

Mitochondrial disease genetics

Jelle van den Aamele

MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit,
Department of Clinical Neurosciences
University of Cambridge

jv361@cam.ac.uk, jelle.vandenameele@nhs.net



Cambridge Clinical Mitochondrial Research Group

Neurology:

Patrick Chinnery
Rita Horvath
Jelle van den Ameele
Katherine Schon
Catarina Olimpio
Ignazio Arena
May Yung Tiet

Ophthalmology:

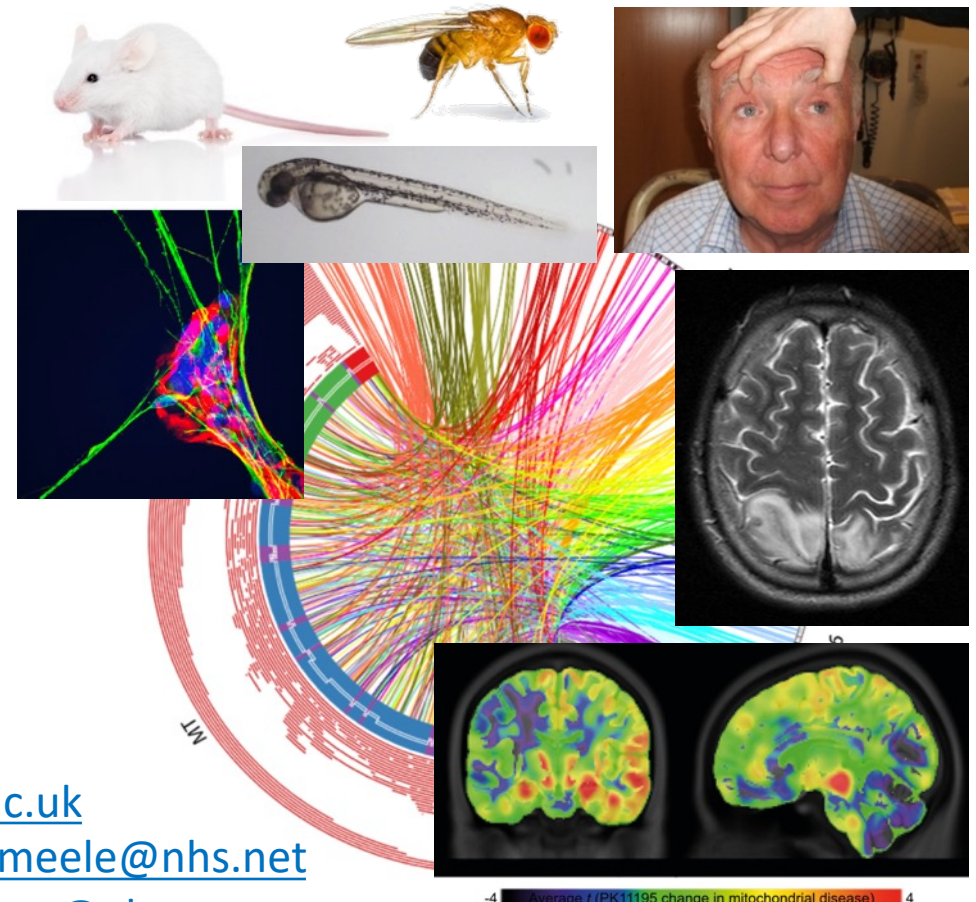
Patrick Yu Wai Man
Benson Chen
Xuehao Cui

Research and clinic support:

Heather Biggs
Emma Harrison
Elizabeth Ashby
Charlotte Addy
Katrina Dedman



CAMBRIDGE
CLINICAL VISION
LABORATORY



@cam_mito

<https://www-neurosciences.medschl.cam.ac.uk/mitocamb/>

jv361@cam.ac.uk

jelle.vandenameele@nhs.net

add-tr.mitoteam@nhs.net

-4 Average t(PK11195 change in mitochondrial disease) 4

Outline

Case 1/2: Stroke-like episodes

- What are mitochondria
- Oxidative phosphorylation
- Inheritance of primary mitochondrial disease
- Mitochondrial disease overview and classical syndromes
- The mitochondrial genome (1)

Case 3: CPEO

- The mitochondrial genome (2): heteroplasmy

Case 4: Nuclear or mitochondrial?

- mtDNA maintenance disorders
- A few more classical syndromes

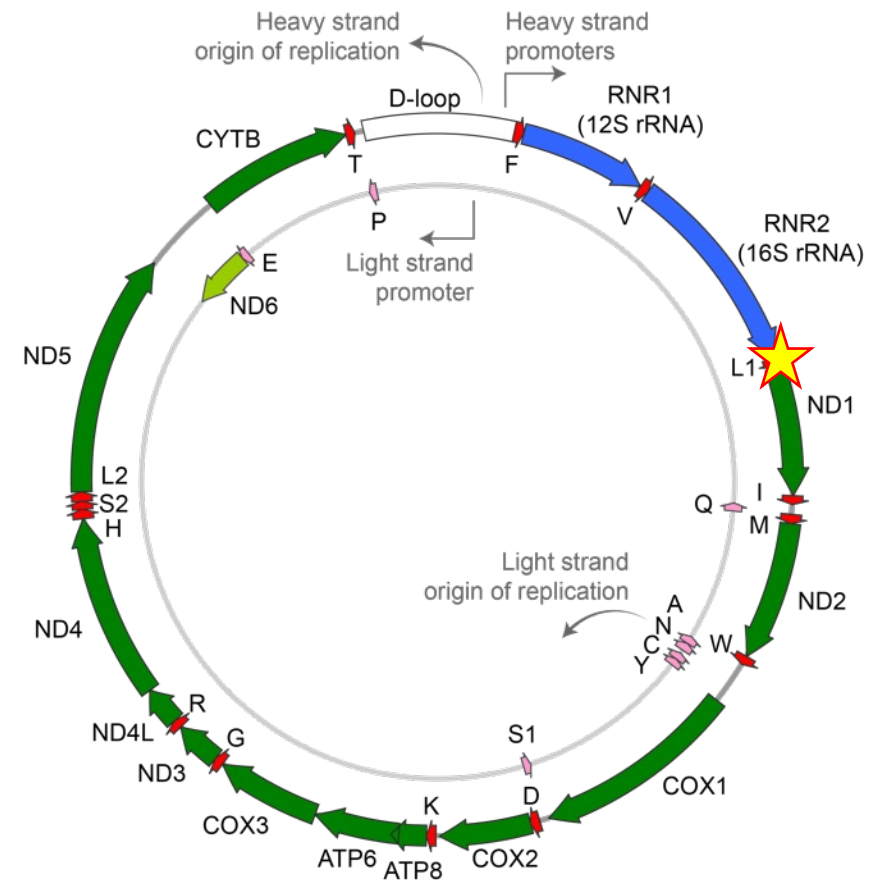
Case 1

MELAS: Mitochondrial encephalomyopathy with lactic acidosis and *stroke-like episodes*

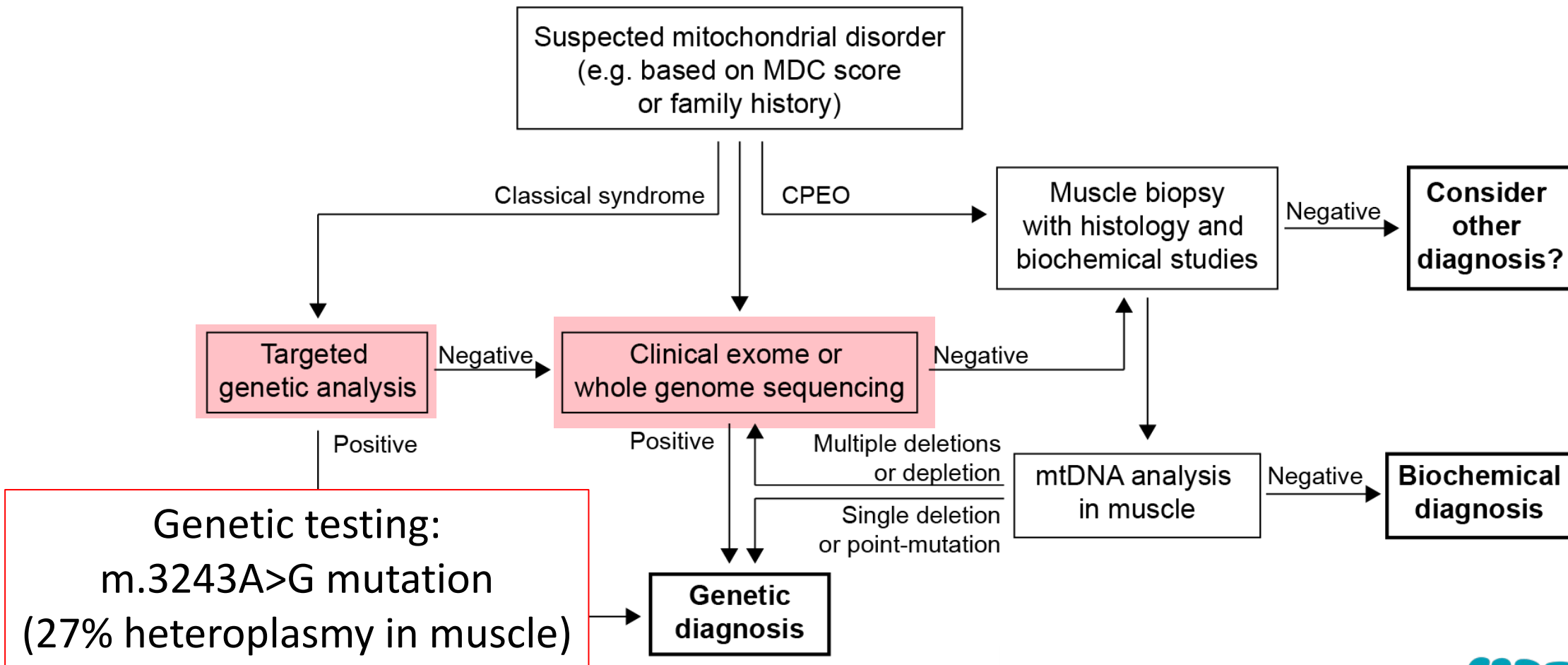
Typical (diagnostic) features:

- Stroke-like episodes <40y
 - Seizures and/or dementia
 - Ragged-red fibres (muscle biopsy), lactic acidosis
- + many additional features: Diabetes mellitus, cardiomyopathy, hearing loss, pigmentary retinopathy, ataxia,...

Most frequently due to m.3243A>G mutation in the mitochondrial DNA (leucine tRNA, MT-TL1)

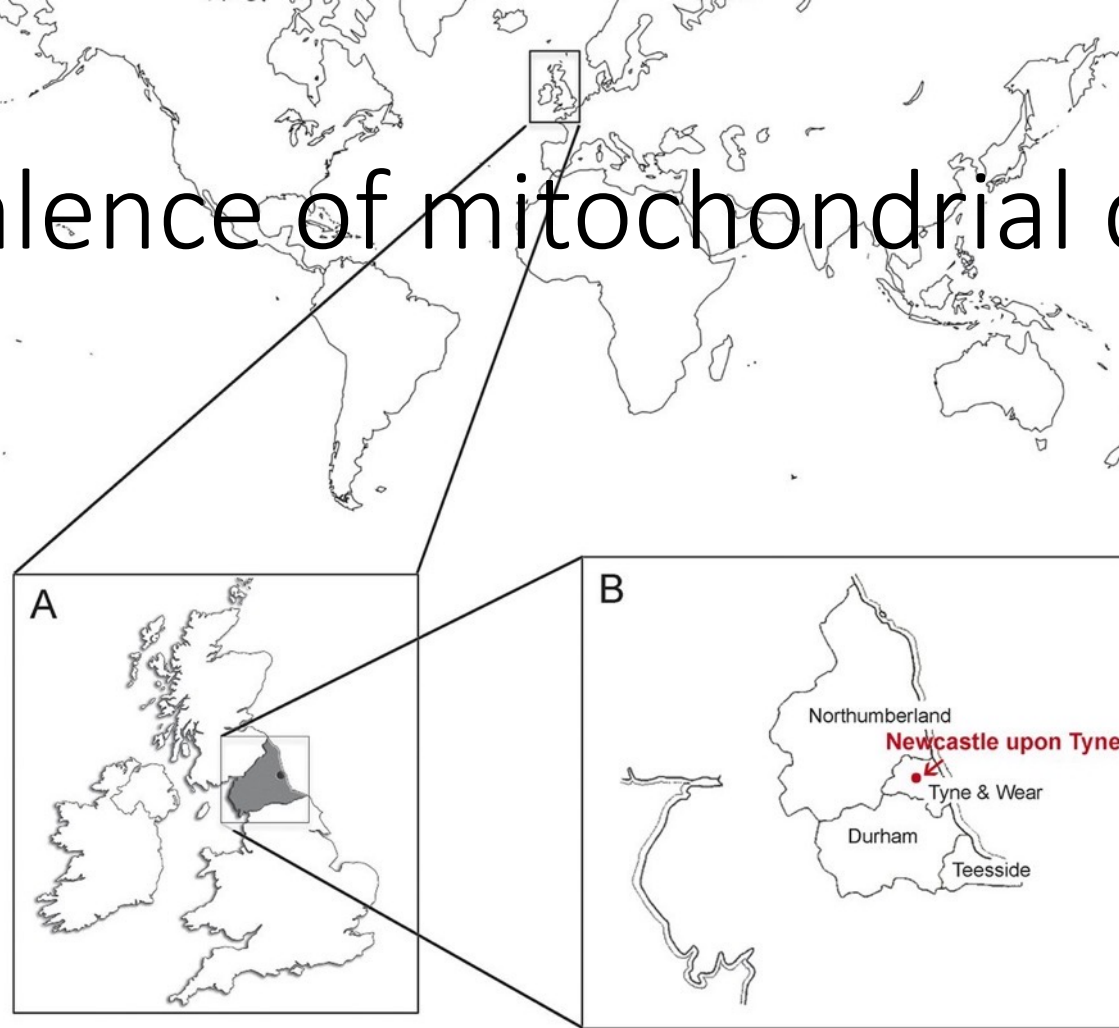


Approach to a patient with suspected mitochondrial disease



Case 2: Stroke-like episodes

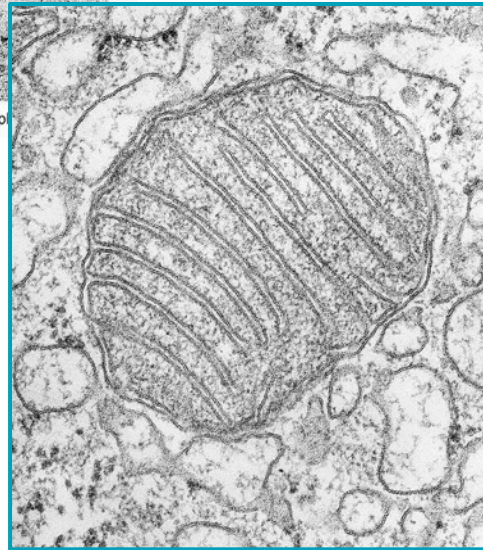
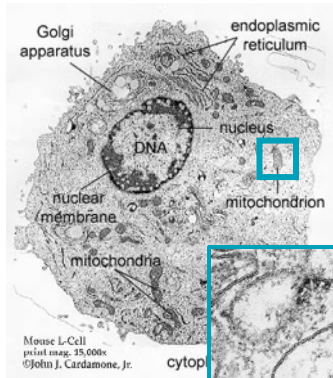
Prevalence of mitochondrial disease



