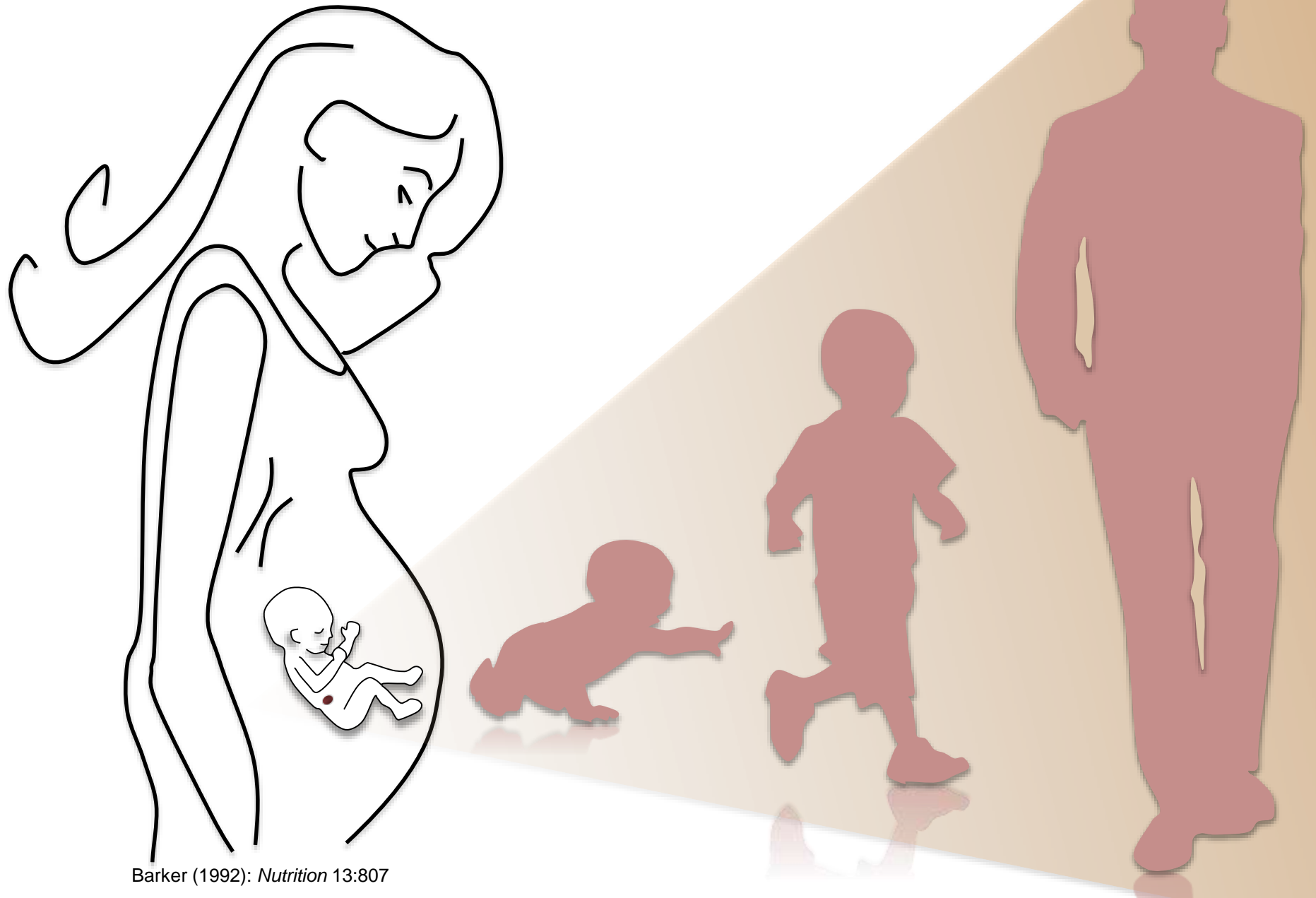


# Epigenetic mechanisms and DOHaD

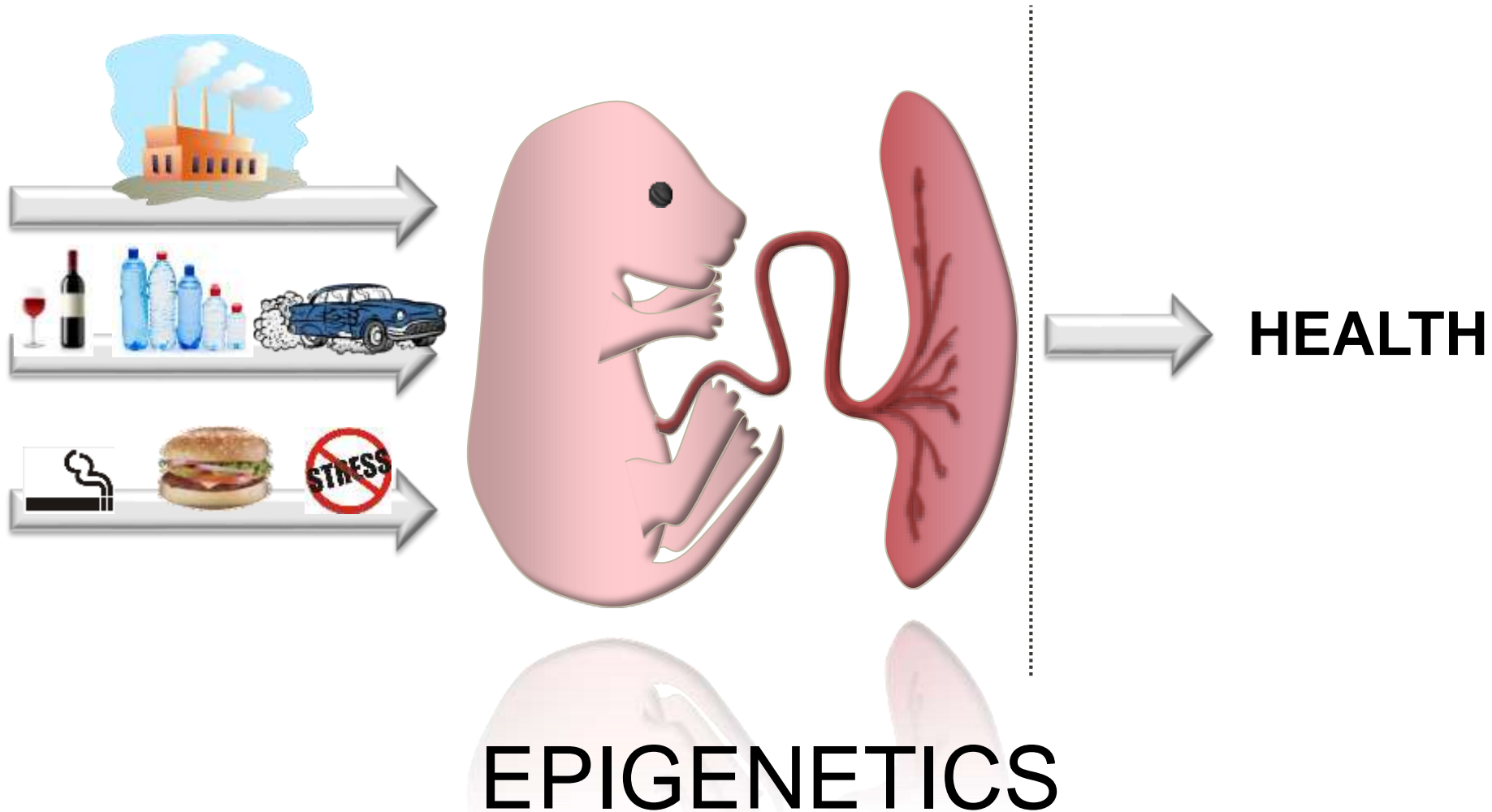


Martha Susiarjo, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Environmental Medicine  
University of Rochester, NY

# Developmental origins of health and disease



# GENE-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION



*Epigenetic*: heritable changes in gene expression caused by mechanisms that do not depend on changes in DNA sequences

# Genetics and disease

Normal (G/G)	AGATTCAGGCATATT AGATTCAGGCATATT
Carrier (G/A)	AGATTCAGGCATATT AGATTCAGGCATATT
Disease (A/A)	AGATTCAGGCATATT AGATTCAGGCATATT

