



Quantum physics and AI to discover drugs

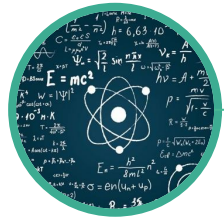
# AI foundations : ML at Aqemia

January 17th 2021

# Aqemia at a glance

## AQEMIA

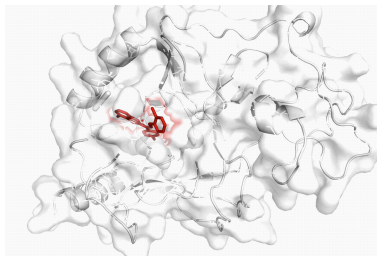
Digital platform to invent new molecules



Quantum  
inspired Physics



Artificial  
intelligence



Applied to  
drug discovery



10+ years  
academic  
research



Product up &  
running



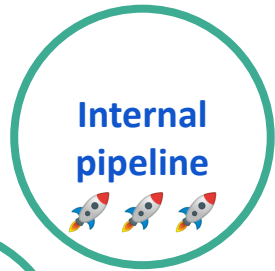
Team of  
25



Collab with  
top pharma



\$12M  
funding



Internal  
pipeline



24 months

# AGENDA

- Introduction to drug discovery
- Challenges in ML models design
- Everyday-use of ML models

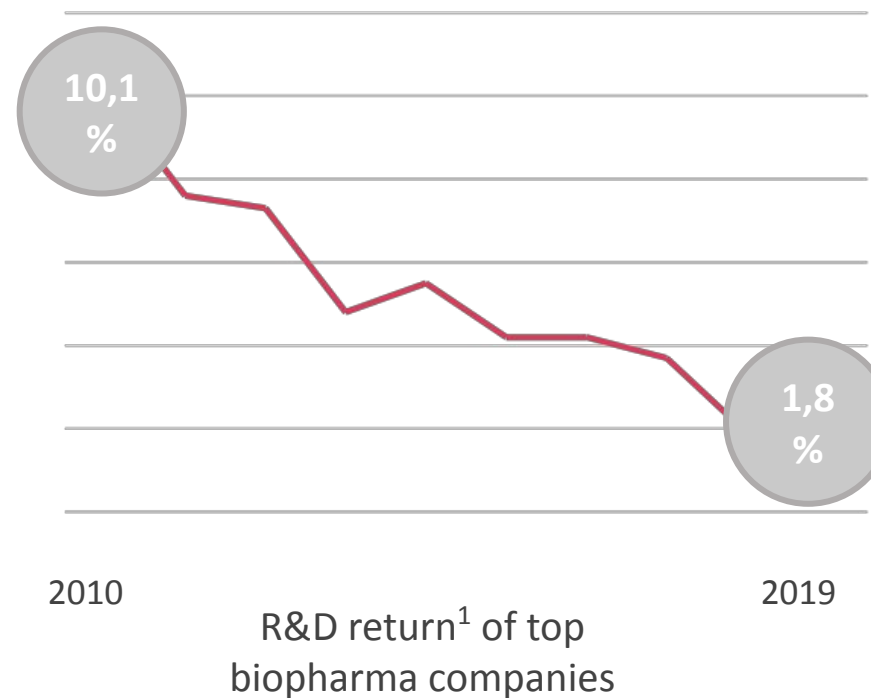
# Drug discovery is a **Large** market experiencing **strong pain points**, with **disruptions** happening now

Massive R&D market  
with large budgets



Annual pharmaceutical  
R&D expenses

More and more difficult  
to find new drugs



Computational methods  
are on the rise



1. Projected returns from late stage pipeline assets divided by total spend incurred bringing those assets to launch, for the 12 largest biopharma companies by 2009 R&D spend

Sources: Deloitte "Measuring the return from pharmaceutical innovation 2019" ; EvaluatePharma June 2020 ; Deep Pharma Intelligence "AI for drug discovery, biomarker development and advanced R&D landscape - Overview 2020"

