

Role of Respiratory Infections in Childhood Asthma

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Genetic Factor

Atopy
(Immune Dysregulation)
(Innate immunity)
(Interferons)

Environmental Factors

Viral LRIs
(RV and RSV)

Developmental Component

PERSISTENT WHEEZING

ASTHMA



C O A S T

C h i l d h o o d

O r i g i n s o f

A S T h m a

COAST

Childhood Origins of ASThma

A prospective study in a high risk cohort designed to evaluate the interactions among age, patterns of immune dysfunction, and virus infections with respect to the subsequent development of asthma and allergic diseases

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Kathy Roberg, RN, MS

Funded by the NHLBI

Research Design and Methods

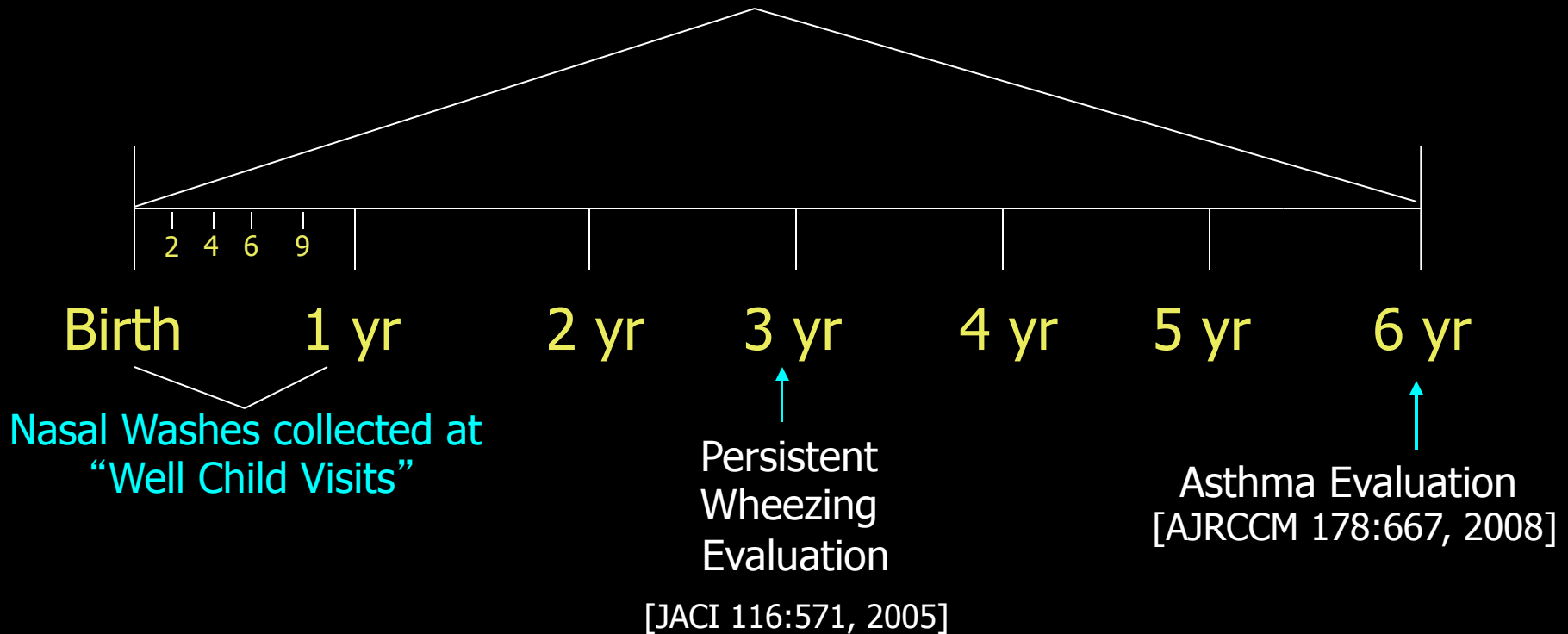


- Target enrollment: 300 families
- At least one parent with allergies or asthma
- Prospective (developmental) evaluation of
 - Immune system
 - Child (annually from birth) and parent
 - Cytokine response profiles; antigen-specific IgE
 - Respiratory infections (nasal aspirates)
 - Wheezing phenotypes (questionnaires)
 - Airway physiological evaluation (ages 4-7 yrs)
 - Impulse oscillometry, spirometry, eNO, meth. challenge
 - Environmental evaluation (diet, allergens, pets)
 - Genotype evaluation
- Minimum 12-14 year follow-up



COAST Evaluations

Nasal lavage specimens collected at symptomatic illnesses



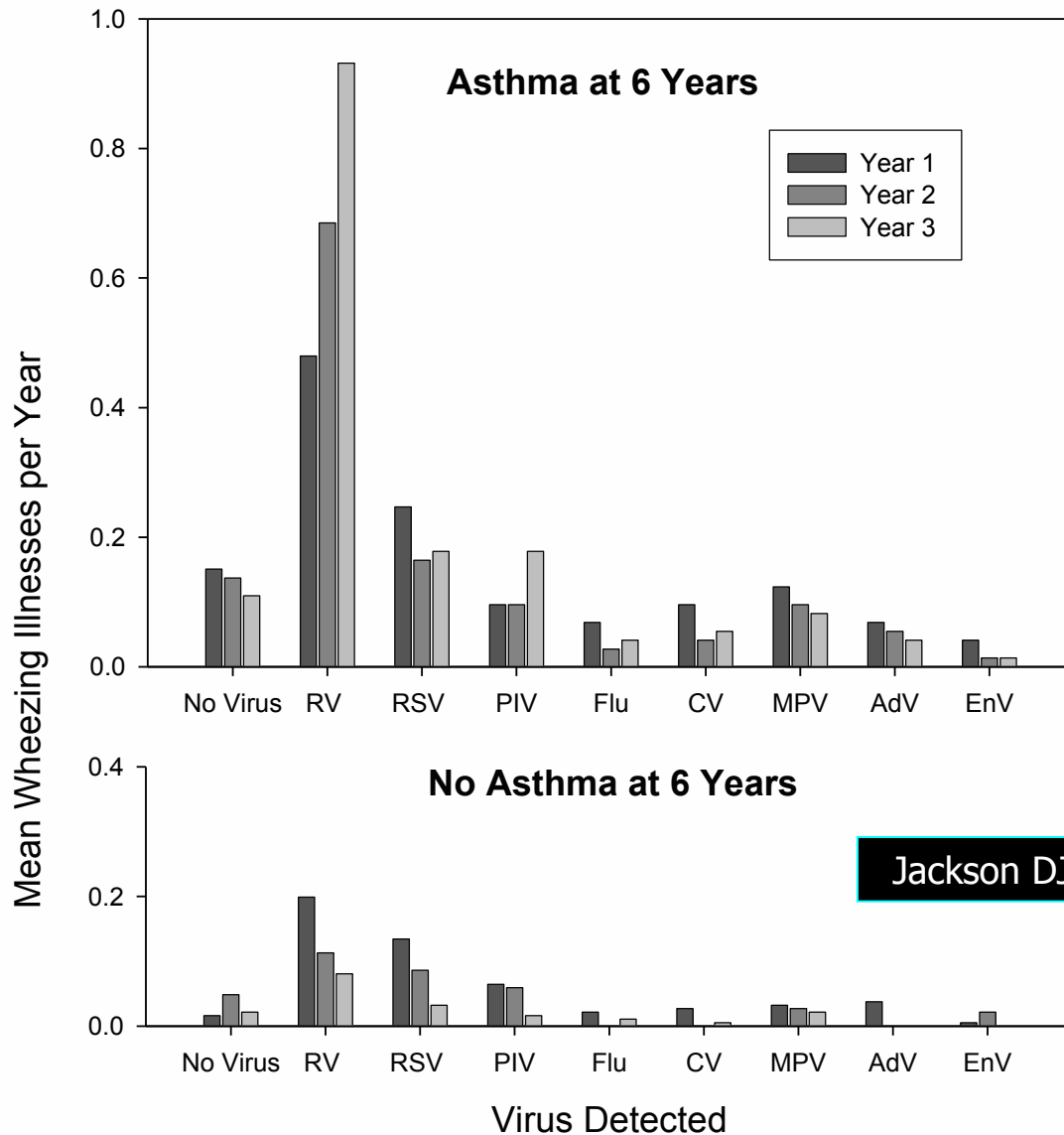
Timing, severity & etiology of respiratory illnesses determined throughout childhood

