

# EPIDEMIOLOGY OF NAFLD/NASH

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Conflict of interest (period 2015-2016) : Consultant for ROTTAPHARM-MEDA

# OUTLINES OF MY SPEACH

- Definition
- Prevalence
- Incidence
- Risk factors
- Natural History
- The future of Hepatology.....

# Forms and etiology of NAFLD/NASH

✓ **“Primary” NAFLD/NASH: Associated with the metabolic syndrome**

✓ **“Secondary” NAFLD: Associated with different conditions**

Drugs: Steroids, Amiodarone, Tamoxifen, anti-HIV drugs, etc.

Metabolic or genetic alterations: Lipodystrophy, Dysbetalipoproteinemia, Weber-Christian disease

Nutritional: TPN, Rapid weight loss, Bariatric surgery, Starvation

Small bowel diseases: IBD, Bacterial overgrowth

Environmental hepatotoxins: e.g. Petrochemicals

✓ **Steatosis accompanying other forms of liver disease**

Fatty Liver at US  
or alteration of LE

Exlude HBV and HCV infection and  
other causes of liver diseases

Evaluate with accuracy  
alcohol intake

Alcohol intake  
< 20 g/day

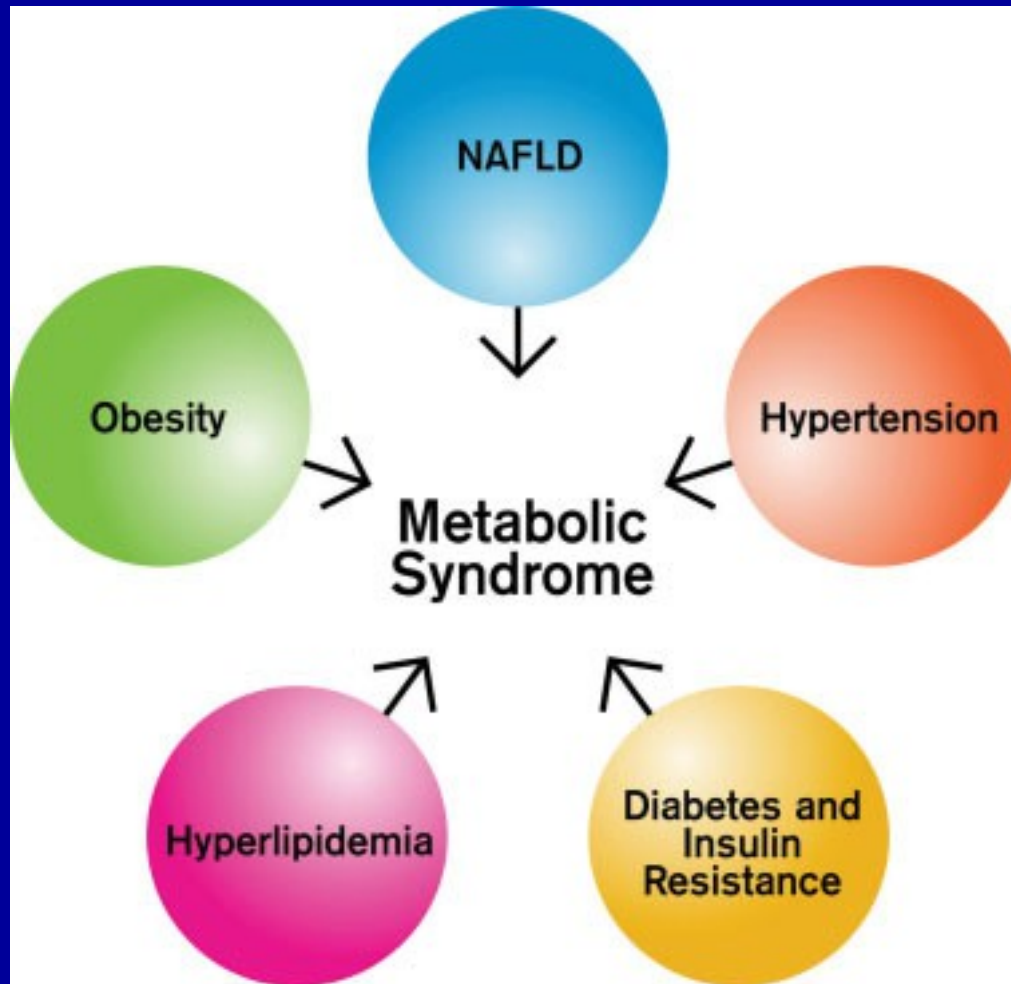
NAFLD

Insulin  
resistance  
(Metabolic  
Syndrome)

Alcohol intake  
> 20 g/day

AFLD

# Components of the Metabolic Syndrome



# Similar entities: different names and acronyms

**NASH** Non Alcoholic Steatohepatitis

**ASH** Alcoholic steatohepatitis

**BASH** Both alcoholic and non alcoholic steatohepatitis

**DASH** Drug induced steatohepatitis

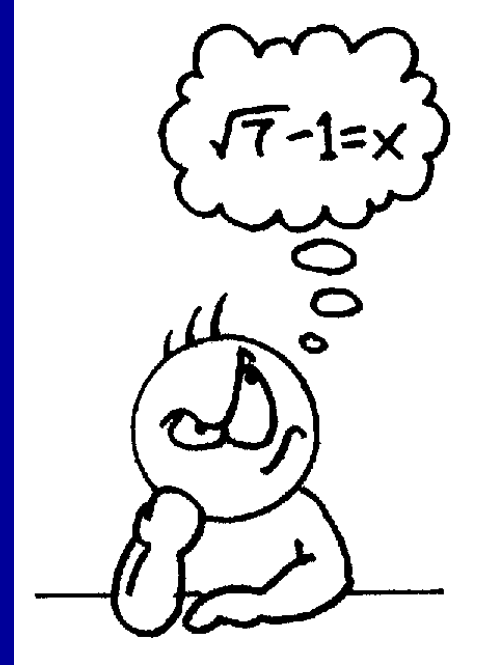
**CASH** Chemotherapy associated steatohepatitis

**PASH** PNPLA3 associated steatohepatitis

# NAFLD/NASH Prevalence

Diagnosis ? Different series..

