



# Diagnostic value of serum bikunin analysis in congenital disorders of glycosylation (CDG) with liver diseases and inherited proteoglycan defects

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Pr Christian Poüs

INSERM U 1193 Pathophysiology of liver diseases – Equipe 1  
Faculté de pharmacie de Châtenay-Malabry Université Paris-Saclay

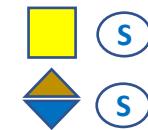
# Proteoglycan biosynthesis defects

# Proteoglycans

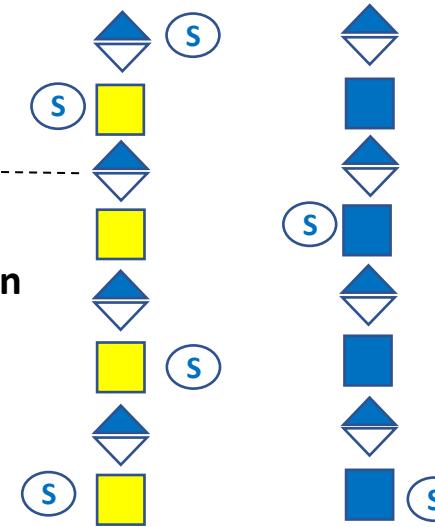
- PG = core protein + Glycosaminoglycan chain (GAG)
- ECMs of bones, joints, cartilage, skin
- Immune response

 Xylose  
 Mannose  
 iduronic acid  
 N-acetylgalactosamine

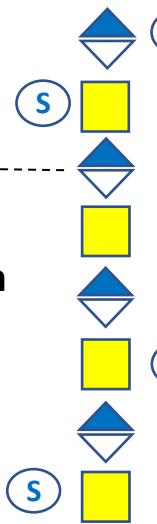
Dermatan Sulfate



Heparan Sulfate



Chondroïtin Sulfate

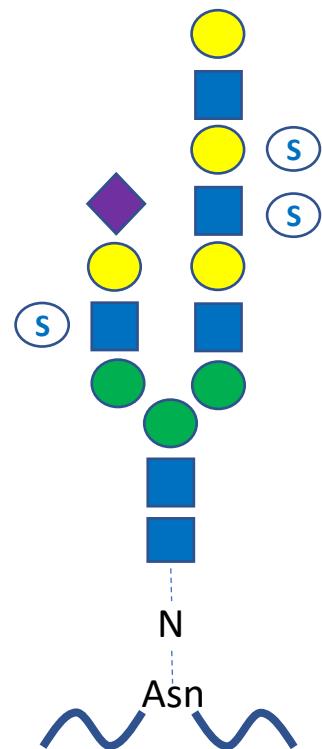


 Galactose  
 glucuronic acid  
 N-acetylglicosamine  
 Sulfate  
 sialic acid

Tetrasaccharide « Linker »

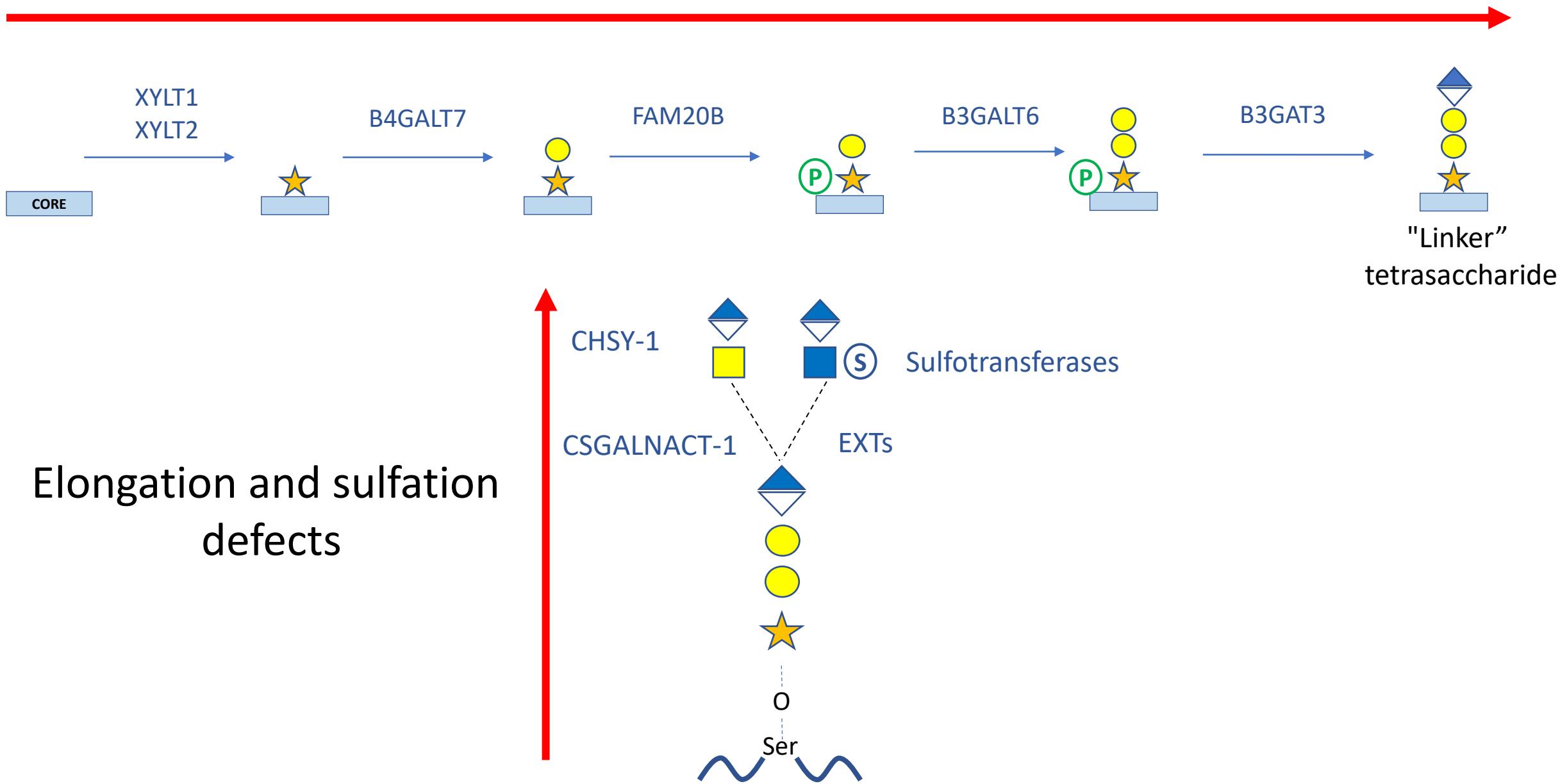
O  
Ser  
Protéine core

Keratan sulfate

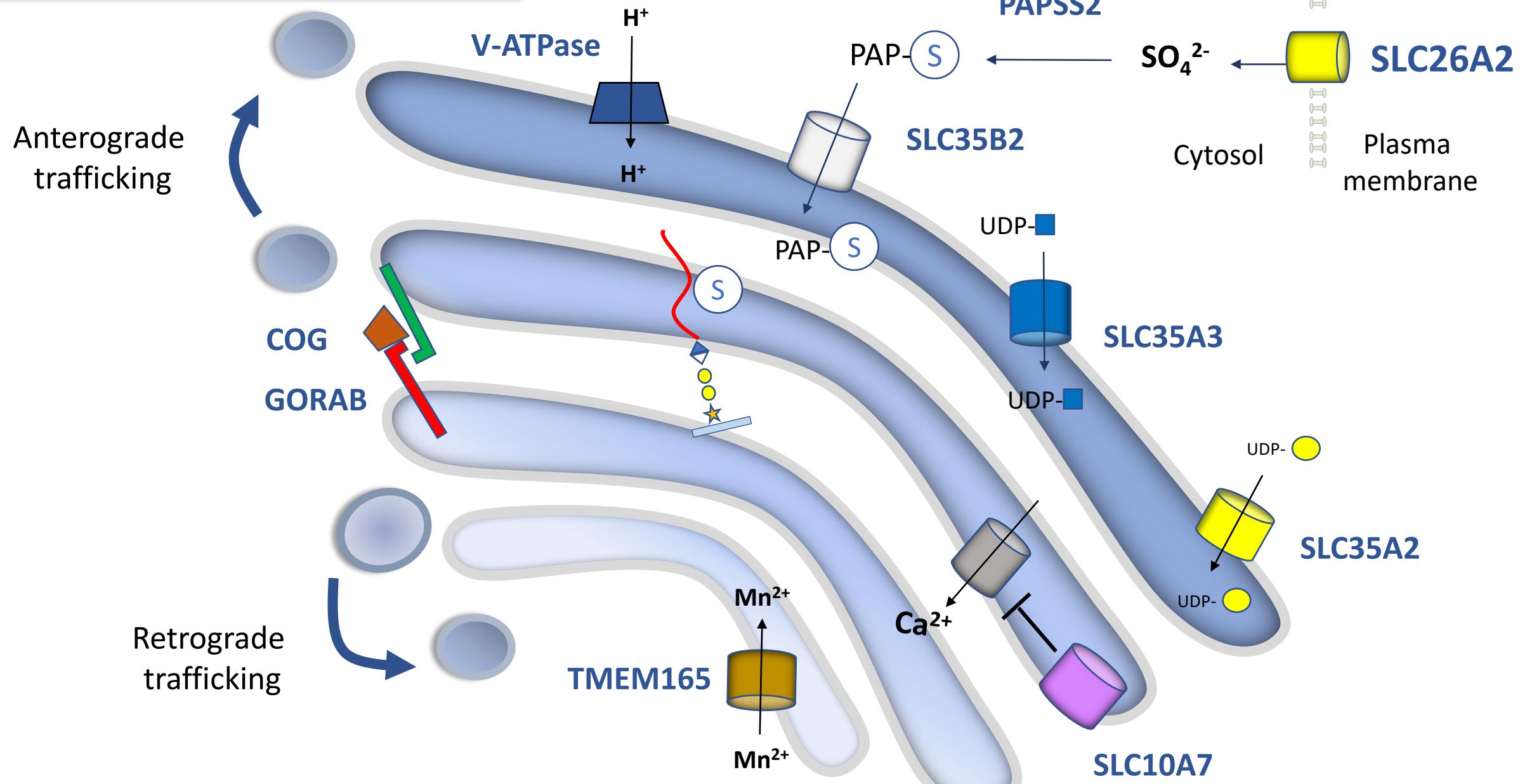


# PG biosynthesis defects

# Linkeropathies



## PG biosynthesis defects (2)



## Osteoarticular defects

- Skeletal dysplasia
- Short stature, hand deformities
- Multiple fractures
- Joint dislocations and hyperlaxity



## Unspecific symptoms

- Intellectual disabilities
- Skin, ocular, cardiac defects
- Deafness
- Tooth abnormalities

Leoni and al., *AJMG*, 2021

Sasarman et al, *JIMD*, 2016

# PG-IMD - Current diagnosis strategy

## Genetics

### Gene sequencing

- Gene panels
- Whole exome/genome sequencing

## Research

### Patient fibroblasts

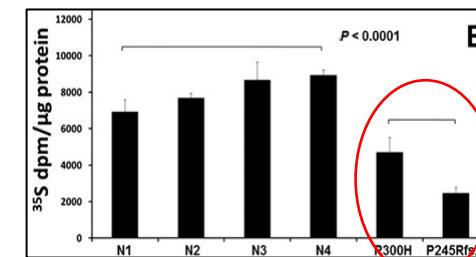
- Labelled substrate incorporation
- PG and GAG quantification
- Functional studies

### Blood and urine

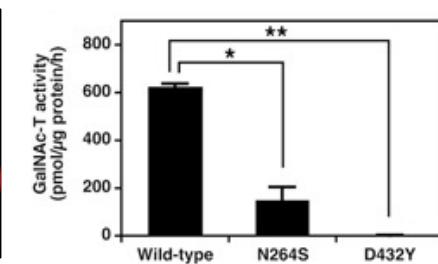
- GAG levels and sulfation by HPLC/MS following chondroitinase/heparitinase

