
Advancing Women's Health Through Novel ABEI Based assays

Prof. Damien Gruson



Conflict of interests statement

**Thanks to SNIBE for supporting the participation
to this educational activity**



*Brussels,
Belgium*

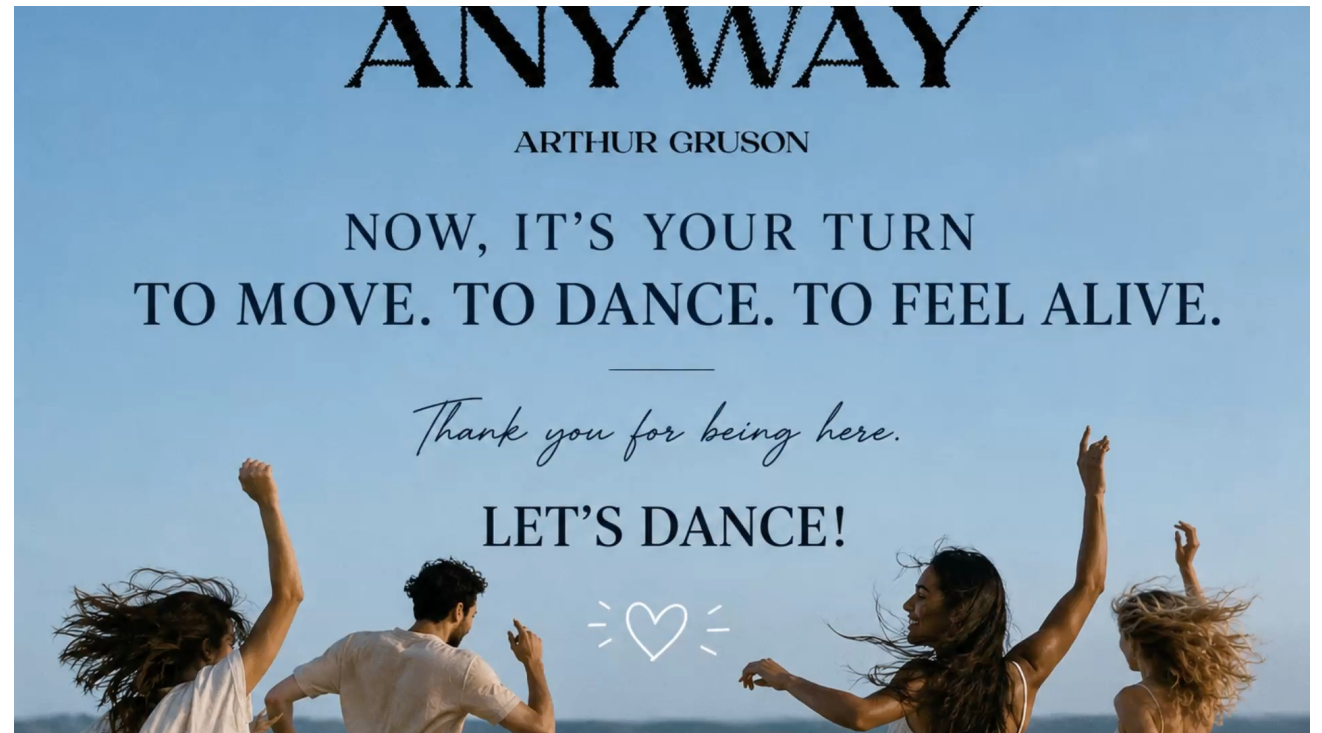
Cliniques Universitaires

Saint-Luc





*Emerging technologies require
laboratory medicine specialists and IVD
teams who are well-prepared and in top
form 😊*



Women live longer — but not necessarily healthier lives

10

additional healthy days per woman,
every year

£36B

potential annual UK economic gain
by 2040

1 in 8

women affected by PCOS /
PMOS

The invisible cost is diagnostic delay

Symptoms are fragmented.

Care is fragmented.

Data are fragmented.



A connected laboratory pathway can
turn fragments into a phenotype.

PCOS is bigger than the ovary

POLYENDOCRINE
METABOLIC
OVARIAN SYNDROME

The proposed PMOS name makes the systemic biology visible.

Polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome, the new name for polycystic ovary syndrome: a multistep global consensus process



Helena J Teede, Mahnaz Bahri Khomami, Rachel Morman*, Joop S E Laven, Anju E Joham, Michael F Costello, Madhuri Patil, D Aled Rees, Lorna Berry, Melanie G Cree, Han Zhao, Robert J Norman*, Anuja Dokras*, Terhi Piltonen*, on behalf of the Global Name Change Consortium†*

One syndrome. A lifetime of consequences.

