For the  $c_{pa} = 0.10$  treatment the Liapunov exponent is 0, which is consistent with a quasiperiodic attractor that forms an invariant loop in phase space. In the  $c_{pa} = 0.25$ and  $c_{pa} = 0.35$  treatments, the Liapunov exponent is positive and the attractors are chaotic. A region of multiple attractors (chaos and 3-cycles) is associated with the  $c_{pa} = 0.50$  treatment. The stochastic variability of larvae and adults in the  $c_{pa}$ manipulated treatments was larger than that of the unmanipulated control treatment as measured by the estimated noise variances (main diagonal in the  $\Sigma$  matrices) (15).

Despite the effects of stochasticity, which are always present in experimental populations, a close examination of the data reveals features of the predicted deterministic attractors. The time-series data for one replicate culture of each experimental treatment are given in Fig. 2. Comparison with the control shows that the experimental manipulations had a destabilizing effect on the population dynamics. For the control cultures, the model forecasts an asymptotic approach to a stable equilibrium with slowly increasing adult numbers. For  $c_{pa} = 0.0$ , the model predicts an oscillatory approach to equilibrium, with approximately equal numbers of insects in all three life stages. For  $c_{pa} = 1.0$ , a distinctive 3-cycle is predicted, with a repeating high-low-low pattern. These predictions are supported by the data.

The complex deterministic attractors forecast for the remaining treatments are more clearly visualized in phase space. In this case, phase space is three-dimensional with state variables  $L_t$ ,  $P_t$ , and  $A_t$ . However, because  $P_t$  is a constant multiple of  $L_{t-1}$ , the features of the attractors are adequately seen when projected onto the  $L_t$ - $A_t$  plane.

Data points for all replicates of each treatment are plotted in the projected phase planes in Fig. 3. To deemphasize the presence of transients (and hence better discern the features of the asymptotic attractors), we omitted the first 10 data points in these plots. The control and  $c_{pa} = 0.0$  treatments show tight clusters of data points, as is consistent with the model prediction of a stable equilibrium (with noise). The  $c_{pa} =$ 0.0 cluster is less tightly packed in phase space than is the control, reflecting the increased stochastic variability of the  $c_{pa}$ manipulated cultures. The  $c_{pa} = 0.05$  and  $c_{pa} = 0.10$  treatments show different patterns of data points, which are consistent with the predicted invariant loops. In the  $c_{pa} = 0.10$  plot, the invariant loops. In dis-played with the data; in the  $c_{pa} = 0.05$  plot, the model forecasts period locking on the invariant loop with period 8, as shown. For

 $c_{pa} = 0.25$ , the data are scattered around the predicted chaotic attractor, which consists of several islands of points. In the  $c_{pa} = 0.35$  plot, the data are distributed in the L-A plane in a manner similar to the predicted chaotic attractor. For the treatments  $c_{pa} = 0.50$  and  $c_{pa} = 1.0$ , the data are distributed tightly along the L and A axes, as predicted by the chaotic attractor and 3-cycles shown. A close examination of these plots reveals a clustering of the data around the displayed cycle points.

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The experimental confirmation of nonlinear phenomena in the dynamics of the laboratory beetle lends credence to the hypothesis that fluctuations in natural populations might often be complex, low-dimensional dynamics produced by nonlinear feedbacks. In our study, complex dynamics were obtained by "harvesting" beetles to manipulate rates of adult mortality and recruitment. For applied ecology, the experiment suggests adopting a cautious approach to the management or control of natural populations, based on sound scientific understanding. In a poorly understood dynamical population system, human intervention-such as changing a death rate or a recruitment rate-could lead to unexpected and undesired results.

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## A Mouse Model with Features of Familial Combined Hyperlipidemia

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Familial combined hyperlipidemia (FCHL) is a common inherited lipid disorder, affecting 1 to 2 percent of the population in Westernized societies. Individuals with FCHL have large quantities of very low density lipoprotein (VLDL) and low density lipoprotein (LDL) and develop premature coronary heart disease. A mouse model displaying some of the features of FCHL was created by crossing mice carrying the human apolipoprotein C-III (*APOC3*) transgene with mice deficient in the LDL receptor. A synergistic interaction between the apolipoprotein C-III and the LDL receptor defects produced large quantities of VLDL and LDL and enhanced the development of atherosclerosis. This mouse model may provide clues to the origin of human FCHL.

