



**13TH PARIS HEPATOLOGY CONFERENCE (PHC) 2020**  
JANUARY 13, 2020-JANUARY 14, 2020

# **PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF NAFLD AND NASH**

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[www.ucl.ac.uk/medicine/liver-and-digestive-health](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/medicine/liver-and-digestive-health)

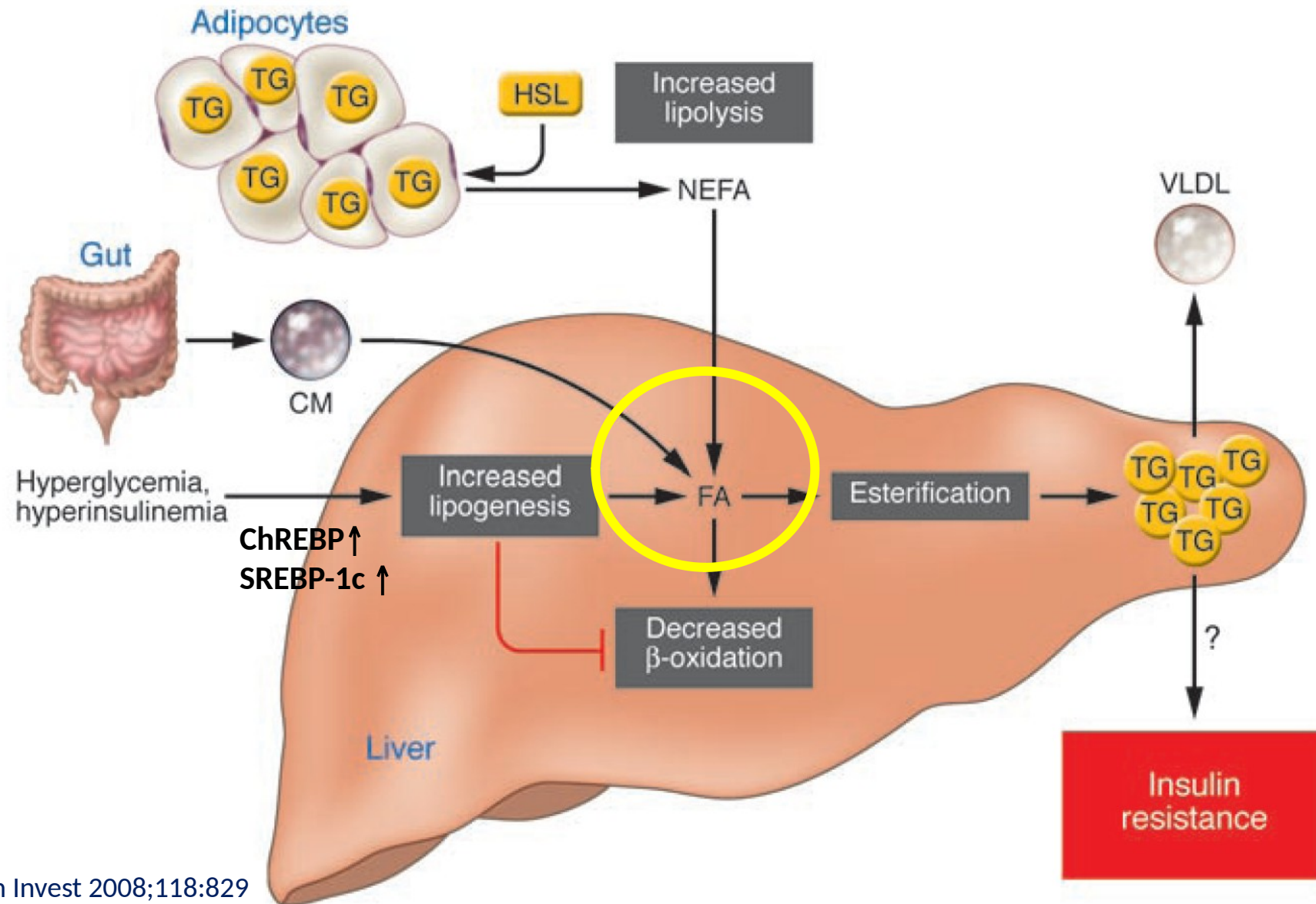
# Disclosures (2020)

1. Inventor and patent holder ELF test (Siemens)
2. Speakers bureau: Echosens (Paris, France)
3. SAB/Consultancy: Promethera (Belgium); NeuroVive (Sweden); Chemomab (Israel); Median Technology (France/USA); Boheringer-Ingelheim (Germany); Takeda (USA)
4. Co-Founder and Director, Engitix Ltd (UCL Spin-out) (UK)\*
5. Co-Founder and Director, 3P-Sense Ltd (UCL Spin-out) (UK)\*\*
7. Chair EASL Consortium for Regenerative Hepatology (2019-2022)

\* Regenerative medicine and tissue engineering

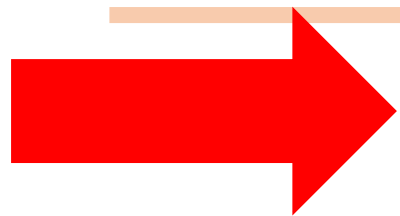
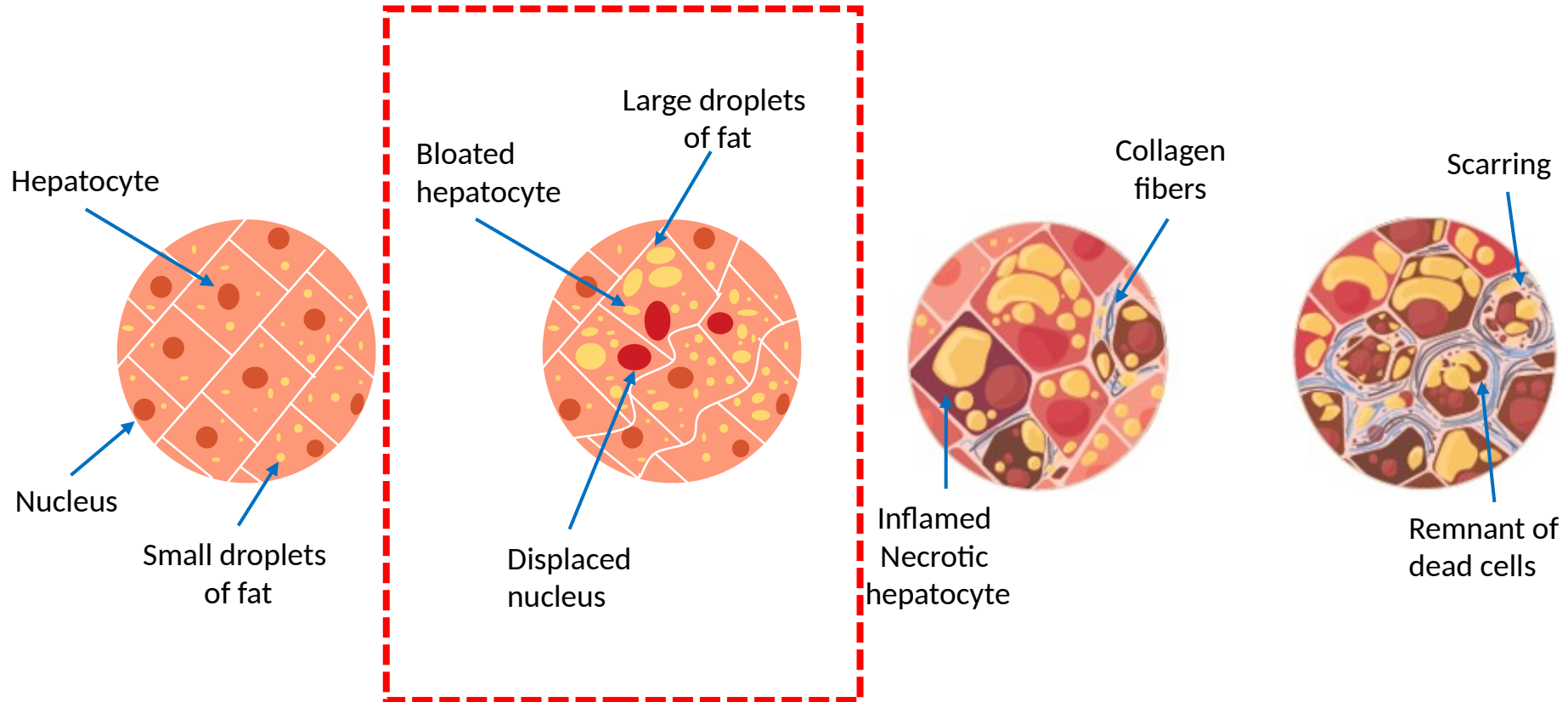
\*\* Nanotechnology diagnostics

# Metabolic Defects Leading to Steatosis





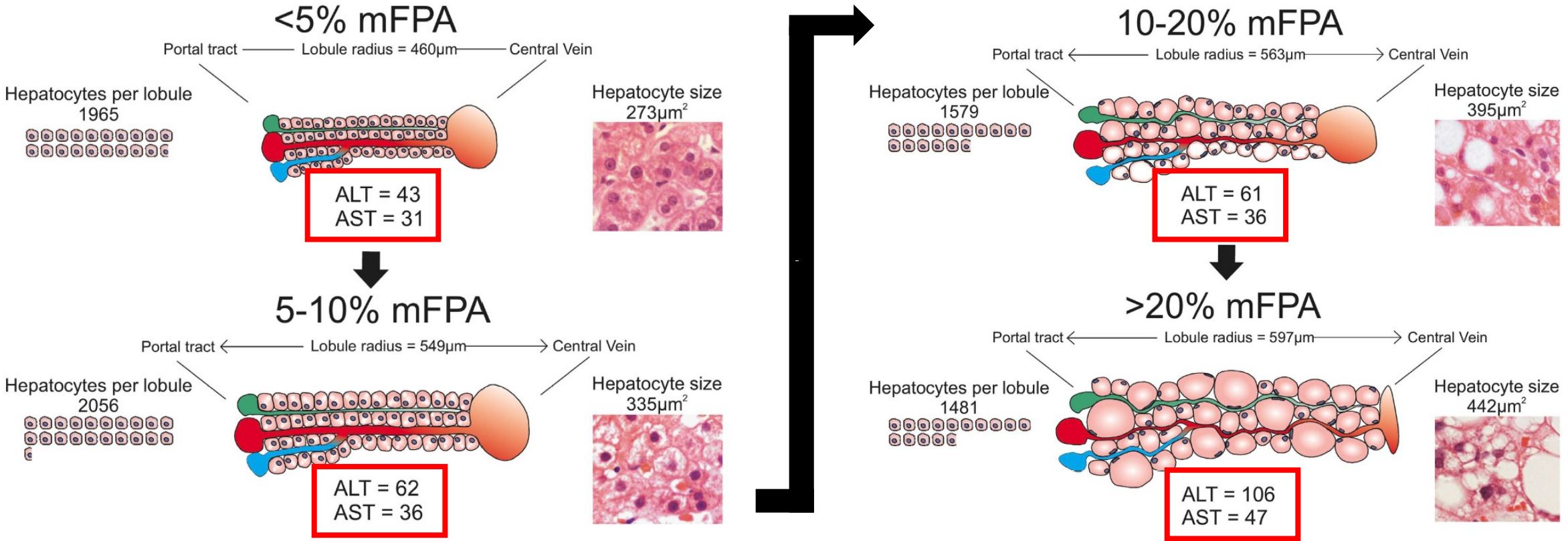
# NAFLD: Natural History



ADAPTATION

PATHOLOGY

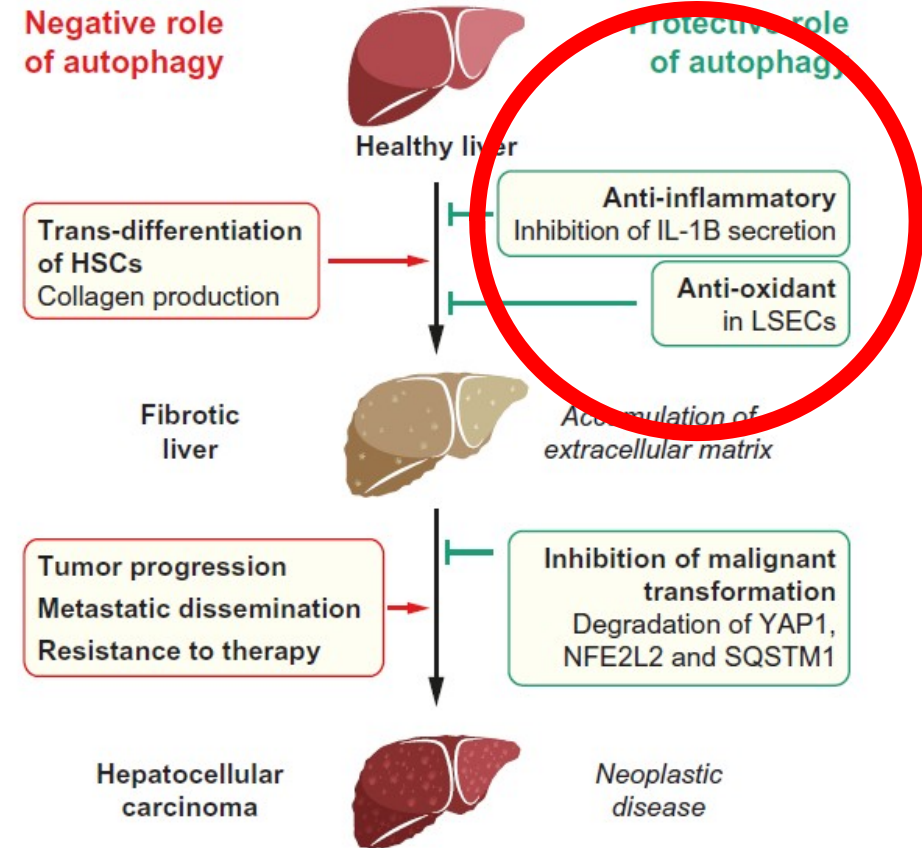
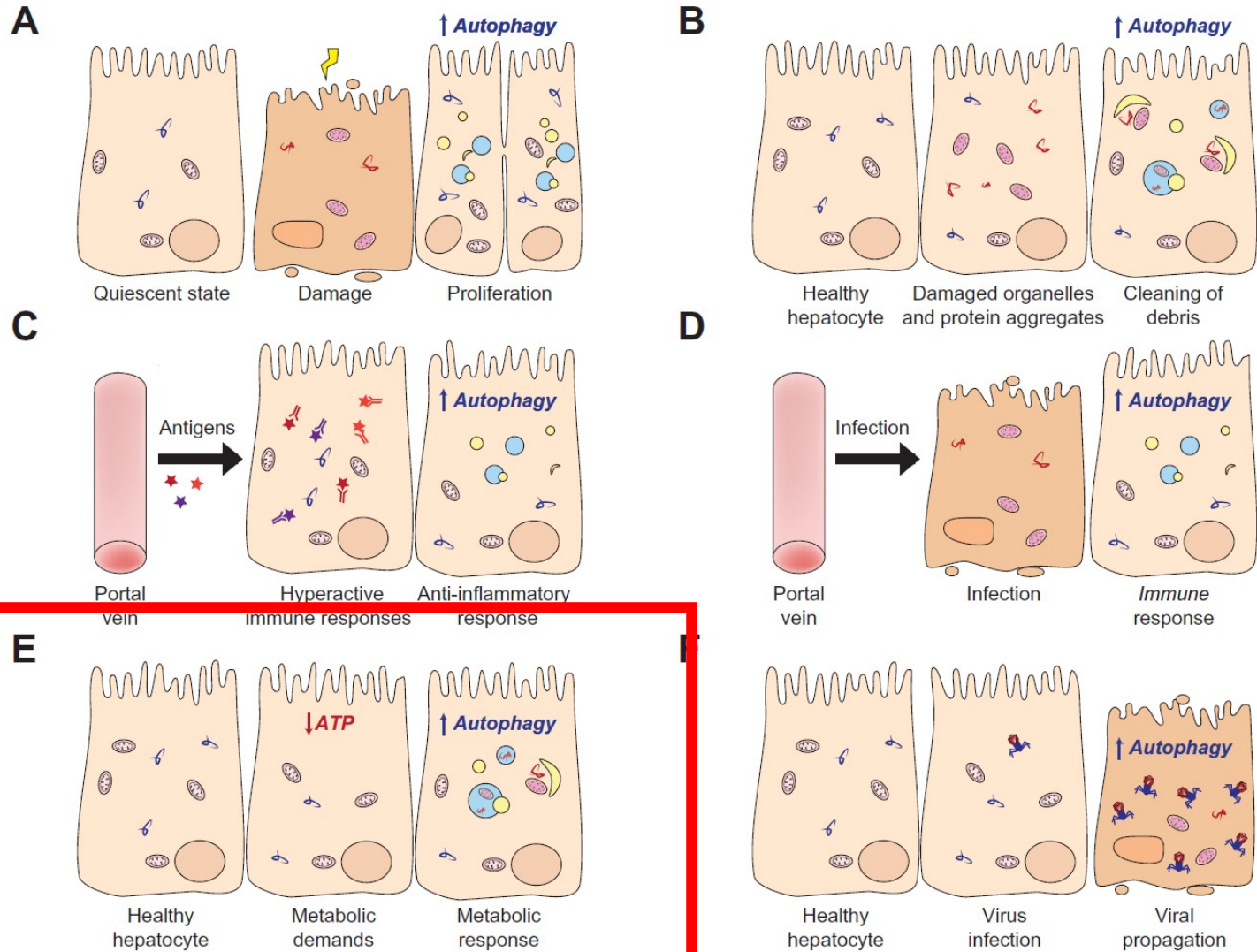
# Adaptation of the Liver Lobule with Increasing Fat Accumulation