### Ex: CSGALNACT-1

PG synthesis in fibroblasts

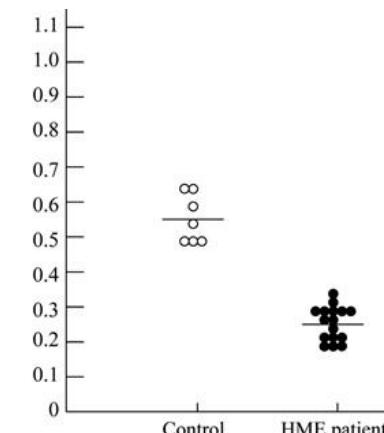


Enzyme activity



### Ex: EXTs

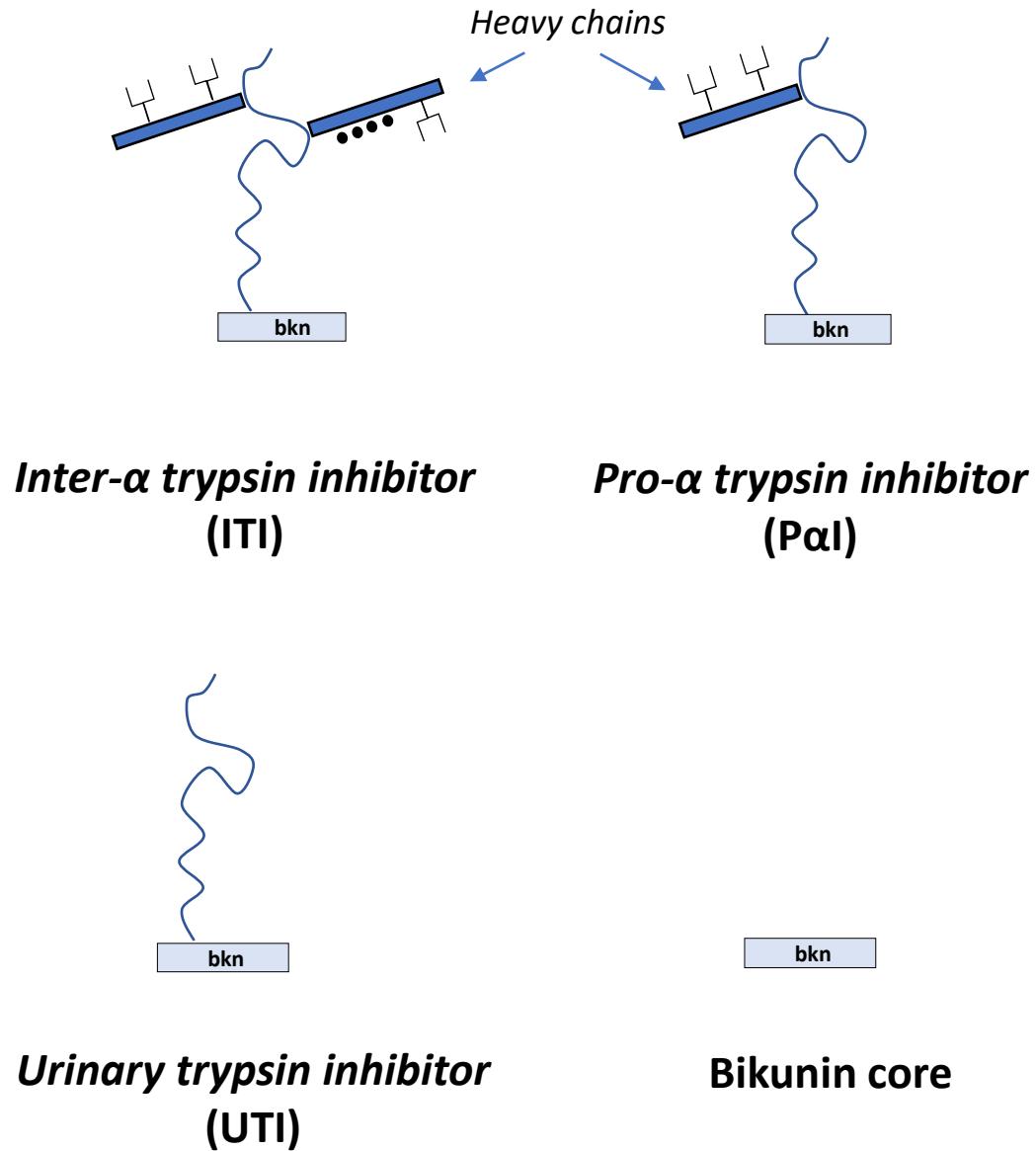
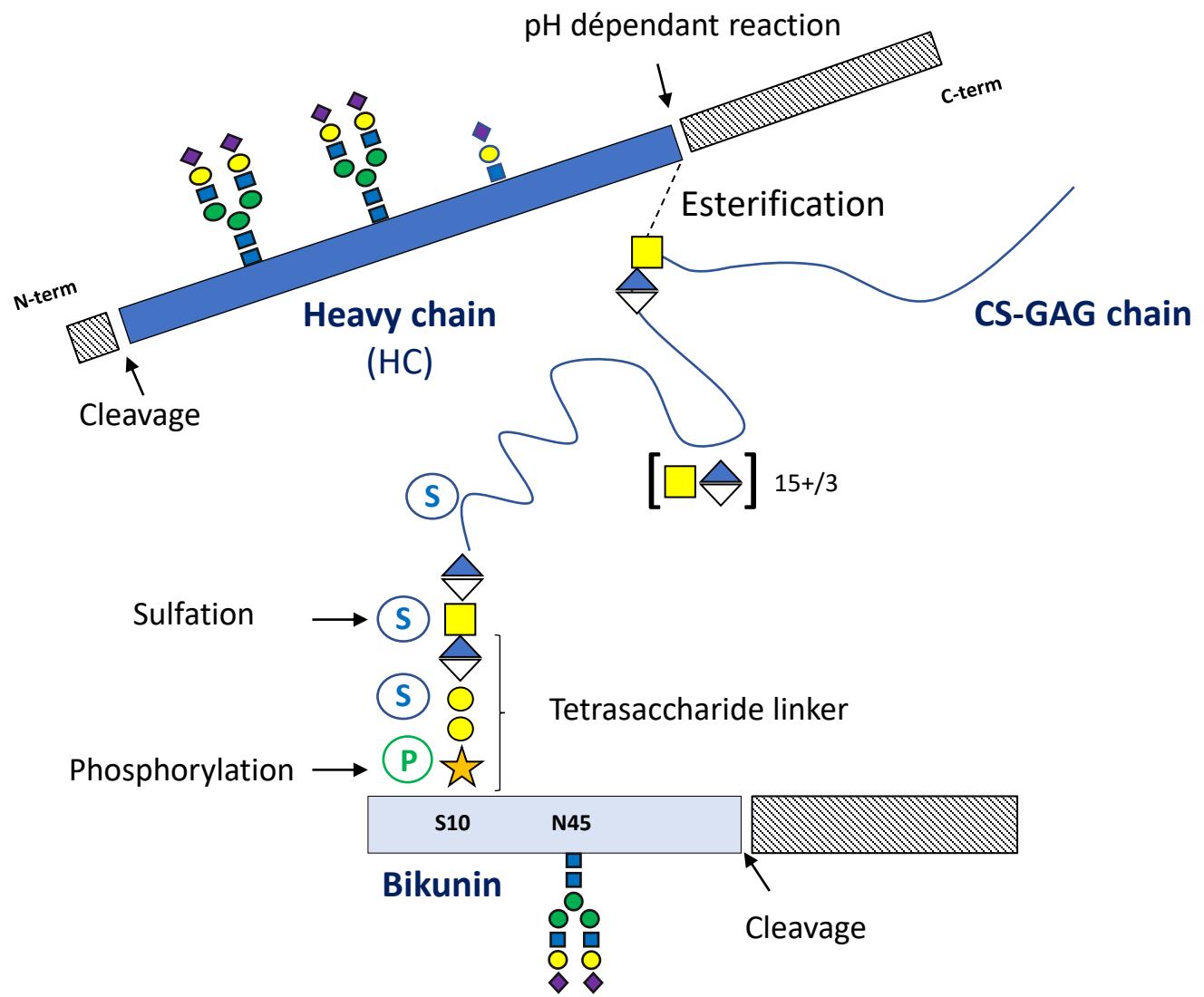
HS/CS disaccharide ratio in serum



