

45°

**Convegno Nazionale
di Studi di Medicina Trasfusionale**

Rimini | 29-31 maggio 2024



**Difetti enzimatici e membranopatie
nell'orizzonte trasfusionale**

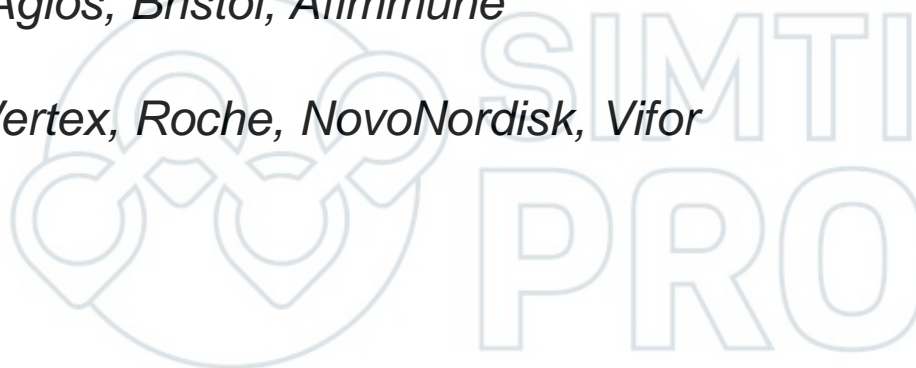
Lucia De Franceschi

DIMI, Università di Verona & AOUI Verona

La sottoscritta, in qualità di Relatrice
dichiara che

*negli ultimi due anni ha avuto i seguenti rapporti anche di finanziamento con i
soggetti portatori di interessi commerciali in campo sanitario:*

- *Research Grant: Agios, Bristol, Afimmune*
- *Advisory Board: Vertex, Roche, NovoNordisk, Vifor*



Blood

Donor

Selection

**Guidelines on Assessing
Donor Suitability for
Blood Donation**

Recommendations

- Policies for the assessment of prospective donors should be developed by BTS in regions where there is a high incidence of enzymopathies and inherited red cell membrane defects

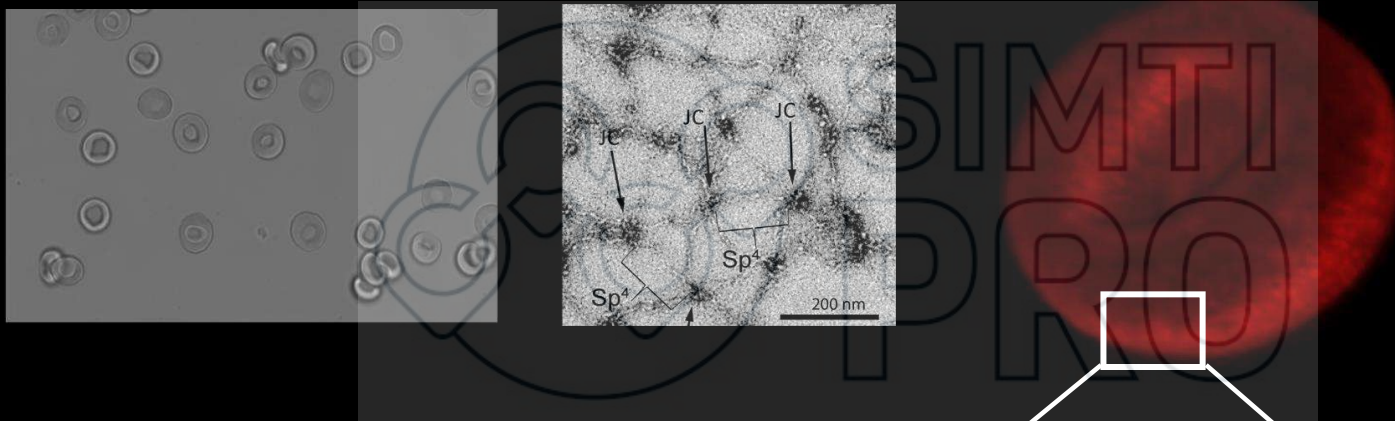
Accept

- Individuals with G6PD deficiency or other inherited red cell membrane defects, without a history of haemolysis; however, their blood is not suitable for intrauterine transfusion, neonatal exchange transfusion or for patients with G6PD deficiency

Defer permanently

- Individuals with G6PD deficiency or inherited red cell membrane defects, with a history of haemolysis
-

Blood donors and membranopathies or enzymopathies



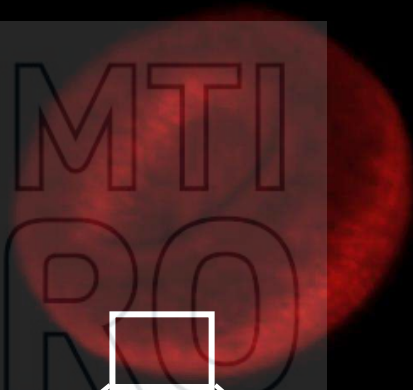
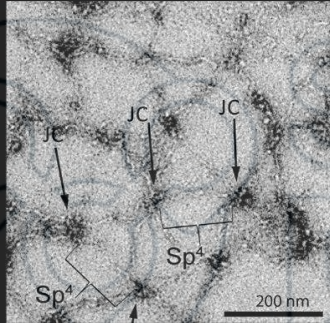
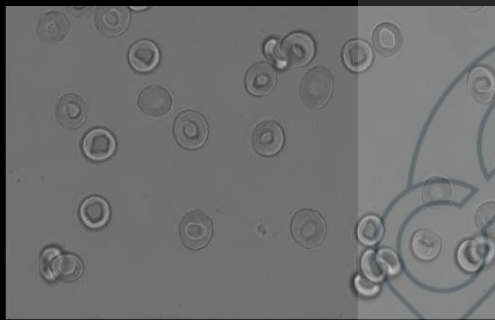
Membranopathies:

- HS
- HO
- Stomatocytosis (HSt)

Enzymopathies:

- PKD
- G6PD

Blood donors and membranopathies or enzymopathies



Membranopathies:

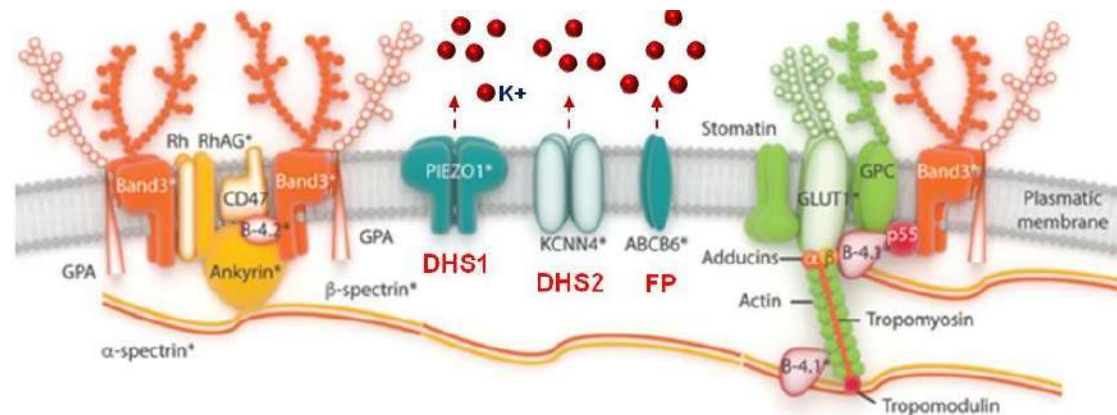
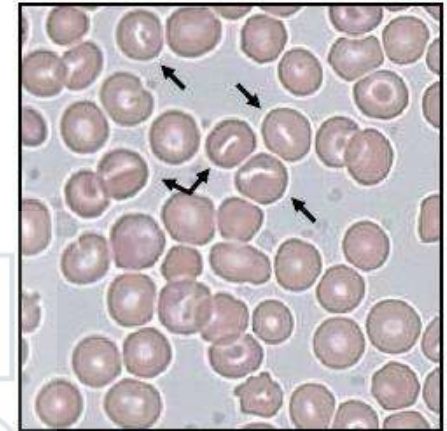
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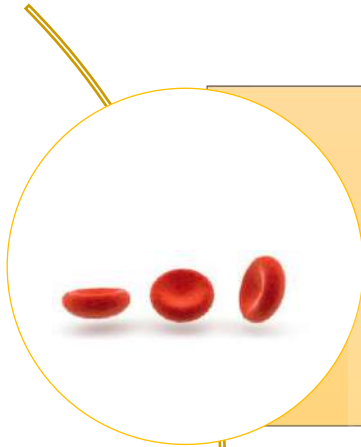
- ~~• PKD~~
- G6PD

