

30 years of Mitochondrial Medicine

(a brief history of mtDNA and a last chapter)

Valerio Carelli MD, PhD

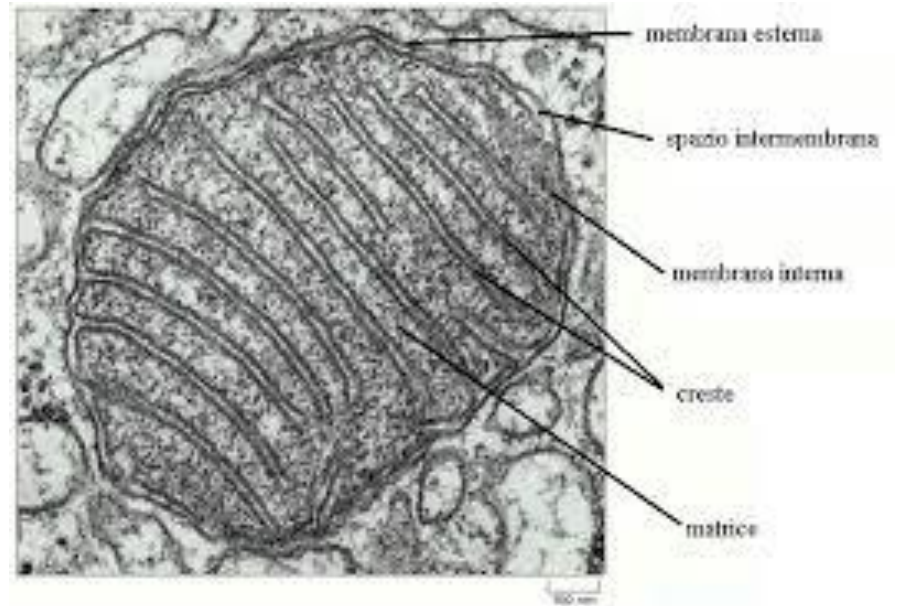
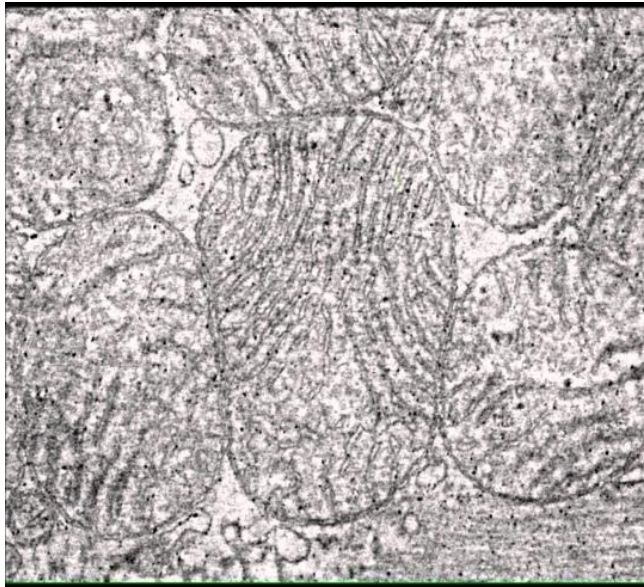
IRCCS Institute of Neurological Sciences of Bologna (ISNB),
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Neurology Unit, Department of Biomedical and NeuroMotor Sciences
(DiBiNeM), University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy



MITOCHONDRIA



Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA): 16.569 bp

INTRAMITOCHONDRIAL FIBERS WITH DNA CHARACTERISTICS

I. Fixation and Electron Staining Reactions

MARGIT M. K. NASS, Ph.D., and SYLVAN NASS, Ph.D.

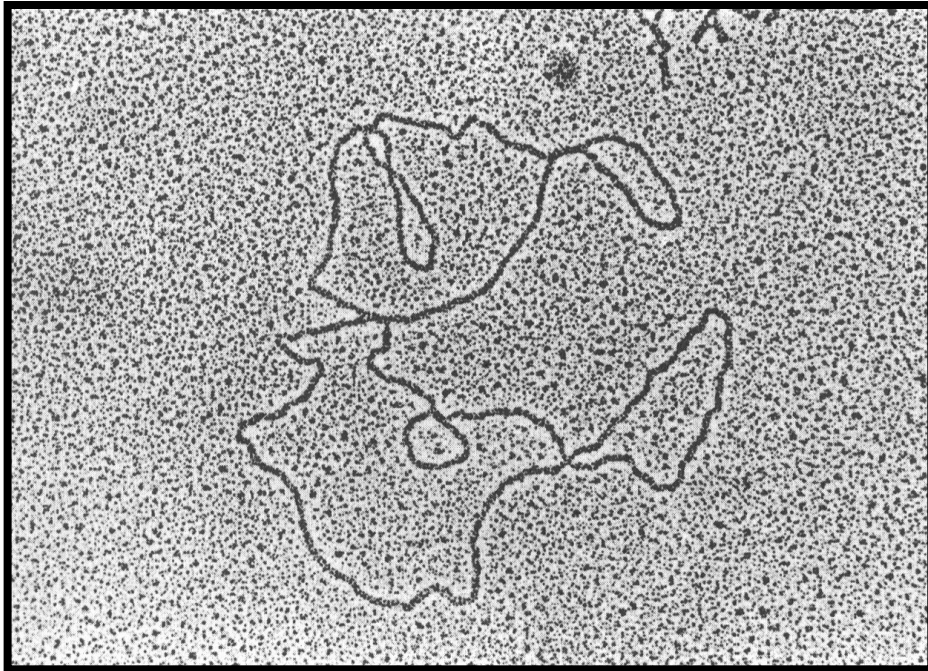
From the Wenner-Gren Institute for Experimental Biology, Stockholm University,
Stockholm, Sweden

INTRAMITOCHONDRIAL FIBERS WITH DNA CHARACTERISTICS

II. Enzymatic and Other Hydrolytic Treatments

SYLVAN NASS, Ph.D., and MARGIT M. K. NASS, Ph.D.

From the Wenner-Gren Institute for Experimental Biology, Stockholm University,
Stockholm, Sweden

