

**CORATA Belgique**

**1<sup>er</sup> Congrès de Biologie Clinique**  
25 - 26 septembre 2013

# Galectin-3:

## A new kid on the block?



**Dr. D. Gruson**  
Pharm. Biol. – EurClinChem, PhD  
Division of Endocrine Biology  
UCL St-Luc, Brussels, Belgium





# Heart Failure

**High prevalence**  
**High morbidity and mortality**  
**Economical burden**



**Vasoconstriction**  
**Decrease of Natriuresis**  
**Cardiac Hypertrophy**  
**Inflammation**  
**Fibrosis**



**Neurohormonal activation:**  
**-Sympathetic nervous system**  
**-Endothelin**  
**- Angiotensin II**  
**- Aldosterone**  
**-Natriuretic peptides**

HF GENERAL POPULATION



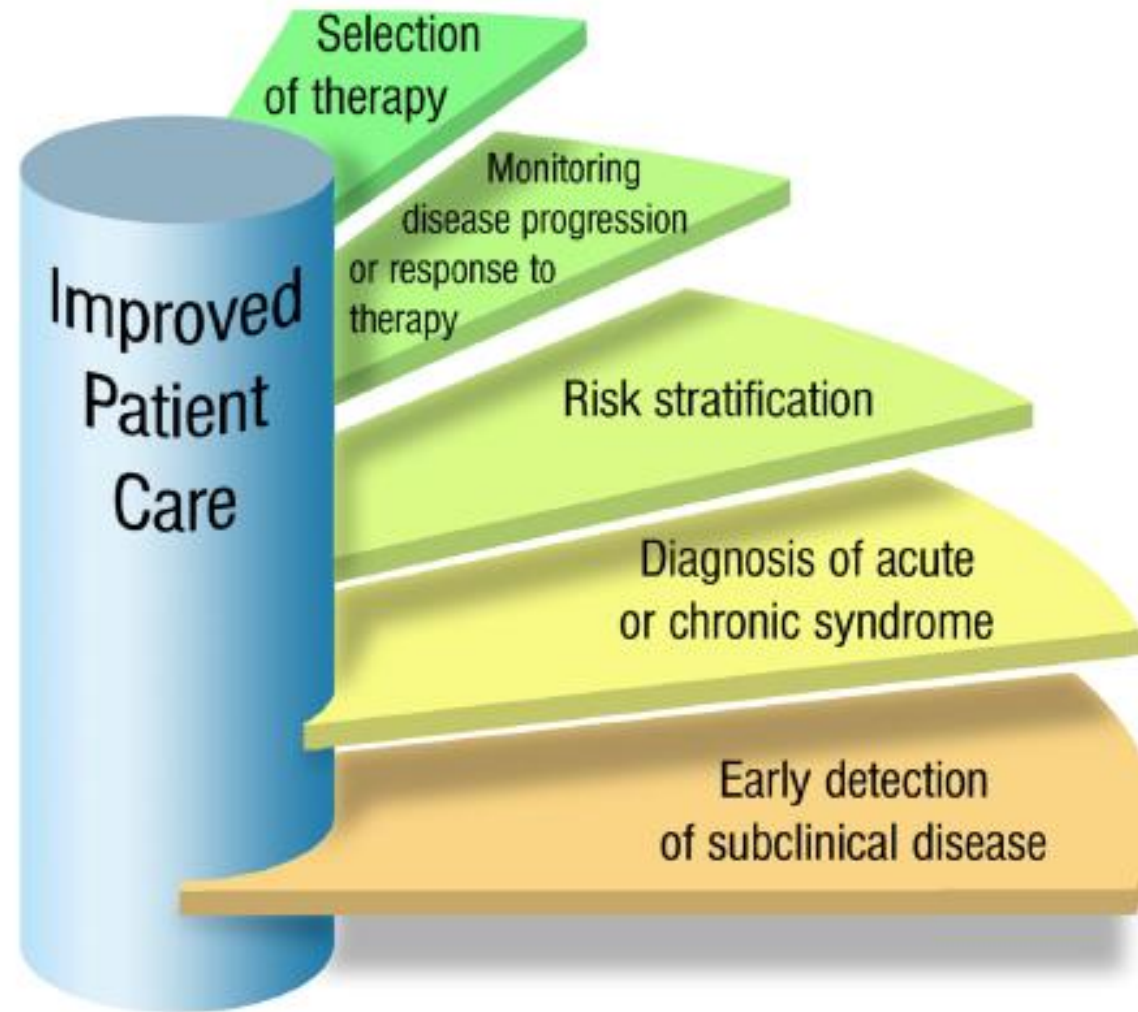
# Allocation of resources

**Heart failure (HF) accounts for more than 1 million hospital admissions per year, with an estimated cost exceeding \$39 billion annually in the U.S**

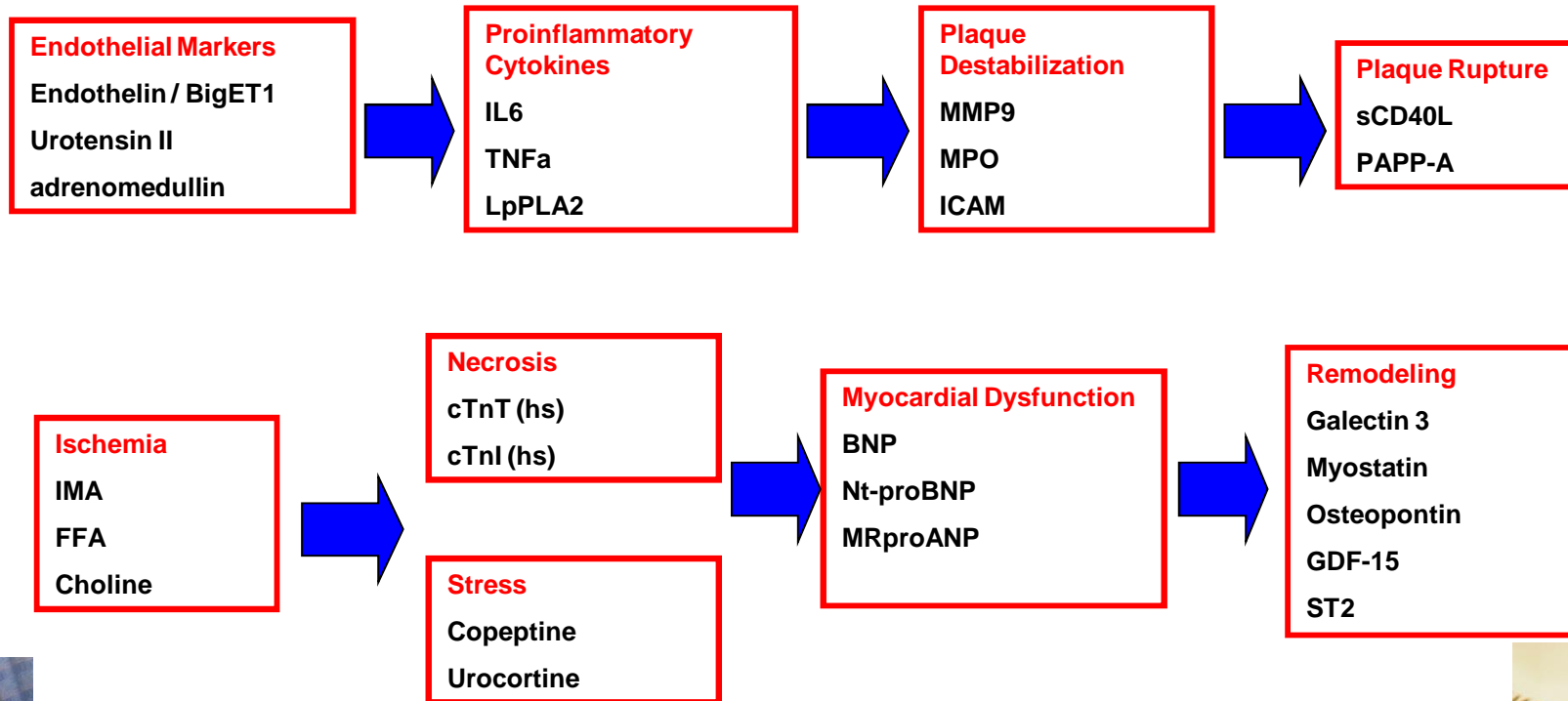
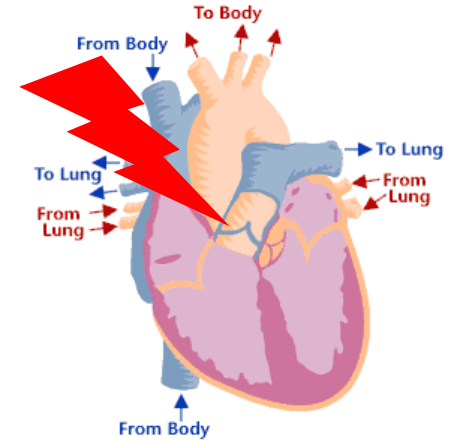


**The mean in-hospital stay for HF was 14.8 days.  
The total in-hospital cost of HF as a primary diagnosis was euro 94,113,827,  
representing 1.8% of the total hospital expenditure.**

# Why biomarkers ?



# Which biomarkers ?



# What have we learnt from plasma biomarkers?

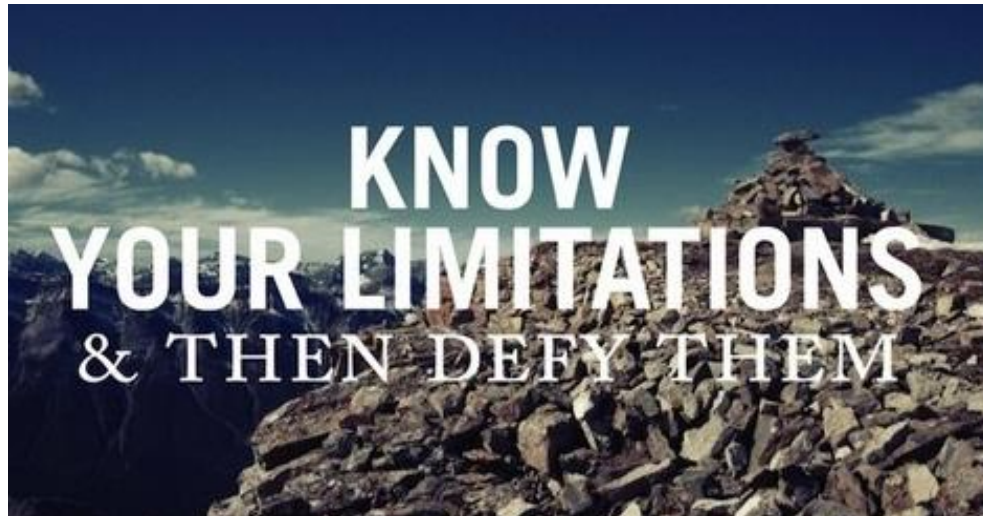
- “ **Impact of translational research**
- “ **Better understanding of physiopathology**
- “ **Promises for**
  - . **Diagnosis and Triage**
  - . **Risk stratification**
  - . **Tailored therapy**
- “ **Identify new therapeutic targets**
- “ **New hope from emerging / innovative biomarkers**
- “ **Work in multidisciplinary teams / Education**
- “ **Define quality standards and specifications**



# What have we learnt from plasma biomarkers?

## “ Not (yet) ideal biomarkers

- . Limitations
- . Is there any added value / clinical impact?
- . MMS

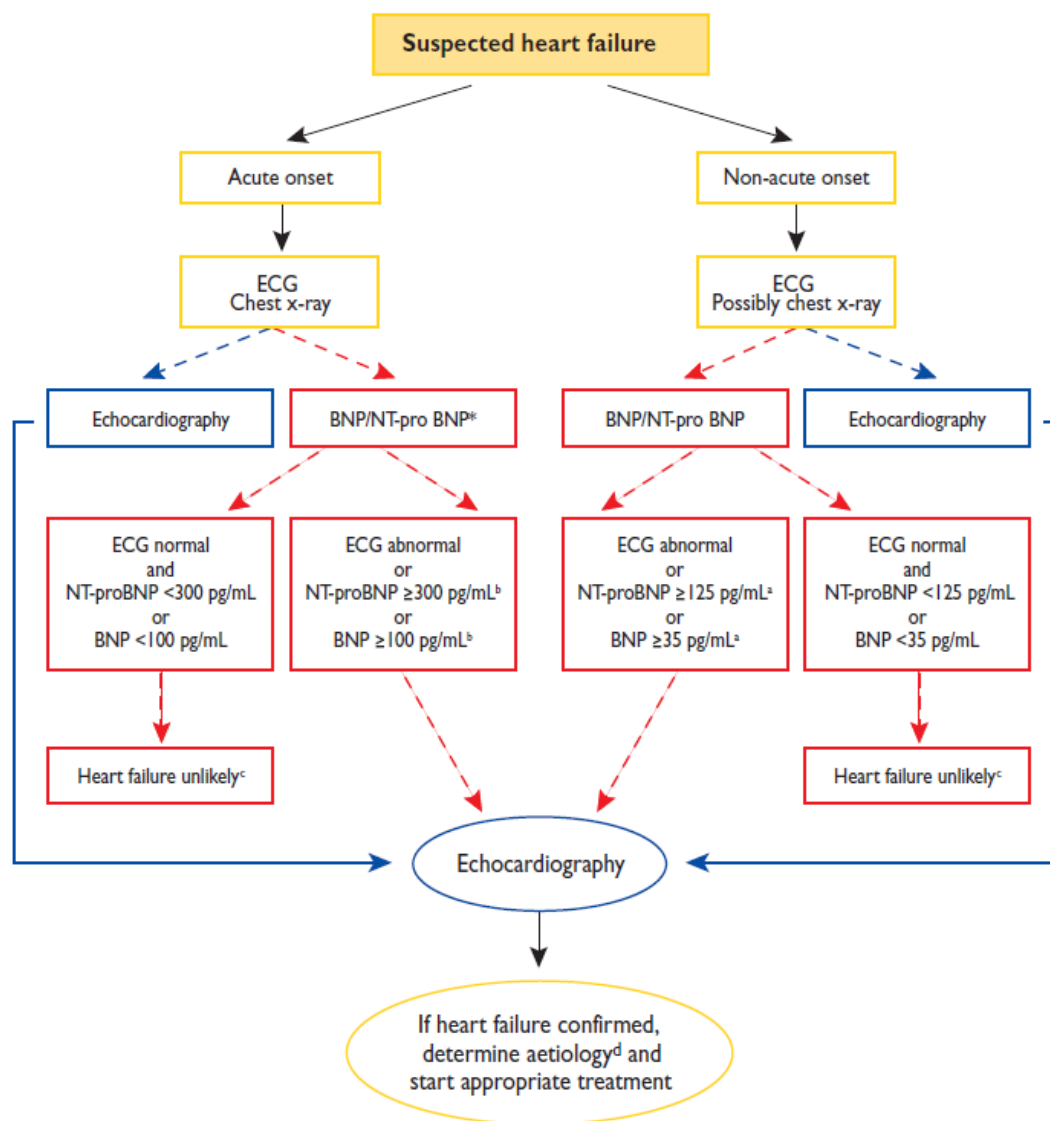






EUROPEAN  
SOCIETY OF  
CARDIOLOGY®

# Heart Failure



## 2013 ACCF/AHA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure

A Report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines

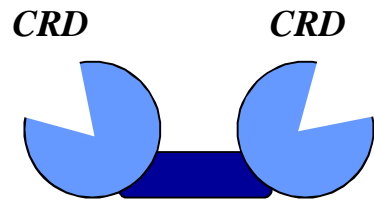
*Developed in Collaboration With the Heart Rhythm Society*

