

Examples of coding changes in *RBF1*

tttct**ag**GTTTCAAGACAACAG**ATGAATTGTGAAAGAGAGCAGCTAAGG**gtagg

M N C E R E Q L R

Synonymous change



tttct**ag**GTTTCAAGACAACAG**ATGAATTGTGAAAGAGAGCAACTAAGG**gtagg

M N C E R E Q L R

Non-synonymous (missense)



tttct**ag**GTTTCAAGACAACAG**ATGAATTGTGAAAGAGAGCACCTAAGG**gtagg

M N C E R E H L R

Stop gain (nonsense)



tttct**ag**GTTTCAAGACAACAG**ATGAATTGAGAAAGAGAGCAGCTAAGG**gtagg

M N * E R E Q L R

Examples of coding changes in *RBF1*

tttct**ag**GTTTCAAGACAACAG**ATGA**ATTGTGAAAGAGAG**CAG**CTAAGG**gt**agg
M N C E R E Q L R

Inframe deletion

tttct**ag**GTTTCAAGACAACAG**ATGA**ATTGTGAAAGAGAG**---**CTAAGG**gt**agg
M N C E R E - L R

tttct**ag**GTTTCAAGACAACAG**ATGA****AT**TGTGAAAGAGAG**CAG**CTAAGG**gt**agg
M N C E R E Q L R

Frameshift deletion

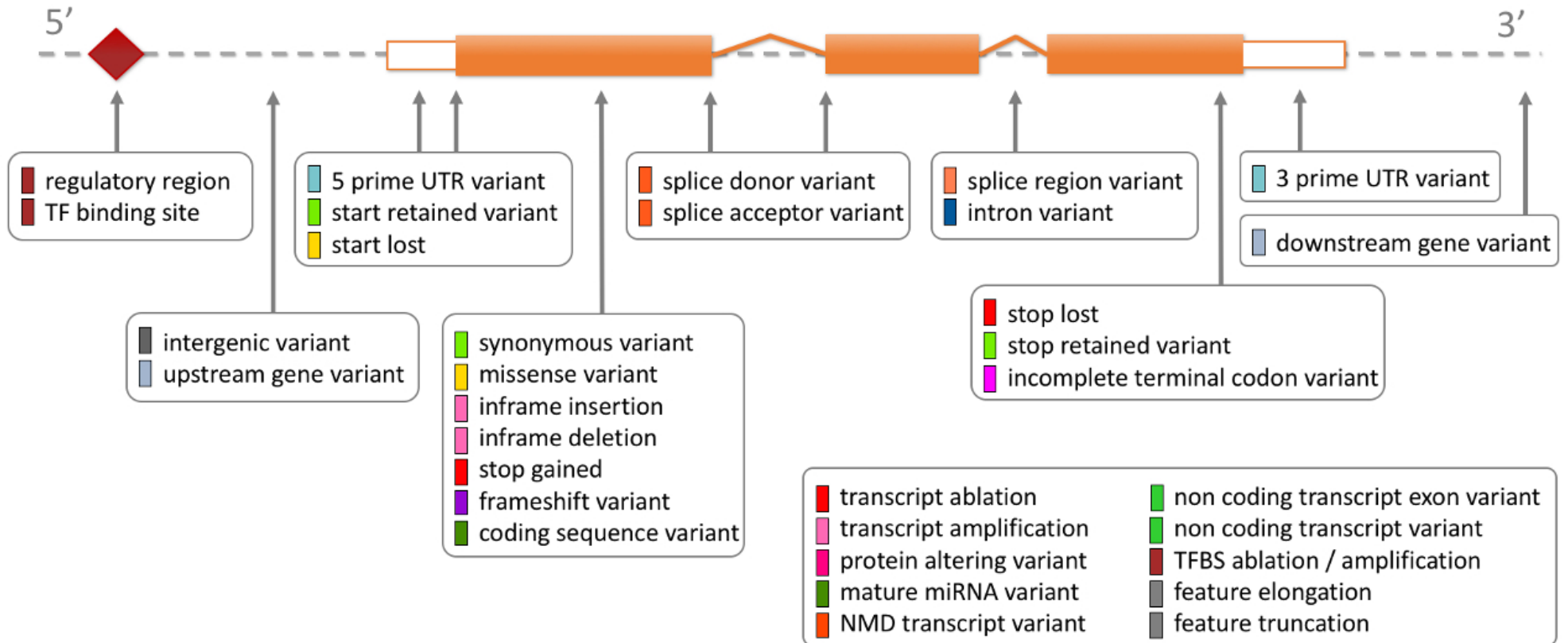
tttct**ag**GTTTCAAGACAACAG**ATGA****---**TGTGAAAGAGAG**CAG**CTAAGG**gt**agg
M M * K R A A K



ENSEMBL Variant Effect Predictor

Variation consequences

Promoter ♦ 5'-UTR ♦ Start (ATG) ♦ Donor(GT) ♦ Acceptor(AG) ♦ ... ♦ Stop(TAA,...) ♦ 3'-UTR



https://www.ensembl.org/info/genome/variation/prediction/predicted_data.html#consequences



ENSEMBL Variant Effect Predictor

Variation consequences and impact

* SO term	SO description	SO accession	Display term	IMPACT
transcript_ablation	A feature ablation whereby the deleted region includes a transcript feature	SO:0001893	Transcript ablation	HIGH
splice_acceptor_variant	A splice variant that changes the 2 base region at the 3' end of an intron	SO:0001574	Splice acceptor variant	HIGH
splice_donor_variant	A splice variant that changes the 2 base region at the 5' end of an intron	SO:0001575	Splice donor variant	HIGH
stop_gained	A sequence variant whereby at least one base of a codon is changed, resulting in a premature stop codon, leading to a shortened transcript	SO:0001587	Stop gained	HIGH
frameshift_variant	A sequence variant which causes a disruption of the translational reading frame, because the number of nucleotides inserted or deleted is not a multiple of three	SO:0001589	Frameshift variant	HIGH
stop_lost	A sequence variant where at least one base of the terminator codon (stop) is changed, resulting in an elongated transcript	SO:0001578	Stop lost	HIGH
start_lost	A codon variant that changes at least one base of the canonical start codon	SO:0002012	Start lost	HIGH
transcript_amplification	A feature amplification of a region containing a transcript	SO:0001889	Transcript amplification	HIGH
inframe_insertion	An inframe non synonymous variant that inserts bases into in the coding sequence	SO:0001821	Inframe insertion	MODERATE
inframe_deletion	An inframe non synonymous variant that deletes bases from the coding sequence	SO:0001822	Inframe deletion	MODERATE
missense_variant	A sequence variant, that changes one or more bases, resulting in a different amino acid sequence but where the length is preserved	SO:0001583	Missense variant	MODERATE
protein_altering_variant	A sequence_variant which is predicted to change the protein encoded in the coding sequence	SO:0001818	Protein altering variant	MODERATE
splice_region_variant	A sequence variant in which a change has occurred within the region of the splice site, either within 1-3 bases of the exon or 3-8 bases of the intron	SO:0001630	Splice region variant	LOW
incomplete_terminal_codon_variant	A sequence variant where at least one base of the final codon of an incompletely annotated transcript is changed	SO:0001626	Incomplete terminal codon variant	LOW
start_retained_variant	A sequence variant where at least one base in the start codon is changed, but the start remains	SO:0002019	Start retained variant	LOW
stop_retained_variant	A sequence variant where at least one base in the terminator codon is changed, but the terminator remains	SO:0001567	Stop retained variant	LOW
synonymous_variant	A sequence variant where there is no resulting change to the encoded	SO:0001819	Synonymous variant	LOW

https://www.ensembl.org/info/genome/variation/prediction/predicted_data.html#consequences

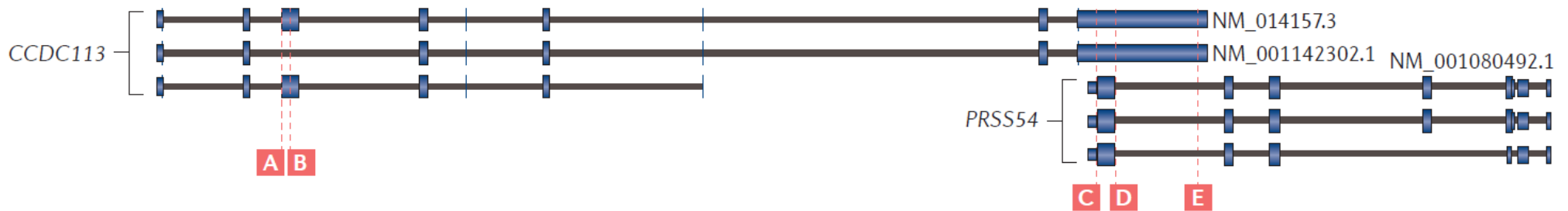


ENSEMBL Variant Effect Predictor

Variation consequences and impact

<i>IMPACT</i>	<i>Consequence examples</i>	<i>Description</i>
HIGH	splice_acceptor_variant, splice_donor_variant, stop_gained, stop_lost, start_lost	The variant is assumed to have high (disruptive) impact in the protein, probably causing protein truncation, loss of function or triggering nonsense mediated decay
MODERATE	inframe_insertion, inframe_deletion, missense_variant	A non-disruptive variant that might change protein effectiveness
LOW	splice_region_variant, synonymous_variant	A variant that is assumed to be mostly harmless or unlikely to change protein behaviour
MODIFIER	5_prime_UTR_variant, 3_prime_UTR_variant, intron_variant, TFBS_ablation	Usually non-coding variants or variants affecting non-coding genes, where predictions are difficult or there is no evidence of impact