# Drug discovery is a **high stake bet** on the **right target** and **right molecule**

10-15 years

1.5B\$  
to put a  
drug on  
market

Target  
identification

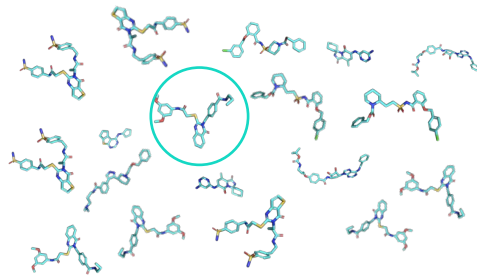
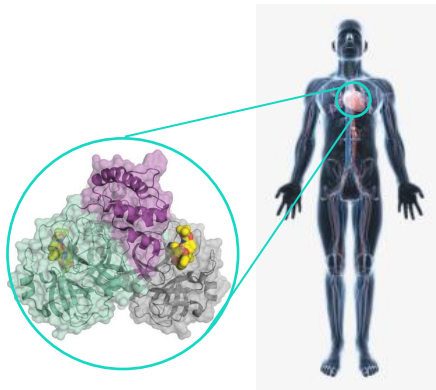
Candidate  
invention

Pre-clinical  
trials

Phase I  
trials

Phase II  
trials

Phase III  
trials

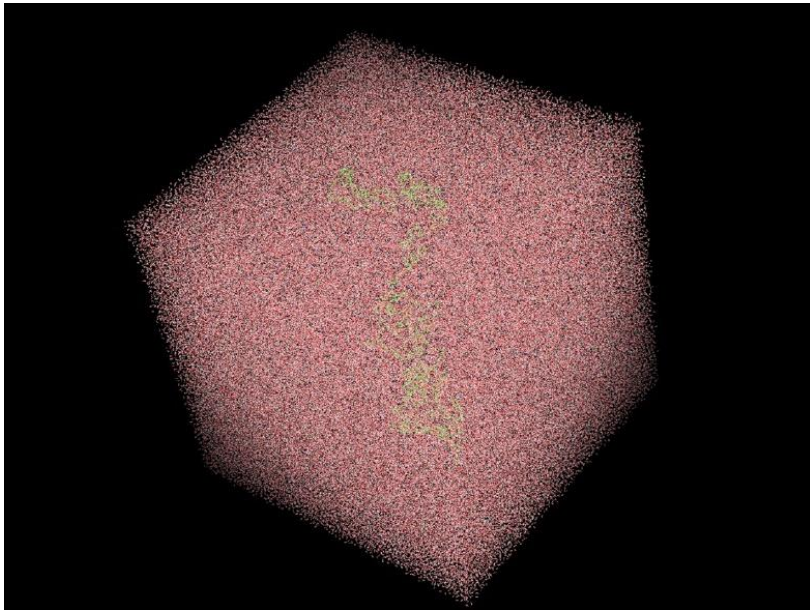


Research: Find the right target  
and the right molecule

# Aqemia unique technology: Our secret sauce to compute affinity 10 000x faster

(hint: it is not about 10 000x more computers in parallel)

The **historical statistical mechanics** accurate prediction of affinity computes **averages of all interactions** between protein, small molecule and **100 000's of water molecules**

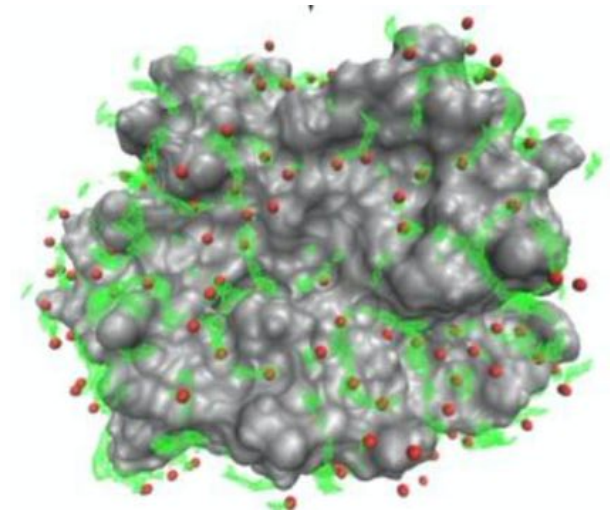


Vs.