- Liver Biopsy
- Post-mortem studies
- Cryptogenic cirrhosis
- Surrogate alteration LFT (GGT, ALT, etc.)
- Surrogate indexes (FLI, USFLI)



# Italy: The Dionysos Study



	Condition Prevalence	Liver disease Prevalence	
		Among exposed	General Population
<b>HCV</b>	<b>3,2%</b> (221/6917)	50% (110/221)	<b>1,6%</b> (110/6917)
<b>HBV</b>	<b>1,2%</b> (83/6917)	25% (21/83)	<b>0,3%</b> (21/6917)
<b>Alcohol*</b>	<b>21%</b> (1349/6917)	5,5% (74/1349)	<b>1,1%</b> (74/6917)
<b>NAFLD</b>	<b>25%</b> (1729/6917)	<b>7,9-11,9%</b> (138-207/1729) estimated	<b>2-3%</b> (138-207/6917) estimated

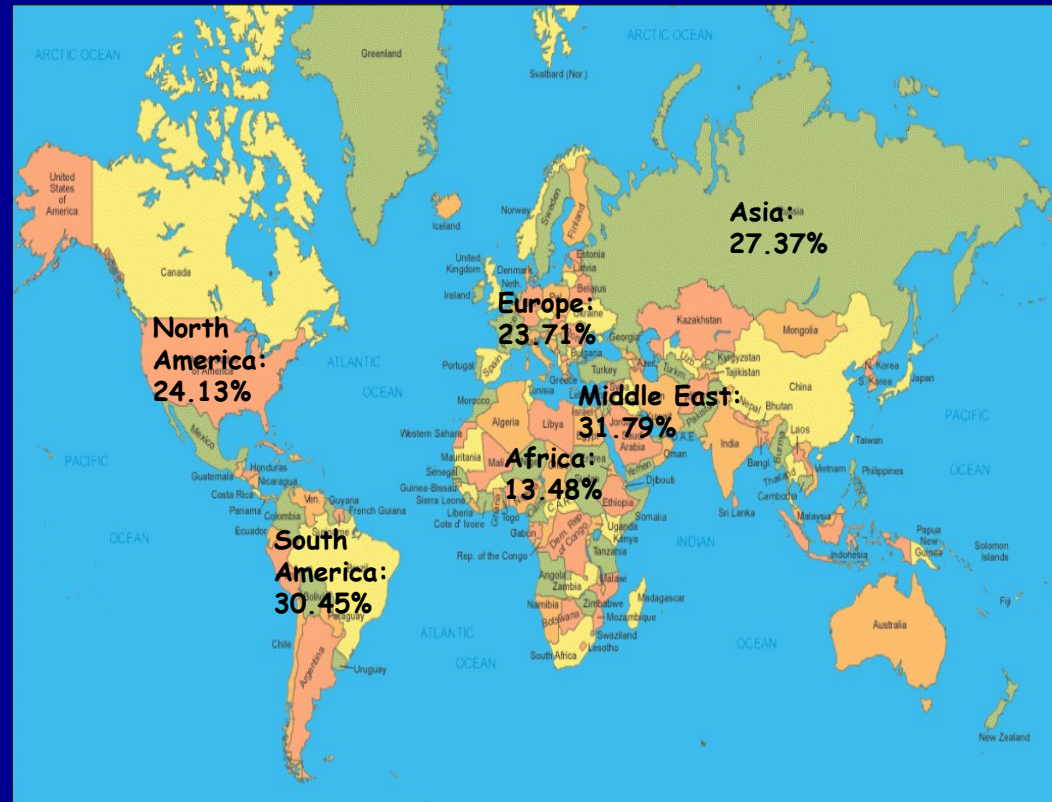
\*Risk threshold for developing liver disease (> 30 gr/day x both sexes)

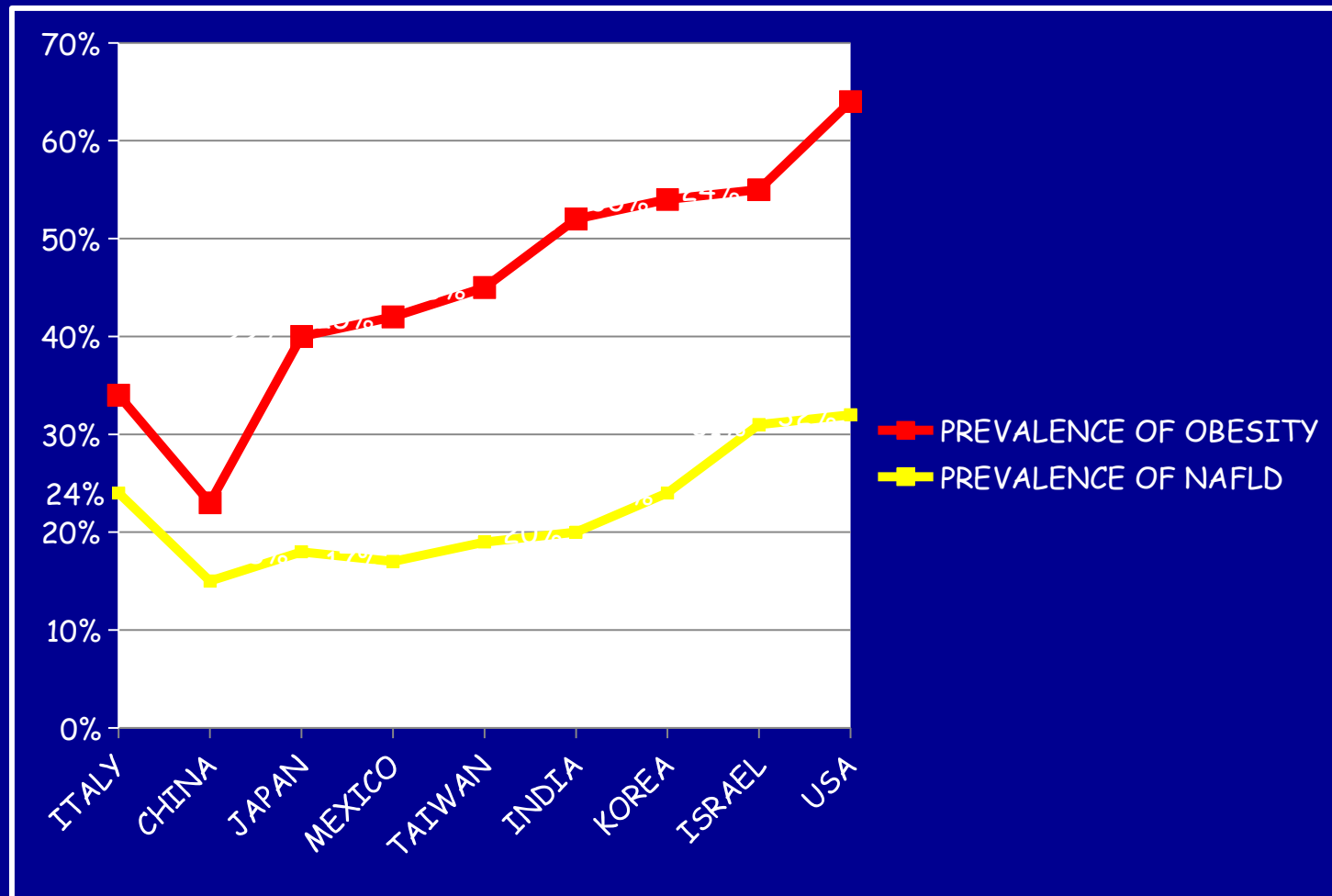
Bellentani S et al, Dig Dis 2010  
 Bedogni G et al, Hepatology 2005  
 Bellentani S et al, Gut 1999  
 Bellentani S et al, Gut 1997  
 Bellentani S et al, Hepatology 1994