Hereditary stomatocytosis (HSt)

- Wide spectrum of **inherited hemolytic disorders** in which the red cell membrane **cation permeability is increased (cation leak)**
- The cation leak results in **deregulation of cellular volume**, which leads to **morphological abnormality of RBCs** (stomatocytes, RBCs with a stoma across the center, at peripheral blood smear)
- The clinical presentation of HSt is highly variable: **variable expressivity**
- **Genetic and allelic heterogeneity**



Hereditary stomatocytosis (HSt): classification



Non-syndromic

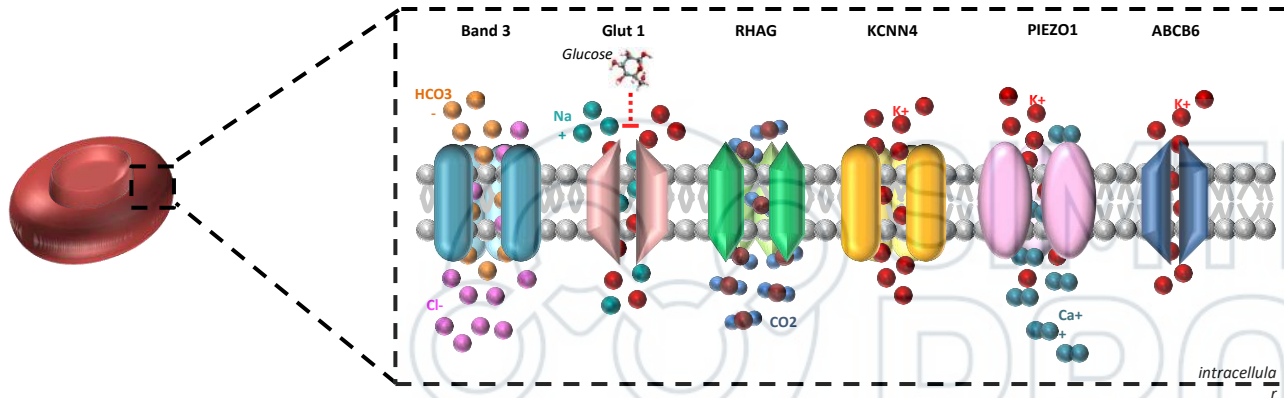
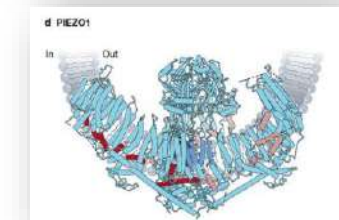
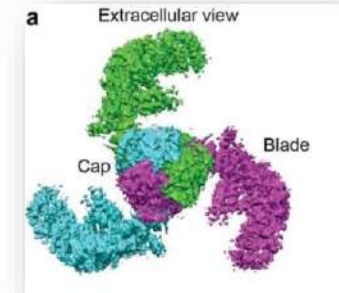
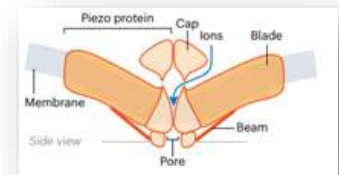
- Dehydrated Hereditary Stomatocytosis (DHS1/DHS2) (**PIEZO1; KCNN4**)
- Overhydrated Hereditary Stomatocytosis (OHS) (**RHAG**)
- Cryohydrocytosis (**Band 3**)
- Familial Pseudohyperkalemia (FP) (**ABCB6**)



Syndromic

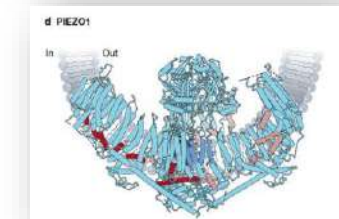
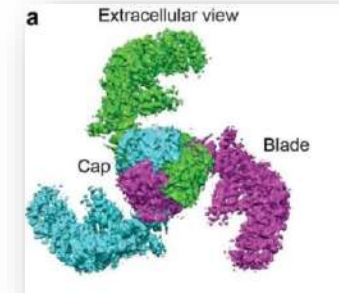
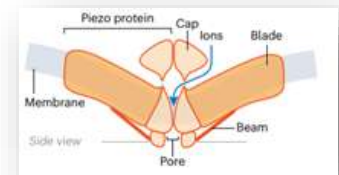
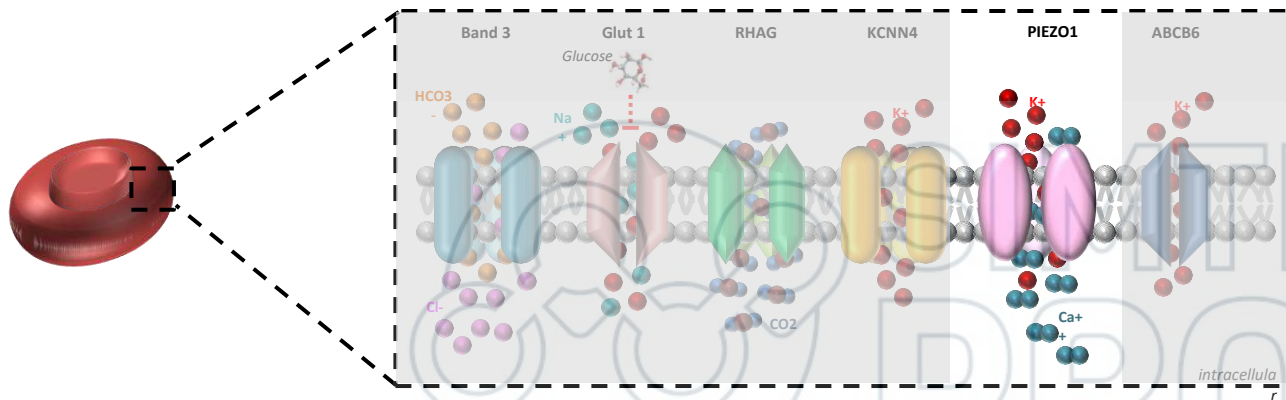
- Stomatin deficient cryohydrocytosis with mental retardation, seizures, hepatosplenomegaly (**GLUT1**)
- Phytosterolemia non-leaky stomatocytosis with macrothrombocytopenia (**ABCG5; ABCG8**)
- Dehydrated Hereditary Stomatocytosis (DHS1) with perinatal edema and/or pseudohyperkalemia (**PIEZO1**)

PIEZO1 as causative of syndromic/non-syndromic Dehydrated Hereditary Stomatocytosis (DHS)



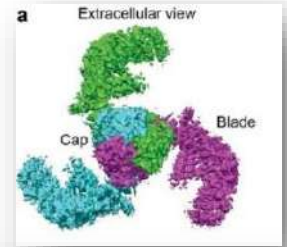
- Autosomal dominant hemolytic anemia associated with cation leak
- The two causative genes identified until now are **PIEZO1** and **KCNN4**
- It is a rare condition, but rather underdiagnosed. A recent study estimate an incidence of 1 case in 8000 adults -> linked to malaria resistance.

