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Apr 6th, 9:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Severe Hypoxia Alters Metabolism in Daphnia by Inducing Gluconeogenesis

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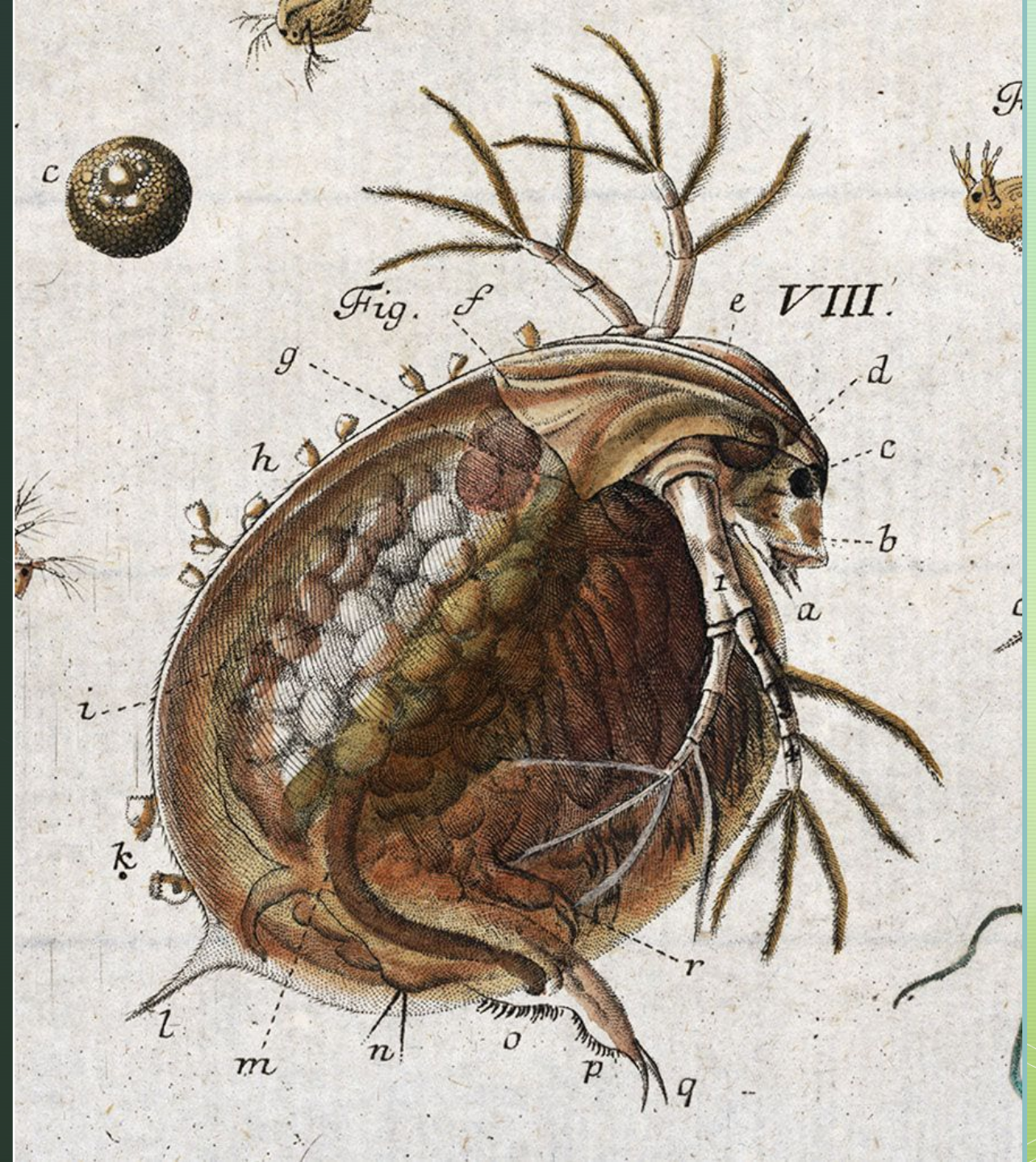
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Severe Hypoxia Induces
Gluconeogenesis in
Daphnia

