

LFS

Research Café

Eating the right foods to prevent disease

How your diet impacts DNA and gene functioning,
and the link to long-term health outcomes



Dr. Barbara Stefanska

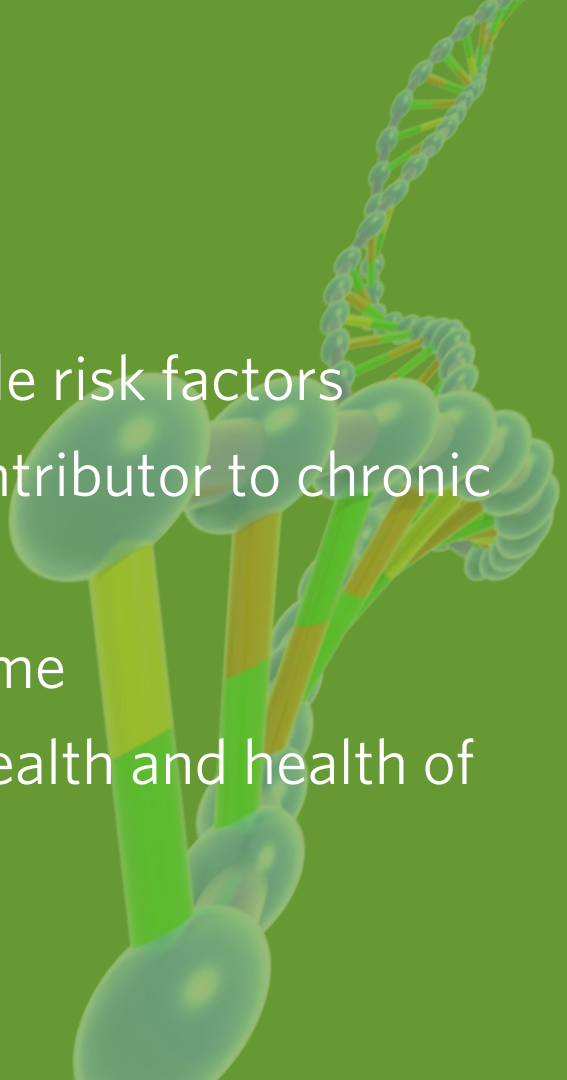
*Assistant Professor
Faculty of Land and Food Systems*



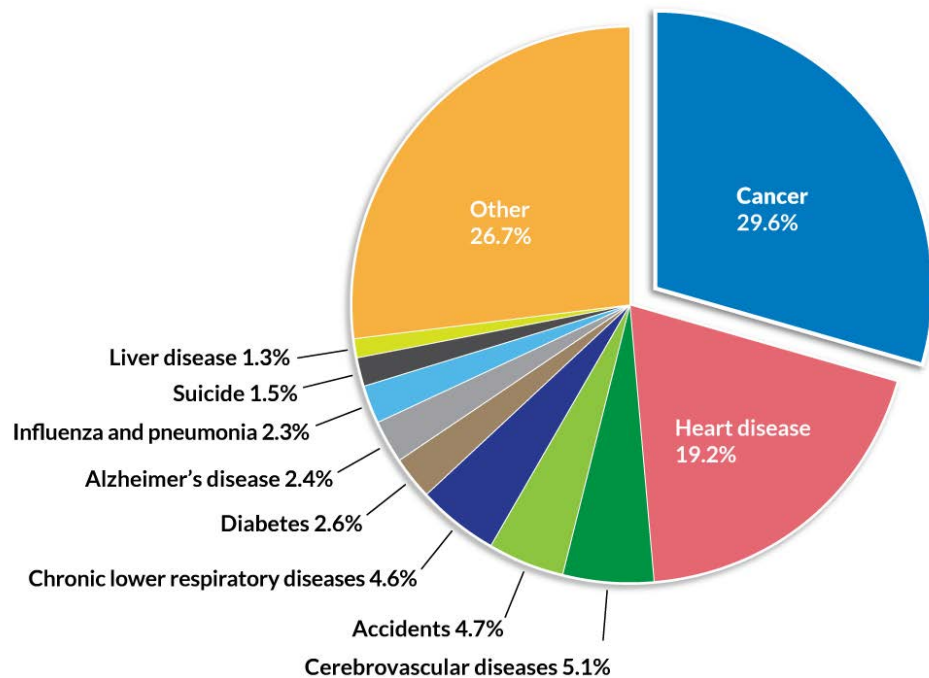
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Land and Food Systems

