

# Health effects of plant bioactive compounds

## Nutrigenomics approaches



Blandine COMTE

**“Innovative Health-Promoting Food”**  
**International Event on Functional Food**  
**29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September - Berlin - Germany**



[www.clermont.inra.fr/unh/](http://www.clermont.inra.fr/unh/)

JUR1019

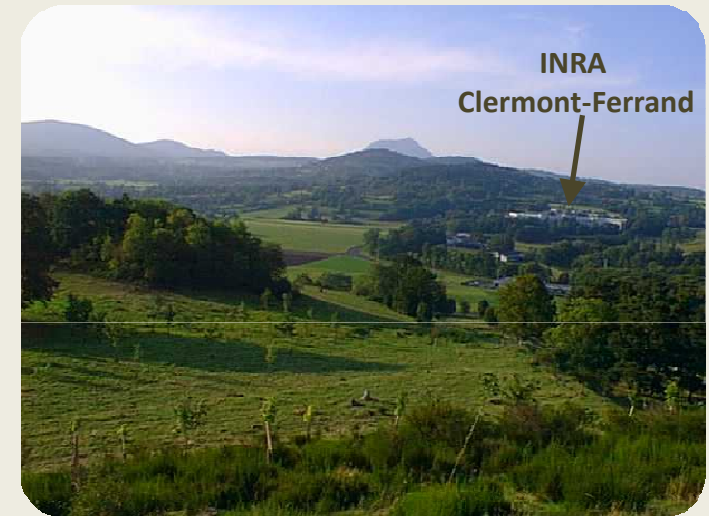
ALIMENTATION  
AGRICULTURE  
ENVIRONNEMENT



# The Human Nutrition Unit - JRU1019

The Joint Research Unit gathers 150 persons in 10 teams (2 platforms: Metabolic Exploration Platform (MS) and an animal facility), including a permanent staff of over 50 scientists

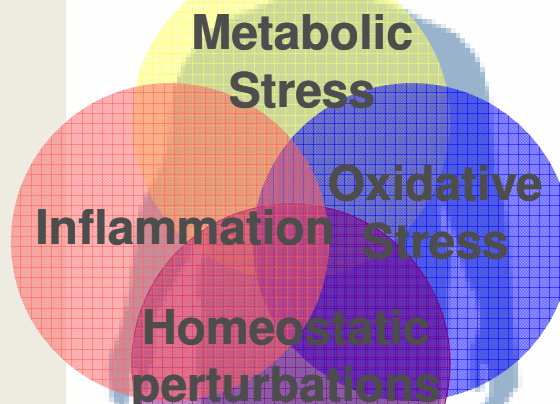
→ Elucidation of key mechanisms involved in the prevention of aged associated diseases by nutrients and foods



→ Impact of micronutrients on cardiovascular disease prevention and understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved

ENERGETIC DENSITY

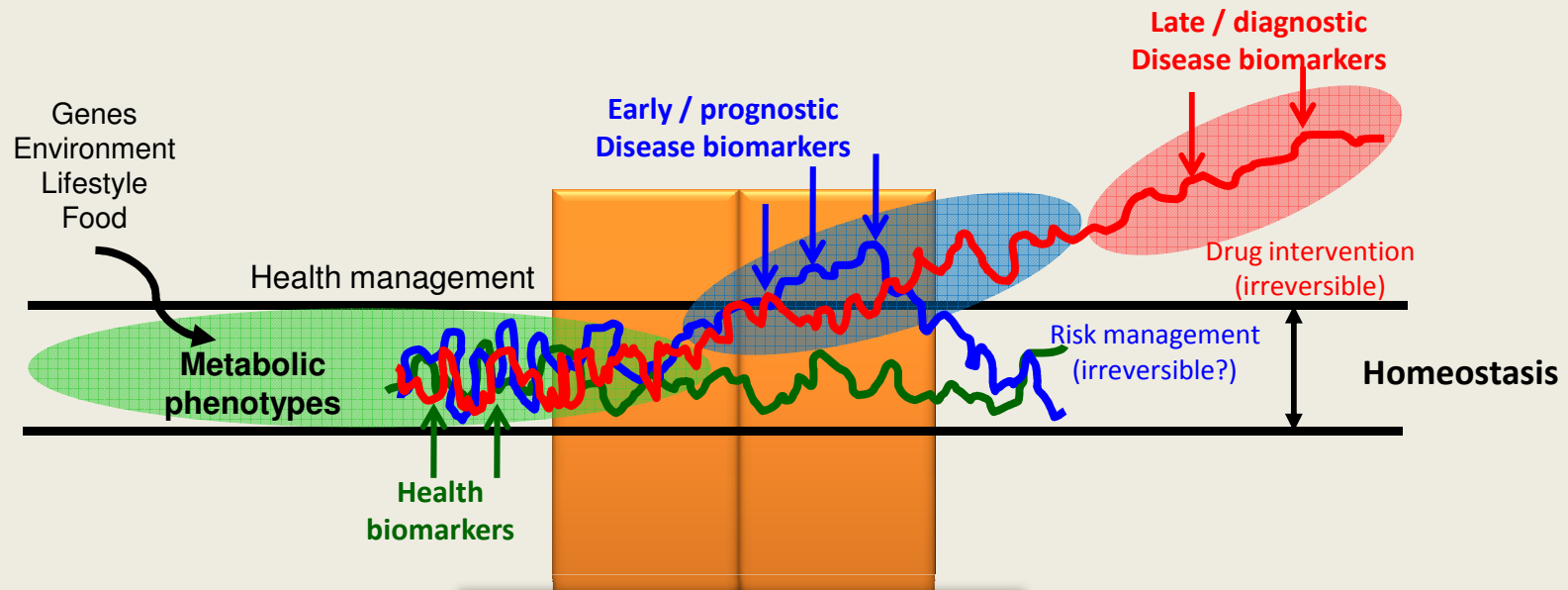
# Metabolic dysfunctions Cardiovascular diseases



Deleterious / preventive  
effects of nutrients


NUTRITIONAL DENSITY

# Dynamics of metabolic phenotypes



Nutritional prevention      Nutritional intervention

Complex food / Dietary patterns



- Macronutrient balance
- Diversity bioactives
- Interactions between nutrients
- Matrix effects