**What viral infections
in early life are
associated with the
development of
asthma at age 6
years?**

Etiology of Wheezing Illnesses in Early Childhood



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RV Rhinovirus
 RSV Respiratory syncytial virus
 PIV Parainfluenza
 Flu Influenza
 CV Coronavirus
 MPV Metapneumovirus
 AdV Adenovirus
 EnV Enterovirus

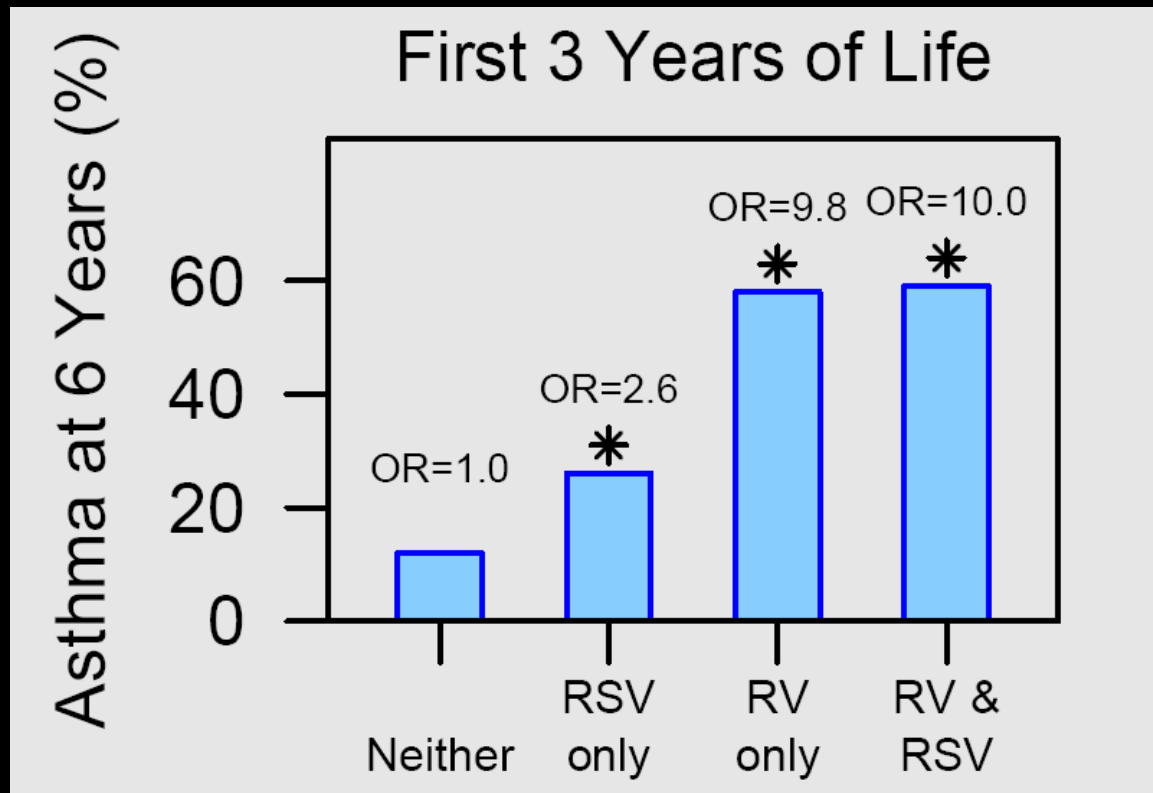
Jackson DJ et al. AJRCCM, 178:667, 2008

**Did RV or RSV
wheezing illnesses
during years 1-3
impact the risk of
asthma at age 6?**

RV Wheezing vs. RSV Wheezing in First 3 Years and Asthma at Age 6 Years



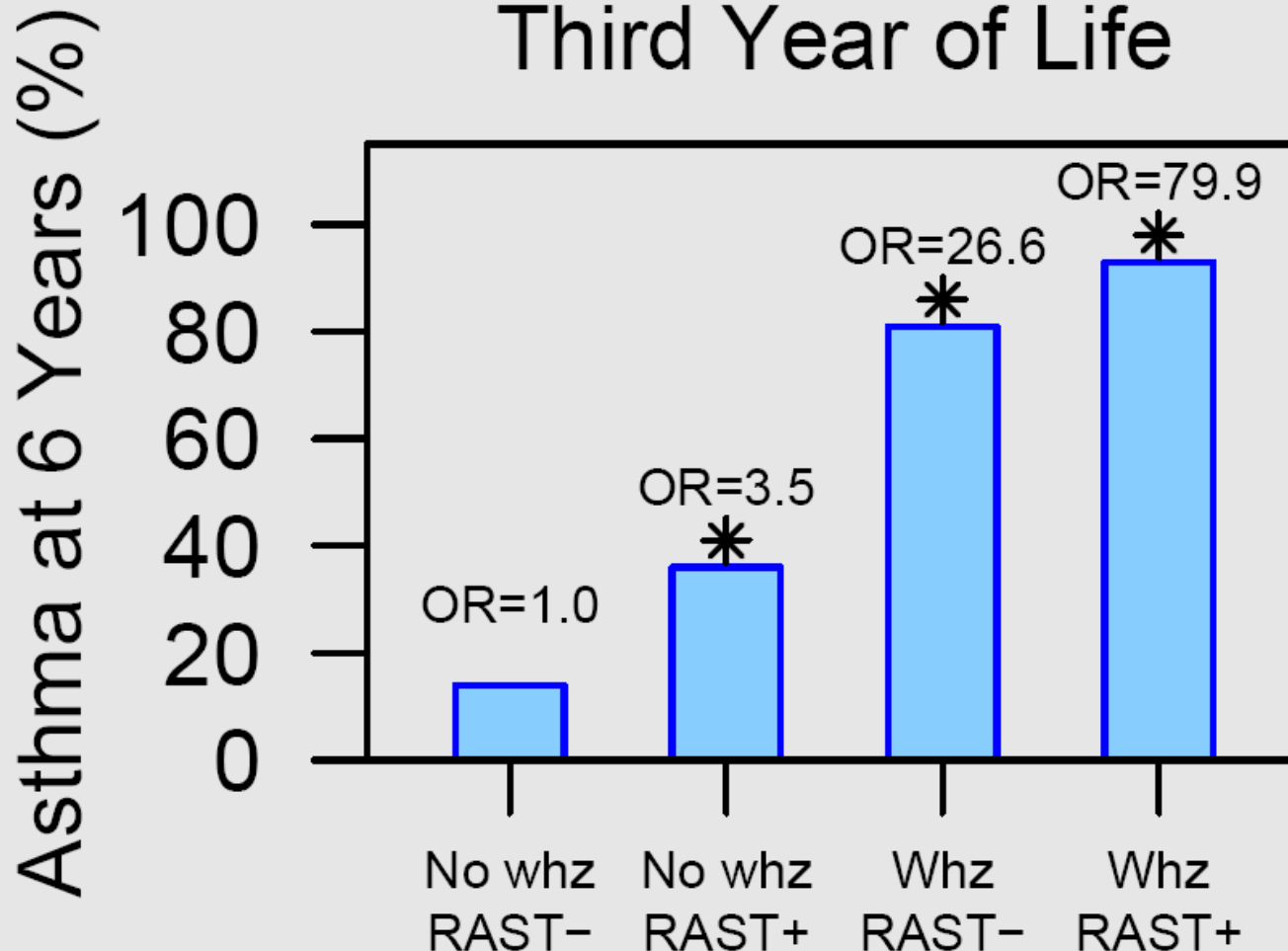
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RV Wheezing & Allergic Sensitization in Year 3 and Asthma at Age 6 Years



