



# Environment and Cardiovascular Disease: Opportunities for Prevention in the Strong Heart Study Communities

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### Strong Heart Study: Team Science



## **Collective effort**

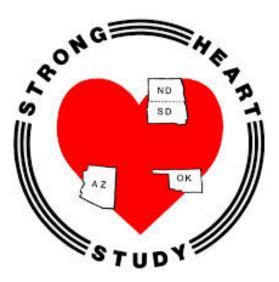


# **Strong Heart Study**

Population-based prospective cohort study funded since 1988 by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the Indian Health Service

N = 7,600 adults

13 tribes and communities







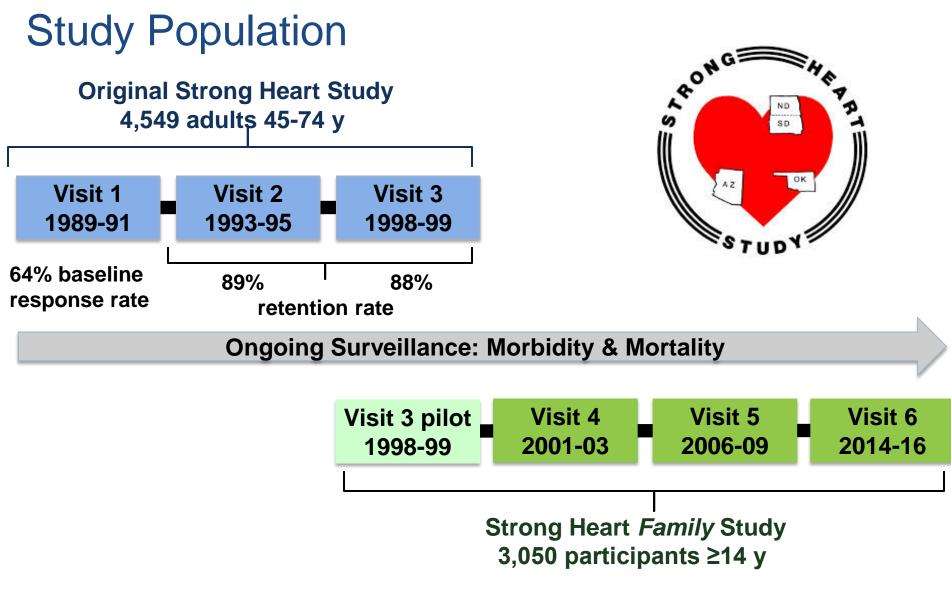








### Oklahoma

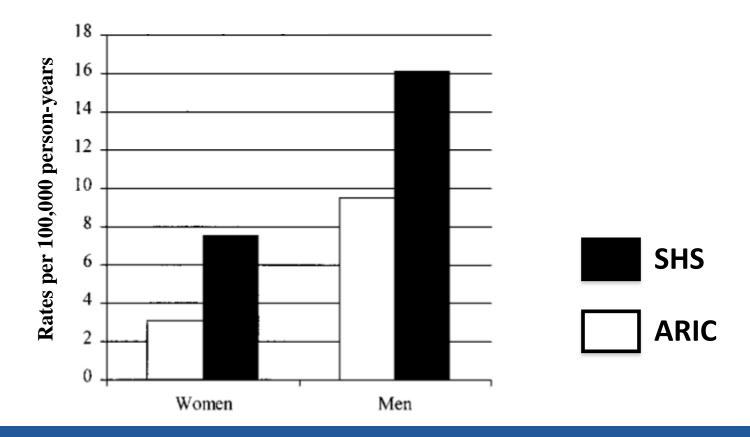


**Continuous funding critical to maintain sustainable research projects** 

#### Rising Tide of Cardiovascular Disease in American Indians : The Strong Heart Study

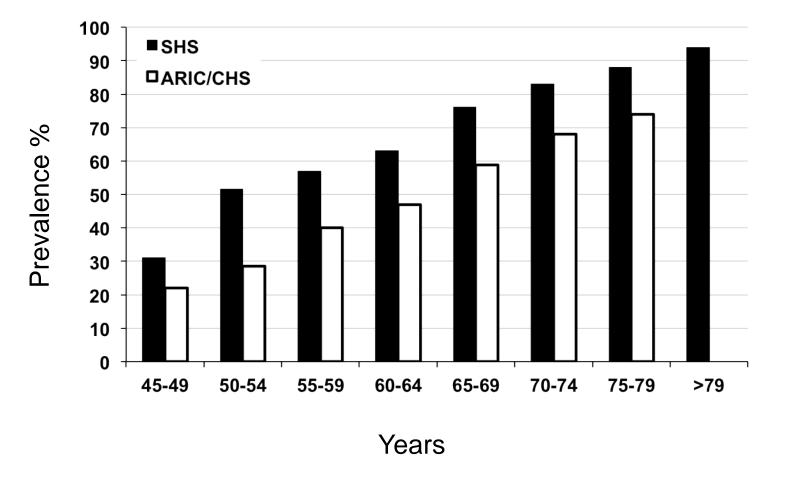
Barbara V. Howard, Elisa T. Lee, Linda D. Cowan, Richard B. Devereux, James M. Galloway, Oscar T. Go, William James Howard, Everett R. Rhoades, David C. Robbins, Maurice L. Sievers and Thomas K. Welty Circulation 1999;99;2389-2395

**Coronary Heart Disease (45-64 y)** 



**ARIC:** Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities

# Prevalence of Atherosclerosis Plaque



ARIC: Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities / CHS: Cardiovascular Health Study

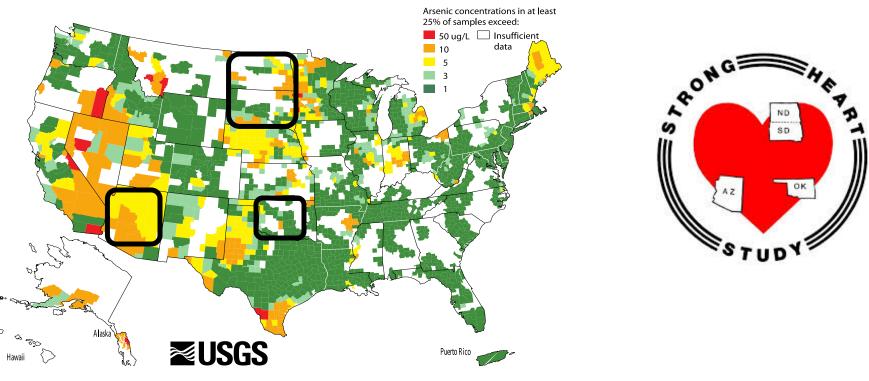
# Tribally owned community water systems (CWS) with arsenic > 10 $\mu$ g/L in year 2000

US EPA	Comm. Water Systems		Popula	tion
Region	No.	% As >10µg/L	No.	% As >10µg/L
1 (Ct, Ma, Me, Nh, Ri, Vt)	1	0	41,000	0
2 (Nj, Ny)	7	0	8,425	0
3 (Dc, De, Md, Pa, Va, Wv)				
4 (AI, FI, Ga, Ms, Nc, Sc, Tn)	15	0	19,326	0
5 (II, In, Mi, Wi, Oh)	79	4	87,687	3
6 (Ar, La, Nm, <mark>Ok</mark> , Tx)	47	23	60,413	35
7 (Ia, Ks, Mo, Ne)	8	0	4,468	0
8 (Co, Mt, <mark>Nd, Sd</mark> , Ut, Wy)	104	8	87,342	4
9 ( <mark>Az</mark> , Ca, Nv, Hi, islands)	192	30	201,391	26
10 (Id, Or, Wa)	82	12	45,918	10
Navajo Nation	95	14	116,227	13
Total	630	16	672,197	15