We use **novel quantum-inspired theory** to compute very fast **the water probability density distribution** around the protein and the small molecule



Mamilien Levesque  
Cofounder & CEO

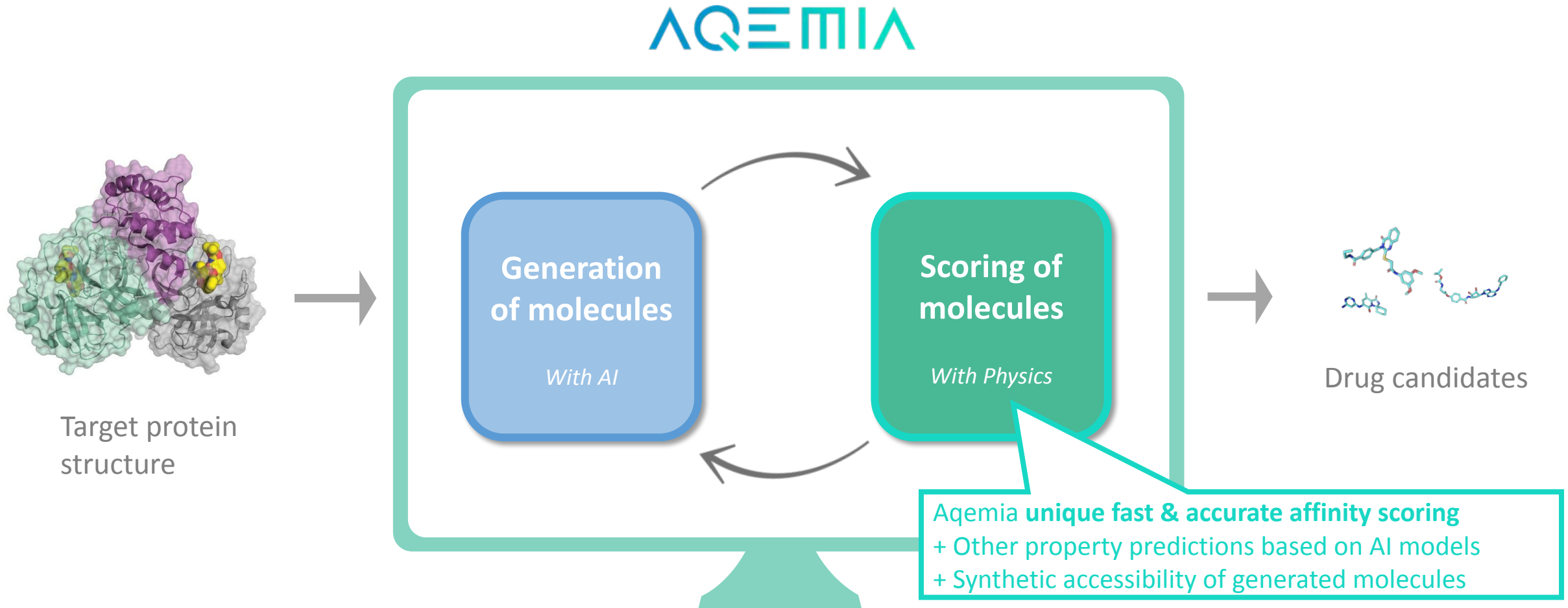


$$\hat{\gamma}_{\mu;\chi}^m(\mathbf{q}) = \sum_{n\nu} (-1)^{\chi+\nu} \hat{c}_{\mu\nu;\chi}^{mn}(q) \Delta \hat{\rho}_{\nu;\chi}^n(\mathbf{q})$$

