



Bukchon Hanok Village

Seoul National University College of Medicine Alumni Association of North America, Inc.

Personalized Preventive Care for Cancer

Seoul National University College of Medicine, Korea

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Contents

- * Increased importance of personalized preventive care
 - * Aging and health
 - * Paradigm shift in medicine
 - * Precision medicine

- * Evidence of personalized preventive research on cancer
 - * Past efforts
 - * Current interests on cancer

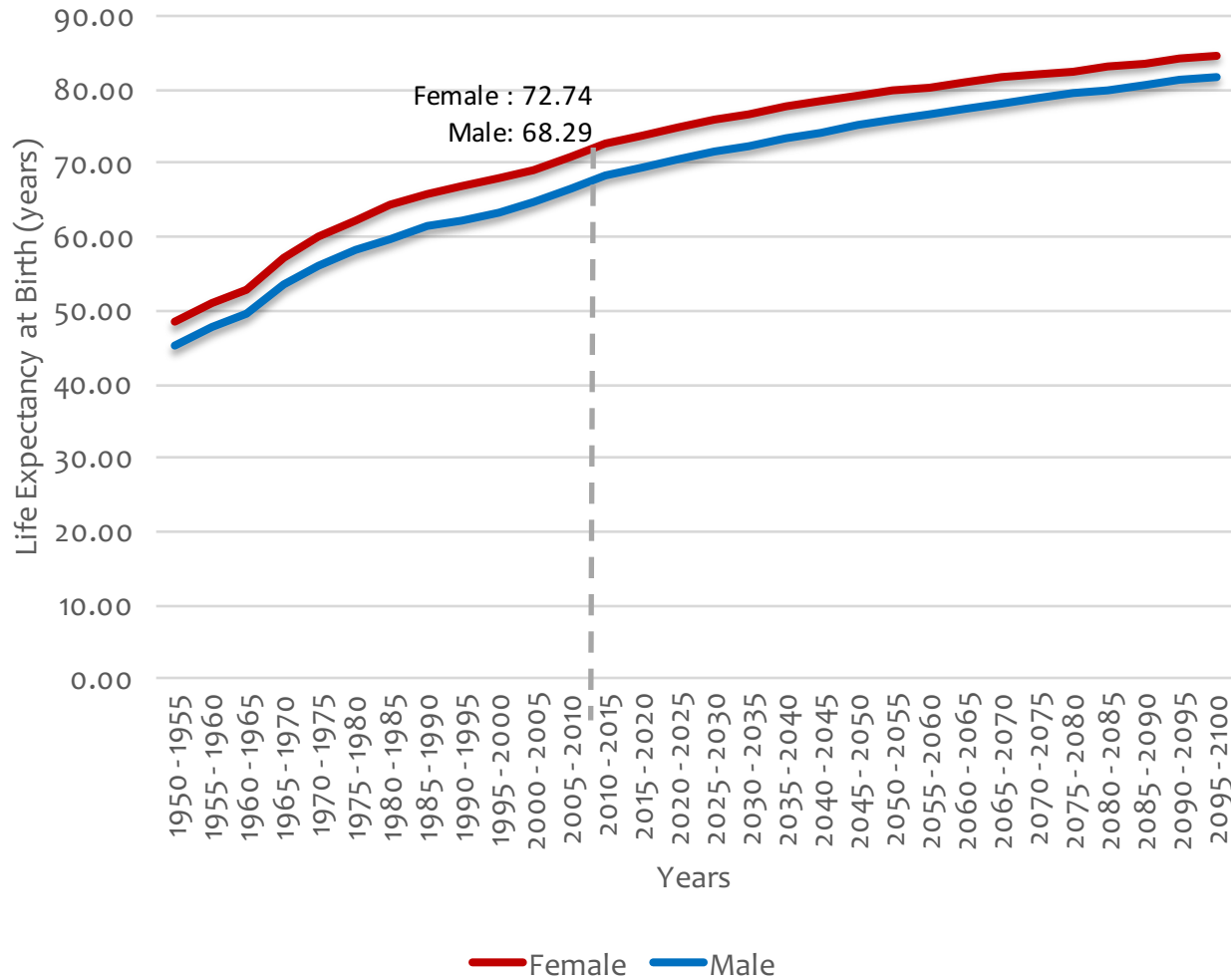
- * Preparation for future needs
 - * Collaboration is key
 - * The next cohort for cancer in epidemiology



Part I.

**Increased importance of
personalized preventive care**

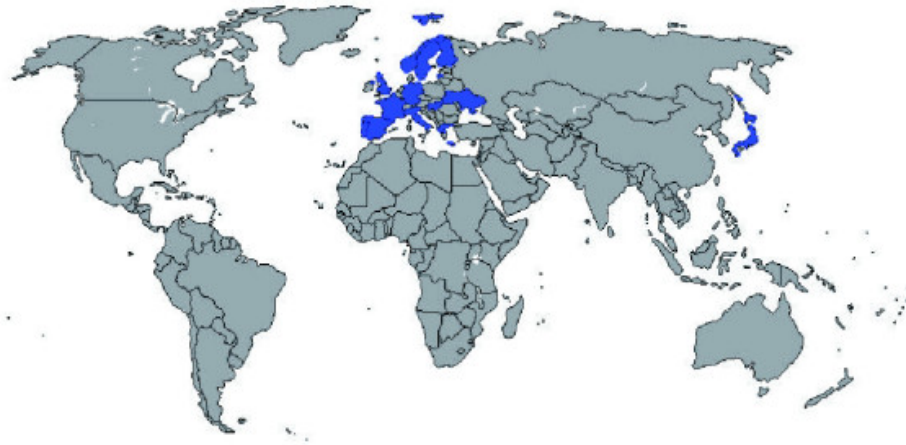
We live LONGER!



Aging Population

- * **Extended life expectancy**
 - * Average increase of 20 years during the past few decades (world)
- * **Percentage of older population growing**

