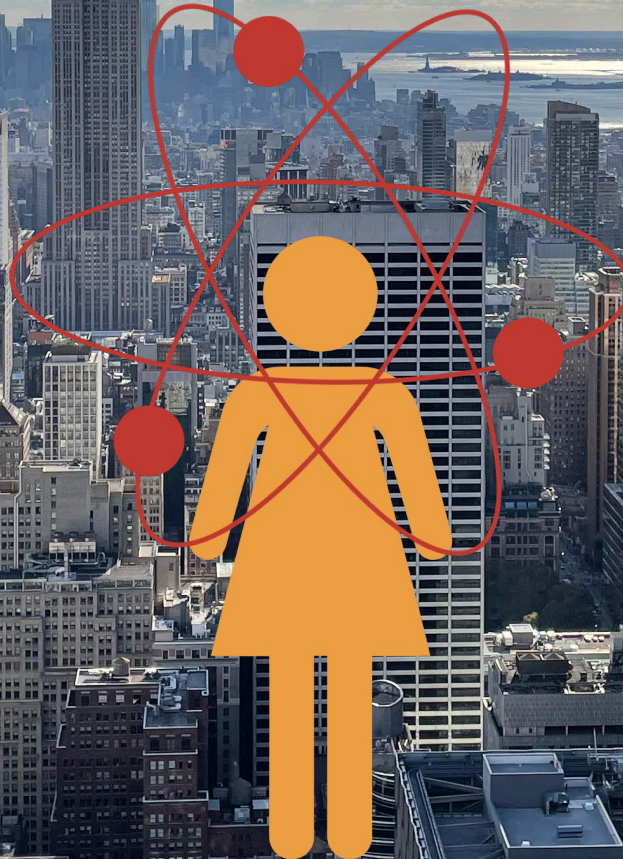
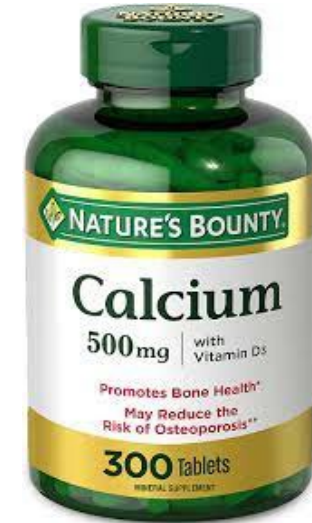


# DISEASE DETECTION AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT: HOW METAL STABLE ISOTOPES OFFER UNIQUE INSIGHTS



Kathrin Schilling, PhD  
[ks3759@columbia.edu](mailto:ks3759@columbia.edu)

# WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT AN ELEMENT



Zinc-64  
49.17%

Zinc-66  
27.73%

Zinc-67  
4.04%

Zinc-68  
18.45%

Zinc-70  
0.6%

Iron-56  
91.75%

Iron-57  
2.12%

Iron-58  
0.28%

Calcium-40  
96.9%

Calcium-42  
0.65%

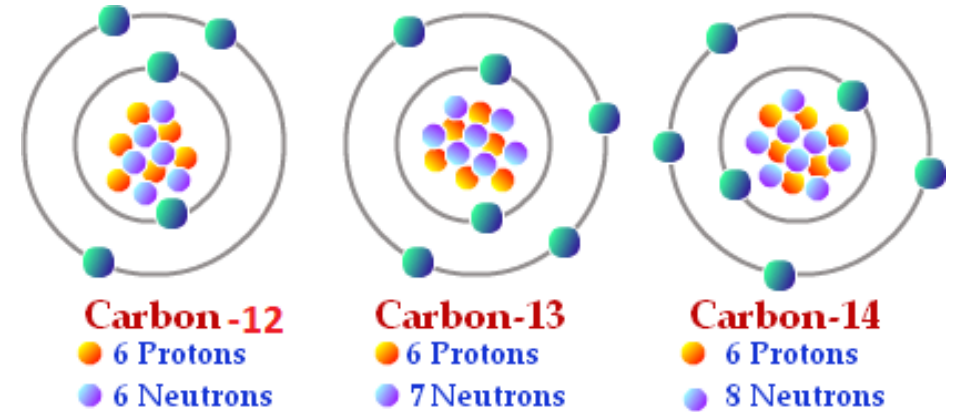
Calcium-43  
0.14%

Calcium-44  
2.1%

WHEN an isotope chemist thinks about an element

# WHAT ARE ISOTOPES?

- **Same atomic number**
  - Same number of protons in their nuclei
  - Same number of electrons in their shells
- **Different mass**
  - Different number of neutrons in their nuclei
- **Different chemical behavior**

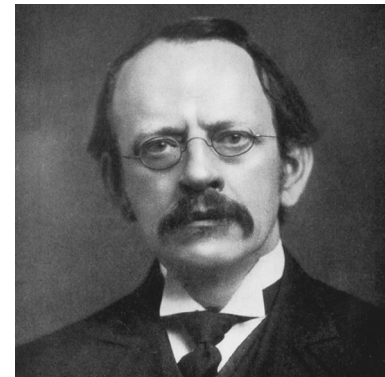


Frederick Soddy



Margarete Todd

J.J. Thompson



Francis Aston



# Columbia University faculty pioneered isotope geochemistry

## NOBEL AWARD GOES TO PROFESSOR UREY

Columbia Scientist Gets the 1934 Chemistry Prize for Discovering 'Heavy Water.'

### ACHIEVEMENT WAS HAILED

Seen as of Especial Value in Cancer Study—Has Proved Great Spur to Research.

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 15.—The Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 1934 was awarded today to Professor Harold C. Urey of Columbia University because of his discovery of "heavy water."

The chemistry prize for 1933 will not be awarded. It was also announced that there would be no prize in physics for this year.



Ossip Carber Studios.  
**WINS NOBEL PRIZE.**  
Professor Harold Urey.

562

Urey :

### *The Thermodynamic Properties of Isotopic Substances.*

LIVERSIDGE LECTURE, DELIVERED BEFORE THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY IN THE ROYAL INSTITUTION ON DECEMBER 18TH, 1946.

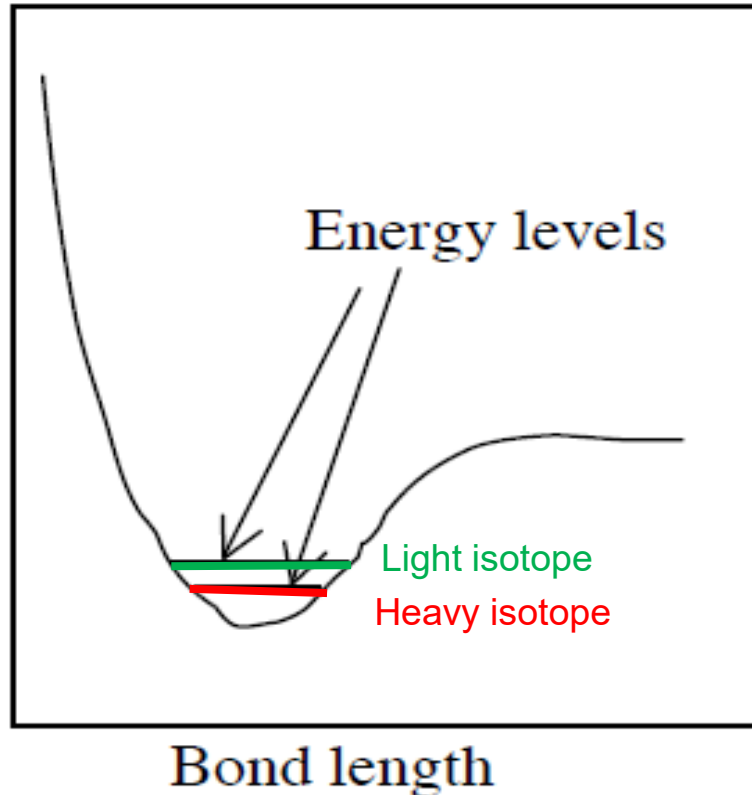
By HAROLD C. UREY.

(Institute of Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago.)

"Before the discovery of isotopes, it was generally assumed that all atoms of an element were identical in all respects. ...reviewed in this paper, we know that **isotopes and isotopic compounds differ in their thermodynamic properties. ... These small differences make possible the concentration and separation of the isotopes of some of the elements** ... important applications as a means of determining the temperatures at geological formations were laid down."

# Why do isotopes fractionate?

ISOTOPE FRACTIONATION is a natural process when stable isotopes of an element are being partitioned between two materials, phases ...



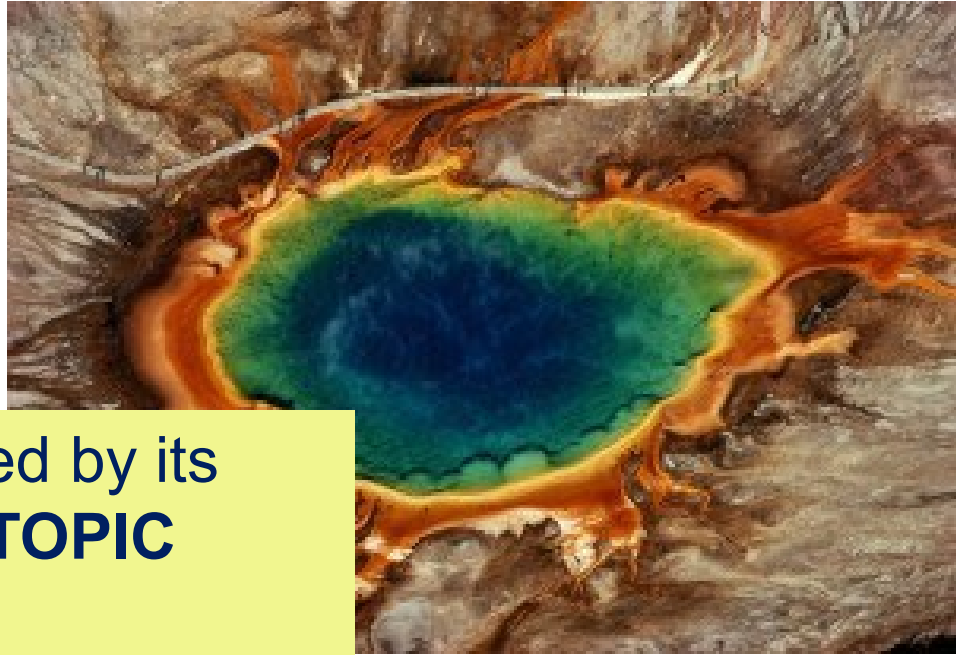
## RULES OF THUMB

- The lighter of two isotopes react faster
- The heavier of two isotopes prefer the strongest bonds
- Isotope fractionation is larger for light elements
- Isotope fractionation is larger for elements with various oxidation states

# Metal isotopes are powerful tools in Earth Sciences



Every object is defined by its elemental and **ISOTOPIC** composition



ARTICLES <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41561-019-0354-2> nature geoscience

## Terrestrial magma ocean origin of the Moon

Natsuki Hosono<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Shun-ichiro Karato<sup>3</sup>, Junichiro Makino<sup>4,2</sup> and Takayuki R. Saitoh<sup>4,5</sup>

A conceptual framework for the origin of the Moon must explain both the chemical and the mechanical characteristics of the Earth–Moon system to be viable. The classic concept of an oblique giant impact explains the large angular momentum and the lack of a large iron-rich core to the Moon, but in this scenario it is difficult to explain the similarity in the isotopic compositions of the Earth and Moon without violating the angular momentum constraint. Here we propose that a giant, solid impactor hit the proto-Earth while it was covered with a magma ocean, under the conventional collision conditions. We perform density-independent smoothed particle hydrodynamic collision simulations with an equation of state appropriate for molten silicates. These calculations demonstrate that, because of the large difference in shock heating between silicate melts and solids (rocks), a substantial fraction of the ejected, Moon-forming material is derived from the magma ocean, even in a highly oblique collision. We show that this model reconciles the compositional similarities and differences between the Moon and Earth while satisfying the angular momentum constraint.

