

# Genetics of migraine



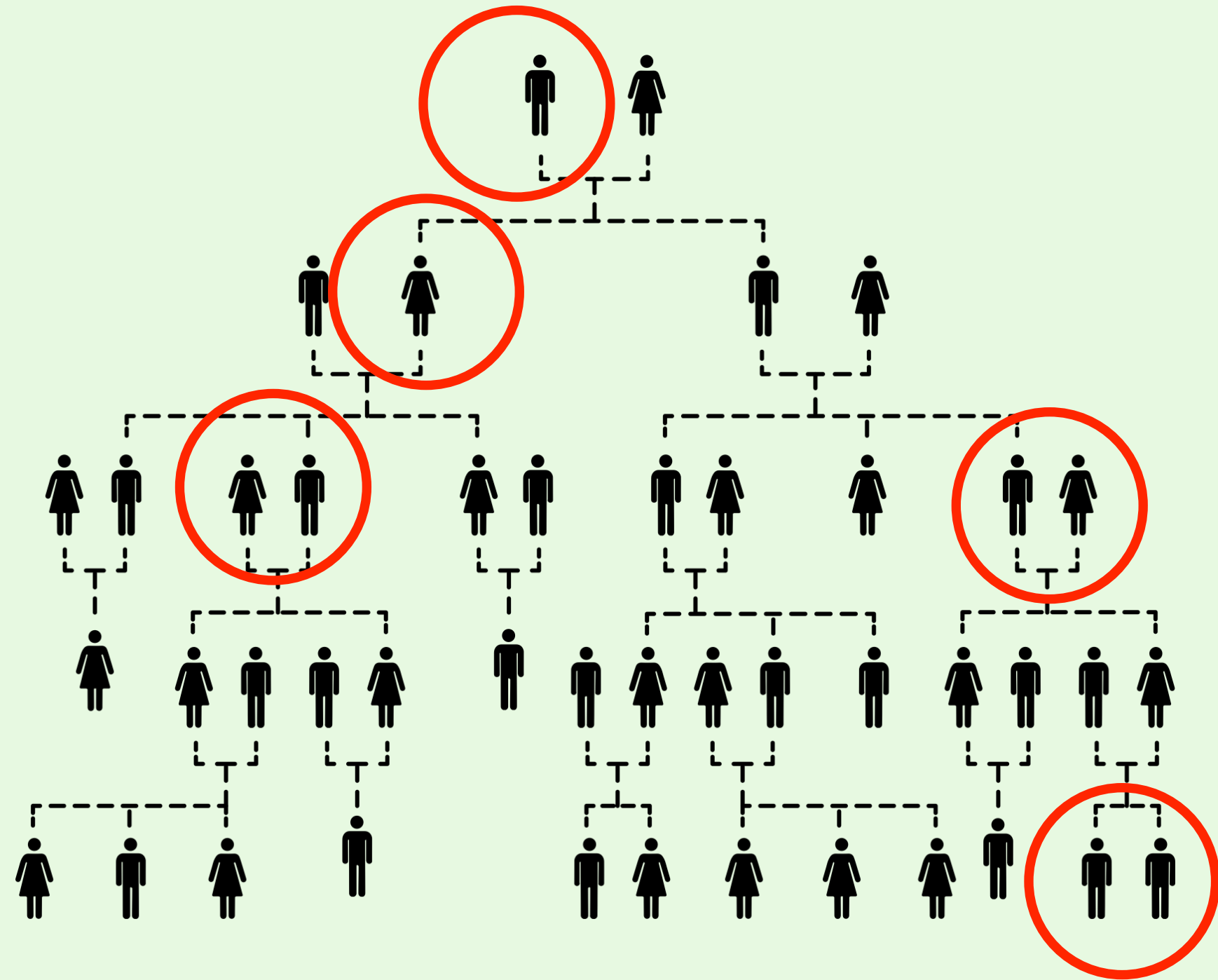
Clinical implications  
Mikko Kallela



## Mikko Kallela - disclosures

Mikko Kallela has served on Advisory Boards for MSD, Allergan, TEVA, Lilly and Lundbeck; has received funding for travel and/or speaker honoraria from MSD, Allergan, TEVA, Novartis, Genzyme and Lundbeck; has received compensation for producing educational material from TEVA and Allergan; has received research support from Helsinki University Central Hospital; and holds stock/stock options and/or has received Board of Directors compensation from Helsinki Headache Center.

## Linkage - analysis



Affected and non-affected family members

Rare causal genes such as *CACNA1A* (calcium channel), *ATP1A2* (ion pump), *SCN1A* (sodium channel)

## Genomwide association studies (GWAS)



Cases and controls

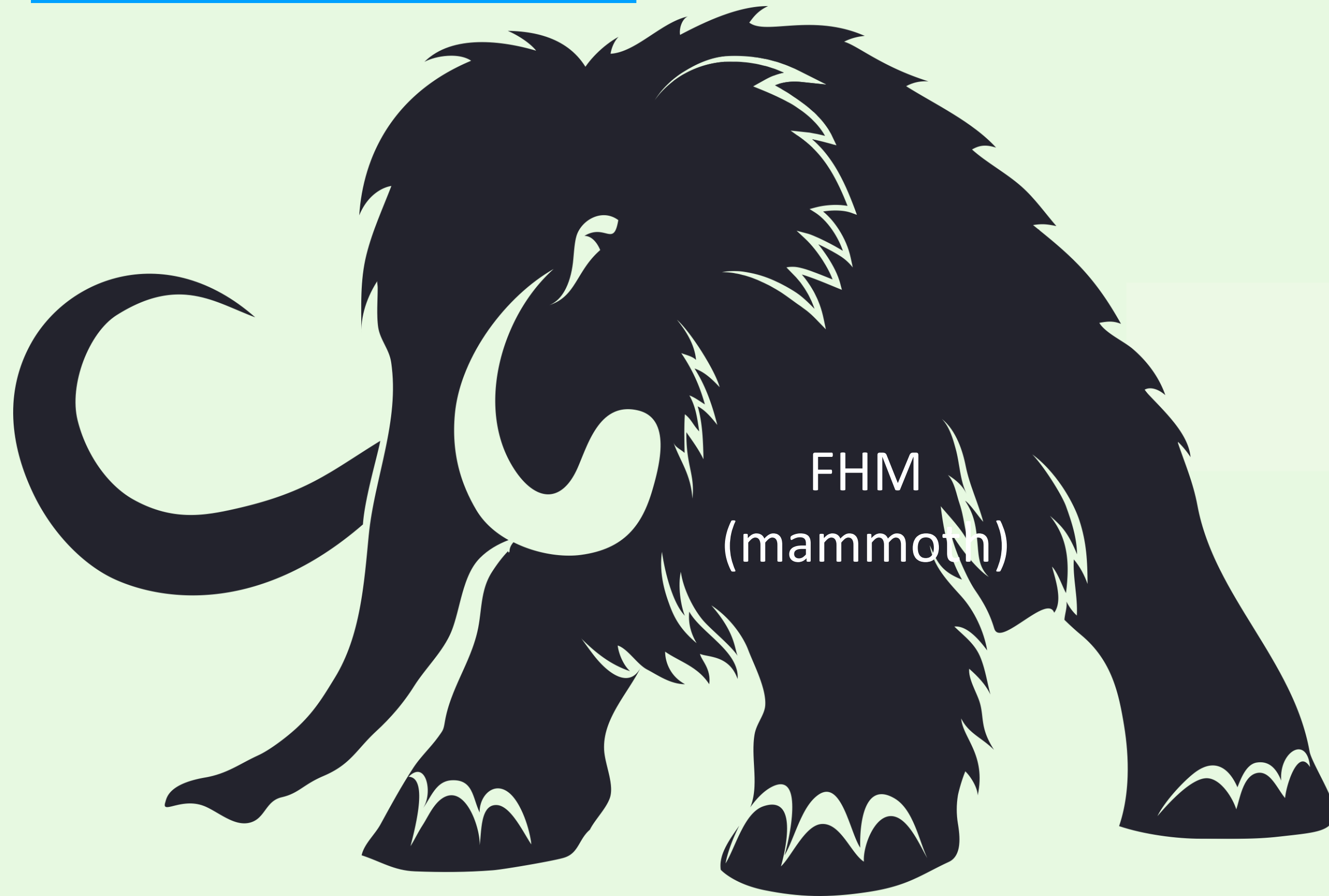


Common variants - increase the risk to have the disorder, such as *TPRM8*

Stam AH, van den Maagdenberg AM, Haan J, Terwindt GM, Ferrari MD. Genetics of migraine: an update with special attention to genetic comorbidity. *Curr Opin Neurol.* 2008;21(3):288-93.

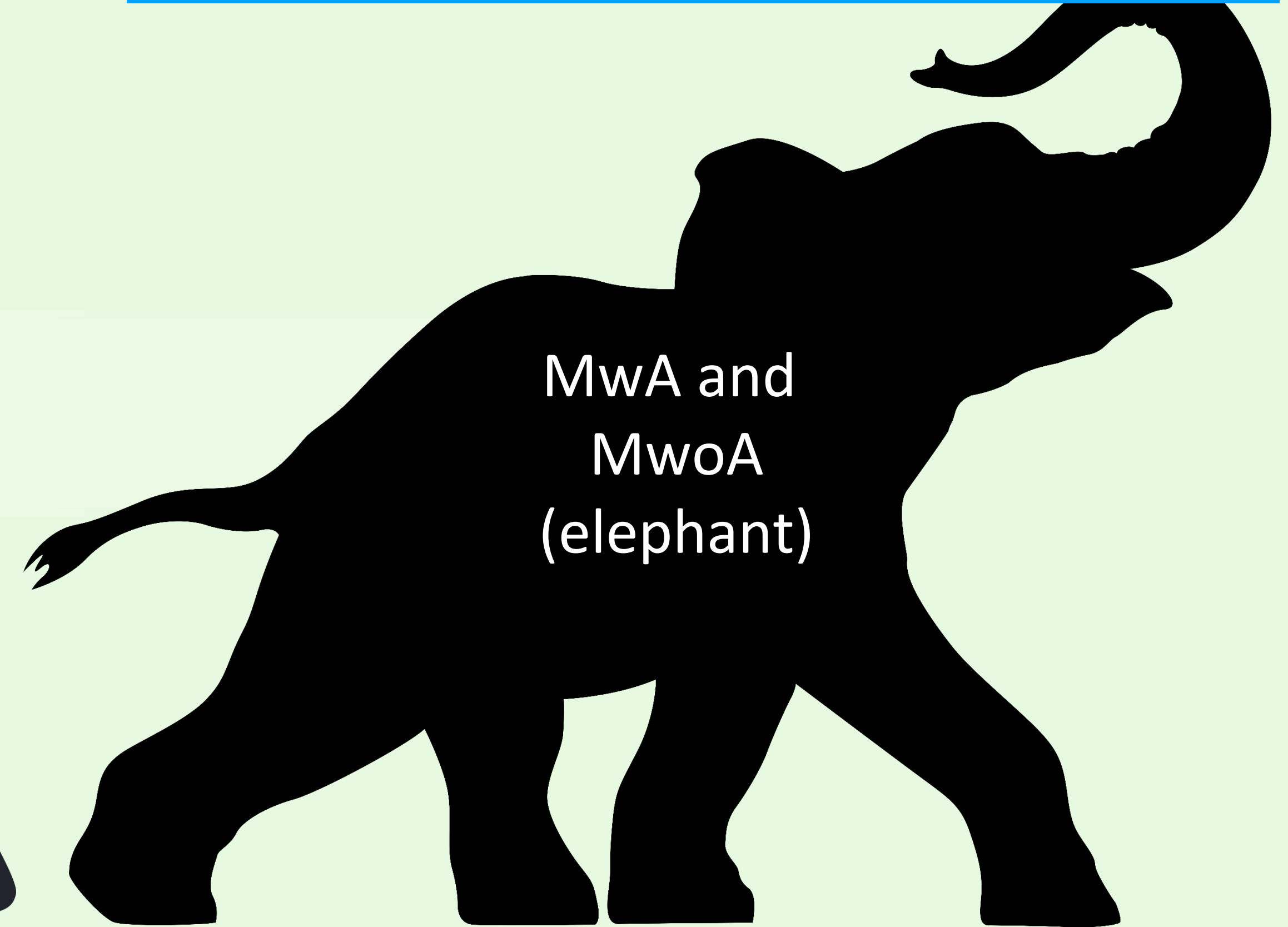
Gormley P, Anttila V, Winsvold BS, Palta P, Esko T, Pers TH, et al. Meta-analysis of 375,000 individuals identifies 38 susceptibility loci for migraine. *Nat Genet.* 2016;48(8):856-66.

## Linkage studies



Rare phenotypes  
like FHM

## Genomwide association studies



Common phenotypes  
like MwA and MwoA

MwA = migraine with aura  
MwoA = migraine without aura  
FHM = familial hemiplegic migraine



## FHM, sporadic HM



## Molecular genetic diagnosis



Strange symptoms, no diagnosis, no treatment, no hope, live with it

1.2.3.1.1 CACNA1A (calcium channel)

1.2.3.1.2 ATP1A2 (ion pump)

1.2.3.1.3 SCN1A (sodium channel)

Strange symptoms, proper diagnosis, treatment and prognosis

Part of migraine is a channelopathy

Carrera P, Stenirri S, Ferrari M, Battistini S. Familial hemiplegic migraine: a ion channel disorder. Brain Res Bull. 2001;56(3-4):239-41.



# Genomwide association studies (GWAS)



Common variants - increase the risk to have the disorder, such as MEF2D, TGFBR2, PHACTR1, ASTN2, LRP1, TPRM8

Freilinger T, Anttila V, de Vries B, Malik R, Kallela M, Terwindt GM, et al. Genome-wide association analysis identifies susceptibility loci for migraine without aura. Nat Genet. 2012;44(7):777-82; Gormley P, Anttila V, Winsvold BS, Palta P, Esko T, Pers TH, et al. Meta-analysis of 375,000 individuals identifies 38 susceptibility loci for migraine. Nat Genet. 2016;48(8):856-66; Hautakangas et al. Genome-wide analysis of 102,084 migraine cases identifies 123 risk loci and subtype-specific risk alleles 2021.