Today's Presentation

- Chronic disease and modifiable risk factors
- Epigenetic alterations as a contributor to chronic disease
- Impact of diet on the epigenome
- Diet as a factor shaping our health and health of next generations



Chronic disease in Canada



Chronic disease in Canada

Direct health care costs:

\$70 billion a year

+

Indirect cost:

\$55 billion a year

from loss of productivity and
foregone income

Chronic disease risk factors

UNDERLYING SOCIOECONOMIC, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS

Globalization

Urbanization

Population ageing

COMMON MODIFIABLE RISK FACTORS

Unhealthy diet

Physical inactivity

Tobacco use

NON-MODIFIABLE RISK FACTORS

Age

Heredity

INTERMEDIATE RISK FACTORS

Raised blood pressure

Raised blood glucose

Abnormal blood lipids

Overweight/obesity

MAIN CHRONIC DISEASES

Heart disease

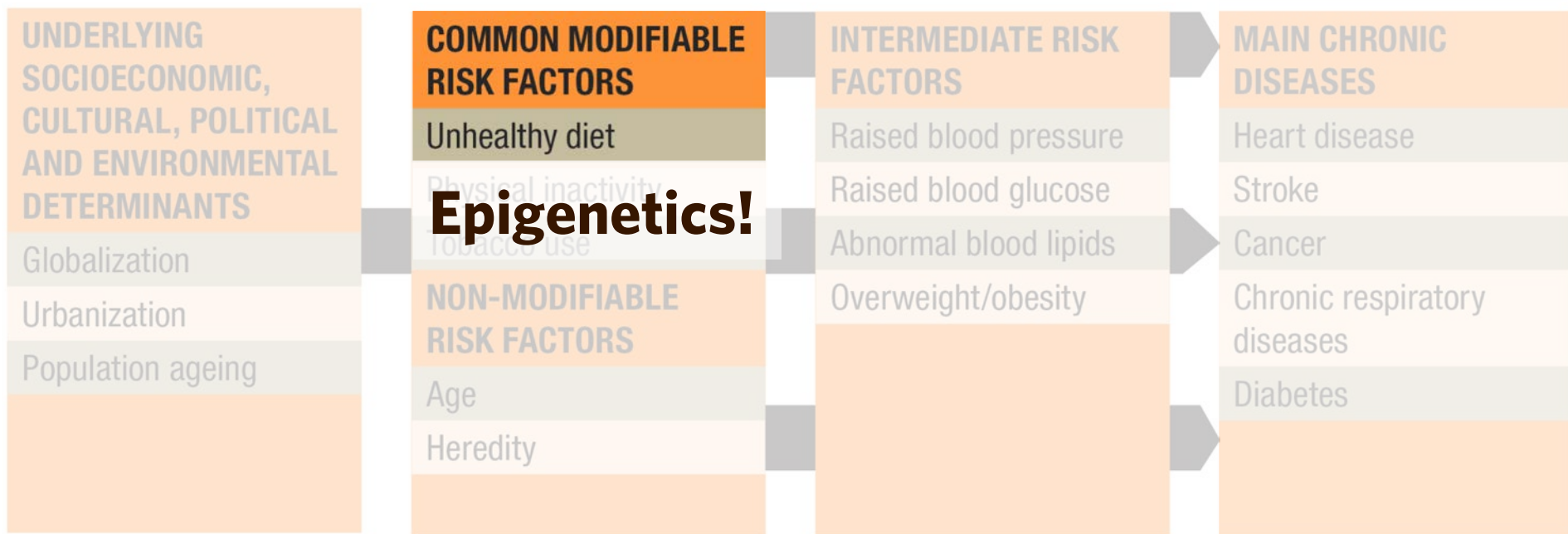
Stroke

Cancer

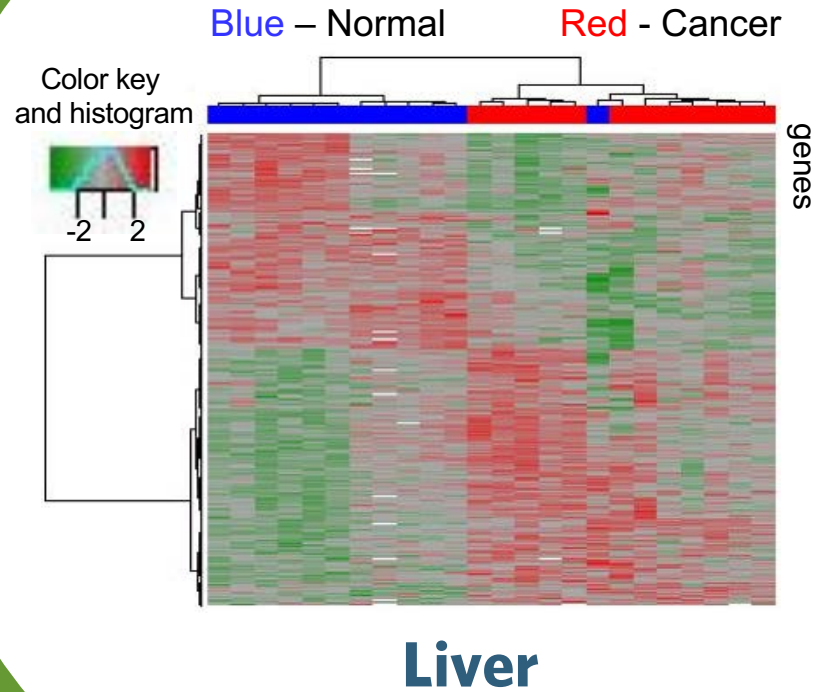
Chronic respiratory diseases

Diabetes

Chronic disease modifiable risk factors



Altered epigenetic patterns in chronic disease



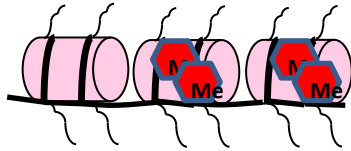
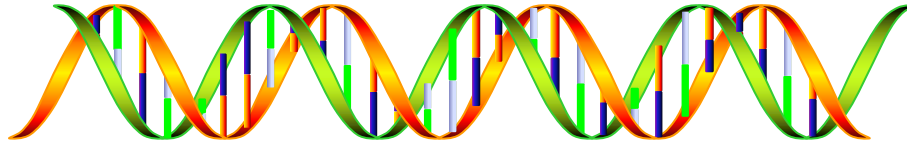


Twins

Lamarck got it right



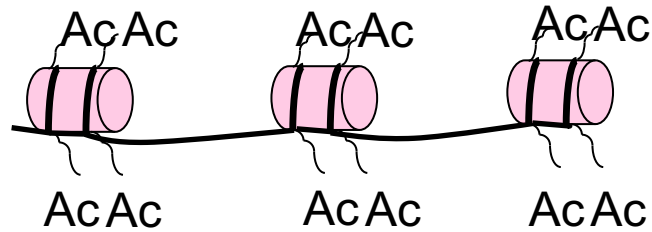
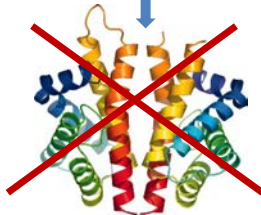
Epigenetics & gene functioning