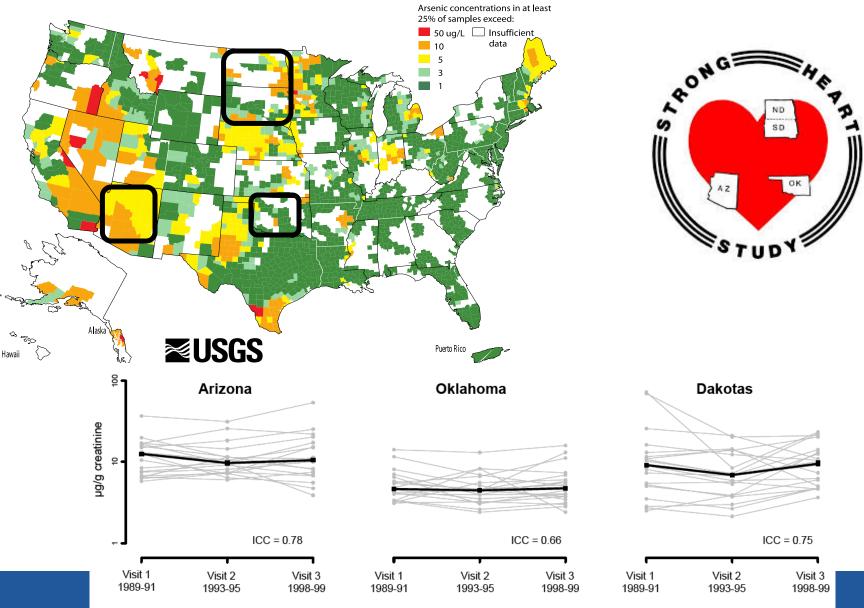
16% of tribally owned community water systems above > 10  $\mu$ g/L vs. 4% for the overall US population

Source: David Harvey MPH Capstone project 2006

# Arsenic exposure disproportionately affects rural areas in the US, including American Indian communities

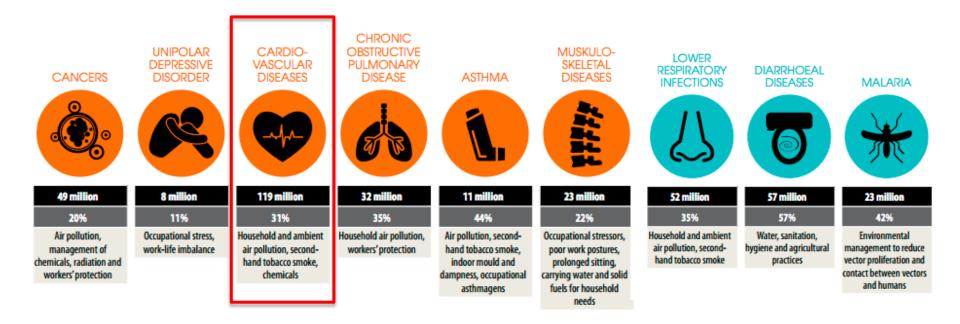


# Arsenic exposure disproportionately affects rural areas in the US, including American Indian communities



ICC = Intraclass correlation coefficient

# Environment and the burden of disease



31% of the burden of disease from fatal CVD globally could be avoided if all environmental risks were removed (household and ambient air pollution, secondhand tobacco smoke, and chemicals) (*World Health Organization*, 2016)

WHO, 2016. Preventing Disease Through Healthy Environments.

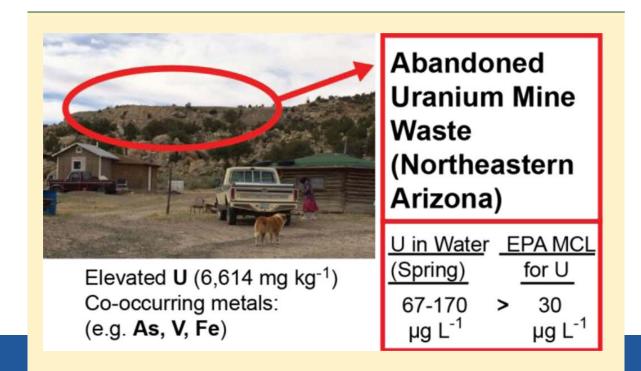






### Elevated Concentrations of U and Co-occurring Metals in Abandoned Mine Wastes in a Northeastern Arizona Native American Community

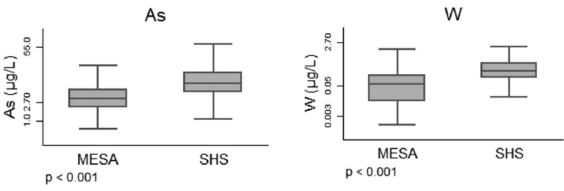
Johanna M. Blake,<sup>†</sup> Sumant Avasarala,<sup>‡</sup> Kateryna Artyushkova,<sup>§</sup> Abdul-Mehdi S. Ali,<sup>||</sup> Adrian J. Brearley,<sup>||</sup> Christopher Shuey,<sup> $\perp$ </sup> Wm. Paul Robinson,<sup> $\perp$ </sup> Christopher Nez,<sup>#</sup> Sadie Bill,<sup>#</sup> Johnnye Lewis,<sup> $\nabla$ </sup> Chris Hirani,<sup> $\bigcirc$ </sup> Juan S. Lezama Pacheco,<sup> $\blacklozenge$ </sup> and José M. Cerrato<sup>\*,‡</sup>



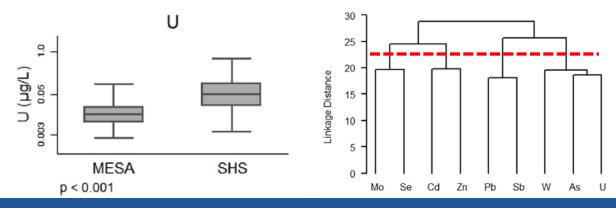




Yuanjie Pang<sup>a,\*</sup>, Roger D. Peng<sup>b</sup>, Miranda R. Jones<sup>a</sup>, Kevin A. Francesconi<sup>c</sup>, Walter Goessler<sup>c</sup>, Barbara V. Howard<sup>d,e</sup>, Jason G. Umans<sup>d,e</sup>, Lyle G. Best<sup>f</sup>, Eliseo Guallar<sup>a,g,h</sup>, Wendy S. Post<sup>a,g,h</sup>, Joel D. Kaufman<sup>i</sup>, Dhananjay Vaidya<sup>h</sup>, Ana Navas-Acien<sup>a,g,j</sup>

