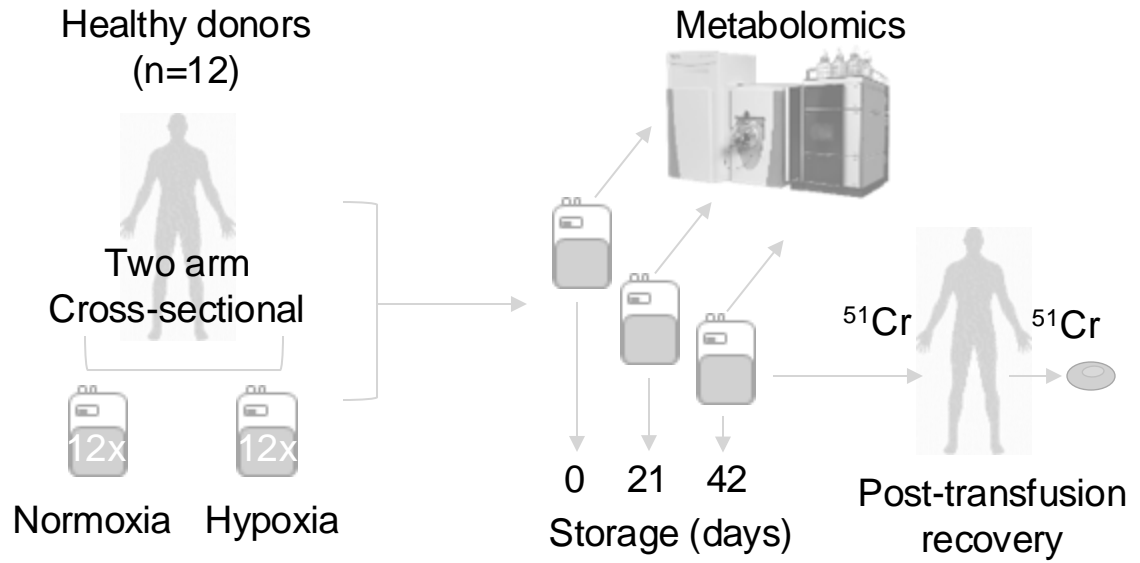




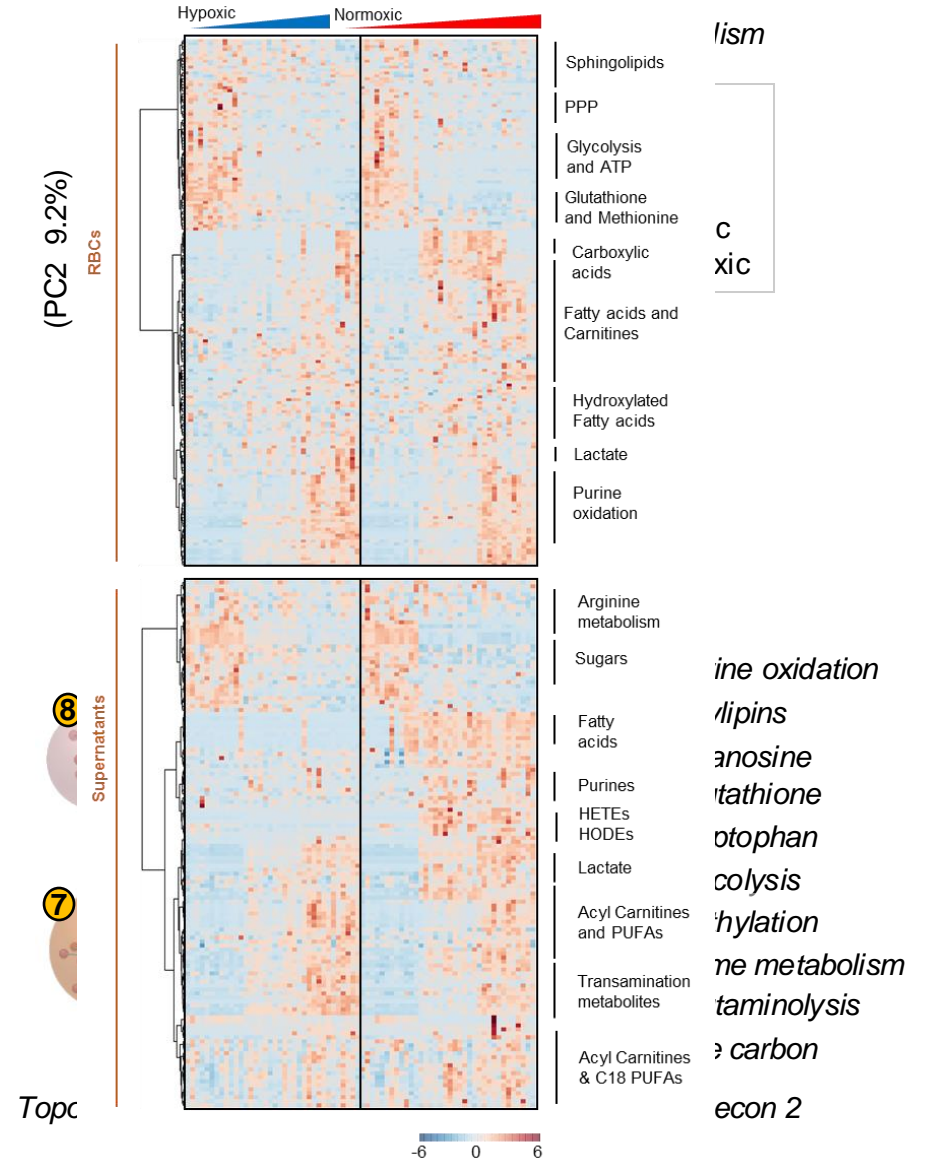
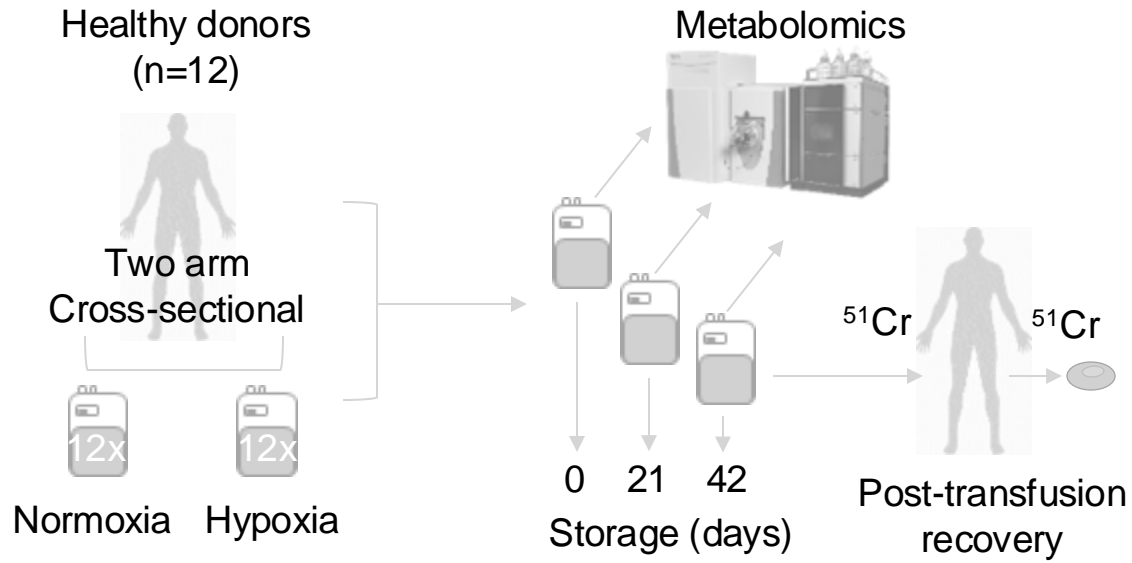
# RBC storage: Hypoxia improves energy metabolism and prevents accumulation of hypoxanthine



