

# SEMANTIC WEB IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

## *A LANDSCAPE OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

- Tim Williams

**SWAT4HCLS**

Antwerp, Belgium

2018-12-03

# OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Data
3. PhUSE
4. The Way Forward
5. General Discussion

# OUTLINE

## 1. Introduction

- 2. Data
- 3. PhUSE
- 4. The Way Forward
- 5. General Discussion

# WHO AM I?



*Interactive!*

*Questions and Discussion*

# WHO I AM

UCB BioSciences

- Statistical Systems Analyst
- Raleigh, North Carolina
-  , 

PhUSE

- Steering Committee: "PhUSE Computational Sciences Symposium"
- Co-lead : "Clinical Trials Data as RDF"\*
- Co-lead : "Analysis Results Model (RDF Data Cubes)" (2016)
- Instructor: "Linked Data Hands-on Workshop"\*

# I ALSO LIKE #LINKEDDATA MEMES



@NovasTaylor

# WHO ARE YOU?

*Hands up:*

- Pharmaceuticals (any size pharma)
- Biotechnology (non-pharma)
- Health Care
- Research
- Other

# WHO ARE YOU : SEM WEB ADOPTION?

*Hands up if you are:*

- Doing something (personally, professionally) with Semantic Web

*Keep your hands up if you are using SW at work in:*

- any way: Experiment, Prototype, Proof of Concept, Pilot, Production
- in a Validated Production Environment

# OUTLINE

1. Introduction

## 2. Data

### 2.1 Landscape

### 2.2 Standards

3. PhUSE

4. The Way Forward

5. General Discussion

## 2.1 DATA *LANDSCAPE*

Non-clinical (Pre-clinical)

- Animal studies

## Clinical

- Human Study Subjects

Phase	n	Description
0	~ 15	Safety
I	~ 20 - 80	Safety, Dosing
II	~ 100's	Safety, Treat Condition, Refine methods
III	~ 3,000	Efficacy, Double-blind. Comp. other treatments.
IV	1000's	Post-approval. Long term efficacy, safety...

# DATA SOURCES

## Traditional

- Case Report Forms (CRF)
- Electronic Data Capture (EDC)
- \* Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS)

## New

- Wearables, Ingestibles, Devices
- Social Media
- Real World Evidence
  - See: [openEHR - The 'open platform' Revolution](#)

Room A, 17:00-18:00

*Other Data Sources?*

# DATA SOURCES (RDF)

## RDF ENDPOINTS FOR LATE PHASE DATA?



<https://old.datahub.io/dataset/linkedct>

*Your Experience?*

**datahub**  
The easy way to get, use and share data

Datasets Organizations About Blog Help Search

/ Organizations / Linking Open Data Cloud / LinkedCT

**LinkedCT**

Followers 1

**Organization**

**Linking Open Data Cloud**  
See also 2014 augmentation. This group catalogs data sets that are available on the Web as Linked Data and contain data links pointing at other Linked Data sets. The... [read more](#)

**Social**

Google+  
 Twitter  
 Facebook

**License**

Creative Commons Non-Commercial (Any)

**Dataset** Groups Activity Stream

## LinkedCT

Data exposed: Linked Clinical Trials  
Size of dump and data set: ~25 million triples as of April 2011. 4.8GB NTriples dump  
CC by-nc-sa license  
You are free to copy, distribute, transmit, and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes. However, you need to follow the terms and conditions available at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/c2/infoitems>  
According to OKD (<http://www.opendefinition.org/okd/>) the data is not considered open.

[Download Data Package](#)

### Data and Resources

Download	<a href="#">More information</a> <a href="#">Go to resource</a>
SPARQL endpoint	<a href="#">More information</a> <a href="#">Go to resource</a>
Data Browser Interface	<a href="#">More information</a> <a href="#">Go to resource</a>
Example resource	<a href="#">More information</a> <a href="#">Go to resource</a>

[Download](#)

[deref-vocab](#) [format-rdf](#) [health](#) [life-sciences](#) [linkeddata](#)  
[ld](#) [lodcloud-diagram-20...](#) [lodcloud-diagram-20...](#) [no-license-metadatas](#)  
[no-provenance-metadatas](#) [published-by-third...](#) [rdf](#) [size-gb](#)

### Additional Info

Field	Value
Source	<a href="http://linkedct.org/">http://linkedct.org/</a>
Author	Otto Hassanzadeh
Maintainer	
Last Updated	July 30, 2016, 9:50 AM (UTC+02:00)
Created	2011-07-30T09:50:00Z (UTC+02:00)
links:bio2rdf-pubmed	78493
links:dbpedia	25476
links:fu-berlin-dailymed	37800
links:fu-berlin-diseasome	1325
links:fu-berlin-drugbank	28047
links:tempgenedit_dataset	141
namespace	<a href="http://linkedct.org/resource/">http://linkedct.org/resource/</a>

## 2.2 STANDARDS



### HEALTH LEVEL 7

*"A set of international standards for transfer of clinical and administrative data between software applications used by various healthcare providers."*

## 2.2 STANDARDS

### FAST HEALTHCARE INTEROPERABILITY RESOURCES

*"A draft standard describing data formats and elements and an application programming interface for exchanging electronic health records. Created by Health Level Seven."*

FHIR as RDF

*Who is using FHIR?*

*Who is using FHIR as RDF?*

*Who is attending:*

HL7 FHIR and the Semantic Web

Harold Solbrig

Room A, 13:30

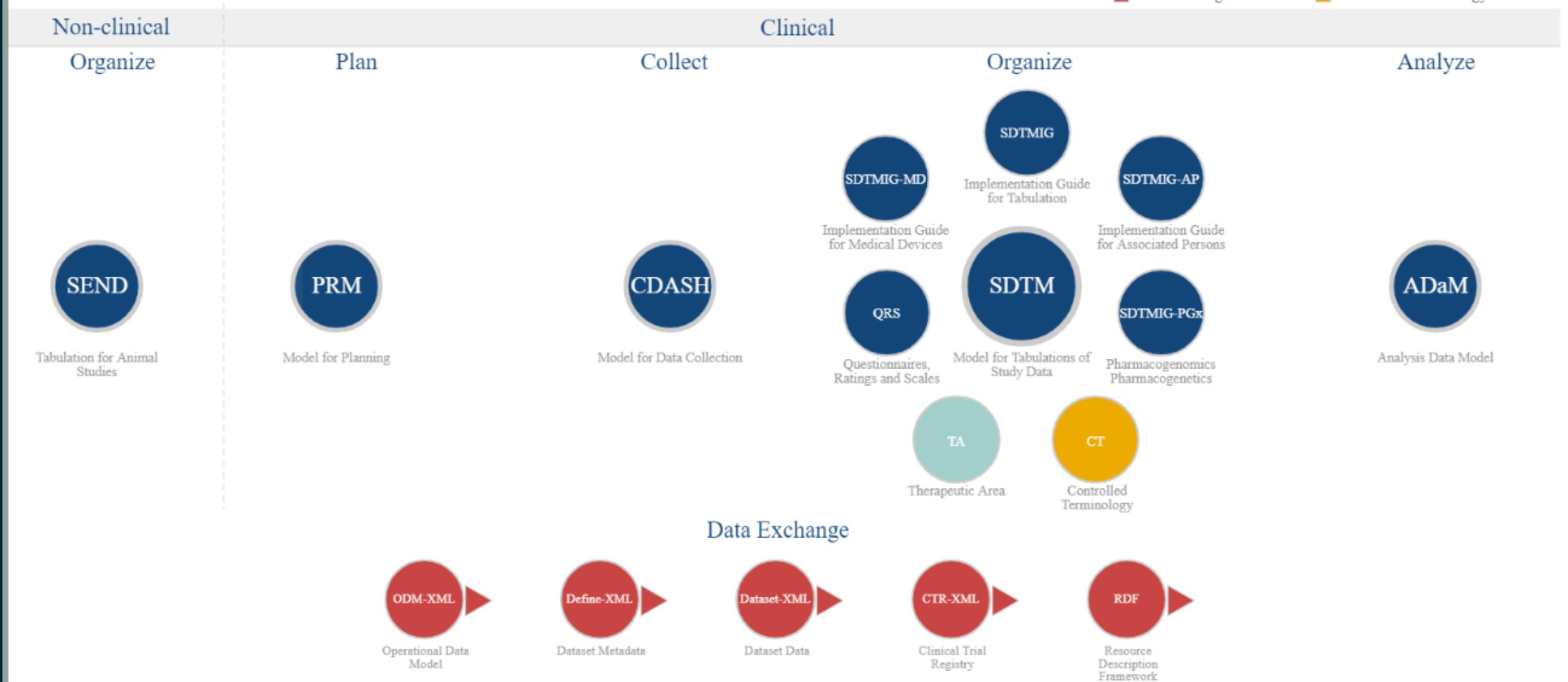


Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium

[www.cdisc.org](http://www.cdisc.org)  
Standards Overview

## CDISC Standards in the Clinical Research Process

■ Foundational Standard  
■ Data Exchange  
■ Therapeutic Area  
■ Controlled Terminology