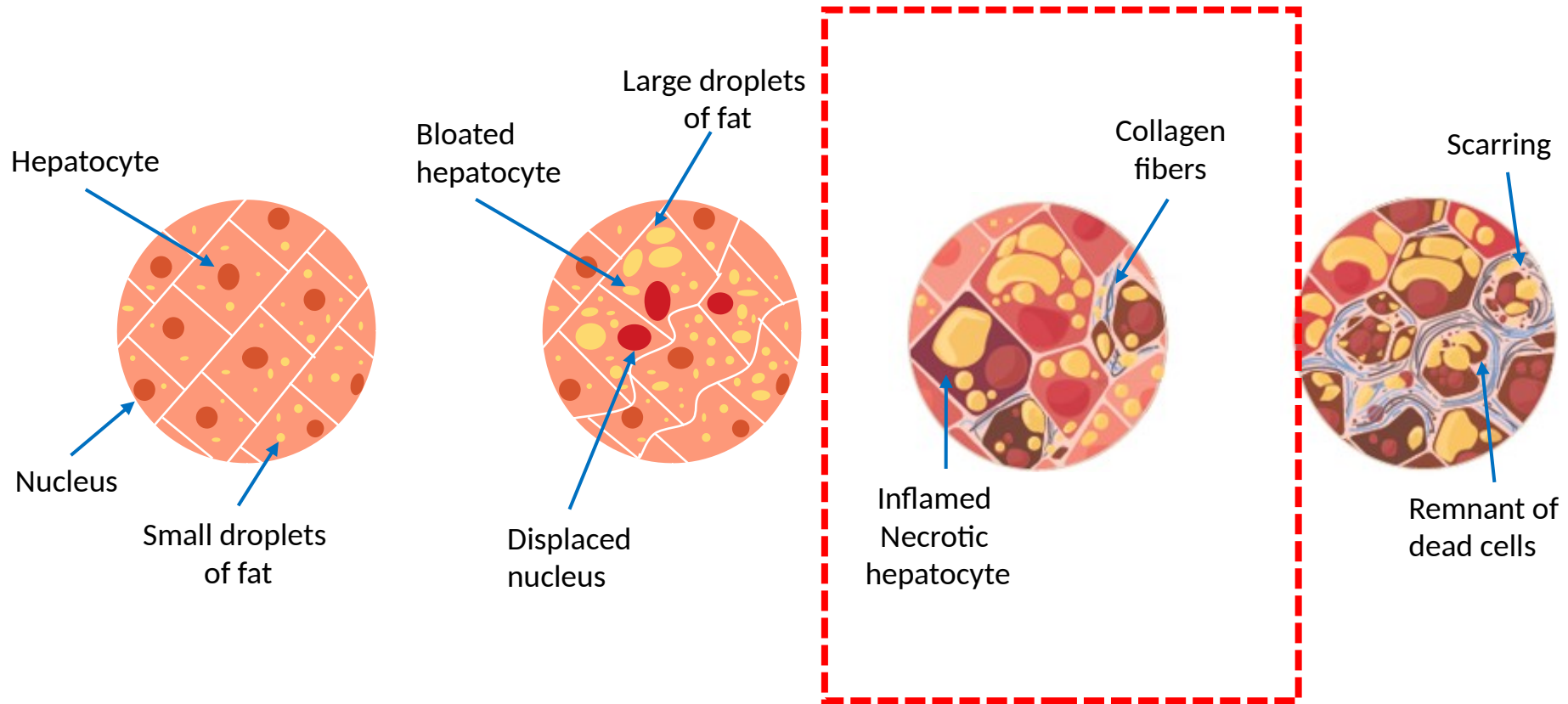
Micro-environmental predisposing condition to oxidative stress?  
Role of Autophagy?

# Autophagy in hepatic adaptation to stress

Younis Hazari<sup>1,2,3</sup>, José Manuel Bravo-San Pedro<sup>4</sup>, Claudio Hetz<sup>1,2,3,5,\*</sup>, Lorenzo Galluzzi<sup>6,7,8,9,†</sup>,  
Guido Kroemer<sup>4,9,10,11,12,13,\*</sup>



# NAFLD: Natural History



ADAPTATION



PATHOLOGY



## Type of Fibrosis

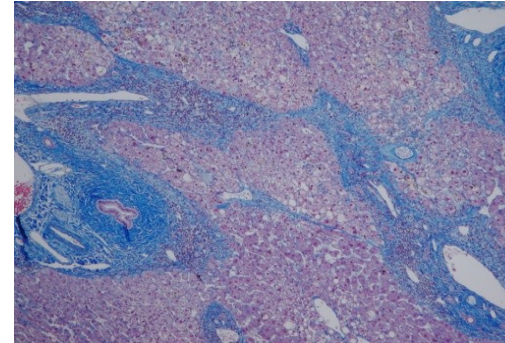
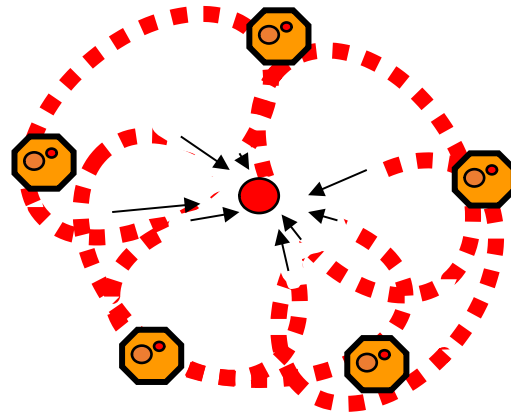
## Pattern

## Histology

## Prevalent Mechanisms

### **Post-necrotic:**

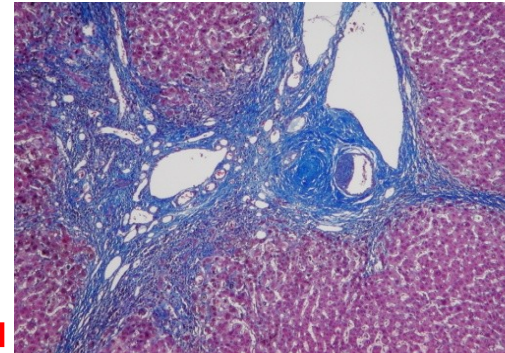
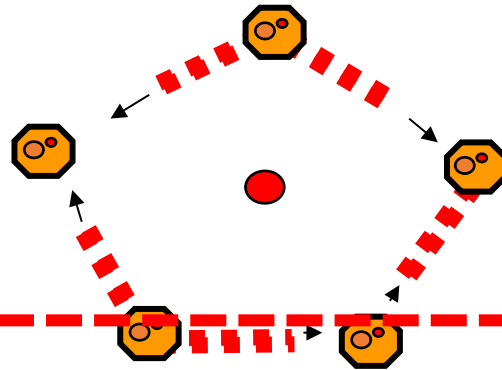
Viral Hepatitis,  
Autoimmune  
Hepatitis



Chronic Wound  
Healing

### **Biliary:**

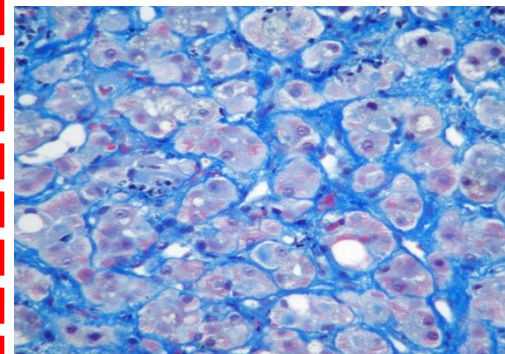
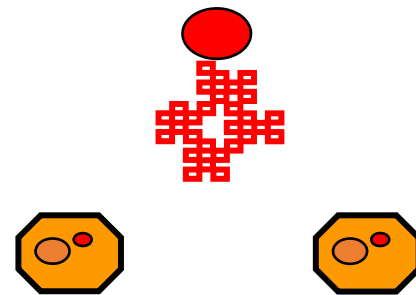
Primary Biliary  
Cirrhosis  
Primary Sclerosing  
Cholangitis  
Secondary Biliary  
Cirrhosis



Epithelial-  
Mesenchymal  
Disruption,  
Reactive  
Cholangiocytes,  
Bile salt toxicity.  
Deranged gut-  
liver immunity?

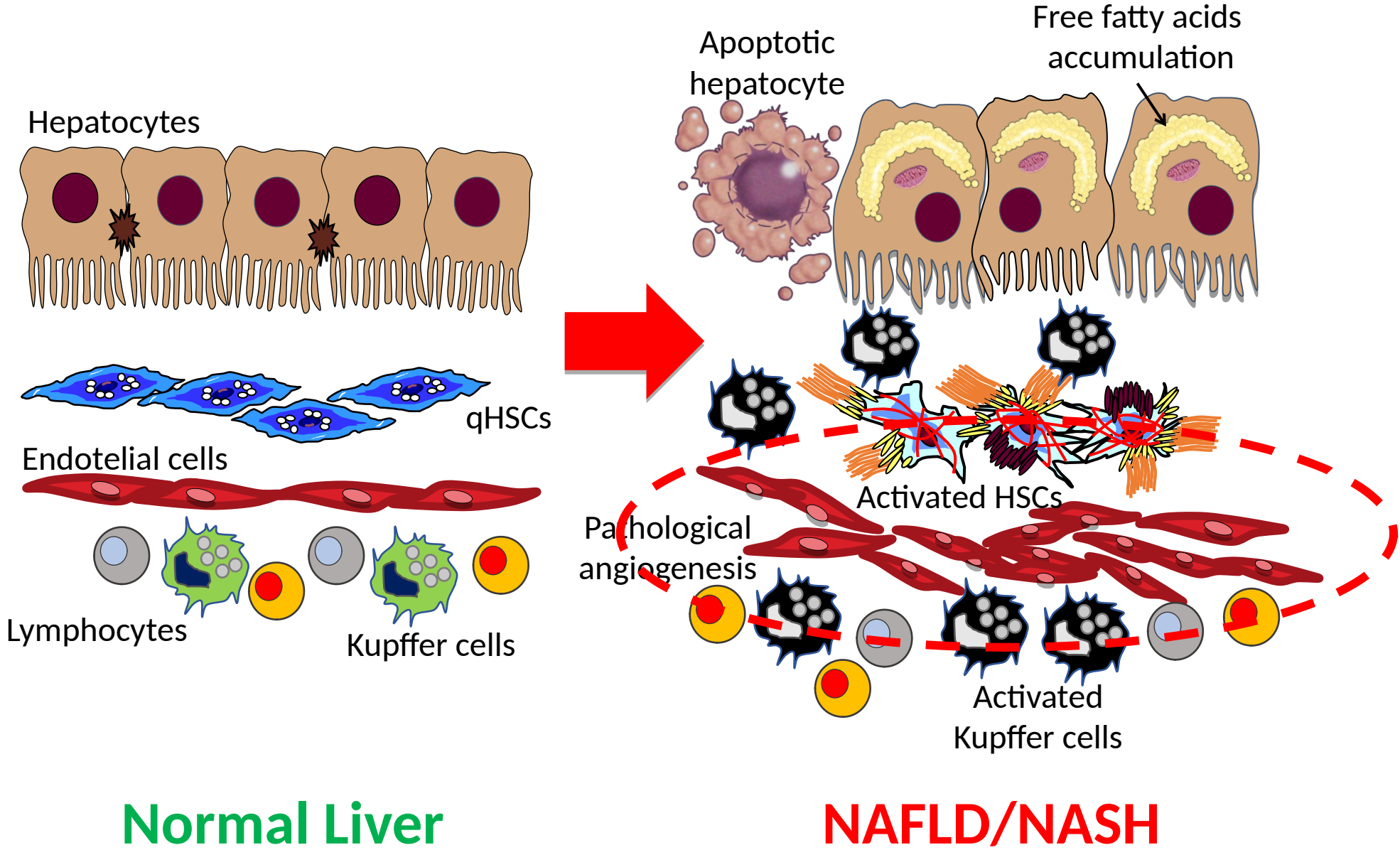
### **Pericellular:**

Alcoholic  
Steatohepatitis  
Non Alcoholic  
Steatohepatitis  
(Haemochromatosis/  
Wilson Disease)