(a) Today



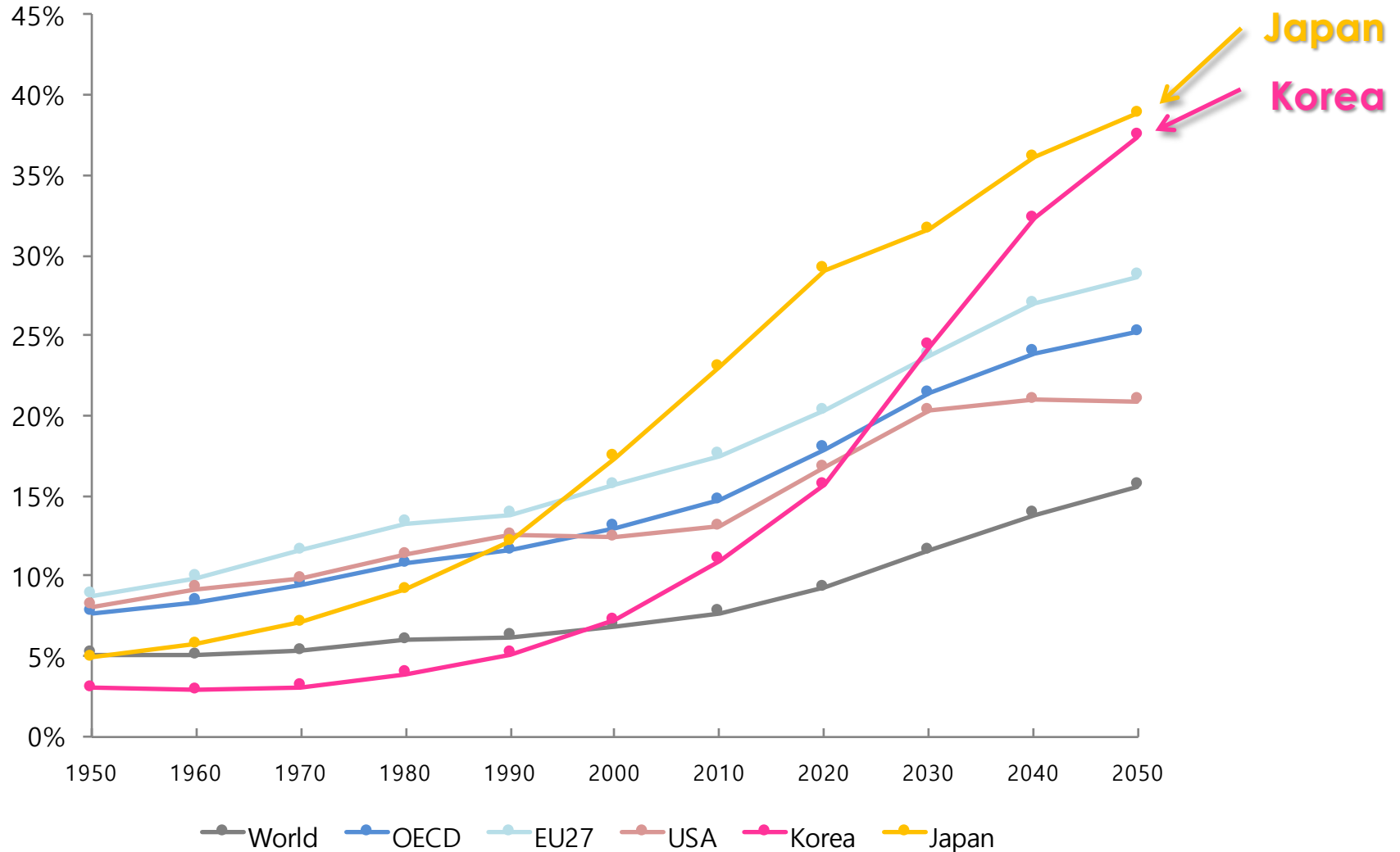
(b) 2050



■ > 20% of population over age 65

The vicious cycle will continue,

Increasing proportion of elderly population (65+): 1950-2050



Population Pyramid: Korea 2010-2060

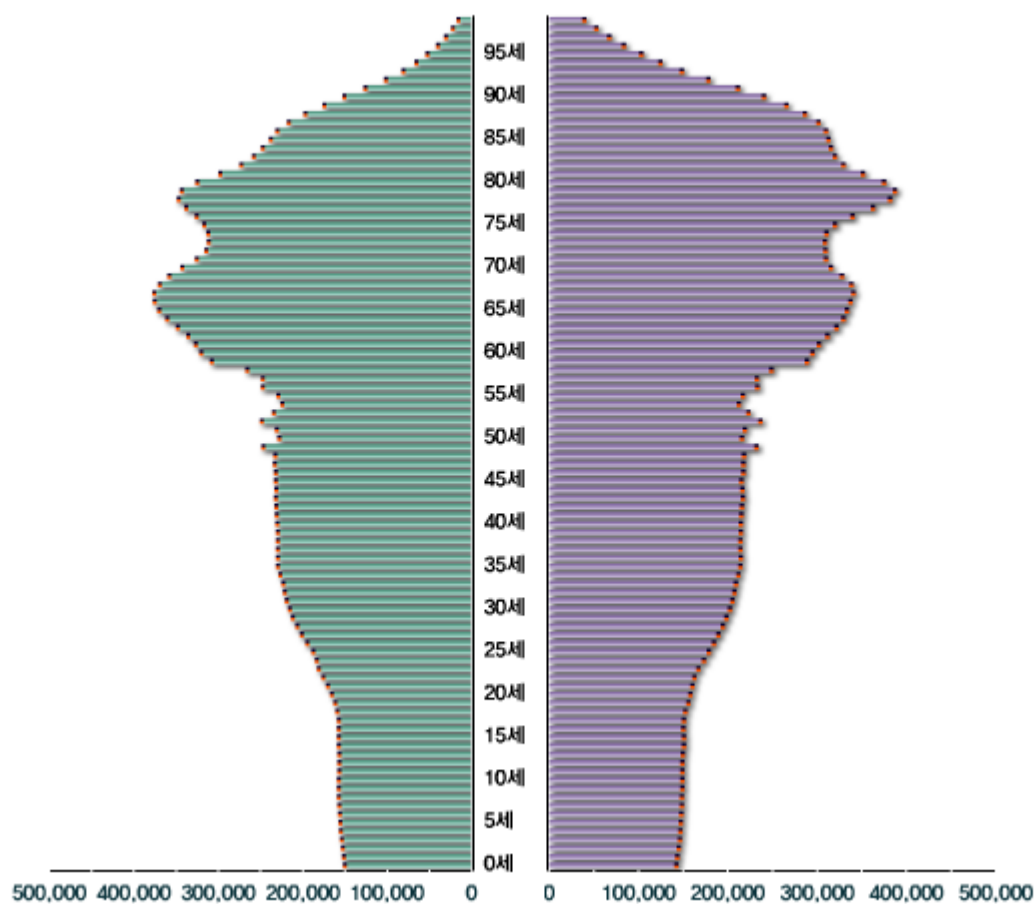
male

female

전국

2060

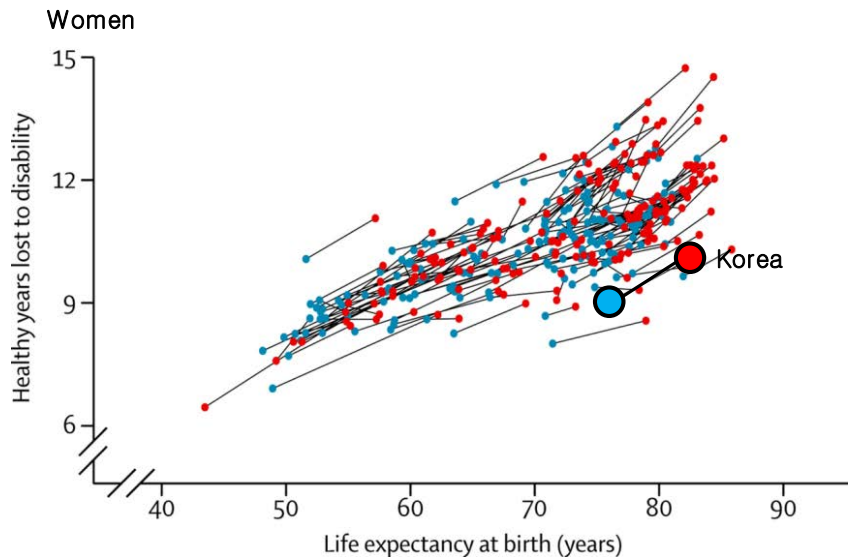
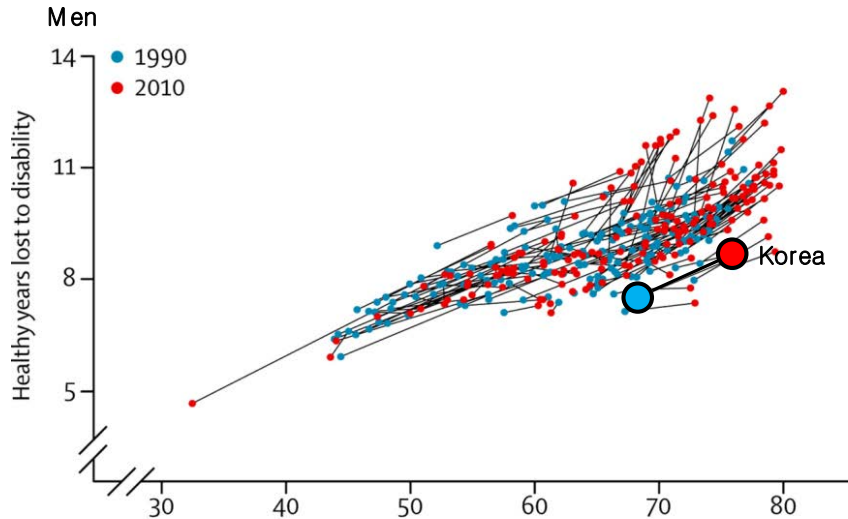
나이(세)	남자(명)
95세이상	148,269
90 - 94	512,651
85 - 89	1,043,430
80 - 84	1,387,526
75 - 79	1,657,375
70 - 74	1,592,416
65 - 69	1,834,825
60 - 64	1,677,470
55 - 59	1,283,235
50 - 54	1,152,691
45 - 49	1,163,270
40 - 44	1,142,632
35 - 39	1,134,928
30 - 34	1,092,197
25 - 29	988,302
20 - 24	862,826
15 - 19	779,873
10 - 14	771,903
5 - 9	770,175
0 - 4	750,602



나이(세)	여자(명)
95세이상	334,600
90 - 94	892,213
85 - 89	1,465,023
80 - 84	1,679,894
75 - 79	1,779,851
70 - 74	1,542,363
65 - 69	1,666,825
60 - 64	1,548,357
55 - 59	1,208,913
50 - 54	1,095,532
45 - 49	1,088,810
40 - 44	1,067,956
35 - 39	1,060,312
30 - 34	1,025,175
25 - 29	933,932
20 - 24	809,627
15 - 19	749,137
10 - 14	735,971
5 - 9	730,658
0 - 4	713,347

13% of population age>65 in yr 2015
40% of population age>65 by yr 2060

BUT...do we live HEALTHIER Life?



