

A NEW TECHNOLOGY IN MEDICINE

DIGITAL TWINS

Group 7

Gisela de Miguel Garcia, Olivia Dove Estrella,
Oriol Gómez Lores and Roger Parramon Codina



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APPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL TWINS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD

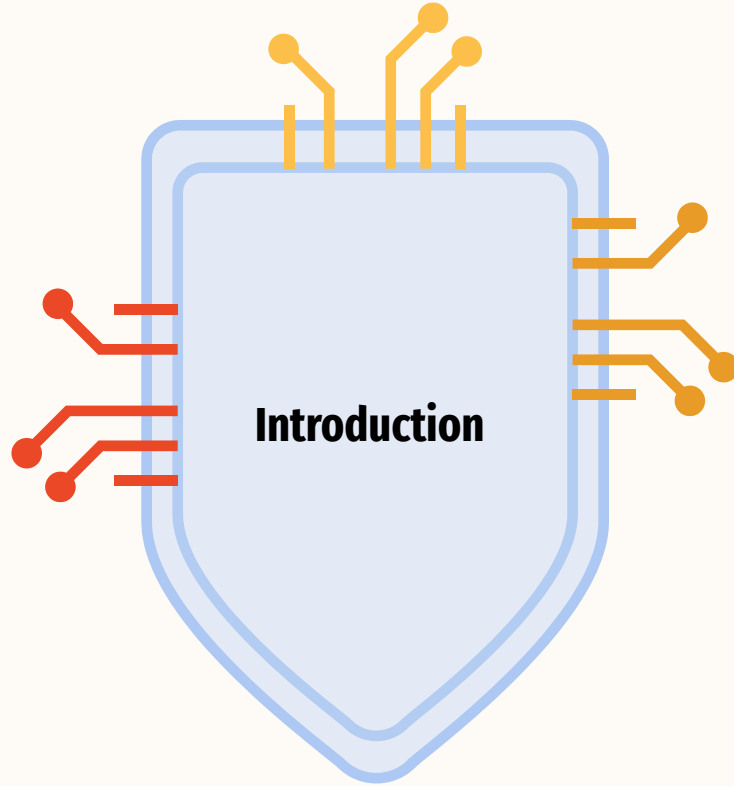
Personalized medicine

Improving healthcare organizations

Drug and medical development

03

ETHICAL ASPECTS



INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITION

DEFINITION:

- Digital replica of physical **object, process or service**.
- Pairs physical and digital worlds using modern technologies.
- Their goal is test and optimize physical objects virtually.



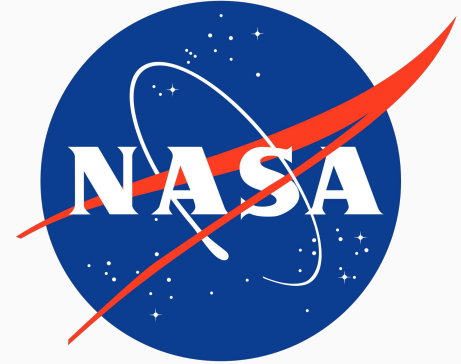
A LITTLE BIT OF CONTEXT



Dr. David Hillel Gelernter
1990s



Dr. Michael Grieves
2002



2010

DIGITAL TWINS IN A MEDICINE CONTEXT

The 3 components of a digital twin:

- The physical product in the physical space.
- The digital representation of the physical product in the virtual environment.
- Connection between the two of them.

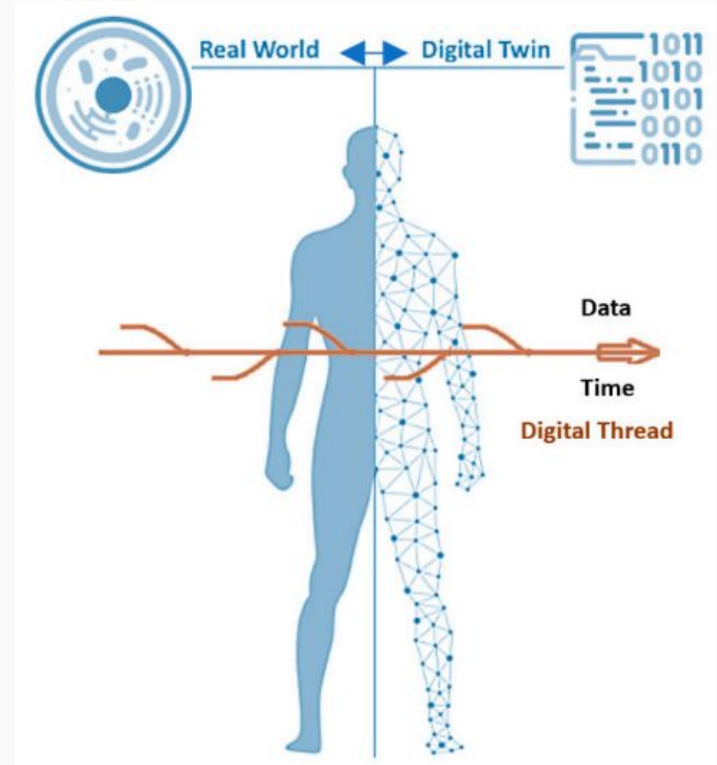


Figure 1. Composition of a digital twin. **Ref:** Kamel Boulos, M. N., & Zhang, P. (2021)

DIGITAL TWINS IN A MEDICINE CONTEXT

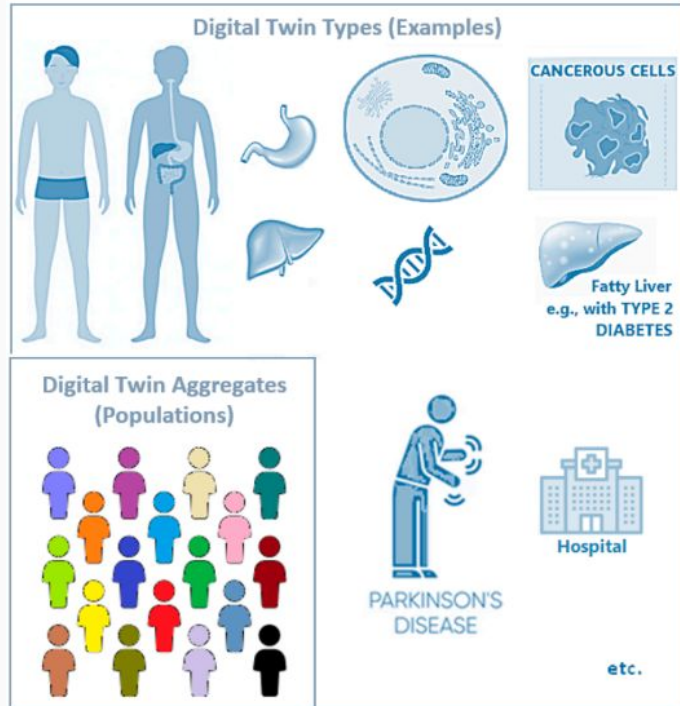


Figure 2. Some examples of different types of human digital twins. **Ref:** Kamel Boulos, M. N., & Zhang, P. (2021)

