

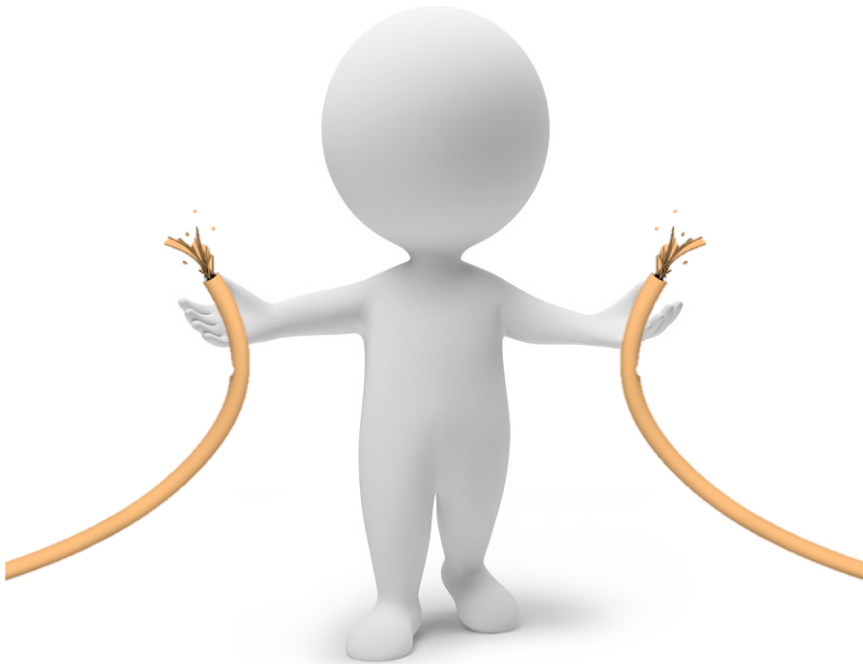
# Genetics of small fiber neuropathy

Catharina (Karin) Faber



# Small fiber neuropathy

# Small fiber neuropathy



A $\delta$

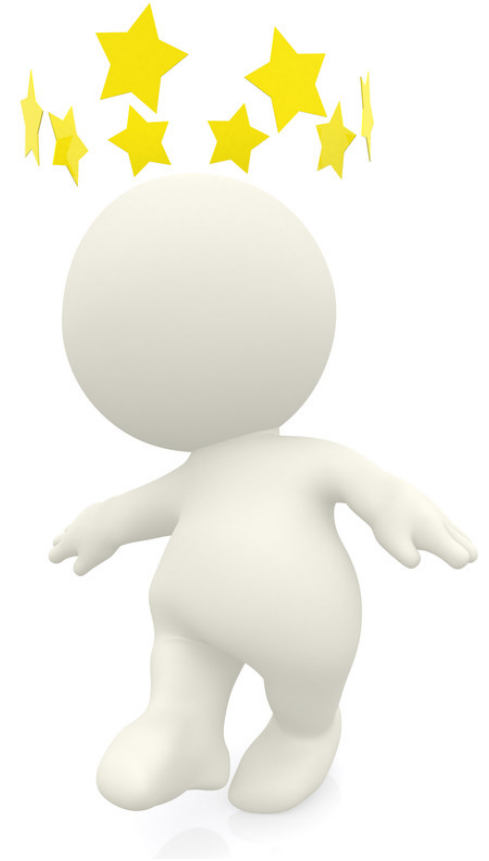
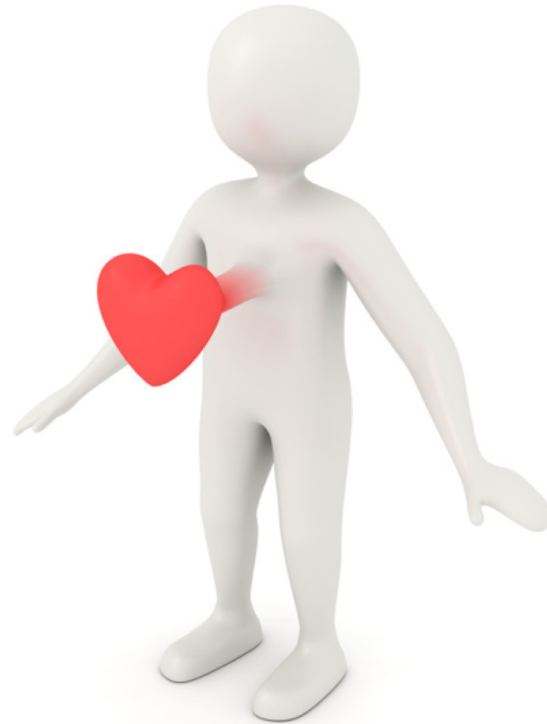


