

# Pharma's expectations from FinnGen: Pfizer as an example

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Lääketieteellinen johtaja  
Pfizer



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# Why Pharma is interested in Human Genetics?



- Need to speed up the discovery of new drugs
- Need to mitigate the risk of late failures in drug development
- Getting insight into pathways underlying human disease
- Identifying potential new drug targets
- Getting information with human relevance in early-stage drug development
- Predicting efficacy and safety of modulating a selected therapeutic target before clinical trials



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Nosengo N. Nature 2016; 534:314-6

# How Human Genetics can guide drug discovery?



Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

ScienceDirect

[www.elsevier.com/locate/tcm](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/tcm)

## Leveraging human genetics to guide drug target discovery

Nathan O. Stitzel, MD, PhD<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, and Sekar Kathiresan, MD<sup>d,e,f,g,\*\*</sup>

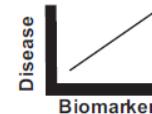
A)

### Traditional approach

1) Target identification



Cellular and animal  
models of disease



Observational  
epidemiology

2) Assess relevance in humans



B)

### Human genetics focused approach

1) Discover genes, biomarkers,  
and pathways with relevance to  
human disease



2) Explore mechanism using  
model systems



3) Human genetic studies to predict  
efficacy and safety of drugs  
targeting genes and/or  
pathways



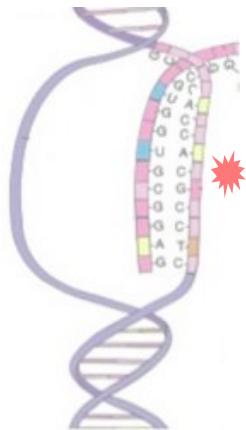
Stitzel NO, Kathiresan S. Trends Cardiovasc Med. 2017; 27:352-9



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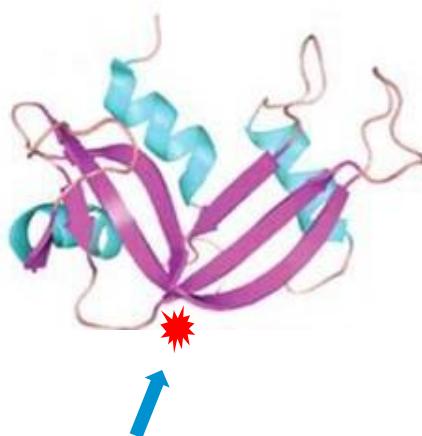
# How Human Genetics can predict drug effects?

## Genetic variant



E.g. Loss-of-function mutation

## Protein



Potential drug target?  
Develop an inhibitory drug



## Health outcome



E.g. Protection against cardiovascular disease

Are there other clinical endpoints associated with the same genetic variant?

- Potential adverse drug reactions



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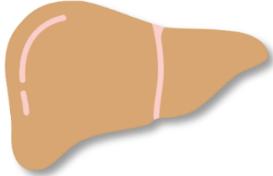
# Example: Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis



## WHAT IS NASH?

Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) is a more serious form of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) which is caused by excessive accumulation of fat in the liver. With NASH, the fatty liver leads to inflammation in the liver and liver injury.

Nonalcoholic  
Fatty Liver  
(NAFL)

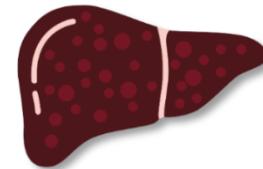


Non-Alcoholic  
Steatohepatitis  
(NASH)



Fatty Liver Disease starts  
with a **build-up of fat in the  
liver**

Cirrhosis



**Some people with fatty liver  
develop NASH**, a progressive  
condition, where a buildup of fat  
leads to inflammation and injury in  
the liver