# THE GLOBAL PREVALENCE OF NAFLD

- Pubmed and MEDLINE databases were searched from 1989-2015 for terms involving epidemiology and progression of NAFLD.
- Out of 729 studies, 86 were included with a sample size of 8,515,431 from 22 countries
- Global prevalence of NAFLD is **25.24% (22.10-28.65)** with highest prevalence in Middle East and South America and lowest in Africa

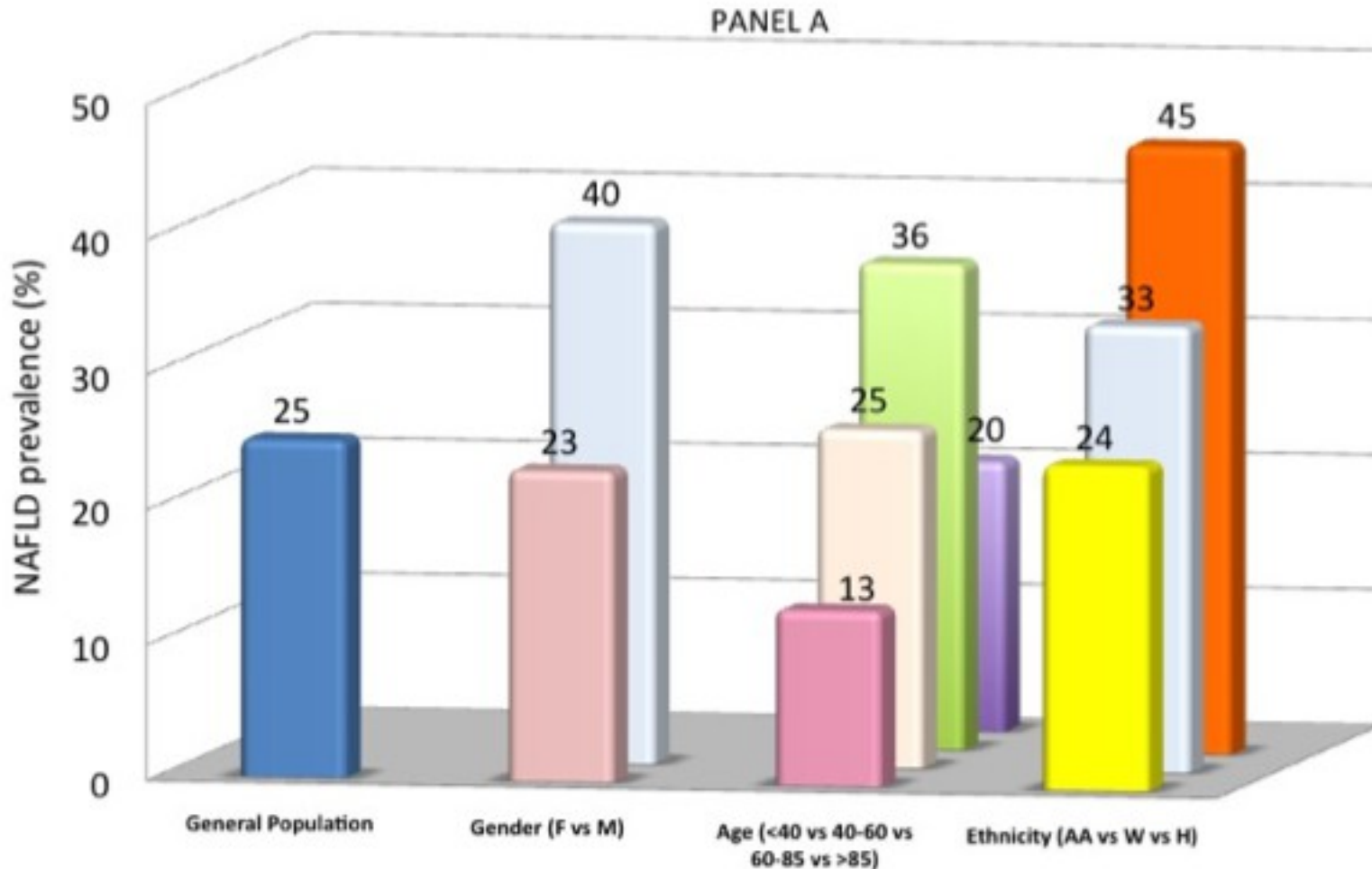




Prevalence of NAFLD as a function of obesity in different part of the world

*From Lazo et al. Semin.Liver Dis., 2008 modified*

# PREVALENCE OF NAFLD/NASH IN DIFFERENT POPULATIONS



# Prevalence NASH and advanced fibrosis in children/adolescents

Time Intervals	NAFLD P (%)	NASH P (%)
1998-1994	3.3	0.74
1999-2004	8.8	3.1
2005-2010	10.1	3.4

