

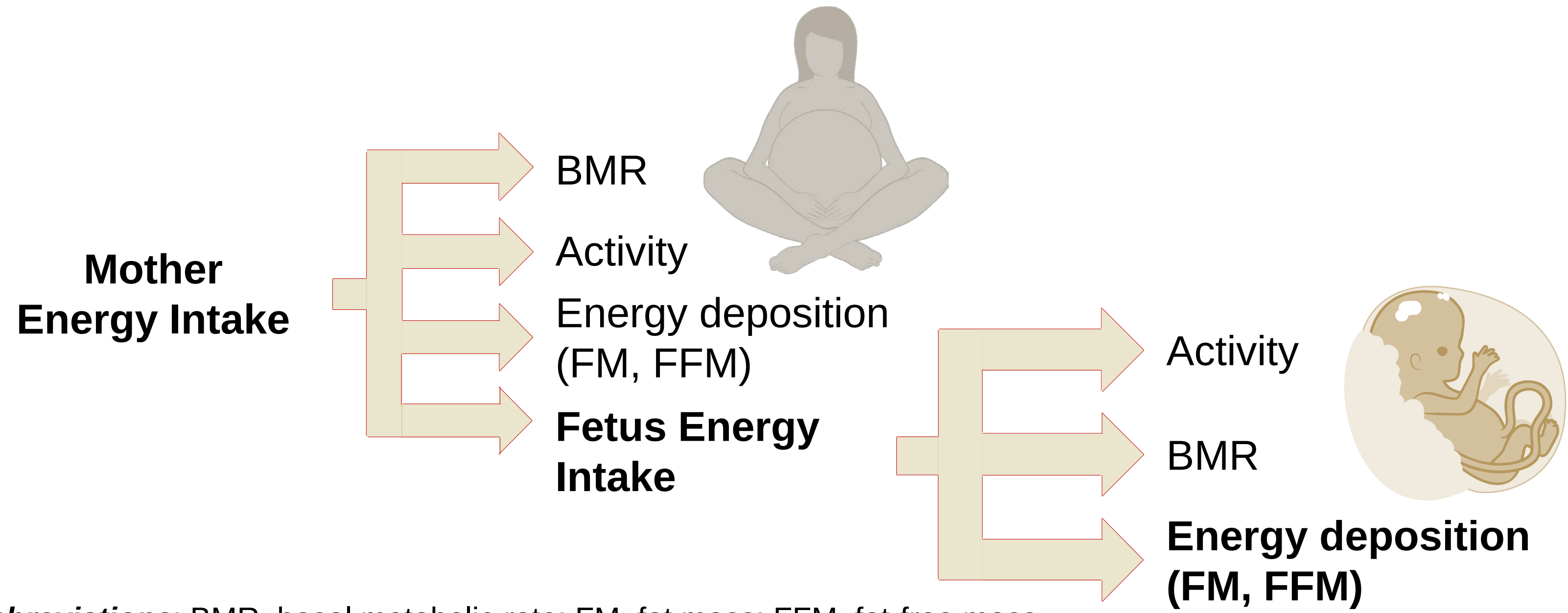
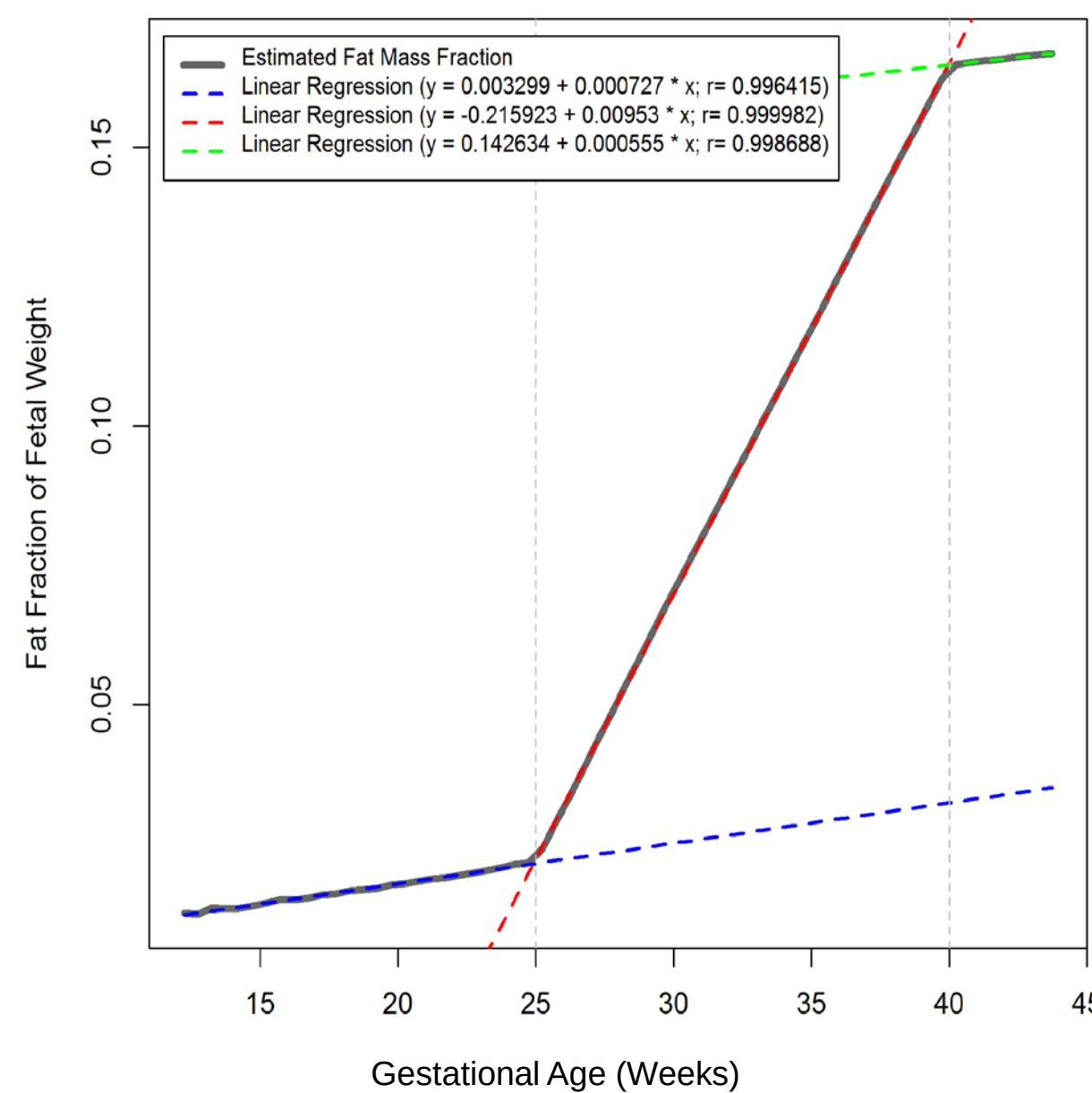
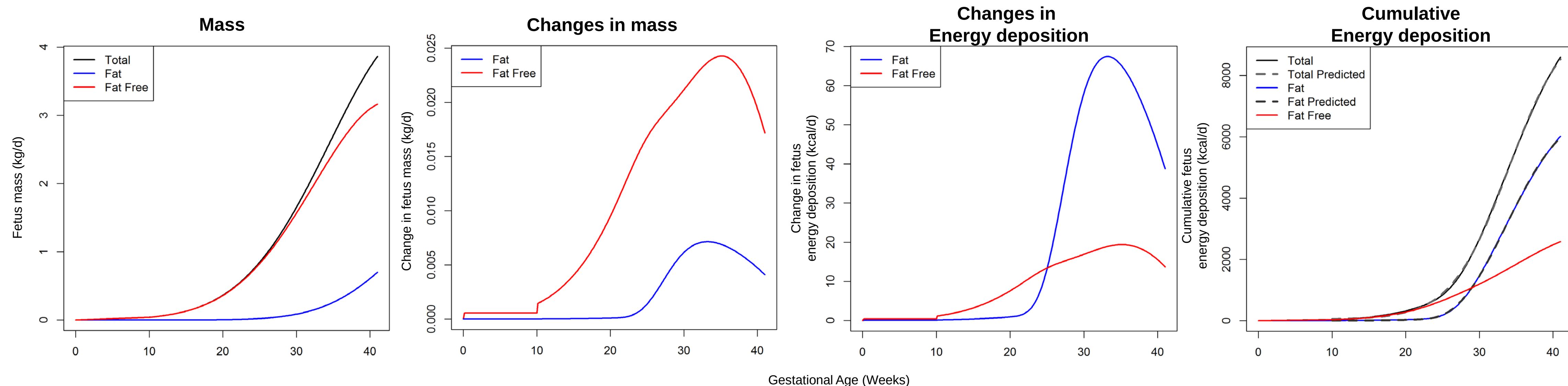
Mechanistic Maternal-Fetal Growth Energy Budget Model