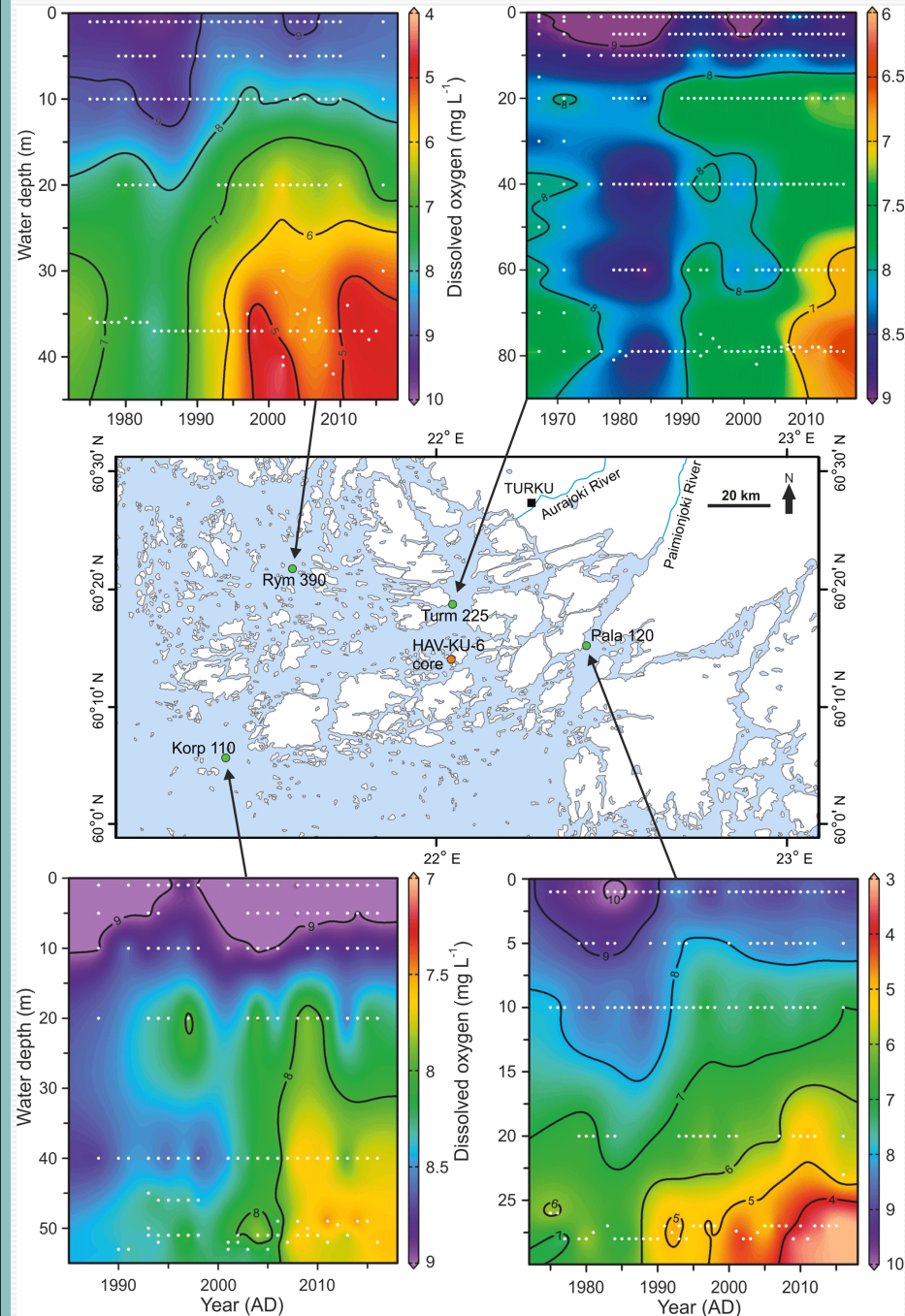
Morad Malek

Dr. Lev Yampolsky's Lab



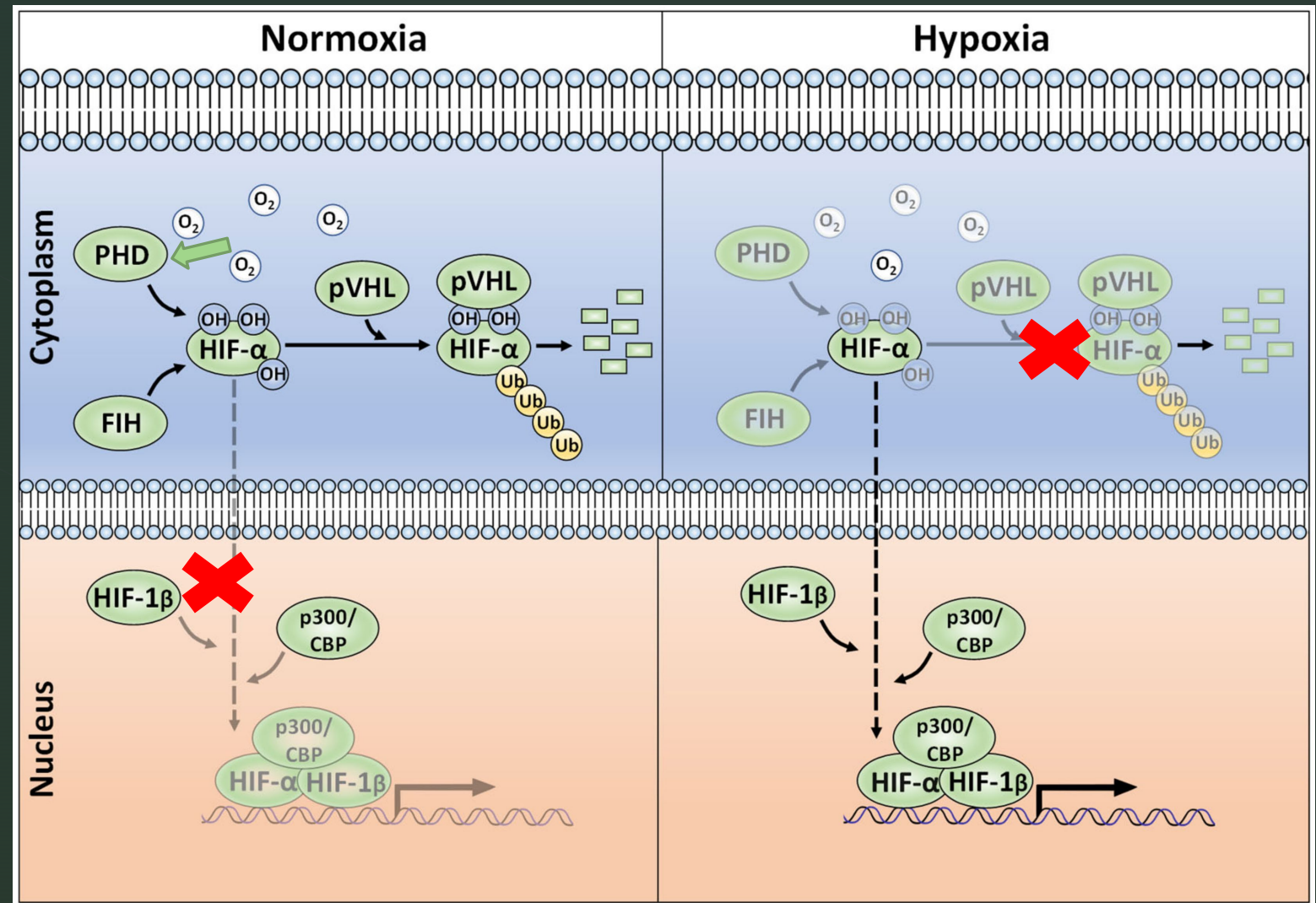
Introduction: Hypoxia

- Hypoxia is an ecological constraint on aquatic organisms
- O₂ concentrations in aquatic habitats can fluctuate from 300% to near complete anoxia
- We want to understanding the effects of hypoxia on life - including adaption.



