

what makes a good figure?



creating effective explanations of complex concepts

Martin Krzywinski Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre

> https://mk.bcgsc.ca martink@bcgsc.ca

philosophy



practise



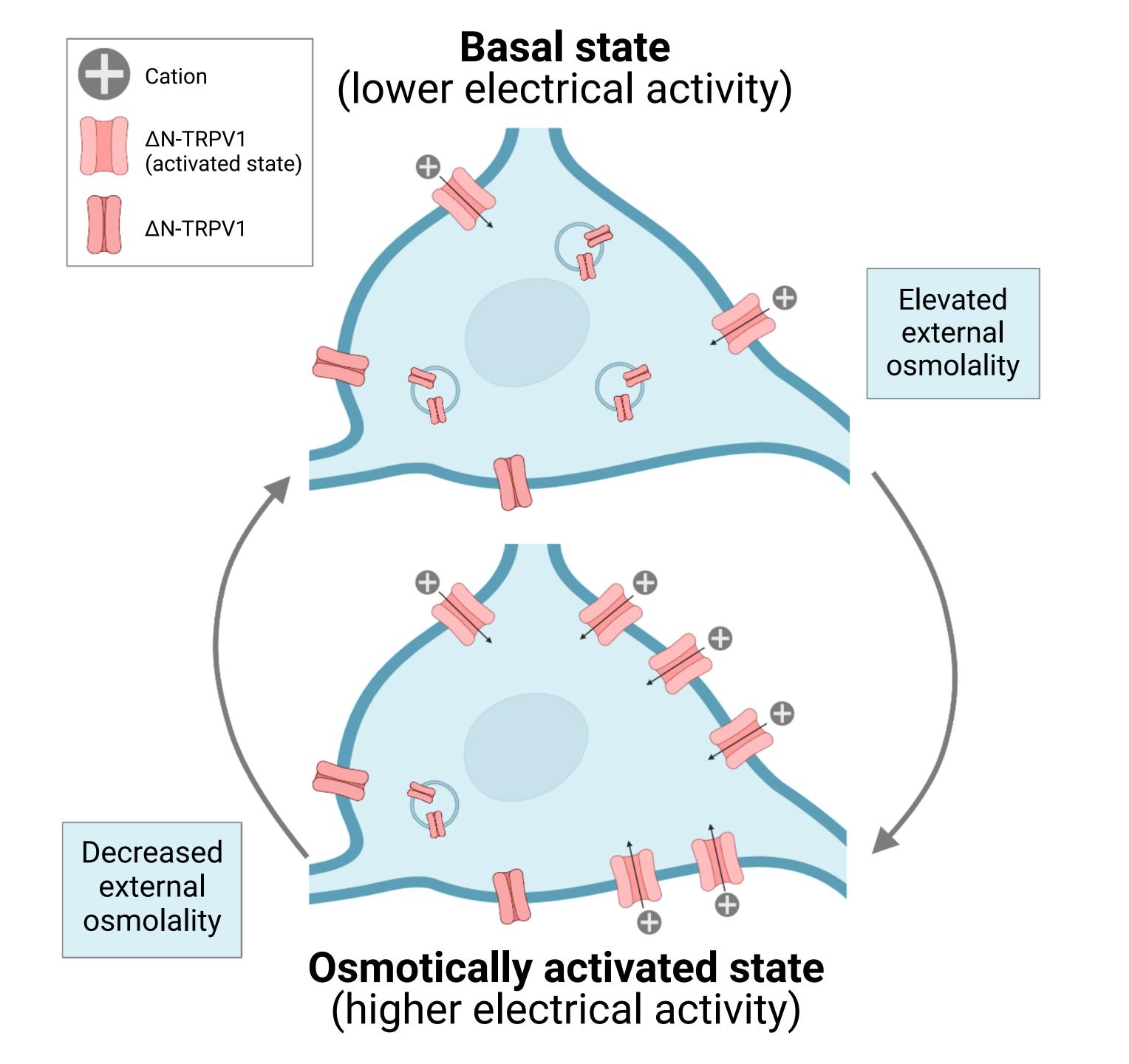
what to draw

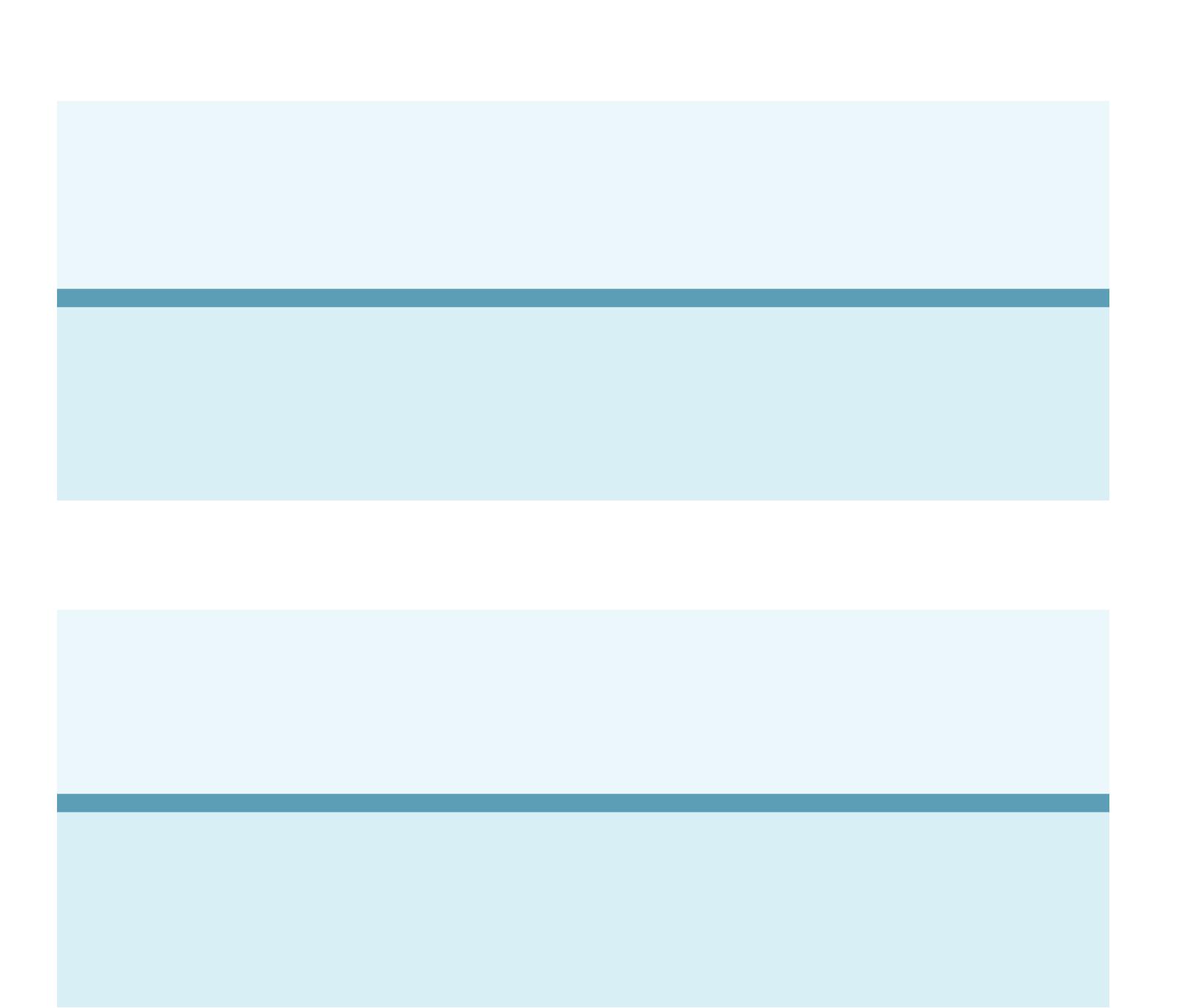
how to draw it

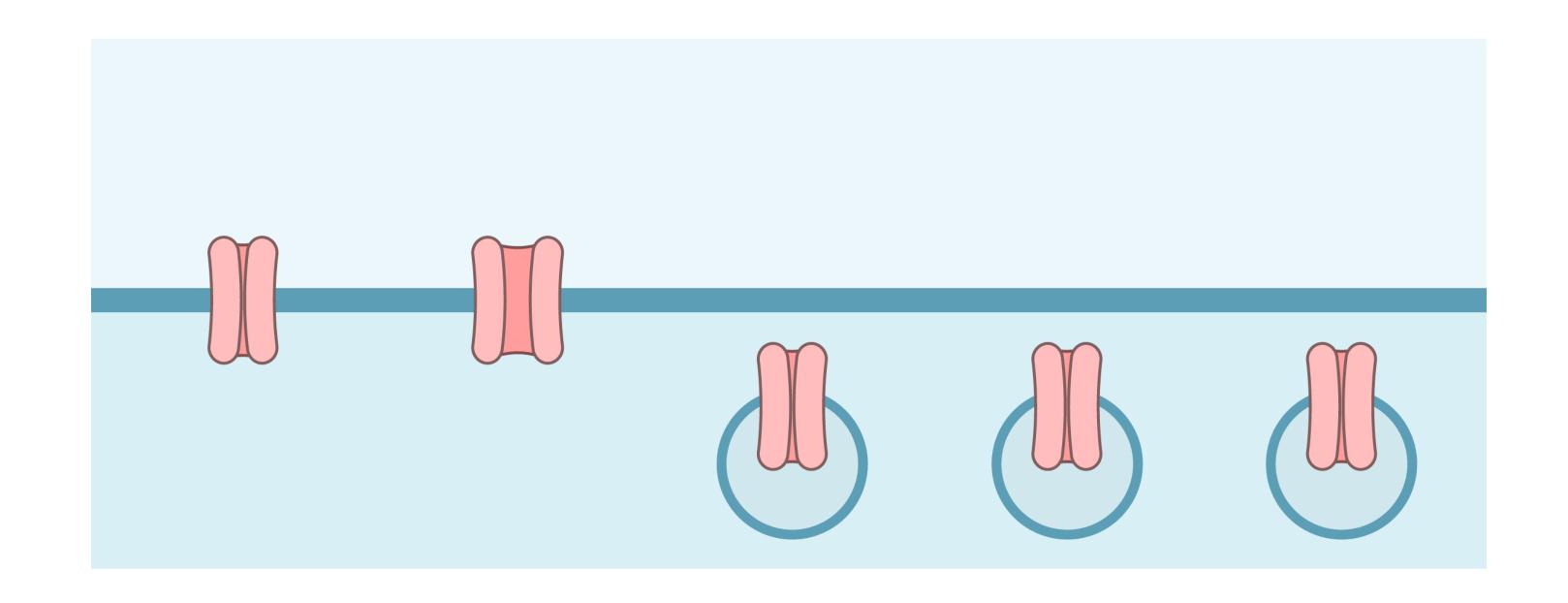


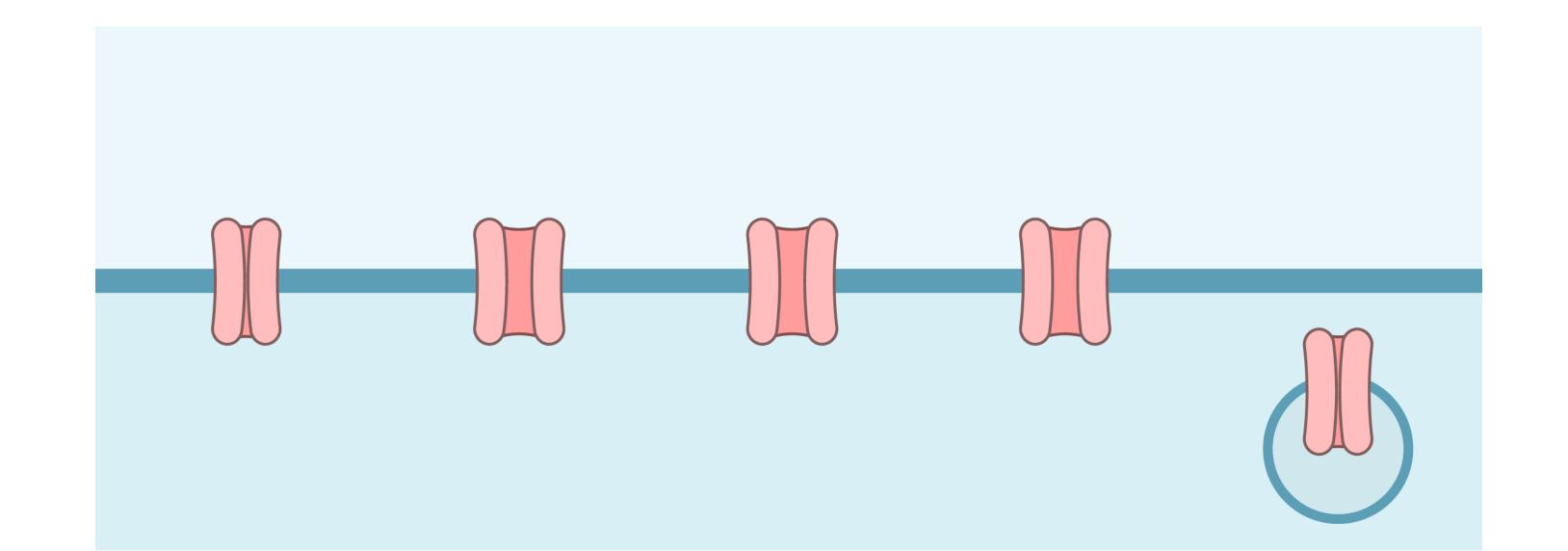
what is it about?

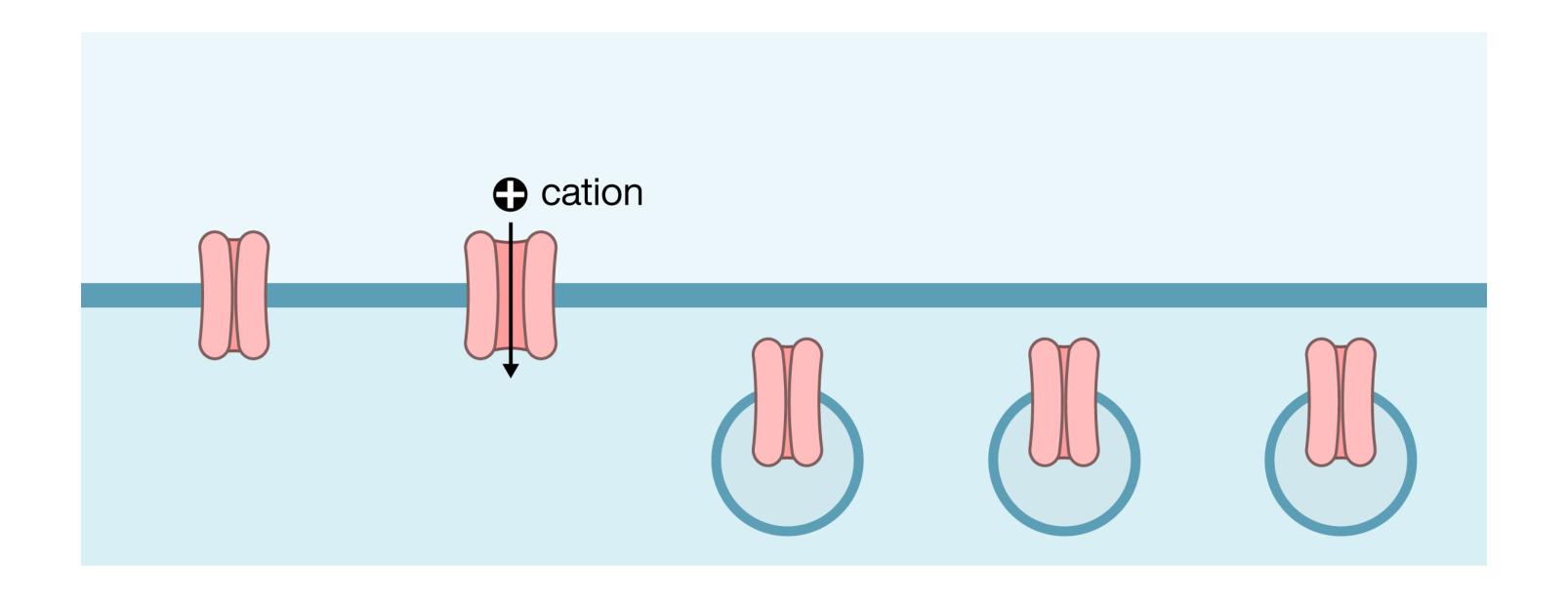
draw (only) that

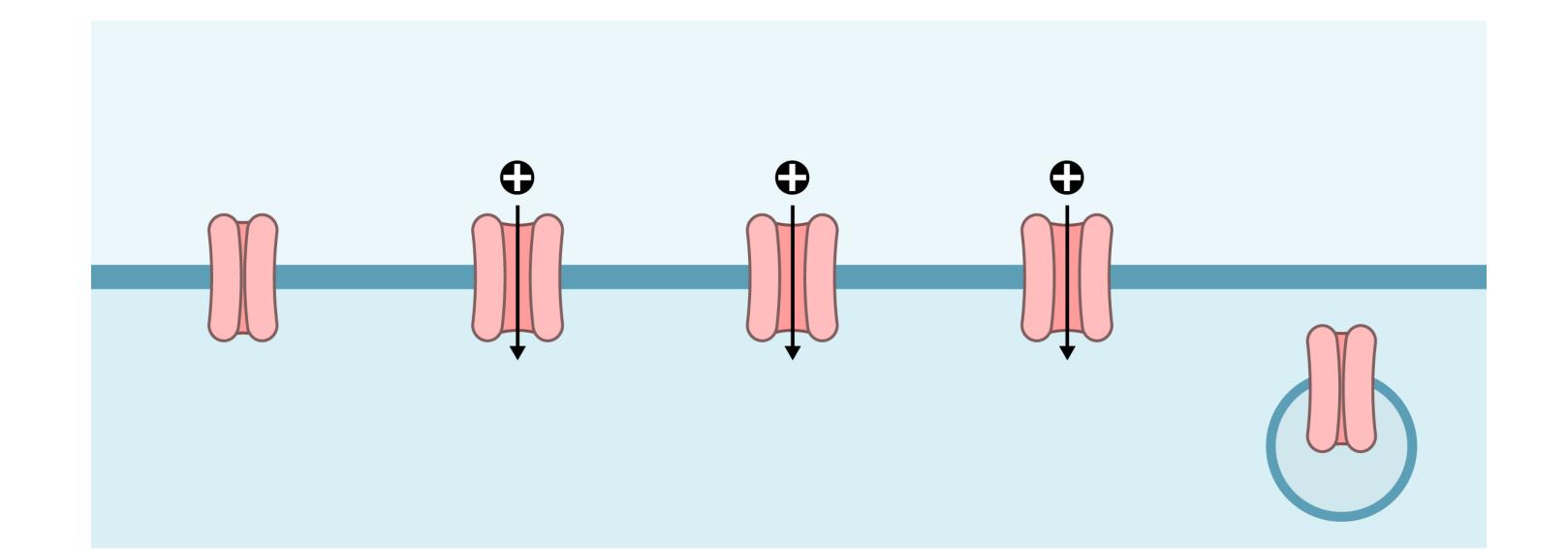


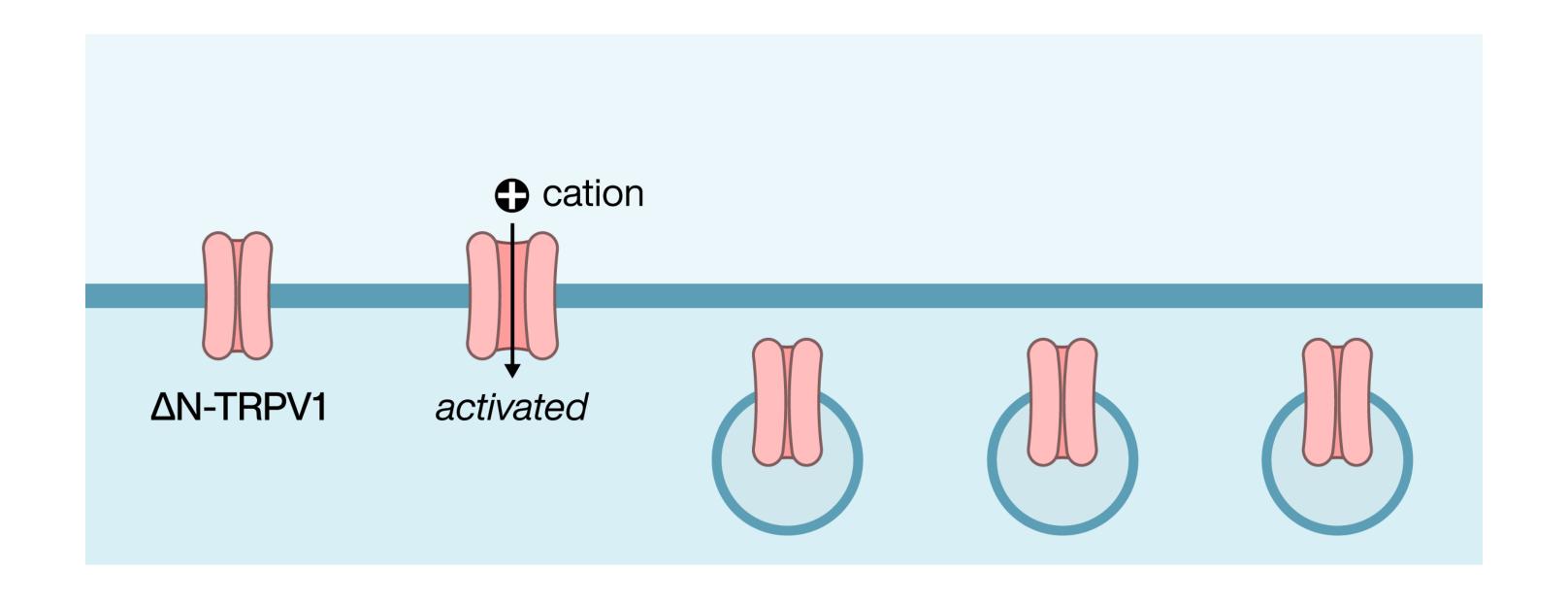


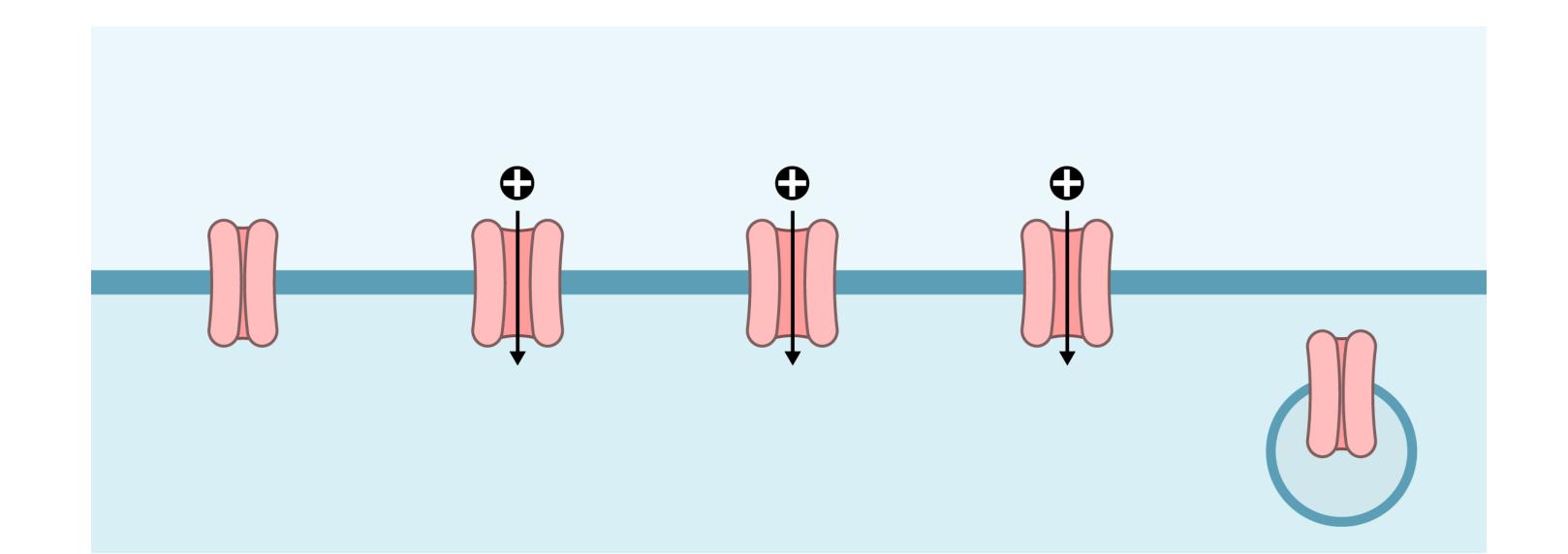




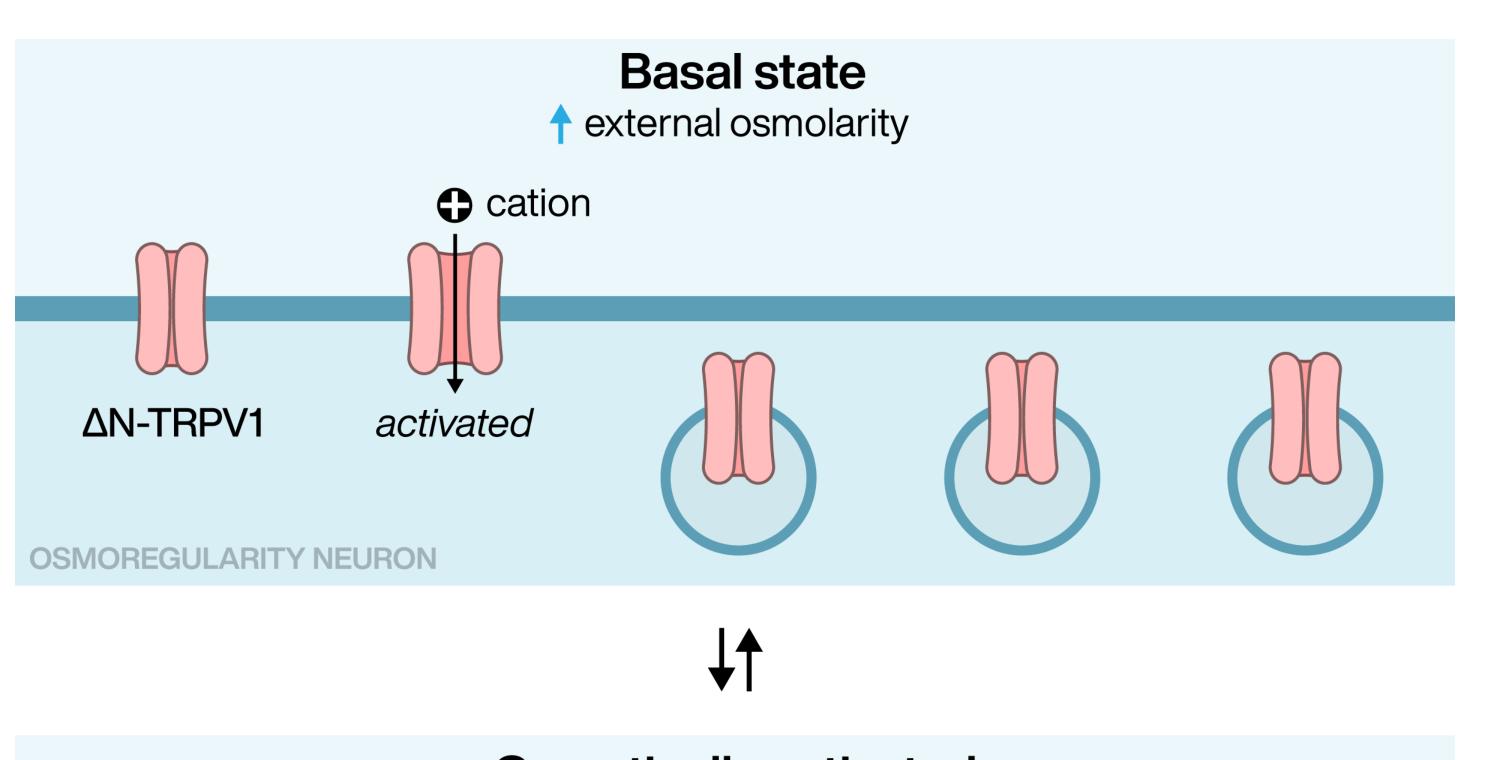


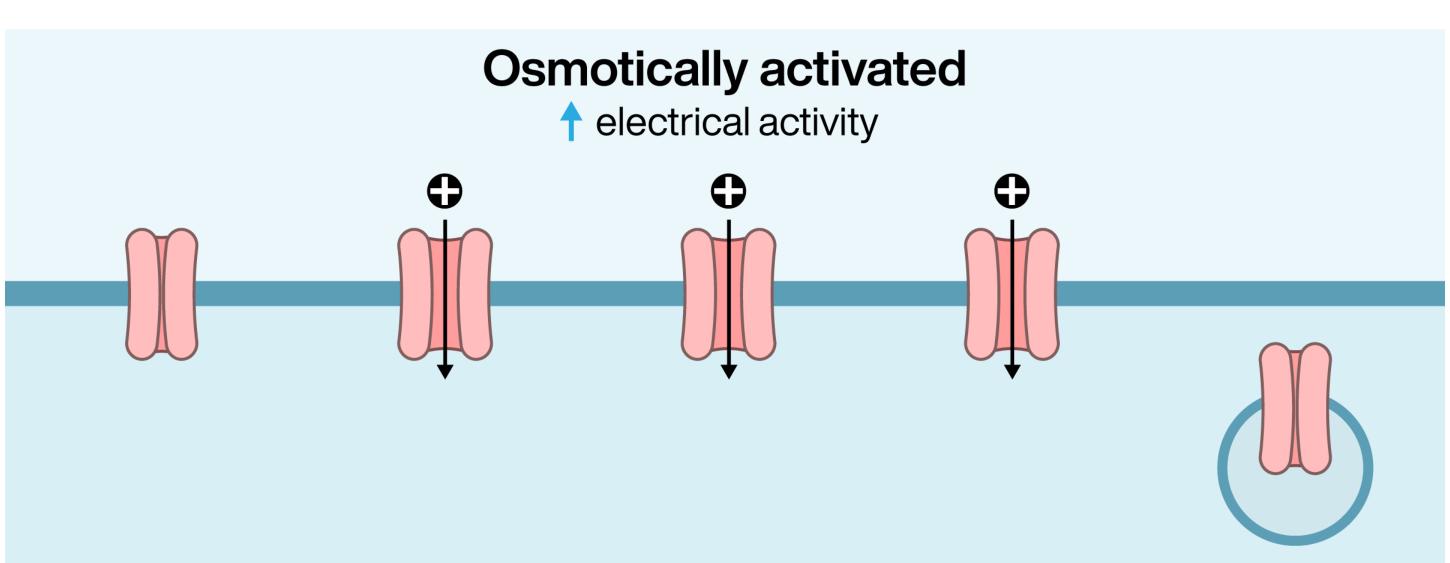




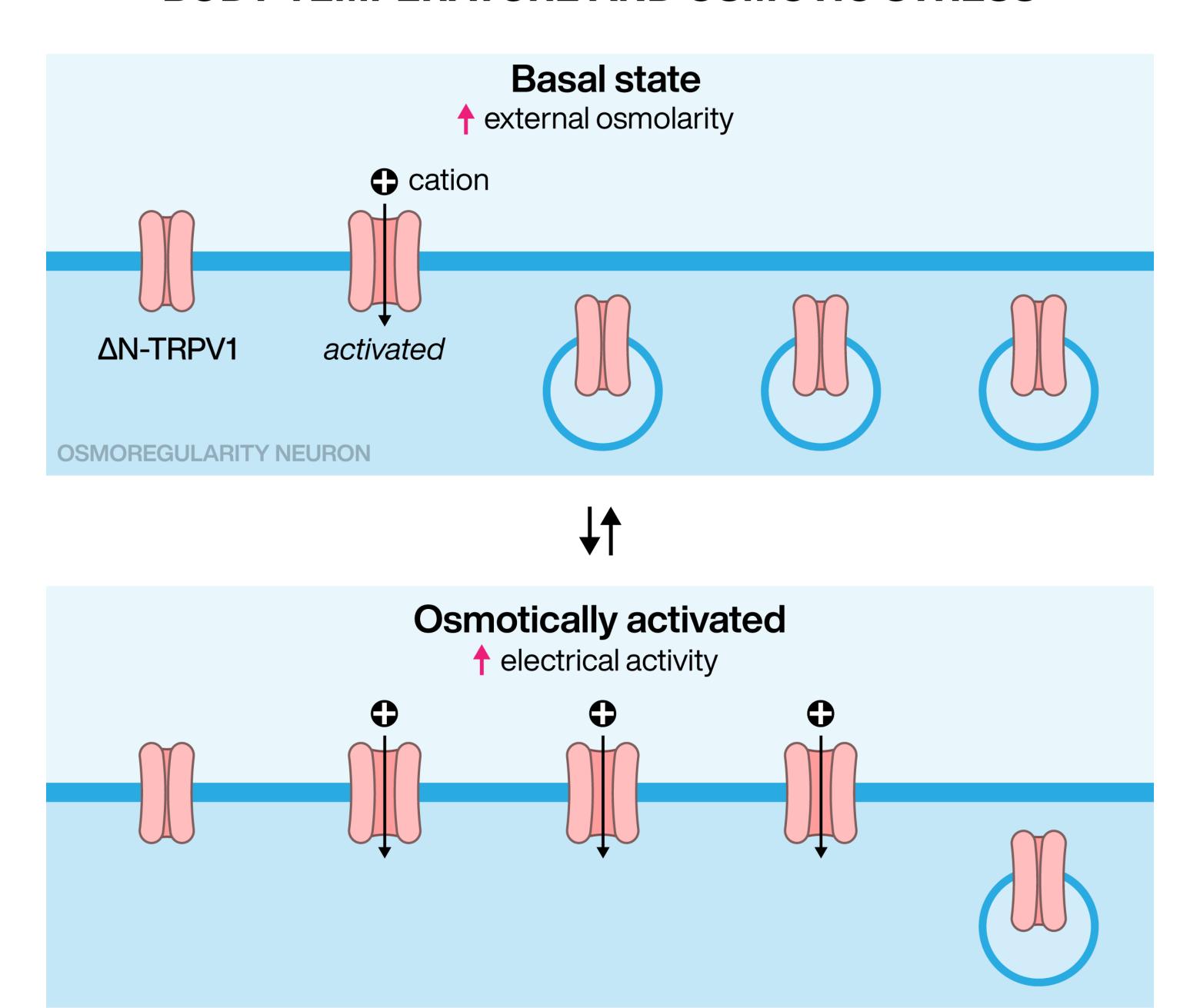


ΔN-TRPV1 IS A MOLECULAR CO-DETECTOR OF BODY TEMPERATURE AND OSMOTIC STRESS





ΔN-TRPV1 IS A MOLECULAR CO-DETECTOR OF BODY TEMPERATURE AND OSMOTIC STRESS





speak plainly

impact & theme



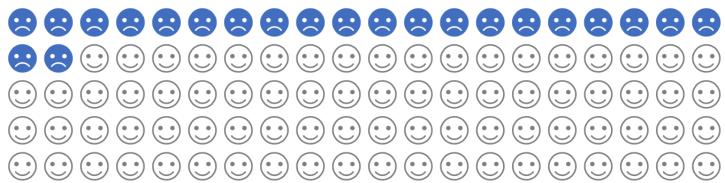
Lower Kuskokwim School District Student Survey Results

60 OUT OF 100 STUDENTS in the Rural LKSD Schools agreed or strongly agree that they feel like ADULTS AT SCHOOL CARE ABOUT THEM.



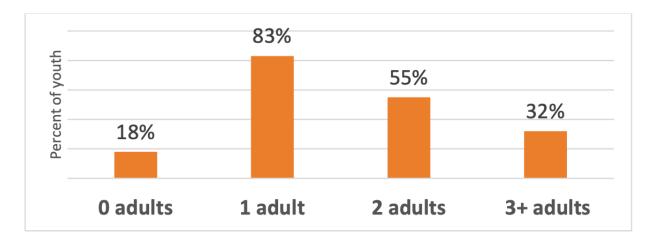
- School Climate and Connectedness Survey (2019)

2 OUT OF 100 STUDENTS agreed or strongly agreed that they FEEL ALONE IN THEIR LIFE.



- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2017)

Youth reported the number of adults they said they would feel comfortable going to if they had an important question affecting their life...



- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2012

LC 2: Support for Youth and Everyday Caring ACTIVITY 1: Survey Results Handout

RESEARCH TO END SUICIDE
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(2017)



Lower Kuskokwim School District Student Survey Results

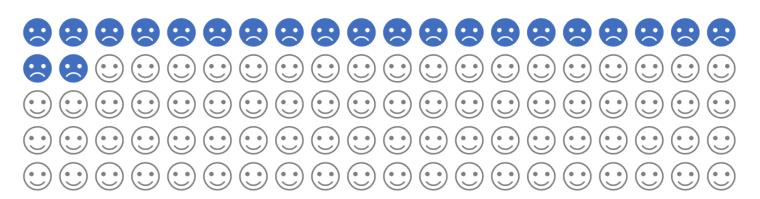
SIDE B





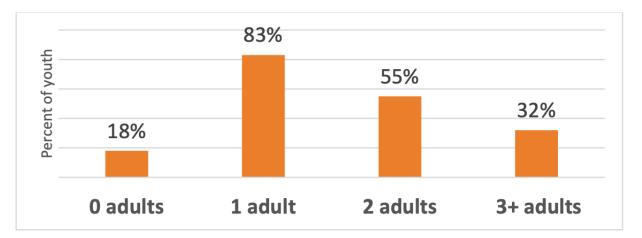
- School Climate and Connectedness Survey (2019)

22 OUT OF 100 STUDENTS agreed or strongly agreed that they FEEL ALONE IN THEIR LIFE.



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- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2017)

LC 2: Support for Youth and Everyday Caring ACTIVITY 1: Survey Results Handout

LC 2: Support for Youth and Everyday Caring
ACTIVITY 1: Survey Results Handout
SIDE B

Lower Kuskokwim School District Student Survey Results

DO ADULTS AT SCHOOL CARE ABOUT ME?



60% of students in Rural LKSD Schools agreed or strongly agreed that they feel that adults at schohol care about them.

—School Climate and Connectedness Survey (2019)

AM I ALONE?



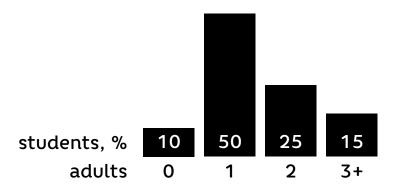
22% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they feel alone in life.

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DO I HAVE ADULTS THAT I CAN TRUST?

XX% of students had at least 2 adults with whom they feel comfortable speaking to about important life questions.

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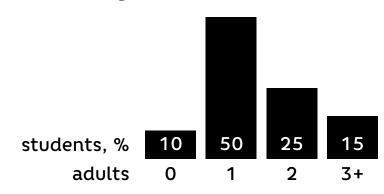
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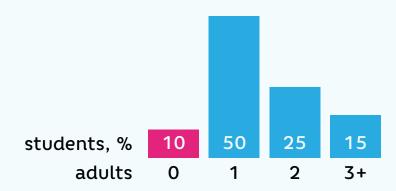
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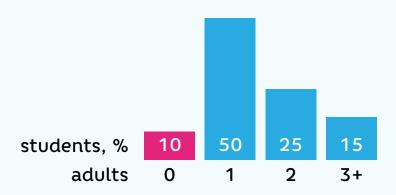
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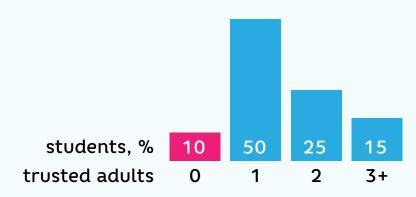
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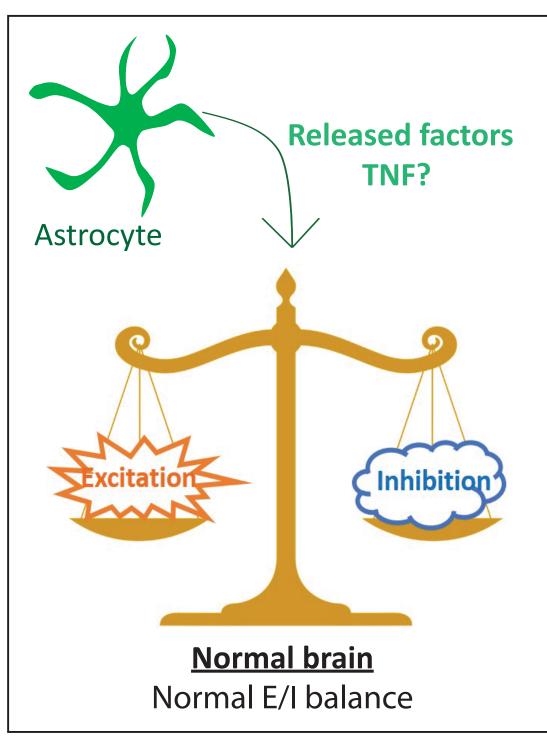


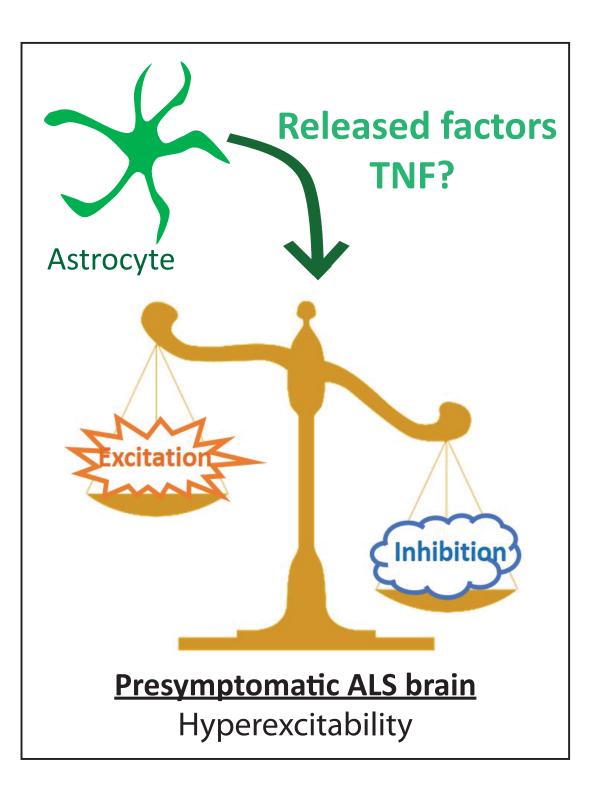


draw for the mind

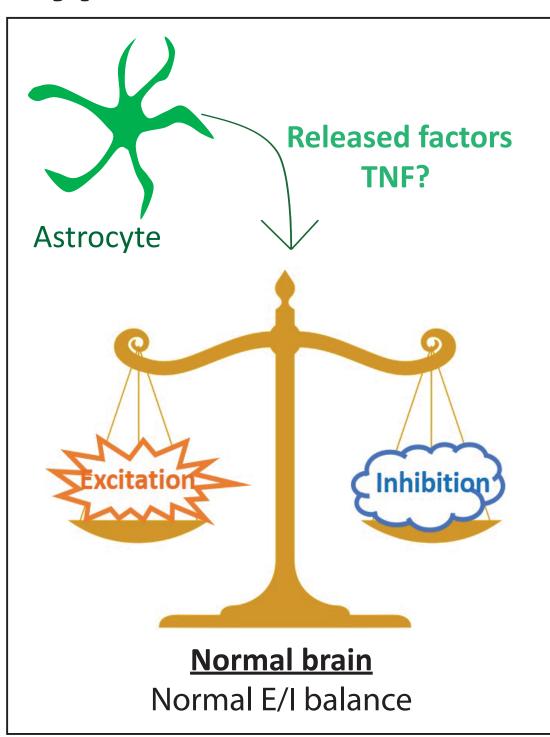
through (not to) the eye

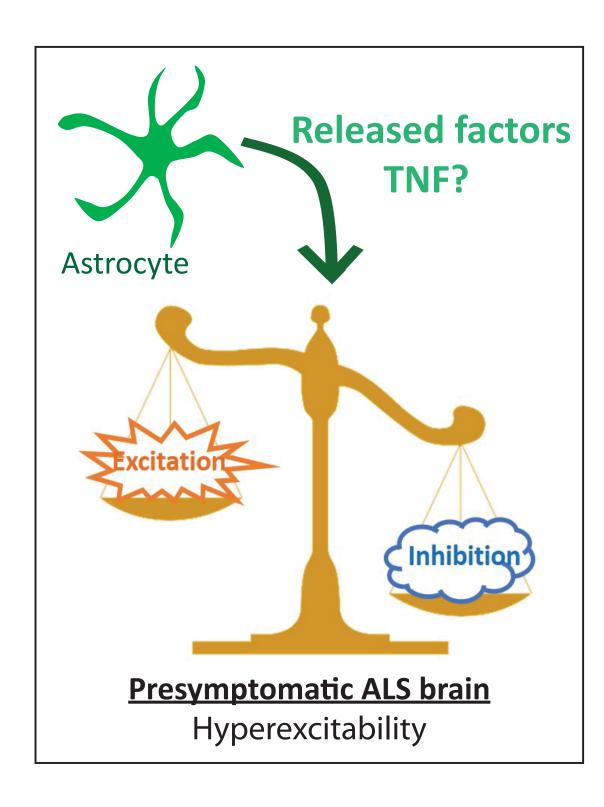
Hypothesis



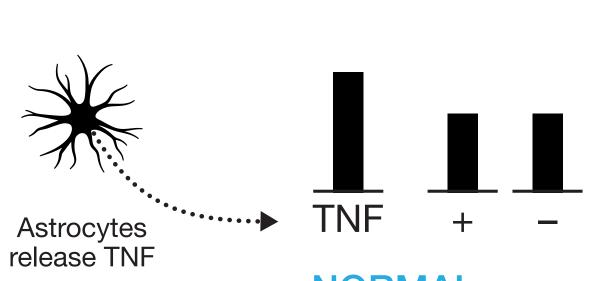


Hypothesis





HYPOTHESIS — hyperexcitability in the ALS brain



PRESYMPTOMATIC ALS

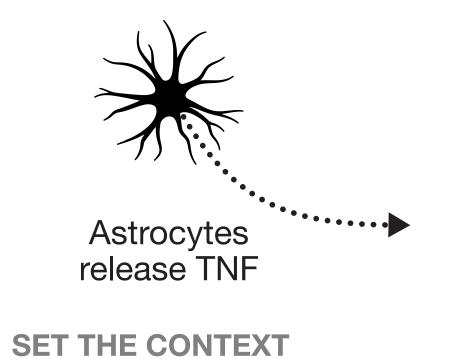
TNF

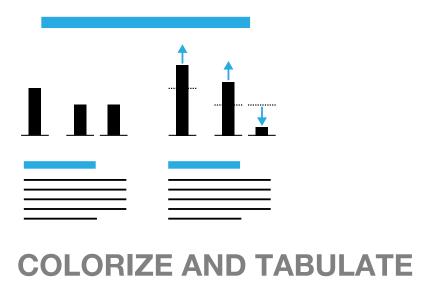
Astrocytes release more TNF resulting in hyperexcitability.

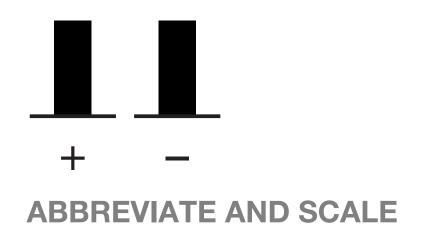
NORMAL

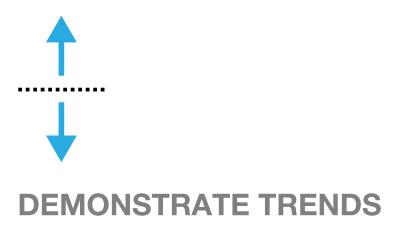
Astrocytes release normal levels of TNF resulting in balanced excitation (+) and inhibition (–).

Vertical axes reflect trends, not absolute quantities.