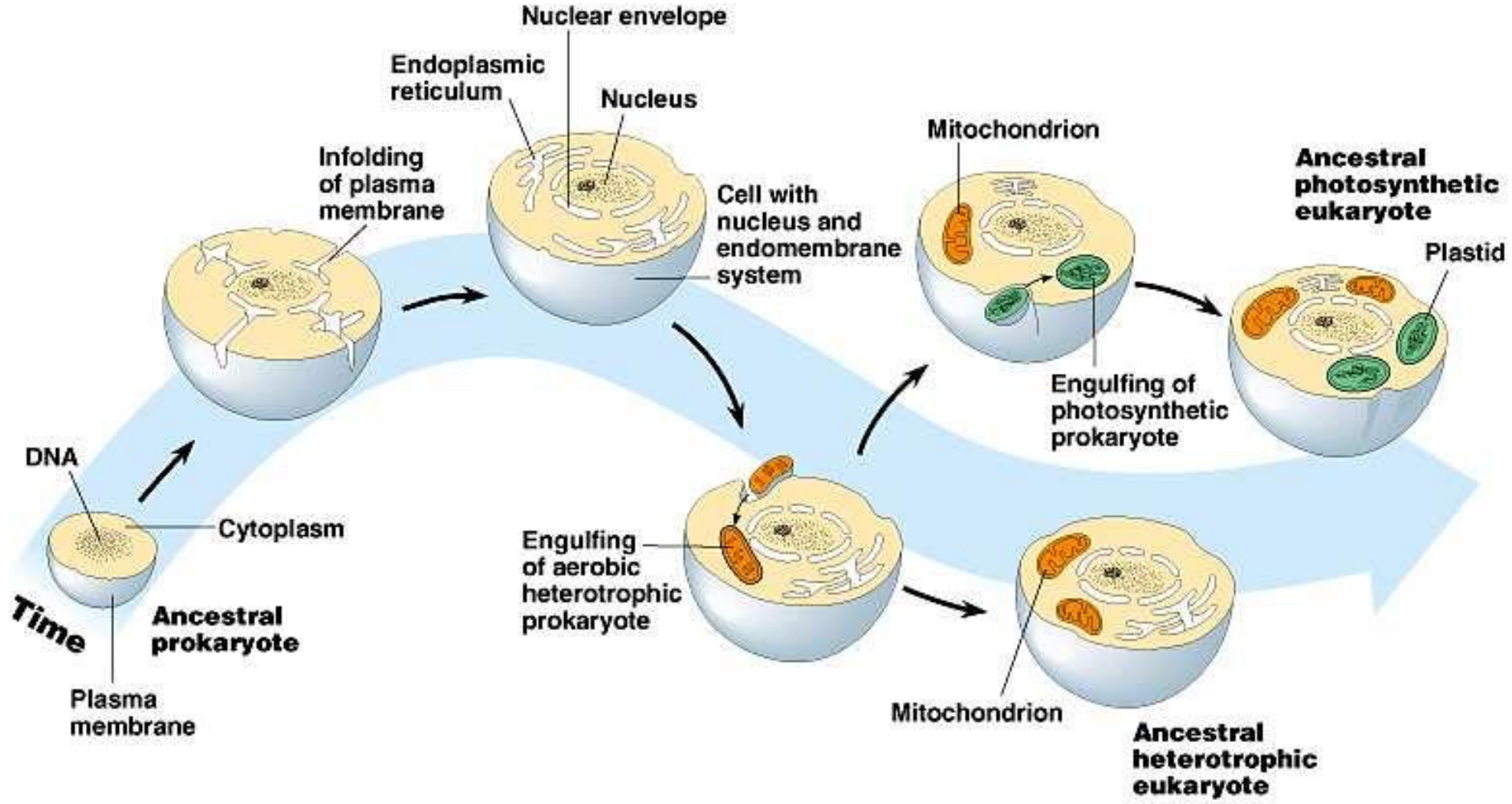


Communicated by Britton Chance, August 29, 1966

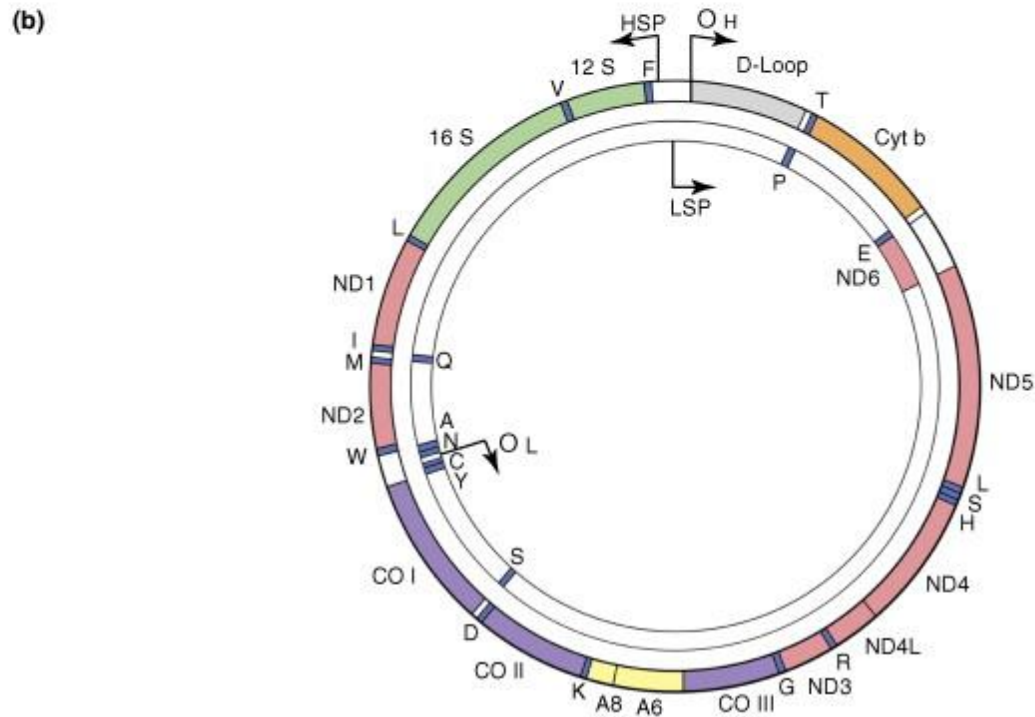
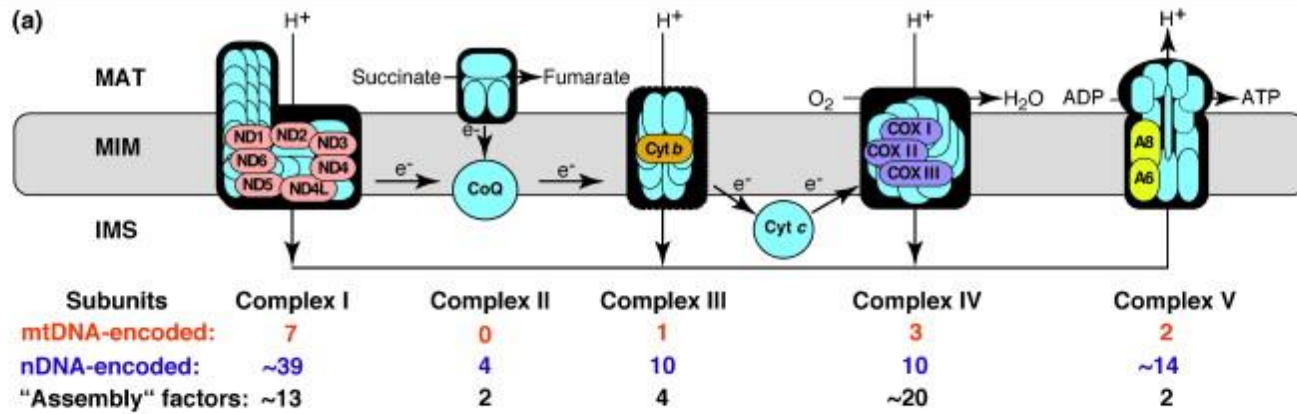
of the last few years have demonstrated that a small amount of DNA specifically in one or more central regions of mitochondria¹⁻⁴ represent vertebrate and invertebrate phyla.⁴ A DNA differing in compositional^{6, 8, 9} properties from nuclear DNA can be isolated from purified mitochondria of many organisms. A rapidly expanding body of literature, all

Lynn Margulis (1938-2011)

Endosymbiotic origin of mitochondria (1967)



Respiratory chain and ATP synthase (OXPHOS)



A CASE OF SEVERE HYPERMETABOLISM OF NONTHYROID ORIGIN WITH
A DEFECT IN THE MAINTENANCE OF MITOCHONDRIAL RE-
SPIRATORY CONTROL: A CORRELATED CLINICAL, BIO-
CHEMICAL, AND MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY

By ROLF LUFT,* DENIS IKKOS,* GENARO PALMIERI,* LARS ERNSTER † AND
BJÖRN AFZELIUS ‡

(From the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Karolinska Sjukhuset, and the
Departments of Physiological Chemistry and Biophysics, Wenner-Gren Institute,
University of Stockholm, Sweden)

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA
Vol. 77, No. 11, pp. 6715-6719, November 1980
Genetics



Maternal inheritance of human mitochondrial DNA

(genetic polymorphism/restriction endonuclease cleavage map/blood platelets)

RICHARD E. GILES*†, HUGUES BLANC*, HOWARD M. CANN*‡, AND DOUGLAS C. WALLACE*§

*Department of Genetics and †Department of Pediatrics, Stanford University Medical School, Stanford, California 94305

Communicated by L. L. Cavalli-Sforza, July 28, 1980

Nature Vol. 290 9 April 1981

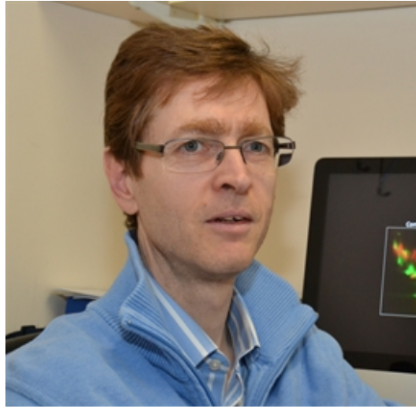
Sequence and organization of the human mitochondrial genome

S. Anderson, A. T. Bankier, B. G. Barrell, M. H. L. de Bruijn, A. R. Coulson,
J. Drouin*, I. C. Eperon, D. P. Nierlich*, B. A. Roe*, F. Sanger, P. H. Schreier*,
A. J. H. Smith, R. Staden & I. G. Young*

MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QH, UK

The complete sequence of the 16,569-base pair human mitochondrial genome is presented. The genes for the 12S and 16S rRNAs, 22 tRNAs, cytochrome c oxidase subunits I, II and III, ATPase subunit 6, cytochrome b and eight other predicted protein coding genes have been located. The sequence shows extreme economy in that the genes have none or only a few noncoding bases between them, and in many cases the termination codons are not coded in the DNA but are created post-transcriptionally by polyadenylation of the mRNAs.

1988 – 1995 Mitochondrial Medicine starts



Science, Vol. 242, No. 4884 (Dec. 9, 1988), pp. 1427–1430

Mitochondrial DNA Mutation Associated with Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy

DOUGLAS C. WALLACE,* GURPARKASH SINGH, MARIE T. LOTT,
JUDY A. HODGE, THEODORE G. SCHURR, ANGELA M. S. LEZZA,
LOUIS J. ELSAS II, EEVA K. NIKOSKELAINEN

Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy is a maternally inherited disease resulting in optic nerve degeneration and cardiac dysrhythmia. A mitochondrial DNA replacement mutation was identified that correlated with this disease in multiple families. This mutation converted a highly conserved arginine to a histidine at codon 340 in the NADH dehydrogenase subunit 4 gene and eliminated an Sfa NI site, thus providing a simple diagnostic test. This finding demonstrated that a nucleotide change in a mitochondrial DNA energy production gene can result in a neurological disease.



NATURE VOL. 331 25 FEBRUARY 1988

Deletions of muscle mitochondrial DNA in patients with mitochondrial myopathies

I. J. Holt, A. E. Harding & J. A. Morgan-Hughes

Department of Clinical Neurology, Institute of Neurology,
Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG, UK

In vitro studies of muscle mitochondrial metabolism in patients with mitochondrial myopathy have identified a variety of functional defects of the mitochondrial respiratory chain, predominantly affecting complex I (NADH-CoQ reductase) or complex III (ubiquinol-cytochrome *c* reductase) in adult cases^{1–3}. These two enzymes consist of ~36 subunits, eight of which are encoded by mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)^{4–6}. The increased incidence of maternal, as opposed to paternal, transmission in familial mitochondrial myopathy suggests that these disorders may be caused by mutations of mtDNA^{7,8}. Multiple restriction endonuclease analysis of leukocyte mtDNA from patients with the disease, and their relatives, showed no differences in cleavage patterns between affected and unaffected individuals in any single maternal line. When muscle mtDNA was studied, nine of 25 patients were found to have two populations of muscle mtDNA, one of which had deletions of up to 7 kilobases in length. These observations demonstrate that mtDNA heteroplasmy can occur in man and that human disease may be associated with defects of the mitochondrial genome.

Nature Genetics volume 11 october 1995

Mutation of a nuclear succinate dehydrogenase gene results in mitochondrial respiratory chain deficiency

Thomas Bourgeron, Pierre Rustin, Dominique Chretien, Mark Birch-Machin,
Marie Bourgeois, Evani Viegas-Péquignot¹, Arnold Munnich & Agnès Rötig