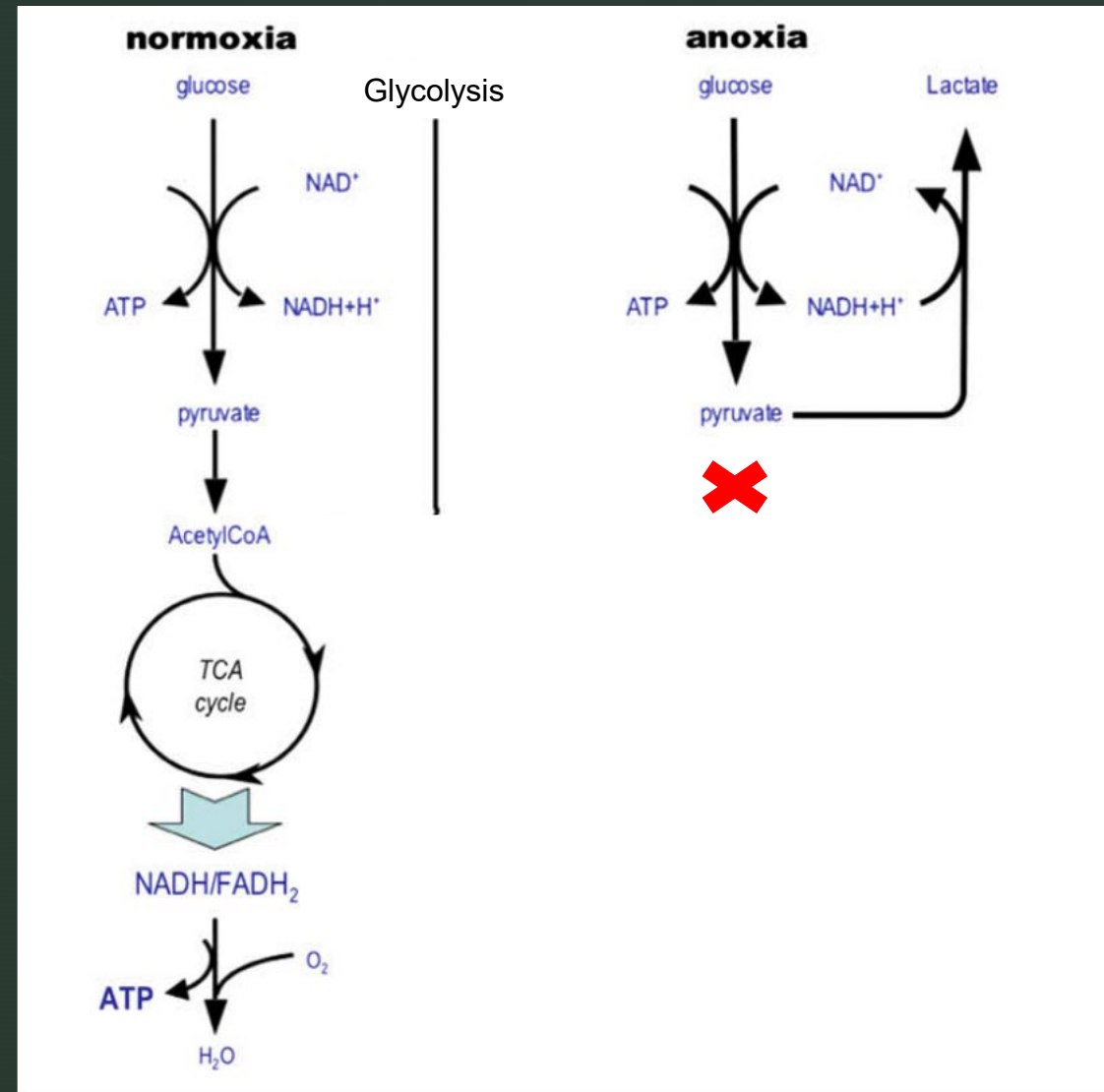
Genetic Responses to Hypoxia

- Hypoxia inducible factors (HIFs) are the main hypoxia response genes
- Once activated, HIFs alter the transcription of hundreds of downstream genes
- Genes involved in metabolic compensation, O₂ delivery...what else?



Metabolic Changes During Hypoxia

- Oxidative phosphorylation stops
- Glycolysis takes over to produce energy, with pyruvate made that is converted to lactate
- This is bad because the body will lose significant amounts of ATP



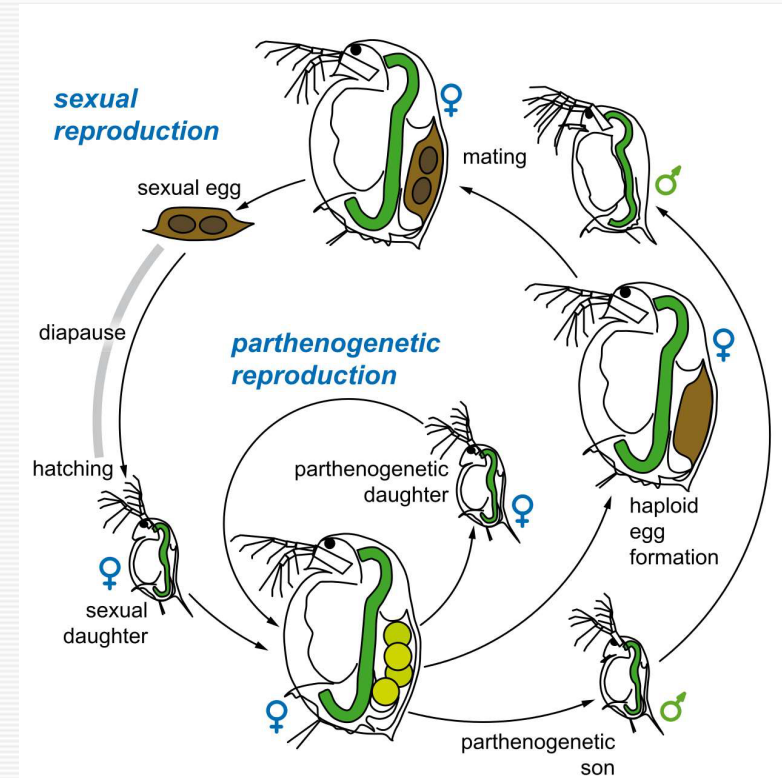
Research Questions:

- What metabolic changes occur during severe hypoxia?
- Are these metabolic changes adaptive do they show genotype-by-environment interaction?
- Used *Daphnia magna* as a model organism for an RNA-seq and survival in hypoxia experiment



Methods: *Daphnia*

- *Daphnia magna* are freshwater micro-crustaceans
- They can reproduce identical female clones of themselves
- We used 4 clones: 2 intermittent hypoxia prone, 2 not prone

