



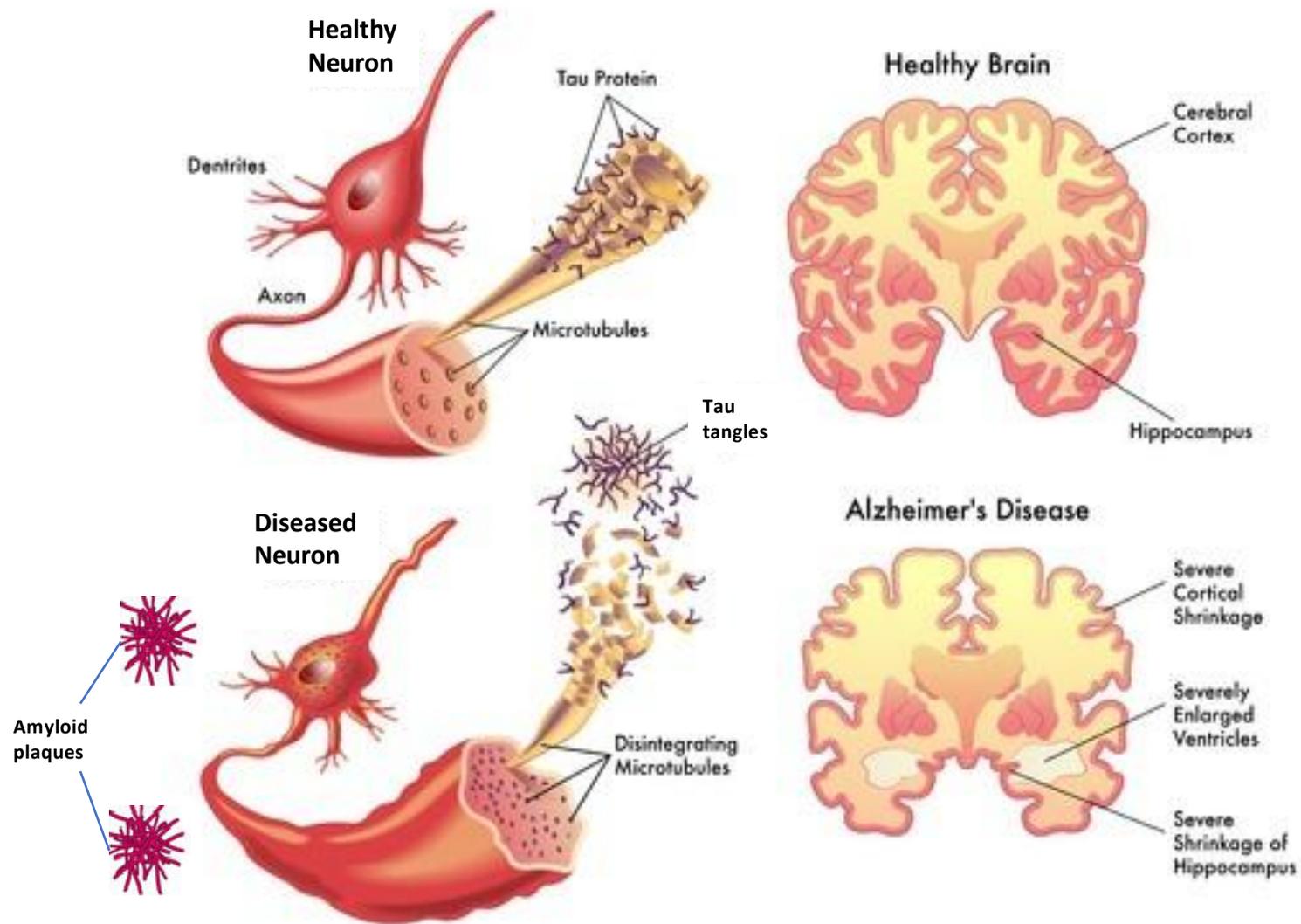
## *Prevent brain ageing with personalised nutrigenomics*