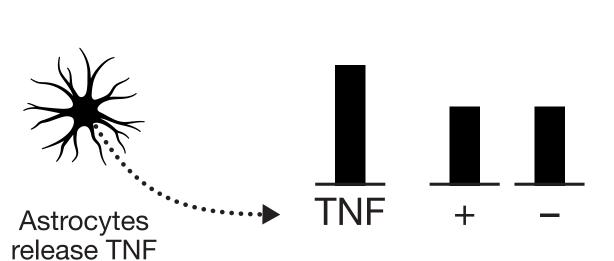






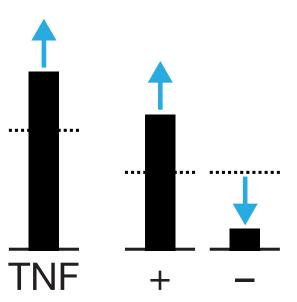


HYPOTHESIS — hyperexcitability in the ALS brain



NORMAL

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PRESYMPTOMATIC ALS

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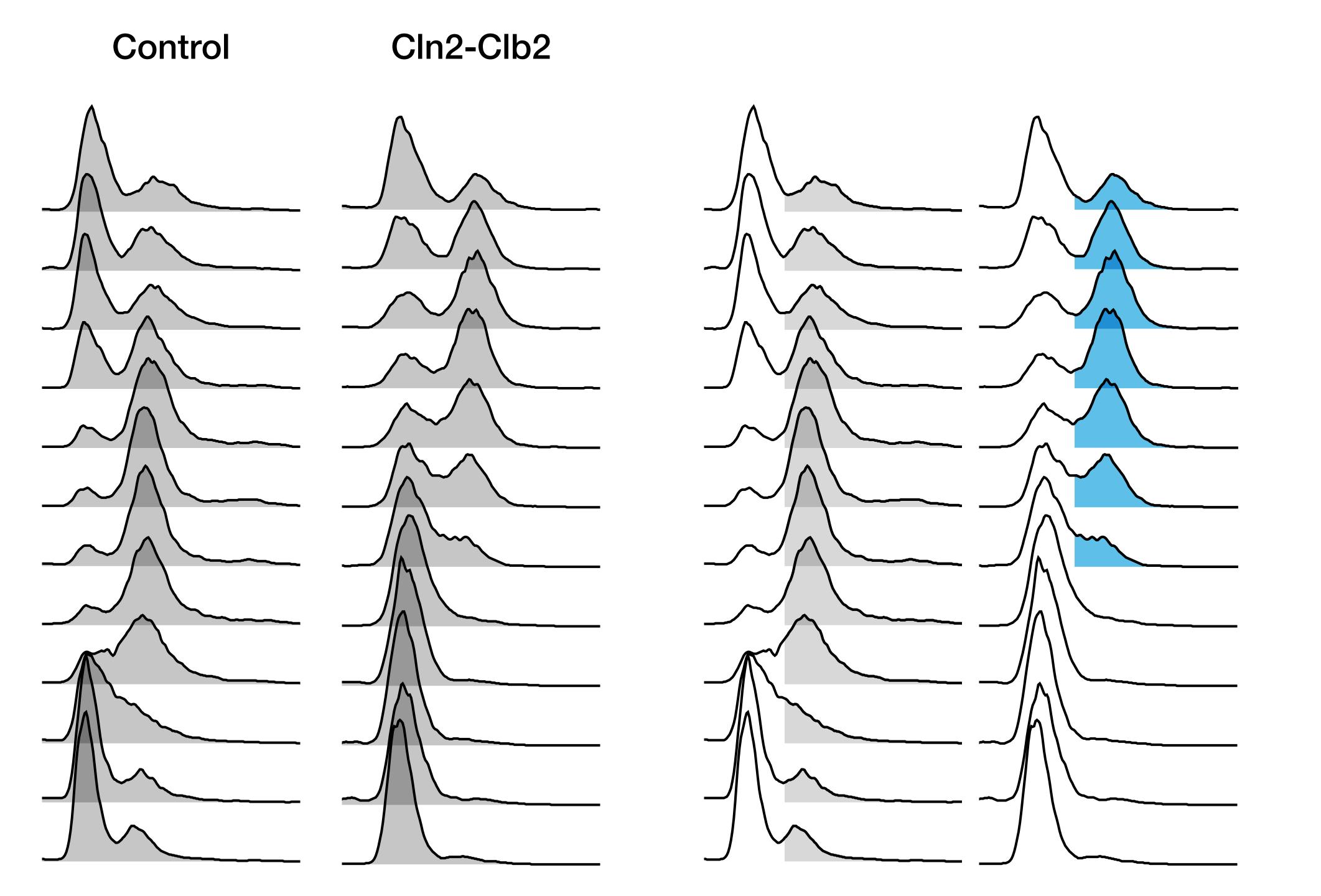
Vertical axes reflect trends, not absolute quantities.



design embodies purpose

reason for being

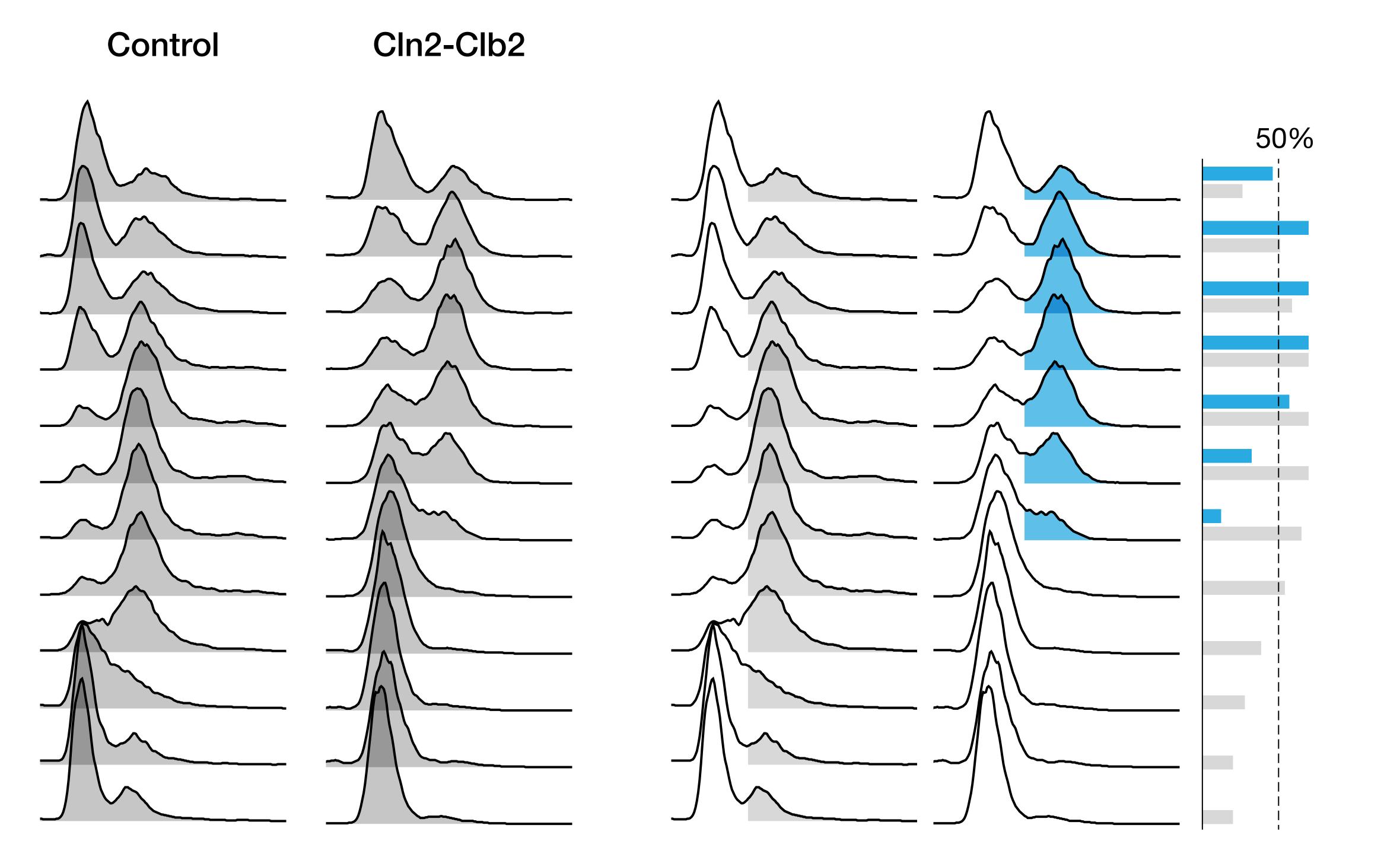
Cln2-Clb2 Control





quantitative judgments

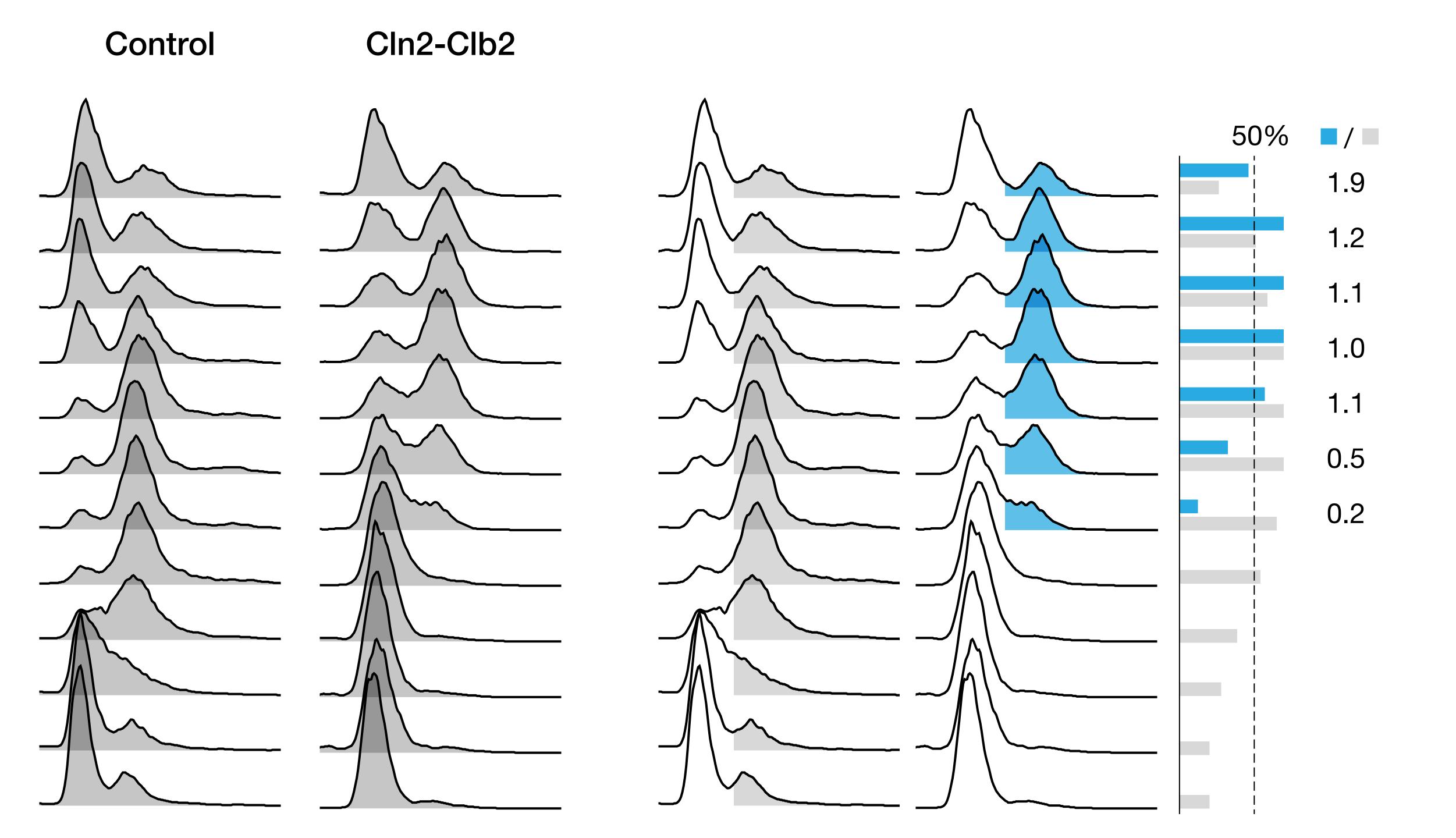
have baseline, will compare





answer key questions

data won't speak for itself





data (often) doesn't tell the story you do

How different countries have handled the second wave

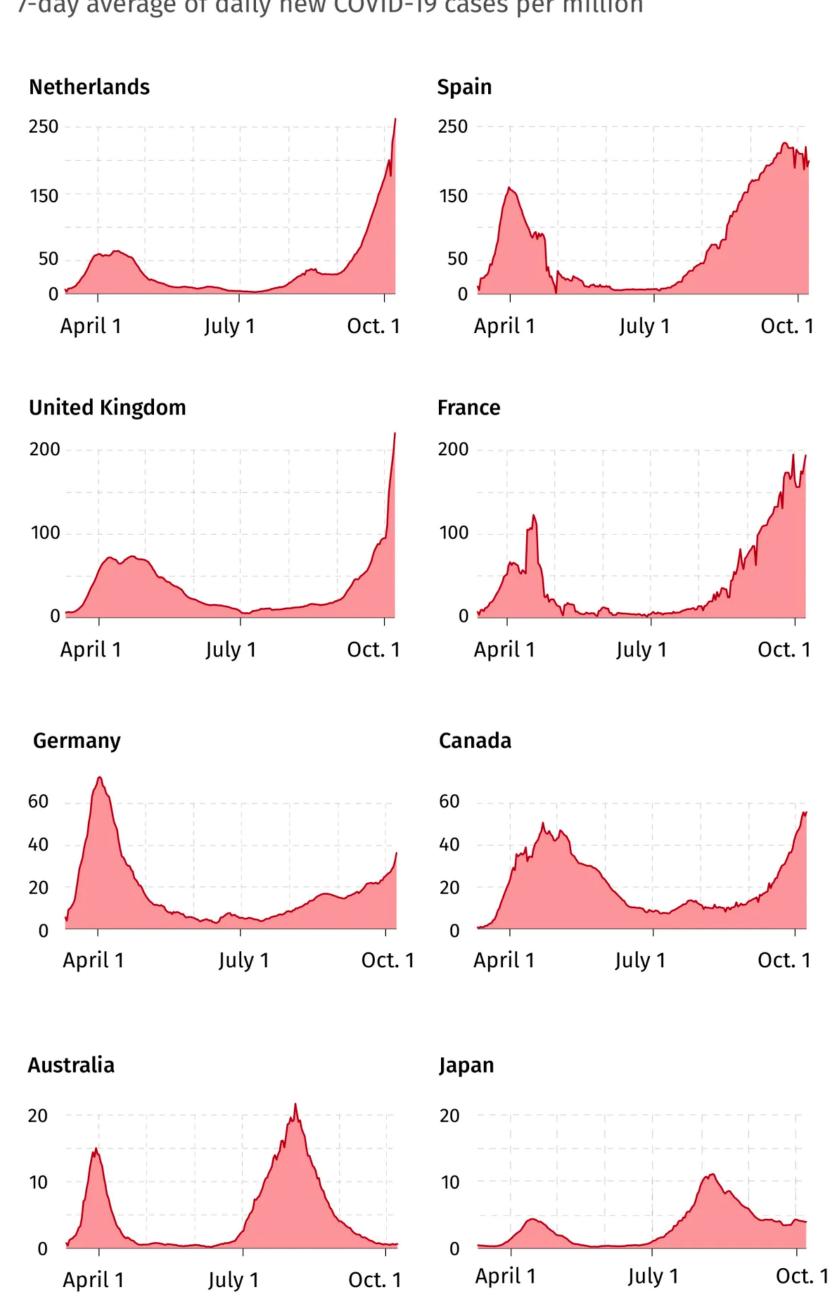
7-day average of daily new COVID-19 cases per million

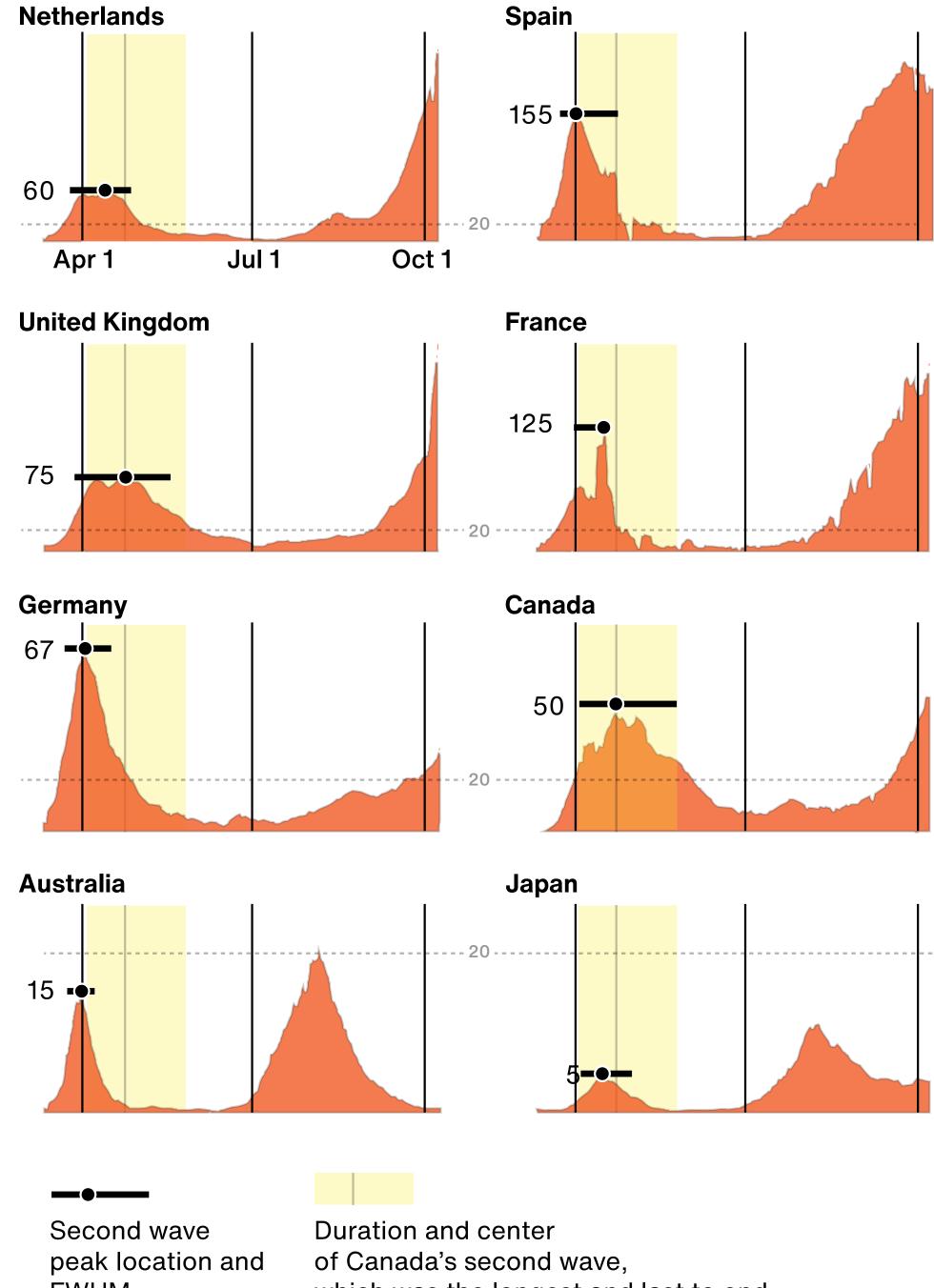


CBC NEWS

How different countries have handled the second wave

7-day average of daily new COVID-19 cases per million



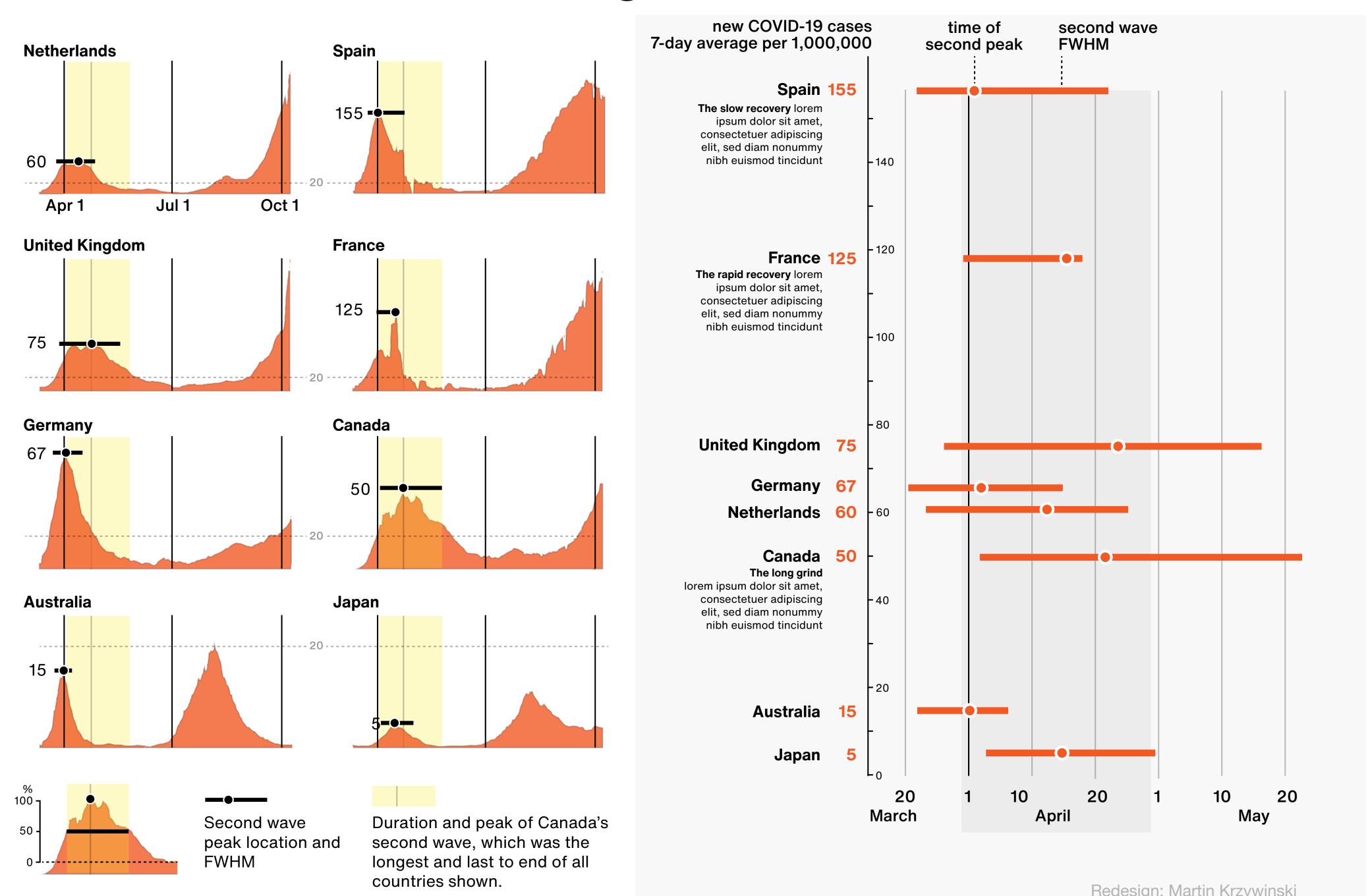


FWHM

Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE

which was the longest and last to end of all countries shown.

The second wave: the long and short of it

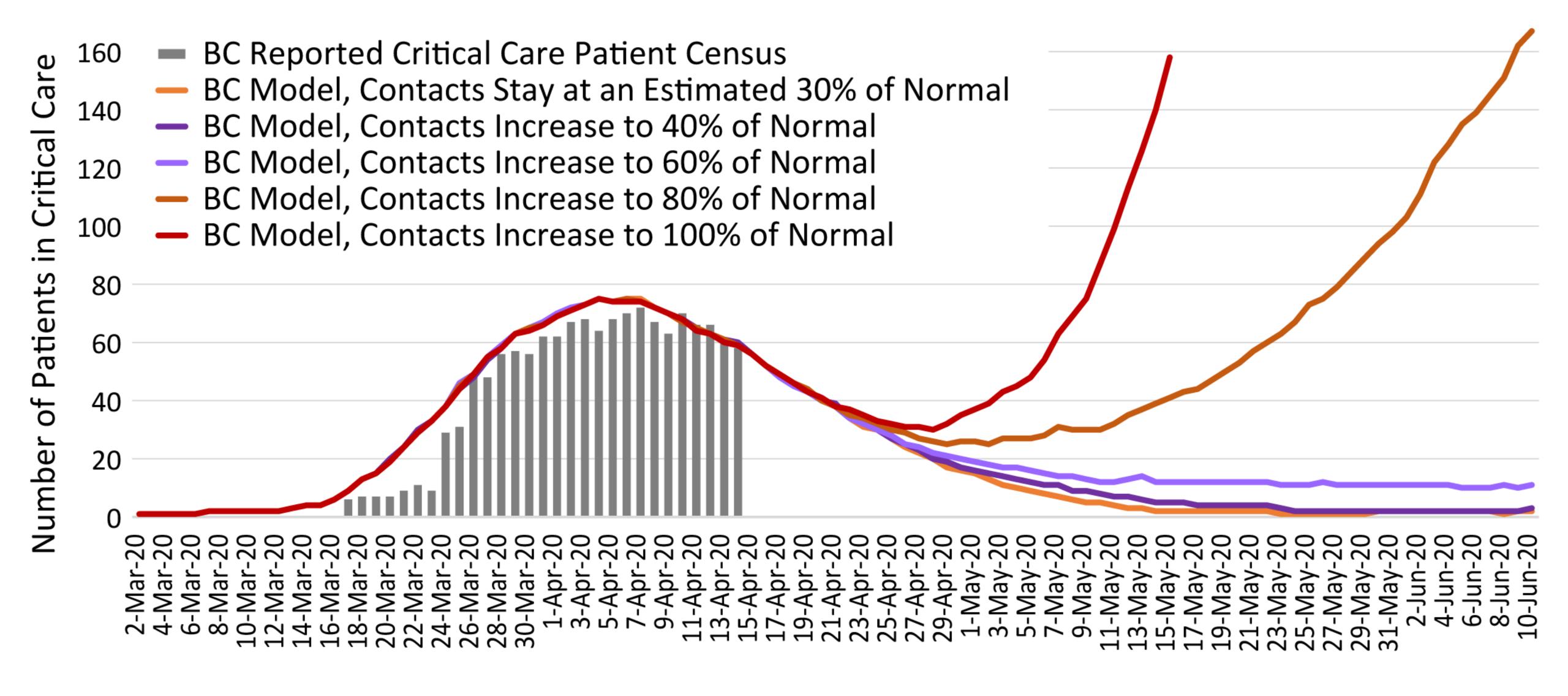


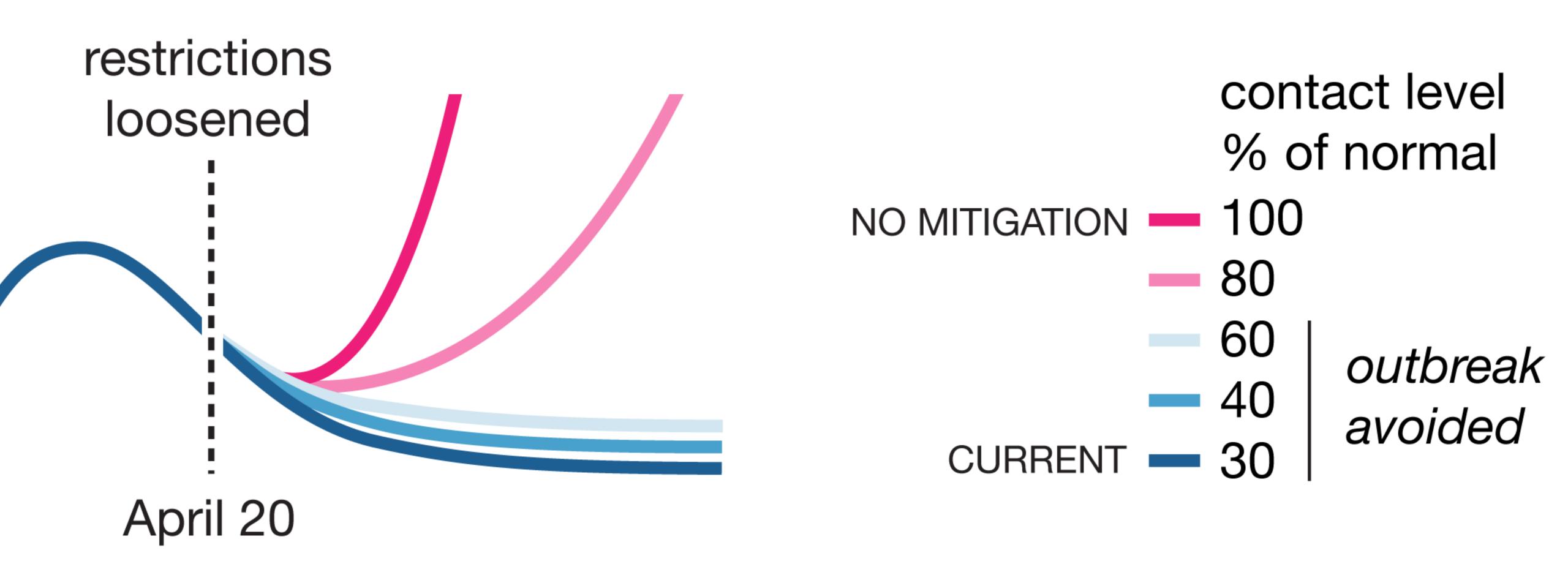


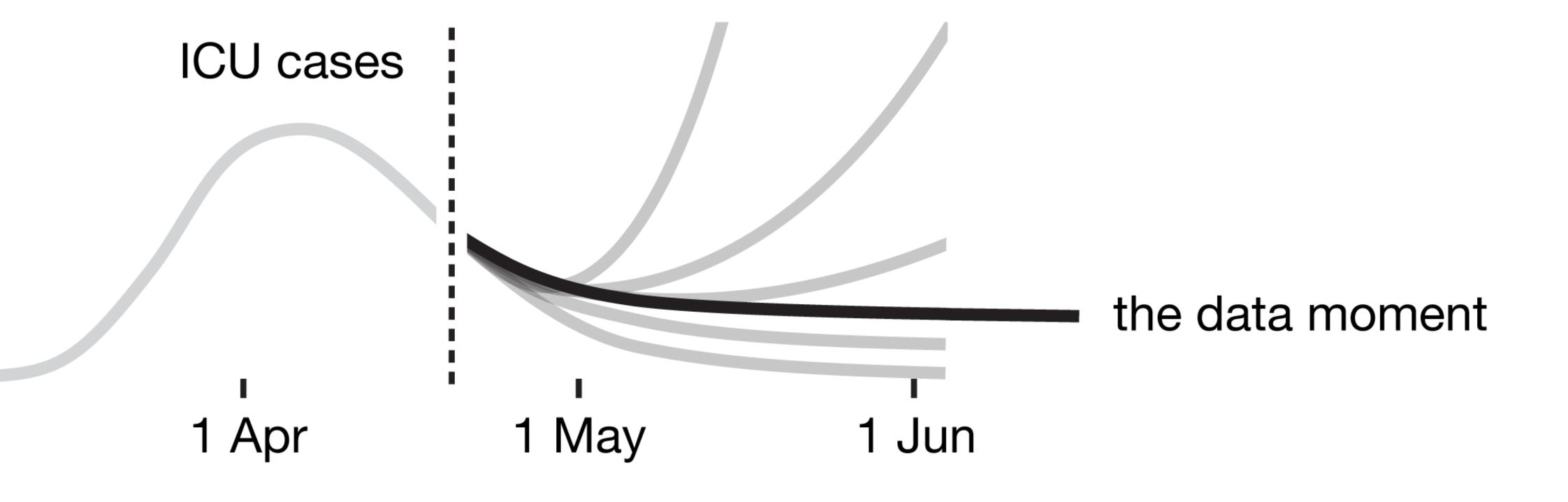
putting it together

theme & crisp answer

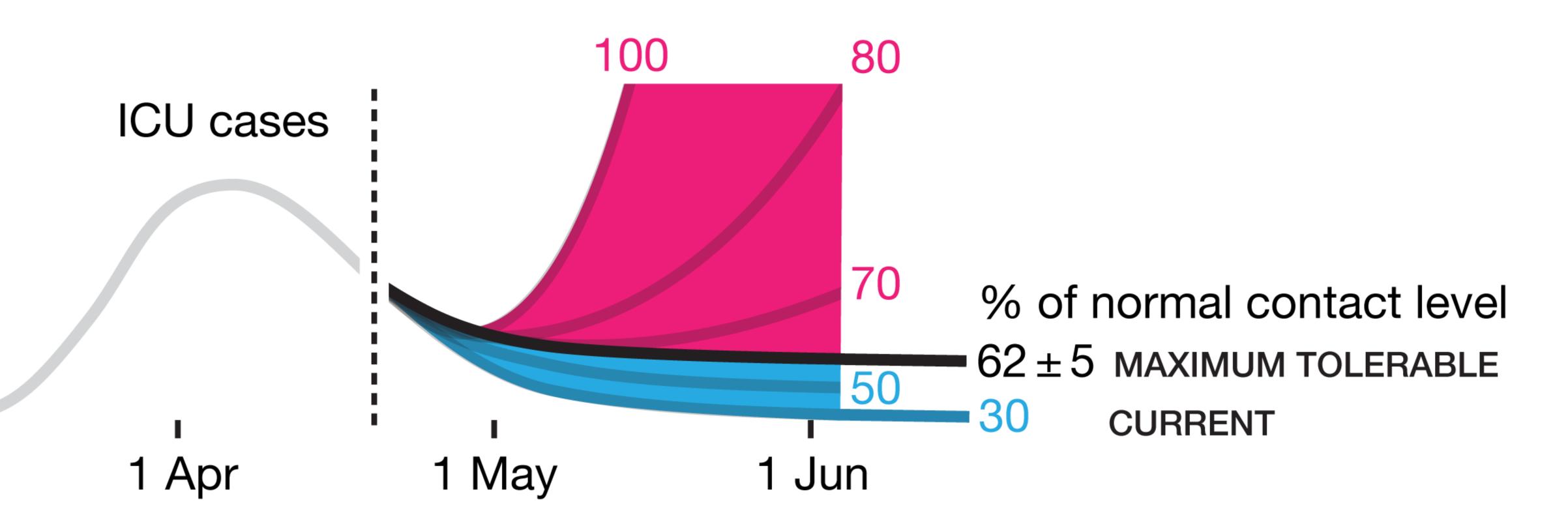
Example: critical care implications of dynamic model in BC's context







Critical care admission rate remains acceptable if restrictions are relaxed up to 60% of normal





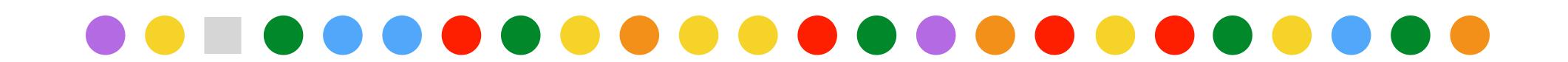
Gestalt

one word to bind them

important: important: important: important! important!

look here







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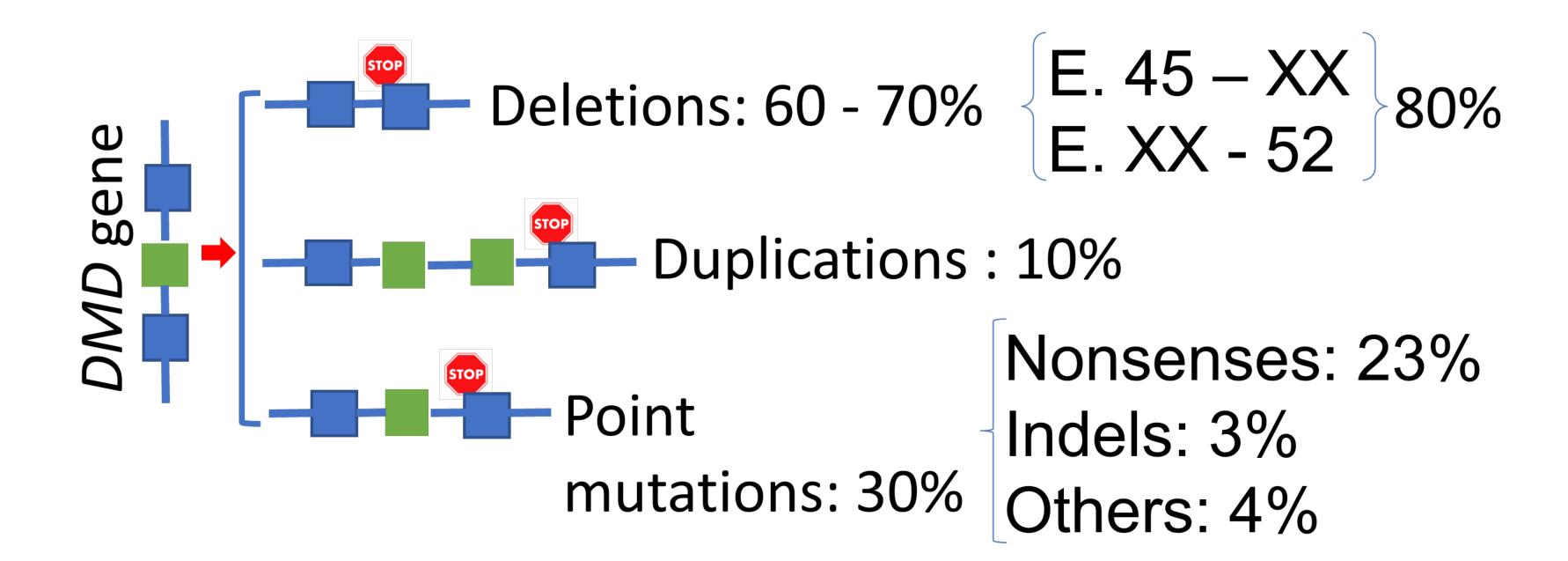
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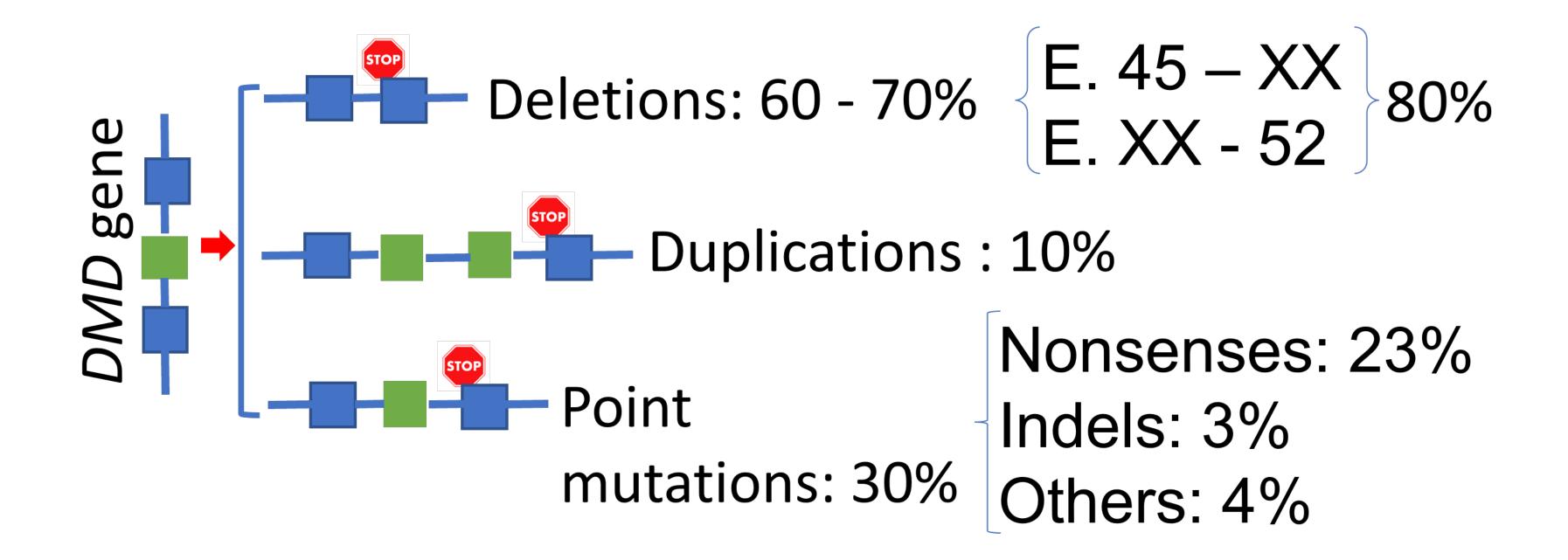
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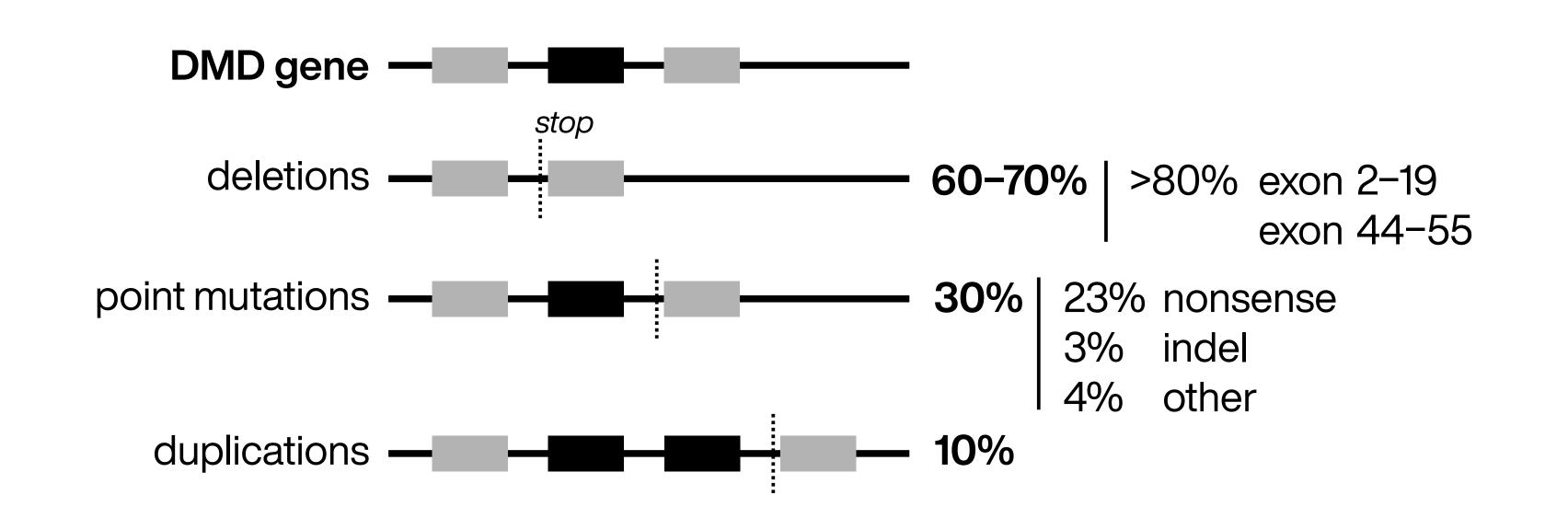
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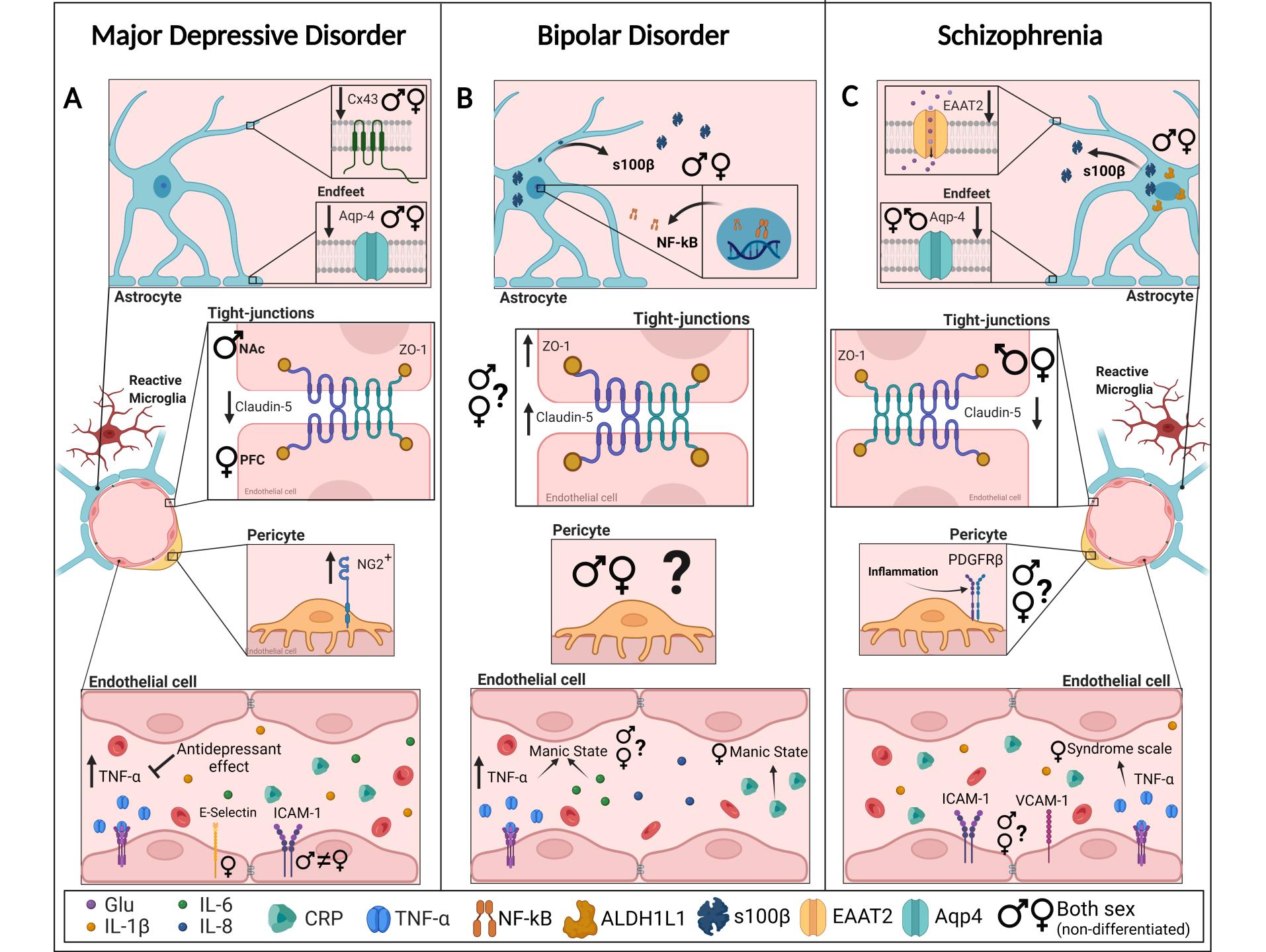
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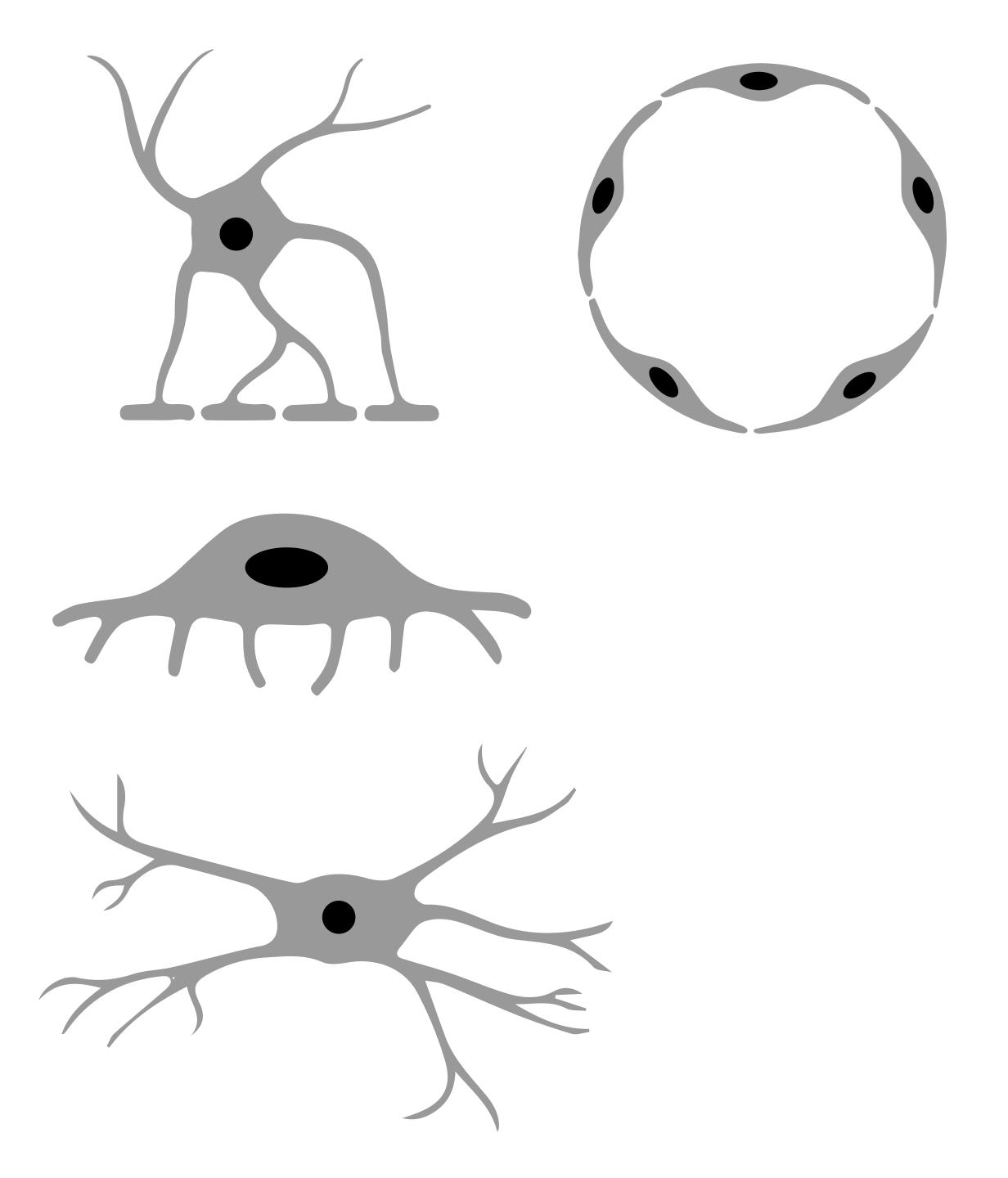




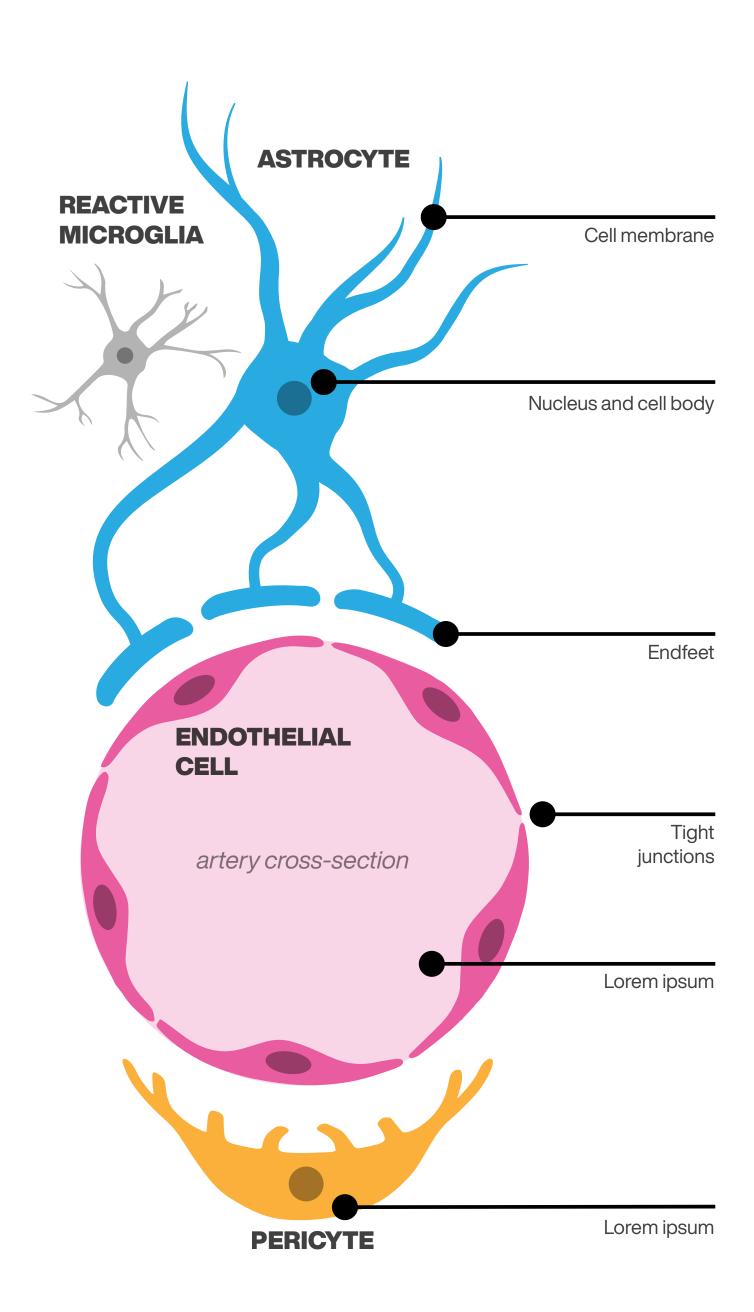


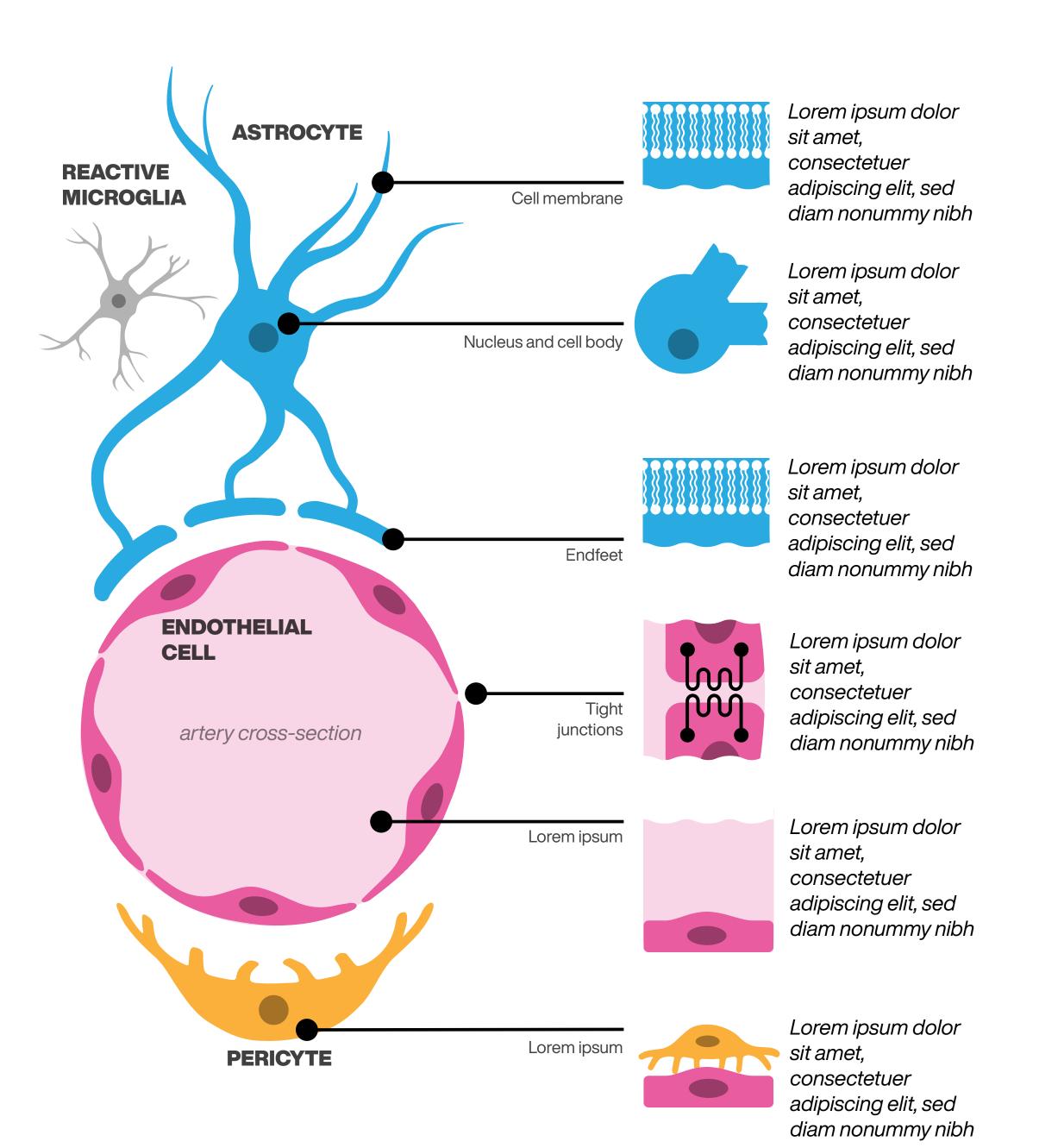
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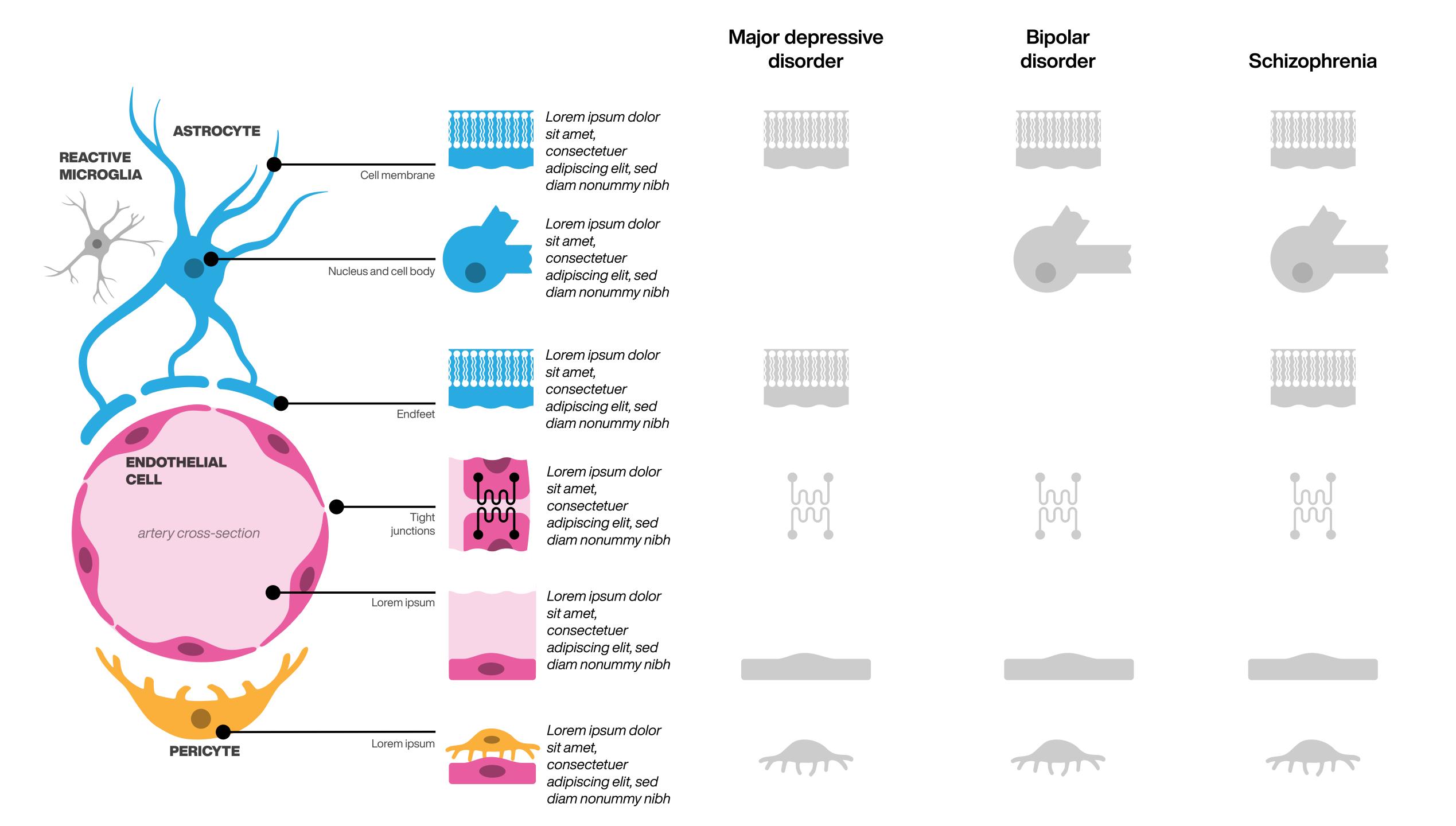


