



# 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Holistic Analytical Methods for Systems Biology Studies

17-19 April 2016

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

## Exercise Metabonomics

Vassilis Mougios, PhD, FECSS

School of Physical Education and Sport Science

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

# Terms

- **Metabonomics:** the study of the metabolic responses of living systems to pathophysiological stimuli or genetic modification.
- **Exercise metabonomics:** the study of the metabolic responses to physical exercise.

# Terms

- **Exercise:** planned and structured bodily movement aiming at learning and improving one or more skills or improving and maintaining one or more capacities.
- **Physical activity:** any bodily movement produced by muscle activation and leading to energy expenditure.

# Exercise

- The most potent healthy modulator of metabolism.
- Numerous effects depending on exercise parameters and exerciser characteristics.

# Exercise Parameters

- Type (endurance, resistance, etc.)
- Intensity
- Duration
- Program (in intermittent exercise)
- Ambient temperature
- Altitude
- Partial pressure of oxygen
- Regularity

# Exerciser Characteristics

- Sex
- Age
- Dietary status (incl. supplementation)
- Training status
- Health status
- Medication
- Genetics

# Utility of Exercise Metabonomics

- Deepen understanding of animal metabolism.
- Discover biomarkers of exercise depending on exercise parameters and exerciser characteristics.
- Apply findings to improve sport performance.
- Apply findings to improve health and wellbeing.

# Designing an Exercise Metabonomics Study

```
graph TD; A[Designing an Exercise Metabonomics Study] --> B[Observation]; A --> C[Intervention];
```

## Observation

- The participants perform exercise on their own.
- The researchers compare different levels of physical activity.

## Intervention

- The researchers dictate the exercise to the participants.
- The researchers compare pre- to post-intervention.



# Observation Studies

```
graph TD; A[Observation Studies] --> B[Cross-sectional]; A --> C[Longitudinal];
```

## Cross-sectional

Participants are examined at a single point in time.

## Longitudinal

Participants are examined at least twice over a long period.

# Intervention Studies

```
graph TD; A[Intervention Studies] --> B[Acute]; A --> C[Long-term or chronic];
```

## Acute

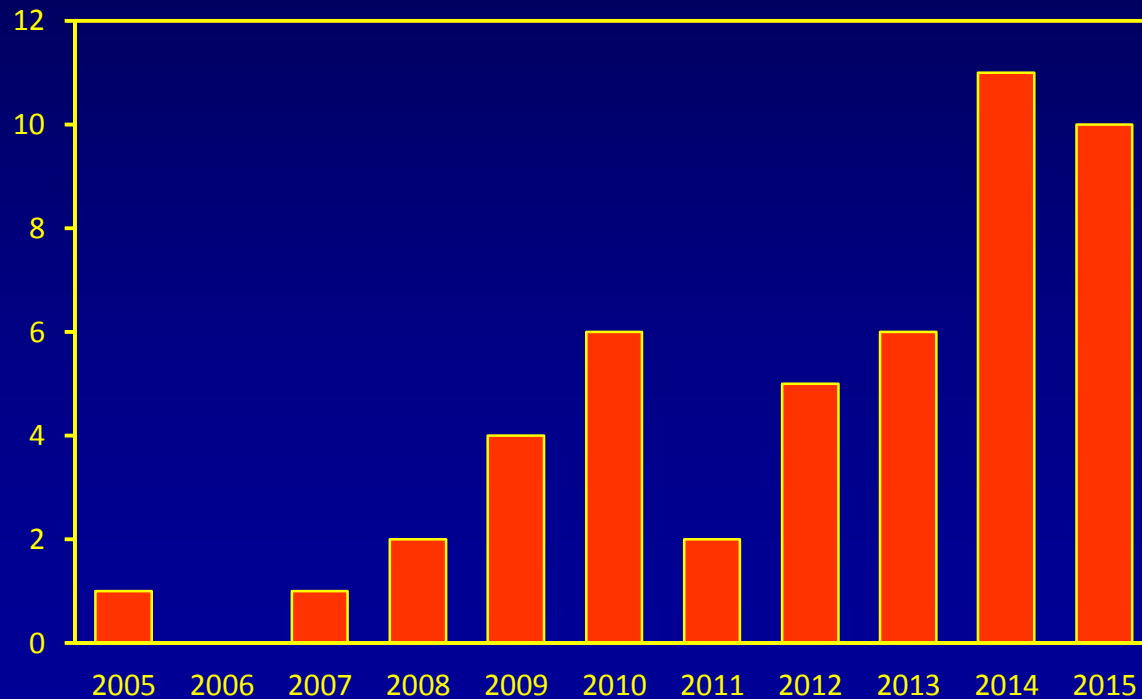
Participants perform one exercise session.

