

# Monitoring of turkey breeders growth and composition

*through rearing to photostimulation as influenced by body weight category at 16 weeks of age*

**Marine Dewez<sup>1,2</sup>, Patrice Etourneau<sup>1</sup>, François Lecompte<sup>2</sup>,  
Sylvain Brière<sup>1</sup> and Pascal Froment<sup>2</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Hendrix Genetics Turkeys France, 49290  
Saint-Laurent de la Plaine, France



<sup>2</sup> PRC and CIRE, INRA Centre Val de  
Loire, 37380 Nouzilly, France

15<sup>th</sup> EPC – 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Dubrovnik





## Genetic selection

- ✓ Growth performance
- ✓ Reproductive performance



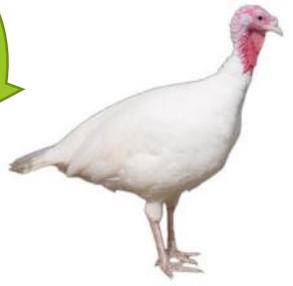


## Genetic selection



## Breeder Flock

- ✓ Management
- ✓ Average body weight



# Genetic selection

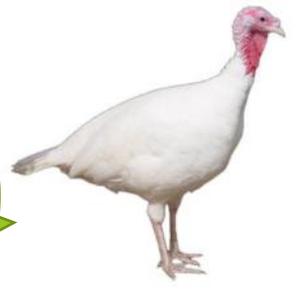
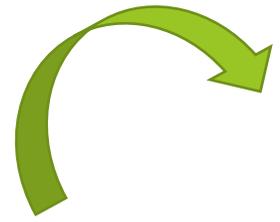
# Breeder Flock

# Individual



- ✓ Sensitive
- ✓ Response

# Context



# Genetic selection



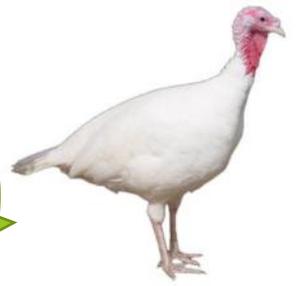
# Breeder Flock

# Individual

# Body composition



# Context



# Genetic selection



# Breeder Flock

# Individual

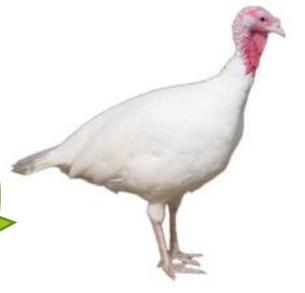
# Body composition



Muscle



# Context



# Genetic selection



# Breeder Flock

# Individual

# Body composition

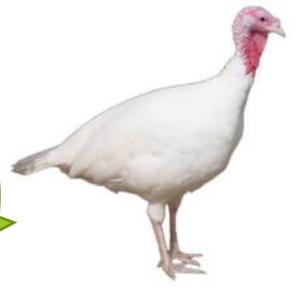
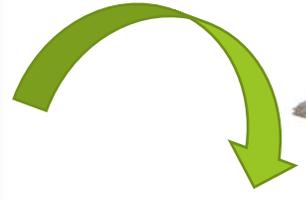
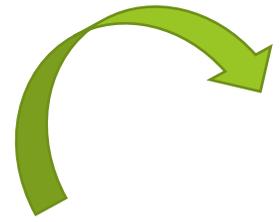


Muscle



Bone

# Context



# Genetic selection



# Breeder Flock

# Individual

# Body composition



Muscle



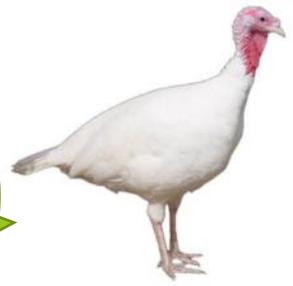
Adipose tissue



Bone



# Context



# Genetic selection



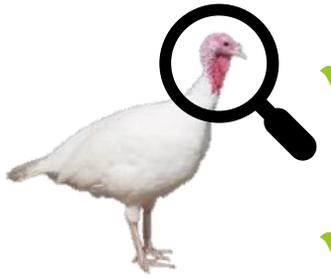
# Breeder Flock

# Individual

# Body composition



# How to monitor ?



- ✓ Tissue deposition
- ✓ Non invasive





**How does body weight category at 16 wk of age influence growth until photostimulation ?**

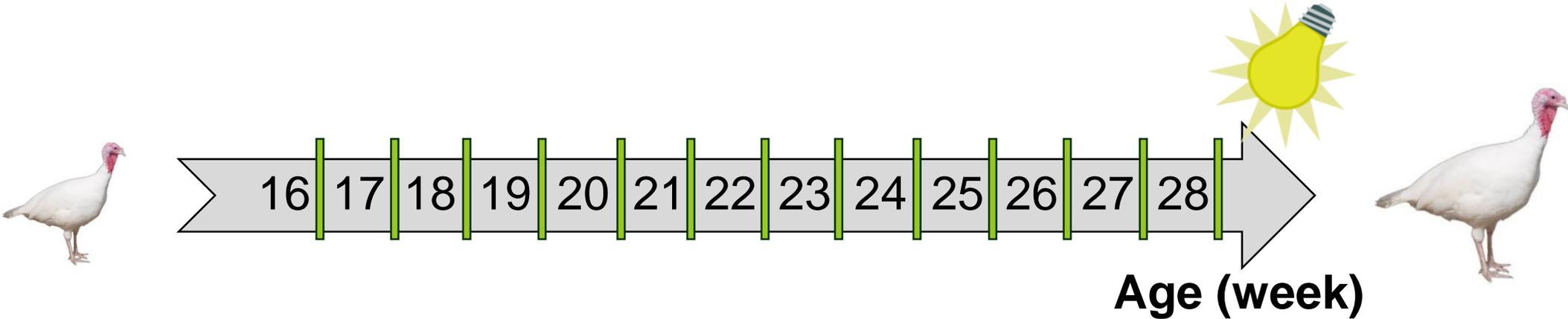


**How does body weight category at 16 wk of age influence growth until photostimulation ?**

---

**Is CT-Scan an appropriate tool for an accurate phenotyping of turkey breeders ?**

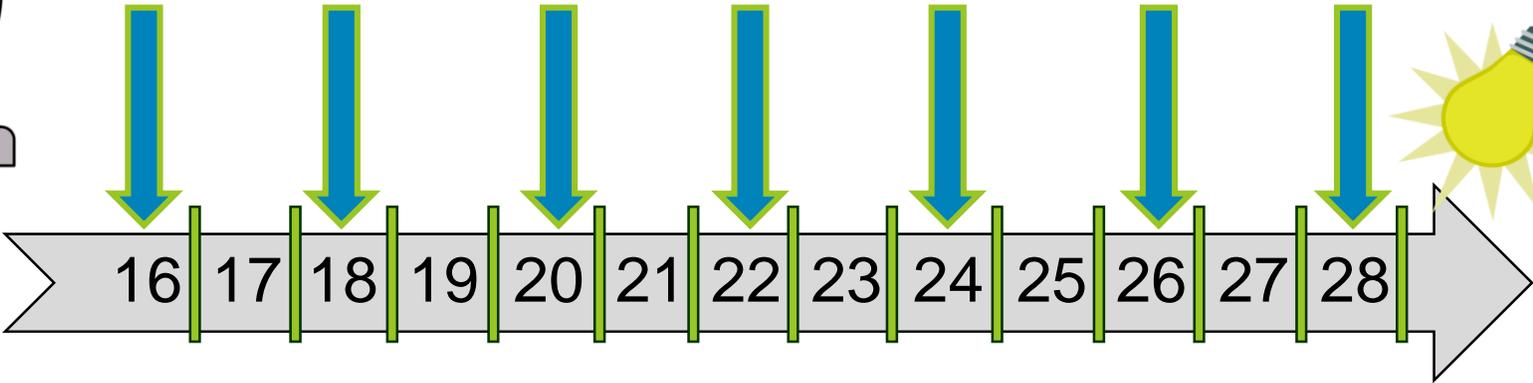
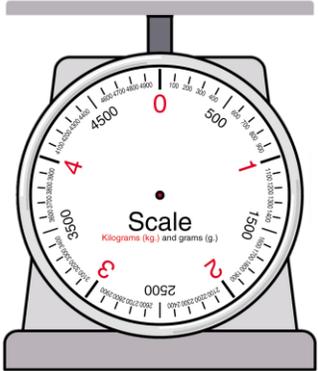
# Experimental Design – N = 237



# Experimental Design – N = 237

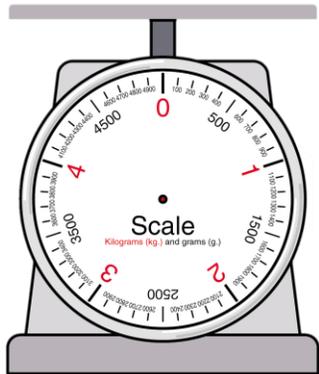


## BODY WEIGHT

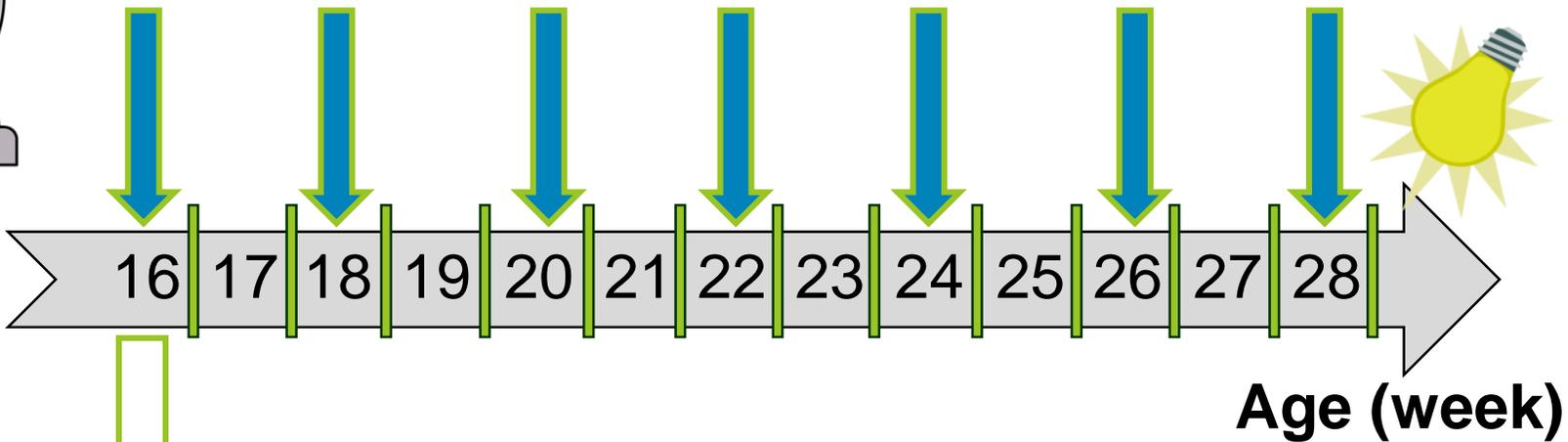


Age (week)





