

# DAY NIGHT RHYTHM DISORDERS, ETIOPATHOGENESIS, PHYSIOPATHOLOGY AND POSSIBLE REMEDIES

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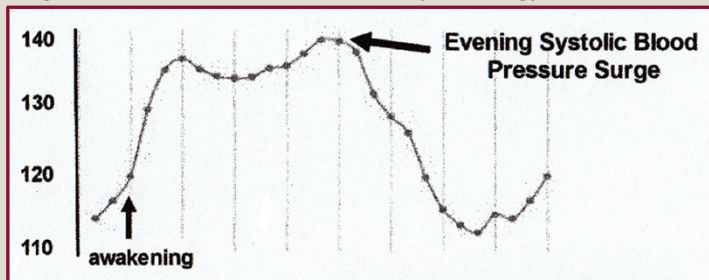
GERMAINE CORNELISSEN

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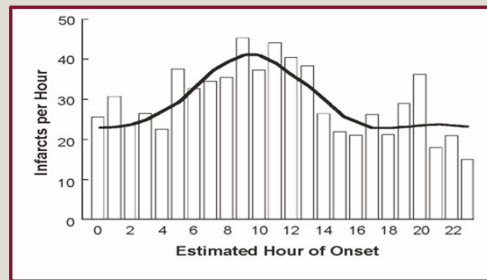
INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR TO SIM@B – Prato, Italy – 24 November 2023

# CIRCADIAN RHYTHMS ARE UBIQUITOUS IN PHYSIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY

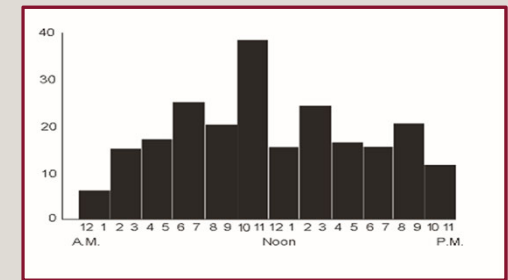
Systolic Blood Pressure (mmHg)



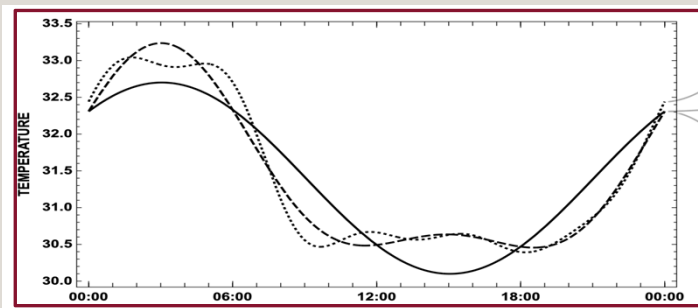
Myocardial Infarction (N/hour)



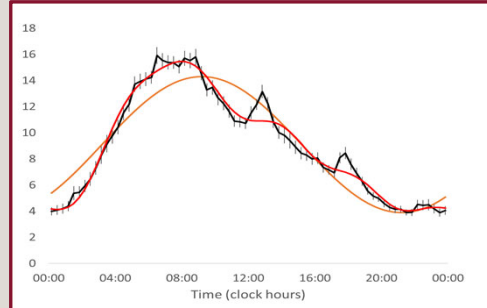
Thrombotic Stroke (N/hour)



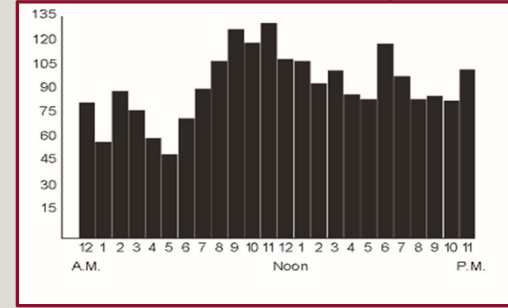
Skin Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



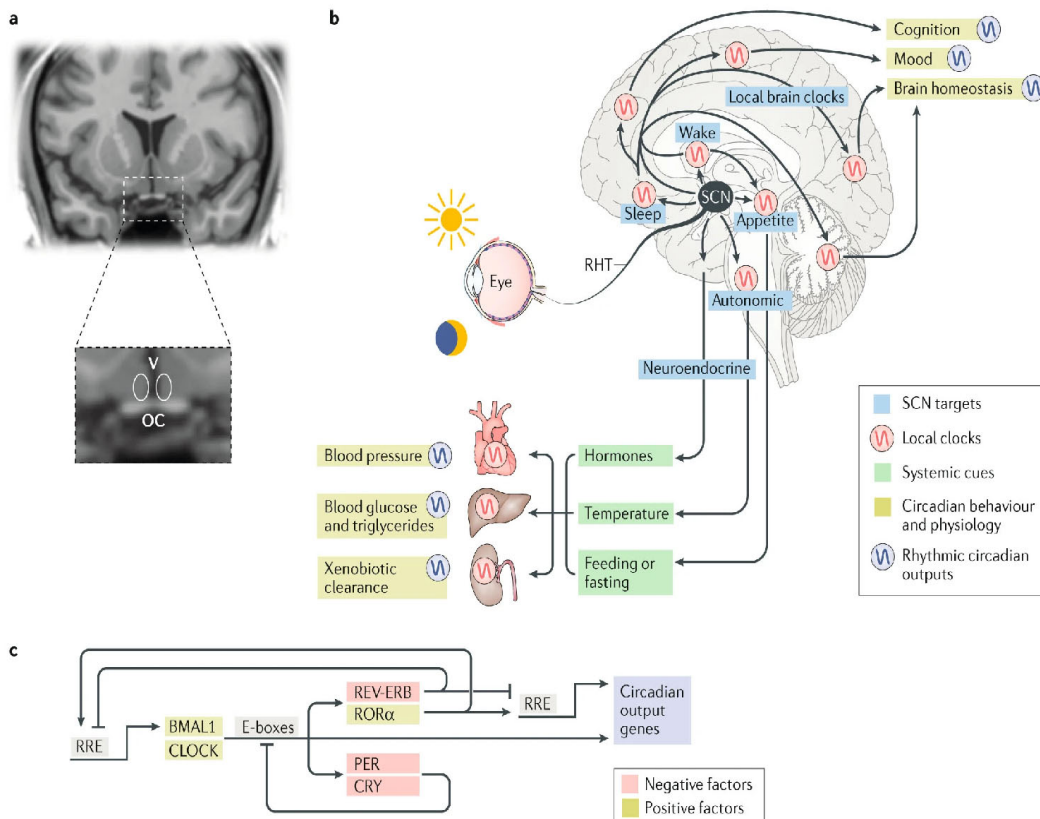
Cortisol ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ )



Sudden Cardiac Death (N/hour)

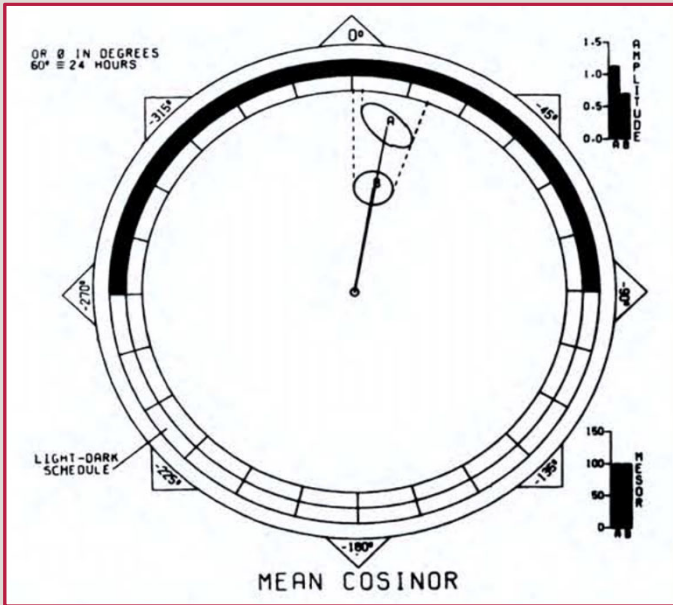
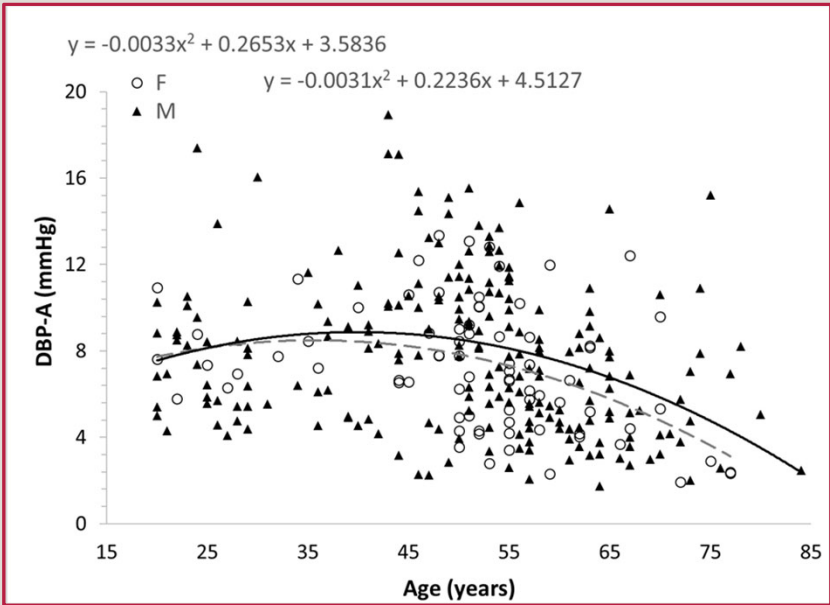