*Endorsed by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation*

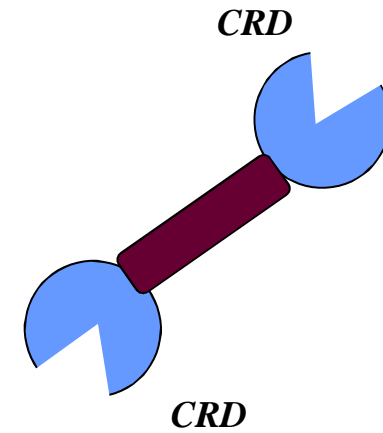
### 6.3.3. Other Emerging Biomarkers

Besides natriuretic peptides or troponins, multiple other biomarkers, including those reflecting inflammation, oxidative stress, neurohormonal disarray, and myocardial and matrix remodeling, have been widely examined for their prognostic value in HF. Biomarkers of myocardial fibrosis, soluble ST2 and galectin-3 are not only predictive of hospitalization and death in patients with HF but also additive to natriuretic peptide levels in their prognostic value. Markers of renal injury may also offer additional prognostic value because renal function or injury may be involved in the pathogenesis, progression, decompensation, or complications in chronic or acute decompensated HF (242-244, 264, 265, 279). Strategies that combine multiple biomarkers may ultimately prove beneficial in guiding HF therapy in the future.

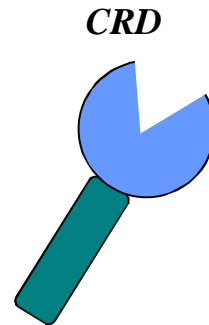
# Galectins



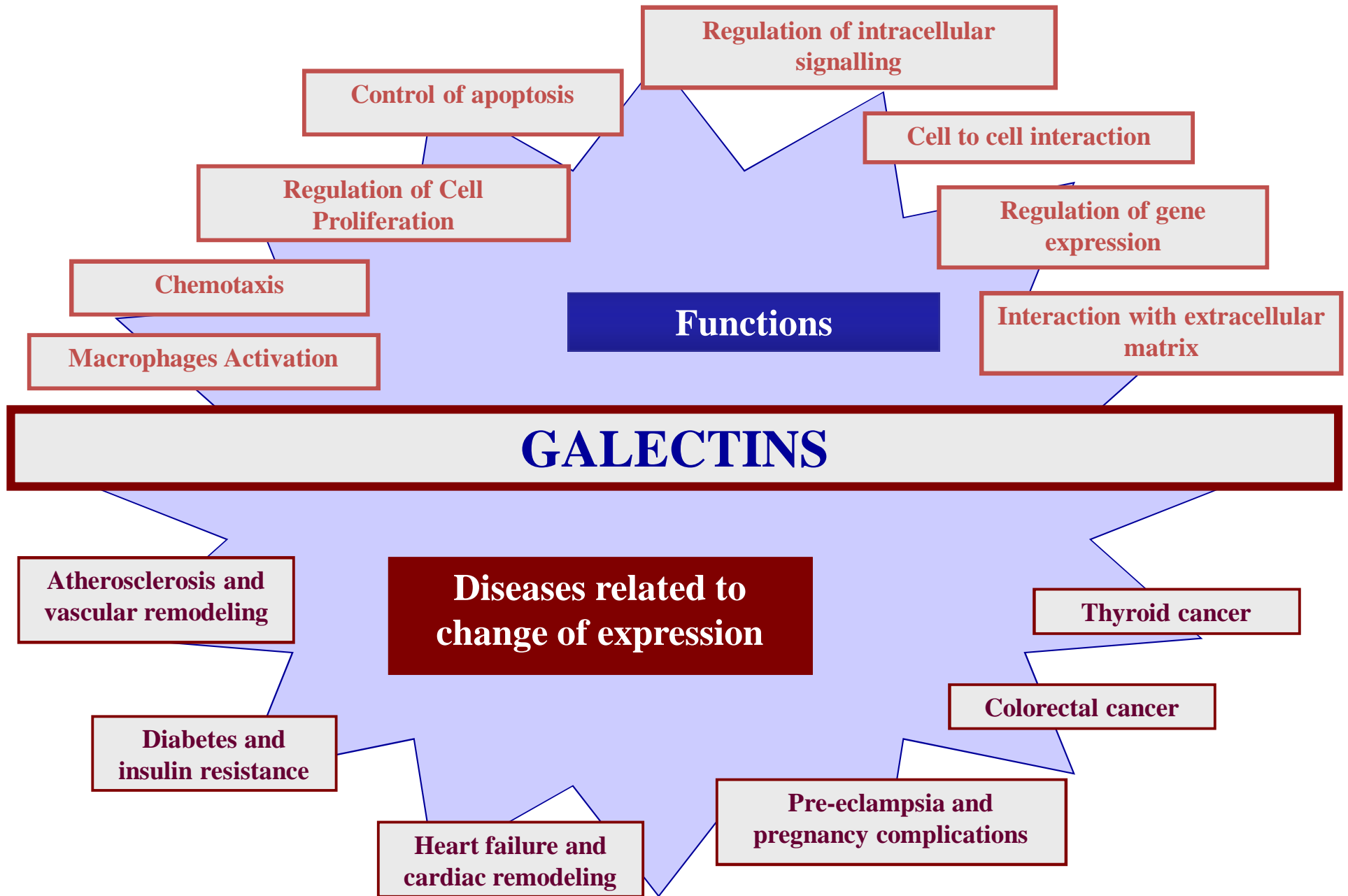
**Prototype galectins**



**Tandem-repeat-type  
galectins**

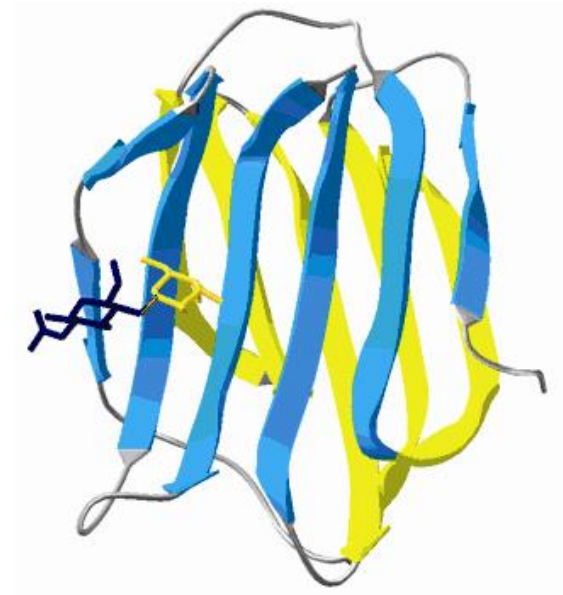


**Chimera-type galectin**

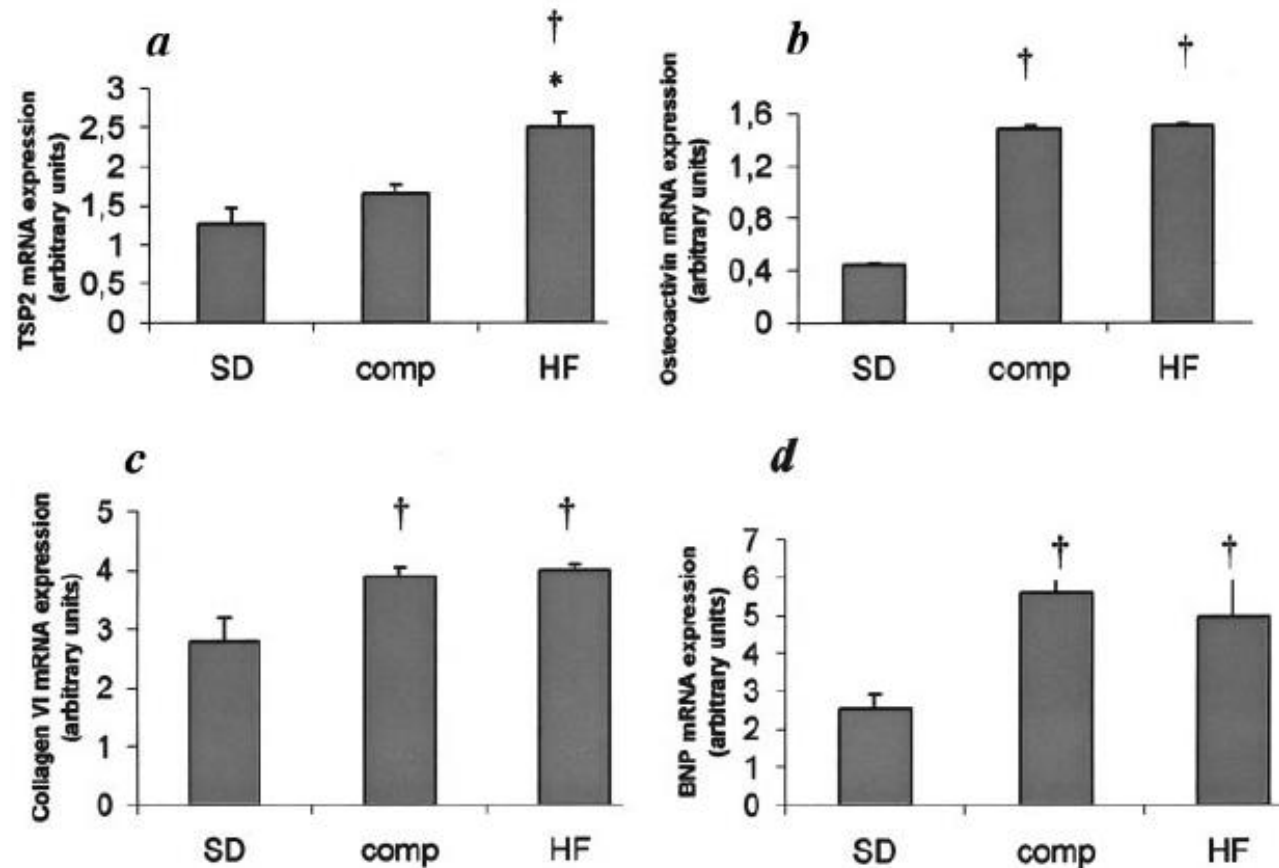


# Galectin-3 and Cardiac Remodeling

- “  $\beta$ -galactoside-binding lectin found in the nucleus, cytoplasm, cell surface and extracellular matrix
- “ Associated with biological processes important to the development & progression of HF (i.e., inflammation and fibrosis)
- “ Secreted by macrophages and promotes collagen synthesis
- “ Discovered in 2004 to be a mediator in the development and progression of heart failure

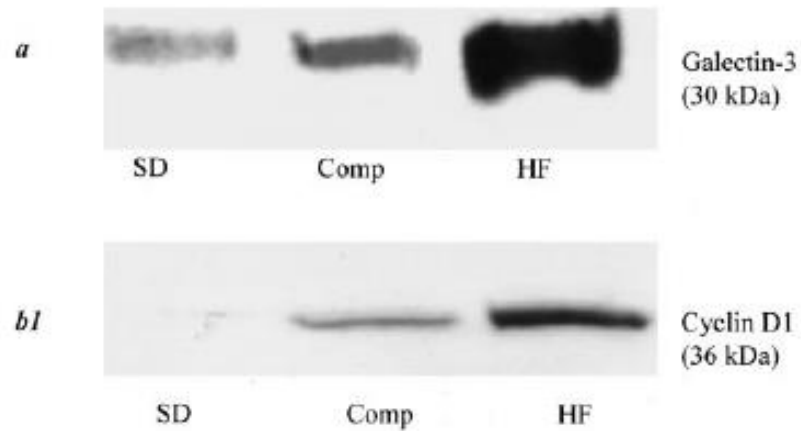


# Galectin-3 and Cardiac Remodeling

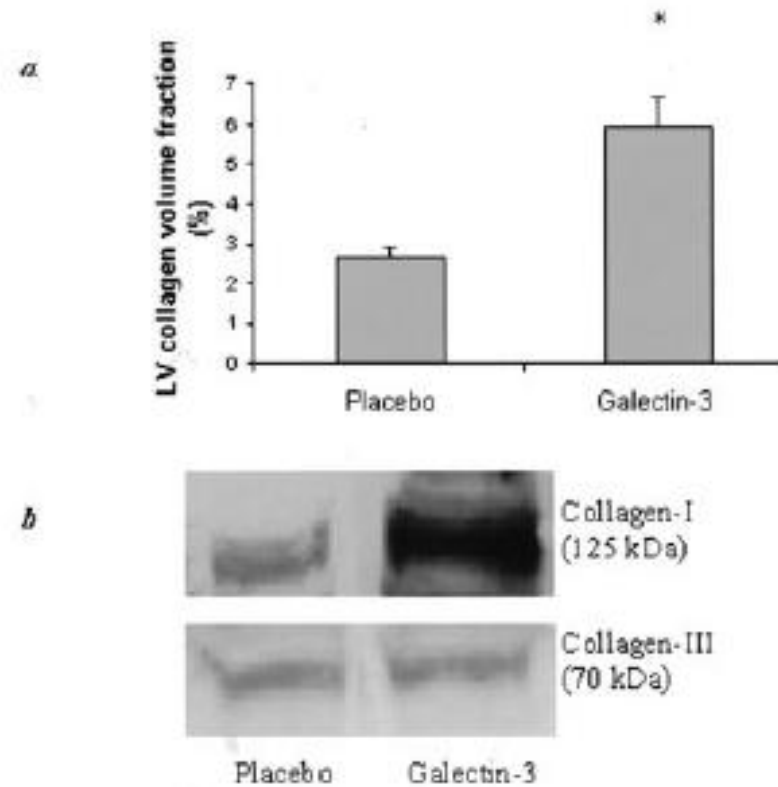


**Emerged as the most over-expressed gene in failing versus functionally compensated hearts in animal model of heart failure (TGRmRen2-27 rats)**