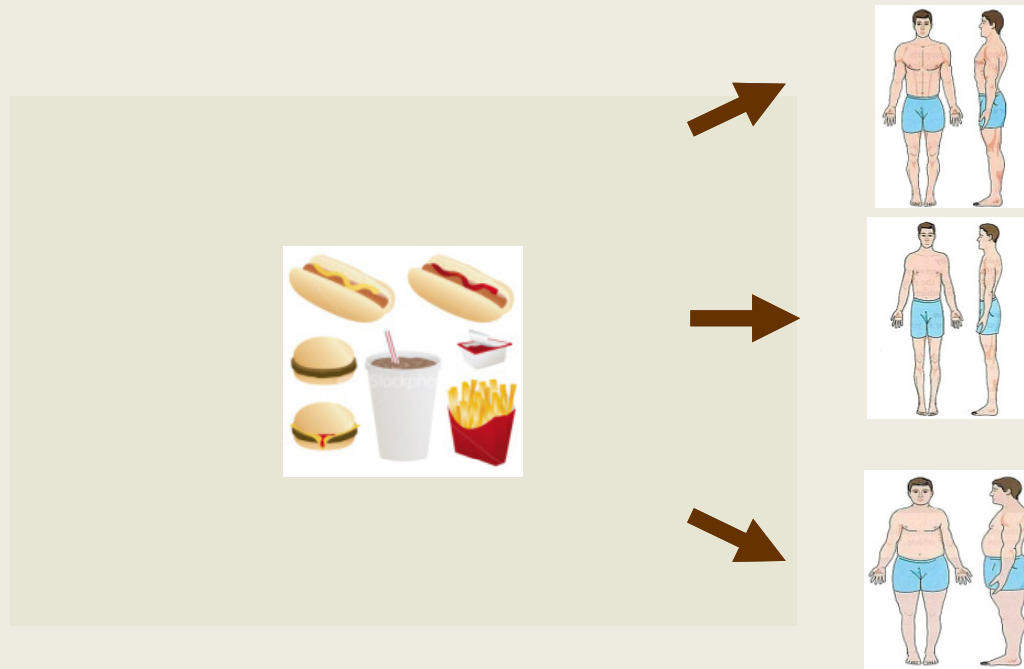
Adapted from Rezzi et al;  
*J. Proteome Res.* 2007, 6:  
513-25

# Health effects of bioactive compounds

→ UTILIZATION OF THE METABOLOMIC APPROACH TO CHARACTERIZE THE EXPOSURE TO NUTRIENTS AND BIOACTIVES AND IDENTIFY DIET COMPONENTS/INTERACTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EFFECTS

→ IDENTIFY CARDIOVASCULAR PROTECTIVE EFFECT OF POLYPHENOLS AT NUTRITIONAL DOSES AND DECIPHER POTENTIAL MOLECULAR MECHANISMS

# Diets and metabolic phenotypes

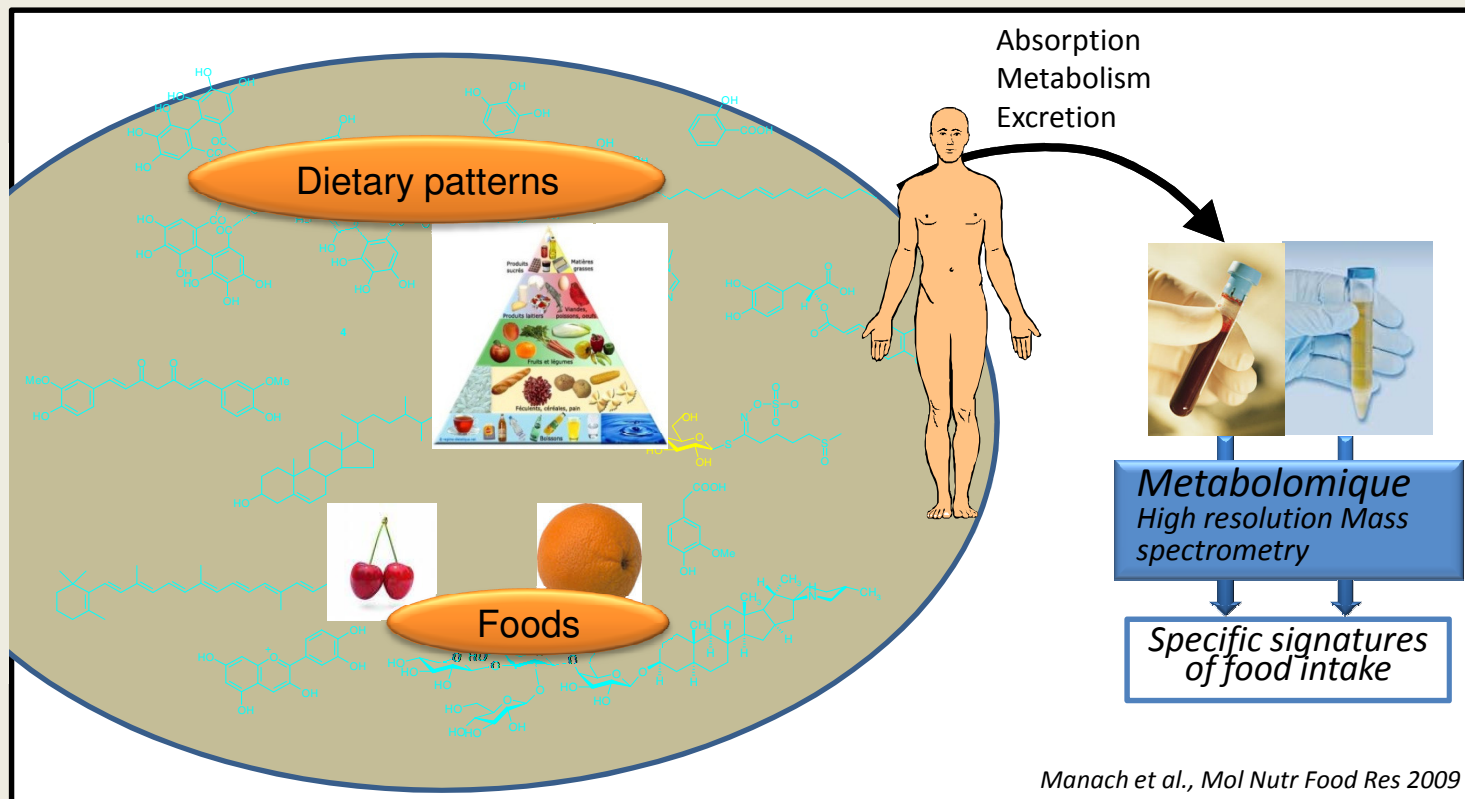


- ➔ Identify key markers of nutritionally responsive/non responsive phenotypes
- ➔ Contribution of inter-individual variability in nutrient and bioactive exposure

➔ **Customize diets for a healthier metabolic phenotype**

# Food metabolome

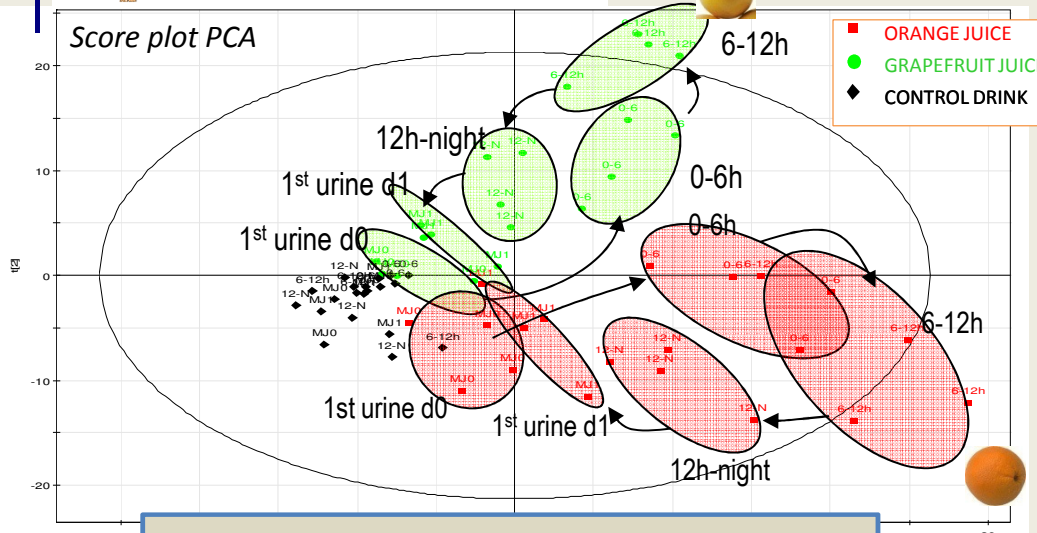
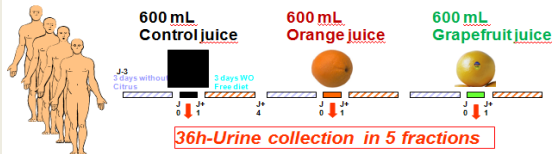
Food metabolome: all metabolites directly coming from the digestion and metabolism of food components



