

# NGS: technologies and challenges

Johanna Lagensjö, Project coordinator & Head of laboratory operations, NGI-Uppsala

Adam Ameur, Associate professor and senior bioinformatician, NGI-Uppsala

# Today we will talk about

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- Genomics Platforms and sequencing services at NGI, SciLifeLab
- History and current status of technologies for sequencing
- NGS applications and technologies
- NGS challenges and sample requirements
- Data analysis pipelines, R&D and strategic projects



# Service areas of SciLifeLab

Bioinformatics

Bioimaging and Molecular Structure

Chemical Biology and  
Genome Engineering

Drug Discovery

Diagnostics

Genomics

Metabolomics

Single Cell Biology

Spatial Omics

Proteomics

Across all service areas: dedicated staff scientists that can offer support **throughout the experimental process** – from study design to data handling



# SciLifeLab Genomics

RELEVANT UNITS / GENOMICS

## National Genomics Infrastructure (NGI)

The National Genomics Infrastructure (NGI) provides services for next generation sequencing and SNP genotyping on all scales using a comprehensive range of modern (...)

[Learn More →](#)

## Ancient DNA

Use cleanroom labs and specialized molecular genetics techniques to extract, make libraries, sequence and analyze DNA in ancient and/or degraded biological material.

[Learn More →](#)

## Clinical Genomics

Develops and provides clinical genetic tests using state-of-the-art genomic methods, such as next-generation sequencing, for translational research and healthcare.

[Learn More →](#)

## Eukaryotic Single Cell Genomics

Provides service for high-throughput single cell genomics analysis

[Learn More →](#)

## Microbial Single Cell Genomics

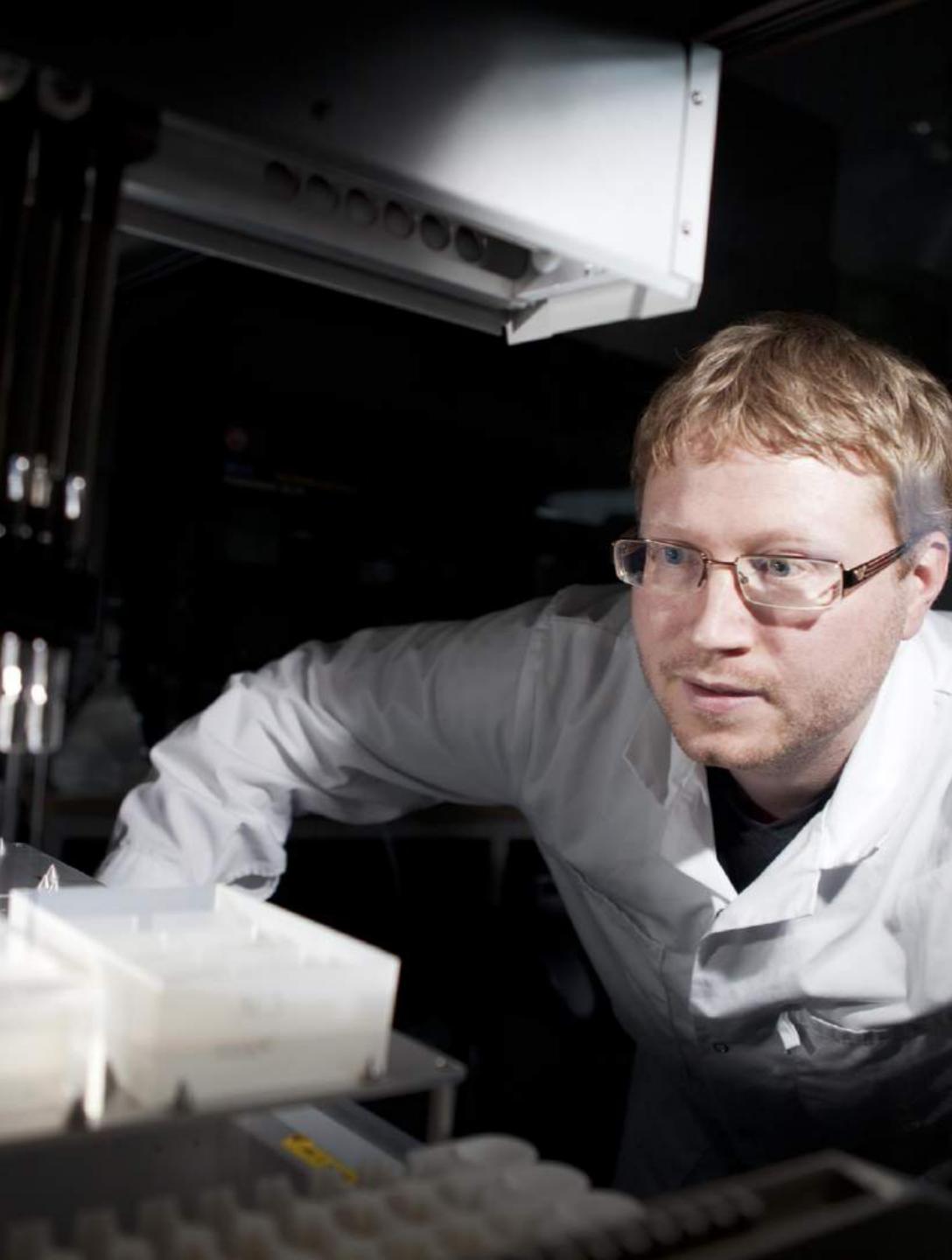
Provides streamlined single-cell sorting, lysis, whole-genome amplification and screening of individual microbial cells, as well as whole genome and targeted gene sequencing (...)

[Learn More →](#)

## National Bioinformatics Infrastructure (NBIS)

Provides custom-tailored support with data analysis, computational tools, systems development and training.

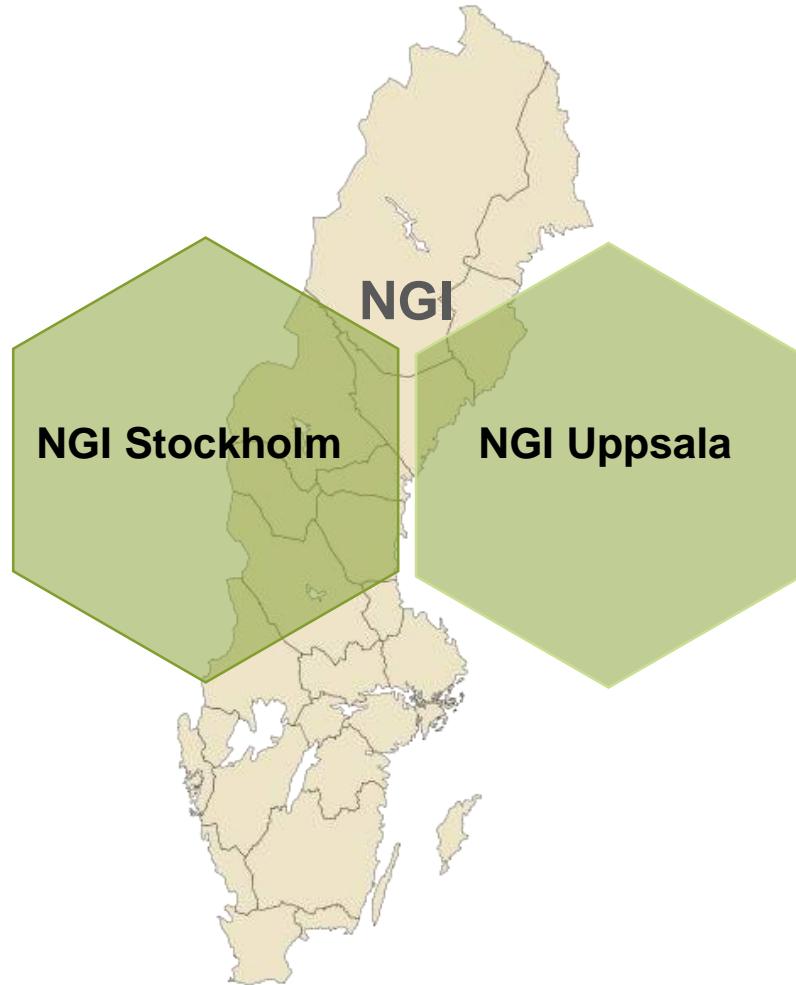
[Learn More →](#)



## What is NGI?

NGI provides access to technology for massively parallel/next generation DNA sequencing, genotyping and associated bioinformatics support

# NGI Platform organisation



**Tuuli Lappainen**  
Platform Director  
Professor KTH



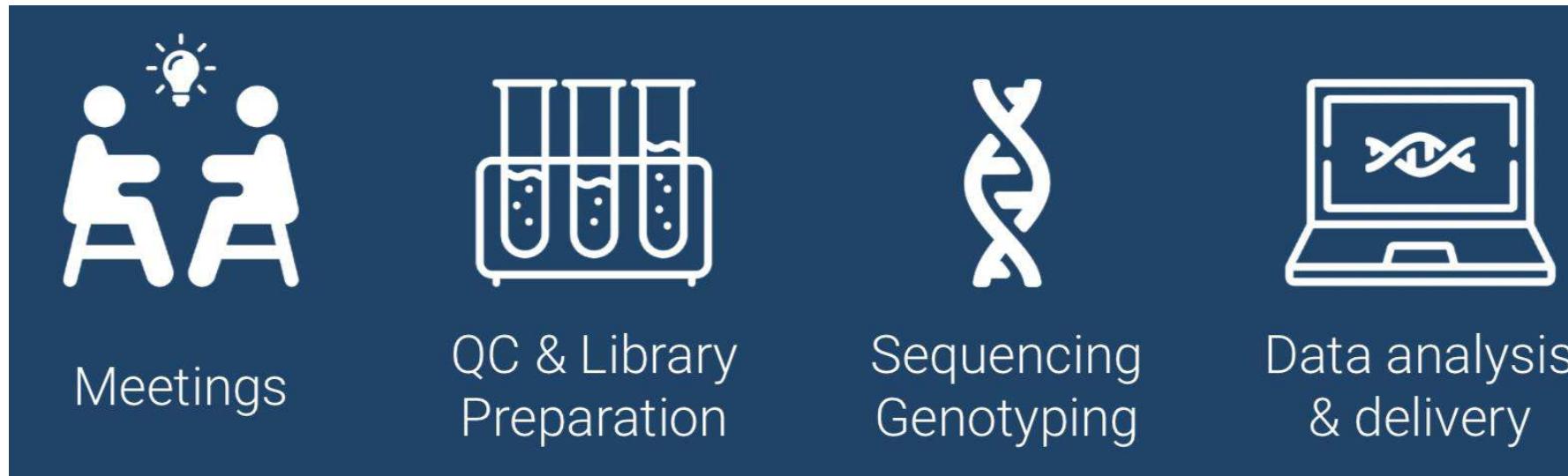
**Lars Feuk**  
Platform Co-Director  
Professor UU

**NGI-Uppsala  
SNP&SEQ  
Technology  
platform**

**NGI-Uppsala  
Uppsala  
Genome Center**

**NGI-Stockholm**

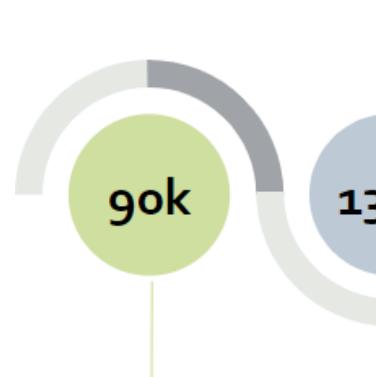
# Project workflow





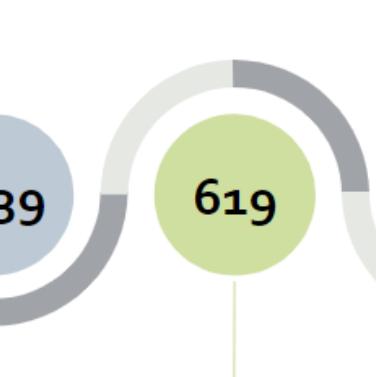
## Projects

- Assemblies of high-quality reference genomes
- Human genome variation analyses
- Transcriptome profiling
- Single-cell sequencing and much more



## Samples

- All types of sample sources: from environment, lab cultured, biobank, etc
- All types of organisms: microbes, plants, insects, mammals, ...

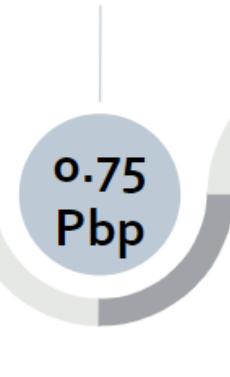


## Support meetings

- Experimental design
- Advising on sample preparations
- Optimizing sequencing setup
- Guidelines for further data analysis

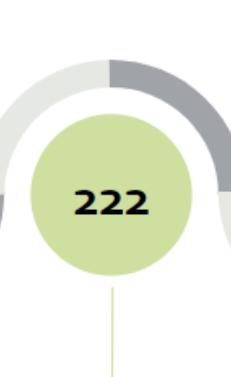
## Amount of sequenced base pairs

- 643.2 Tbp – short reads
- 108.5 Tbp – long reads
- 13.1 B – genotypes



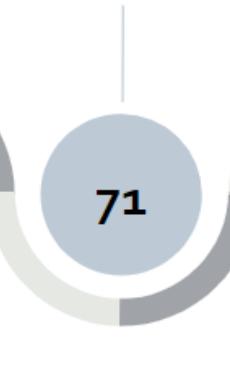
## Technology development

- Evaluation of new protocols, applications, bioinformatics tools and sequencing methods
- Methodological developments in spatial and single-cell transcriptomics technologies



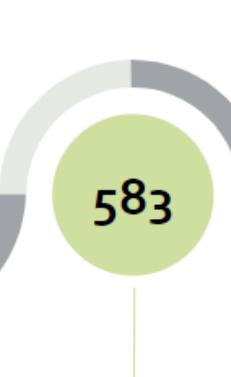
## Publications

- Contribution to a number of articles in high impact journals such as Nature, Cell, Science, Nature Biotechnology, Nature Genetics, Nature Neuroscience, etc.



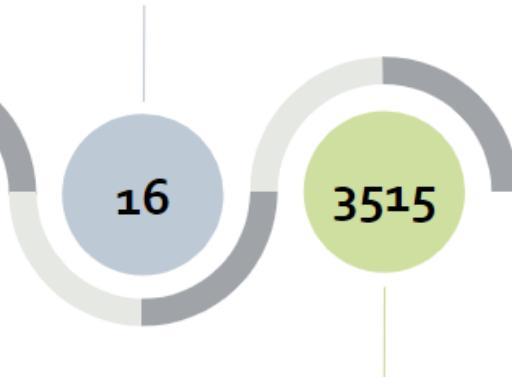
## Education and Outreach

- Teaching at courses from undergraduate to PhD level
- Participating in national and international conferences
- Webinars, workshops and hackathons



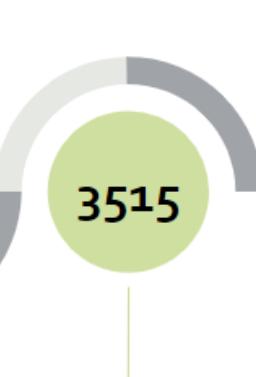
## Users

- Unique project PIs from more than 18 different universities, institutes, healthcare and industry companies used NGI services in 2023



## Communication tickets

- 44865 ticket updates
- 98.6% satisfaction score



# NGS technologies at NGI



**Short-reads**

illumina



**Short-reads**  
**ion torrent**  
by life technologies™



**Long -reads**



PACBIO®



# Sequencing instruments at NGI



## Short read NGS

High throughput, low cost per base

3x NovaSeq X Plus – **New!**

5 x Illumina NovaSeq

4 x Illumina MiSeq

1 x Illumina NextSeq

1 x Illumina iSeq

1 x Thermo Fisher IonS5



## Long read NGS

Very long reads, lower throughput

1 x PacBio Revio – **New!**

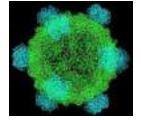
1 x PacBio Sequel IIe

1 x Oxford Nanopore-PromethION



# History and current status of sequencing

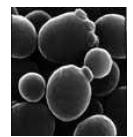
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First genome: virus  $\phi$  X 174 - 5 368 bp (1977)



First organism: *Haemophilus influenzae* - 1.5 Mb (1995)



First eukaryote: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* - 12.4 Mb (1996)



First multicellular organism: *Cenorhabditis elegans* - 100 Mb (1998-2002)



First plant: *Arabidopsis thaliana* - 157 Mb (2000)



First human genome- 3Gb (2003)

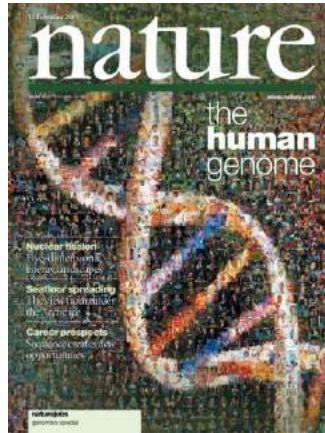
# An interesssting comparison



**Human genome project (HUGO, 2003)**

Sanger Sequencing

2.7 Billion USD



**Craig Venter's Genome**

Sanger Sequencing

70 Million USD

**James Watson's Genome**

454 pyro sequencing (Roche)

2 Million USD

**Yesterday's genome**

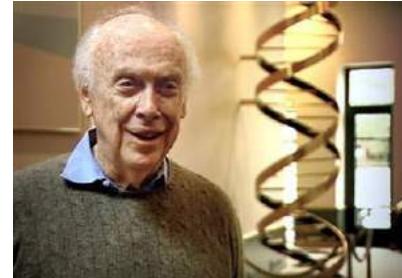
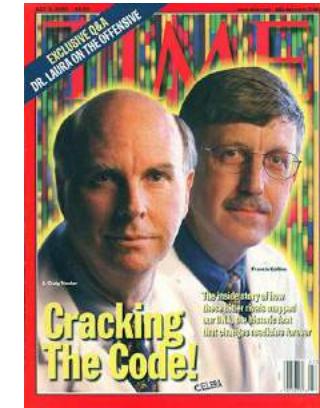
NovaSeq 6000 (Illumina)

~1 000 USD

**Today's genome**

NovaSeq X (Illumina)

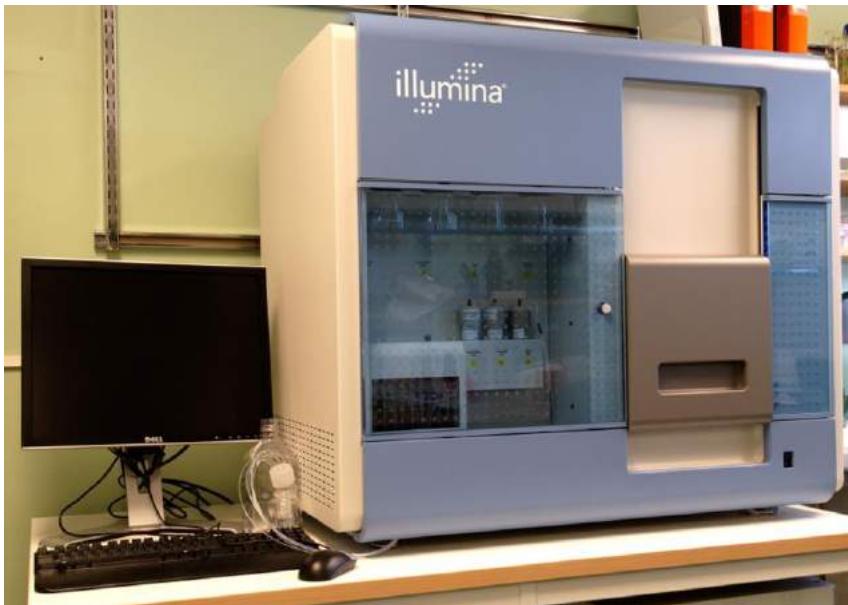
~600 USD



# 15 years of Illumina sequencing at NGI



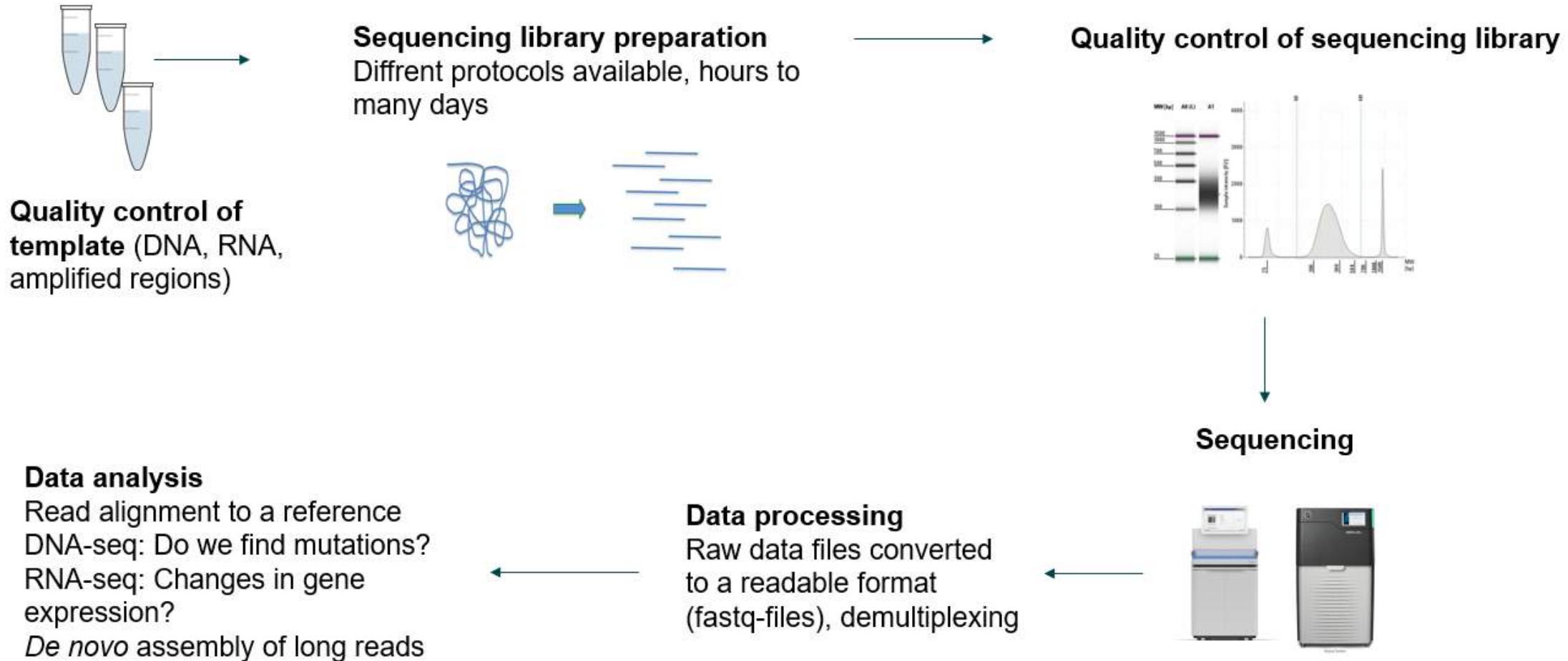
2007: Installation of Illumina GA



2023: Arrival of NovaSeq X Plus



# Workflow, Illumina sequencing



# Short reads, Illumina sequencing



illumina®



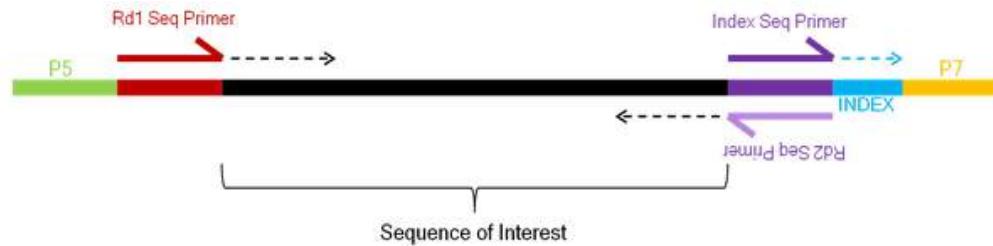
**36-300 bp, paired end sequencing  
150 Mb-16 Tb per run  
12 hours - 3 days**