PIEZO1 as causative of syndromic/non-syndromic Dehydrated Hereditary Stomatocytosis (DHS)



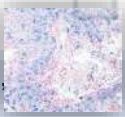
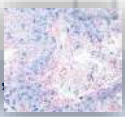


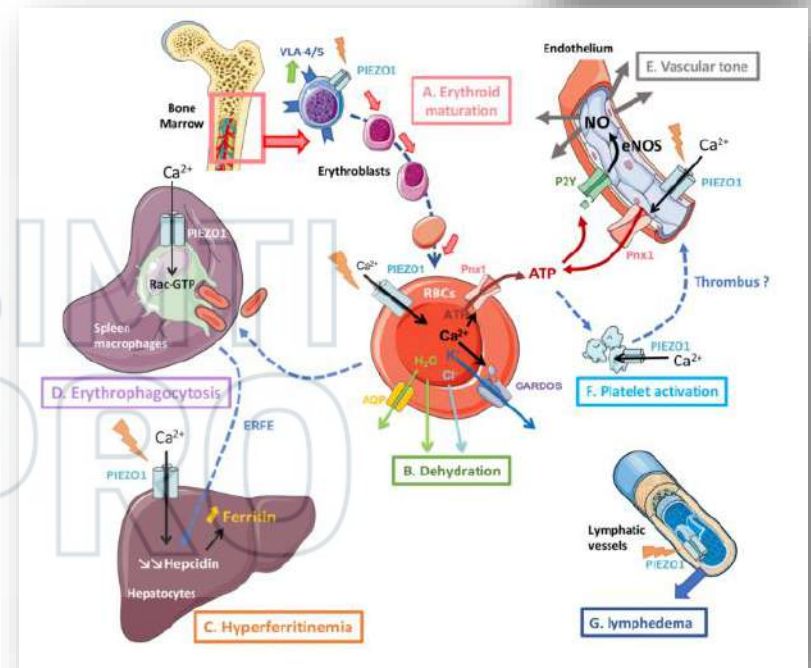
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Dehydrated Hereditary Stomatocytosis (DHS)



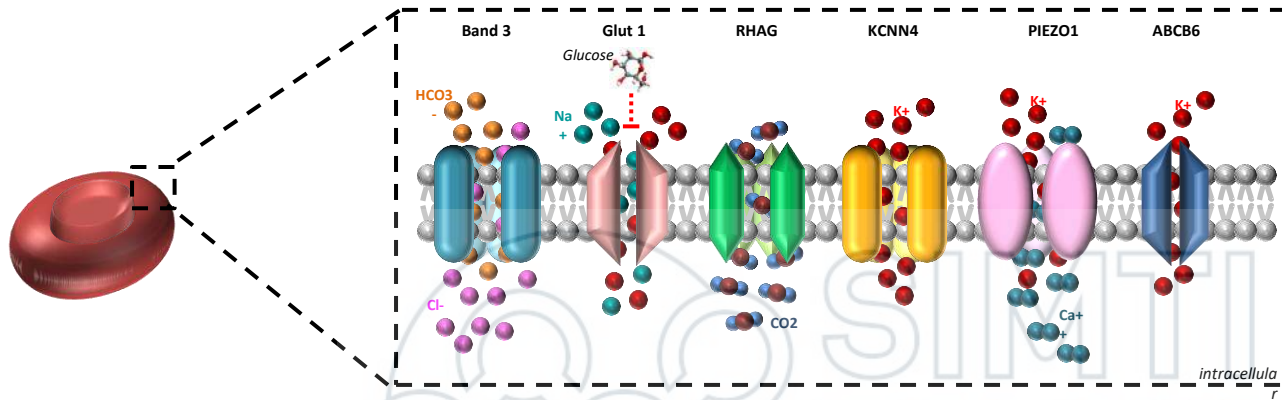
Main characteristics

Macrocytic anemia	Hb ↓ MCV ↑ MCHC ↑
Hemolysis	Ret count ↑ LDH ↑ Hap ↓ Bil (tot, ind) ↑
Splenomegaly and gallstones	Splenectomy is contraindicated due to increased risk of severe thromboembolic complications
Variable numbers of stomatocytes at PB smear	<20% 
Pre-and/or perinatal edema (syndromic form). Pregnancy should be monitored	
Pseudohyperkalemia (syndromic form)	Kalemia ↑ 
Severe iron overload (hepatosiderosis)	Ferritin, transferrin saturation, and liver iron concentration ↑ 



- DHS is a **pleiotropic** syndrome characterized by **variable phenotypes**.
- Different tissues/cell types that express PIEZO1 may be involved in the pathophysiology of DHS.

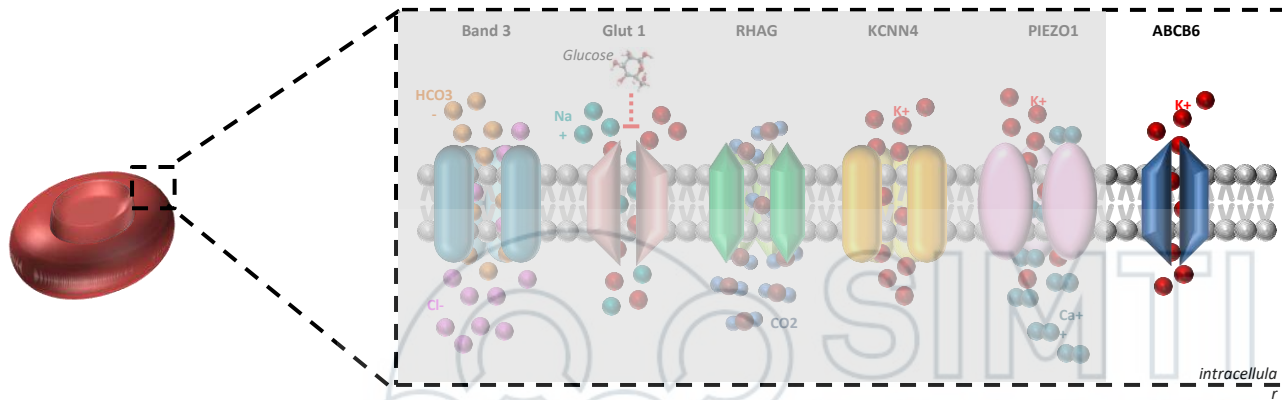
Non-Syndromic HSt: Familial Pseudohyperkalemia



		ABCB6 patients FP
Number of patients (%)		11 (15.1)
Gender (female/male)		10 (90.9)/1 (9.1)
Onset of symptoms (years)		42.5 ± 6.6 (40.5; 8)
Age of diagnosis (years)		47.1 ± 5.6 (43.5; 8)
Blood count		
	Ref range ^c	
RBC (10 ⁶ /μL)	3.9-5.6	3.6 ± 0.4 (3.8; 11)
Hb (g/dL)	11.0-16.0	13.5 ± 0.4 (13.1; 11)
Hct (%)	33.0-45.0	42.6 ± 1.3 (42.0; 11)
MCV (fL)	70.0-91.0	101.3 ± 2.3 (100.2; 11)
MCH (pg)	23.0-33.0	31.1 ± 0.6 (31.4; 11)
MCHC (g/dL)	23.0-33.0	33.2 ± 0.9 (32.5; 11)
Retics count (x10 ³ /μL)	-	140.3 ± 35.7 (140.3; 2)
Retics %	0.5-2.0	2.9 ± 1.2 (2.9; 2)

