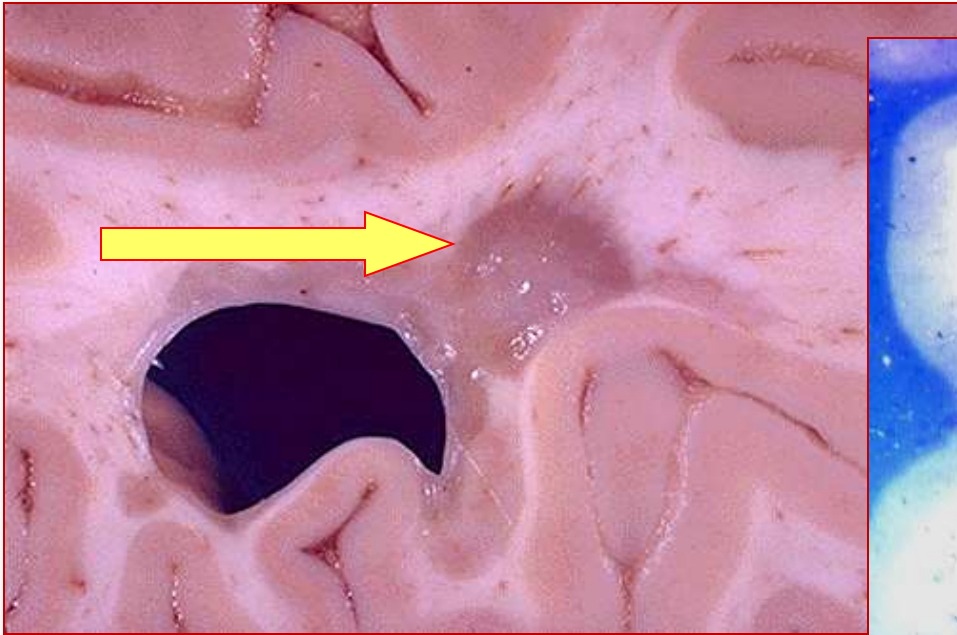




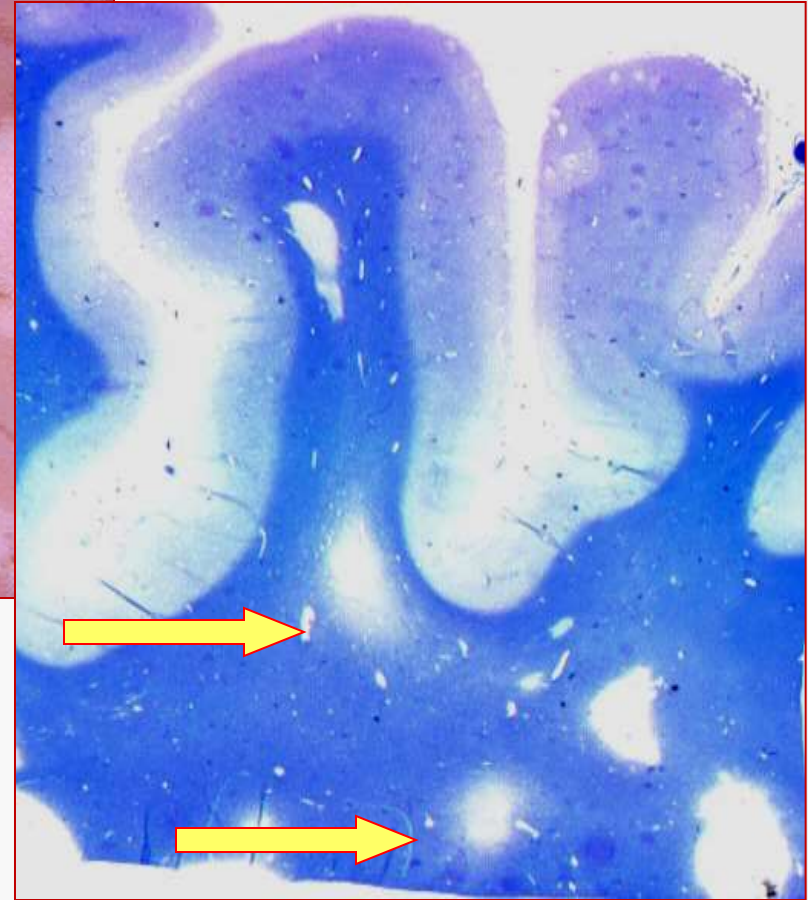
**ASPETTI ETIO-PATOGENETICI,  
DIAGNOSTICI E TERAPEUTICI DELLA  
SCLEROSI MULTIPLA:  
LO STATO DELL'ARTE E I PREVEDIBILI  
SVILUPPI**

**Prof.ssa Eleonora Cocco  
Dpt Scienze Mediche e Sanità Pubblica  
Università di Cagliari**

# MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS



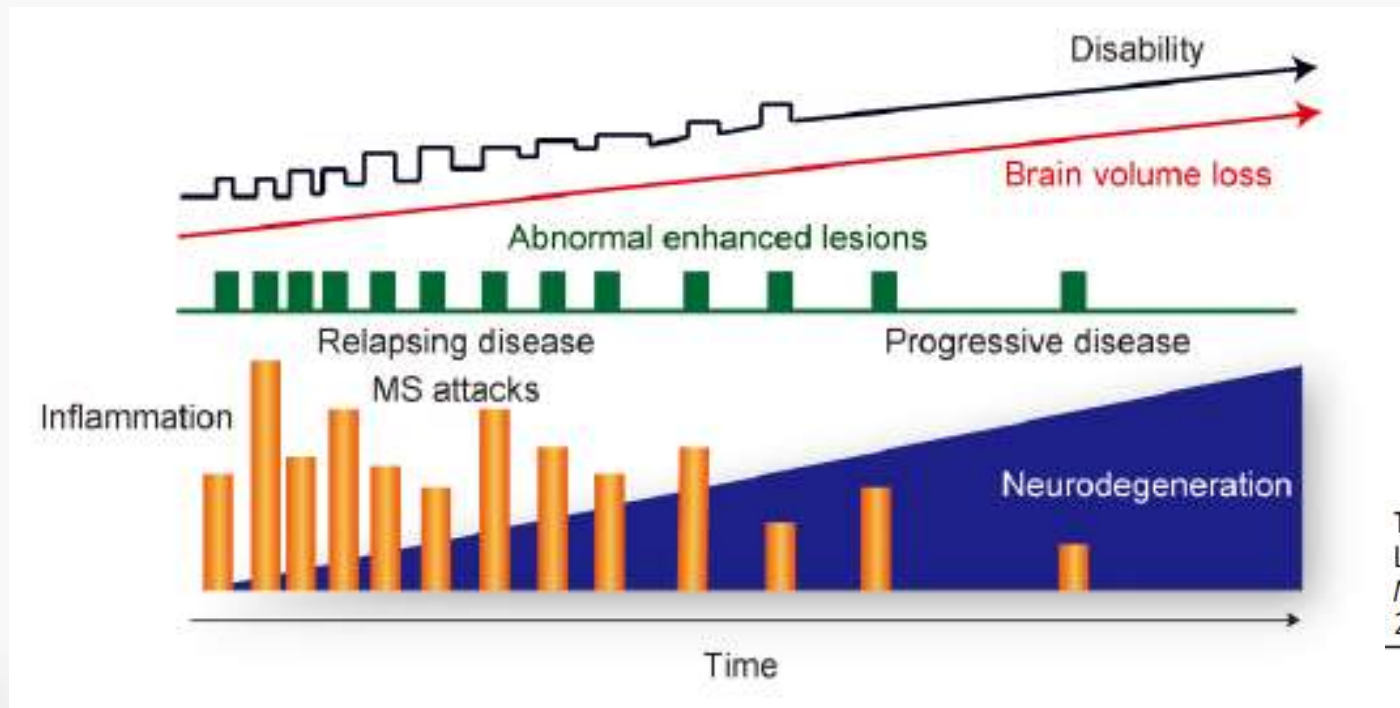
DEMYELINATING  
PLAQUES



MYELIN STAIN

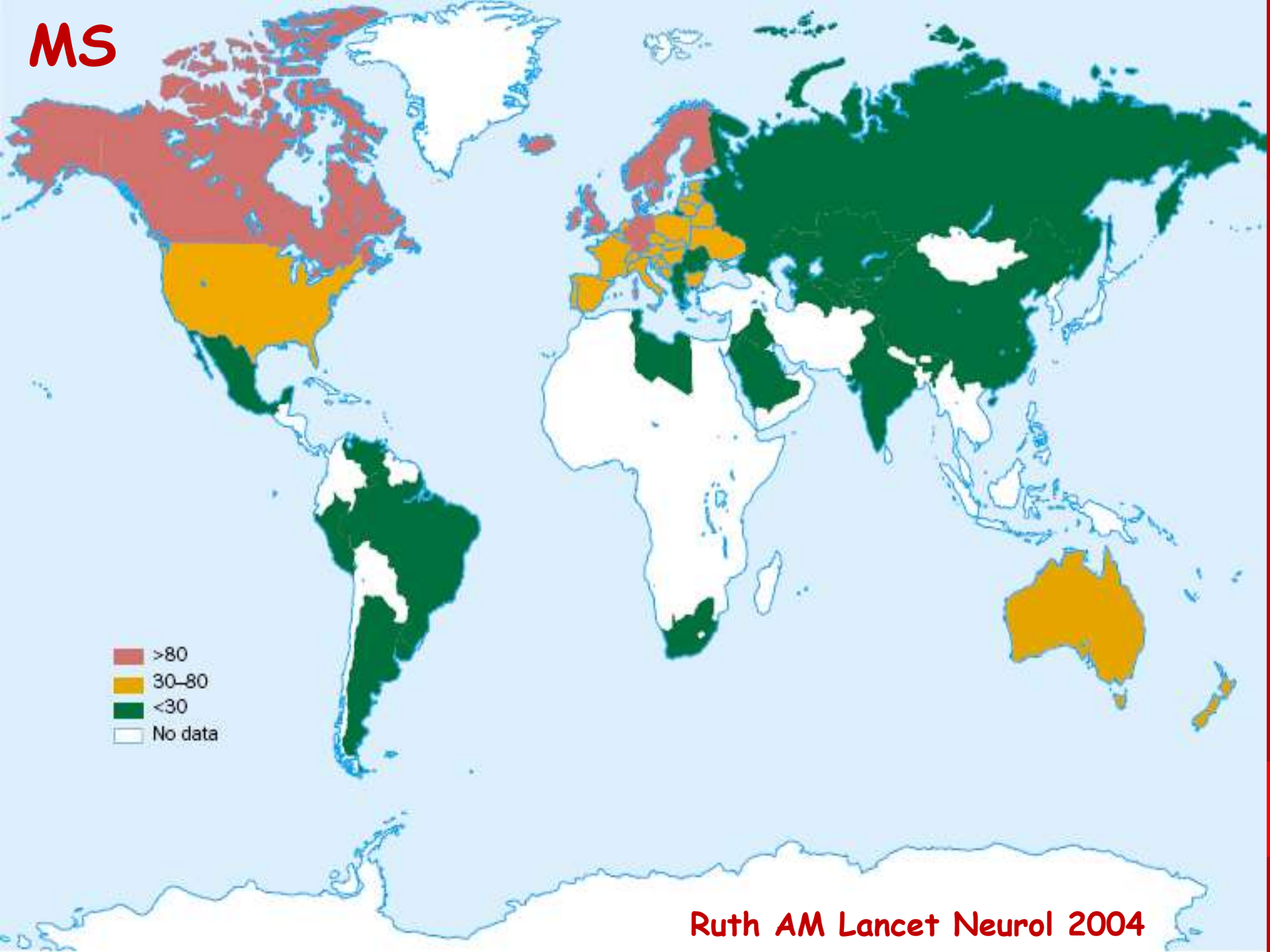
## MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS FEATURES

- Autoimmune disease of CNS; a two stages disease: inflammation and neurodegeneration
- 4,000,000 people affected worldwide
- Women:men 2:1
- Age of disease onset: 20-30 ys (young adulthood)
- Neurological impairments: blindness, loss of sensation, lack of coordination, incontinence, paralysis
- Relapsing-remitting (80%); chronic progressive (10%); benign (10%)



To cite: Kawachi I,  
Lassmann H. *J Neurol  
Neurosurg Psychiatry*  
2017;**88**:137–145.

**MS**

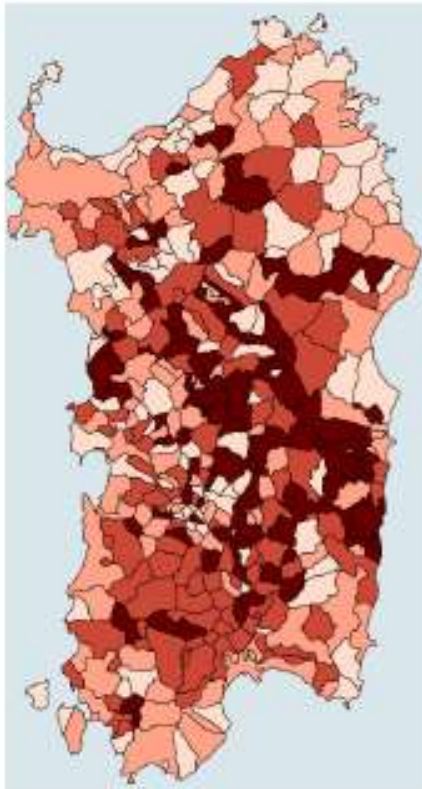
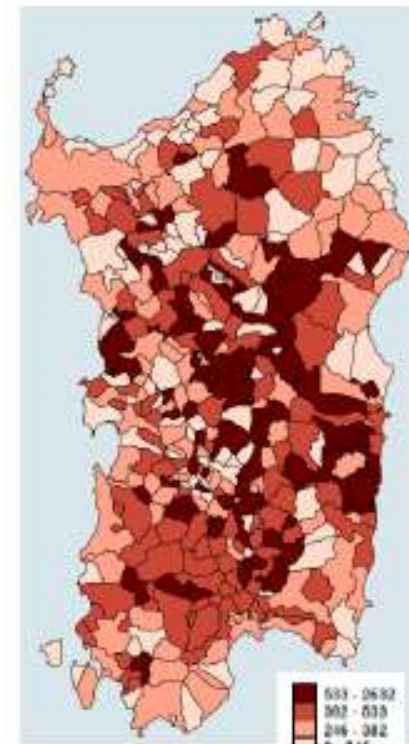


**Ruth AM Lancet Neurol 2004**



## MS Prevalence rate (Pop rif ITA-ISTAT 2015) x 100,000

Asl di residenza	N	Tasso grezzo	Tasso adj età/genere	CI 95%		F		M	
						Tasso grezzo	Tasso adj età	Tasso grezzo	Tasso adj età
ASL 1 SS	334715	317	307	288	325	448.5	433.4	178.9	172.5
ASL 2 OT	159950	260	248	224	271	384.0	360.5	134.2	127.9
ASL 3 NU	158413	471	472	439	506	629.3	632.2	307.0	302.7
ASL 4 OG	57642	488	488	432	545	660.9	660.8	305.4	305.3
ASL 5 OR	162643	362	359	330	388	517.5	512.6	200.2	195.2
ASL 6 VS	100141	423	417	377	456	582.7	572.6	260.5	251.2
ASL 7 CI	127857	361	348	316	380	469.7	452.5	248.0	236.6
ASL 8 CA	561925	397	376	360	392	519.2	489.1	269.2	255.9
RAS	1663286	373	360	352	369	507.3	488.1	234.0	224.9



## MS standardized ratio of prevalence rate (Pop rif Tuscany 2011; Bezzini D et al 2016)

Asl di residenza	Osservati	Attesi	SPR	CI 95%	
ASL 1 SS	1061	647	164	154	174
ASL 2 OT	415	307	135	122	149
ASL 3 NU	746	301	248	230	266
ASL 4 OG	281	109	257	228	289
ASL 5 OR	588	312	189	174	204
ASL 6 VS	424	192	220	200	242
ASL 7 CI	462	251	184	167	201
ASL 8 CA	2233	1096	204	195	212
RAS	6210	3217	193	180	198

RAS 2016

# Population Based Study of 12 Autoimmune Diseases in Sardinia, Italy: Prevalence and Comorbidity

Claudia Sardu<sup>1\*</sup>, Eleonora Cocco<sup>2</sup>, Alessandra Mereu<sup>1</sup>, Roberta Massa<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Cuccu<sup>1</sup>, Maria Giovanna Marrosu<sup>2</sup>, Paolo Contu<sup>1</sup>

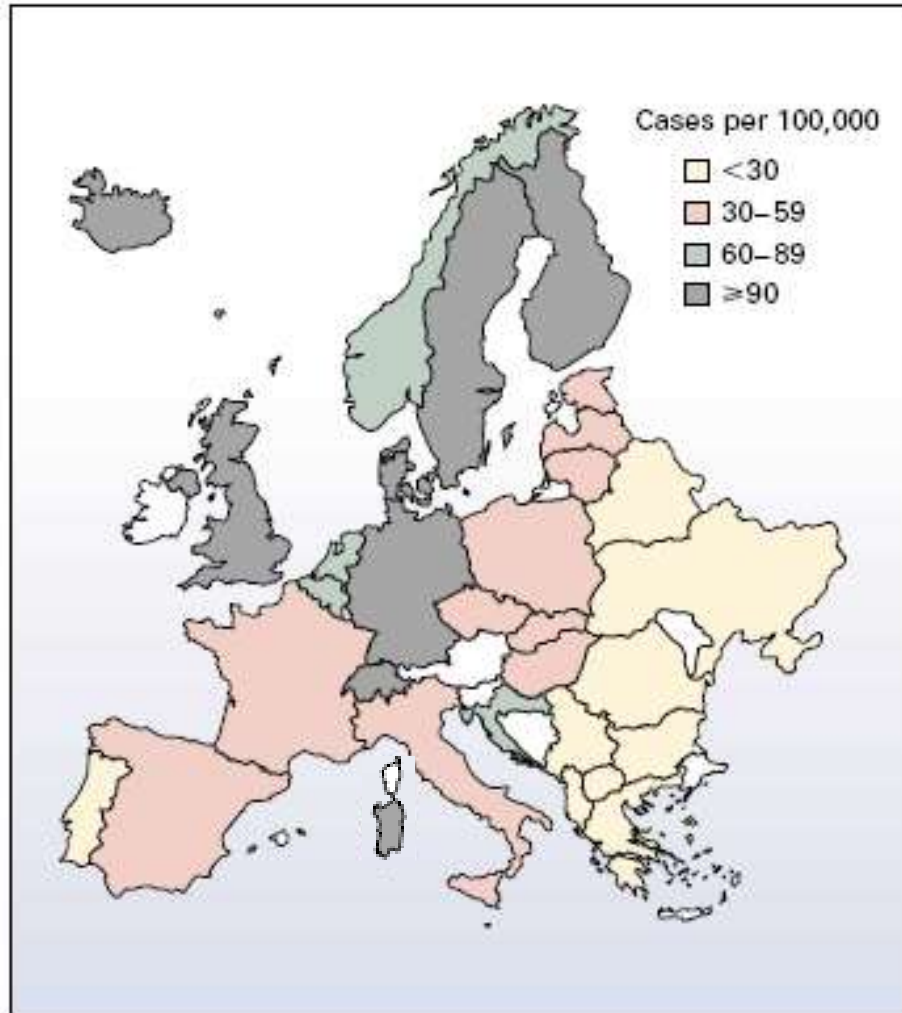
**Table 1.** Absolute frequencies of people with zero, one, or more than one autoimmune diseases.