*Are you using CDISC as RDF?*

*Are you using CDISC?*

*If you are in Pharma and not using CDISC Standards, I am worried about you.*



**CDISC STANDARDS ARE A GOOD THING  
BUT THERE ARE PROBLEMS  
AND CHANGE IS NEEDED**

# SDTM DOMAINS

- Demographics (DM)
- Vital Signs (VS)
- Adverse Events (AE)
- ...

*"23 defined domains within six broad categories." (SDTM 3.1)*

# PROBLEMS IN CDISC SDTM

*"Domains represent discrete categories" - CDISC*

Reality Check: They do not.

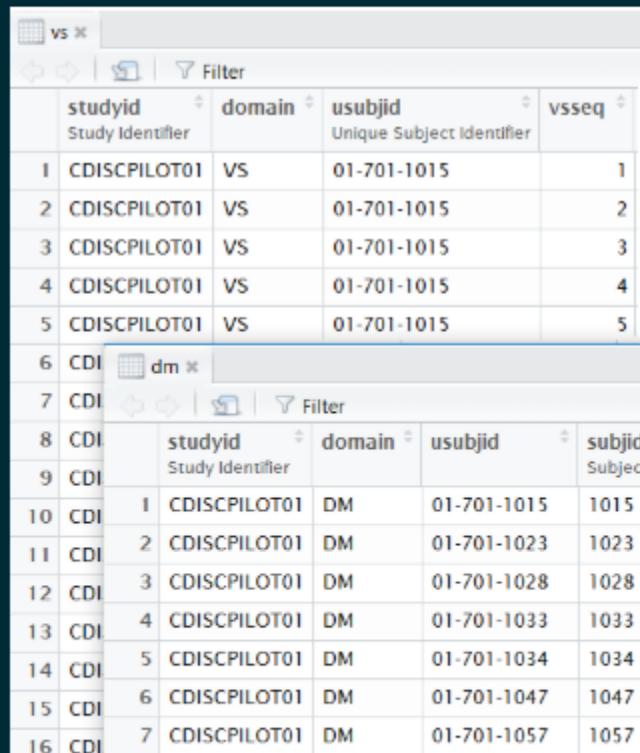
- Example: Demographics Domain (DM)  
Also contains
  - Study ID
  - Treatment Arm Information (arm, coded value for arm)
  - Age units

# PROBLEMS IN CDISC SDTM

- Multiple approaches to represent Medical conditions
  - Medical History (MH)
  - Adverse Events (AE)
  - Clinical Events (CE)
- Multiple locations for same/similar information
  - Death Information:
    - Demographics (DM)
    - Disposition (DS)
    - Adverse Events (AE)
- ...and more.

# PROBLEMS IN CDISC SDTM

- Data Repetition
- Row-by-Column Structure



The screenshot shows two adjacent tables in Microsoft Excel, demonstrating data repetition and the row-by-column structure of SDTM data.

**Top Table:** This table represents a single data row repeated multiple times. It has four columns: studyid, domain, usubjid, and vsseq. The data shows five rows for subject 01-701-1015 across different visit sequences (1 through 5).

	studyid	domain	usubjid	vsseq
	Study Identifier		Unique Subject Identifier	
1	CDISCPilot01	VS	01-701-1015	1
2	CDISCPilot01	VS	01-701-1015	2
3	CDISCPilot01	VS	01-701-1015	3
4	CDISCPilot01	VS	01-701-1015	4
5	CDISCPilot01	VS	01-701-1015	5

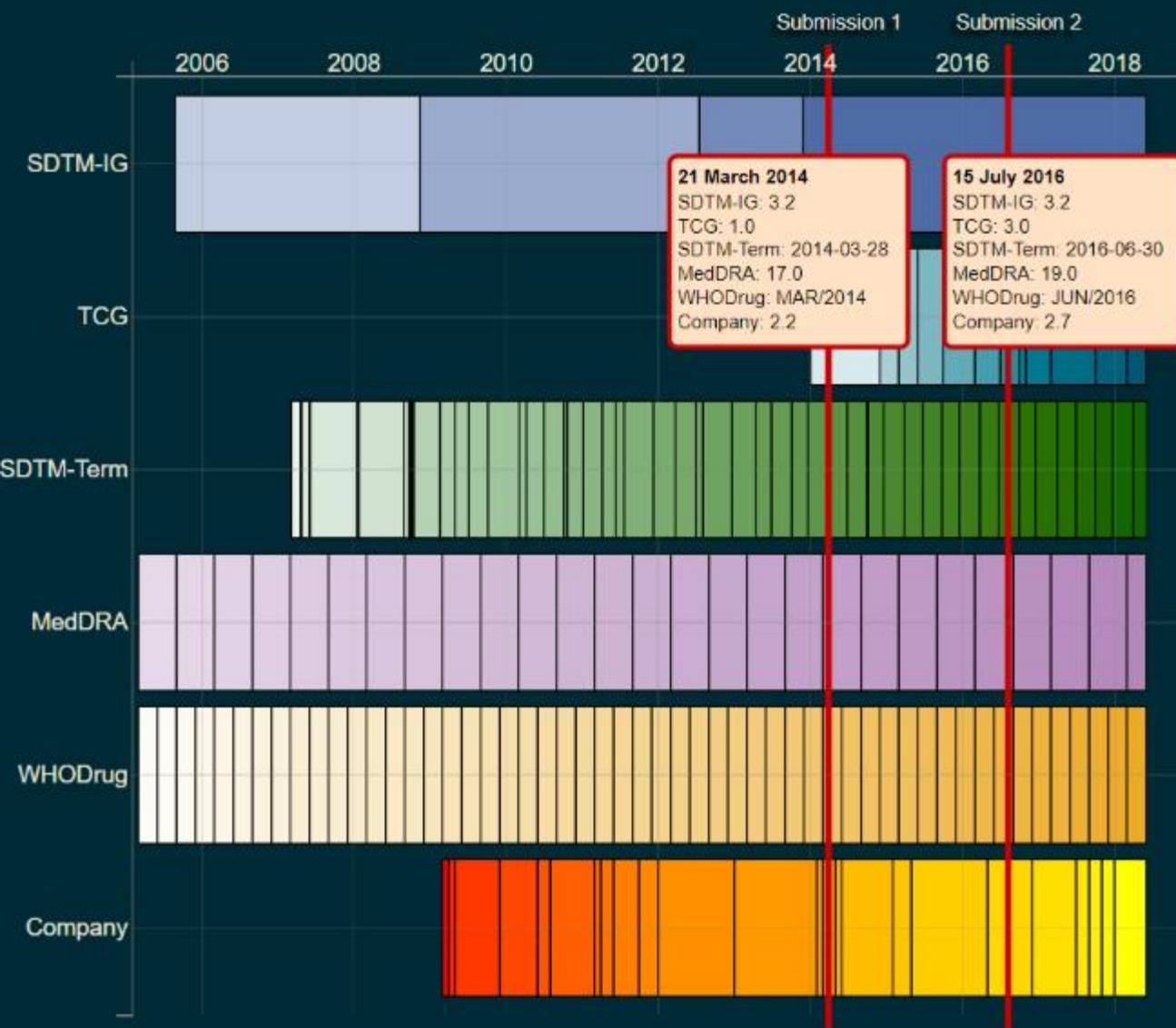
**Bottom Table:** This table represents multiple subjects (rows 8-16) with their corresponding study identifiers, domains, unique subject identifiers, and subject identifiers. The data shows seven subjects (1015, 1023, 1028, 1033, 1034, 1047, 1057) across different domains (VS and DM).

