



## Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Conference

September 17-19, 2025

# CFRD – Research Insights

**Presenter: Rebecca L. Hull-Meichle**



**w/o limits**



# CYSTIC FIBROSIS OF THE PANCREAS AND ITS RELATION TO CELIAC DISEASE

A CLINICAL AND PATHOLOGIC STUDY

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NEW YORK

TABLE 1.—Summary of Cases of Cystic Fibrosis of the Pancreas in Which Postmortem Examination Was Done

Case No.	Author	Age at Onset		Sex	Predominant Clinical Symptoms	Cause of Death	Postmortem Observations			
		Difficulty in Feeding	Cough				Data on Pancreas	Other Data		
1	Landsteiner, 1905....	Birth	—	Group I	—Infants Dying Before the Age of One Week	Age of One Week	Cystic fibrosis; duct of Wirsung patent	Uric acid infarcts of kidney		
2	Kornblith and Otani, 1929	Birth	—	F	Vomiting; failure to pass meconium	Meconium ileus; peritonitis (Staph. aureus)			Cystic fibrosis; patent	Meckel's diverticulum; atelectasis of lungs; uric acid infarcts of kidney
3 (I)	Andersen, 1938.....	Birth	—	M	Vomiting; failure to pass meconium	Meconium ileus; ulcers of ileum and colon; peritonitis			Cystic fibrosis	Meckel's diverticulum; uric acid infarcts in kidneys
4 (II)	Andersen, 1938.....	Birth	—	F	Vomiting; prematurity	Band across lumen of ileum with obstruction; peritonitis			Cystic fibrosis	Aspiration of gastric contents
5 (III)	Andersen, 1938.....	Birth	—	F	Failure to pass meconium; distended abdomen	Multiple atresia of ileum; volvulus; peritonitis (Str. haemolyticus)			Cystic fibrosis	Congenital malformations of heart; jaundice of liver; atresia of cystic duct; congenital atelectasis of lungs
6	Blackfan and Wolbach, case 2, 1933	Birth	—	Group II.—Infants Dying Between the Ages of One Week and Six Months	—	—			Cystic fibrosis	Keratinizing metaplasia in trachea; hemosiderosis of liver and spleen
7 (IV)	Andersen, 1938.....	Neonatal	7 wk.	M	Infection of respiratory tract	Bronchopneumonia; bronhelectasis			Cystic fibrosis	Otitis media (Staph. aureus)
8	Passini, 1919, case 2..	Neonatal	?	F	Feeding problem; failure to gain	Purulent bronchitis; bronchopneumonia with abscesses (Staph. aureus)			Cystic fibrosis; loss of islands	Atresia of cystic duct; atrophy of gallbladder; cysts of cystic duct and gallbladder; congenital strictures of ureter; congenital malformation of aorta
9 (V)	Andersen, 1938.....	?	6 wk.	F	Poor development; large stools	Failure to gain; cough			Cystic fibrosis; atresia of Wirsung's duct ?	Congenital strictures of ureter; fatty liver; hemosiderosis of liver and spleen
10 (VI)	Andersen, 1938.....	Neonatal	5 wk.	M	Failure to gain; cough	Bronchiectasis; purulent bronchitis; lobular pneumonia (Staph. aureus)			Cystic fibrosis; atresia of Wirsung's duct ?	Congenital strictures of ureter; fatty liver; hemosiderosis of liver and spleen