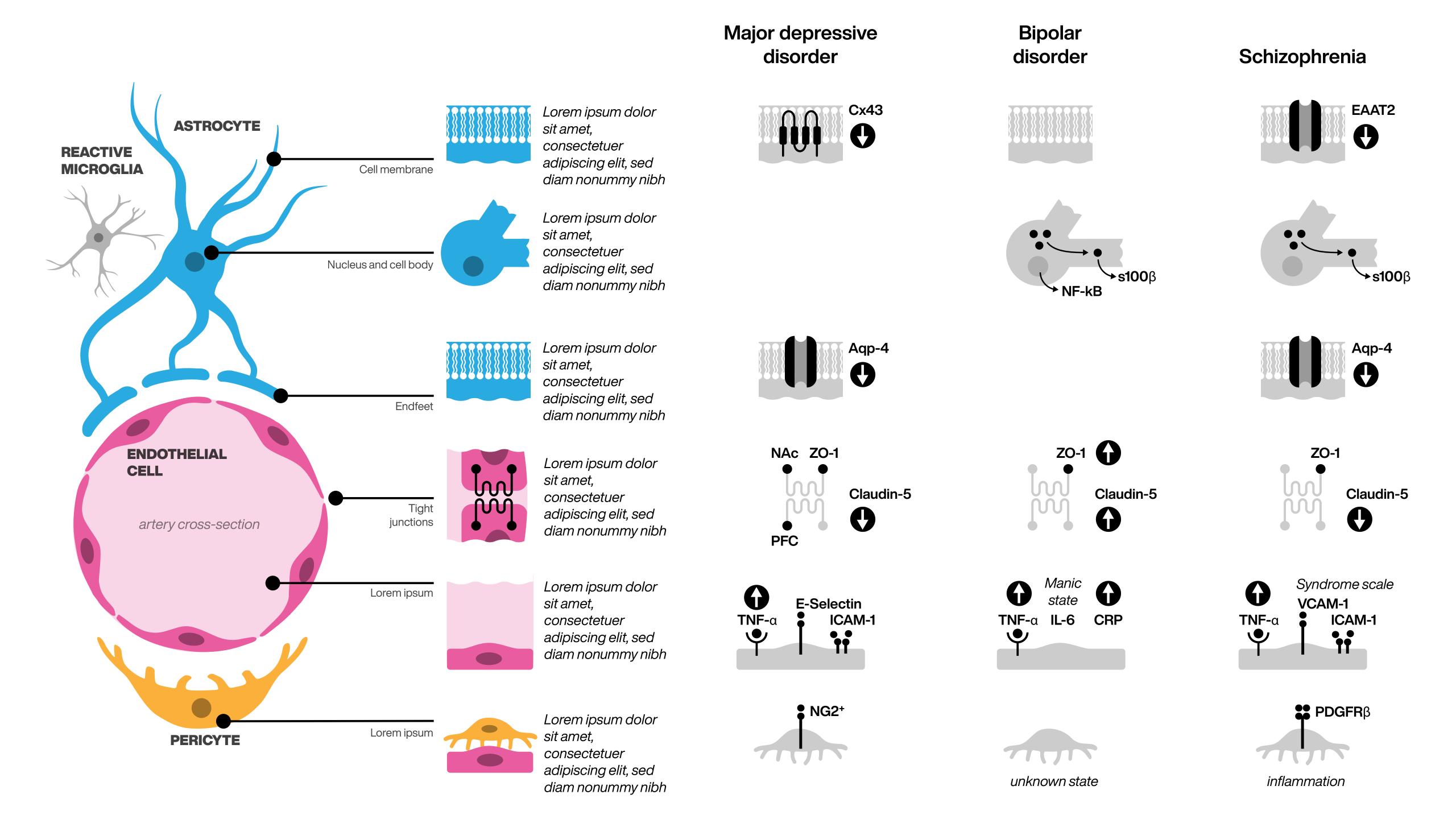


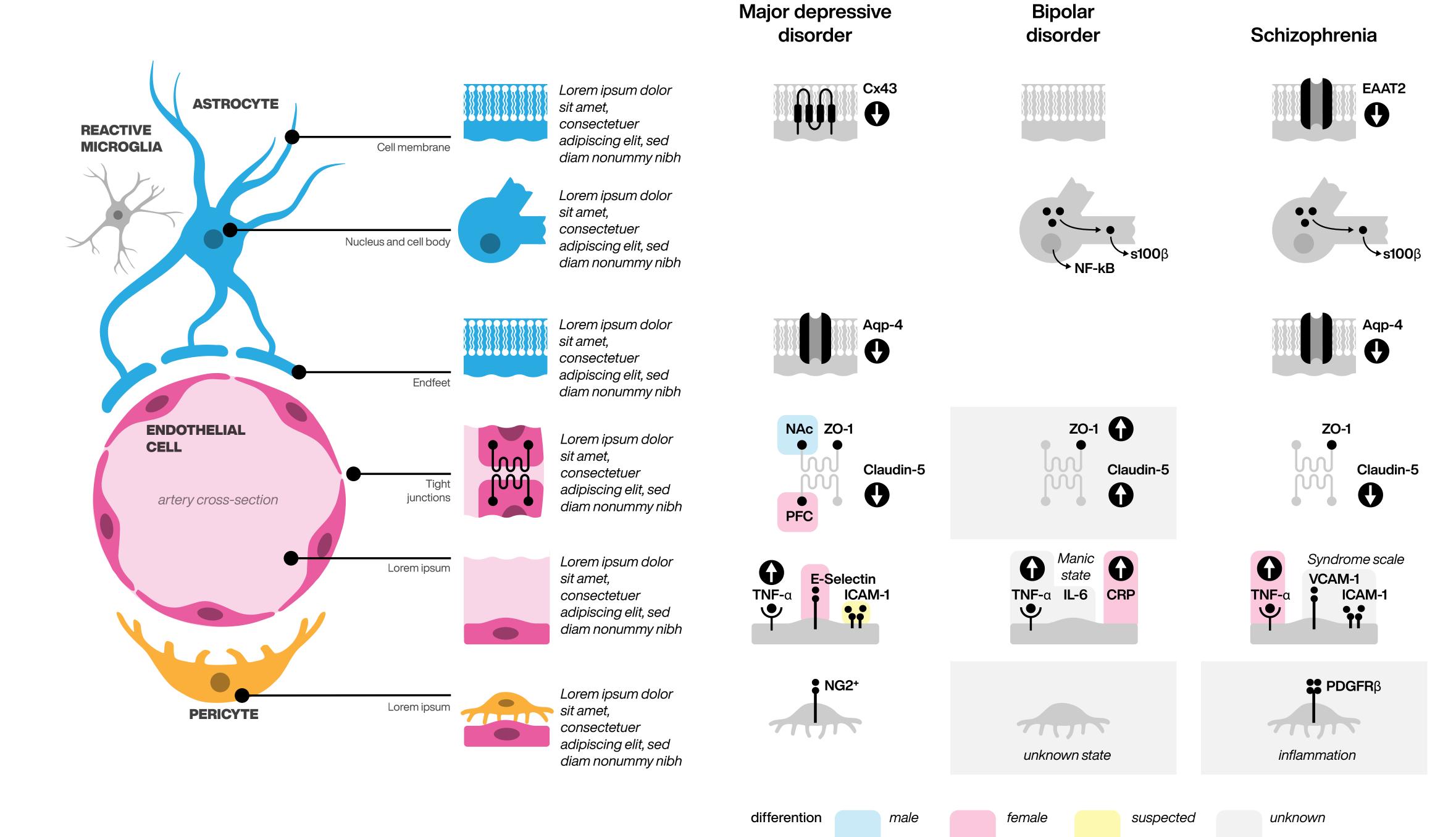


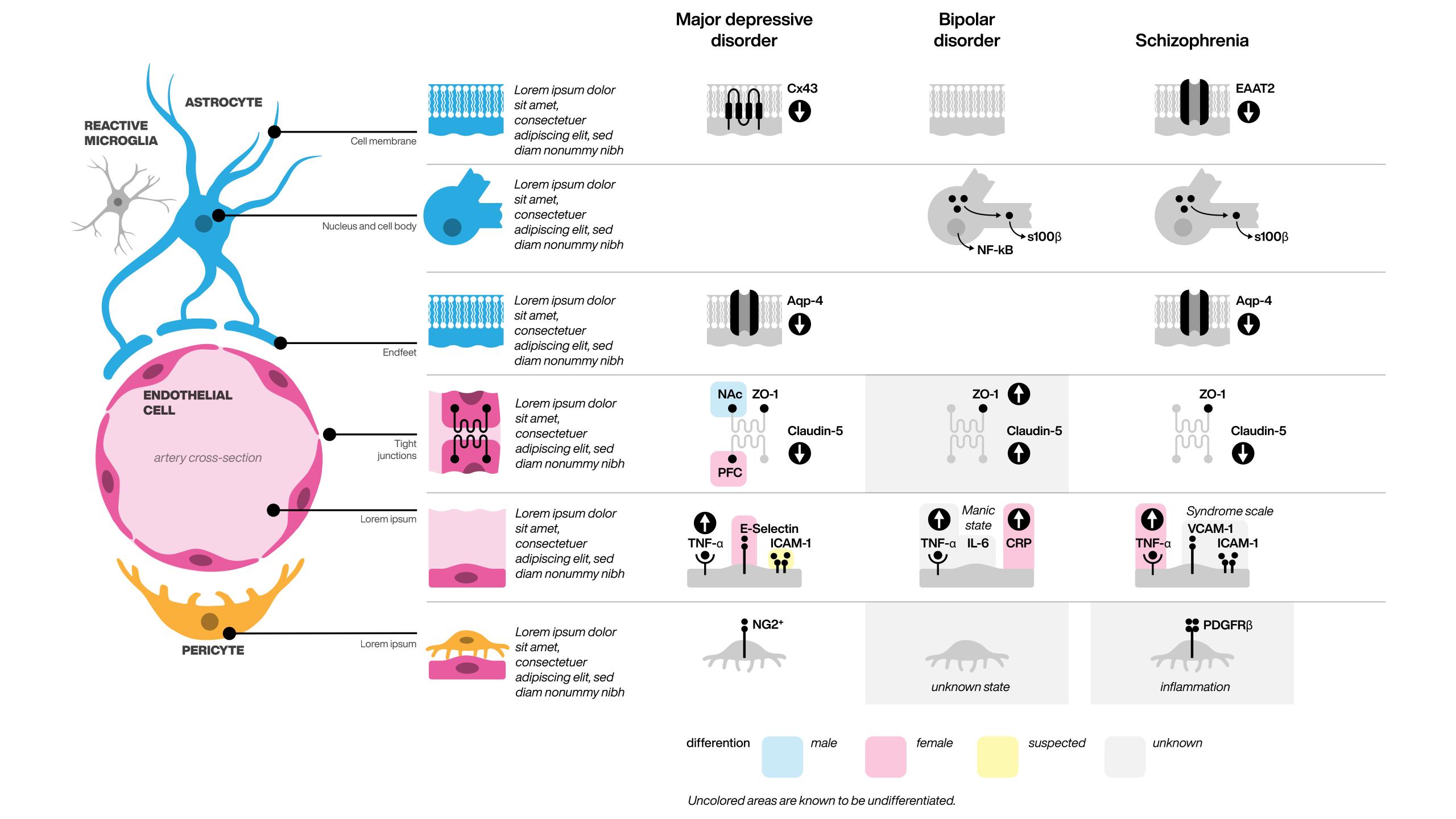








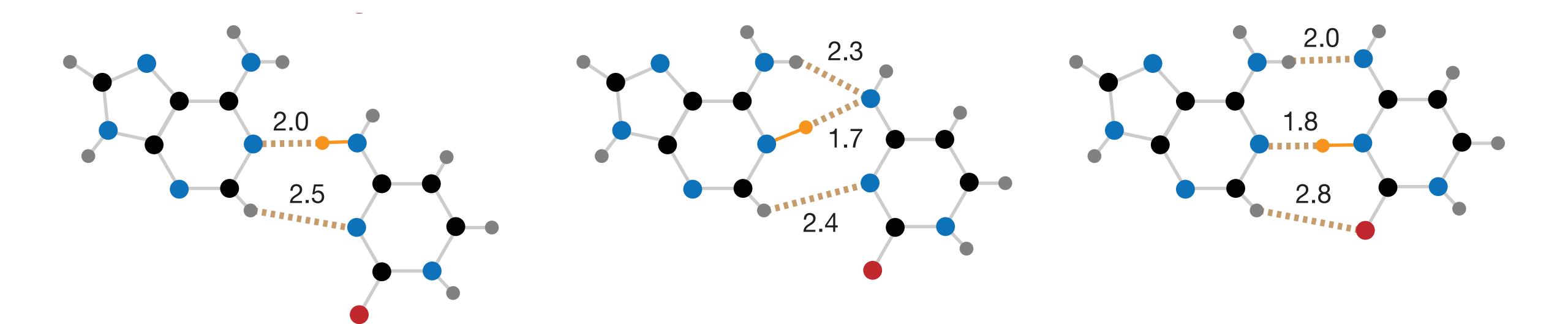


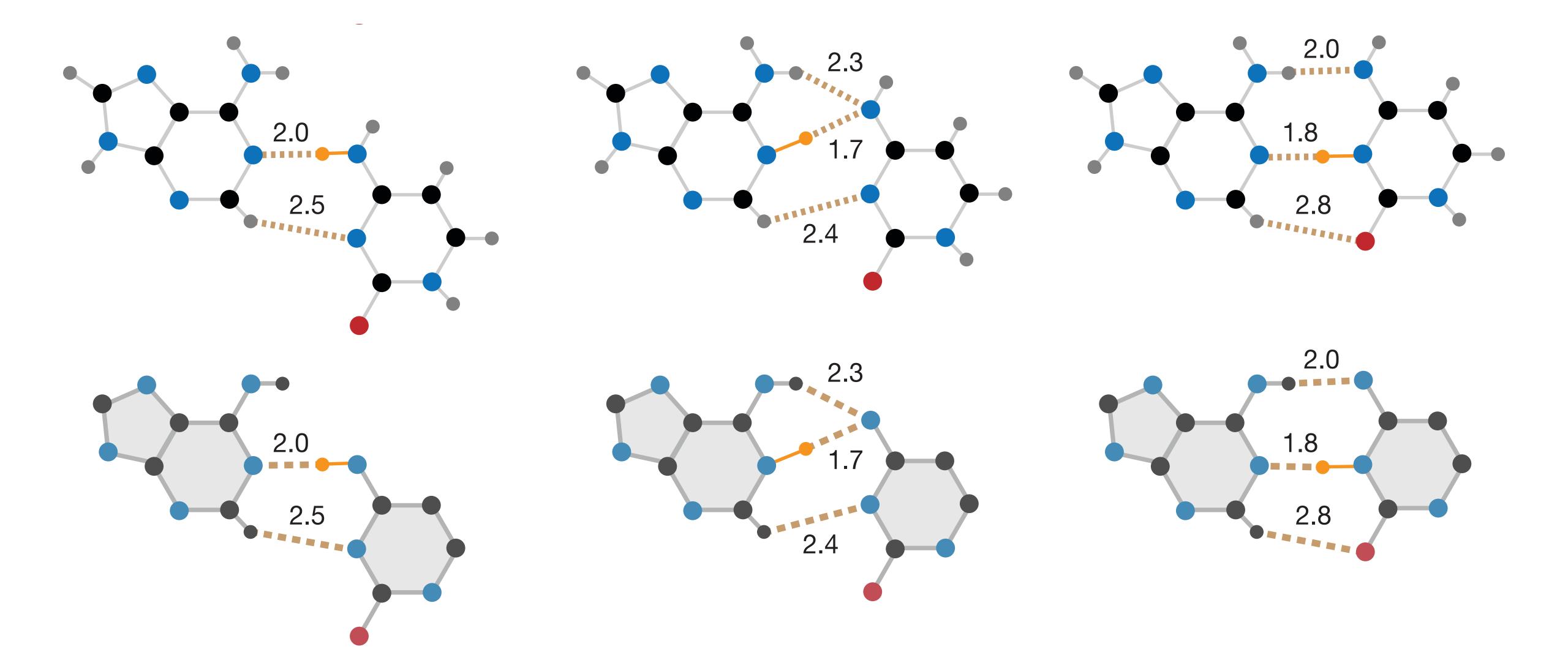




compartments

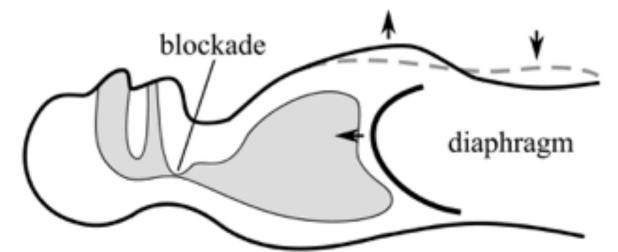
inside or outside?





Introduction

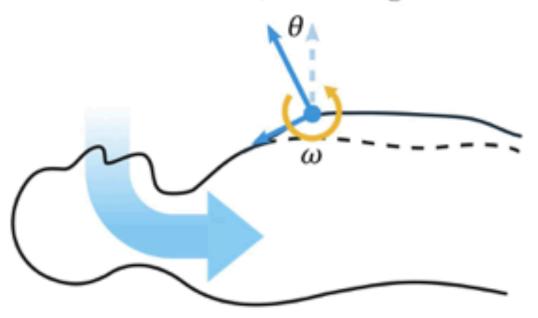
- Sleep apnea is now a widespread sleep disorder, and 75–80% of cases are still undiagnosed [1].
- Standard diagnostic methods have a high technology related cost and have a limited availability.
- Using inertial measurement units (IMU) can reduce the costs of, and improve sleep monitoring systems.



The obstruction of the airways is the cause of obstructive sleep apnea syndrome (OSAS), the most common sleep apnea syndrome.

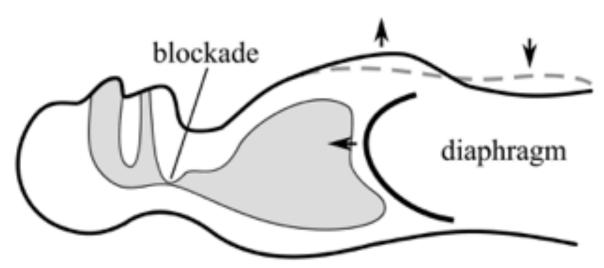
Monitoring RE with IMU

- Breathing expands the chest in a dome-like shape.
- The resulting angular motion of the chest walls can be correlated to the patient's respiratory effort (RE).
- An IMU can be placed on the chest to measure this angle.
- A wireless microcontroller (MCU) can process and send the data to a central device, increasing comfort.



Introduction

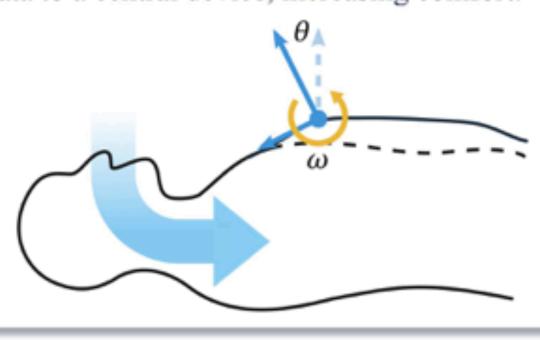
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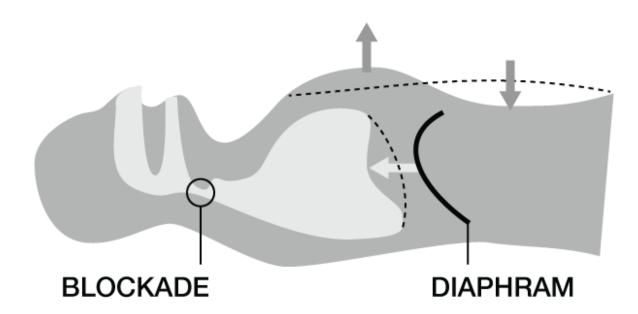
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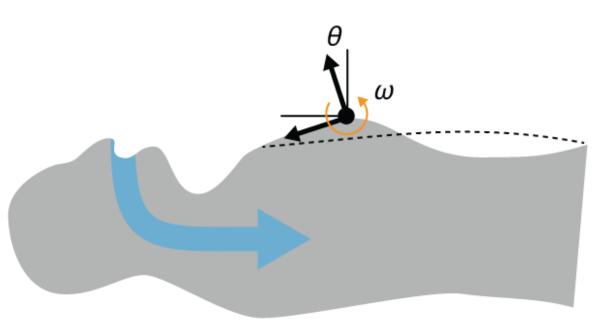


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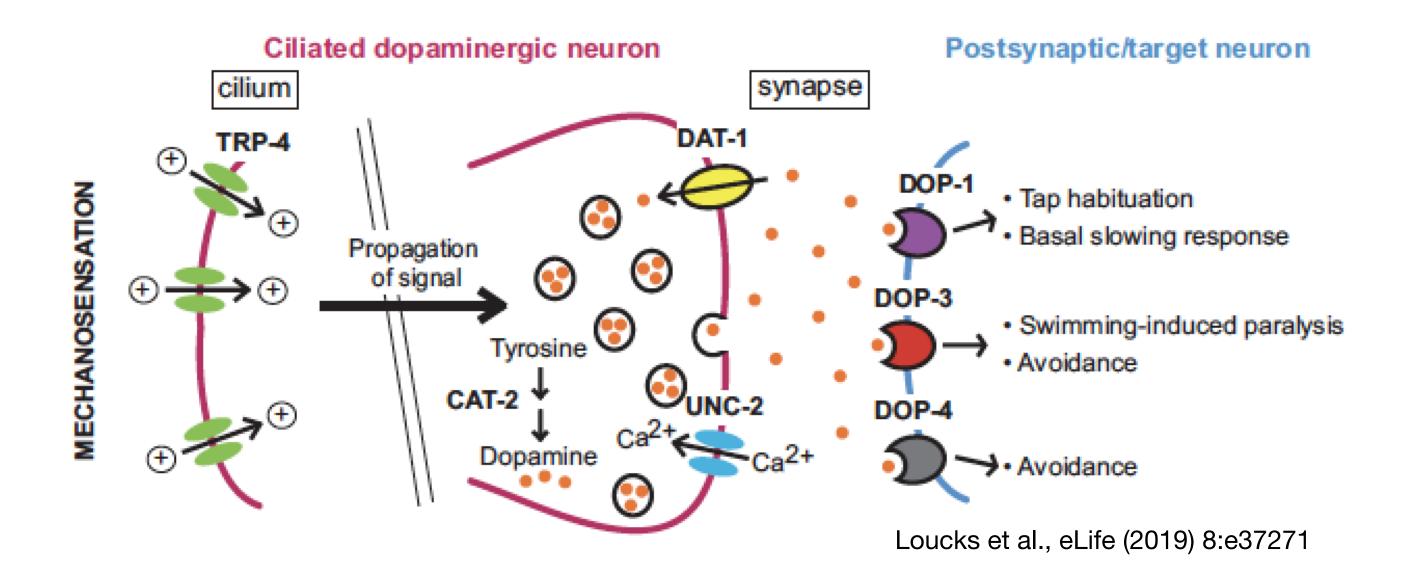
MONITORING RE WITH IMU

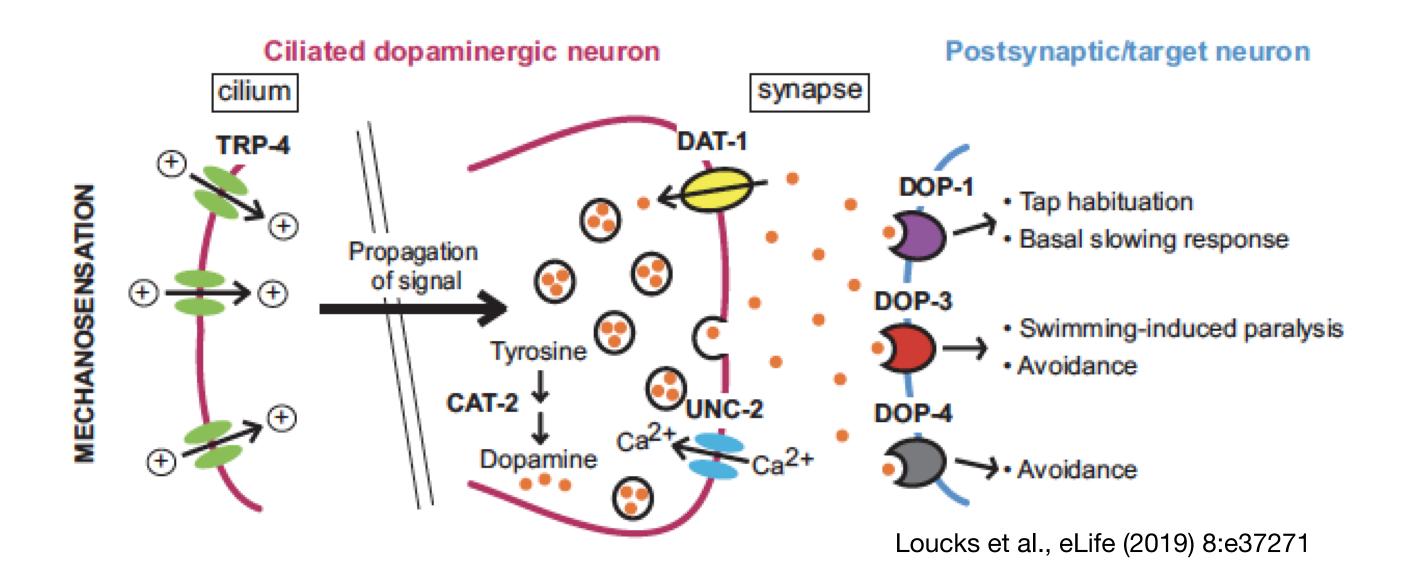
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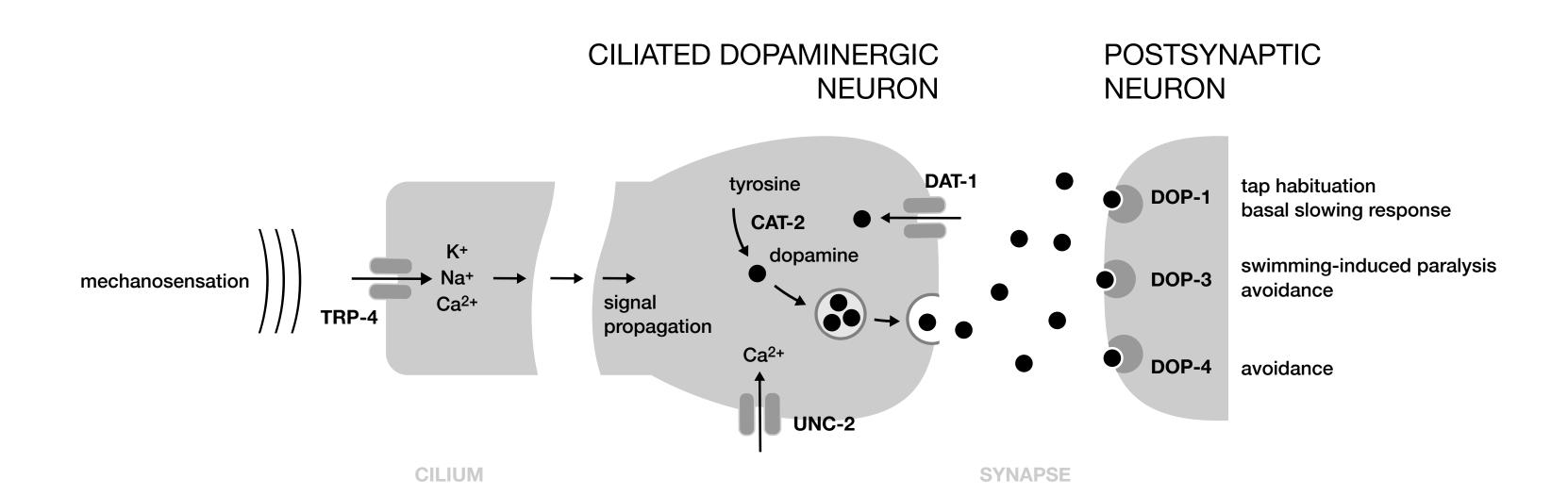
Fusing the data from the acceleration, rotation, and heading sensors makes RE monitoring more robust. We adapted the extended Kalman filter (EKF) in [2] from inertial navigation to RE monitoring, as shown in the block diagram on the right.

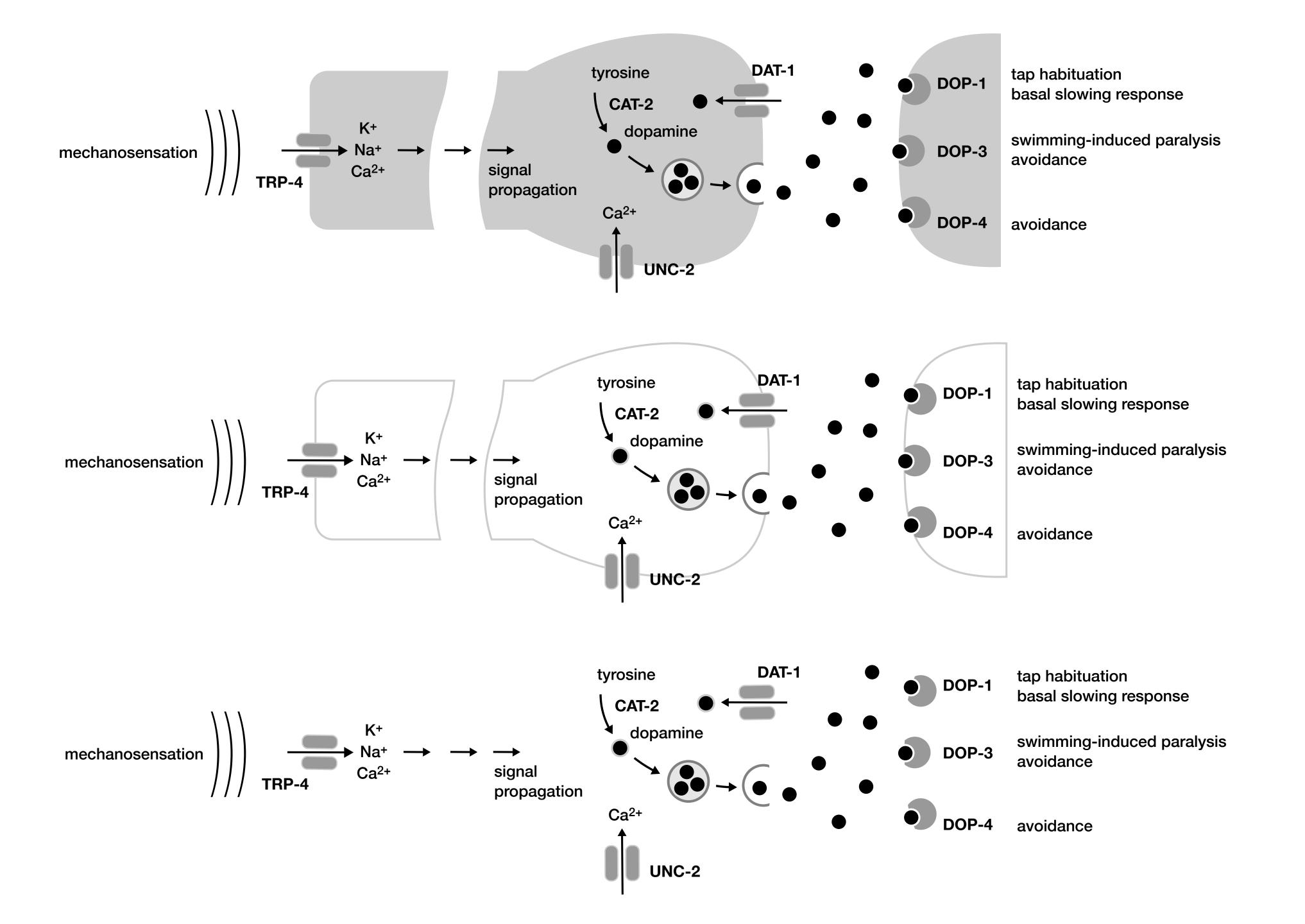


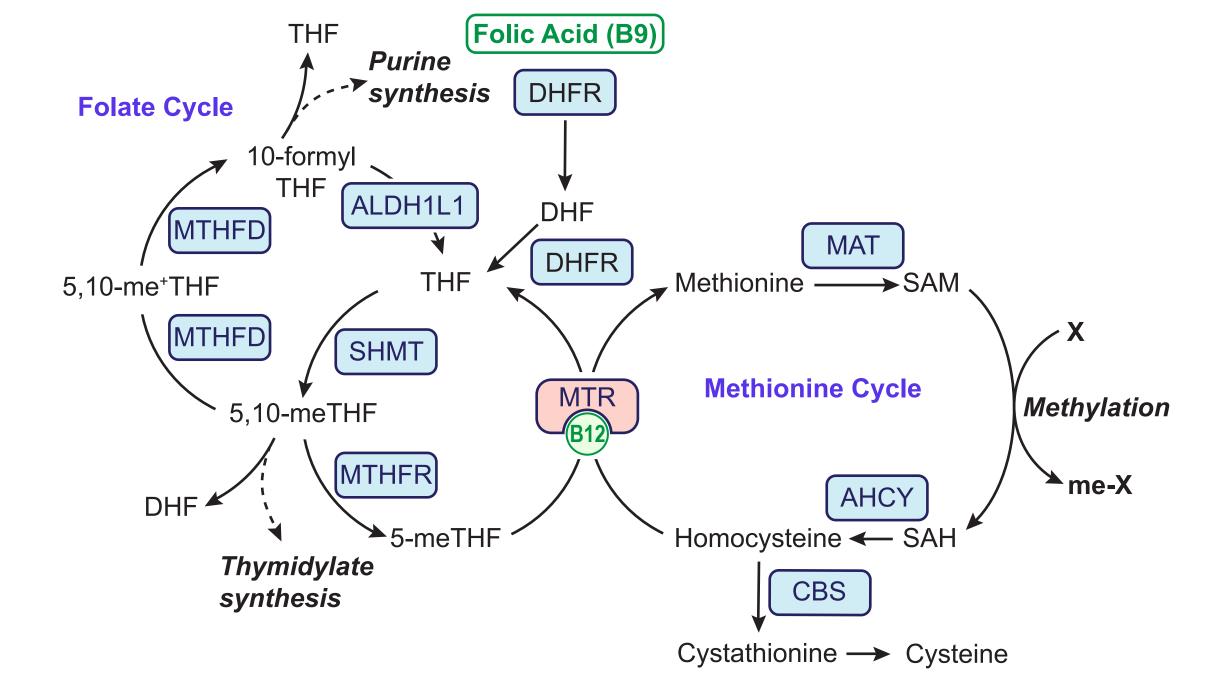
An IMU on the chest to measure the angle of the chest, θ , while breathing. A wireless microcontroller (MCU) can process and send the data to a central device, increasing comfort.