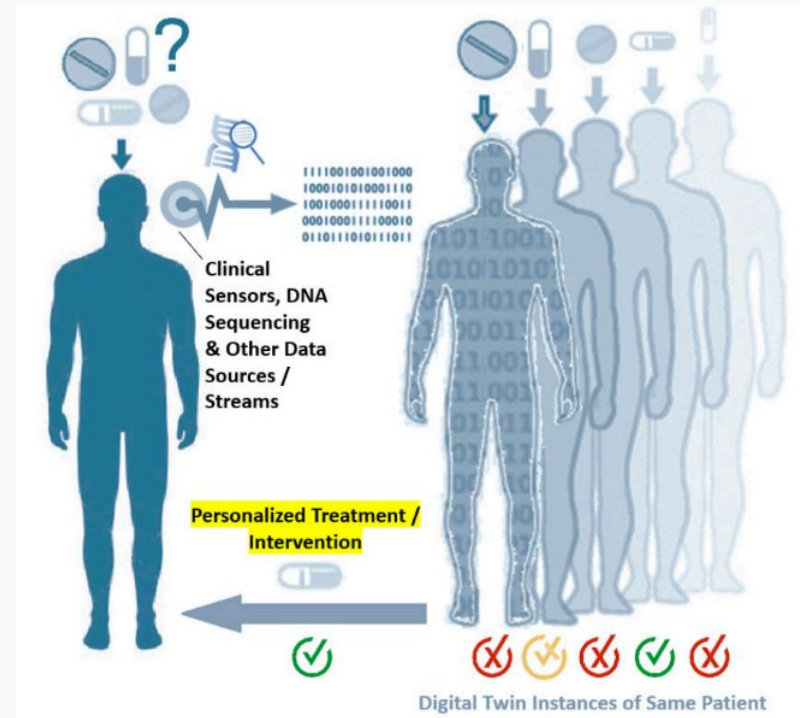


Figure 3. Summary image of the usability of digital twins in medicine. **Ref:** Kamel Boulos, M. N., & Zhang, P. (2021)

