

**LIPOPROTEINS**  
**metabolism and**  
**pathophysiology**

***Marek Vecka***

# Function of lipids

*energy substrate*

*lipid microenvironment*

*insulation*

*membrane component*

*substrates for further metabolism*

*modifications of proteins/saccharides*

# Lipid transport

*postprandial phase* – digestion of lipids  
from the diet

*fasting state* – delivery of lipids to the  
tissues in need

# Lipid digestion

## *gastro-salivary phase*

*Lingual lipase (pH optimum 3.5-6)*

*secreted by von Ebner's glands, acts also in stomach*

*TAG → 1,2-DAG, 2,3-DAG + FFA*

*Gastric lipase (pH optimum 3.5-5.4)*

*TAG → DAG + FFA/glycerol + FFA*

*significant contribution*

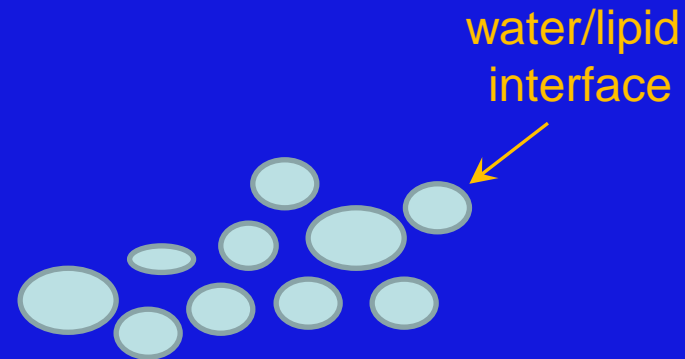
*to the digestion (10-30 % of TAG)*

*gastric movements*

*peristaltic movements*

*grinding of the antrum*

*1. emulsification of lipids*



# Lipid digestion

## *intestinal phase - pancreatic lipases I*

*Pancreatic lipase (pH optimum 6.5-9)*

*at the interface of lipid droplets*

*(facilitated by BA micellarization of products)*

*TAG → 2-MAG + FFA*

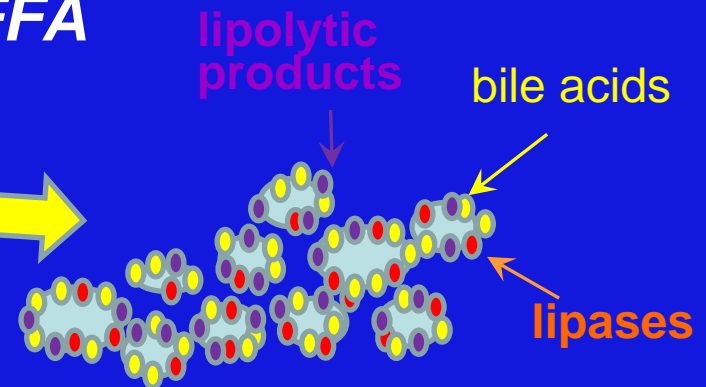
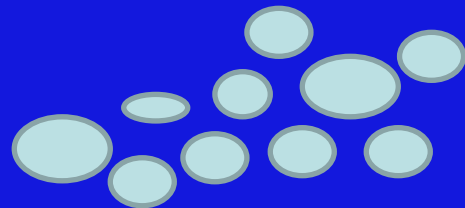
*Colipase*

*exposes the active site of pancreatic lipase*

*Pancreatic phospholipases PLA<sub>1</sub>, PLA<sub>2</sub>*

*activated by trypsin*

*PL → 2-lysoPL, 1-lysoPL + FFA*



*2. lipolysis of lipids*

# Lipid digestion

## *intestinal phase - pancreatic lipases II*

*Cholesteryl ester hydrolase (BA activated lipase)*

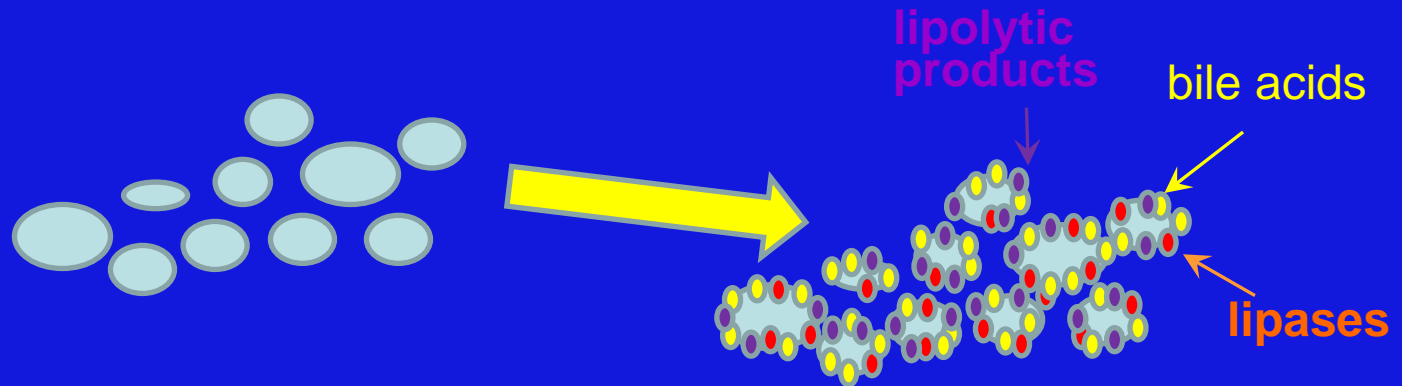


*other substrates: retinyl esters, TAG, PL, Cer*

*alkaline sphingomyelinase*



*neutral ceramidase*

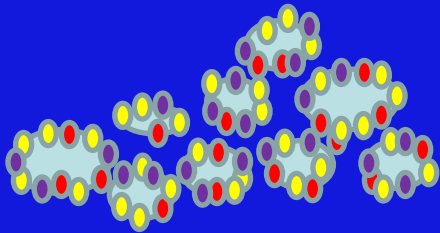


## 2. lipolysis of lipids

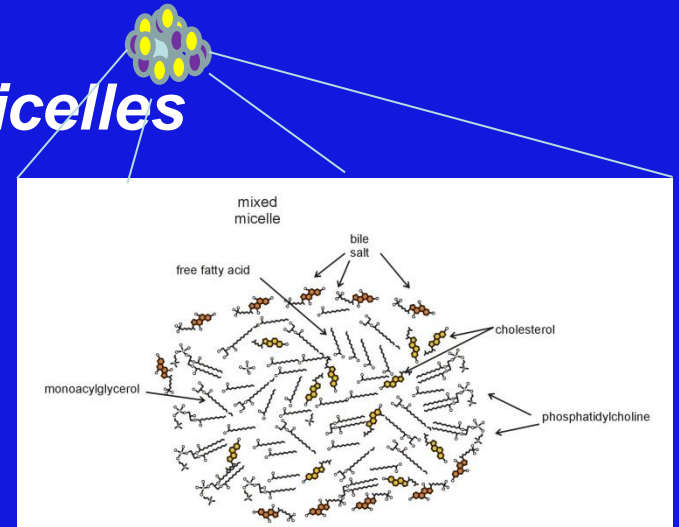
# Lipid digestion

*intestinal phase - formation of micelles*

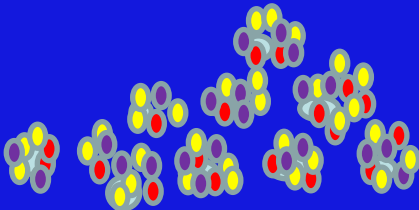
*BA and PL displace lipolysis products from the water-oil interface*



*mixed micelles*



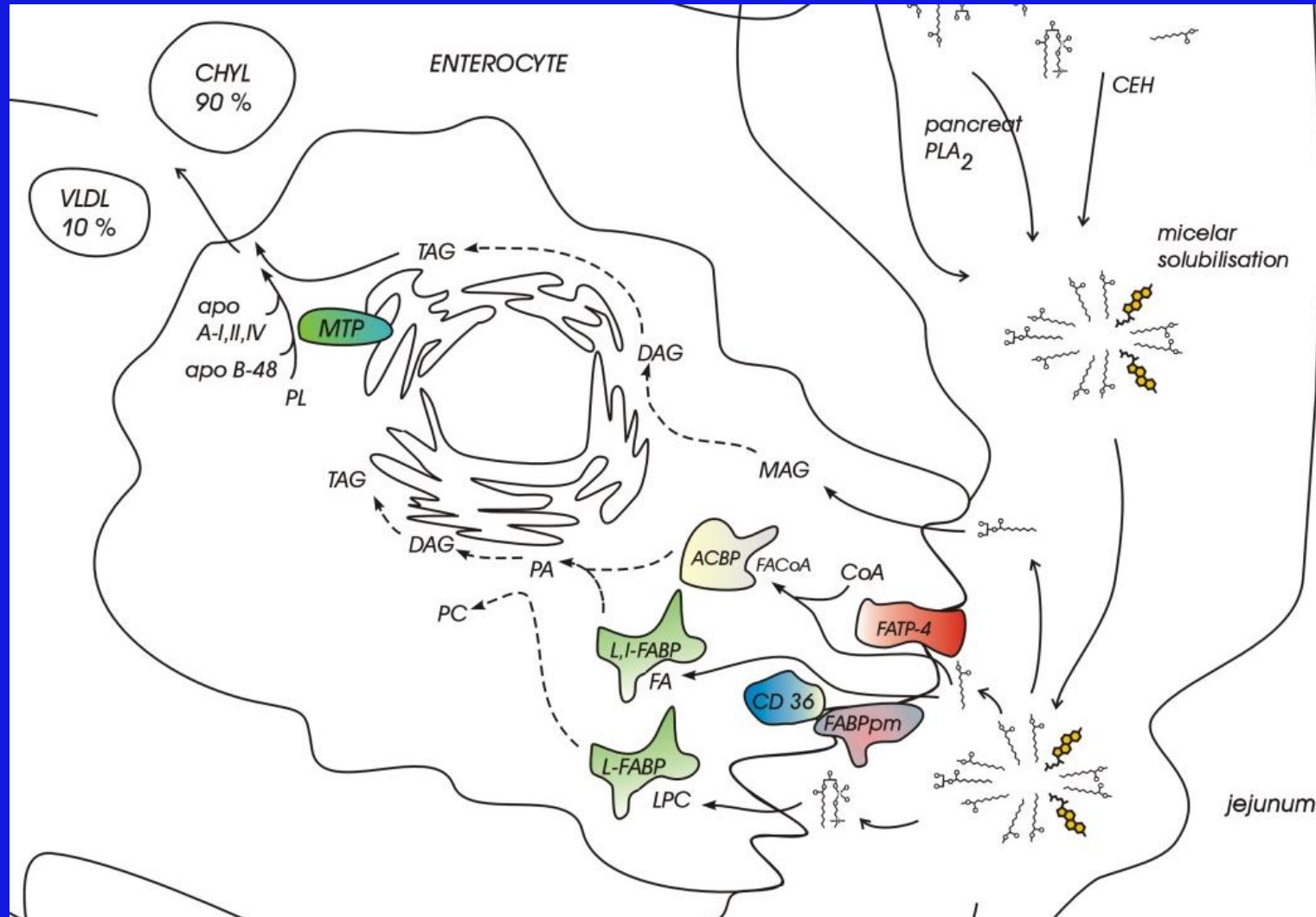
*further lipolysis by lipases*



*3. solubilization of lipids*

# 4+5. translocation and intracellular metabolism of lipids

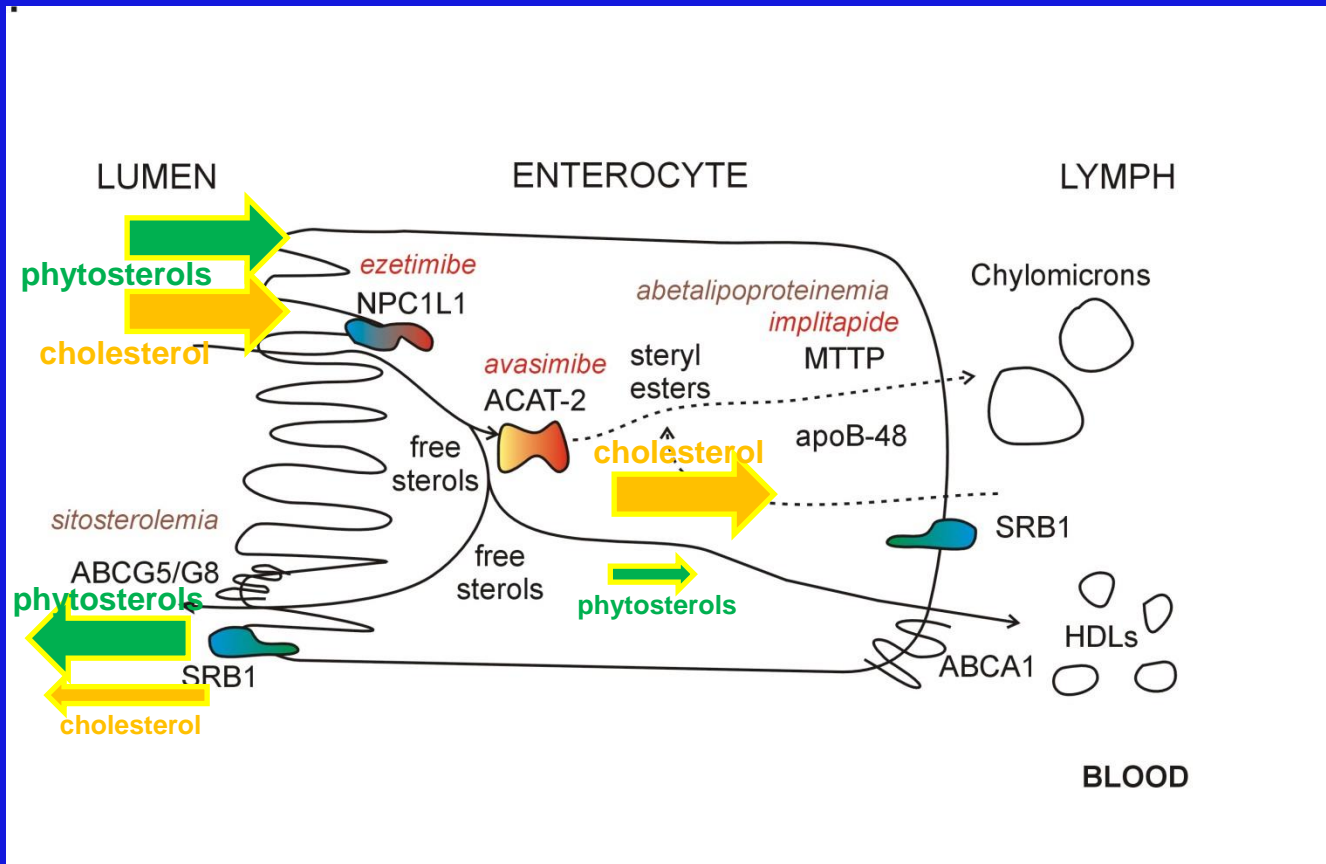
## Lipid absorption – fatty acids, PL



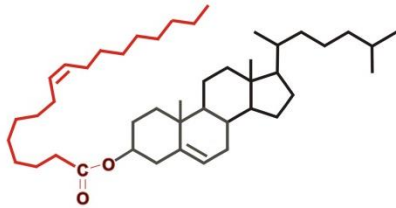


# 4+5. translocation and intracellular metabolism of lipids

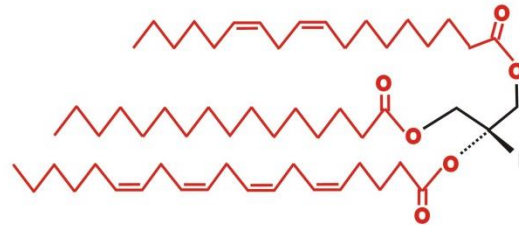
## Lipid absorption – sterols



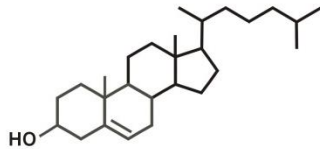
# Important lipid classes



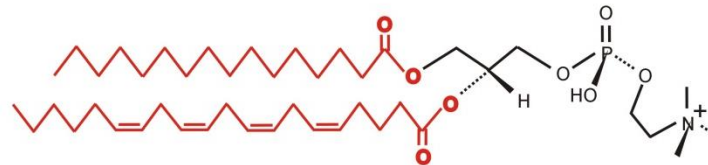
cholesteryl ester, CE



triacylglycerol, TAG (TG)



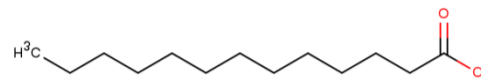
cholesterol, FC



phosphatidylcholine, PC



sphingomyeline, SPH



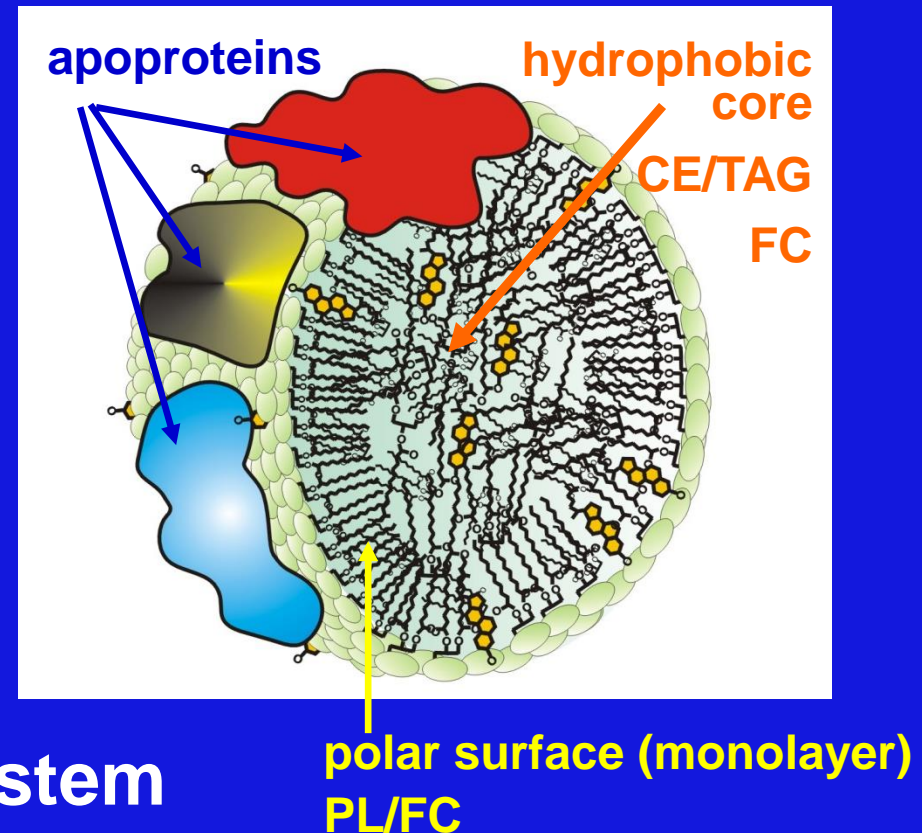
neutral =  
hydrophobic

polar =  
amphiphilic

NEFA  
very polar

# Structure of lipoprotein

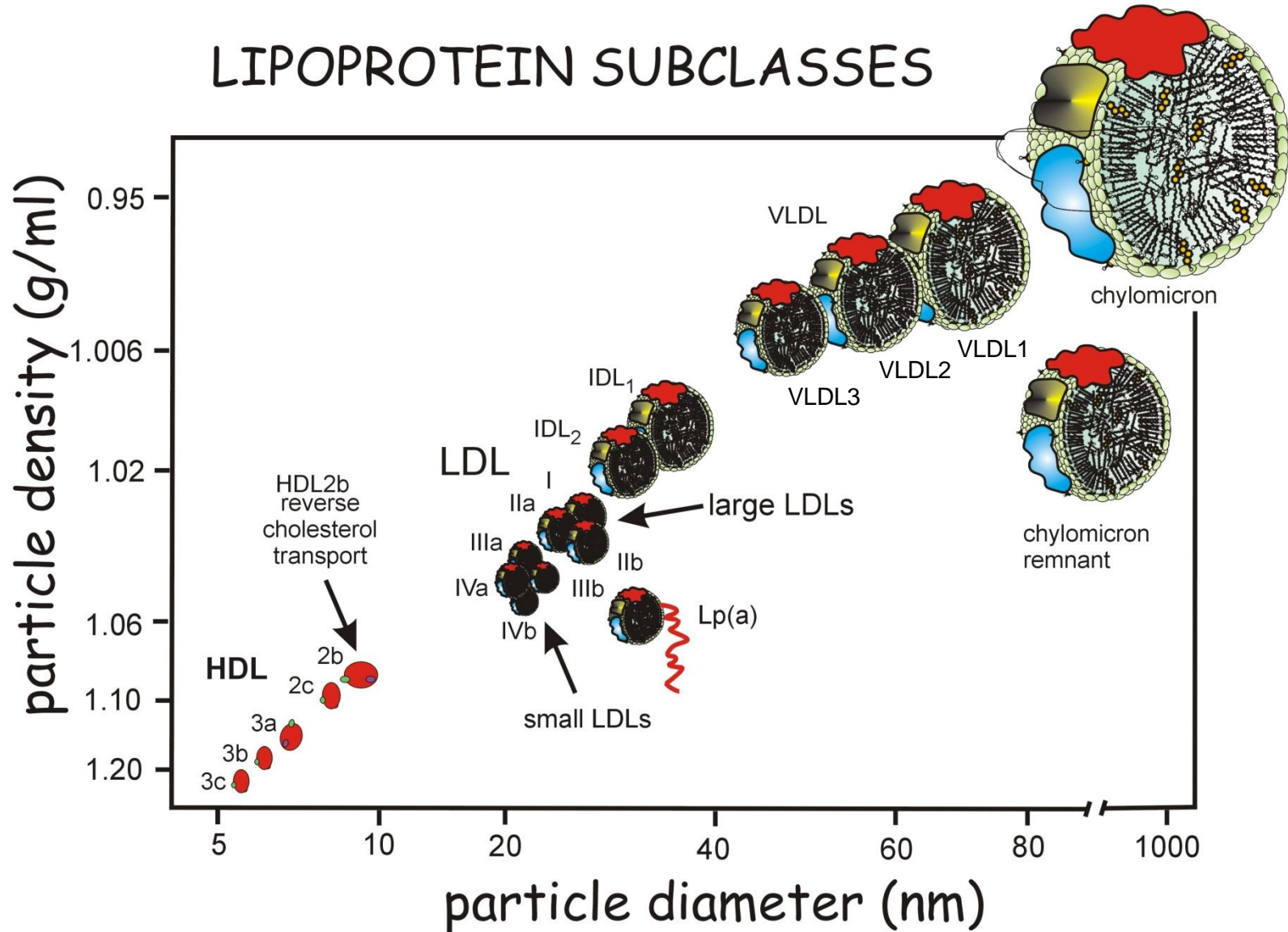
- cca spherical
- micellar
- noncovalent interaction between lipids and proteins
- lipid transporting system
- possible interchange of apoproteins, lipids between lipoproteins



# Plasma lipoproteins

Lipoprotein class	Major Lipid class	Apolipoproteins	Source
CM (chylomicrons)	TAG	A-I, A-II, A-IV, C-II, -III, B-48, E	intestine
remnant CM	TAG, CE	B-48, E	catabolism of CM
VLDL (very low density Lp)	TAG	B-100, C-II,-III, E	liver (intestine)
IDL (intermediate density Lp)	CE	B-100, C-II,-III, E	catabolism of VLDL
LDL (low density Lp)	CE	B-100	catabolism of IDL
HDL <sub>2</sub> (high density Lp) <i>subclass 2</i>	CE, PL	A-I, A-II	liver, intestine catabolism of CM and VLDL
HDL <sub>3</sub> (high density Lp) <i>subclass 3</i>	CE	A-I, A-II, minor apolipoproteins	HDL <sub>2</sub>
lipoprotein [a]	CE	B-100 & apo [a]	liver

# Lipoprotein size



# Plasma apolipoproteins

***apolipoprotein = protein part of lipoprotein particle***

*many functions (intracellular  $\neq$  extracellular)*

## ***Non-exchangeable apolipoproteins***

*structural function: apo B-48, apo B-100*

*receptor ligands: apo B-48, apo B-100*

## ***Exchangeable apolipoproteins***

*receptor ligands: apo E, apo A-I*

*structural function: apo A-I*

*modulation of enzyme activity: apo A-I, apo A-II, apo C-I,  
apo C-II, apo C-III*

*enzyme activity: apo K (PON)*

*acute phase reactant: apo I (SAA)*

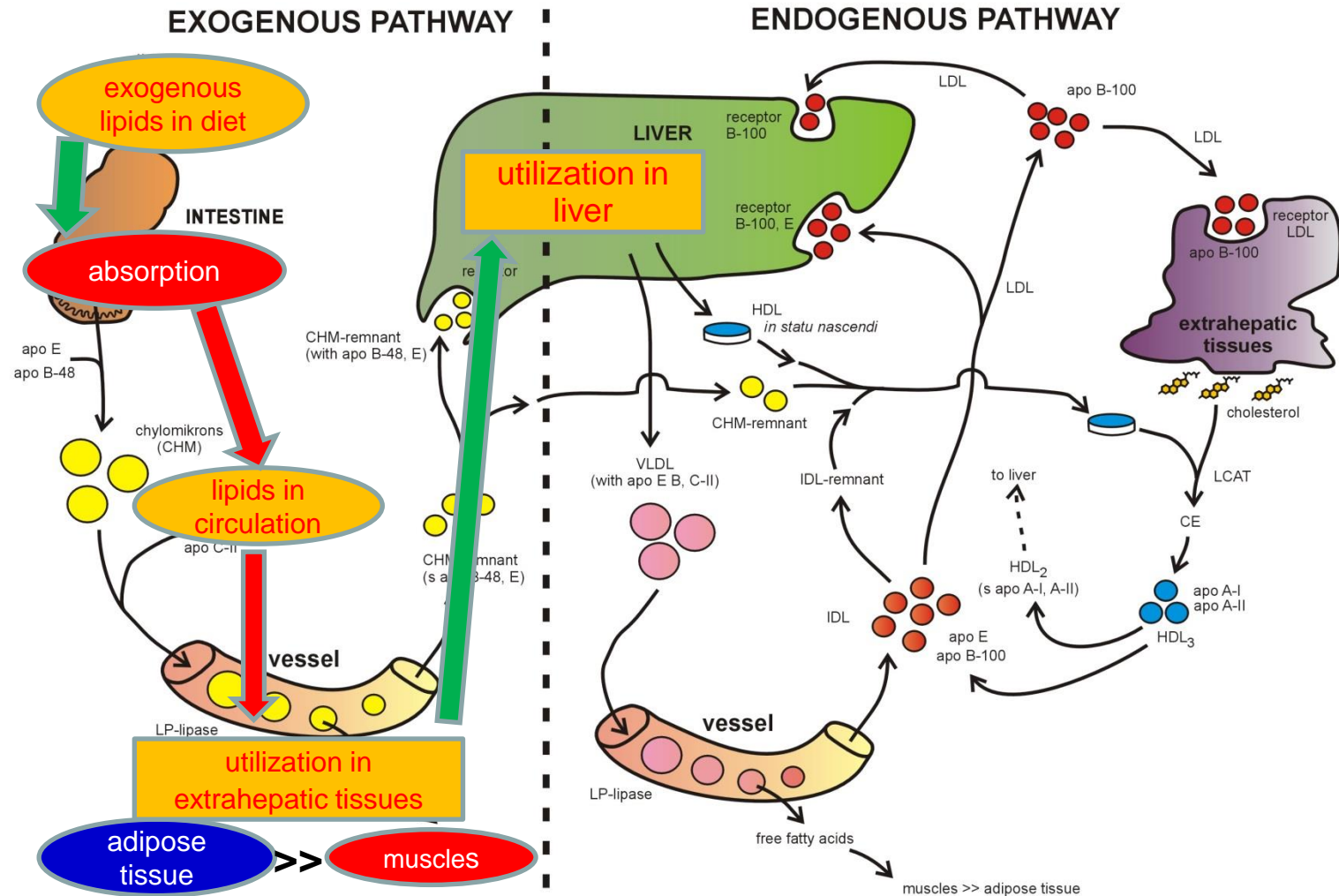
*inhibition of metabolic cascades: apo (a) (thrombolysis?)  
apo J (inhibitor of terminal complement complex)*

# Important plasma apolipoproteins

apolipoprotein	major LP class	concentration (g/l)	function
A-I	HDL <sub>2,3</sub>	1.20 - 1.40	LCAT activation HDL-receptor ligand, transport (HDL)
A-II	HDL <sub>3</sub>	0.35 - 0.50	activation of hepatic lipase, transport (HDL)
A-IV	CM, HDL <sub>2,3</sub>	< 0.05	RCT(cofactor for LCAT?), abs.of exogenous TAG
B-100	VLDL, IDL, LDL	0.60 - 1.20	transport (VLDL, IDL, LDL), LDL (apo B/E)-receptor ligand
B-48	CM, β-VLDL	< 0.05	absorption of lipids, apoB-48 receptor ligand transport (CM, remnant CM)
C-I	CM, VLDL	0.05 - 0.08	<u>inhibition of CETP</u> , LCAT activation
C-II	CM, VLDL	0.03 – 0.07	activation of LPL
C-III <sub>0-3</sub>	CM, VLDL	0.10 - 0.12	catabolism of CM <sub>R</sub> , <u>inhibition of LPL</u>
D	HDL <sub>3</sub>	0.08 - 0.10	free cholesterol esterification?
E	CM, VLDL, HDL-E	0.03 - 0.05	LDL-receptor ligand, VLDL-receptor ligand, RCT LRP-receptor ligand, apoER2-receptor ligand
Apo(a)	Lp(a)	0.05-0.30	homologous to plasminogen; prothrombotic

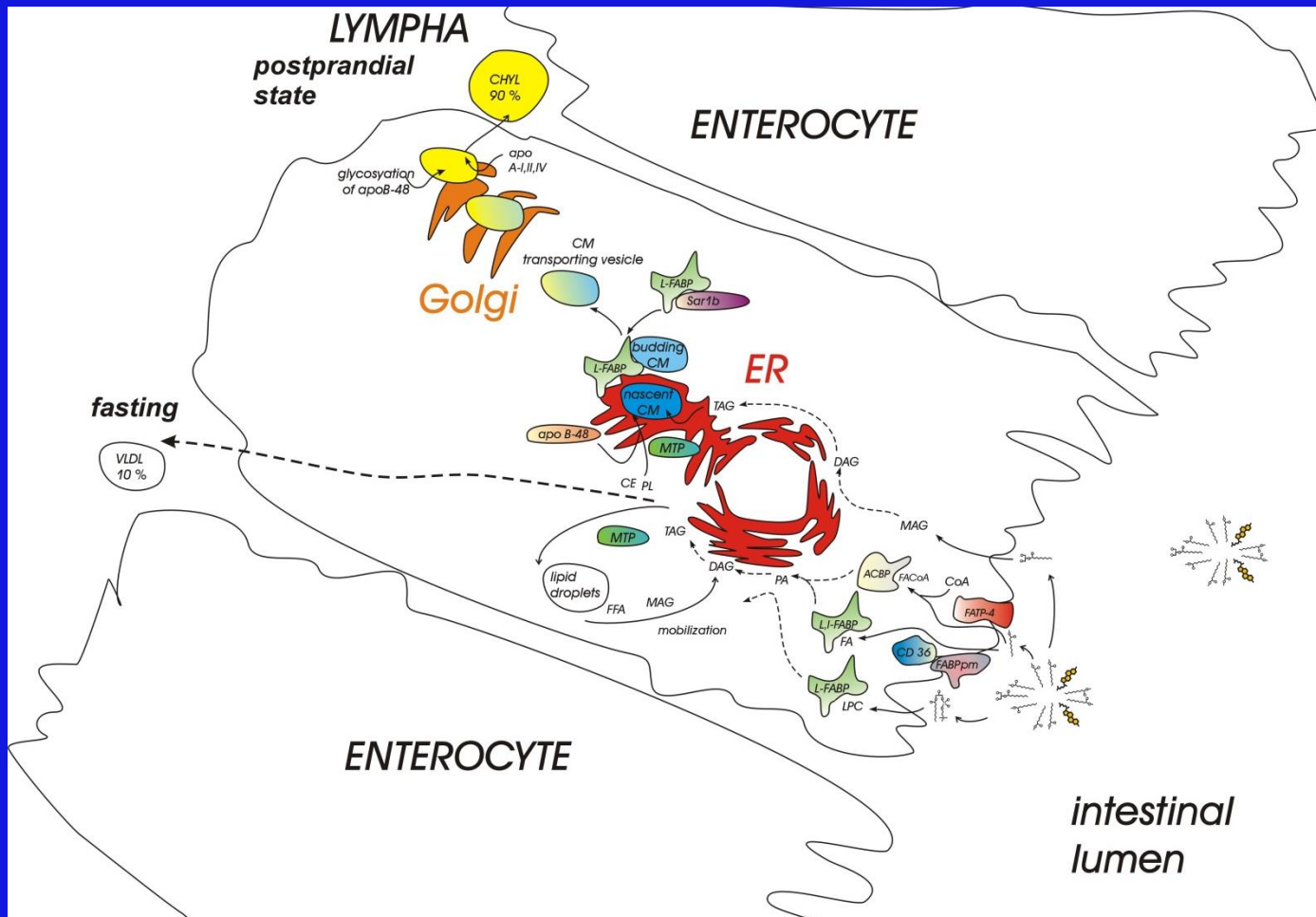
RCT - reverse cholesterol transport, LCAT - lecithin:cholesterol acyltransferase, LPL - lipoprotein lipase, CE - cholesterylester, TAG - triacylglycerol, CM<sub>R</sub> - remnant CM, β-VLDL – remnant VLDL staying in plasma

