ACTN3: The Gene for Speed

Kristin Kohlmann



Usain Bolt: World's Fastest Man



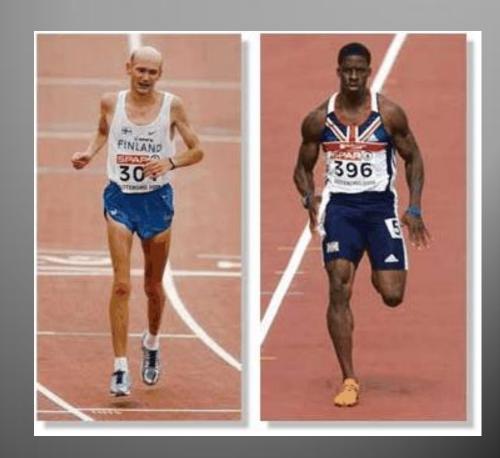
Phoebe: At least she is happy



- What is ACTN3?
- What makes it so interesting?
- Does climate effect the ACTN3 protein?
- How does ACTN3 confer an advantage?
- Why should we care?
- Where should we go from here?

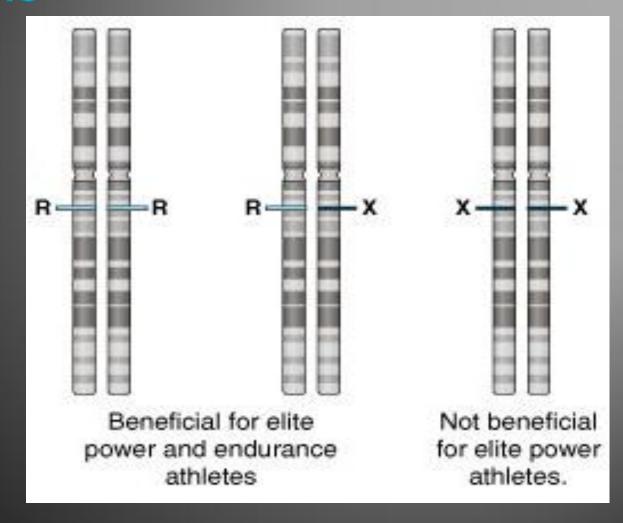
ACTN3 Function

- Fast twitch muscle fibers
- Aids in contraction
- Two variants in human populations



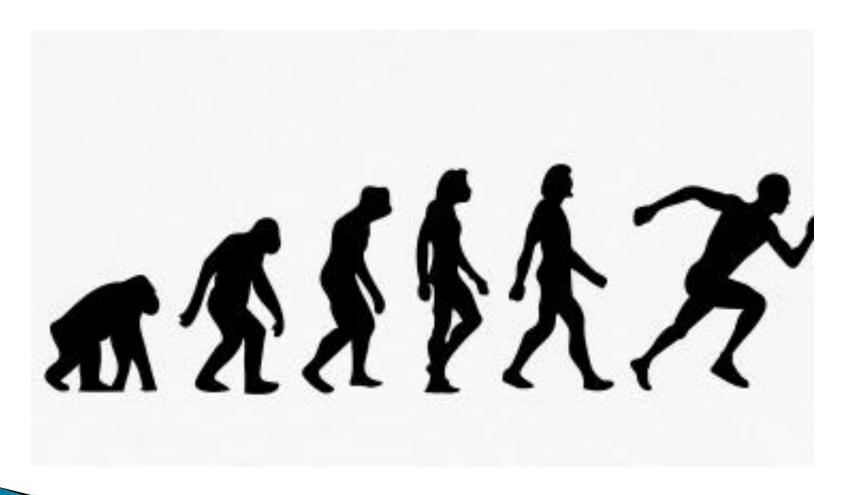
http://www.3quarksdaily.com/3quarksdaily/2008/12/race-genes-and-sports.html

ACTN3 genotypes found in humans



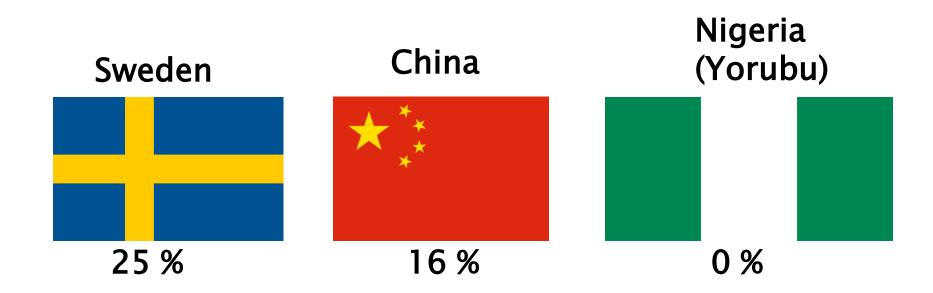
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ACTN3 XX conserved through evolution