C

# Symptoms

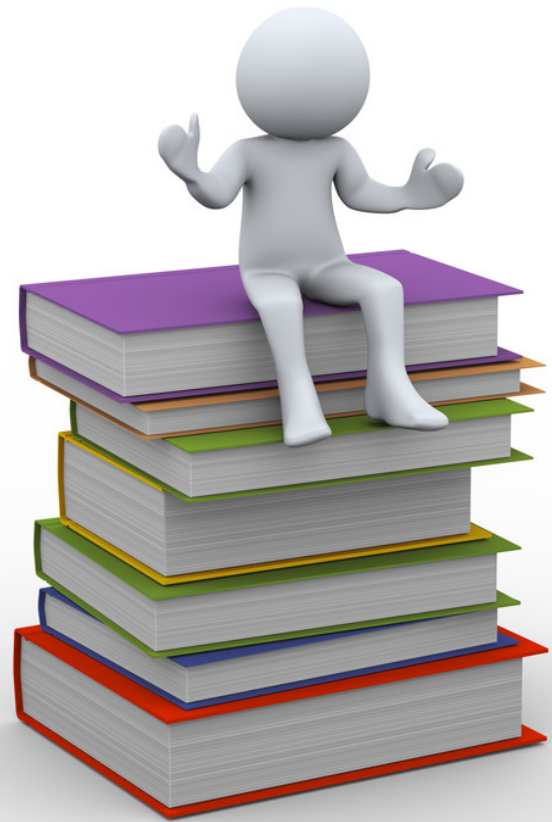


# Symptoms

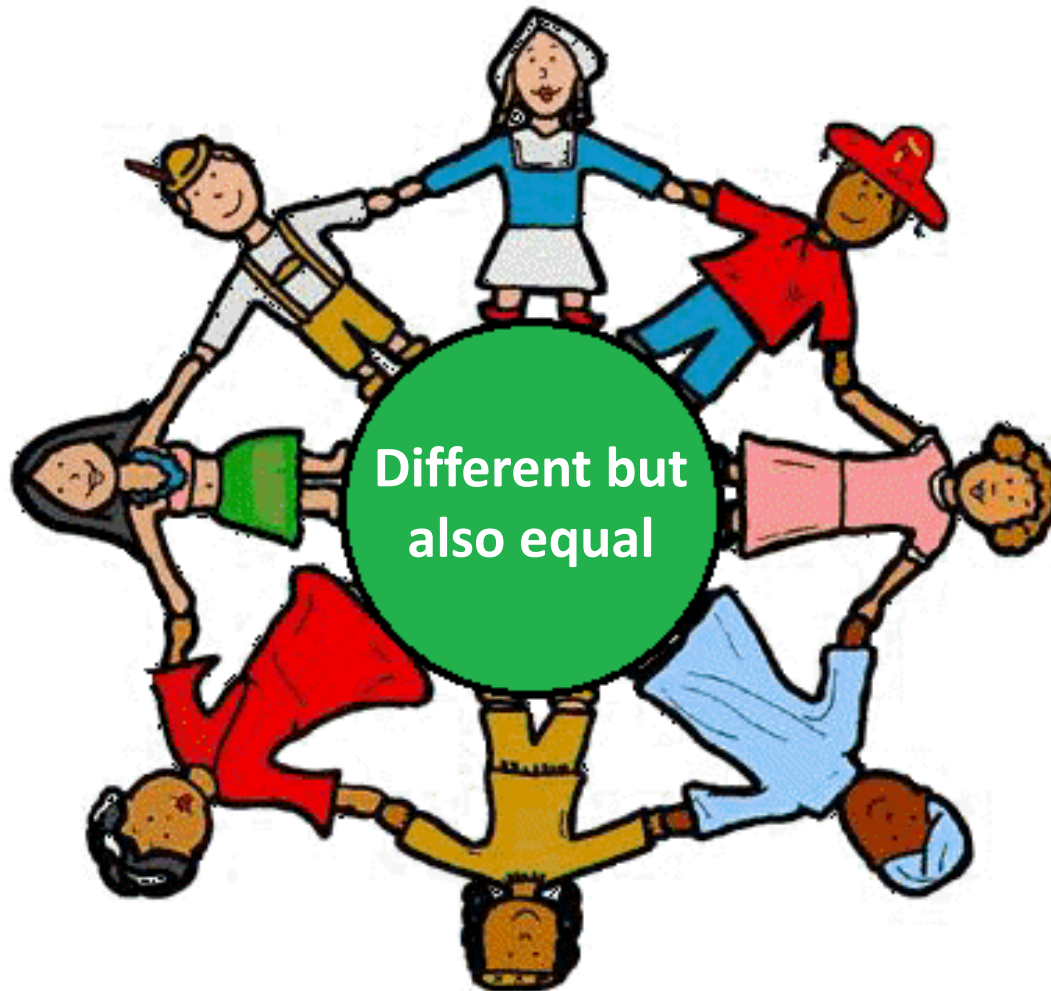


# Associated conditions

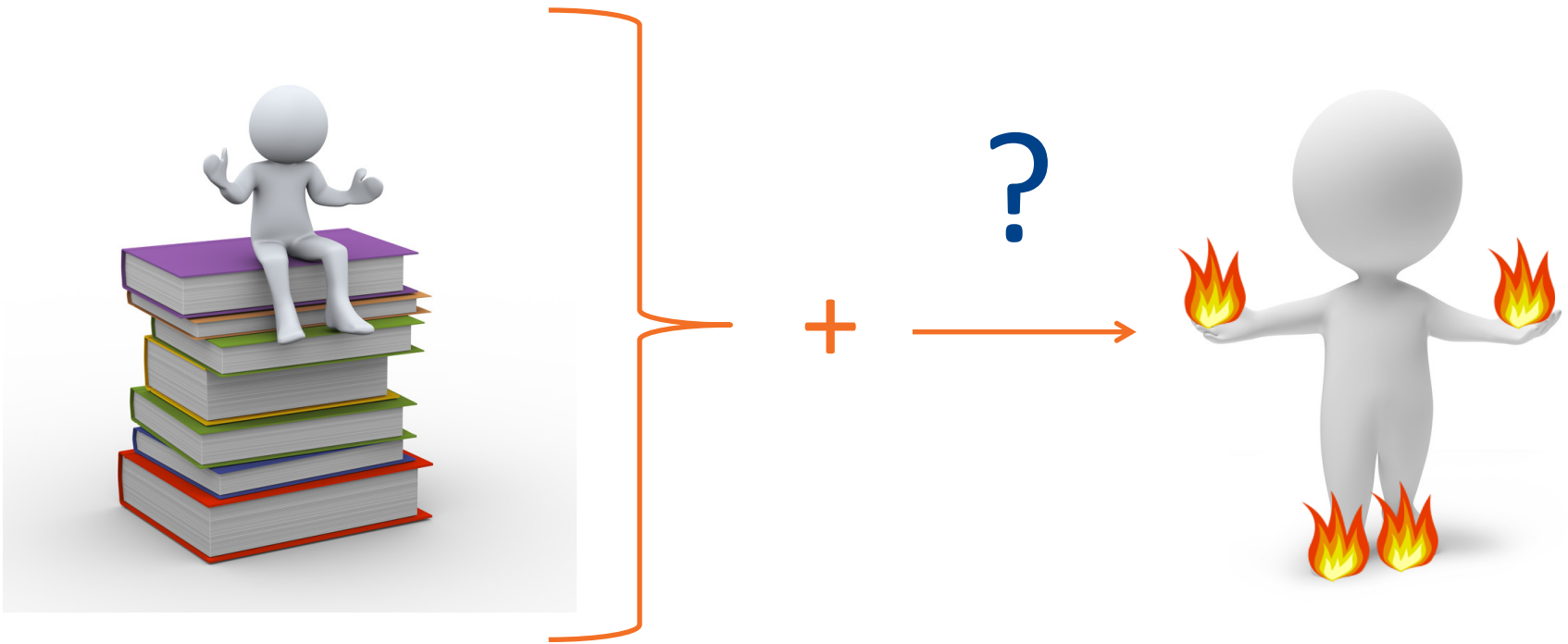
*Diabetes mellitus, glucose intolerance, alcohol abuse, antiretroviral drugs, chemotherapy, toxins, vitamin B6, HIV, Epstein Barr virus, Lepra, botulism, vasculitis, SLE, Sjögren, coeliac disease, sarcoidosis, monoclonal gammopathy, amyloidosis, paraneoplastic neuropathy, inflammatory bowel disease, Guillain Barré syndrome, M. Fabry, M. Tangier, familial amyloidosis, Charcot Marie Tooth 2B, erythromelalgia/erythermalgia, burning feet syndrome, idiopathic.....*



# Clinical observation



# Common pathophysiological pathway?



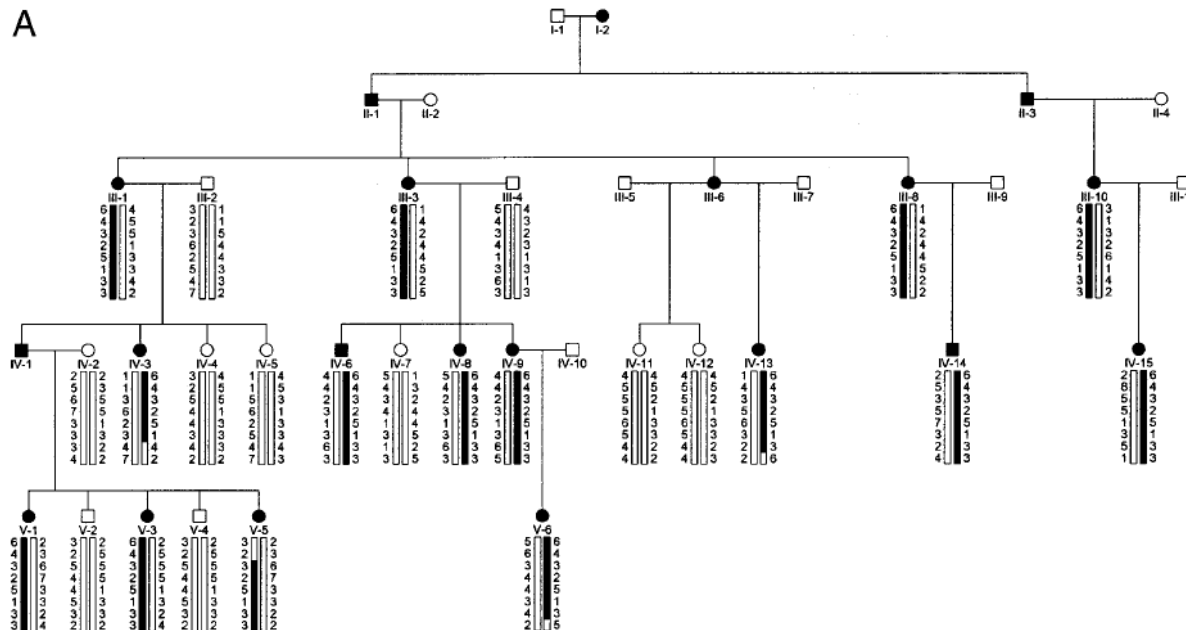


# Sodium channels

# The Primary Erythermalgia–Susceptibility Gene Is Located on Chromosome 2q31-32

Joost P. H. Drenth,<sup>1</sup> Wayne H. Finley,<sup>2</sup> Guido J. Breedveld,<sup>3</sup> Leon Testers,<sup>4</sup> Jan J. Michiels,<sup>5,6</sup> G. Guillet,<sup>7</sup> Alain Taieb,<sup>8</sup> R. Lee Kirby,<sup>9</sup> and Peter Heutink<sup>3</sup>

*Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 68:1277–1282, 2001



Genome screening with fluorescently labeled short tandem repeat polymorphisms (STRPs)



Chromosome 2q31-32 (7.94 cM)

## SHORT REPORT

# Mutations in *SCN9A*, encoding a sodium channel alpha subunit, in patients with primary erythermalgia

Y Yang\*, Y Wang\*, S Li\*, Z Xu, H Li, L Ma, J Fan, D Bu, B Liu, Z Fan, G Wu, J Jin, B Ding, X Zhu, Y Shen

*J Med Genet* 2004;41:171–174. doi: 10.1136/jmg.2003.012153

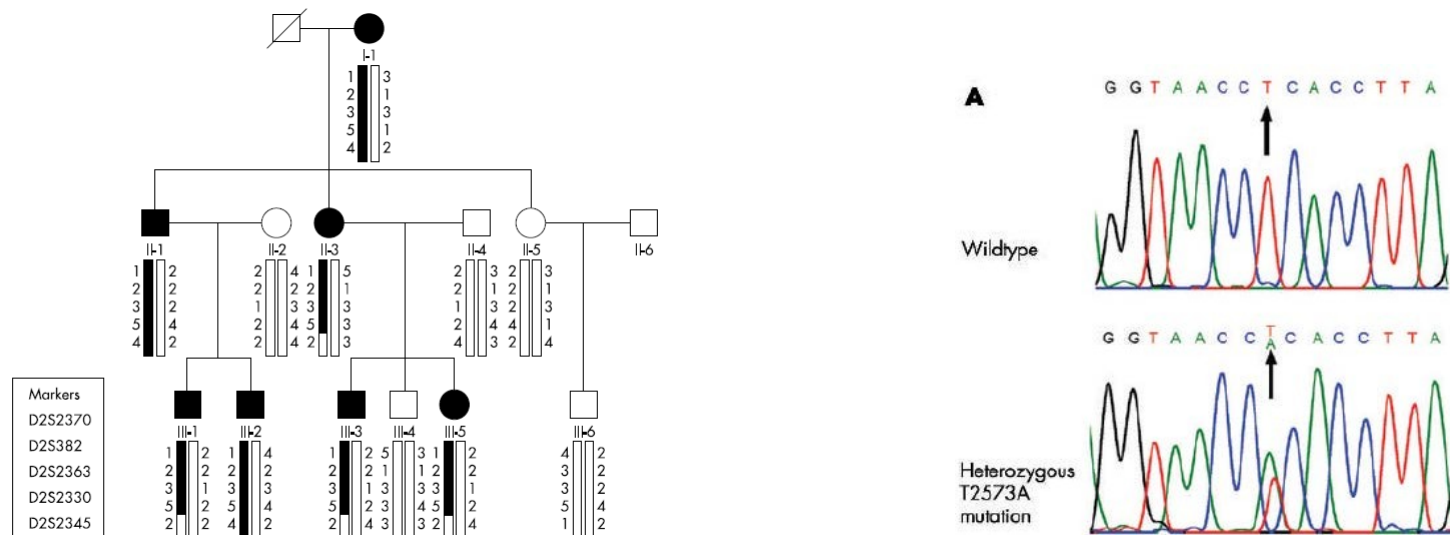
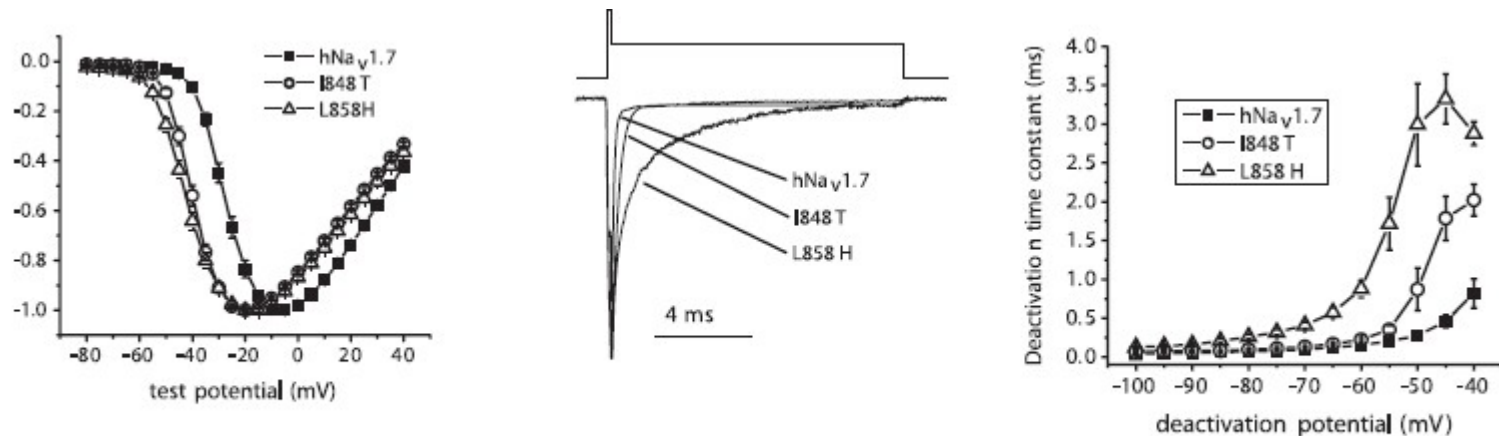


Figure 2. Pedigree of the family and haplotype analysis. Females are indicated by circles and males by squares. Blackened figures denote affected individuals. Recombinations occurred at marker D2S2345 in II-3 and III-1.