# Metabolic lipoprotein pathway

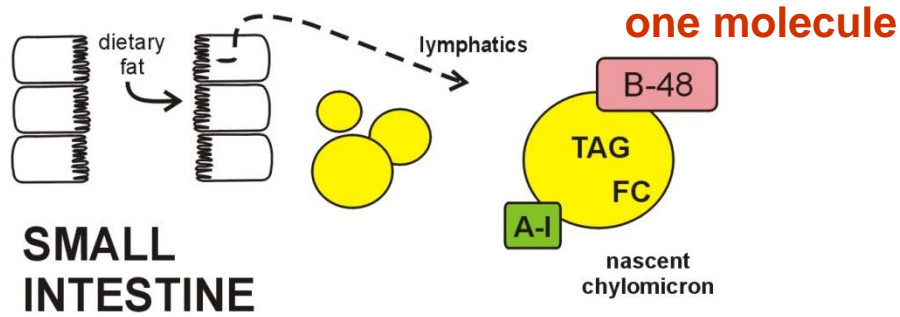




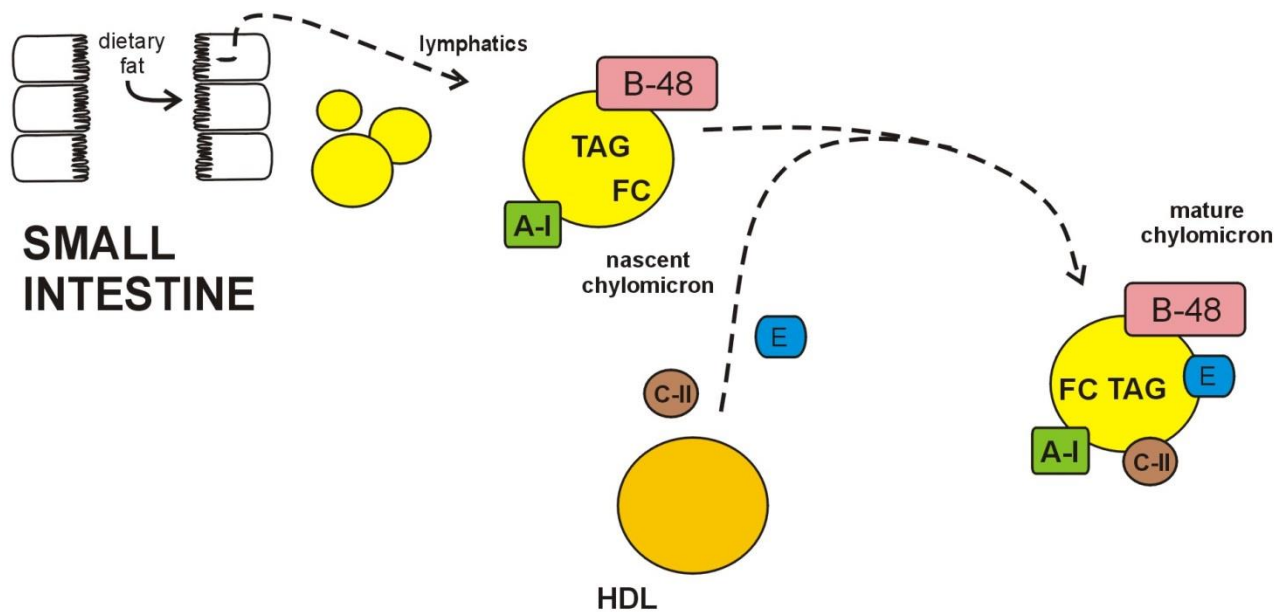
# Assembly of chylomicrons



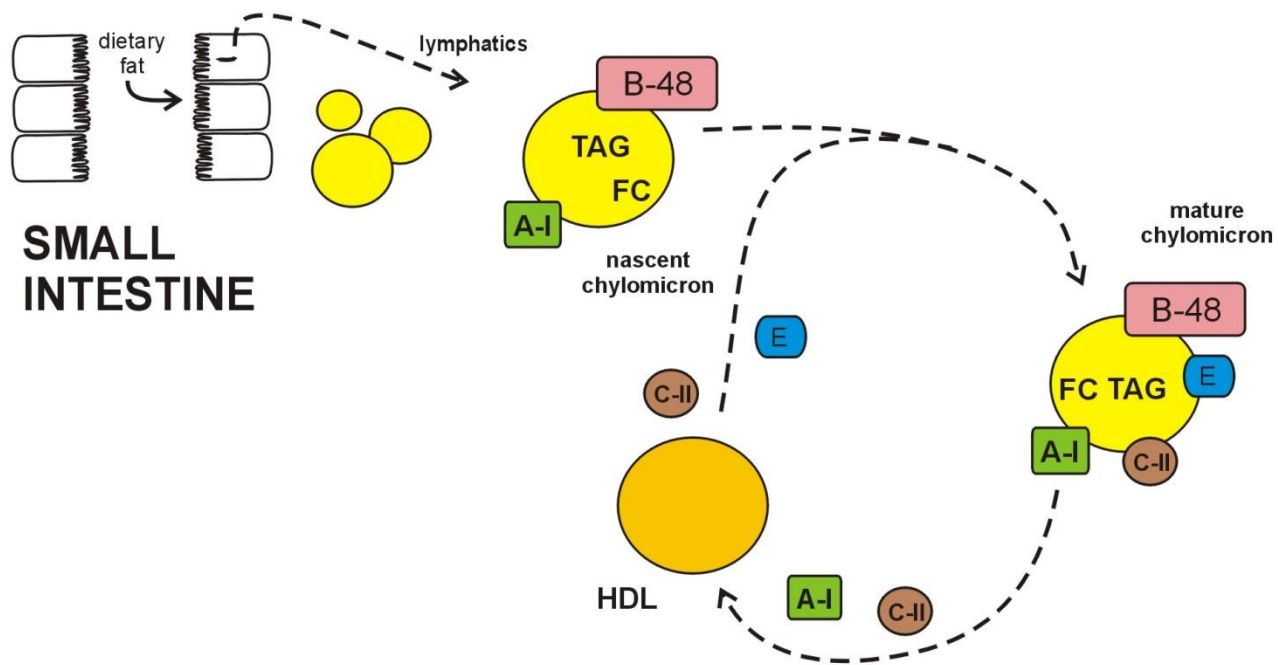
# Chylomicrons



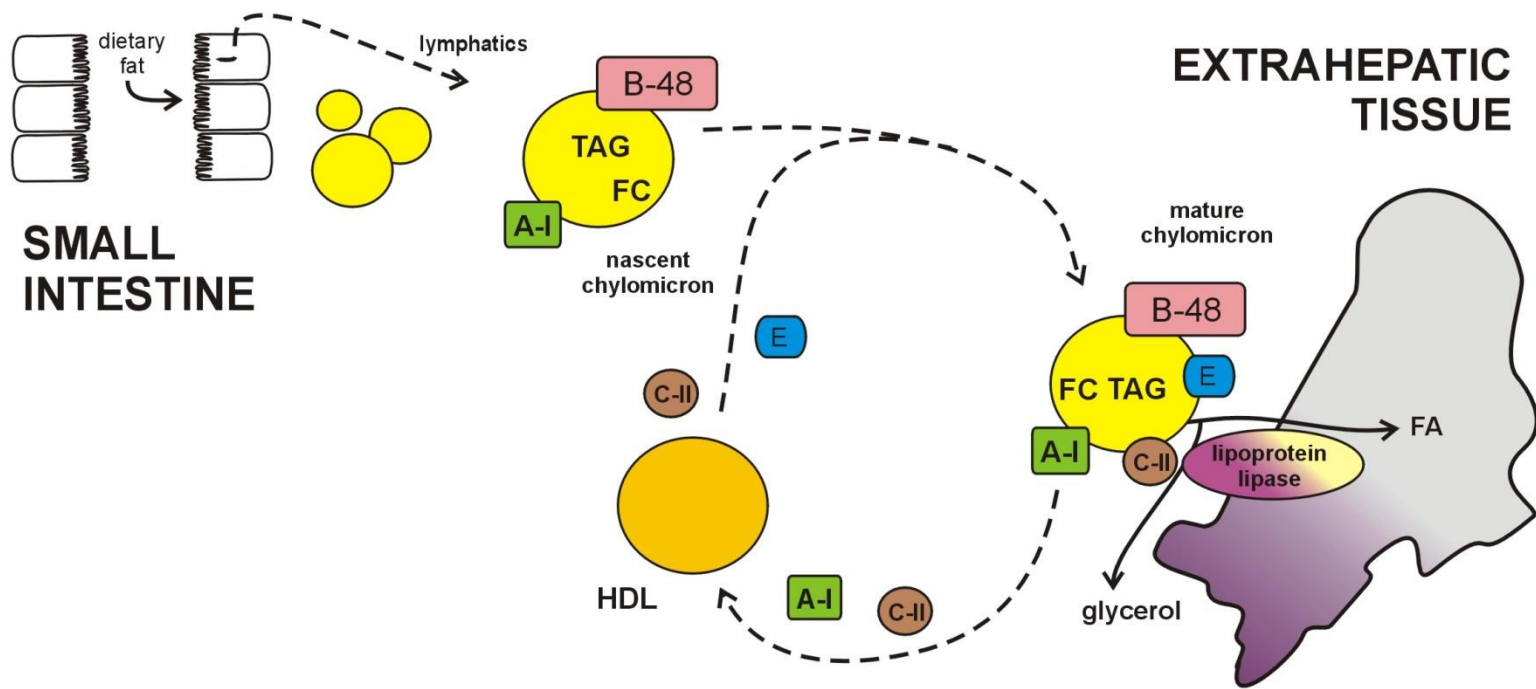
# Chylomicrons



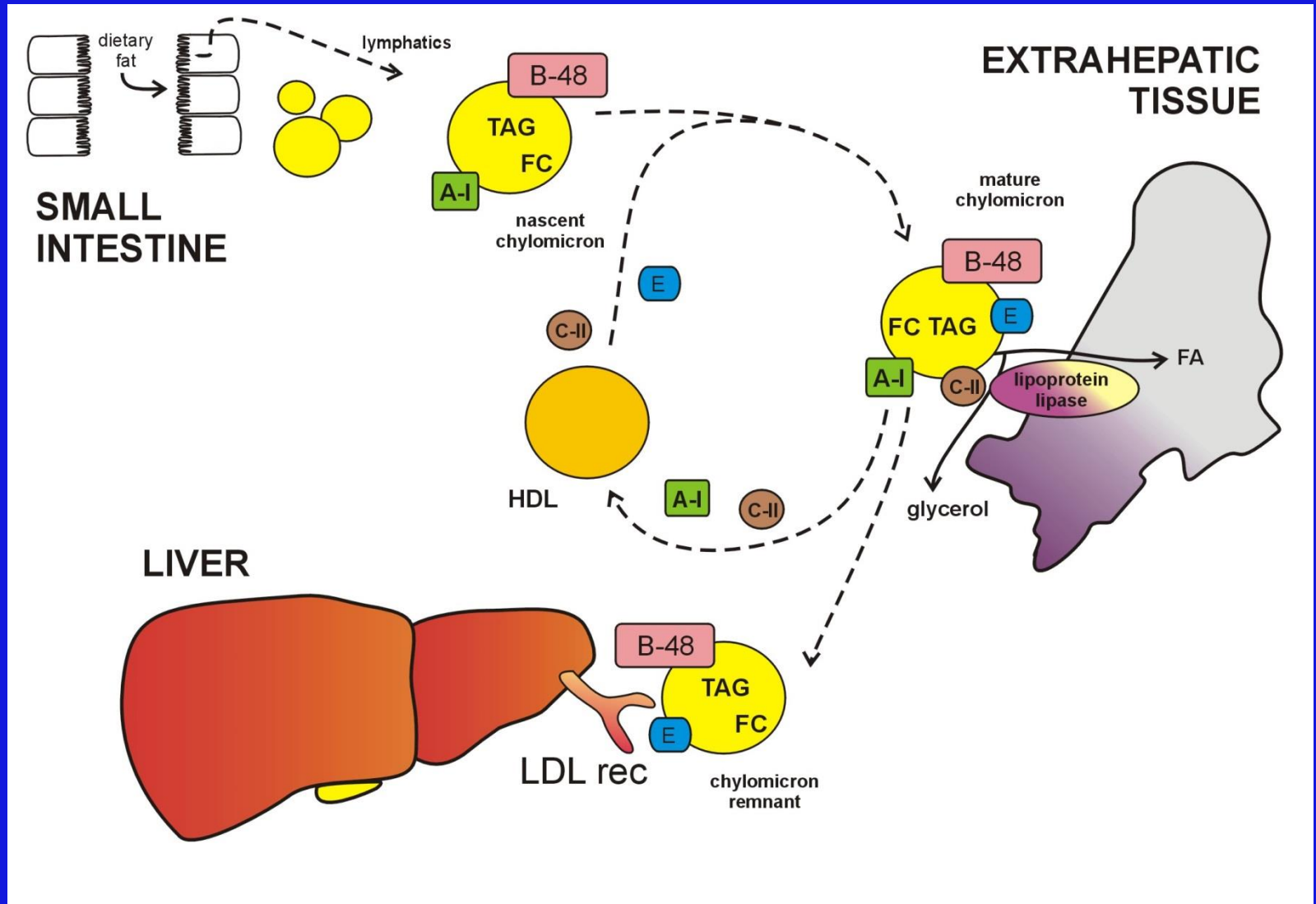
# Chylomicrons



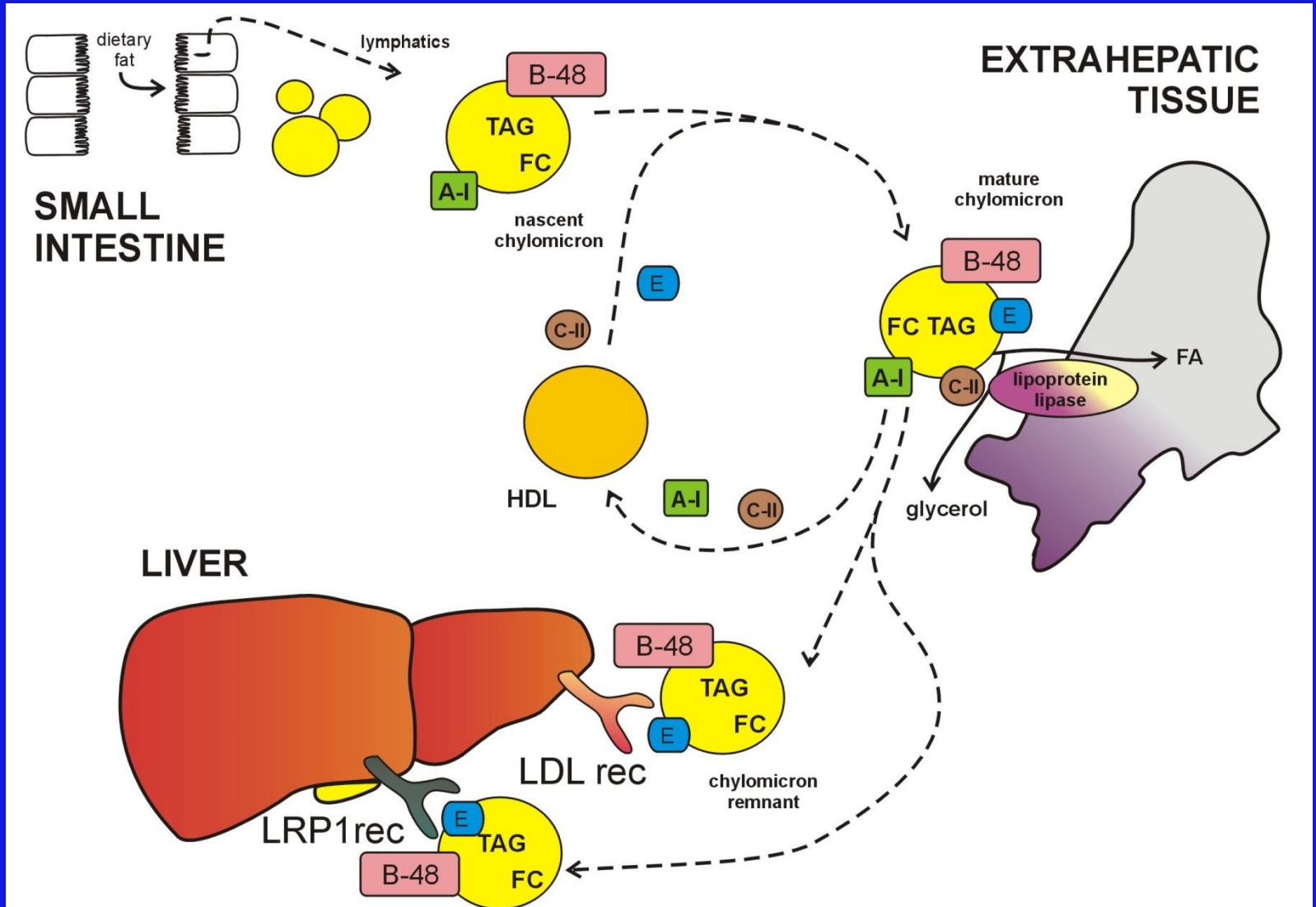
# Chylomicrons



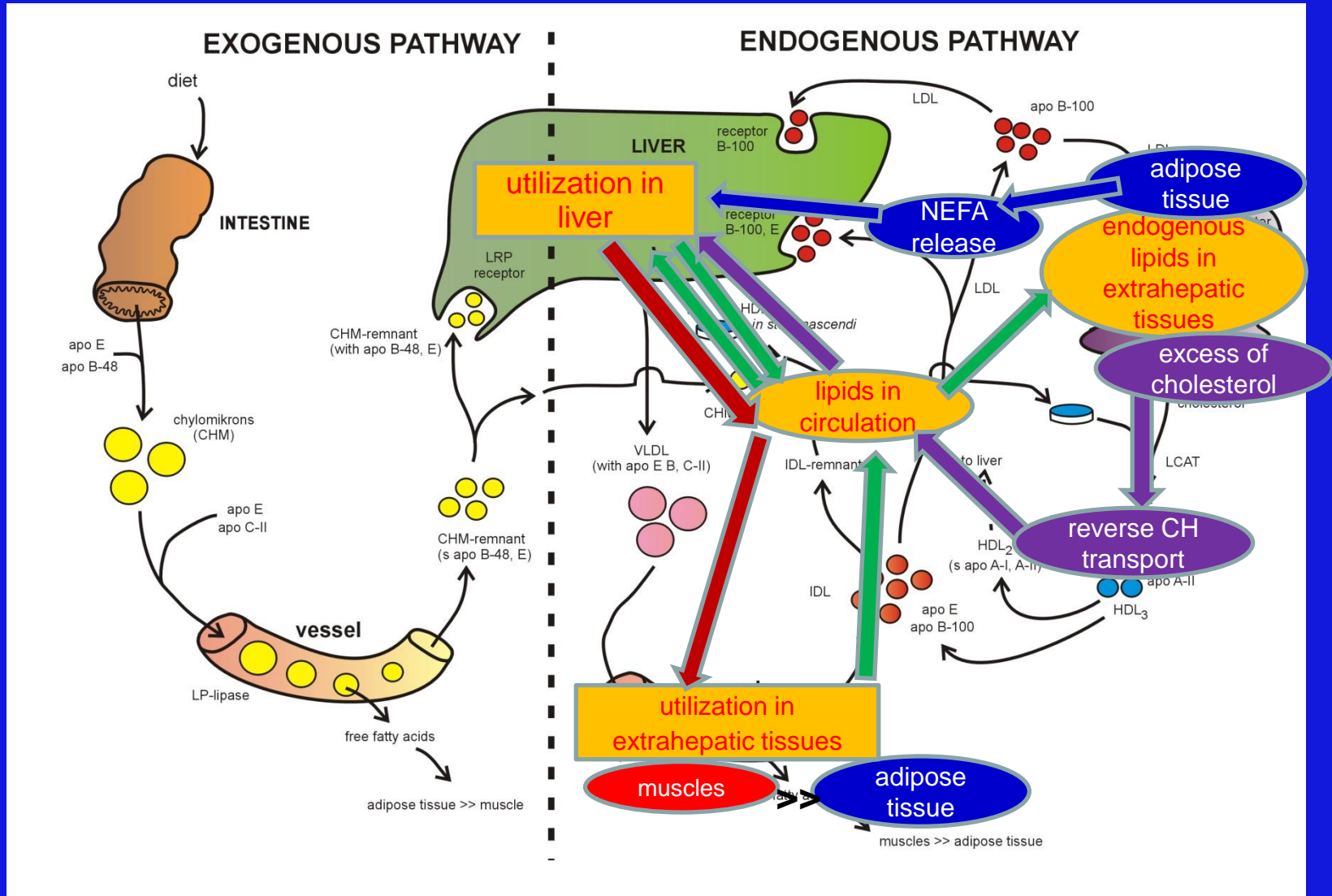
# Chylomicrons



# Chylomicrons

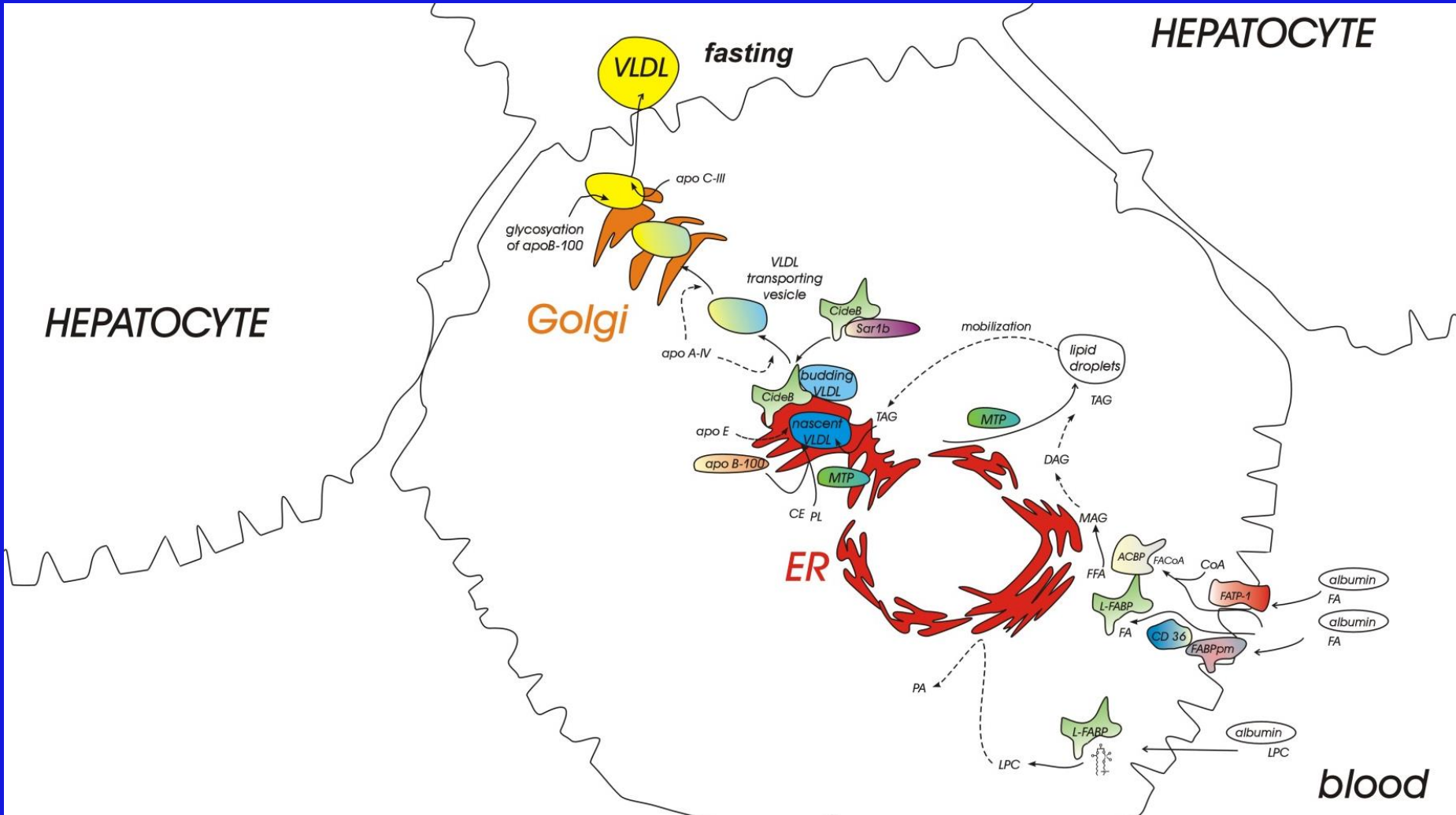


# Metabolic lipoprotein pathway

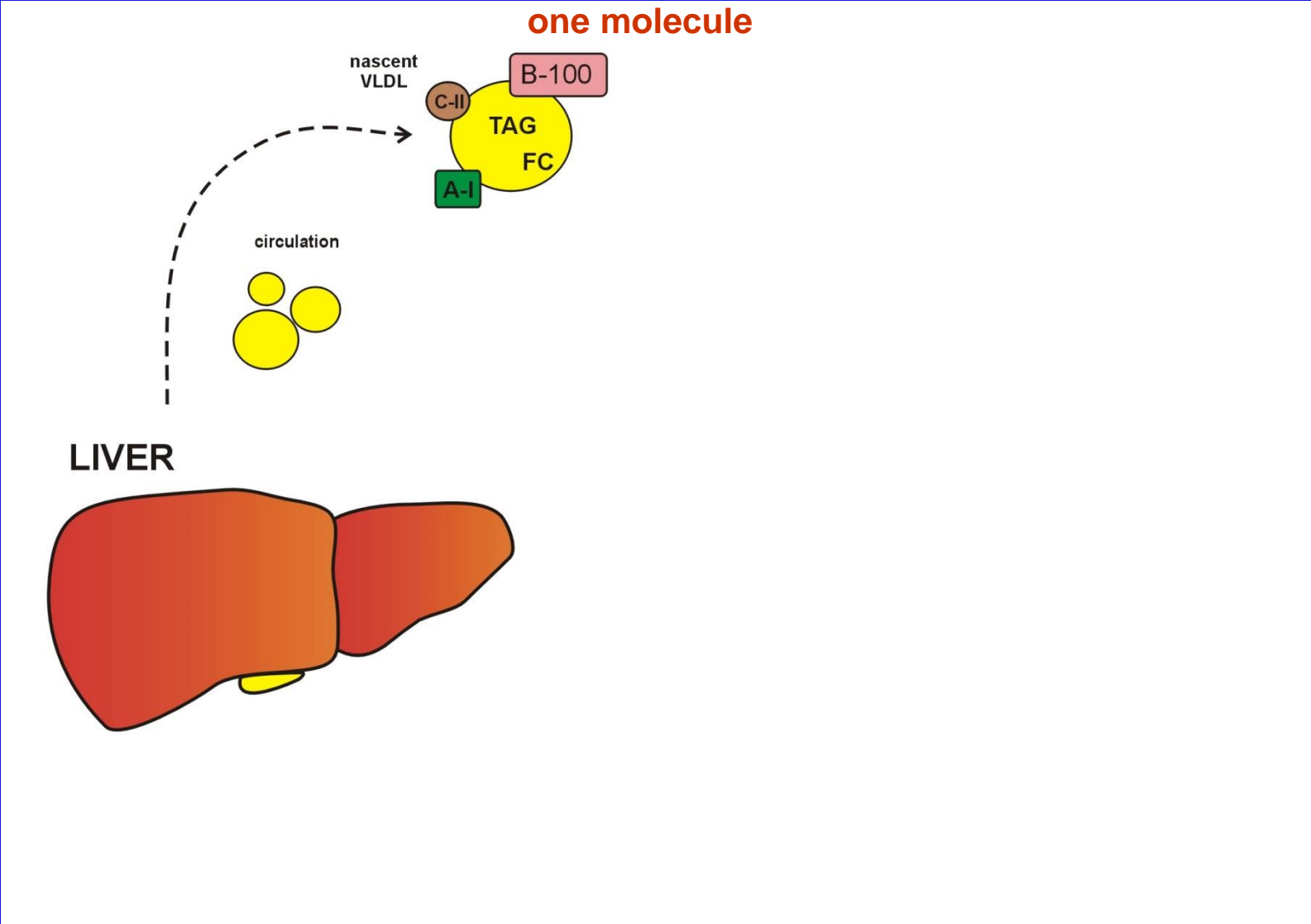




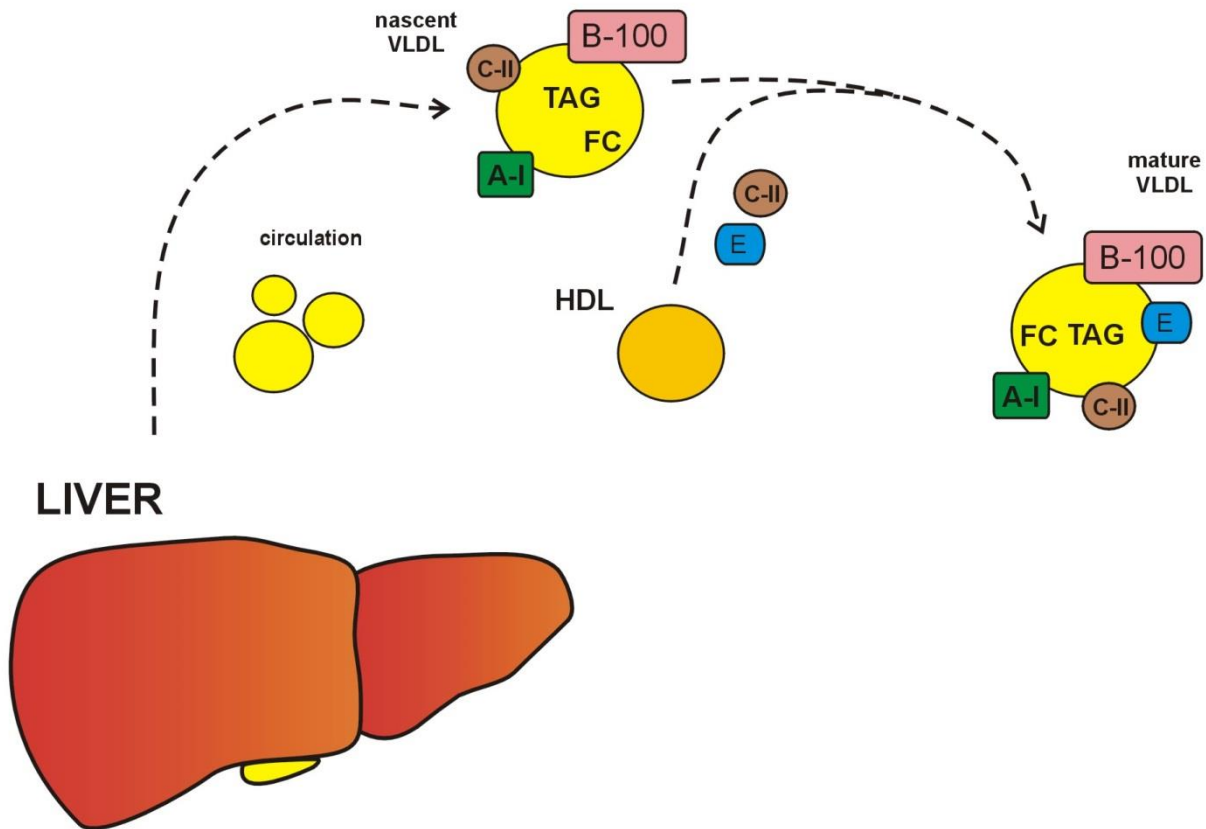
# Assembly of VLDL



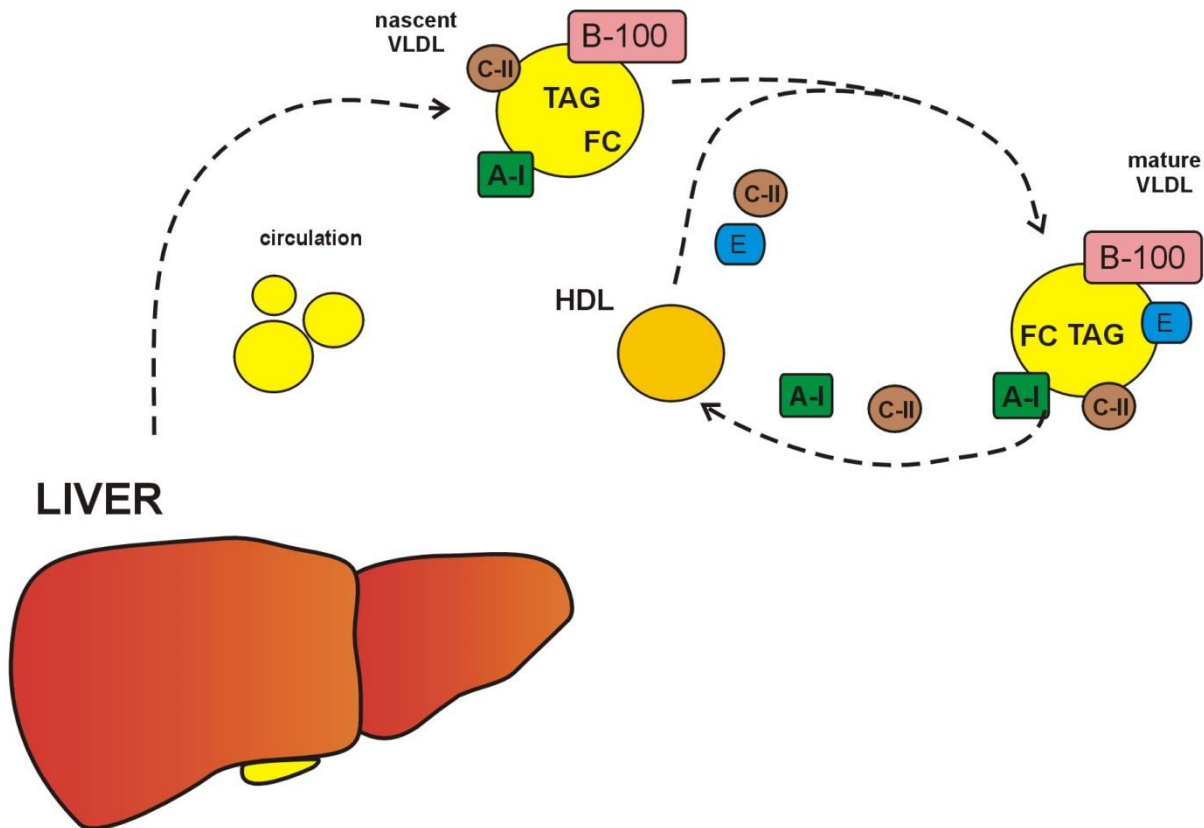
# Fate of VLDLs



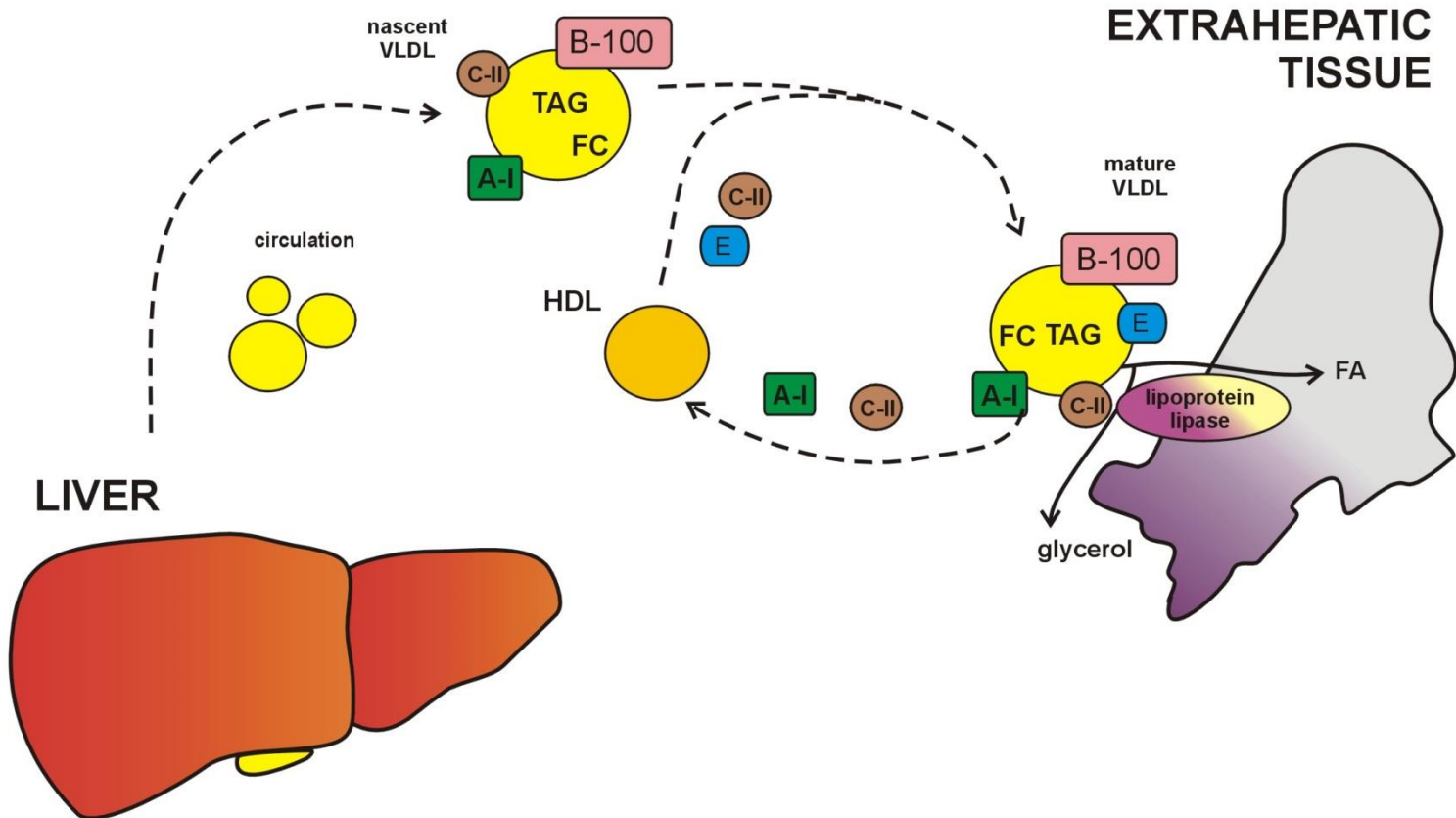
# Fate of VLDLs



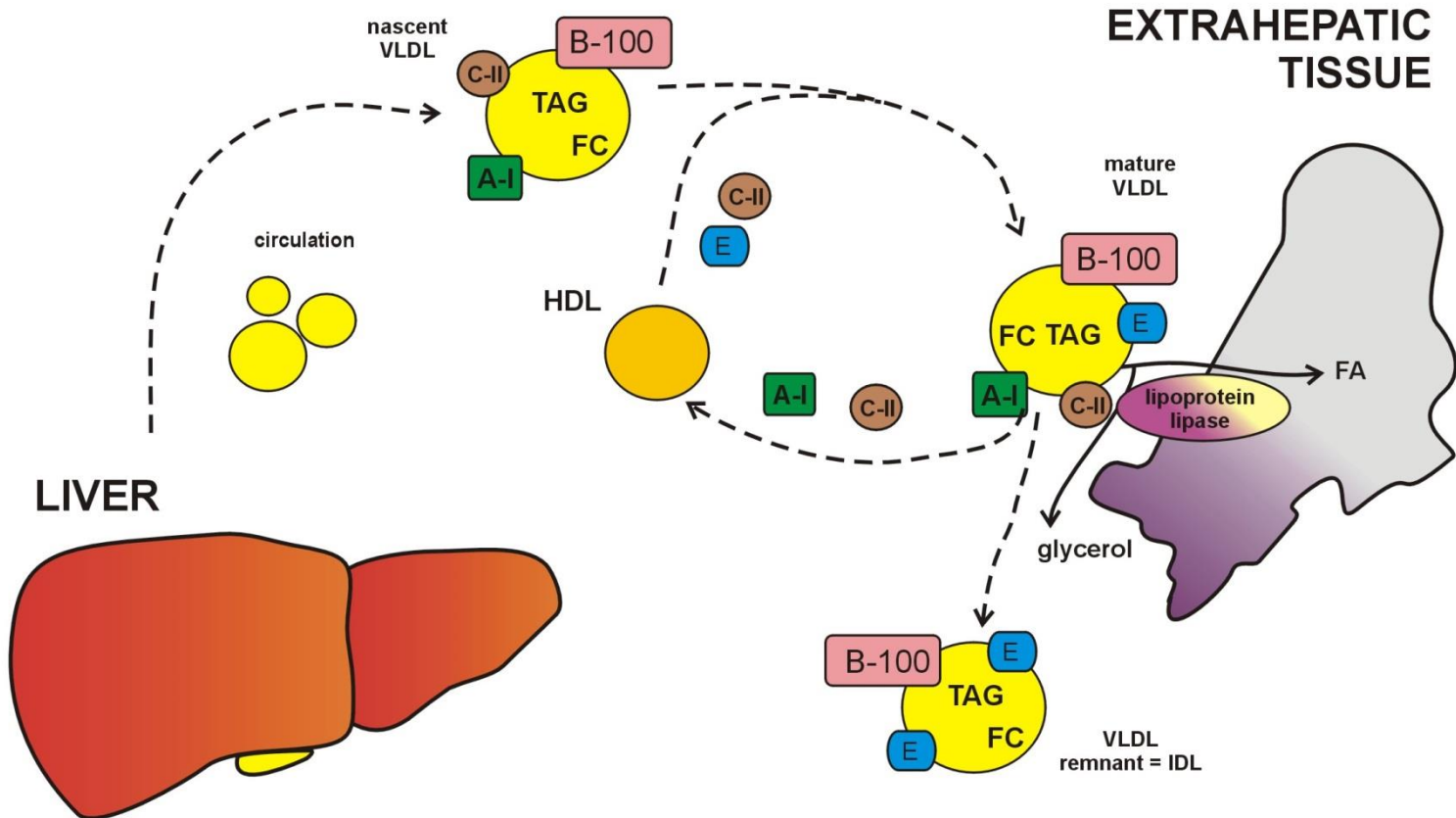
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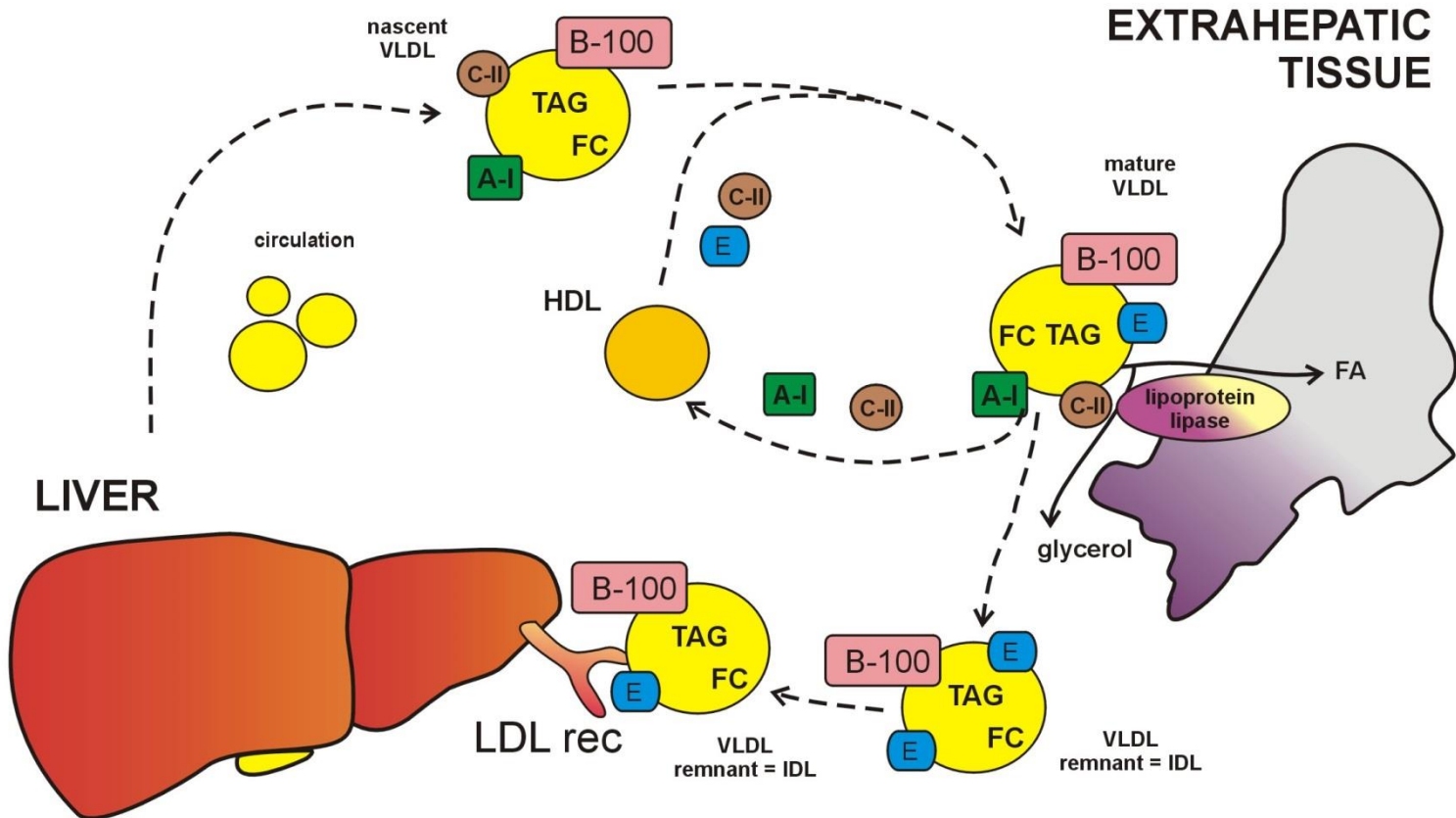