# Two-arm cross sectional study: Hypoxia improves PTR



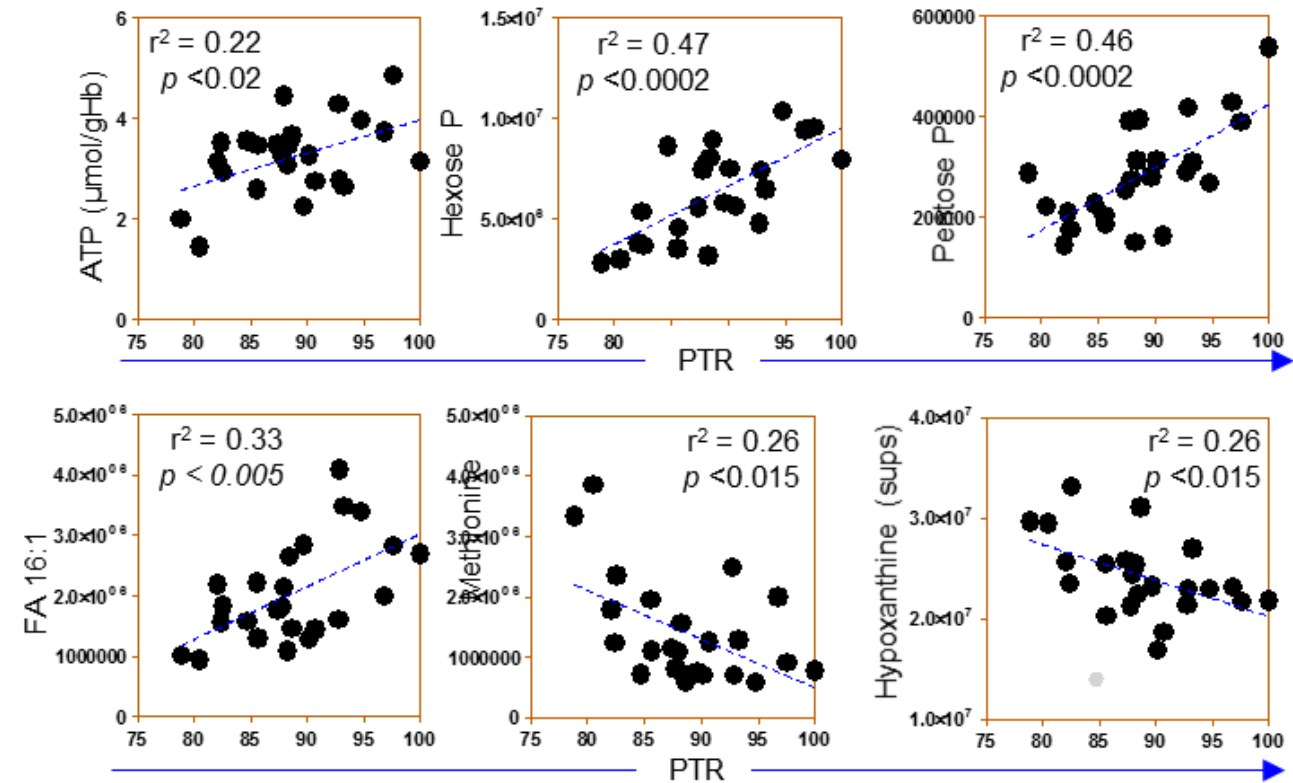
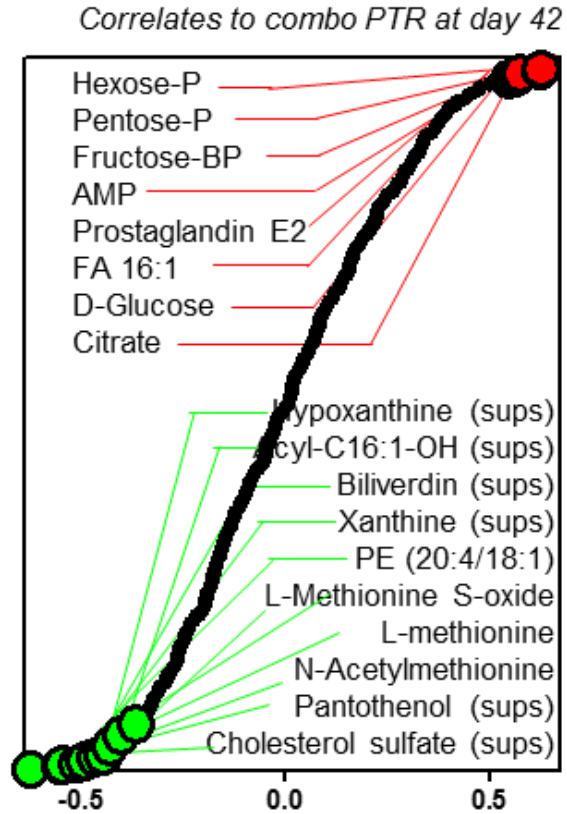
# Hypoxia improves metabolism other than PTR



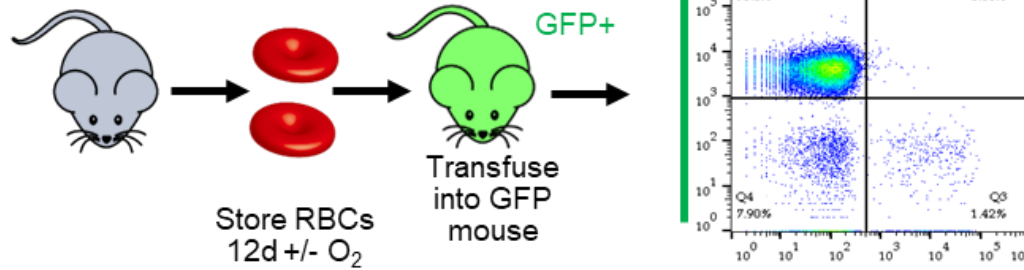
# Metabolic correlates to PTR: Glycolysis and PPP



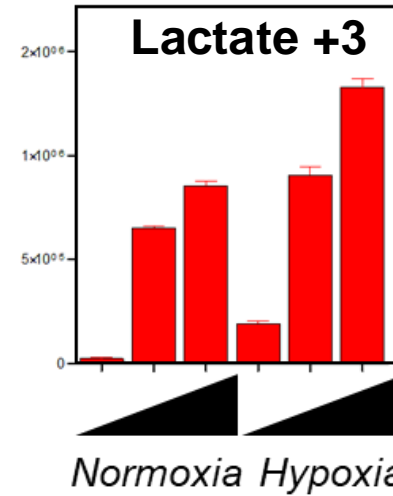
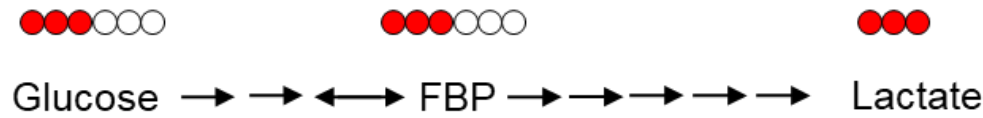
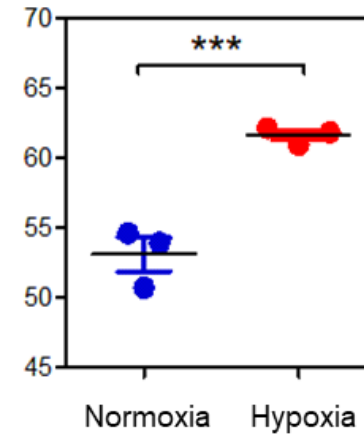
Tatsuro Yoshida, PhD  
Hemanext Inc



# Metabolic and PTR benefits of hypoxic storage are recapitulated in mice



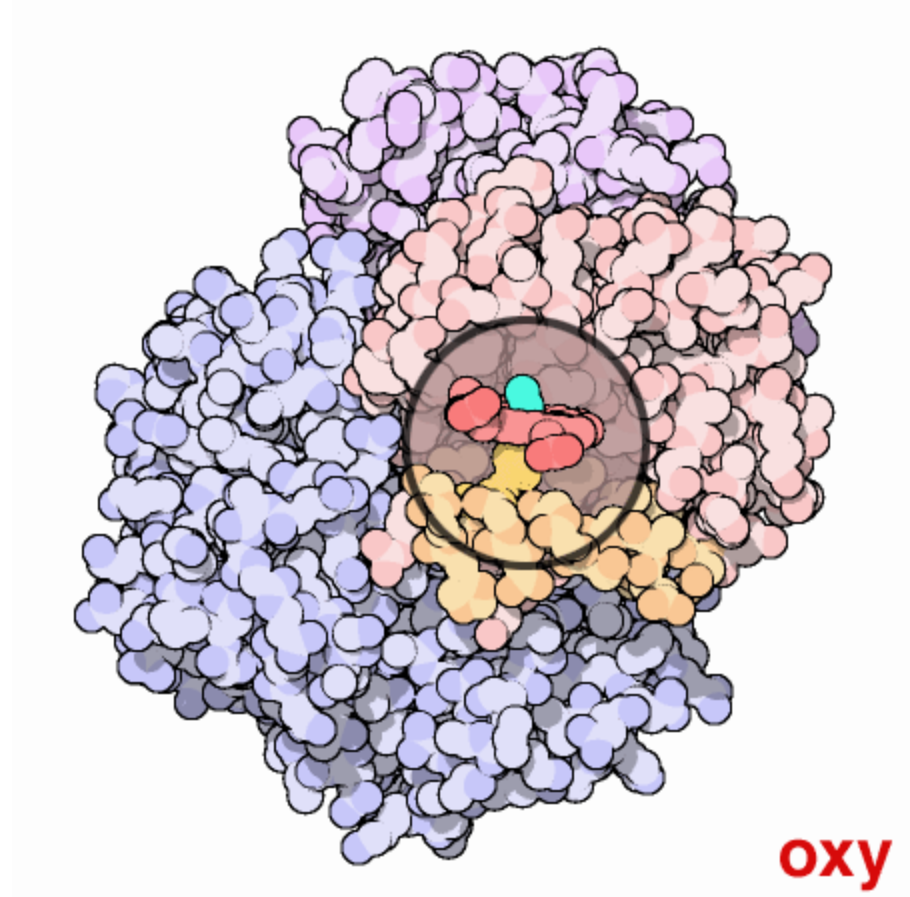
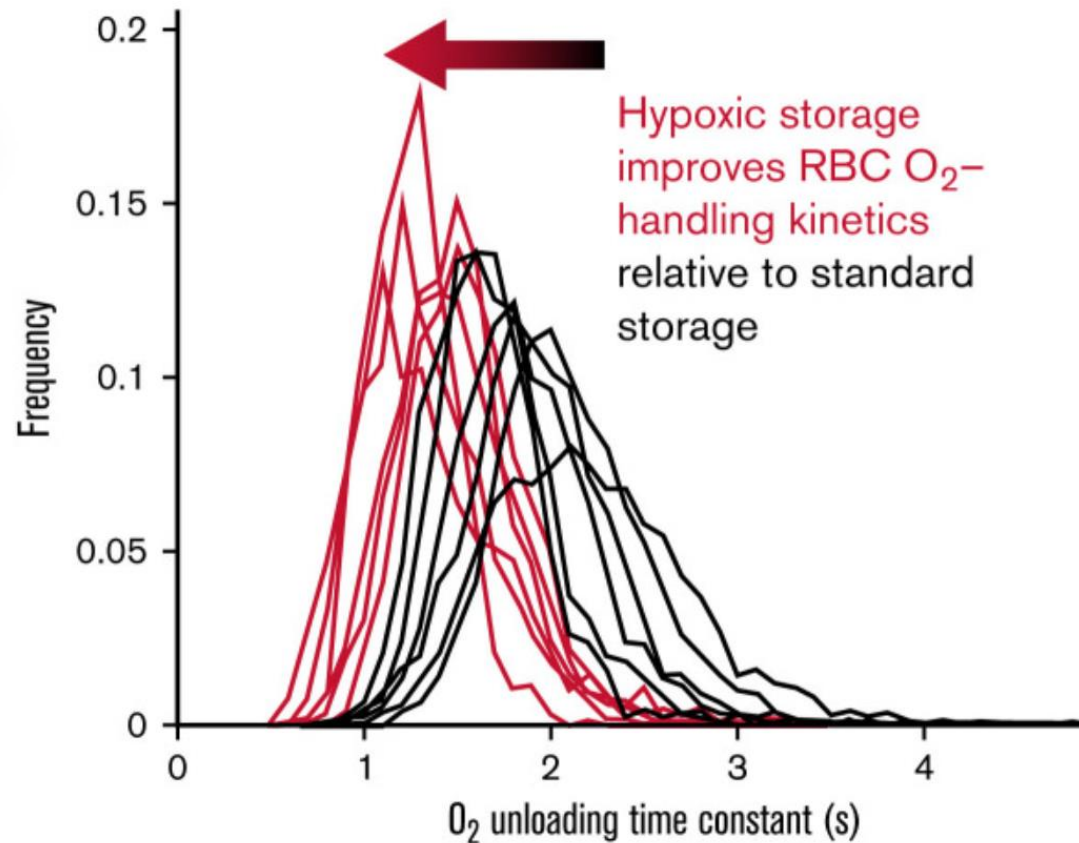
Post Transfusion Recovery (%)



