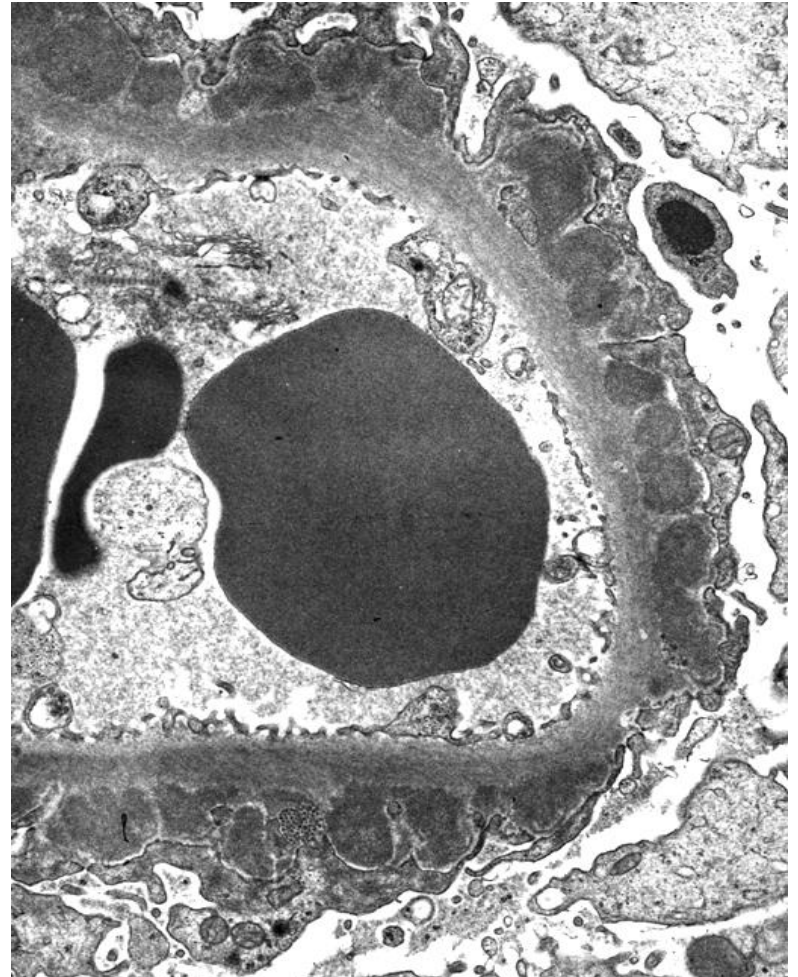
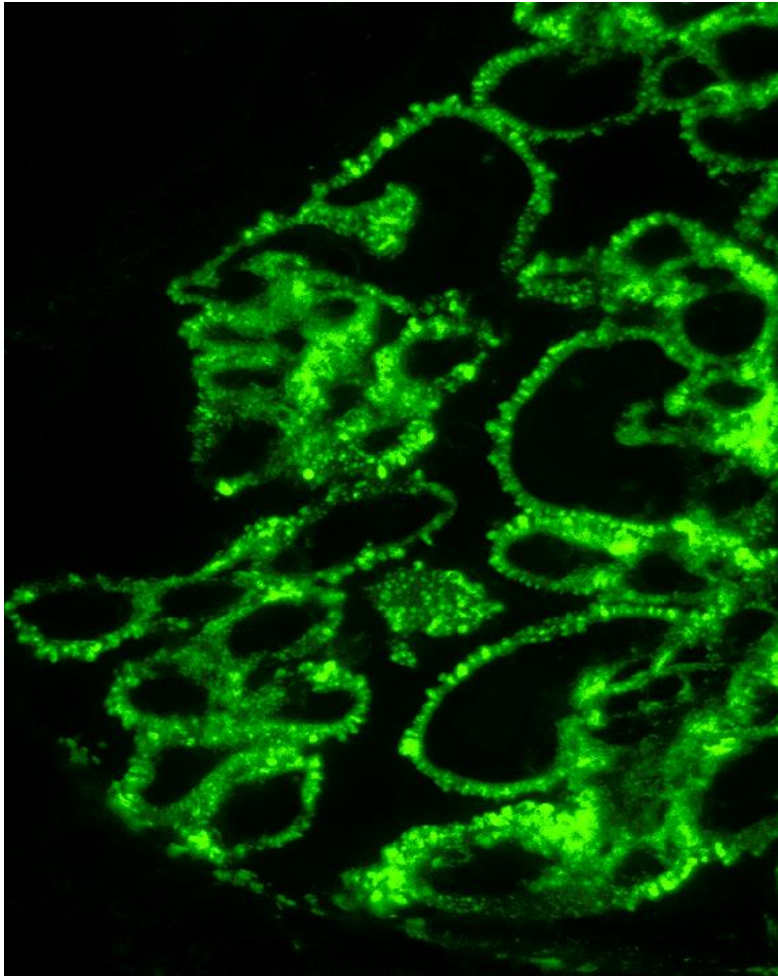


# La belle histoire des glomérulopathies extramembraneuses : du nouveau-né à l'adulte et aux maladies auto-immunes

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**INSERM UMR\_S 1155**  
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# Membranous Nephropathy



Major cause of nephrotic syndrome and chronic renal failure

# Aetiologies of membranous nephropathy

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- 30% associated with
    - infections
    - cancers
    - autoimmune diseases
    - drugs
  - 70% « idiopathic forms »
  - Treatment is controversial because of unpredictable outcome vs side-effects and lack of pathophysiology-driven therapy
  - Proteinuria as the only biomarker for disease follow-up!
-

# IgG subclass distribution according to underlying disease

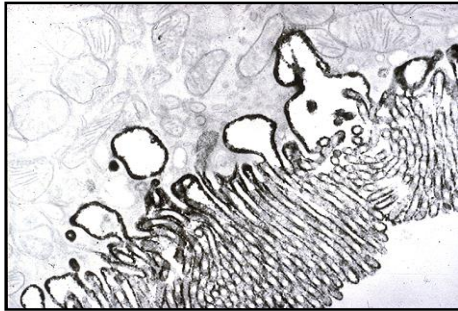
	IgG <sub>1</sub>	IgG <sub>2</sub>	IgG <sub>3</sub>	IgG <sub>4</sub>
Idiopathic	+ to +++	+	+	+++
Lupus	+++	+++	++	±
Neoplasia	+++	+++	+	0 to ++
Recurrent MN in the allograft	++	++	+	+++
De novo MN in the allograft	+++	++	-	+

*Noël LH et al, Clin Immunol Immunopathol 1988, 46:186 ; Ohtani et al, NDT, 2004, 19:574 ; Qu et al, NDT 2012, 27:1931 ; Debiec, personal data ; Markowitz, personal data*

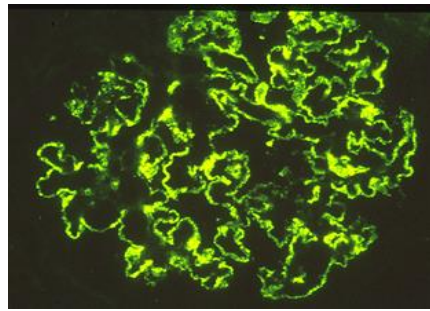


Walter Heymann, Cleveland, 1959

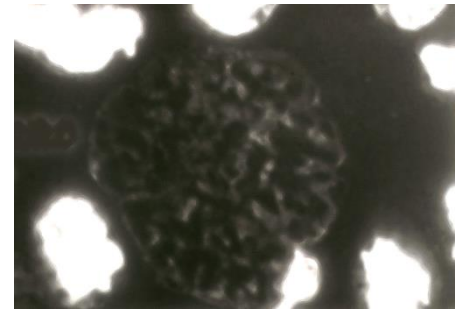
# Heymann nephritis



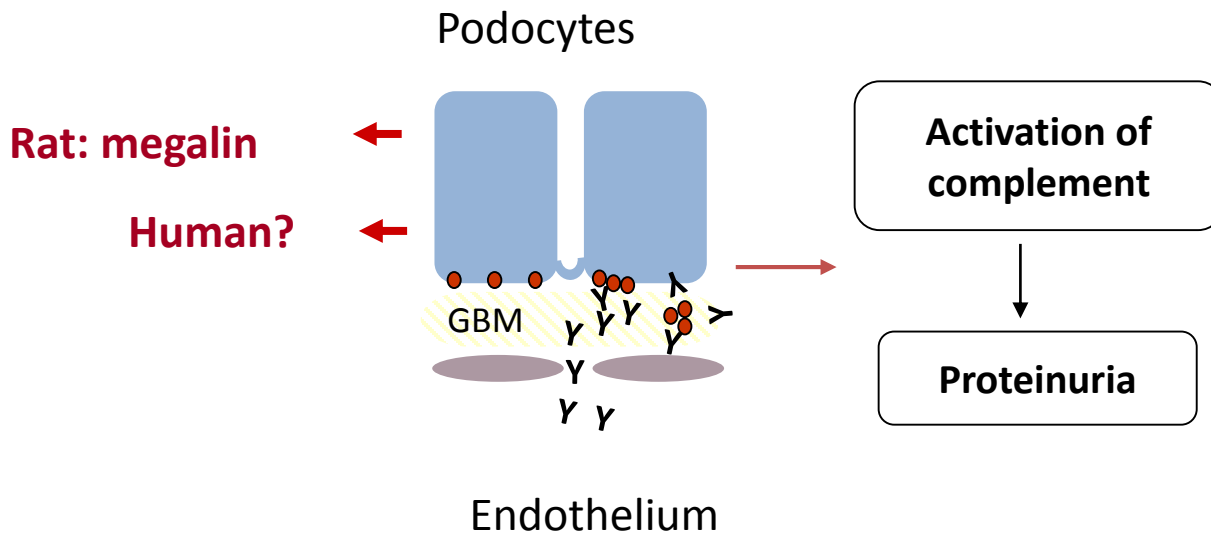
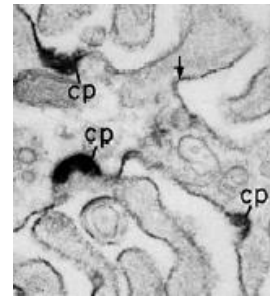
Renal BB