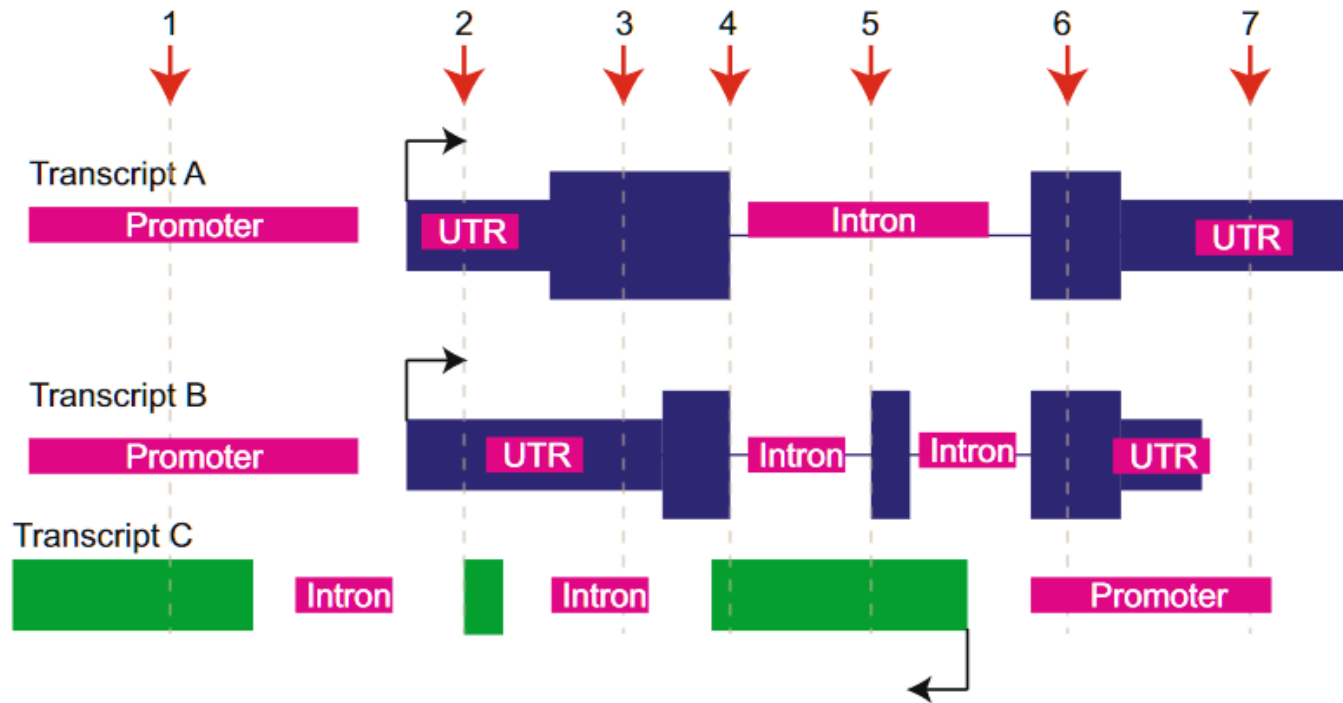
Complexity of variant annotation



	Variant allele	Gene	Transcript change	RefSeq	Protein change	Molecular consequence
A	rs765957496	CCDC113	c.228+1143A>G	NM_001142302.1	—	Intron variant
	G	CCDC113	c.229*2A>G	NM_014157.3	—	Splice acceptor variant
B	rs775877153	CCDC113	c.228+1182T>A	NM_001142302.1	—	Intron variant
	A	CCDC113	c.266T>A	NM_014157.3	Met89Lys	Missense variant
C	rs780162055	PRSS54	c.1135G>A	NM_001080492.1	Glu379Lys	Missense variant
	T	CCDC113	c.*500C>T	NM_001142302.1	—	3' UTR variant
D	rs776101237	PRSS54	c.655-2A>T	NM_001080492.1	—	Splice acceptor variant
	A	CCDC113	c.*962T>A	NM_001142302.1	—	3' UTR variant
E	rs745863465	PRSS54	c.655-18T>G	NM_001080492.1	—	Intron variant
	C	CCDC113	c.*996A>C	NM_001142302.1	—	3' UTR variant

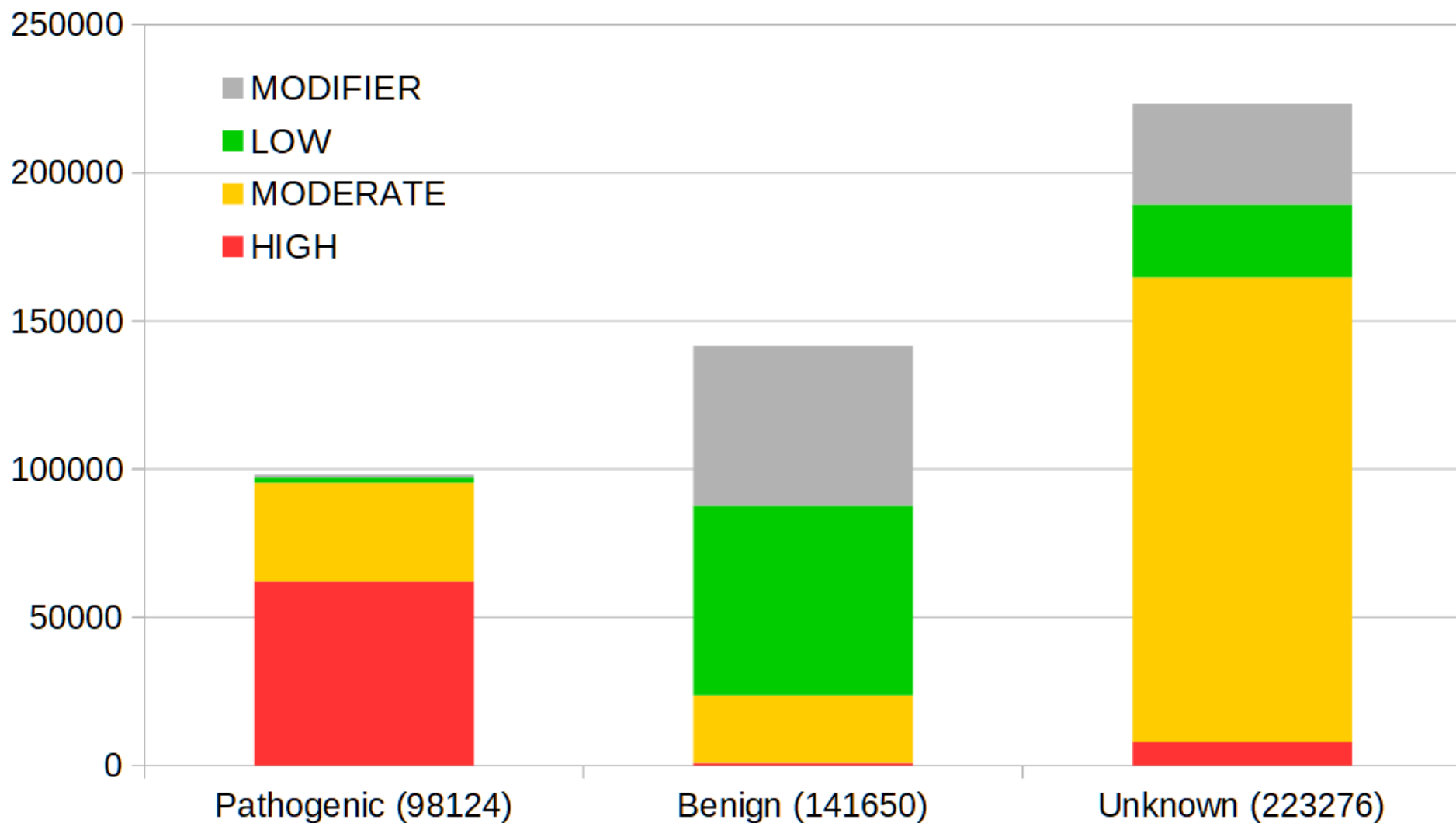
A demonstration of the multiple possible effects of a single variant across transcripts and genes. The complexity of genomic annotation adds to the complexity of variant annotation. In this example, two genes, coiled-coil domain-containing 113 (*CCDC113*) and protease serine 54 (*PRSS54*) overlap on different strands of the genome, and both have multiple observed transcripts. Variants intersecting this extent of the genome show different effects depending on the gene and the transcript inspected.

Complexity of variant annotation



Variant	Transcript A	Transcript B	Transcript C
1	Promoter	Promoter	Exon
2	Non Coding Exon	Non Coding Exon	Non Coding Splice
3	Coding Exon	Non Coding Exon	Intron
4	Coding Splice	Coding Splice	Non Coding Exon
5	Intron	Coding Splice	Non Coding Exon
6	Coding Exon	Coding Exon	Promoter
7	Non Coding Exon	Downstream	Prompter

Ensembl VEP impact for ClinVar variants



ClinVar (Oct. 2019), 498,742 variants annotated with Ensembl VEP

Pathogenic variants in ClinVar (Oct. 2019)

Gene	Frameshift	Stop gain or loss	Splice site	Missense	Inframe	Synonymous	UTR	Intronic	Upstream	Start codon	Phenotype
<i>HBB</i>	30	14	21	35	3	1	7	12	7	4	Beta thalassemia
<i>LDLR</i>	387	171	51	77	9	3	7	6	0	2	Familial hypercholesterolemia
<i>CFTR</i>	123	111	70	105	5	3	0	20	0	4	Cystic fibrosis
<i>GALT</i>	21	15	11	100	1	2	0	4	1	1	Deficiency of UDPglucose-hexose-1-phosphate uridylyltransferase
<i>KCNQ2</i>	61	20	20	102	7	2	0	1	1	1	Benign familial neonatal seizures; Early infantile epileptic encephalopathy
<i>MECP2</i>	268	60	12	27	12	2	0	1	0	3	Mental retardation; Rett syndrome
<i>MLH1</i>	316	132	76	69	4	6	1	11	0	10	Hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer; Lynch syndrome
<i>OTC</i>	22	32	39	203	5	2	0	7	0	4	Ornithine carbamoyltransferase deficiency