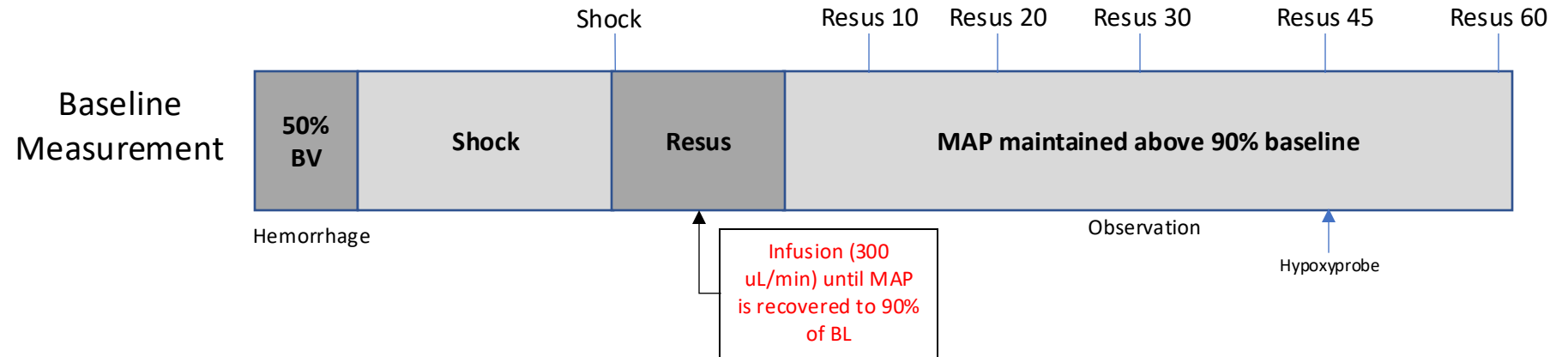
# Hypoxic storage boosts DPG and single cell O<sub>2</sub> kinetics



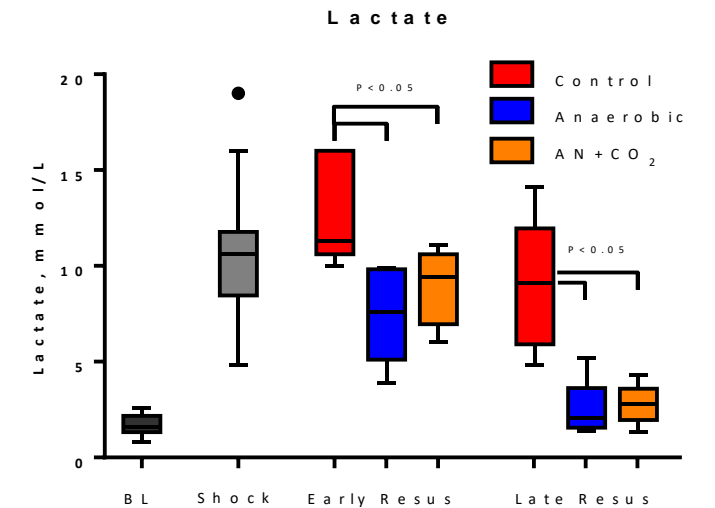
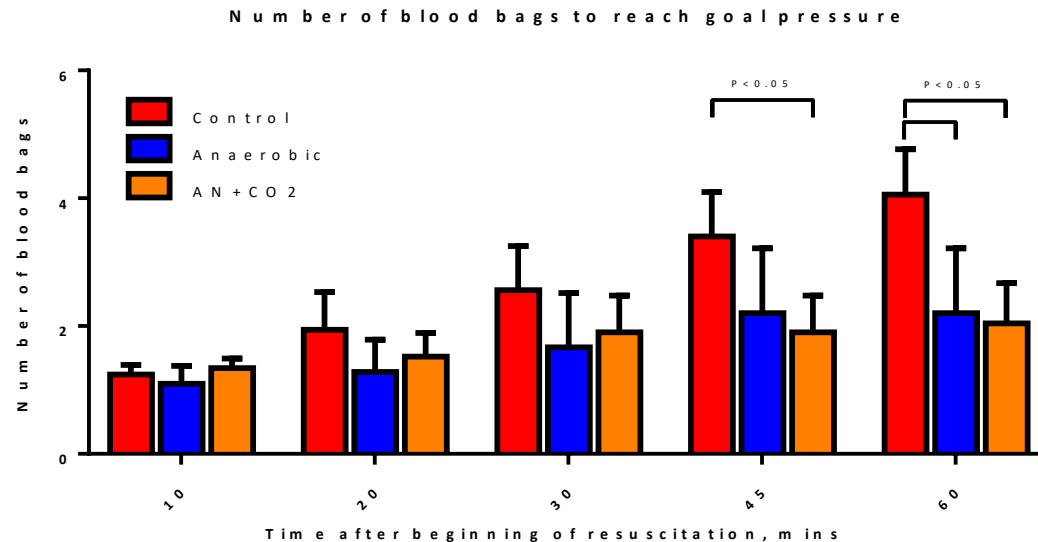
Single-cell O<sub>2</sub> saturation imaging performed after 21 days of **hypoxic** or **standard** storage



# Hypoxic RBCs are superior to ctrl end of storage RBCs in hemorrhaged rats



**Pedro Cabrales, PhD**  
Univ. California San Diego



# Hypoxic Storage of RBCs

PTR studies  
in humans



Hypoxia and RBC  
energy/redox metabolism



Metabolism in  
hypoxia/hypocapnia



Single Cell O<sub>2</sub>  
kinetics



Resuscitation in  
T/HS in rats





# Blood storage studies – THANK YOU for your ATTENTION!

## *Funding*

HHSN2682011 -00001/9I  
NHLBI – R01HL126130  
NHLBI – R01 HL146442  
NHLBI – R01 HL148151  
NHLBI - R01 HL149714  
NHLBI - R01 HL161004  
NHLBI - R21 HL150032  
NIGMS - RM1 GM131968  
NIGMS - F32GM124599  
NIGMS - R01GM067945  
NCI - R35CA209896  
NIDDK - R01DK136945  
BARDA - 75A50123C00047

ATP Hypoxanthine



G6PD status



Kynurenine

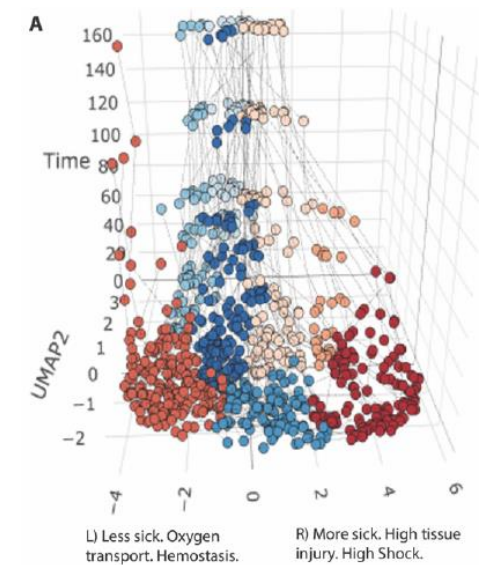
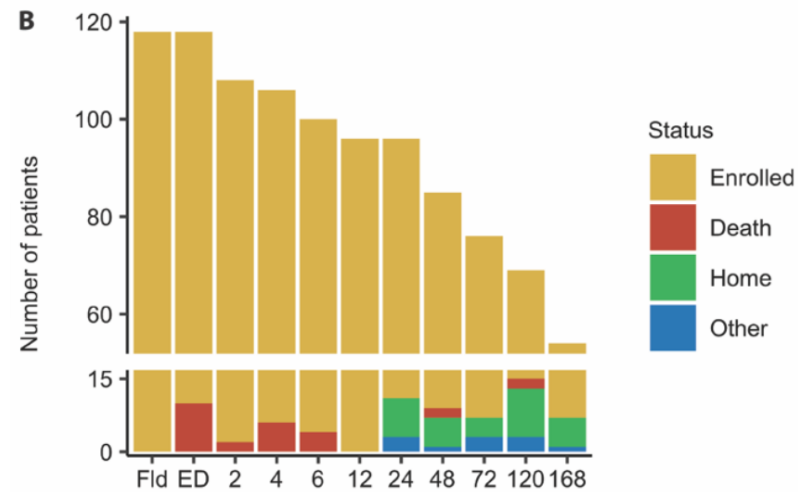
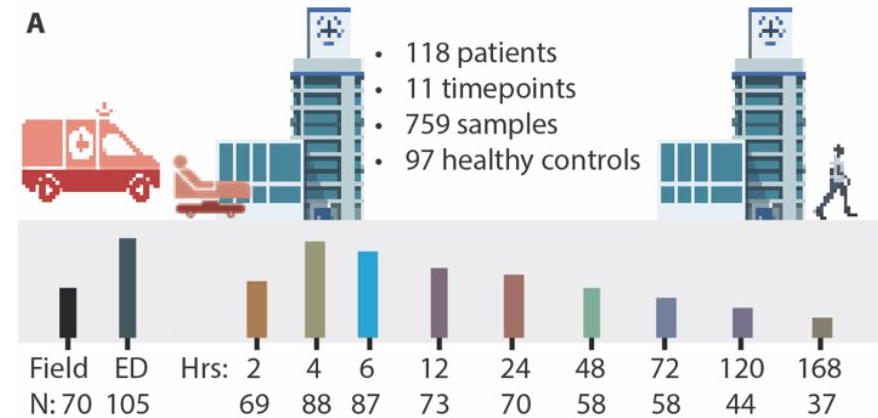