DIGITAL TWINS IN A MEDICINE CONTEXT

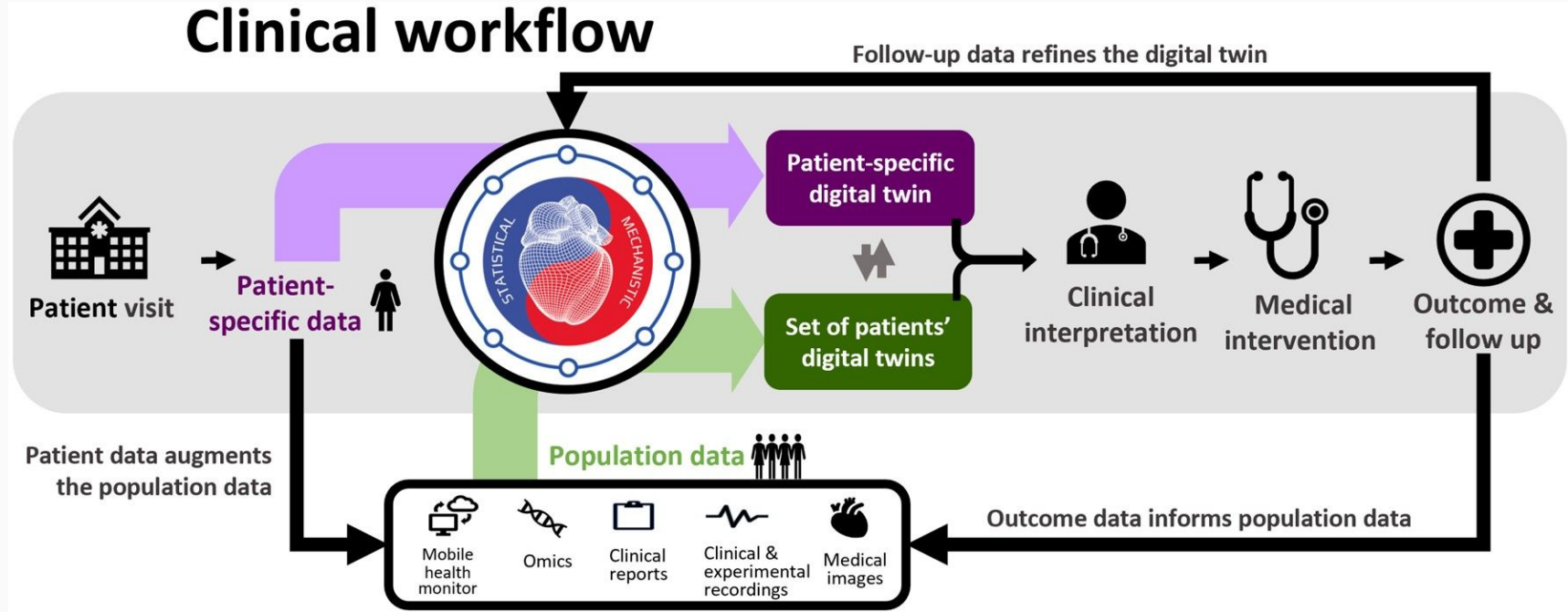
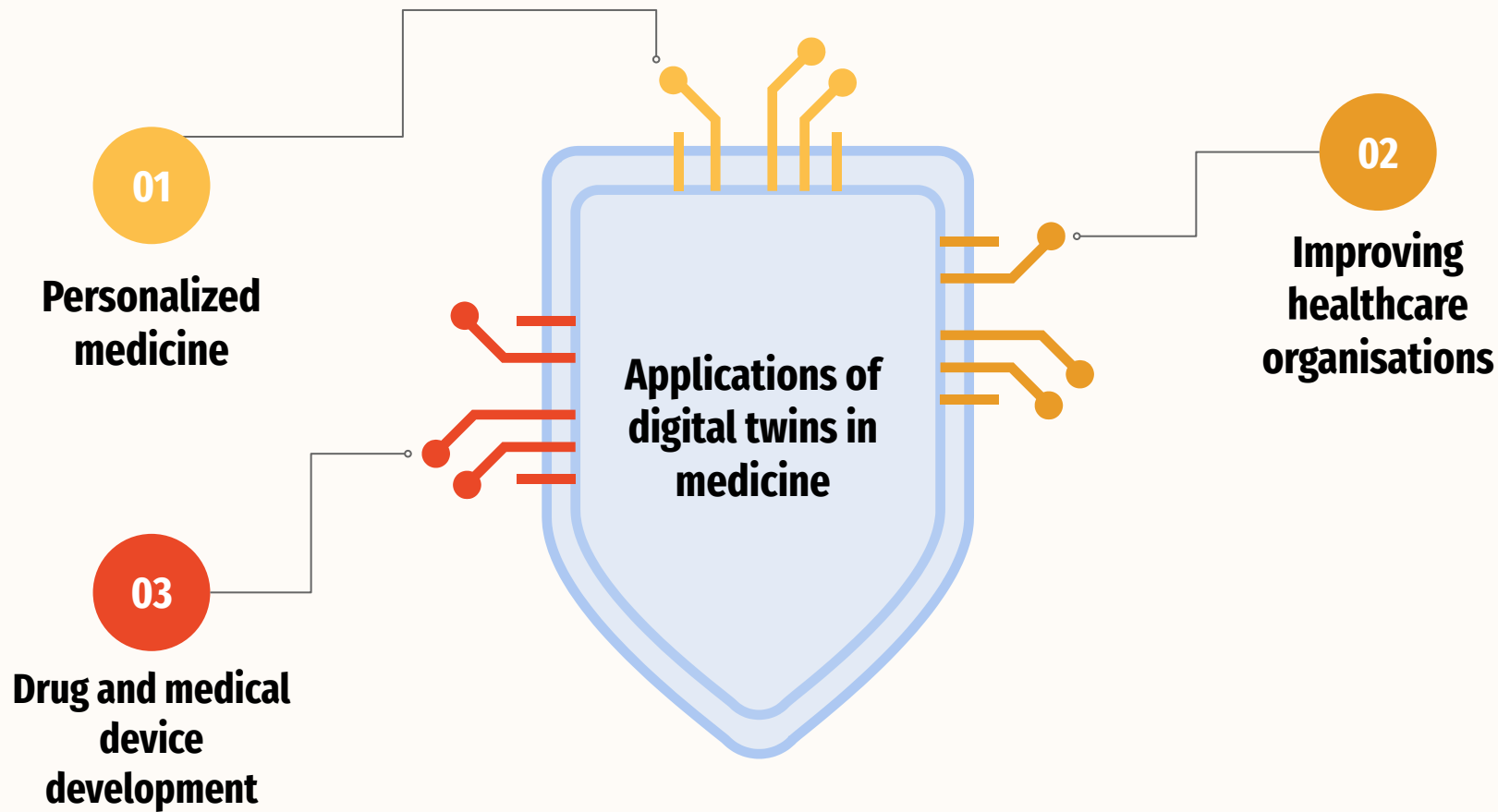
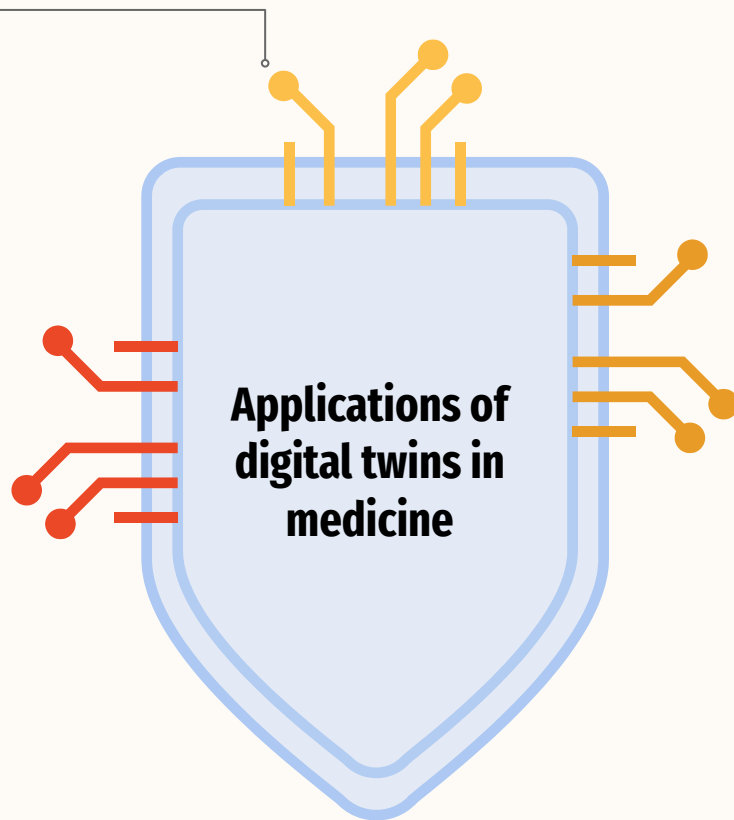


Figure 4. Envisioned clinical workflow using the fully developed digital twin concept. **Ref:** Corral-Acero, J., Margara, F., Marciniak, M., Rodero, C., Loncaric, F., Feng, Y., Gilbert, A., Fernandes, J. F., Bukhari, H. A., Wajdan, A., Martinez, M. V., Santos, M. S., Shamohammadi, M., Luo, H., Westphal, P., Leeson, P., DiAchille, P., Gurev, V., Mayr, M., Geris, L., ... Lamata, P. (2020)



01

Personalized medicine



WHY IS PERSONALIZED MEDICINE NECESSARY?

INEFFECTIVENESS

40 - 70% patients
**do not respond
well to treatment.**

BIOMARKERS

Most illnesses are
complex, which
means, **a lot of
biomarkers** should
exist. One a few
are analysed.

OMICS

The 'omics'
sciences are
extremely useful
tools which could
help choosing the
**most effective
drugs.**

WHAT ROLE DO VIRTUAL TWINS PLAY HERE?

1. Recreate a **virtual phenotype**.
2. **Test** tons of drugs.
3. **Benefits** both the patient and hospitals.



SDTC

1. Digital Twin Creation.

2. Test drugs.

3. Actual treatment.

INCONVENIENCES



WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO INTEGRATE
THE INFORMATION WE KNOW?

WHICH CELL TISSUES DO WE NEED TO
ANALYZE?

CAN WE EASILY GET TISSUE/CELL SAMPLES?

CAN WE MAKE IT IN TIME?

ARE THE MOLECULAR MECHANISMS
TRUTHFULLY AND DEEPLY KNOWN?

