GENOMICA APPLICATA

The Human Genome

Intro

Understanding

- the organization,
- variation,
- and expression of the human genome is central to the principles of genomic and precision medicine.

The comparison of individual genomes underlies the conclusion that virtually every individual has his or her own unique constitution of gene products

The «chemical individuality»



The «chemical individuality»

Eur J Pediatr. 1986 Apr;145(1-2):2-5.

"Inborn errors of metabolism" and "chemical individuality", two ideas of Sir Archibald Garrod briefly revisited 50 years after his death.

Burgio GR.

Abstract

Two ideas of Sir A. Garrod, "chemical individuality" (1902) and "inborn errors of metabolism" (1908) have proved fundamental for the development of medical knowledge. The latter idea was more fortunate than the former which, however has been extremely heuristic. On the other hand the two ideas are not entirely independent of each other: in fact, a third Garrodian concept, "inborn factors in disease", represents a significant link between them. "Inborn errors of metabolism" revived the laws of genetics and opened the way to interpretation of the molecular diseases with all their inherent practical modern implications (neonatal screening, prenatal diagnosis, and in perspective, genetic engineering). "Chemical individuality" still constitutes a valid premise for knowledge of biological individuality (in other words, the "biological ego") fundamentally programmed for conservation of self and for continuous discrimination of self versus non-self.

Variation in the human genome has long been the cornerstone of the field of human genetics, and its study led to the establishment of the medical specialty of medical genetics.

- While these terms seem similar, they in fact describe quite distinct (though frequently overlapping) approaches in biology and in medicine.
- Having said that, there are inconsistencies in the way the terms are used, even by those who work in the field.

- The field of genetics is the scientific study of heredity and of the genes that provide the physical, biological, and conceptual bases for heredity and inheritance.
- To say that something—a trait, a disease, a code, or an information—is "genetic" refers to its basis in genes and in DNA.

Heredity refers to the familial phenomenon whereby traits (including clinical traits) are transmitted from generation to generation, due to the transmission of ger child.



- Genomics is the scientific study of a genome or genomes.
- A genome is the complete DNA sequence, referring to the entire genetic information of a gamete, an individual, a population, or a species.

- Genomics" gave birth to a series of other "-omics" that refer to the comprehensive study of the full complement of genome products
 - proteins (hence, proteomics),
 - transcripts (transcriptomics), or
 - metabolites (*metabolomics*).

By analogy with genetics and genomics, epigenetics and epigenomics refer to the study of factors that affect gene (or, more globally, genome) function, but without an accompanying change in genes or the genome.



Genomic Medicine refers to the use of large-scale genomic information and to consideration of the full extent of an individual's genome and other "omes" in the practice of medicine and medical decision making.

Examples:

- gene expression profiling to characterize tumors or to define prognosis in cancer
- genotyping variants in the set of genes involved in drug metabolism or action to determine an individual's correct therapeutic dosage

Examples:

- scanning the entire genome for millions of variants that influence one's susceptibility to disease
- analyzing multiple protein or RNA biomarkers to detect exposure to potential pathogens

Examples:

- Monitor therapy
- predictive information in presymptomatic individuals

Characteristics of the Reference Human Genome

- The typical human genome consists of approximately 3 billion (3×10⁹) base pairs of DNA,
- 24 types of nuclear chromosomes (22 autosomes, plus the sex chromosomes, X and Y)
- the smaller mitochondrial chromosome

Characteristics of the Reference Human Genome

Length of the human genome (base pairs)	3,096,649,726
Number of known protein-coding genes	20,441
Average gene density (number of genes/Mb)	6.6
Number of ncRNA genes	22,219
Number of known short sequence variants	156,148,362
Number of known structural variants	4,485,861
From Ensembl, database GRCh38, version 85.38 (accessed August 2016).	

Spectrum of resolution

Individual chromosomes can best be visualized and studied at metaphase in dividing cells, and karyotyping of patient chromosomes has been a valuable and routine clinical laboratory procedure for a half **century**, albeit at levels of resolution that fall well short of most pathologic **DNA** variants

High Resolution G banding



- Human chromosome 4 at varying resolutions due to exact mitotic stage, (or degrees of spreading - squashing - stretching)
- Each band corresponds to about 5000-10000 kb

Spectrum of resolution

The ultimate resolution comes from direct sequence analysis, and an increasing number of new technologies have facilitated comparisons of individual genomes with the reference human genome sequence

Spectrum of resolution in chromosome and genome analysis



Genes in the Human Genome

- the human genome contains an estimated 20,000 protein-coding genes
- there are some genes, including clinically relevant genes, that are currently undetected

Genes in the Human Genome

- In addition to being relatively sparse in the genome, genes are distributed quite nonrandomly along the different human chromosomes.
- Some chromosomes are relatively generich, while others are quite gene-poor, ranging from approximately 3 genes/Mb of DNA to more than 20 genes/Mb





Coding and Noncoding Genes

- There are a number of different types of gene in the human genome.
 - Most genes known or thought to be clinically relevant are protein coding
 - additional genes whose functional product appears to be the RNA itself

ncRNA



- Any given individual carries 4-5 million sequence variants that are known to exist in multiple forms (i.e., are polymorphic) in our species.
- each and every base pair in the human genome is expected to vary in someone somewhere around the globe.