Condensed chromatin



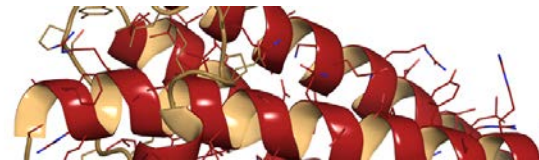
Gene silenced



Open chromatin

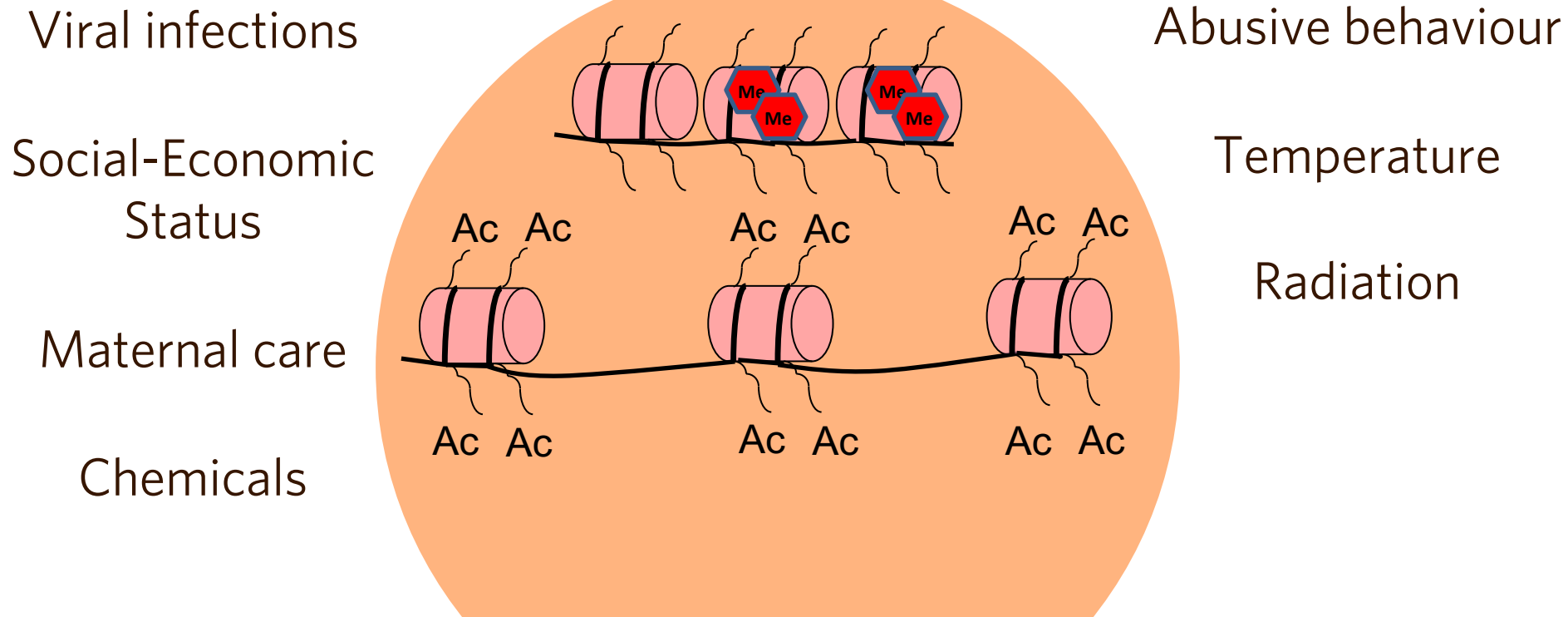


Gene expressed



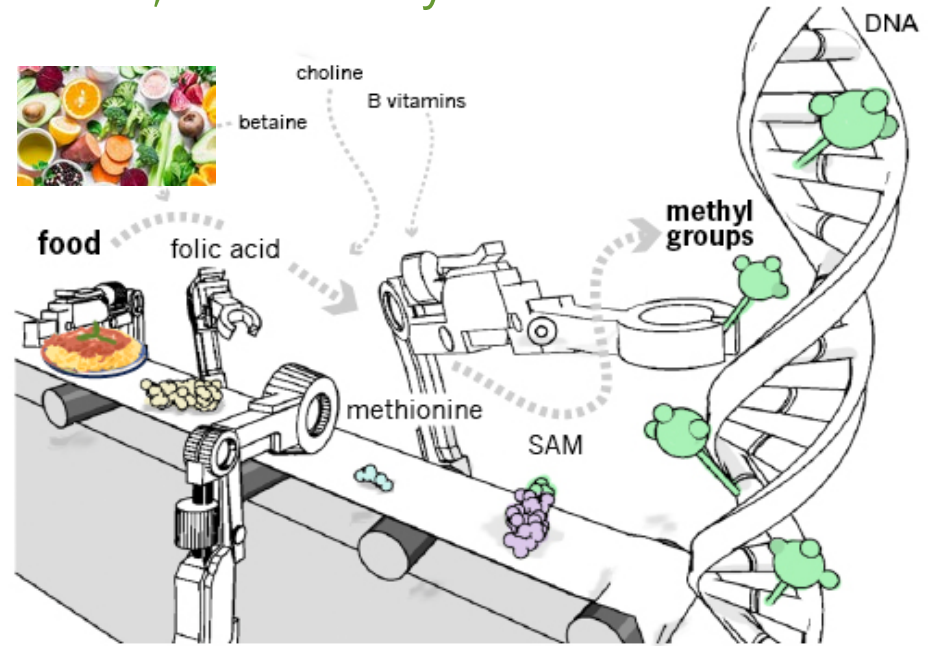
Dynamics of epigenetic modifications

Diet



Nutrition & the epigenome

SAM, the methyl donor



**SAM reshapes
the epigenome
and
protects
from bone
metastasis**

Ctrl



SAM



Bioactive compounds

Disease prevention



Anthocyanins



Curcumin (turmeric)