# CIRCADIAN ORGANIZATION IN MAMMALS



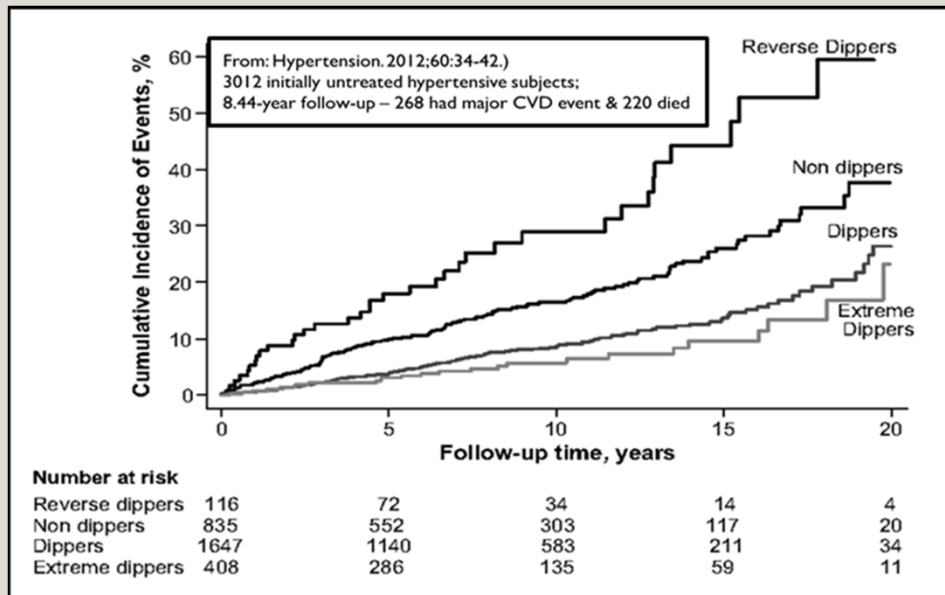
a The principal circadian clock, the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN), is located in the hypothalamus, which is highlighted by the box on the coronal MRI scan of a human brain. The inset shows an enlarged view, with the location of the SCN outlined. The optic chiasm (OC) lies across the base of the midline 3d ventricle (V). b The SCN receives direct retinal innervation via the retinohypothalamic tract (RHT) to ensure its synchronization to day–night cycles. The SCN clock projects to various brain centers, many of which contain local circadian clocks that direct behavioral (eg, feeding–fasting and sleep–wakefulness), autonomic and neuroendocrine circadian rhythms. These systemic cues synchronize the local molecular clocks of peripheral tissues, and these local clocks in turn direct local programs of circadian gene expression that regulate physiological rhythms critical to health (eg, rhythms relating to mental alertness, blood pressure, triglyceride metabolism and renal function). c Simplified schematic of the molecular transcriptional–translational feedback loops (TTFLs) of the mammalian circadian clock, in which heterodimeric complexes of CLOCK and BMAL1 proteins act via enhancer box (E-box) regulatory sequences to drive daytime expression of PER and CRY, which in turn combine to suppress CLOCK–BMAL1 activity at their own E-boxes. Subsequent degradation of PER and CRY in circadian night allows the cycle to start again. Additional feedback loops incorporating REV-ERB and ROR $\alpha$  are also circadian regulated via E-boxes and control BMAL1 expression via REV response elements (RREs). This stabilizes and enhances the core TTFL. In turn, these core and ancillary loops drive local circadian programs of clock-controlled output genes, the first tiers of which are also regulated by CLOCK–BMAL1, PER–CRY and REV-ERB and ROR $\alpha$  via E-boxes and RREs. More complex downstream cascades involving post-transcriptional, translational and post-translational mechanisms further sculpt the cellular circadian transcriptome and proteome.

