



HALF OF WHAT WE KNOW  
ABOUT COPD IS **WRONG**...

...**BUT WHICH** HALF?





# OBJECTIVES

- **Identify the latest concepts in the pathogenesis and diagnosis of COPD & their relationship to previous understandings of the condition**
- **Understand new treatment algorithms and their underlying evidence**
- **Describe future opportunities for COPD research (including prevention and diagnostics)**

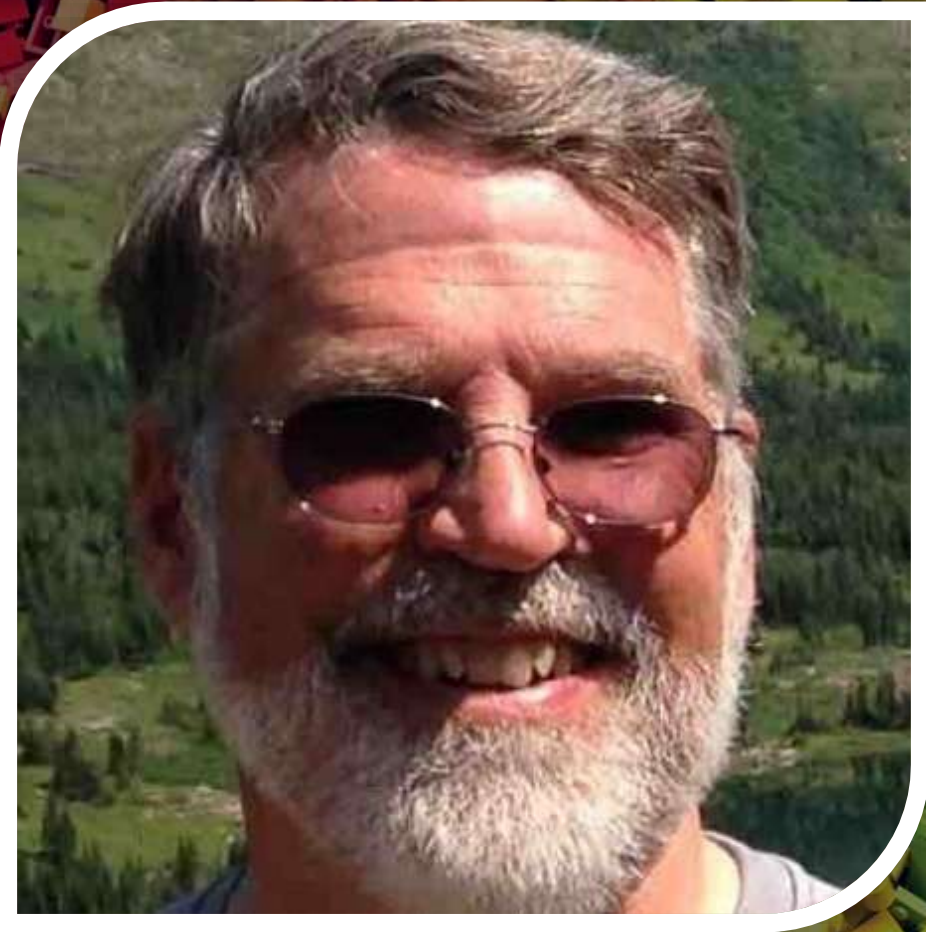




# ABOUT/DISCLOSURES

- **Senior Director, Public Outreach and Education, COPD Foundation**
- **Chronic Lung Disease Coordinator, WMed Health**
  
- **No industry disclosures/conflicts**

















# THE EVOLUTION OF COPD

Half Of What We Know About COPD...

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# THE FIRST THINGS WE KNEW

- **Asthma, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema are **NOT** separate disease states**
- **Chronic, Non-Specific Lung Disease (CNSLD) was one pathology with multiple pathways**

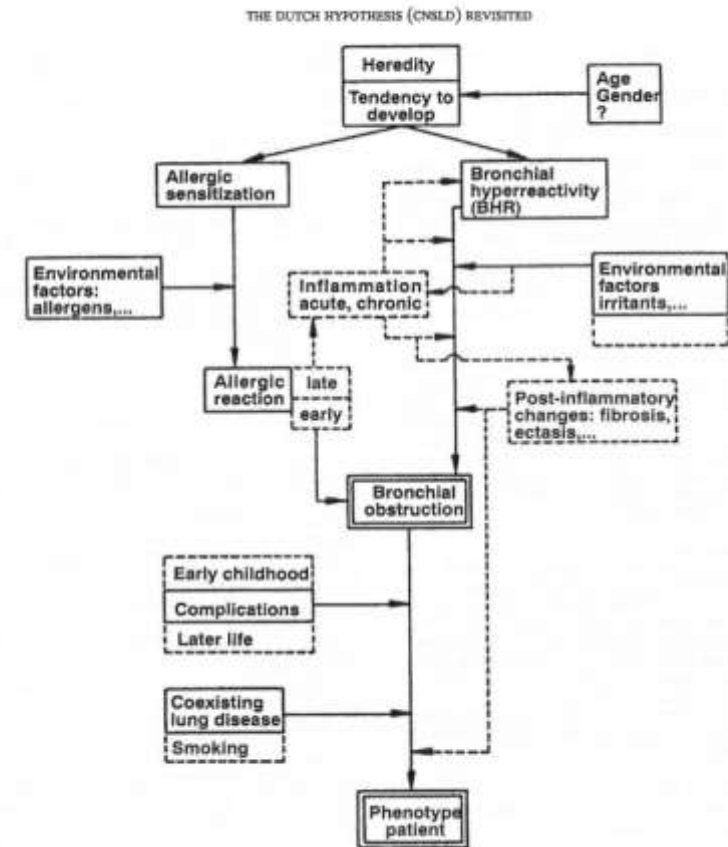
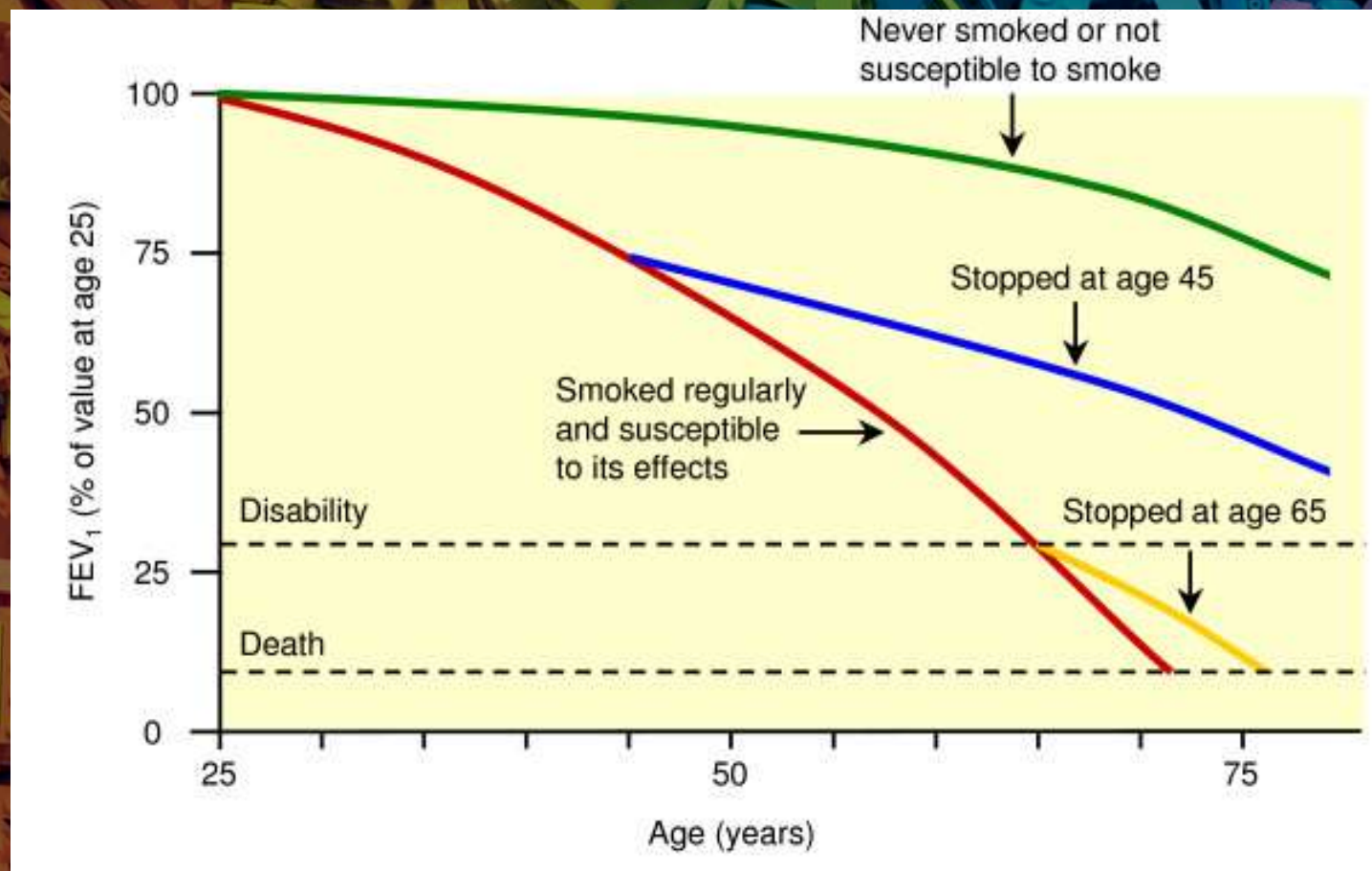