IgG deposits

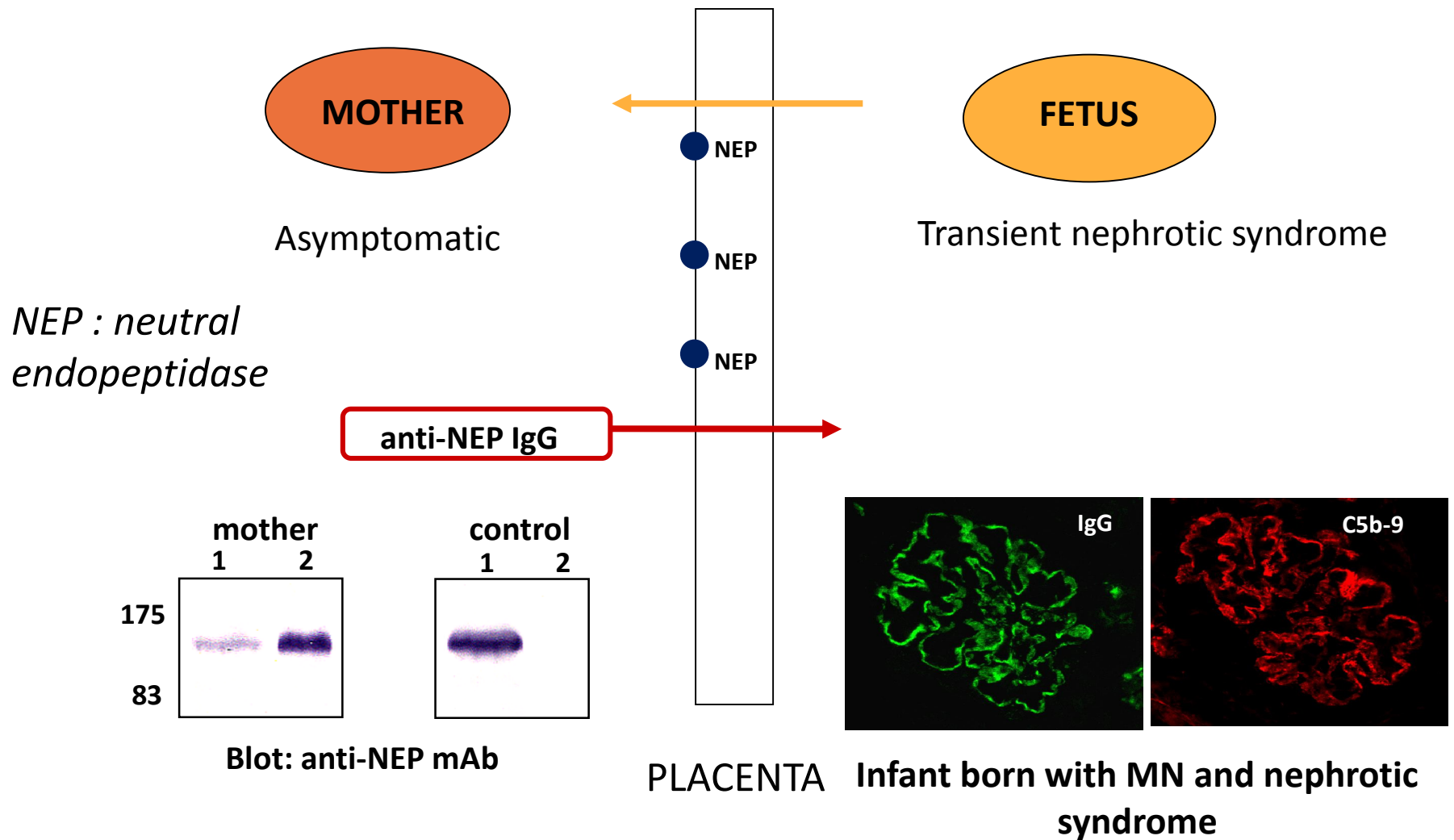


Megalin, the target antigen of HN

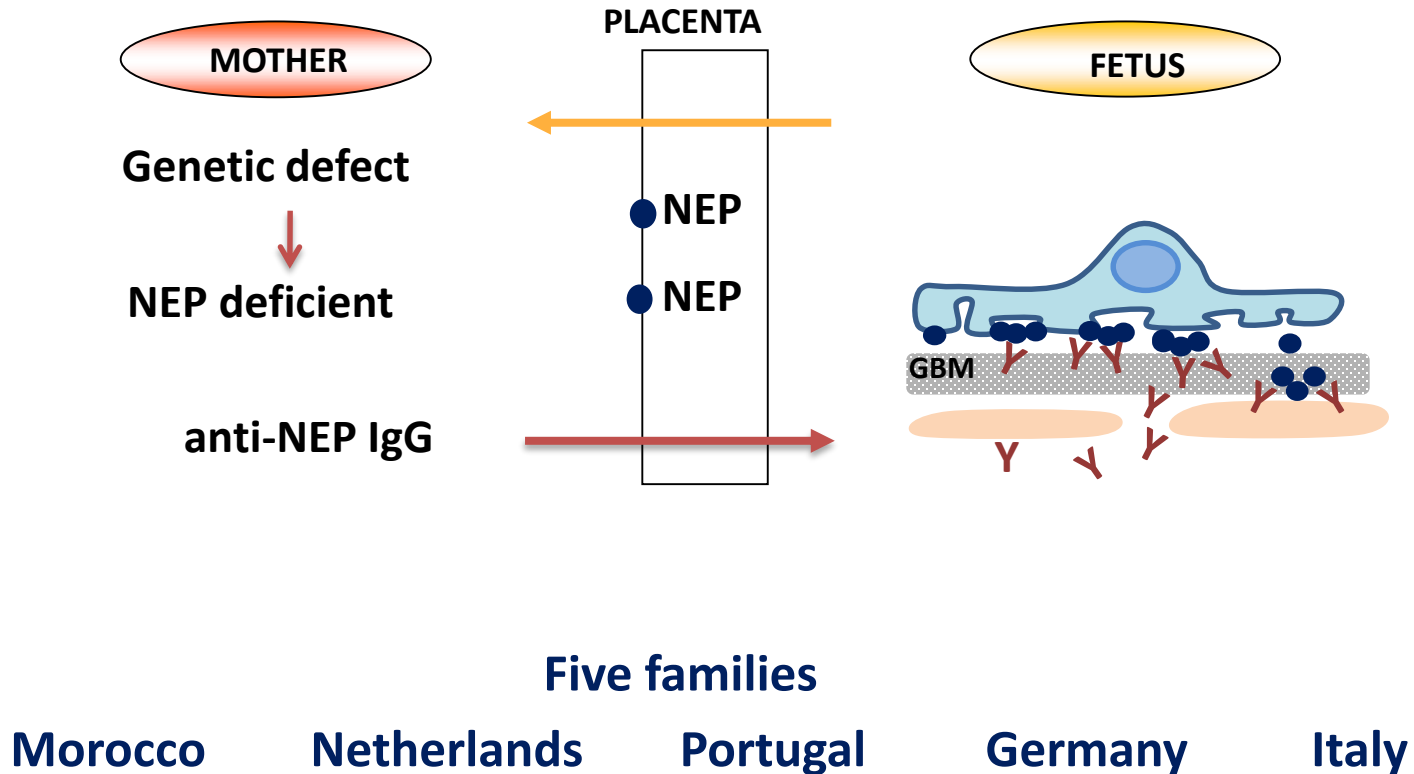


*In situ* formation of immune deposits

# Antigen identification from an extreme phenotype : Neonatal membranous nephropathy



# From antigen identification to genetic defect



*Debiec et al. N Engl J Med 2002 and Lancet 2004*



# Auto-immune « idiopathic » MN in adults

*The* NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

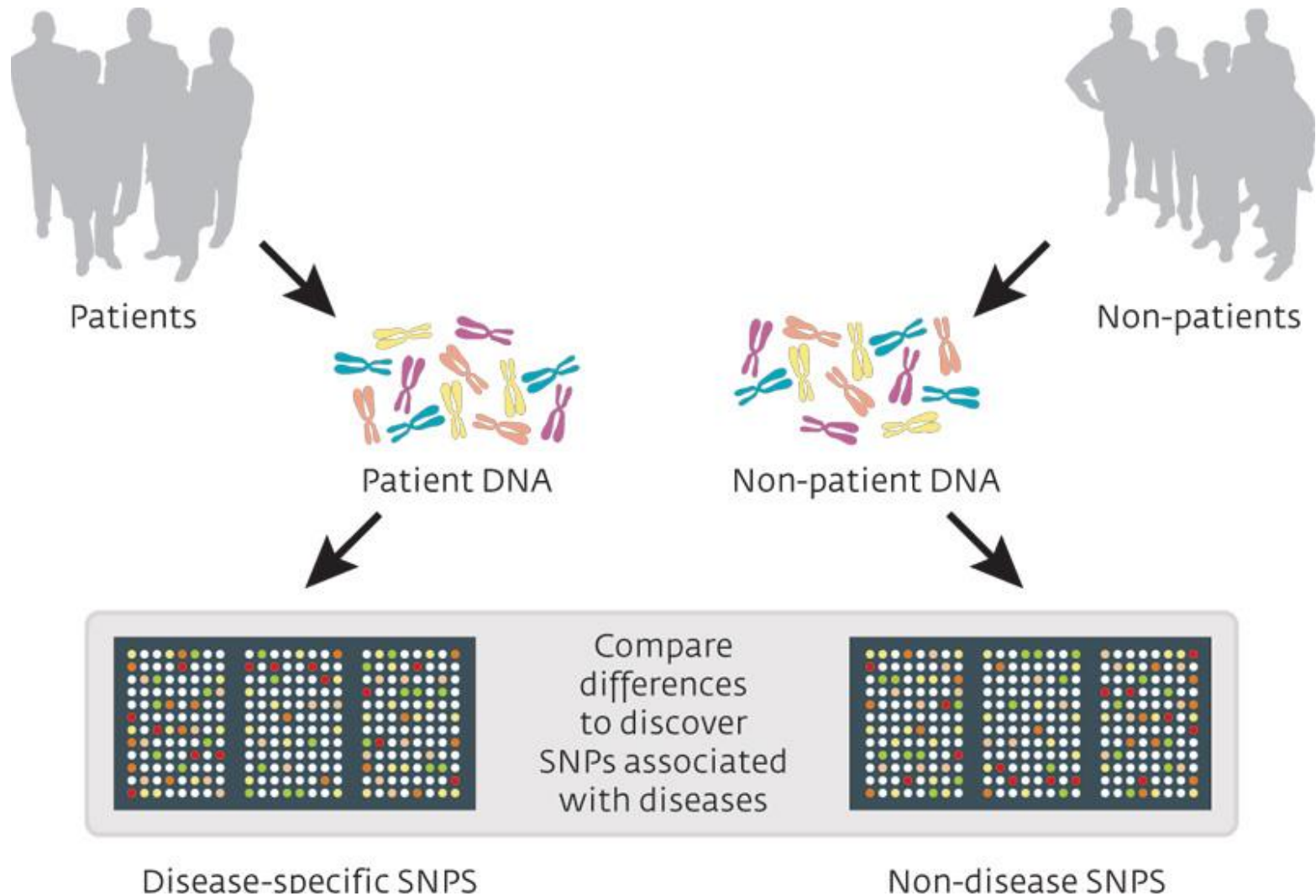
JULY 2, 2009

VOL. 361 NO. 1

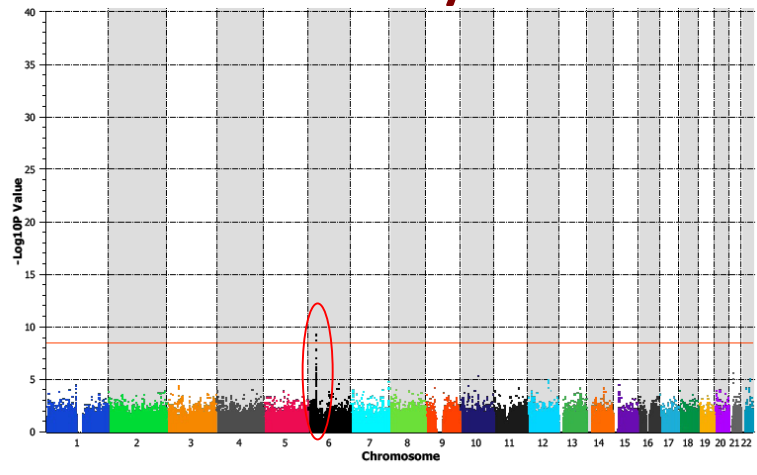