ARE THERE IN THE MARKET DRUG THAT
CAN TARGET ALL THE MECHANISMS
NECESSARY TO CURE?

CREATION OF DIGITAL TWINS (I)

- **Systems biology** tools are indispensable.
- **Network tools** like PPI are used in complex biological systems.
- Genes can be mapped over proteins, creating **modules**.

NODES

MULTI-LAYER MODULES

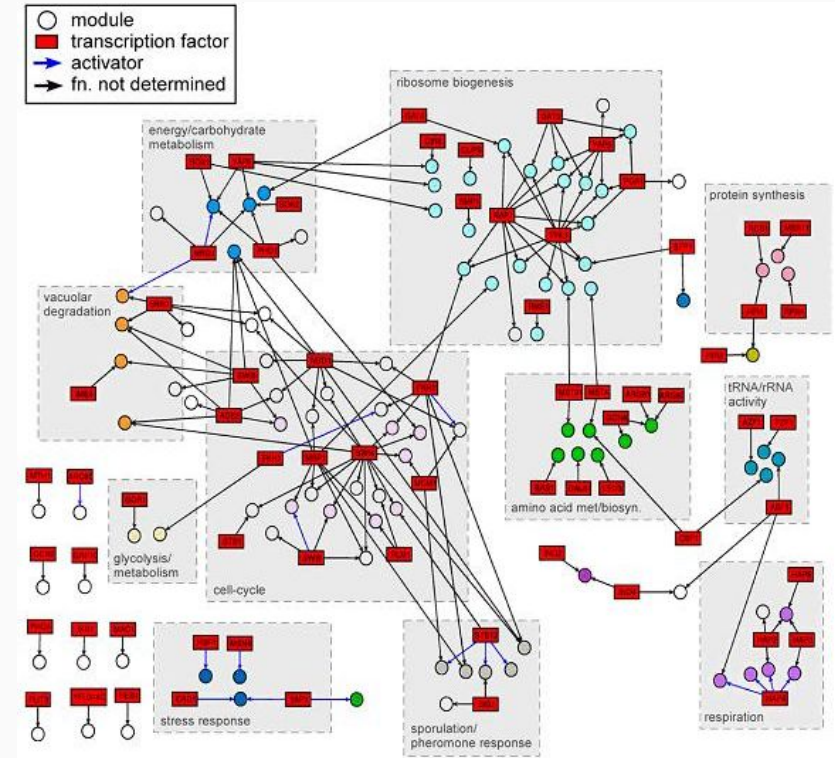


Figure 5. Example of a systems biology web. Ref: <http://sb.cs.cmu.edu/Research/> (2012)

CREATION OF DIGITAL TWINS (II)

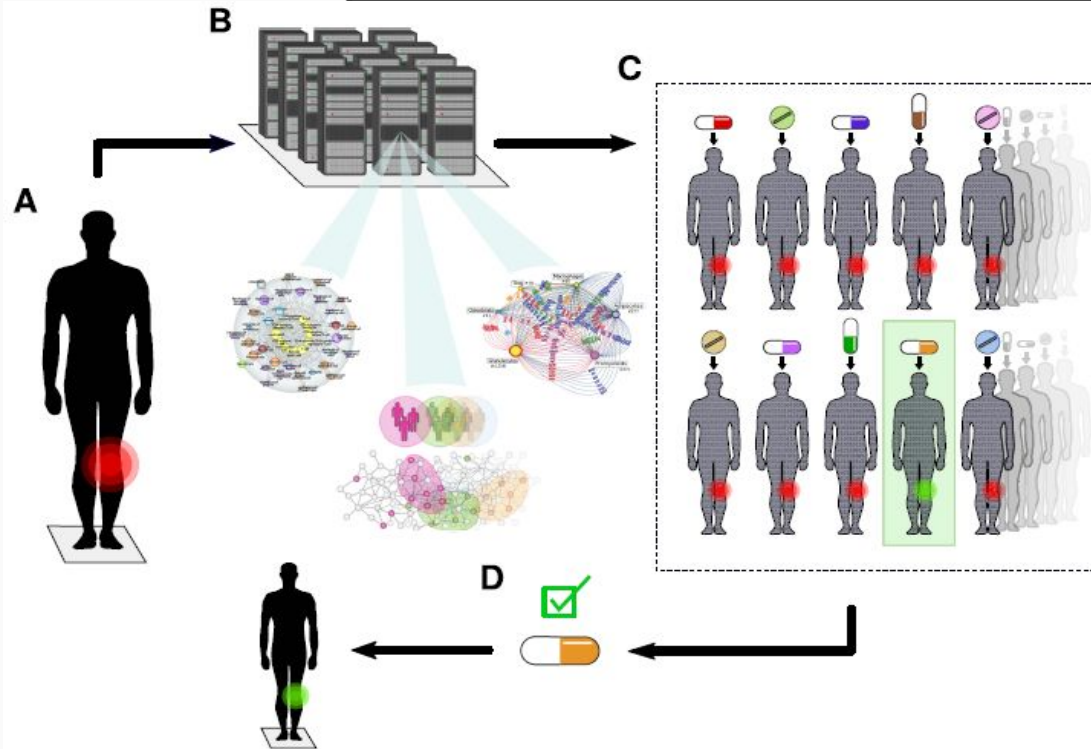


Figure 6. Scheme which would be used for digital twins personalized medicine. **Ref:** Björnsson, B., Borrebaeck, et al. (2019). BioMed Central Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13073-019-0701-3>

HOW TO EXPAND DIGITAL TWINS?

MORE FIELDS OF INFORMATION

- Rather than just molecular traits.
- **Environmental factors.**
- **Symptoms.**