Deletions of mitochondrial DNA in Kearns-Sayre syndrome

M. Zeviani, MD; C.T. Moraes, MSc; S. DiMauro, MD; H. Nakase, MD; E. Bonilla, MD; E.A. Schon, PhD; and L.P. Rowland, MD

NATURE · VOL 348 · 13 DECEMBER 1990

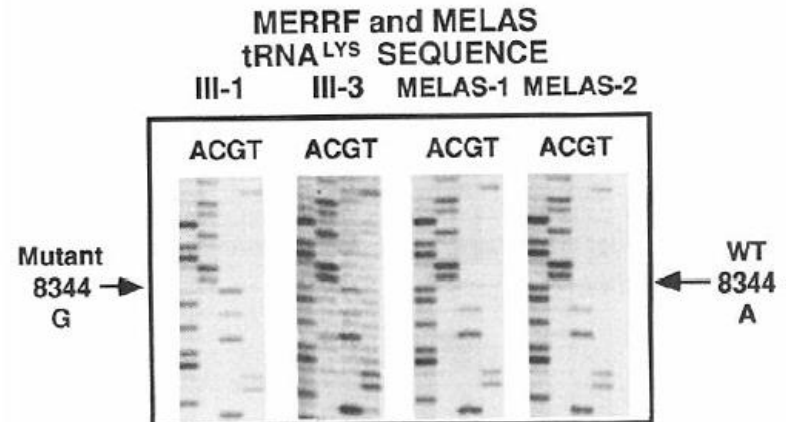
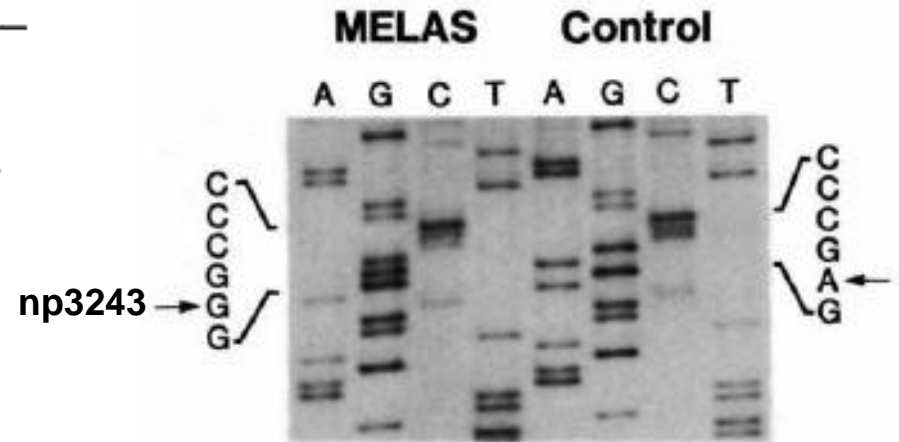
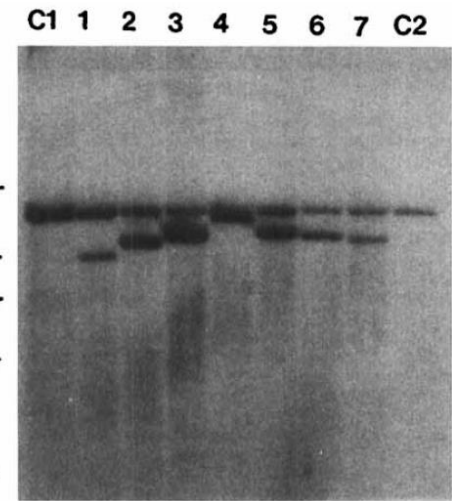
A mutation in the tRNA^{Leu(UUR)} gene associated with the MELAS subgroup of mitochondrial encephalomyopathies

Yu-ichi Goto*†, Ikuya Nonaka* & Satoshi Horai‡§

Cell, Vol. 61, 931-937, June 15, 1990, Copyright © 1990 by Cell Press

Myoclonic Epilepsy and Ragged-Red Fiber Disease (MERRF) Is Associated with a Mitochondrial DNA tRNA^{Lys} Mutation

John M. Shoffner,* Marie T. Lott,†
Angela M. S. Lezza,†‡ Peter Seibel,†§
Scott W. Ballinger,† and Douglas C. Wallace*†||



MELAS syndrome: Characteristic migrainous and epileptic features and maternal transmission

P. Montagna, MD; R. Gallassi, MD; R. Medori, MD; E. Govoni, MD; M. Zeviani, MD; S. Di Mauro, MD;
E. Lugaresi, MD; and F. Andermann, MD

Article abstract—Severe prolonged migrainous symptoms and prolonged partial status epilepticus are characteristic features of the MELAS syndrome (mitochondrial encephalomyopathy, lactic acidosis, and stroke-like episodes). Maternal transmission previously found in myoclonus epilepsy and ragged-red fibers (MERRF), another mitochondrial disease, is suggested in this disorder as well.

NEUROLOGY 1988;38:751-754

Prime descrizioni di
pazienti italiani con le
malattie mitocondriali
MELAS, LHON e NARP?

Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy: Genetic, biochemical, and phosphorus magnetic resonance spectroscopy study in an Italian family

P. Cortelli, MD; P. Montagna, MD; P. Avoni, MD; S. Sangiorgi, MD; N. Bresolin, MD; M. Moggio, MD;
P. Zaniol, PhD; V. Mantovani, MD; P. Barboni, MD; B. Barbiroli, MD; and E. Lugaresi, MD

Article abstract—Three siblings of a family affected with Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON) showed a mitochondrial DNA mutation at position 11778. The lactate response to a standardized effort was increased in only one case. Muscle biopsies and biochemistry of muscle and platelet mitochondrial enzymes were normal. All patients showed an altered energy metabolism during exercise and during recovery after exercise on phosphorus 31-magnetic resonance spectroscopy (³¹P-MRS) of muscle. Brain ³¹P-MRS showed a decreased energy reserve (decreased PCr/Pi ratio) in all patients. ³¹P-MRS noninvasively demonstrated an altered mitochondrial energy metabolism in muscle and, for the first time, in the brains of LHON patients.

NEUROLOGY 1991;41:1211-1215

British Journal of Ophthalmology 1993; 77: 84-88

Retinitis pigmentosa, ataxia, and mental retardation associated with mitochondrial DNA mutation in an Italian family

Piero Puddu, Piero Barboni, Vilma Mantovani, Pasquale Montagna, Angelina Cerullo, Michela Bragliani, Carla Molinotti, Roberto Caramazza



The clinical maze of mitochondrial neurology

Salvatore DiMauro, Eric A. Schon, Valerio Carelli and Michio Hirano

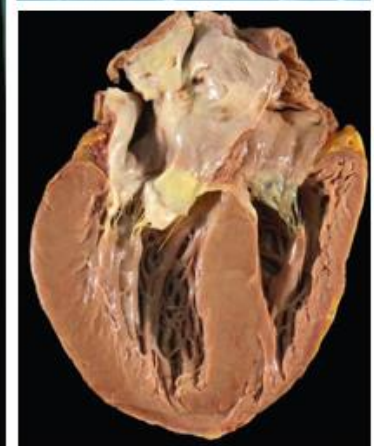
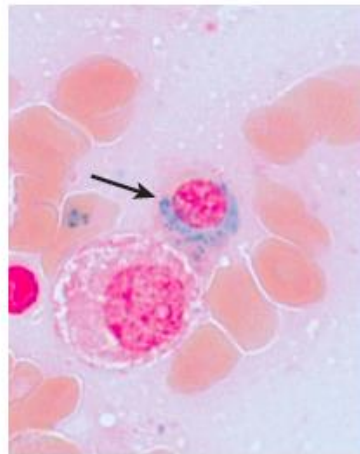
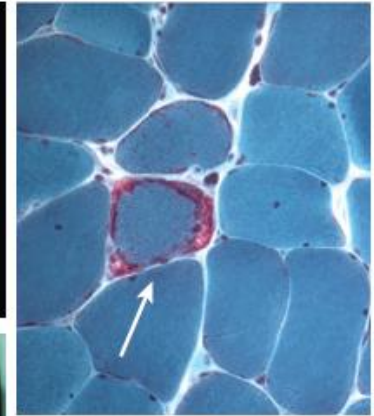
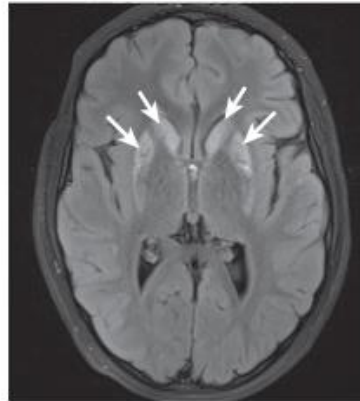
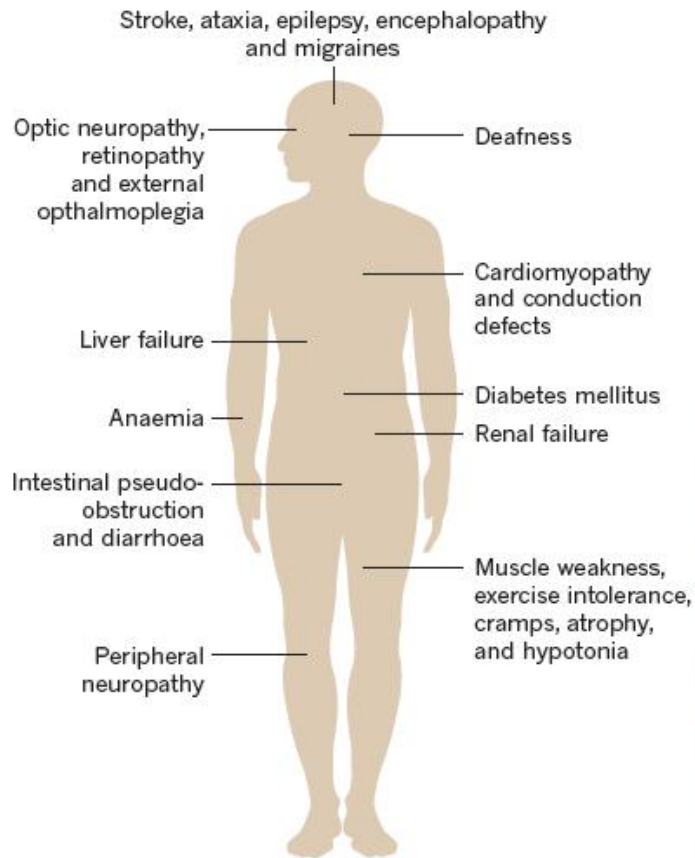
Mitochondrial disorders in neurology are either underdiagnosed (“what is this bizarre syndrome?”) or overdiagnosed (“this syndrome is so bizarre that it must be mitochondrial”).