Exercise

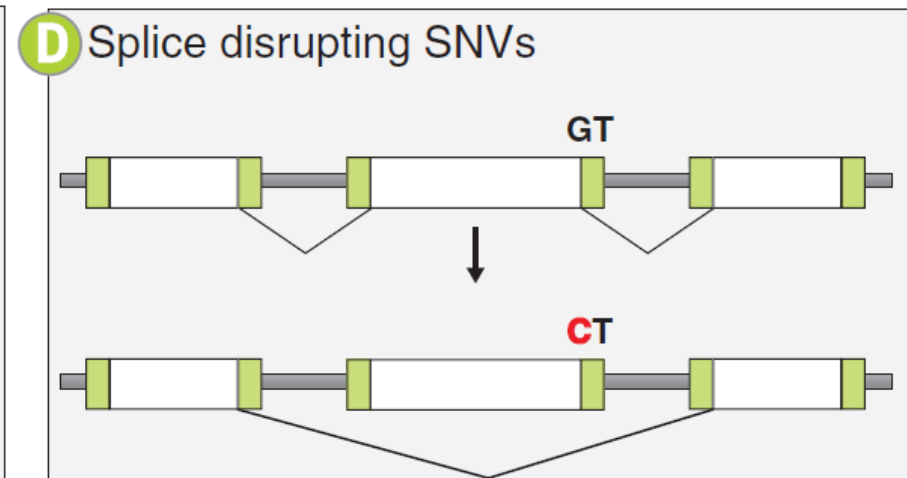
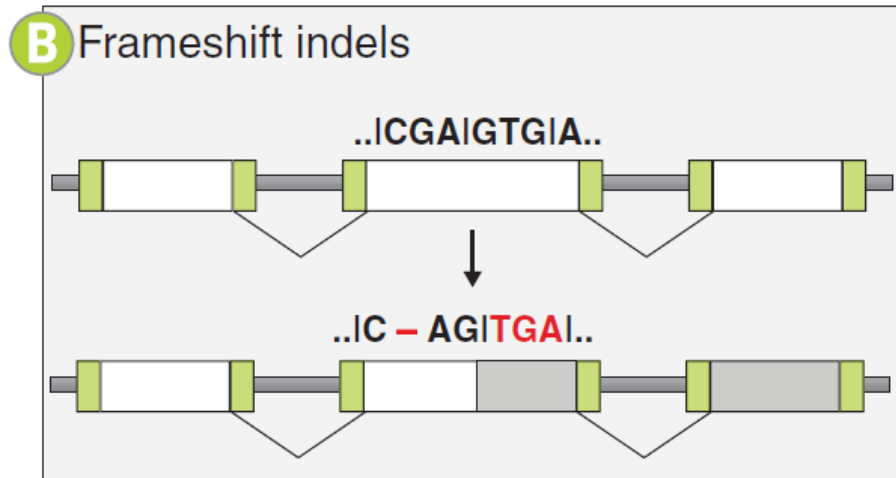
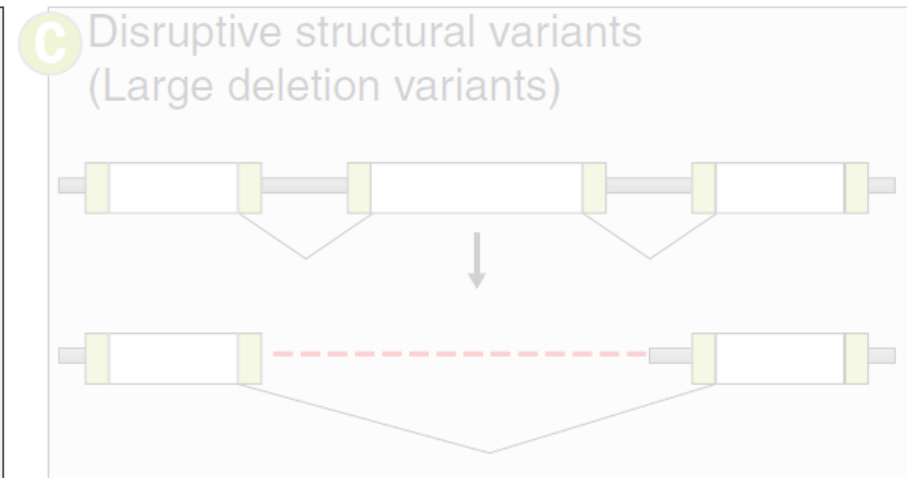
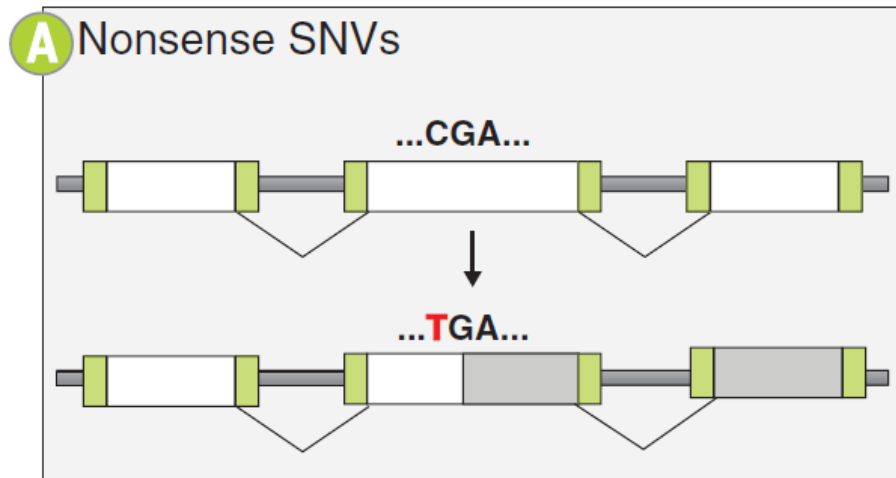
Use ClinVar (OMIM, SNPedia) to find and save one example of disease-associated pathogenic mutation for *each* annotation type:

- stop-gain
- synonymous
- missense
- splice-site
- frameshift indel

PTVs and LoF variants

Protein-truncating variants: stop-gain, splice site, frameshift indels.

VEP impact: HIGH.



PTVs and LoF variants

Protein-truncating variants: stop-gain, splice site, frameshift indels.

VEP impact: HIGH. *However, not all PTVs are loss-of-function*

LOFTEE tool (K.Karczewski et al): filters and flags to predict pLoF (putative LoF) from candidate PTVs. <https://github.com/konradjk/loftee>

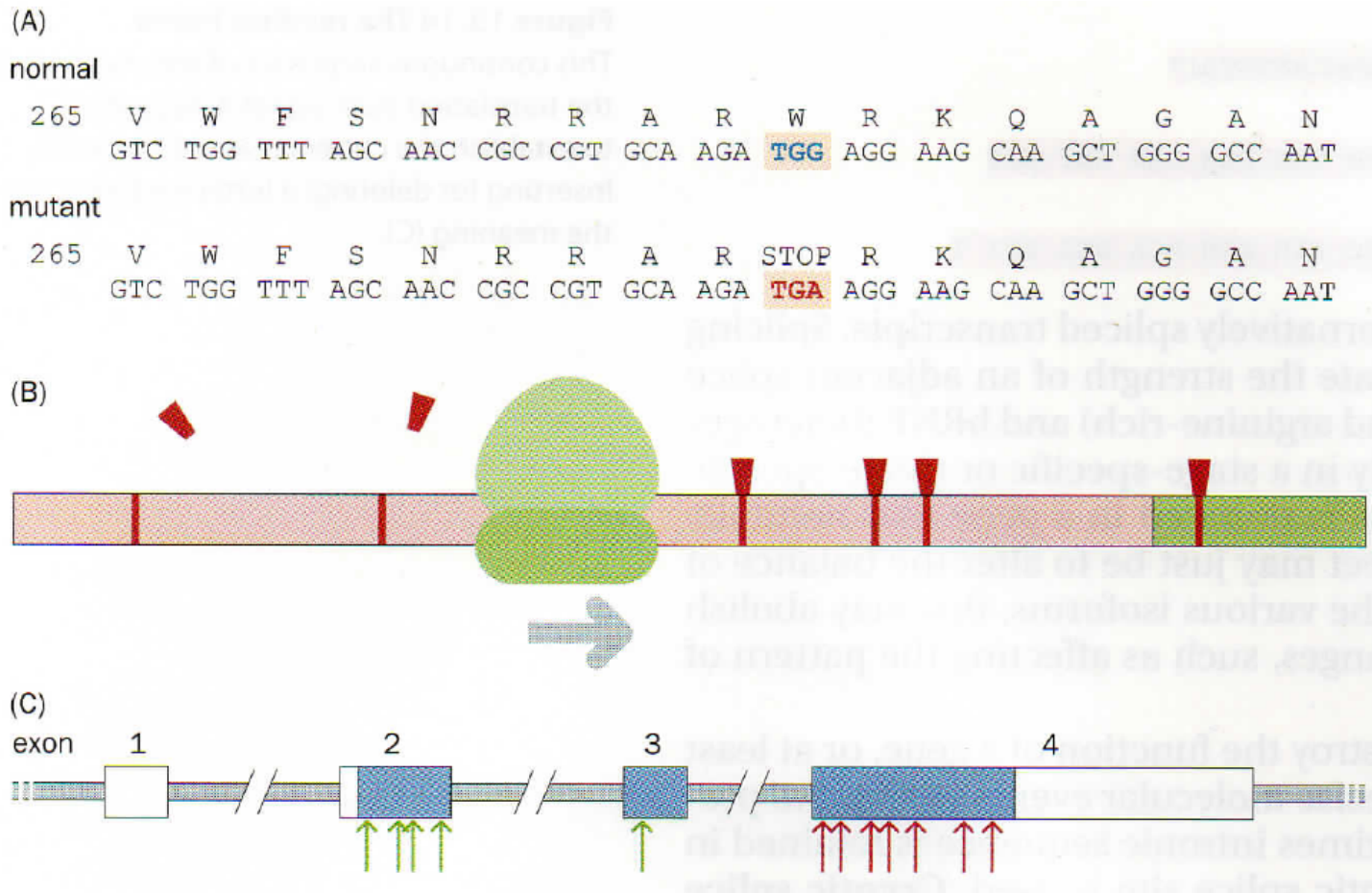
PTVs not predicted as pLoF, examples:

- Stop-gain and frameshift variants near the end of the transcript, based on the 50 bp rule
- Variants in an exon with non-canonical splice sites (GT, AG) around it
- Splice site variants rescued by nearby, in-frame splice site
- Variants in small introns

Flagged PTVs, examples:

- Variants in NAGNAG sites (acceptor sites rescued by in-frame acceptor site)
- Variants that fall in an intron with a non-canonical splice site

PTVs and nonsense-mediated decay (NMD)



(A) G>A change in exon 6 of the *PAX3* gene (B) Nonsense-mediated decay (NMD). Splice junctions (red bars) retain proteins of the exon junction complex (EJC, red triangles). Ribosome moves along the mRNA and displaces the EJC proteins. If it encounters a premature stop codon and detaches before displacing all EJCs, the mRNA is targeted for degradation. **Stop codons in the last exon or less than 50 nucleotides upstream of the last splice junction (the green zone) do not trigger NMD.** (C) Depending on whether or not a premature stop codon triggers NMD, the consequences of a nonsense mutation can be very different.

PTVs and nonsense-mediated decay (NMD)

Ideally: **PTV** → **NMD** → **Transcript level** → **Protein level** → **Cellular functions**

However, variation in mRNA and protein expression levels are often uncorrelated: the reduction in RNA levels may not reduce the protein level, and vice versa

Battle, A., Khan, Z., Wang, S.H., Mitrano, A., Ford, M.J., Pritchard, J.K., and Gilad, Y. (2015). Impact of Regulatory Variation from RNA to Protein. *Science* 347, 664–667.

Narasimhan VM, Xue Y, Tyler-Smith C. Human Knockout Carriers: Dead, Diseased, Healthy, or Improved? *Trends in Molecular Medicine*. 2016;22(4):341-351. doi:10.1016/j.molmed.2016.02.006.

Examples of PTV impact

Protein-truncating variants: stop-gain, splice site, frameshift indels.
VEP impact: HIGH.

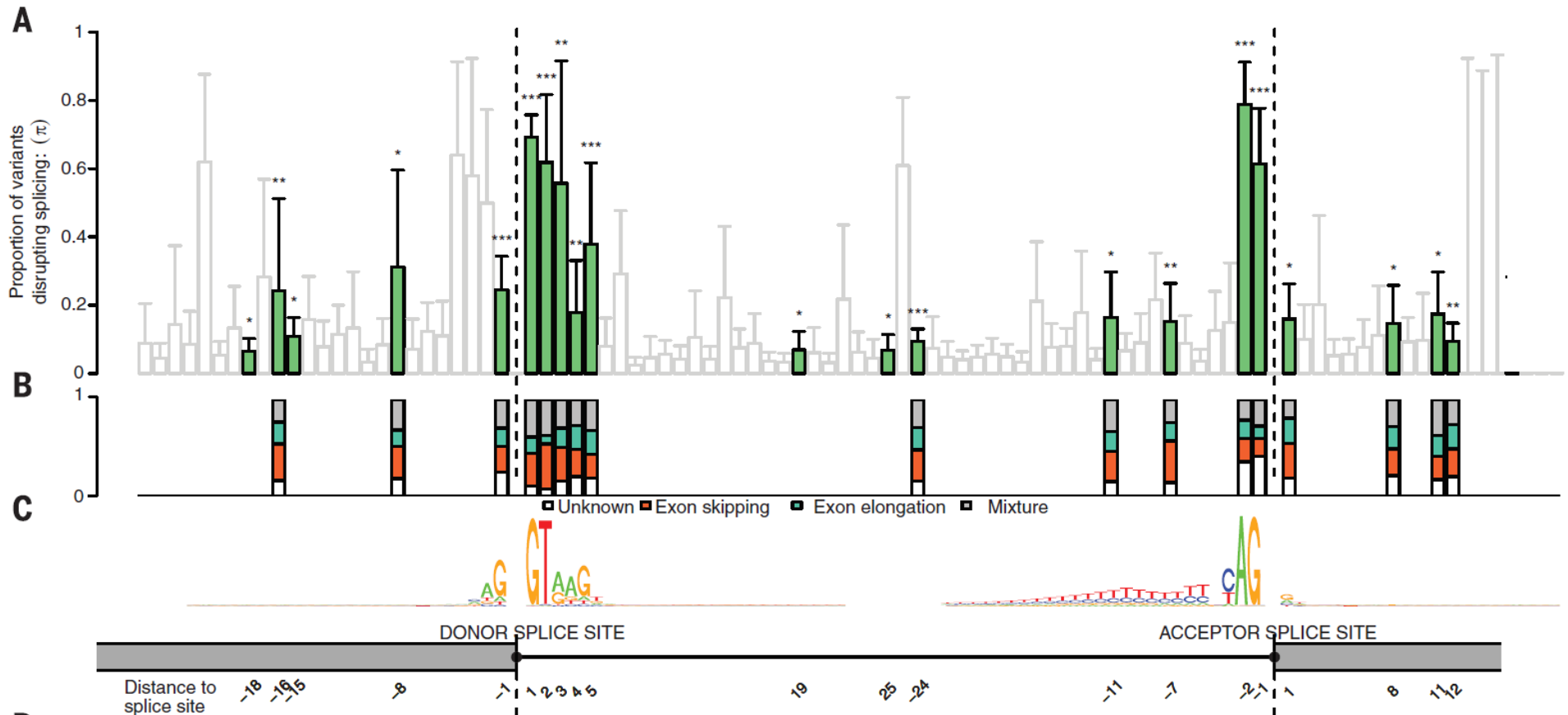
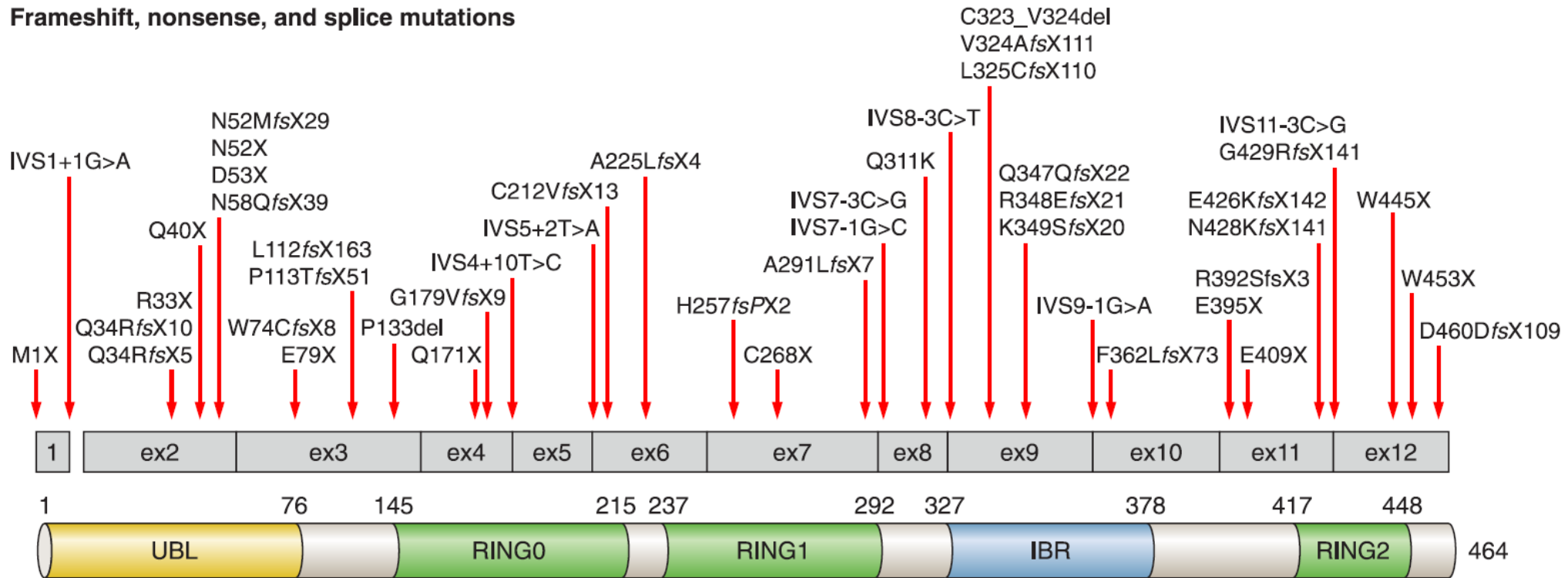


Fig. 3. Splicing disruption. (A) Proportion of variants disrupting splicing at each distance +/-25 bp from donor and acceptor site (B) Classification of splice disruption events: exon skipping, exon elongation and mixture (C) Diagram of donor and acceptor splice junctions and sequence logo of represented sequences.

Examples of PTV impact

A

Frameshift, nonsense, and splice mutations



Mutations in the Parkin RBR E3 Ubiquitin Protein Ligase *PARK2* are the most frequent known cause of early-onset (40–50 yr) Parkinson’s disease. PD is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder, after Alzheimer’s disease, with prevalence in industrialized countries ~0.3%.

