

# Early life exposure to ultrafine particles from air pollution affects proximal tubular epithelial cells development

Alessandra Tammaro, PhD

Junior group leader

Nephropathology research group

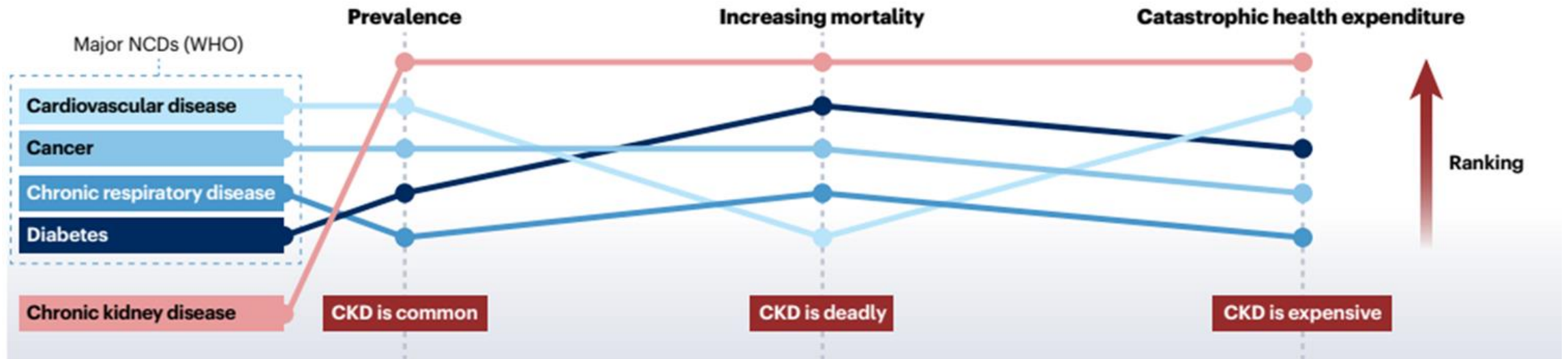
Amsterdam UMC

UFPs conference, Bruxelles, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024



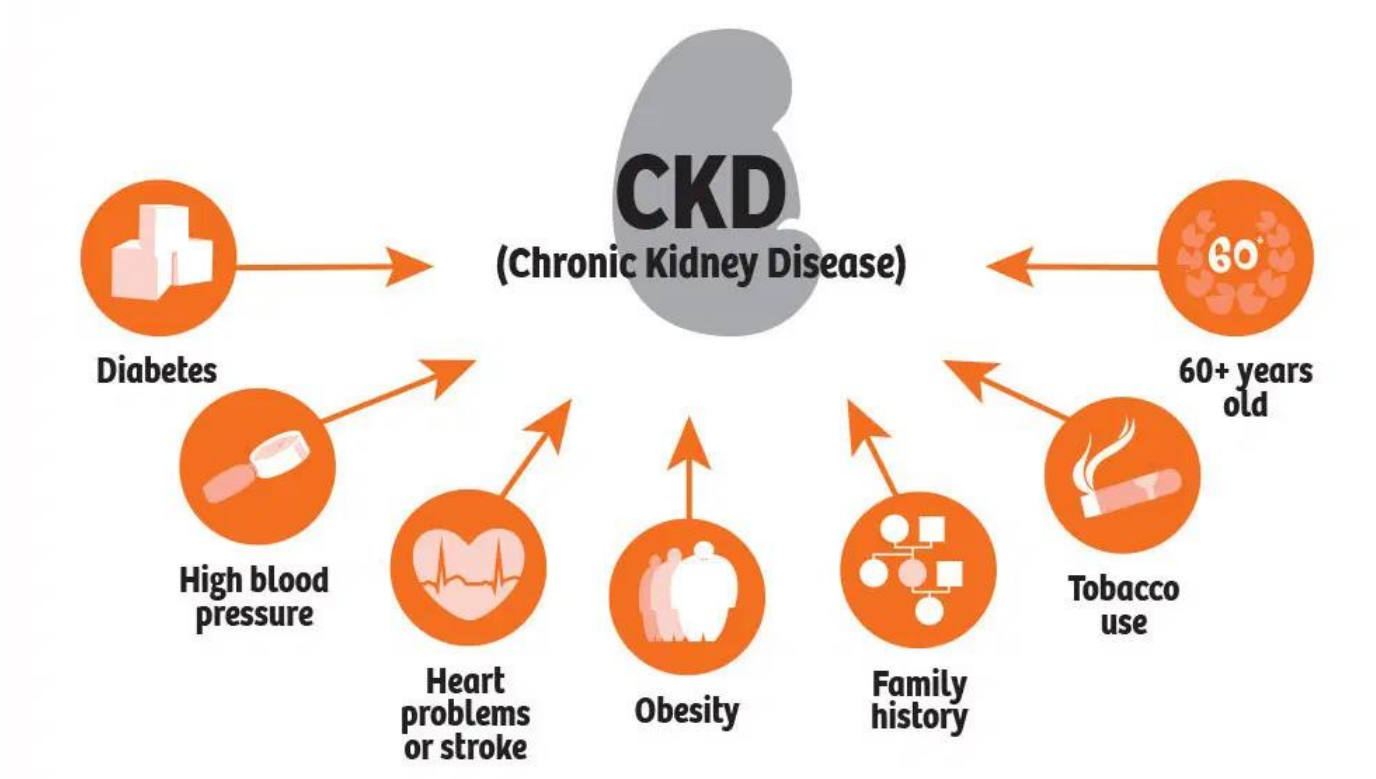


# Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a global health priority





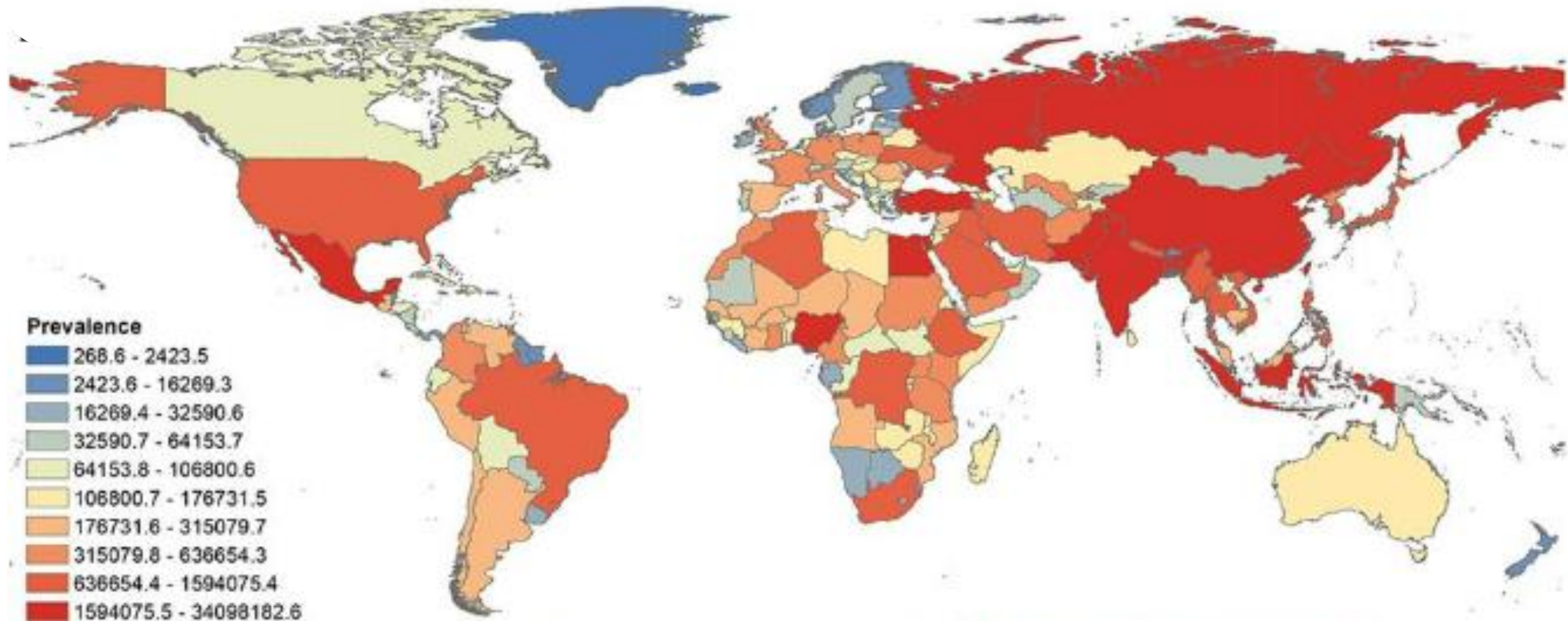
## Traditional risk factors of CKD





# Air pollution is an overlooked contributor to CKD

Global burden of CKD attributable to PM2.5 in 194 countries and territories



Cumulative exposure to PM2.5 is associated with the decline in renal function in elderly people, renal transplant recipients, and patients with diabetes.