Fig. 1. - Schematic presentation of the Dutch Hypothesis 1990. The dotted lines indicate the increase in knowledge and insight in the period between 1951 and 1990.

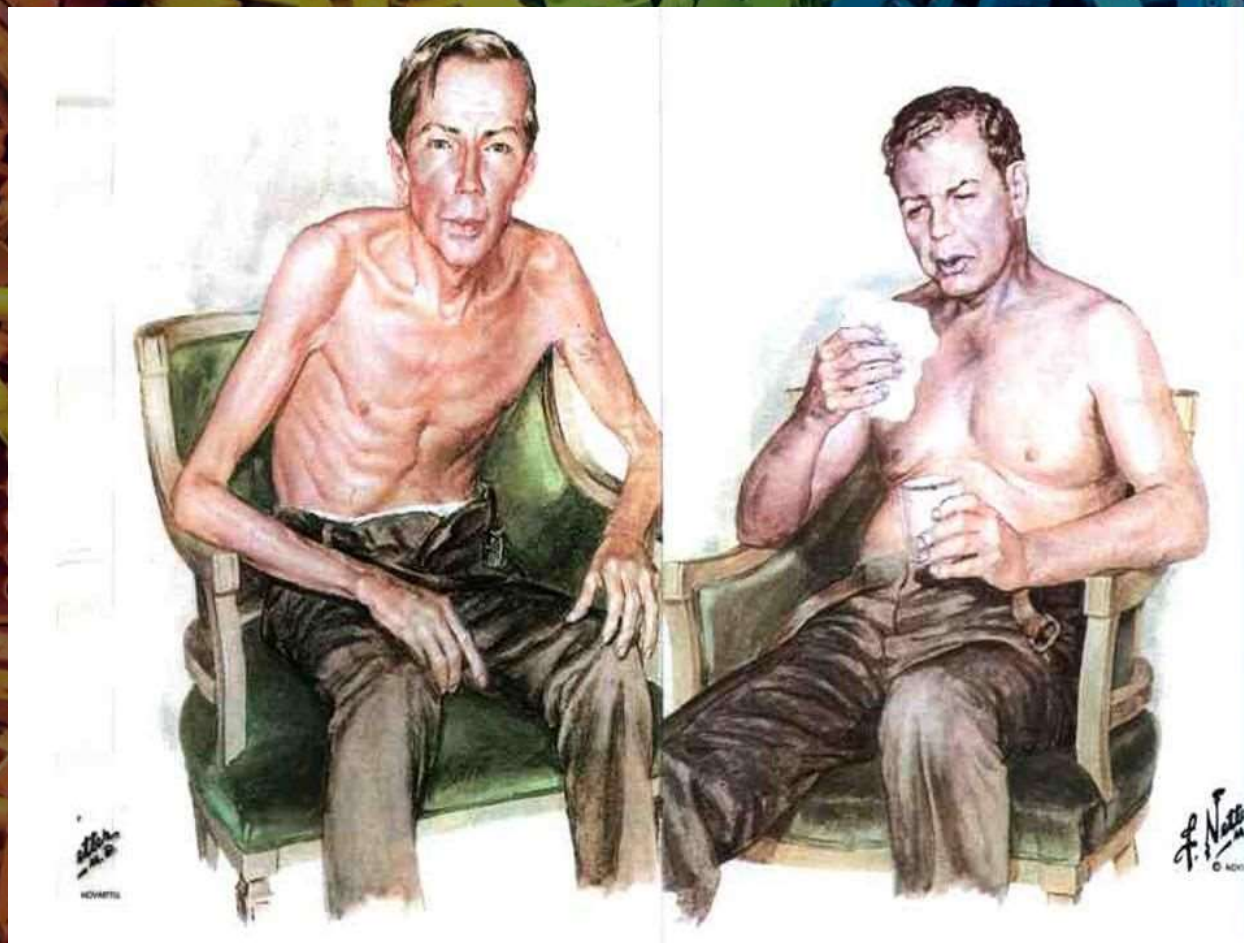


# WE KNOW WE CAN DO (ALMOST) NOTHING





NOW WE KNOW THERE ARE TWO





# CHRONIC BRONCHITIS

CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS: DAILY PRODUCTIVE COUGH FOR THREE MONTHS OR MORE, IN AT LEAST TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS

OVERWEIGHT AND CYANOTIC



ELEVATED HEMOGLOBIN



PERIPHERAL EDEMA



RHONCHI AND WHEEZING

# EMPHYSEMA

PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS: PERMANENT ENLARGEMENT AND DESTRUCTION OF AIRSPACES DISTAL TO THE TERMINAL BRONCHIOLE