Cases and controls



Rare causal genes such as CACNA1A (calcium channel), ATP1A2 (ion pump), SCN1A (sodium channel) can (and will be) be missed

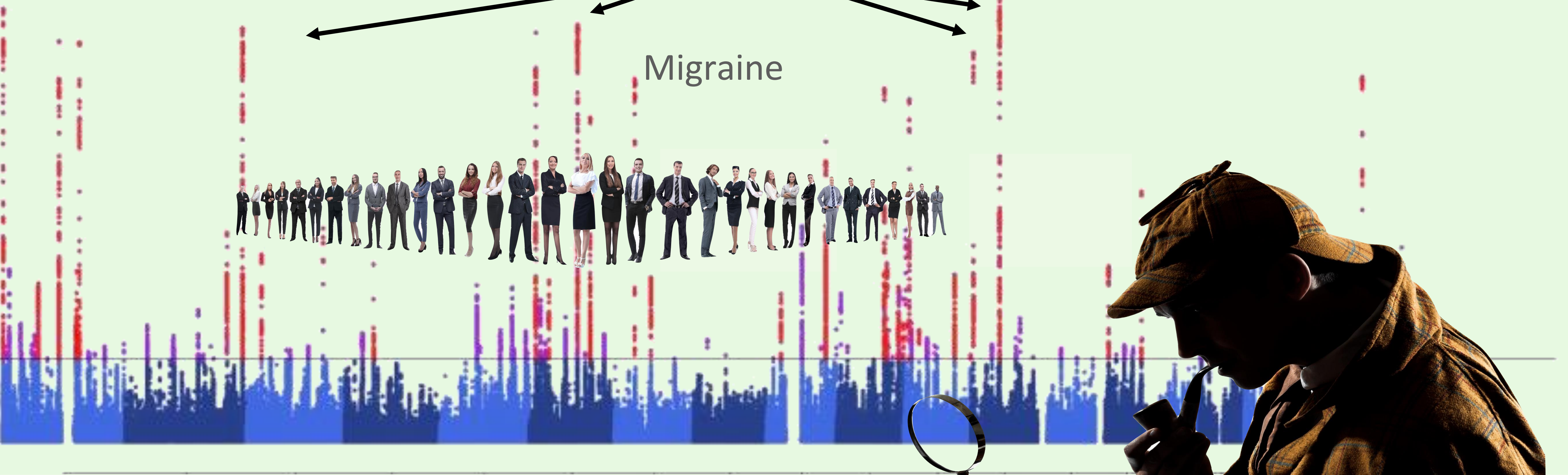


# 100 000 migraine cases - 500 000 controls - 123 SNP hits

Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) HITs

● New loci  
● Known loci

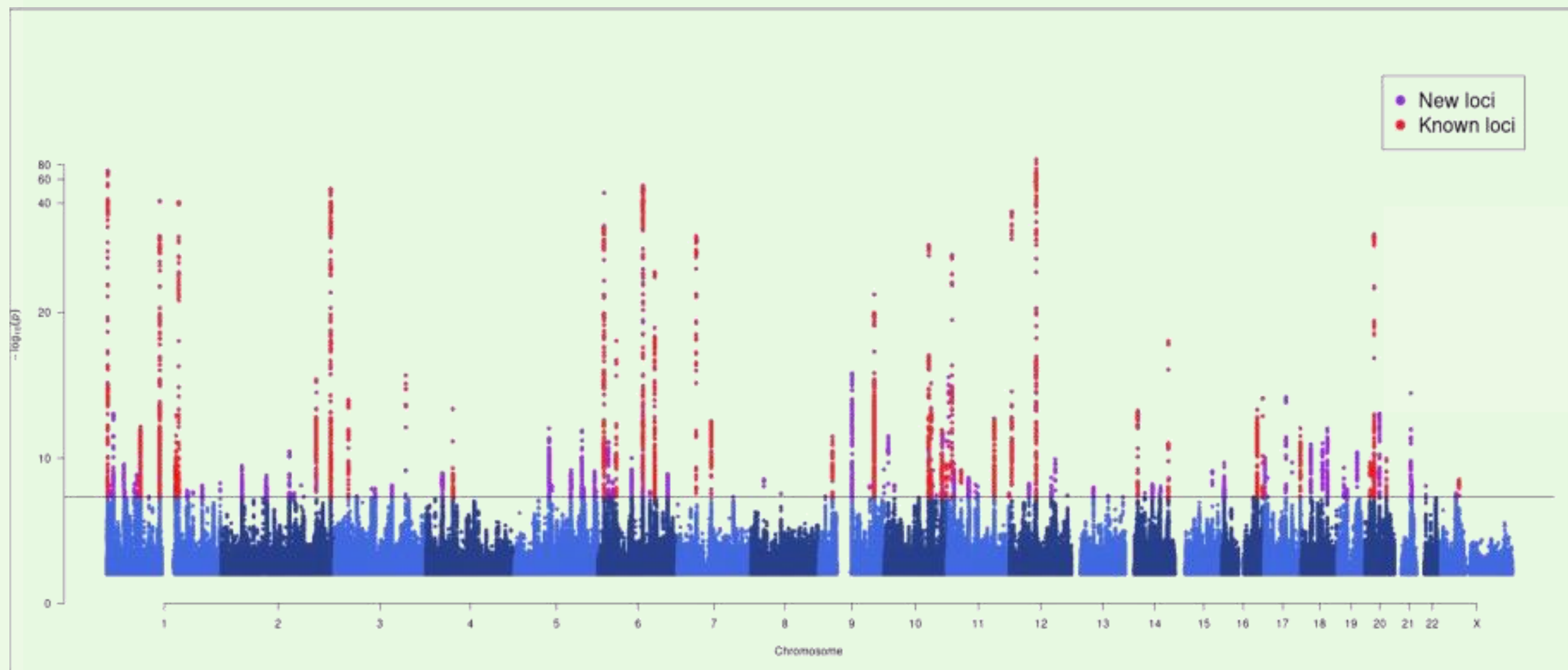
Migraine



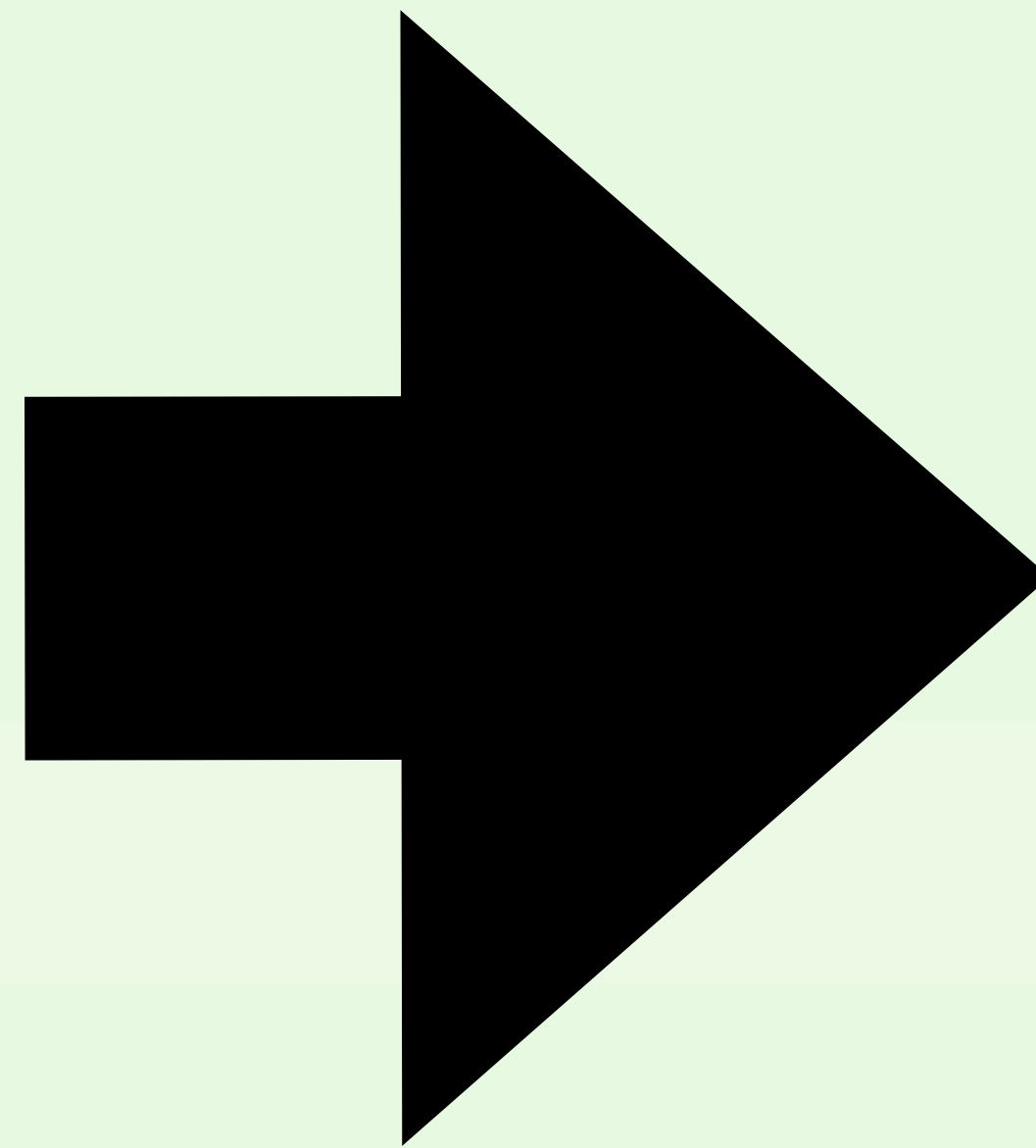
Control







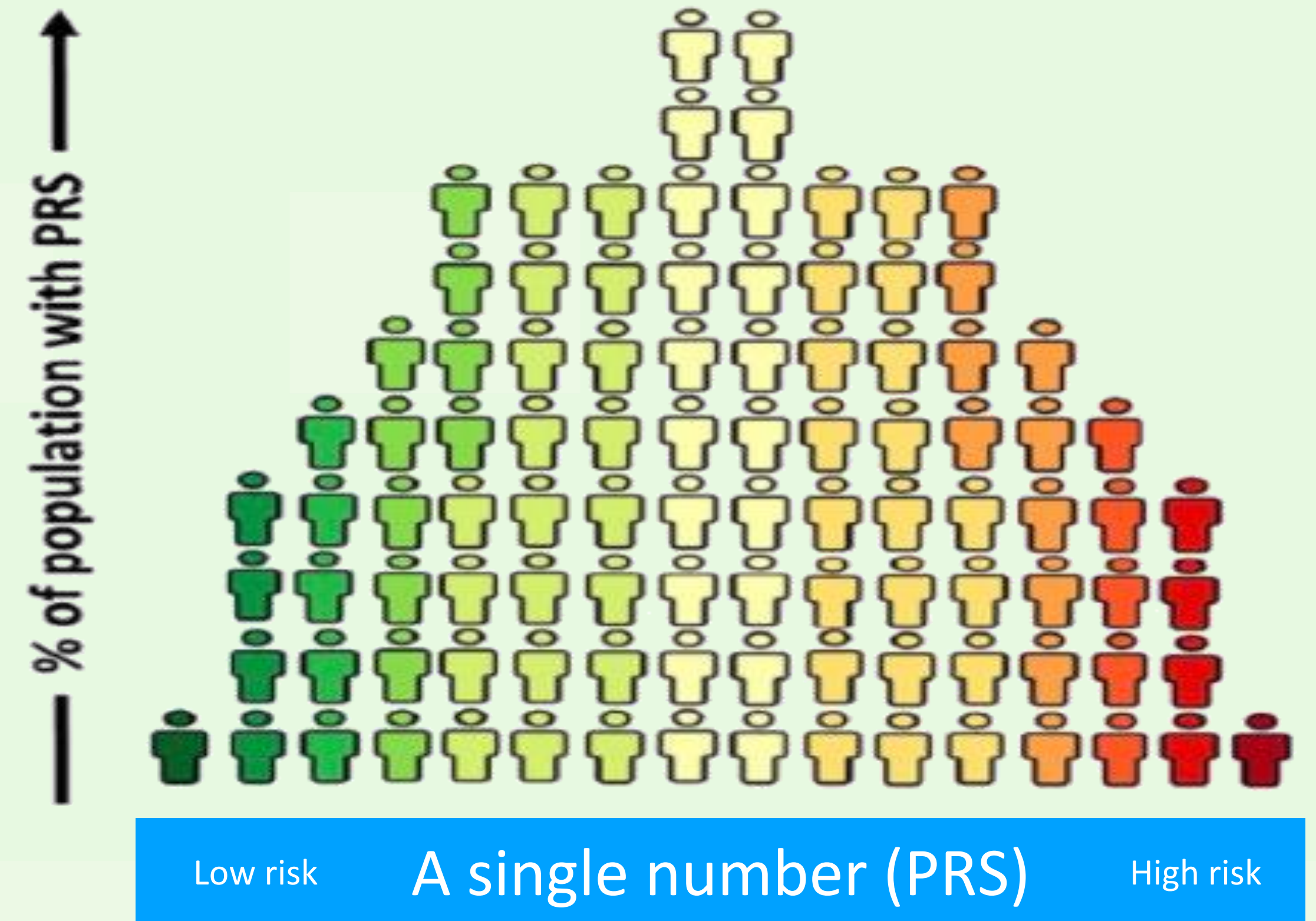
How to use the  
GWAS - data?