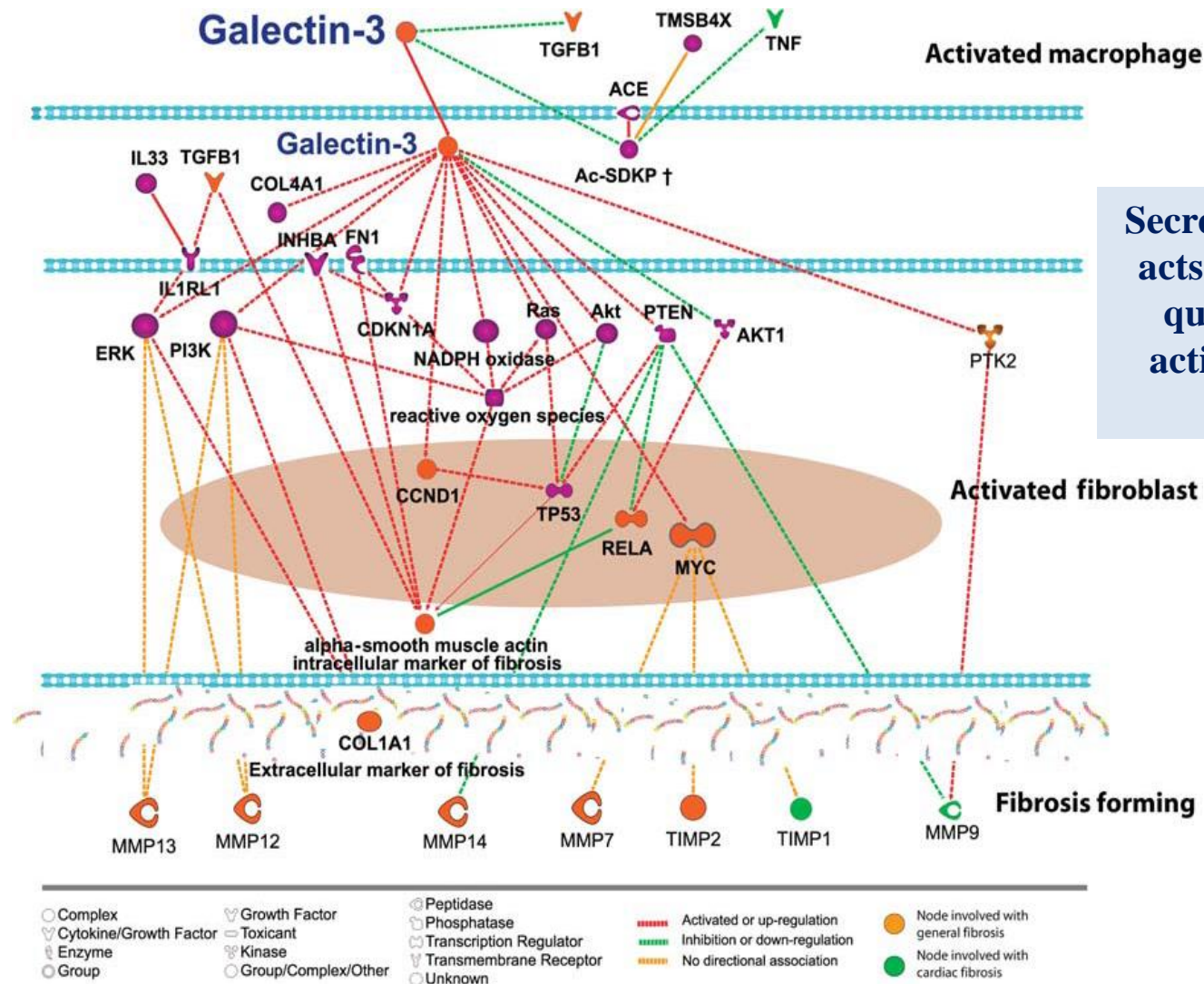
# Galectin-3 and Cardiac Remodeling



Representative blot for galectin-3 in failing and compensat rat myocardial homogenates and SD controls;



# Galectin-3 and Cardiac Remodeling

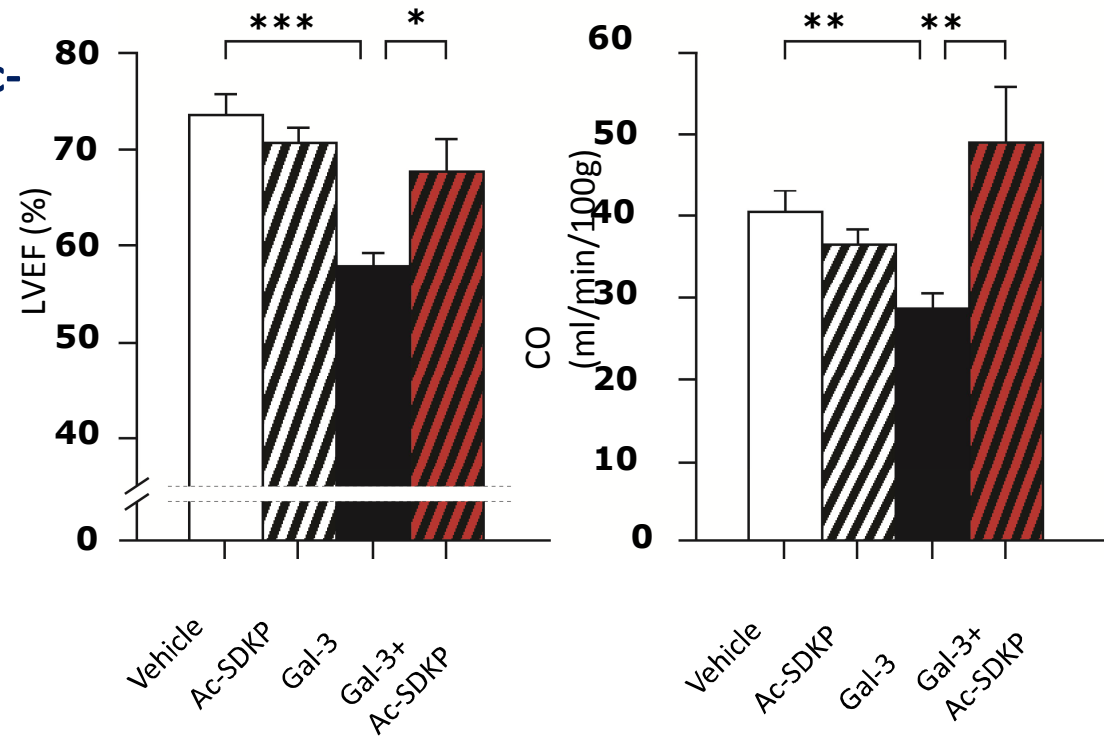




# Galectin-3 and Cardiac Remodeling

“ Galectin-3 inhibition with Ac-SDKP shown to reduce collagen content and hypertrophy

“ Galectin-3 inhibition shown to improve cardiac function

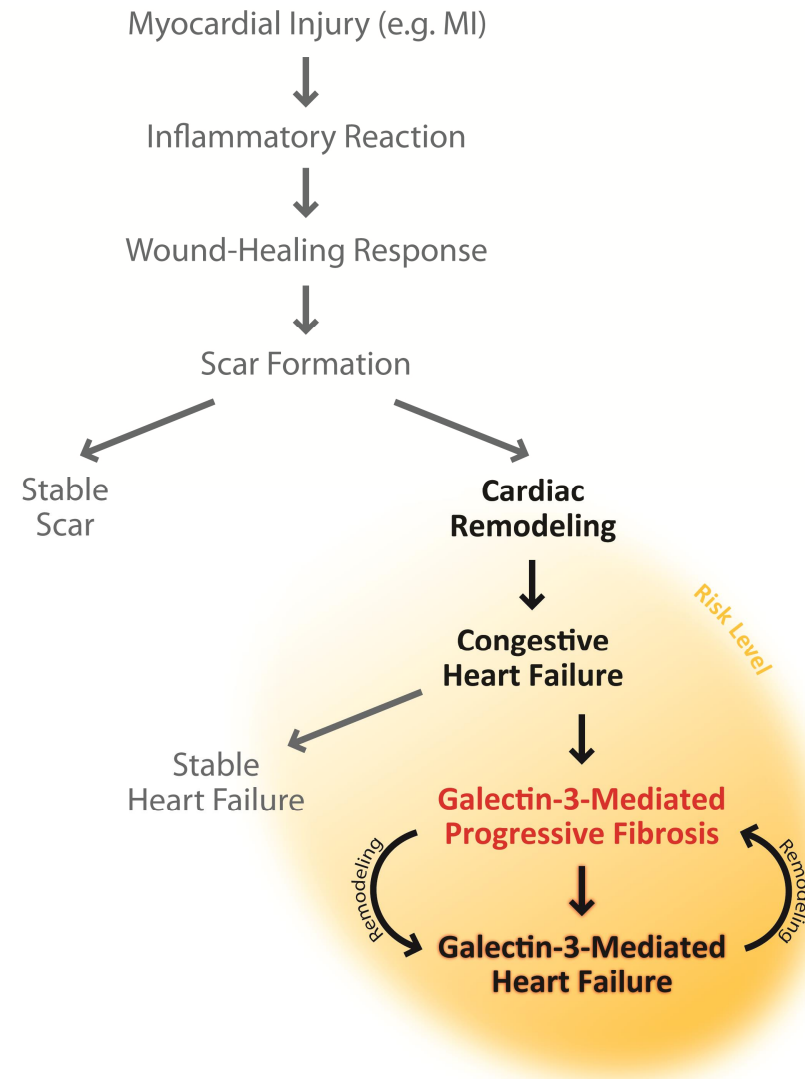


Effect of Ac-SDKP on LVEF (left) and CO (right) in Gal-3-induced cardiac dysfunction. \* $P < 0.05$ . \*\* $P < 0.01$ . \*\*\* $P < 0.001$

# Gal-3, Cardiac Remodeling and Risk Stratification

## Heart Failure Progression

- “ HF ranges from near stable to inherently progressive
- “ Patients with an elevated Galectin-3 have a greater risk for death and hospitalization<sup>1,2</sup>
- “ Elevated Galectin-3 occurs in ~30-50% of NYHA Class II-IV patients<sup>1,2</sup>



- 1) Galectin-3 Product Insert (US), BG Medicine, January 2011
- 2) De Boer R, et al. *Ann Med* 2011;43:60-8

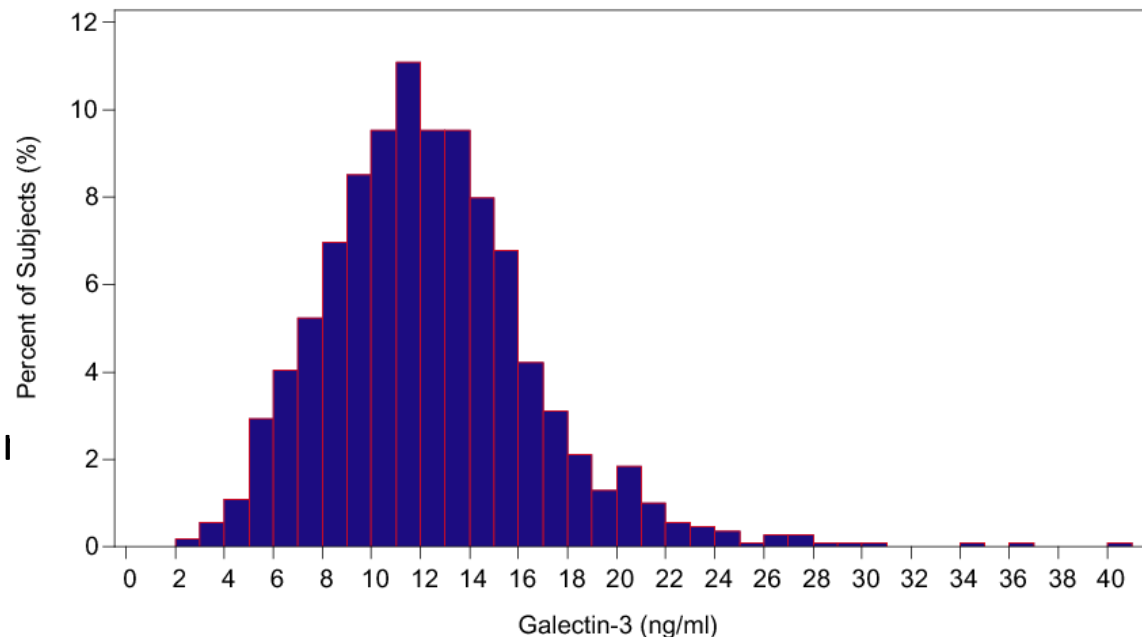
# Galectin-3: Normal Population

## Identifying Cardiac Remodeling<sup>1,2</sup>

- ❑ Galectin-3 is measurable in most healthy individuals
- ❑ HF patients with no or minimal remodeling have normal galectin-3 levels
- ❑ Galectin-3 is involved in the development of cardiac fibrosis and adverse remodeling, mediating the progression of HF

## Biolmage Study<sup>1,2</sup>

- ❑ Conducted with Humana
- ❑ ≥55 years
- ❑ Free of CVD
- ❑ Ethnic diversity
- ❑ Detailed clinical evaluation
- ❑ Normal distribution