Whole genome sequencing, any size  
Whole genome sequencing, human  
Exome  
Transcriptomes  
Target genes and panels  
Amplicons (up to 500 bp)  
ChIP-sequencing  
Methylome  
RAD-sequencing  
Metagenomes and metatranscriptomes  
Ultra-low input samples

# Library preparation



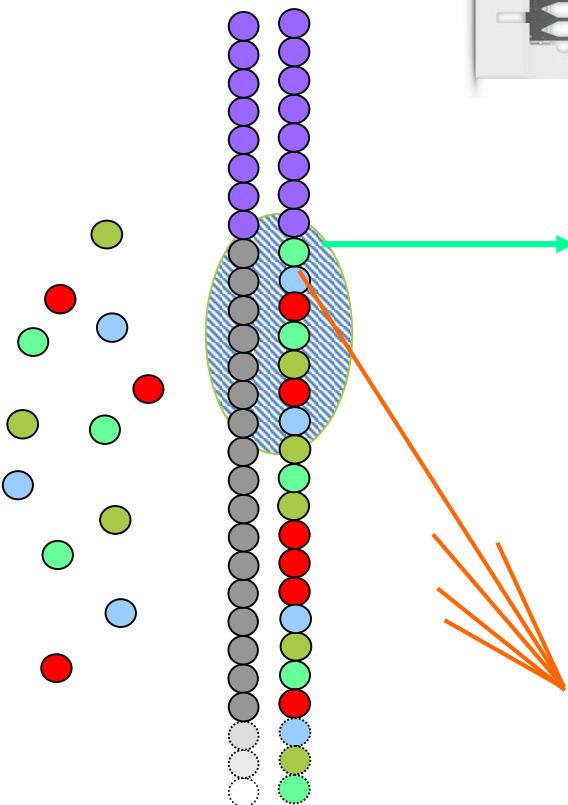
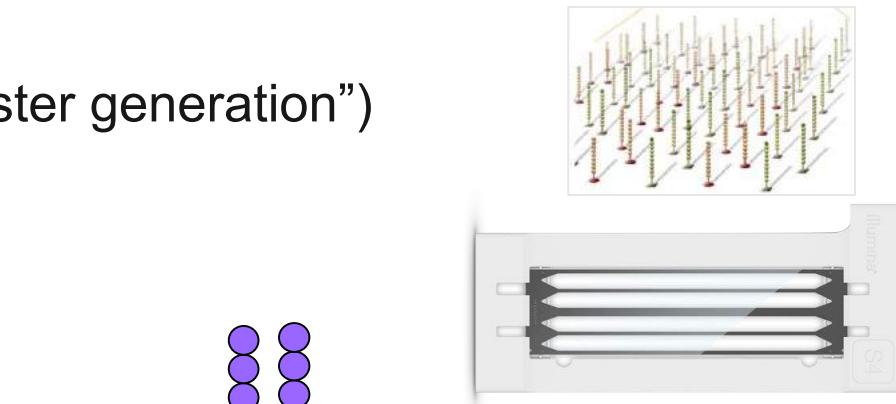
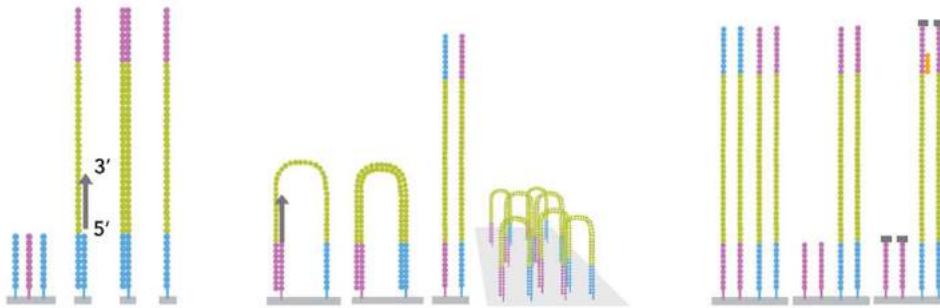
- A sequencing library is a pool of DNA fragments with adapters attached to both ends of the fragments
- Approx. 20 protocols for Illumina library prep at NGI



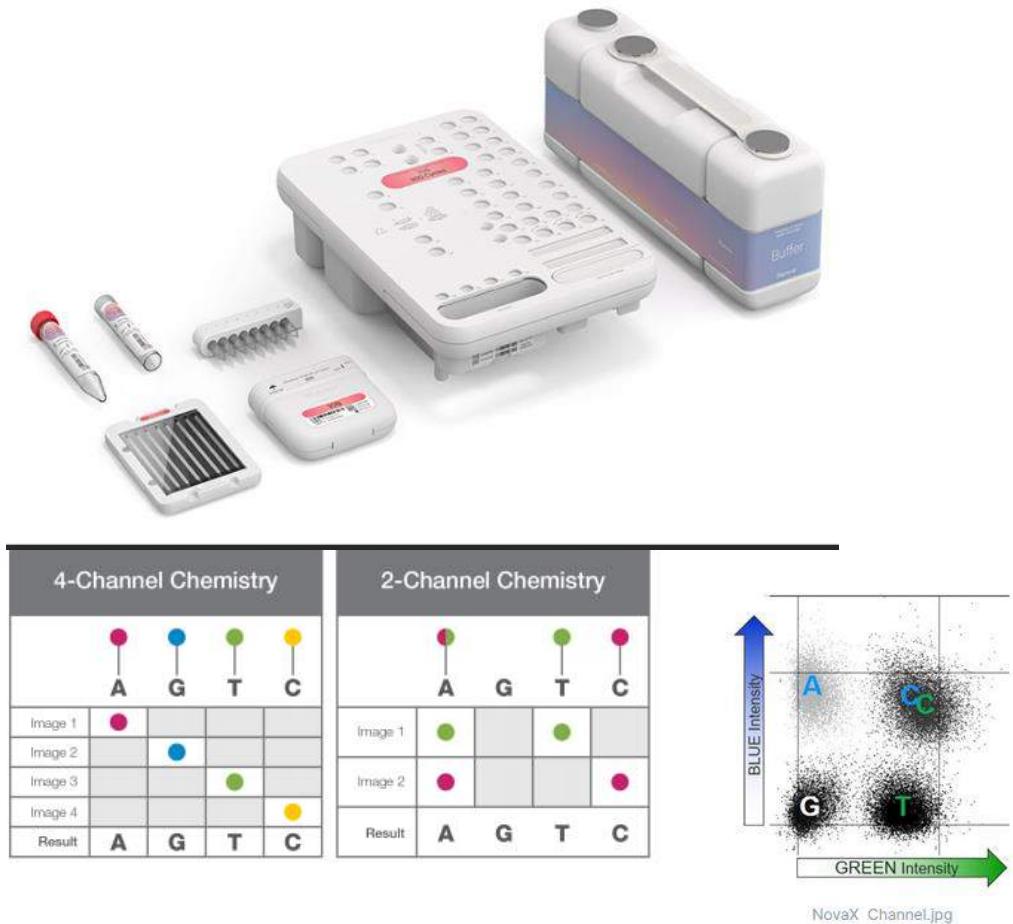
# Illumina cluster generation & sequencing



- The sequencing library is hybridized to a flowcell ("cluster generation")
  - - A flowcell is a slide that is coated with oligos
- Rapid bridge amplification
- Hybridization of sequencing primers
- Sequencing by synthesis
  - fluorophore labeled nucleotides emitting light



# Illumina sequencing by synthesis



Youtube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCd6B5HRaZ8>

# New instrument - NovaSeq X Plus



Flowcell Type	1.5 B	10 B	25 B
Output per flowcell (paired end150 bp)	500 Gb	3 Tb	8 Tb
Number of human genomes per flowcell	~ 4	~ 24	~ 64
Run time (paired end150 bp)	21 h	24 h	48 h

Run ID - Lane	Mb Total Yield	M Total Clusters	% bases ≥ Q30
20230612_LH00179_0005_A2255M2LT3 - L1	295 764.0	979.4	95.4%
20230612_LH00179_0005_A2255M2LT3 - L2	323 896.8	1 072.5	95.3%
20230612_LH00179_0005_A2255M2LT3 - L3	366 557.1	1 213.8	95.6%
20230612_LH00179_0005_A2255M2LT3 - L4	383 028.6	1 268.3	95.0%
20230612_LH00179_0005_A2255M2LT3 - L5	251 454.3	832.6	97.3%
20230612_LH00179_0005_A2255M2LT3 - L6	284 351.5	941.6	97.1%
20230612_LH00179_0005_A2255M2LT3 - L7	388 065.2	1 285.0	94.0%
20230612_LH00179_0005_A2255M2LT3 - L8	363 776.7	1 204.6	95.0%

# NovaSeq X results for our first 10 runs



Runfolder	Number of reads (B read pairs)	Quality score Q30 (Average % >= Q30)	Error rate Phix (%)
20231019_LH00179_0007_B22CT72LT3	10,16 B/FC (1034-1426 M/lane)	84.6	0.90
20231027_LH00179_0008_A22CT5YLT3	8,84 B/FC (881-1245 M/lane)	87.4	0.40
20231030_LH00179_0009_A22FGLHLT3	11,78 B/FC (1304-1610 M/lane)	93.5	0.11
20231110_LH00179_0012_A22FMKMLT3	8,95 B/FC (773-1423 M/lane)	83.8	1.59
20231121_LH00179_0013_B22FMWLLT3	12,05 B/FC (1252-1612 M/lane)	89.5	0.23
20231201_LH00179_0015_A22FY3TLT3	10,9 B/FC (774-1683 M /lane)	92.56	0.32
20231205_LH00179_0016_A22FWYLLT3	12,3 B/FC (1527-1560 M /lane)	92.20	0.19
20231205_LH00179_0017_B22GHKLT3	11,9 B/FC (1453-1529 M/ lane)	93.87	0.15
20231207_LH00179_0018_A22GHLKL3	10,7 B/FC (1248-1360 M lane)	92.71	0.20
20231213_LH00179_0019_A22GTJ3LT3	11,7 B/FC (1408-1482 M/lane)	94.5	0.14

Software  
Upgrade



# Advantages and challenges NovaSeqX



+

Cost per base is low

Quick data generation

Easy workflow in the lab

Reagents shipped in RT

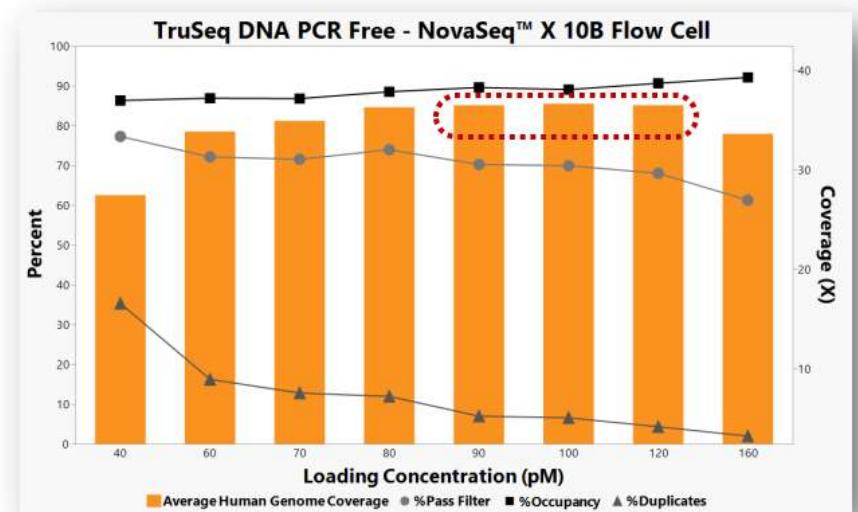
On-instrument analysis

-

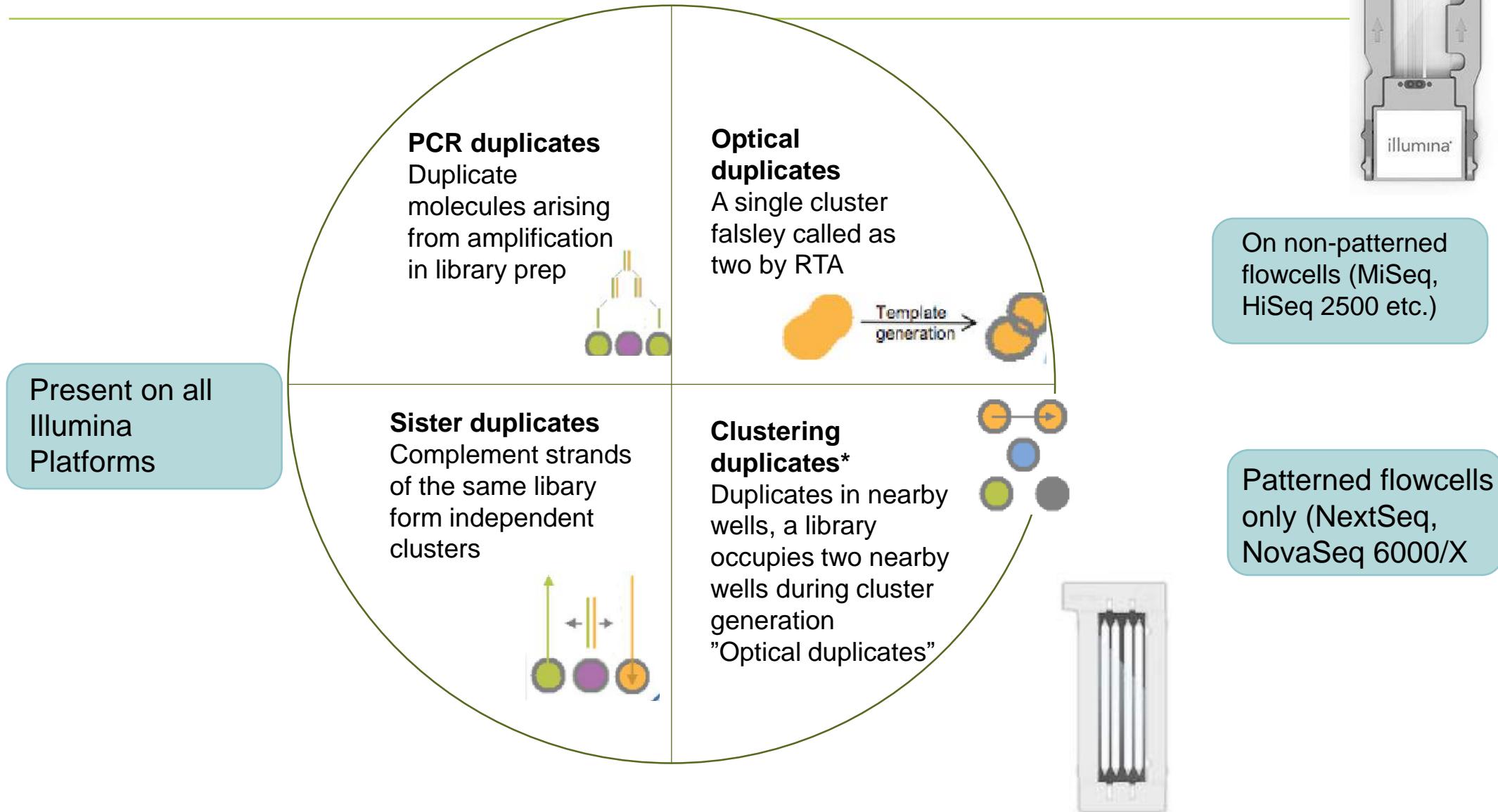
Yield vs duplicates

More sensitive to challenging samples and short inserts

Sensitive to colour balancing (C-A)



# Duplicates, duplicates, duplicates....



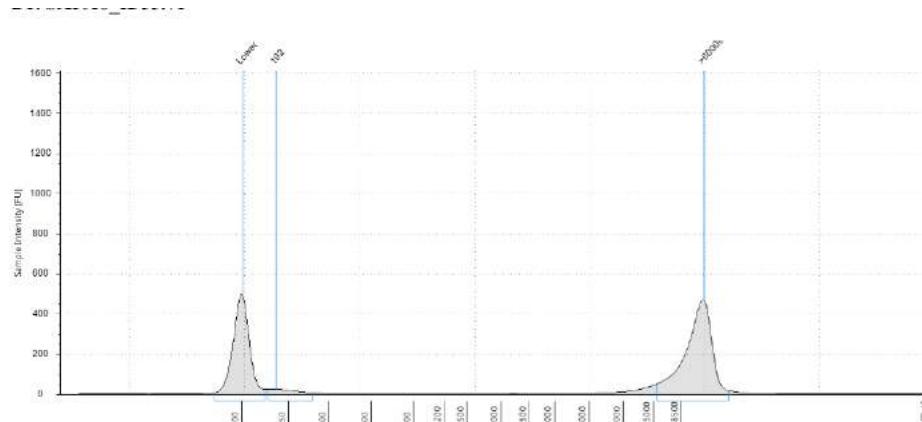
# Quality control of RNA/DNA



## DNA

Concentration: QuantIT

Degradation: Fragment Analyzer/TapeStation



Sample Table

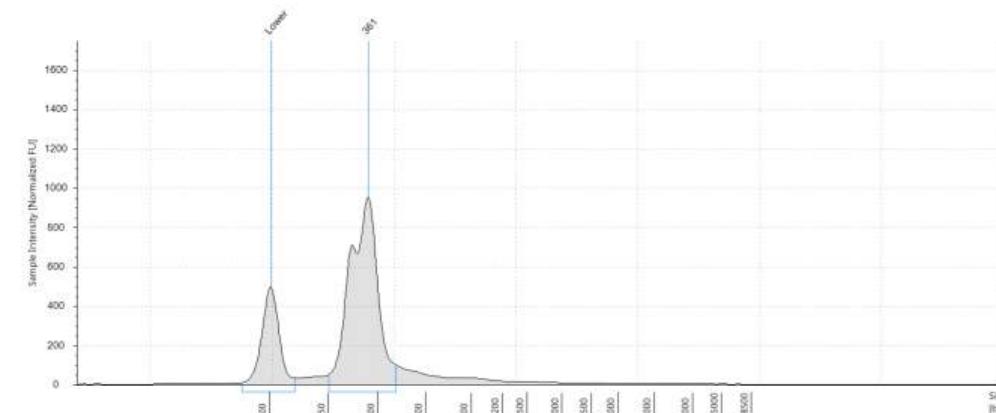
Well	DIN	Conc. [ng/ $\mu$ l]	Sample Description	Alert	Observations
B1	9.6	16.0	SX1018_ID33.v1		

High quality DNA sample

## RNA

Concentration + RIN-value:

Fragment Analyzer/TapeStation



Sample Table

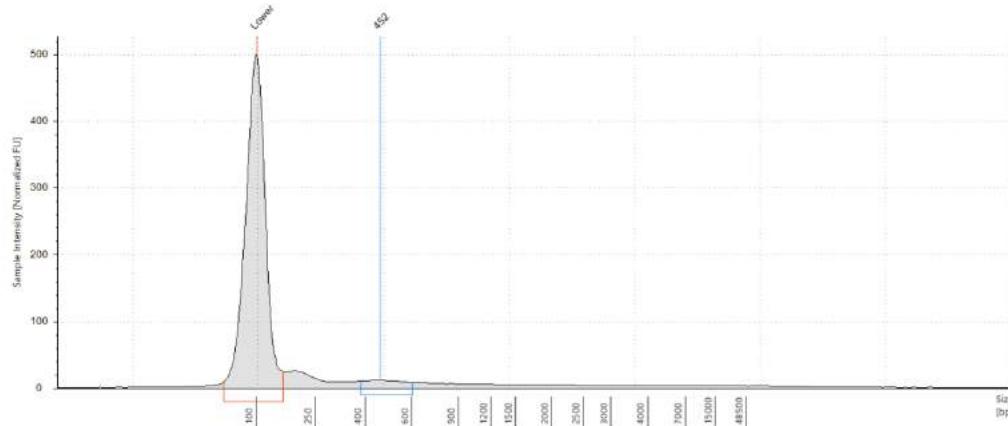
Well	DIN	Conc. [ng/ $\mu$ l]	Sample Description	Alert	Observations
E1	1.0	33.0	92-291039_RJ-1964-pool3		

Degraded DNA sample

# Quality of sample/library will affect sequencing result!



DNA-sample: 2.5 ng/ul, DIN-value 0



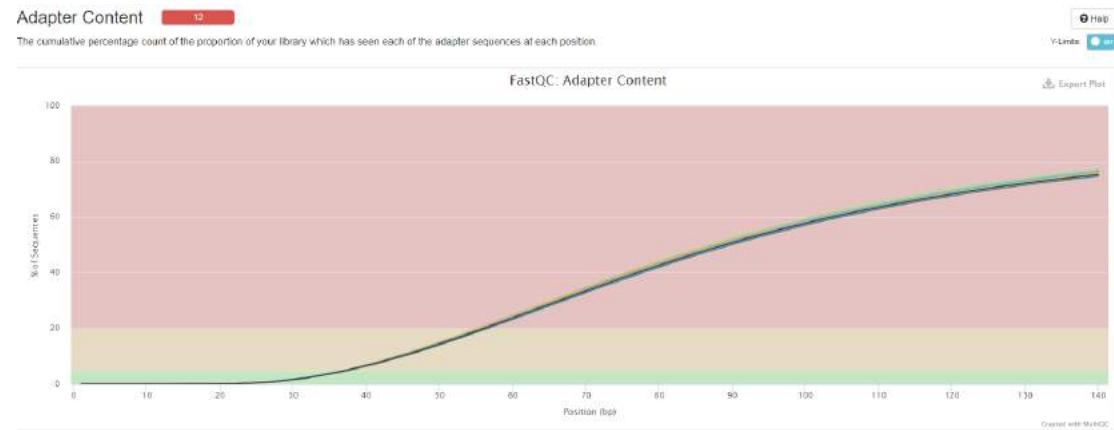
Sample Table

Well	DIN	Cone. [ng/ul]	Sample Description	Alert	Observations
A1	-	2.46	SXI162_S1.v1	⚠	Sample concentration outside functional range for DIN

20 ng of DNA, Thurplex Low-input library prep, 3 libraries

Amount of data generated: 800 M read pairs (aiming for  $\geq 60x$  coverage)

**Result: 12x coverage**



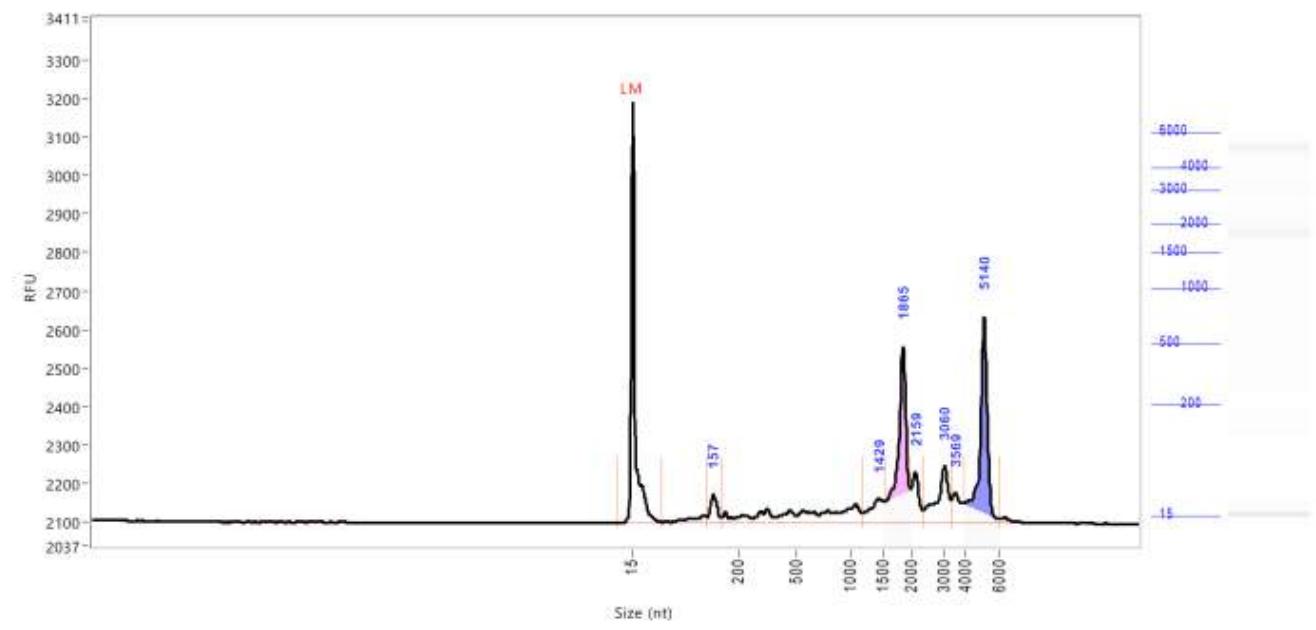
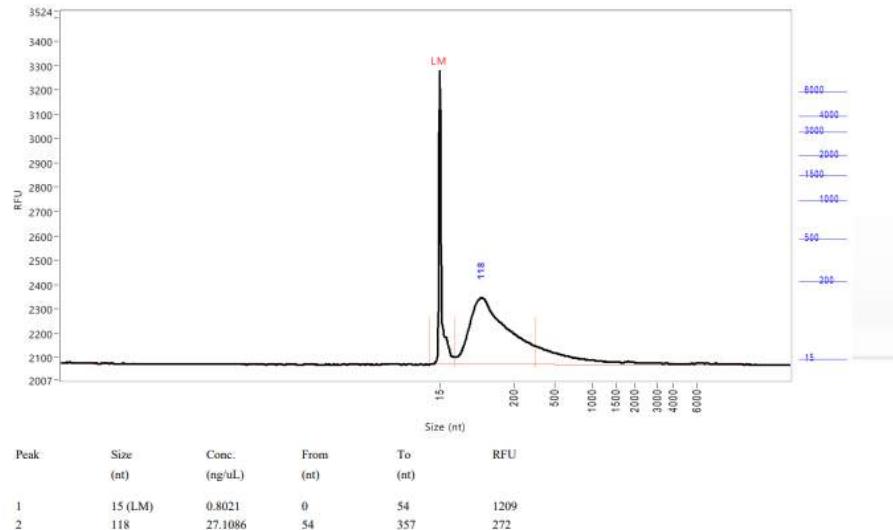
Copy table Configure Columns Plot Showing 7/7 rows and 14/23 columns.

Sample Name	% GC	Ins. size	$\geq 30X$	Coverage	% Aligned	Change rate	Ts/Tv	M Variants	TiTV ratio (known)	TiTV ratio (novel)	% Dups	% Dups	% GC	M Seqs
S1	46%	55	11.1%	2.0X	98.2%	893	1.645	3.47	2.0	1.6	76.6%	0.0	0.0	0.0

# Quality of sample/library will affect sequencing result!



- RNA samples, RIN-values between 1-9,6
- Library prep Illumina Ligation Ribo-Zero Plus



Results on next page...

# Continued... Quality of sample/library will affect sequencing result



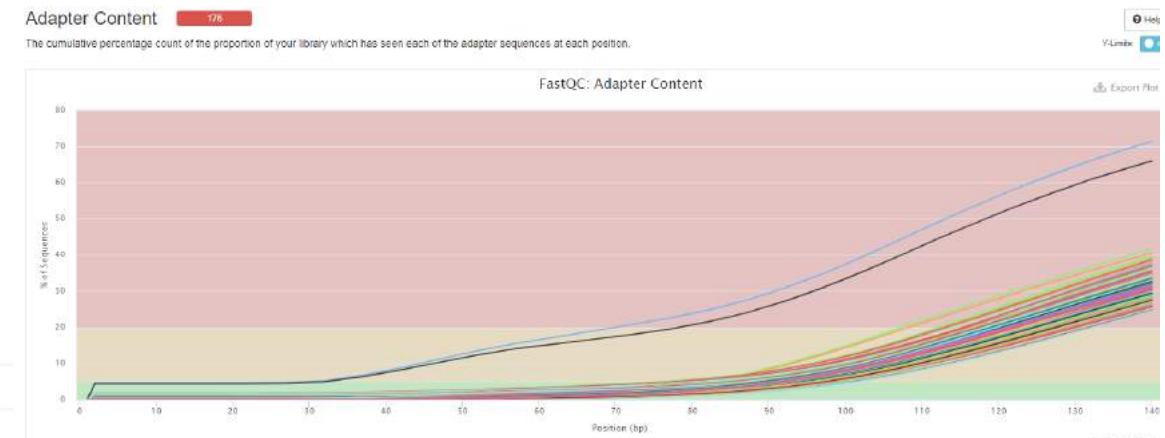
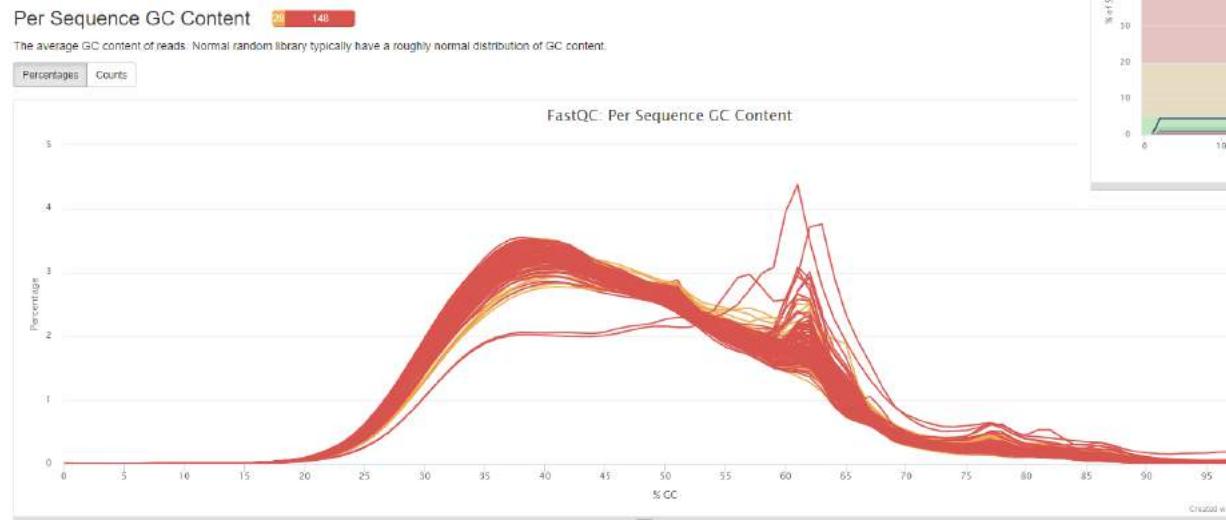
## QC-results RNA-seq

Uneven amounts of data (17-100 M reads per sample)

A lot of duplicates

High rRNA content

High adapter content

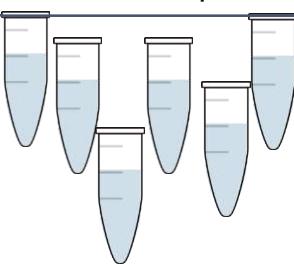


# Some of the applications offered



## Templates:

DNA, RNA, cells,  
serum or plasma



### Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)

- *De novo* sequencing (PacBio, ONT)
- Re-sequencing (PCR-Free, low input)

### Transcriptome Sequencing

- mRNA-Seq (poly-A selection)
- Total RNA-seq (ribosomal depletion)
- miRNA & small RNAs
- Full-length transcriptomes

### Targeted re-sequencing

- Exome
- Gene panels
- Amplicons (including bacterial 16S for metagenomics)
- RAD-seq

### Epigenetics

- Chromatin (HiC, ATAC-Seq)
- WGBS
- ChIP Sequencing

### Ready-made libraries

- User-made libraries
- High throughput
- Fast turn around time

### Single-cell applications

- 10x Genomics
- Dolomite Nadia
- Single-cell WGBS

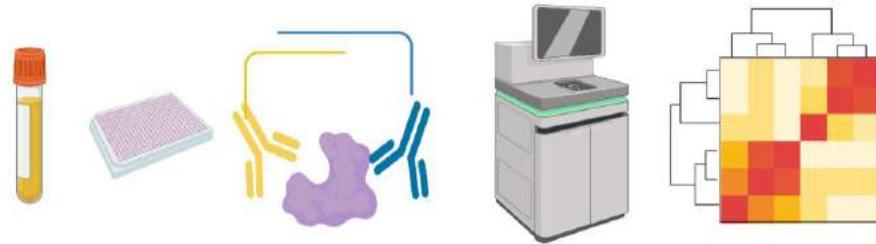
### Spatial transcriptomics

- 10x Genomics Visium

### Proteomics with NGS readout

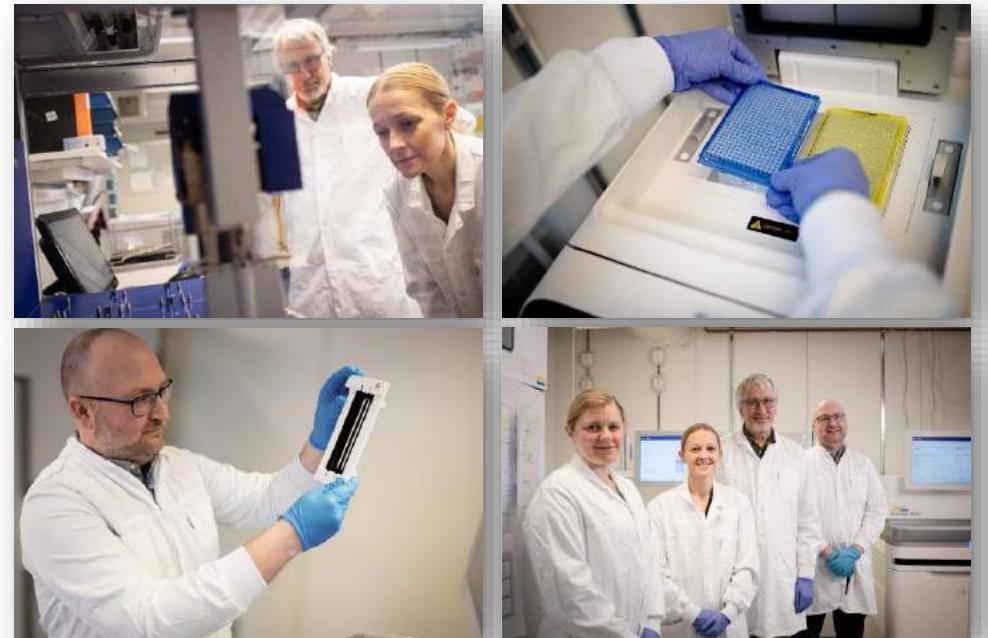
- Olink Explore 1536/3072/5300

# Protein analysis, Olink Explore with NGS readout



- Highly multiplex protein biomarker analysis:
  - Olink Explore 384-5300 protein assays available
    - Cardio-metabolic
    - Inflammation
    - Neurology
    - Oncology
- Stats
  - >25 000 samples analyzed since the method was set up in the spring of 2021

**SciLifeLab Explore Lab:** NGI in collaboration with the Affinity Proteomics Uppsala unit and Olink Proteomics AB



# Examples, recent successful projects



Forensic Science International: Genetics 53 (2021) 102525

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsigen](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsigen)

ELSEVIER

Check for updates

FSI GENETICS

Research paper

Getting the conclusive lead with investigative genetic genealogy – A successful case study of a 16 year old double murder in Sweden

Andreas Tillmar <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Siri Aili Fagerholm <sup>c</sup>, Jan Staaf <sup>d</sup>, Peter Sjölund <sup>e</sup>, Ricky Ansell <sup>c,f,++</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Forensic Genetics and Forensic Toxicology, National Board of Forensic Medicine, Linköping, Sweden

<sup>b</sup> Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

<sup>c</sup> National Forensic Centre, Swedish Police Authority, Linköping, Sweden

<sup>d</sup> Polisregion Ost, Swedish Police Authority, Linköping, Sweden

<sup>e</sup> Peter Sjölund AB, Härnösand, Sweden

<sup>f</sup> Department of Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

Article | Published: 17 February 2021  
**Million-year-old DNA sheds light on the genomic history of mammoths**

Tom van der Valk <sup>1,2</sup>, Patricia Pečnerová <sup>3</sup>, David Díez-del-Molino <sup>4</sup>, Anders Bergström <sup>5</sup>, Jonas Oppenheimer <sup>6</sup>, Stefanie Hartmann <sup>6</sup>, Georgios Xenikoudakis <sup>6</sup>, Jessica A. Thomas <sup>7</sup>, Marianne Rebasque <sup>8</sup>, Ekin Sağlakan <sup>9</sup>, Fatma Rabia Efidan <sup>10</sup>, Ian Barnes <sup>11</sup>, Shantin Liu <sup>12</sup>, Mehmet Somel <sup>13</sup>, Peter D. Heintzman <sup>14</sup>, Pavel Nikolskiy <sup>15</sup>, Beth Shapiro <sup>16</sup>, Pontus Skoglund <sup>17</sup>, Michael Hofreiter <sup>18</sup>, Adrian M. Lister <sup>19</sup>, Anders Götherström <sup>20</sup> & Love Dalén <sup>21</sup>

Nature 591, 269–269 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

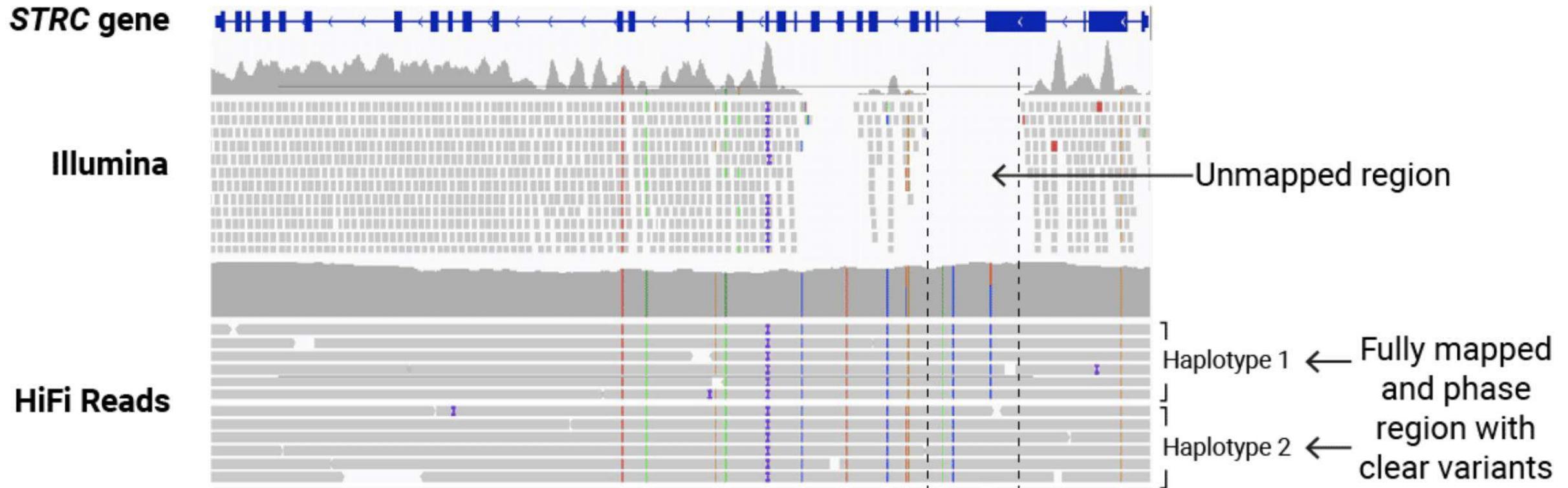
30k Accesses | 89 Citations | 2528 Altmetric | Metrics





# Limitations with short reads

- You don't get complete genome information!





