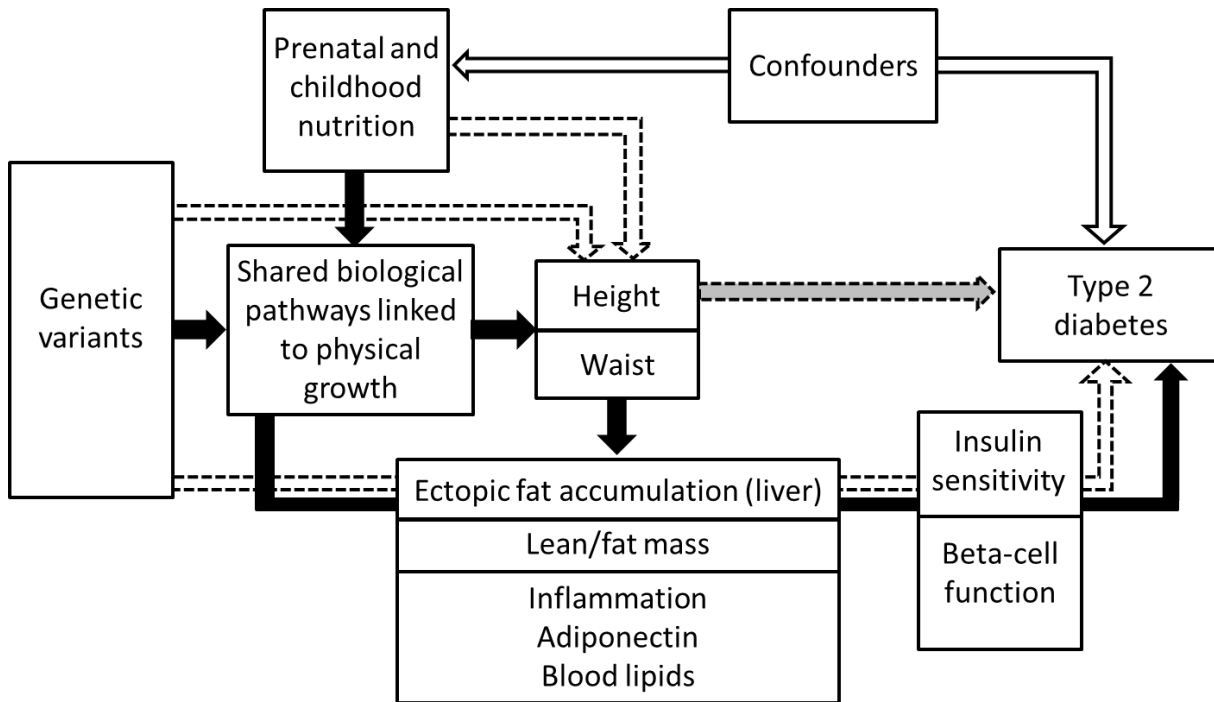


ESM Fig. 1



Working model for interpreting the association between shorter height and increased risk of type 2 diabetes

Genetic variants and prenatal and childhood nutrition affect biologic pathways, which on the one hand determine achieved height and on the other hand influence the risk of type 2 diabetes (solid black arrows). It is also possible that height itself alters lifestyle, which then affects the risk of type 2 diabetes (dashed grey arrow). Physical growth will not only affect height but also waist circumference, which partly counteracts beneficial effects related to height.