- Dominantly inherited genetic trait
- temperature-dependent, *in vitro*, loss of K⁺ cation from red cells
- Plasma [K⁺] was increased when measured in blood stored at or below body temperature
- HSt patients show alterations in MCV
- Missense mutations in **ABCB6** gene were identified in FP

Non-Syndromic HSt: Familial Pseudohyperkalemia

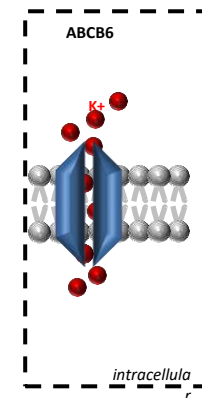


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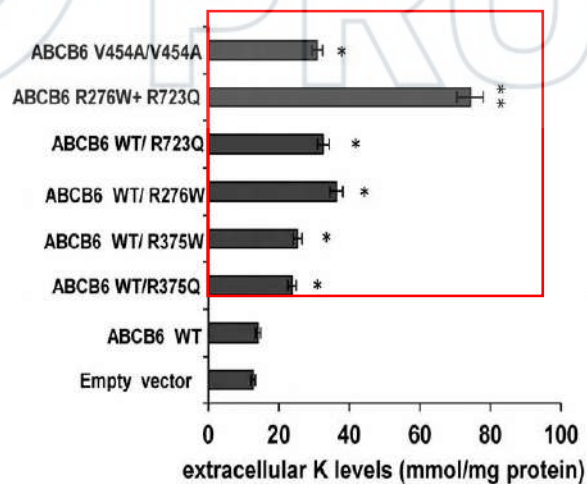
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ABCB6 variants screening in blood donors' population

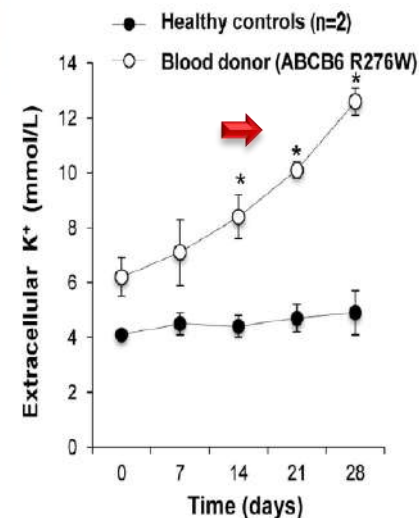
- Variants in **ABCB6** gene are present in **healthy subjects** and in **blood donor population**
- Storage of FP blood causes a significant increase in blood K⁺ levels
 ->**pediatric/neonatal care**-> several cases of whole blood transfusion in infants leading to cardiac arrest and death have been described
- Genetic test for FP could be used
 to **screen potential donors of blood**



Genetic test for FP could be used to **screen potential donors of blood**

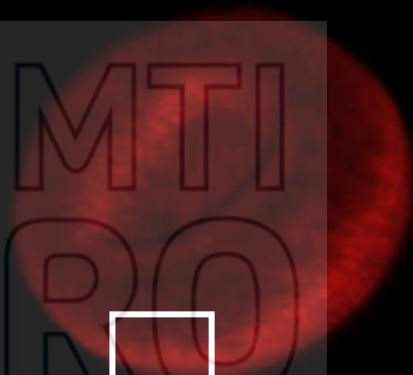
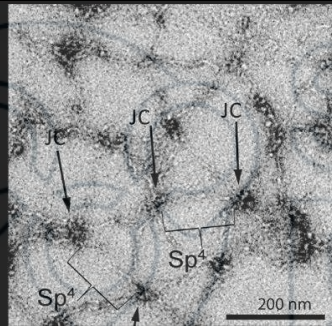
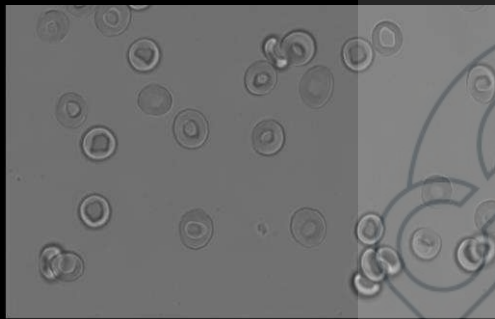