Types of Variation

 any two randomly selected individuals have sequences that are 99.9% identical

The majority of these differences involve simply a single unit in the DNA code and are referred to as single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)

The remaining variation consists of insertions or deletions (in/dels) of (usually) short sequence stretches, variation in the number of copies of repeated elements or inversions in the order of sequences at a particular locus in the genome



Schematic representation of different types of structural polymorphism in the human genome, leading to deletions, duplications, inversions, and **CNV** changes relative to the reference arrangement.



Common Variation in the Human Genome

Type of Variation	Size Range (approx.) ^a	Effect(s) in Biology and Medicine
Single-nucleotide polymorphisms	1 bp	Nonsynonymous \rightarrow functional change in encoded protein?
		Others \rightarrow potential regulatory variants?
		Most \rightarrow no effect? ("neutral")
Copy number variants (CNVs)	10 kb to 1 Mb	Gene dosage variation \rightarrow functional consequences? Most \rightarrow no effect or uncertain effect
Insertion/deletion polymorphisms (in/dels)	1 bp to 1 Mb	In coding sequence: frameshift mutation? \rightarrow functional change
		Most \rightarrow uncertain effects
Inversions	Few bp to 100 kb	? break in gene sequence
		? long-range effect on gene expression
		? indirect effects on reproductive fitness
		Most \rightarrow no effect? ("neutral")
Segmental duplications	10 kb to >1 Mb	Hotspots for recombination \rightarrow polymorphism (CNVs)





the 1000 Genomes Project concluded that each genome carries

- 100 or more likely loss-of-function mutations
- □ 10,000 nonsynonymous changes
- 500,000 variants that overlap known gene regulatory regions.

thousands of genes in the human genome are highly tolerant to many mutations that appear likely to result in a loss of function

(b) Loss of function: Null/amorphic mutation Homozygous Heterozygous Alleles X X X Products None

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Null alleles produce no functional product. Homozygous null organisms have mutant (amorphic) phenotype due to absence of the gene product. Heterozygous organisms produce less functional gene product than homozygous wild-type organisms and may have mutant phenotype. See text for discussion of dominant versus recessive mutations.

Amorphic = no function



Alleles X Products

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Leaky mutant alleles produce a small amount of wild-type gene product. Homozygous organisms have a mutant (hypomorphic) phenotype. Heterozygous organisms may also be mutant.

Hypomorphic = less function

De NOVO MUTATION

- studies have shown that any individual carries an estimated 30–70 new mutations per genome that were not present in the genomes of his or her parents.
- generation of a new length variant depends on recombination, rather than on errors in DNA synthesis to generate a new base pair
- the measured rate of formation of new CNVs is orders of magnitude higher than that of base substitutions

the number of SNPs described for our species is still incomplete

each genome carries thousands of nonsynonymous SNPs

These measurements underscore the potential impact of gene and genome variation on human biology and on medicine.









Copy Number Variation

Over the past decade, a number of important studies have focused on the prevalence of structural variants in the genome,

collectively account for far more variation in genome sequence (expressed in terms of the amount of genomic DNA affected) than do SNPs

Copy number variation

Global variation in copy number in the human genome

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Copy number variation (CNV) of DNA sequences is functionally significant but has yet to be fully ascertained. We have constructed a first-generation CNV map of the human genome through the study of 270 individuals from four populations with ancestry in Europe, Africa or Asia (the HapMap collection). DNA from these individuals was screened for CNV using two complementary technologies: single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping arrays, and clone-based comparative genomic hybridization. A total of 1,447 copy number variable regions (CNVRs), which can encompass overlapping or adjacent gains or losses, covering 360 megabases (12% of the genome) were identified in these populations. These CNVRs contained hundreds of genes, disease loci, functional elements and segmental duplications. Notably, the CNVRs encompassed more nucleotide content per genome than SNPs, underscoring the importance of CNV in genetic diversity and evolution. The data obtained delineate linkage disequilibrium patterns for many CNVs, and reveal marked variation in copy number among populations. We also demonstrate the utility of this resource for genetic disease studies.

http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v444/n/118/abs/nature05329.html

Amilasi

2 forme isoenzimatiche alfa-amilasi salivare o ptialina alfa-amilasi pancreatica



•Il gene per l'amilasi salivare AMY1 è presente in copia multipla nel genoma

- il numero di copie varia tra gli individui e tra le popolazioni
- e corrisponde all'espressione della proteina nella saliva



http://www.nature.com/ng/journal/v39/n10/abs/ng2123.html