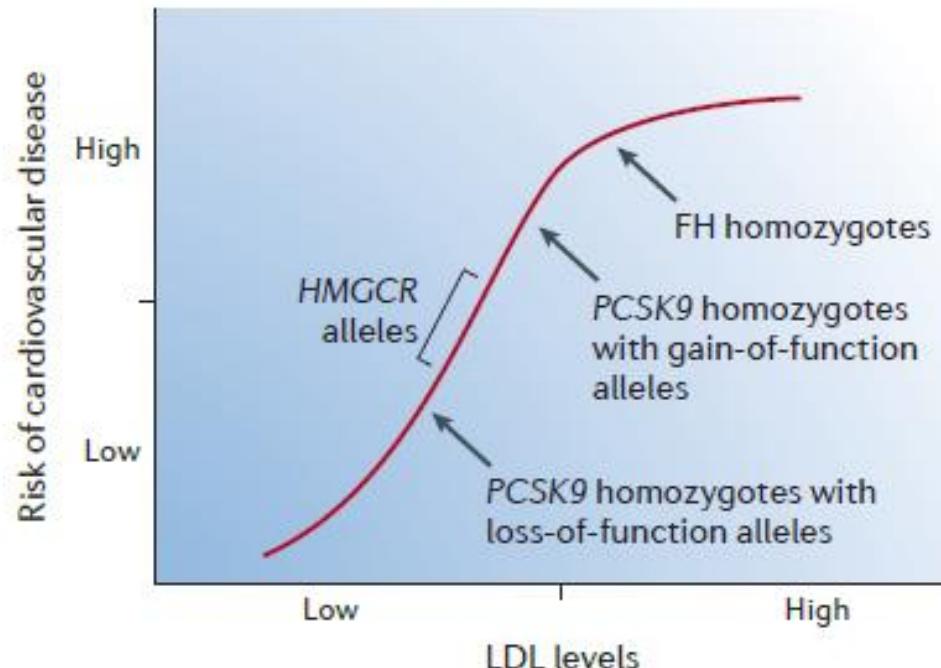
This **can advance to cirrhosis**,  
a serious condition that can  
entail permanent liver failure