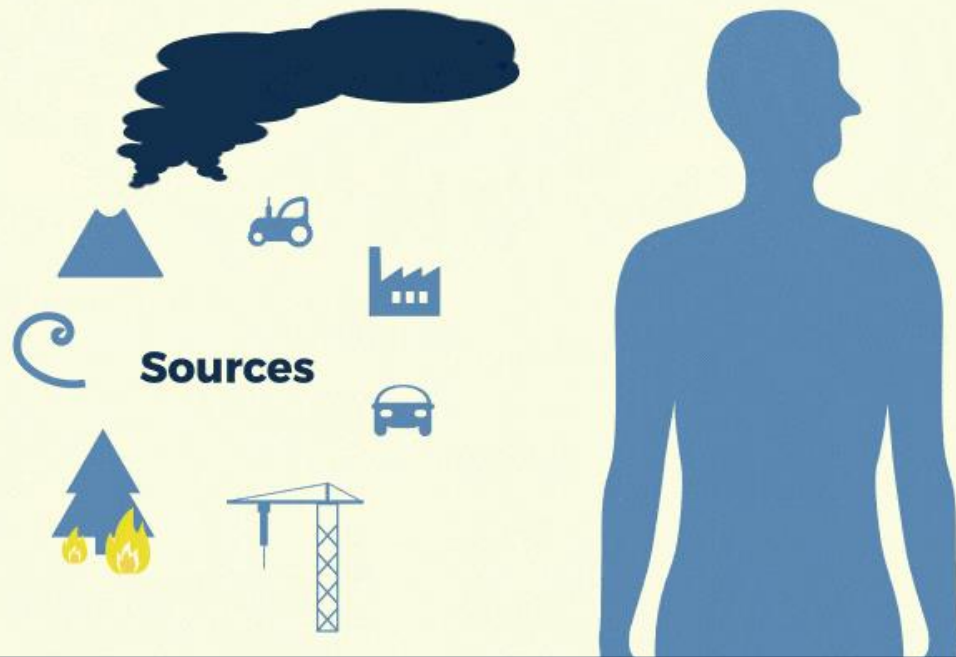


MEDICINA  
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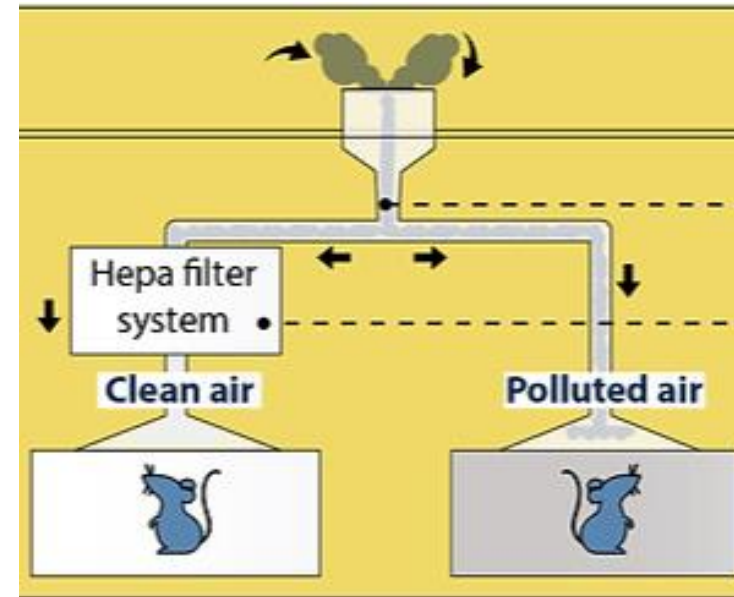
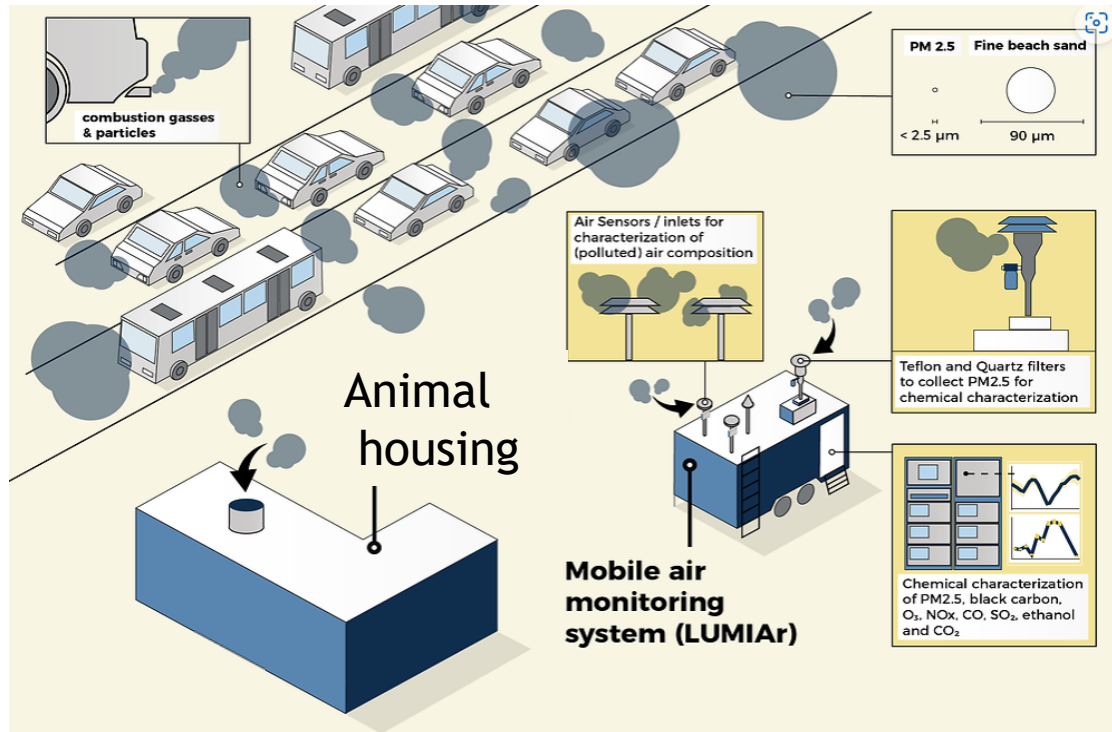
# PM kidney: Pollution is the motor of premature aging of the kidney

## PM kidney hypothesis





# Exposome chamber to study the biological mechanisms by which PM<sub>2.5</sub> affects kidney health



PM<sub>2.5</sub> cut off

Garden Medical Faculty University of São Paulo (Brazil)



# PM2.5 and acute kidney injury lead to premature renal aging and high risk to develop CKD

Journal of Pathology

J Pathol 2024

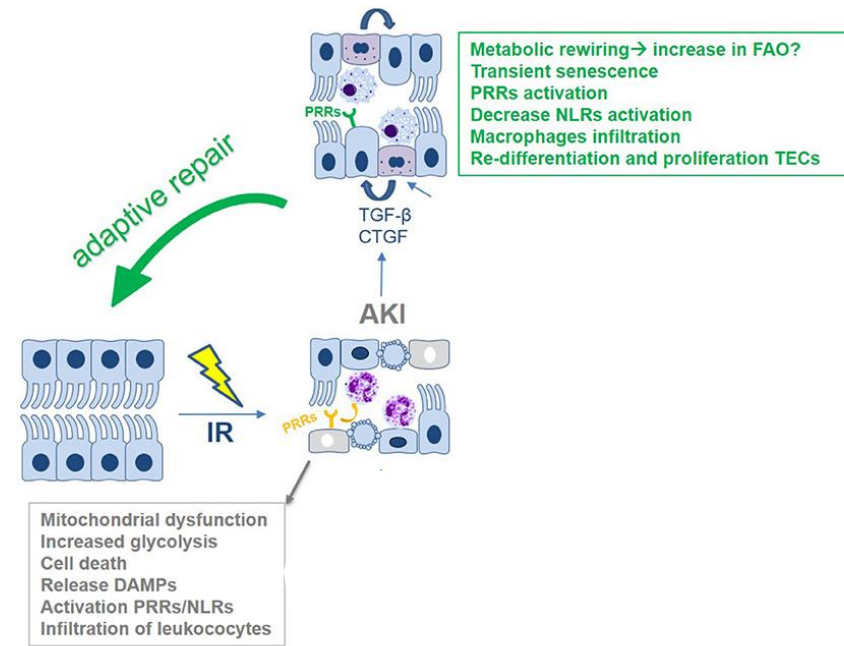
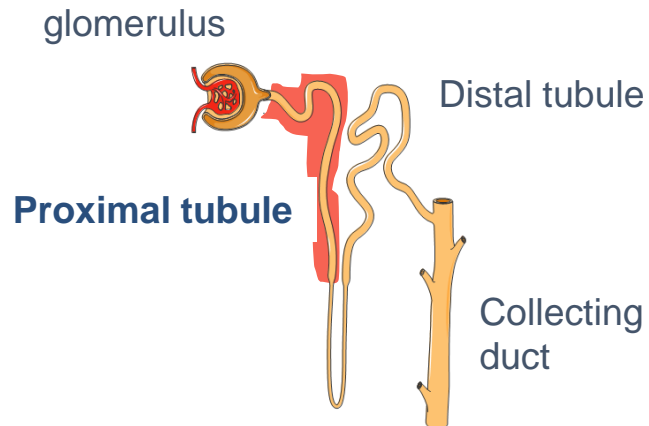
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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Air pollution aggravates renal ischaemia–reperfusion–induced acute kidney injury

Talita Rojas Sanches<sup>1</sup>, Antonio Carlos Parra<sup>1</sup>, Peiqi Sun<sup>2</sup>, Mariana Pereira Graner<sup>1</sup>, Lucas Yuji Umesaki Itto<sup>1</sup>, Loes Maria Butter<sup>2</sup>, Nike Claessen<sup>2</sup>, Joris JTH Roelofs<sup>2,3</sup>, Sandrine Florquin<sup>2,3</sup>, Mariana Matera Veras<sup>4</sup>, Maria de Fatima Andrade<sup>5</sup>, Paulo Hilário Nascimento Saldiva<sup>2,3,6</sup>, Jesper Kers<sup>2,3,6</sup>, Lucia Andrade<sup>1\*</sup> and Alessandra Tammaro<sup>2\*</sup>





# PM2.5 and acute kidney injury lead to premature renal aging and high risk to develop CKD

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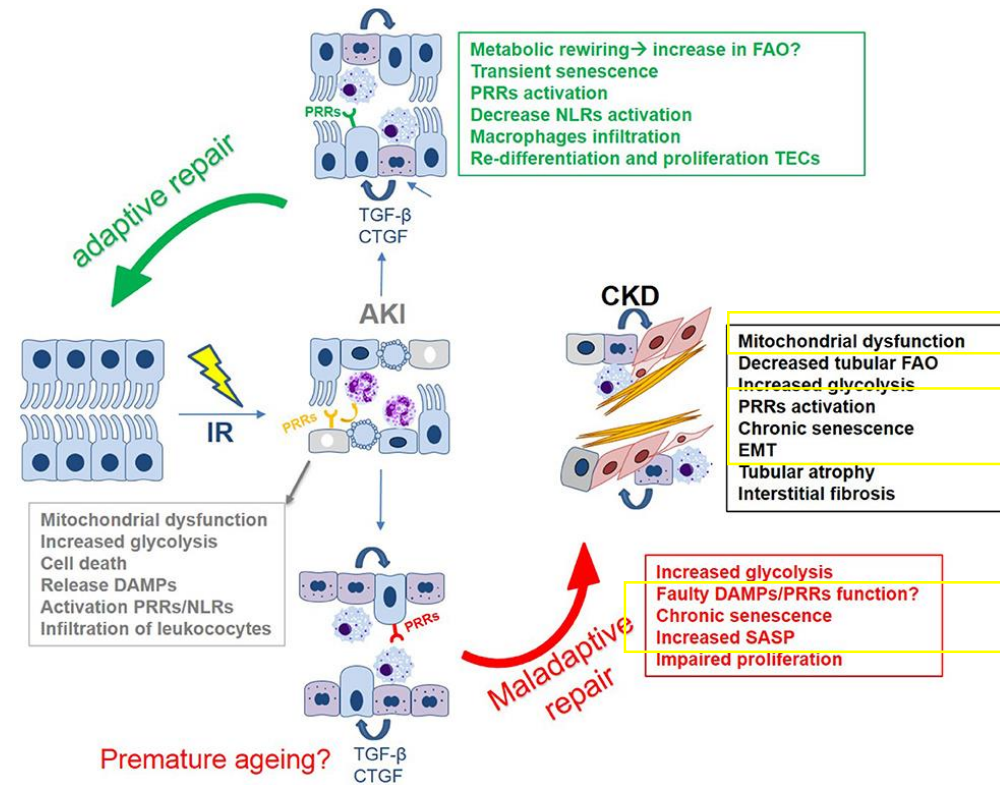
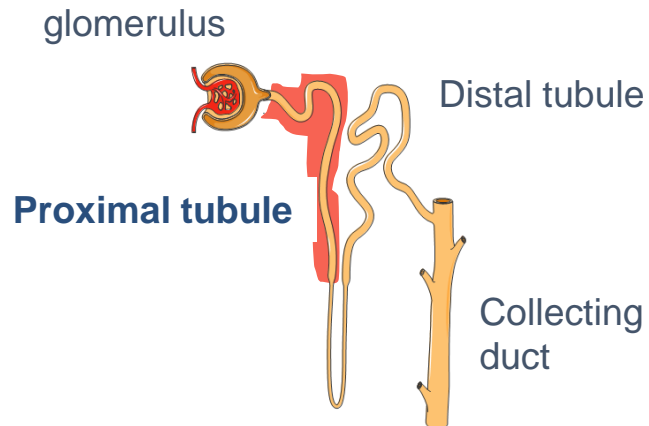
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# Nanoparticles are cleared from the body through the kidneys

