

FAIRifying biomedical ontology synergy

WSBO-2021: Workshop on Synergizing Biomedical Ontologies



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U41 HG008735-01A1





Northwestern University

(ICD, MESH, NCI) □
Semantic Relationships, DAG
Persistent Identifiers: DOIDs

2003

2008

DO R01 – DO Classification Website
OBO Foundry domain ontology

Term expansion
Outreach
Genetic Diseases

2017

NHGRI U41
Genomic Resource
CCBY → CC0 open license

Complex Disease

2021

10,791 disease terms
++ ~ 1000 new terms/yr

- doid.owl
 - anatomy
 - cell
 - chebi
 - disease
 - evidence
 - food material
 - inheritance pattern
 - ncbitaxon
 - omim_susceptibility
 - phenotype
 - sequence
 - symptom
 - transmission process

genetic & environmental
drivers of disease,
phenotypic features

COVID-19

Navigation

OBO tree View OWL tree

- disease
 - disease by infectious agent
 - viral infectious disease
 - Coronavirus infectious disease
 - COVID-19

Metadata

ID	DOID:0080600
Name	COVID-19
Definition	A Coronavirus infection that is characterized by fever, cough and shortness of breath and that has_material_basis_in SARS-CoV-2. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html , https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=32007143 , https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=32007145 , https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/Browser/wwwtax.cgi?id=2697049 , https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
Synonyms	2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) [EXACT] 2019-nCoV infection [EXACT] COVID19 [EXACT] SARS-CoV-2 infection [EXACT] Wuhan coronavirus infection [EXACT] Wuhan seafood market pneumonia virus infection [EXACT]
Parent Relationships	is_a Coronavirus infectious disease