## Long-term or chronic

Participants perform many exercise sessions over a prolonged time period.

# Exercise Metabonomics Studies

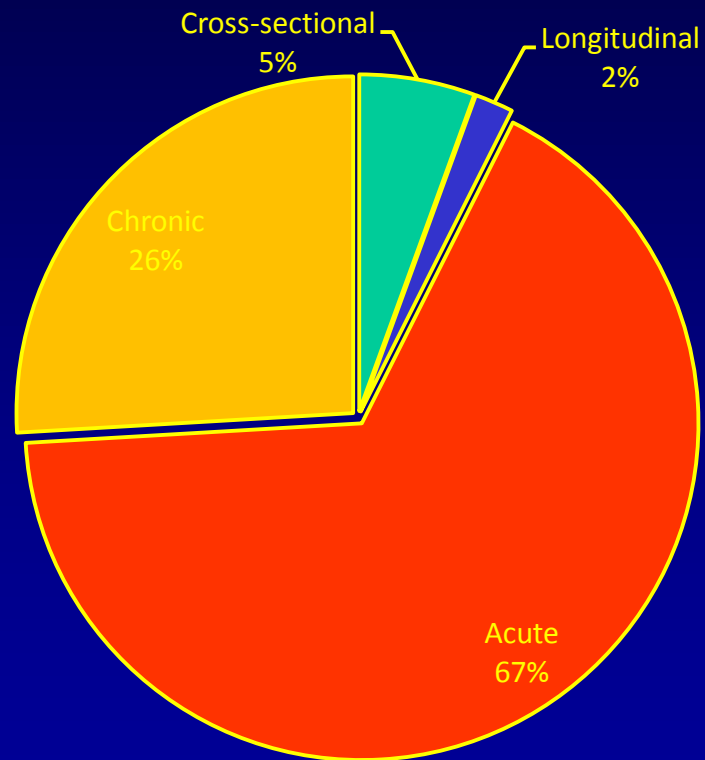
- 50 original studies since 2005



# Geographical Distribution



# Study Design



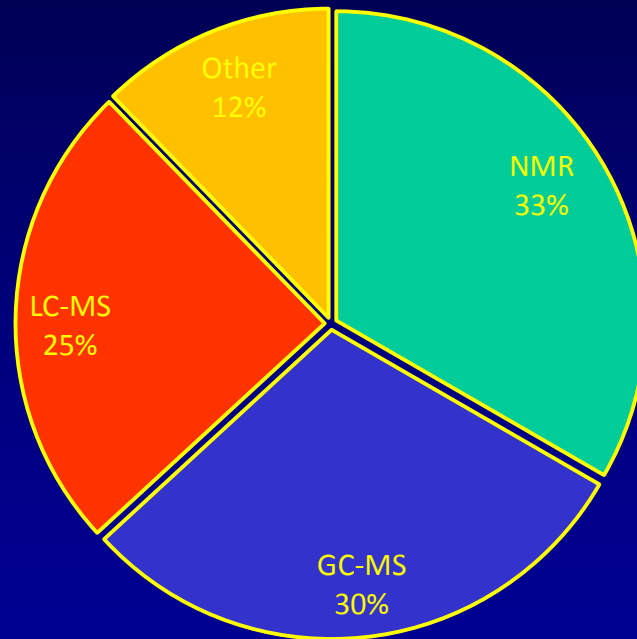
# Species

- Human, 45
- Mouse, 2
- Rat, 2
- Horse, 1

# Biological Matrix

- Blood, 37
- Urine, 14
- Muscle, 2
- Liver, 1
- Saliva, 1
- Exhaled air, 1