Examples of PTV impact

1. Narasimhan VM, Xue Y, Tyler-Smith C. (2016) Human Knockout Carriers: Dead, Diseased, Healthy, or Improved? *Trends Mol Med* 22:341-351.

- A knockout of the immune gene *IRF7* was shown to confer **susceptibility to flu viruses**, leading to life-threatening influenza in an otherwise healthy child (Ciancanelli 2015 *Science*)
- Instances where a naturally-occurring **LoF variant proves beneficial to health**. These discoveries have stimulated drug development:
 - lowering LDL levels: *PCSK9*
 - decreasing susceptibility to HIV: *CCR5*
 - increasing endurance: *ACTN3*
 - increasing sepsis resistance: *CASP12*
 - reduced triglyceride levels in humans: *APOC3*

2. DeBoever, C., Tanigawa, Y., Lindholm, M.E., et al. (2018). Medical relevance of protein-truncating variants across 337,205 individuals in the UK Biobank study. *Nat Commun* 9, 1–10.

- 18,228 PTVs × 135 phenotypes; find **27 associations between medical phenotypes and PTVs** in genes outside the MHC

Examples of PTV impact

1. The stop-gain variant in *GNAS* (MIM:139320) is present in the highly variable **first exon** of the gene and is likely to result in nonsense-mediated RNA decay; in contrast, pathogenic *GNAS* variants that cause Albright hereditary osteodystrophy (MIM:103580) are located in **later**, highly constrained exons.
2. Similarly, the stop-gain variant in *TGIF1* (MIM:602630) is located in the **first exon**, where multiple PTVs in gnomAD are also located, but *TGIF1* pathogenic variants causing holoprosencephaly are located in the **final exons**, where they affect DNA binding affinity.
3. Finally, a frameshift deletion in *HIST1H1E* (MIM:142220) is located near **the start** of the single exon of this gene; however, pathogenic *HIST1H1E* frameshift deletions that cause child overgrowth and intellectual disability are located near **the end** of the exon, where they result in a truncated histone protein with lower net charge that is less effective at binding DNA.

We believe that these three rare PTVs are benign because of their locations, despite the fact that they occur in genes that cause dominant DD via haploinsufficiency.

Are PTVs actually LoFs?

Lek (2016) *Nature*, ExAC paper, ~60,000 individuals:

- 13.2 expected pLoF variants per gene, 62.8% of genes have >10 pLoF variants on the canonical transcript
- Each individual harbors ~85 heterozygous and ~34 homozygous PTVs

Sulem (2015) *Nat Genet*, ~101,000 Icelanders: // founder population

- 7.7% individuals have 1 gene completely knocked out by loss-of-function variants with a MAF under 2%
- 553 were predicted to have >1 gene completely knocked out
- 1,171 of the 19,135 RefSeq genes (6.1%) were completely knocked out

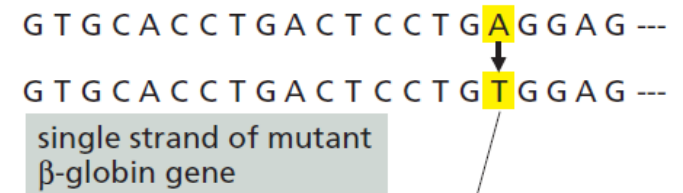
Saleheen (2017) *Nature*, ~10,000 Pakistanis // consanguineous

- 1,317 distinct genes were predicted to be inactivated owing to homozygous pLoF mutations
- 17.5% participants had at least one gene knocked out by a homozygous pLoF mutation, ~18% of them >1 gene knocked out



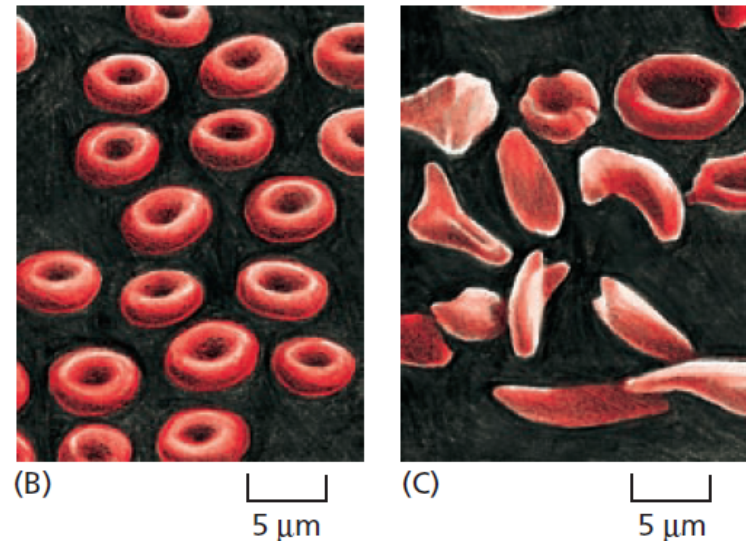
Missense variant, classic example

Figure 6–19 A single nucleotide change causes the disease sickle-cell anemia. (A) β -globin is one of the two types of subunit that form hemoglobin (see Figure 4–20). A single nucleotide change (mutation) in the β -globin gene produces a β -globin subunit that differs from normal β -globin only by a change from glutamic acid to valine at the sixth amino acid position. (Only a small portion of the gene is shown here; the β -globin subunit contains a total of 146 amino acids.) Humans carry two copies of each gene (one inherited from each parent); a sickle-cell mutation in one of the two β -globin genes generally causes no harm to the individual, as it is compensated for by the normal gene. However, an individual who inherits two copies of the mutant β -globin gene displays the symptoms of sickle-cell anemia. Normal red blood cells are shown in (B), and those from an individual suffering from sickle-cell anemia in (C). Although sickle-cell anemia can be a life-threatening disease, the mutation responsible can also be beneficial. People with the disease, or those who carry one normal gene and one sickle-cell gene, are more resistant to malaria than unaffected individuals, because the parasite that causes malaria grows poorly in red blood cells that contain the sickle-cell form of hemoglobin.



single nucleotide changed (mutation)

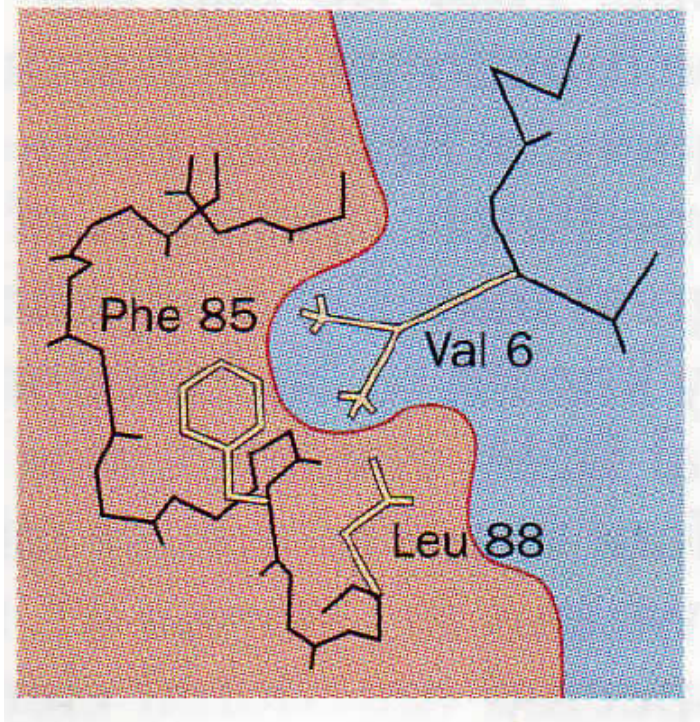
(A)



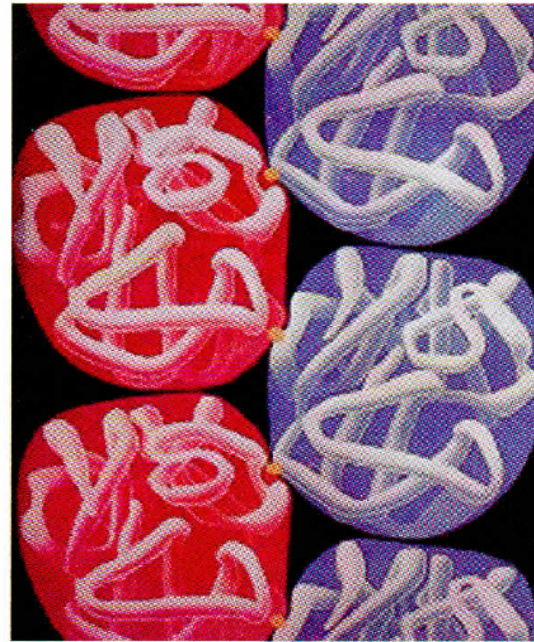
HBB.Glu7Val Sickle cell anemia [MIM:603903]: Characterized by abnormally shaped red cells resulting in **chronic anemia and periodic episodes of pain, serious infections and damage to vital organs**. Normal red blood cells are round and flexible and flow easily through blood vessels, but in sickle cell anemia, the abnormal hemoglobin (called Hb S) causes red blood cells to become stiff. They are C-shaped and resembles a sickle. These stiffer red blood cells can lead to microvascular occlusion thus cutting off the blood



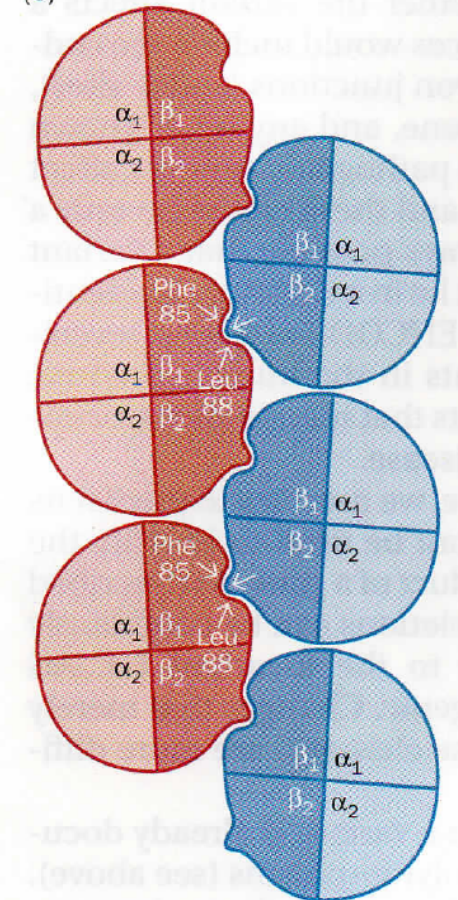
Missense variant, classic example



(B)



(C)



The sickle cell mutation. An A>T mutation in the β -globin (*HBB*) gene causes an amino acid change in the β -globin protein. The mutation replaces glutamic acid, a hydrophilic charged amino acid, with valine, a hydrophobic nonpolar amino acid. This change on the surface of the globin protein allows adhesive interactions between hemoglobin molecules.