# ECONOMIC BURDEN OF NAFLD/NASH

- In the US, over 64 million people with NAFLD, with annual direct medical costs of about \$103 bn [\$1,613 PP].
- In EU-4 countries ~52 million people with NAFLD with an annual cost of about € 35 billion (€ 354 to € 1,163 PP)
- Costs are highest in patients aged 45-65.
- Burden is higher when societal costs are included.

# PREVALENCE OF NAFLD/NASH TAKE HOME MESSAGES 1

The global average prevalence in  
general population:

ADULTS NAFLD=25-30%, NASH (20% of  
NAFLD =5-6%),

CHILDREN NAFLD=8-10%, NASH=2-5%

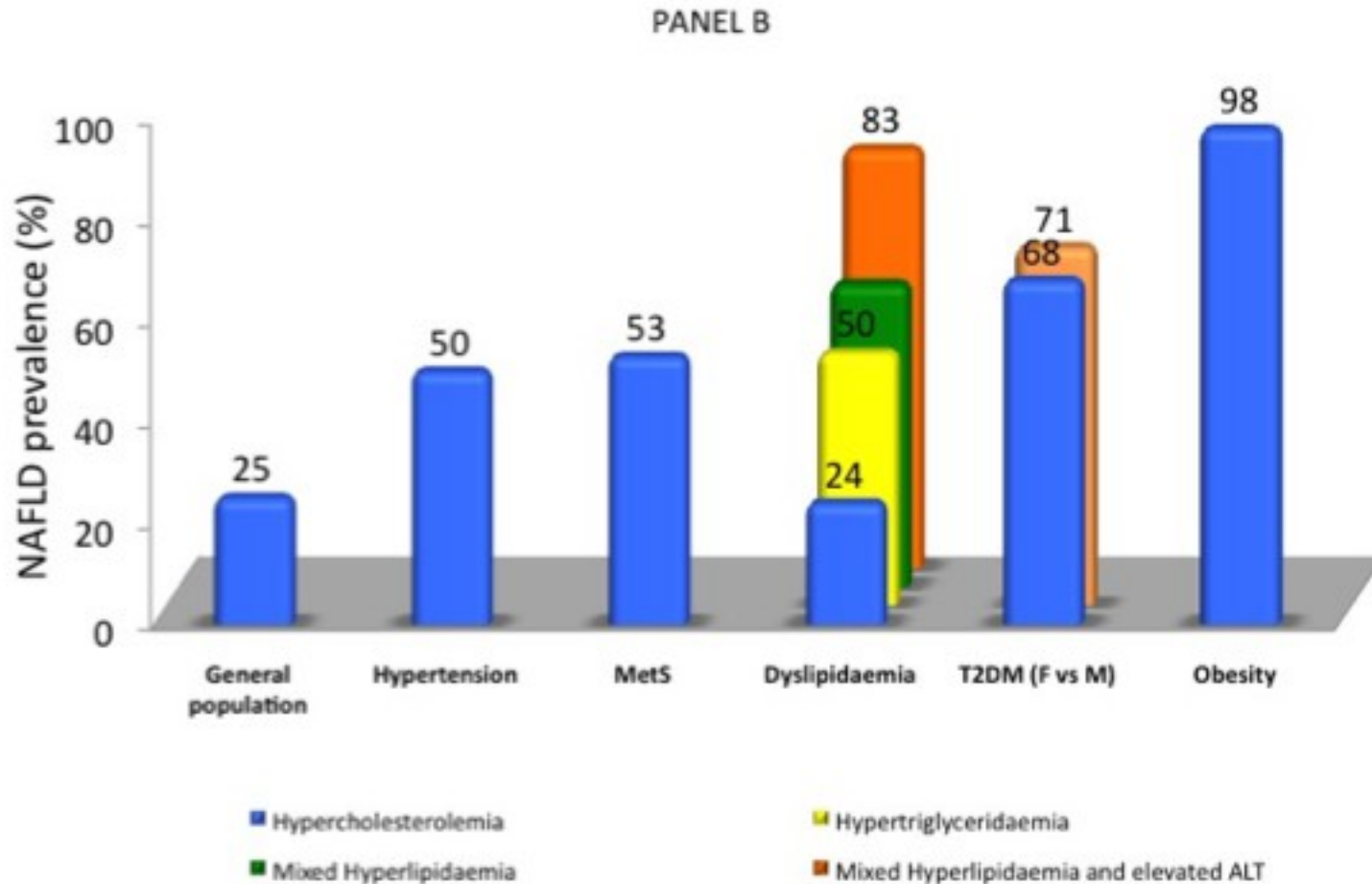
- Increases with age;
- Higher in males vs female;
- Higher in Caucasian and Hispanic;
- Increase trends in time (Big epidemic  
public health burden in the next future !)

# PREVALENCE OF NAFLD/NASH

## TAKE HOME MESSAGES 2

- About one fourth of world's population have NAFLD
- The subgroup of NASH (5-6%) is progressive in 20-30% of the cases to cirrhosis/HCC
- In the US, NASH is the second leading indication for liver transplantation
- NAFLD is higher in patients with hypertension, diabetes or alteration of lipid metabolism
- The economic and public health burden of NAFLD is enormous and increasing

# RISK FACTORS FOR NAFLD/NASH





# EATING HABITS MODIFIES THE RISK OF NAFLD

Consuming a greater percentage of the daily calories in the morning decreased the odds of steatosis by 14% and 21%. Conversely, the odds of steatosis were 20% greater when morning and midday meals were skipped or when meals were consumed late in the night (73%). Late eating also increased the probability of developing significant fibrosis (61%).