Reproductive

ovulatory dysfunction • subfertility

Metabolic

insulin resistance • type 2 diabetes

Cardiovascular

risk factors across the life course

Psychological

anxiety • depression • stigma

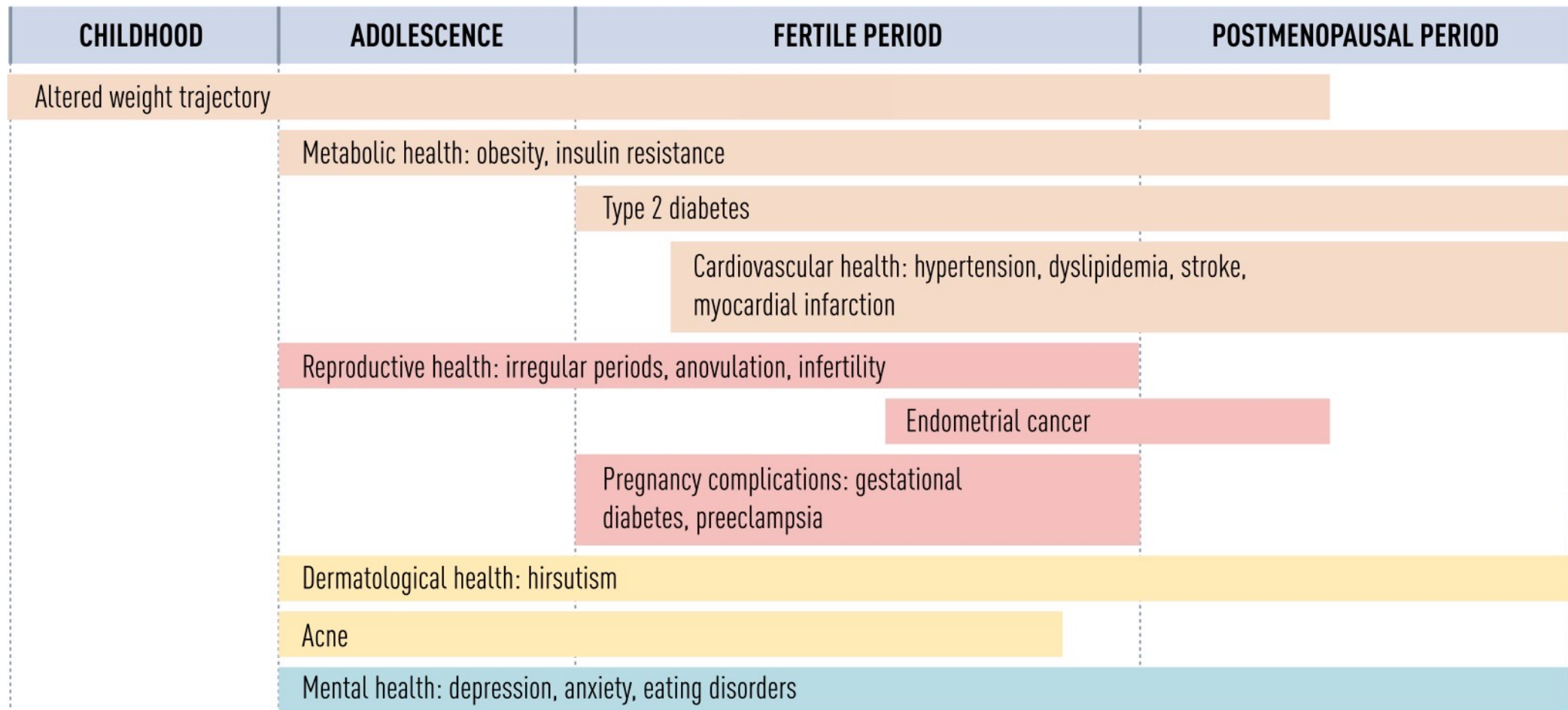
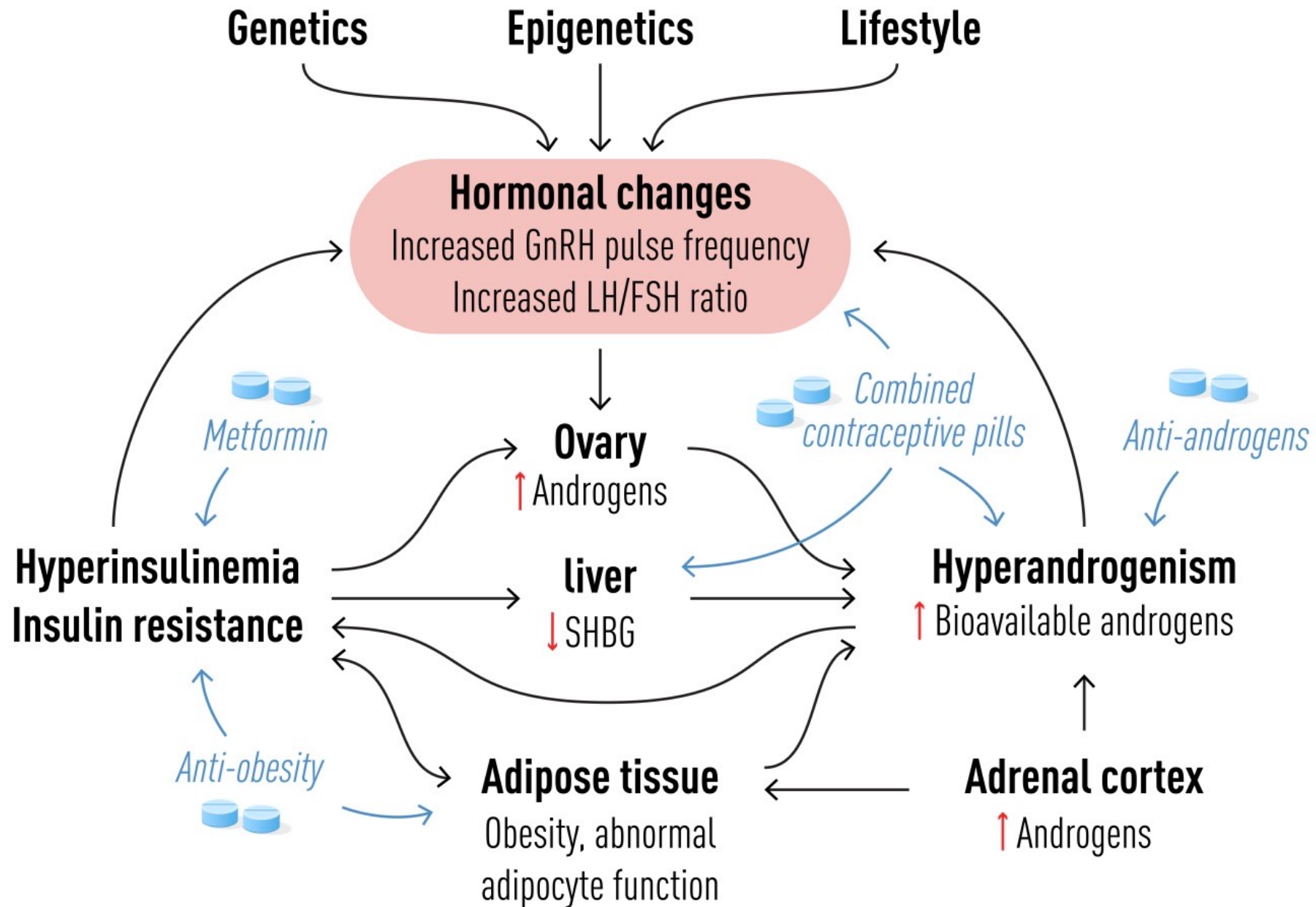


Fig. 1 PMOS as a life course disorder: expanding beyond reproductive features. Schematic illustration of the evolving understanding of polyendocrine metabolic syndrome (PMOS) across the life course. Although reproductive manifestations often prompt clinical presentation during adolescence and early adulthood, endocrine, metabolic, cardiovascular, psychological, and reproductive consequences may emerge at different stages of life. The figure highlights the transition from a traditional reproductive-centered view of the condition toward a life-course model emphasizing early metabolic dysfunction, cardiometabolic risk, and long-term health outcomes.



The diagnostic logic is simple. The execution is not.



Adults only: AMH may define PCOM — it does not diagnose PCOS alone.