Lack of convenient routine blood biomarkers

# Bikunin as a potential biomarker

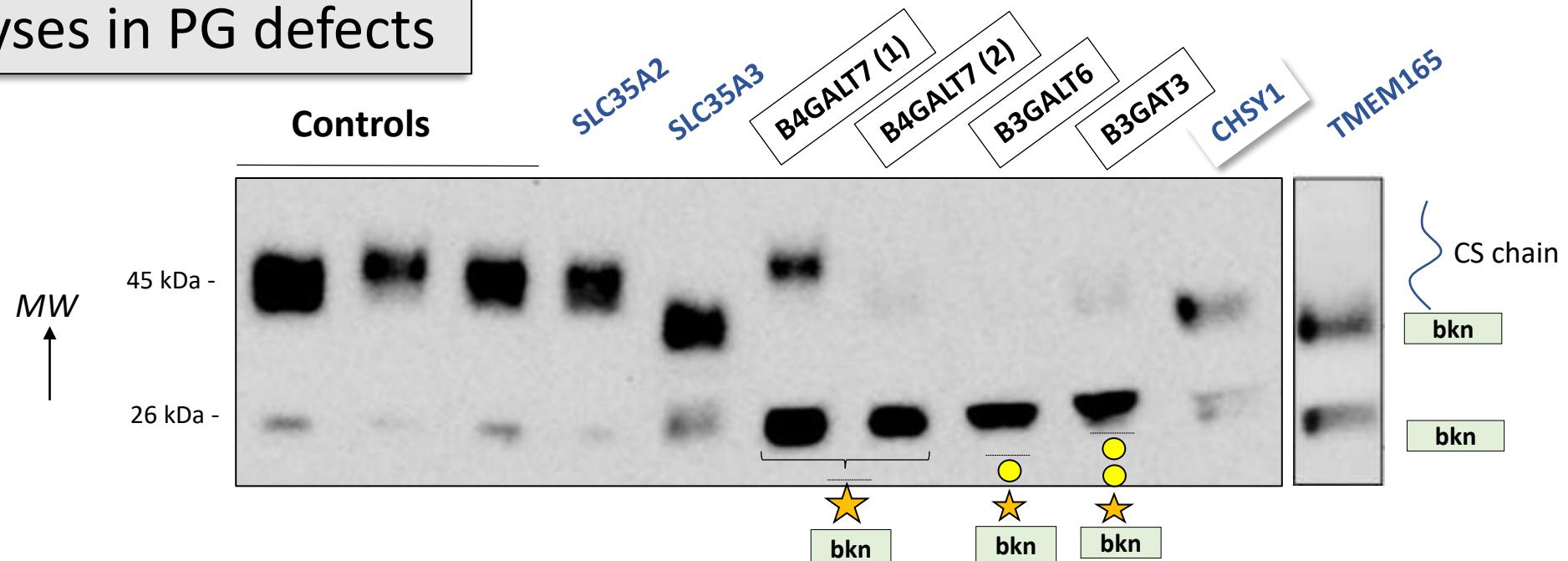
## Liver biosynthesis



# Bikunin analyses in PG defects

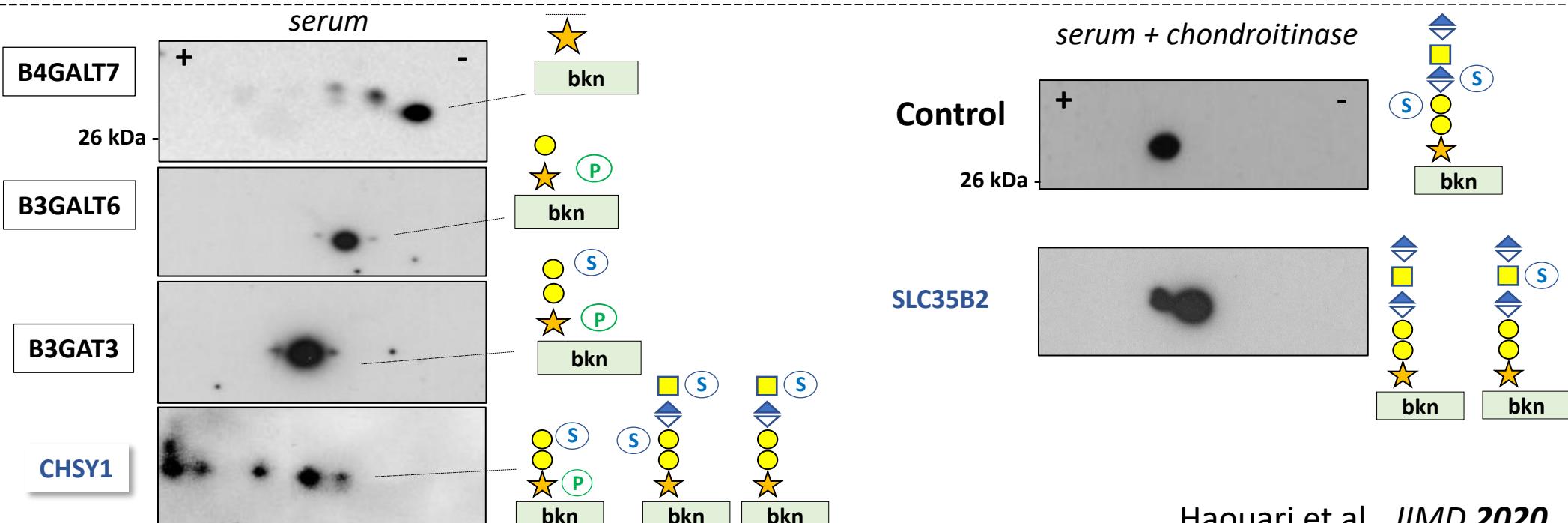
## Patient serum

## Controls



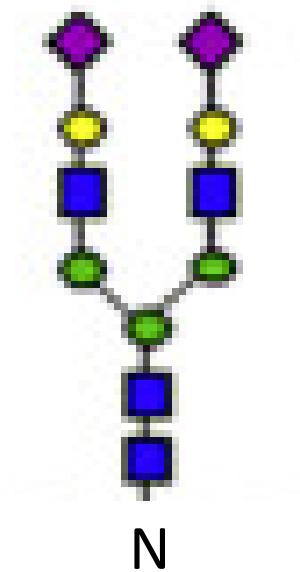
## 2-dimensional electrophoresis

*Charge*  $\leftarrow$  *MW*

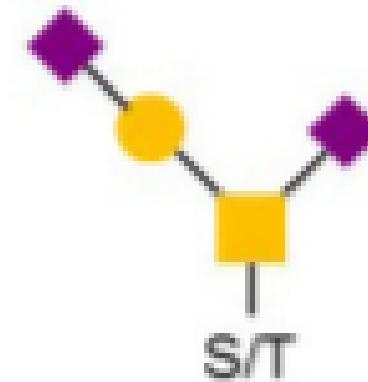


# Congenital disorders of glycosylation

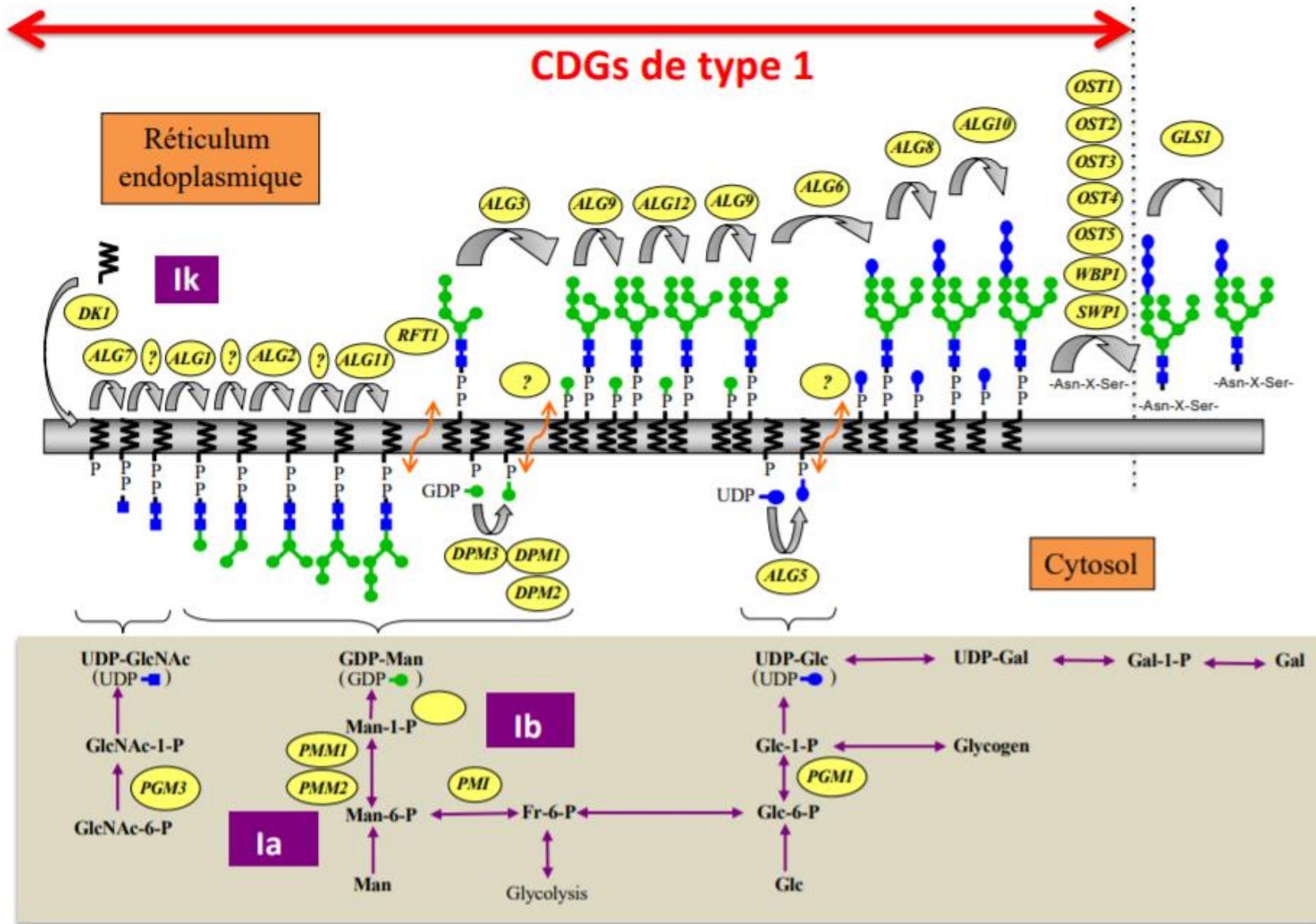
N-glycosylation



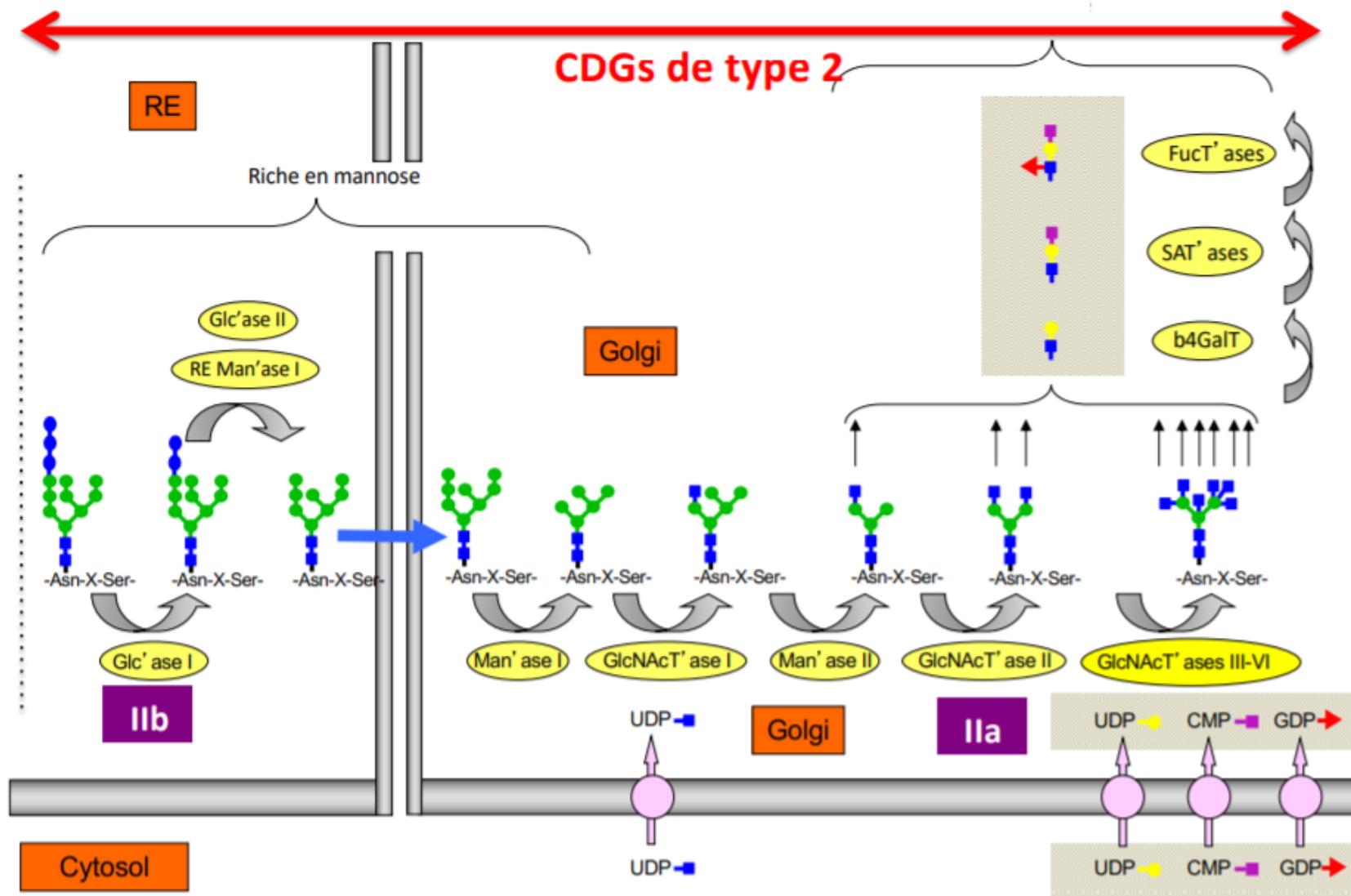
O-glycosylation



# N-glycosylation and CDG type 1

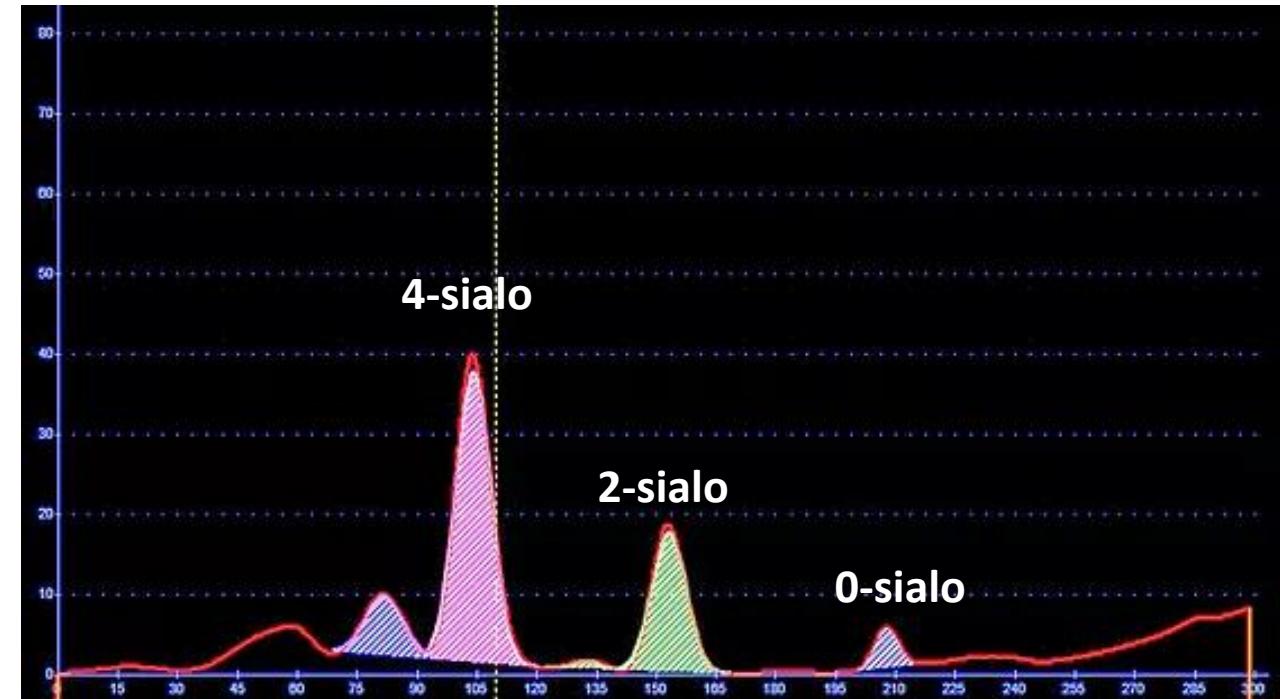
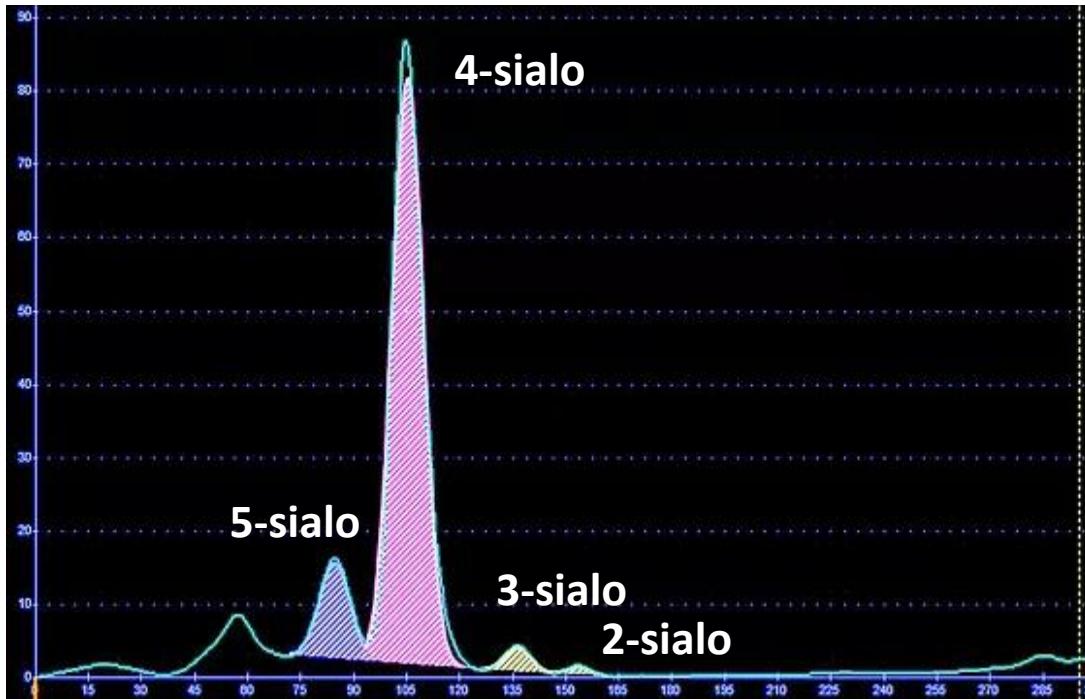