ACS NANO

www.acsnano.org

## Inhaled Nanoparticles Accumulate at Sites of Vascular Disease

Mark R. Miller,<sup>\*,†,∞,∇</sup> Jennifer B. Raftis,<sup>‡,∞,∇</sup> Jeremy P. Langrish,<sup>†</sup> Steven G. McLean,<sup>†</sup> Pawitrahorn Samutrtai,<sup>§</sup> Shea P. Connell,<sup>†</sup> Simon Wilson,<sup>†</sup> Alex T. Vesey,<sup>†</sup> Paul H. B. Fokkens,<sup>||</sup> A. John F. Boere,<sup>||</sup> Petra Krystek,<sup>⊥</sup> Colin J. Campbell,<sup>§</sup> Patrick W. F. Hadoke,<sup>†</sup> Ken Donaldson,<sup>‡</sup> Flemming R. Cassee,<sup>||,#</sup> David E. Newby,<sup>†</sup> Rodger Duffin,<sup>‡,∇</sup> and Nicholas L. Mills<sup>†,∇</sup>

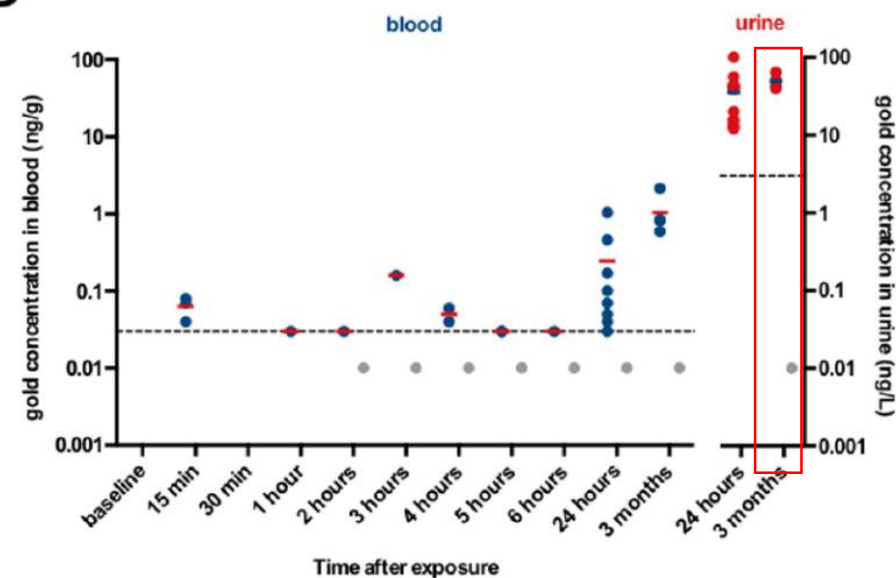
<sup>†</sup>BHF Centre for Cardiovascular Science, <sup>‡</sup>MRC Centre for Inflammation Research, and <sup>§</sup>EaStCHEM School of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH16 4TJ, United Kingdom

<sup>||</sup>National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), 3721 MA Bilthoven, The Netherlands

<sup>⊥</sup>Department of Environment and Health, VU University, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>#</sup>Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences, Utrecht University, 3512 JE Utrecht, The Netherlands

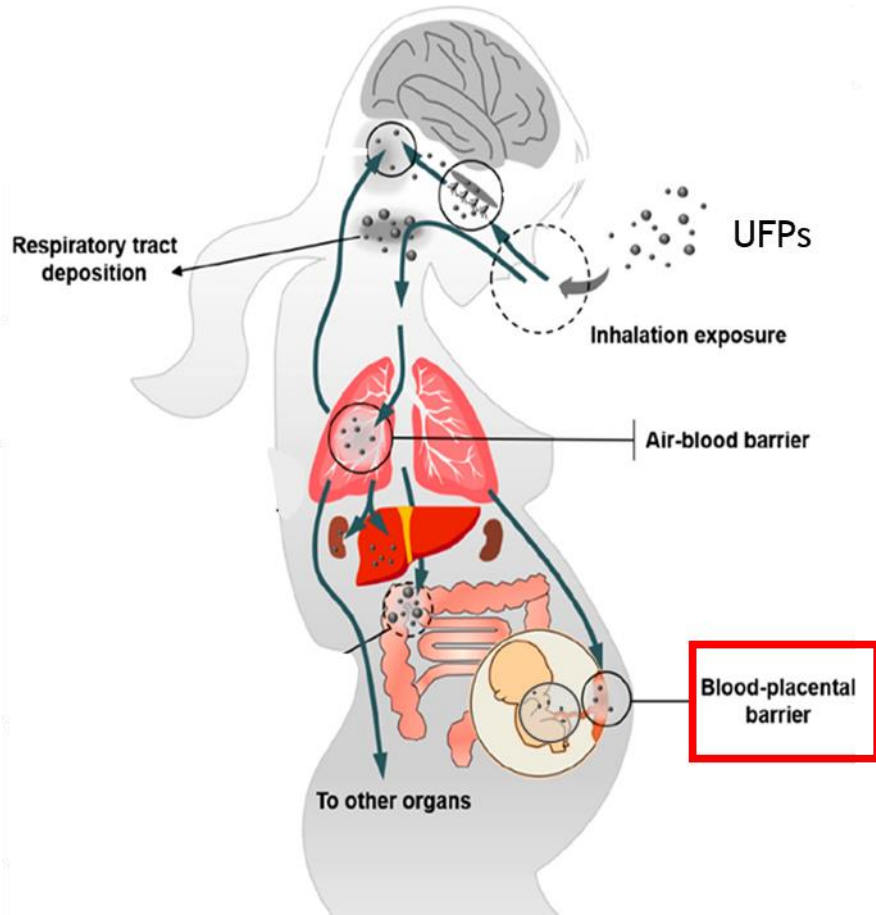
D



Suggesting slow release from the kidney and that nanoparticles may accumulate in the kidney before being excreted



# UFPs reach fetal organs including the kidney



THE LANCET  
Planetary Health

ARTICLES | VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10, E804-E811, OCTOBER 2022

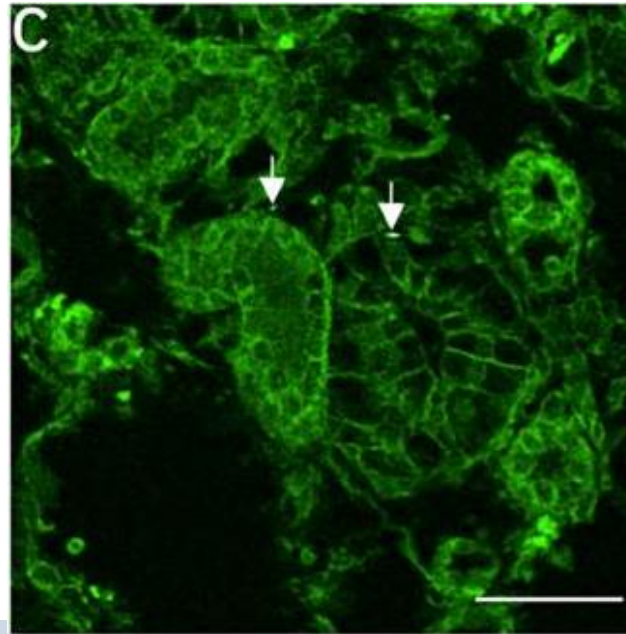
Maternal exposure to ambient black carbon particles and their presence in maternal and fetal circulation and organs: an analysis of two independent population-based observational studies

Eva Bongaerts, MSc • Laetitia L Lecante, PhD • Hannelore Bové, PhD • Prof Maarten B J Roefsaers, PhD • Prof Marcel Ameloot, PhD • Prof Paul A Fowler, PhD • et al. [Show all authors](#)

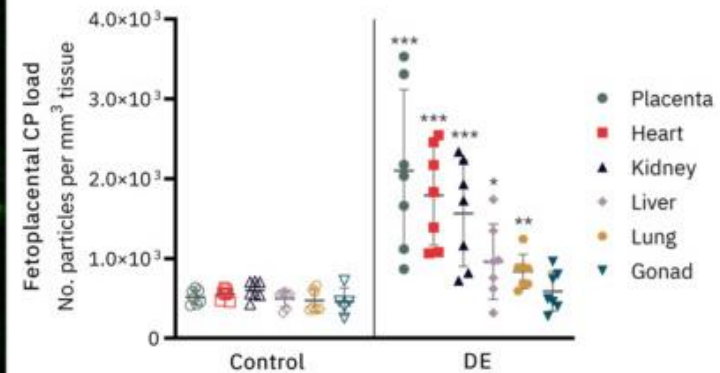
Open Access • Published: October, 2022 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(22\)00200-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(22)00200-5)

[Check for updates](#)

Human

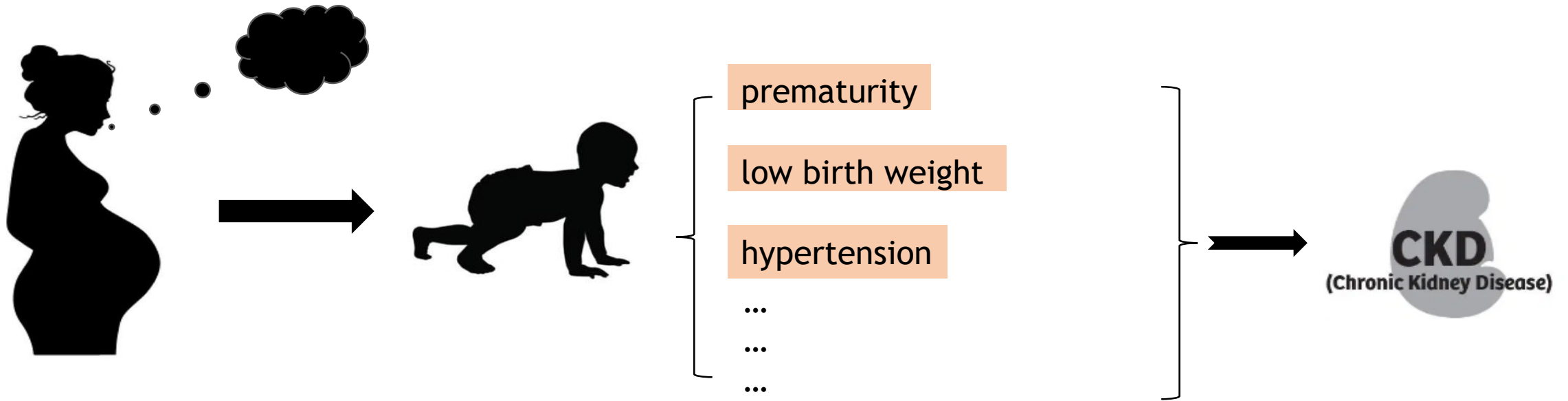


Rabbits





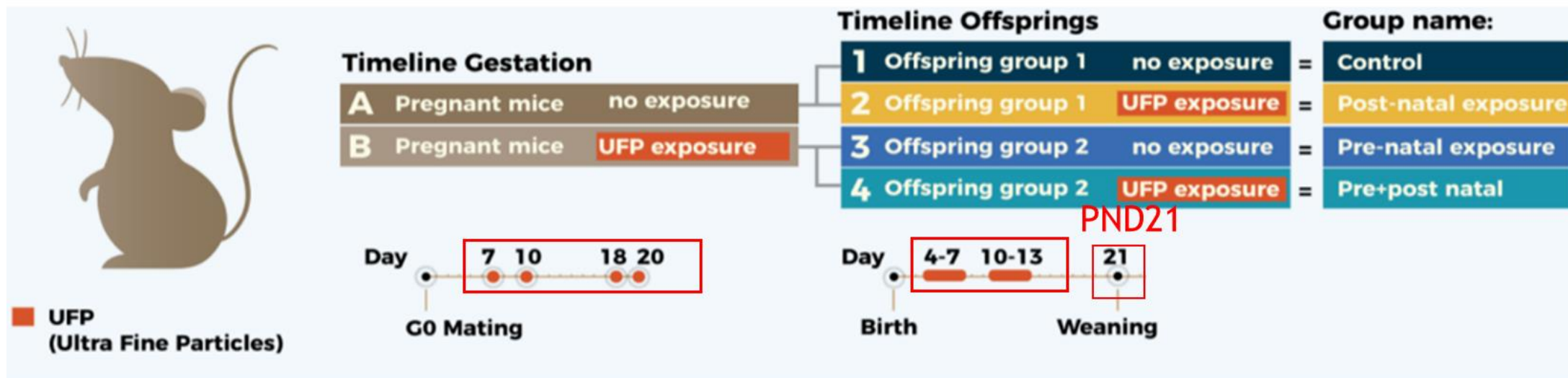
# PM2.5 can affect kidney development but we don't know how....



