



**Autismo ed educazione:
mai troppo presto, mai troppo tardi, mai troppo gravi**
BOLOGNA, 23 Aprile 2016, TEATRO DUSE

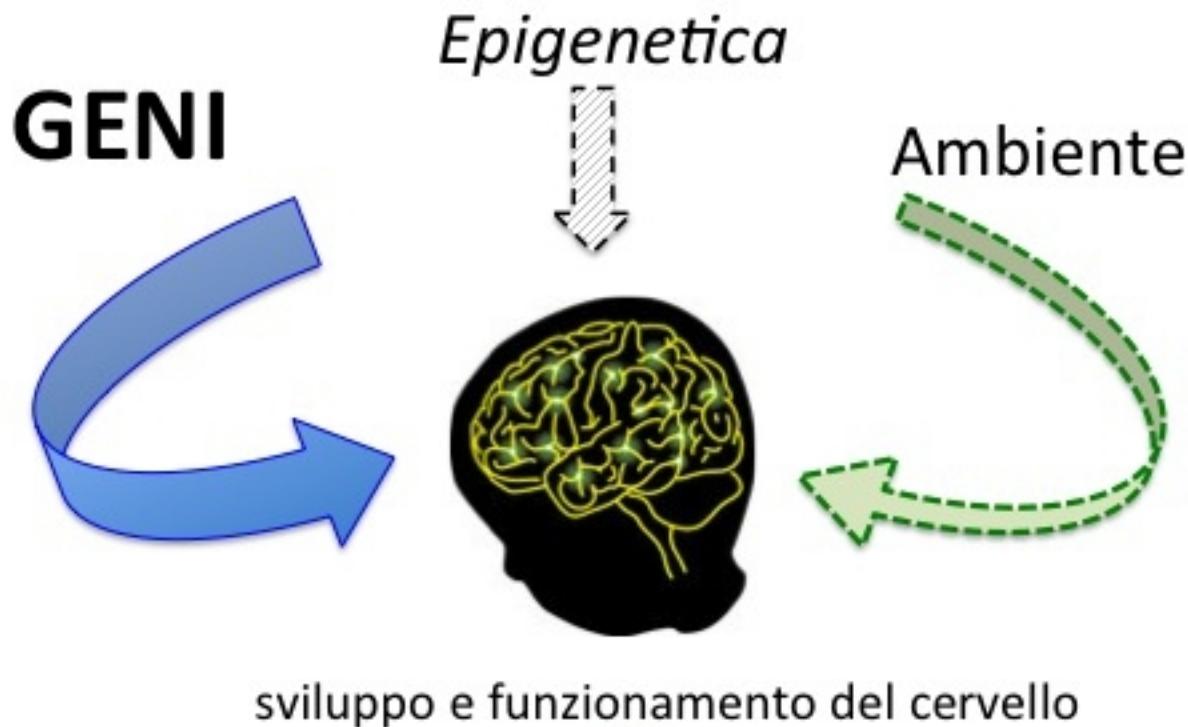
**Dalla genetica alla biologia.
Dalla biologia alla terapia?**

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Università di Bologna



DIPARTIMENTO DI FARMACIA E BIOTECNOLOGIE

Autismo: Quali sono le cause?



sviluppo e funzionamento del cervello

funzioni cognitive

manifestazioni comportamentali

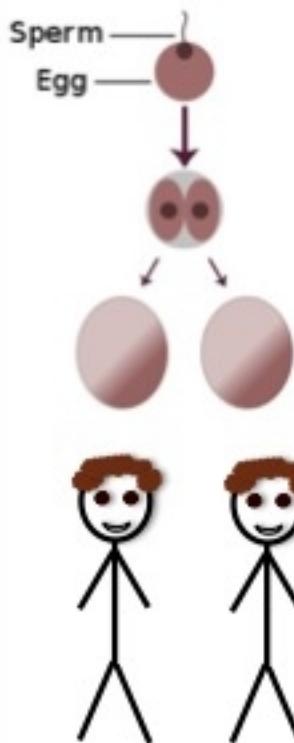
comunicazione

interazione
sociale

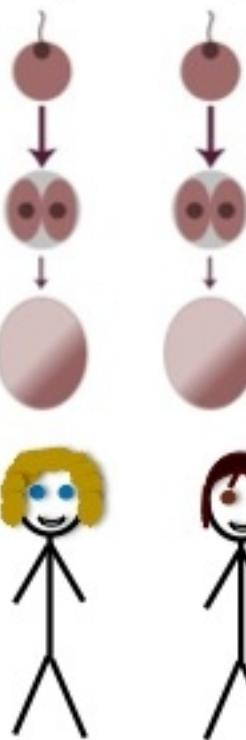
stereotipie

Autismo e gemelli

Monozigoti
(identici)



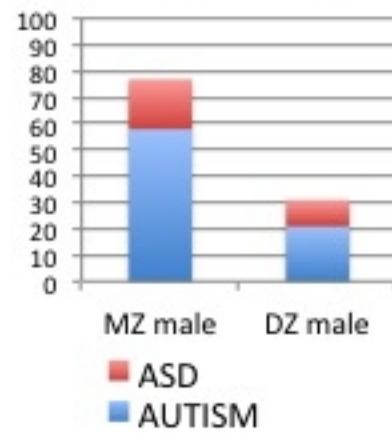
Dizigoti
(fraterni)



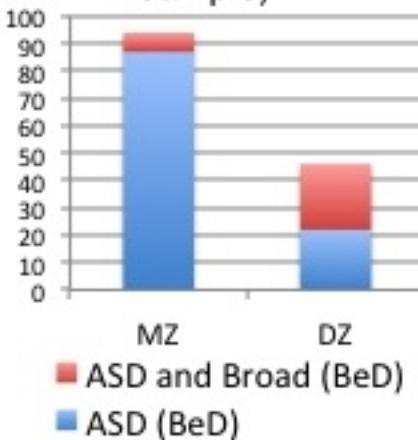
Una maggiore somiglianza tra i gemelli MZ ed i gemelli DZ dà una misura della componente genetica di un carattere fenotipico

**In tutti gli studi
concordanza MZ >> DZ**

Hallmeyer et al, 2011
(California twin study)



Colvert et al, 2015
(UK population based twin sample)