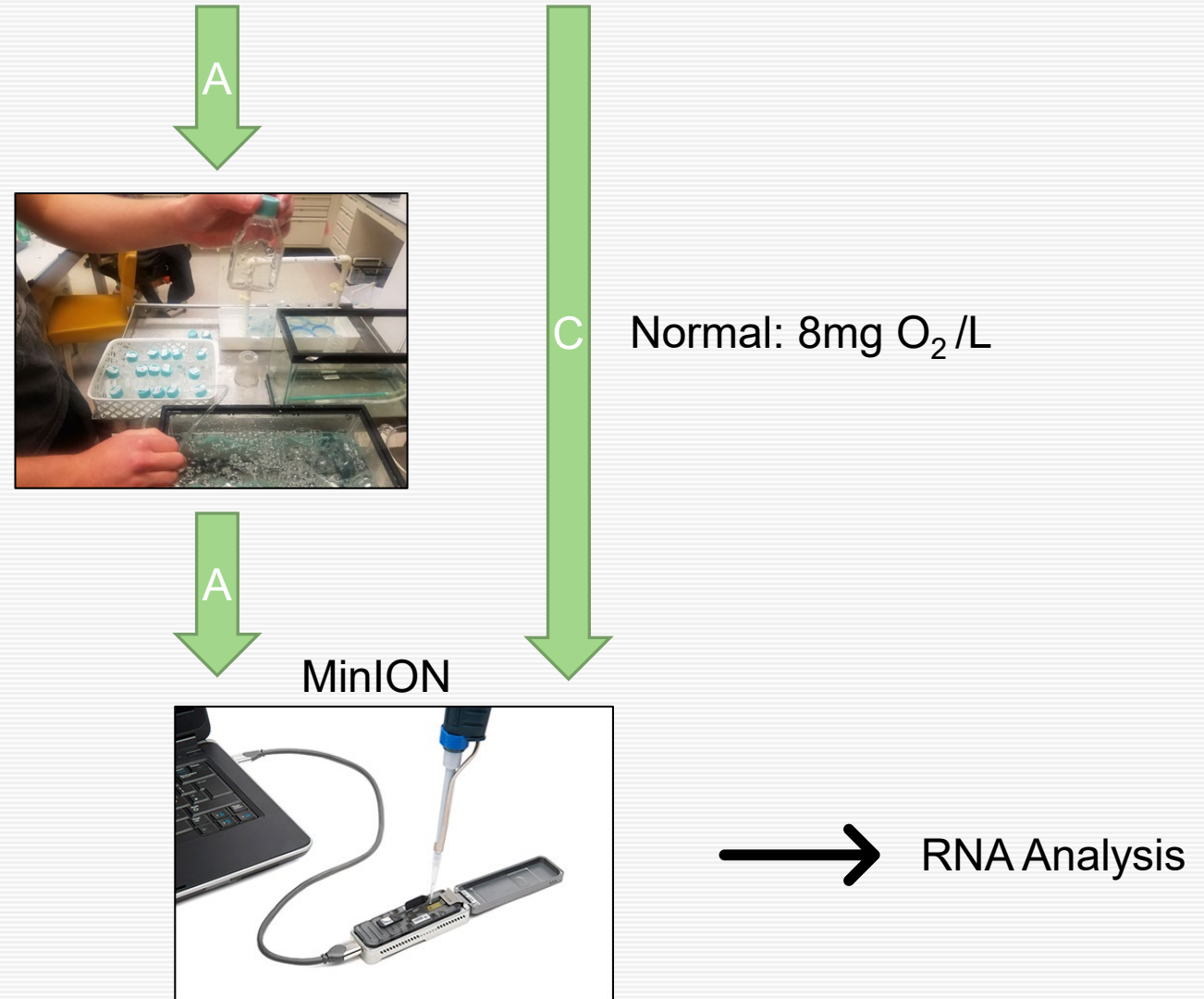


CLONE ID	LOCATION	HABITAT
IL-M1-8	Jerusalem, Israel	Intermittent mediterranean pond
FI-FSP1-16-2	Suur-Pellinki, Finland	Intermittent summer rock pool
GB-EL75-69	London, UK	Permanent pond
HU-K-6	Hungary	Permanent lake

Methods: Acute Severe Hypoxia

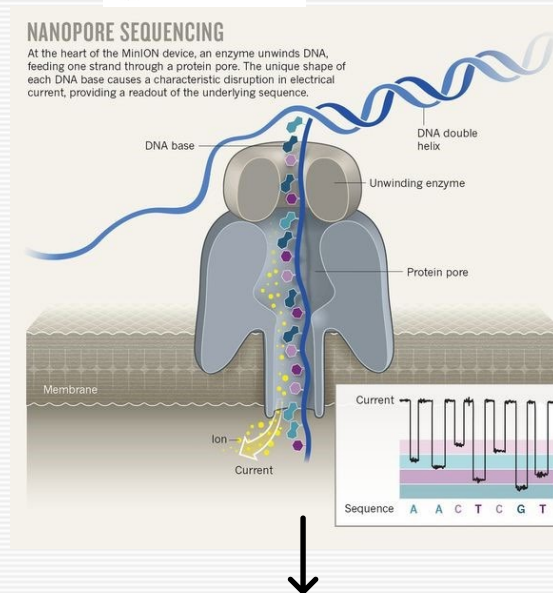
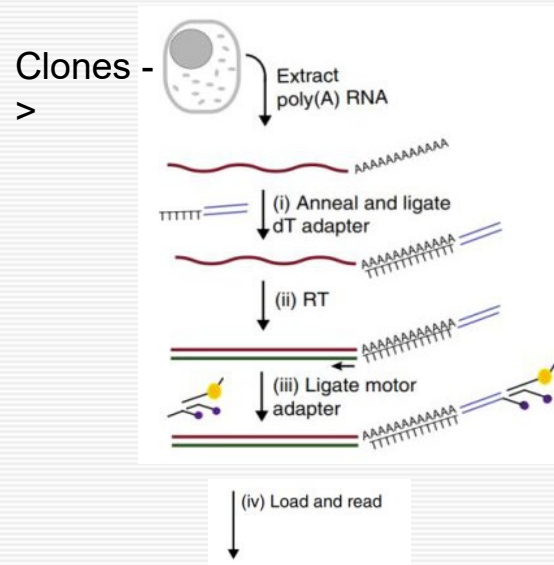
- We reared our 4 clones to normal O₂ (8mg O₂/L)
- Exposed to 12h of acute hypoxia (1 mg O₂/L) – Control kept at normal
- Removed some clones for RNA seq and analysis using MinION

72 Daphnia (24 per clone)



Methods: RNA seq & analysis

- Extracted RNA from full *Daphnia*, then sequenced copy-DNA and aligned them to reference transcriptome
- Used gene ontology analysis GO (gene clusters) to see what gene pathways are up/down-regulated