# Analytical Techniques Used

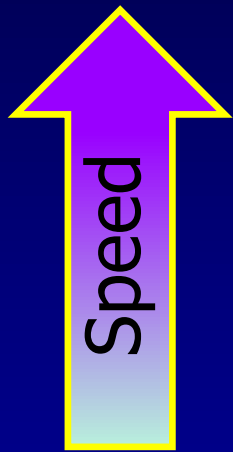




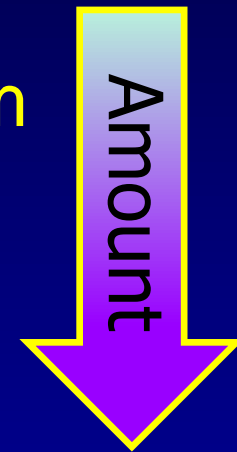
# Exercise Parameters

- Type (endurance, resistance, etc.)
- Intensity
- Duration
- Program (in intermittent exercise)
- Ambient temperature
- Altitude
- Partial pressure of oxygen
- Regularity

# Energy Systems in Exercise



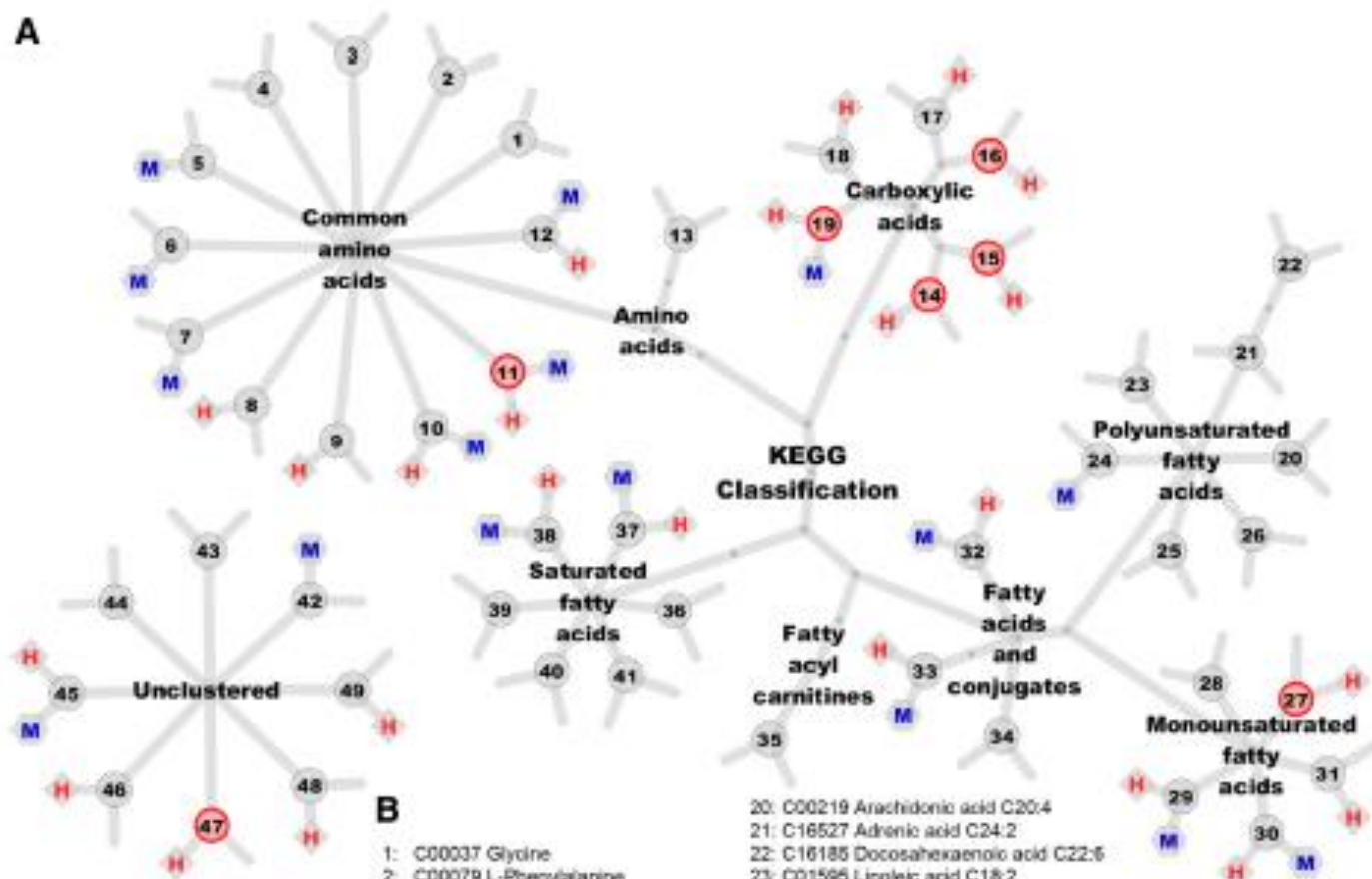
- The phosphocreatine system
- The lactate system
- The oxygen system