OLDER AND THIN

SEVERE DYSPNEA

QUIET CHEST



X-RAY: HYPERINFLATION WITH FLATTENED DIAPHRAGMS



# THE GOLDEN ERA

**“COPD is a disease state characterized by airflow limitation that is not fully reversible. The airflow limitation is usually both progressive and associated with an abnormal inflammatory response of the lungs to noxious particles or gases.”**





# THE GOLDEN ERA

Spirometrically confirmed diagnosis



Assessment of airflow obstruction

Post-bronchodilator  
 $FEV_1/FVC < 0.7$

GRADE	FEV <sub>1</sub> (% predicted)
GOLD 1	≥ 80
GOLD 2	50-79
GOLD 3	30-49
GOLD 4	< 30







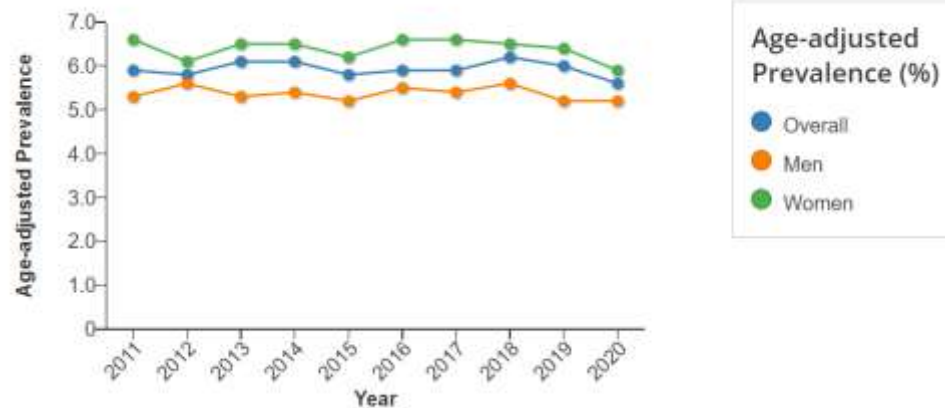
# WHY DO WE **CARE** WHAT WE KNOW?

Half Of What We Know About COPD...

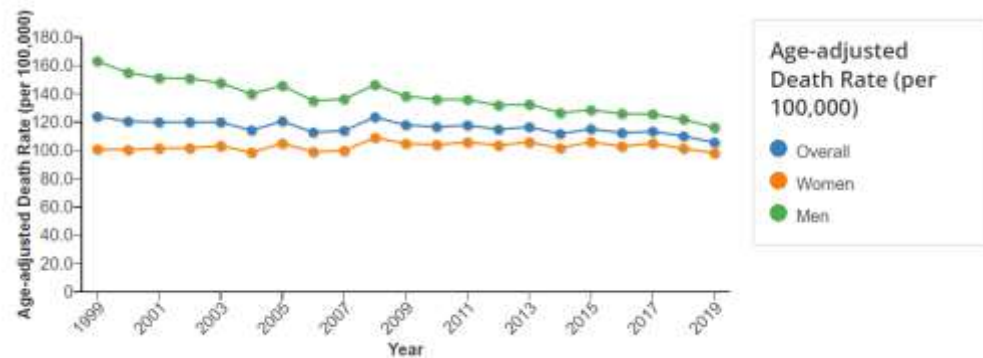
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# GOING NOWHERE FAST



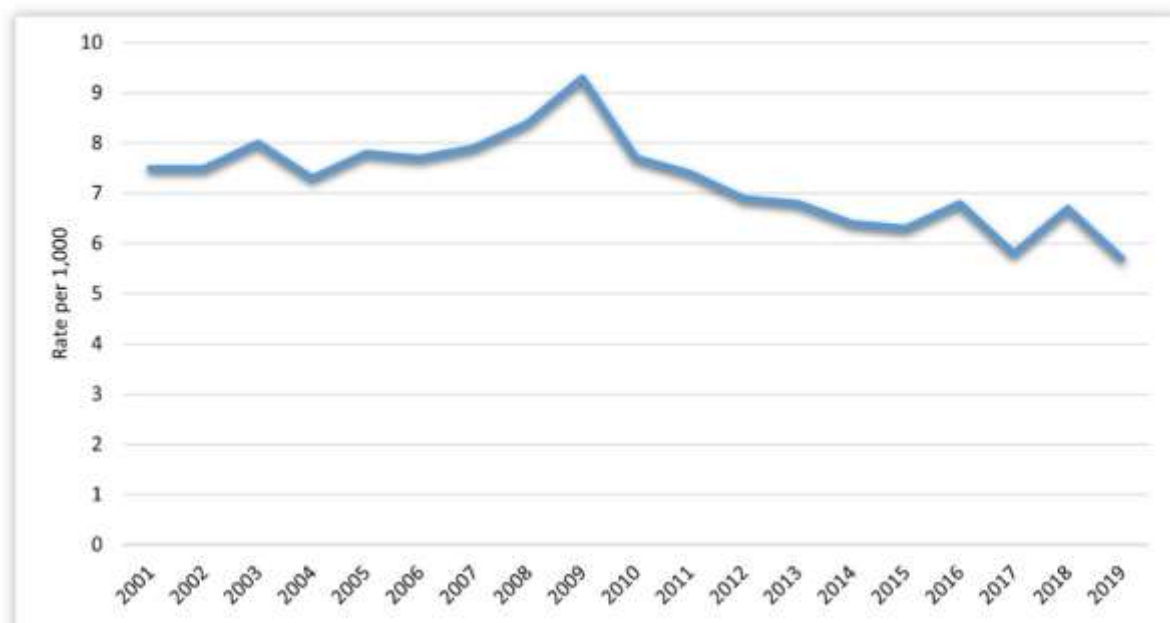
[HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/COPD/DATA-AND-STATISTICS/NATIONAL-TRENDS.HTML](https://www.cdc.gov/copd/data-and-statistics/national-trends.html)



- **COPD prevalence and mortality remain essentially stagnant.**
- **Over the same time, significant progress has been made in conditions such as cancer and diabetes.**