**Prof. Michael Fenech**

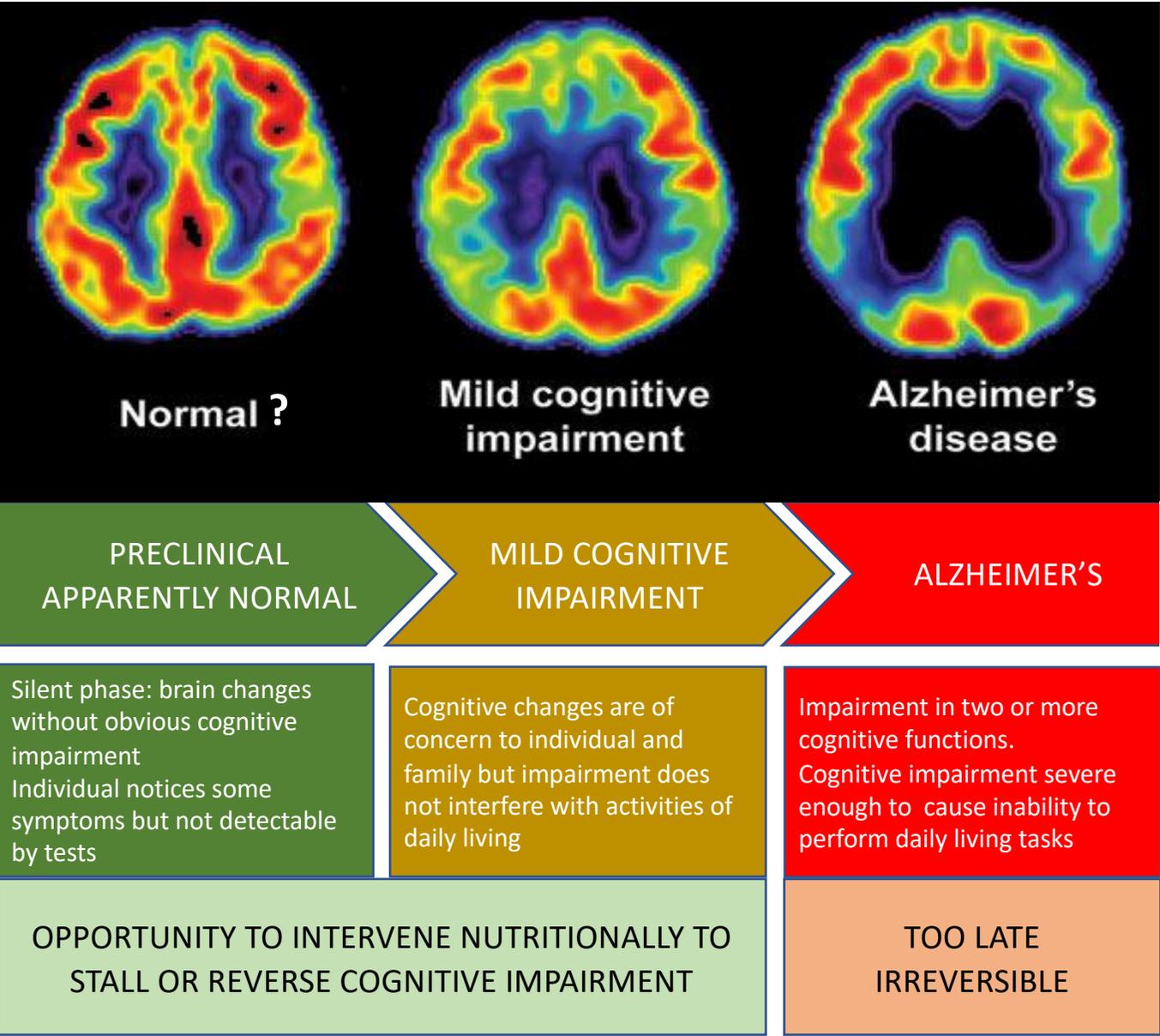
University of South Australia: [Michael.Fenech@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Michael.Fenech@unisa.edu.au)