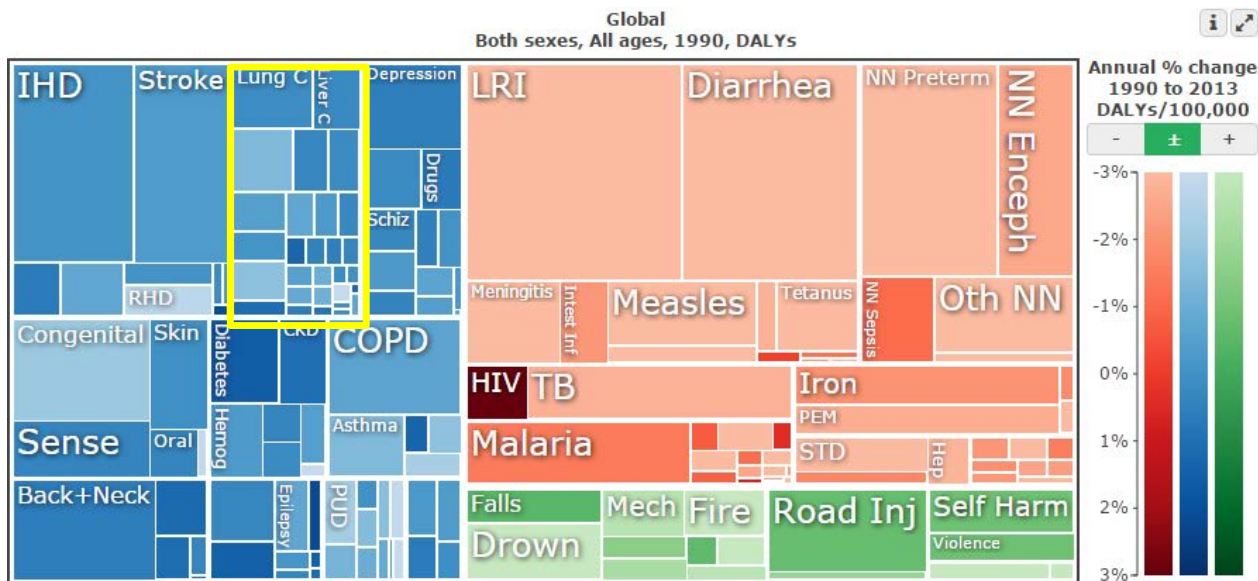
Healthy life expectancy (HALE)

* Average number of years that a person can expect to live in "full" health

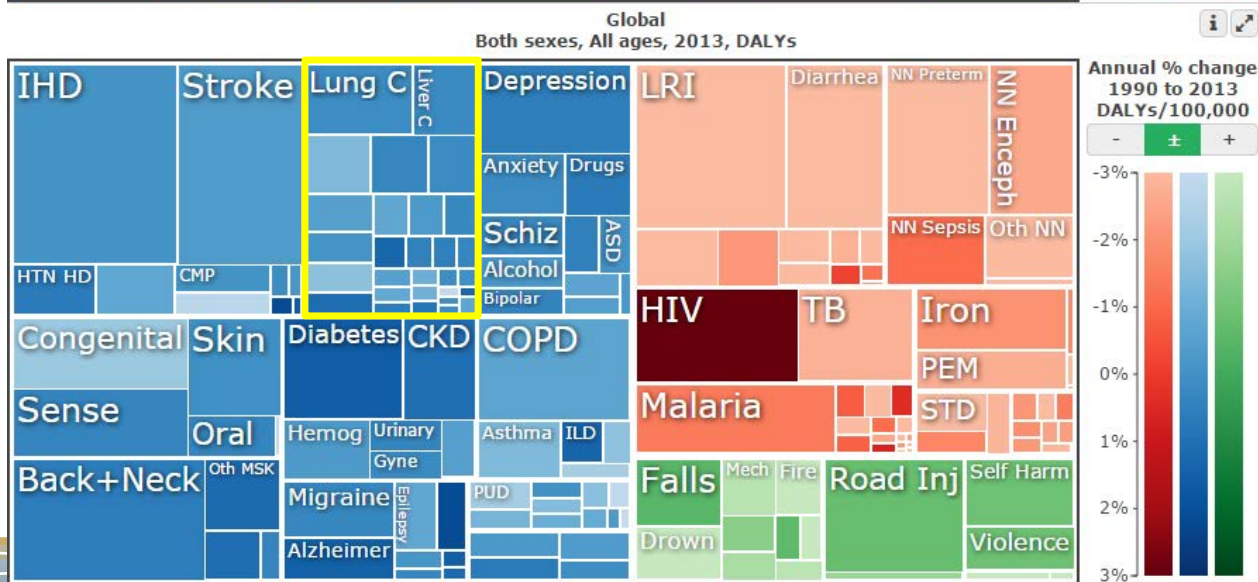
Sex	Year	Life Expectancy (LE)	Healthy Life Expectancy (HALE)	Increase in LE	Increase in HALE
Men	1990	68.1	60.6	8.4	7.3
	2010	76.5	67.9		
Women	1990	76.2	67.1	6.5	5.5
	2010	82.7	72.6		

We suffer from chronic diseases!

Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) In 1990

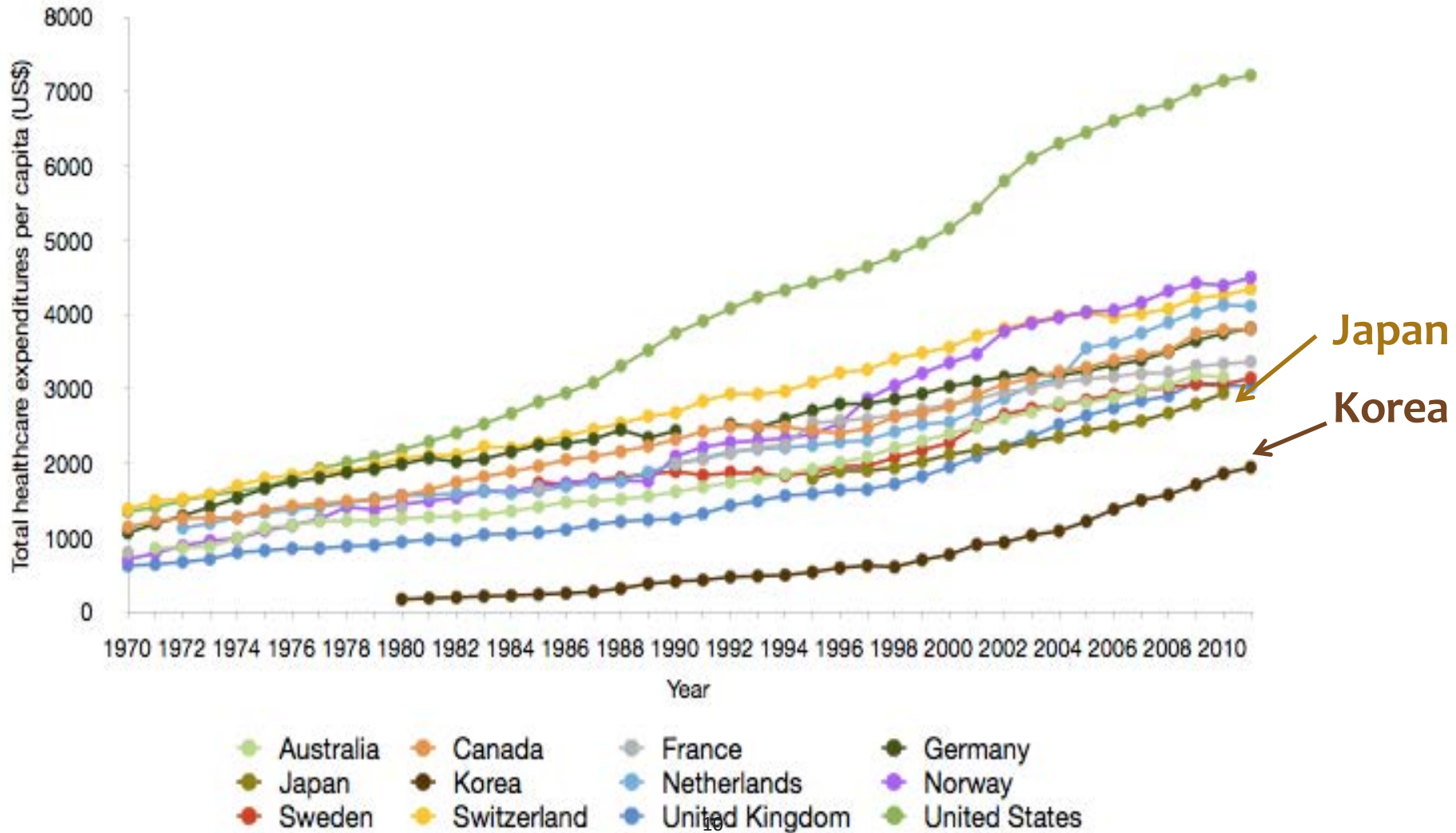


Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) In 2013

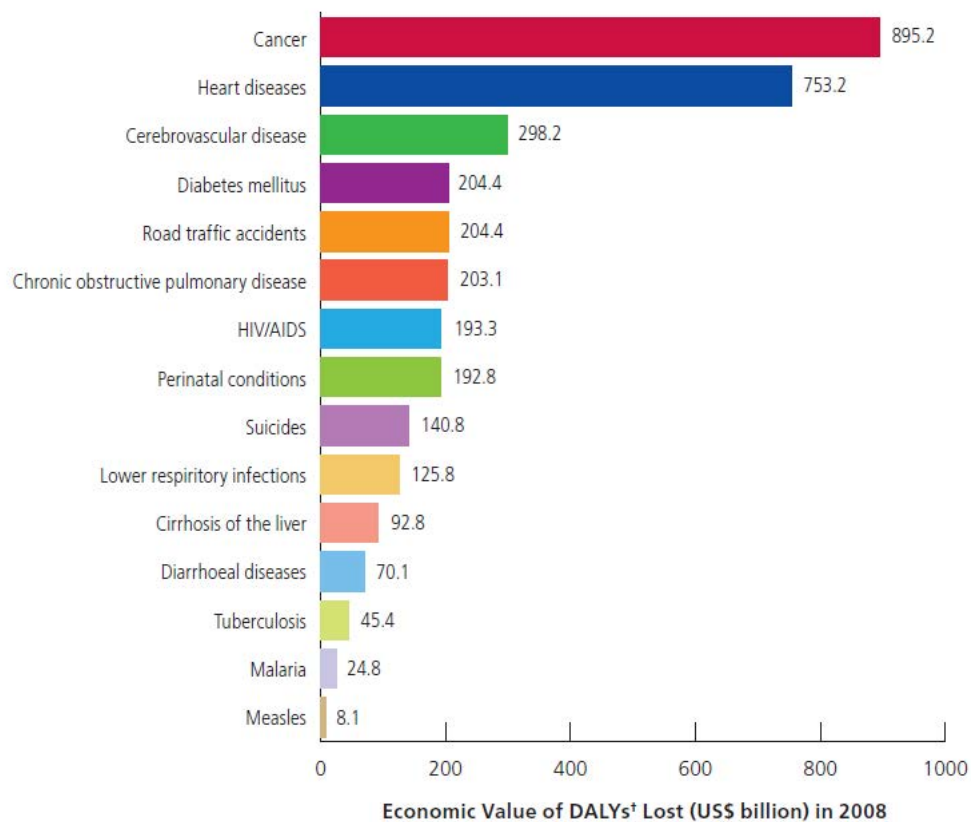


And that comes with it...