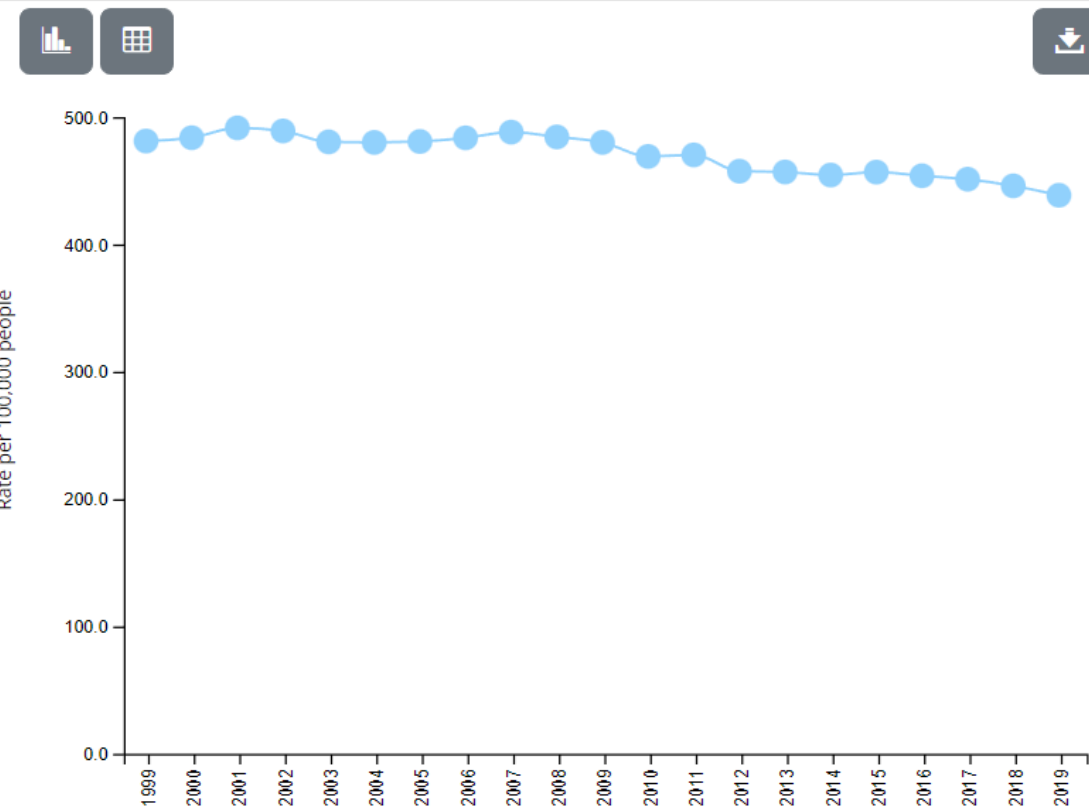


Figure 1. Trends in Incidence of Diagnosed Diabetes Among Adults Aged 18 Years or Older, United States, 2001–2019



## Annual Rates of New Cancers, 1999-2019

United States







## GETTING WORSE GLOBALLY

**212,300,000**

CASES REPORTED GLOBALLY

**3,300,000**

DEATHS ATTRIBUTABLE TO COPD

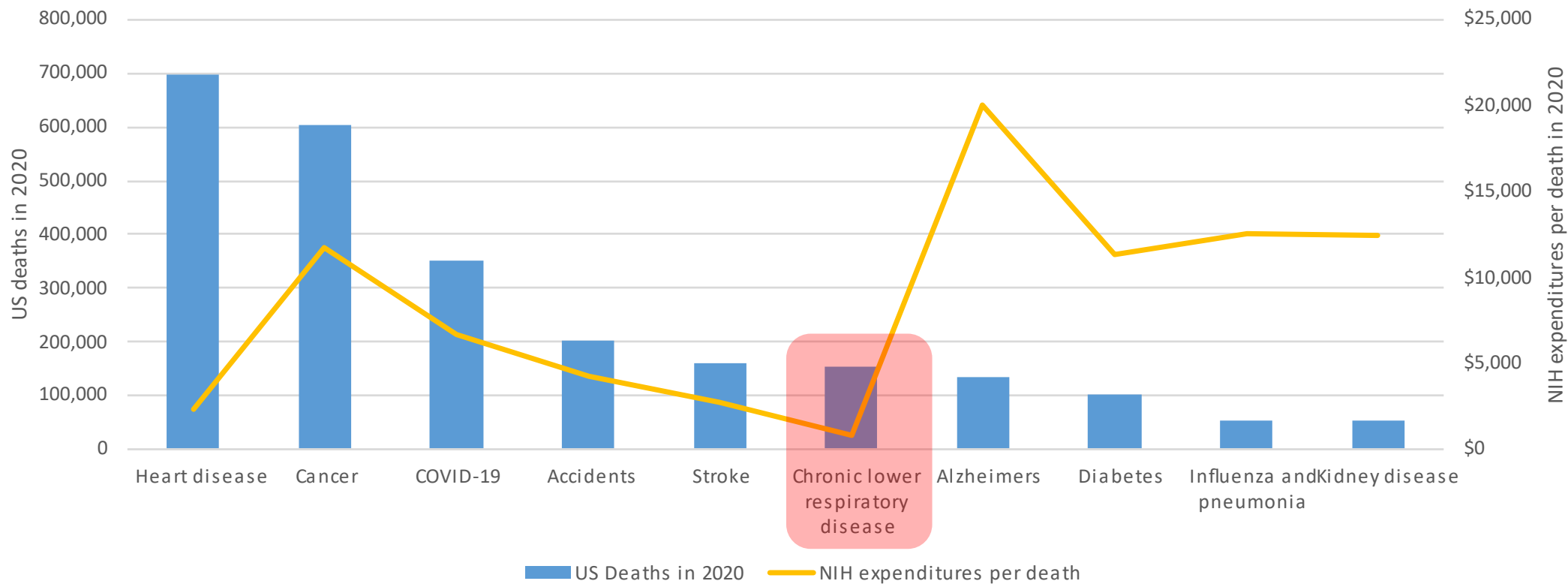
**74,400,000**

DISABILITY-ADJUSTED LIFE YEARS



# FUNDING IS SCARCE, REQUIRING EFFICIENCY

US Mortality and NIH Research Expenditures, 2020







# **COPD RESEARCH IS OFTEN DIFFICULT**

- **Lack of research funding limits potential evidence base**
- **Relatively slow disease progression delays outcomes research**
- **Diagnostic uncertainty, combined with broad definition of COPD introduces many confounding factors**