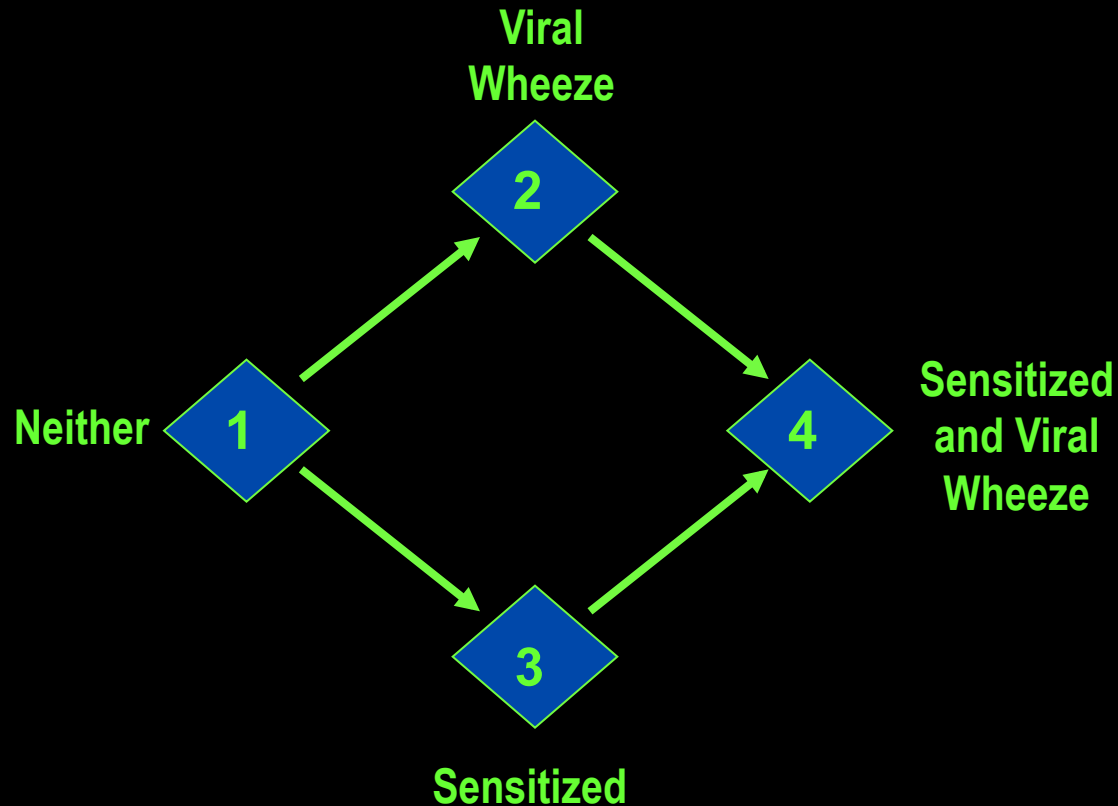
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Childhood
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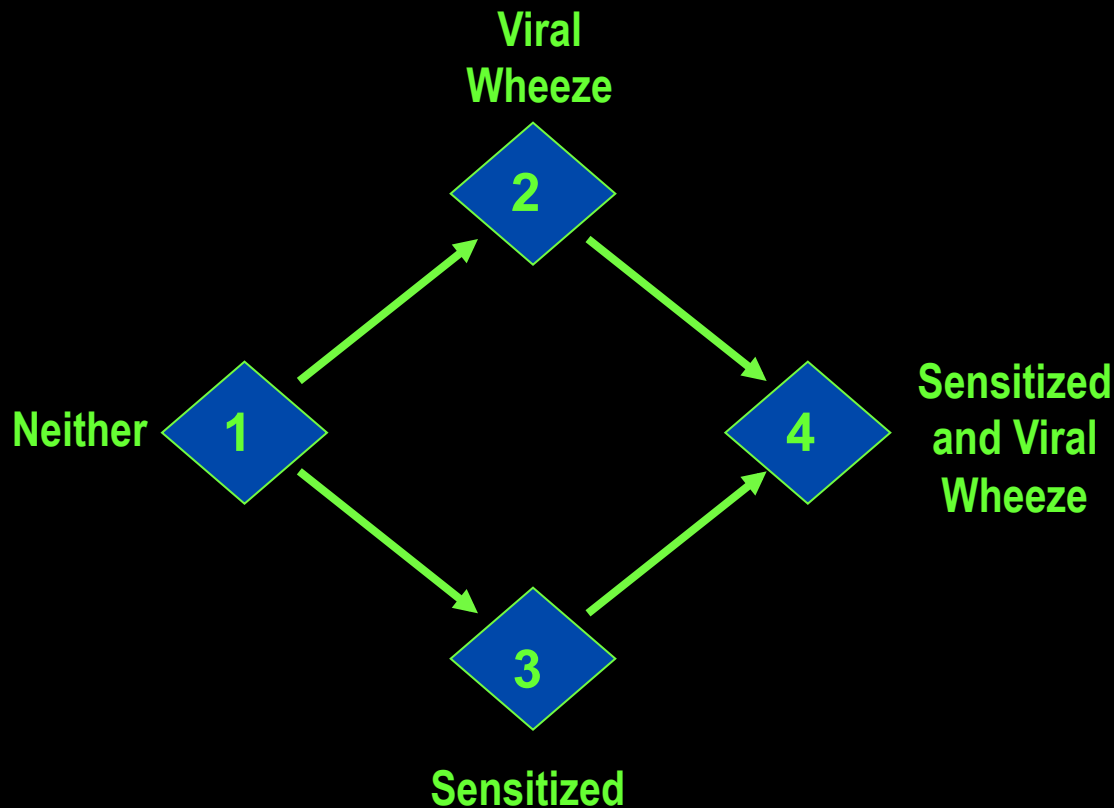
**Which comes
first?**

**Allergic
sensitization or
wheezing
illnesses?**

Does sensitization lead to viral wheezing, or does viral wheezing lead to sensitization?



Does sensitization lead to viral wheezing, or does viral wheezing lead to sensitization?



If viral wheeze causes sensitization:

$$2 \rightarrow 4 > 1 \rightarrow 3$$

If sensitization causes viral wheeze:

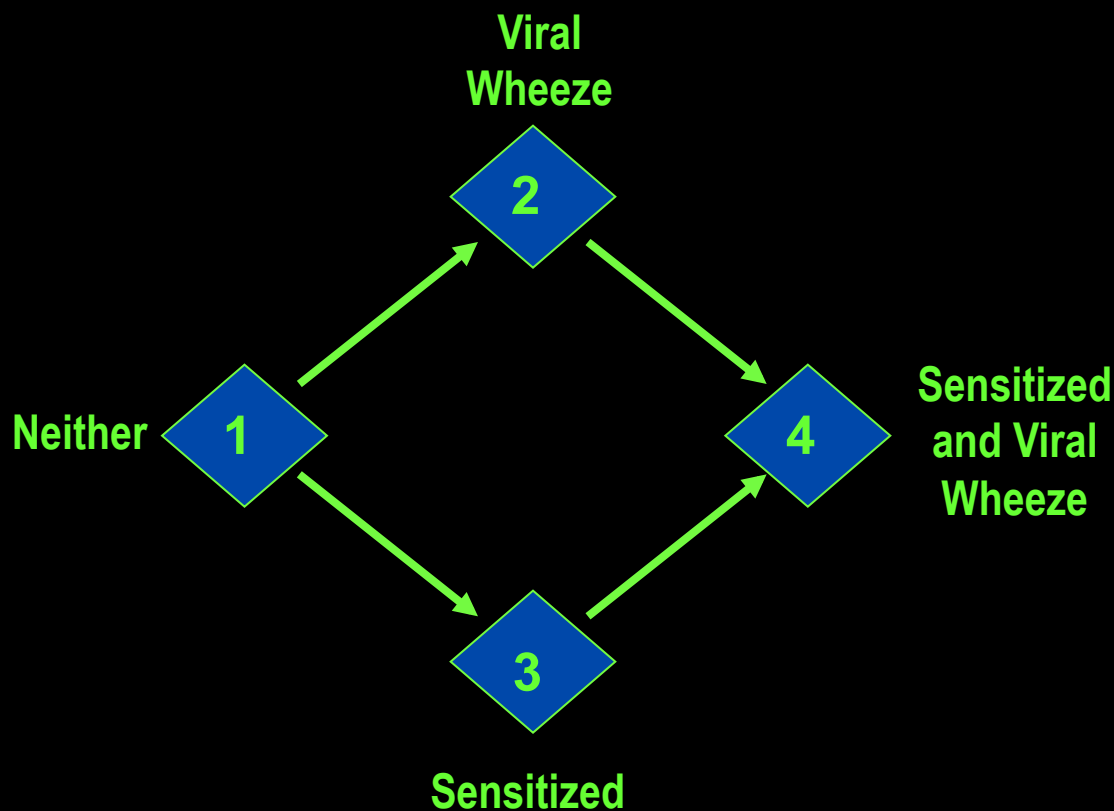
$$3 \rightarrow 4 > 1 \rightarrow 2$$

No causality:

$$2 \rightarrow 4 = 1 \rightarrow 3$$

$$3 \rightarrow 4 = 1 \rightarrow 2$$

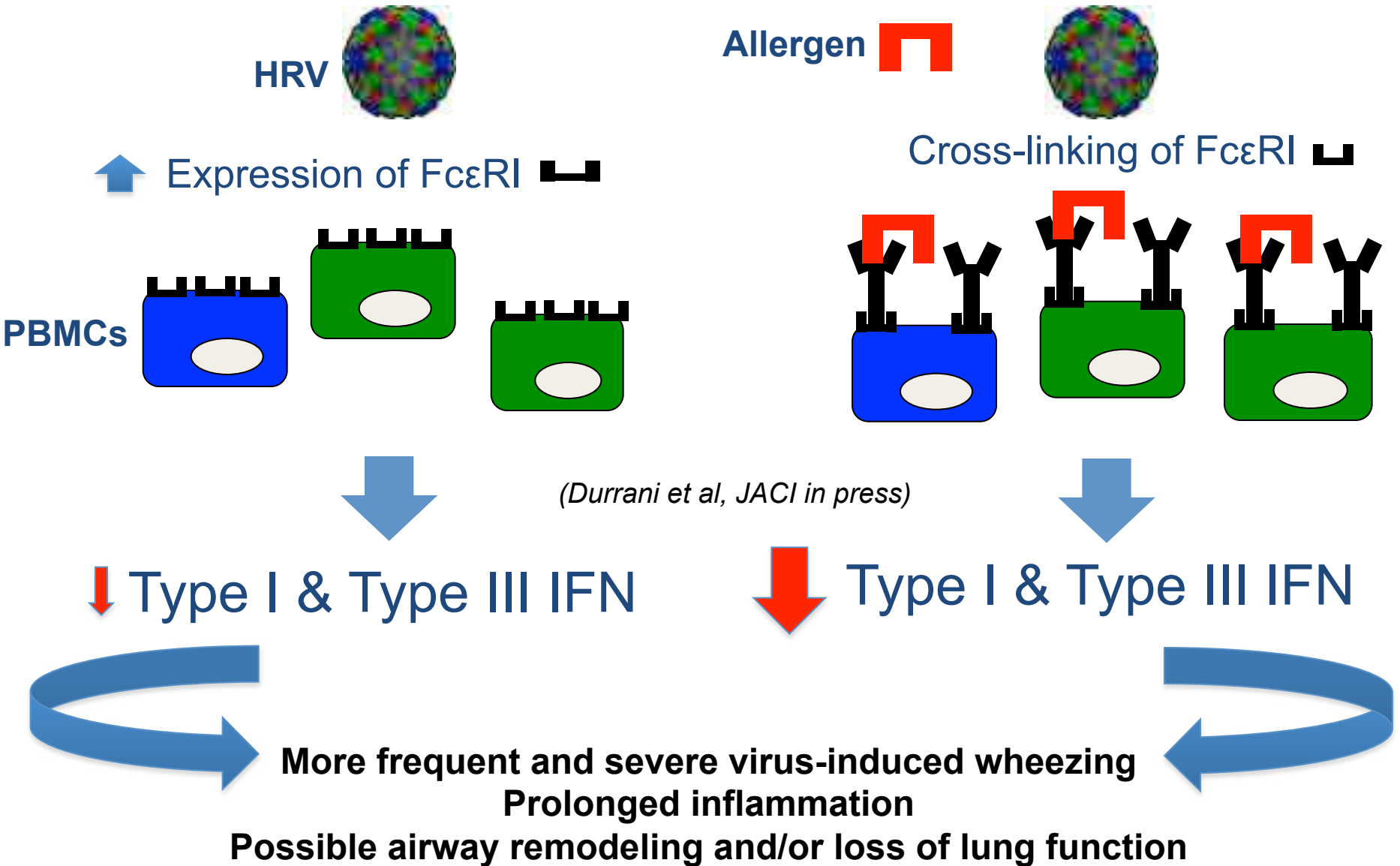
Sensitization Leads to Viral Wheeze (the reverse does not appear to be true)



Virus	Ratio	
	$\frac{3 \rightarrow 4}{1 \rightarrow 2}$	$\frac{2 \rightarrow 4}{1 \rightarrow 3}$
Any	1.9* (1.2, 3.1)	0.75 (0.49, 1.1)
HRV	2.4* (1.4, 4.3)	0.69 (0.41, 1.2)
RSV	1.6 (0.9, 2.9)	0.8 (0.52, 1.3)

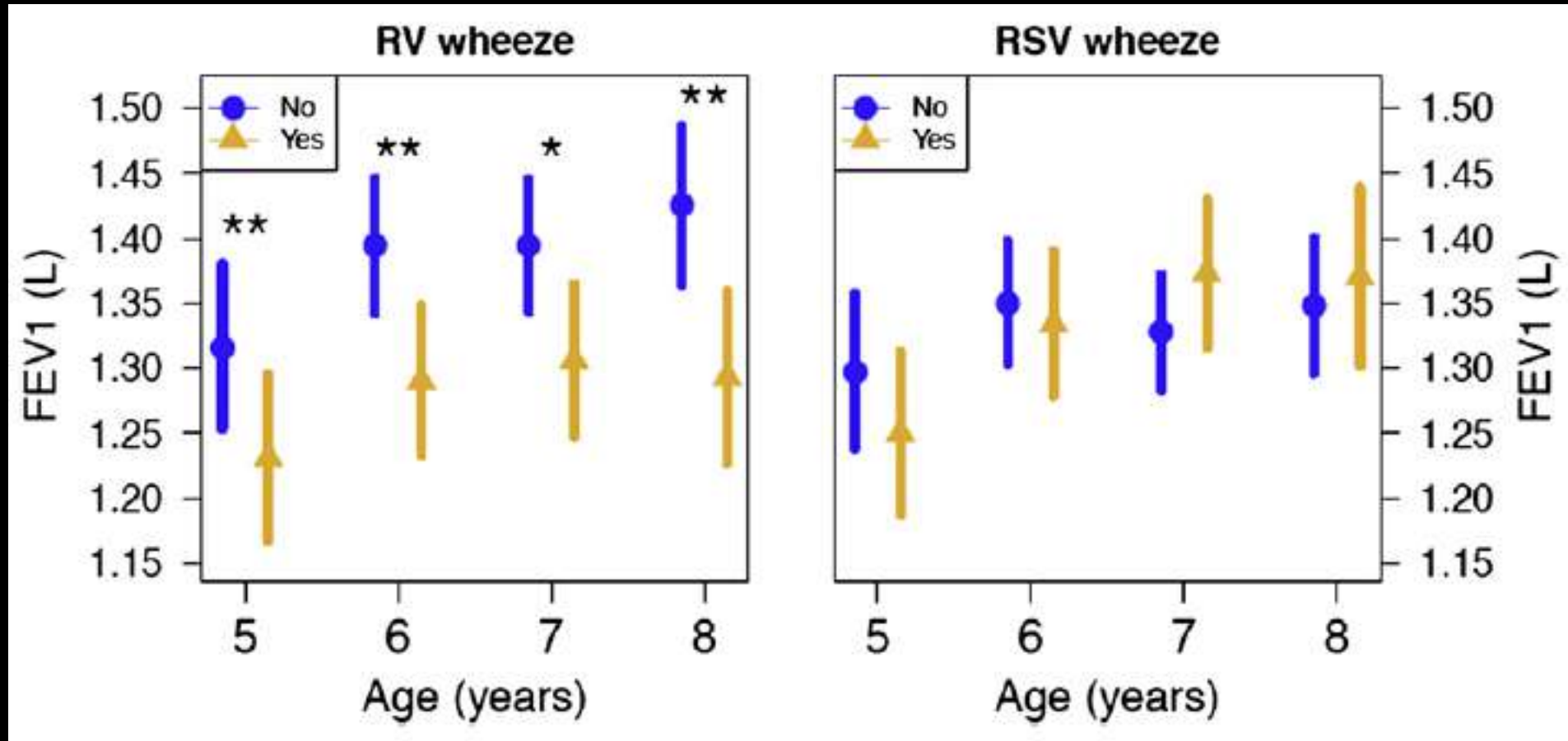
How does allergic sensitization alter the host response to viral respiratory infections?