Common variants contribution to a disease in a single number = polygenic risk score = PRS

PRS percentile	Risk of disease vs. reference group
0-1	Lowest
1-5	↓
5-10	
10-20	
20-40	
<b>40-60 (reference)</b>	<b>1</b>
60-80	↑
80-90	
90-95	
95-99	
99-100	Highest



Source: RGA

Polygenic Risk Scores = Statistical geneticists have developed the ‘polygenic risk score’ (PRS), identifying hundreds, thousands and even millions of SNPs (variants) that can be included in a single score that measures the **individual’s genetic predisposition to specific diseases or traits**. Source: RGA = Reinsurance Group of America



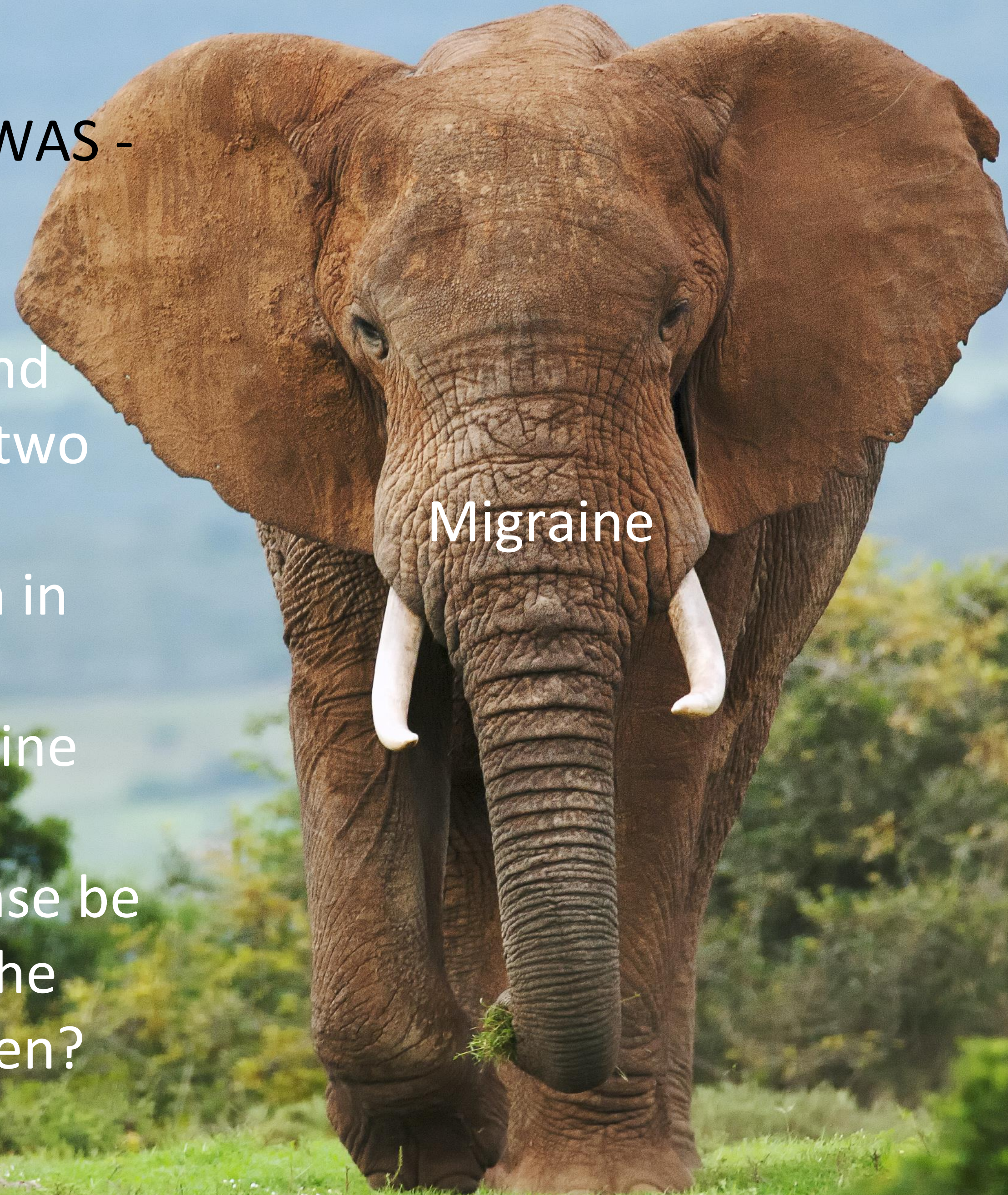
Based on the current GWAS -  
data:

1. Is migraine with and  
without aura - one or two  
disorders?

2. Where is the lesion in  
migraine?

3. Is hemiplegic migraine  
migraine?

4. Can treatment response be  
predicted based on the  
common variant burden?



Migraine



Hemiplegic migraine



# 1. Is migraine with and without aura - one or two disorders?

MwA

MwA + MwoA

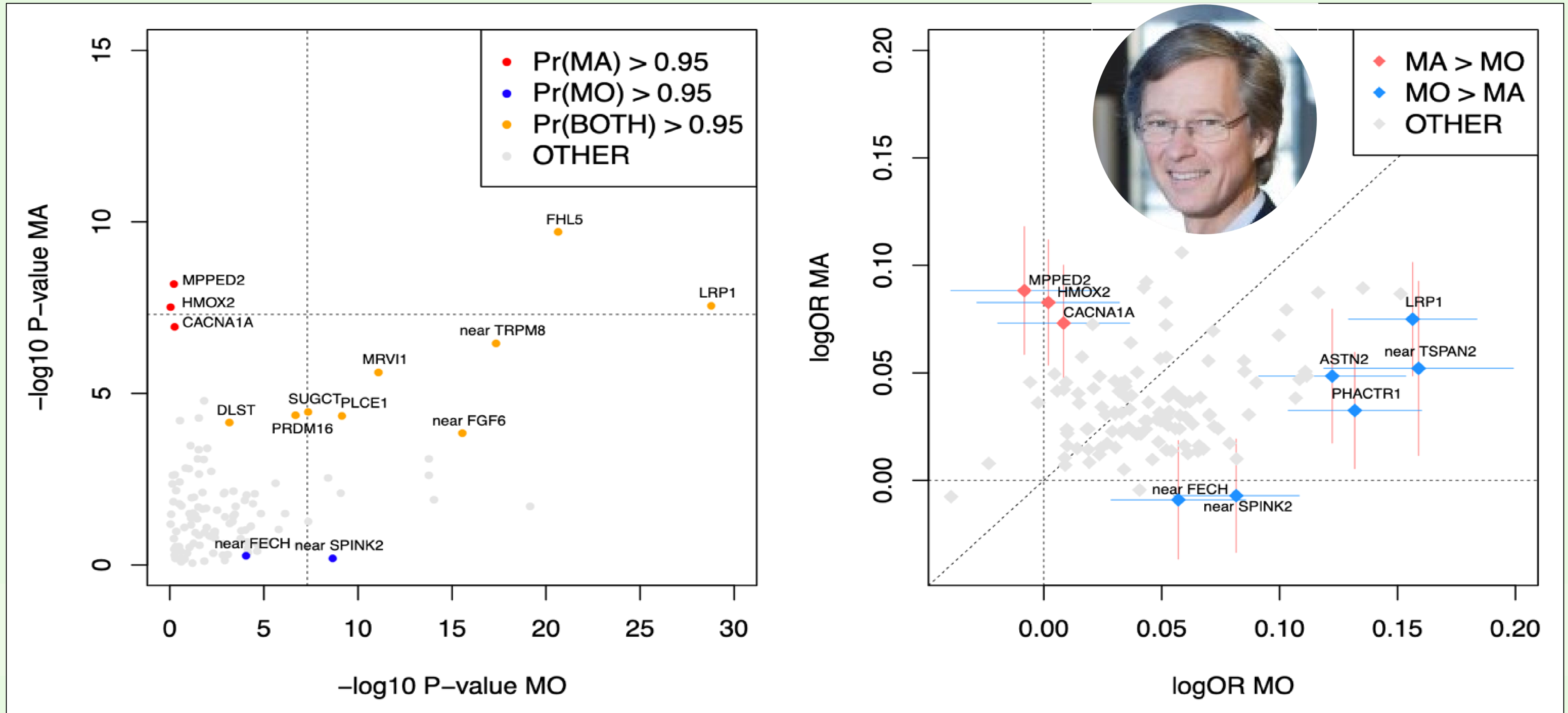
MwoA



MwA = migraine with aura, MwoA = migraine without aura.

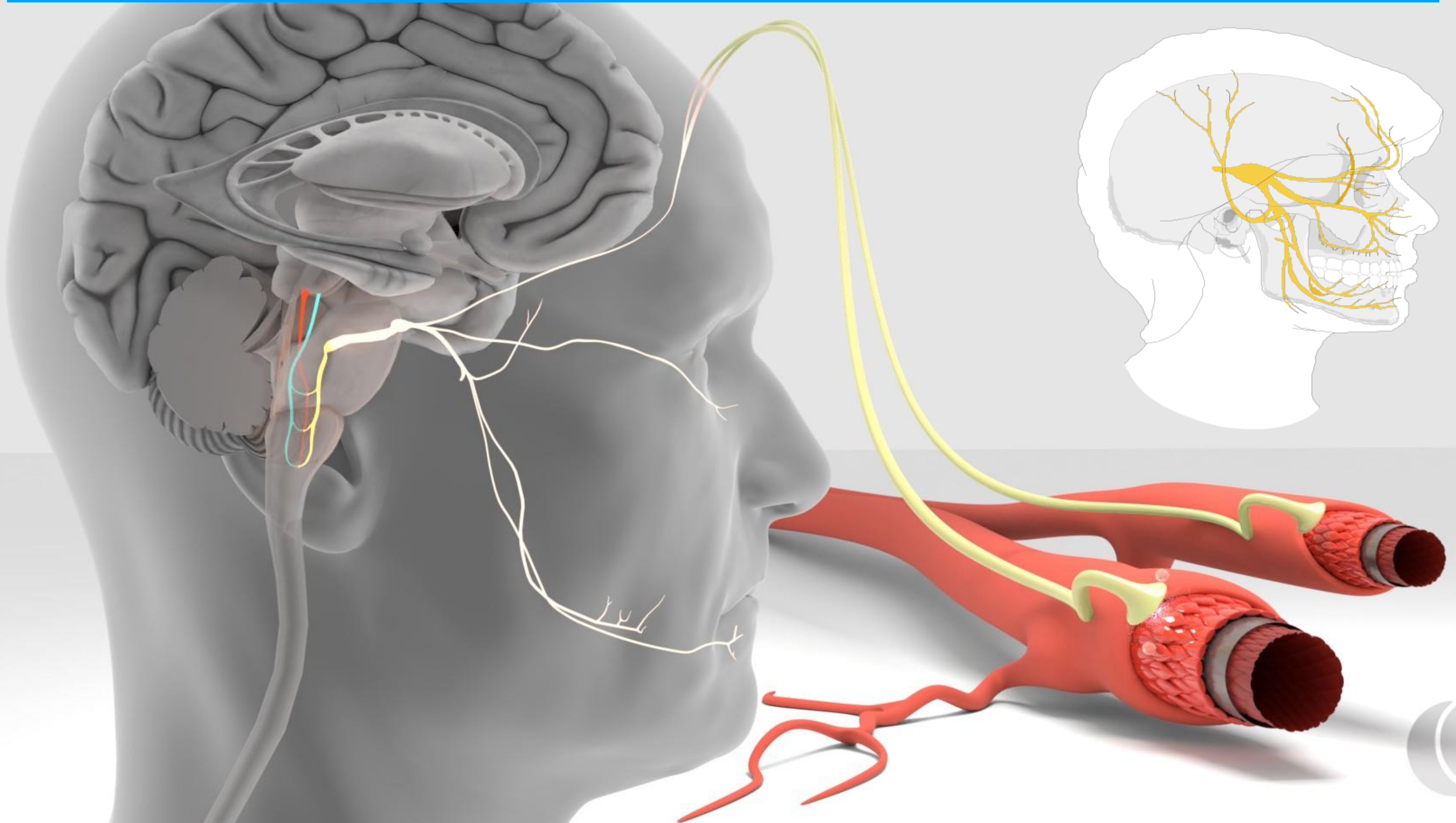


Maybe three - there are aura variants, headache variants, aura and headache variants