Raw read data

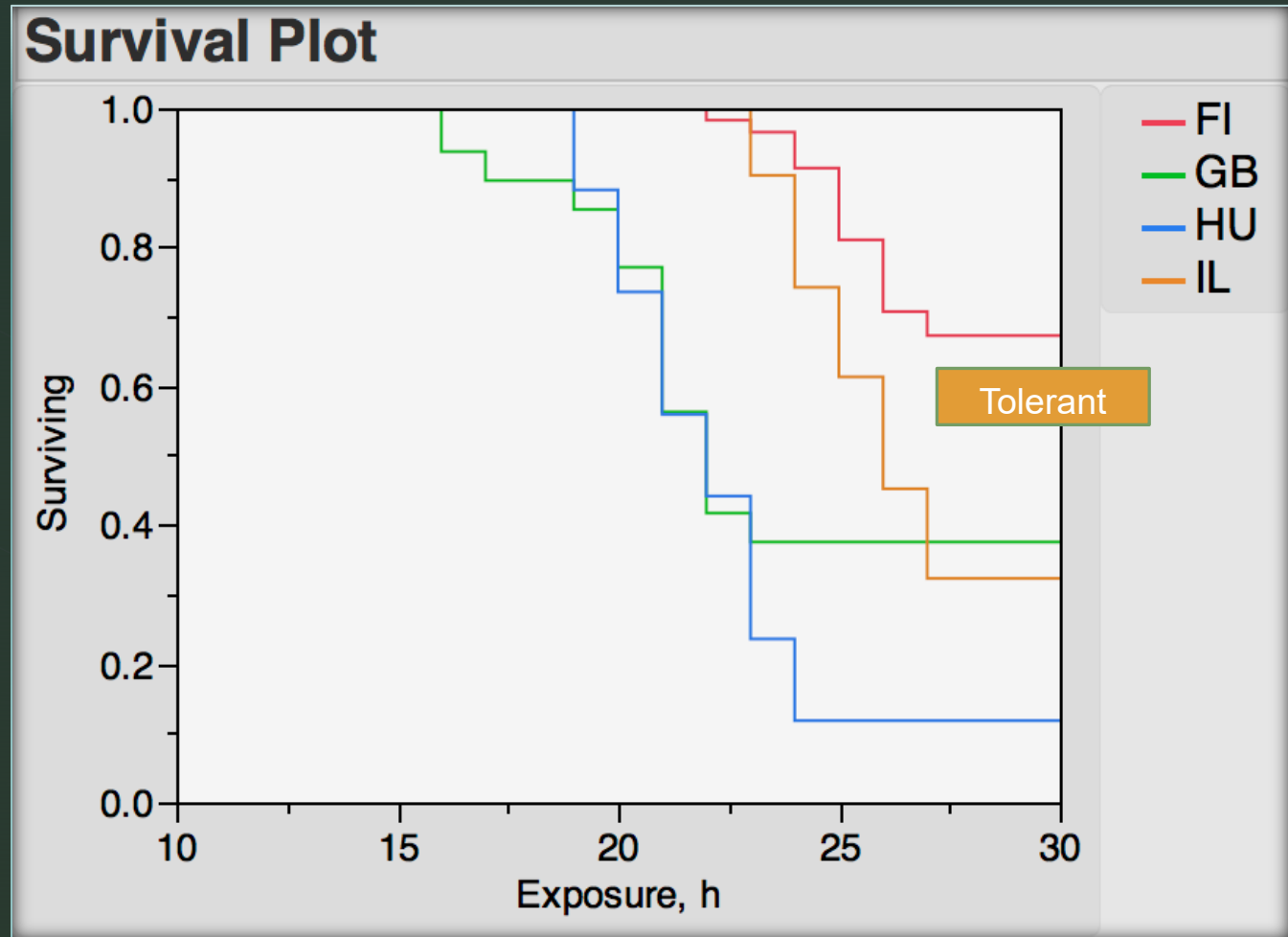
Align reads to reference transcriptome



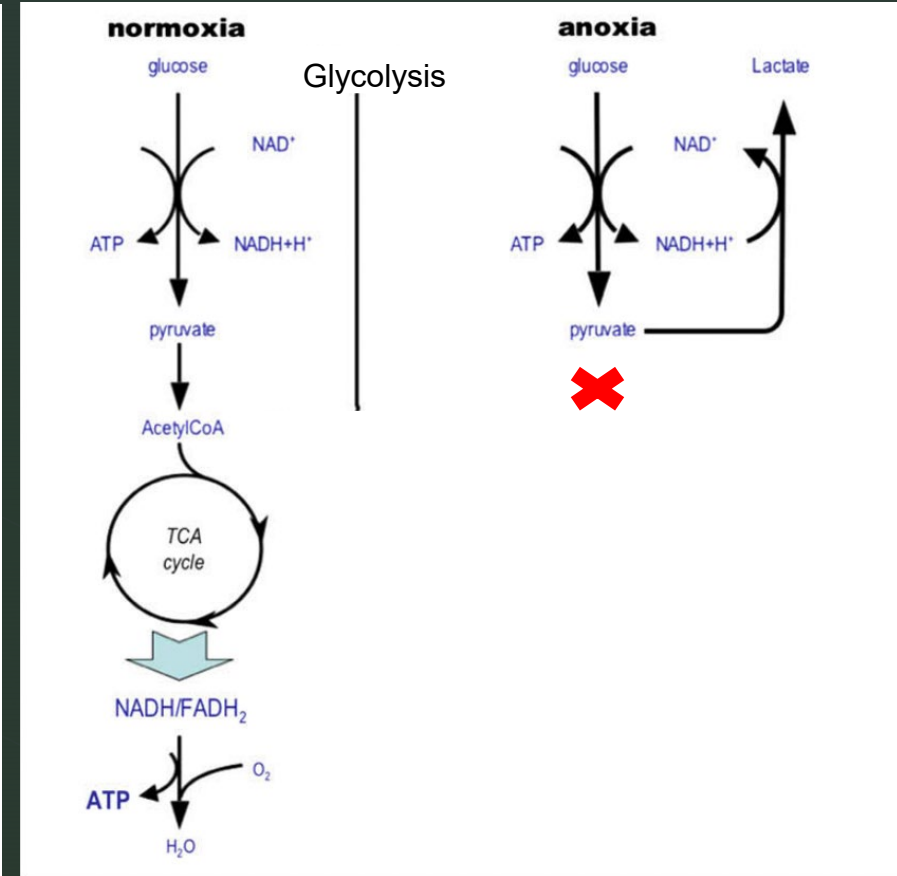
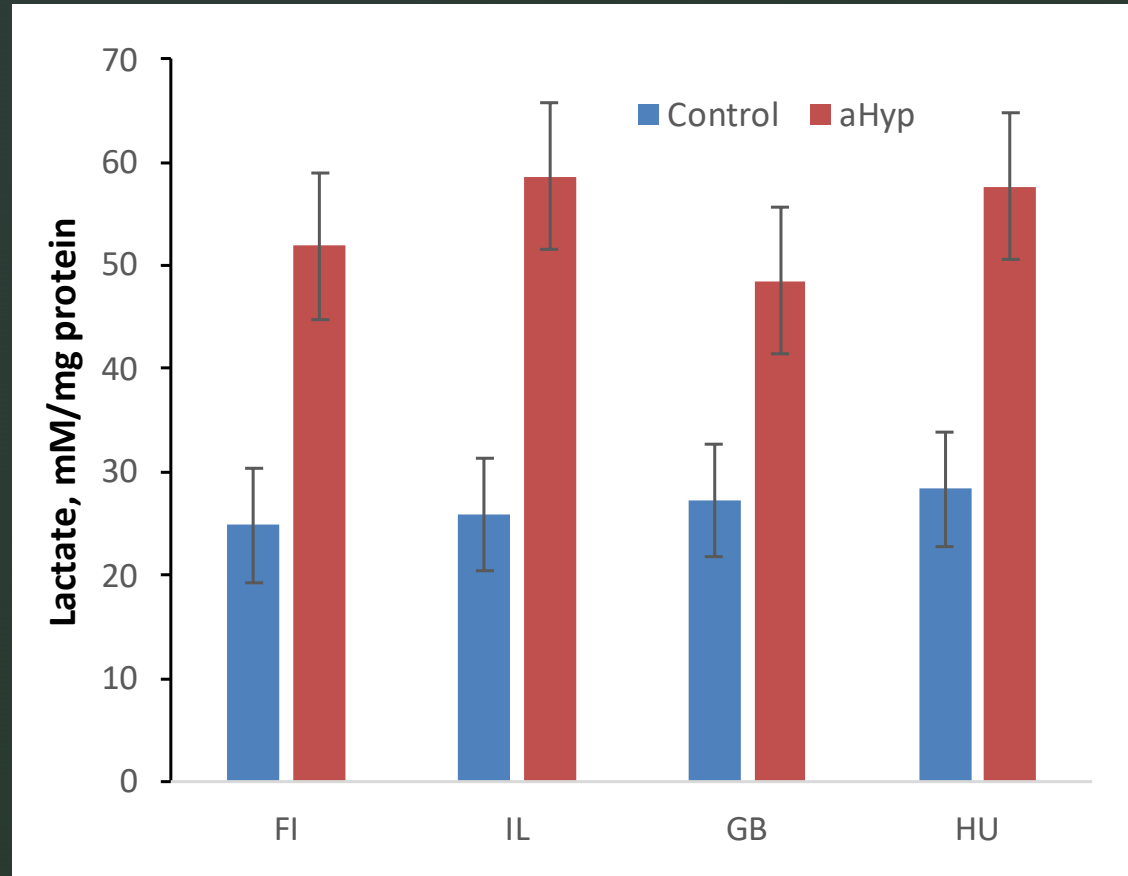
Statistical tests:
ANOVA, likelihood ratio test,
Principle component analysis...