# ASKING THE **RIGHT** QUESTIONS

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# THE GOLDEN ERA REDUX

Spirometrically confirmed diagnosis



Assessment of airflow obstruction

Post-bronchodilator  
 $FEV_1/FVC < 0.7$

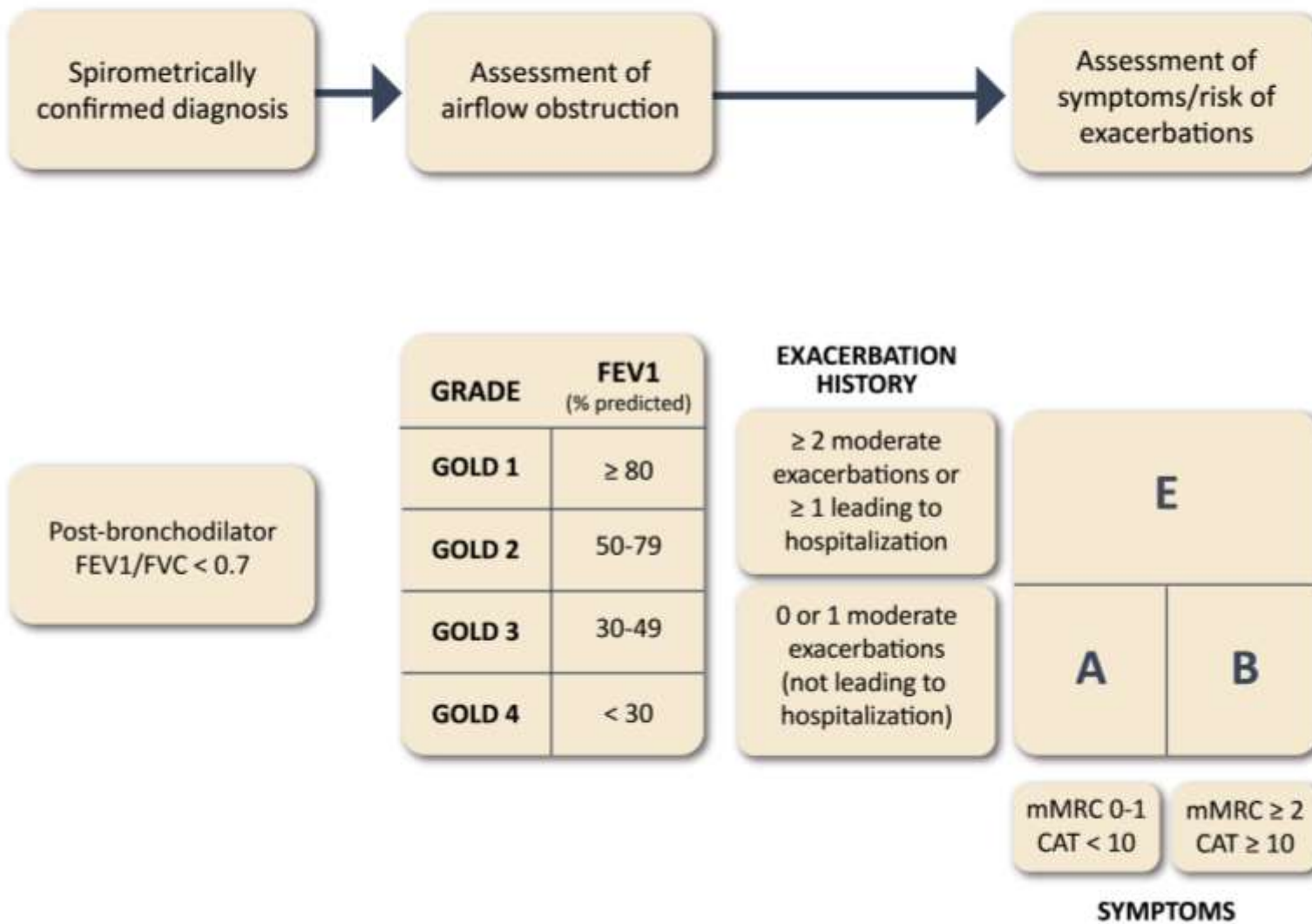
GRADE	FEV1 (% predicted)
GOLD 1	≥ 80
GOLD 2	50-79
GOLD 3	30-49
GOLD 4	< 30





# GOLD ABE Assessment Tool

Figure 2.3





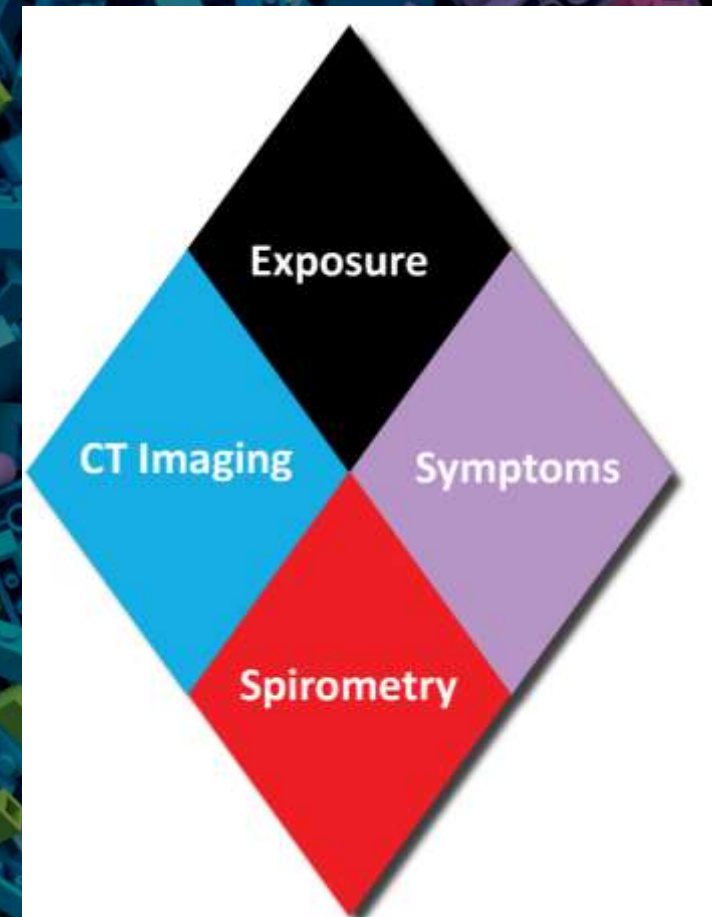
# SCREENING AND DIAGNOSTICS

## CAPTURE\*™

For each question, place an X in the box with the answer that is best for you.  
There are no right or wrong answers, only answers which are right for you.

Please answer each question	No	Yes	
1. Have you ever lived or worked in a place with dirty or polluted air, smoke, second-hand smoke, or dust?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Does your breathing change with seasons, weather, or air quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Does your breathing make it difficult to do things such as carry heavy loads, shovel dirt or snow, jog, play tennis, or swim?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Compared to others of your age, do you tire easily?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	0	1	2 or more
5. In the past 12 months, how many times did you miss work, school, or other activities due to a cold, bronchitis, or pneumonia?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*COPD Assessment in Primary Care to identify Undiagnosed Respiratory Disease & Exacerbation Risk





## PULMONARY PERSPECTIVE

### Definition and Nomenclature of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Time for Its Revision

Bartolome Celli<sup>1</sup>, Leonardo Fabbri<sup>2</sup>, Gerard Criner<sup>3</sup>, Fernando J. Martinez<sup>4</sup>, David Mannino<sup>5</sup>, Claus Vogelmeier<sup>6</sup>, Maria Montes de Oca<sup>7</sup>, Alberto Papi<sup>2</sup>, Don D. Sin<sup>8</sup>, MeiLan K. Han<sup>9</sup>, and Alvar Agusti<sup>10</sup>

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ORCID IDs: 0000-0002-7266-8371 (B.C.); 0000-0001-8894-1689 (L.F.).

