

# Diabetes, diabetes treatment and cancer risk: the epidemiology

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# Duality of interest declaration

I report the following potential duality/dualities of interest in the field covered by my lecture:

- *Advisory Board Panels*
- *Speaker Honoraria*
- *Research Support*

Funded by: Novo Nordisk; Sanofi Pasteur MSD

**Andrew G Renehan**





# Iran: Night Raids Terrorize Civilians

Security Forces Wreck Homes, Destroy Property to Stop Protest Chants; News Access Curtailed

JUNE 26, 2009

(New York) - Iran's paramilitary Basij are carrying out brutal nighttime raids, destroying property in private homes and beating civilians in an attempt to stop nightly protest chants, Human Rights Watch said today. Human Rights Watch also said the Iranian authorities are confiscating satellite dishes from private homes to prevent citizens from seeing foreign news.

### OTHER MATERIAL:

Stark footage of what appear to be Basiji night raids  
Human Rights Watch reporting on Iran

*"While most of the world's attention is focused on the health crisis in Iran..."*

Search Health Blog

States Should Plan for H1N1 Vaccinations as Numbers Rise More

IVE 1 BBC NEWS CHANNEL

Page last updated at 11:01 GMT, Friday, 26 June

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## Singer Michael Jackson



Michael Jackson had been due to play 50 concert dates in the UK this summer.

WSJ Blogs >

## Health Blog

WSJ's blog on health and the business of health.

JUNE 26, 2009, 8:09 PM ET

# Study: Sanofi's Lantus Insulin Has Possible Cancer Link

Article

Comments (19)



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By Shirley S. Wang

New data published today suggest that there is a "possible link" between French drug maker Sanofi-Aventis's Lantus insulin for diabetes and a higher risk of cancer, according to [Diabetologia](#), the journal in which the data were published.

European Association for the Study of Diabetes, which also made an "urgent call for more" cancer. It said the concern was specific to artificial insulin like





# The 'big' four

**Table 3** | Studies of insulin analogues and incident cancer risk

Study	Insulin analog and comparator (number of patients)	Total no. of all cancers (mean FU)	All-cancer risk*	Sub-group analyses	Cancer subtotals (analog)	Sub-group risks
<i>Observational studies</i>						
Hemkens <i>et al.</i> (2009) <sup>150</sup>	Glargine ( <i>n</i> =23,855) and human insulin ( <i>n</i> =95,804)	5,009 (1.63 years)	1.18 (1.08–1.28)	Daily dose: 10 IU	NR	1.09 (1.00–1.19)
				Daily dose: 30 IU	NR	1.19 (1.10–1.30)
				Daily dose: 50 IU	NR	1.31 (1.20–1.42)
Currie <i>et al.</i> (2009) <sup>149</sup>	Glargine ( <i>n</i> =2,286) and human insulin ( <i>n</i> =5,748)	2,106 (2.9 years)	0.81 (0.59–1.11)	Breast	305 (10)	0.86 (0.42–1.75)
Jonasson <i>et al.</i> (2009) <sup>151</sup>	Glargine ( <i>n</i> =5,970) and other insulins ( <i>n</i> =88,555)	2,348 (NR)	1.06 (0.90–1.25)	Breast	208 (25)	1.97 (1.29–3.00)
				Prostate	464 (32)	1.26 (0.88–1.80)
				Gastrointestinal	454 (24)	0.91 (0.61–1.38)
Colhoun <i>et al.</i> (2009) <sup>148</sup>	Glargine ( <i>n</i> =477) <sup>‡</sup> and other insulins ( <i>n</i> =36,254) <sup>‡</sup>	715 (34,441 person-years)	1.73 (0.98–3.05)	Breast	92 (6)	3.65 (1.05–12.68)
				Prostate	48 (1)	1.16 (0.16–8.50)
				Colorectal	109 (3)	1.43 (0.45–4.57)
				Lung	149 (4)	1.43 (0.53–3.88)

*Clayton, Banerjee, Murray, Renehan Nat Rev Endocrinol 2010*



## (some) Limitations & critics

- Classification of patients into treatment groups based on follow-up information
- Insulin dose calculated as the mean during follow-up, then included in survival analysis as if it were a baseline covariate
- Short follow-up
- Absence of key confounders (e.g. BMI, smoking)
- Reference group classifications/problems
- Small numbers for individual cancer types



Pocock, Smeeth. *Lancet* 2009; DOI 10.1016/S0140-6736(09)61307-6

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## Insulin glargine and malignancy: an unwarranted alarm



Insulin glargine is a recombinant insulin analogue that has become widely used, largely because of a lower risk of hypoglycaemia and prolonged stable action. Synthetic insulin differ from human insulin in both metabolic and

any time-to-event (survival) analysis is that allocation to treatment groups and other covariates (such as drug dose) must be determined before follow-up starts. Unfortunately, their classification of patients into treatment groups was

Published Online  
July 20, 2009  
DOI:10.1016/S0140-  
6736(09)61307-6

Diabetologia  
DOI 10.1007/s00125-009-1441-5

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EDITORIAL

## Does diabetes therapy influence the risk of cancer?

U. Smith • E. A. M. Gale

*A case to be answered*



# Not a surprise to the cancer community

- Obesity is a common shared risk factor
- Diabetes  $\Rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  risk of incidence & mortality
- Glucose environment - ? relevant
- Metformin may be cancer protective  
(multi-actions in cancer)
- Insulin analogues have a 'IGF-I look'



# Obesity & cancer





# BMI, cancer risk and men

- Search to Dec 2007 ⇒ analysis of Asia-Pacific populations
- Standardisation of inclusion criteria & analyses
- Inclusion of less common malignancies
- Sex-specific summary estimates