1) Muntendam P, et al. *Clin Chem* 2009;55:A73

2) Cristenson RH, et al. *Clin Biochem* 2010;43:683-90

# Gal-3, Cardiac Remodeling and Risk Stratification

## Galectin-3, a Marker of Cardiac Fibrosis, Predicts Incident Heart Failure in the Community

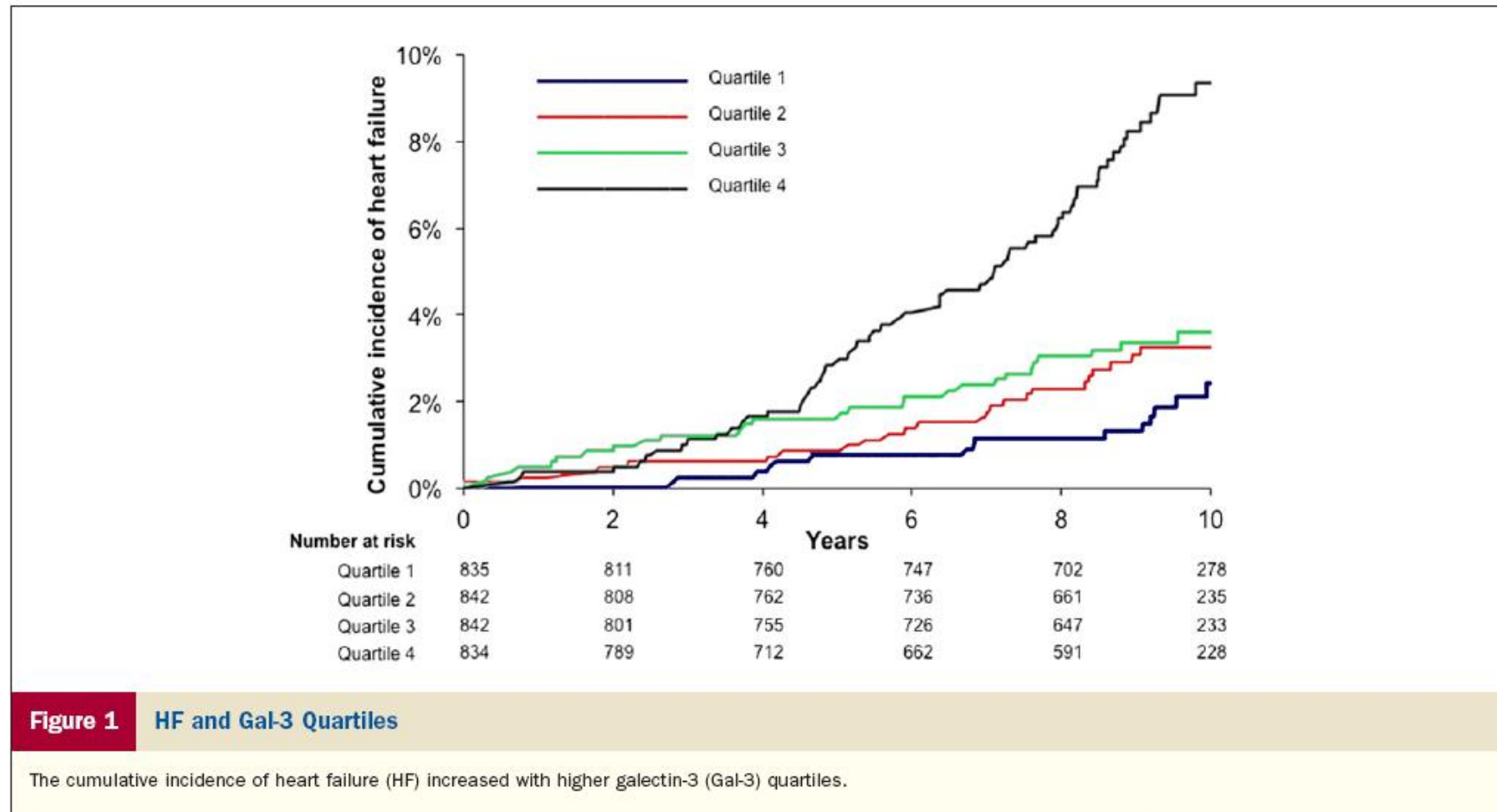
Jennifer E. Ho, MD,\*†‡ Chunyu Liu, PhD,\* Asya Lyass, PhD,\*§ Paul Courchesne, MBA,\* Michael J. Pencina, PhD,\*§ Ramachandran S. Vasan, MD,\*|| Martin G. Larson, ScD,\*§ Daniel Levy, MD\*†

*Framingham and Boston, Massachusetts; and Bethesda, Maryland*

**Table 1** Baseline Characteristics of 3,353 Participants by Sex-Specific Gal-3 Quartile

| Characteristic                            | Quartile of Gal-3* |             |             |             | p for Trend |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | 1 (n = 835)        | 2 (n = 842) | 3 (n = 842) | 4 (n = 834) |             |
| <b>Clinical</b>                           |                    |             |             |             |             |
| Age (yrs)                                 | 55 ± 9             | 58 ± 9      | 60 ± 9      | 64 ± 10     | <0.0001     |
| Women                                     | 454 (54%)          | 431 (51%)   | 436 (52%)   | 461 (55%)   | 0.98        |
| Systolic blood pressure (mm Hg)           | 124 ± 18           | 127 ± 18    | 130 ± 19    | 132 ± 20    | <0.0001     |
| Diastolic blood pressure (mm Hg)          | 75 ± 9             | 76 ± 9      | 76 ± 9      | 75 ± 10     | 0.34        |
| Antihypertensive medication use           | 134 (16%)          | 193 (23%)   | 250 (30%)   | 355 (43%)   | <0.0001     |
| Diabetes mellitus                         | 56 (7%)            | 66 (8%)     | 81 (10%)    | 115 (14%)   | <0.0001     |
| Coronary heart disease                    | 32 (4%)            | 40 (5%)     | 66 (8%)     | 106 (13%)   | <0.0001     |
| Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )      | 26.9 (4.7%)        | 27.6 (5.1%) | 28.5 (5.2%) | 28.6 (5.3%) | <0.0001     |
| Smoking                                   | 121 (14%)          | 132 (16%)   | 149 (18%)   | 109 (13%)   | 0.63        |
| <b>Laboratory</b>                         |                    |             |             |             |             |
| Total cholesterol (mg/dl)                 | 200 ± 36           | 205 ± 37    | 209 ± 37    | 208 ± 42    | <0.0001     |
| HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)                   | 54 ± 17            | 52 ± 16     | 51 ± 16     | 48 ± 15     | <0.0001     |
| eGFR (ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )        | 94 ± 22            | 90 ± 24     | 88 ± 25     | 80 ± 25     | <0.0001     |
| BNP (pg/ml)                               | 12.8 ± 15.6        | 13.7 ± 17.7 | 14.7 ± 18.3 | 22.4 ± 30.6 | <0.0001     |
| <b>Echocardiography (n = 2,425)*</b>      |                    |             |             |             |             |
| Left ventricular mass (g/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 156 ± 42           | 159 ± 44    | 163 ± 45    | 166 ± 45    | <0.0001     |
| Fractional shortening (%)                 | 37.1 ± 5.2         | 37.1 ± 5.7  | 37.1 ± 5.4  | 37.3 ± 6.2  | 0.59        |
| Left atrial dimension (mm)                | 39.0 ± 5.0         | 39.3 ± 5.2  | 39.3 ± 5.1  | 40.0 ± 5.4  | 0.001       |

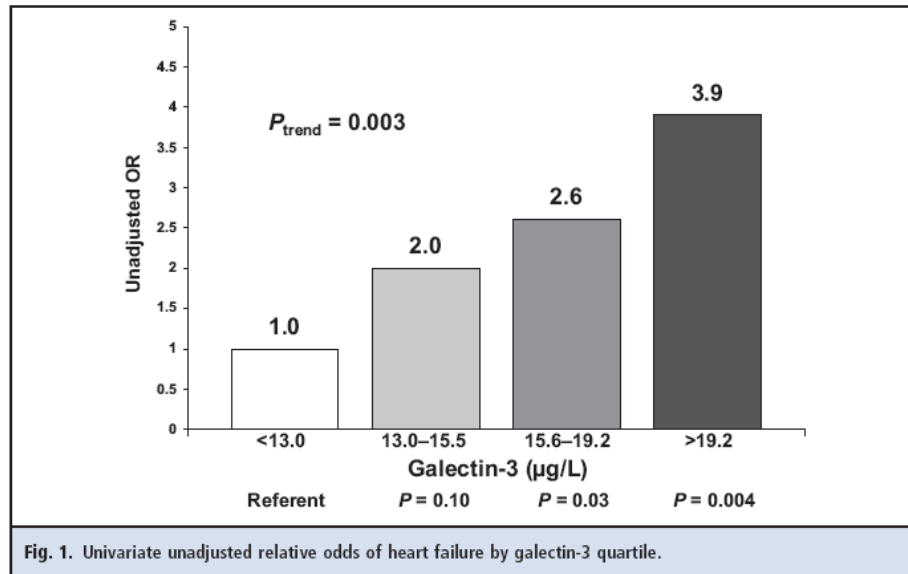
# Gal-3, Cardiac Remodeling and Risk Stratification



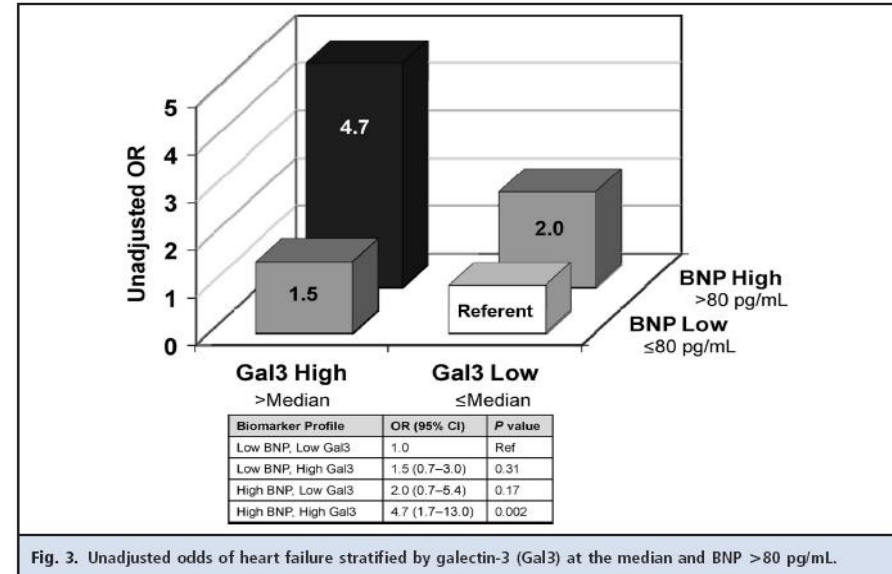
*öThe addition of Gal-3 to clinical factors resulted in negligible changes to the C-statistic and minor improvements in net reclassification improvement.ö*

# Galectin-3 and the Development of Heart Failure after Acute Coronary Syndrome: Pilot Experience from PROVE IT-TIMI 22

**100 cases with a hospitalization for new or worsening HF.**  
**Controls were matched (1:1) for age, sex, ACS type, and randomized treatment.**  
**Serum galectin-3 was measured at baseline (within 7 days post-ACS)**



Patients who developed HF had higher baseline galectin-3 [median 16.7 g/L (25th, 75th percentile 14.0, 20.6) vs 14.6 g/L (12.0, 17.6), P=0.004]. Patients with baseline galectin-3 above the median had an odds ratio of 2.1 (95% CI 1.2-3.6) for developing HF, P=0.010. Galectin-3 showed a graded relationship with risk of HF.



Cases were more likely to have hypertension, diabetes, prior MI, and prior HF; after adjustment for these factors, this graded relationship with galectin-3 quartile and HF remained significant [adjusted OR 1.4 (95% CI 1.1-1.9), P=0.020]. When BNP was added to the model, the relationship between galectin-3 and HF was attenuated [adjusted OR 1.3 (95% CI: 0.96-1.9), P=0.08]

**Galectin-3 is associated with the risk of developing HF following ACS**

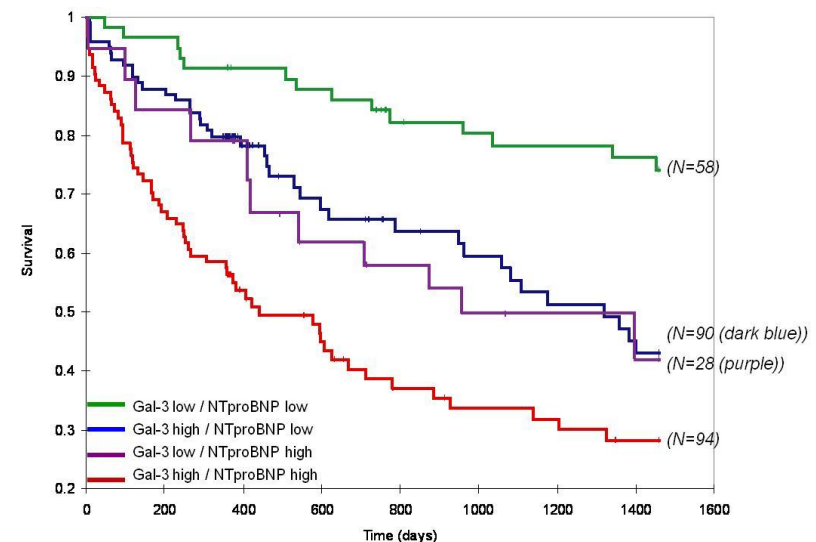
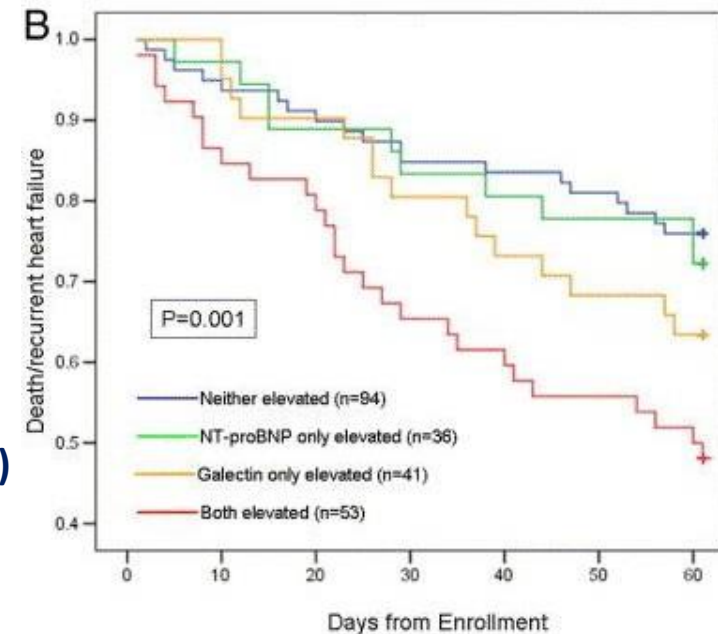
# Gal-3, Cardiac Remodeling and Risk Stratification