**CONCLUSIONS:** Eating breakfast and lunch, and avoiding Latenight meals, reduce the risk of NAFLD

# RISK FACTORS OF NAFLD

## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

Prevalence of NAFLD/NASH is higher in:

- Obese subjects (36-78%)
- Pts. with hyperglycemia or diabetes (43-62%)
- Pts. with hyperlipemia (45-65%)
- Pts. with hypertension (35-45%)
- Pts. with metabolic syndrome
- Pts. with HCV infection (55%)
- Pts. consuming artificial fructose in the diet (soft drinks and junk food) and NOT consuming coffee
- Pts. consuming late-night meals and skipping breakfast and lunch

# NAFLD: main causes of mortality

Extrahepatic malignancies (28 % of all causes)

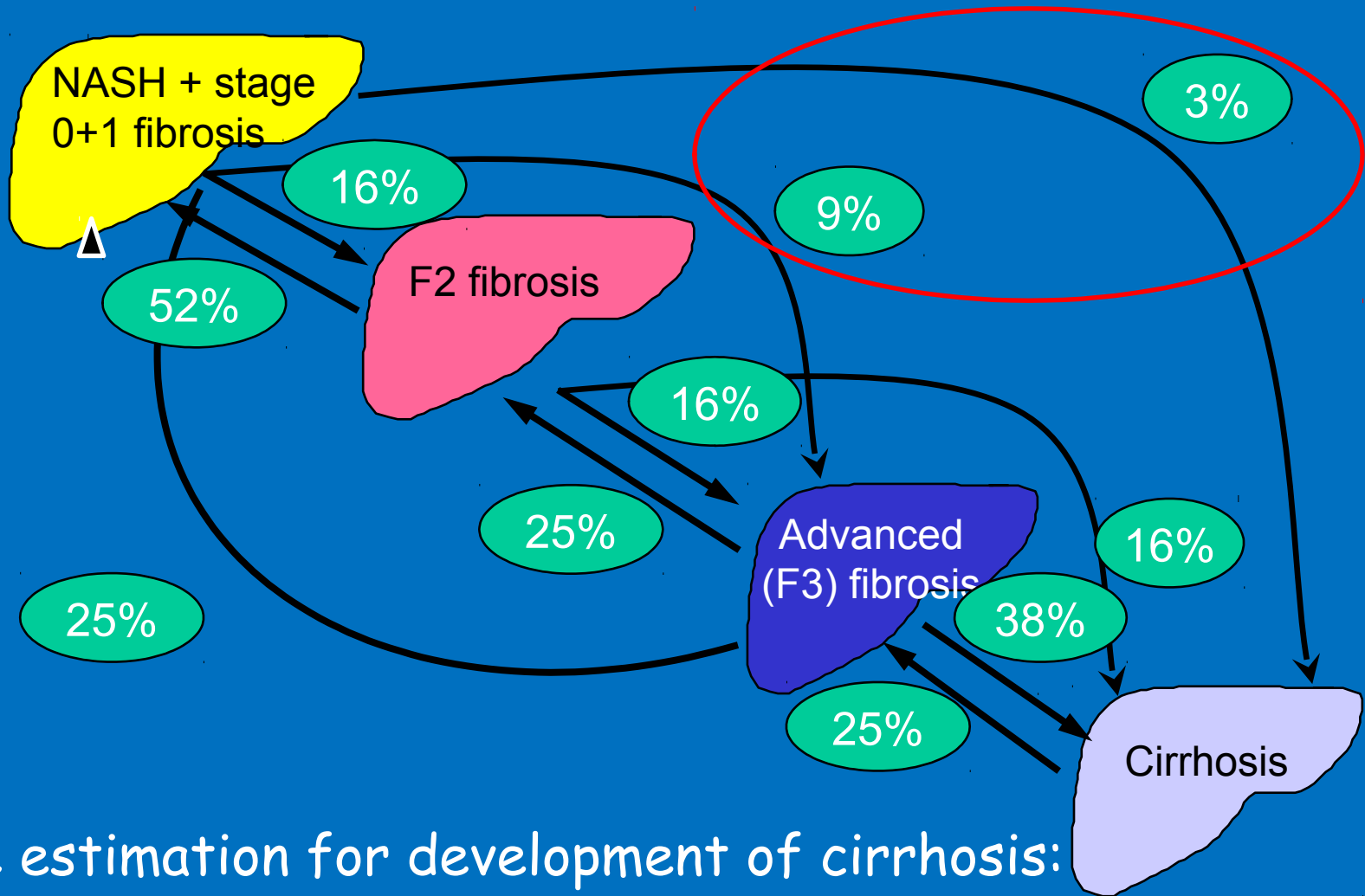
Breast and ovarian cancer (lifestyle, obesity, hormonal status)

Colorectal cancer (lifestyle, production of adipokines)

Ischemic heart diseases (25 % of all causes)