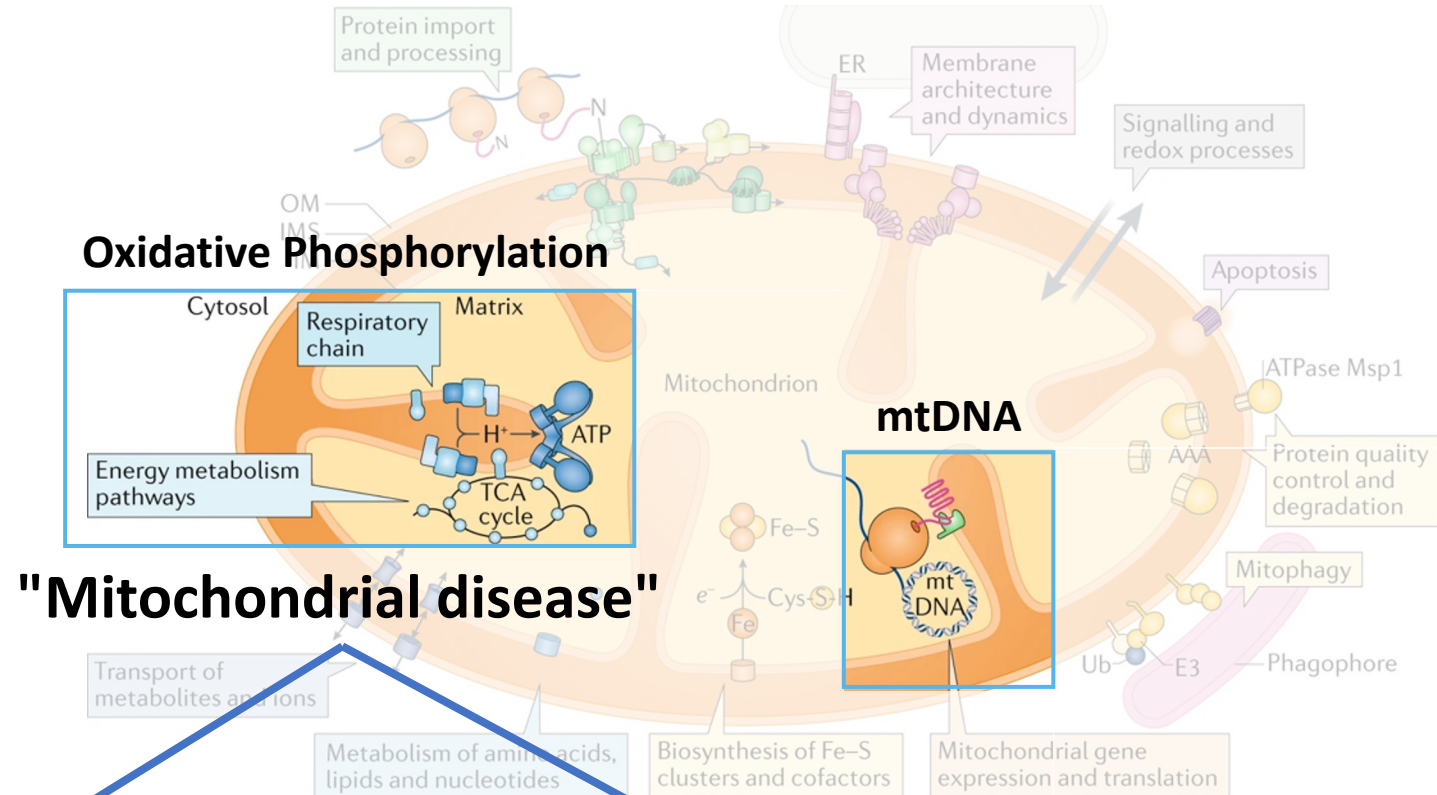
~1/5,000 adults affected by mitochondrial disease

Most frequent type of inherited neurological disease,
but **many different genes** and often **complex clinical presentation**

Mitochondria



Mitochondria



Inheritance of primary mitochondrial disease

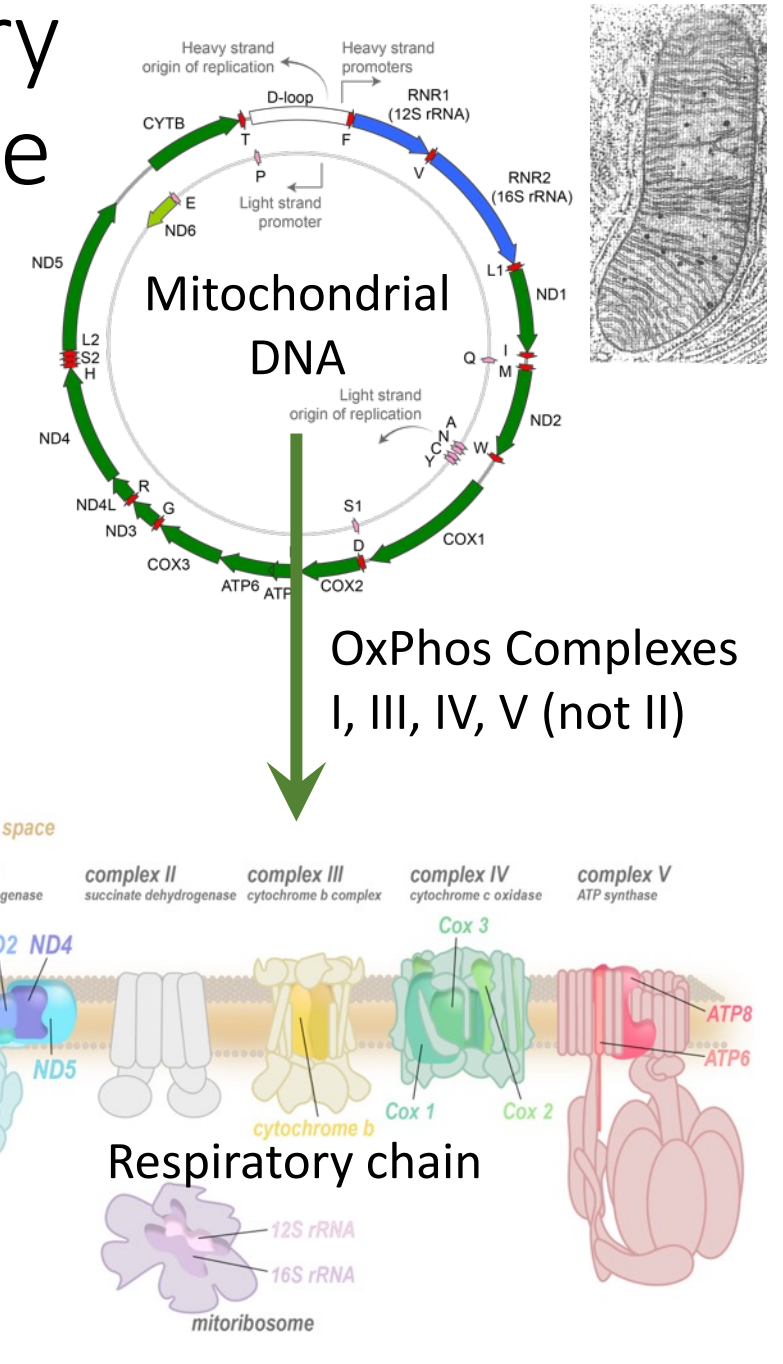
Nuclear DNA (chromosomes)



Mitochondrial DNA maintenance

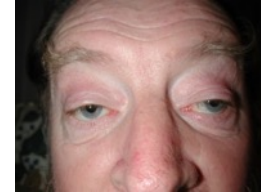
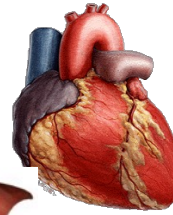
e.g. POLG, Twinkle, TYMP, RRM2B,...

Respiratory chain function and assembly



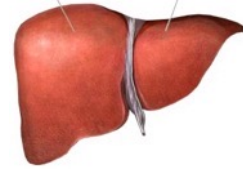
Clinical features of mitochondrial disorders

Cardiomyopathy



Ophthalmoplegia / ptosis

Liver Failure

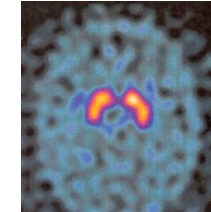
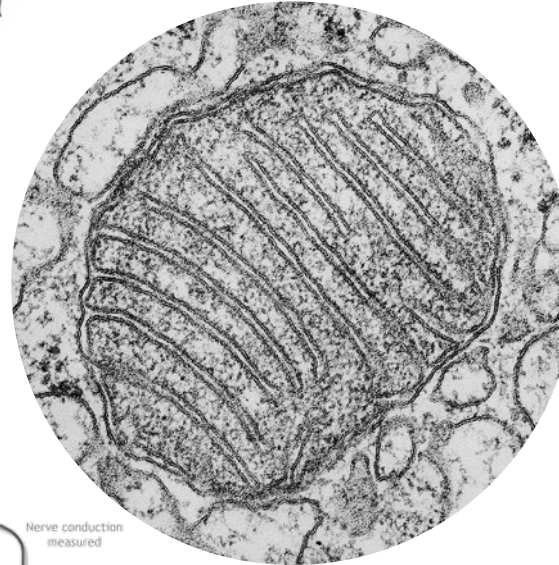
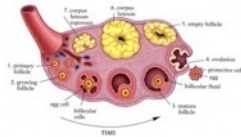


Encephalopathy
Epilepsy / dementia
Migraine

Diabetes

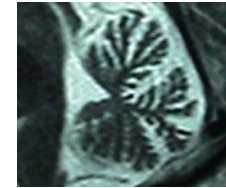
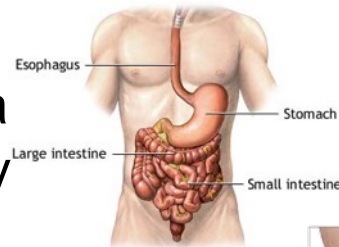