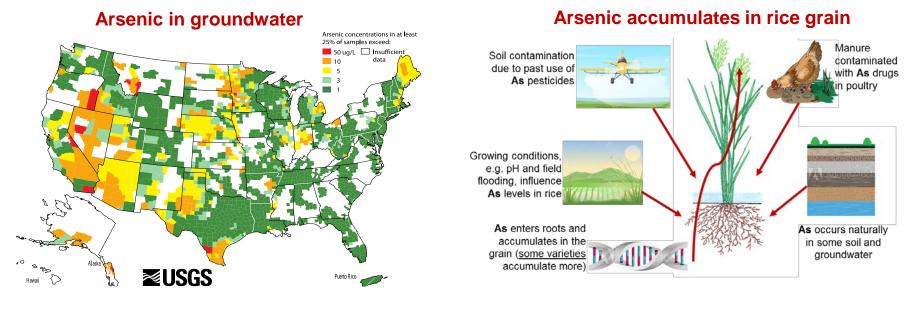








# Arsenic is widespread in water and food

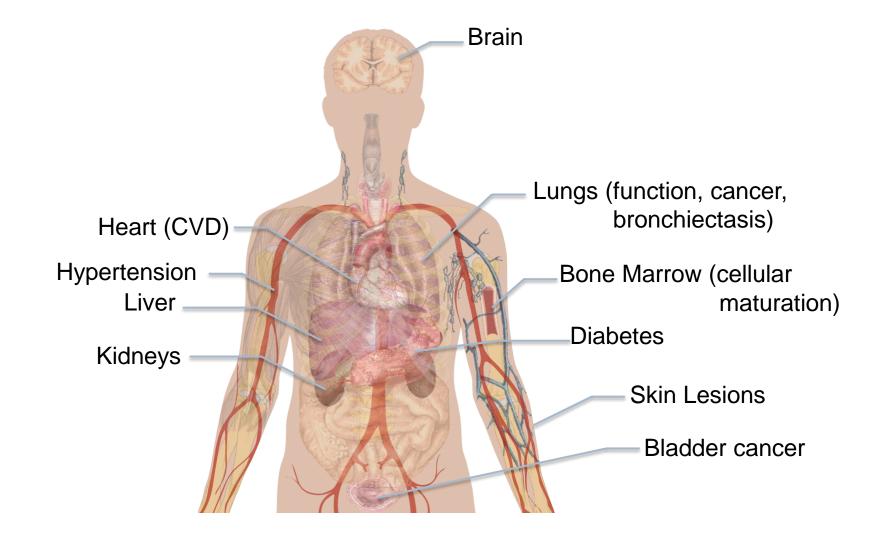


US EPA standard in public water is 10 µg/L

FDA standard for rice is pending

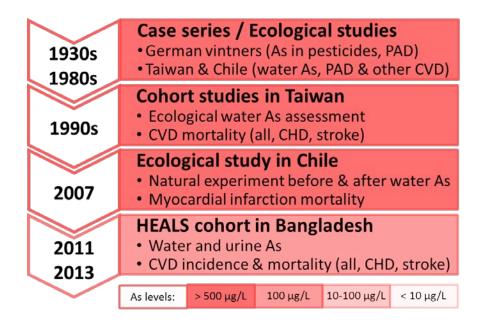
- **Inorganic arsenic** Water, food (rice, juice, other grains), air
  - Excreted through the urine in 3 phases
  - Half life 3 to 38 days
  - Highly toxic and carcinogenic, affects many organs and systems
  - Seafood: source of organic arsenicals that are non-toxic

## Arsenic is pleiotropic



Slide courtesy of Mary Gamble

# Arsenic and CVD – epidemiological evidence



Ecological study of myocardial infarction in Chile

Yuan Y et al. Am J Epidemiol 2007

BMJ

**HEALS** cohort

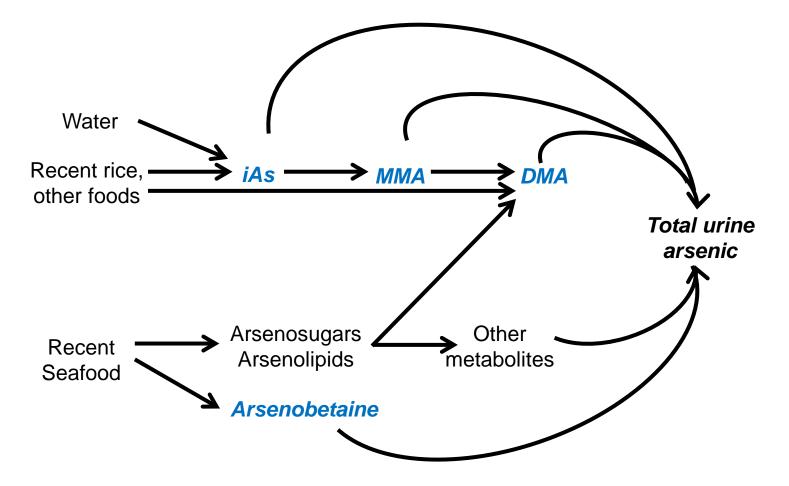
### RESEARCH

Arsenic exposure from drinking water and mortality from cardiovascular disease in Bangladesh: prospective cohort study

Yu Chen, associate professor of epidemiology,<sup>1</sup> Joseph H Graziano, professor of environmental health sciences,<sup>2</sup> Faruque Parvez, associate research scientist, <sup>2</sup> Mengling Liu, associate professor of biostatistics,<sup>1</sup> Vesna Slavkovich, associate research scientist, <sup>2</sup> Tara Kalra, project coordinator/data analyst,<sup>3</sup> Maria Argos, project coordinator/data analyst,<sup>3</sup> Tariqul Islam, project director, <sup>4</sup> Alauddin Ahmed, field coordinator, <sup>4</sup> Muhammad Rakibuz-Zaman, study physician/laboratory manager, <sup>4</sup> Rabiul Hasan, assistant field coordinator, <sup>4</sup> Golam Sarwar, informatics manager, <sup>4</sup> Diane Levy, senior staff associate, <sup>2</sup> Alexander van Geen, Lamont research professor in Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, <sup>5</sup> Habibul Ahsan, professor of epidemiology<sup>3</sup>

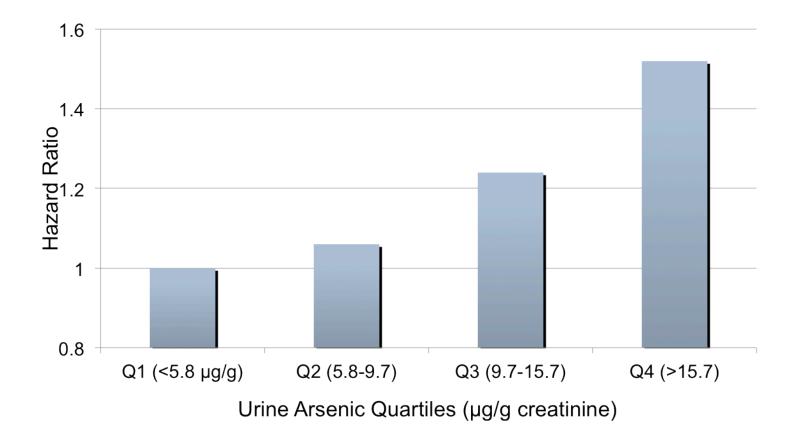


### Arsenic exposure and metabolism



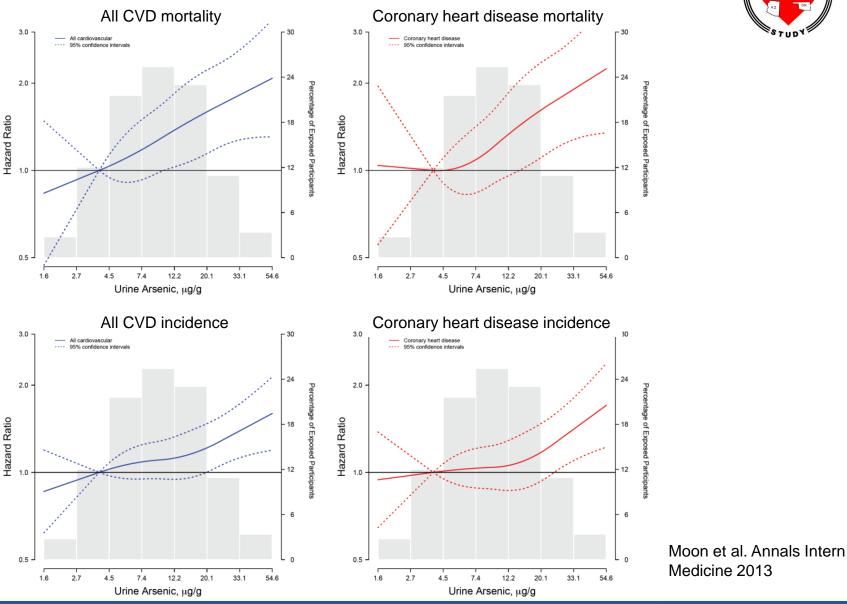
Other sources of arsenic (occupational settings and air pollution) are not shown. Urine As species commonly measured in epidemiologic studies are marked in *blue*.