... (PDB), the central structure of biomolecular structures. A new ... held in the PDB are shown here at a magnification of about ... as a small sphere. The enormous range of molecular sizes is ... (H₂O) with only three atoms (shown at the left) to the ribosomal ...

- 33. Succinate Dehydrogenase (Complex II) *1nek*
- 34. NADH-Quinone Oxidoreductase (Complex I) *3mrs, 3rko*
- 35. ATP Synthase *1e79, 1c17, 1l2p, 2a7u*
- 36. Myoglobin *1mbd*
- 37. Hemoglobin *4hhb*

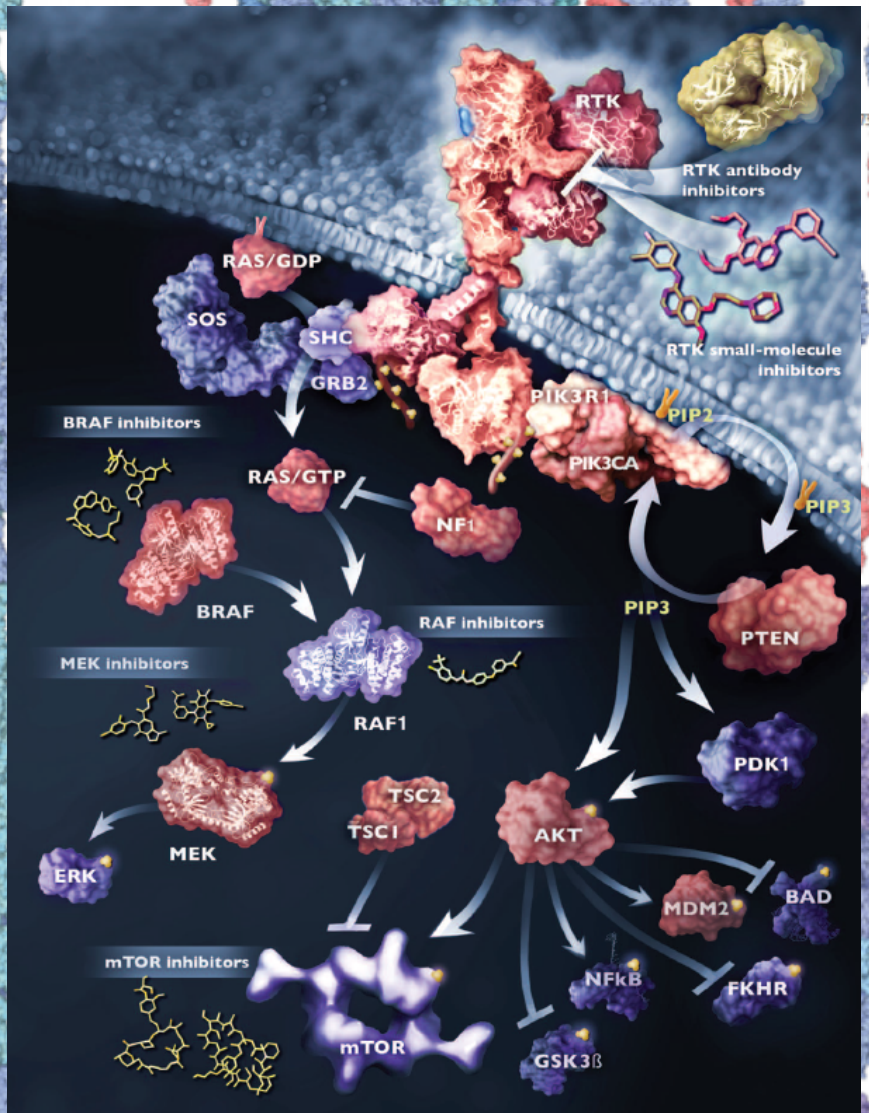
Storage: containing nutrients for future consumption

- 38. Ferritin *1hrs*

Enzymes: cutting and joining the molecules of life

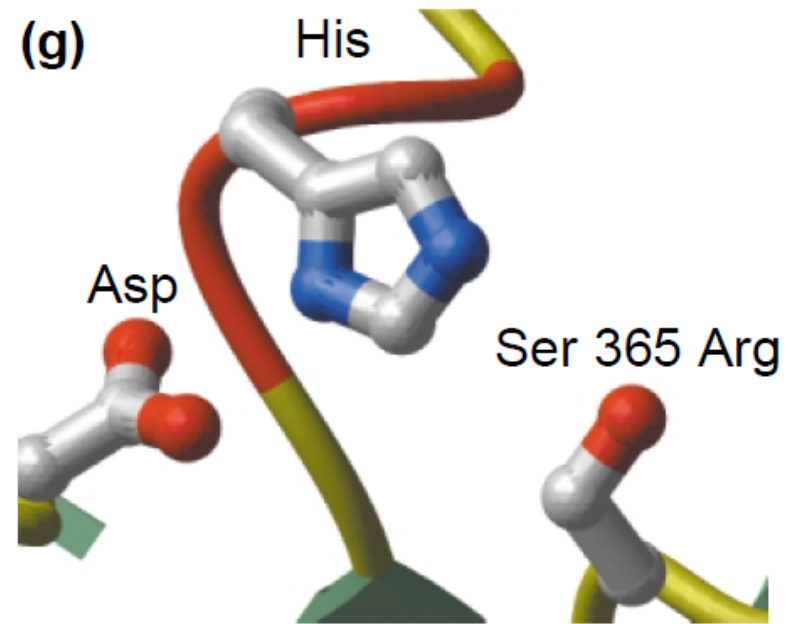
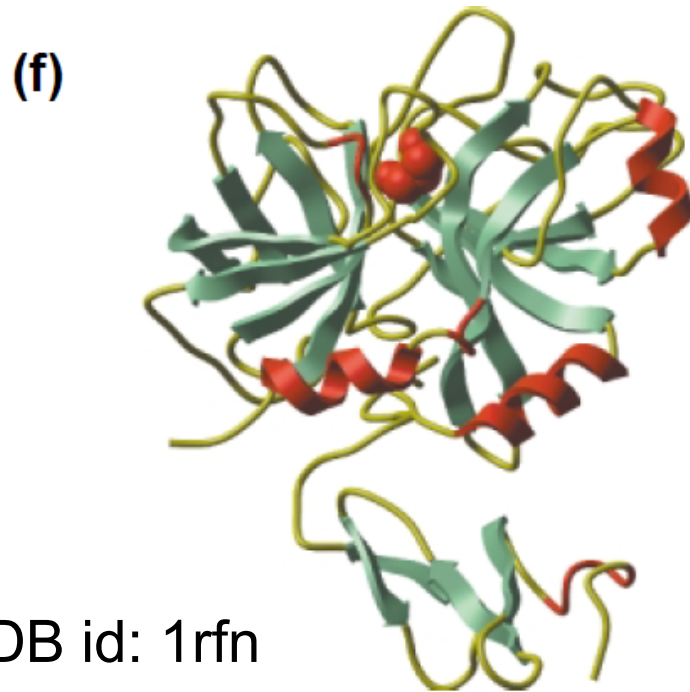
- | | |
|--|--|
| 39. Fatty Acid Synthase <i>2uvb, 2wrc</i> | 53. Hexokinase <i>1djk</i> |
| 40. RuBisCo: Ribulose Bisphosphate Carboxylase/Oxygenase <i>1rcx</i> | 54. Phosphoglucose isomerase <i>1hox</i> |
| 41. Green Fluorescent Protein <i>1gfl</i> | 55. Phosphofruktokinase <i>4prk</i> |
| 42. Luciferase <i>2d1s</i> | 56. Aldolase <i>4ald</i> |
| 43. Glutamine Synthetase <i>2gls</i> | 57. Triosephosphate isomerase <i>2ypi</i> |
| 44. Alcohol Dehydrogenase <i>2ohx</i> | 58. Glycerdehyde-3-phosphate Dehydrogenase <i>3gpd</i> |
| 45. Dihydrofolate Reductase <i>1dhf</i> | 59. Phosphoglycerate Kinase <i>3pgk</i> |
| 46. Nitrogenase <i>1n2c</i> | 60. Phosphoglycerate Mutase <i>3pgm</i> |
| 47. Leucine Aminopeptidase <i>1lap</i> | 61. Enolase <i>5enl</i> |
| 48. beta-Lactamase <i>4blm</i> | 62. Pyruvate Kinase <i>1a3w</i> |
| 49. Catalase <i>1qqw</i> | |
| 50. Thymidylate Synthase <i>2tsc</i> | |
| 51. Tryptophan Synthase <i>1wsy</i> | |
| 52. Aspartate Carbamoyltransferase <i>4at1</i> | |

- 76. Proteasome *4b4t*
- 77. Ubiquitin *1ubq*
- 78. Proteasome *4b4t*
- 79. Chaperonin GroEL/ES *1aon*
- 80. Proline cis/trans isomerase *2cpl*
- 81. Heat Shock Protein Hsp90 *2c99*
- 82. Proteasome *4b4t*
- 83. Ubiquitin *1ubq*



Vogelstein (2013) *Science*
 Protein Data Bank rcsb.org

Examples of missense disease variants



Factor IX *F9* is a serine protease with Ser-His-Asp catalytic triade that participates in the intrinsic pathway of blood coagulation by converting factor X to its active form Xa. Disease mutations in *F9* are associated with the X-linked recessive bleeding disorder haemophilia B (OMIM:306900).