Salvatore Di Mauro 2013

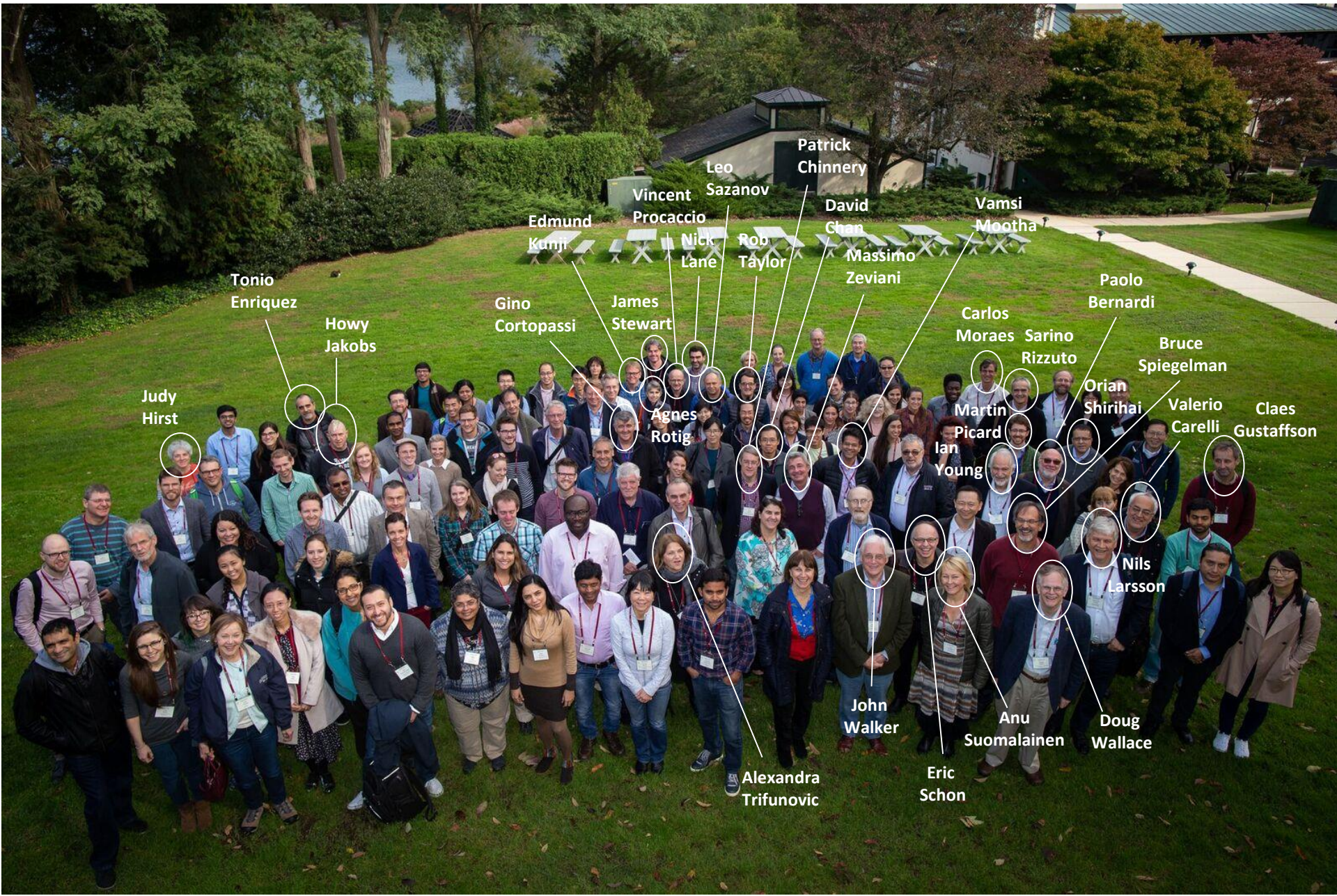


1988 – 2018

30 years of Mitochondrial Medicine



Historical meeting on mitochondrial genetics in Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory 2018



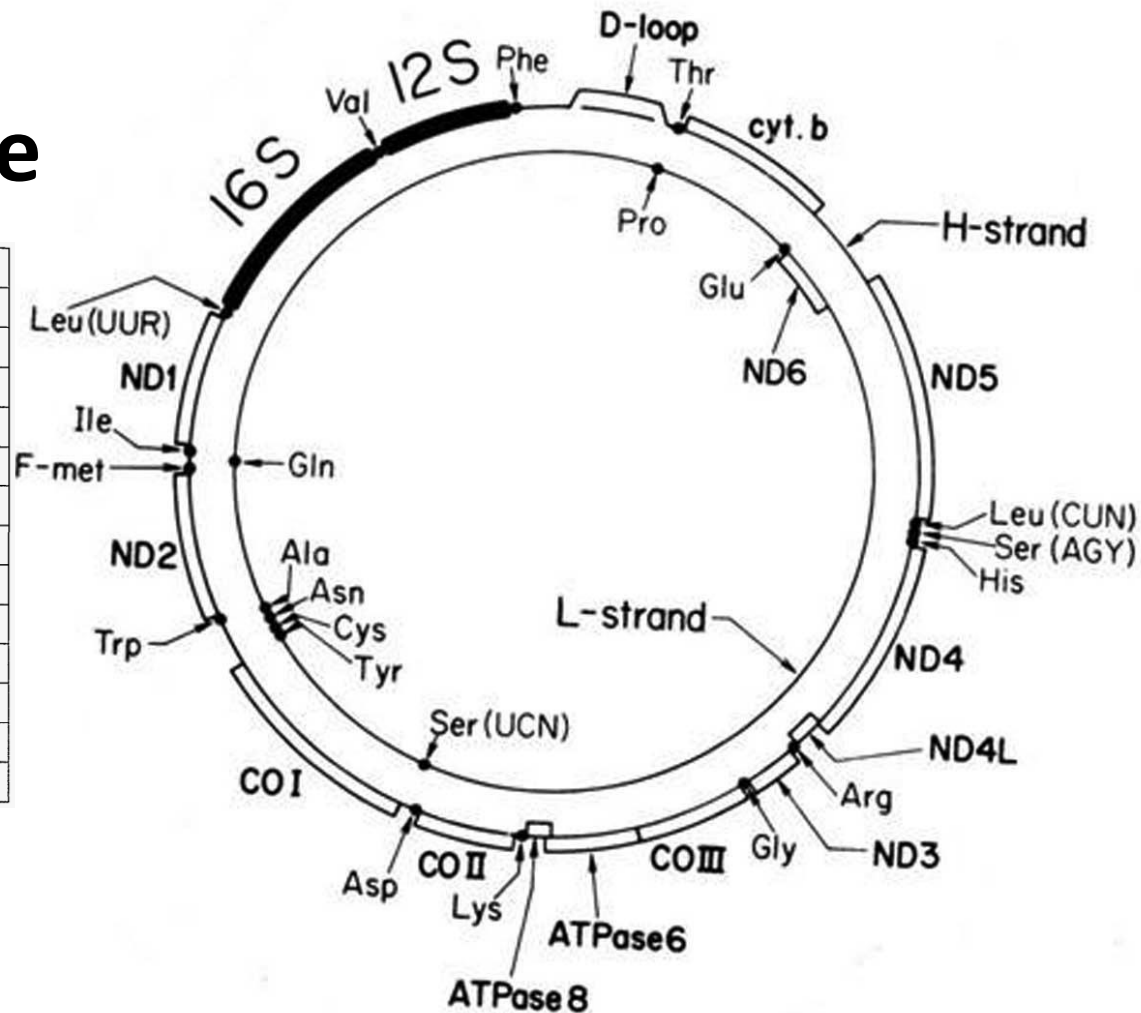
Different genetic code

RNA Codon	Nuclear Genetic Code	mtDNA Genetic Code		
		Mammals	Drosophila	Yeasts
UGA	STOP	Tryptophan	Tryptophan	Tryptophan
AGA, AGG	Arginine	STOP	Serine	Arginine
AUA	Isoleucine	Methionine	Methionine	Methionine
AUU	Isoleucine	Methionine	Methionine	Methionine
CUU, CUC, CUA, CUG	Leucine	Leucine	Leucine	Threonine

MtDNA is the only source of critical cellular proteins outside of the eukaryotic nucleus. In the majority of eukaryotes, mtDNA is organized as a circular, double-stranded DNA molecule (Fig. 1).⁵ The strands are distinguished by their nucleotide composition: heavy (H-strand) is guanine rich, compared with the cytosine-rich light strand (L-strand). The length varies between species (15 000–17 000 bp), but is fairly consistent in humans (~16 569 bp).⁵ MtDNA is a multi-copy DNA, with cells containing between 100 and 10 000 copies of mtDNA (dependent upon cellular energy demand).

mtDNA structure

Gene	Map Locus ^a	Abbreviation	Location ^b
NADH dehydrogenase 1	MTND1	ND1	3307-4262
NADH dehydrogenase 2	MTND2	ND2	4470-5511
NADH dehydrogenase 3	MTND3	ND3	10059-10404
NADH dehydrogenase 4L	MTND4L	ND4L	10470-10766
NADH dehydrogenase 4	MTND4	ND4	10760-12137
NADH dehydrogenase 5	MTND5	ND5	12337-14148
NADH dehydrogenase 6	MTND6	ND6	14149-14673
Cytochrome b	MTCYB	Cytb	14747-15887
Cytochrome c oxidase I	MTCO1	COI	5904-7445
Cytochrome c oxidase II	MTCO2	COII	7586-8269
Cytochrome c oxidase III	MTCO3	COIII	9207-9990
ATP synthase 6	MTATP6	ATP6	8527-9207
ATP synthase 8	MTATP8	ATP8	8366-8572