	studyid	domain	usubjid	subjid
	Study Identifier		Unique Subject Identifier	Subject Identifier
8	CDI	dm		
9	CDI			
10	CDI	1	CDISCPilot01	DM
11	CDI	2	CDISCPilot01	DM
12	CDI	3	CDISCPilot01	DM
13	CDI	4	CDISCPilot01	DM
14	CDI	5	CDISCPilot01	DM
15	CDI	6	CDISCPilot01	DM
16	CDI	7	CDISCPilot01	DM

# THE VERSIONING PROBLEM

- Standards Change over time
- Version-Conversion
  - Instance data is not version-independent

# STANDARDS OVER TIME



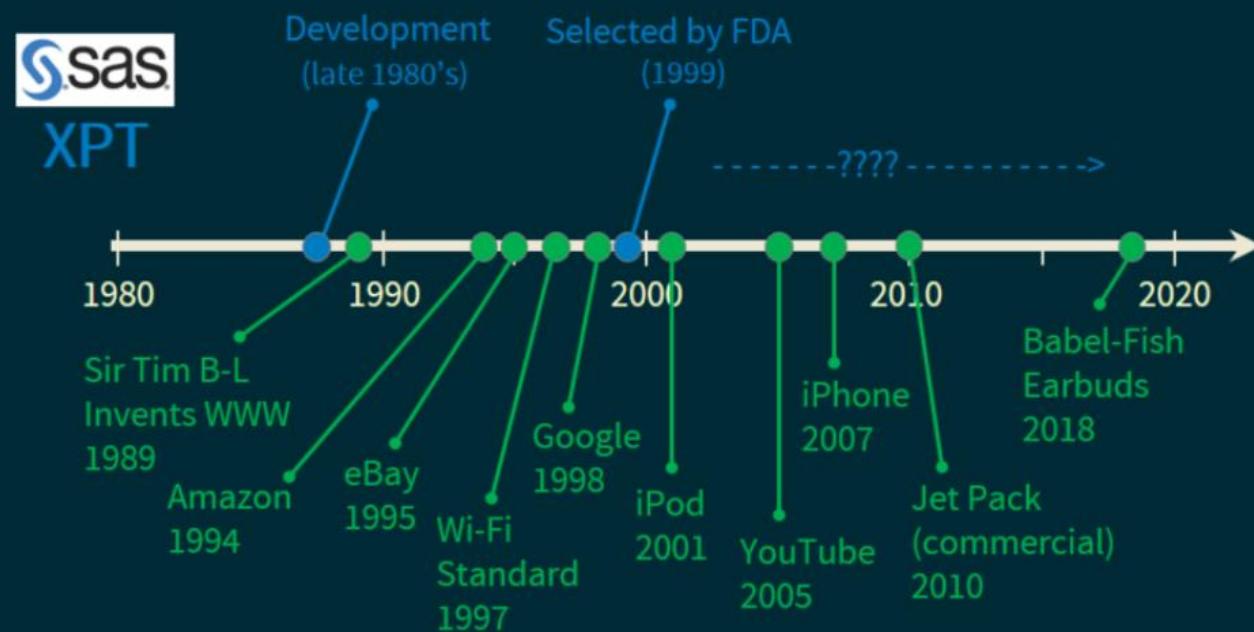
## LEGEND

SDTM-IG	Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM), Implementation Guide
TCG*	Study Data Technical Conformance Guide
SDTM-TERM**	SDTM terminology
MedDRA	Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities
WHODrug	World Health Organization Drug Dictionary
Company	Fictional company standard.

\*<https://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StudyDataStandards/default.htm#guides>

\*\*<https://evs.nci.nih.gov/ftp1/CDISC/SDTM/Archive/>

# A TECHNOLOGY TIMELINE: XPT FORMAT FOR FDA SUBMISSIONS



IT GETS WORSE...

THE 30 YEAR-OLD XPT FORMAT FOR FILE TRANSFER...

*IS BEING USED AS A STRUCTURE FOR DATA STORAGE*







CDISC IS TRYING TO CHANGE

# CDISC PROOF OF CONCEPT

*"Evolving our standards towards end to end automation"*

Today we are here

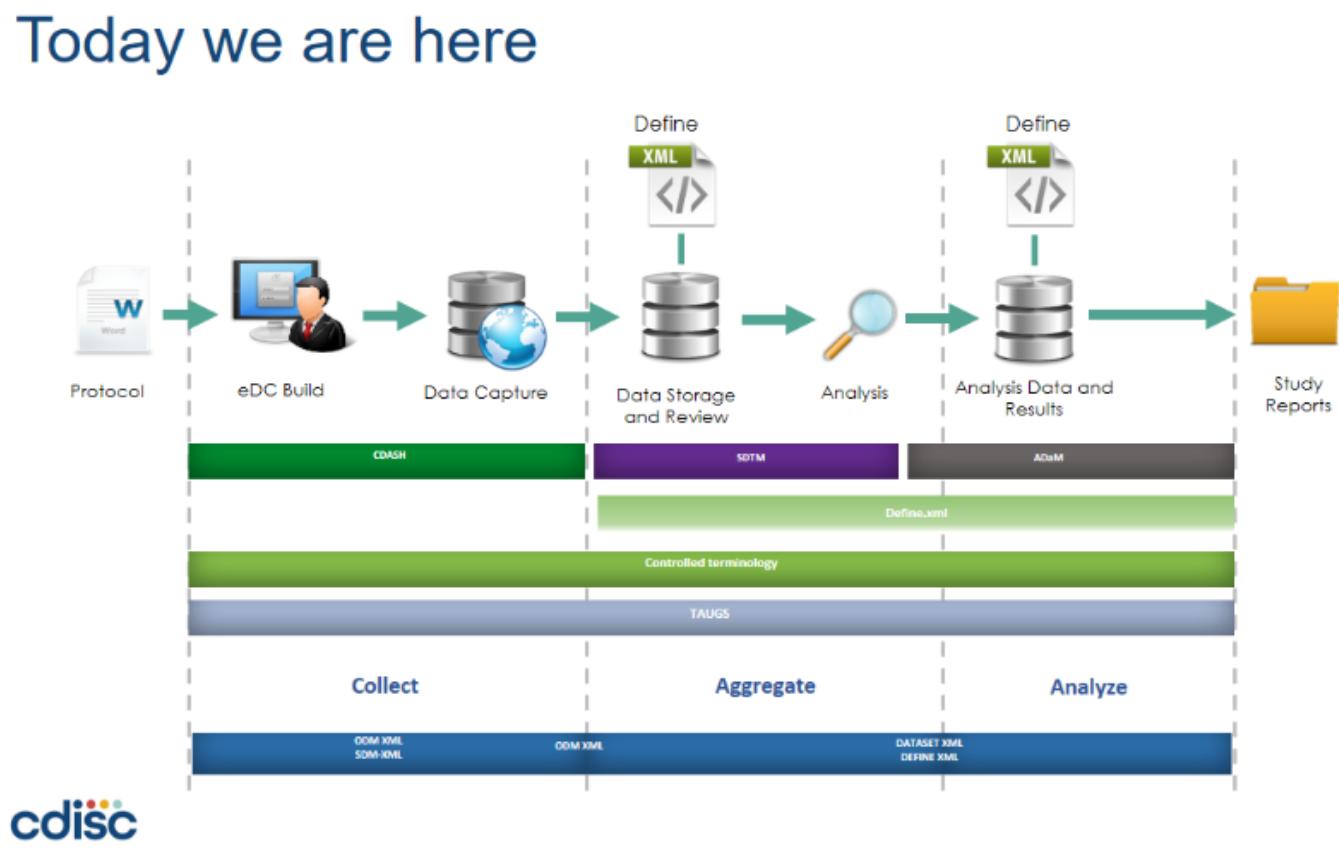
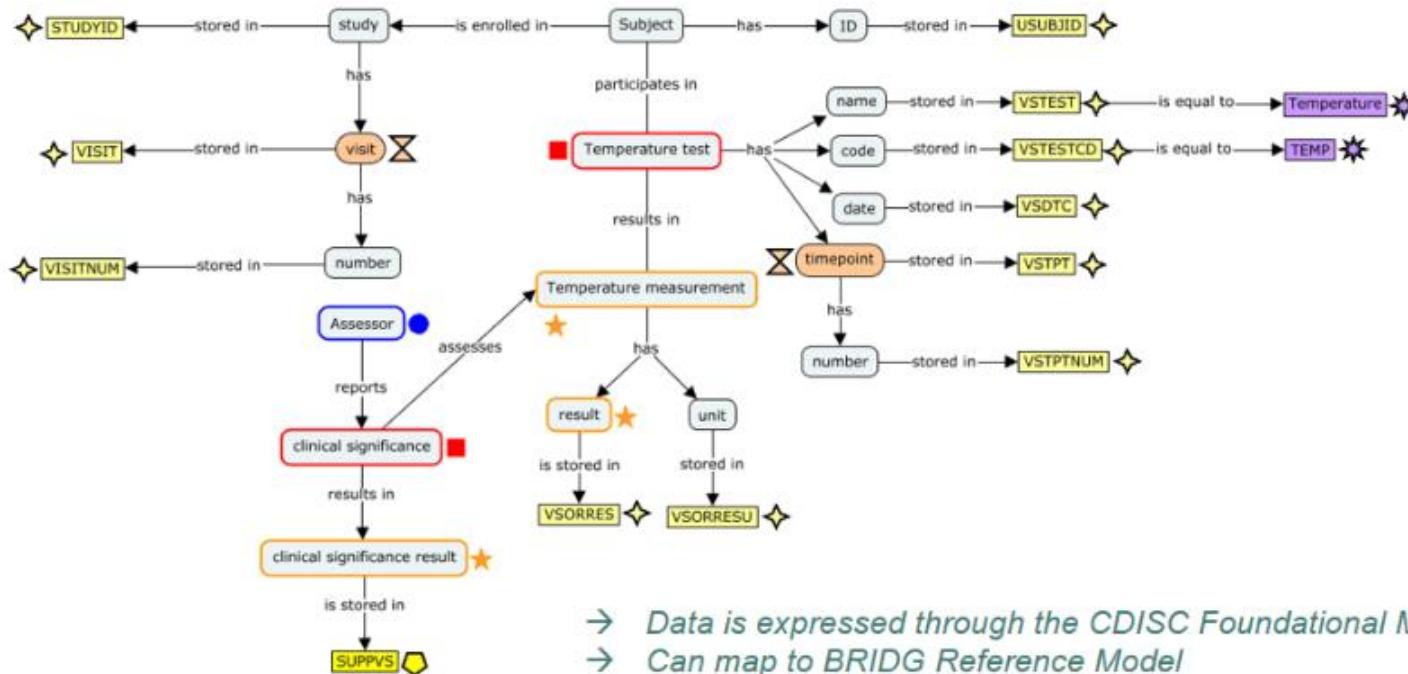