We aim to determine the impact of UFPs during early life on kidney development



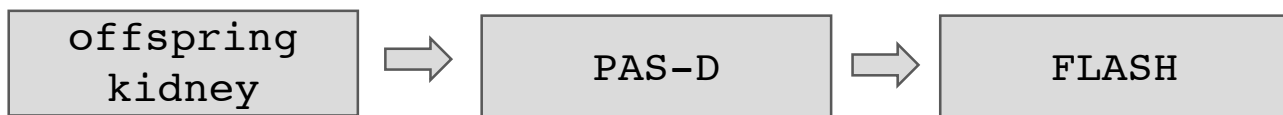
# Research framework



Carbonaceous UFPs ( $450\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) generated by a spark generator for 4hours/day (mean particle size ~ 55nm)

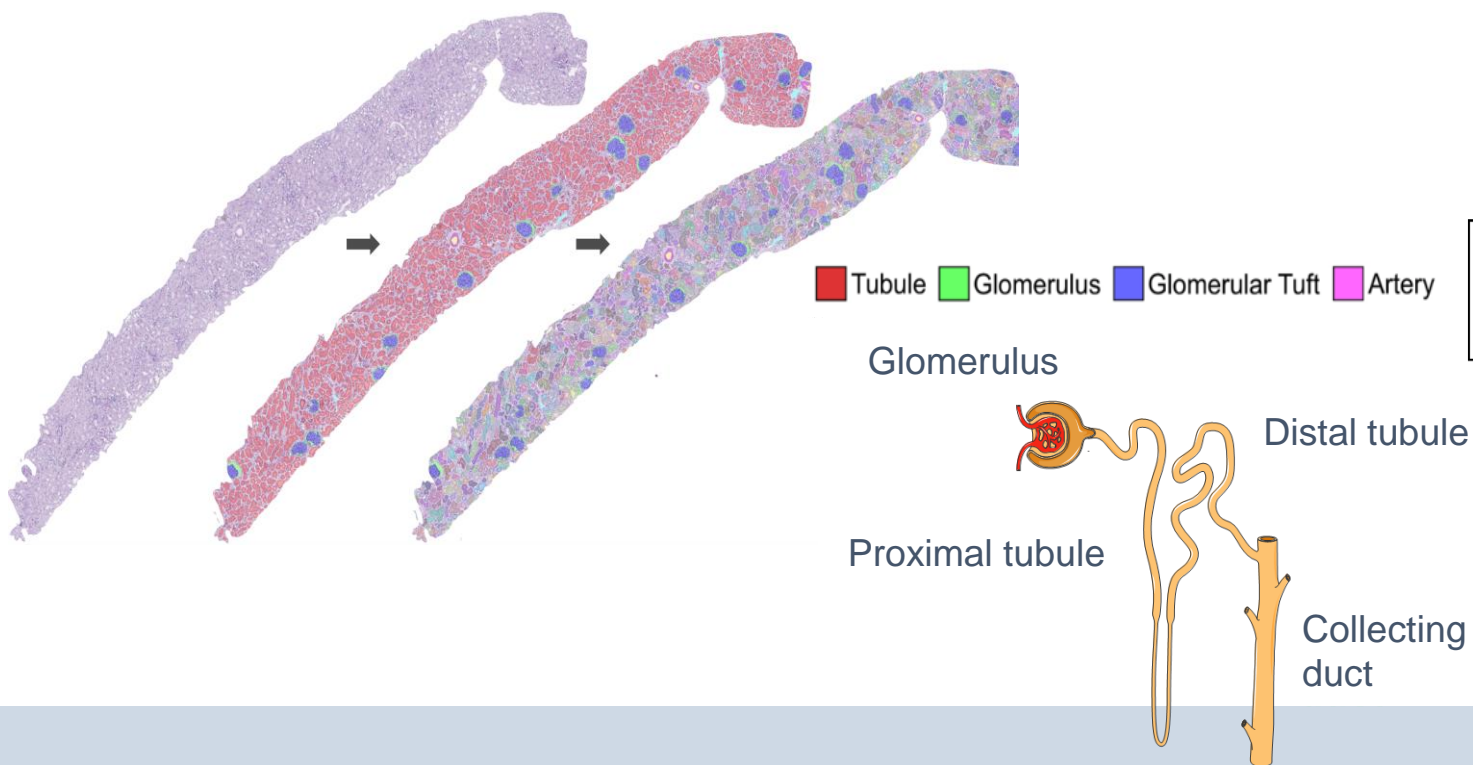


# FLASH analysis to study kidney morphometric changes ...



➤ FLASH is an innovative deep-learning algorithm that measures morphometric changes in each kidney segments.

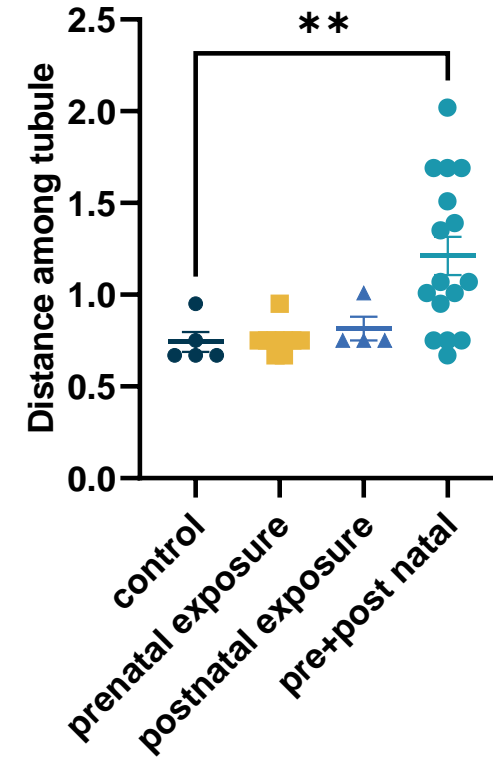
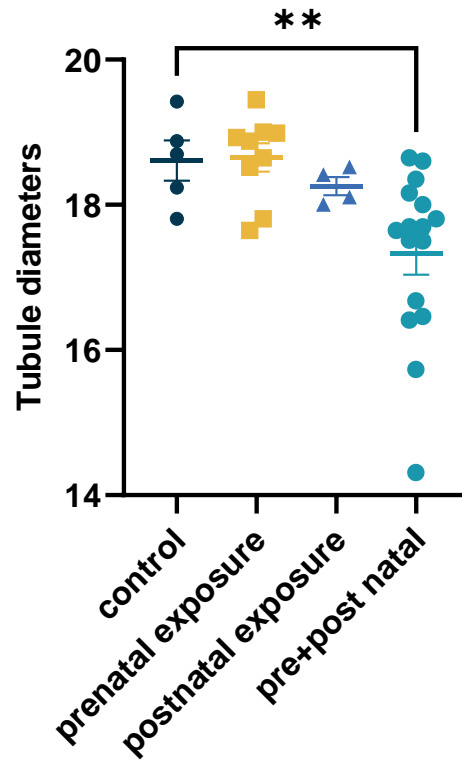
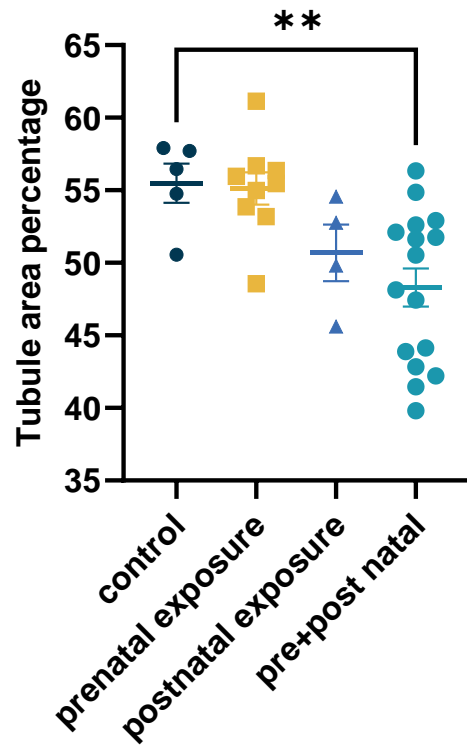
## Framework for Large-scale Histomorphometry (FLASH)



Feature	Description
Area $A$	Area of the segmented structure [ $\mu\text{m}^2$ ]
Diameter $d_{max}$	Diameter of the largest circle fully fitting inside the structure [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]
Distance $dist_{min}$	Closest distance between structures of the same class [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]
Circularity $C$	Measures how circular the structure is using the ratio of its area ( $A$ ) multiplied by $4\pi$ to its squared perimeter ( $P$ ). The circularity of a circle equals 1. $C = \frac{4 * \pi * A}{P^2}$
Elongation $Elo$	Function of the length of the structure's minor and major axis. The elongation of a circle is 0 and gets higher the more elongated the structure is. $Elo = 1 - \frac{minor\_axis\_length}{major\_axis\_length}$
Eccentricity $Ecc$	Ratio of the distance between the structure's focal points over the major axis' length. The eccentricity equals 0 for a circle and 1 for ellipses. $Ecc = \frac{\sqrt{(major\_axis\_length^2 - minor\_axis\_length^2)}}{major\_axis\_length}$
Solidity $S$	Measures the density of the structure by taking the ratio of its area to the area of its convex hull $H$ $S = \frac{A}{H}$
Area Percentage	Proportion of a class' total area from the overall tissue area [%]
Count	Number of instances of a particular class present in one WSI or specimen



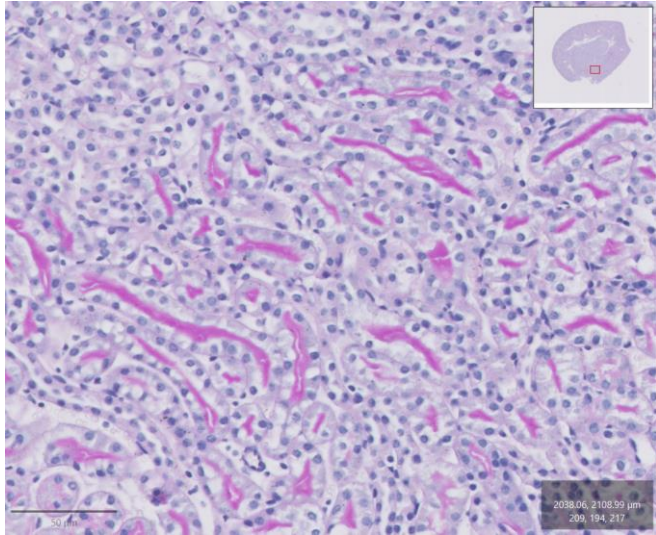
# Pre-postnatal group showed PT dysgenesis: a condition characterized by poor development of the proximal tubule