Epigallocatechin Gallate



Genistein



Lycopene



Organosulfides



Pterostilbene



Quercetin



Resveratrol



Sulforaphane



Vitamin A (ATRA)



Vitamin D (D3: Calcitriol)

Bioactive compounds

Disease prevention



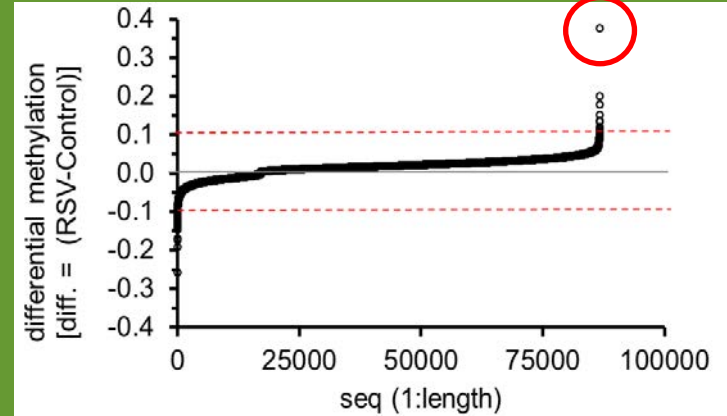
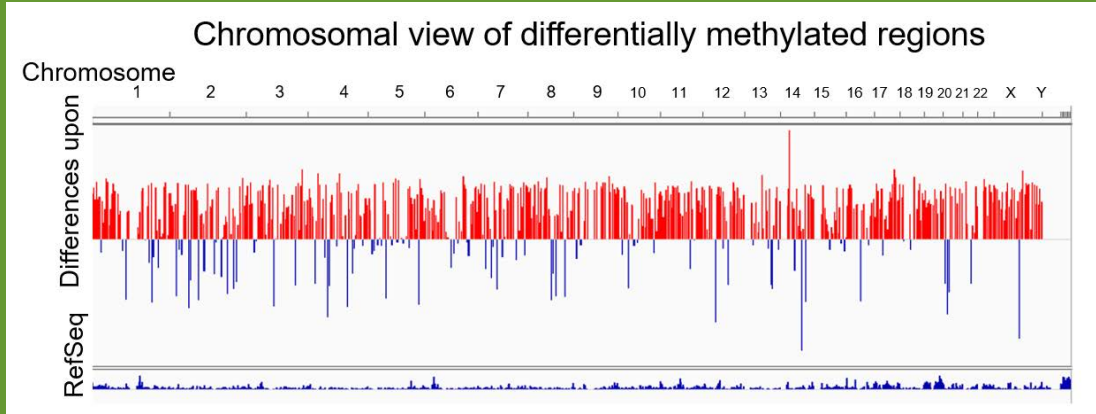
Pterostilbene



Resveratrol



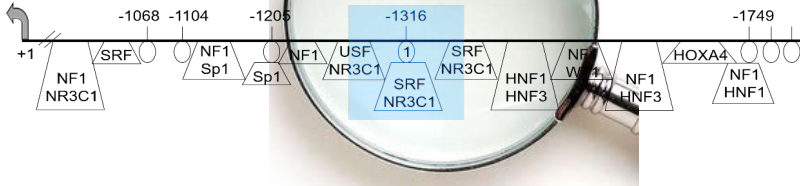
Grapes and blueberries: Disease Prevention through epigenetics





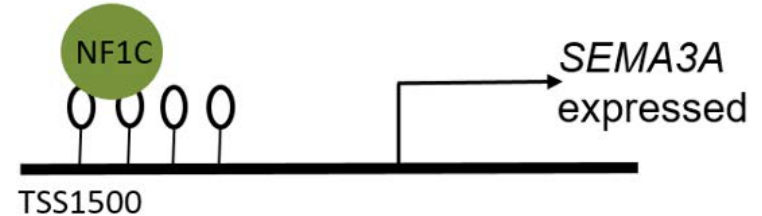
Grapes and blueberries: DNA-interacting proteins responsible for epigenetic activity