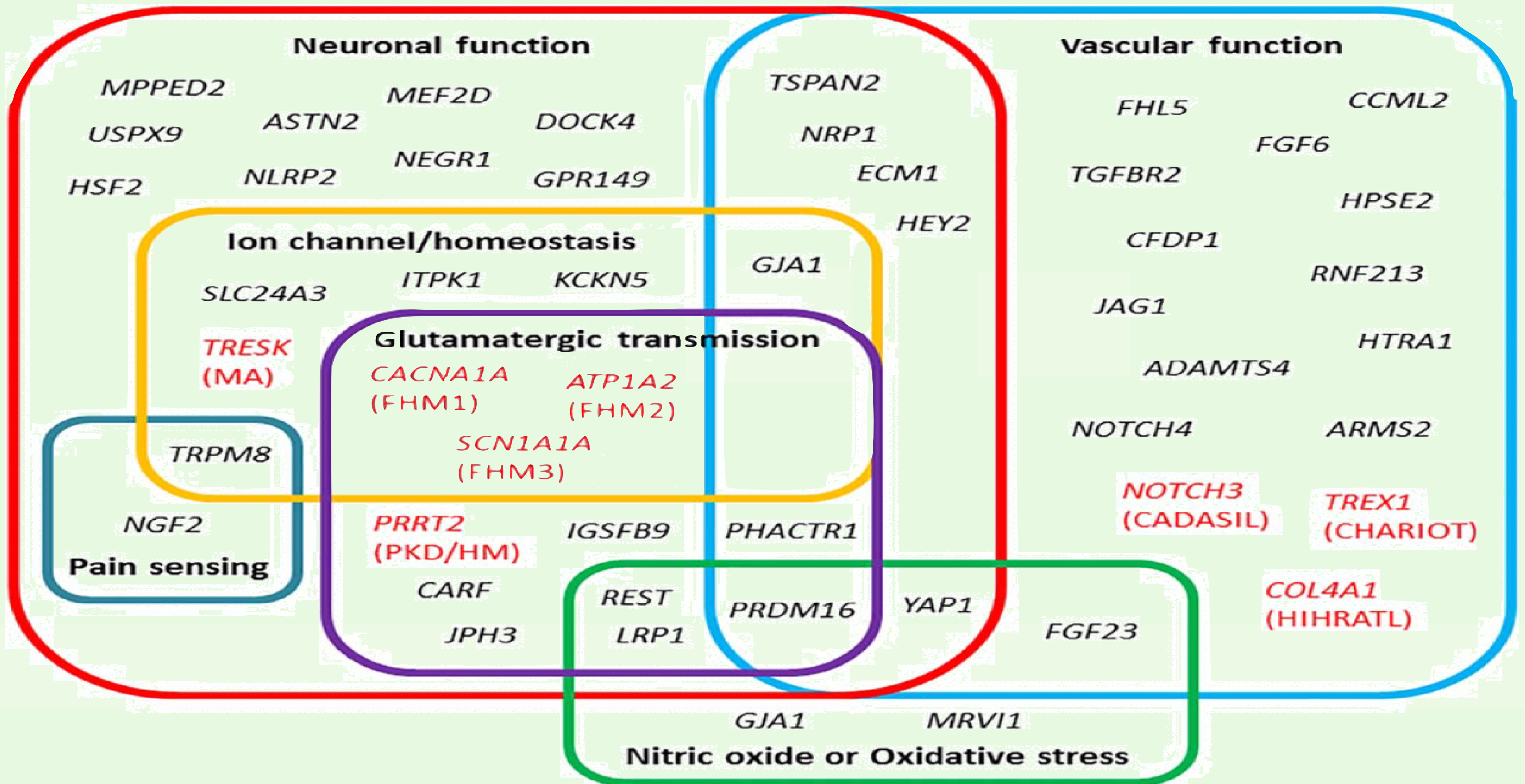




## 2. Where is the lesion?

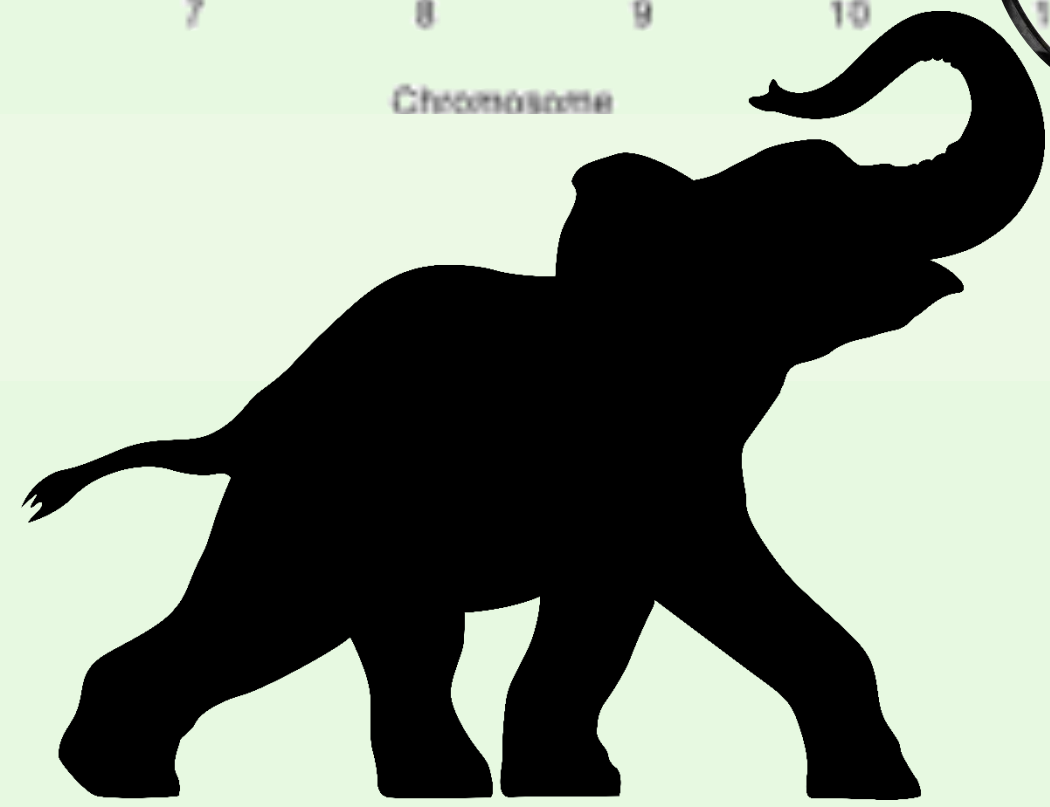
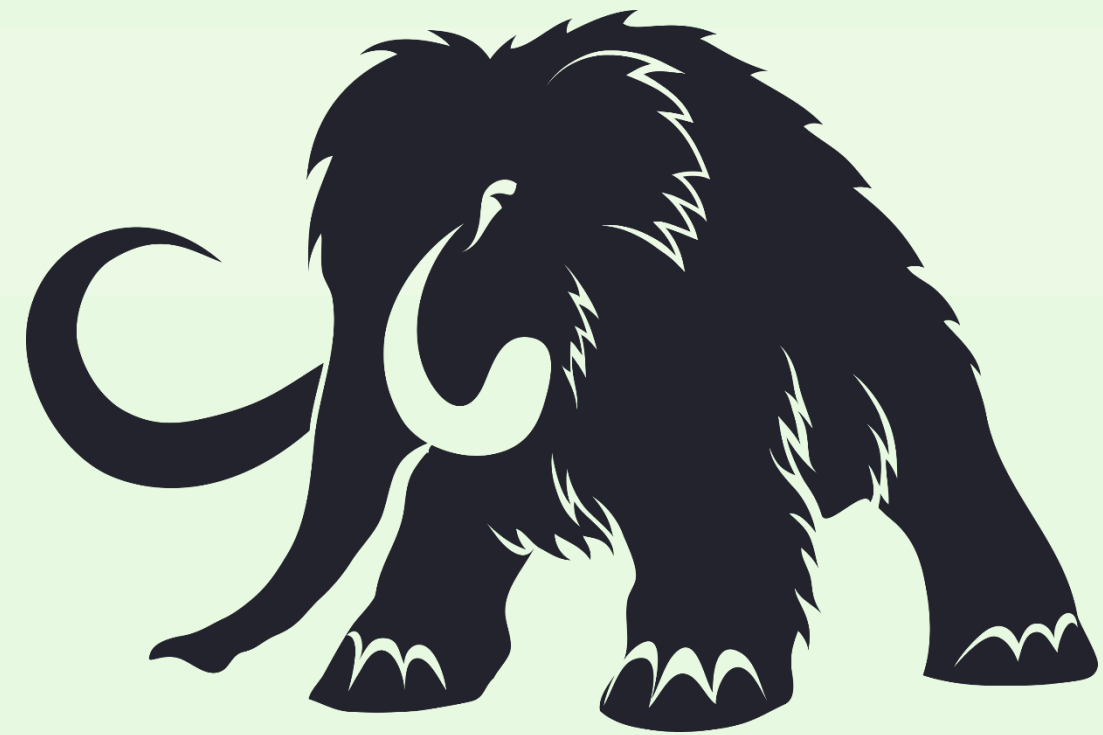
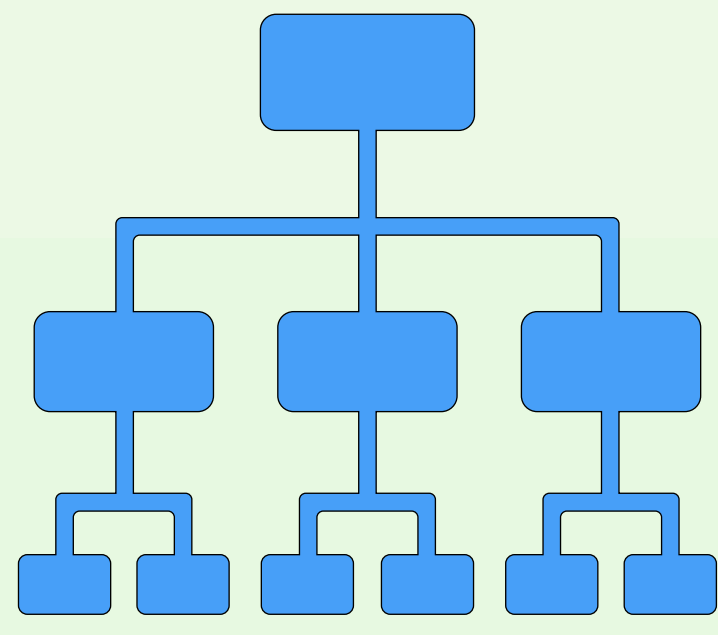
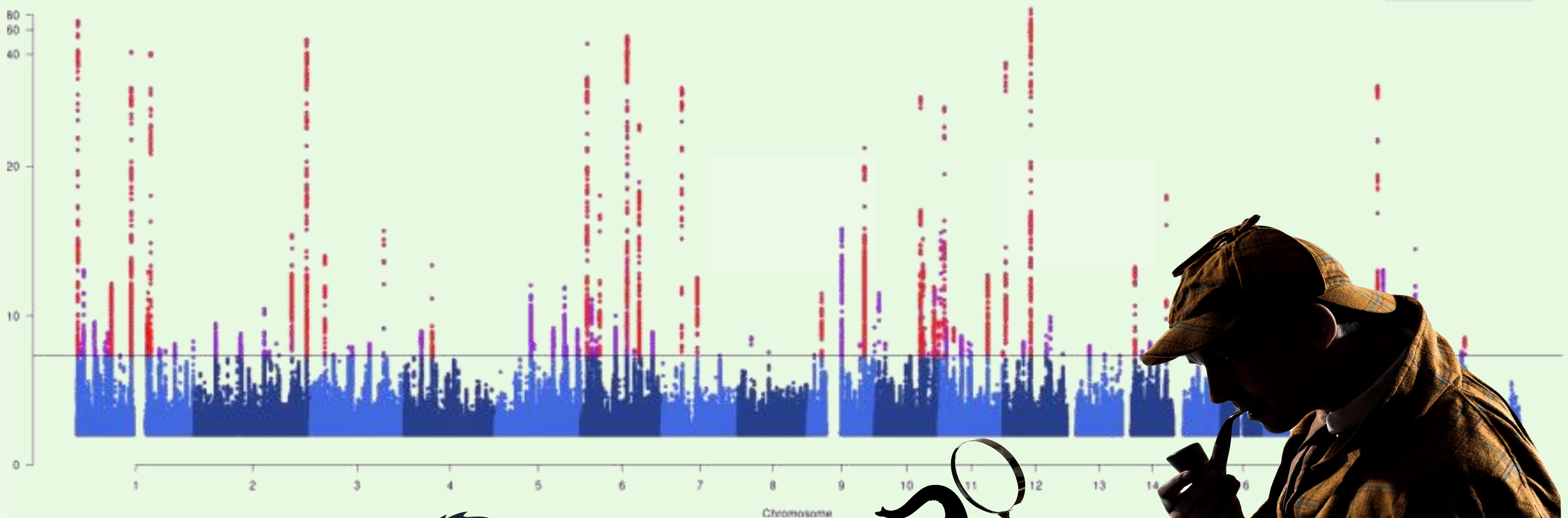




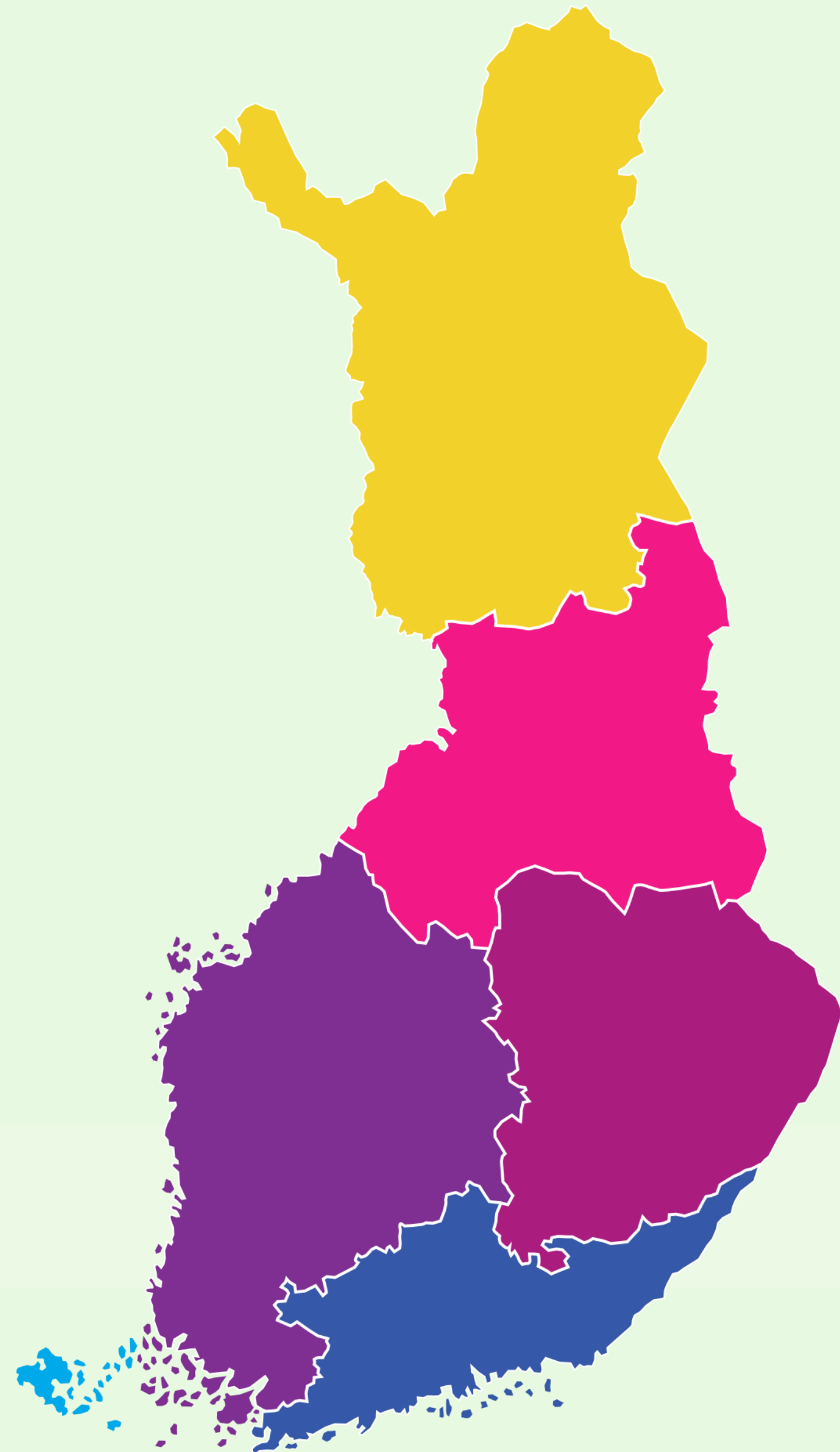




### 3. Is hemiplegic migraine (HM) migraine?







## The Finnish Migraine Genome Project 1993 - 2020

> 1000 migraine families  
(at least 4 with migraine)

