

The impact of shift work on health

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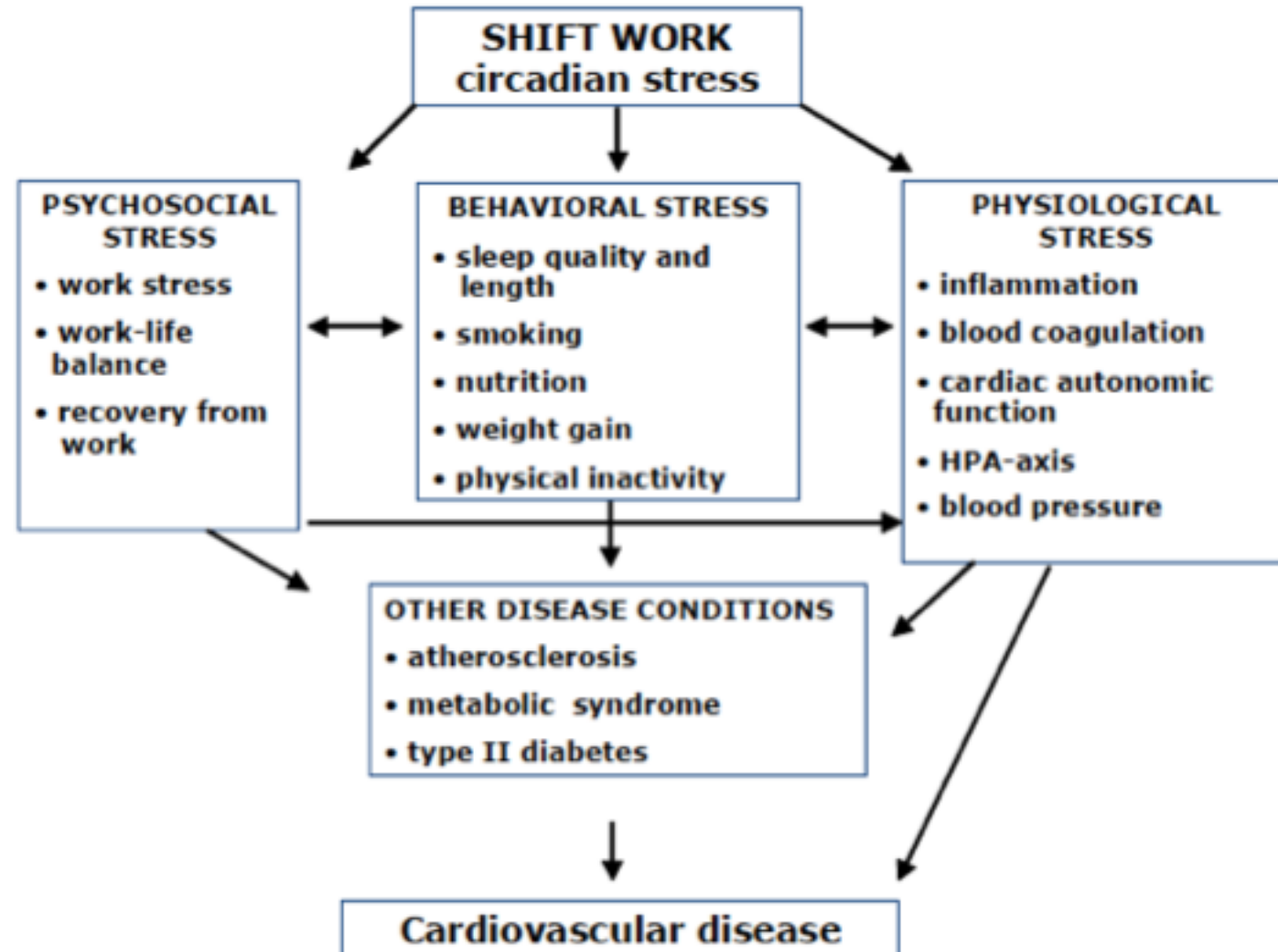
Shift Work and Health



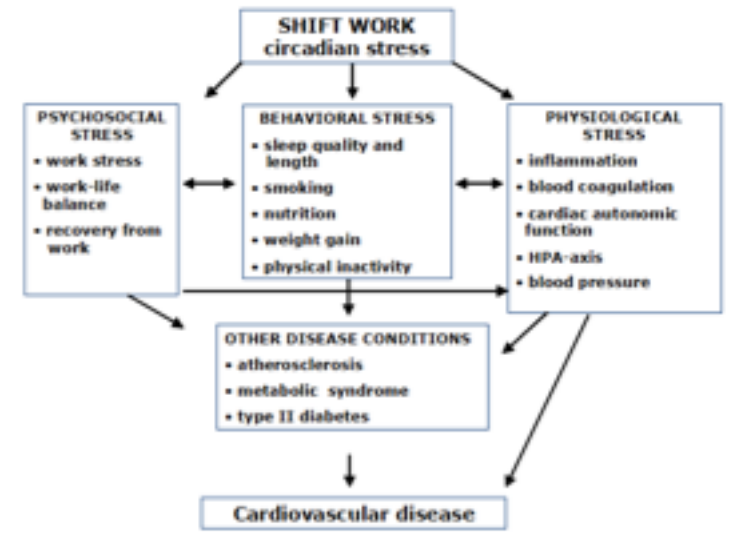
Outline

- **Mechanisms**
- Known and unknowns
- Prevention strategies

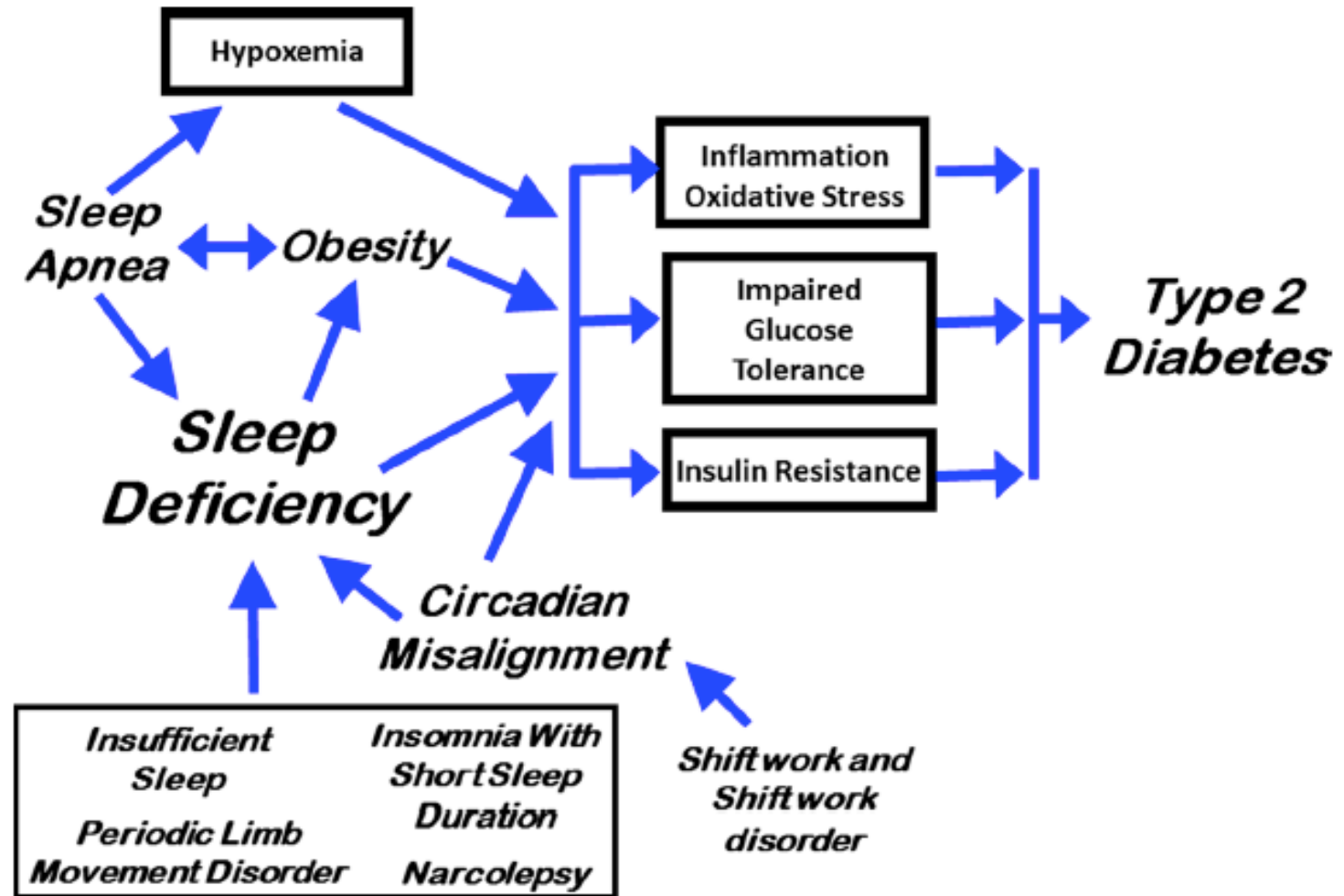
Putative mechanisms for the association between work and health



Putative mechanisms for the association between work and health



Puttonen et al., 2010, SJWEH



Shift Work and Health



Outline

- Mechanisms
- **Known and unknowns**
- Prevention strategies

Overall, shift work increases the risk of chronic disease

BMJ. 2012 Jul 26;345:e4800. doi: 10.1136/bmj.e4800.