# Fate of VLDLs



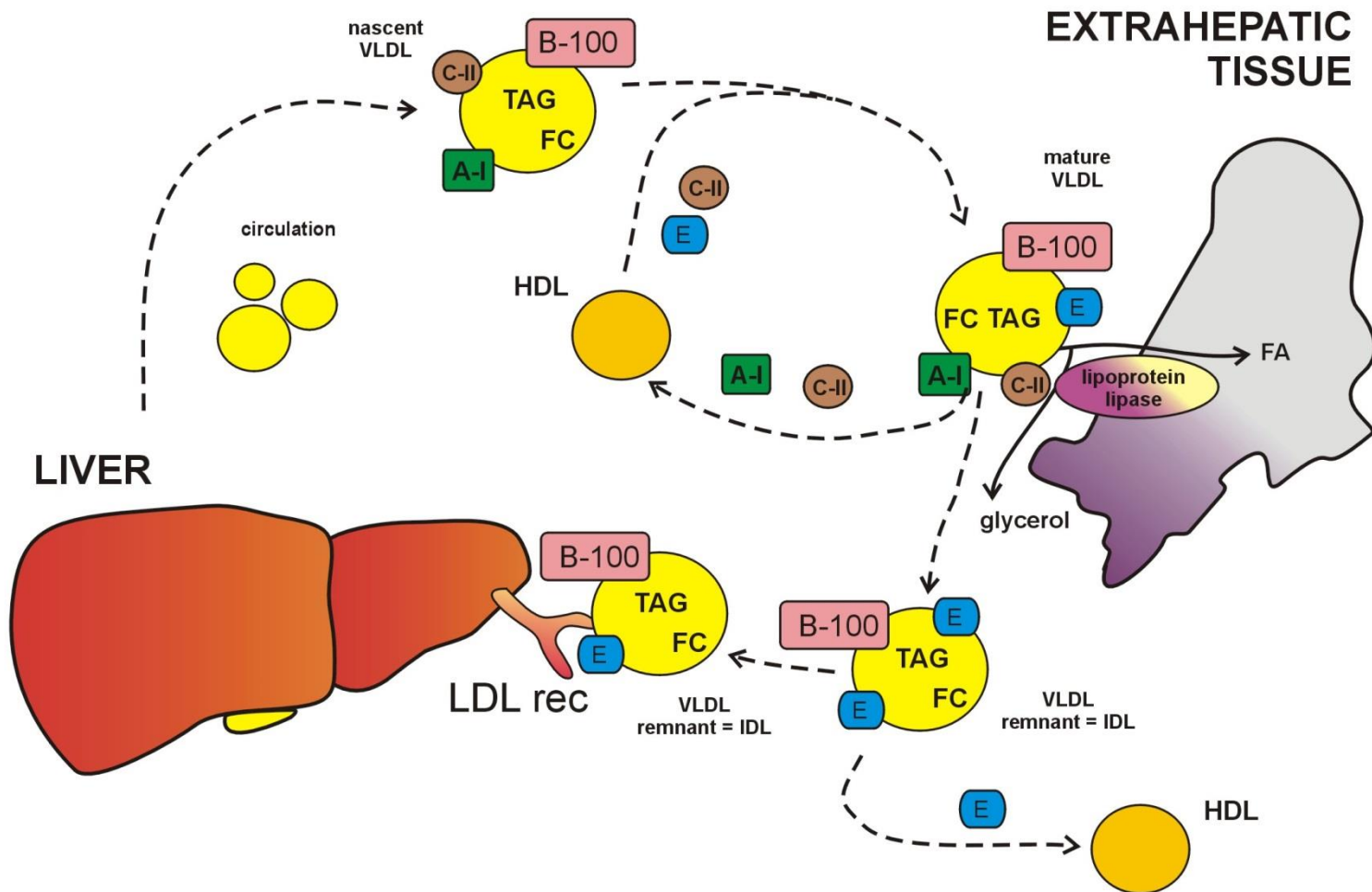
# Fate of VLDLs



# Fate of VLDLs

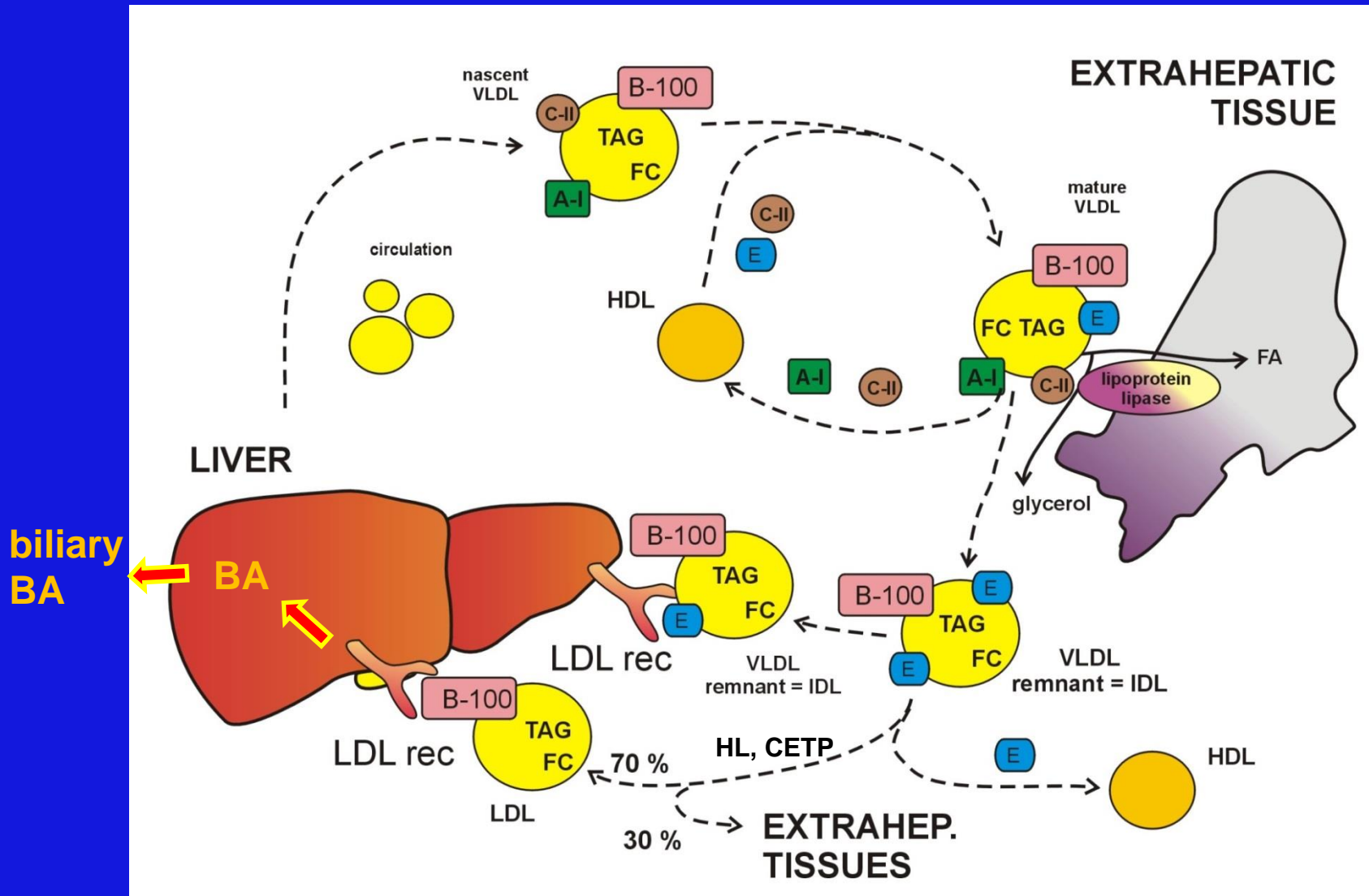


# Fate of VLDLs





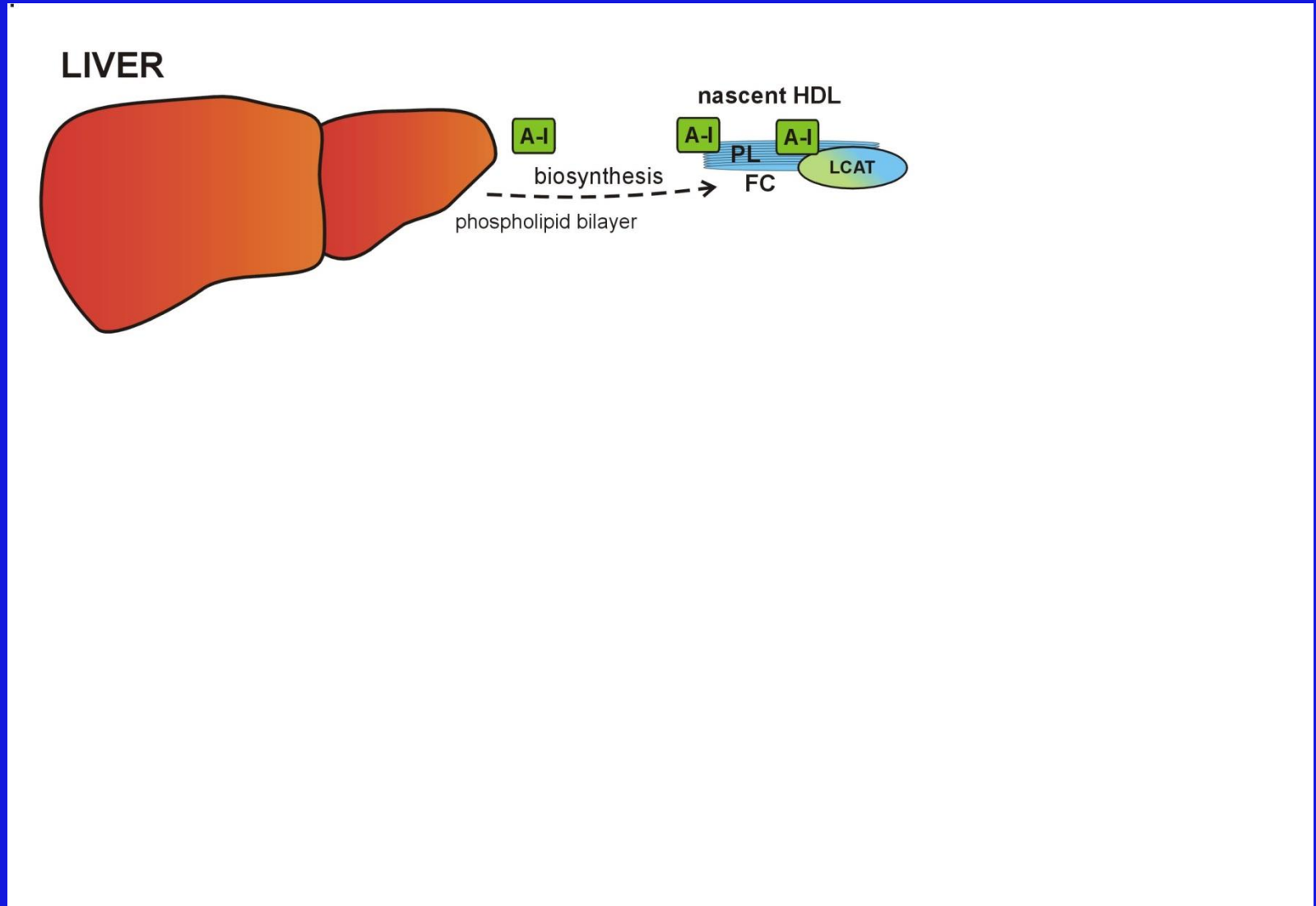
# Fate of VLDLs



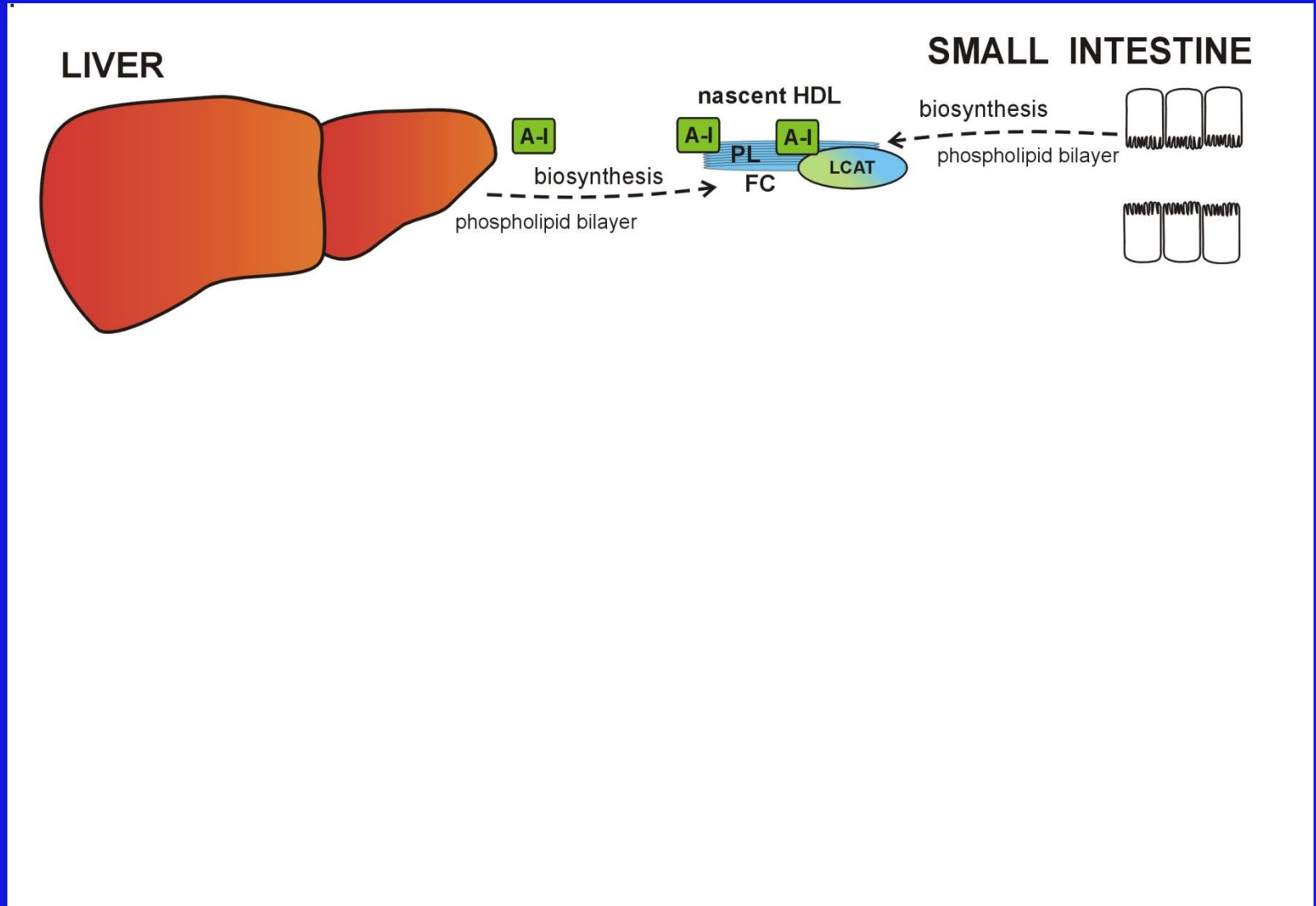
# VLDL and chylomicrons

VLDL		CM
mainly hepatocytes	<b>source</b>	enterocytes
apoB-100	<b>apoB</b>	apoB-48 <i>alternative splicing of the APOB gene</i>
30-80 nm	<b>size</b>	100 - 500 nm
MTTP, CideB, ARFRP1	<b>assembly</b>	MTTP, CideB, ARFRP1; Sar1b, PCTV, apoA-IV
high TAG (VLDL <sub>1</sub> ) large less TAG (VLDL <sub>2</sub> ) small	<b>types</b>	variable TAG content
fasting: →IDL→ LDL→ clearance	<b>metabolism</b>	postprandial: →CM <sub>R</sub> → clearance
TAG-VLDL <sub>1</sub> ~ hrs	<b>turnover</b>	TAG-CM ~ 5 mins
VLDL-rec, LDL-rec	<b>receptors</b>	LRP1 (CM <sub>R</sub> ) <i>apoB-48 lacks LDLR binding domain</i>