Results: Hypoxia Survival

- The clones originating from hypoxia waters generally have better survival in severe hypoxia
- However, results are limited by only having 4 clones



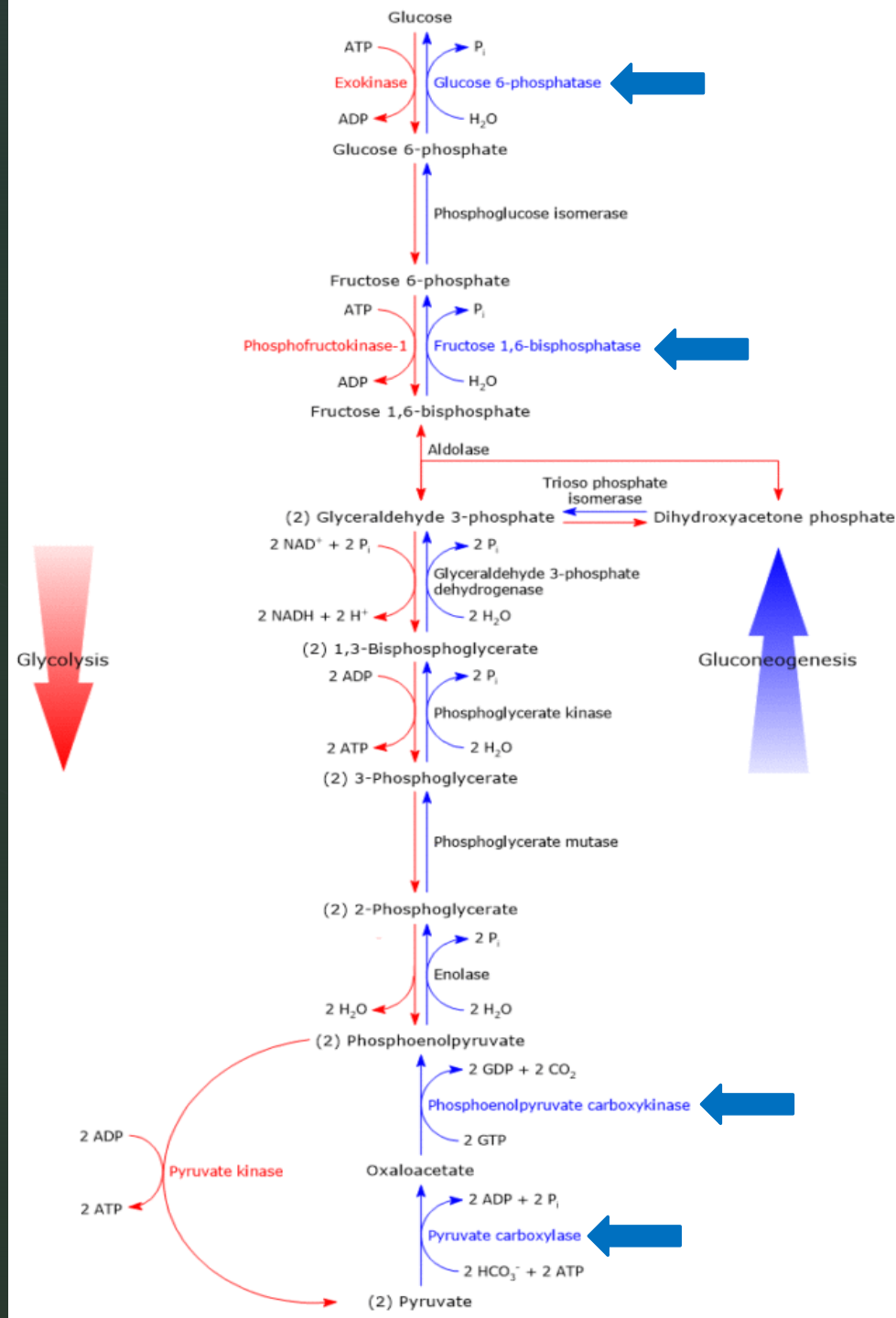
▶ Lactate Response to Hypoxia



- Not surprising, but what else can pyruvate do?

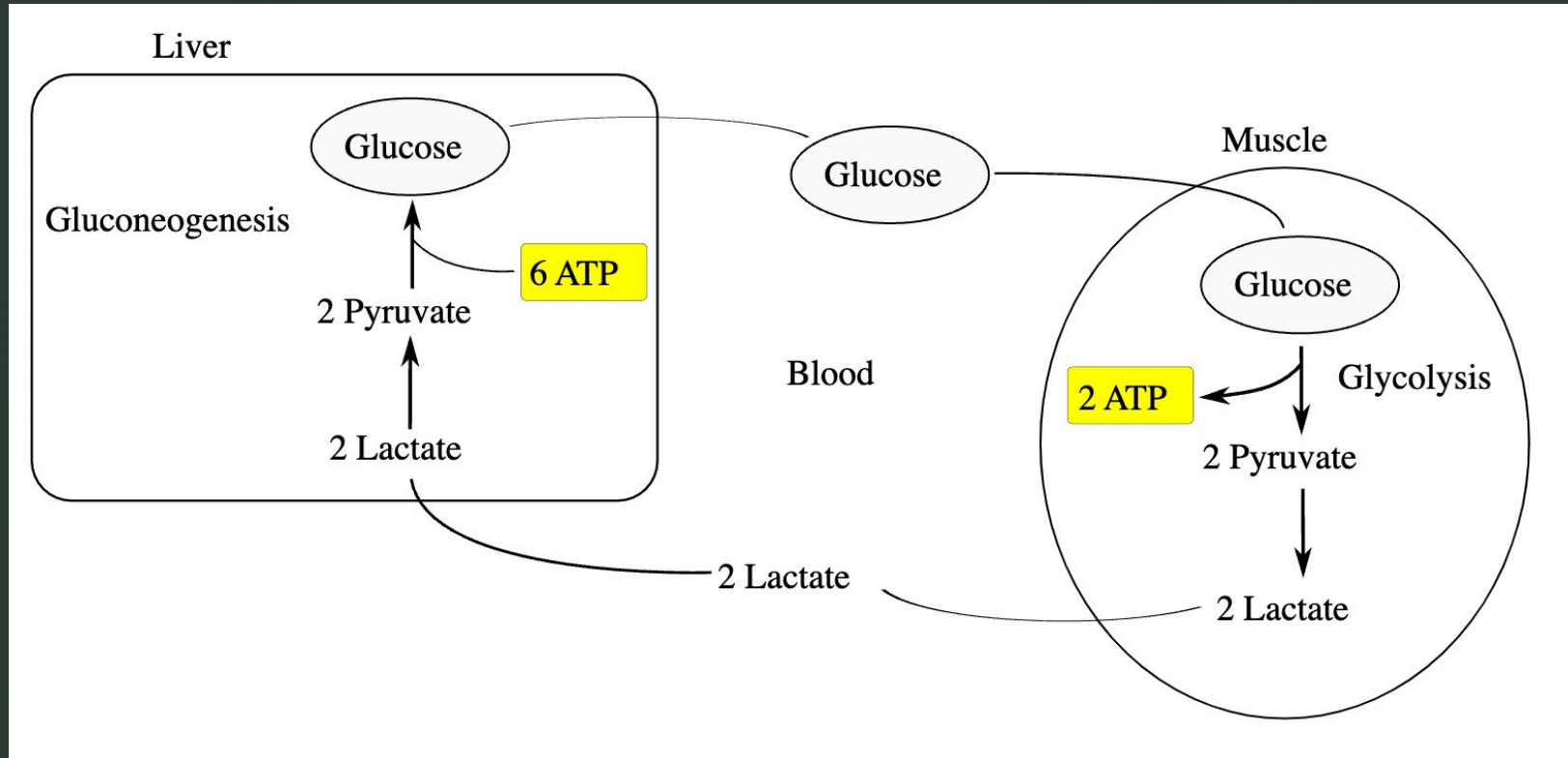
Gluconeogenesis (GNG)