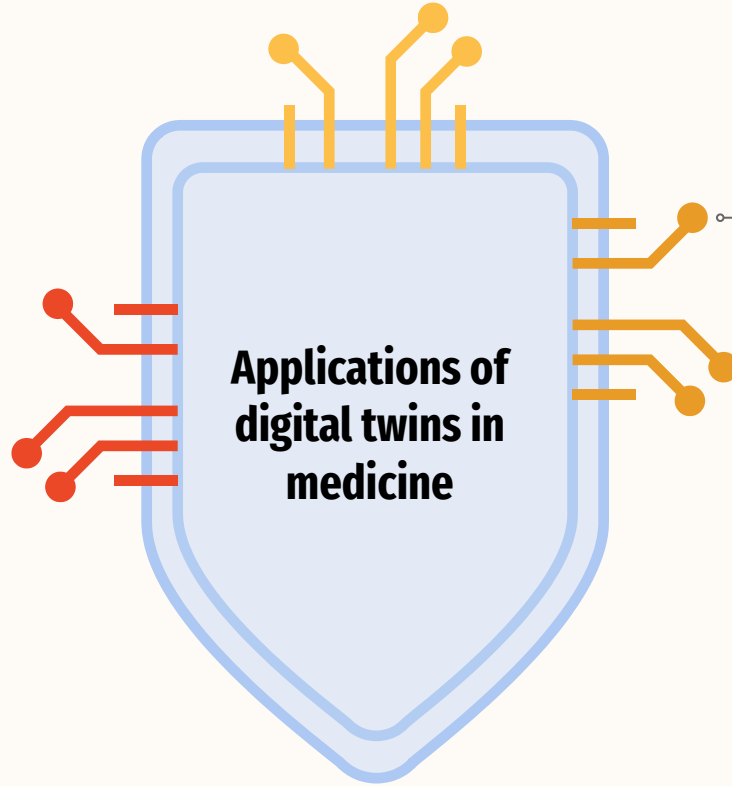
DIRECTING TREATMENTS TO OTHER TARGETS

- Sometimes the causal tissues are **not associated with symptoms.**
- Many illnesses like cancer do not show symptoms until **advanced development.**