# WEAKENING OF CIRCADIAN RHYTHMS WITH AGE

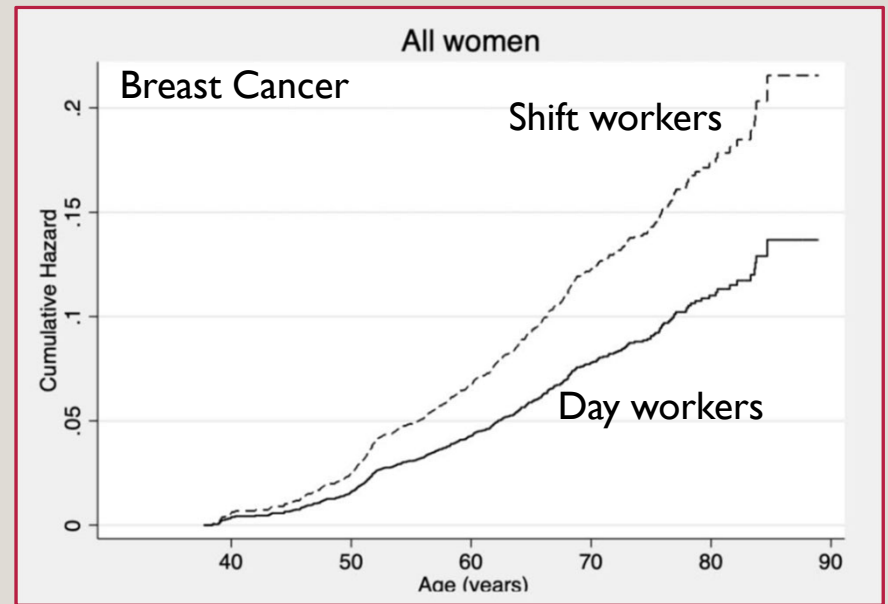


# WEAKENED CIRCADIAN RHYTHM IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED DISEASE RISK

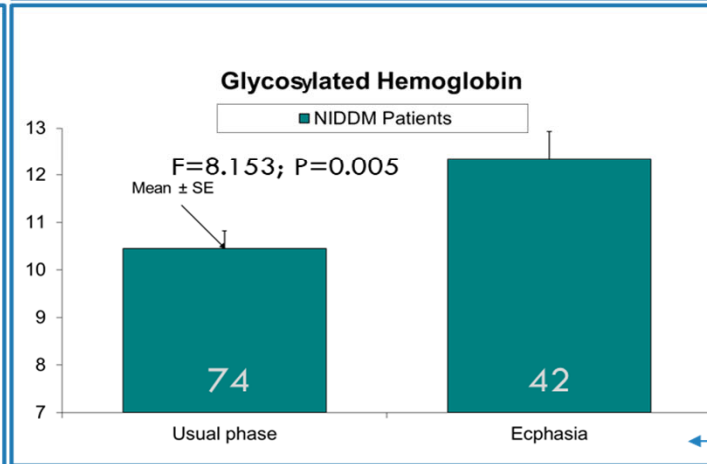
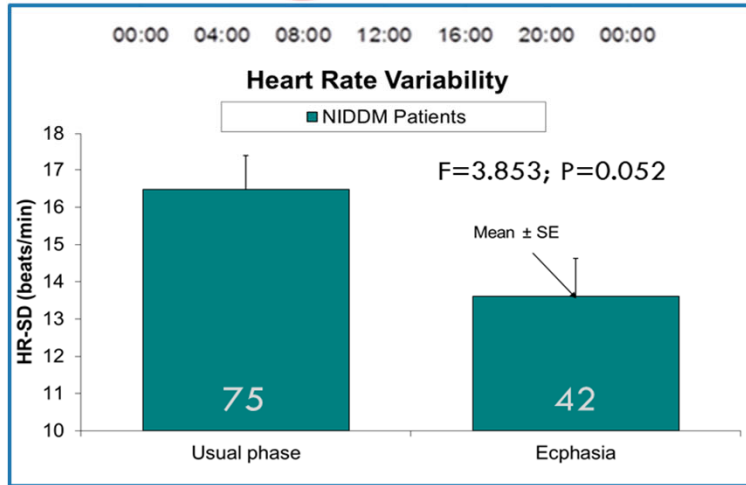
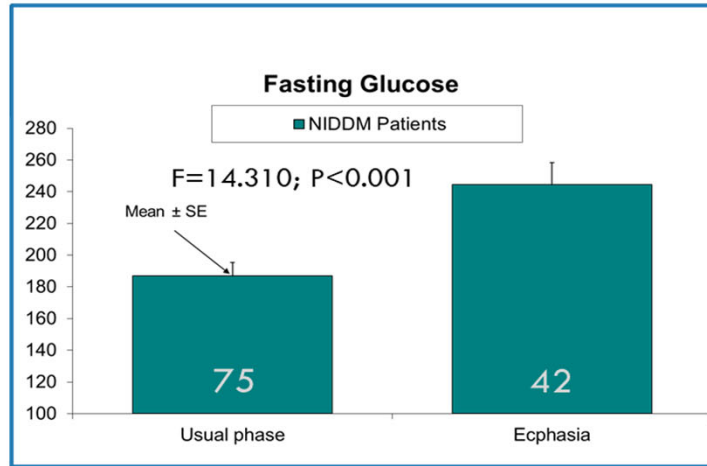
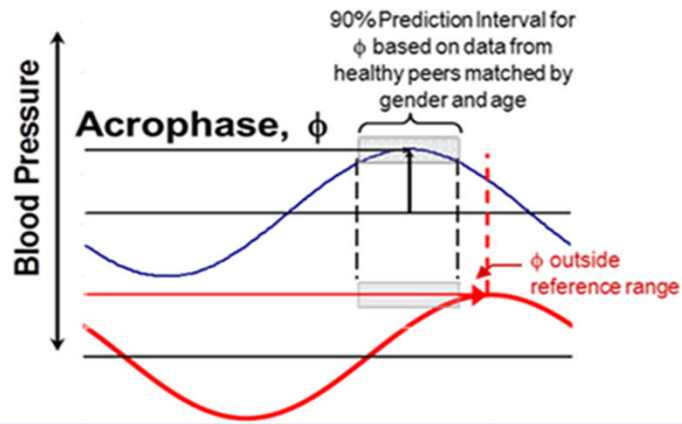
Hypertension. 2012;60:34-42



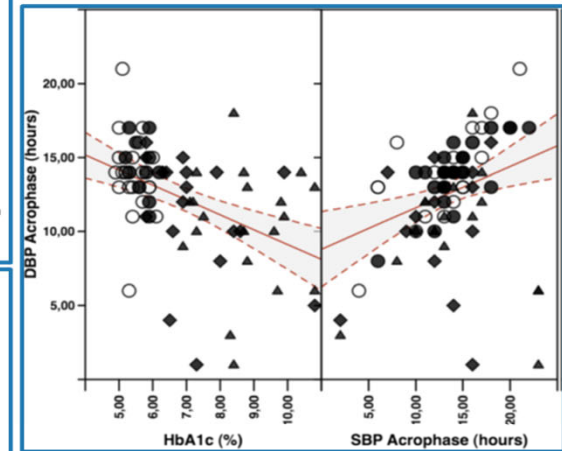
European Journal of Epidemiology (2023) 38:533–543



# Ecphasia



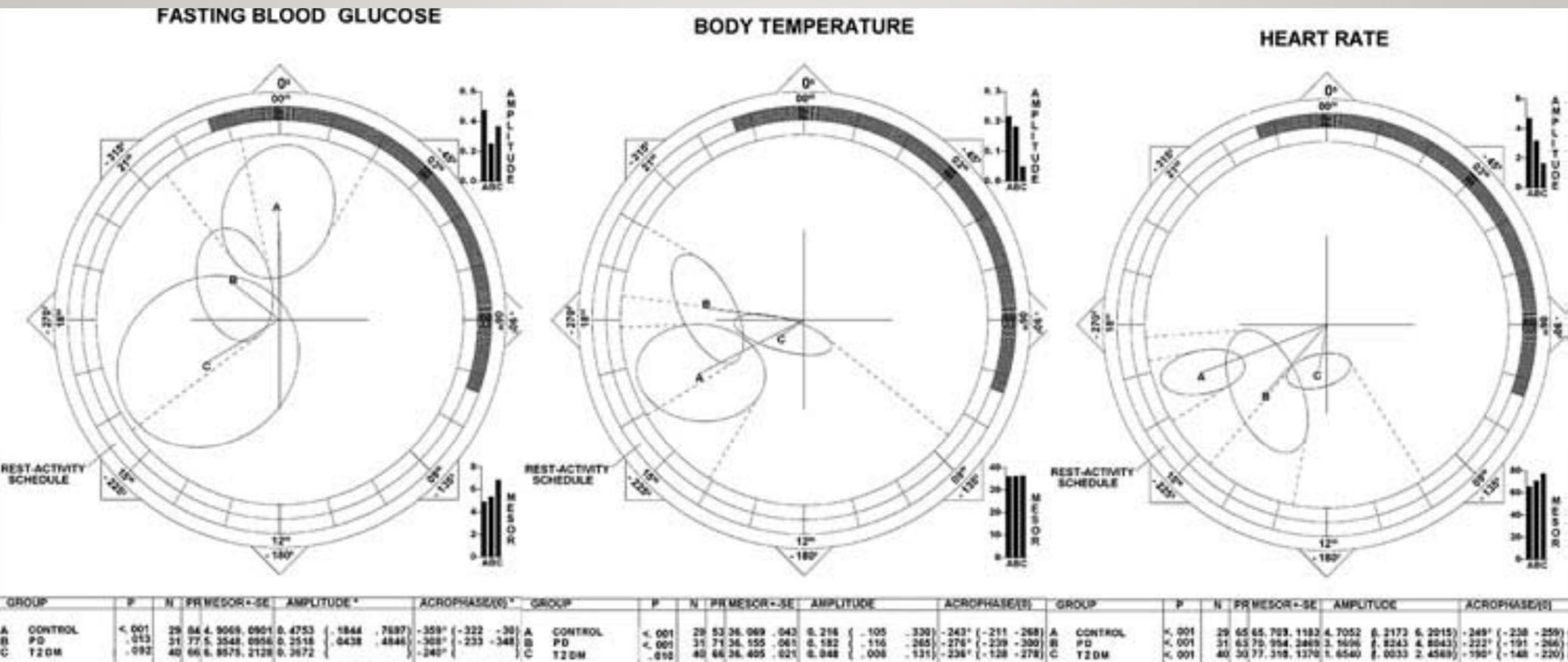
## Results confirmed in independent study