## M-Type Phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> Receptor as Target Antigen in Idiopathic Membranous Nephropathy

Laurence H. Beck, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., Ramon G.B. Bonegio, M.D., Gérard Lambeau, Ph.D., David M. Beck, B.A.,  
David W. Powell, Ph.D., Timothy D. Cummins, M.S., Jon B. Klein, M.D., Ph.D., and David J. Salant, M.D.

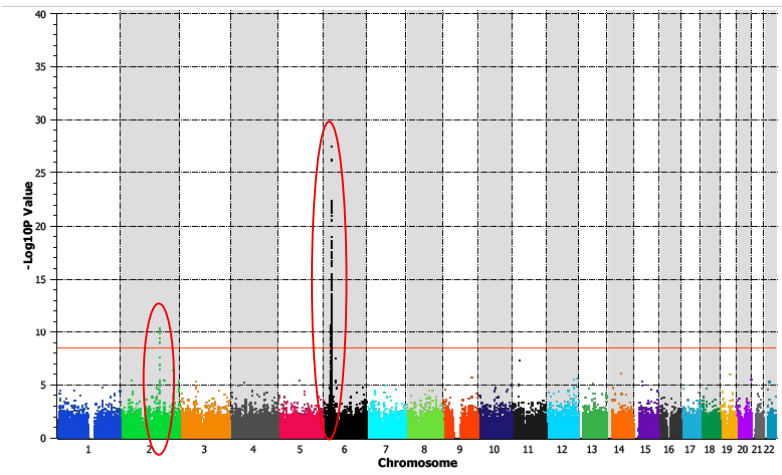
# Principle of pangenomic (GWAS) studies



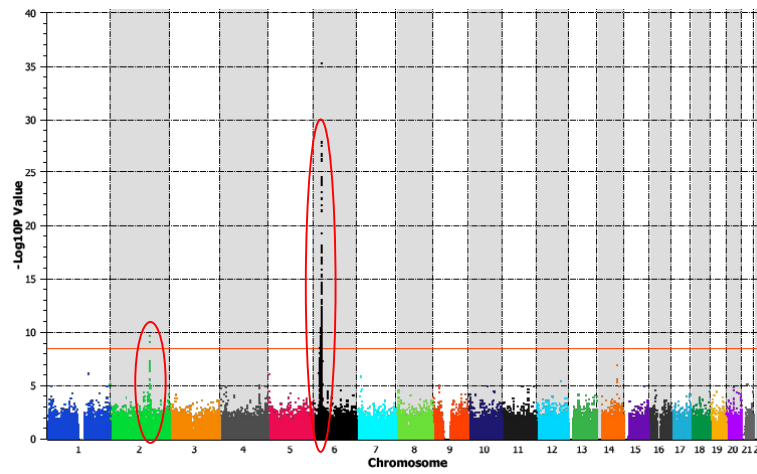
# A risk HLA-DQA1 allele is associated with iMN and may interact with PLA2R alleles



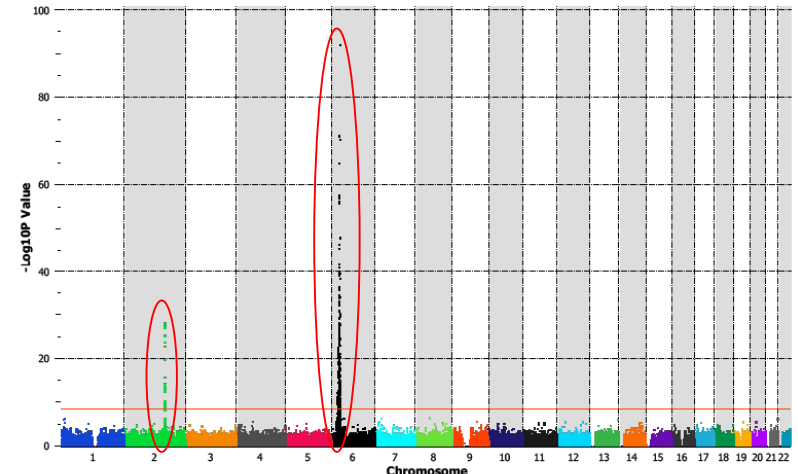
French (n=75 ; c=157)



Dutch (n=146 ; c=1832)