# N-glycosylation and CDG type 2

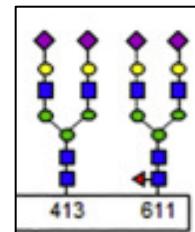


# CDG type 1 screening

## Capillary-zone electrophoresis (CZE) of serum transferrin (Trf)

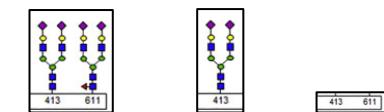


Normal pattern



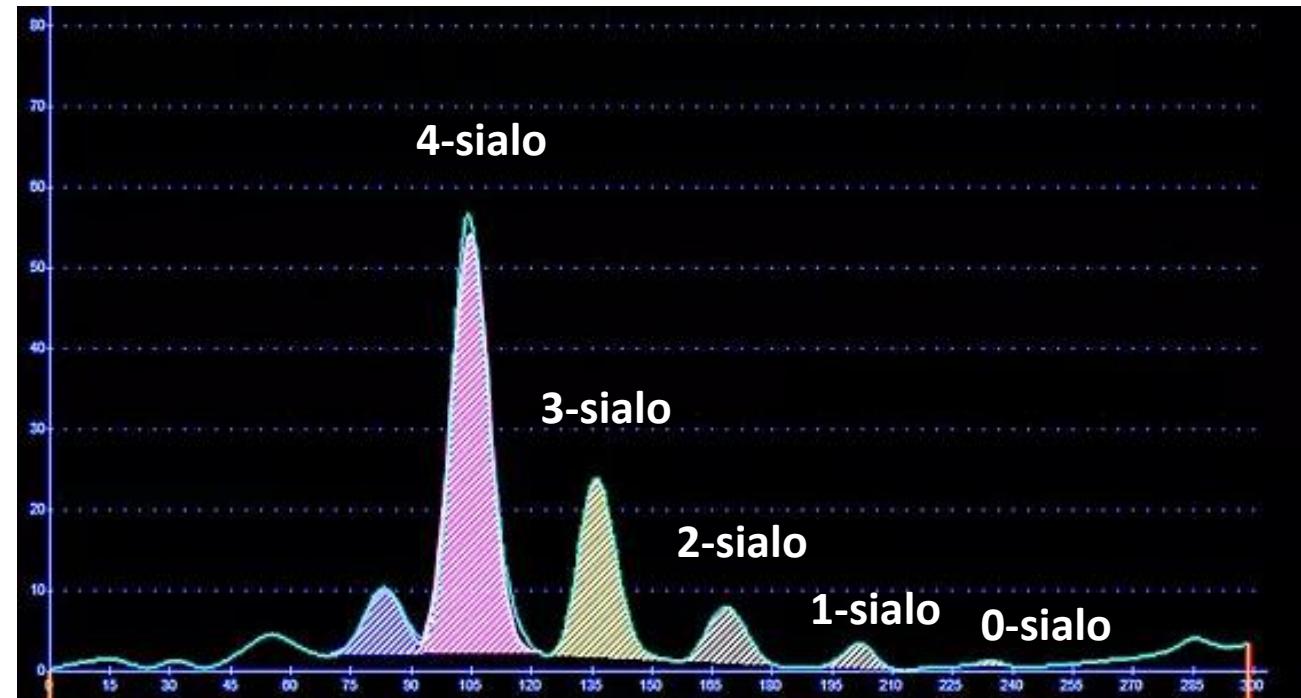
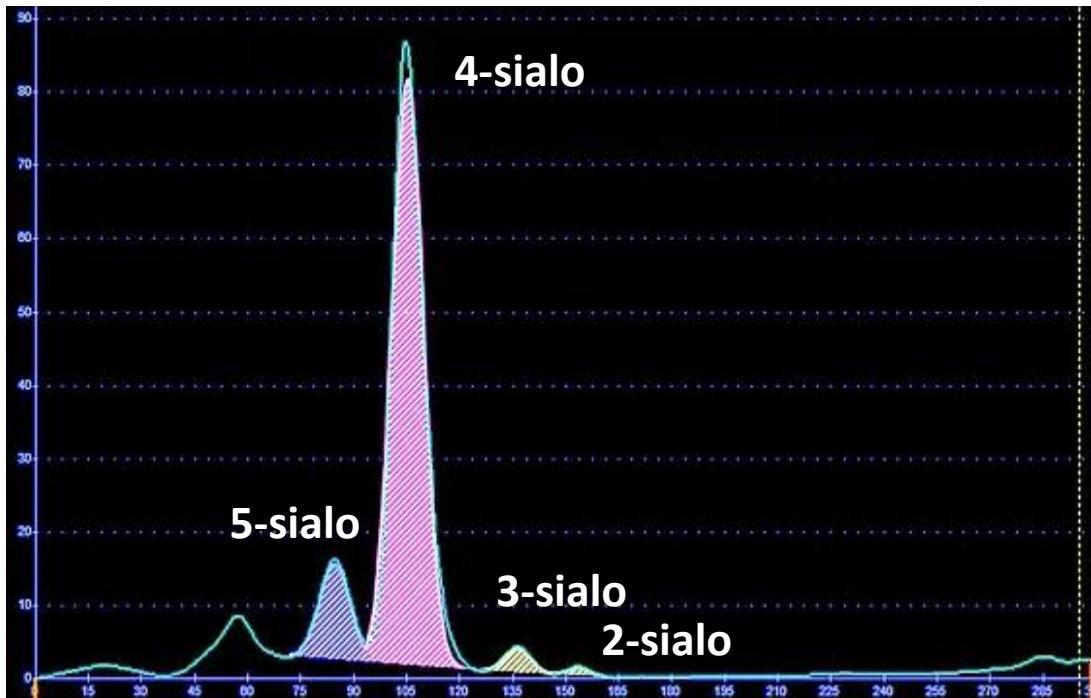
4-sialotransferrin

CDG type 1 pattern  
4-2-0

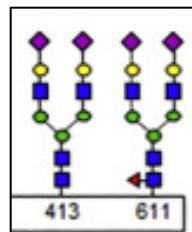


# CDG type 2 screening

## Capillary-zone electrophoresis (CZE) of serum Trf

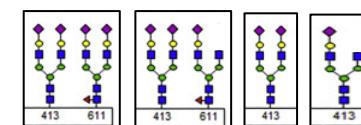


Normal pattern

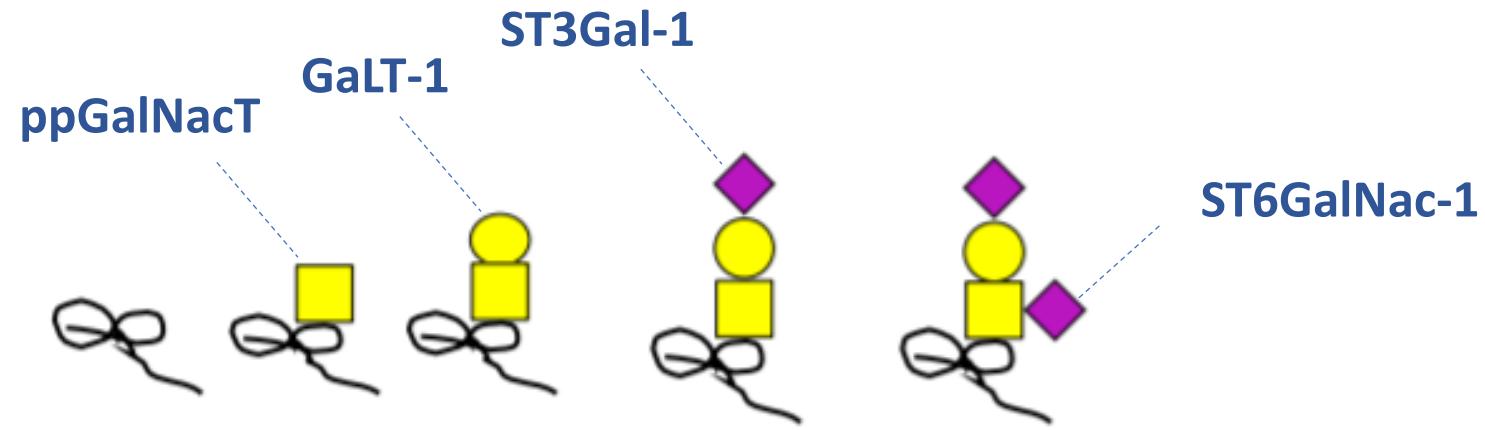


4-sialotransferrin

CDG type 2 pattern  
4-3-2-1-0



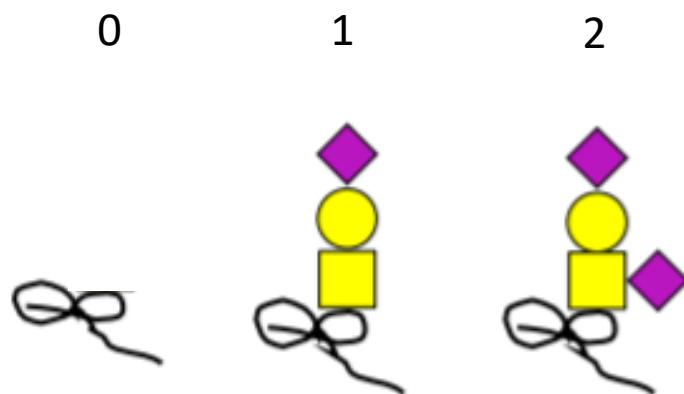
# Additional O-glycosylation defects in CDG 2 due to impaired Golgi homeostasis