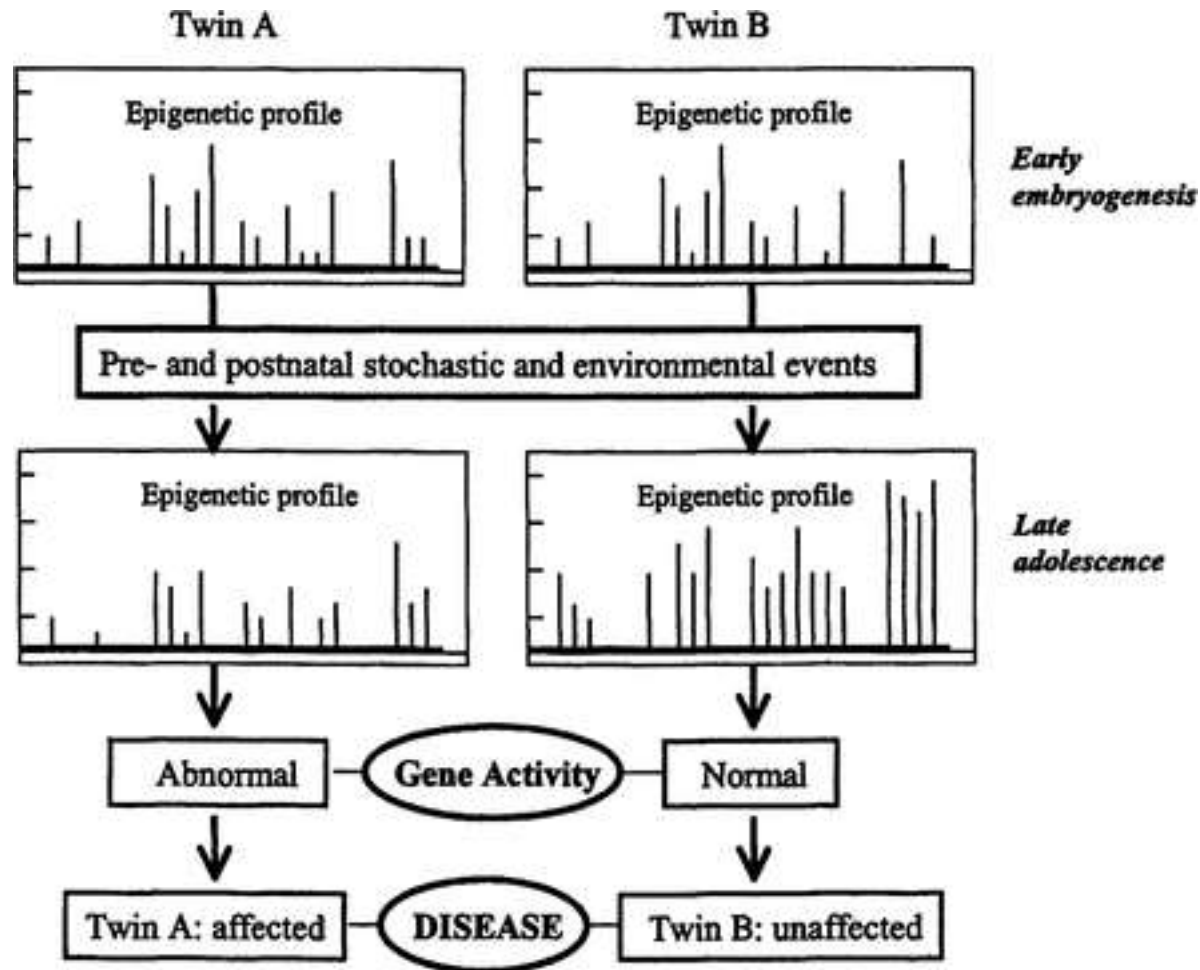
# Epigenetics and disease

AGATTCAGGCATATT

AGATTCAGGCATATT

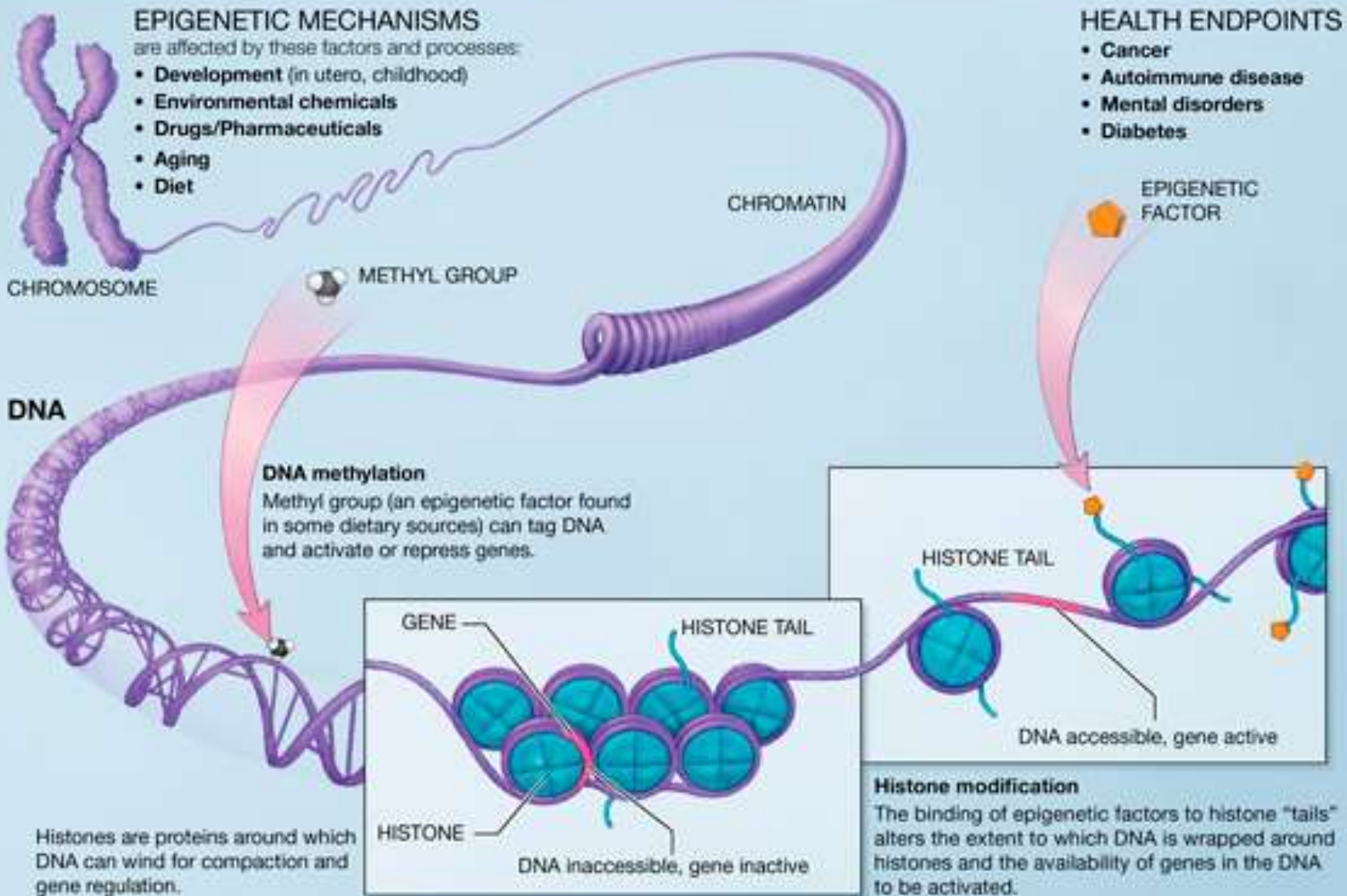
AGATTCAGGCATATT

AGATTCAGGCATATT



# Epigenetic mechanisms in mammalian development

- Lineage commitment
- Retrotransposon silencing
- X Chromosome inactivation
- **Genomic imprinting**