http://palscience.com/science/humans-are-hard-wired-to-run/#.UYvNNMo2Tvg

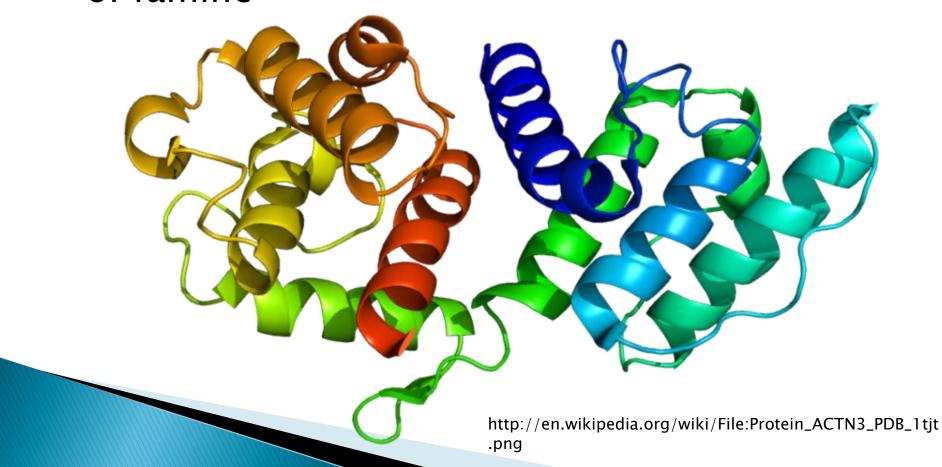
ACTN3 XX frequency varies by ethnic groups



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Sweden.svg https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Nigeria.svg https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China.svg

ACTN3's proposed role in metabolism

 ACTN3 XX genotype is more fit during times of famine

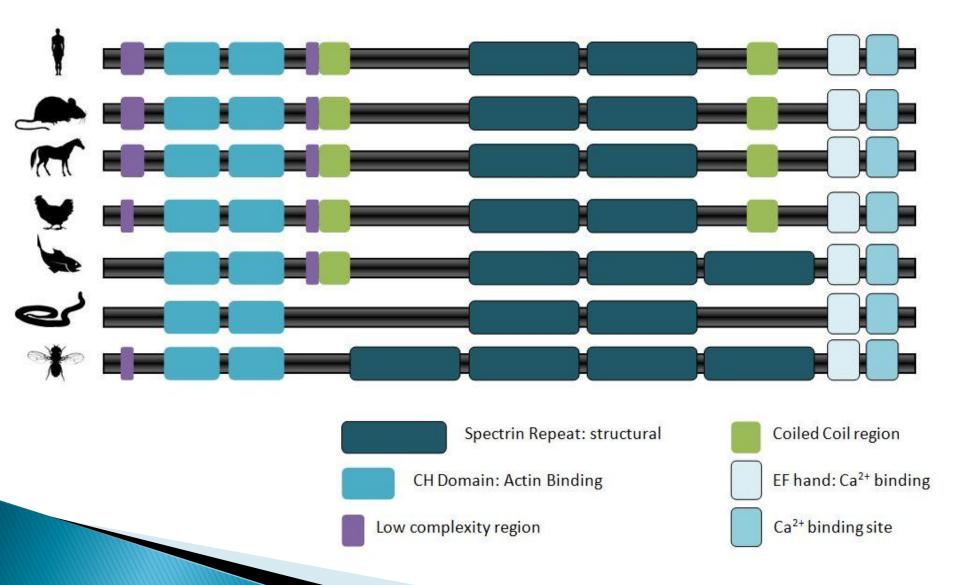


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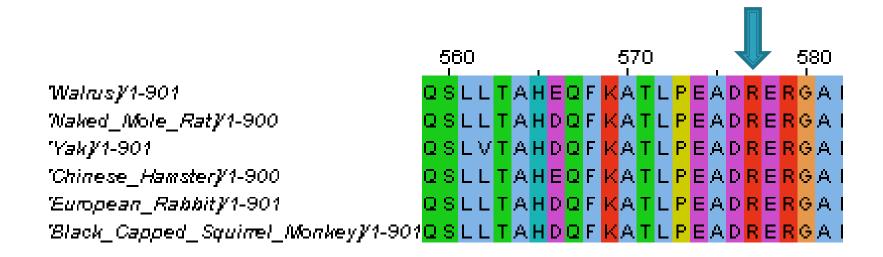
Hypothesis

People and animals in different climates would have different ACTN3 proteins due to ACTN3's perceived role in glucose metabolism.