Gonadal failure



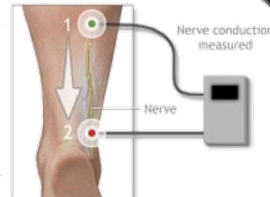
Parkinsonism

Dysphagia
Dysmotility

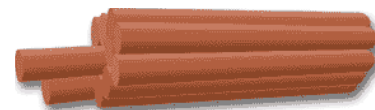


Ataxia

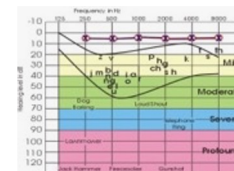
Axonal
sensori-motor
neuropathy



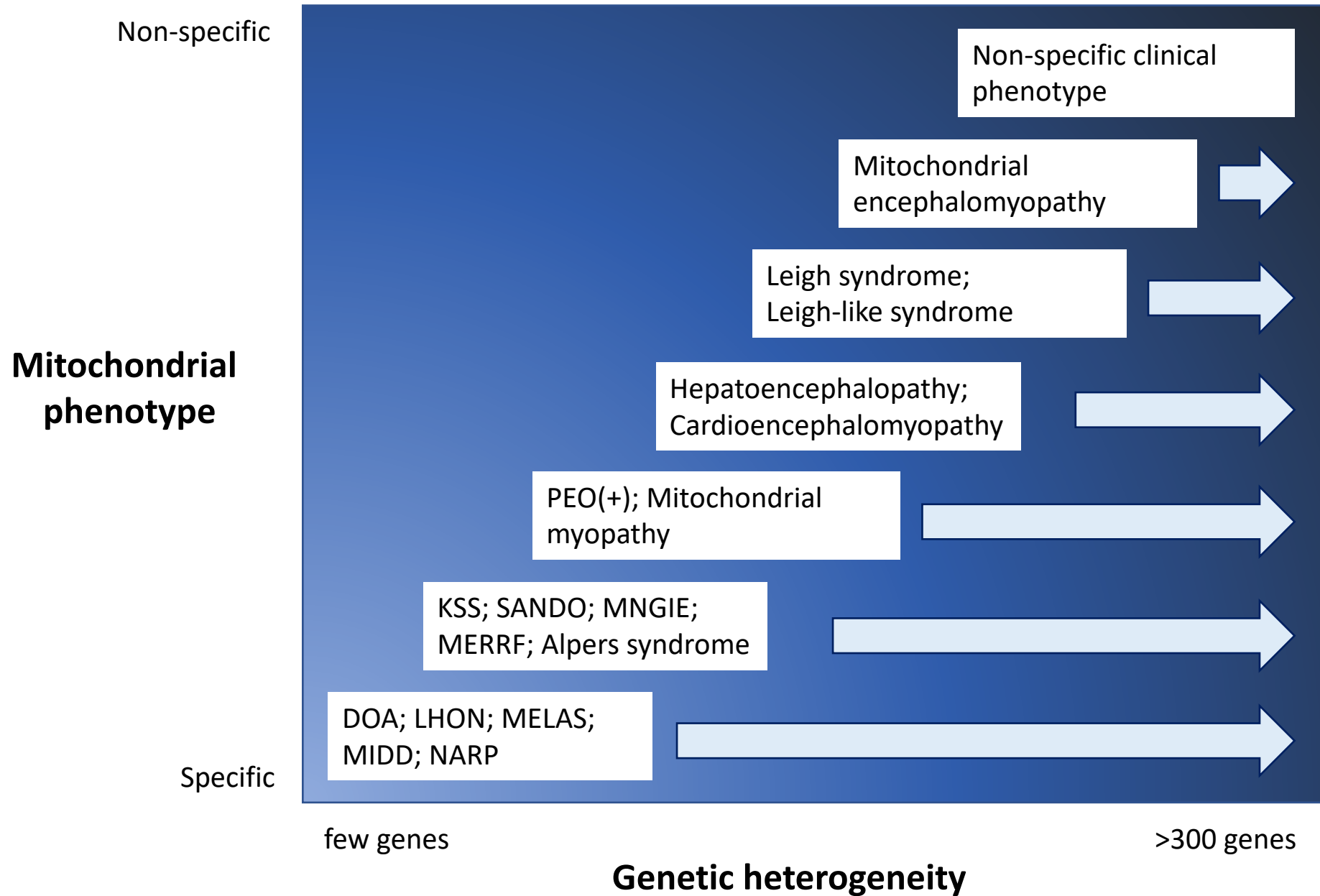
Migraine



Myopathy



Deafness

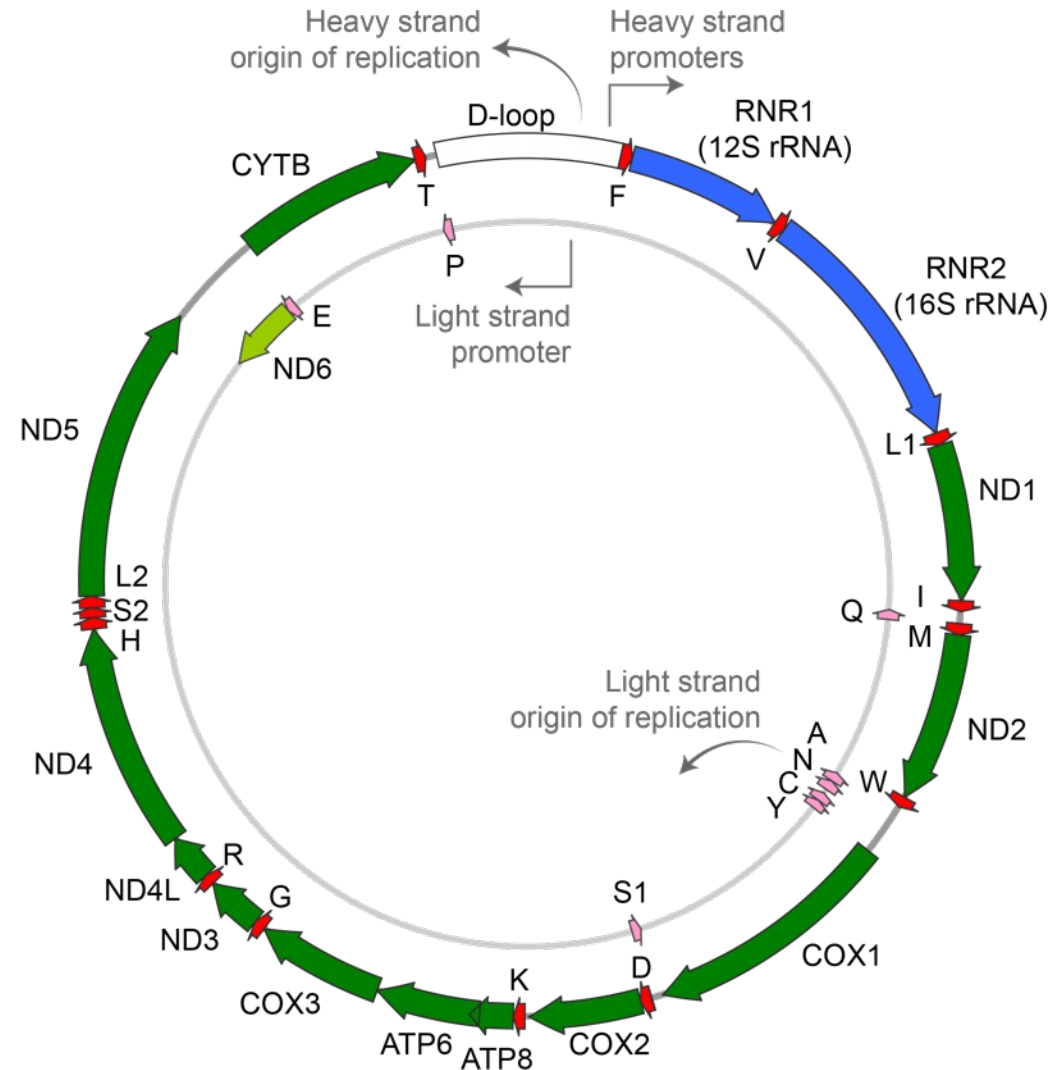


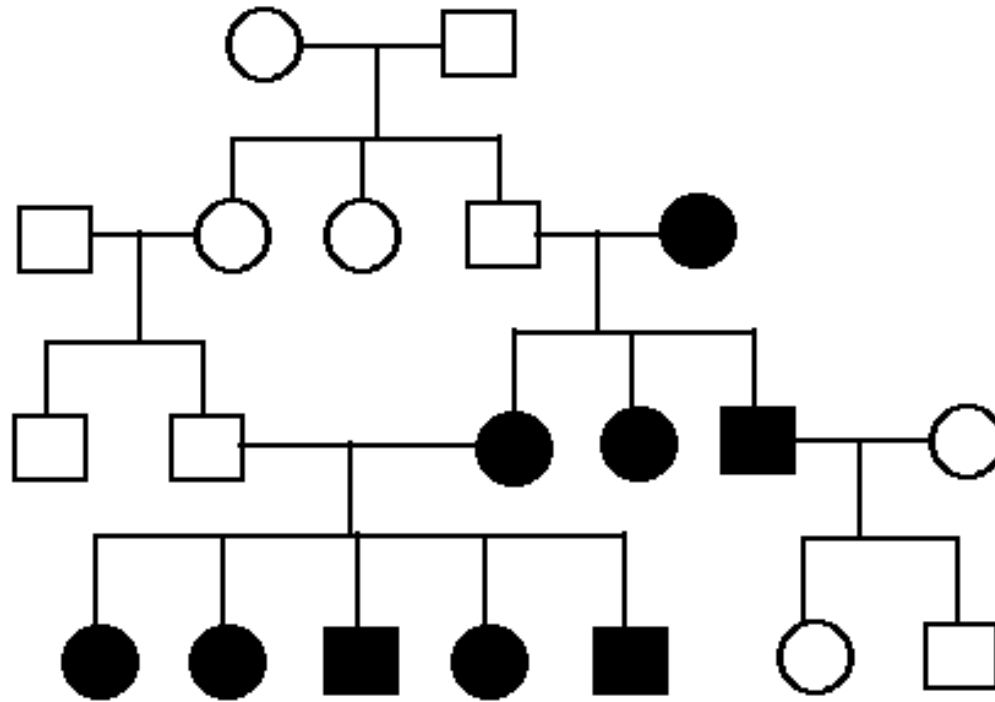
Classical syndromes

- Mitochondrial encephalomyopathy with lactic acidosis and stroke-like episodes (MELAS)
- Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON)
- Chronic progressive external ophthalmoplegia (CPEO)
- Kearns-Sayre Syndrome
- Pearson Syndrome
- Leigh Syndrome
- Mitochondrial inherited diabetes and deafness (MIDD)
- Myoclonic epilepsy with ragged red fibers (MERRF)
- Neuropathy, ataxia, retinitis pigmentosa (NARP)
- Mitochondrial neurogastrointestinal encephalomyopathy (MNGIE)

The mitochondrial genome (1)

- Circular genome
- Contributes to OxPhos and mitochondrial translation
- Under control of nuclear genome
- Maternal inheritance
- Many copies in each cell



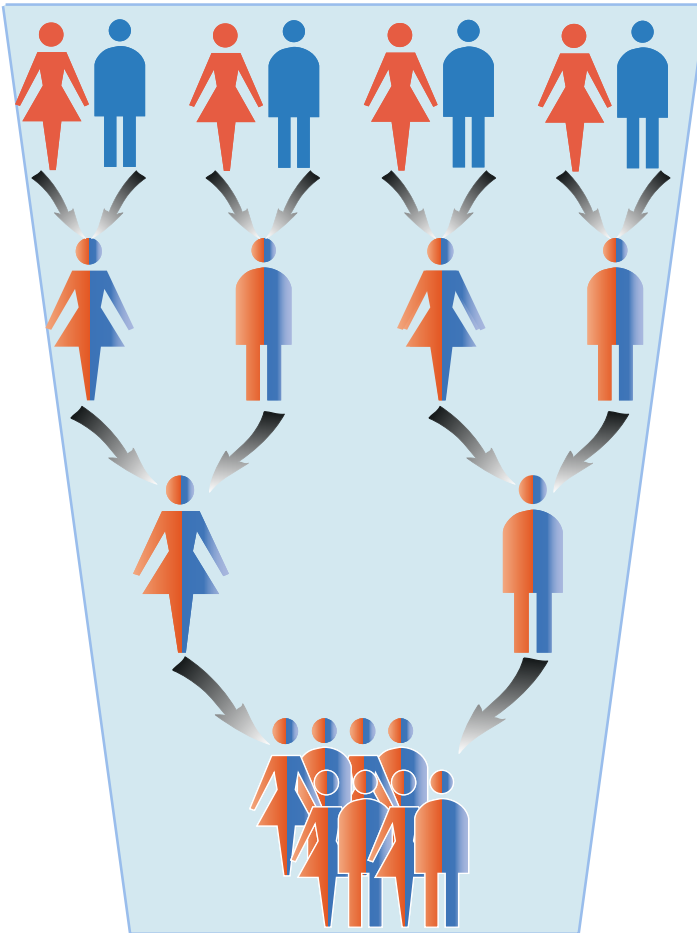


Characteristics of Mitochondrial Inheritance

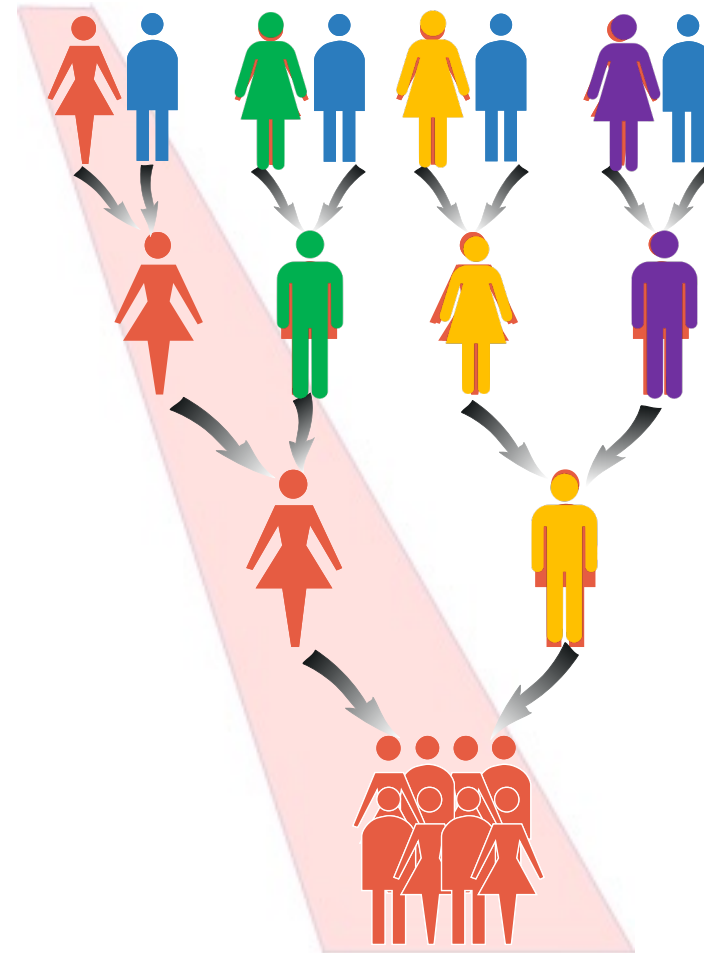
- Mitochondria are inherited from the mother.
- All offspring of an affected or carrier female are at risk of being affected.
- All daughters of an affected or carrier female are at risk of transmitting the condition.
- Affected males cannot pass the condition to any of their children.

Maternal inheritance of mtDNA

Nuclear DNA inherited from
both mother and father



Mitochondrial DNA inherited
only from mother



Casus 3

Klinische diagnose: Kearns-Sayre Syndrome

Frequent klinisch beeld bij een patient met een single mtDNA deletion:

1. Retinitis pigmentosa
2. CPEO
3. Hartritme stoornissen
- (4. begin <20 jaar)

Vaak met:

Ataxie, verstandelijke beperking of dementie, doofheid, Myopathie, Gastro-intestinale problemen, ...

Klinisch beeld vaak gecorreleerd met grootte van de mtDNA deletie en heteroplasmy level.

Retinitis Pigmentosa, External Ophthalmoplegia, and Complete Heart Block

Unusual Syndrome with Histologic Study in One of Two Cases

THOMAS P. KEARNS, M.D., and GEORGE P. SAYRE, M.D., Rochester, Minn.

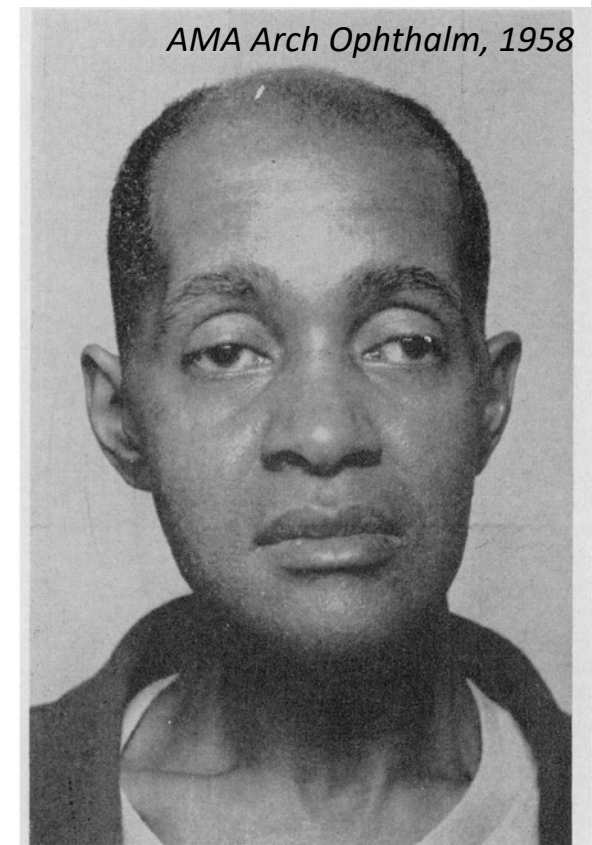
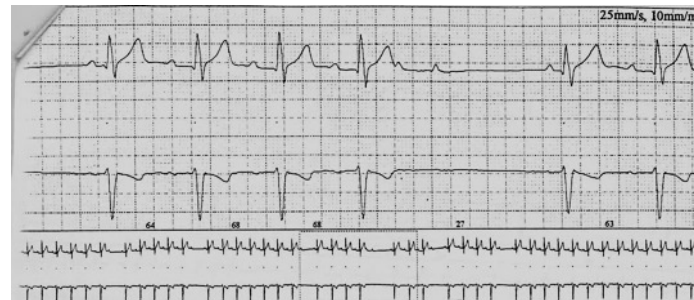


Fig. 1 (Case 1).—Patient with retinitis pigmentosa, external ophthalmoplegia, and atrio-ventricular heart block.