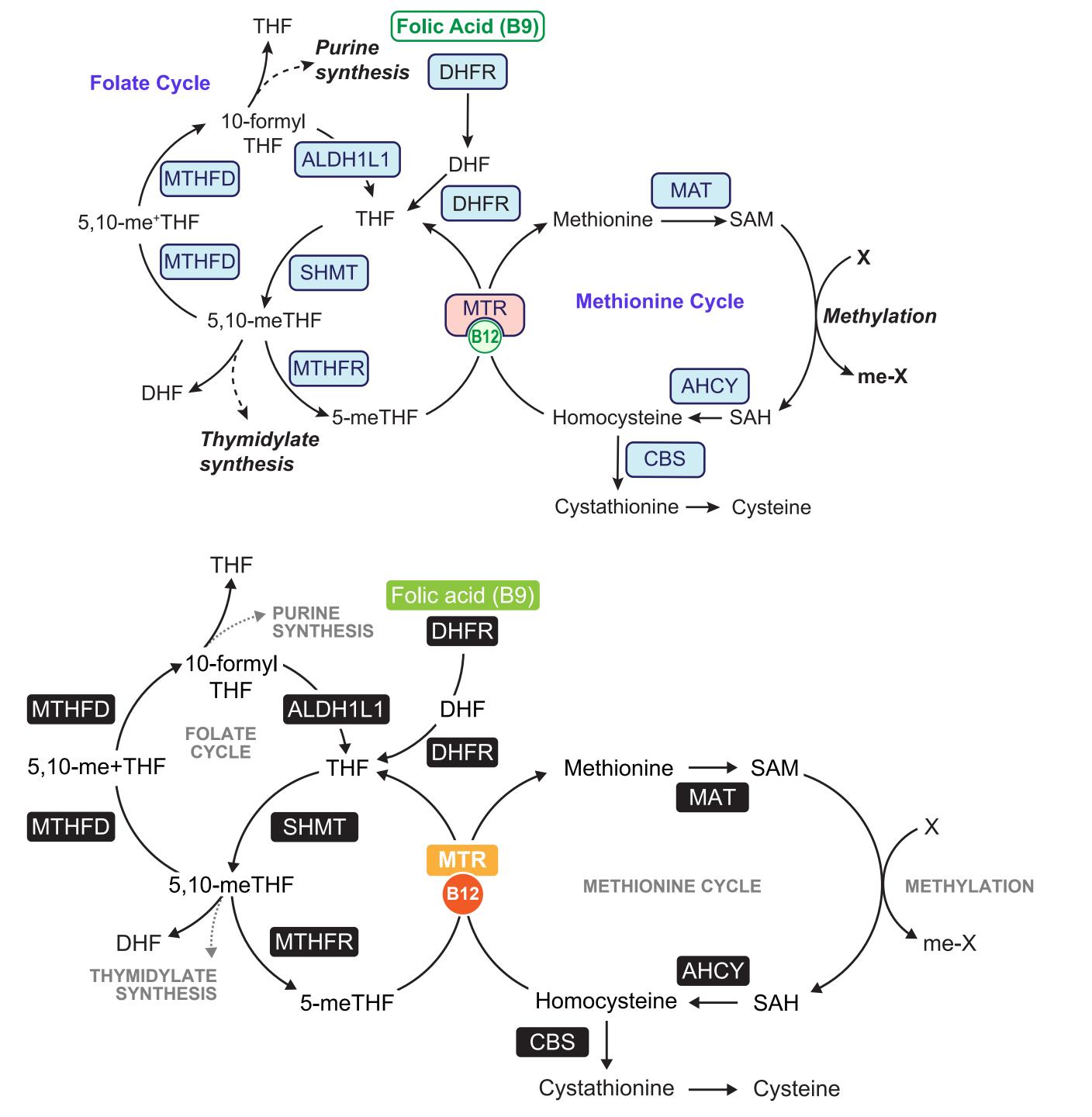


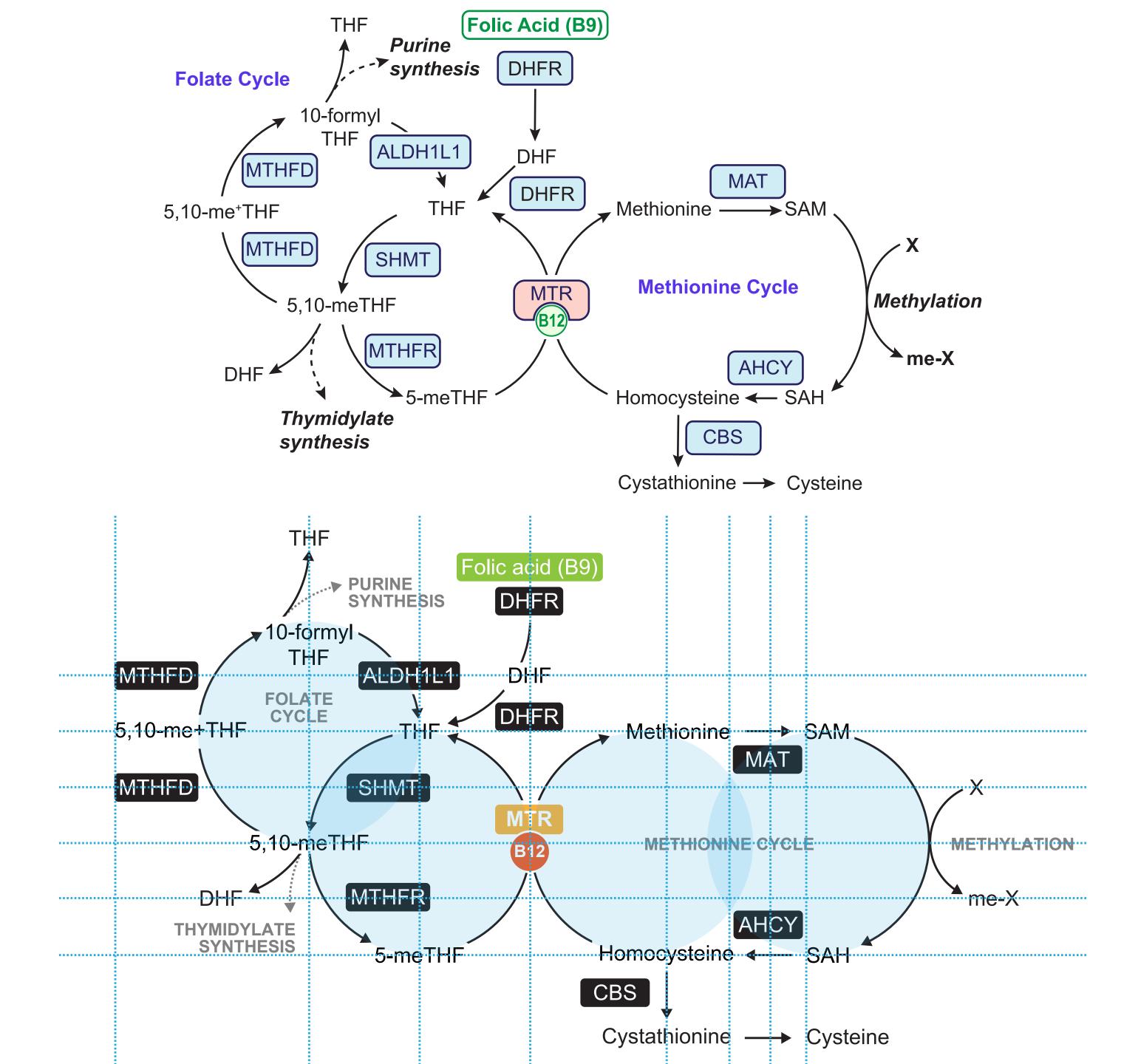


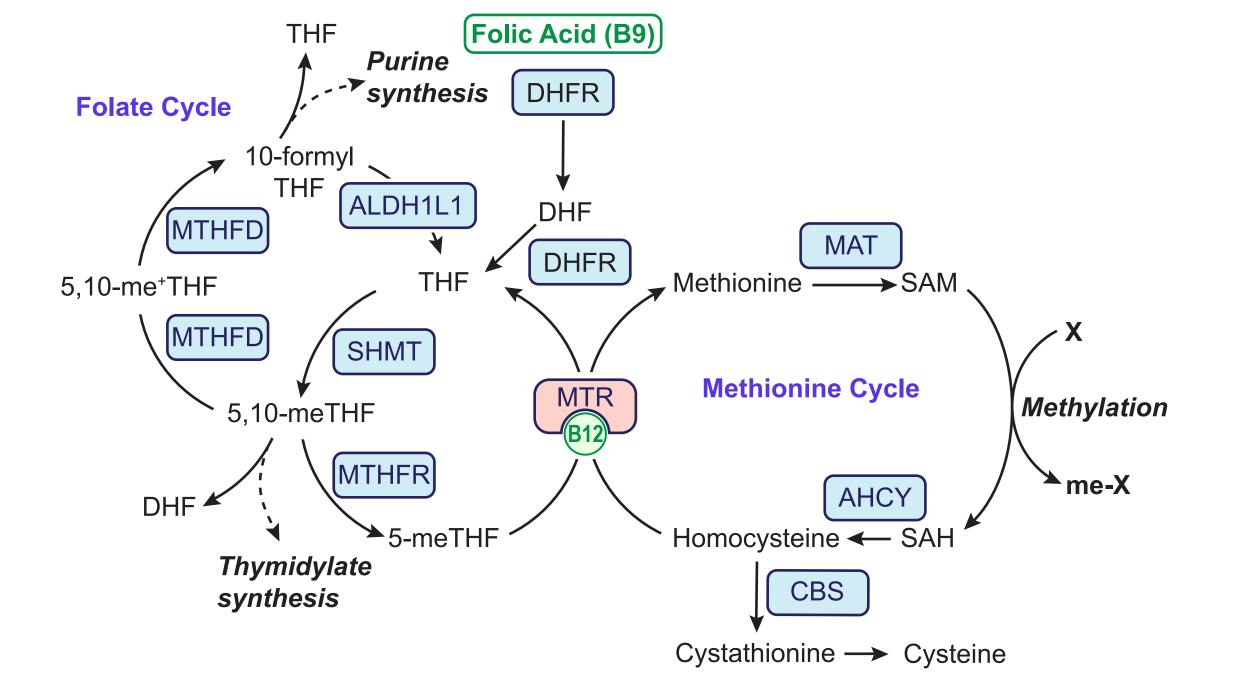


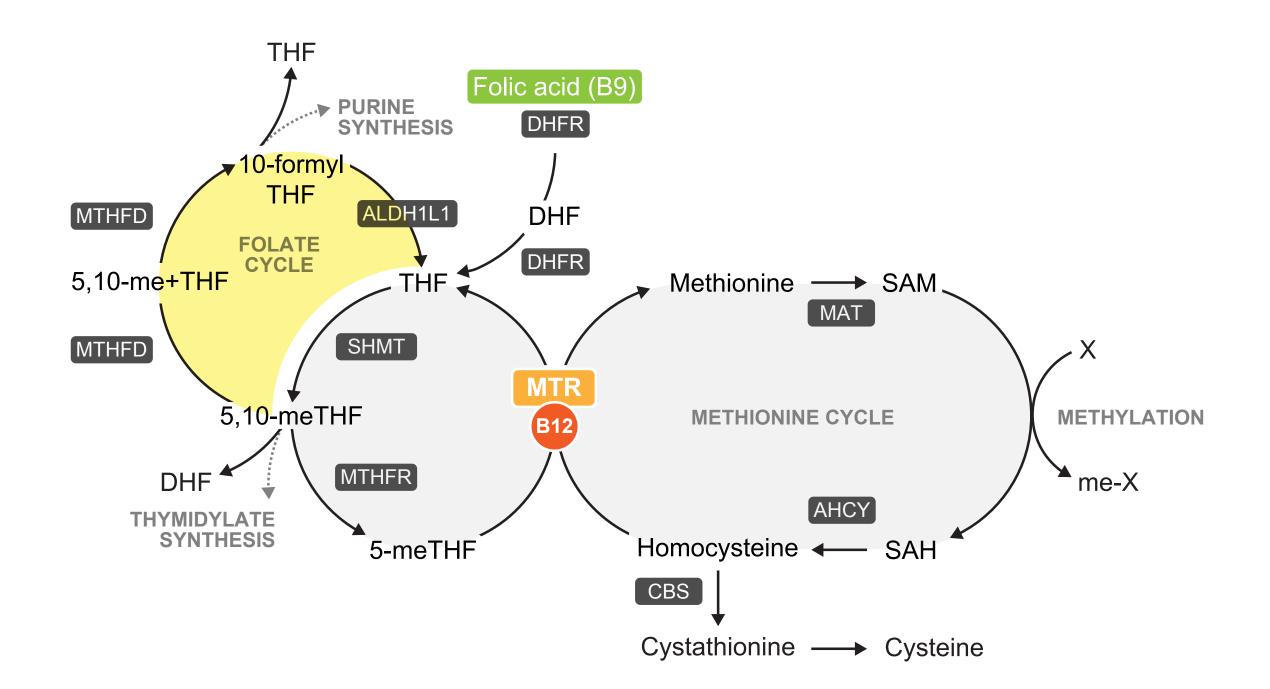


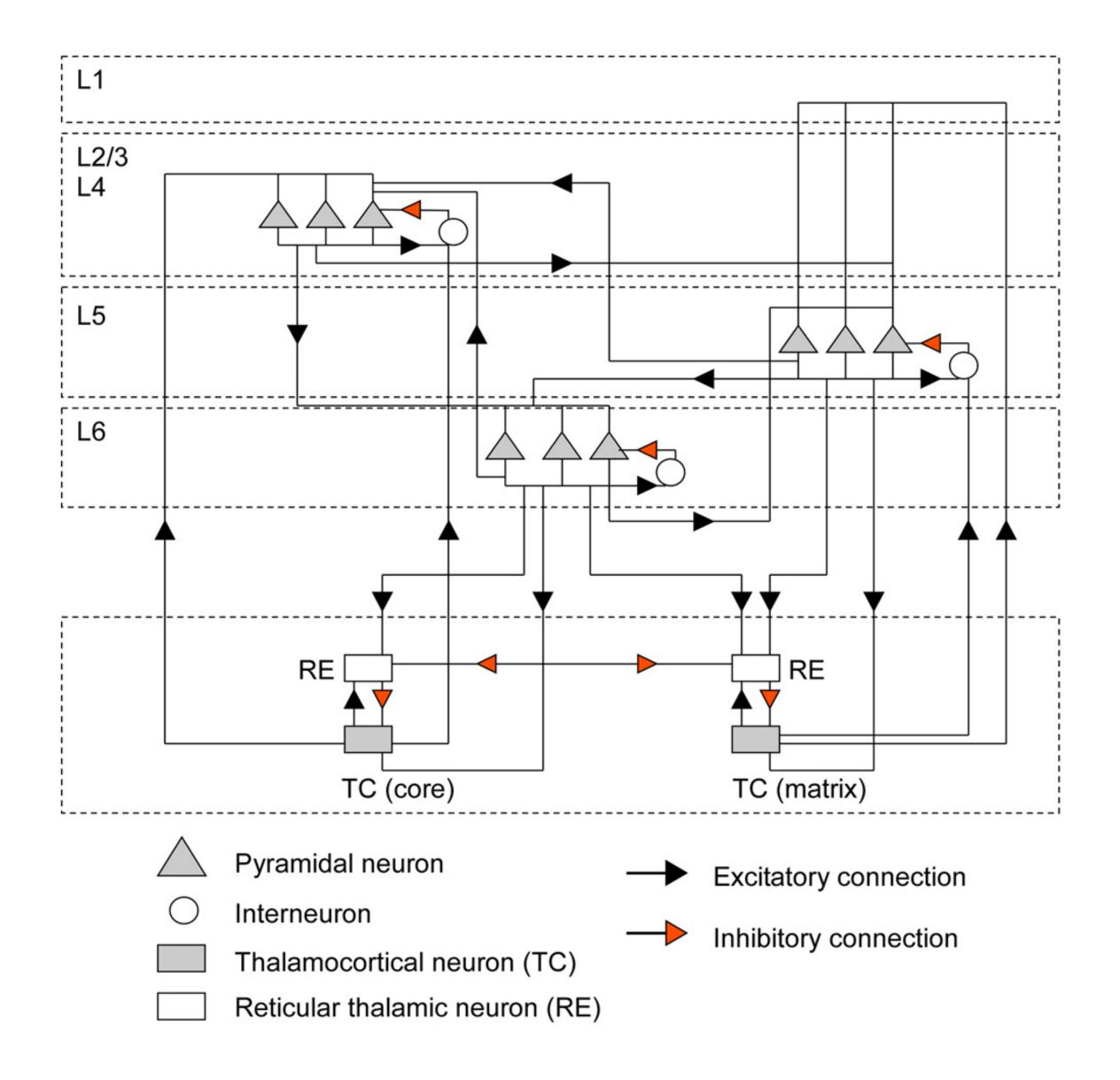


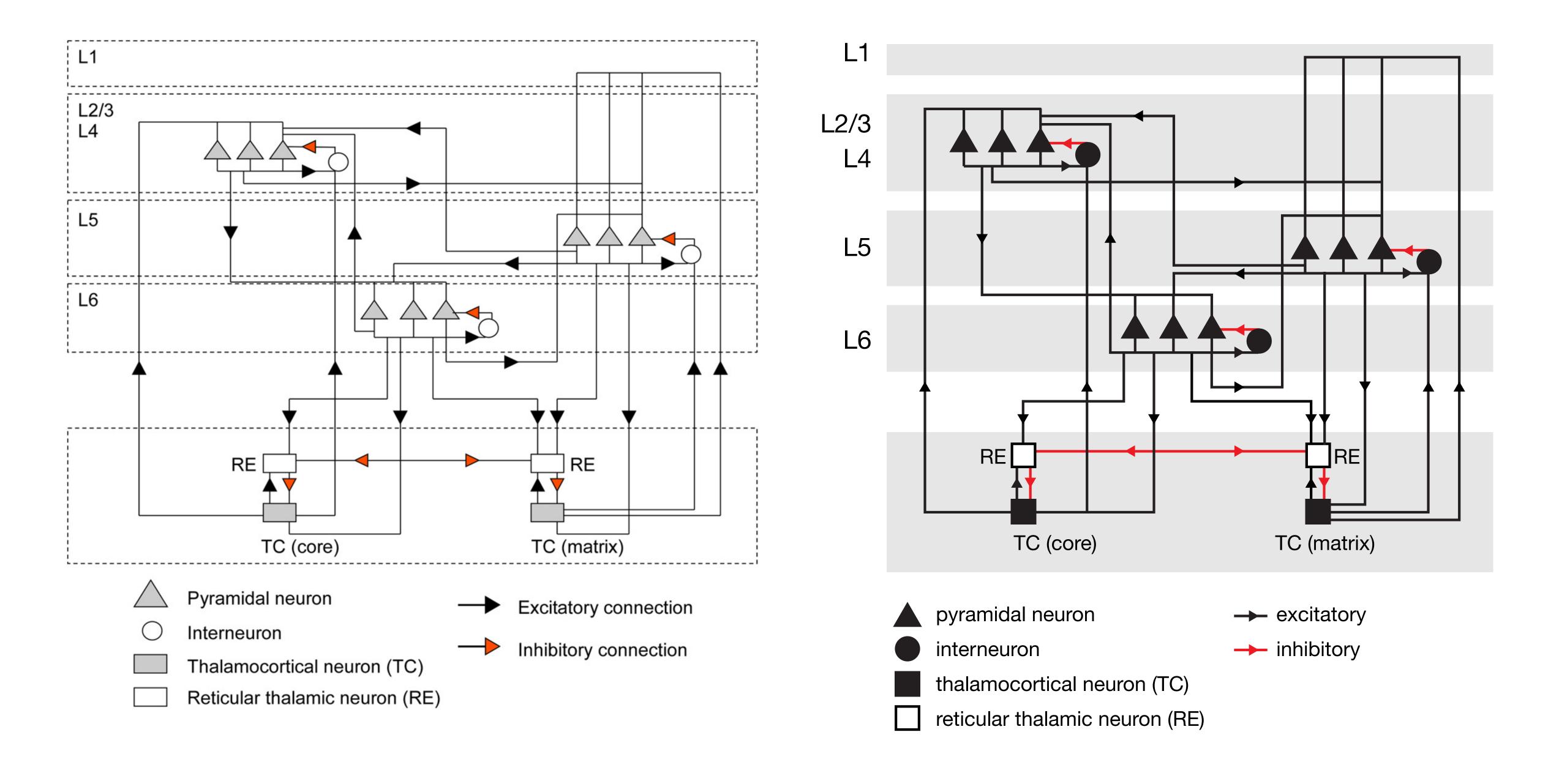








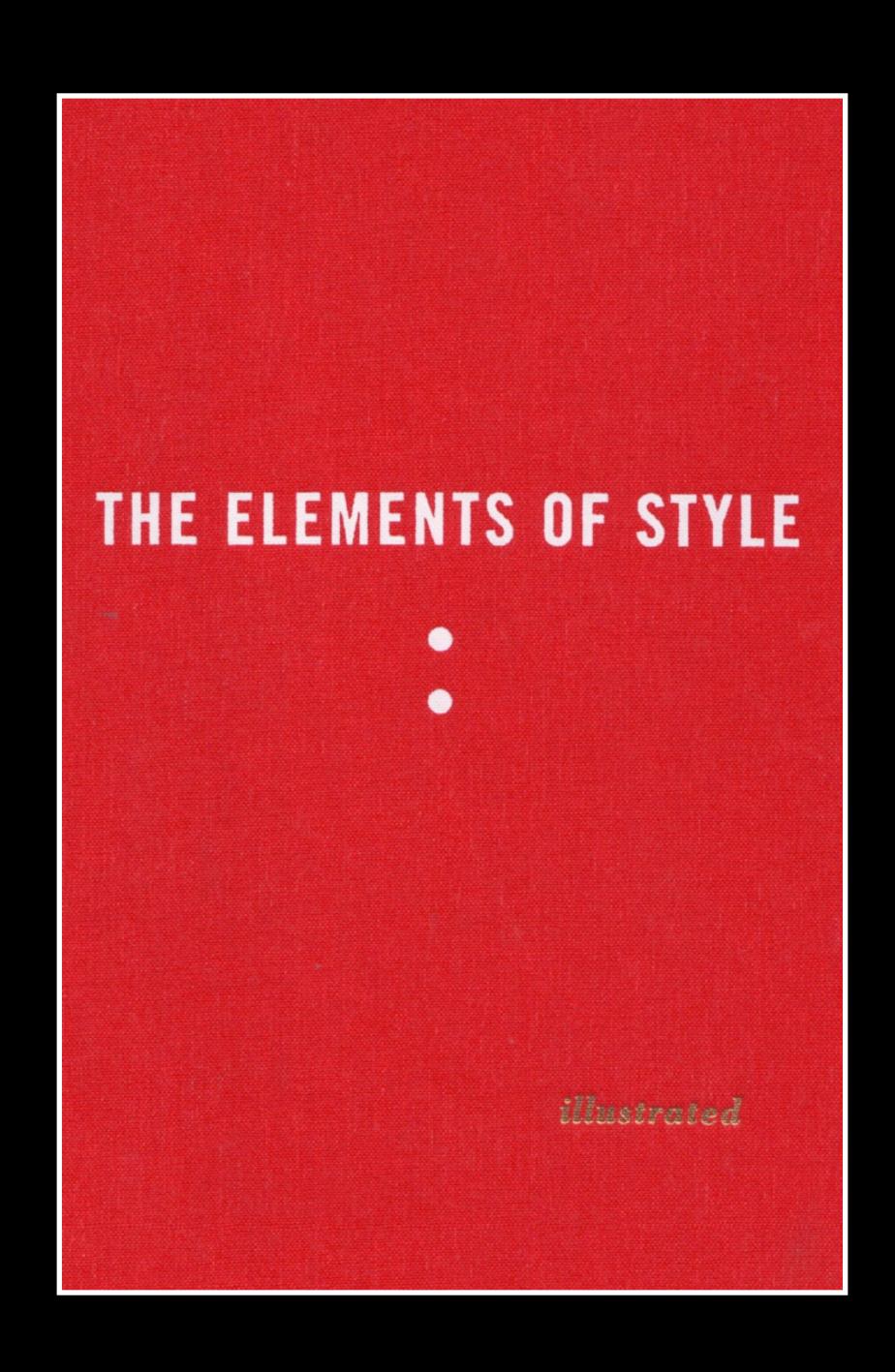




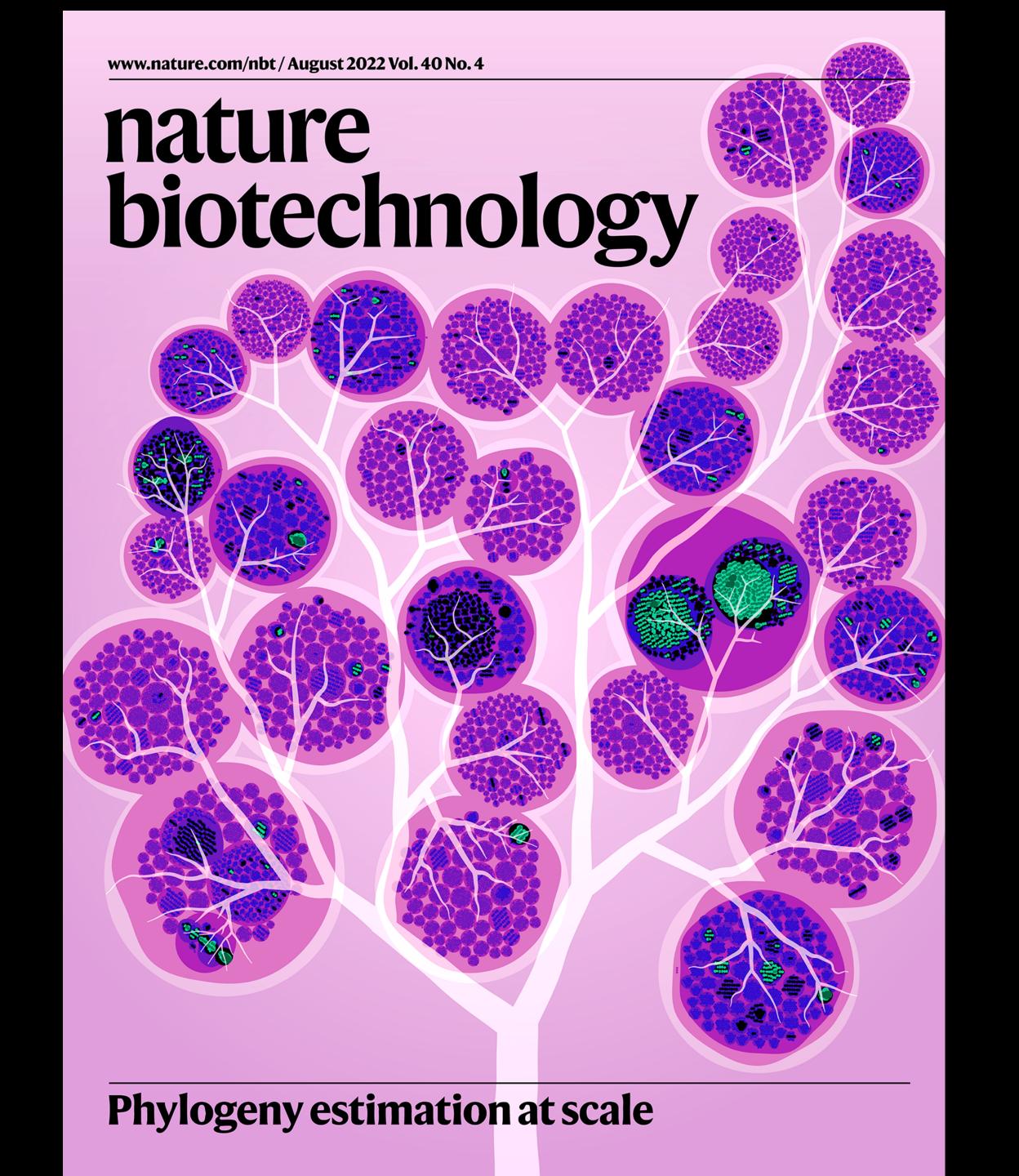


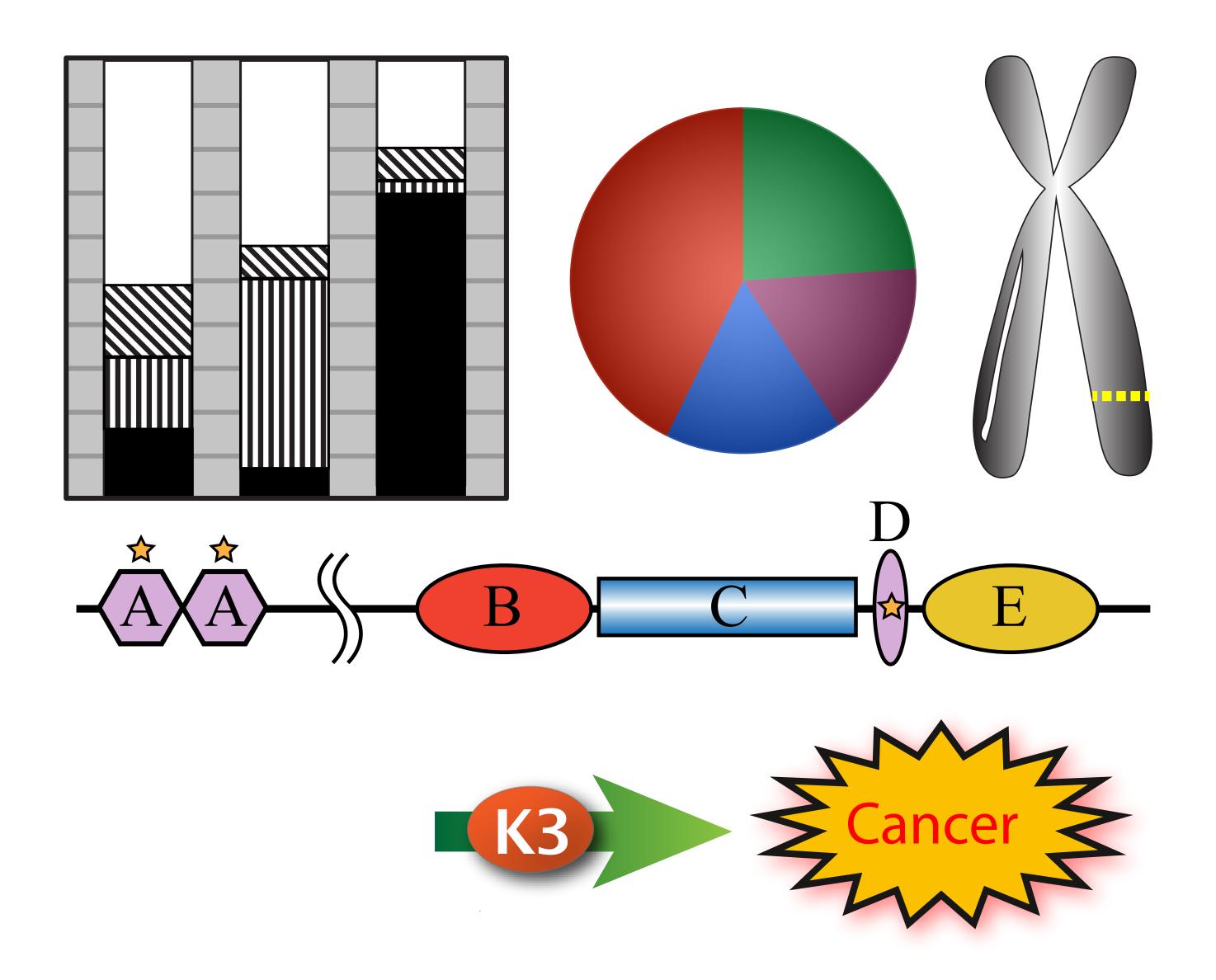
pretty

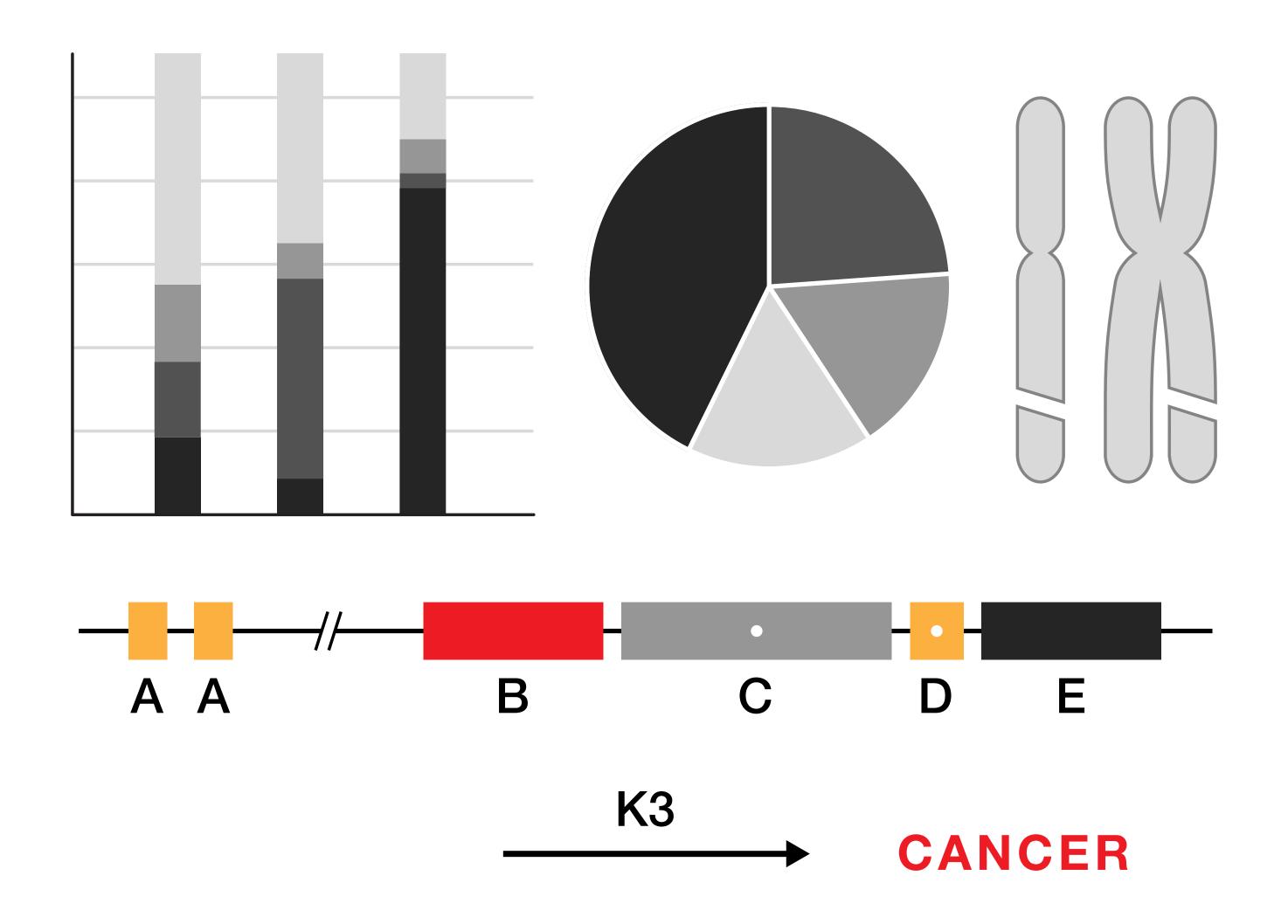
explain inspire provide perspective

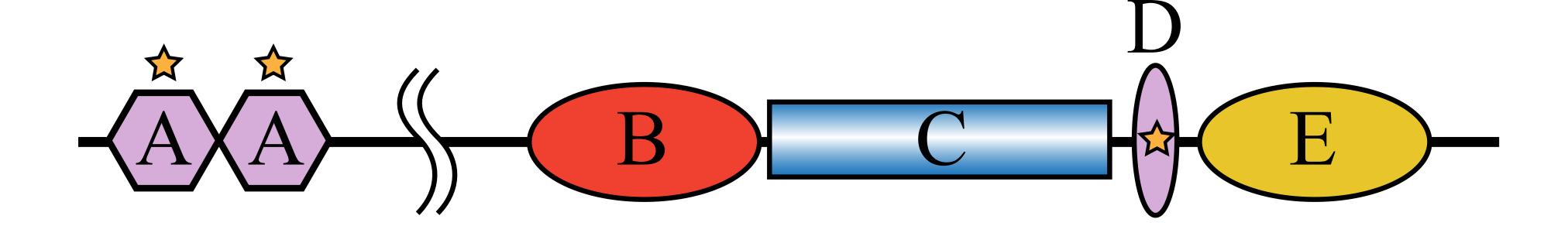


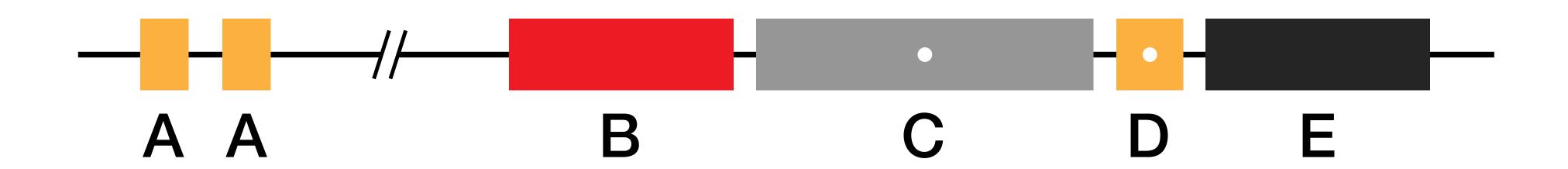
"Rich, ornate prose is hard to digest, generally unwholesome and sometimes nauseating."







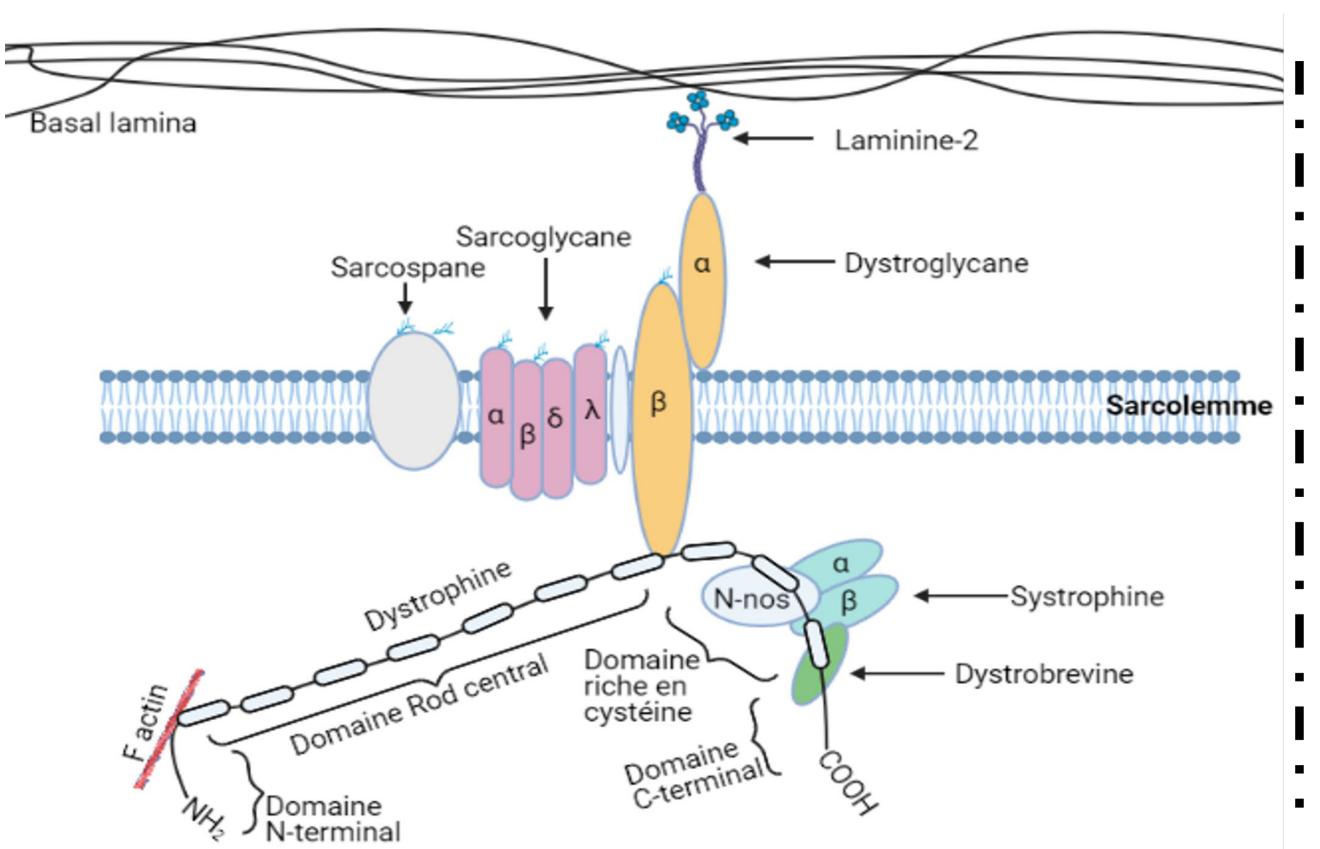


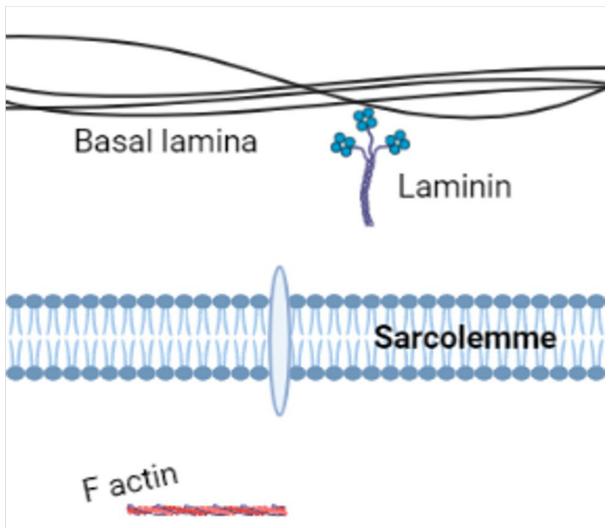


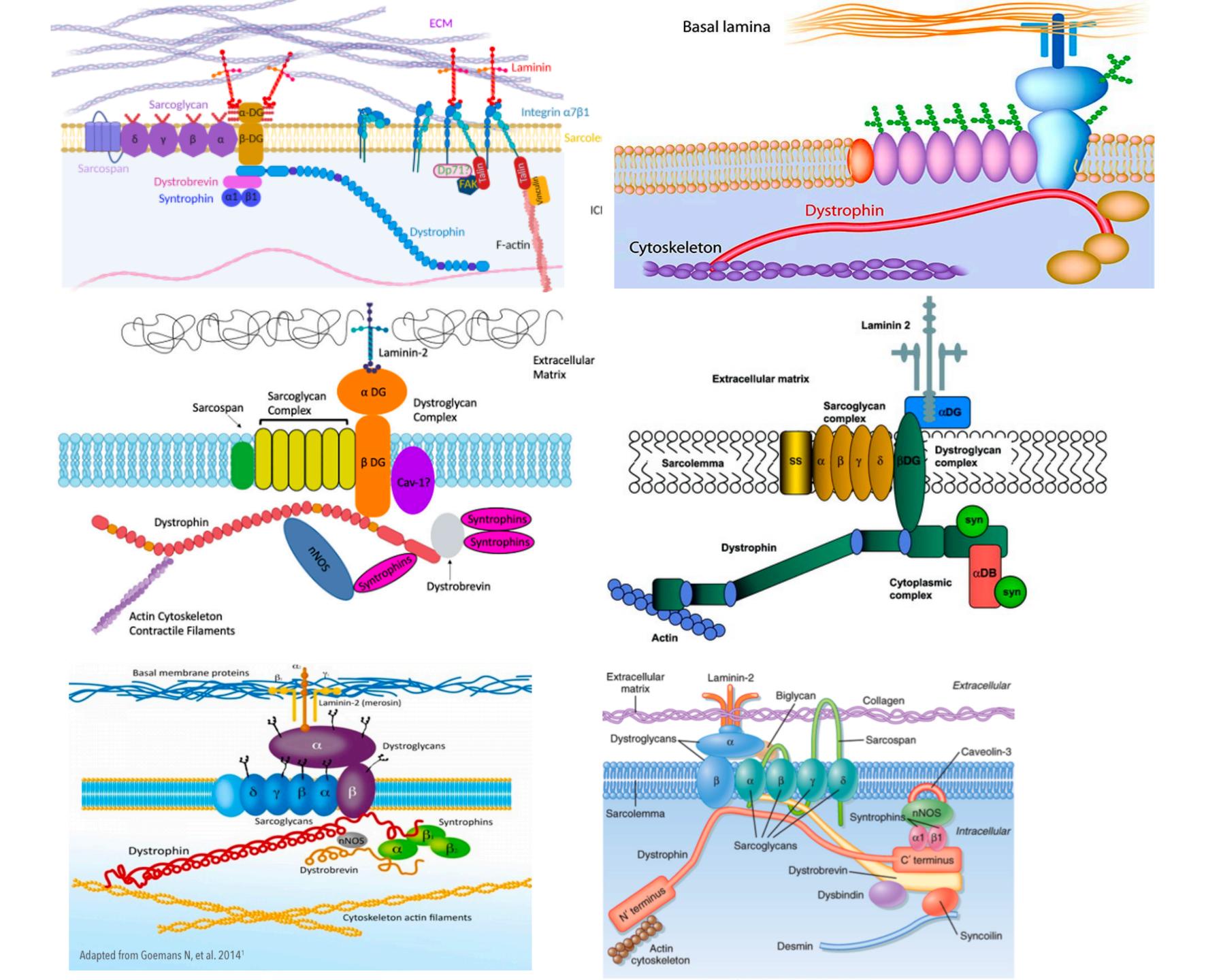


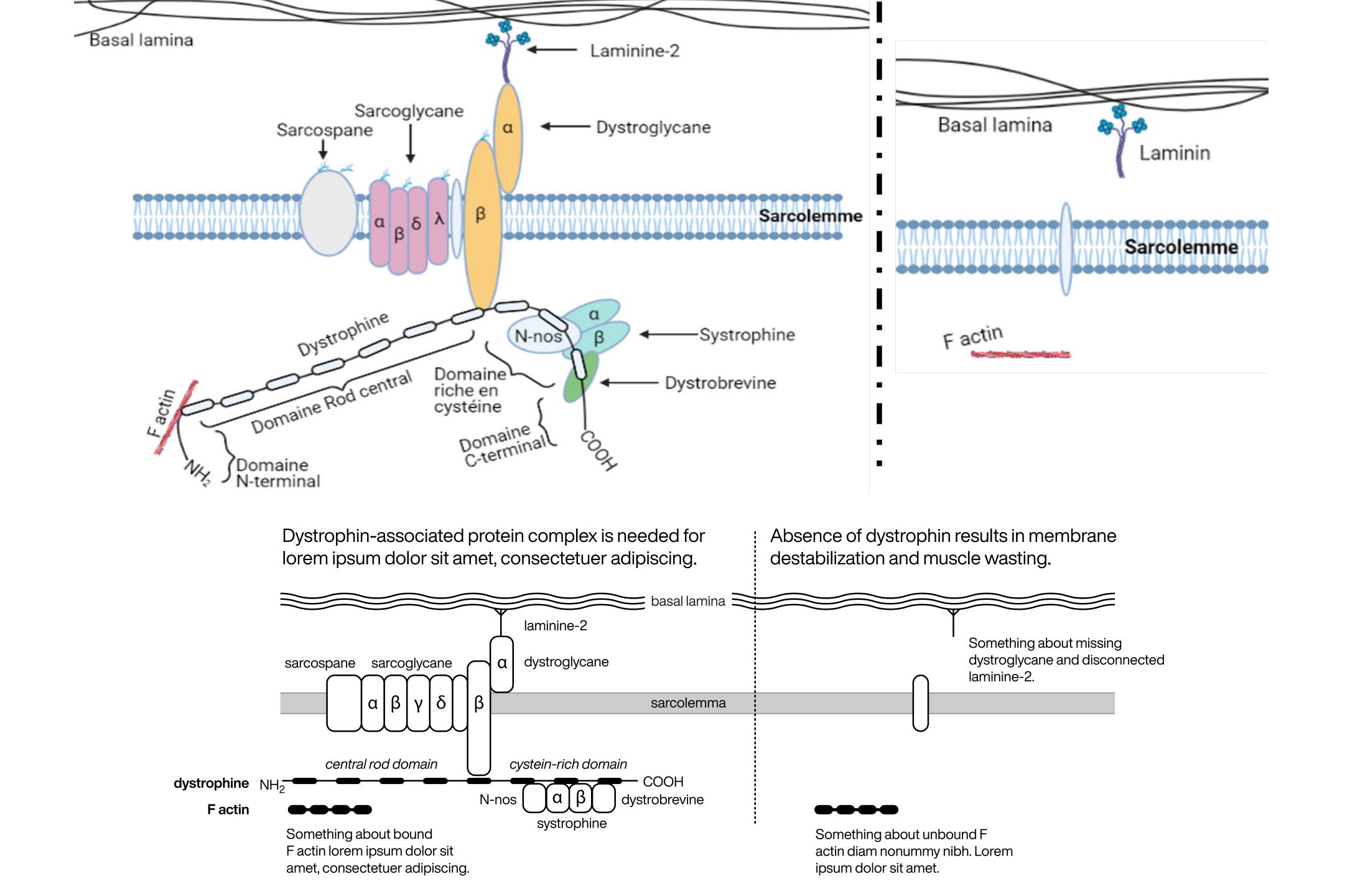
conventions

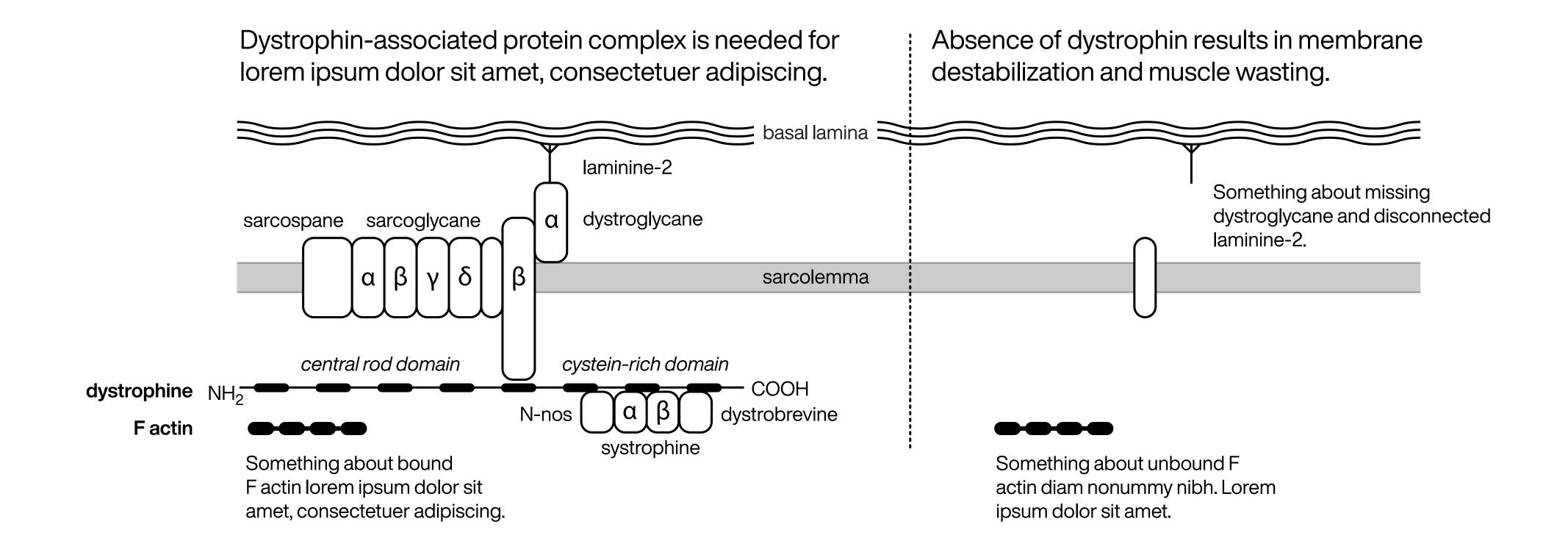
luggage or baggage?