	Number of autoimmune diseases		
	0	1	>1
<b>TOTAL SAMPLE (N = 25885)</b>	24,585	1,243	57
<b>WOMEN (N = 14167)</b>	13,186	934	47
<b>MEN (N = 11718)</b>	11,399	309	10

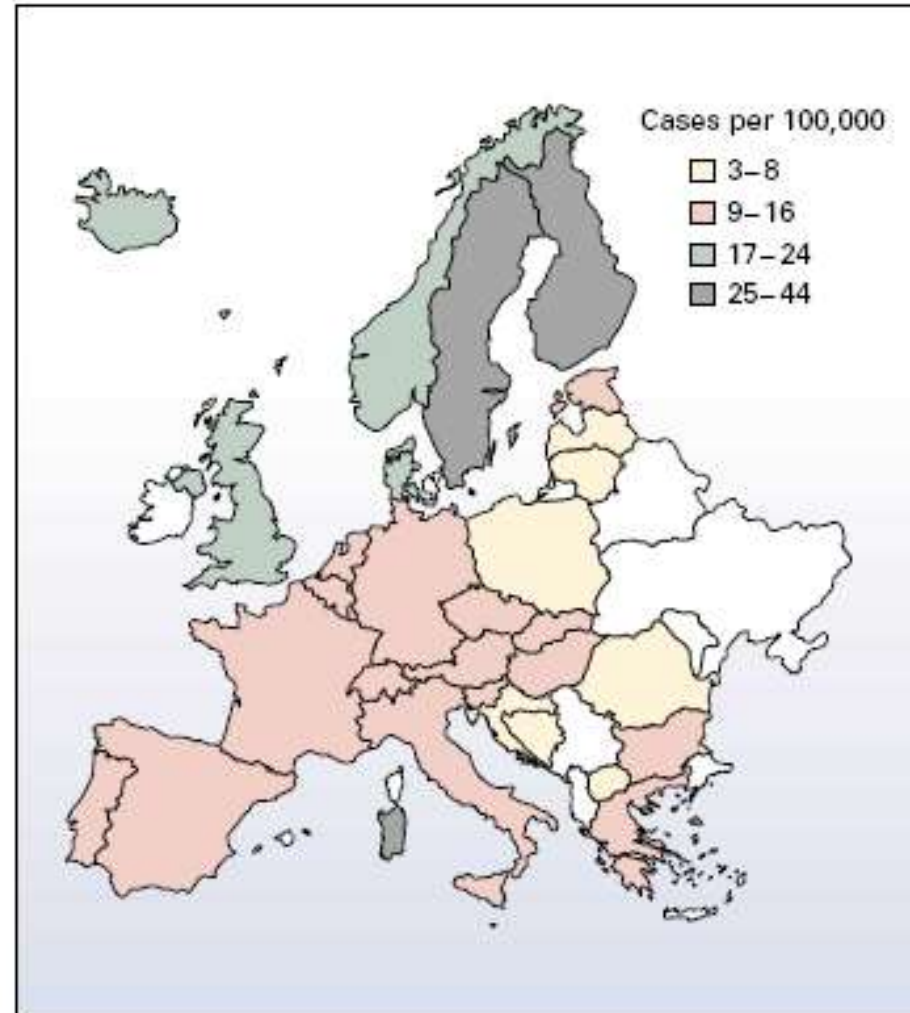
**Table 2.** Prevalence of each autoimmune disease per 100000 people.

	Prevalence per 10 <sup>5</sup>	95% C.I.
<b>Autoimmune thyroiditis</b>	2,619	2426–2824
<b>Psoriasis/psoriatic arthritis</b>	939	824–1065
<b>Rheumatoid arthritis</b>	552	466–651
<b>Type 1 diabetes</b>	464	384–554
<b>Multiple sclerosis</b>	224	170–290
<b>Ulcerative colitis</b>	124	85–175
<b>Celiac disease</b>	124	85–175
<b>Systemic lupus erythematosus</b>	81	50–124
<b>Myasthenia gravis</b>	35	16–66
<b>Systemic sclerosis</b>	35	16–66
<b>Sjogren’s syndrome</b>	31	13–61
<b>Crohn’s disease</b>	15	4–40

A Prevalence of Multiple Sclerosis



B Incidence of Type 1 Diabetes in Children





---

# Patients with multiple sclerosis and risk of type 1 diabetes mellitus in Sardinia, Italy: a cohort study

*Maria Giovanna Marrosu, Eleonora Cocco, Marina Lai, Gabriella Spinicci, Maria Paola Pischedda, Paolo Contu*

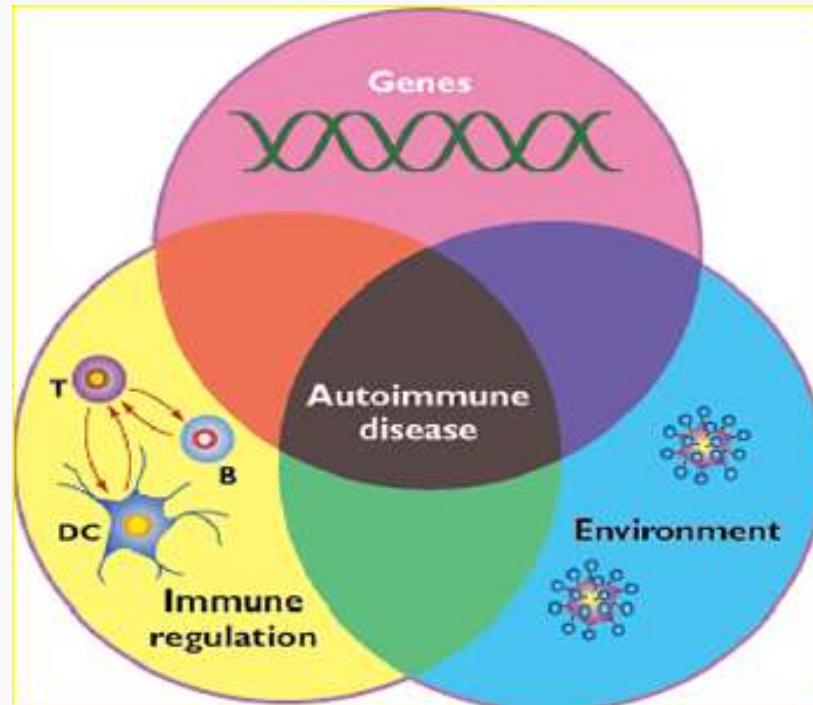
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*Lancet* 2002; 359: 1461–65



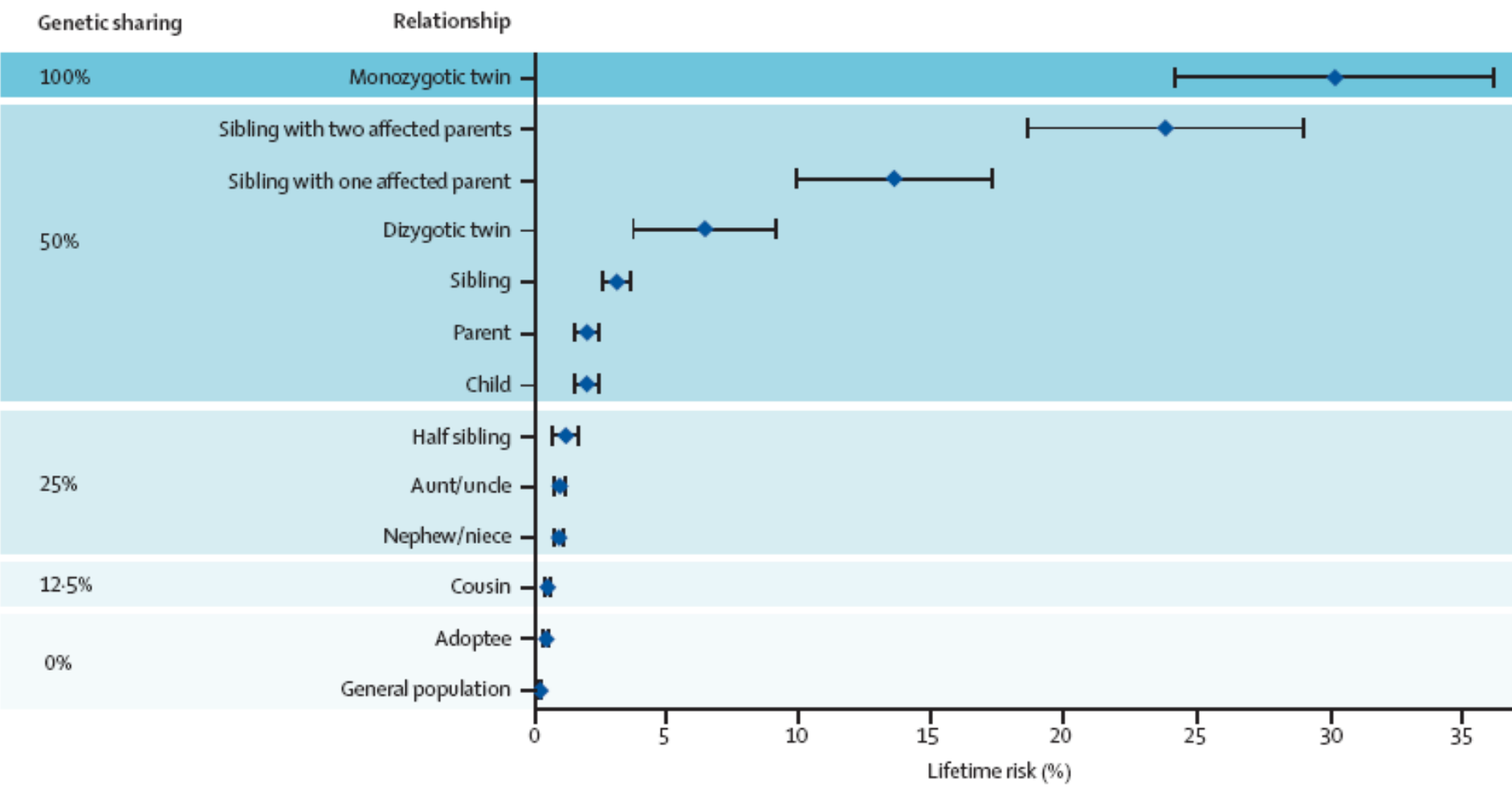


# MS is a multifactorial disorder



**Contribution:**

- 1. Genes**
- 2. Environment**
- 3. Interaction Genes/environment**



Compston A and Coles A The Lancet 2003

# Quante varianti di suscettibilita' agiscono nella predisposizione alla SM

▣ Ipotesi della malattia comune/varianti comuni:

20-100 alleli comuni che determinano un rischio modesto sono sufficienti

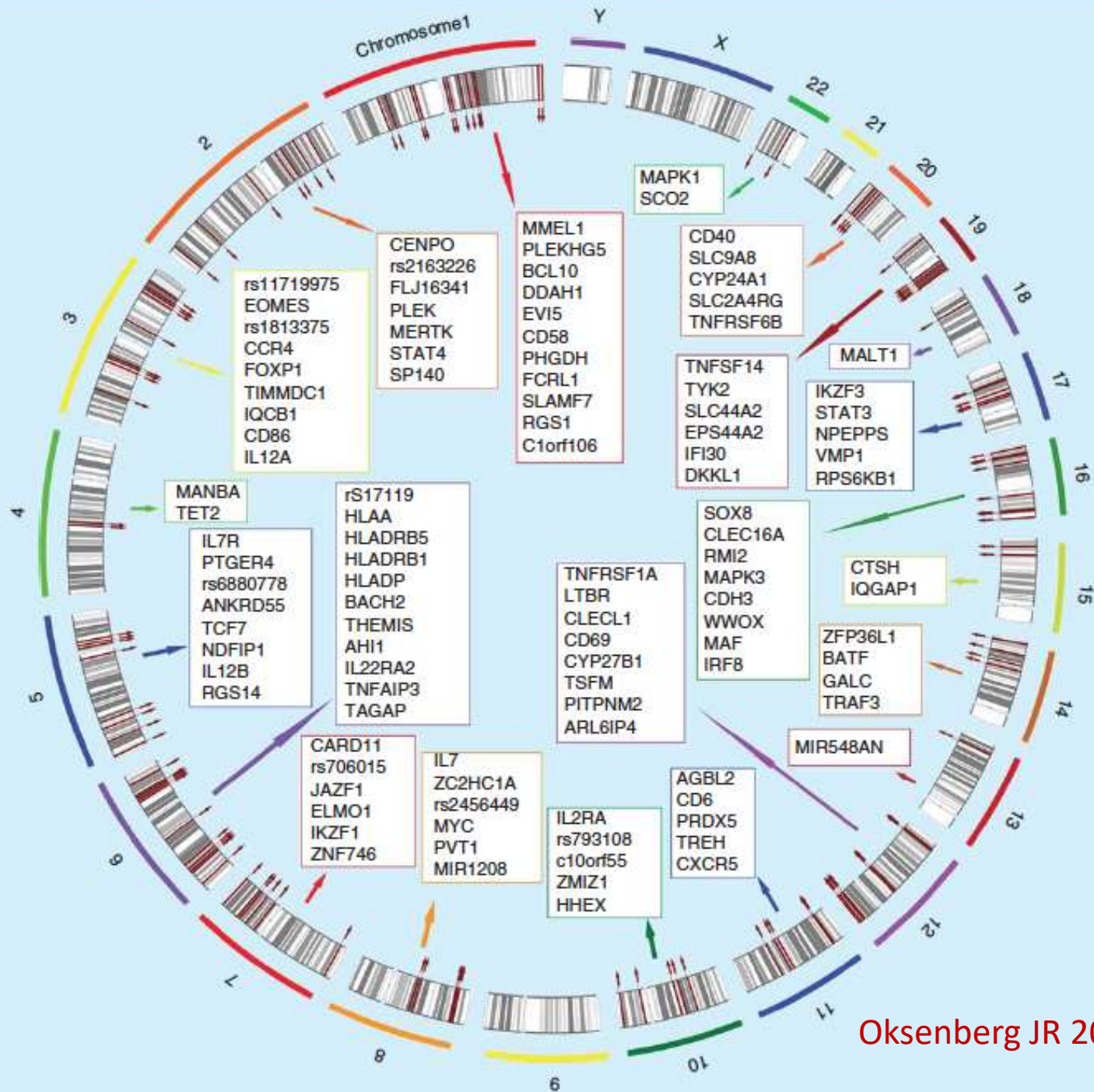
▣ Modello delle multiple varianti rare:

numerosissime (centinaia/migliaia) sono necessarie

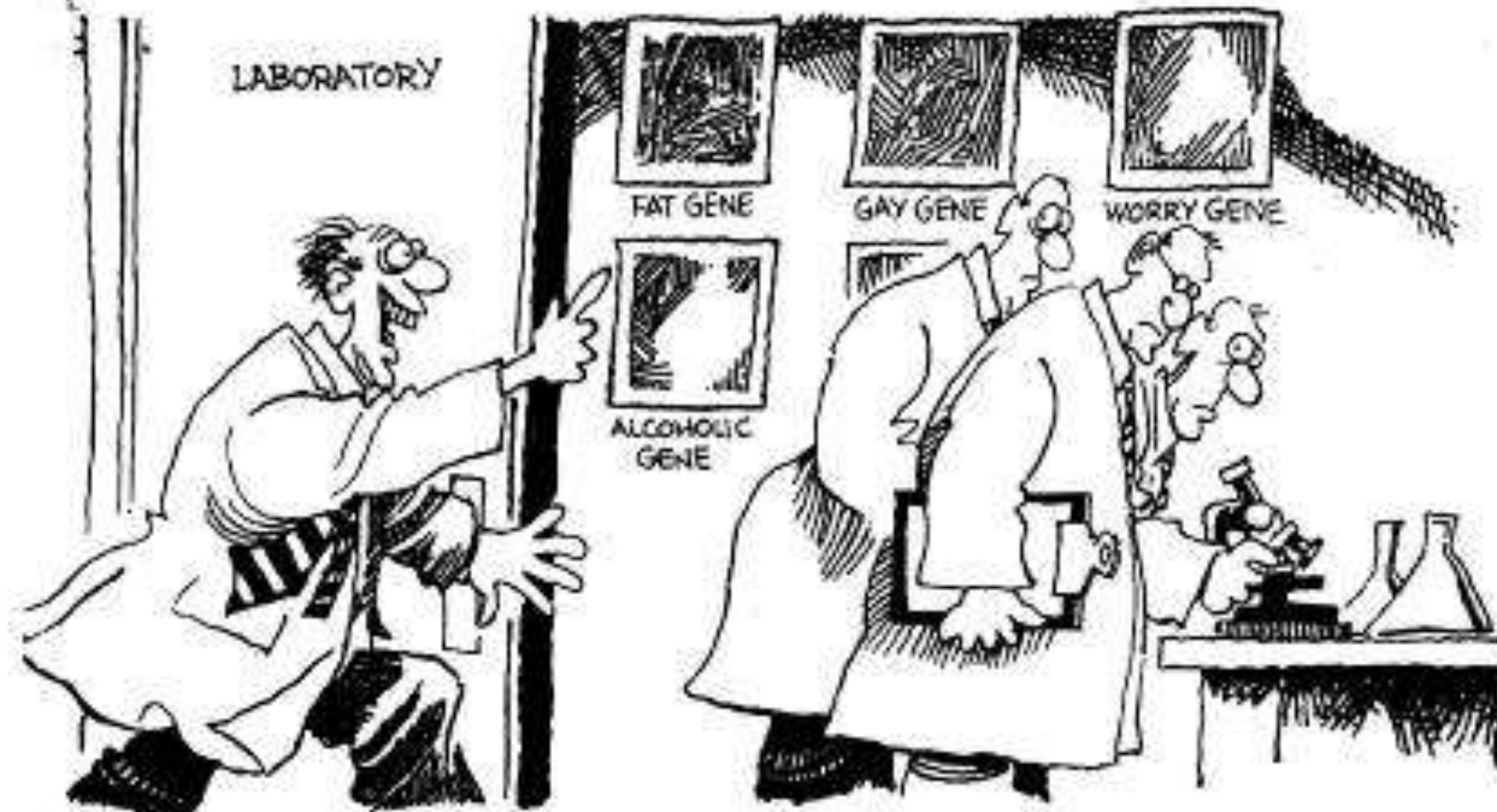
## POSSIBILE SCENARIO

✓ Circa 100 varianti comuni con una bassa penetranza possono giustificare la maggior parte della suscettibilità genetica alla SM

✓ Una piccola proporzione di malattia e' determinata da varianti rare ma con una penetranza maggiore.







**Eureka!!**

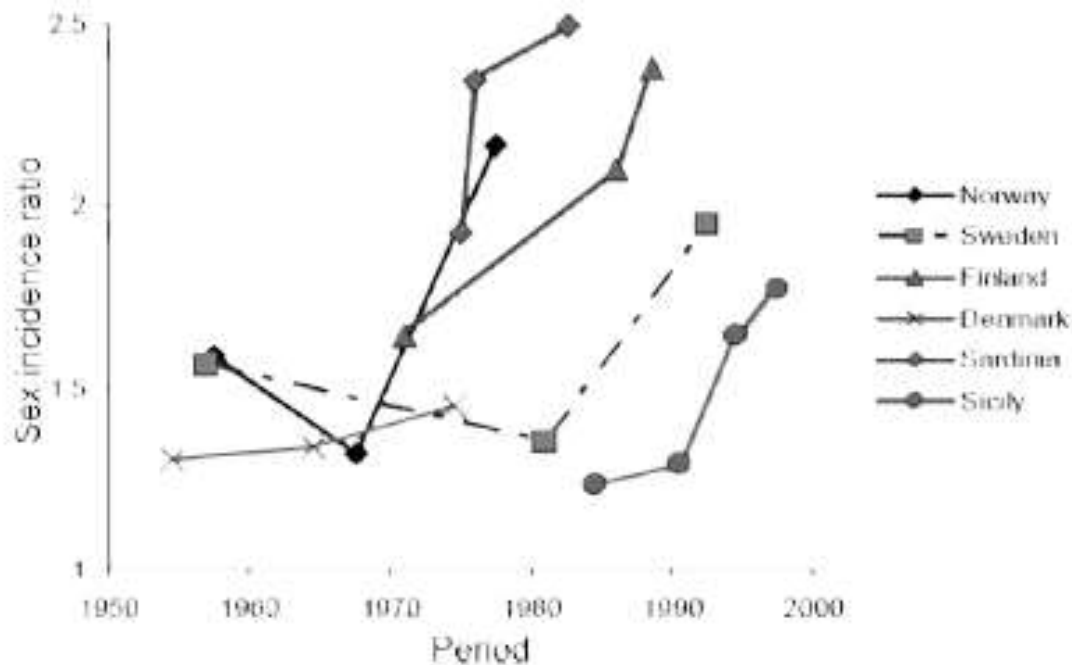
**Ho scoperto il gene che ci fa pensare che tutto sia determinato da geni**

# Temporal trends in the incidence of multiple sclerosis

A systematic review

Alvaro Alonso, MD  
Miguel A. Hernán, MD

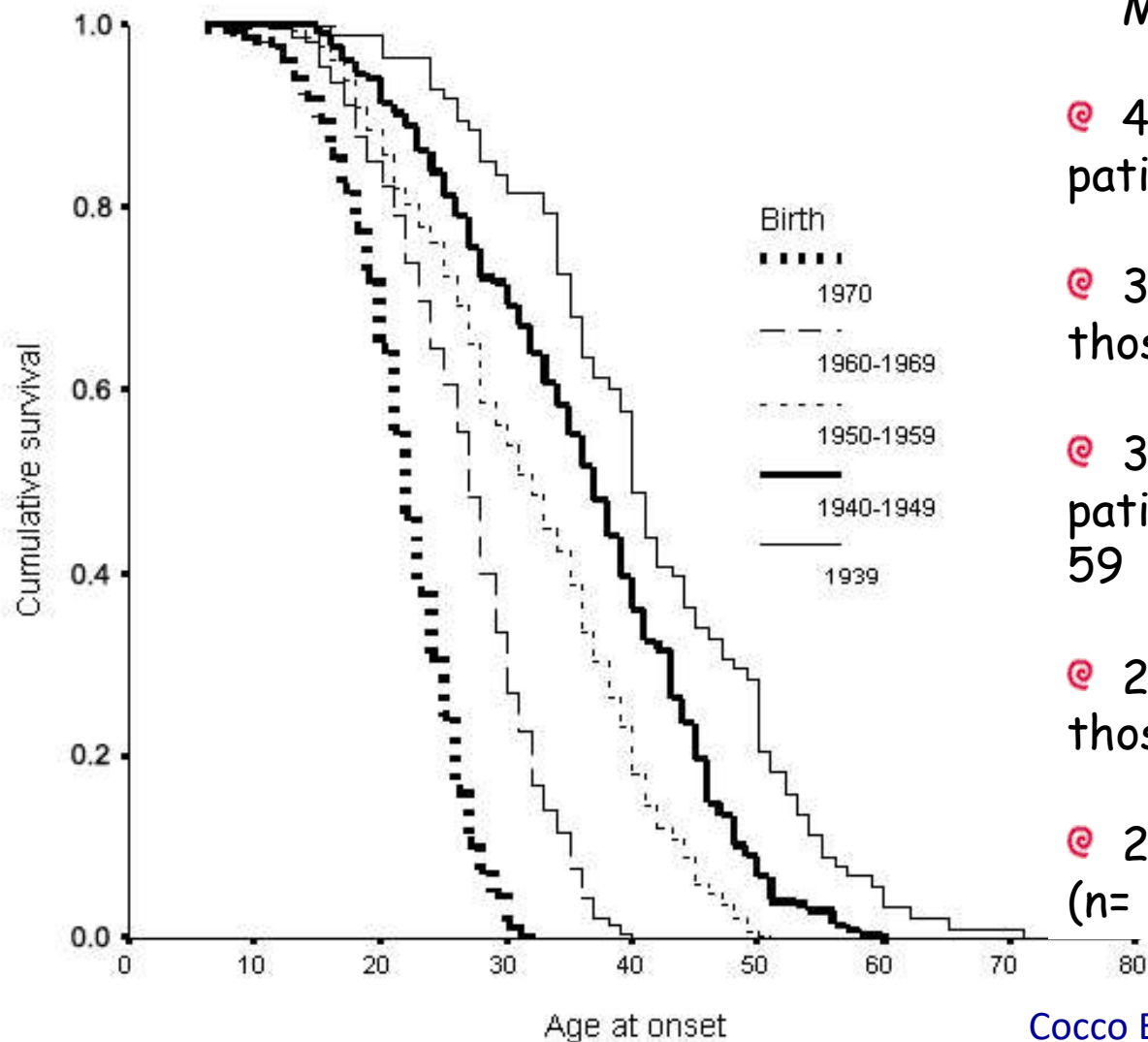
*Neurology*® 2008;71:129-135



Sex (female-to-male) incidence rate ratio of multiple sclerosis by study year and region

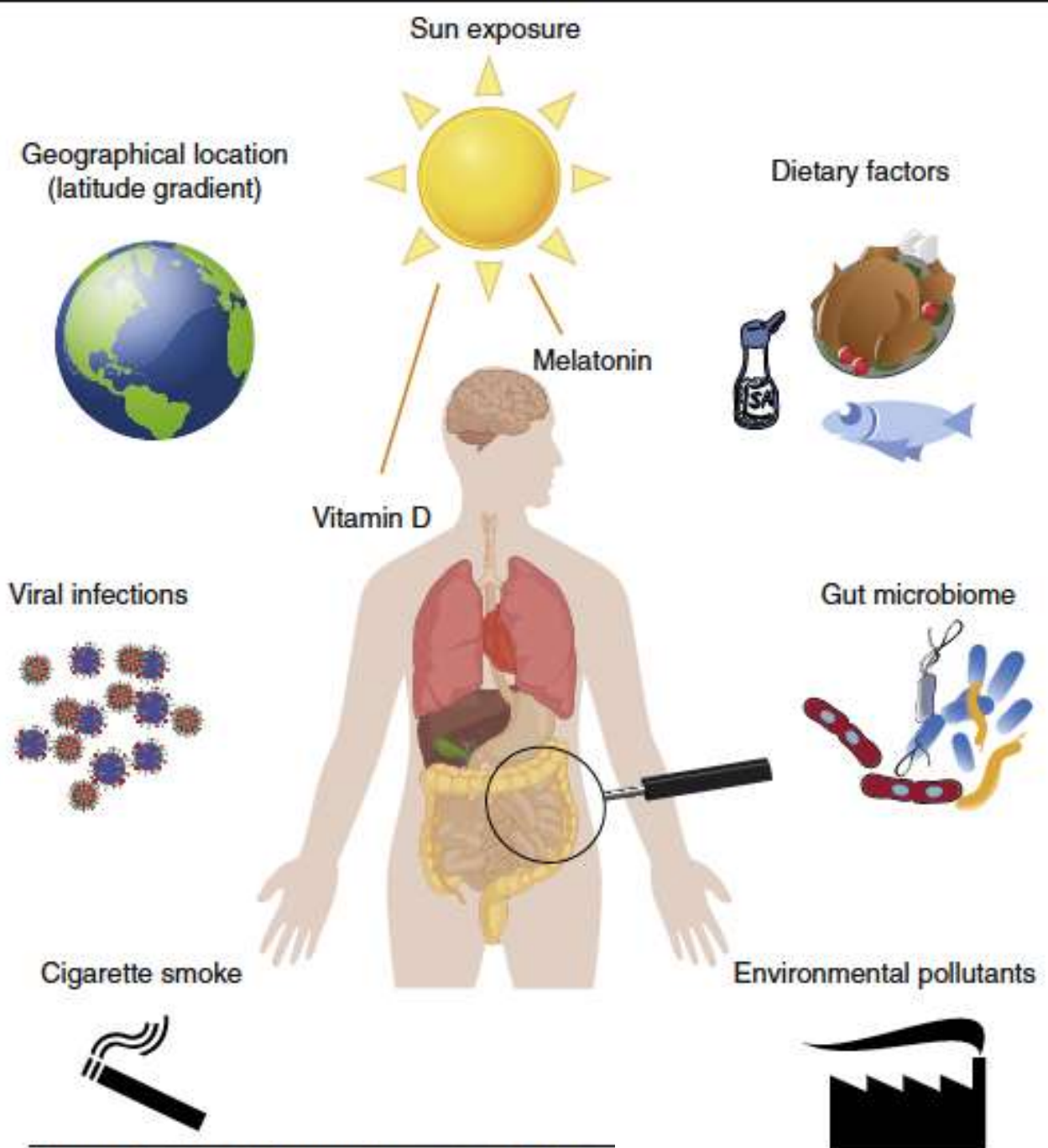
## ANTICIPATION OF AGE AT ONSET:

Survival analysis of 1500 Sardinian patients showed a progressively earlier age-at-onset ( log rank test  $\chi^2 = 778,27$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ) moving from the oldest to the most recent decade of birth.



Mean age at onset was :

- ⊙ 41 years (95% CI 39-44) in patients (n= 88) born in 1913-39
- ⊙ 36 years (95% CI 35-37) in those (n= 209) born in 1940-49
- ⊙ 32 years (95% CI 31-33) in patients (n= 352) born in 1950-59
- ⊙ 27 years (95% CI 26-27) in those (n= 487) born in 1960-69
- ⊙ 22 (95% CI 21-22) in patients (n= 347) born from 1970 on.





RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Is Geo-Environmental Exposure a Risk Factor for Multiple Sclerosis? A Population-Based Cross-Sectional Study in South-Western Sardinia

Maria Cristina Monti<sup>1</sup>\*, Davide Guido<sup>1</sup>, Cristina Montomoli<sup>1</sup>, Claudia Sardu<sup>2</sup>,  
Alessandro Sanna<sup>3</sup>, Salvatore Pretti<sup>3</sup>, Lorena Loreface<sup>2</sup>, Maria Giovanna Marrosu<sup>4</sup>,  
Paolo Valera<sup>3</sup>‡, Eleonora Cocco<sup>2</sup>‡

# Association of *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* with Multiple Sclerosis in Sardinian Patients

Davide Cossu<sup>1</sup>, Eleonora Cocco<sup>2</sup>, Daniela Paccagnini<sup>1</sup>, Speranza Masala<sup>1</sup>, Niyaz Ahmed<sup>3,4</sup>, Jessica Frau<sup>2</sup>, Maria Giovanna Marrosu<sup>2</sup>, Leonardo A. Sechi<sup>1\*</sup>

PLoS ONE 6(4): e18482


Research Paper

MULTIPLE  
SCLEROSIS  
JOURNAL

MSJ

## *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* and multiple sclerosis in Sardinian patients: epidemiology and clinical features

J Frau<sup>1</sup>, D Cossu<sup>2</sup>, G Coghe<sup>1</sup>, L Lorefice<sup>1</sup>, G Fenu<sup>1</sup>, M Melis<sup>1</sup>, D Paccagnini<sup>2</sup>, C Sardu<sup>3</sup>, MR Murru<sup>1</sup>, S Tranquilli<sup>1</sup>, MG Marrosu<sup>1</sup>, LA Sechi<sup>2</sup> and E Cocco<sup>1</sup>