Chronic progressive external ophthalmoplegia (CPEO)

Down



Up



Right



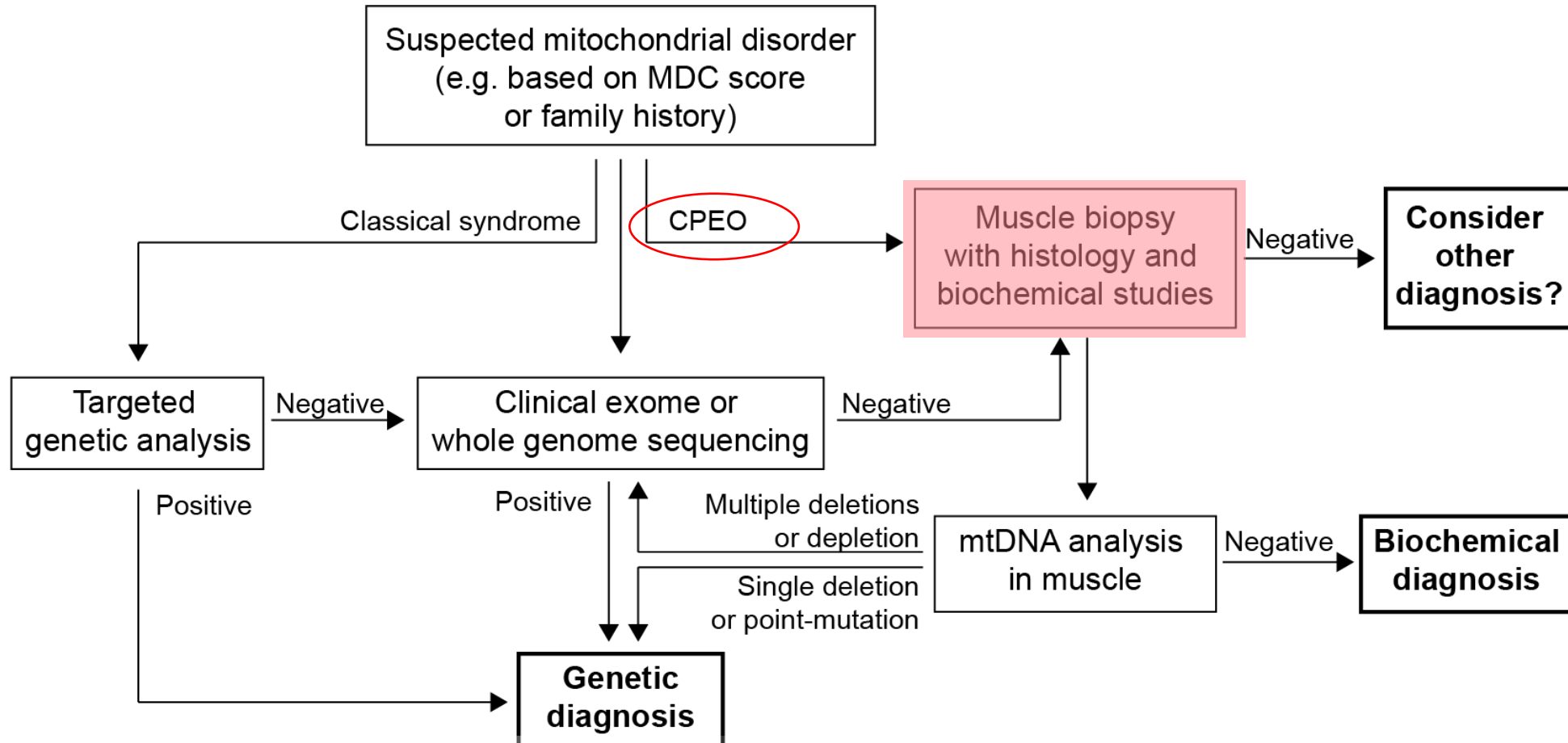
Left



+ ptosis (droopy eyelids)



Approach to a patient with suspected mitochondrial disease

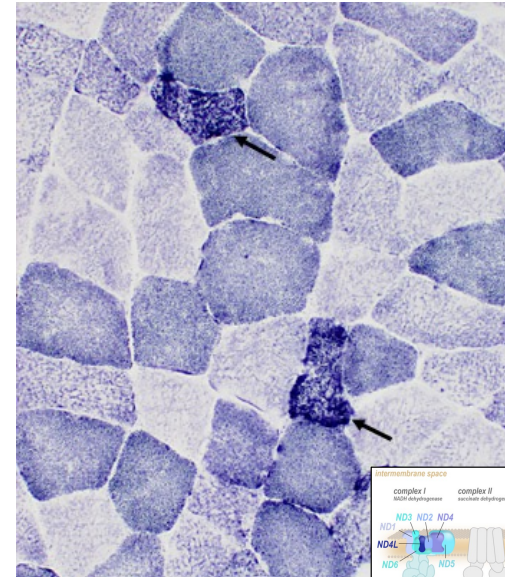


Case 3: mtDNA heteroplasmy (of: waarom nog steeds een spierbiopsie?)

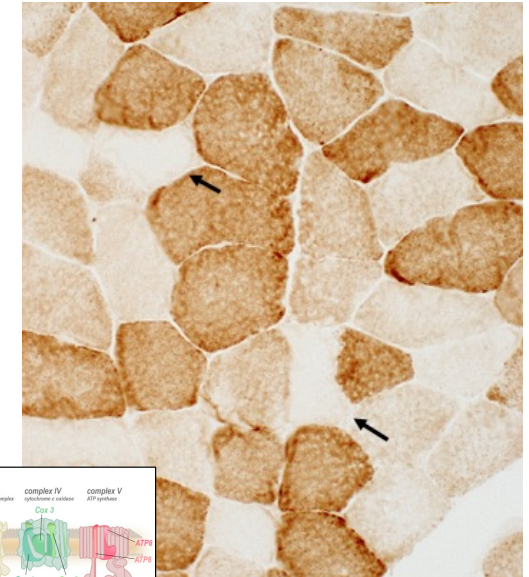
*Example COX-SDH staining
(patient data removed for sharing)*

Combined COX-SDH x200

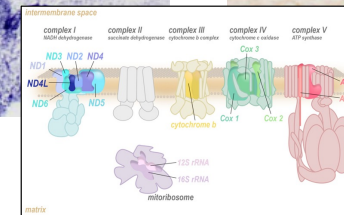
neuromuscular.wustl.edu



SDH (complex II):
Completely nuclear encoded



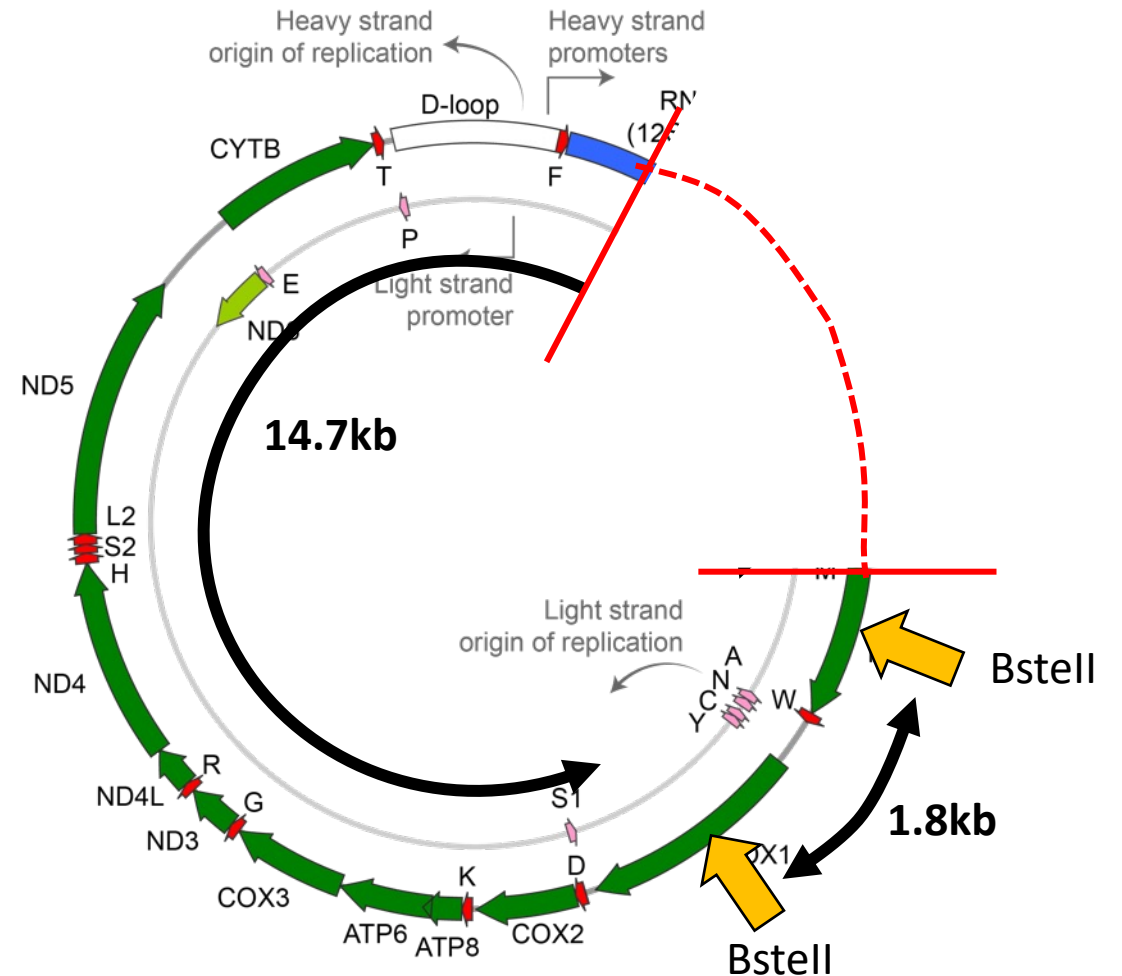
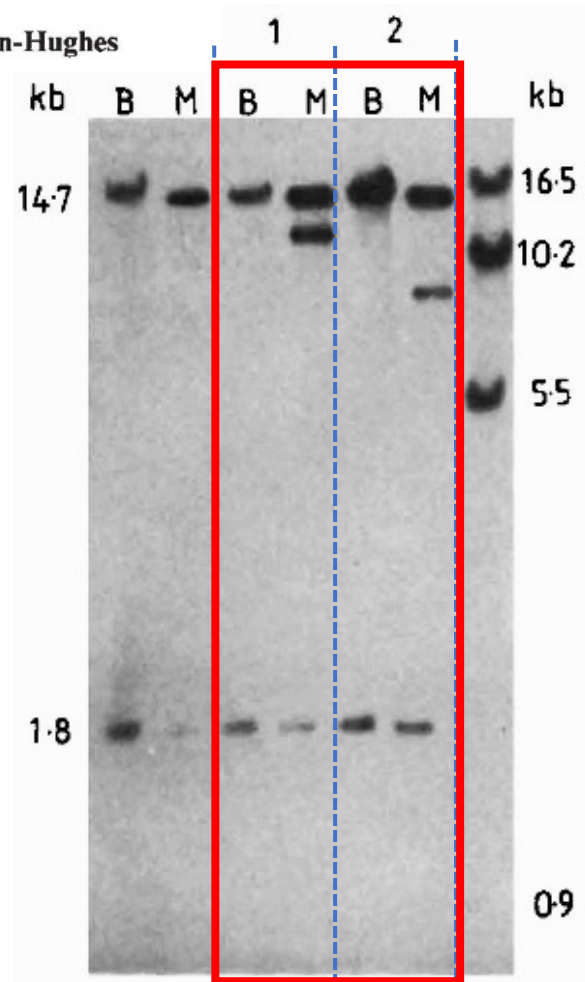
COX (complex IV):
In part mitochondrial encoded



mtDNA heteroplasmie (of: waarom nog steeds een spierbiopsie?)

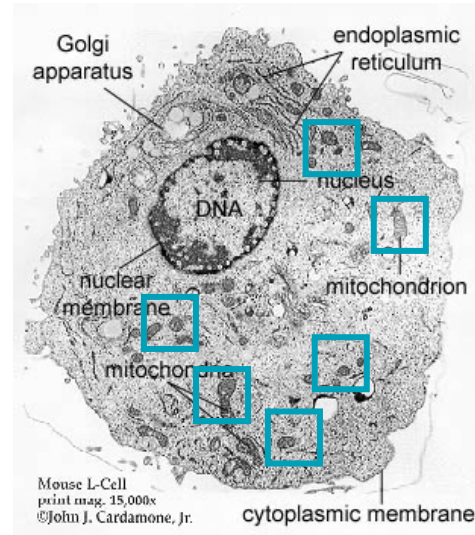
Deletions of muscle mitochondrial DNA in patients with mitochondrial myopathies

I. J. Holt, A. E. Harding & J. A. Morgan-Hughes

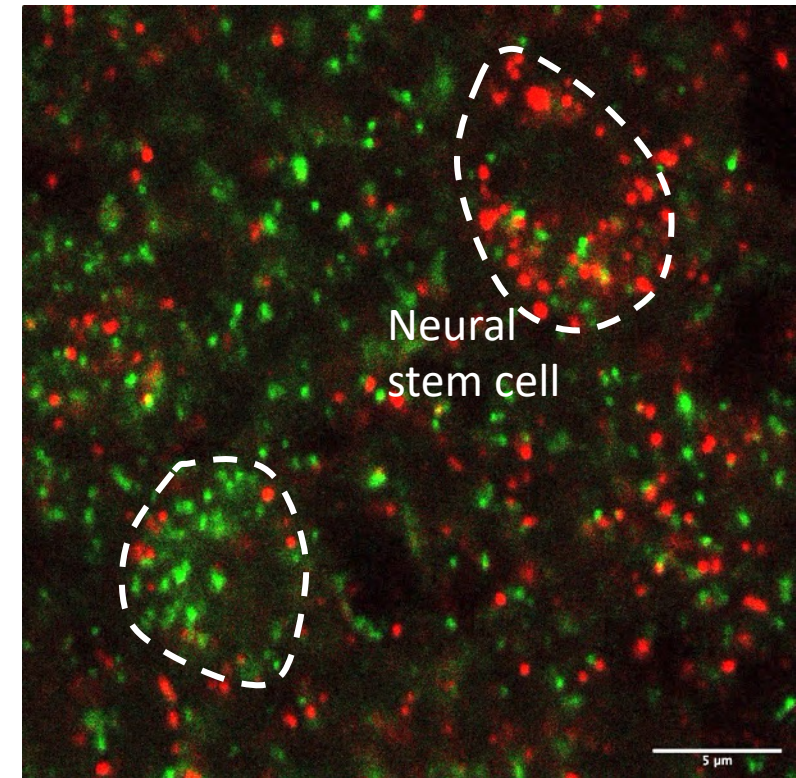


The mitochondrial genome (2)

- Circular genome
- Contributes to OxPhos and mitochondrial translation
- Under control of nuclear genome
- Maternal inheritance
- Many copies in each cell
 - Heteroplasmy vs homoplasmy
 - Heterogeneity in space and time
 - Genetic bottleneck