Diabetology & Metabolic Syndrome 2012; 4(1): 51.

Int J Cardiol 2004; 97 (Suppl 2): S14.

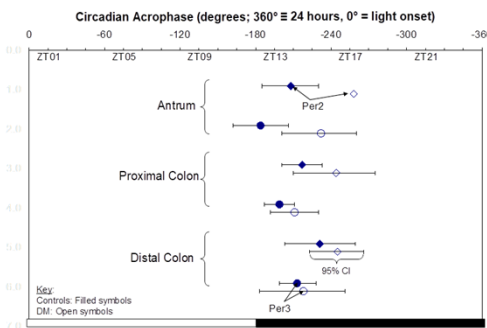
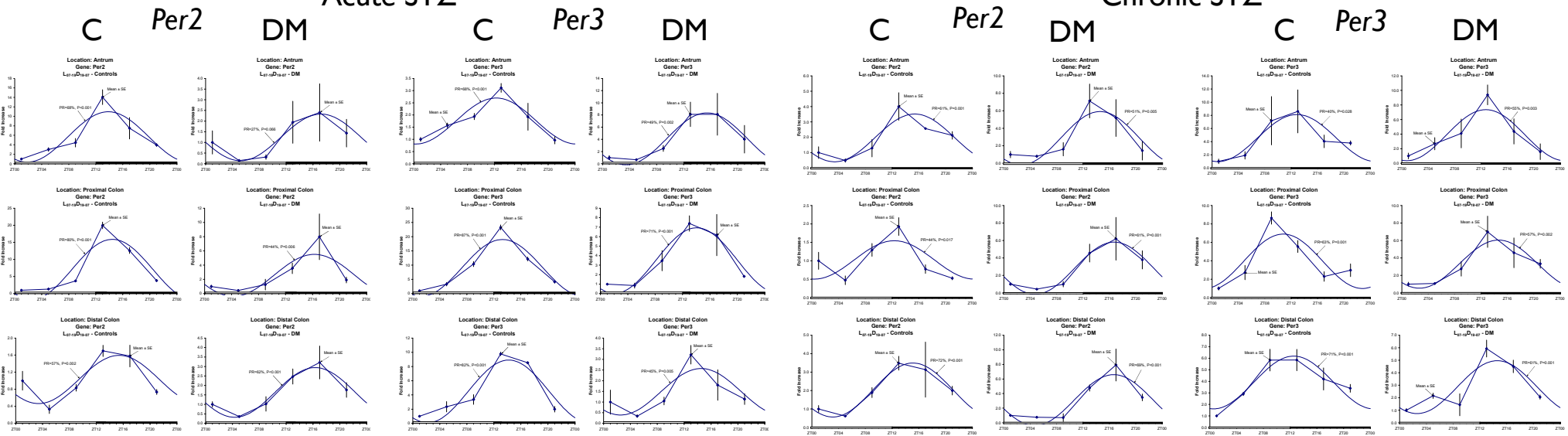
Progressive disruption of 24-h rhythms in fasting blood glucose (FBG), body temperature (BT) and heart rate (HR) associated with metabolic dysfunction and the development of prediabetes (PD) and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) (40–69 years old)



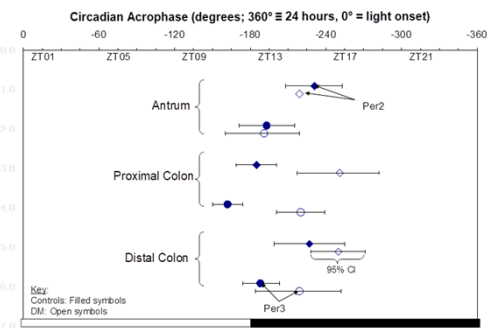
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07420528.2017.1347670>