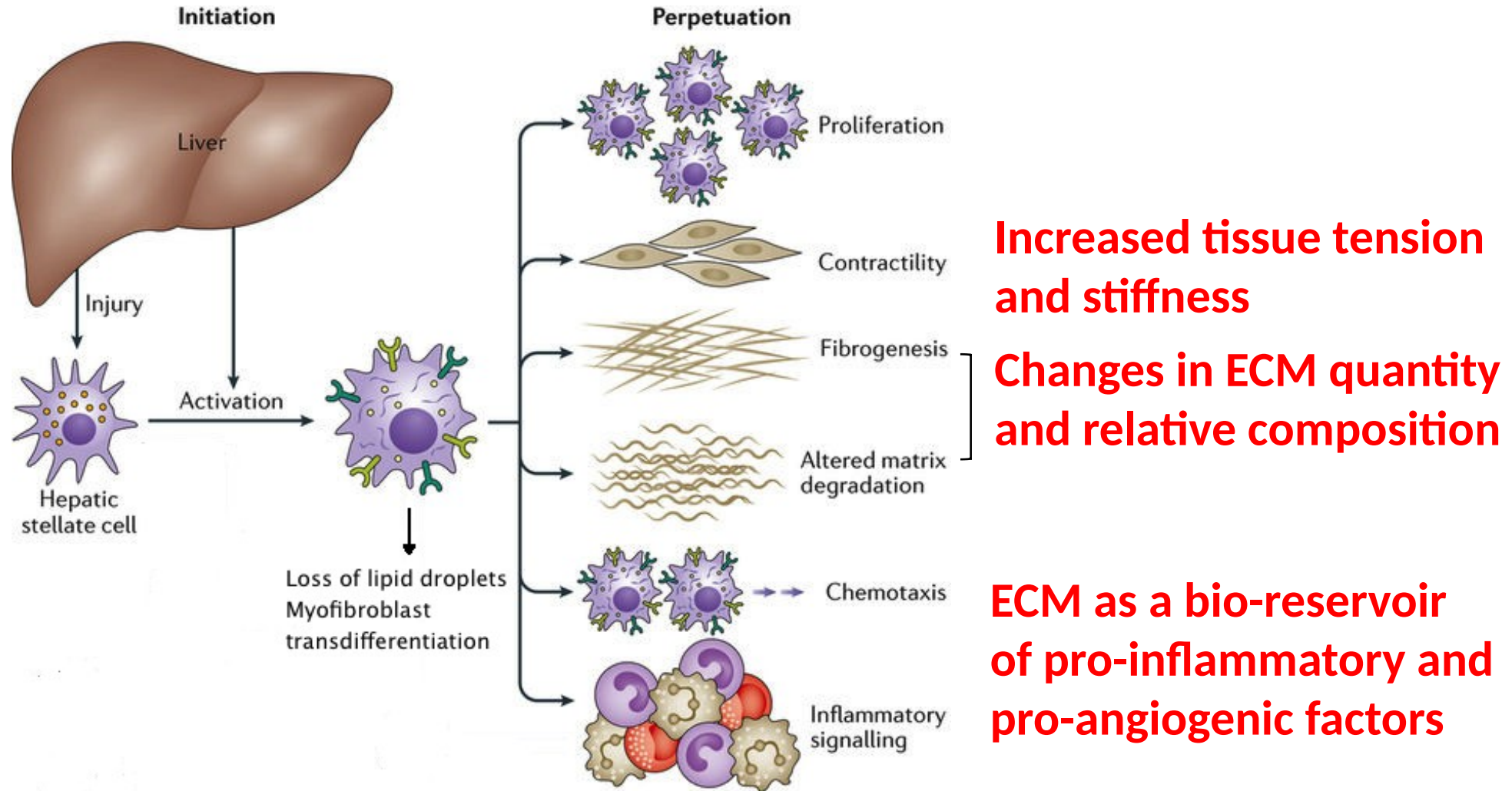


Oxydative  
Stress,  
Reactive  
Aldehydes,  
Lipotoxicity

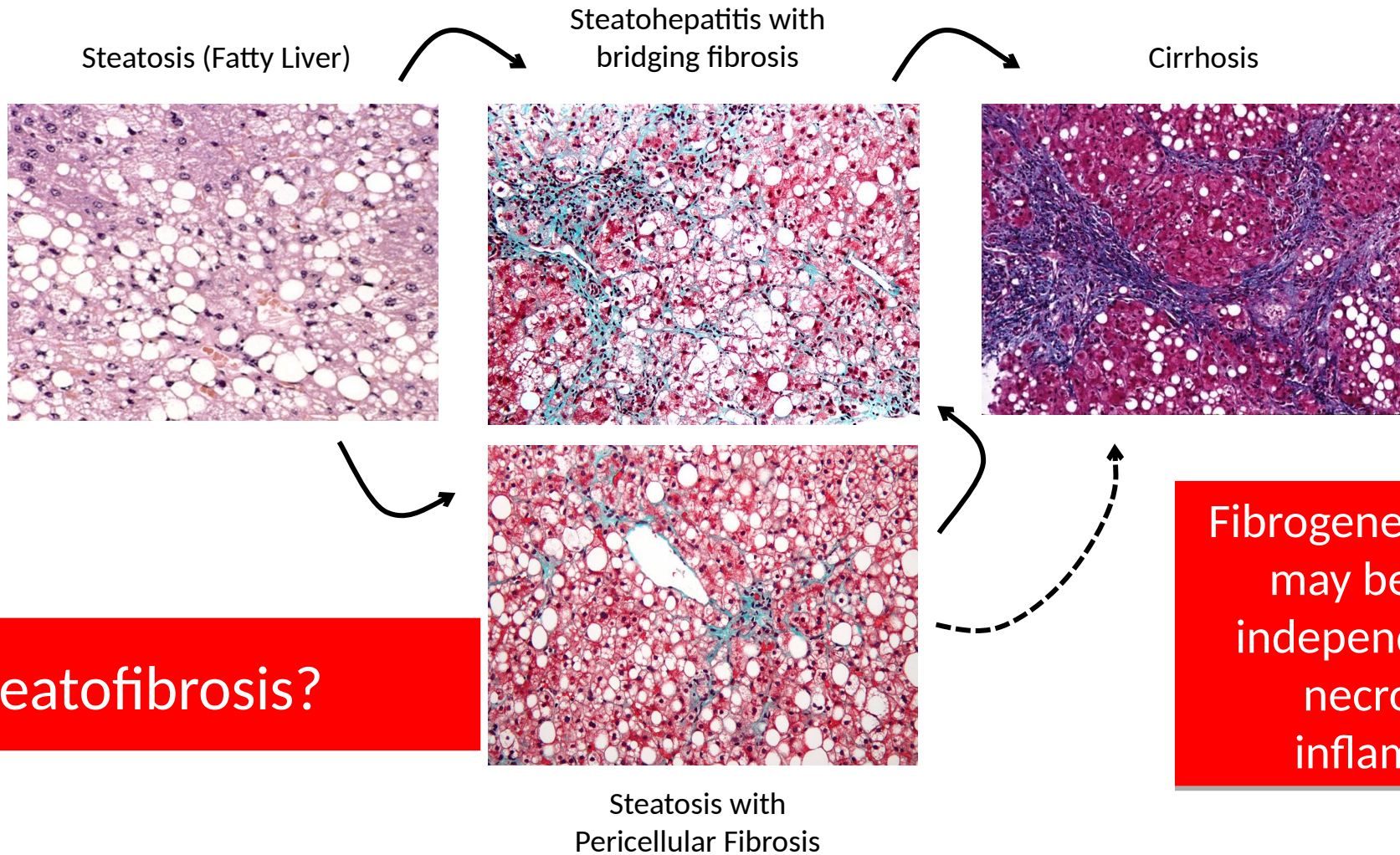
# Pathogenesis of NASH



# Pathways of Stellate Cell Activation in Liver Injury



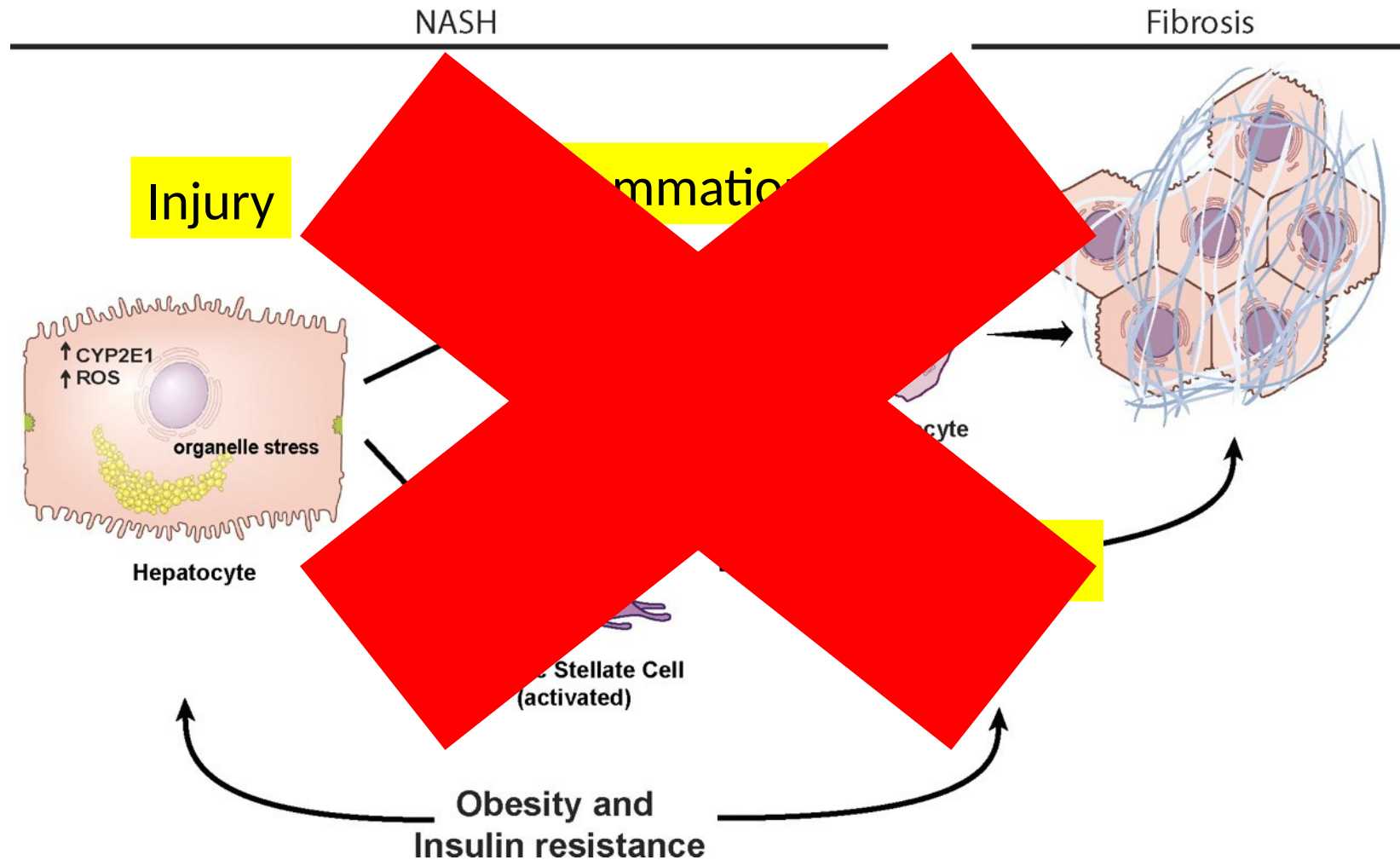
# Fibrotic Evolution of NASH



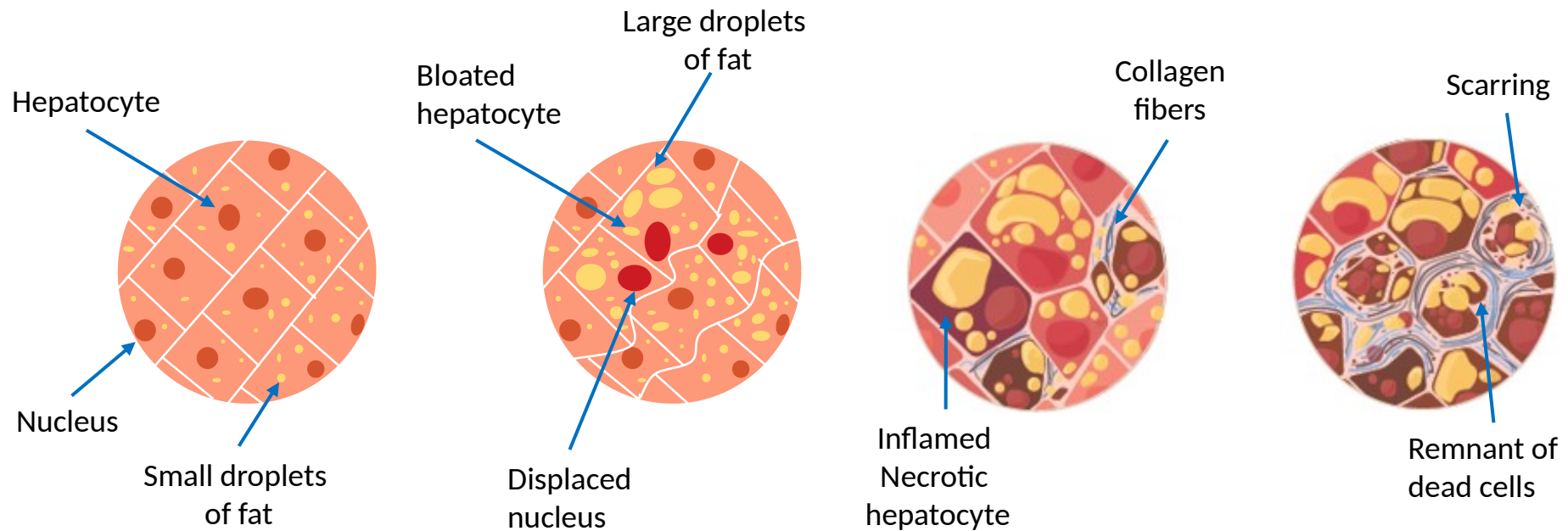
**Steatofibrosis?**

**Fibrogenesis in NAFLD  
may be partially  
independent of cell  
necrosis and  
inflammation**

# Fibrosis in NASH: A Chronic Wound Healing Response?



# NASH Fibrosis: Stage-dependent Mechanisms



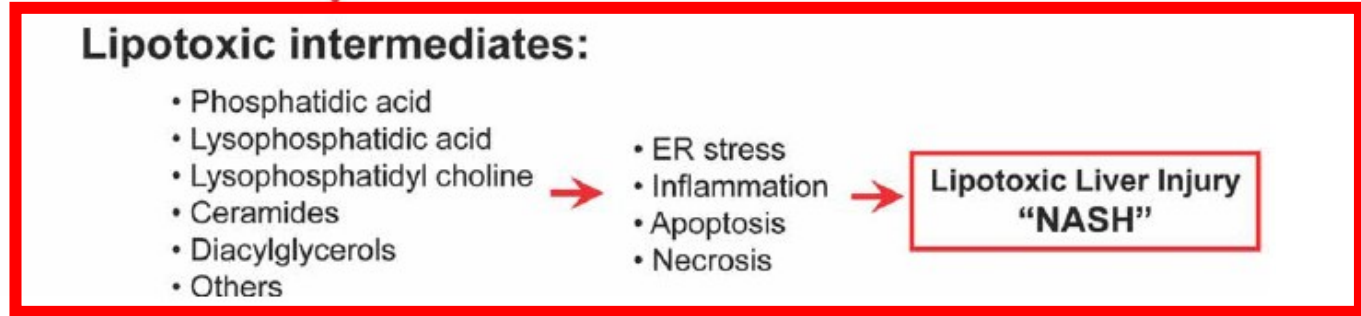
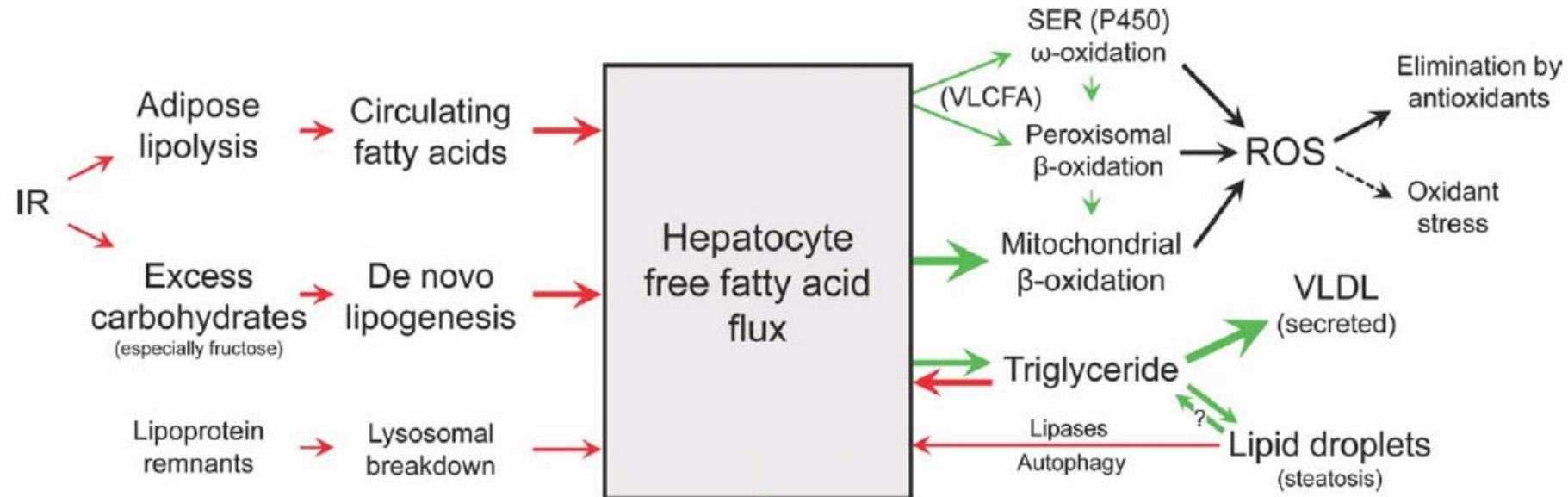
## No evident necrosis

Defective Autophagy  