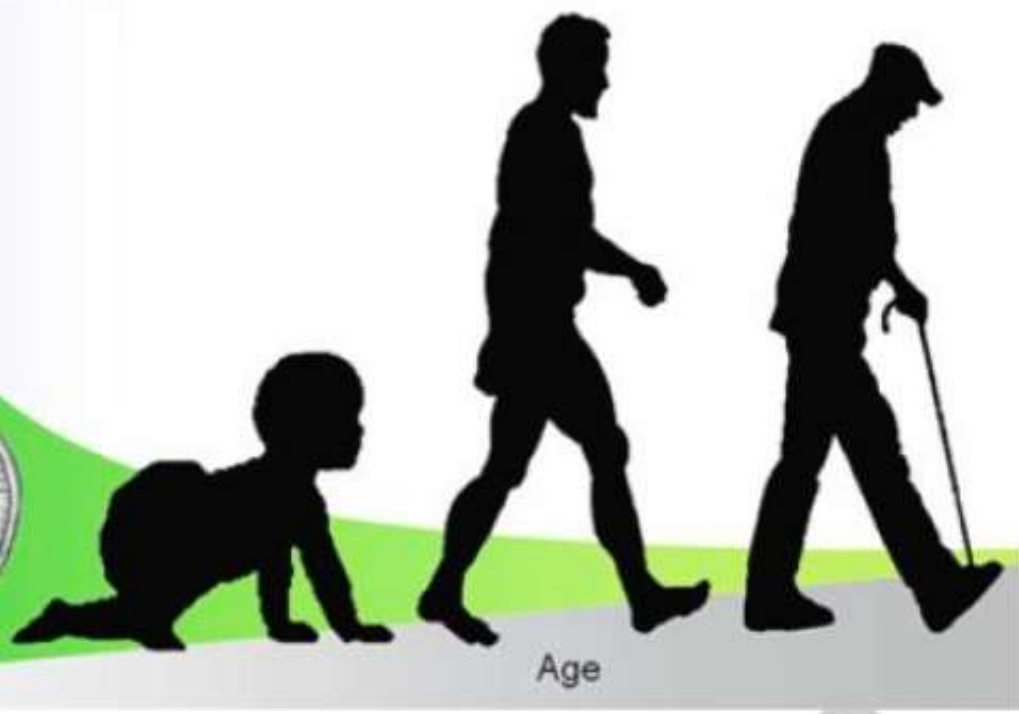


Genetic & Epigenetic Inheritance



Stochastic Variation

Environmental Influences



Age

Germline epimutation



Parental genomic demethylation

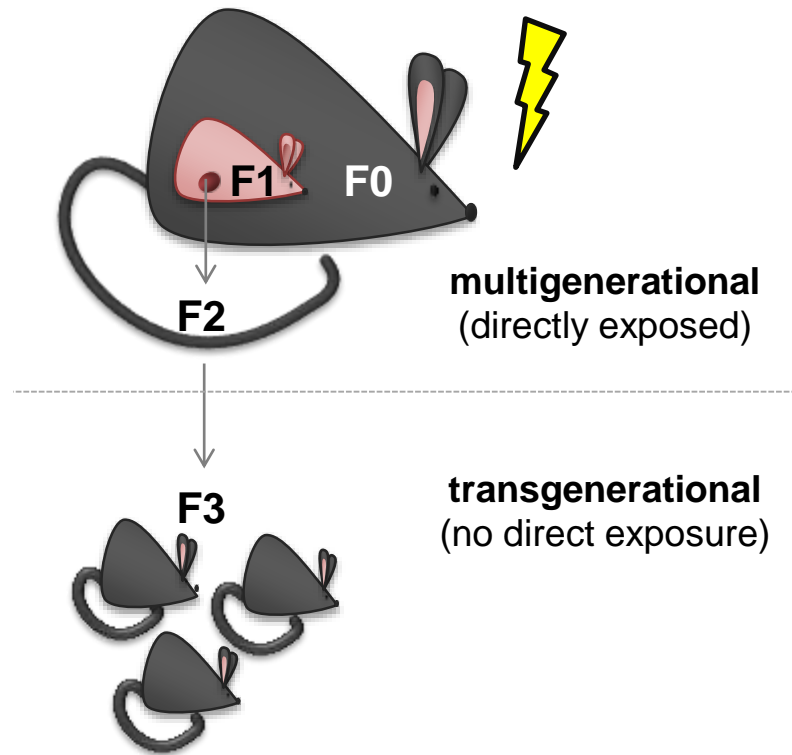


Epigenetic drift / somatic epimutation



Developmental epigenetic programming



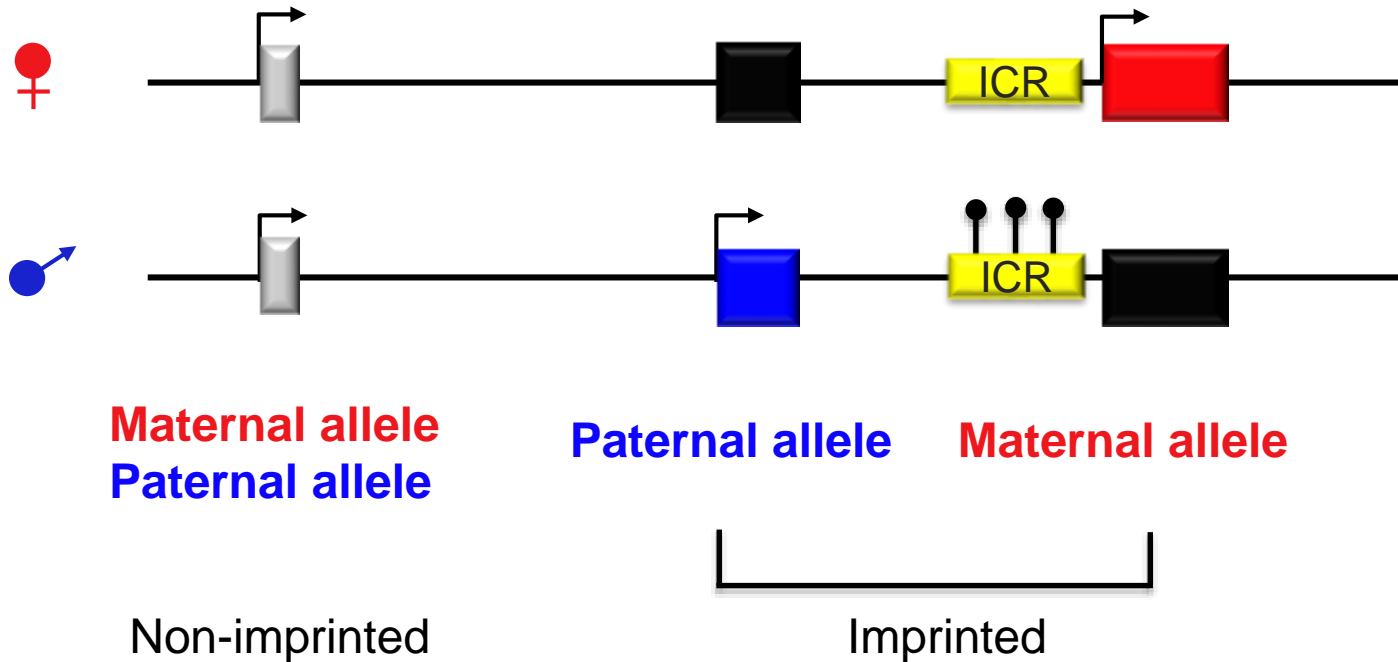


# Epigenetic mechanisms in mammalian development

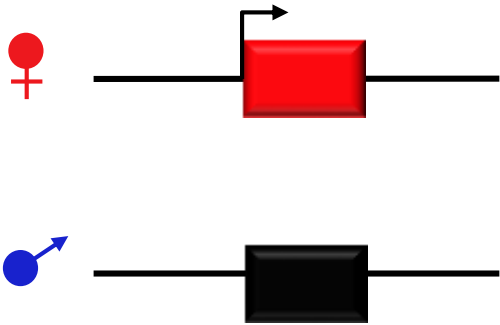