2023 changed the role of AMH

BEFORE

Ultrasound defined PCOM

NOW

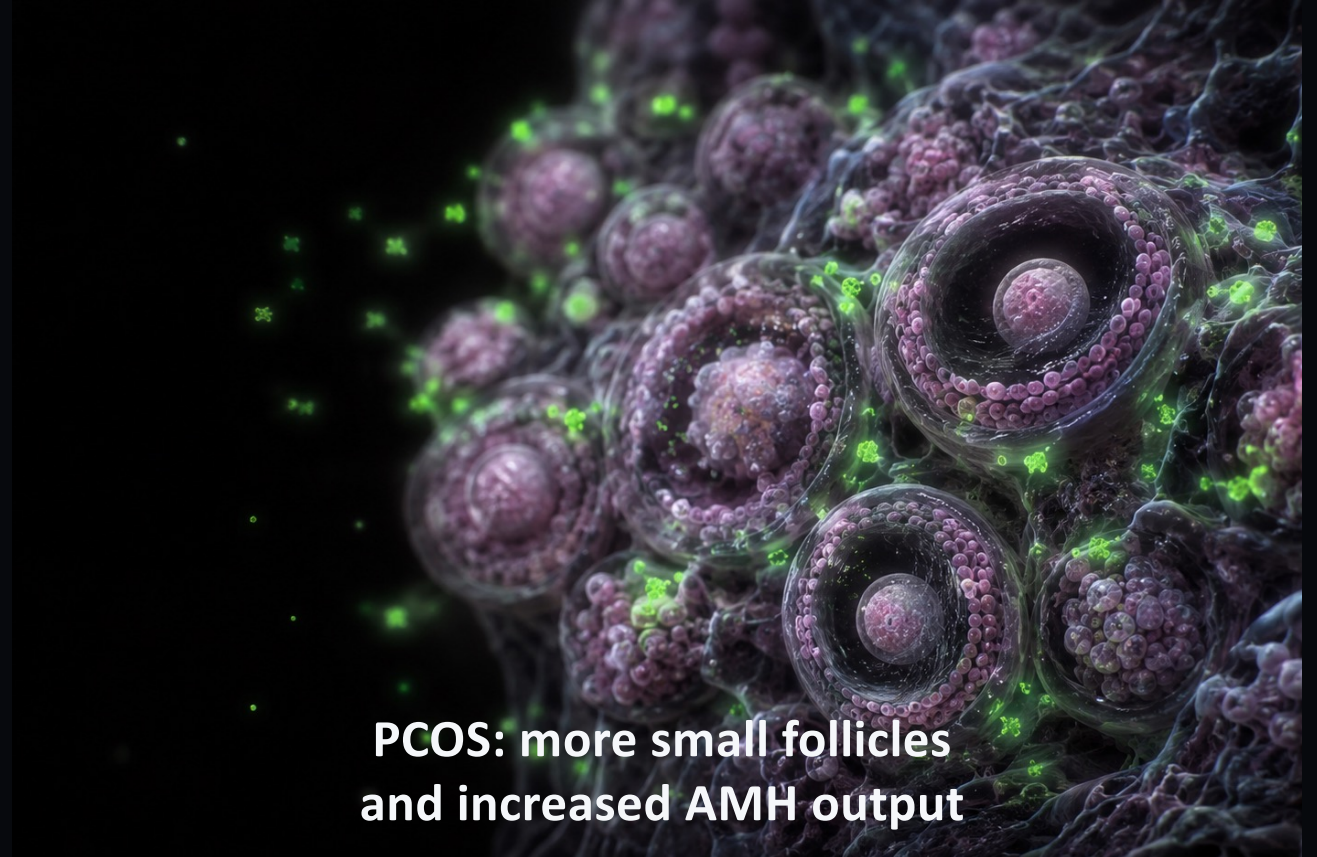
Ultrasound OR serum AMH

A blood test can bring part of the pathway closer to primary care.

AMH is a biological signal from the growing follicle pool

**Pre-antral + small antral
follicles**

major source of circulating AMH



**PCOS: more small follicles
and increased AMH output**

AMH is powerful — when used with discipline

USE

as an alternative to ultrasound for PCOM in adults

DO NOT USE

as a stand-alone PCOS test

DO NOT USE

for adolescent diagnosis

AVOID DUPLICATION

do not routinely perform both AMH and ultrasound

There is no universal AMH cut-off

AGE

changes the expected
concentration

ASSAY

changes the numerical
result

CONTEXT

BMI, contraception, surgery and cycle
matter

Population- and assay-specific thresholds are the clinical requirement.

MAGLUMI AMH showed strong preliminary analytical performance

<3%

within-run and between-run
CVs

n=88

patient samples in method
comparison

0.6

ng/mL mean bias vs
ultrasensitive ELISA

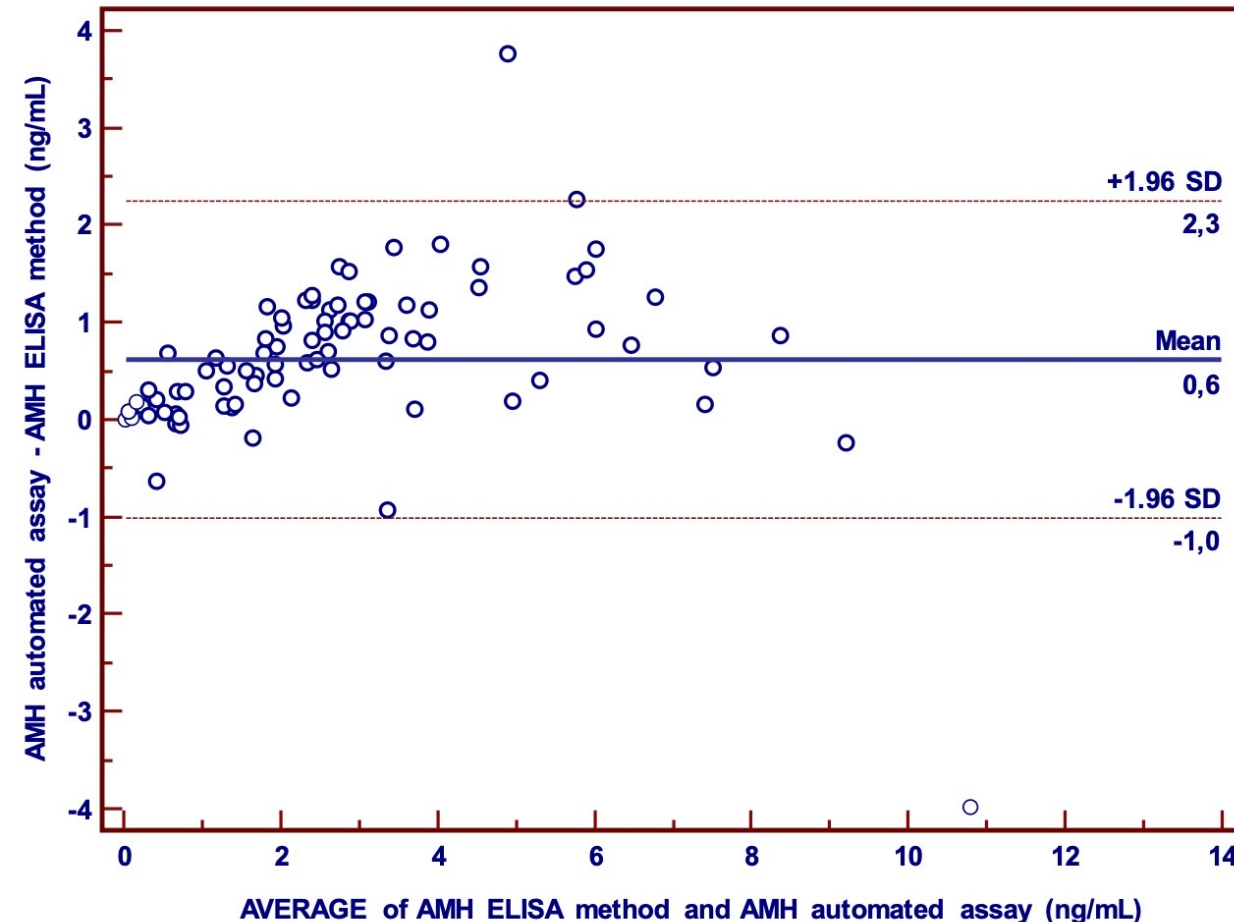
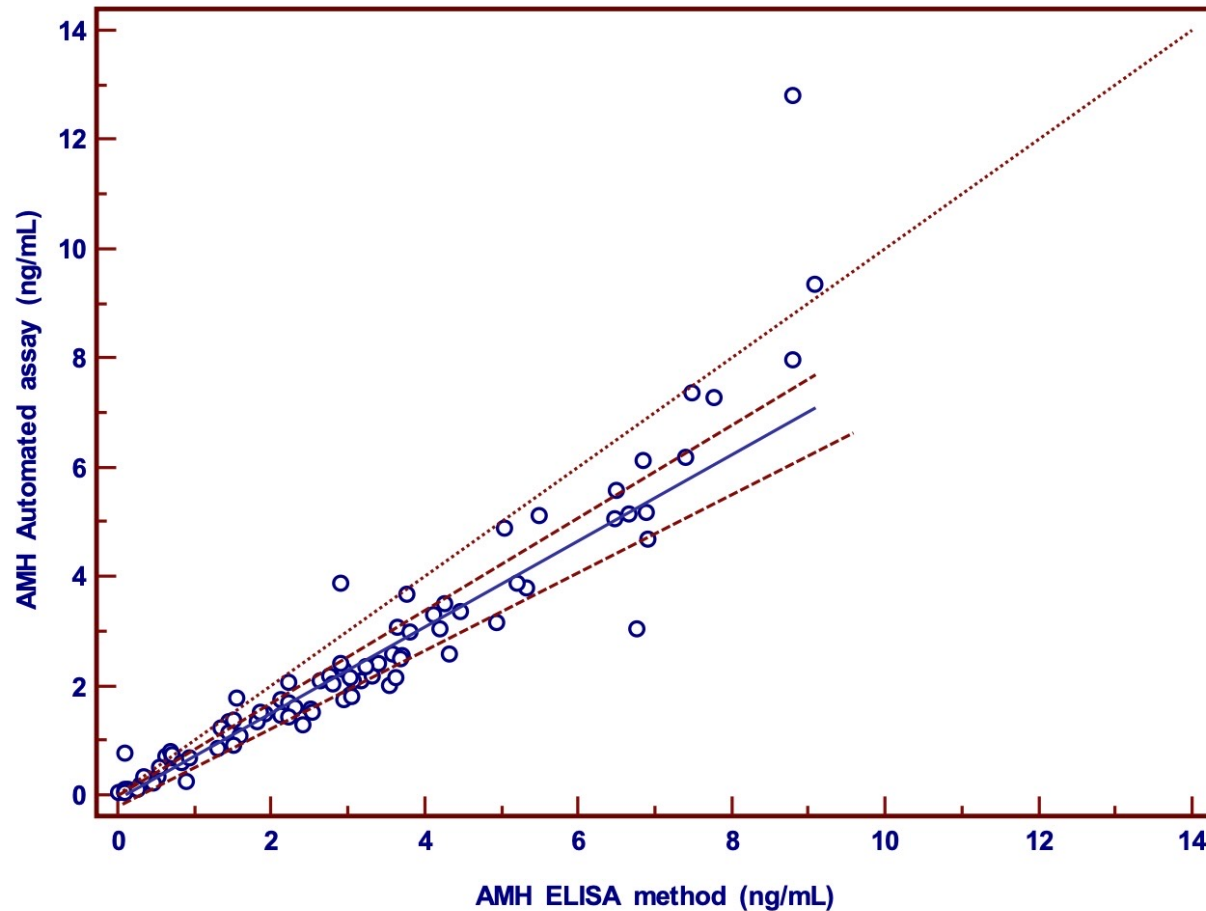
Fully automated ABEI chemiluminescence • 0.1 ng/mL stated detection limit