LIPOTOXICITY  
Oxidative Stress  
Genetic factors

## Evident necrosis

Chronic Wound Healing  
Increase intestinal permeability  
Complex inflammatory networks  
Genetic factors

# Pathways of Lipotoxic Liver Injury



# Effectors and Targets of Lipotoxicity

## EFFECTORS

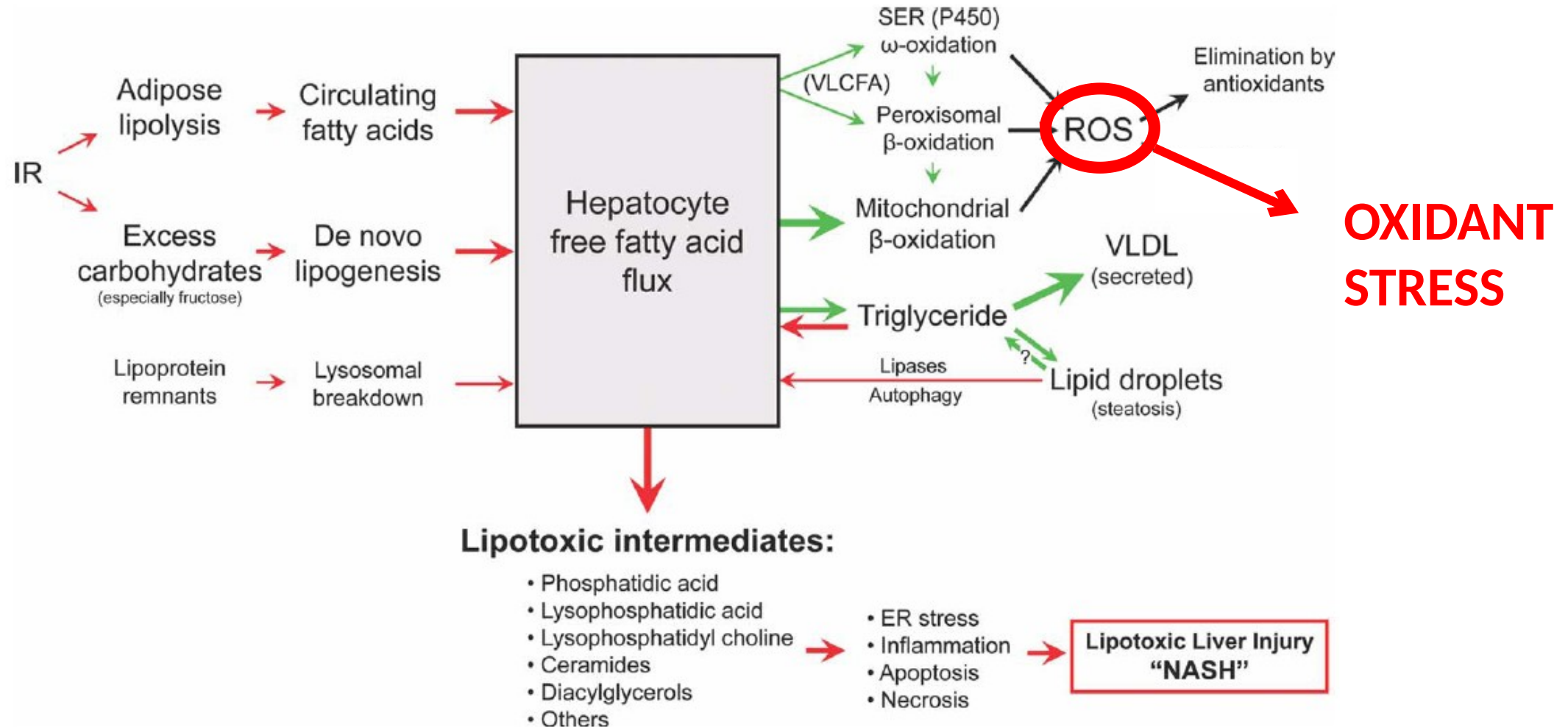
Free fatty acids  
Free cholesterol  
Ceramides  
Sphingosines  
Phospholipids  
Leukotrienes

## TARGETS

Mitochondria  
Lipid droplets  
Autophagy  
Cholangiocytes



# Pathways of Lipotoxic Liver Injury



# Oxidative Stress a Common Denominator in Chronic Liver Diseases

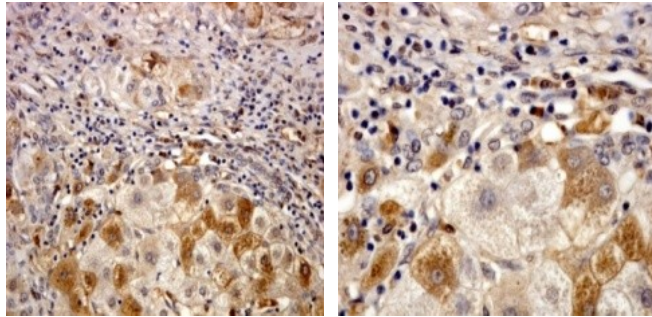
Increased intracellular ROS levels  
hepatocytes and activated HSC