British (n=335 ; c=349)

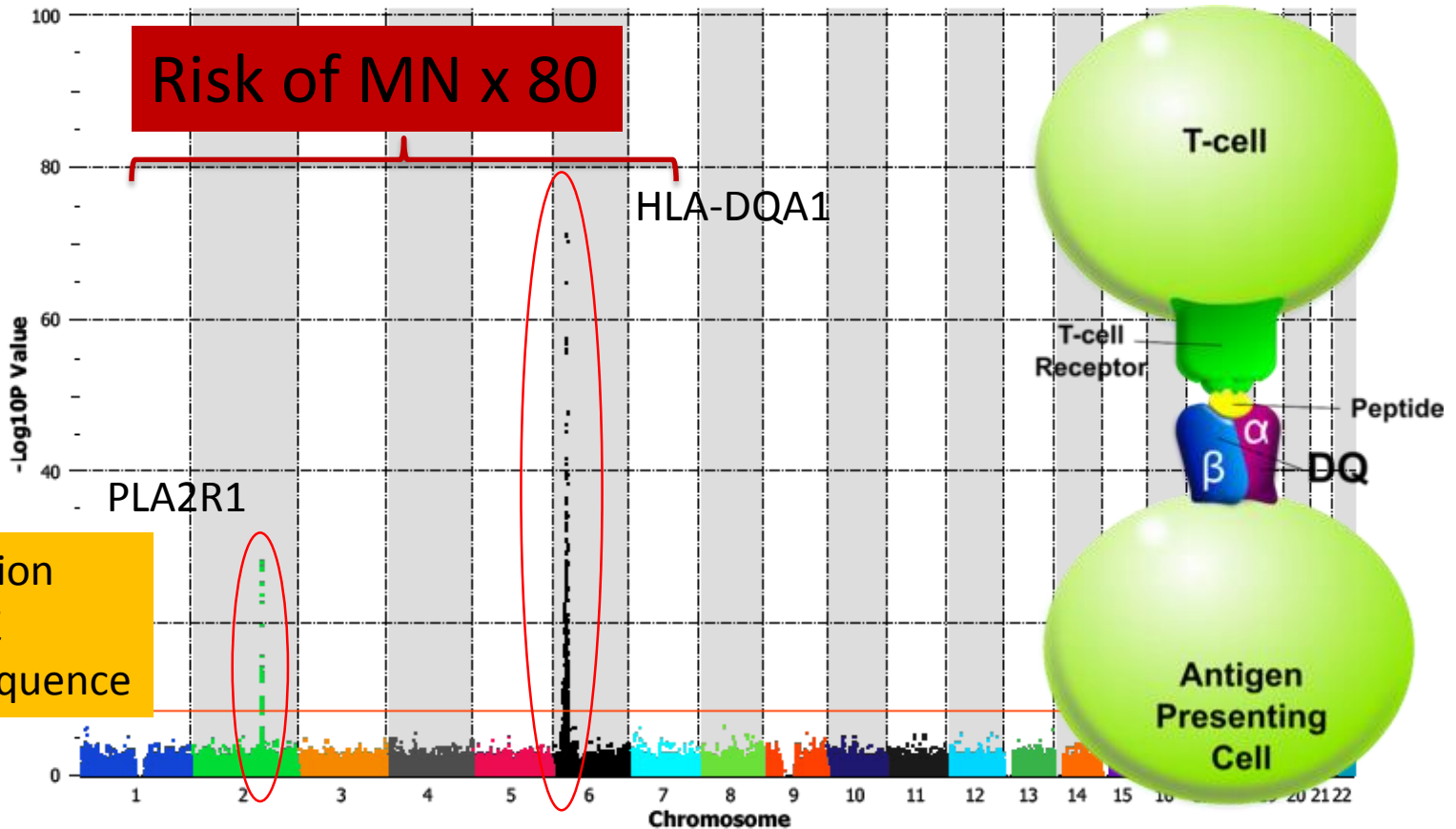


All patients (n=556; c=2338)

*Stanescu et al, New Engl J Med, 2011, 364: 616*

# From polygenic disease to rare association of common variants

556 Patients ; 2338 controls (Euro MN Consortium = F+UK+NL)



Stanescu et al, *New Engl J Med*, 2011, 364: 616 ; Coenen et al, *J Am Soc Nephrol*, 2013,24:677

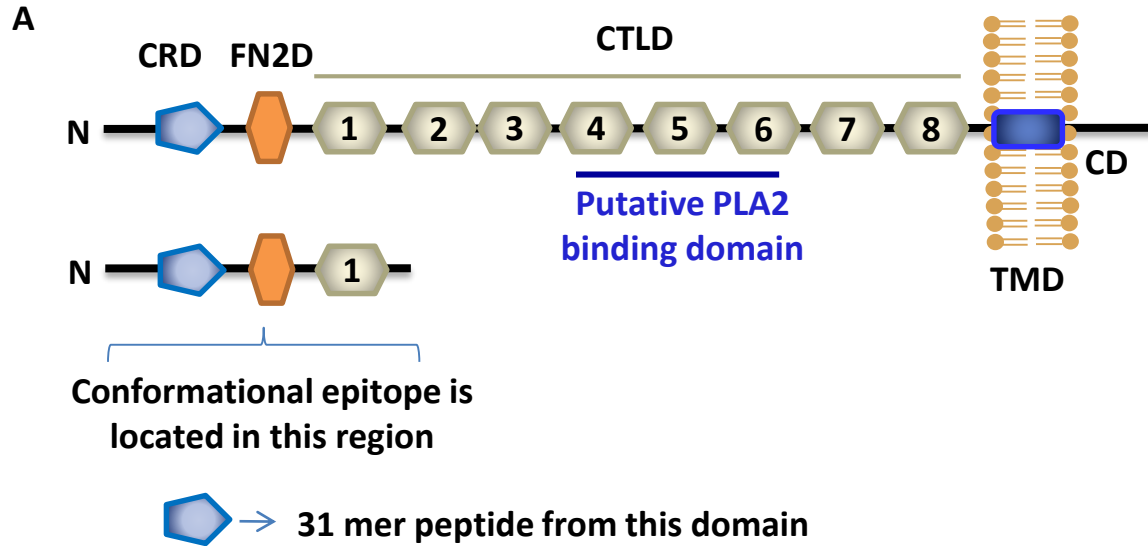
# Are anti-PLA2R antibodies pathogenic?

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- Transfer experiments impossible because of lack of expression of PLA2R in mouse, rat and rabbit podocytes
- Lack of experimental model
- Strong predictive value of anti-PLA2R antibody
- Recurrence after transplantation : « The human model » of passive Heymann nephritis
- Exceptional case of recurrence related to PLA2R IgG3k mAb (Debiec et al, JASN 2012, 23:1949)

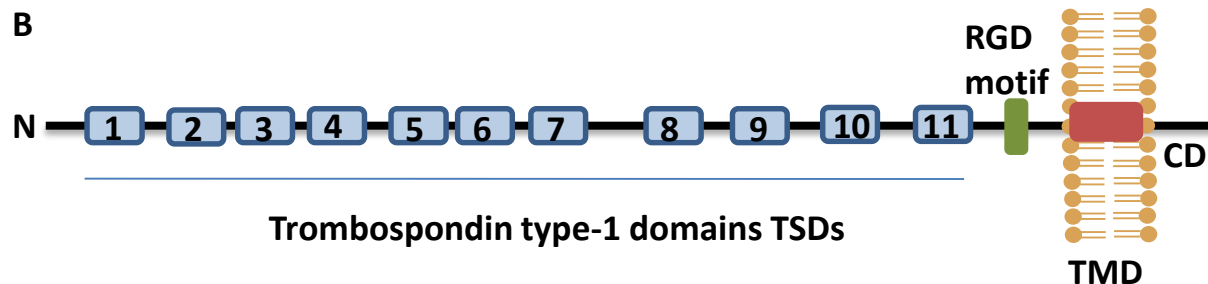
# A new podocyte antigen in adult patients with MN : THSD7A