Cell lines



Blood samples

Blood donors and membranopathies or enzymopathies



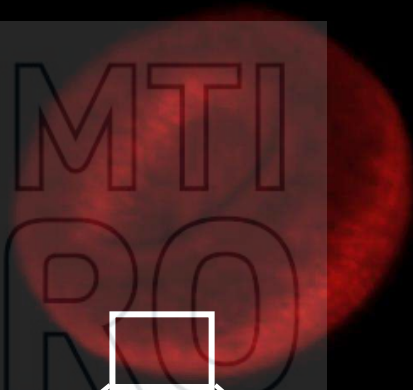
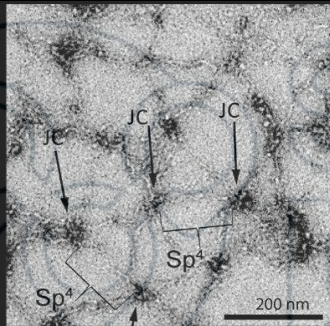
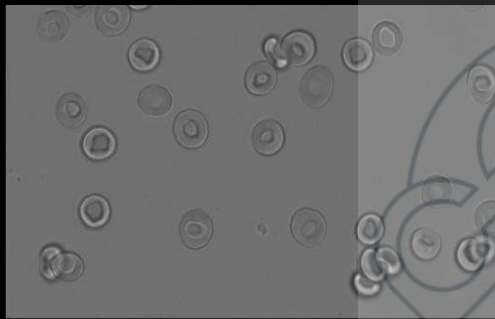
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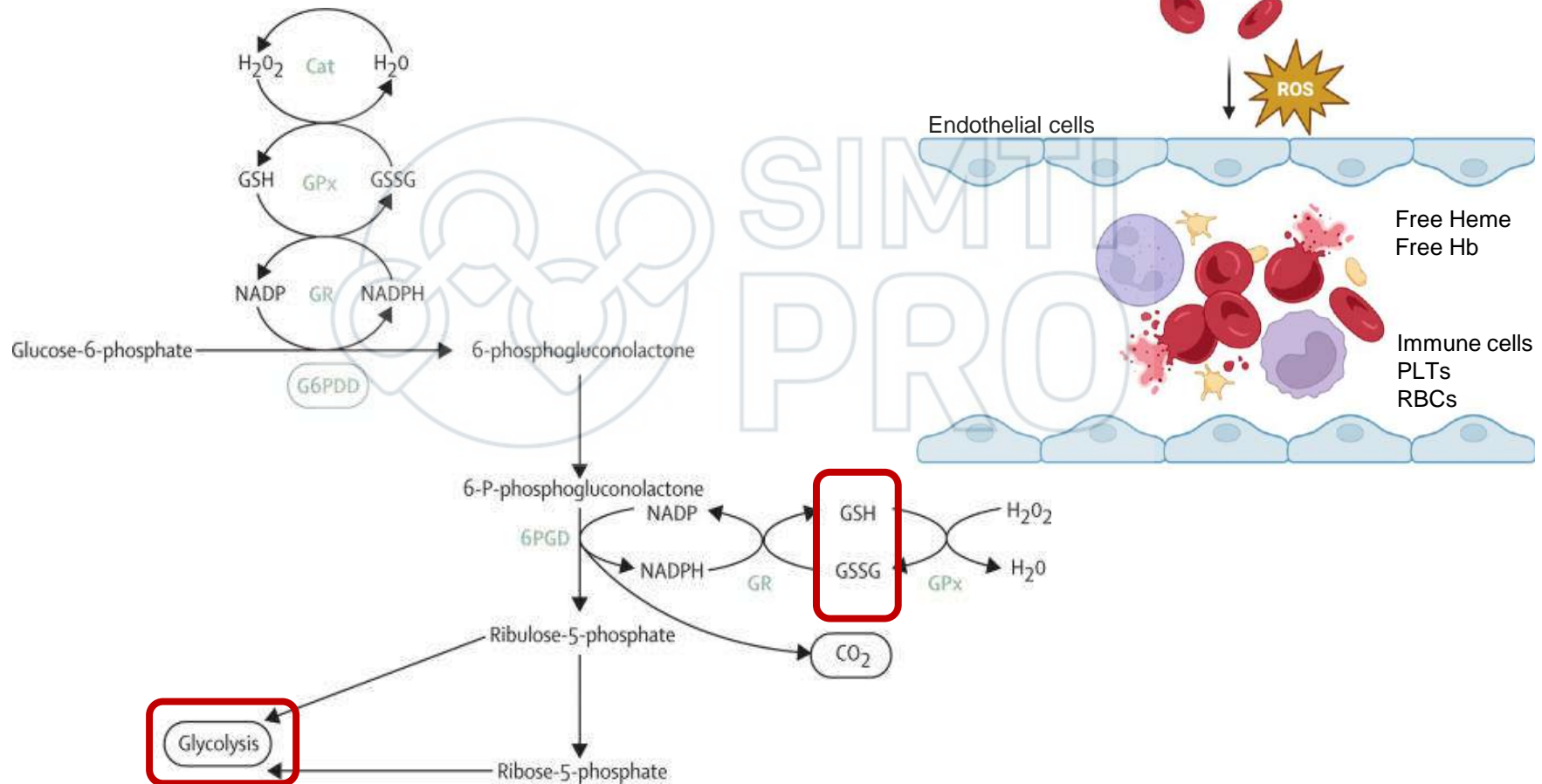
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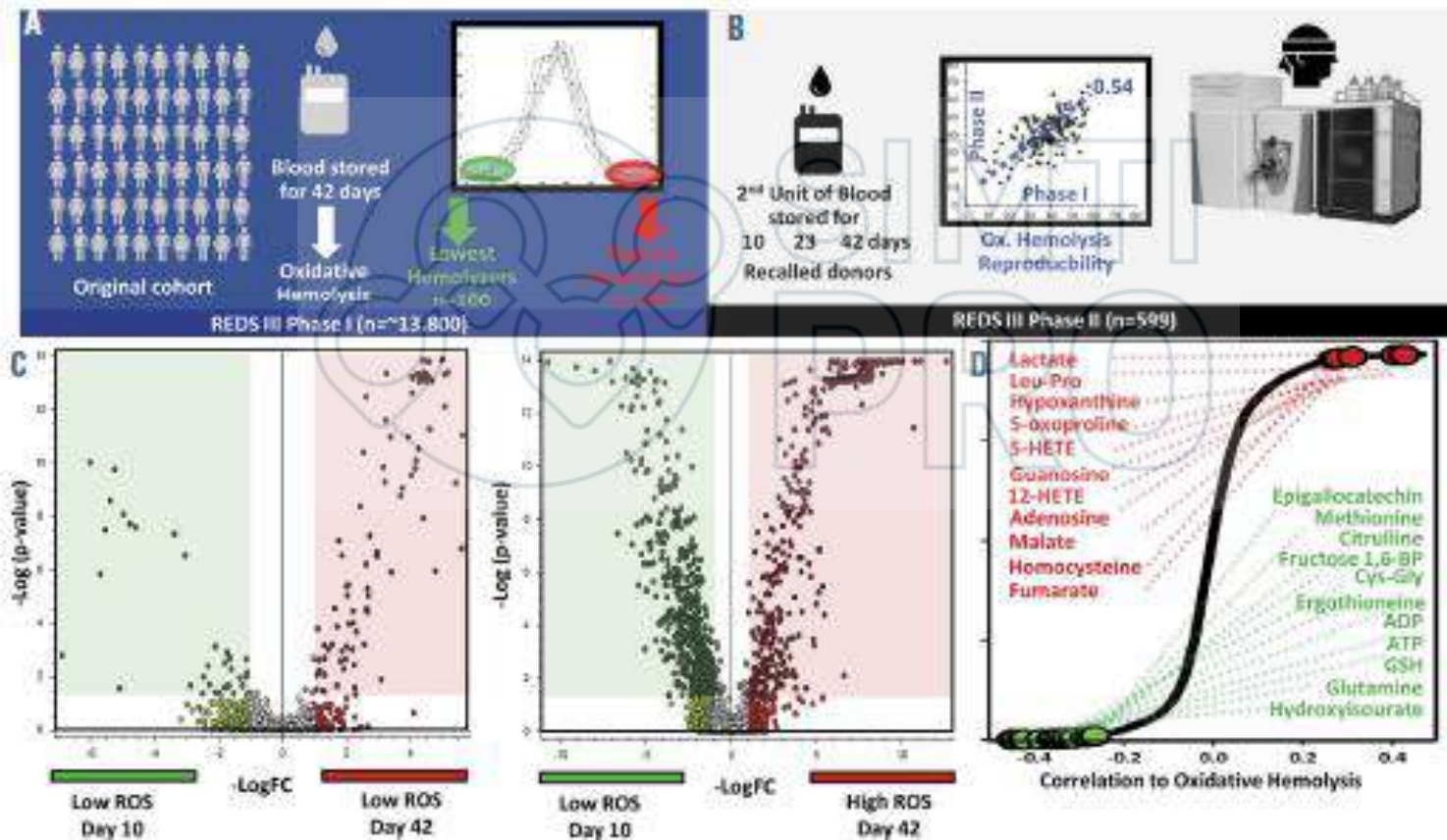
Enzymopathies:

- ~~• PKD~~
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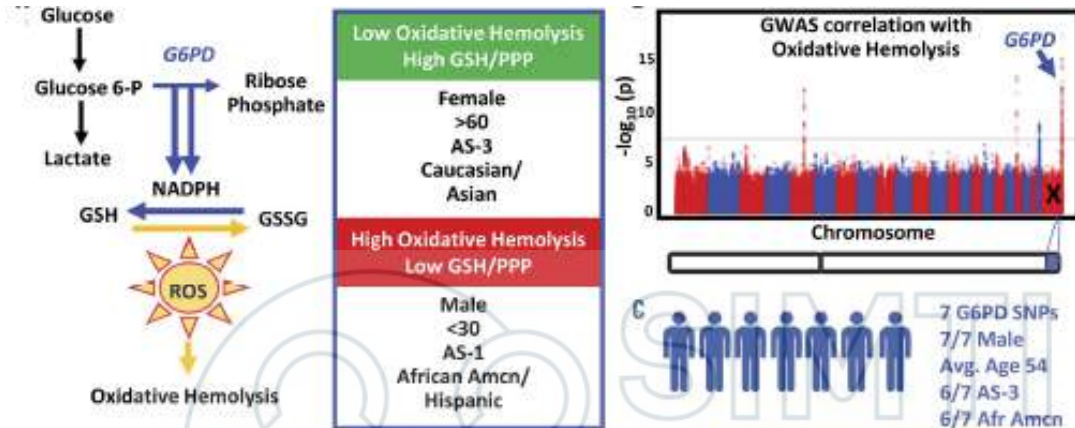
G6PD is the most common enzymatic defect, being present in most than 400 million of people