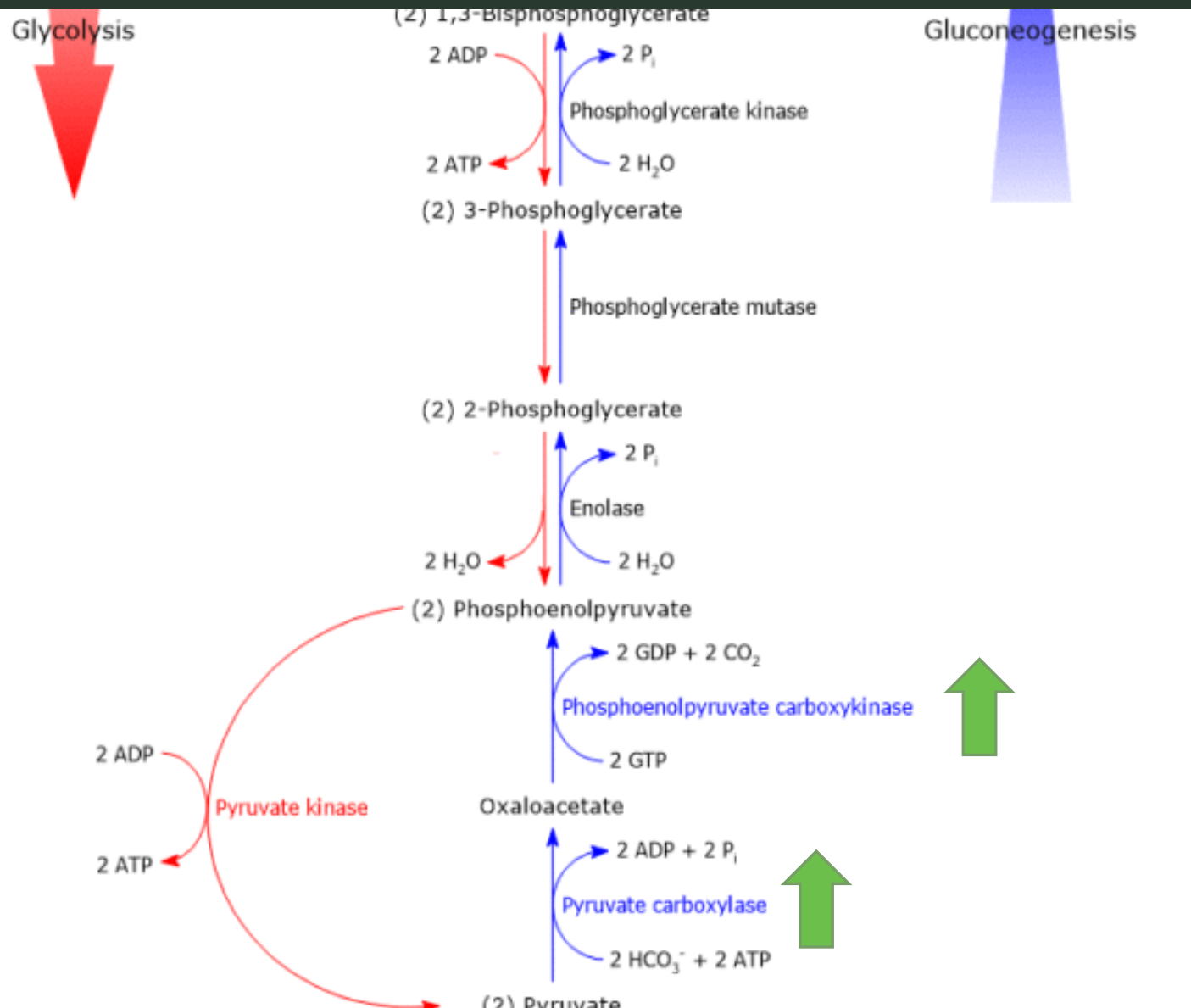
- GNG is the opposite of glycolysis.
- The pathway is mostly the same as glycolysis with “gates”