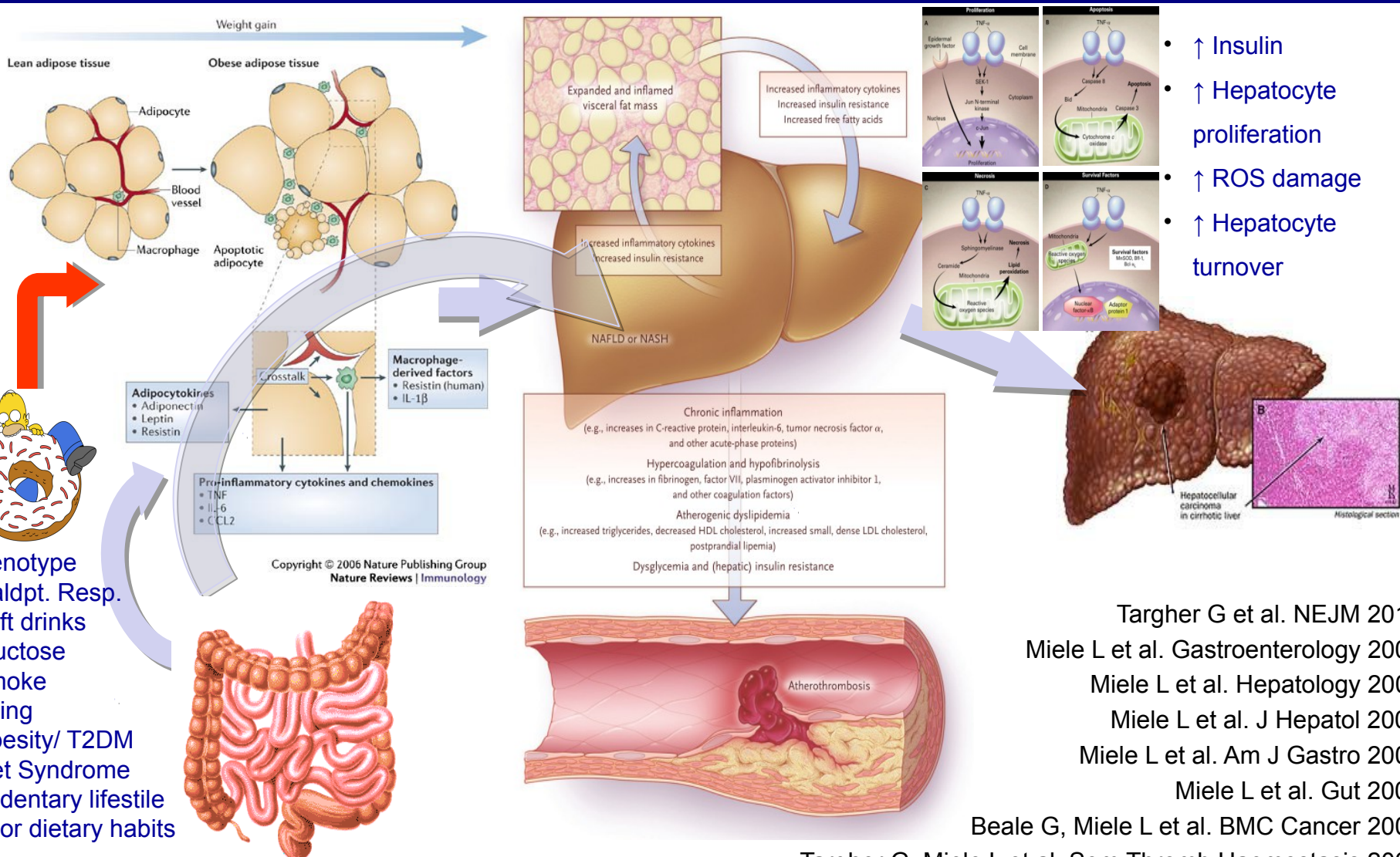
Liver-related diseases (13% of all causes)

# Progression of fibrosis in NASH



Time estimation for development of cirrhosis:  
From NASH: 28 ys, from FL: 57 ys

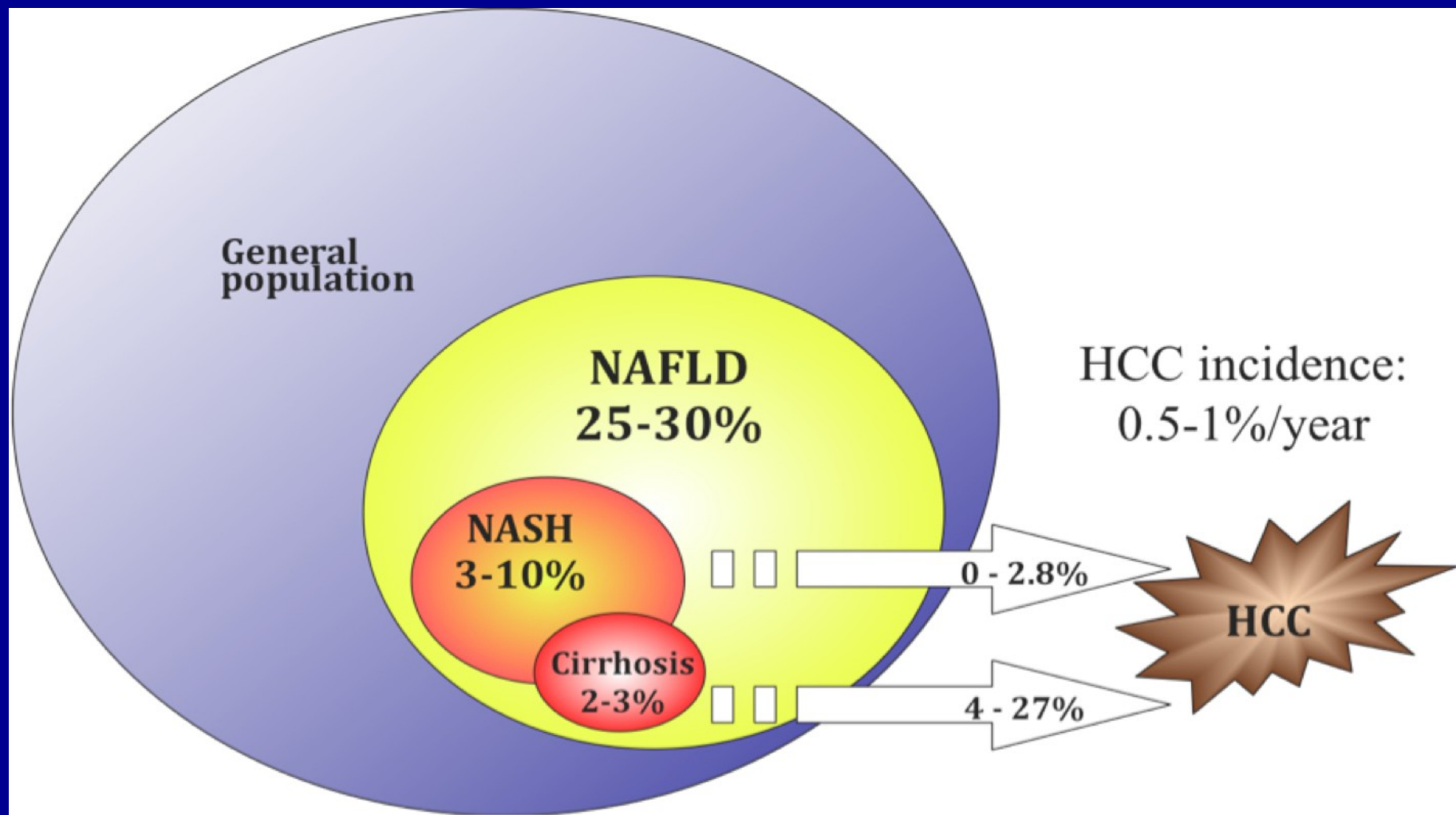
# Progression of fatty liver and increased incidence of cardiovascular disease and HCC