Omics study in Blood donors: REDS-III



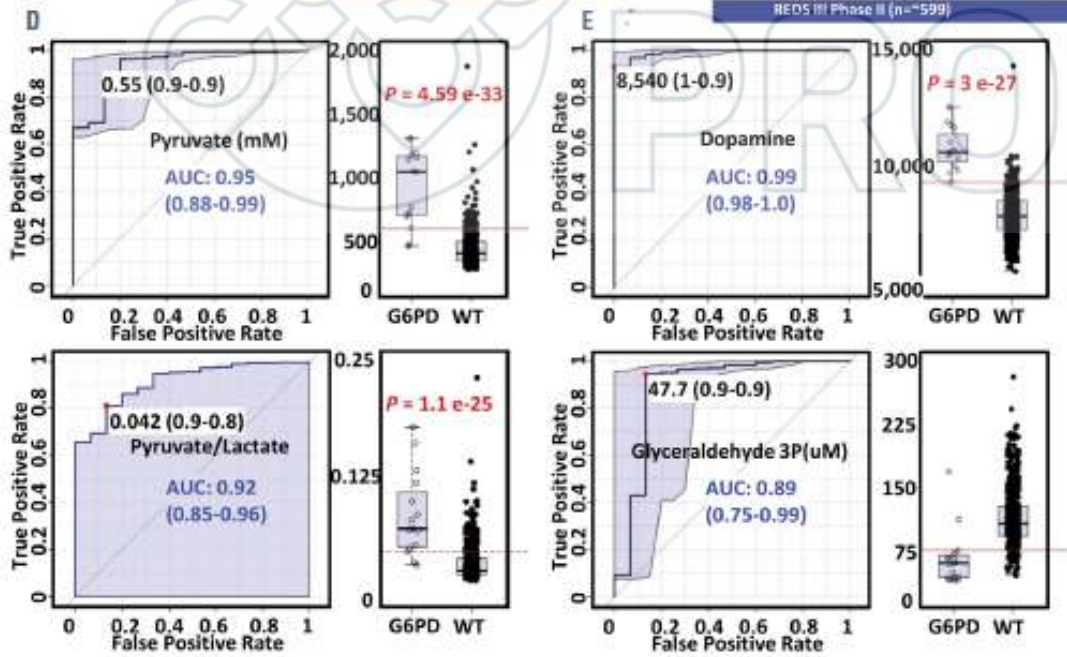
Metabolic analysis of blood donors identified risk factors for extreme hemolyzer(s)



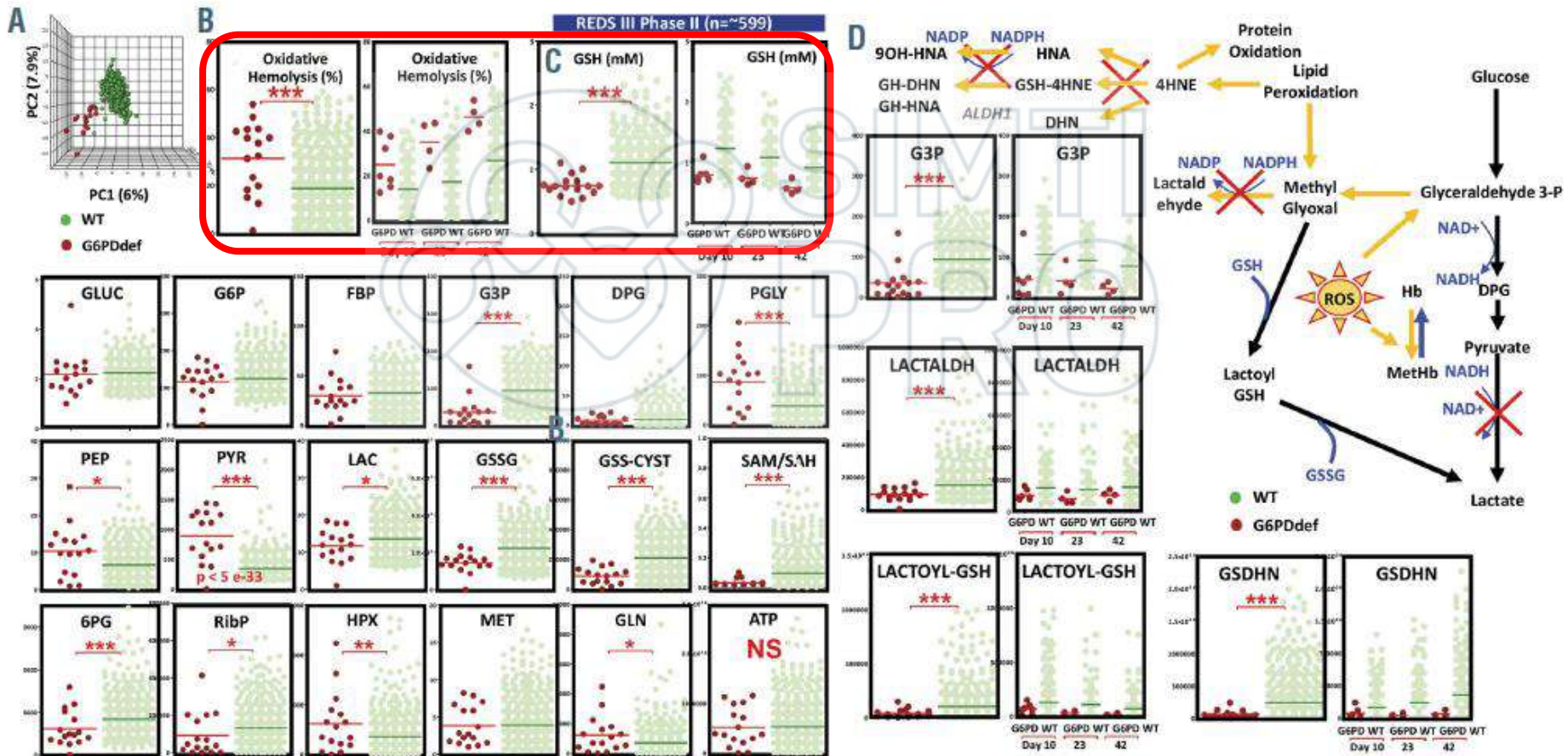
<p>Low Oxidative Hemolysis High GSH/PPP</p> <p>Female >60 AS-3 Caucasian/ Asian</p>
<p>High Oxidative Hemolysis Low GSH/PPP</p> <p>Male <30 AS-1 African Amcn/ Hispanic</p>