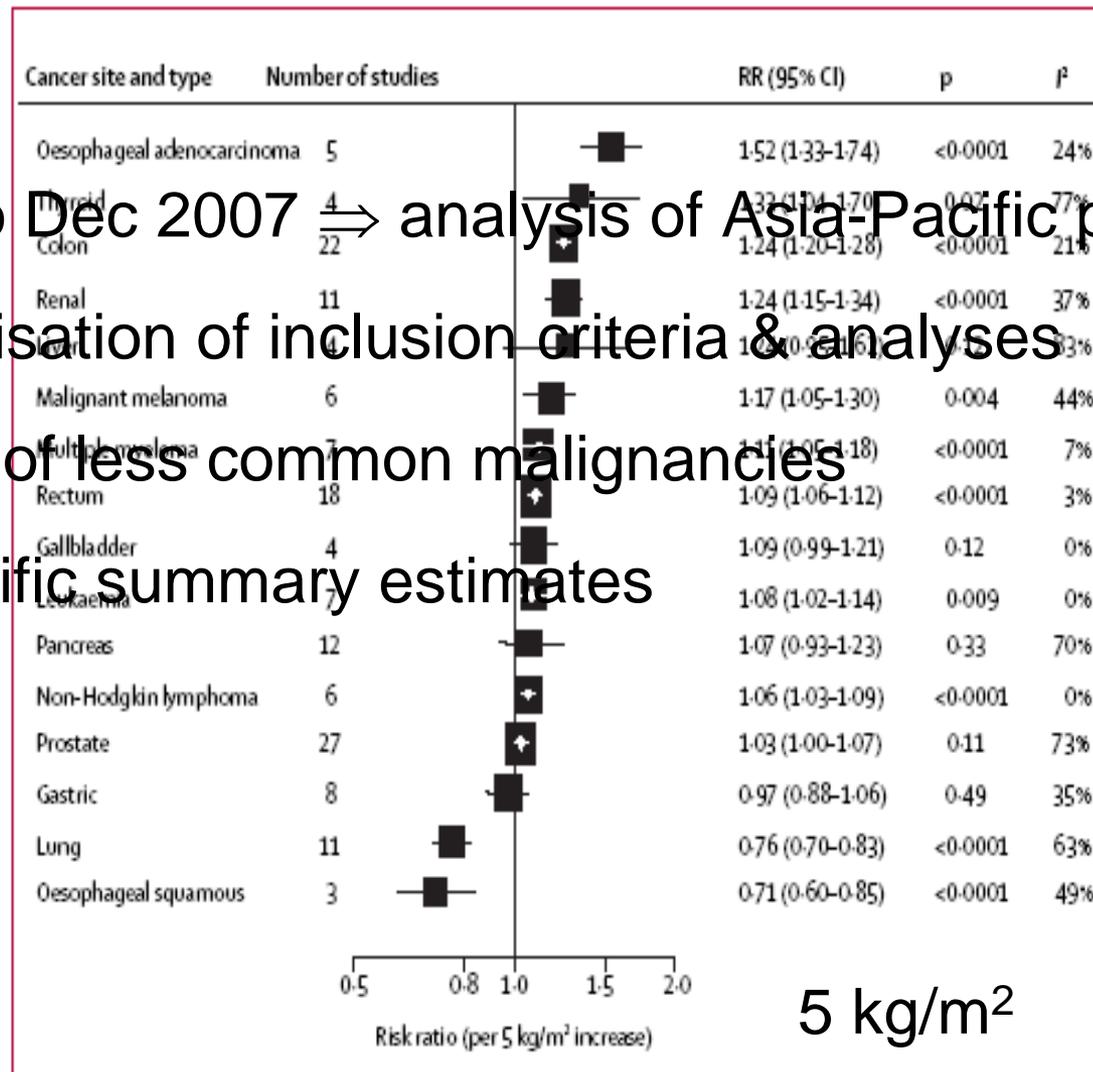


Figure 3: Summary risk estimates by cancer sites in men



# BMI, cancer risk and women

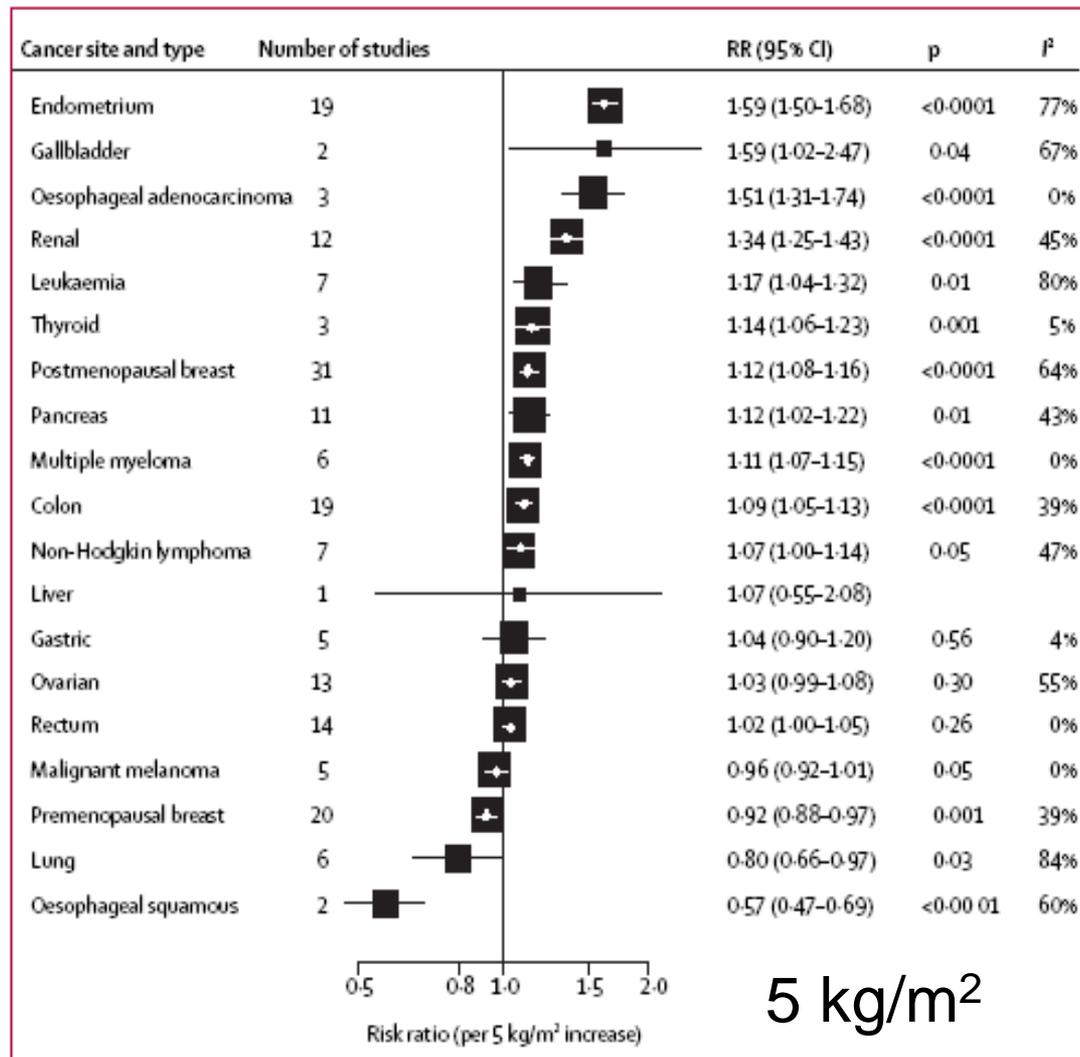


Figure 4: Summary risk estimates by cancer sites in women



# BMI & cancer: sex-specific associations

	Studies		Cases		Risk ratio in men*	Risk ratio in women*	p value†
	Men	Women	Men	Women			
<b>Colon cancer</b>							
All studies	22	19	22 440	20 975	1.24 (1.21-1.28)	1.09 (1.05-1.14)	<0.0001
Studies with both sexes	13	13	17 495	19 256	1.24 (1.18-1.31)	1.08 (1.02-1.34)	0.001
All but one study <sup>‡</sup>	21	18	8635	4337	1.26 (1.21-1.30)	1.10 (1.06-1.15)	<0.0001
<b>Rectal cancer</b>							
All studies	18	14	14 894	9052	1.09 (1.06-1.12)	1.02 (0.99-1.04)	0.001
Studies with both sexes	11	11	11 035	8644	1.08 (1.05-1.11)	1.01 (0.98-1.04)	0.003
All but one study <sup>‡</sup>	17	13	5712	1560	1.09 (1.05-1.15)	1.05 (0.99-1.12)	0.32

\*Risk ratio per 5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> increase in BMI (95% CI). †Meta-regression analysis with univariable model of sex. ‡Meta-regression analysis with multivariable models including the method of BMI determination (measured or self-reported)-the extent of cancer-site specific risk factor adjustment-and geographic region. We analysed only cancer sites with more than 10 studies that included both sexes.