Measurement of anti-Mullerian hormone: preliminary evaluation of an ABEI-based fully automated immunoassay

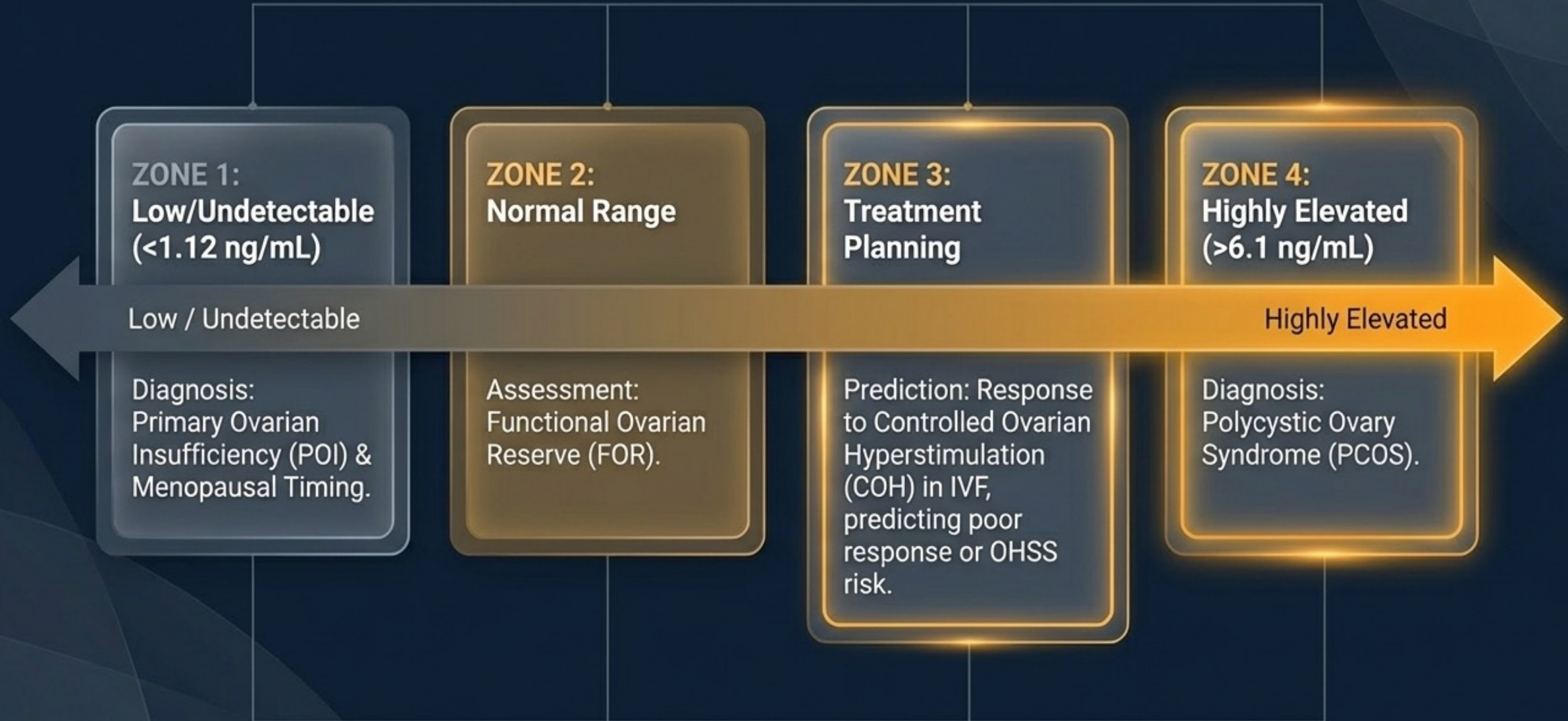
Damien Gruson^{1,2}, Akdim Siham¹, Catherine Fillée¹

¹ Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Cliniques Universitaires St-Luc and Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium

² Pôle de recherche en Endocrinologie, Diabète et Nutrition, Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique, Cliniques Universitaires St-Luc and Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium



THE CLINICAL SPECTRUM



NAVIGATING THE EXTREMES: POI & MENOPAUSE



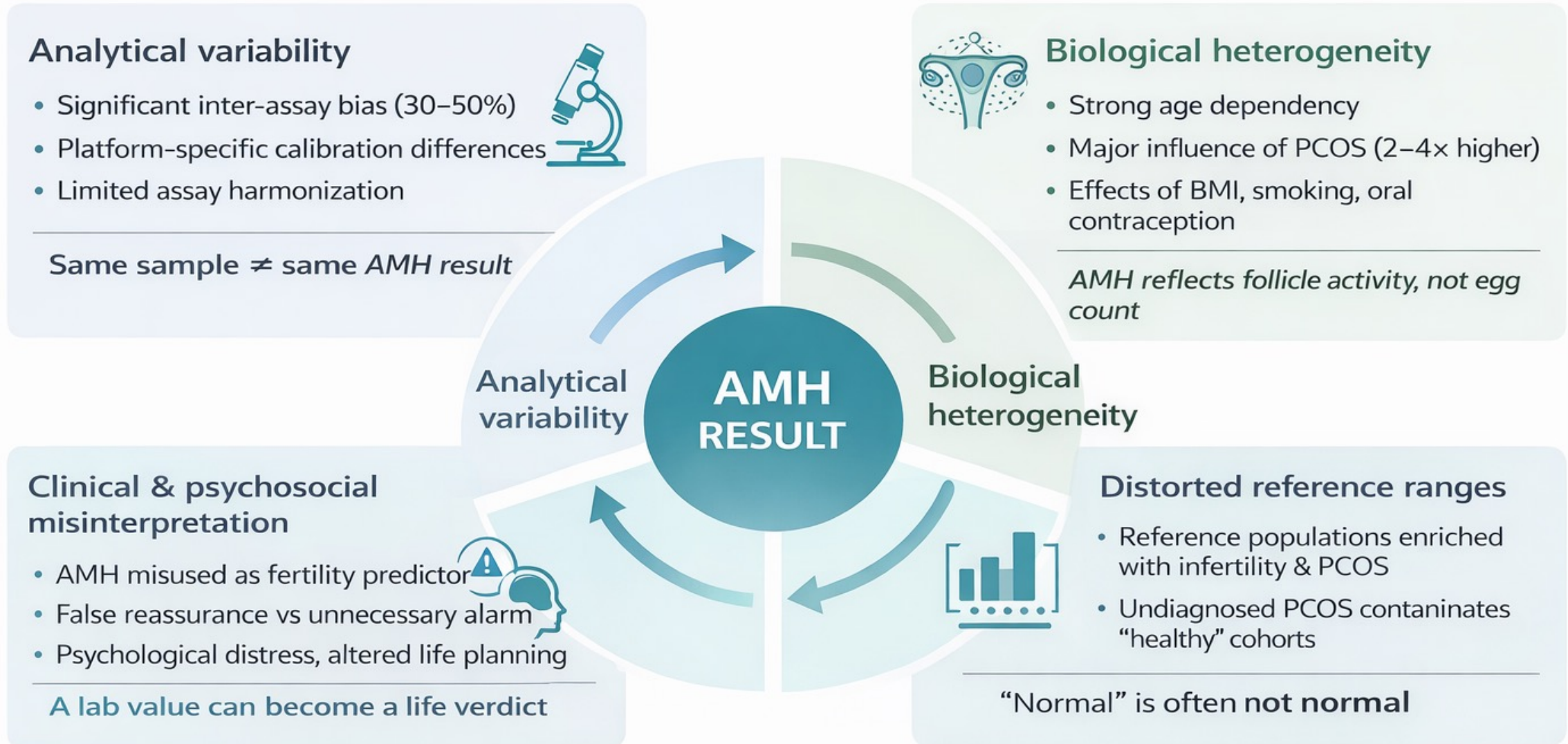
PRIMARY OVARIAN INSUFFICIENCY (POI)

AMH cutoff of <8 pmol/L (1.12 ng/mL) yields 85% sensitivity and 100% specificity for diagnosing POI in women with secondary oligomenorrhea.

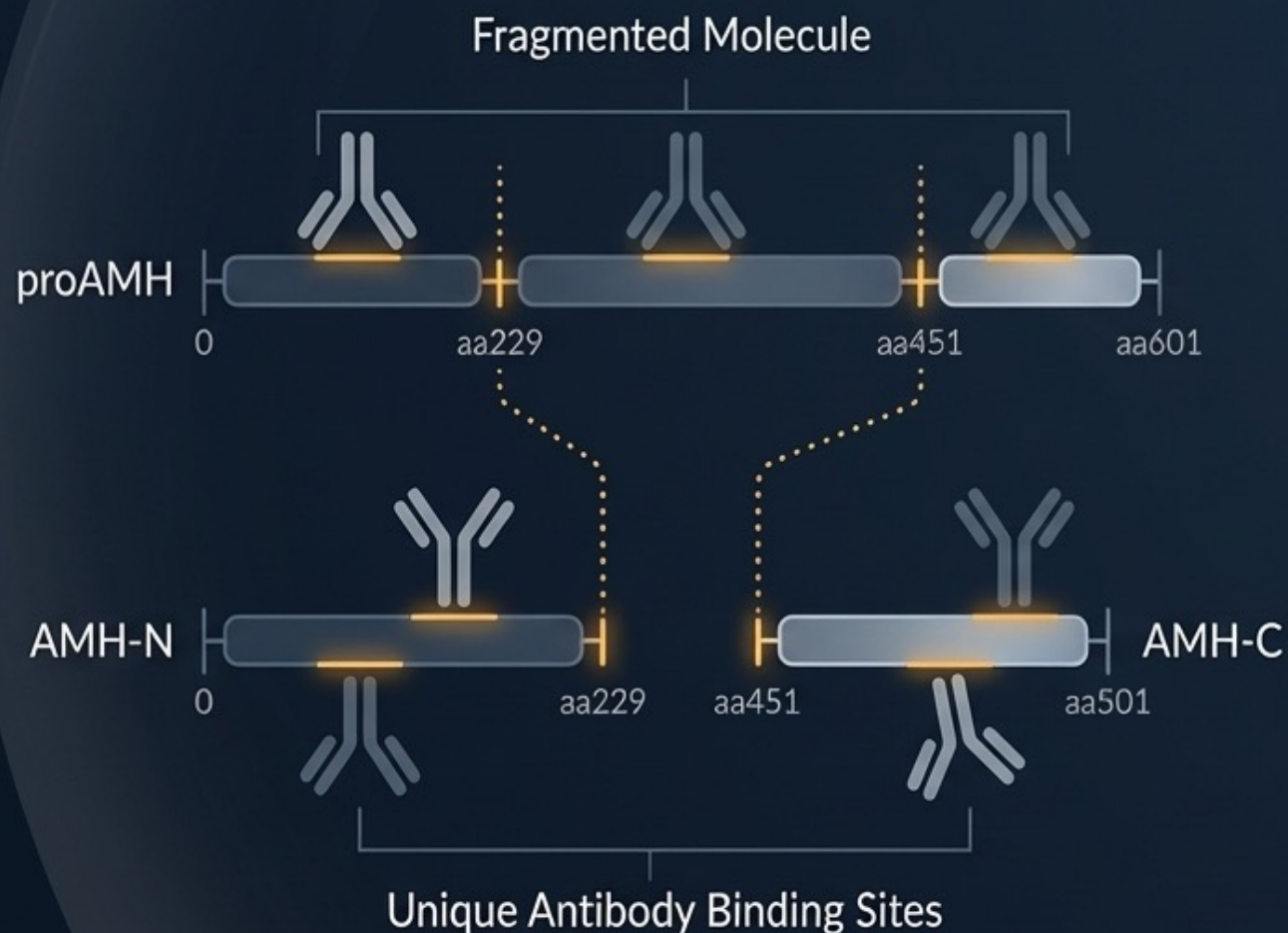
MENOPAUSAL PREDICTION

Undetectable AMH in women aged 45–49 predicts a 60% probability of menopause within 5 years. However, serial tracking over time is vastly superior to single age-specific snapshots for accurate prediction.