**F**amilial combined hyperlipidemia is the most common genetic dyslipidemia and is characterized by large amounts of VLDL or LDL or both, as well as apolipoprotein B

(APOB), and small amounts of high density lipoprotein (HDL) (1, 2). FCHL affects about 5% of all individuals with coronary heart disease and 10% of individuals with early-onset disease. FCHL is thought to be caused by an autosomal dominant gene with a primary effect on plasma triglyceride concentrations and a secondary effect on cholesterol concentrations (1, 3). In one study of selected British families, FCHL was shown to be linked to the apolipoprotein A-I/apolipoprotein C-III/apolipoprotein A-IV (A1/C3/A4) gene cluster (4); other studies, although not confirming genetic linkage, have shown a strong association of FCHL with the A1/C3/A4 (5) or lipoprotein lipase (LPL) genes (6). The genetic basis of FCHL remains unknown, however.

To create a mouse model of FCHL, we crossed mice carrying the human APOC3 transgene, which have large quantities of VLDL (7), with mice carrying an inactive LDL receptor gene or a human APOB transgene, which have large quantities of LDL (8, 9). The APOC3 transgene markedly increased plasma VLDL and intermediate density lipoprotein (IDL) plus LDL (IDL-LDL) cholesterol when it was introduced into mice that were homozygously (LDLR0) or heterozygously (LDLR1) deficient for the LDL receptor (Fig. 1 and Table 1). The increase in IDL-LDL was more pronounced in mice fed the Western diet (three- to fourfold) than in those fed the chow diet (twofold). In addition, the APOC3 transgene increased VLDL cholesterol concentrations tenfold in LDLR0 mice (both diets) and more than fivefold in LDLR1 mice. The human APOC3 transgenic mice used in this experiment had VLDL cholesterol concentrations less than 50 mg/dl and IDL-LDL cholesterol concentrations of 32 and 86 mg/dl when fed chow and Western diets, respectively (Table 1). Thus, the APOC3 and LDL receptor defects are synergistic, resulting in increased VLDL and IDL-LDL cholesterol. These results contrast with those observed when the human APOC3 transgene was bred onto the human APOB transgene background where the effects on IDL-LDL and VLDL concentrations were less than additive (Table 1).

The APOC3 transgene also increased plasma and VLDL triglyceride concentrations in the LDL receptor-deficient background (Table 1), but the magnitude of this effect was comparable with that observed in mice expressing the APOC3 transgene alone (7). The APOC3 transgene had the most pronounced effect on VLDL and IDL-LDL lipoprotein fractions and little effect on HDL. Because low HDL is a feature of FCHL, we introduced the human cholesteryl ester transfer protein (*CETP*) transgene into mice of various genetic backgrounds (10). Introduction of this gene onto the LDLRO/ APOC3 background lowered HDL cholesterol by 79 and 36% in mice fed chow and Western diets, respectively (Fig. 1 and Table 1). It also resulted in redistribution of cholesterol from HDL and IDL-LDL to VLDL (Fig. 1 and Table 1) and of triglyceride from



Fig. 1. Plasma lipoprotein cholesterol distribution in mice of different genotypes fed a Western (0.15% cholesterol, 20% saturated fat) or chow diet, as determined by high-performance gel filtration chromatography (26). Mice were obtained by cross breeding LDLR0 (8) with APOC3 transgenic [line 3707, with moderate hypertriglyceridemia (7)] and NFR CETP transgenic [line 5203 (10)] mice. All mice were in a mixed genetic background (C57BL6/129), matched for sex (both male and female mice were studied), and 3 to 6 months old. LDLR0, homozygous LDL receptor gene knockout; LDLR0/C3, homozygous LDL receptor gene knockout/APOC3 transgenic; LDLR0/C3/CETP, homozygous LDL receptor gene knockout/cholesteryl ester transfer protein/APOC3 transgenic; LDLR1, heterozygous LDL receptor gene knockout; LDLR1/C3, heterozygous LDL receptor gene knockout/APOC3 transgenic; LDLR1/C3/CETP, heterozygous LDL receptor gene knockout/ CETP/APOC3 transgenic.

VLDL to IDL-LDL and HDL (11). Similar effects were observed in the LDLR1 mice. Mice have much higher LDL receptor activity than humans (12); thus, LDLR1 mice (on the Western diet) have IDL-LDL cholesterol concentrations similar to those of normolipidemic humans (80 to 100 mg/dl). The amounts of VLDL cholesterol (142 mg/dl) and IDL-LDL cholesterol (186 mg/dl) in LDLR1/APOC3/CETP mice are similar to those found in humans with FCHL (1, 2). Thus, the combination of the human APOC3 and CETP transgenes in the LDL receptor-deficient background produced a lipoprotein cholesterol profile resembling that of FCHL.