Shift work and vascular events: systematic review and meta-analysis.

Vyas MV¹, Garg AX, Iansavichus AV, Costella J, Donner A, Li Occup Med (Lond). 2011 Mar;61(2):78-89. doi: 10.1093/occmed/kqr001.

Shift work and chronic disease: the epidemiological evidence.

Wang XS¹, Armstrong ME, Cairns BJ, Key TJ, Travis RC.

Sleep Med. 2015 Nov;16(11):1381-7. doi: 10.1016/j.sleep.2015.02.543. Epub 2015 May 11.

Night-shift work increases morbidity of breast cancer and all-cause mortality: a meta-analysis of 16 prospective cohort studies.

Lin X¹, Chen W², W Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2013 Feb;138(1):291-301. doi: 10.1007/s10549-013-2433-1. Epub 2013 Feb 12.

Night-shift work and risk of breast cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Kamdar BB¹, Tergas AJ, Mateen FJ, Bhayani NH, Oh J.

Scand J Work Environ Health. 2013 Sep 1;39(5):431-47. doi: 10.5271/sjweh.3371. Epub 2013 Jun 26.

Night-shift work and breast cancer--a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Ijaz S¹, Verbeek J, Seidler A, Lindbohm ML, Ojajärvi A, Orsini N, Costa G, Neuvonen K.

Occup Environ Med. 2015 Jan;72(1):72-8. doi: 10.1136/oemed-2014-102150. Epub 2014 Jul 16.

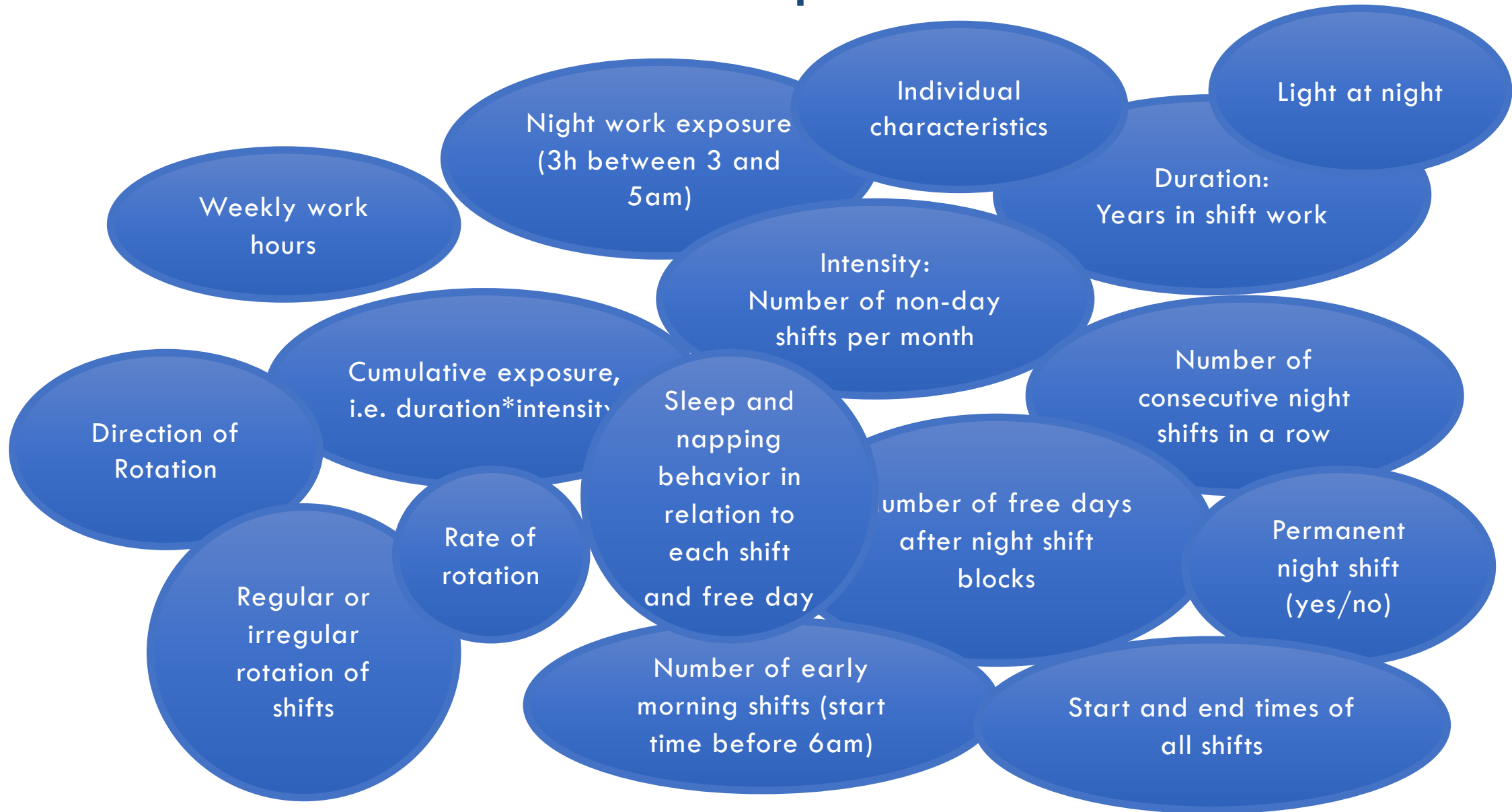
Shift work and diabetes mellitus: a meta-analysis of observational studies.

Gan Y¹, Yang C¹, Tong X¹, Sun H¹, Cong Y¹, Yin X¹, Li L², Cao S¹, Dong X¹, Gong Y¹, Shi Q¹, Deng J¹, Bi H¹, Lu Z¹.

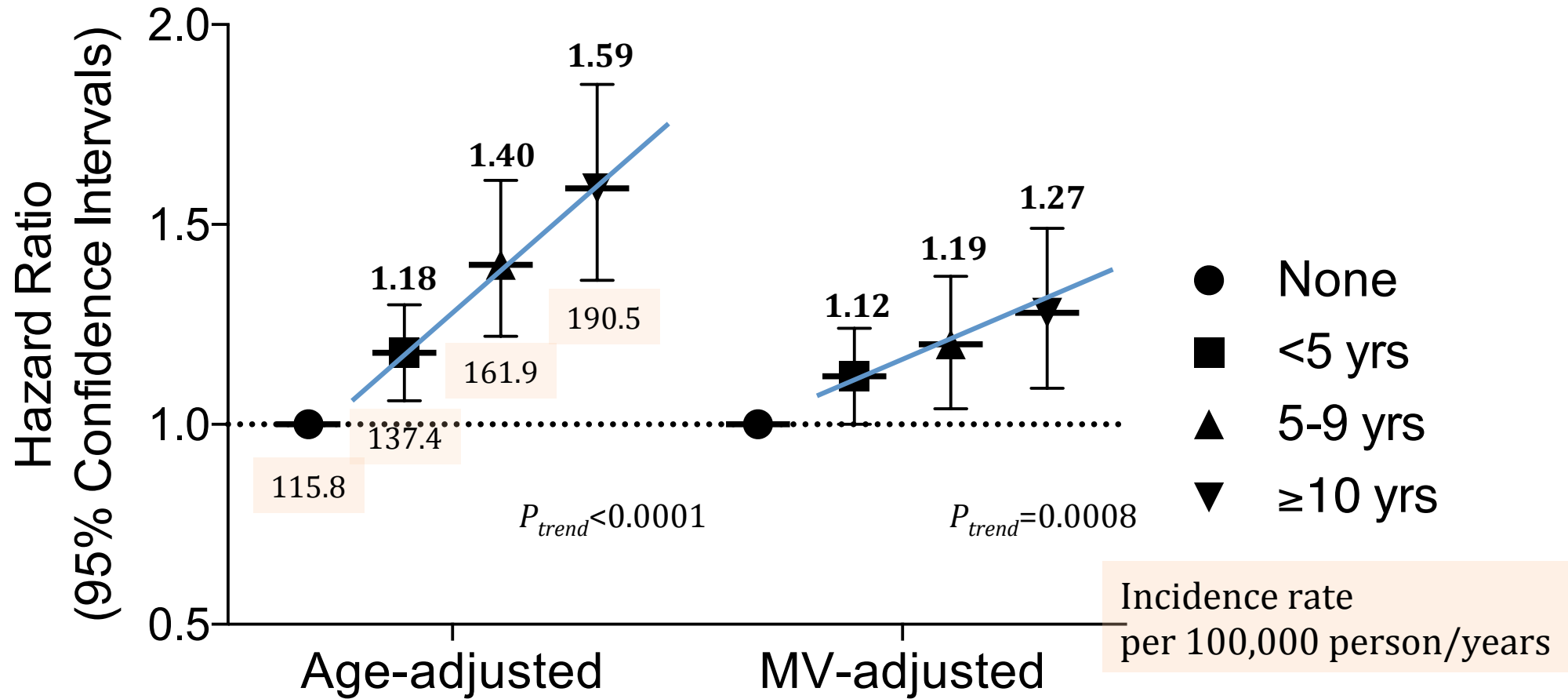
A meta-analysis including dose-response relationship between night shift work and the risk of colorectal cancer.