Screenshot

Dr. Dorothy H. Andersen

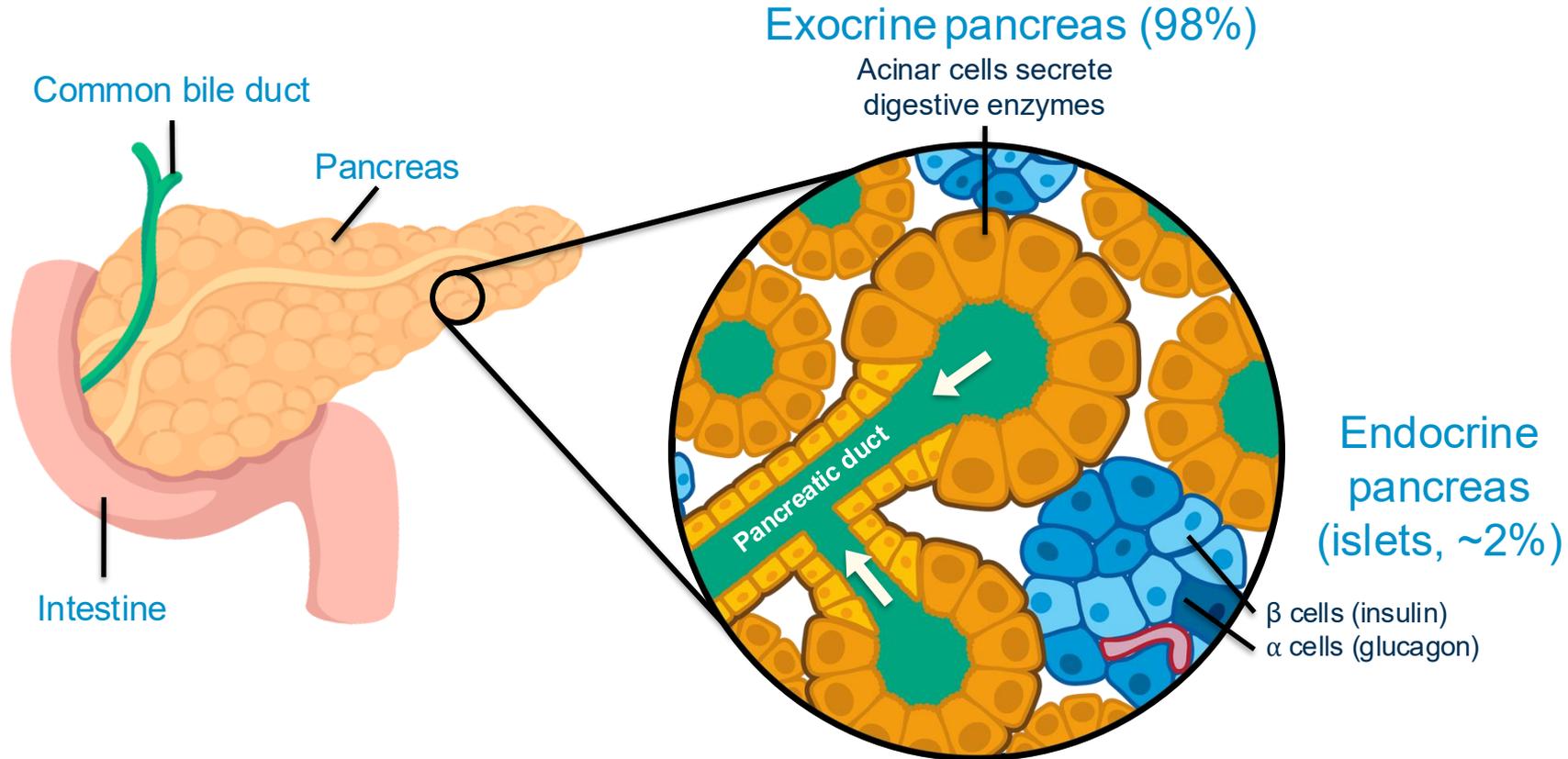
Image Credit: Archives and Special Collections, Columbia University Health Science Library