- ➔ Biomarkers of intake for specific foods & dietary patterns
- ➔ Extensive phenotyping of dietary exposures, including phytochemicals
- ➔ Identification of new bioactives

# Biomarkers of citrus intake

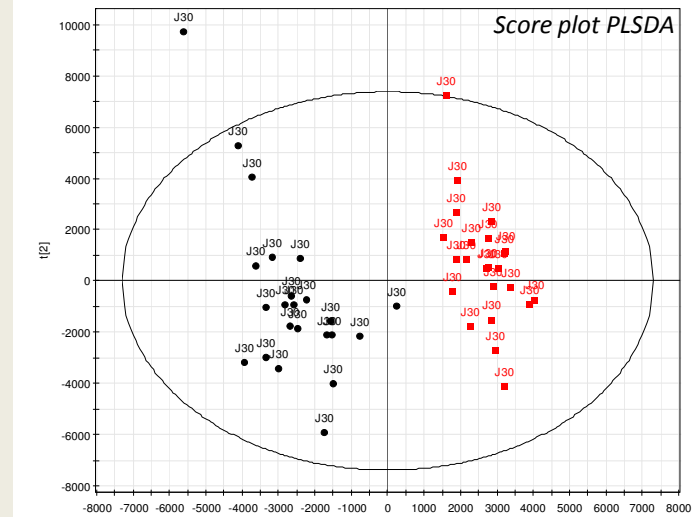
Controlled intervention study, one single dose



1,089 significant ions & not intense after juice consumptions of citrus juice

One month controlled intervention study

24 volunteers  
 600 ml/d Orange juice / Control drink  
 Free feeding, cross-over study, morning urine spot D30



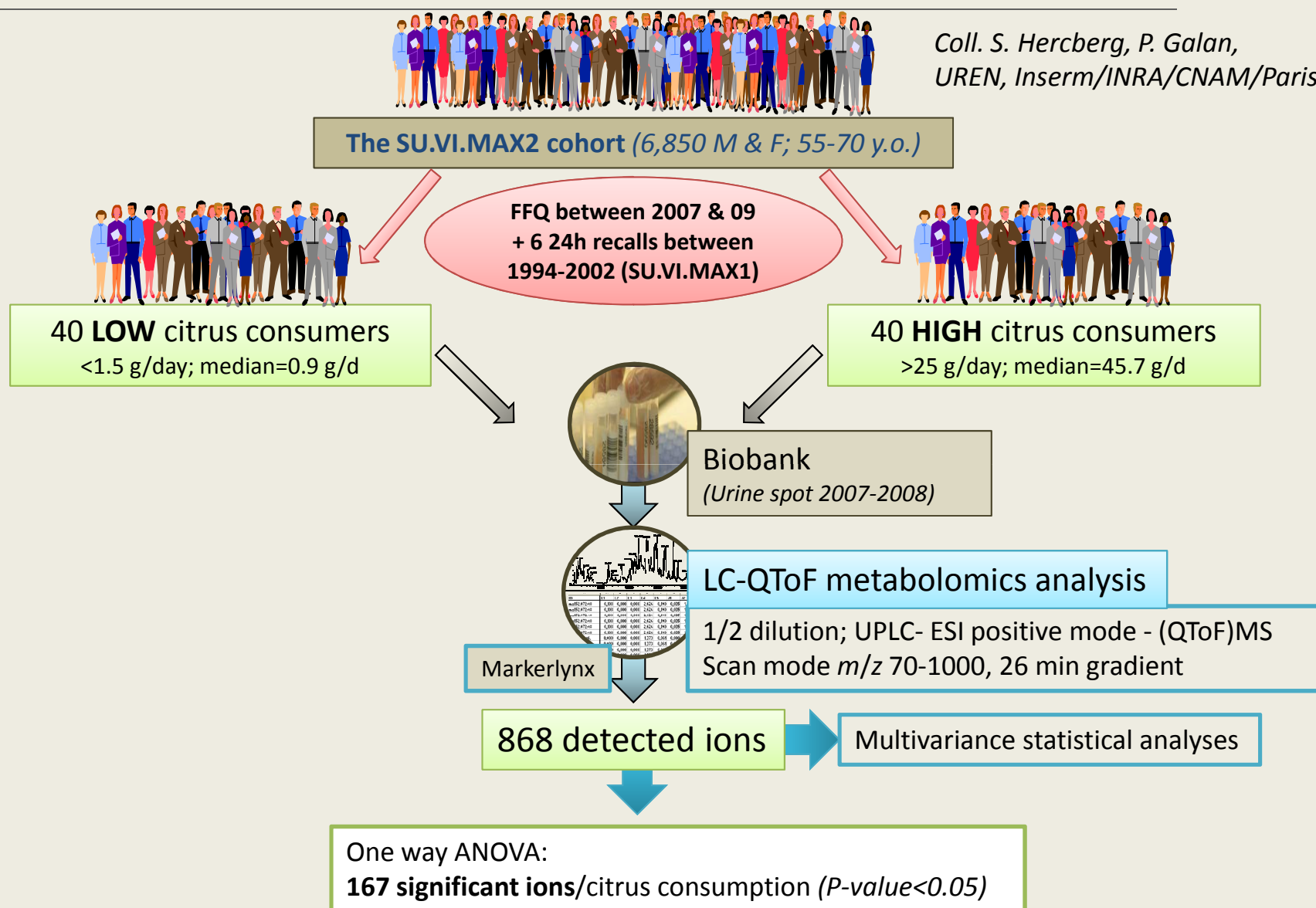
57 significant ions & more intense after orange juice consumption

Good discrimination of citrus consumption by urinary metabolites



# The approach in the SU.VI.MAX2 cohort

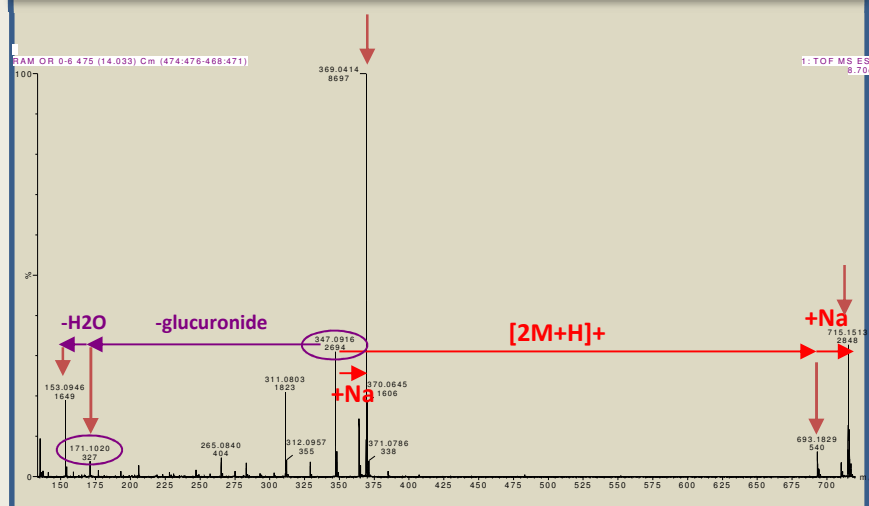
Coll. S. Hercberg, P. Galan,  
UREN, Inserm/INRA/CNAM/Paris 13