## BODY WEIGHT



**3 groups at 16 weeks**

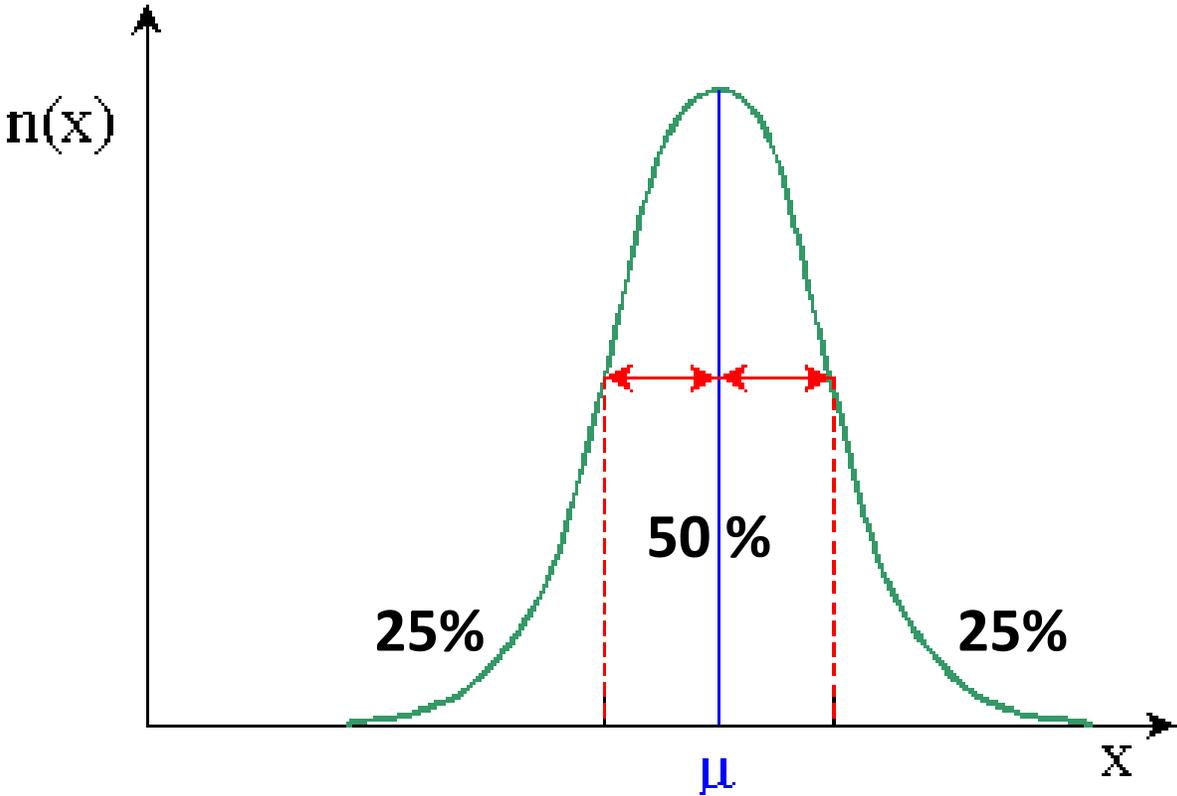
**LIGHT**

**MEDIUM**

**HEAVY**



## 3 groups at 16 weeks



**LIGHT**  
**N = 60**

**MEDIUM**  
**N = 117**

**HEAVY**  
**N = 60**

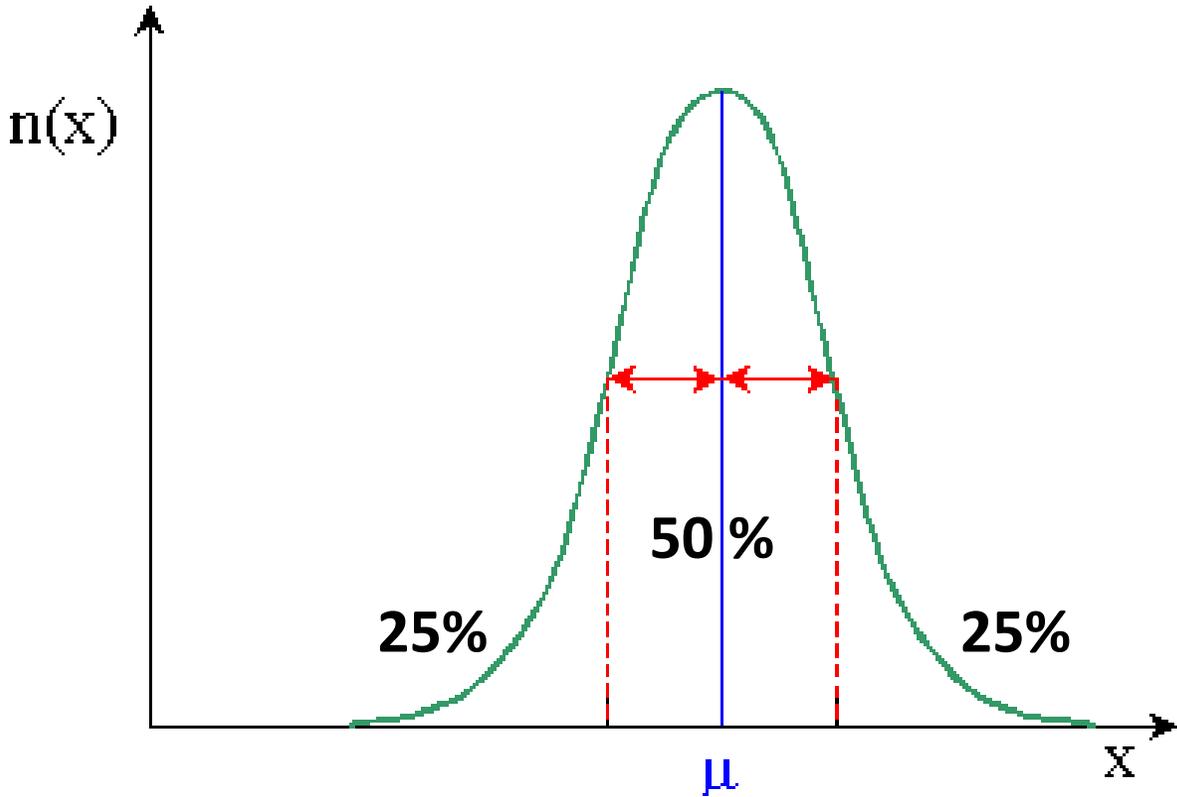


# Experimental Design – N = 237

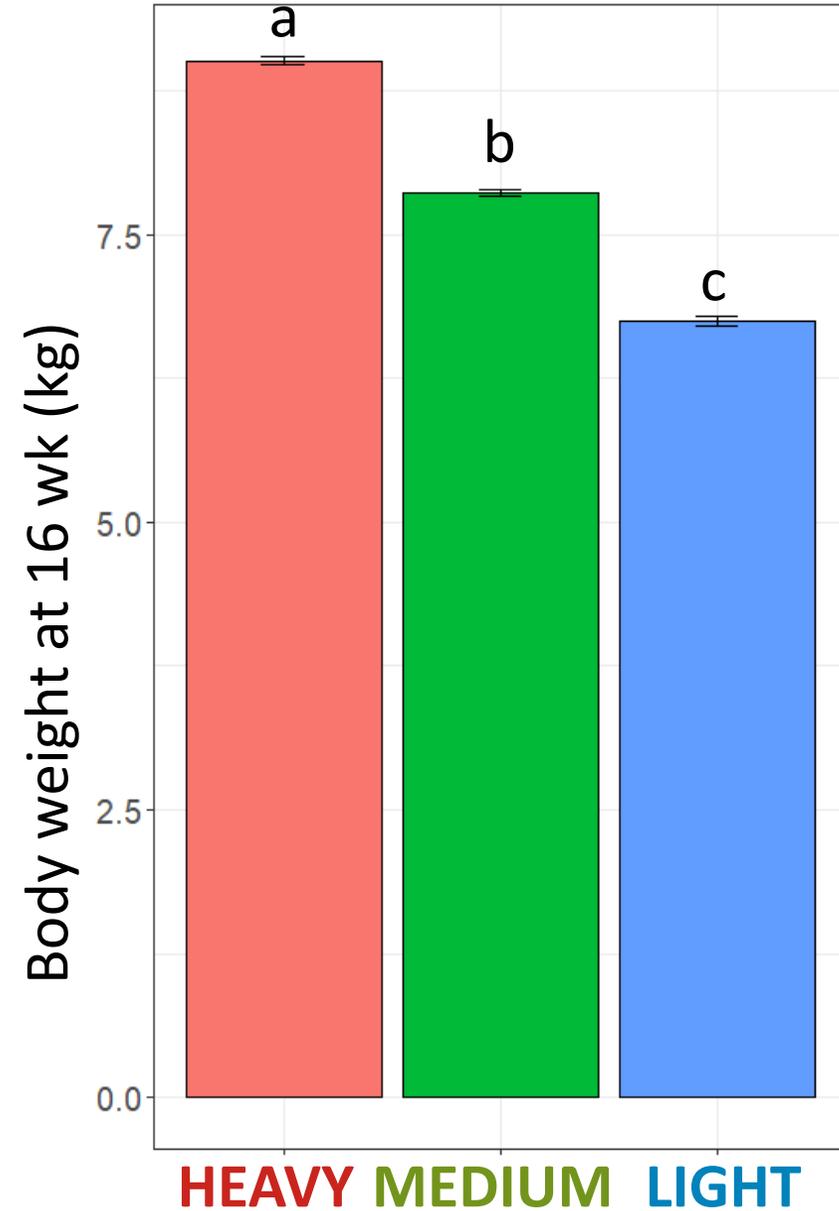


<sup>a-c</sup> Means with different superscripts are significantly different ( $P < 0.0001$ )

## 3 groups at 16 weeks

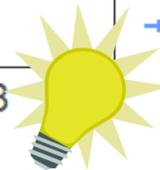
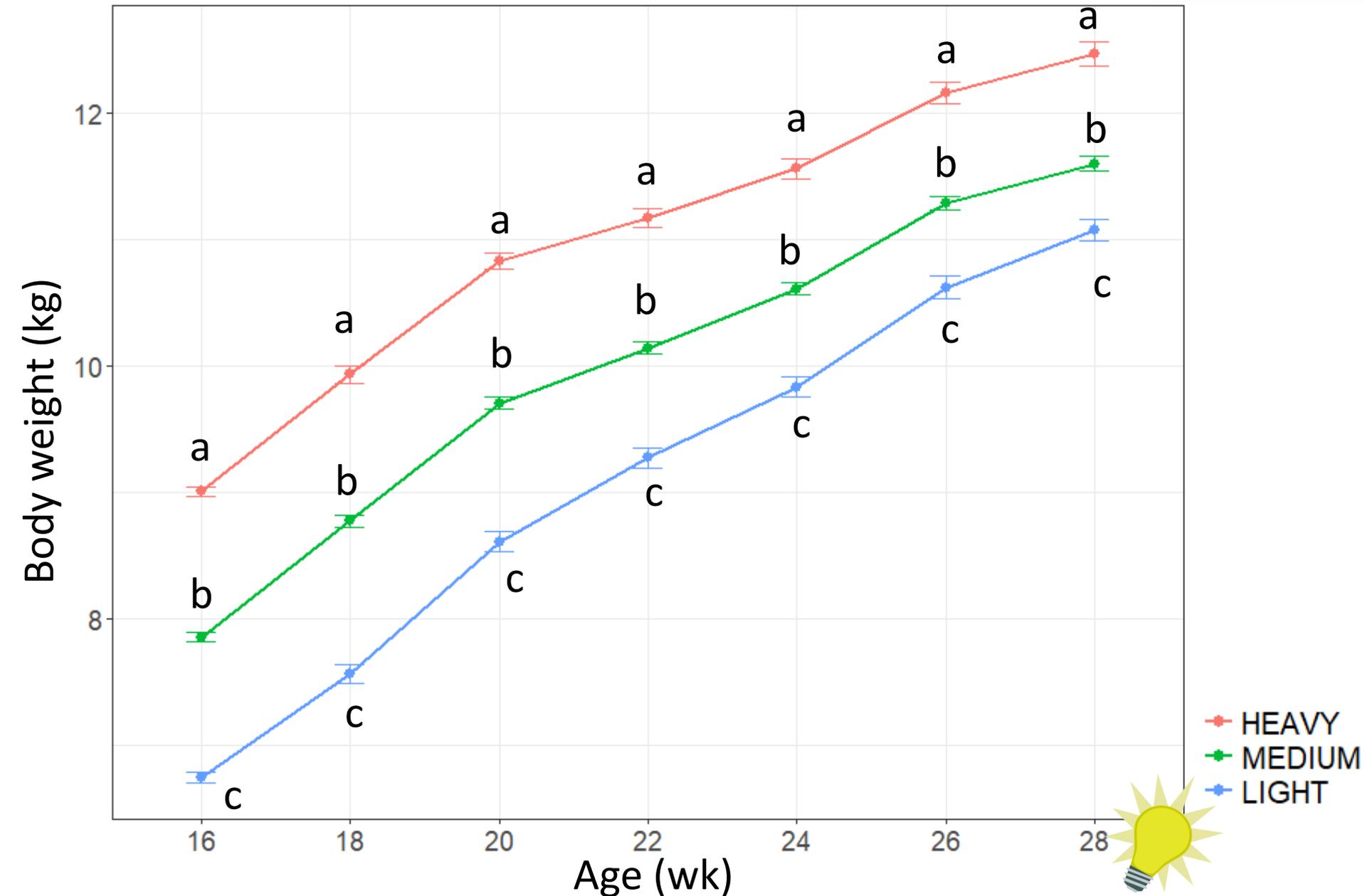


<b>LIGHT</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>HEAVY</b>
<b>N = 60</b>	<b>N = 117</b>	<b>N = 60</b>



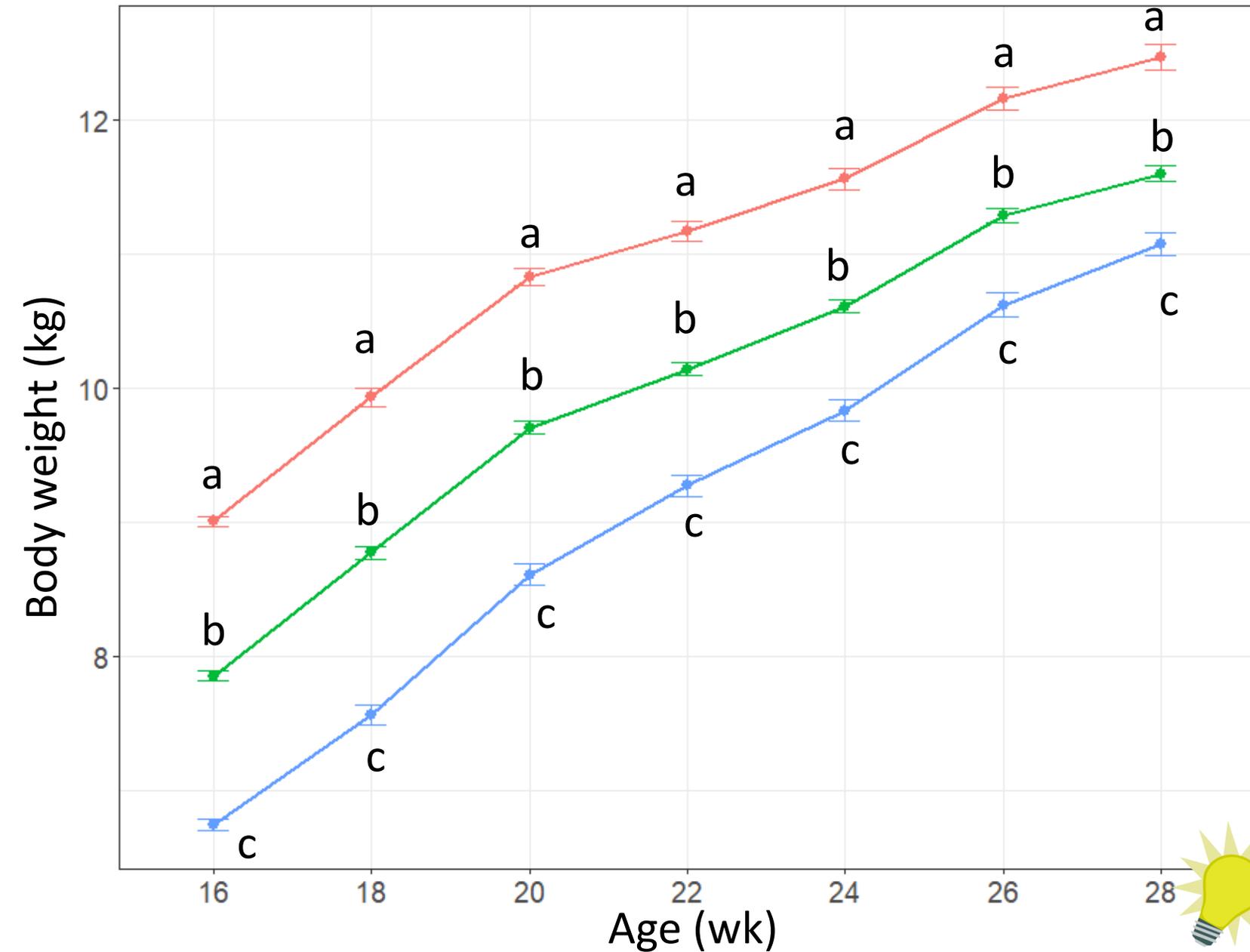
<sup>a-c</sup> Means with different superscripts are significantly different ( $P < 0.0001$ )

Results – N = 237



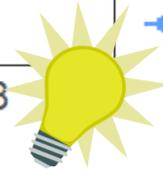
<sup>a-c</sup> Means with different superscripts are significantly different ( $P < 0.0001$ )