Andersen DH: Am J Dis Child 56:344-399, 1938

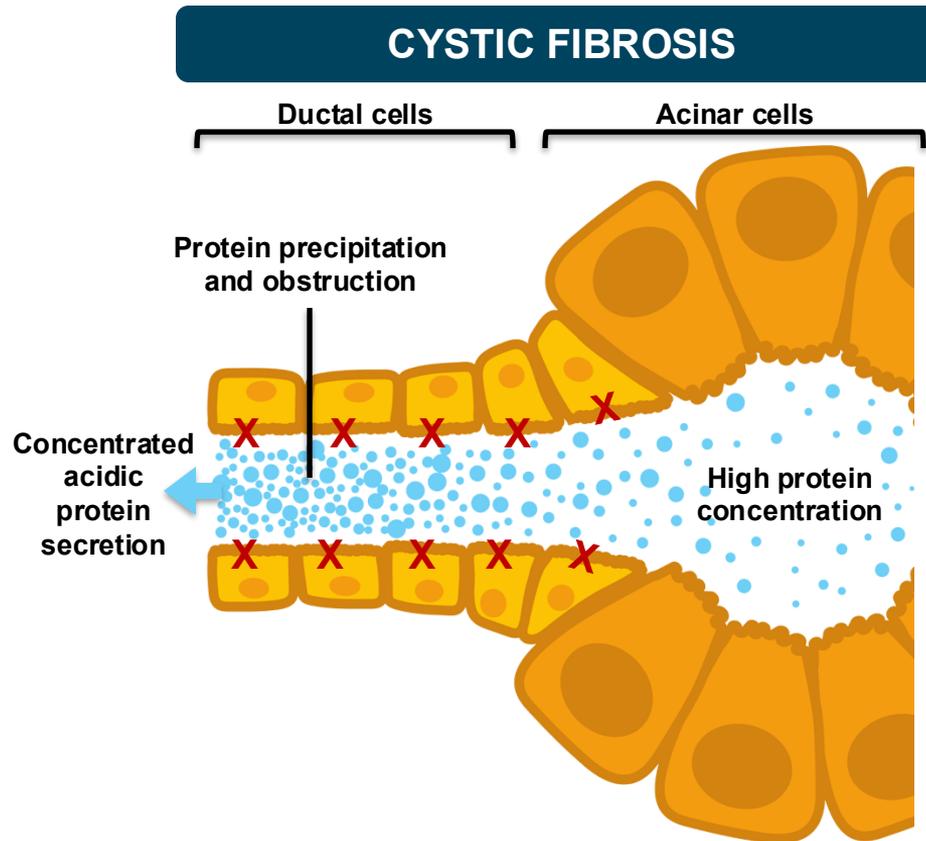
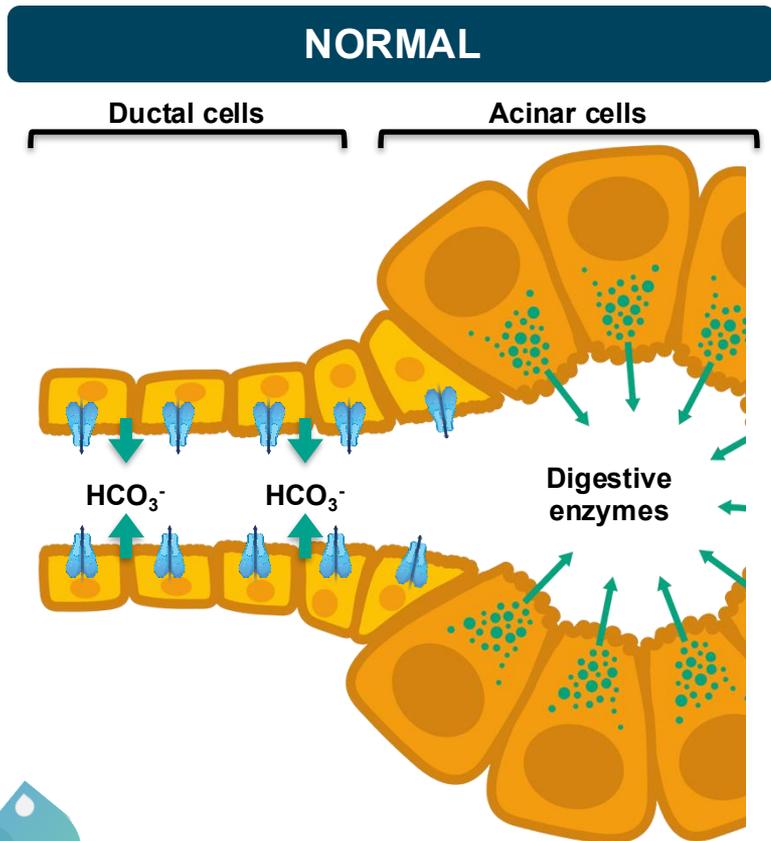