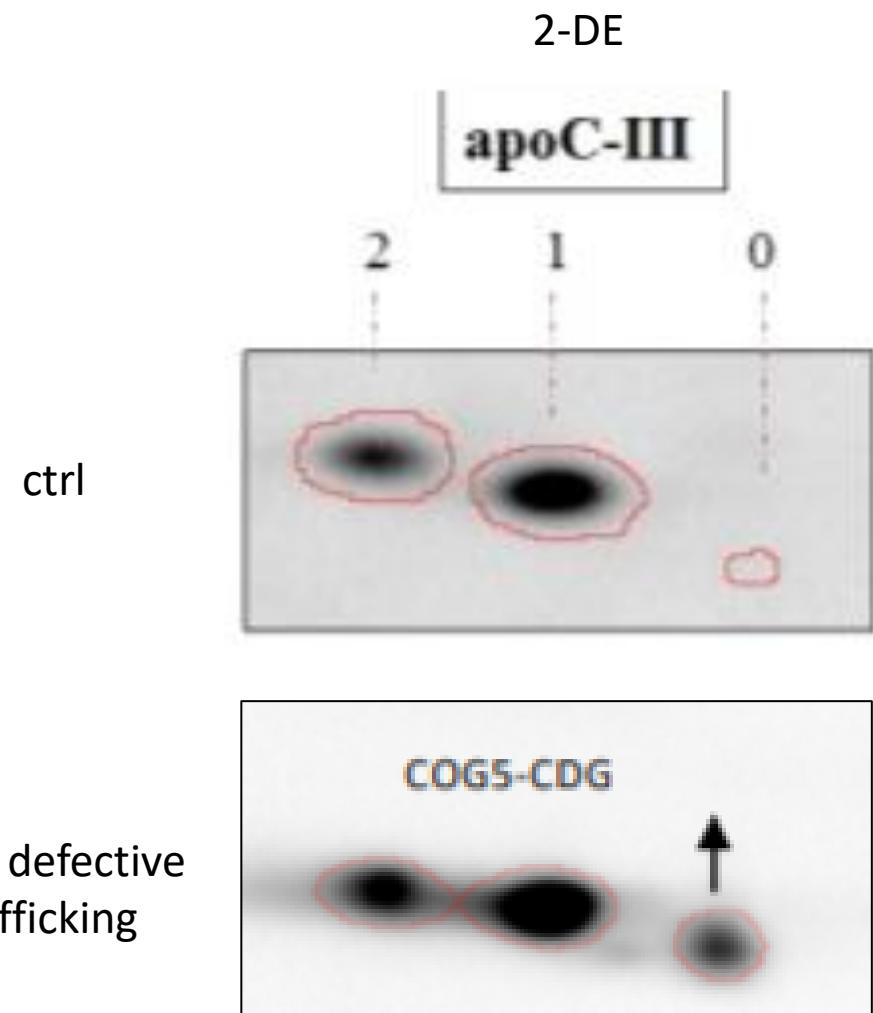
**Only in the Golgi apparatus**

# CDG type 2 with impaired Golgi homeostasis

## Two dimensional electrophoresis of apoC-III



CDG due to defective  
Golgi trafficking



# CDG with impaired Golgi V-ATPase and liver diseases

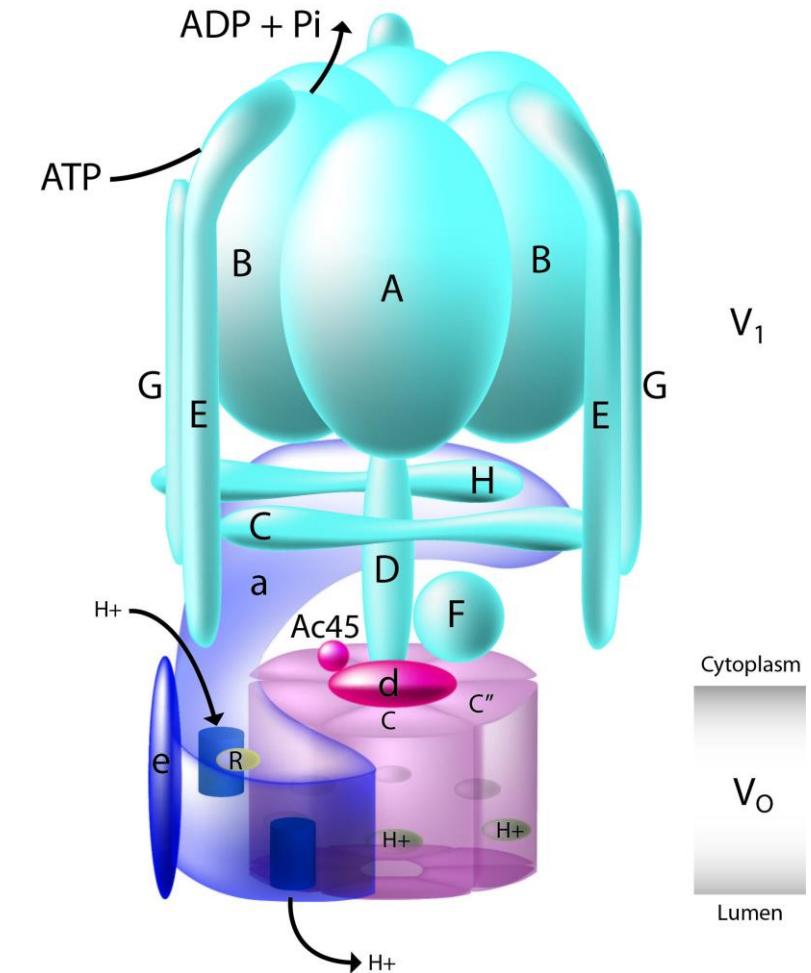
- ATP6AP1
- ATP6AP2
- ATP6V1F
- CCDC115
- TMEM 199

}

V-ATPase subunits

}

V-ATPase assembling factor



# CDG with impaired Golgi V-ATPase and liver diseases - Clinics

## Chronic liver disease

- Hepatosplenomegaly, ascites
- ↑ AST/ALT, ↑ PAL, normal GGT
- Fibrosis, steatosis, cholestasis
- Cirrhosis, end stage liver failure
- Liver transplantation listing

## Other symptoms

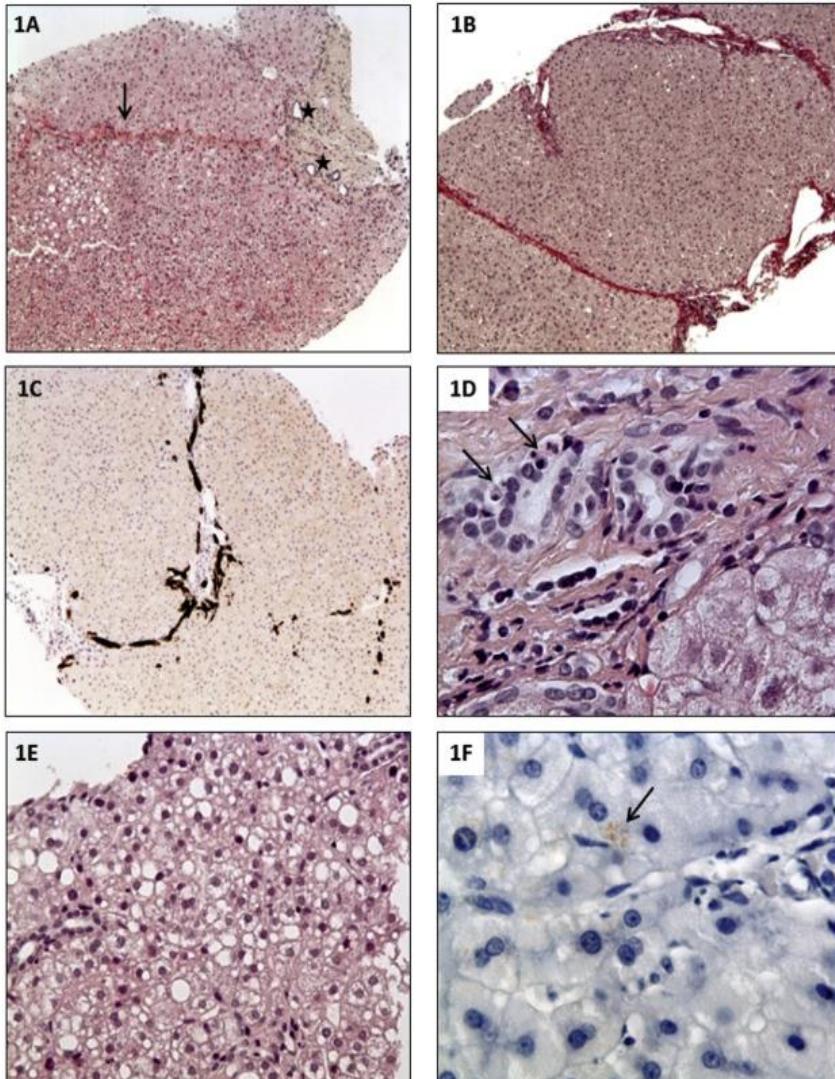
- Defective lipid metabolism ( $\uparrow$  Chol.T,  $\uparrow$  LDL)
- Immunodeficiency with recurrent infections ( $\downarrow$  Ig)
- Neurological symptoms, intellectual disabilities
- Cutis laxa

## Wilson-like disease

- $\downarrow$  serum copper  $\uparrow$  urinary copper
- ↑ liver [copper]
- $\downarrow$  Ceruloplasmin
- ↑ REC
- Absent Kayser-Fleisher ring
- Normal ATP7 status

# CDG with impaired Golgi V-ATPase and liver diseases – liver biopsies

Ex: CCDC115-CDG

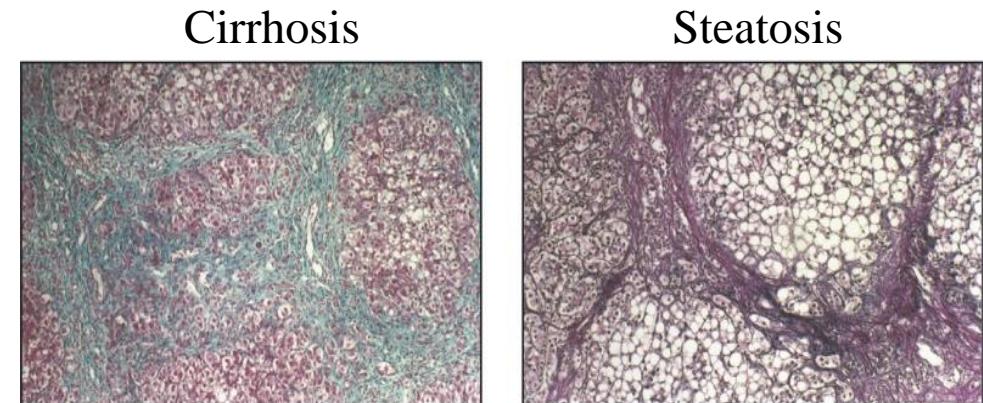


Stage F2 (METAVIR)

Cholangial  
proliferation

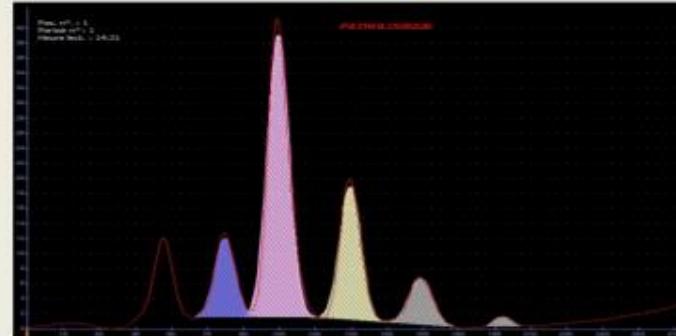
Steatosis and  
Positive copper staining

Ex: ATPAP2-CDG



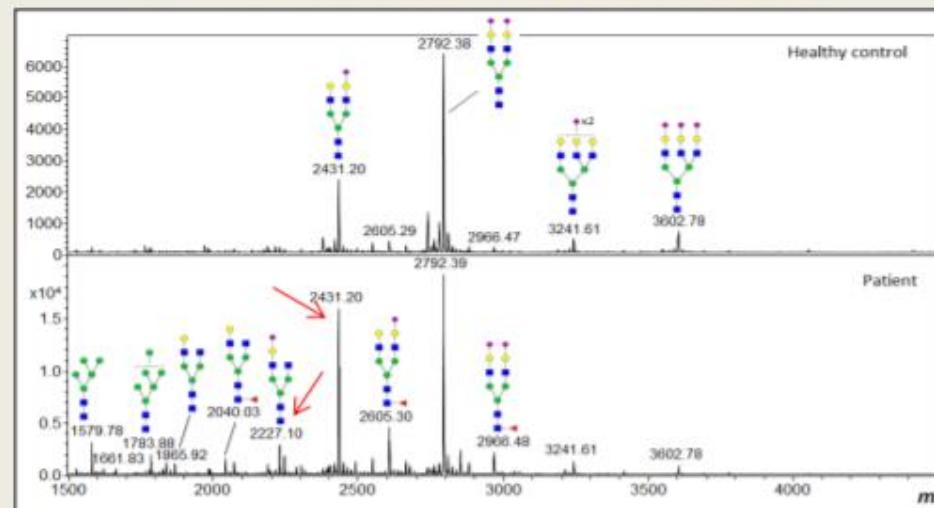
# CDG with impaired Golgi V-ATPase and liver diseases – glycosylation studies

CCDC115-CDG



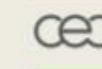
CZE Trf

**CDG type 2 pattern**

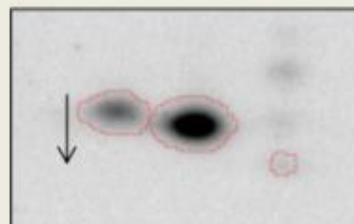


MS total N-glycans

**Hyposialylation +  
Hypogalactosylation**



2DE apoC-III

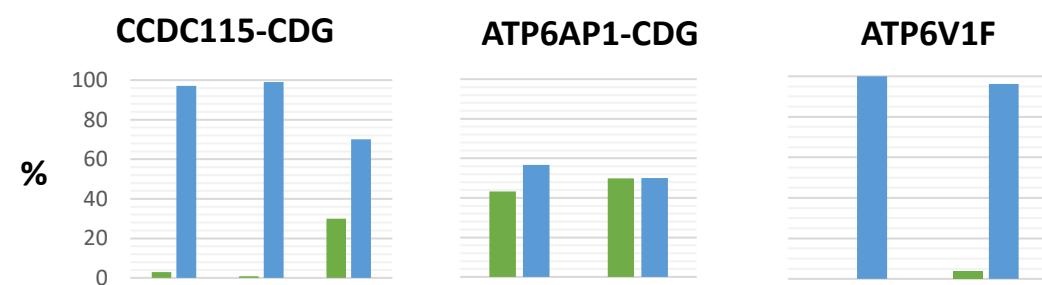
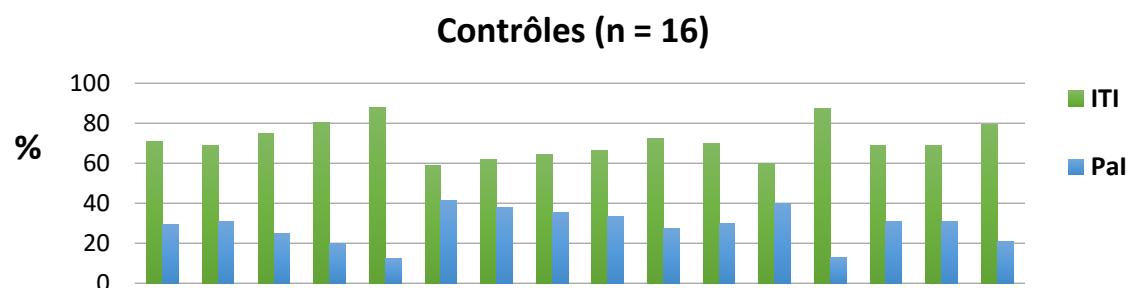
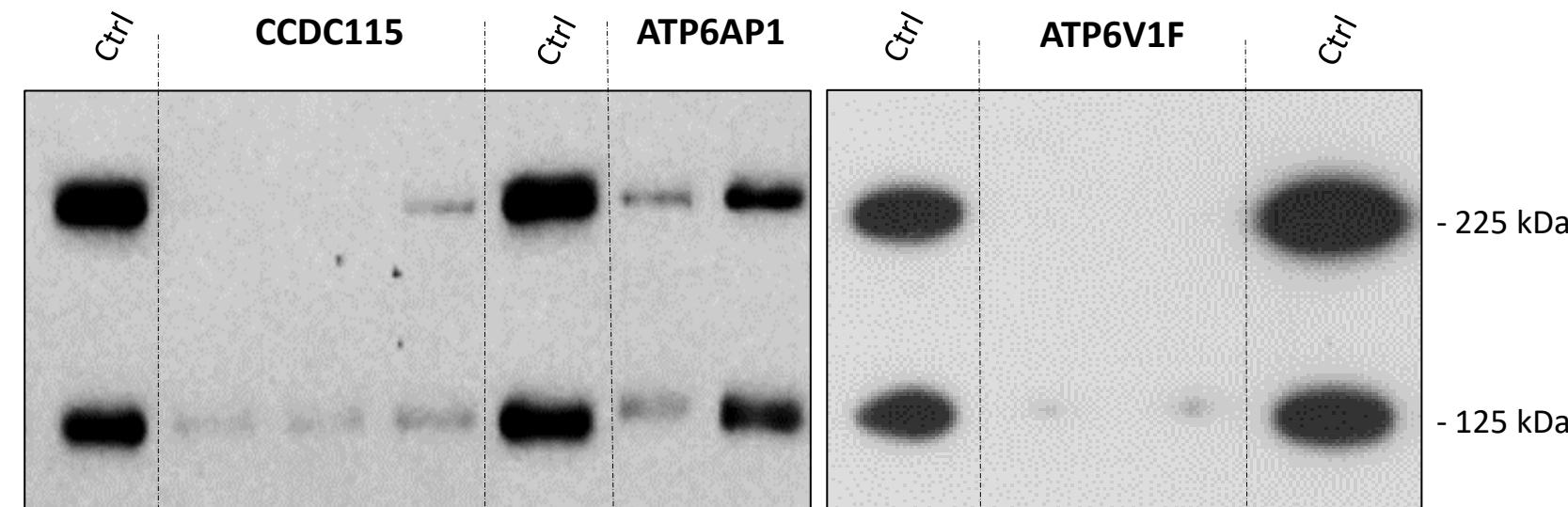