SEMA3A



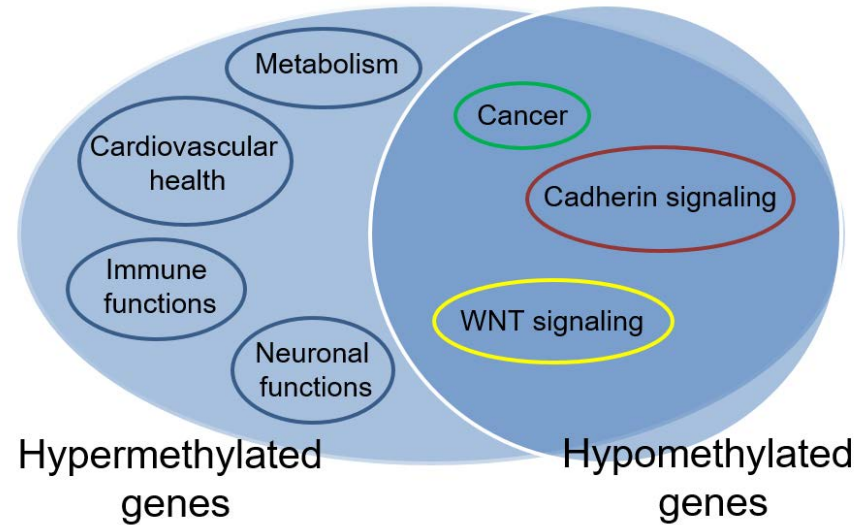
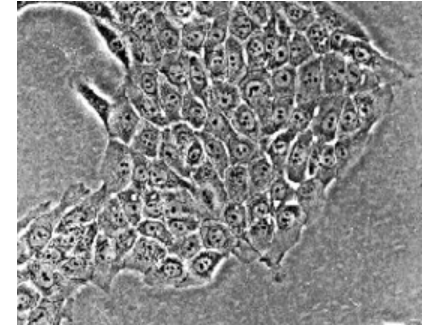
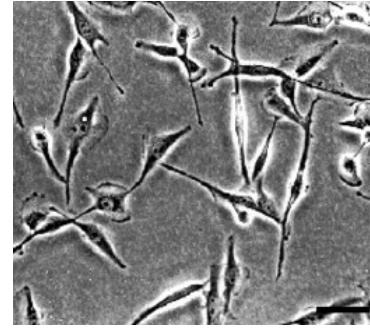
SALL3