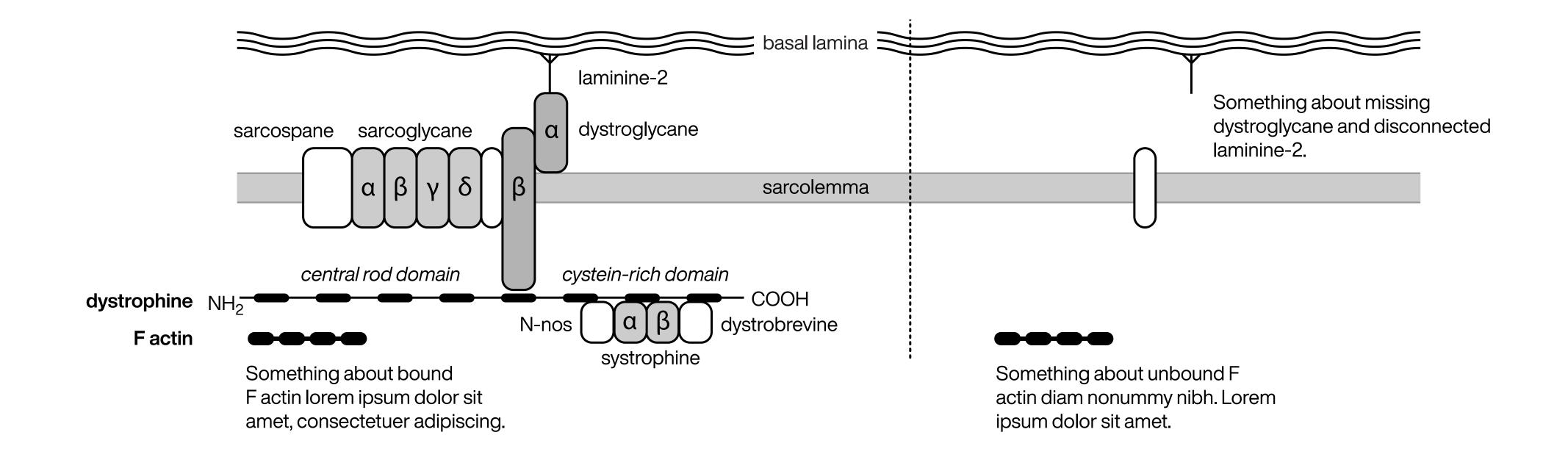


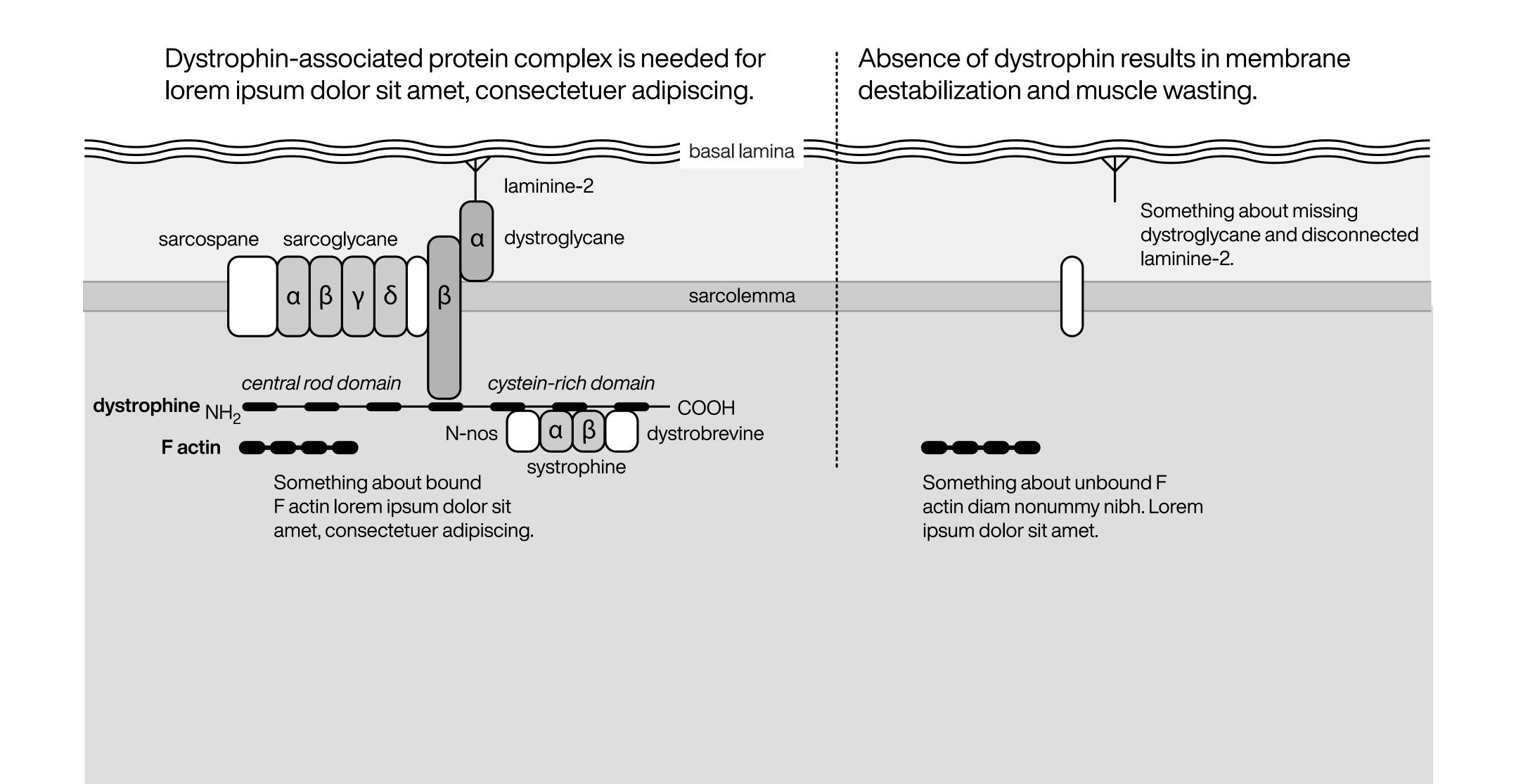


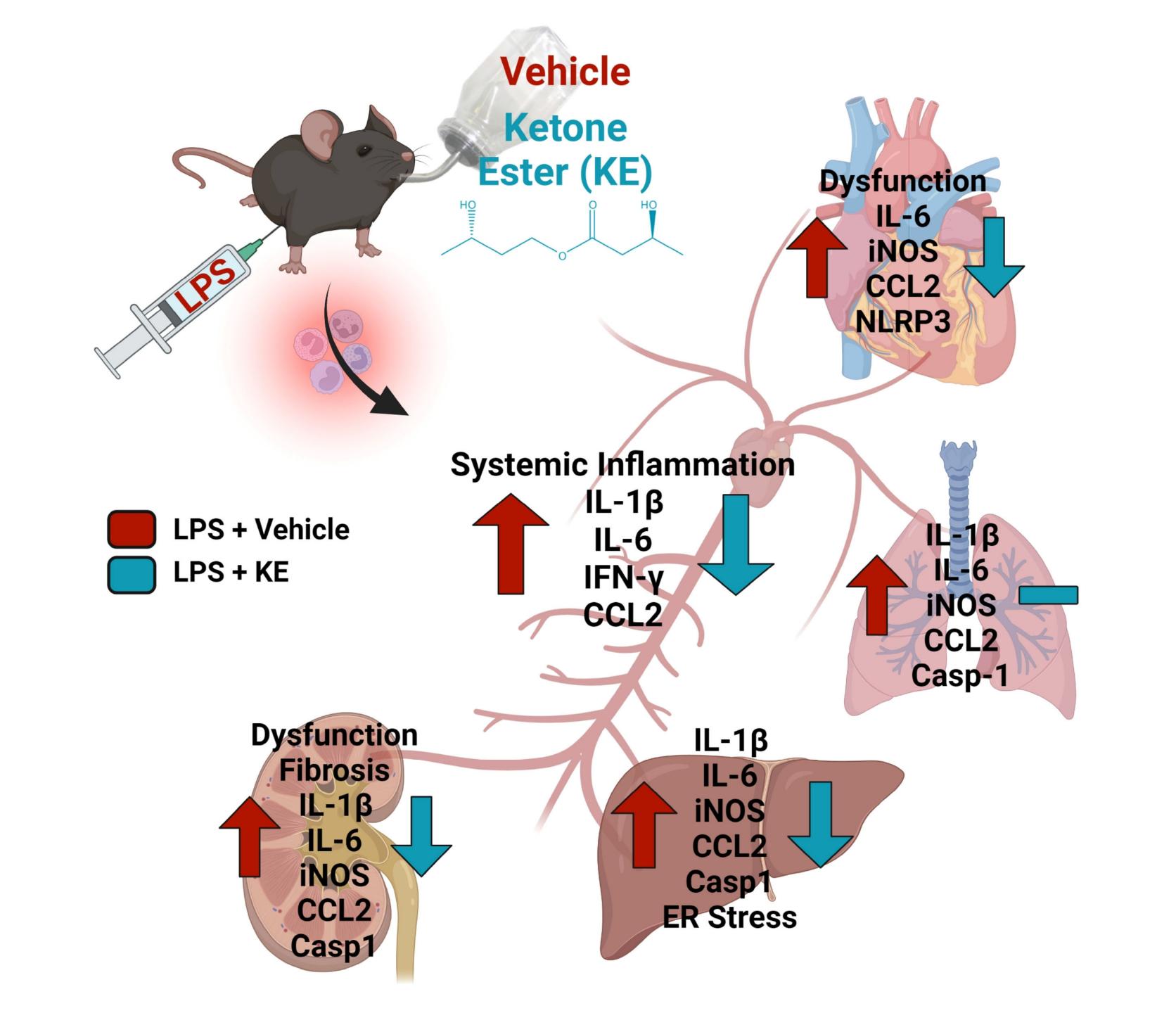








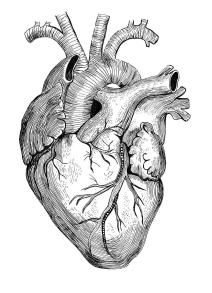


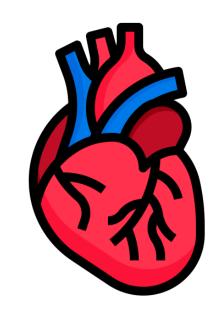


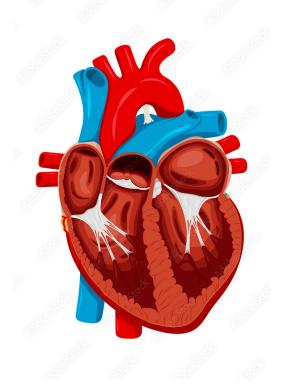




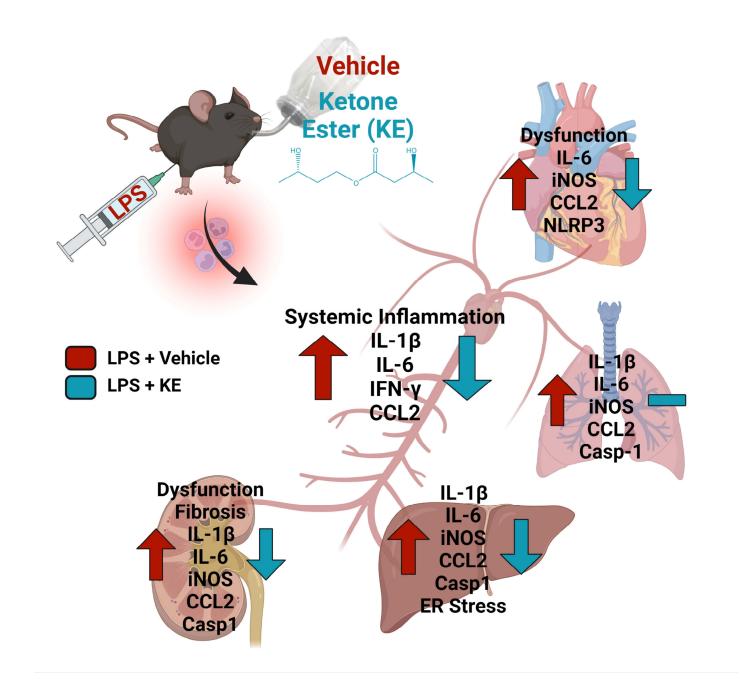














LPS LPS vehicle ketone

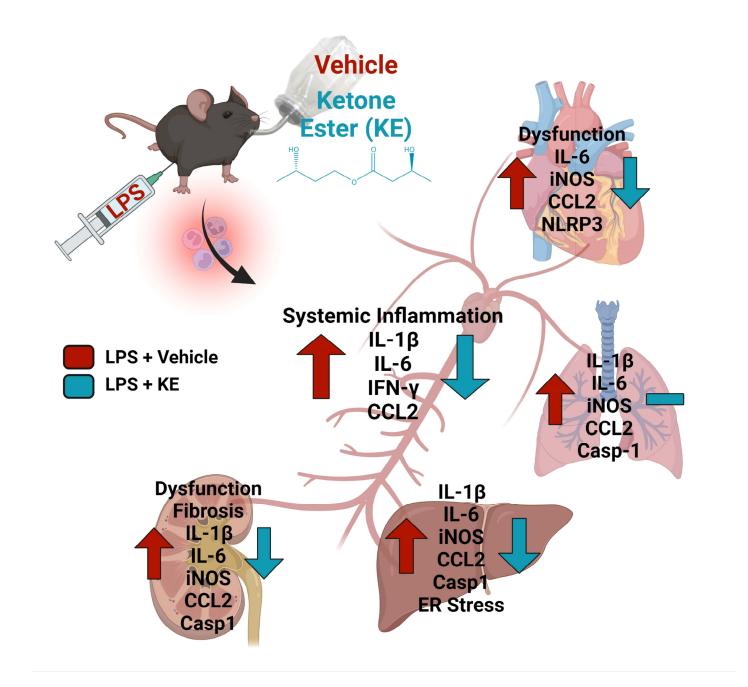
broad effect

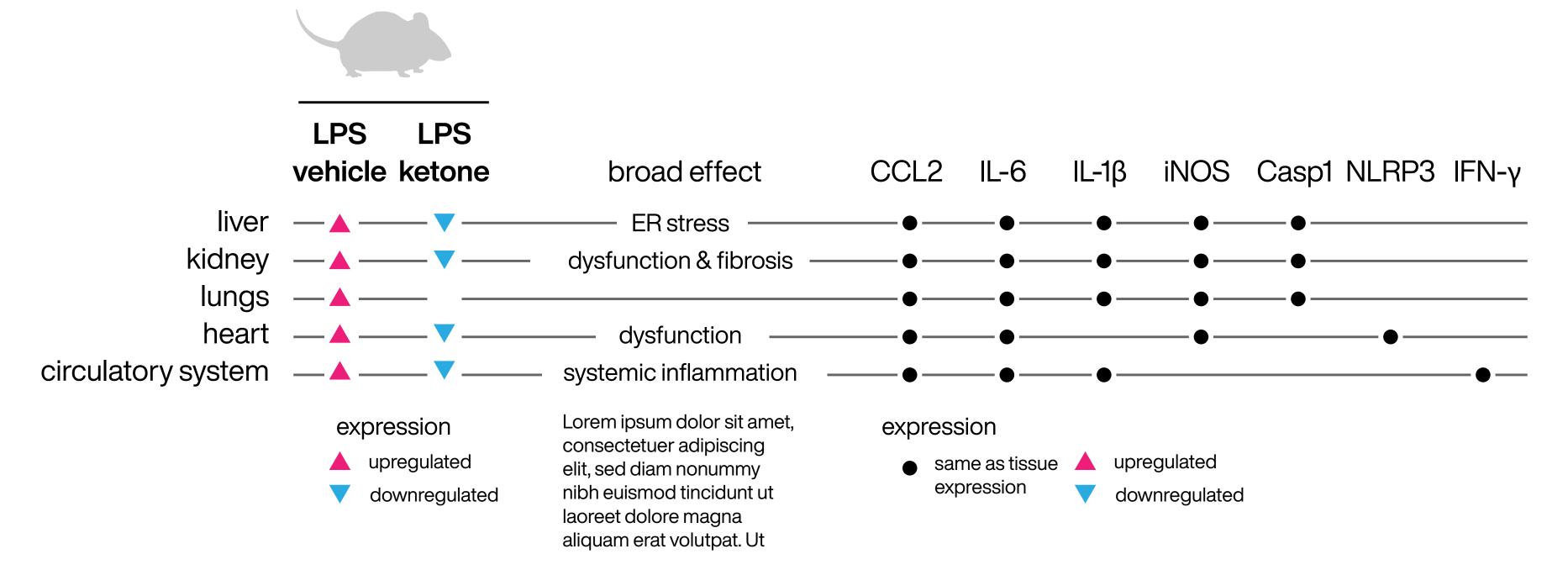
CCL2 IL-6

IL-1β

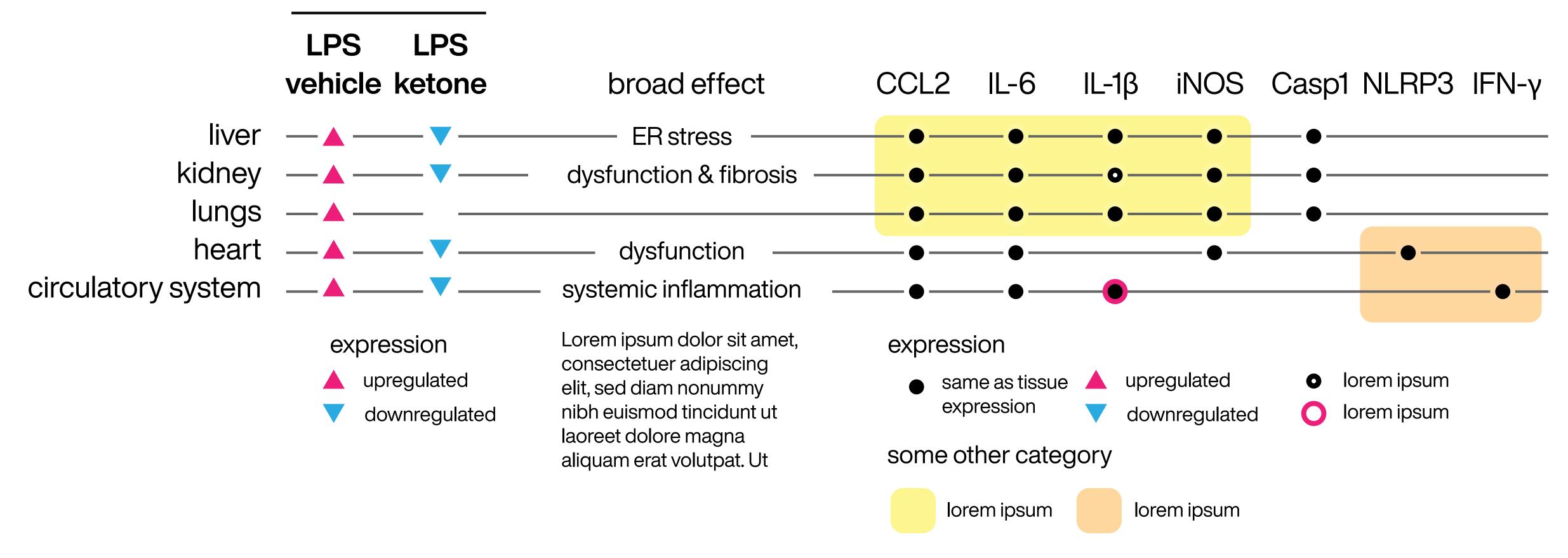
iNOS Casp1 NLRP3 IFN-γ

liver kidney lungs heart circulatory system



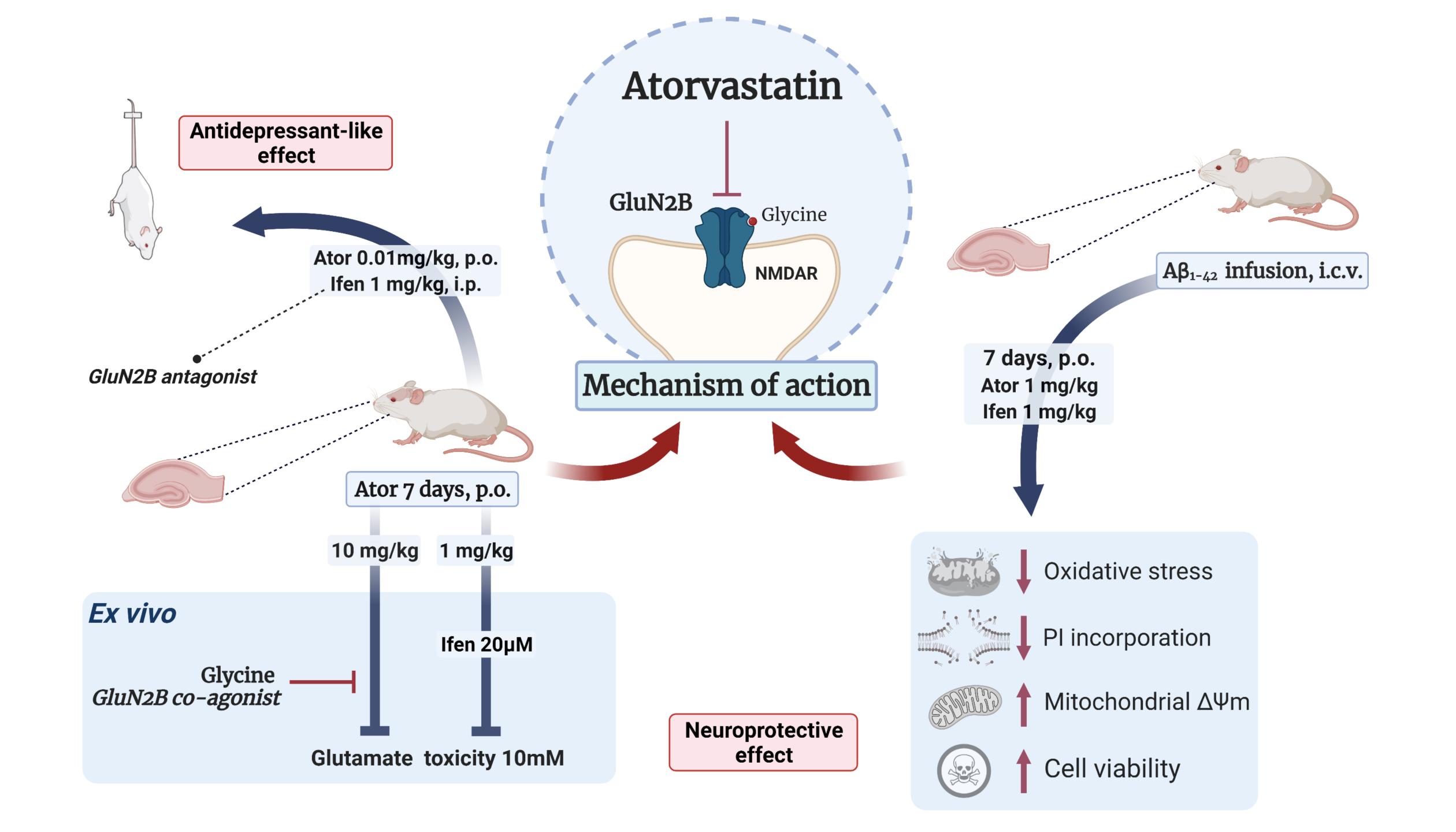


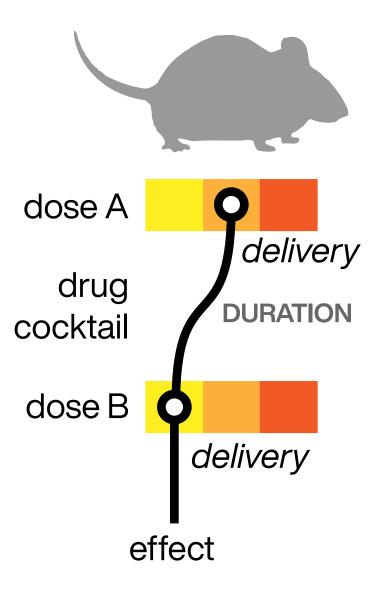


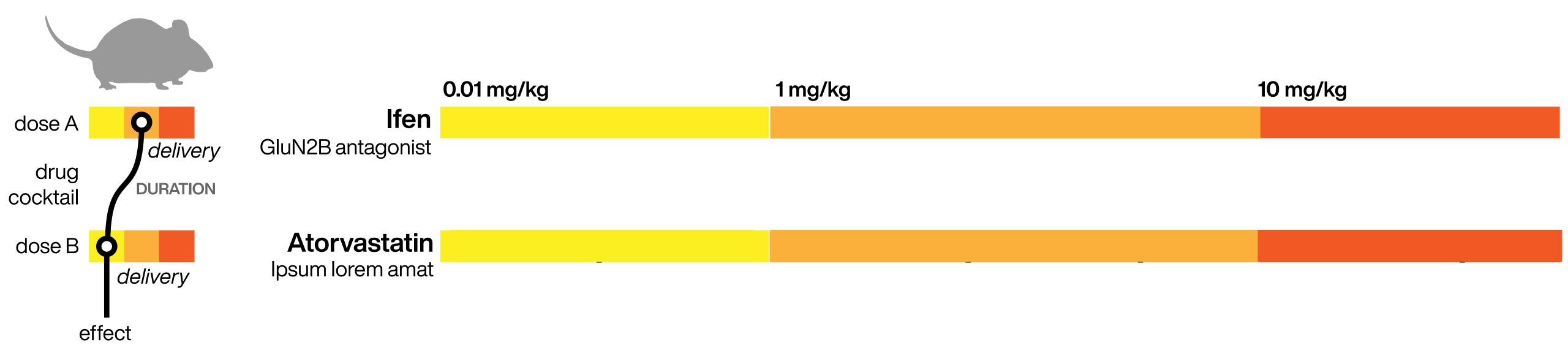


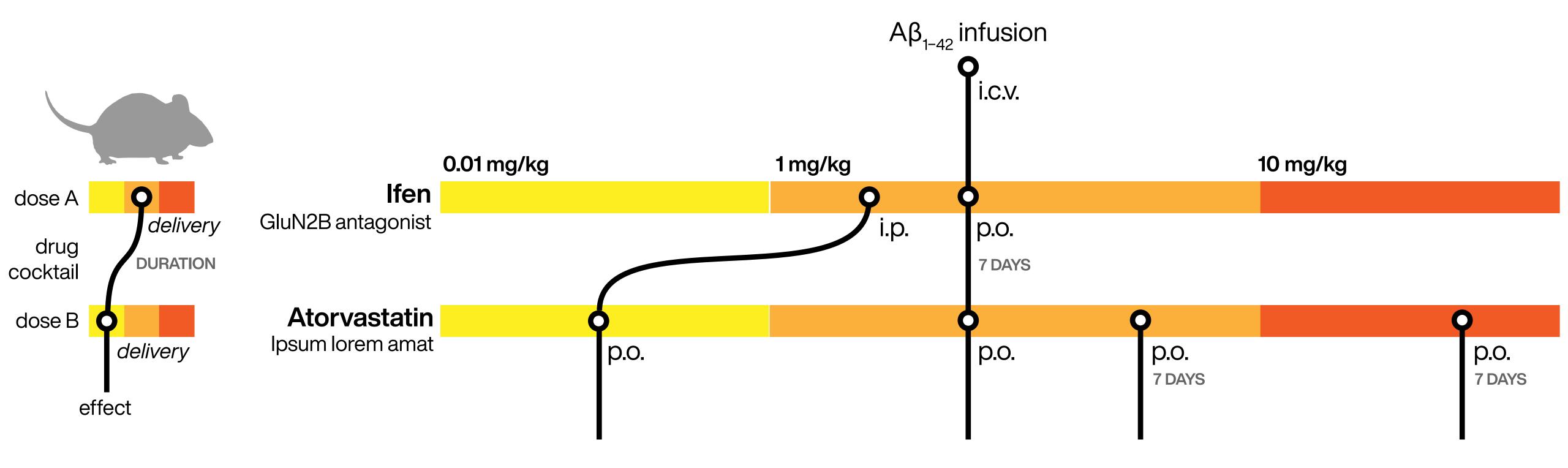


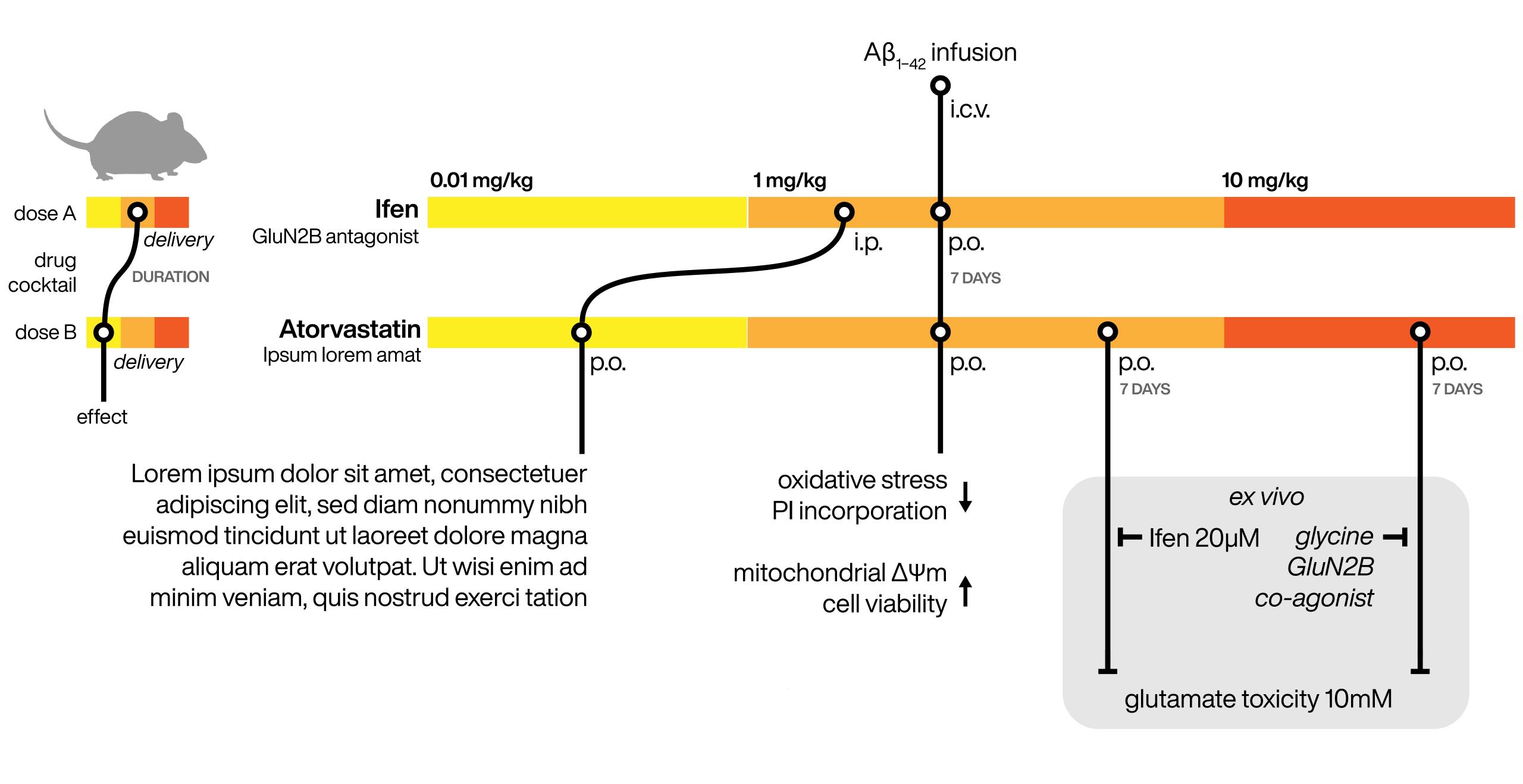
data on axis

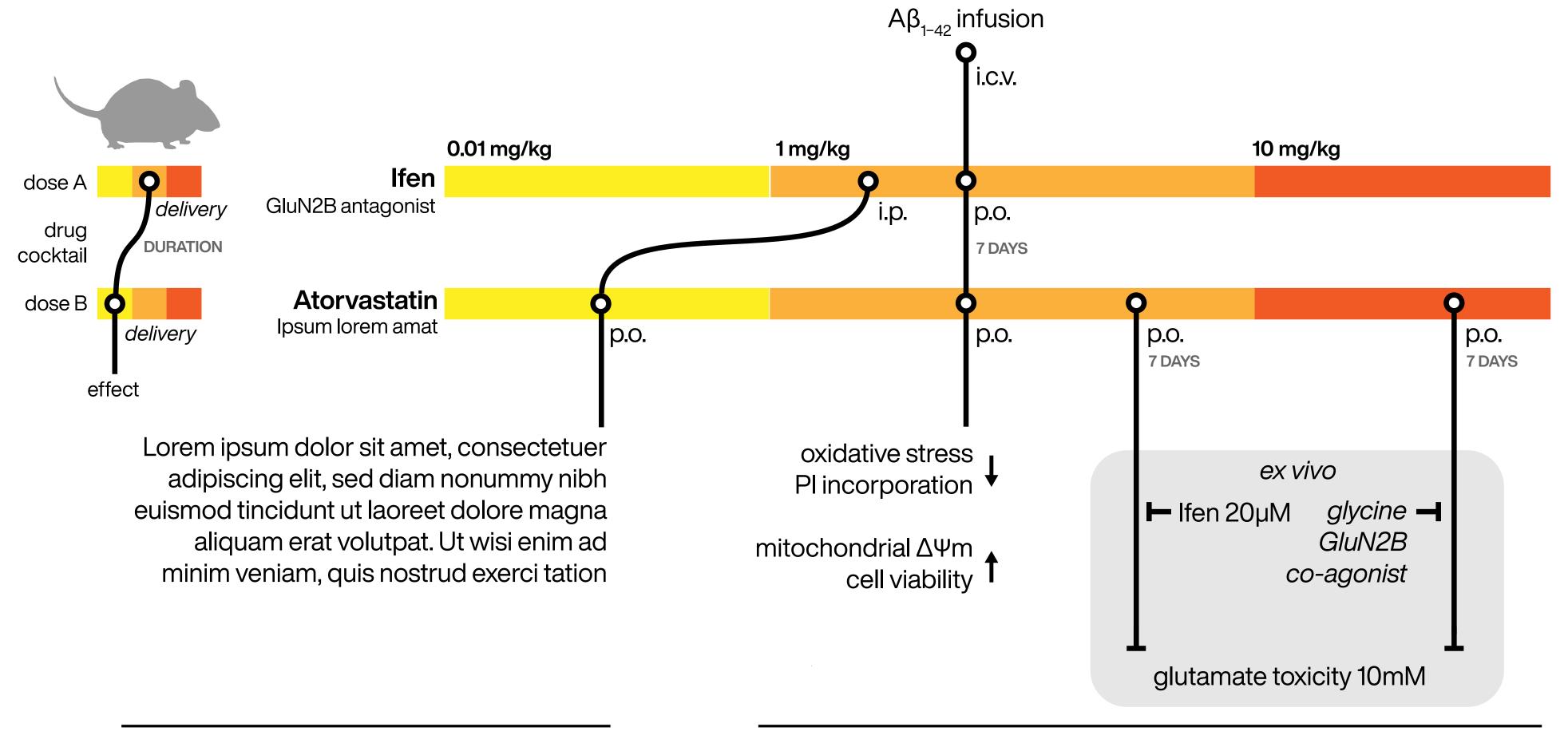








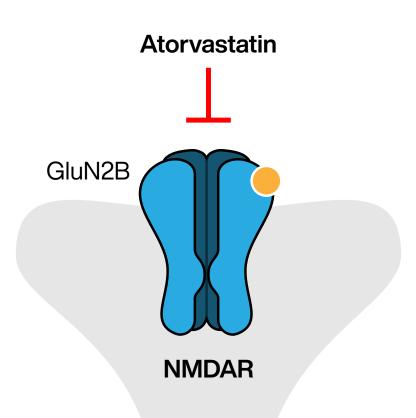




ANTIDEPRESSENT-LIKE EFFECTS

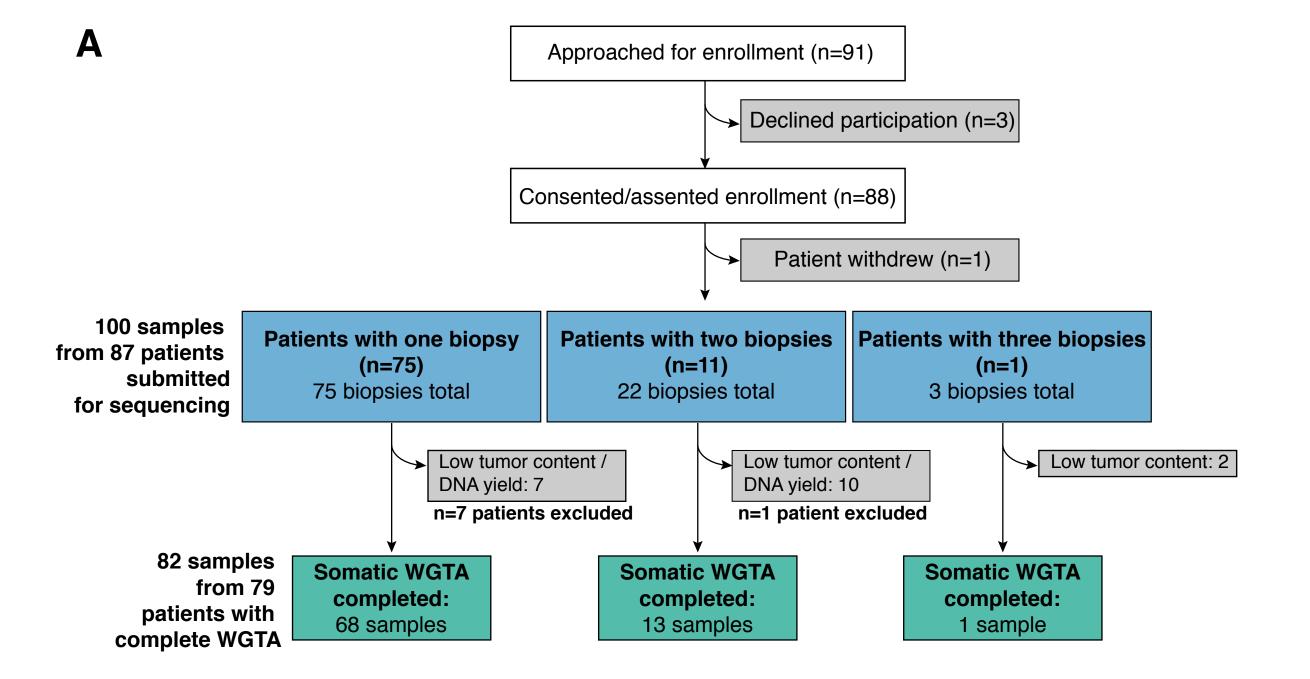
NEUROPROTECTIVE EFFECTS

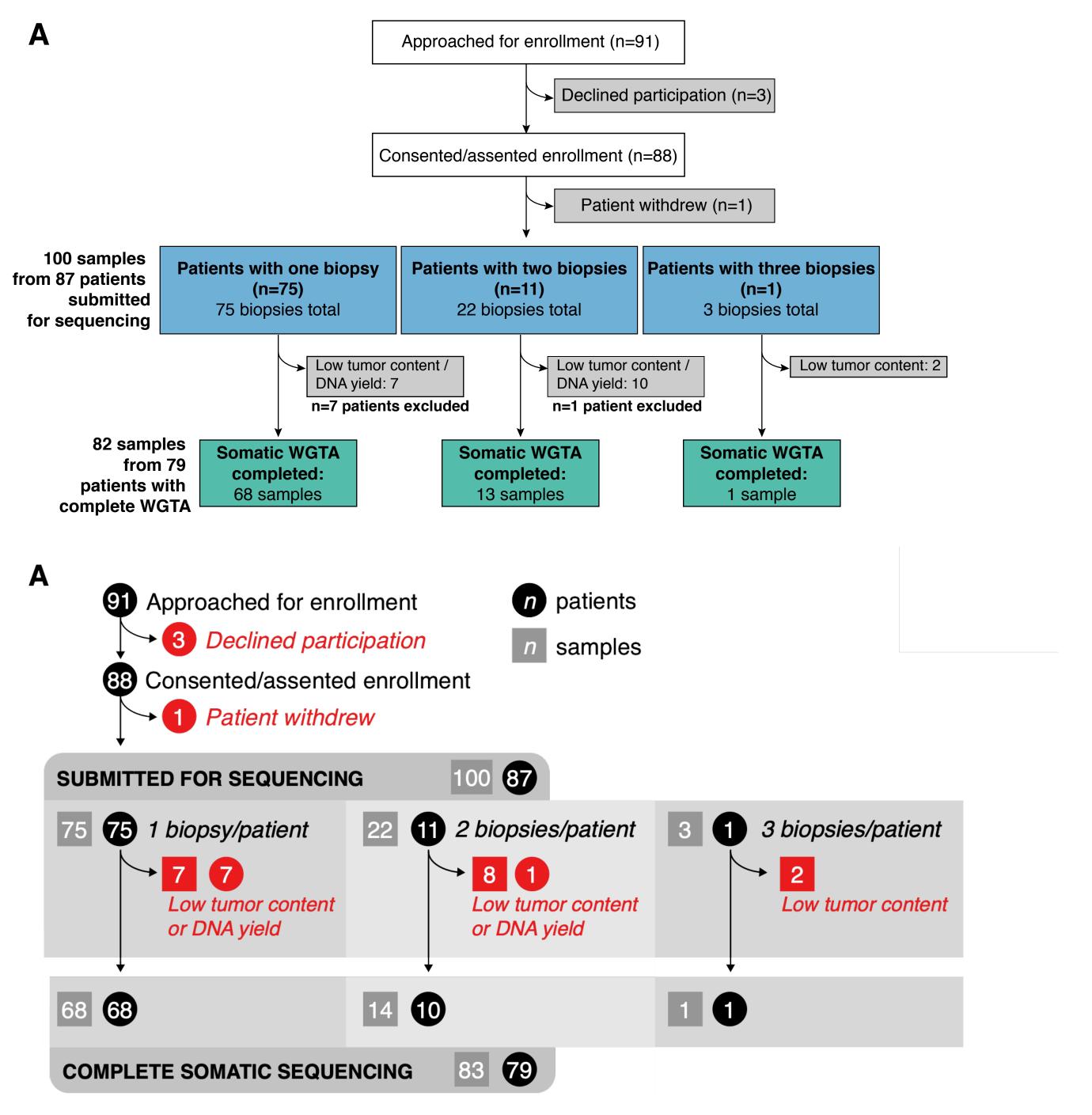
The mechanism of action is ...





align assiduously





Deyell et al. Whole genome and transcriptome integrated analyses guide clinical care of pediatric poor prognosis cancers. Nat. Comm 2024



data structure vs encoding

Microciruit within each column

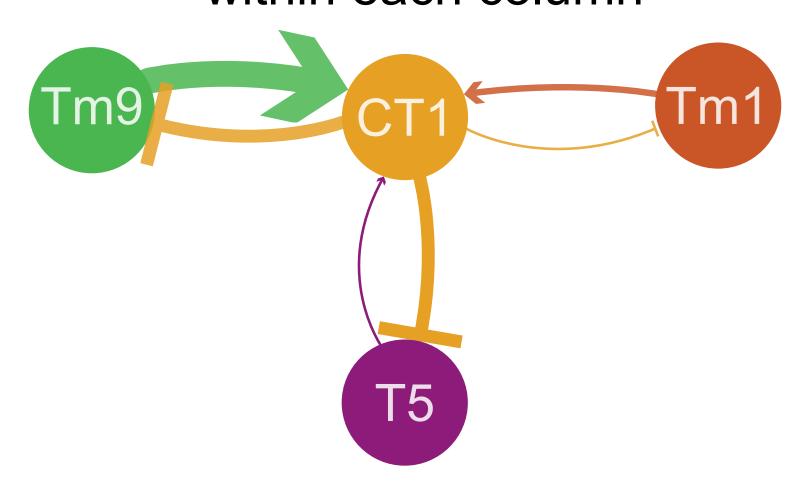
Tm9

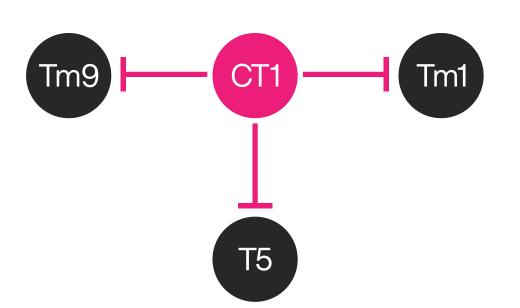
CT1

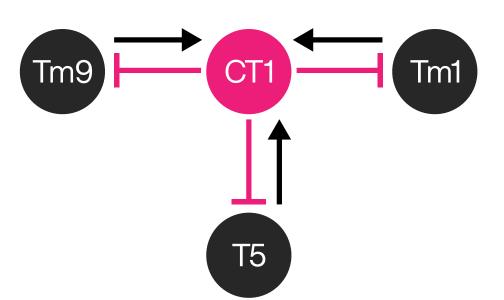
Tm1

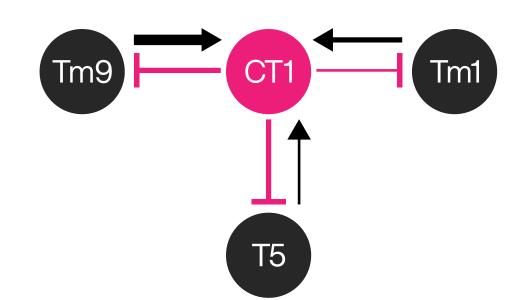
T5

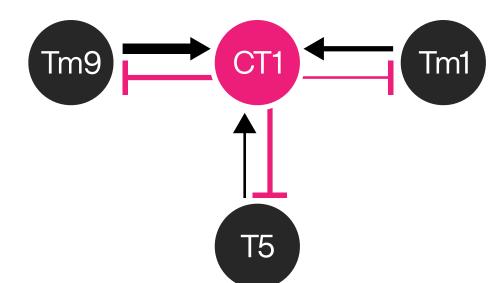
Microciruit within each column



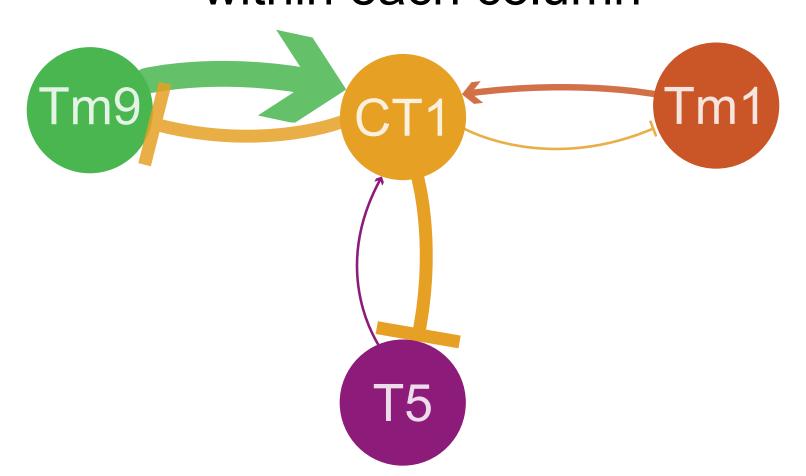


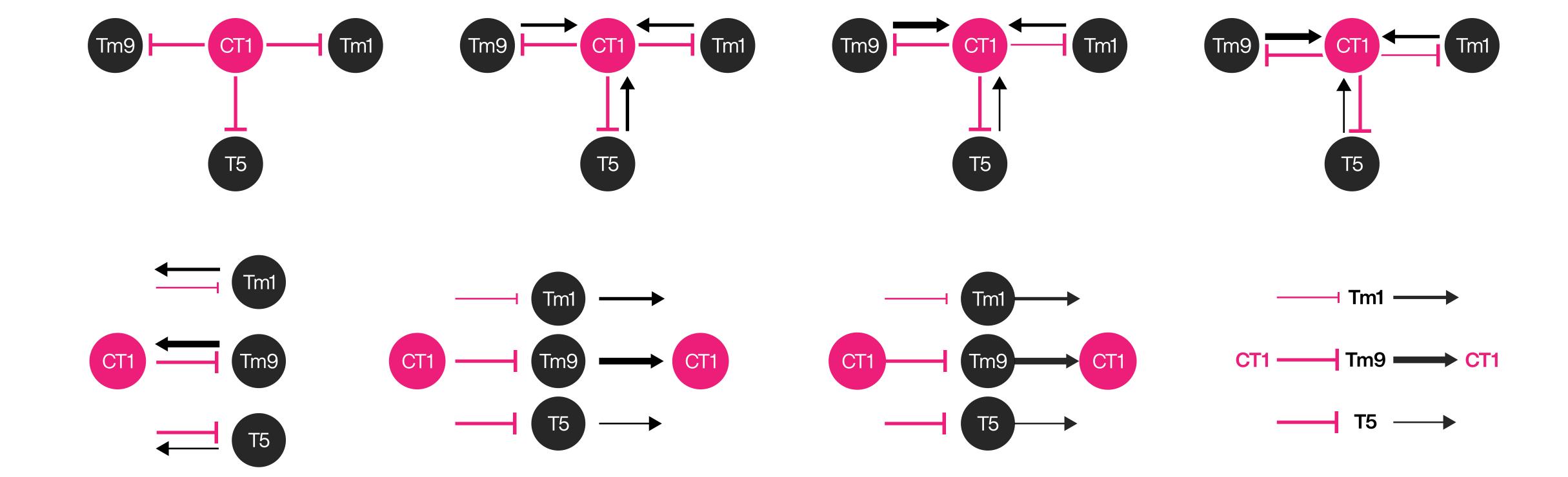


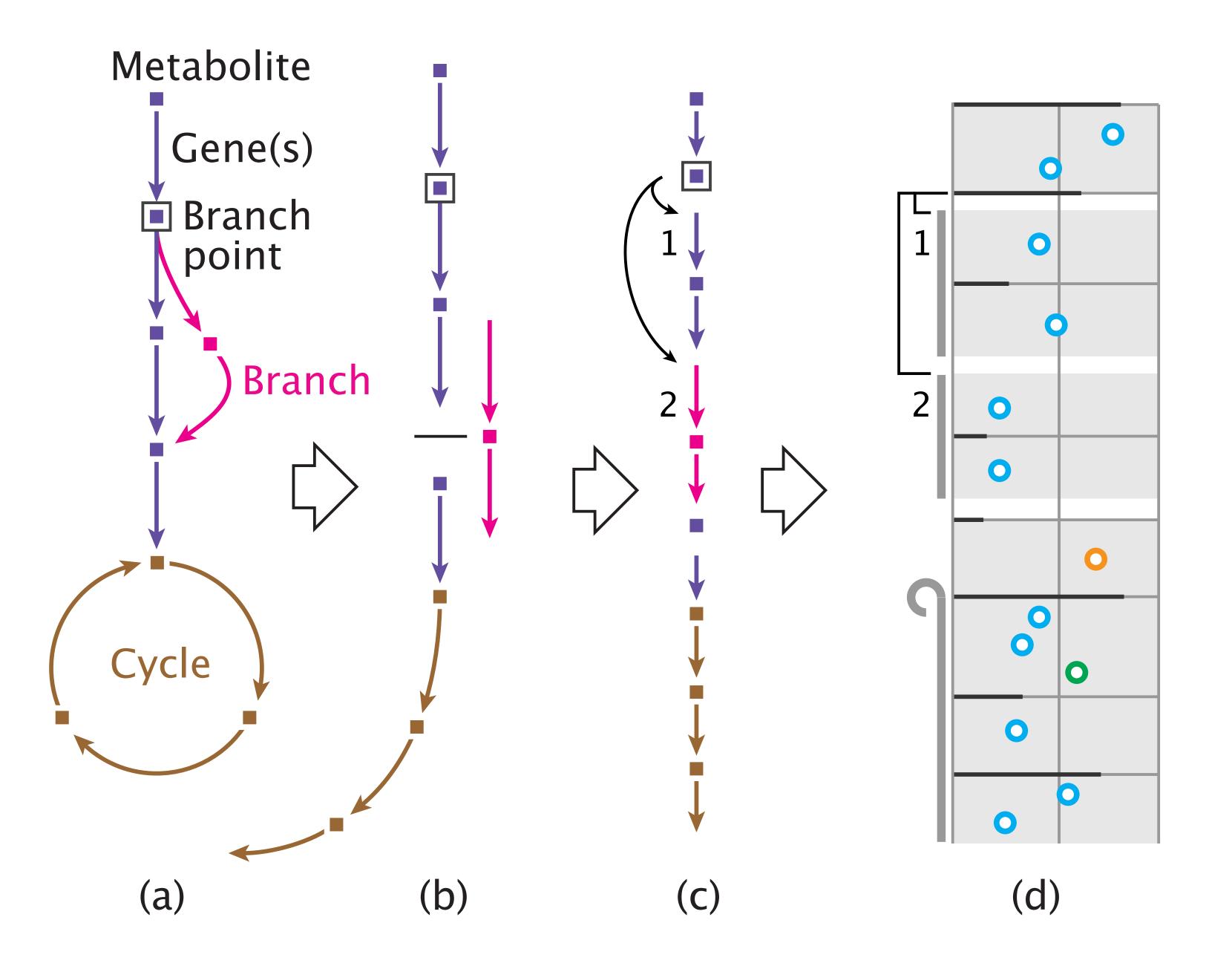




Microciruit within each column

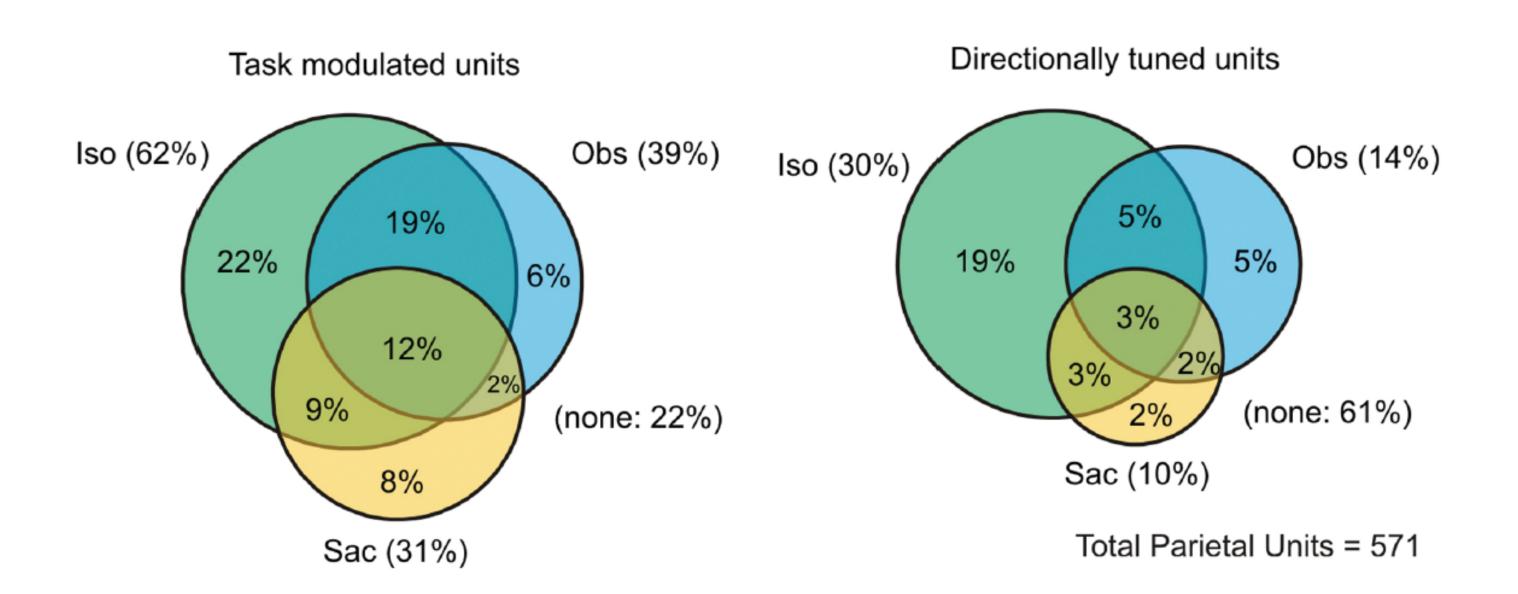


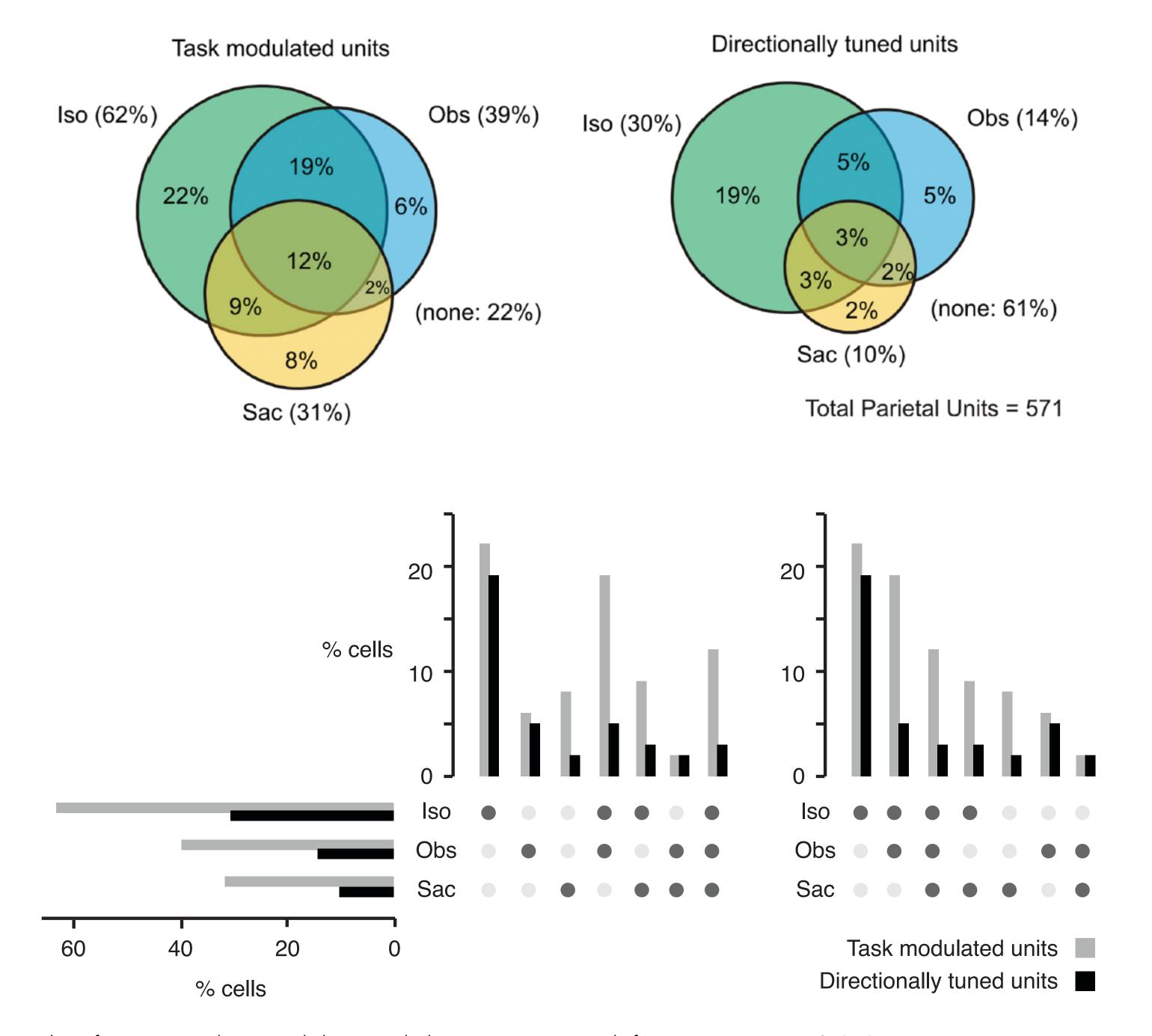




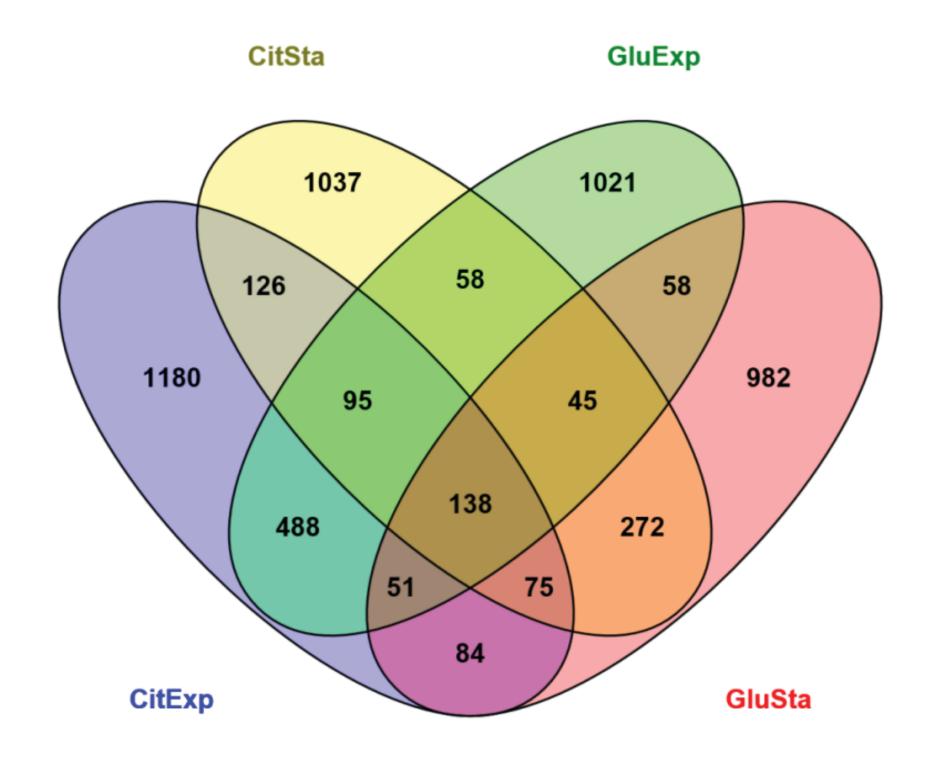


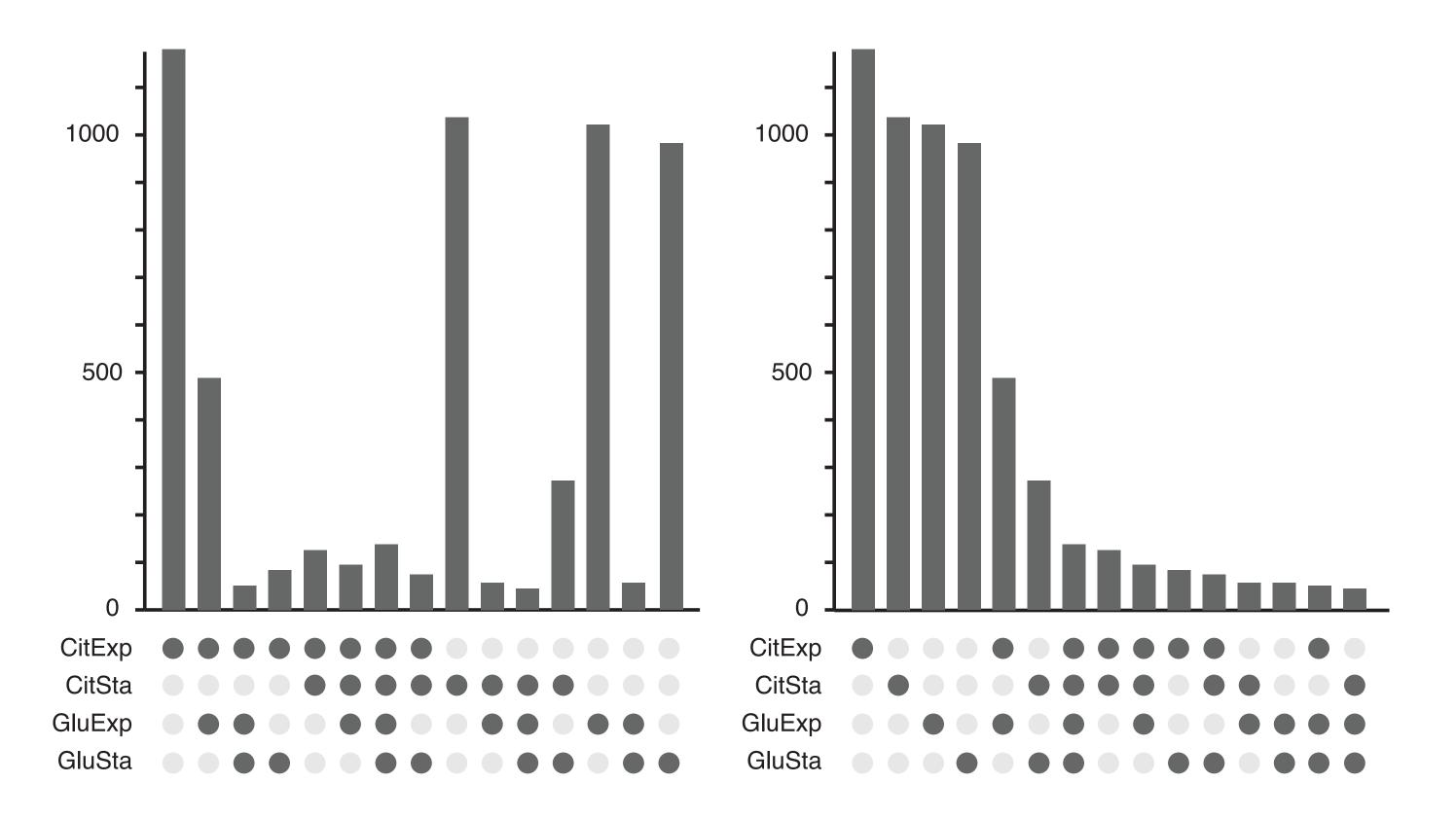
familiar, but useful?

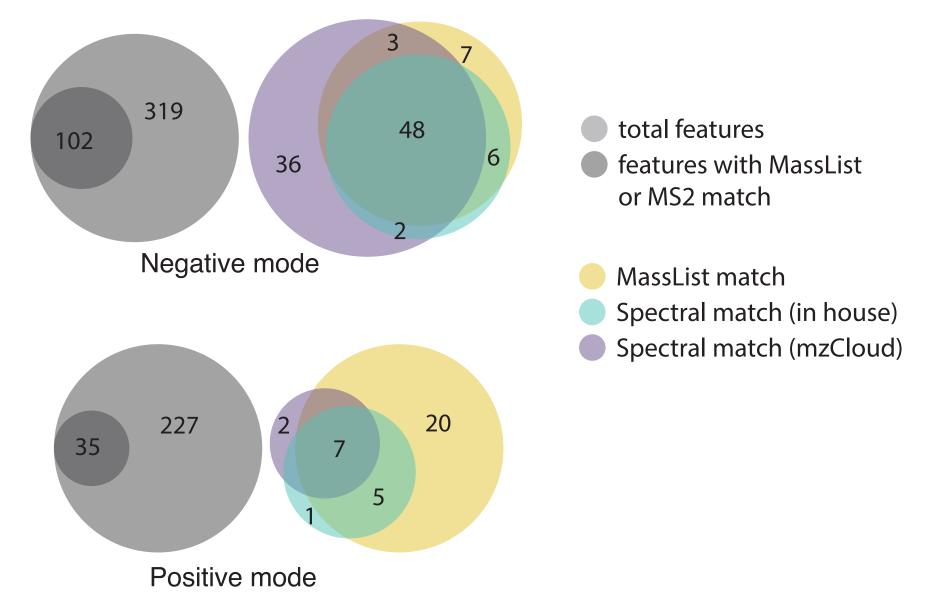


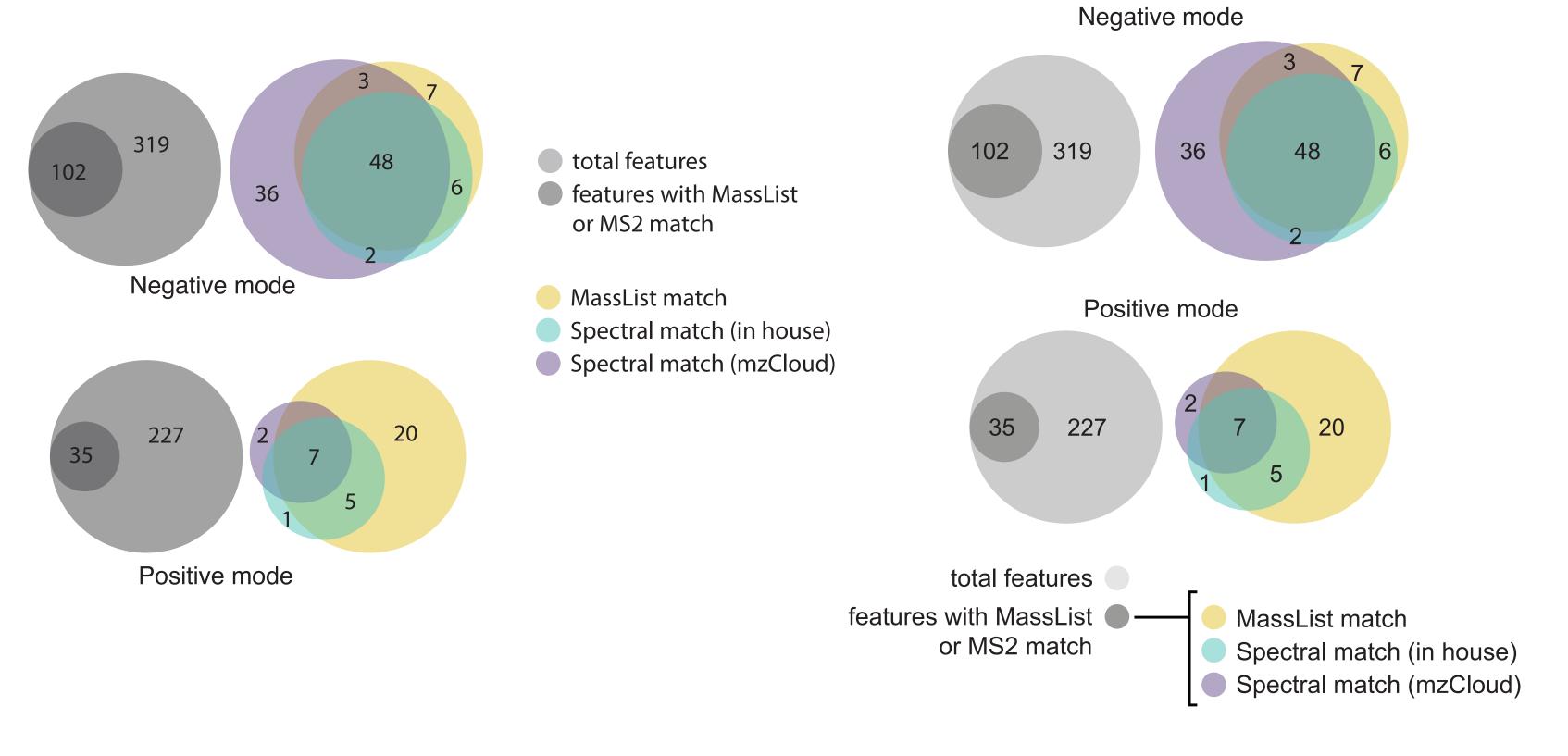


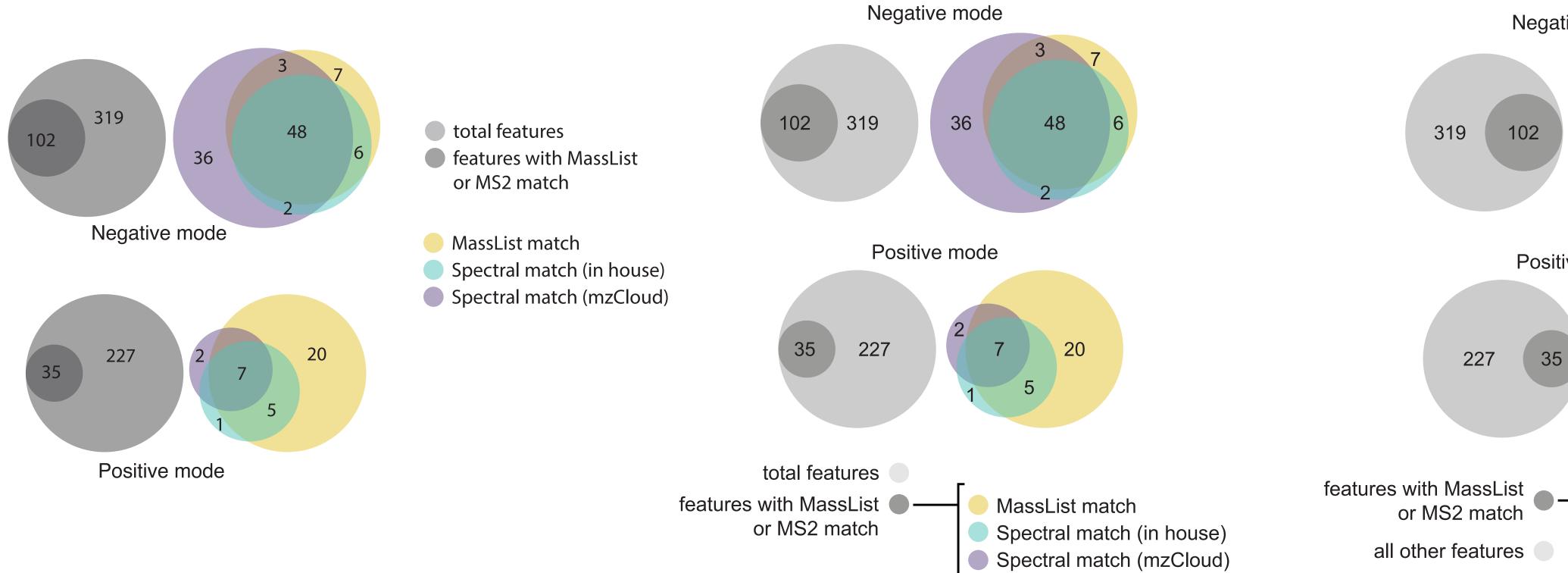
Ferrari-Toniolo, S., et al., Posterior Parietal Cortex Encoding of Dynamic Hand Force Underlying Hand-Object Interaction. Journal of Neuroscience, 2015. **35**(31): p. 10899-10910. Lex A, Gehlenborg N, Strobelt H, Vuillemot R, Pfister H. UpSet: Visualization of Intersecting Sets. IEEE Trans Vis Comput Graph. 2014 Dec;20(12):1983-92.