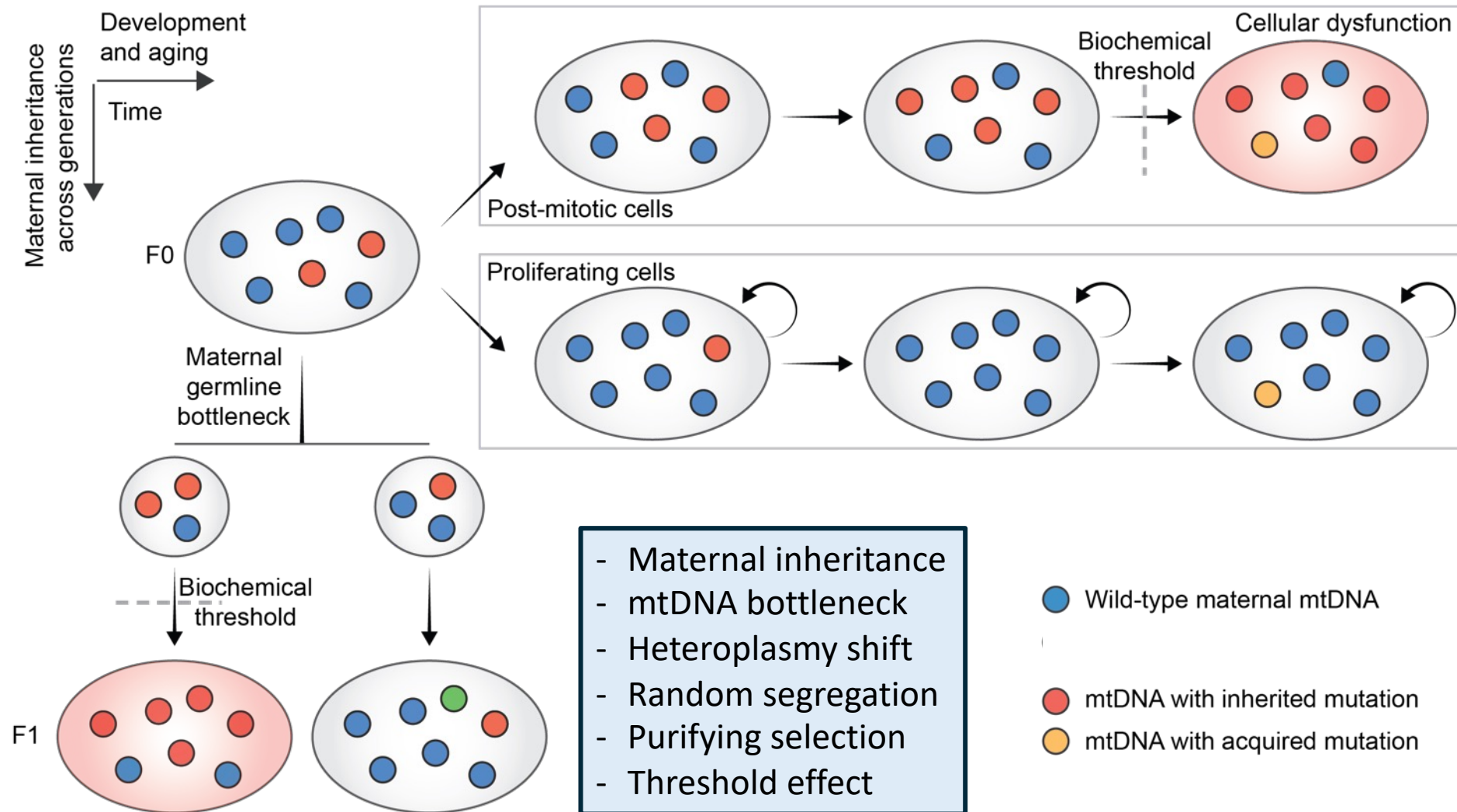


Brain of a heteroplasmic *Drosophila* strain

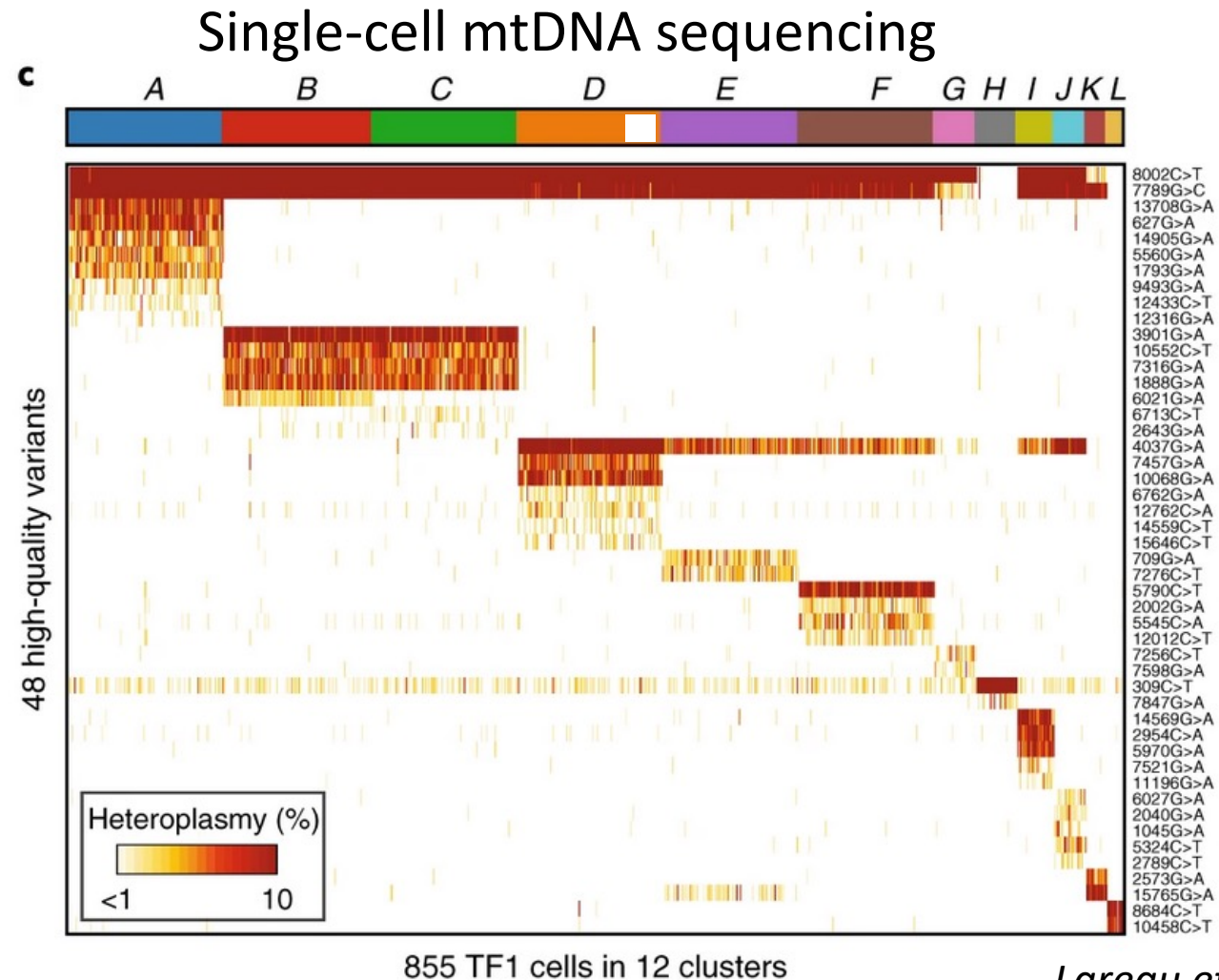


smFISH for wild-type mtDNA
smFISH for mutant mtDNA

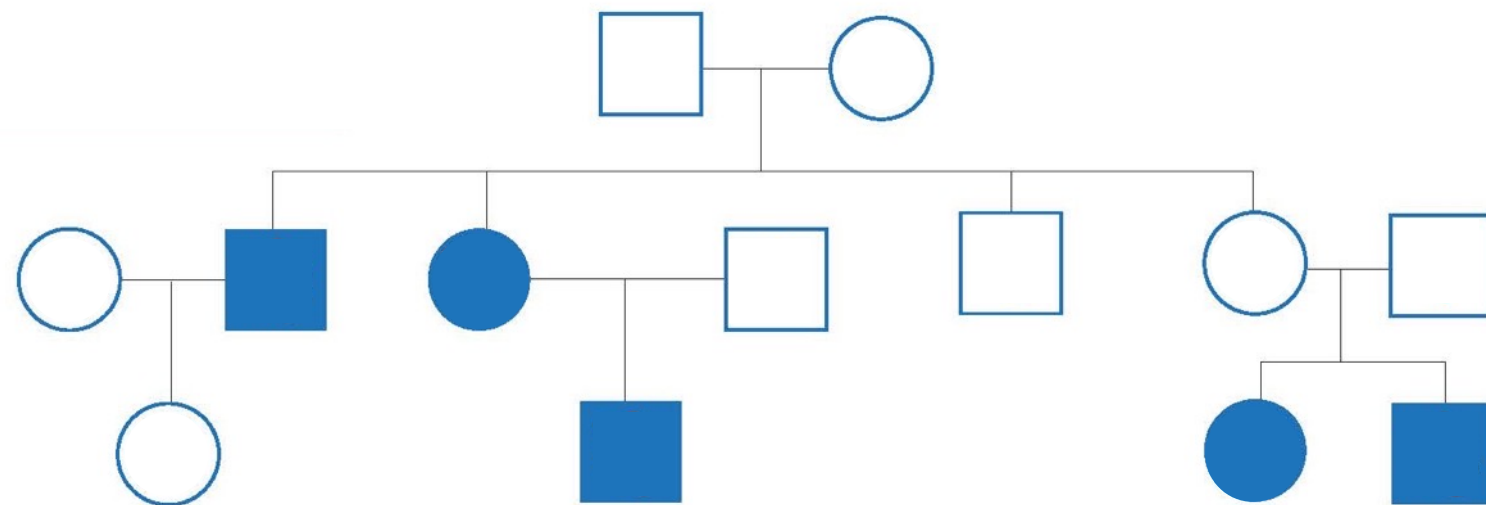
mtDNA heteroplasmy



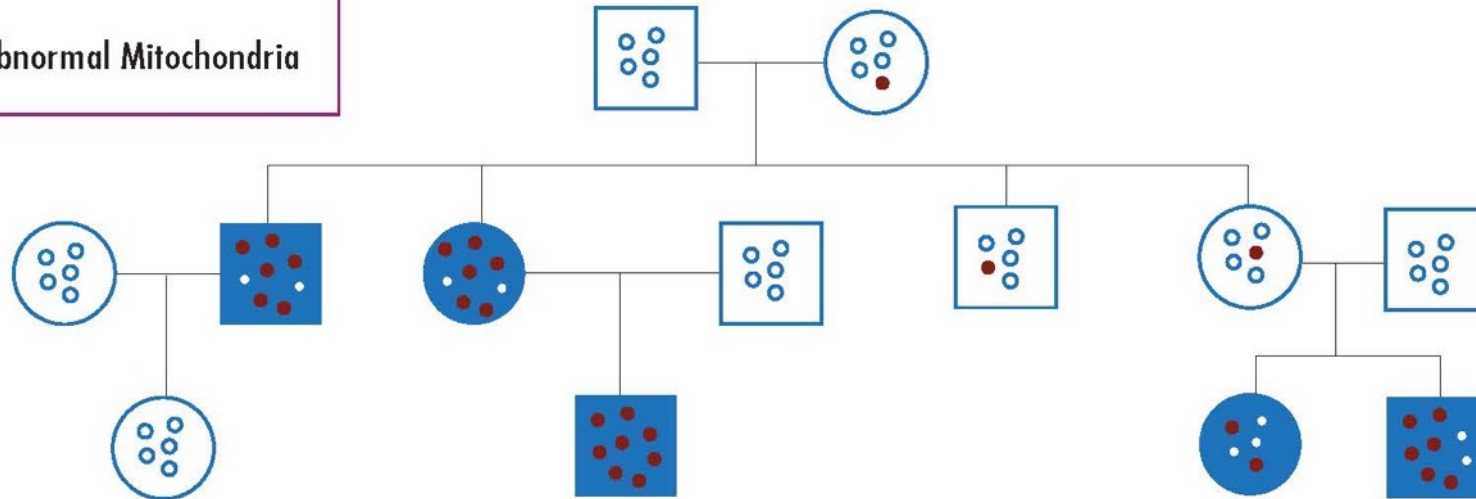
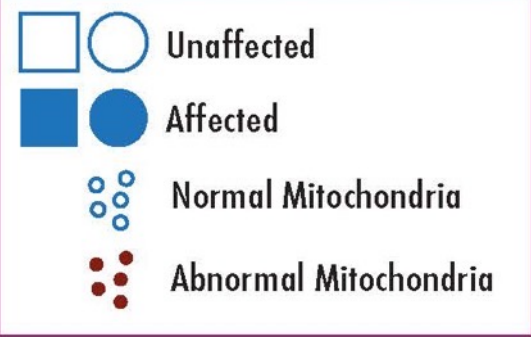
Novel ways to detect (universal?) heteroplasmy



Lareau et al., Nat Biotechnol, 2020.