**Table 2:** Comparisons of risk ratios in men and women

*Renehan et al. Lancet 371: 569-578, 2008*



# Central obesity & cancer risk

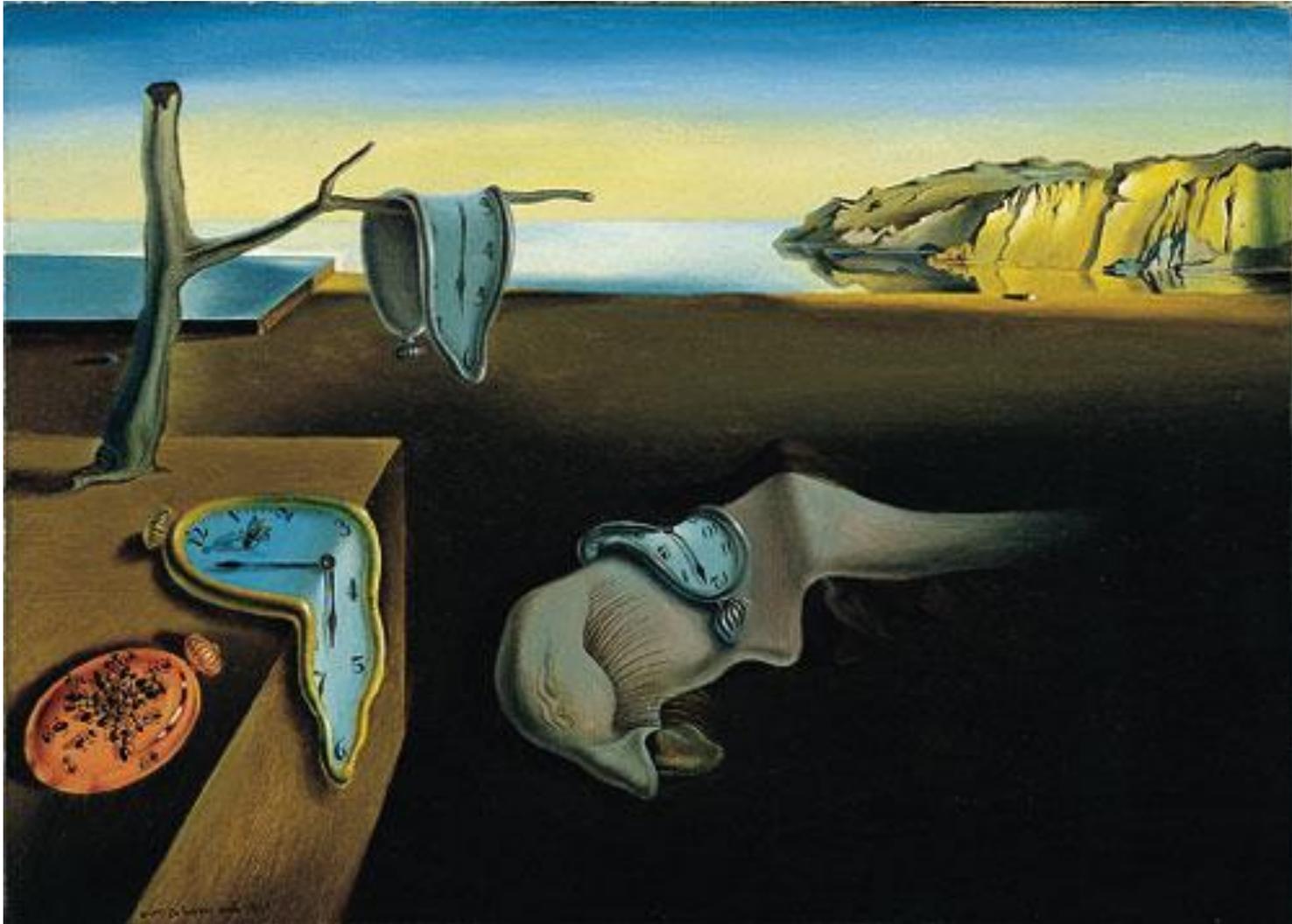
## Metabolic syndrome (syndrome X)

- Central obesity
- High blood pressure
- High triglycerides
  - Low HDL-cholesterol
- Insulin resistance





# Diabetes – cancer incidence & mortality





# Diabetes and incident cancer risk

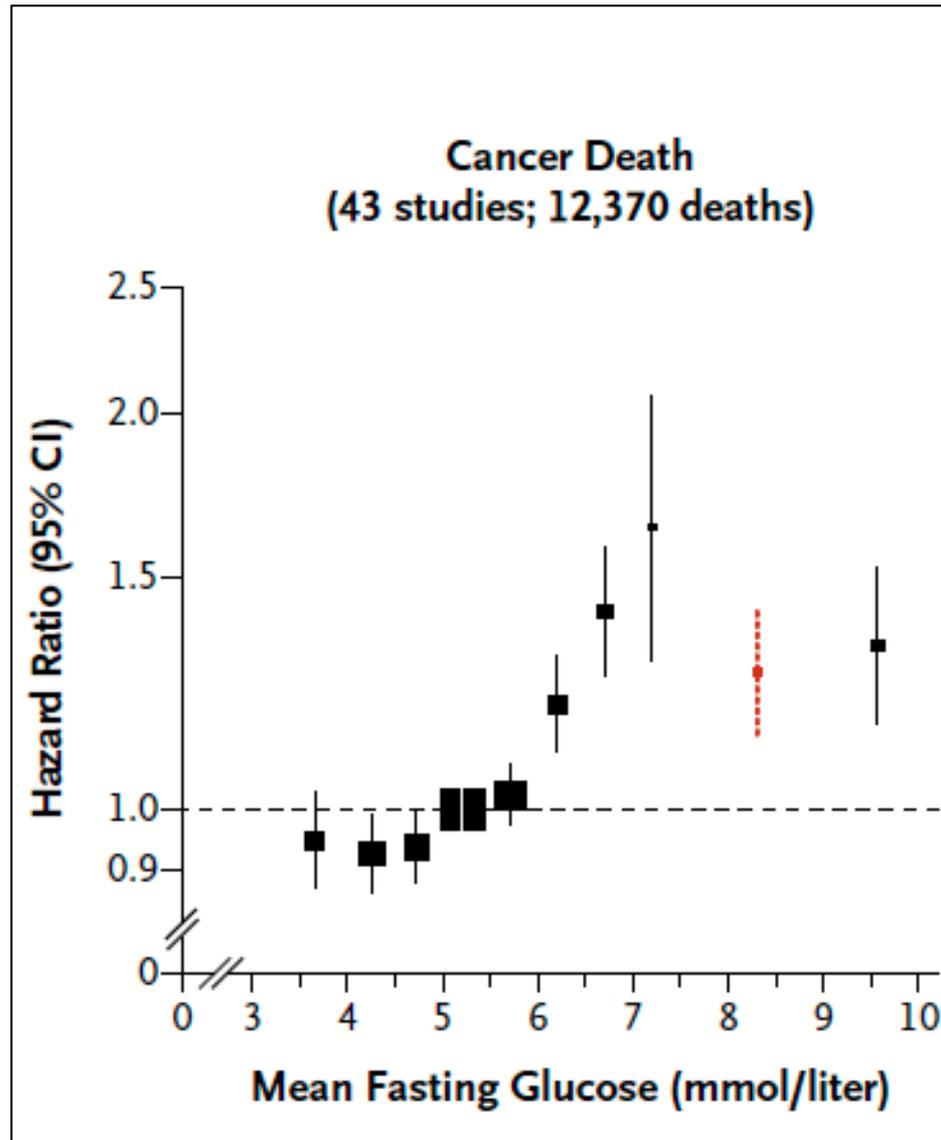
Cancer type	Meta-analysis	Number of cohorts/ number of case- control studies*	Number of cancers	Risk ratio (95% CI)
Breast (all)	Larsson et al, 2007 <sup>6</sup>	15/5	30 407	1.20 (1.12–1.28)
Premenopausal	Larsson et al, 2007 <sup>6</sup>	Not stated	Not stated	0.91 (0.62–1.34)
Postmenopausal	Larsson et al, 2007 <sup>6</sup>	Not stated	Not stated	1.16 (1.09–1.24)
Colorectal	Larsson et al, 2005 <sup>7</sup>	9/6	26 306	1.30 (1.20–1.40)
Endometrial	Friberg et al, 2007 <sup>8</sup>	3/13	7596	2.10 (1.93–3.24)
Liver	El-Serag et al, 2006 <sup>9</sup>	13/13	Not stated	2.50 (1.93–3.24)
Pancreas	Huxley et al, 2005 <sup>10</sup>	19/17	9220	1.82 (1.71–1.94)
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	Mitri et al, 2008 <sup>11</sup>	5/11	Not stated	1.19 (1.07–1.32)
Bladder	Larsson et al, 2006 <sup>12</sup>	3/7	Not stated	1.24 (1.08–1.42)
Prostate	Kasper et al, 2006 <sup>13</sup>	12/7	20 373	0.84 (0.76–0.93)

Data are fully adjusted estimates. \*Different meta-analyses had substantial heterogeneity in how studies were included. Cohorts included population cohorts and diabetes cohorts; case-control studies ranged from hospital-based to population-based. Diabetes inclusion was heterogeneous: most meta-analyses included studies of patients with type 1 and 2 diabetes (variably defined).