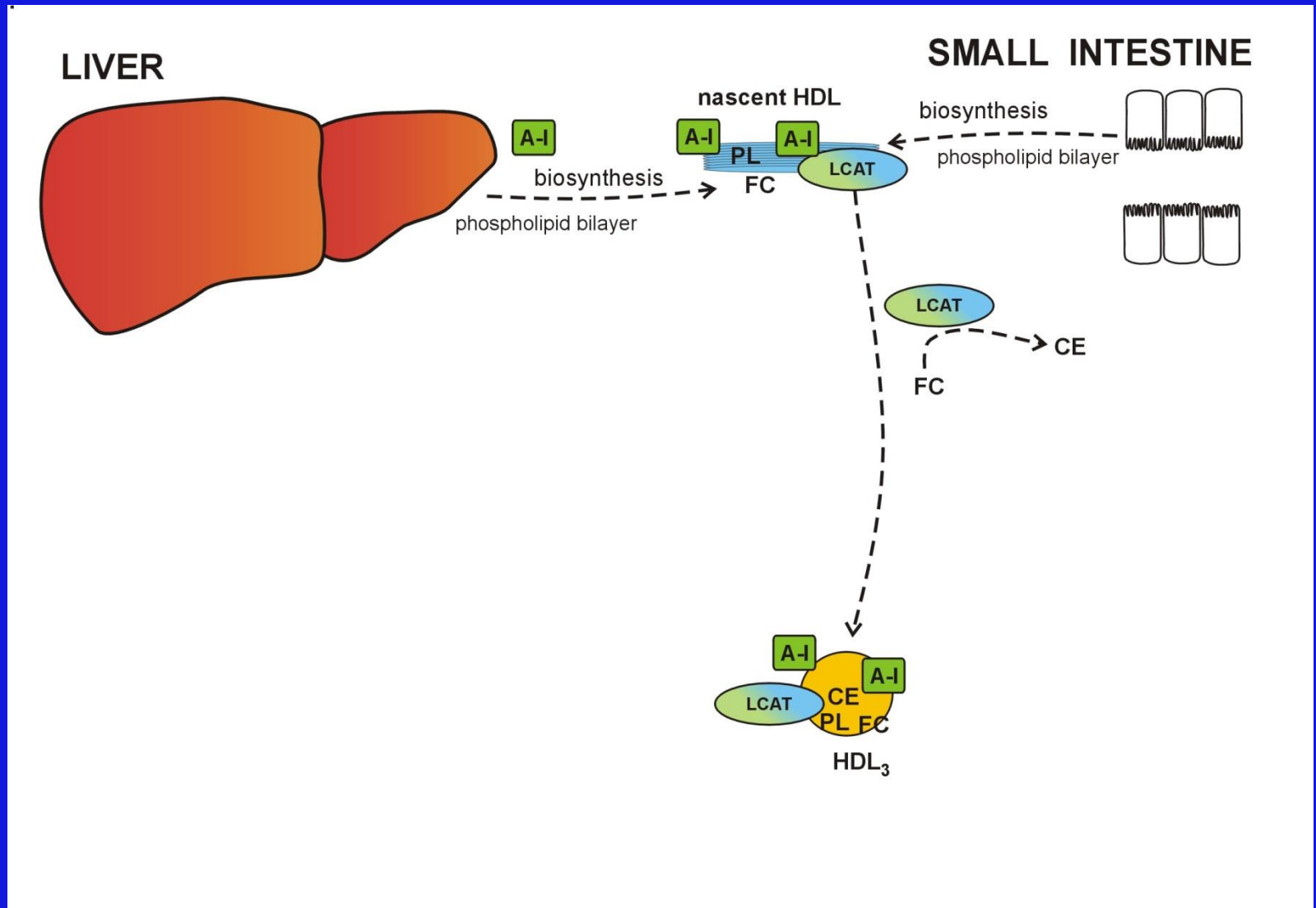
# HDL and reverse cholesterol transport



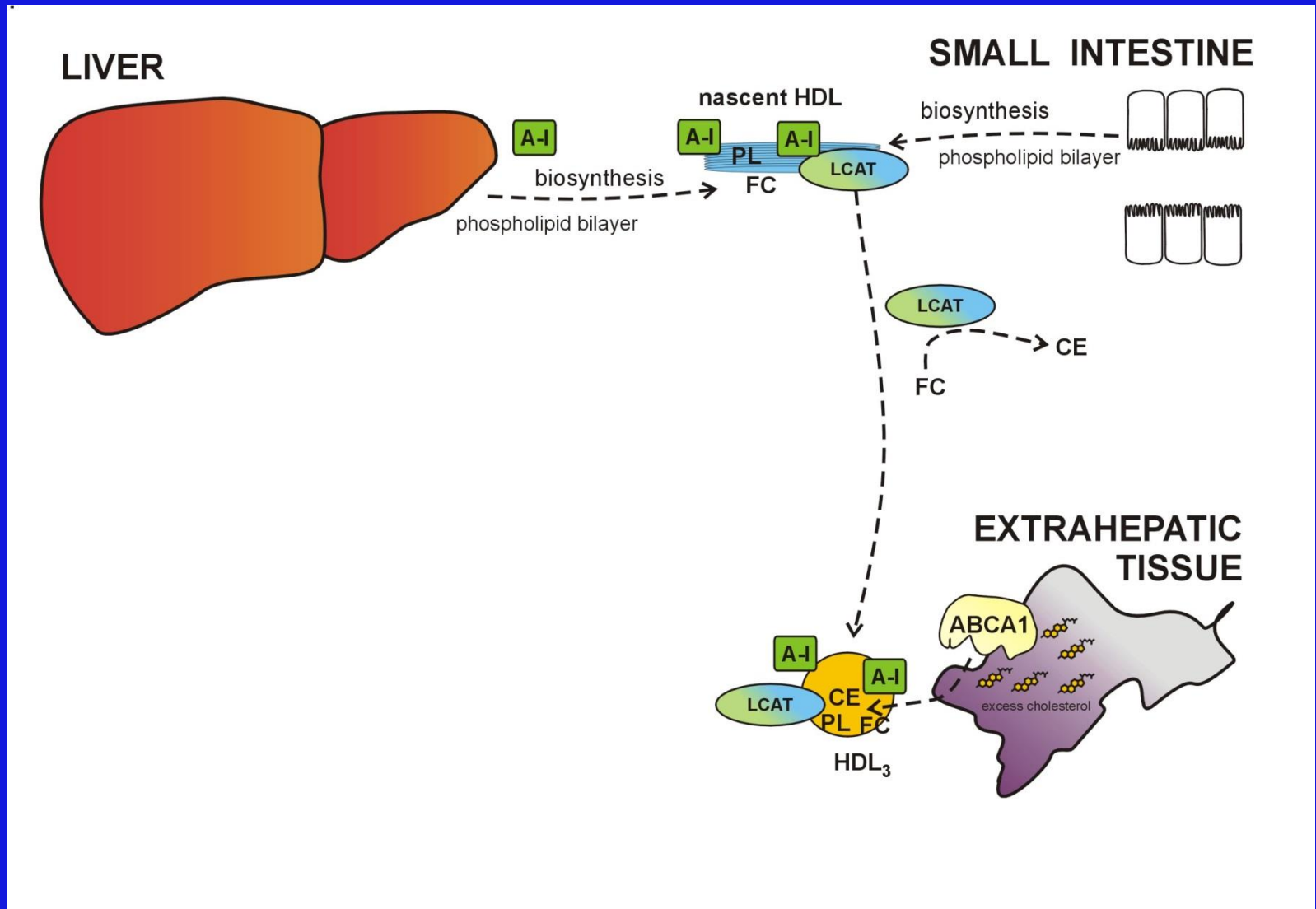
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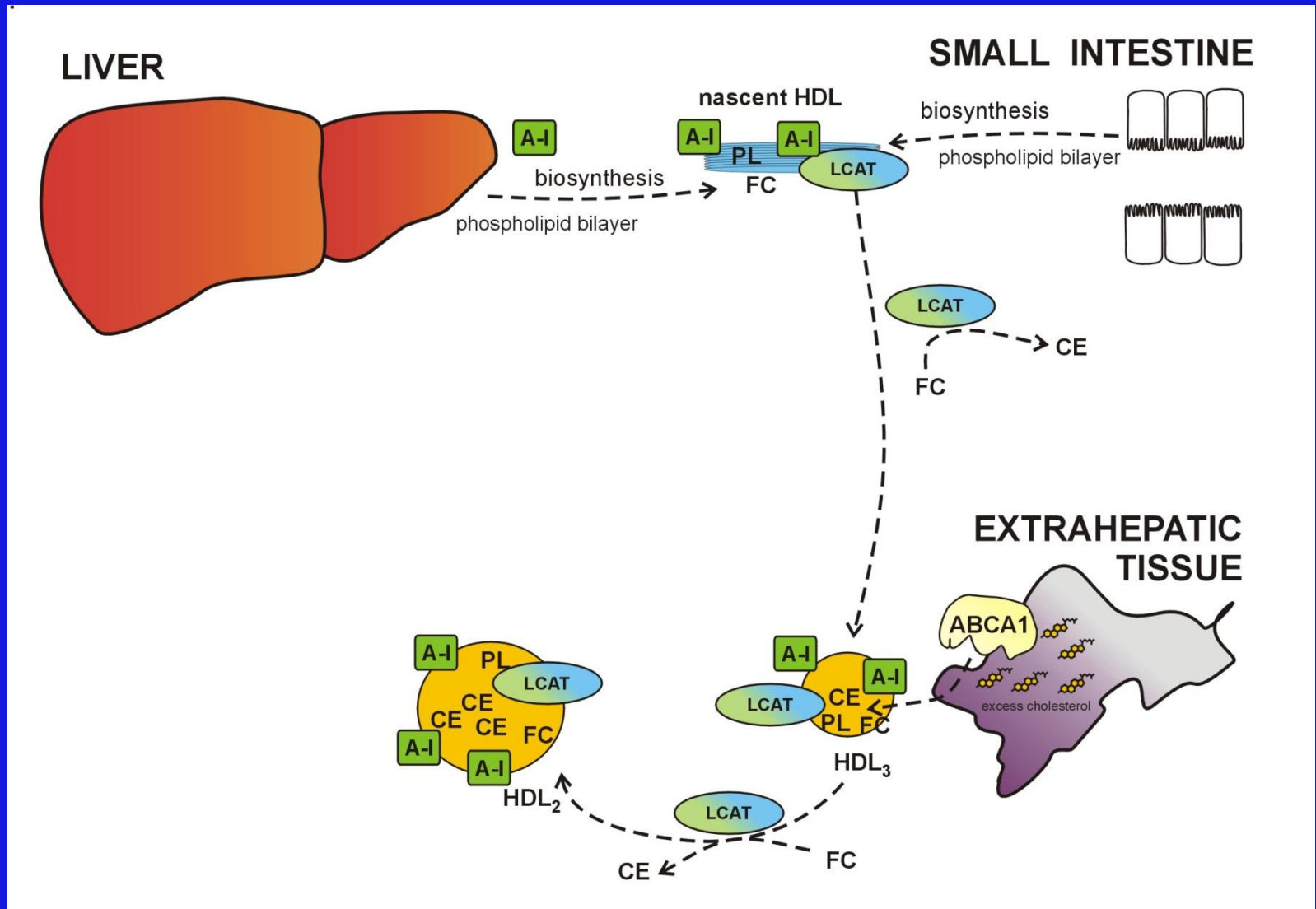
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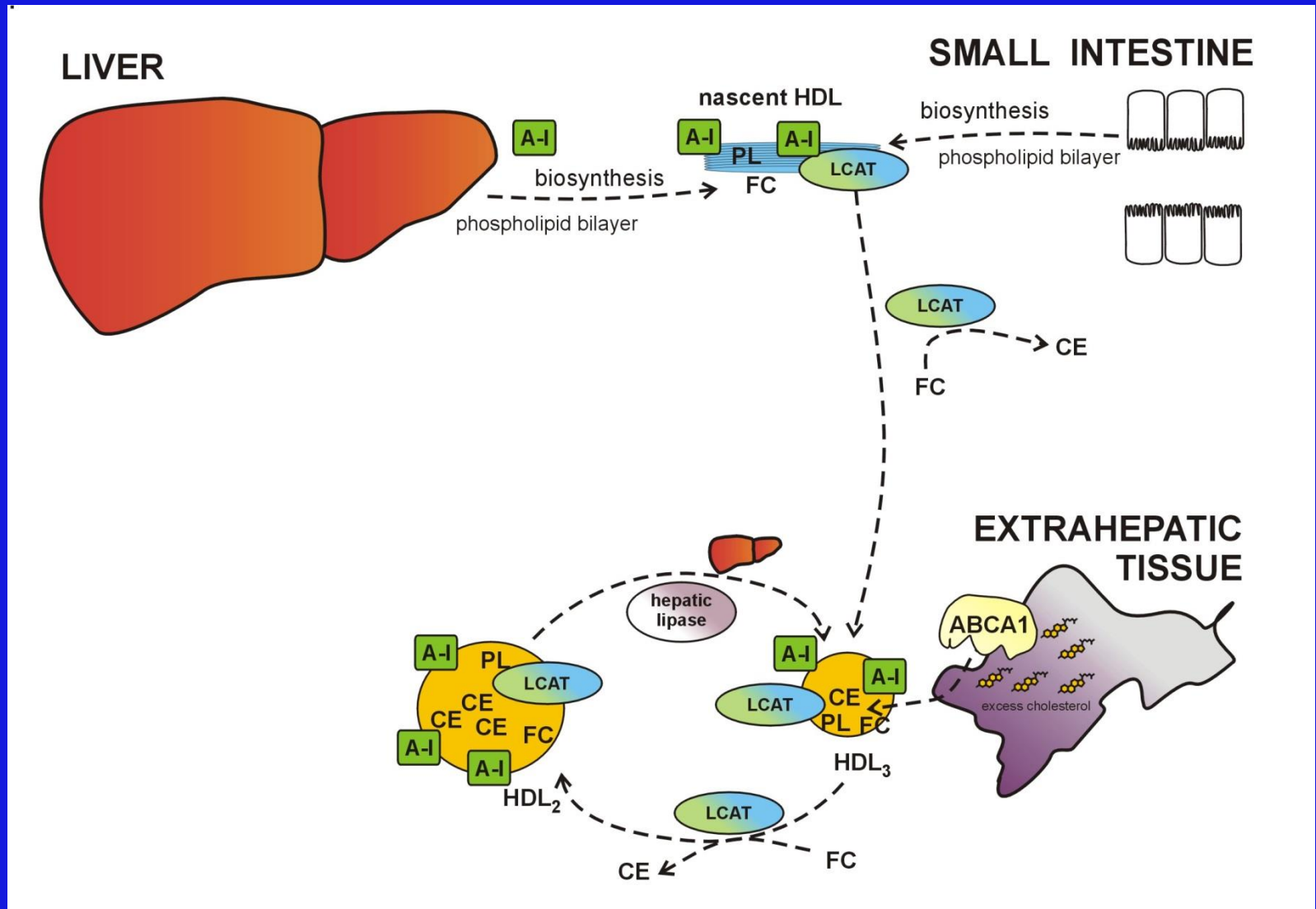
# HDL and reverse cholesterol transport



# HDL and reverse cholesterol transport

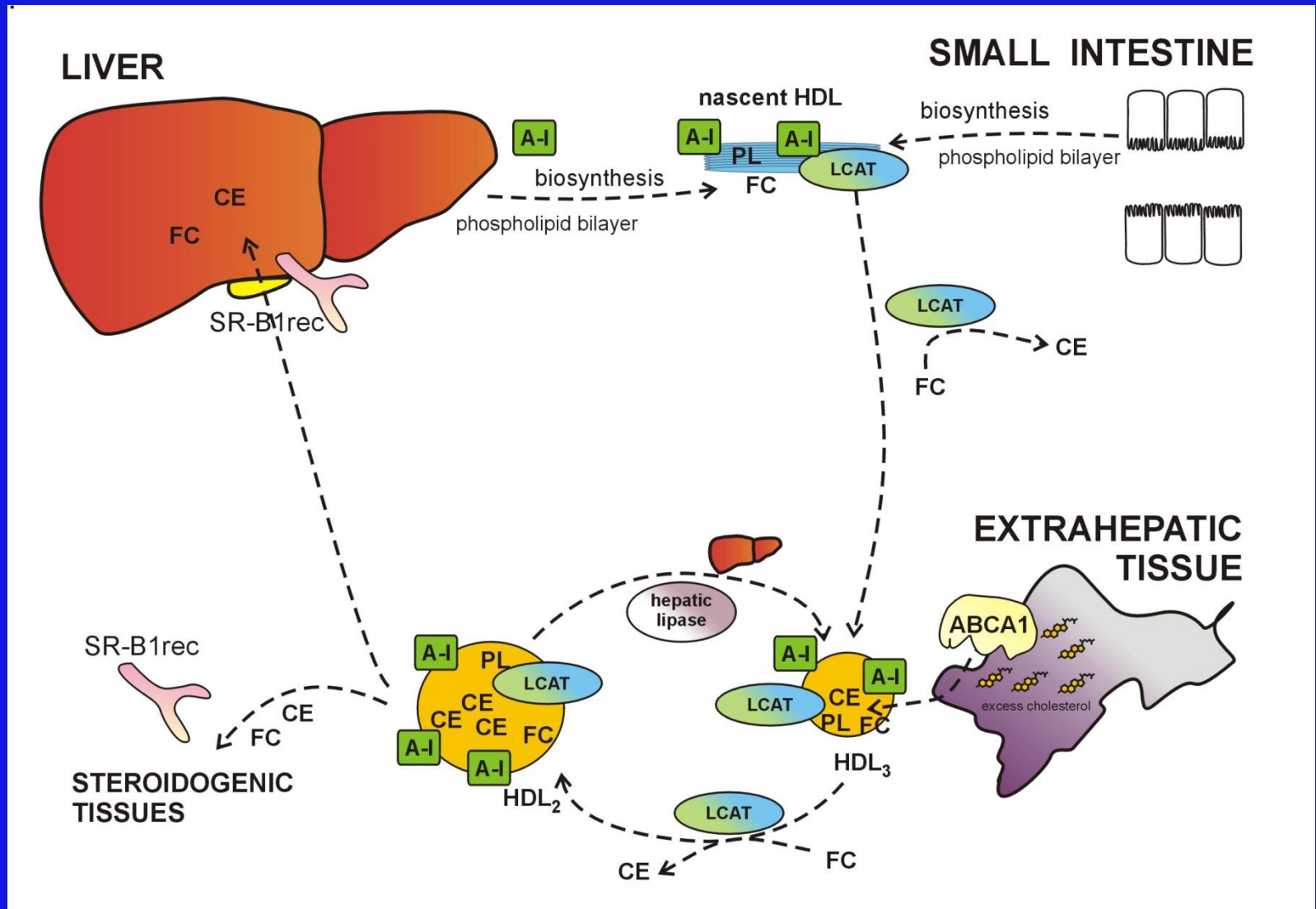


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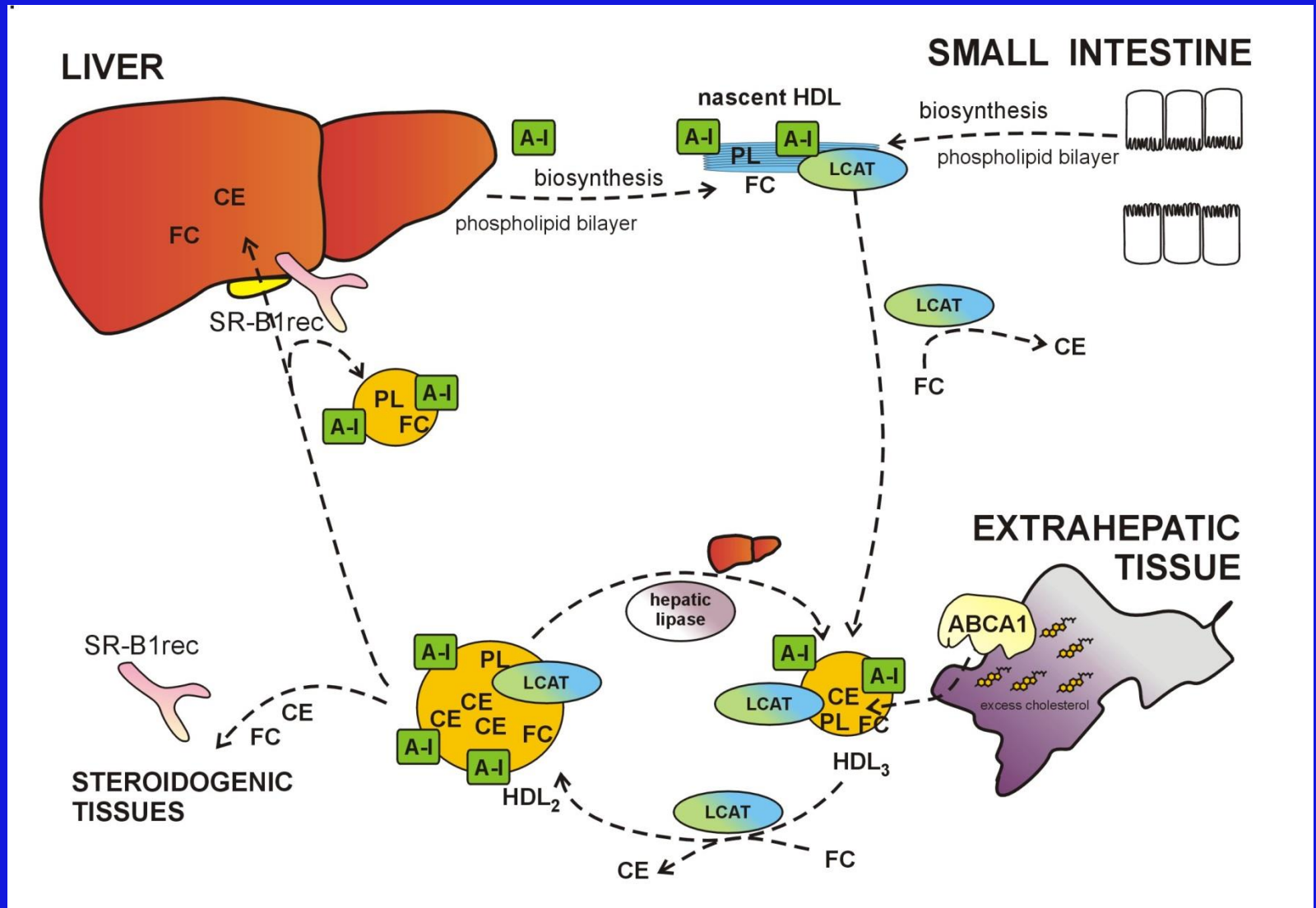




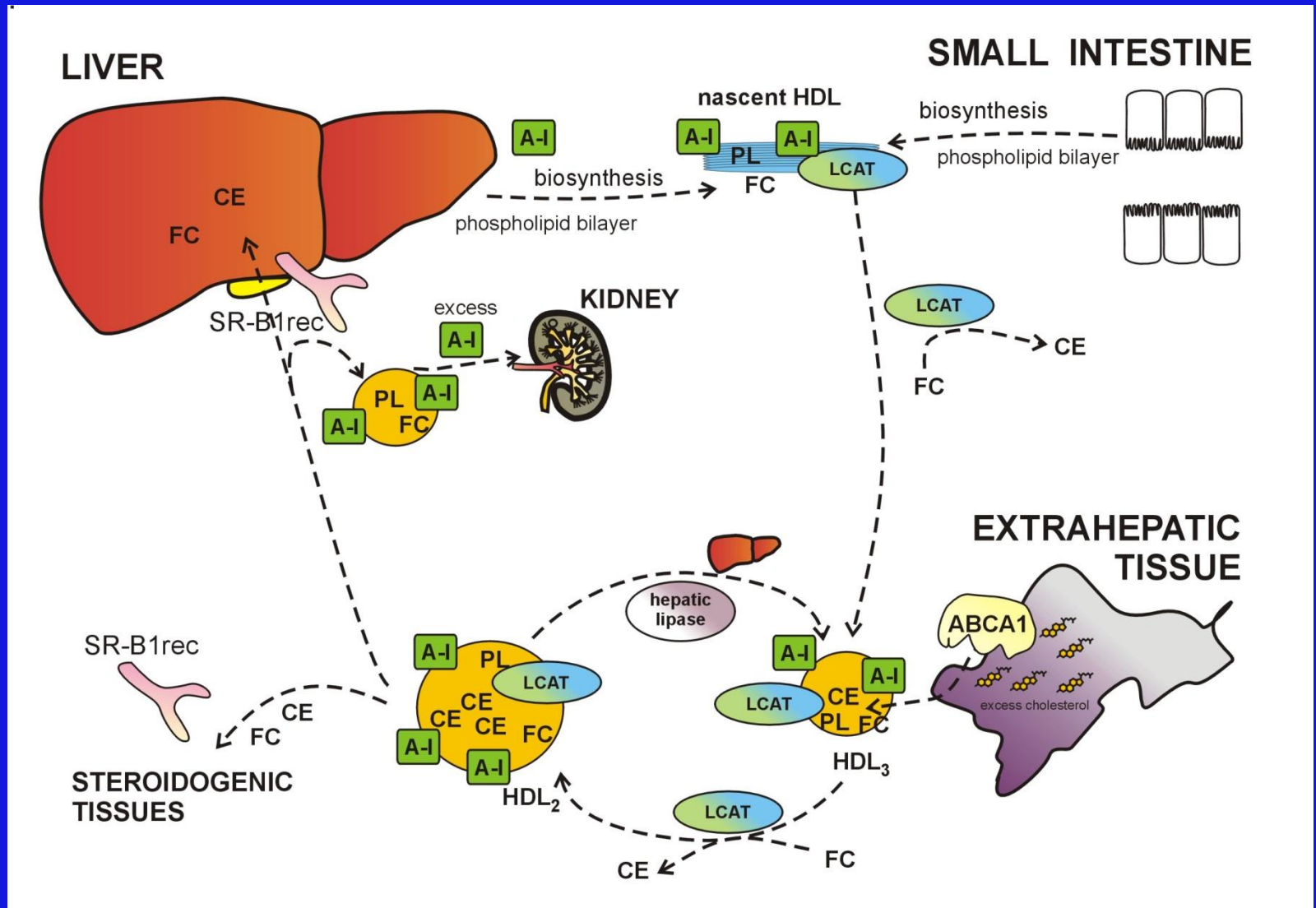
# HDL and reverse cholesterol transport



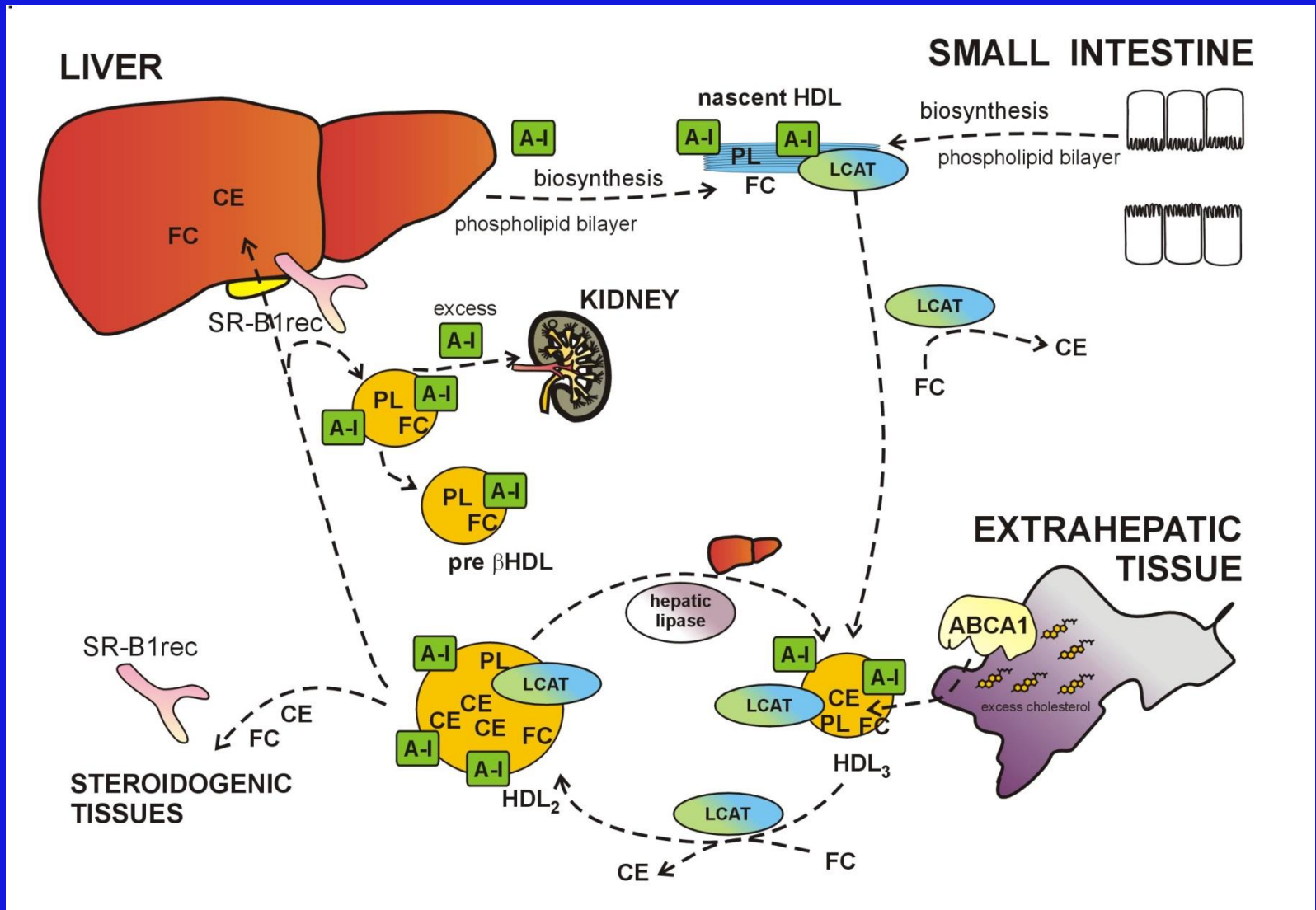
# HDL and reverse cholesterol transport



# HDL and reverse cholesterol transport

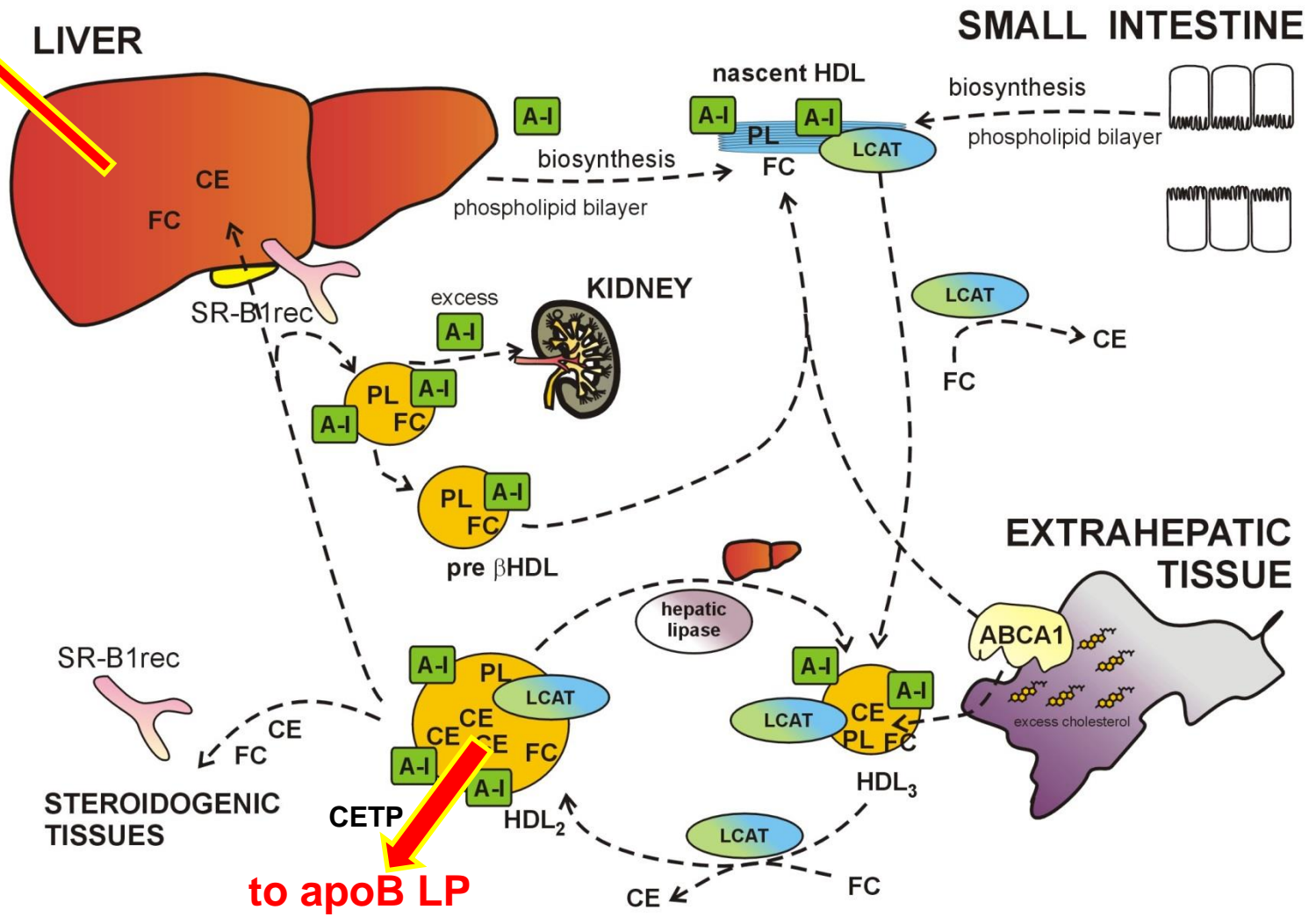


# HDL and reverse cholesterol transport



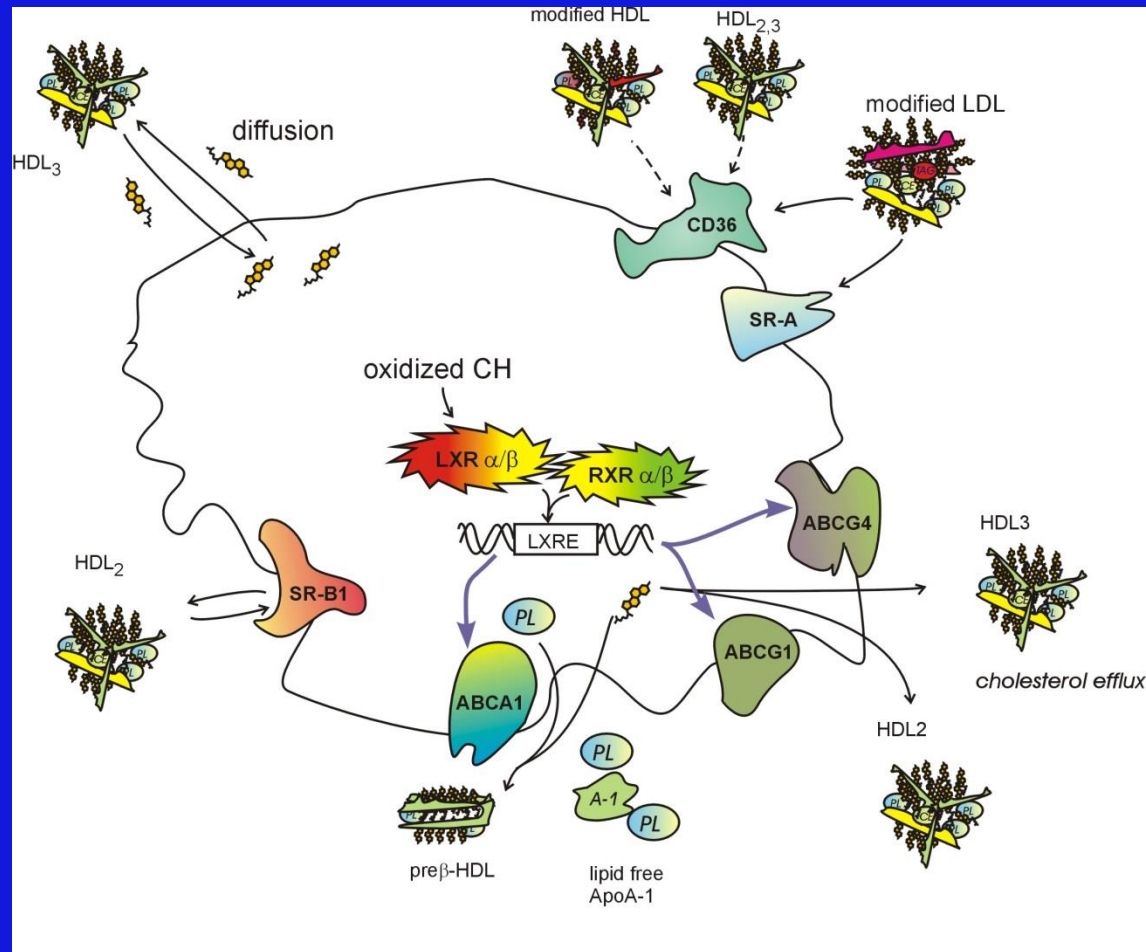
# HDL and reverse cholesterol transport

biliary  
CH



to apoB LP

# Reverse cholesterol transport *sterol transport from macrophages*



# Other roles of HDL

## Exchanges of lipid classes

- facilitating reverse cholesterol transport (LCAT)
- TAG depletion of VLDL/LDL rich particles (CETP)
- remodelling of HDLs (PLTP)

## Antioxidant properties

oxPL (LDL) → oxPL (HDL)

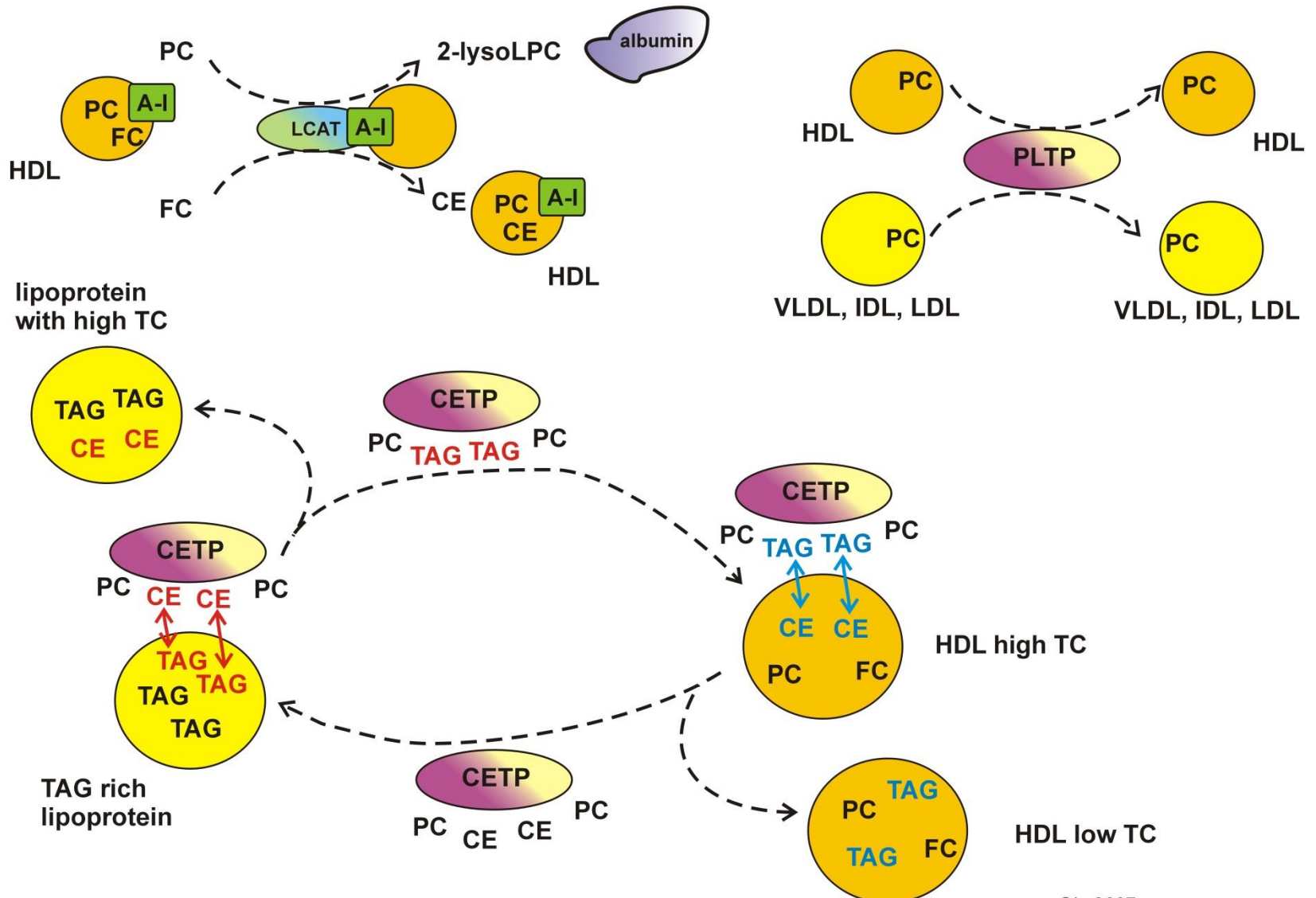
- liberation of oxidized FA from oxPL molecules (PON-1, PAF-AH)

## Particle remodeling

- part of acute phase response (SAA for PON-1)