- $\uparrow$  Insulin
- $\uparrow$  Hepatocyte proliferation
- $\uparrow$  ROS damage
- $\uparrow$  Hepatocyte turnover

Targher G et al. NEJM 2010  
 Miele L et al. Gastroenterology 2008  
 Miele L et al. Hepatology 2009  
 Miele L et al. J Hepatol 2009  
 Miele L et al. Am J Gastro 2003  
 Miele L et al. Gut 2001  
 Beale G, Miele L et al. BMC Cancer 2009  
 Targher G, Miele L et al. Sem Thromb Haemostasis 2008

# THE BURDEN OF NAFLD/NASH AND NASH-RELATED CIRRHOSIS AND PREVALENCE OF HCC IN THE GENERAL POPULATION





# CLINICAL PATTERNS OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA (HCC) IN NON ALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE (NAFLD): A MULTICENTER PROSPECTIVE STUDY

756 patients with either HCC-NAFLD (145) or HCC-HCV (611) were enrolled in Secondary Care Italian Centers

## RESULTS HCC-NAFLD vs HCC-HCV:

- Significantly increased volume, more often an infiltrative pattern
- Cirrhosis was present in only about 55% vs 95% in HCC-HCV
- Propensity score analysis showed no significant difference in survival.
- Additionally, no difference in survival between the 2 groups in patients within Milan criteria (38.6 vs 41.0 months, p=n.s.)

# NATURAL HISTORY AND PROGNOSIS OF NASH: TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- NAFLD/NASH warrants screening for cardiovascular diseases (proved increased mortality !!), colorectal and breast cancer, and progressive liver disease
- Progression to cirrhosis/HCC is slow
- HCC-NASH is associated with lifestyle risk factors and with metabolic diseases (obesity, diabetes, etc.),
- HCC-NASH could develop in the absence of cirrhosis (45%)
- Survival of treated HCC-NAFLD is similar to treated HCC-HCV
- Prevention and surveillance strategies for HCC-NAFLD are lacking