**Table: Summary of meta-analyses linking diabetes with cancer risk**

*Renehan, Smith, Kirkman Lancet 2010, 375:2201-02.*

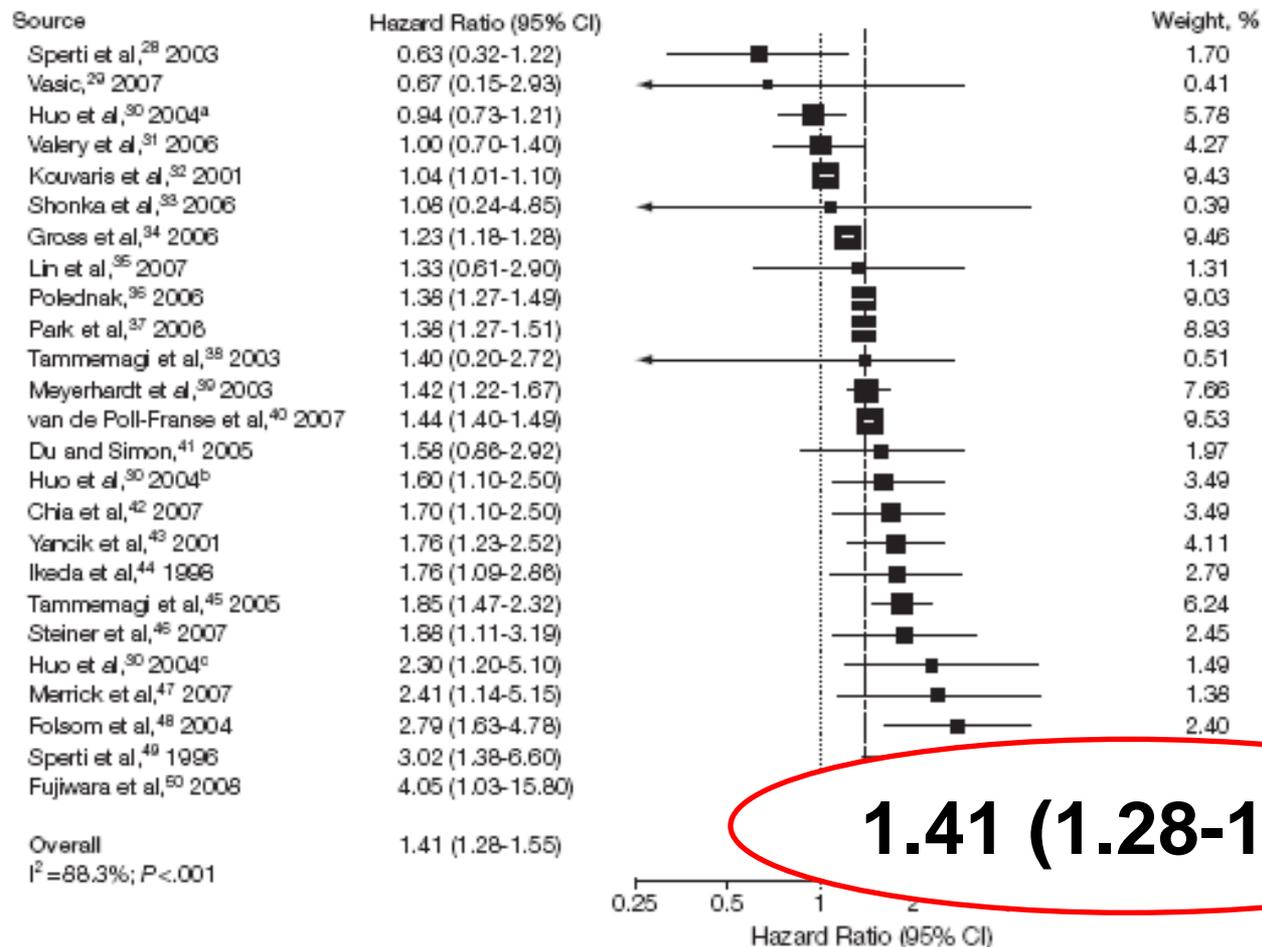
# Cancer mortality in type 2 diabetic patients





# Cancer in type 2 diabetes & mortality

**Figure 2.** Meta-analysis and Pooled Hazard Ratio of Long-term, All-Cause Mortality in 23 Studies Comparing Cancer Patients With and Without Preexisting Diabetes Mellitus





## Evaluating lifestyle/co-morbidity & cancer outcome

- Cancer screening
- Delayed diagnosis
- Selection for initial treatment
- Complications of initial treatment
- Peri-treatment mortality
- Selection for adjuvant therapy
- Competing risks for death
- Interactions with therapies



# Cancer screening in diabetic patients

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ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

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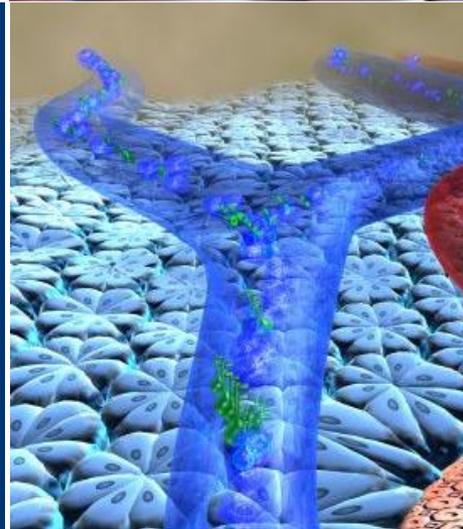
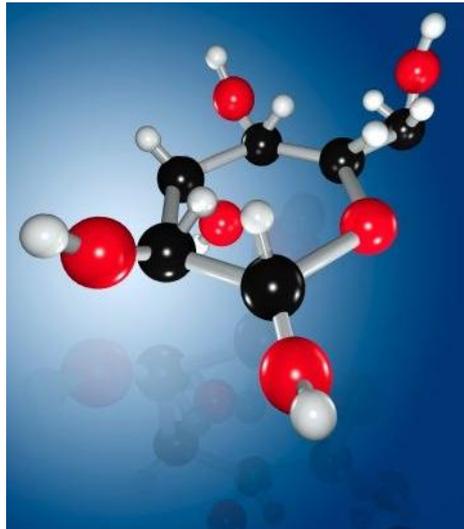
## Reduced Screening Mammography Among Women With Diabetes