- Increased healthcare spending -



Economic Loss From the Top 15 Global Causes of Death



[†]Disability-adjusted Life Year

- Impact of premature death and disability from cancer worldwide was **\$895 billion** in 2008
- Represents **1.5% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP)**
- The economic toll from cancer is nearly **19% higher** than heart disease
- The analysis **did not include direct medical costs**

Better, more expensive
Diagnostic tools
Treatment modalities



Unravel the problem

- At its causal origin -

- * Importance of preventive care
 - * *“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”*
 - Benjamin Franklin

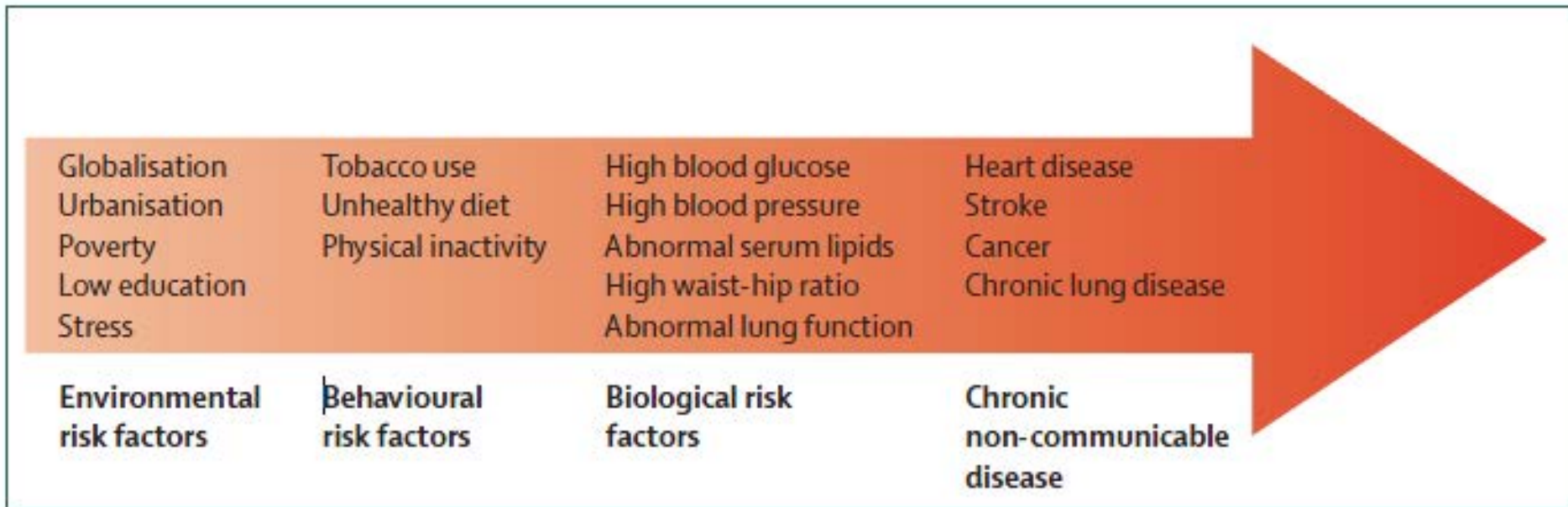
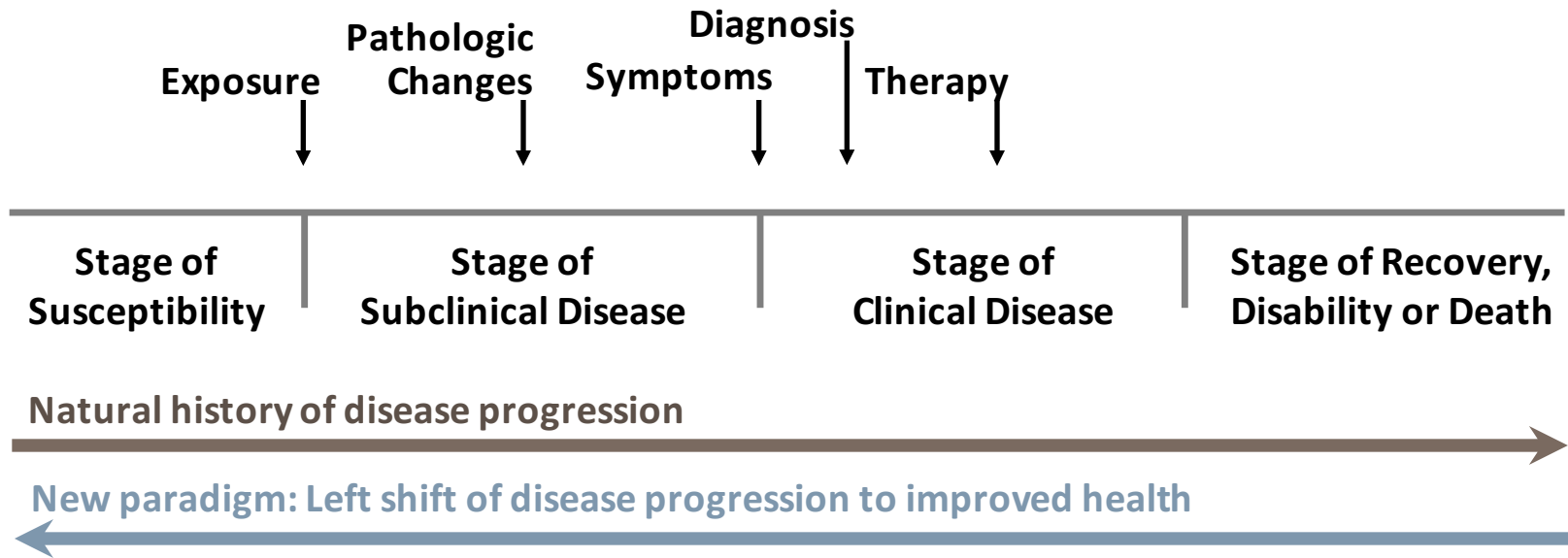


Figure 1: The causation pathway for chronic non-communicable disease

Left shift of natural course of disease



Path to future medicine

Personalized medicine and prevention
via precision and prediction



Ordinary medicine



Governments in Action!

- United States -

Obama calls for major new personalized medicine initiative

REUTERS January 20, 2015 10:03 PM



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Barack Obama said in his State of the Union speech on Tuesday that his administration wants to launch a new push to use personalized genetic information to help treat diseases like cancer and diabetes.



U.S. President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress ...

Obama urged Congress in his address to boost research funding to support new investments in "precision medicine." "I want the country that eliminated polio and mapped the human genome to lead a new era of medicine – one that

Related Stories

the right treatment at the right time

reverse cystic fibrosis in some patients.

[Taking first steps on huge precision medicine project](#) Associated Press

2. [Verily, Vanderbilt to test enrollment in U.S. Precision Medicine pilot](#) Reuters

- Launch of a new precision medicine initiative, a \$215 million project to collect data on genomes

January, 2015

Dr. Francis Collins, *NIH Director*:

"...empower any person, anywhere in the U.S." in what's called the **PMI Cohort Program**

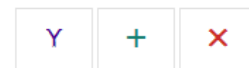
"NIH will provide funding to Vanderbilt U. [for a collaborative pilot project] with Verily (former Google Life Sciences)"

- Obama to ask Congress for \$309 million [in 2017 for the initiative scale up]
- A massive database will track at least 1 million volunteers by 2019

February, 2016

NIH taking first steps on huge precision medicine project

AP By LAURAN NEERGAARD
February 25, 2016 1:40 PM



WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama held out the promise of medical break-

Dr. Francis Collins at SNUH



Building a Large U.S. Cohort for Precision Medicine Research

- NIH Workshop, February 11-12, 2015
- Representatives from a wide variety of fields
- Major areas of focus:
 - Cohort identification and participant recruitment
 - Participant engagement, data privacy, and novel ways of returning information to participants
 - Data collection, including mobile technologies
 - Informatics and electronic health records