Results – N = 237



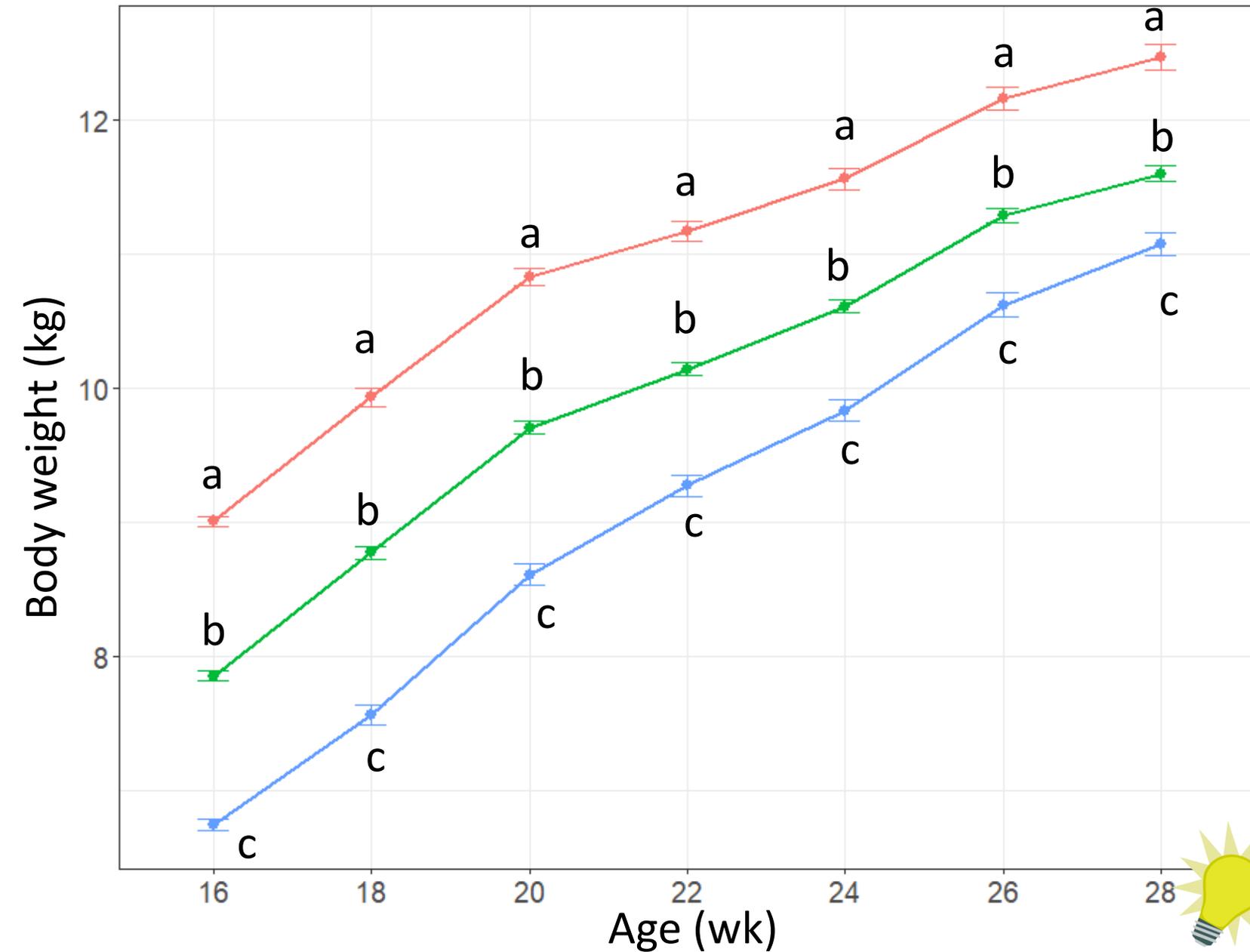
**BW increase until PS**

● HEAVY  
● MEDIUM  
● LIGHT



<sup>a-c</sup> Means with different superscripts are significantly different ( $P < 0.0001$ )

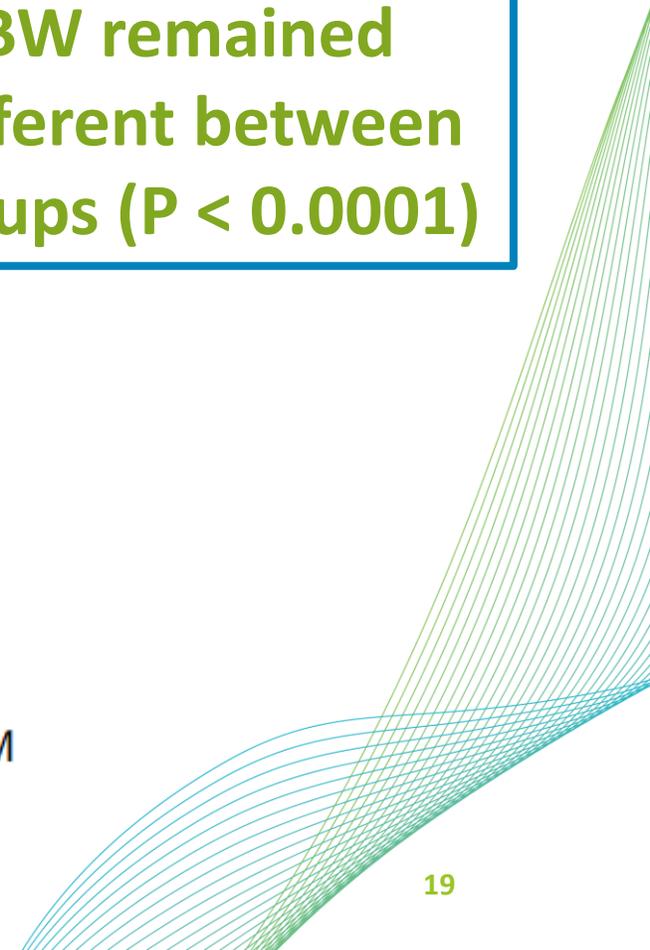
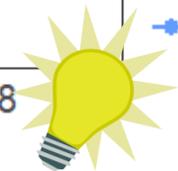
Results – N = 237



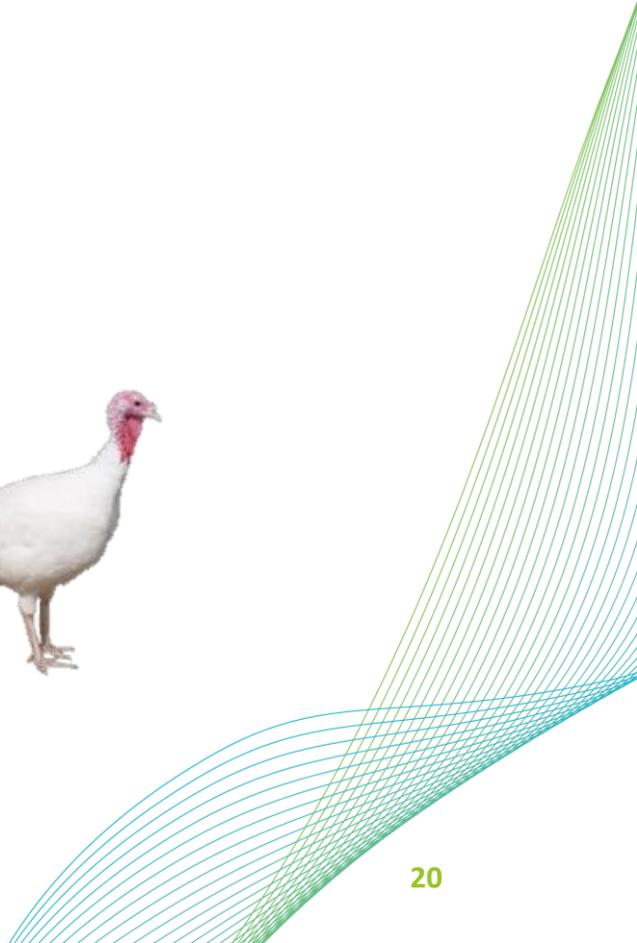
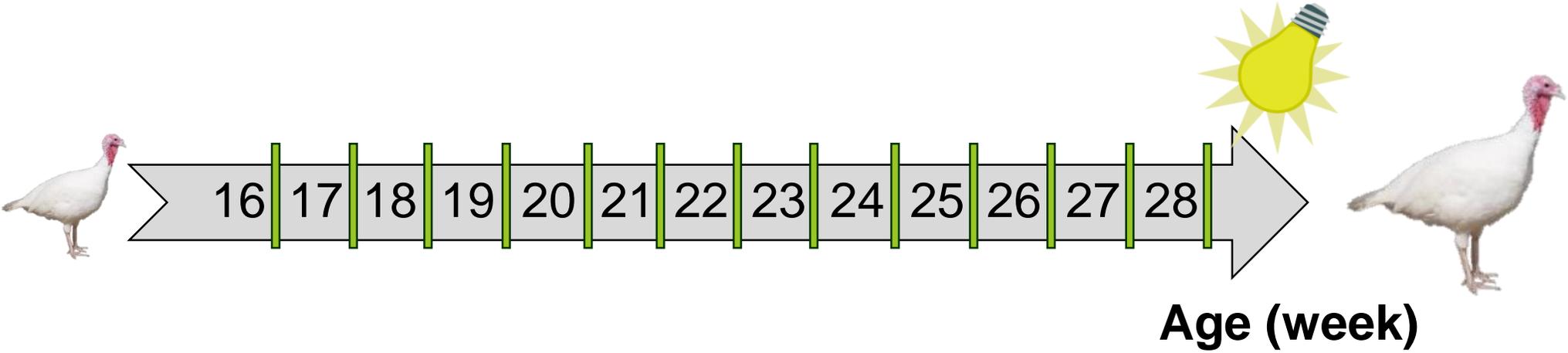
**BW increase until PS**