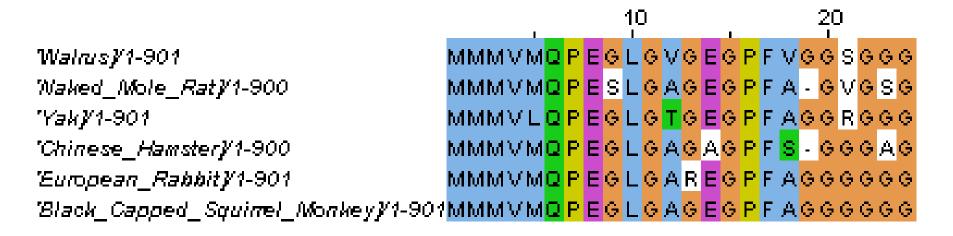
Protein Domains



No stop codon in animal species



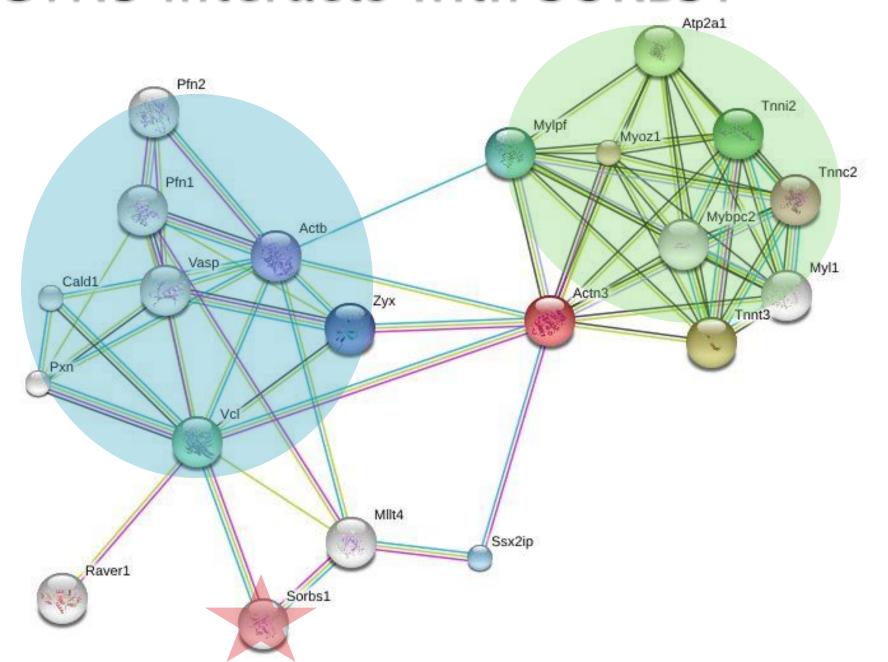
Still interesting areas of variation



How is ACTN3 XX conferring an advantage?

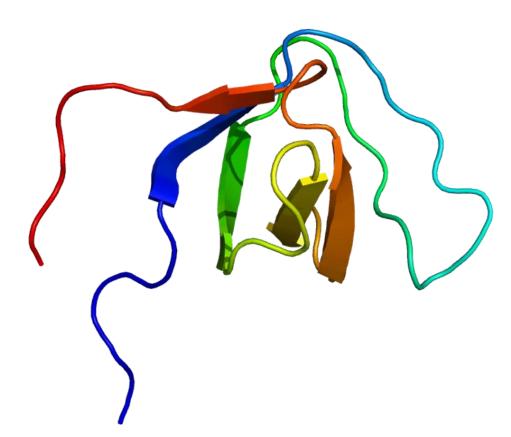


ACTN3 Interacts with SORBS1

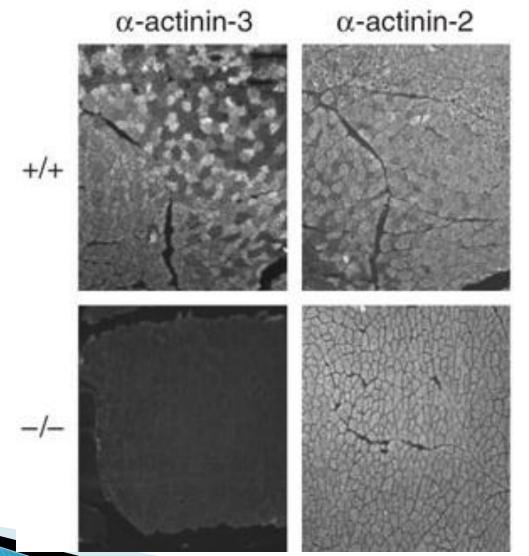


Why is SORBS1 interesting?