**Additional O-glycosylation  
defect**

Girard et al., *Mol. Gen. Met.*, 2018

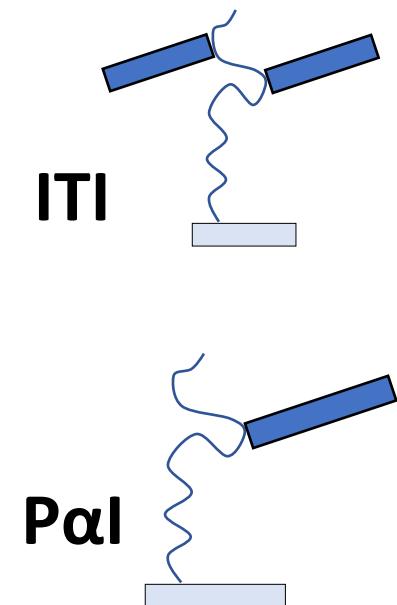
**CDG type 2 with Golgi homeostasis defect**

# CDG with impaired Golgi V-ATPase and liver diseases – Bikunin analysis



## Hallmark of CDG with impaired V-ATPase

- Decreased levels
- Inversion of ITI/Pal ratio
- pH dependent esterification



# The intriguing story of SLC37A4-CDG

Collaboration with the SBP Medical Discovery Institute (La Jolla - USA)  
Pr. Hudson Freeze



Medical  
Discovery  
Institute

**SLC37A4**

Lactate

Pyruvate

Alanine

## GLUCONEOGENESIS

**Liver**

cytosol

**SLC37A4**

ER-localized transporter allowing intake of glucose-6-phosphate (G6P) from the cytosol for gluconeogenesis.

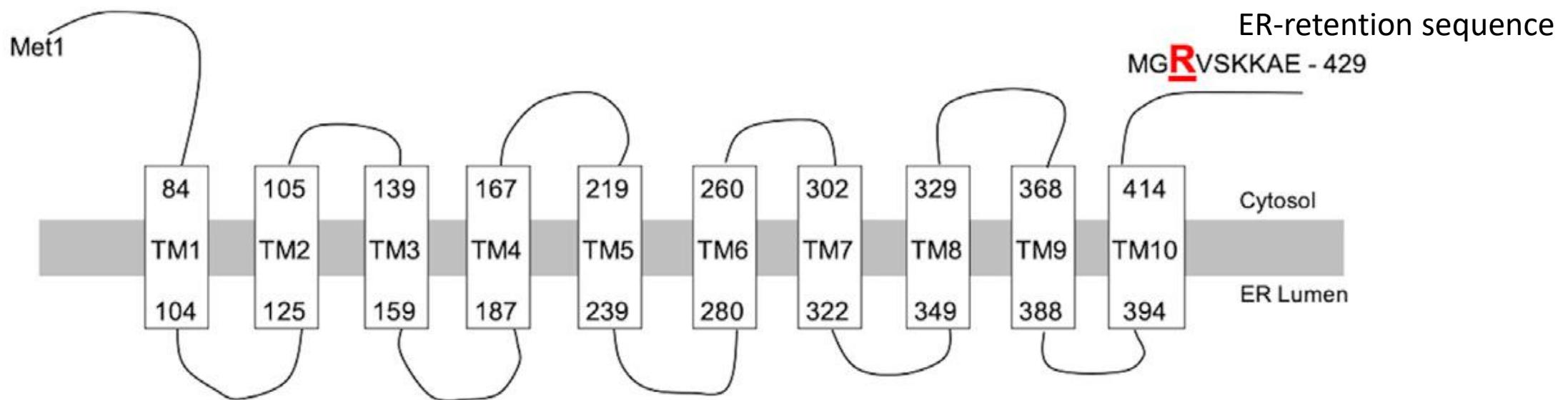
Glc-6P

**Glucose**

Endoplasmic reticulum

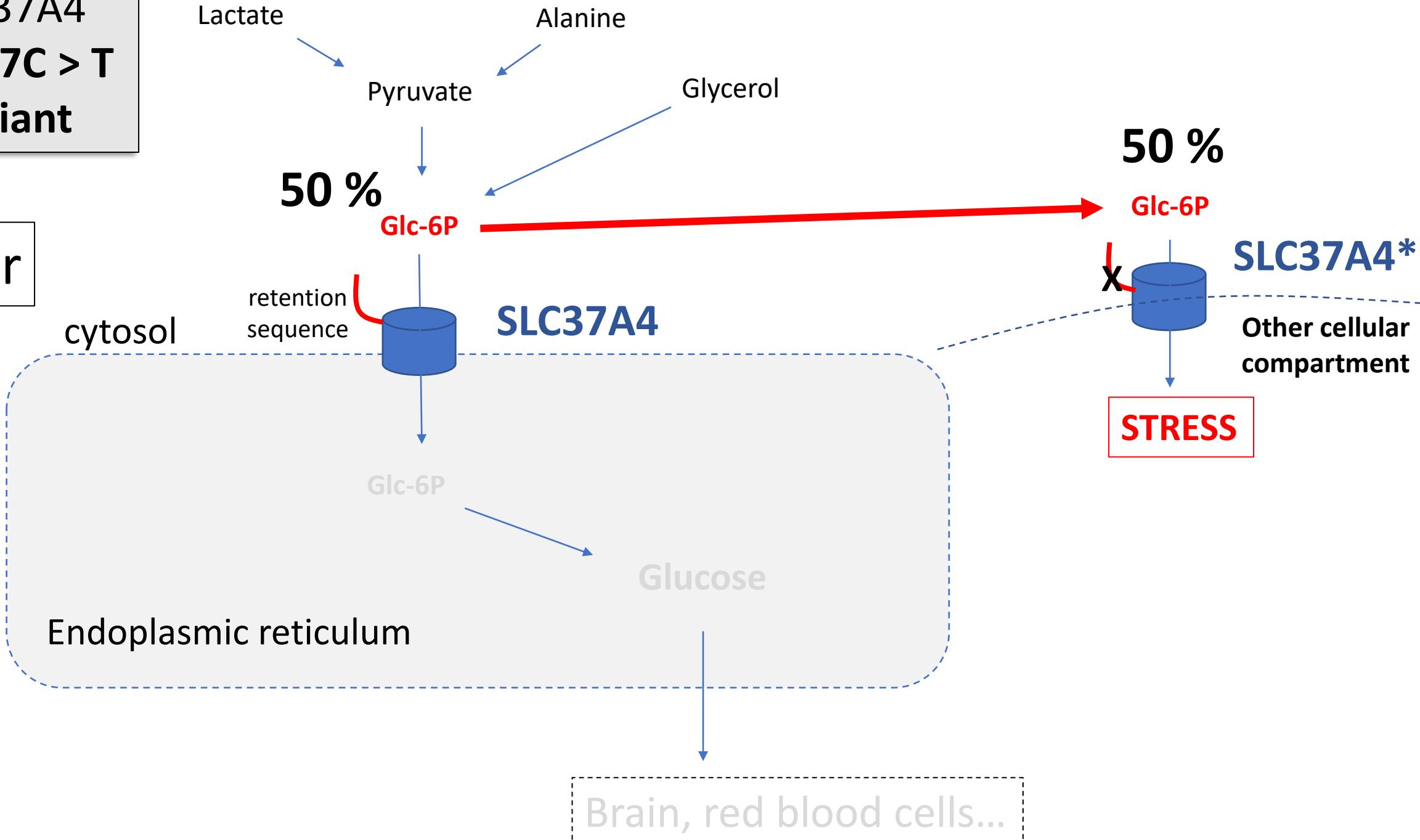
**Brain, red blood cells...**

## Heterozygous SLC37A4 variant (c.1267C > T (R423\*))



**SLC37A4**  
**c.1267C > T**  
**variant**

**Liver**



## SLC37A4 c.1267C > T variant – Clinics

- 9 patients
- **Liver dysfunction**  
↗ AST (9/9), coagulopathy (9/9)
- Cardiac abnormalities (4/9)
- Scoliosis (3/9)

# SLC37A4 c.1267C > T variant - coagulopathy

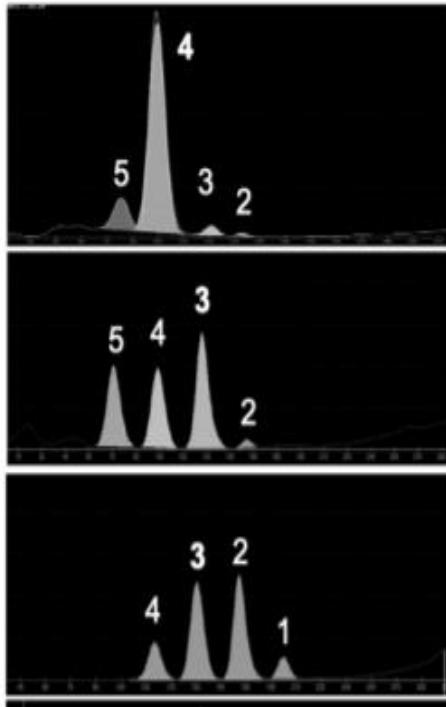
AST (ref. 7– 40 U/L)	65 U/L (H) N/A	50 U/L (H)	77 U/L (H)	91 U/L (H)	147 U/L (H)	80 U/L (H)	228 U/L (H)	522 U/L (H)	6/6
F2 (ref. 60%– 140%)	31 (L) 22 (L)	57 (L)	30 (L)	20 (L)	18 (L)	27 (L)	5.5 (L)	N/A	7/7
F5 (ref. 60%– 140%)	51 (L) 52 (L)	64	40 (L)	39 (L)	50 (L)	29 (L)	38.5 (L)	N/A	6/7
Fg (ref. 1.5– 3.5 g/L)	1.7 g/L 1.7 g/L	2.8 g/L	1.8 g/L	1.3 g/L (L)	1.7 g/L	1.5 g/L	0.4 g/L (L)	0.1 g/L (L)	1/7
F8 (ref. 60%– 150%)	117 N/A	165	130	144	109	85	N/A	N/A	0/6
F9 (ref. 60%– 140%)	63 N/A	85	58 (L)	42 (L)	55 (L)	44 (L)	N/A	N/A	4/6
F11 (ref. 60%–140%)	59 (L) N/A	55 (L)	31 (L)	34 (L)	22 (L)	33 (L)	N/A	normal	6/6
SERPINC1 (ref. 80%– 120%)	28 (L) 34 (L)	60 (L)	37 (L)	32 (L)	19 (L)	32 (L)	0 (L)	normal	7/7
PROC (ref. 50%–120%)	110 49	97	72	73	59	94	N/A	normal	0/7
PROS1 (ref. 60%–120%)	41 (L) 48 (L)	70	43 (L)	81	35 (L)	35 (L)	N/A	normal	5/7