**BW remained different between groups ( $P < 0.0001$ )**

HEAVY  
MEDIUM  
LIGHT



# Experimental Design – N = 4



# Experimental Design – N = 4



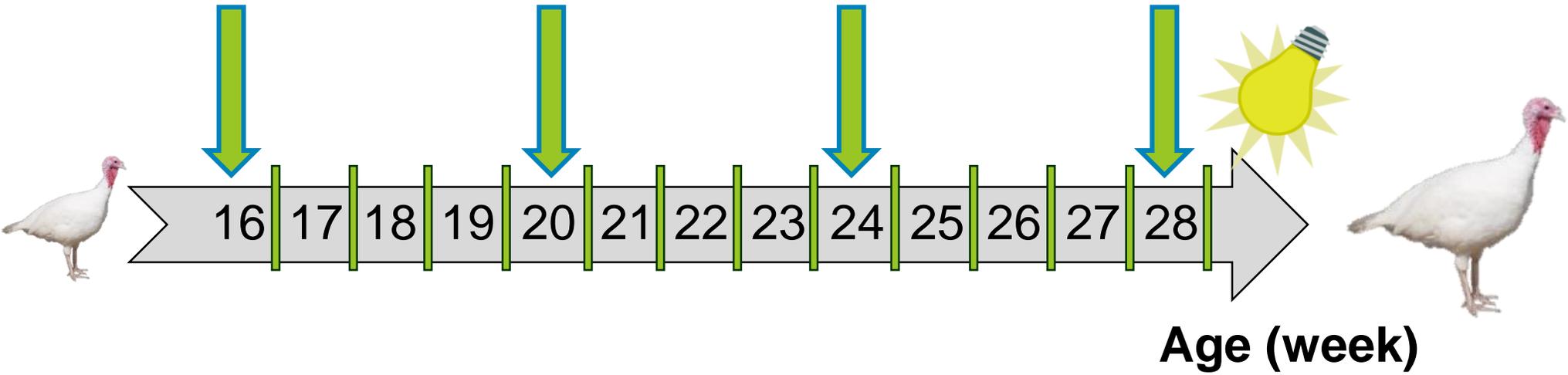
**LIGHT**  
**N = 1**

**MEDIUM**  
**N = 2**

**HEAVY**  
**N = 1**



## CT-SCAN



**Age (week)**



## CT-SCAN



# CT-SCAN

# Body Composition





## CT-SCAN

**Body Composition**

**Samples**

**Plasma**

✓ Triglyceride

✓ Calcium





## CT-SCAN

### Body Composition

### Samples

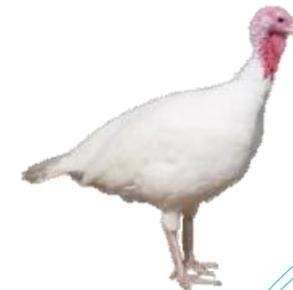
### Ovary

### Plasma

✓ Weight

✓ Triglyceride

✓ Calcium





## CT-SCAN

### Body Composition

### Samples

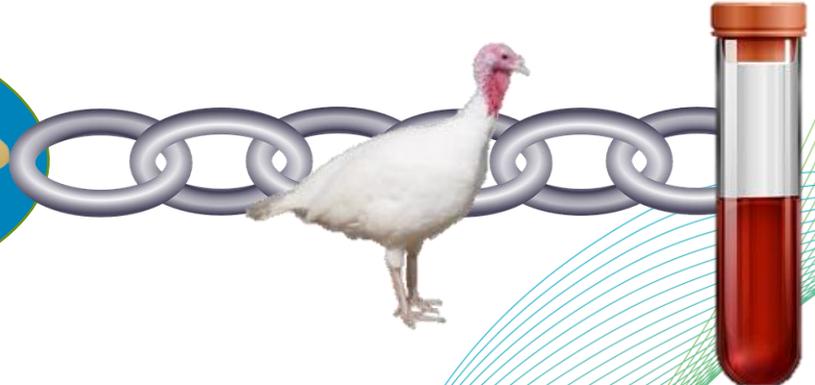
Ovary

Plasma

✓ Weight

✓ Triglyceride

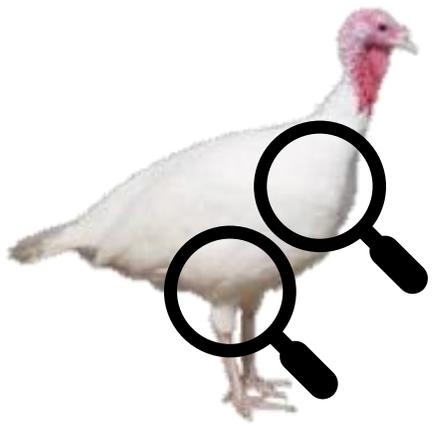
✓ Calcium



# Results – N = 4



## Siemens CT-Scan Somatom Definition AS



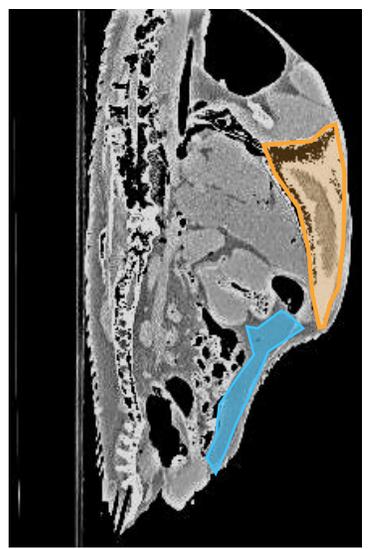
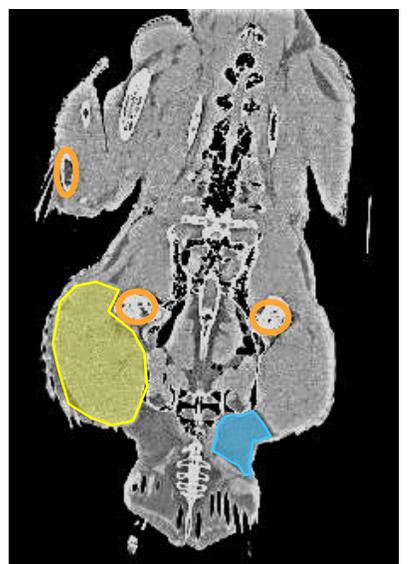
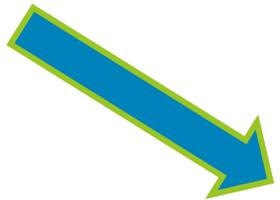
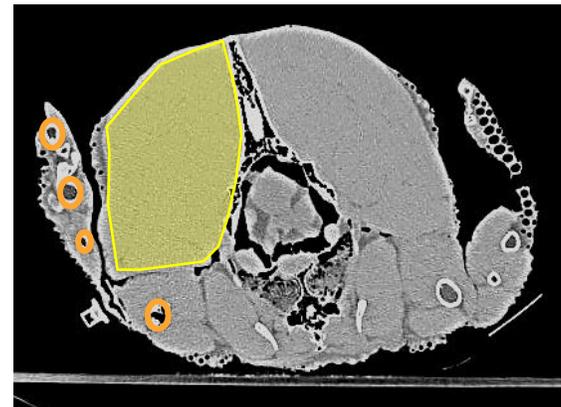
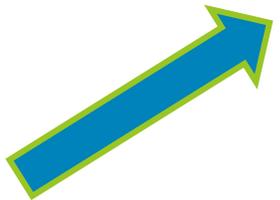
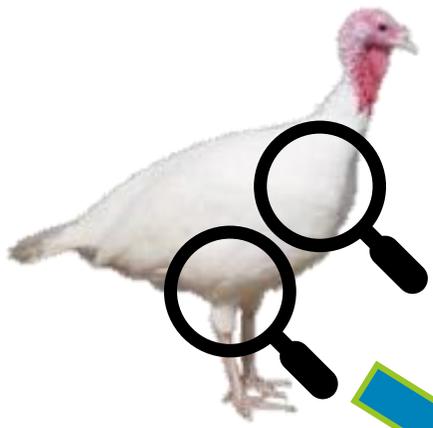
# Results – N = 4



## Siemens CT-Scan Somatom Definition AS



Age 28 wk



-  Muscle
-  Bone
-  Fat tissue



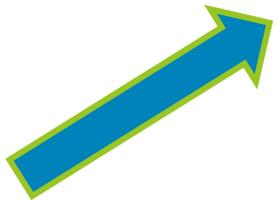
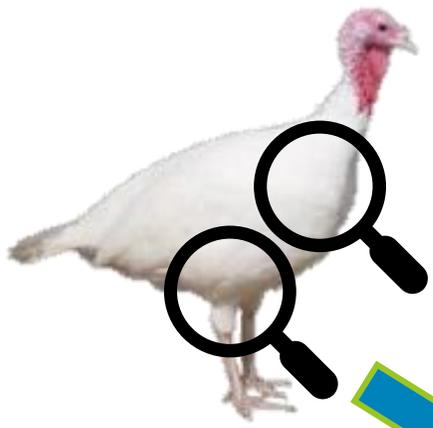
# Results – N = 4



## Siemens CT-Scan Somatom Definition AS

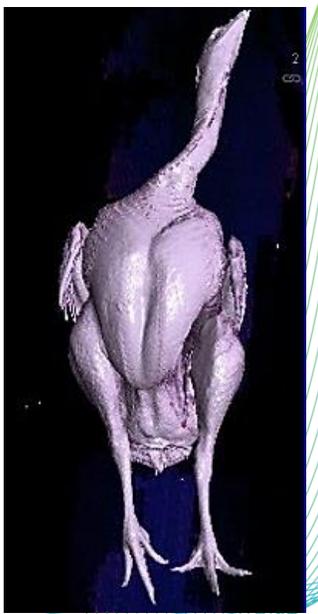
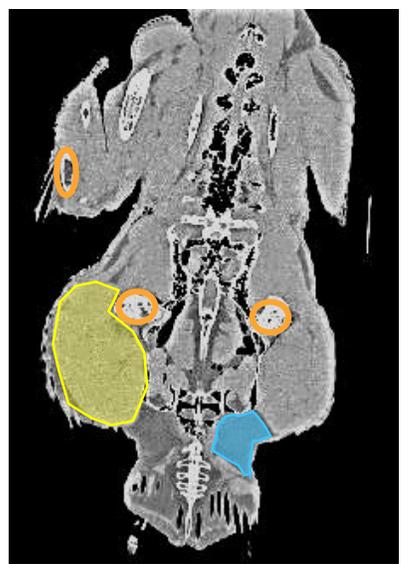
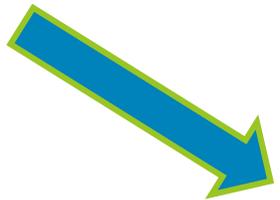


Age 28 wk

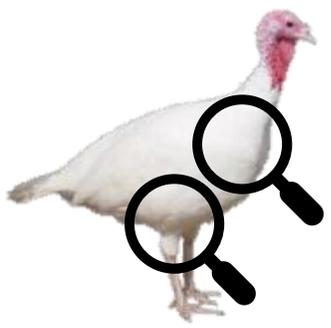


Age 24 wk

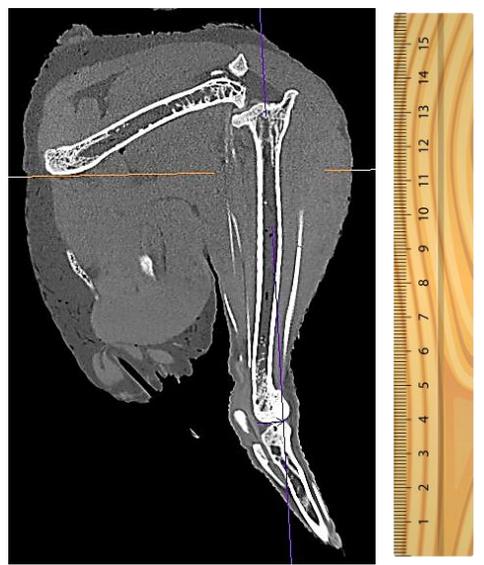
- Muscle
- Bone
- Fat tissue



# Results – N = 4



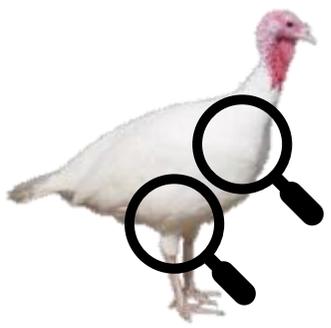
**Length**



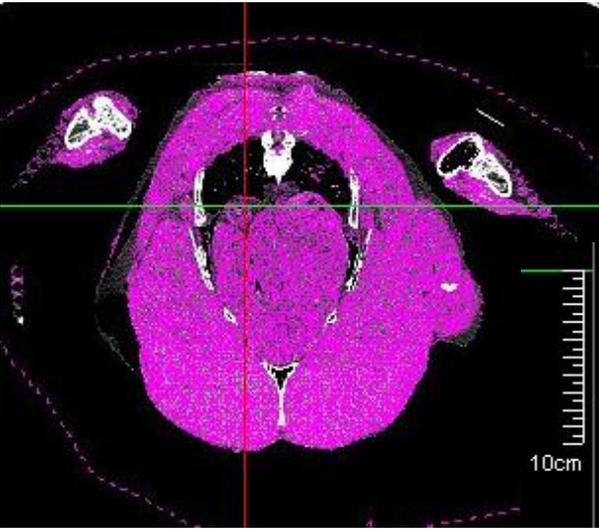
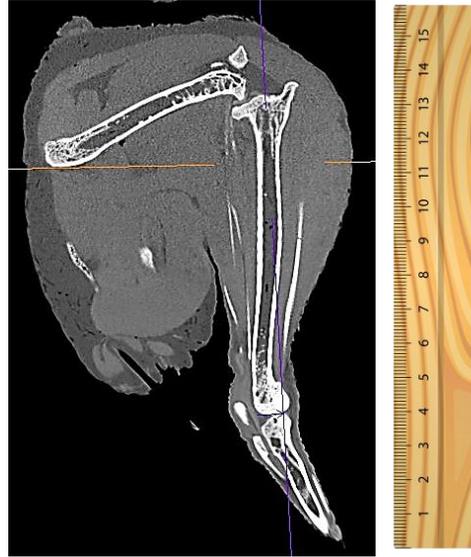
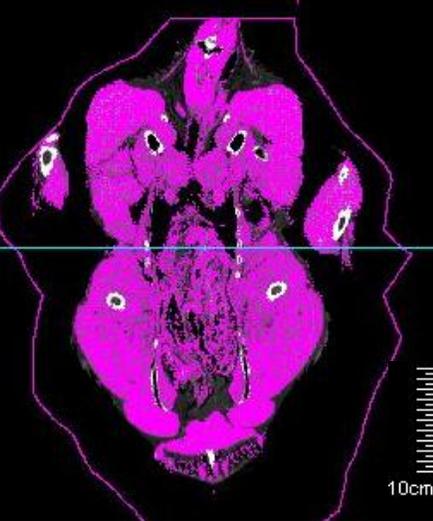
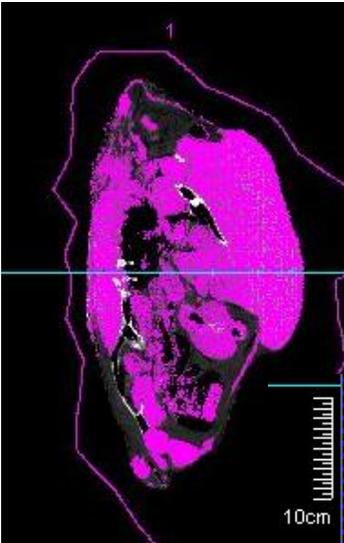
# Results – N = 4



## Whole body Tissue volume



Length

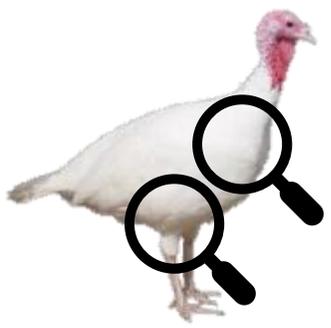


# Results – N = 4

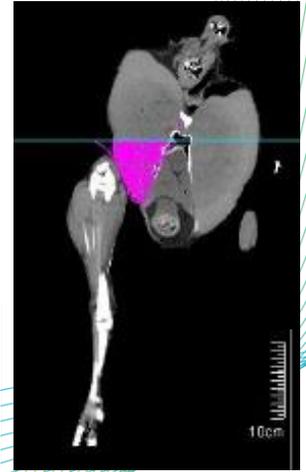
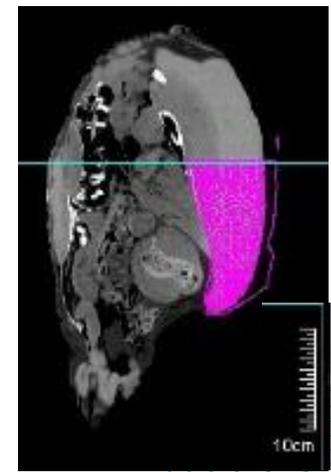
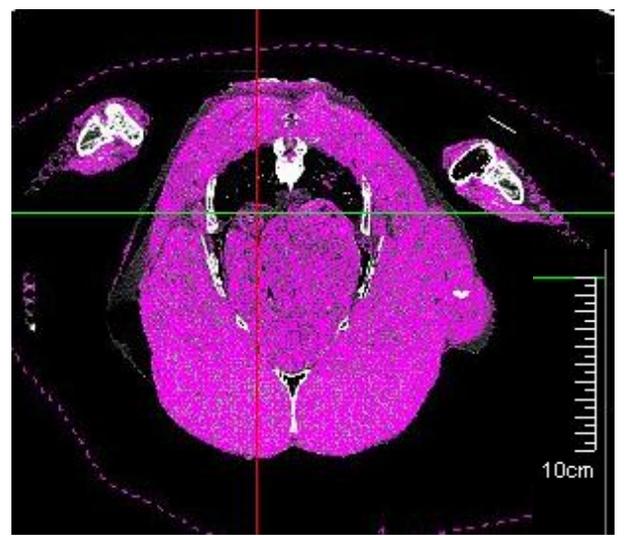
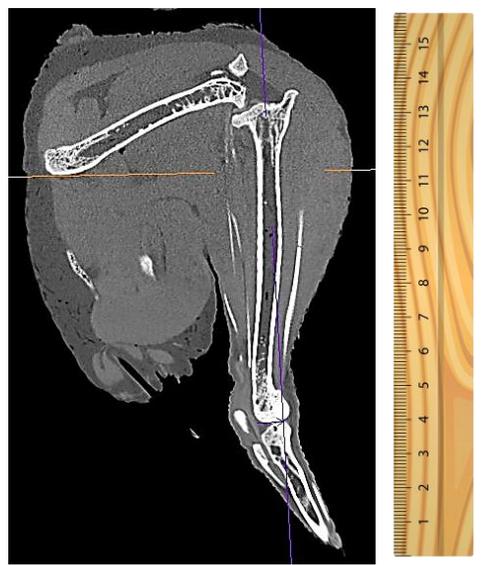
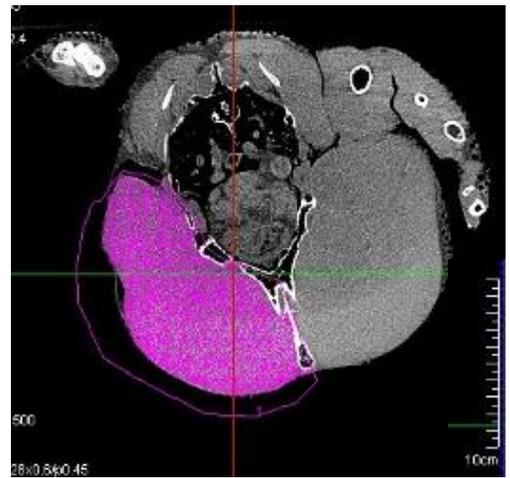
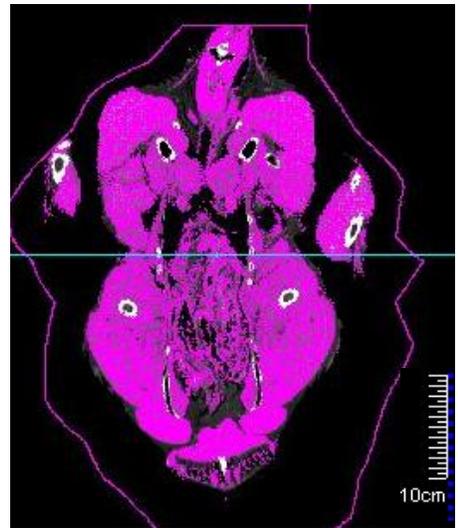
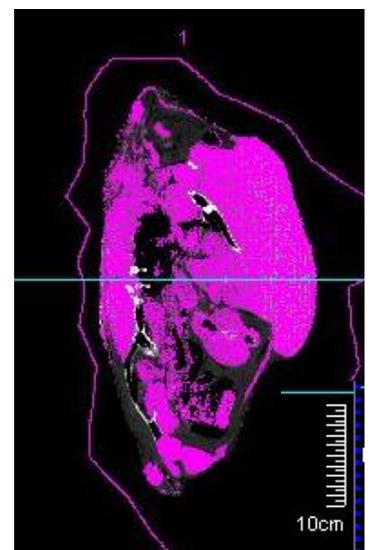