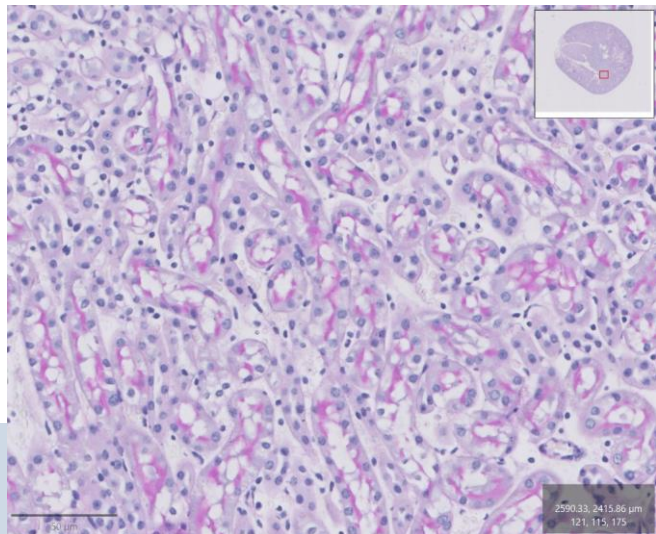


# UFPs group showed a disorganized brush border(BB) in proximal tubule

Control group :



UFPs group :



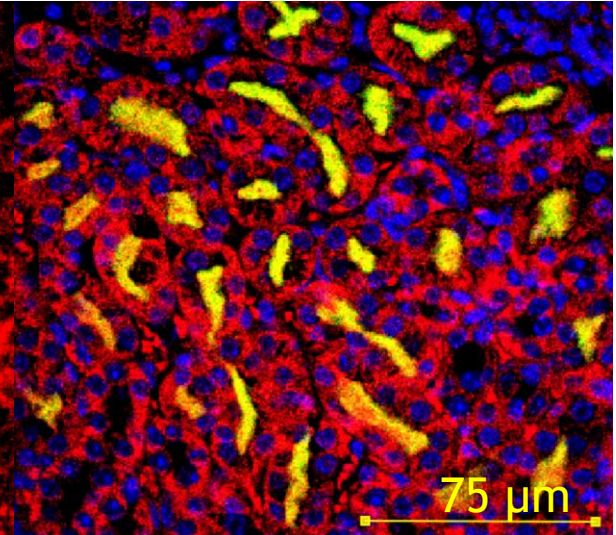
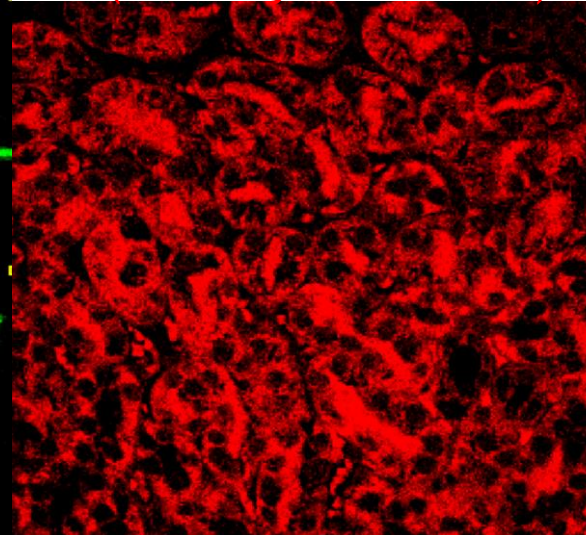
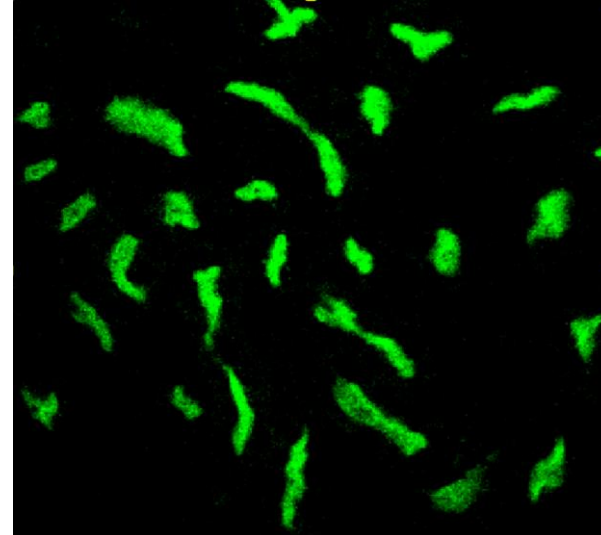
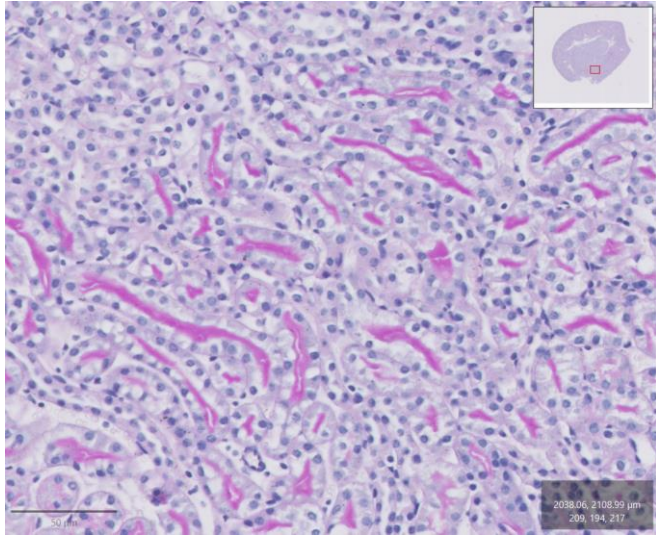
# ...and loss of actin cytoskeleton organization in proximal tubule

Control group :

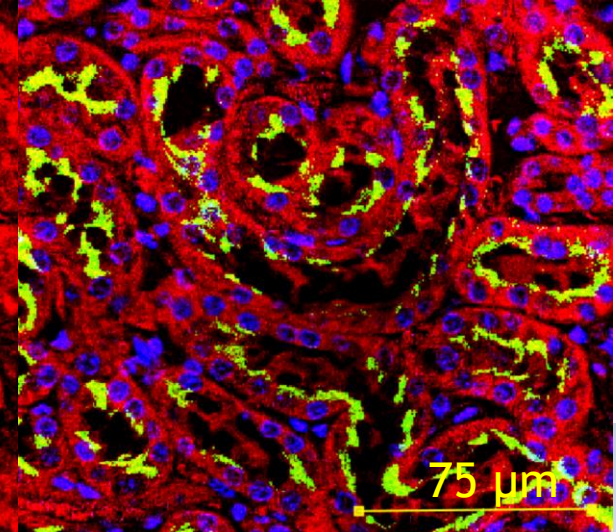
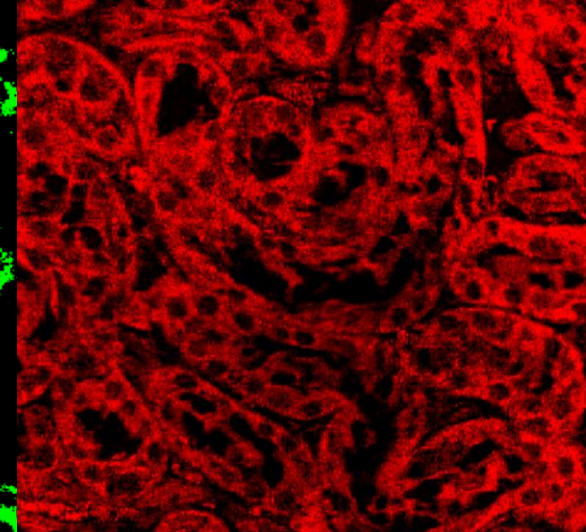
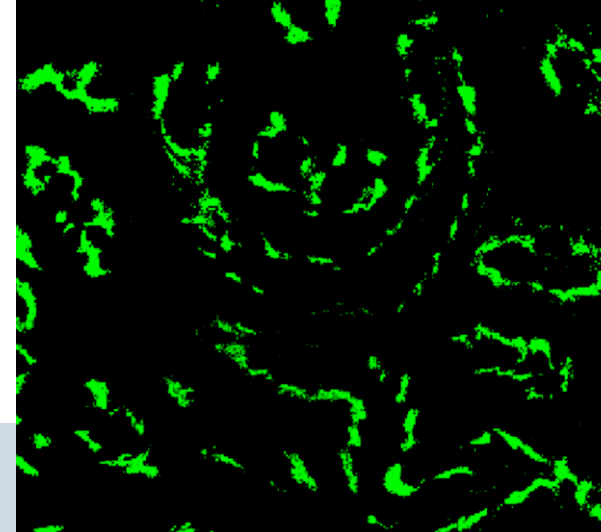
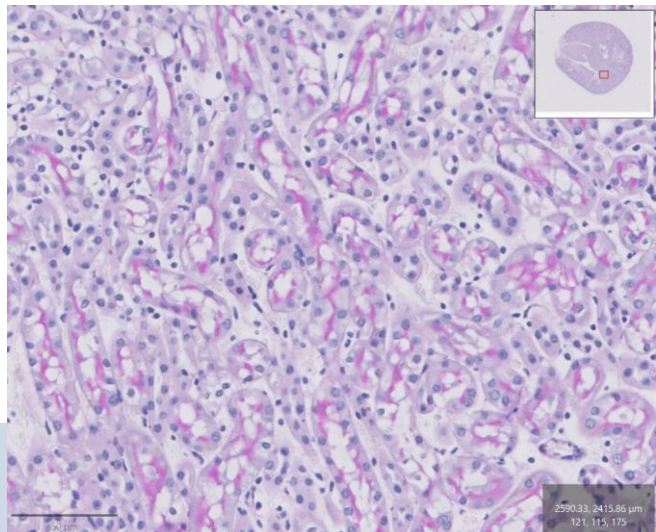
LTL-FITC(BB)

Phalloidin  
(actin cytoskeleton )