# Risk of cardiovascular mortality over 20 years by urine arsenic quartiles



Adjusted for sex, education, alcohol, smoking, and body mass index, total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol, hypertension medication, systolic blood pressure, diabetes and estimated glomerular filtration rate

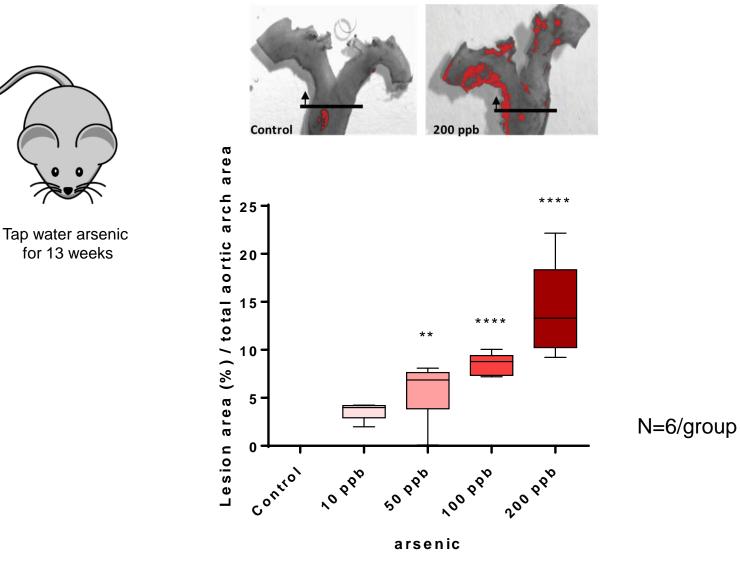
# Arsenic and incident CVD



Lines represent hazard ratios (95% CI) based on restricted cubic splines and adjusted for age, sex, education, alcohol, smoking, body mass index, total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol, hypertension medication, SBP, diabetes eGFR, and stratified by region



### **ApoE**<sup>-/-</sup> **Model of Arsenic-induced Atherosclerosis**



#### Slide courtesy of Koren Mann

#### Association between Lifetime Exposure to Inorganic Arsenic in Drinking Water and Coronary Heart Disease in Colorado Residents

Katherine A. James,<sup>1</sup> Tim Byers,<sup>1</sup> John E. Hokanson,<sup>1</sup> Jaymie R. Meliker,<sup>2</sup> Gary O. Zerbe,<sup>1</sup> and Julie A. Marshall<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora, Colorado, USA; <sup>2</sup>Department of Preventive Medicine, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York, USA

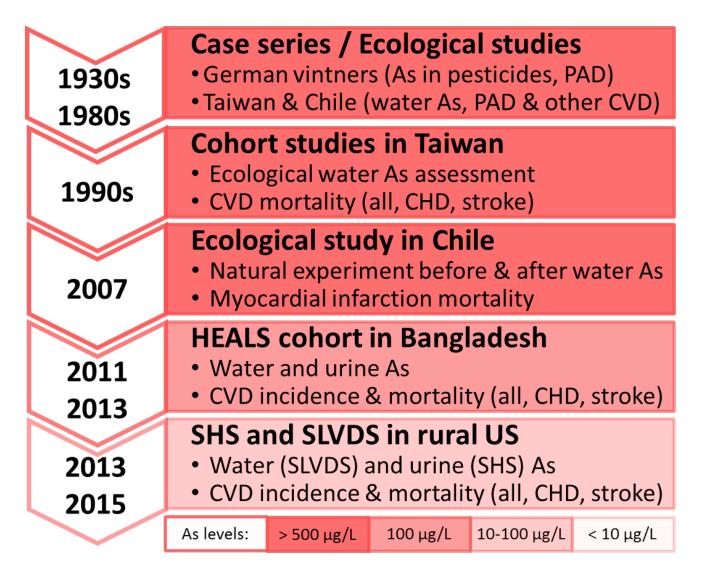
# Hazard ratio (95%CI) for incident coronary heart disease by water arsenic levels in the San Luis Valley Diabetes Study

Variable	Univariate model HR (95% CI)	Full model HR (95% CI)	
Arsenic exposure			
1—20 µg/L	1.0	1.0	
20—30 µg/L	1.24 (0.70, 2.31)	1.25 (0.60, 2.61)	
30—45 μg/L	2.14 (1.22, 3.98)	2.08 (1.11, 3.92)	
45–88 µg/L	3.12 (1.11, 9.02)	3.34 (1.15, 9.30)	

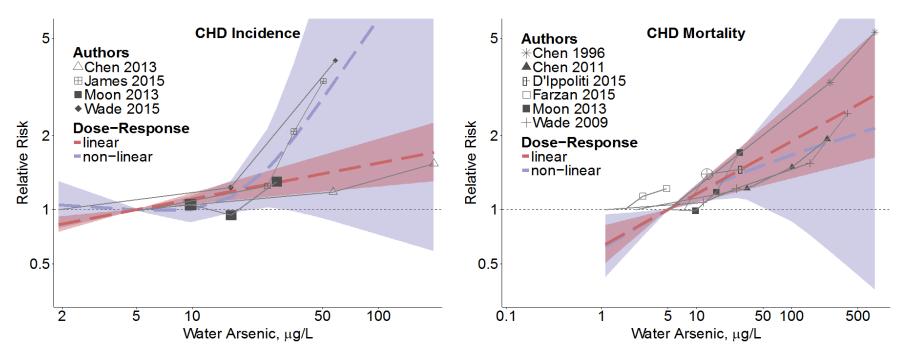
Adjusted for age, sex, ethnicity, income, family history CHD, diabetes, BMI, physical activity, LDL-cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL-cholesterol, folate, selenium

VOLUME 123 | NUMBER 2 | February 2015 · Environmental Health Perspectives

# Summary of the epidemiological evidence



## **Dose-response meta-analysis**



 Compared to 5 µg/L, the pooled relative risks (95% CI) for 10 µg/L water arsenic based on a log-linear model were: 1.11 (1.05, 1.17) (N=4) for CHD incidence

1.16 (1.07, 1.26) (N=6) for CHD mortality,

- No evidence of non-linearity, although these tests had low statistical power
- Meta-analysis limited by the small number of studies and availability of published data

# Need to combine studies - sharing

- A single study is unlikely to cover the full range of the relevant exposures, different genetic backgrounds, different characteristics – combining studies allows to compare across studies: look for consistencies and differences
- By combining epidemiologic studies of arsenic and CVD
  1) We extend the range of arsenic exposure levels
  - Increase statistical power to evaluate dose-response, gene-environment interactions, nutrition-environment interactions, mediation analyses
- Consortium efforts are needed in environmental health
- Address and respect communities conditions for data sharing

# Data ownership and data sharing

• Who owns the data?

• Who allows data sharing and in which terms?

• Who profits from research?

## Recommendations

- Build relationships
- Use a participatory approach
- Accept research codes that tribes have developed to regulate the collection and circulation of information about their members
  - Tribes and Indian Health Service IRBs
  - Data ownership
  - Review of publications and lay summaries
  - Communication of study findings (individuals, community)
  - Anonymity of individuals and tribes
  - Value traditional knowledge

# WORLD VIEW A personal take on events



# Indigenous peoples must benefit from science

To drive sustainable development, **Dyna Rochmyaningsih** argues, science must empower rural communities — not just serve industry and governments.