Peake et al., *Am J Physiol  
Endocrinol Metab* 307: E539, 2014

- Male athletes performed high-intensity interval exercise (HIIT) and continuous moderate-intensity exercise (MOD) of the same energy expenditure.
- Metabolites were measured in plasma, pre- and post-exercise, by GC-MS-based metabolomics.
- HIIT causes a greater metabolic perturbation.

A



B

- 1: C00037 Glycine
- 2: C00079 L-Phenylalanine
- 3: C00097 L-Cysteine
- 4: C00188 L-Threonine
- 5: C00148 L-Proline
- 6: C00123 L-Leucine
- 7: C00183 L-Valine
- 8: C00064 L-Glutamine
- 9: C00082 L-Tyrosine
- 10: C00073 L-Methionine
- 11: C00041 L-Alanine
- 12: C00407 L-Isoleucine
- 13: C00077 Ornithine
- 14: C00233 4-methyl-2-oxopentanoic acid
- 15: C00671 3-methyl-2-oxopentanoic acid
- 16: C00417 cis-Aconitic acid
- 17: C00158 Citric acid
- 18: C00383 Malonic acid
- 19: C00042 Succinic acid
- 20: C00219 Arachidonic acid C20:4
- 21: C16527 Adrenic acid C24:2
- 22: C16185 Docosahexaenoic acid C22:6
- 23: C01595 Linoleic acid C18:2
- 24: C06428 Gamma-Linolenic acid C18:3
- 25: C06428 Eicosapentaenoic acid C22:5
- 26: C03242 Bis-homo-gamma-linolenic acid C20:3
- 27: C08322 Myristoleic acid C14:1
- 28: C08367 Vaccenic acid C18:1
- 29: C16536 9E-Heptadecenoic acid C17:1
- 30: C08362 Palmitoleic acid C16:1
- 31: C00712 Oleic acid C18:1
- 32: C06984 2-Hydroxybutyric acid
- 33: C01571 Decanoic acid C10:0
- 34: C06261 Azelaic acid C9:0
- 35: C02938 Octanoic acid C8:0
- 36: C06425 Arachidic acid C20:0
- 37: C06424 Myristic acid C14:0
- 38: C02679 Dodecanoic acid C12:0
- 39: C00249 Palmitic acid C16:0
- 40: No KEGG Margaric acid C17:0
- 41: C01530 Stearic acid C18:0
- 42: C00791 Creatinine
- 43: C06746 Quinic acid
- 44: C07846 Phenylacetic acid
- 45: C00180 Benzoic acid
- 46: C07481 Caffeine
- 47: C00186 L-Lactic acid
- 48: C02226 Citraconic acid
- 49: C00490 Itaconic acid

C



■ High (24)  
■ Moderate (16)



# Effect of **Exercise Program** on the Selection of Energy Sources

- When exercise is not performed at a steady pace, the duration and intensity of its different parts affect the selection of energy sources.
- In general, low-intensity or rest periods are used to replenish energy sources used during high-intensity periods.
- Duration of the former may affect the selection of energy sources in the latter.