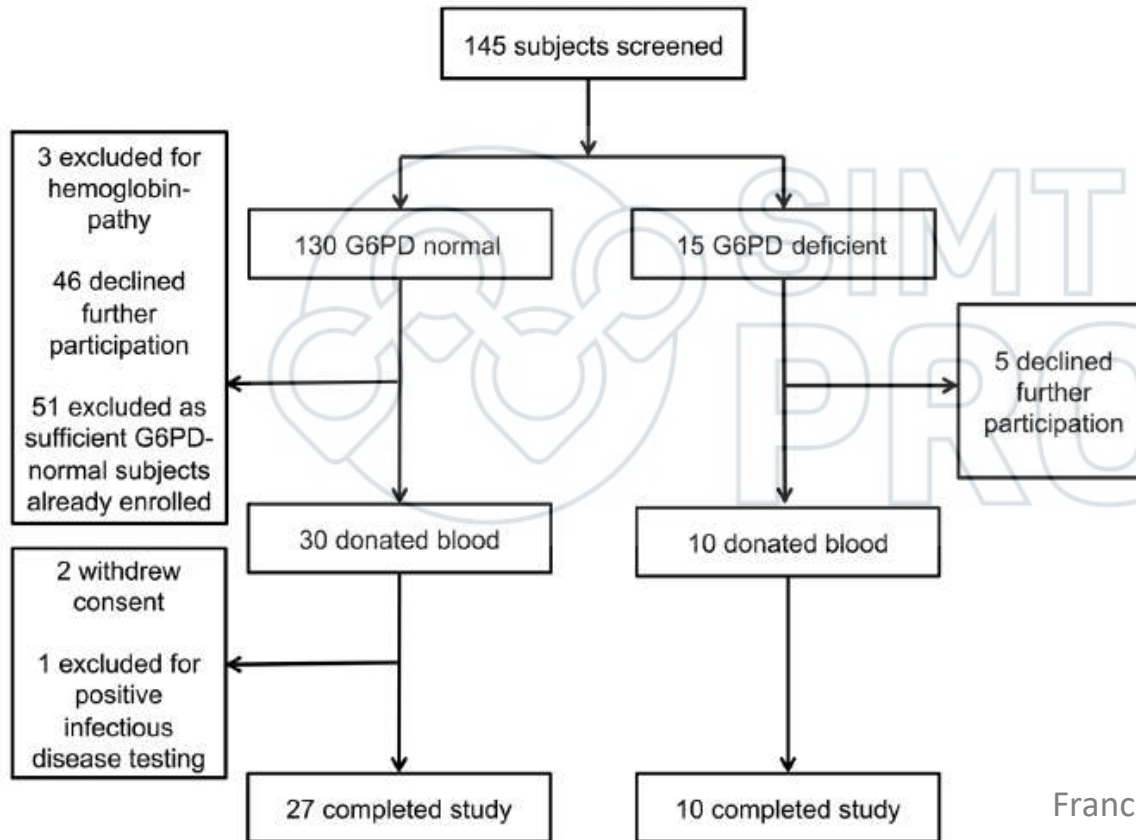
← G6PD deficient



G6PD deficient blood donors display higher oxidative hemolysis, lower glutathione and PPP activation, resulting in reduced GSH and increased lipid-peroxidation



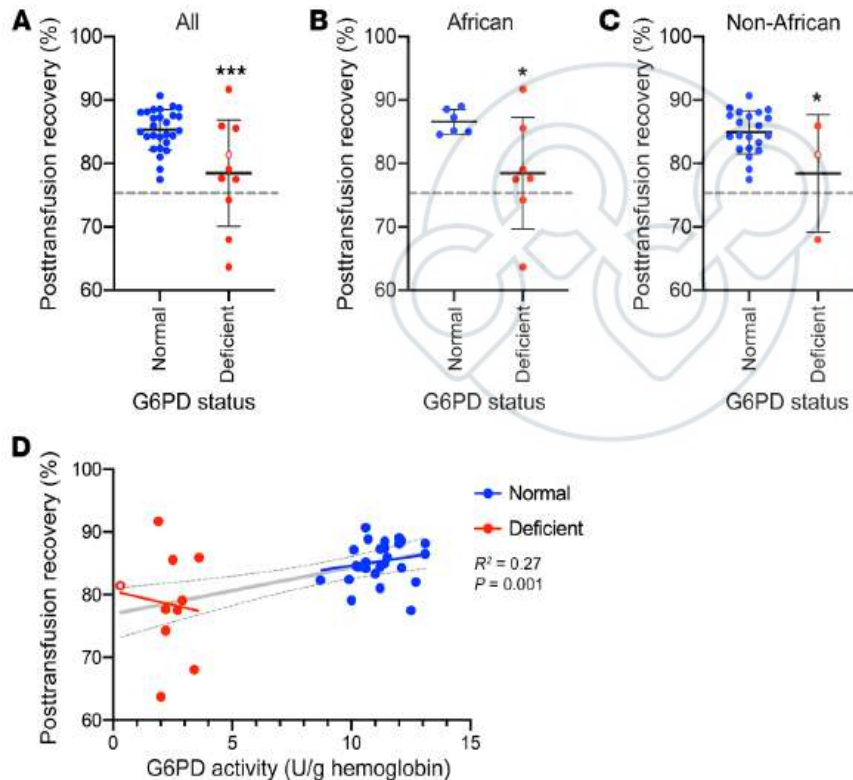
Exploring red cells from blood donors with G6PD deficiency



No difference in storage hemolysis

No difference in RBC ATP content

Leukoreduced RBCs from blood donor with G6PD deficiency display 24 hrs PTR and impaired antioxidant machinery



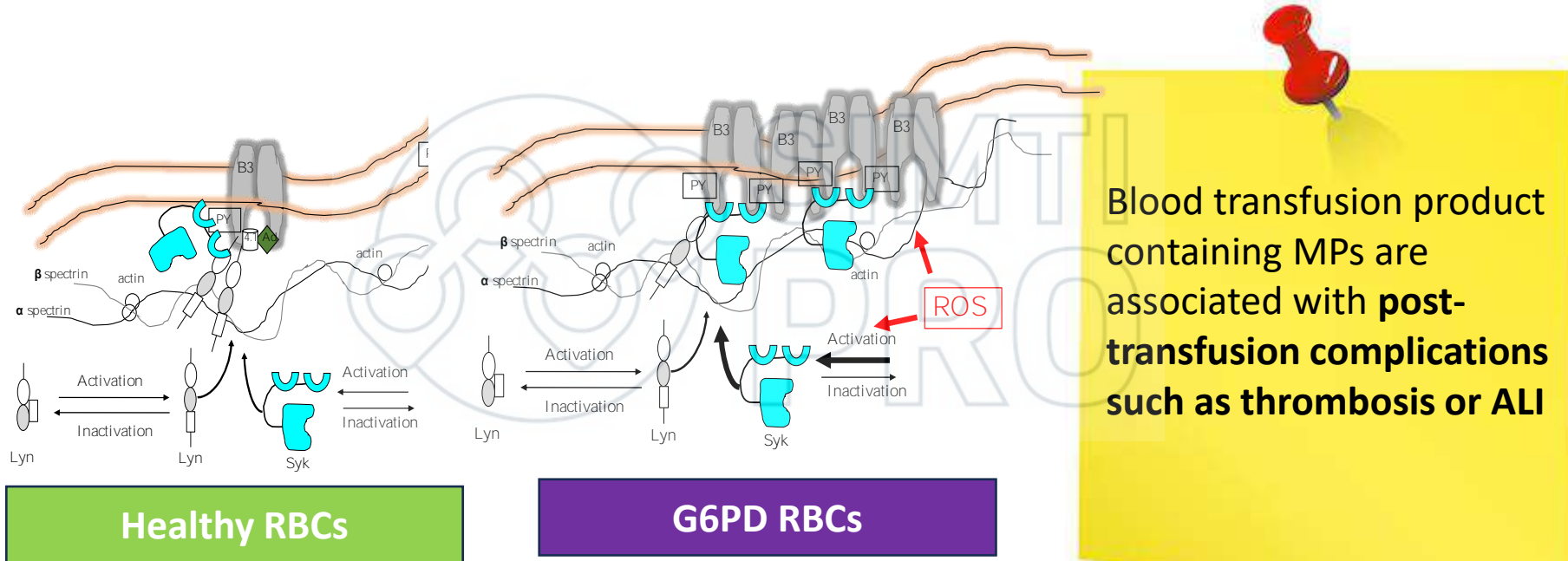
- **Decrease 24 hrs post transfusion recovery (PTR) compared to healthy subjects (AS-3 preservation)**
- Reduced activation of PPP in fresh RBCs vs healthy erythrocytes
- Increased biliverdin, consistent with the reduction in NADPH driven conversion of bilirubin
- **Lower GSH levels during storage compared to healthy RBCs, which positively correlate with PTR**