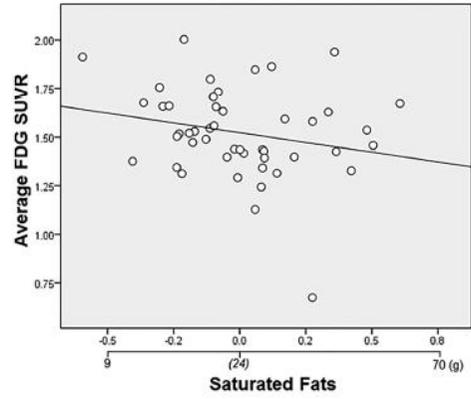
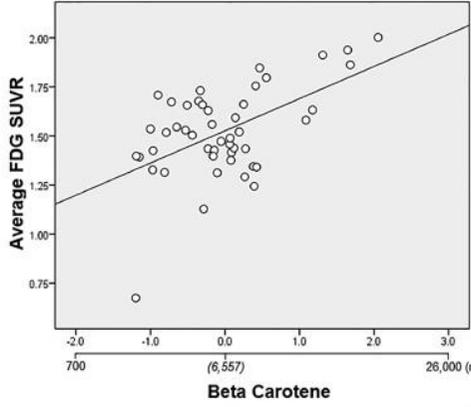
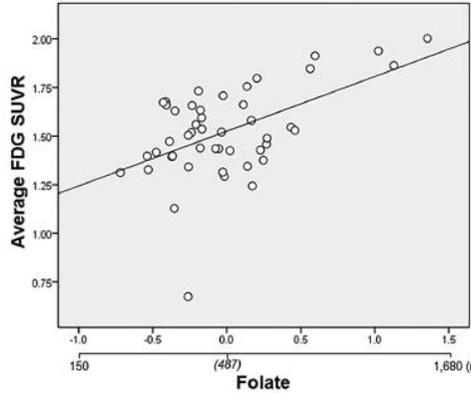
Genome Health Foundation: [mf.ghf@outlook.com](mailto:mf.ghf@outlook.com)



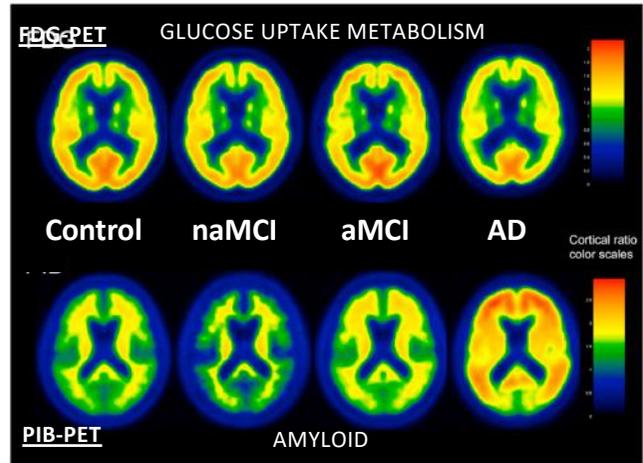


Alzheimer's Disease Progression, Courtesy of American Health Assistance Foundation





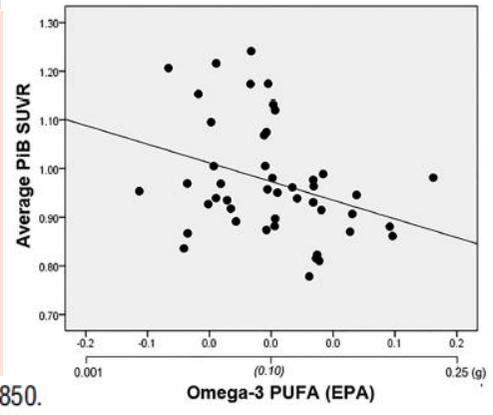
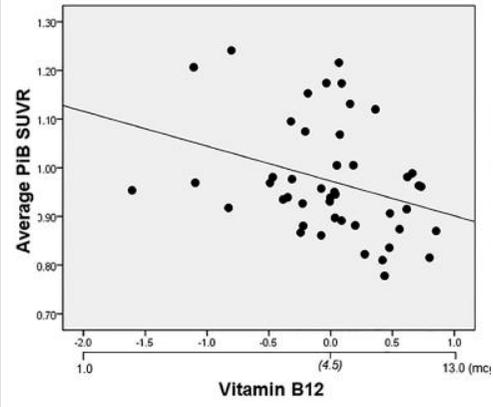
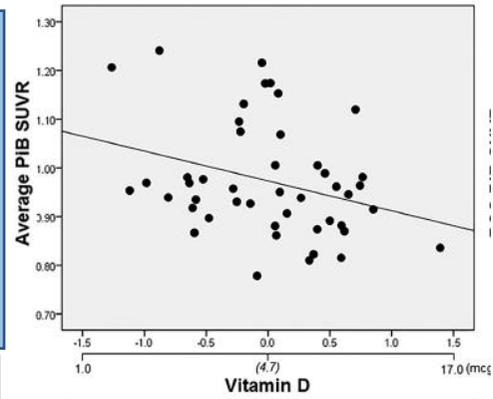
Nutrient intake and brain biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease in at-risk cognitively normal individuals: Cross-sectional neuroimaging pilot study