## Acute STZ

## Chronic STZ

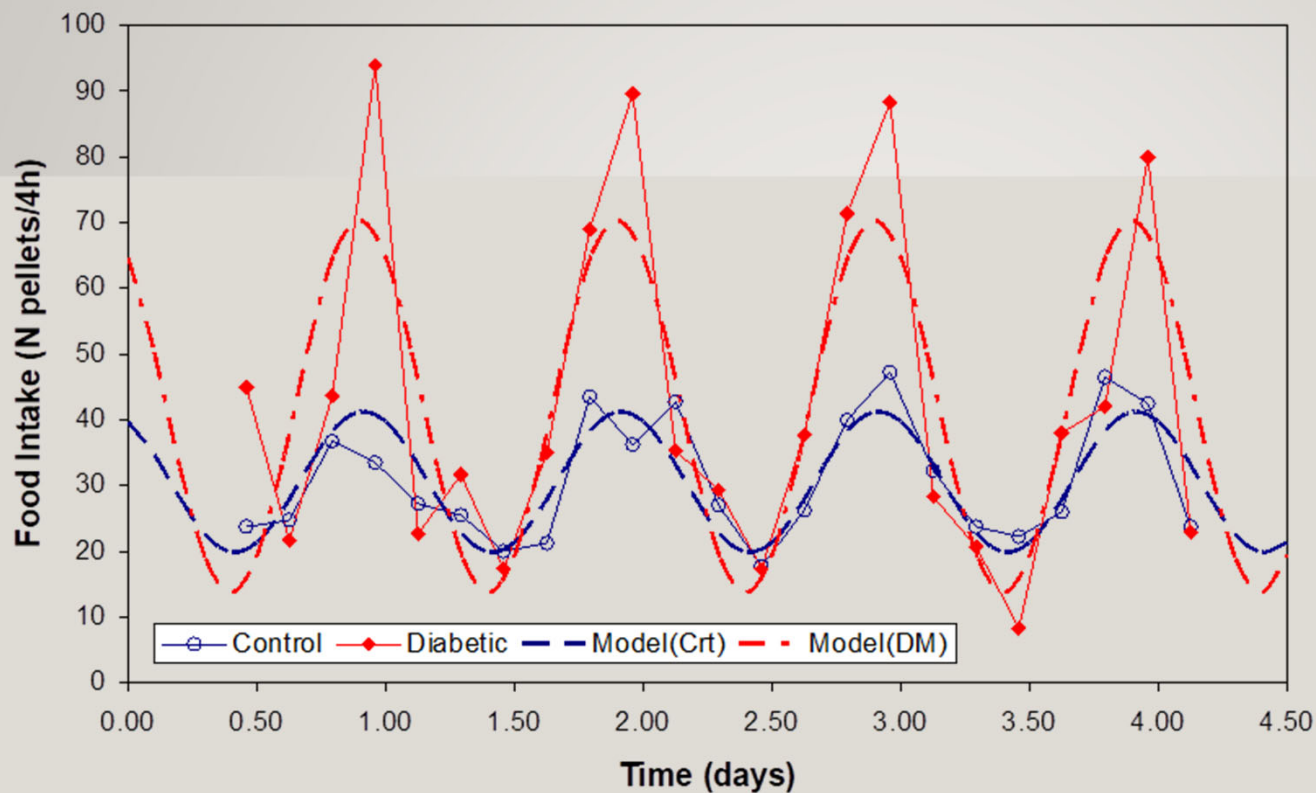


Diabetes shifts clock gene expression (*Per2* and *Per3*) within peripheral organs (GI tract) in C57BL/6J mice. No effect on *Per* in liver, kidney and lung (not shown).





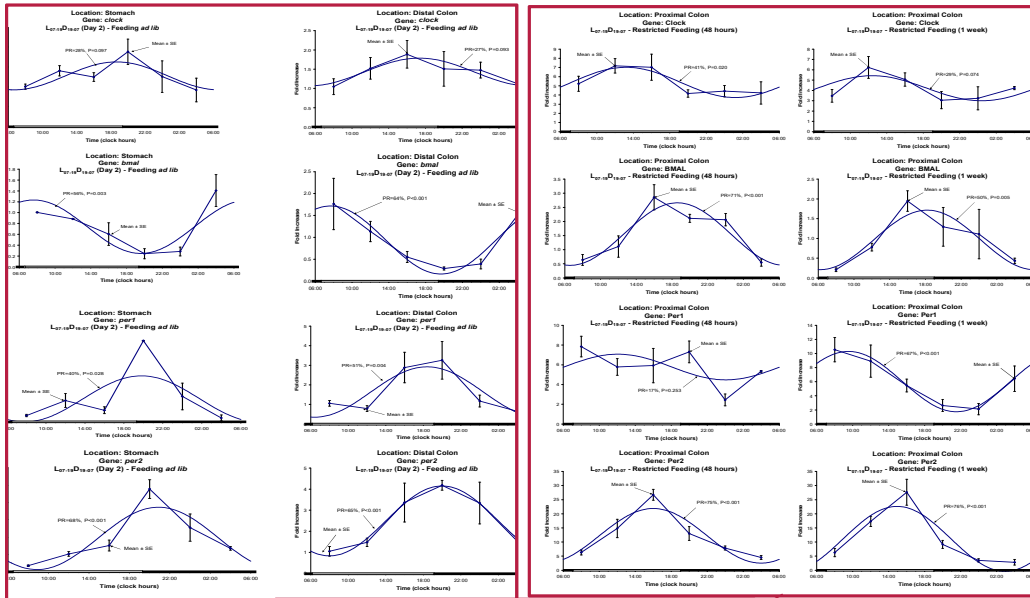
### Food Intake in Control and Diabetic Mice



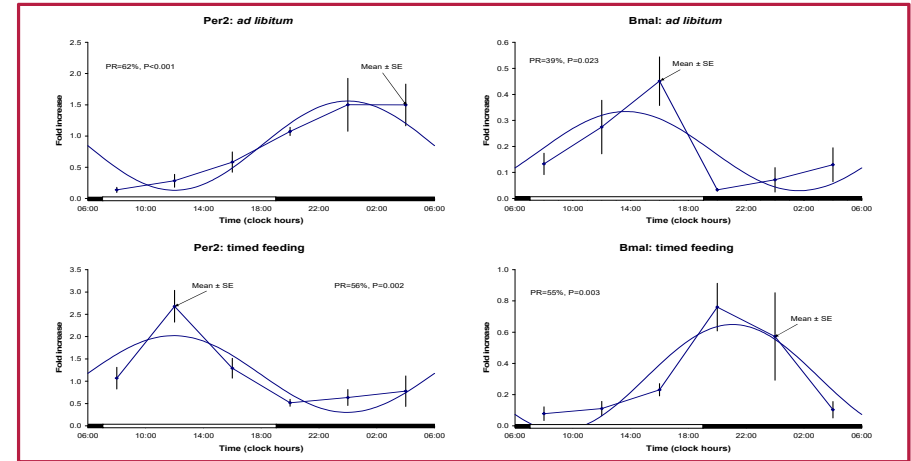
#### Comparison

MESOR:  $F=2.639$ ,  $P=0.165$   
24h Amp:  $F=25.659$ ,  $P=0.004$   
24h Phi:  $F=0.185$ ,  $P=0.685$