...and
22 tRNAs plus 2 rRNAs

mtDNA REPLISOME

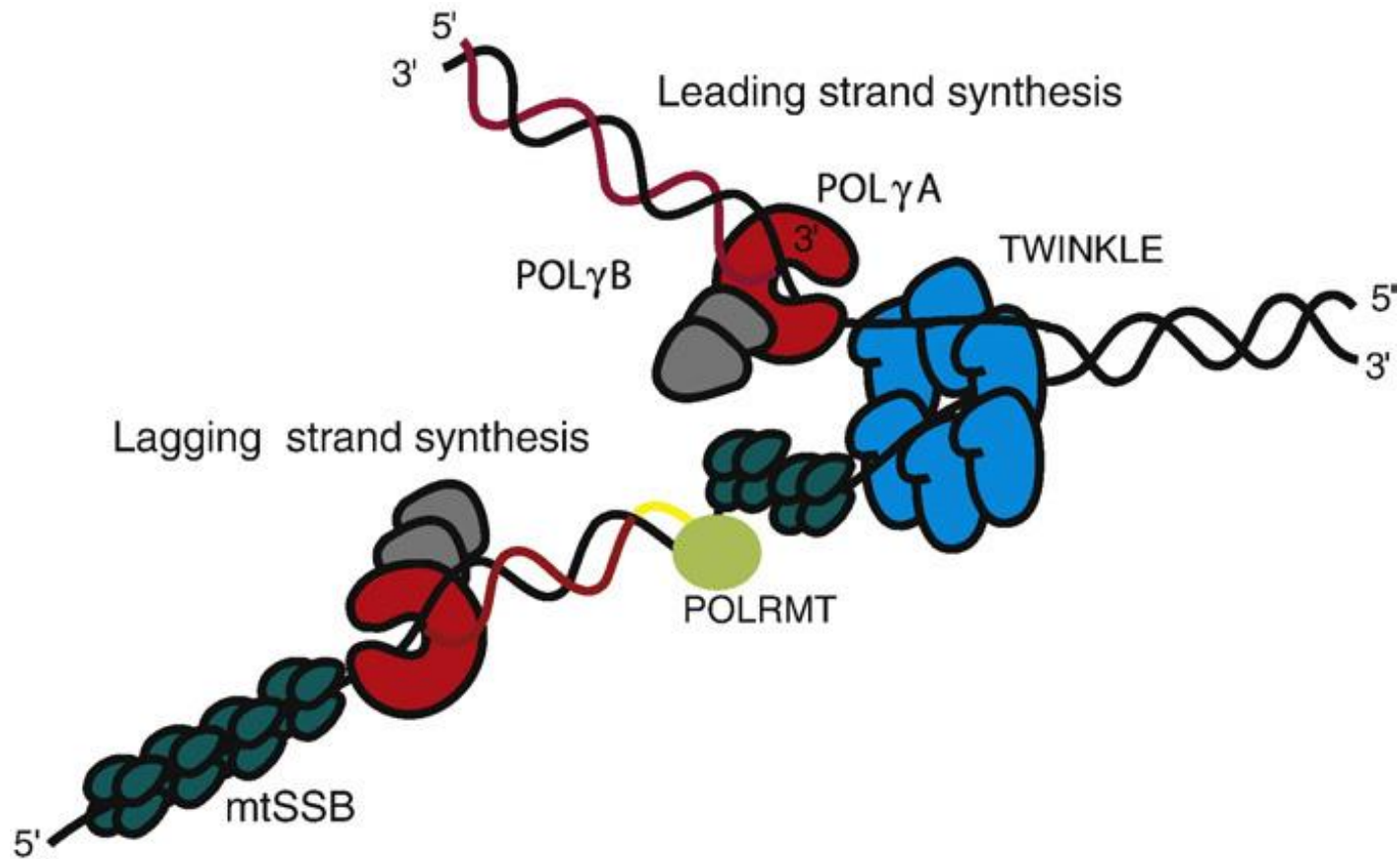


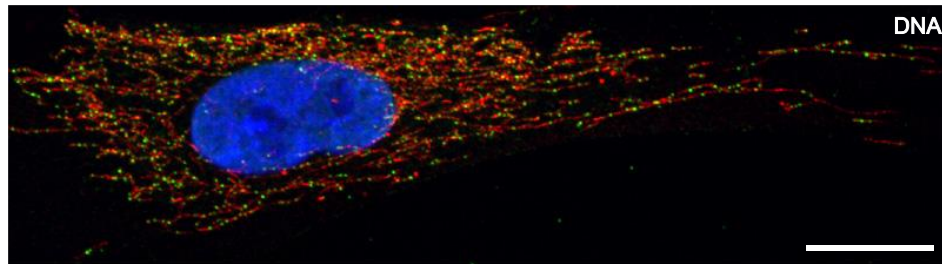
Fig. 2. The mtDNA replication machinery. The TWINKLE helicase (blue) moves in a 5' to 3' direction while unwinding dsDNA. The mtSSB protein (dark green) stabilizes the single stranded conformation and stimulates the DNA synthesis by the POLγ (red (A) and gray (B)). POLRMT (light green) synthesizes the RNA primer (yellow line) needed for lagging strand DNA synthesis.

Super-resolution microscopy reveals that mammalian mitochondrial nucleoids have a uniform size and frequently contain a single copy of mtDNA

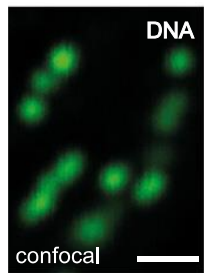
Christian Kukat^{a,1}, Christian A. Wurm^{b,c,1}, Henrik Spähr^a, Maria Falkenberg^d, Nils-Göran Larsson^{a,2}, and Stefan Jakobs^{b,c,2}

^aDepartment of Mitochondrial Biology, Max Planck Institute for Biology of Ageing, D-50931 Cologne, Germany; ^bDepartment of NanoBiophotonics, Mitochondrial Structure and Dynamics Group, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, and ^cDepartment of Neurology, University of Göttingen, D-37077 Göttingen, Germany; and ^dDepartment of Medical Biochemistry and Cell Biology, University of Gothenburg; SE-40530 Gothenburg, Sweden

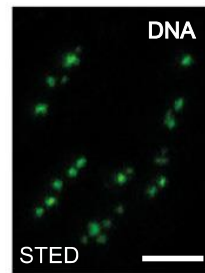
A



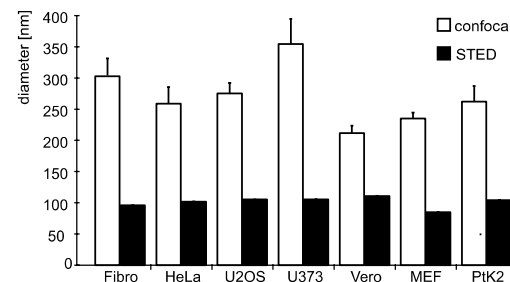
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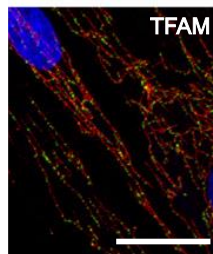
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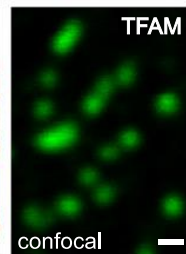
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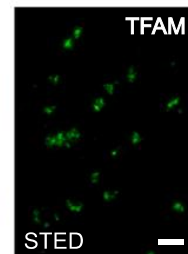
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F



G



H

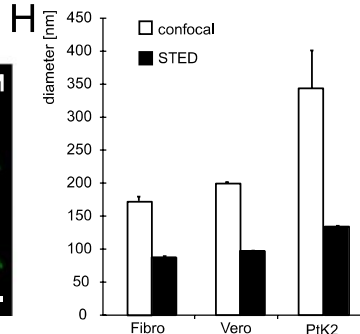


Fig. 1. The nucleoid has a uniform mean size in mammalian cells. (A) mtDNA (green, DNA antibodies) is localized in nucleoids in the tubular mitochondria (red, anti-TOM20) of human fibroblasts. DAPI-staining of nucleus in blue. (B) Using confocal microscopy, nucleoids labeled with an antiserum against DNA appear to be solid structures with an average diameter of ~ 300 nm in human fibroblasts. (C) Applying super-resolution STED microscopy, we found that the apparent nucleoids, as detected by confocal microscopy, frequently are agglomerates of several smaller structures, each with an average diameter of ~ 99 nm. The section shown is the same as the one in B. (D) Sizes of nucleoids labeled with a DNA antibody determined by confocal and STED imaging in mammalian cell lines, such as, human primary culture fibroblasts (Fibro), human cervix adenocarcinoma cells (HeLa), human osteosarcoma cells (U2OS), human glioblastoma cells (U373), mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEF), African green monkey kidney epithelial cells (Vero), and potoroo kidney cells (PtK2). The indicated sizes denote the antibody labeled nucleoids. (E) TFAM (green, anti-TFAM) is located in nucleoids in the mitochondrial network (red, anti-TOM20) of human fibroblasts. Nuclear DAPI-staining in blue. (F) Using confocal microscopy, the nucleoids labeled with an antiserum against TFAM appear in a punctuate pattern. (G) STED microscopy reveals a mean diameter of ~ 88 nm for nucleoids labeled with a TFAM antibody in human fibroblasts. The section shown is the same as the one in F. (H) Quantification of the sizes of nucleoids labeled with TFAM antibodies determined by confocal and STED imaging in three mammalian cell lines. Error bars indicate SEM. (Scale bars: $20 \mu\text{m}$ in A and E, $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ in B, C, F, and G.)

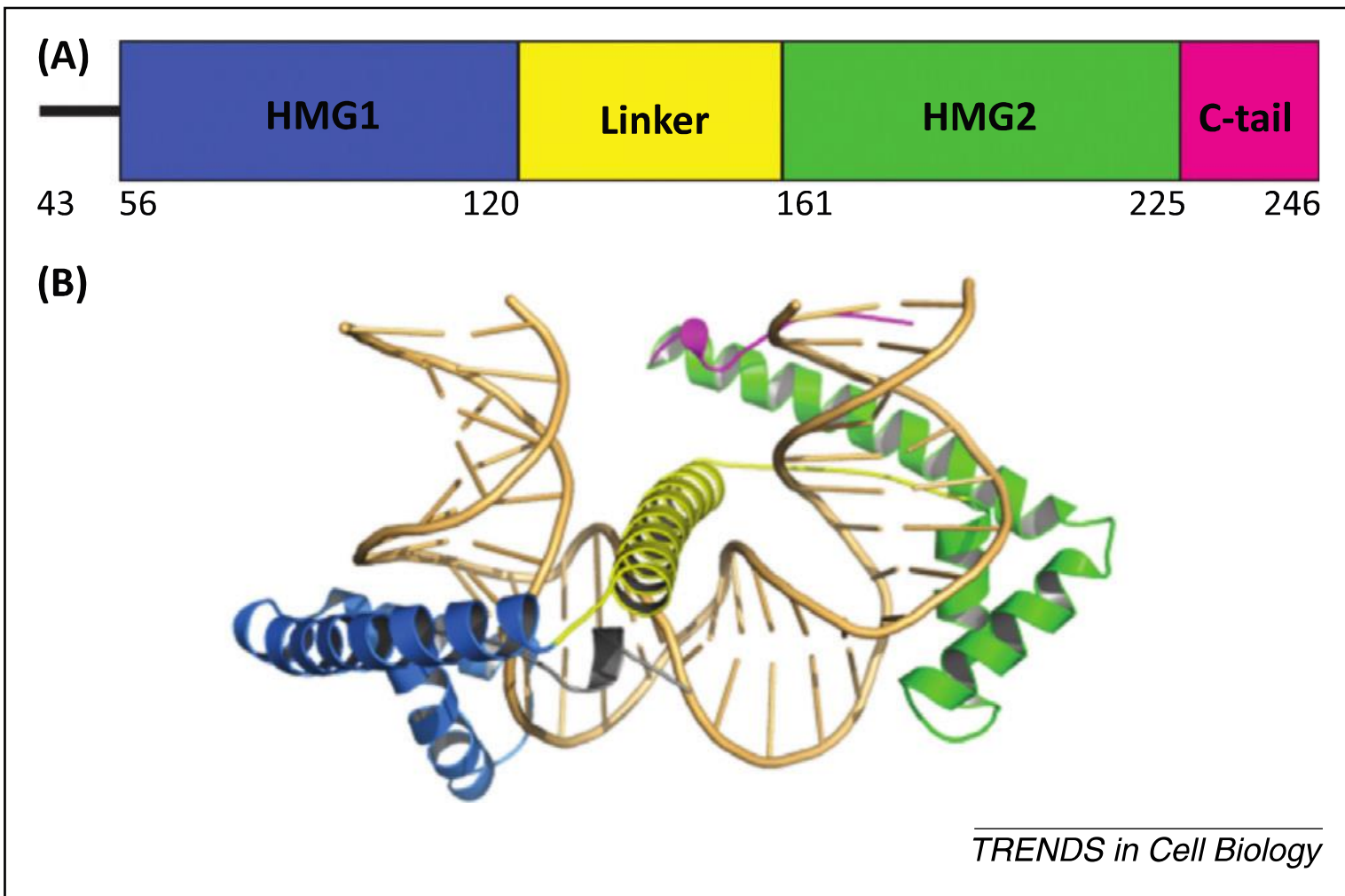
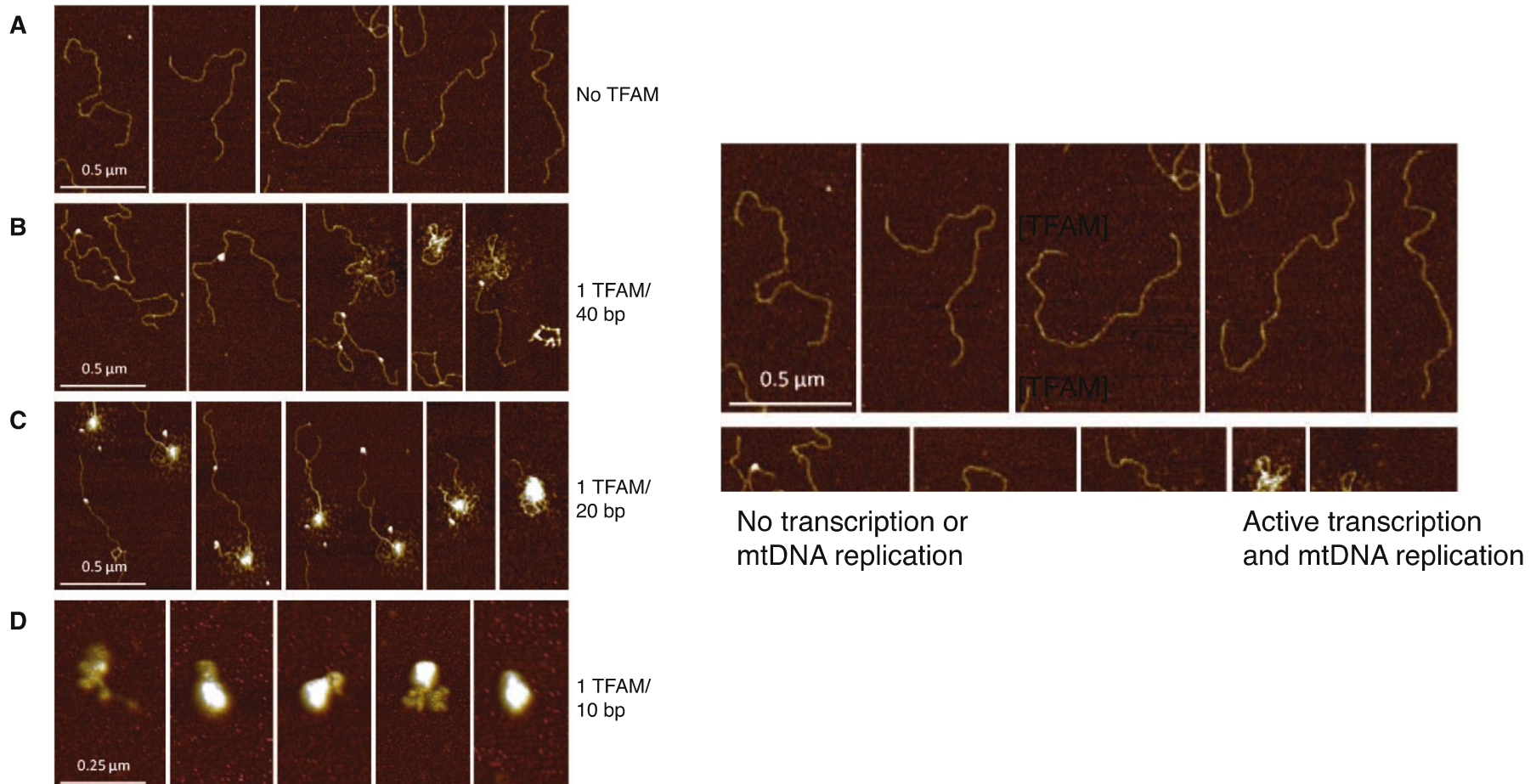