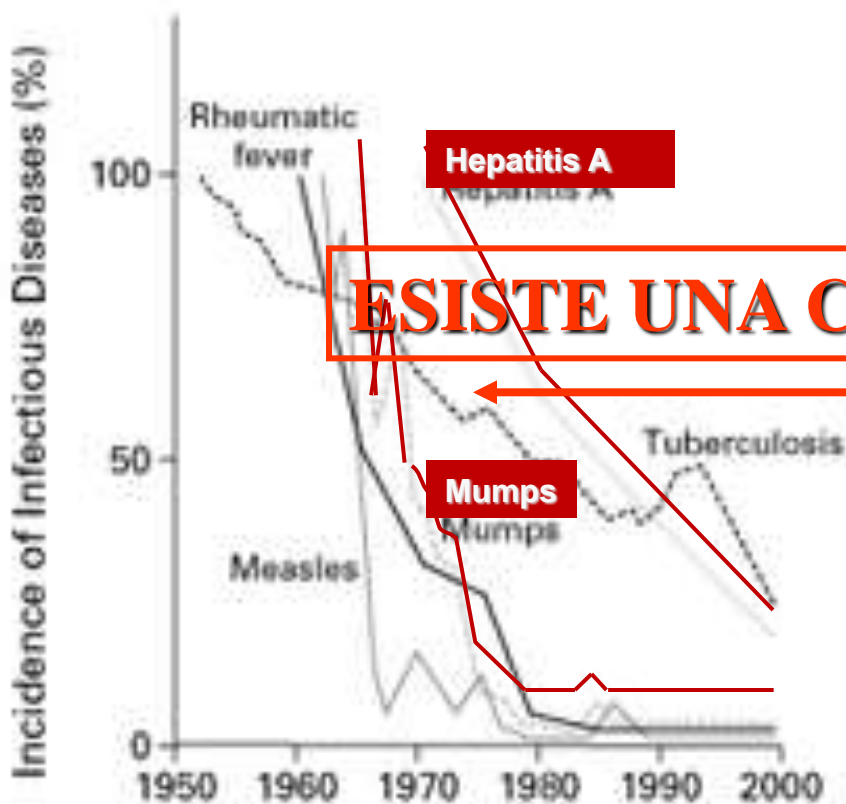
*Multiple Sclerosis Journal*  
19(11) 1437–1442  
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sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav  
DOI: 10.1177/1352458513477926  
msj.sagepub.com  


**Table 1.** Presence of anti-MAP2694 antibodies and/or MAPDNA in MS patients and HCs.

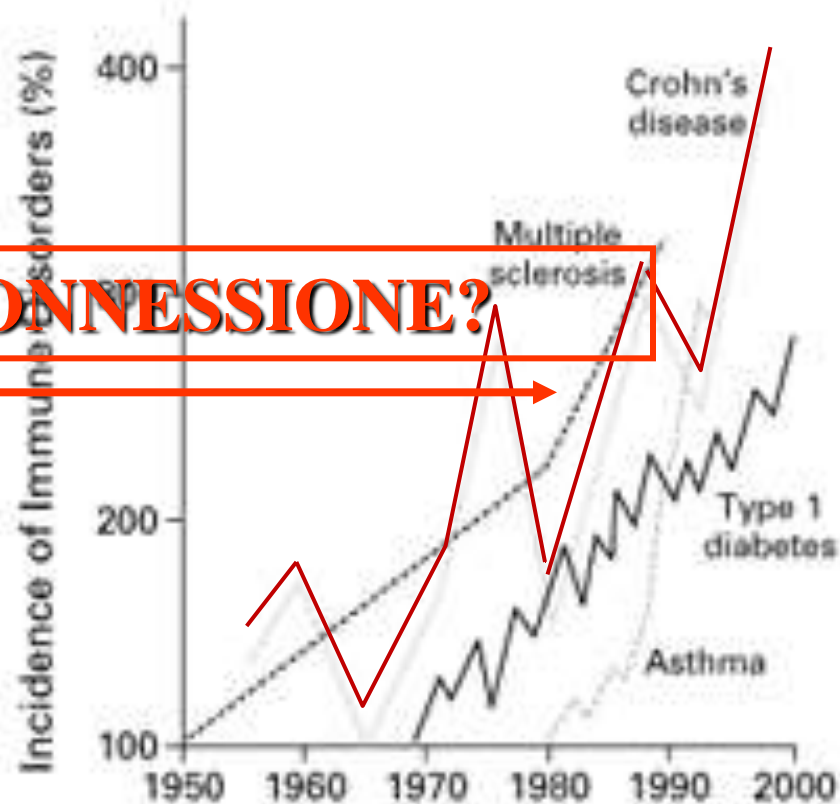
Test z	Patients	HCs	
MAP2694	123 (33.7%)	10 (3.8%)	$p = 2.59 \times 10^{-23}$
MAPDNA	68 (15.5%)	6 (2.3%)	$p = 1.14 \times 10^{-11}$
MAP2694 and MAPDNA	20 (4.5%)	0	$p = 4.68 \times 10^{-6}$

Ipotesi Igienica: Cambiamento proporzionale nell'incidenza delle classiche malattie infettive e delle malattie immuni,  
Dal 1950 al 2000, US

## Infectious Diseases

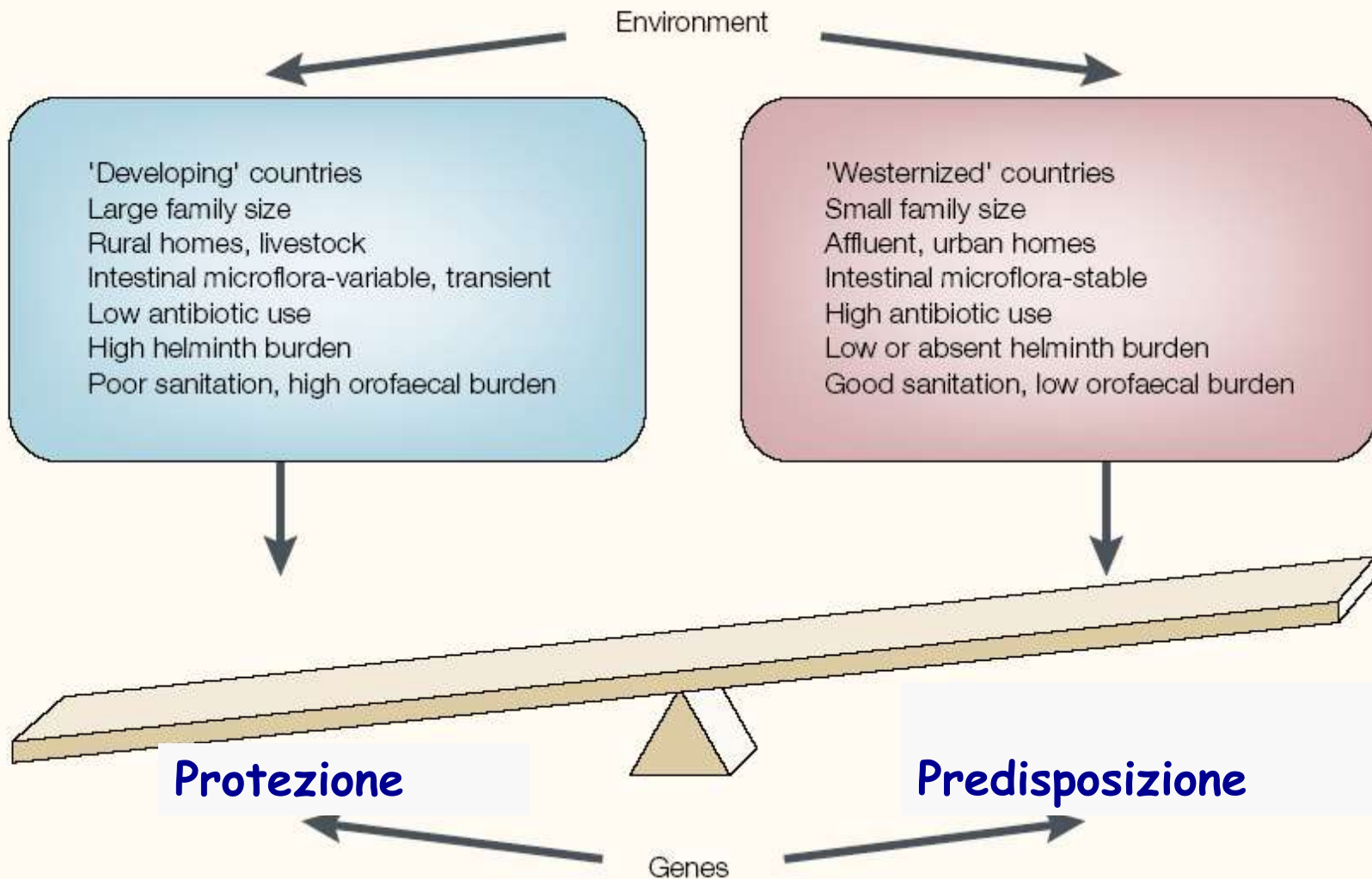


## Immune Disorders



**ESISTE UNA CONNESSIONE?**

# FATTORI ETIOLOGICI: GENI E AMBIENTE





# *The* NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

APRIL 27, 2017

VOL. 376 NO. 17

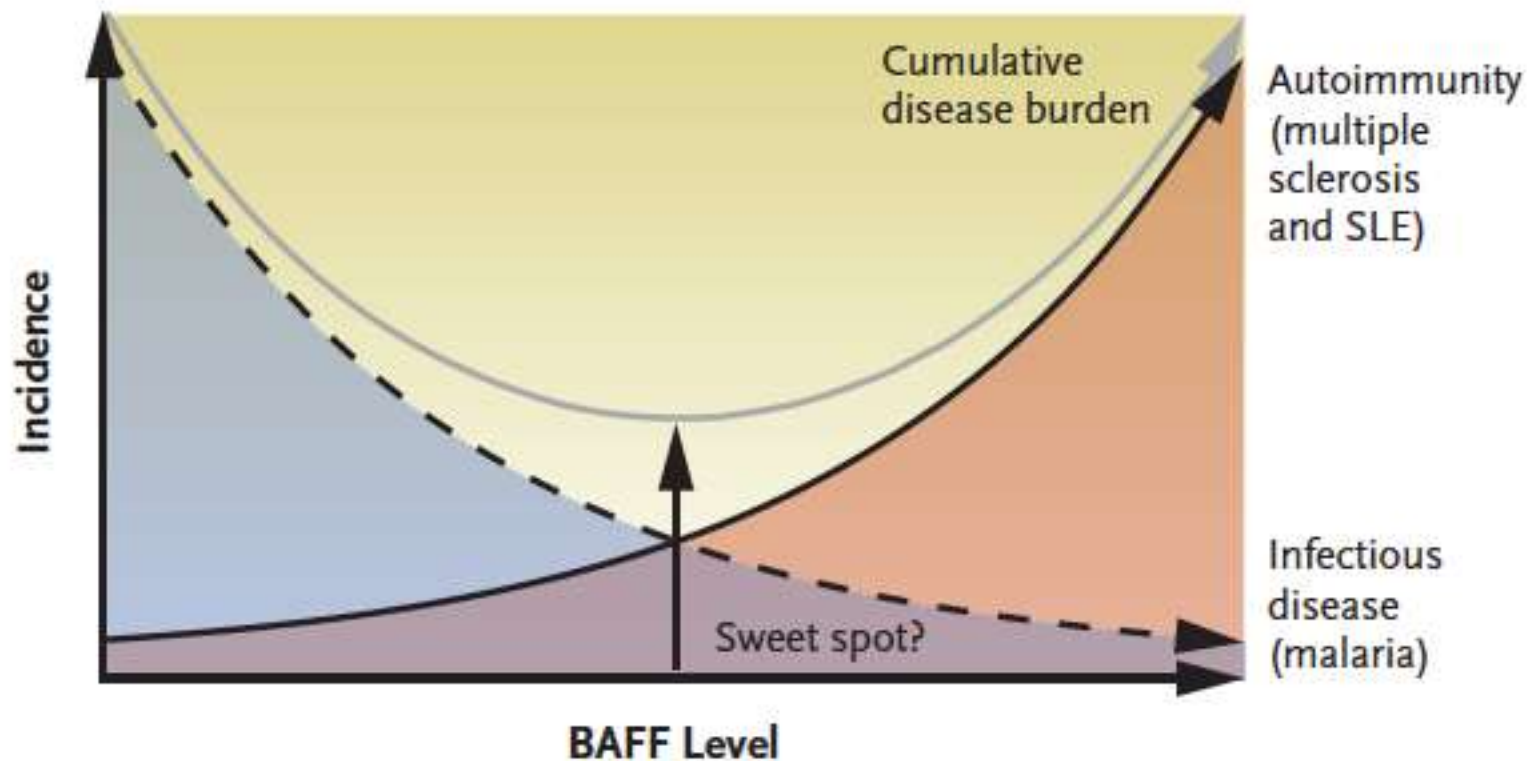
## Overexpression of the Cytokine BAFF and Autoimmunity Risk

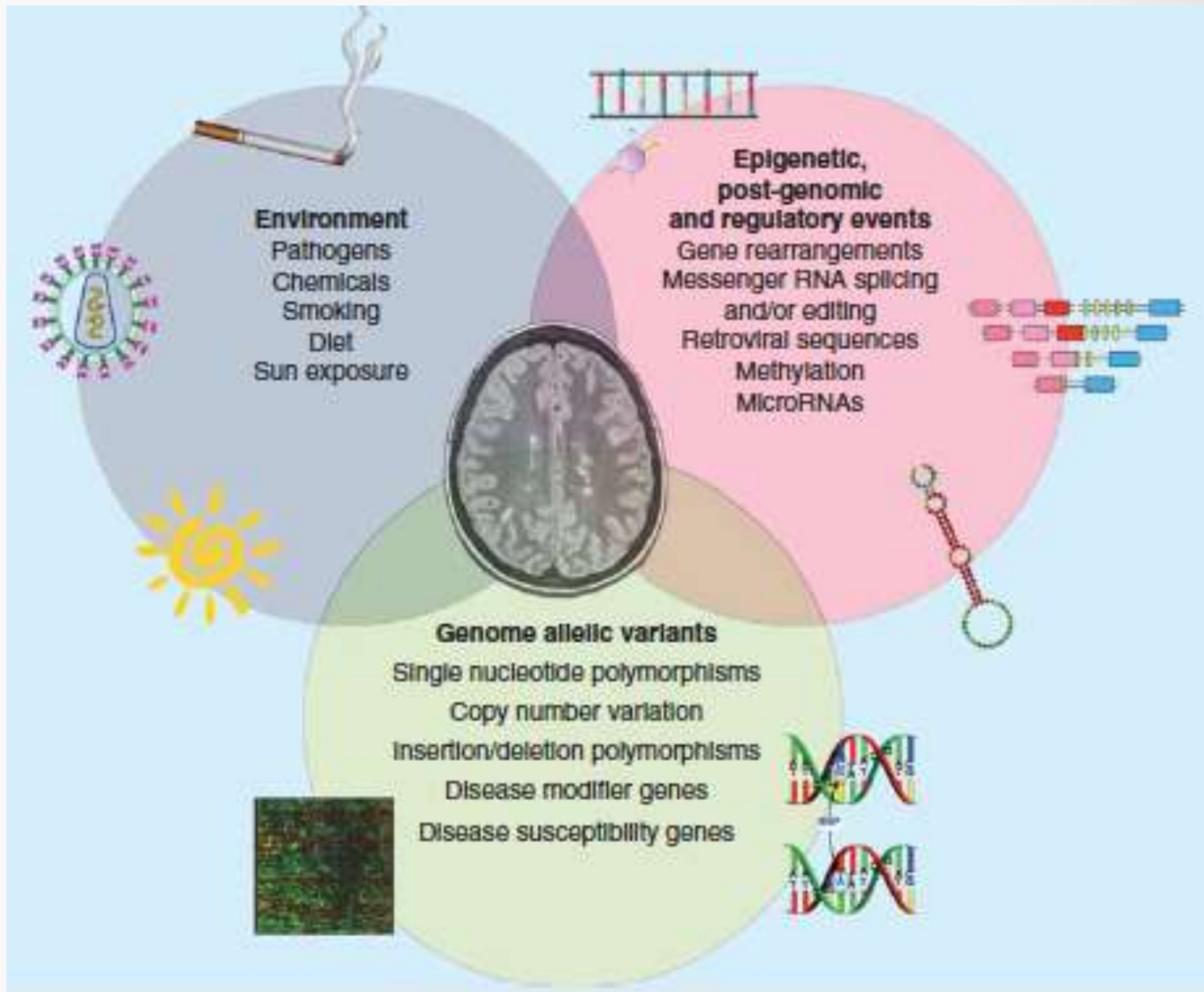
M. Steri, V. Orrù, M.L. Idda, M. Pitzalis, M. Pala, I. Zara, C. Sidore, V. Faà, M. Floris, M. Deiana, I. Asunis, E. Porcu, A. Mulas, M.G. Piras, M. Lobina, S. Lai, M. Marongiu, V. Serra, M. Marongiu, G. Sole, F. Busonero, A. Maschio, R. Cusano, G. Cuccuru, F. Deidda, F. Poddie, G. Farina, M. Dei, F. Viridis, S. Olla, M.A. Satta, M. Pani, A. Delitala, E. Cocco, J. Frau, G. Coghe, L. Lorefice, G. Fenu, P. Ferrigno, M. Ban, N. Barizzone, M. Leone, F.R. Guerini, M. Piga, D. Firinu, I. Kockum, I. Lima Bomfim, T. Olsson, L. Alfredsson, A. Suarez, P.E. Carreira, M.J. Castillo-Palma, J.H. Marcus, M. Congia, A. Angius, M. Melis, A. Gonzalez, M.E.A. Riquelme, B.M. da Silva, M. Marchini, M.G. Danieli, S. Del Giacco, A. Mathieu, A. Pani, S.B. Montgomery, G. Rosati,\* J. Hillert, S. Sawcer, S. D'Alfonso, J.A. Todd, J. Novembre, G.R. Abecasis, M.B. Whalen, M.G. Marrosu, A. Meloni, S. Sanna, M. Gorospe, D. Schlessinger, E. Fiorillo, M. Zoledziewska, and F. Cucca