Hypothesis: Allergy Inhibits Innate Immune Responses Through FcεRI



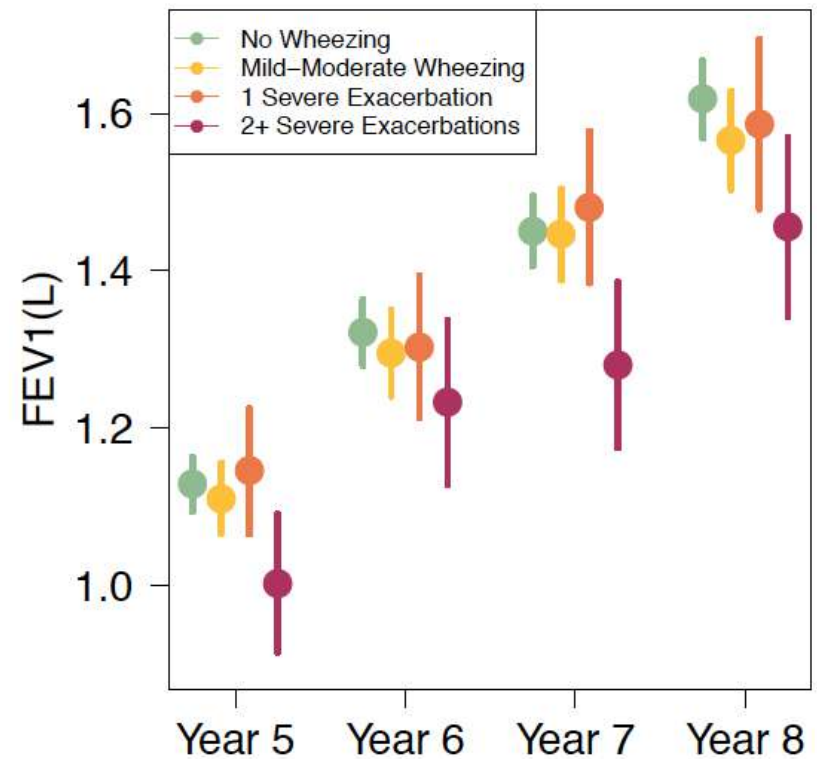
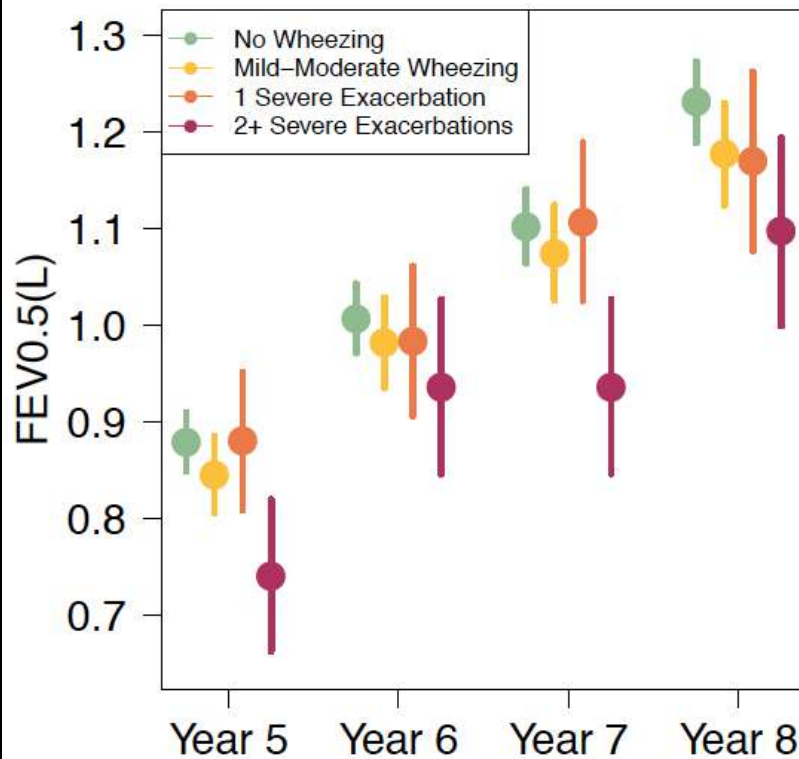
**Do wheezing RV
infections in
early life
influence
subsequent lung
function?**

Influence of Viral Etiology for Wheezing on Lung Function



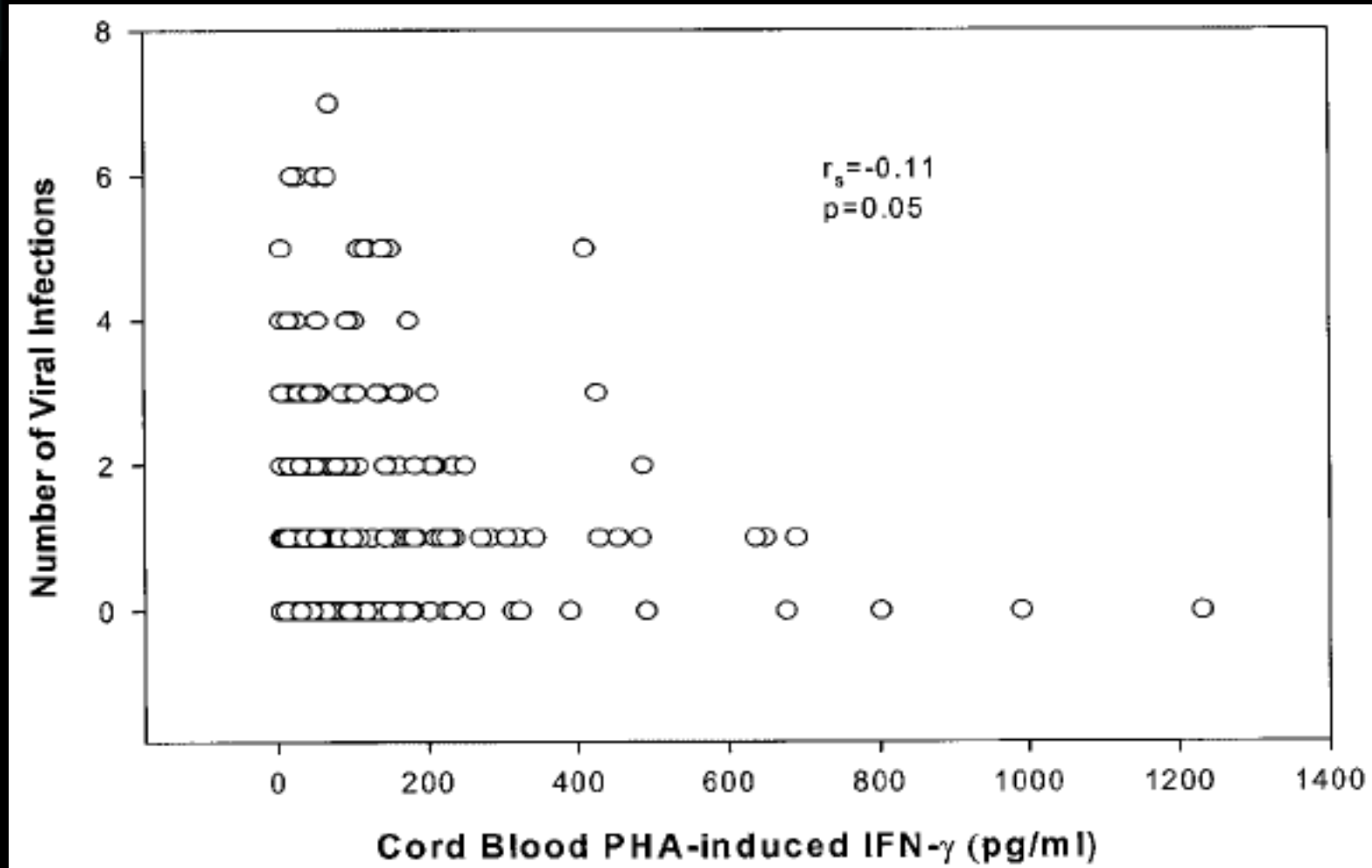
Effects of Asthma Exacerbation Severity on Lung Function