To determine whether the LDLR0/ APOC3 mice showed the increased amounts of APOB that are characteristic of FCHL (13), we separated plasma lipoproteins by ultracentrifugation and analyzed them by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Overexpression of APOC3 in LDLR0 mice produced an increased content of APOB100 and APOB48 in IDL and, to a lesser extent, in VLDL, compared with the content in LDLR0 mice. Apolipoprotein E (APOE) content was increased in VLDL and IDL in the LDLR0/APOC3 mice; in contrast, APOE content in VLDL declined in



**Fig. 2.** SDS-PAGE analysis of the apolipoproteins of VLDL, IDL, and LDL fractions of mice of different genotypes after 3 months on the Western diet. VLDL [density ( $\rho$ ) < 1.006 g/ml], IDL (1.006 <  $\rho$  < 1.019), and LDL (1.019 <  $\rho$  < 1.063) were separated from pooled plasma by ultracentrifugation in a Ti-100 ultracentrifuge, desalted, and concentrated; the final volume was normalized within each fraction. Each fraction (40 µl) was electrophoresed in a 3 to 20% polyacrylamide gel and proteins were detected by Coomassie blue staining. All mice (n = 6 to 10 per group) were matched for sex and age (3 to 6 months). nTg, nontransgenic littermates; Tg, transgenic; B-100, B-48, E, and C's, individual apolipoproteins; ALB, albumin.

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**Table 1.** Total cholesterol (TC) and triglyceride (TG) concentrations in plasma and lipoproteins in different lines of transgenic mice. All values are milligrams per deciliter of plasma from a pool of at least six mice and are representative of samples obtained on two or three occasions. The integrated areas and percentage distribution from the high-performance gel filtration chromatography profiles (Fig. 1) were used to determine the total cholesterol concentration of each lipoprotein fraction (*26*). *APOC3* transgenic mice were line 3707 with moderate hypertriglyceridemia (*7*, *13*). Littermates were matched for sex (both male and female mice were studied) and were 3 to 6 months old. Mice were fed the Western diet (0.15% cholesterol, 20% saturated fat) for 2 months except the LDLR1 and APOB transgenic groups, which were studied after 2 weeks on the diet.

| Genotype      | Cholesterol and triglyceride concentrations (mg/dl) |              |              |              |            |               |           |              |               |           |  |
|---------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--|
|               | Chow diet   |              | Western diet |              | Chow diet  |               |           | Western diet |               |           |  |
|               | Plasma<br>TC  | Plasma<br>TG | Plasma<br>TC | Plasma<br>TG | VLDL<br>TC | IDL-LDL<br>TC | HDL<br>TC | VLDL<br>TC   | IDL-LDL<br>TC | HDL<br>TC |  |
| APOC3         | 124   | 783          | 201          | 956          | 49         | 32            | 43        | 35           | 86            | 80        |  |
| LDLRO         | 221   | 241          | 403          | 107          | 18         | 121           | 78        | 20           | 288           | 95        |  |
| LDLR0/C3      | 480   | 1625         | 1118         | 827          | 183        | 235           | 62        | 220          | 810           | 88        |  |
| LDLR0/C3/CETP | 429   | 1776         | 1105         | 1967         | 267        | 151           | 13        | 372          | 677           | 56        |  |
| LDLR1         | 125   | 106          | 193          | 142          | 3          | 44            | 75        | 4            | 71            | 111       |  |
| LDLR1/C3      | 269   | 920          | 451          | 466          | 82         | 103           | 84        | 24           | 284           | 136       |  |
| LDLR1/C3/CETP | 259   | 763          | 381          | 1415         | 103        | 126           | 30        | 142          | 186           | 56        |  |
| APOB          | 114   | 192          | 245          | 249          | 4          | 70            | 40        | 4            | 116           | 124       |  |
| APOB/C3       | 142   | 736          | 226          | 541          | 51         | 59            | 32        | 26           | 110           | , 90      |  |

APOC3 transgenic mice (Fig. 2, C3 Tg VLDL) (7).