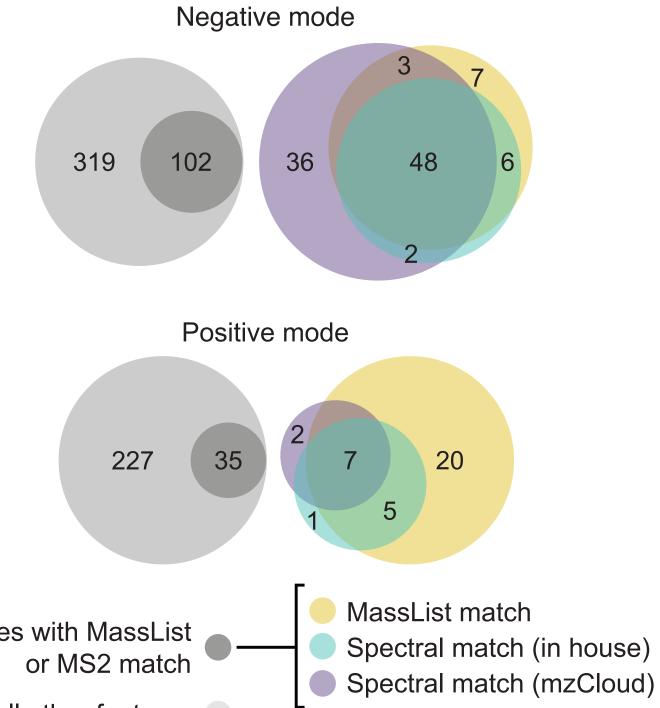


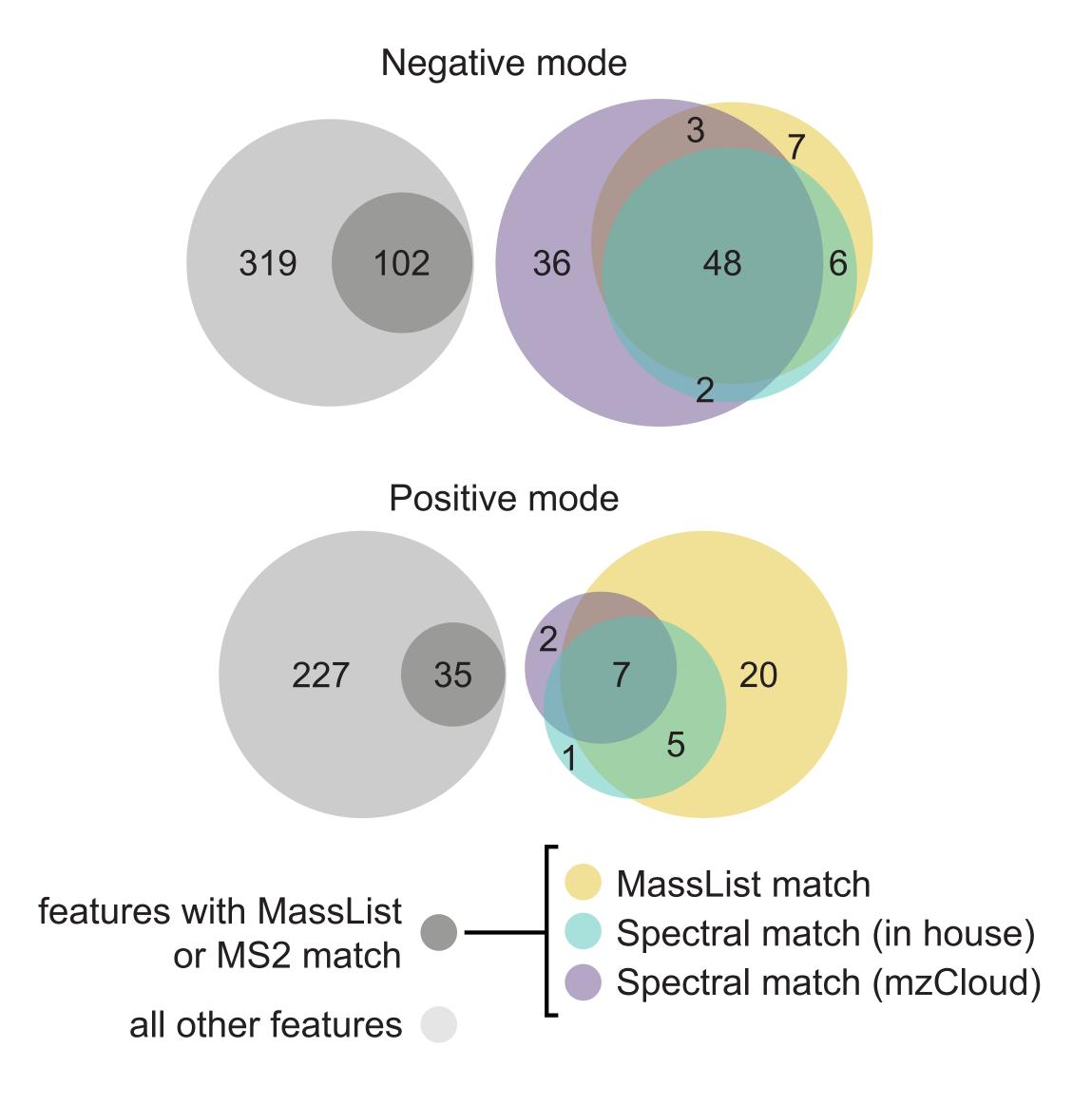


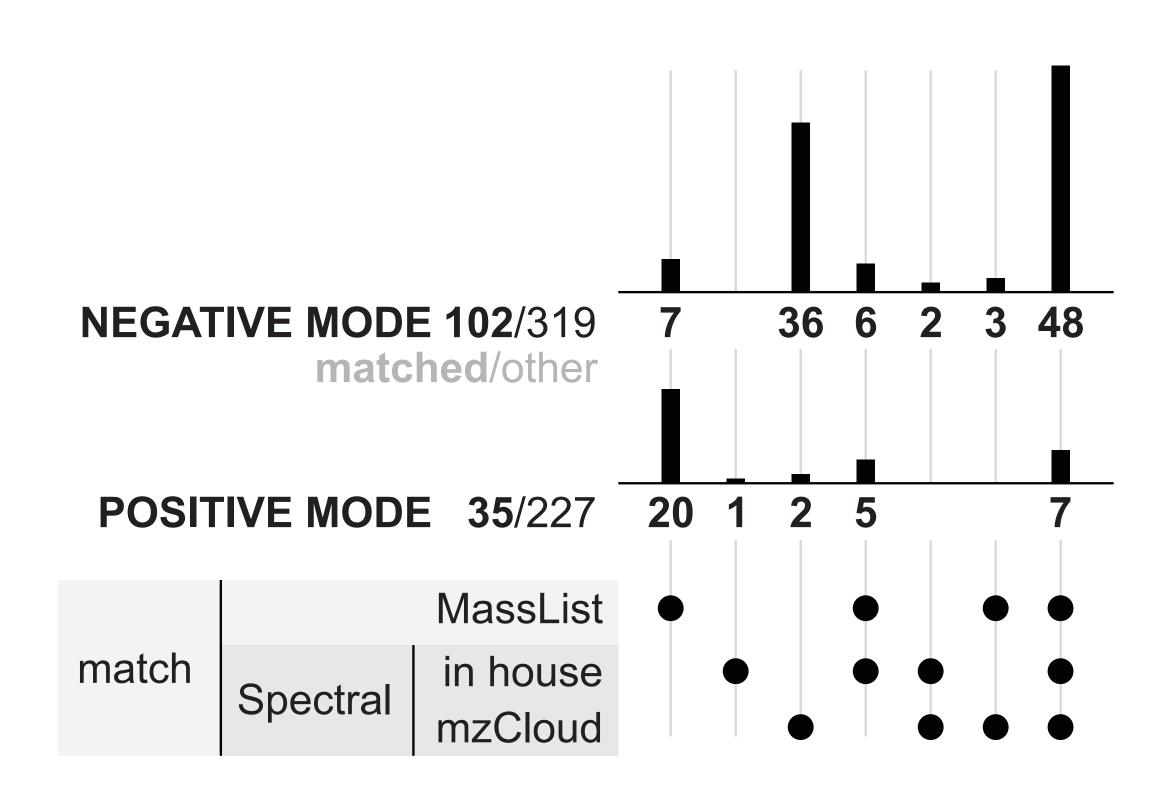












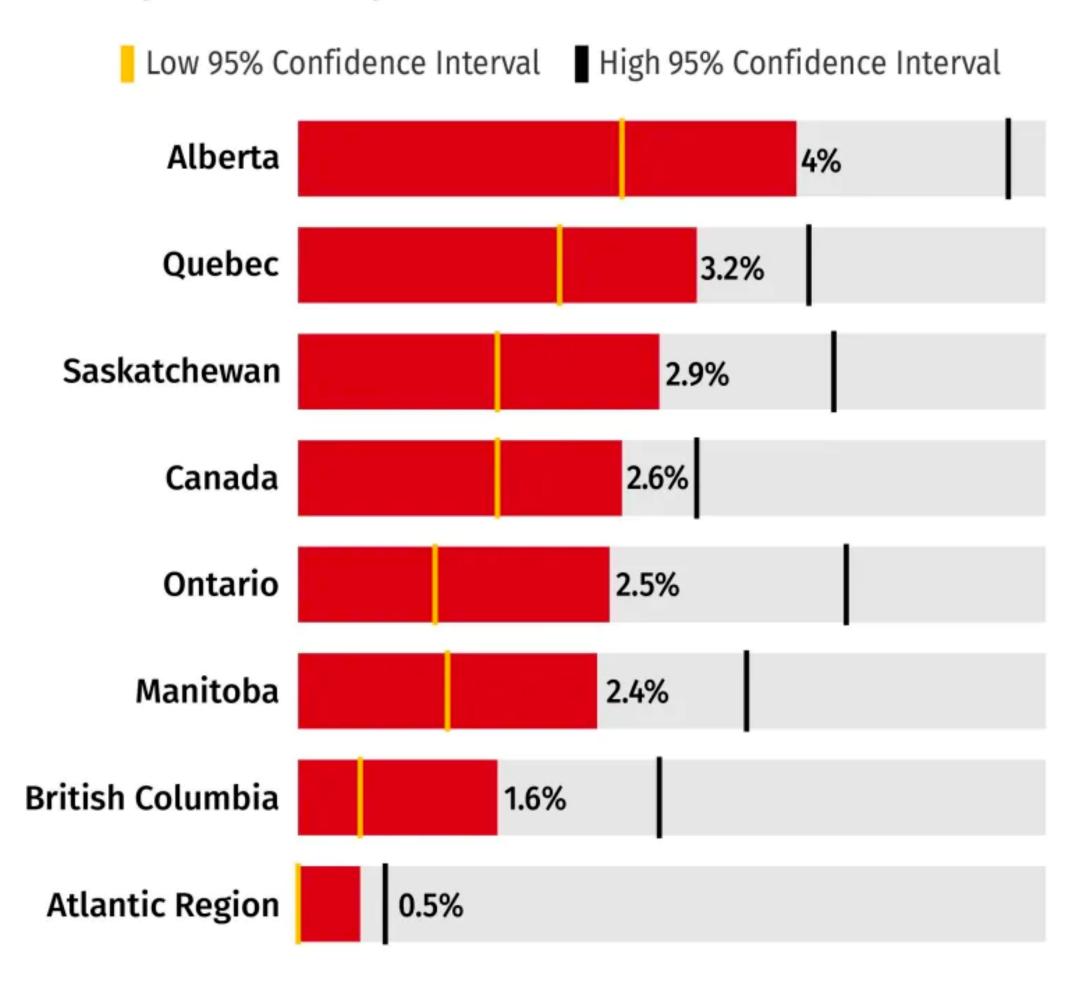


make it easy to compare

encode intuitively

Estimates of COVID-19 infection based on blood antibodies

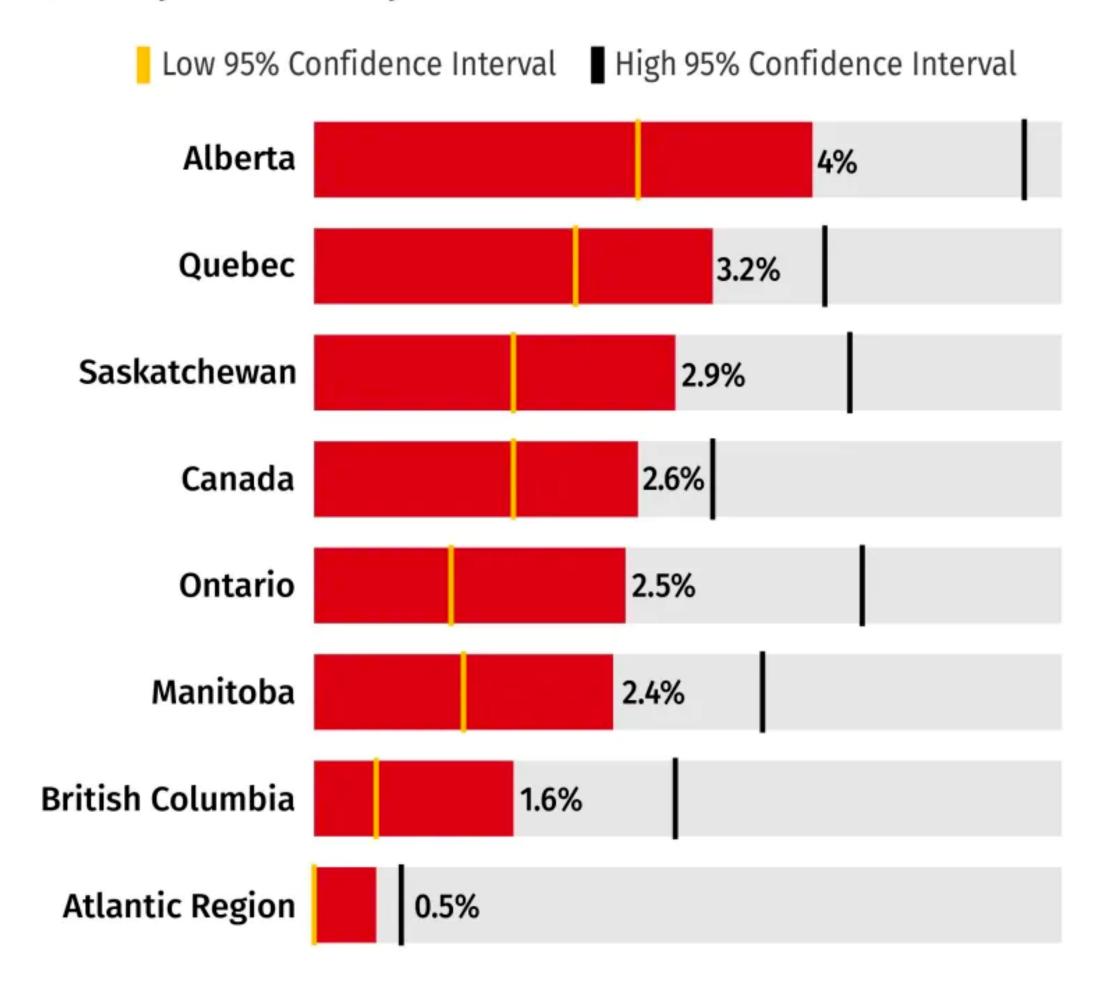
Bars show the **estimated** percentage of people who had been infected with COVID-19 in each jurisdiction, based on antibodies being detected in blood samples gathered from November 2020 to April 2021. **The bulk of the blood samples were collected in January and February 2021.**



CBC NEWS https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/coronavirus-newsletter-july-8-1.6094357

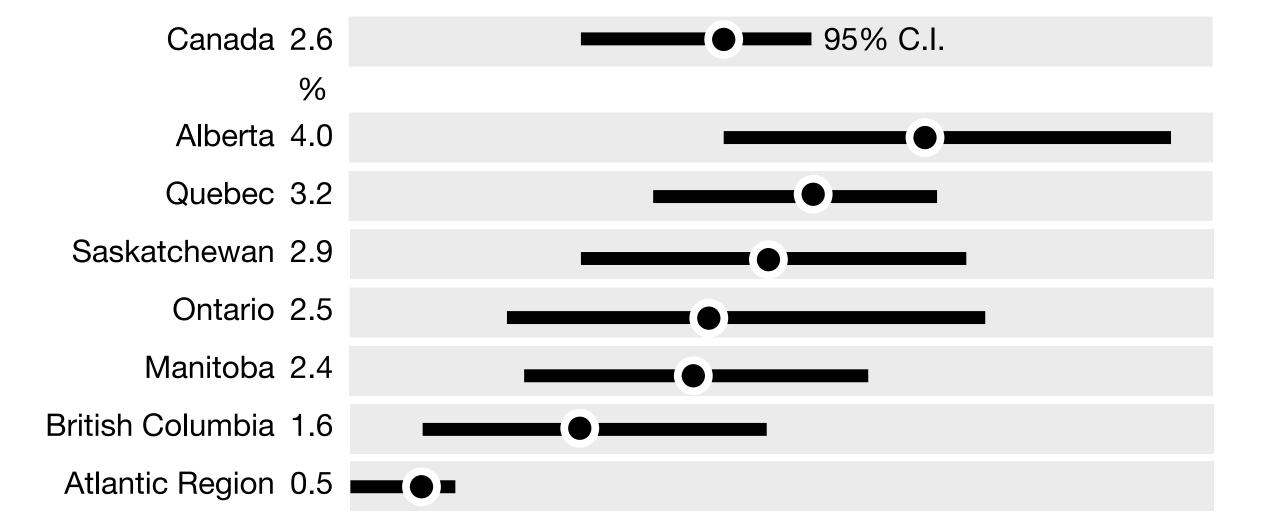
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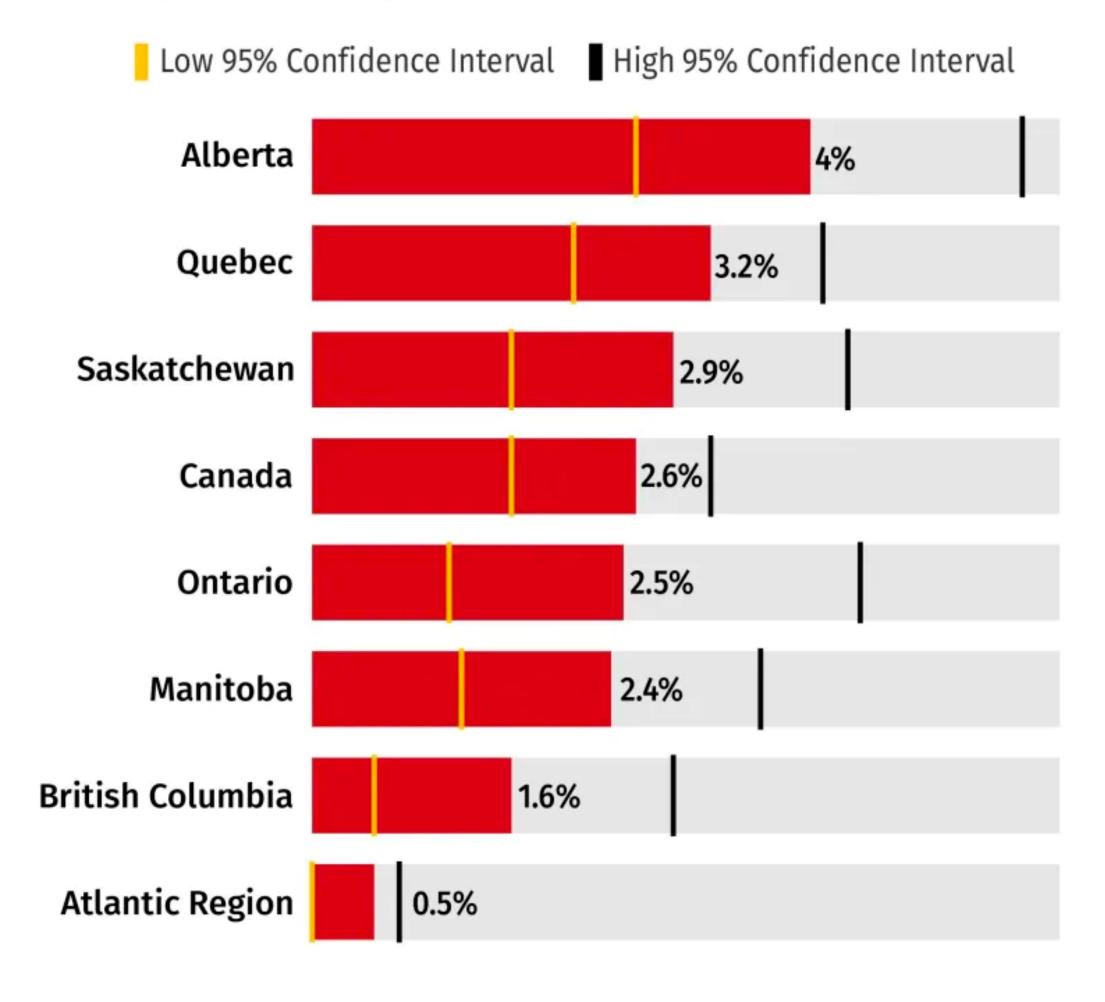
CBC NEWS https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/coronavirus-newsletter-july-8-1.6094357

Estimate of COVID-19 infection based on blood antibodies



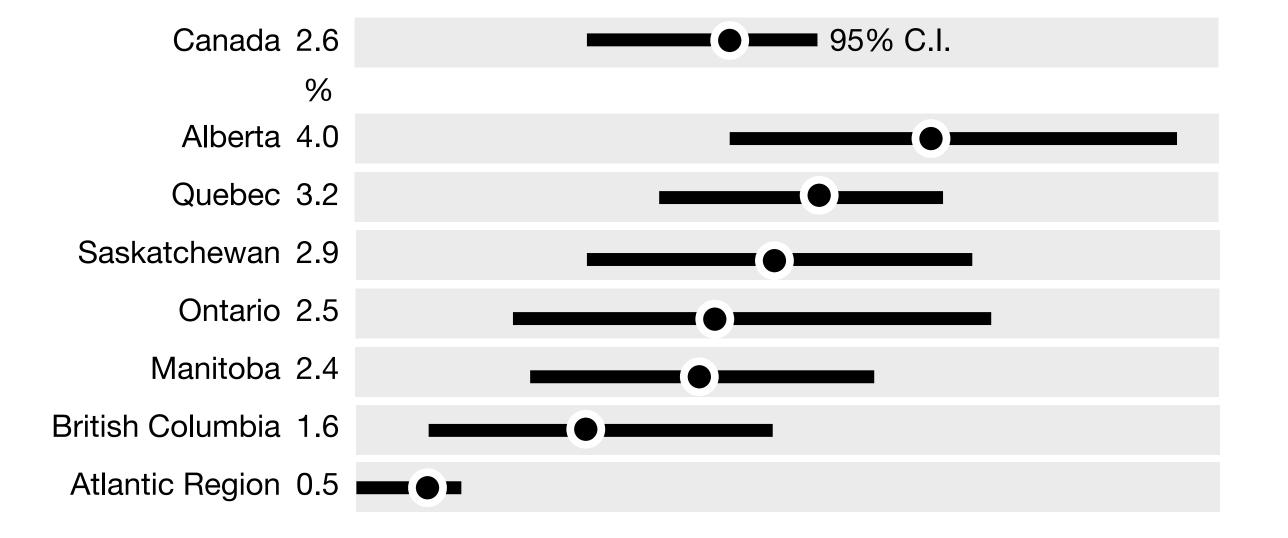
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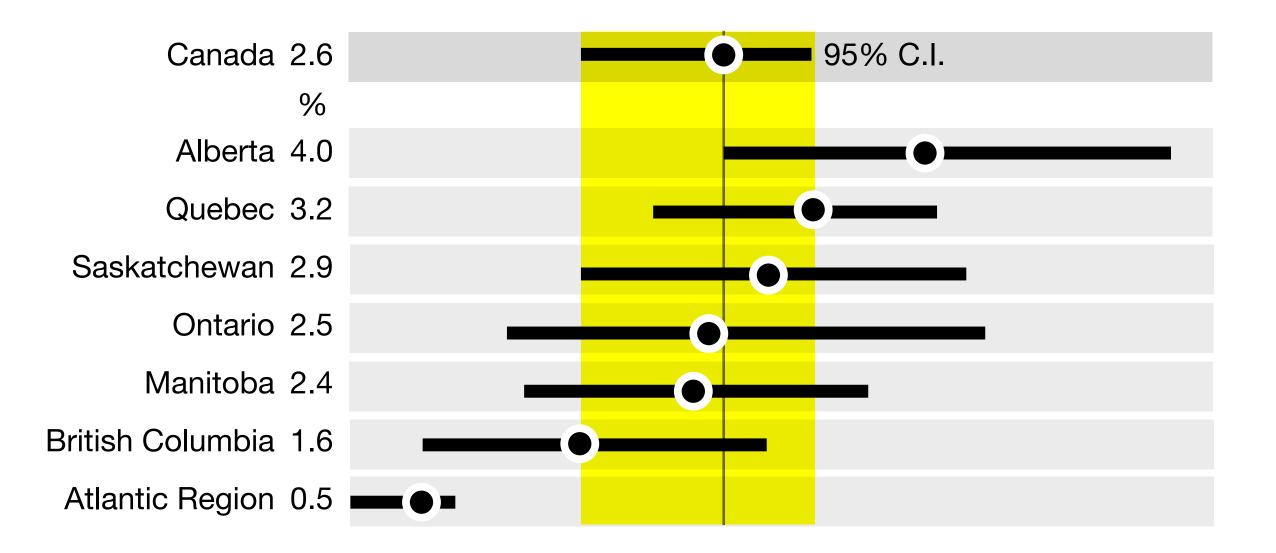


CBC NEWS https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/coronavirus-newsletter-july-8-1.6094357

Estimate of COVID-19 infection based on blood antibodies



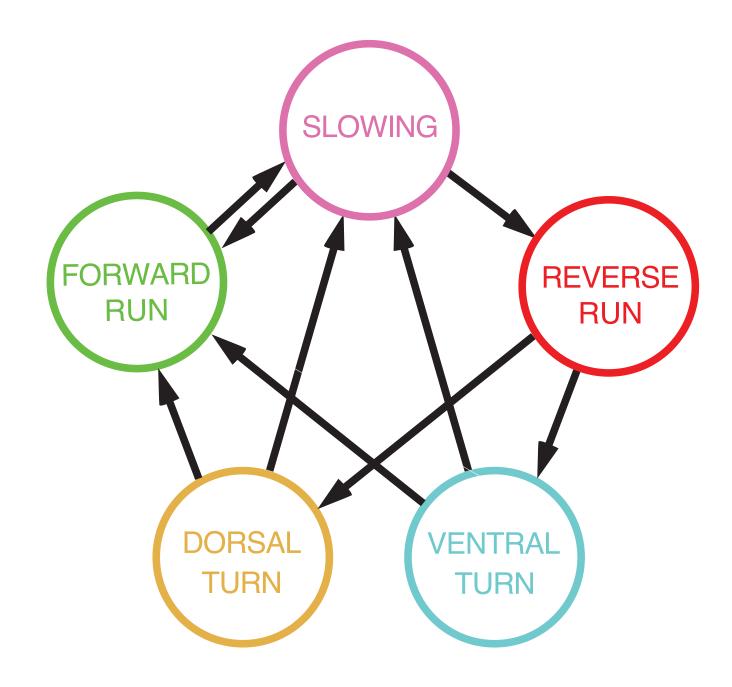
Estimate of COVID-19 infection based on blood antibodies

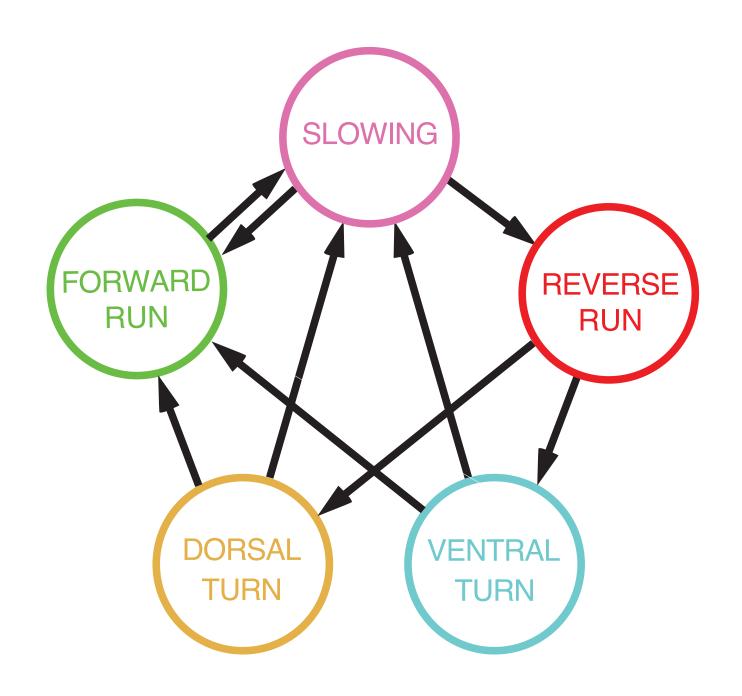


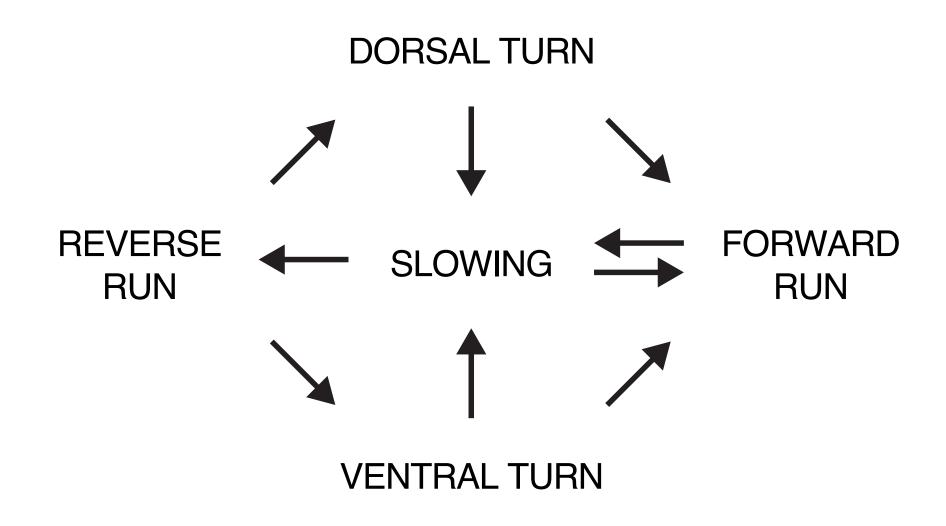


make it easy to compare

sense from order







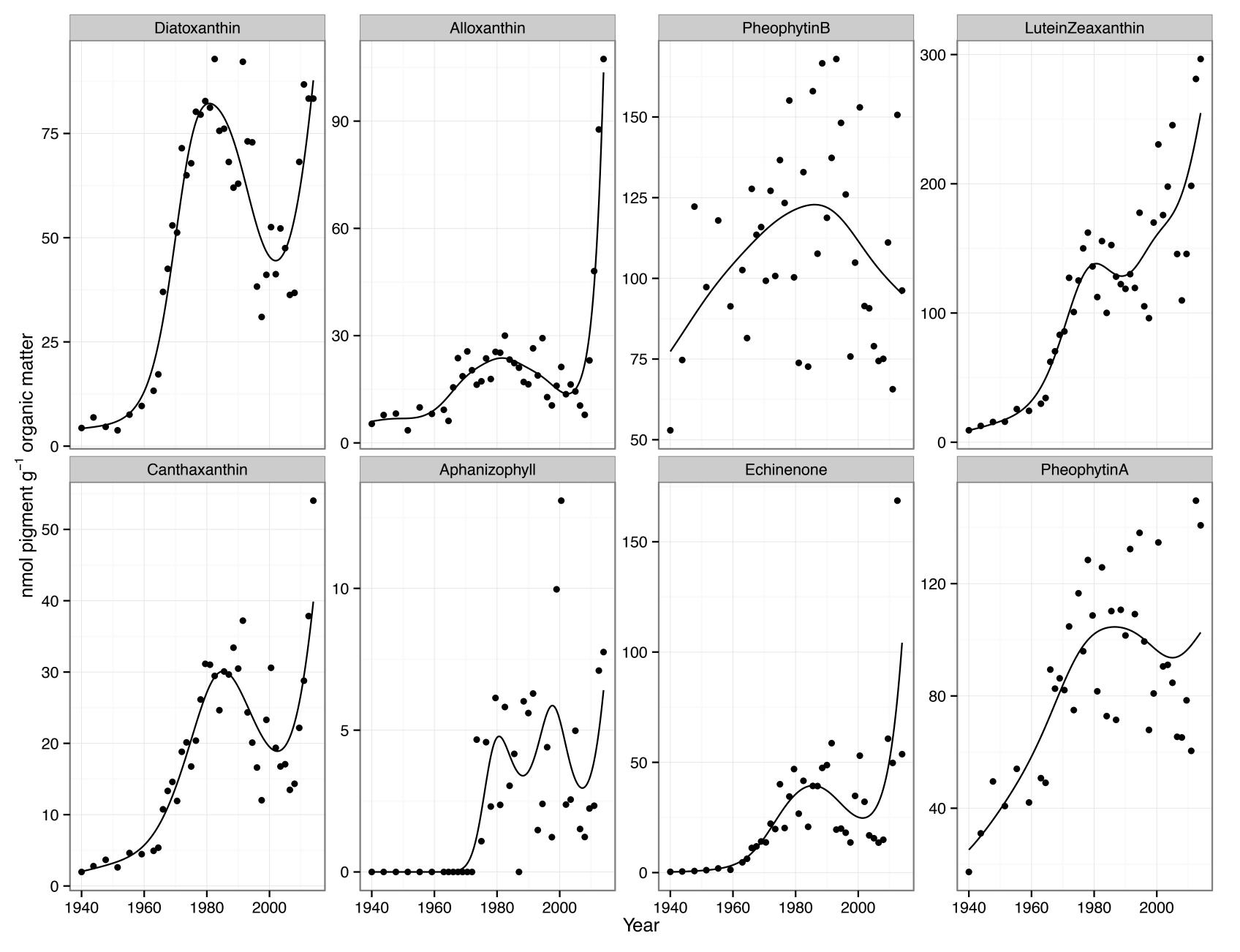
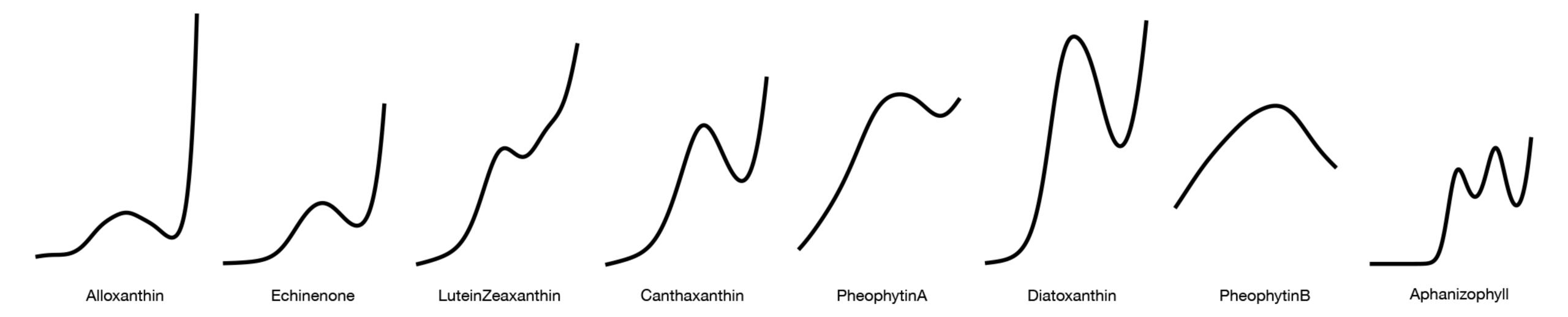
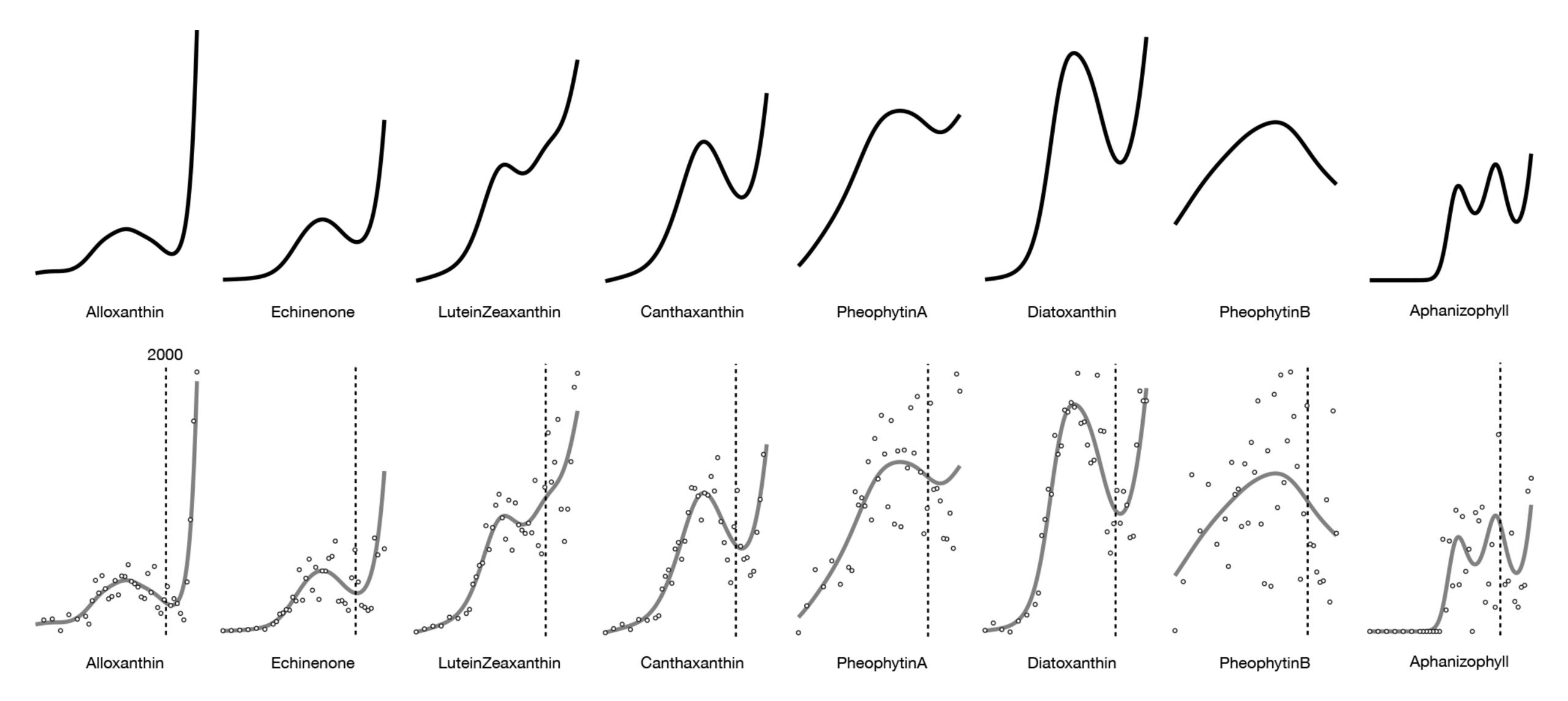
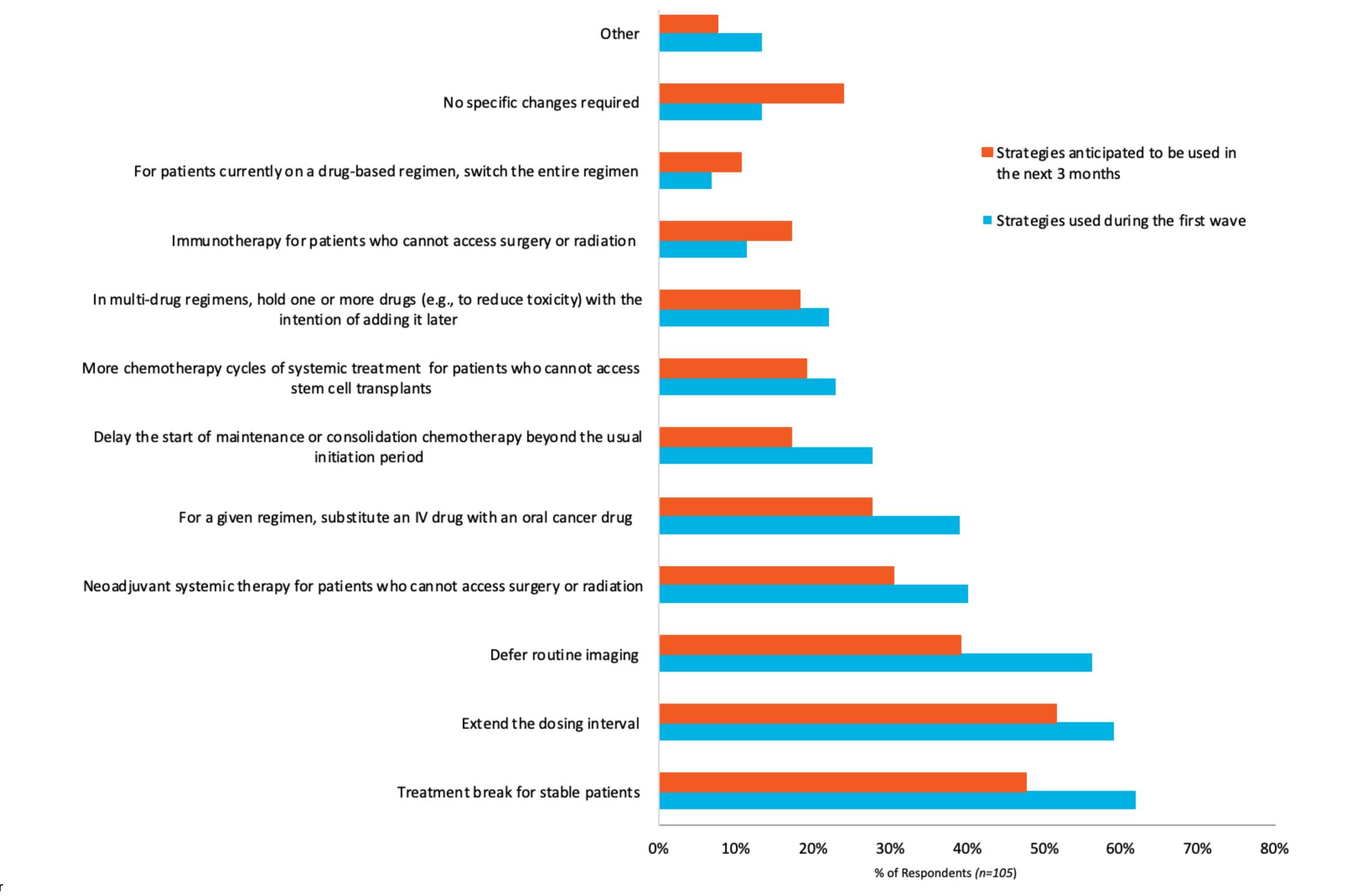
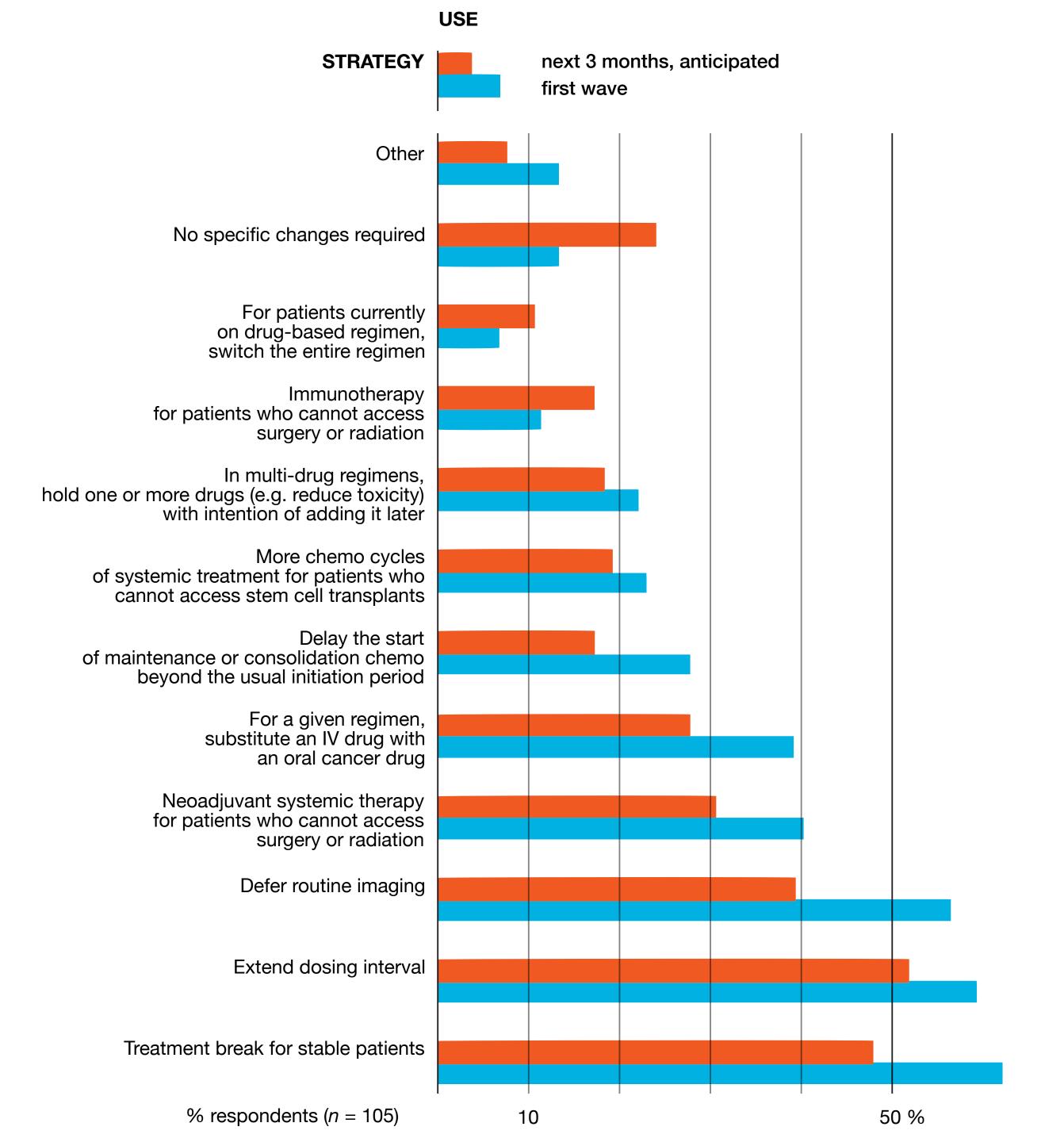


Figure 4. Concentrations of select fossil pigments throughout time in sediments from Pelican Lake. Pigment concentration was determined by HPLC analysis.