*Lorraine L. Lipscombe, MD; Janet E. Hux, MD, MSc; Gillian L. Booth, MD, MSc*

*Arch Intern Med. 2005;165:2090-2095*

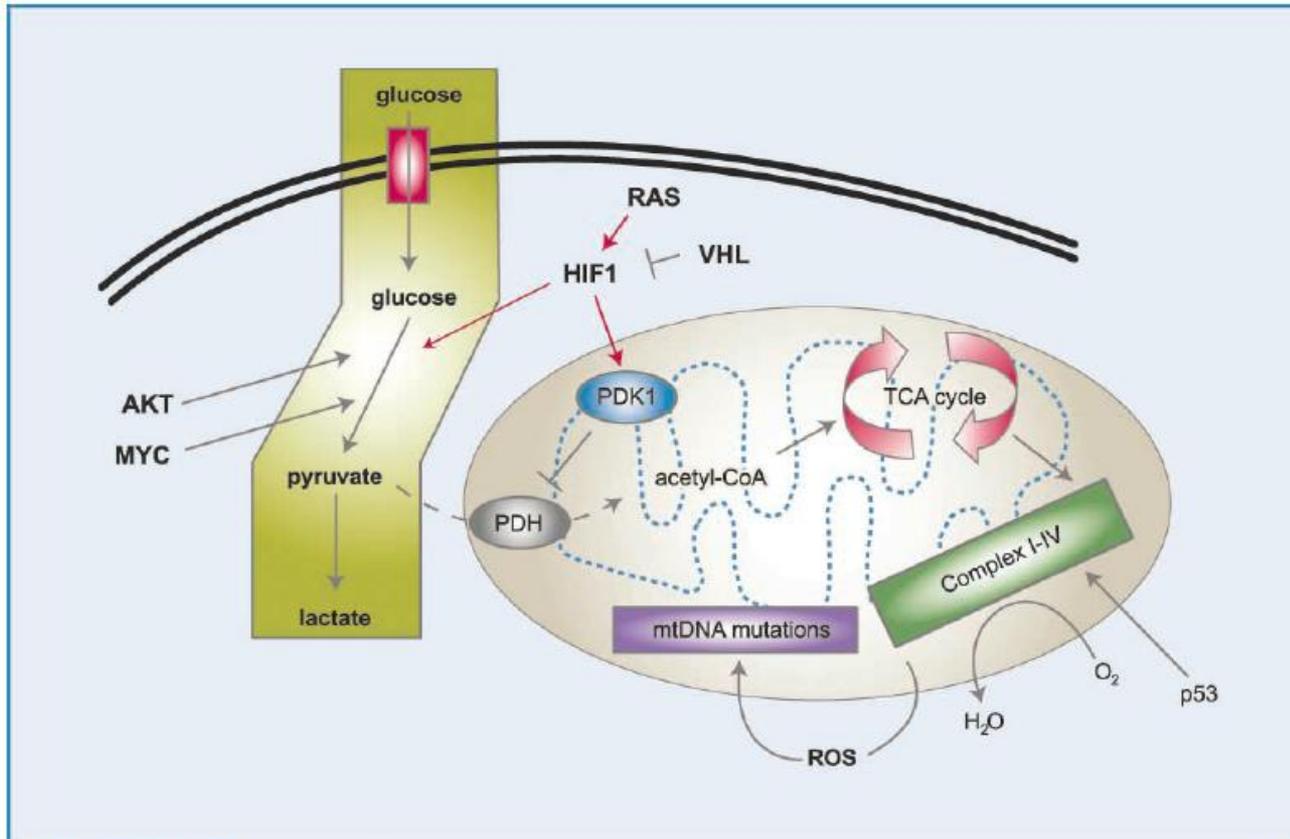


# Glucose environment & cancer





# Cancer 'sweet-tooth' hypothesis



Review

## Cancer's Molecular Sweet Tooth and the Warburg Effect

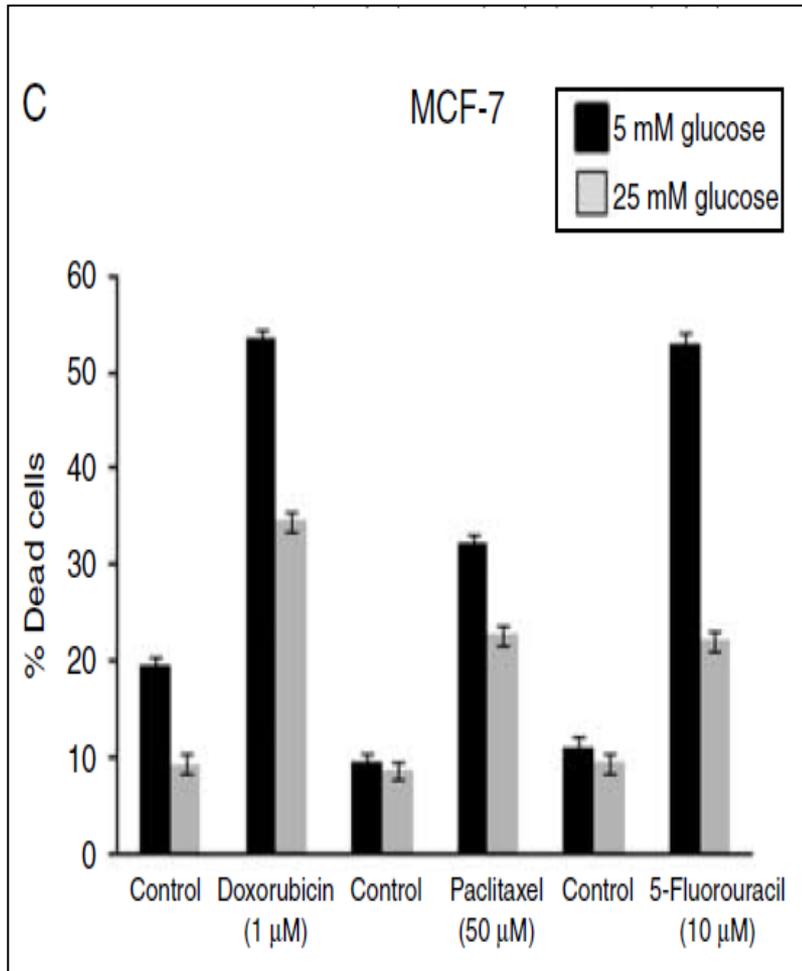
Jung-whan Kim<sup>1</sup> and Chi V. Dang<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine, <sup>2</sup>The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland

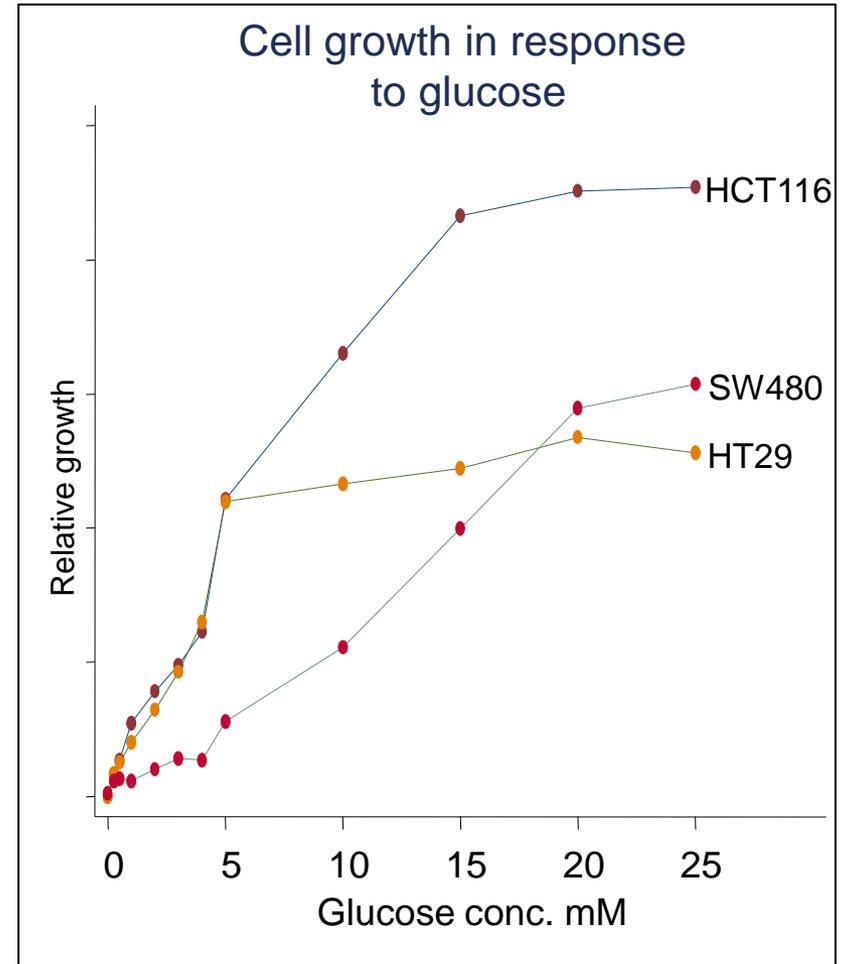
*Cancer Res* 2006



# Glucose & cancer cell biology



*Zeng .... Perks Endo-rel-cancers 2010 17: 539-551.*



*Unpublished Renehan laboratory*



# Glucose control & cancer risk

**Table.** Incident Cancers in Large Randomized Trials of Glucose Lowering<sup>a</sup>

Trial	No. in Treatment Group	Follow-up, y	Intensive Treatment, % per Year	Control, % per Year	RRR (95% CI)
UKPDS					
All intensive <sup>b</sup>	2729	10	0.44	0.44	0.98 (0.64-1.52)
Insulin <sup>b</sup>	911	10	0.46	0.48	0.94 (0.55-1.62)
Glyburide	615	10	0.44	0.48	0.91 (0.49-1.67)
Metformin	342	10.7	0.35	0.49	0.71 (0.29-1.76)
VADT <sup>b</sup>	892	5.6	0.48	0.42	1.15 (0.65-2.05)
ACCORD <sup>b</sup>	5128	3.5	1.3	1.2	1.08 (0.90-1.30)
ADVANCE <sup>b</sup>	5571	5	0.43	0.43	1.00 (0.78-1.29)

Abbreviations: ACCORD, Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes; ADVANCE, Action in Diabetes and Vascular Disease: Preterax + Diamicon Modified Release Controlled Evaluation; CI, confidence interval; RRR, relative risk reduction; UKPDS, United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study; VADT, Veterans Affairs Diabetes Trial.

<sup>a</sup>Numbers and rates of cancer-related death are shown for all trials except ADVANCE, which shows the numbers and rates of cancer hospitalizations.

<sup>b</sup>More insulin was used in the intensive treatment groups in these comparisons.