Thomas Peyret¹, Samer Mouksassi¹, Shasha Jumbe², Representing the Healthy Birth, Growth, and Development knowledge integration (HBGDk) Community¹Certara Strategic Consulting, Montreal, QC, Canada; ²Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA, USA

Objectives

The objectives of this study were:

- To develop a growth model of fetal weight based on fetal energy expenditure within a population approach modeling framework.
- To quantify required uniform flow of nutrients to the fetus and mammary glands.
- To quantify the effect of nutrient flow on maternal energy metabolism.

**Abbreviations:** BMR, basal metabolic rate; FM, fat mass; FFM, fat-free mass.**Figure 1.** Literature-based estimates³⁻⁹ and piecewise equation predictions of fat mass fraction as a function of gestational age**Figure 2.** Derivation of energy deposition vs gestational age curve in a reference fetus and predictions of cumulative energy deposition in fat and total

Methods

- Daily energy deposition in a reference fetus was estimated by back-calculating the necessary calories based on a published reference fetal mass growth equation.¹
- Published energy densities of fat mass (FM) and fat-free mass (FFM) changes² and calculated FM and FFM based on published data³⁻⁹ were used as energy sinks.
- Exponential, power, polynomial and Gompertz models were fitted to the cumulative energy deposition-gestational age (GA) curve and fraction of cumulative energy deposition in fat (FMnrgF).
- The literature-based reference energy deposition curve was tested externally against ultrasound-based fetal and birth-weight data from 1161 subjects¹⁰ using a nonlinear mixed effects model estimating between-subject variability (BSV) on relevant parameters (FOCE-ELS engine in Phoenix NLME, v1.3, Certara, Princeton, NJ).
- Maternal daily energy intake was estimated based on age, weight, and height.²
- Fetus sex and maternal daily energy intake were a priori included in the model as covariates.