## Whole body Tissue volume

## Region of interest



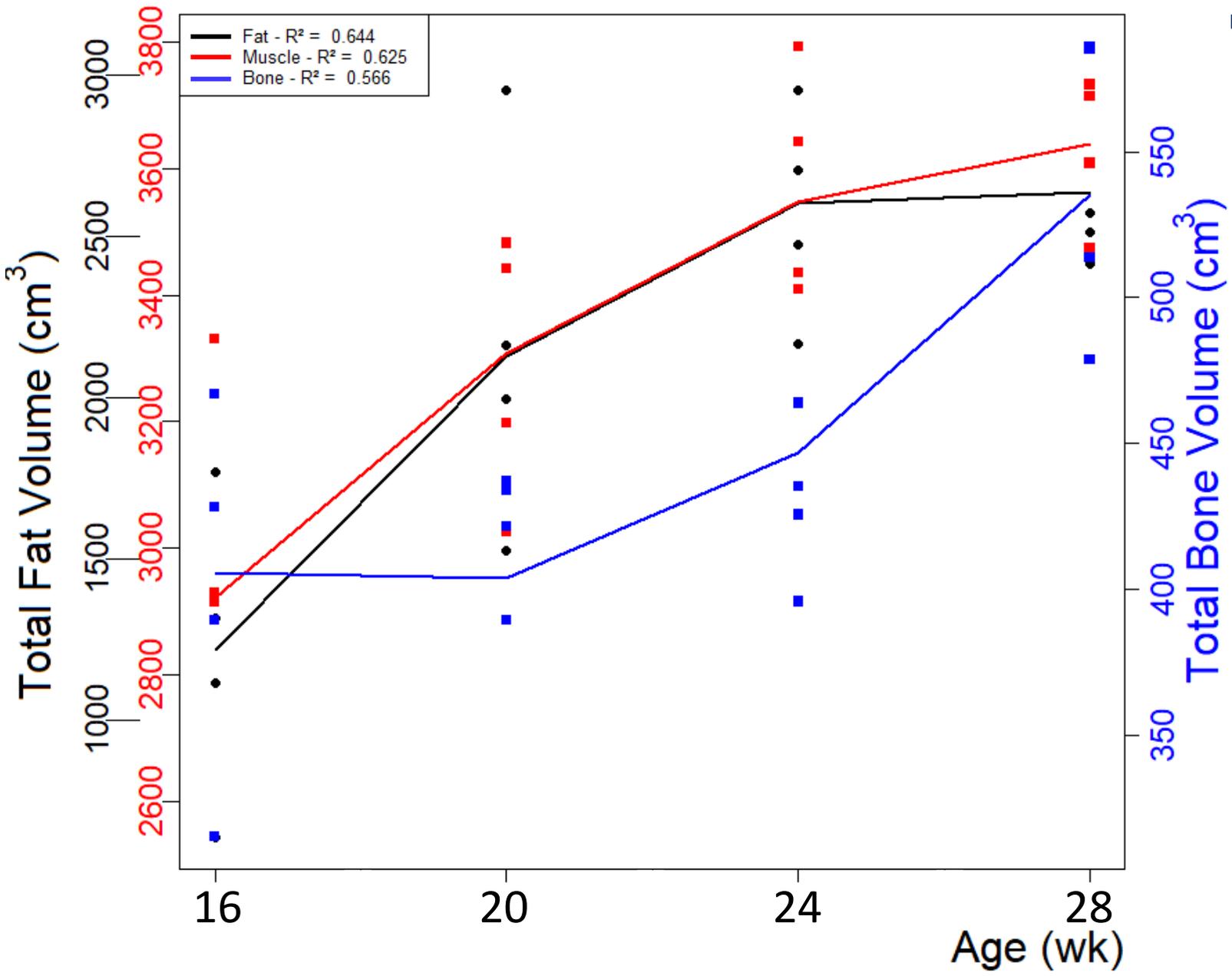
## Length





# Results – N = 4

## Total Muscle Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>)



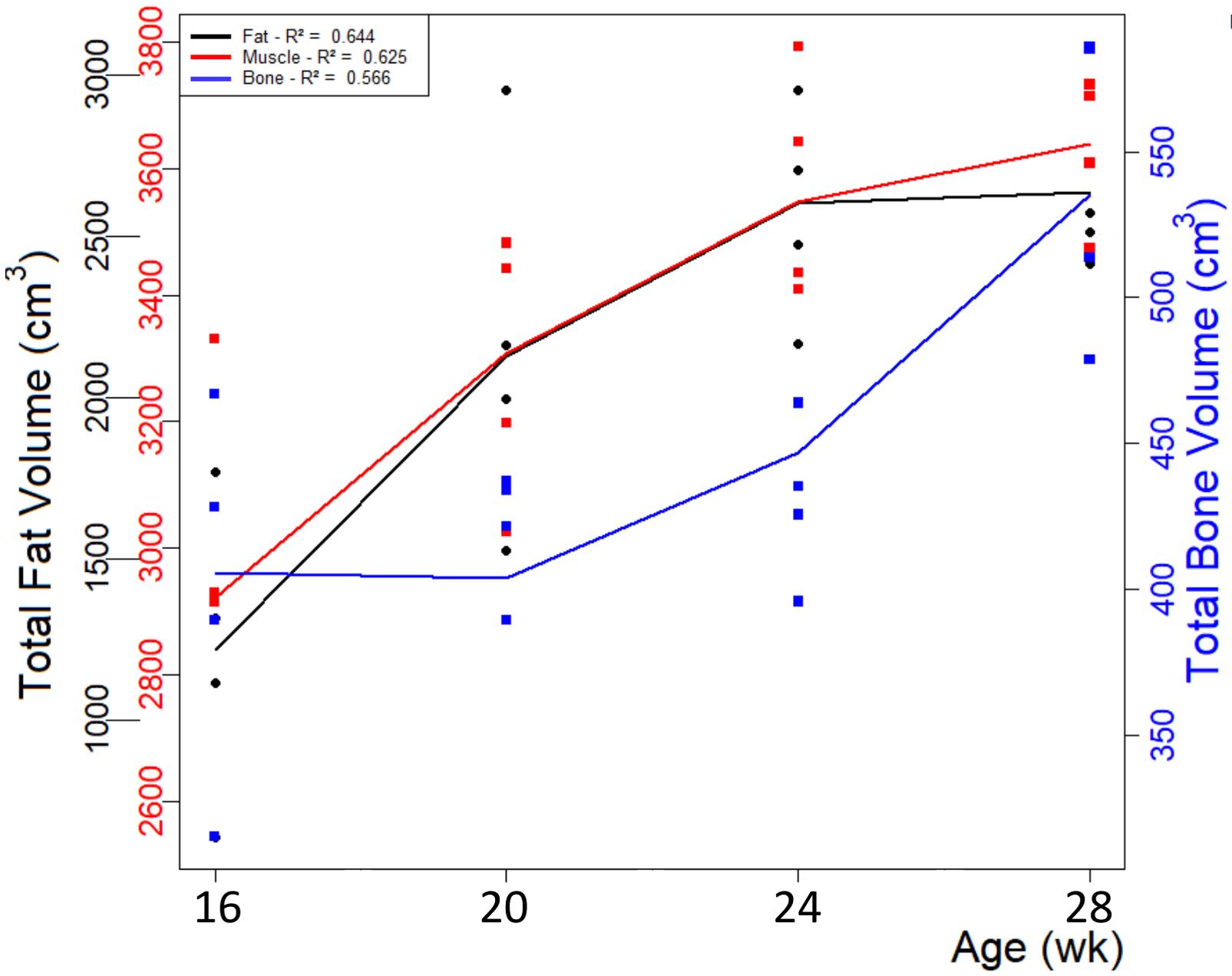
Quadratic regression analysis of CT volumes with age





# Results – N = 4

## Total Muscle Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>)



Quadratic regression analysis of CT volumes with age

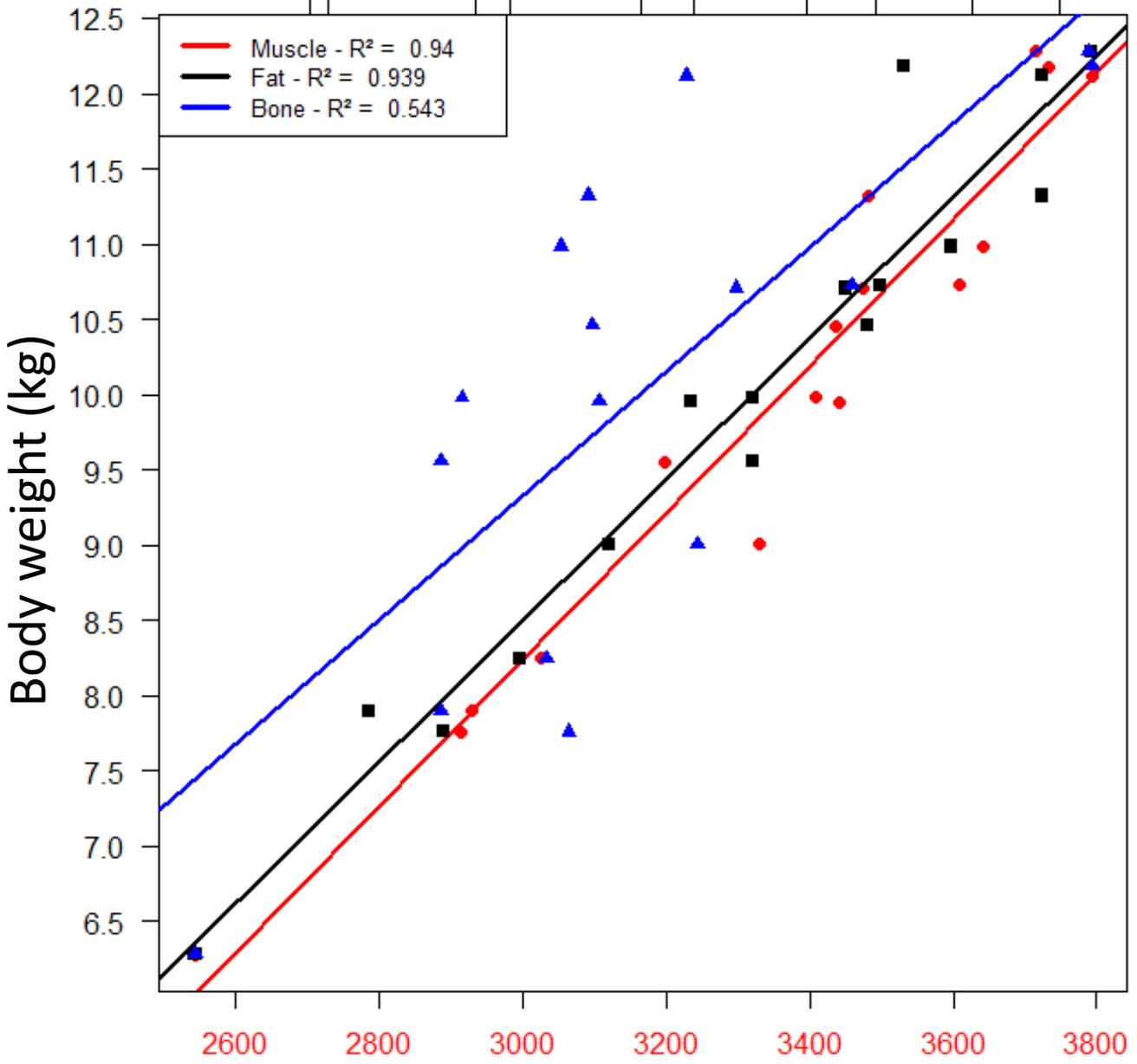
- ✓ Increase for muscle
- ✓ Increase for bone
- ✓ Increase and plateau for fat