Image courtesy of P. van Reusel, Sam Hume. "CDISC Proof of Concept: Evolving our standards toward end to end automation."

# CDISC PROOF OF CONCEPT STANDARDS IN CONCEPT MAPS

- Example of biomedical concept





# OUTLINE

1. Introduction

2. Data

## 3. PhUSE

### 3.1 What is PhUSE?

### 3.2 PhUSE Linked Data Initiatives

### 3.3 CTDasRDF Project

- The Way Forward
- General Discussion



## Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange

### Mission:

*Provide an welcoming, neutral platform for creating and sharing ideas, implementing data standards, processes, and tools, and exploring innovative methodologies, techniques, and technologies.*



## Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange

### Working Groups Mission:

*Provide an open, transparent, and collaborative forum in an non-competitive environment in which Regulators, Life Science Companies, Technology Providers, SDOs, and Academia can address unmet computational science needs impacting product development and regulatory review as to improve human health*

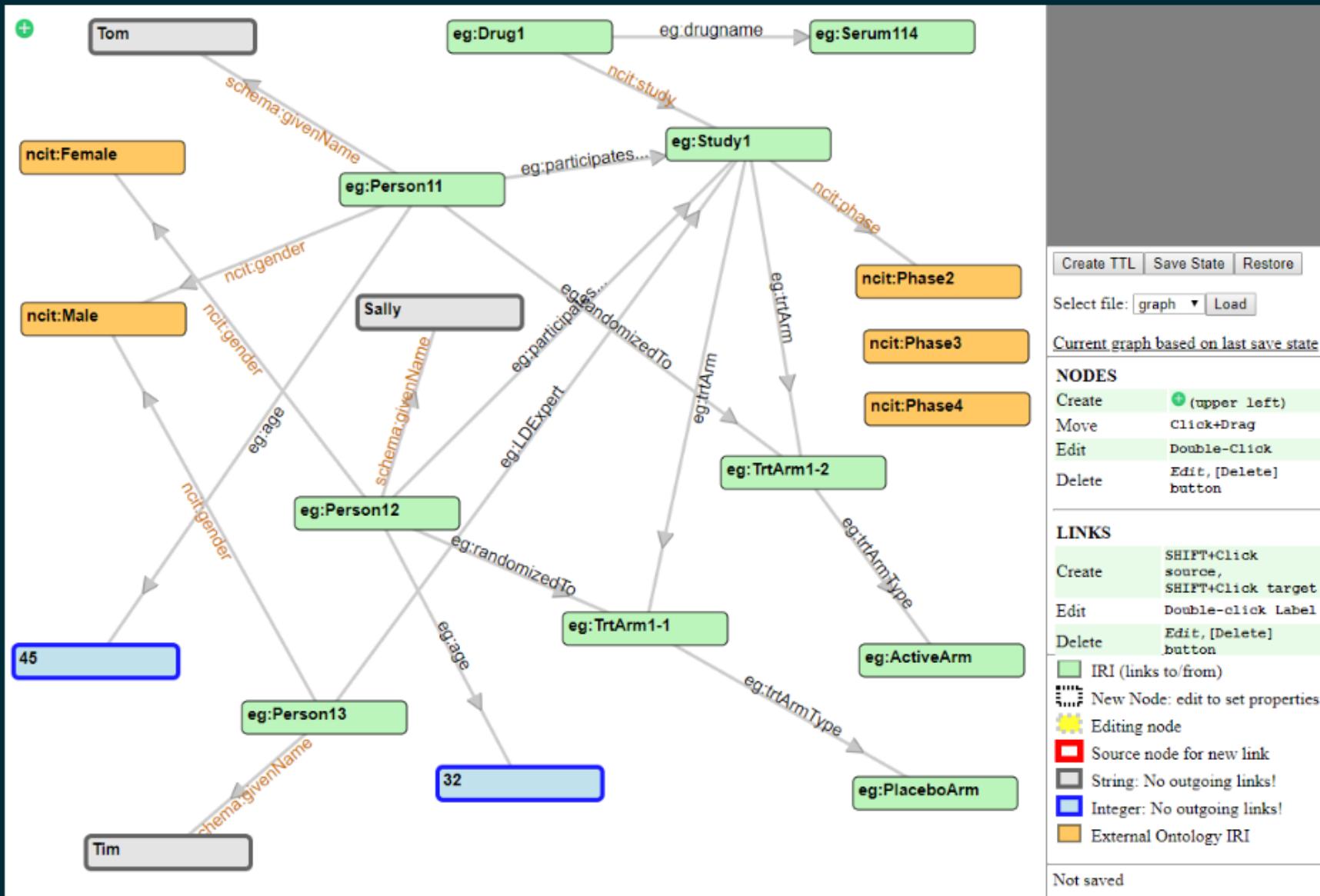
\* - emphasis is mine



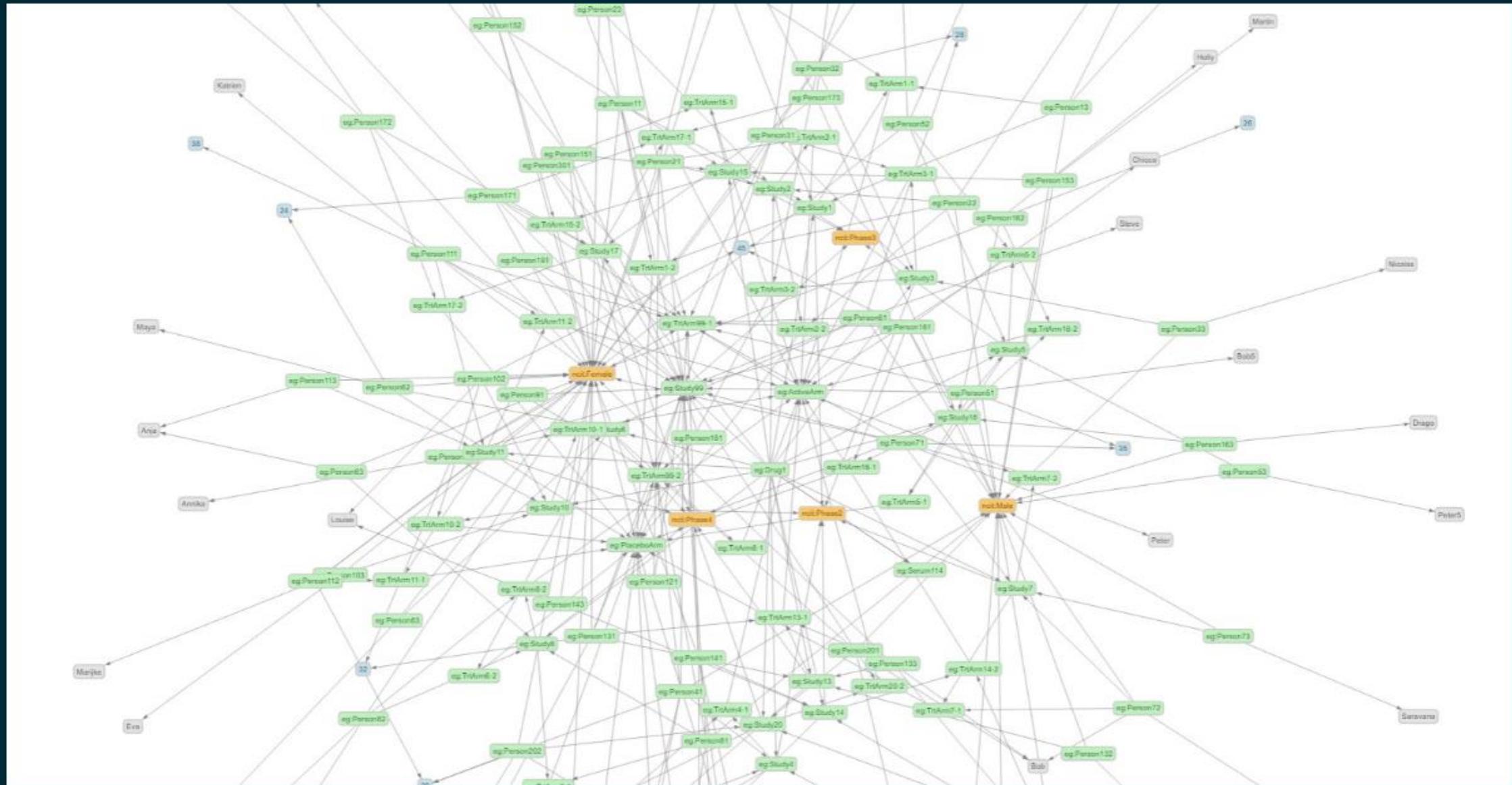
## Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange

- Membership: >8,700 spanning 30 countries
- Annual Conference: EUConnect, USConnect
- Single Day Events
- Computational Sciences Symposium (CSS)
  - A "working" conference

# HANDS-ON WORKSHOP: GRAPH EDITOR



# HANDS-ON WORKSHOP: 21 MERGED STUDIES



# PHUSE SEMANTIC WEB (LINKED DATA) PROJECTS

Completed:

- CDISC Foundational Standards in RDF
- CDISC Conformance Checks (incomplete? Last update 2014?)