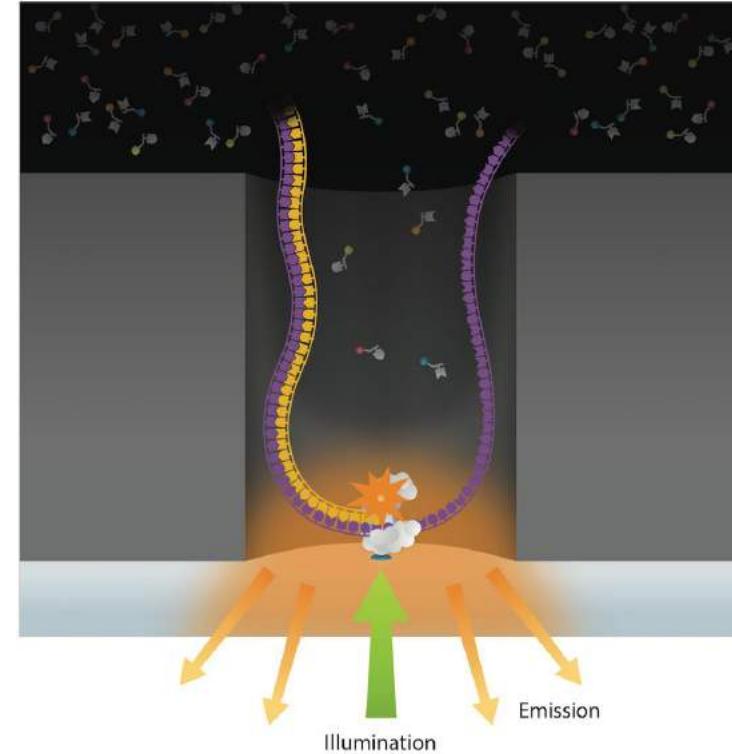
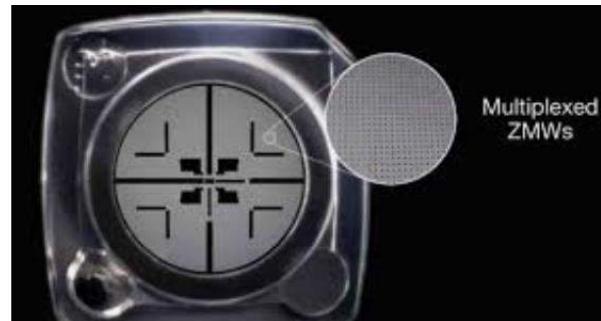
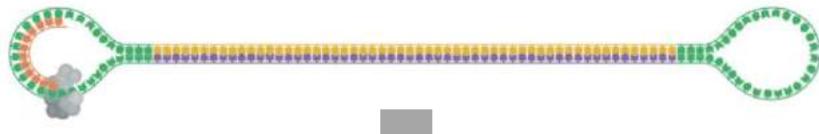
# Long-read sequencing

No longer a niche technology!

- Assemble complete genomes
- Find all genetic variants
- Detect epigenetic modifications
- At a “reasonable” cost



# PacBio Sequencing



PacBio RSII



PacBio Sequel  
(Sequel I & II)



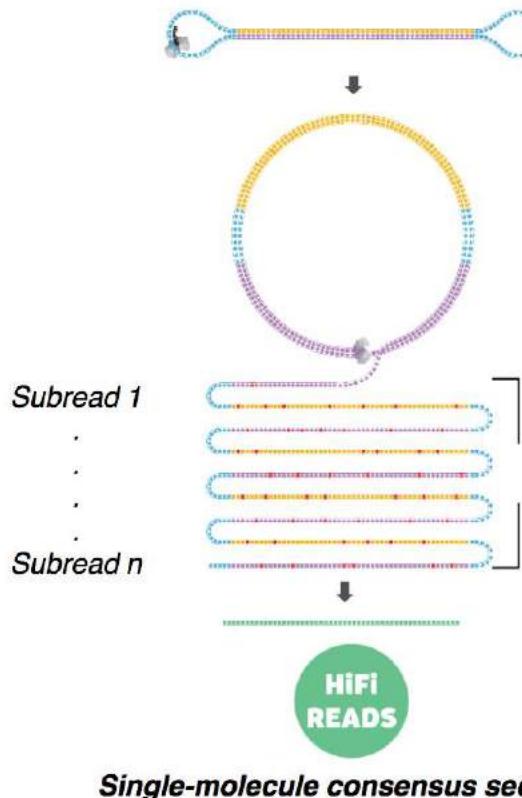
# PacBio Sequencing



## TWO MODES OF SMRT SEQUENCING

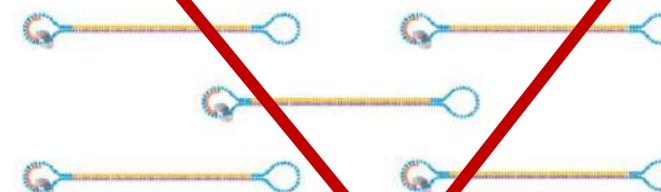
### Circular Consensus Sequencing (CCS) Mode

Inserts 10-20 kb



### Continuous Long Read (CLR) Sequencing Mode

Inserts >25 kb, up to 175 kb



**CLR sequencing  
no longer supported**



*Single-molecule consensus sequence*

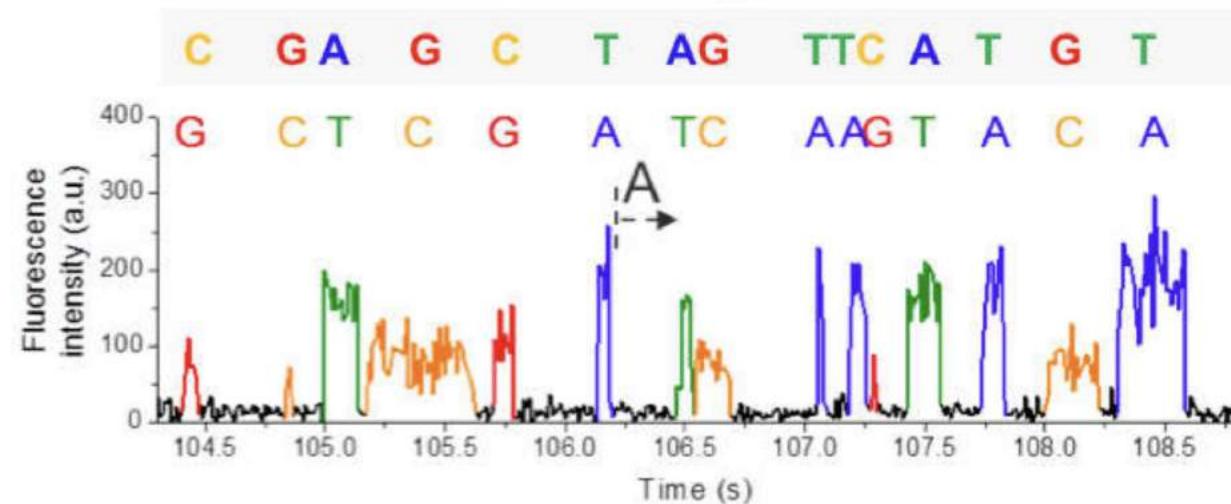
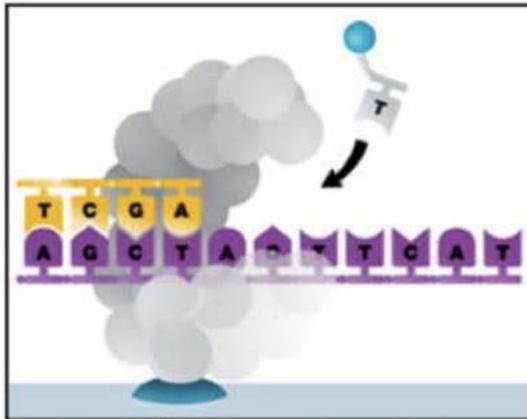
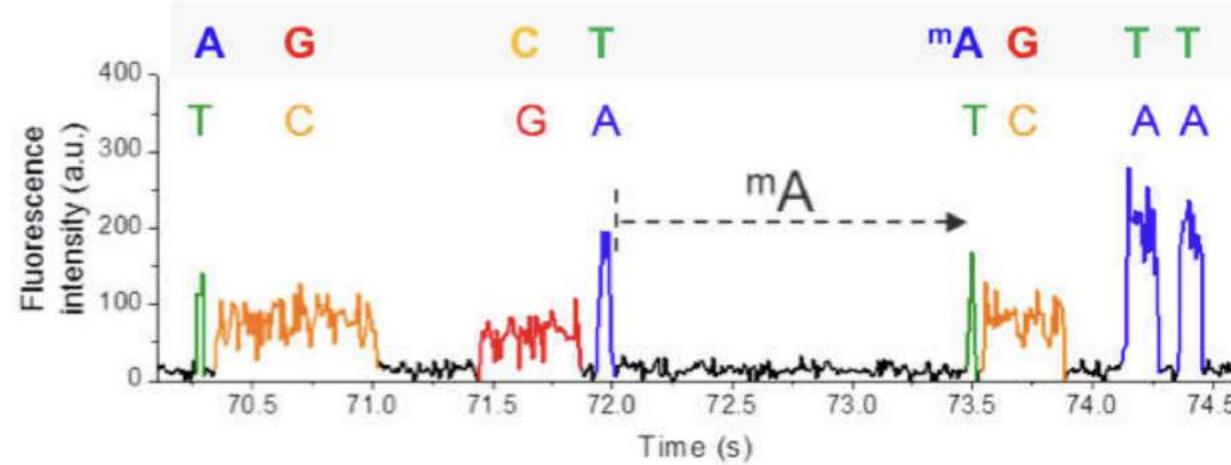
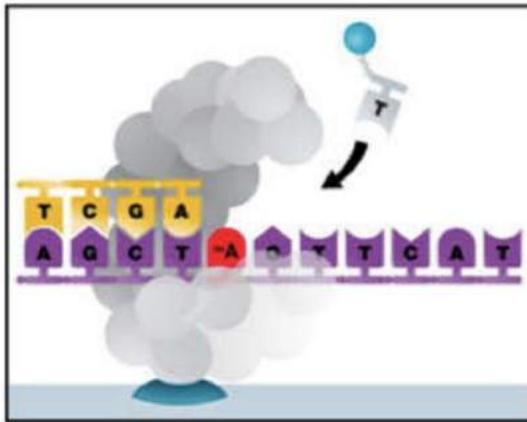


*Multi-molecule consensus sequence*

# PacBio – Methylation detection



- Base modifications on native DNA molecules can be detected!



# A decade of PacBio sequencing at NGI



**2013:** Installation of PacBio RSII



**2023:** Arrival of PacBio Revio



# The PacBio Revio System

---



- Up to 90Gb data from one SMRT cell
- Read lengths: 15-20kb
- >QV20 quality (>99% read accuracy)
- Can run 1,300 human genomes/year!
- We installed PacBio Revio in March 2023



# Revio – results for our first 16 runs

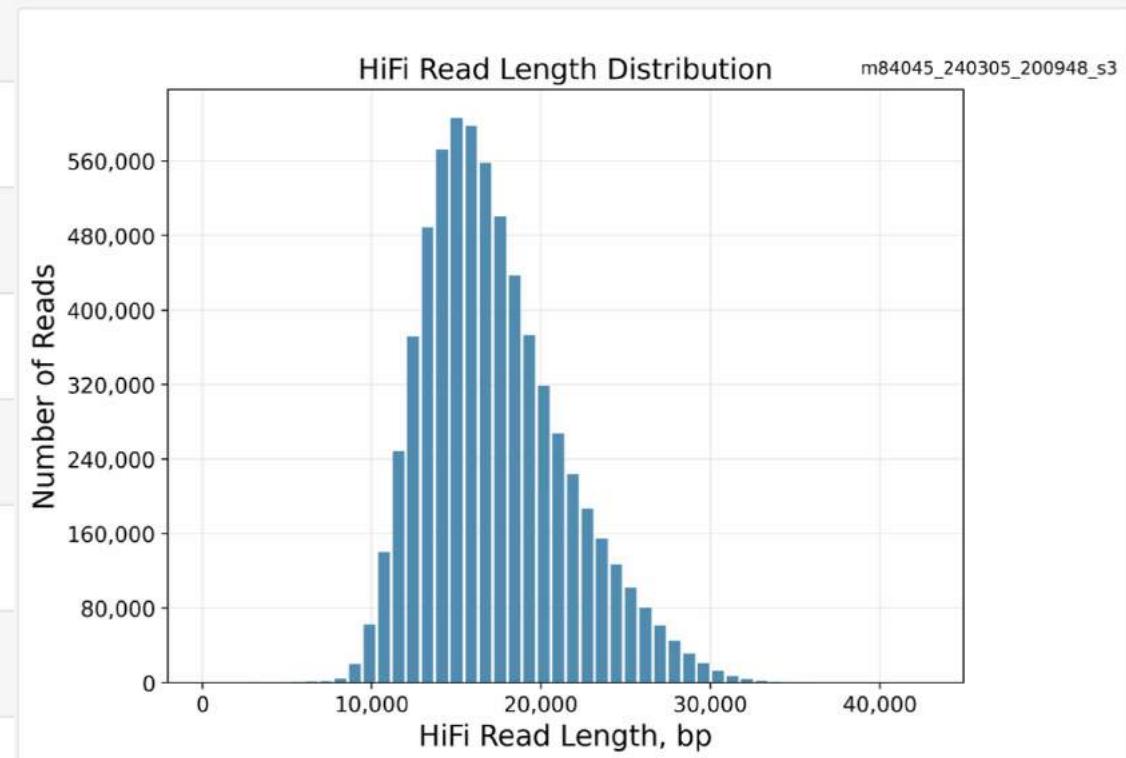


Sample/Species/Proj	Number of reads	Total yield (Gbp)	Average read length (kb)	Size selection method	Comment
Human 1_1	6,873,030	84.7	12.3	Ampure beads	Also Sequel II data
Human 1_2	6,846,419	102.2	15.0	Ampure beads	Also Sequel II data
Human 1_3	7,170,075	90.3	12.6	Ampure beads	Also Sequel II data
Human 1_4	6,015,366	67.6	11.2	Ampure beads	Also Sequel II data
Human 2_1	6,895,775	104.2	15.1	SageELF (2 fract. pooled)	
Human 2_2	5,684,755	100.3	17.6	SageELF (2 fract. pooled)	
Human 2_3	6,022,465	111.5	18.5	SageELF (2 fract. pooled)	
Human 3_1	7,544,871	72.3	9.6	Ampure beads	
Human 3_2	7,857,802	65.6	8.3	Ampure beads	
Human 3_3	7,164,744	102.3	14.3	Ampure beads	
Human 3_4	6,695,524	82.4	12.3	Ampure beads	
Human 3_5	6,541,509	80.4	12.3	Ampure beads	
Plant 1_1	7,683,014	70.1	9.1	Ampure beads	Also Sequel II data
Amphibian 1_1	2,700,447	23.5	8.7	Ampure beads	225 pM loading
Amphibian 1_1	5,219,472	42.3	8.1	Ampure beads	350 pM loading
Bird 1_1	6,812,139	90.2	13.2	Ampure beads	



# Our best run so far > 114 Gb

Value	Analysis Metric
6.6 M	HiFi reads
114.17 Gb	HiFi reads yield
17.21 kb	HiFi reads length (mean)
16,564	HiFi reads length (median, bp)
17,585	HiFi Read Length N50 (bp)
Q34	HiFi Read Quality (median)
92.36%	Base Quality $\geq$ Q30 (%)
8	HiFi Number of Passes (mean)

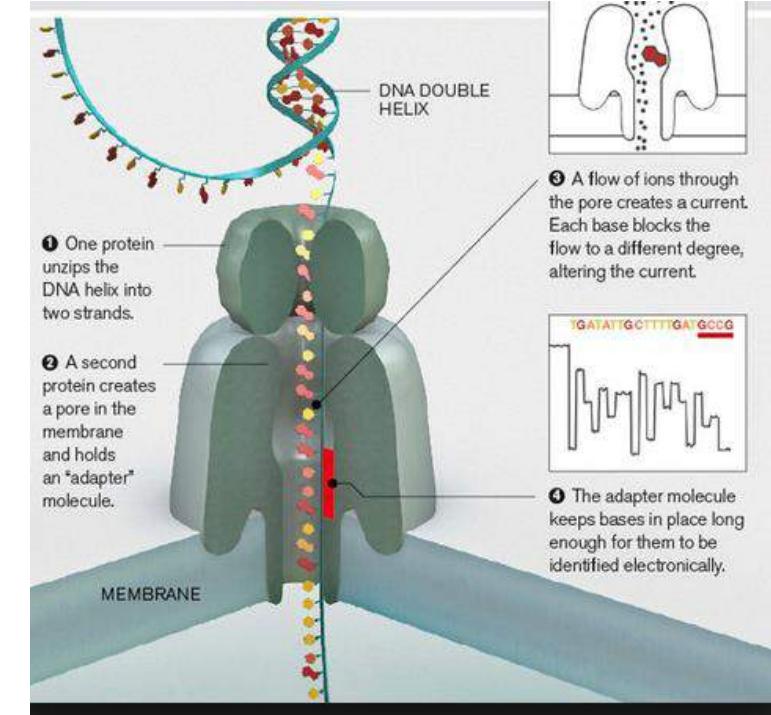
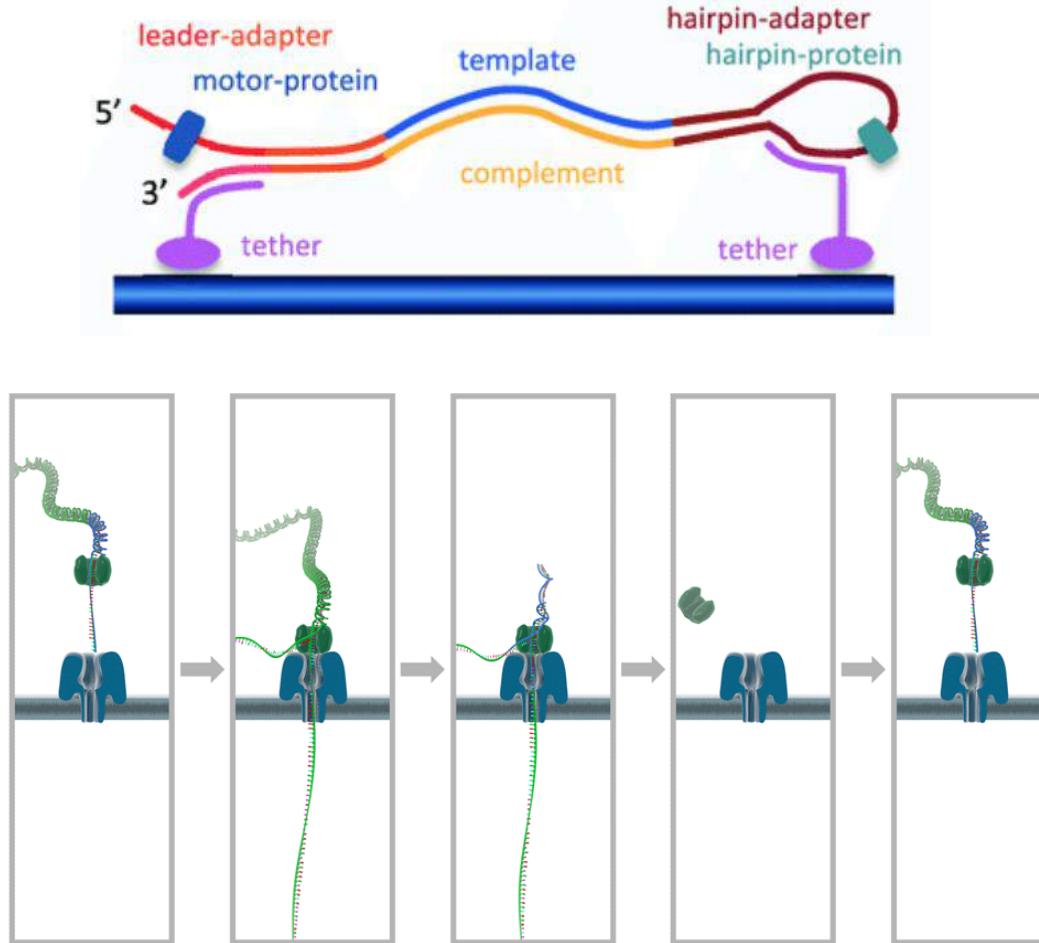




# Example: Data at a translocation site



# Oxford Nanopore sequencing



Base modification info is retained

# Oxford Nanopore sequencing



Instrument	Run time /FC	Output / FC	Nr of pores	Max read length
Flongle	16 hrs	1 Gb	126	1 Mb
MinION	24 hrs	2-15 Gb	512	1 Mb
GridION	24 hrs	2-15 Gb	512	1 Mb
PromethION	72 hrs	10 – 150 Gb	3 000	2 Mb

# ONT - Portability



## The International Space Station

In 2016, MinION was used to conduct the first ever DNA sequencing in space. MinION performance was unaffected by the flight to the International Space Station (ISS) or microgravity conditions. The team stated that '*these findings illustrate the potential for sequencing applications including disease diagnosis, environmental monitoring, and elucidating the molecular basis for how organisms respond to spaceflight!*' Further to this, in 2020, an end-to-end sample-to-sequencer workflow conducted entirely aboard the ISS resulted in off-Earth identification of microbes for the first time.

Photograph: NASA ©

[Read more >](#)



## Entirely off-grid, solar-powered sequencing

In 2019, Gowers *et al.* used MinION to demonstrate '*the ability to conduct DNA sequencing in remote locations, far from civilised resources (mechanised transport, external power supply, internet connection, etc.), whilst greatly reducing the time from sample collection to data acquisition!*' The team transported their portable lab for 11 days using only skis and sledges across Europe's largest ice cap (Vatnajökull, Iceland), before carrying out a tent-based study, resulting in 24 hours of sequencing data using solar power alone.

[Read more >](#)

## Uncovering cryptic transmission of Zika virus

The origin and epidemic history of Zika virus (ZIKV) in Brazil and the Americas remained poorly understood despite observed trends in reported microcephaly. Using a mobile genomics lab to conduct genomic surveillance of ZIKV, the team identified the earliest confirmed ZIKV infection in Brazil. Analysis of these genomes estimated that ZIKV is likely to have disseminated from north-east Brazil in 2014, before the first detection in 2015, indicating a period of pre-detection cryptic transmission that would not have been identified without genomic sequencing.

[Read more >](#)



# ONT - Speed



New DNA Sequencing Tech

January 17, 2022

[Tweet](#) [Share 1](#) [Share](#) [Email](#)

A new ultra-rapid genome sequencing approach developed by a team of international collaborators was used to diagnose rare genetic conditions in newborns, many of which were unheard of in standard clinical care.