Wang X¹, Ji A¹, Zhu Y¹, Liang Z¹, Wu J¹, Li S¹, Meng S¹, Zheng X¹, Xie L¹.

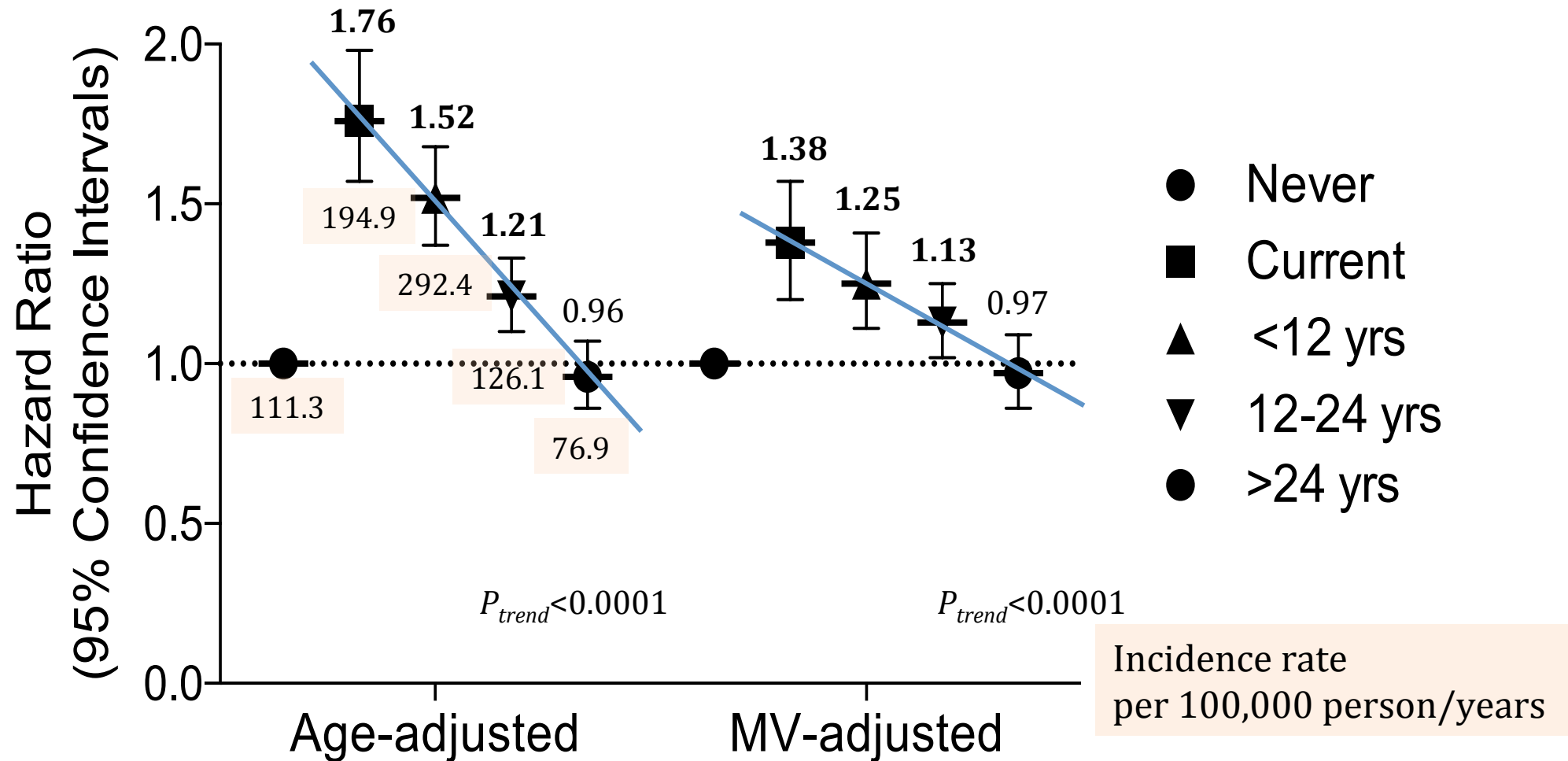
Ideal state of exposure assessments



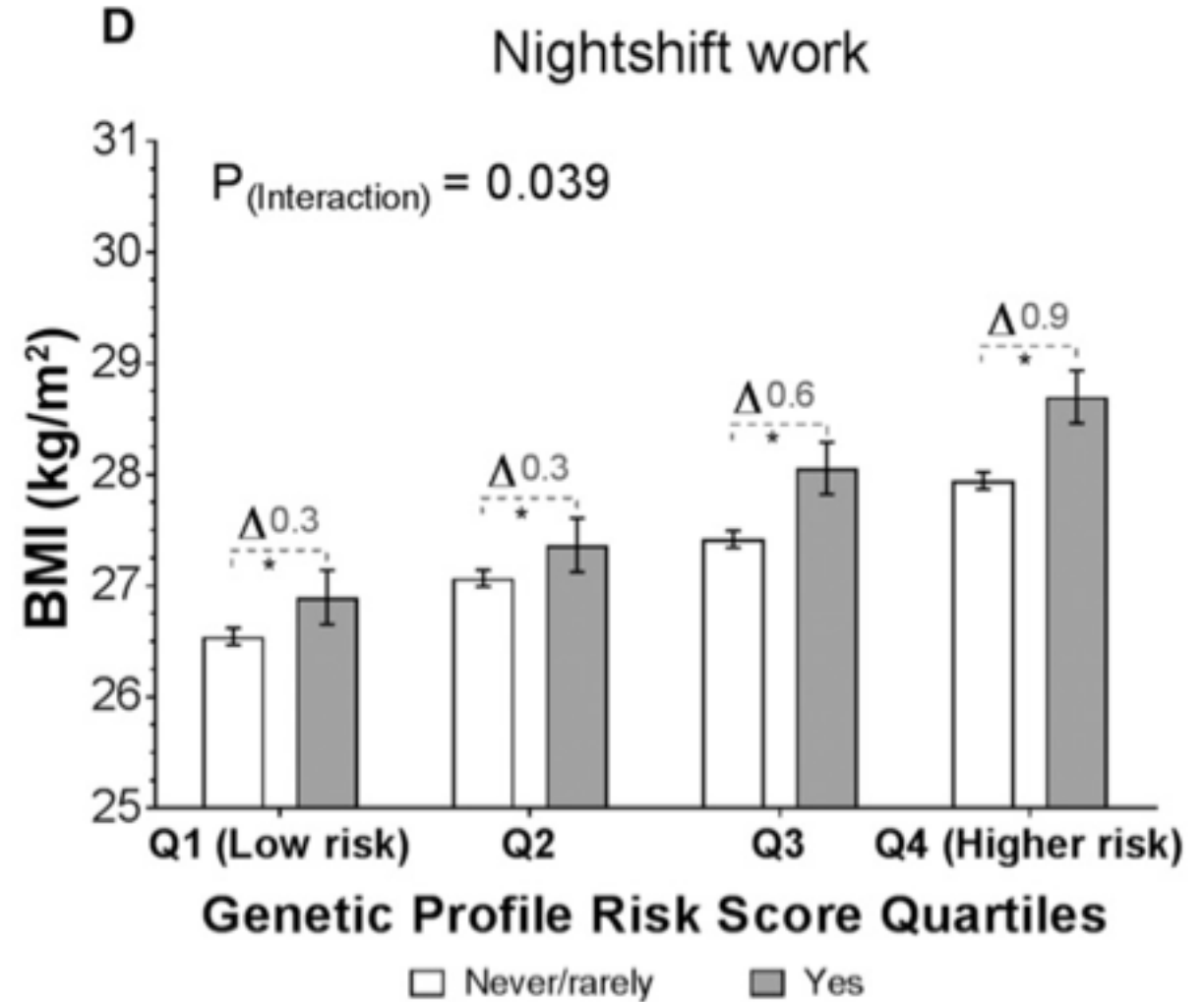
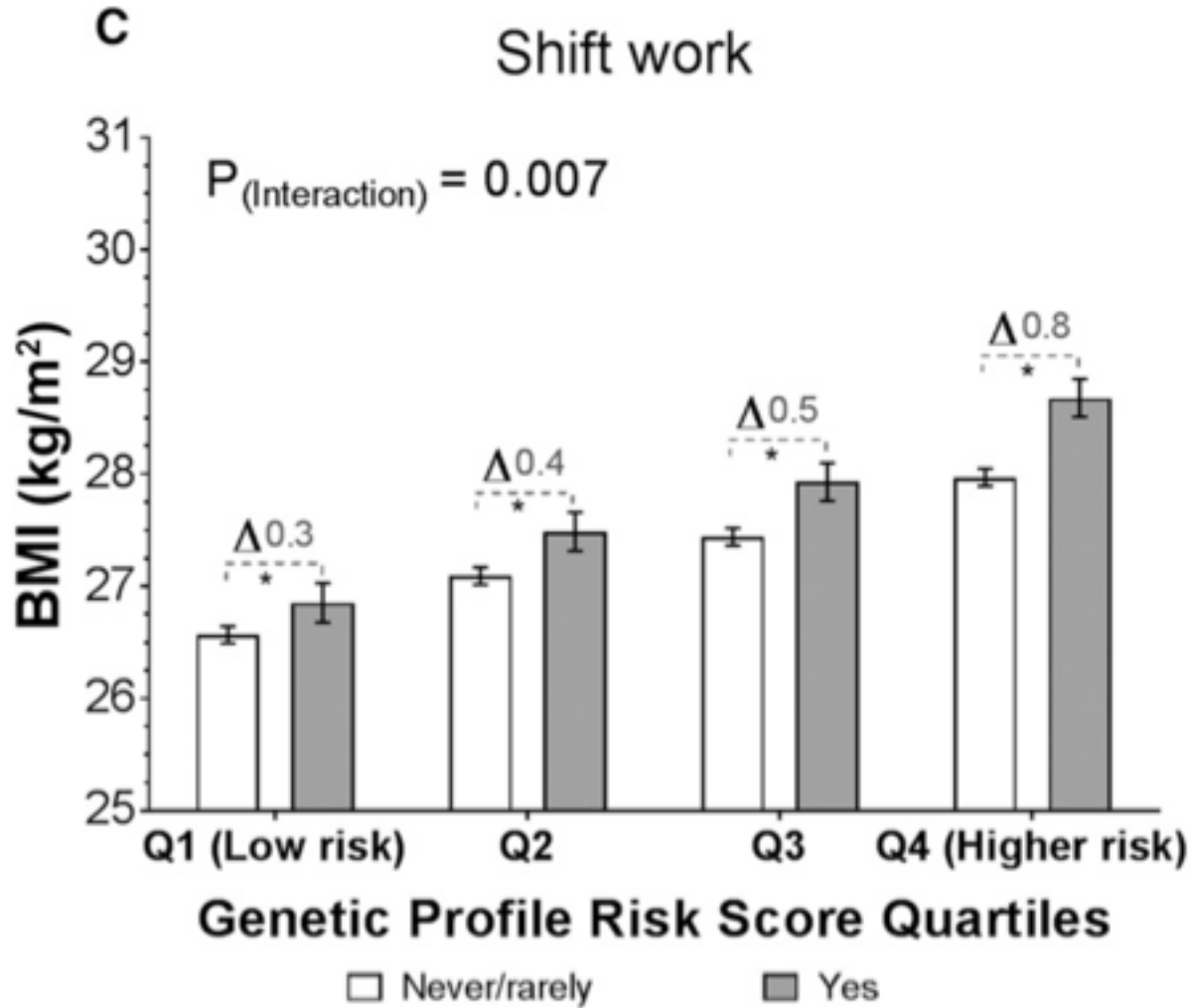
In the Nurses' Health Study II, longer exposure to rotating night shift work was associated with an increased risk of coronary heart disease