Science Current Issue First release papers Archive About Submit manuscript

HOME > SCIENCE > VOL. 346, NO. 6209 > LOW MID-PROTEROZOIC ATMOSPHERIC OXYGEN LEVELS AND THE DELAYED RISE OF ANIMALS

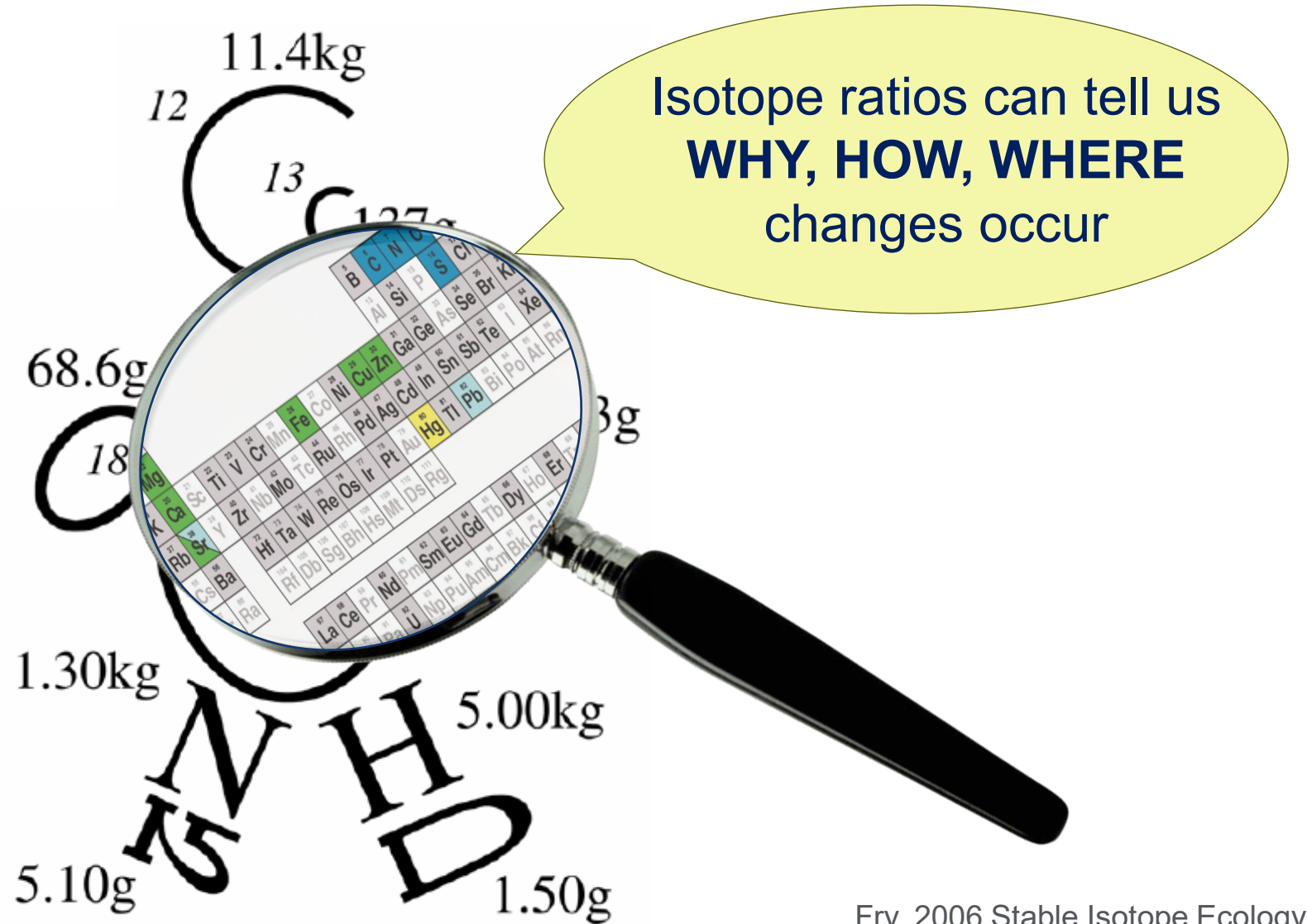
REPORT f t in g+ wh e

## Low Mid-Proterozoic atmospheric oxygen levels and the delayed rise of animals

NOAH J. PLANAVSKY, CHRISTOPHER T. REINHARD, XIANGLI WANG, DANIELLE THOMSON, PETER MCGOLDRICK, ROBERT H. RAINBIRD, THOMAS JOHNSON, WOODWARD W. FISCHER, AND TIMOTHY W. LYONS [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 31 Oct 2014 • Vol 346, Issue 6209 • pp. 635-638 • DOI: 10.1126/science.1258410

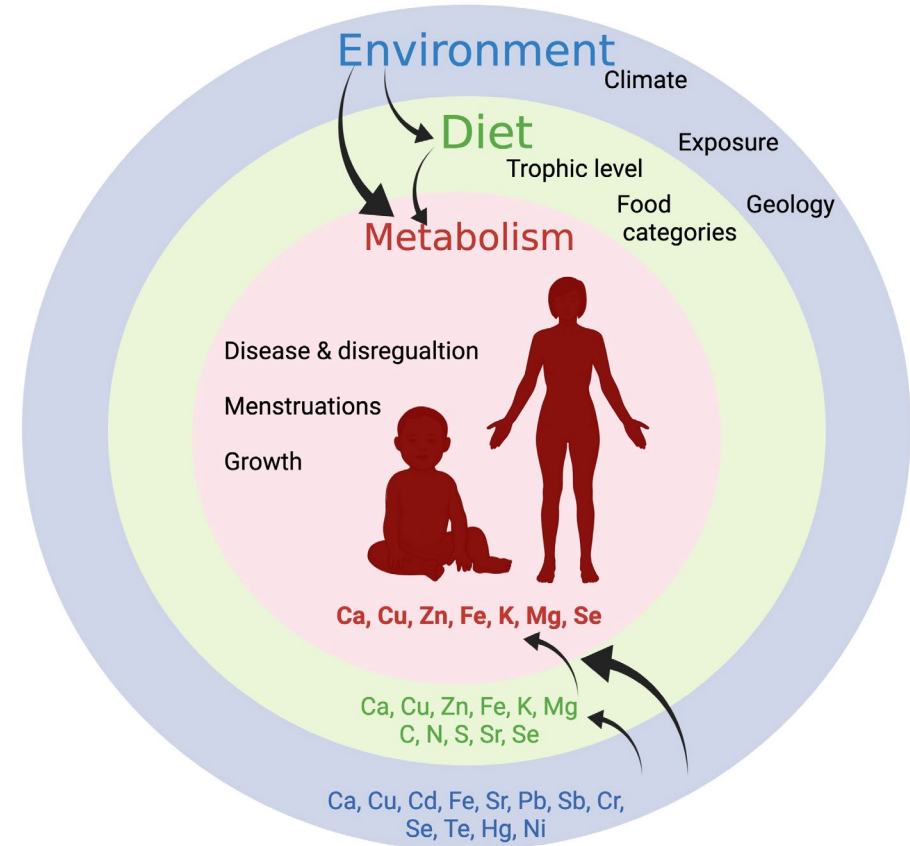
# We are made of ISOTOPES!