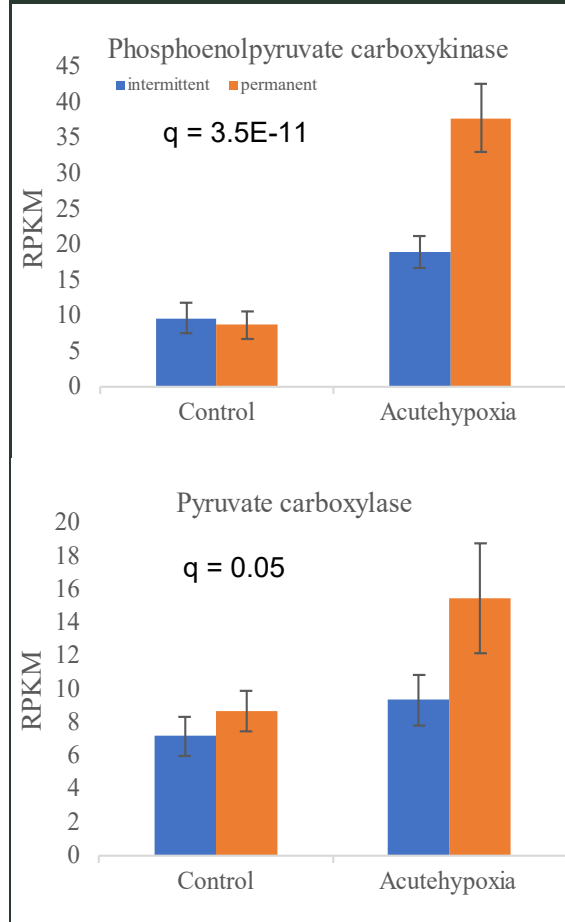
Cori Cycle

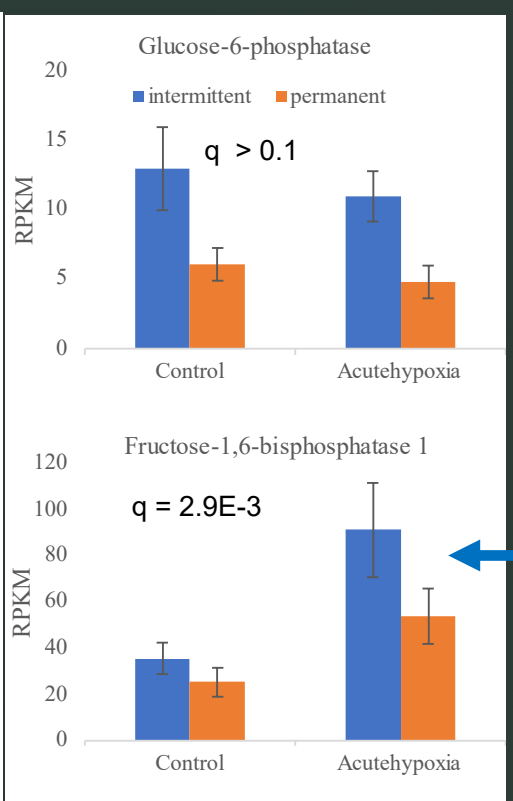
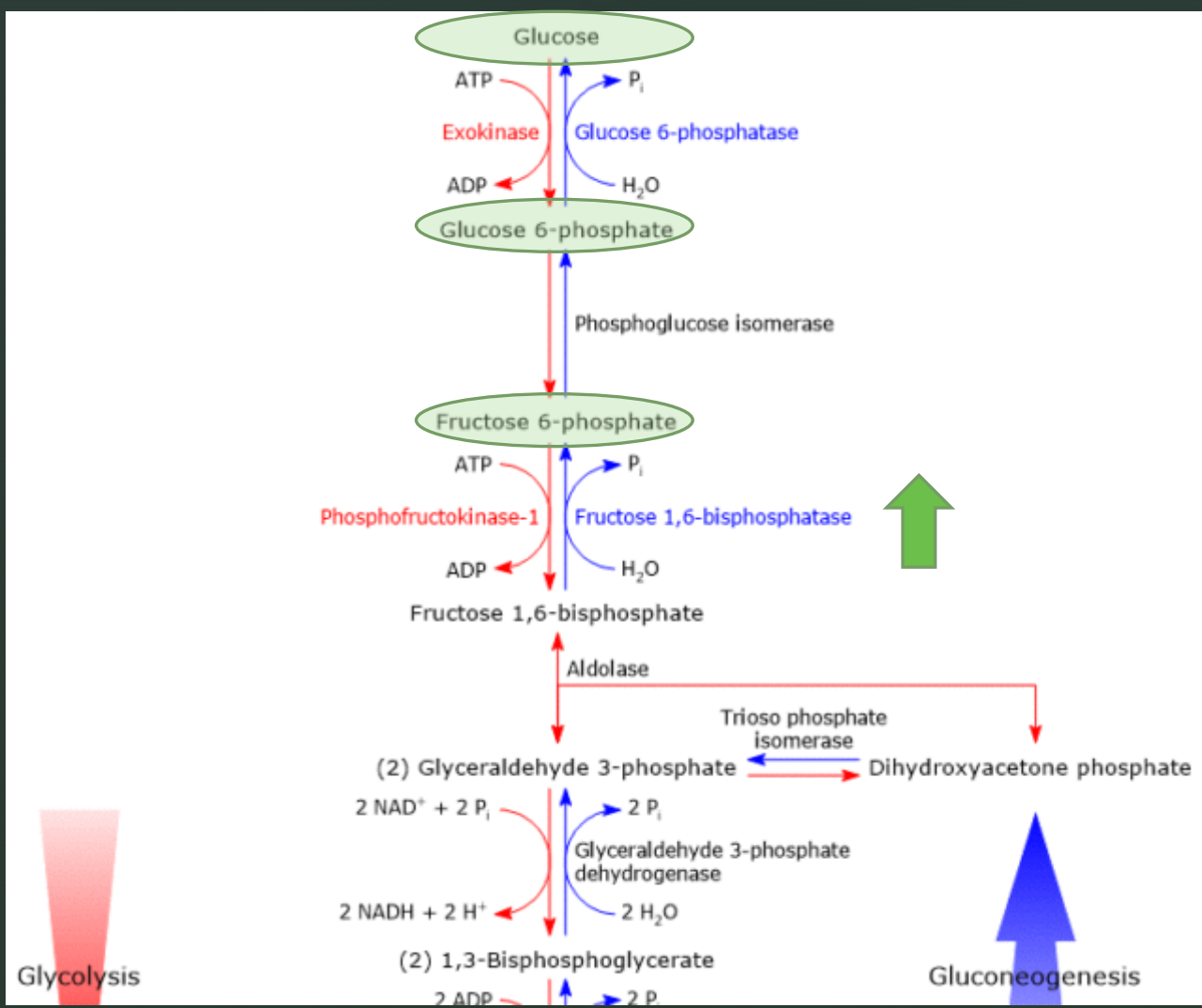
Why would both pathways occur at the same time?





- We see significant up-regulation in (3/4) key GNG transcripts

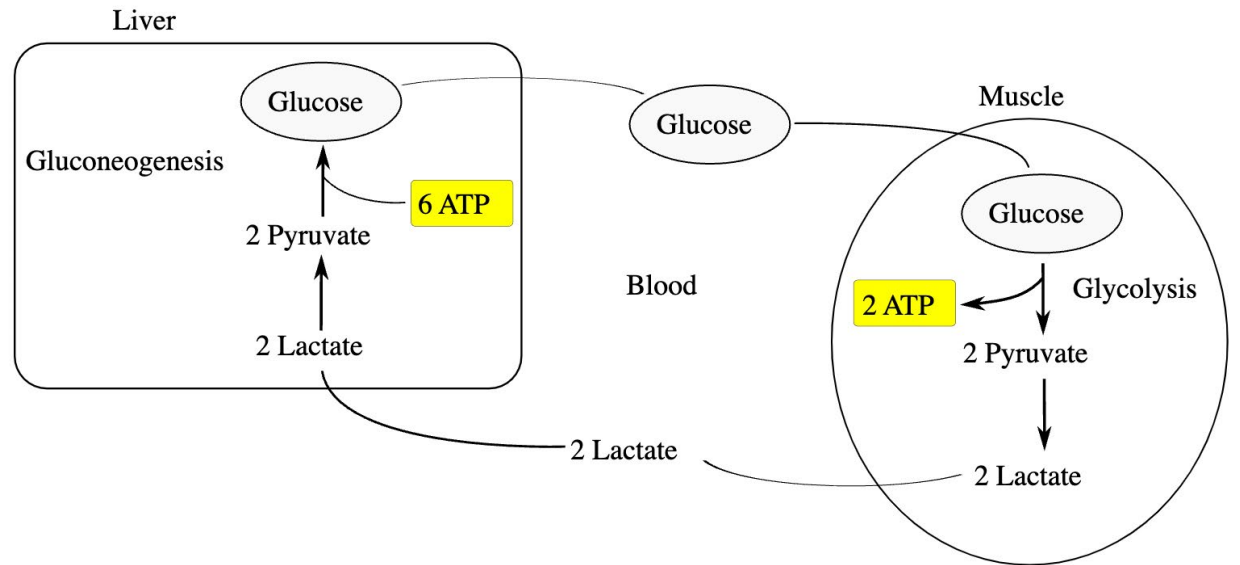




Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate is the only one for hypoxia tolerant clones that is more up-regulated

- Possible protective effect

Conclusions:



- Hypoxia tolerance appears to show genotype-by-environment interactions – but more clones needed
- Overall, we can add GNG to the list of possible metabolic compensation changes that occur during hypoxia.
- Cori cycle activation (compartmentalized) by HIFs
- Could be conserved across invertebrates Vora et al. (2021)

Future work:

Expand the number of clones to 24



Full meta-omics analysis – metabolites, etc.



Tissue specific RNA sequencing

Any Questions?



Acknowledgments

- Dr. Lev Yampolsky, Cora Anderson, Millicent Ekwudo, and Taraysha Moore
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