Higher dietary intake of folate and  $\beta$ -carotene associated with more brain glucose use (FDG SUVR)

Higher dietary intake of vit D, vit B12 and EPA associated with less brain amyloid

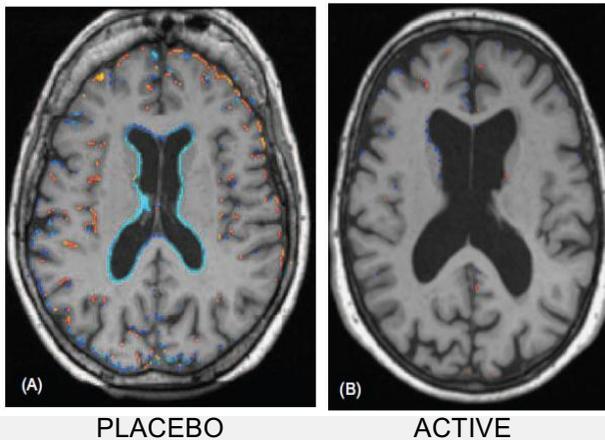
Mosconi L, Murray J, Davies M, et al. *BMJ Open* 2014;4:e004850.



# HOMOCYSTEINE LOWERING BY B VITAMINS SLOWS BRAIN ATROPHY AND COGNITIVE DECLINE IN MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

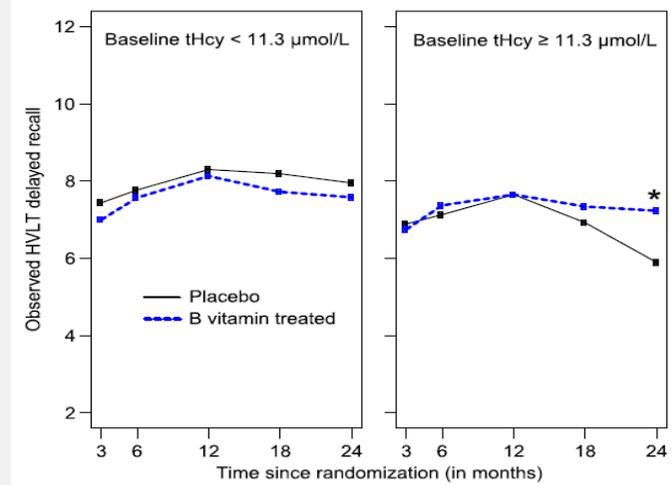
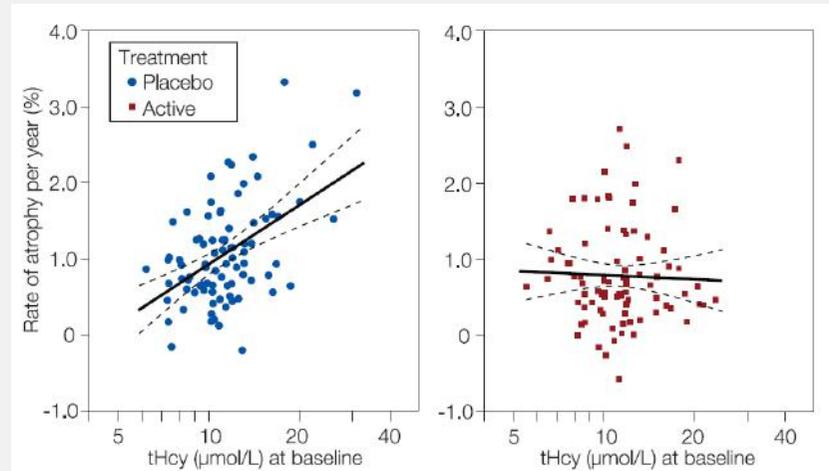
## VITACOG

PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIAL 2y  
 FOLIC ACID [0.8 mg/d], B12 [0.5 mg/d]  
 B6 [20mg/d]  
 Amnesic or non-amnesic MCI, >70y