Figure 1. The structure of the mitochondrial transcription factor A (TFAM). **(A)** Domain structure of mature TFAM; numbers indicate amino acids. Amino acids 1–42 form the mitochondrial targeting sequence that is cleaved upon import of TFAM into the mitochondrial matrix. HMG, high mobility group domain; C-tail, C-terminal tail. **(B)** The TFAM–DNA complex. TFAM in complex with 28 bp LSP (light strand promoter) DNA [14] induces a U-turn into the DNA strand. TFAM domains are color-coded as in (A) and DNA is colored in beige.

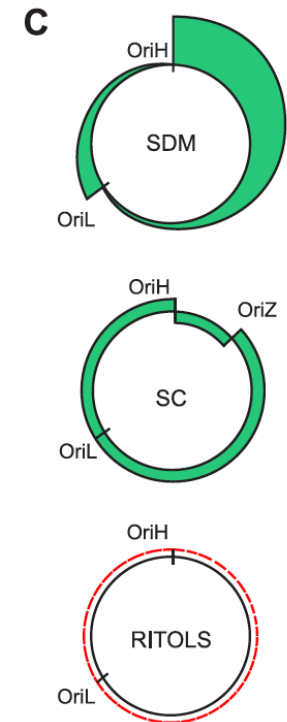
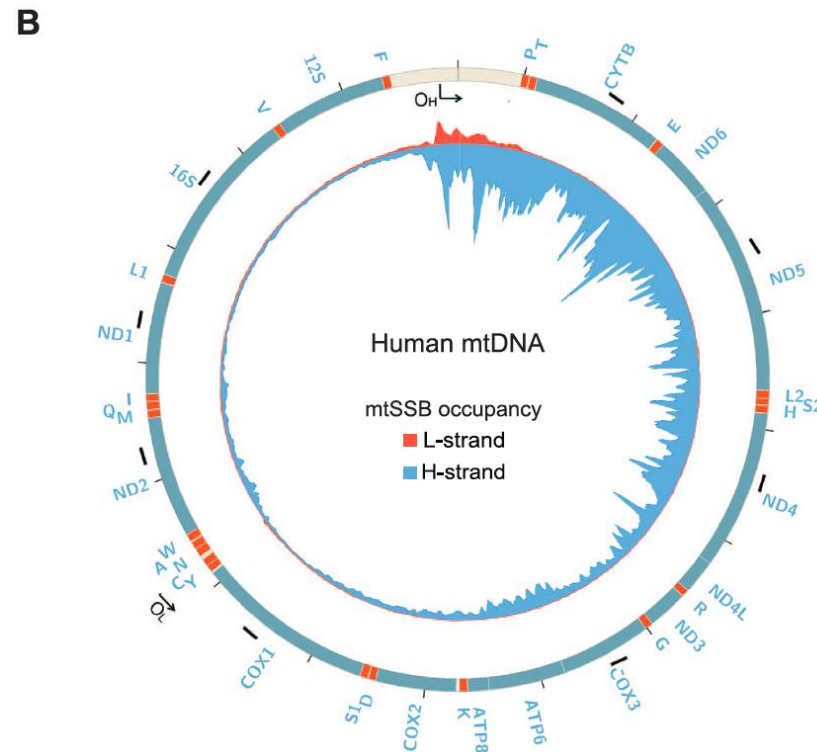
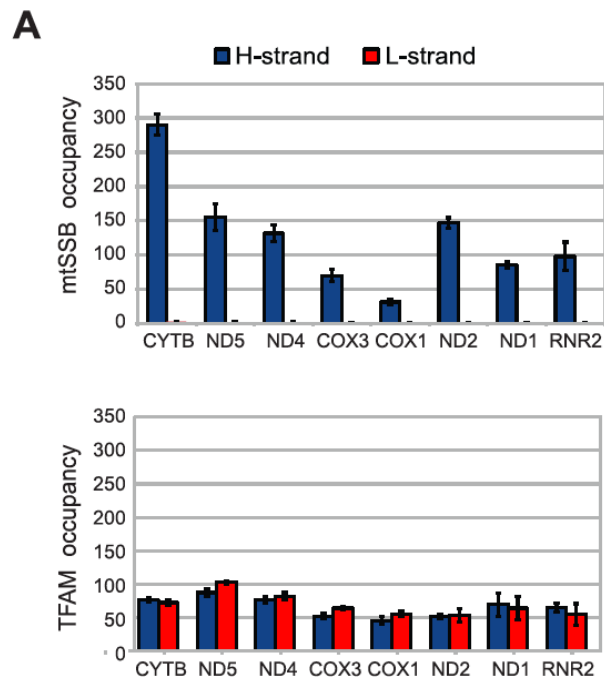
In Vitro-Reconstituted Nucleoids Can Block Mitochondrial DNA Replication and Transcription

Géraldine Farge,^{1,4} Majda Mehmedovic,^{2,4} Marian Baclayon,¹ Siet M.J.L. van den Wildenberg,³ Wouter H. Roos,¹ Claes M. Gustafsson,² Gijs J.L. Wuite,^{1,5,*} and Maria Falkenberg^{2,5,*}



In Vivo Occupancy of Mitochondrial Single-Stranded DNA Binding Protein Supports the Strand Displacement Mode of DNA Replication

Javier Miralles Fusté¹*, Yonghong Shi¹*, Sjoerd Wanrooij², Xuefeng Zhu¹, Elisabeth Jemt¹, Örjan Persson¹, Nasim Sabouri², Claes M. Gustafsson¹, Maria Falkenberg^{1*}



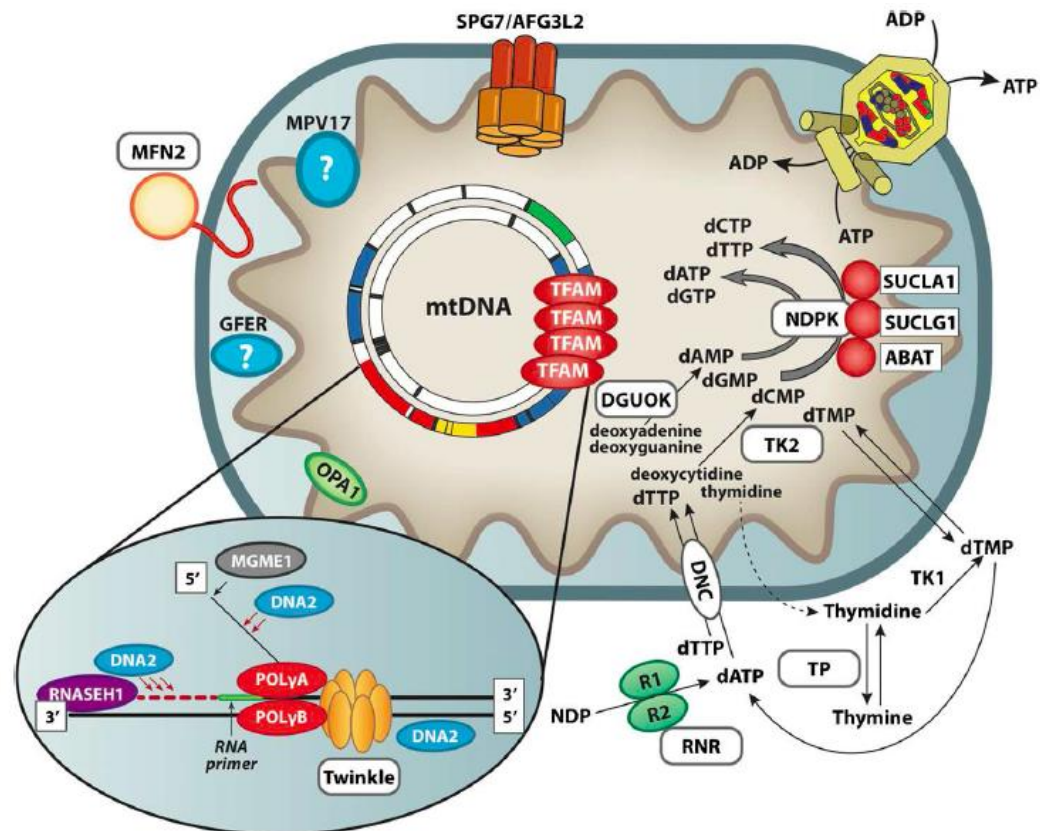
nDNA affects mtDNA:

**disorders of mtDNA
maintenance
(depletion and multiple
deletions)**

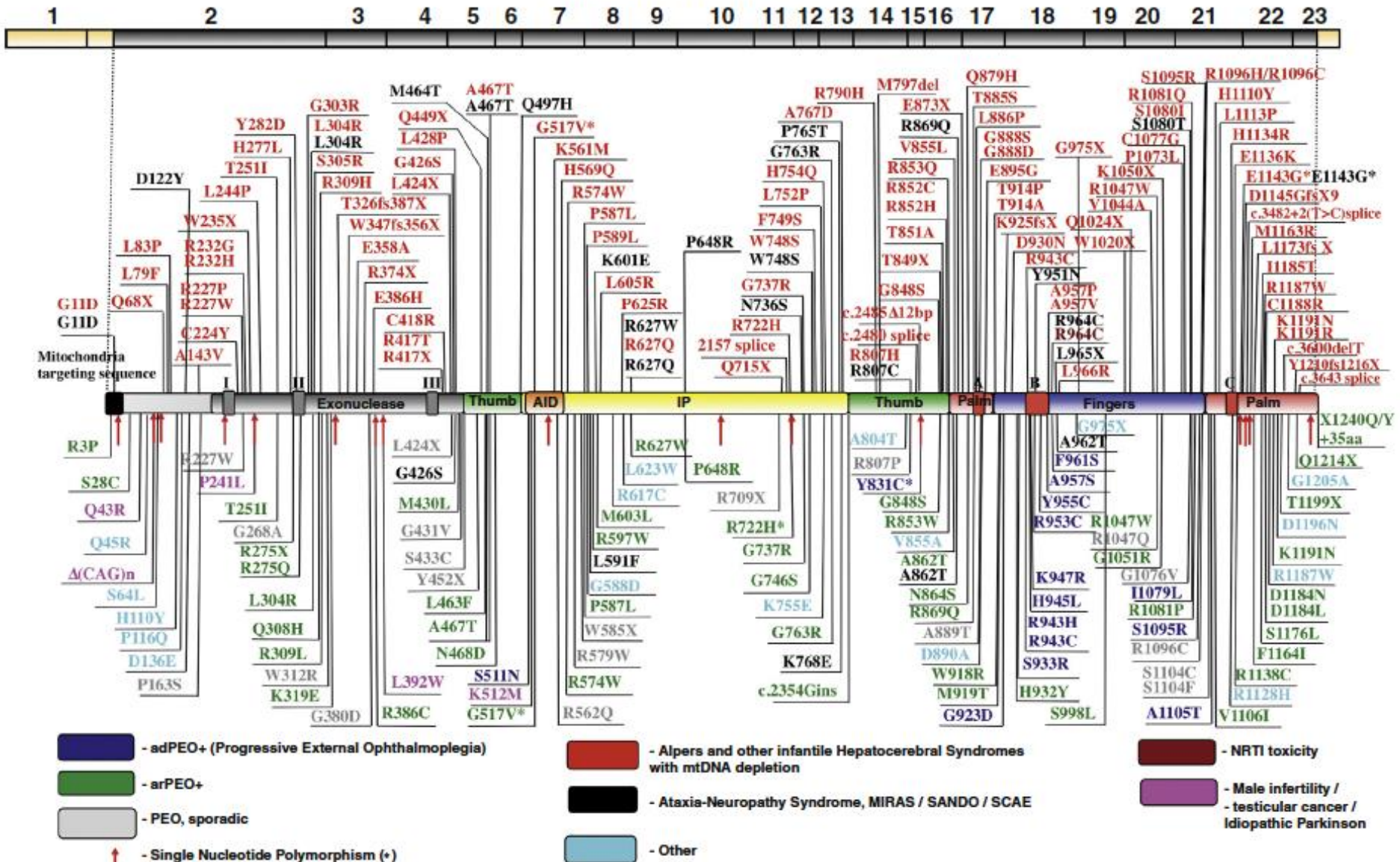
MtDNA-maintenance defects: syndromes and genes

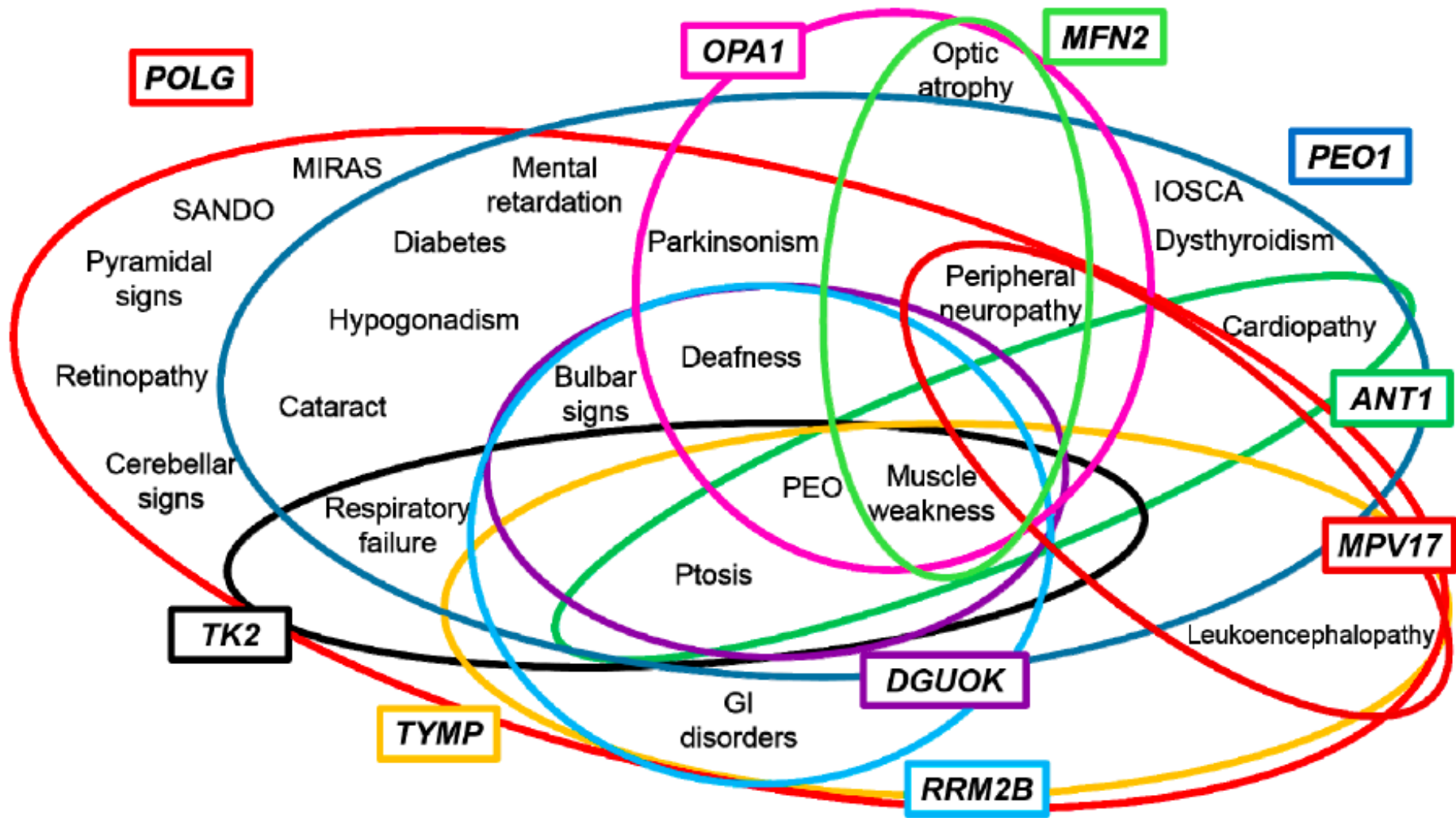
Carlo Viscomi¹ • Massimo Zeviani¹

Gene	mtDNA alteration	Inheritance	Main clinical phenotype	OMIM
<i>SLC25A4</i>	Multiple deletions	AD	ad/arCPEO	157640/258450
	Multiple deletions	AR	myopathy and cardiomyopathy	615418
	Depletion	AD	myopathy and cardiomyopathy	
<i>TWINK</i>	Multiple deletions	AD	adCPEO	609286
	Multiple deletions	AR	IOSCA	271245
	Depletion	AR	Alpers-like	
<i>POLG</i>	Multiple deletions	AD	adCPEO	157640
	Multiple deletions	AR	arCPEO	258450
	Depletion	AR	Alpers-Huntenlocher	203700
<i>POLG2</i>	Multiple deletions	AR	SANDO/SCAE	607459
	Multiple deletions	AD	adCPEO	610131
<i>TFAM</i>	Depletion	AR	Hepatocerebral syndrome	617156
<i>MGME1</i>	Multiple deletions	AR	arCPEO	615076
<i>DNA2</i>	Multiple deletions	AD	adCPEO	615156
<i>RNASEH1</i>	Multiple deletions	AR	arCPEO	616479
<i>RRM2B</i>	Multiple deletions	AD	adCPEO	613077
	Depletion	AR	myopathy and tubulopathy	612075
<i>TK2</i>	Depletion	AR	myopathy	609560
	Multiple deletions	AR	arCPEO	617069
<i>DGUOK</i>	Depletion	AR	Hepatocerebral syndrome	251880
	Multiple deletions	AR	Myopathy with or w/o CPEO	617070
	Multiple deletions	AR	lower motor neuron syndrome	
<i>MPV17</i>	Depletion	AR	Hepatocerebral syndrome	256810
	Multiple deletions	AR	arCPEO, leukoencephalopathy and parkinsonism	
<i>OPA1</i>	Multiple deletions	AD	DOA	165500
	Multiple deletions	AD	DOA plus	125250
<i>MFN2</i>	Multiple deletions	AD	DOA plus	608507
<i>SPG7</i>	Multiple deletions	AR	arCPEO and ataxia	602783
<i>AFG3L2</i>	Multiple deletions	AD	arCPEO and ataxia	604581
<i>TYMP</i>	Multiple deletions and depletion	AR	MNGIE	603041
<i>SUCLA2</i>	Depletion	AR	Hepatocerebral syndrome	612073
<i>SUCLG1</i>	Depletion	AR	Hepatocerebral syndrome	245400
<i>ABAT</i>	Multiple deletions	AR	Encephalomyopathy	613163
<i>FBXL4</i>	Depletion	AR	Encephalomyopathy	615471
<i>GFER</i>	Multiple deletions	AR	myopathy	613076



Mutations in *POLG*





Mitochondrial single strand binding protein 1 (SSBP1):

welcome back!