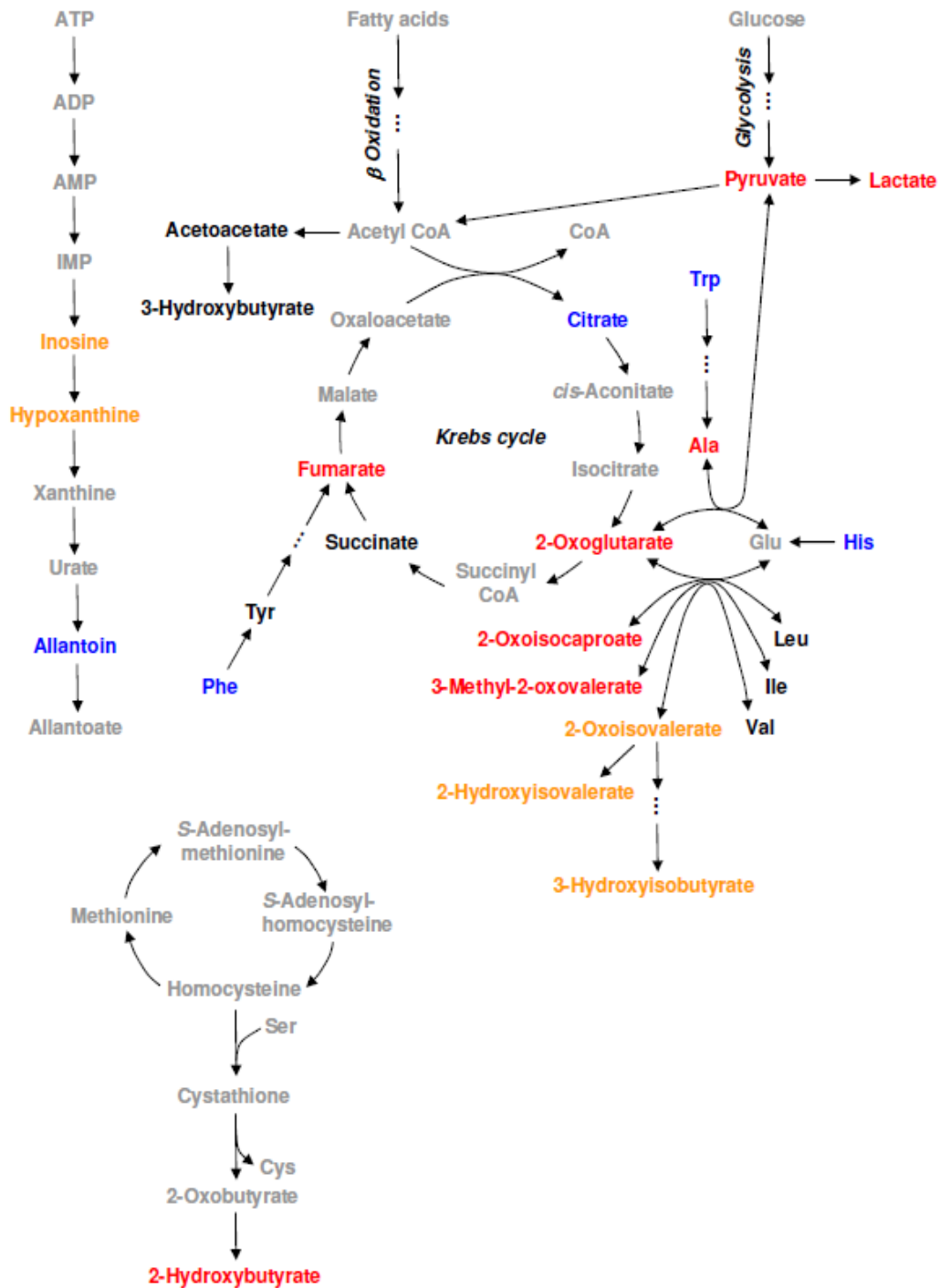
Pechlivanis et al., *J Proteome Res*  
9: 6405, 2010

- Young men performed three sets of two 80-m sprint runs separated by 20 min.
- The two runs in each set were separated by either 10 s (“short interval”) or 1 min (“long interval”).
- Metabolites were measured in urine pre- and post-exercise by  $^1\text{NMR}$ -based metabolomics.

# Findings

- The levels of 22 metabolites changed with exercise.
- The short interval resulted in higher levels of lactate, pyruvate, alanine, compounds of the Krebs cycle, and 2-oxoacids of branched-chain amino acids compared to the long interval.