- **10+ years** of research and **40+** publications
- Published theory selected as 2017 **Editor's choice by American Institute of Physics**
- Aqemia has an **exclusive licence** on technology from Paris Sciences Lettres



# Our unique fast & accurate affinity prediction unlocks de novo drug design



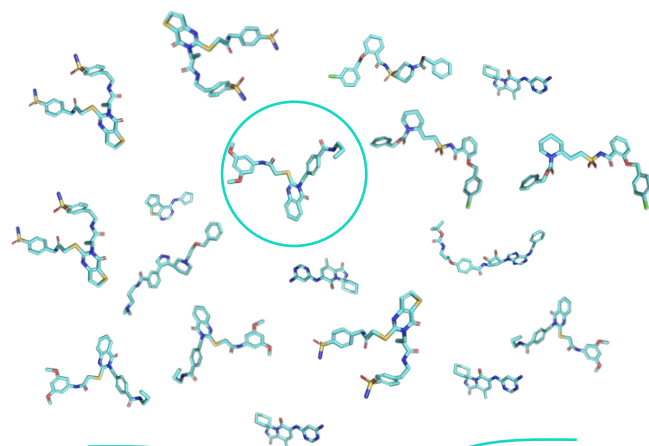
# Pharmas **struggle** to find the right molecules that will have a **high affinity** with the target



There are too many possible molecules:  
Pharmas need to select a few only to test them...