## The Lancet Commissions

### Towards the elimination of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: a *Lancet* Commission



*Daiana Stolz, Takudzwa Mkorombindo, Desiree M Schumann, Alvar Agusti, Samuel Y Ash, Mona Bafadhel, Chunxue Bai, James D Chalmers, Gerard J Criner, Shyamali C Dharmage, Frits M E Franssen, Urs Frey, MeiLan Han, Nadia N Hansel, Nathaniel M Hawkins, Ravi Kalhan, Melanie Konigshoff, Fanny W Ko, Trisha M Parekh, Pippa Powell, Maureen Rutten-van Mölken, Jodie Simpson, Don D Sin, Yuanlin Song, Bela Suki, Thierry Troosters, George R Washko, Tobias Welte, Mark T Dransfeld*





## A HOLISTIC VIEW...

- **COPD has “complex interactions” with physiology, concurrent conditions, and exacerbations.**
- **We fail to optimally describe or even identify early stages of COPD.**
- **Defining it as a single “disease” is inherently limiting and possibly inaccurate.**





## **...WITH SYSTEMIC BARRIERS**

- **We fail to limit exposures to risk factors (tobacco products, environmental pollutants, etc).**
- **We have insufficient screening and diagnostic approaches.**
- **We need a heterogenous approach for a heterogenous condition.**
- **We fail to invest in research for diagnostics and therapeutics.**









## COPD REDEFINED

- **“COPD is a common, preventable, and treatable disease that is characterized by persistent respiratory symptoms and airflow limitation that is due to airway and/or alveolar abnormalities usually caused by significant exposure to noxious particles or gases and influenced by host factors including abnormal lung development.” (2017)**
- **“COPD is a heterogenous lung condition characterized by chronic respiratory symptoms (dyspnea, cough, sputum production) due to abnormalities of the airways (bronchitis, bronchiolitis) and/or alveoli (emphysema) that cause persistent, often progressive airflow obstruction.” (2023)**



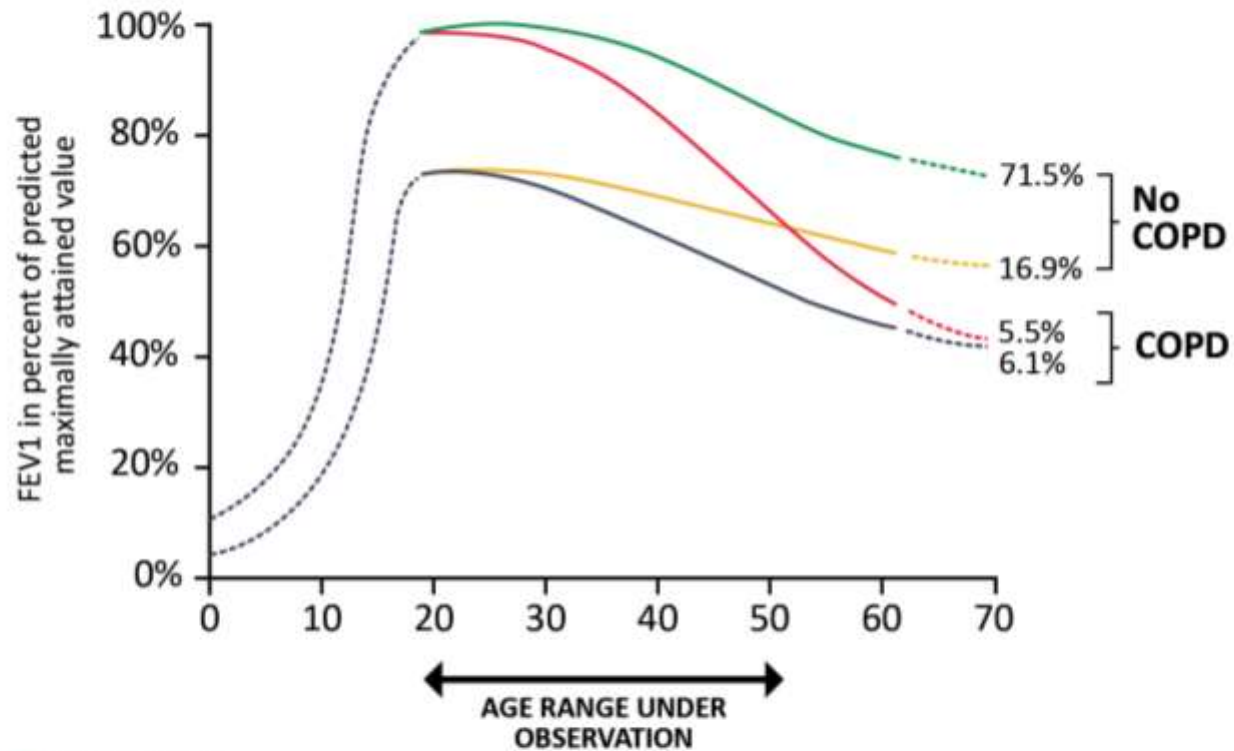
# WORDS MATTER

Early COPD	Mild COPD	Young COPD	Pre-COPD	PRISm
Related to the beginning of the process	Sometimes used to describe early phases of disease progression	May include patients who never achieved peak lung function	Represents patients of any age with regular symptoms or abnormalities, but no airflow obstruction	Indicates patients with normal FEV <sub>1</sub> /FVC ratio but FEV <sub>1</sub> < 80% predicted
Biological “early” may be different from clinical “early”	Can occur at any age, does NOT indicate initial phases of disease	May still represent severe disease, not just initial stages	Treatment should still be provided to manage symptoms	Patients may oscillate between PRISm and obstructed spirometry
Term should generally be avoided, unless discussing specifically biological “early”	Term should be used to represent only spirometrically measured airflow obstruction of 80-99% predicted value	Term should be used to describe patients diagnosed with COPD between 20-50 years of age	Additional research is needed to better elucidate optimal treatment options	Additional research is needed to better elucidate optimal treatment options



# FEV1 Trajectories (TR) Over the Life Course

Figure 1.1



- TR1: Normal
- TR2: Small lungs but no COPD
- TR3: Normal Initial FEV1 with rapid decline leading to COPD
- TR3: Small lungs leading to COPD

Note: This is a simplified diagram of FEV1 progression over time. In reality, there is heterogeneity in the rate of decline in FEV1 owing to the complex interactions of genes with environmental exposures and risk factors over an individual's lifetime [adapted from Lange et al. NEJM 2015;373:111-22].





# NEW TAXONOMIES

- **Phenotype:** Observable clinical traits based on interaction between physiology, genetics, and environment
- **Etiotype:** Clinical traits based on the etiology of a particular disease process



# COPD - C

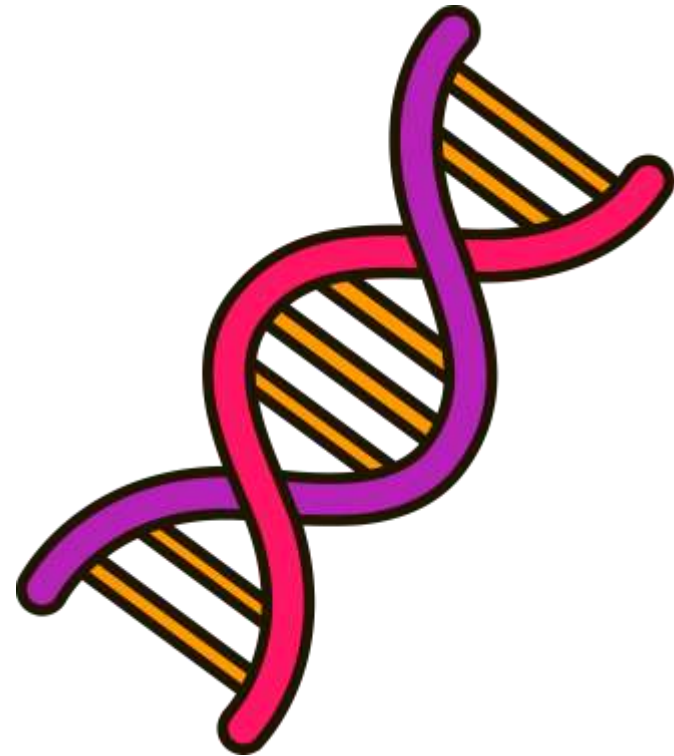
- **COPD due to cigarette smoking**
- **May potentially include ENDS and cannabis**
- **Also includes secondhand smoke**