Fry, 2006 Stable Isotope Ecology

# Isotope metallomics' extraordinary potential

1 1A H Hydrogen 1.008	2 2A He Helium 4.002602																
3 Li Lithium 6.94	4 Be Beryllium 9.0121831											5 B Boron 10.81	6 C Carbon 12.011	7 N Nitrogen 14.007	8 O Oxygen 15.999	9 F Fluorine 18.99840323	10 Ne Neon 20.1797
11 Na Sodium 22.98976928	12 Mg Magnesium 24.305											13 Al Aluminum 26.9815385	14 Si Silicon 28.085	15 P Phosphorus 30.973761998	16 S Sulfur 32.06	17 Cl Chlorine 35.45	18 Ar Argon 39.948
19 K Potassium 39.0983	20 Ca Calcium 40.078	21 Sc Scandium 44.955908	22 Ti Titanium 47.867	23 V Vanadium 50.9415	24 Cr Chromium 51.9961	25 Mn Manganese 54.938044	26 Fe Iron 55.845	27 Co Cobalt 58.933194	28 Ni Nickel 58.6934	29 Cu Copper 63.546	30 Zn Zinc 65.38	31 Ga Gallium 69.723	32 Ge Germanium 72.630	33 As Arsenic 74.921595	34 Se Selenium 78.971	35 Br Bromine 79.904	36 Kr Krypton 83.798
37 Rb Rubidium 85.4678	38 Sr Strontium 87.62	39 Y Yttrium 88.90584	40 Zr Zirconium 91.224	41 Nb Niobium 92.90637	42 Mo Molybdenum 95.95	43 Tc Technetium (98)	44 Ru Ruthenium 101.07	45 Rh Rhodium 102.90550	46 Pd Palladium 106.42	47 Ag Silver 107.8642	48 Cd Cadmium 112.414	49 In Indium 114.818	50 Sn Tin 118.710	51 Sb Antimony 121.750	52 Te Tellurium 127.60	53 I Iodine 126.90447	54 Xe Xenon 131.293
55 Cs Cesium 132.90545196	56 Ba Barium 137.327	57 - 71 Lanthanoids	72 Hf Hafnium 178.49	73 Ta Tantalum 180.94788	74 W Tungsten 183.84	75 Re Rhenium 186.207	76 Os Osmium 190.23	77 Ir Iridium 192.22	78 Pt Platinum 195.084	79 Au Gold 196.966569	80 Hg Mercury 200.592	81 Tl Thallium 204.38	82 Pb Lead 207.2	83 Bi Bismuth 208.98040	84 Po Polonium (209)	85 At Astatine (210)	86 Rn Radon (222)
87 Fr Francium (223)	88 Ra Radium (226)	89 - 103 Actinoids	104 Rf Rutherfordium (261)	105 Db Dubnium (268)	106 Sg Seaborgium (269)	107 Bh Bohrium (270)	108 Hs Hassium (285)	109 Mt Meitnerium (276)	110 Ds Darmstadtium (281)	111 Rg Roentgenium (282)	112 Cn Copernicium (285)	113 Nh Nihonium (286)	114 Fl Flerovium (289)	115 Mc Moscovium (289)	116 Lv Livermorium (293)	117 Ts Tennessine (294)	118 Og Oganesson (294)
57 La Lanthanum 138.90547	58 Ce Cerium 140.12	59 Pr Praseodymium 140.90766	60 Nd Neodymium 144.242	61 Pm Promethium (145)	62 Sm Samarium 150.36	63 Eu Europium 151.964	64 Gd Gadolinium 157.25	65 Tb Terbium 158.92535	66 Dy Dysprosium 162.500	67 Ho Holmium 164.93033	68 Er Erbium 167.259	69 Tm Thulium 168.93422	70 Yb Ytterbium 173.045	71 Lu Lutetium 174.9668			
89 Ac Actinium (227)	90 Th Thorium 232.0377	91 Pa Protactinium 231.03688	92 U Uranium 238.02891	93 Np Neptunium (237)	94 Pu Plutonium (244)	95 Am Americium (243)	96 Cm Curium (247)	97 Bk Berkelium (247)	98 Cf Californium (251)	99 Es Einsteinium (252)	100 Fm Fermium (257)	101 Md Mendelevium (258)	102 No Nobelium (259)	103 Lr Lawrencium (260)			



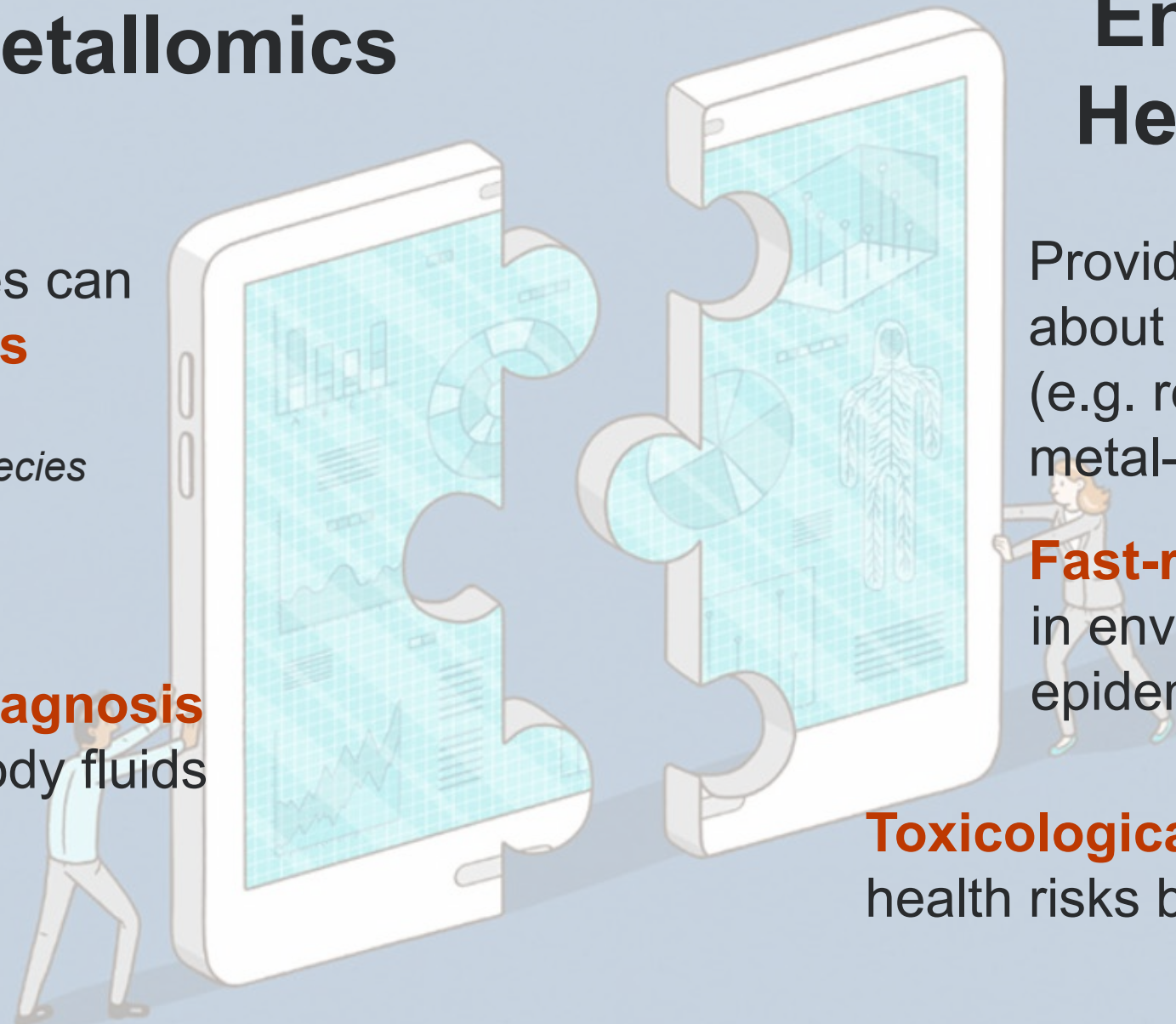
The body must ensure that elements are correctly distributed between organs, across tissues, and within cells



# Isotope metallomics

Biological samples can be analyzed **years after sampling**  
*organic biomarkers/ species degrade with time*

Unravel **human metabolism & diagnosis of diseases** in body fluids or tissues



# Environmental Health Sciences

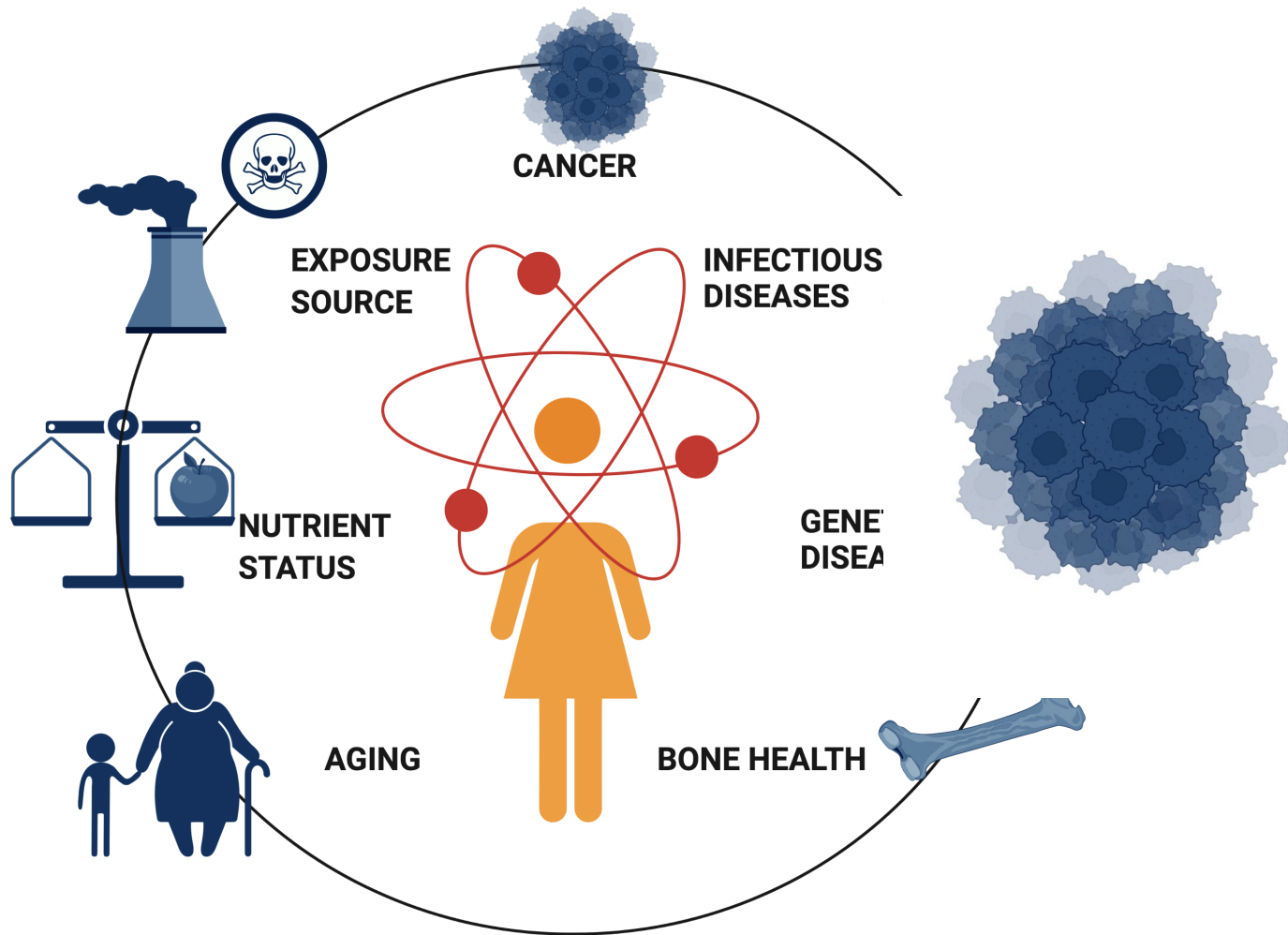
Provide extra information about **biological processes** (e.g. redox reaction, metal-protein binding)

**Fast-responding** biomarkers in environmental epidemiological studies

**Toxicological mechanisms** and health risks by exposure

Photo: <https://www.elsevier.com/>

# Isotope metallomics



## Metallomics

PAPER

[View Article Online](#)  
[View Journal](#)