Key Challenges in Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH) Testing and Interpretation



THE DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMA: STANDARDIZATION CRISIS



THE CORE PROBLEM

There is currently no universally accepted international reference standard for AMH.

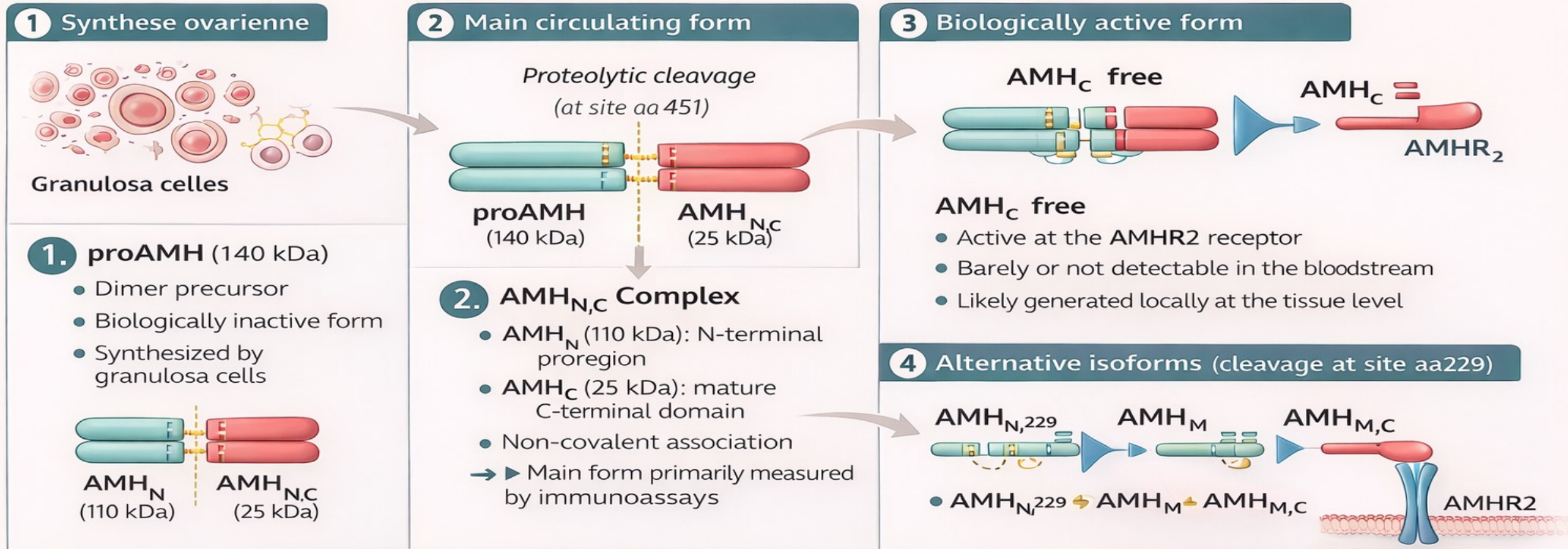
MOLECULAR COMPLEXITY

AMH circulates as various isoforms. Enzymatic processing and cleavage occur both within the follicle and in peripheral circulation.

ASSAY DISCREPANCY

Different assays (Gen II, Elecsys, picoAMH) utilize unique antibody pairs. Because they bind to different epitopes, they are biologically capturing and measuring different fragments of the hormone.

Circulating Forms of Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH)



Analytical key message



Current assays measure a “total AMH” dominated by the cleaved AMH_{N,C} form, without fine differentiation of isoforms. Antibody differences account for some of the inter-method variability.

Circulating AMH ≠ Biologically active AMH → reflection of functional follicular pool, not a classical hormonal signal

I believe in Chocolate 😊



New Results

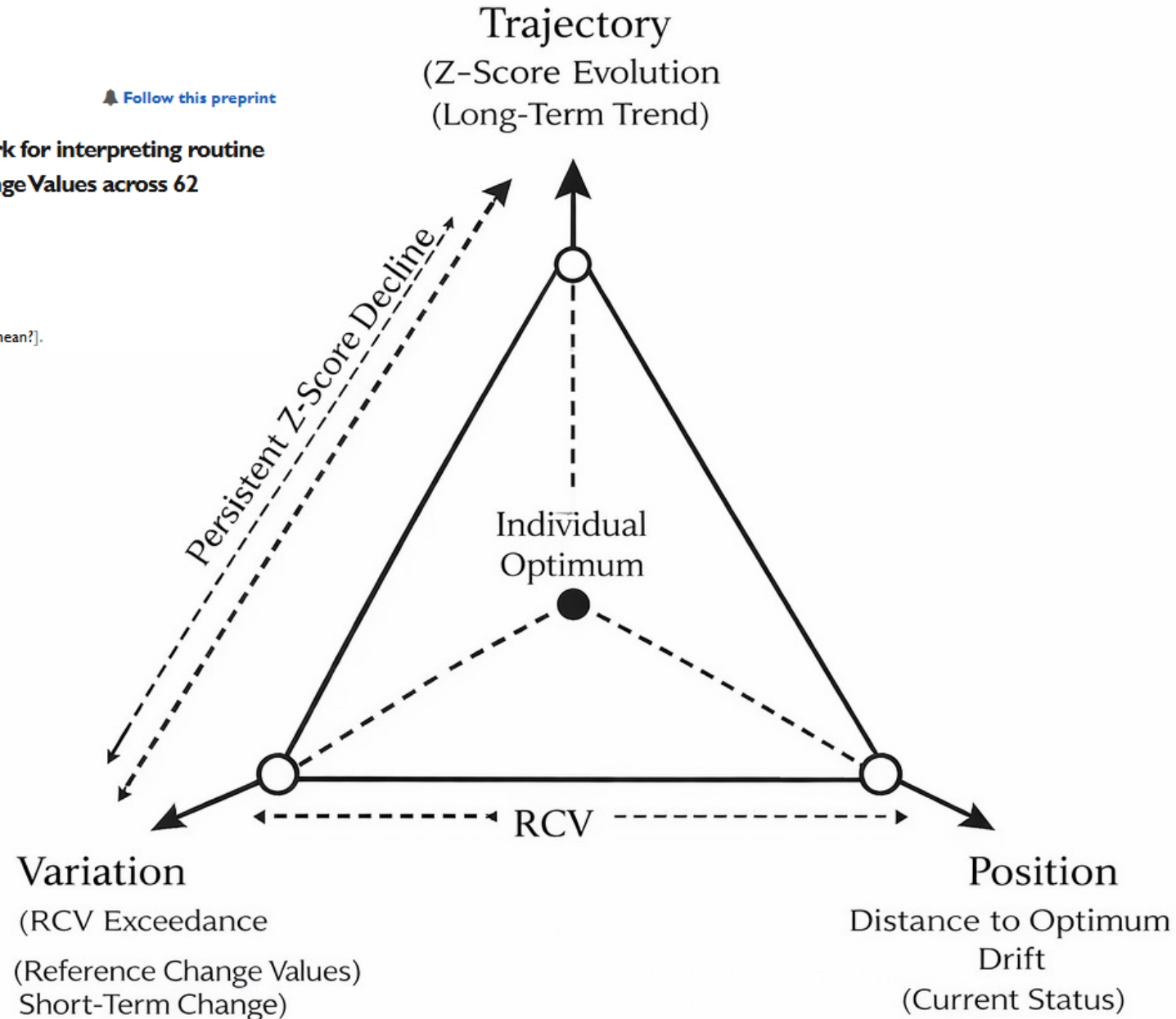
 [Follow this preprint](#)