Carnitine



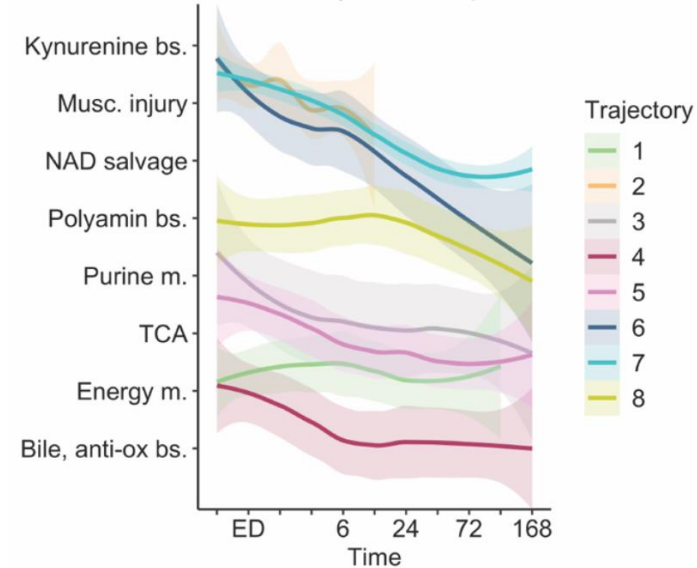
D'Alessandro et al. Transfusion 2021; Reisz et al. Blood 2016; Reisz et al. Transfusion 2017; D'Alessandro et al. Mol Biosystems 2012; Dumont et al. Transfusion 2019;  
D'Alessandro et al. Haematologica 2022; Nemkov et al. Cell Metabolism 2024; Nemkov et al. Blood 2024a and 2024b

# Metabolic changes in Trauma/Hemorrhagic shock in humans: COMBAT



- C**
- 26 standard clinical assays
  - > 50 measurements of coagulation
  - 1012 proteins measured by DIA proteomics
  - 472 metabolites by untargeted metabolomics

Omics-based patient trajectories



Cohen, Erickson et al. *BiorXiv*

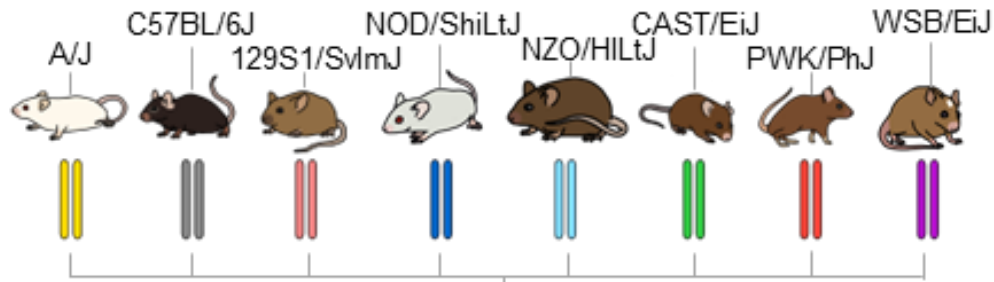


**EXTRA SLIDES**

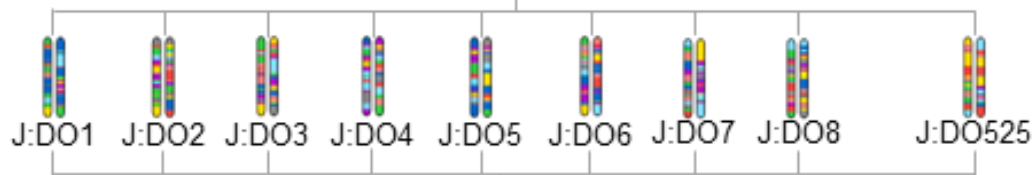
# Genetic regulation of (fresh and stored) RBC energy metabolism in mice



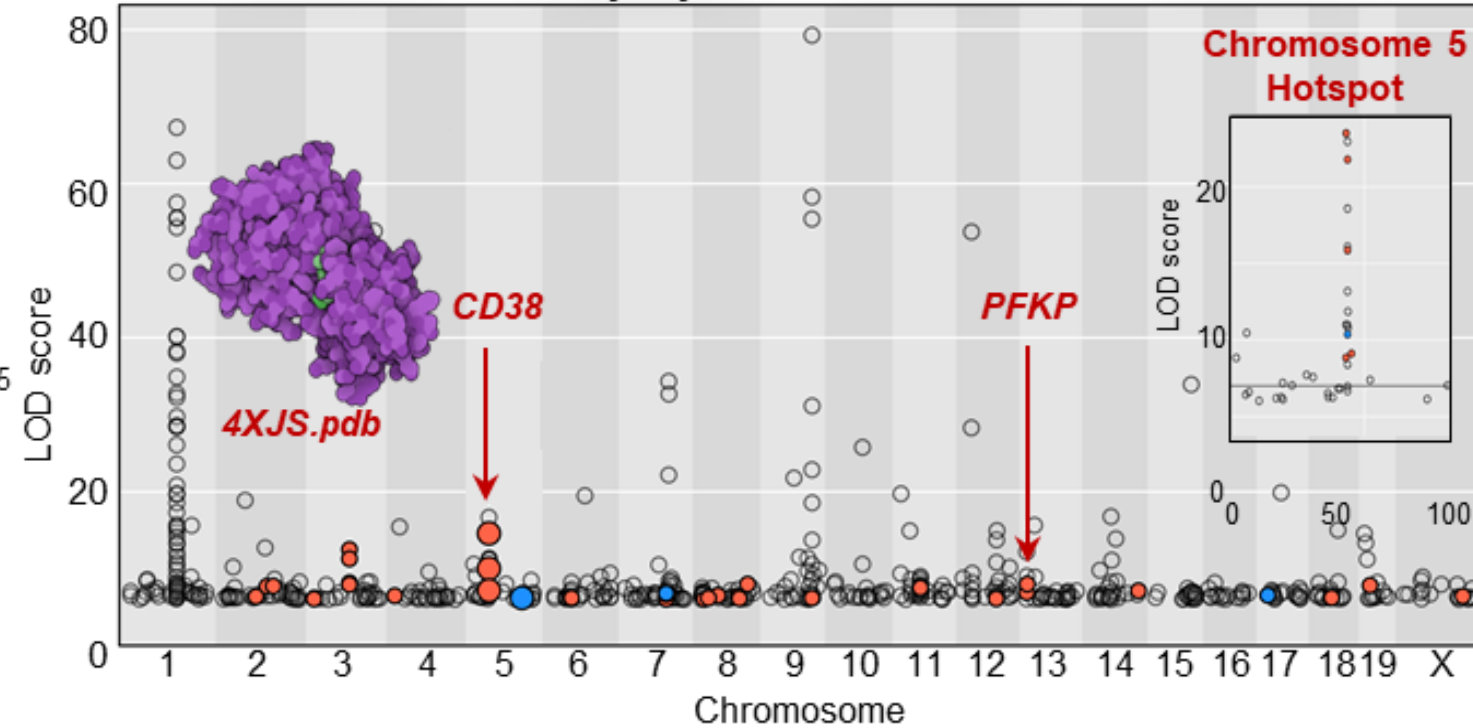
## Eight genetically diverse founder strains