Pre-bronchodilator Spirometry

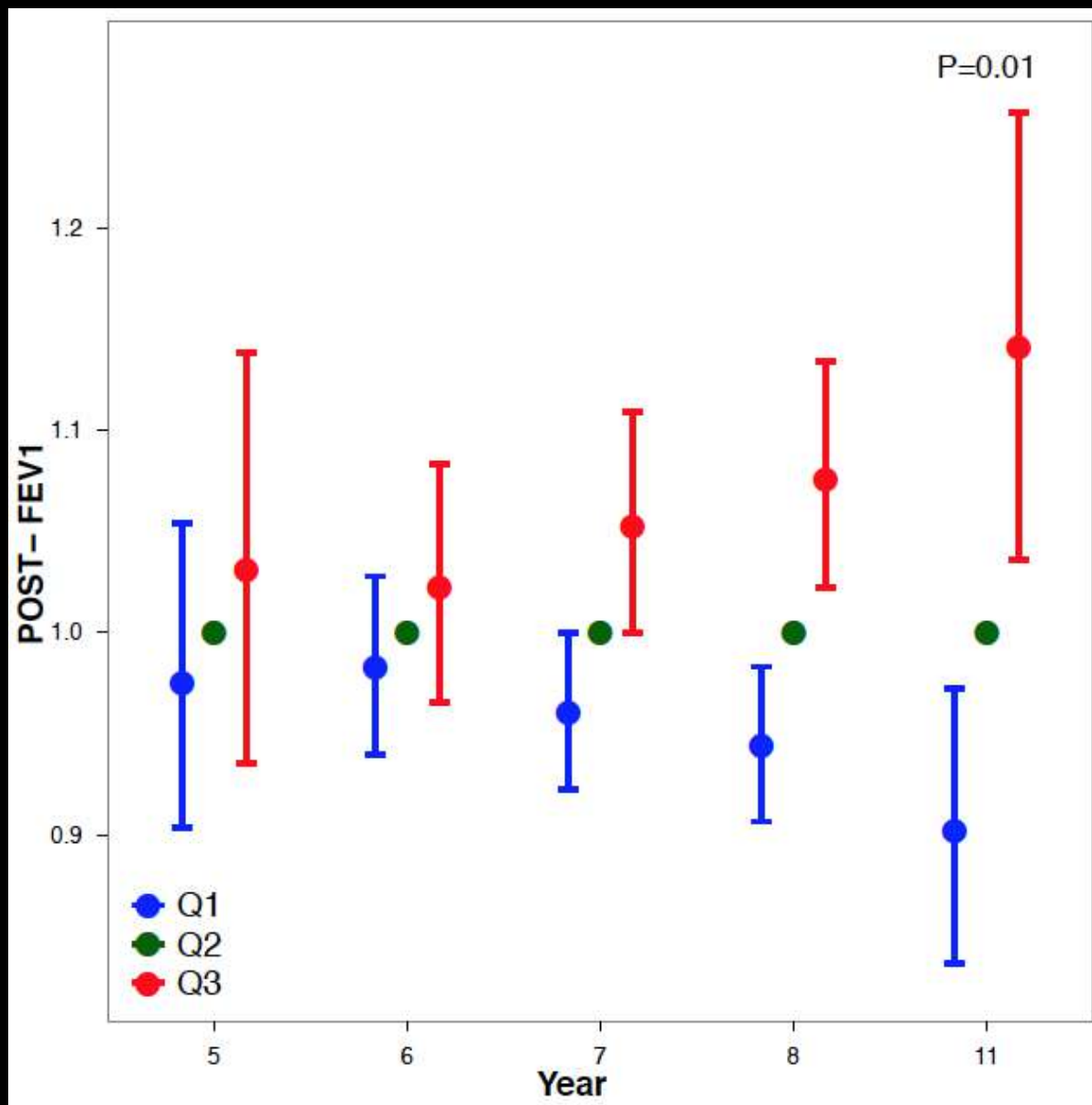


**Innate immune
development, viral
respiratory tract
illnesses, and loss
of lung function in
childhood**

Innate Immune Responses and Frequency of Viral Infections during Infancy



Cord Blood Innate Interferon- γ Responses and Loss of Lung Function



Mechanisms

**Do wheezing RV
infections in
early life *cause*
asthma?**

Host Factors

↓ antiviral responses

↓ lung function

Genetic polymorphisms



Asthma



*Abnormal
Host*



Mechanisms

- Airway epithelial cells¹
 - Normal: apoptosis
 - Asthma: viral replication
- Immune dysregulation¹⁻⁴
 - Altered innate immune responses
 - Type 1-3 interferons (α , β , γ , λ)
 - Fc ϵ R1 numbers and bridging on antigen-presenting cells⁴
- Genetic polymorphisms⁵
 - CD14_159 and Toll 3 receptors

1. Contoli M et al. Nat Med 12:1023, 2006

2. Wark PA et al. J Exp Med 201:937, 2005

3. Copenhaver CC et al. AJRCCM 170:175, 2004

4. Gill M et al. JI 184:5999, 2010

5. Hewson CA et al. J Virol 79:12273, 2005

6. Martin AC et al. AJRCCM 173:617, 2006



Normal
Host



Pathologic
Virus



Asthma

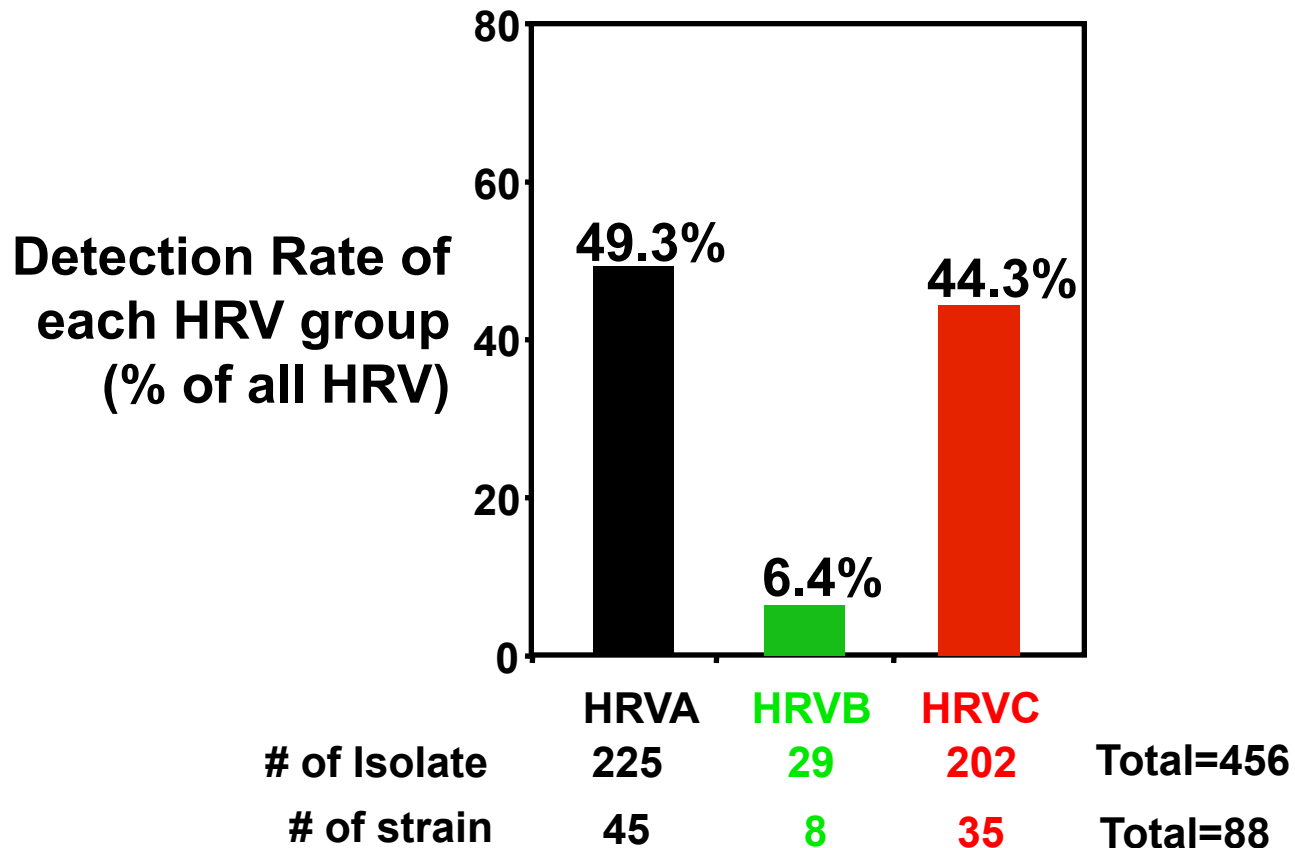
Virus Factors

Lung/Airway damage

Virulent strains?