## Antiinflammatory/antithrombotic vasodilatory activity

# Exchanges of lipid classes





# HDL and oxidative stress

## 1. Removal of oxidised PL from LDL (oxLDL)

oxPL (LDL) → oxPL (HDL)

sdHDL are easy acceptors for oxPL (oxLDL/membranes)

## 2. Inactivation of oxidised PL

- *via* redox active residues in apo A-I (Met)

PLOOH → PLOH

- *via* liberation of oxidized FA from oxPL molecules

***paraoxonase*** (PON-1)

hydrolysis of oxPUFA from oxPL/oxCE

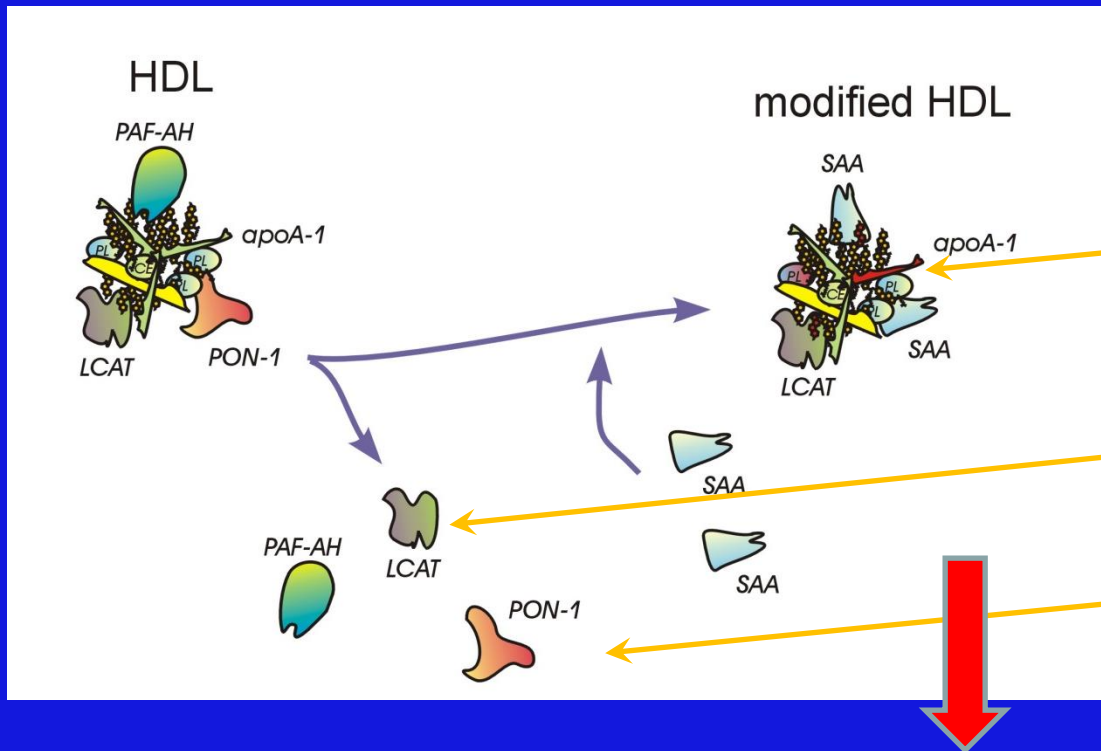
***platelet-activating factor acetylhydrolase*** (PAF-AH)

hydrolysis of short chain oxFA from *sn*-2 position in ox PL

# HDL remodeling

→ functionally defective HDL particles

acute phase response/inflammation



modification  
by glycation  
oxidation

decreased  
capacity for RCT

decreased  
antioxidant  
capacity of HDL

HDL particles lacking antiatherogenic functions

# Lipoprotein receptors I (LDL rec family)

diffusion: CE/TAG  
phagocytic mechanisms:  
modified LP

## LDL receptor

- needed for receptor mediated endocytosis of LP (LDL)
- recognizes apoB-100, apoE
- influenced by intracellular cholesterol levels
- *mutations: autosomal dominant FH*
- *defective recycling/endocytosis: autosomal hyperCH*

## LRP1 = LDL receptor related protein 1

- needed for receptor mediated endocytosis of LP (CH<sub>R</sub>)
- recognizes apoE

also many other  
molecules

## VLDL receptor

- needed for receptor mediated endocytosis of VLDL (VLDL<sub>R</sub>)
- recognizes apoE, apoJ
- influenced by estrogen, thyroid hormone

## apoE

- three alleles  $\epsilon 2/\epsilon 3/\epsilon 4$  ( $\epsilon 2$  binds weakly – risk of VLDL<sub>R</sub> / CH<sub>R</sub> slow catabolism;  $\epsilon 4$  - A $\beta$  aggregation - risk factor for Alzheimer disease)

# Lipoprotein receptors II (scavenger receptors)

## SR-AI receptor

- phagocytic receptor (macrophages  foam cells)
- recognizes modified/oxidized LDL, LPC, PS, FC
- regulates macrophage functions
- *mutations: esophageal cancer?*

## SR-B1 = HDL receptor

- needed for transfer of CE into the cell (no degradation of particle)
- steroidogenic tissues, liver, macrophages
- recognizes HDL<sub>2</sub>

## CD36 receptor (SR-B2)


- expressed in many cell types
- recognizes HDL, mildly oxidized LDL, LP, FA, thrombospondin ...

## LOX1 receptor

- in highly vascularized tissues, induced by inflammation
- recognizes oxidized LDL

# Special lipoproteins

## 1. Lp(a)

apo (a) attached to apo B-100 with S-S bond  
competes with plasminogen for fibrin binding sites  
carries oxPL in plasma?  high Lp(a) = high CVD risk ?  
high interindividual concentration variability



## 2. abnormal lipoproteins

### modified/oxidized/negative LDL

LOOH → peroxidation of lipids/apoB-100  
easily endocytosed by scavenger receptors

### Lp-X, Lp-Y

in liver diseases (albumin + FC (LCAT deficiency))

### $\beta$ -VLDL

in type III HLP ( $\epsilon$ 2 binds weakly → apoE enriched circulating VLDL/CM)

# **DISORDERS OF LIPOPROTEIN METABOLISM**

# DEFINITION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF DISORDERS OF LP METABOLISM

## CLASSIFICATION

### **I. According to changes in lipid/lipoprotein classes:**

- a) hyperlipoproteinemia (HLP)
- b) dyslipoproteinemia (DLP)

### **II. According to the cause:**

- a) primary HLP/DLP - independent, genetically determined diseases (60 - 90 %)
- b) secondary HLP/DLP - consequence of disease (state) altering metabolism of LP

# Definition of hyperlipoproteinemia, hyperlipidemia and dyslipoproteinemia

## Hyperlipoproteinemia

= state connected with **elevation of one or more LP classes**

## Hyperlipidemia

= state, when **concentrations of TC and/or TAG exceed borderline concentration** [defined by 90/95<sup>th</sup> percentiles]

## Dyslipidemia

- a) = state, characterised by **lowered concentration of HDL-C**  
HDL-C  $\leq$  0.9 mmol/l in M (resp. 1.10 mmol/l for F)
- b) more generally, **any disorder of LP**



# Pathogenesis of lipoprotein disorders

I. ↑ synthesis of cholesterol  
and/or triacylglycerols  ↑ secretion of LP

II. disturbed metabolism of lipoproteins

- changes in remodeling of particles

 abnormal composition:

LP-X (liver cirrhosis), small dense LDL

- ↓ catabolism of lipoproteins

III. combination of abovementioned mechanisms

+ interaction of genetically susceptible background and  
non genetic effects (nutritional, metabolic, disease states)

# Classification of phenotypes of hyperlipoproteinemias

## Primary HLP

Phenotype	Lipoprotein cholesterol					Primary cause
	CM	VLDL	IDL	LDL	HDL	
I	↑			↓	↓	deficiency/inhibitor of LPL deficiency of apo C-II deficient apo A-V, LMF1
IIA				↑		FHC (LDLr def.), PHC, deficient B-100
IIB		↑		↑↑		familial combined hyperlipidemia
III	↑ (CH-R)	β- VLDL	↑			familial HLP III type (apoE ε2) familial deficiency of HL
IV		↑			↓	FHTG (polymorphisms of LPL) polymorphisms of apo A-V
V	↑	↑		↓	↓	FHTG (decompensation) deficiency of apo C-II, A-V

LPL – lipoprotein lipase, LMF1 – lipase maturation factor 1, HL – hepatic lipase, CH-R – chylomicron remnants, FHC – familial (= monogenic, "receptor") hypercholesterolemia, PHC – polygenic hypercholesterolemia, FHTG – familial hypertriacylglycerolemia

# Classification of phenotypes of hyperlipoproteinemias

## Secondary HLP

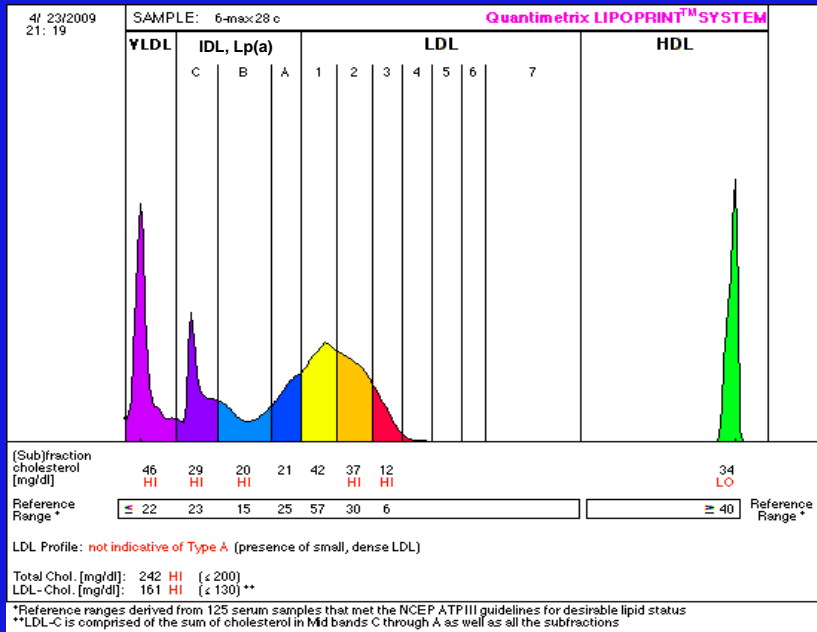
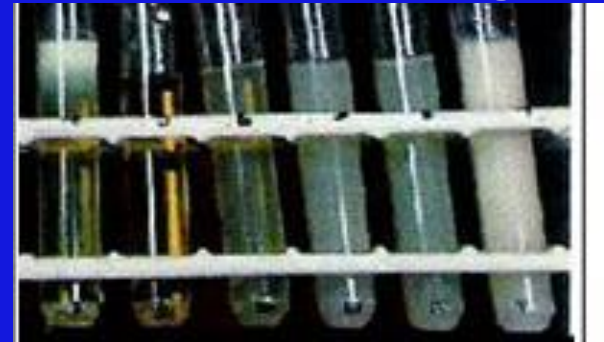
Phenotype	Lipoprotein cholesterol					Secondary cause
	CM	VLDL	IDL	LDL	HDL	
I	↑			↓	↓	systemic lupus erythematoses (rarely)
IIA				↑		hypothyreosis, anorexia nervosa
IIB		↑		↑↑		nephrotic syndrome, anorexia nervosa, DM
III	↑ (CH-R)	b-VLDL	↑			hypothyreosis, DM, obesity
IV		↑			↓	DM, chronic renal insufficiency
V	↑	↑		↓	↓	EtOH abuse, diuretic treatment, estrogens (hormonal contraception, hormonal replacement therapy)

DM – diabetes mellitus

# Analysis of cholesterol in LP classes

plasma at 4°C overnight

electrophoresis



I    IIA    IIB    III    IV    V

CM↑   LDL↑   VLDL↑   CM↑   VLDL↑   CM+VLDL↑  
HDL↓   LDL↑   LDL↑   HDL↓   HDL↓

Triglyceride Levels, mg/dL*	Non-HDL-C, mg/dL										
	<100	100-129	130-159	160-189	190-219	≥220					
7-49	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1					
50-99	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6					
100-149	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8					
150-199	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9					
200-249	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1					
250-299	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1					
300-349	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.2					
350-399	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.3					
400-449	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3					
450-499	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.3					
500-549	5.3	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4					
550-599	5.4	5.1	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.3					
600-649	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.5					
650-699	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.5					
700-749	5.7	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.6					
750-799	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.6					
800-849	6.0	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.8	4.6					
850-899	6.1	5.7	5.3	5.1	4.8	4.6					
900-949	6.2	5.8	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.7					
950-999	6.3	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.8					
1000-1049	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.1	4.8					
1050-1099	6.5	6.1	5.8	5.4	5.2	4.9					
1100-1149	6.6	6.2	5.9	5.5	5.3	5.0					
1150-1199	6.7	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.1					
1200-1249	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.8	5.5	5.2					
1250-1299	6.9	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.3					
1300-1349	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.4					
1350-1399	7.1	6.7	6.4	6.1	5.8	5.5					
1400-1449	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6					
1450-1499	7.3	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.7					
1500-1549	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.4	6.1	5.8					
1550-1599	7.5	7.1	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9					
1600-1649	7.6	7.2	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.0					
1650-1699	7.7	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.4	6.1					
1700-1749	7.8	7.4	7.1	6.8	6.5	6.2					
1750-1799	7.9	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.6	6.3					
1800-1849	8.0	7.6	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.4					
1850-1899	8.1	7.7	7.4	7.1	6.8	6.5					
1900-1949	8.2	7.8	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.6					
1950-1999	8.3	7.9	7.6	7.3	7.0	6.7					
2000-2049	8.4	8.0	7.7	7.4	7.1	6.8					

NMR, HPLC, UC  
- very expensive,  
time consuming

Direct LDL-C  
- now possible  
biased at high TAG

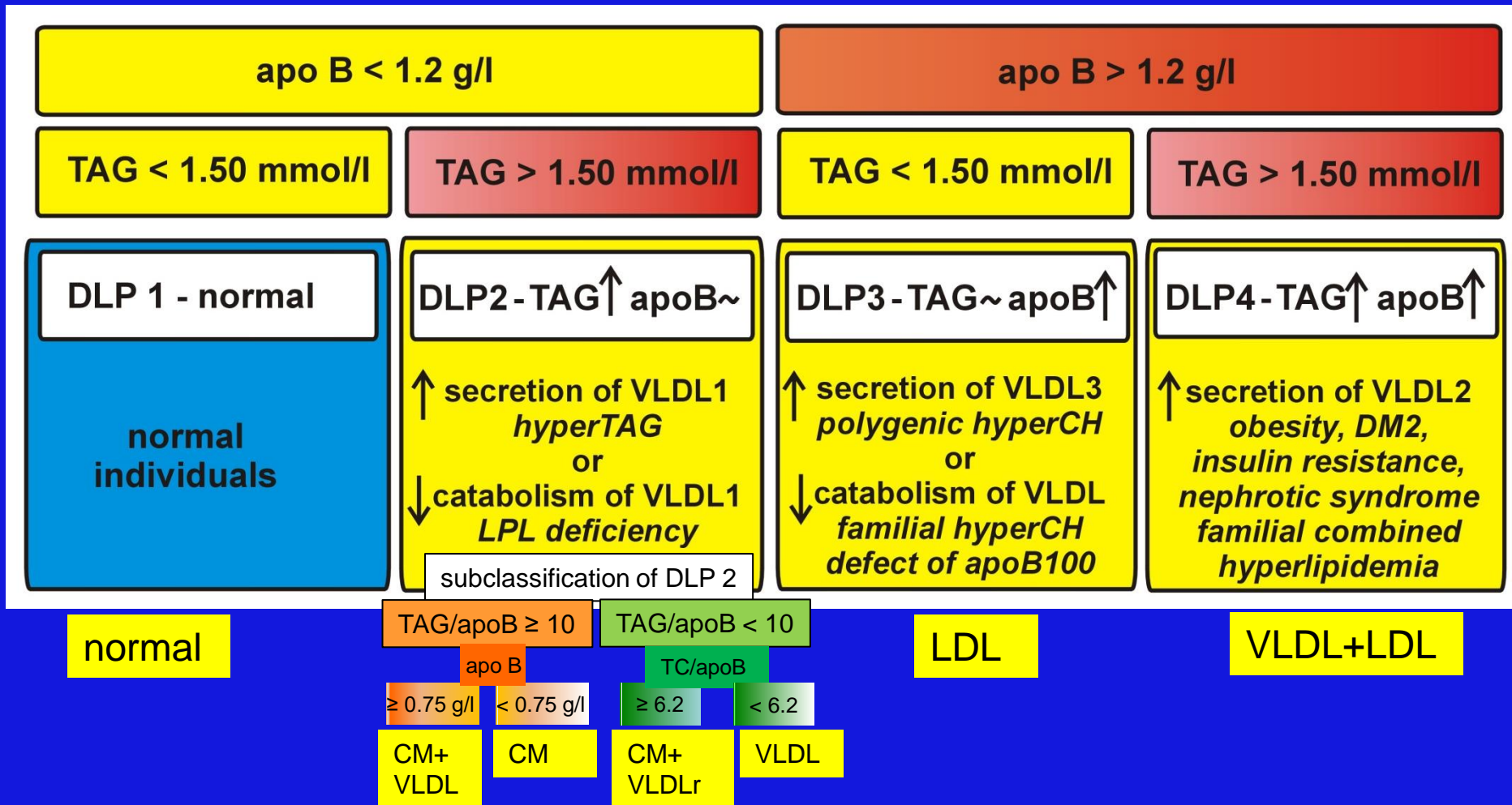
linked with  
known    TAG    negligible    ??    known

Friedewald:  $TC = VLDL-C + IDL-C + LDL-C + HDL-C$

LDL-C estimation (mg/dL):  $LDL-C = TC - HDL-C - TAG/5$

Chylo-C, VLDL-C, IDL-C – missing information?

# CLASSIFICATION OF DISTURBED LIPOPROTEIN METABOLISM by Sniderman



VLDL1, VLDL2, VLDL3 – subpopulations of VLDL particles

# Classification of hyperlipidemias

Type of hyperlipidemia	Disorder in lipoprotein class	Primary cause
Hypercholesterolemia	LDL rarely HDL	Familial hypercholesterolemia (LDLr def.) Polygenic hypercholesterolemia Autosomal dominant hypercholesterolemia (PCSK9 mut.) Sitosterolemia (ABCG5/G8 def.) Familial defective ApoB
Hypertriacylglycerolemia	VLDL rarely VLDL + CM rarely CM	Familial endogenous hypertriacylglycerolemia Familial mixed hypertriacylglycerolemia Familial hyperchylomicronemia (LPL def.)
Mixed hyperlipidemia	VLDL + LDL rarely IDL	Familial mixed hyperlipidemia Familial dysbetalipoproteinemia (apoE ε2) Familial hepatic lipase deficiency

LDL – low density lipoproteins, VLDL – very low density lipoproteins, CM - chylomicrons, IDL – intermediary density lipoproteins, HLP - hyperlipoproteinemia

# Low concentration of TC and TAG

## Abetalipoproteinemia

- = Bassen-Kornzweig syndrome (autosomal dominant)
- mutations in **MTTP** gene (**assembly of apoB LP**)
  - ➡ neither apoB-100 nor apoB-48 in plasma
  - ➡ fat malabsorption (incl. vitamins A, K, E)

## Hypobetalipoproteinemia

- missense mutations in **apoB** gene (**VLDL/CH secretion/circulation**)
  - ➡ truncated versions of apoB-100 („*apoB-2 to apoB-89*“)
  - ➡ LDL-C↓ or ↓↓
  - ➡ fat malabsorption (incl. vitamins A, K, E)

# Low concentration of HDL-cholesterol

## Genetic factors

- deficiency/abnormal structure of apo-A-I (e.g. Apo A-I<sub>Milano</sub>)
- Tangier disease (deficiency of ABCA1)
- deficiency of LCAT familial vs. "fish eye disease" (mild)
- deficiency and mutations of LPL
- cholesteryl ester storage diseases (lysosomal CEH)
- Niemann-Pick disease (A, B, C variants)

## Non genetic causes

- obesity, hypertriglycerolemia
- renal insufficiency
- smoking
- decreased physical activity
- enhanced intake of SFA/diminished supply of PUFA n-3, PUFA n-6
- drugs (thiazides,  $\alpha$ -methyl DOPA, spiro lactone, phenothiazins)



# Endocrinopathies

## Metabolic syndrome

↑ waist (abd.obesity) + ↑ TAG + ↓ HDL-C + ↑ Glc (IR) + HTN

3 or more present

➡ altered metabolism of TAG rich particles

## Insulin resistance

Liver:

*impaired* insulin mediated apoB-100 degradation

➡ ↑ VLDL particle biosynthesis/stability

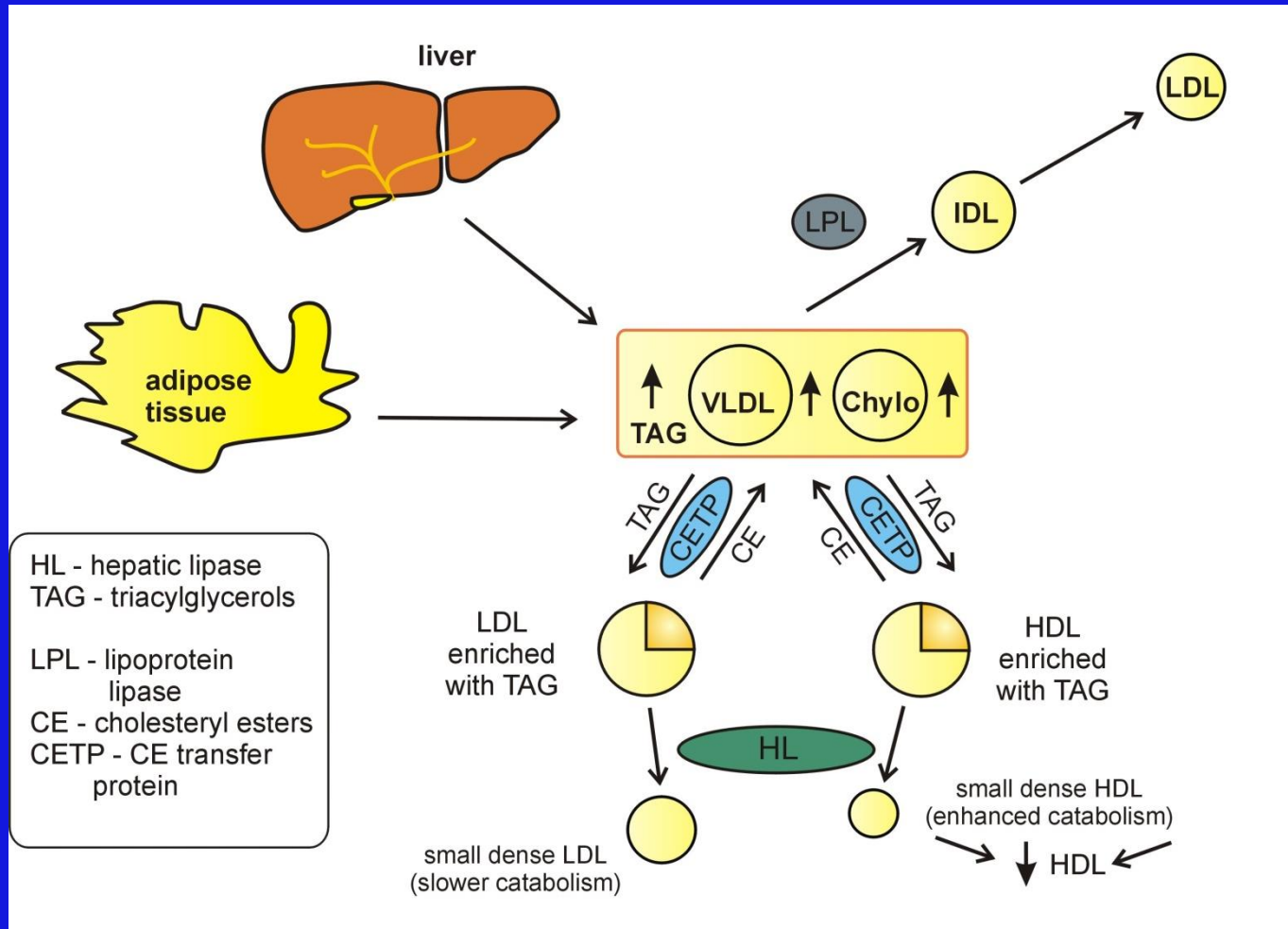
↑ FFA flux from adipose tissue ➡ ↑ hepatic steatosis

Adipose tissue:

*impaired* insulin antilipolytic effects (HSL inh., FFA uptake)

➡ ↑ FFA flux from adipose tissue

# Effect of higher concentrations of particles rich in triacylglycerols on LDL and HDL metabolism



# Endocrinopathies

## Hypothyreosis

- ➔ ↓ activity of LDL receptors and LPL (HLP IIA > IIB, III, > IV)  
never phenotype HLP I and V, <10% no LP change  
with E2/E2 ➔ HLP type III  
relatively high frequency  
(4, resp. 8 % persons with hypercholesterolemias)

## Estrogens (hormonal contraception, gravidity)

- ➔ ↑ VLDL, ↑ LDL and ↑ HDL (FCH) (phenotype IIB, IV)

## gravidity

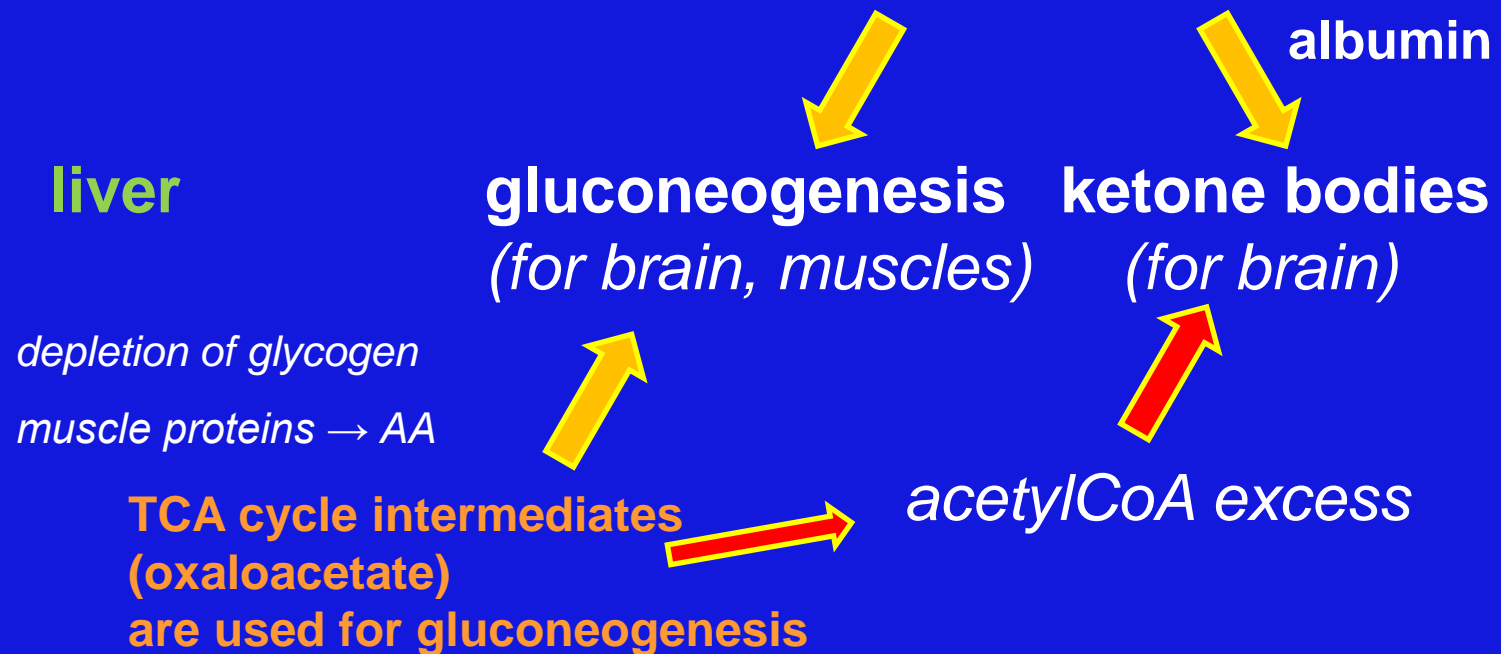
- ➔ physiological secondary HLP  
(estrogens, progesterone, IR, hyperinsulinemia, human  
placental lactogen)

# Lipid metabolism during fasting

## Mobilization of lipid stores

### adipose tissue

activation of HSL: TAG  $\rightarrow$  glycerol + 3 NEFA



## Further reading

### **Textbooks, monographs**

- Biochemistry of Lipids, Lipoproteins and Membranes (6<sup>th</sup> Ed)*; Ridgway ND, McLEod RS (Eds.), Elsevier, Amsterdam (The Netherlands) 2015
- Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry (6<sup>th</sup> Ed)*; Nelson DL, Cox MM (Eds.), Susan Winslow, New York (U.S.A.) 2013
- Harper's Illustrated Biochemistry (28<sup>th</sup> Ed)*; Murray RK, Bender DA, Botham KM, Kennely PJ, Rodwell VW, Weil PA (Eds.), McGraw-Hill, New York (U.S.A.) 2009
- High Density Lipoproteins: From Biological Understanding to Clinical Exploitation*; Eckardstein A, Kardassis D (Eds.). Springer Open, London (UK) 2015
- Lipoproteins in Health and Disease*; Betteridge J, Shepherd J, Illingworth R (Eds.). CRC Press, London (UK) 1999

### **Articles**

- Mu H, Høy CE: The digestion of dietary triacylglycerols. *Progr Lipid Res* 2004; **43**: 105–133.
- Alwaili K, Alrasadi K, Awan Z, Genest J: Approach to the diagnosis and management of lipoprotein disorders. *Curr Opin Endocrinol Diab Obes* 2009, **16**: 132–140.
- Hegele RA: Plasma lipoproteins: genetic influences and clinical implications. *Nat Rev Genet* 2009; **10**: 109-121.
- Hachem SB, Mooradian AD: Familial Dyslipidaemias: An Overview of Genetics, Pathophysiology and Management. *Drugs* 2006; **66**: 1949-1969.
- Sniderman AD: Applying apoB to the diagnosis and therapy of the atherogenic dyslipoproteinemias: a clinical diagnostic algorithm. *Curr Opin Lipidol* 2004; **15**: 433–438.