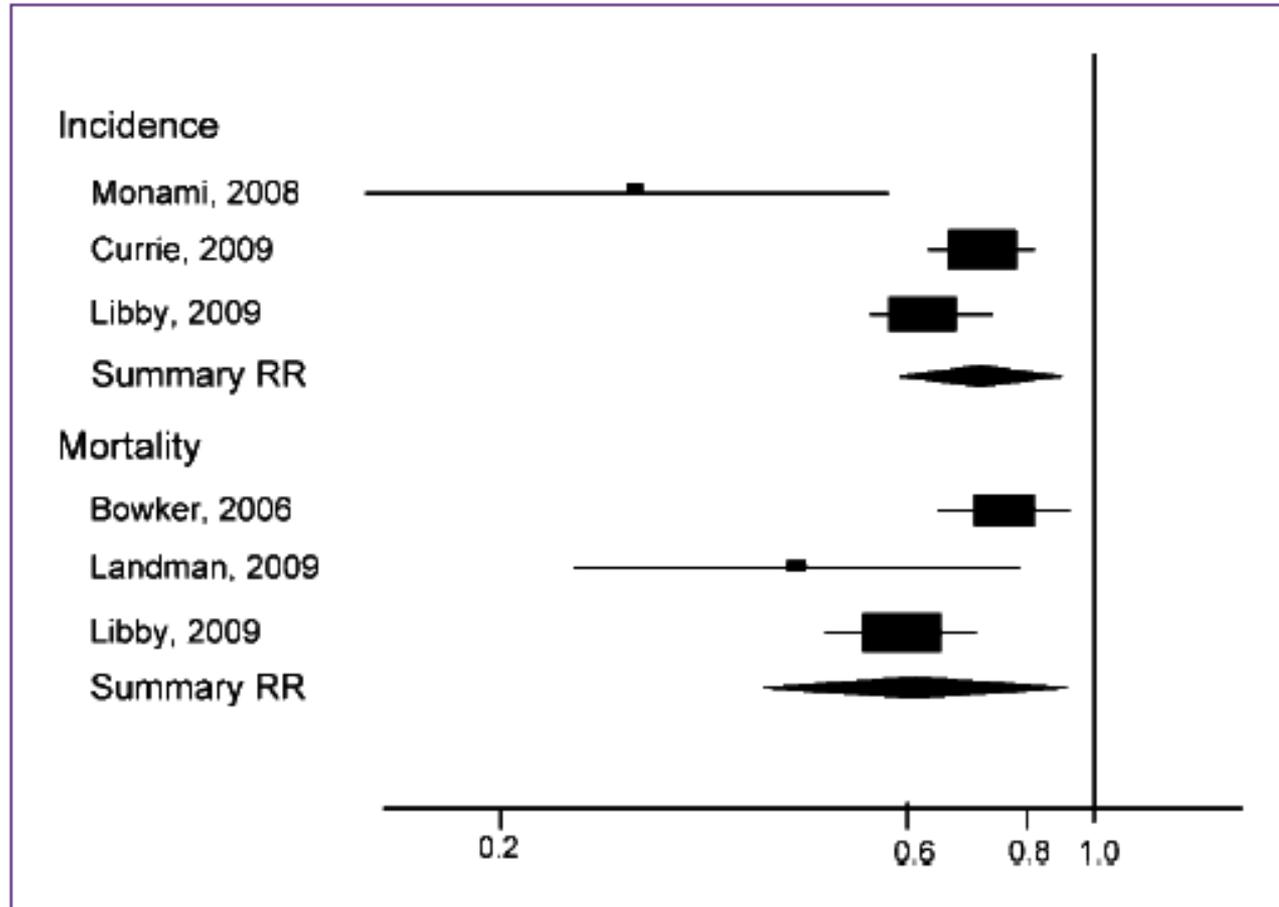
# Metformin & cancer



***French lilac (Galega officinalis)***



# Metformin: cancer incidence & mortality

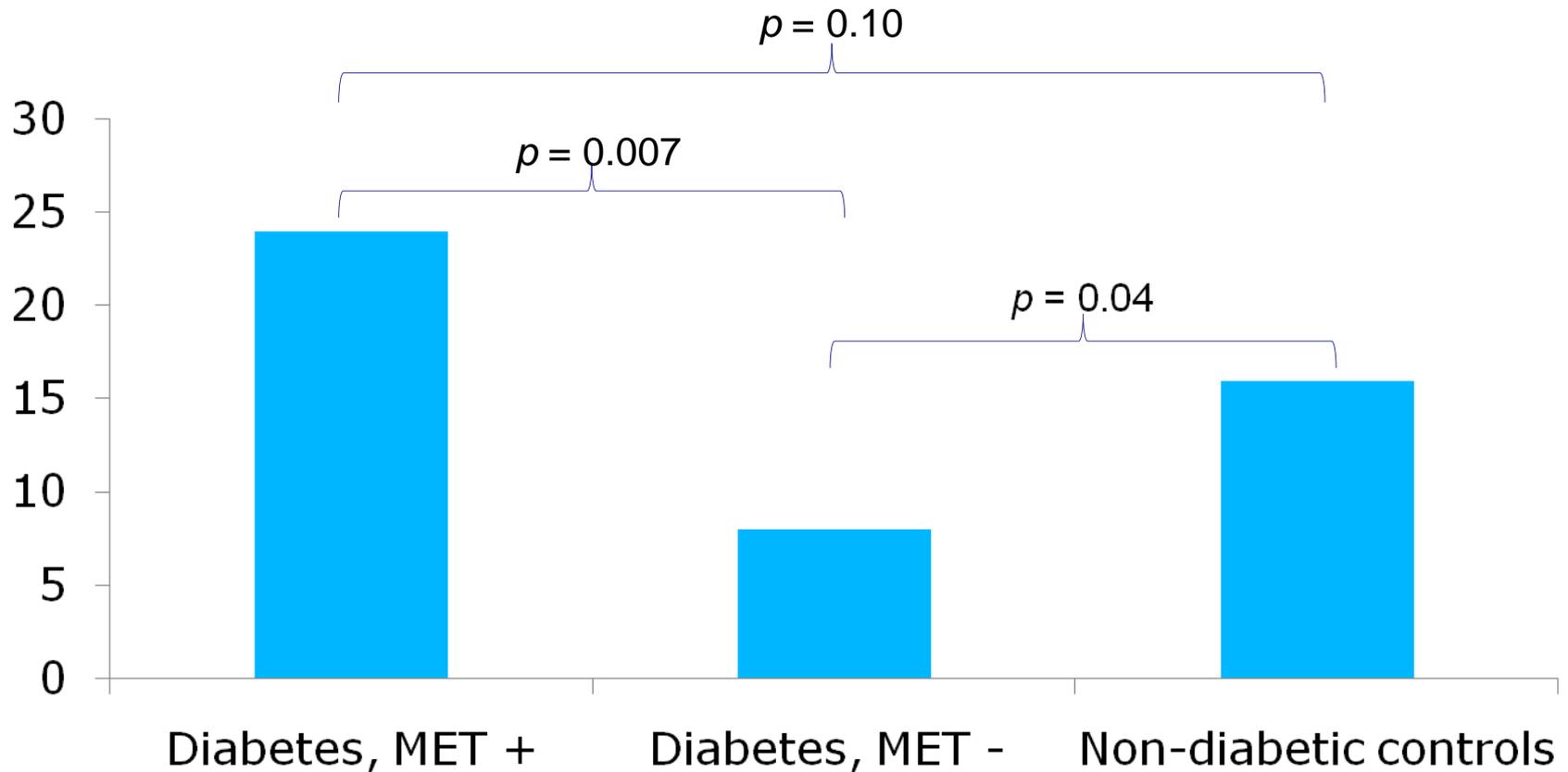


*DeCensi et al Cancer Prev Res 2010*



# Metformin & cancer treatment

Effect of metformin on pathologic complete response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy, early-stage breast Ca



*Jiralerspong et al. J Clin Oncol 2009*



# Metformin actions & cancer

- Activation of LKB1/AMPK pathway
- Induction of cell cycle arrest/ apoptosis
- Inhibition of protein synthesis
- Reduction in circulating insulin levels (but not IGF-I)
- Inhibition of the unfolded protein response (UPR)
- Activation of the immune system
- Inhibition of cancer stem cells



# Candidate mechanisms

## **Biological mechanisms**

Insulin and insulin-like growth factors (IGFs)

Sex steroids and sex-steroid binding globulin

Adipokines (e.g. adiponectin and leptin)