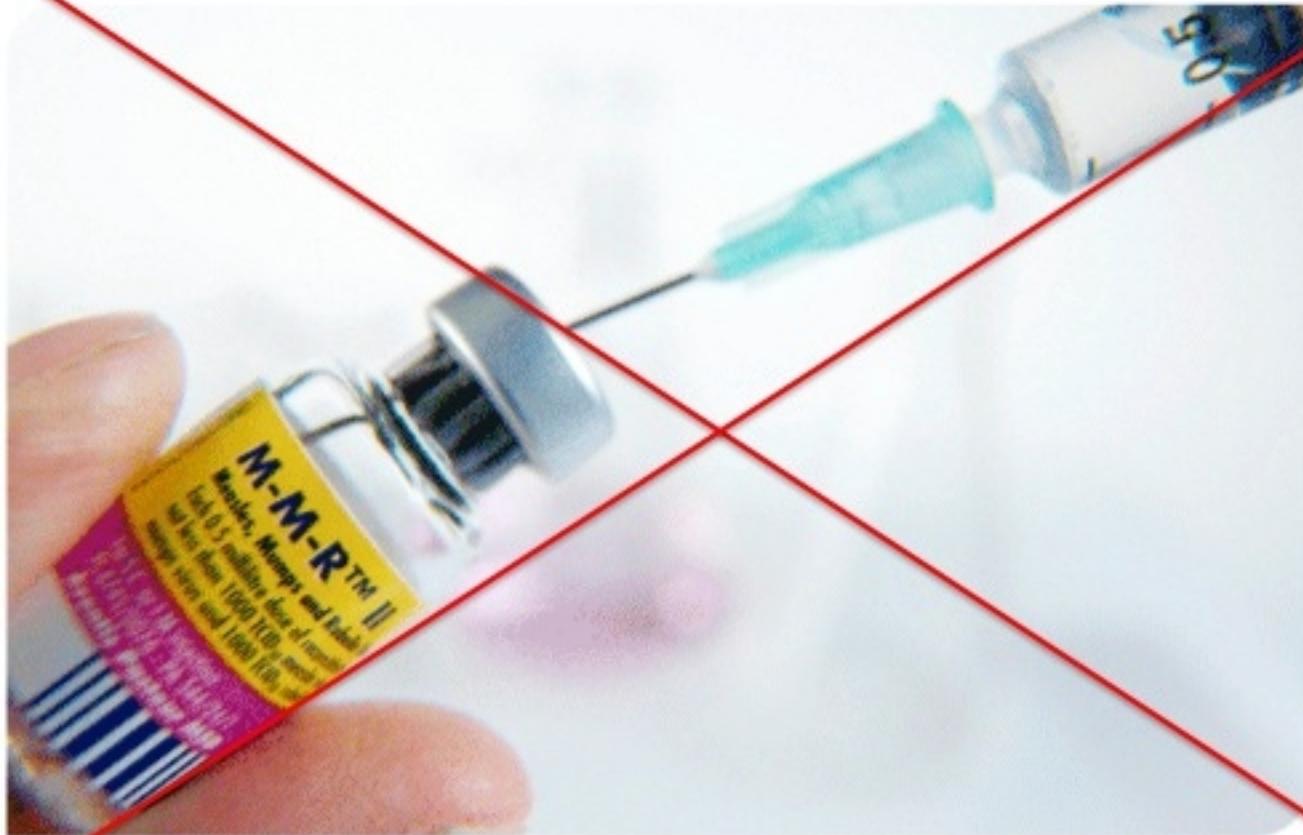


Fattori ambientali ?

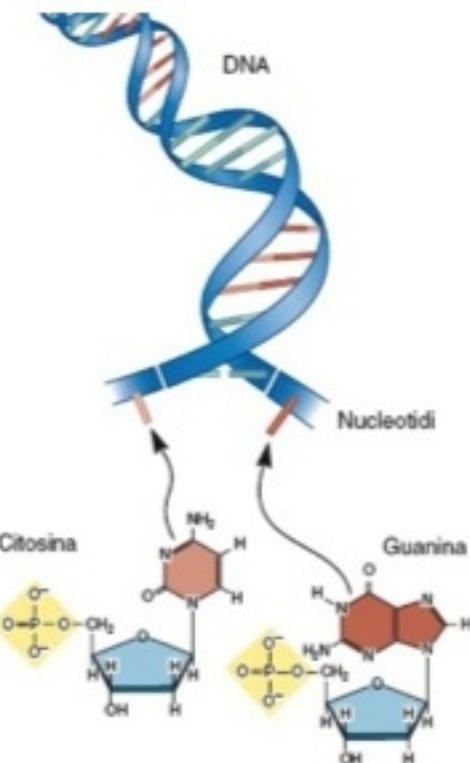


L'autismo è causato da un
mancato "calore materno"
durante la prima infanzia, o
da relazioni disfunzionali
genitori-bambino

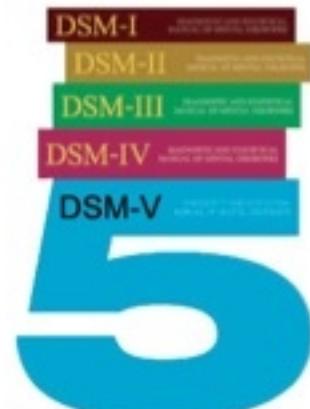
Fattori ambientali ?



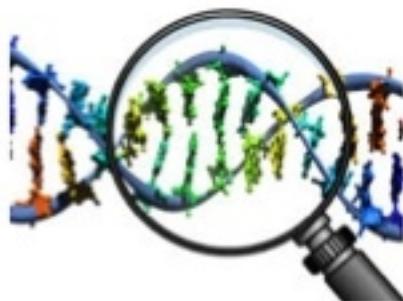
GENOTIPO



FENOTIPO



ADI, ADOS,
CARS, QI,
etc



- Genoma umano aploide :
 $\sim 3 \times 10^9$ bp
 ~ 22.000 geni

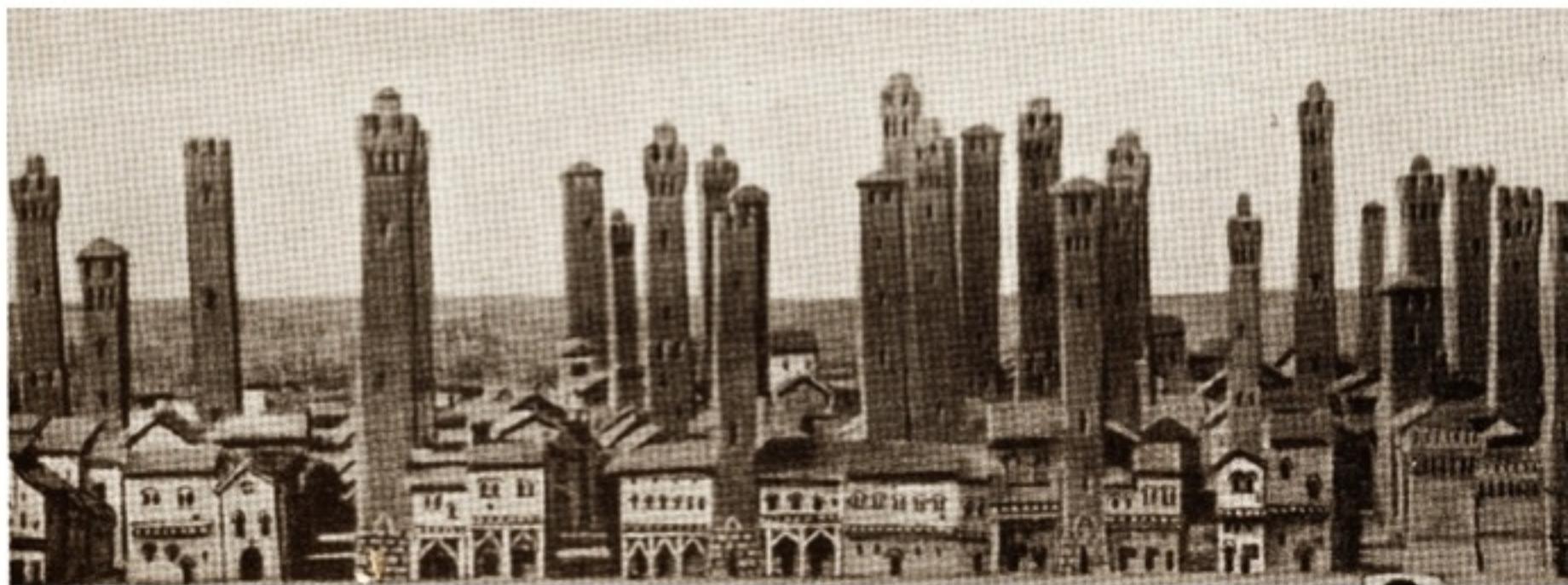


La variabilità genetica

- Genoma umano aploide : $\sim 3 \times 10^9$ bp
- ~ 20.000 geni
- I genomi di due individui differiscono per circa l'1%



L'ARCHITETTURA GENETICA DELL'AUTISMO



“architettura genetica” → quali geni? quanti? quale natura e in che modo sono alterati i geni coinvolti nell’eziolegia dell’autismo?