- Lineage commitment
- Retrotransposon silencing
- X Chromosome inactivation
- **Genomic imprinting**

# Genomic Imprinting

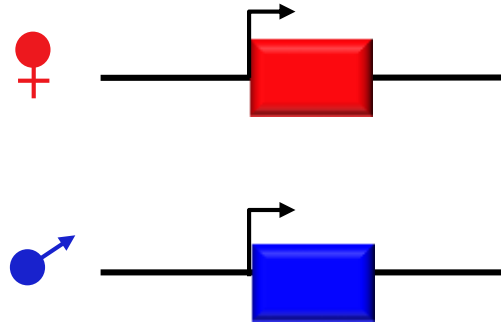
The unequal expression of the maternal and paternal alleles of a gene



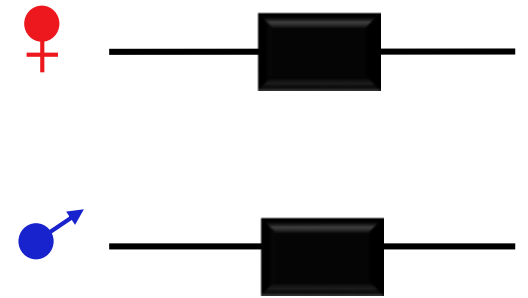
# Dosage is important!



Normal



Too much!



Not enough!

# Abnormal imprinting disrupts development

## Fetal growth

Charalambous et al (2003).