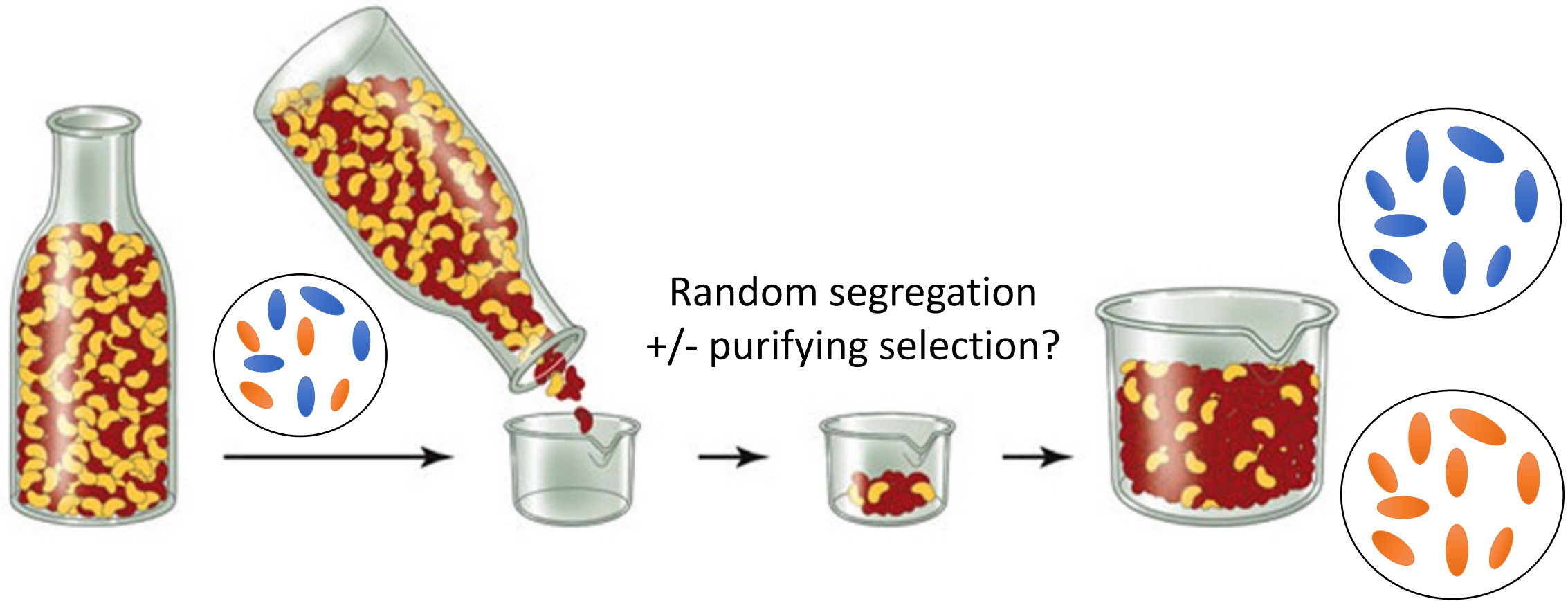
Mitochondrial Inheritance

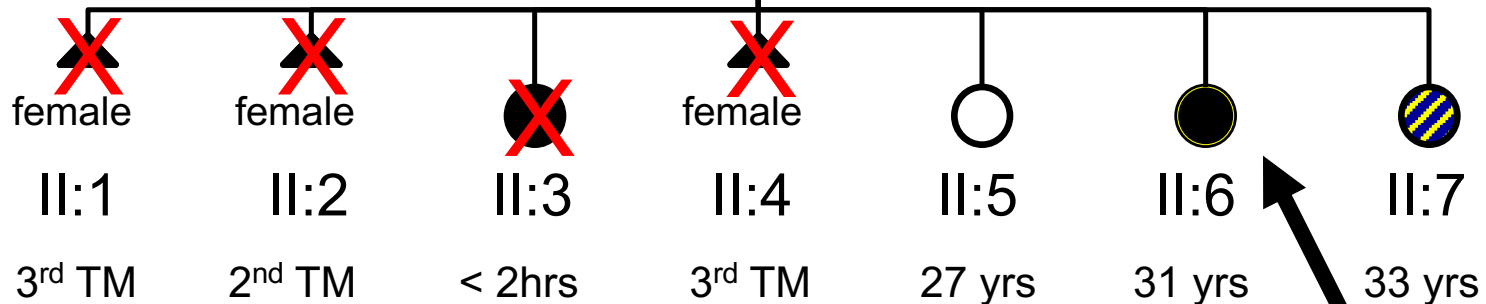
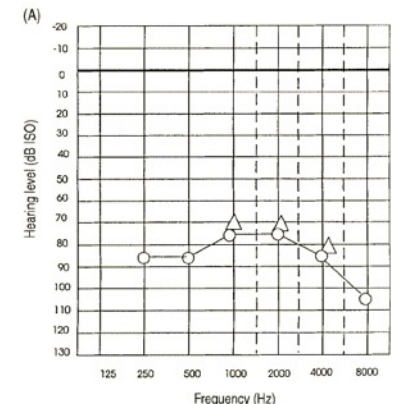
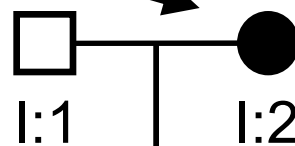
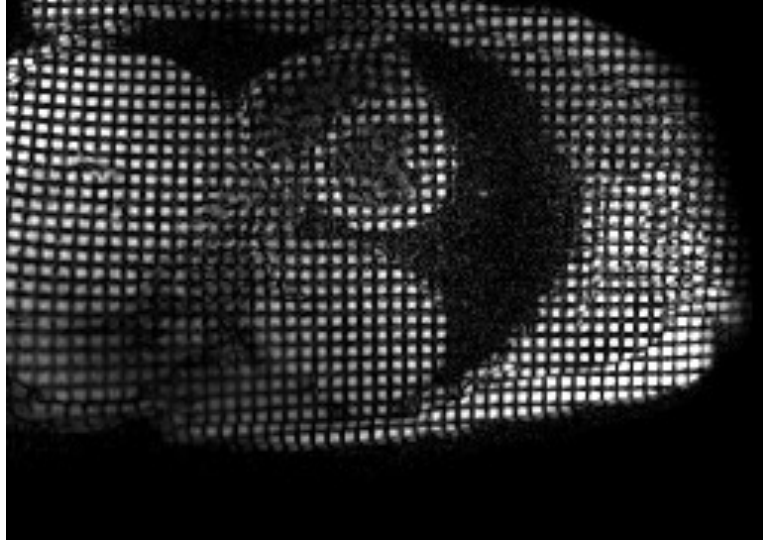


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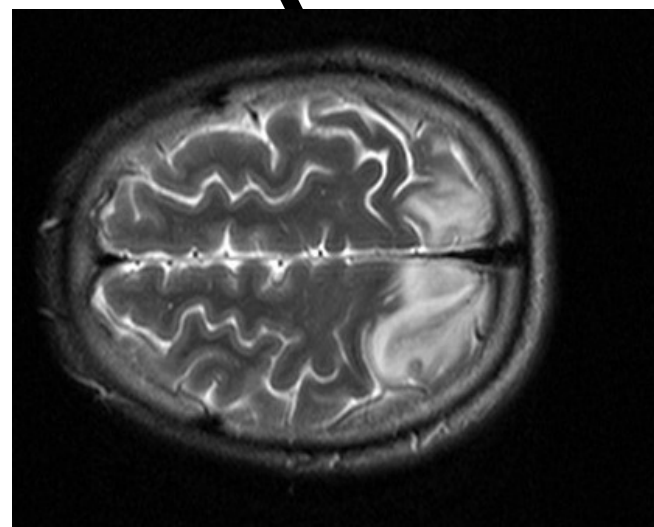
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Heteroplasmy shifts over time between generations: Mitochondrial bottleneck



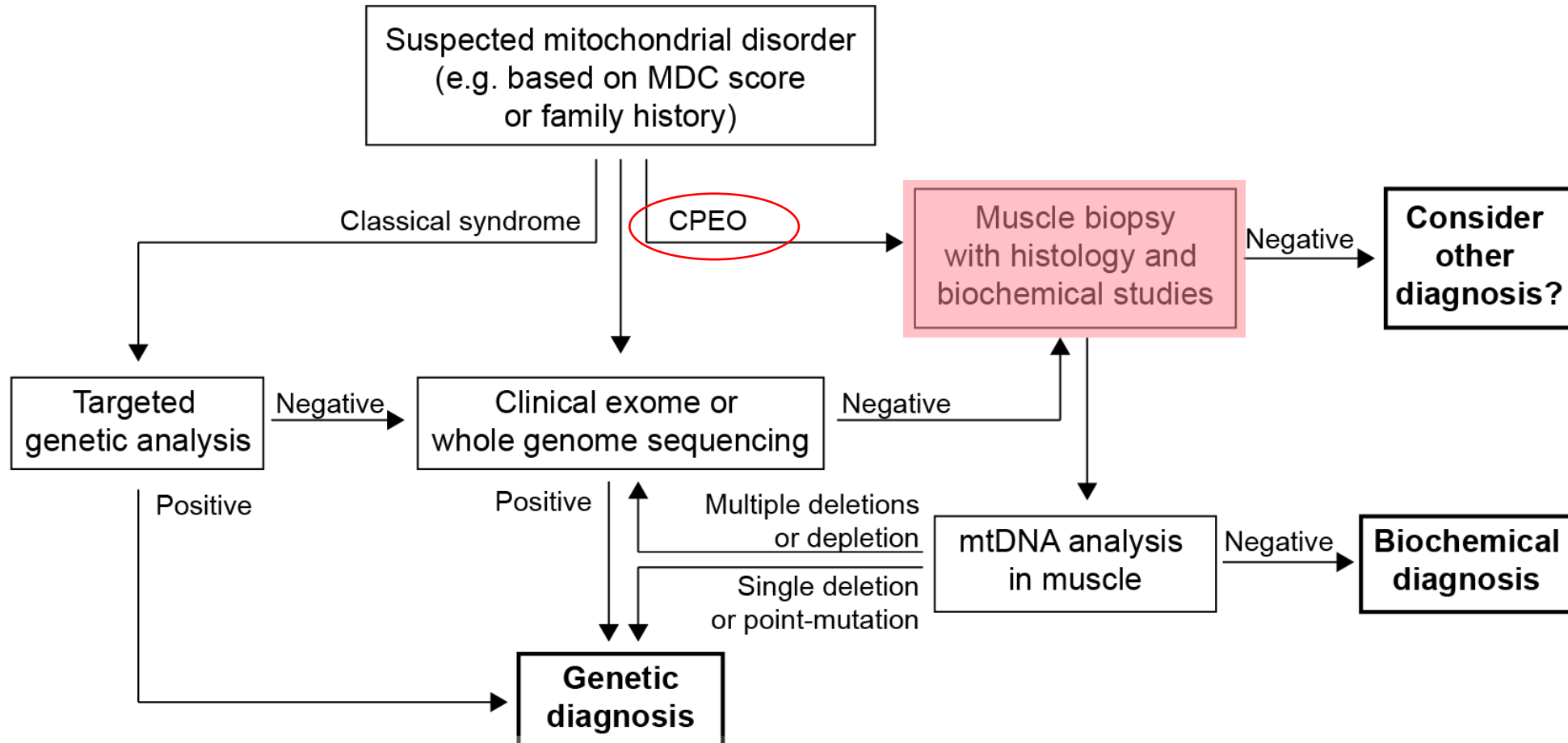


m.3243A>G
'MELAS'



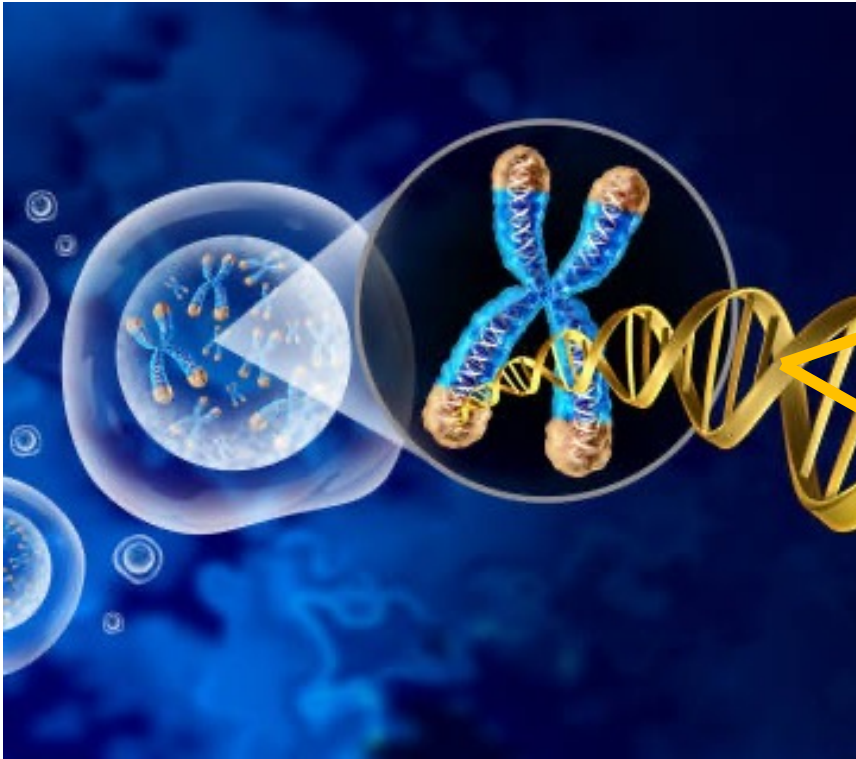
Case 4: Nuclear or mitochondrial?

Approach to a patient with suspected mitochondrial disease



Inheritance of primary mitochondrial disease

Nuclear DNA (chromosomes)



Mitochondrial DNA maintenance

e.g. POLG, Twinkle, TYMP, **RRM2B**,...

Respiratory chain function and assembly

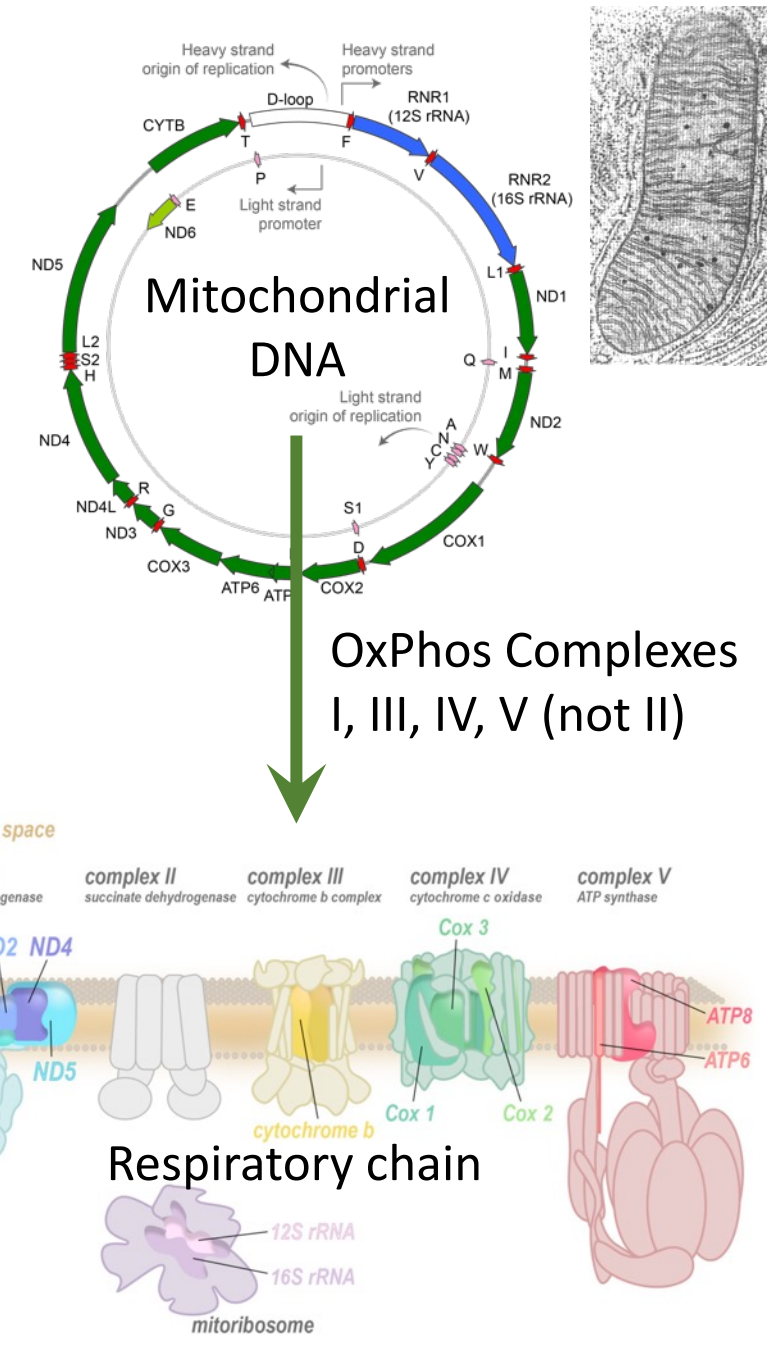
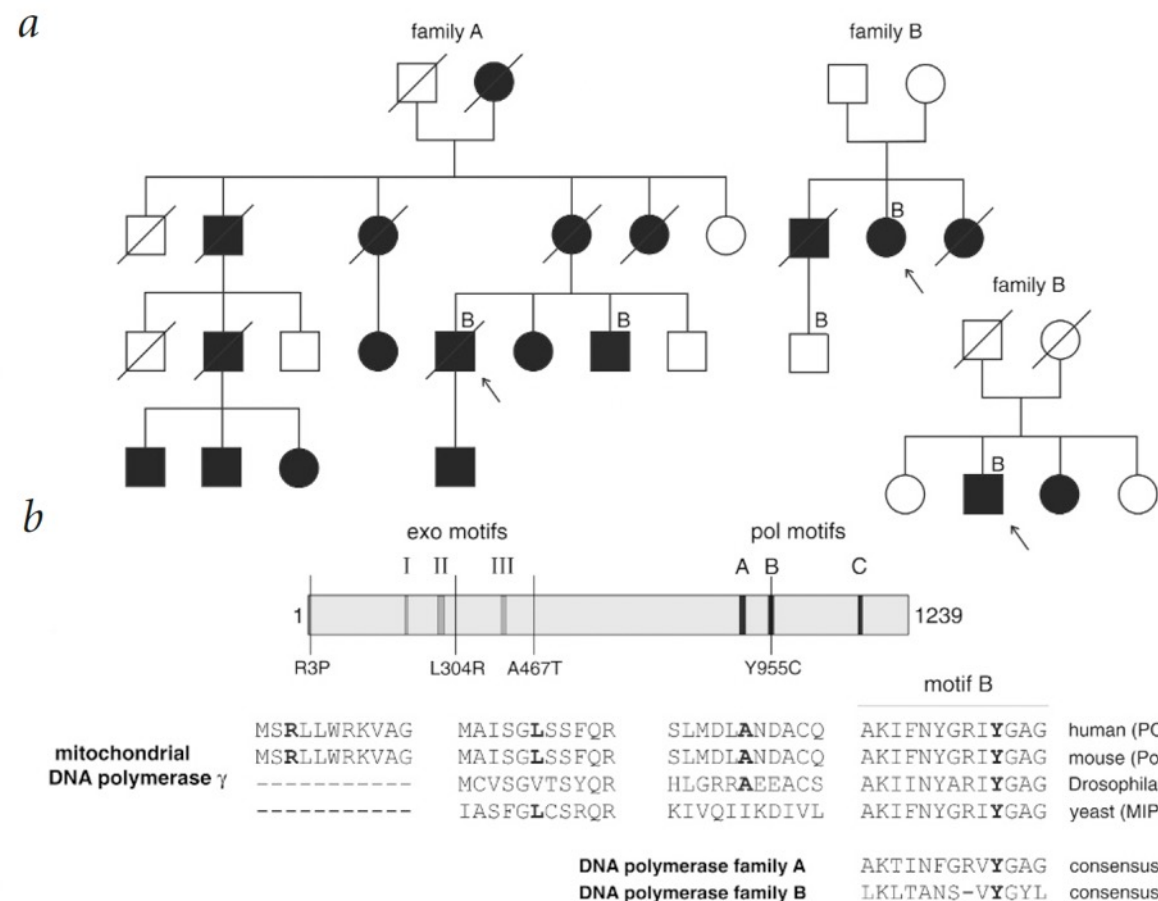