"A few weeks is what most clinicians call 'rapid' when they get genomic results," said Euan Ashley, MB, professor of medicine at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine.

Genome sequencing allows scientists to see a person's entire genome, from every gene to every variant, giving them a complete picture of a person's health. It can reveal everything from eye color to inherited diseases. "The key to precision medicine is understanding the genome, and that starts with sequencing it," said Ashley. "It's rooted in their DNA: Once doctors know the specific variants in a patient's genome, they can better predict how they will respond to different treatments."

Now, a mega-sequencing approach devised by a team of researchers at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine has made precision medicine even faster. The team, led by Euan Ashley, MB, professor of medicine at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine, has developed a new DNA sequencing technology that can analyze a patient's genome in just a few hours. This is a significant improvement over traditional sequencing methods, which can take days or even weeks to complete.

A paper describing the researchers' work is published in the journal *Nature*. The study, titled "Ultra-fast deep-learned CNS tumour classification during surgery," was led by C. Vermeulen, M. Pagès-Gallego, L. Kester, M. E. G. Kranendonk, P. Wesseling, N. Verburg, P. de Witt Hamer, E. J. Kooi, L. Dankmeijer, J. van der Lugt, K. van Baarsen, E. W. Hoving, B. B. J. Tops, & J. de Ridder.

The researchers used a deep learning algorithm to analyze the patient's genome in real-time during surgery. This allowed them to quickly identify any genetic variants that might be causing a problem, and to develop a treatment plan accordingly. The team also used the same technology to analyze tissue samples taken during surgery, which helped them to identify the type of tumor and its grade.

The new DNA sequencing technology has the potential to revolutionize precision medicine. It could help doctors to quickly identify genetic variants that might be causing a problem, and to develop a treatment plan accordingly. It could also help doctors to quickly identify the type of tumor and its grade, which could help them to develop a more effective treatment plan.

# nature

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nature > articles > article

Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 11 October 2023

## Ultra-fast deep-learned CNS tumour classification during surgery

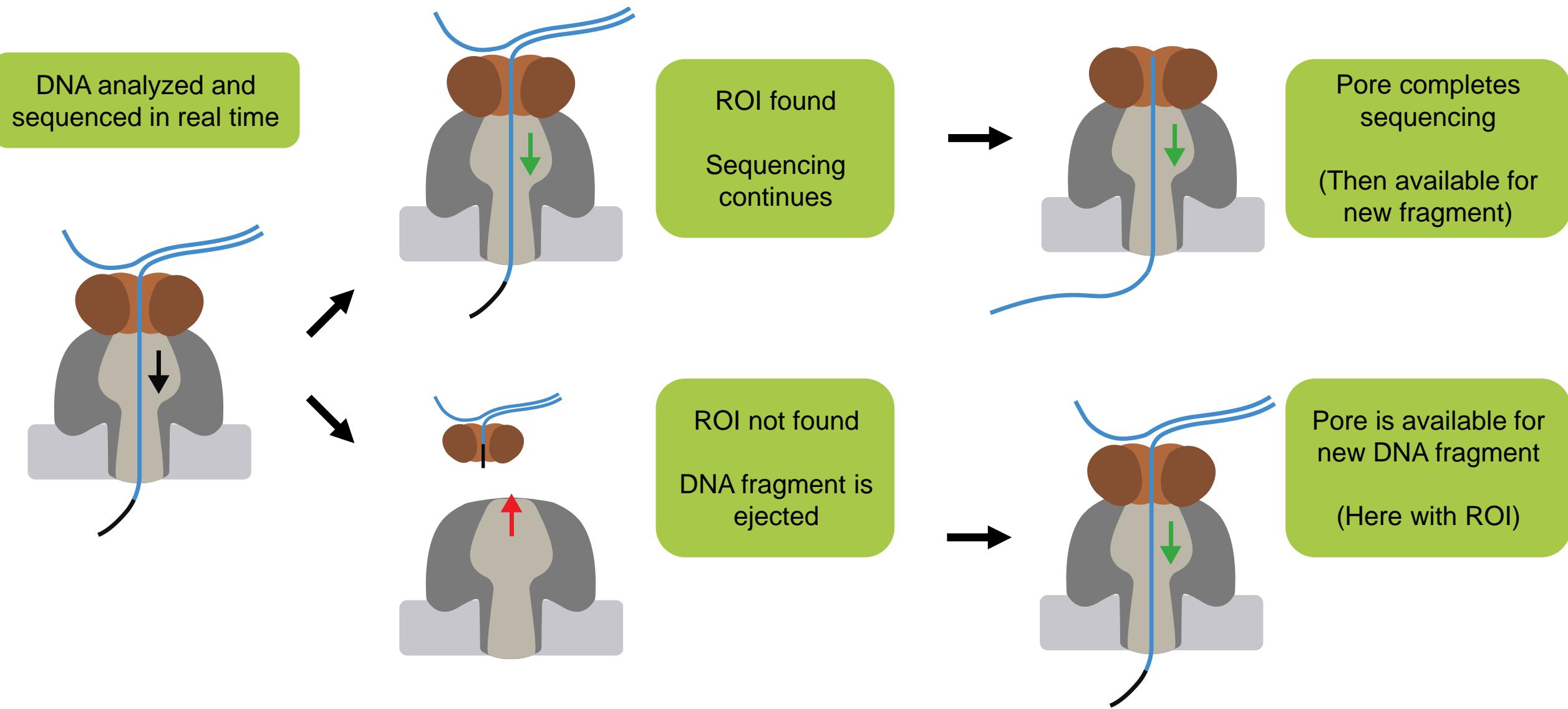
C. Vermeulen, M. Pagès-Gallego, L. Kester, M. E. G. Kranendonk, P. Wesseling, N. Verburg, P. de Witt Hamer, E. J. Kooi, L. Dankmeijer, J. van der Lugt, K. van Baarsen, E. W. Hoving, B. B. J. Tops & J. de Ridder

*Nature* 622, 842–849 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

34k Accesses | 563 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Burnell Professor in Genomics and Precision Health, is the senior author of the paper. Postdoctoral scholar John Gorzynski, DVM, PhD, is the lead author.

# ONT target sequencing - adaptive sampling



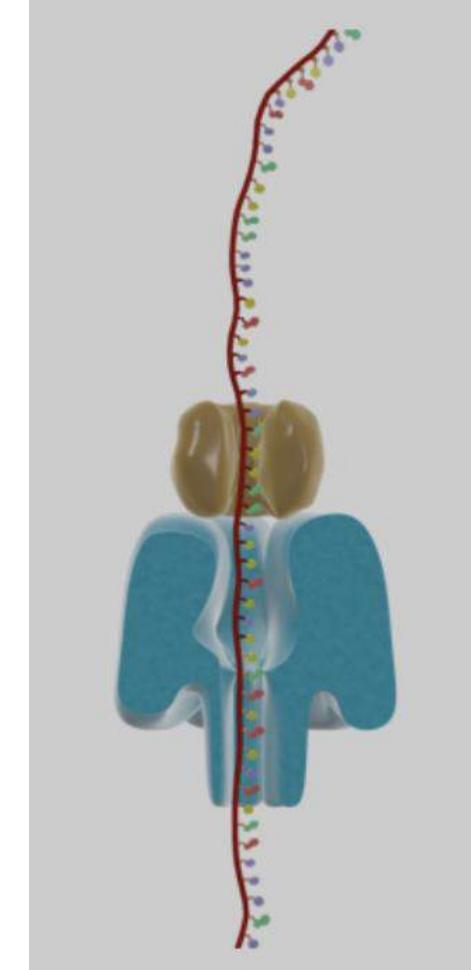
# ONT direct RNA sequencing

---



ONT can sequence native RNA molecules!

- No bias due to cDNA conversion
- Allows to study RNA modifications
- Higher error rate
- Lower throughput



# What people are using long reads for...

---

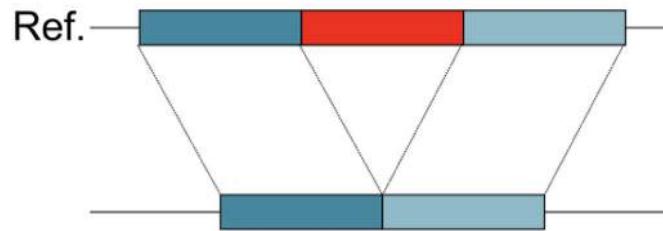


# Example 1: Detect all genetic variants

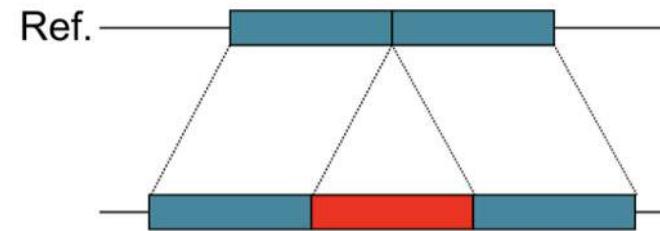


Long-read sequencing can detect more genetic variants than with short reads:

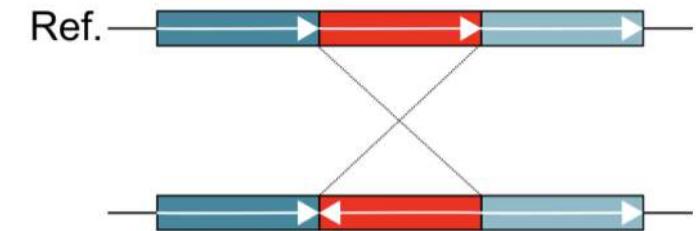
**a) Deletion**



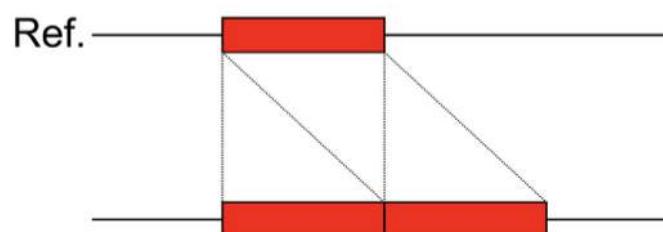
**b) Insertion**



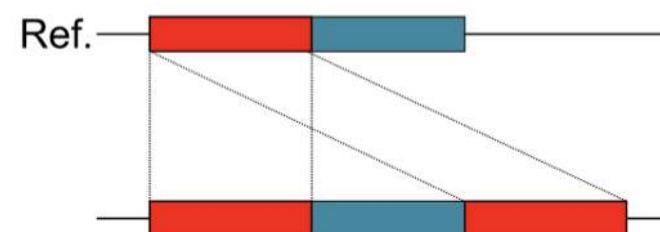
**c) Inversion**



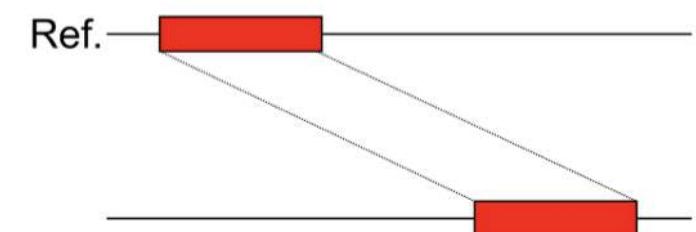
**d) Tandem Duplication**



**e) Interspersed Duplication**



**f) Translocation**



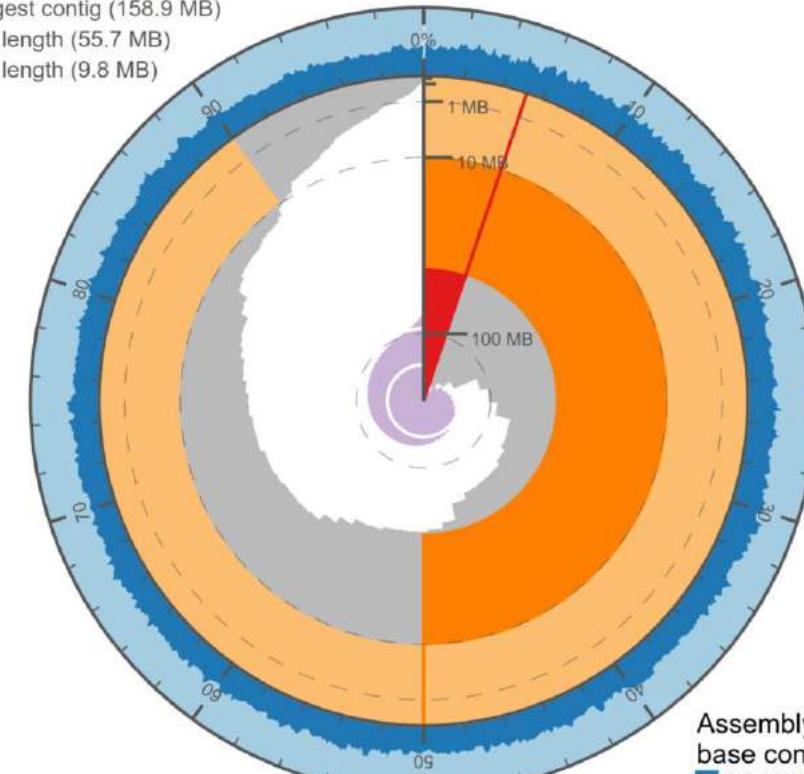
# Example 2: Assemble complete genomes



It took just **3.5 h** on a **96** core compute node for *de novo* assembly of a human sample!

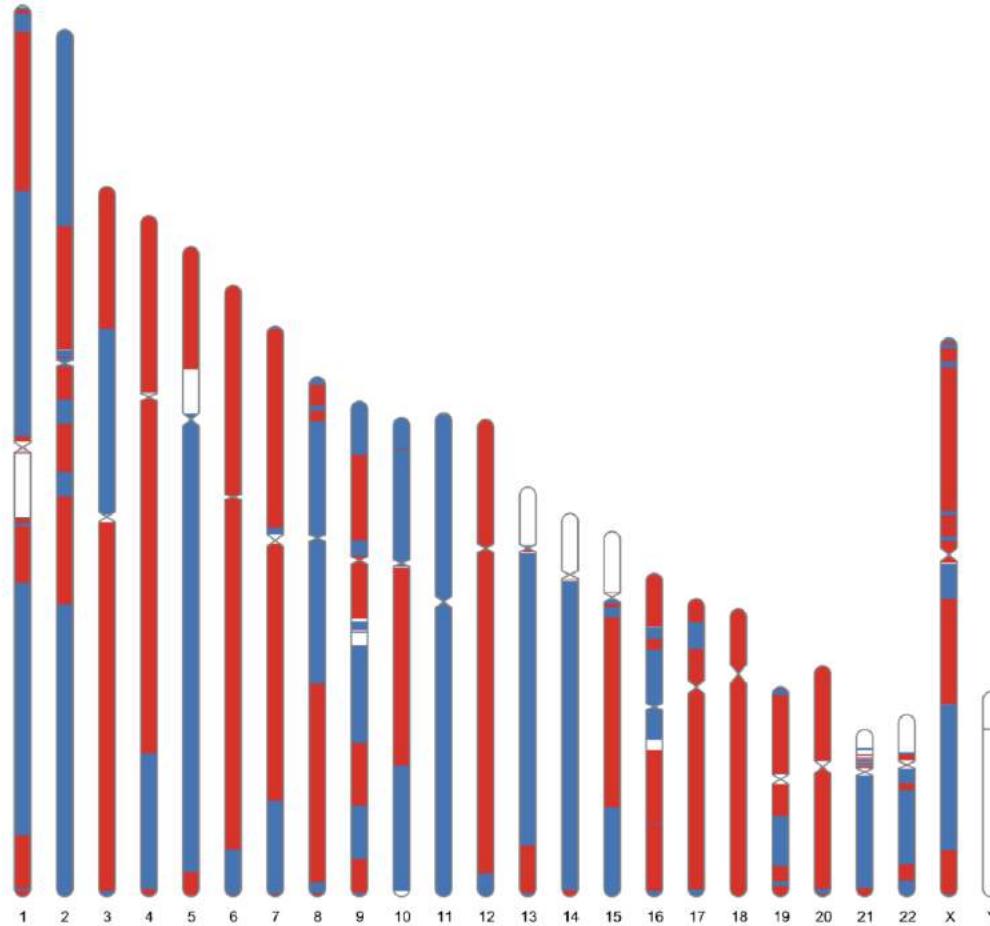
span (Gbp)	3.1
GC (%)	40.84
AT (%)	59.16
longest contig ( <b>Mbp</b> )	<b>159</b>
contig count	373
contig N50 length ( <b>Mbp</b> )	<b>56</b>
contig N50 count	17
contig N90 length ( <b>Mbp</b> )	<b>10</b>
contig N90 count	59

Contig statistics  
Log<sub>10</sub> contig count (total 373)  
Contig length (total 3 GB)  
Longest contig (158.9 MB)  
N50 length (55.7 MB)  
N90 length (9.8 MB)



Ignas Bunikis

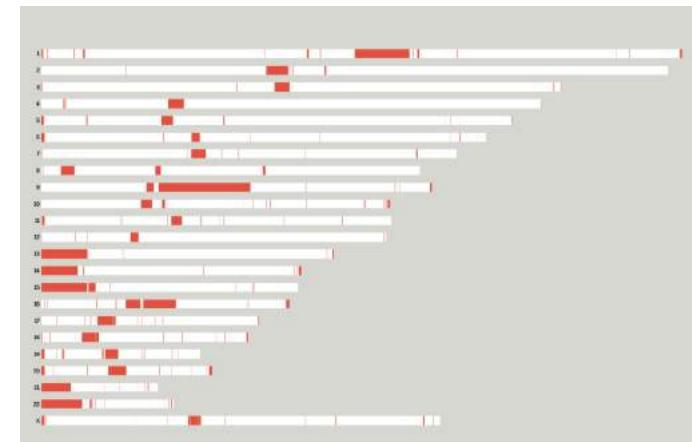
# De novo assembly mapped to GRCh38



Colour change represents adjacent contigs

Chromosomes **11** and **18** were assembled in single contigs

...but GRCh38 is missing ~200Mbp of genetic information...

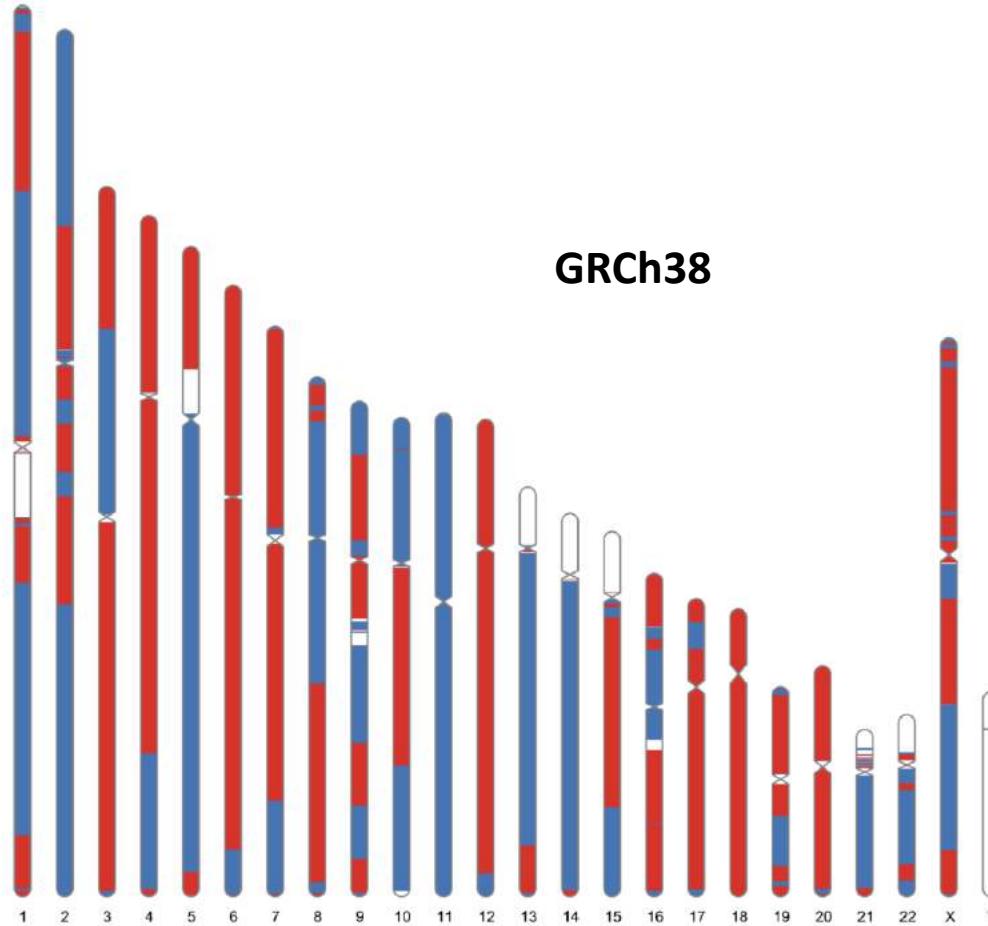


Red segments resolved by T2T Consortium

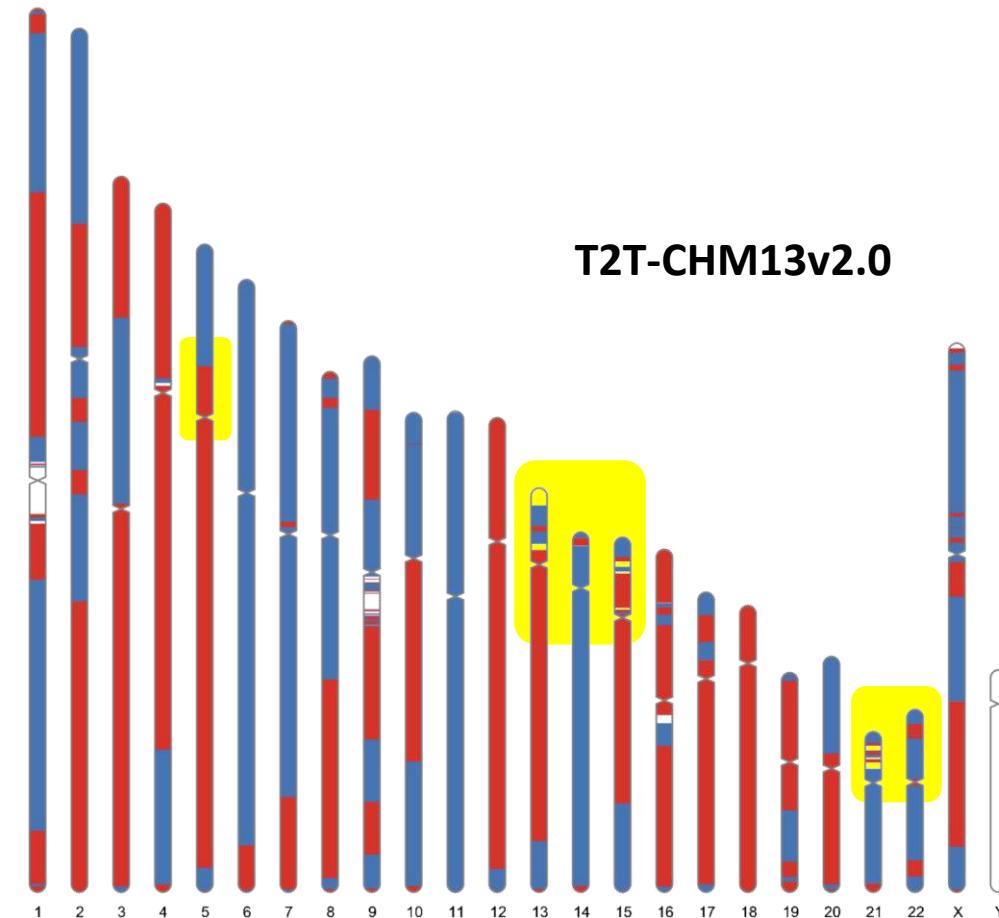
DOI: [10.1126/science.abp8653](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abp8653)