Disruption of catalytic residues. Mutations of the catalytic serine residue to an arginine results in the loss of enzyme activity and a severe haemophilia phenotype.

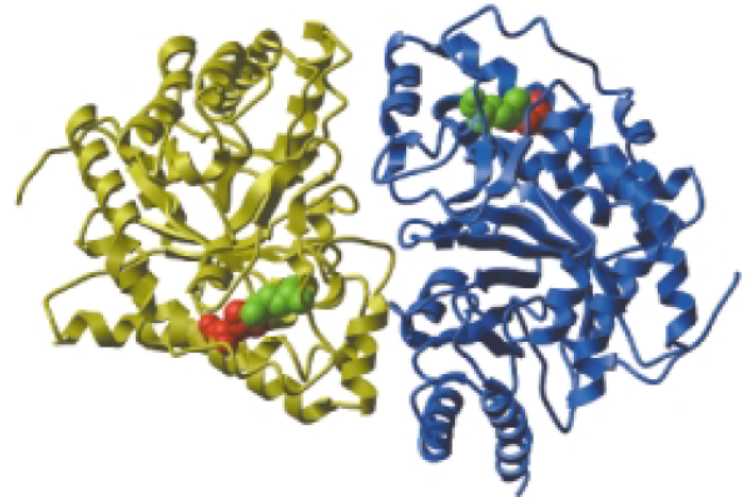
Steward (2003) *Trends Genet*

Examples of missense disease variants

Introduction of buried charged residues:
Met165Arg \Rightarrow arginine sidechain cannot be accommodated in a hydrophobic pocket \Rightarrow no soluble protein.

Size changes in the hydrophobic core:
Leu195Phe \Rightarrow rearrangement of surrounding side-chains \Rightarrow 30% of the wild-type activity.

Mutations in the uroporphyrinogen decarboxylase *UROD* are associated with Porphyria cutanea tarda (OMIM:176100), accumulation of uroporphyrins in the liver and plasma, leading to skin fragility and photosensitive dermatitis.

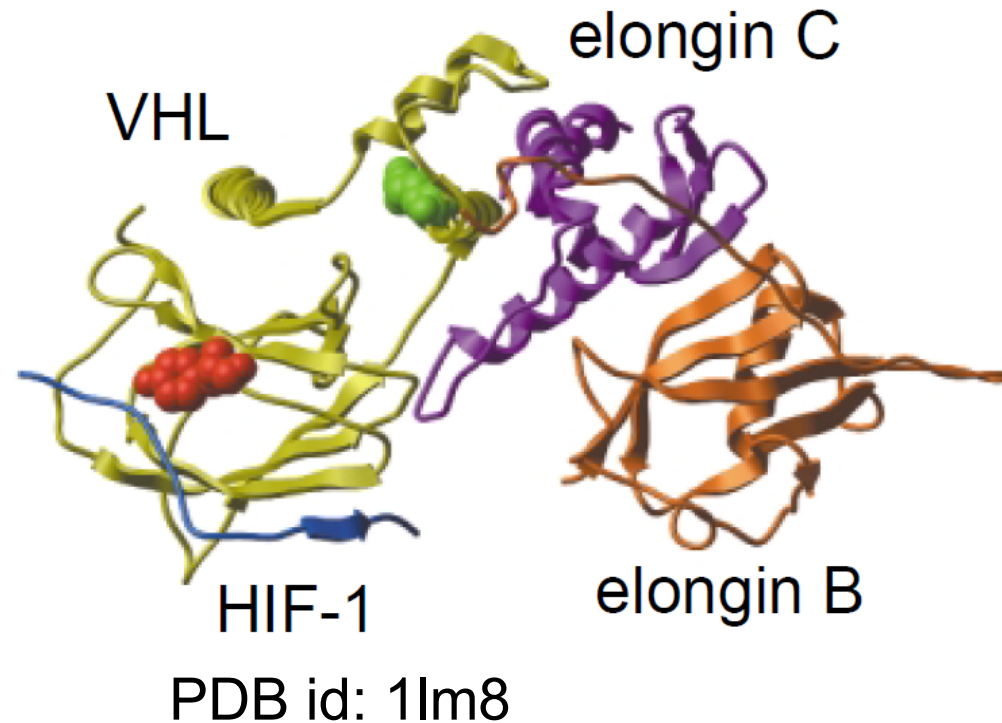


PDB id: 1uro

Examples of missense disease variants

Disruption of protein–protein interactions:

Tyr98His destroys binding between HIF and VHL \Rightarrow HIF not degraded \Rightarrow over-expression of angiogenic growth factors \Rightarrow local proliferation of blood vessels.

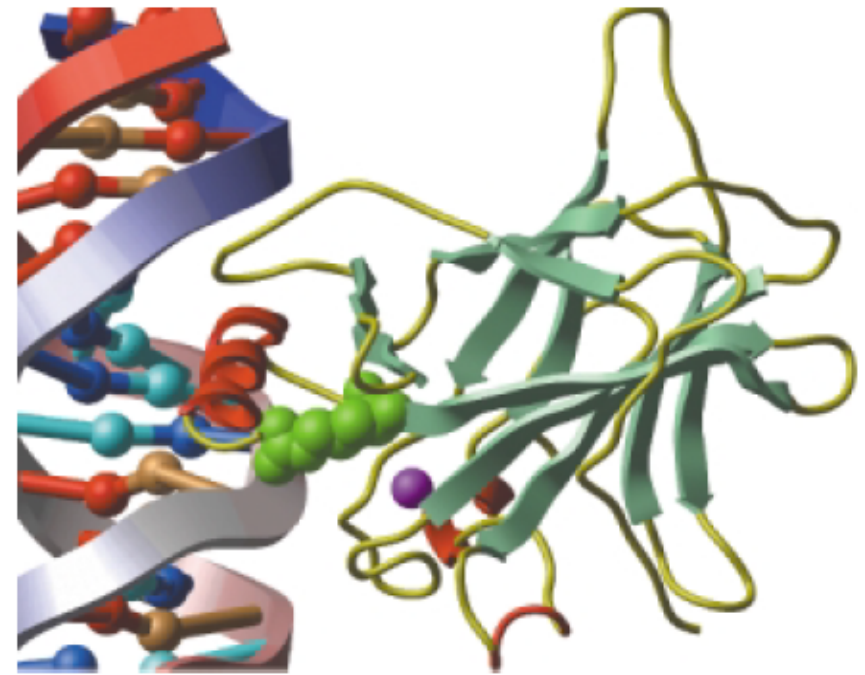


Von Hippel-Lindau syndrome (OMIM:193300) is an inherited predisposition to a variety of cancers. Von Hippel-Lindau disease tumor suppressor *VHL* codes for a protein with two structural domains. The β -domain of VHL binds to hypoxia-inducible transcription factor HIF, ultimately leading to HIF degradation.

Examples of missense disease variants

Disruption of DNA binding

Arg273 contacts the DNA phosphate backbone with its charged side-chain. Arg273His is associated with low p53 DNA-binding and Li-Fraumeni syndrome.