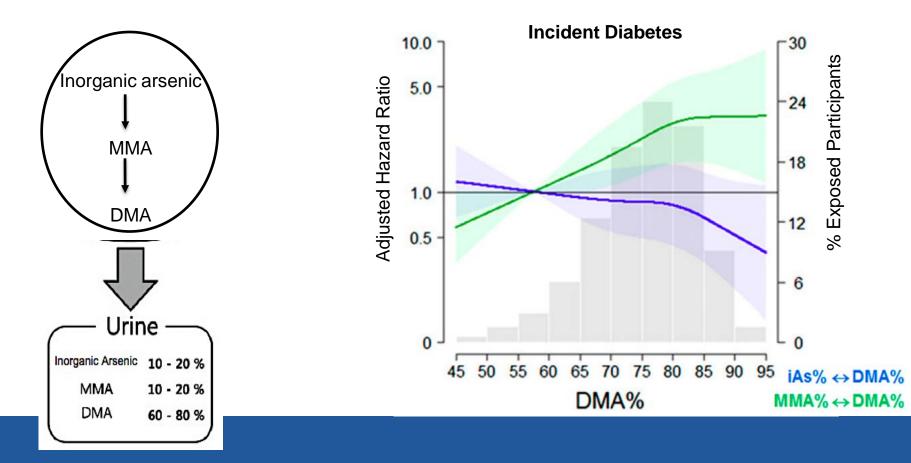
### MITIGATION MUST BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONF ON THE PLANET, NOT JUST SCIENTISTS. BUSINESSMEN AND POLICYMAKERS.

22 OCTOBER 2015 | VOL 526 | NATURE | 477

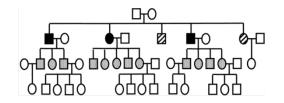
# Arsenic and diabetes

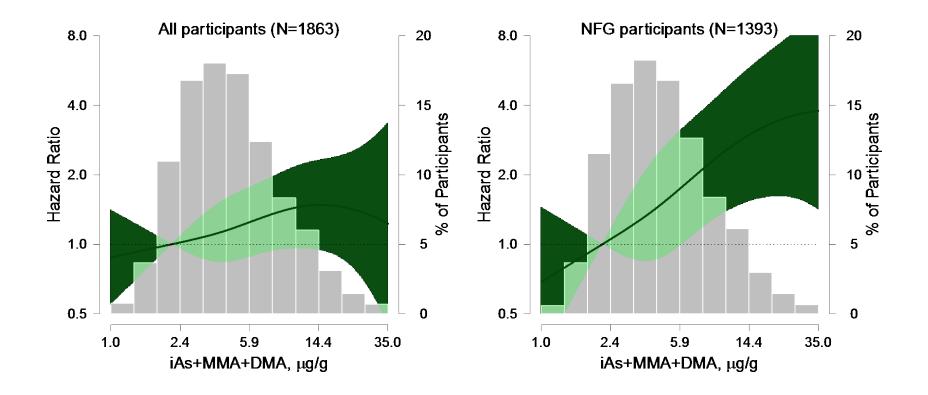


- Arsenic exposure was associated with prevalent diabetes and with diabetes control (Gribble et al. AJE 2012)
- Arsenic metabolism associated with incident diabetes and with markers of insulin resistance (Kuo et al. Diabetes Care 2015)



# Arsenic and incident diabetes in the Strong Heart Family Study

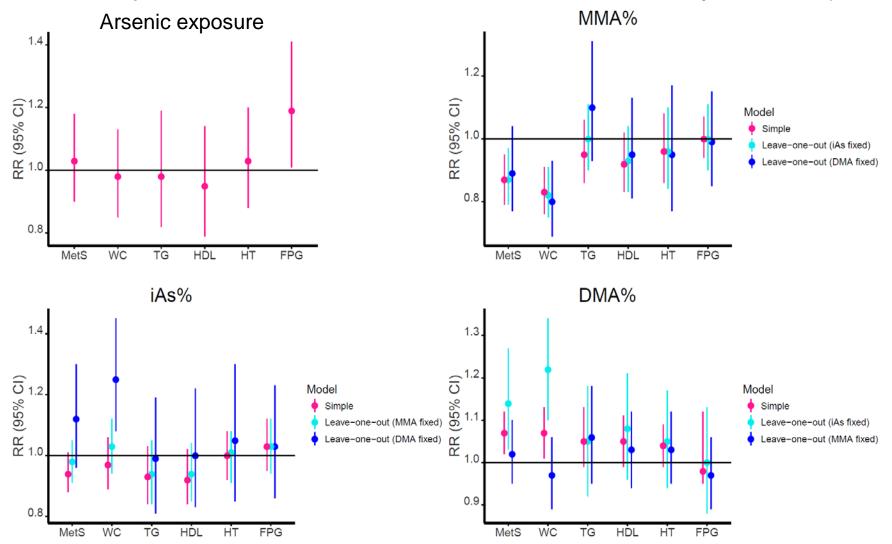




Hazard Ratio for incident diabetes by arsenic exposure in all participants and in participants with normal fasting glucose (NFG), stratified by center and adjusted for age, sex, education, smoking, body mass index, waist circumference, kidney function, estimated dietary vitamin B2, vitamin B6 and folate and *AS3MT* genotype.

#### Grau et al. Under tribal review

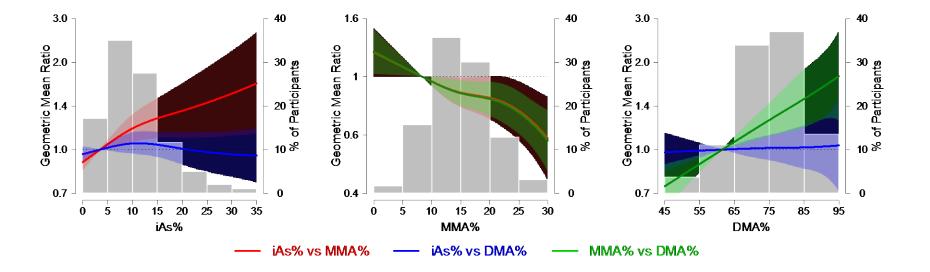
### Arsenic exposure and metabolism and the metabolic syndrome (MetS)



Relative risk (RR) for MetS, waist circumference (WC), triglycerides (TG), HDL-cholesterol, hypertension (HT) and fasting plasma glucose (FPG) per interquartile range (IQR) of arsenic exposure (iAs+MMA+DMA levels) and arsenic metabolism (iAs%, MMA%, DMA%). Models adjusted for age, sex, center, education, smoking, alcohol, body mass index, kidney function, urine creatinine, ΣAs (for As metabolism)

#### Spratlen et al. Under tribal review

# Insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) by arsenic metabolism biomarkers in the SHFS (n=1548)



Model was adjusted age, sex, center, education, BMI, smoking, waist circumference, glomerular filtration rate, fasting glucose levels at baseline, estimated dietary vitamin B2, vitamin B6 and folate and *AS3MT* genotype.