Ignas Bunikis

# De novo assembly mapped to T2T



Colour change represents adjacent contigs

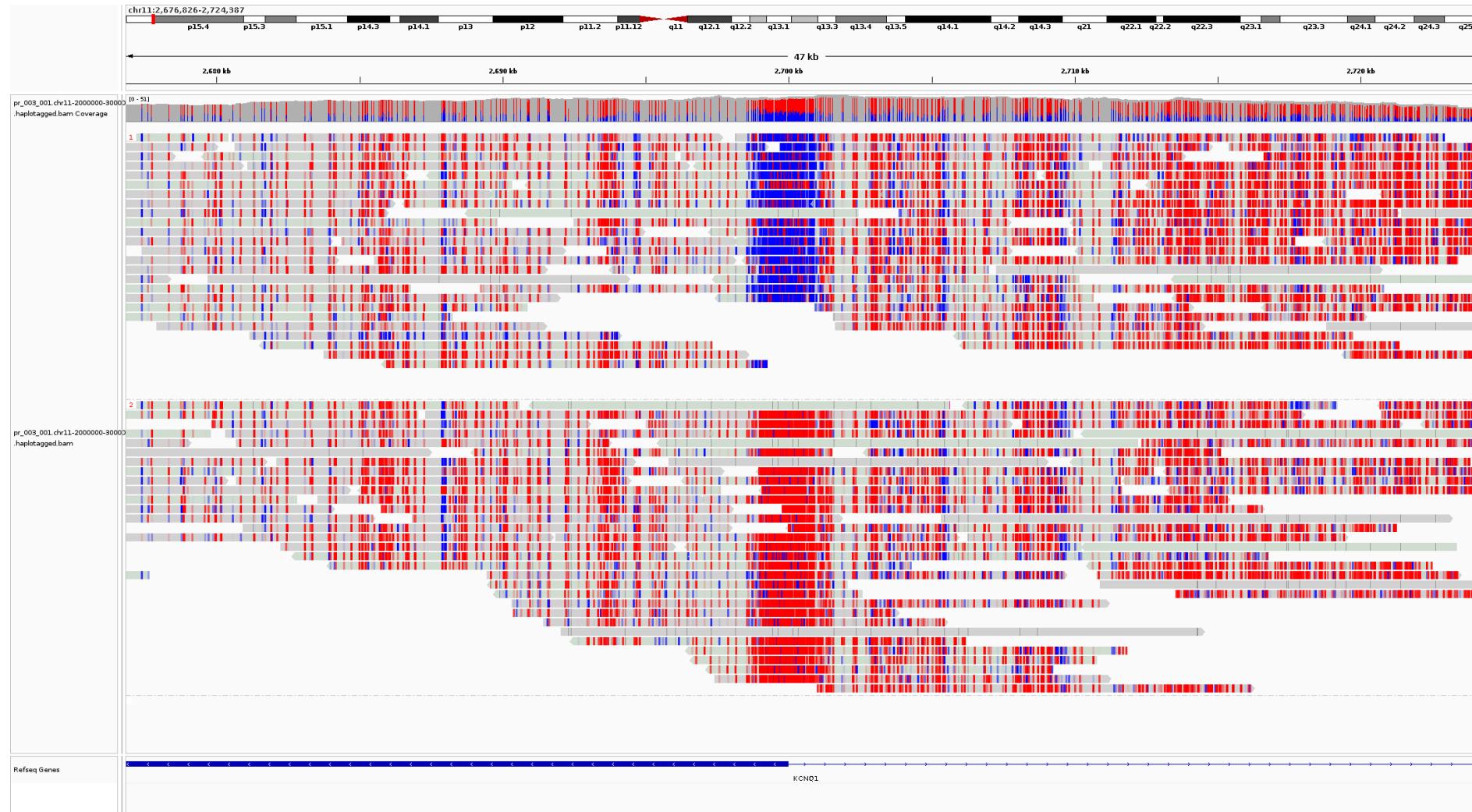


Ignas Bunikis

# Example 3: Investigate methylation



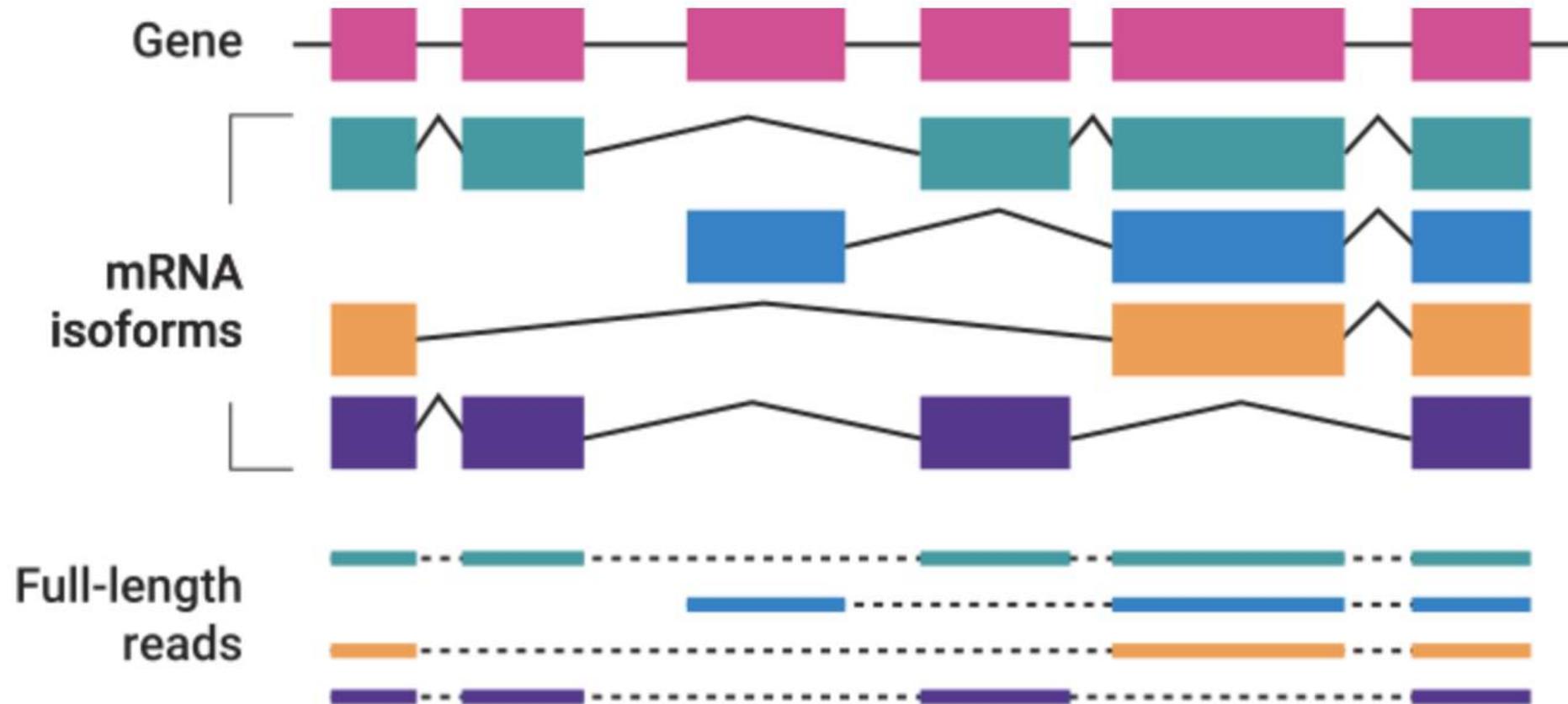
Obtain methylation patterns, phased with haplotypes (example for imprinted region)



# Example 4: Full-length RNA sequencing



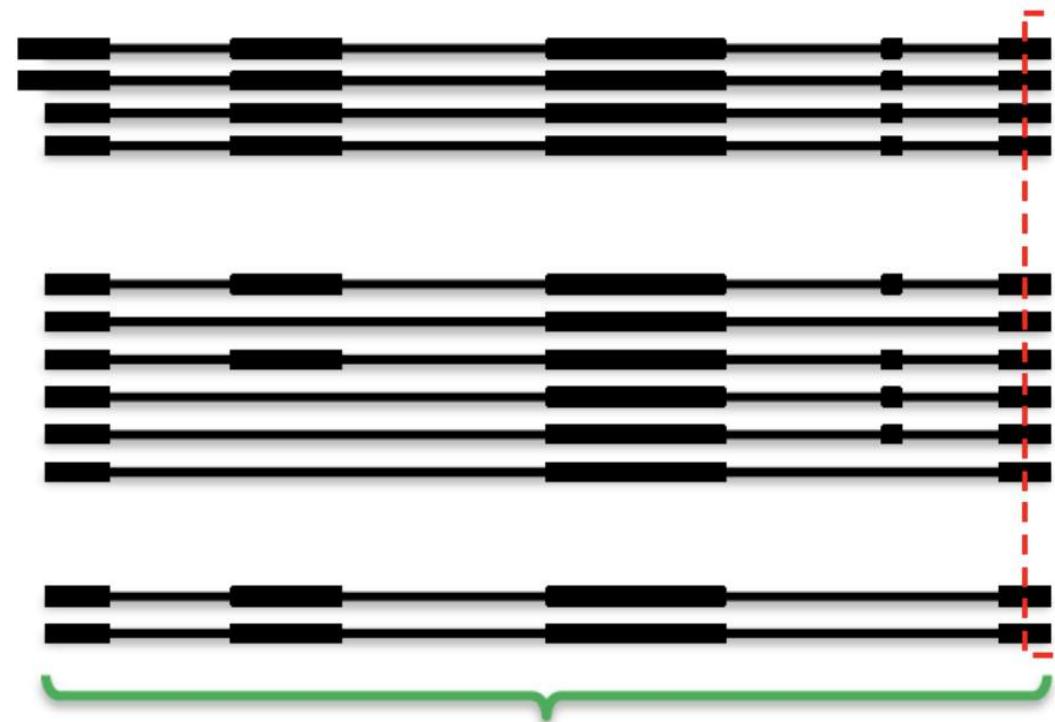
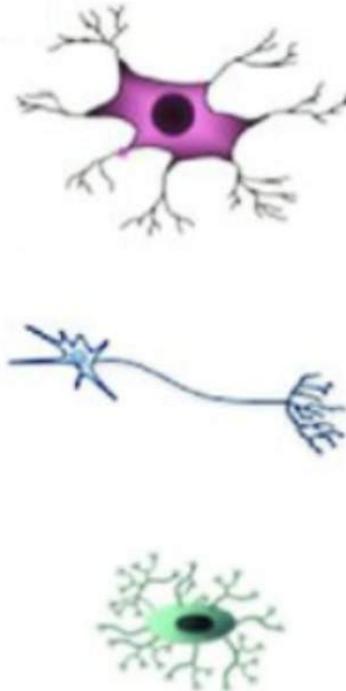
- Get complete information about RNA molecules!



# Example 5: Single-cell long-read RNA



- It is possible to study RNA isoforms even in single cells!

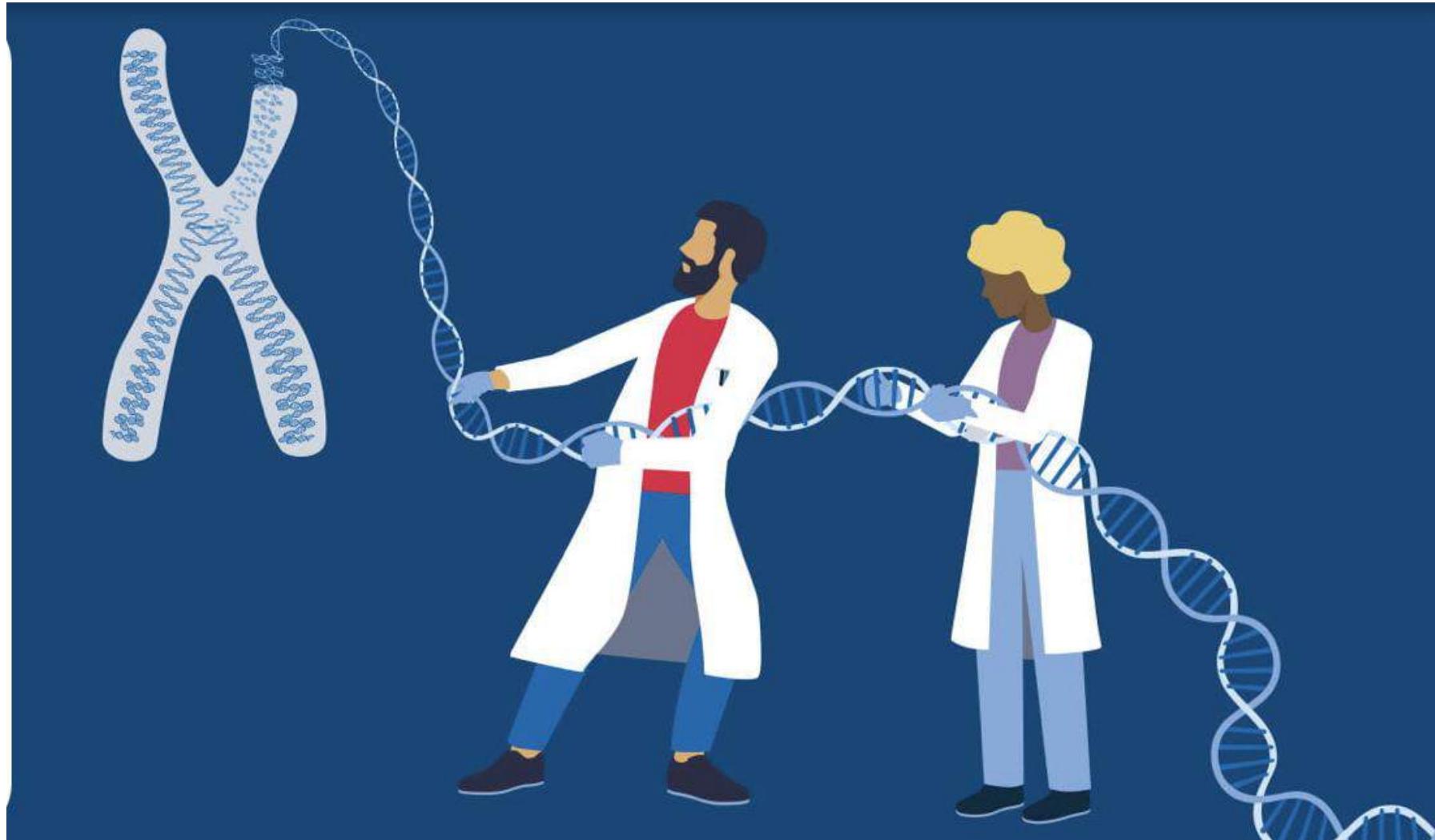


Cell type specific  
mRNA splicing

Not captured with 3'-end  
short-read scRNA seq

Resolved with single-cell full-length RNA seq

# Challenge: good sample quality required!



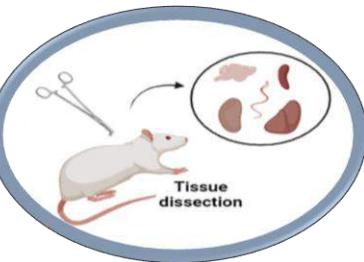
# HMW-DNA Extraction – Options at NGI



Cells/Blood  
 $1 \times 10^6 - 5 \times 10^6$



Tissue  
25-100 mg



Insects/Mollusc/Crustaceans  
25-200 mg



Plants  
1-3 g



Fungi  
100-600 mg



## Commercial Kits

**MONARCH**  
High input quality required  
Few special protocols  
  
Top choice for high quality samples with low amount of contaminants

**NANOBIND**  
Lower input quality tolerated  
Many special protocols  
Supplemental buffers for insects  
  
Top choice for most non-standard samples except for low input and high polysaccharide samples

## Phenol/Chloroform

**SDS Lysis**  
High polyphenol  
High recovery for low input  
  
Top choice for samples high in polyphenols without polysaccharides

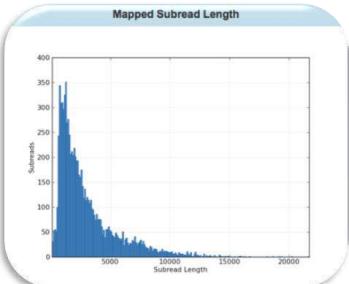
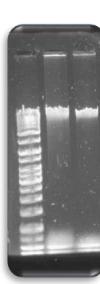
**CTAB Lysis**  
High polysaccharide  
Also handles polyphenols  
  
Top choice for plants, fungi, and other samples high in polysaccharides

# HMW-DNA Extraction – Contaminants

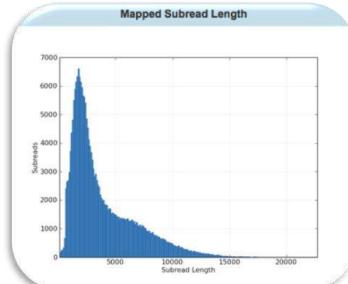


## Importance of purity – even for model organisms

Impurities can originate from both host tissue and extraction chemicals.



Same yeast -  
different  
extractions!



Polished Contigs	223	Max Contig Length	36,298
N50 Contig Length	2,932	Sum of Contig Lengths	480,087

Polished Contigs	9	Max Contig Length	1,508,929
N50 Contig Length	1,353,702	Sum of Contig Lengths	7,813,244

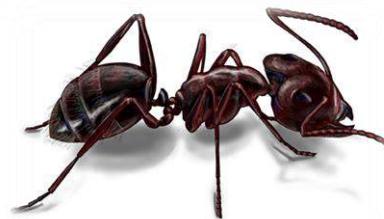
We extract what we get!



Sequencing of the last supper?



VS



VS



Which would you expect to have less contaminants?