### **Web sources**

<http://themedicalbiochemistrypage.org> - the Medical Biochemistry Page



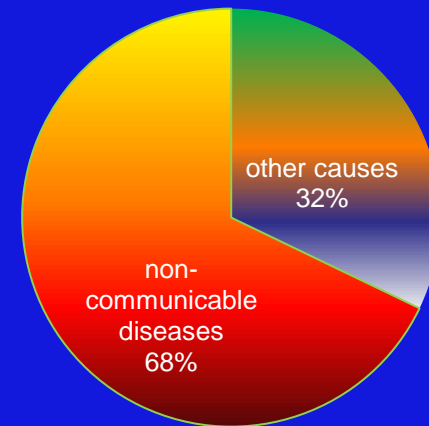
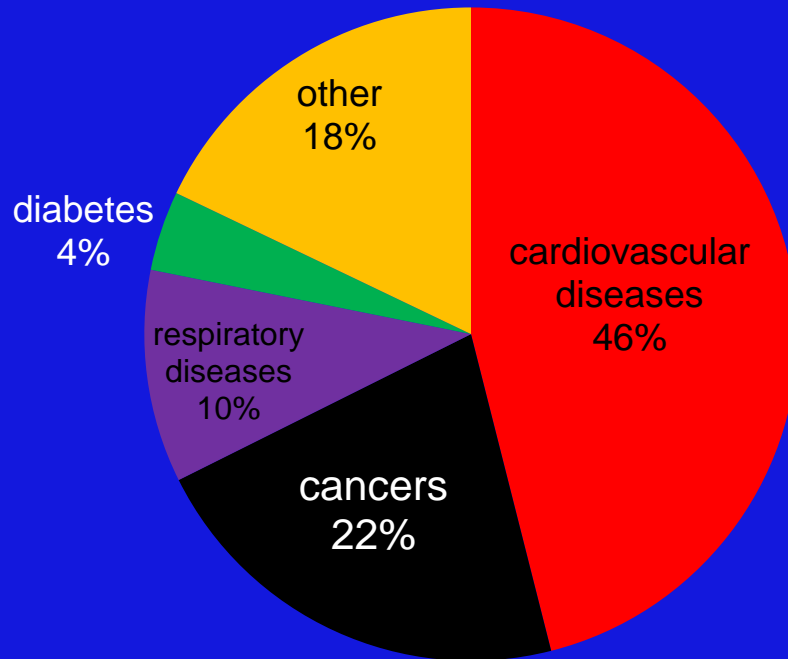
**ATHEROSCLEROSIS**  
**pathogenesis**  
**risk factors**

***Marek Vecka***

# Cause of death and burden of disease

## worldwide mortality

### non-communicable diseases





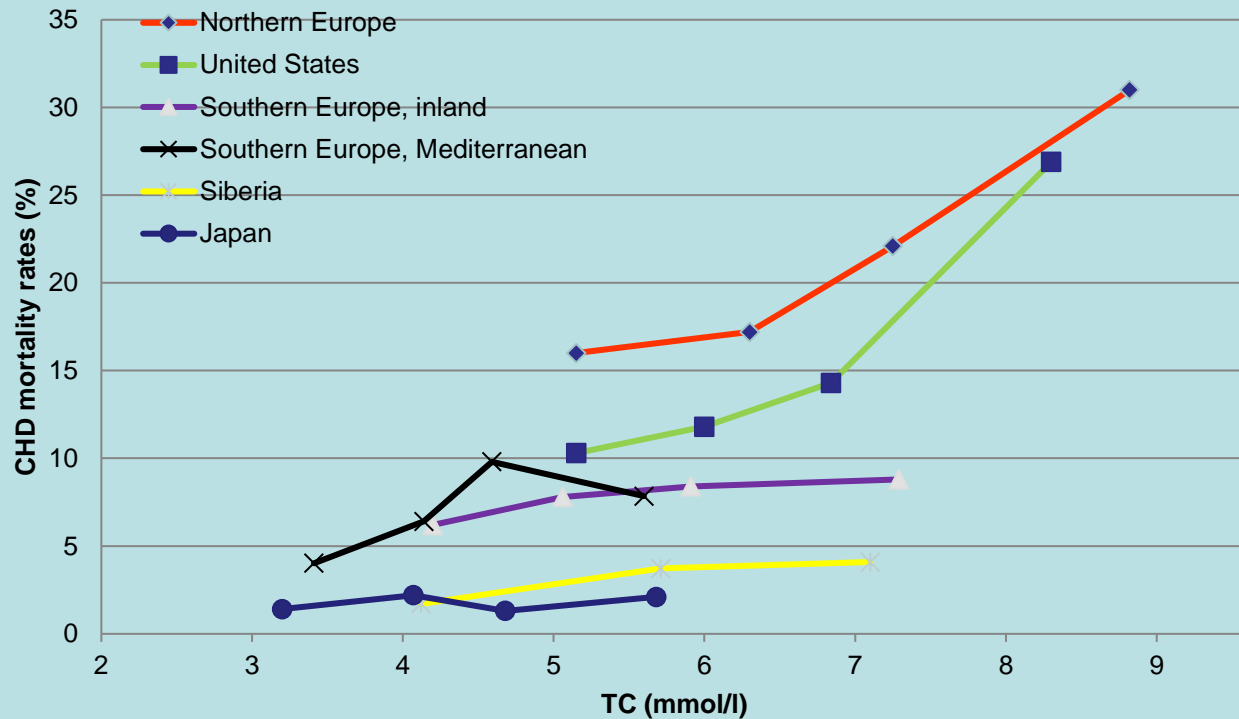
# Atherosclerosis

*Cardiovascular diseases*

*atherosclerosis is most important cause  
cholesterol plays a crucial role in the  
pathogenesis of atherosclerosis*

# Seven countries study: cholesterolemia and mortality

## Cholesterol and CHD: Seven Countries Study

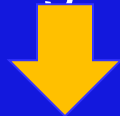


# Atherosclerosis

## Definition

### *Former approach:*

combination of changes in arterial intima



focal accumulation of lipids, complex glycolipids, blood and blood products, fibrous tissue and calcium, in connection with the changes in media

### *New definition:*

signals of various etiology

mechanical

hemodynamic

immunological

metabolic

proliferative response of endothelium and intima

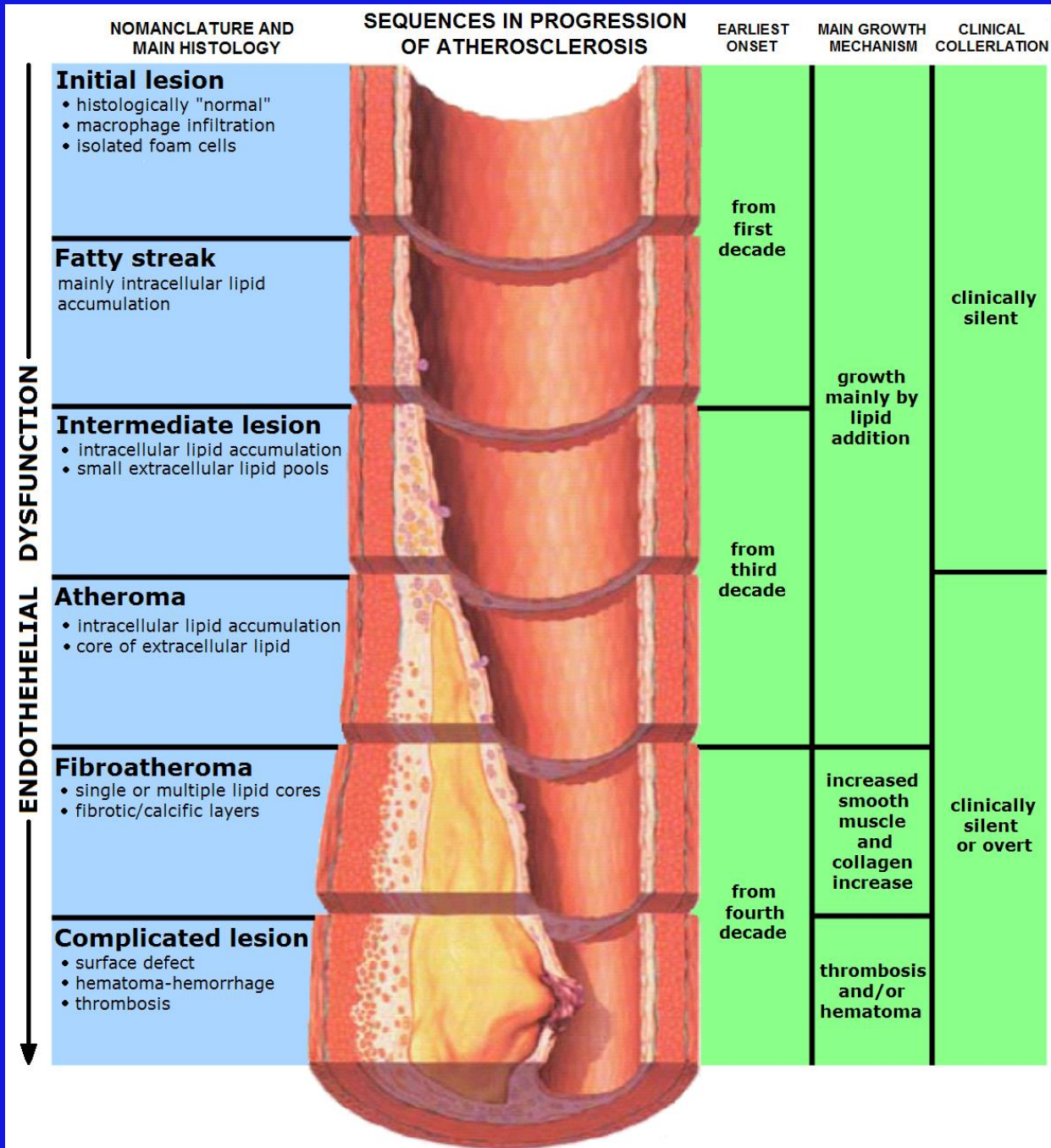
lipid/matrix accumulation

**the key role – oxidized lipoproteins**

# Phases of atherosclerosis

*early phase* – accumulation of lipids

*late phase* – intimal proliferation and adjacent thrombosis



from  
Wikipedia/en

# Early phase of atherosclerosis

**1<sup>st</sup> type of lesion** – isolated foam cells derived from macrophages



**2<sup>nd</sup> type of lesion** (*fatty streak*) – accumulation of foam cells



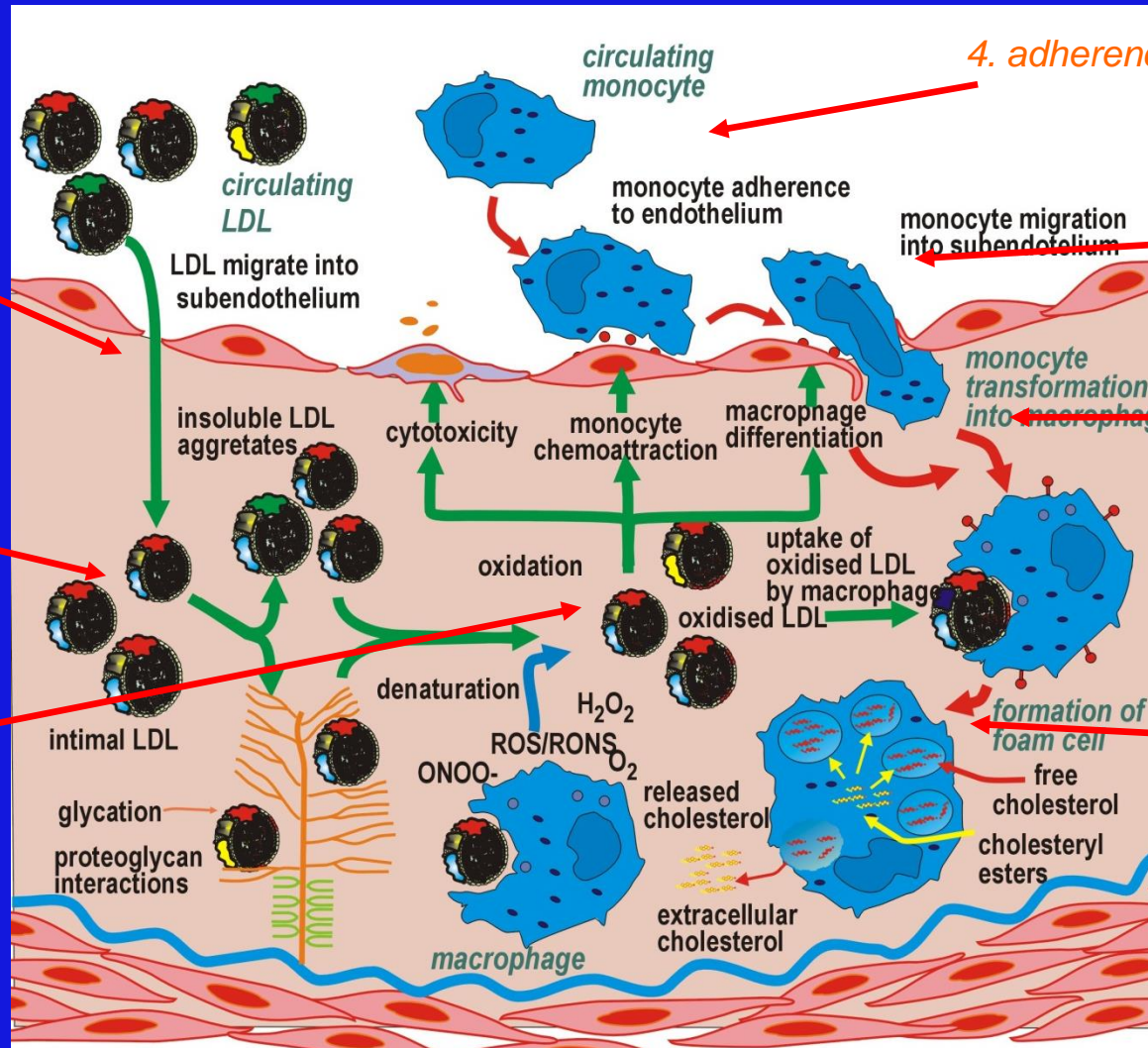
intracellular lipid accumulation

**3<sup>rd</sup> type of lesion** (*intermediary lesion*) – small amounts of **extracellularly deposited lipids** (debris from foam cells)



**4<sup>th</sup> type of lesion** (*atheroma*) – lipid core localised in the basis of the lesion (almost **only extracellularly accumulated lipids**)

# DEVELOPMENT OF FATTY STREAK



4. adherence of monocytes

5. monocyte chemotaxis

6. monocyte differentiation

7. foam cells formation

1. transendothelial transport of LP

2. retention of LP

3. oxidative modification of LP

# Late phase of atherosclerosis

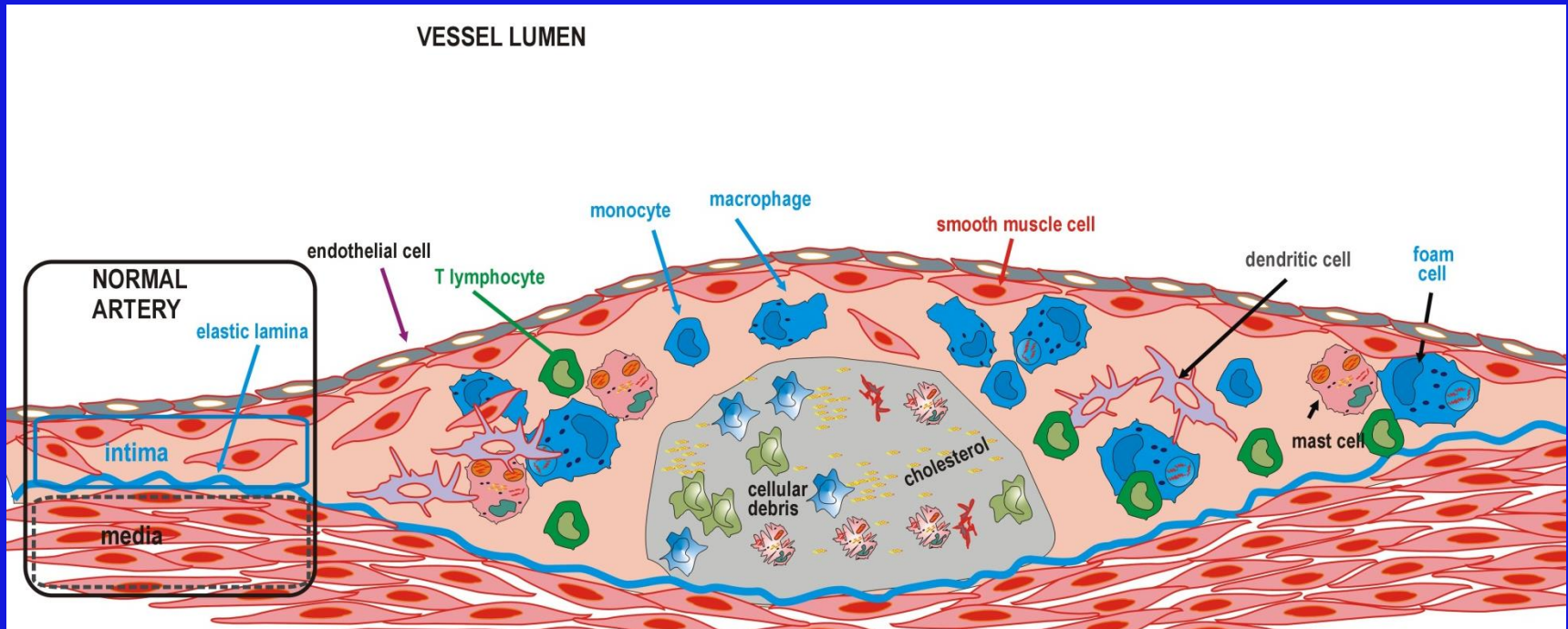
**5<sup>th</sup> type of lesion** (*fibroatheroma*) – proliferation and expression of secretory phenotype of SMC, ↑ synthesis of extracellular matrix (collagen and elastic fibres), the cover = thin layer of smooth muscle cells forming fibrous crust (“cap”) over the lipid core

**6<sup>th</sup> type of lesion** (*complicated lesion*) - exulceration, hemorrhage into plaque, calcification of necrotic material and artery wall thrombosis

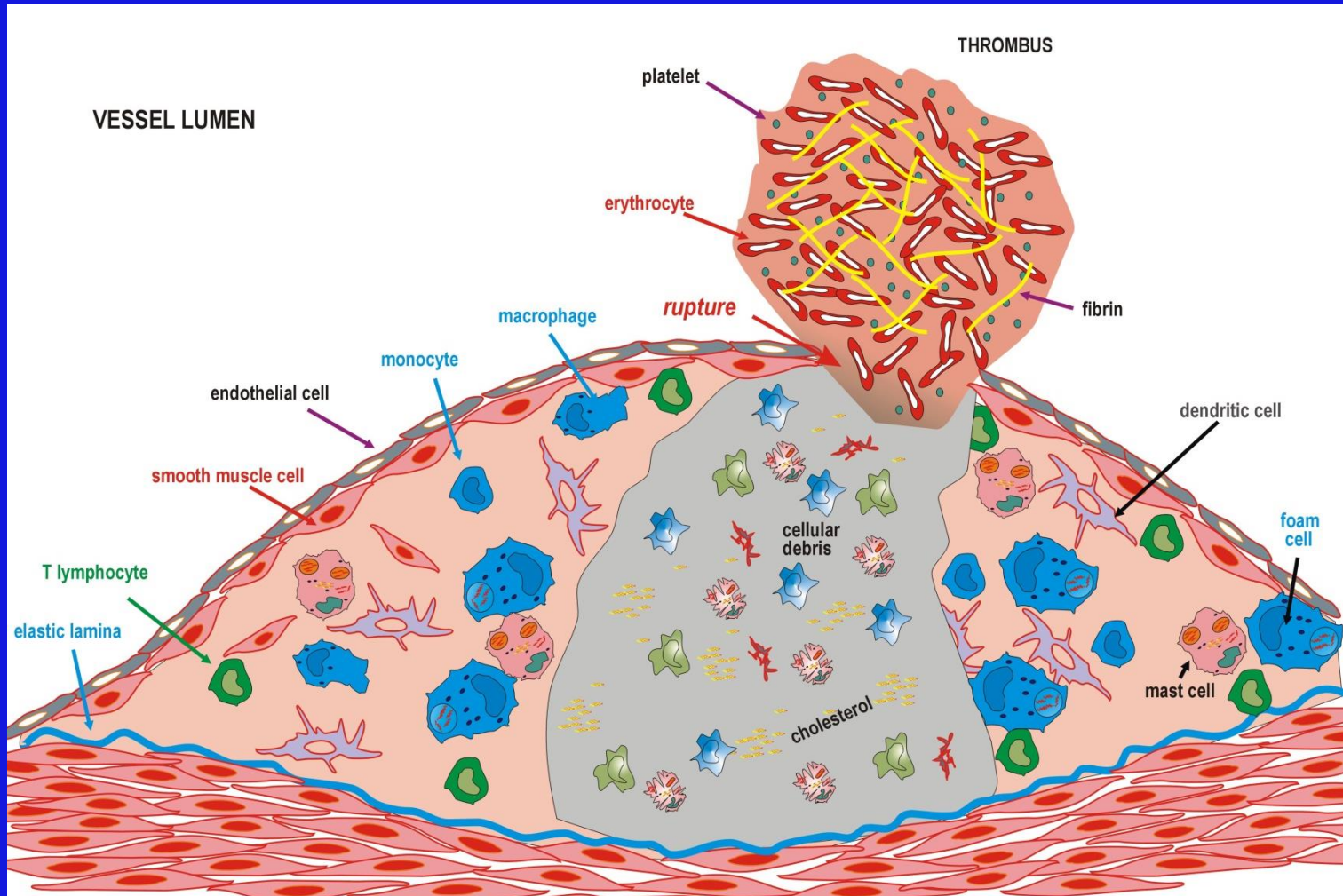
**unstable plaque** – see further



# ATHEROSCLEROTIC PLAQUE



# PLAQUE THROMBOSIS



# Atherothrombosis

sudden/impredictable rupture of atherosclerotic plate  
→ platelet activation and thrombus formation

erosion of the plate

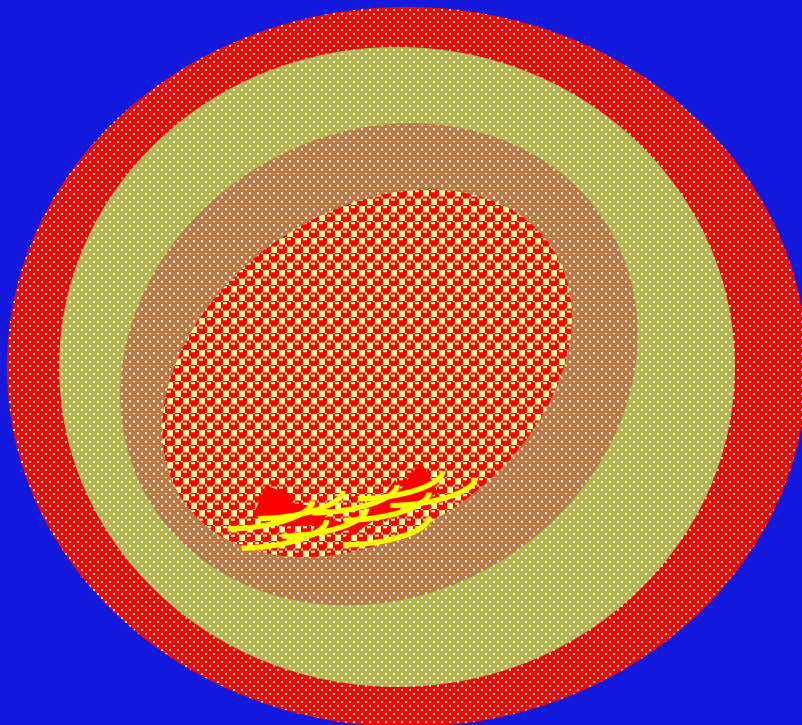
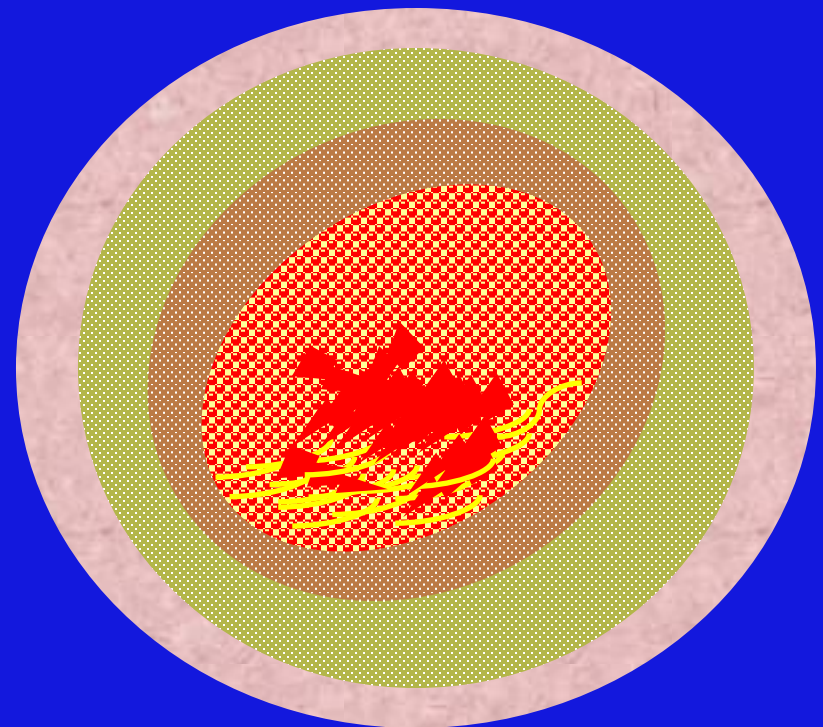


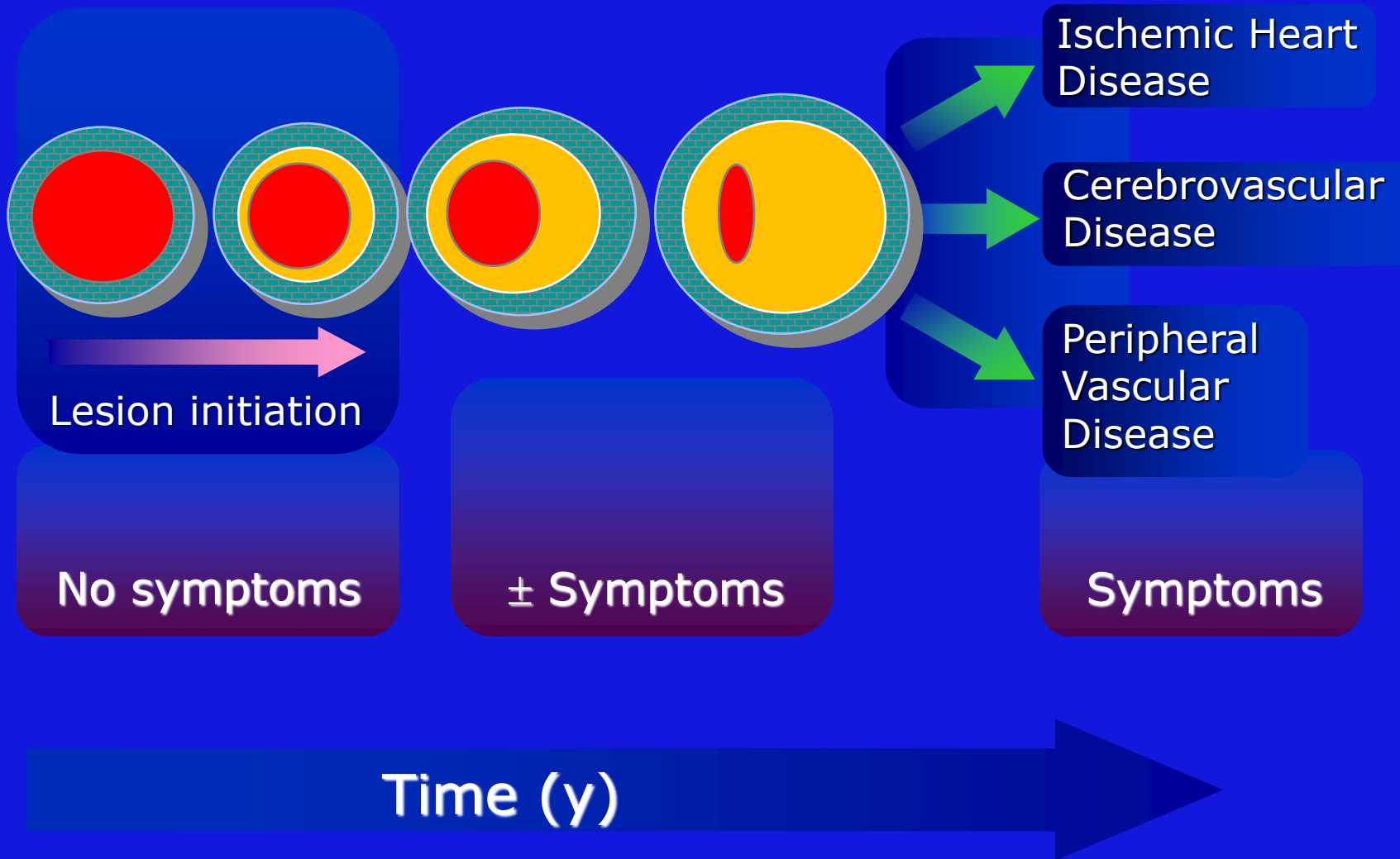
plate rupture



# Characteristics of unstable plate in coronary artery

	unstable plate	stable plate
size	30 - 40 % stenosis <b>eccentric</b>	
core lipids	cca 40 % (FC cryst.)	cca 10 %
monocytes/ macrophages/ foam cells	30 % (v/v)	10 % (v/v)
vascular SMC	3 – 5 %	10 – 15 %

# Schematic Time Course of Human Atherogenesis



*Obviously, we wouldn't like to end  
like this....*

# Risk factors of atherosclerosis and coronary heart disease

## Risk factor


= abnormality found in individual without manifestation of atherosclerosis during clinical/laboratory examination

present risk factor  relative risk of future atherosclerosis manifestat.

*not causally connected  
neither denies one another*

manifestation of atherosclerosis

*this must be supported  
by intervention studies*

  
↑ incidence raises with ↑ incidence of risk factor  
association with risk factor should be *independent, gradual and continual*  
risk factors act synergically and/or additively

# Categories of cardiovascular risk factors

1<sup>st</sup> category risk

intake of exogenous CH/saturated fat

**proven increase in cardiovascular risk**

thrombogenic factors

cigarette smoking

high LDL-C

hypertension

2<sup>nd</sup> category risk

high TAG

small dense LDL

low socio-economic status

**probable increase in cardiovascular risk**

centripetal obesity

menopause

low HDL-C

type 2 DM

lack of physical exercise

3<sup>rd</sup> category risk

folic acid deficiency

EtOH abstinence

oxidative stress

**possible increase in cardiovascular risk**

Fe excess

mild hyperHcy

Lp(a)

psychosocial factors (A type behaviour)

4<sup>th</sup> category risk

**not influenceable increase in cardiovascular risk**

family history of premature CVD

age

male gender



# Risk factors of CAD

## ✓ Unmodifiable risk factors

- **gender**
- positive family history (genetic background)
- age
- ethnicity

## ✓ Modifiable risk factors

- smoking
- hypertension (LVH, ECG, ECHO)
- *hyper LDL-C*
- *hypo HDL-C*
- *hyper TG*
- **diabetes mellitus**
- *sedentary life*
- *obesity*
- inflammation
- social factors (socio-economic status, type A/B of behaviour)
- **exogenous estrogens**

# A. UNMODIFIABLE RISK FACTORS

# Risk factors of CVD for stratification of risk in primary prevention of CHD

## A. Unmodifiable risk factors

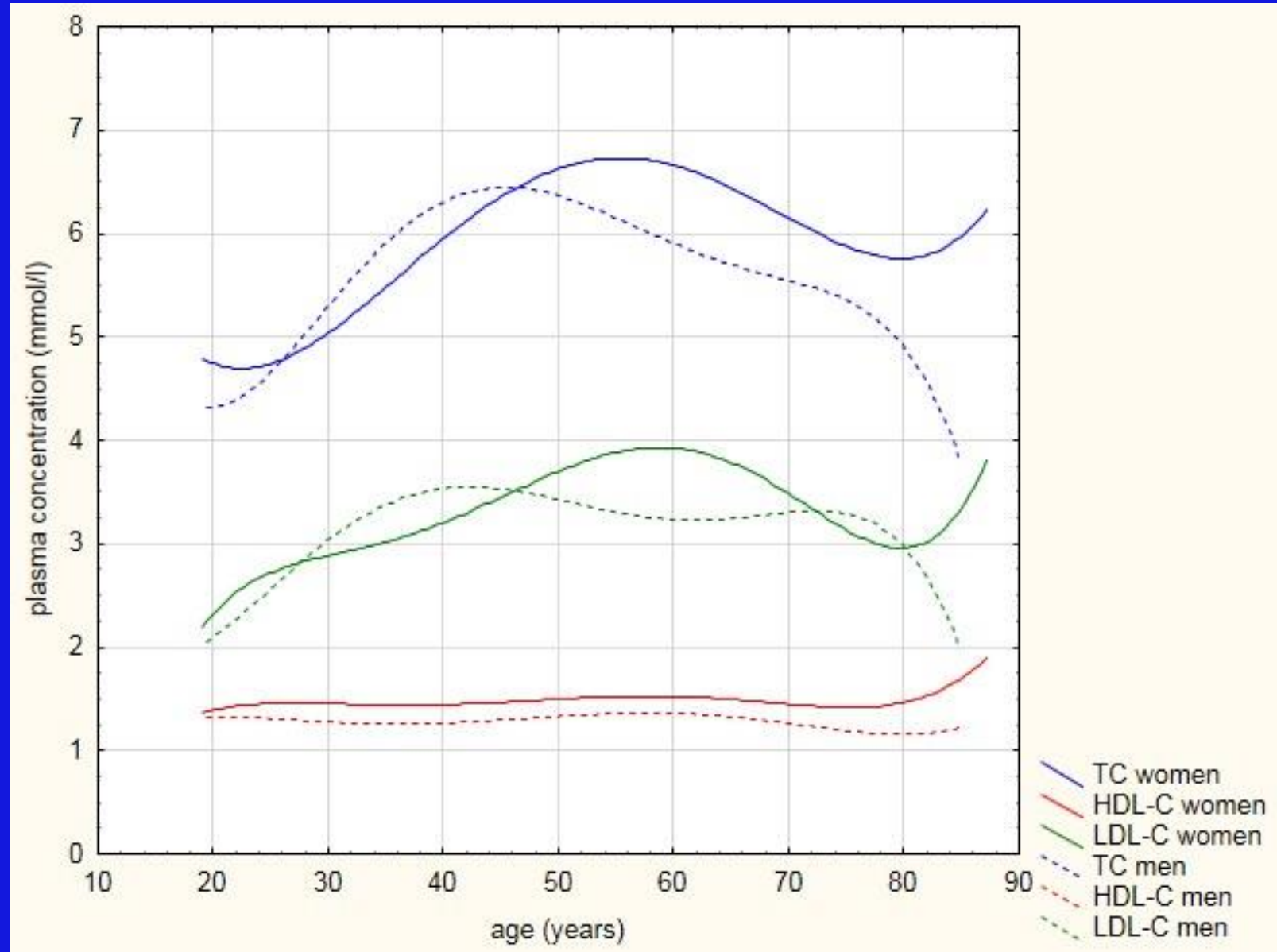
### I. Age and gender

age: > 45 years in men,  
> 55 years in women

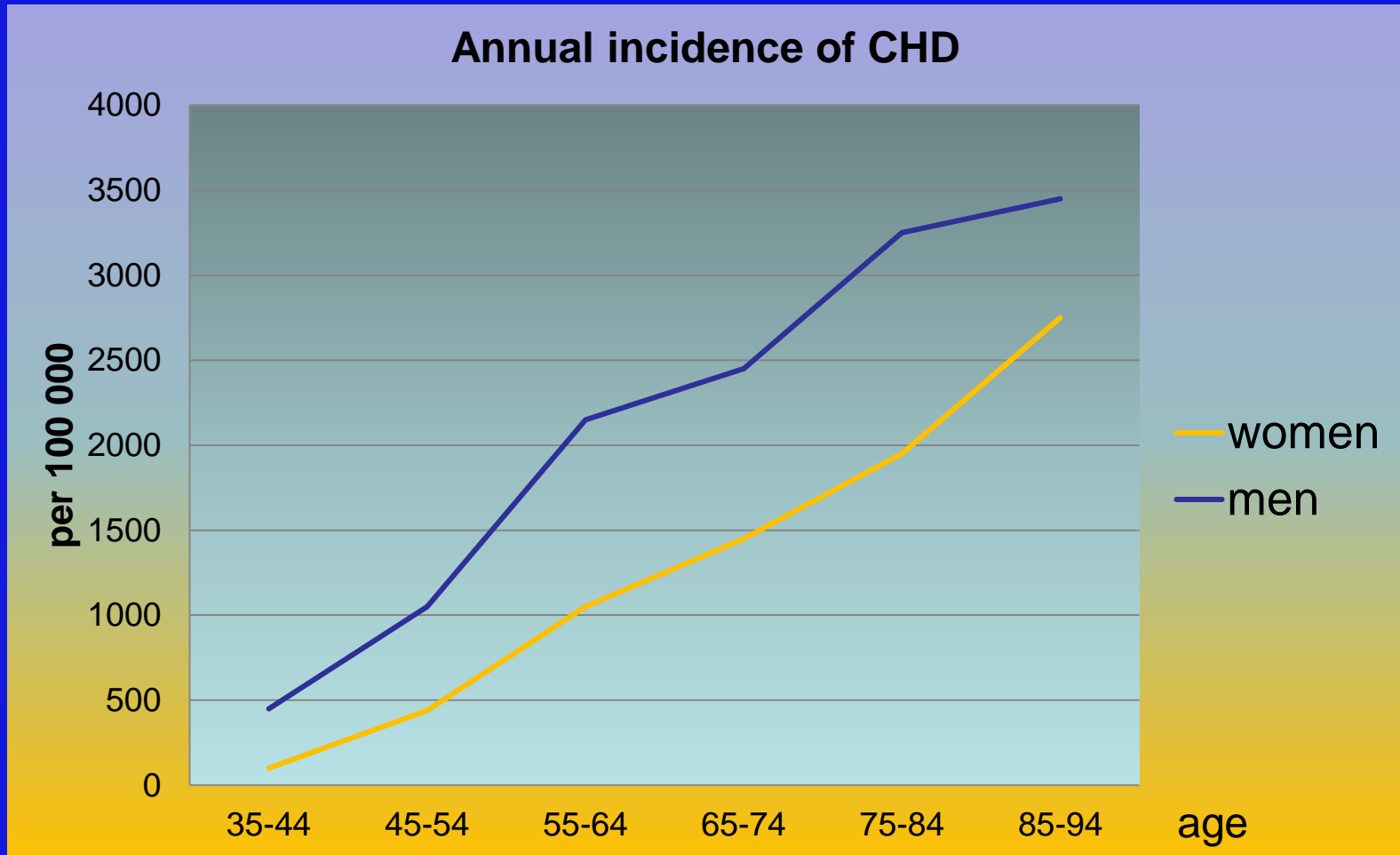
### II. Family history of early CHD

< 55 years in male first-stage relatives  
< 65 years in female first-stage relatives