Precision medicine in Korea

- Ministry of Health and Welfare -

Core area	Project	Department
Infrastructure establishment for precision medicine cohort	New precision medicine cohort	Cohort
	Enhance existing cohort and biobanks	
Prepare systemic coordination for precision medicine-based big data	Standardization and linkage of genomic-medical data	Medical record and public health based big data
	Establishment of open data hub	Information security and standardization
Develop precision medicine based health services	Development of precision medicine based artificial intelligence	Public health big data
	Precision medicine based clinical experiment system	Omics
	Development of precision medicine based healthcare service model	Mobile health care
Improve policies and laws related to precision medicine and develop manpower	Improvement of laws, policies, and regulations	Law/Policy
	Train professionals in the field of precision medicine	

The use of "Korean Chip" will help realize precision medicine in Korea:

- * Genomic information on 100,000 Koreans
- * Linkage with core infrastructure such as cohort, healthcare industry, electronic health records, and big data

* **National Cancer Center (NCC): Large-scale cancer precision medicine cohort**

- * Genetic data of 1 million cancer patients
- * Provide basis for development of chemotherapeutic agents
- * Big data driven prevention of cancer recurrence

Precision medicine in Academia

- Seoul National University Bundang Hospital -



Healthcare Innovation Park (HIP) & Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (SNUBH)

- Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (SNUBH) to lead Big Data-based precision medicine in Korea, a new leap since its embark as the nation's first fully digitalized, paperless hospital

- Established task force for collaborative research on precision medicine

Chul-Hee Lee, *SNUBH President & CEO:*

“The realization of precision medicine for each and every patient may be advanced through the integrated use of hospital database system and genomic information.”

October, 2015



Part II.


Evidence of
personalized preventive research on cancer

Today, it's all about prediction

National Cancer Institute

Breast Cancer Risk Assessment

An interactive tool to help estimate a woman's risk of developing breast cancer



Keywords: breast cancer; risk prediction

BOADICEA model: updated distributions of tumour pathology and risk

A J Lee¹, A P Cunningham¹, et al.
The Consortium of Investigators in Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Therapy

¹Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Research Laboratory, Cambridge University of Cambridge, Strangeways

Background: The Breast and Ovarian Cancer Risk Prediction Model (BOADICEA) is a breast cancer prediction model that is used to estimate a woman's risk of developing breast cancer based on her susceptibility genes *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*. We describe updates to the BOADICEA model to include more accurate predictions.

Methods: We describe: (1) updates to the distributions of tumour pathology and risk; (2) updates to the BOADICEA model to include more accurate predictions; (3) updates to the BOADICEA model to include more accurate predictions.

Results: We present results derived from the BOADICEA model to include more accurate predictions.

Conclusion: All updates have been implemented and are available for general use: <http://ccge.medschl.cam.ac.uk/boadicea/>

CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians

COMMENTARY

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

CA CANCER J CLIN 2016;000:00-00

American Joint Committee on Cancer Acceptance Criteria for Inclusion of Risk Models for Individualized Prognosis in the Practice of Precision Medicine

Michael W. Kattan, PhD¹; Kenneth R. Hess, PhD²; Mahul B. Amin, MD³; Ying Lu, PhD⁴; Karl G.M. Moons, PhD⁵; Jeffrey E. Gershenwald, MD⁶; Phyllis A. Gimotty, PhD⁷; Justin H. Guinney, PhD⁸; Susan Halabi, PhD⁹; Alexander J. Lazar, MD, PhD¹⁰; Alyson L. Mahar, MSc¹¹; Tushar Patel, MD¹²; Daniel J. Sargent, PhD¹³; Martin R. Weiser, MD¹⁴; Carolyn Compton, MD, PhD¹⁵; members of the AJCC Precision Medicine Core

The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) has increasingly recognized the need for more personalized probabilistic predictions than those delivered by ordinal staging systems, particularly through the use of accurate risk models or calculators. However, judging the quality and acceptability of a risk model is complex. The AJCC Precision Medicine Core conducted a 2-day meeting to discuss characteristics necessary for a quality risk model in cancer patients. More specifically, the committee established inclusion and exclusion criteria necessary for a risk model to potentially be endorsed by the AJCC. This committee reviewed and discussed relevant literature before creating a checklist unique to this need of AJCC risk model endorsement. The committee identified 13 inclusion and 3 exclusion criteria for AJCC risk model endorsement in cancer. The emphasis centered on performance metrics, implementation clarity, and clinical relevance. The facilitation of personalized probabilistic predictions for cancer patients holds tremendous promise, and these criteria will hopefully greatly accelerate this process. Moreover, these criteria might be useful for a general audience when trying to judge the potential applicability of a published risk model in any clinical domain. CA Cancer J Clin 2016;000:000-000. © 2016 American Cancer Society.

Keywords: decision making, evidence-based medicine, patient preferences, personalized medicine

New paradigm shift: AJCC's prognostic, statistically based risk calculators in 2016

- *Cancers to be evaluated:*
 - breast, colon, prostate, lung, melanoma, head & neck
- *For each cancer type, risk models must:*
 - Predict overall survival or death
 - Pass all 16 criteria (13 inclusion + 3 exclusion)



Google Custom Search Search

the Goal of

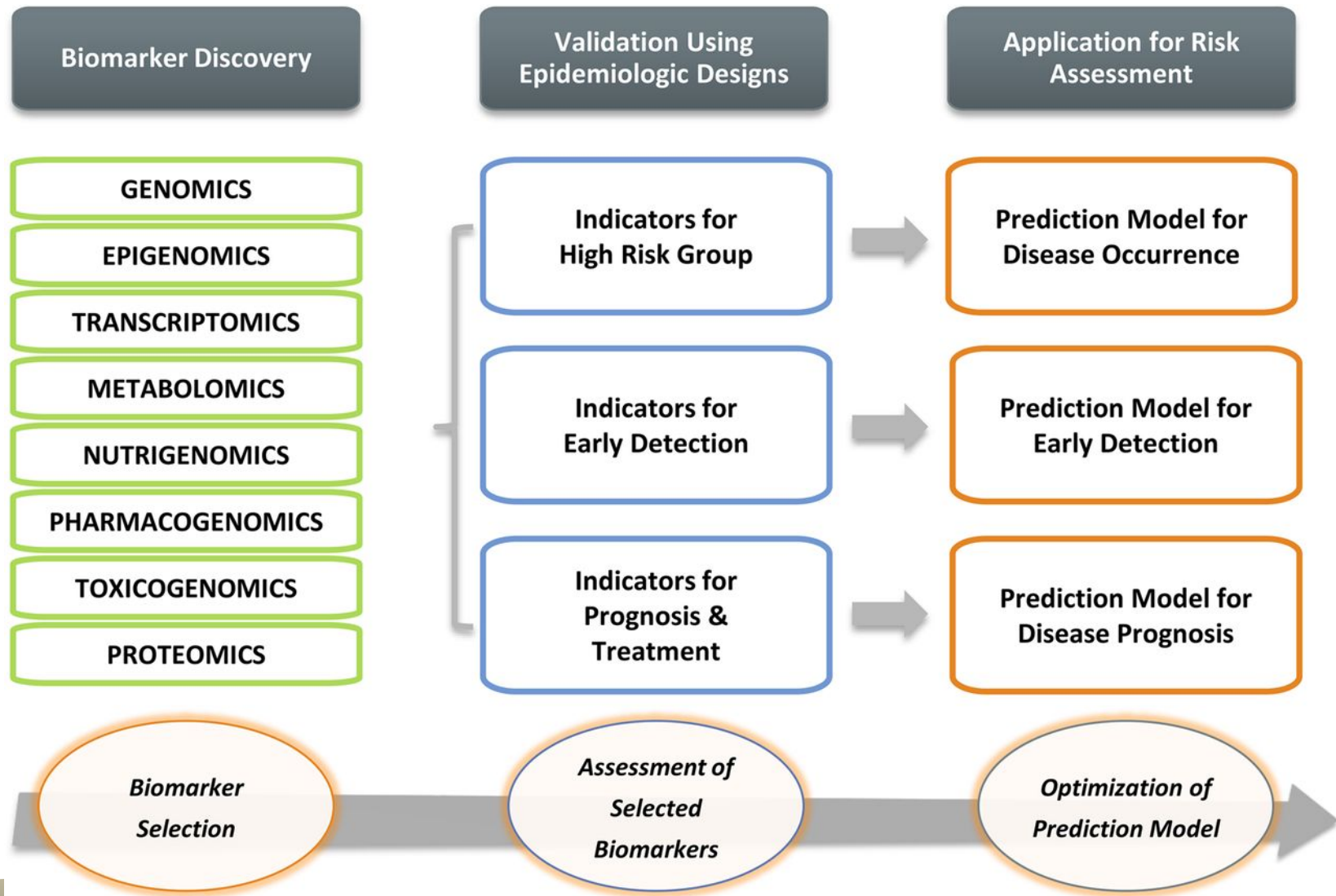
ne

Outcome predictions for (AJCC) has established first-of-its-kind risk calculators that will guide more precise treatment decisions. They were published in CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians.

and, for solid malignancies, it is important to know the origin (T), the degree of tumor burden, and the presence or absence of distant metastases.