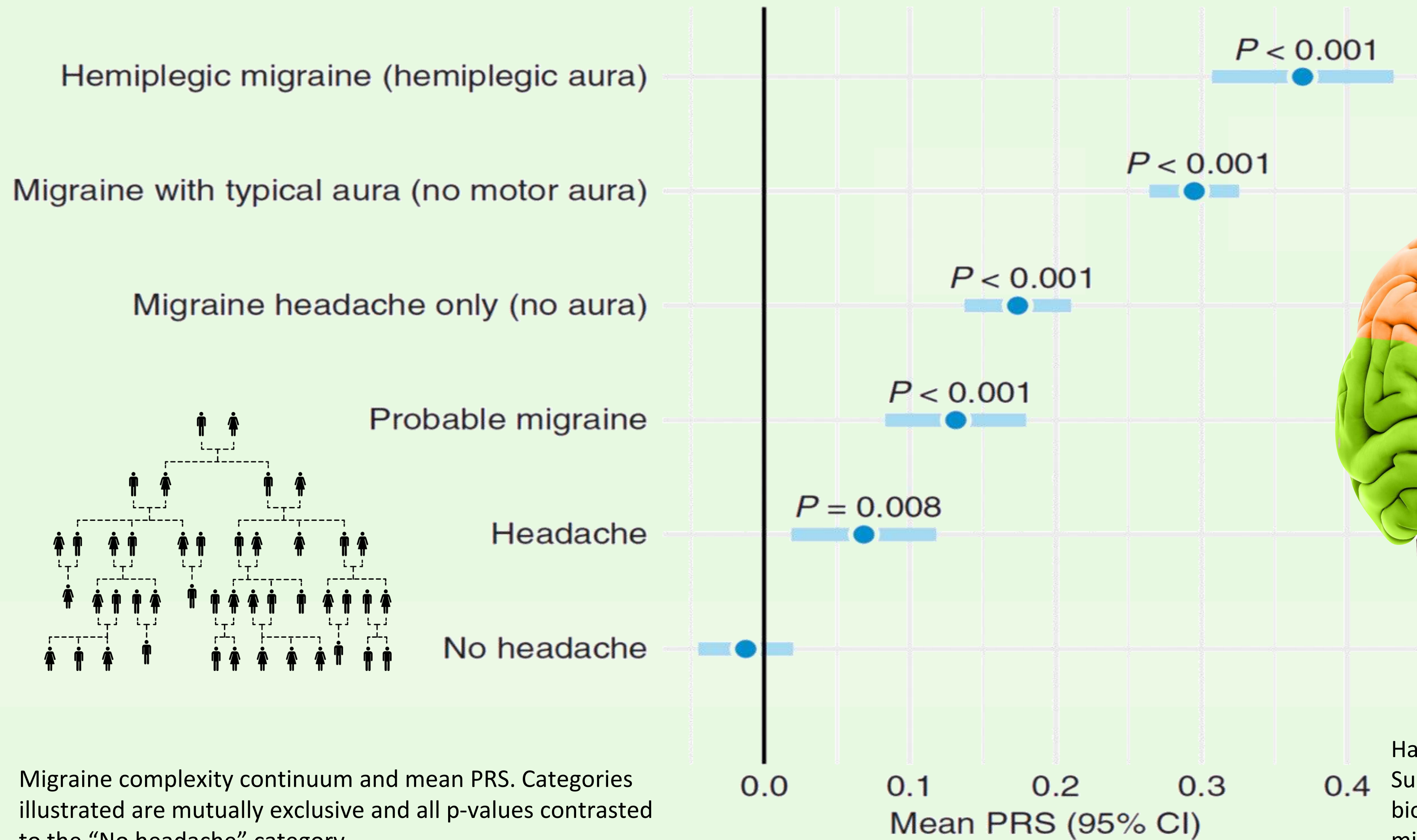
11 618 participants

8 602 analysed

3920 MwoA, 3138 MwA, 578 HM, 3542 no migraine  
According to the ICHD-3 criteria



# Hemiplegic migraine belongs to the migraine spectrum



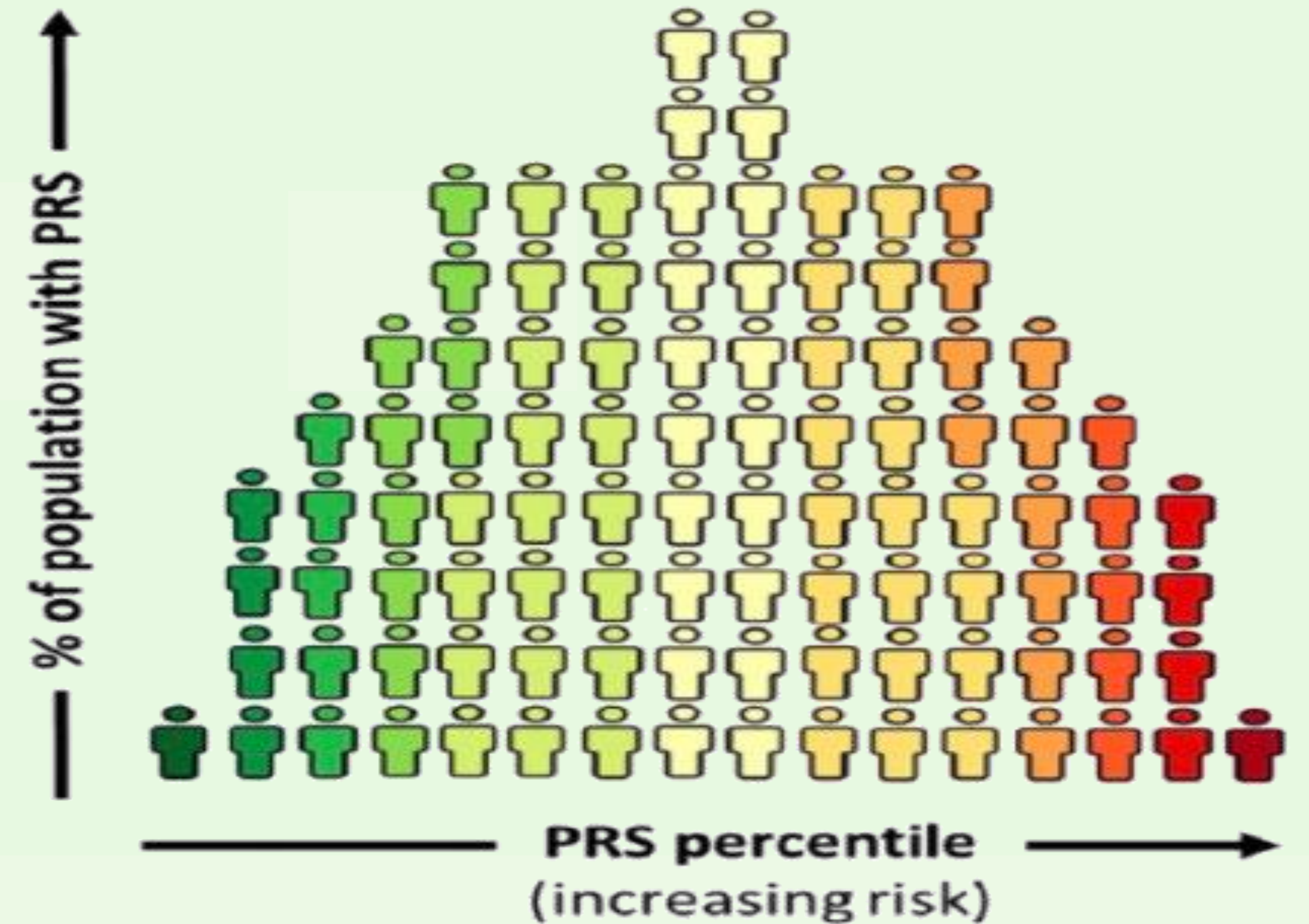
Migraine complexity continuum and mean PRS. Categories illustrated are mutually exclusive and all p-values contrasted to the “No headache” category

Happola P, Gormley P, Nuottamo ME, Artto V, Sumelahti ML, Nissila M, et al. Polygenic risk provides biological validity for the ICHD-3 criteria among Finnish migraine families. *Cephalalgia*. 2021;3331024211045651.



## 4. Can treatment response predicted based on the common variant burden?

PRS percentile	Risk of disease vs. reference group
0-1	Lowest
1-5	↓
5-10	
10-20	
20-40	
<b>40-60 (reference)</b>	1
60-80	↓
80-90	
90-95	
95-99	
99-100	

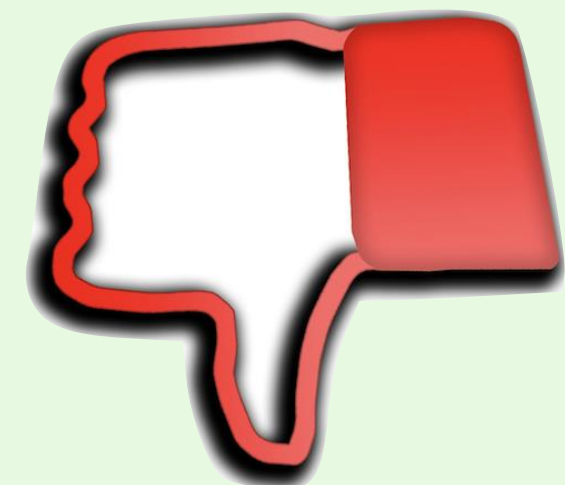


Source: RGA

Polygenic Risk Scores = Statistical geneticists have developed the 'polygenic risk score' (PRS), identifying hundreds, thousands and even millions of SNPs (variants) that can be included in a single score that measures the **individual's genetic predisposition to specific diseases or traits**. Source: RGA = Reinsurance Group of America



# Response to triptans and genetics



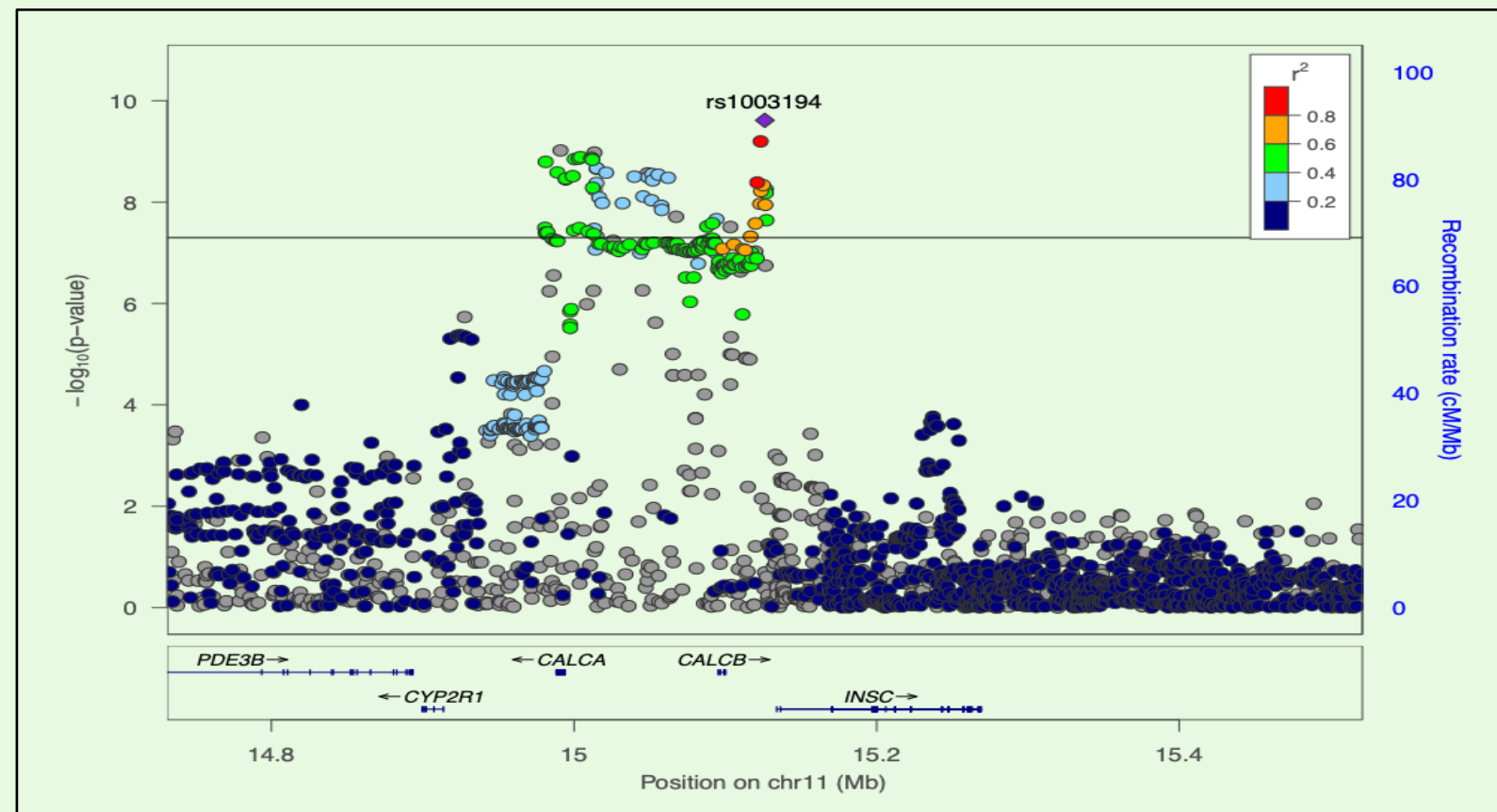
Migraine risk x 2

PRS

A twofold increase in migraine risk associates with positive response to migraine-specific acute treatment (odds ratio [OR] = 1.25 [95% confidence interval (CI) = 1.05–1.49]).