DNMT3A





**Healthy cells
respond to foods
through changes in
the epigenetic
patterns**



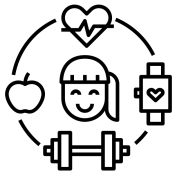
Diet and health of future generations



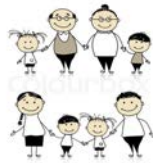
Diet



Environment



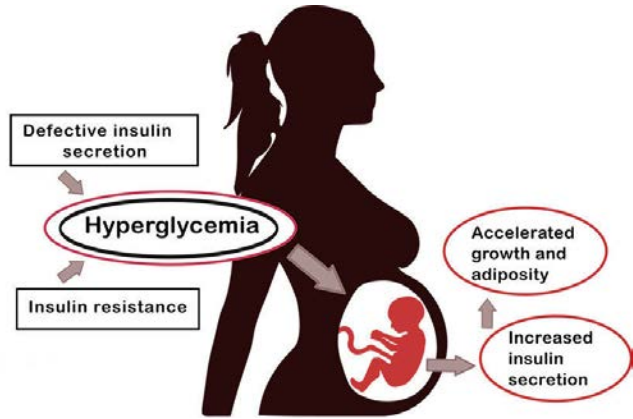
Lifestyle



Epigenetics



Gestational diabetes

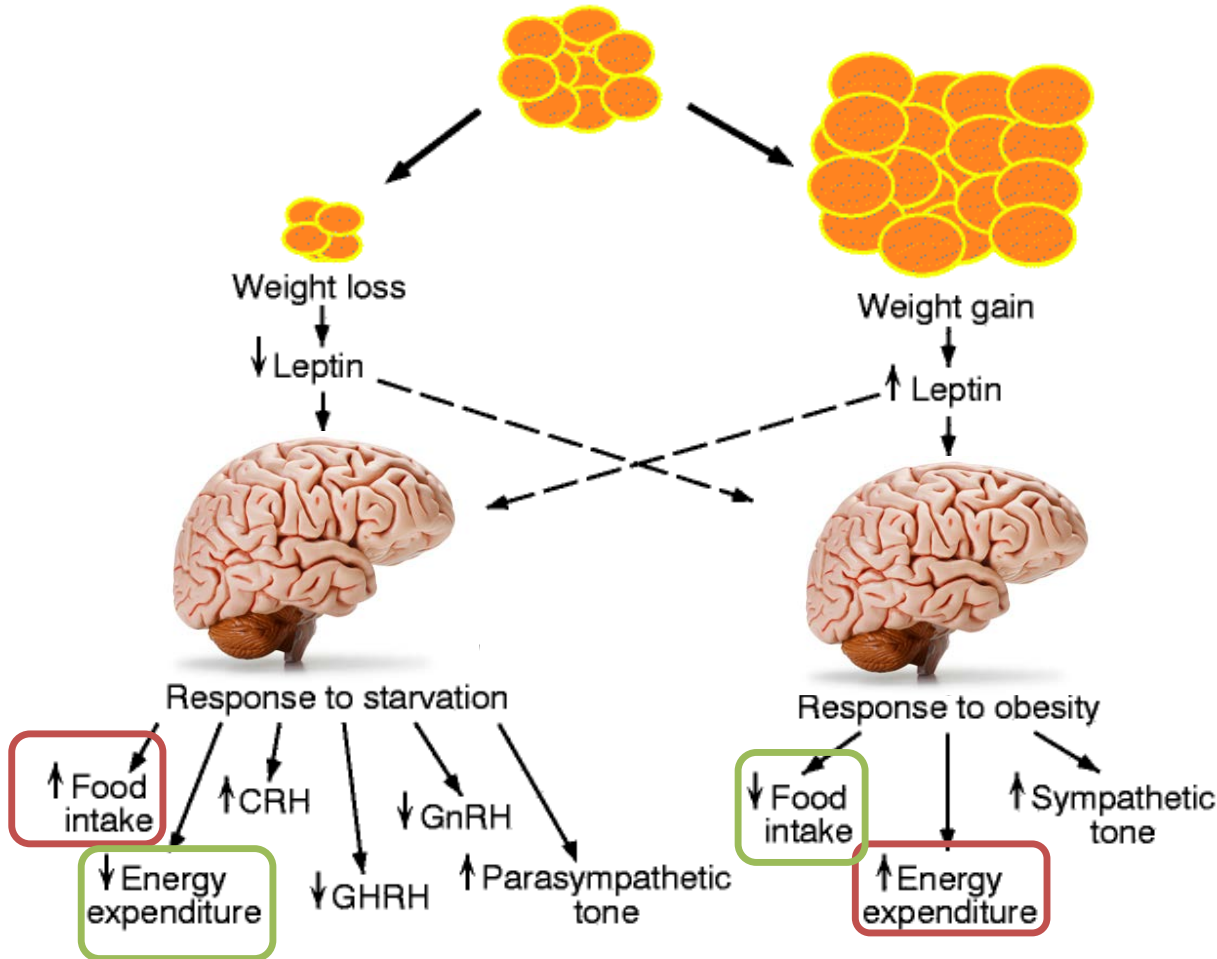


Predisposition of the offspring to diabetes

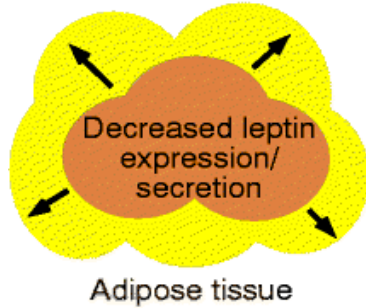
Epigenetic silencing of Leptin

Diabetes type 2 in the offspring