...which are considered a paradigm shift in cancer care. They are more accurately and precisely tailored to enhancing the system with

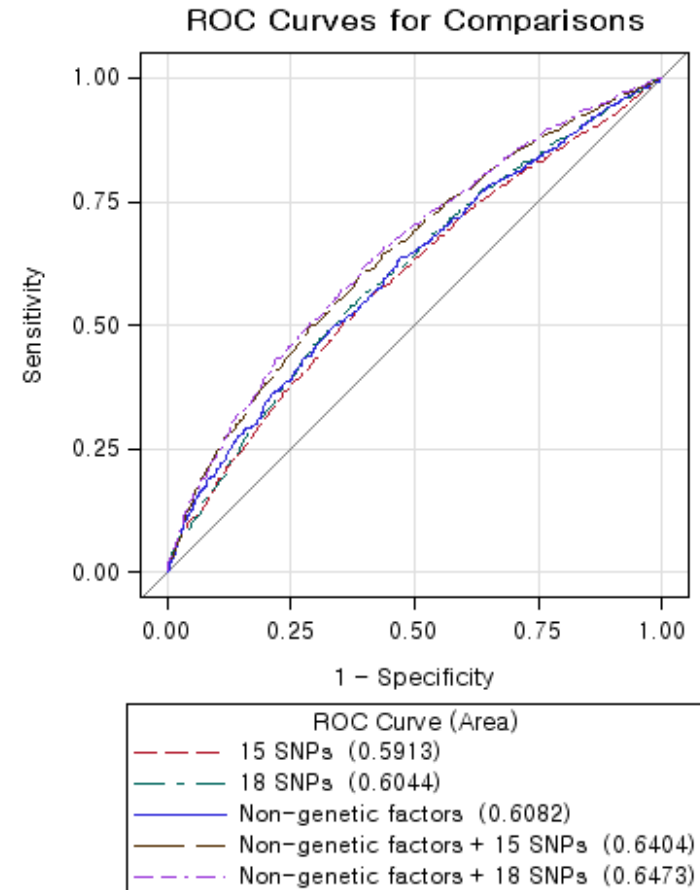
Risk prediction using biomarkers



Seoul Breast Cancer Study (SeBCS)

Discriminative values of breast cancer risk models using genetic and non-genetic factors from Seoul Breast Cancer Study (SeBCS)

- Number of Subjects (2001-2007)
 - Cases: 4040
 - Controls: 3946
- Original papers (2003~2012)
 - SeBCS: 51 papers
 - Collaboration: 24 papers



SNUH



AMC



Borame hospital



EUMC



Community-based

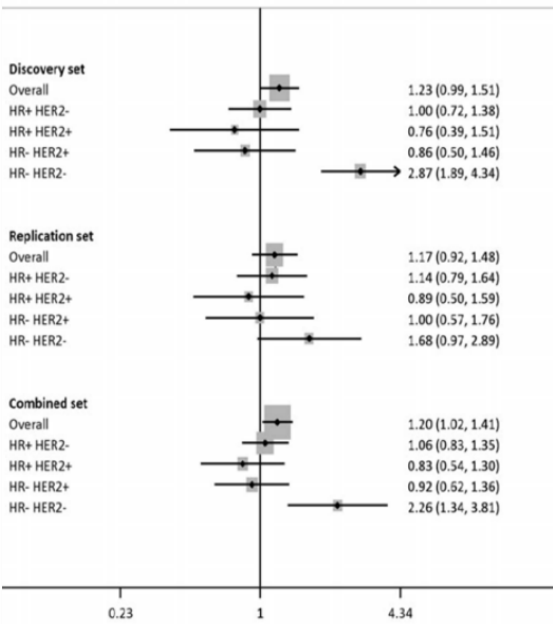
An example of breast cancer survival prediction



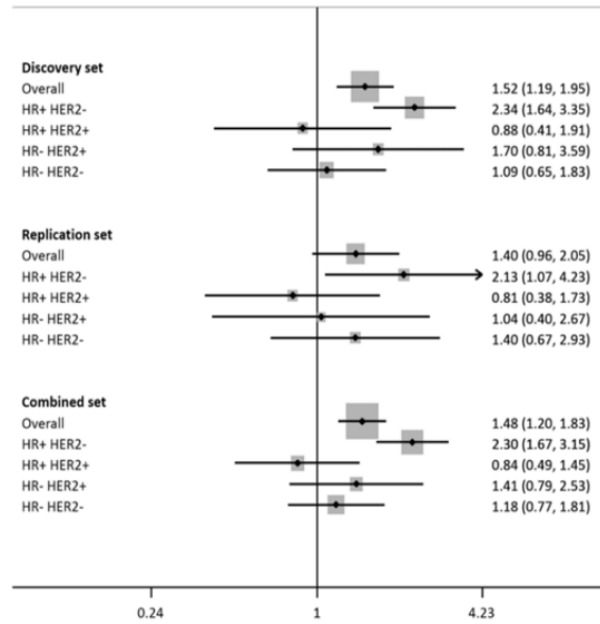
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Prediction of Breast Cancer Survival Using Genetic Markers by Tumor

A. Tumor subtype: rs166870



B. Tumor subtype: rs10825036



Yoon Choi^{1,2,3,4}, Hyuna Sung^{2,4}, Sujee Jeon³, Seokang Chung², Suehik Han^{1,5}, Jong Won Lee⁶, Mi Kyung Kim⁷, Ji-Young Lee⁸, Keun-Ghee Han⁹, Sei-Hyun Ahn⁶, Dong-Young Noh^{1,5}, Daehee Kang^{1,2,3}*

- Overall:
 - Harrell's $C_{\text{clinical model}} = 70.92\%$
 - Harrell's $C_{\text{combined model}} = 71.37\%$
 - $p = 0.03$
- HR+ HER2-:
 - Harrell's $C_{\text{clinical model}} = 65.08\%$
 - Harrell's $C_{\text{combined model}} = 66.69\%$
 - $p < 0.01$
- HR- HER2-:
 - Harrell's $C_{\text{clinical model}} = 63.26\%$
 - Harrell's $C_{\text{combined model}} = 65.88\%$
 - $p < 0.01$

Comparison of the **predictive powers** of disease-free survival (DFS) for breast cancer:

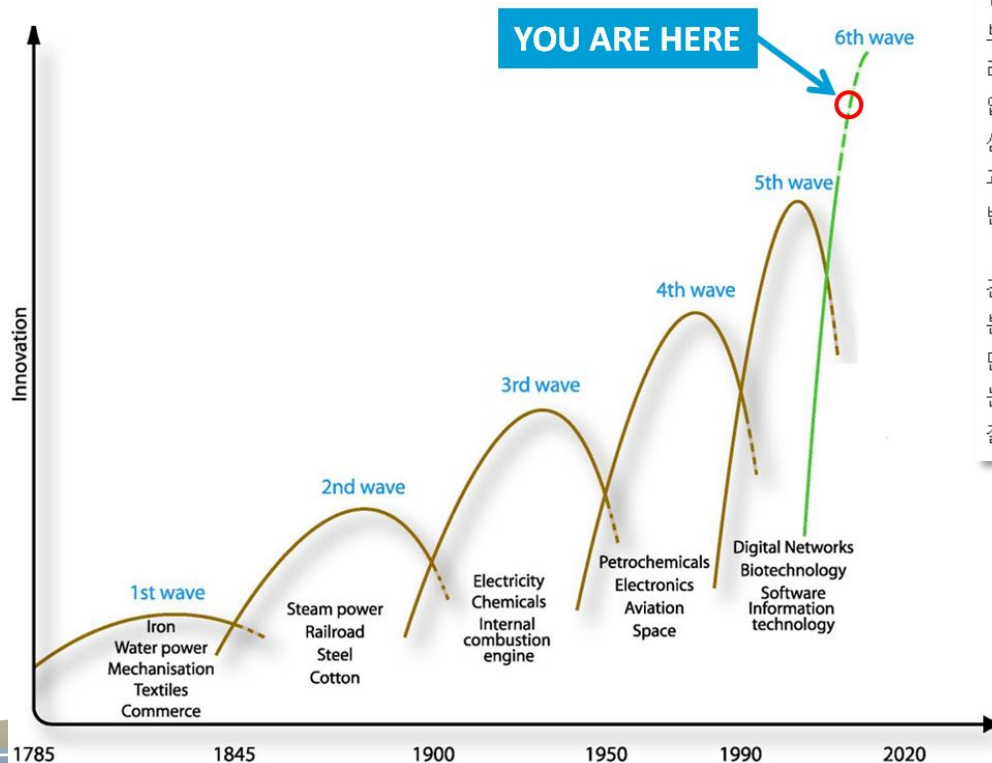
- Model with **combined clinical (age, TNM stage, tumor subtype) and genetic variables** tended to have better predictive powers overall
- **Genetic factors played role in distinguishing high and low risk groups** when using combined prognostic markers



Part III.

Preparation for future needs

The speed of knowledge accumulation



[열린세상] 건강정보 홍수시대/강대희 서울대 의대 예방의학 학장

좋아요 1 +1 0

목록 메일 인쇄 글씨크기

우리는 건강 관련 정보의 홍수시대에 살고 있다. 주요 일간지, 방송매체, 의학 관련 전문지에서는 다양한 종류의 건강 관련 정보를 실 새 없이 쏟아내고 있다. 정보의 진위를 떠나 우리는 너무 많은 건강정보에 시달리고 있다. 최근 ‘하루에 커피를 4잔 이상 마시면 고혈압이 예방된다’는 연구 결과가 나왔다. ‘토마토가 전립샘에 좋다’ ‘채소와 과일 섭취는 폐암을 예방한다’는 데 과연 믿을 만한 것인지, 어떤 연구에서 나온 것인지 한번 살펴보자.