Stopping shift work decreased the likelihood of a CHD event over time



Shift Work, Genetic Risk, and Obesity



Shift Work and Health



Outline

- Mechanisms
- Known and unknowns
- **Prevention strategies**

Protective factors and counter-measures

ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGIES

Favourable scheduling and interventions

- Avoid short recovery times between shifts
- Morning shifts starts =7
- Avoid long shifts and work weeks
- Forward rotation
- Screening for sleep disorders
- Regulate excessive working hours
- Individual work time control

INDIVIDUAL STRATEGIES

Sleep and napping

- Prioritising sleep and recovery before, during, and after work periods
- Short naps before and during shifts

Pharmacology

- Caffeine dose early on shift
- Modafinil
- Hypnotics
- Melatonin

Partial adaptation to night shifts

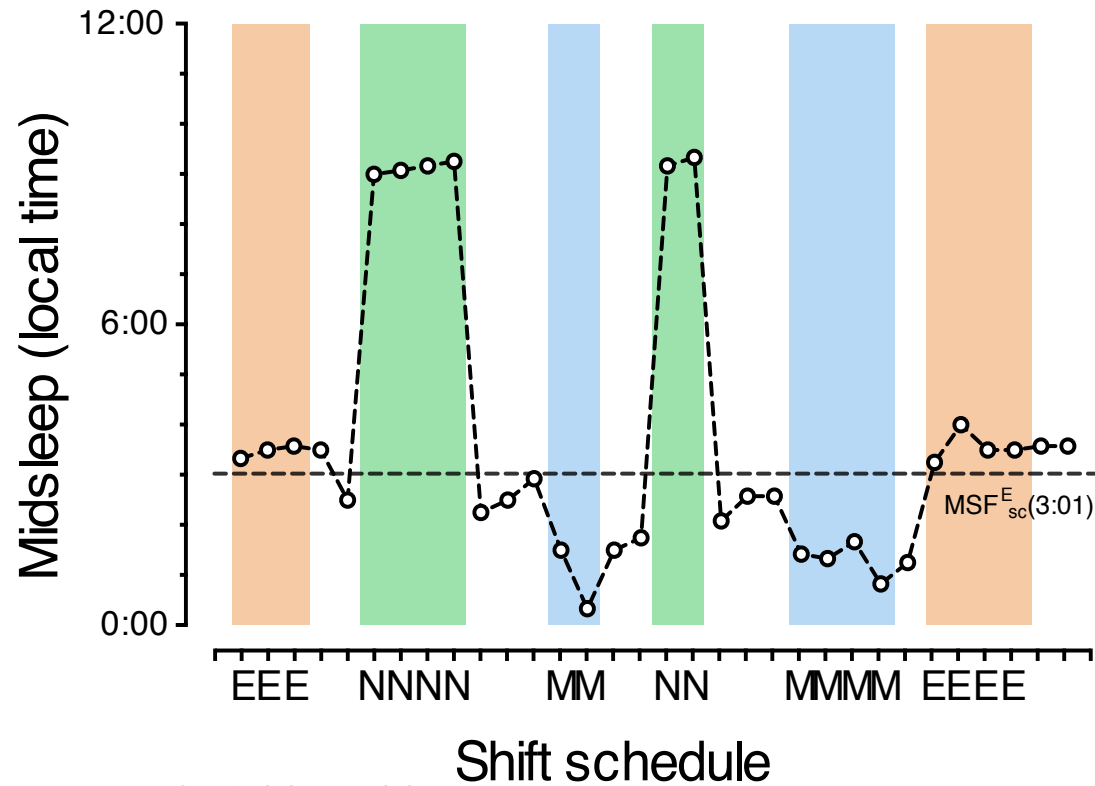
- Light at night and avoidance of morning light

Diet habits

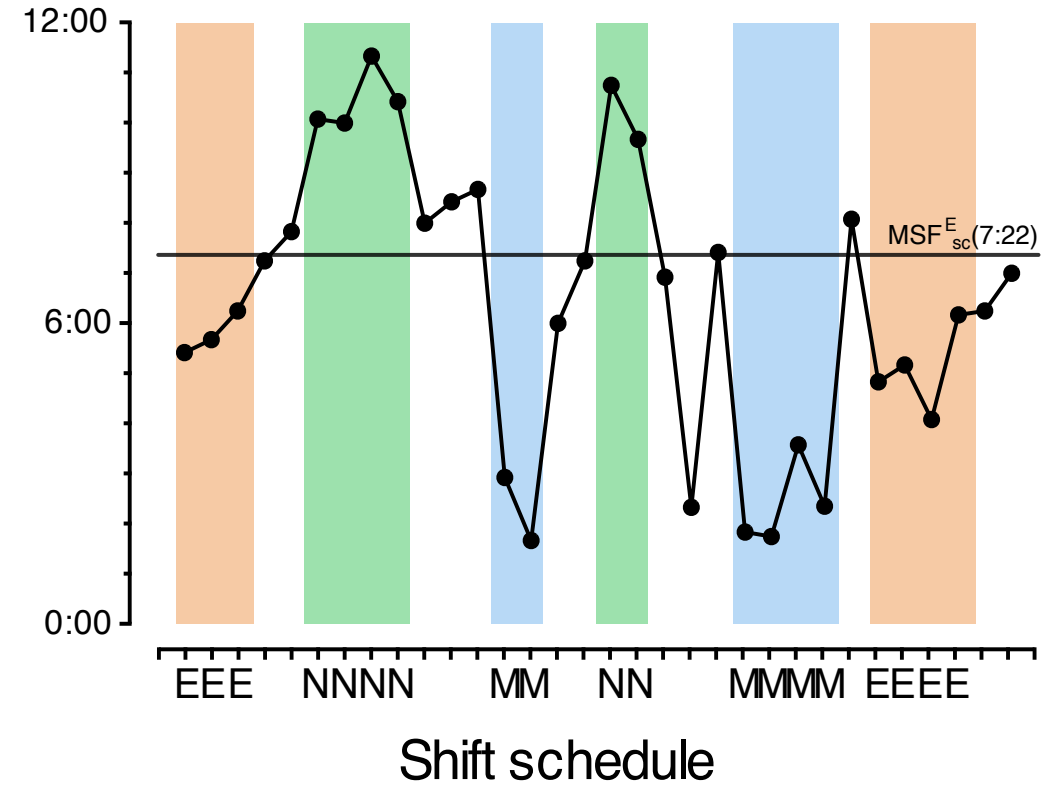
- Limit night eating
- Healthy diet

How relevant are inter-individual differences in circadian phenotypes for resilience to shift work?