## PLA2R



*Kao et al, JASN 2014, Sept 9 ;  
Fresquet et al, JASN 2014, Oct 6*

## Thrombospondin type-1 domain containing 7A (THSD7A)



*Tomas et al, NEJM 2014, 371: 2277*

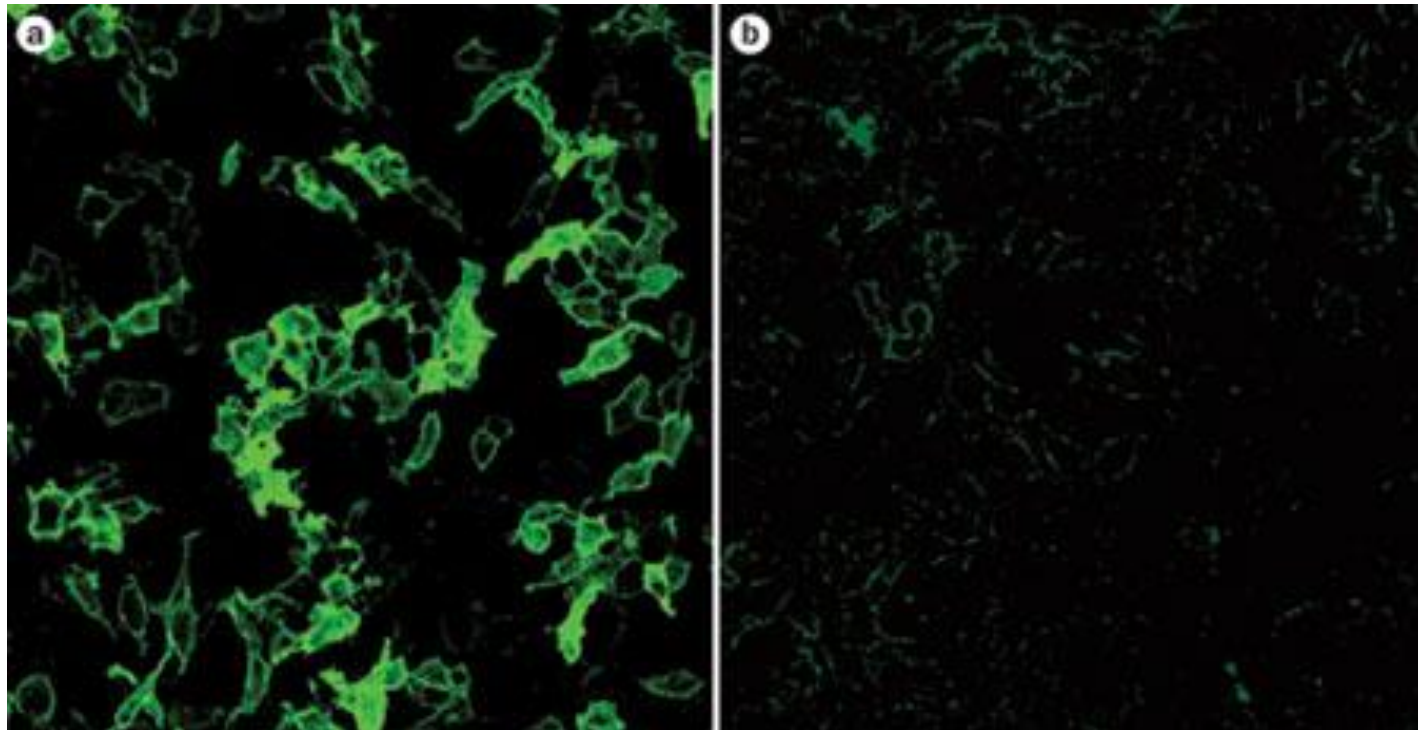
10 % of PLA2R-negative patients with MN

From the bench to the bedside : A  
success story of fast-speed  
translational research

NEPHROTIC SYNDROME

# A new specific test for idiopathic membranous nephropathy

*Hanna Debiec and Pierre Ronco*

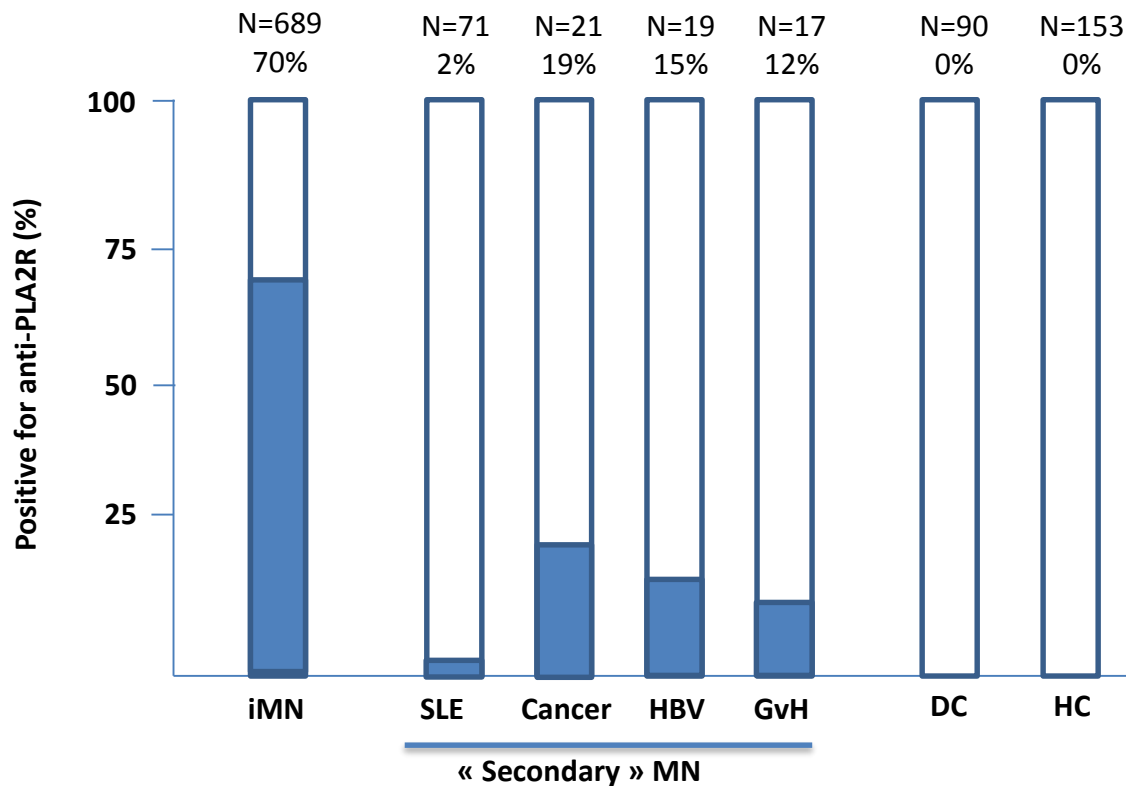


Debiec, H. & Ronco, P. *Nat. Rev. Nephrol.* 7, 496–498 (2011)

*Hoxha E et al, NDT 2011, 26:2526*



# Specificity and sensitivity of PLA2R antibody



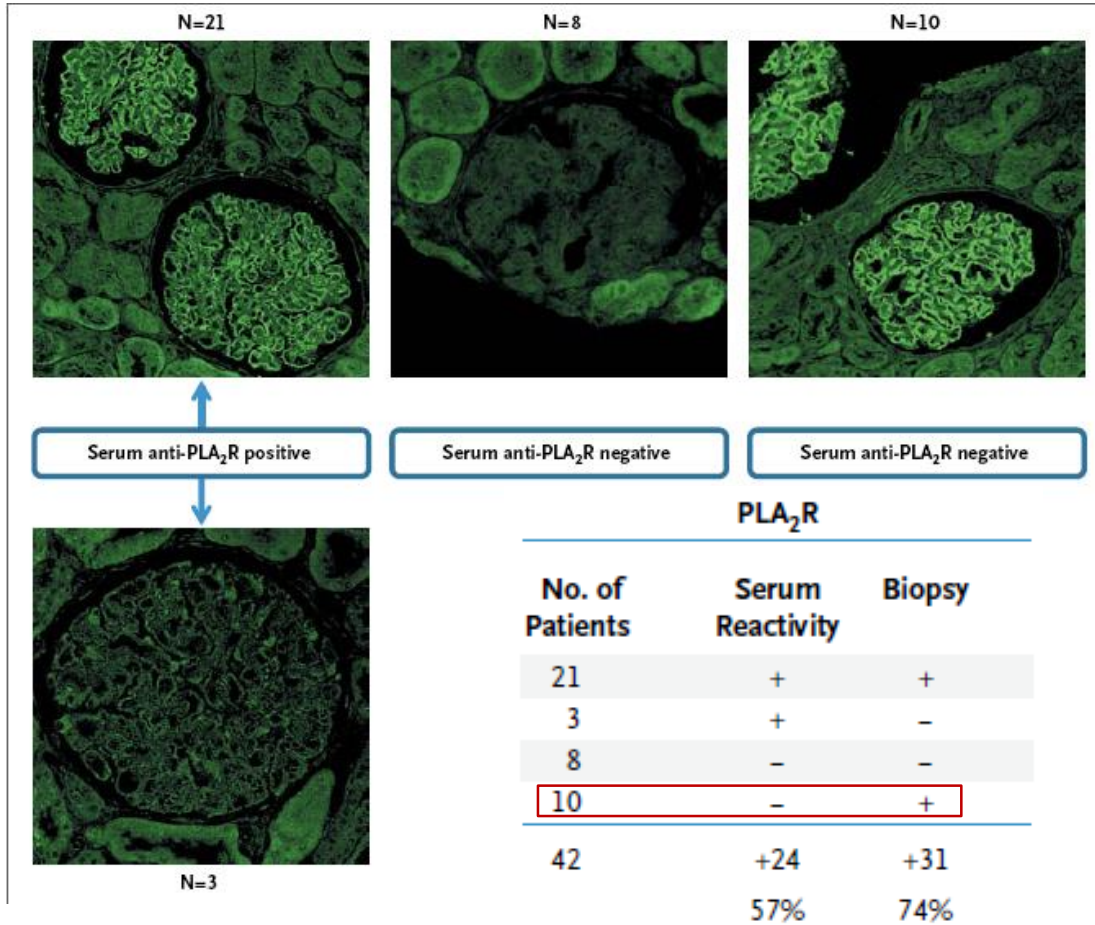
## Meta-analysis (2014)