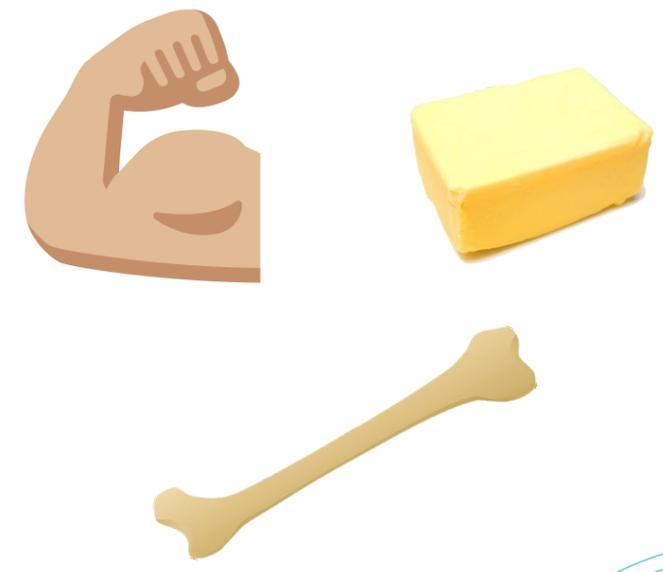


# Results – N = 4

Bone Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>) 350 400 450 500 550 Fat Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>) 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000



Linear regression analysis between BW and CT volumes

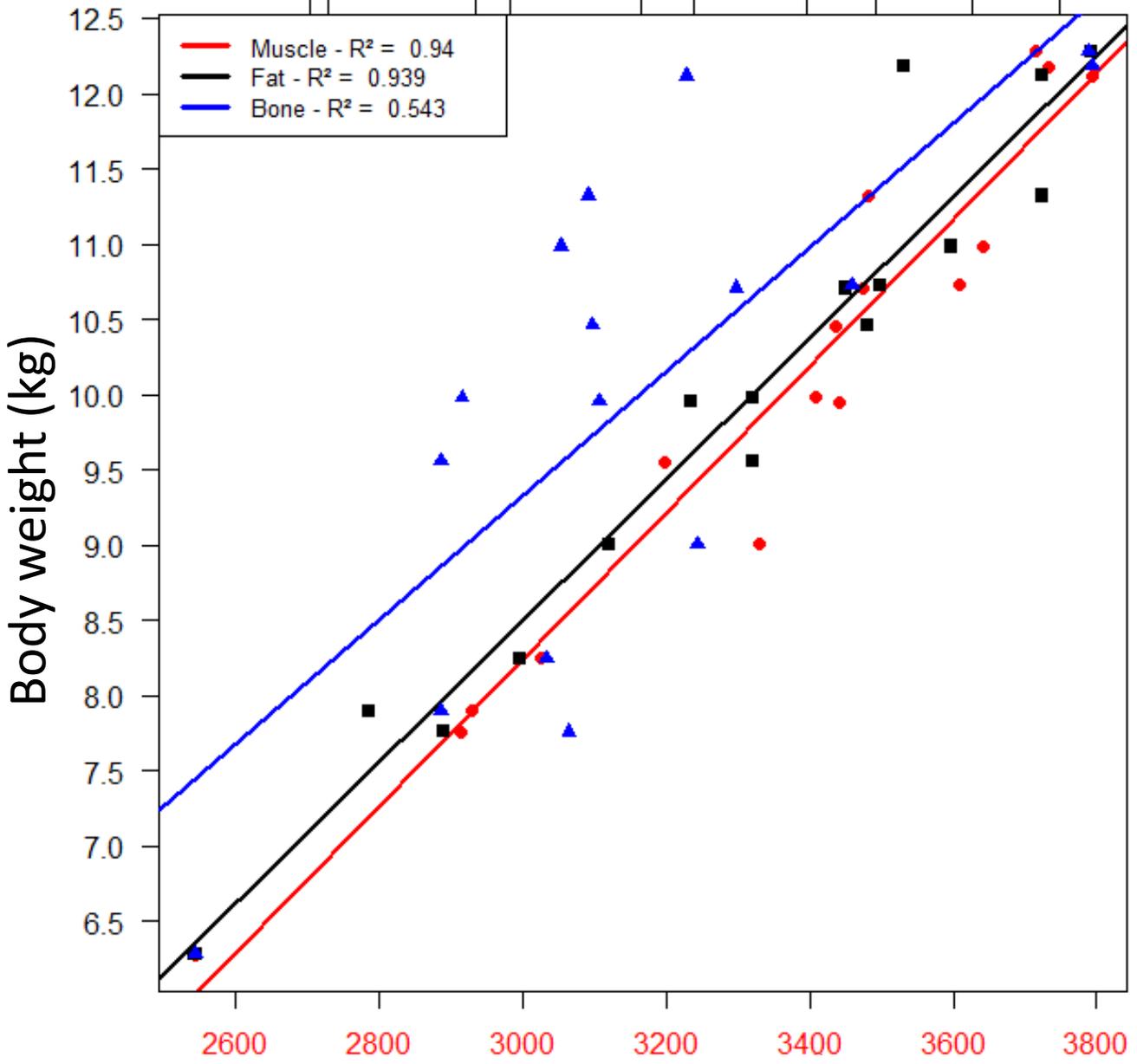


Muscle Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>)



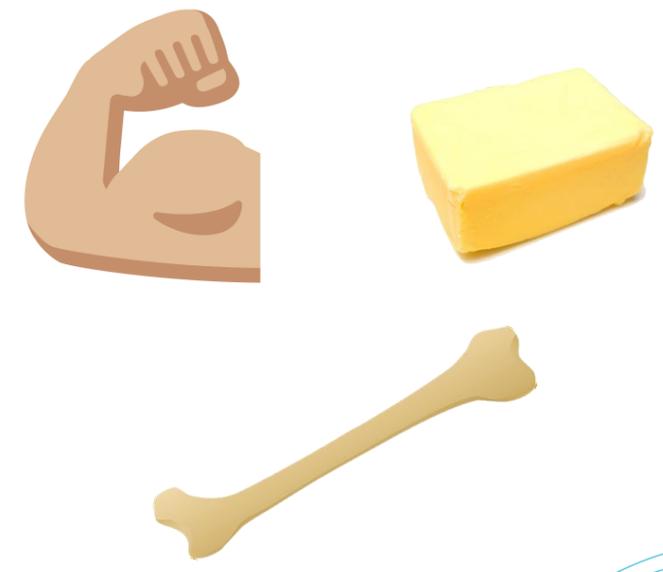
# Results – N = 4

Bone Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>) 350 400 450 500 550 Fat Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>) 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000



Linear regression analysis between BW and CT volumes

- ✓ Muscles (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.940)
- ✓ Fat (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.939)



Muscle Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>)