## “ Acute Heart Failure: PRIDE – Investigation of Dyspnea in Emergency Room<sup>1</sup>

- N = 209 (ADHF)
- 60-day mortality: OR = 10.3 (p<0.01)
- 60-day death/recurrent HF: OR = 14.3 (p<0.001)
- Independent of NT-proBNP

## □ Acutely Destabilized Heart Failure<sup>2</sup>

- N = 310 (ADHF)
- Follow-up = 800 days
- HR = 2.19 (p<0.001)
- Independent of age/race/CRP/NT-proBNP



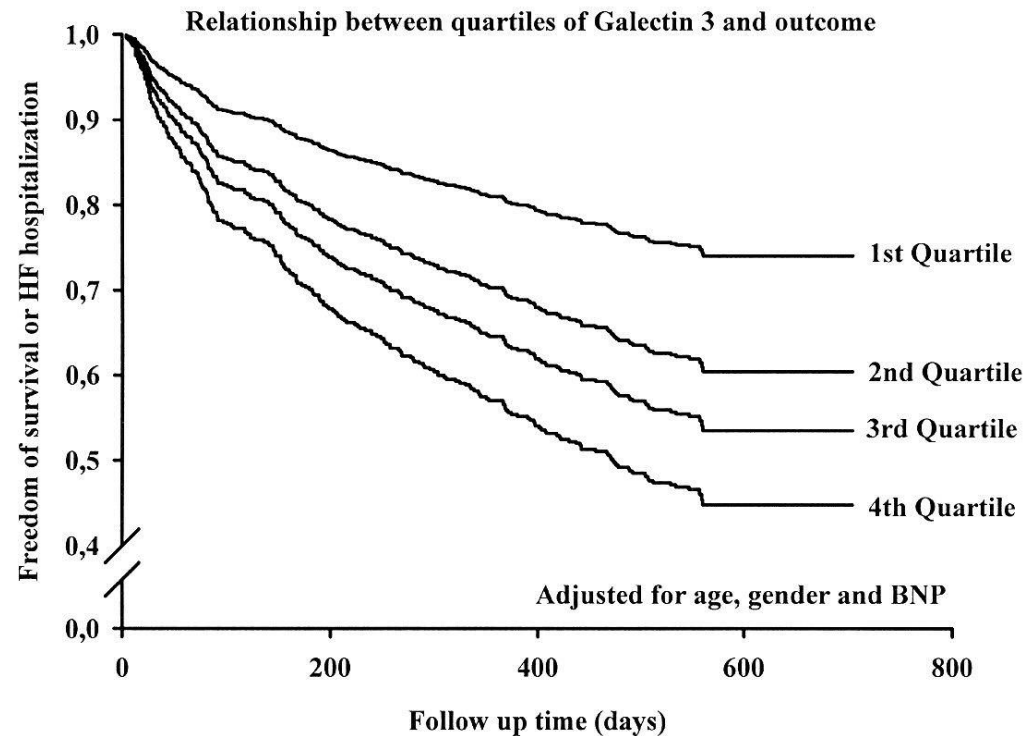
1) van Kimmenade RR, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2006;48:1217–24

2) DeFilippi C, et al. *J Card Fail* 2009;15:S9

# Gal-3, Cardiac Remodeling and Risk Stratification

## ❑ Chronic Heart Failure: COACH – Advising & Counselling in Heart Failure<sup>1</sup>

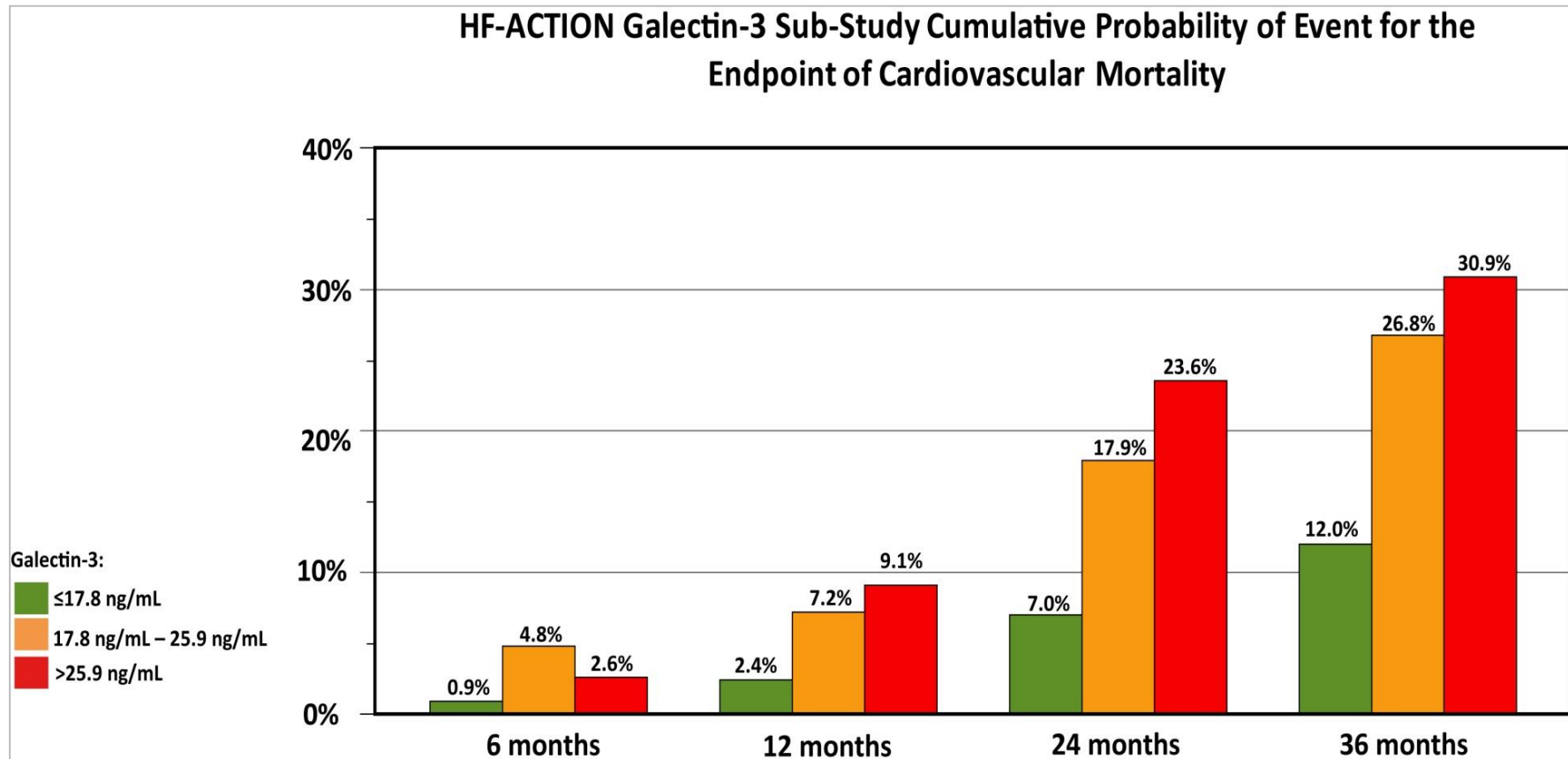
- N = 592 (NYHA II-IV patients)
- N = 248 (reached primary endpoint)
- HR = 2.67 (1.74 – 4.09); p < 0.00001 (age/gender/BNP adjusted)



1) van Veldhuisen DJ, et al. *J Card Fail* 2009;15:814



# Gal-3, Cardiac Remodeling and Risk Stratification



**Cumulative Probability of Event for the Endpoint of Cardiovascular Mortality, at Various Time Points and By Baseline Galectin-3 Level, for HF Subjects in the Clinical Validation Study**

# Gal-3, Cardiac Remodeling and Risk Stratification

## HF-ACTION Hazard Ratios for Cardiovascular Mortality Events

| Galectin-3 Category       | Hazard Ratio (95% CI, p value) |                              |                              |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                           | ≤17.8 ng/mL                    | 17.8–25.9 ng/mL              | > 25.9 ng/mL                 |
| <b>Number of Subjects</b> | 647                            | 170                          | 78                           |
| <b>Galectin-3*</b>        | 1.0                            | 1.91<br>(1.28–2.86, p=0.002) | 2.33<br>(1.43–3.80, p<0.001) |

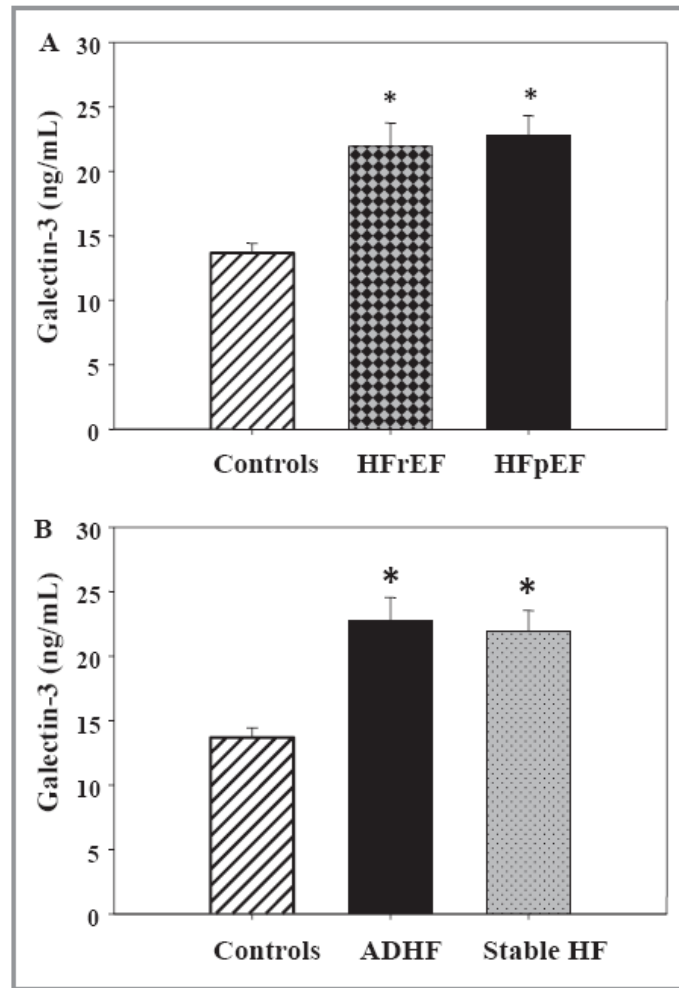
\* Adjusted for baseline risk factors: age, gender, NYHA functional classification, left ventricular ejection fraction, diabetes status, and smoking status.

# Galectin-3 ?



# Galectin-3?

## Relationship of plasma GAL-3 levels to the type of HF (A) or level of decompensation (B).



*Plasma GAL-3 in 32 controls without HF, 40 patients with HF with reduced LVEF (HFrEF), and 35 patients with HF with preserved LVEF (HFpEF). GAL-3 was elevated to a similar degree in patients with HFrEF vs HFpEF. \*P<0.05 vs control*

*Plasma GAL-3 in 32 controls without HF, 37 patients admitted to the hospital with acute decompensated HF (ADHF), and 38 ambulatory patients with chronic stable HF. GAL-3 was elevated to a similar degree in patients with decompensated vs stable HF. \*P<0.05 vs control.*

*Gopal et al., 2012*

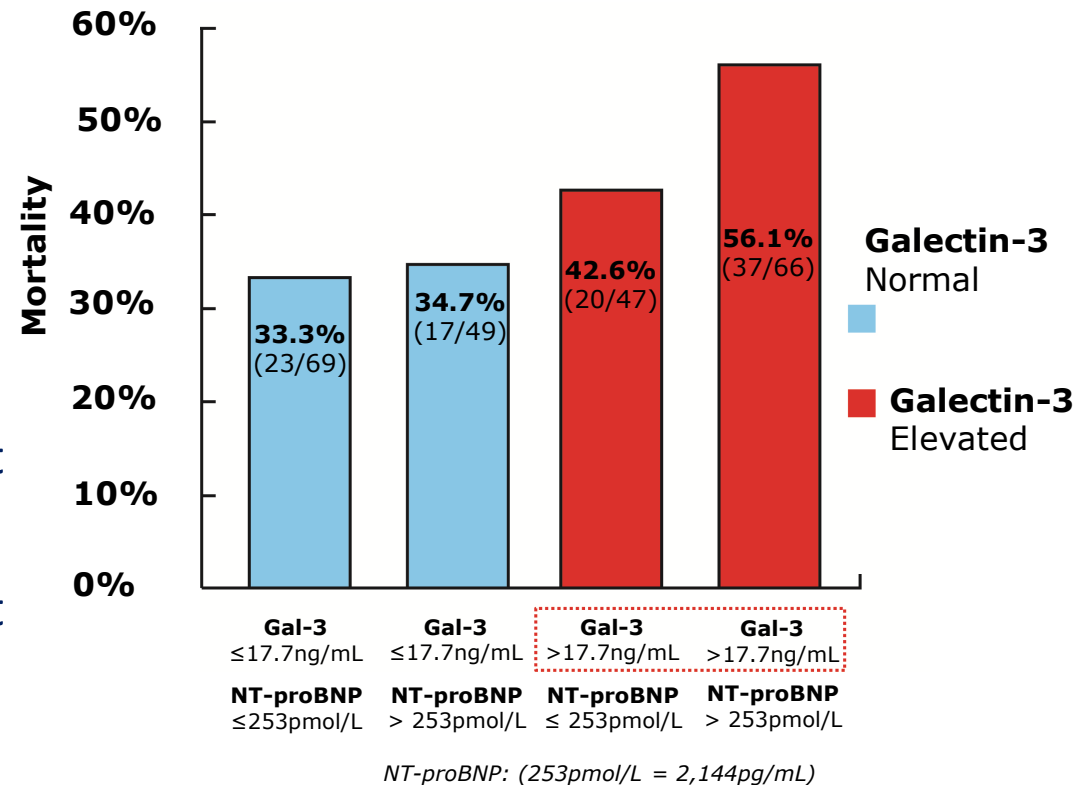
# Gal-3, Cardiac Remodeling and Risk Stratification

## Chronic Heart Failure<sup>1</sup>

- ❖ 232 NYHA III-IV patients
- ❖ 6+ year follow-up
- ❖ Both high: ~1.5- to 2-fold higher mortality risk;  $p=0.036$  for the trend

## Added Value vs. NT-proBNP Alone

- ❖ Identified ~21% more patients at the highest risk of mortality
- ❖ Identified ~10% more patients at increased risk not captured by a LOW NT-proBNP



## Independent and Additive to Natriuretic Peptides

1) Lok, DJA, et al. *Clin Res Cardiol* 2010;99:323-8.