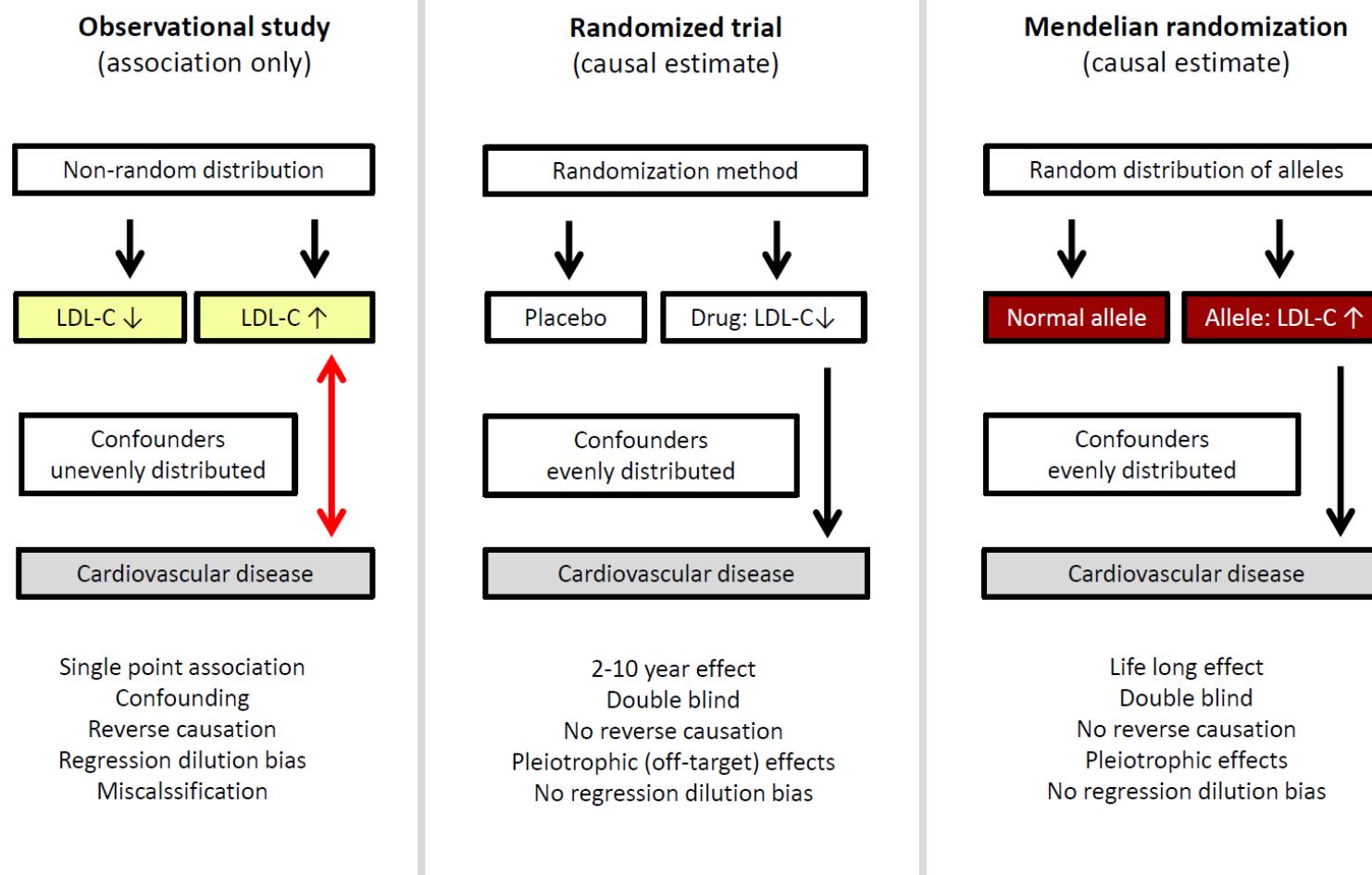
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# Validating therapeutic targets through human genetics