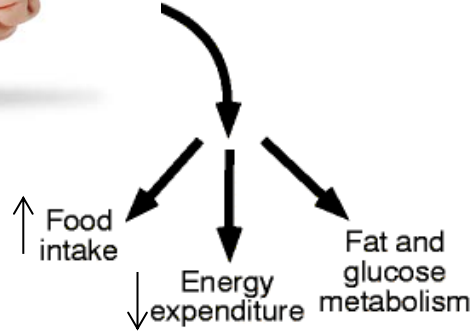
Leptin as a guardian of body weight



Inappropriately
low leptin
secretion for a
given fat mass



Decrease in
expression through
hypermethylation

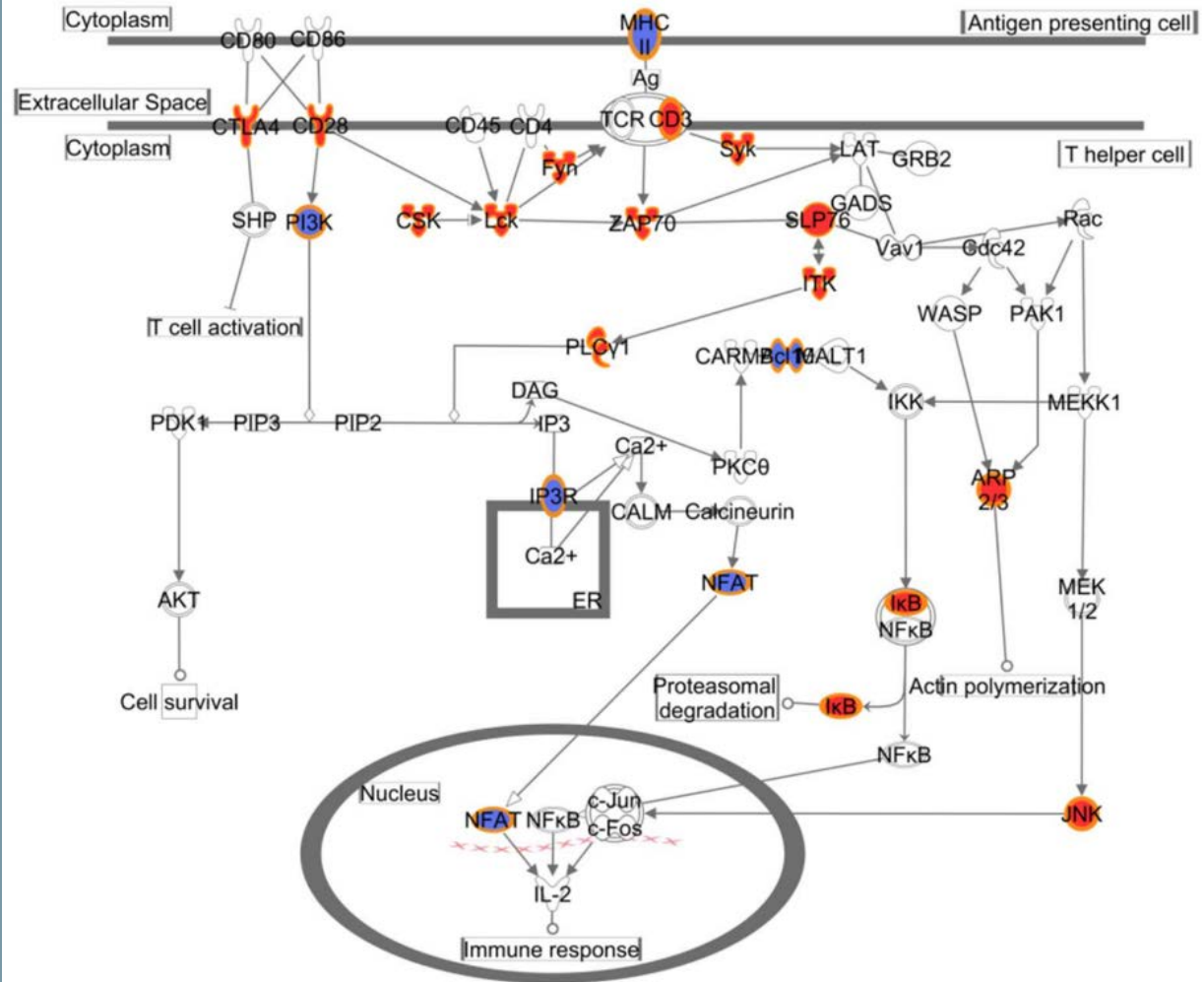


**Gestational
diabetes and
epigenetics
of leptin gene**



Project Ice Storm Quebec 1998

Project Ice Storm Quebec 1998





Animal models to track epigenetic effects



barbara.stefanska@ubc.ca



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Land and Food Systems