To ascertain whether the mice showed atherosclerosis susceptibility, we fed them a Western diet and measured the lesion area at the base of the aorta (Fig. 3). The lesion area in LDLR0/APOC3 mice was two to three times that in LDLR0 mice (P < 0.0002, t test). This contrasts with the situation in APOC3 transgenic mice, which do not show significant dietary atherosclerosis (14). Decreasing HDL by introducing the CETP transgene into the LDLR0/APOC3 back-



Fig. 3. Atherosclerotic lesion area in LDLRO, LDLR0/C3, and LDLR0/C3/CETP transgenic mice fed the Western diet for 3 months. Mean lesion area was determined in multiple sections of the proximal aorta by quantitation of intimal lipid accumulation from oil red O-stained sections (27). All groups of mice were matched for sex (both male and female mice were studied) and were 3 to 6 months old. There were at least 12 mice per group. Group means are indicated by horizontal bars. The level of significance was determined by t test of the natural logarithm of the mean lesion area. The mean lesion area in the LDLR0/C3 and LDLR0/C3/CETP mice was significantly increased compared with LDLR0 mice (P < 0.0002 and P < 0.02, respectively).

ground had no effect on lesion size. To investigate this unexpected result, we quantified the HDL subfractions in these mice by agarose electrophoresis. The pre- $\beta$  but not the  $\alpha$  subfraction of HDL ( $\alpha$ -HDL) is thought to participate in reverse cholesterol transport (15). The HDL decrease produced by introduction of the CETP gene onto the LDLR0/APOC3 background was mainly in the  $\alpha$ -HDL fraction (Table 2). This result may help explain why the HDL decrease did not enhance the development of atheroscle-rosis in the mice.

Our study suggests that genes, such as APOC3, that cause hypertriglyceridemia (increased VLDL) may be involved in the pathogenesis of FCHL. On the basis of transgenic mouse experiments, which showed that the expression of human or mouse APOC3 transgenes, even at relatively low levels, caused hypertriglyceridemia, it has been proposed that overexpression of APOC3 in humans may underlie hypertriglyceridemia (7). Several lines of evidence support this hypothesis. In clinical studies, two distinct haplotypes of the A1/C3/A4 cluster—one characterized by the minor allele (X2) of an Xmn I restriction fragment

length polymorphism (RFLP) 5' to the gene complex and the other by the minor allele (S2) of an Sst I RFLP in the 3' untranslated region of the APOC3 gene-have been associated with hypertriglyceridemia (5, 16–18). One or two copies of the X2 allele are present in about 40% of patients with hypertriglyceridemia (18). The S2 allele, present in 40 to 50% of hypertriglyceridemic patients (16), is in strong linkage disequilibrium with polymorphisms in an insulin response element in the promoter of the APOC3 gene (19). In cell culture studies, these polymorphisms render the APOC3 gene insensitive to the normal insulin-mediated down-regulation of transcription. Further evidence that APOC3 overexpression may underlie human hypertriglyceridemia comes from the finding that a hypotriglyceridemic class of drugs, the fibric acids, down-regulate APOC3 transcription in the liver through a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-dependent mechanism (20).

The combined mouse and human data suggest that APOC3 may be a common hypertriglyceridemia gene, which, in the proper setting of diminished LDL receptor activ-

**Table 2.** Distribution of APOA1 among pre– $\beta$ -HDL and  $\alpha$ -HDL in LDLR0, LDLR0/C3, and LDLR0/C3/ CETP transgenic mice. Mice were fed the Western diet for 3 months. Pooled plasma from each group was quantitated. Values shown are means  $\pm$  SD. Numbers in parentheses indicate number of mice per group. Lipoprotein fractions were separated by agarose gel electrophoresis and transferred to nitrocellulose membranes. Mouse APOA1 was detected with a rabbit polyclonal antibody. Areas containing pre– $\beta$ -HDL and  $\alpha$ -HDL were detected and quantitated with a PhosphorImager (Molecular Dynamics).

|  | APOA1  | Percent of                              | Pre–β-HDL  |                      |  |
|--|--|---|--|----------------------|--|
| Genotype                                       | (mg/ml)  | Pre-β-HDL                               | α-HDL  | (mg/ml)              |  |
| LDLR0 (5)<br>LDLR0/C3 (4)<br>LDLR0/C3/CETP (5) | $3.1 \pm 0.75$<br>$1.4 \pm 0.20$<br>$0.6 \pm 0.35$ | $16 \pm 3$<br>$33 \pm 2$<br>$60 \pm 11$ | $   \begin{array}{r}     84 \pm 3 \\     67 \pm 2 \\     40 \pm 11   \end{array} $ | 0.50<br>0.46<br>0.39 |  |