### Urine metallomics signature as an indicator of pancreatic cancer†

Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/d0mt00061b

Kathrin Schilling,<sup>\*ab</sup> Fiona Larner,<sup>bc</sup> Amina Saad,<sup>d</sup> Rhiannon Roberts,<sup>d</sup> Hemant M. Kocher,<sup>d</sup> Oleg Blyuss,<sup>ef</sup> Alex N. Halliday<sup>p</sup> and Tatjana Crnogorac-Jurcevic<sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Sektion Biomedizinische Bildung, Klinik für Radiologie und Neuroradiologie, Am Botanischen Garten 14, 24118 Kiel, Germany

<sup>b</sup> Klinik für Neuroradiologie und Radiologie, (UKSH), Arnold-Heller-Str. 3, 24105 Kiel, Germany

<sup>c</sup> Clinical Research Center Kiel GmbH, Schauenburgerstraße 116, 24118 Kiel, Germany

<sup>d</sup> Medstat, GmbH, Kieler Straße 15, 24119 Kronshagen, Germany

<sup>e</sup> OSTEOLABS GmbH, c/o GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, 24148 Kiel, Wischhofstr.1-3, Germany

<sup>f</sup> Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, London WC1N 3JH, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



OXFORD

Metallomics, 13, 2021, mfab027

DOI: 10.1093/mtomcs/mfab027

Advance access publication date: 10 May 2021

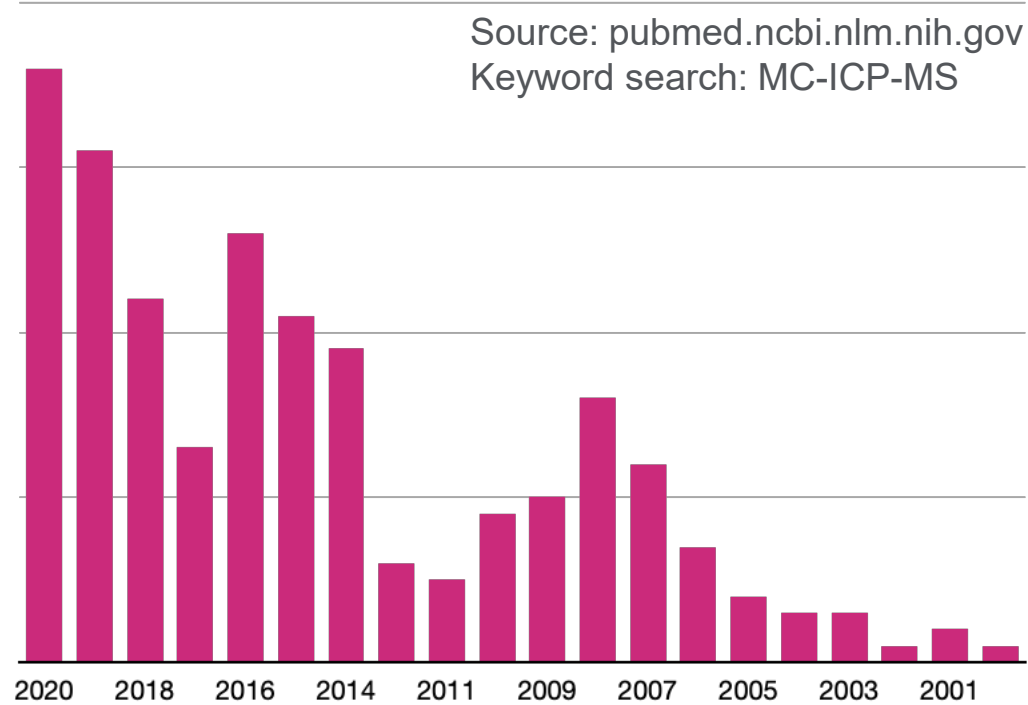
Paper

### Zinc stable isotope analysis reveals Zn dyshomeostasis in benign tumours, breast cancer, and adjacent histologically normal tissue

Kaj V. Sullivan<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Rebekah E. T. Moore<sup>2</sup>, Miles S. Capper<sup>2</sup>, Kathrin Schilling<sup>3</sup>, Kate Goddard<sup>4</sup>, Charlotte Ion<sup>4</sup>, Daniel Layton-Matthews<sup>1</sup>, Matthew I. Leybourne<sup>1,5</sup>, Barry Coles<sup>2</sup>, Katharina Kreissig<sup>2</sup>, Olga Antsygina<sup>6,7</sup>, R. Charles Coombes<sup>4</sup>, Fiona Larner<sup>8,9,10</sup> and Mark Rehkämper<sup>2</sup>

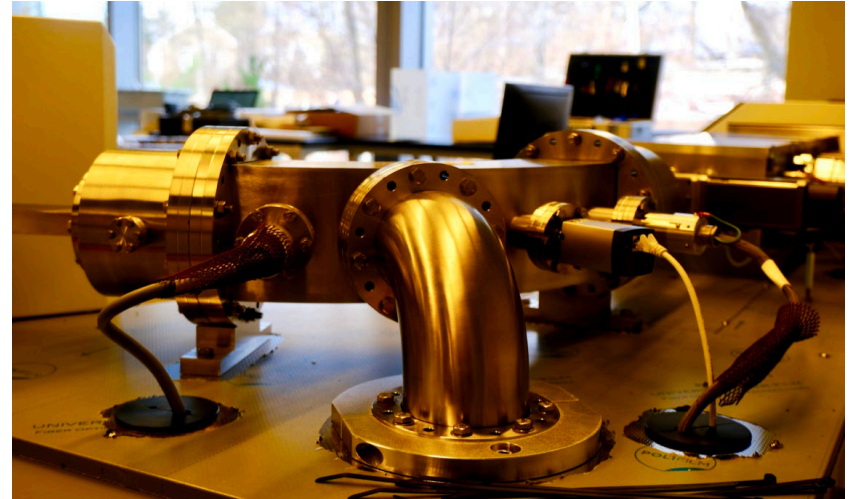
# Multicollector-ICP-MS

## High-precision isotope measurements



Isotope ratios can be measured to  $\pm 0.005\%$  – c.f.  $\pm 0.5\%$  via ordinary concentration analyses

Uncertainty =  $0.05\text{‰}$



# Isotope metallomics

## Application

# Metal isotope can tell us about molecular binding

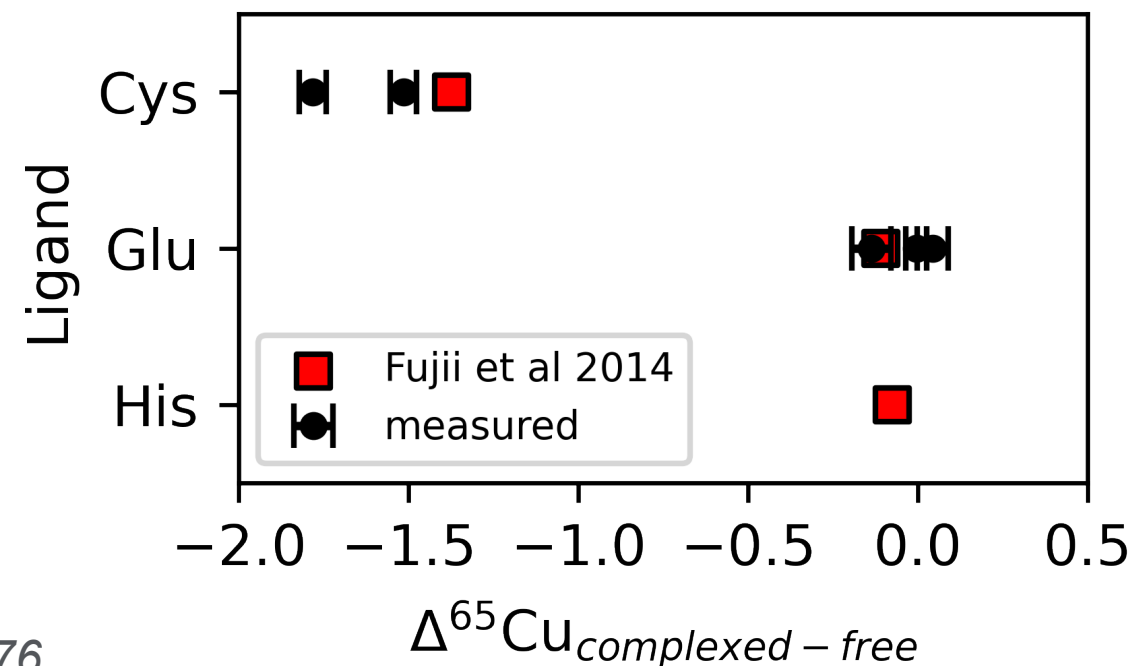
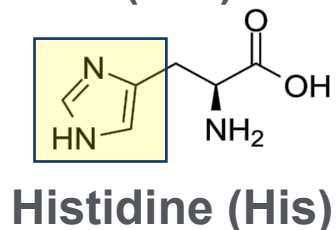
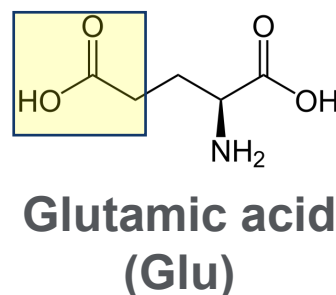
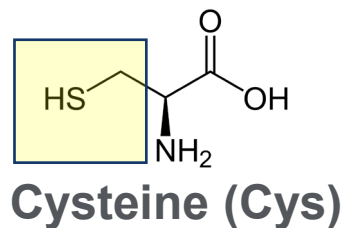
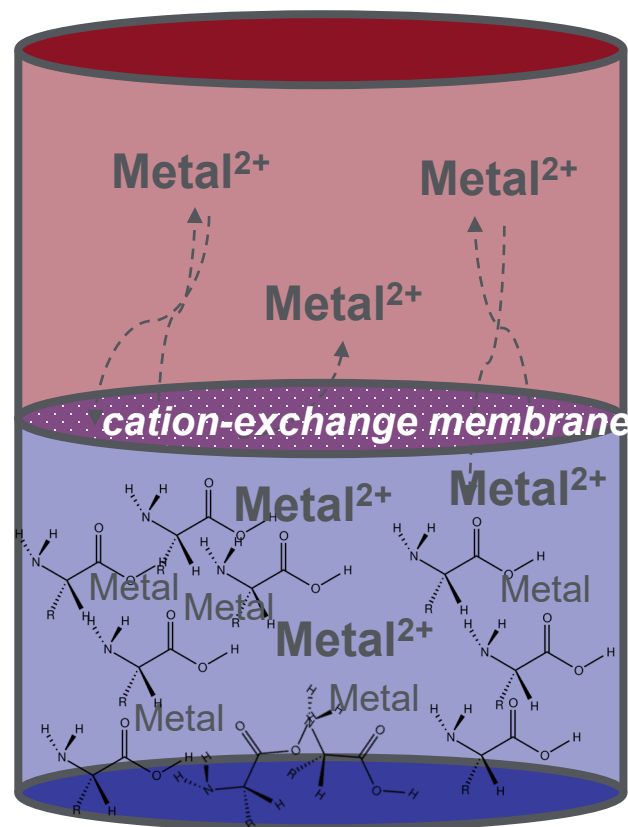
Rutgers University