... but current selection methods do not  
allow to make the right choices



$10^{60}$

*potential molecules*

$10^3$

*Molecules that can be  
synthesized & tested in vitro  
in a project*



Choices from Chemists  
are biased and limited by  
individuals experience



Choices from computational  
approaches are not  
satisfactory either

□ see next slide



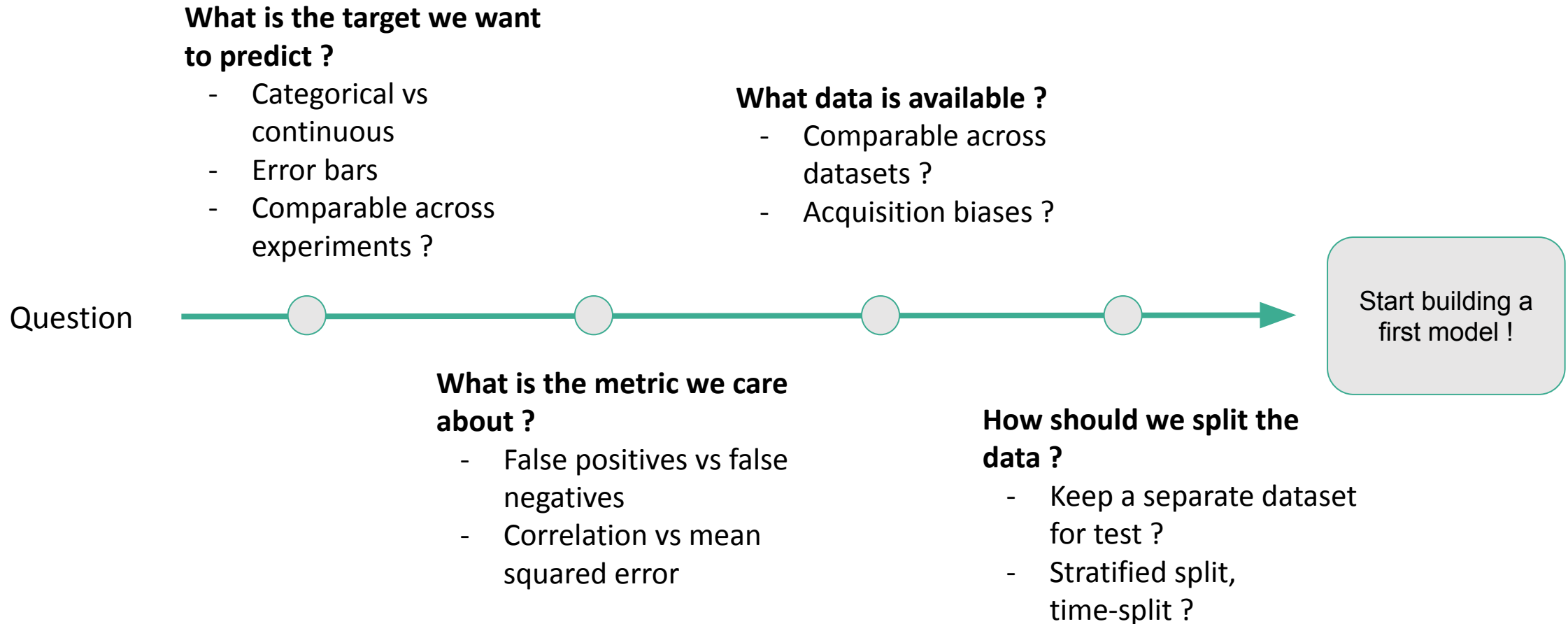


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# Designing ML models from a usecase

Preliminary questions can impact a lot the success of a ML project :



# Designing interpretable models

Interpretability methods **attribute** the prediction to the features of the input

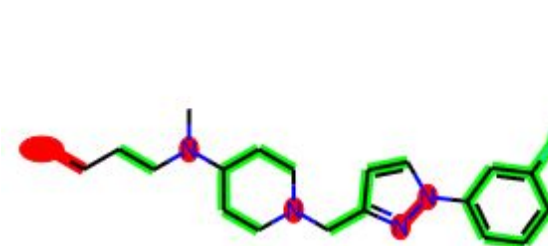
-> *Integrated Gradients (Sundararajan 2017)*

Model debugging :

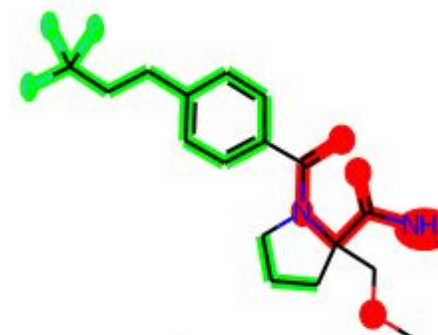
- Can we explain the error on a validation set by looking at model attributions ?

Focused optimization :

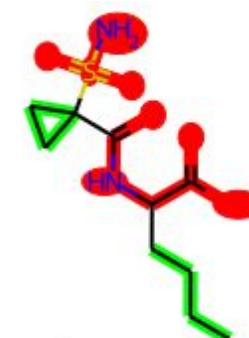
- Can chemists propose modifications of the substructures that get negative attributions ?



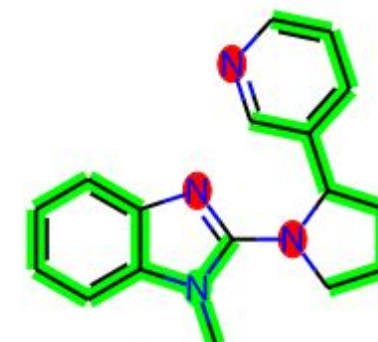
y\_pred = 2.29, y = 2.29



y\_pred = 2.33, y = 2.29




y\_pred = -0.35, y = -0.43



y\_pred = 3.19, y = 3.31

# Dealing with data constraints

Biological data often falls in two settings :