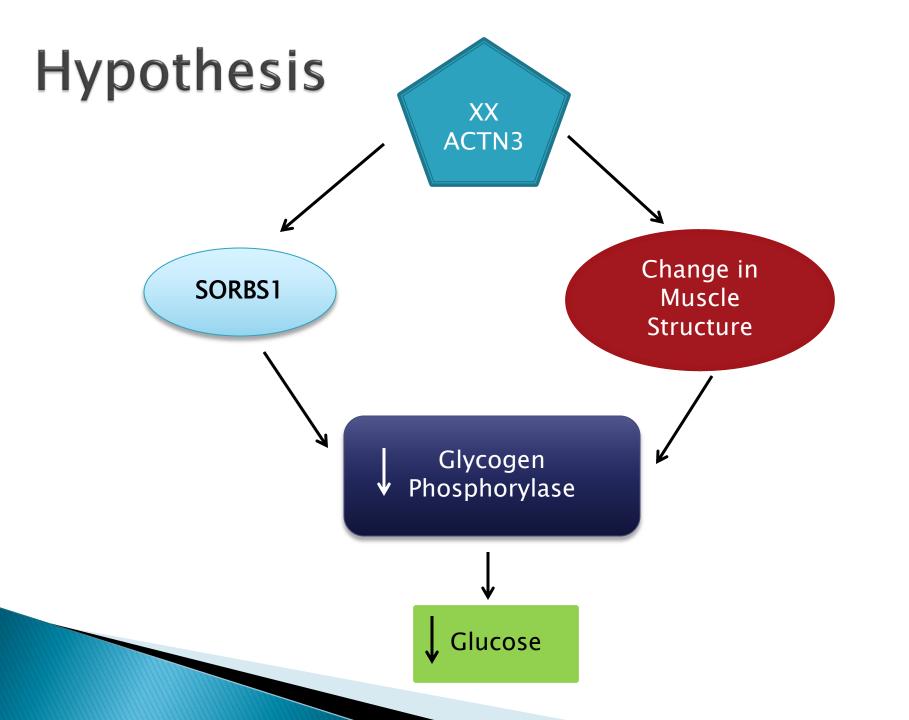
- PhosphorylatesTyrosine amino acids
- Glucose transport



Null ACTN3changes muscle structure



http://www.nature.com.ezproxy.library.wisc.edu/ng/journal/v39/n10/full/ng2122.html



Hypothesis

Null ACTN3 genotype decreases the phosphorylation of glycogen phosphorylase which decreases enzyme activity.

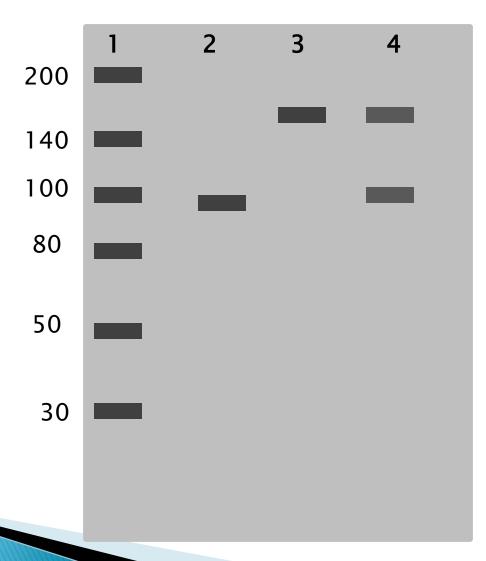
No change in Glucose Phosphorylase expression

		ACTN3 +/+	ACTN3 -/-
Glycogen Breakdown	GPh		
Fatty Acid Oxidation	MCAD		
Muscle Structure	ACTN2		
Tyrosine Phosphorylation	SORBS1		