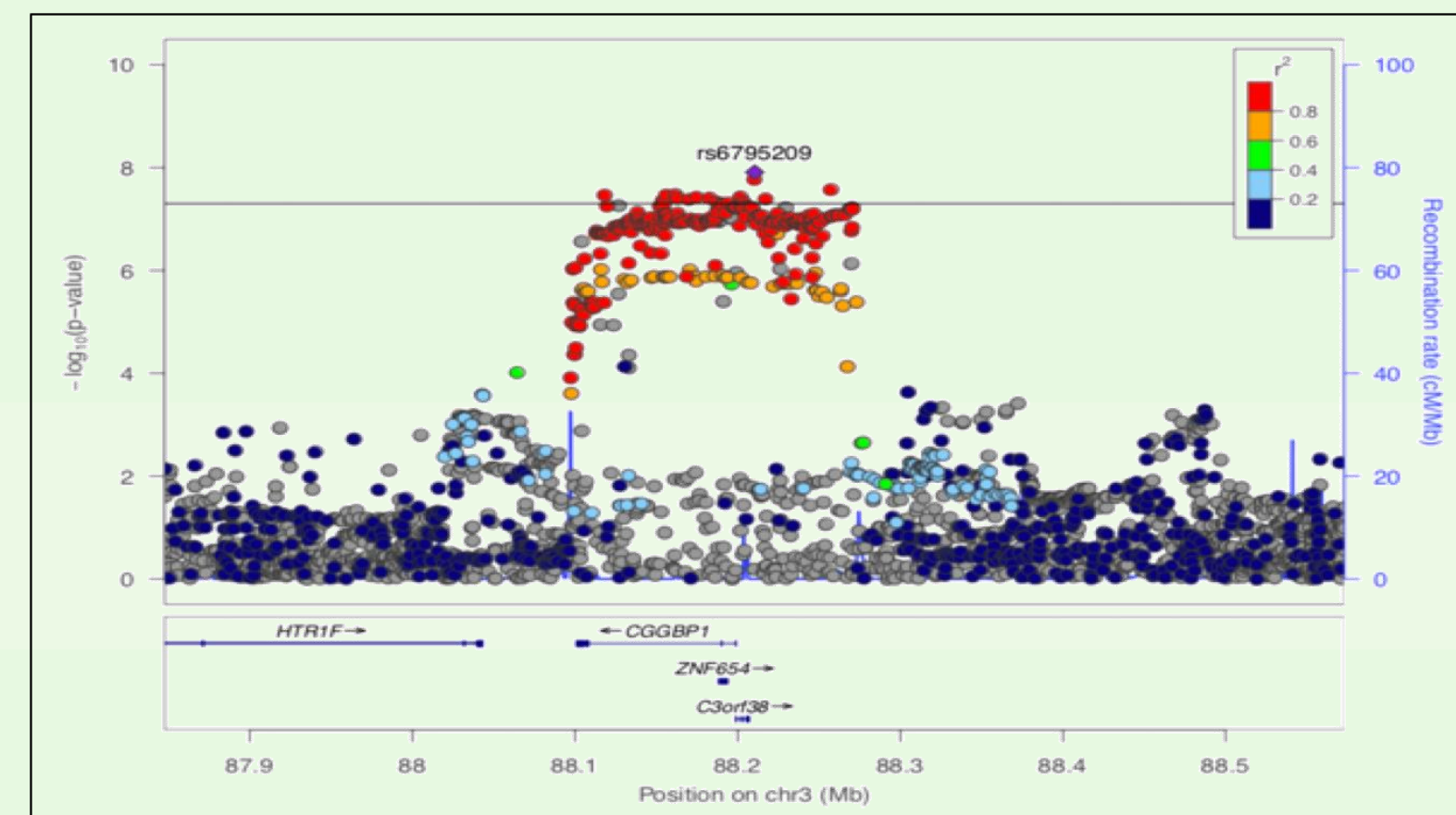
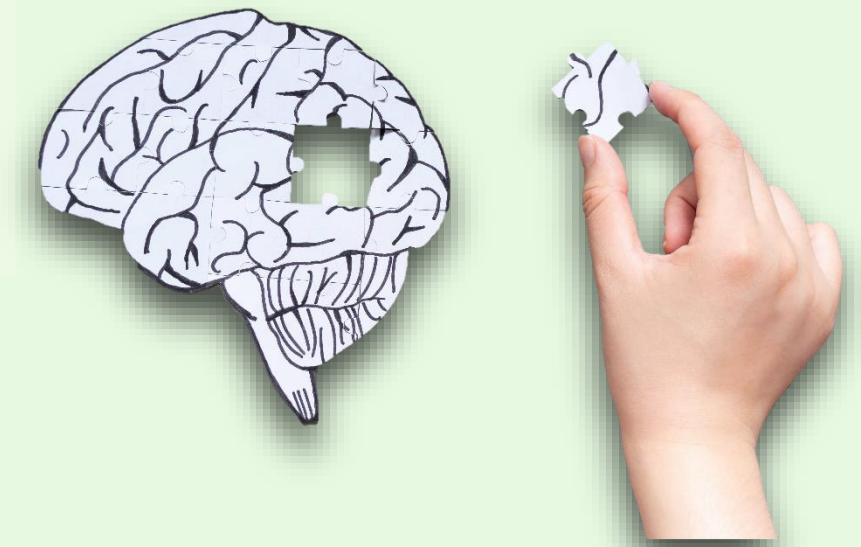
# Hot Topic - genetics and migraine medications



**CALCA**  
**CALCB**

Chromosome 11

mAbs and gepants = CGRP-antagonists



**5-HT-1F**

Ditans (lasmiditan = 5-HT-1F agonist)

Chromosome 3

Chan C, Goadsby PJ. Recent Advances in Pharmacotherapy for Episodic Migraine. CNS Drugs. 2019

Hautakangas H et al. Genome-wide analysis of 102,084 migraine cases identifies 123 risk loci and subtype-specific risk alleles. medRxiv 2021.01.20.21249647; doi:

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.01.20.21249647>



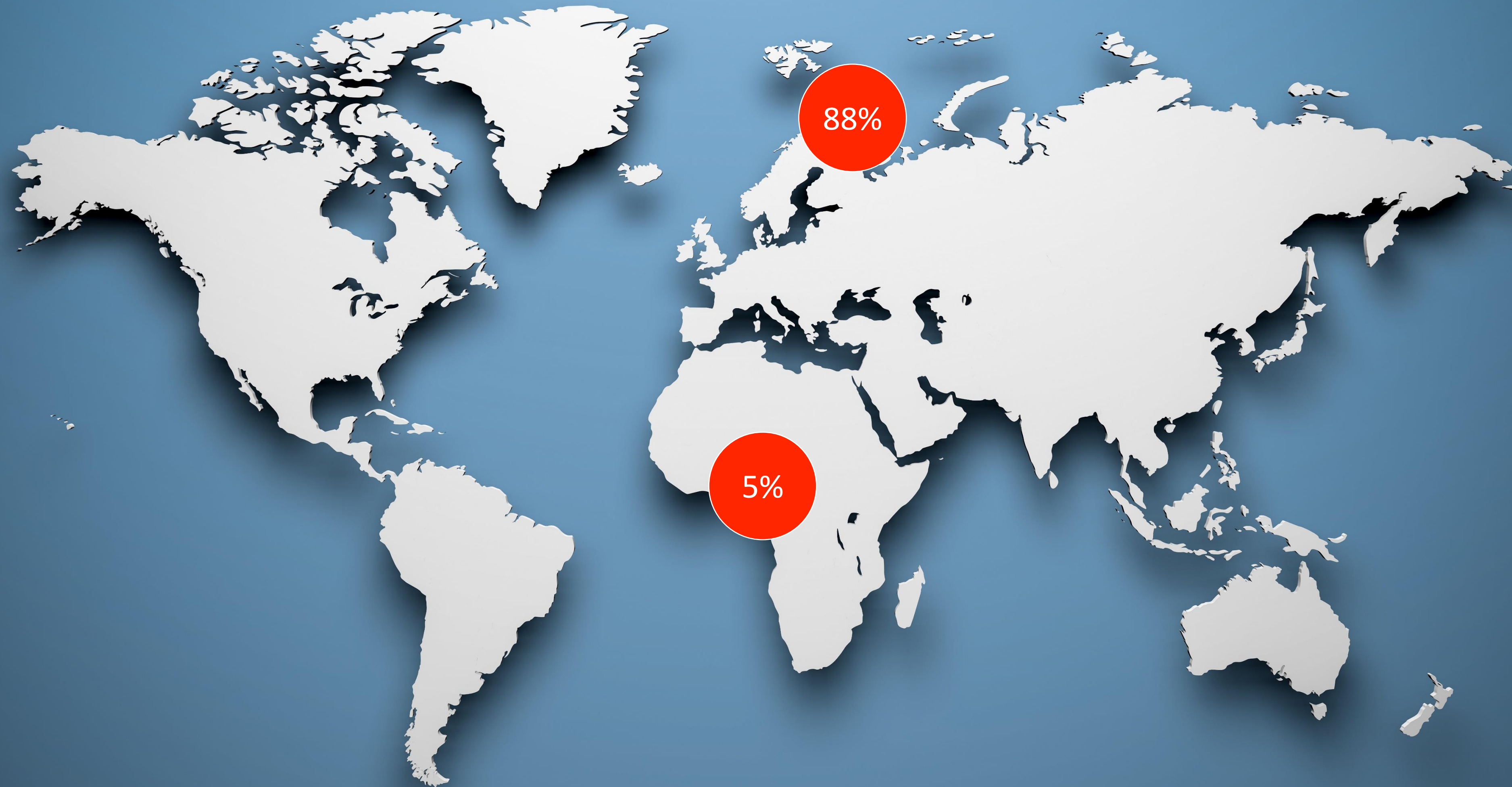
# Some local molecular genetic observations

1. TPRM8 - one of the migraine GWAS - common variants
2. PRRT2 (proline-rich transmembrane protein 2) - a rare gene for FHM

FHM = Familial Hemiplegic Migraine



1. TRPM8 The upstream variant rs10166942 shows extreme population differentiation, with frequencies that range from 5% in Nigeria to 88% in Finland



Key FM, Abdul-Aziz MA, Mundry R, Peter BM, Sekar A, D'Amato M, et al. Human local adaptation of the TRPM8 cold receptor along a latitudinal cline. PLoS Genet. 2018;14(5):e1007298.





TRPM8 = Transient receptor potential cation channel subfamily M member 8

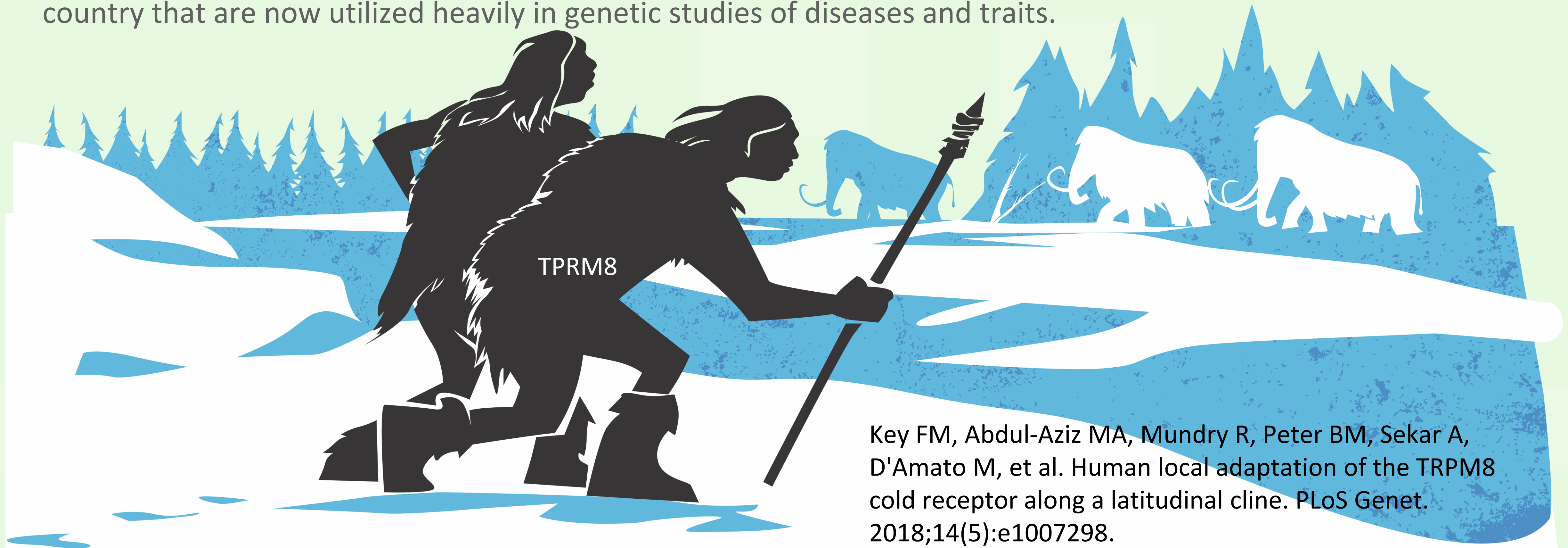
TRPM8 is a receptor for cold and menthol  
and also one of the migraine variants

Key FM, Abdul-Aziz MA, Mundry R, Peter BM, Sekar A, D'Amato M, et al. Human local adaptation of the TRPM8 cold receptor along a latitudinal cline. *PLoS Genet.* 2018;14(5):e1007298.



## Two Finns going to the market anno 2021

The Finnish population is one of the most genetically studied in the world. A relatively small number of founder individuals and strong genetic isolation over centuries have shaped the unique genetic makeup across the country that are now utilized heavily in genetic studies of diseases and traits.