Merge



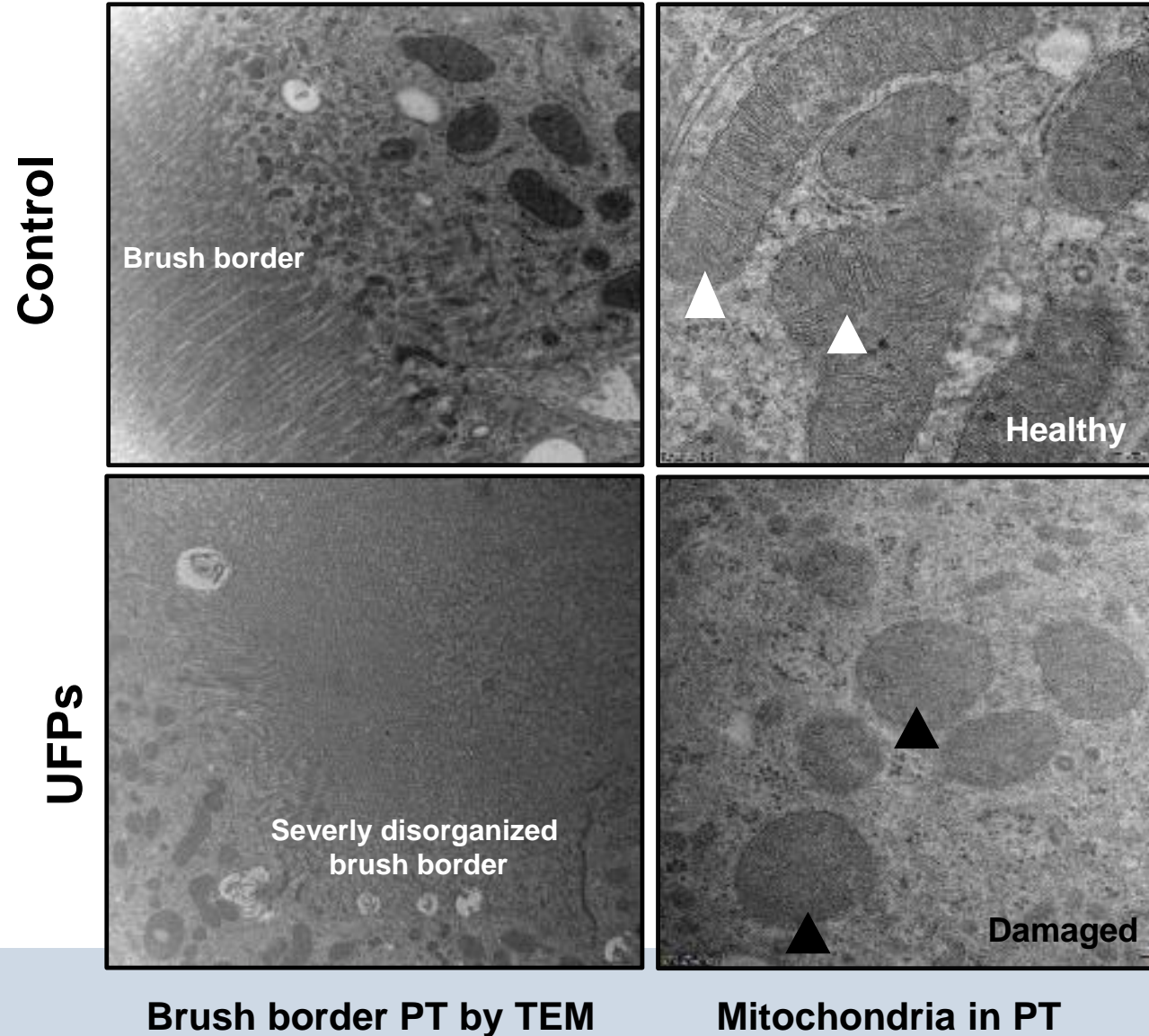
UFPs group :







# BB and mitochondrial abnormalities observed by TEM in UFPs group





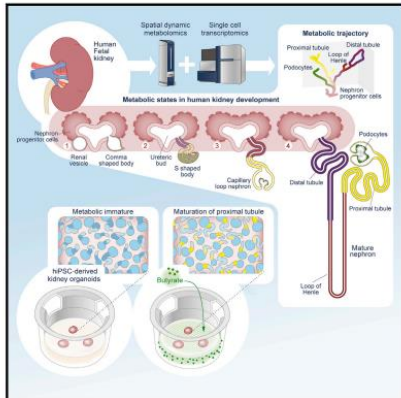
# UFPs group display decreased mitochondrial metabolism...

## Cell Stem Cell

resource

### Spatial dynamic metabolomics identifies metabolic cell fate trajectories in human kidney differentiation

#### Graphical abstract



#### Authors

Gangqi Wang, Bram Heijs, Sarantos Kostidis, ..., Cathelijne W. van den Berg, Bernard M. van den Berg, Ton J. Rabelink

#### Correspondence

[a.j.rabelink@lumc.nl](mailto:a.j.rabelink@lumc.nl)

#### In brief

In this study, Wang et al. report metabolic trajectories during human kidney epithelium development using spatial dynamic metabolomics. This knowledge can be used to enhance proximal tubule differentiation and maturation in hiPSC-derived kidney organoids.

- Mitochondrial metabolism is very important for proximal tubular development

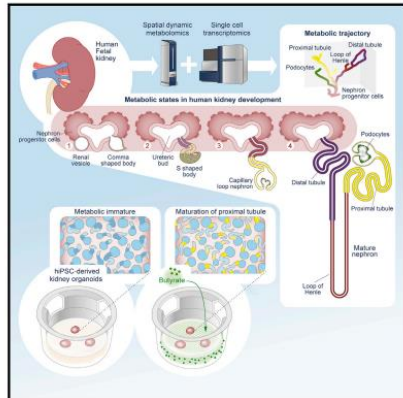


# UFPs group display decreased mitochondrial metabolism...

## Cell Stem Cell

### Spatial dynamic metabolomics identifies metabolic cell fate trajectories in human kidney differentiation

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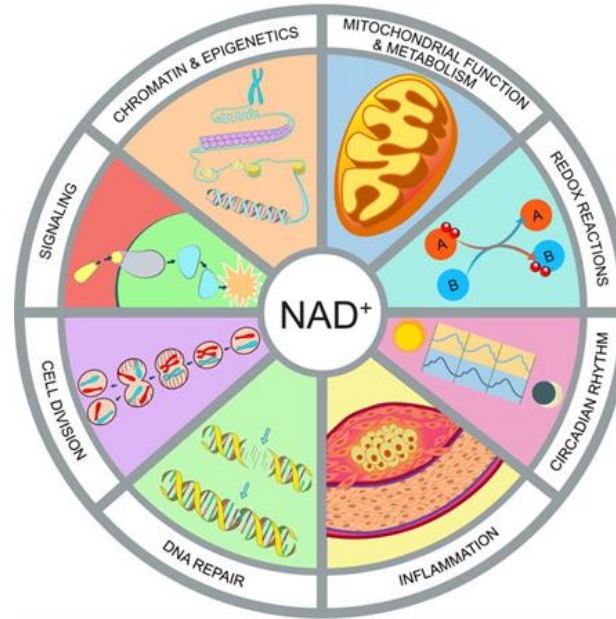
#### Correspondence

a.j.rabelink@lumc.nl

#### In brief

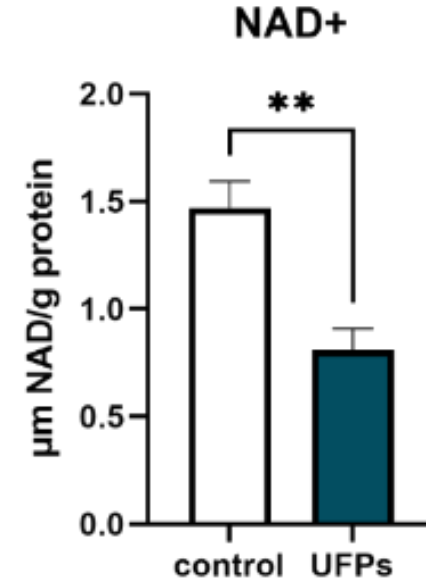
In this study, Wang et al. report metabolic trajectories during human kidney epithelium development using spatial dynamic metabolomics. This knowledge can be used to enhance proximal tubule differentiation and maturation in hiPSC-derived kidney organoids.

resource



Nicotinamide-adenine-dinucleotide

(Rajman et al., 2018)



- Mitochondrial metabolism is very important for proximal tubular development

- Nicotinamide-adenine-dinucleotide (NAD+), a critical coenzyme involved in mitochondrial metabolism, playing a significant role in mitochondrial function and maintaining mitochondrial health.

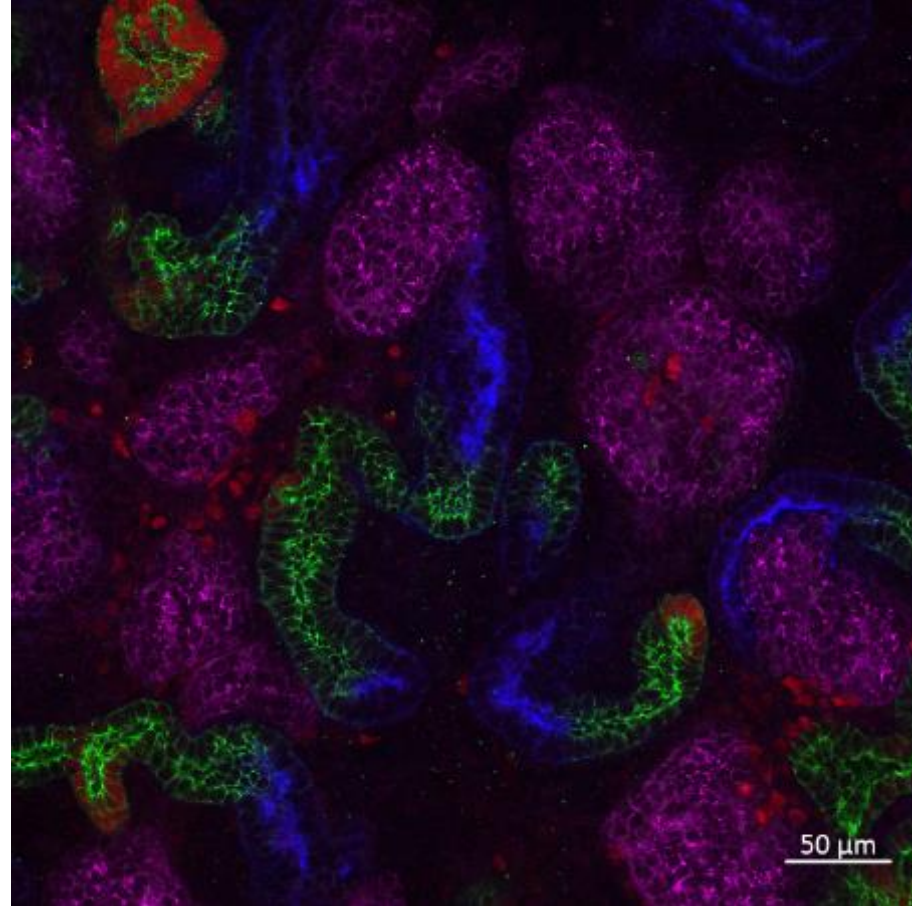
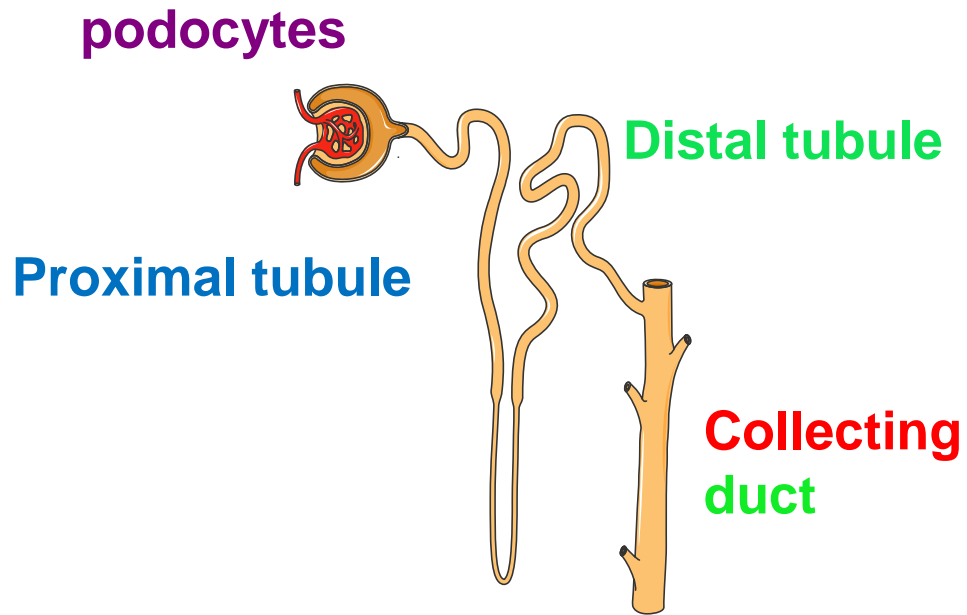