Body weight

Ovary weight

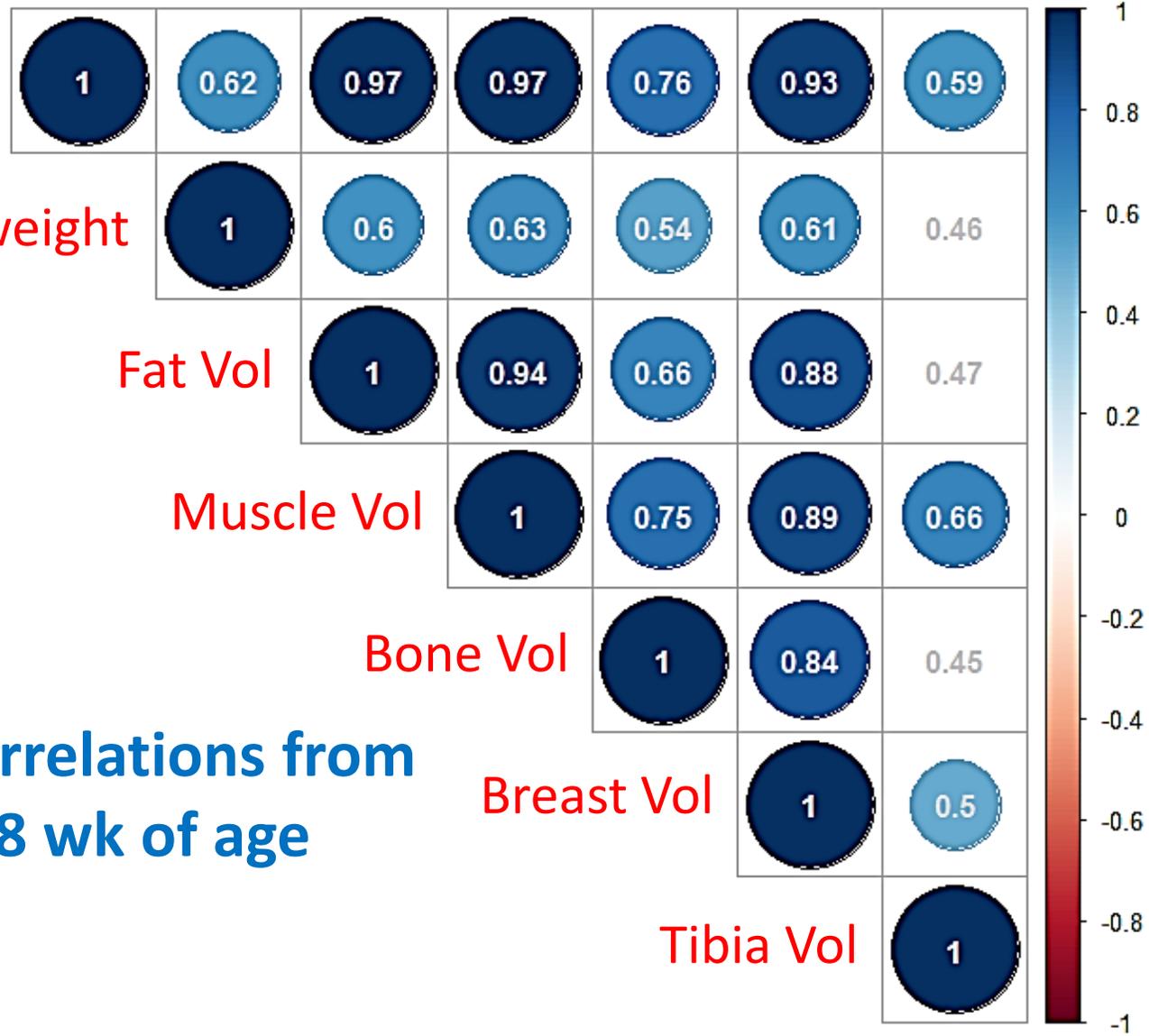
Fat Vol

Muscle Vol

Bone Vol

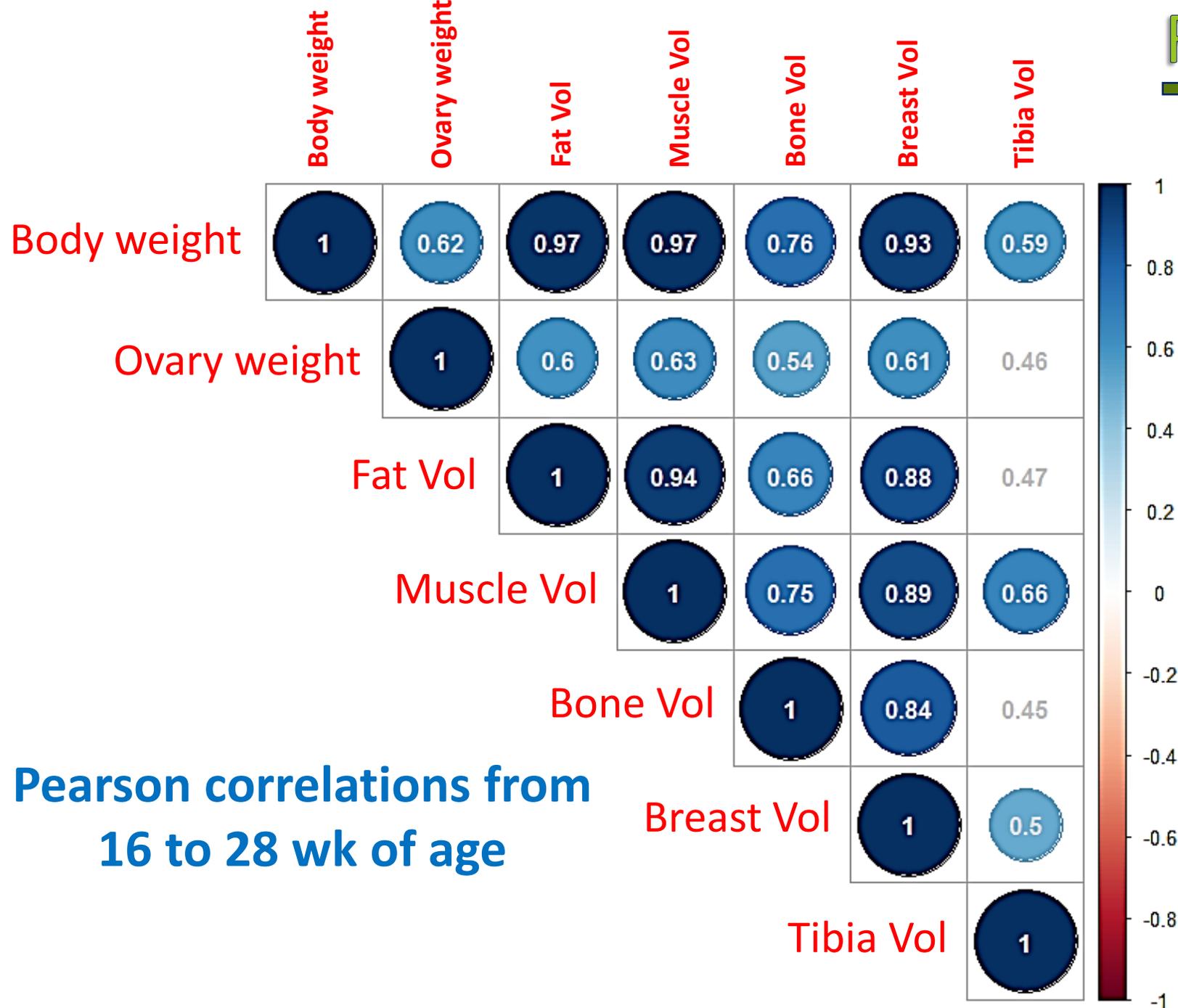
Breast Vol

Tibia Vol



Pearson correlations from 16 to 28 wk of age

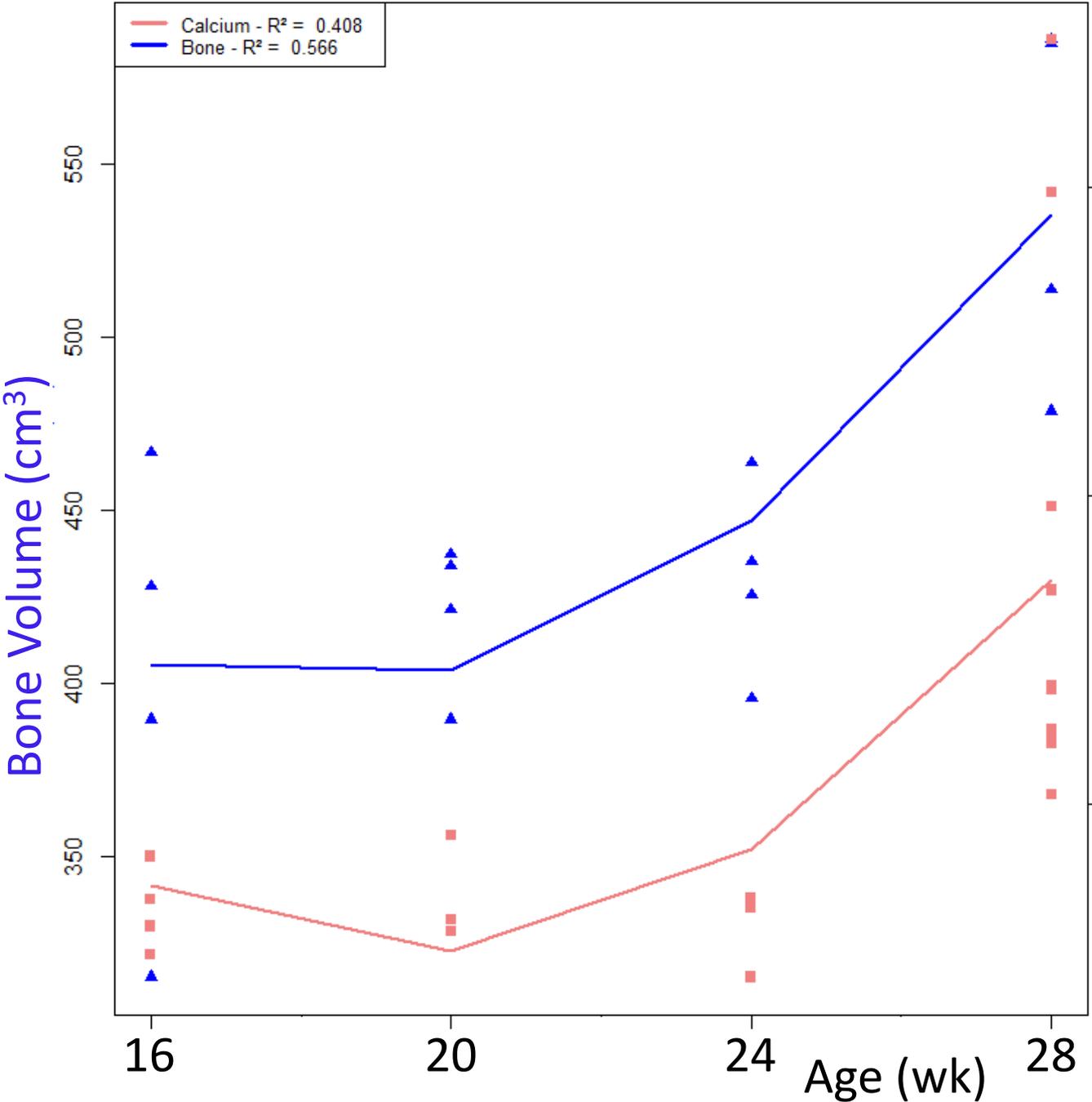




**Strongly correlated with BW**

- ✓ Muscles (r = 0.97)
- ✓ Fat (r = 0.97)
- ✓ Bone (r = 0.76)
- ✓ Ovary weight (r = 0.62)

# Results – N = 4

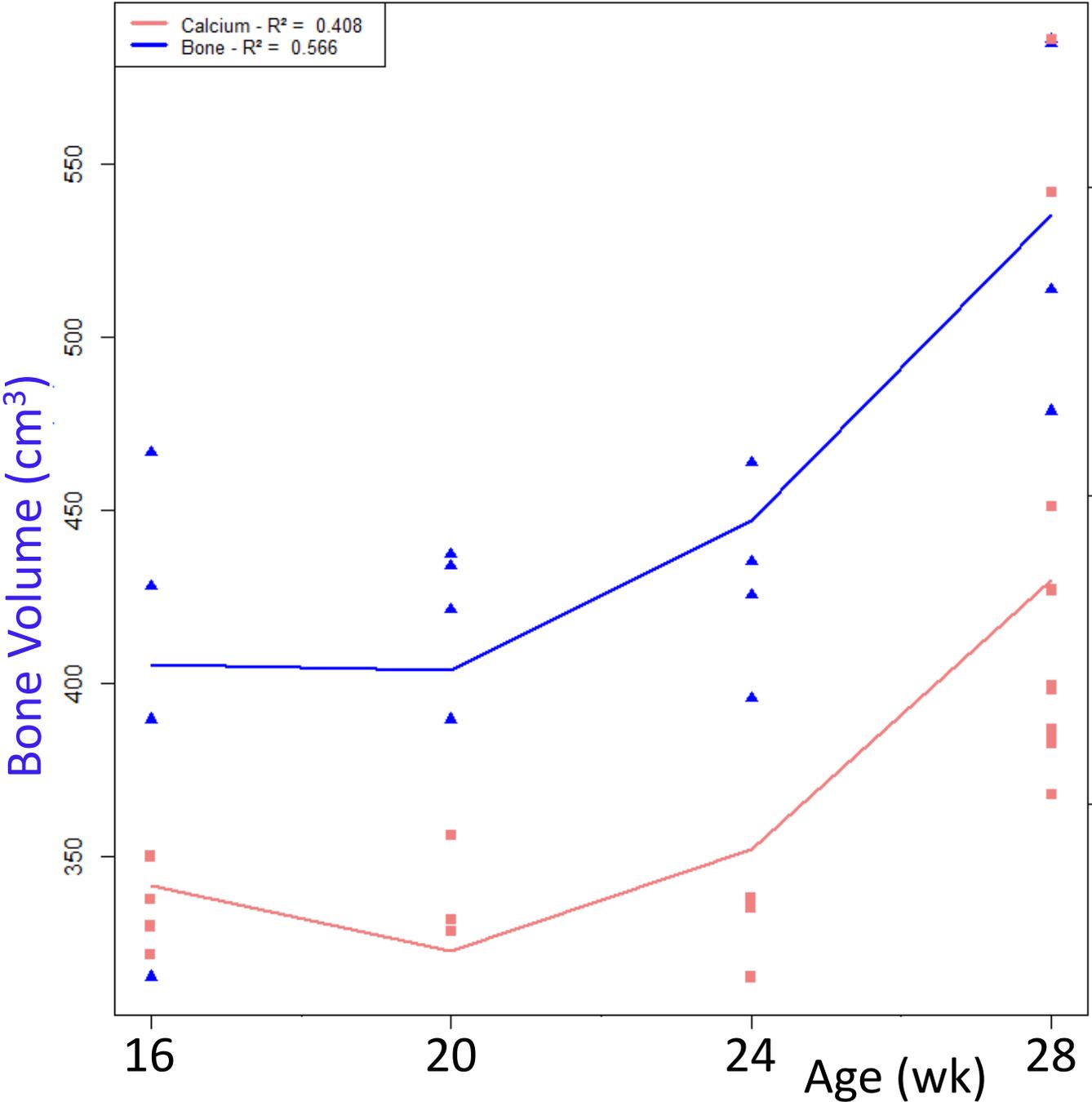




# Results – N = 4

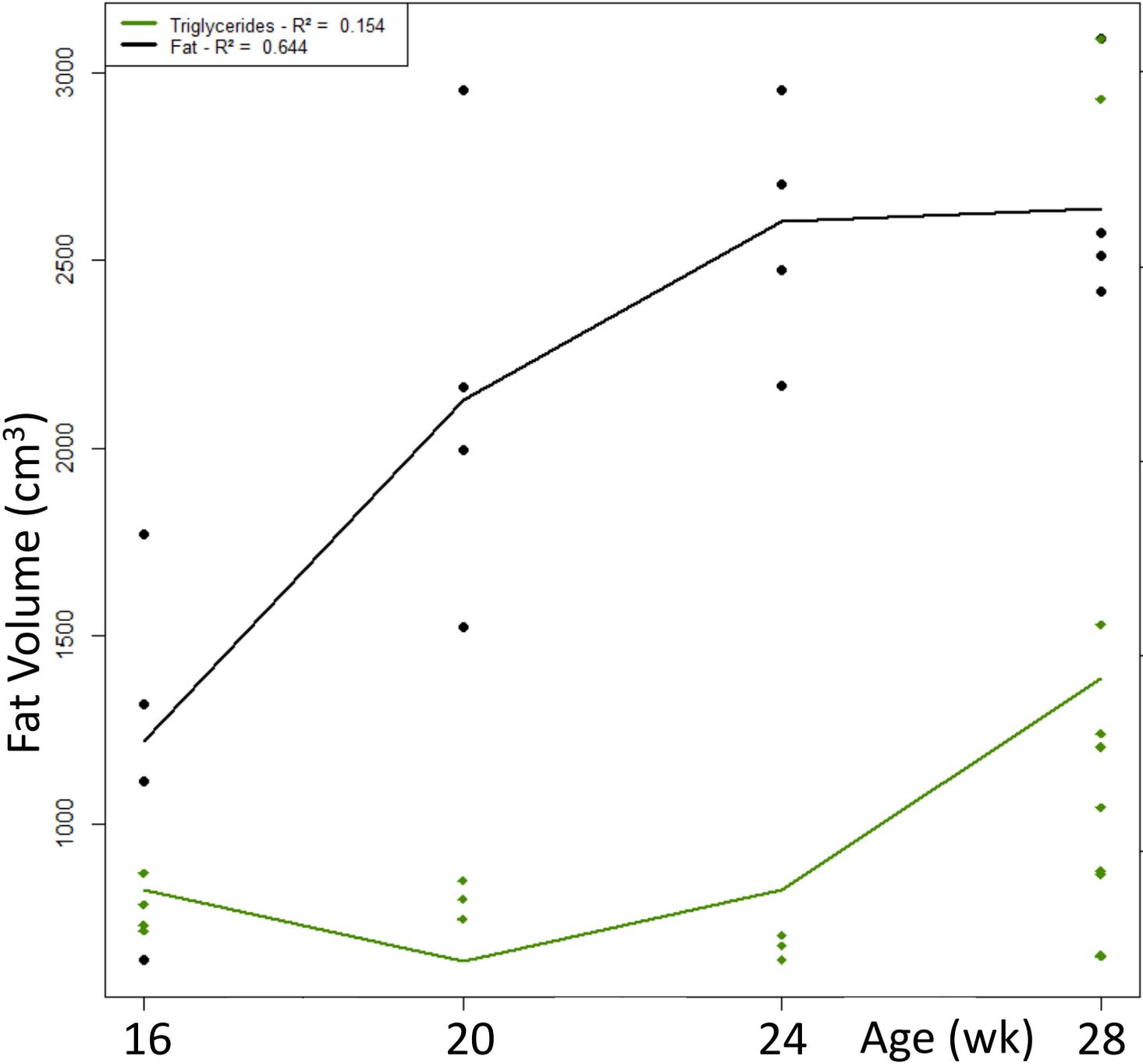


✓ Calcium levels  
Increase with age





# Results – N = 4



Triglyceride level (g/L)

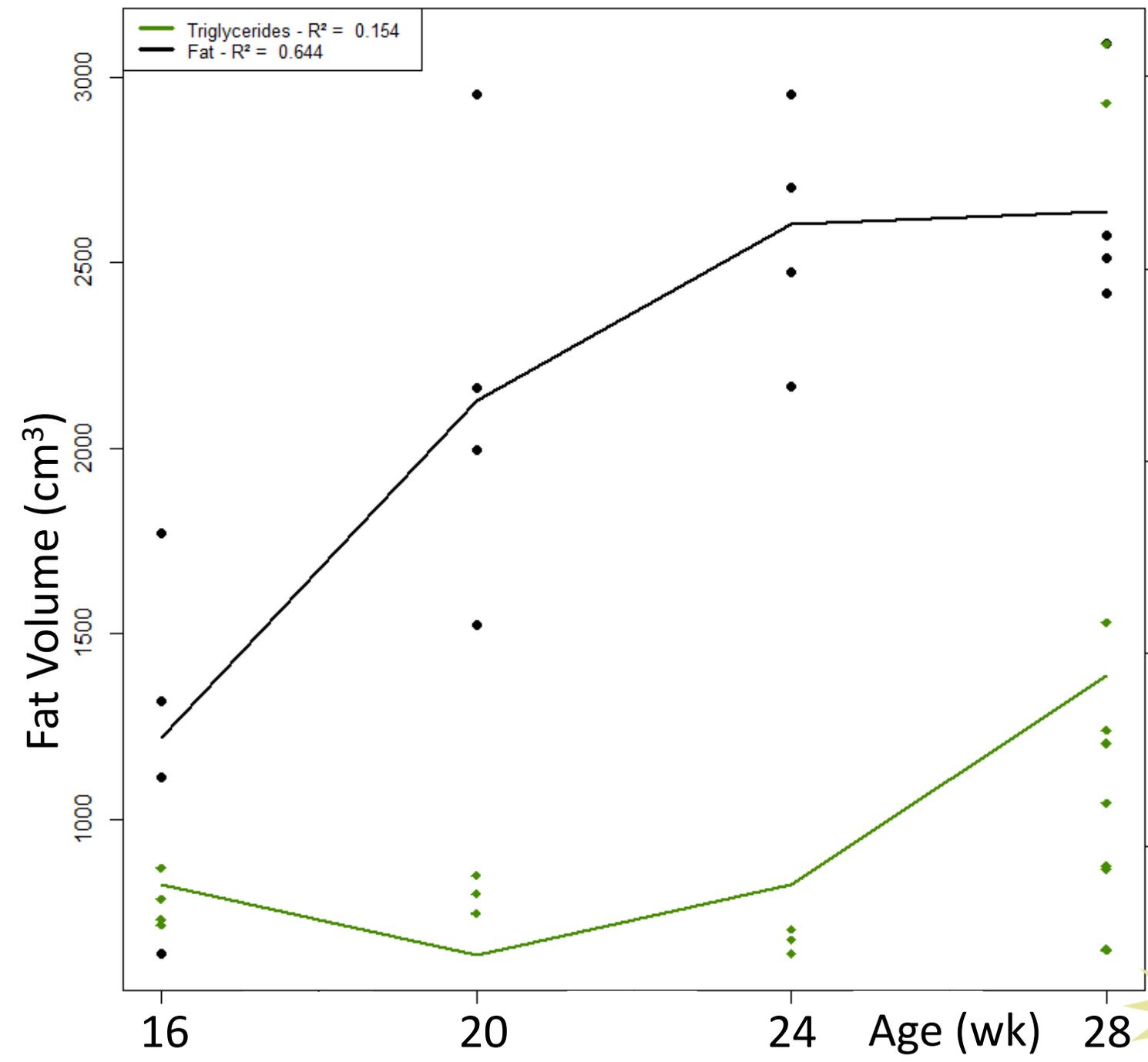
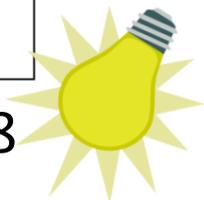