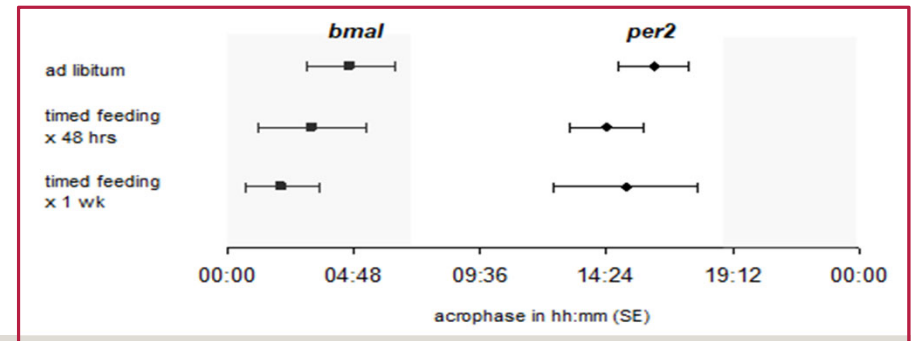
# MEAL TIMING AFFECTS CLOCK GENE EXPRESSION



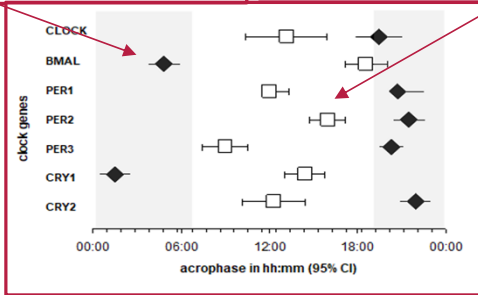
## Clock gene expression at the protein level in intestinal tissues