Submit Comment Visualize

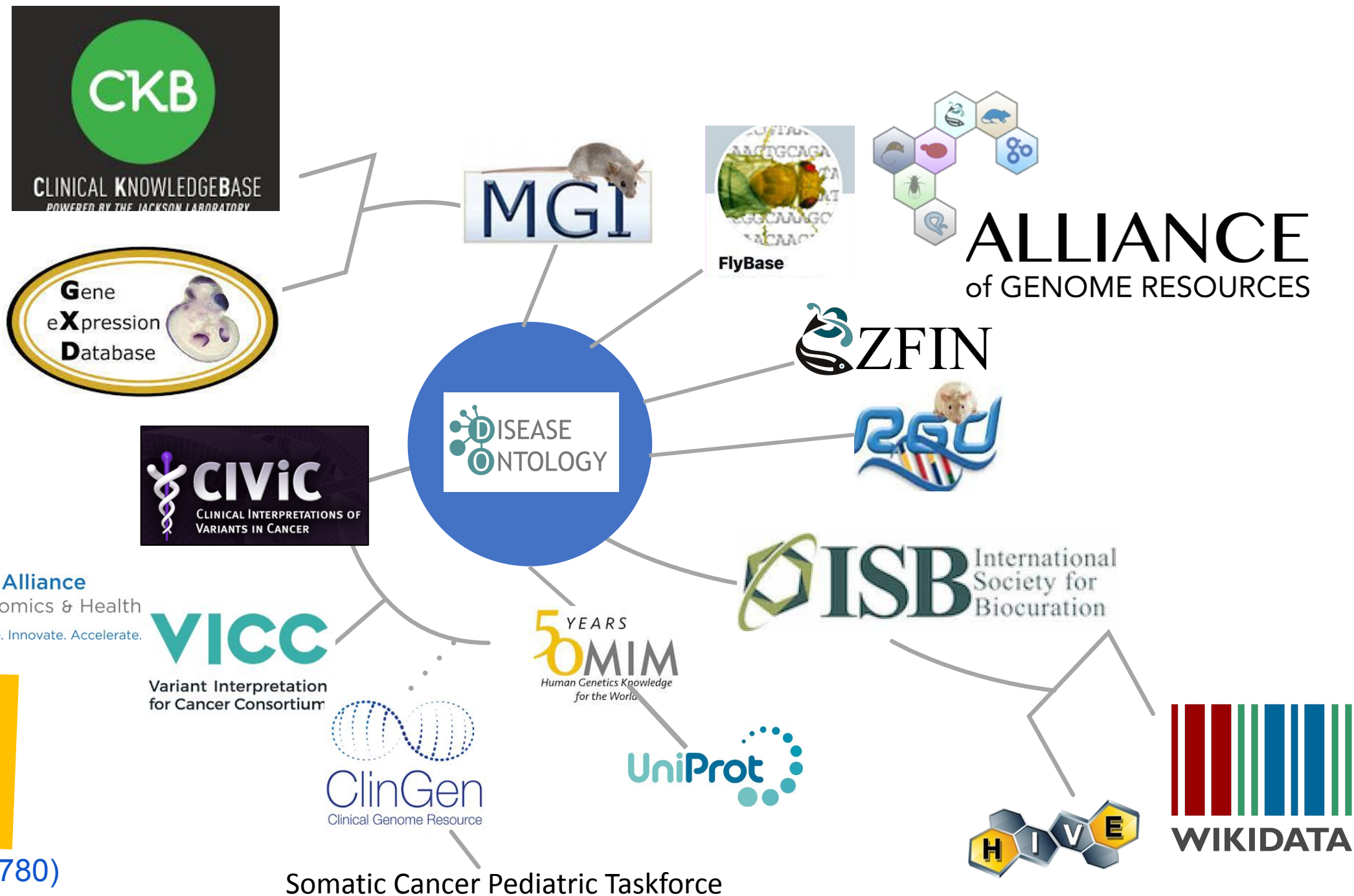
DO xRefs

GARD:2001; MESH:3609; OMIM:5467; ICD9CM:2267;
ICD10CM:3661; NCI:4732; Orphanet:1845; SNOMED: 5070

> 12,200 cited definition sources (PubMed IDs, databases)

provenance

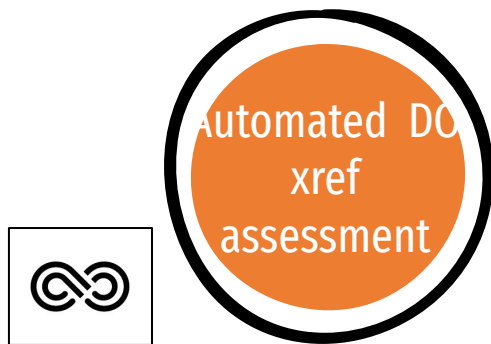
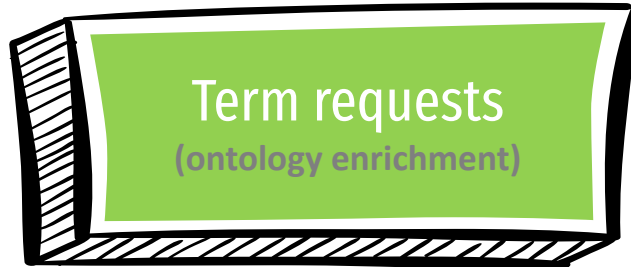
**Synergy
via
shared
terms
and IDs**



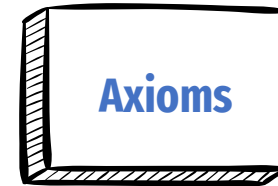
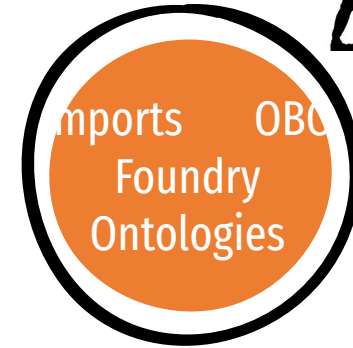
DO Usage
(>280) databases &
tools
(>50) ontologies

[DO citing papers](#) (> 780)