# Identification strategy

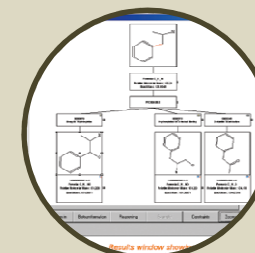
## Analysis of the mass spectra



## DB of citrus phytomicronutrients metabolites

224 known phytomicronutrients

Metabolites  
Known +  
predicted by  
**meteor**  
(Lhasa Ltd)



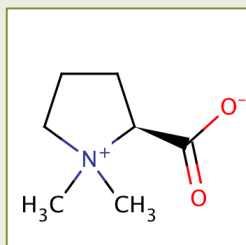
➤ 1 700 entries with  
monoisotopic masses

Hypothesis – Plausibility Analysis (/literature)

- ✓ Standard analysis if available
- ✓ LTQ-Orbitrap™: Monoisotopic mass + MS/MS spectra + UV-Vis spectrum

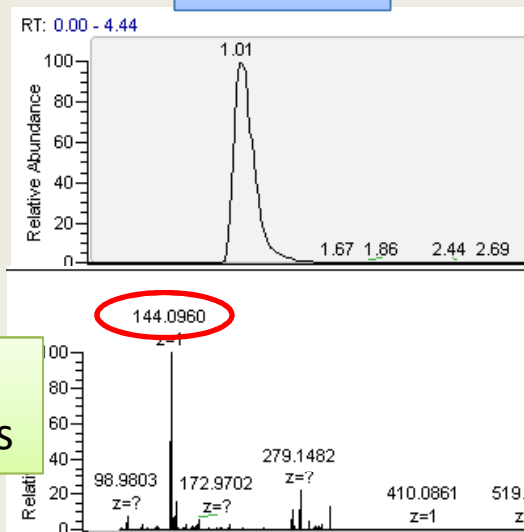


# Validation - identification of the Ion 144.097: Proline Betaine

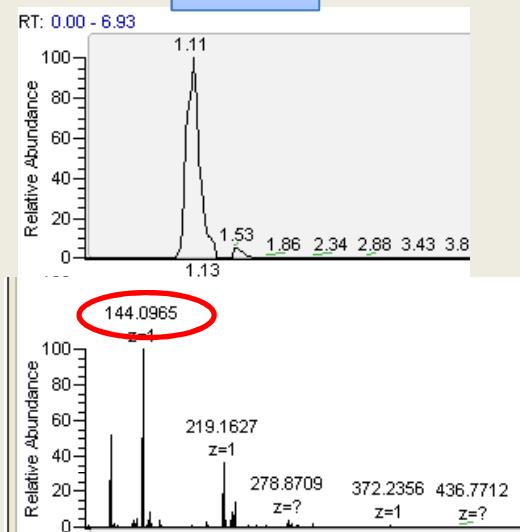


Retention time  
MS/MS Monoisotopic mass

Standard



Urine



LTQ-Orbitrap

Already identified as a biomarker of citrus consumption

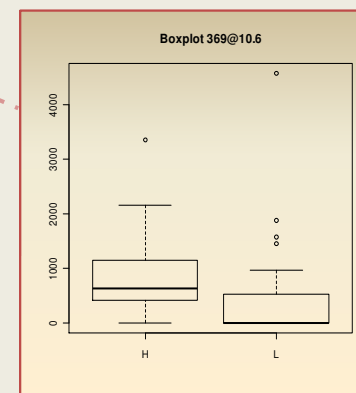
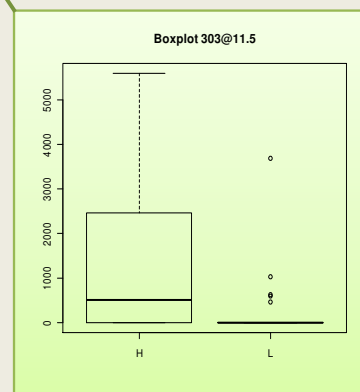
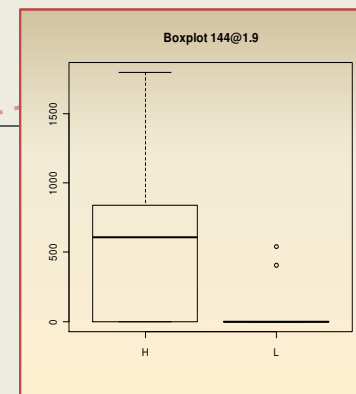
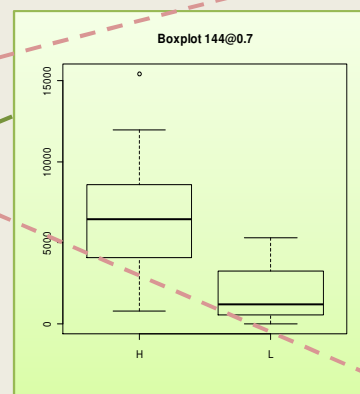
Metabolic profiling strategy for discovery of nutritional biomarkers:  
proline betaine as a marker of citrus consumption<sup>1-3</sup>

*Silke S Heinzmann, Ian J Brown, Queenie Chan, Magda Bictash, Marc-Emmanuel Dumas, Sunil Kochhar, Jeremiah Stamler, Elaine Holmes, Paul Elliott, and Jeremy K Nicholson*

*AJCN 2010, 92:436-43*

# Biomarker identifications

| IONS         | Identification  |
|--------------|---|
| 144.063@1.9  | Unknown C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>3</sub> N |
| 144.097@0.7  | Proline betaine   |
| 369.154@10.6 | Adduct Na 347   |
| 235.17@9.9   | Several Hypotheses                                      |
| 303.085@11.5 | Hesp 3'gluc (fragment)                                  |
| 146.078@1.3  | Several hypotheses                                      |
| 160.098@0.7  | Hydroxyproline betaine (tentative)                      |
| 153.052@7.1  | Unknown C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>9</sub> O <sub>3</sub>    |
| 232.064@2.4  | Several Hypotheses                                      |
| 273.08@11.4  | Naringenin 4'-gluc (fragment)                           |
| 347.164@10.6 | Several hypotheses                                      |
| 449.112@11.1 | Naringenin 7-gluc                                       |



Coherent hypotheses with the Orbitrap mass measurement  
But difficult validation (no available standards and low biological concentrations)