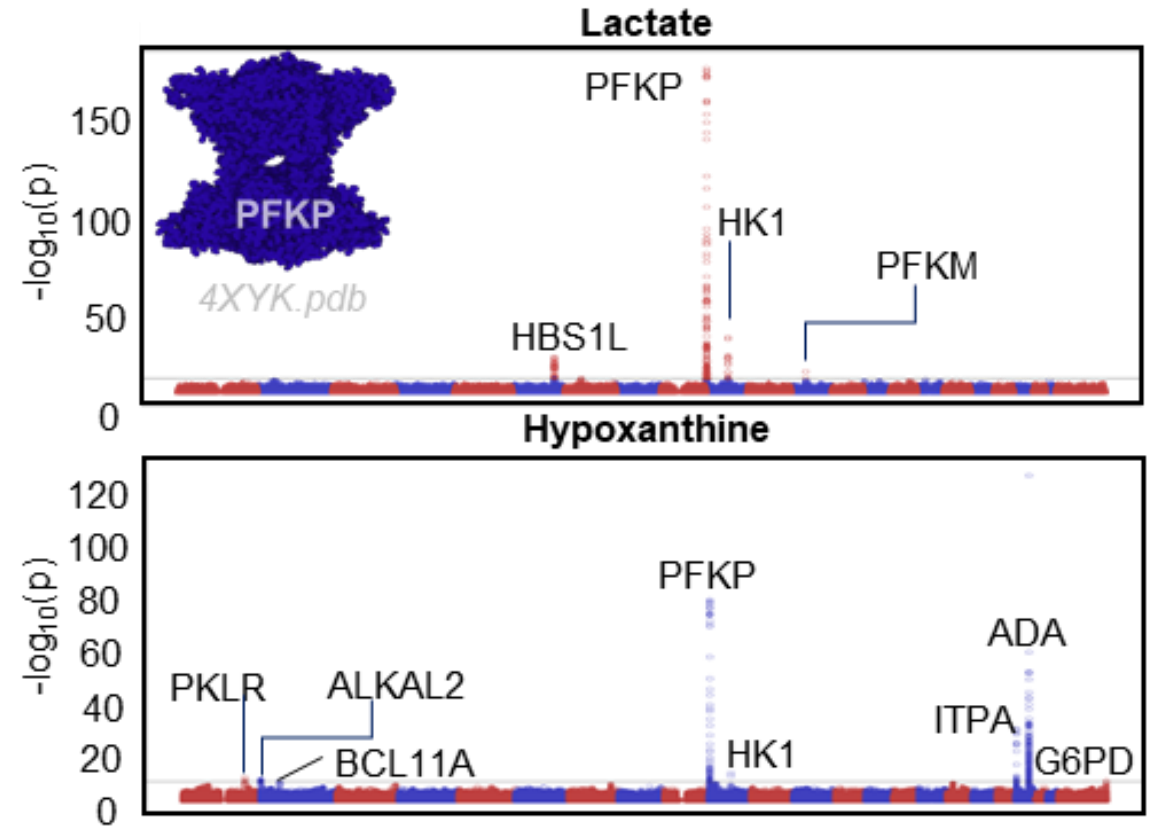
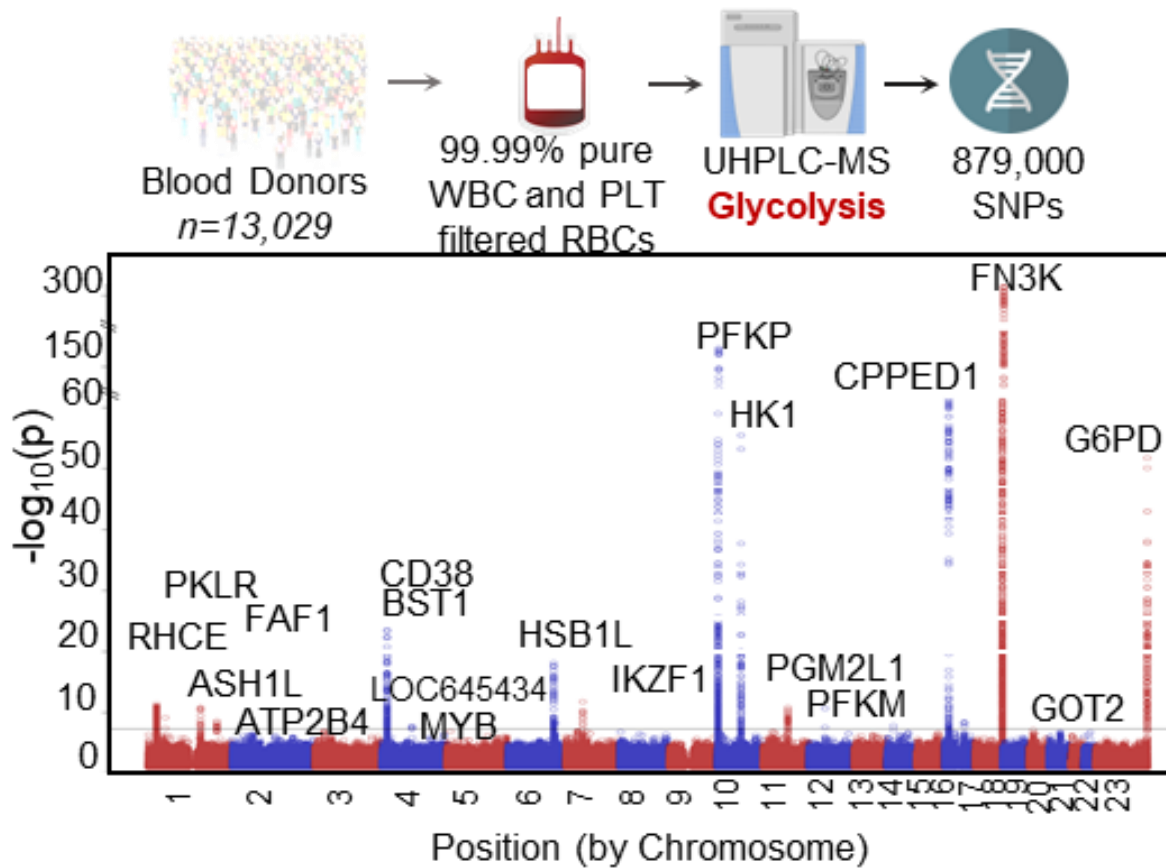
The Jackson Laboratory Diversity Outbred (J:DO) Population (n=525)



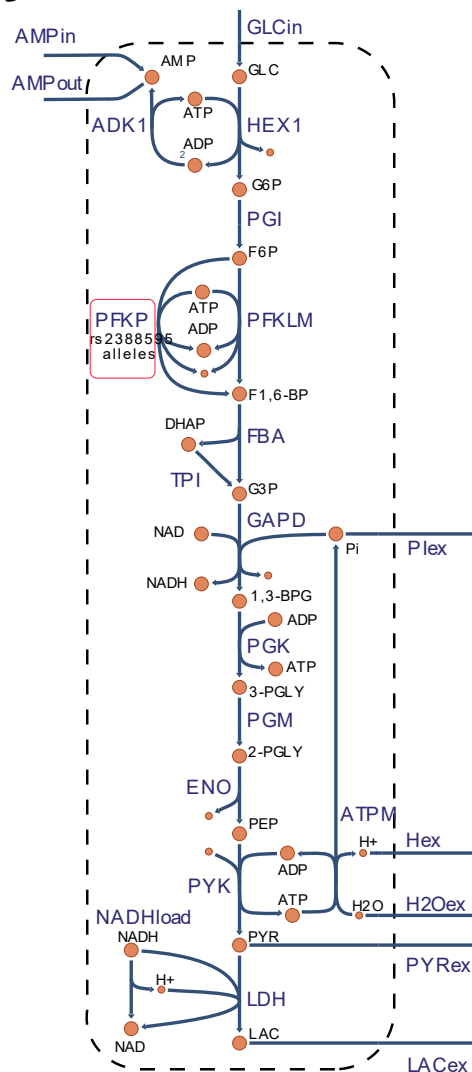
## Glycolysis in Stored RBCs



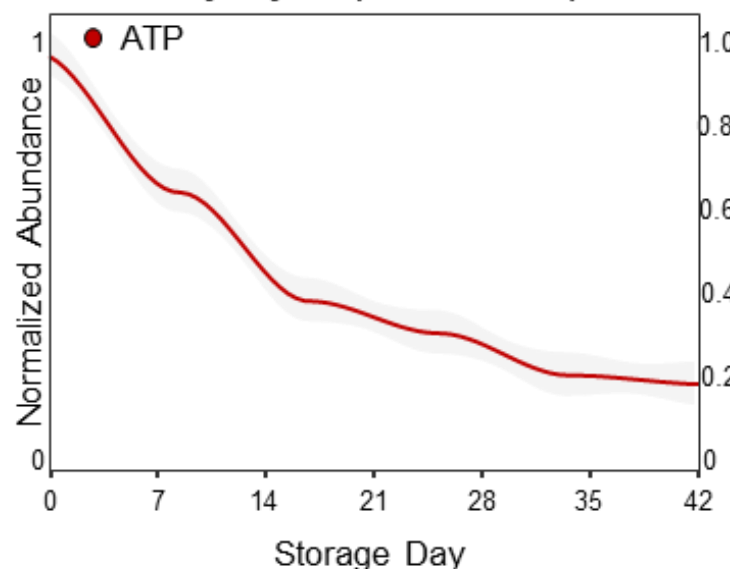
# Genetic regulation of (stored) RBC energy metabolism in humans



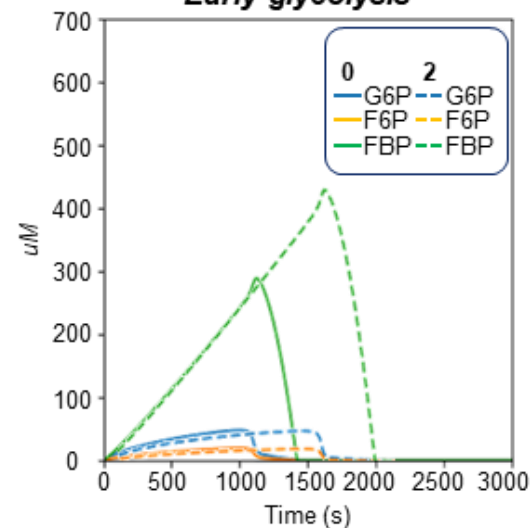
# PFKP is less inhibited by ATP and its $K_m$ / substrate specificity promote glycolysis when ATP is low



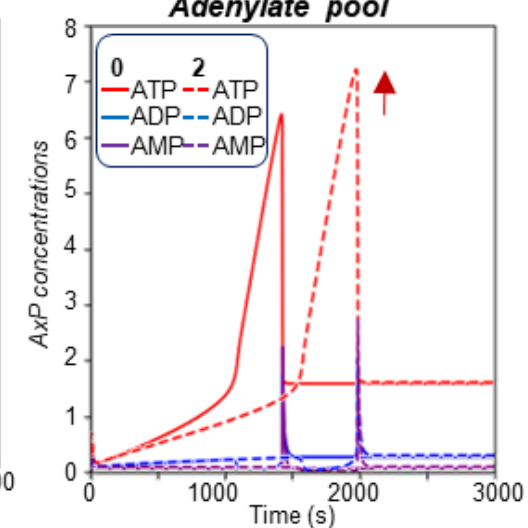
Glycolysis (Time Course)