**THE FUTURE:**

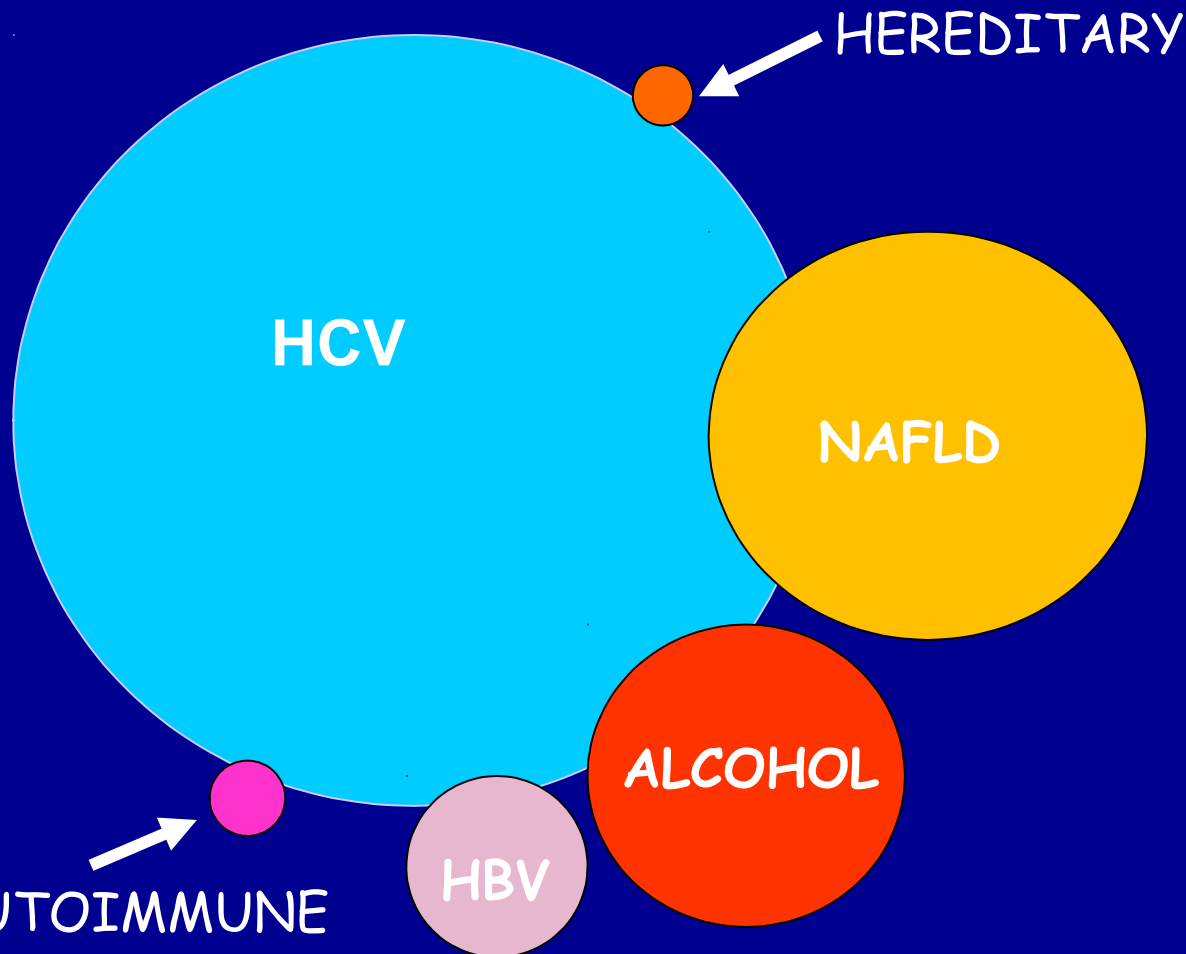
**Modeling NAFLD in Italy and US**

April, 2016

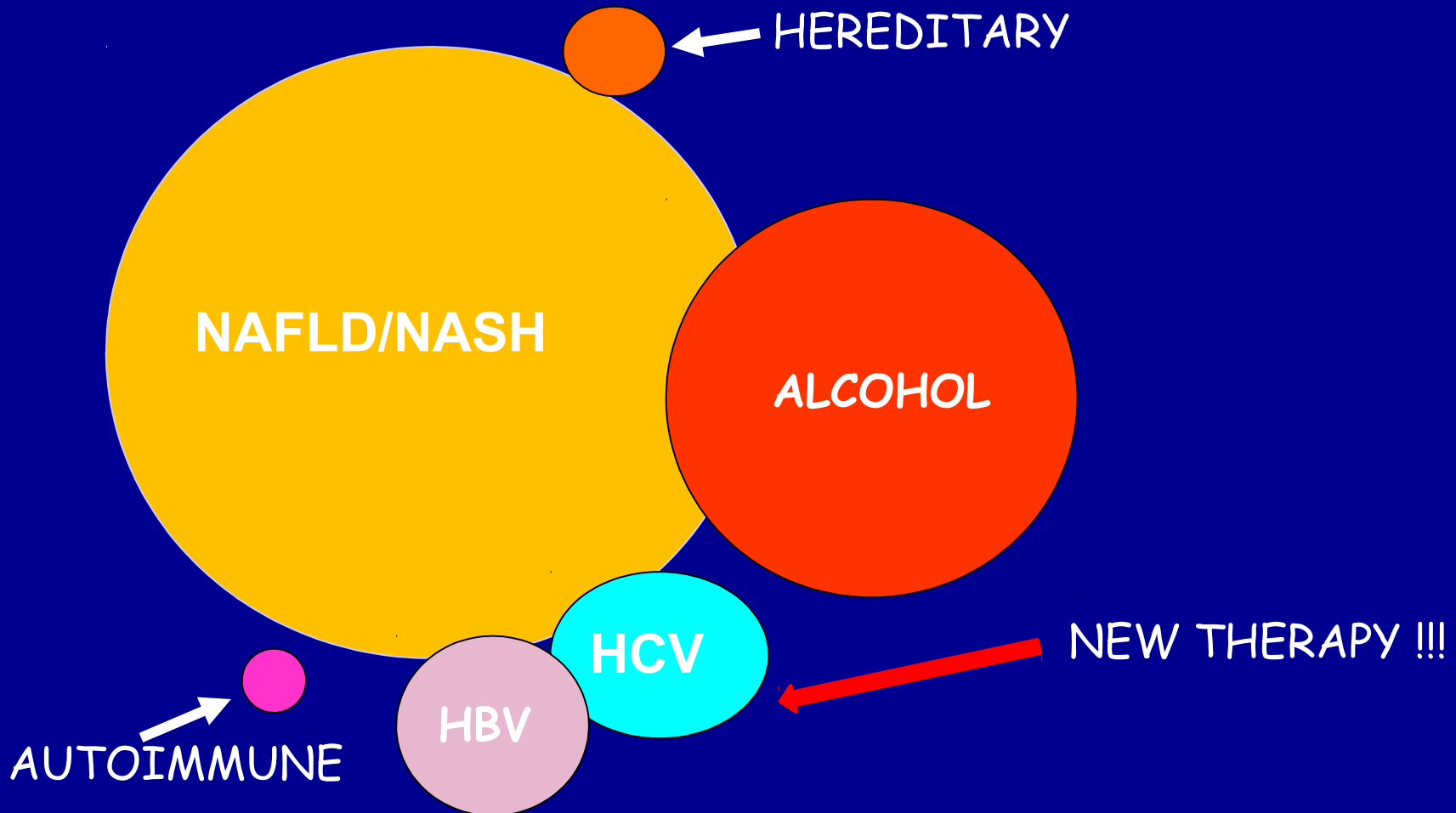
# Relative Incidence of NAFLD (Italy)

- An estimated 13.6 million NAFLD cases in 2015 will increase to 16.2 million by 2030 .
- An estimated 2.5 million NASH cases in 2015 will increase to 3.8 million by 2030.

# The Hepatologist Menu - 2017



# The Hepatologist Menu - 2030



# ARE WE READY TO CHANGE FROM A NEGATIVE DEFINITION (=NASH) TO A POSITIVE ONE ?

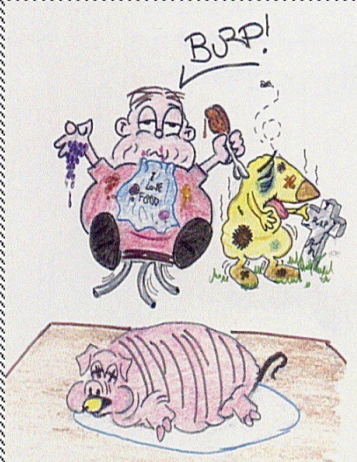
An International Consensus event is needed with these priorities :

1- Change the name from NASH to MESH (MEtabolic Steato Hepatitis) ?  
or simply Dis-metabolic Chronic Hepatitis (DCH).

2- Develop new protocols for the diagnosis, treatment of patients with NASH and new policies for the surveillance of patients with NASH at risk to progress to cirrhosis and HCC

# THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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Dott. STEFANO BELLENTANI