Distance-to-optimum biological drift as a new framework for interpreting routine laboratory results: a benchmark against Reference Change Values across 62 routine biomarkers

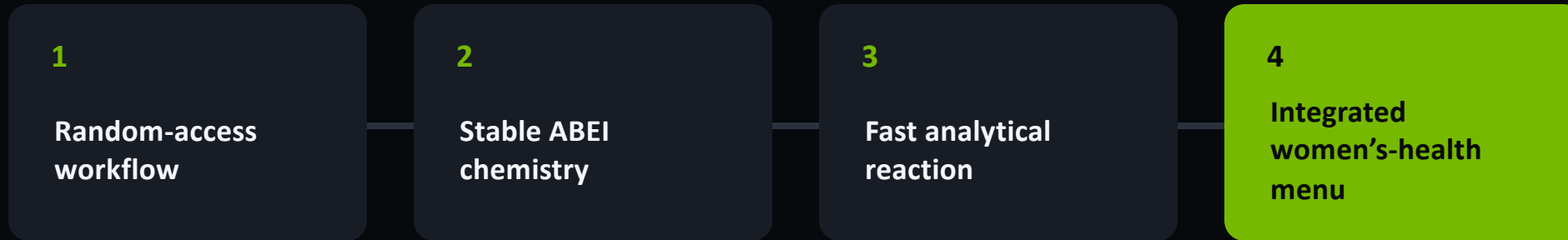
 Clément Bézier,  Jakez Rolland, Ronan Boutin,  Damien Gruson

doi: <https://doi.org/10.64898/2026.07.06.736744>

This article is a preprint and has not been certified by peer review [what does this mean?].



Automation makes AMH easier to operationalize



The strategic value is not one test. It is a connected endocrine workflow.

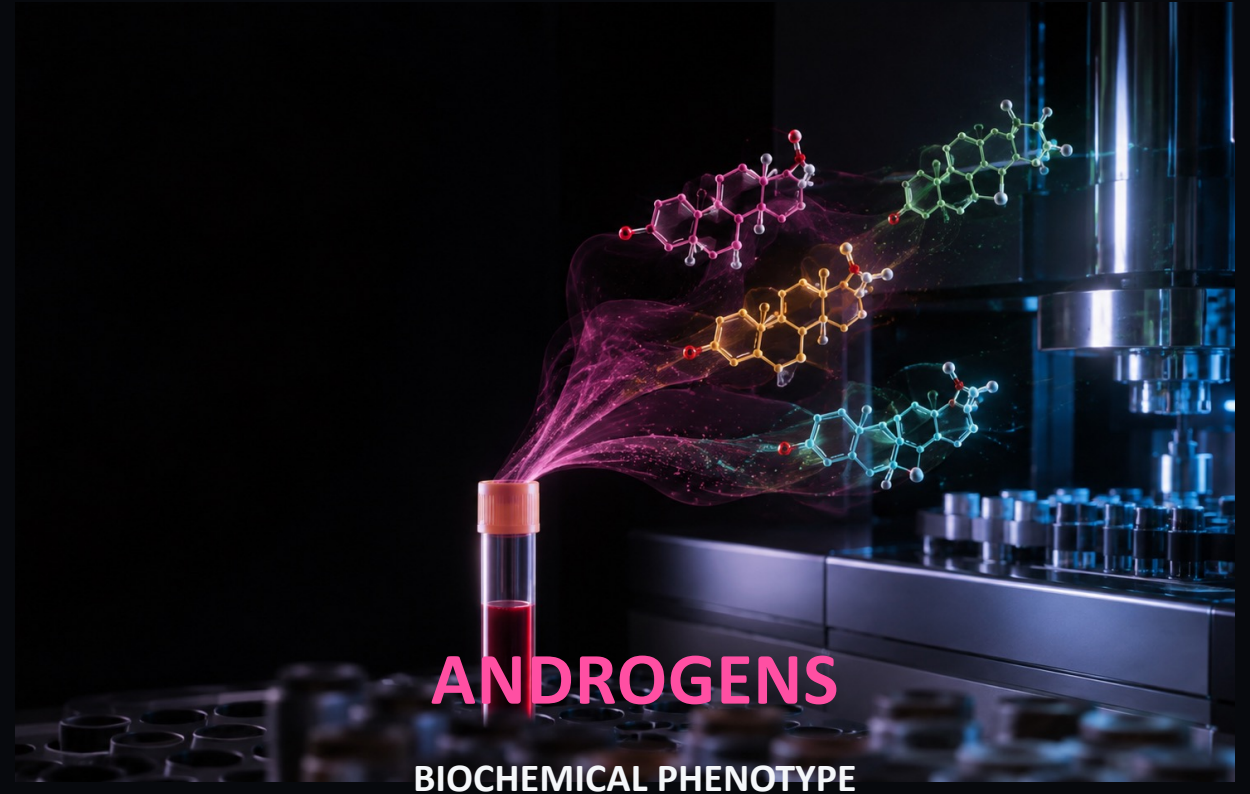


AMH sees follicle excess. Androgens reveal endocrine expression.

AMH

FOLLICULAR
SIGNAL

+



Start with total and free testosterone

1 Total testosterone

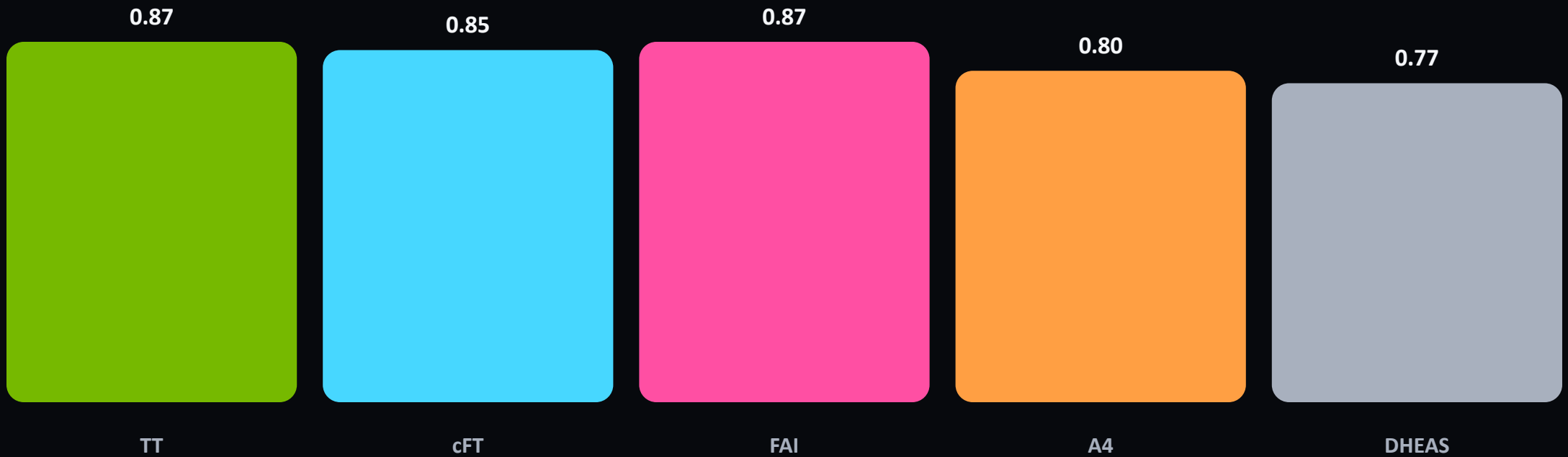
+

Calculated free testosterone
or free androgen index

2 If not elevated

consider androstenedione
and DHEAS

No single androgen captures every phenotype



Area under the ROC curve in a 2025 diagnostic meta-analysis

Female testosterone lives in the difficult analytical range

LOW CONCENTRATIONS

make sensitivity, calibration and specificity decisive.