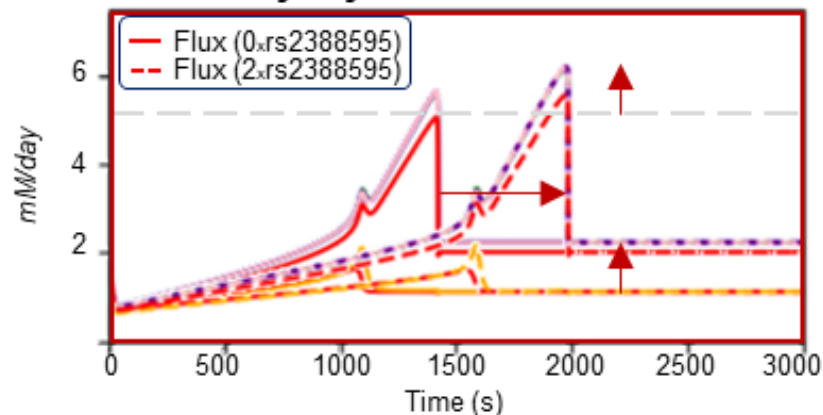
Early glycolysis



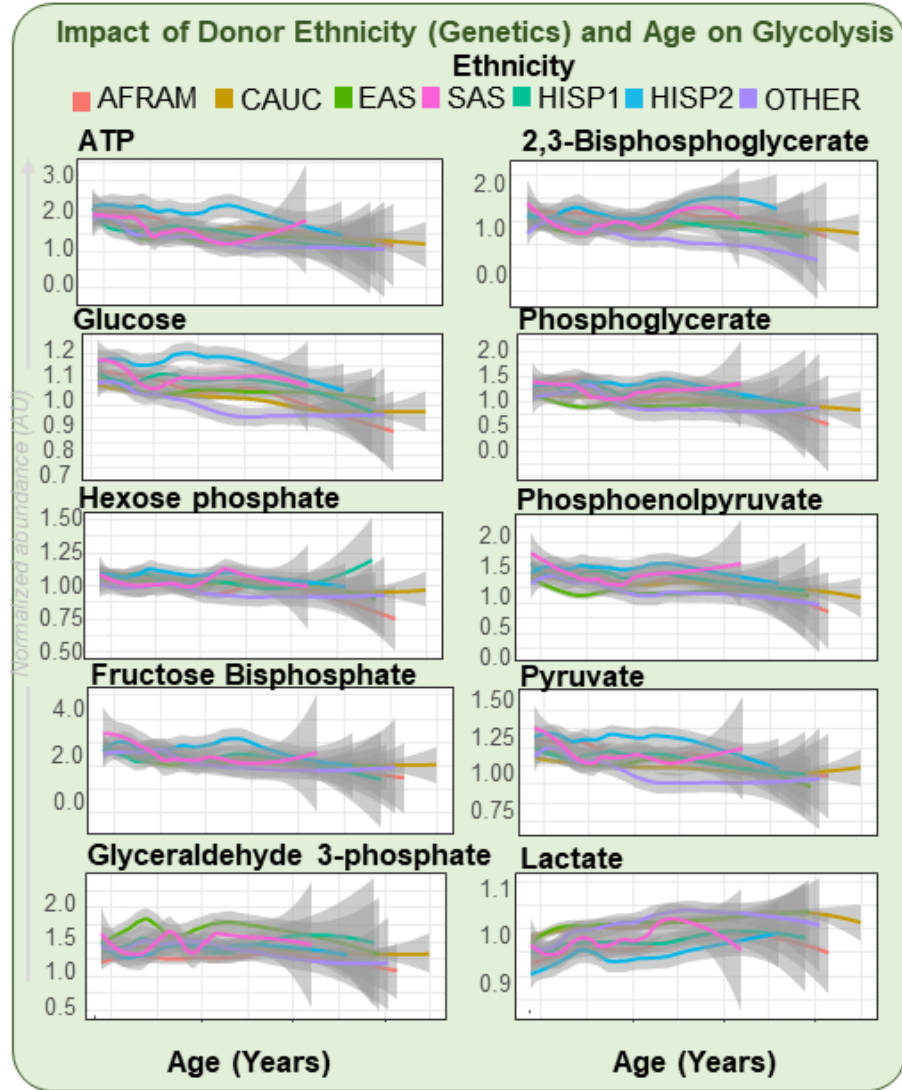
Adenylate pool



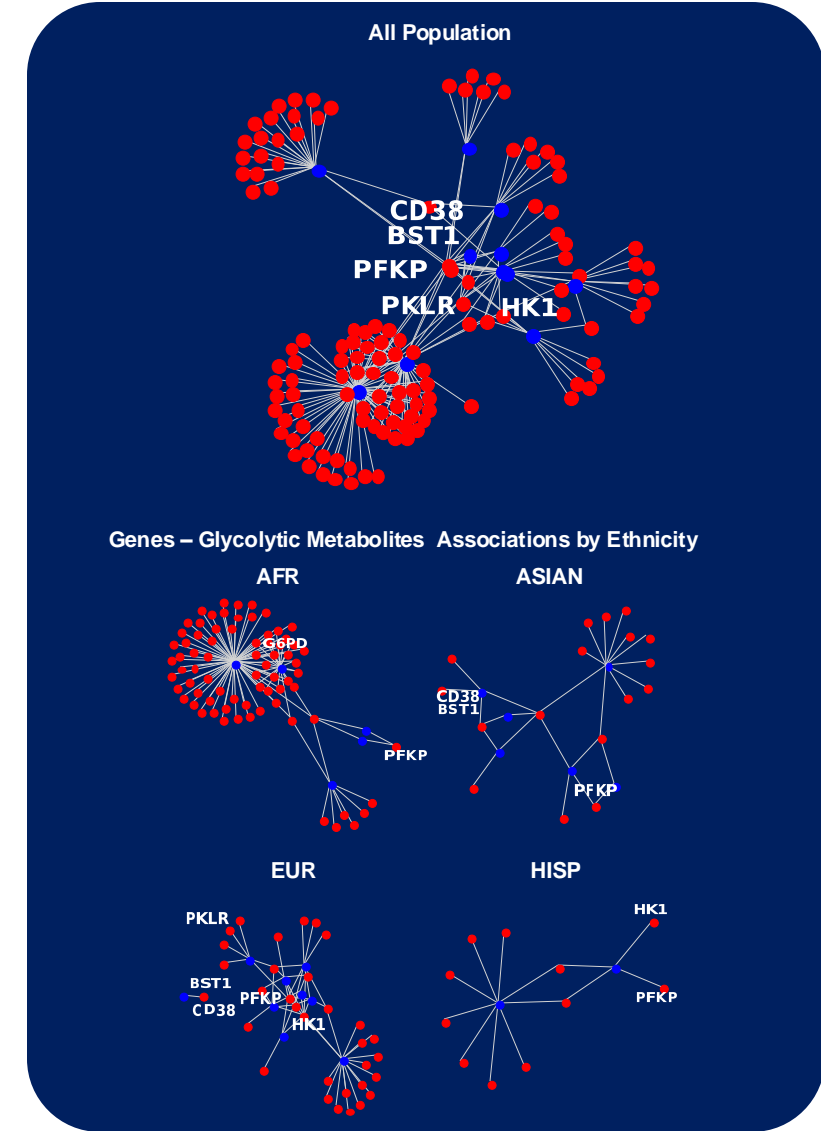
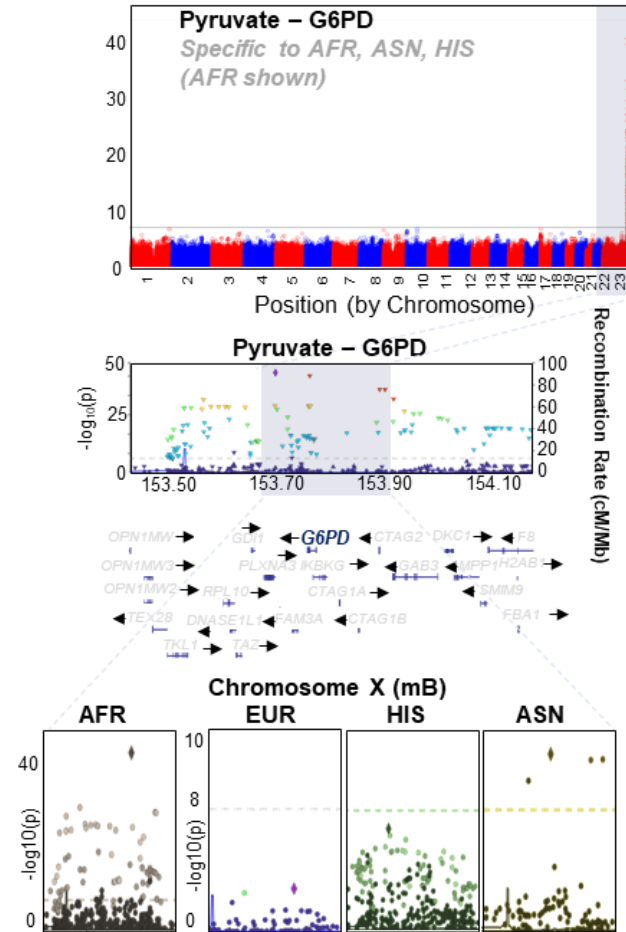
Glycolytic Flux Simulation



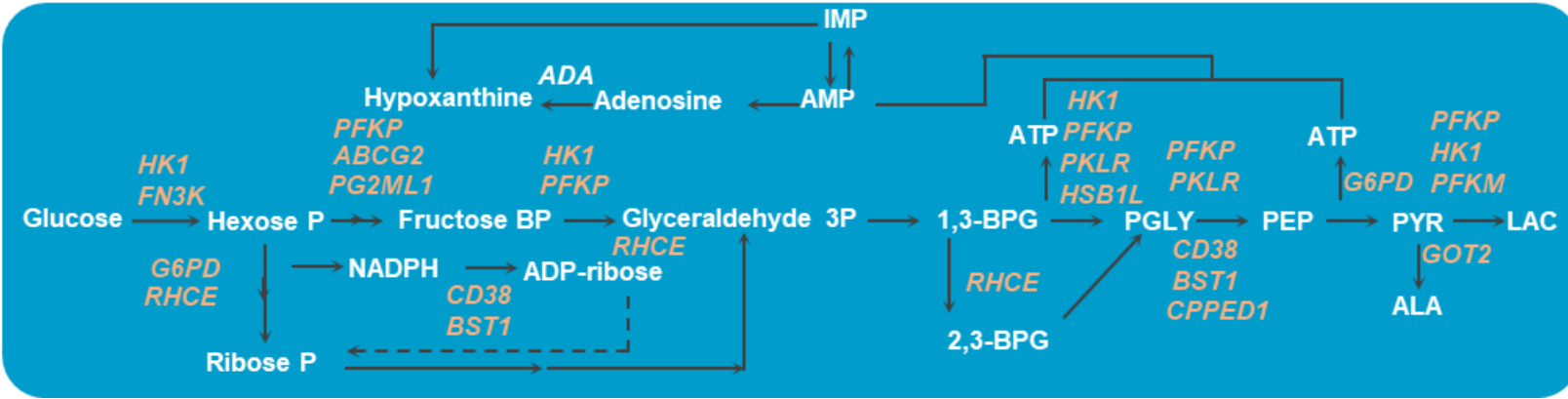
# Impact of genetic ancestry on gene-metabolite association