# A BAFFling Association between Malaria Resistance and the Risk of Multiple Sclerosis

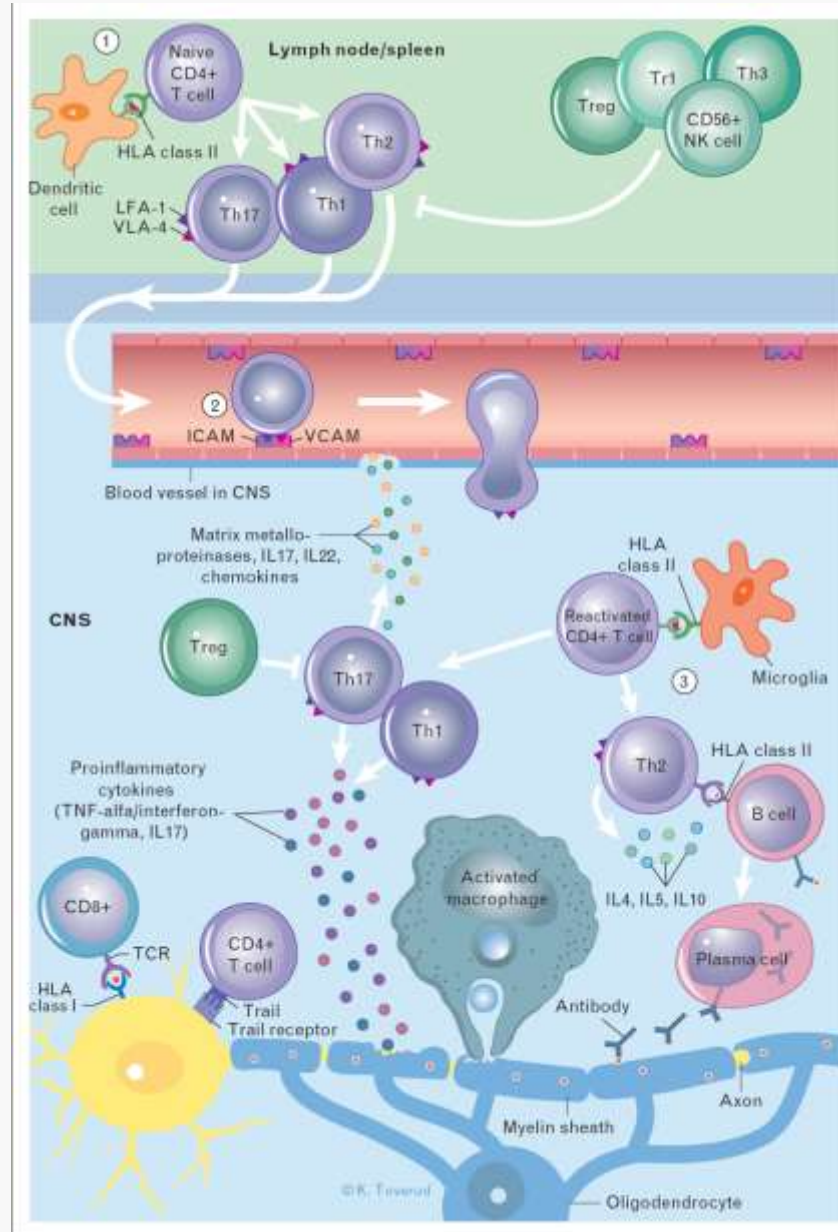
Thomas Korn, M.D., and Mohamed Oukka, Ph.D.

N ENGL J MED 376;17 NEJM.ORG APRIL 27, 2017

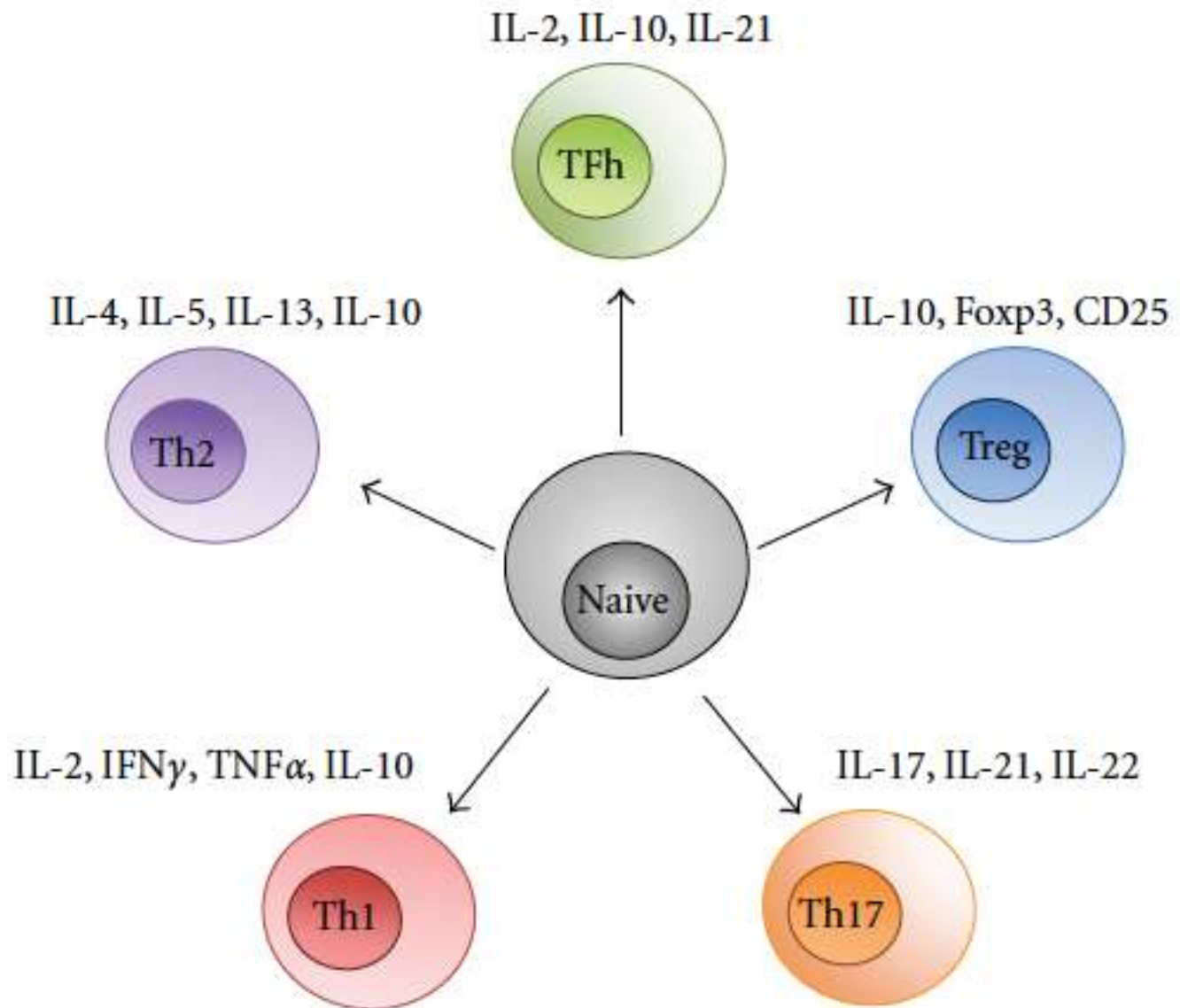




# La SM è una malattia autoimmune







### Antigen presentation



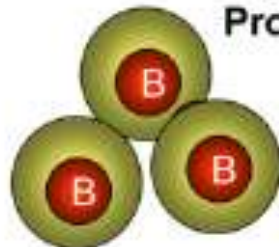
### Immune Regulation



### Antibody-Producing Plasmablasts and Plasma Cells

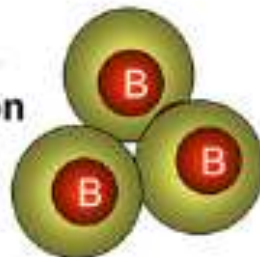


### Cytokine Production



### Anti-inflammatory cytokines

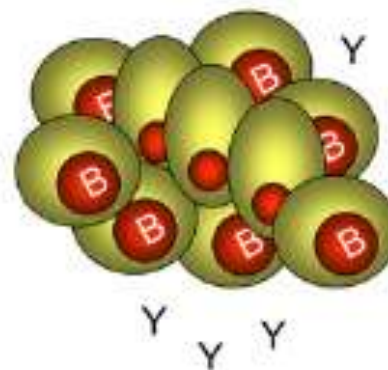
Interleukin-10  
Interleukin-35



### Pro-inflammatory cytokines

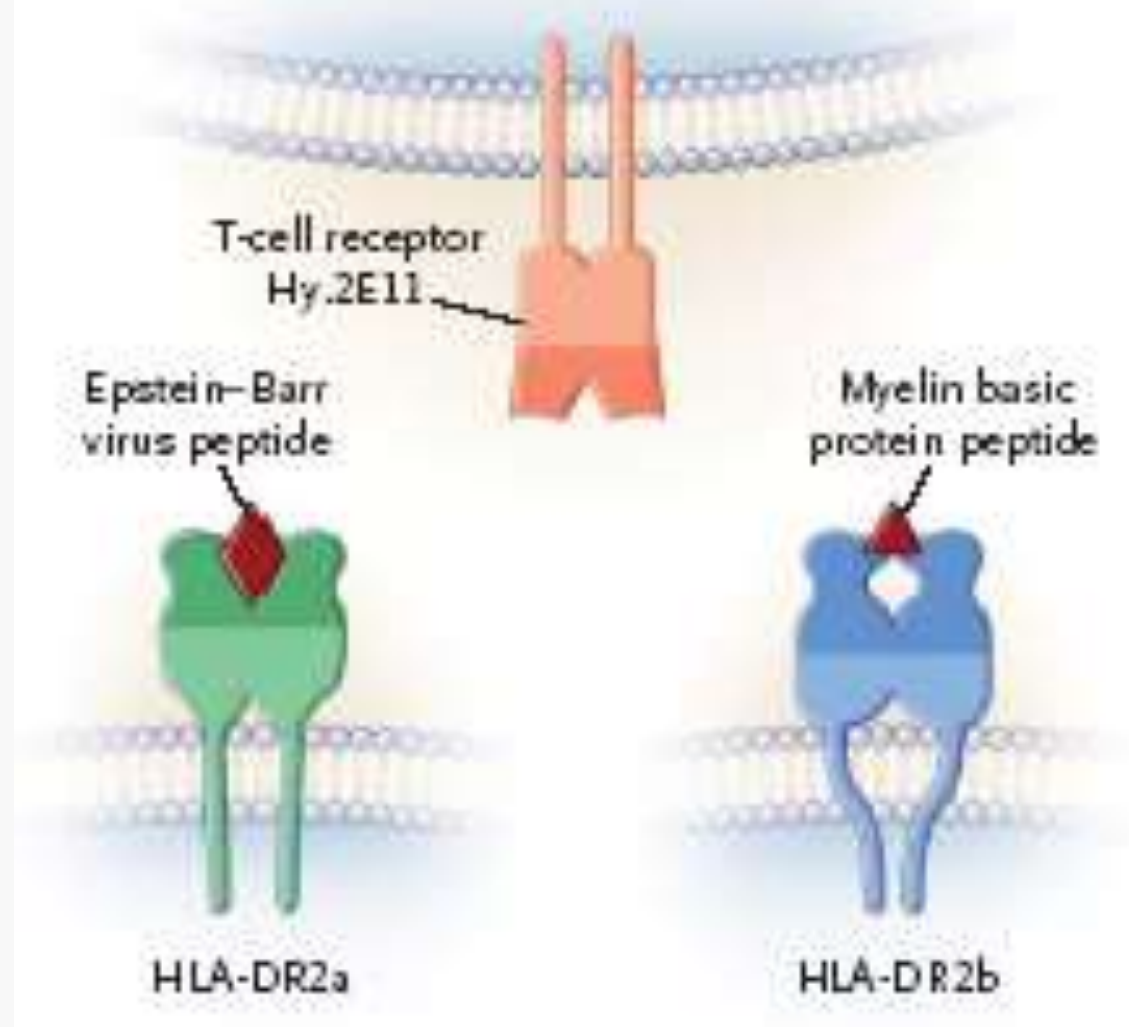
Interleukin-6  
Tumor Necrosis Factor  
Granulocyte Macrophage-  
Colony Stimulating Factor

B cell rich meningeal immune  
infiltrates (follicle-like) in CNS

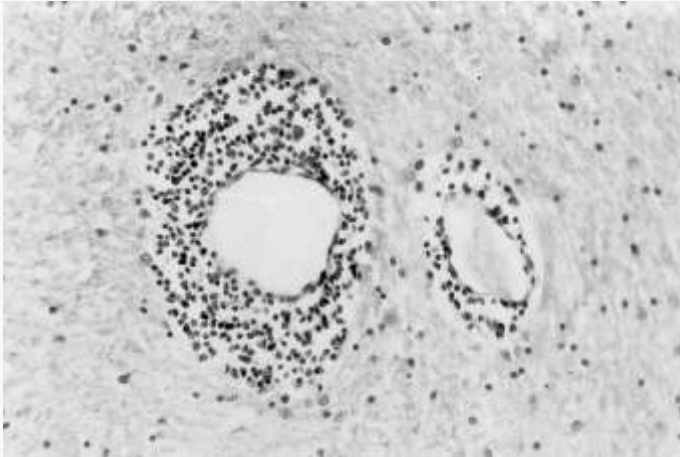


# Molecular Mimicry in Multiple Sclerosis

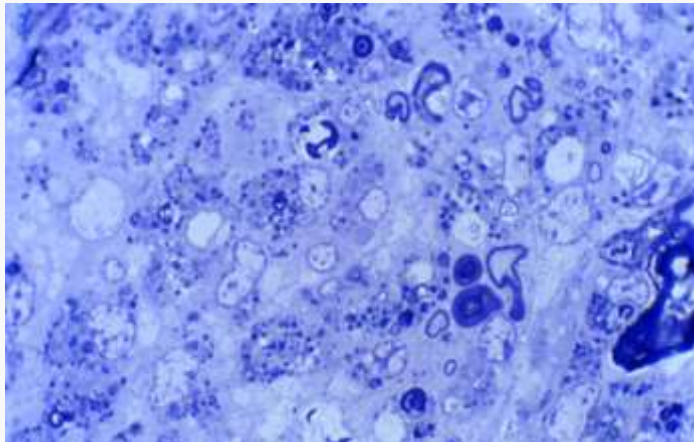
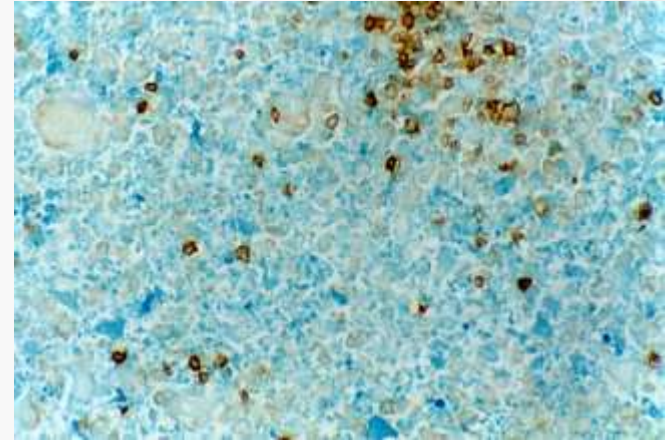
Hartmut Wekerle, M.D., and Reinhard Hohlfeld, M.D.