Early types

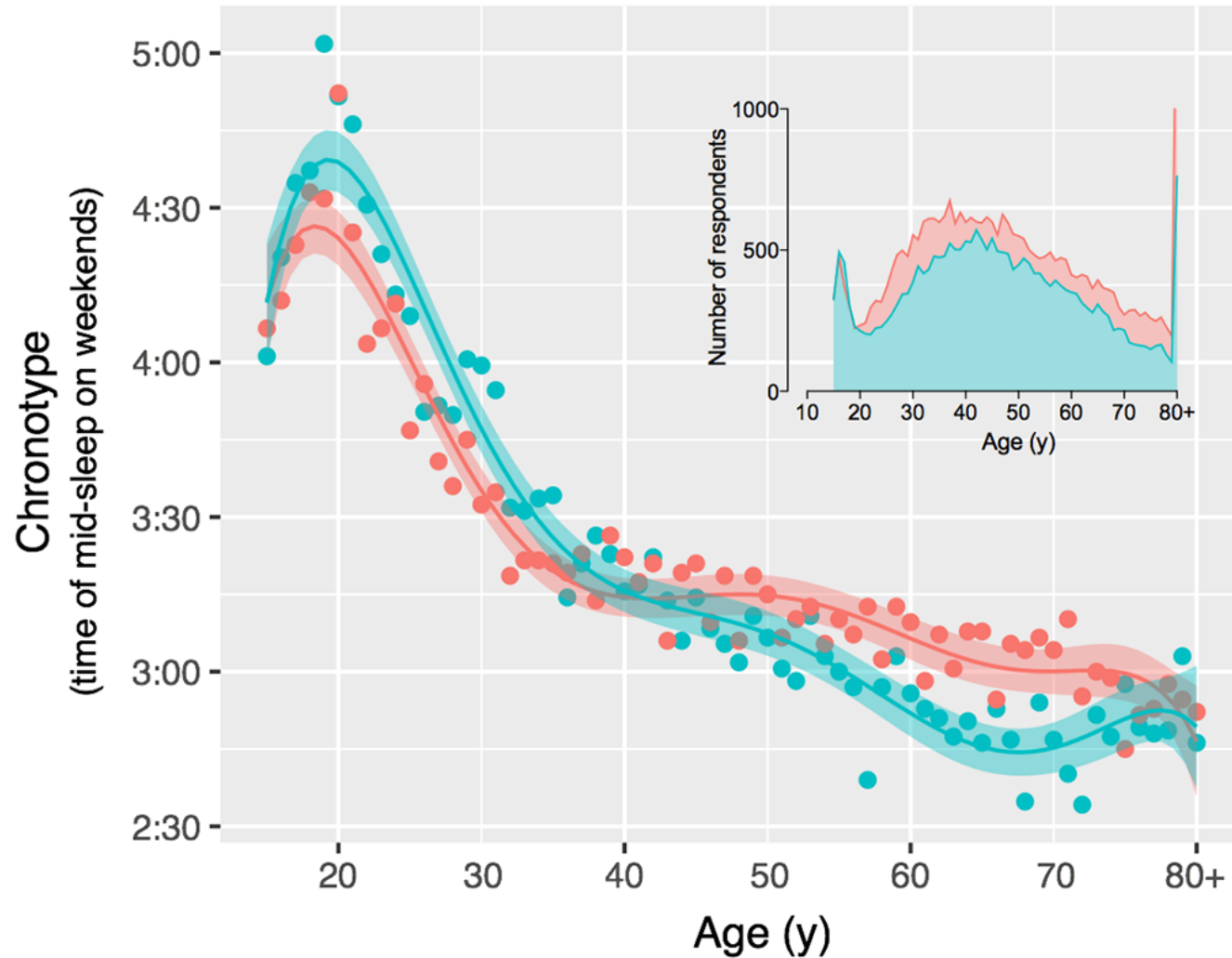


Late types

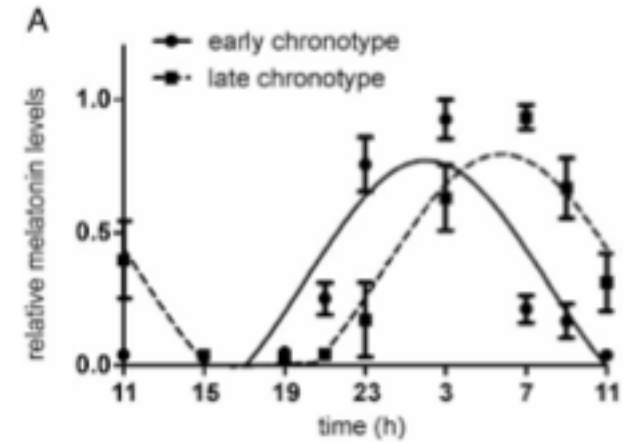


- Morning Shift (6:00-14:00)
- Evening Shift (14:00-22:00)
- Night Shift (22:00-6:00)