건강정보를 만들어 내는 의학연구는 크게 세 종류로 분류된다. 동물이나 세포를 이용한 실험연구, 인구집단을 장기간 관찰해 질병 발생에 관여하는 원인을 찾는 코호트 연구 등의 역학 관찰 연구, 신약이나 예방물질의 효과를 검증하는 임상·예방시험 연구로 나뉜다.

▲ 강대희 서울대 의대 예방의학 학장

Smaller world, bigger data

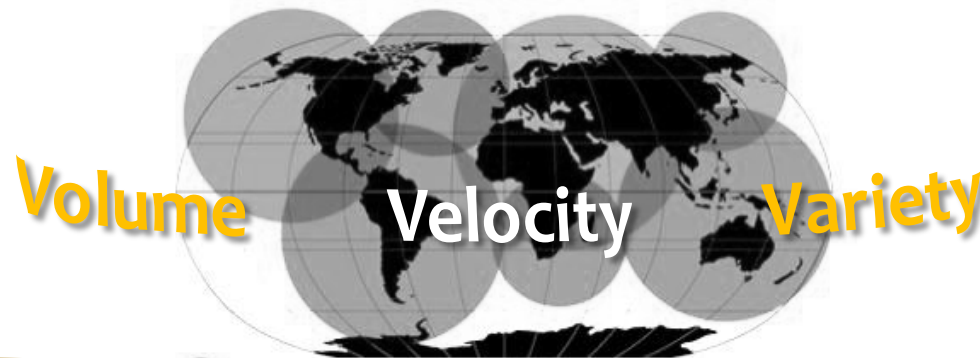


Wired world (the Internet)

Global transportation network

Infinite accumulation of data with database technology

More knowledge and insight



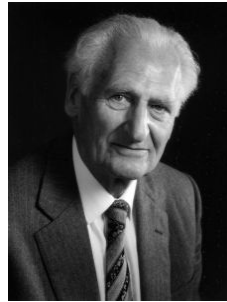
Collaborative work is important in the future

- * **The art of communication and teamwork**
 - * With professionals from various sectors
 - * Within a global setting



A next generation large genomic cohort in Korea

Examples of Previous Cohorts



The Nurses' Health Study



Next Generation Cohort

- Need more **power**
- Outcome **heterogeneity**
- **Gene-environment interaction**
- **Wider distribution** of exposure variables

In Need of a **Next Generation Cohort**

Taking Advantage of Korea's **Unique Environment**

- **Biennial Health Examination by Law** (National Health Insurance Corporation)
- National **Personal Identification System** (13-digit residence registration number)

➔ Automatic Repeated Follow-up & Possible Integration to Secondary Data

Birthday (6)
YYMMDD

Registration (7)
Sex-Birth place-Order-Hidden



Identification Card



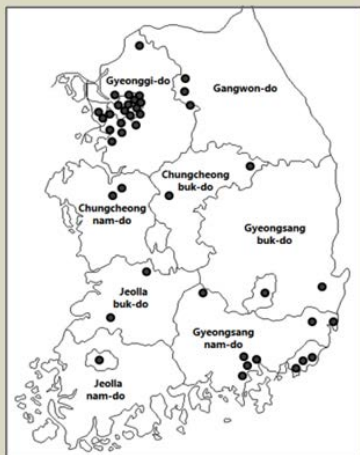
Driver's license



Passport

HEXA (Health Examinees Study) since 2004

38 Participating Health Examination Centers



- Representing the community
- Built-in infrastructure for repeated survey
- Considered to have f/u rate of 50% or more
- Experience of multicenter network research

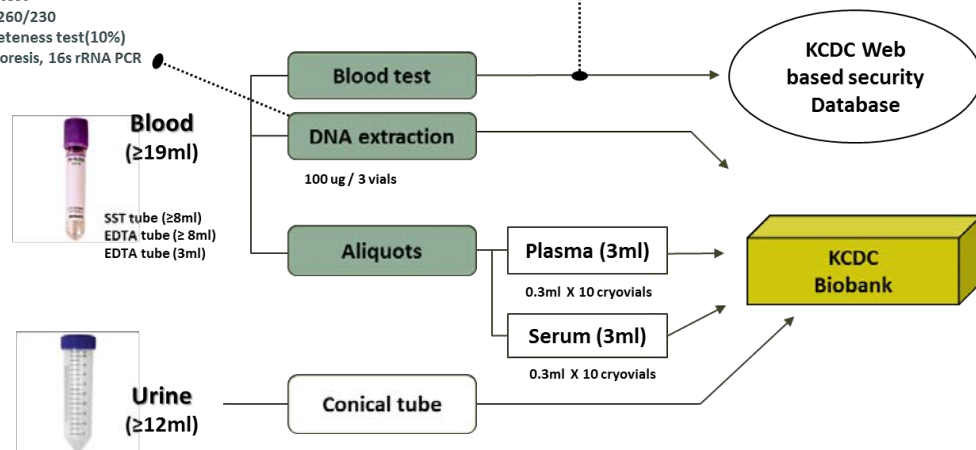
- ✓ **Adult men and women**
- ✓ **40-69 years of age**
- ✓ **Health examination center visitors**

Subject Recruitment

Centralized Database Storage & Biobanking

Liver Function Test: AST, ALT, γ-GTP, bilirubin, ALP, Albumin
Lipid Profile: Total cholesterol, TG, HDL, LDL
Blood Panel: WBC, RBC, Hb, Hct, MCV, MCH, MCHC, Platelet
Others: BUN, Cr, Calcium, Uric Acid, Glucose, hsCRP

- DNA purity test
→ 260/280, 260/230
- DNA completeness test(10%)
→ Electrophoresis, 16s rRNA PCR



HEXA subjects recruit 2004-2012 (n=162,142)

- **Men: Women = 2:1**
- **Mean age at recruitment (years)**
 - Men: women = 53.7 (±8.2): 52.6(±7.6)

Composition of HEXA Questionnaire & Lab data

- **Total number of questionnaires n=1,303**
 - SES, Past medical history, lifestyle habits, socio-psychological factors, reproductive factors, dietary habits (including 106 SQ-FFQ)
 - Clinical & physical examination

Estimated Number of Incident Cases of Selected Diseases

Disease Group	2018	2023
All-site cancer	11,749	17,800
Ischemic heart disease	2,663	4,034
CVA	6,308	9,556

HEXA research activities

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7314/APJCP.2015.16.4.1591>
Rationale and Design of the Health Examinees Study in Korea

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J Epidemiol 2015
doi:10.2188/jea.JE20140136

Orig PLOS ONE



Jung et al. BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth (2015) 15:228
DOI 10.1186/s12884-015-0665-2

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Affective Disorders

BMC
Pregnancy & Childbirth



Men: RESEARCH ARTICLE
ASSOC B Original Article
Heal

Open Access

Journal of
Preventive Medicine

PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

What Are the Major Determinants in the Success of Smoking Cessation: Results from the Health Examinees Study

Jae Jeong Yang^{1,2}, Minkyong Song^{1,2,3}, Hyung-Suk Yoon^{1,2,3}, Hwi-Won Lee^{1,3}, Yunhee Lee^{1,3}, Sang-Ah Lee⁴, Ji-Yeob Choi^{1,3,5}, Jong-koo Lee^{6,7}, Daehee Kang^{1,2,3,5*}