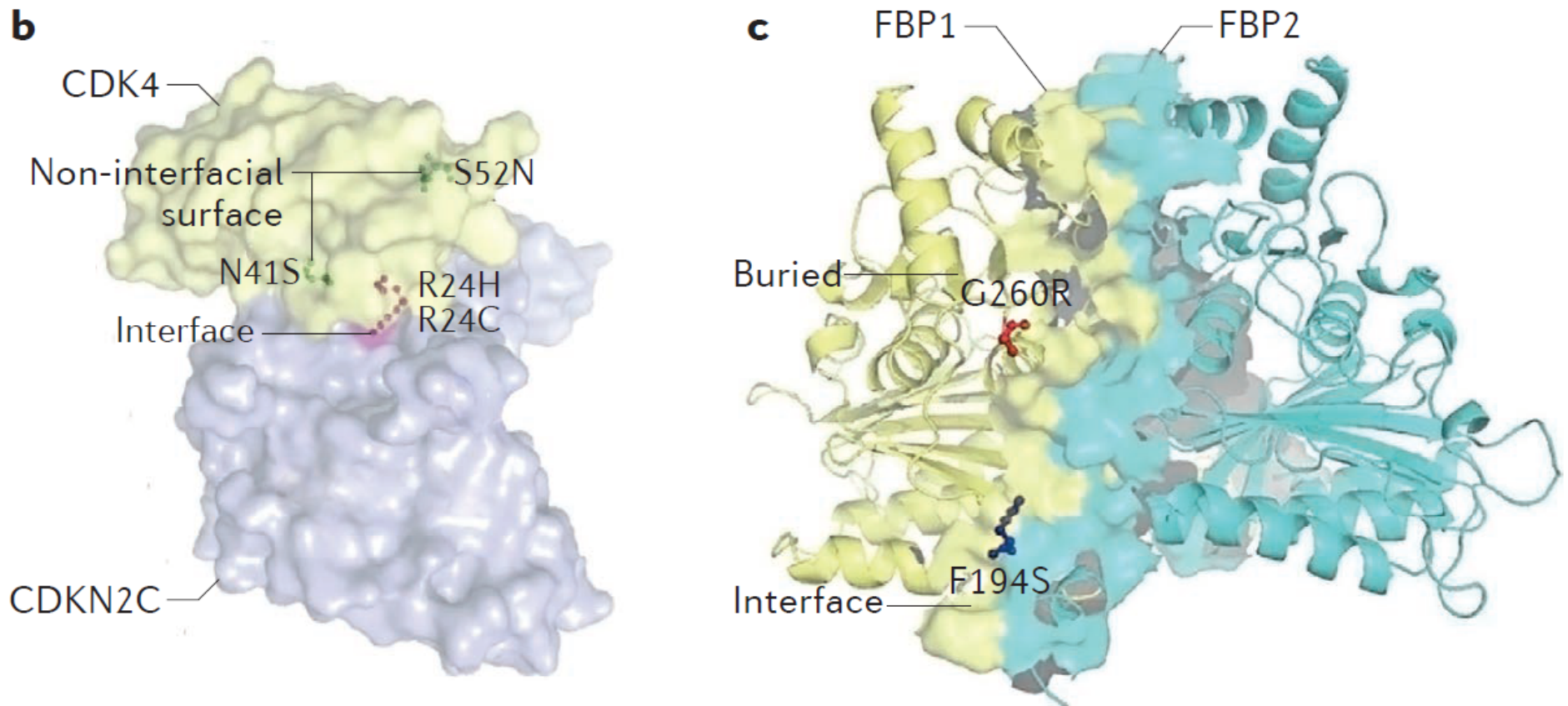


PDB id: 1tsr

Li-Fraumeni syndrome (OMIM 191170), a predisposition to a broad spectrum of cancers at an early age. Cellular tumor antigen p53 (*TP53*) is a tumor suppressor in many tumor types, induces growth arrest or apoptosis. Three functional domains: an N-terminal transcription factor domain, a DNA-binding core domain, and a C-terminal homooligomerization domain.

Steward (2003) *Trends Genet*

Missense disease mutations: stability or PPI?



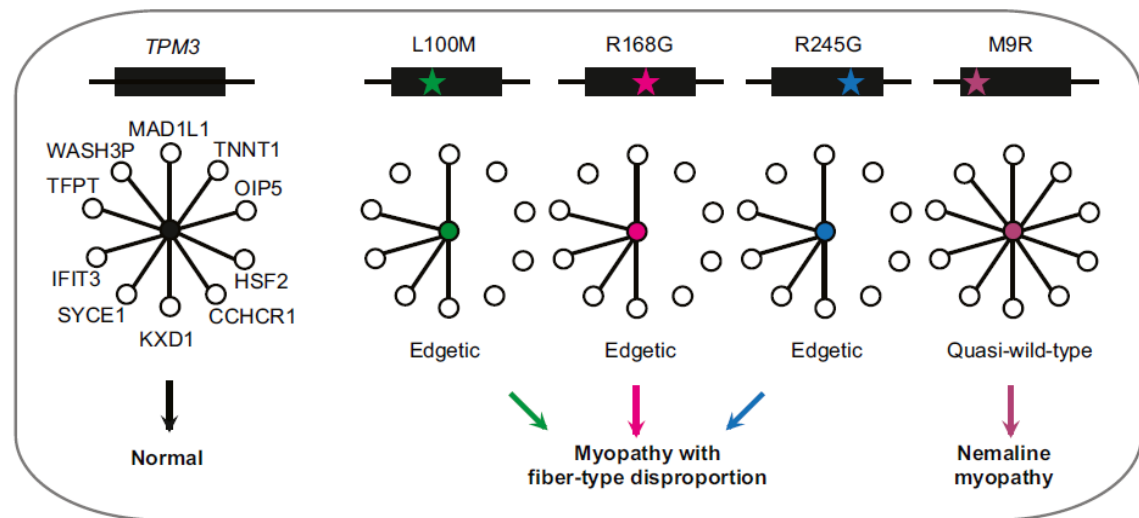
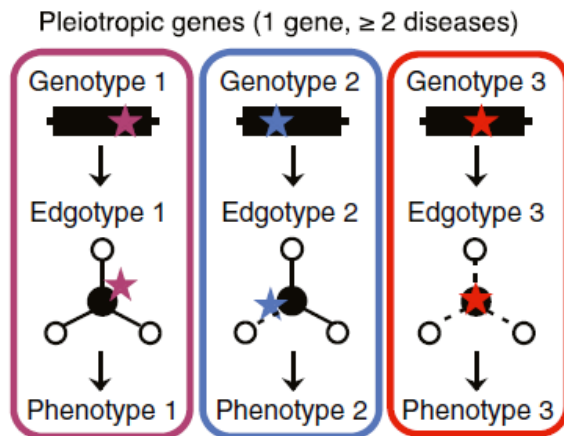
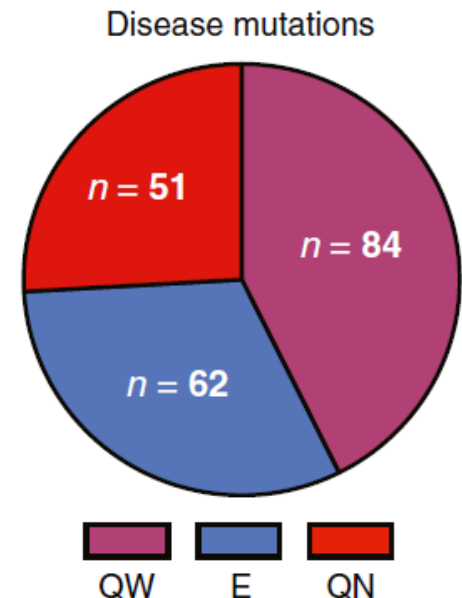
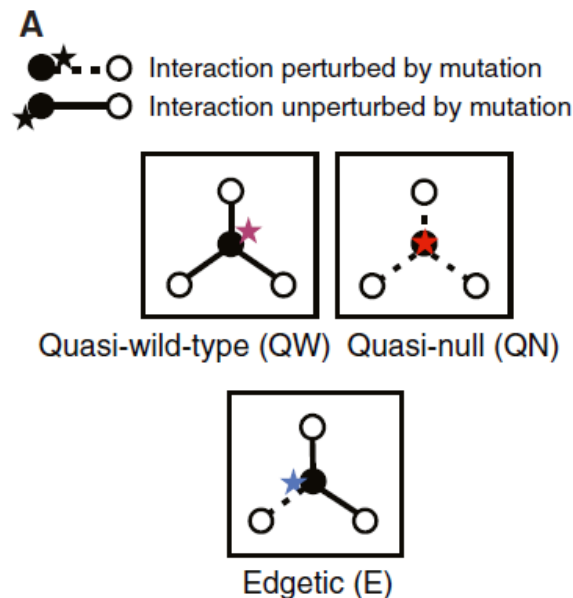
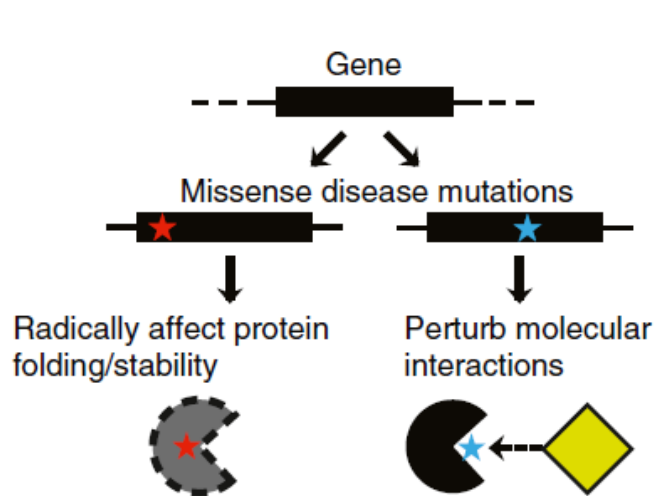
b | Locations of residues affected by mutations are highlighted on the cyclin-dependent kinase 4 (CDK4) structure based on homology modelling (PDB: 1bi7). CDKN2C, CDK inhibitor 2C. **c** | Locations of residues affected by mutations are highlighted on the fructose bisphosphatase 1 (FBP1) structure (PDB: 1fpi).

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Table 1 | **Human diseases caused by defects in protein folding, stability and aggregation**

Disease	Protein affected	Description	References
Cystic fibrosis	Cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR)	The Δ Phe508 mutant has wild-type activity, but impaired folding in the endoplasmic reticulum leads to degradation.	97
α 1 Antitrypsin deficiency	α 1 Antitrypsin (also known as SERPINA1)	80% of Glu342Lys mutants misfold and are degraded. Pathology is due to aggregation in patients with a reduced degradation rate.	97
SCAD deficiency	Short-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (SCAD)	Impaired folding of Arg22Trp mutants leads to rapid degradation.	98
Alzheimer disease	Presenilin, γ -secretase	Mutations cause incorrect cleavage by the γ -secretase protease to produce the amyloid β -peptide; this aggregates into extracellular amyloid plaques.	99,100
Parkinson disease	α -Synuclein	Oxidative damage causes misfolding and aggregation. Hereditary forms are linked to deficiency in ubiquitin-mediated degradation.	101
Huntington disease	Huntingtin	CAG expansions in the Huntingtin gene lead to an abundance of polyglutamine fragments that aggregate and associate non-specifically with other cellular proteins.	101,102
Sickle cell anaemia	Haemoglobin	The Glu6Val mutation leads to aggregation in red blood cells.	103

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The effects of missense disease mutations on molecular interactions could range from no apparent detectable change in interactions (**quasi-WT**), to specific loss of some interactions (**edgetic**), to an apparent complete loss of interactions (**quasinull**)