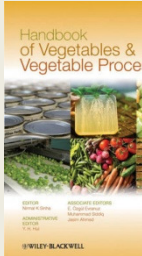
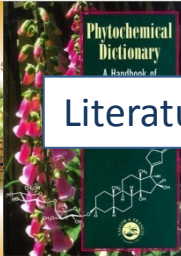
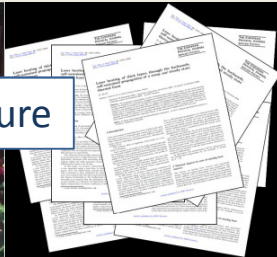
All the most discriminating ions were also present in the short term controlled study Agruvasc  
But not in the lowest p-values

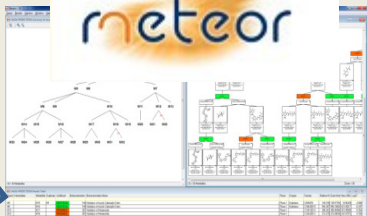
# PhytoMetaBank

Internet database on food phytochemicals and their metabolites in human


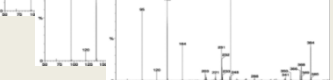

  
 Dictionary of Food Compounds
   

  
 Composition tables




  
 Literature

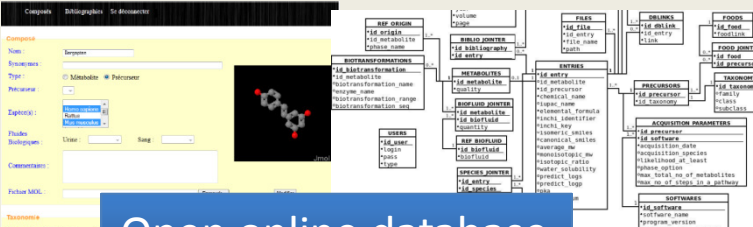
*In silico* prediction of metabolism
   


**2,000 food phytochemicals**
  
 Classification
   
 Known metabolites
   
*In silico* predicted metabolites
   
 Food sources
   
 Physical & chemical data (logP, ...)
   
 Spectral data (monoisotopic mass...)
   
 Links to other databases

Experimental data
   
 MS/MS, UV...
   

  

  
 Spectrum Search   Quick Search   Peak Search   Substructure Search

Collect / prediction of physical & chemical data
   




  
 Open online database





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# Polyphenols and health

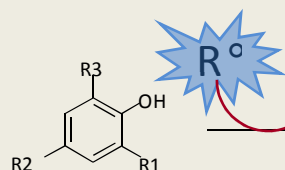
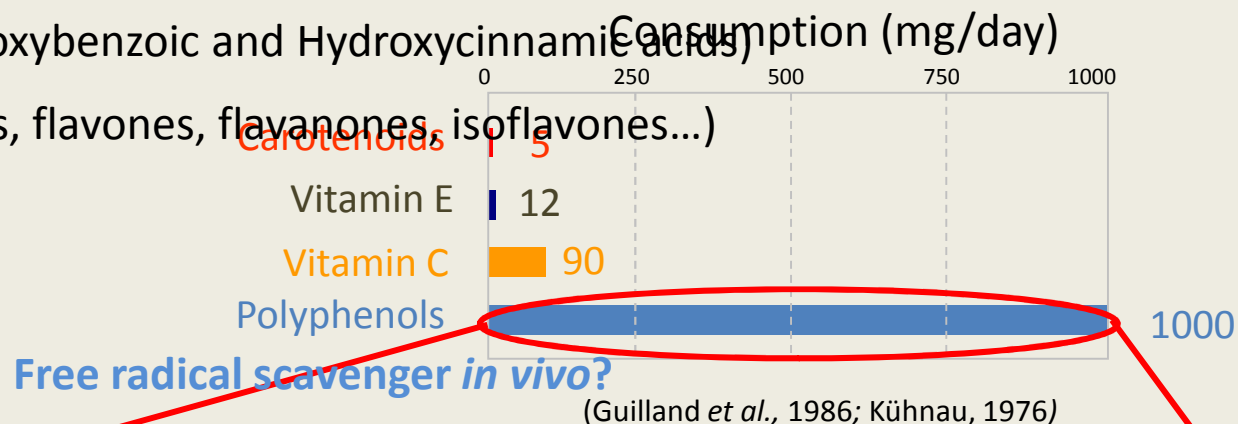
## ➤ Phytomicronutrients, most abundant dietary antioxidants

➡ **Phenolic acids** (Hydroxybenzoic and Hydroxycinnamic acids)

➡ **Flavonoids** (Flavanols, flavones, flavanones, isoflavones...)

➡ **Lignans**

➡ **Stilbenes**



\* In plasma: polyphenols  $\approx 1\mu\text{M}$



➡ **Cardiovascular protective properties are not related to direct antioxidant effects**



# Polyphenols and cardiovascular diseases

## Epidemiological studies



- Beneficial effect of flavonoids consumption on CVDs (coronary artery disease risk and stroke risk)

(Arts and Hollman, 2005)

- Inverse association between flavanols intake and CHD mortality (Mink et al., 2007)

## Clinical trials



↪ **Meta-analysis:** flavonoid- rich food & beverages: tea, cocoa, soya

- ↪ Improvement of:
- Systolic and diastolic blood pressure
  - Endothelial function

(Hooper *et al.*, 2008)

## Animal studies



- Reduction of atherosclerotic lesions upon consumption of tea (Furhman et al., 2005)
- extracts, wine, pomegranate juice, grapes in apoE<sup>-/-</sup> mice model (Hayek et al., 1997)

# Dietary polyphenols and cardiovascular function

## Protective effects and molecular mechanisms

### Human Intervention Studies



Flavonoid rich foods / isolated compounds

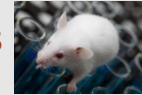
Ex: Orange juice / Hesperidin

- Assessment of vascular function

(FMD by echodoppler, microvascular function by PAT index, microvascular reactivity by LD imaging coupled to iontophoresis, arterial compliance)

- Systemic markers of cardiovascular risk
- Gene expression analyses (transcriptome study)

### Animal studies



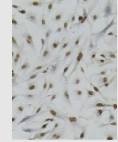
apoE<sup>-/-</sup> mice

Polyphenol supplementation at nutritional doses

- catechin
- curcumin
- anthocyanidin
- naringenin

- Histomorphometry of aorta
- Biochemical parameters
- Gene expression analyses (transcriptome study)
- miRNA expression profiling
- Immunohistochemistry

### In vitro studies



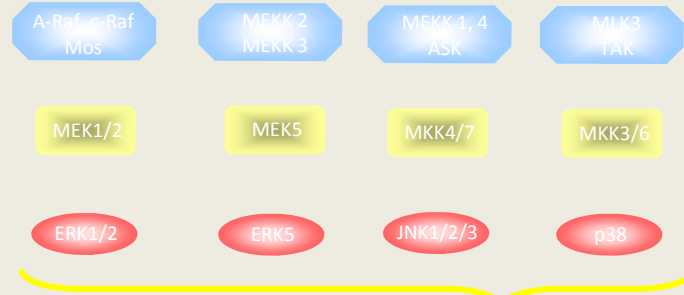
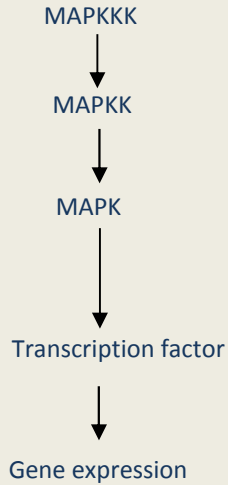
HUVECs