potentially any liver cell but mainly

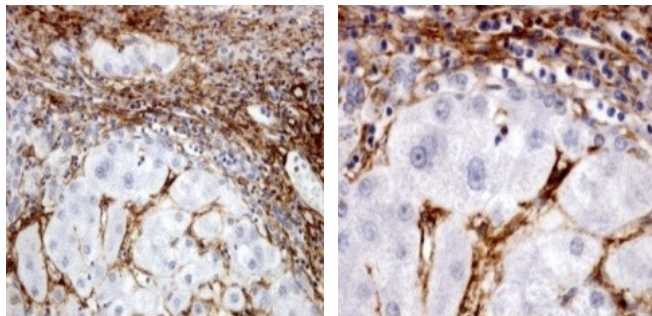
200x

400x

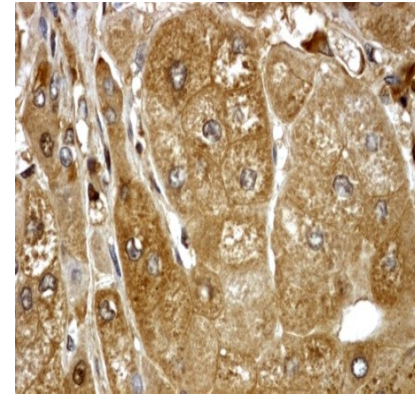
HO1



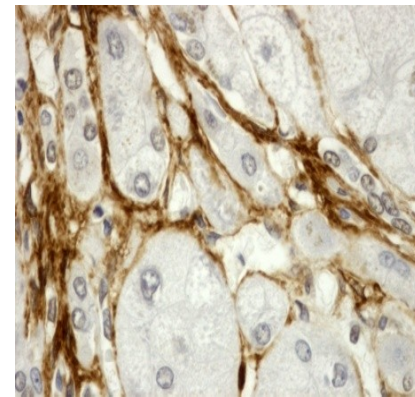
$\alpha$ -SMA



HO1

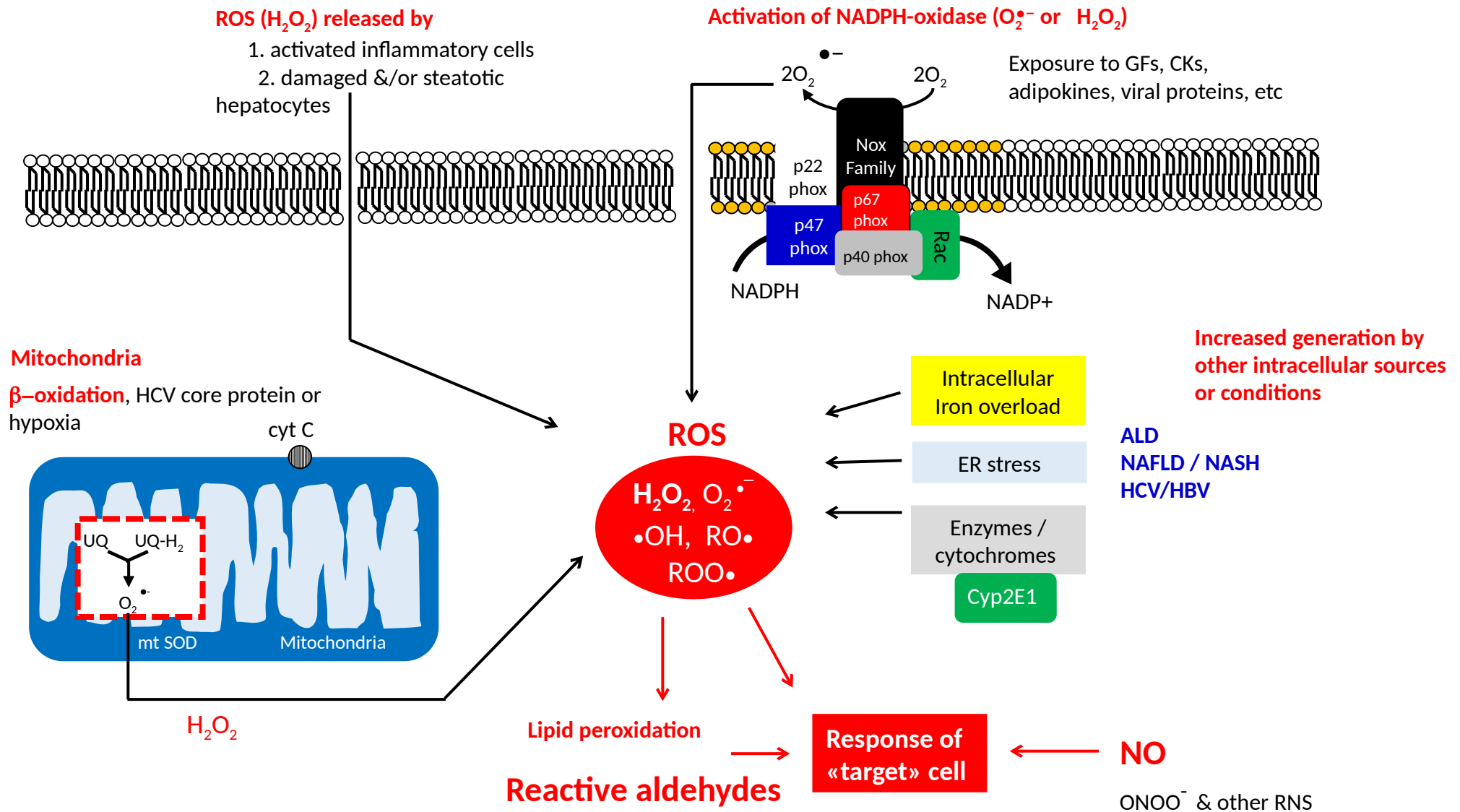


$\alpha$ -SMA

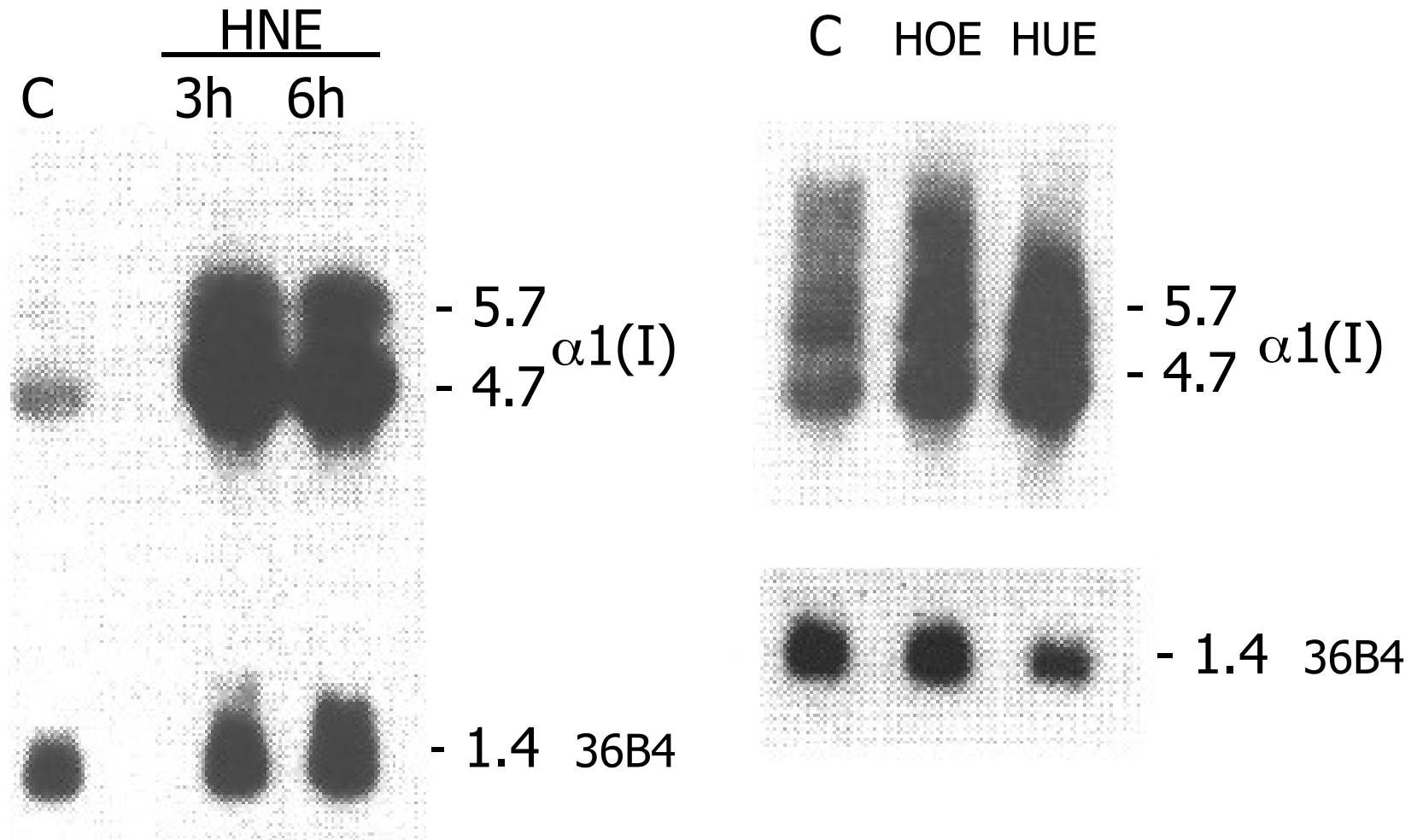


**HO1:** heme-oxygenase 1, a redox sensitive gene up-regulated in cells undergoing or exposed to oxidative stress

# Sources of Intracellular ROS and Related Intermediates in Chronic Liver Injury



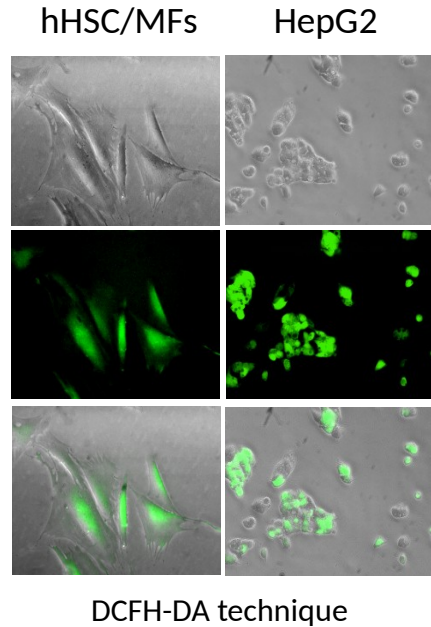
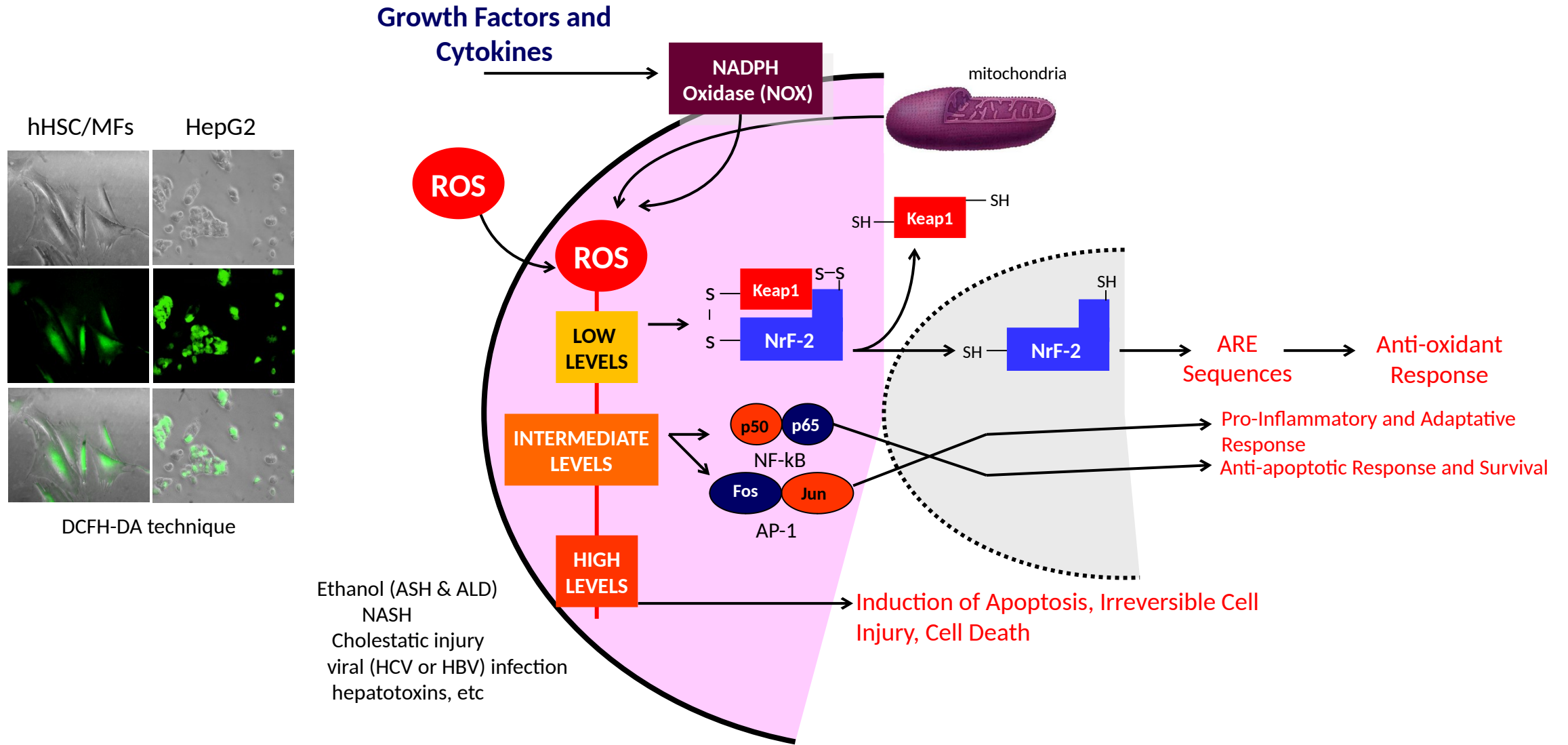
# Reactive Aldehydes induce a direct pro-fibrogenic effect in human HSC



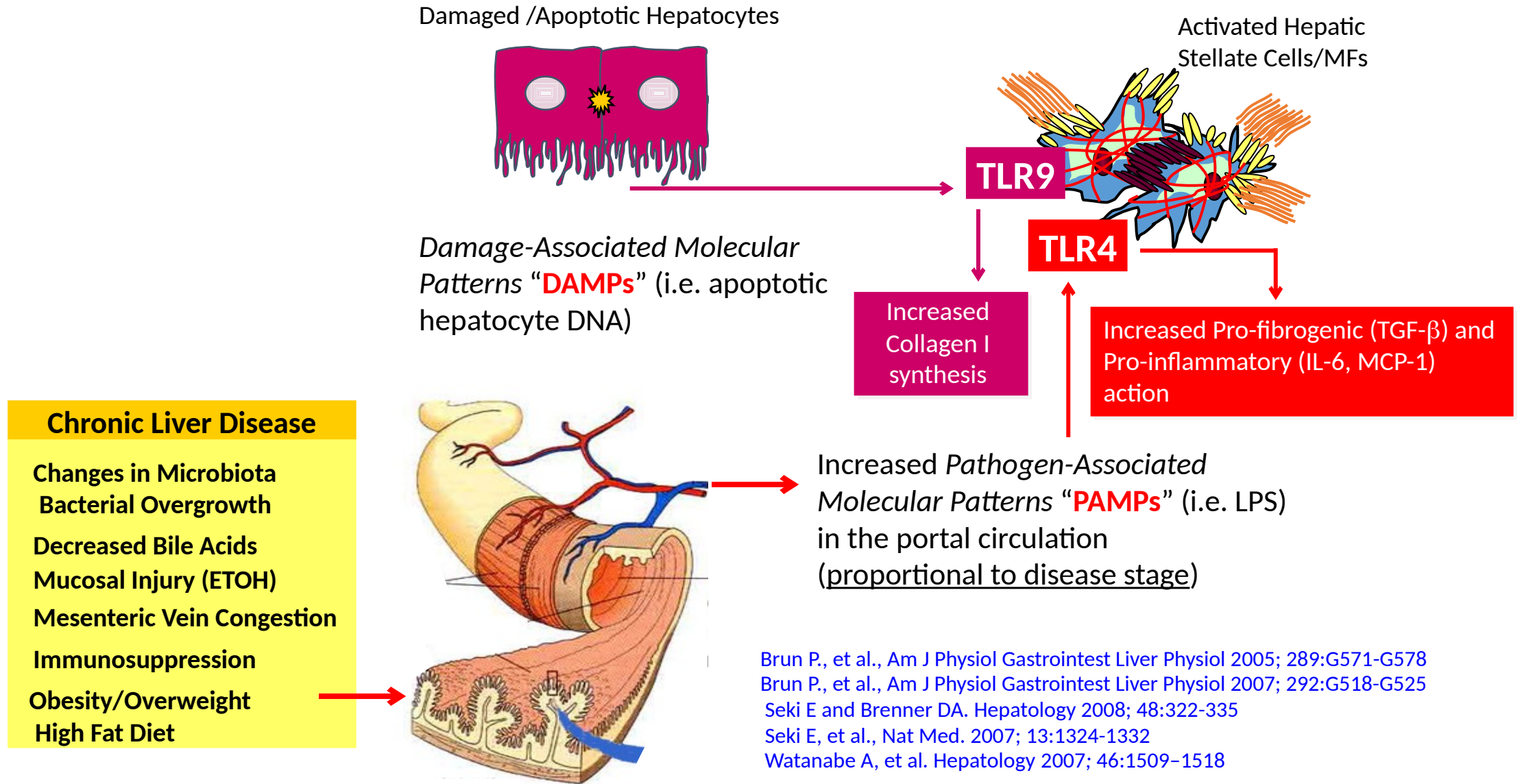
Parola M. et al., Biochem Biophys Res Comm 1996; 222:261-264

Parola M. et al., J Clin Invest 1998; 102:1942-1950

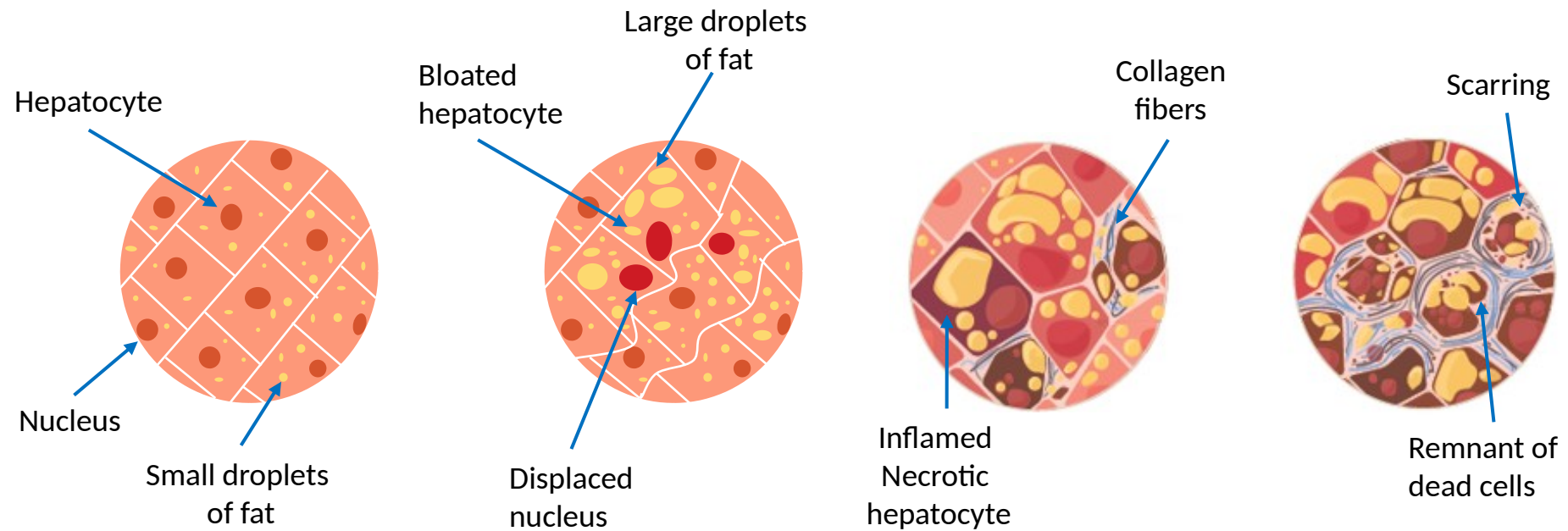
# Cellular Responses Following Increased Intracellular ROS



# Intestinal Permeability and the Activation of Gut-Liver Innate Immunity



# NASH Fibrosis: Stage-dependent Mechanisms



**No evident necrosis**

Defective Autophagy  
LIPOTOXICITY  
Oxidative Stress  
Genetic factors

**Evident necrosis**

Chronic Wound Healing  
Increase intestinal permeability  
Complex inflammatory networks  
Genetic factors