Expression Level

High

Checking for phosphorylated glycogen phosphorylase



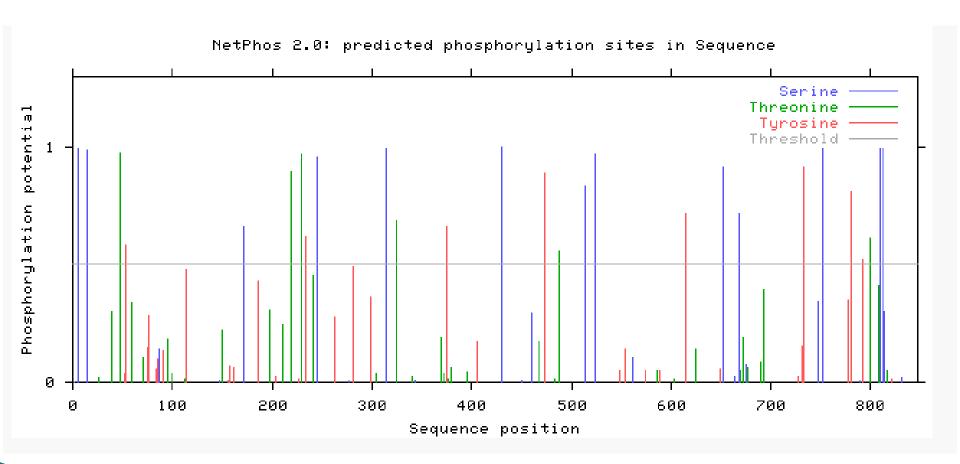
Lane 1: Ladder

Lane 2: ACTN3 -/-

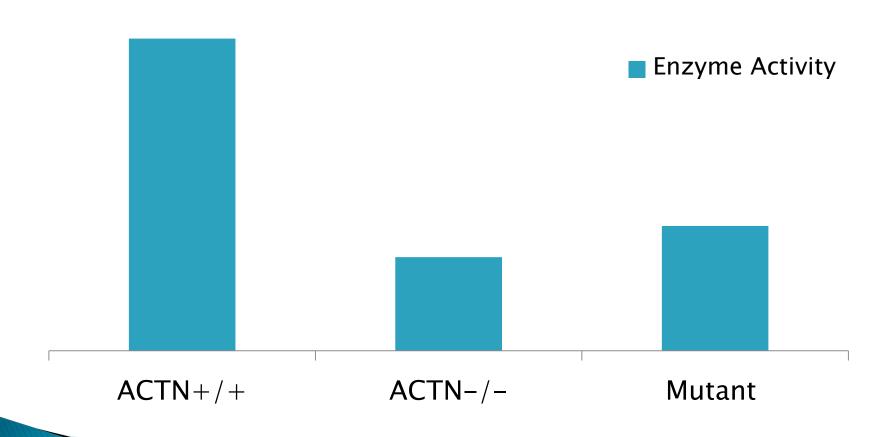
Lane 3: ACTN3 +/+

Lane 4: ACTN3 -/+

Phosphorylation sites on the Glycogen Phosphorylase protein



Decrease in phosphorylase activity



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Conclusions

- Better understanding of selective forces in evolution
- Basis for "modern" diseases
- Increase our understanding of what it means to be human

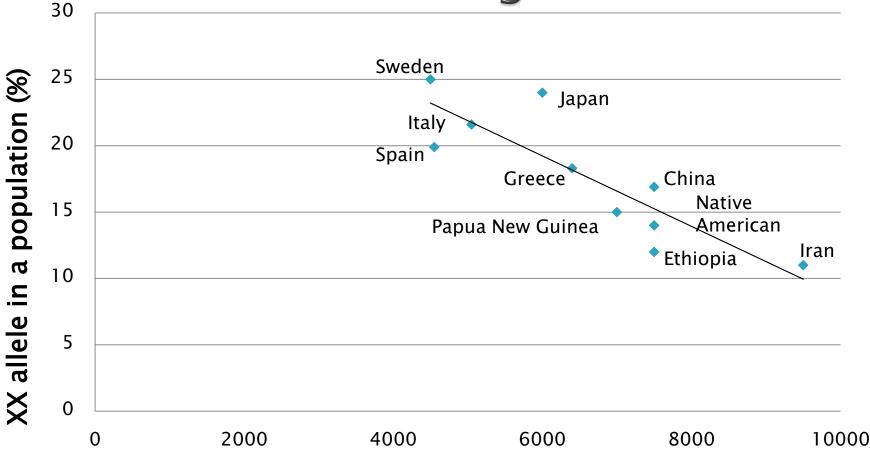
Where should we go from here?

- Study the relationship between ACTN3 XX and ethnic groups with history of famine
- The migration of ACTN3 X allele in relation to human migration out of Africa
- ACTN3 genotypes in relation to modern diseases

Refrences

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Frequency of ACTN3 XX genotype and the advent of agriculture



Approximate year agricultre was introduced (BC)

ACTN3 XX frequency vs Latitude