# Findings

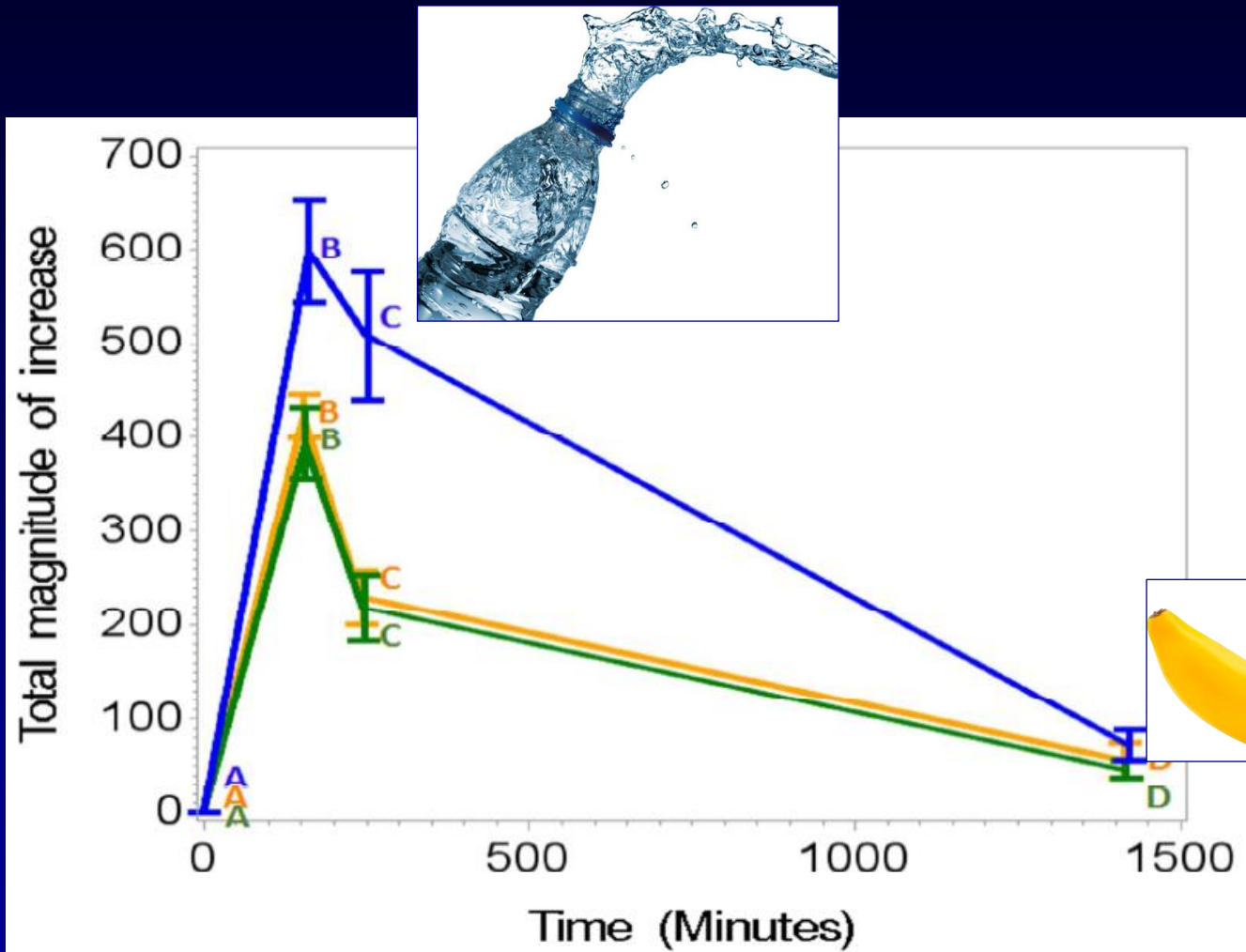
- Greater activation of glycolysis after the short *vs* long interval due to limited resynthesis of phosphocreatine.
- Greater metabolic perturbation with the short interval.
- Differentiation of the urinary metabolome not only by exercise but by the duration of the interval between repeated bouts.