Phoenix Modeling language code

```
deriv(A1 = a*b*MAXNRG * exp(a*exp(b*t)*b*t)) + (period==3)))
# Fetus energy deposition
NRGdepot = A1 # Fetus energy deposition
ranel(diag(na,nb)=c(0.0036669433,0.003478854
3))

FMnrg = NRGdepot*FMnrgF # Energy deposited
in fat mass
FFMnrg = NRGdepot*FFMnrgF # Energy
deposited in fat free mass

### Time events ###
# prepare periods of fetal growth
doubleperiod,deltaNRGdepot,deltaFMnrg,delta
FFMnrg,integNRGdepot,prevNRGdepot,prevFM
nrg,prevFFMnrg,prevFFM,FFM,FFM

sequence(
while( <288) { # number of days
sleep(0.00001)
integNRGdepot=NRGdepot
deltaNRGdepot=NRGdepot
deltaFMnrg=FMnrg
deltaFFMnrg=FFMnrg
deltaFMnrg=FMnrg
deltaFFMnrg=FFMnrg
FMnrgF = 1.2820811*exp(-9.3140914*exp(-
3.8176080*FMF-0.2796103))
a = lva*exp(dasex1*(SEXCD==1))*
(EKcal/2192)*daEI*
(dperiod1*(period==1)+(period==2)+(period
==3)*exp(na))
b = lva*exp(dasex1*(SEXCD==1))*
(EKcal/2192)*dbEI*
(dbperiod1*(period==1)+(period==2)+(period
==3)*exp(nb))
MAXNRG =
dMAXNRG*exp(dMAXNRGsex1*(SEXCD==
1)) * (EKcal/2192)*dMAXNRGEI*
(dMAXNRGperiod1*(period==1)+(period==2)
```

Results

- The piecewise equation for FM fraction consisted of 3 linear regressions for 0 to ≤ 25, 25 to ≤ 40, and > 40 wk GA. (Eq. 1 and Fig. 1)
- Gompertz equations obtained the best fitting performance for both cumulative energy deposition and FMnrgF. (Eq. 2 and 3 and Fig. 2)
- The energy-mass model predicted well the reference fetal weight-GA curve.
- The population model included BSV (< 20%) on 2 parameters of the Gompertz model for cumulated energy deposition. (Table 1)
- The predicted individual fetal growth curve fitted well the trajectory of the observed fetal weight up to birth. (Fig. 3)

Table 1. Typical Values of Fitted Parameter in Population Model for Fetus Growth

Description	Parameter	Estimate
Effect of mother energy intake on a (Eq 2)	daEI	-0.110
Effect of mother energy intake on b (Eq 2)	dbEI	-0.169
Effect of mother energy intake on MAXNRG (Eq 2)	dMAXNRGEI	0.219
Effect of fetus sex on a (Eq 2)	dasex1	-0.0375
Effect of fetus sex on b (Eq 2)	dbsex1	-0.0268
Effect of fetus sex on MAXNRG (Eq 2)	dMAXNRGsex1	-0.0354
Multiplicative residual error	stdev0	0.105
BSV on a (Eq 2) (Variance)	na	0.00325
BSV on b (Eq 2) (Variance)	nb	0.00307

Eq.1 FM Fraction = $0.003299 + 0.000727 \times \text{GA (d)}$ if $\text{GA} \leq 25$ wk
 $-0.215923 + 0.00953 \times \text{GA (d)}$ if $25 < \text{GA} \leq 40$ wk
 $0.142634 + 0.000555 \times \text{GA (d)}$ if $\text{GA} > 40$ wk**Eq.2** Cumulative Energy deposition (kcal) = $\text{MAXNRG} \times \exp(a \times \exp(b \times \text{GA(d)}))$
where $\text{MAXNRG} = 145165.3$ if $\text{GA} \leq 25$ wk, 35755 otherwise
 $a = -10.8$ if $\text{GA} \leq 25$ wk, -16.3 otherwise
 $b = -5.05$ if $\text{GA} \leq 25$ wk, -9.51×10^{-3} otherwise**Eq.3** $\text{FMnrgF} = 1.28 \times \exp(-9.31 \times \exp(-3.82 \times \text{FM Fraction}^{0.280}))$

Conclusions

- Reverse engineering based on a closed model assumption of fetal caloric intake may predict fetal and birth weights.
- This effort constitutes a first step in quantifying the flow of nutrients from mother to fetus.

Acknowledgment

Sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Healthy Birth, Growth, and Development initiative