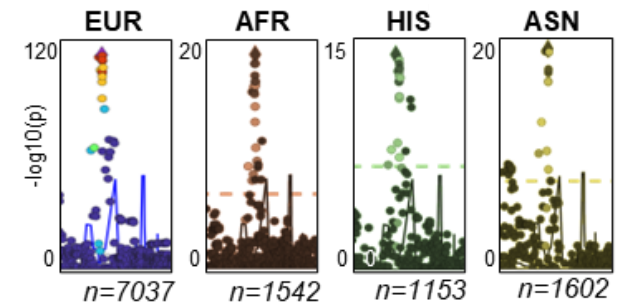
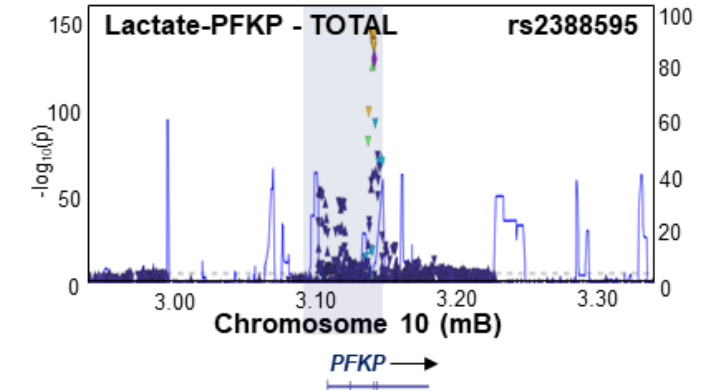
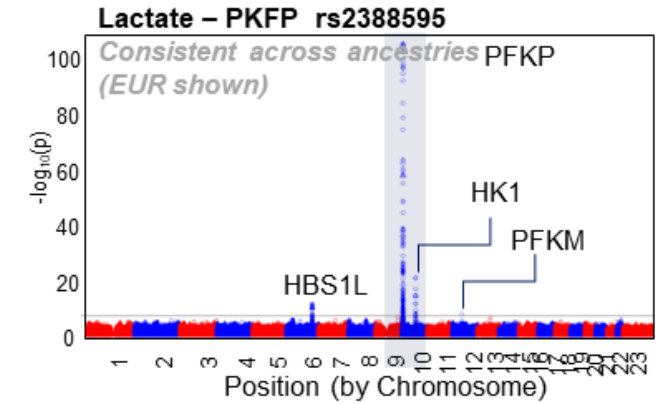
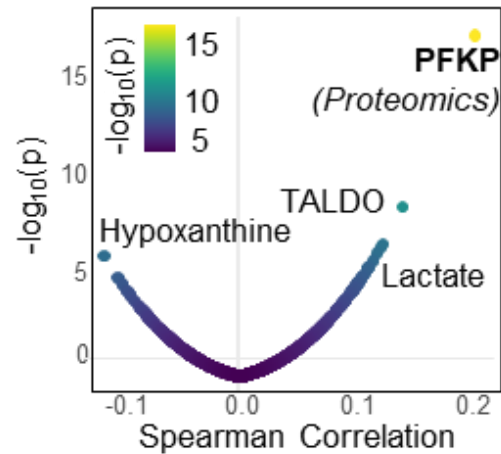
## G6PD-pyruvate and donor African ancestry



# Pathway overview – Focus on PFKP – consistent across ancestries

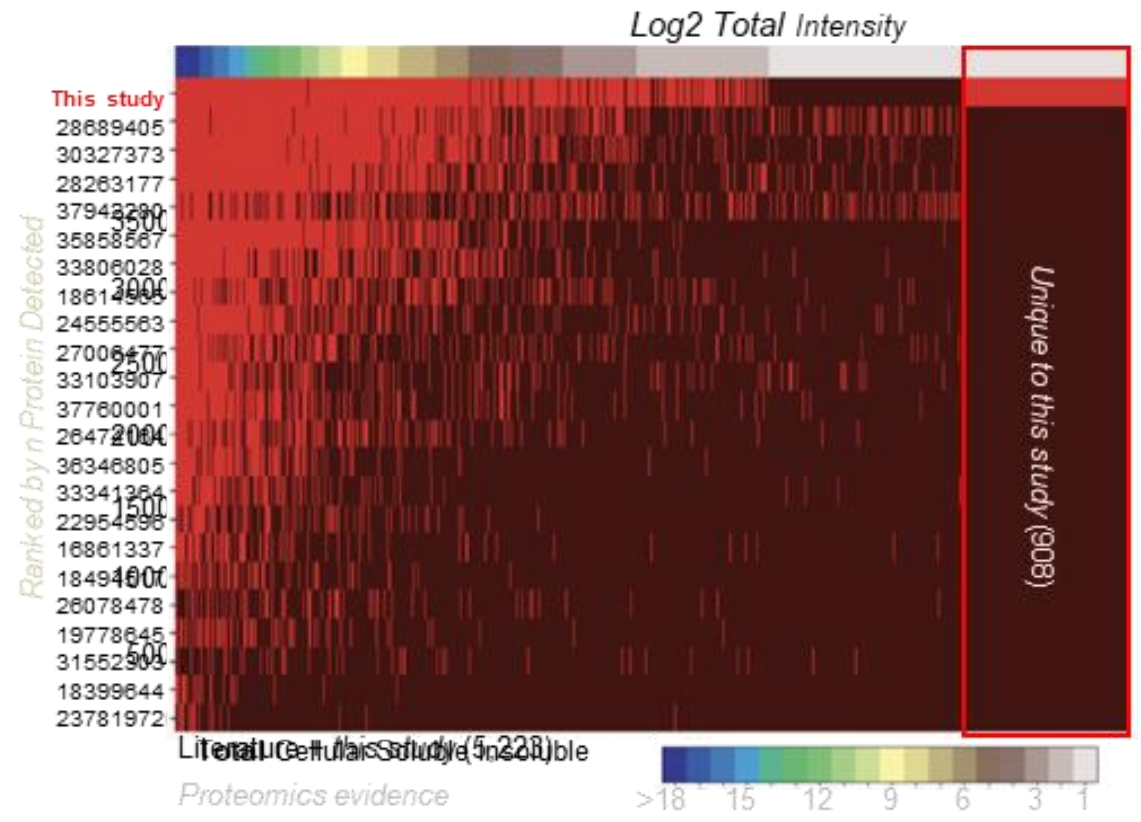
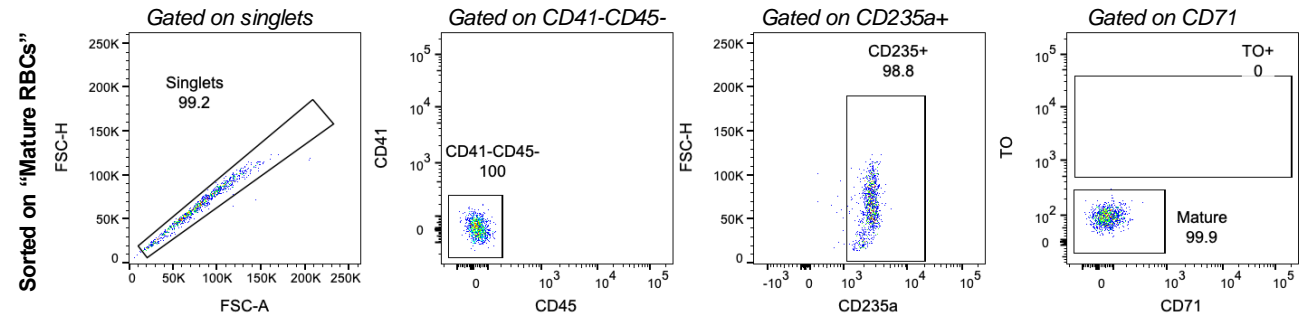
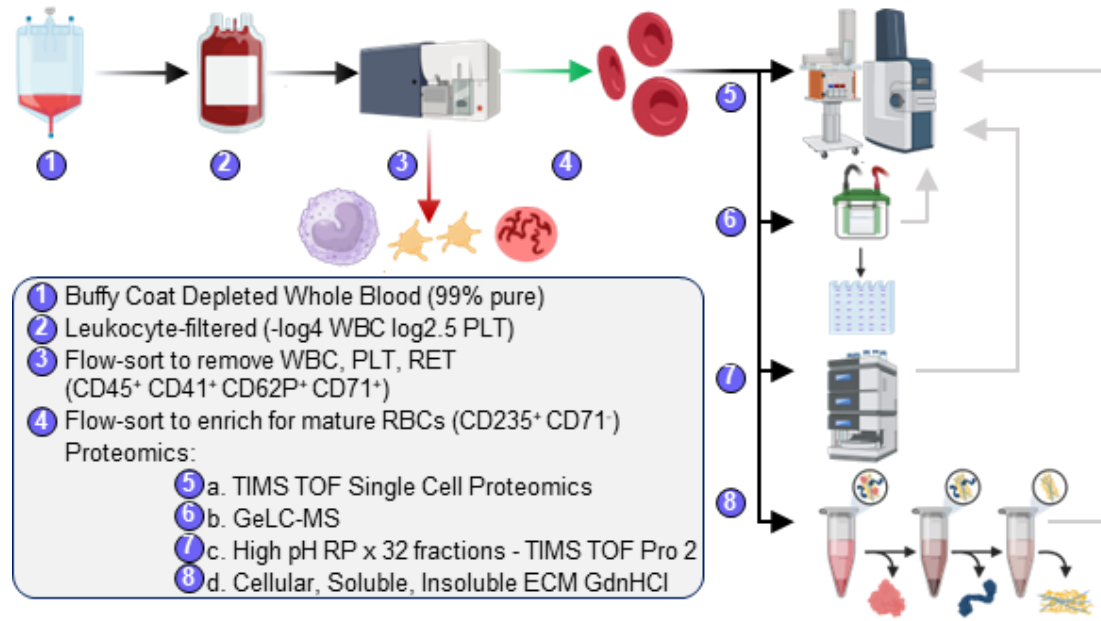