- Reusing Medical Summaries for Enabling Clinical Research [Demo, P.O.C]
- Analysis Results and Metadata (2016) [P.O.C]

# PHUSE SEMANTIC WEB (LINKED DATA) PROJECTS

## Past

- Regulatory Guidance in RDF (incomplete?)
- Clinical Program Design in RDF (incomplete?)
- CDISC Protocol Representation Model in RDF (on hold [indefinitely?])

## Current

- Clinical Trials Data as RDF
- Understanding RDF/Linked Data for Nonclinical Use [NEW]

## OBSERVATION:

CDISC AND PHUSE PROJECTS HAVE (MOSTLY)  
BEEN MODELING THE DATA STANDARDS

*What is fundamental problem with this approach?*

*It does not model the clinical trial **data**.*

Proposal:

- Model the Clinical Trial *process* and *instance data*
- Build the standards, data checks, etc. - *into that model*
- Instance data independent from Industry Standards
  - *Materialize instance data into a Standard*

# OUTLINE

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Data
- 3. PhUSE

## 4. The Way Forward

### 4.1 Roofshot Manifesto

#### 4.1.1 Roofshot: Study URI

#### 4.1.2 Roofshot: SDTM Domains as RDF

#### 4.1.3 Roofshot: Open Source Ontology Development

- 5. General Discussion

# R.O.I UNICORN

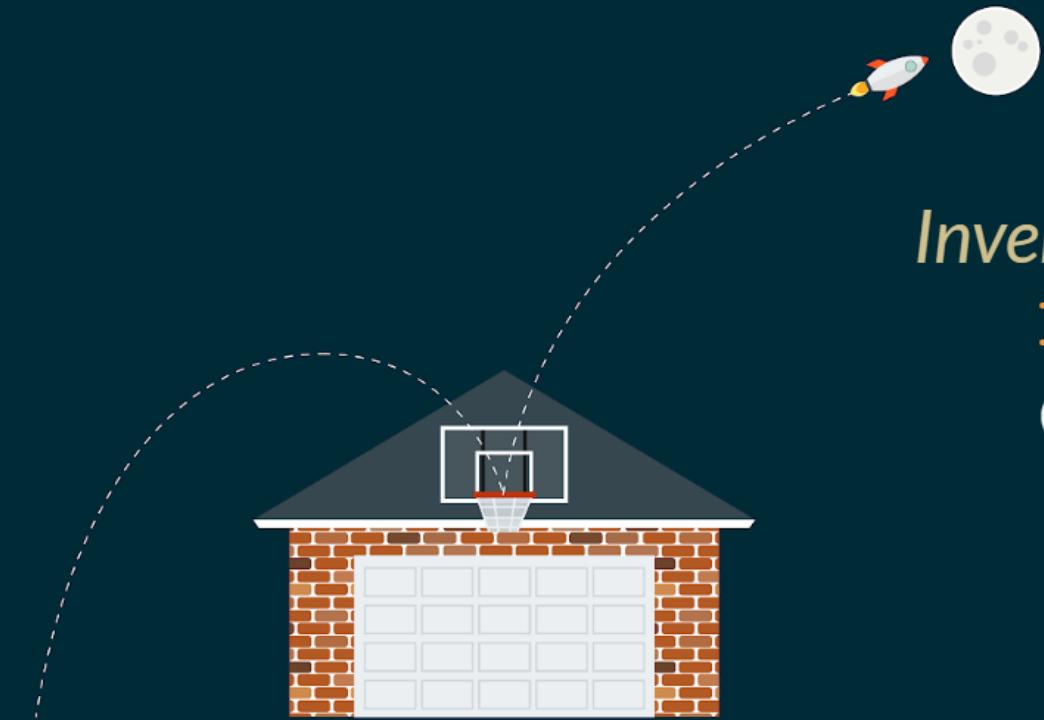


**Linked Data  
Business Case**

## 4.1 THE ROOFSHOT / MOONSHOT MANIFESTO

**Roofshot**  
*Incremental impacts*

- Study URI
- CTD (SDTM) as RDF
- Open Ontology Development



**Moonshot**  
*Invent & apply state-of-the-art  
Knowledge Graph  
Clinical trial lifecycle*

## 4.1.1 ROOFSHOT: STUDY URI AS AN INDUSTRY STANDARD (PROPOSAL)

*"Study URI" - K. Forsberg, D. Goude. PhUSE EUConnect18.*

...and additional followup by J. Ulander (A3), T. Williams (UCB)

Why?