DYNAMISM OF NETWORKS

- **Machine learning.**
- **Deep learning.**
- **Artificial intelligence.**

DIGITAL TWIN OPTIMIZATION



02

**Improving
healthcare
organisations**

HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS

CLINICIANS

Increased accuracy

Rejecting/Validating treatment

COVID-19 situation

Reducing infection risk

PATIENTS

Higher involvement

Rejecting/Validating treatment

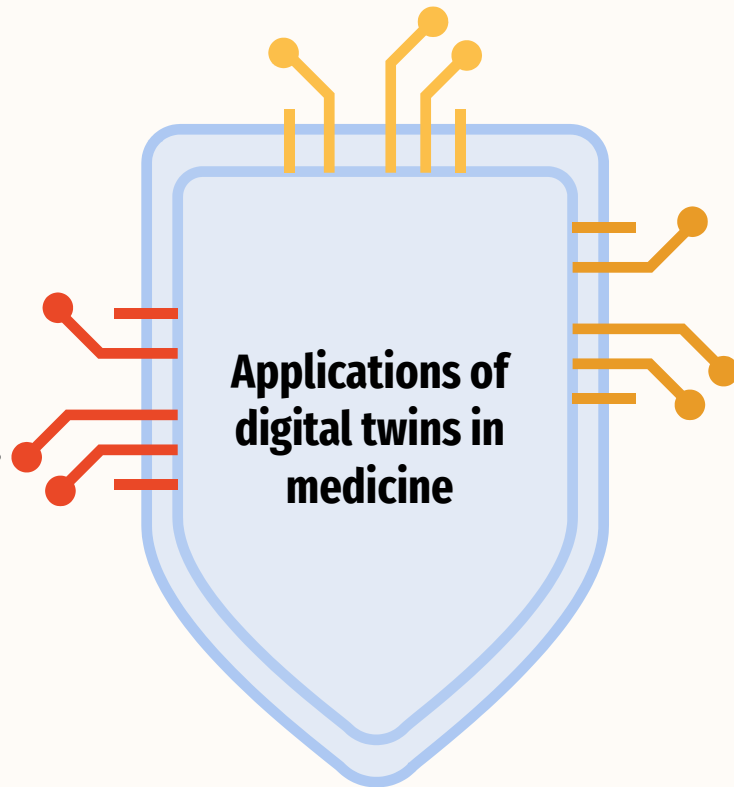
Better feedback

Intuitive app interface

Clear data visualization, simple language

03

**Drug and medical
device
development**



MEDICAL DEVICES DESIGN AND OPTIMIZATION

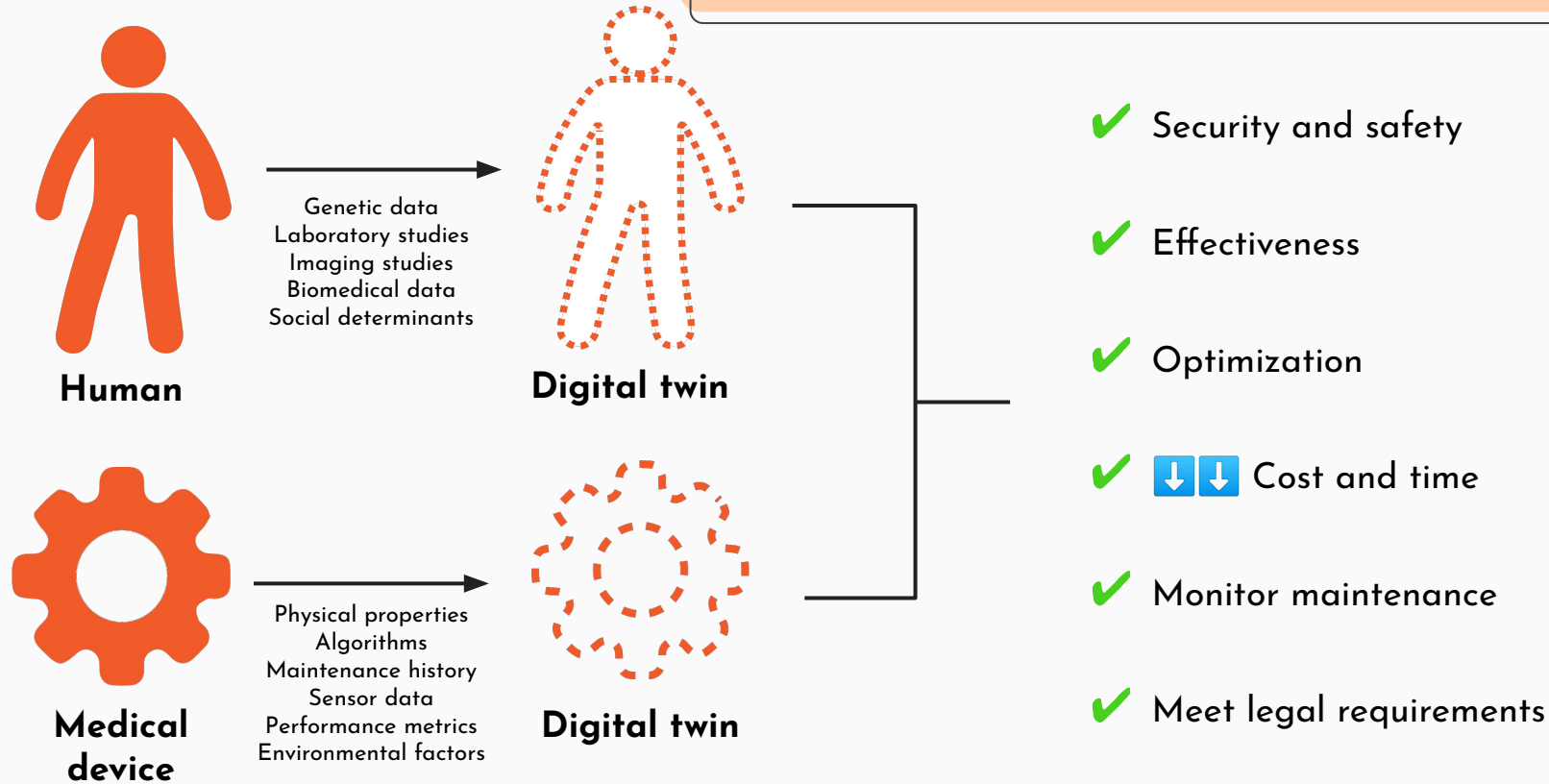


Figure 7. Digital twins in medical devices design and optimization. **Ref:** Adapted from (Kesari 2021)

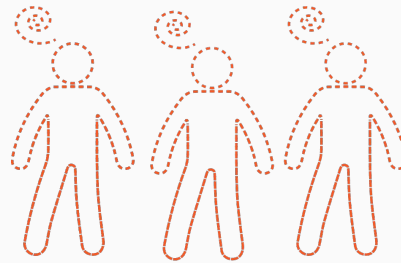
DRUG DESIGN AND OPTIMIZATION

Drug design is extremely **research-intensive, long** and **expensive**.



- ✖ 50,000 chemical compounds are tested
- ✖ Only 1 in 12 drugs arrive successfully to the market
- ✖ Drug failures due to toxicity and efficiency

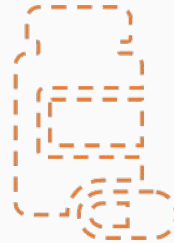
DRUG DESIGN AND OPTIMIZATION



Digital twin



Novel drug

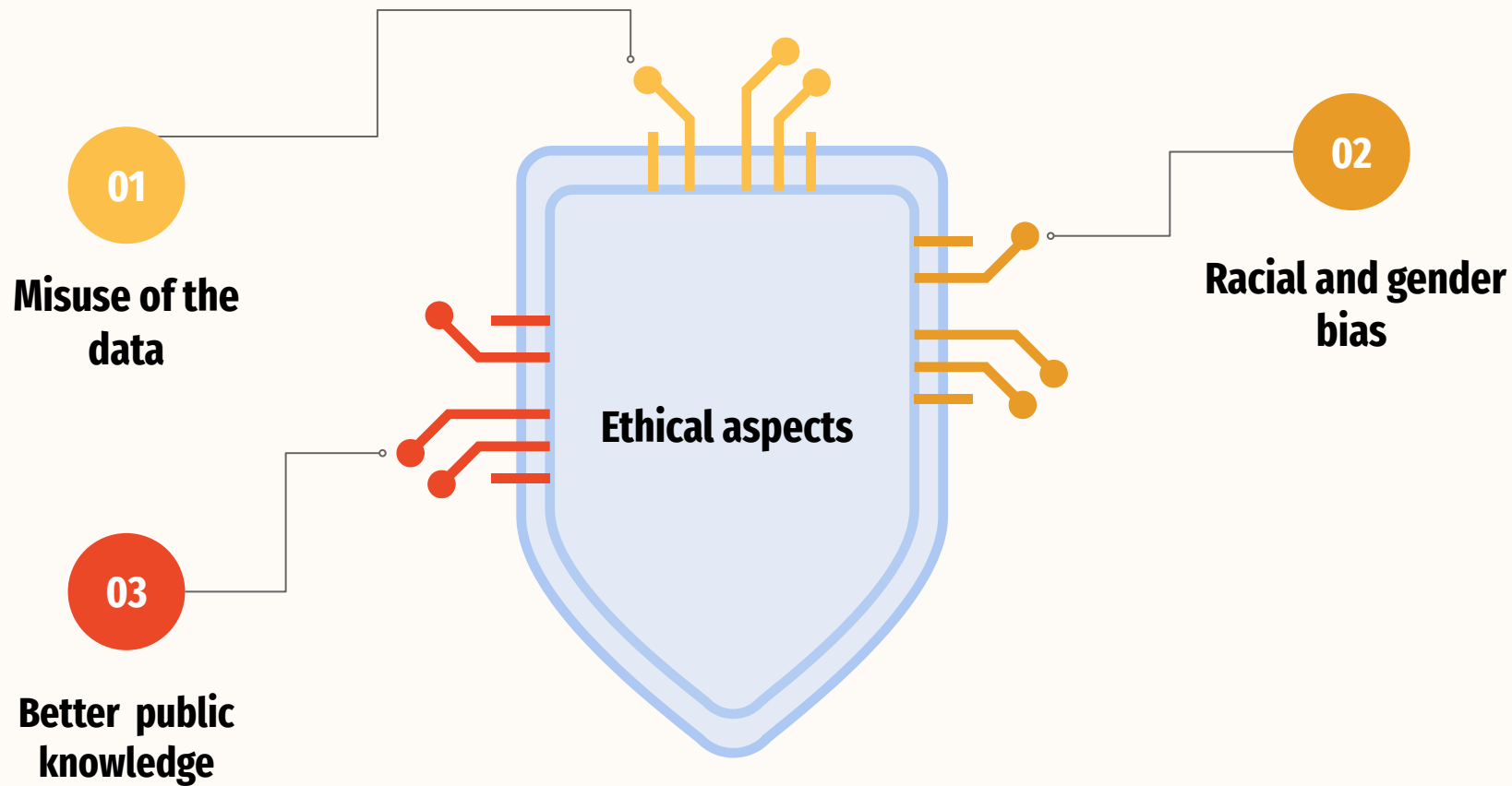


Digital twin

- ✓ Predict the best novel candidate
- ✓ Effectiveness
- ✓ Optimization
- ✓ ↓ ↓ Cost and time
- ✓ Optimal dosage
- ✓ Indications
- ✓ Convenience