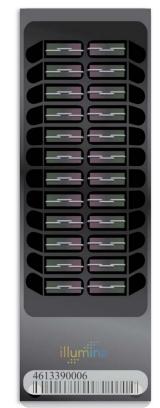
Grau et al. Under tribal review

# **Role of genetics**

- Inorganic arsenic is methylated into MMA, then DMA and excreted in urine
- Heritability estimates proportion of total variability attributed to genetics
  - 53% iAs, 50% MMA, 63% DMA (Tellez-Plaza et al *EHP 2013*)
- Genomewide association study in Bangladesh (HEALS), and candidate gene studies highlight AS3MT variants
- AS3MT (10q24) encodes enzyme arsenic (III) methyltransferase
  - Possible role in methylating iAs to MMA and DMA

# Illumina MetaboChip

- Approximately 200,000 SNPs
- Common variants from previous GWAS studies of diabetes, obesity and cardiometabolic diseases and less common variants not on GWAS chips
- We also fine mapped candidate genes



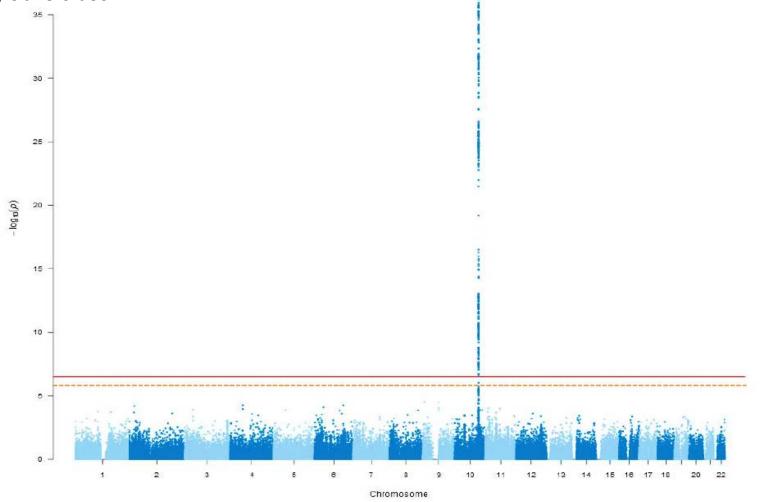
Panel	Total SNPs	Correction Bonferroni	Effective SNPs	Correction LD
MetaboChip	120,975	4.1330e-7	64374.845	7.7670e-7
Candidate (arsenic)	670	7.4626e-5	549.389	9.3359e-5

LD: linkage disequilibrium

R01ES021367

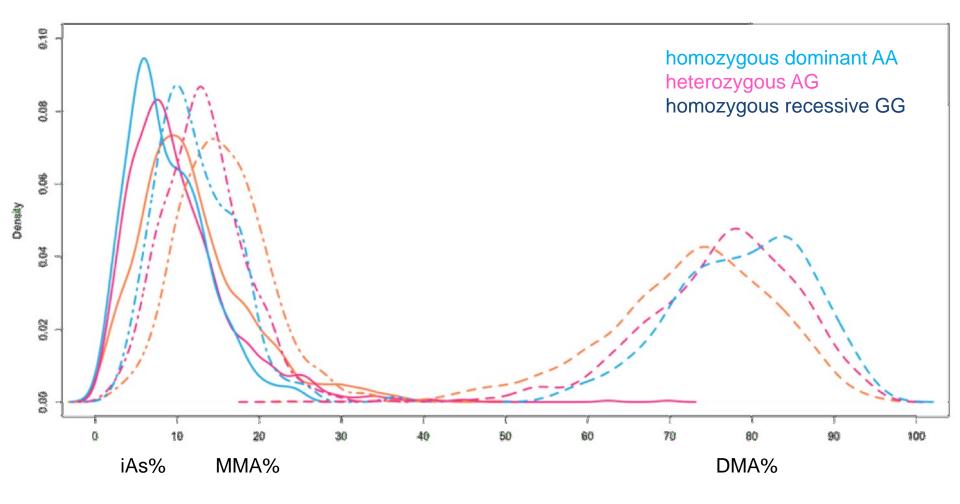
# Manhattan plot for arsenic metabolism biomarkers (DMA%) in Strong Heart Family Study (n=2,428)

*AS3MT*(10q24) encodes enzyme arsenic (III) methyltransferase



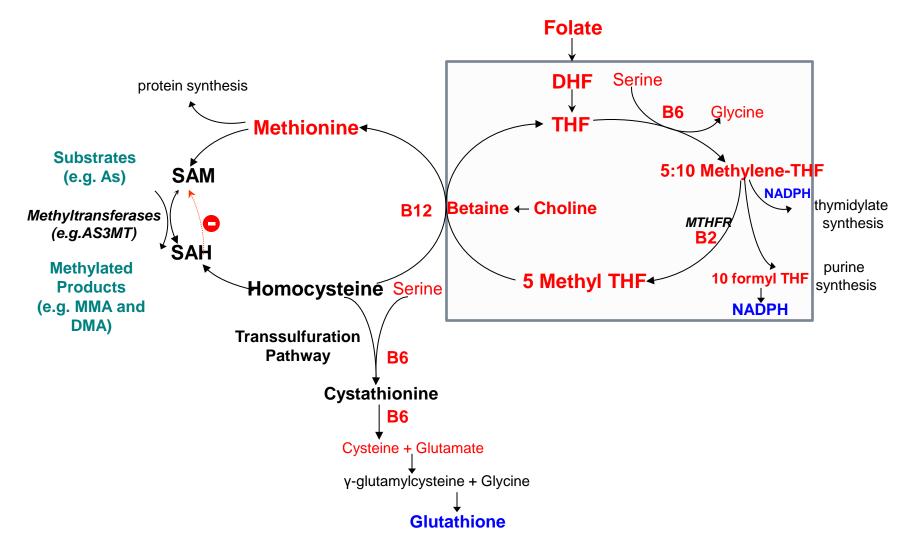
Balakrishnan et al. Environ Health Perspect 2017

## Arsenic species % by rs12768205 (index SNP)



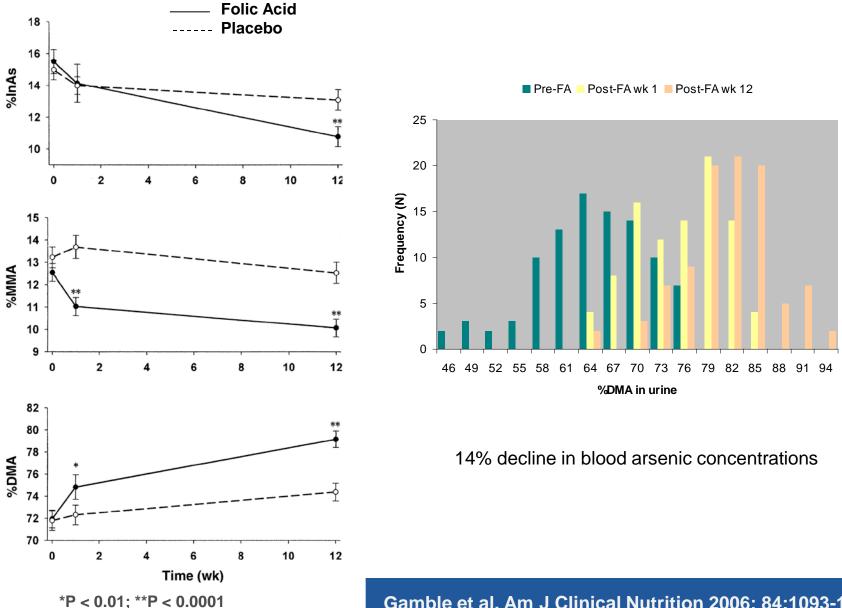
Balakrishnan et al. Environ Health Perspect 2017

## One carbon metabolism and methylation



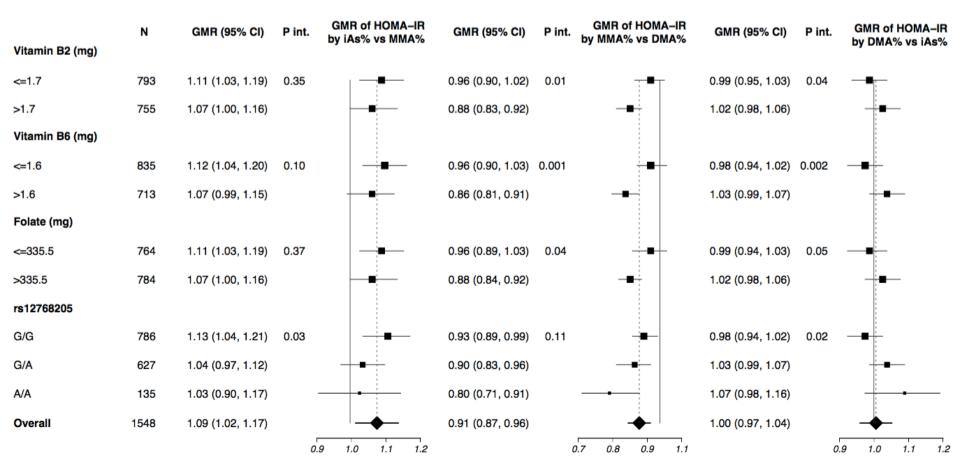
Nutrients/nutrient intermediates are marked in **red**, antioxidants in **blue**. Some enzymes are shown in *italic*. The box includes reactions that also occur in the mitochondria.