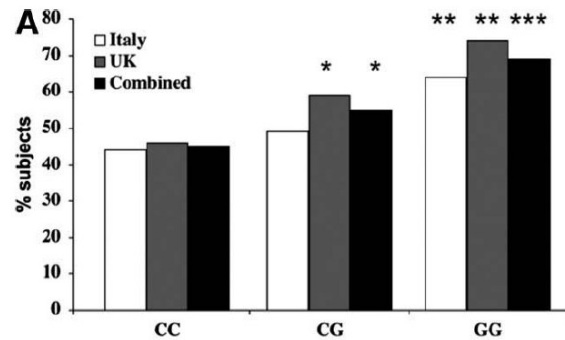
# PNPLA3 and NAFLD

## Severity of liver disease

## HCC

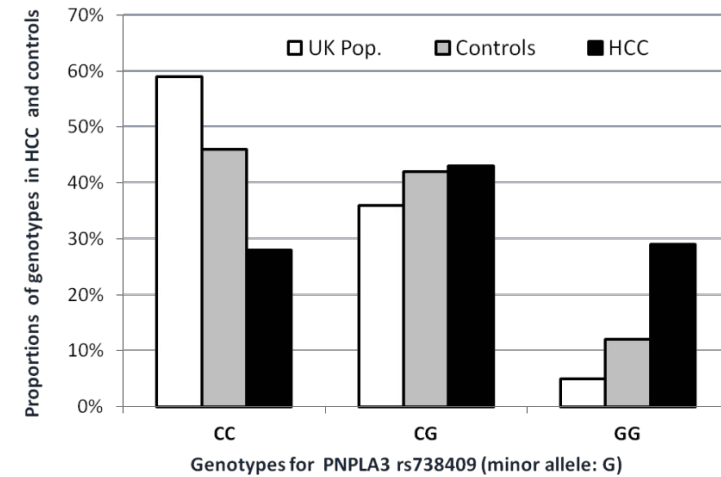
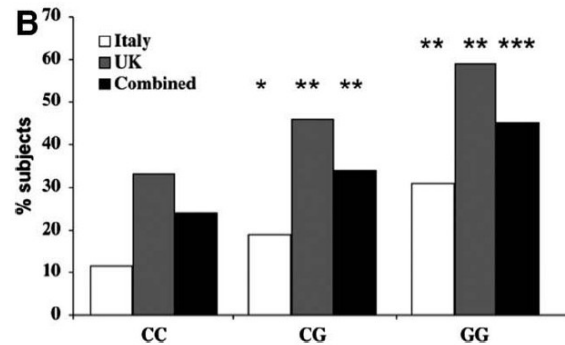
Presence of NASH

OR 1.5 (1.12-2.04)



Fibrosis >F1

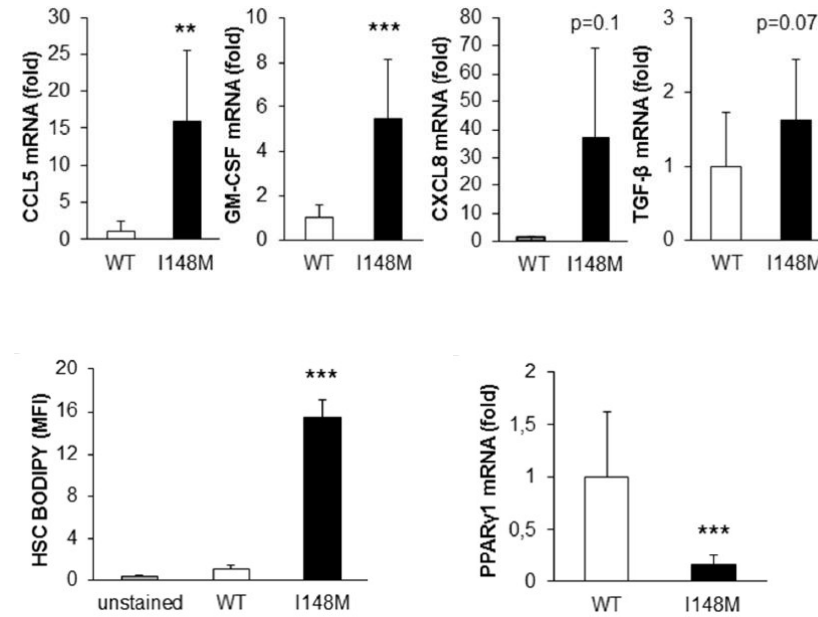
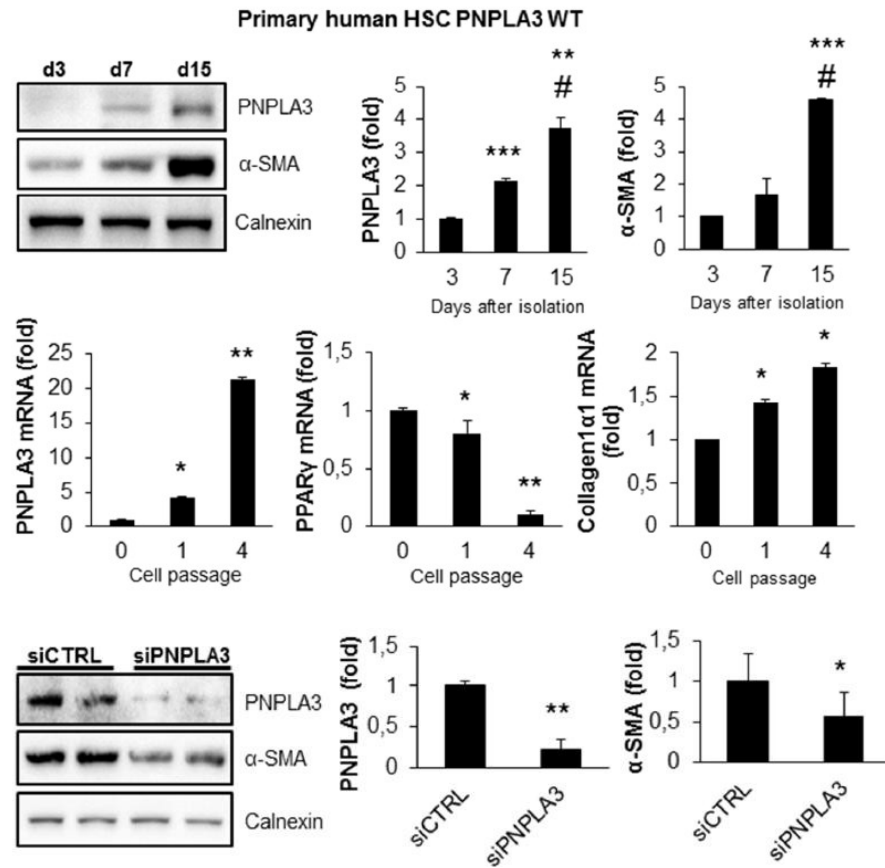
OR 1.5 (1.09-2.12)



Variables	OR (95% CI)	P-value
PNPLA3 rs738409	2.26 (1.23-4.14)	0.0082
Age	1.24 (1.17-1.32)	<0.0001
Gender (Male)	11.11 (4.17-33.33)	<0.0001
BMI	0.94 (0.87-1.02)	0.148
Diabetes	2.33 (0.93-5.81)	0.070
Cirrhosis	9.37 (3.82-23.00)	<0.0001



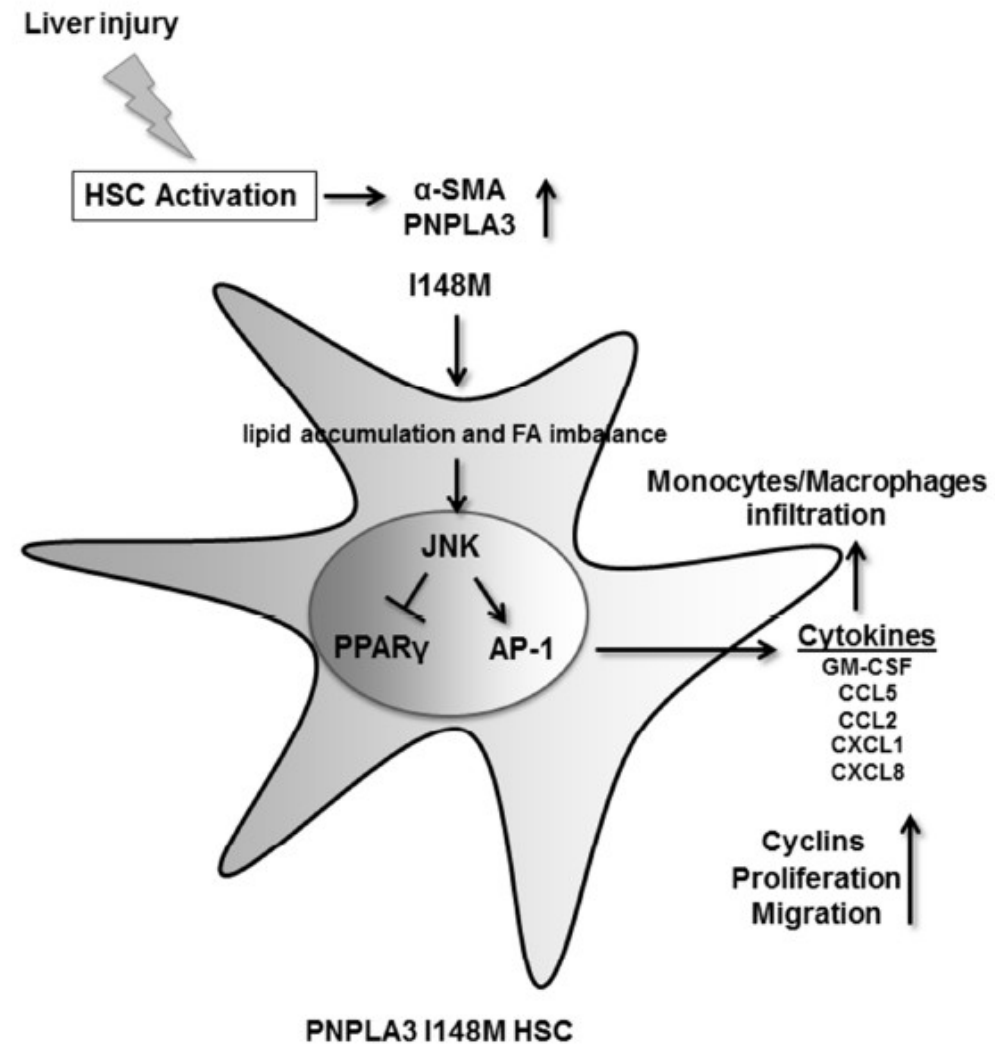
# PNPLA3 is required for HSC activation and its genetic variant I148M potentiates the pro-fibrogenic phenotype of human HSC



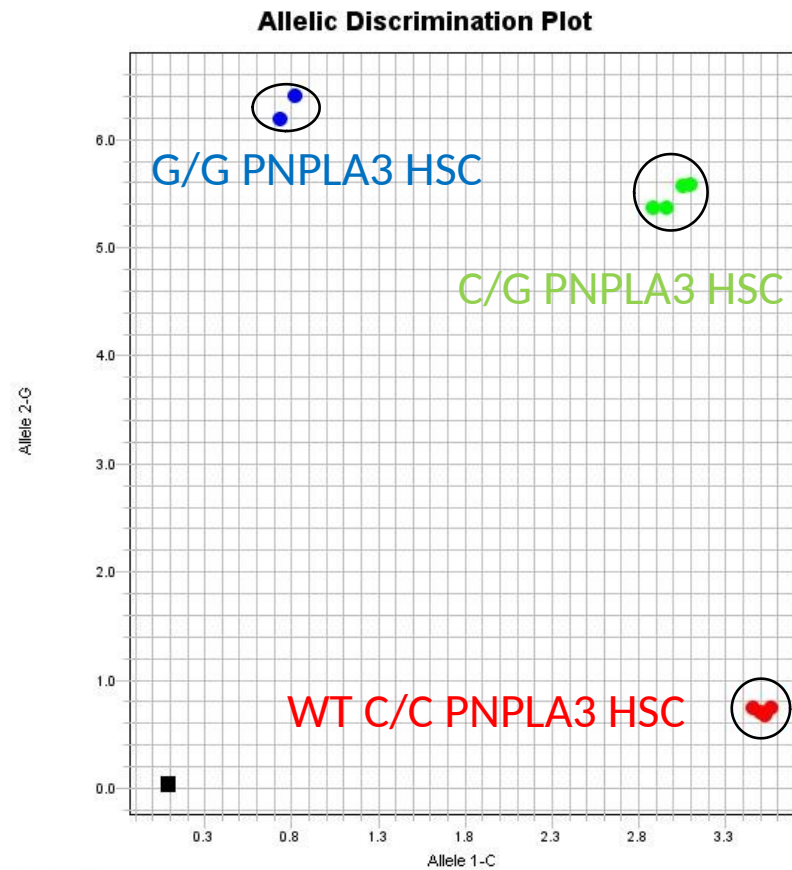
**PNPLA3 I148M confers a pro-inflammatory and pro-fibrotic profile**

**PNPLA3 expression increases with HSC activation  
Silencing PNPLA3 reduces HSC activation**

# Mutated PNPLA3 confers a pro-fibrogenic phenotype to human HSC



# Human HSC: Primary Genotyping for PNPLA3 I148M PNPLA3 SNP variant



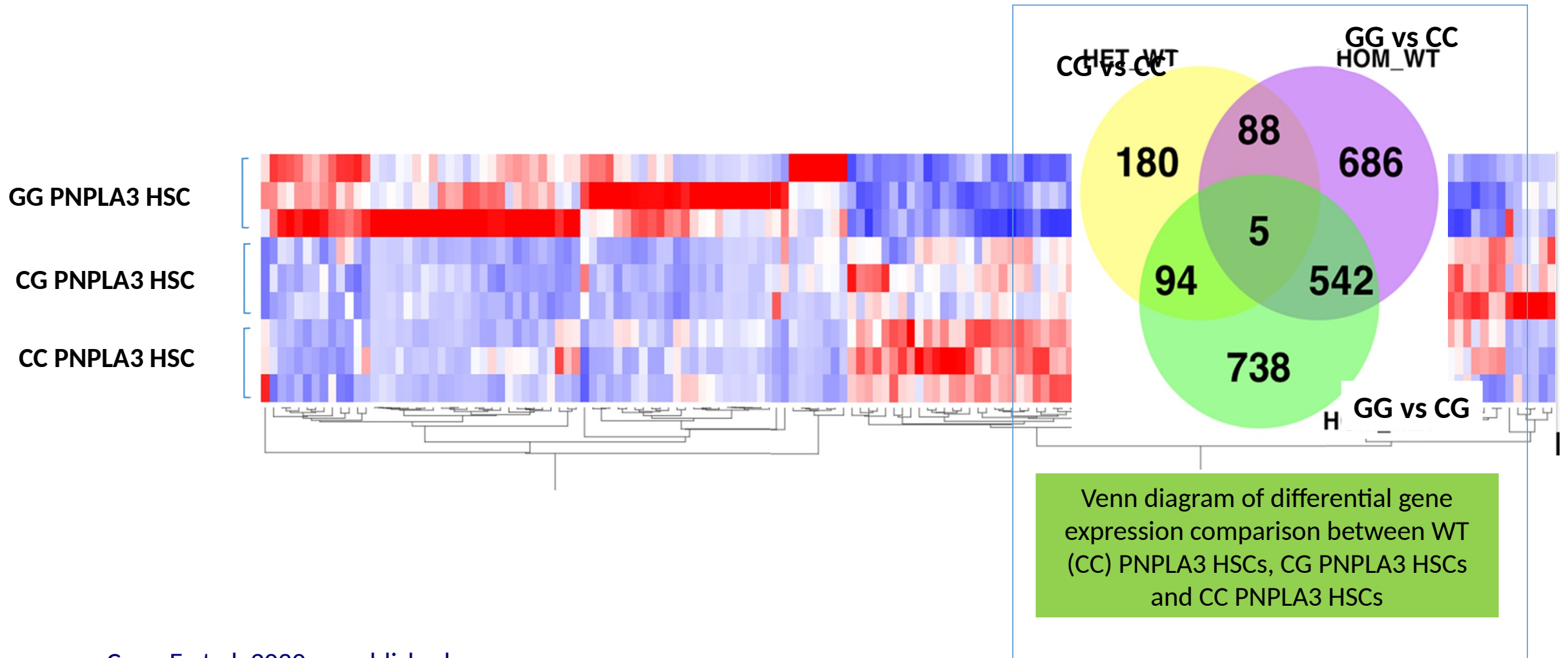
**Legend**

- Allele 1-C / Allele 1-C
- Allele 2-G / Allele 2-G
- Allele 1-C / Allele 2-G
- ✕ Undetermined

Primary hHSC were isolated (n = 23 donors), cultured in 2D followed by genotyping for PNPLA3(I148M) and RNAseq data analysed with **Ingenuity pathway analysis (IPA)**.