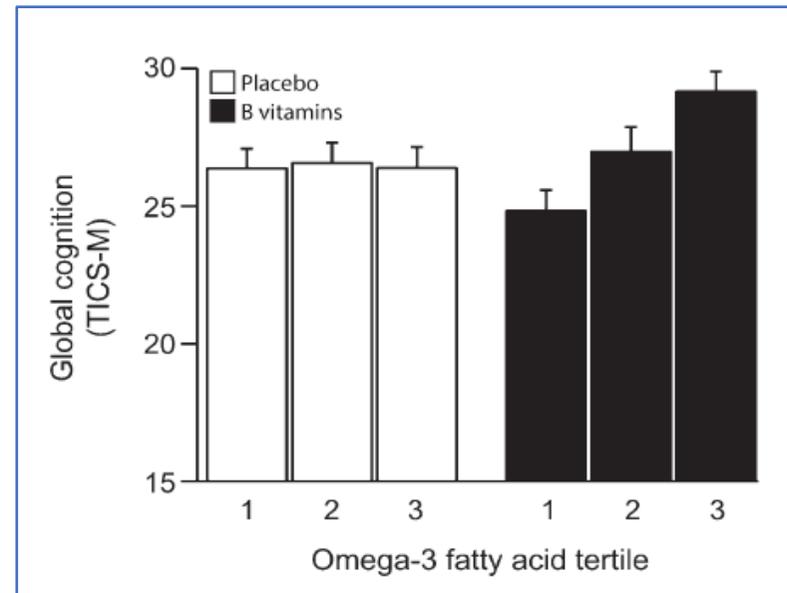
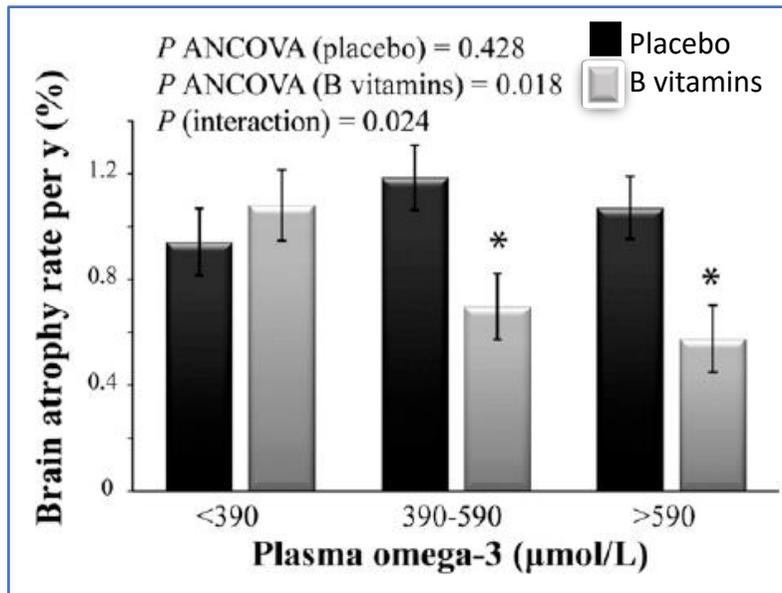
## Key points

- B vits for 2 years slows cognitive decline and brain atrophy in MCI
- These benefits are mainly found in those with plasma homocysteine >11µmol/L
- Effects mainly attributable to B12