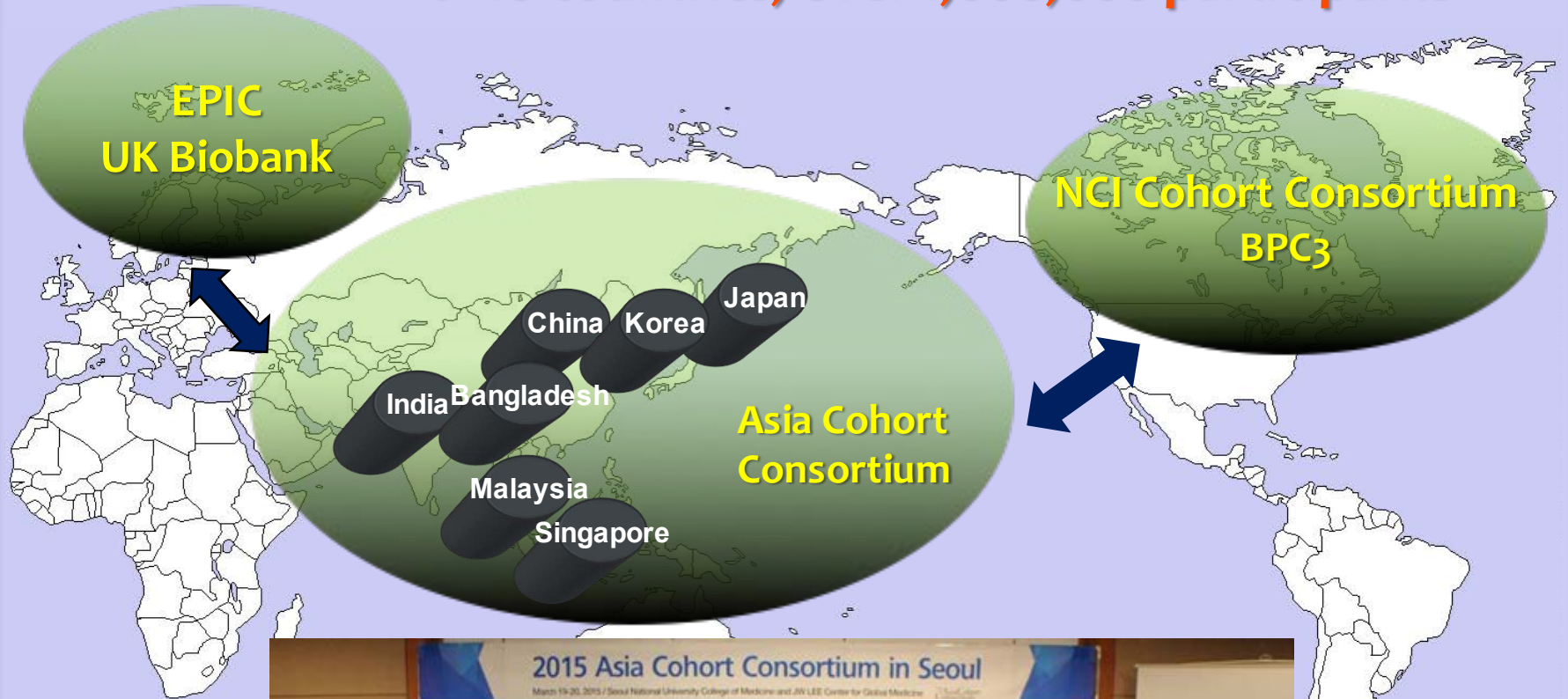
Why Asia?

- * 2/3 of world's population
- * 4/5 of new cancer occurrence by 2020
- * Wider distribution of exposure variables in relatively homogenous ethnic backgrounds
 - * smoking, diet, environment
- * Rapid changes in certain personal habits
 - * reproductive factors, urbanization, etc.



Asia Cohort Consortium (ACC)

8~10 countries, over 1,000,000 participants



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

As

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

Body Mass Index and Prostate Cancer Mortality in a Pooled Analysis of 19 Cohort Studies in the Asia Cohort Consortium

Paolo Boffetta^{1,2*}, Xiang Xiang¹¹, Masato Park²⁷, Chen-Ya Zheng¹², John C. Yingsong Lin³, Prakash C. G. Gupte⁴, Shoichiro Tsugane⁵, Kotaro Ozasa⁶, Keun-Young Yoo⁷, Catherine S. Saigal⁸, Waka Ohishi⁹, San-Lin You^{10,11}, Betsy Rolland¹², Mark Thornquist¹³

¹Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, United States of America, ²Department of Public Health and Screening, New York University School of Medicine, New York, United States of America, ³Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ⁴Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ⁵Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ⁶Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ⁷Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ⁸Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ⁹Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ¹⁰Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ¹¹Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ¹²Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh, ¹³Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bangladesh

Abstract

Background: This study has the prevalence of diabetes and whether it has been adequately controlled.

Methods and Main Results: We included 19 cohort studies involving over 900,000 individuals. We used multivariable regression models to estimate the association between BMI and prostate cancer mortality, adjusting for age, smoking, alcohol intake, and other factors. The positive association between BMI and prostate cancer mortality was observed in all cohorts (HR = 1.03; 95% CI = 1.00–1.06).

Conclusions: This study shows that BMI is associated with prostate cancer mortality in Asian populations.

Association of Body Mass Index and Prostate Cancer Mortality in a Pooled Analysis of 19 Cohort Studies in the Asia Cohort Consortium

Yingsong Lin³, Prakash C. Gupte⁴, Shoichiro Tsugane⁵, Kotaro Ozasa⁶, Keun-Young Yoo⁷, Catherine S. Saigal⁸, Waka Ohishi⁹, San-Lin You^{10,11}, Betsy Rolland¹², Mark Thornquist¹³

Original Article
Body mass index and prostate cancer mortality over 50 years of follow-up

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We aimed to examine the risk of death from prostate cancer from the Asia Cohort Consortium pooled analysis including cohort studies in Asia. We used multivariable regression models to estimate the association between BMI and prostate cancer mortality, adjusting for age, smoking, alcohol intake, and other factors. The positive association between BMI and prostate cancer mortality was observed in all cohorts (HR = 1.03; 95% CI = 1.00–1.06). We found no statistically significant association between BMI and prostate cancer mortality in any of the 19 cohorts. In planned subgroup analyses, we found an increased risk of death from prostate cancer with a BMI less than 18.5 kg/m² in men with a history of diabetes; hazard ratio (HR) = 1.01–4.00 (P = 0.03). We support an association between BMI and prostate cancer mortality from pancreas cancer in these Asian populations.

Meat intake and prospective cohort study

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Burden of Total and Cause-Specific Mortality Related to Prostate Cancer in Asia



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Original Contribution

Associations of Body Mass Index, Smoking, and Alcohol Consumption With Prostate Cancer Mortality in the Asia Cohort Consortium

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Many potentially modifiable risk factors for prostate cancer are also associated with prostate cancer screening, which may induce a bias in epidemiologic studies. We investigated the associations of body mass index (weight (kg)/height (m)²), smoking, and alcohol consumption with risk of fatal prostate cancer in Asian countries where prostate cancer screening is not widely utilized. Analysis included 18 prospective cohort studies conducted during 1963–2006 across 6 countries in southern and eastern Asia that are part of the Asia Cohort Consortium. Body mass index, smoking, and alcohol intake were determined by questionnaire at baseline, and cause of death was ascertained through death certificates. Analysis included 522,736 men aged 54 years, on average, at baseline. During 4.8 million person-years of follow-up, there were 634 prostate cancer deaths (367 prostate cancer deaths across the 11 cohorts with alcohol data). In Cox proportional hazards analyses of all cohorts in the Asia Cohort Consortium, prostate cancer mortality was not significantly associated with obesity (body mass index >25: hazard ratio (HR) = 1.08, 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.85, 1.36), ever smoking (HR = 1.00, 95% CI: 0.84, 1.21), or heavy alcohol intake (HR = 1.00, 95% CI: 0.74, 1.35). Differences in prostate cancer screening and detection probably contribute to differences in the association of obesity, smoking, or alcohol intake with prostate cancer risk and mortality between Asian and Western populations and thus require further investigation.

Keywords: alcohol drinking; Asia; mortality; obesity; prostate cancer; prostate-specific antigen; smoking

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Asia Cohort Consortium

- Challenges for collaborative research -

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Review Article

Asia Cohort Consortium: Challenges for Collaborative Research

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ABSTRACT

In this era of chronic diseases, large studies are essential in investigating genes, environment, and interactions as disease causes, particularly when associations are important but not strong. To expand and generalize the results, studies should be conducted in populations outside the United States. Here, we briefly describe the Asia Cohort Consortium (ACC), a collaborative cancer cohort research program that was first proposed in 2004 and now involves more than 1 million healthy individuals across approximately 50 active members from Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and elsewhere. To date, the work of the ACC includes 3 articles published on the roles of body mass index, tobacco smoking, and alcohol consumption in mortality, diabetes, and colorectal cancer. Many challenges remain, including data harmonization, resolution of ethical and legal issues, of protocols for biologic samples and transfer agreements, and funding procurement.

Key words: Asia; cohort; consortium

INTRODUCTION

Prospective cohort studies provide the best level of observational evidence on disease causation. Furthermore, prospective cohort studies have specific strengths over clinical trials, which are often regarded as more powerful than observational studies in the hierarchy of evidence. For instance, in situations where it is unethical to design an experimental study (eg, in situations involving exposure to tobacco, alcohol, or obesity), observational studies are the only way to undertake research. Further, unlike clinical trials, cohort studies can assess multiple outcomes for any 1 exposure or multiple exposures for a specific outcome. Chronic diseases are on the rise worldwide, and Asian countries face a growing disease burden and the many

Since the completion of the Human Genome Project, epidemiologic studies encompassing genetics have prospered, and the importance of prospective cohorts has been more widely recognized.⁵ Moreover, a sufficiently large cohort or a population laboratory is essential for understanding the roles of genetic variation, environmental exposures, and the interaction between genes and exposures in the development of a disease.⁶ Analyses of gene-environment interactions in complex diseases with small interaction odds ratios or of genome-environment-wide interactions require even larger sample sizes to confirm associations.^{7,8} Potter has suggested that a cohort of at least 1,000,000 ethnically diverse individuals ("the Last Cohort") is essential to discover disease susceptibility, early-detection biomarkers, and more-precise phenotypes.⁹

Challenges:

- *data harmonization*
- *resolution of ethical and legal issues*
- *establishment of protocols for biologic samples and transfer agreements*
- *funding procurement*
- *precise exposure assessment*

MGEL (Molecular & Genomic Epidemiology Laboratory)

Predictive

Preventive

“P4 medicine will transform the healthcare industry”
- Hood Leroy

Personalized

Building Evidence through “6 P” Research!



Participatory

Prospective

Precise

THANK YOU!

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