- 15 studies, 2212 patients
- **Specificity = 99%**  
(95% CI : 96-100%)
- **Sensitivity = 78%**  
(95% CI : 66-87%)

*Du et al, PLoSOne 2014, 9:e104936*

*Debiec, Tesar and Ronco; Hofstra JASN 2012 ;  
Hoxha et al, NDT 2011, KI 2012; Qin et al, JASN 2011*

# Antigen detection in biopsy is more sensitive than serology



Tenon cohort 2000-2014

- n = 106 (84 iMN ; 22 sMN)
- sensitivity PLA<sub>2</sub>R - Ag : 86%
- " aPLA<sub>2</sub>R-Ab : 76%

*Pourcine et al, unpublished*



*Debiec and Ronco, New Engl J Med, 2011, 364 :689 ; Svobodova et al, NDT, 2013, 28:1839 ; Hofstra et al, J Am Soc Nephrol, 2012, 23:1735 ; Ruggenenti et al, J Am Soc Nephrol, 2015, March 24*

# Management of newly diagnosed MN

Newly diagnosed  
Membranous nephropathy

*Cambier J and Ronco P,  
Clin JASN, 2012 7:1701*

1. Anti-PLA2R & PLA2R Antigen in kidney biopsy
2. IgG subclasses in biopsy
3. N° inflam. cells per glomeruli

Antibody/Ag (+) AND IgG4 predominance AND inflammatory cells per glomeruli  $\leq 8$

## Idiopathic MN

Stop investigation except if personal and hereditary cancer risk factors

Antibody/Ag (-) OR IgG1-2 predominance OR  $> 8$  inflammatory cells per glomeruli

Secondary MN  
Search for cancer

## High levels of PLA2R-Ab are correlated with :

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- A lower rate of remission, either spontaneous or induced by IS treatment
- A higher risk :
  - of occurrence of nephrotic syndrome in non-nephrotic patients
  - of renal function deterioration
- A longer time to remission under IS treatment

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*Kanigicherla D et al, Kidney Int 2013 83: 940 ;*

*Hofstra JM et al, JASN 2012 23: 1735 ; Hoxha E et al, JASN 2014 25:1357 ;*

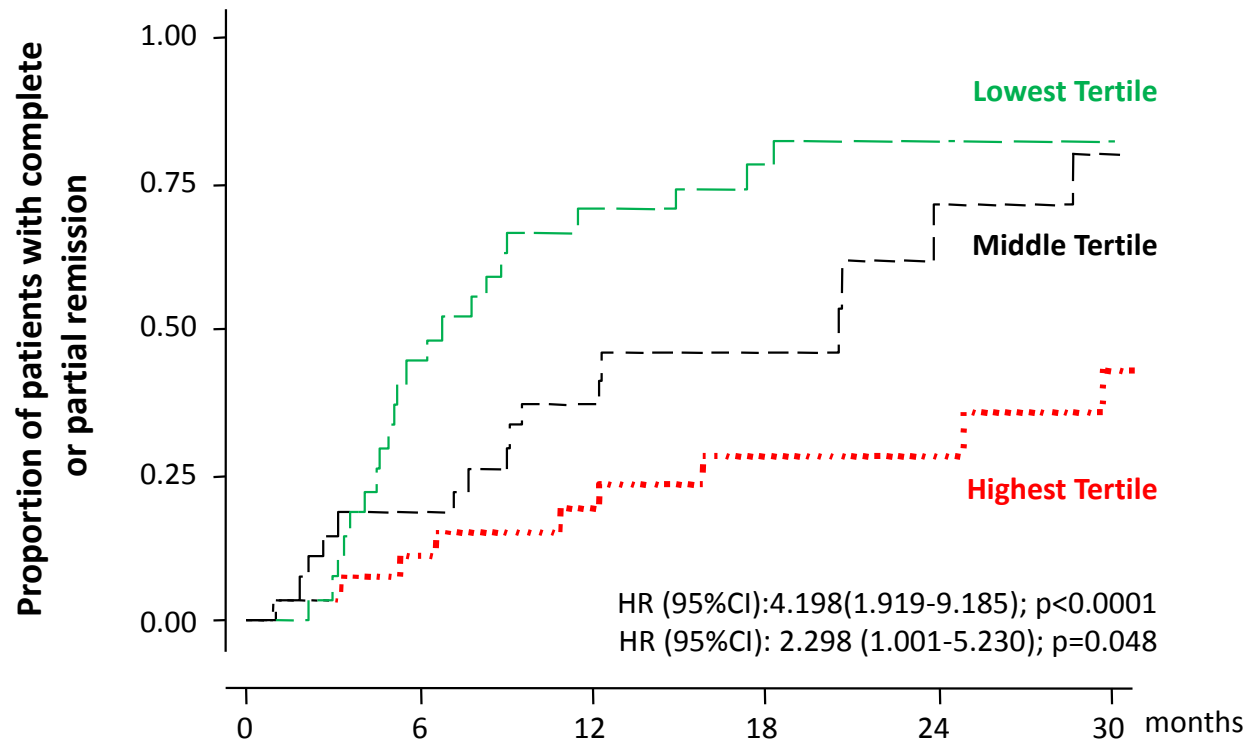
*Ruggenti P et al, JASN 2015, March 14; Hoxha E et al, PLoS One 2014 9:e110681*

# Predicting disease remission and relapse in patients treated with Rituximab

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- Mario Negri cohort : 132 patients with idiopathic MN and long-lasting nephrotic syndrome
- Median follow-up of 31 months (6 to 145)
- 84/132 (63.6%) achieved complete or partial remission
- Antibodies measured by ELISA (EuroImmune)
- 81/101 (80%) with detectable antibodies (31 non available)

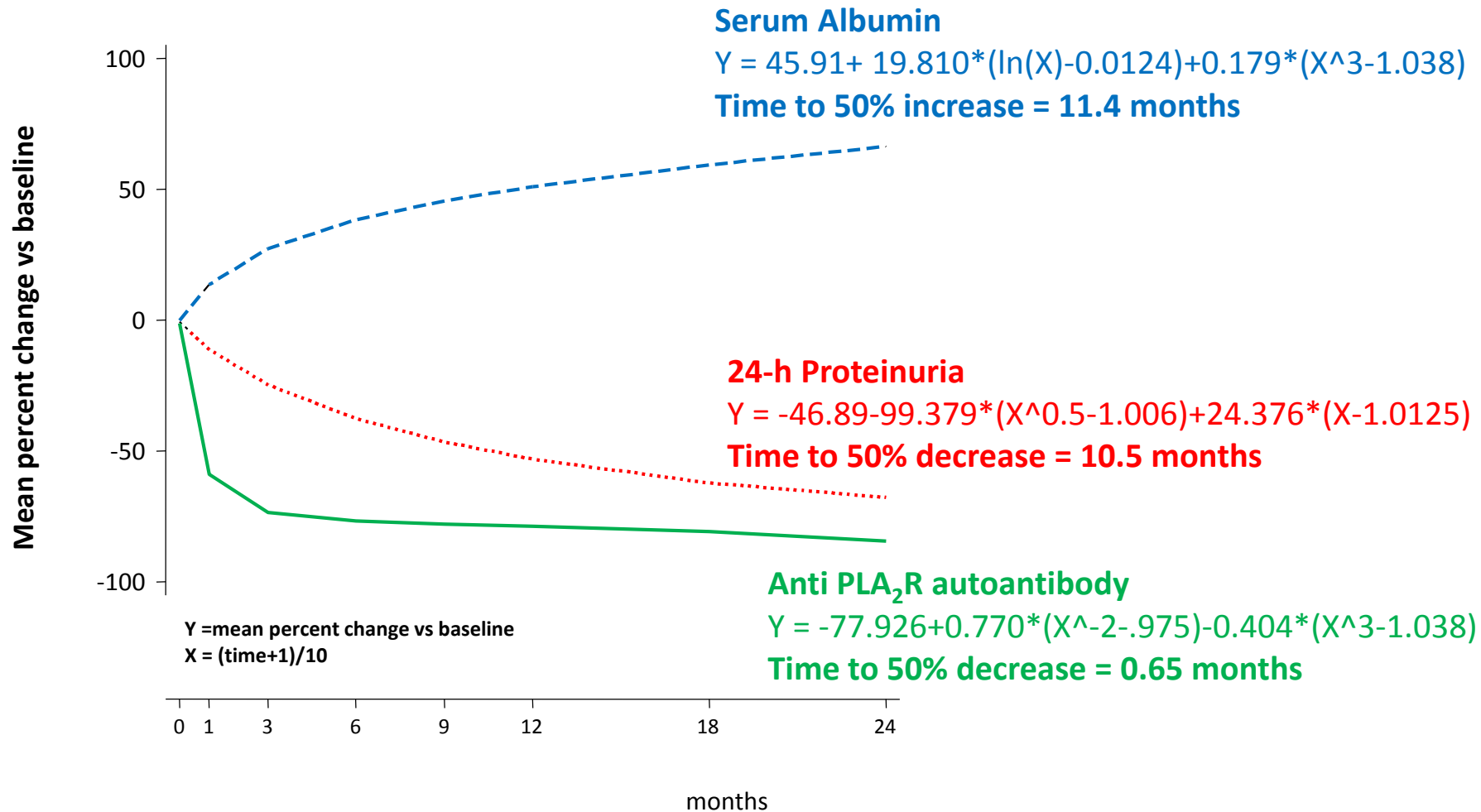
# Proportion of PLA2R-positive patients with remission is strongly dependent on antibody titer