# HMW-DNA Extraction – Best Options



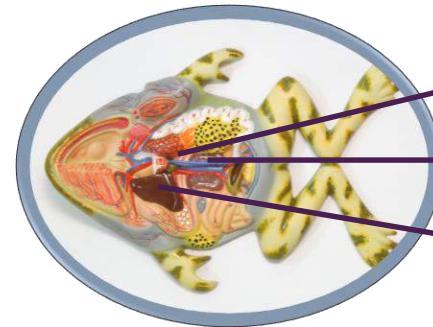
- ❑ Plan ahead and divide according to what you plan to do



- ❑ Freeze as fast and cold as possible to minimize fragmentation



- ❑ Choose tissue high in DNA and low in contaminants when possible



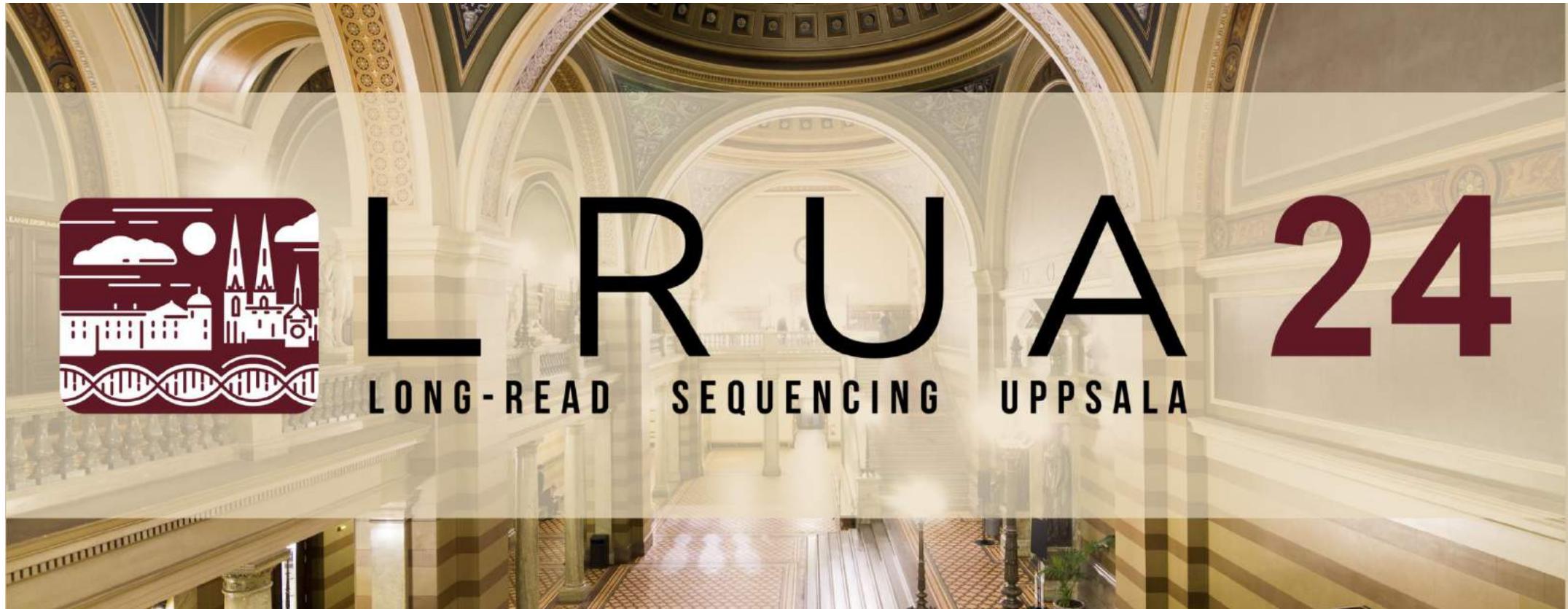
- ❑ All samples are different – Investigate what are best options for your samples!



# Long-read Uppsala Meeting 2024!

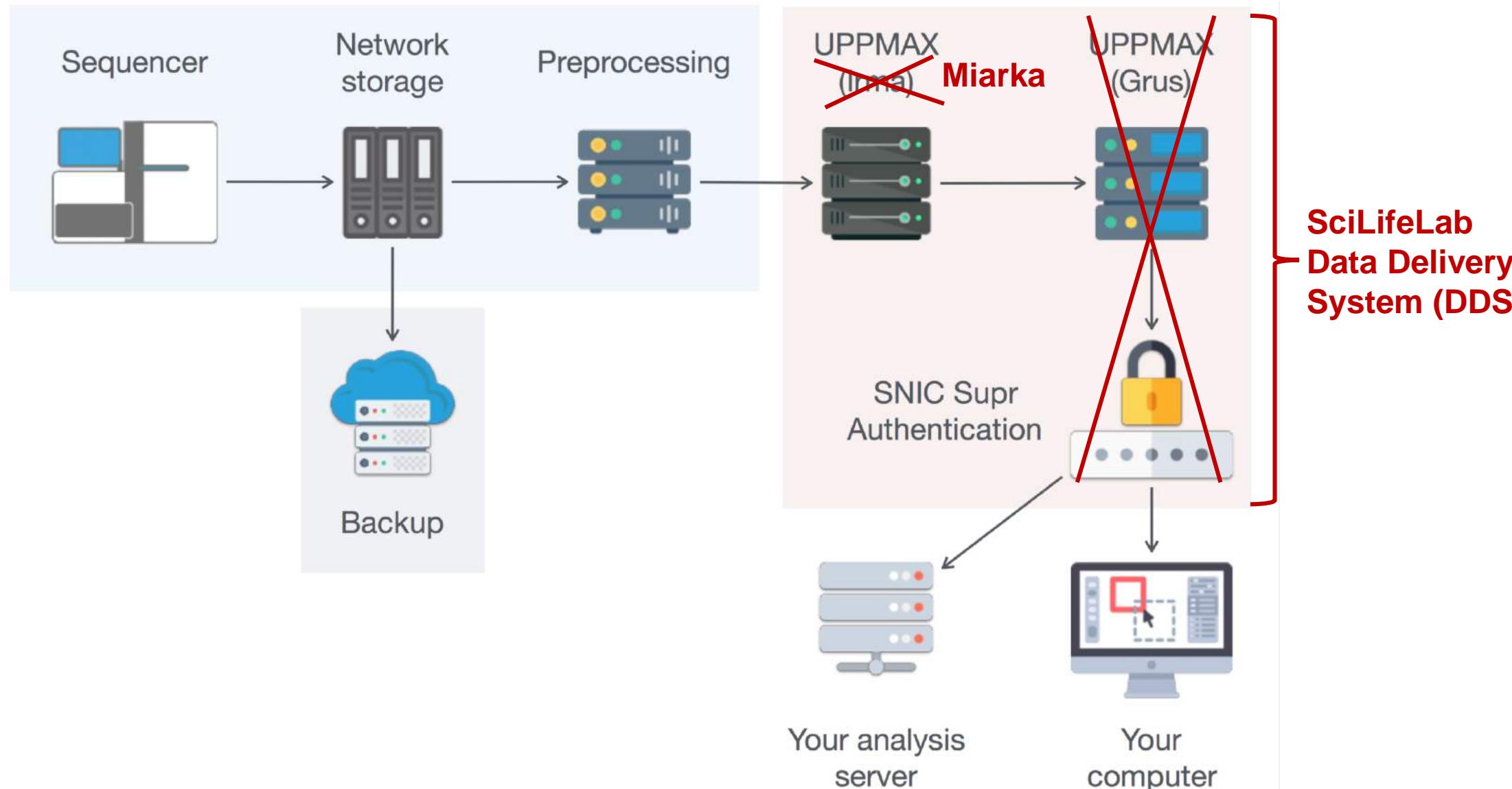


- October 21-23 2024, more information at: [www.lrua2024.se](http://www.lrua2024.se)



# **NGI Data Handling and Analysis Pipelines**

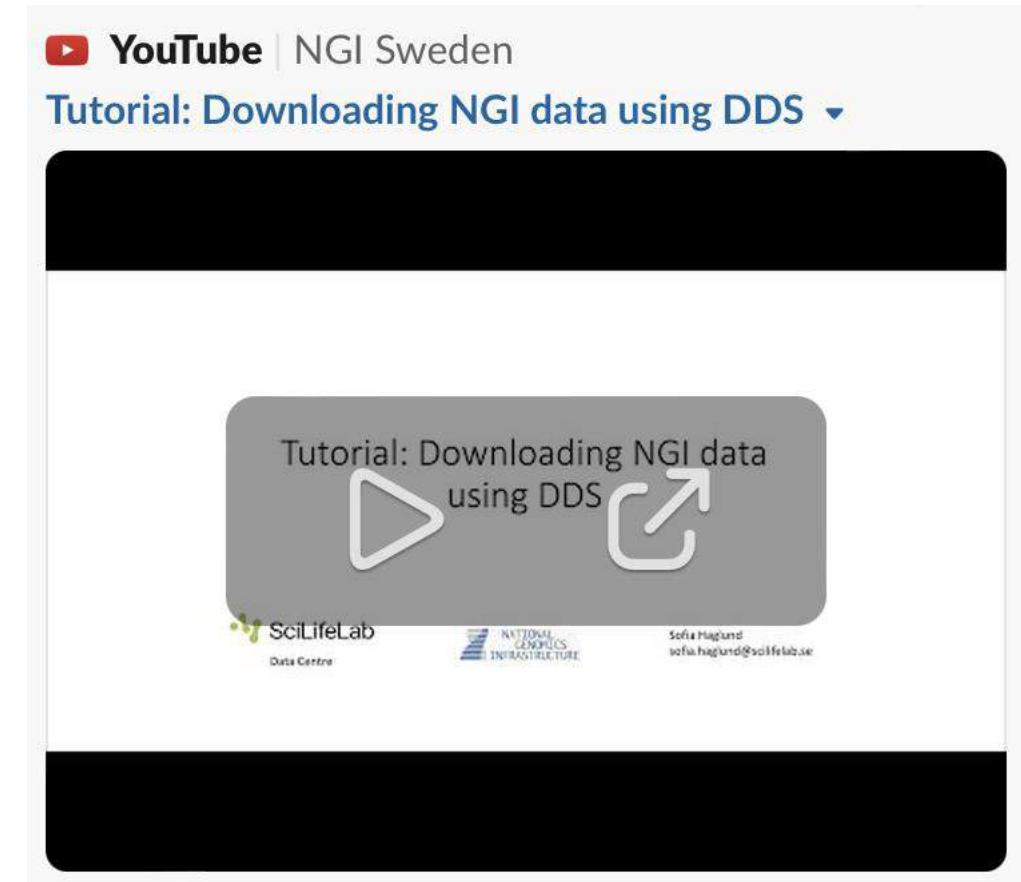
# NGI Data Handling



# Data delivery via DDS



- DDS is a system for delivery of data from SciLifeLab platforms
  - Cloud-based solution
  - Command line and web interface
  - Can handle also sensitive data
- Instruction video available on Youtube!



# Quality control

---



- Every project has some level of quality control checks
  - Technical run performance
  - Read length distribution
  - Sequencing quality
- Analysis pipelines give application-specific QC
- Reporting done using MultiQC (Illumina projects)



# Multi QC example



**MultiQC**  
v1.0

P1234: Test\_NGI\_Project

General Stats  
NGI-RNAseq  
Sample Similarity  
MDS Plot  
STAR  
Cutadapt  
FastQC  
Sequence Quality Histograms  
Per Sequence Quality Scores  
Per Base Sequence Content  
Per Sequence GC Content  
Per Base N Content  
Sequence Length Distribution  
Sequence Duplication Levels  
Overrepresented sequences  
Adapter Content

**MultiQC**

NATIONAL CTAC GENOMICS INFRASTRUCTURE

P1234: Test\_NGI\_Project

This is an example project. All identifying data has been removed.

Contact E-mail: phil.ewels@scilifelab.se  
Application Type: RNA-seq  
Sequencing Platform: HiSeq 2500 High Output V4  
Sequencing Setup: 2x125  
Reference Genome: hg19

Report generated on 2017-05-17, 18:43 based on data in:  
/Users/philewels/GitHub/MultiQC\_website/public\_html/examples/ngi-rna/data

☰ NGI names    User supplied names

### General Statistics

Copy table    Configure Columns    Print    Showing 22/22 rows and 8/9 columns.

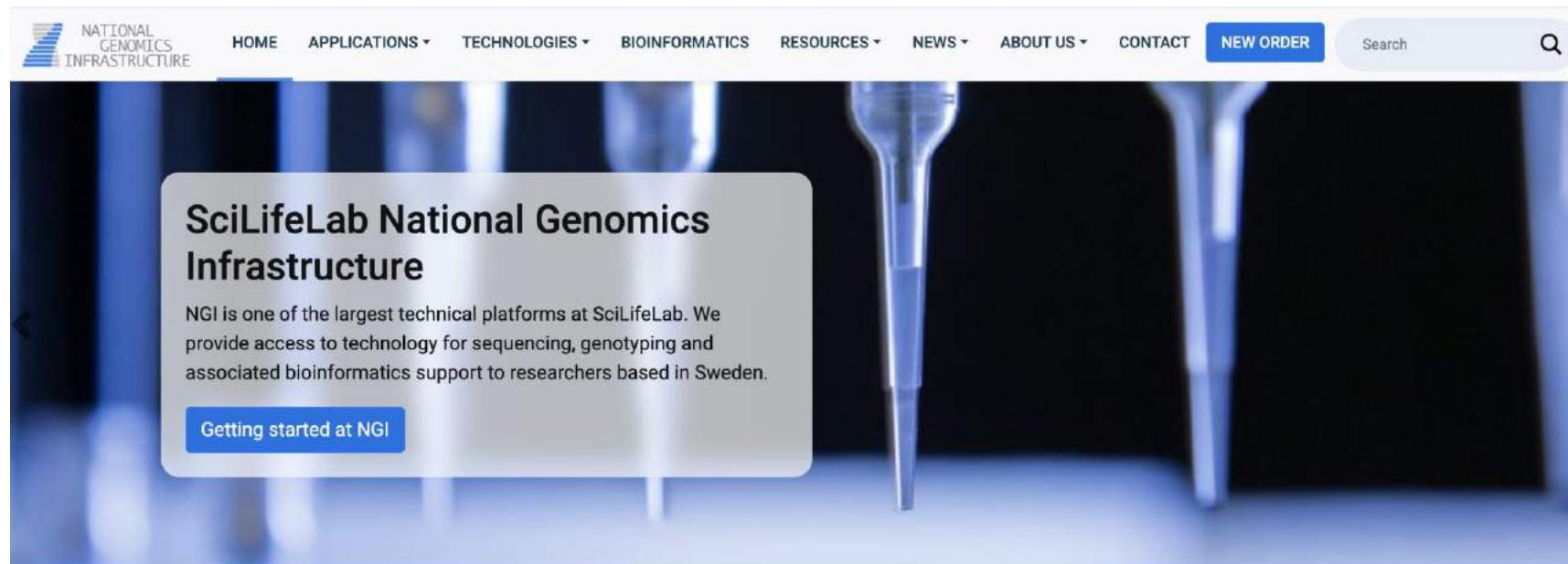
Sample Name	% Aligned	M Aligned	% Trimmed	% Dups	% GC	M Seqs
P1234_1001	68.2%	22.8	10.3%	71.3%	49%	33.7
P1234_1002	67.8%	20.9	10.7%	70.1%	50%	31.1
P1234_1003	64.7%	21.7	11.0%	72.3%	50%	33.7
P1234_1004	55.2%	17.0	13.2%	73.4%	51%	31.2
P1234_1005	53.0%	17.7	15.9%	75.8%	52%	33.8
P1234_1006	52.7%	16.1	14.1%	73.8%	52%	30.8
P1234_1007	33.0%	7.0	32.0%	80.5%	52%	21.8
P1234_1008	27.5%	4.3	44.2%	79.1%	50%	16.7
P1234_1009	52.3%	10.5	20.9%	64.2%	48%	20.5

Toolbox

# Analysis pipelines



- NGI provides data analysis for most applications
- Analysis requirements: Automated, reliable, easy to run, reproducible



# nf-core: a popular pipeline system

---



- A community effort to collect a curated set of Nextflow analysis pipelines
- GitHub organisation to collect pipelines in one place
- No institute-specific branding
- Strict set of guideline requirements

**nature biotechnology**

Correspondence | Published: 13 February 2020

## The nf-core framework for community-curated bioinformatics pipelines

Philip A. Ewels, Alexander Peltzer, Sven Fillinger, Harshil Patel, Johannes Alneberg, Andreas Wilm,  
Maxime Ulysse Garcia, Paolo Di Tommaso & Sven Nahnsen 

**nf-core**   
<https://nf-co.re>

# Available pipelines at NGI



- All information available on our website: <https://ngisweden.scilifelab.se>

Amplicon-seq analysis		ATAC-seq analysis	
Methylation-seq analysis		ChIP-seq analysis	
Genome assemblies with HiFi data		Ion Torrent secondary analysis	
Nanopore analysis		PacBio Iso-Seq Analysis	
PromethION secondary analysis		Illumina QC analysis	
RAD-seq analysis		RNA-fusion analysis	
RNA-seq analysis		Small-RNA analysis	
Spatial Transcriptomics analysis		WGS and WES germline / somatic analysis	

# WES and WGS analysis



## WGS and WES germline / somatic analysis

Runs with illumina DNA-sequencing data, WGS or targeted sequencing e.g. WES. Aligns to the reference genome, gives QC metrics, does variant-calling and finishes with annotation.

nf-core/sarek ([paper](#)) is an analysis pipeline for WGS and targeted sequencing data e.g WES. Previously known as the Cancer Analysis Workflow (CAW), Sarek can handle regular samples or tumour/normal pairs, including relapse samples if required. Sarek was co-developed by NGI.

Sarek analysis can be divided into two different use cases: germline analysis and somatic analysis. These two use cases share the same main steps: mapping, variant calling and annotation.



A screenshot of the nf-core/sarek GitHub repository page. The page features a green circular icon with a white geometric shape inside. The repository name "nf-core/sarek" is at the top, followed by the URL "https://github.com/nf-core/sarek". A brief description follows: "Analysis pipeline to detect germline or somatic variants (pre-processing, variant calling and annotation) from WGS / targeted sequencing - <https://nf-co.re/sarek>". Below the description are three social media links: 324 GitHub stars, 324 GitHub forks, and 354 GitHub issues.

### When we run analysis

We routinely run Sarek germline analysis upon request for human WGS and WES projects. For the Sarek somatic analysis, the decision to run the analysis is made on a case by case basis. If you're interested, please get in touch with us and mention that you would like us to run this analysis.

The analysis currently works with the human reference genomes available in AWS-iGenomes ([GRCh37/GRCh38](#)). If in doubt, please ask whether we can run the pipeline for you.

### Input data

Sarek can start from the unprocessed demultiplexed FastQ files from the sequencer together with a small bit of contextual data in the form of a TSV-file. For each sample, the TSV-file should denote the sex of the subject and whether the sample is tumour or normal. In most cases, this information needs to be submitted to NGI by the user.

### Results

The pipeline generates BAM alignment files and variant-calling VCF files, along with numerous quality control metrics. For more information, please see the [official documentation](#).

# Available pipelines at NGI



Amplicon-seq analysis



ATAC-seq analysis

Methylation-seq analysis



ChIP-seq analysis

Genome assemblies with HiFi data



Ion Torrent secondary analysis

Nanopore analysis



PacBio Iso-Seq Analysis

PromethION secondary analysis



Illumina QC analysis

RAD-seq analysis



RNA-fusion analysis

RNA-seq analysis



Small-RNA analysis

Spatial Transcriptomics analysis



WGS and WES germline / somatic analysis



# Example: RNA-seq analysis

## RNA-seq analysis

Runs with illumina total RNA-sequencing data. Aligns to the reference genome, gives QC metrics and finishes with gene count matrices.

**RNA-Seq** is a bioinformatics analysis pipeline used for RNA sequencing data. The pipeline is built using [Nextflow](#), a workflow tool to run tasks across multiple compute infrastructures in a very portable manner. It processes raw data from FastQ inputs, aligns the reads, generates counts relative to genes or transcripts and performs extensive quality control on the results.



## When we run analysis

We run this analysis routinely for all RNA-seq projects where we have prepared the sequencing library in-house. If you have prepared a library yourself and we are just sequencing, please get in touch and mention that you would like us to run this analysis.

The analysis works with any of the species that have a reference genome available in [AWS-iGenomes](#). If in doubt, please ask whether we can run the pipeline for you.

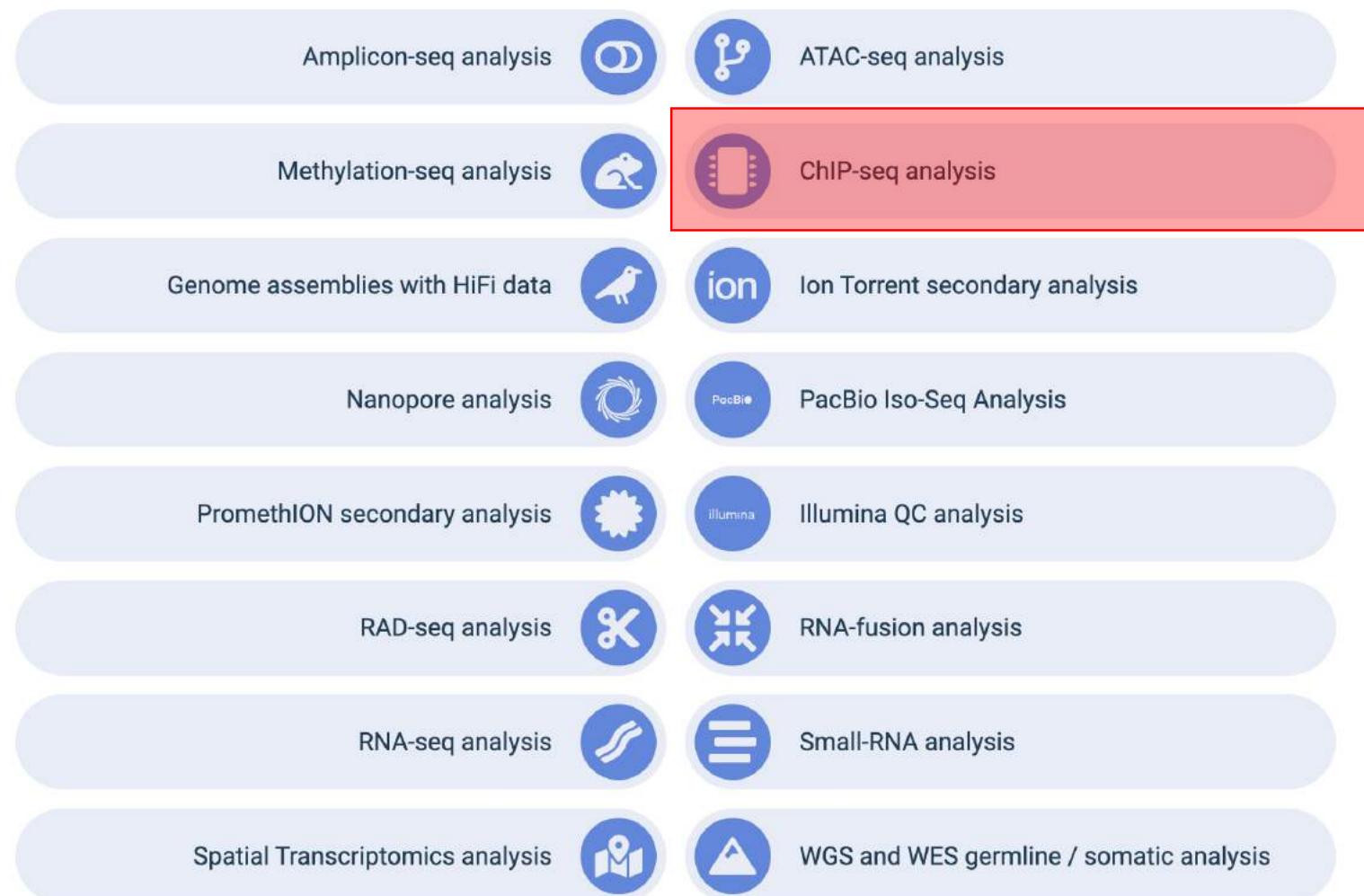
## Input data

bcl2fastq demultiplexed FastQ files and a genome reference.