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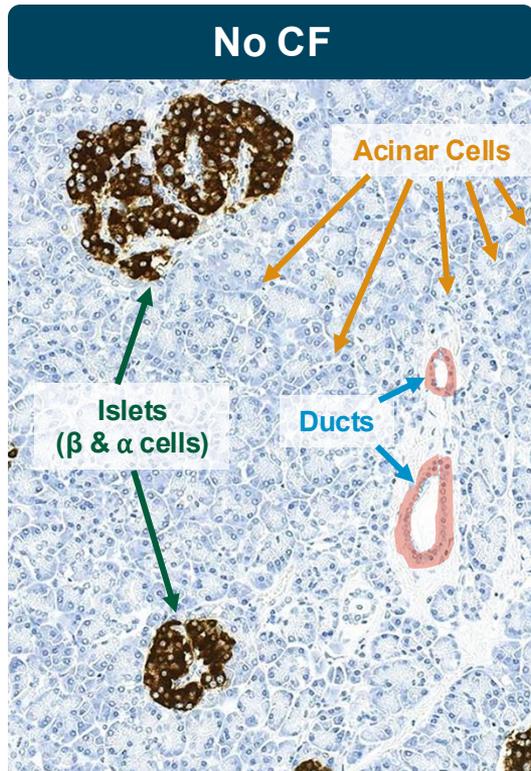
# Overview of the pancreas