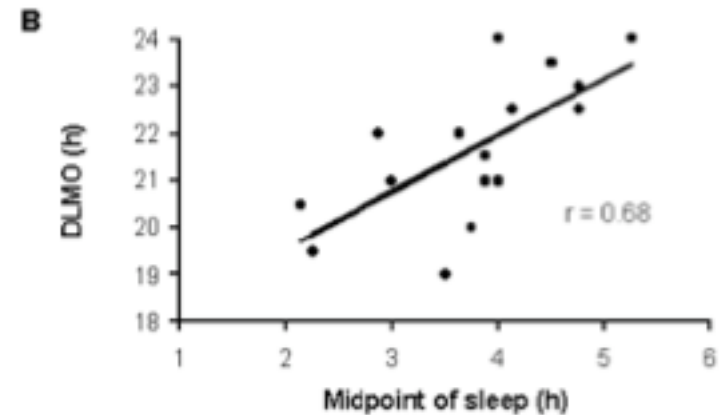
Distribution of Circadian Phenotypes



Fischer et al., 2017, PloS One



Novakova et al., 2013, Chrono Int

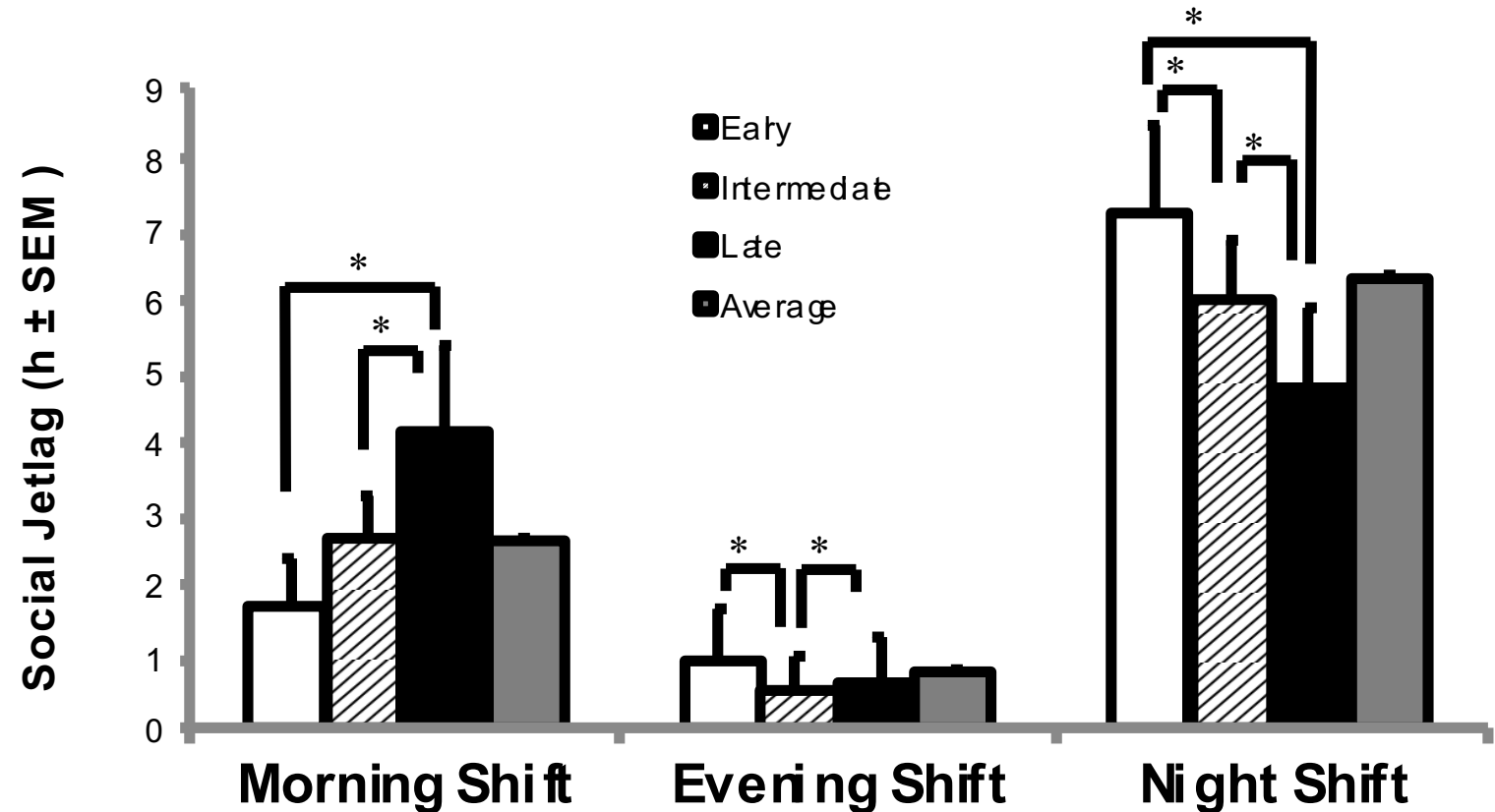


Burgess et al., 2003, Behav Sleep Med

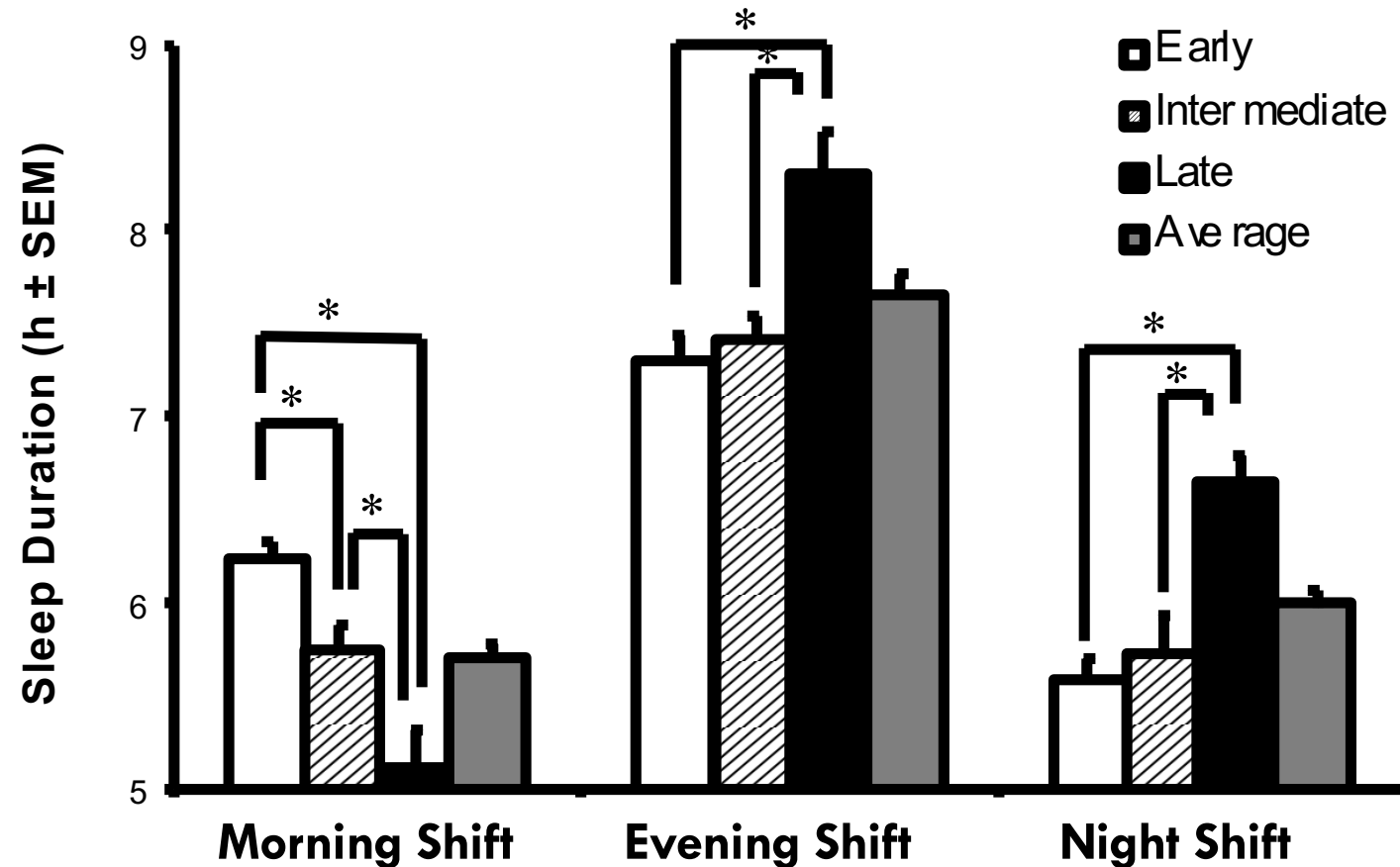
Social jetlag – a proxy for circadian strain – is modulated by circadian phenotypes of shift workers



Δ Mid-sleep work and free days



Sleep duration in shift workers is modulated by circadian phenotype



Changing work hours to improve sleep and reduce circadian misalignment



Early Type

Morning Shift

Evening Shift



Intermediate Type

Morning Shift

Evening Shift

Night Shift

Late Type

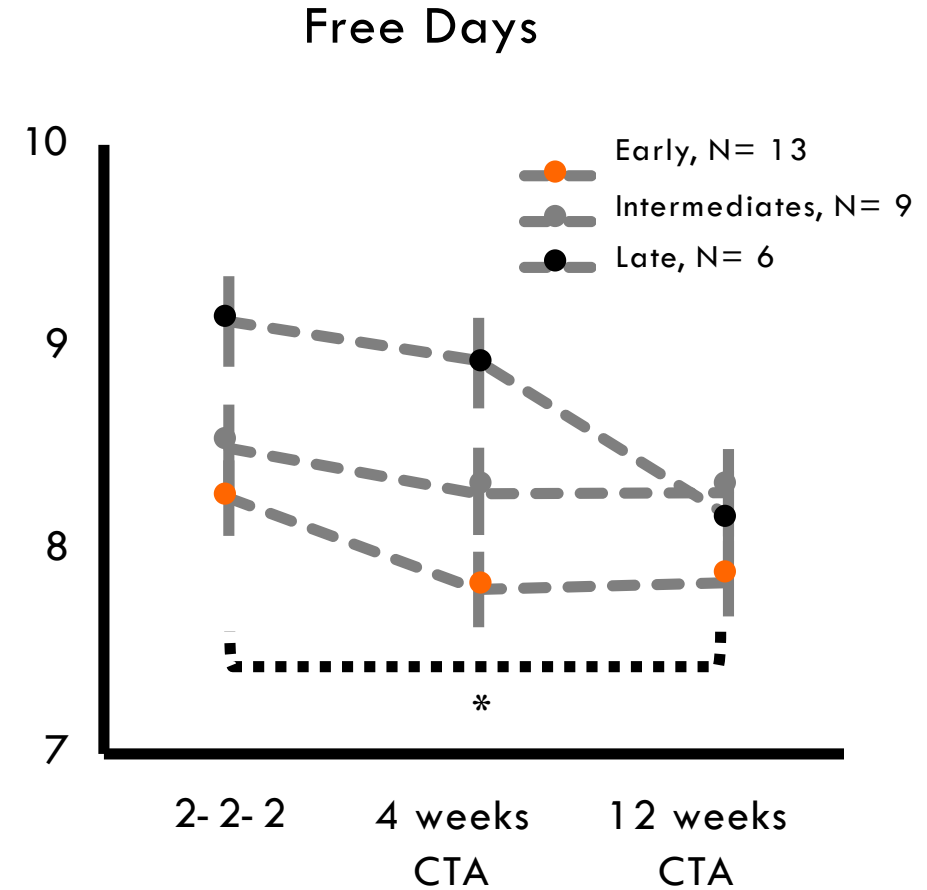
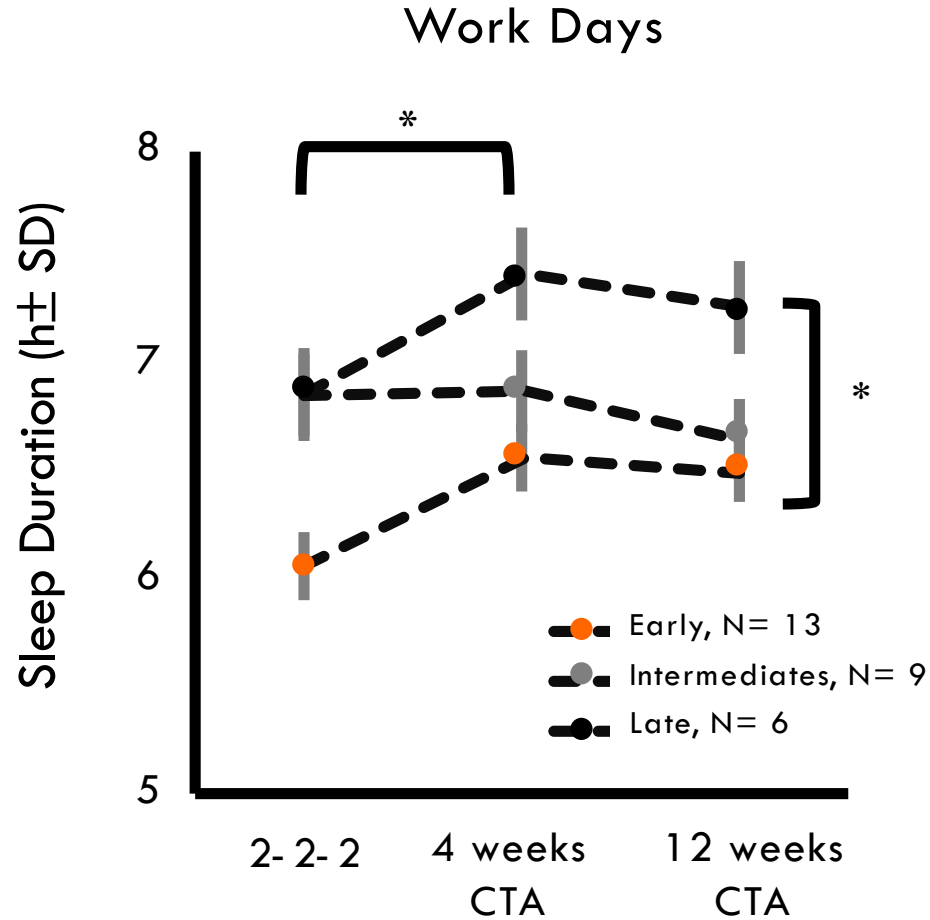
~~Morning Shift~~