Tipi di varianti genetiche



SNV (SNP)

*Single Nucleotide Variant/
Polymorphism*

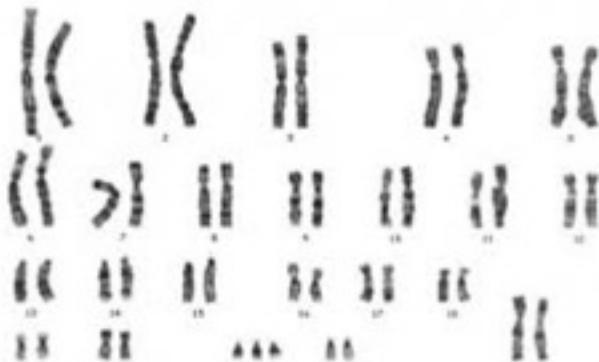
ATTGGCCTTAACCCCGATTATCAGGAT
ATTGGCCTTAACCTCCGATTATCAGGAT

CNV

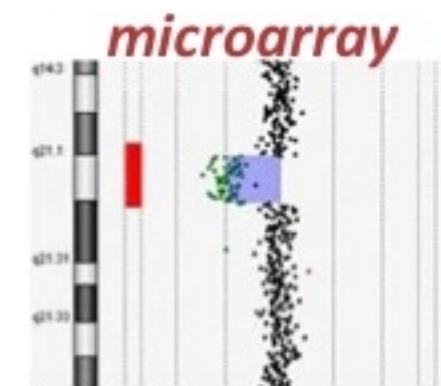
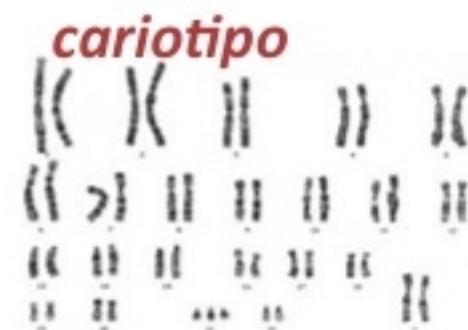
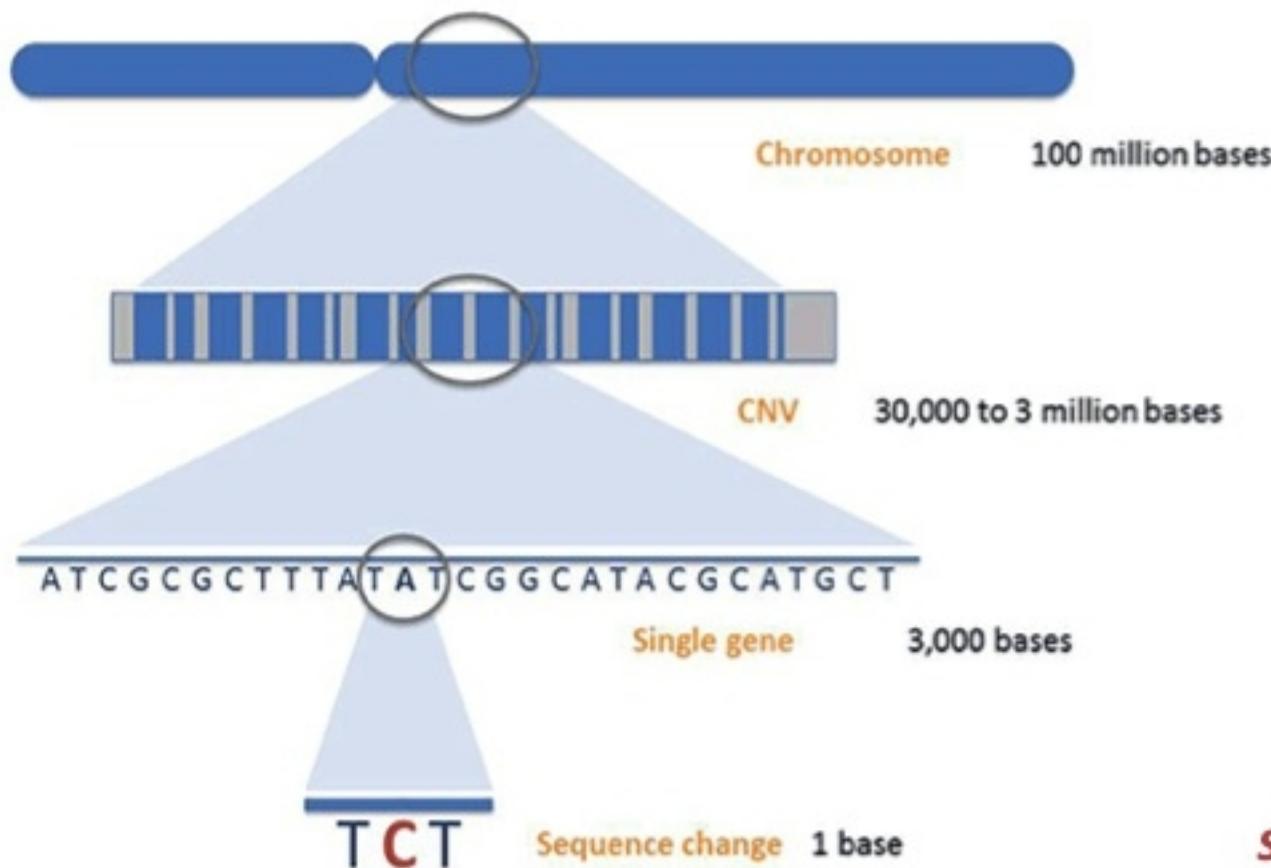
Copy Number Variant

ATTGGCCTTAGGCCTTAACCCCCGATTATCAGGAT
ATTGGCCTTA-----ACCTCCGATTATCAGGAT

Anomalie cromosomiche



Una questione di scala



sequenziamento DNA

- Sanger: singoli geni
- NGS: interi genomi



Varianti comuni e rare

- caattaaaagacacagactggcaa~~a~~aggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtgctgtattc
- caattaaaagag~~g~~acagactggcaaattggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtgctgtattc
- caattaaaagacacagactggcaaattggataaagagt~~t~~aagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc
- caattaaaagag~~g~~acagactggcaaattggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc
- caattaaaagacacagactggcaaattggataaagagtcaagatcc~~c~~cagtgtgctgtattc
- ~~c~~gattaaaagacacagactggcaaattggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc
- caattaaaagag~~g~~acagactggcaaattggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtgctgtattc
- caattaaaagacacagactggca~~g~~attggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc
- caattaaaagacacagactggcaaattggataaagagt~~t~~aagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc
- caattaaaagag~~g~~acagactggcaaattggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtgctgtattc
- caattaaaagag~~g~~acagactggcaaattggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc
- caattaaaagag~~g~~acagactggcaaattggataaagagtcaagatcc~~c~~cagtgtgctgtattc
- caattaaaagacacagactggcaa~~a~~aggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc



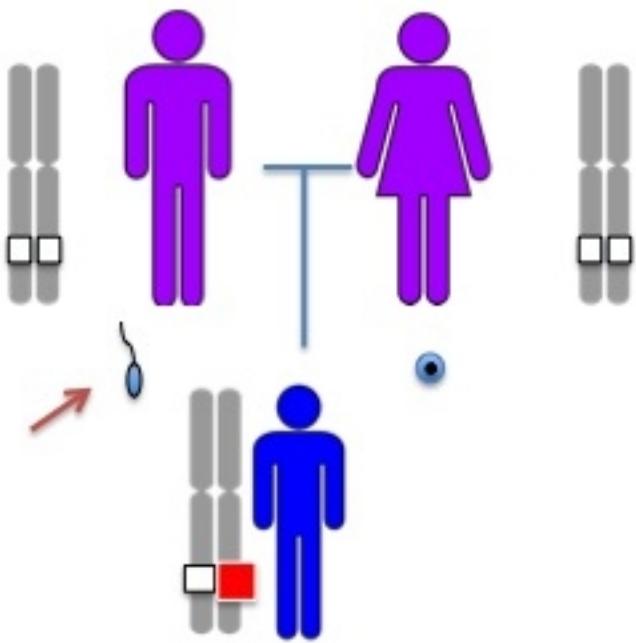
Varianti comuni e rare

- caattaaaagacacagactggcaa~~a~~at~~g~~gataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtgtgttattc
- caattaaaagag~~g~~acagactggcaaattggataaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtgtgttattc
- caattaaaagacacagactggcaaattggataaagagt~~t~~aagatccagcagtgtgtatgttattc
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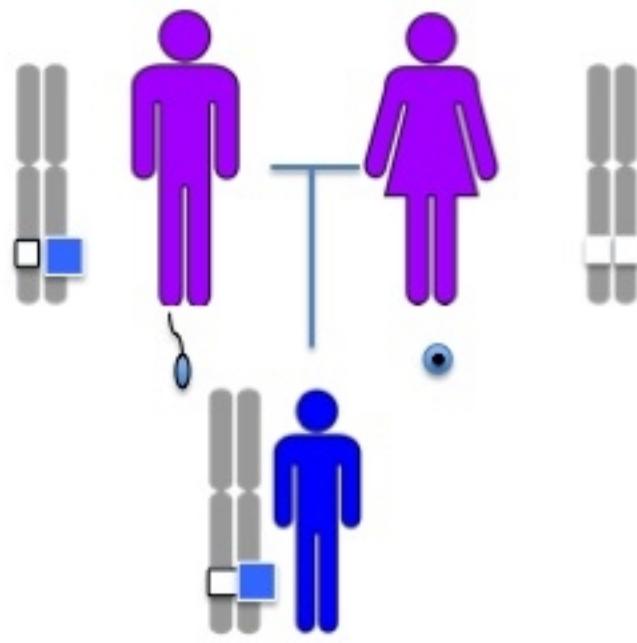


Varianti comuni e rare

- caattaaaagacacagactggcaa~~a~~at~~g~~gataaaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtgctgtattc
- caattaaaagag~~g~~acagactggcaaattggataaaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtgctgtattc
- caattaaaagacacagactggcaaattggataaaagagt~~t~~aagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc
- caattaaaagag~~g~~acagactggcaaattggataaaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc
- caattaaaagacacagactggcaaattggataaaagagtcaagatcc~~c~~cagtgtgctgtattc
- c~~g~~attaaaagacacagactggcaaattggataaaagagtcaagatccagcagtgtg~~a~~tgtattc
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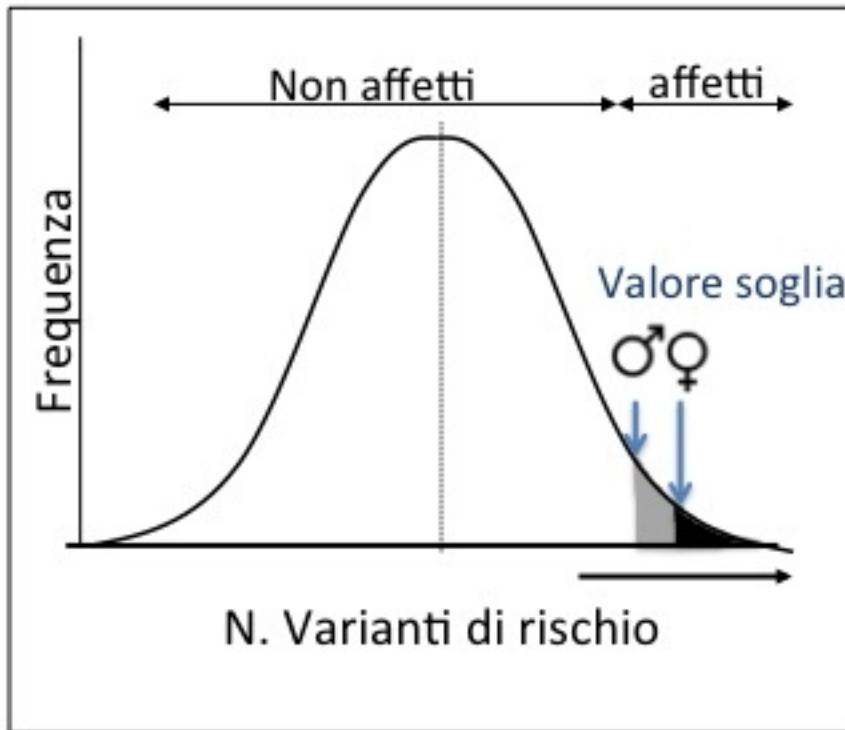


De-novo



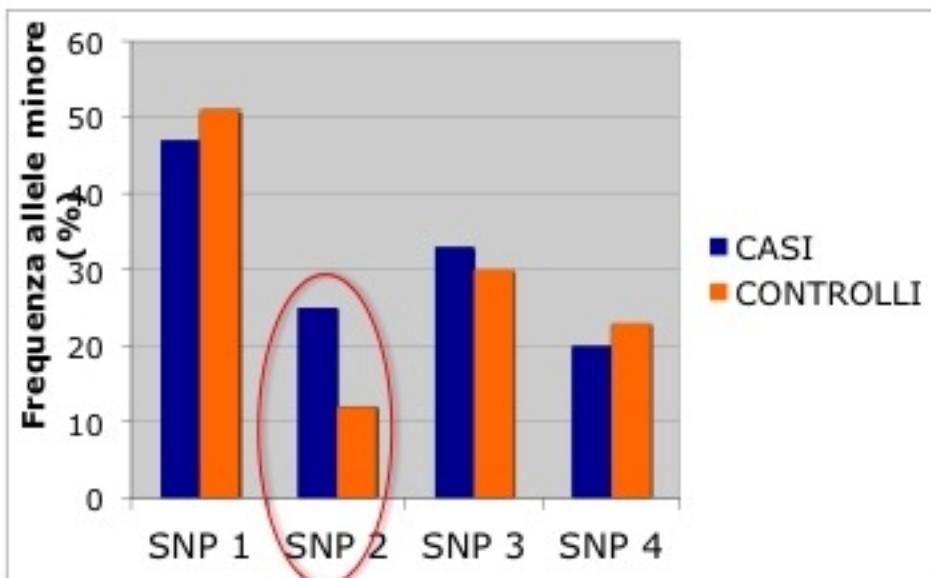
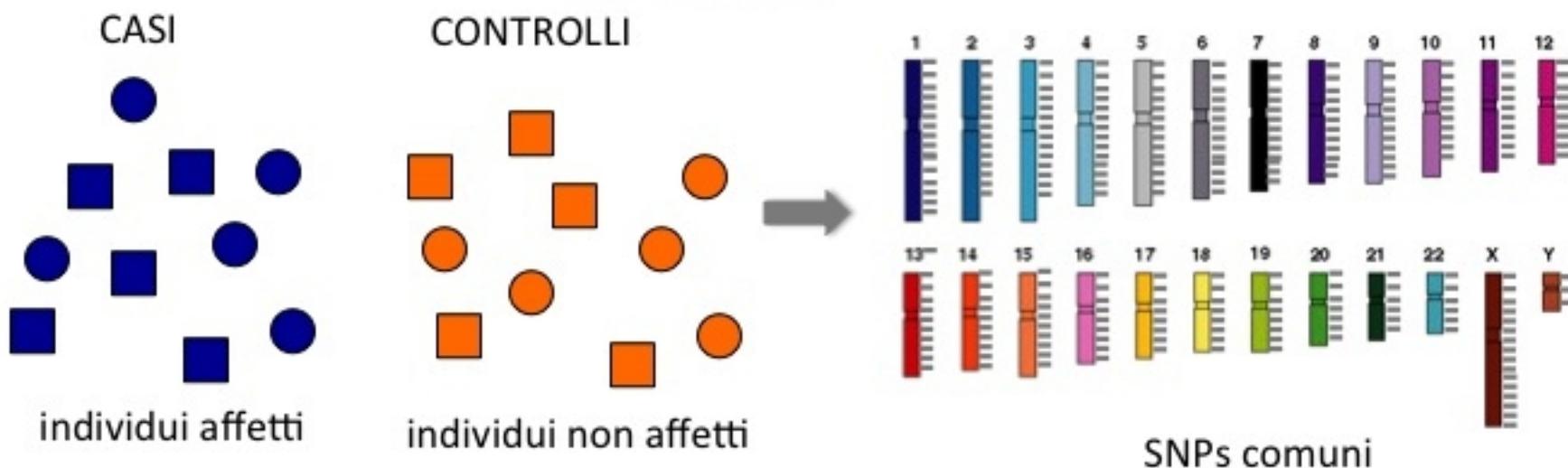
Ereditata