# Impact of non-functional CFTR in the pancreas



# Pancreas Pathology in Cystic Fibrosis



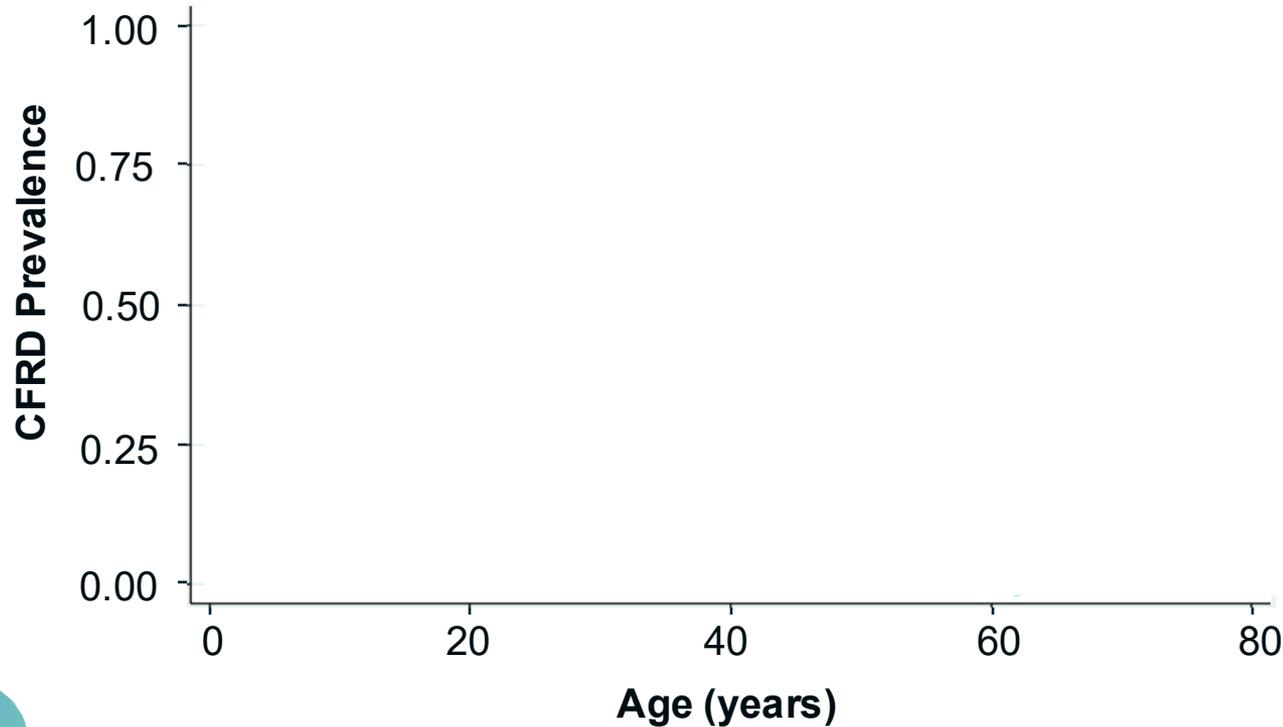
Adapted from Norris et al: J Endocrinol 2019, PMID: 30759072

# Diabetes rates increase with age in people with CFTR mutations of varying severity



Scott Blackman

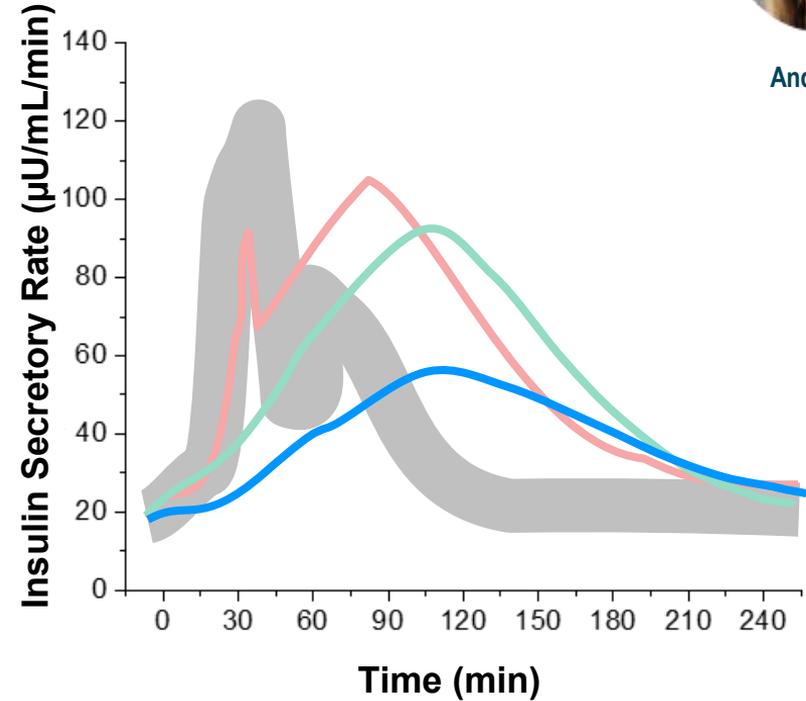
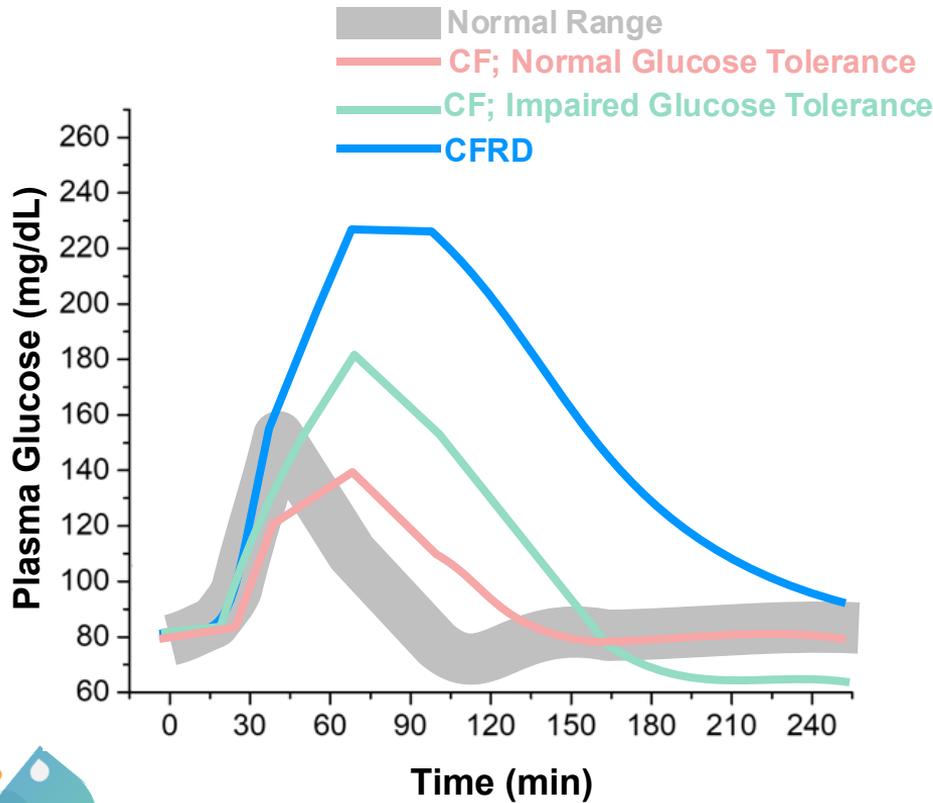
***Note: data are pre-modulators***