Gene, 126 (1993) 219–225

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GENE 07041

Cloning of human and rat cDNAs encoding the mitochondrial single-stranded DNA-binding protein (SSB)

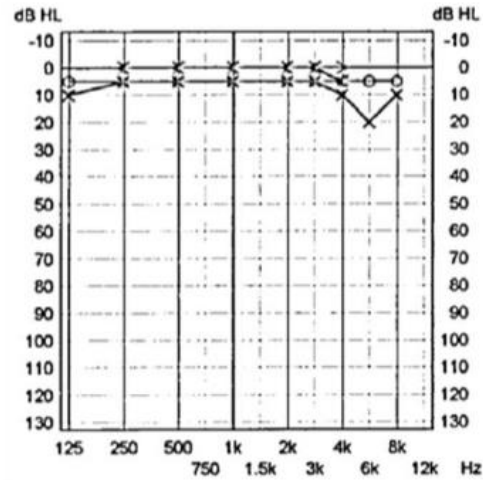
(Recombinant DNA; nuclear gene; DNA replication; presequence; human chromosome)

Valeria Tiranti^a, Mariano Rocchi^b, Stefano DiDonato^a and Massimo Zeviani^a

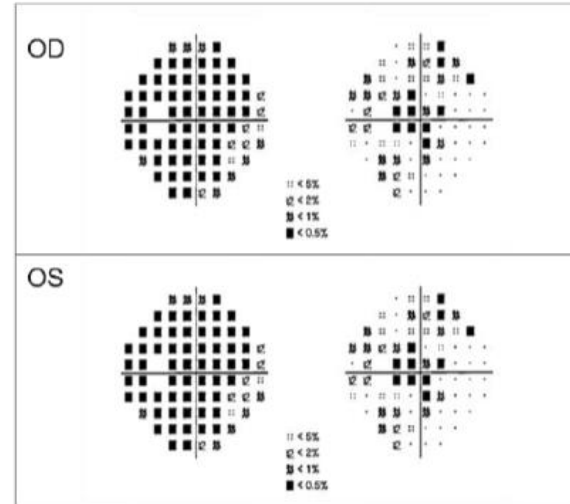


Vision defect and sensorineural deafness

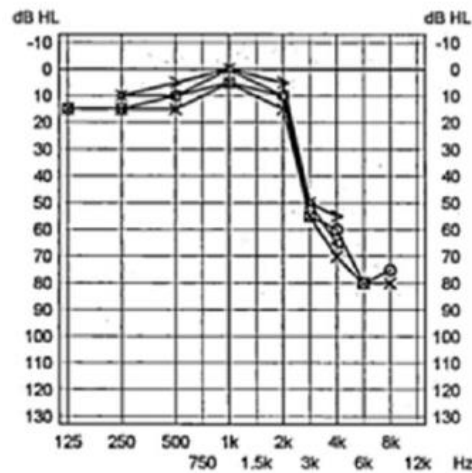
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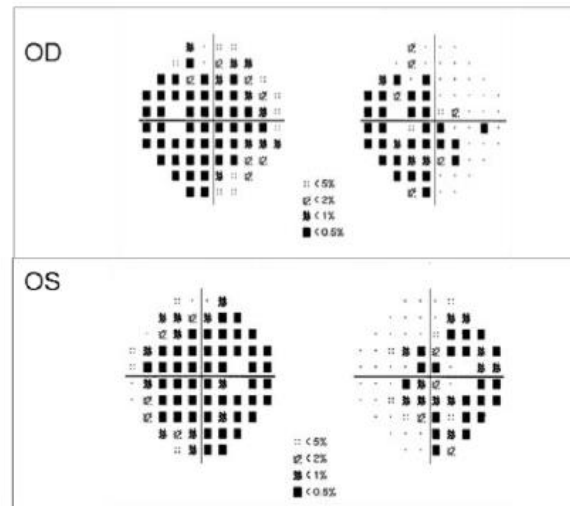
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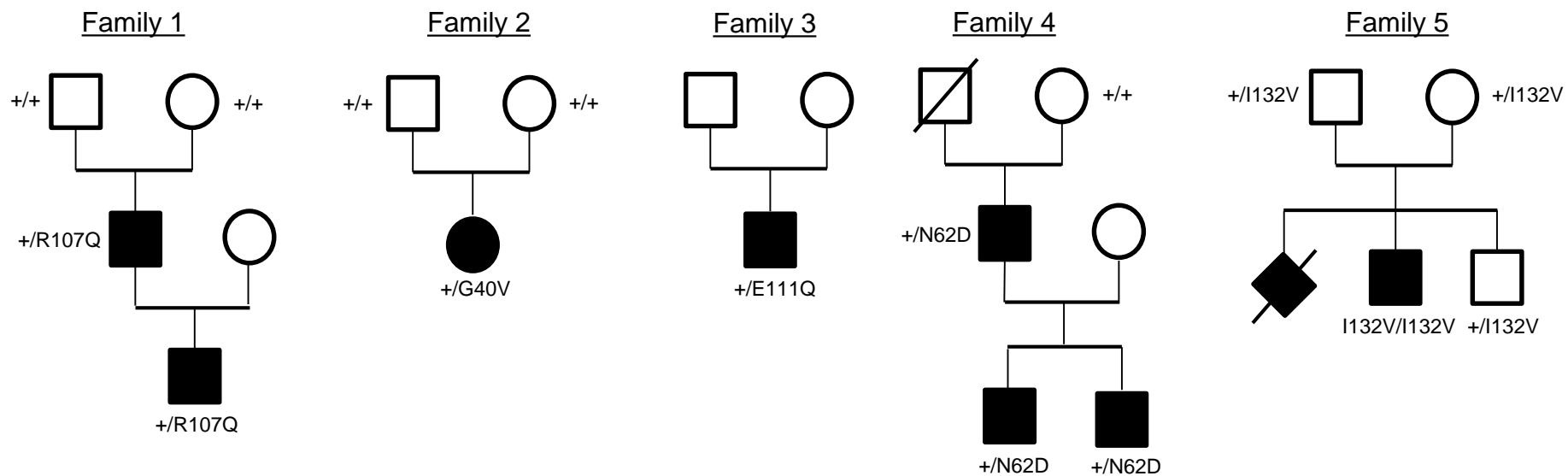
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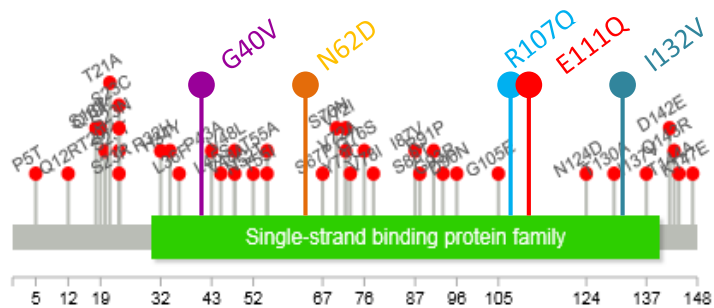
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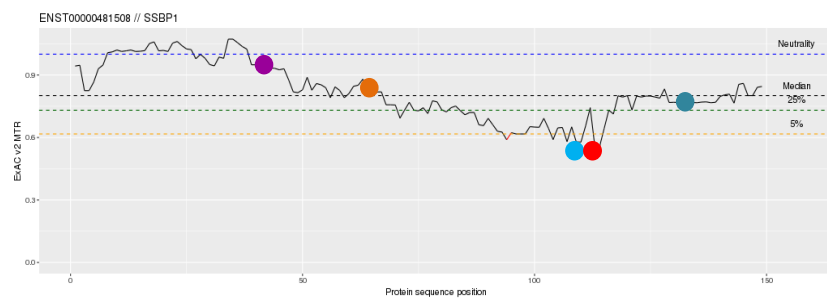
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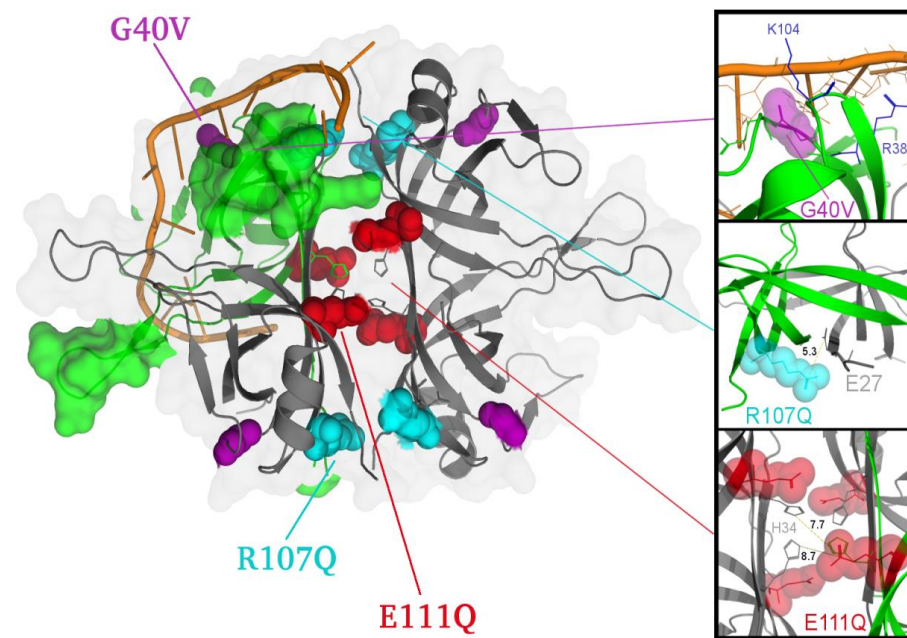
B



C



D



CONCLUSIONS

- Unexpectedly, we identified a new disease characterized by mtDNA depletion in adults and associated with a prevalent ocular and kidney phenotype
- Mitochondrial SSBP1 carried dominant de novo pathogenic mutations, and in one case a recessive homozygous mutation
- The current findings enlarge the landscape of diseases of mtDNA maintenance
- In deep dissection of the pathogenic mechanisms will increase our understanding of mtDNA replication and control of mtDNA copy number

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