# COPD - G

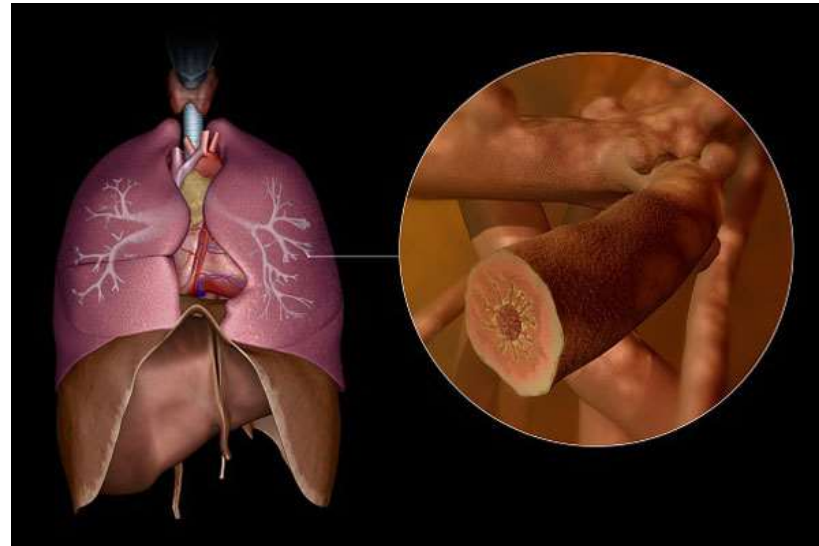
- **Genetically determined**
- **Includes alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD)**
- **Potentially other genetic variants**





# COPD - A

- **COPD associated with asthma**
- **Particularly childhood/poorly controlled cases**
- **May include asthma-COPD overlap**





# COPD - P

- **COPD from pollution exposure**
- **Biomass fuel smoke**
- **Ambient air pollution  
(natural or anthropogenic)**
- **Occupational exposures**





# COPD - D

- **COPD secondary to abnormal lung development**
- **Prenatal issues, premature birth, neonatal lung problems**
- **Adverse childhood events (ACEs)/ social determinants of health (SDHs) limiting lung maturity**





# COPD-I

- **COPD related to infections**
- **May include childhood illnesses**
- **TB-associated COPD**
- **HIV-associated COPD**







## TAXONOMY TAKEAWAYS

- **No long a single “disease,” but more of a syndrome (especially considering certain overlaps)**
- **Impact on current practice likely limited**
- **Tremendous potential for future research (validation & treatment)**
- **A reminder that **ANYONE** can get **COPD****





# WHAT DO WE KNOW **NOW** ?

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# Goals for Treatment of Stable COPD

Table 4.1

- Relieve Symptoms
- Improve Exercise Tolerance
- Improve Health Status



**REDUCE SYMPTOMS**

*AND*

- Prevent Disease Progression
- Prevent and Treat Exacerbations
- Reduce Mortality