Polyphenol metabolites at nutritional doses  
Ex: Flavanones metabolites

- Adhesion of monocytes
- Proliferation of HUVEC
- Migration of HUVEC (wound healing test)
- Transendothelial migration of monocytes
- Target gene expression analyses (LDTArrays)

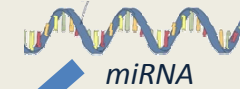
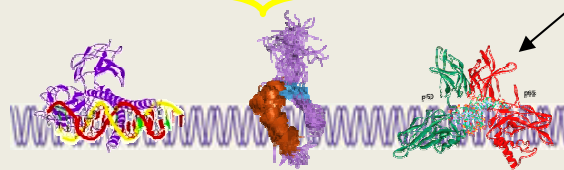
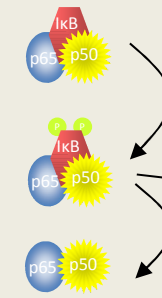
# Identification of potential molecular targets

## MAPK signaling pathway



## NF-κB signaling pathway

- Phosphorylation of IκB by IKK
- Degradation of IκB by proteasome
- Liberation of NFκB complex

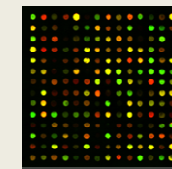


Bioinformatics analysis

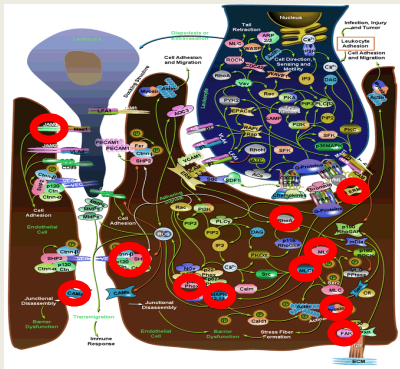
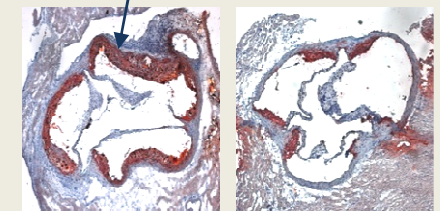
Modification of gene expression in aorta

Cell adhesion / transendothelial migration

Decrease in atherosclerotic lesion development *in vivo* using nutritional doses



Atherosclerotic lesions



# Experimental approach



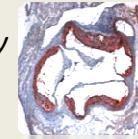
- \*Models :
- Apo E<sup>-/-</sup>
  - C57Bl/6J on high fat high cholesterol diet
- \*6 week-old
- \*N=20 / group

16 weeks

- Control diet
- Polyphenol (0.02%)
- catechin
  - naringin
  - anthocyanidins
  - curcumin



Lipid deposit in aortic root by histomorphometry



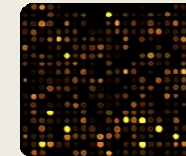
Lipid, inflammation and antioxidant parameters in plasma



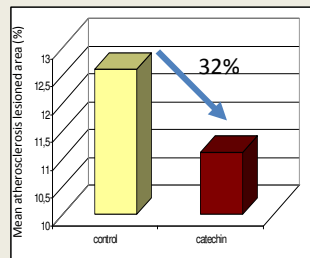
Lipid parameters in liver



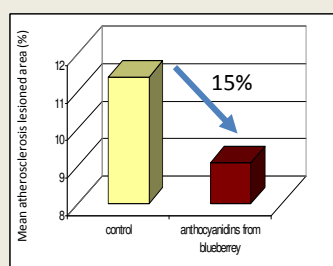
Gene expression analysis in aorta



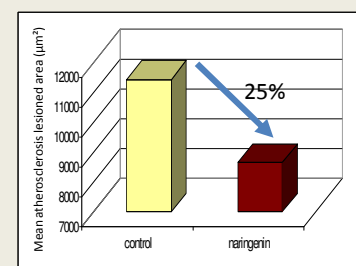
**Catechin**



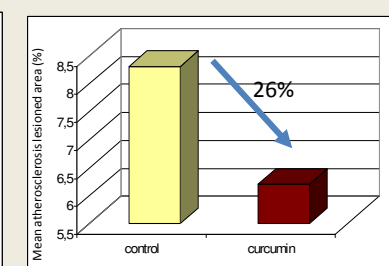
**Anthocyanins**



**Naringin**



**Curcumin**

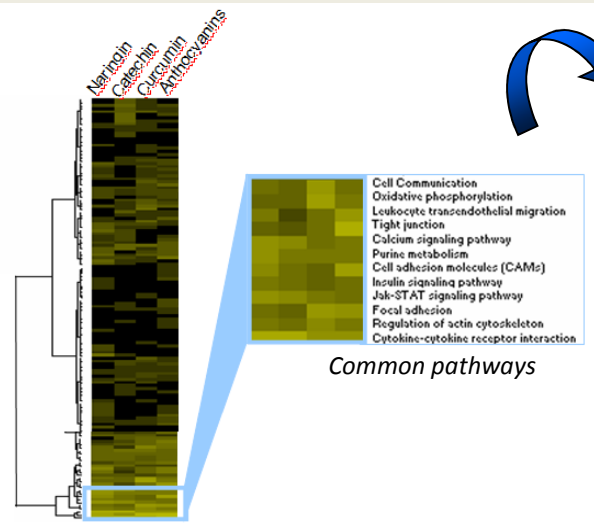


Consumption at nutritional doses resulted in a significant reduction of lipid deposits in aorta, independently to changes in plasma lipid levels or antioxidant capacity

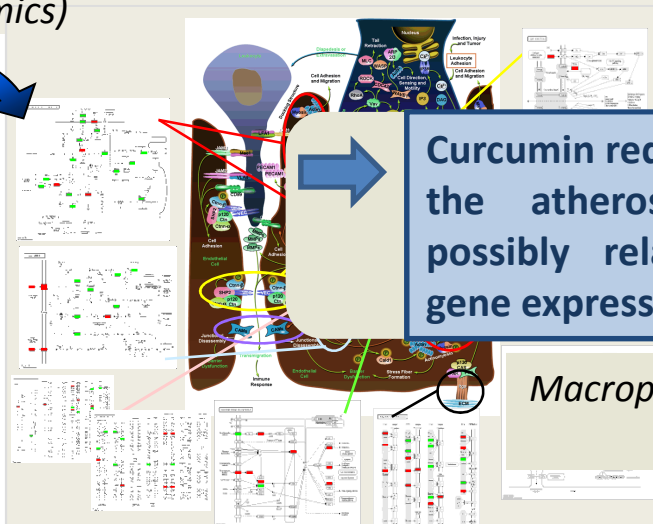
# Molecular mechanisms of action of bioactives