## Results

The pipeline generates aligned BAM-files, gene count matrices and FPKM metrics for genes and transcripts, along with numerous quality control metrics. For more information, please see [https://nf-co.re/rnaseq/\[release\]/docs/output](https://nf-co.re/rnaseq/[release]/docs/output)

# Available pipelines at NGI



# ChIP-seq analysis



## ChIP-seq analysis

Runs with ChIP sequencing data. Pre-processes raw data from FastQ inputs, aligns the reads and performs peak calling and extensive quality-control on the results.

**ChIP-Seq** is a bioinformatics best-practice analysis pipeline used for chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP-seq) data analysis. The pipeline uses [Nextflow](#), a bioinformatics workflow tool. It pre-processes raw data from FastQ inputs, aligns the reads and performs peak calling and extensive quality-control on the results.



## When we run analysis

We run this analysis routinely for all ChIP-seq projects where we have prepared the sequencing library in-house. If you have prepared a library yourself and we are just sequencing, please get in touch and mention that you would like us to run this analysis.

The analysis works with any of the species that have a reference genome available in [AWS-iGenomes](#). If in doubt, please ask whether we can run the pipeline for you.

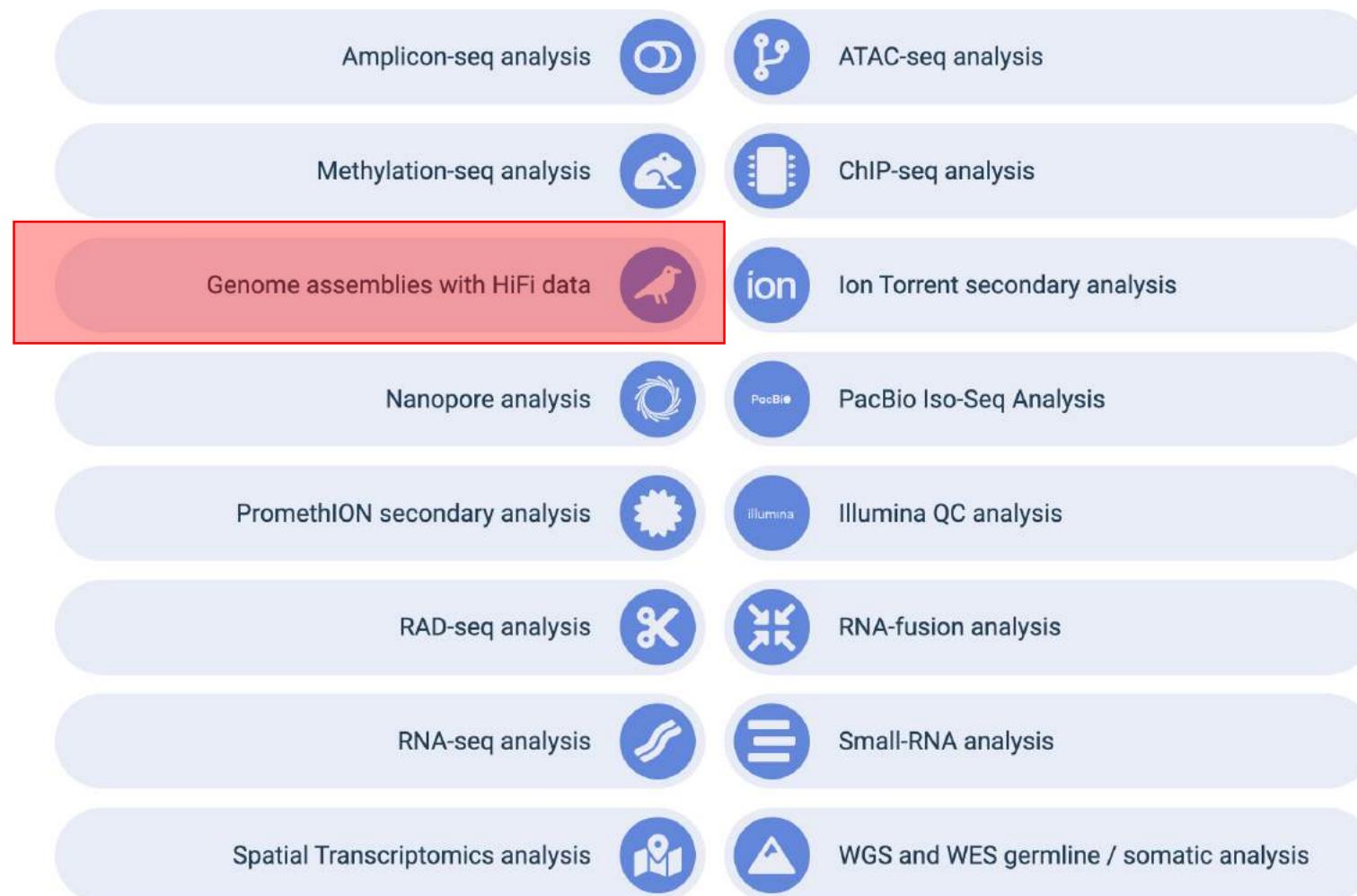
## Input data

bcl2fastq demultiplexed FastQ files and a genome reference.

## Results

The pipeline generates aligned BAM-files, files with information about called peaks, along with numerous quality control metrics. For more information, please see <https://nf-co.re/chipseq/docs/output>.

# Available pipelines at NGI



# Genome assembly with HiFi data



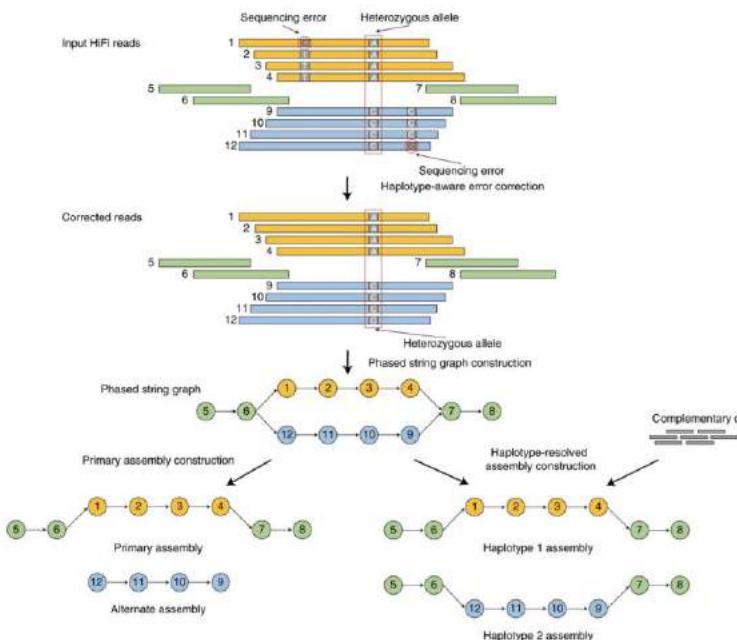
## Genome assemblies with HiFi data

NGI can generate high quality assemblies using IPA and hifiasm assemblers

hifiasm &

**Improved Phased Assembler (IPA)** is the official PacBio software for HiFi genome assembly. IPA was designed to utilize the accuracy of PacBio HiFi reads to produce high-quality phased genome assemblies.

**Hifiasm** is a fast haplotype-resolved *de novo* assembler for PacBio HiFi reads. It emits partially phased assemblies of quality competitive with the best assemblers. Given parental short reads or Hi-C data, it produces arguably the best haplotype-resolved assemblies so far.



**Not yet implemented as a  
nf-core pipeline!**



# Trend: On-instrument analysis

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More and more analyses being done on instrument GPUs

## Illumina NovaSeqX

*Mapping and variant calling (Dragen)*



## PacBio Revio

*Onboard generation of HiFi reads*



➔ Can speed up and streamline the analysis process...

# You can also get help from NBIS!

[About us](#)[Services](#)[Training](#)[Contact](#)

A distributed national bioinformatics infrastructure supporting life sciences in Sweden

[Get support](#)

- All solutions are not available from NGI, but NBIS has lots of experts!



# Some tips for data analysis...

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Think about analysis early on – already when planning the project!

- Which tools should be used?
- Can I run the analysis myself, or do I need assistance?
- Where should the analysis be run?
- Do I have enough storage space?
- Where should the data eventually be archived?

# NGI strategic projects and collaborations

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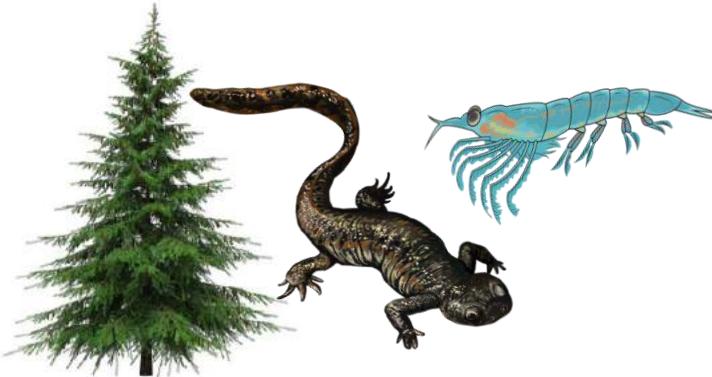
We are involved in some larger national and international projects...



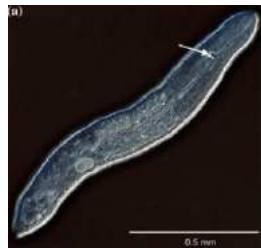
# Biodiversity genomics



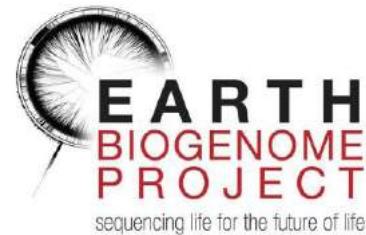
Reference genomes of **any** organism - a very challenging endeavour



Large genomes (18-22Gb)



Tiny organisms  
with large genomes



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



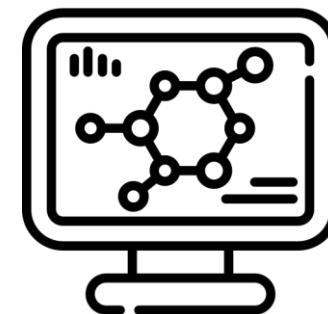
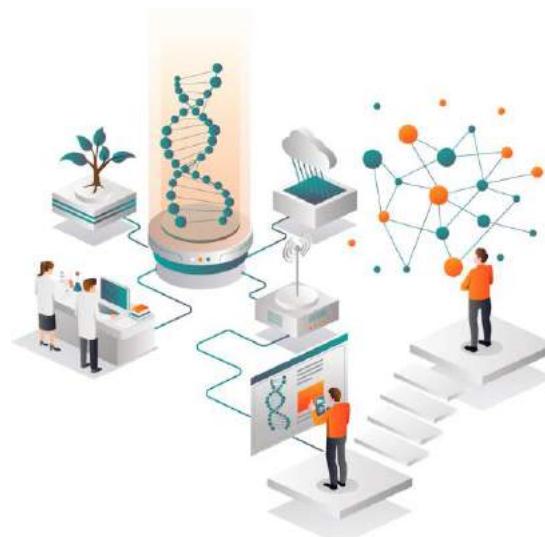
And many, many, ..., many other uncooperative

# Reference genome sequencing



NGI & NBIS can help out with:

- DNA/RNA extractions
- Long-read sequencing
- Hi-C Illumina sequencing
- RNA sequencing
- De novo assembly
- Genome annotation



# Human genome analysis



Photo: SVT

# Human population-level sequencing



2017: 1,000 genomes sequenced on Illumina



2024: Time to do it again, with long reads?



# How to build a long-read reference dataset



- Wishlist for a new Swedish population cohort (still in early planning)

	Description	Priority
<b>Consent for data sharing</b>	It must be possible to share individual-level variant information (VCF files) on national level and ideally also internationally	Crucial
<b>Amount and quality of DNA</b>	At least 5ug of high-quality DNA per individual, ideally from fresh samples extracted for long-read sequencing	Crucial
<b>Phenotype information</b>	Detailed phenotype information available, that can be used for specific research projects (after approval)	Important
<b>A cross-section of Sweden</b>	The individuals should not be enriched for a specific disease or phenotype, and reflect the genetic variation in Sweden (ideally including ethnic minorities)	Important
<b>Additional OMICS data</b>	Possibility to perform other OMICs studies (RNA, protein, etc) on samples from the same individuals	Important
<b>Available SNP array data</b>	Data from SNP arrays, that can be used to infer the genetic background and select representative individuals for sequencing	Beneficial
<b>Funding and resources</b>	Possibility to get additional local funding and resources (for re-consent, sample collection, DNA extraction, etc.)	Beneficial

# We hope to do this as part of a EU project



“Genome of Europe” is a new EU initiative within the 1+MG project



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## Beyond 1 Million Genomes

The Beyond 1 Million Genomes (B1MG) project is helping to create a network of genetic and clinical data across Europe. The project provides coordination and support to the 1+ Million Genomes Initiative (1+MG). This initiative is a commitment of 23 European countries to give cross-border access to one million sequenced genomes by 2022.

But B1MG will go ‘beyond’ the 1+MG Initiative by creating long-term means of sharing data beyond 2022, and enabling access to beyond 1 million genomes. See the [About](#) page for an overview of the project.

# Collaborations on Rare Disease



We are collaborating with Genomic Medicine Sweden - Rare Disease Group

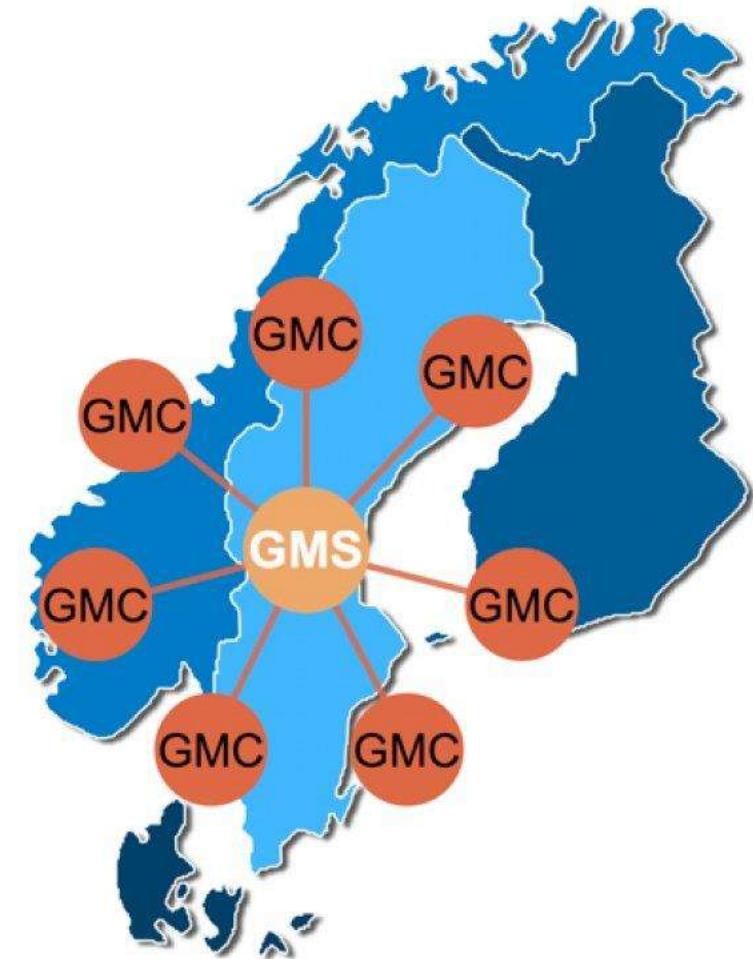
## Long-Read Whole Genome Sequencing

- Improve diagnostics of rare disease patients
- Resolve complex SVs and other variants
- PacBio Revio and ONT PromethION



## Long-Read Targeted Sequencing

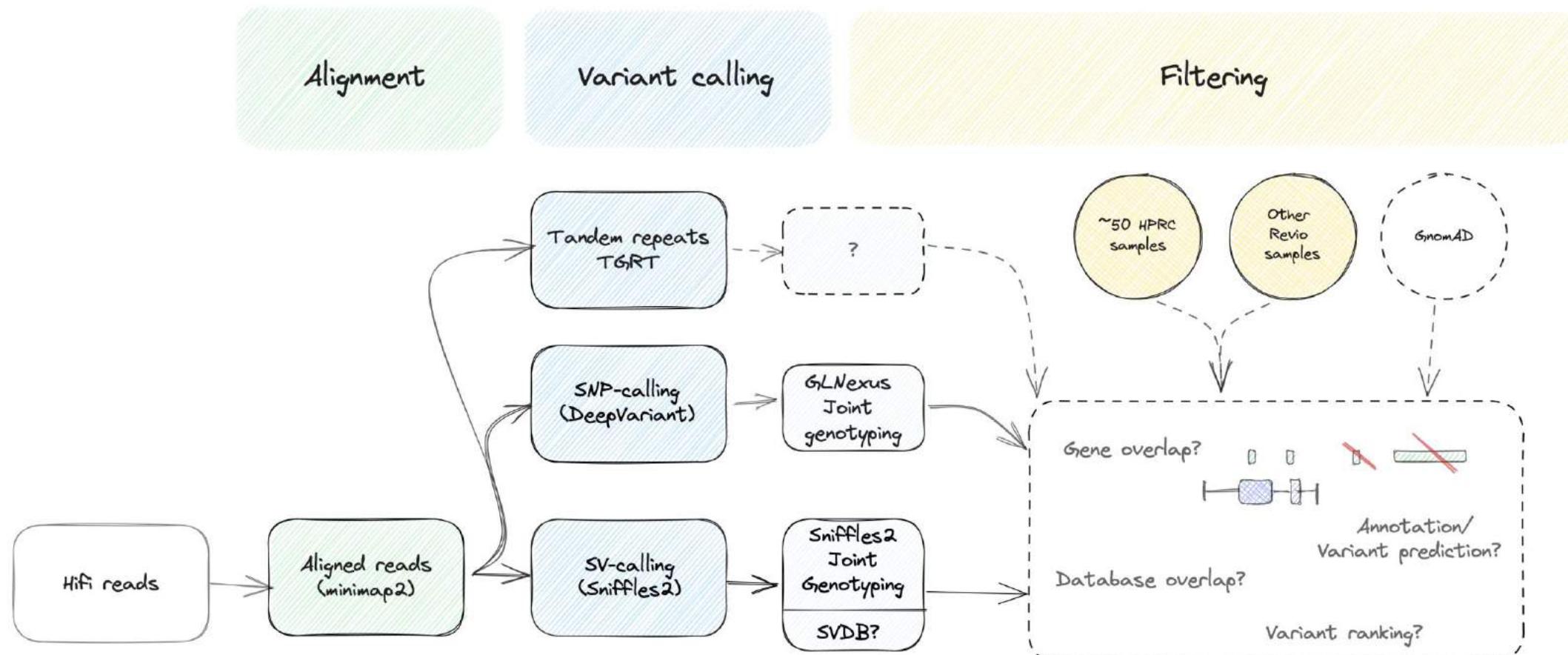
- Develop clinical assays for repeat expansions
- Cas9-based capture or adaptive sampling
- Aim: implementation at different hospital nodes



# Analysis pipelines human WGS



- New pipelines needed for human long-read sequencing



# Thanks for your attention!



The grid of images includes:

- Row 1: Grizzly bear, strawberries, red blood cells, Shetland sheepdog, bacteriophage, frog.
- Row 2: Green beetle, bison, grass, weaver bird, orange cat, mussels.
- Row 3: Peas, white butterfly, alligator, rowan berries, moose, lynx.
- Row 4: Lion, fly, virus, rabbit, potatoes, fish.
- Row 5: Conifer cones, horse head, garlic, fungi, woolly mammoth, apples.

The diagram on the right shows a human figure with a highlighted nervous system, and the following text to its right lists various applications of genomic sequencing:

- Diabetes
- Alzheimer's disease
- Whole-genome sequencing**
- Gene therapy
- Infection screen
- Whole-transcriptome sequencing**
- Target sequencing
- Cancer prognosis
- Gene regulation
- Crohn's disease
- Genomics of ageing
- Exome sequencing**
- Schizophrenia
- Cancer diagnostics
- Organ donor matching
- Gut microbiota
- Gene fusions**
- RNA editing
- HIV
- HPV
- NCV
- Scoliosis
- Immune response
- Monogenic disorders
- Sudden infant death
- Cervical cancer**
- Lynch syndrome
- Leukemia
- Scoliosis
- HLA typing**
- Dyslexia
- MRSA / BSIA screen
- Sudden cardiac arrest
- Transcriptional regulation
- Prenatal diagnostics**
- Muscle dystrophy
- Individualised cancer therapy
- and much more...