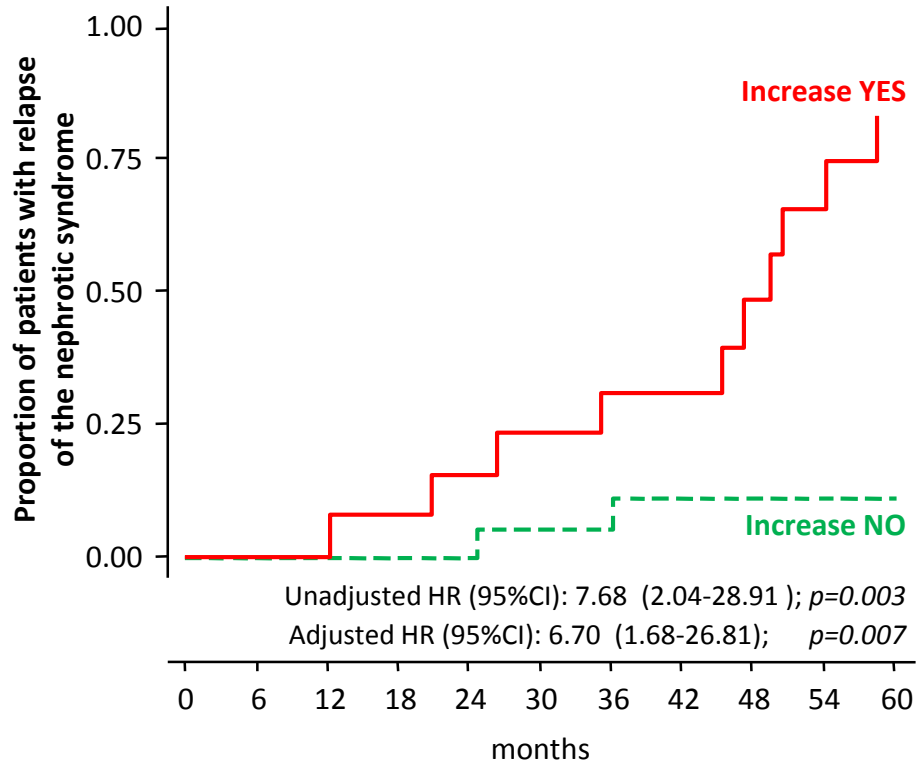
Patients at risk

Lowest Tertile	27	15	8	6	4	3
Middle Tertile	27	22	16	8	3	2
Highest Tertile	27	22	20	14	11	6

# Percent changes in proteinuria, serum albumin and anti-PLA2R antibody levels

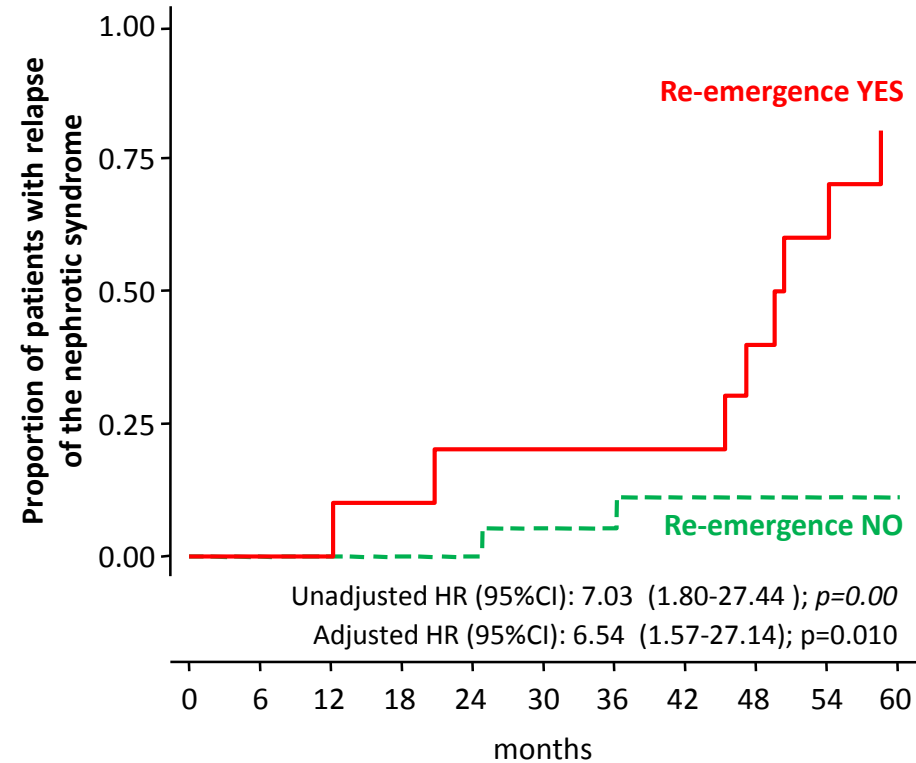


# PLA2R Ab titer increase or antibody re-emergence is associated with a high risk of relapse



Patients at risk

Increase NO	31	31	27	26	24	16	16	12	12	11	10
Increase YES	13	13	13	12	11	10	9	8	6	4	2



Patients at risk

Emergence NO	31	31	27	26	24	16	16	12	12	11	10
Emergence YES	10	10	10	9	8	8	8	8	6	4	2



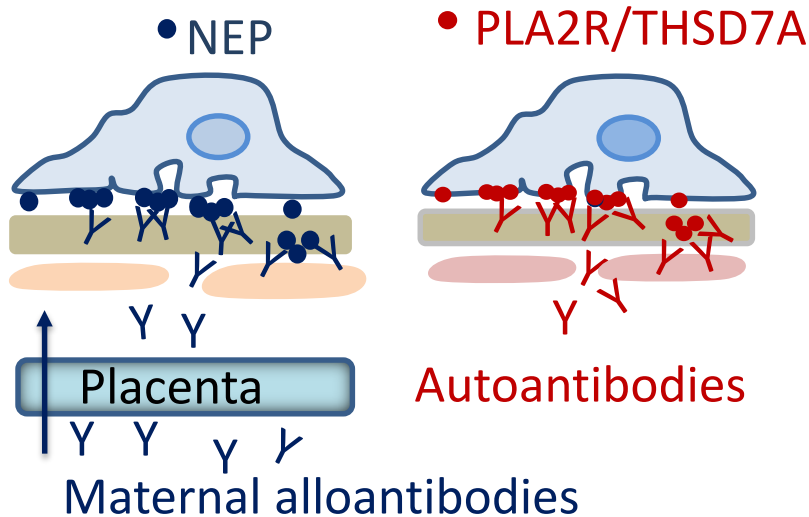
# What should we do in 2015?

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- Assess anti-PLA2R antibody in all adult patients with a suspected diagnosis of MN, starting with the IF test (specificity, 100% ; sensitivity, 70 to 80%), and anti-THSD7A antibody in PLA2R-negative patients
- Search for PLA2R antigen in kidney biopsies from all patients with MN, and for THSD7A in PLA2R-negative biopsies
- Determine Ig subclass in kidney biopsies from all patients with MN
- Monitor anti-PLA2R antibody titer during follow-up and in grafted patients with MN