Varianti comuni



- Studi recenti hanno dimostrato che varianti comuni (SNPs) collettivamente hanno un impatto sostanziale sul rischio di autismo
- contribuiscono final al 20%-50% dell'ereditabilità

Genome-wide association studies GWAS



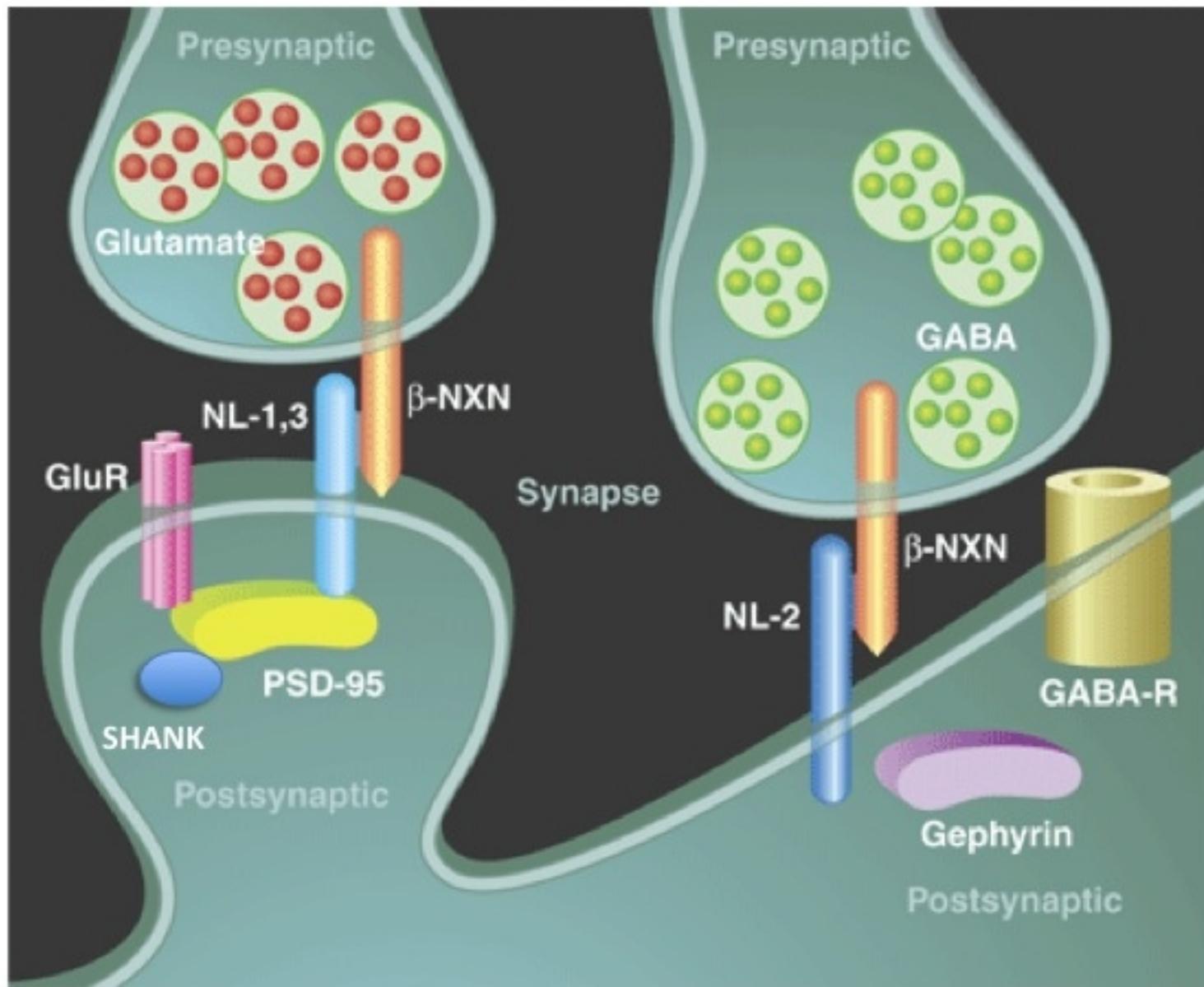
VARIANTI RARE



VARIANTI COMUNI
nella popolazione, ciascuna di piccolo effetto

VARIANTI RARE