# Progressive insulin secretory defect and loss of early-phase insulin secretion in CF

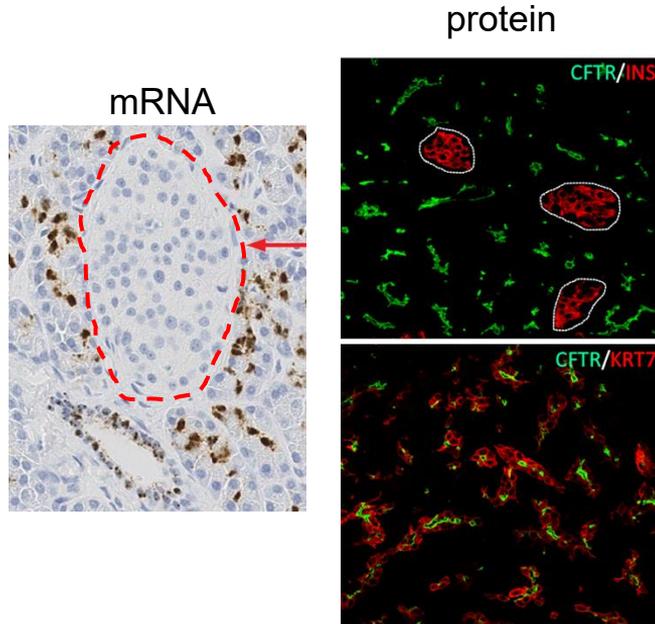


Andi Kelly

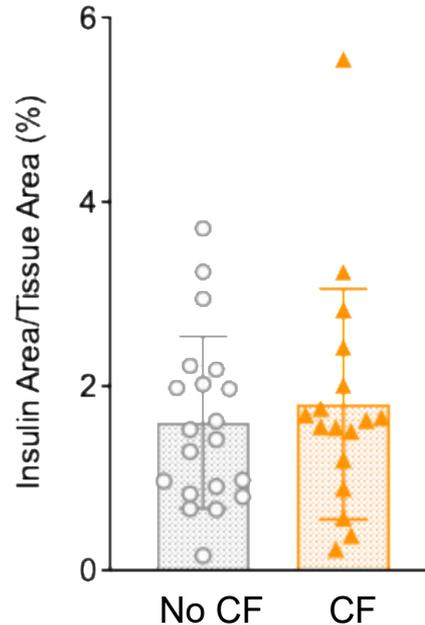


# The islet $\beta$ -cell is relatively spared in CF

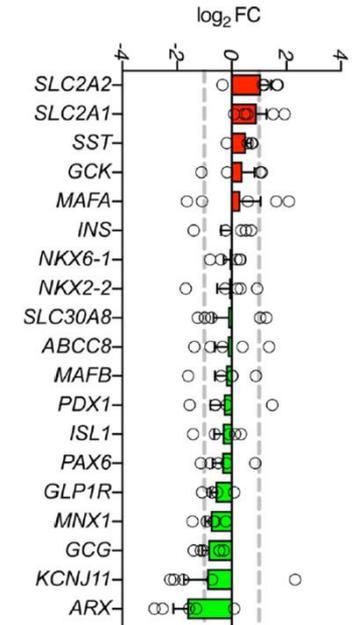
## $\beta$ -cell CFTR synthesis



## $\beta$ -cell abundance



## Islet "genes"



White MJ et al: JCEM, 2019; PMID: 31748811

Hull RL et al: Diabetes Care, 2018; PMID: 29437698

Hart NJ et al: JCI Insight, 2018; PMID 29669939



# Comprehensive analysis of the CF pancreas



Kyle  
Gaulton



Hannah  
Mummy



Sierra  
Corbin



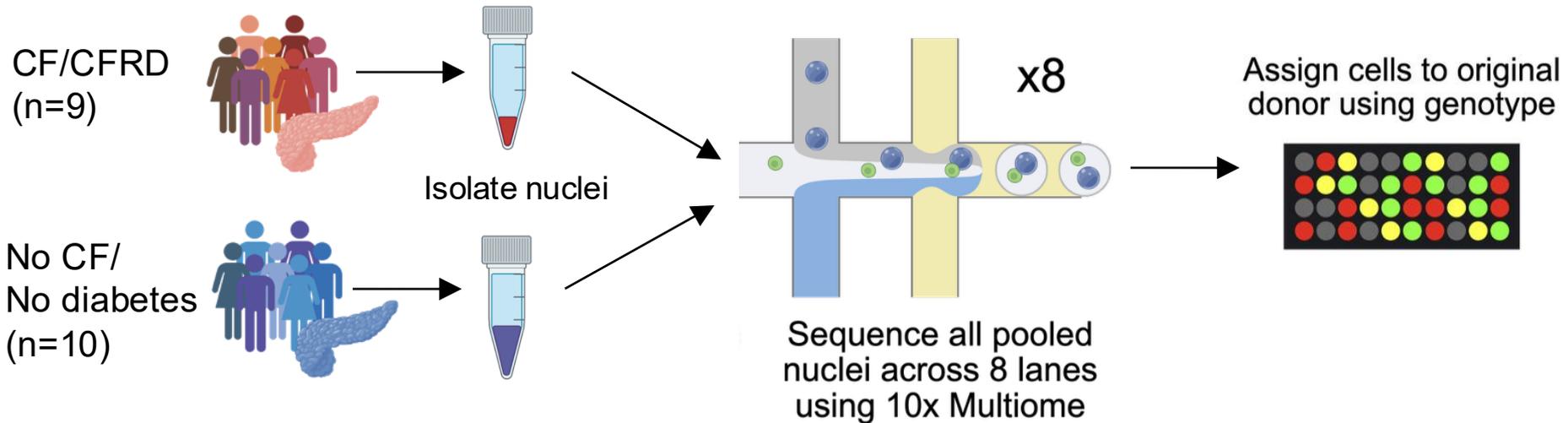
Jacinta  
Lucero



Allen  
Wang



Aga D'Antonio  
-Chronowska

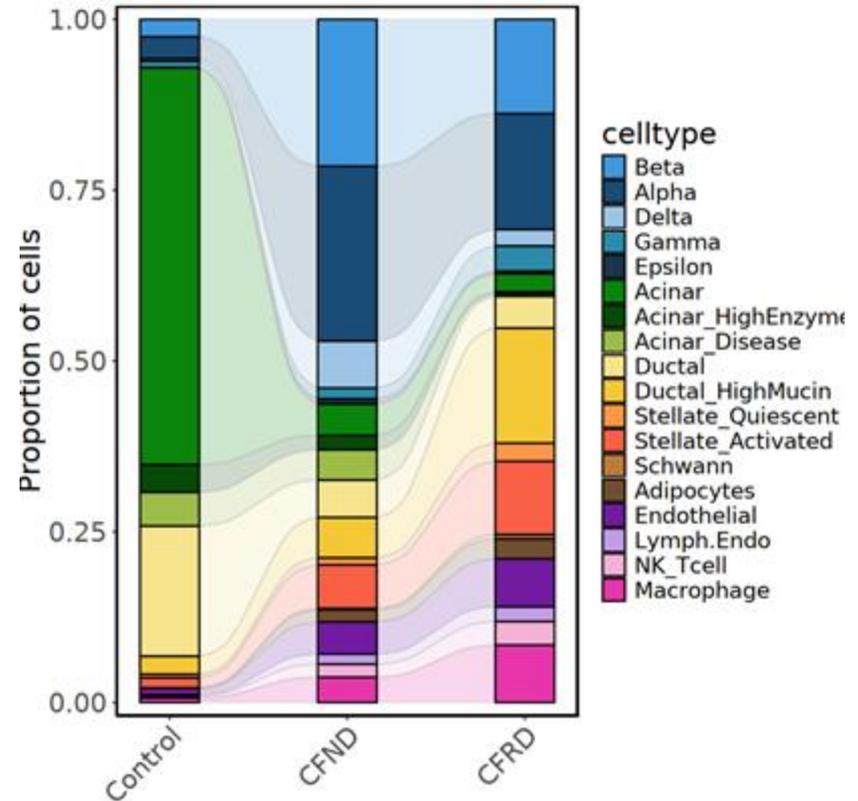


# Single nuclear RNAseq – initial results

Cell map (n=120,075 cells)