# Lipid change with age and gender



# CHD incidence – effect of age and gender



# Risk factors of CVD for stratification of risk in primary prevention of CHD

## II. Family history of early CHD

### *Candidate genes:*

**Apolipoproteins** (A-I+CIII+AIV, AII, B, CI, CII, E, Lp<sub>(a)</sub>)

**Receptors** (LDL-R, Ins-R, ILGF1-R, SCR-1, SCR-2, AGTR1, PPARG1)

**Enzymes** (CETP, LCAT, HL, LPL, CBS, renin, ACE, PON1, NOS, MTHFR)

**Endothelium function** (ELAM, MMP3)

**Coagulation factors** (thrombine, vWf, f.VII, fibrinogen, PAI-1, t-PA, f.XII)

**Growth and inflammatory factors** (ILGF-1, IL-6, insulin, PDGF- $\beta$ , TGF $\beta$ -1)

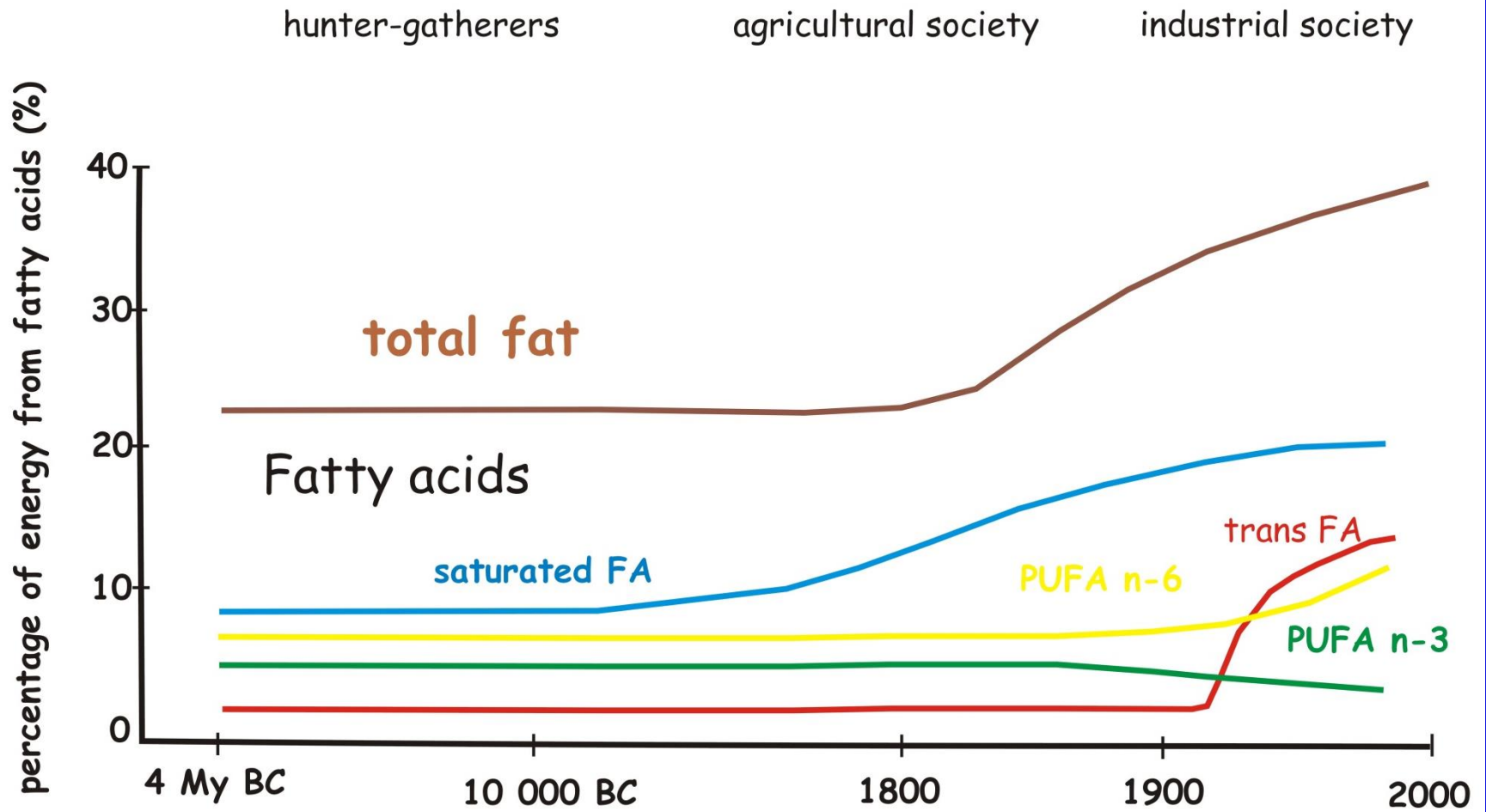
**Membrane Transporters** (ABCA1)

**Gender** (ESR1)

**Other** (CRP, ADIPOQ)

## B. MODIFIABLE RISK FACTORS

# Intake of fatty acids





# Excessive intake of saturated fats

potentiates the rise in plasma TC:

$$\Delta TC = 2.74 \Delta SFA - 1.31 \Delta PUFA + 1.5 C^{-1/2}$$

but not all SFA are similar:

**C12:0 - C14:0 - C16:0 > C18:0**

# Intake of EtOH

**Ethanol abuse = more than 40 g EtOH daily**

(high E substrate  $\longrightarrow$   $\uparrow$  NADH in liver  $\longrightarrow$   $\downarrow$  FA oxidation  $\longrightarrow$  fat=TAG excess)

induction of HTAG  $\longrightarrow$   $\uparrow$  VLDL ( $\uparrow$  synthesis in hepatocytes)

$\searrow$   
 $\uparrow$  HDL-C ( $\uparrow$  apo A-I synthesis in enterocytes)

## Zieve syndrome

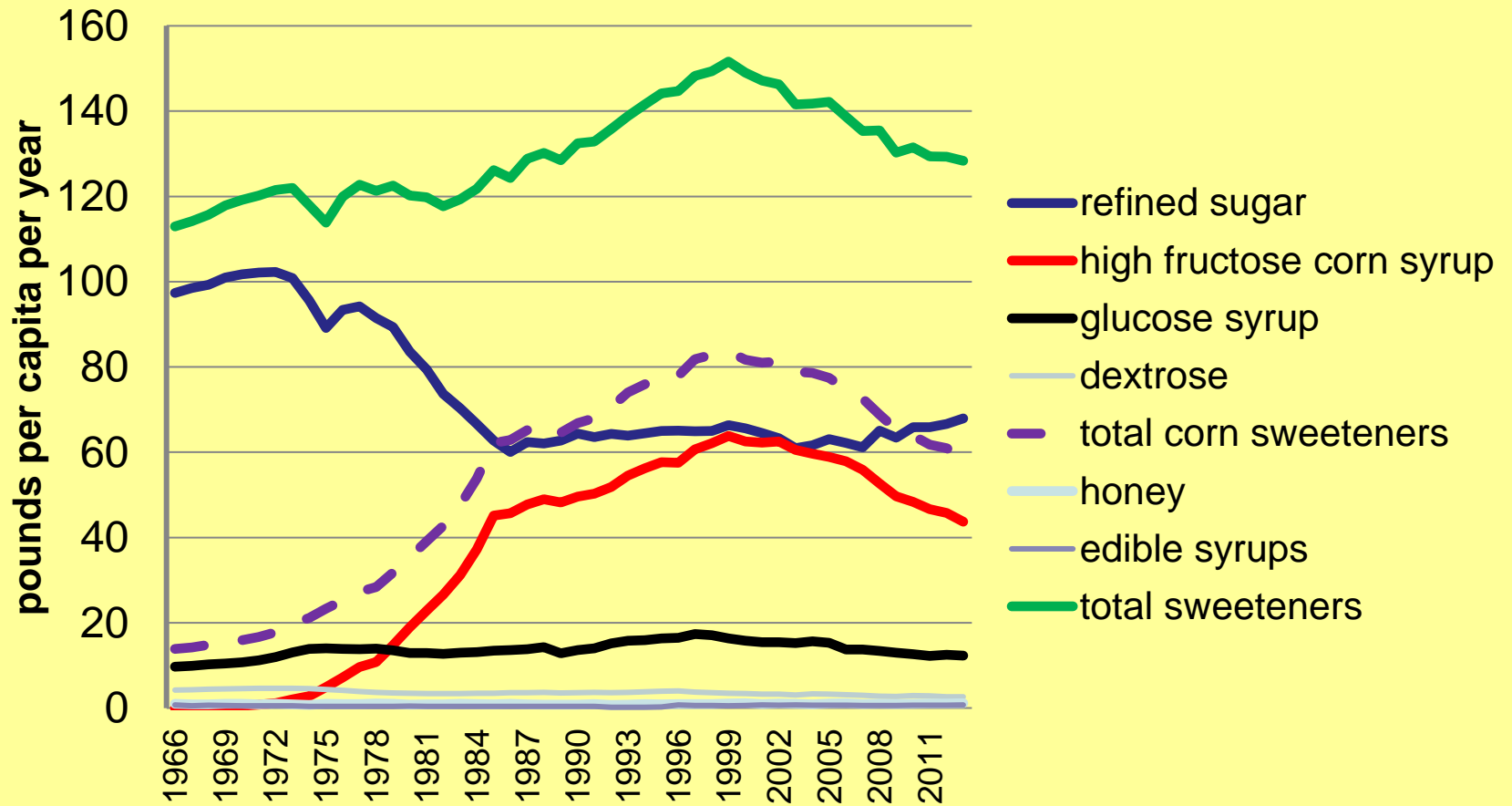
can be a result of chronic EtOH abuse

- hyperlipoproteinemia with high CH/VLDL-C and low HDL-C
- secondary deficiency of LCAT
- jaundice and reversible hemolytic anemia

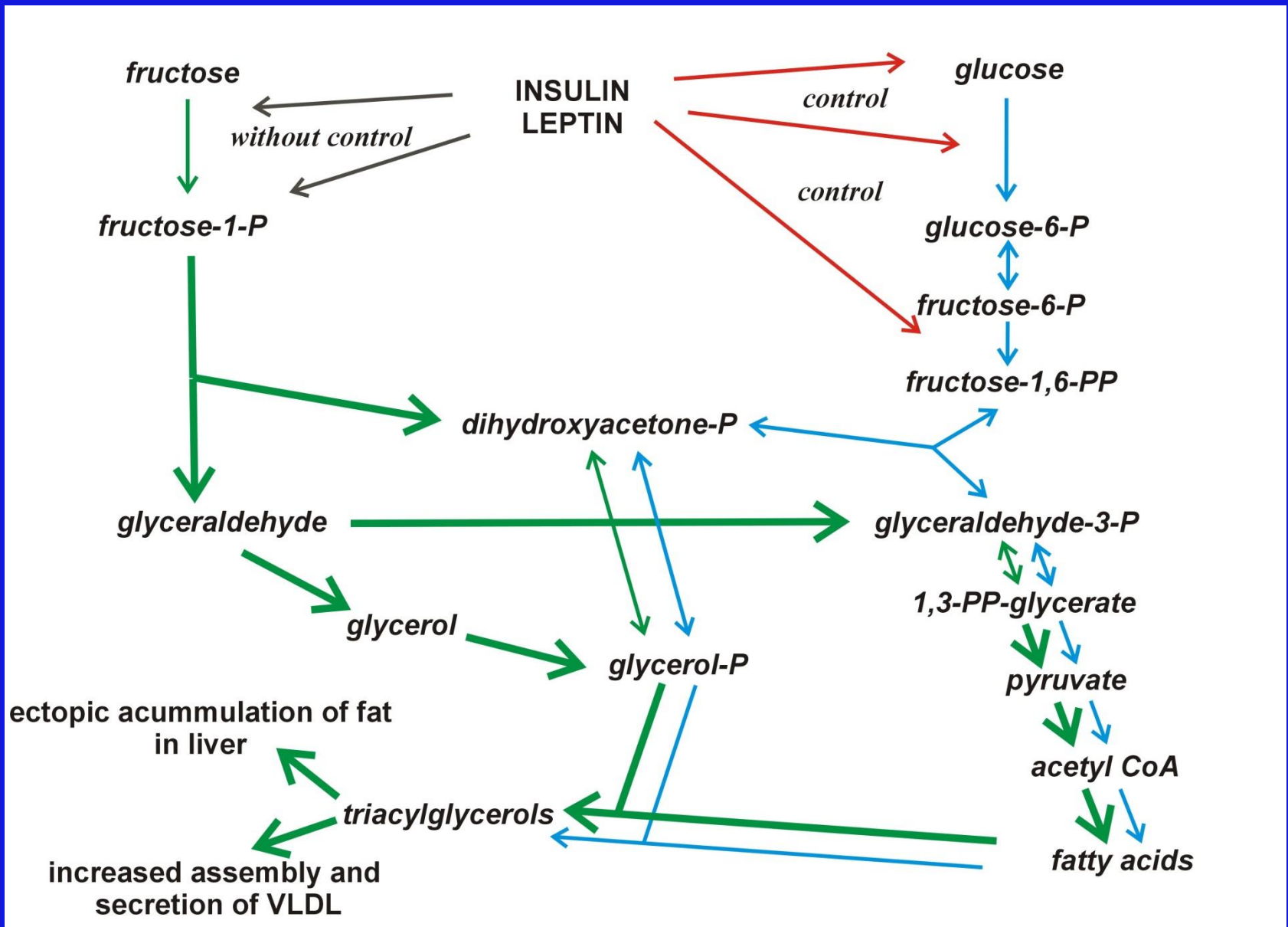


# Intake of sugar

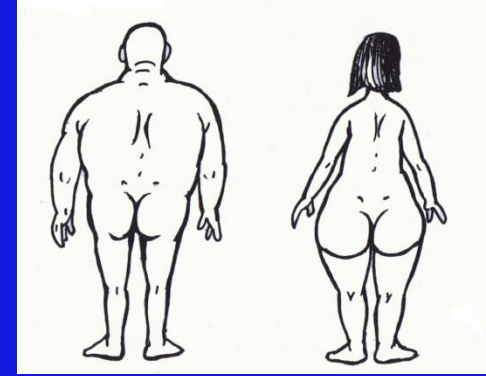
## Sugar sweeteners consumption in U.S.A.



# Intake of fructose



# Overweight and obesity



**Gynoid obesity** - only increased TAG and VLDL

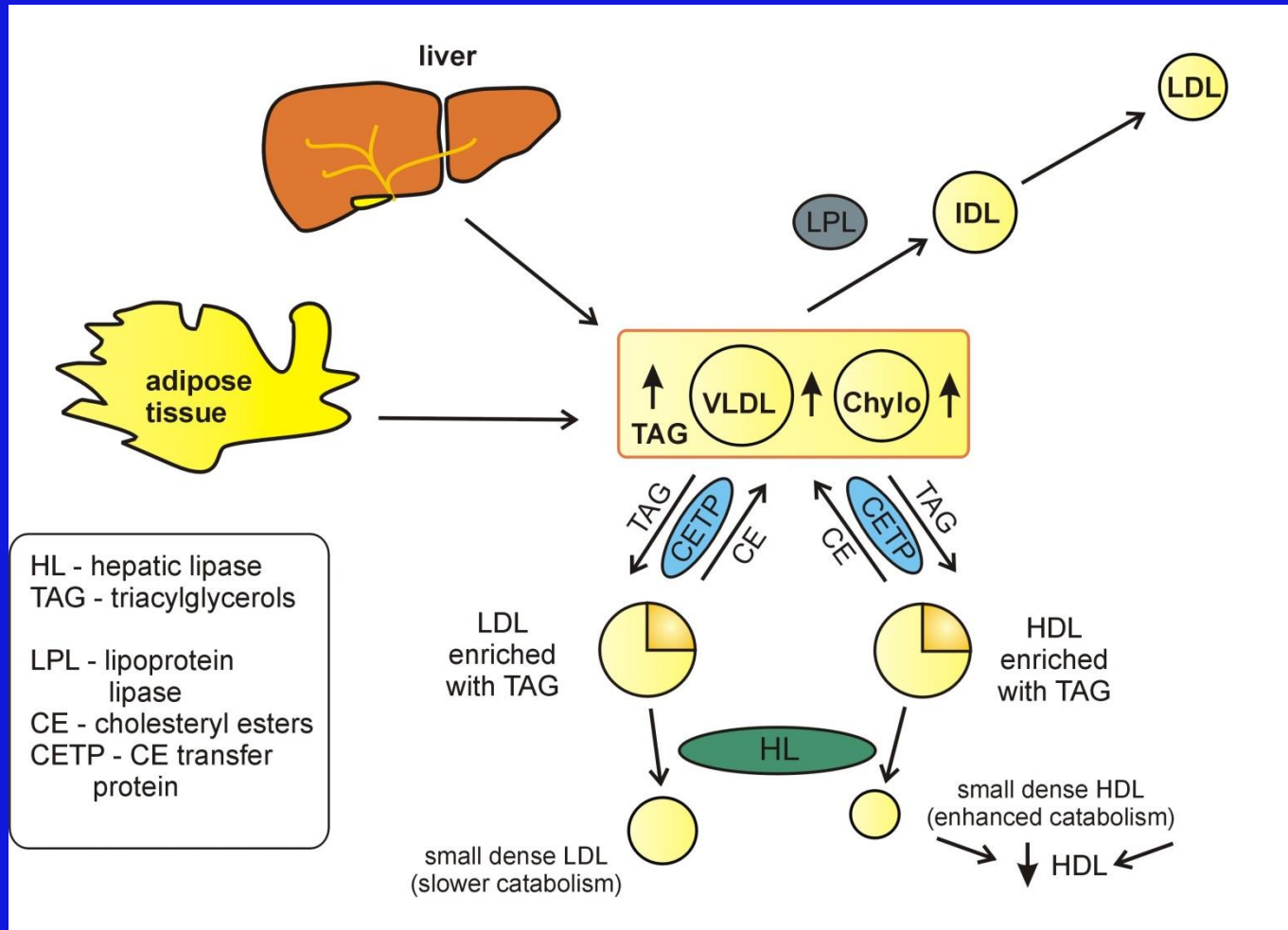
**Android obesity** - often with **ALP**

(oxidative stress, ↑ coagulability, chronic inflammation)

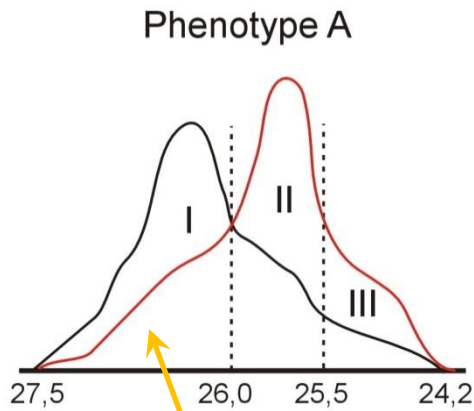
**atherogenic lipid phenotype (ALP)**

↑ TAG (VLDL) + ↓ HDL-C + ↑ sdLDL  
(↑ NEFA, ↑ LDL- apoC-III+)

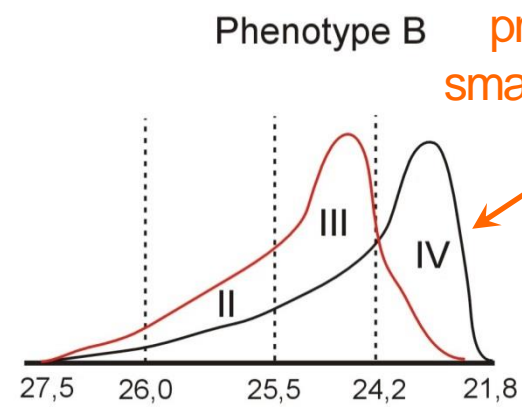
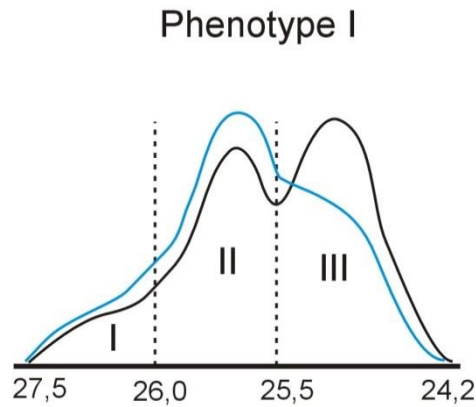
# Effect of higher concentrations of particles rich in triacylglycerols on LDL and HDL metabolism



# Phenotypes of LDL size



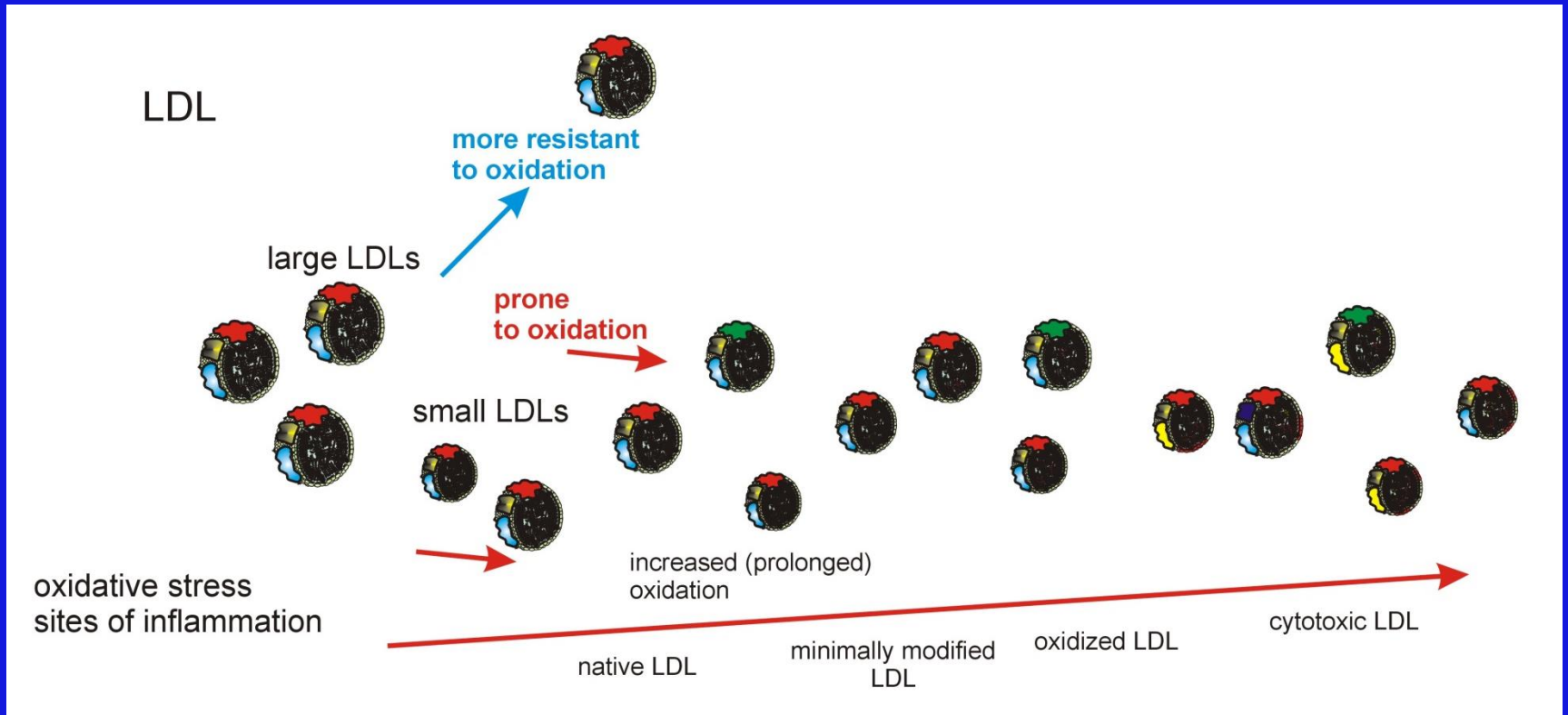
prevalence of large LDL particles



prevalence of small LDL particles

I,II,III,IV - designation of LDL subfractions  
number below x-axis indicates the size of LDL particle in nanometers

# Generation of oxidatively modified LDLs





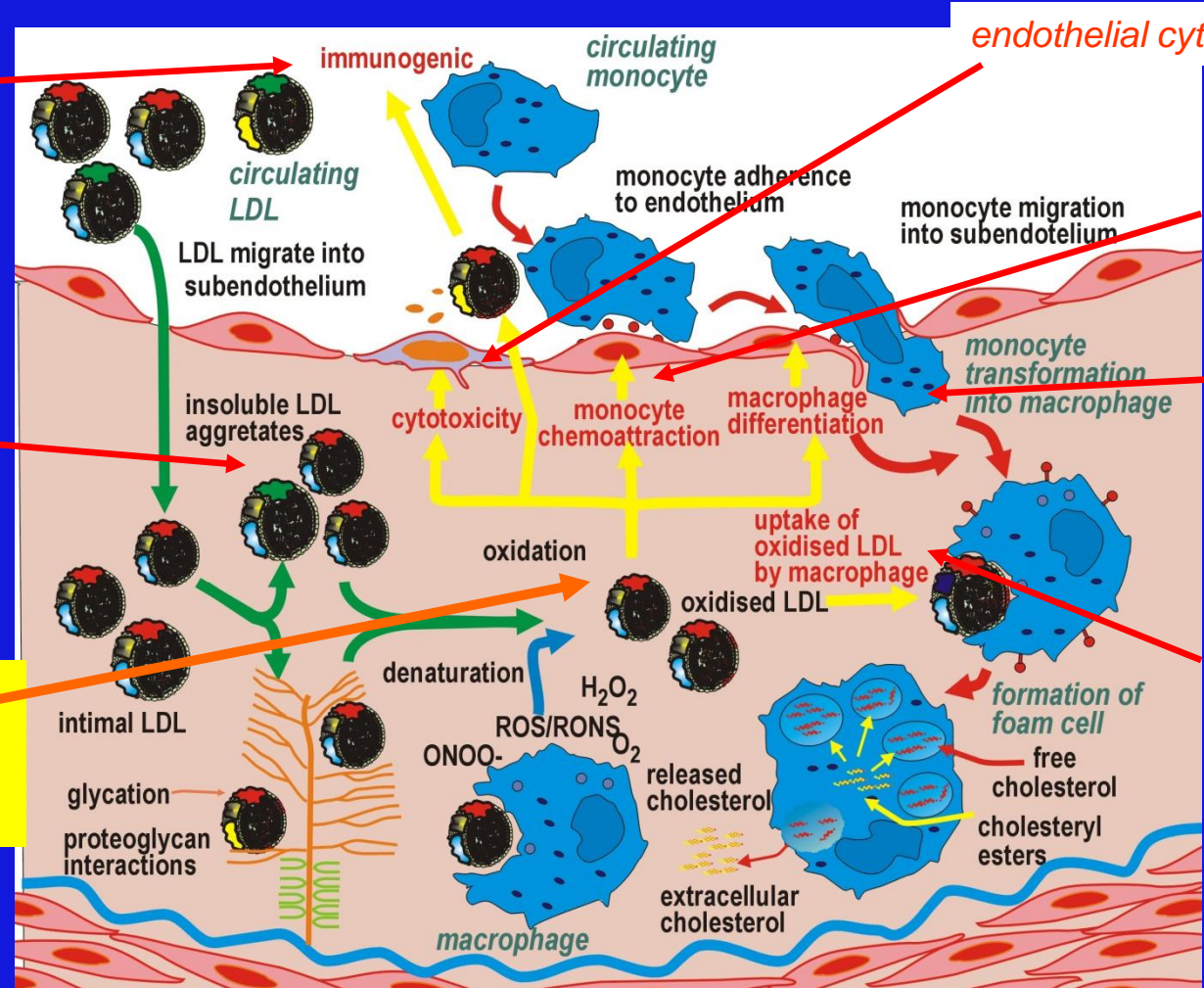
# Properties of oxidatively modified LDL

*immunogenicity*

*endothelial cytotoxicity*

*enhance retention of LP*

*oxidative modification of LP*



*monocyte chemoattraction*

*macrophage differentiation*

*catabolism via SR-BI*

# Mechanisms of antiatherogenic effect of HDLs

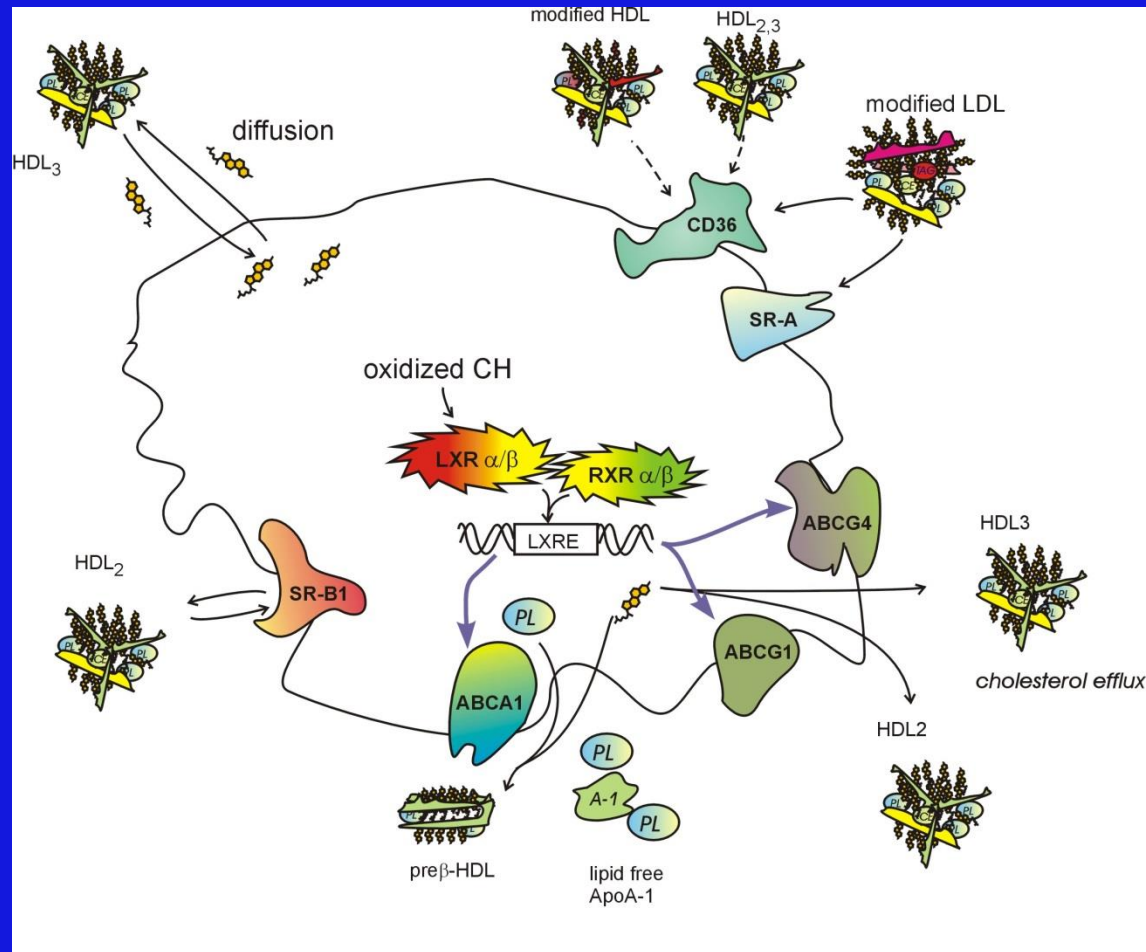
## I. Direct effects on lipoprotein metabolism

- reverse transport of CH to liver (*CH acceptor from cells*)
- ↑ catabolism (VLDL → IDL → LDL) (*TAG acceptor via CETP*)
- block transendothelial LDL transport (*closure of junctions*)
- VLDL, LDL protection to oxidation (*PON-1, PAFAH carrier*)
- oxLDL cytotoxicity inhibitor (*PON-1, PAFAH carrier*)

## II. Other effects

- anti- and dysaggregative effects on thrombocytes
- antiarrhythmic effects
- restoration of endothelial dysfunction
- inhibition of expression of cytoadhesive molecules