Nuclear factor  $\kappa$ B system/inflammatory cytokines

Altered immune response

## **Shared genetic susceptibility**

## **Obesity-related hypoxia & angiogenesis**

## **Migrating adipose stromal cells**

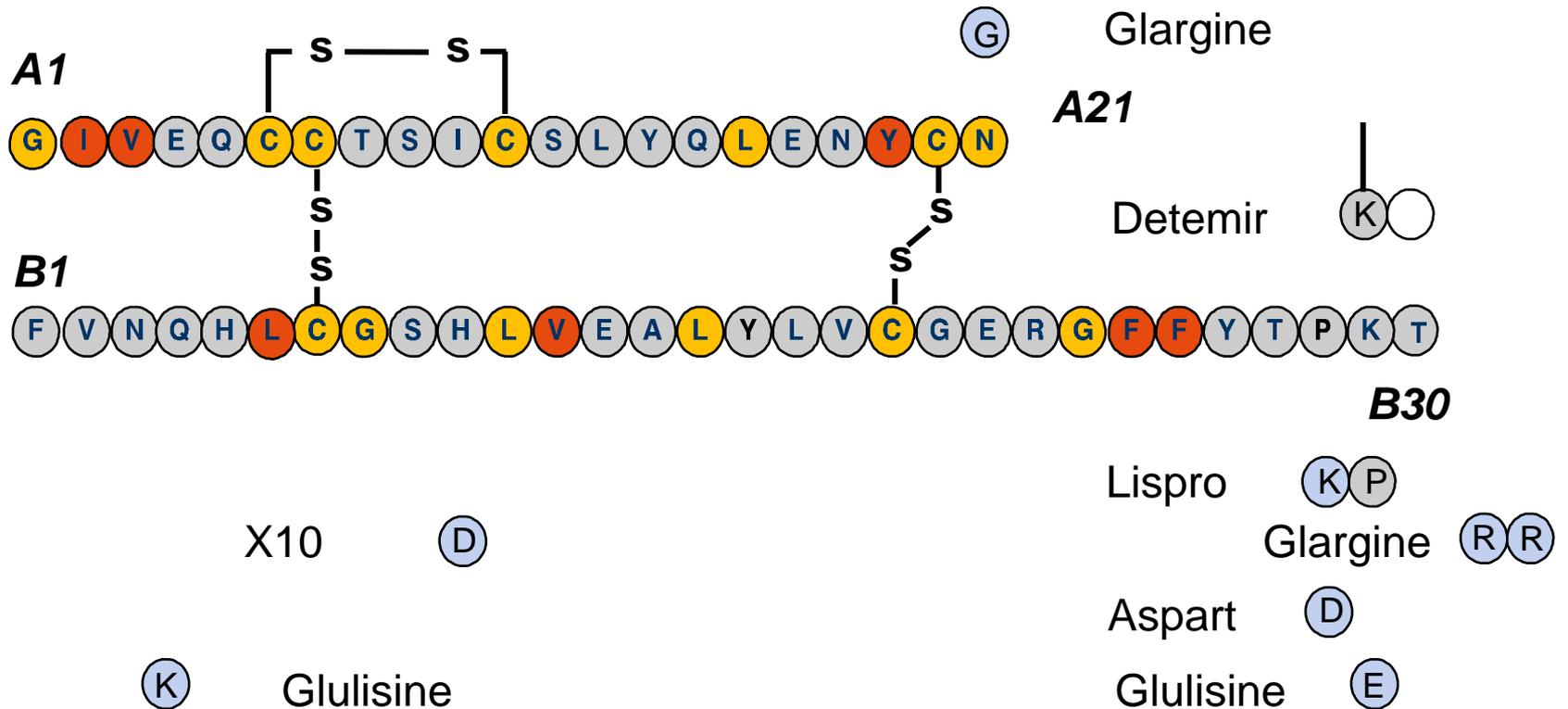
## **Mechanical mechanisms**

Hypertension and renal cancer

Acid reflux and oesophageal adenocarcinoma

Increased iodine uptake and thyroid cancer

# Insulin analogue has more IGF-I 'look'

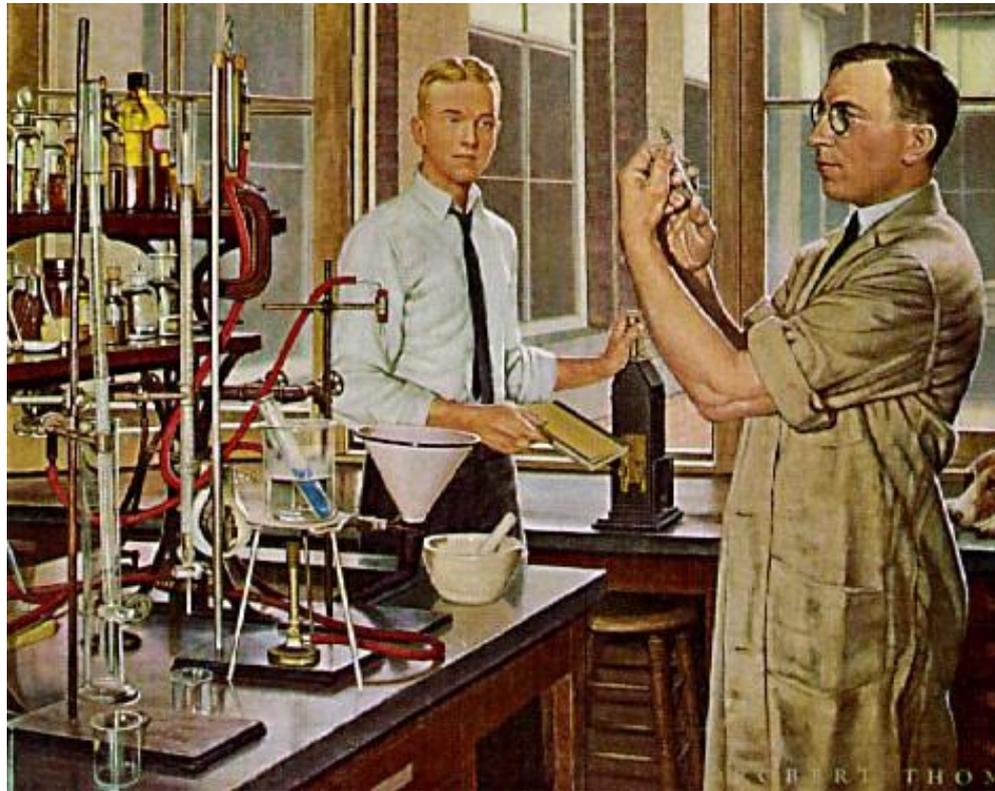


*Kaarsholm & Ludvigsen. Receptor 1995;5:1–8*

*Pires & Chacra. Arq Bras Endocrinol Metabol 2008;52:268–78*



## The next two talks





# What's happen in the last 20 months

June 2009

the aftermath



Linking diabetes and cancer: a consensus on complexity  
Pathophysiological conditions characterised by hyper- and in several examples differ from conve  
**Renehan, Smith, Kirkman *Lancet* commentary**  
+  
**many more commentaries**

June 2010

**Diabetes and Cancer  
Research Consortium**

March 2011

Second generation of analyses  
in complex datasets



# EASD linked initiatives

## DCRC

- International
- Research-based
- Natural history & pharmaco-epi

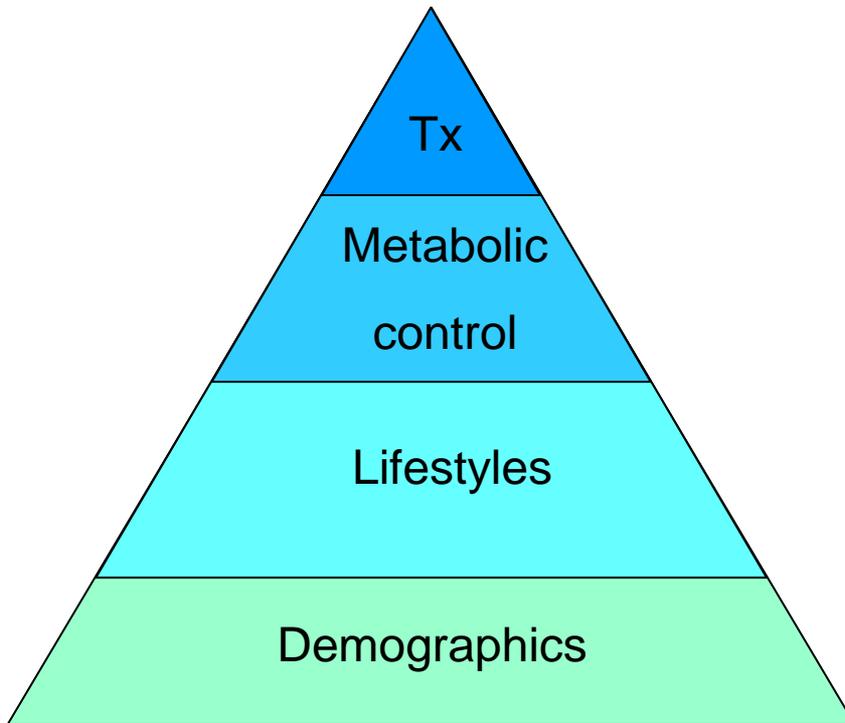
## EASD Task Force

- 'Euro-centric'
  - Advisory
- Bridge between cancer & diabetes research communities

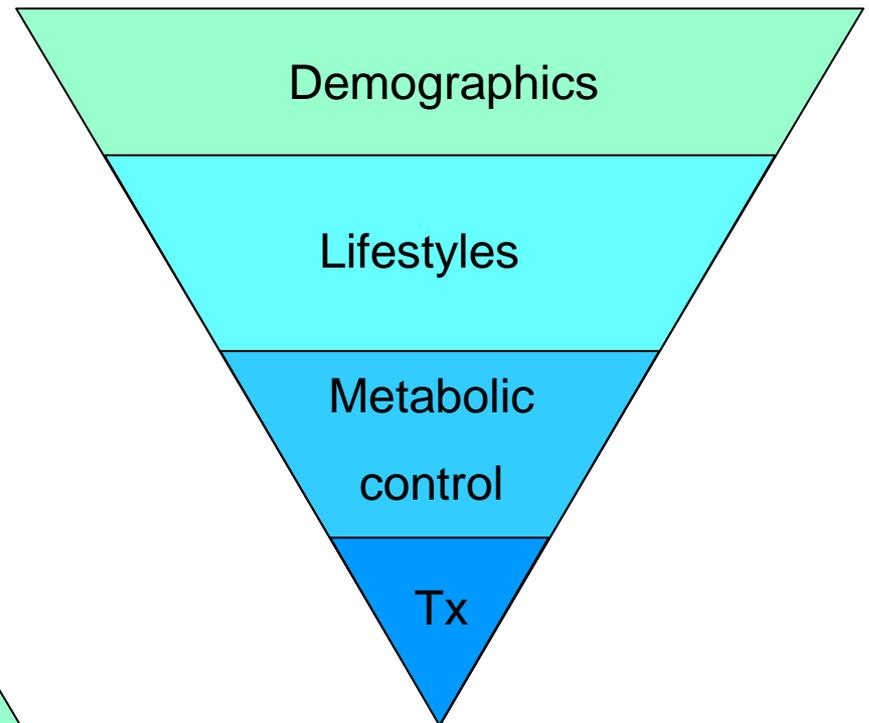


# Perspectives

## Diabetes Perspective (top-down)



## Oncology Perspective (bottom-up)





## framework so far

- Cancer incidence (rather than mortality)
- Gender & site-specific approach
- Important confounders
  - e.g. BMI, smoking
- Time-varying analyses, varying dose, immortal time bias



# Summary

- Obesity is associated with risk of several cancer types
- Diabetes is associated with risk of several cancer types, likely in many cases to be independent of BMI
- Diabetes & increased cancer mortality – needs research
- Insulins may increase cancer risk; metformin may reduce
- Future – 2<sup>nd</sup> generation analyses more sophisticated