HRVA & HRVC are similarly common in infants. Together, they account for 94% of HRV infections.

456 HRV were typed in 451 HRV-positive samples



HRV Strain Virulence

HRV-C and Asthma Exacerbations

- Prospective population-based surveillance¹

Nashville TN and Rochester NY

1052 children age <5 yrs hospitalized with ARI or fever

HRV-C vs. HRV-A:

- ↑ discharge diagnosis of asthma (55% vs 36%, $P = .022$)
-
- ED Asthma Study (2-16 y/o)²
Perth, Australia
HRV C detected in 59% of children:
 - ↑ severity in HRV C vs. A or B

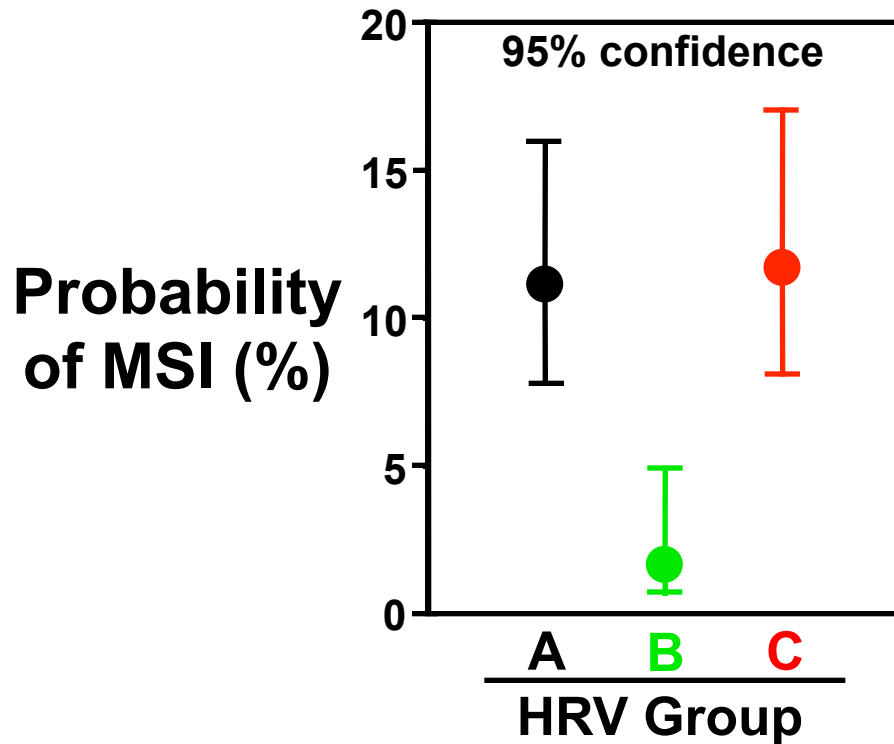
1 Miller EK et al. JACI 2009

2 Bizzintino J et al. ERJ 2011

The probability of inducing MSI is similar for HRVA & HRVC infections that is significantly higher than that of HRVB

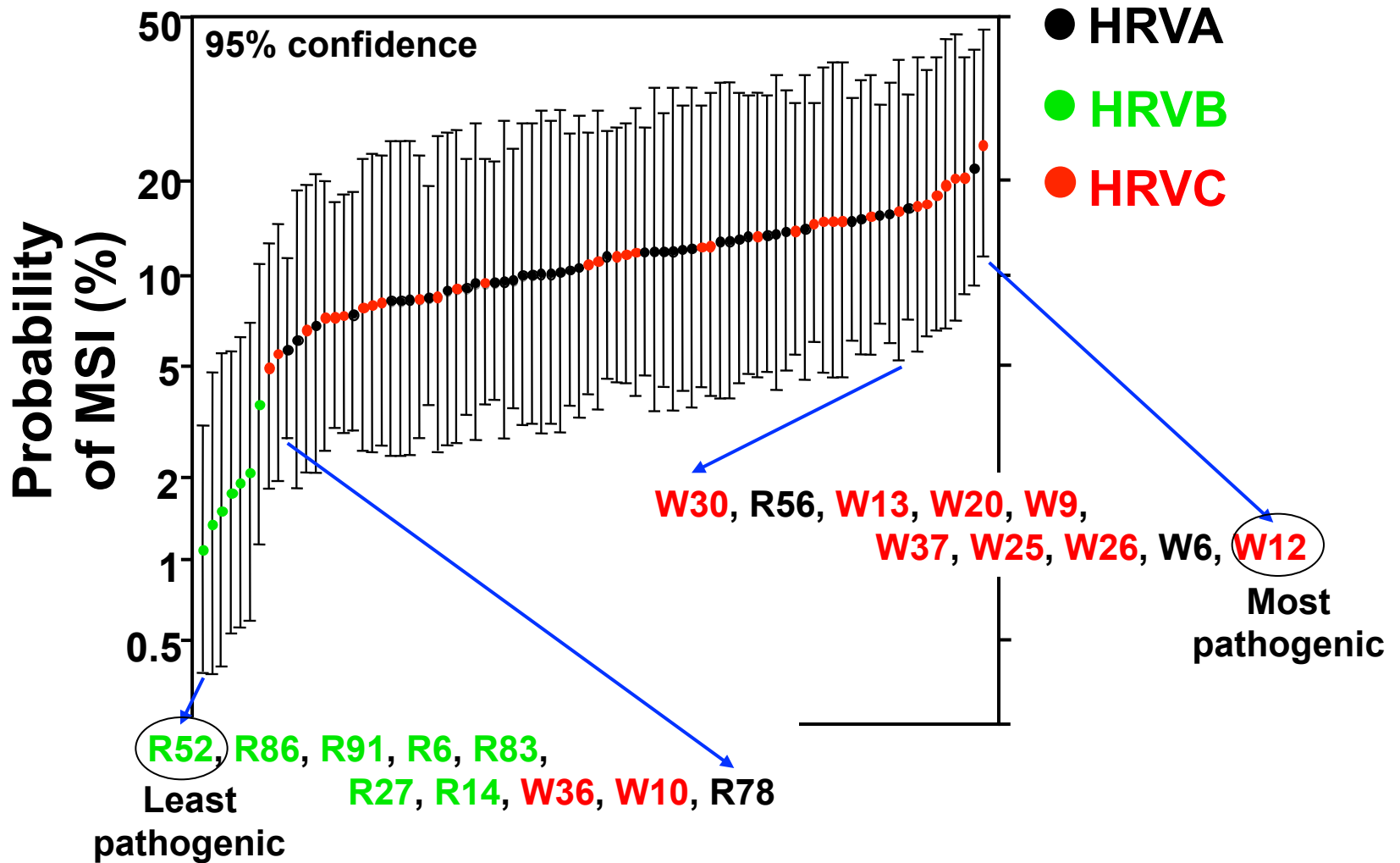
367 HRV only infection

MSI = Moderate-Severe Illness



Probability of inducing MSI varied with HRV strain

84 serotypes/strains (367 HRV only infections)



Gene by environment interactions



GWAS and 17q21

- Two large meta-analyses of asthma GWAS have recently provided strong evidence for involvement of specific genes in asthma risk: GABRIEL and EVE
- Variation at a locus spanning five genes on chromosome 17q21, including the *ORMDL3* gene yielded the most significant association
- The 17q21 locus is the most replicated asthma locus and represents the *most significant genetic risk factor for childhood asthma* known to date