# Electrophysiological Properties of Mutant $\text{Na}_v1.7$ Sodium Channels in a Painful Inherited Neuropathy

Theodore R. Cummins,<sup>1</sup> Sulayman D. Dib-Hajj,<sup>2,3,4</sup> and Stephen G. Waxman<sup>2,3,4</sup>

8232 • The Journal of Neuroscience, September 22, 2004 • 24(38):8232–8236



**Figure 1.** The I848T and L858H mutations of h $\text{Na}_v1.7$  alter activation and deactivation.

# SCN9A Mutations in Paroxysmal Extreme Pain Disorder: Allelic Variants Underlie Distinct Channel Defects and Phenotypes

Caroline R. Fertleman,<sup>1</sup> Mark D. Baker,<sup>2,5</sup>  
 Keith A. Parker,<sup>1</sup> Sarah Moffatt,<sup>1</sup> Frances V. Elmslie,<sup>1</sup>  
 Bjarke Abrahamsen,<sup>2</sup> Johan Ostman,<sup>4</sup>  
 Norbert Klugbauer,<sup>3</sup> John N. Wood,<sup>2</sup>  
 R. Mark Gardiner,<sup>1,\*</sup> and Michele Rees<sup>1</sup>

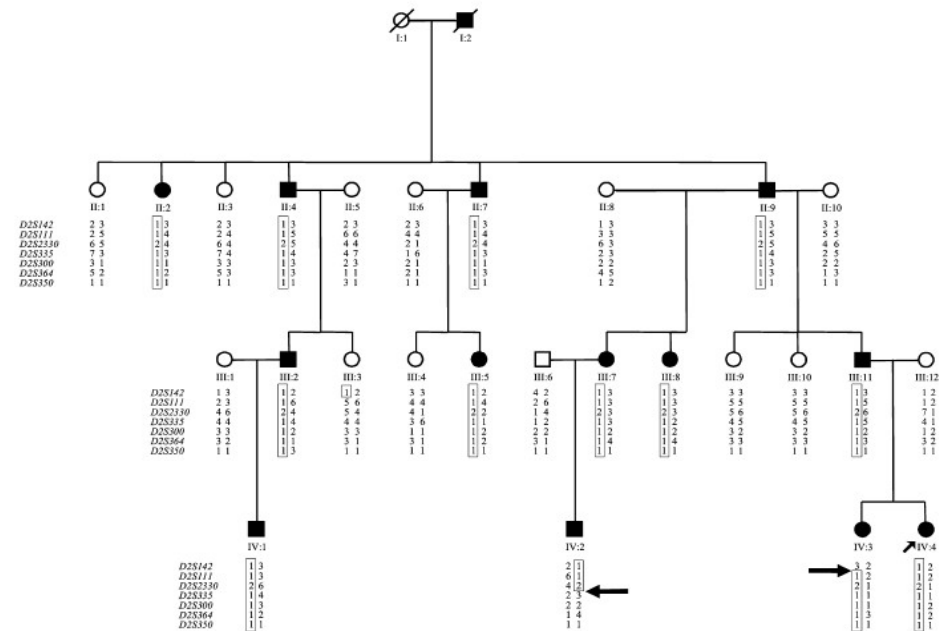
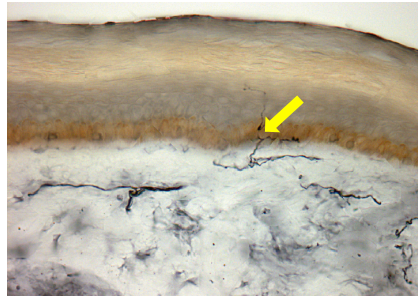


Figure 1. Familial Rectal Pain Maps to Chromosome 2q

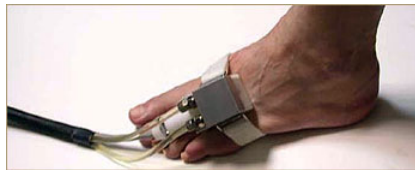
# Idiopathic small fiber neuropathy



+



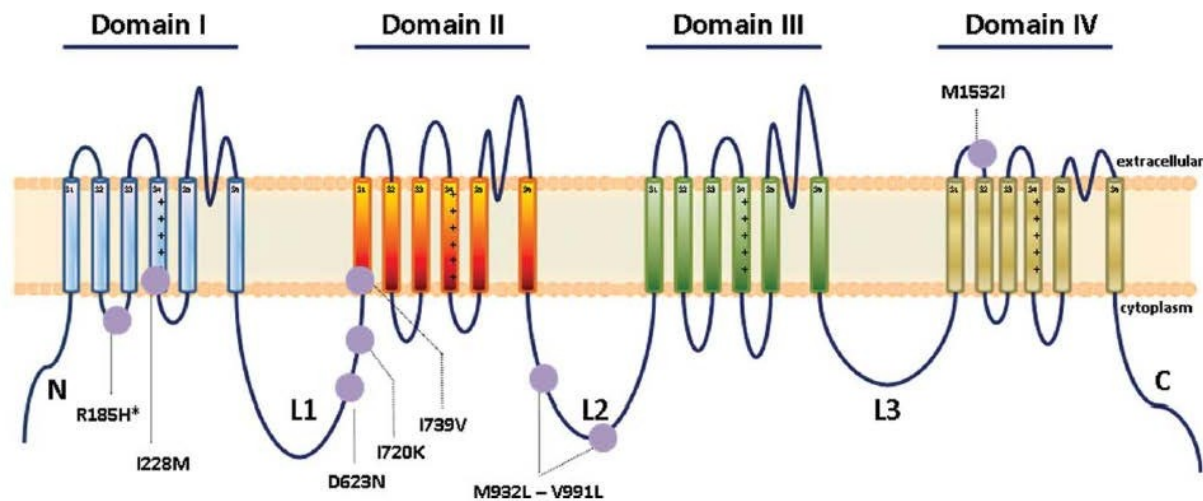
and



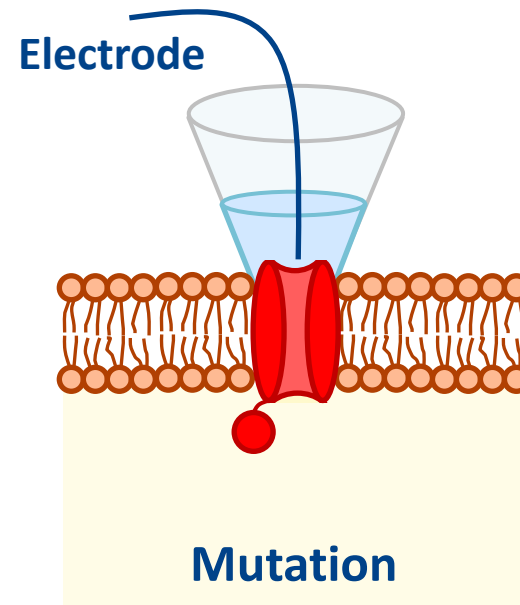
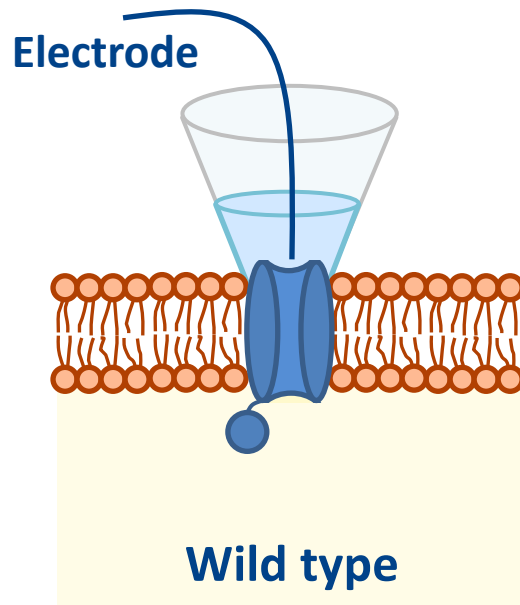
**SCN9A**

# Gain of Function $\text{Na}_v1.7$ Mutations in Idiopathic Small Fiber Neuropathy

Catharina G. Faber, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Janneke G. J. Hoeijmakers, MD,<sup>1</sup> Hye-Sook Ahn, PhD,<sup>2,3</sup>  
Xiaoyang Cheng, PhD,<sup>2,3</sup> Chongyang Han, PhD,<sup>2,3</sup> Jin-Sung Choi, PhD,<sup>2,3\*</sup>  
Mark Estacion, PhD,<sup>2,3</sup> Giuseppe Lauria, MD, PhD,<sup>4</sup> Els K. Vanhoutte, MD,<sup>1</sup>  
Monique M. Gerrits, PhD,<sup>5</sup> Sulayman Dib-Hajj, PhD,<sup>2,3</sup> Joost P. H. Drenth, MD, PhD,<sup>6</sup>  
Stephen G. Waxman, MD, PhD,<sup>2,3</sup> and Ingemar S. J. Merkies, MD, PhD<sup>1,7</sup>