Corday Selden



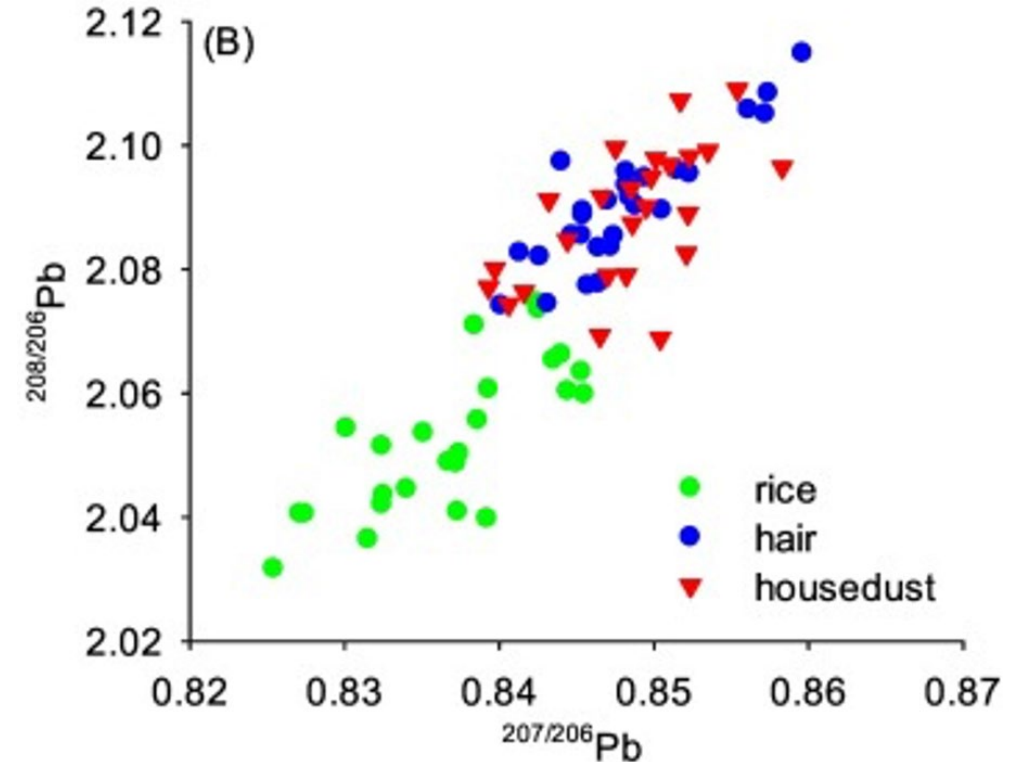
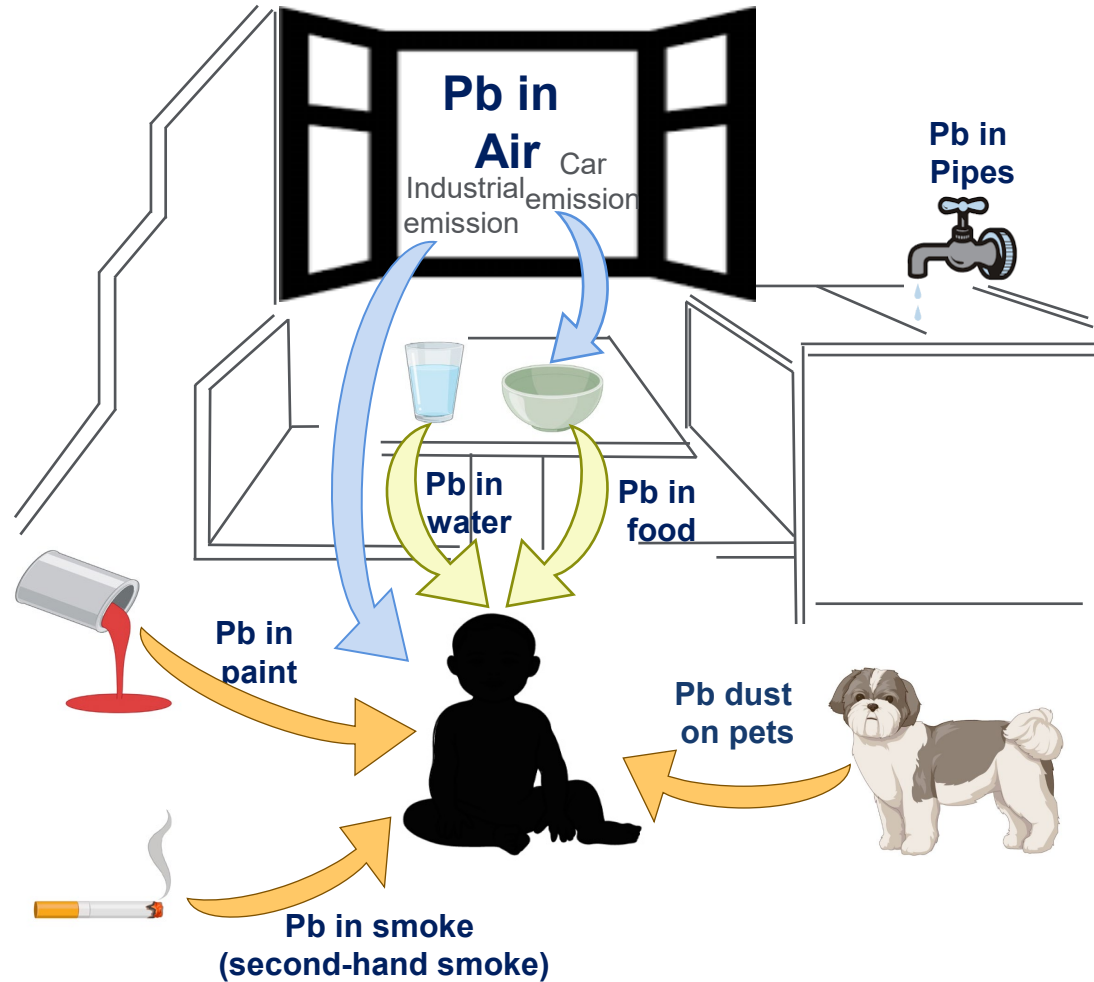
Nathan Yee



$$\Delta^{65}\text{Cu}_{\text{complexed} - \text{free}} = \delta^{65}\text{Cu}_{\text{complexed}} - \delta^{65}\text{Cu}_{\text{free}} \text{ relative to NIST-976}$$

$\Delta^{65}\text{Cu}_{\text{complexed} - \text{free}}$   
Selden et al. (in prep)

# Source fingerprinting of metal exposure



Zhao et al., 2018, Environ. Intern. 120, 563-571

Promising markers to elucidate the influences of environmental pollution on the human health

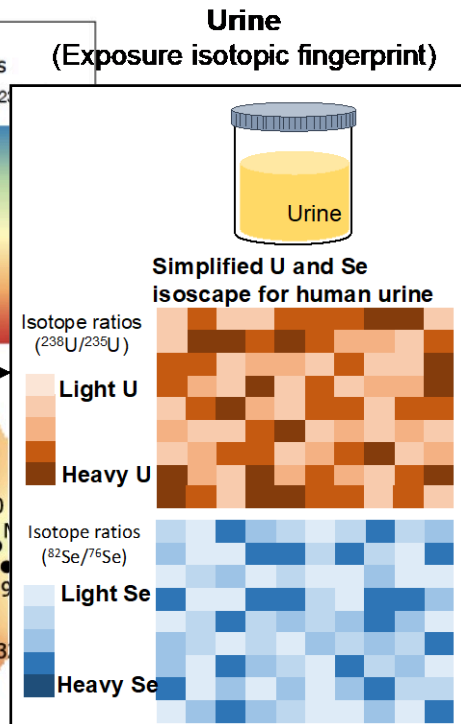
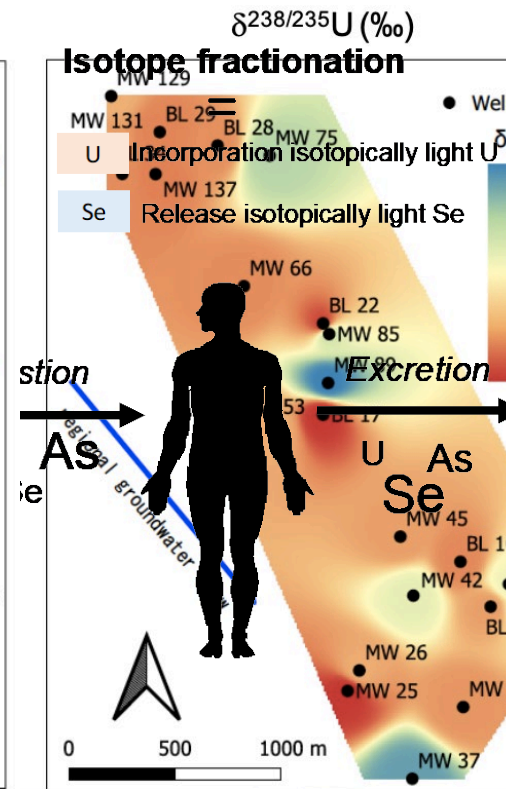
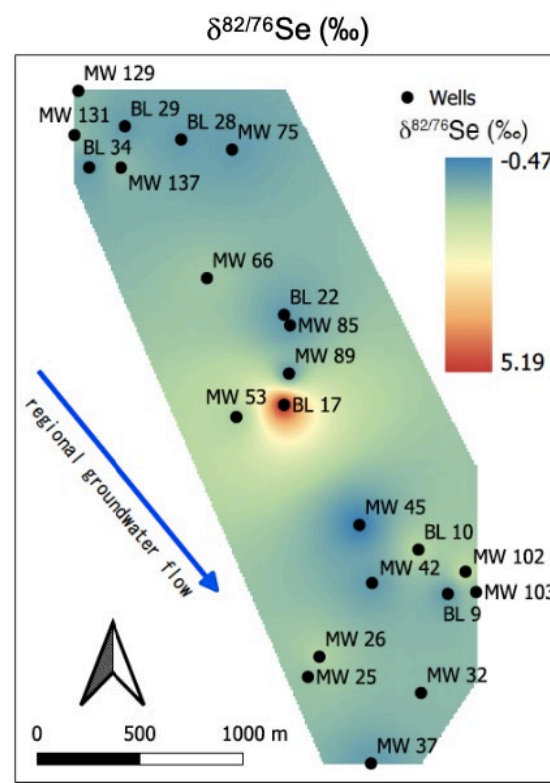
# Metal isotopes and exposure