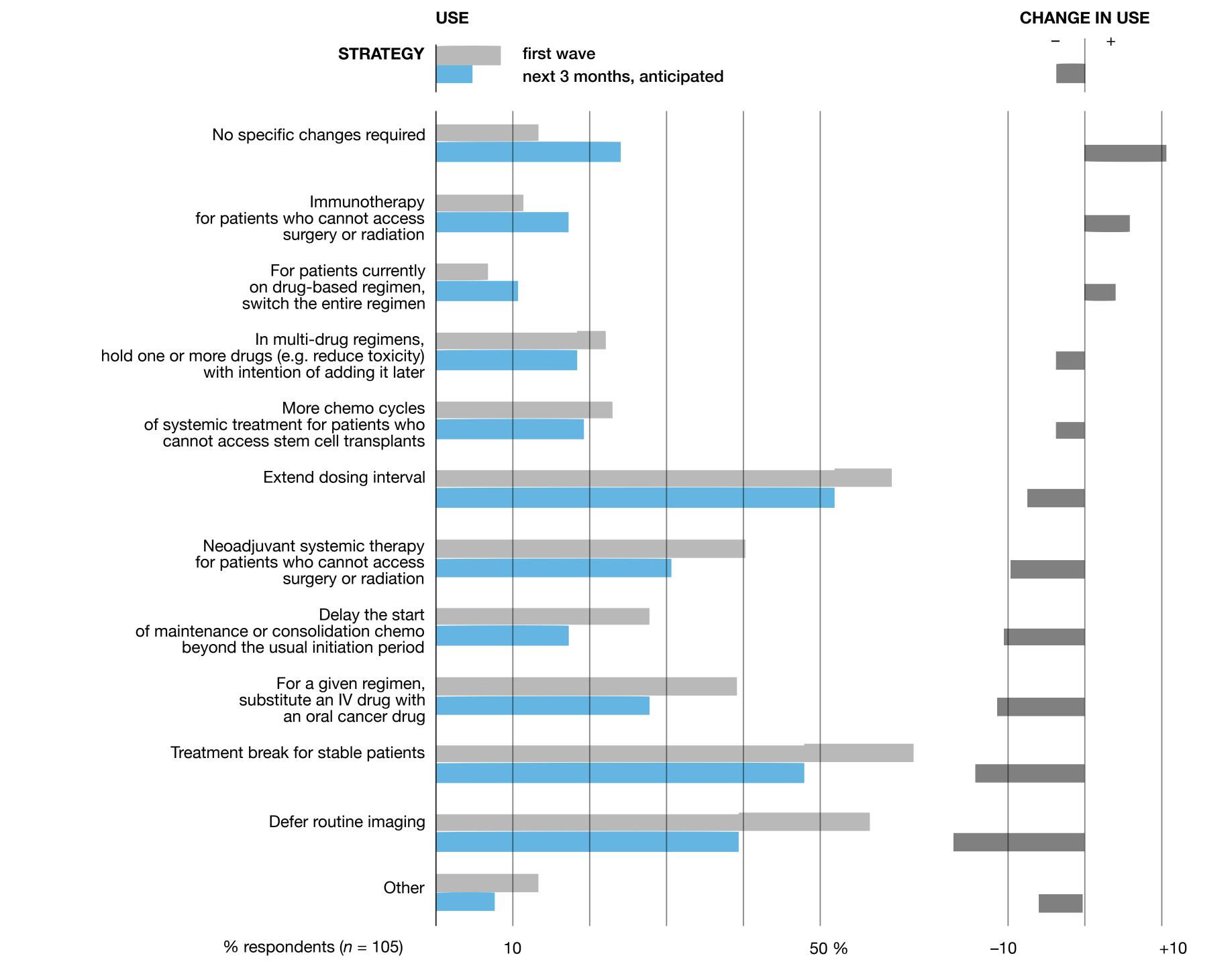








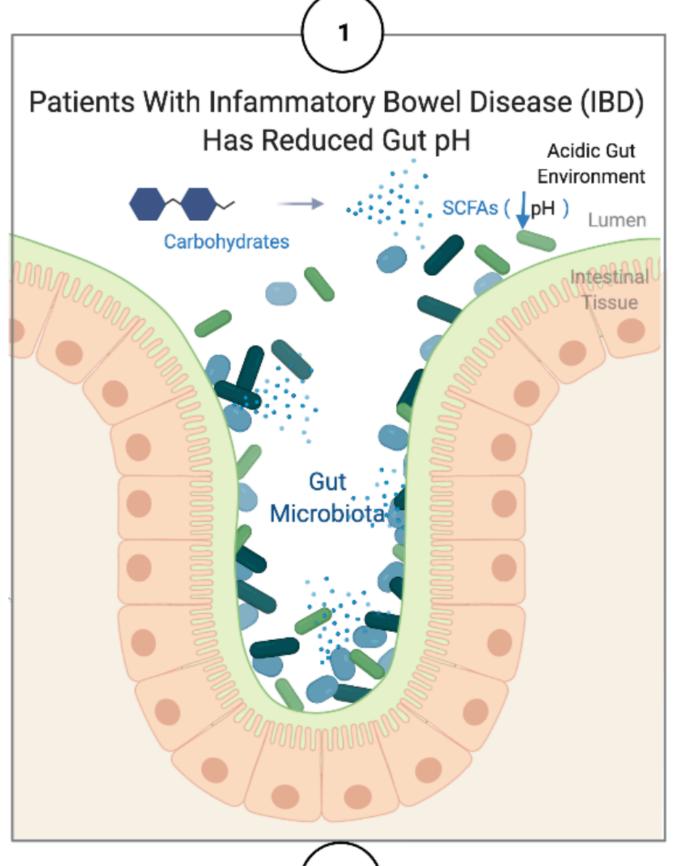
Other

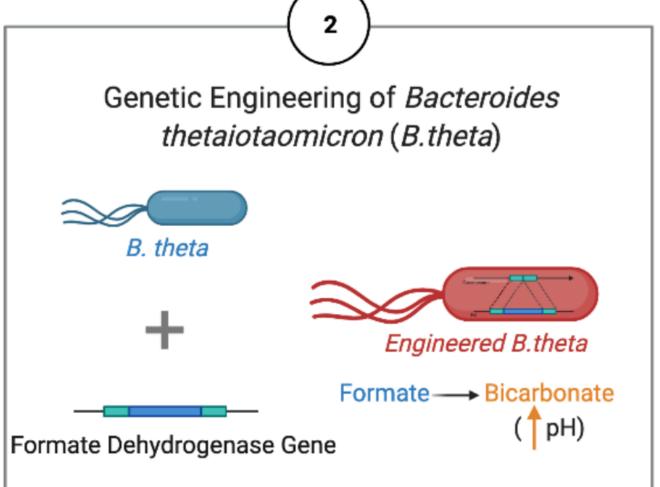


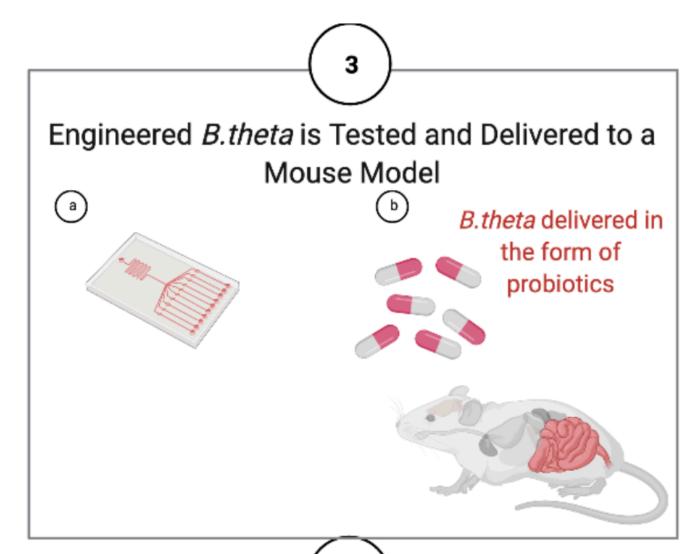


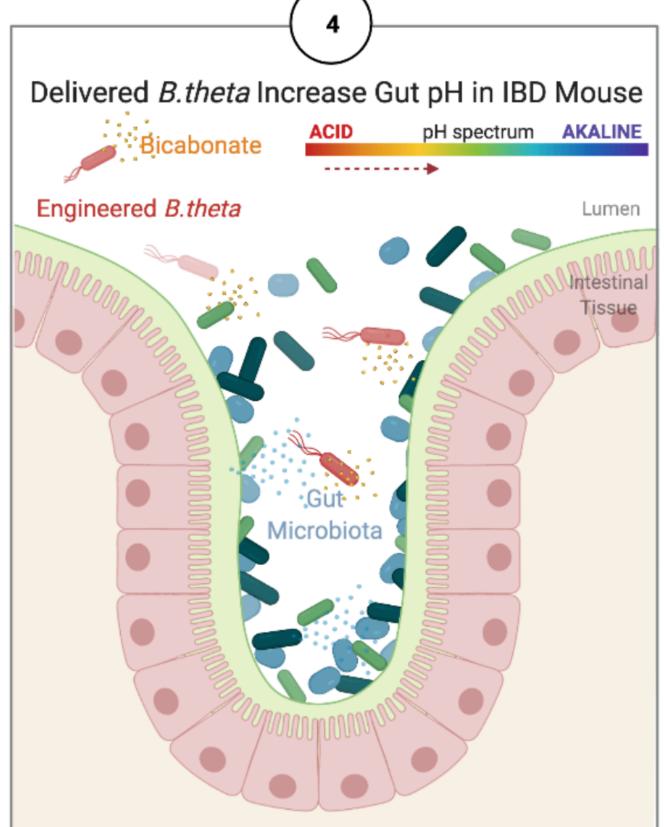
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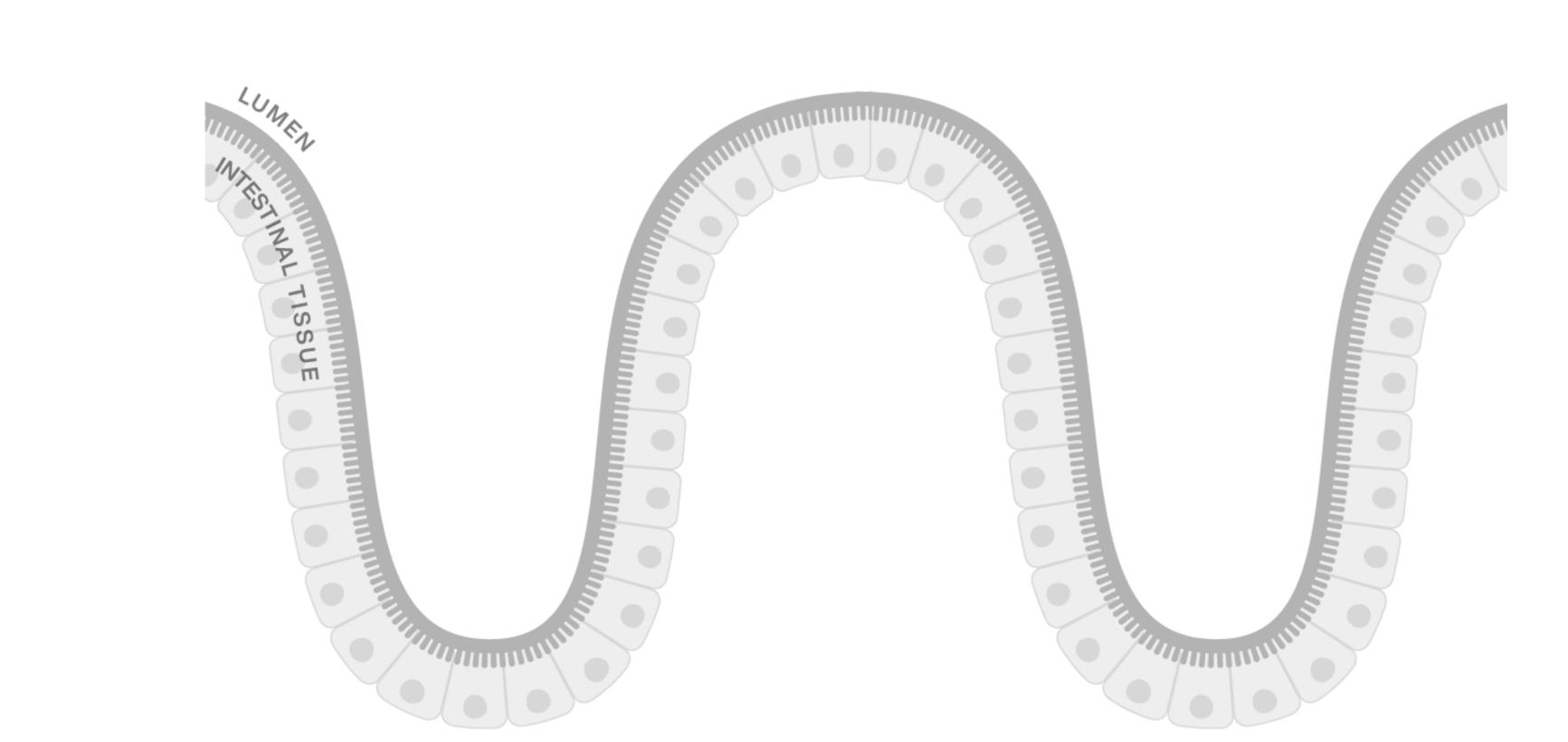
draw the eye to differences

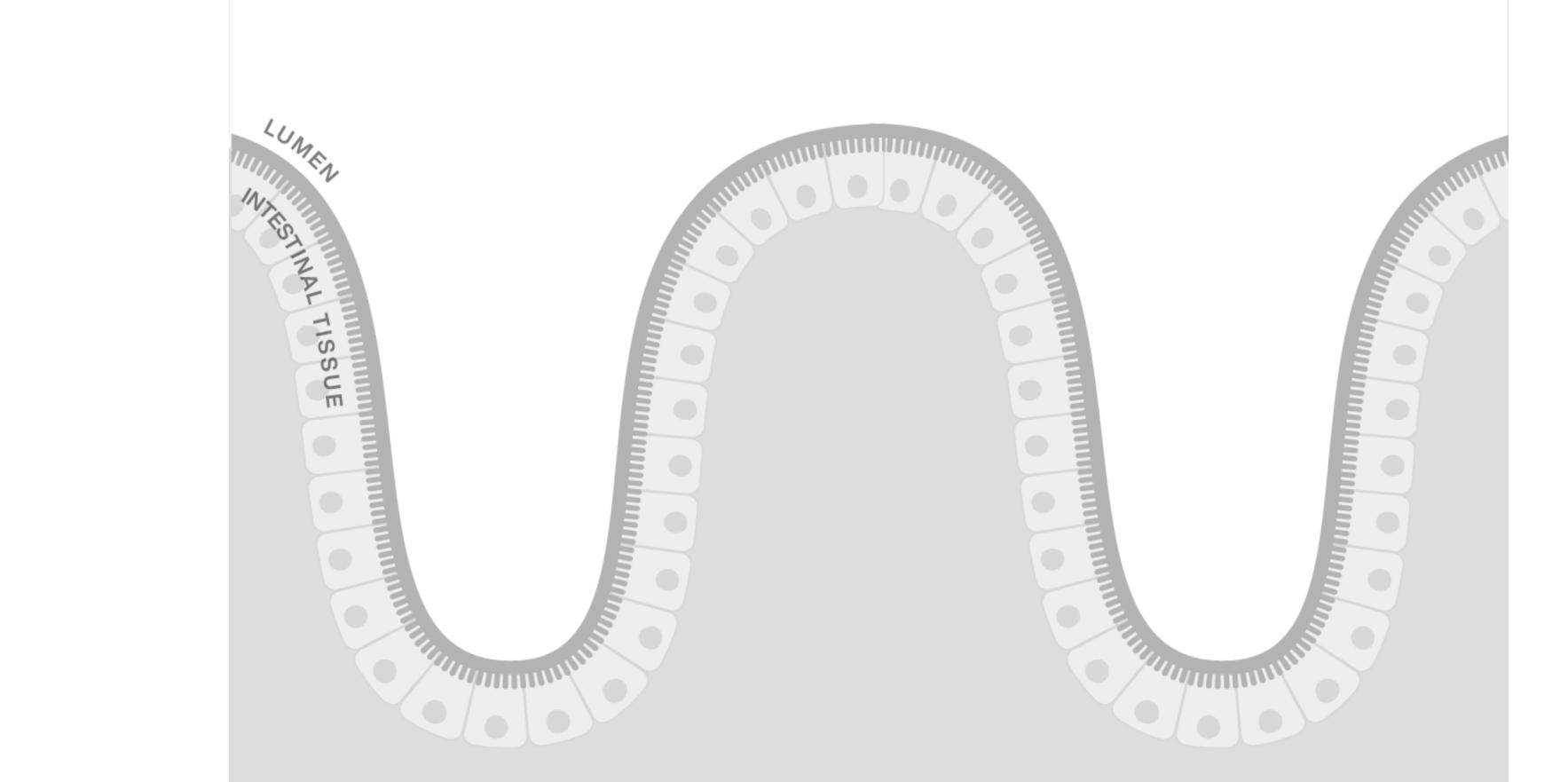


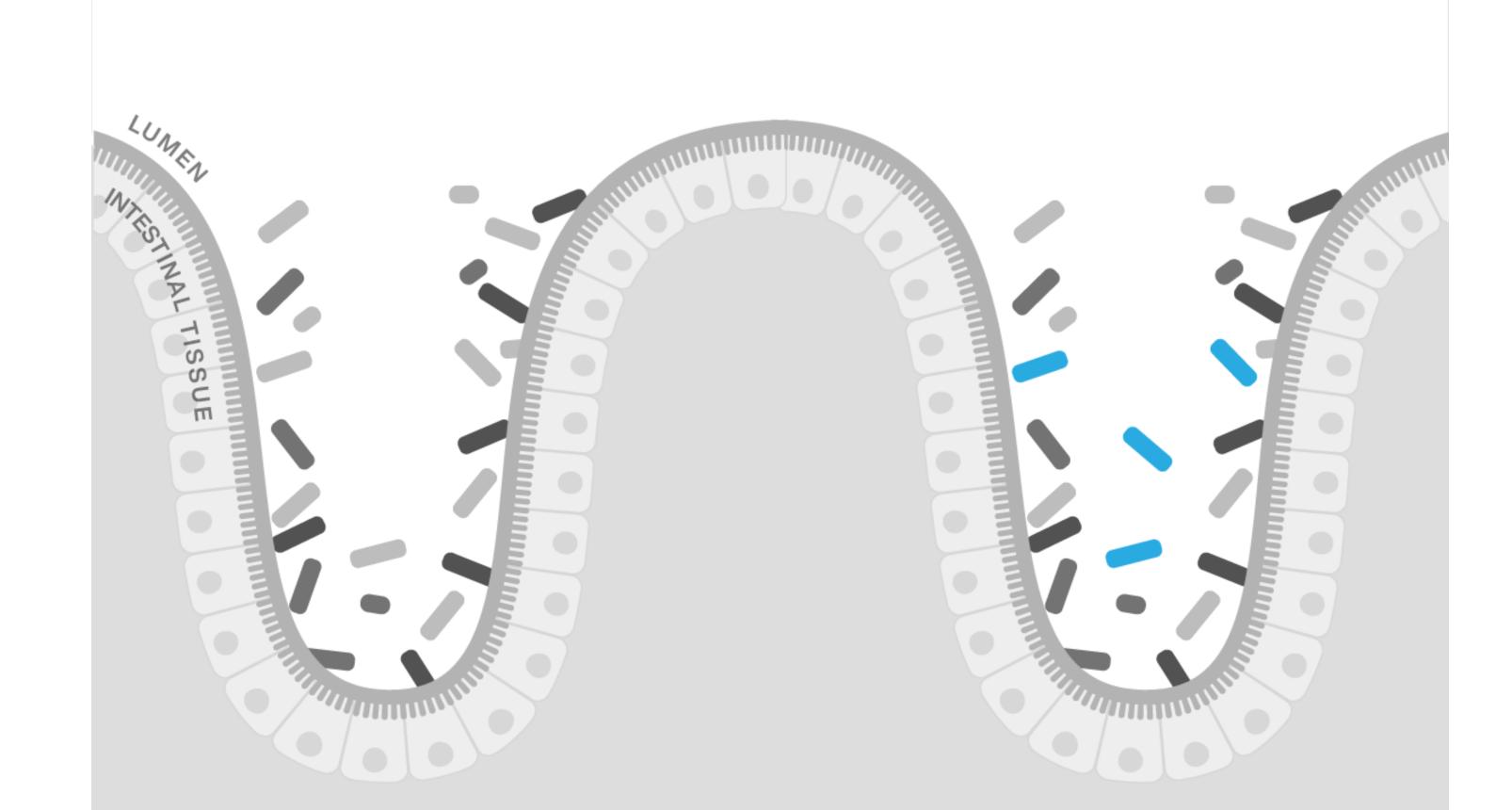


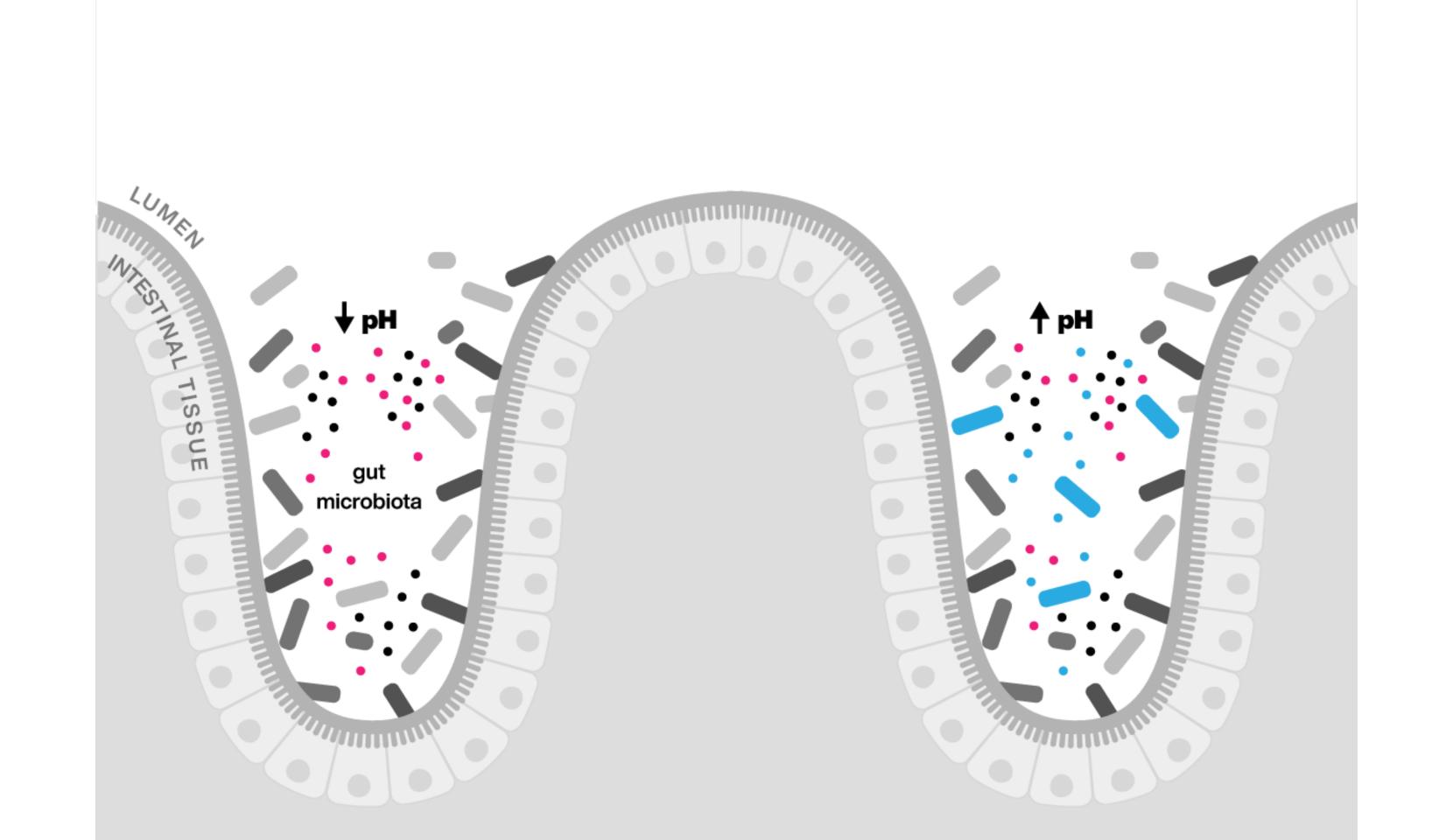


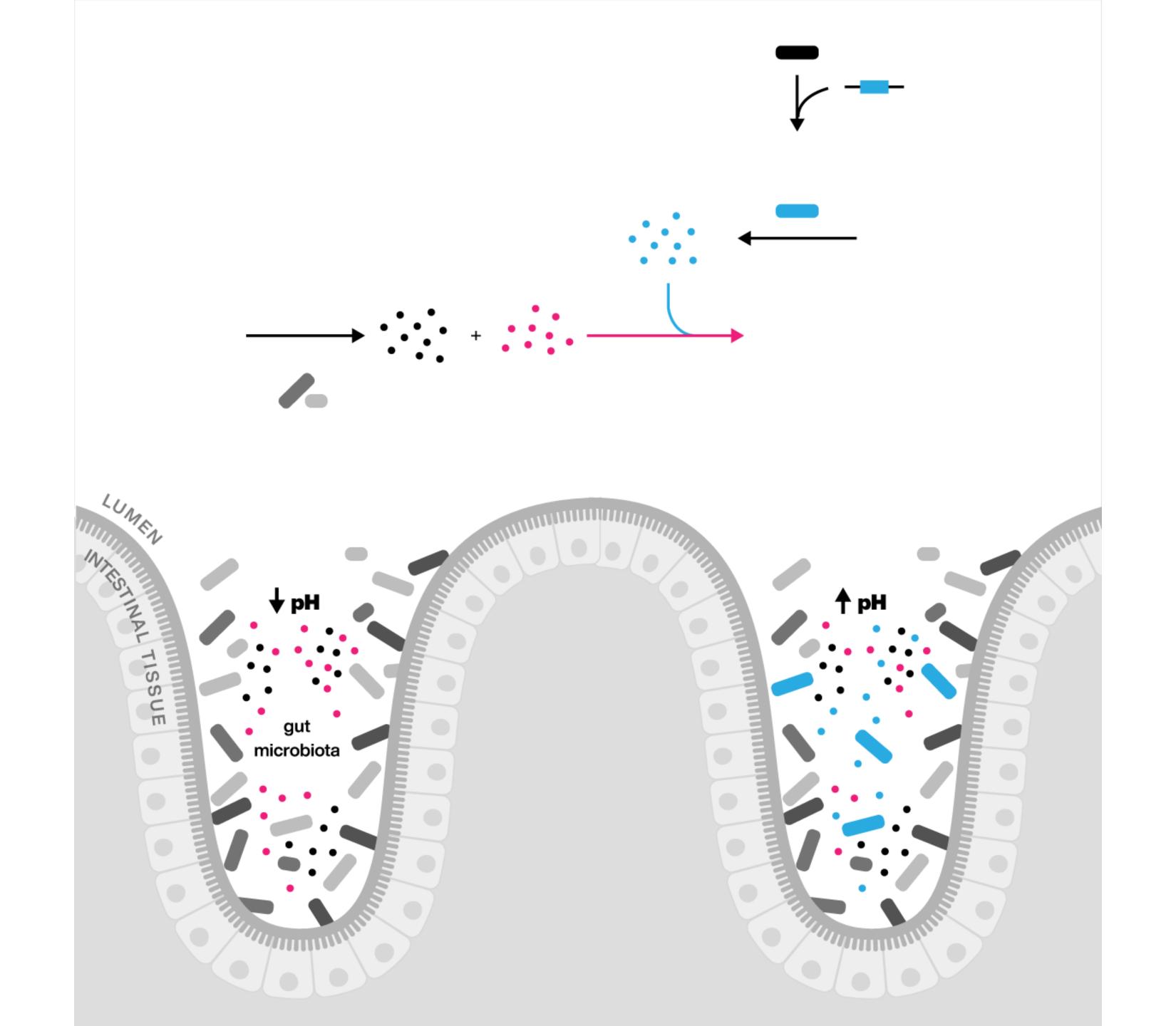


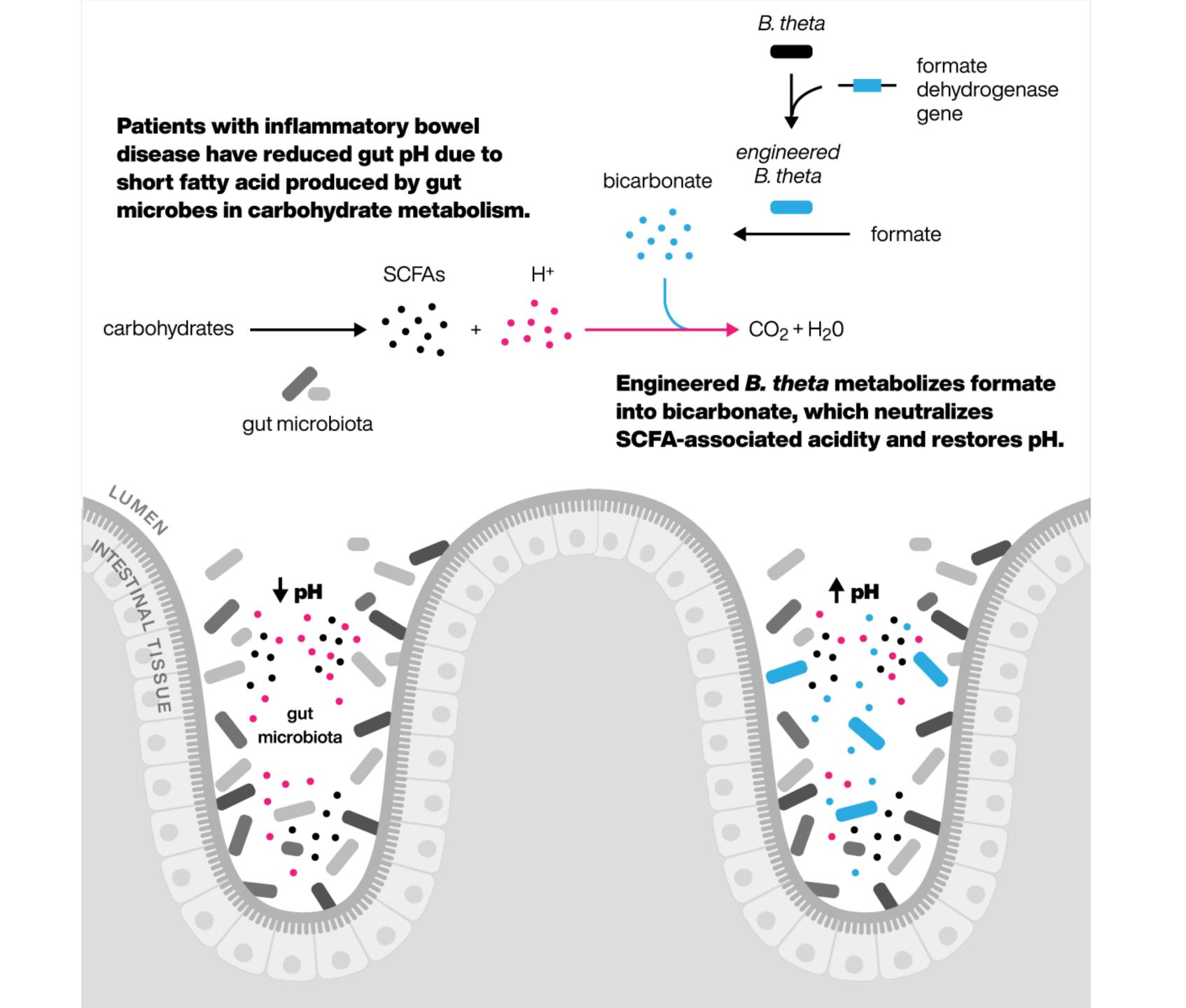


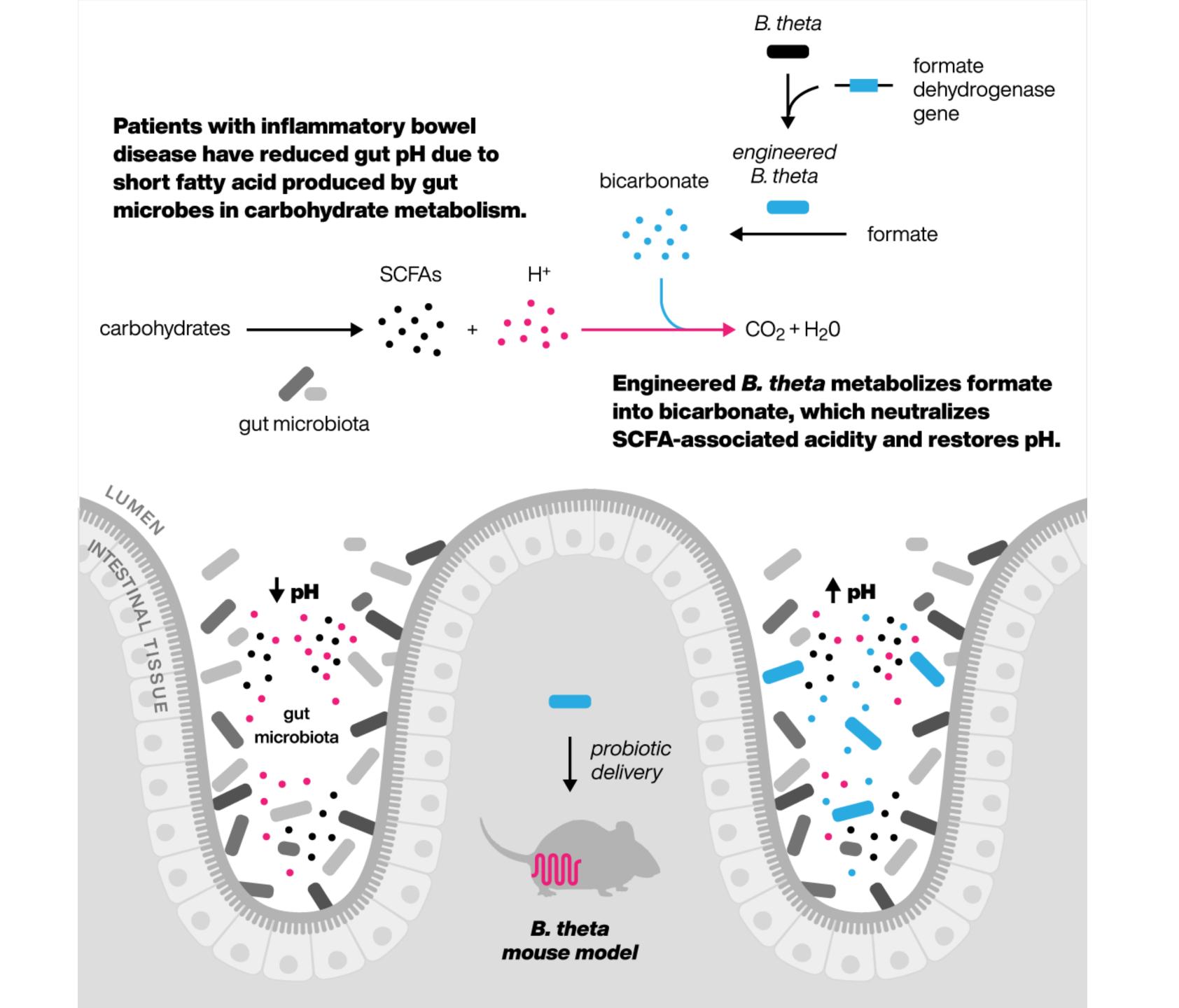


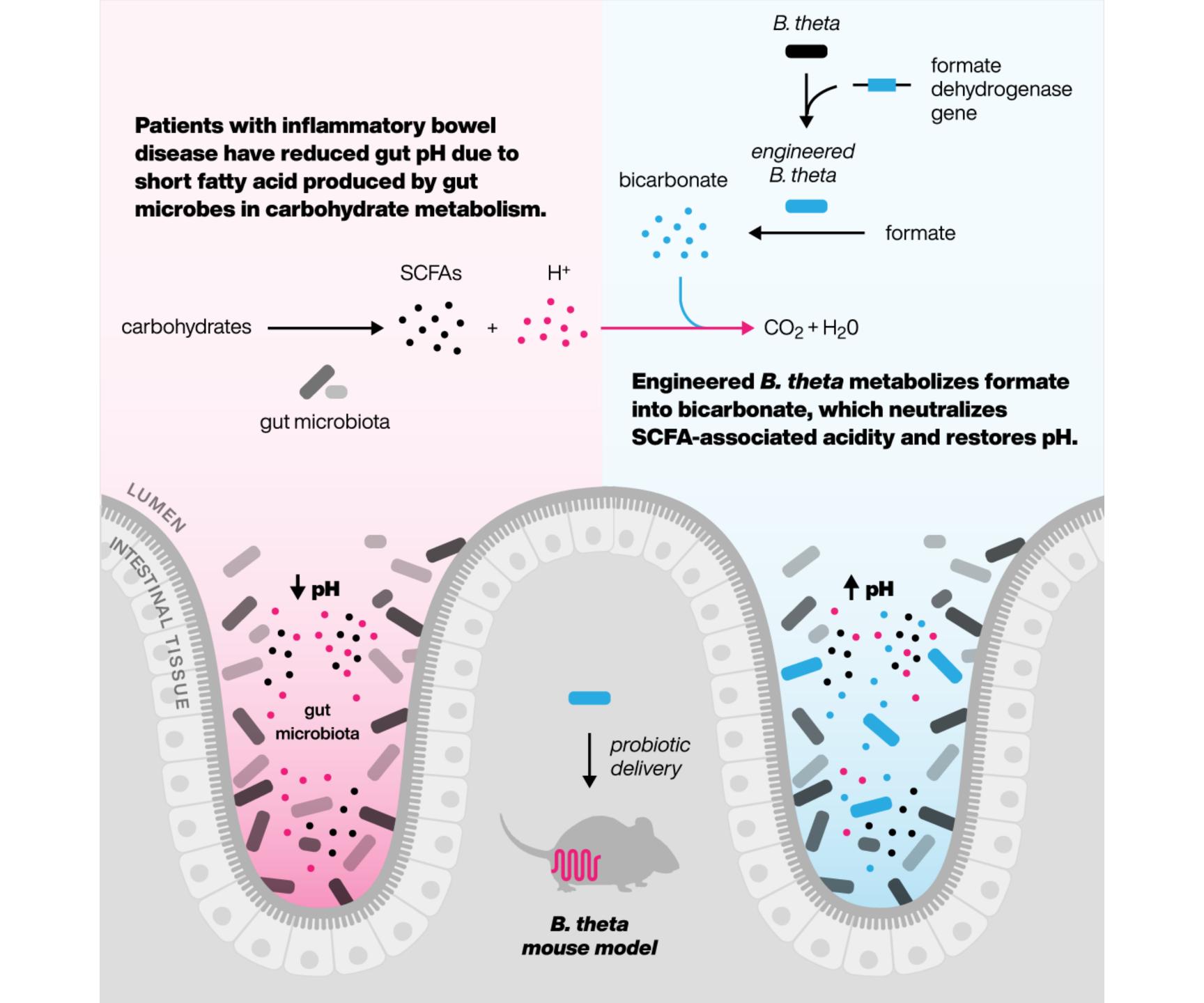


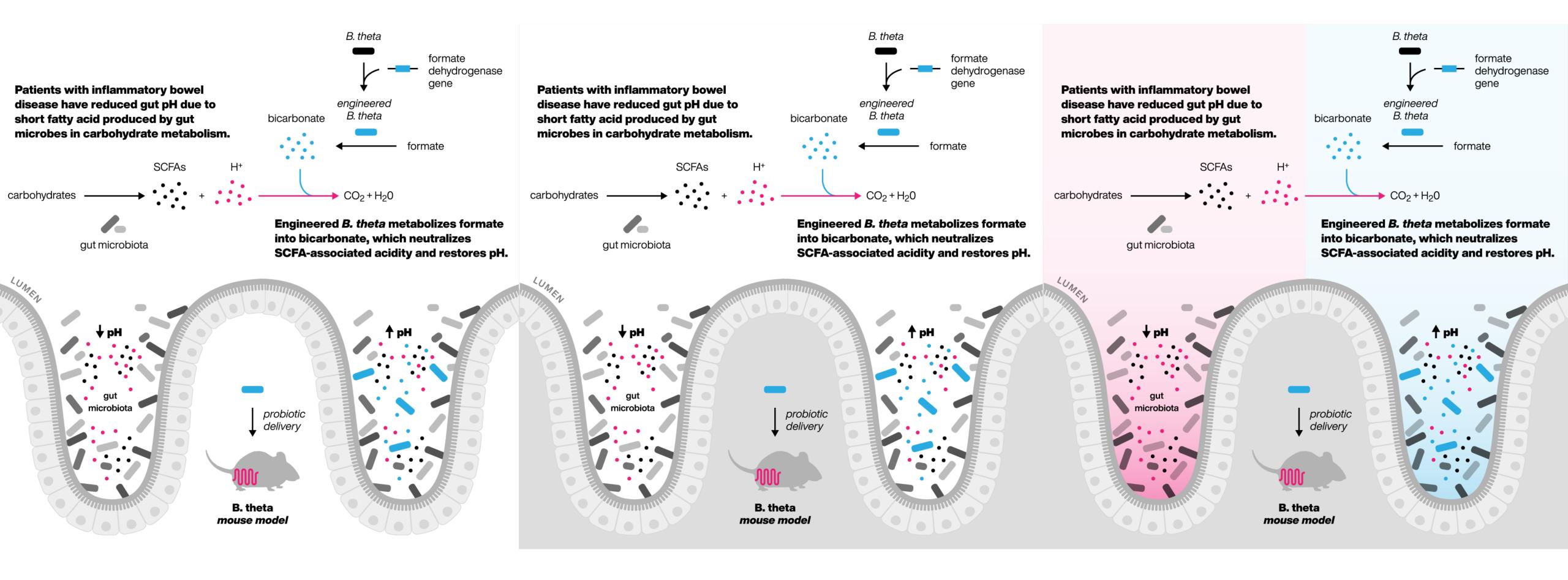








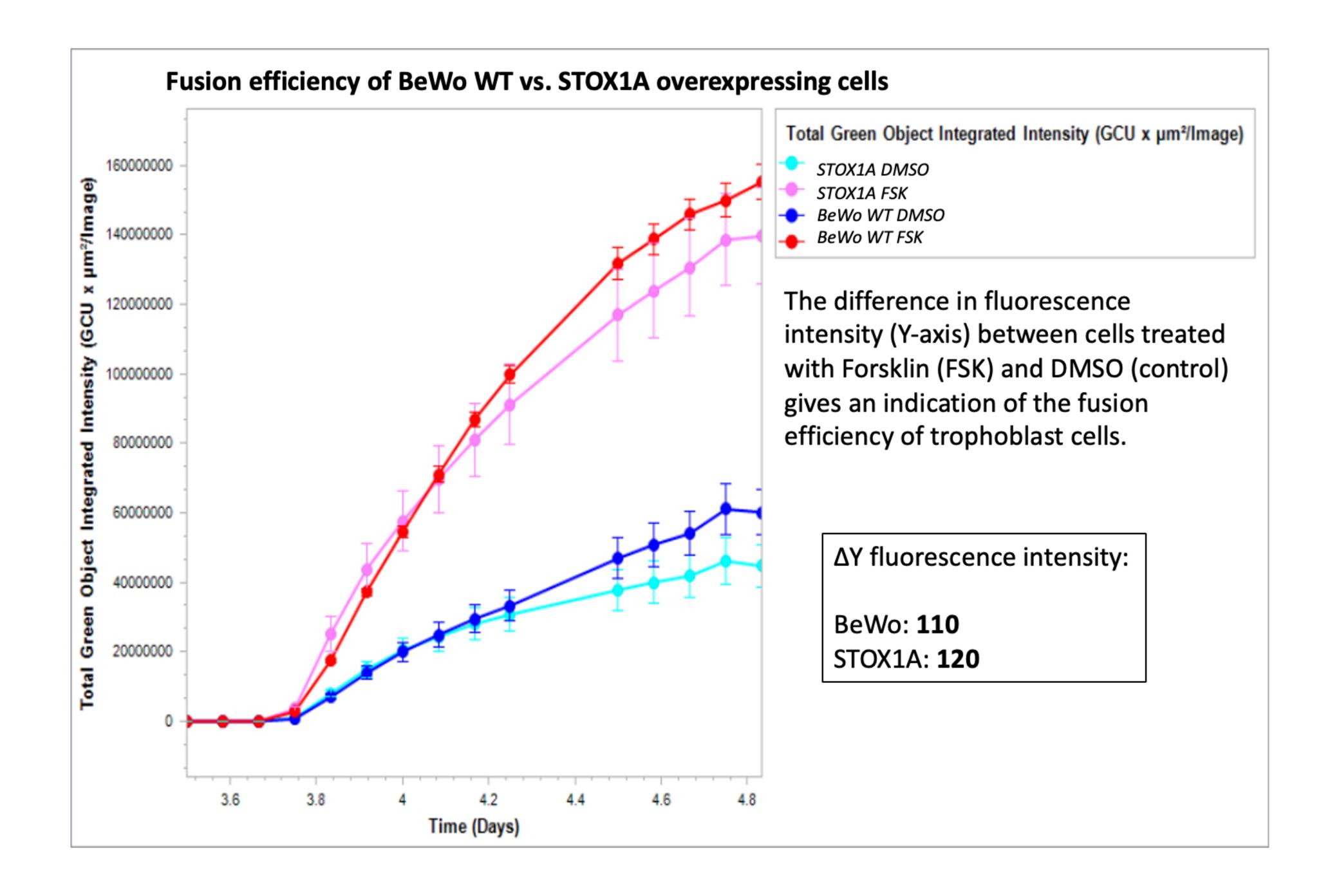


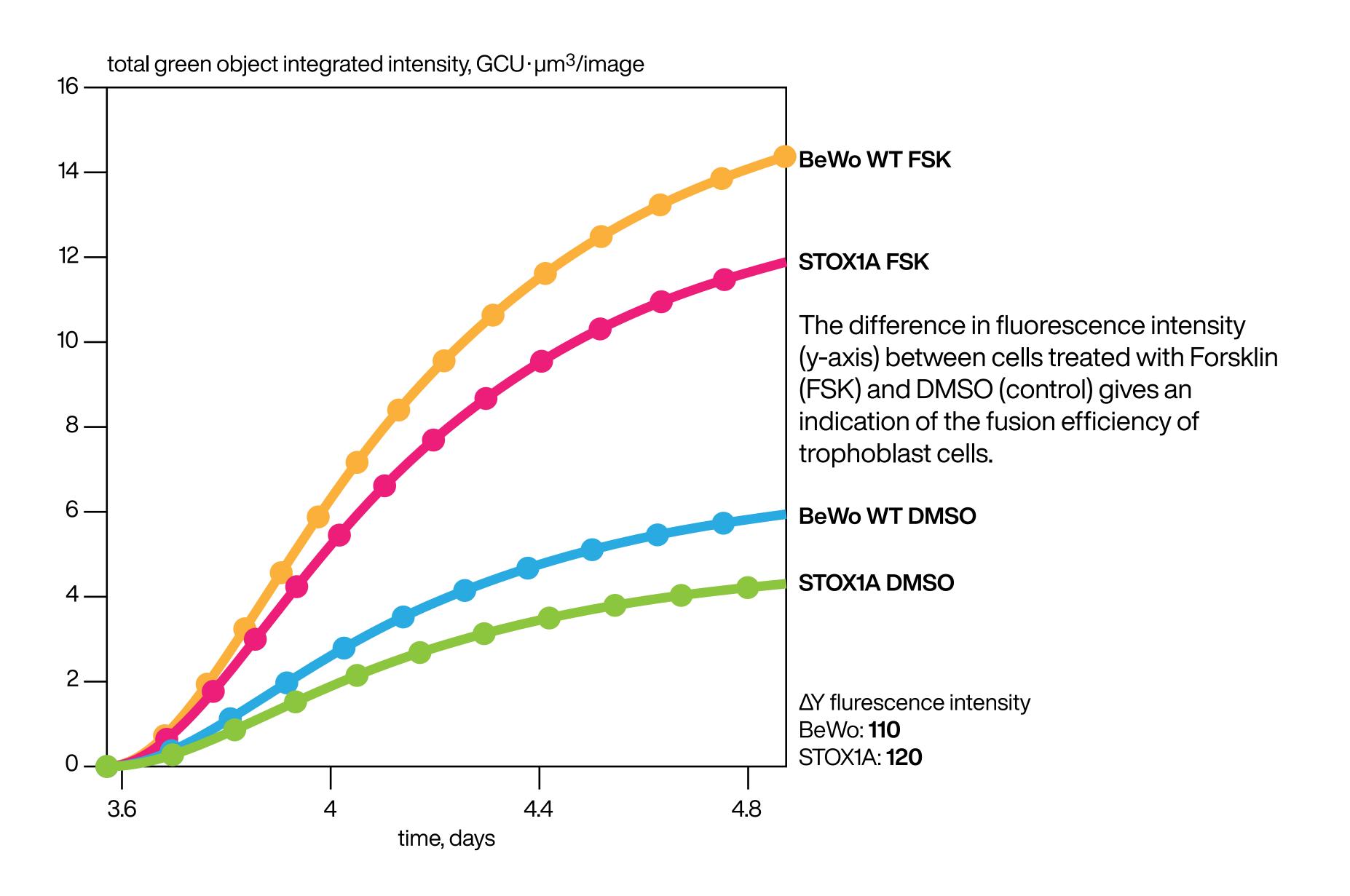


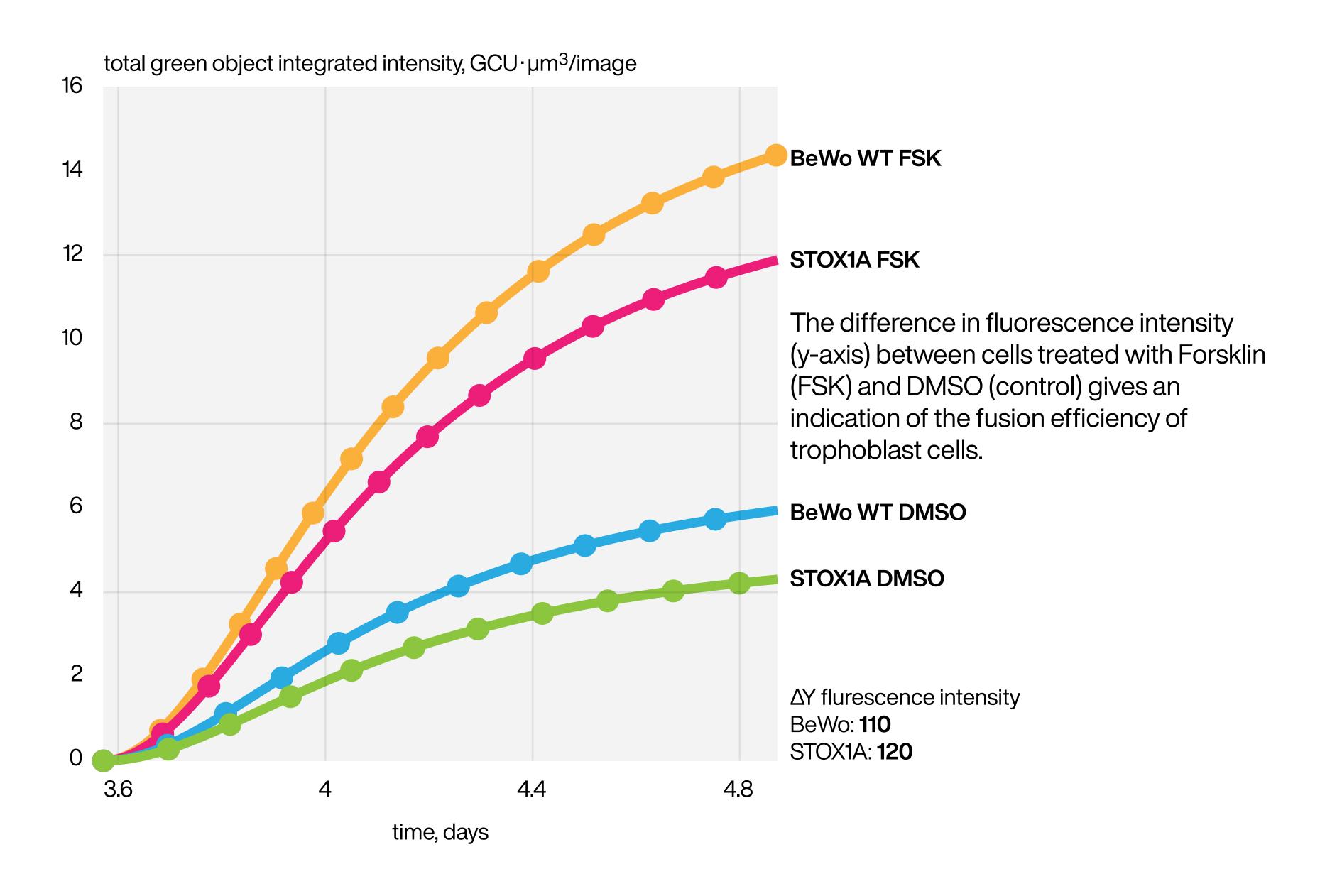


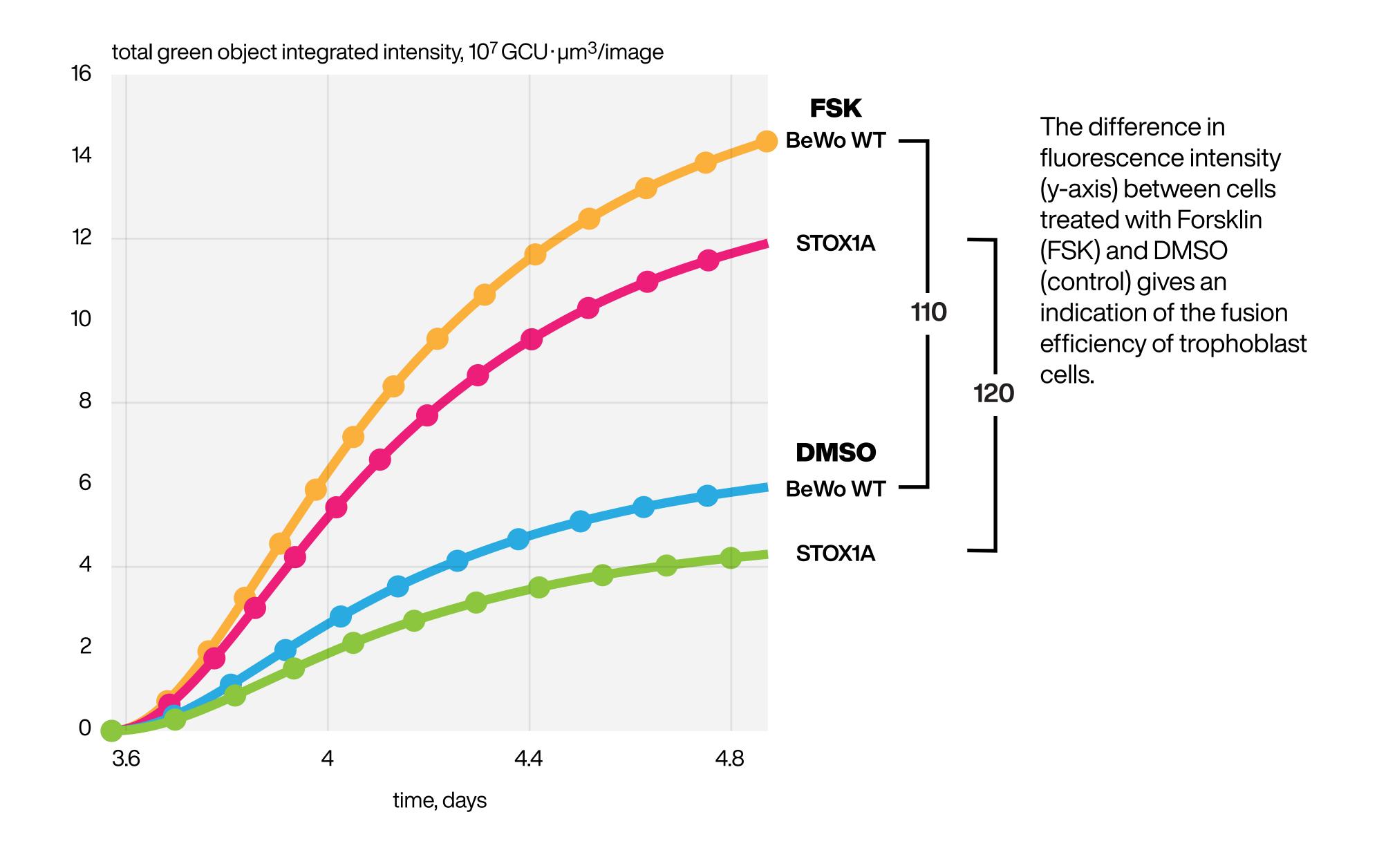
annotate nearby

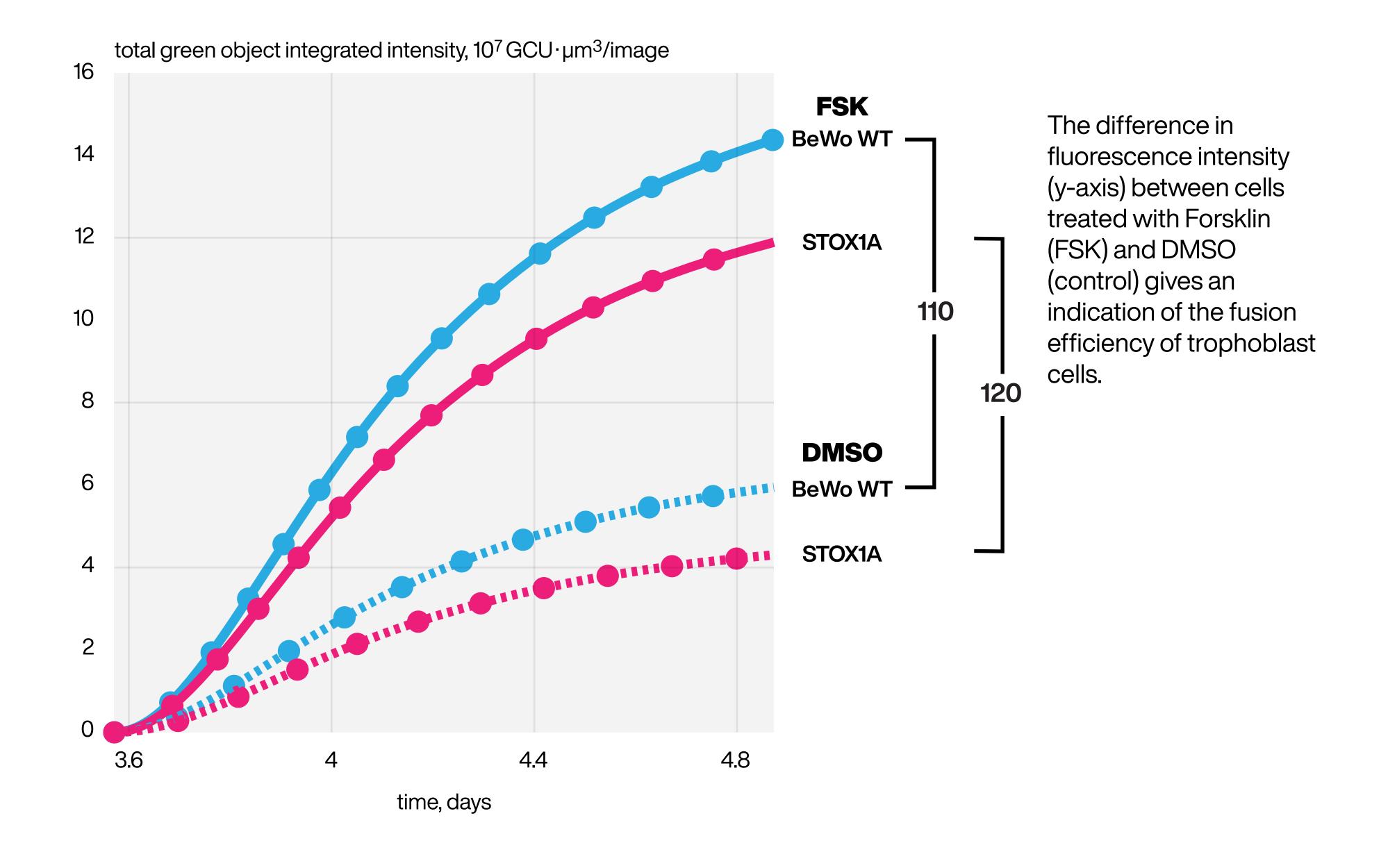
avoid legends (where possible)