ity, can result in the FCHL phenotype. Although decreased LDL receptor activity is not thought to be the primary defect in human FCHL (1, 2), LDL cholesterol and APOB amounts appear to be influenced by LDL receptor activity (21). In APOC3 transgenic mice, hypertriglyceridemia arises from a delay in clearance of VLDL (7), reflecting an in vivo lipolysis defect (7, 22), which may be caused by decreased binding of VLDL to endothelial cell proteoglycans, impairing access to LPL (22-24). It is possible that low LDL receptor activity results in increased conversion of accumulating VLDL into IDL and LDL. Other hypertriglyceridemia genes also might produce the FCHL phenotype. For example, deficiency of LPL activity has been found in some FCHL families (6, 25). Although this is not usually because of alterations in the LPL gene itself (25), other genes that diminish LPL activity might underlie FCHL in some instances.

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## Linkage of G Protein–Coupled Receptors to the MAPK Signaling Pathway Through PI 3-Kinase $\gamma$

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The tyrosine kinase class of receptors induces mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) activation through the sequential interaction of the signaling proteins Grb2, Sos, Ras, Raf, and MEK. Receptors coupled to heterotrimeric guanine triphosphate–binding protein (G protein) stimulate MAPK through G<sub>βγ</sub> subunits, but the subsequent intervening molecules are still poorly defined. Overexpression of phosphoinositide 3-kinase  $\gamma$  (PI3K $\gamma$ ) in COS-7 cells activated MAPK in a G<sub>βγ</sub>-dependent fashion, and expression of a catalytically inactive mutant of PI3K $\gamma$  abolished the stimulation of MAPK by G<sub>βγ</sub> or in response to stimulation of muscarinic (m2) G protein–coupled receptors. Signaling from PI3K $\gamma$  to MAPK appears to require a tyrosine kinase, Shc, Grb2, Sos, Ras, and Raf. These findings indicate that PI3K $\gamma$  mediates G<sub>βγ</sub>-dependent regulation of the MAPK signaling pathway.

The muscarinic receptor m2 was expressed in COS-7 cells together with an epitopetagged MAPK (HA-ERK2) (1). Treatment of cells with the agonist carbachol induced activation of MAPK, and wortmannin, an inhibitor of phosphoinositide 3-kinases (PI3Ks), nearly abolished this effect (Fig. 1A). Furthermore, MAPK activation induced by transient expression of  $G_{\beta\gamma}$  or by coexpression of  $G_{\beta\gamma}$  and the guanine nucleotide exchange factor Sos was also inhibited by wortmannin (Fig. 1B). In contrast, no effect of wortmannin was observed when MAPK was stimulated by epidermal growth factor (EGF); by a mutationally activated form of MEK, MEK E; or by a membranetargeted form of Sos, myrSos (Fig. 1, A and

logiche, Laboratorio di Biologia Moleculare, Polclinico Monteluce, University of Perugia and European Institute of Oncology, Via Ripamonti 435, 20141 Milan, Italy. B). These results support an essential role for wortmannin-sensitive PI3K in signal transduction from G protein–coupled receptors to MAPK (2), separately from the EGF signaling pathway and upstream of Sos and MEK.

Several species of PI3K have been cloned and characterized. Heterodimeric PI3K $\alpha$  and PI3K $\beta$ , consisting of p110 catalytic subunits and different p85 adapter molecules, are regulated by receptors with intrinsic or associated tyrosine kinase activity (3). Another PI3K isotype, termed PI3K $\gamma$ , can be activated in vitro by both  $\alpha$ and  $\beta\gamma$  subunits of heterotrimeric G proteins but does not interact with p85 (4). We expressed the  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  forms of PI3K in COS-7 cells and investigated their ability to induce MAPK activity (Fig. 2, A and B). PI3K $\gamma$  induced a concentration-dependent stimulation of MAPK. In contrast, expression of PI3K $\alpha$  or a mutant of PI3K $\gamma$  lacking lipid kinase activity, PI3Ky K799R (5), did not affect MAPK activity (Fig. 2, B and C). Stimulation of MAPK by overexpression of PI3K $\gamma$  (5) was abolished by wortmannin (Fig. 2C). These observations indicate that PI3K $\gamma$  may mediate the wortmannin-sensitive activation of MAPK by receptors linked to heterotrimeric G proteins.

We found that expression of the mutated PI3K $\gamma$  that lacks lipid kinase activity

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