## Prognostic Value of Changes in Galectin-3 Levels Over Time in Patients with Heart Failure: Data from CORONA and COACH

Plasma galectin-3 was measured at baseline and at 3 months in patients enrolled in the CORONA trial (n=1,329), and at baseline and at 6 months in patients enrolled in the COACH trial (n=324).

A threshold value of 17.8 ng/mL or 15% change from baseline was used to categorize patients.

Increasing galectin-3 levels over time, from a low to high galectin-3 category, were associated with significantly more HF hospitalization and mortality compared to stable or decreasing galectin-3 levels

**HR in CORONA: 1.60 (95% CI: 1.13-2.25, P= 0.007)**

**HR in COACH: 2.38 (95% CI: 1.02-5.55, P=0.046)**

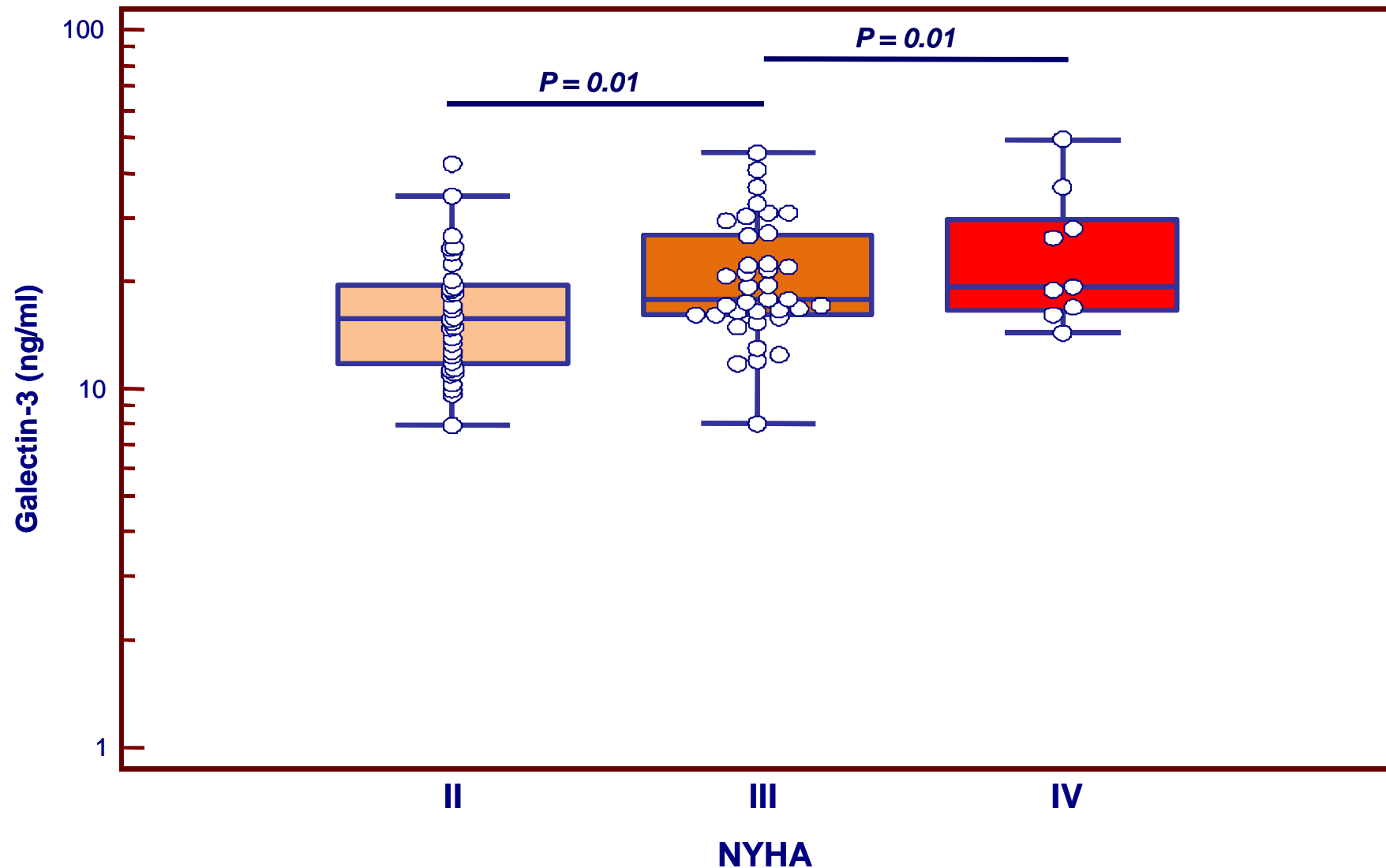
In addition, patients whose galectin-3 increased by more than 15% between measurements had a 50% higher relative hazard of adverse event than those whose galectin-3 stayed within +/- 15% of the baseline value, independent of age, gender, diabetes, LVEF, renal function, medication (beta-blocker, ACE-i, ARB) and NT-proBNP (HR in CORONA: 1.50 (95% CI: 1.17-1.92, P=0.001)).

### CONCLUSIONS

**In two large cohorts of patients with chronic and acute decompensated HF, repeated measurements of galectin-3 level provided important and significant prognostic value in identifying HF patients at elevated risk for subsequent HF morbidity and mortality.**

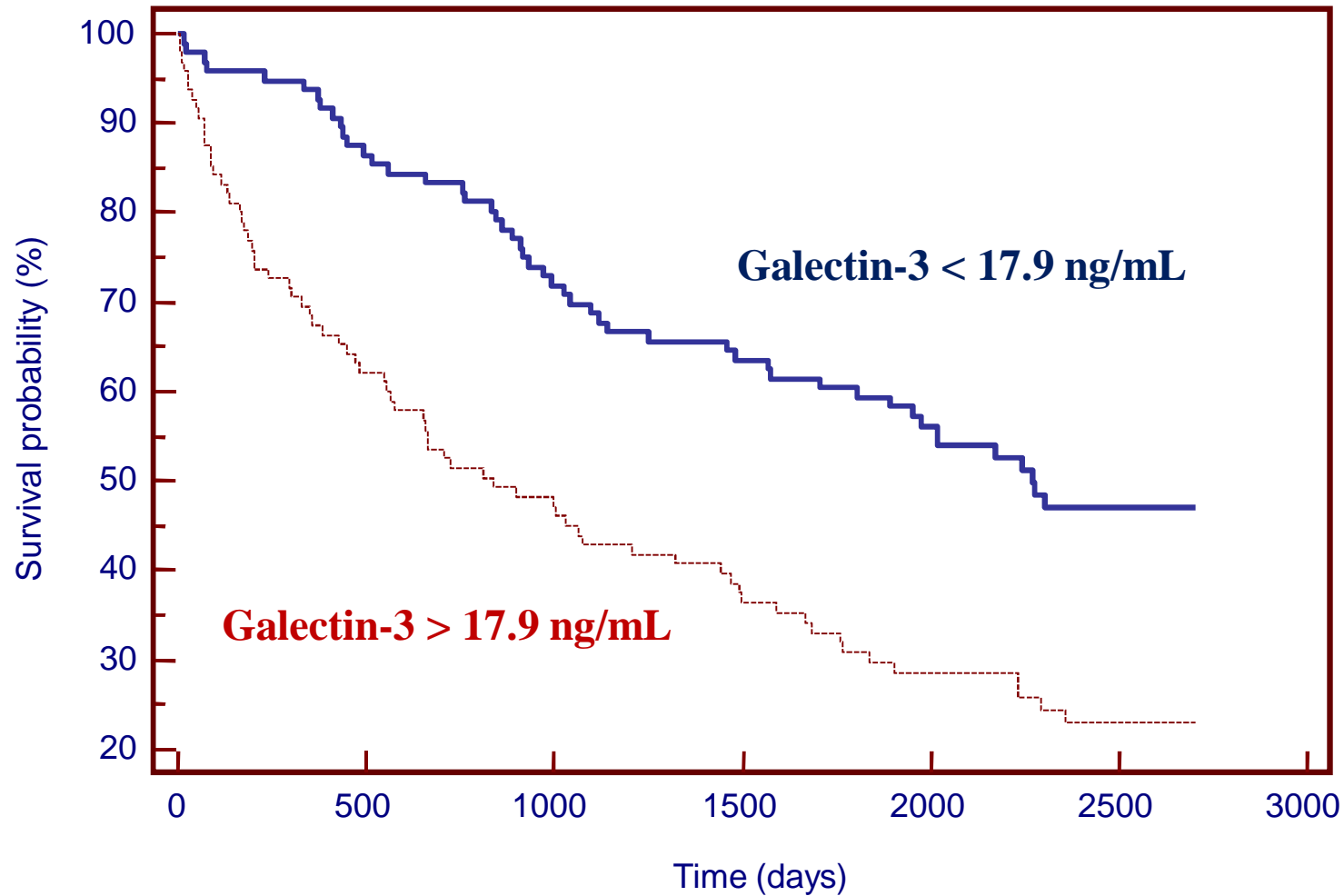
# Circulating levels of Galectin-3 in HF (I)

*Relation with severity of HF*



## Circulating levels of Galectin-3 in HF (II)

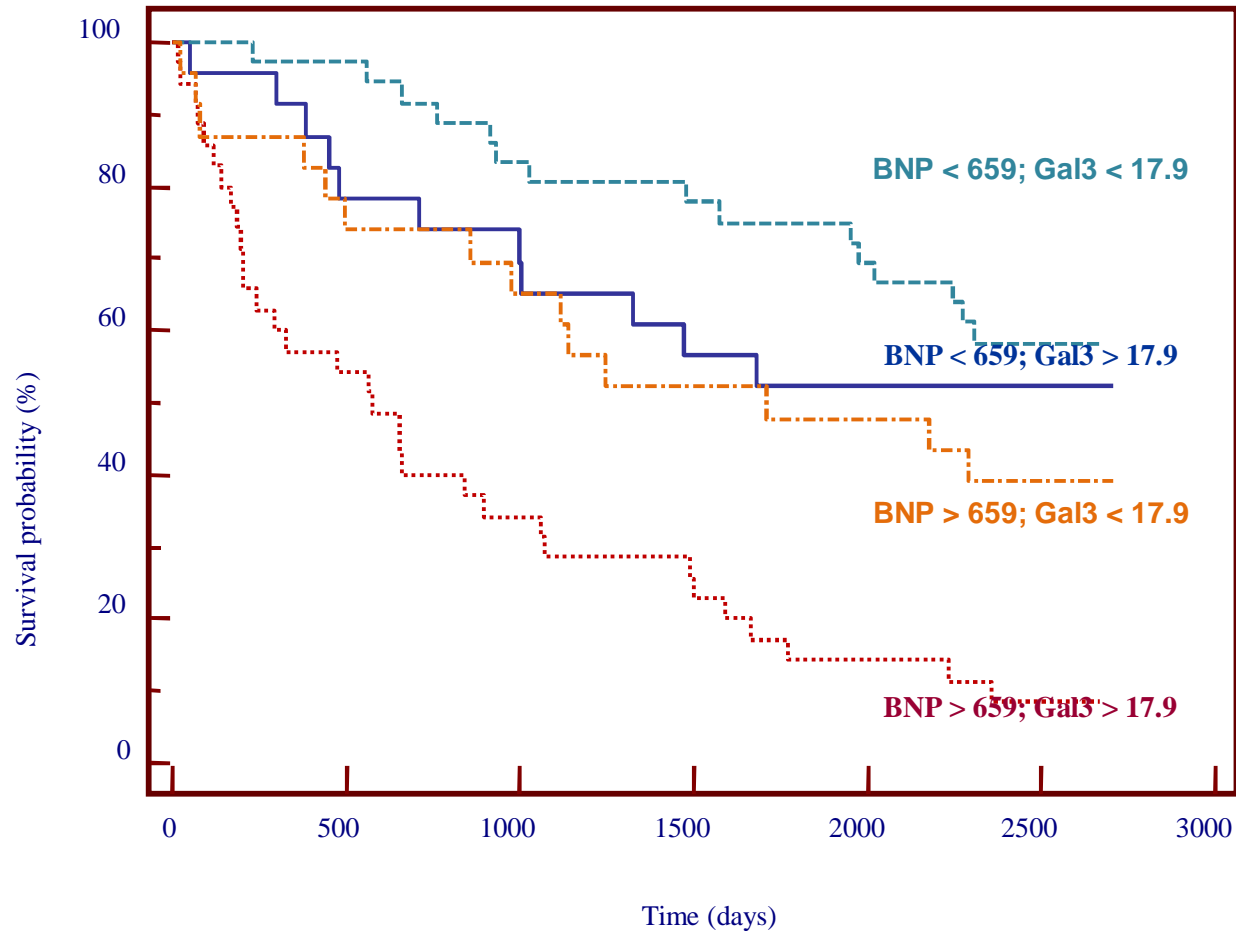
*Galectin-3 as a prognostic biomarker in HF (n=193)*