# Can I model PT dysgenesis in kidney organoids?





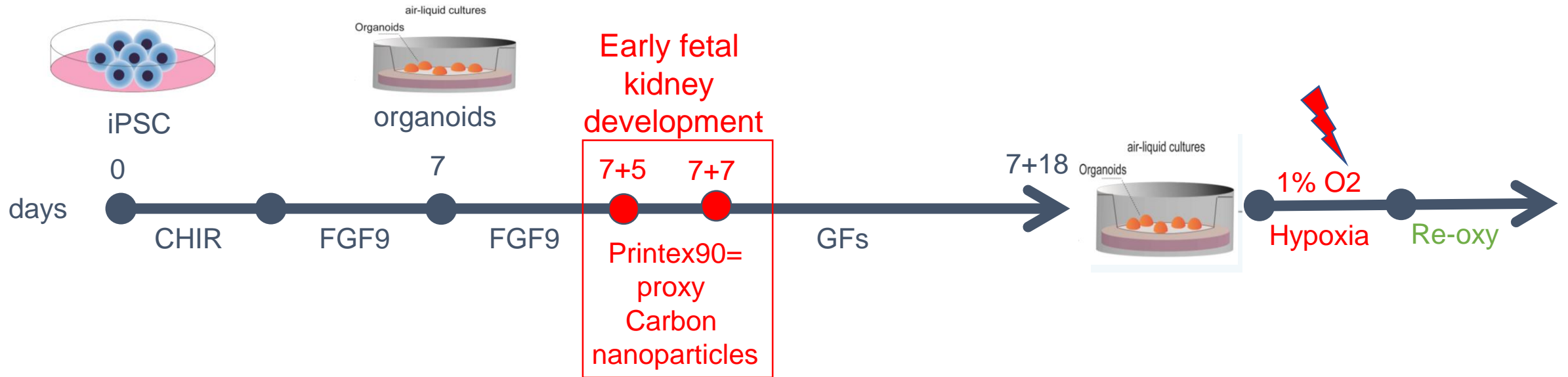
# Can I model PT dysgenesis in kidney organoids?



Nephhrin LTL ECAD GATA3

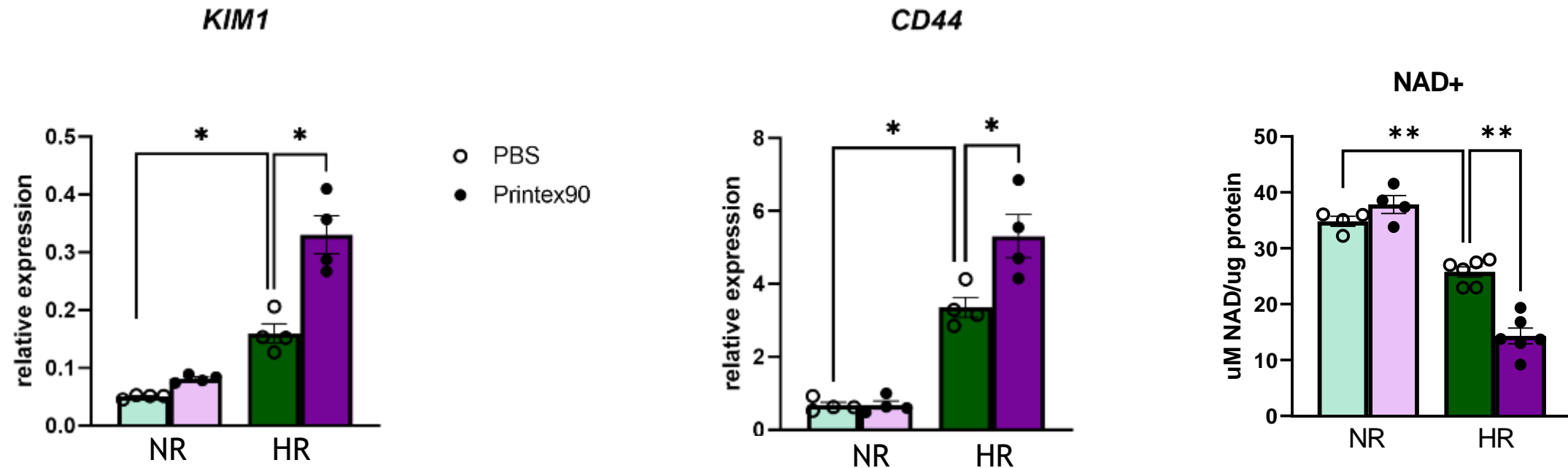


# Hypoxia helps to reveal PT dysgenesis in organoids





# Enhanced tubular damage and decreased NAD<sup>+</sup> pool also in organoids



Tubular damage markers

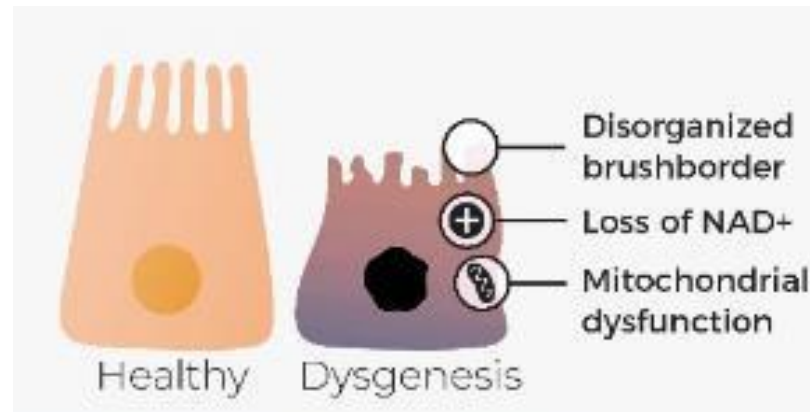
NR: Normoxia

HR: Hypoxia



## Summary and conclusion

The kidneys from the UFPs-exposed group, displayed PT dysgenesis, a condition characterized by poor PT development.



Similar to observation in vivo, exposing organoids to Printex90 (a proxy for UFPs), followed by a hypoxic injury, resulted in decreased NAD<sup>+</sup> and increase in the PT damage marker KIM-1 and CD44

**Early life exposure to UFPs may induce developmental programming of kidney disease. We should protect mothers and their unborn children to prevent the growing burden of CKD in future generations**





# Acknowledgements



Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid  
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Kenneth Vanbrabant  
Leen Rasking



Peter Boor  
Nassim Bouteldja



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM



Nestlé

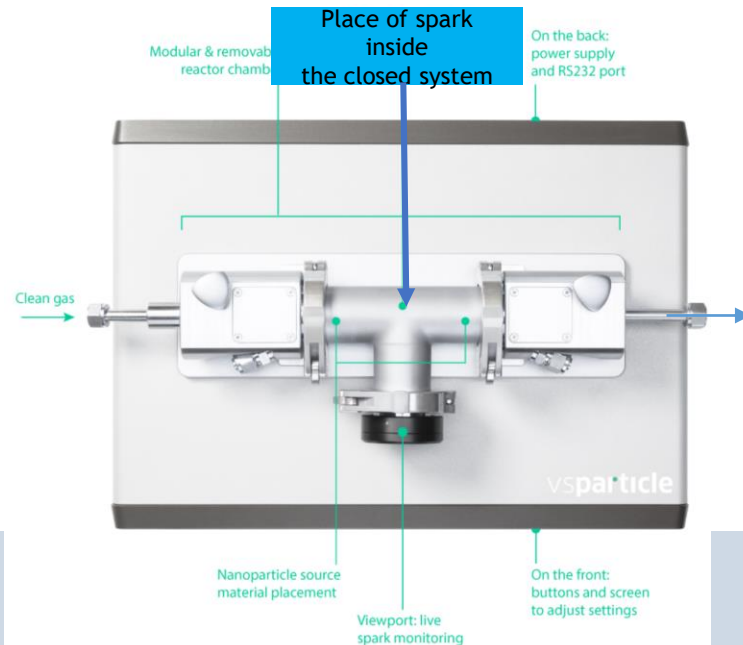
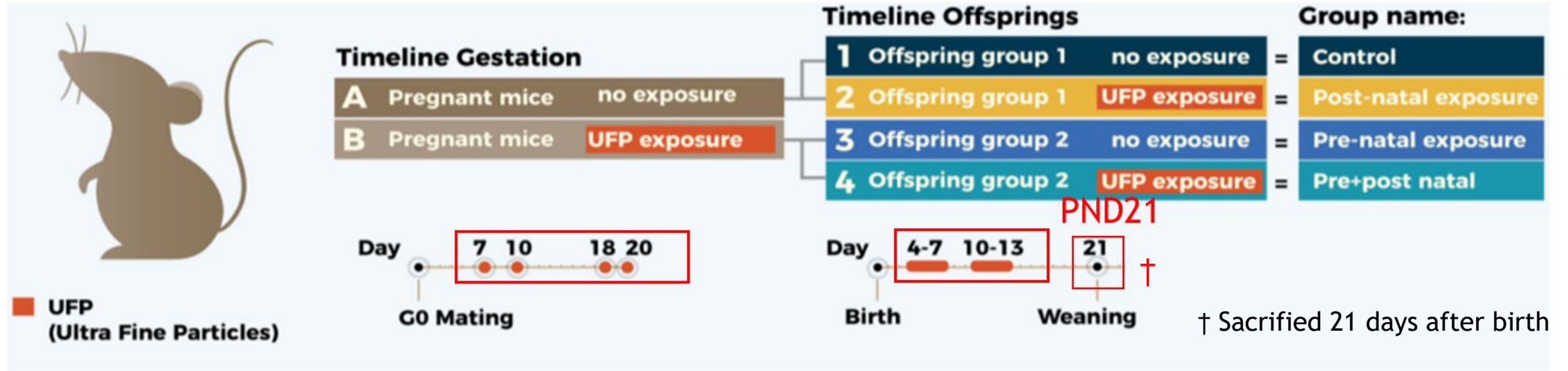
Research



Thank  
you

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

# Research framework...



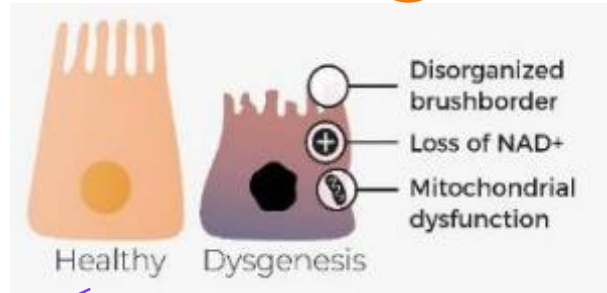
**Aerosolized carbon UFPs**  
( $450\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )

(mean particle size ~ 55nm)

||

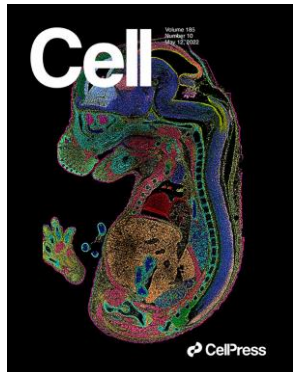
Individuals are exposed during increased breathing or traffic in a tunnel

# Future plans



- Further unravel the mechanism leading to pTECs changes;
- Subject mice exposed to UFPs during early life to a model of renal ischemia reperfusion injury.