Proposed project: NIEHS Superfund 2021

Ana Navas-Acien

Alex Halliday

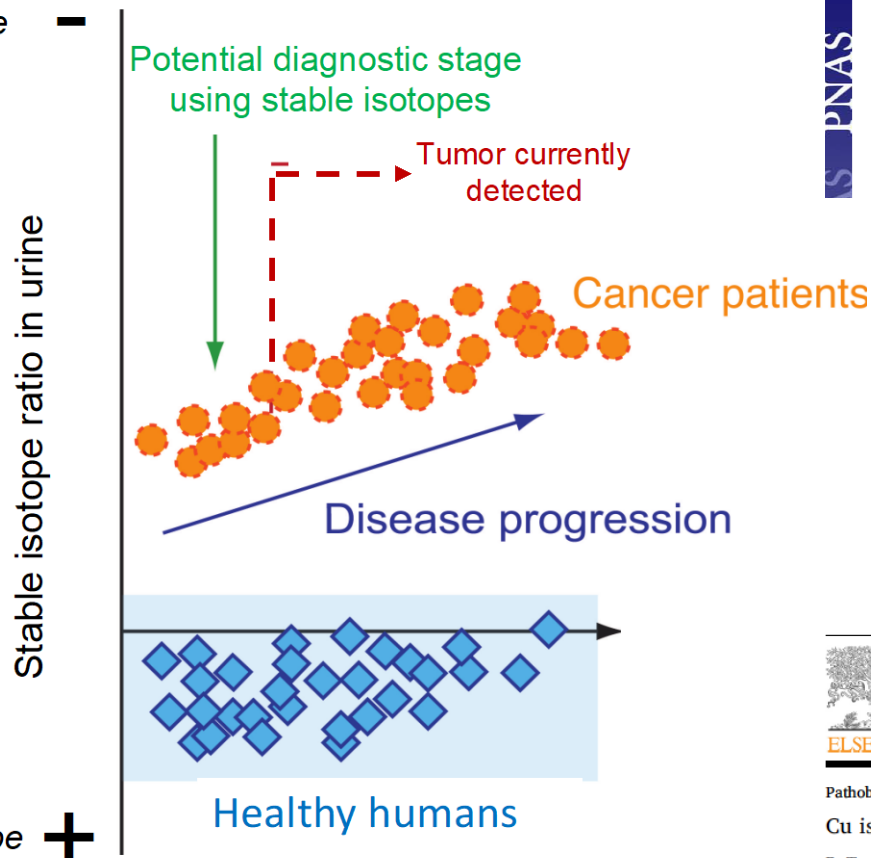
Anirban Basu



Basu, Schilling et al., 2016 (ES&T)

# Metal stable isotopes as disease marker

More **light** isotope



More **heavy** isotope

SPNAS

## Natural variations of copper and sulfur stable isotopes in blood of hepatocellular carcinoma patients

Vincent Balter<sup>a,1</sup>, Andre Nogueira da Costa<sup>a</sup>, Victor Paky Bondanese<sup>a</sup>, Klervia Jaouen<sup>c</sup>, Aline Lamboux<sup>a</sup>, Suleeporn Sangrajrang<sup>d</sup>, Nicolas Vincent<sup>e</sup>, François Fourel<sup>g</sup>, Philippe Télouk<sup>g</sup>, Michelle Gigou<sup>h</sup>, Christophe Lécuyer<sup>a,f</sup>, Petcharin Srivatanakul<sup>i</sup>, Christian Bréchet<sup>g,i</sup>, Francis Albarède<sup>g</sup>, and Pierre Hainaut<sup>h,i</sup>

<sup>a</sup>UMR 5276, Laboratoire de Géologie de Lyon, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, CNRS, Université de Lyon 1, BP 7000 Lyon, France; <sup>b</sup>Mechanistic Toxicology & Molecular Pathology Department of Non-Clinical Development, UCB BioPharma, SPRL, Chemin du Foriest 1, B-1420 Braine L'Alleud, Belgium; <sup>c</sup>Department of Human Evolution, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, 04103 Leipzig, Germany; <sup>d</sup>National Cancer Institute, Bangkok 10460, Thailand; <sup>e</sup>Unité 785, Pathogénèse et Traitement de l'Hépatite Fulminante et du Cancer du Foie, INSERM, Université Paris-Sud, 94800 Villejuif, France; <sup>f</sup>Institut Universitaire de France, 75005 Paris, France; <sup>g</sup>Institut Pasteur, 75015 Paris, France; <sup>h</sup>Unité 823, Ontogénèse et Oncogénèse Moléculaire, Institut Albert Bonniot, INSERM, Université Joseph Fourier, 38706 Grenoble, France; and <sup>i</sup>Strathclyde Institute of Global Public Health, International Prevention Research Institute, 69006 Lyon, France

Edited by Thure E. Cerling, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, and approved December 22, 2014 (received for review August 7, 2014)



## Metallomics

PAPER

View Article Online  
View Journal

Check for updates

Cite this: DOI:10.1039/d0mt00061b

## Urine metallomics signature as an indicator of pancreatic cancer†

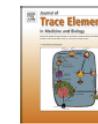
Kathrin Schilling,<sup>a,b</sup> Fiona Lerner,<sup>b,c</sup> Amina Saad,<sup>d</sup> Rhiannon Roberts,<sup>d</sup> Hemant M. Kocher,<sup>d</sup> Oleg Blyuss,<sup>e,f</sup> Alex N. Halliday<sup>b</sup> and Tatjana Crnogorac-Jurcevic<sup>g</sup>

Journal of Trace Elements in Medicine and Biology 62 (2020) 126611

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Trace Elements in Medicine and Biology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jtemb](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jtemb)



Pathobiochemistry

## Cu isotope ratios are meaningful in ovarian cancer diagnosis

B. Toubhans<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, A.T. Gourlan<sup>b</sup>, P. Telouk<sup>c</sup>, K. Lutchman-Singh<sup>d</sup>, L.W. Francis<sup>a</sup>, R.S. Conlan<sup>a</sup>, L. Margarit<sup>e</sup>, D. Gonzalez<sup>a</sup>, L. Charlet<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Medical School & Centre for NanoHealth, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, UK

<sup>b</sup>ISTerre, Université Grenoble Alpes, CS 40700, 38058 Grenoble, France

<sup>c</sup>Univ Lyon, ENSI, Univ Lyon 1, CNRS, LGL-TPE, 69607 Lyon, France

<sup>d</sup>Swansea Bay University Health Board, Department of Gynaecology Oncology, Singleton Hospital, Swansea SA2 8QA, UK

<sup>e</sup>Owain Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend CF31 1RQ, UK