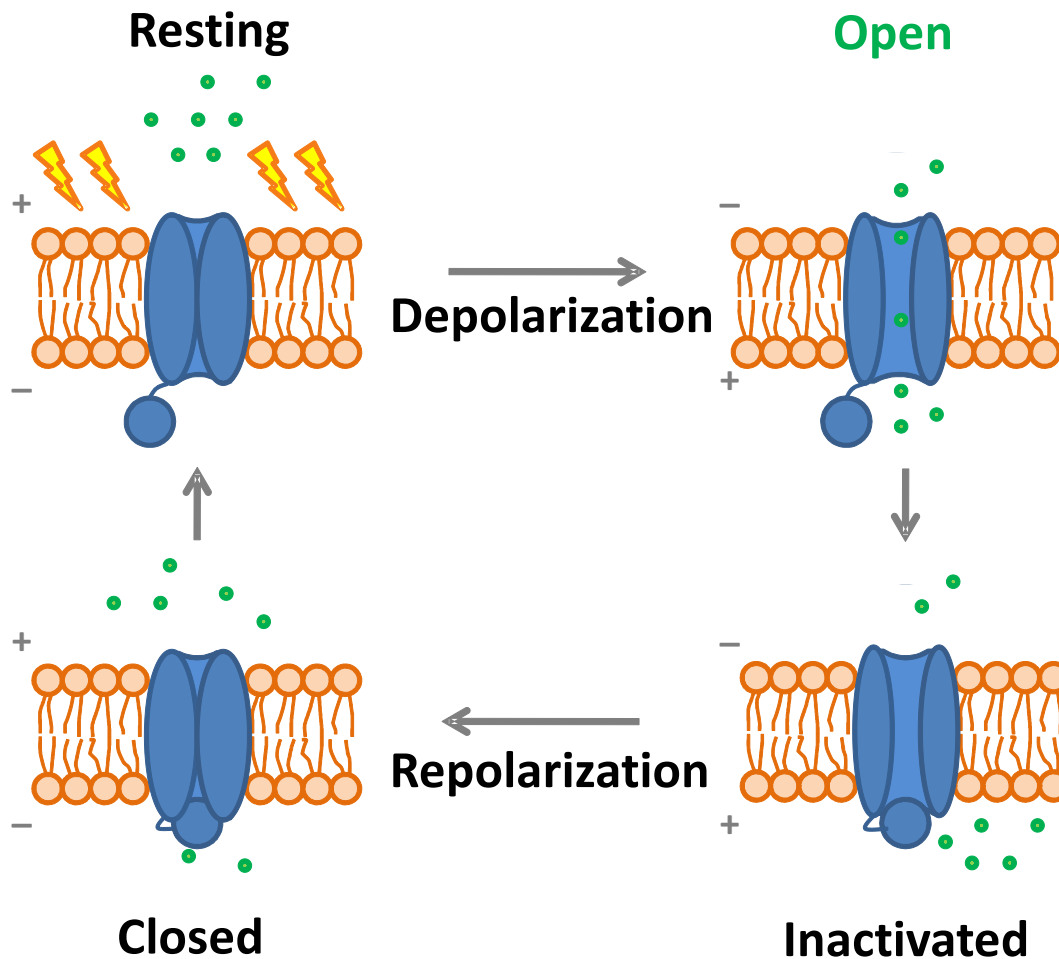


# Patch clamp analyses



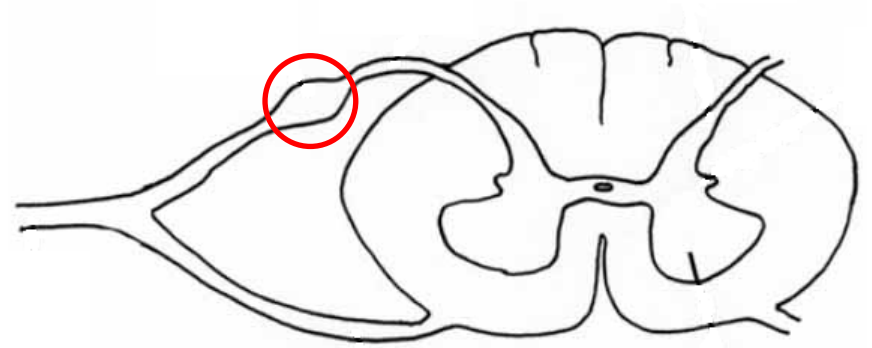


# Voltage clamp - channel function

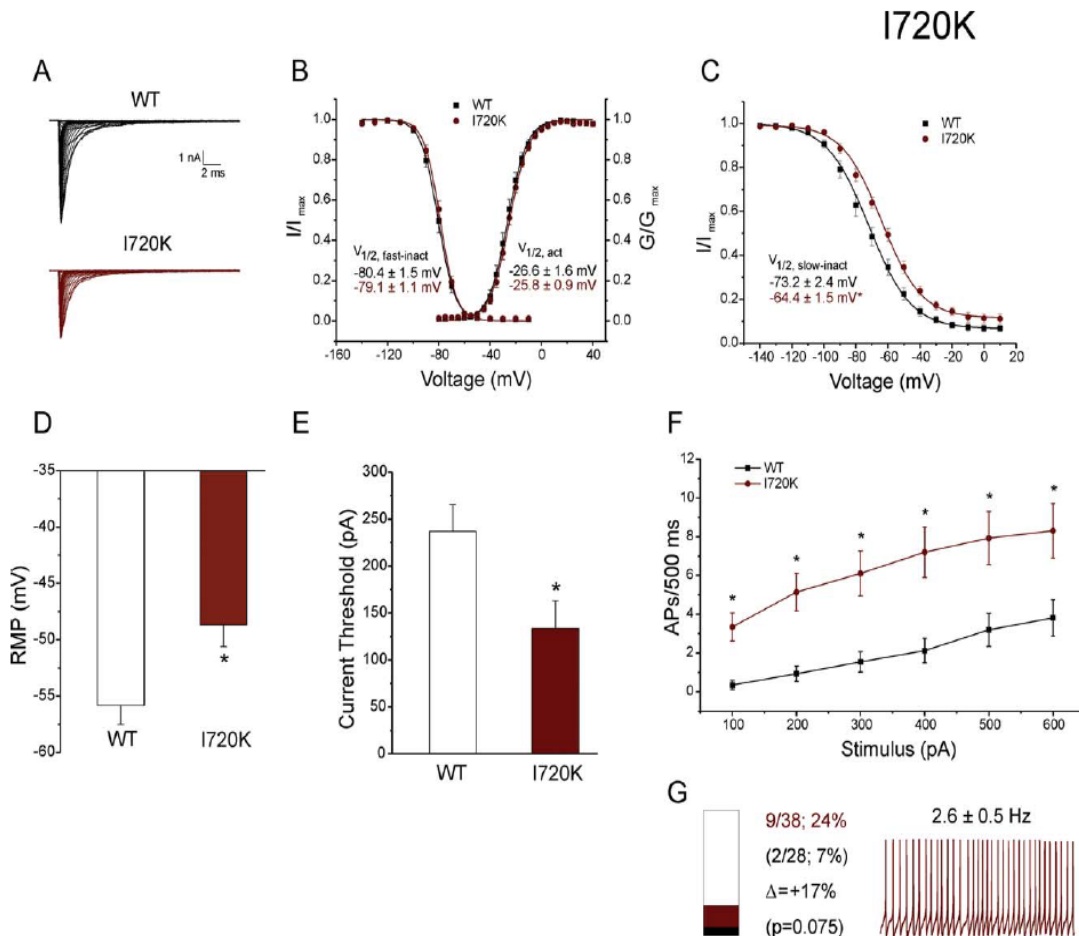


# Current clamp - channel excitability

- Resting membrane potential
- Current threshold
- Spontaneous firing
- Firing frequency



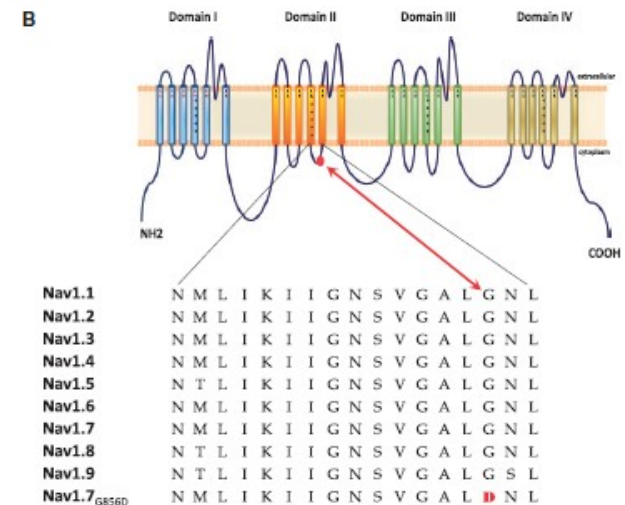
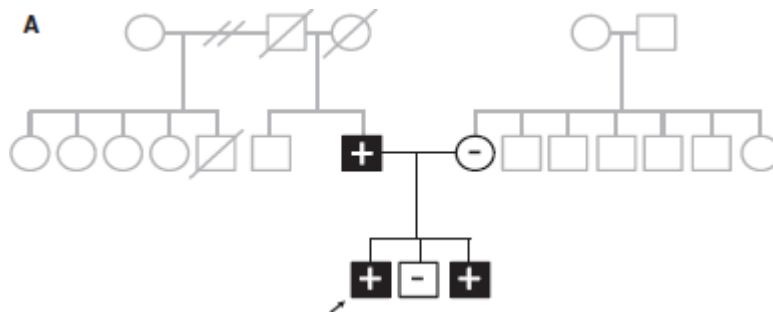
# Patch clamp analyses



- C.** Impaired 'slow inactivation'
- D.** RMP DRG depolarized
- E.** 43% ↓ current threshold
- F.** Firing frequency ↑
- G.** Spontaneous firing

# Small nerve fibres, small hands and small feet: a new syndrome of pain, dysautonomia and acromesomelia in a kindred with a novel $\text{Na}_v1.7$ mutation

Janneke G. J. Hoeijmakers,<sup>1,\*</sup> Chongyang Han,<sup>2,3,\*</sup> Ingemar S. J. Merkies,<sup>1,4</sup>  
Lawrence J. Macala,<sup>2,3</sup> Giuseppe Lauria,<sup>5</sup> Monique M. Gerrits,<sup>6</sup> Sulayman D. Dib-Hajj,<sup>2,3</sup>  
Catharina G. Faber<sup>1,†</sup> and Stephen G. Waxman<sup>2,3,†</sup>



# Small fibers, small hands, small feet



**Patient**



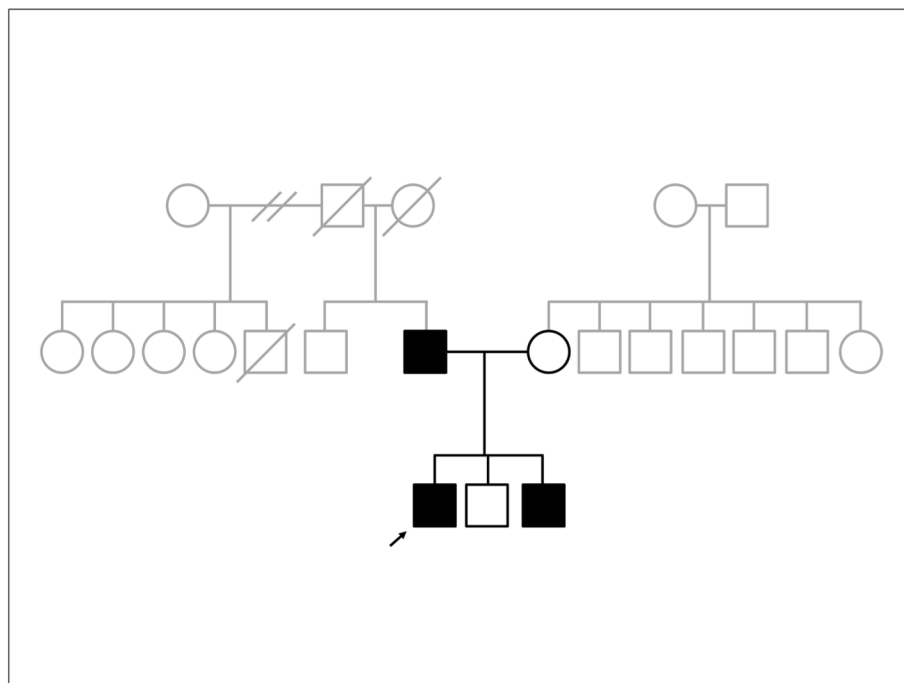
16 cm

**Healthy person**

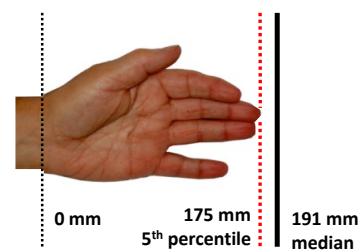
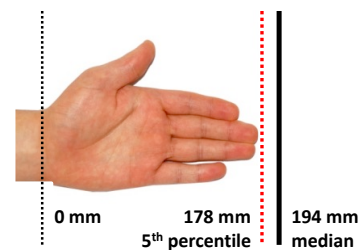
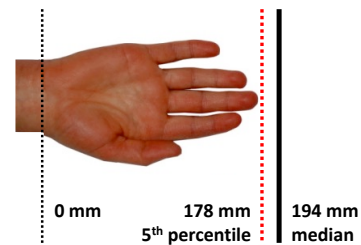