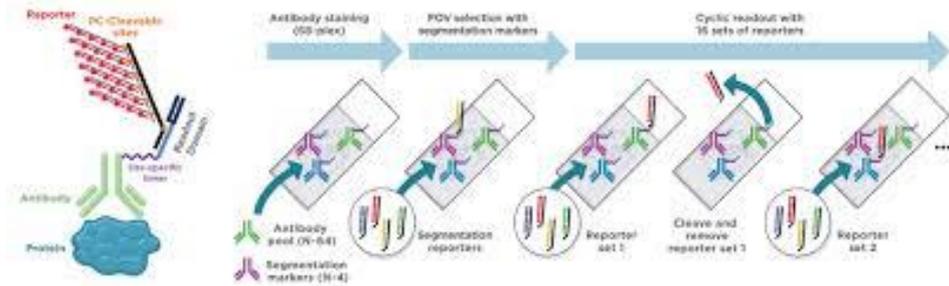
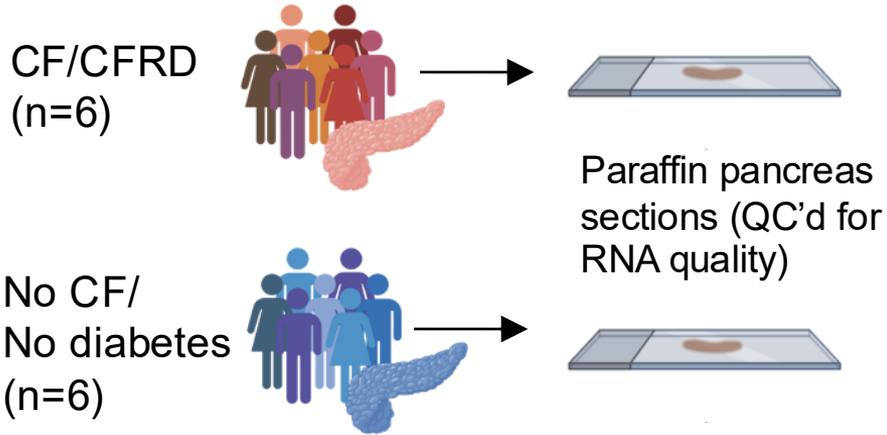
- Beta
- Alpha
- Delta
- Gamma
- Epsilon
- Acinar
- Acinar\_HighEnzyme
- Acinar\_Disease
- Acinar\_Seattle\_CTL2
- Ductal
- Ductal\_HighMucin
- Ductal\_nPOD\_CF3
- Stellate\_Quiescent
- Stellate\_Activated
- Schwann
- Adipocytes
- Endothelial
- Lymph.Endo
- NK\_Tcell
- Macrophage
- Bcell\_NDRI\_CTL1



# Comprehensive analysis of the CF pancreas

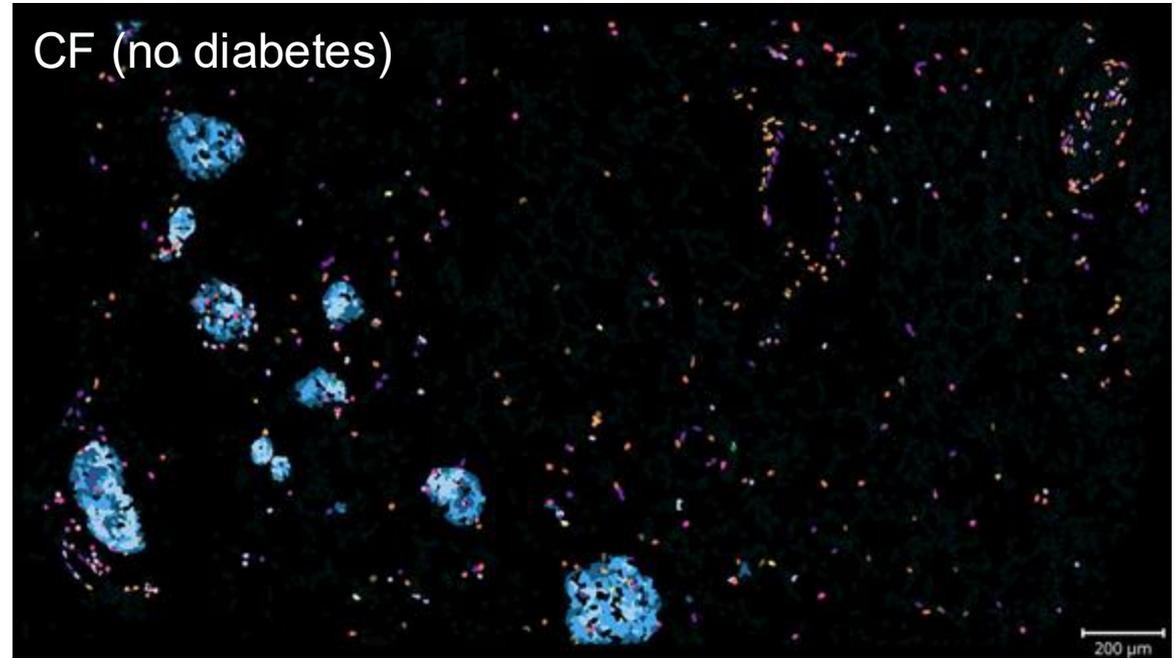
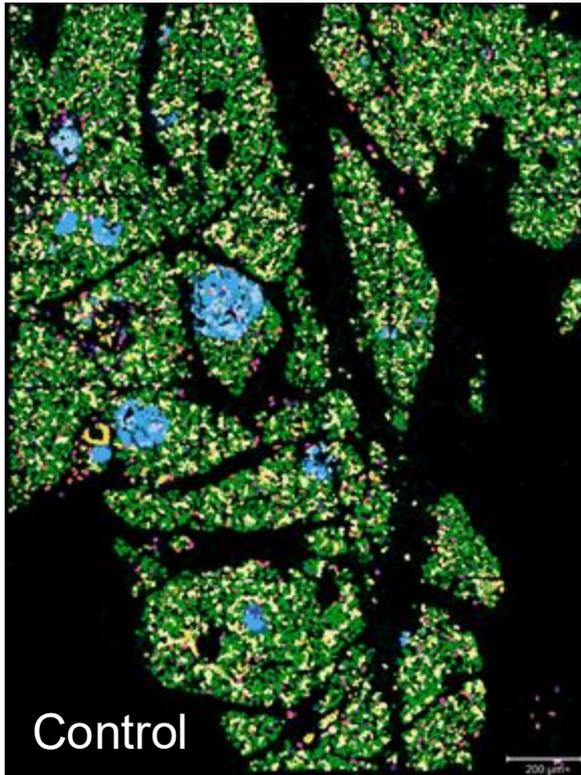