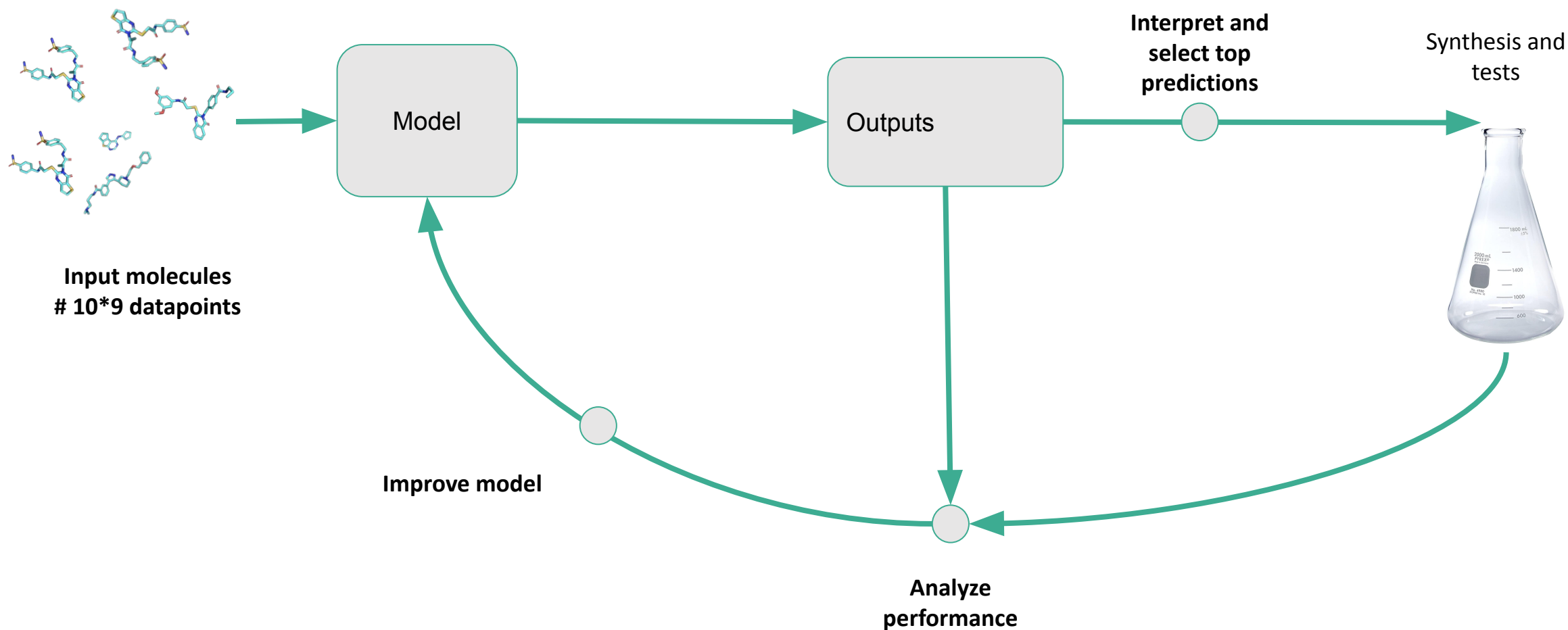
- 
- 1) Abundant data, mostly unlabeled and noisy →
    - data processing pipelines affect model performance
    - self-supervised learning
  - 2) Scarce, labeled data obtained from costly experiments
    - Focus on model ability to generalize to new datasets
    - Iteratively re-train models on new datapoints

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# Designing a ML model is only the beginning ...

- Models are integrated in an experiment loop to design better and better molecules.
- Automation is key to cut the loop time.