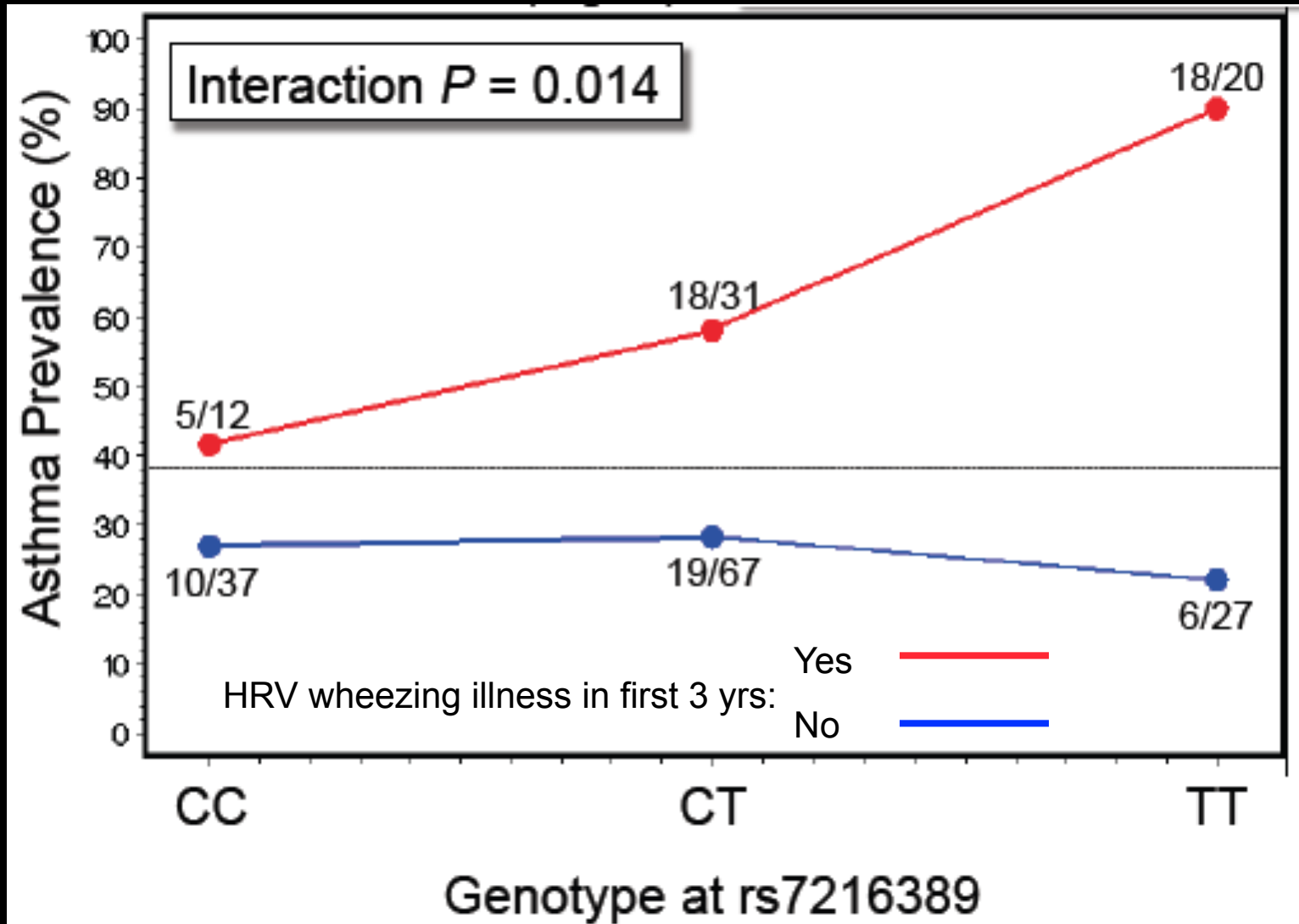
17q21 Genotype and HRV Wheezing Illnesses



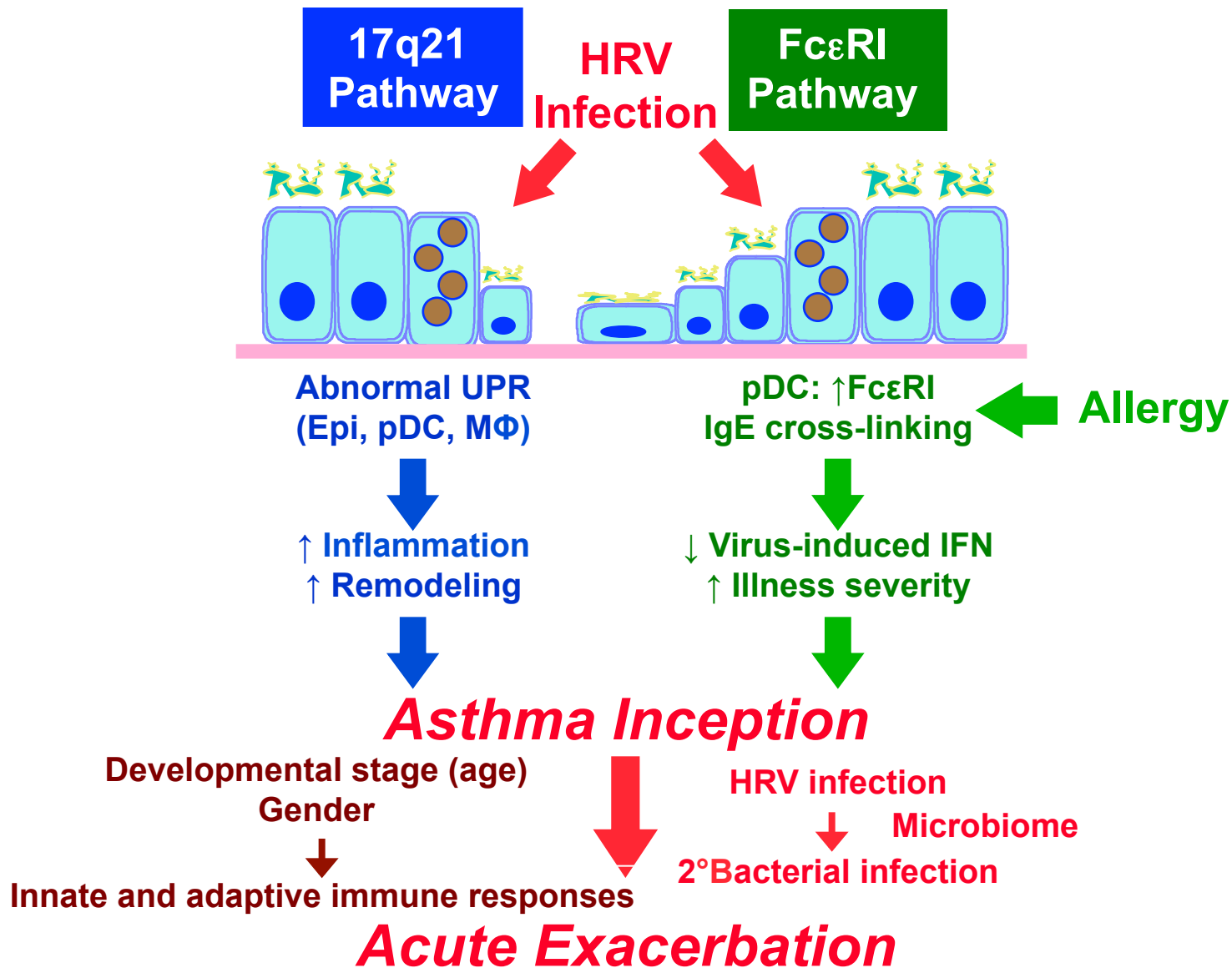
- COAST studies of asthma candidate genes revealed significant associations between genotypes at the 17q21 asthma-susceptibility locus (rs7216389) and:
 - Asthma ($p=0.0059$)
 - The number of moderate-to-severe wheezing illnesses with human rhinovirus infection (HRV wheezing illness) in the first 3 years of life ($p=0.00070$)
 - Not with allergic sensitization ($p=0.69$) or with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) wheezing illness ($p=0.26$)



Gene by Environment Interactions



This SNP is located in an intron of GSDML and is an eQTL for both ORMDL3 and GSDML.



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COAST Personnel



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