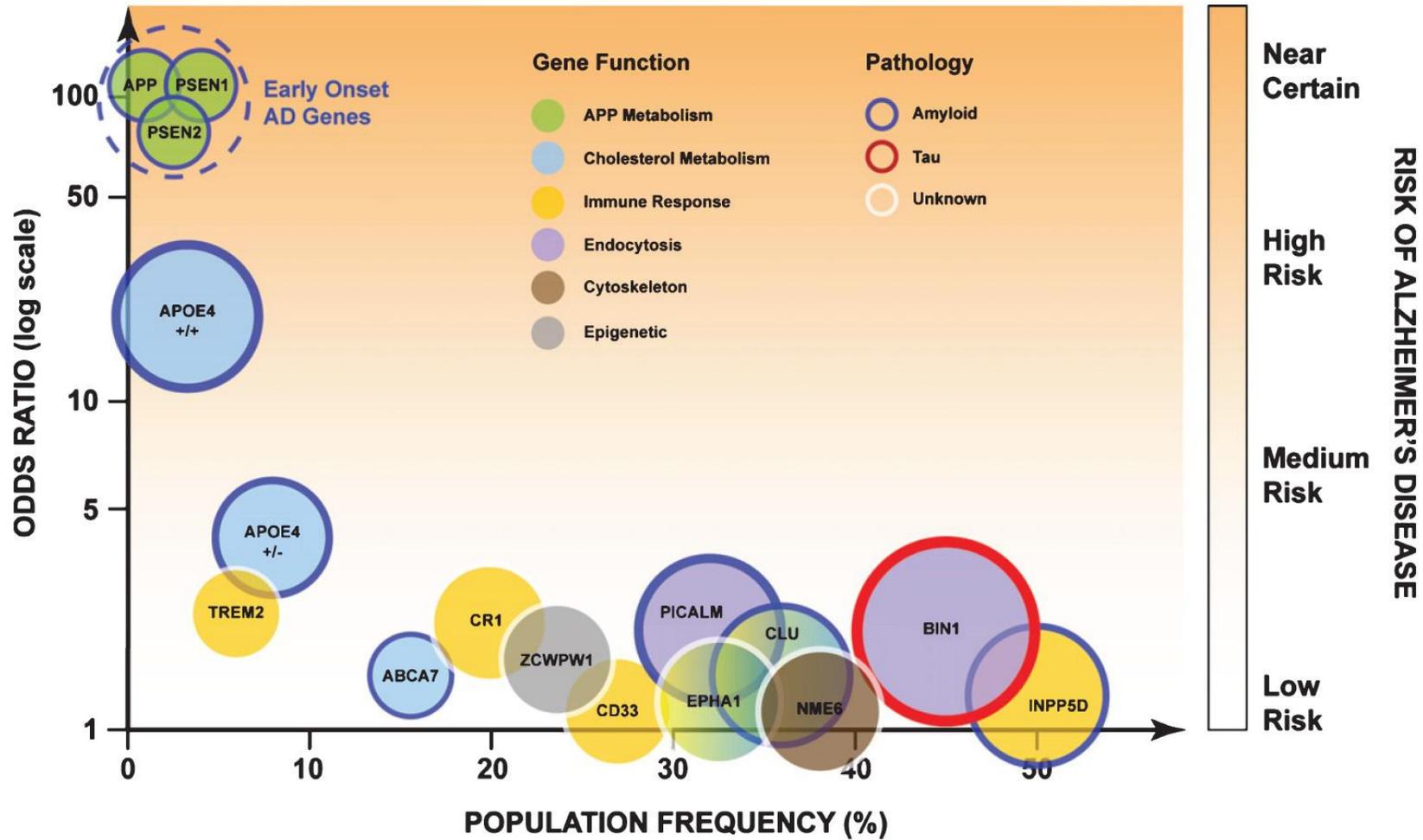
Smith AD et al 2010 Plos One,  
 deJager CA et al Int J Ger Psych 2012, Douaud et al PNAS 2013

## EFFECT OF COMBINED B6, B9, B12 SUPPLEMENTATION ON PREVENTION OF BRAIN ATROPHY AND COGNITIVE FUNCTION IN CASES OF MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT DEPENDS ON OMEGA-3 STATUS



**It is important to identify susceptible sub-groups when designing clinical trials. Only those with plasma Homocysteine >11μmol/L and/or plasma Omega-3 fatty acids >390μmol/L benefited from B6+B9+B12 supplementation**

# ALZHEIMER'S RISK GENES



# Vitamin B-12, apolipoprotein E genotype, and cognitive performance in community-living older adults: evidence of a gene-micronutrient interaction<sup>1-3</sup>