### **Effects of Folic Acid Supplementation on Arsenic Metabolites in Urine**



Gamble et al. Am J Clinical Nutrition 2006; 84:1093-1101

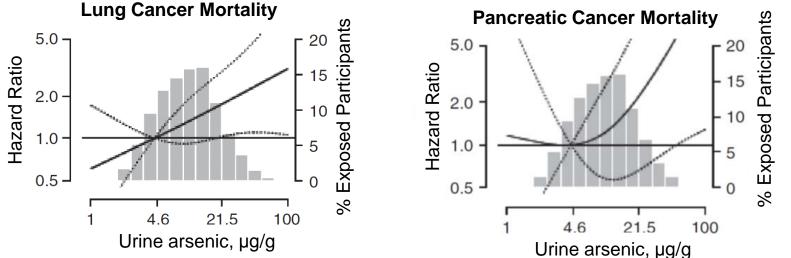
# HOMA-IR by arsenic metabolism biomarkers interaction analyses



Grau et al. Under tribal review

# **Arsenic and Cancer**





- Cancer was not originally included in the consent forms in all study sites, maybe in some broad sentences about studying health and disease in general, not specifically
- Special community approval was needed to conduct this research
- Study participants are currently being reconsented for cancer and other outcomes

## Comments from a community member

- "The SHS has been here a long time," LeBeau observes. "That relationship is established. I think that's the way it should be. It fits well within the community."
- Among the stubborn stereotypes swirling around American Indians is that they won't participate in or comply with scientific studies—a notion the SHS has been disproving for a quarter century.
- "Understanding requires data," LeBeau reasons. "Without that, you can't change things. Maybe this won't help me, but [it might help] my kids, my grandkids."
- LeBeau is woven into his community. Entwined with his people's past. Unwilling to say the heck with the future.
- "Our culture is here, our language, our elders, our ceremonies," he says, alluding to men whose prayers emanate from sweat lodges, women who piece together star quilts and children whose elders are buried at Wounded Knee. "It's happening here."

Ryman LeBeau, Chair of the Environment and Natural Resource Committee

## Research data relevant at multiple levels

- Local level: prevention and intervention provide control data
- Regional level: increase resources, prevention strategies
- Country and global level: policy
  - EPA risk assessment
  - IARC: cancer evaluation
  - WHO: drinking water standards

## Contribute to EPA arsenic risk assessment

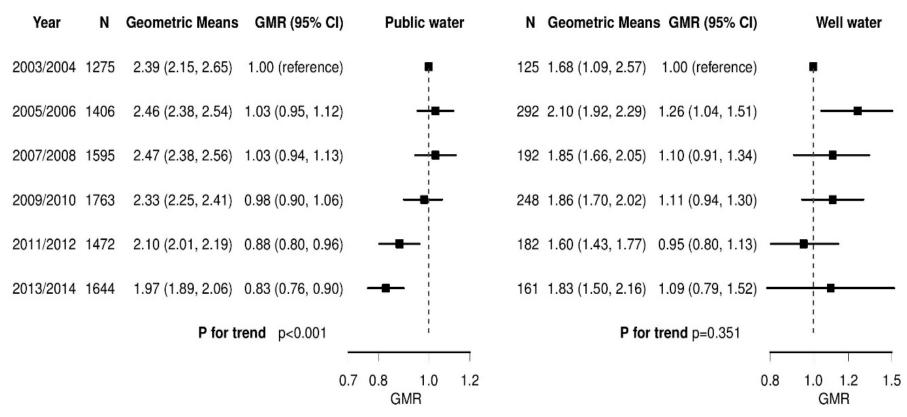
- EPA recently requested urine arsenic data from the Strong Heart Study to improve their pharmacokinetic modeling for the ongoing arsenic risk assessment
- We consulted with the Strong Heart Study steering committee, which includes community members
- Approval to provide the data and support the EPA was granted (provide aggregated data not raw data)
- EPA agreed that if a publication is prepared, it will be submitted to the tribes for approval



# Impact of the EPA arsenic MCL



Urinary DMA corrected for dietary and tobacco sources of arsenic and adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, education and body mass index.



Findings support the critical role of federal drinking water regulations in reducing toxic exposures and protecting human health

### Nigra et al. Submitted

http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/mni-wiconi-water-reaching-pine-ridge-reservation/article\_ca0ce382-c709-5082-8c63-5f2e827ef24a.html

#### Mni Wiconi water reaching Pine Ridge reservation

Gathering heralds arrival of lines that carry clean water

Mary Garrigan, Journal staff Aug 19, 2008



Workers for S.J. Louis, a construction company out of St. Paul, Minn., dig a trench Wednesday for pipe west of Wanblee. When finished, this pipeline will bring water from the Missouri River to Potato Creek, Kyle and Red Shirt. (Photo by Ryan Soderlin, Journal staff)

WANBLEE - Words of congratulations and gratitude for the arrival of Missouri River water to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation flowed freely at a Mni Wiconi connection dedication here Wednesday. But the people who live in this small community on the reservation's northeastern edge will have to wait a few more months for the water itself to begin flowing into their homes.

About 250 people gathered in the Crazy Horse School gymnasium to mark a milestone for the rural water project, whose Lakota name translates to "Water is life."

After 15 years of construction and nearly half a billion dollars in federal funds, the 24-inch core pipeline and its clean, safe, high-quality drinking water from the Missouri River has finally crossed the reservation's border.

# Planning a prevention intervention study in South and North Dakota



Meeting at Eagle Butte, SD



Meeting at Martin, SD

# Planning a prevention intervention study in South and North Dakota



Meeting at Eagle Butte, SD



Meeting at Martin, SD

Making those meetings possible is Marcia O'Leary, RN Manager of Missouri Breaks Research, the institution that runs the Strong Heart Study



# Strong Heart Water Study for private wells





Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial George STRONGHEART Water Study **Tribal Level Intervention** Policy planning and sustainability **Community Level Intervention** Community promoter training program Water arsenic testing program Household and Individual Level Interventions **Intensive Health Promotion** Standard Program Program 150 Households 150 Households 300 Participants (2 per home) 300 Participants (2 per home) Arsenic removal device Arsenic removal device •Health promotion program including Written maintenance instructions maintenance instructions (5 visits) (1 visit)

### **The Ecological Model for Strong Heart Water Study**



Environmental Factors Arsenic mitigation policies for private well users

*Target Behaviors* Developing sustainable arsenic mitigation policies

#### Community

Environmental Factors Access to water arsenic testing

Target Behaviors Building local capacity to implement arsenic mitigation programs