# SLC37A4-CDG – Impaired serum protein glycosylation

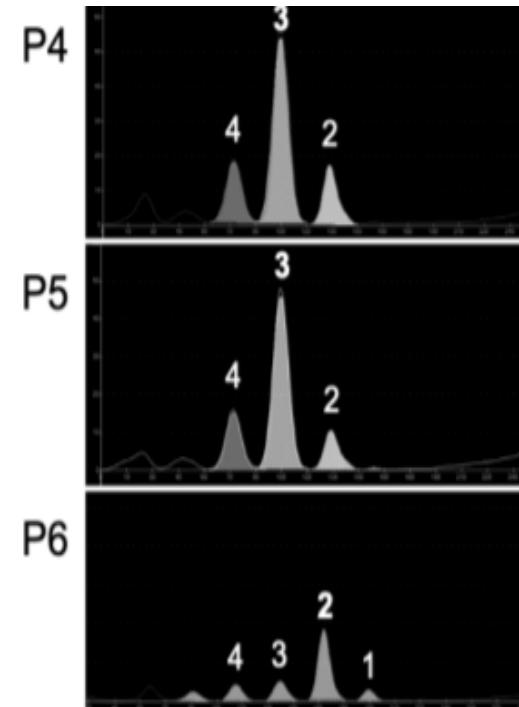
## CZE Trf

CDG type 2 pattern

Control



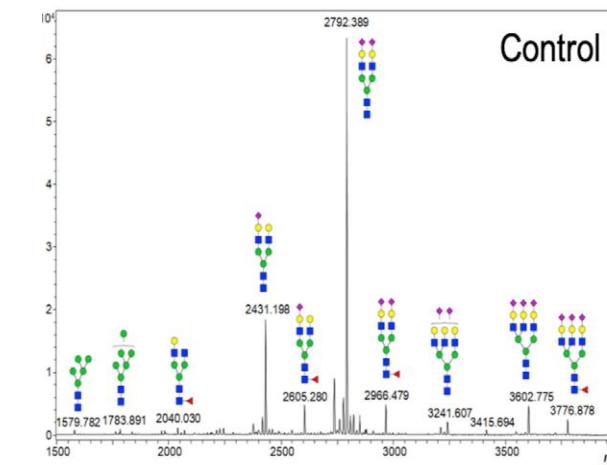
P1



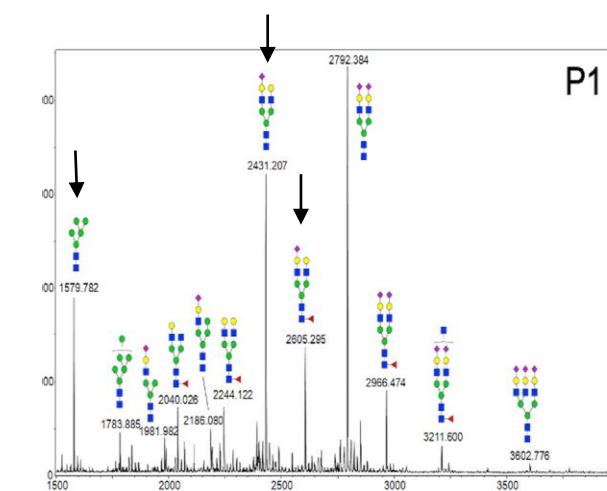
P2

## MS total N-glycan

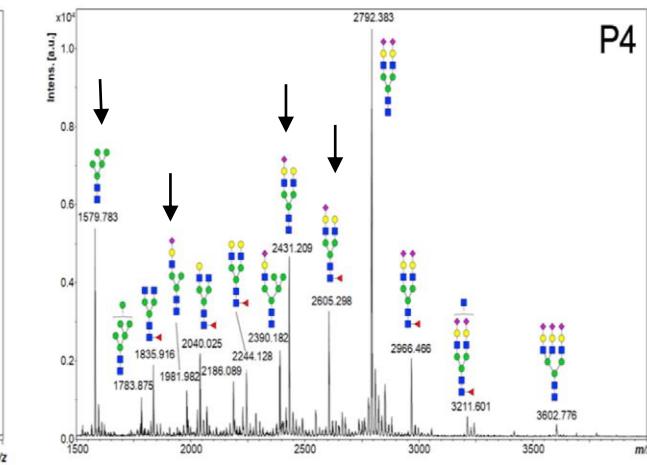
Hypo-sialylation, High-mannose N-glycans



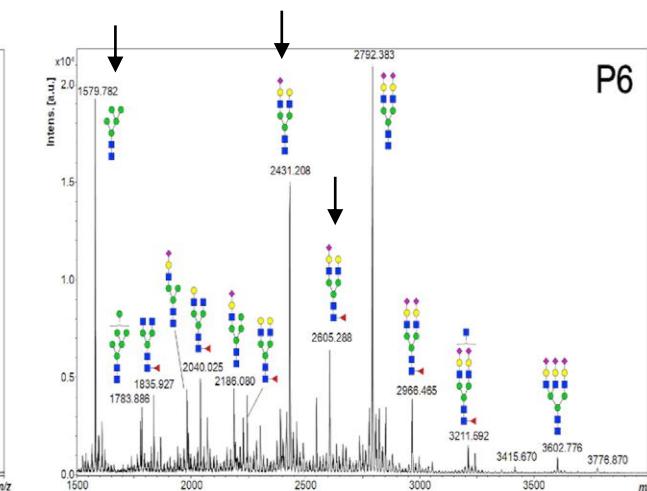
Control



P1

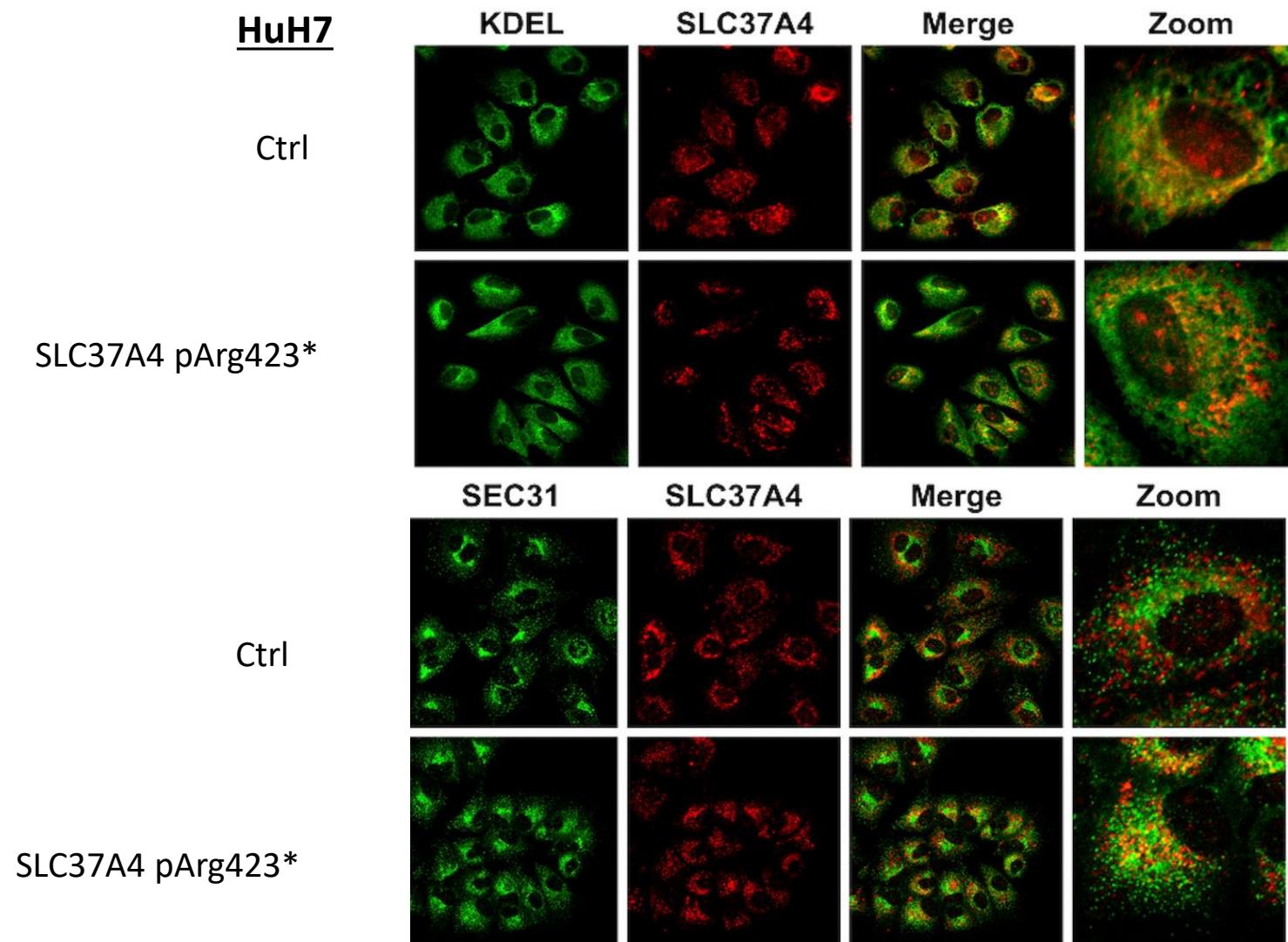


P4



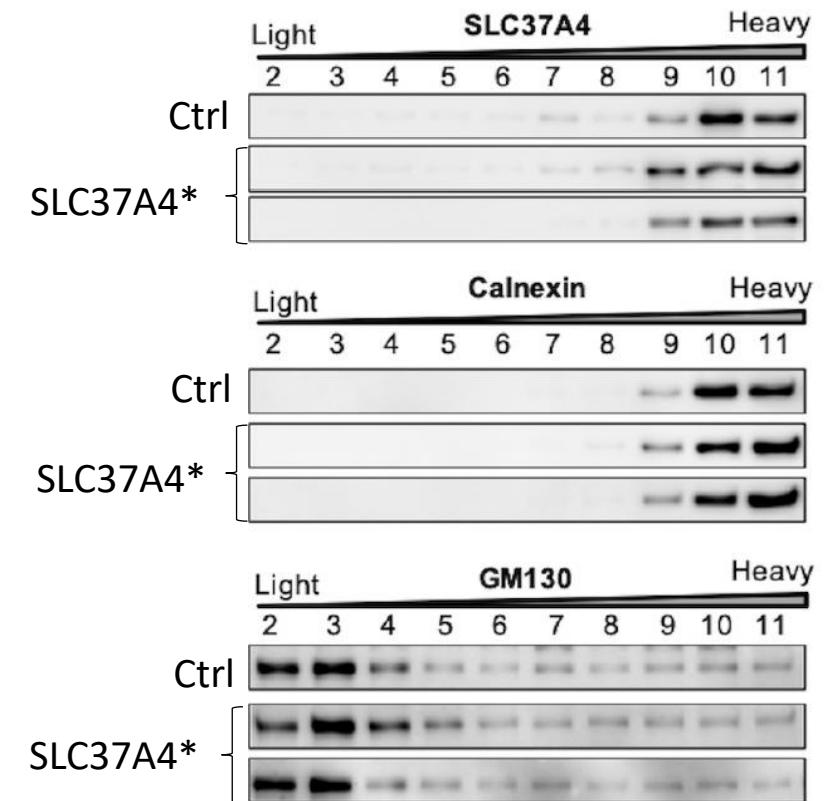
P6

# SLC37A4-CDG: Functional studies



Bobby G. Ng et al., AJHG, 2021

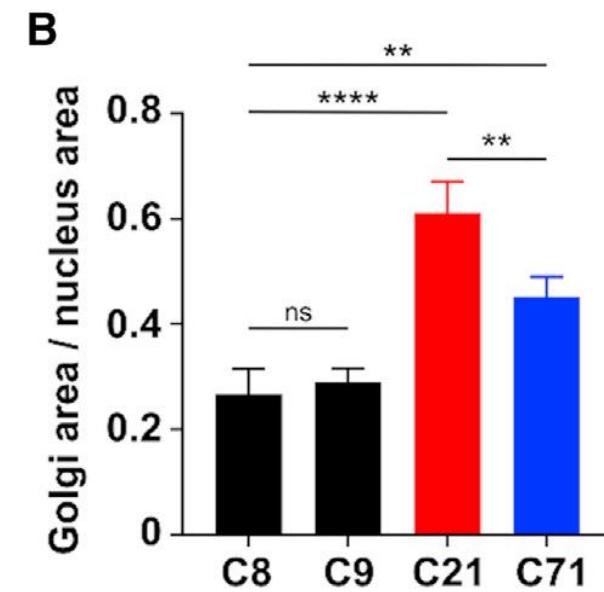
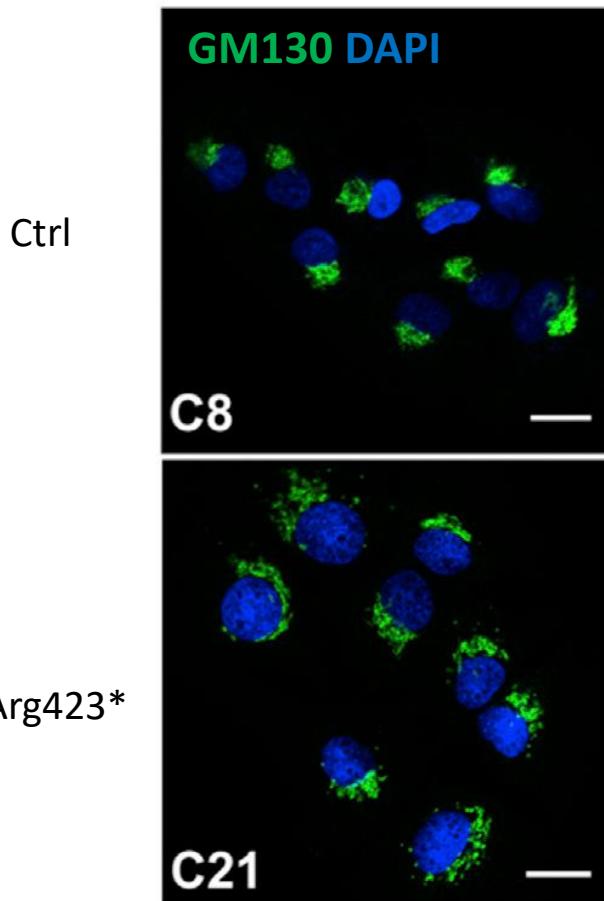
## Subcellular fractionation