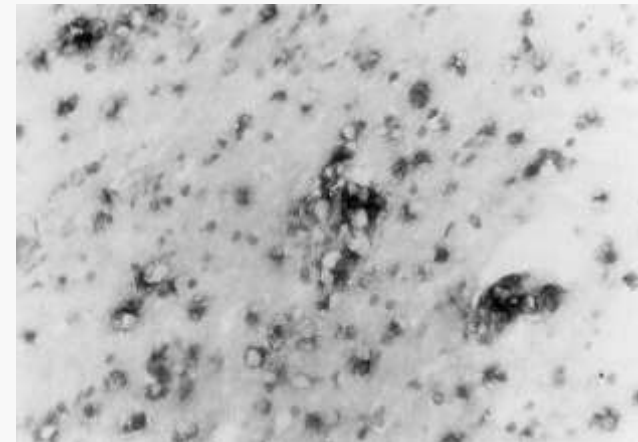
**Infiltrato infiammatorio  
perivasale in in una lesione**



**Infiltrato infiammatorio di  
linfociti T CD4**



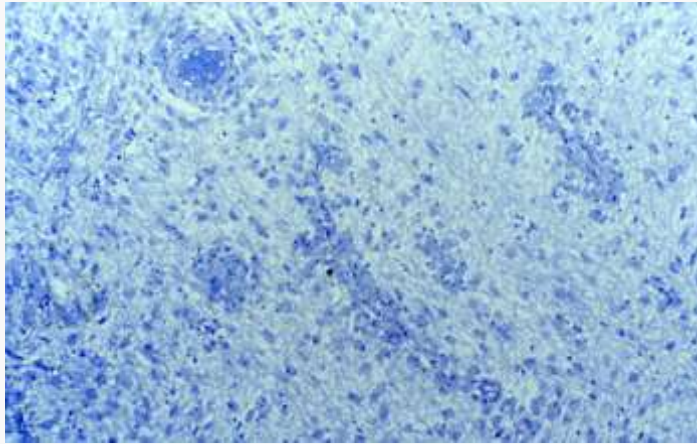
**Diffusa infiltrazione  
macrofagica/microgliale  
in una placca precoce attiva**



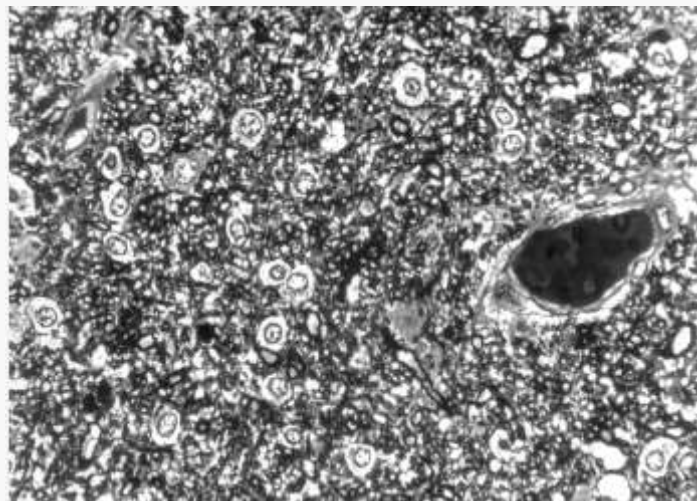
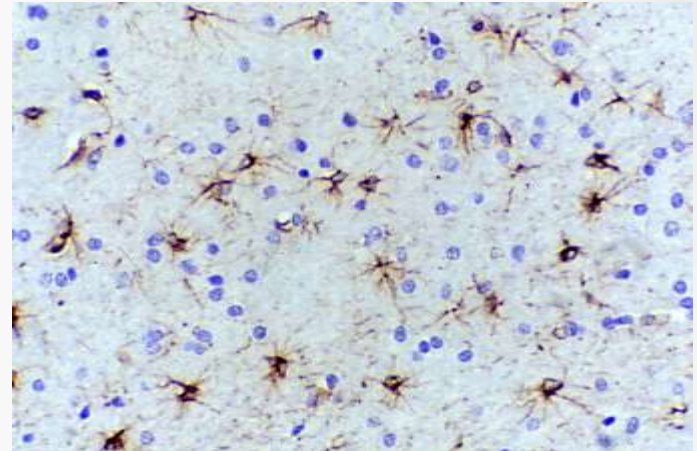
**Macrofagi HLA-DR positivi in  
una  
placca attiva precoce**



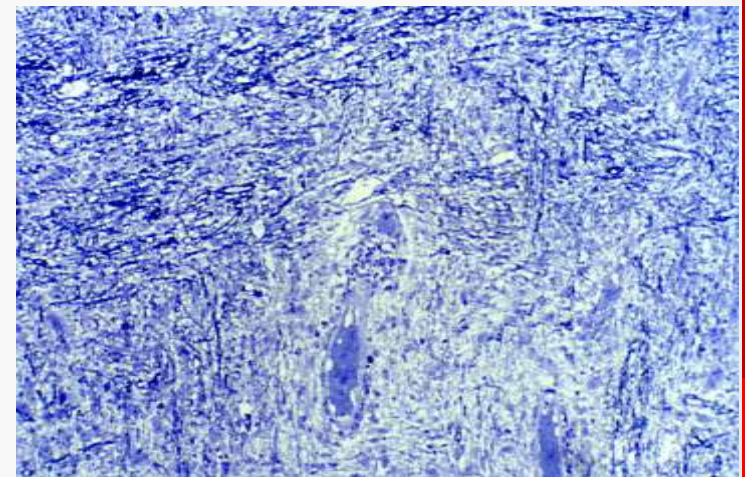
**Placca cronica attiva, con  
infiammazione  
perivascolare e gliosi diffusa**



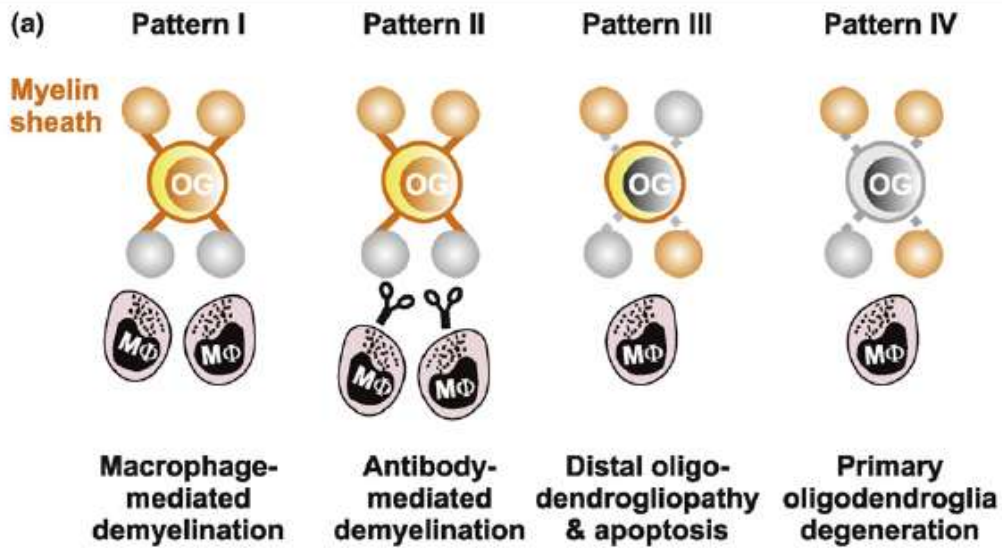
**Gliosi in una placca di  
demielinizzazione**



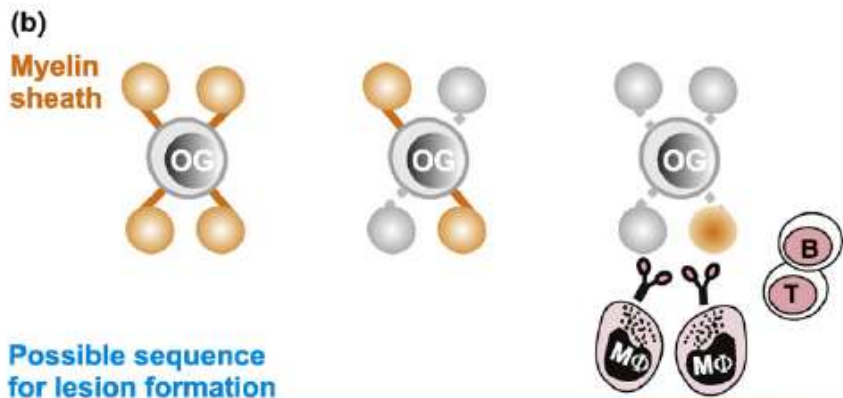
**Oligodendrociti in una  
placca di demielinizzazione**



**Placca ombra:  
rimielinizzazione diffusa**



Interindividually distinct patterns or pathological continuum?



Possible sequence for lesion formation

Primary oligodendroglia apoptosis

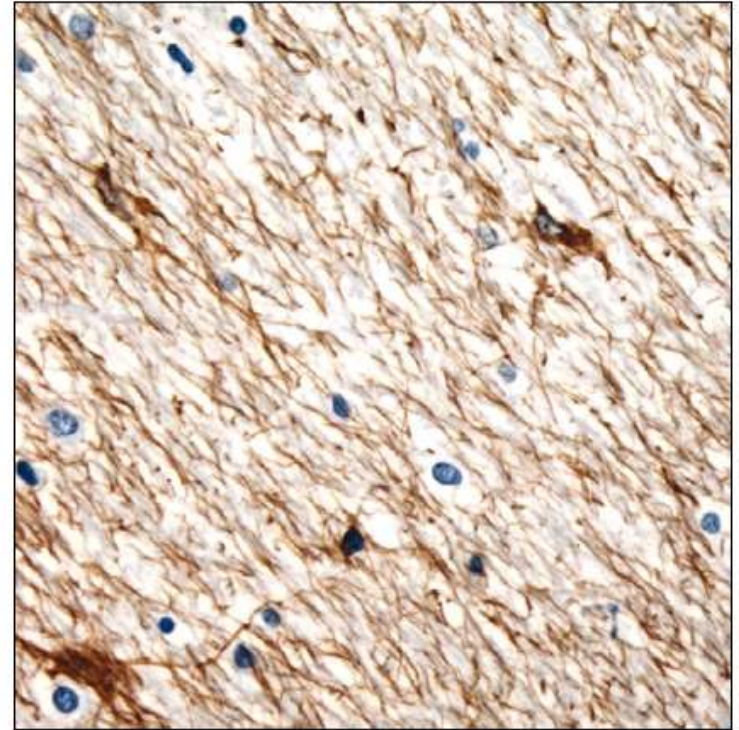
Myelin breakdown

Secondary inflammation, axonal damage & neuronal demise



# In apparenza normale...

- Normal-appearing white matter has been defined pathologically as macroscopically normal white matter that is microscopically normally myelinated and at least 1 cm away from a plaque's edge.
- This matter has to be differentiated from diffusely abnormal or dirty-appearing white matter, which includes areas of diffuse myelin pallor with ill-defined borders.
- Nowadays, diffuse pathology in the MS brain might be a more appropriate definition than focal lesional pathology.
- Only 27.8% of the specimens of this matter were microscopically normal. The major histological abnormalities included gliosis, demyelination, small round cell infiltration, and the presence of macrophages.



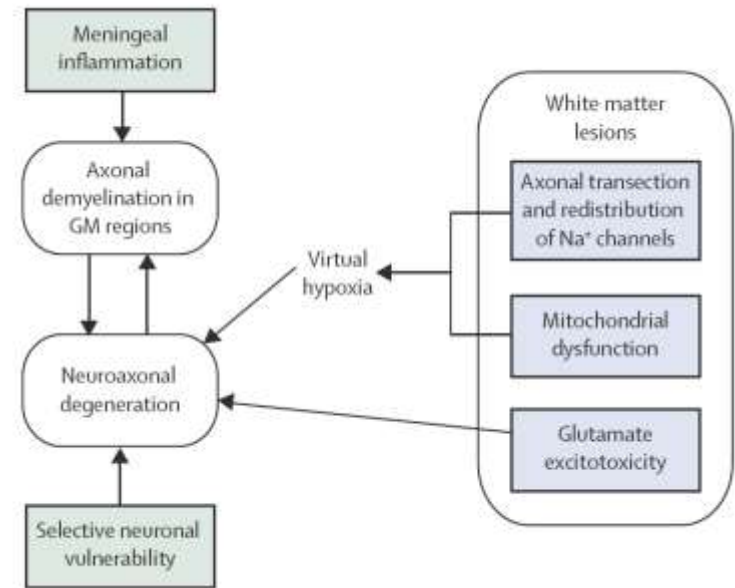
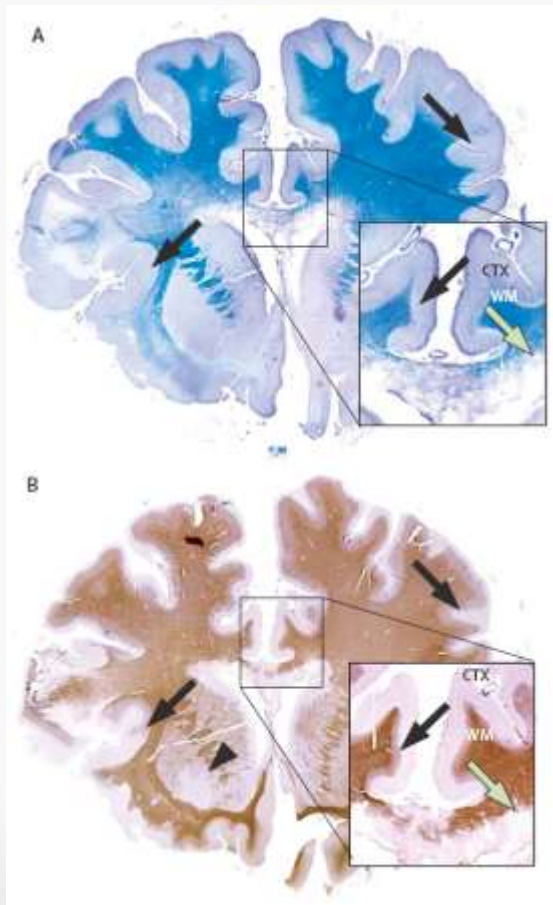
*Figure 2: Immunocytochemistry for glial fibrillary acidic protein*  
Reactive astrocytes and fibre gliosis are present in normal-appearing white matter seen at the autopsy of a patient with multiple sclerosis.

## Grey matter pathology in multiple sclerosis

Jeroen J G Geurts, Frederik Barkhof

Multiple sclerosis (MS) has been classically regarded as a white matter disease. However, recent histopathological studies have convincingly shown that grey matter regions are also heavily affected. Grey matter damage starts early in the disease and substantially affects clinico-cognitive functioning. Detection of cortical grey matter lesions by use of standard MRI techniques has proved challenging, and more advanced techniques are needed. At present, the causes of grey matter damage are unclear. We review several exciting new hypotheses on grey matter pathogenesis, including meningeal inflammation as a cause of subpial cortical damage, but also selective vulnerability of neuronal subpopulations, growth factor dysregulation, glutamate excitotoxicity, mitochondrial abnormalities, and the "use-it-and-lose-it" principle. These hypotheses remain to be validated over the coming years, and could substantially affect our current views on MS pathogenesis.

Lancet Neurol 2008; 7: 541-51  
Department of Radiology (J.J.G. Geurts PhD, F. Barkhof MD) and Department of Pathology (J.J.G. Geurts), VU University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Correspondence to: J.J.G. Geurts, VU University Medical Centre, Department of Radiology, Amsterdam 1053 HZ, the Netherlands