# Reverse cholesterol transport *sterol transport from macrophages*



# Risk factors of CVD for stratification of risk in primary prevention of CHD

## B. Modifiable risk factors

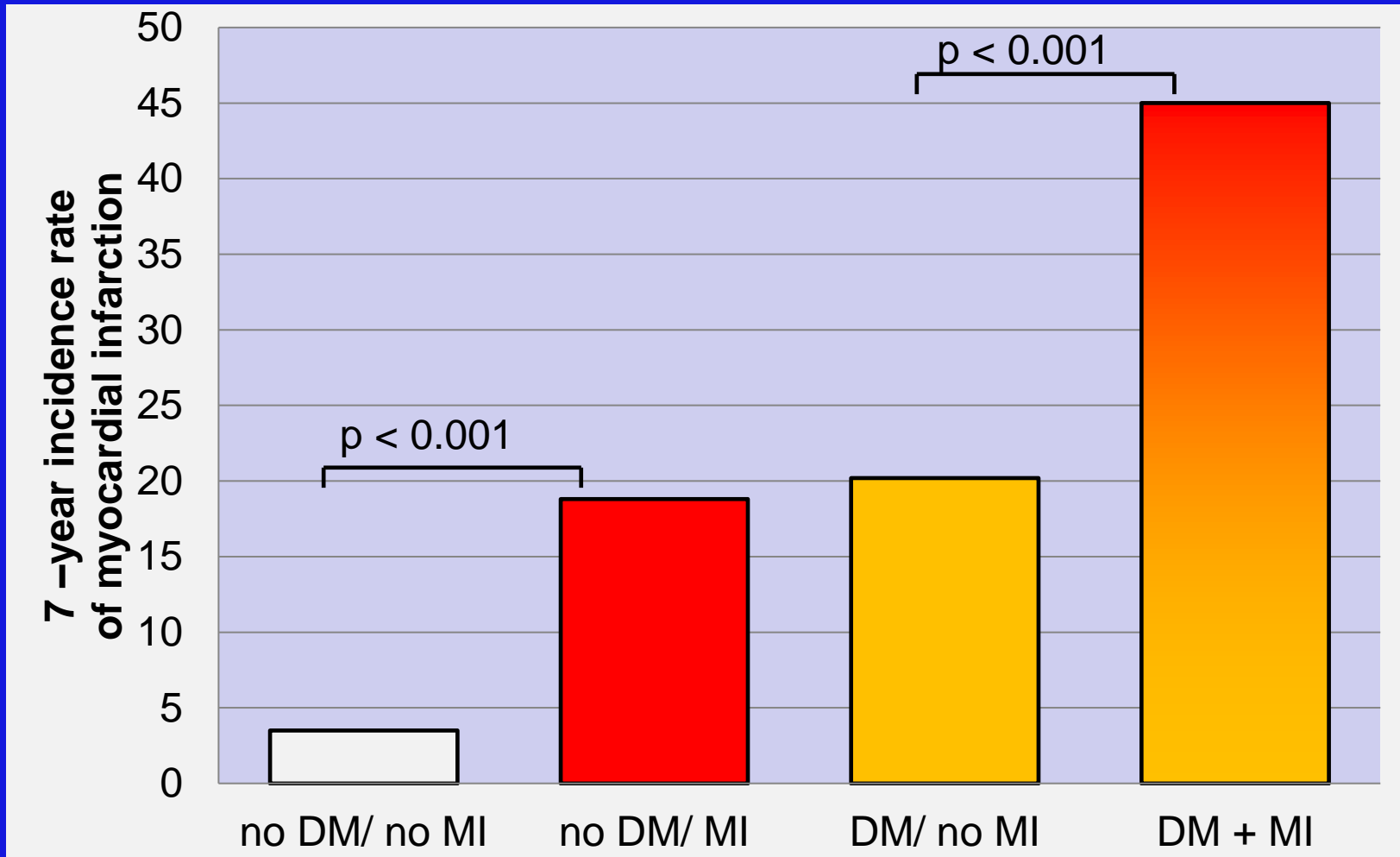
### Diabetes mellitus

considered as an equivalent of CHD, the presence of DM classifies the patient to the same risk group as those with already manifested atherosclerosis

an independent risk factor for CVD

increases CVD risk about two-fold

# Incidence of myocardial infarction in diabetics



# Risk factors of CVD for stratification of risk in primary prevention of CHD

## B. Modifiable risk factors

### Cigarette smoking

cigarette smoking in the last month

### Hypertension

BP > 140/90 mmHg, or antihypertensive medication

### Total plasma cholesterol

< 4.2 mmol/l – 4.2-6.1 mmol/l – > 6.2 mmol/l

ideal

f(age,SBP,gender)

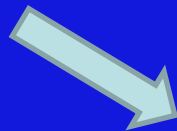
high

f(smoking,HDL-C)

# Risk factors of CVD for stratification of risk in primary prevention of CHD

## B. Modifiable risk factors

### Untreated LDL-levels desirable levels



### LDL-cholesterol target values

**< 3.0 mM**  
low risk

**< 2.6 mM**  
moderate risk

**< 1.8 mM**  
high risk

**< 1.4 mM**  
very high risk

### HDL-cholesterol

**< 1.0 mmol/l**  
low

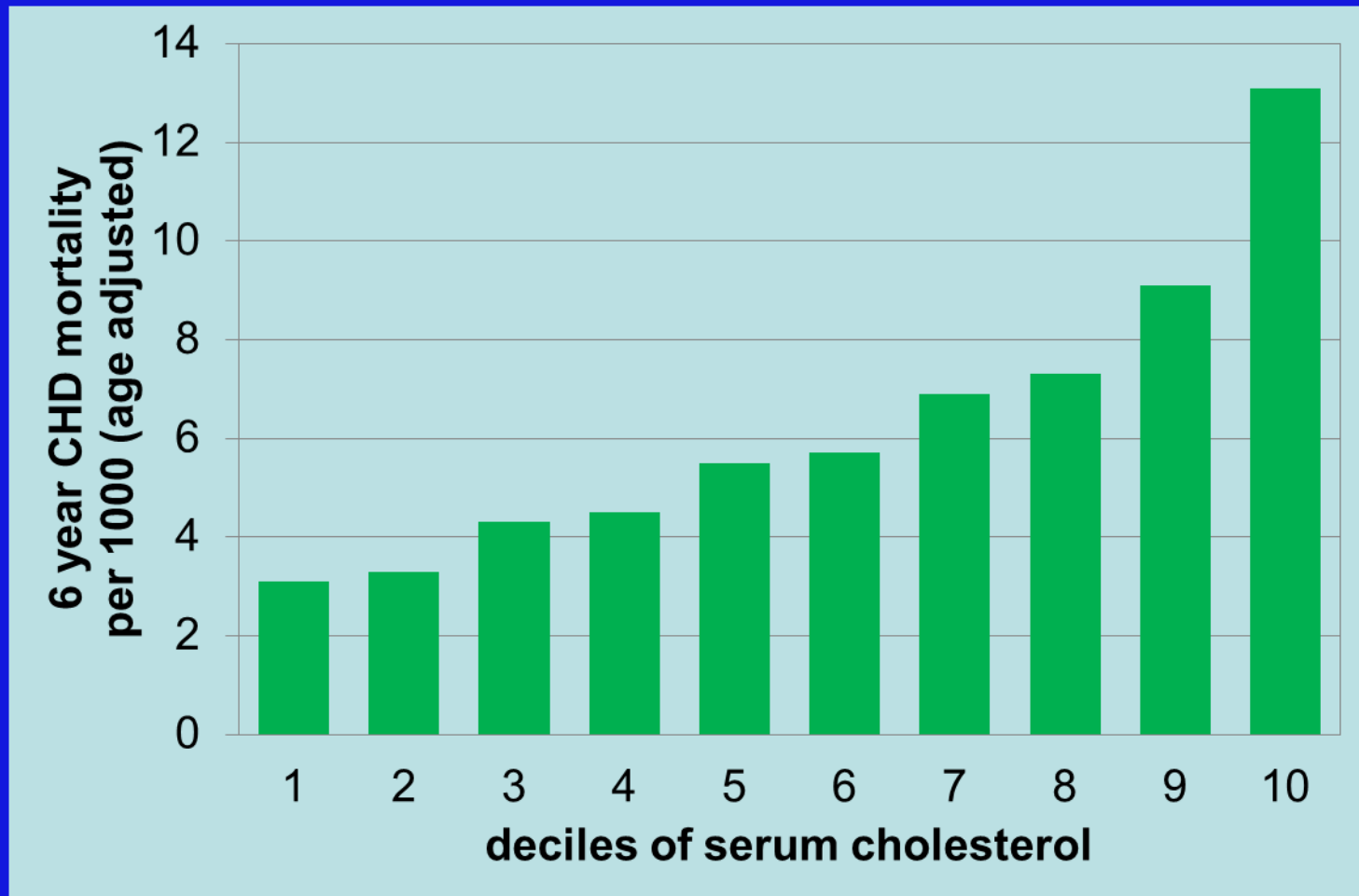
**1.0–1.6 mmol/l**  
normal

**> 1.6 mmol/l**  
„negative risk factor“

*subtracts 1 RF from risk calculation*

*ESC/EAS Guidelines, 2019*

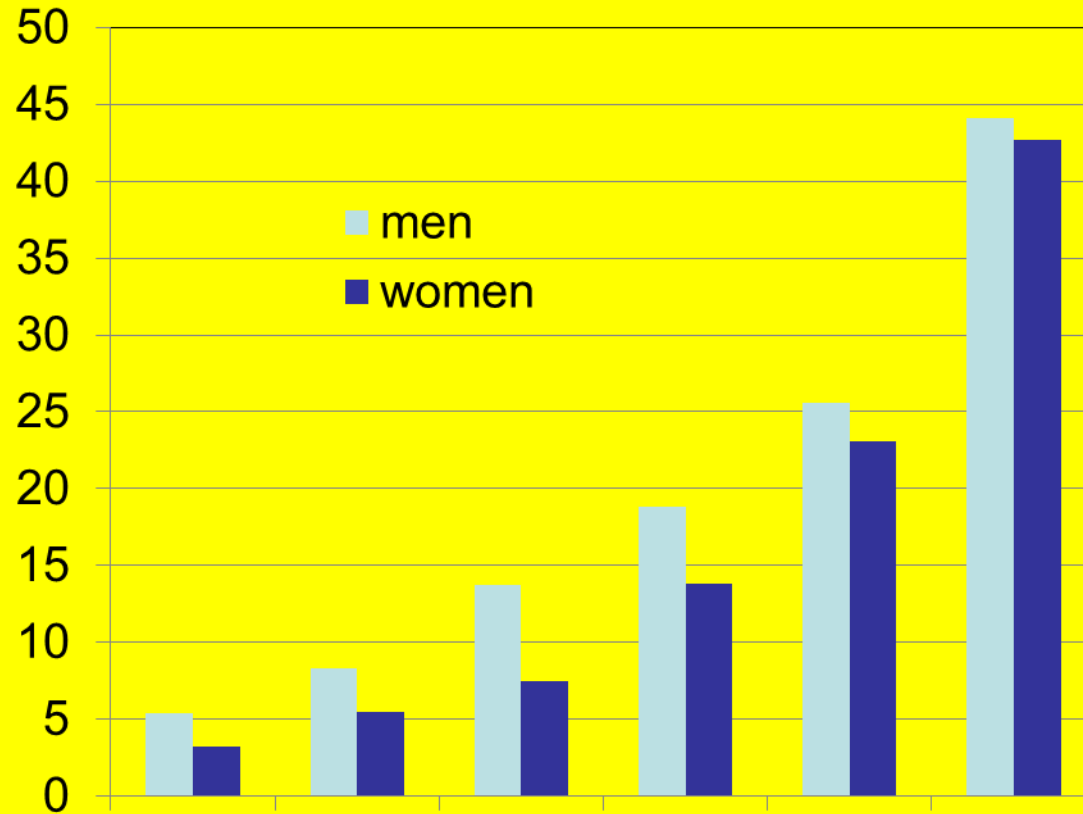
# Cholesterolemia and mortality





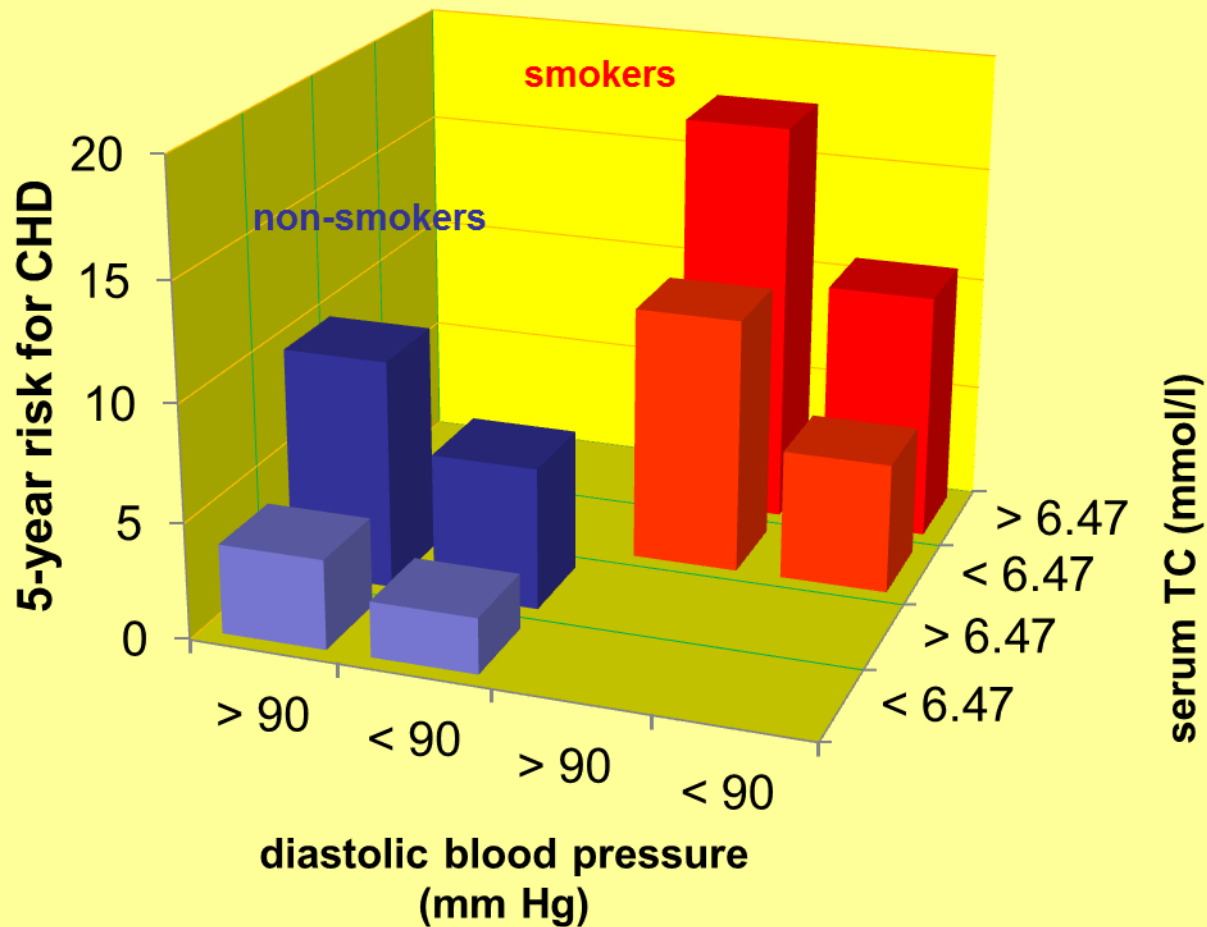
# Additive properties of risk factors

10-year  
probability (%)  
for probands  
aged 42-43 yrs



blood pressure 150-160 mmHg	+	+	+	+	+	+
HDL 0.83-0.90 mmol/l	-	+	+	+	+	+
TC 6.20-6.77 mmol/l	-	-	+	+	+	+
cigarette smoking	-	-	-	+	+	+
diabetes mellitus	-	-	-	-	+	+
left ventricular hypertrophy	-	-	-	-	-	+

# multiplicative effect of risk factors



# Other supposed risk factors for CHD

Lp[a]

chronic inflammation

(CRP, SAA) → HDL remodeling

mild hyperhomocysteinemia

states with hypercoagulation

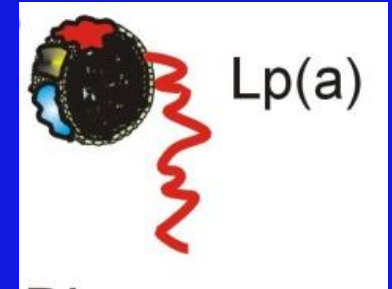
chronic infection

*Chlamydia pneumoniae*

CMV

HSV-1

# Lipoprotein(a)



## Lipoprotein particle resembling LDL

apo (a) attached to apo B-100 with S-S bond

- similar to plasminogen

## function of Lp(a)

not fully resolved

Lp(a) competes with plasminogen for fibrin binding sites

inhibits fibrinolysis *in vitro*

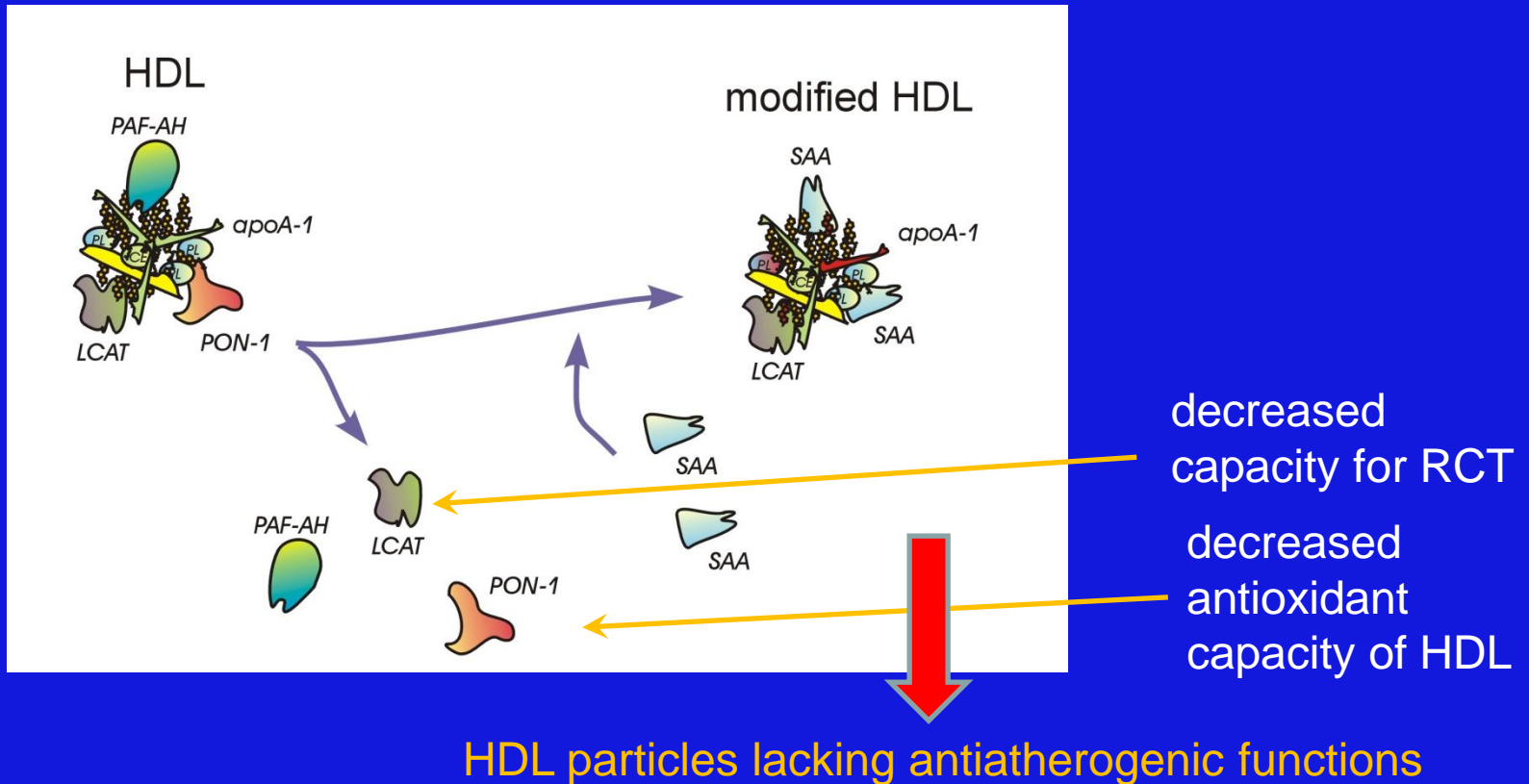
*carrier for oxPL in plasma?*

high Lp(a)  high risk for cardiovascular disease

# SAA and HDL remodeling

→ functionally defective HDL particles

acute phase response/inflammation



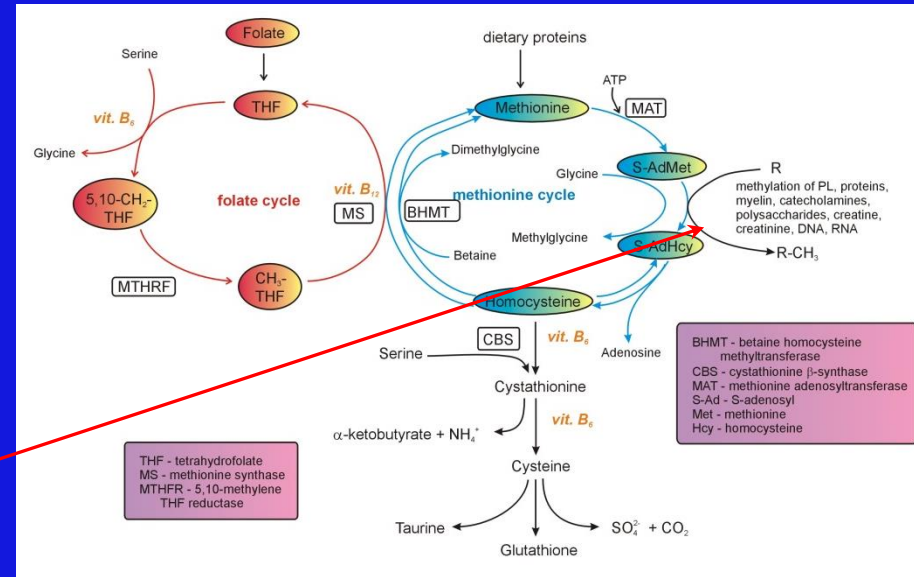
# Homocysteine

1. Hcy is noncoding amino acid  
 - has SH group → redox balance

↓  
 connection with oxidative stress

2. Hcy is linked to methylation events

↓  
 possible DNA methylation (gene expression)

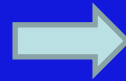


Mild hyperhomocysteinemia suggested as a risk factor for atherosclerosis  
 - controversial results of interventional studies  
 - important factor in those with DM + nephropathy, thrombosis

# Hypercoagulable states

= states with venous/arterial thrombosis

predisposition for thrombosis  
damaged vessel wall



easy thrombus formation

- a) mutations in factor V (Leiden), prothrombin
  - linked to higher risk of MI/CAD (in younger?)
- b) hyperhomocysteinemia (see previous slide)
- c) antiphospholipid syndrome/SLE
  - associated with CAD, stroke

# Cell types involved in atherogenesis:

- endothelial cells (EC)
- thrombocytes
- blood monocytes, macrophages (mo/ma)
- smooth muscle cells (SMC)
- T-lymphocytes



# Cell types involved in atherogenesis

## Endothelial cells (EC):

transendothelial transport of apoB LP: LDL, IDL, Lp(a)

*(inhibited by HDL)*

contraction of EC

catecholamines

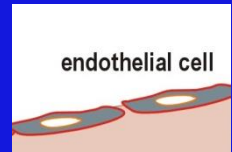
angiotensin, vasopresin

*vascular homeostasis*

relaxation of EC

Endothelium Derived Relaxing Factor

PGI<sub>2</sub> NO histamin



dyslipidemia + oxidative stress (ox-LDL, high Hcy, ...smoking)

physical factors: shear stress, hypertension



*endothelial dysfunction*

impaired vasodilatation (↓NO availability)

activated EC → ↑ synthesis of local mediators:

- cell adhesion molecules: CAM by Il-1, TNF $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  (T-cells, Mf)
- differentiating factors: MCP-1, MCSF-1 (oxLDL)
- adhesion molecules: ELAM (ox-LDL)

# Cell types involved in atherogenesis

## Thrombocytes:

- hypercholesterolemia → megakaryocyte ABCG4 ↑ → platelets ↑

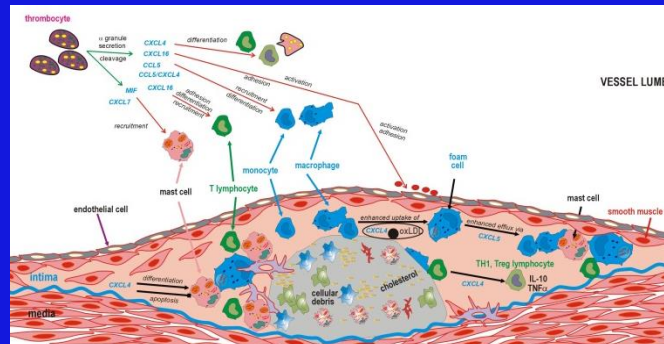
monocyte/macrophage

platelet activation by PAF, 12-HETE

secretion of TxA<sub>2</sub>, 5-HT  
*aggregation and degranulation*

releasing of growth factors for SMC – PDGF

many chemokines affecting monocytes/macrophages/T cells



# Cell types involved in atherogenesis

## Monocytes/macrophages:

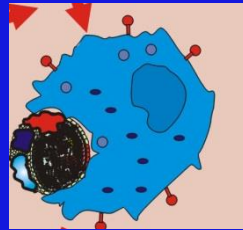


### *I. monocytes*

- can differentiate in macrophages (*via* MCP-1 etc.)

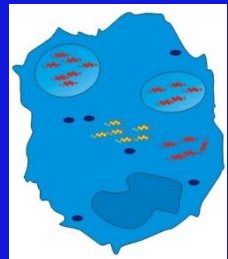
### *II. macrophages*

- express receptors for LP:  $\beta$ -VLDL receptor, Ac-LDL-receptor, B/E-receptor Fc-receptor (for complex Ab-LDL)
- synthesize PAF, II-1, II-6,  $\text{TNF}\gamma$ , MDGF
- ox-LDL causes expression of genes and synthesis of 15-LO, MCSF, MCP-1



### *III. foam cells*

- not able to migrate from the cell wall
- if the capacity for FC is exceeded  $\rightarrow$  disruption of lysosomes  $\rightarrow$  apoptosis  $\rightarrow$  cellular debris



# Cell types involved in atherogenesis

## Smooth muscle cells (SMC):

*phenotype switch:*

*atherogenic  
stimuli*

contractive



synthetic (active) type of SMC



migration from media



intima

proliferation and production of

glykosaminoglycans, collagen

elastin, growth factors, cytokines

## proliferation of SMC

### stimulation

PDGF 12-HETE

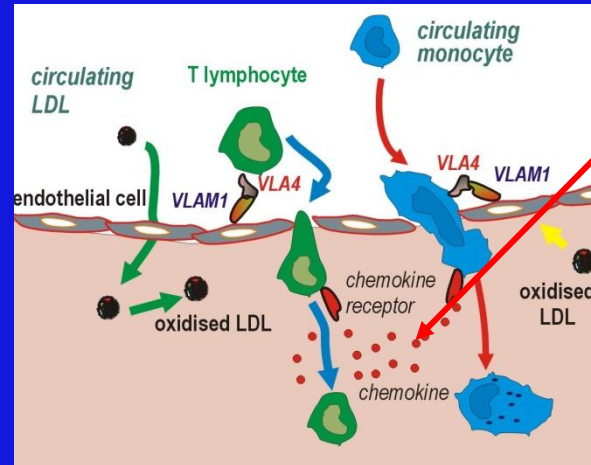
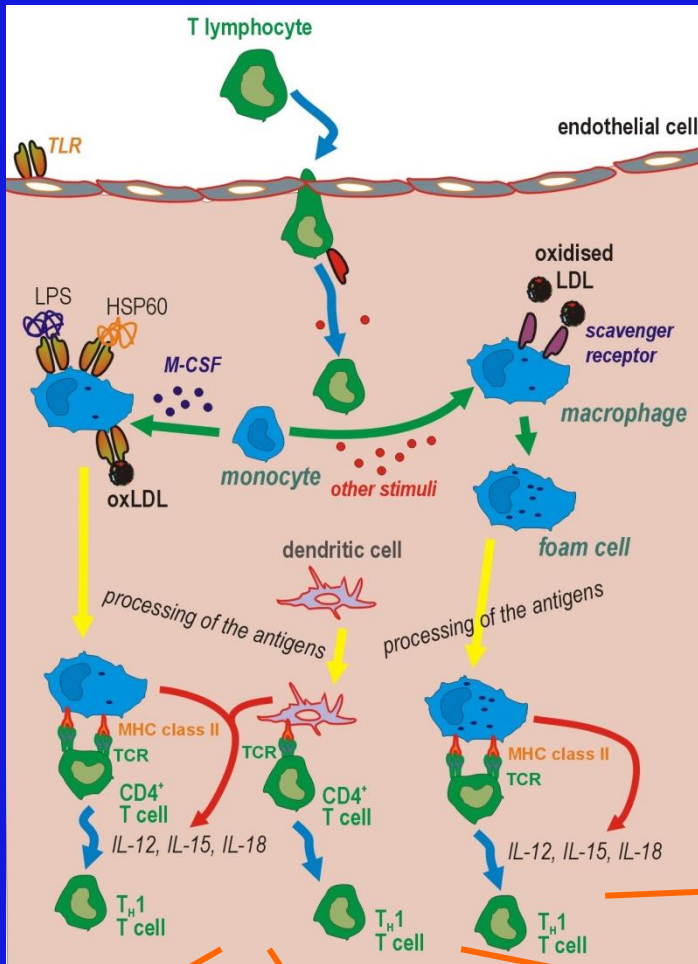
IGF-1

### inhibition

heparin NO

PGI<sub>2</sub> INF $\gamma$

# Mobilisation and activation of immune cells in atherosclerotic plate



migration of monocytes  
T cells into arterial tissue is  
supported by locally  
produced chemokines

proapoptotic factors

proteases

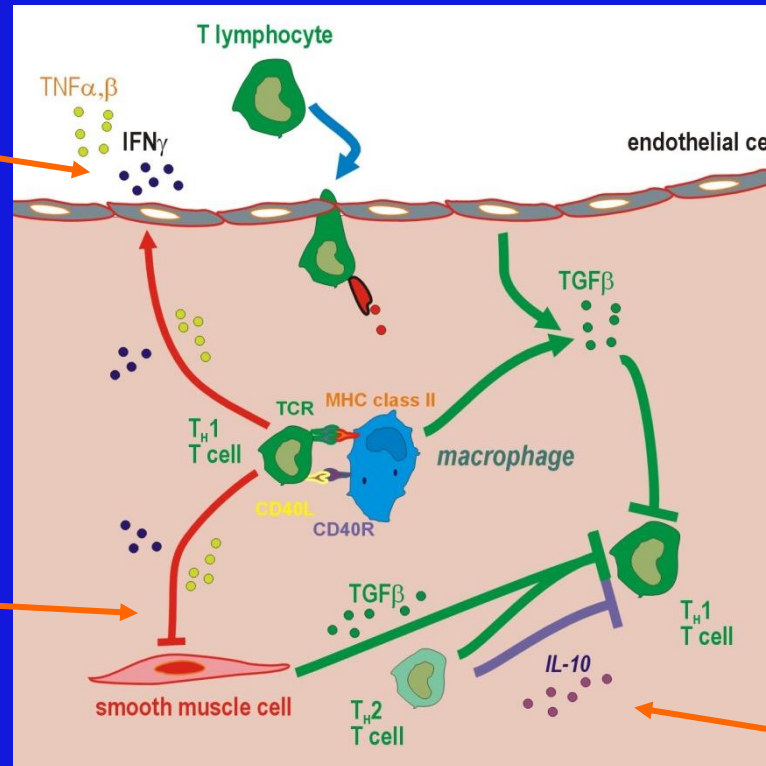
procoagulants

proinflammatory cytokines

# Mobilisation and activation of immune cells in atherosclerotic plate

IFN $\gamma$  and TNF $\alpha,\beta$  induce expression of CAM (cell adhesion molecule) in endothelial cells


IFN $\gamma$  inhibits proliferation of SMC



IL-10 and TGF $\beta$  attenuate inflammation

# Gender specificity of risk factors

## women vs. men:

estrogen rec  $\alpha/\beta$   vessel vasodilatation

same spectrum of risk factors for CAD, but worse for women in:

smoking: ( $\downarrow$  *E dep vasodilatation*)

central obesity: metabolic syndrome is more often in women

 diabetes: 50% higher risk in women for CHD

dyslipidemia: hyperTAG/low HDL-C - more detrimental for women

physical inactivity: relative risk for CHD higher 4.7% (vs. 3.4% in M)

## *Specific risk factors:*

1. menopause  overall worsening of risk profile

2. PCOS  obesity/metabolic syndrome

3. HRT  ??effect on CHD??

4. Preeclampsia  impaired endothelial function/vasodilatation

5. Oral contraceptives (low-dose/3<sup>rd</sup> generation)   $\sim\downarrow$ CHD risk

## Further reading

### Textbooks, monographs

*Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry (6<sup>th</sup> Ed)*; Nelson DL, Cox MM (Eds.), Susan Winslow, New York (U.S.A.) 2013

*Harper's Illustrated Biochemistry (28<sup>th</sup> Ed)*; Murray RK, Bender DA, Botham KM, Kennelly PJ, Rodwell VW, Weil PA (Eds.), McGraw-Hill, New York (U.S.A.) 2009

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Grundy SM, Cleeman JI, Bairey Merz CN, Brewer B, Clark LT, Hunninghake DB, Pasternak RC, Smith SC, Stone NJ for the Coordinating Committee of the National Cholesterol Education Program. Implications of recent clinical trials for the National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III guidelines. *Circulation* 2004; 110: 227-239.

Hegele RA: Plasma lipoproteins: genetic influences and clinical implications. *Nat Rev Genet* 2009; 10: 109-121

Hansson GK, Libby P: The immune response in atherosclerosis: a double-edged sword. *Nat Rev Immunol* 2006; 6: 508-519.

Hachem SB, Mooradian AD: Familial Dyslipidaemias: An Overview of Genetics, Pathophysiology and Management. *Drugs* 2006; 66: 1949-1969.

Verschuren WMM, Jacobs DR, Bloemberg BPM, Kromhout D, Menotti A, Aravanis C, Blackburn H, Buzina R, Dontas AS, Fidanza F, Karvonen MJ, Nedeljković S, Nissinen A, Toshima H: Serum Total Cholesterol and Long-term Coronary Heart Disease Mortality in Different Cultures Twenty-five—Year Follow-up of the Seven Countries Study. *JAMA* 1995; 274: 131-136.

Stamler J, Wentworth D, Neaton JD, for the MRFIT Research Group: Is relationship Between Serum Cholesterol and risk of Premature Death from Coronary Heart Disease Continuous and Graded? *JAMA* 1986; 256: 2823-2828.

### Web sources

<http://themedicalbiochemistrypage.org> - the Medical Biochemistry Page

<http://www.bioguo.org/CADgene/index.php>

<http://www.who.int/healthinfo/en> - WHO reports

<http://www.trialresultscenter.org> - resource for trials (e.g. for cardiology trials)