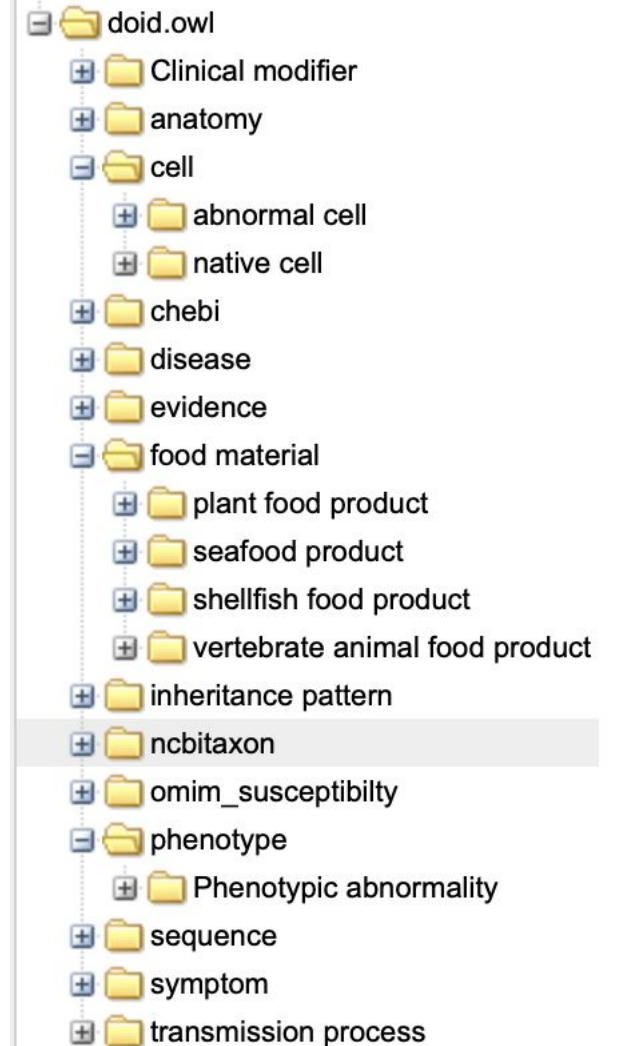
Synergizing efforts



Uberon/Monarch – Bridging



- Codify disease to disease relationships
- Statements asserting SubClass
- Views/Mechanisms of Disease

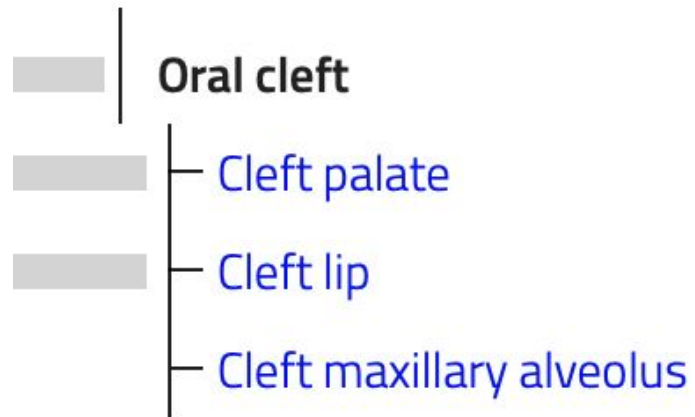


synergy between ontological domains

phenotypes, traits, syndromes, diseases, symptoms

domain fuzziness - recognizing usage differences
domain boundaries are fuzzy, often overlapping as
knowledge expands and usage mature

Abnormal oral cavity morphology

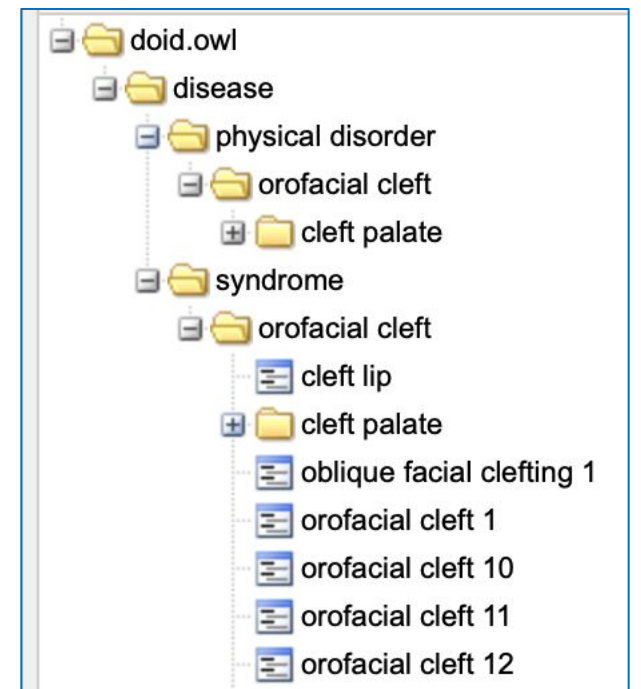


Search: 'cleft lip-palate '

Results: 1,175 entries.