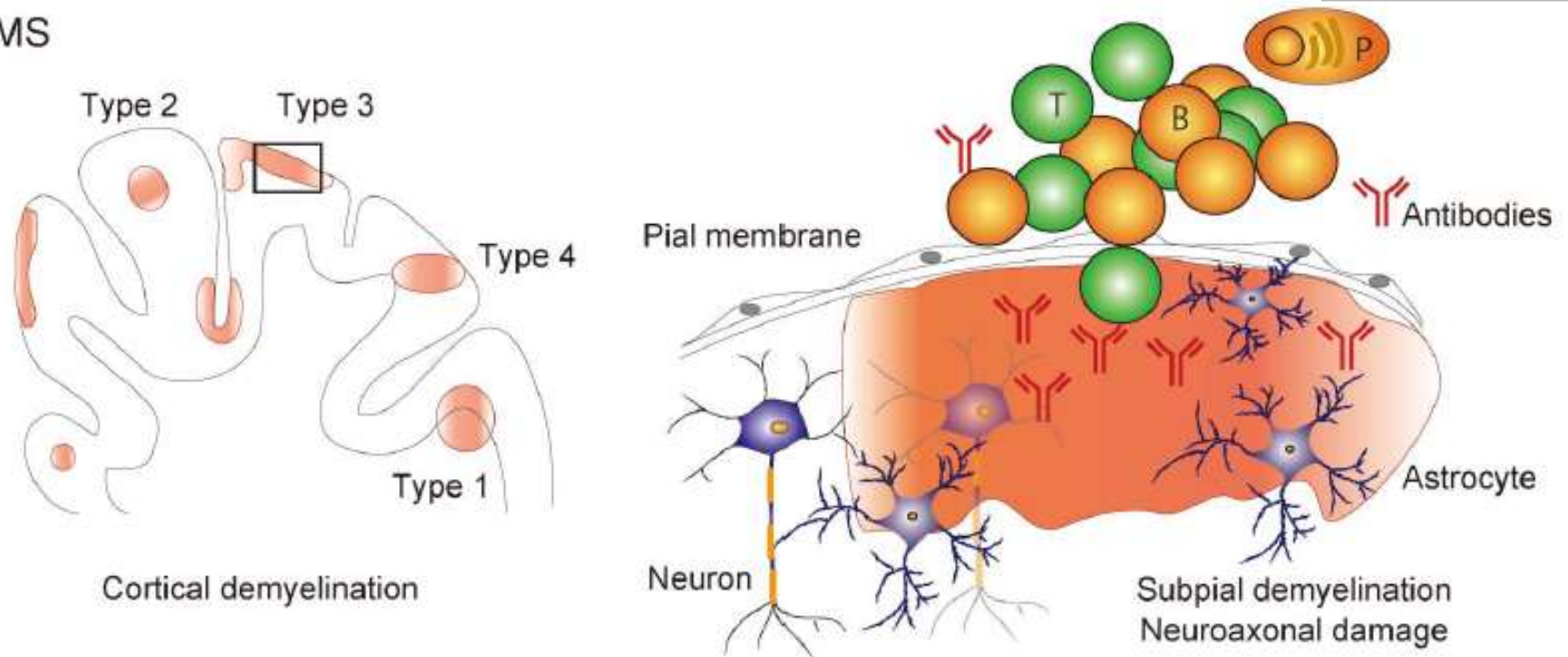


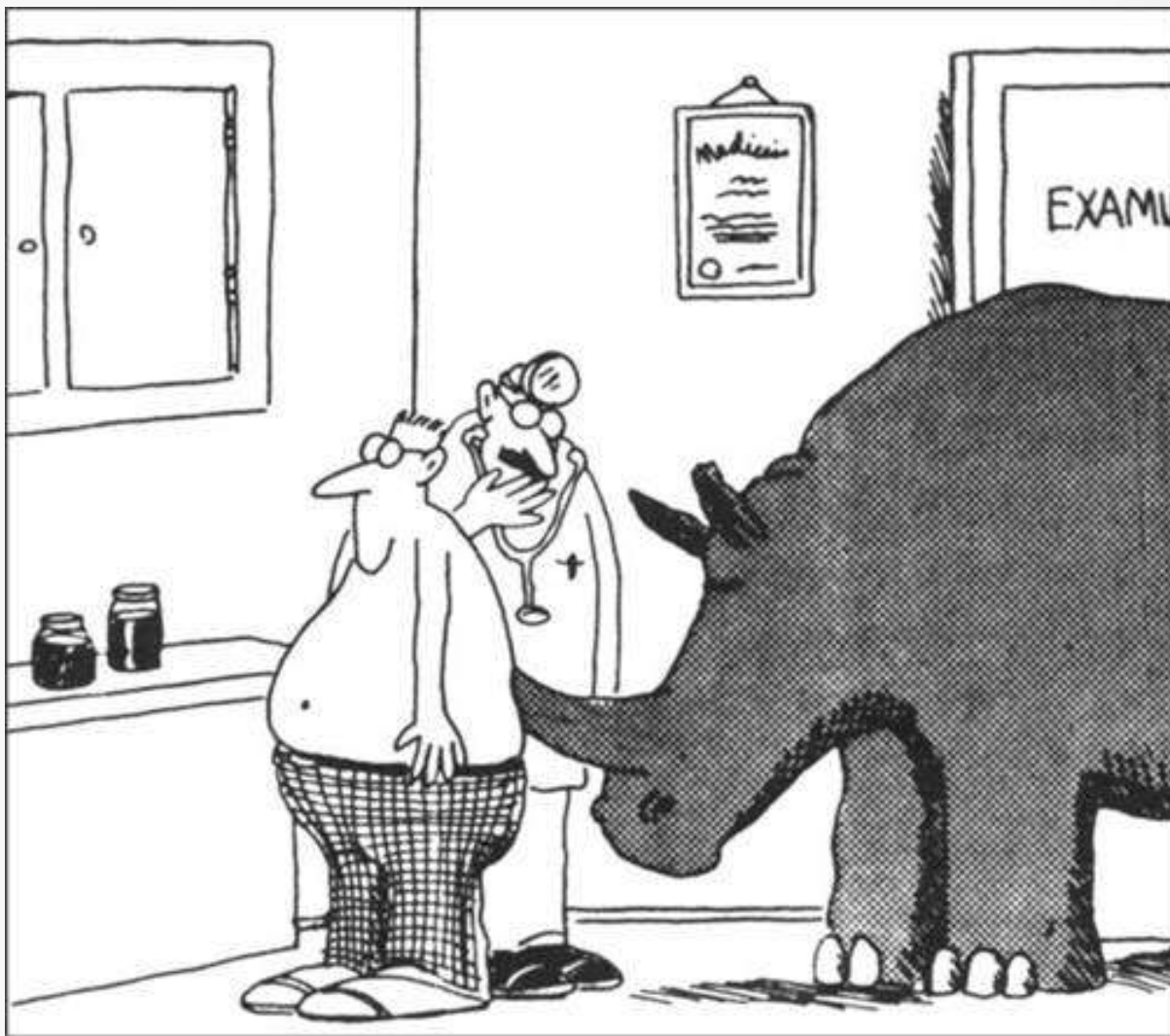
## Lesioni corticali

- ✓ Sono presenti e comuni in tutte le fasi di malattia (anche precoci)
- ✓ Sono altamente infiammatorie
- ✓ Possono rappresentare il substrato sia di sintomi specifici (cognitivi e epilessia) sia di disabilità fisica interessante altri sistemi funzionali



## MS





"Aspetti un attimo, Signor Pistis... Forse non è un calcolo renale dopo tutto"

## AXONAL TRANSECTION IN THE LESIONS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

BRUCE D. TRAPP, PH.D., JOHN PETERSON, B.S., RICHARD M. RANSONOFF, M.D., RICHARD RUDICK, M.D.,  
SVERRE MØRK, M.D., PH.D., AND LARS BØ, M.D.

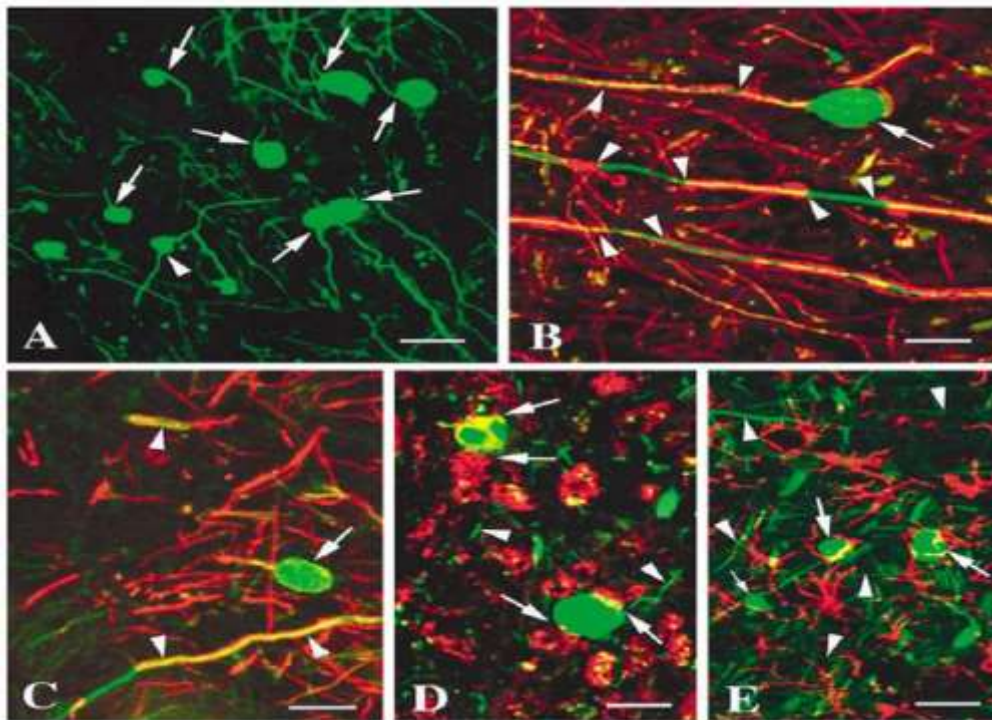
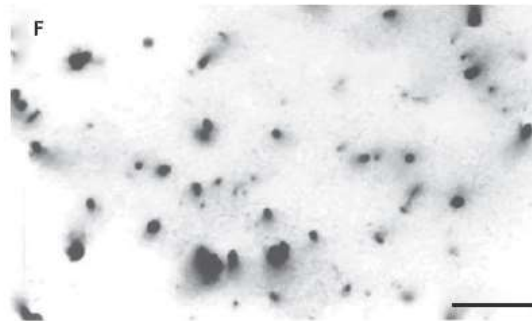
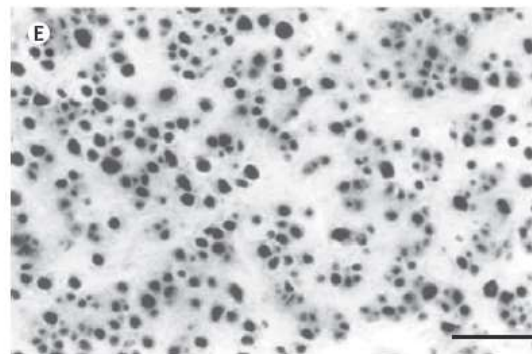
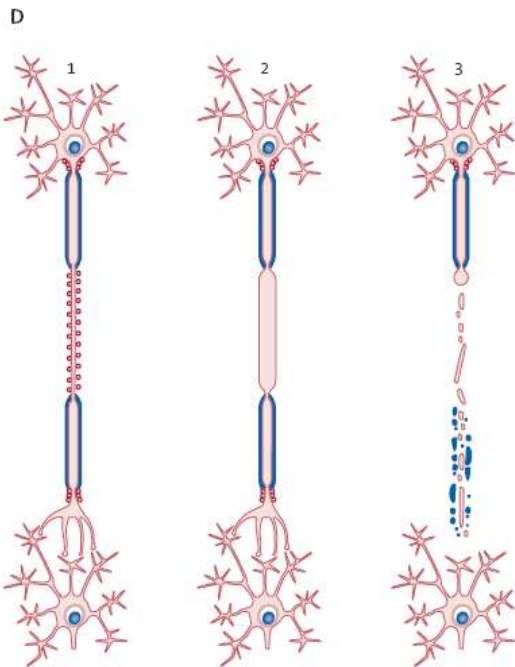
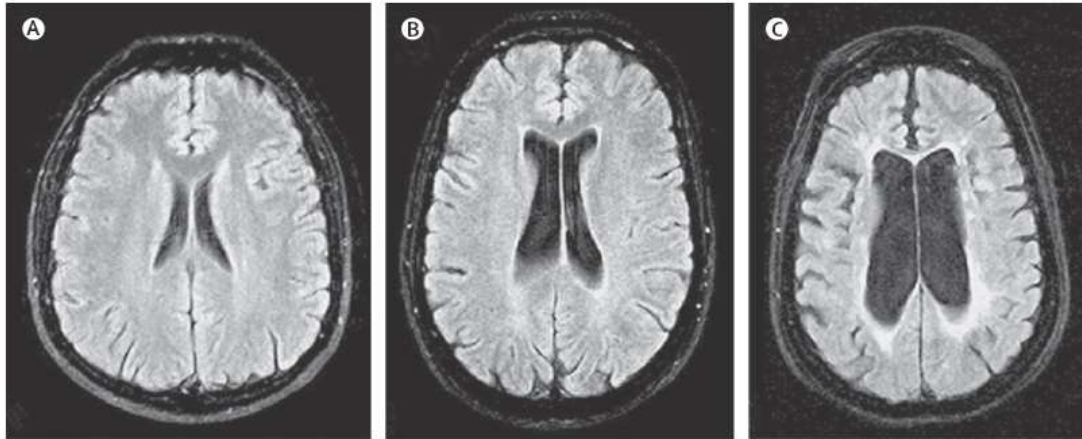


Figure 3. Confocal Microscopic Images of Axonal Changes in Multiple Sclerosis Lesions.

Visualizzazione di ovoidi dell'assone all'estremità terminale degli assoni sezionati tramite microscopia confocale in encefali di pazienti SM con durata di malattia dalle 2 sett ai 27 aa

"axonal transection" è abbondante nelle fasi precoci di malattia e la densità correla con l'infiammazione

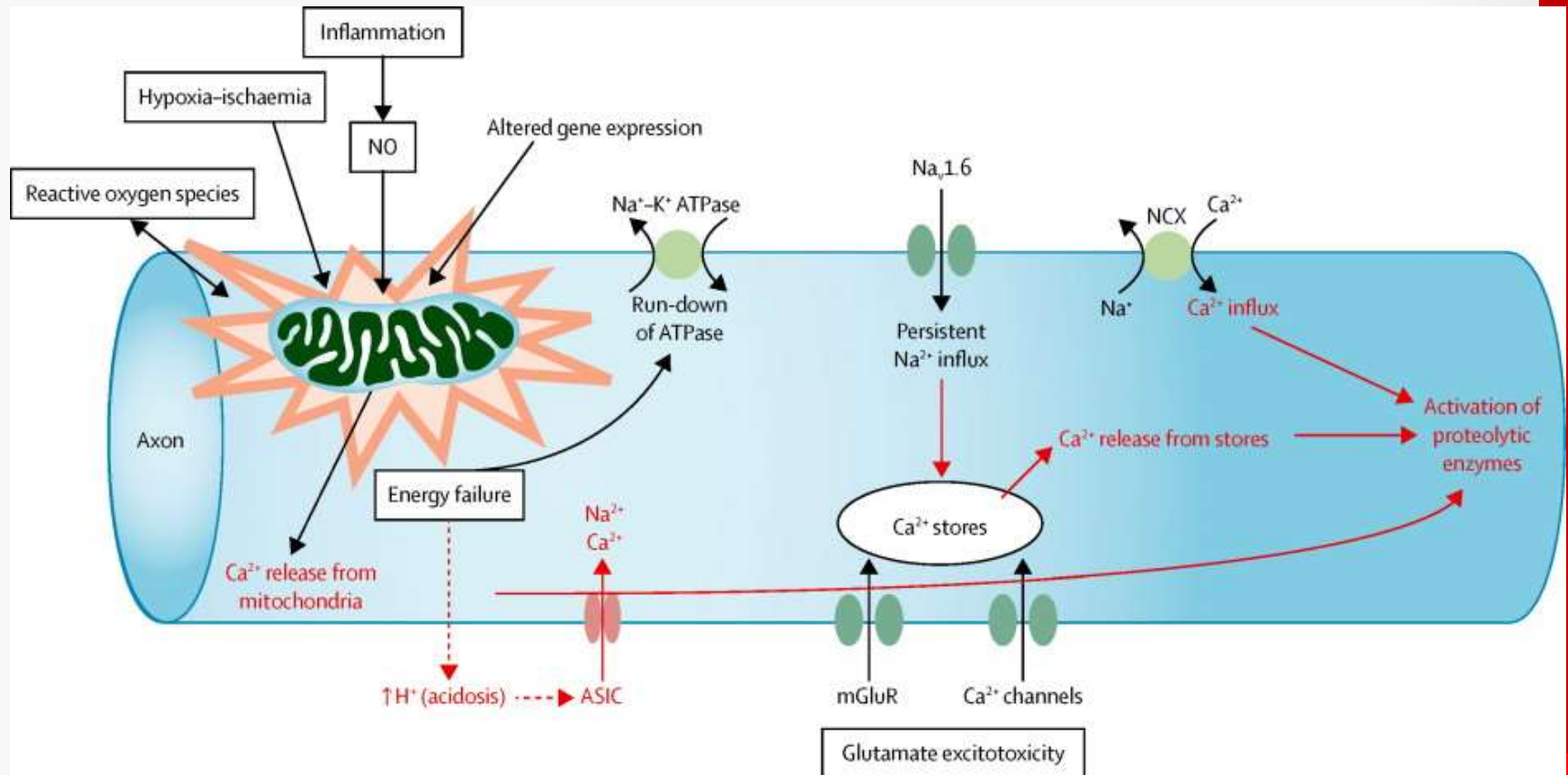




- ◆ La perdita assonale (o neuronale) è considerata il maggior determinante dell'accumulo di disabilità permanente.
- ◆ Può avvenire sia nella nuove lesioni infiammatorie che nelle lesioni croniche
- ◆ Documentata riduzione del numero di assoni anche al di fuori delle lesioni.



# Danno e perdita assonale



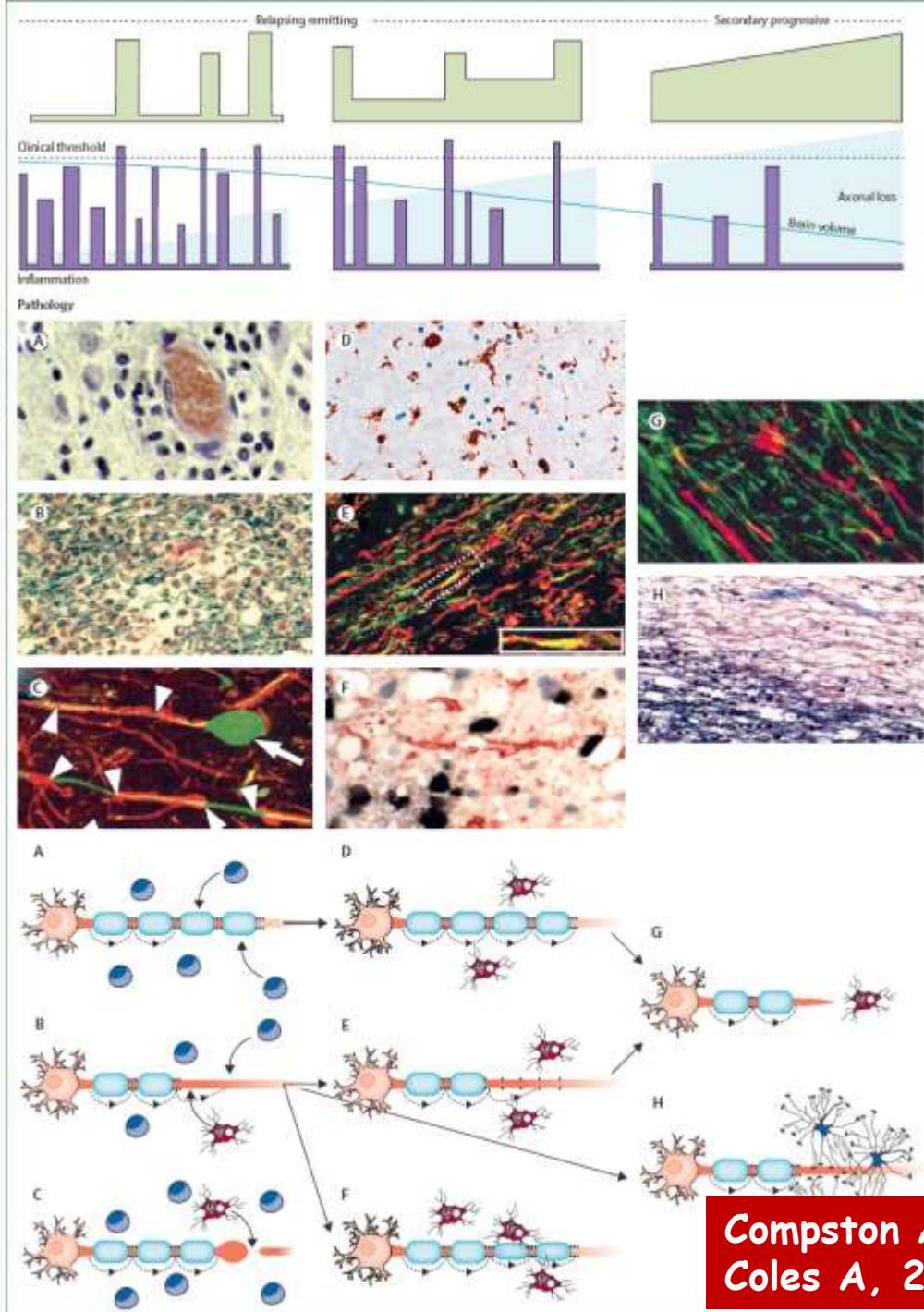
# RIDONDANZA DEL SISTEMA NERVOSO CENTRALE

.....l'esame delle fibre retiniche del nervo ottico a livello del disco ottico hanno rilevato che più del 50% di tessuto nervoso deve andare perso prima che un deficit visivo diventi evidente.....