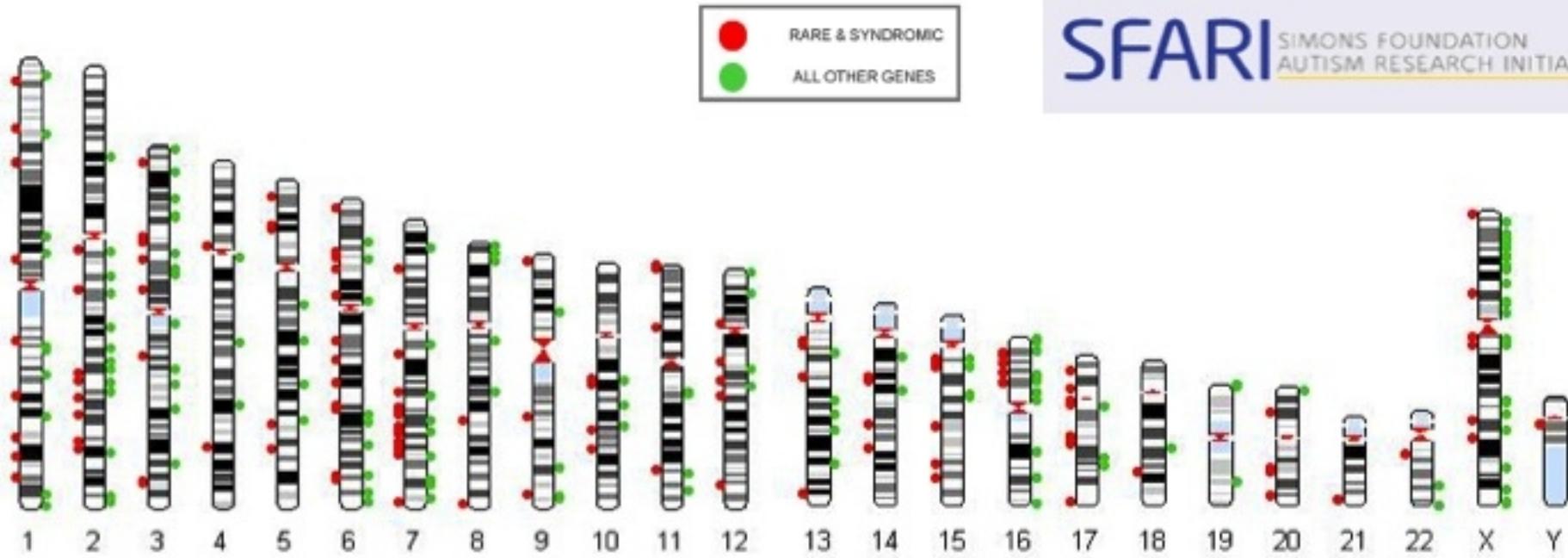




SFARI GENE Home

A Modular Database for Autism Research

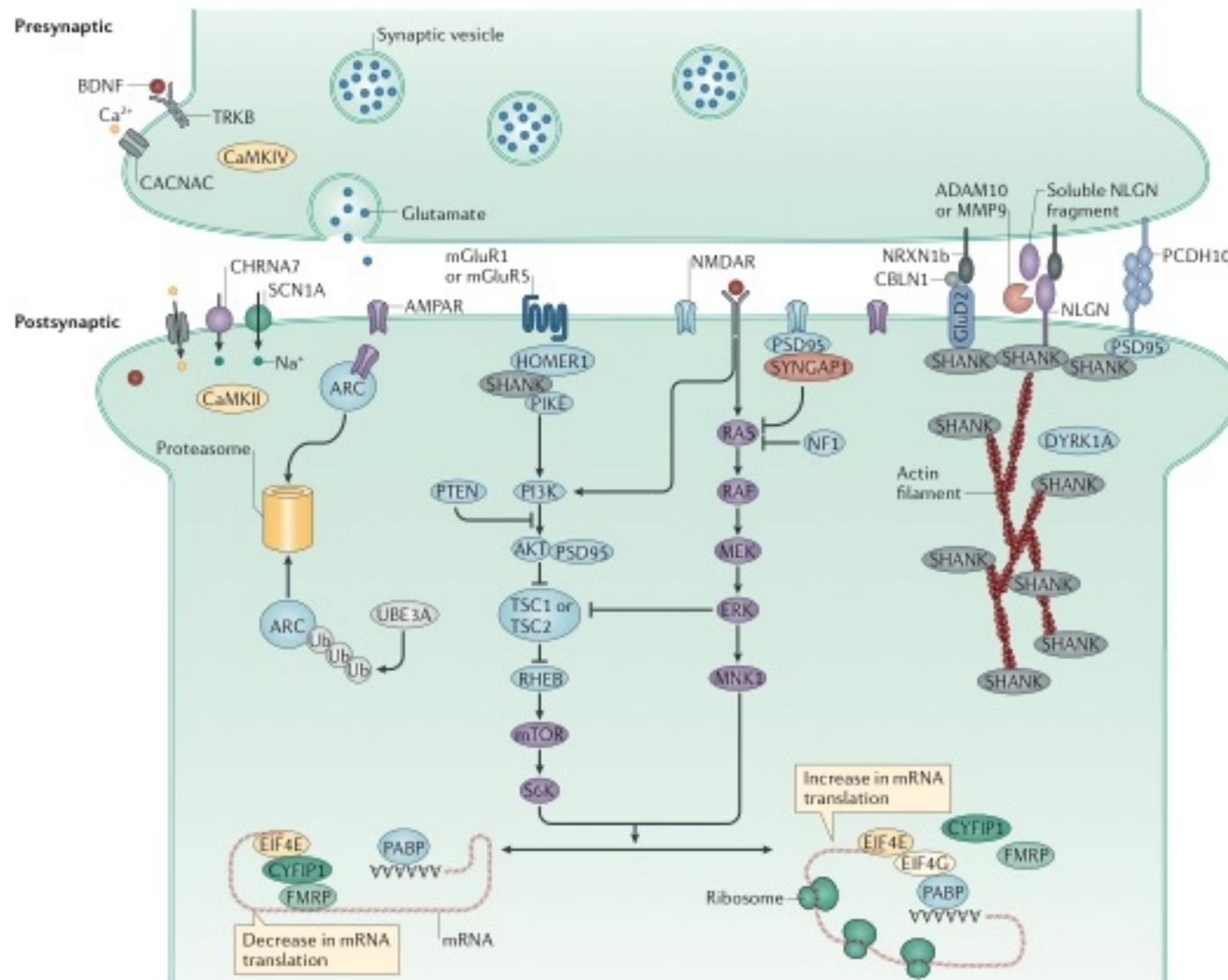
<https://gene.sfari.org>



Analisi del genoma di migliaia di individui e famiglie con autismo:

- Identificazione di numerosi geni e “loci” associati al disturbo
 - CNV rare o *de novo* ⇐ microarrays
 - Varianti di singoli nucleotidi ⇐ NGS

Centinaia di geni: pathways comuni ?