Table 2 | Defects of mtDNA maintenance

Mutated gene	mtDNA depletion	Multiple mtDNA deletions
<i>TK2</i>	Infantile or adult myopathy SMA phenocopy	Adult autosomal recessive PEO
<i>DGUOK</i>	Infantile hepato-cerebral syndrome	Adult myopathy ± PEO
<i>PEO1</i>	Hepato-cerebral syndrome Infantile-onset spinocerebellar ataxia	Adult autosomal dominant PEO-plus
<i>SUCLA2</i>	Infantile encephalomyopathy	—
<i>SUCLG1</i>	Infantile encephalomyopathy Methylmalonic aciduria	—
<i>RRM2B</i>	Infantile encephalomyopathy	Adult autosomal dominant or autosomal recessive PEO-plus
<i>MPV17</i>	Infantile hepatocerebral syndrome Navajo neurohepatopathy	Adult autosomal recessive PEO-plus
<i>TYMP</i>	Mitochondrial neurogastrointestinal encephalomyopathy	Mitochondrial neurogastrointestinal encephalomyopathy
<i>POLG</i>	Hepato-cerebral syndrome (Alpers syndrome)	Adult autosomal dominant or autosomal recessive PEO-plus; SANDO; MIRAS
<i>POLG2</i>	—	Adult autosomal dominant PEO
<i>ANT1</i>	—	Adult autosomal dominant PEO-plus
<i>OPA1</i>	—	DOA; PEO-plus
<i>MFN2</i>	—	DOA-plus
<i>GFER</i>	—	Congenital cataract, encephalomyopathy

Abbreviations: DOA, dominant optic atrophy; MIRAS, mitochondrial recessive ataxia syndrome; mtDNA, mitochondrial DNA; PEO, progressive external ophthalmoplegia; SANDO, sensory ataxic neuropathy, dysarthria and ophthalmoparesis; SMA, spinal muscular atrophy.

Nature Genetics **28**, 211–212 (2001) | [Cite this article](#)



Mutations of Mitochondrial DNA Polymerase γ A Are a Frequent Cause of Autosomal Dominant or Recessive Progressive External Ophthalmoplegia

One form of familial progressive external ophthalmoplegia with multiple mitochondrial DNA deletions recently has been associated with mutations in *POLG1*, the gene encoding pol γ A, the catalytic subunit of mitochondrial DNA polymerase. We screened the *POLG1* gene in several PEO families and identified five different heterozygous missense mutations of *POLG1* in 10 autosomal dominant families. Recessive mutations were found in three families. Our data show that mutations of *POLG1* are the most frequent cause of familial progressive external ophthalmoplegia associated with accumulation of multiple mitochondrial DNA deletions, accounting for approximately 45% of our family cohort.

Ann Neurol 2002;52:211-219

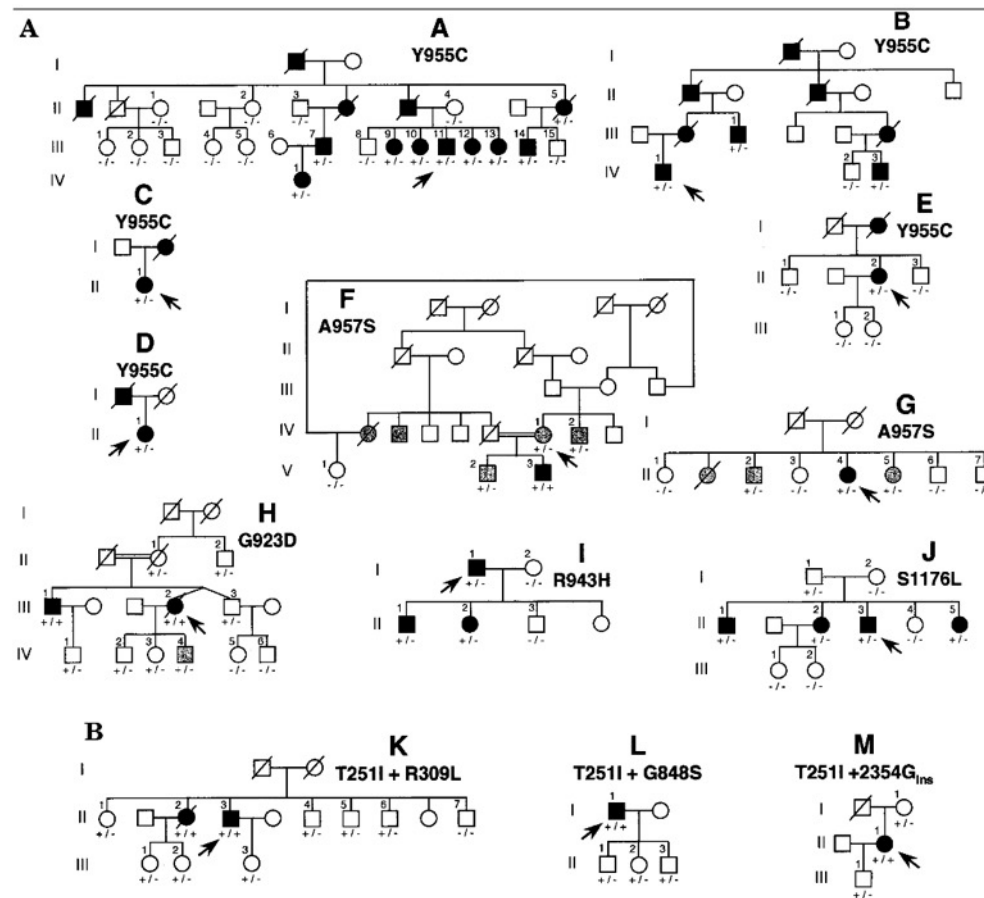
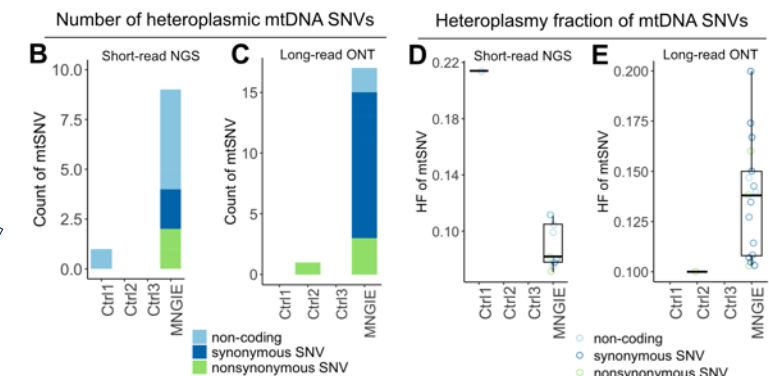
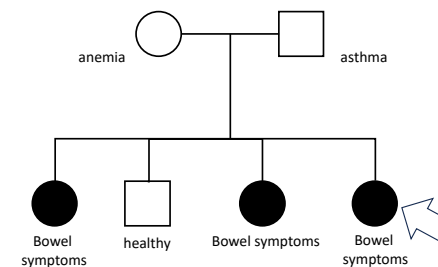
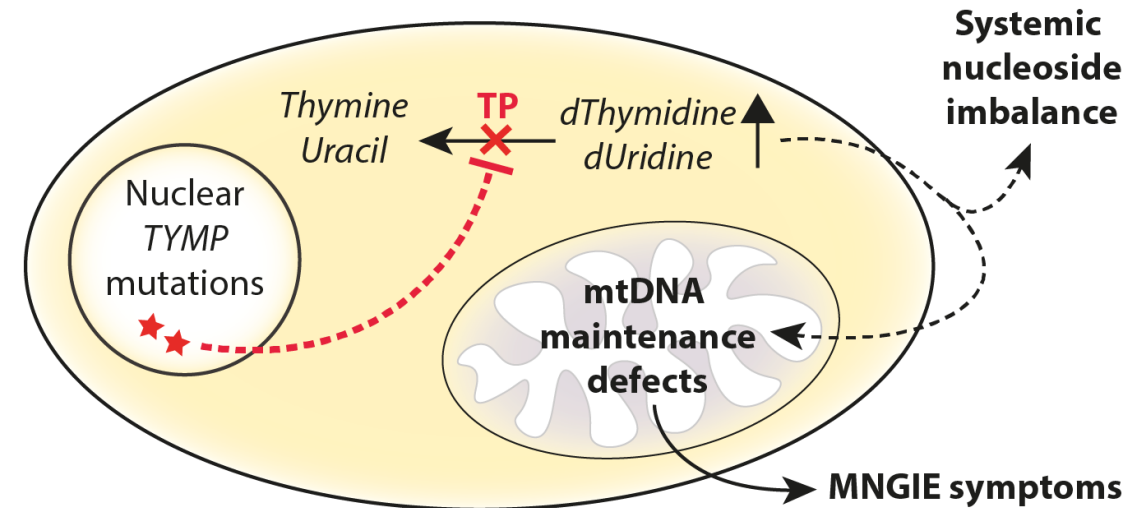


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<i>RRM2B</i>	Infantile encephalomyopathy	Adult autosomal dominant or autosomal recessive PEO-plus
<i>MPV17</i>	Infantile hepatocerebral syndrome Navajo neurohepatopathy	Adult autosomal recessive PEO-plus
<i>TYMP</i>	Mitochondrial neurogastrointestinal encephalomyopathy	Mitochondrial neurogastrointestinal encephalomyopathy
<i>POLG</i>	Hepato-cerebral syndrome (Alpers syndrome)	Adult autosomal dominant or autosomal recessive PEO-plus; SANDO; MIRAS
<i>POLG2</i>	—	Adult autosomal dominant PEO
<i>ANT1</i>	—	Adult autosomal dominant PEO-plus
<i>OPA1</i>	—	DOA; PEO-plus
<i>MFN2</i>	—	DOA-plus
<i>GFER</i>	—	Congenital cataract, encephalomyopathy

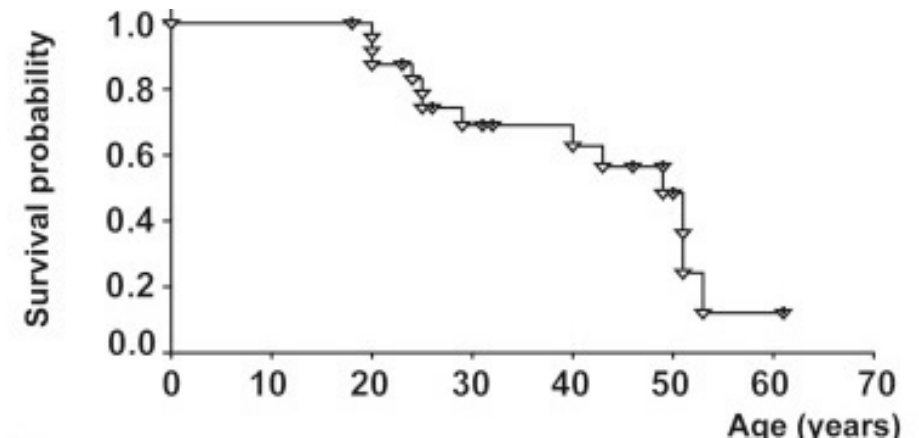
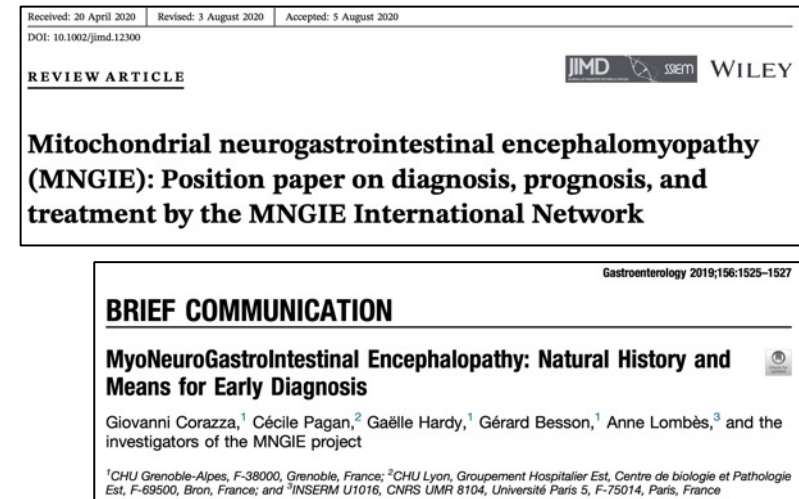
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Mitochondrial Neuro-Gastro-Intestinal Encephalomyopathy (MNGIE)