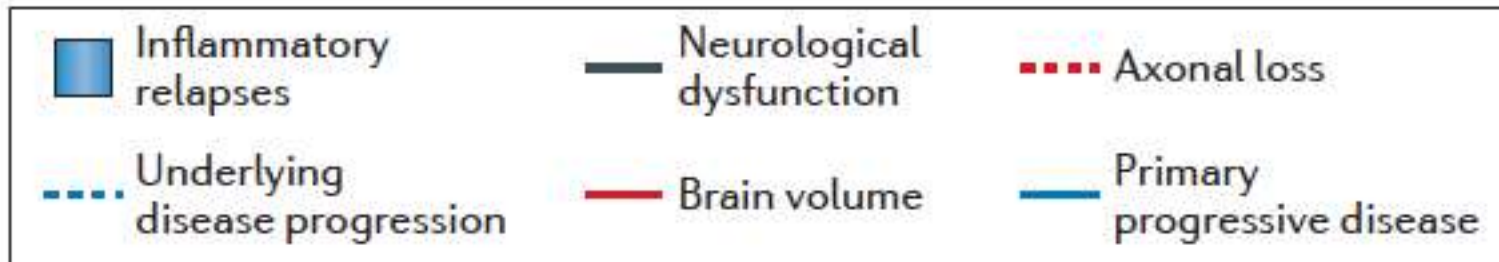
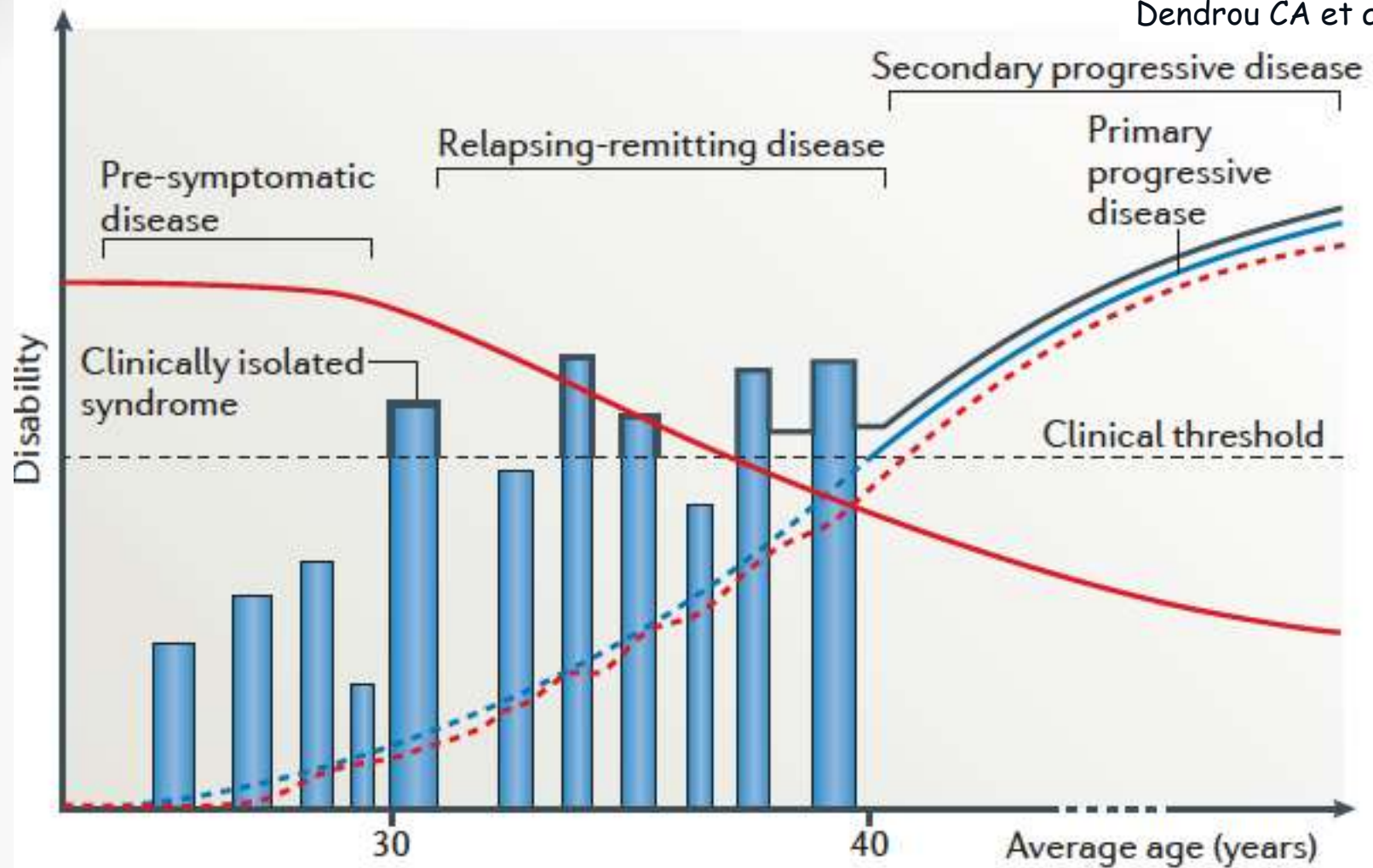
Quigley and Addicks 1982

## PATOGENESI

- ✓ Infiammazione
- ✓ Demielinizzazione
- ✓ Danno assonale
- ✓ Proliferazione gliale

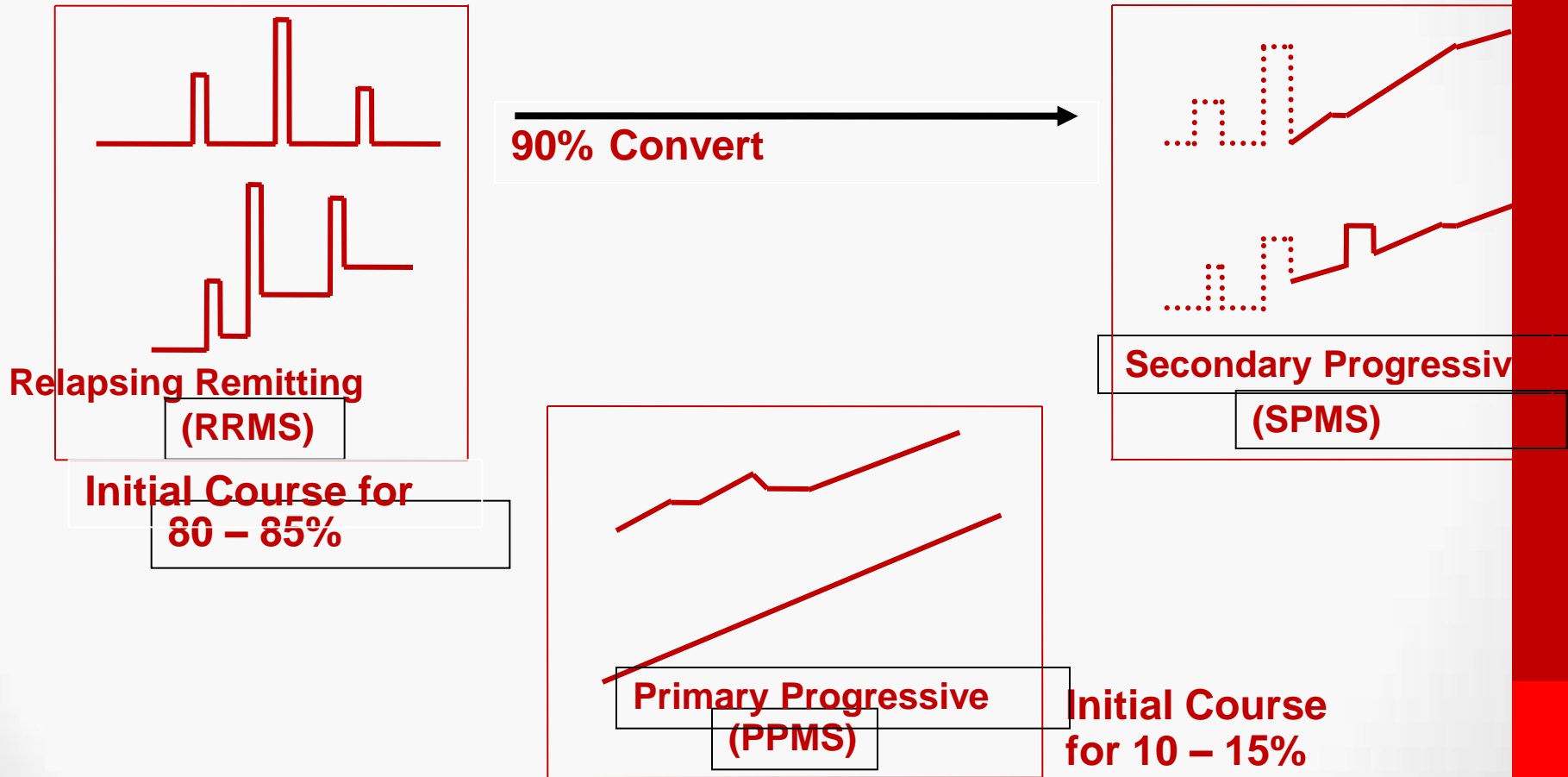


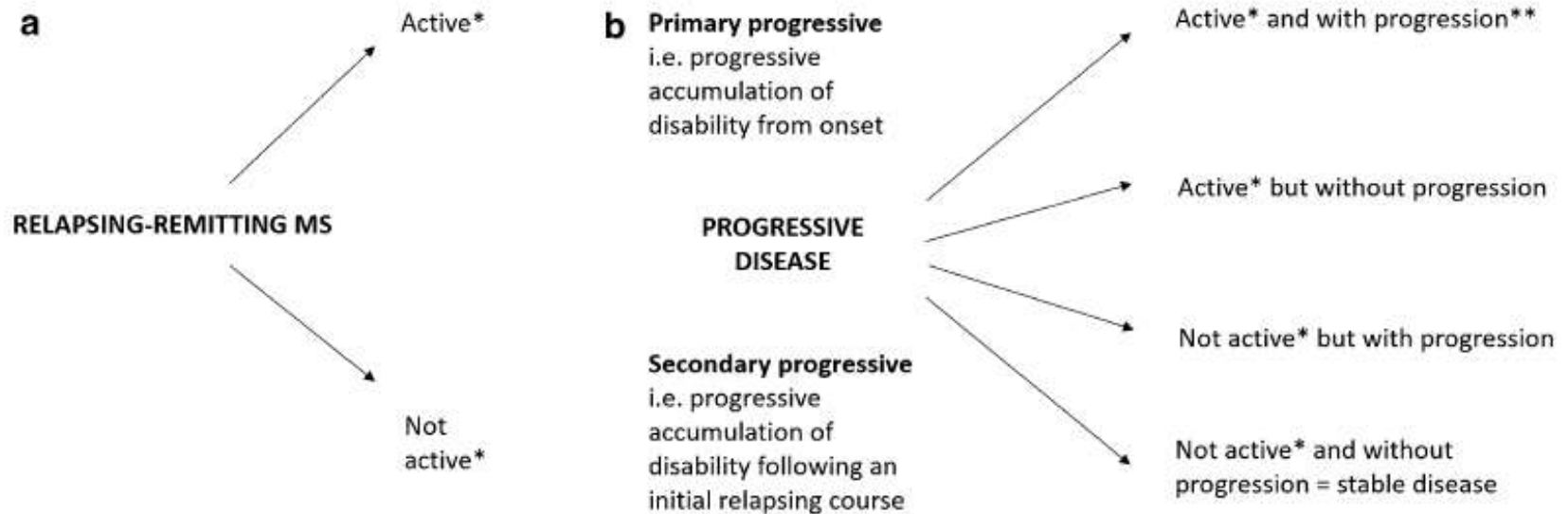
Compston A &  
Coles A, 2008





# DECORSO CLINICO; SCLEROSI MULTIPLA





**Fig. 1** Adapted from the 2013 multiple sclerosis phenotype descriptions by Lublin et al. [15] for **a** relapsing-remitting disease and **b** progressive disease. \*Activity determined by clinical relapses

assessed at least annually and/or MRI activity (contrast-enhancing lesions; new and unequivocally enlarging T2 lesions). \*\*Progression measured by clinical evaluation, assessed at least annually

**Panel 1: Typical presentations of relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis and selected atypical or red flag presentations that are more suggestive of an alternative diagnosis**

**Typical presentations**

- Acute unilateral optic neuritis
- Double vision due to an internuclear ophthalmoplegia or sixth nerve palsy\*
- Facial sensory loss or trigeminal neuralgia\*
- Cerebellar ataxia and nystagmus
- Partial myelopathy
- Sensory symptoms in a CNS pattern
- Lhermitte's symptom
- Asymmetric limb weakness
- Urge incontinence or erectile dysfunction

**Atypical or red flag presentations**

- Bilateral optic neuritis or unilateral optic neuritis with a poor visual recovery
- Complete gaze palsy or fluctuating ophthalmoparesis
- Intractable nausea, vomiting, or hiccups
- Complete transverse myelopathy with bilateral motor and sensory involvement
- Encephalopathy
- Subacute cognitive decline
- Headache or meningism
- Isolated fatigue or asthenia
- Constitutional symptoms

\*In a young adult (<40 years of age).

# Diagnostic Criteria for Multiple Sclerosis: 2010 Revisions to the McDonald Criteria

ANN NEUROL 2011;69:292-302

**RICERCA DELLA:**

**DISSEMINAZIONE NEL TEMPO E NELLO SPAZIO**



One or more episodes? Two	First clinical episode	Subsequent clinical episode	Paraclinical data
	1 site affected 1 site affected	Different sites affected Same site affected	Not required Lesions disseminated in space on MRI (if CSF positive, MRI criteria less rigorous)
<b>One</b> 	>2 sites affected 1 site affected	None None	Lesions disseminated in time on MRI Lesions disseminated in space on MRI (if CSF positive, MRI criteria less rigorous) <b>AND</b> Lesions disseminated in time on MRI
<b>Progressive from onset</b> 	Insidious progression suggestive of multiple sclerosis.	None	Positive CSF <b>AND</b> Lesions disseminated in space on MRI (if VEP abnormal, MRI criteria less rigorous) <b>AND</b> Lesions disseminated in time on MRI <b>OR</b> continued progression for 1 year

**Investigations**

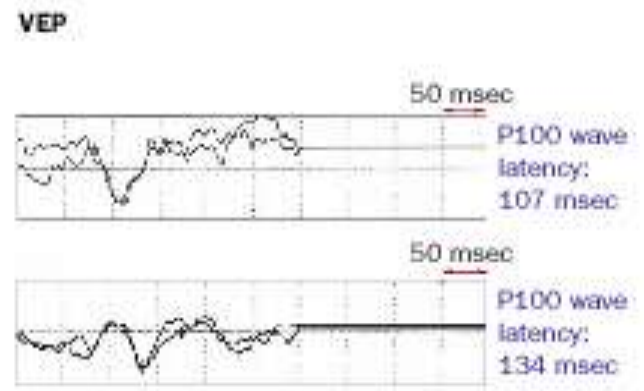
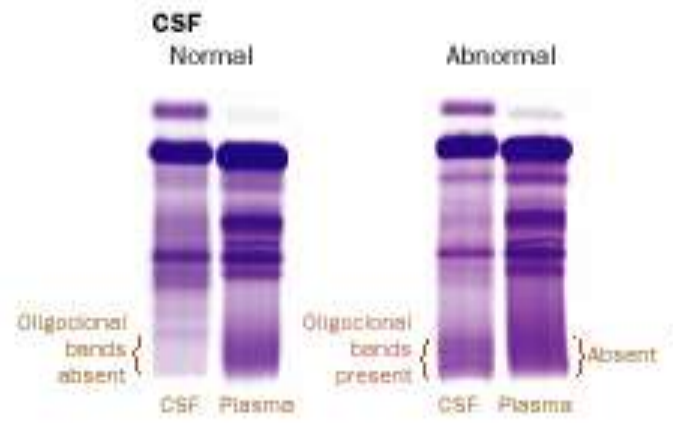


Figure 2: **Criteria for diagnosis of multiple sclerosis**