## MMSE and B-12 X APOEε4 interaction

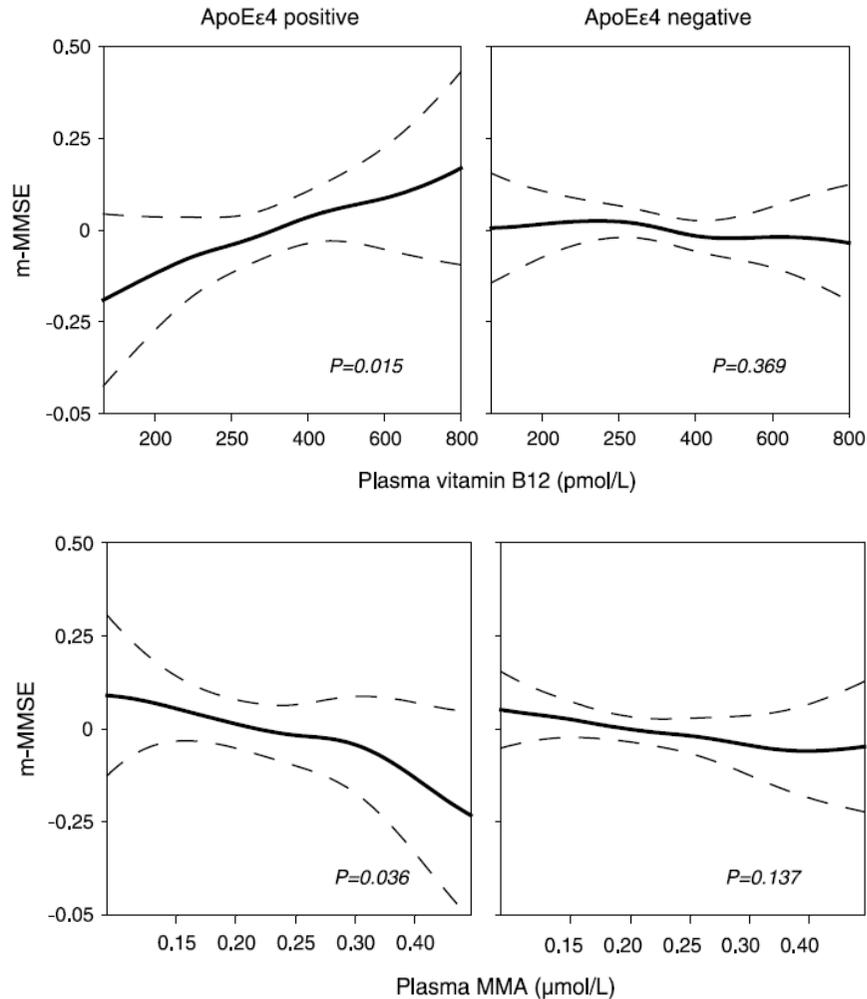
Association between natural log-transformed vitamin B-12, *APOE* ε4, interaction between natural log-transformed vitamin B-12 and *APOE* ε4, and Mini-Mental State Examination total scores in linear mixed-effects models

Variable	Coefficient	SE	<i>P</i>
Full sample ( <i>n</i> = 539)			
Vitamin B-12	1.07	0.35	0.003
<i>APOE</i> ε4	-5.37	2.33	0.022
Vitamin B-12 × <i>APOE</i> ε4	0.95	0.39	0.016
Subsample ( <i>n</i> = 416) <sup>1</sup>			
Vitamin B-12	0.67	0.31	0.035
<i>APOE</i> ε4	-3.81	2.08	0.068
Vitamin B-12 × <i>APOE</i> ε4	0.66	0.35	0.061

Significant  
B-12 X APOε4 interactions  
Were also observed for  
Digit span and RAVLT  
neuropsych tests

Better performance in MMSE, Digit span and RAVLT tests was associated with vitamin B-12 in APOE e4 carriers but not in APOE e4 non-carriers.

B12 STATUS X APOE GENOTYPE  
INTERACTION AND COGNITIVE FUNCTION



Evidence for APOEε4 x Vit B-12 interaction on cognitive function is increasing supporting the hypothesis that intervention with B-12 may prove to more beneficial in APOEε4 carriers

## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Brain ageing starts to accelerate from age 30 onwards
- Adopt a diet rich in carotenoids, folate, vitamin D, vitamin B12 and omega-3 fatty acids (i.e. fruit, veg, fish)
- Eat oily fish which are rich in vitamin B12, vitamin D and omega-3 fatty acids
- Your risk for Alzheimer's disease is much higher if you are a carrier of the ancestral APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 mutation
- APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 mutation carriers may be more susceptible to the brain ageing effects of vitamin B12 deficiency.
- APOE  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers also benefit more from aerobic exercise with regards to cognitive function.
- In the near future an "avatar" for each person may be available to optimise lifestyle therapy to prevent dementia.
- See your doctor and improve your diet and life-style as soon as you start to experience cognitive impairment