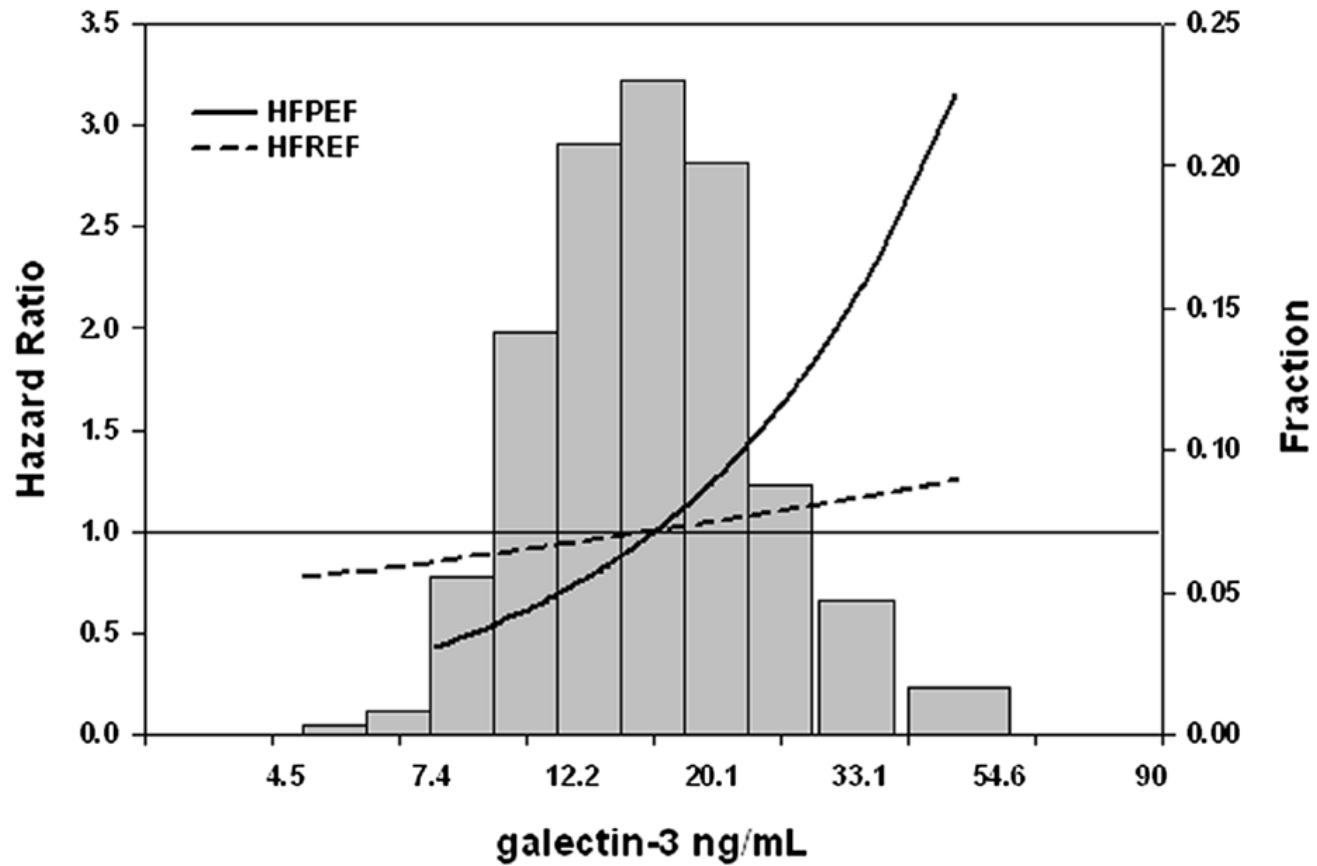


## Circulating levels of Galectin-3 in HF (III)

*Galectin-3 as a prognostic biomarker in HF (n=193)*



# Circulating levels of Galectin-3 in HF



## **Galectin-3 predicts response to statin therapy in the Controlled Rosuvastatin Multinational Trial in Heart Failure (CORONA).**

*Patients with ischaemic systolic HF enrolled in the Controlled Rosuvastatin Multinational Trial in Heart Failure (CORONA) were randomly assigned to 10 mg/day of rosuvastatin or placebo.*

*Galectin-3 was measured in plasma.*

*The primary outcome was cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, or stroke. Of 1492 patients, 411 had a primary event during a median follow-up of 32.8 months.*

**Among patients with below the median plasma concentrations of galectin-3 (19.0 ng/mL), those assigned to rosuvastatin had a**

**-lower primary event rate [hazard ratio (HR) 0.65; 95% confidence interval (CI), 0.46-0.92; P= 0.014],**

**- lower total mortality (HR 0.70; 95% CI, 0.50-0.98; P= 0.038),**

**- lower event rate of all-cause mortality and HF hospitalizations (HR 0.72; 95% CI, 0.54-0.98; P= 0.017)**

**compared with placebo,**

**but no benefit was observed in patients with higher levels of galectin-3**

*Patients with systolic HF of ischaemic aetiology who have galectin-3 values <19.0 ng/mL may benefit from rosuvastatin treatment*

# Gal-3, Cardiac Remodeling and Risk Stratification

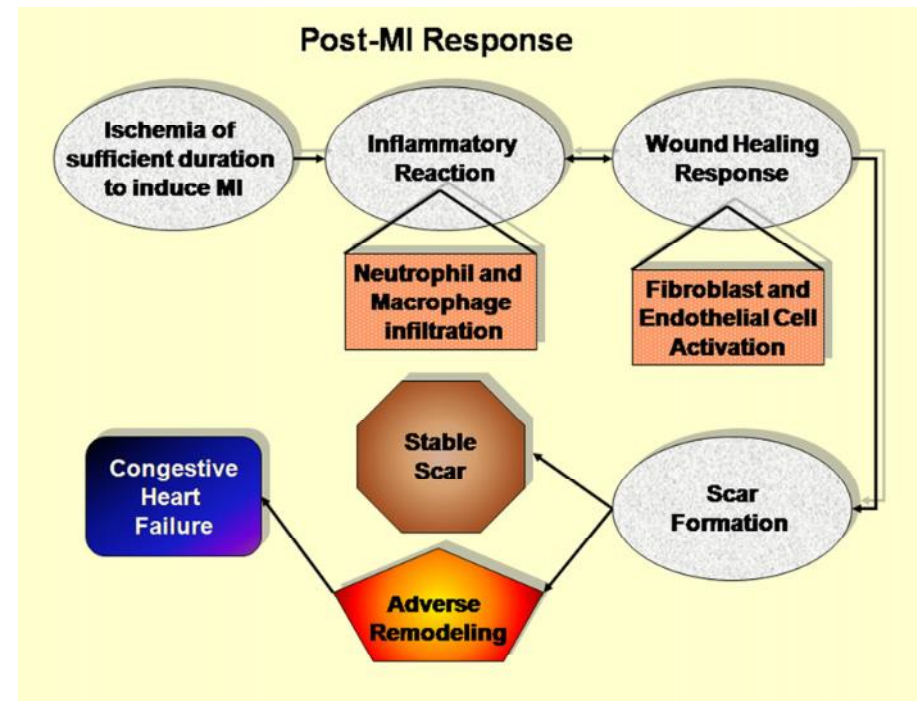
## “ Segmenting Heart Failure (HF):

### . **Non-remodeling HF**

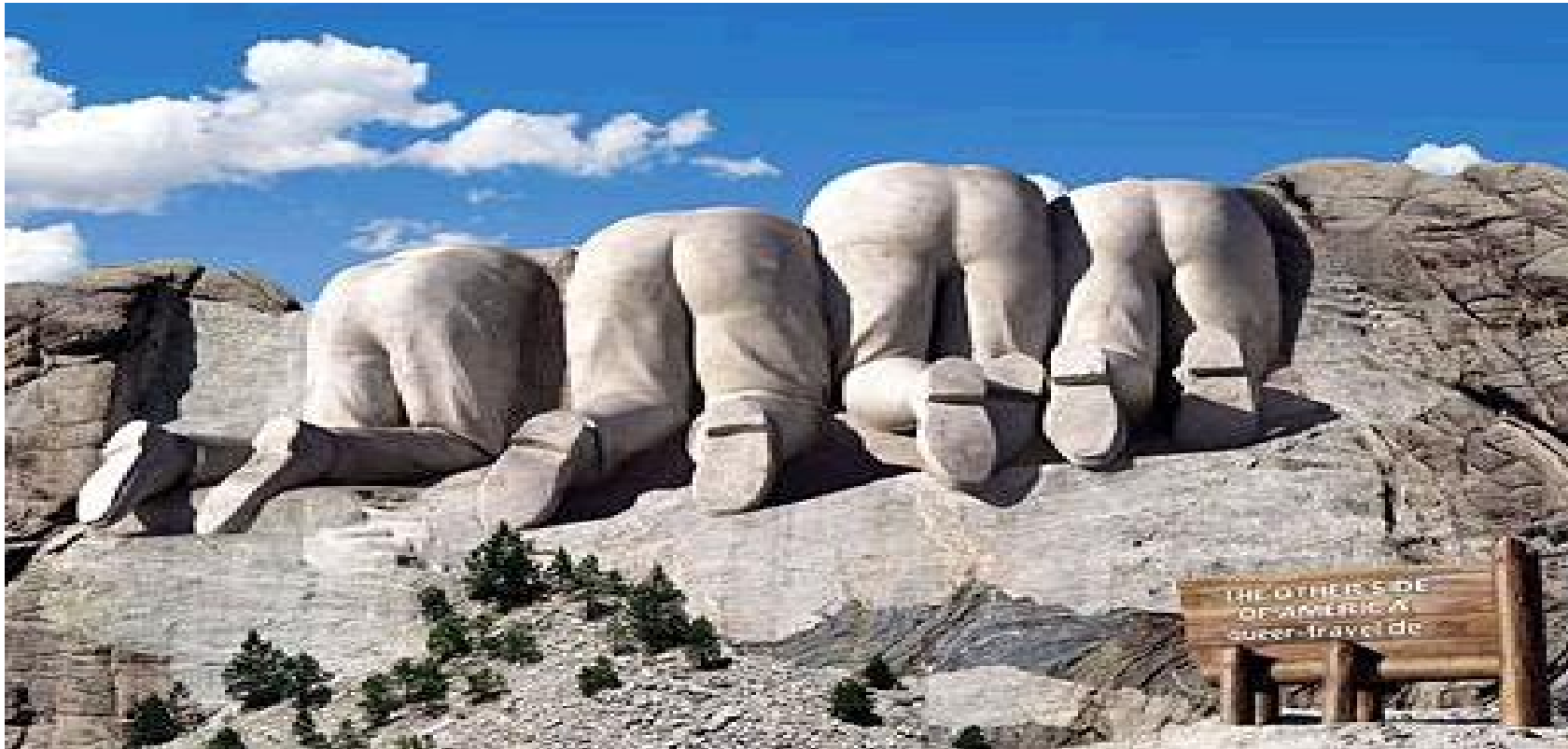
- “ Relatively good prognosis
- “ Focus on cardiac function and underlying stressors

### . **Remodeling HF**

- “ Poor prognosis
- “ Specific anti-remodeling agents
  - . Eplerenone, spironolactone
  - . Novel agents – e.g. aldosterone synthase inhibitor (LCI699)
- “ Device therapy
  - . Cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT)
  - . HeartNet™ Ventricular Support System