- Easy entrypoint for Pharma
- Familiar concept: NCT ID
  - CT.gov must first review and approve Protocol

# STUDY URI COMPONENTS

`https://data.pharma.abc/clinicaltrial/D3562C00096`

1. Global Namespace
2. Resource type
3. Trial ID

*Is anyone using a Study URI/IRI?*

## STUDY URI: GLOBAL NAMESPACE

<https://data.pharma.abc/clinicaltrial/D3562C00096>

- Company web URL
- URIs that de-reference: External/Internal

*Discuss*

## STUDY URI: RESOURCE TYPE

<https://data.pharma.abc/clinicaltrial/D3562C00096>

- Easy? What else could it be called?
- Implications? Link to ontology?

*Discuss?*

## STUDY URI: TRIAL ID

<https://data.pharma.abc/clinicaltrial/D3562C00096>

1. NCT ID available ([ClinicalTrials.gov](#))
2. NCT ID not available: Unique Company ID (Company guidance)

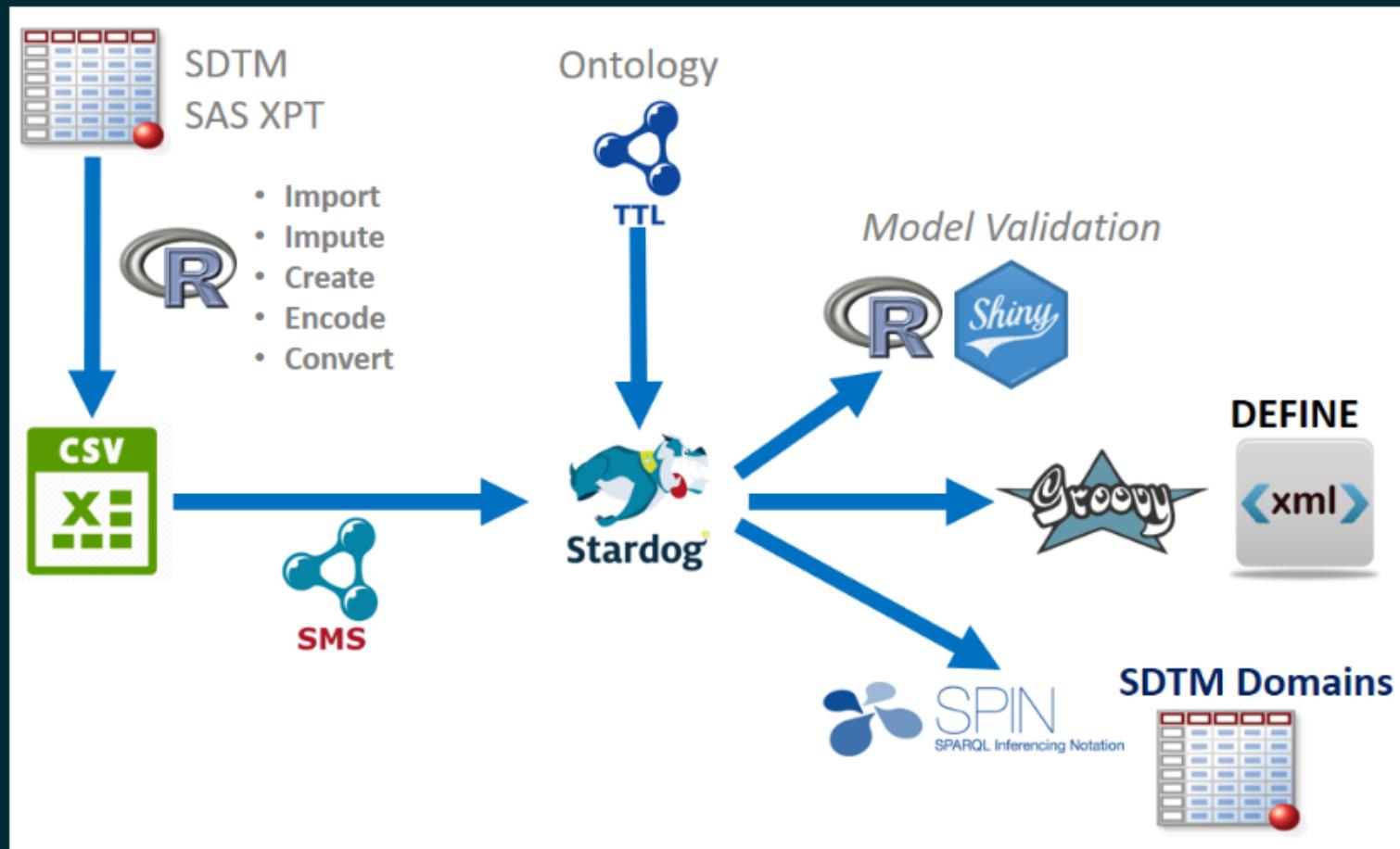
*Discuss*

## STUDY URI: NEXT STEPS

- Review and comment at:  
<https://github.com/phuse-org/LinkedDataEducation/blob/master/doc/StudyURI.md>
- Invite comment from FDA, EMA, PMDA, CDISC... *You!*

## 4.1.2 ROOFSHOT: CTD (SDTM) AS RDF

### PHUSE PROJECT: CLINICAL TRIALS DATA AS RDF



# CTD AS RDF *PROJECT PHILOSOPHY*

DO NOT MODEL:

- Industry Standards

DO MODEL:

- Clinical trial process
- Data
- Rules

# IMPLICATIONS "UP STREAM" FROM CLINICAL STUDIES PHUSE PRE-CLINICAL JOINS CLINICAL RDF PROJECT!

Common Concepts: Pre-Clinical & Clinical Research

## CDISC Standards in the Clinical Research Process

■ Foundational Standard

■ Therapeutic Area

■ Data Exchange

■ Controlled Terminology

Non-clinical

Clinical

Organize

Plan

Collect

Organize

Analyze



Tabulation for Animal Studies



Model for Planning



Model for Data Collection



Implementation Guide for Medical Devices



Questionnaires, Ratings and Scales



Therapeutic Area



Implementation Guide for Tabulation



Pharmacogenomics Pharmacogenetics



Controlled Terminology



Analysis Data Model



Operational Data Model



Dataset Metadata



Dataset Data



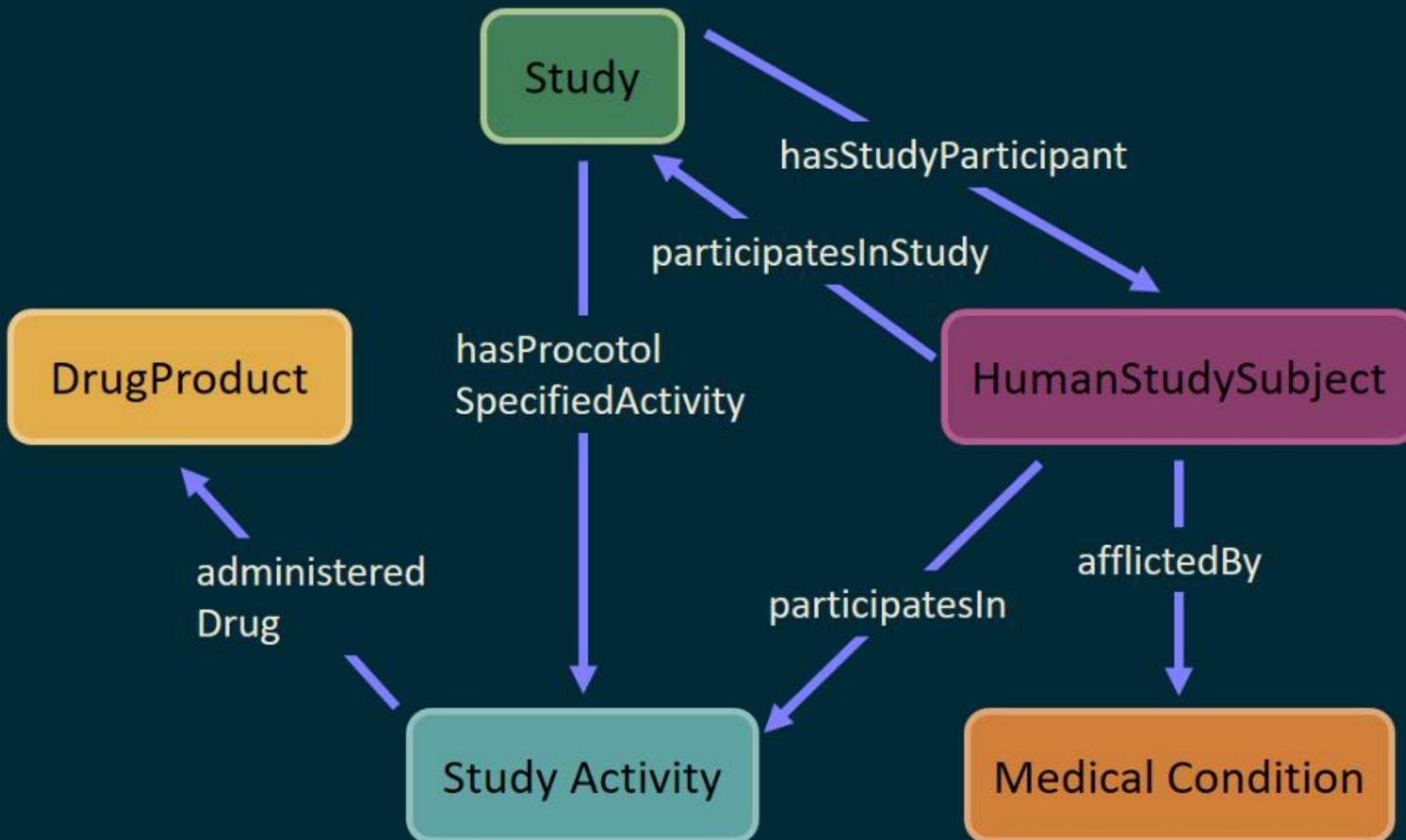
Clinical Trial Registry



Resource Description Framework

Data Exchange

# CORE STUDY 'MINI' ONTOLOGY



# LEVERAGE EXISTING ONTOLOGIES

When you try to choose ontologies  
for your Knowledge Graph



# LEVERAGE EXISTING ONTOLOGIES

## BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INTEGRATED DOMAIN GROUP MODEL (BRIDG)

Collaboration:

- CDISC, HL7, NCI, caBIG, FDA
- OWL version from NCI
- Version 3.2 as RDF. Current is 5.x?

## Biomedical Research Integrated Domain Group Model

Last uploaded: September 4, 2012

[Summary](#) [Classes](#) [Properties](#) [Notes](#) [Mappings](#) [Widgets](#)**Details**

Acronym	BRIDG
Visibility	Public
Description	The Biomedical Research Integrated Domain Group (BRIDG) Model is a collaborative effort engaging stakeholders from the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC), the HL7 Regulated Clinical Research Information Management Technical Committee (RCRIM TC), the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and its Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG®), and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The BRIDG model is an instance of a Domain Analysis Model (DAM). The goal of the BRIDG Model is to produce a shared view of the dynamic and static semantics for the domain of protocol-driven research and its associated regulatory artifacts. This domain of interest is further defined as: Protocol-driven research and its associated regulatory artifacts: i.e. the data, organization, resources, rules, and processes involved in the formal assessment of the utility, impact, or other pharmacological, physiological, or psychological effects of a drug, procedure, process, or device on a human, animal, or other subject or substance plus all associated regulatory artifacts required for or derived from this effort, including data specifically associated with post-marketing adverse event reporting. This OWL version of the BRIDG model is created by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Source repository: <a href="https://ncisvn.nci.nih.gov/WebSVN/listing.php?reponame=bridg-model&amp;path=%2Ftrunk%2FModel++OWL%2F&amp;">https://ncisvn.nci.nih.gov/WebSVN/listing.php?reponame=bridg-model&amp;path=%2Ftrunk%2FModel++OWL%2F&amp;</a>
Status	Production
Format	OWL
Contact	Cecil Lynch, <a href="mailto:lynch@surewest.net">lynch@surewest.net</a>
Categories	Health

**Submissions**

Version	Released	Uploaded	Downloads
<a href="#">3.2</a> (Parsed, Indexed, Metrics, Annotator)	06/30/2012	09/04/2012	<a href="#">OWL</a>   <a href="#">CSV</a>   <a href="#">RDF/XML</a>

**Views of BRIDG**

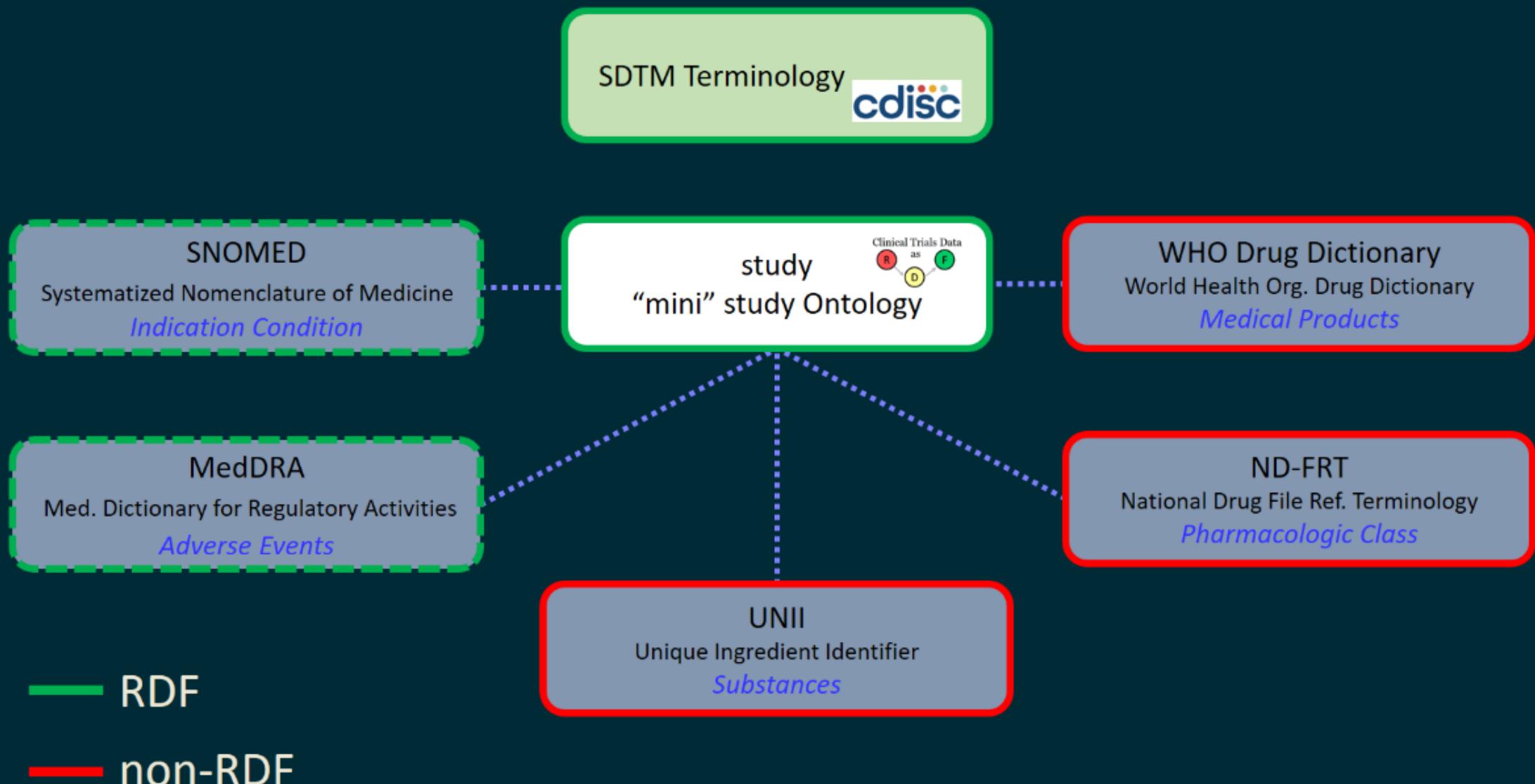
No views of BRIDG available

**Metrics**

Classes	326
Individuals	0,290
Properties	1,432
Maximum depth	5
Maximum number of children	128
Average number of children	7
Classes with a single child	8
Classes with more than 25 children	3
Classes with no definition	52