## How different?

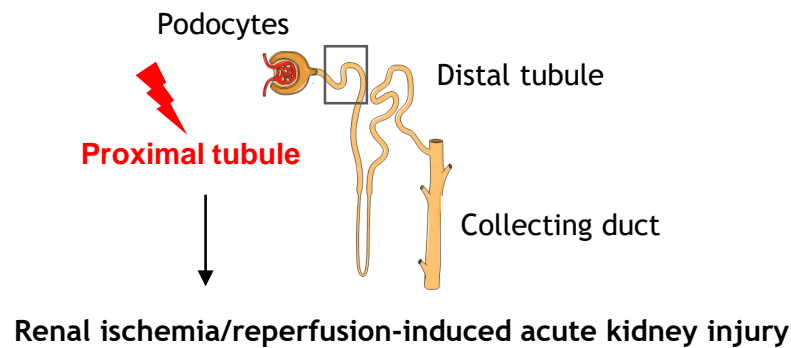


Sc spatial transcriptomics by StereoSeq



Sc Spatial metabolomics by MALDI MSI

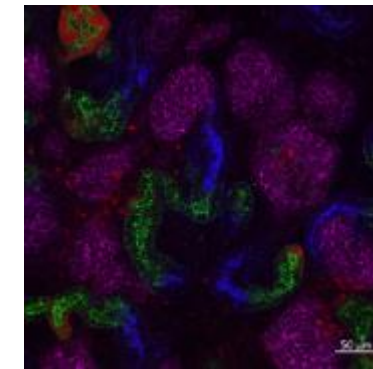
## Consequence?



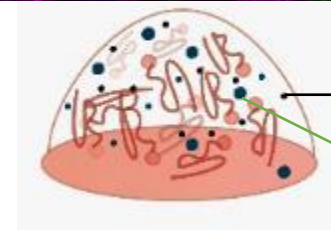
## Objective 2

## Possible intervention?

iPSCs-derived kidney organoids



**Nephrin:** podocytes  
**LTL:** proximal tubule  
**ECAD:** distal tubule  
**GATA3:** collecting duct



UFPs

NAD<sup>+</sup> boosters and other targets

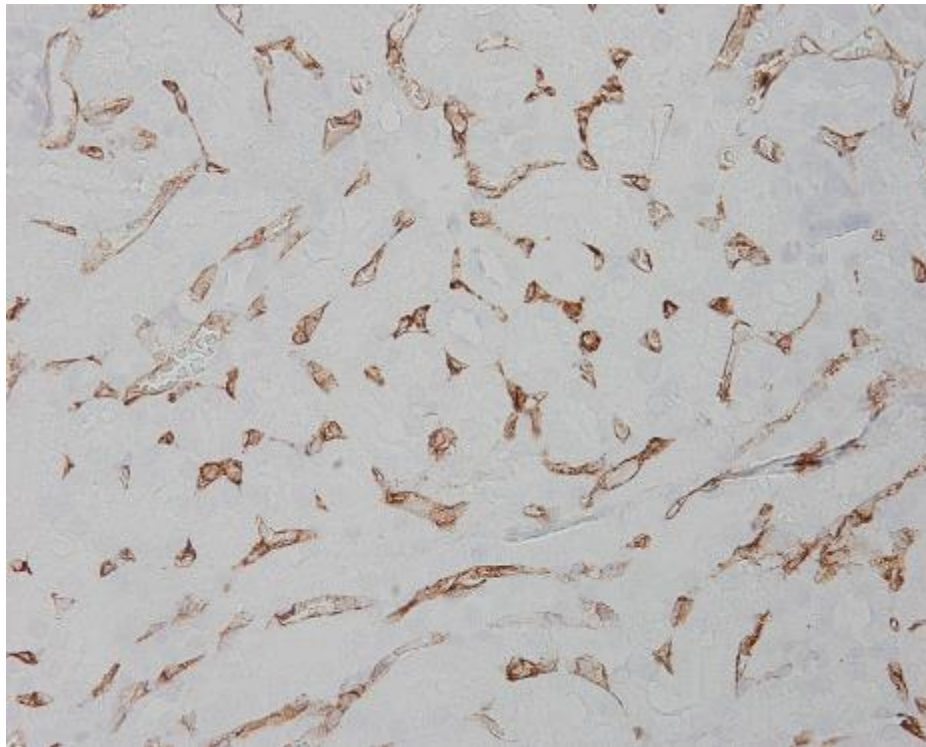
## Objective 3

## Objective 1

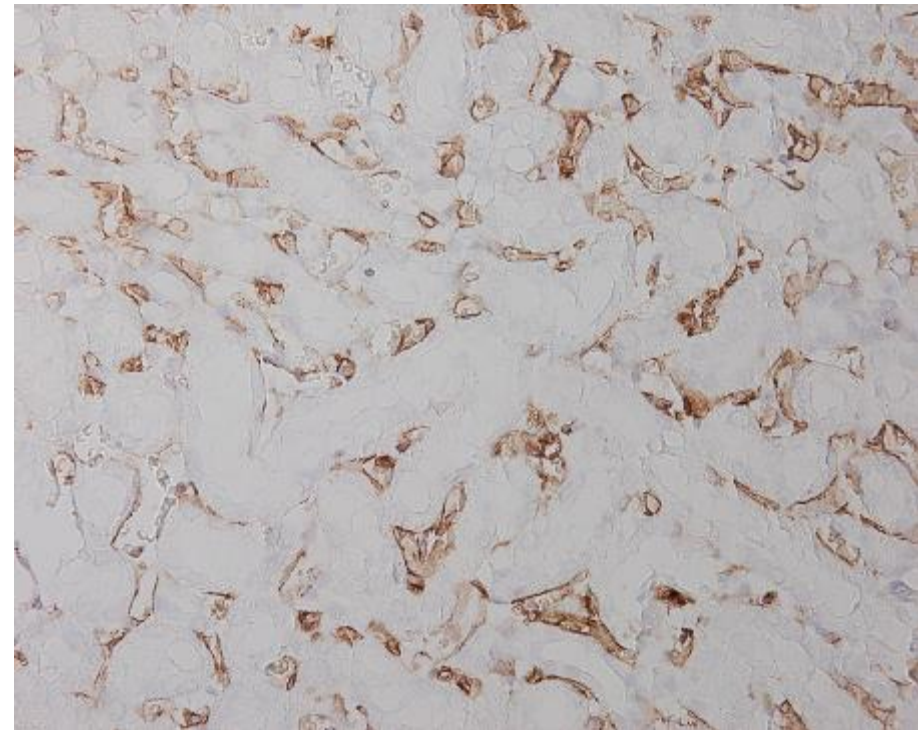
# Undergoing experiment...



CD34 staining to understand the capillary network surrounding the Proximal tubular ...



Control group



Prepost-natal group

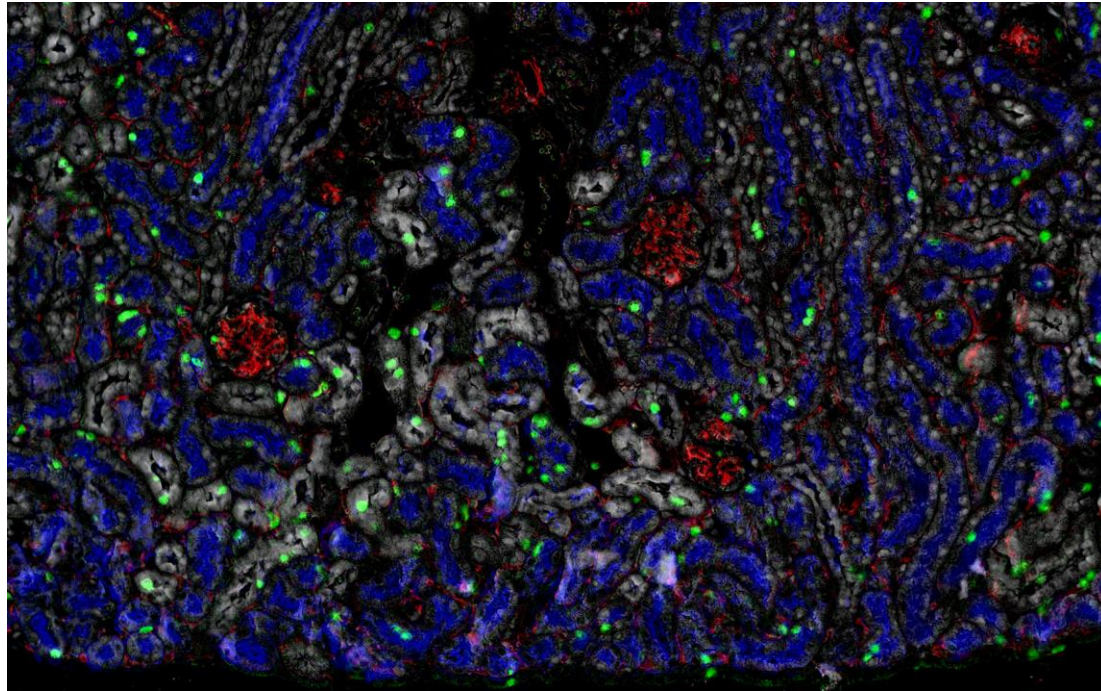
*Quantification in progress*

## Undergoing experiment...

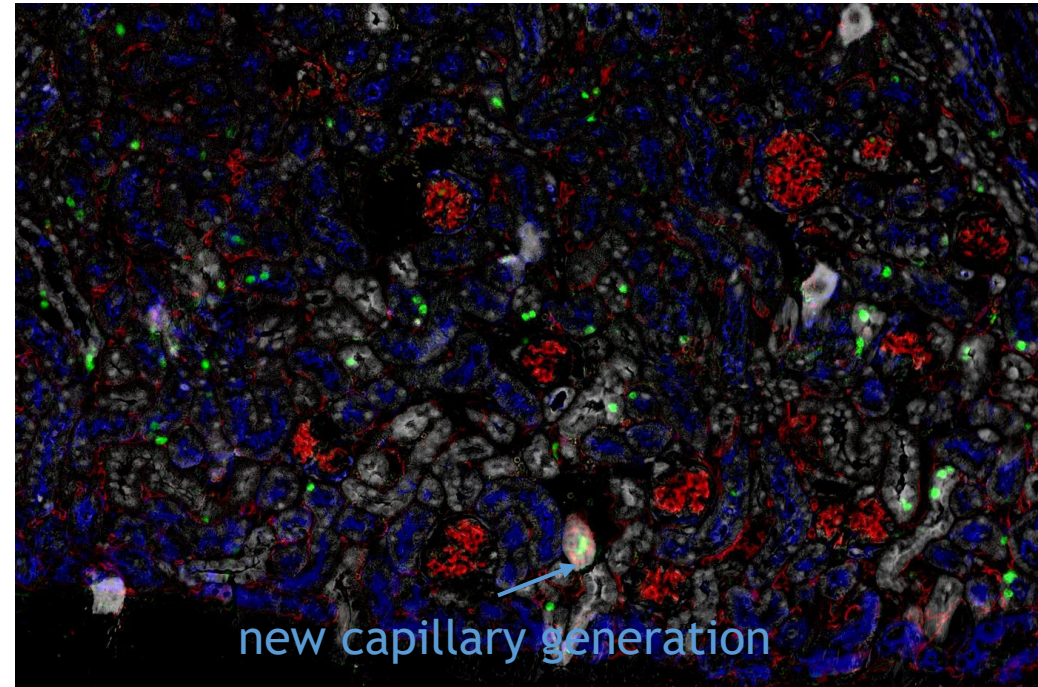


In prepostnatal group, Ki67, VEGF, CD34 staining may show

1. Reduced proliferation cells in the cortex....
2. Generated new capillaries...



Control group



Prepost-natal group

- LTL
- VEGF
- Ki67
- CD34



## Pre-postnatal group showed interstitium area increase by FLASH analysis ...