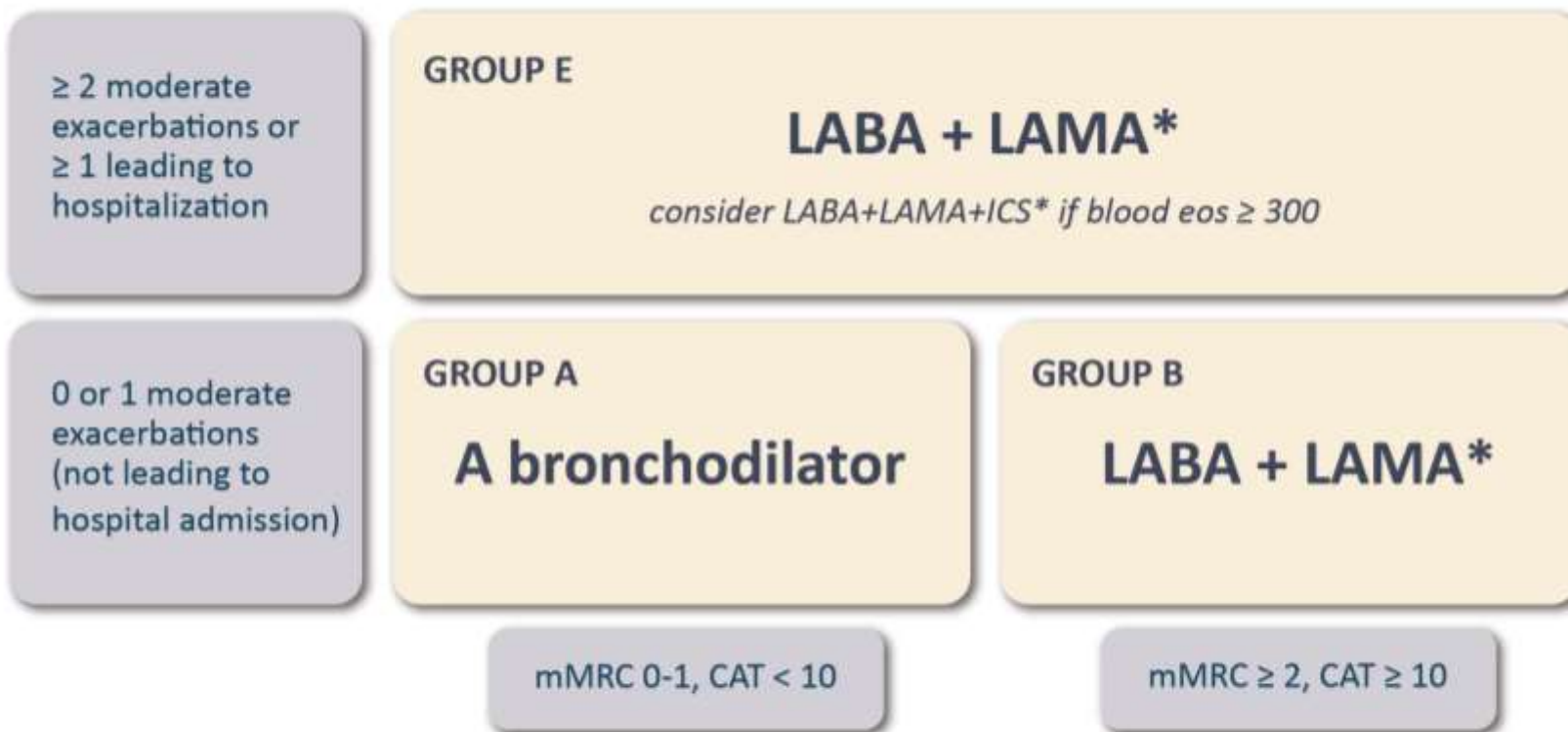


**REDUCE RISK**



## Initial Pharmacological Treatment

Figure 4.2

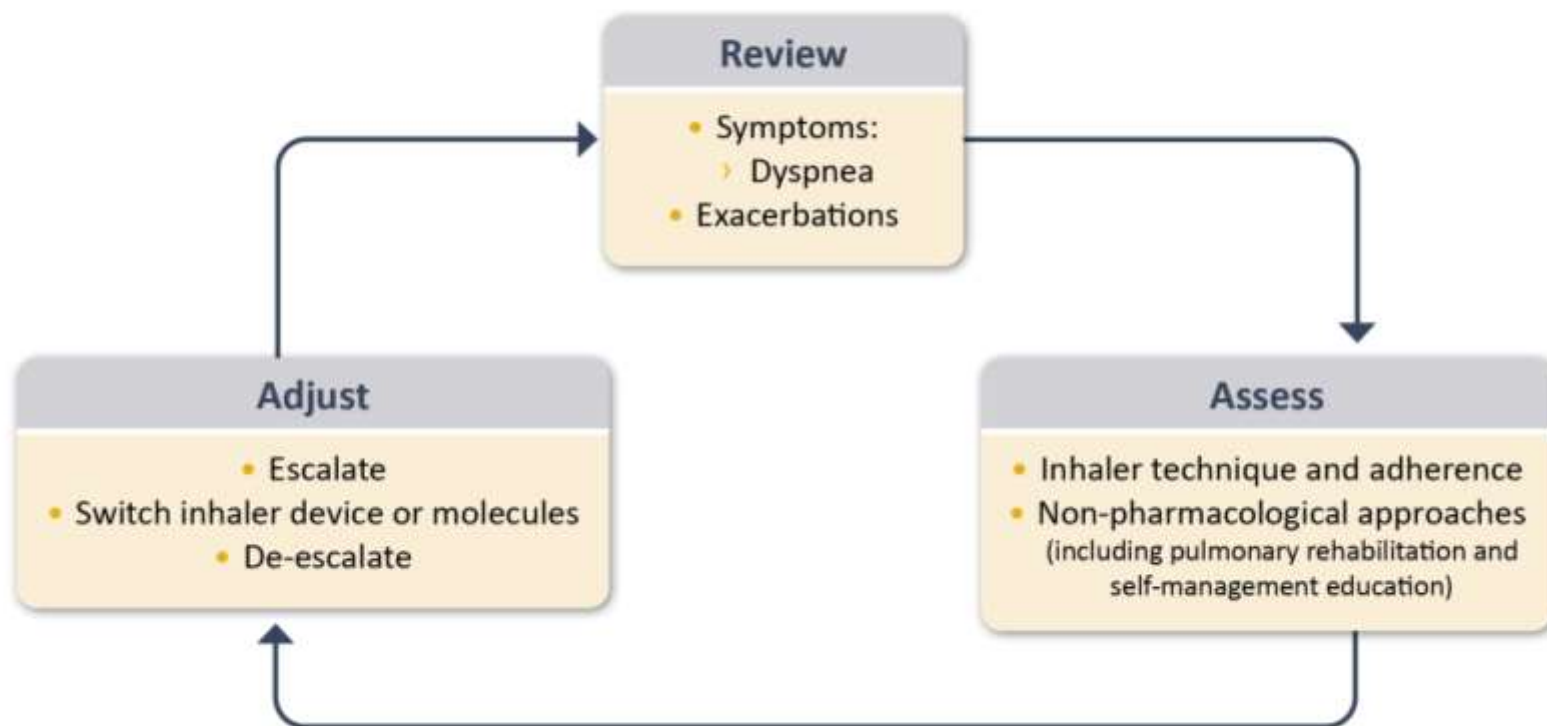


\*single inhaler therapy may be more convenient and effective than multiple inhalers



## Management Cycle

Figure 4.3





## COPD Patient with Suspected Exacerbation

Confirm ECOPD Diagnosis and Episode Severity

Consider Differential Diagnosis

Severity	Variable thresholds to determine severity
Mild (default)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dyspnea VAS &lt; 5</li><li>• RR &lt; 24 breaths/min</li><li>• HR &lt; 95 bpm</li><li>• Resting SaO<sub>2</sub> ≥ 92% breathing ambient air (or patient's usual oxygen prescription) AND change ≤ 3% (when known)</li><li>• CRP &lt; 10 mg/L (if obtained)</li></ul>
Moderate (meets at least three of five*)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dyspnea VAS ≥ 5</li><li>• RR ≥ 24 breaths/min</li><li>• HR ≥ 95 bpm</li><li>• Resting SaO<sub>2</sub> &lt; 92% breathing ambient air (or patient's usual oxygen prescription) AND/OR change &gt; 3% (when known)</li><li>• CRP ≥ 10 mg/L</li></ul> <p>*If obtained, ABG may show hypoxemia (PaO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 60 mmHg) and/or hypercapnia (PaCO<sub>2</sub> &gt; 45 mmHg) but no acidosis</p>
Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dyspnea, RR, HR, SaO<sub>2</sub> and CRP same as moderate</li><li>• ABG show hypercapnia and acidosis (PaCO<sub>2</sub> &gt; 45 mmHg and pH &lt; 7.35)</li></ul>

- Heart failure
- Pneumonia
- Pulmonary embolism

• Appropriate testing and treatment

Determine etiology:  
viral testing, sputum culture, other

# EXACERBATIONS

Adapted from: The ROME Proposal, Celli et al. (2021) Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 204(11): 1251-8. Abbreviations: VAS visual analog dyspnea scale; RR respiratory rate; HR heart rate; SaO<sub>2</sub> oxygen saturation; CRP C-reactive protein; ABG arterial blood gases; PaO<sub>2</sub> Arterial pressure of oxygen.





# WHAT COMES **NEXT** ?

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# EMERGING RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Reviewed thousands of COPD PPRN participant responses

Developed initial research items with stakeholder input

Held a vote on COPD360Social to prioritize the items

Prioritized research agenda created

## What are the results?



Reverse/  
**Cure**  
COPD



**Better drugs**  
for shortness  
of breath and  
flare ups



**Improve**  
symptoms



**Improve**  
medical  
equipment and  
**increase**  
access



**Improve**  
mobility  
and  
**independence**  
(tools like pulm rehab)



**Reduce**  
anxiety, fear  
and  
depression





# EMERGING RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- **Telehealth (including remote pulmonary rehab)**
- **Screening/case-finding**
- **Improvements in inhaled medication delivery**
- **New treatment pathways (long-term lung fitness?)**





IT'S UP TO ALL OF US TO...



**MAKE IT SO!**





**THANK YOU!**

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