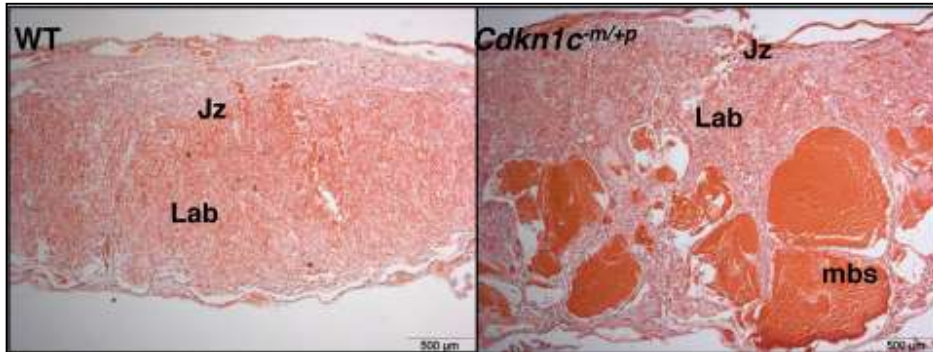


Mutant

WT

## Placental development

Tunster et al (2011)



WT

Mutant

## Growth



Beckwith-  
Wiedemann  
Syndrome

## Neurobehavioral development

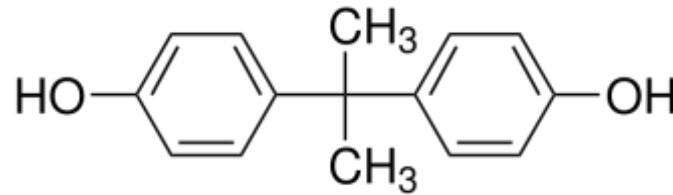


Prader-Willi  
Syndrome

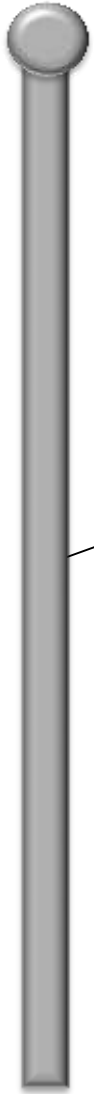


Angelman  
Syndrome

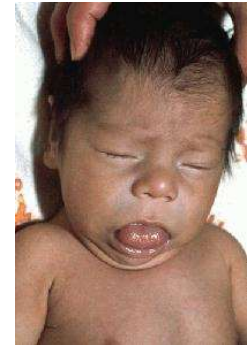
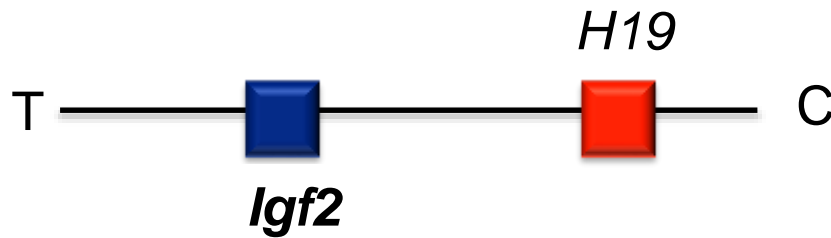
# A model of environmental exposure: Bisphenol A is ubiquitous in the environment



MOUSE  
CHR 7



H19/Igf2 domain:



-insulin-like growth factor

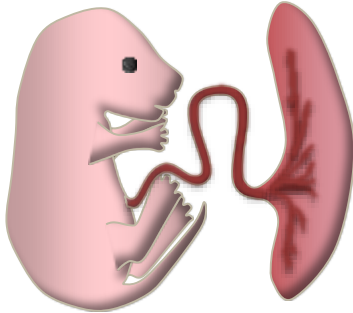
-fetal growth

-misregulation linked to disease

**-BPA exposure alters DNA methylation  
and expression (Susiarjo et al 2013: PLoS Genetics)**



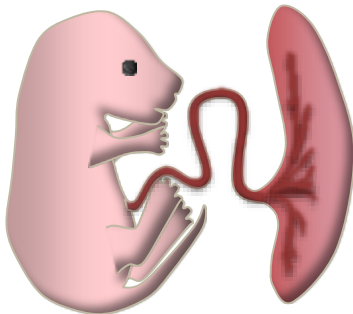
*Igf2* normally expressed



Healthy



*Igf2* overproduced



Adult onset obesity  
Glucose intolerance  
Insulin resistance