## Acrophase of clock gene expression in the SCN

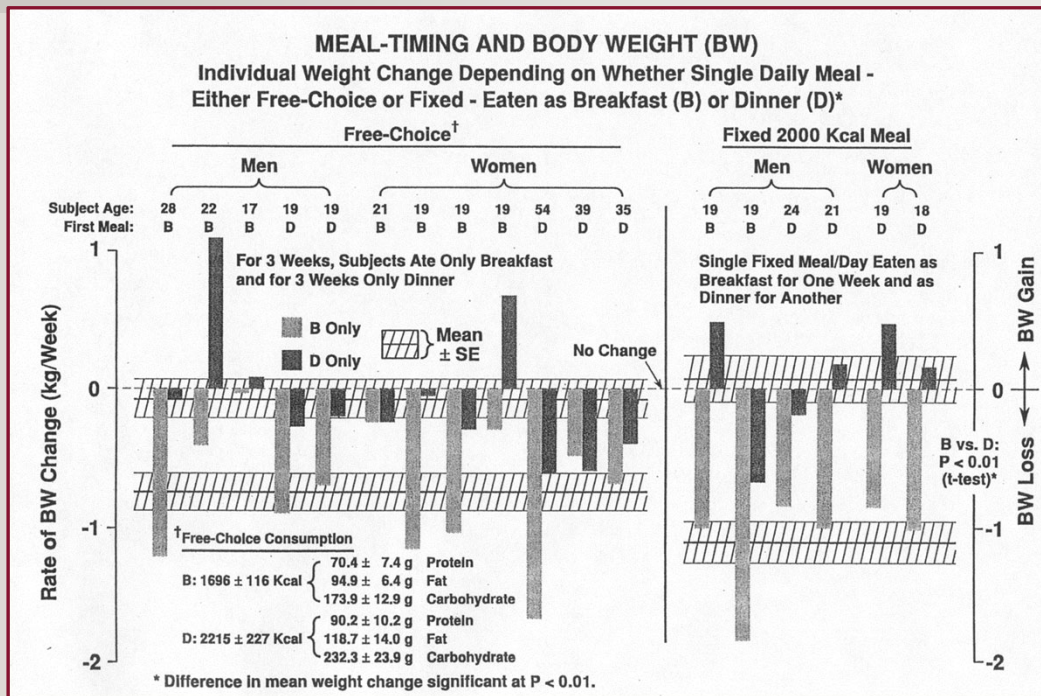


Colonic clock gene mRNA: feeding ad lib



Colonic clock gene mRNA: timed feeding

# IN HUMANS, BREAKFAST-ONLY BUT NOT DINNER-ONLY IS ASSOCIATED WITH WEIGHT LOSS



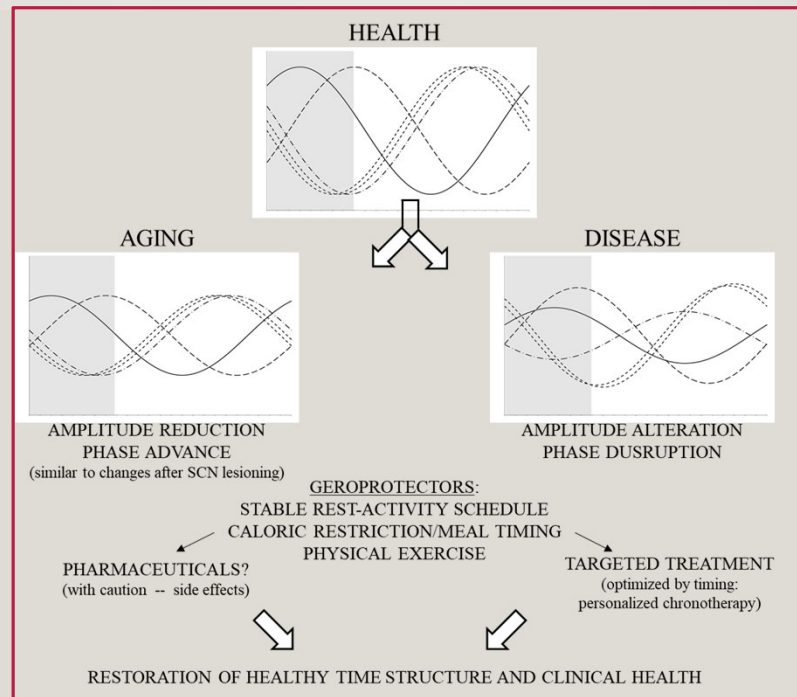
- Circadian rhythms persist during starvation
- Caloric restriction consistently prolongs life in several animal models
- Time-restricted feeding in singly-housed mice is harmful when food is available during rest span but not when offered during active span
- Time-restricted feeding is associated with larger circadian amplitude of circulating eosinophils, rectal temperature, corticosterone and liver glycogen
- TRF can prevent and reverse aspects of metabolic diseases
- In humans, time-restricted eating improved serum lipid and liver profiles and enhanced gut microbial richness

# CIRCADIAN RHYTHM OF DEFECATION AND CHRONORISK OF CONSTIPATION

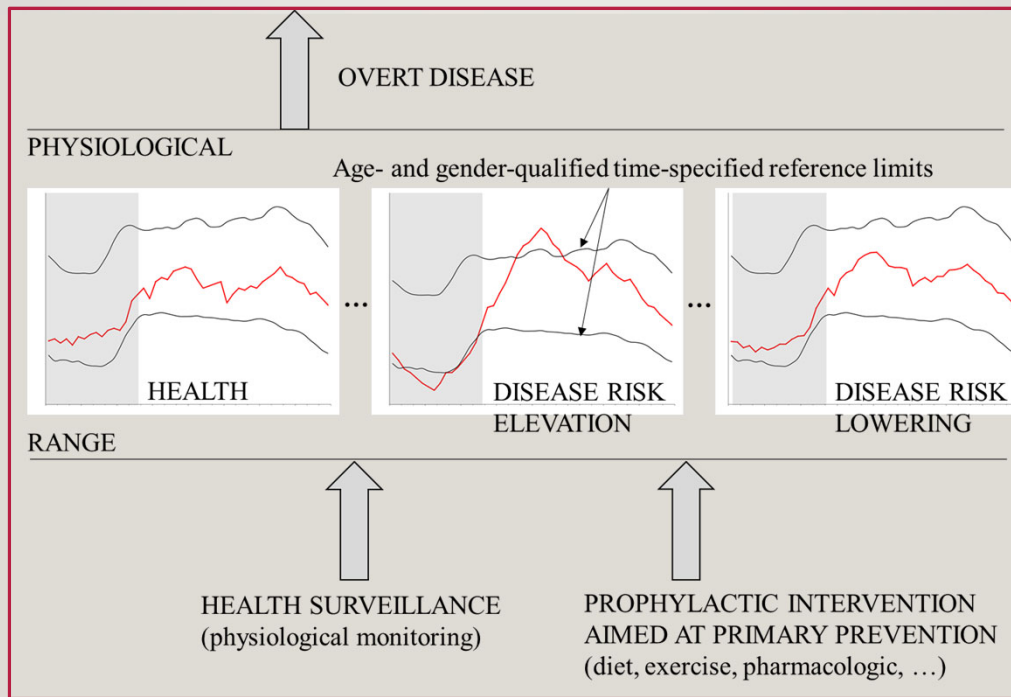
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- The circadian rhythm of defecation is one of the major rhythms of health. About 30% of global population have a high risk for constipation, associated with cancer risk of colon, gall bladder and pancreas.
- Enterography was carried out on 294 healthy people (16-28y.), 44 constipated persons (30-60y) before and after treatment (forlax), and 65 retirees (60-77y).
- Constipation risk was less in 16-17y schoolchildren (7%) than in 18-28y students (21%). Constipation risk was less among those with morning (10%) than afternoon (41%) or evening (39%) elimination rhythm. QOL of patients with irregular defecation rhythm improved by 30% after restoration of rhythm regularity. Risk of constipation was higher in those older than 60y (73%) than in fertile women (40%).
- Timing of defecation rhythm may serve as biomarker of constipation (and cancer risk).

# DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN HEALTHY AGING AND INCREASED DISEASE RISK



# PHYSIOLOGICAL MONITORING FOR HEALTH SURVEILLANCE



# POSSIBLE REMEDIES: STRENGTHENING THE CIRCADIAN SYSTEM

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- Lifestyle adjustments for health maintenance and optimization - Exposure to light and dark, a regular daily routine, exercise, and meal schedules are features amenable to manipulation to strengthen the circadian system. Exposure to bright light in the morning and melatonin administration in the evening have also long been known to be useful in the treatment of circadian rhythm sleep disorders.
- Clocking the drug - Chronotherapy and chronopharmacology aim at delivering a given treatment at the circadian stage of maximal efficacy while minimizing side effects.
- Drugging the clock - Conversely to altering the genome by means of gene editing, small-molecule modulators of the circadian clock are being developed that target the clock machinery at the molecular level. They target core or non-core clock proteins, modulating physiological effects as a consequence of agonist, inverse agonist, or antagonist interference. Among approved medications are lithium (bipolar disorder), metformin (T2DM), and rapamycin (cancer). New small-molecule compounds include longdaysin (inhibitor of casein kinase I lengthens the period, for cognitive deficits), and Nobiletin (activates ROR, protects against metabolic dysfunction by enhancing amplitude).

THANK YOU