# Exerciser Characteristics

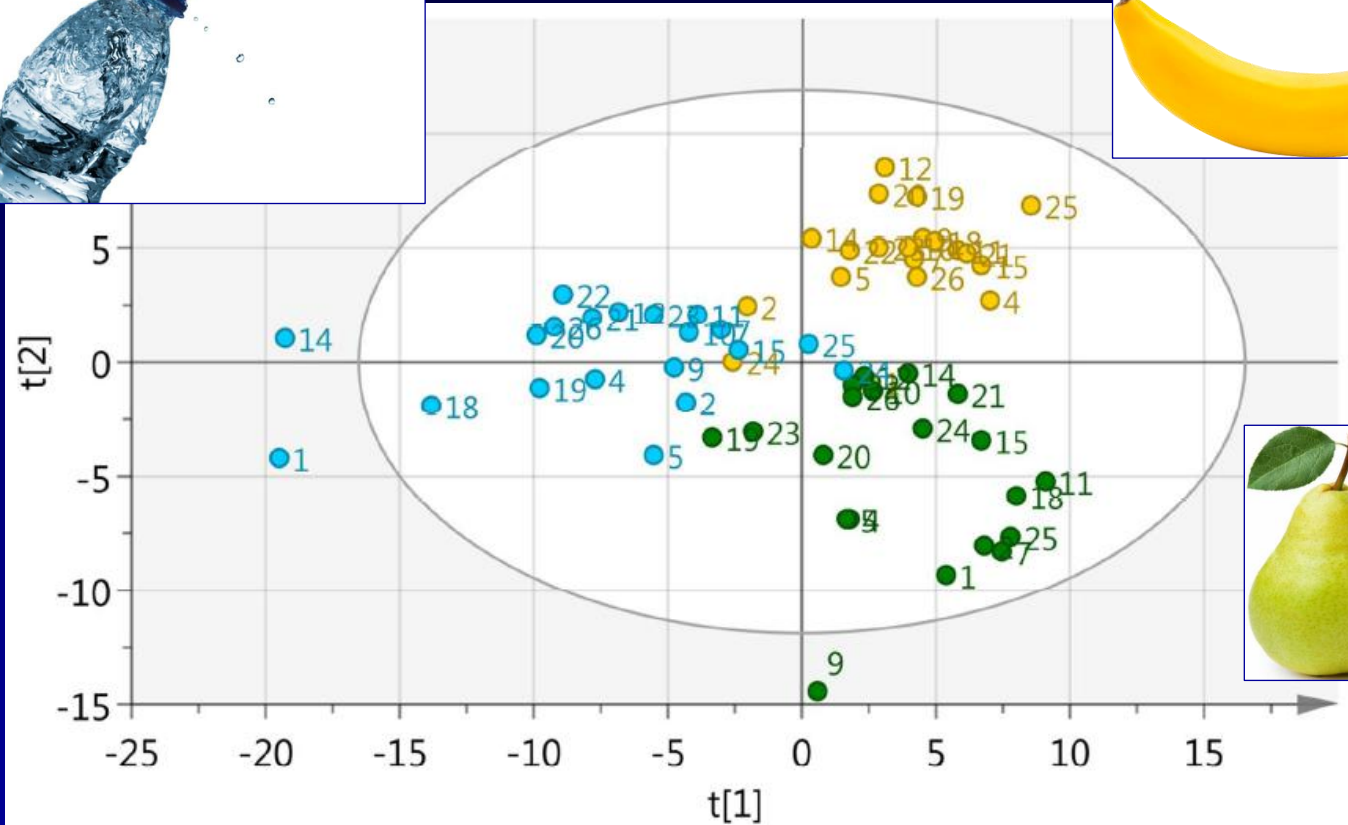
- Sex
- Age
- Dietary status (incl. supplementation)
- Training status
- Health status
- Medication
- Genetics

Nieman et al., *J Proteome Res*  
14: 5367, 2015

- Male athletes cycled for 75 km while consuming water, bananas, or pears.
- Metabolites were measured in plasma pre-, immediately post-, 1.5 h post-, and 21 h post-exercise by UPLC-MS/MS-based metabolomics.
- 107 metabolites (primarily lipid-related) increased more than 2-fold during water consumption, with a  $\cong$  50% reduction in magnitude during banana and pear recovery.