*Nutrigenomic analysis: global (transcriptomics) or targeted approaches*

*Aorta gene expression (transcriptomics)*

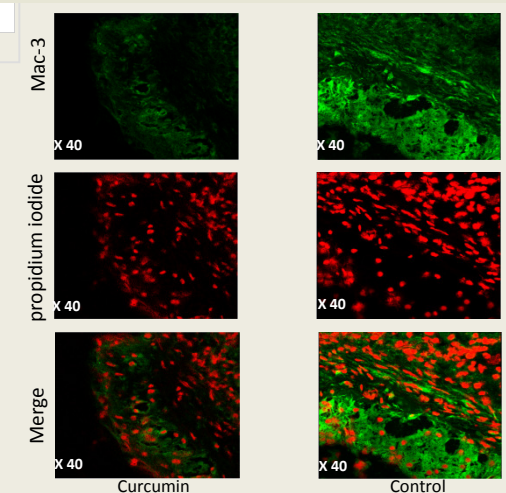


Hierarchical clustering of pathway profiles



**Curcumin reduces macrophage number in the atherosclerotic lesion by 30%, possibly related with modification in gene expression**

*Macrophage quantification in aortic roots (immunohistochemistry)*

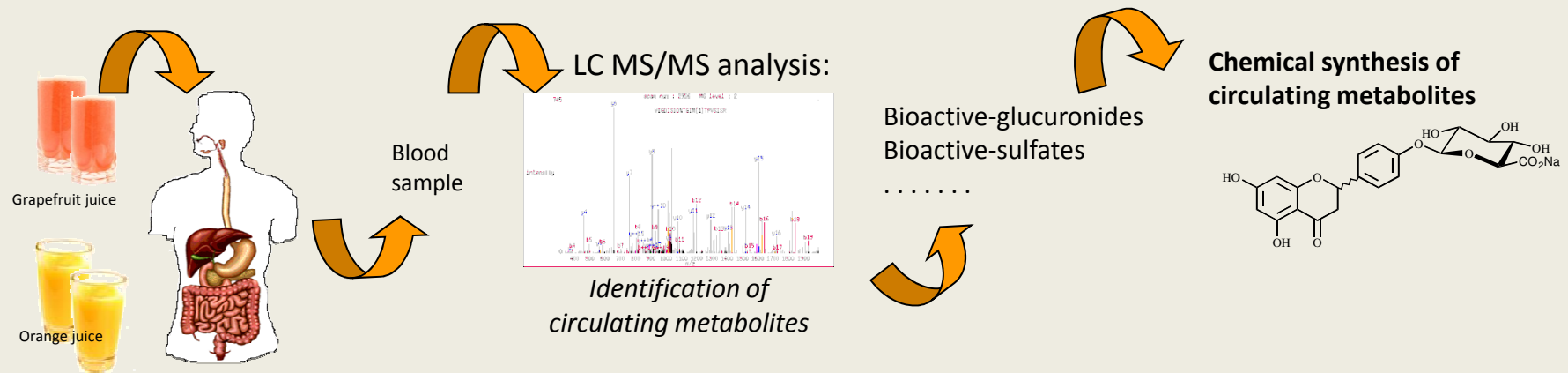


- Polyphenols modulate gene expression in aorta  
 - Functional analysis revealed a cluster of common pathways related to cell-cell adhesion, cell junctions, focal adhesion, and cell cytoskeleton that are related to transendothelial migration

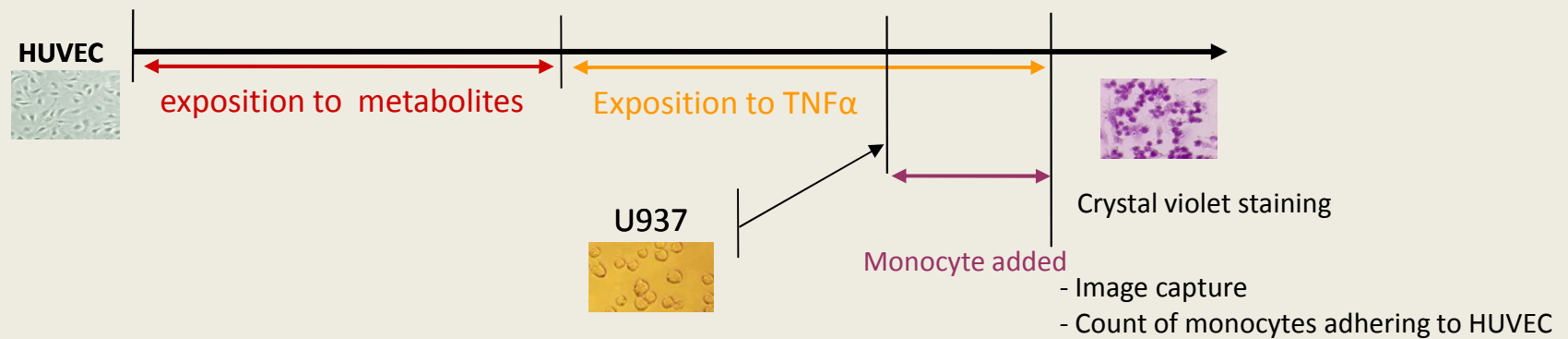
# Polyphenol metabolites on cellular activity

## Phytomicronutrients of citrus fruits

### 1) Identification and synthesis of polyphenol metabolites:

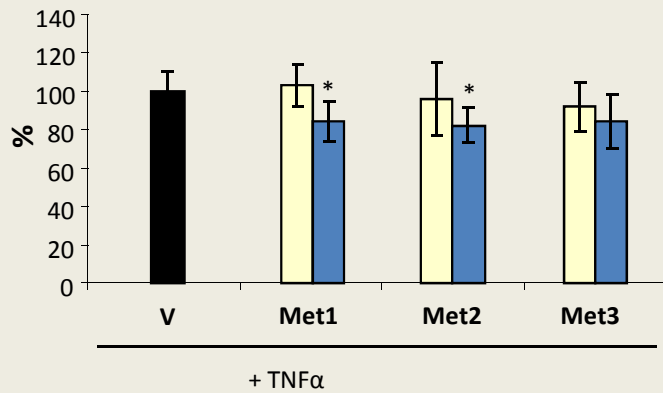
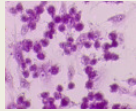


### 2) Monocyte to endothelial adhesion assay:



# Effects on HUVEC activity *in vitro*

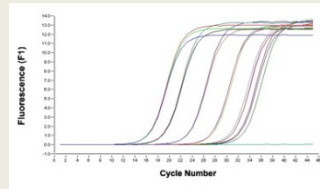
## Monocyte adhesion



*Pretreatment with metabolites reduce adhesion of monocytes to TNF $\alpha$  activated endothelial cells*

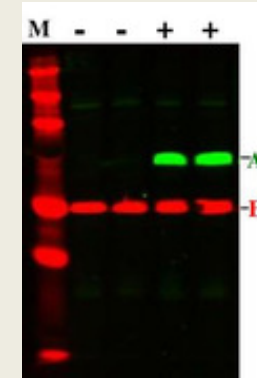
## Expression analysis of targeted genes

- RT-PCR and microarray analyses of both mRNA and miRNA -



*Metabolites modulate expression of genes*

## Cellular pathways and protein expression analysis



*Polyphenols modulate protein expression*

Physiological concentration of metabolites modulate initiation steps of atherosclerosis development by modulating expression of genes and proteins *via* modulation of signaling pathways activity

# Role of hesperidin in the effects of orange juice?



Inclusion

A, B or C

Wash Out

A, B or C

Wash Out

A, B or C

4 weeks

4 weeks

4 weeks

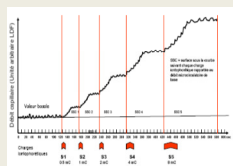
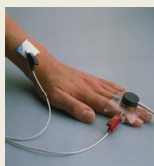
**A:** 500 ml/d of orange juice