Hannah Mummey



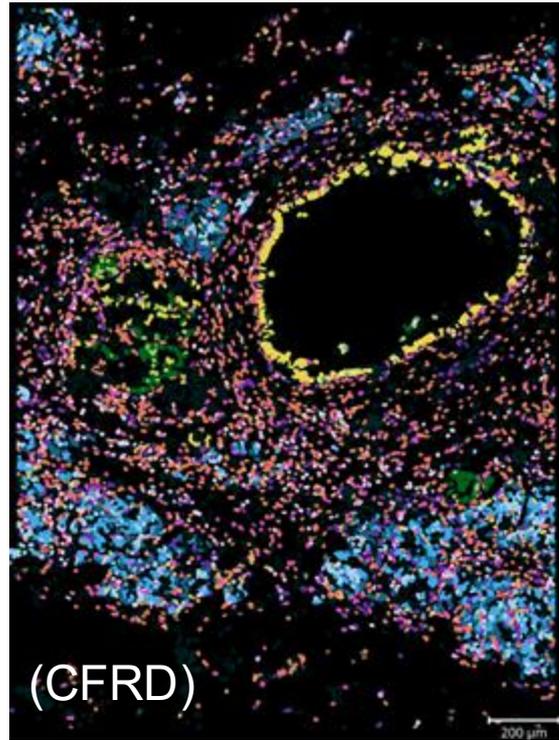
Nanostring CosMx Single Cell Spatial Profiling (1000 gene panel)

# Example images from spatial profiling



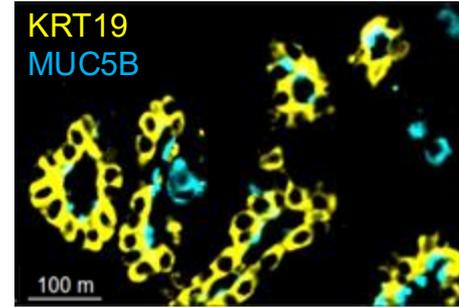
# Next Steps – validation and exploratory analyses

RNA (spatial profiling)

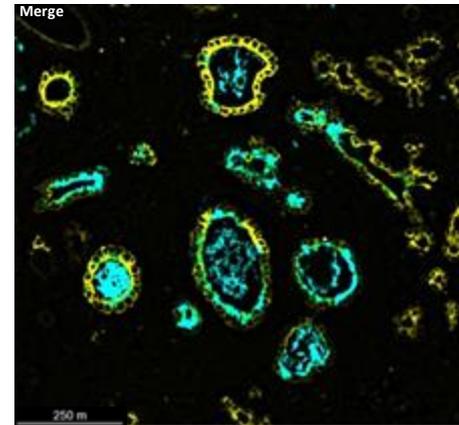


Protein (Immunostaining)

No  
CF



CF  
(<1yo)



Victoria  
Johnston

# Summary

- Diabetes is a common complication of CF and is likely to increase in prevalence as the CF population ages
- Insulin deficiency is common in CF, but the beta cell itself is relatively unaffected
- Multiple cell types within the islet (and pancreas) exhibit abnormalities in abundance, arrangement and phenotype in CF
- Ongoing work to better understand these abnormalities will help develop improved treatment options for people with CFRD



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Hannah Mummey

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HOSPITAL • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION



UW Medicine  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



@RebeccaLHull

## Funding & Support



Canada Excellence  
Research Chairs  
Chaires d'excellence  
en recherche du Canada



**Thank You.**

A decorative graphic consisting of two overlapping circles, one light blue and one teal, with a small orange dot positioned to the right of the teal circle.