« First | < Previous | Next > | Last »

- 1: # 216100. JUBERG-HAYWARD SYNDROME; JHS
Cytogenetic location: 8p21.1
Matching terms: "lip palate", cleft, lippalate
▶ Phenotype–Gene Relationships ▶ ICD+ ▶ Links
- 2: 201180. ACROFRONTOFACIONASAL DYSOSTOSIS 1
Matching terms: "lip palate", cleft, lippalate
▶ ICD+ ▶ Links
- 3: % 119530. OROFACIAL CLEFT 1; OFC1



DISEASE
ONTOLOGY

human
phenotype
ontology

5 YEARS
MIM
Human Genetics Knowledge
for the World



Open Biological and
Biomedical Ontology
(OBO) Foundry

Community development
of interoperable
ontologies for the
biological sciences

synergy within ontological domains

the OBO Foundry's "[Scope](#)" principle addresses the **ideal** of "non-overlapping and strictly-scoped content".

Summary

The scope of an ontology is **the extent of the domain** or subject matter it intends to cover. The ontology must have a clearly specified scope and content that adheres to that scope.

Purpose

An in-scope ontology prevents overlaps between ontologies (duplication of terms), facilitates user searches for specific content, and **enables quick selection of ontologies of interest**, yet still allows for new terms to be created via combination of existing terms (cross-products).

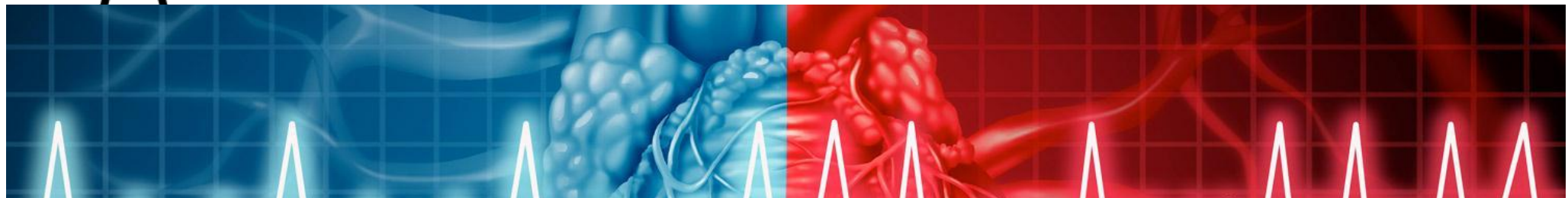
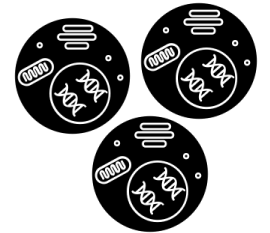
Ontologies Across Biomedical Domains

OLS: Ontology Lookup Service: 264 ontologies

Expanded usage of a domain through adaptations or derivatives are “part in parcel of” the evolution of biomedical knowledge



Anatomy: 25
Traits: 25
Phenotype: 24
Disease: 19
Cell: 12
Chemical: 10
Protein: 9



The Disease Ontology is utilized to build other biomedical ontologies.

These application ontologies either reuse:

DO's terms or IDs as PURLS (unique URL based IDs, e.g. http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/DOID__4), map to DOIDs as ontology cross references (xrefs), as synonyms or as annotations.

To date, the Disease Ontology is being utilized across 52 other biomedical ontologies:

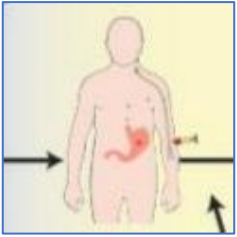
Antibiotic Resistance Ontology, Apollo Structured Vocabulary, BioAssay Ontology, [Cardiovascular Disease Ontology](#), Cell Culture Ontology, Cell Line Ontology, [Coronavirus Infectious Disease Ontology](#), Data Use Ontology, [Dermatological Disease Ontology](#), [Diabetes Mellitus Treatment Ontology](#), Drug-drug Interaction and Drug-drug Interaction Evidence Ontology, Drug Target Ontology, eagle-i resource ontology, eNanoMapper Ontology, Experimental Factor Ontology, FoodOn, Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation Ontology, Genomic Epidemiology Ontology, [Hearing Impairment Ontology](#), Human Phenotype Ontology, Human Physiology Simulation Ontology, Hypertension Ontology, [Infectious Disease Ontology](#), [Influenza Ontology](#), Informed Consent Ontology, [Mental Disease Ontology](#), Metabolomics Standards Initiative Ontology, Mondo Disease Ontology, Mouse Pathology Ontology, Neural Electro Magnetic Ontology, Non-Coding RNA Ontology, Obstetric and Neonatal Ontology, Ontology for Biobanking, Ontology for General Medical Science, Ontology for MIRNA Target – microRNA (miR) domain, Ontology for Biomedical Investigations, Ontology of Adverse Events, Ontology of Drug Adverse Events, Ontology of Host-Microbiome Interactions, Ontology of Host Pathogen Interactions, Ontology of Precision Medicine and Investigation, [Pre-Eclampsia Ontology](#), Protein Ontology, [Public Health Document Ontology](#), Quantitative Histopathology Image Ontology, Quantitative Imaging Biomarker Ontology, [Sickle Cell Disease Ontology](#), TOXic Process Ontology, Vaccine Ontology, Translational Medicine Ontology, VEuPathDB ontology, [Vaccine Informed Consent Ontology](#).

Collaboratively developed definition of “disease” (DOID:4 in the Human Disease Ontology)

A disease is a disposition (i) to undergo pathological processes that (ii) exists in an organism because of one or more disorders in that organism.

reuse

(with new ID, term name, revised definition)



Ontology for General Medical Science
OGMS:0000031



Experimental factor
ontology
EFO:0000408

A disease is a disposition to undergo pathological processes that exists in an organism because of one or more disorders in that organism. [OGMS:0000031]

disease or disorder

MONDO:0000001



mondo

A semi-automatically constructed ontology that merges in multiple disease resources to yield a coherent merged ontology.

database cross reference

- OGMS:0000031 (MONDO:equivalentTo)
- NCIT:C2991 (MONDO:equivalentTo)
- DOID:4 (MONDO:equivalentTo)

NCIthesaurus: C2991: Disease or Disorder: Any abnormal condition of the body or mind that causes discomfort, dysfunction, or distress to the person affected or those in contact with the person.

Synergy Challenges

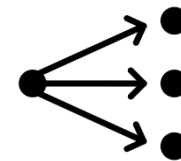
- ❖ Similar, but unreferenced terms
- ❖ Resource interoperability
- ❖ Minting new terms vs Term reuse
- ❖ Non-reuse of IRIs, definitions
- ❖ Scope creep

- ❖ **Asynchronous Update Cycles**

UMLS – bi-annual; ontologies: weekly; monthly; quarterly

- ❖ **Lumping and Splitting**

- ❖ Molecular Subtypes; Phenotypic Variation



- ❖ Ontologies create their own ID space
- ❖ Specific-Use-Cases



Promote **best practices** for synergizing ontologies

To improve the **Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse** of ontology terms and biomedical data

Reference Ontologies

- community engagement
- assess and integrate new domain knowledge
- collaborate on new term requests

Application Ontologies or Reusing terms

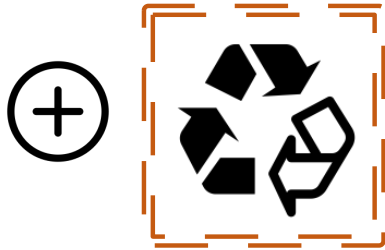
- request terms from reference ontologies
- 'reuse' the term ID, label and definition from a source ontology
- define source of reused terms

Promote best practices for synergizing ontologies

To improve the **Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse** of ontology terms and biomedical data

ENHANCE SYNERGY

(1) Indicate which ontologies to 'Reuse' ?



(2) Defining the provenance of 'reference ontology' IDs

Instead of : creating xrefs for 'source biomedical ontologies'

Include: 'reference ontology IRIs'
via an **"imported from"** (IAO_0000412) Annotation Property

(3) (Within Domains) GitHub ☐ trigger, new term ☐ flag reference ontology to add term