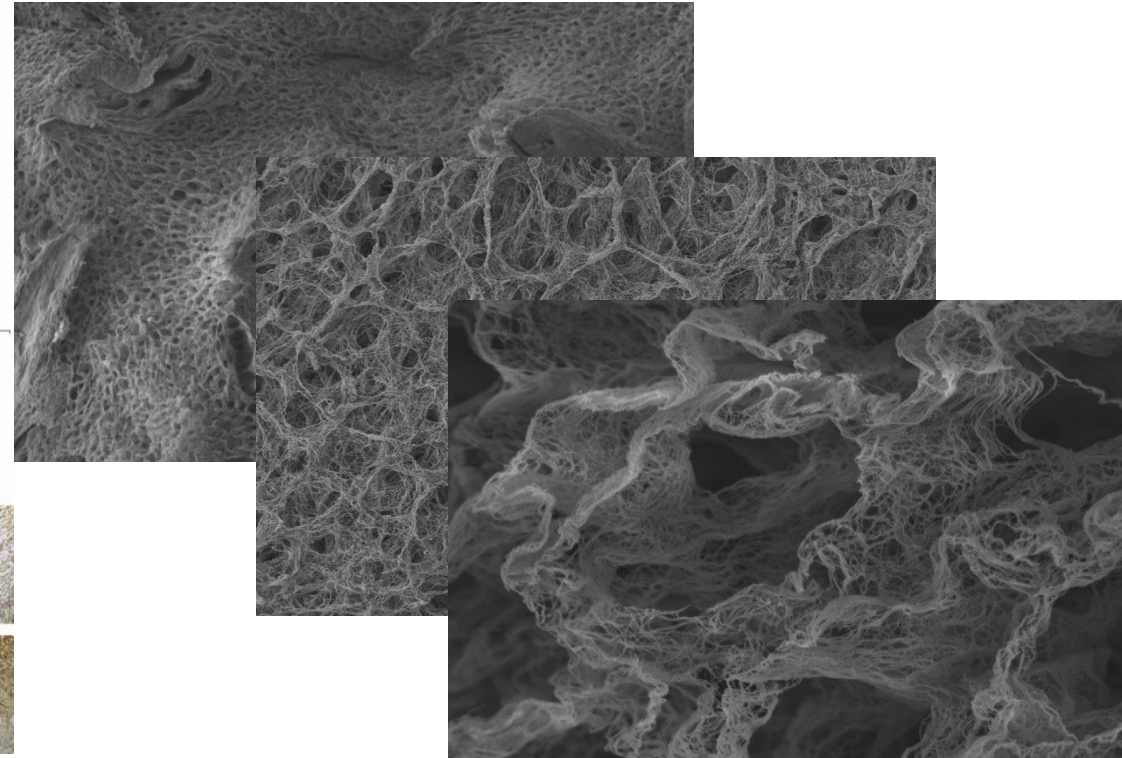
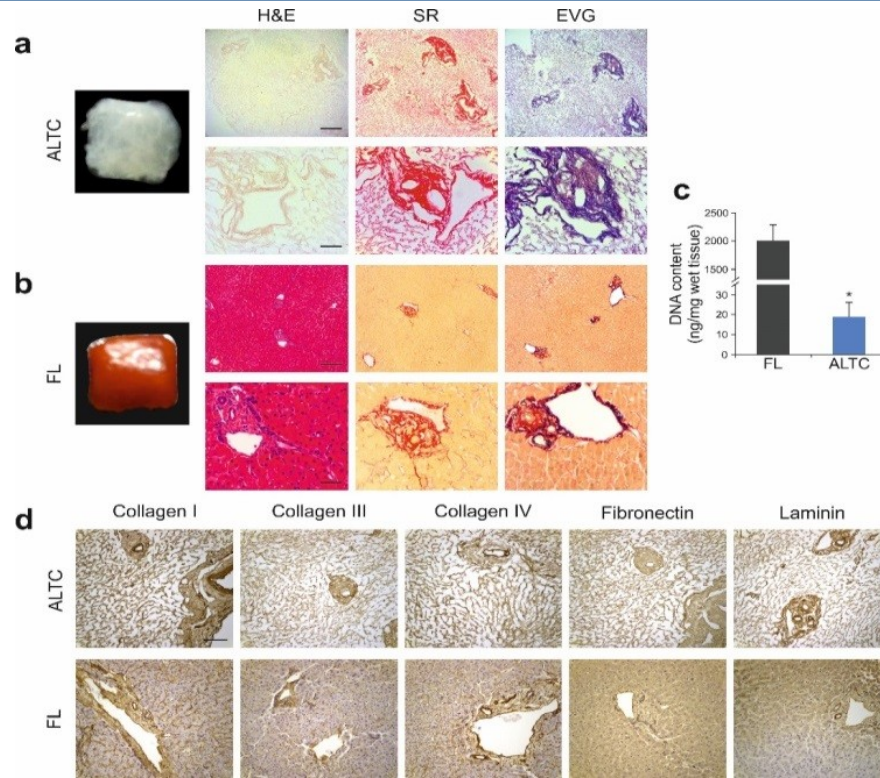
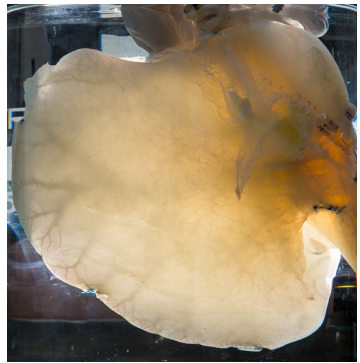
- **WT PNPLA3 HSC**: homozygous for Allele C (C/C)
- **C/G PNPLA3 HSC**: heterozygous for Allele C and G (C/G)
- **G/G PNPLA3 HSC**: homozygous for Allele G (G/G)

# PNPLA3 (148M) SNP promotes the activation of human HSC through a dysregulated oxidative stress response

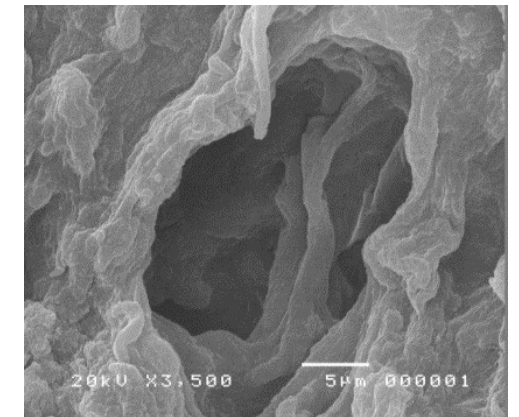
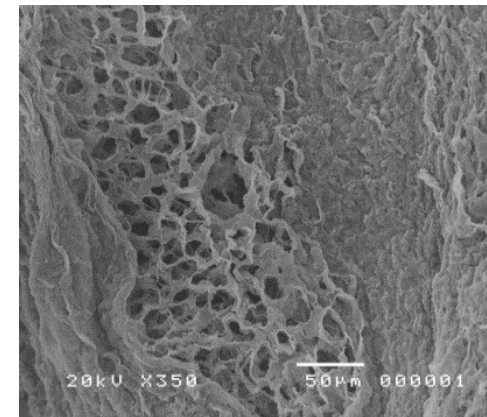
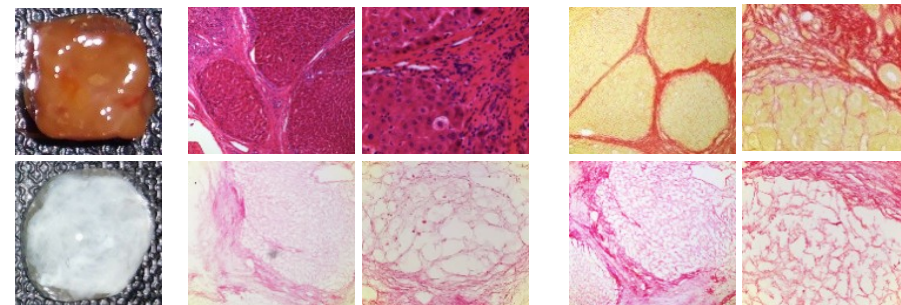


# 3D Human Healthy and Fibrotic Liver ECM

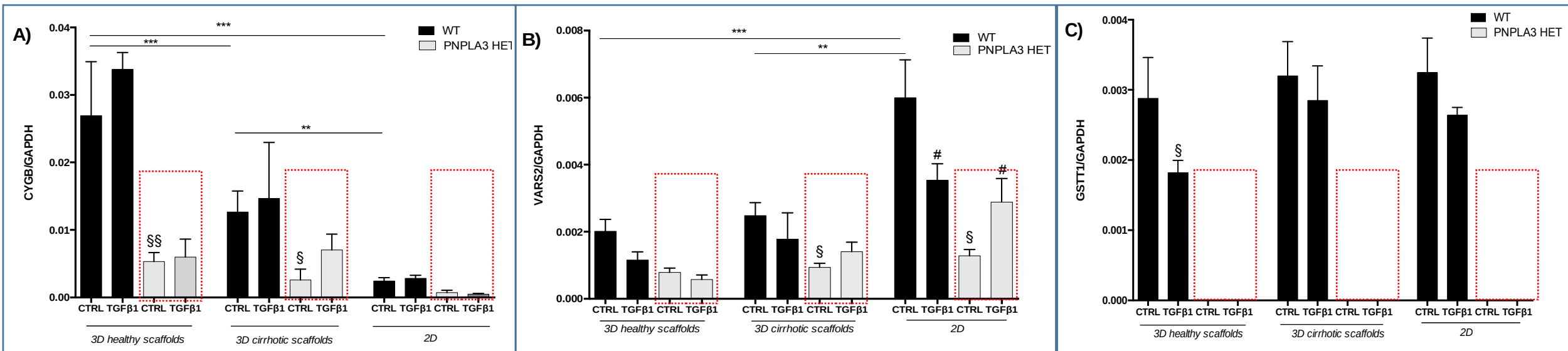
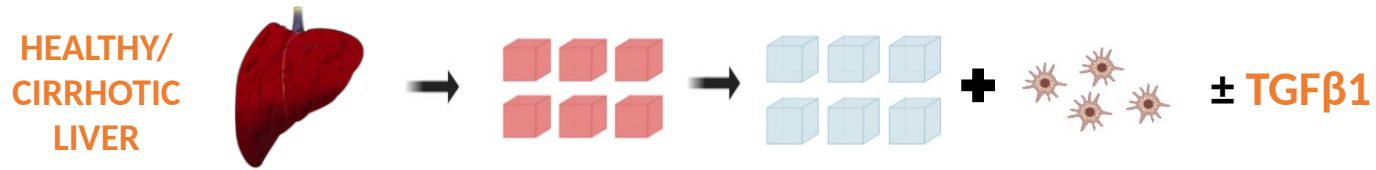
Donor healthy human liver