~~Evening Shift~~

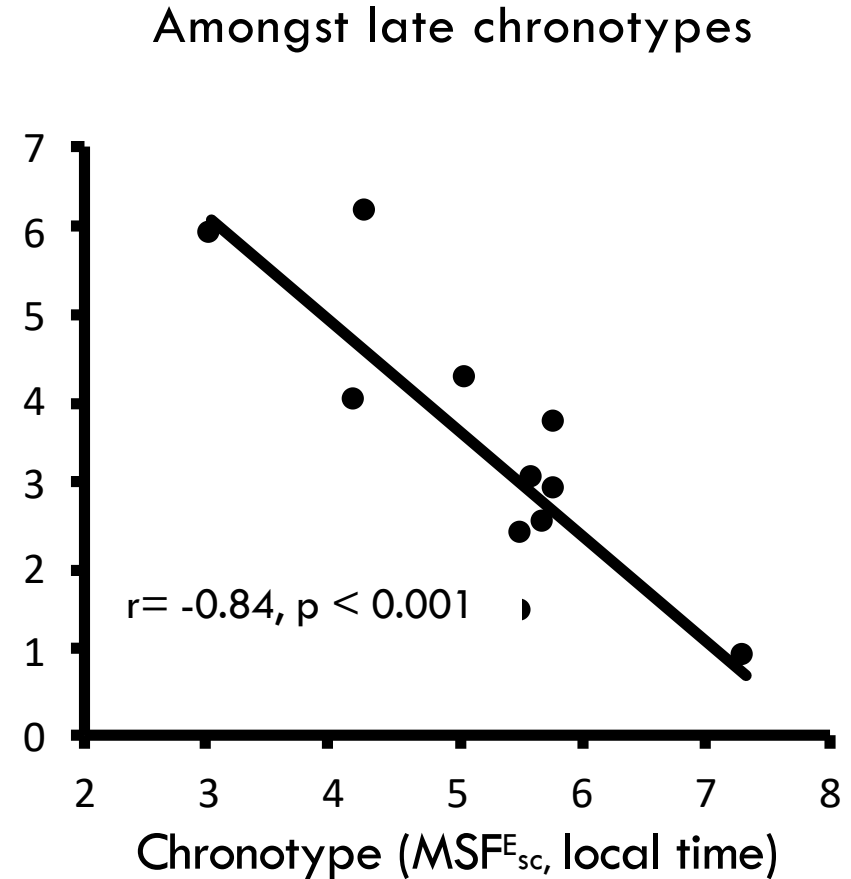
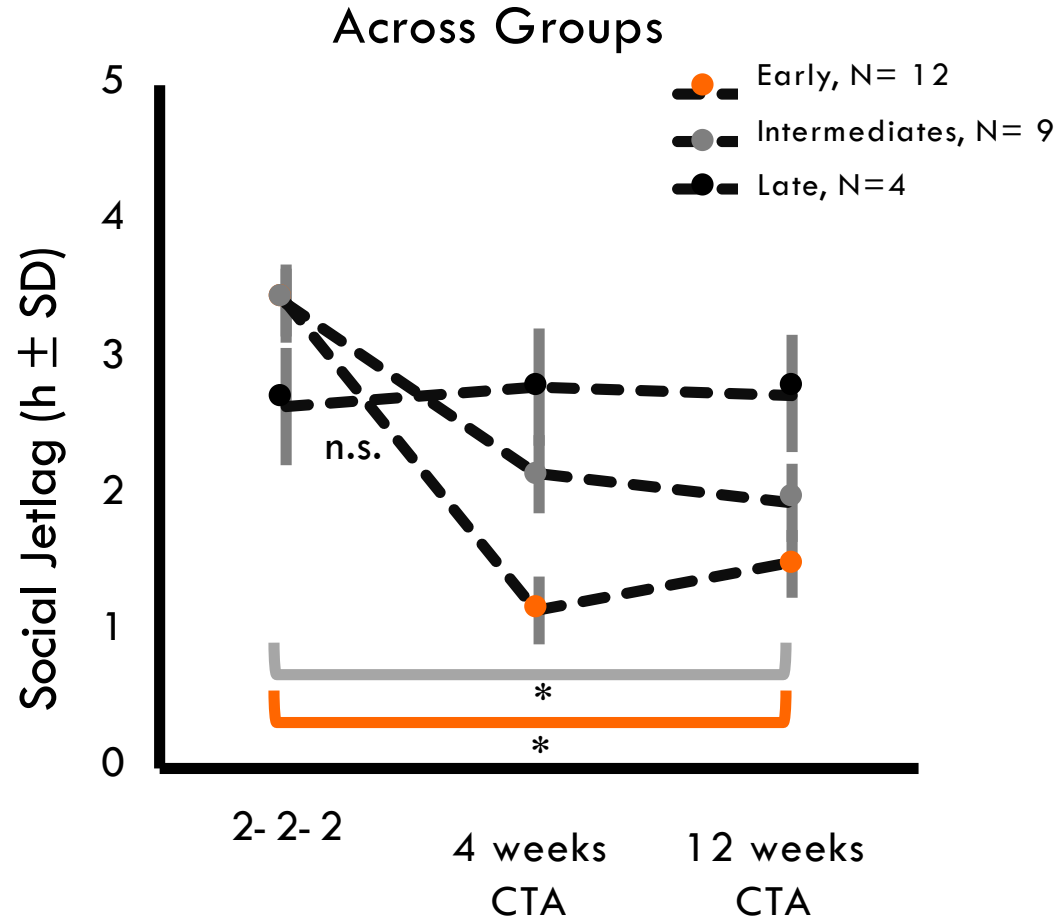
Night Shift