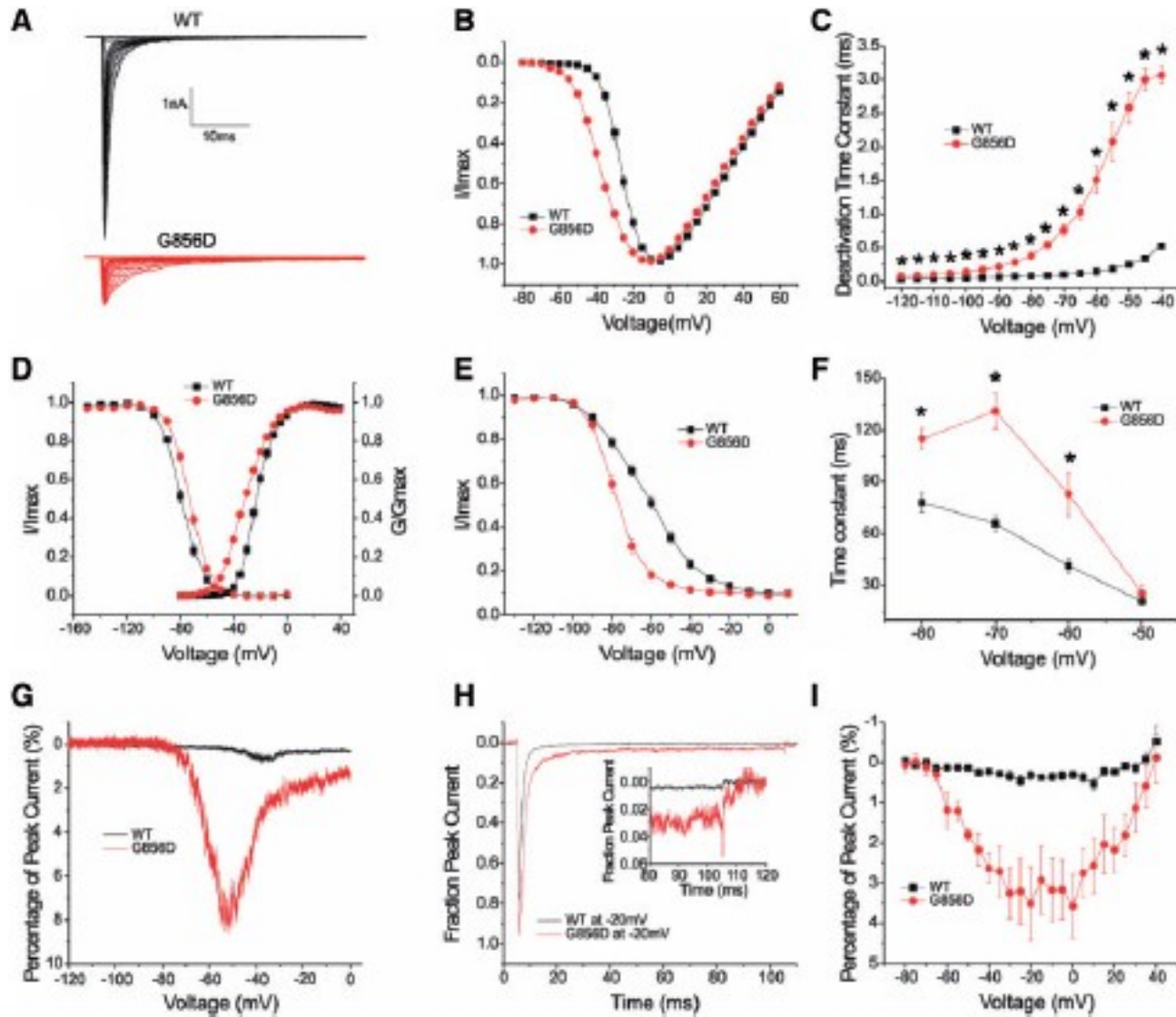
19,4 cm

# Small fibers, small hands, small feet



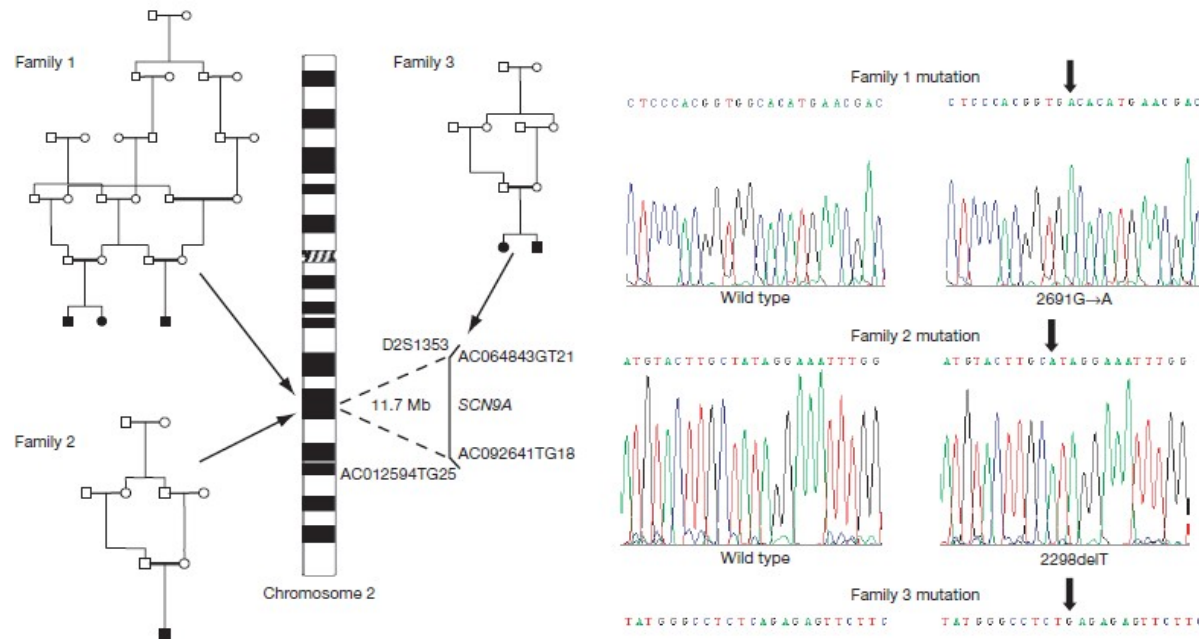
## Mutation G856D





# An *SCN9A* channelopathy causes congenital inability to experience pain

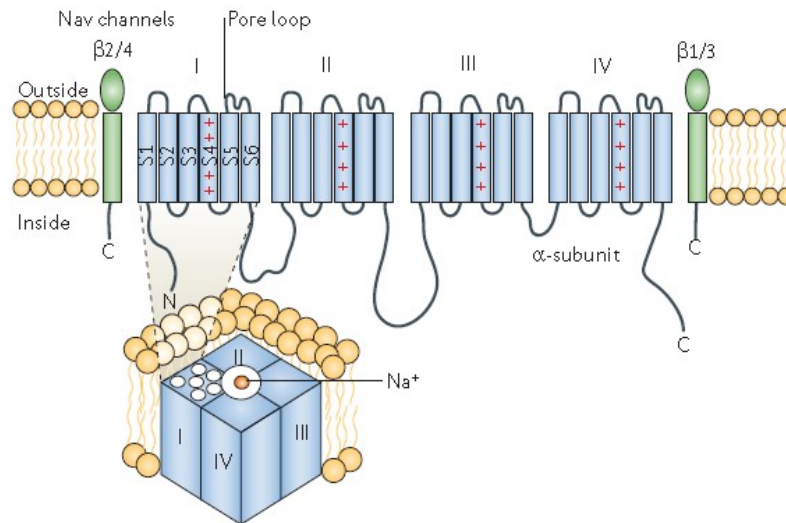
James J. Cox<sup>1\*</sup>, Frank Reimann<sup>2\*</sup>, Adeline K. Nicholas<sup>1</sup>, Gemma Thornton<sup>1</sup>, Emma Roberts<sup>3</sup>, Kelly Springell<sup>3</sup>, Gulshan Karbani<sup>4</sup>, Hussain Jafri<sup>5</sup>, Jovaria Mannan<sup>6</sup>, Yasmin Raashid<sup>7</sup>, Lihadh Al-Gazali<sup>8</sup>, Henan Hamamy<sup>9</sup>, Enza Maria Valente<sup>10</sup>, Shaun Gorman<sup>11</sup>, Richard Williams<sup>12</sup>, Duncan P. McHale<sup>12</sup>, John N. Wood<sup>13</sup>, Fiona M. Gribble<sup>2</sup> & C. Geoffrey Woods<sup>1</sup>