# Metal isotope fractionation: Cellular level

## *In vitro with cancer cell lines*

Oxford University

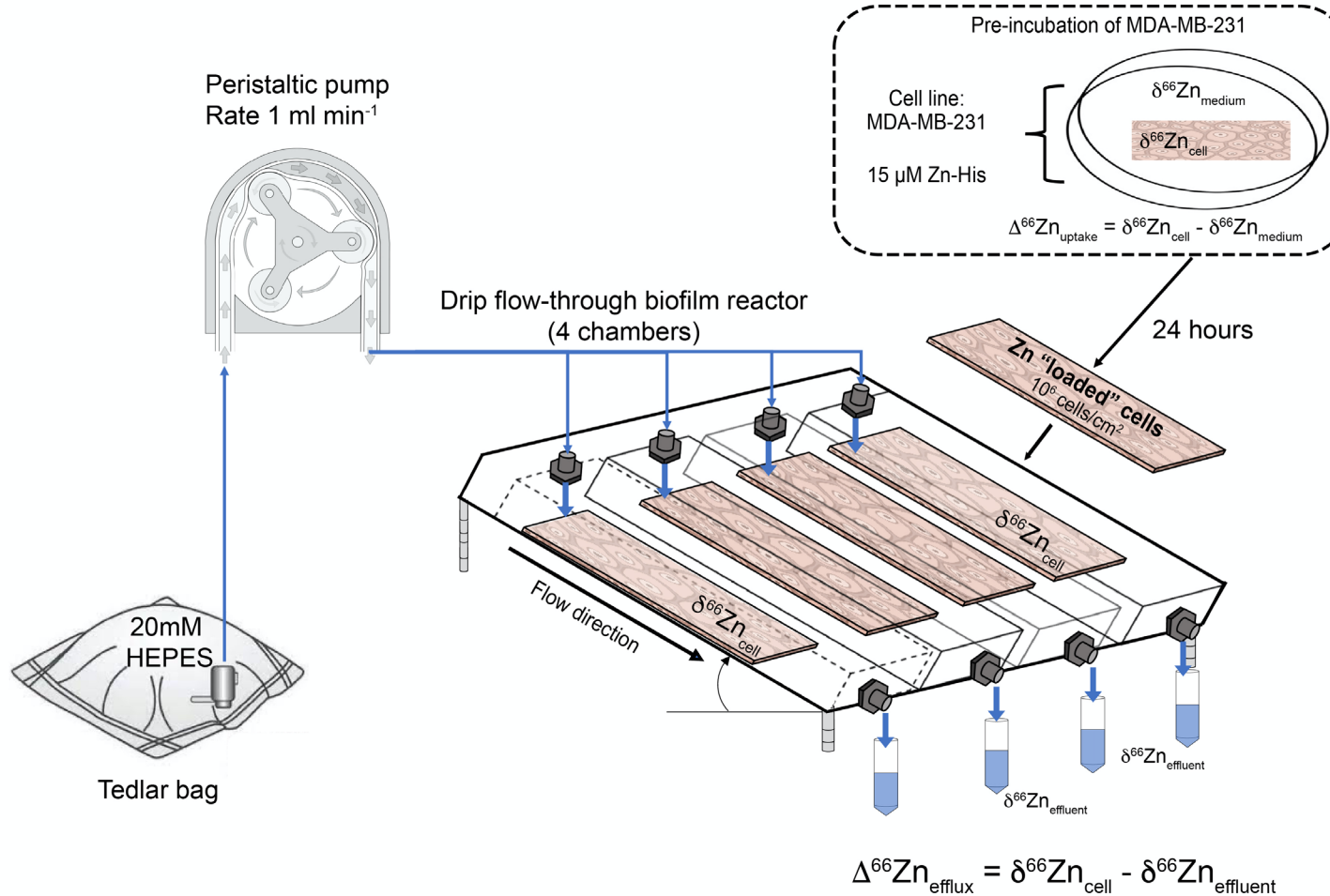
Adrian Harris



Fiona Larner



Chris Schoefield



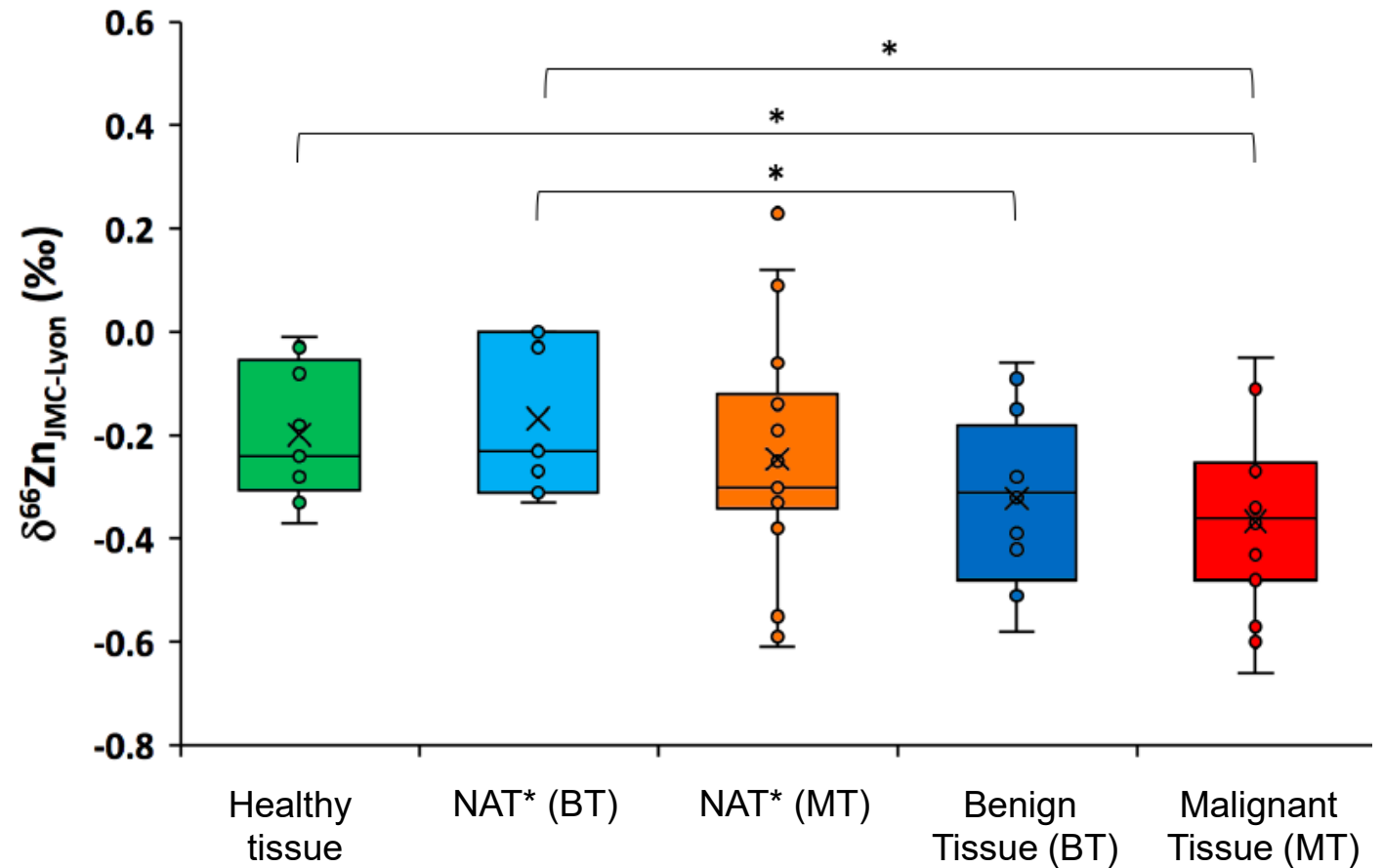
Schilling et al. 2022, *Frontiers in Medicine* (doi: 10.3389/fmed.2021.746532)

# Zinc isotopes and breast cancer

## Specimen: Tissue

Element	[Tissue concentration (ng/cm <sup>2</sup> ) / sulfur content (ng/cm <sup>2</sup> )] × 100		P*
	Median (interquartile range)		
	Cases (n = 251)	Controls (n = 249)	
Zinc	0.91 (1.04)	0.81 (0.83)	0.01
Selenium	0.031 (0.027)	0.027 (0.023)	0.94
Calcium	8.33 (18)	7.48 (12)	0.17
Iron	2.38 (6.13)	2.12 (4.36)	0.04

\*P values were derived from the Wilcoxon rank-sum test with normal approximation.



\*Histologically normal tissue adjacent MT or BT

Sullivan, Moore, Schilling et al., 2021 (Metallomics)

# Zinc isotopes as prognostic tool for prostate cancer

## Specimen: Urine



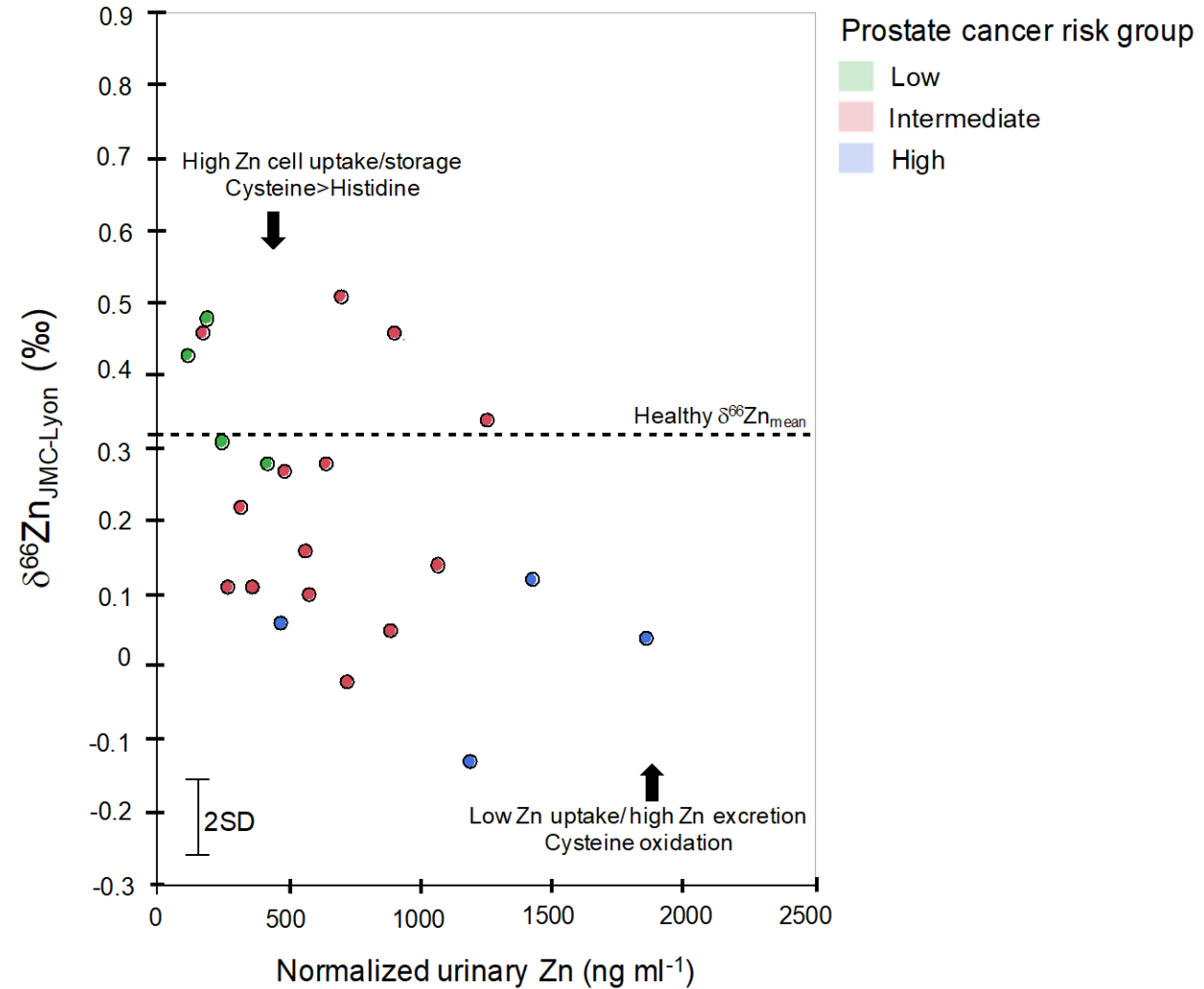
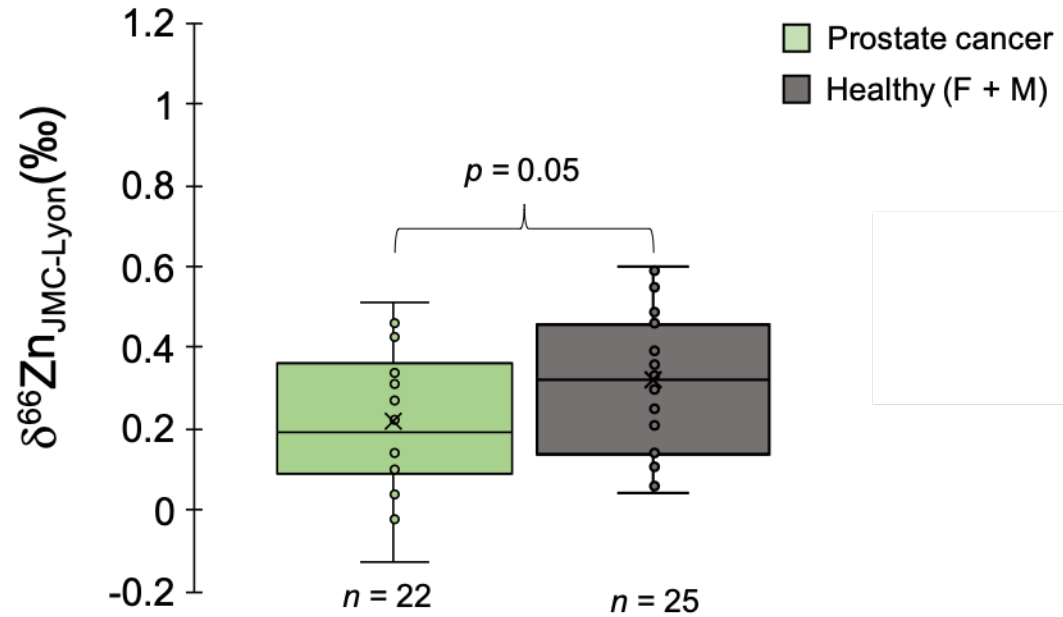
Metallomics, 13, 2021, mfab020  
 DOI: 10.1093/mtomes/mfab020  
 Advance access publication date: 20 April 2021  
 Paper