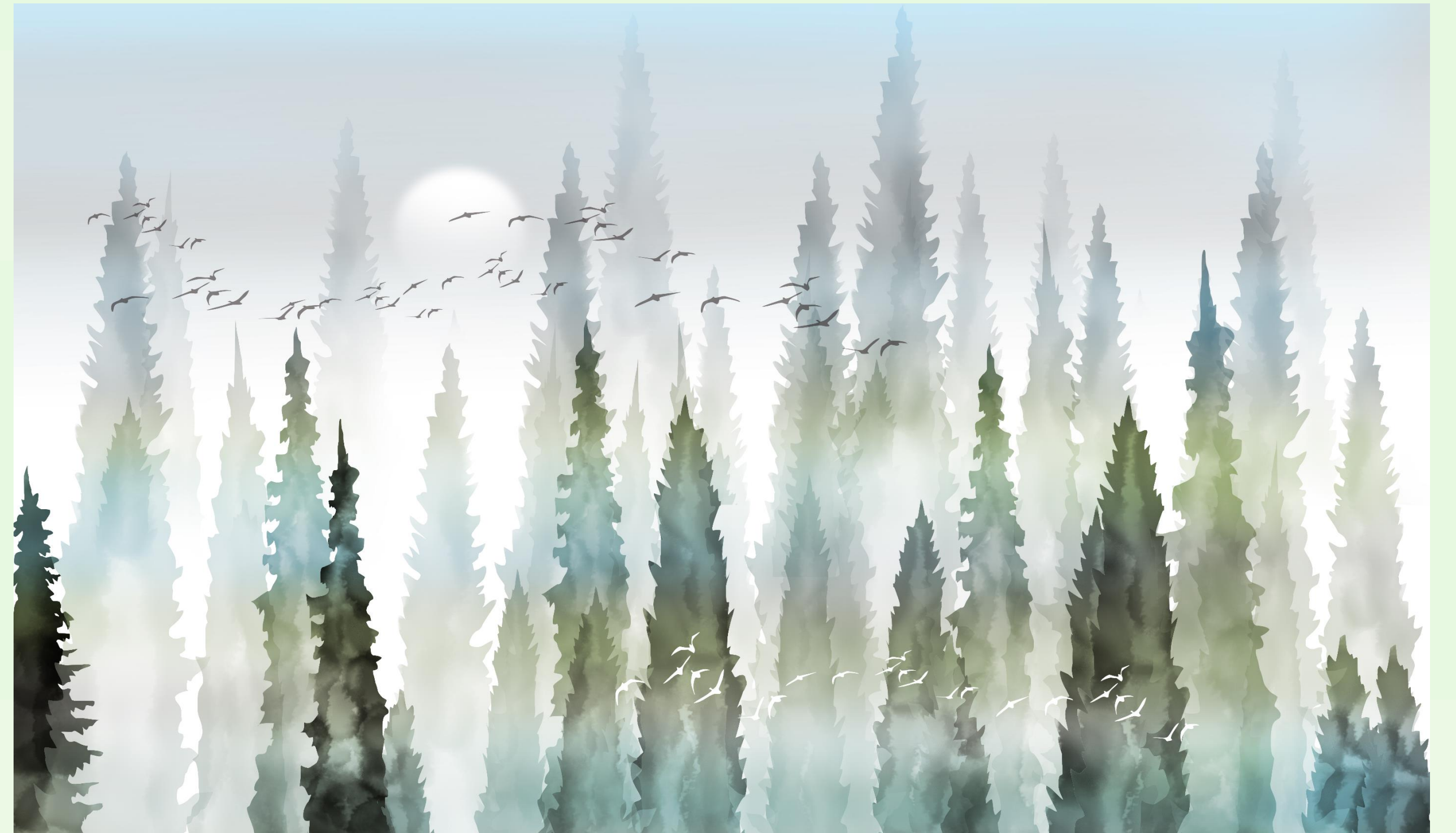
Key FM, Abdul-Aziz MA, Mundry R, Peter BM, Sekar A, D'Amato M, et al. Human local adaptation of the TRPM8 cold receptor along a latitudinal cline. *PLoS Genet.* 2018;14(5):e1007298.



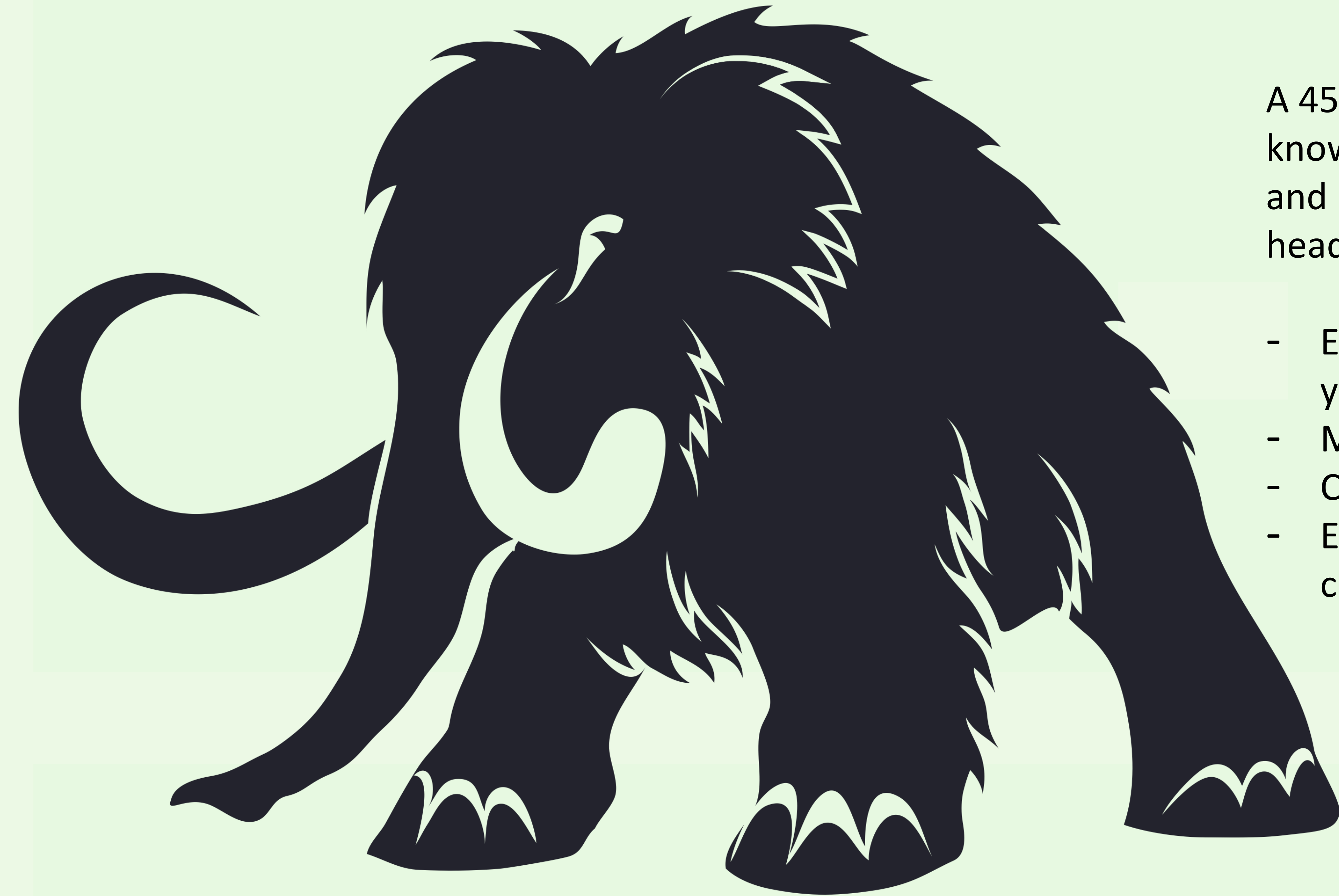
TPRM8 = Transient receptor potential cation channel subfamily M member 8

The 2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries of thermal and mechanical transducers including TRPV1 (receptor for capsaicin) and TPRM8 (receptor for cold and menthol)

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2021/summary/>





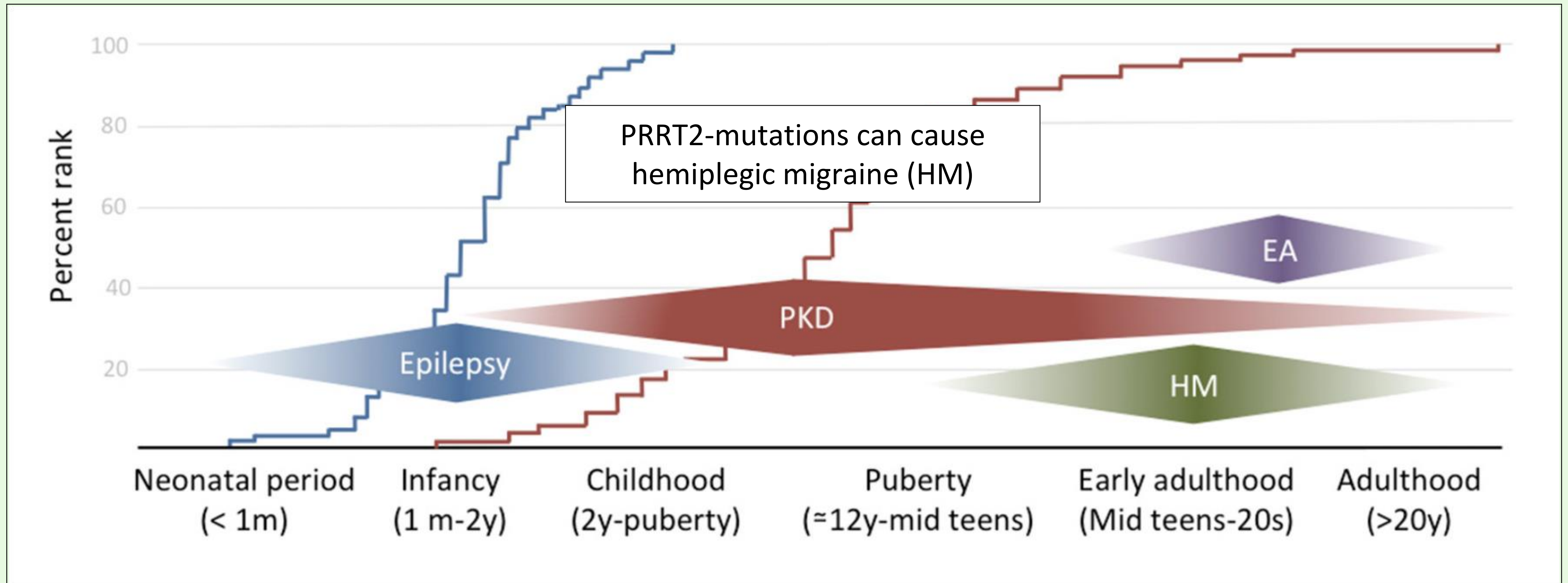


A 45 year old lady with known PRRT-mutation and migraine and cluster headache

- Epilepsy during first years of life
- Migraine
- Cluster headache
- Excellent response to carbamazepine



# Hemiplegic migraine with excellent response to Na-channel blocker carbamazepine



Hemiplegic migraine (HM), epilepsy, paroxysmal kinesigenic dyskinesia (PKD), episodic ataxia (EA), excellent response to Na-channel blocker carbamazepine

PRRT2 = proline-rich transmembrane protein 2 (PRRT2)



## What does future look like in migraine genetics?



Aarno Palotie - to make individual decisions it takes larger data sets  
Jogi Berra - future is not what its used to be



# Migraine - multiple mechanisms - multiple chances for progress



Edvinsson L, Haanes KA, Warfvinge K, Krause DN. CGRP as the target of new migraine therapies - successful translation from bench to clinic. *Nat Rev Neurol*. 2018;14(6):338-50.



# Detailed clinical and genetic phenotyping - better migraine specific treatments

New discoveries

mAbs

Gepants

Triptans

Triptans (serotonin - 1B/D - agonists), Gepants (CGRP - antagonists), Ditans (serotonin - 1F - agonists), mAbs (monoclonal antibodies against CGRP or its receptor)

Tfelt-Hansen PC, Koehler PJ. One hundred years of migraine research: major clinical and scientific observations from 1910 to 2010. *Headache*. 2011;51(5):752-78.



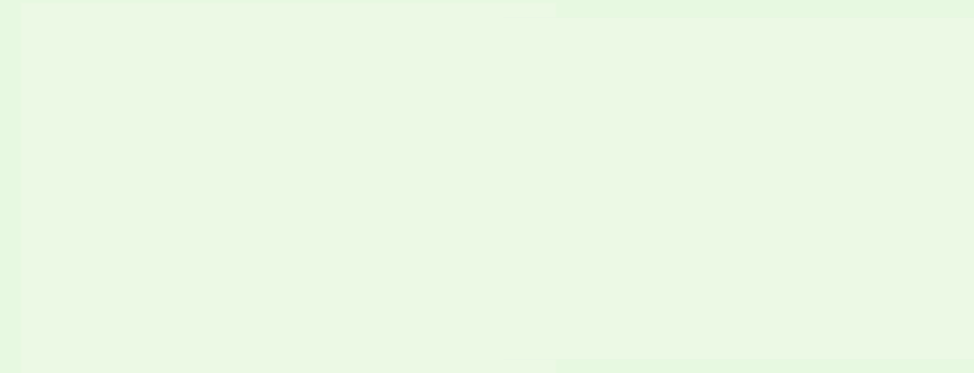
Clinical problem

Randomised placebo controlled trial (RCT)