### Family/Household

#### Environmental Factors

Access to arsenic mitigation options for private well users

#### **Target Behaviors**

Maintaining arsenic removal devices

#### Individual

*Environmental Factors* Resources on the health implications of arsenic

#### **Target Behaviors**

Using 100% arsenic-safe water for drinking and cooking Building knowledge on arsenic health implications



# **SHWS Intervention Pilot**



- 6 filters installed during the pilot study in February and March 2017
- Pilot testing of the study materials

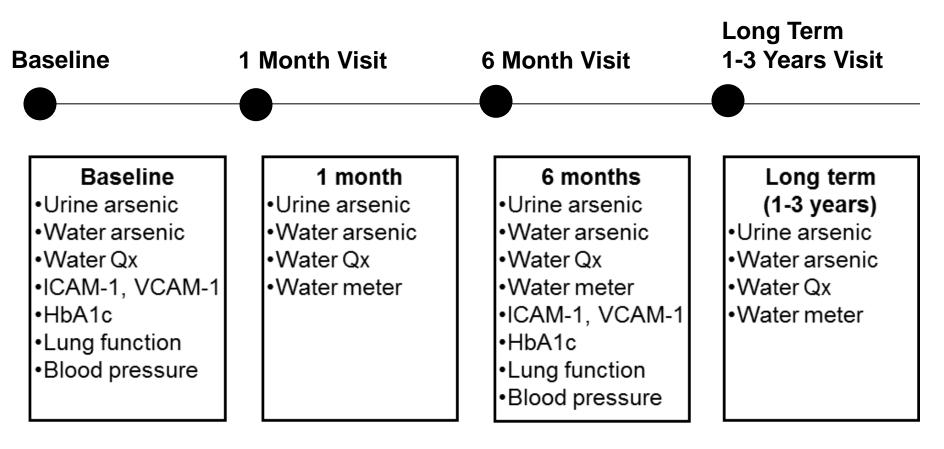








# **Intervention Evaluation**





- <u>Replicative trial</u> of EDTA chelation and high-dose oral vitamins in 1200 post-MI diabetic patients
- Selecting the population that showed the greatest benefit
- Storing biospecimens for measuring metals and testing future mechanistic hypotheses

Funded by NHLBI and NCCIH (National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health)

## Lead, cadmium and cardiovascular disease

## What we know:

- Increased blood pressure levels
- Increased CVD mortality (several studies including NHANES)
- Increased CVD incidence in several populations, although the number of studies is small:
  - Normative Aging Study (lead)
  - Strong Heart Study and other studies (cadmium)
- Increased subclinical cardiovascular disease (carotid atherosclerosis, peripheral artery disease)
- Experimental studies support these cardiovascular effects

# Urgent need for high quality air pollution assessment in North Dakota

## Where Oil and Politics Mix

After an unusual land deal, a giant spill and a tanker-train explosion, anxiety began to ripple across the North Dakota prairie.

Deborah Sontag, NYT, 11/22/14 Jim Wilson, photographer In the picture: Dr. Lyle Best and his dog



300 yards from a home



### A Belch from the porch



Oil tank explosion on 3/7/2015

# Communities and participants make research possible

- Engagement and participation
- Support of science
- Contributions to research questions
- Contribution to conduction of research
- Research can and must benefit communities
  - Benefits are sometime slow
  - Researchers need to be actively engaged

# Funding

- R01HL090863: Arsenic, CVD and diabetes SHS (completed)
- R01ES021367: Arsenic, genetics, diabetes SHFS (NCE, renewal submitted)
- R01ES025216: Arsenic, epigenetics and CVD SHS (ongoing)
- R01ES025135: Participatory interventions to reduce arsenic (ongoing)

# Strong Heart Study

# Strong Heart Study co-investigators and community members

Barbara Howard, Jason Umans, Darren Calhoun, Cynthia West (*MedStar/Arizona*)

Lyle Best, Marcia O'Leary, Joseph Yracheta, Marie Gross, Stacey Jolly (*North/South Dakota*)

Elisa Lee, Everett Rhoades, Fawn Yeh, Ying Zhang, Tauqeer Ali, Julie Stoner (*Oklahoma*)

Shelley Cole, Karin Haack, Jean MacCluer (*Texas Biomed*)

Nora Franceschini, Saroja Vorungati, Kari North (*UNC*)

Richard Devereux, Mary Roman, Peter Okin (Cornell U)

Jinying Zhao (U of Florida)

### **Mentors**

Eliseo Guallar Ellen Silbergeld Richey Sharrett

### **Hopkins co-investigators**

Winnie Tang, Zhibin Wang, Virginia Weaver, Kellogg Schwab, Luke McDonald (*EHS*)

Linda Kao, Dani Fallin (Epi)

Dhananjay Vaidya (GIM)

Ciprian Crainiceanu, Karen Bandeen-Roche (*Biostats*)

### Indian Health Service David Harvey

# Graz Laboratory

Kevin A. Francesconi, Walter Goessler

# Strong Heart Water Study

### **Community Consultants**

- Reno Red Cloud
- Carlyle Ducheneaux
- Robert Thompson

### **Strong Heart Study Investigators**

- Marcia O' Leary
- Joseph Yracheta
- Lyle Best
- Jason Umans
- Fawn Yeh
- Amanda Fretts

### **Indian Health Service**

• CAPT David Harvey

### Johns Hopkins University

- Christine George
- Allison Barlow
- Kellogg Schwab
- Luke MacDonald
- Lawrence Moulton
- Joel Gittelsohn

### **Columbia University**

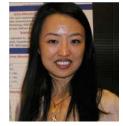
• Maria Grau

# Students and trainees move the science forward – drive and creativity

















Farrah Mateen Ass. Professor. Harvard

Maria Tellez-Plaza Ass. Professor. Spain

Matt Gribble Miranda Jones, Ass. Ass. Professor, Professor. Hopkins Emory

Laura Zheng Post-doc. Mt Sinai NY

Chin-Chi Kuo Assoc. Professor, Taiwan



Kat Moon Post-doc. **Hopkins** 



Poojitha Pablo Balakrishnan Olmedo Post-doc, CU Ass. Professor. Spain



Maria Grau, Miranda Data Analyst, Spratlen, Powers, PhD Pang, PhD PhD student CU Hopkins



student

Hopkins



Yuanjie Anne Nigra, student Oxford student



PhD

CU

Tiffany Sanchez,

CU



Jungen Ji, **MPH** Post-doc student CU

# **Collective Competence**

- Authority is rooted in collective competence
- Decision making is horizontal, precedent oriented and consensual
- Process is fluid, iterative, recorded orally, benchmarked by key events (not chronologically)
- Leadership is shared, diffused and ascribed
- Tribal communities are sociocentric

Spiro Manson, PhD University Colorado Denver NHLBI Forum, Aug 2, 2016

# Metal chelation

### **Ethylene Diamine Tetra Acetate Anion (EDTA)**

- Administered intravenously (slow infusion)
- Distributed across bone and soft tissues where it binds metal cations ("organic coating")
- EDTA-metal complex is stable, non-toxic and excreted through the kidneys
- FDA approved uses:

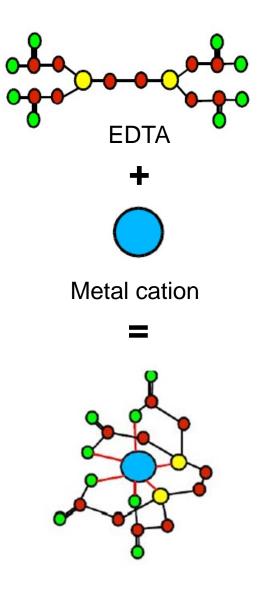
Carbon

- Lead poisoning (CaNa<sub>2</sub>EDTA)
- Hypercalcemia (Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA)

Oxygen

• Historically, controversial role in CVD prevention

Nitrogen



EDTA-metal complex