**Visits** 

# LEVERAGE EXISTING STANDARDS



#### *4.1.3 ROOFSHOT: OPEN SOURCE ONTOLOGY DEVELOPMENT*

*Can an individual developer, project team, company, standards org., or regulatory org. create a solution for the industry?*

*"We cannot compete with centralized systems unless we collaborate."*

*- Ruben Verborgh, Decentralizing the Semantic Web Through Incentivized Collaboration*

# OPEN SOURCE MODEL FOR CLINICAL TRIAL ONTOLOGIES DEVELOPMENT

- Ontologies on GitHub?
- Cooperation in the pre-competitive space
  - PhUSE?
  - TransCelerate?
    - Common Protocol Template (not in RDF!)
  - CDISC?

*Discuss*

# OPEN SOURCE ONTOLOGY CHALLENGES

- Gate keeper?
- Will companies:
  - Participate?
  - Give back?
- Conflict resolution (approach, code)
- Volunteers

*Is this feasible?*

# ONTOLOGY MAINTENANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

*Will the Open Biological and Biomedical Ontology (OBO) approach work?*

The OBO Foundry

Post-development curation?

# ONTOLOGY MAINTENANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

Don't hide my OWL behind an API!



# OUTLINE 5

1. Introduction
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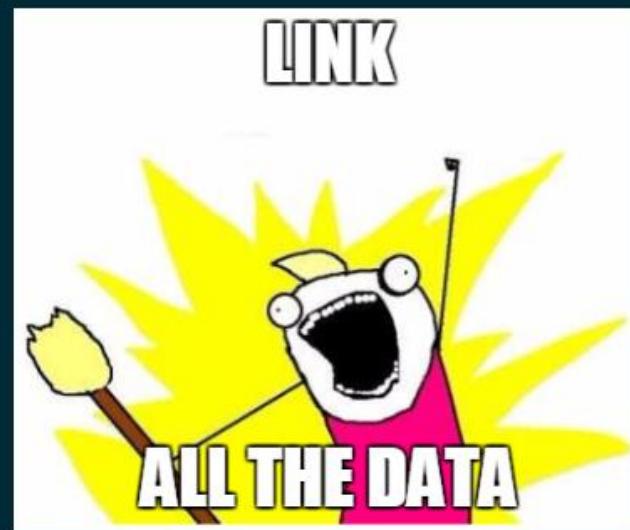
## 5. General Discussion

# ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION POINTS

# DISCUSSION:

*How are we hindering our own progress?*

- "High Priesthood"
- Too much emphasis on "Linking all the things?"



- Poor communication, translation to ROI?

*What are we doing right?*

# DISCUSSION:

*What are our main challenges in Pharma?*

- Momentum of legacy technology
- Skill set, lack of knowledge
- Politics: Who owns innovation?
  - IT
  - Analytics
  - The "Business"

## DISCUSSION:

*Which is the best environment for SW in BioTech/Pharma?*

- Startups, Small Pharma
- Mid-Sized
- Large Pharma

## DISCUSSION:

*What are you using for validation (& why?)*

- SPIN
- SHEX
- SHACL
- OTHER?

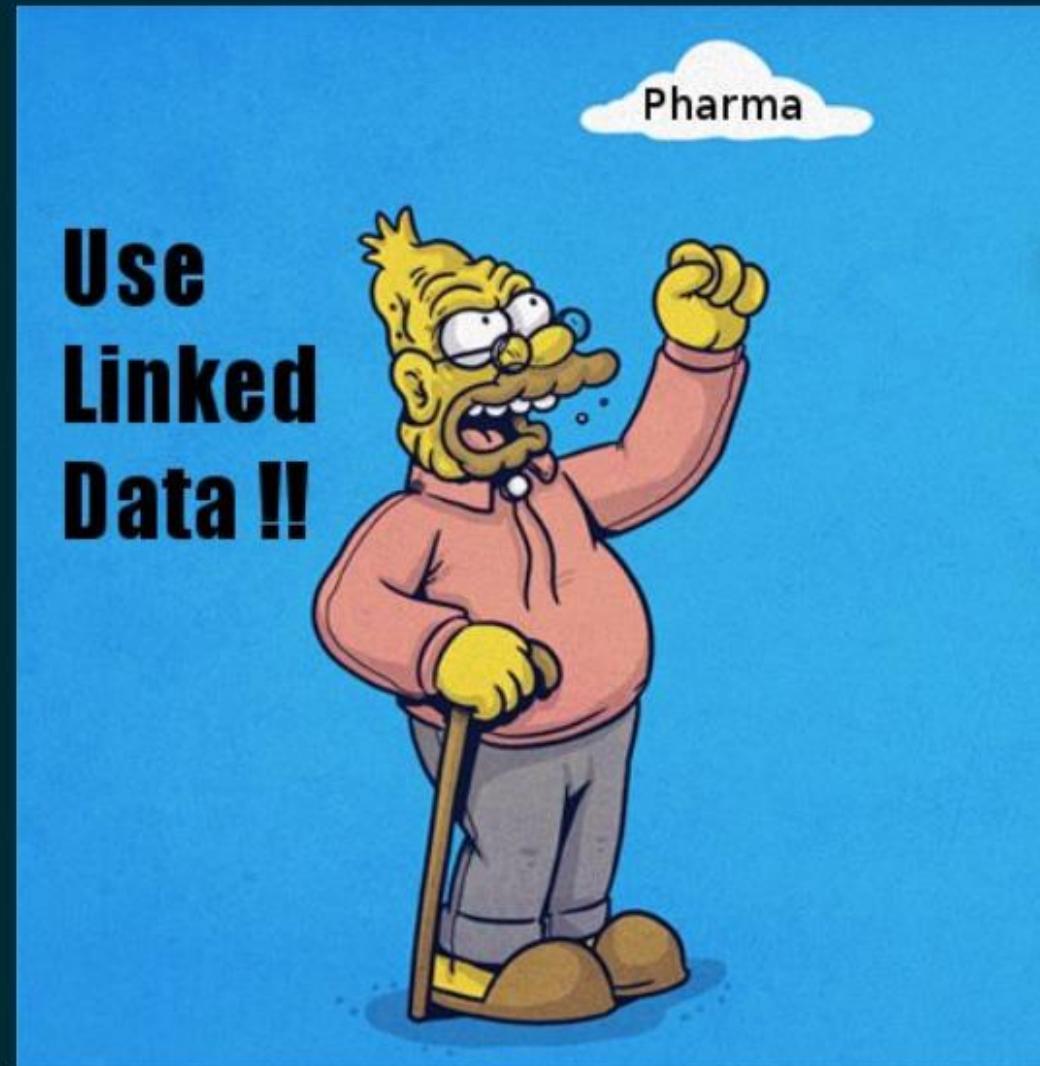
# DISCUSSION:

*What are you using for visualization?*

- Commercial Applications
- Open Source Tools
- Bespoke
  - Python
  - Javascript (D3JS, other?)
  - R, RShiny
  - Other?



# CONCLUSION



*Thank you!*