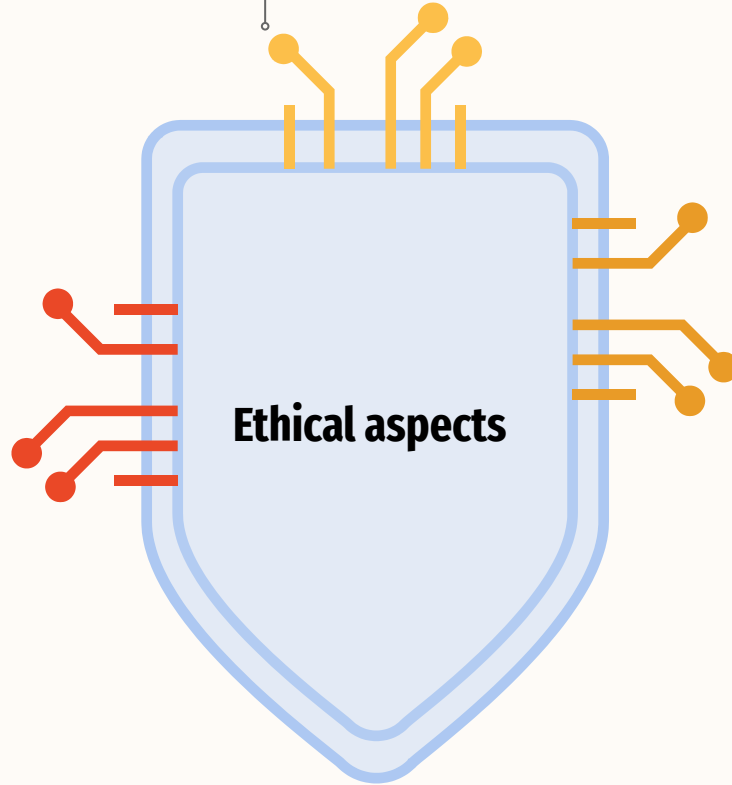
CLINICAL TRIALS

✗ Not an accurate representation of the real world	✓ Coverage
✗ Problems recruiting the patients on time	✓ Speed
✗ Not every patient is treated by a trial's new drug (placebo)	✓ Predictability
✗ Safety issues	✓ Safety

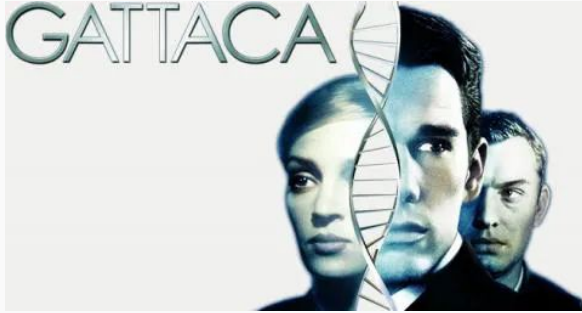


01

Misuse of the data



MISUSE OF THE DATA



 Don'ts

- Possibility of abuse by external entities
- Using data against the patients' best interests
- Twisting the intended use of a digital twin
- Root of most of the ethical conflicts



Denying job offers



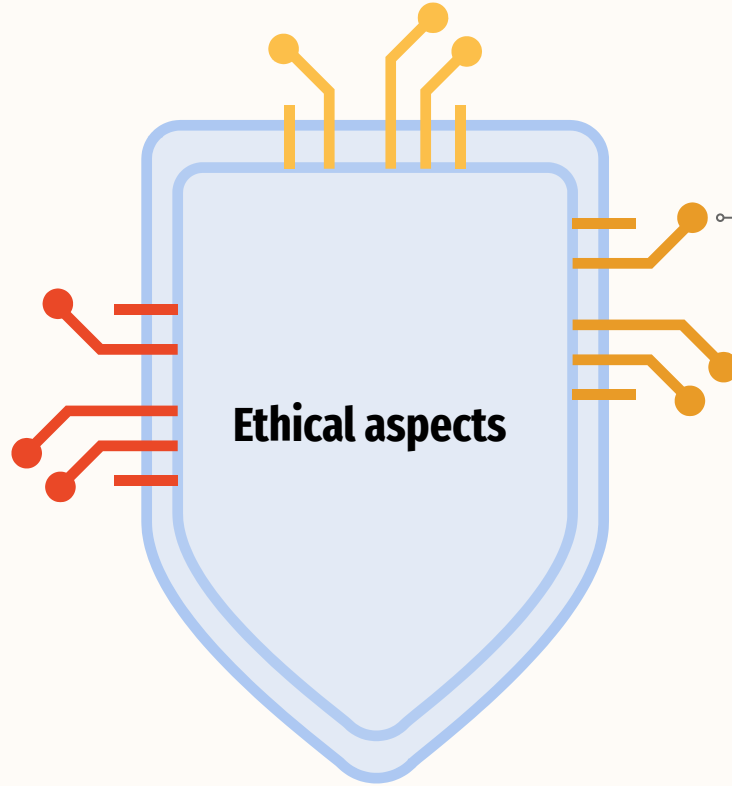
Raising insurance prices

MISUSE OF THE DATA

✓ Do's

- Ownership of the data
- Explicit informed consent
- Anonymity of public data
- Strong legal support





02

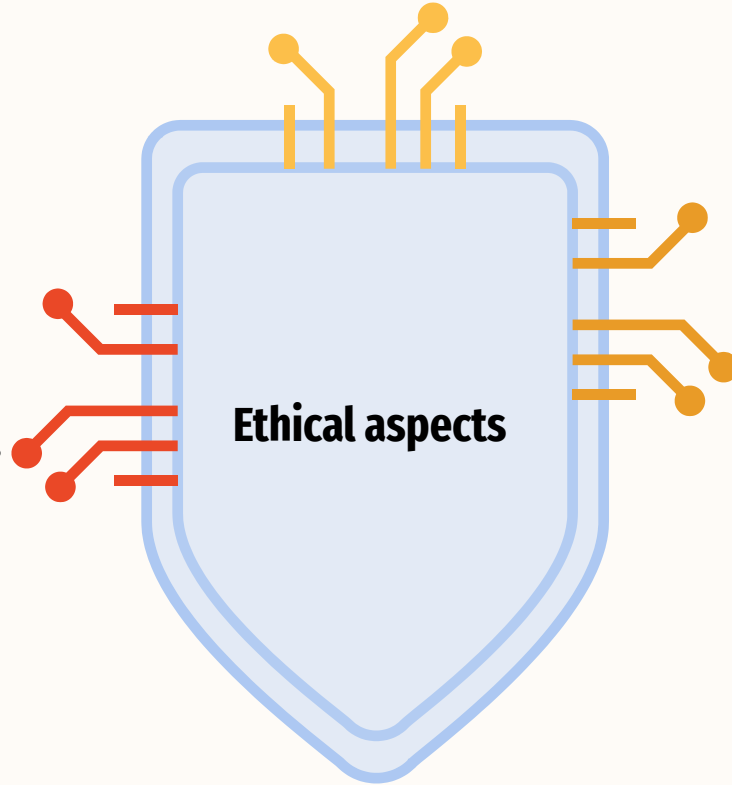
**Racial and gender
bias**

RACIAL AND GENDER BIAS

- Perpetuating and intensifying historical bias
- Originated by biased datasets
- Identifying the origin of the bias