**B:** 500 ml/d of an isocaloric control drink + 1 placebo capsule

**C:** 500 ml/d of an isocaloric control drink + 1 capsule filled with 292 mg Hesperidin

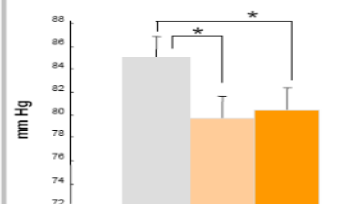
## Functional & Systemic measurements

Microvascular reactivity measurement using laser Doppler coupled to Iontophoresis

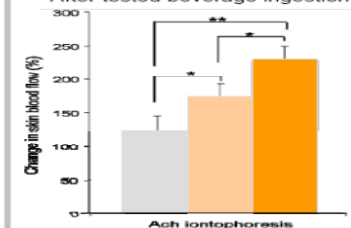


Control Drink + Placebo  
Control Drink + Hesperidin  
Orange Juice

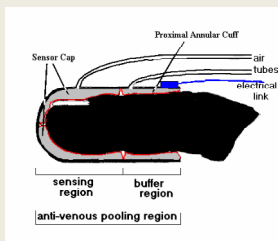
### Diastolic Blood Pressure After 4-wk supplementation



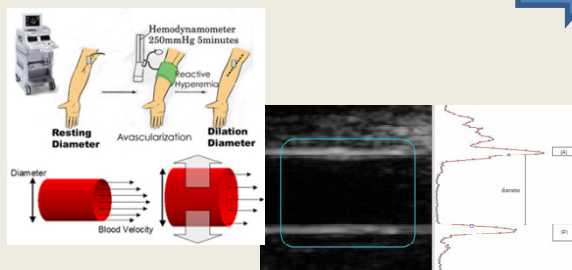
### Endothelial function After tested beverage ingestion



Peripheral Arterial Tonometry



Flow mediated dilatation (FMD)



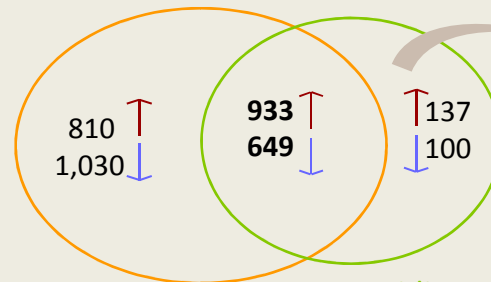
A one month consumption of orange juice, or pure Hesperidin, induced a significant **decrease in diastolic blood pressure**.

Orange juice and Hesperidin ingestion significantly **improved postprandial microvascular endothelial reactivity**.



# Role of hesperidin in the effects of orange juice?

Number of differentially expressed genes in leukocytes

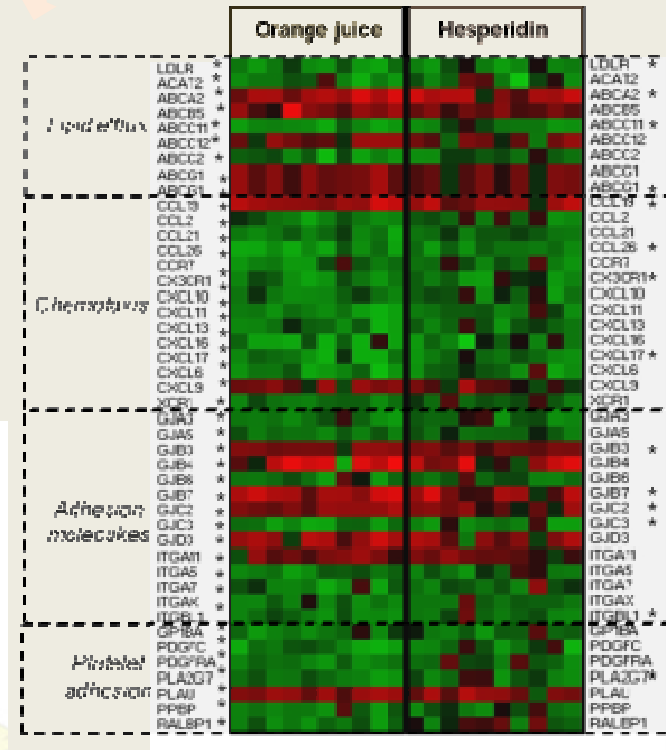


↑ Up regulated genes  
↓ Down regulated genes

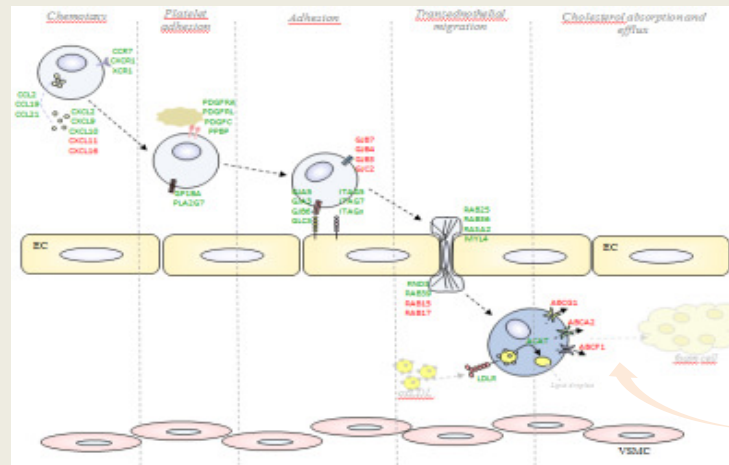
Orange juice 3,422 genes  
Hesperidin 1,819 genes

Microarray analysis:  
1,582 genes are differentially expressed by orange juice and hesperidin consumption

Heat-map of atherosclerosis-related gene expression



Many of these genes are implicated in chemotaxis, adhesion, infiltration and lipid transport: suggesting **lower recruitment and infiltration of circulating cells to vascular wall and lower lipid accumulation.**



# CONCLUSION

- ✓ The metabolomic approach allows to identify biomarkers of food consumption directly in cohort studies.
- ✓ The best found biomarkers are in part different from those found in controlled intervention studies.

Food consumption biomarkers  
(cohorts)

vs

Exposition to metabolites of  
phytomicronutriments  
(interventions)

?

- ✓ The identification of the discriminating molecules is the bottleneck of the metabolomic approach. Regarding the Food metabolome it is related to the low concentrations in biofluids, of the lack of knowledge in databases and the absence of standards.
- ✓ Polyphenols present cardiovascular preventive properties, their bioactive effects are mediated by their capacity to modulate expression of genes.
- ✓ Potential cellular and molecular targets have been identified.

# Acknowledgments

## UMR1019-Unit of Human Nutrition

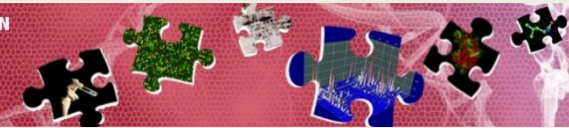
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METABOLISM EXPLORATION  
PLATFORM  
From genes to metabolites



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Thank you for your attention

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