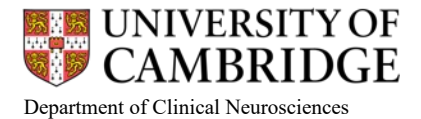
MNGIE disease course

- Ultra-rare disease: prevalence estimated $\sim 0.1\text{-}1/10^6$
- Progressive multisystem disorder
- Mean age at onset: 17.9 years (5 months to 43 years).
- **GI symptoms** (57% at onset; 100% at diagnosis)
- **Neurological symptoms** (43% at onset; 100% at diagnosis)
- **Mean age at death 35-37 years;**
survival 100% <19 years; <5% after 50 years.
- Death is mainly due to cachexia,
GI and liver complications

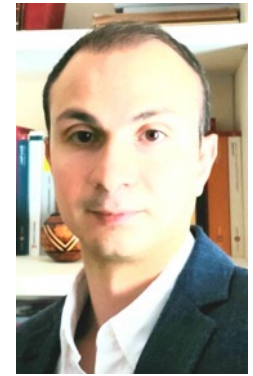


Overcoming the many hurdles between proof-of-concept and a clinical trial of a MNGIE gene therapy

1. Funding
2. Manufacturing
3. Regulatory approvals
4. Pre-clinical toxicity and biodistribution studies
5. Natural history data
6. Phase I/II Clinical trial
7. Route to Market



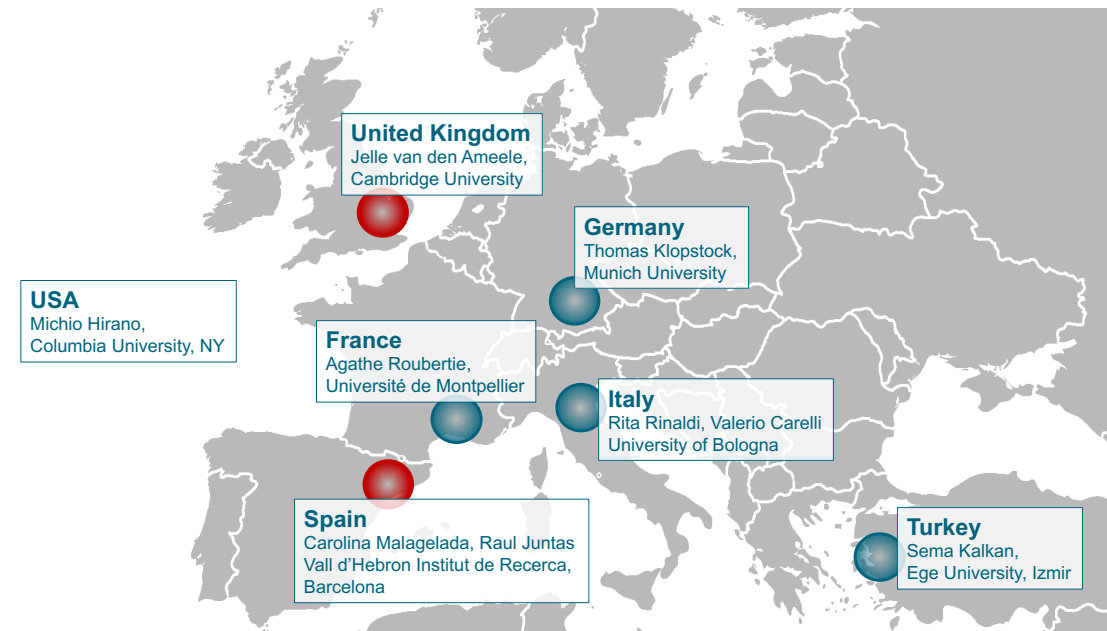
MNGIE Natural history study



Ignazio Arena
with Caterina Garone, Bologna

Inclusion criteria

1. Have laboratory-confirmed TP deficiency:
 - a) Homozygous or compound heterozygous known pathogenic mutations in the TYMP gene; and/or
 - b) Decreased TP enzyme activity <20% of normal, increased plasma Thd > 2 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, or increased plasma dUrd > 5 $\mu\text{mol/L}$.
2. *Be aged 5 or over on day that study consent is obtained.*
3. *Able/willing to provide informed consent (or parent/guardian)*



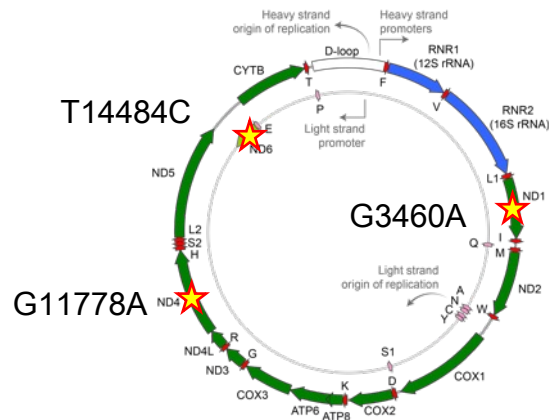
In parallel to US-based NH study led by Michio Hirano (NAMDC7402) and Genomit

Do get in touch:
jv361@cam.ac.uk
caterina.garone@unibo.it

Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON)

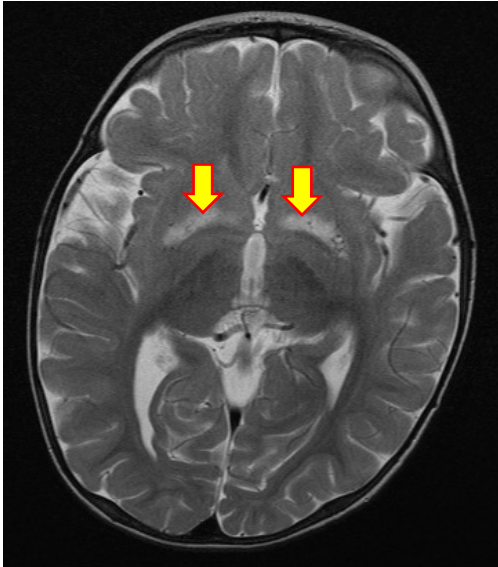
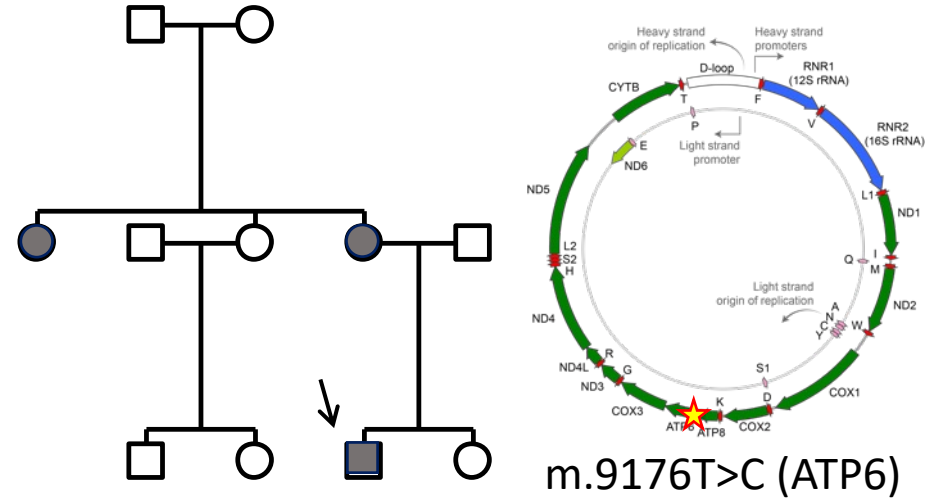


Credit: Lohm Eye Society Sweden

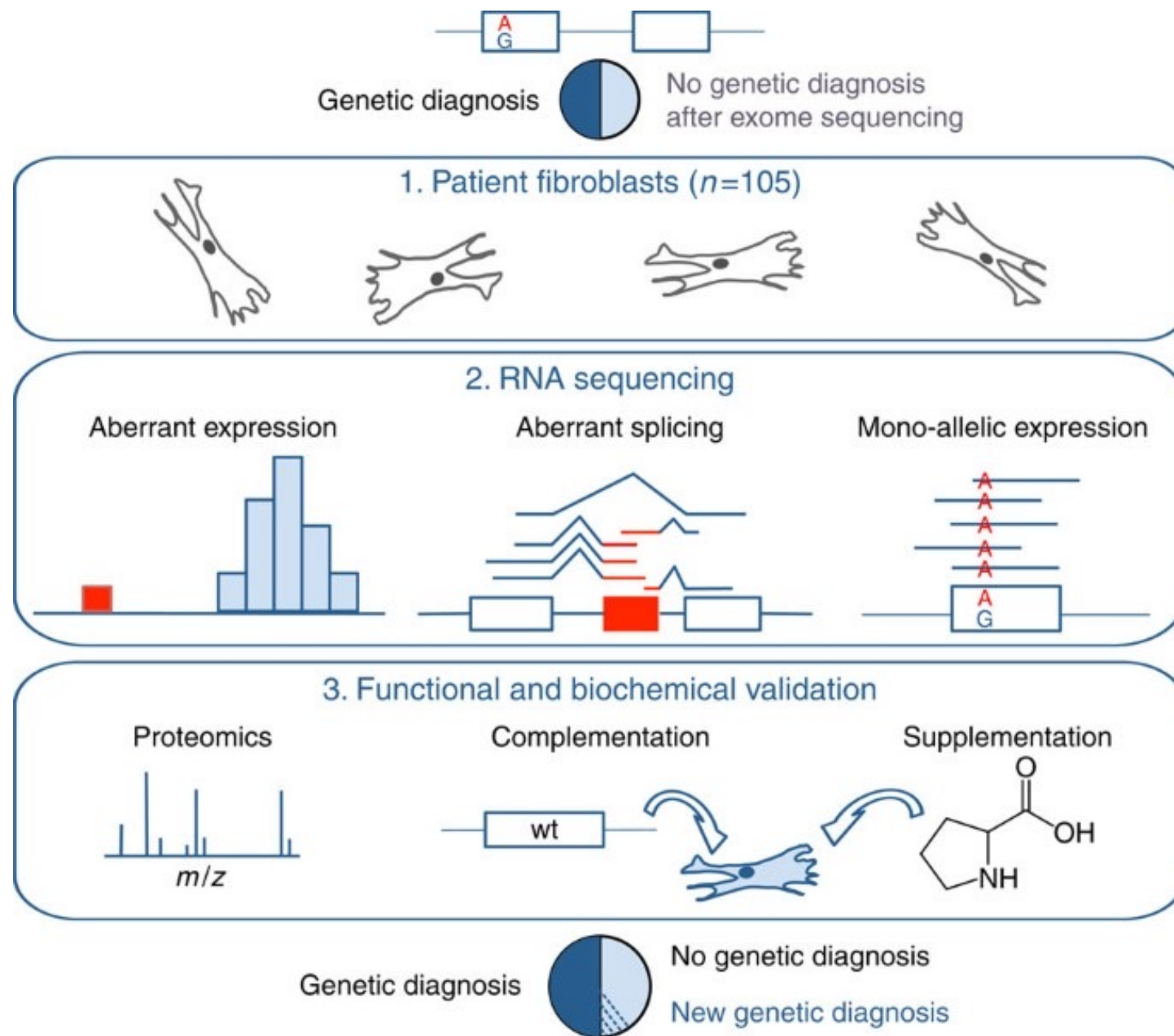


- Acute onset painless central visual loss
- One eye soon followed by the other eye
- 1/50,000 prevalence (but 1/9,000 carriers)
- Males > Females
- Modifiers of penetrance? Smoking?
- Mostly **homoplasmic** mtDNA mutations

Leigh Syndrome



- Primarily childhood onset
- Episodic developmental regression, often triggered by metabolic stress: fever, surgery, ...
- Seizures
- Movement disorder (ataxia, chorea, spasticity,...)
- Ophthalmoplegia
- Respiratory failure
- Brainstem and basal ganglia signal changes on MRI
- Broad range of genetic causes (nuclear and mtDNA)



Useful resources

- www-neurosciences.medschl.cam.ac.uk/mitocamb/
- www.newcastle-mitochondria.com
- Parikh et al, 2015 and 2017: Diagnosis and management of mitochondrial disease: a consensus statement from the Mitochondrial Medicine Society
- Ng et al., 2019: Consensus-based statements for the management of mitochondrial stroke-like episodes
- Chinnery and Keogh, Clinical Mitochondrial Medicine (2nd edition in preparation)
- The Lily Foundation
www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk



Fighting Mitochondrial Disease.
Fighting For Hope!

Clinical Guidelines

Mitochondrial diseases are an important group of inherited disorders that result in a defective mitochondrial respiratory chain. Despite this, the management of these conditions remains a poorly researched area and there is little expert advice available for the treatment of specific aspects of mitochondrial disease. Multi system involvement is also common and this can pose additional management dilemmas for doctors. The Newcastle Mitochondrial Disease Clinical Guidelines aim to provide expert guidance to health professionals in the management of mitochondrial disease.

Within these pages we aim to offer guidance on specific aspects of mitochondrial disease. We have started by publishing the 'Cardiac Guidelines in Adult Mitochondrial Disease', but will add additional guidelines as soon as they are available. Until then, guidance can be accessed from the Newcastle Mitochondrial Team as it has been in the past, either in The Mitochondrial Clinic or by contacting one of the mitochondrial team directly.

The guidelines have been developed using consensus expert opinion sourced from the National Commissioning Group Service for Rare Mitochondrial Diseases for Adults and Children in Newcastle with associated experts from other hospitals.

Mitochondrial Consensus Guidelines

CLINICAL
MITOCHONDRIAL
MEDICINE
EDITED BY Patrick F. Chinnery
and Michael J. Keogh



Take home messages (1)

1. Mitochondria have many roles - defects in oxidative phosphorylation cause "mitochondrial disease".
2. Mitochondria contain their own circular genome that undergoes relaxed replication outside the nucleus and is maternally inherited.
3. Mitochondrial disease can be caused by mutations in the nuclear or the mitochondrial genome.
4. One cell contains many copies of mtDNA. Heteroplasmy occurs when a mutation occurs in one or more of these copies.
5. There is a threshold effect for deleterious mtDNA mutations to cause a phenotype

Take home messages (2)

6. Patterns that raise suspicion of mitochondrial disease: CPEO, diabetes and deafness, optic neuropathy, progressive multisystem conditions, maternal inheritance
7. First-line genomic testing has replaced all other diagnostic tests in most instances of suspected mitochondrial disease.
8. Sometimes, a muscle biopsy is still required, in particular in a patient with CPEO, often caused by heteroplasmic mtDNA mutations that may become undetectable in blood.
9. mtDNA maintenance disorders are nuclear inherited mitochondrial diseases due to mutations in genes required for mtDNA replication.
10. There are lots of useful resources to support diagnosis and management.

Questions?
jv361@cam.ac.uk



MRC
Mitochondrial
Biology Unit



UNIVERSITY OF
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Department of Clinical Neurosciences