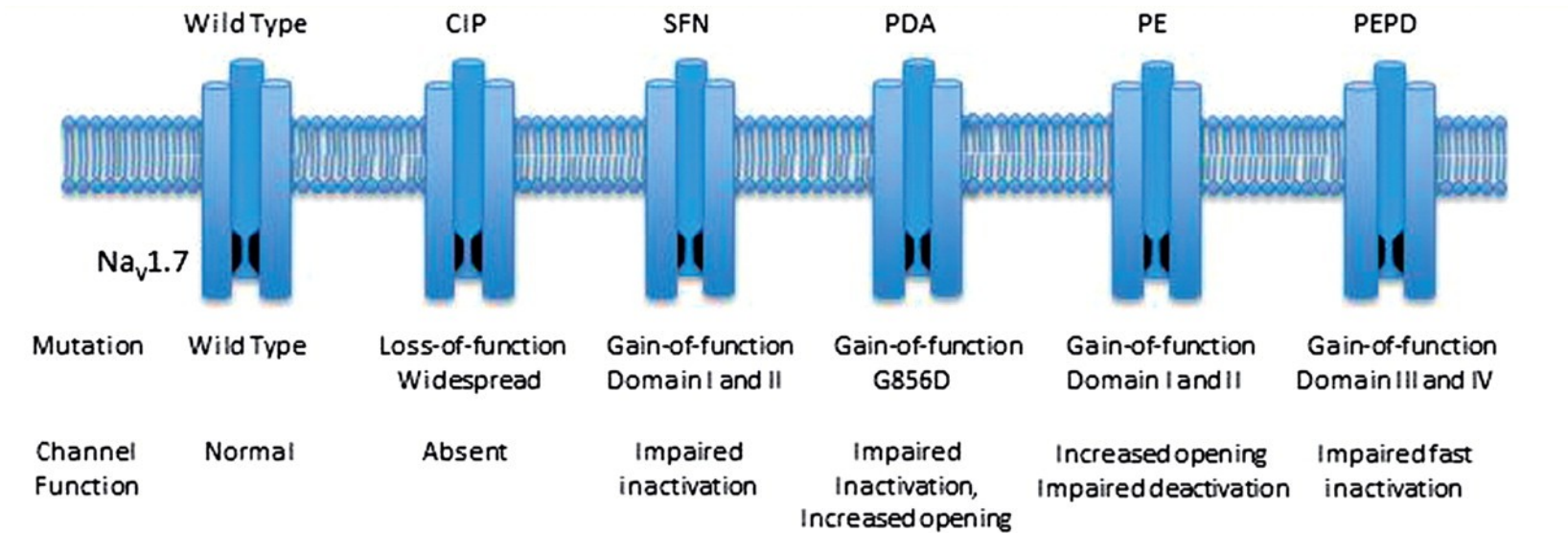
# Na<sub>v</sub>1.7 channel

- Na<sub>v</sub>1.7 consist of an  $\alpha$  subunit and one or more  $\beta$  subunits



- Na<sub>v</sub>1.7 is preferentially expressed in dorsal root ganglion (DRG) and sympathetic ganglion neurons and their axons
- *SCN9A* encodes the  $\alpha$  subunit of the Na<sub>v</sub>1.7

# Na<sub>v</sub>1.7 channelopathies



CIP = congenital indifference to pain

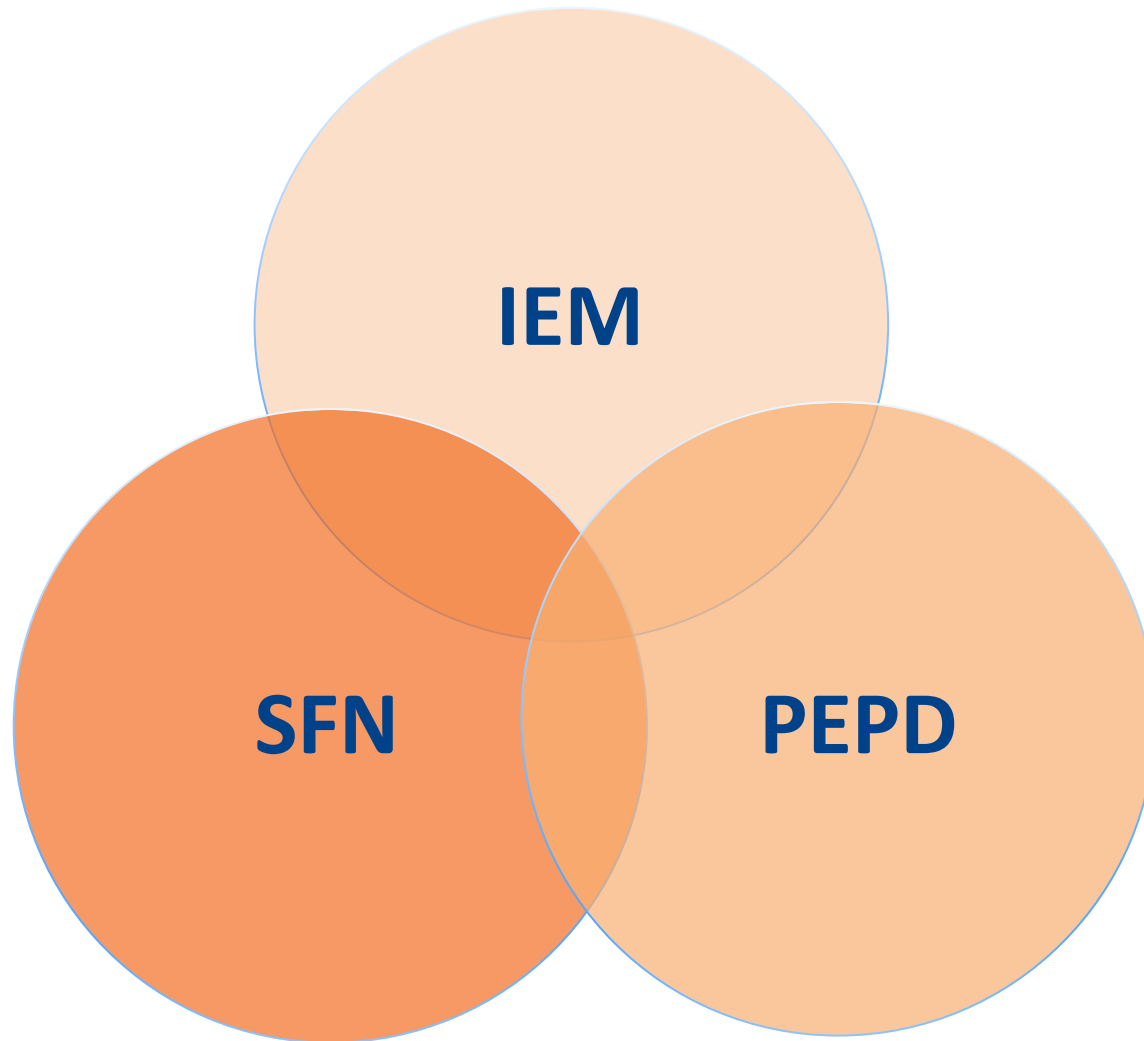
SFN = small fiber neuropathy

PDA = pain, dysautonomia and acromesomelia

PE = primary erythromelalgia

PEPD = paroxysmal extreme pain disorder

# Spectrum



# Gain/Loss of function mutations

## Gain-of-function mutations:

- PE, PEPD, SFN, ...
- Missense mutations
- Autosomal dominant inheritance

## Loss-of-function mutations:

- CIP
- Nonsense, frame shift, splice site mutations
- Autosomal recessive inheritance

# Phenotypic diversity



SCN9A p.Ile228Met

- Severe facial pain \*
- Distal pain \*
- Scalp discomfort

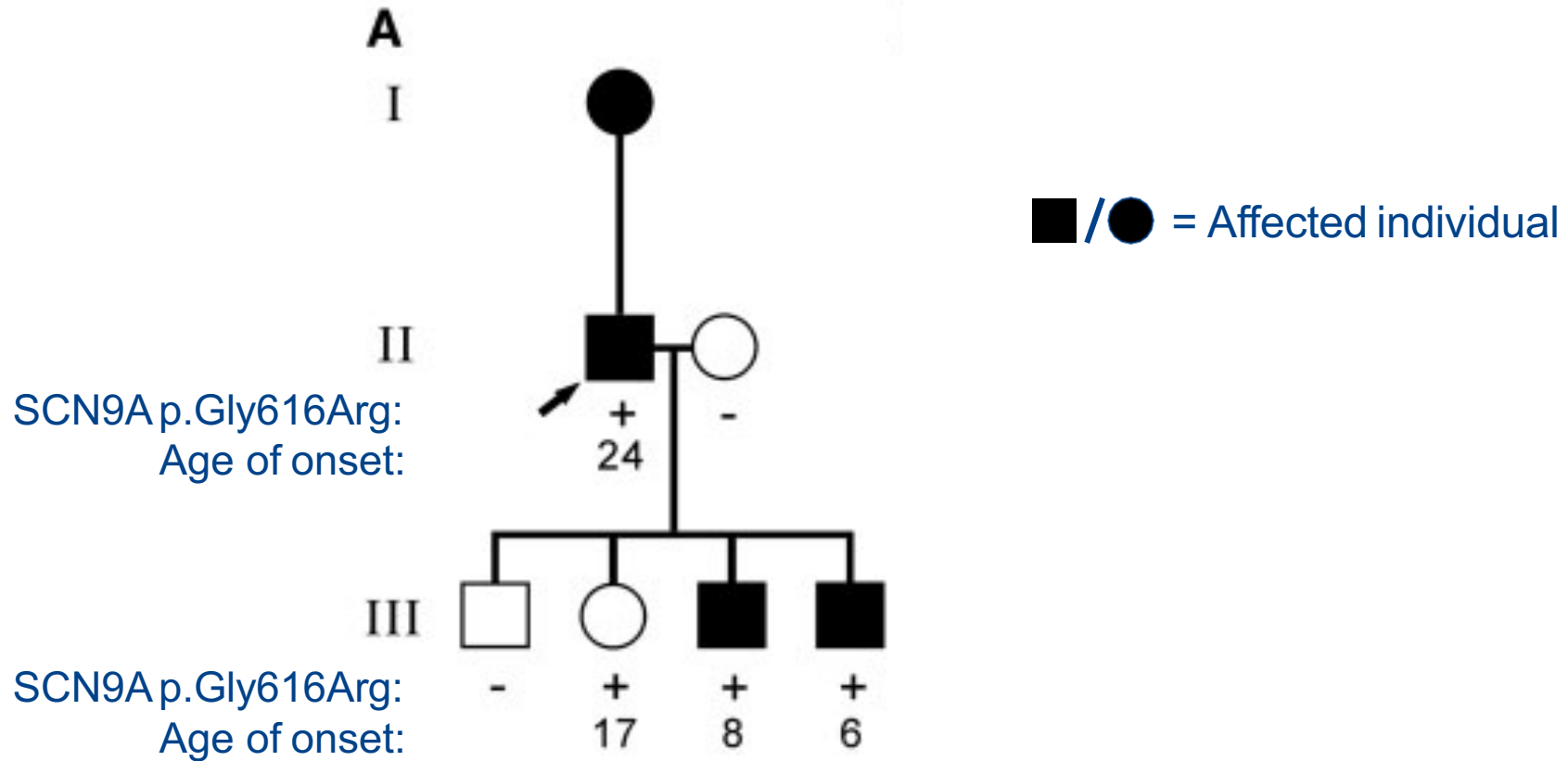
\* Brother and sister

# Variably expressed

- Mutation *SCN9A* p.Arg185His → no autonomic symptoms
- Mutation *SCN9A* p.Ile739Val → severe autonomic symptoms