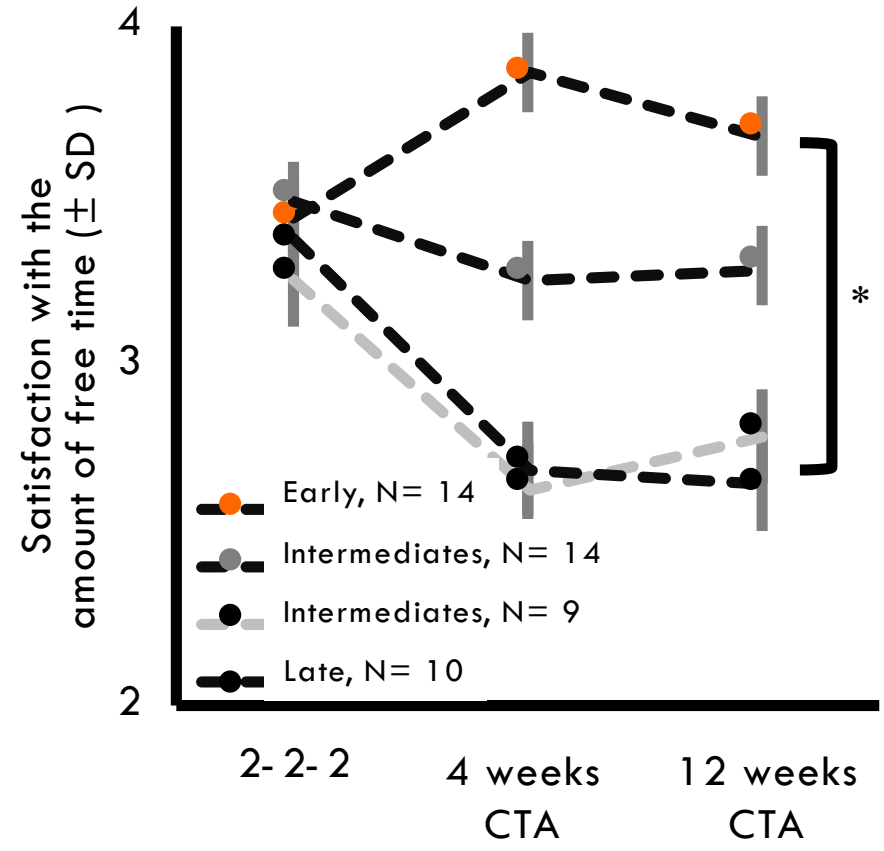
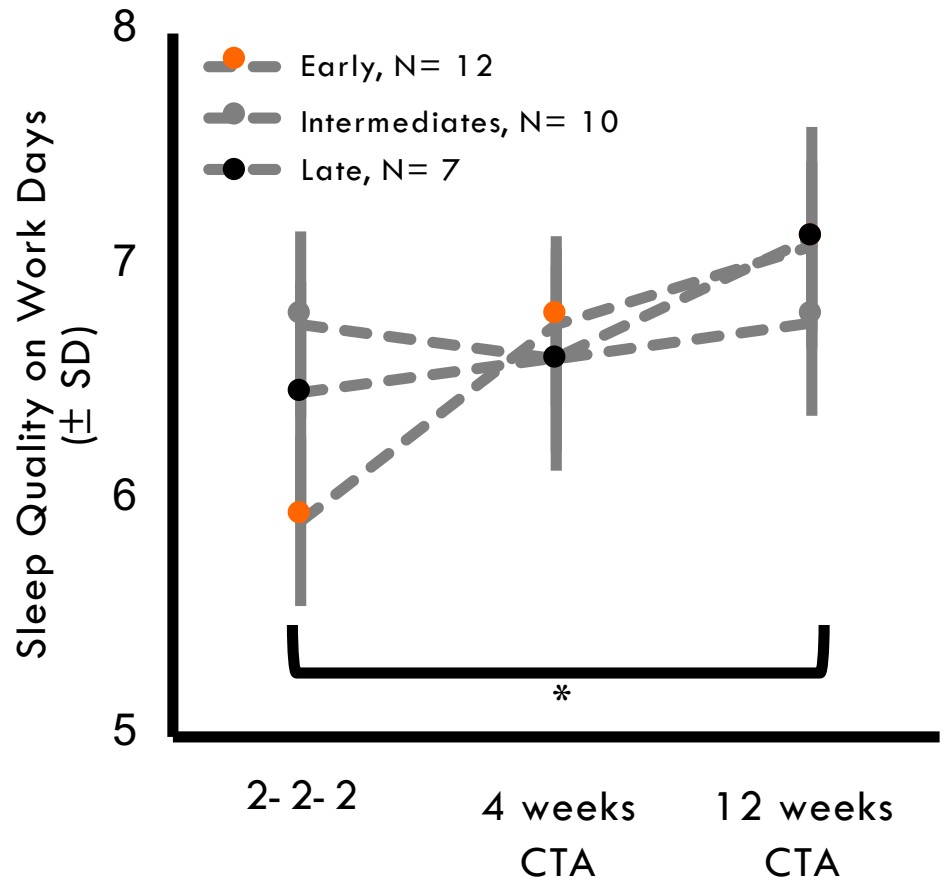
We could increase sleep duration on work days by 0.5h in early and late chronotypes



An intention-to-treat analysis showed that we reduced the overall level of social jetlag by 1h



We also improved work-day sleep quality, but late chronotypes were less satisfied with their social life



Changing work hours to improve sleep and reduce circadian misalignment



Early Type

Morning Shift

Evening Shift



Intermediate Type

Morning Shift

Evening Shift

Night Shift

Late Type

~~Morning Shift~~

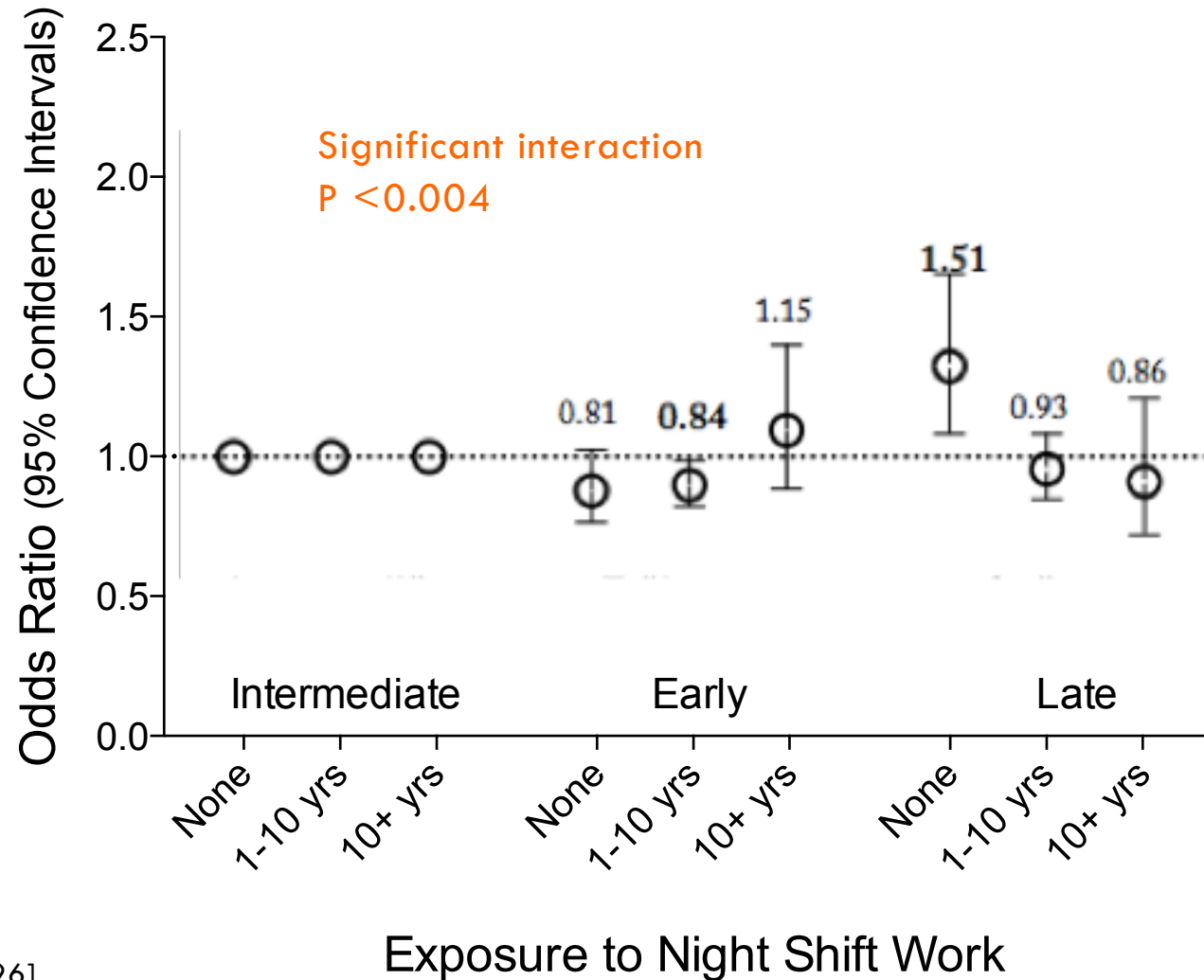
~~Evening Shift~~

Night Shift



- Early and late types showed significantly longer work day sleep duration
- Overall social jetlag was reduced by 1h
- Workday sleep quality also improved
- Problematic cumulation of weekend night shifts amongst younger employees

Association between T2D risk and chronotype depends on shift work history



Samples size [cases]

Intermediate: none 10,131[198],

1-10 yrs 21,829 | 528], 10+ yrs 2,726[96]

Early: none 6,774 [99], 1-10 yrs 14,232 | 255], 10+ yrs 1,696 [59]

Late: none 1,857[68], 1-10 yrs 4,571 | 138], 10+ yrs 799 [31]

More work is needed

“Except for hypnotics, several types of interventions reviewed had positive overall effects on chronic disease outcomes. There was substantial heterogeneity among studies with respect to study sample, interventions, and outcomes. **There is a need for further high-quality, workplace-based prevention research conducted among shift workers.**”

Take Home

- Inter-individual differences in circadian phenotype impact sleep duration and the level of circadian misalignment, but long-term effects are currently unclear
- Need for evaluation of feasibility and efficacy of personalized prevention strategies in collaboration with industry
- Need for adaptation is dependent on the type of schedule
- Sleep and circadian rhythms affect lifestyle risk factors of chronic disease