Explanted cirrhotic liver



# PNPLA3 (148M) SNP promotes the activation of human HSC through a dysregulated oxidative stress response

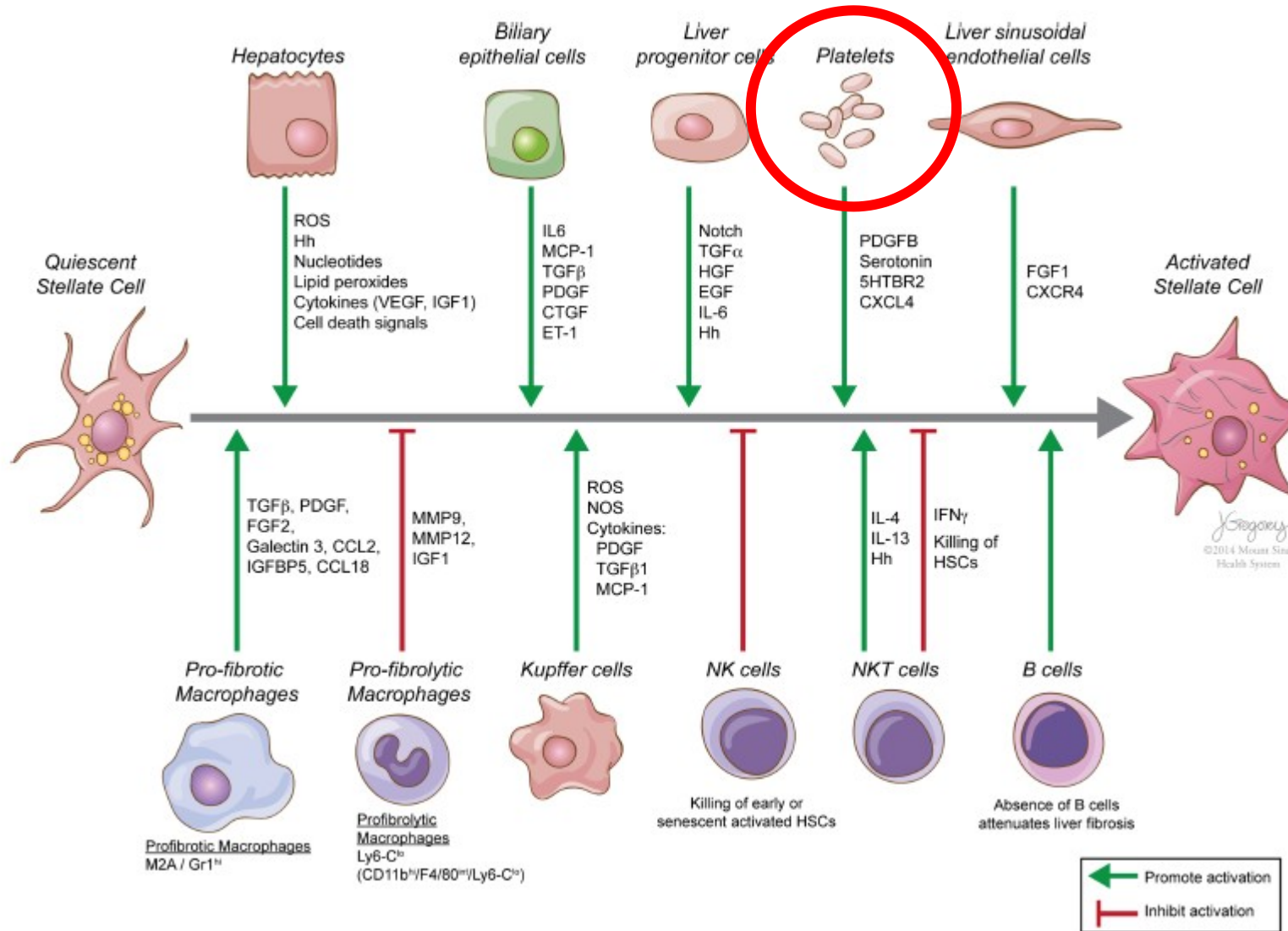


Cytoglobin B: HSC quiescence marker

VARS2: a mitochondrial enzyme involved in fatty acid metabolism

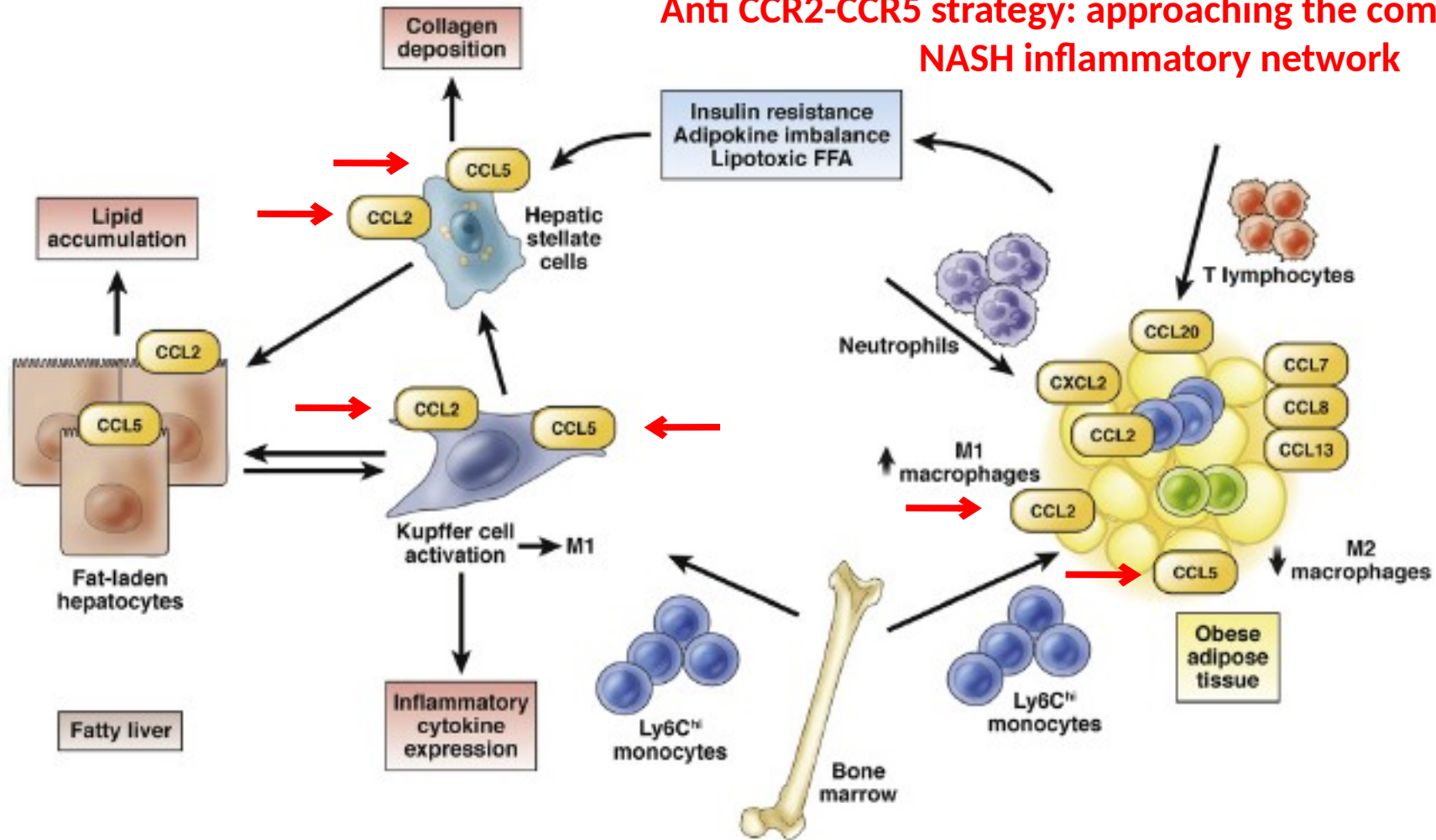
GSTT1, a Glutathione-S-Transferase

# Cellular Cross-Talk in Liver Fibrogenesis



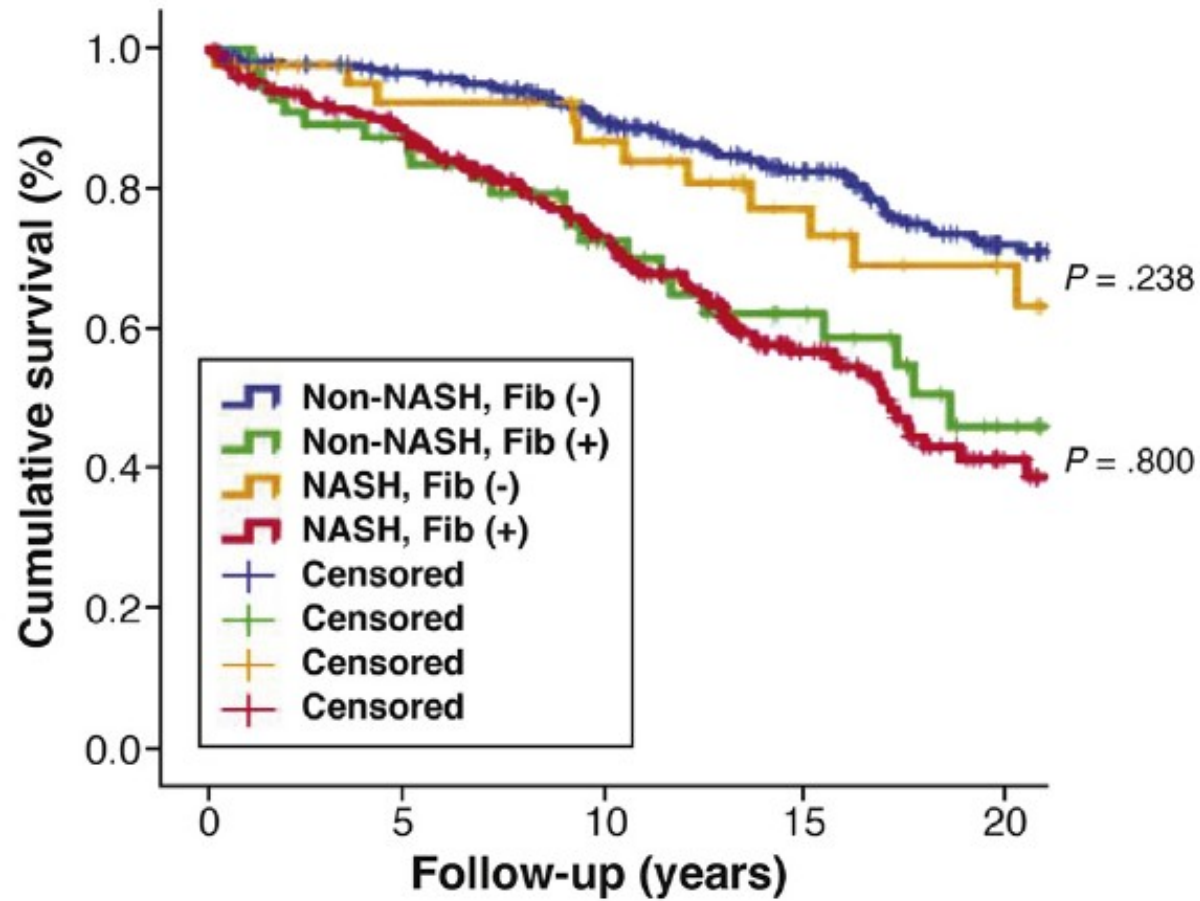
# Chemokines and NASH Progression

Anti CCR2-CCR5 strategy: approaching the complexity of the NASH inflammatory network





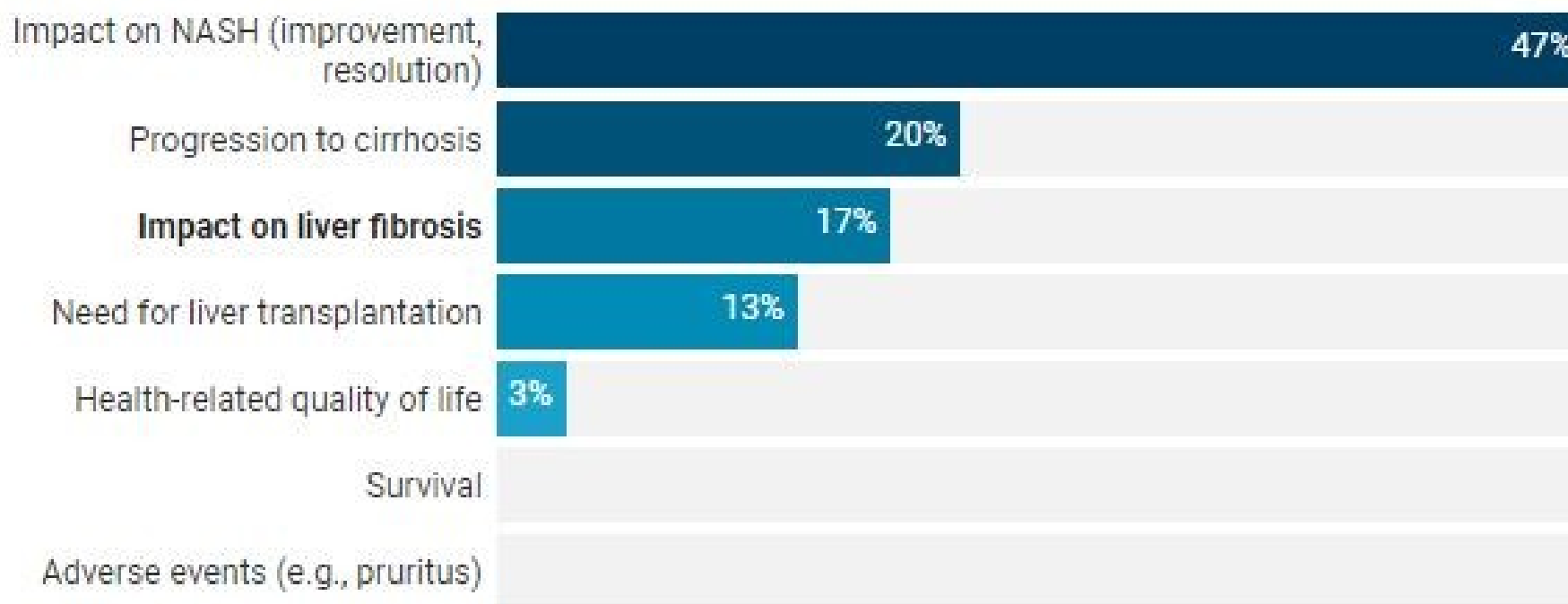
# Fibrosis and NAFLD Outcome



279	241	197	137	72	<b>Non-NASH, Fib (-)</b>
56	46	30	19	7	<b>Non-NASH, Fib (+)</b>
43	35	31	20	12	<b>NASH, Fib (-)</b>
241	197	124	58	18	<b>NASH, Fib (+)</b>

# Fibrosis in NASH: Still a Confused End-point!!!!

Despite liver fibrosis being the only end point currently a strong predictor of negative outcomes in NASH patients – it's not the most important factor to payers...



*Which of the following clinical measures would you consider most important when assessing the cost-effectiveness of a novel drug for the treatment of NASH. Percentage of MCO PD/MDs (n=30). Survey data collected December 2017.*

# NASH pipeline crowds at mid-stage, but has few advanced candidates

## PHASE I (14 drugs)

- butanoic acid
- CER209
- evogliptin
- DUR928
- MK-4074
- OPRX-106
- PF06865571
- PF06882961
- PXS-5382A
- RG-125
- RYI-018
- seladelpar
- SGM-1019
- TVB-2640

## PHASE II (29 drugs)

- medications
- ARX618
  - BI 1467335
  - DS102
  - EDP-305
  - emricasan
  - gemcabene
  - GR-MD-02
  - GRI-0621
  - GS-0976
  - GS-9674
  - IMM-124E
  - IONIS-DGAT2Rx
  - IVA-337
  - lipaglyn
  - LJN452
  - LMB763
  - MGL-3196
  - MN-001
  - MSDC-0602K
  - NC101
  - NGM282
  - NS-0200
  - ozempic
  - PF-05221304
  - PF-06835919
  - remogliflozin etabonate
  - SHP626
  - TVB-2640
  - VK2809

## PHASE III (5 drugs)

- cenicriviroc
- elafibranor
- Ocaliva (obeticholic acid)
- Selonsertib
- aramchol

## UCL ILDH

Giuseppe MAZZA

Krista ROMBOUITS

Walid Al-Akkad

Luca Frenguelli

Lisa Longato

Kessarín Thanapirom

Maria Giovanna Vilia

Elisabetta Caon

Martina Marrali

Eric Felli

Bailin Chen

Yutaka Yasui

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Amir Gander

Joerg Pollock

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Alberto Quaglia

Tu Vinh Luong

Andy Hall



Ludovic Vallier

Fotis Sampaziotis

## Imperial College London

Armando Del Rio Hernandez

Benjamin Robinson



## Universita' di Pavia, Italy

Antonio Di Sabatino

Paolo Giuffrida



## UCL Institute for Child Health, Div. Of Surgery

Paolo De Coppi

Panagiotis Maghsoudlou

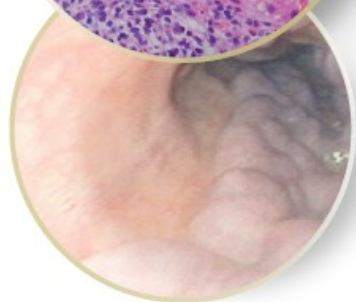
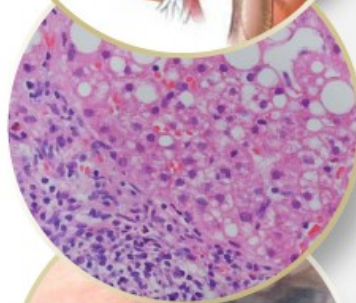
Luca Urbani



University College London  
Hospitals Biomedical  
Research Centre



ROYAL FREE SHEILA SHERLOCK  
**HEPATOLOGY**  
POSTGRADUATE COURSE



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday

Thursday

5<sup>th</sup>



7<sup>th</sup>

May 2020

*A comprehensive guide to liver disease  
in the clinic, acute take & ICU featuring:*

- Interactive grand rounds
- Real-life case discussions
- Hot topics in hepatology
- Q&As with the experts



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A curriculum-based course in Hepatology for GI  
and acute medical trainees, and a comprehensive clinical update  
for consultants.