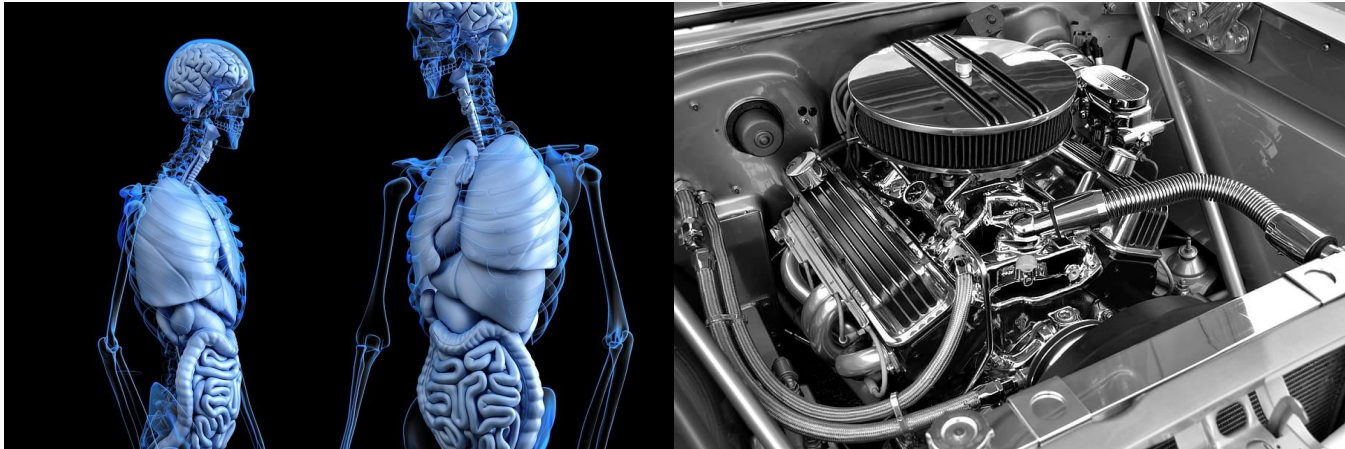
03

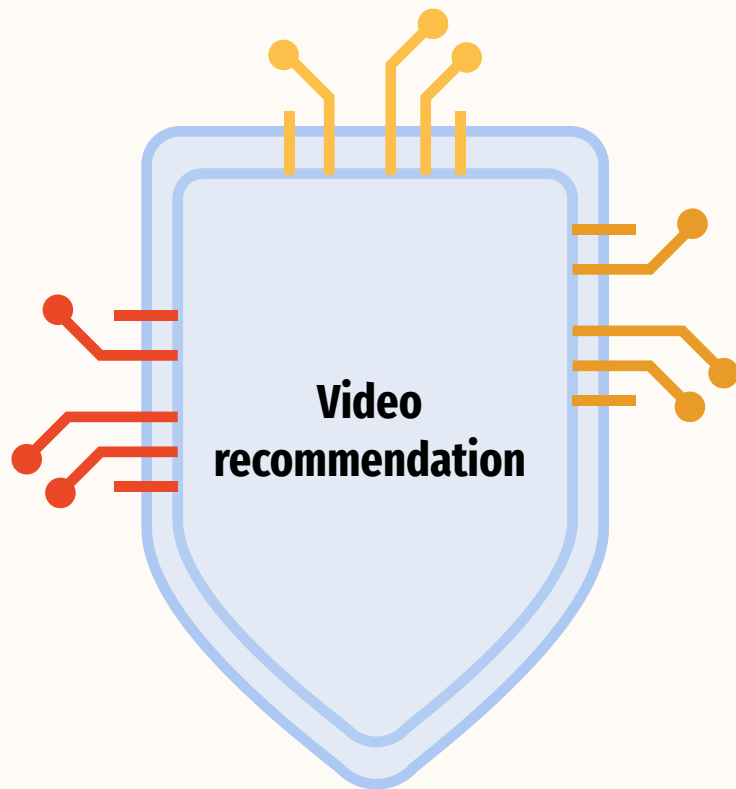
**Better public
knowledge**



BETTER PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

- Allowing patients to weight costs and benefits
- Potentially avoid paternalism







Developing a digital twin of the heart



Digital twin for smart pharma

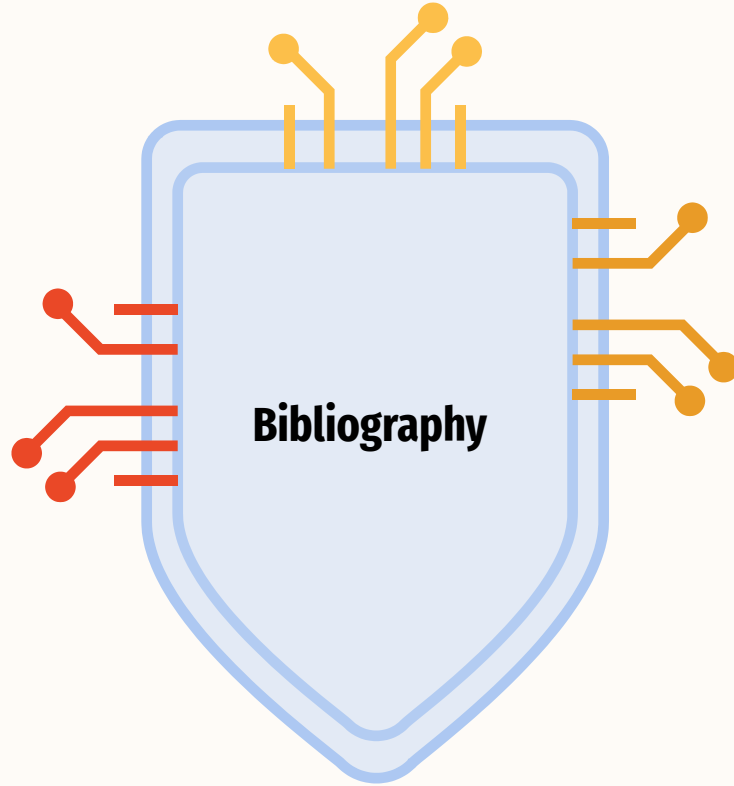
Hope you
enjoy them !



Will your digital twin make you healthier?



Mitigating Racial Disparities with Data Science



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THANKS

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