# Partly penetrant



# Disease-contributing variants - risk factors

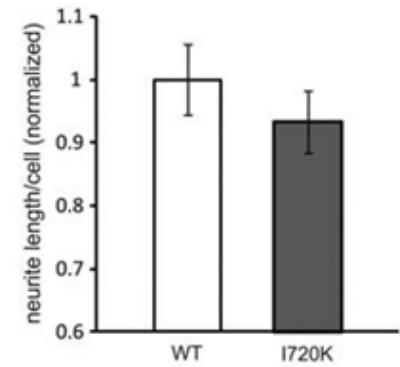
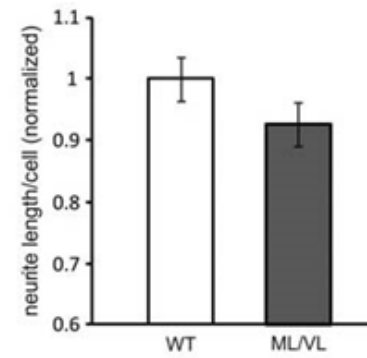
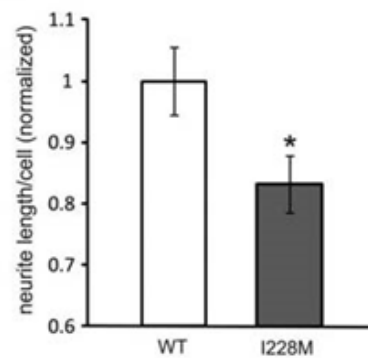
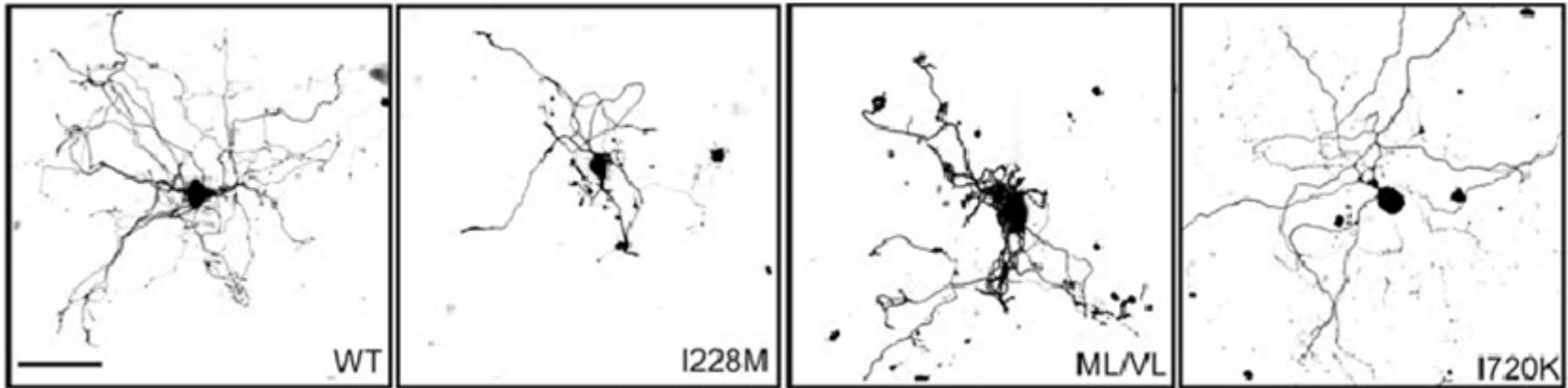
Variant	MAF * General population (%) #	Frequency SFN-cohort Maastricht (%)
<i>SCN9A</i> p.Arg185His	0.3-0.6	0.1
<i>SCN9A</i> p.Ile739Val	0.1-0.9	1.5

\* MAF, minor allele frequency

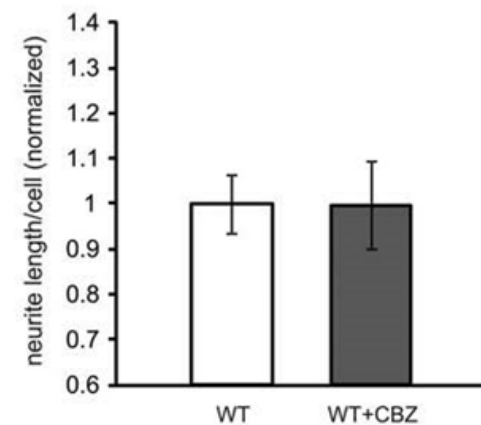
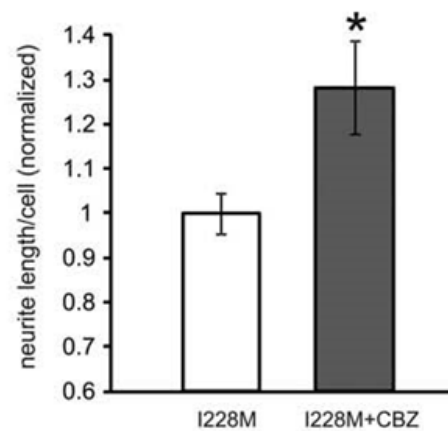
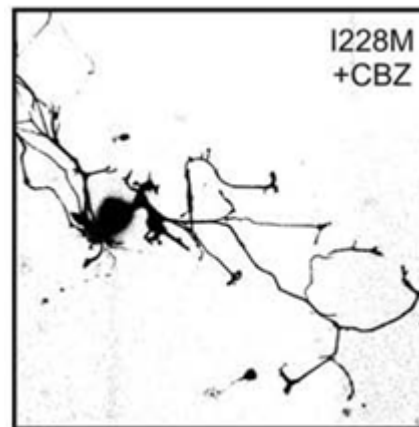
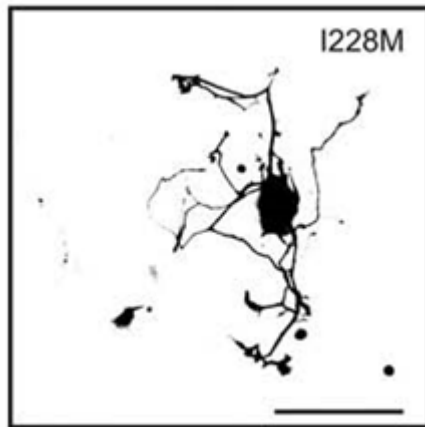
# Used SNP databases: dbSNP, ExAC, ESP, GoNL



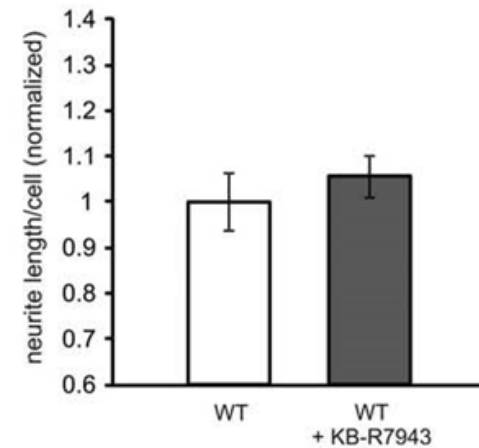
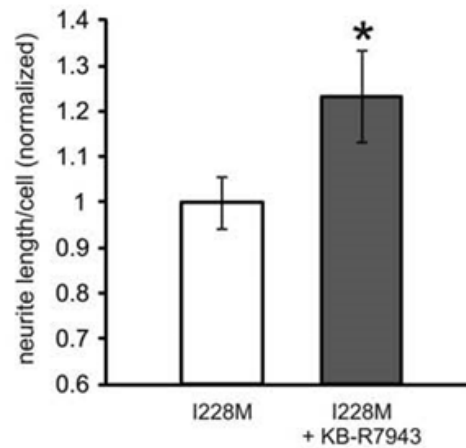
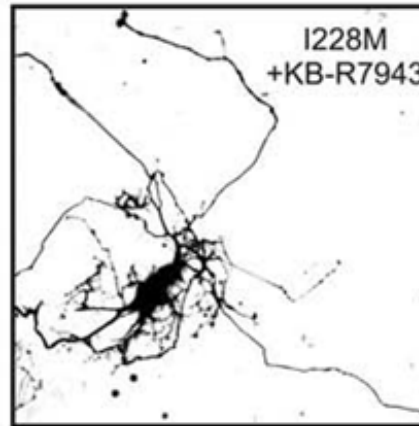
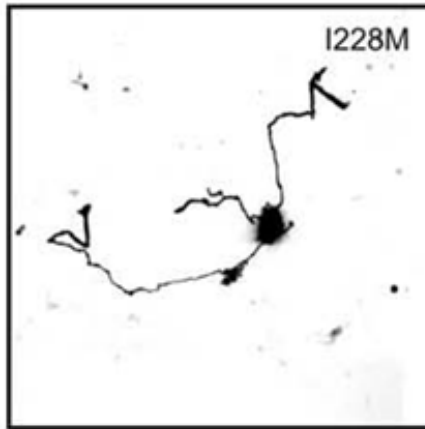
# Reduction neurite outgrow