### Zinc stable isotopes in urine as diagnostic for cancer of secretory organs

Kathrin Schilling<sup>1,4</sup>, Rebekah E.T. Moore<sup>6</sup>, Kaj V. Sullivan<sup>6</sup>, Miles S. Capper<sup>2</sup>, Mark Rehkämper<sup>2</sup>, Kate Goddard<sup>4</sup>, Charlotte Ion<sup>4</sup>, R. Charles Coombes<sup>6</sup>, Lois Vesty-Edwards<sup>5</sup>, Alastair D. Lamb<sup>5</sup>, Alex N. Halliday<sup>6</sup> and Fiona Lamer<sup>7,8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, Palisades, NY, USA, <sup>2</sup>Department of Earth Science and Engineering, Imperial College London, London, UK, <sup>3</sup>Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta, Alberta, Canada, <sup>4</sup>Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK, <sup>5</sup>Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, <sup>6</sup>Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA, <sup>7</sup>Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford, UK and <sup>8</sup>St Catherine's College, University of Oxford, Manor Road, Oxford, UK

\*Correspondence: Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, 435 Comer Bldg, 61 Rte 9W, Palisades, NY 10964, USA. E-mail: ks3759@columbia.edu



Schilling et al., 2021, Metallomics

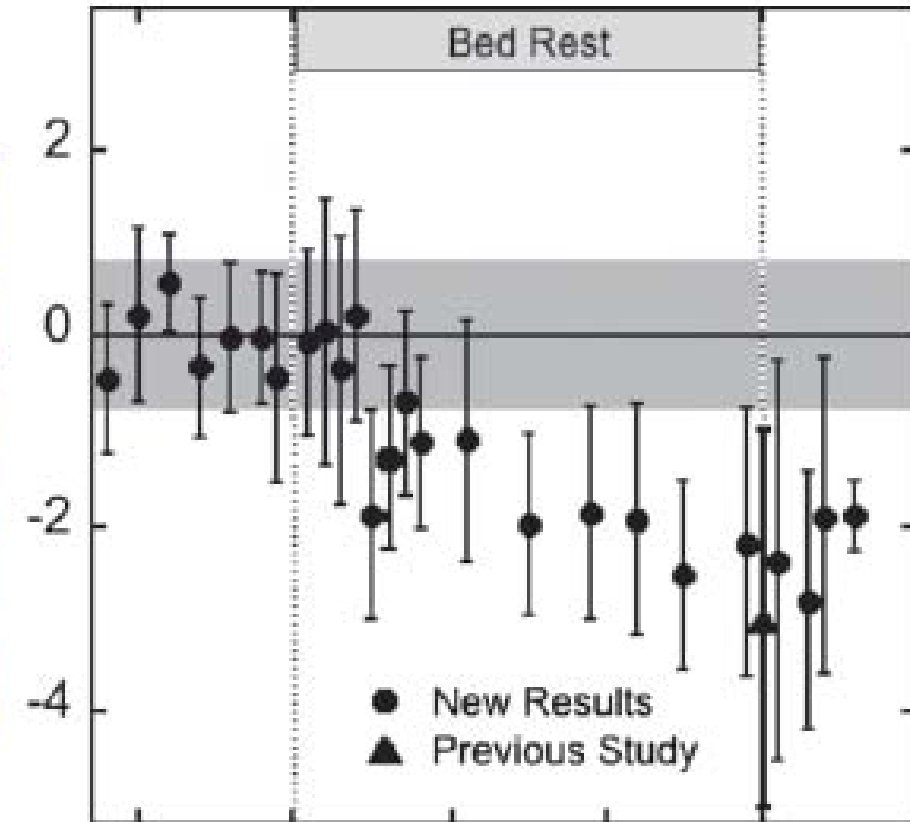
# Calcium isotopes show bone loss earlier than densitometry

Specimen: Urine



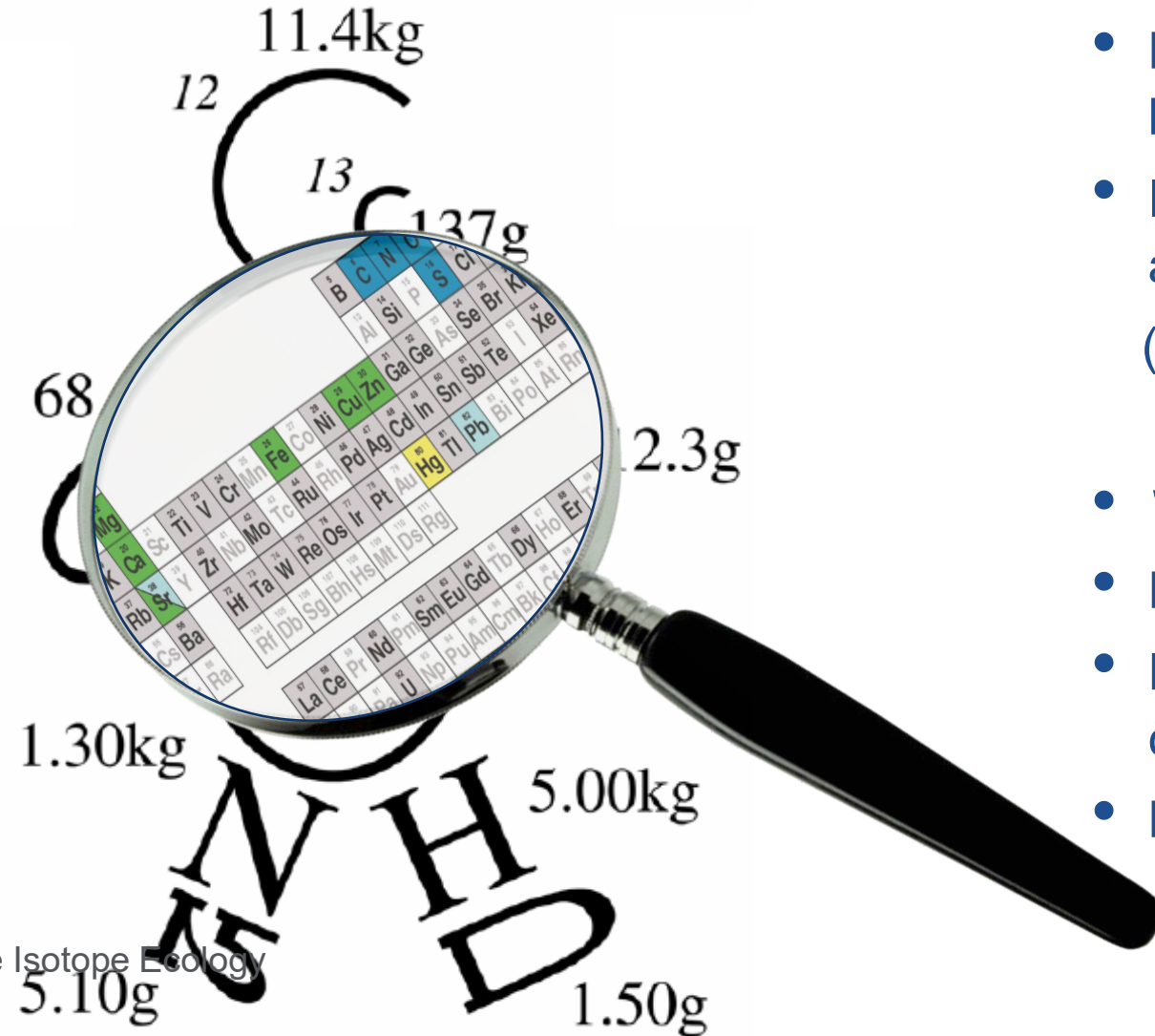
Source: NASA

Variation in  $\delta^{44/42}\text{Ca}$  vs. average baseline value (x10,000)



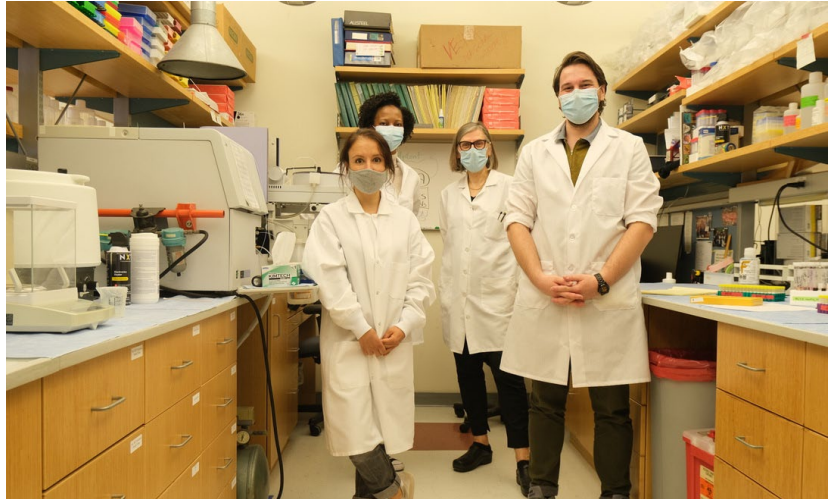
Morgan et al., 2012, FASEB journal, 26: 244.

# OUTLOOK: Future field in EHS



- More systematic approach involving a substantially higher number of patients
- Isotope ratios are more “robust” than concentrations and even tiny differences (of the order of 0.0005%)
- **Widespread applications**
- Disease marker (early diagnostic or prognostic tool)
- Exposure marker (source fingerprinting and contribution of different sources)
- Metabolic marker

Future success of isotope metallomics defined by united efforts of **medical and isotope (geo)scientists**



Thank you