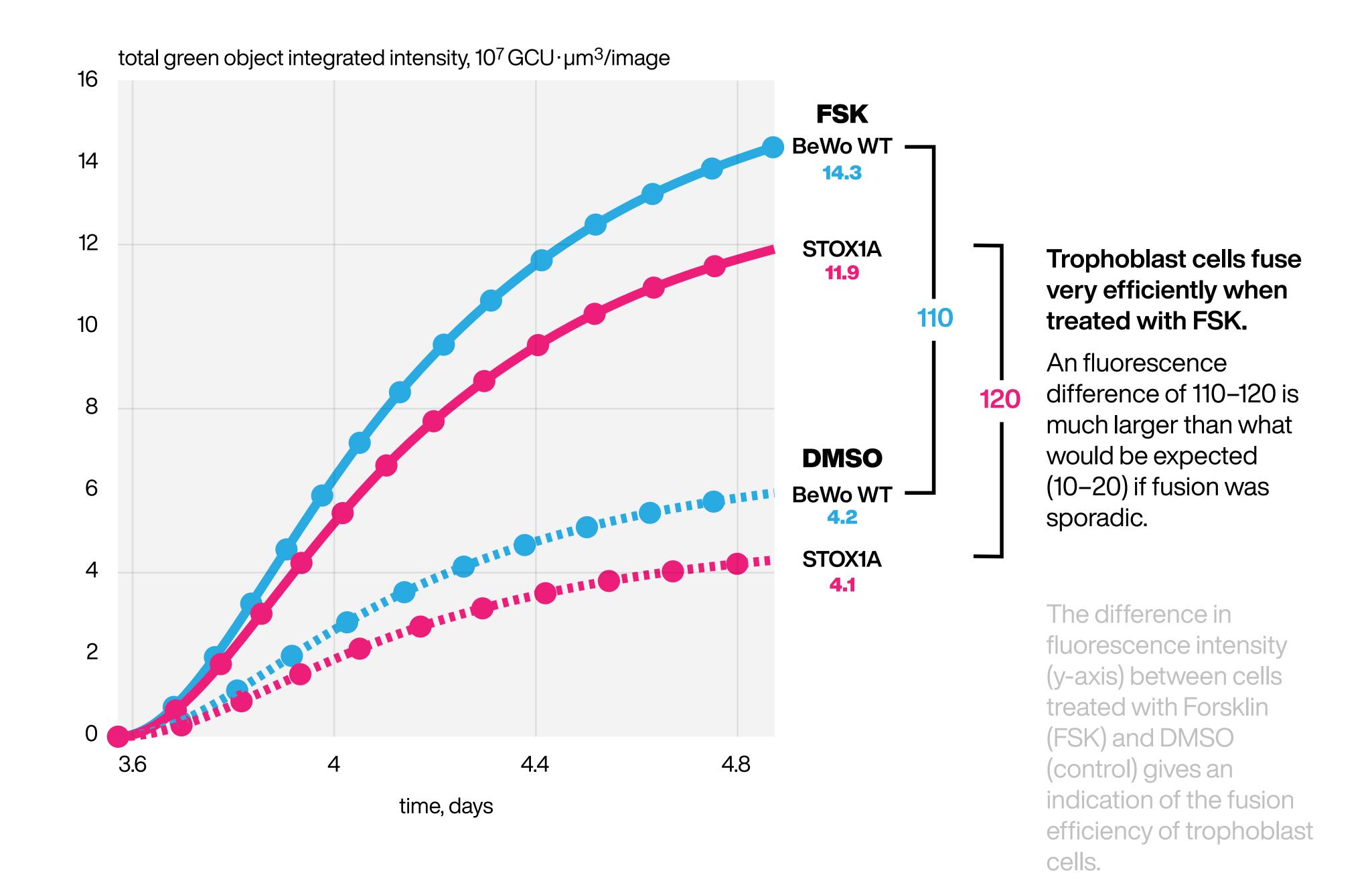














data stories

quantitative narrative — where to look

Vaccine Effectiveness (VE): 2 Doses British Columbia (BC), Canada



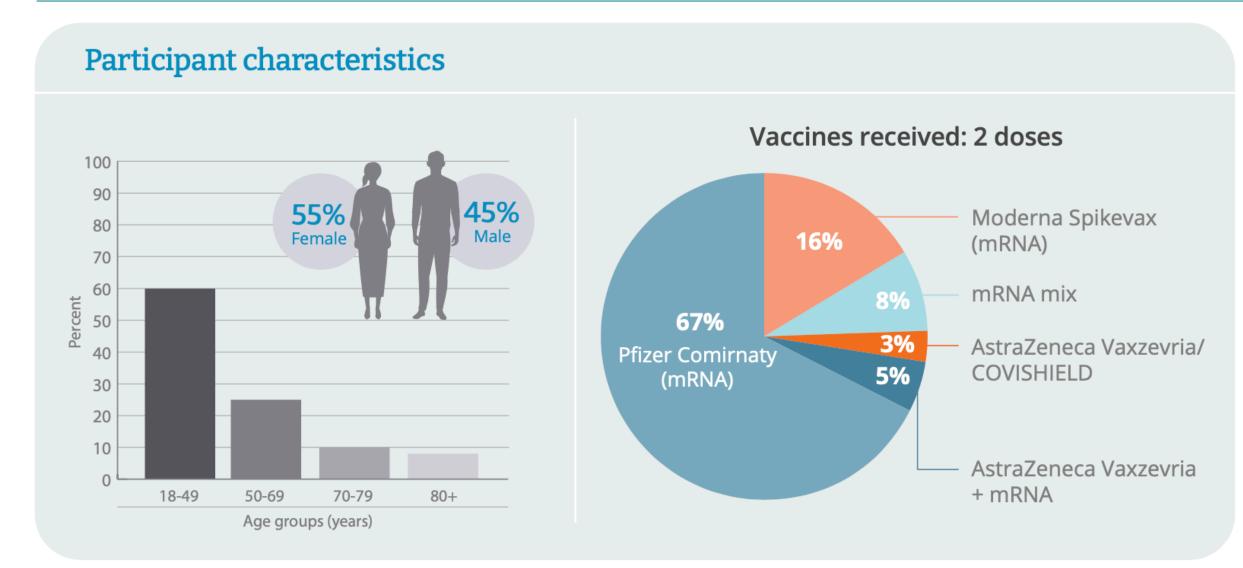
Vaccines: mRNA (Pfizer Comirnaty & Moderna Spikevax), AstraZeneca Vaxzevria

Population: 18+ year olds, excluding long term care residents

Research method: Test-negative design Study period: May 30 - Sept. 11, 2021, during rise of Delta variant in BC

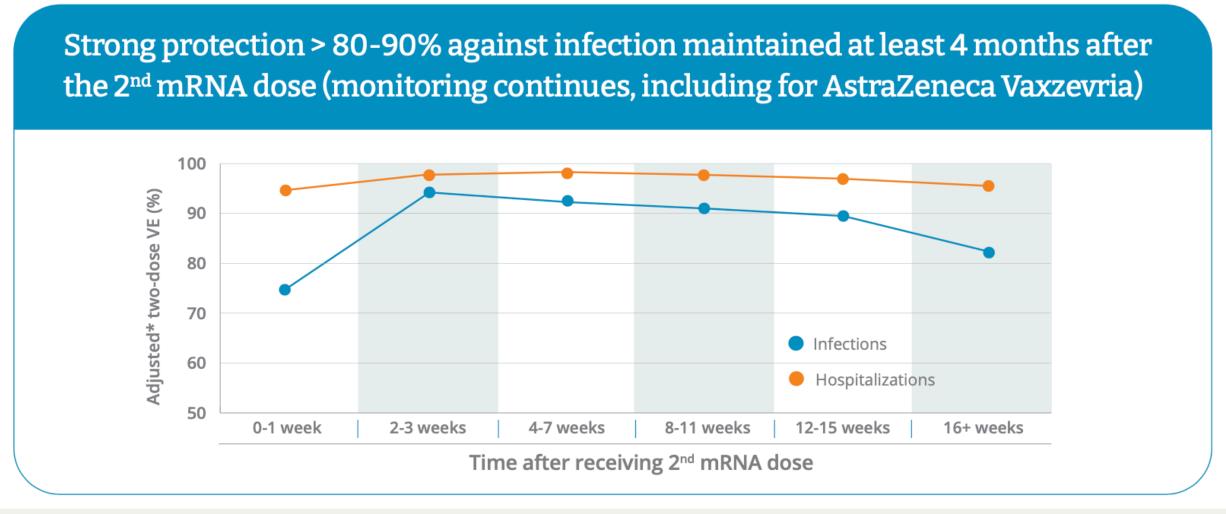
Sample size: 246,656

Cases: 17,077 **Controls:** 229,579



2 doses of any vaccine are highly protective, including against the Delta variant 20 Delta infections All hospitalizations

- Hospitalization risk in vaccinated people reduced by more than 90%
- Infection risk reduced by more than 90% for mRNA recipients and 70% for Vaxzevria
- Mixed doses (mRNA and Vaxzevria) offers protection similar to 2 mRNA doses



Protection is even stronger when the interval between 1st and 2nd dose is more than 6 weeks



VE estimates displayed are against infection.



Vaccines mRNA mRNA viral **Population** Research method

Study period

Sample size Cases Controls

September 28, 2021

Participant characteristics

Vaccines received: 2 doses

2 doses of any vaccine are highly protective, including against the Delta variant

>80% protection against infection maintained at least 4 months after the 2nd mRNA dose

Protection is even stronger when the interval between 1st and 2nd dose is more than 6 weeks



Vaccines

mRNA Pfizer Comirnaty
mRNA Moderna Spikevax
viral AstraZeneca Vaxzevria

Population

18+-year-olds, excluding long term care residents

Research method

Test-negative design

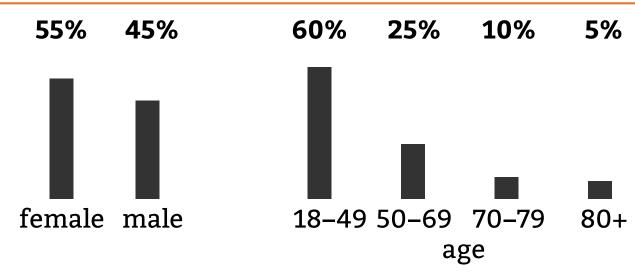
Study period

May 30 – Sep 11, 2021 during rise of Delta variant in BC

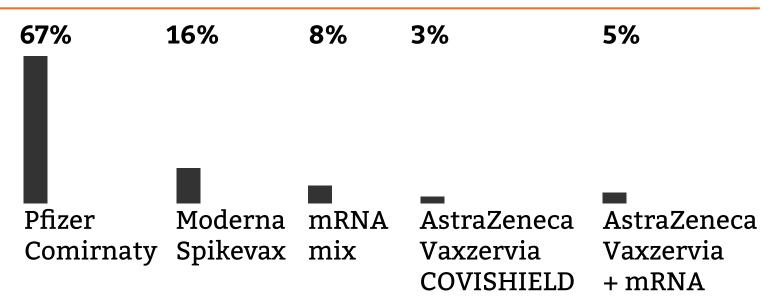
Sample size 246,656 **Cases** 17,077 **Controls** 229,579

September 28, 2021

Participant characteristics

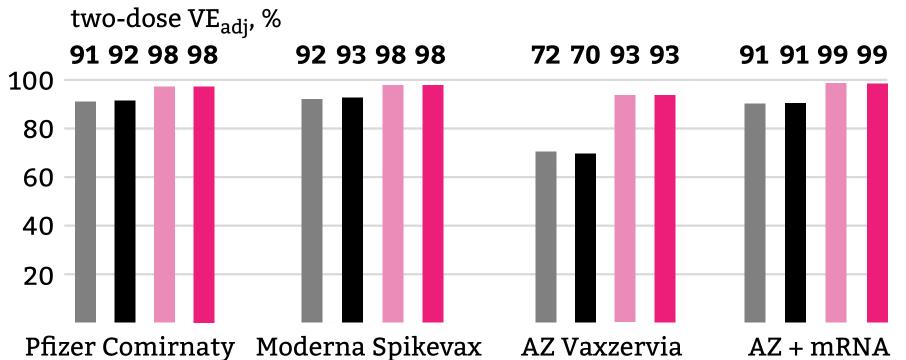


Vaccines received: 2 doses



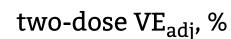
2 doses of any vaccine are highly protective, including against the Delta variant

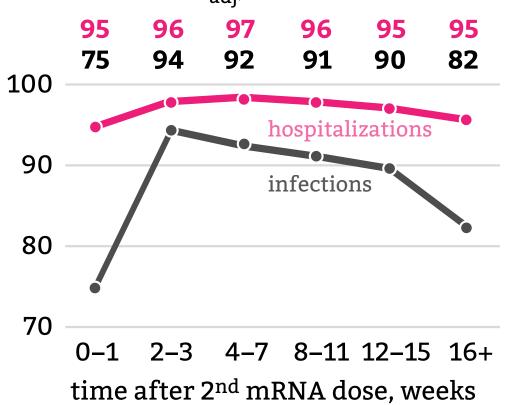




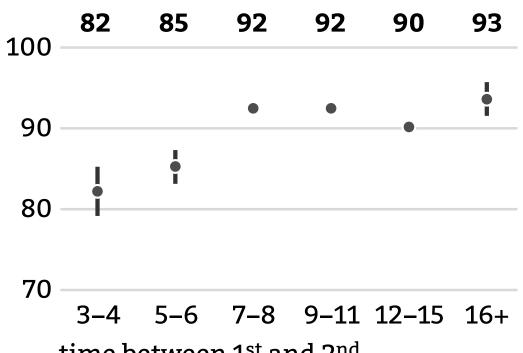
>80% protection against infection maintained at least 4 months after the 2nd mRNA dose

Protection is even stronger when the interval between 1st and 2nd dose is more than 6 weeks





two-dose VE_{adi}, % (95% CI)



time between 1st and 2nd
Pfizer Comirnarty doses, weeks



Vaccines

mRNA Pfizer Comirnaty
mRNA Moderna Spikevax
viral AstraZeneca Vaxzevria

Population

18+-year-olds, excluding long term care residents

Research method

Test-negative design

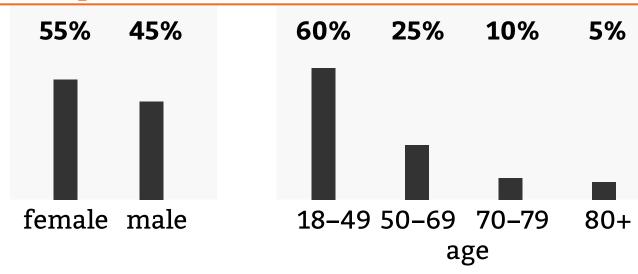
Study period

May 30 – Sep 11, 2021 during rise of Delta variant in BC

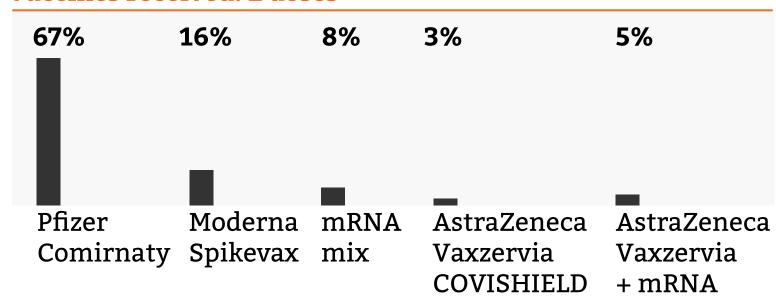
Sample size 246,656 **Cases** 17,077 **Controls** 229,579

September 28, 2021

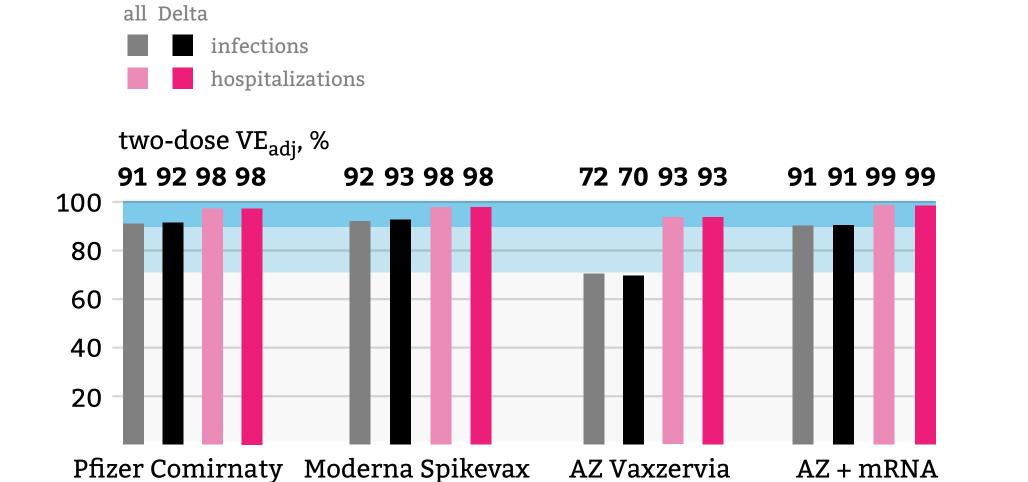
Participant characteristics



Vaccines received: 2 doses



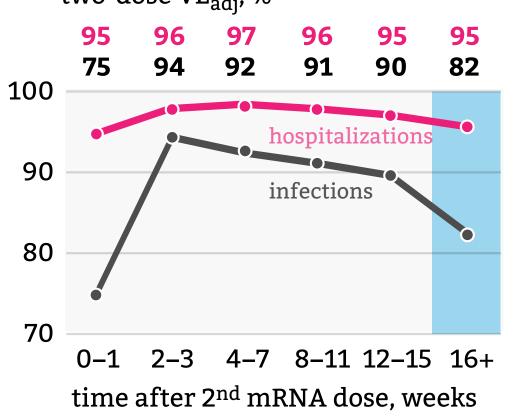
2 doses of any vaccine are highly protective, including against the Delta variant



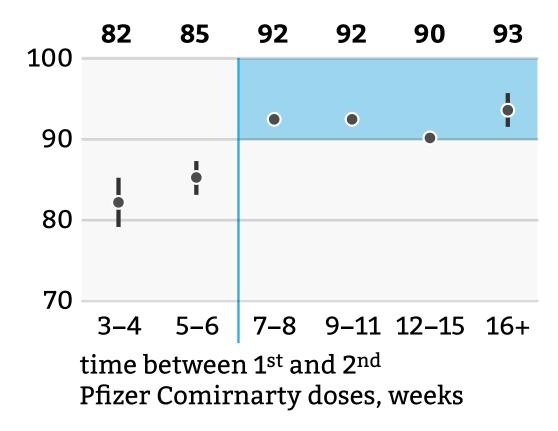
>80% protection against infection maintained at least 4 months after the 2nd mRNA dose

Protection is even stronger when the interval between 1st and 2nd dose is more than 6 weeks

two-dose VE_{adi}, %



two-dose VE_{adi}, % (95% CI)





Vaccines mRNA Pfizer Comirnaty mRNA Moderna Spikevax

viral AstraZeneca Vaxzevria

Population

18+-year-olds, excluding long term care residents

Research method

mRNA

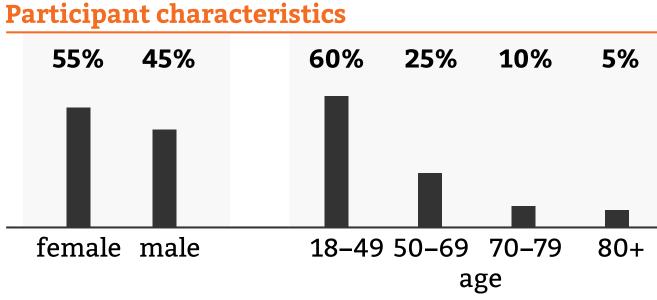
Test-negative design

mRNA

Study period

May 30 - Sep 11, 2021 during rise of Delta variant in BC Sample size 246,656 **Cases** 17,077 **Controls** 229,579

September 28, 2021



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Vaccines received: 2 doses **67%** 16% 8% 3% 5% Moderna mRNA AstraZeneca Pfizer Spikevax mix Comirnaty Vaxzervia

mRNA

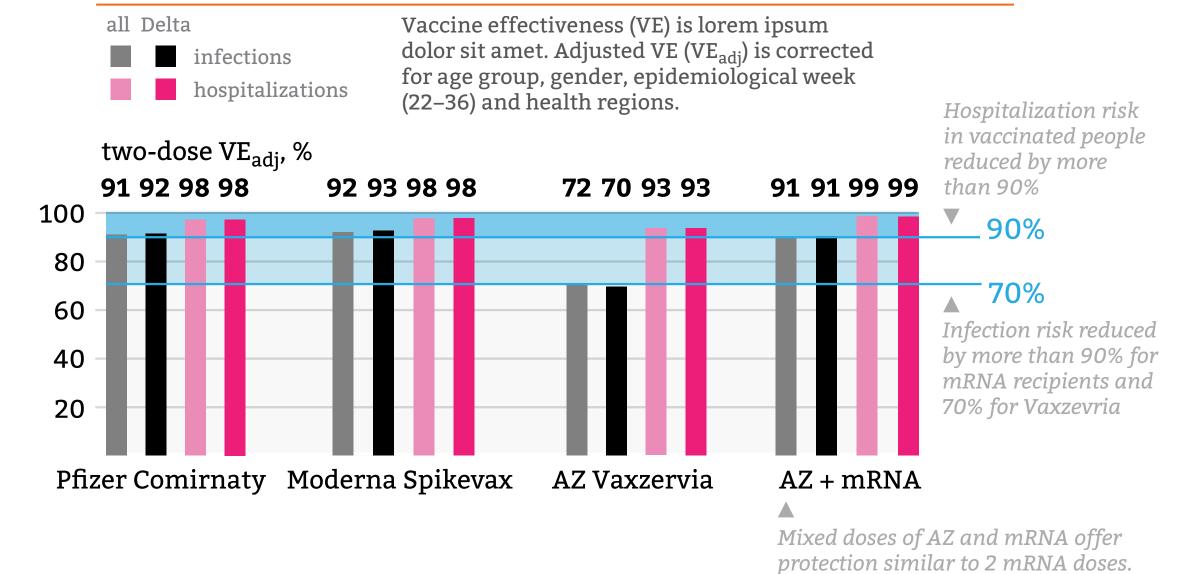
AstraZeneca Vaxzervia COVISHIELD + mRNA viral viral/mRNA

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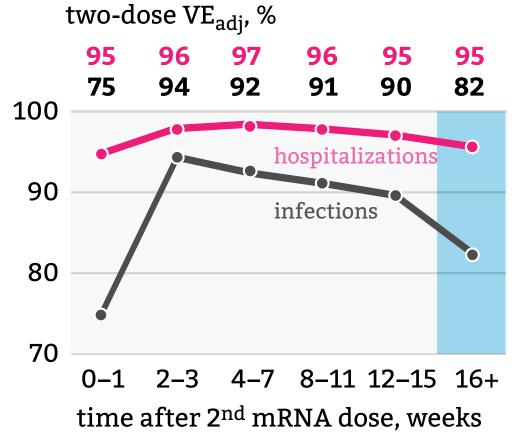
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2 doses of any vaccine are highly protective, including against the Delta variant



>80% protection against infection maintained at least 4 months after the 2nd mRNA dose

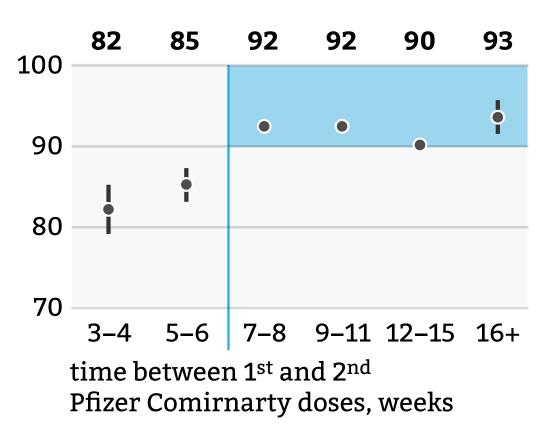
monitoring continues, including for AstraZeneca Vaxzevria



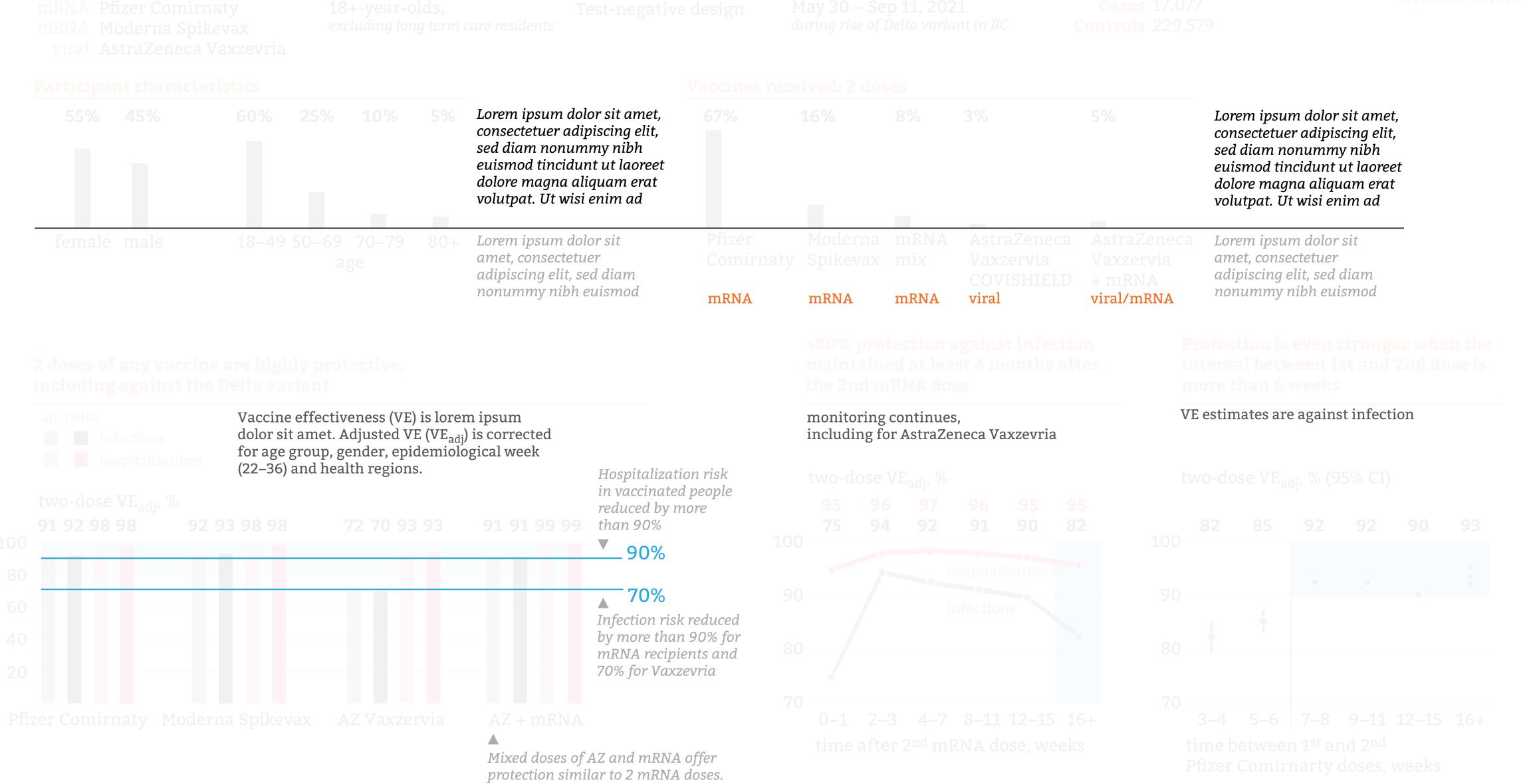
Protection is even stronger when the interval between 1st and 2nd dose is more than 6 weeks

VE estimates are against infection

two-dose VE_{adi}, % (95% CI)









resources

instead of many books, a few books many times

Copyrighted Materia

The Elements of Typographic Style

version 3.0

Robert Bringhurst



the penalty of the law in force against witchcraft ... and ... the marriage, upon conviction, shall stand null and void.

Principles

The function of typography, as I understand it, is neither to further the power of witches nor to bolster the defences of those, like this unfortunate parliamentarian, who live in terror of being tempted and deceived. The satisfactions of the craft come from elucidating, and perhaps even ennobling, the text, not from deluding the unwary reader by applying scents, paints and iron stays to empty prose. But humble texts, such as classified ads or the telephone directory, may profit as much as anything else from a good typographical bath and a change of clothes. And many a book, like many a warrior or dancer or priest of either sex, may look well with some paint on its face, or indeed with a bone in its nose.

1.1.2 Letters have a life and dignity of their own.

Letterforms that honor and elucidate what humans see and say deserve to be honored in their turn. Well-chosen words deserve well-chosen letters; these in their turn deserve to be set with affection, intelligence, knowledge and skill. Typography is a link, and it ought, as a matter of honor, courtesy and pure delight, to be as strong as the others in the chain.

Writing begins with the making of footprints, the leaving of signs. Like speaking, it is a perfectly natural act which humans have carried to complex extremes. The typographer's task has always been to add a somewhat unnatural edge, a protective shell of artificial order, to the power of the writing hand. The tools have altered over the centuries, and the exact degree of unnaturalness desired has varied from place to place and time to time, but the character of the essential transformation between manuscript and type has scarcely changed.

The original purpose of type was simply copying. The job of the typographer was to imitate the scribal hand in a form that permitted exact and fast replication. Dozens, then hundreds, then thousands of copies were printed in less time than a scribe would need to finish one. This excuse for setting texts in type has disappeared. In the age of photolithography, digital scanning and offset printing, it is as easy to print directly from handwritten copy as from text that is typographically composed. Yet the typographer's task is little changed. It is still to

give the illusion of superhuman speed and stamina - and of superhuman patience and precision - to the writing hand.

Typography is just that: idealized writing. Writers themselves now rarely have the calligraphic skill of earlier scribes, but they evoke countless versions of ideal script by their varying voices and literary styles. To these blind and often invisible visions, the typographer must respond in visible terms.

In a badly designed book, the letters mill and stand like starving horses in a field. In a book designed by rote, they sit like stale bread and mutton on the page. In a well-made book, where designer, compositor and printer have all done their jobs, no matter how many thousands of lines and pages, the letters are alive. They dance in their seats. Sometimes they rise and dance in the margins and aisles.

Simple as it may sound, the task of creative non-interference with letters is a rewarding and difficult calling. In ideal conditions, it is all that typographers are really asked to do and it is enough.

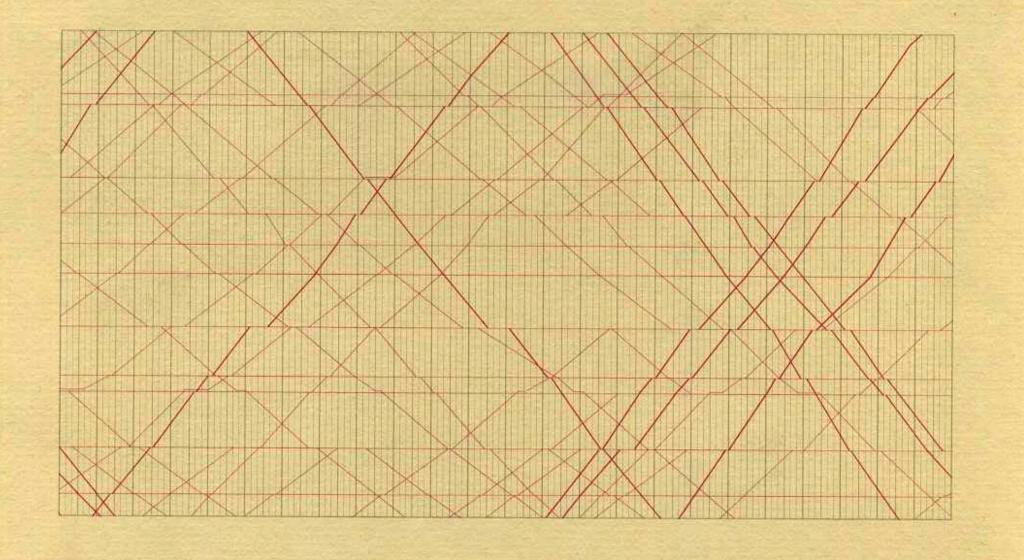
TheGrand Design

1.1.3 There is a style beyond style.

Literary style, says Walter Benjamin, "is the power to move freely in the length and breadth of linguistic thinking without slipping into banality." Typographic style, in this large and intelligent sense of the word, does not mean any particular style my style or your style, or Neoclassical or Baroque style - but the power to move freely through the whole domain of typography, and to function at every step in a way that is graceful and vital instead of banal. It means typography that can walk familiar ground without sliding into platitudes, typography that responds to new conditions with innovative solutions, and typography that does not vex the reader with its own originality in a self-conscious search for praise.

Typography is to literature as musical performance is to composition: an essential act of interpretation, full of endless opportunities for insight or obtuseness. Much typography is far removed from literature, for language has many uses, including packaging and propaganda. Like music, it can be used to manipulate behavior and emotions. But this is not where typographers, musicians or other human beings show us their finest side. Typography at its best is a slow performing art, worthy of the same informed appreciation that we sometimes give to muFrom part 2 of Benjamin's essay on Karl Kraus, in Illuminationen (Frankfurt, 1955). There is an English translation in Walter Benjamin, Reflections, ed. Peter Demetz (New York, 1978).

18



The Visual Display of Quantitative Information

EDWARD R. TUFTE



AR

&MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE

- an inquiry into values -

ROBERT M. PIRSIG

Classical thinking, romantic thinking.

The classic style is straightforward, unadorned, unemotional, economical and carefully proportioned. Its purpose is not to inspire emotionally, but to bring order out of chaos and make the unknown known.

Best titles are short conclusions, not long introductions.

Martin Krzywinski

Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Center

say what is important.

Don't try to be snarky, cheeky or witty—most attempts do not succeed. Don't trigger the jokers cynics, cranks and curmudgeons. Don't say everything you know-make room for empty space. Your most valuable resource is the reader's time

Balance visual weight and size the logos equally. If acknowledging institutional support, place it next to the logo.

Share axes or align panels to clarify

Establish continuity using

figures that share an axis.

lines, not dotted) lead the

eye naturally to help tell

the data story.

Thresholds that span

across panels (dashed

variables or emphasize changing scale.

Reserve small text for tangents and detail beyond the first explanation

Use vector-based logos, not low-resolution bitmaps. Do not change logos' aspect ratio or crowd it with other elements—both are likely against its branding style.

Regions of unbalanced negative space are good candidates for annotations, credits, quotes, and other garnish that adds value to the poster. Don't overdo it - most quotes rehash old tropes. If you must, find something that is passionate and slightly mysterious (http://mkweb.bcgsc.ca/quotes).

Use grids

sparingly. Do

not divide the

plot more finely

than precision

Use grey for

baseline,

control or reference

conditions. Dark grey

is easier or

the eyes

than pure

dark bar

outlines

black. Avoid

allows.



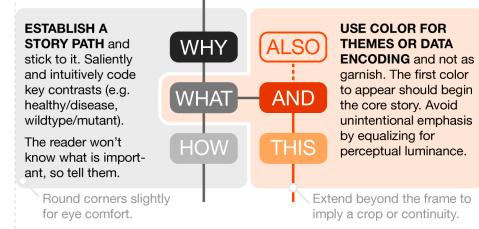
bccancer.ca

POSTER CHILD OF SCIENCE

A poster is your first opportunity to organize and communicate your reasearch to members outside of your lab. It will help you to practise telling and "drawing" your science story and its design should be based on its concepts, themes and transitions.

Most posters are bad not because they are ugly (they are) but because they fail to present concisely what was done and, more importantly, why it was done. Most posters have too much on them. Less is more: get to the point, then stop.

Map salience to pertinence. When used in moderation, colors like orange or magenta say "look here". You cannot look everywhere.



Good explanations are ones conveniently placed. Embed simple diagrams next to relevant text. Some graphics don't need a legend—make room for explanations within Callout lines should be rectilinear or at 45° if the graphic already has such elements.

ALL SCIENCE DESERVES EXCELLENT EXPLANATIONS

Explain quickly and clearly. Motivate why the work was done—what is the cost of not doing it?

The poster is your prop. In most settings, you will be there to present it. Match its content to the story you will tell.

ONLY YOU CAN STOP POSTER DUMPSTER FIRES

Clip art, pie charts, bullet points, boxes around text, background fills and gradients. Only you can stop it

Maintain good Gestalt—similar shapes and colors will form groups. Use them to encode real-world relationships and be on the lookout for unintended accidental groupings.

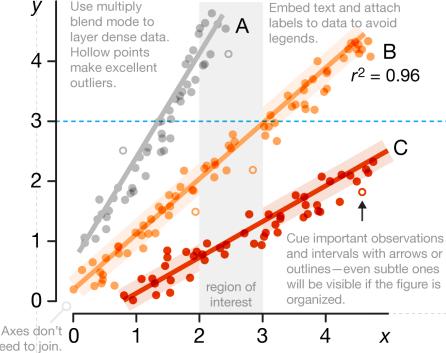
EVERYTHING IS IMPORTANT, BUT SOME THINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHERS. Establish a visual hierarchy by emphasizing your hypothesis, conclusion and the key points that connect them. Relegate protocols, technical methods, and other minutiae to the bottom of the poster. Always be mindful of what the reader needs to know to understand enough to ask insightful questions and frontload this information.

Colored text may help

emphasize a theme but

Use figure titles to explain trends, not merely to specify the axes.

Establish subordinate content with italics.



▲ Don't tell the reader what is obvious: "a linear fit to a scatter plot" is redundant. Don't tell me what for confidence intervals. Highlight regions of

I'm seeing—interpret the figure instead. Italicize variables in fit diagnostics and use shaded bands interests with a solid color (or grey), not outlines.

Allow content to establish layout proportions and do not emphasize gutters with lines.

One or two such dividers can be effective, but too many will turn the poster into a jail.

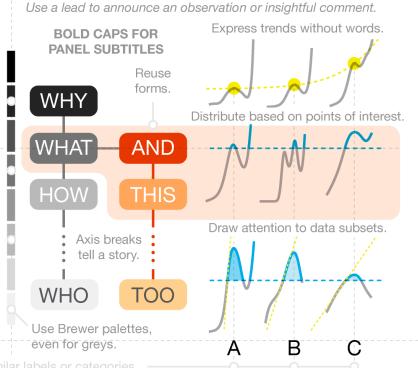
an explicit axis. Specify sample sizes and what error bars represent (e.g. standard error of mean, n = 5). Report P-values with effect sizes or confidence intervals. A statistically significant observation isn't necessarily of biological interest.

Categorical variables in bar charts do not need

Alignment of similar quantities subtly suggests where to look next.

Reveal qualitative trends in small multiples with order, cutoffs and cues.

Use a lead to announce an observation or insightful comment



Look for opportunities to include key observations () and explanations in the figure — don't leave it to the main text, where it may be far from the graphic. Emphasize what quantities are important—anticipate the reader's questions and answer them.

Use typographical garnish sparingly—be creative, but in small steps. A well-placed symbol or label can connect themes or indicate the purpose of text (e.g. triangles suggest a legend)

USE SMALL MULTIPLES

Use ink sparingly to make compact figures legible—dense is not necessarily crowded. Explain an encoding once and reuse it. Create a visual key for complex encodings and choose graphical explanations over text.

Avoid visual complications that are not relevant—for example, color blending can create distracting intersections of color. Superimpose white outlines to emphasize shapes with an opaque fill.

TABULATE plots and text seamlessly with a column or row for explanations. Italicize text with care and look for unintended italics in subscripts.

ARROWS imply a relationship or change. Do not use them to guide the eye, which can be achieved with spacing and

Establish data tracks with light fills.

Keep line length short and hyphenate instead of fully justifying.

amounts of copy.

This poster is $16" \times 12"$

Helvetica Neue with a 5,

8, 13, 21, 34, 55 pt scale

ladder and is legible on

than serif at small sizes

and suitable for modest

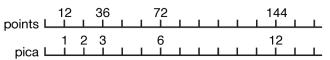
Sans-serif is clearer

most screens.

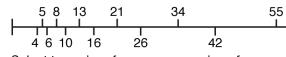
 $(1152 \times 864 \text{ pt}), \text{ uses}$

MAINTAIN AND CONTROL PROPORTIONS

When displayed full-height on a 27" 16:9 monitor, distances are preserved within 5%.



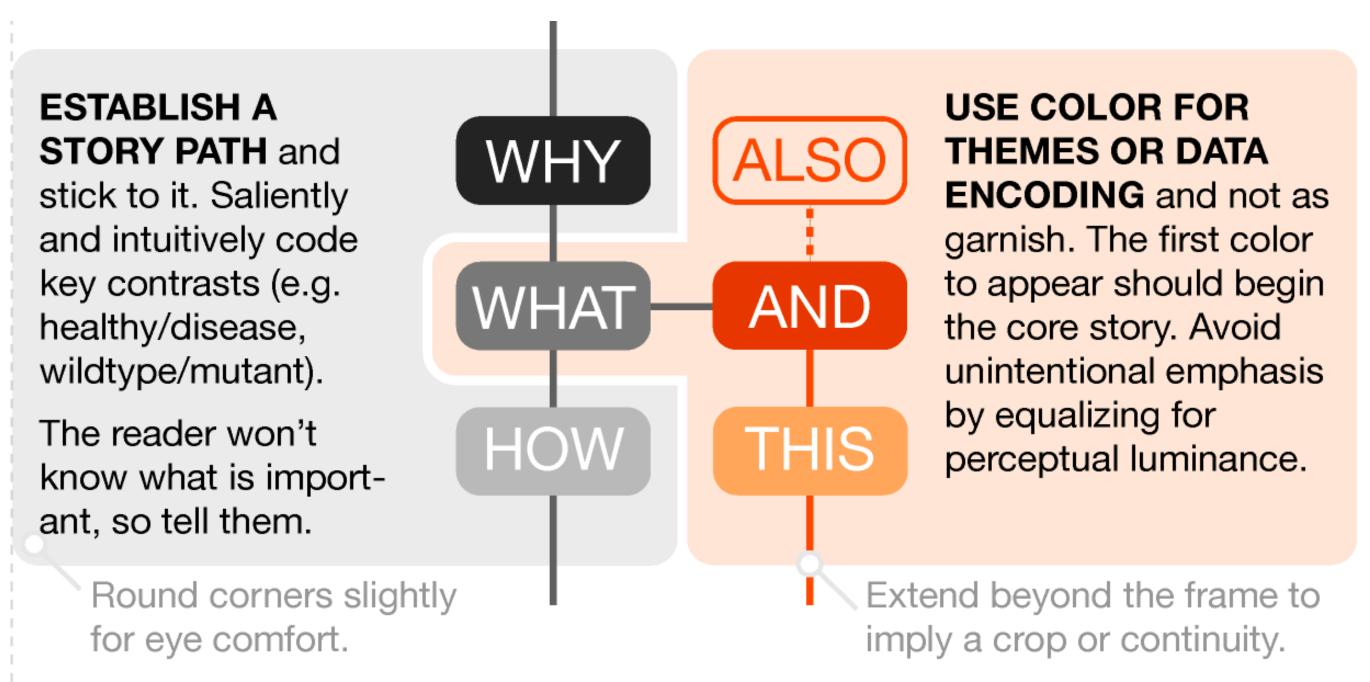
A point is a unit of size used in typography. Without a physical size they lose their meaning, but can provide a helpful scale.



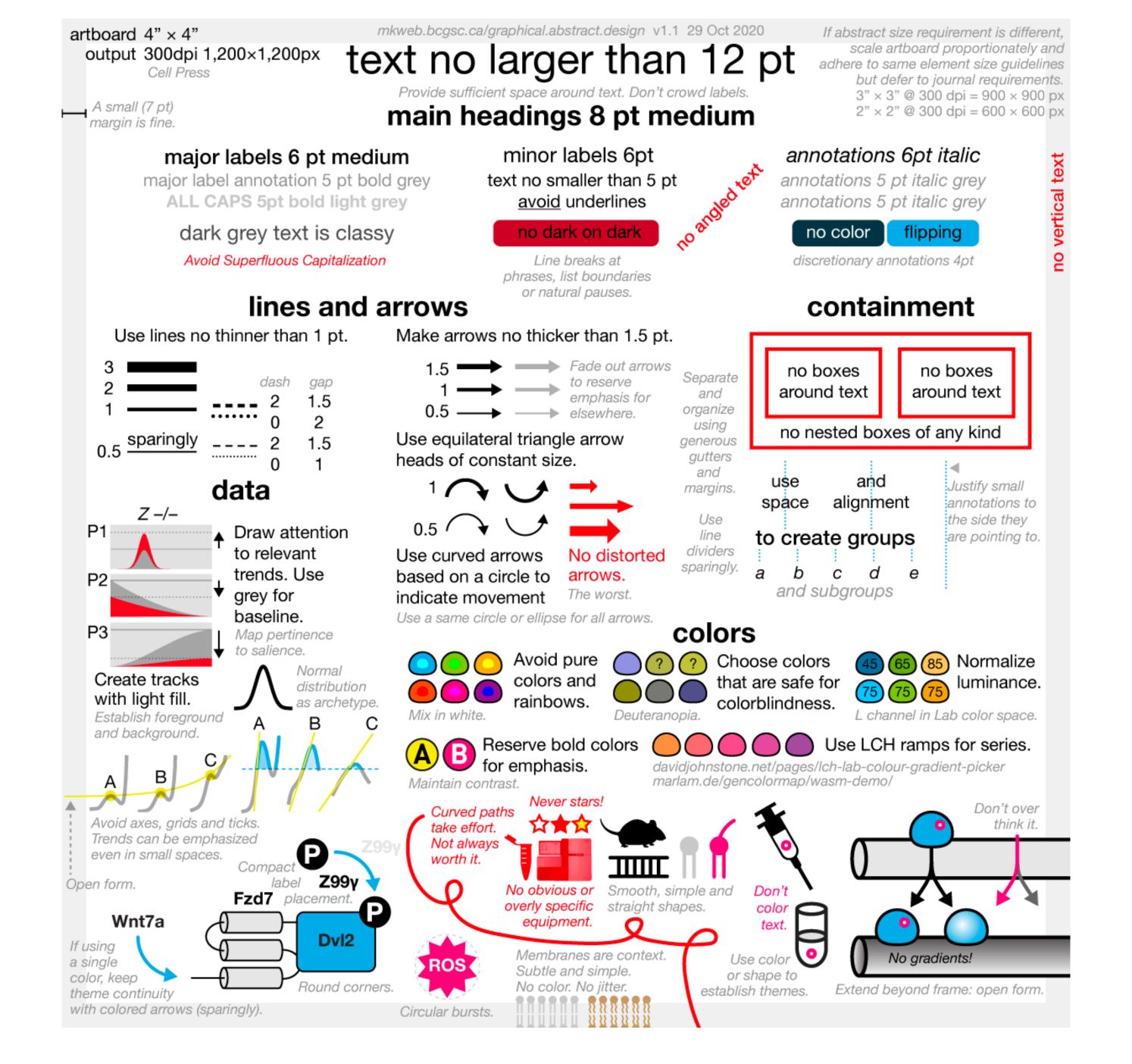
Select type sizes from one or a union of two modular scales built on the Golden Ratio (e.g., $55/34 \approx \phi = 1.618...$).

FORCE LINE BREAKS that split a sentence into noun phrases or offer a natural pause, such as at a comma or a period. Balance layout by shortening sentences—there are many ways to say something and some ways are easier to typeset. Do not let a template bully you into using a specific column width. Change proportions to suit content.

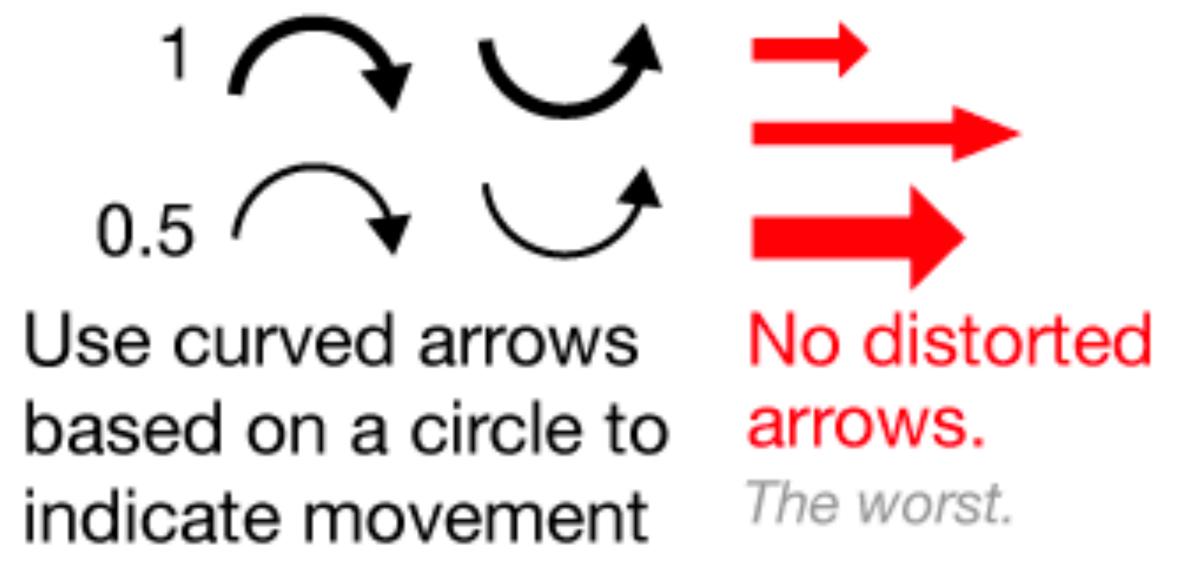
AVOID OBVIOUS HEADINGS such as "references". Citations can be set in a block of text, with bold numbers like this 1. R. Bringhurst, Elements of Typographical Style. 4th ed (2012) and 2. W. Strunk Jr., Elements of Style (1918). Unless a specific citation style is required, use a compact style that also includes the title.



Good explanations are ones conveniently placed. Embed simple diagrams next to relevant text. Some graphics don't need a legend—make room for explanations within. Callout lines should be rectilinear or at 45° if the graphic already has such elements.



Use equilateral triangle arrow heads of constant size.



Use a same circle or ellipse for all arrows.