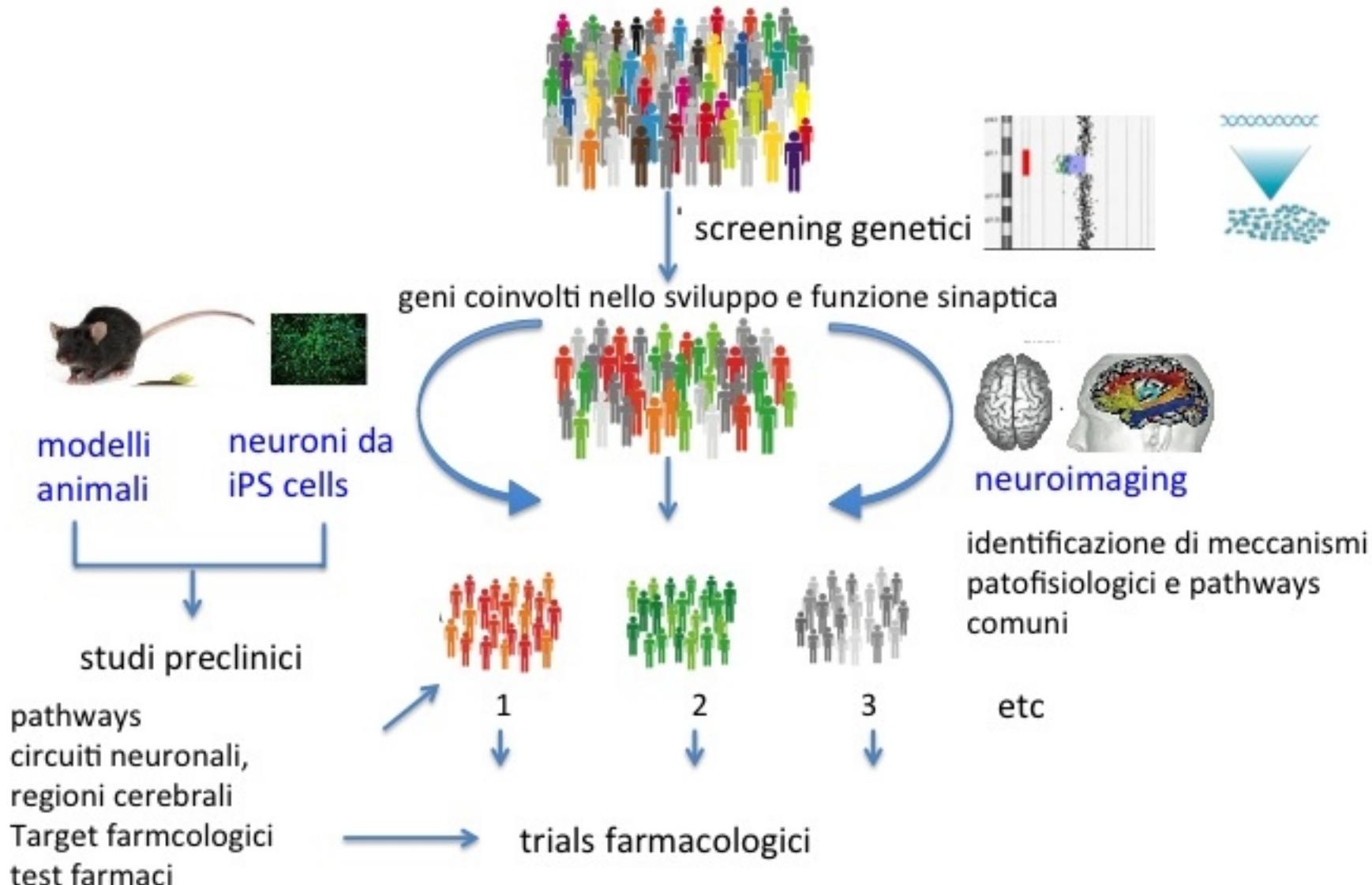
Forme “monogeniche” di autismo

Si puo` stimare che fino al 20% dei casi di autismo potrebbero essere forme ‘MONOGENICHE’

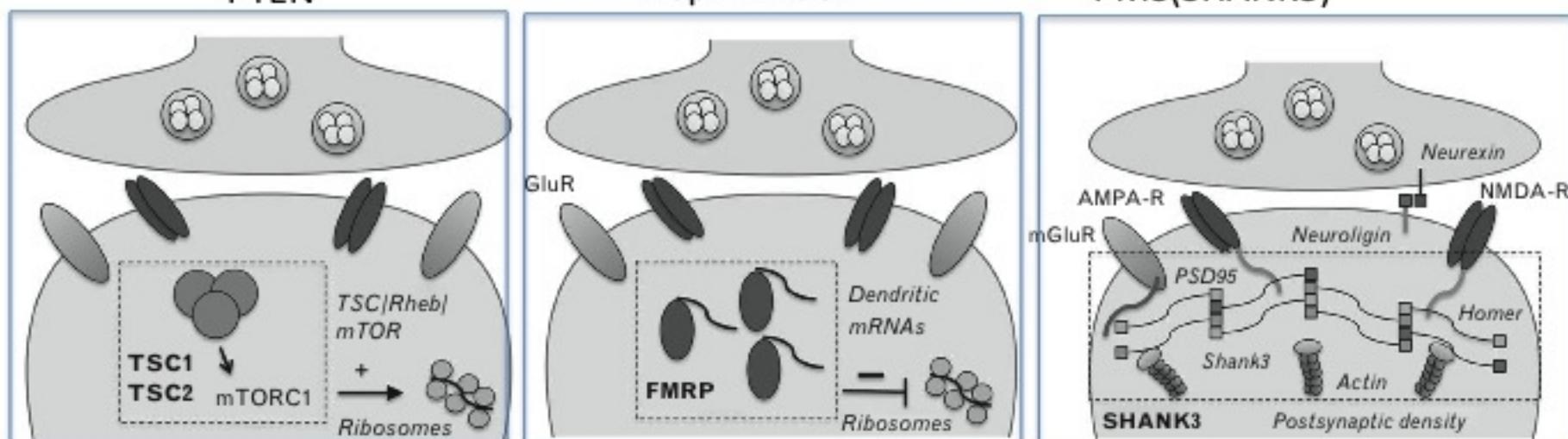
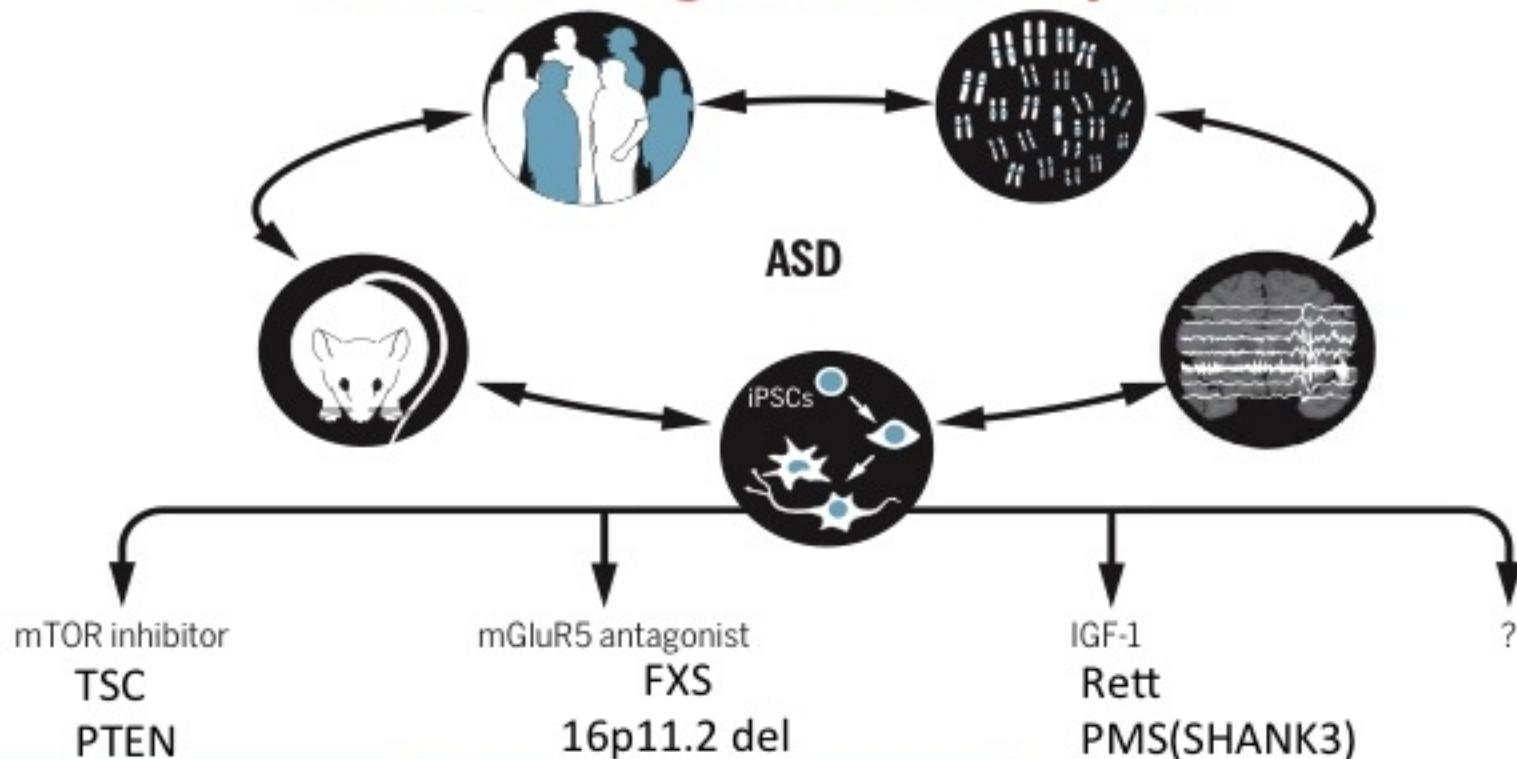
Importanza di identificare e studiare le forme monogeniche:

- migliorare la **diagnosi molecolare**
- comprendere i meccanismi cellulari e molecolari
- ✓ Possibilità di studiare le conseguenze neurobiologiche delle mutazioni in **organismi modello**
- ✓ Identificare **gruppi omogenei** di pazienti con la mutazioni nello stesso gene o stesso pathway, per studi successivi:
 - fattori che modificano espressività
 - studi neuroimaging, neuropsicologia
 - ricerca su iPS cells
- trattamenti farmacologici

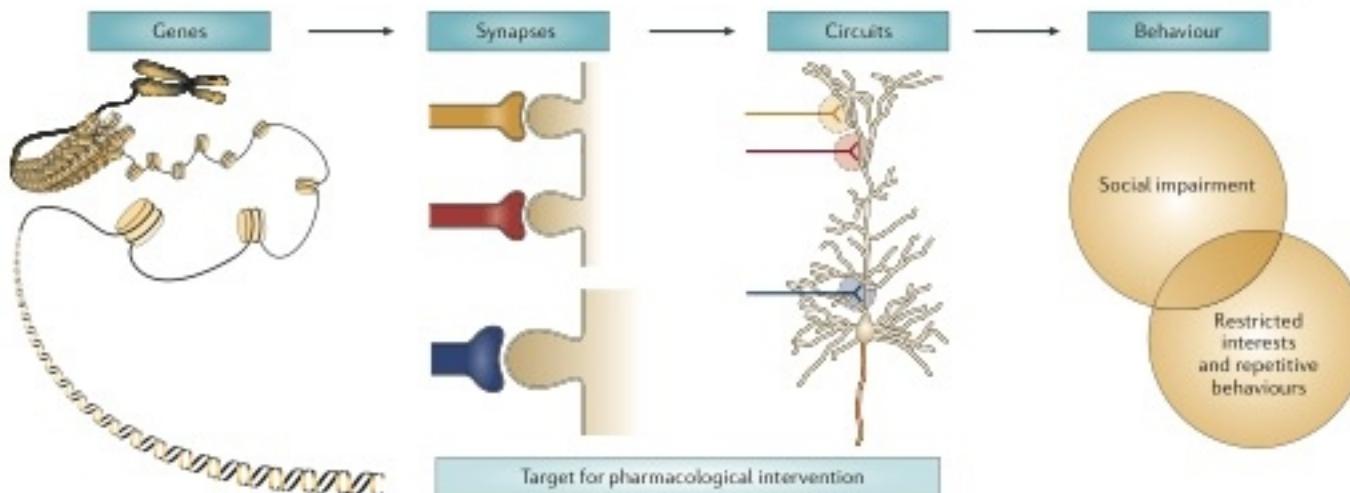
Dalla biologia alla terapia?



Dalla biologia alla terapia?

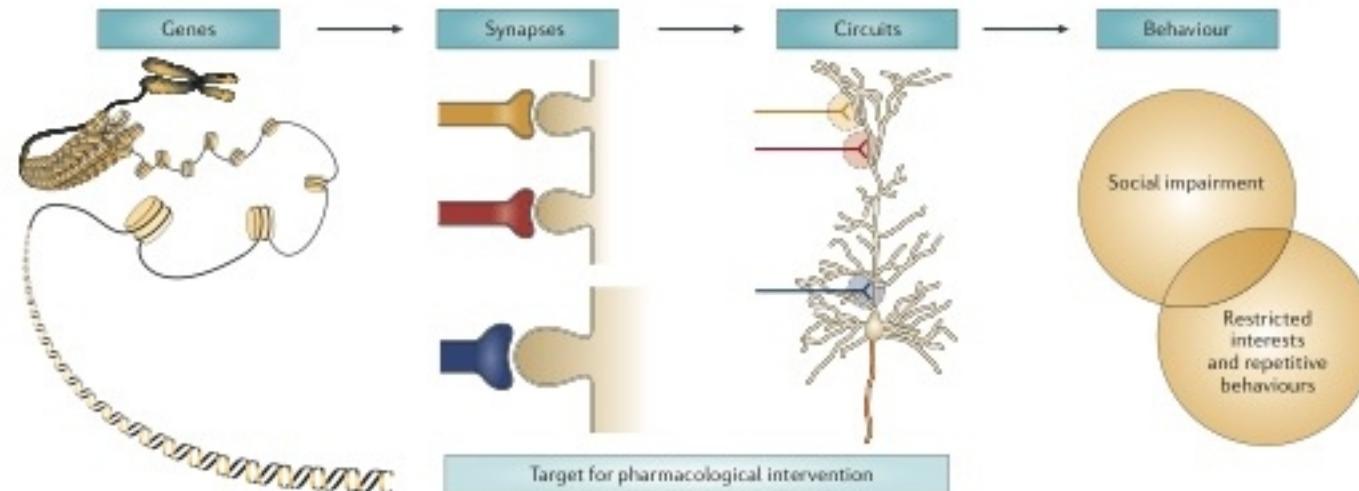


Dalla genetica, alla biologia, alla terapia?



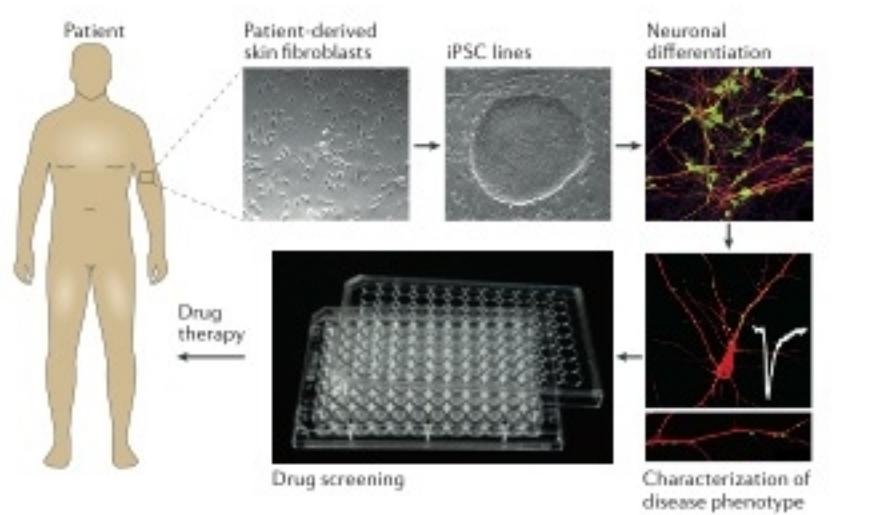
Delorme R et al Nat Med 19:685-94 (2013)

Dalla genetica, alla biologia, alla terapia?



Delorme R et al Nat Med 19:685-94 (2013)

induced Pluripotent Stem Cells



GRAZIE