# Results – N = 4



**Triglyceride levels**  
✓ **Increase at PS**





**LIGHT**

**MEDIUM**

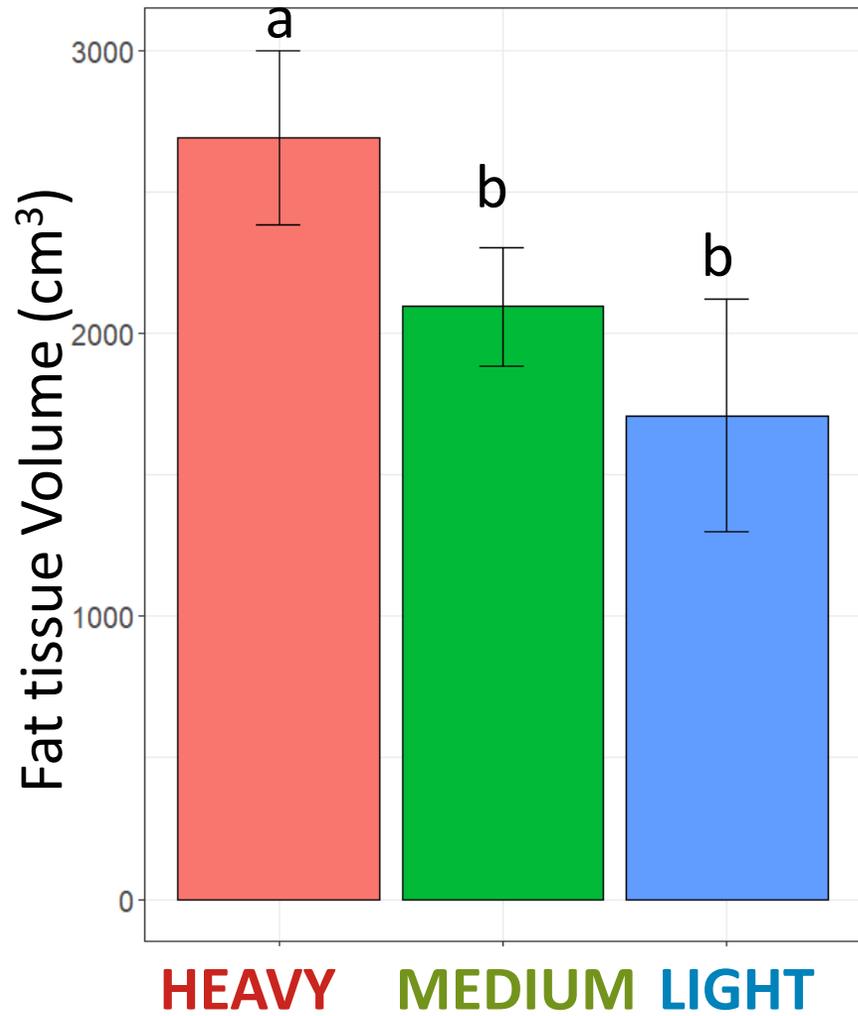
**HEAVY**

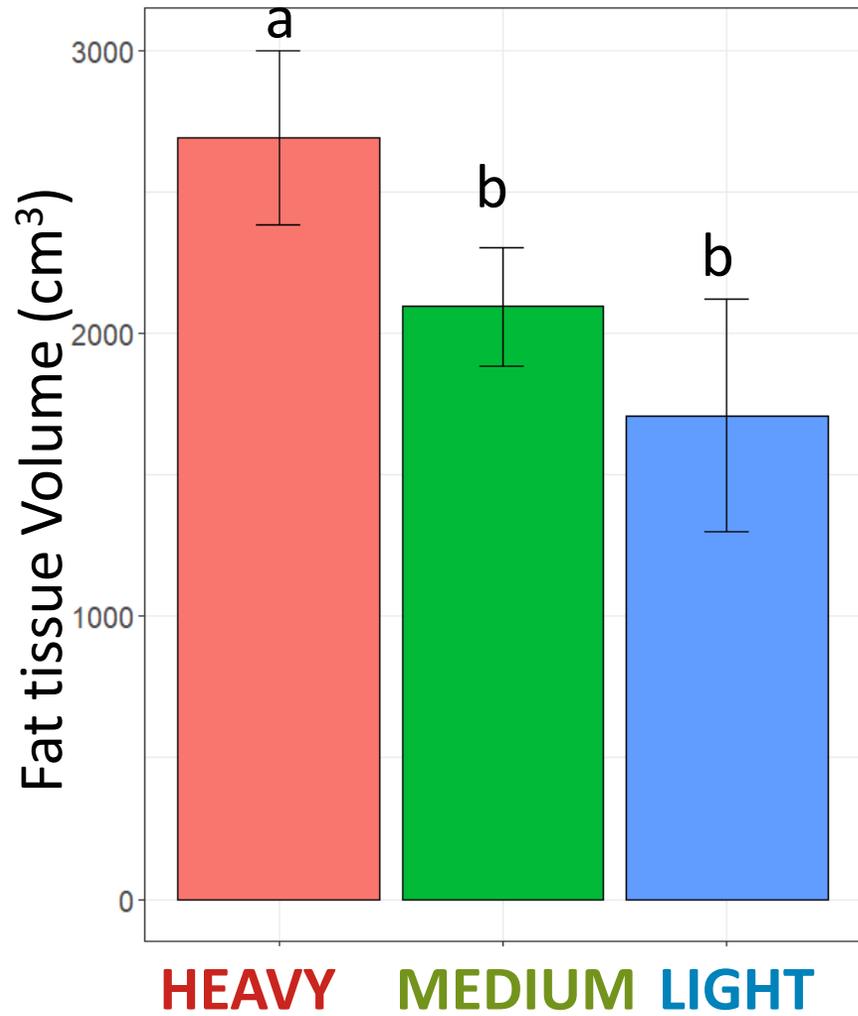
No difference between groups

✓ Muscle volume

✓ Bone volume

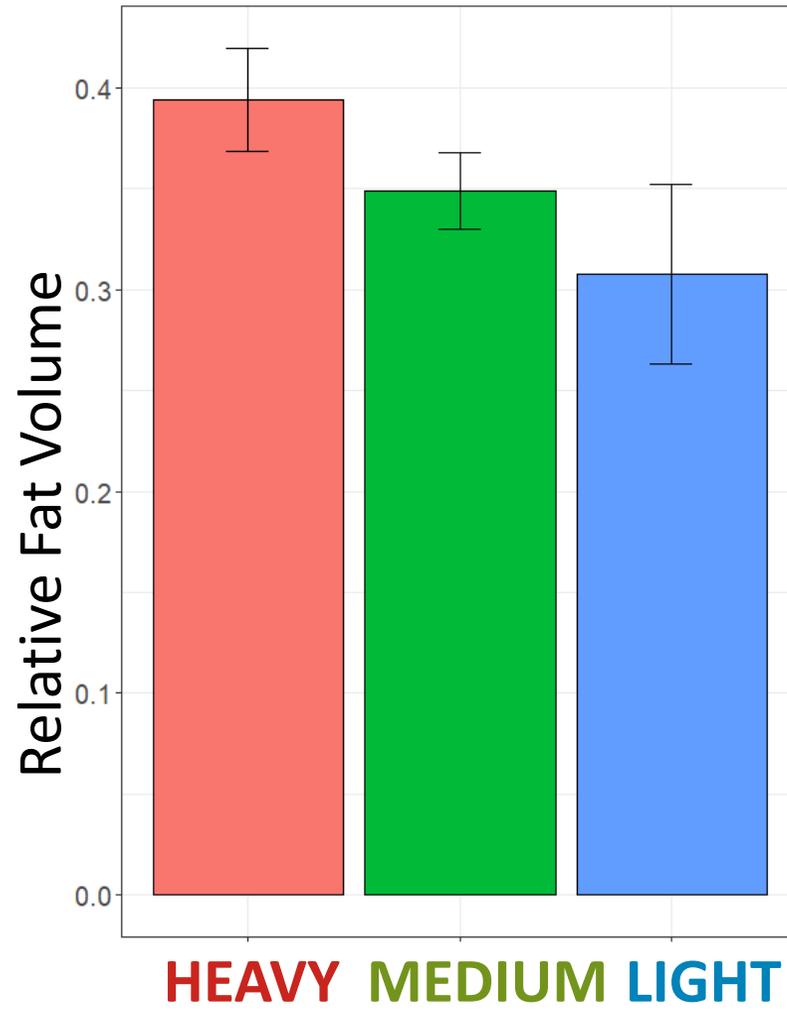
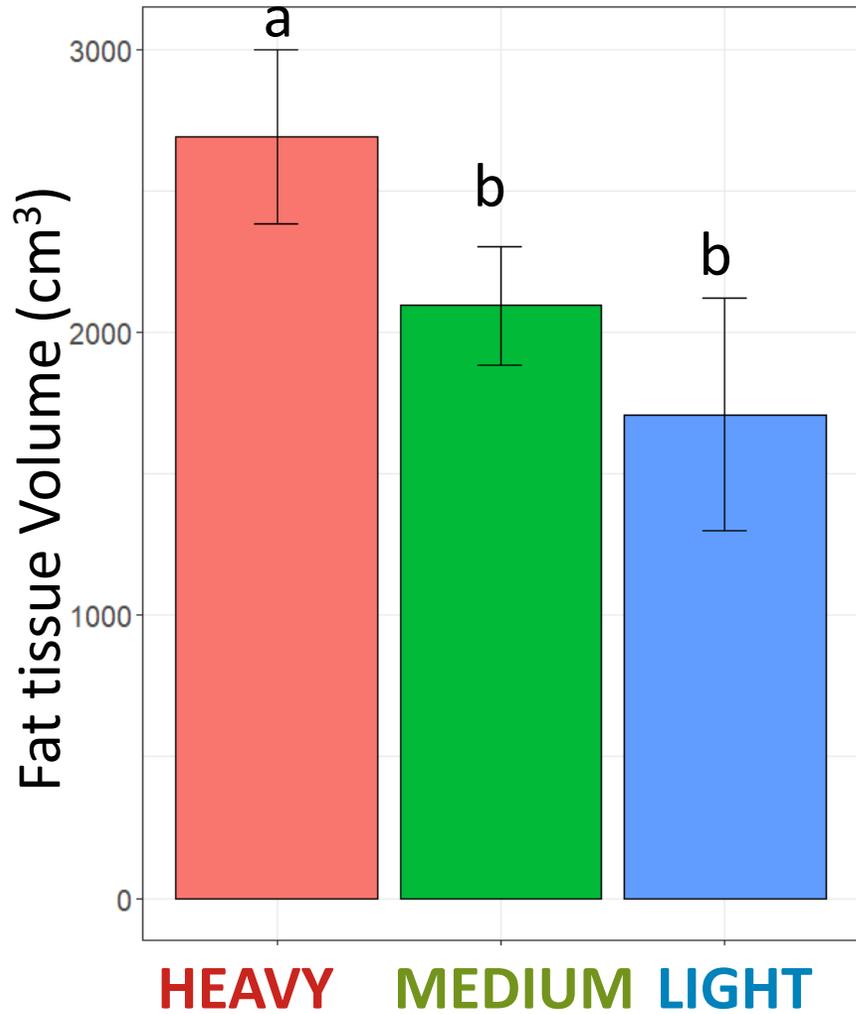






**Group HEAVY**  
✓ **More fat volume**





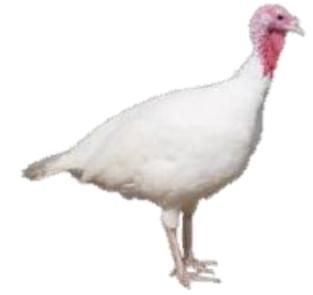
**Group HEAVY**  
✓ More fat volume

**Relative fat volume**  
✓ No difference





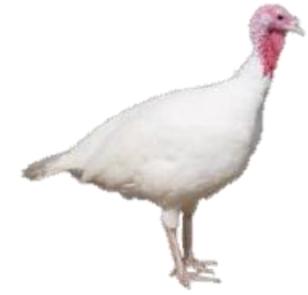
## Growth rate



- ✓ Influenced by BW at 16 wk
- ✓ Volumes and BW follow a linear relationship during rearing



## Growth rate



- ✓ Influenced by BW at 16 wk
- ✓ Volumes and BW follow a linear relationship during rearing

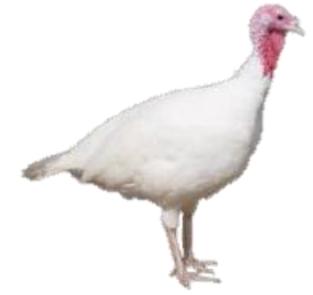


## CT - Scan

- ✓ Non – invasive body composition estimation
  - ✓ Adapt feeding strategies
  - ✓ Valuable tool for genetic selection



## Growth rate



- ✓ Influenced by BW at 16 wk
- ✓ Volumes and BW follow a linear relationship during rearing

## CT - Scan



- ✓ Non – invasive body composition estimation
  - ✓ Adapt feeding strategies
  - ✓ Valuable tool for genetic selection

## Perspective:



## Body composition and growth rate

- ✓ Through sexual maturity
  - ✓ During laying



# Acknowledgements



✓ CIRE - INRA: François Lecompte

✓ Team Hendrix Genetics: Sylvain Brière, Patrice Etourneau, Sophie Picherit, HGTF R&D farms

✓ Team PRC - INRA: Pascal Froment, Éric Jeanpierre, Sarah Chaussard, Jérémy Grandhaye

Better Breeding Today. Brighter Life Tomorrow.



# Financial Support



- ✓ The French branch of WPSA is gratefully acknowledged for its support to the participation of Marine Dewez to the XVth EPC congress
- ✓ The organizing comity is greatly thanked for this presentation and the Youth Program allowance

**Better Breeding Today. Brighter Life Tomorrow.**



# Thank you for your attention !



Better Breeding Today. Brighter Life Tomorrow.