Blood donors with G6PD Mediterranean variant display normal storage hemolysis compared to healthy donors

Italian blood donors with G6PD Mediterranean variant show

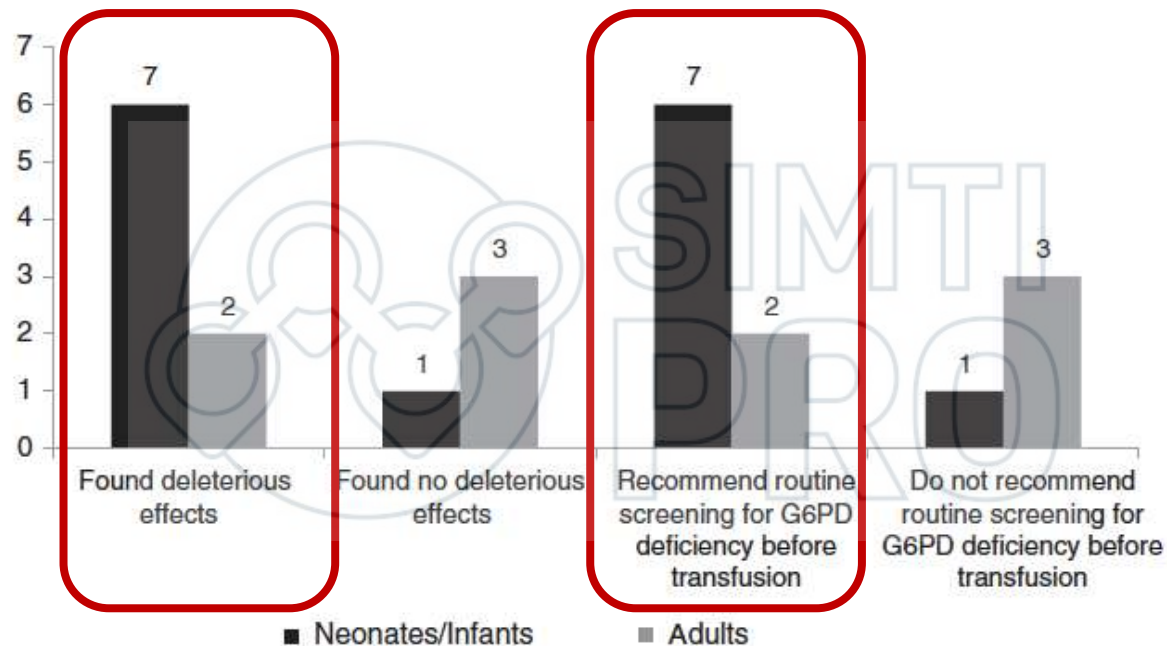
- ↑ MCV and ↑ reticulocyte count compared to healthy subjects
- No differences in Hct and Hb compared to healthy controls
- No difference in storage hemolysis between G6PD deficient and healthy blood donors

G6PD deficient RBCs display increased erythroid microparticle (MPs) formation and PS+ RBCs during blood processing and during storage compared to healthy subjects



Matte A et al Antioxidants 2021; Noomuna P et al. Br J Haematol doi: 10.1111/bjh.16671, 2020; Ferru E et al Blood 117: 5998, 2011; Pantaleo A et al Biochem J 418: 359, 2009; Noulosri E et al Lab Med 54: 6-12, 2023; Tzounakas VL et al Front Med 5: 16, 2018


Impact on patient outcomes of transfused RBCs from blood donors with G6PD deficiency



Increased total bilirubin and markers of hemolysis from 6 to 60 hours after transfusion of G6PD deficient RBCs

Are there special condition(s) to be take into consider when G6PD deficient RBCs are transfused in adult patients?

Poor capacity to circulate upon transfusion of G6PD RBCs in patients with SCD and acute clinical manifestations such as VOCs



WHO: blood donor screening when the prevalence of G6PD deficiency 3-5% or higher

Limitations of the analyzed studies

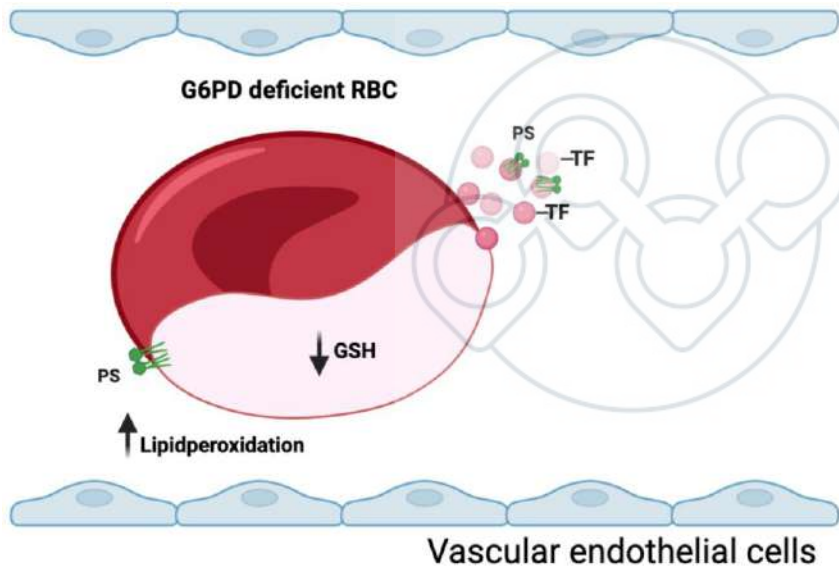
- **In transfusion studies:**

- Old studies
- Poor quality (e.g. different preservation solutions) and poor design
- Lack of standardization in identification of RBCs as G6PD deficient

- **In the metabolomic studies:**

- the analysis of post transfusion recovery was only at 24 hours
- G6PD deficiency was sustained by variant(s) different from the Mediterranean one.
- Lack of knowledge whether oxidative hemolysis might be predictive of clinical outcomes

RBCs from G6PD deficient blood donor: risk populations



- Intrauterine transfusion
- Premature neonates
- Neonatal exchange transfusion
- Patients with G6PD deficiency

New possible categories of patients:

- SCD patients during acute VOCs
- Extracorporeal circulation
- severely burned patients

Conclusions and Open Questions

- Consider screening for non syndromic hereditary stomatocytosis (ABCB6) to avoid possible severe complication in **pediatric/neonatal care**
- Growing evidence of decrease efficiency of RBCs from blood donors with G6PD deficiency (e.g. 24 hrs post transfusion recovery (PTR) and lower GSH levels compared to healthy subjects)
- New studies to evaluate the impact of G6PD Mediterranean variant on RBC metabolome under blood bank condition
- Identification of new risk population requiring G6PD screening based on the metabolomic data.

Investigators

- **Federti E, Siciliano A, Riccardi V-University of Verona, Verona; Italy**
- **Recchiuti A- University of Chieti, Chieti, Italy**
- **Brugnara C and Sherhan CN- Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA (USA)**
- **A Iolascon, R Russo, I Andolfo - University Federico II, Naples, Italy**
- **El Nemer W- INSERM- Marseille, France**