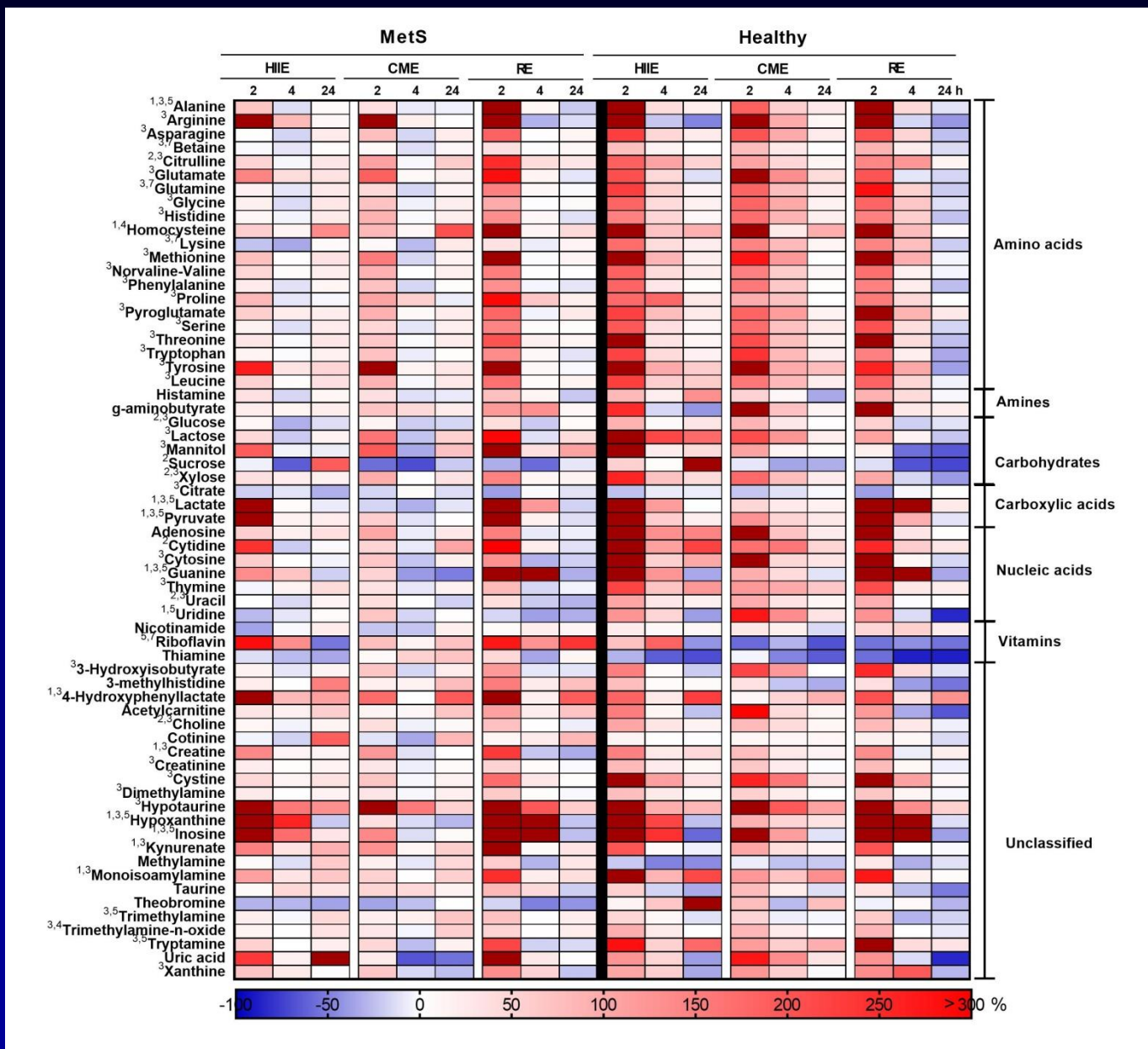
Sum of fold increase of metabolites that increased more than 2-fold post-exercise



PLS-DA score plots

## Siopi et al., unpublished

- Middle-aged sedentary men with and without signs of the metabolic syndrome (MetS) performed resistance exercise (RE), high-intensity interval exercise (HIIE), and continuous moderate-intensity exercise (CME) in addition to a rest condition.
- Metabolites were measured in urine pre-exercise (0 h) and at 2, 4 and 24 h by UPLC-MS/MS-based metabolomics.





# Conclusions

- Exercise metabonomics affords a holistic view of the effect of exercise on animal (including human) metabolism.
- Small differences in exercise parameters or exerciser characteristics can cause measurable differences in the metabolic fingerprint.
- Unexpected effects and candidate biomarkers are discovered, calling for further investigation.

# Conclusions (cont'd)

- Exercise metabonomics can be used to locate metabolic disorders of clinical interest.
- Exercise metabonomics may be added to the diagnostic arsenal and identify new targets for therapeutic intervention.