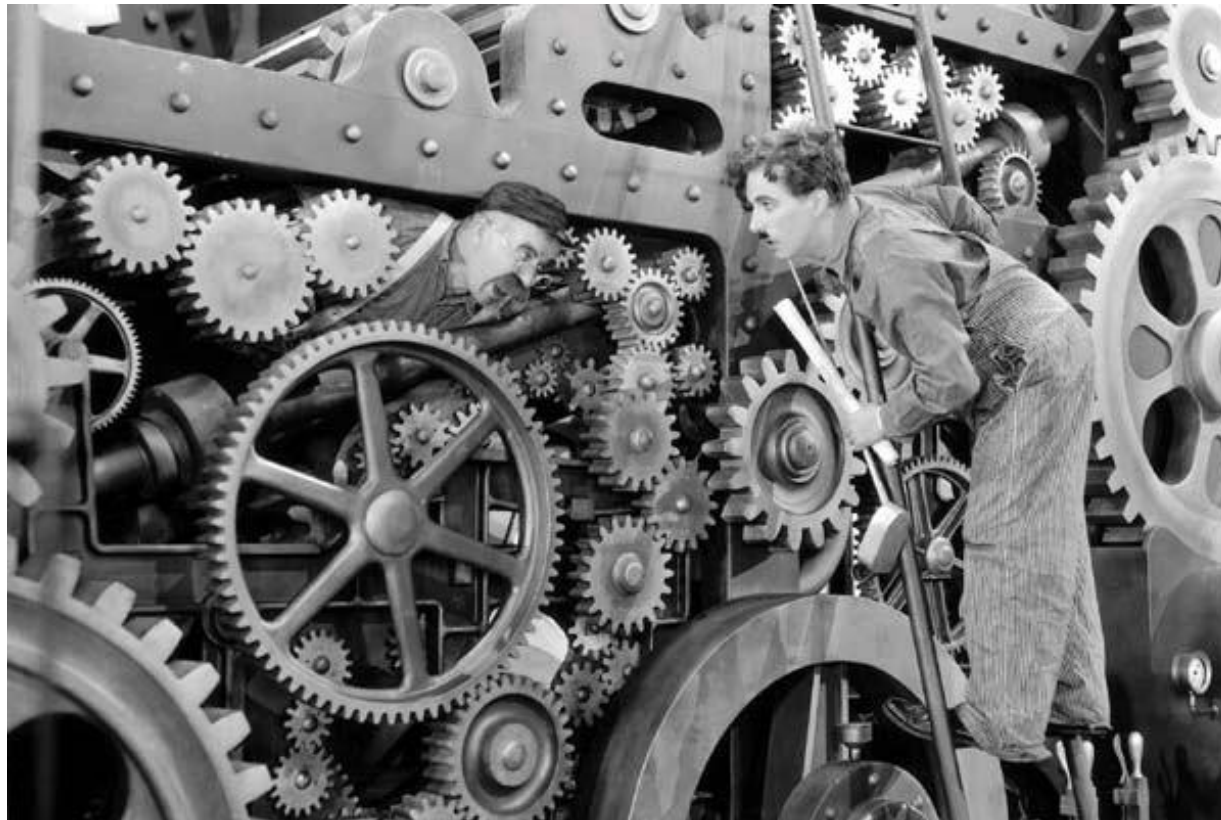
# Galectin-3 Testing



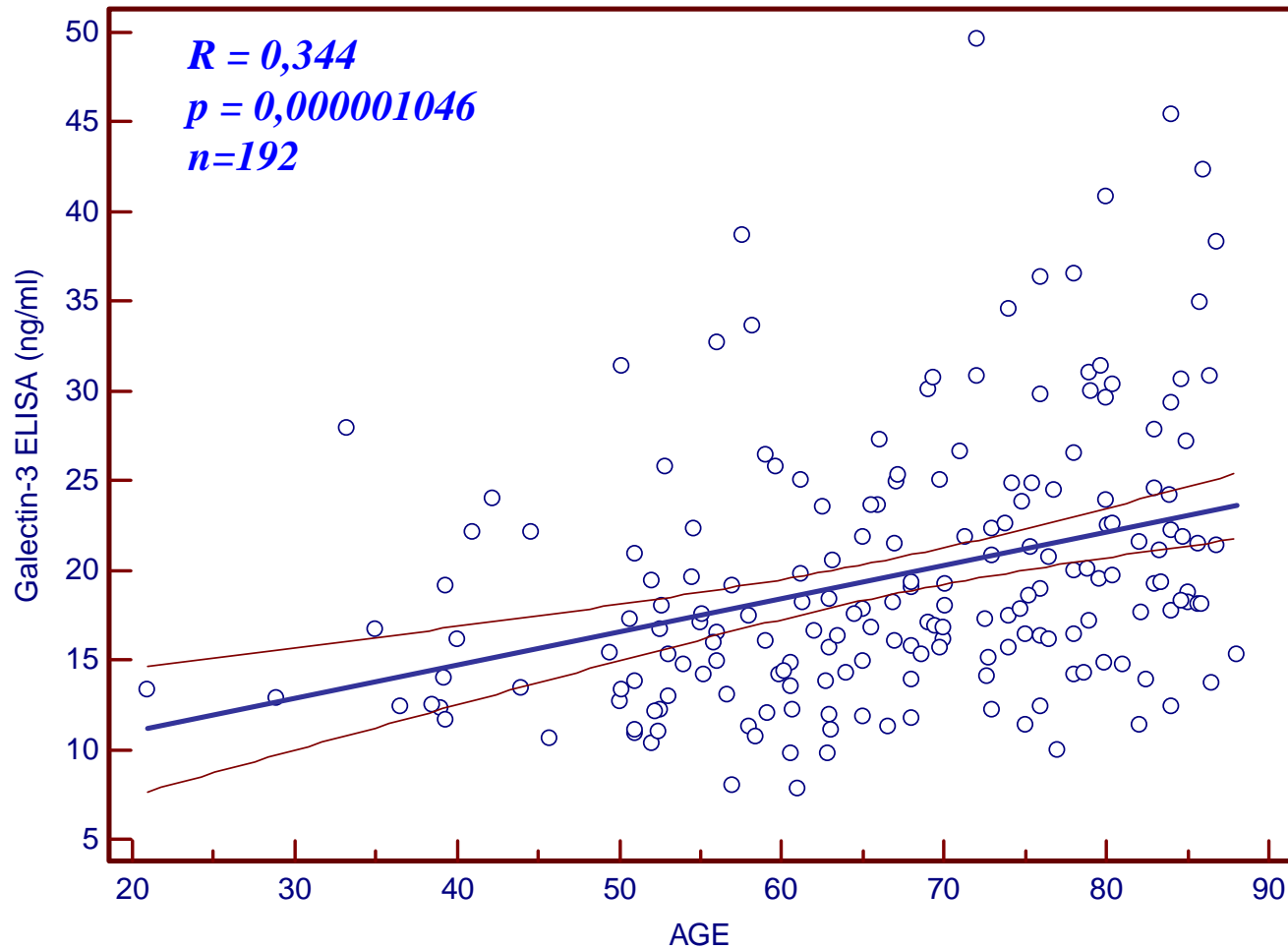
## A look Behind the Scenes...

# Accessibility?

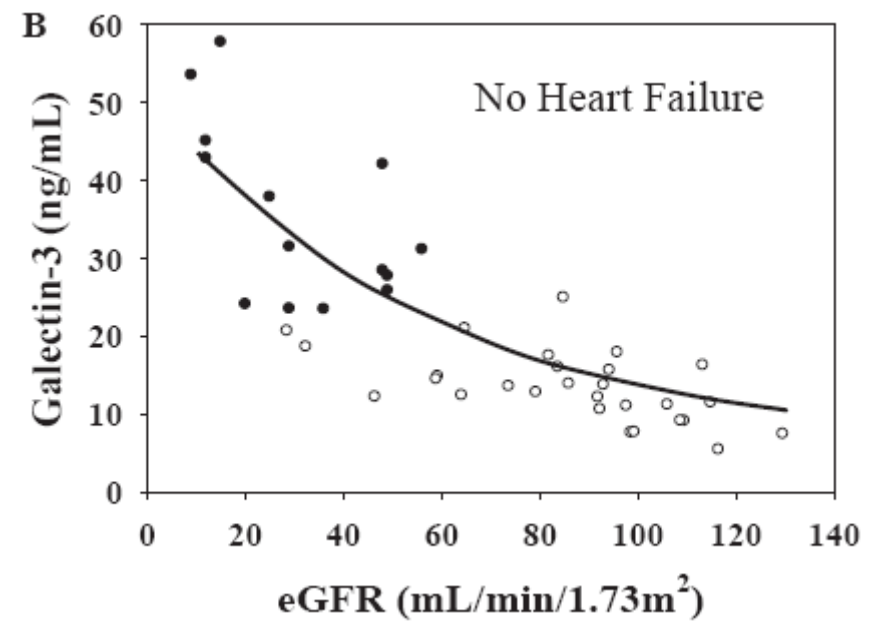
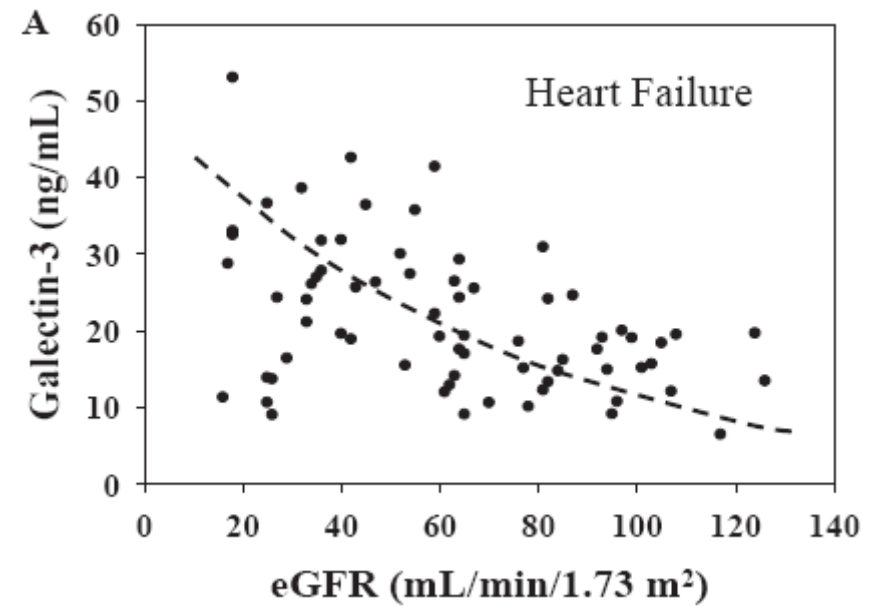
**How to measure Gal-3: Automated assays?**



# Confounding factors?



# Confounding factors?





# Cost effectiveness / Financinǵí

## Galectin-3:

- A potential to guide interventions
- A potential to optimise the management of individual patients
- A potential to support the allocation of limited health care resources.



## In Belgium

**Table 2. End Points.\***

| End Point                             | B-Type Natriuretic Peptide Group (N=225) | Control Group (N=227) | P Value |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------|
| Time to treatment — min               |  |                       | 0.03†   |
| Median                                | 63                                       | 90                    |         |
| Interquartile range                   | 16–153                                   | 20–205                |         |
| Time to discharge — days              |  |                       | 0.001†  |
| Median                                | 8.0                                      | 11.0                  |         |
| Interquartile range                   | 1.0–16.0                                 | 5.0–18.0              |         |
| Hospitalization — no. (%)             | 169 (75)                                 | 193 (85)              | 0.008   |
| Admission to intensive care — no. (%) | 33 (15)                                  | 54 (24)               | 0.01    |
| Cost of intensive care — \$           |  |                       | 0.07    |
| Median                                | 874                                      | 1,516                 |         |
| 95% Confidence interval               | 423–1,324                                | 989–2,043             |         |
| Total treatment cost — \$             |  |                       | 0.006   |
| Median                                | 5,410                                    | 7,264                 |         |
| 95% Confidence interval               | 4,516–6,304                              | 6,301–8,227           |         |
| In-hospital mortality — no. (%)       | 13 (6)                                   | 21 (9)                | 0.21‡   |
| 30-day mortality — no. (%)            | 22 (10)                                  | 28 (12)               | 0.45‡   |
| 30-day readmission rate — no. (%)     | 26 (12)                                  | 23 (10)               | 0.63    |

\* The time to treatment was defined as the interval from presentation at the emergency department to the initiation of the appropriate therapy according to the final discharge diagnosis.

† The Mann–Whitney U test was used.

‡ Fisher's exact test was used.

**Mueller et al. NEJM, 2004**

In the case of applying NP for diagnostic purposes the model simulates the number of avoided echocardiographies and the number of hospital days avoided (as in the KCE report).

We find an estimated saving per patient of €859.

In the case of applying NP as monitoring tool,

the savings are obtained by reducing the number of hospital stays due to more adequate monitoring and adapting the patient management timely. It is assumed that 15% reduction in the number of hospitalisations can be achieved.

In that case, more than 4 million EUR can be saved per semester, already taking into account the cost of NP.

The total potential saving, the diagnostic and monitoring indication included, amounts to 10.3 million EUR in year 1; 10.5 million EUR in year 2 and 10.7 million EUR in year 3

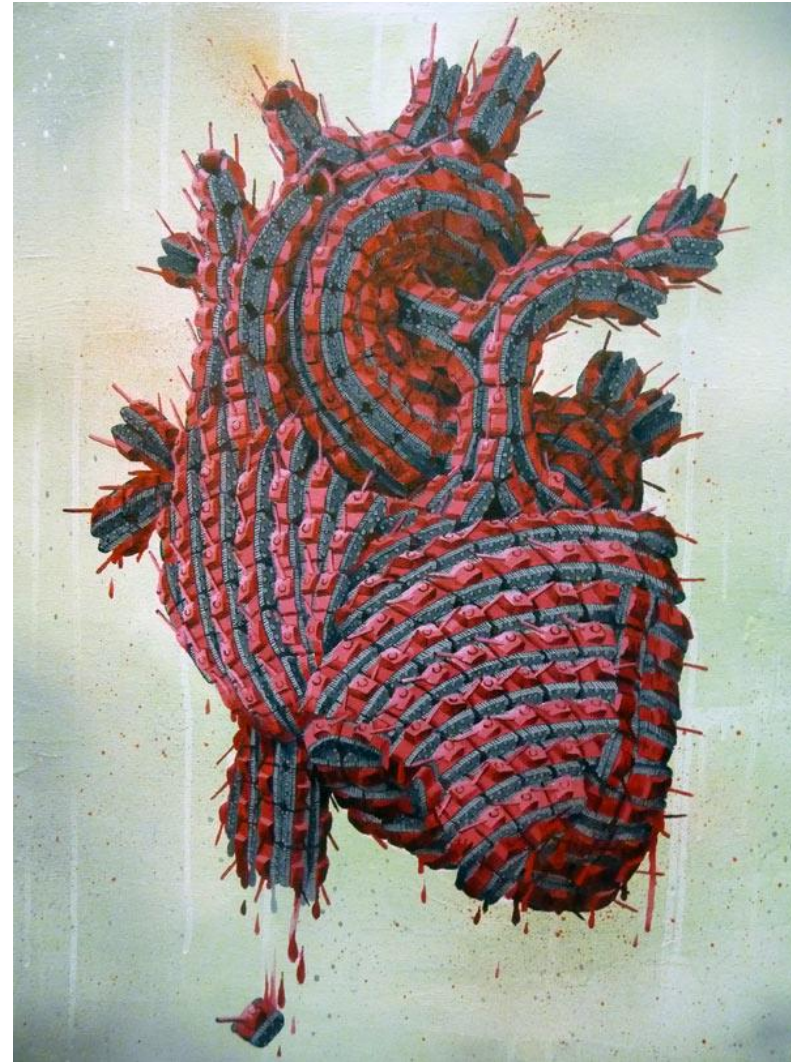
# Thanks for your attention !

*Il pleure dans mon coeur  
Comme il pleut sur la ville ;  
Quelle est cette langueur  
Qui pénètre mon coeur ?*

*Ô bruit doux de la pluie  
Par terre et sur les toits !  
Pour un coeur qui s'ennuie,  
Ô le chant de la pluie !*

*Il pleure sans raison  
Dans ce coeur qui s'écoeure.  
Quoi ! nulle trahison ?...  
Ce deuil est sans raison.*

*C'est bien la pire peine  
De ne savoir pourquoi  
Sans amour et sans haine  
Mon coeur a tant de peine !*



## ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Belgische Vereniging voor Klinische Biologie  
Koninklijke Belgische Vereniging voor Klinische Chemie  
Soci t  Belge de Biologie Clinique  
Soci t  Royale Belge de Chimie Clinique

### Address

Auditoires Centraux  
Cliniques Universitaires Saint -Luc  
Avenue Hippocrate 10  
1200 Brussels

### By car:

Take E40 exit 20 and follow the signs  
“UCL Saint-Luc”  
When you enter the site from the Woluwelaan/  
Boulevard de la Woluwe, take the first street on  
your right (Avenue Mounier).  
After approximately 1km, you arrive at the  
parking Mounier. (Free on Saturday).

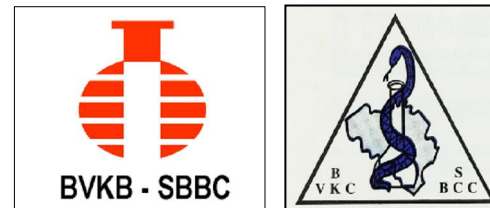
### By public transport:

From Brussels-South train station

- take subway line 2 or 6  
direction “Simonis (Elizabeth)”
- change lines at Arts-Loi / Kunst-Wet  
to line 1 direction “Stockel/Stokkel”
- take the exit “Alma”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2013

## THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF LABORATORY MEDICINE



### LOCATION:

Auditoires Centraux  
Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc  
Avenue Hippocrate 10  
1200 Brussels

**21 IFCC-EFLM**

European Congress of Clinical Chemistry  
and Laboratory Medicine

**Palais des Congrès  
de Paris**



**EuroMedLab JIB 2015  
Exhibition, 22 - 24 June**



**EUROMEDLAB JIB  
EXHIBITION  
PARIS 2015**

 **DATE TO FOCUS ON**

1 February 2015  
POSTER ABSTRACT  
DEADLINE

30 April 2015  
DEADLINE FOR REDUCED  
FEES REGISTRATION