Robert M. Plenge<sup>1,2</sup>, Edward M. Scolnick<sup>2,3</sup> and David Altshuler<sup>2,4,5</sup>



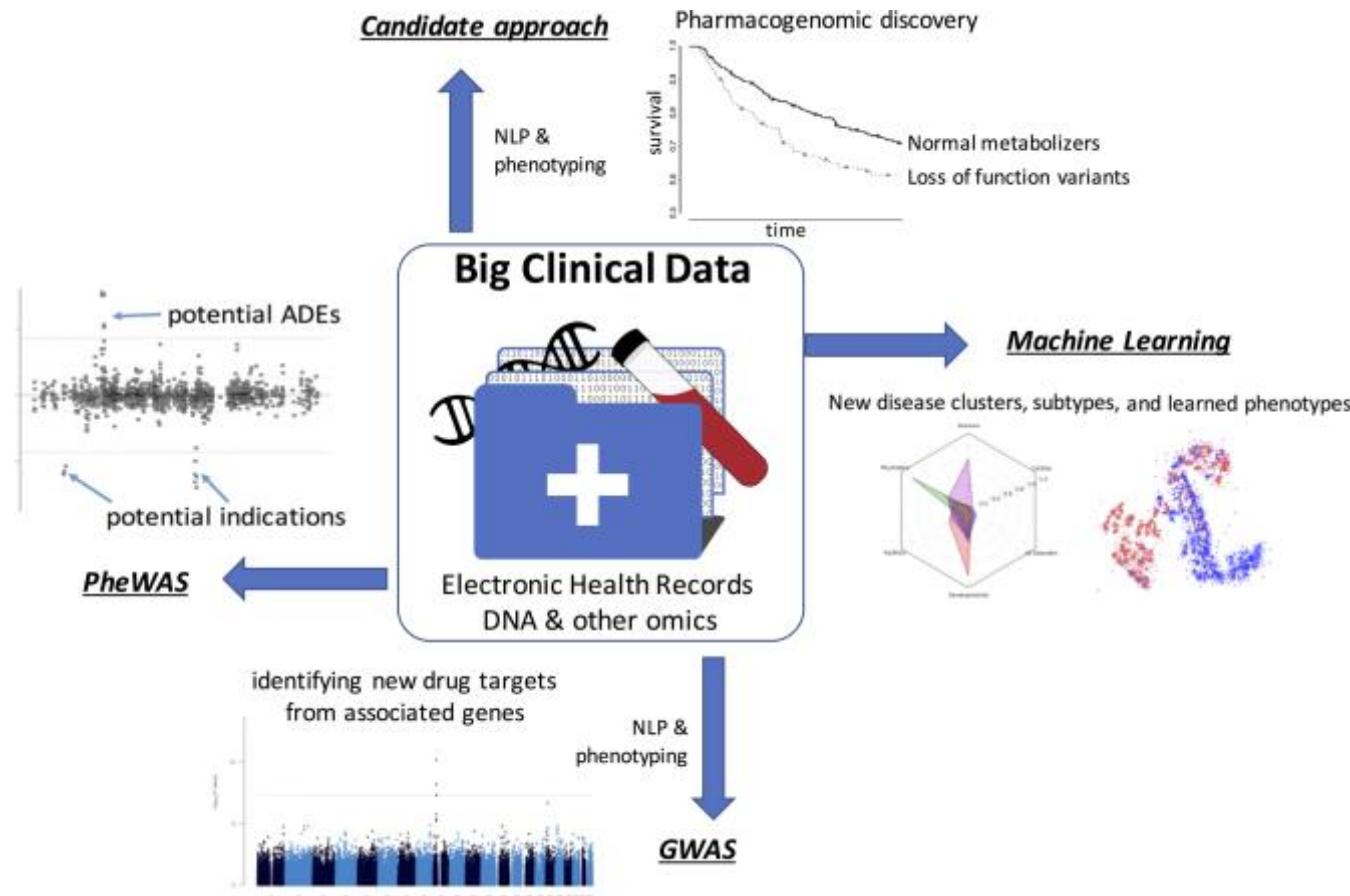
# Comparison of observational studies, randomized trials, and Mendelian randomization studies to help understand causality from a risk factor



Kehitys on vasta alkanut.

Benn M, Nordestgaard BG. Cardiovasc Res. 2018 Feb 19.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/cvr/cvy045>

# The Influence of Big (Clinical) Data and Genomics on Precision Medicine and Drug Development

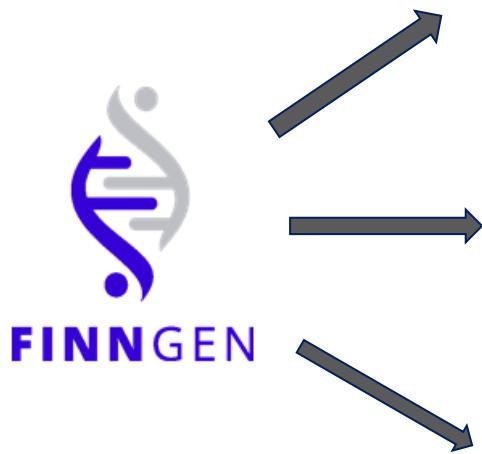


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Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Volume 103, Issue 3, pages 409-418, 5 FEB 2018 DOI: 10.1002/cpt.951  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cpt.951/full#cpt951-fig-0001>

# FinnGen benefits drug development, patients and healthcare



**Investigational drugs developed against genetically characterized targets more likely to succeed in clinical trials**

**Patients participating in clinical trials more likely to benefit from the investigational drug**

**Genomic data generated is returned to the biobanks for the benefit of patients, personalized medicine and further research**



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A photograph of an elderly couple in a warm embrace. The man, on the left, is wearing a white tank top and blue pajama bottoms, and is wearing glasses. The woman, on the right, is wearing a black top and has dark, curly hair. They are both smiling. In the background, a framed portrait of a young man is visible on a shelf.

Hekään eivät  
syntyessään  
tienneet mistä  
kaikesta voivat  
selvitä.

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