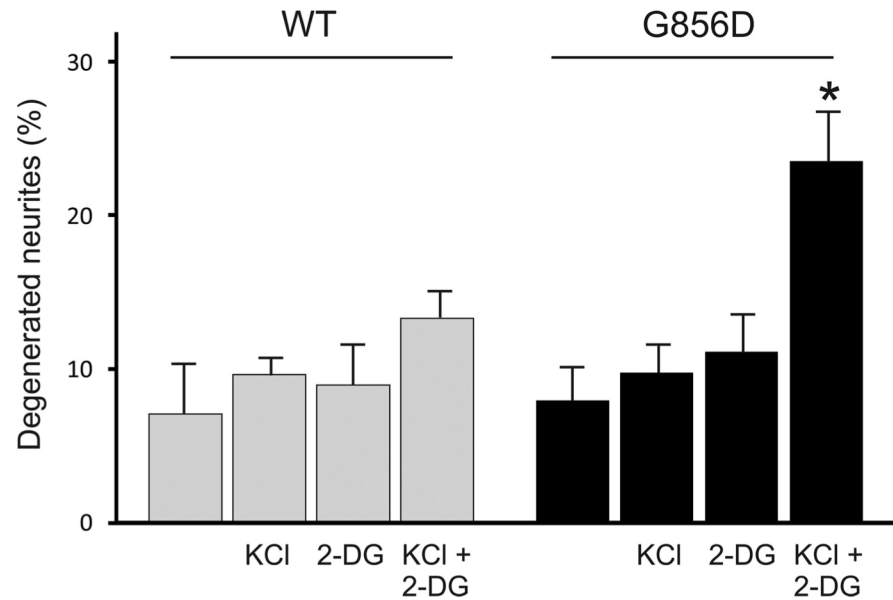
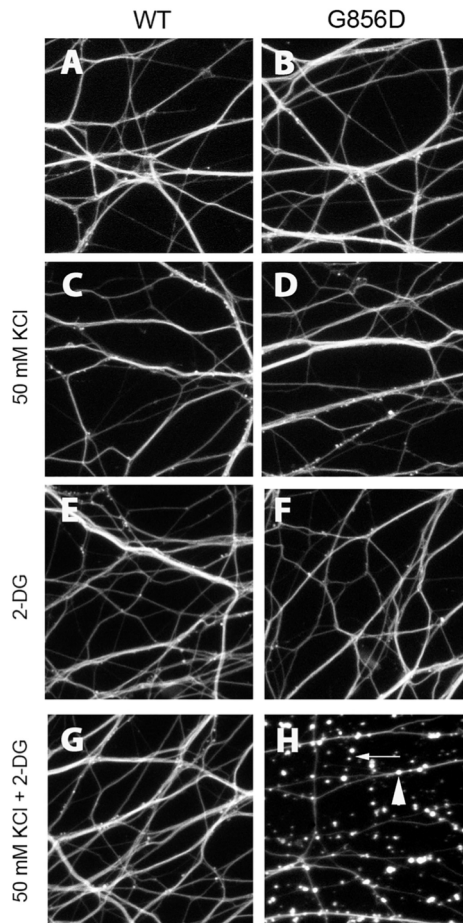
# Sodium channel blocker



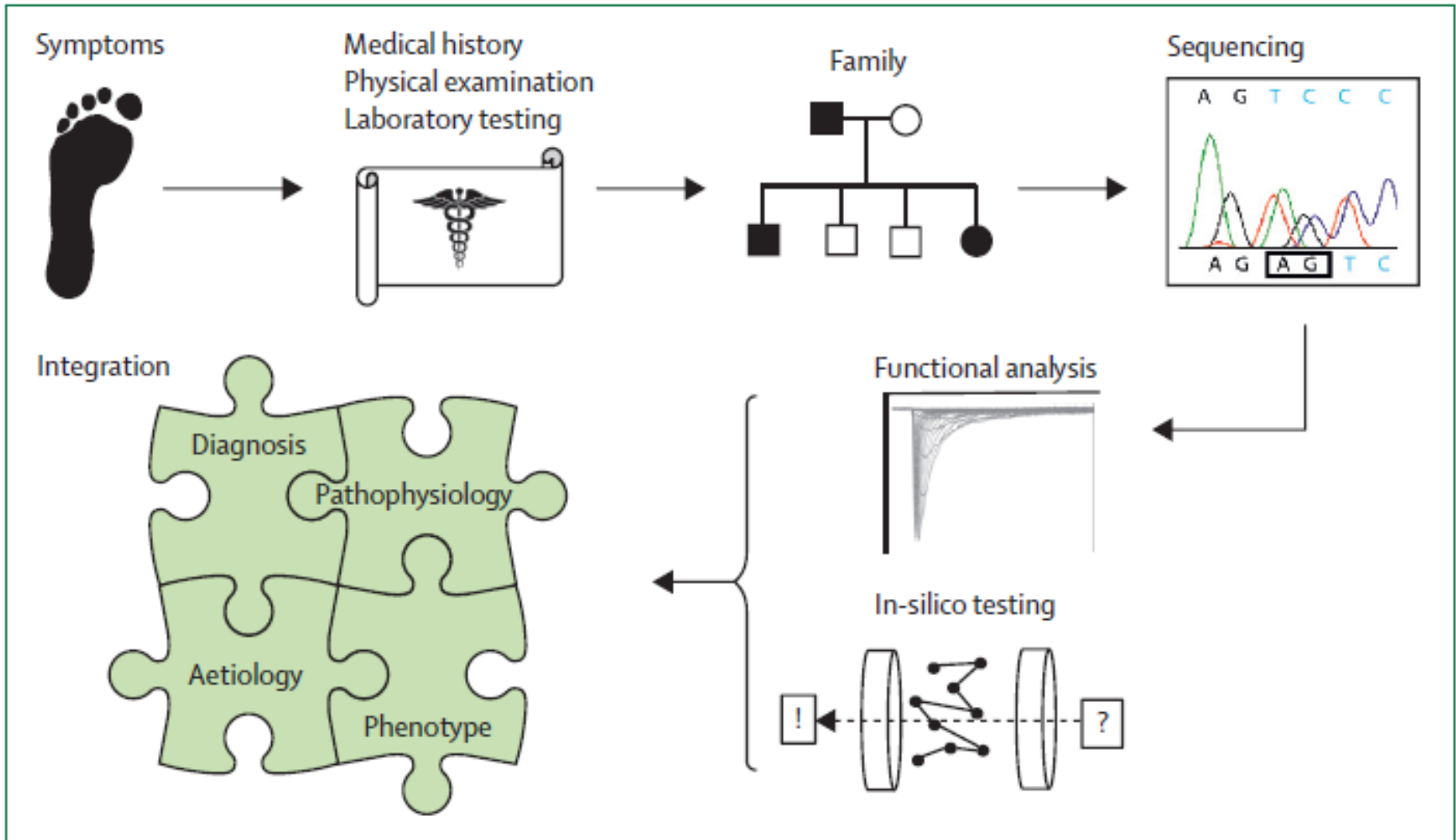
# Inhibition Na<sup>+</sup>-Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchanger



# Metabolic stress and depolarization



# Diagnostic process



# SCN9A polymorphism p.Arg1550Trp can influence pain perception

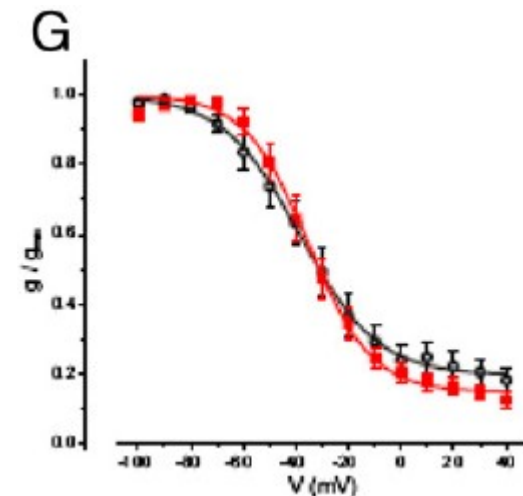
Cohort	No. of affected individuals	rs6746030 allele for which most pain was felt	P value for A allele association
1. Osteoarthritis	578	A	0.016*
2. Sciatica	195	A	0.039*
3. Postamputation	100	A	0.011*
4. Postdiscectomy	179	A	0.088
5. Chronic pancreatitis	205	A = G	0.732
6. Meta-analysis	1257	A	0.0001*

\*Cohort results reached statistical significance.

MAF= 11.9% (gnomAD)

## Nav1.7-1150W vs. Nav1.7-WT:

- Slow inactivation occurred at more positive potentials than fast inactivation
- Slow inactivation reached only ~80%
- Extent of slow inactivation was similar
- Voltage-dependence of Nav1.7 was steeper



# Role of other sodium channels

PNAS

## Gain-of-function $\text{Na}_v1.8$ mutations in painful neuropathy

Catharina G. Faber<sup>a,1</sup>, Giuseppe Lauria<sup>b,1</sup>, Ingemar S. J. Merkies<sup>a,c,1</sup>, Xiaoyang Cheng<sup>d,e</sup>, Chongyang Han<sup>d,e</sup>, Hye-Sook Ahn<sup>d,e</sup>, Anna-Karin Persson<sup>d,e</sup>, Janneke G. J. Hoeijmakers<sup>a</sup>, Monique M. Gerrits<sup>f</sup>, Tiziana Pierro<sup>b</sup>, Raffaella Lombardi<sup>b</sup>, Dimos Kapetis<sup>b,g</sup>, Sulayman D. Dib-Hajj<sup>d,e</sup>, and Stephen G. Waxman<sup>d,e,2</sup>

Departments of <sup>a</sup>Neurology and <sup>f</sup>Clinical Genomics, University Medical Centre Maastricht, 6202 AZ Maastricht, The Netherlands; <sup>b</sup>Neuromuscular Diseases Unit and <sup>g</sup>Bioinformatics Unit, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico Foundation, "Carlo Besta," 20133 Milan, Italy; <sup>c</sup>Department of Neurology, Spaarne Hospital, 2130 AT Hoofddorp, The Netherlands; <sup>d</sup>Department of Neurology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT 06510; and <sup>e</sup>Center for Neuroscience and Regeneration Research, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, West Haven, CT 06516

Edited\* by David Julius, University of California, San Francisco, CA, and approved October 3, 2012 (received for review September 20, 2012)

doi:10.1093/brain/awu079

Brain 2014; 137; 1627–1642 | 1627

## BRAIN

A JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY

## Gain-of-function mutations in sodium channel $\text{Na}_v1.9$ in painful neuropathy

Jianying Huang,<sup>1,\*</sup> Chongyang Han,<sup>1,\*</sup> Mark Estacion,<sup>1,\*</sup> Dymtro Vasylyev,<sup>1,\*</sup> Janneke G. J. Hoeijmakers,<sup>2</sup> Monique M. Gerrits,<sup>3</sup> Lynda Tyrrell,<sup>1</sup> Giuseppe Lauria,<sup>4</sup> Catharina G. Faber,<sup>2</sup> Sulayman D. Dib-Hajj,<sup>1</sup> Ingemar S. J. Merkies<sup>2,5</sup> and Stephen G. Waxman<sup>1</sup>  
on behalf of the PROPANE Study Group

# Na<sub>v</sub> channel variants in patients with painful and nonpainful peripheral neuropathy

OPEN

278 idiopathic neuropathy (67% painful)

179 diabetic neuropathy (77% painful)

GOF mutations  $\leq 3\%$

No differences between painful and non-painful group in previously reported GOF mutations

Meaning: Painful neuropathy  $\neq$  diabetic neuropathy  $\neq$  SFN



# Questions



- Penetrance
- Causes/contributor/risk factors
- Mutations in other genes/ genetic background
- Role of sodium channels in other painful neuropathies
- Therapeutic options

# Conclusions

## Sodium channel mutations

- Role in painful small fiber neuropathy
- Diagnosis based on integrated approach
- Possible role for other genes/ genetic background
- Key to targeted treatment

# Trial design

1. Strict criteria for SFN (not all painful neuropathies are SFN)
2. Include gene mutations in trial design?
  - Depending on drugs tested (sodium channel blockers, other)
  - Secondary/ subgroup analysis for sodium channel mutations