SLC37A4 mutation induced partial (half ?) mislocalization of the transporter to ER-Golgi intermediates

# SLC37A4-CDG: Functional studies (2)

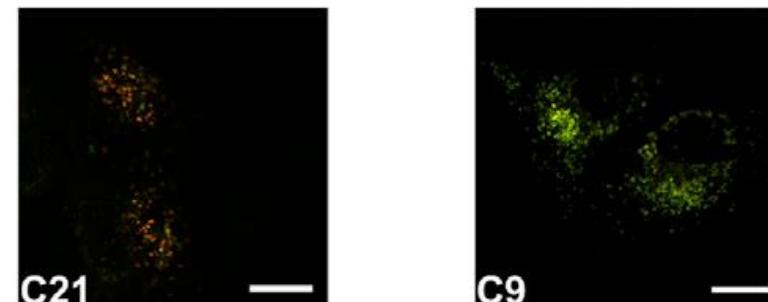
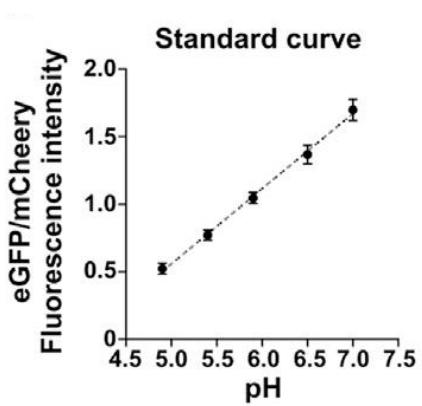
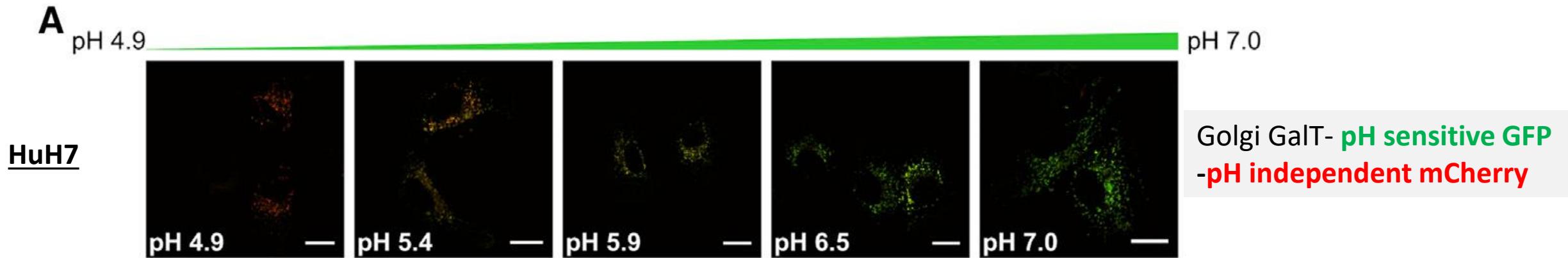
HuH7



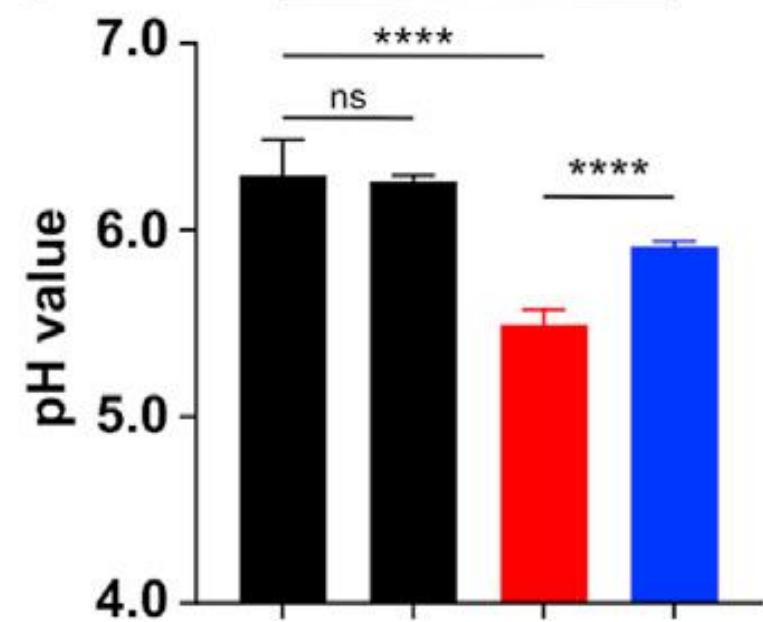
SLC37A4 mutation induced abnormal Golgi morphology

# SLC37A4-CDG: Functional studies (3)

A



SLC37A4 mutation decreased Golgi pH

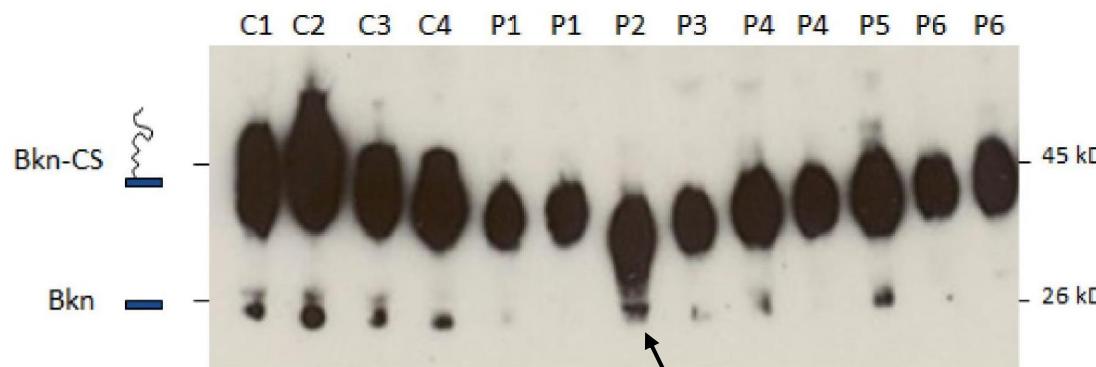


# SLC37A4-CDG – Bikunin analysis

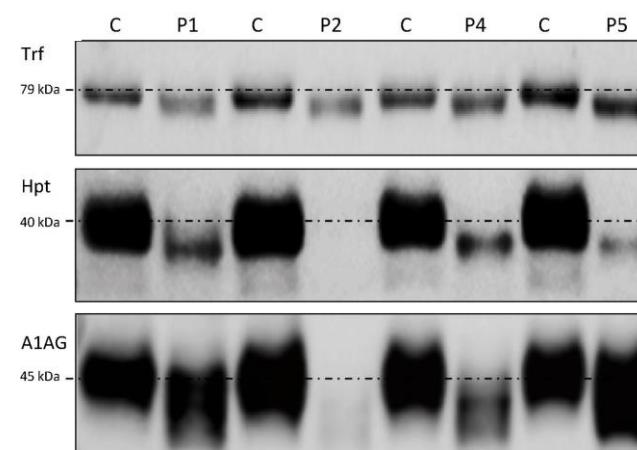
Haouari W, Raynord A et al., CCA, 2021



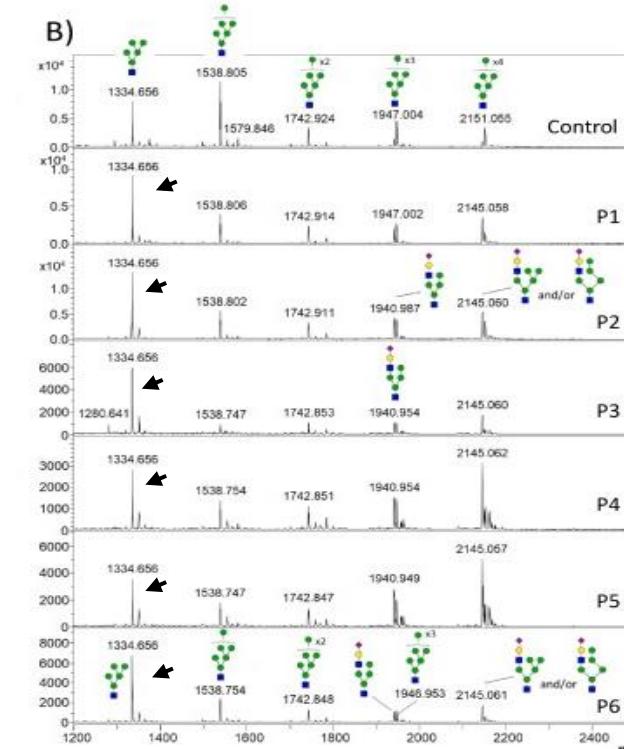
Impaired CS-HC esterification (6/6)  
Normal ITI/Pal ratio



Normal CS elongation (5/6)  
PG defect in one patient (most severe phenotype)



Impaired N-glycoproteins'  
WB profile



high-mannose N-glycans

## SLC37A4-CDG: Fast screening strategy

- ↑ AST, decreased coagulation factors level F2, F11, AT
- CDG-type 2 transferrin pattern, abnormal WB of glycoproteins
- MS pattern with high-mannose N-glycans
- Abnormal bikunin profile

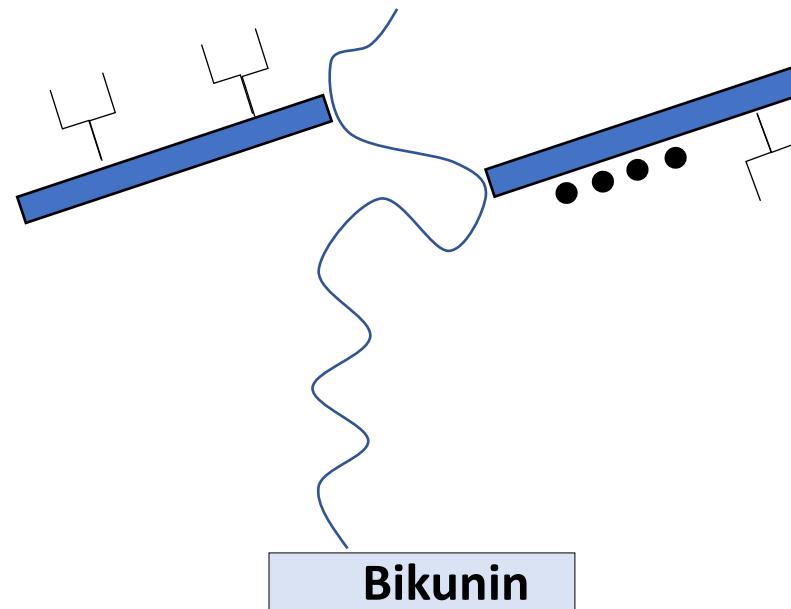
# Conclusion

Versatile biomarker

Proteoglycan defects

CDG with impaired golgi homeostasis

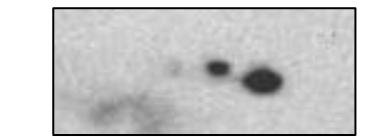
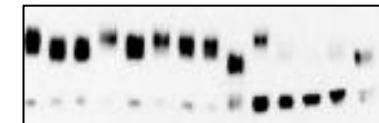
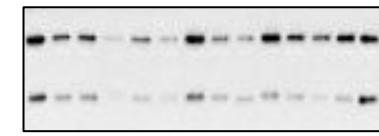
Sérum/Plasma/Guthrie



Convenient analysis

Western-blot

Électrophorèse 2D



# Acknowledgments

## Coordination

Arnaud BRUNEEL

Christian POÜS



## Collaborations

François FOULQUIER

François FENAILLE

Bobby NG, Hudson FREEZE

Valérie CORMIER-DAIRE



## INSERM U1193

"Pathophysiology of liver diseases"

Arnaud Bruneel

Antoine PILON

Anita BAILLET

Béatrice BENOIT

Daniel PERDIZ

Elise JACQUIN

Najet CHAREF

Bruno BAUDIN

Christian POÜS

Samra OUARAS

Alexandre RAYNORD

Sara MERABET

Isabelle CANTALOUBE

Ameetha RATIER