**Multi-Omics Correlates with PFKP SNP**  
from 643 Recalled Donors  
at storage day 10, 23, 42

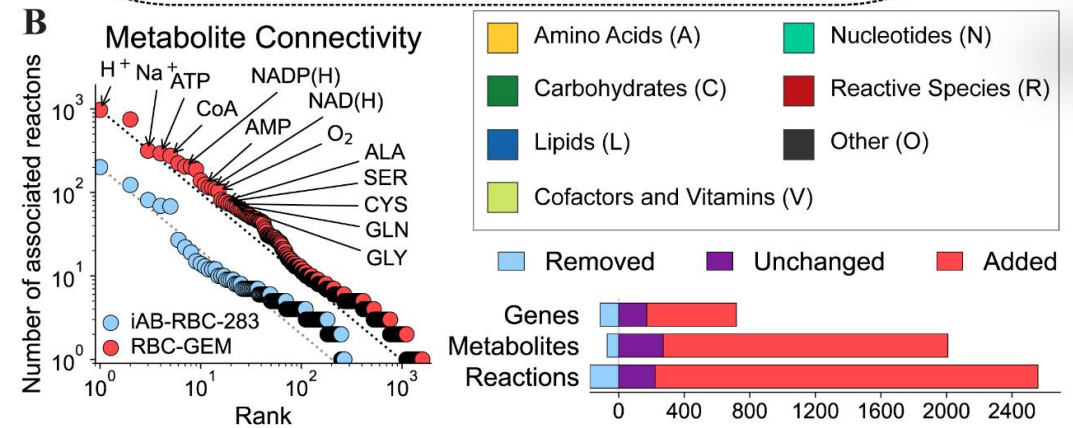
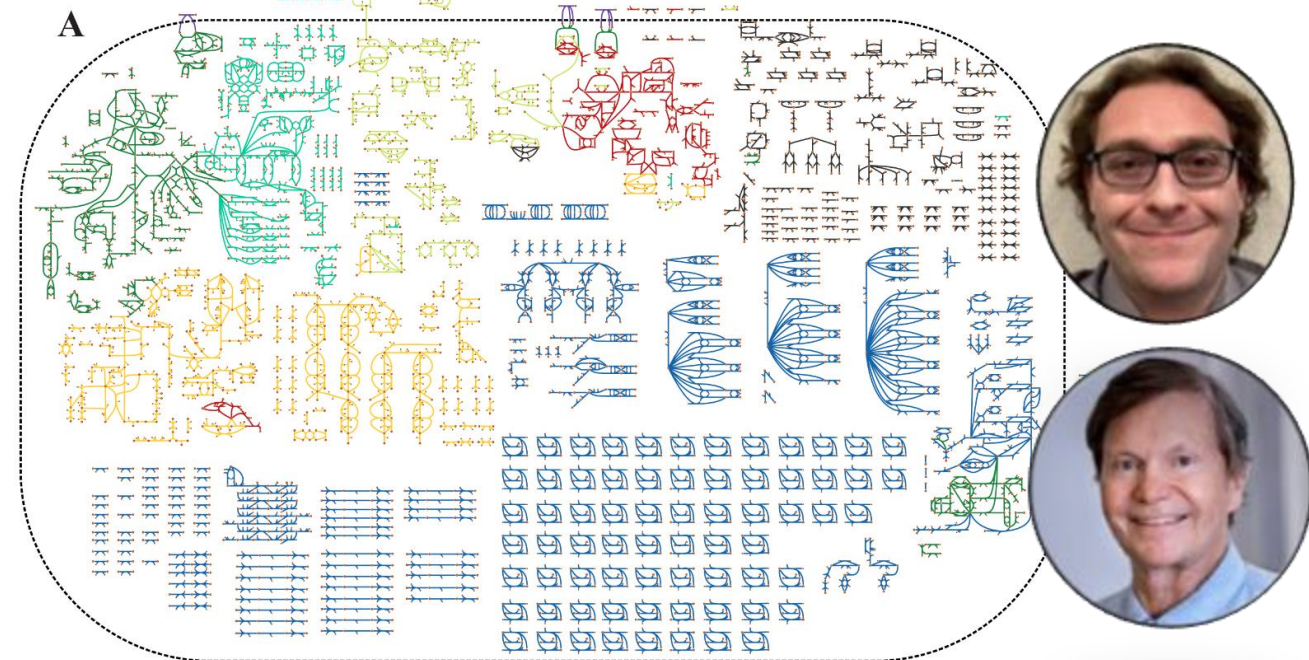
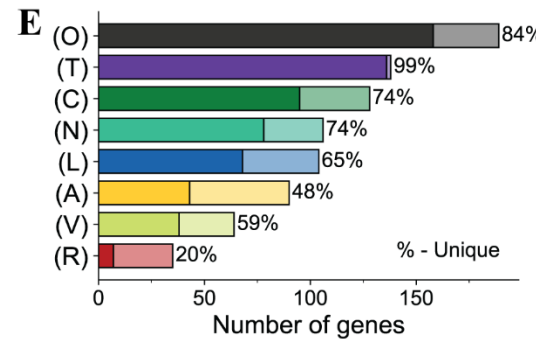
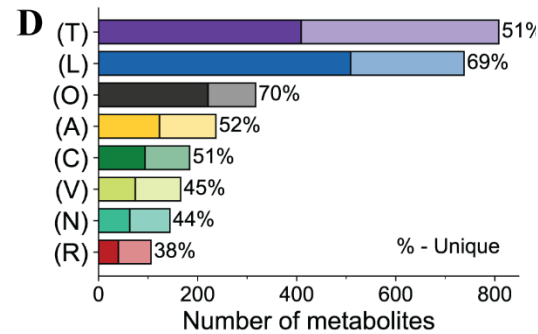
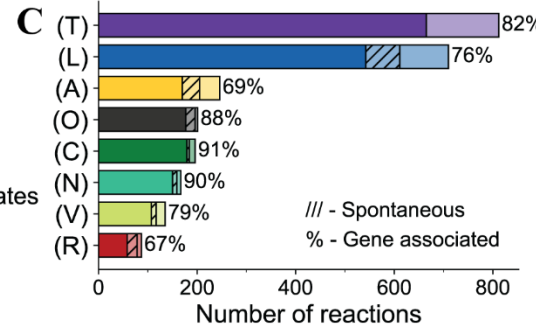
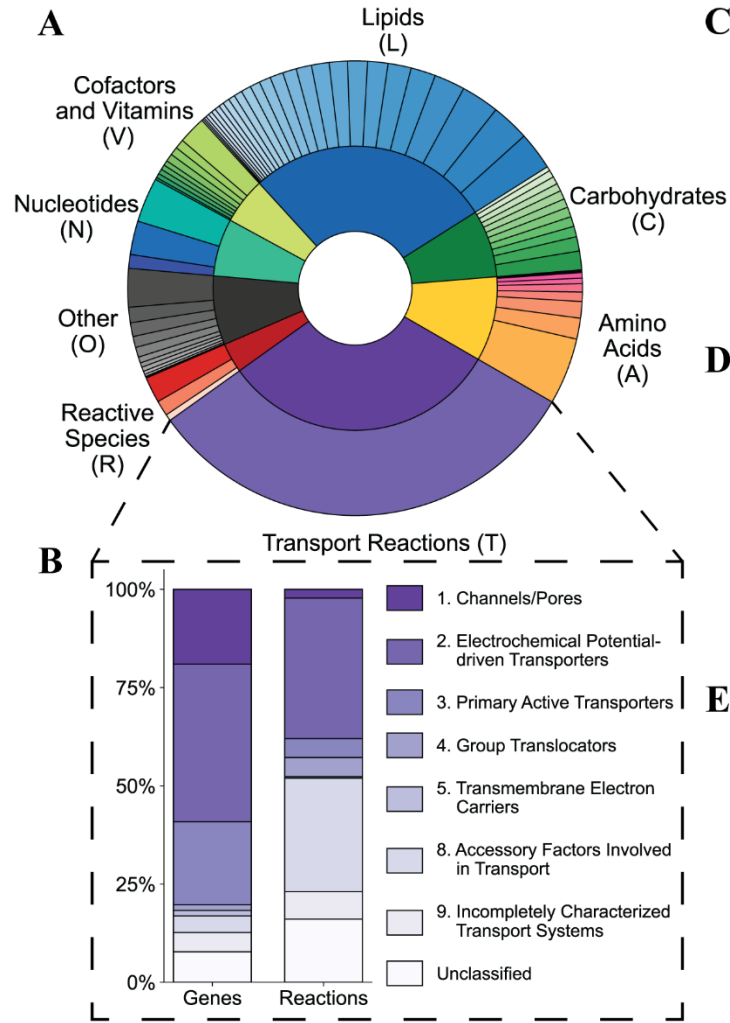




# RBC Proteome Updated – is PFKFB even expressed in ultra-pure mature RBCs?



# RBC-GEM: a Knowledge Base for Systems Biology of Human RBC Metabolism



# PFKP is expressed in ultra-pure mature RBCs, at 30% higher levels in donors in cluster 4