Treatment versus placebo



Clinical diagnostic criteria



Treatment superior to placebo in Phase 3 study



Patients with hemiplegic and brainstem aura excluded



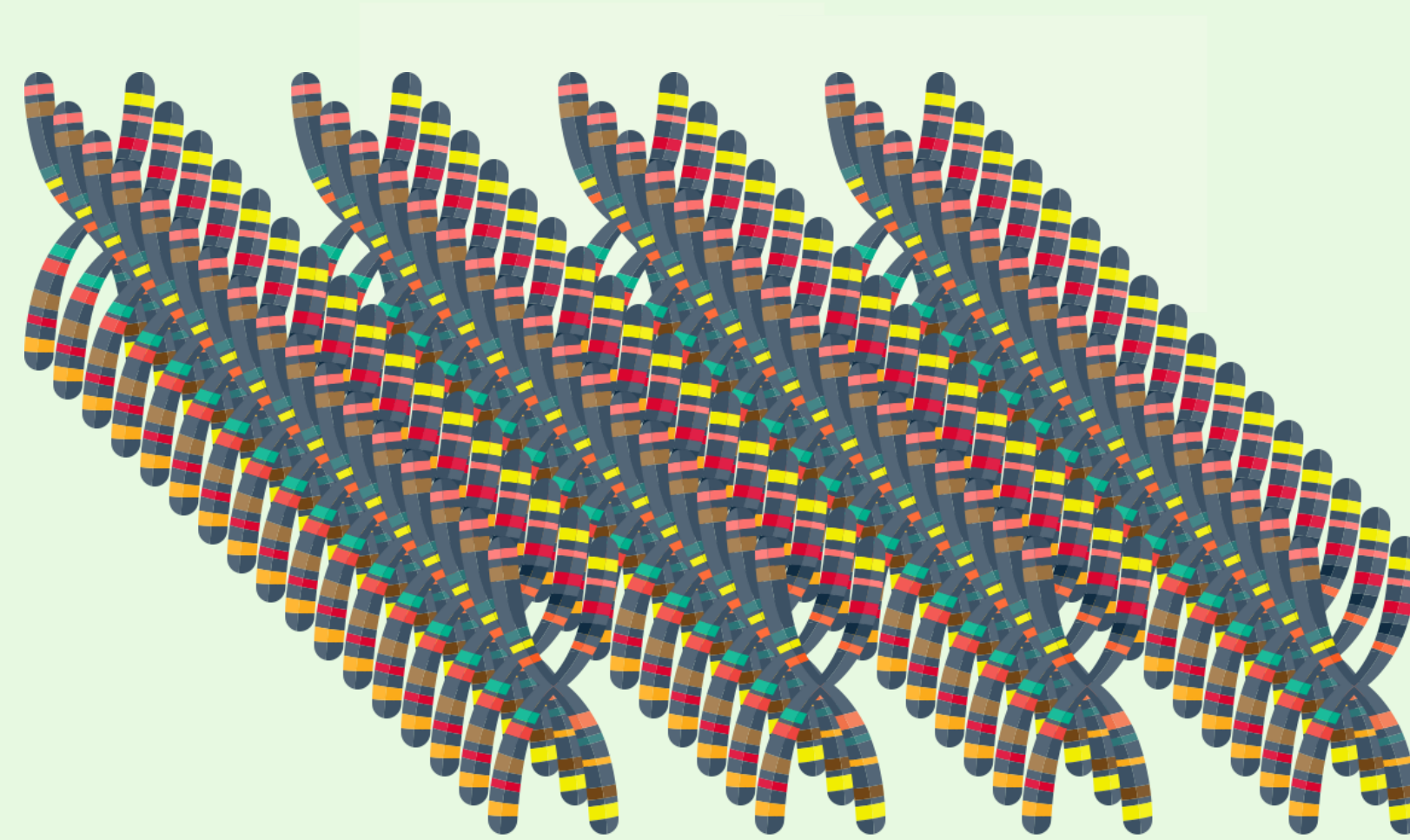
Clinical problem

Randomised placebo controlled trial (RCT) including PRS - data

Clinical trial - data and PRS) of the patient



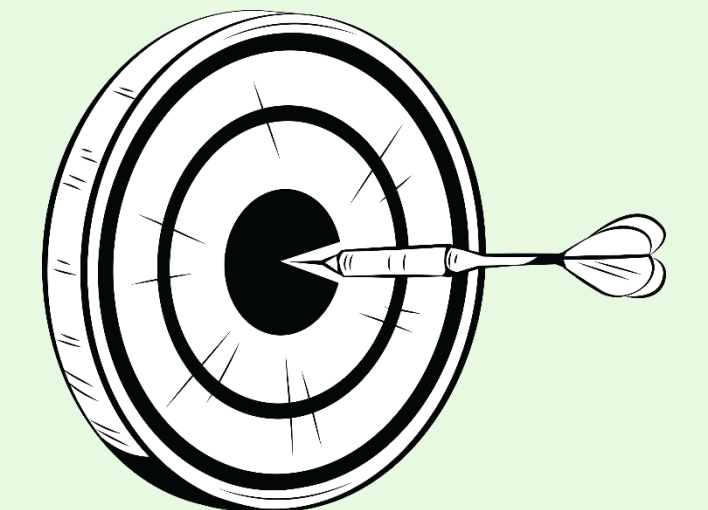
Clinical diagnostic criteria



Treatment based on clinical trials and the PRS of the patient



PRS based on >> 100 000 genotypes





Clinical and genomic big data - registries, biobanks, national records, etc.

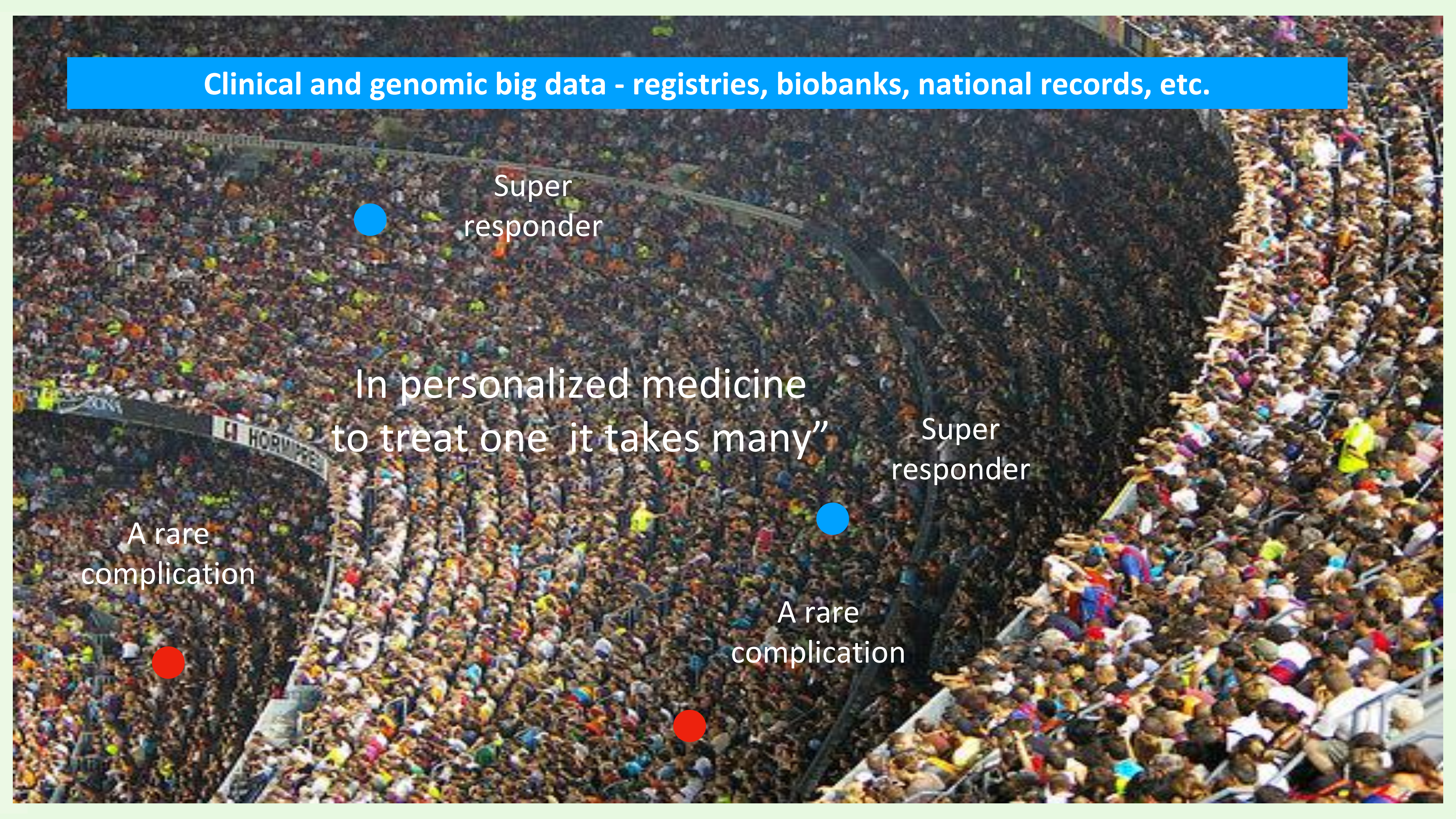
Super responder

In personalized medicine  
to treat one it takes many"

Super responder

A rare complication

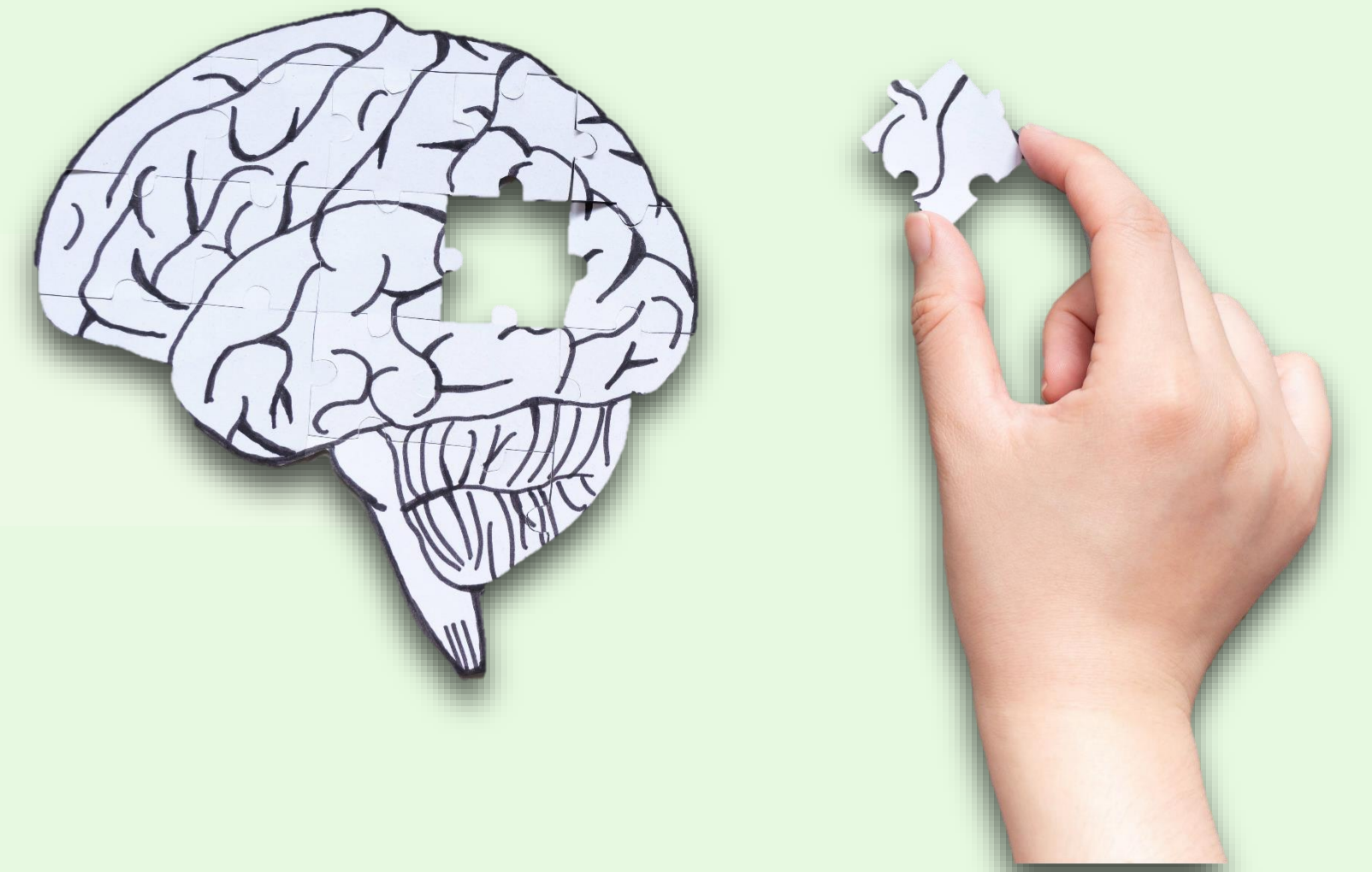
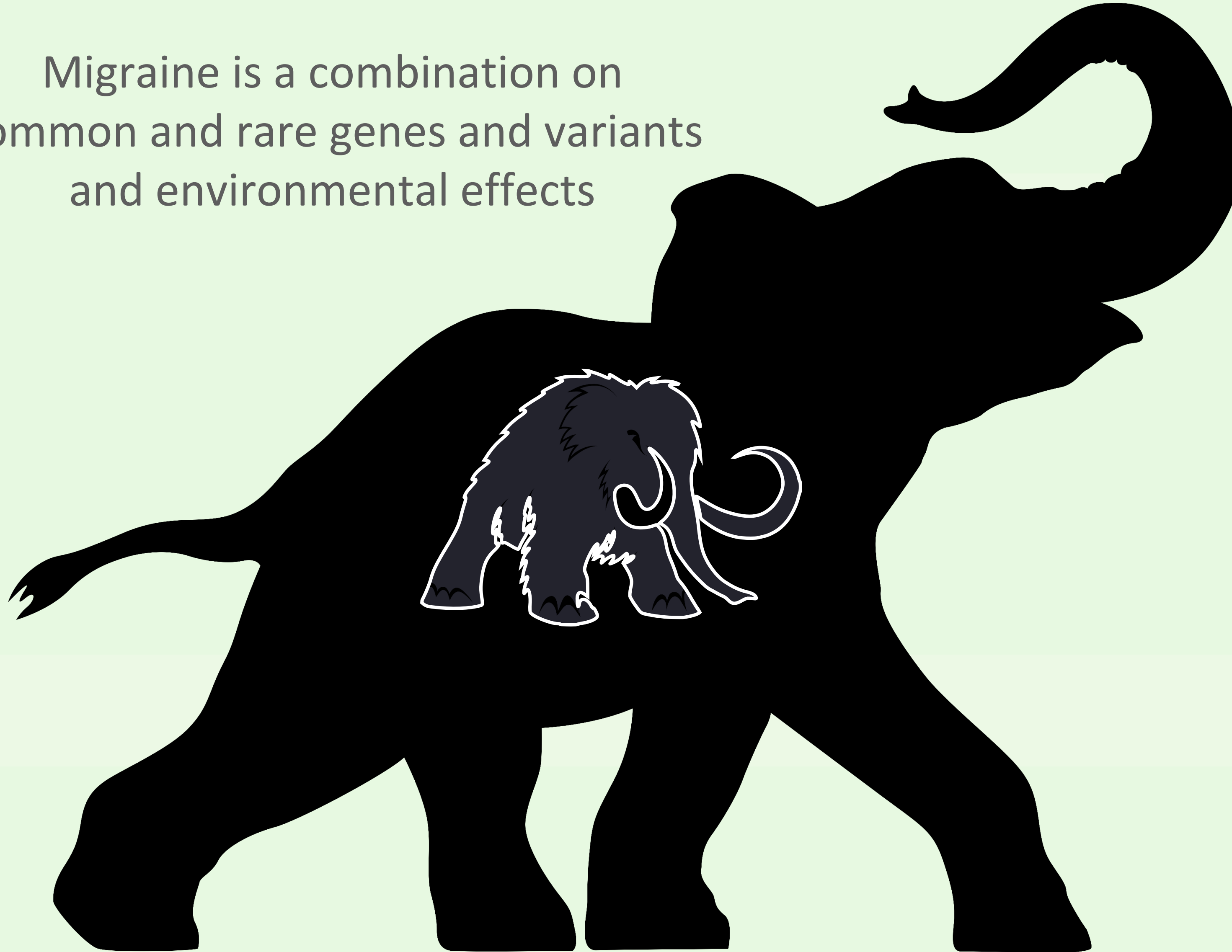
A rare complication





# Migraine is common and rare

Migraine is a combination on common and rare genes and variants and environmental effects



Migraine specific medications open unforeseen opportunities to study migraine pathophysiology in molecular level





Personalised Medicine

Clinical trials - evidence based medicine



BigData