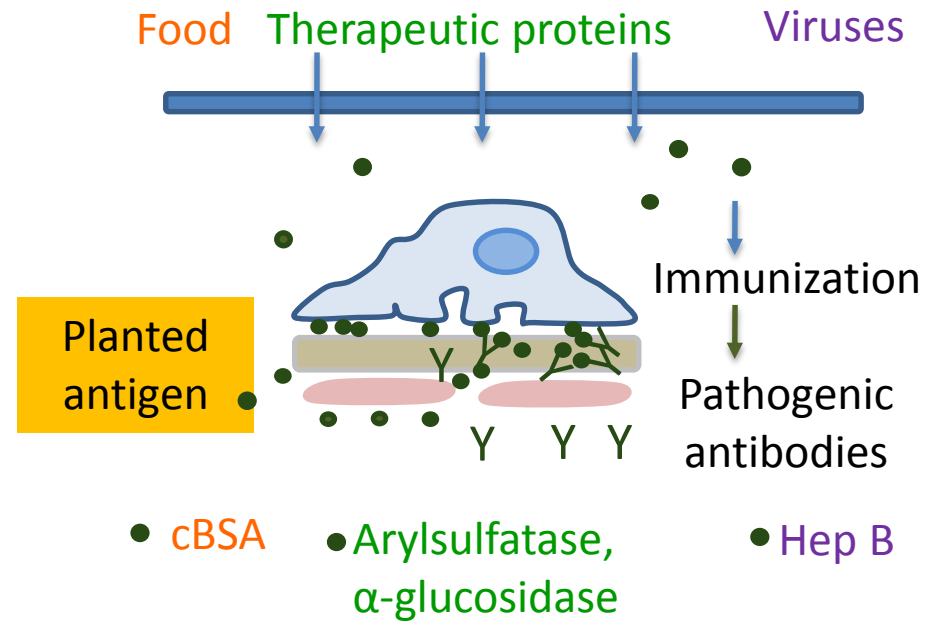
# Antibodies and their targets

## A Endogenous antigen and allo- or autoantibodies



$\alpha$ -enolase  
SOD2  
Aldose reductase

## B Exogenous antigen and allo- or xenoantibodies



# Identification of new triggering factors : The example of bovine serum albumin (BSA)

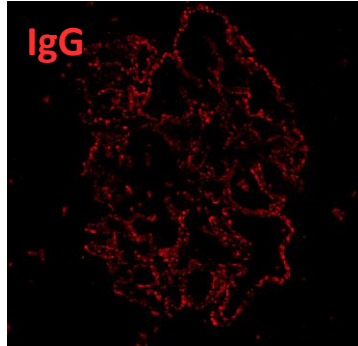
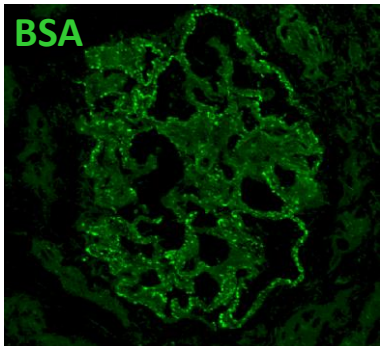
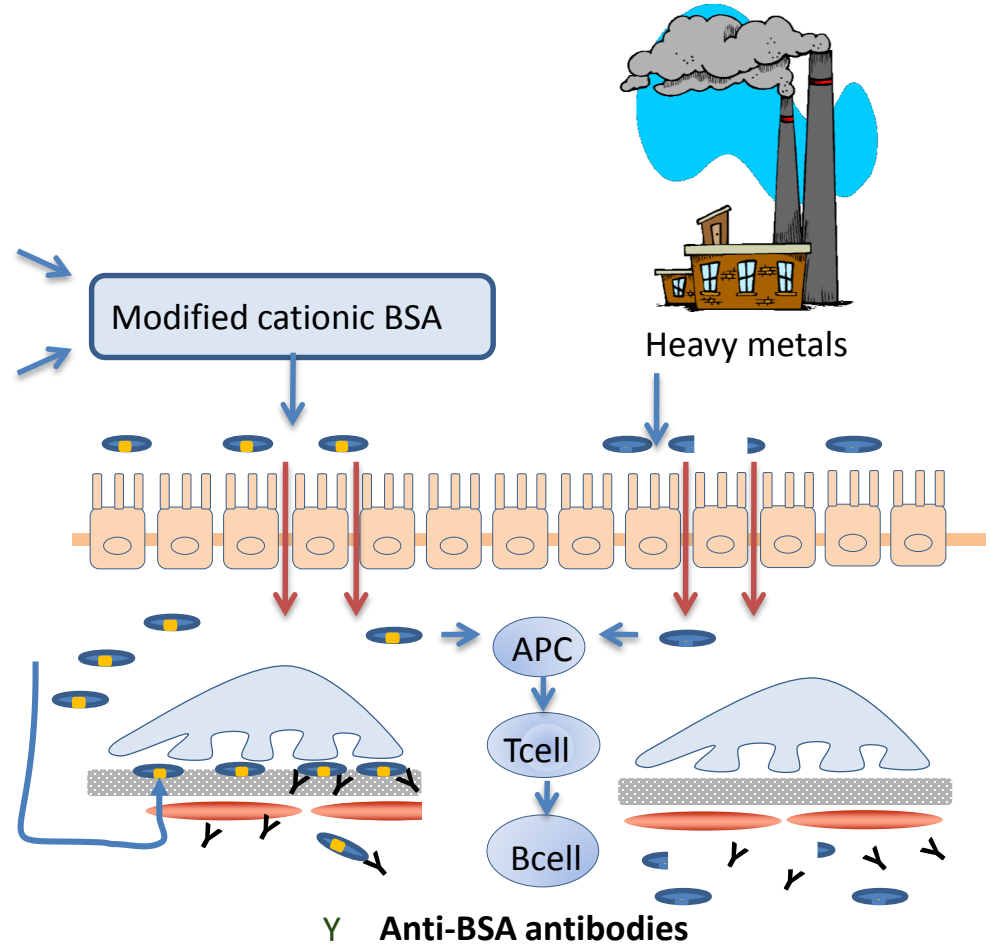


Heat processed  
milk/beef

Intestinal  
microbiota

Modified cationic BSA

Heavy metals



*Debiec et al, New Engl J Med, 2011, 364:2101*

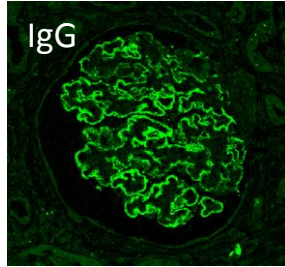
# Why is it important to detect BSA antigen in immune deposits in children < 5 years ?

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- Circulating anti-BSA antibodies are not rare in all ages, including adult patients with MN
  - Only children have circulating cationic BSA antigen together with circulating antibodies, and BSA antigen deposited in glomeruli
  - Withdrawal of BSA from the food may cure the disease without steroids
-



# From the podocyte to new therapeutic approaches of autoimmune diseases



*Debiec et al, Lancet, 2015, 385:1983*

Eliminating environmental factors:  
diet, toxin

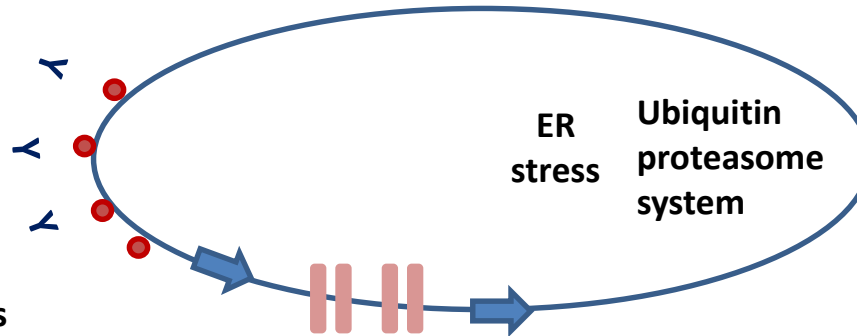


Reducing autoantibodies

Depletion of B-cells  
(non specific)

Depletion of B-cells  
producing pathogenic  
antibodies

Development of  
antibody traps or  
decoys



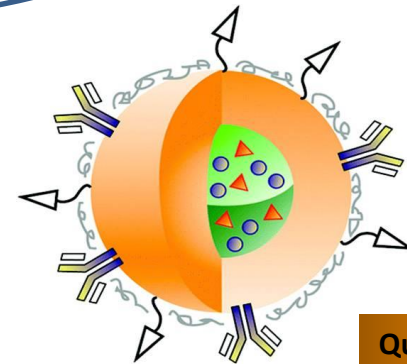
Protecting the podocyte

C5b-9 complex

Inhibitors of ER stress

Inhibiting complement  
activation

Drug design ▲



40-400 nm

Quantum Rattle

*Humbury, PNAS 2015*

*D. Bazin & C. Sanchez,  
Collège de France*

*B. Iorga, CNRS Gif*

# The expanding spectrum of human membranous nephropathies

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- Neonatal, alloimmune : NEP
- Early childhood MN : cationic BSA
- Enzymotherapy-induced MN in patients treated with ERT
  - $\alpha$ -glucosidase
  - arylsulfatase
- « Idiopathic » MN
  - 75-85%: PLA<sub>2</sub>R (+ other specificities : AR, SOD2, enolase...?)
  - <10 %: THSD7A (10% of PLA<sub>2</sub>R negative MN), associated with cancer?
- Secondary MN : Hep B antigens, other antigens to be identified
- Graft MN :
  - Recurrent : PLA<sub>2</sub>R (> 50%)
  - De novo : allo-immune

# What's next ?

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- Understand the genetic bases of disease triggering, spontaneous remission and progression by next generation sequencing
- Identify additional antigens and T cell populations involved in triggering and progression
- Design new therapeutic strategies based on specific immunointervention and complement inhibition



- Substitute molecular signatures for uniform histological definition : Towards new ontology...
- And personalized medicine, diagnostic and therapy (specific immunoadsorption)



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