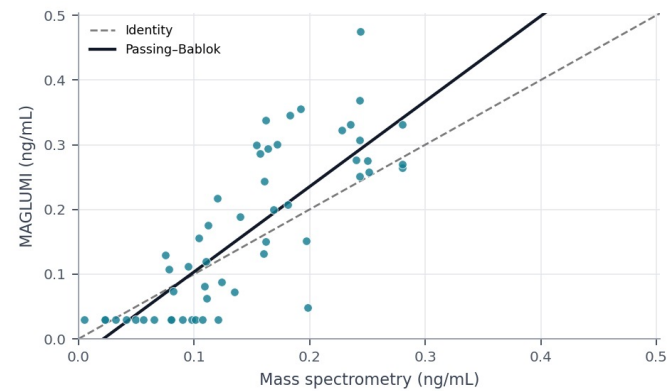
Is the number clinically trustworthy?

Method comparison differs across the testosterone range

Passing–Bablok and Bland–Altman analyses stratified by MS median (0.280 ng/mL)

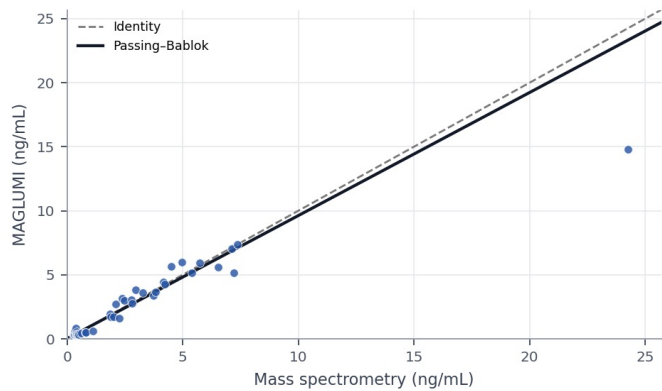
LOW RANGE | PASSING–BABLOK

$y = 1.318x - 0.028 \cdot n=54$



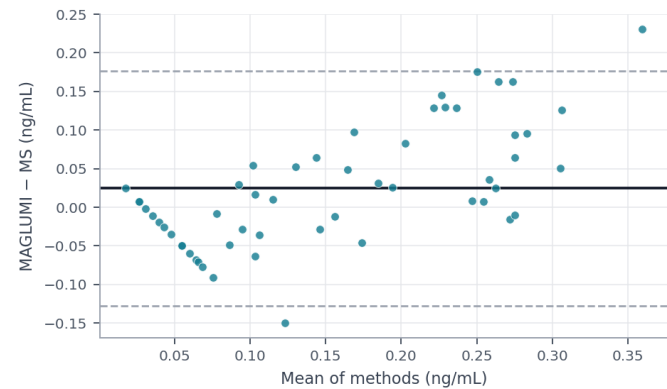
HIGH RANGE | PASSING–BABLOK

$y = 0.961x + 0.013 \cdot n=49$



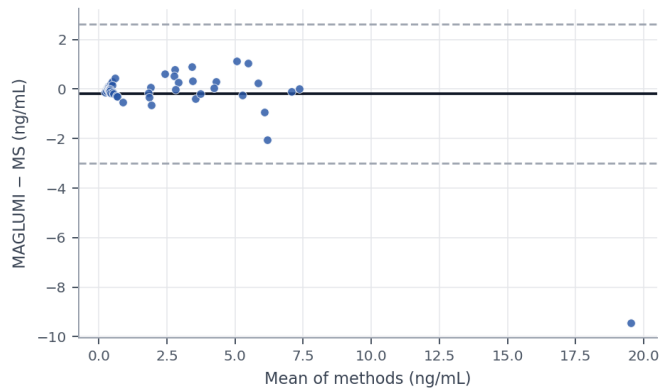
LOW RANGE | BLAND–ALTMAN

Bias 0.024 · 95% LoA -0.128 to 0.177 ng/mL



HIGH RANGE | BLAND–ALTMAN

Bias -0.185 · 95% LoA -3.000 to 2.631 ng/mL



LC-MS/MS is the reference ambition. Access remains the implementation challenge.

REFERENCE

Validated LC-MS/MS

Accuracy at low concentrations

ROUTINE SCALE

Automated immunoassay

Access • throughput • integration

The bridge is rigorous verification.

A broader steroid menu can support a smarter reflex pathway

- 1 Total testosterone
- 2 SHBG + albumin → FAI / cFT
- 3 Androstenedione when indicated
- 4 Escalate atypical results



Standardize the sequence. Preserve clinical judgment.

Reference intervals are part of the test

POPULATION

well-characterized healthy women

METHOD

platform-specific intervals and decision points

AGE

especially for DHEAS and AMH

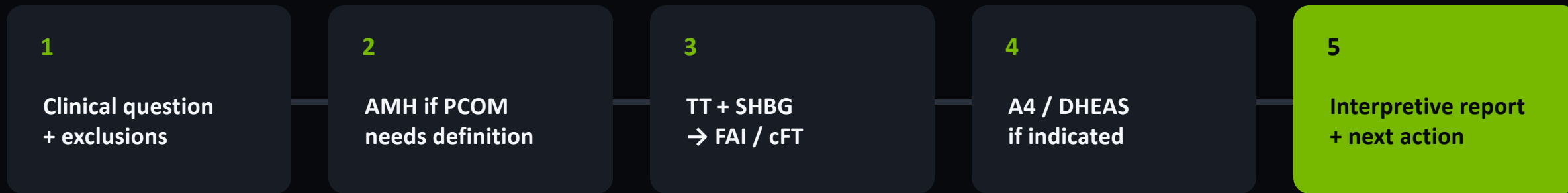
PREANALYTICS

COCN use, timing, clinical context

ESCALATION

rapid progression or marked elevation

One sample can trigger a more coherent diagnostic journey



Not more testing. Better-sequenced testing.

A credible rollout needs four proof points

01 Analytical verification

02 Clinical interpretation

03 Workflow design

04 Outcome tracking



The laboratory can close three gaps at once

ACCESS

bring PCOM assessment closer to routine care

ACCURACY

strengthen the biochemical phenotype

ACTION

translate numbers into next clinical steps

AMH + validated steroid testing + interpretive intelligence

THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH WILL NOT BE CLOSED BY ONE TEST.

It will be closed
by better pathways.

AMH identifies the follicular signal.
Steroids resolve the endocrine phenotype.
The laboratory connects both to action.





Find the beat. Keep the human.

Tap along — or simply listen.

Great systems need coordination.
So do great teams.





*let's
move
again*



Thank you for your attention

damien.gruson@uclouvain.be