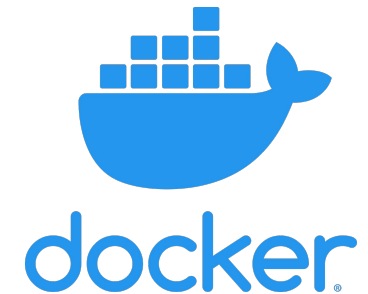


## Sharing models between researchers and across teams

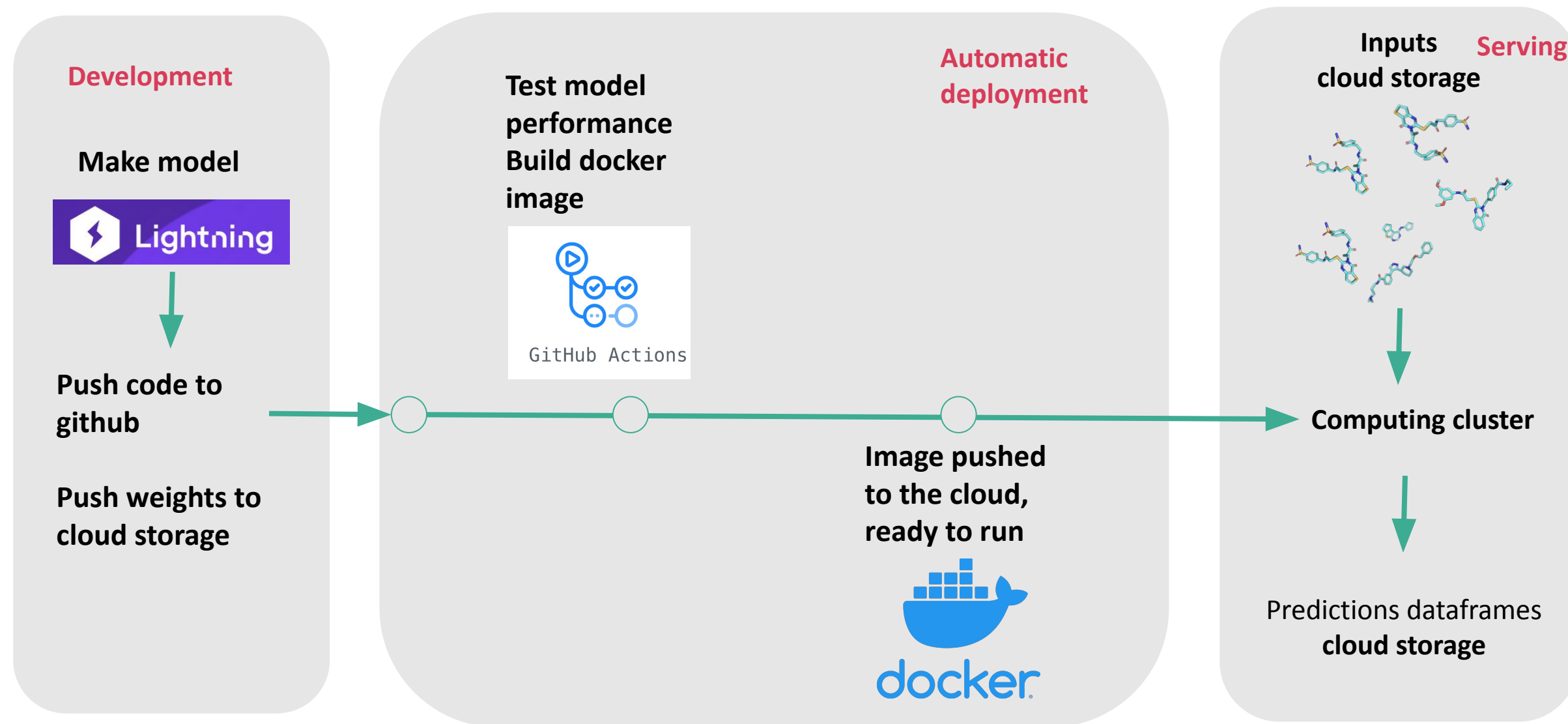
- Pytorch Lightning **organizes pytorch code** so that models are interchangeable and easy to maintain

```
class LitModel(LightningModule):  
    def training_step(self, batch, batch_idx):  
        x, y = batch  
        y_hat = self(x)  
        loss = F.cross_entropy(y_hat, y)  
        return loss
```

- Docker embarks all dependencies and softwares needed for your model into a **docker image** that can run on any machine



# From model design to predictions on billions of molecules :



Recommended reading to build “ML-ops” pipelines : <https://github.com/graviraja/MLOps-Basics>

If you want to revolutionize drug discovery

- Developing cutting-edge algorithms
- Based on DL, chemistry & physics
- With an amazing & friendly multidisciplinary team



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