

# Data Driven Precision Oncology

Prof Aedin Culhane,  
Limerick Digital Cancer Research Centre



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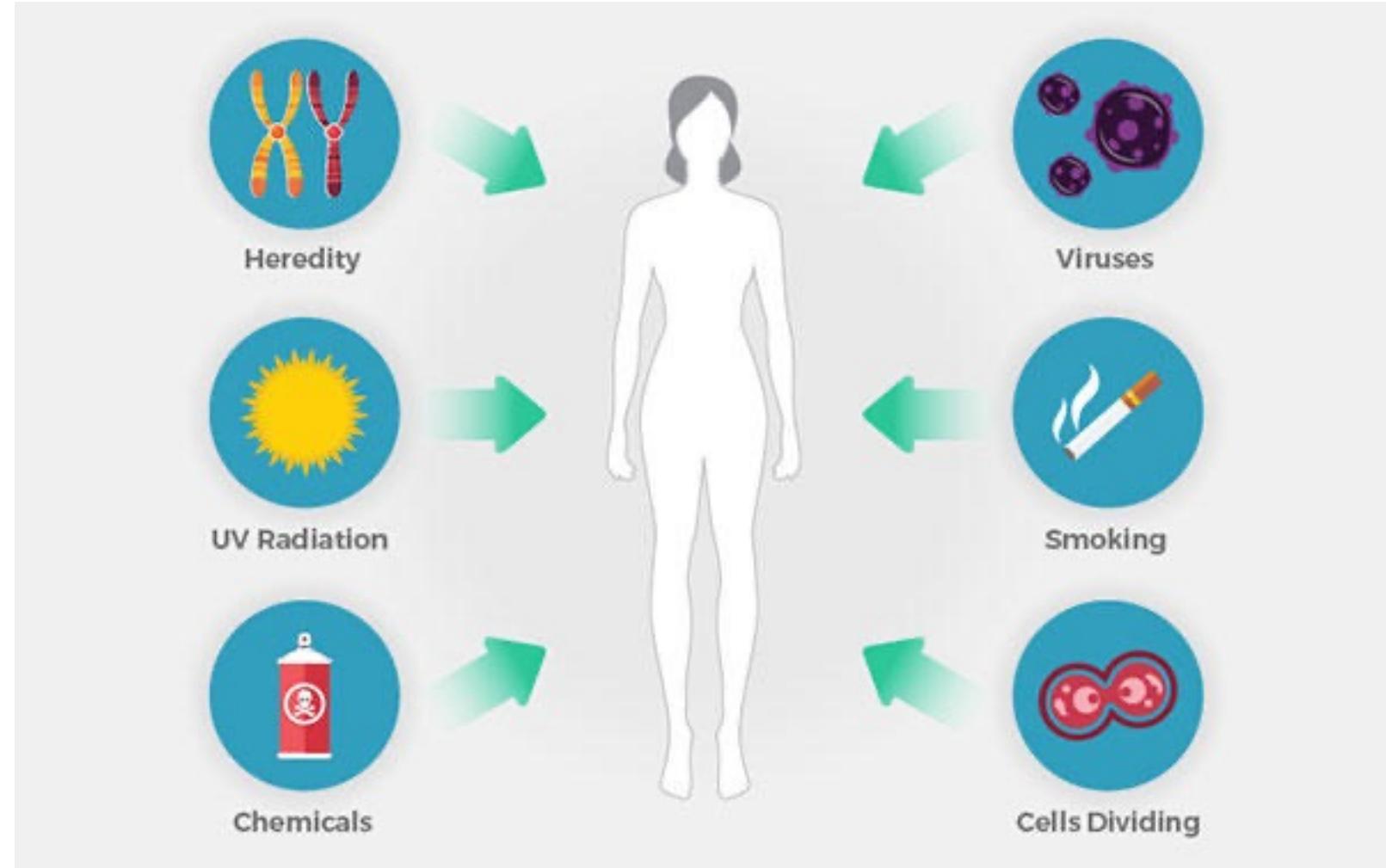


# Overview of talk

- Briefly introduce computational oncology and our lab
- eHealth -Hub for Cancer
- Recent work
  - CAR T-Cell in renal cancer. Wang et al., Mol Ther Oncolytics 2021
  - Sensitivity to NK cell killing. Scheffer et al., Nat Genet. 2021
  - GVHD and tissue resident cells (unpublished)

# Understanding cancer integrates data

- Genetic changes
  - cause or increase the
  - risk of cancer
- 
- 1 in 2 people affected



# Complexity of cancer : molecular basis of multicellular disease

- Human disease occurs within a complex milieu of cells
- Multiple body systems are involved in disease response;  
immune, lymph, nervous, endocrine
- Disease response involves local and systemic signalling and local tissue effects
- Harnessing the immune system

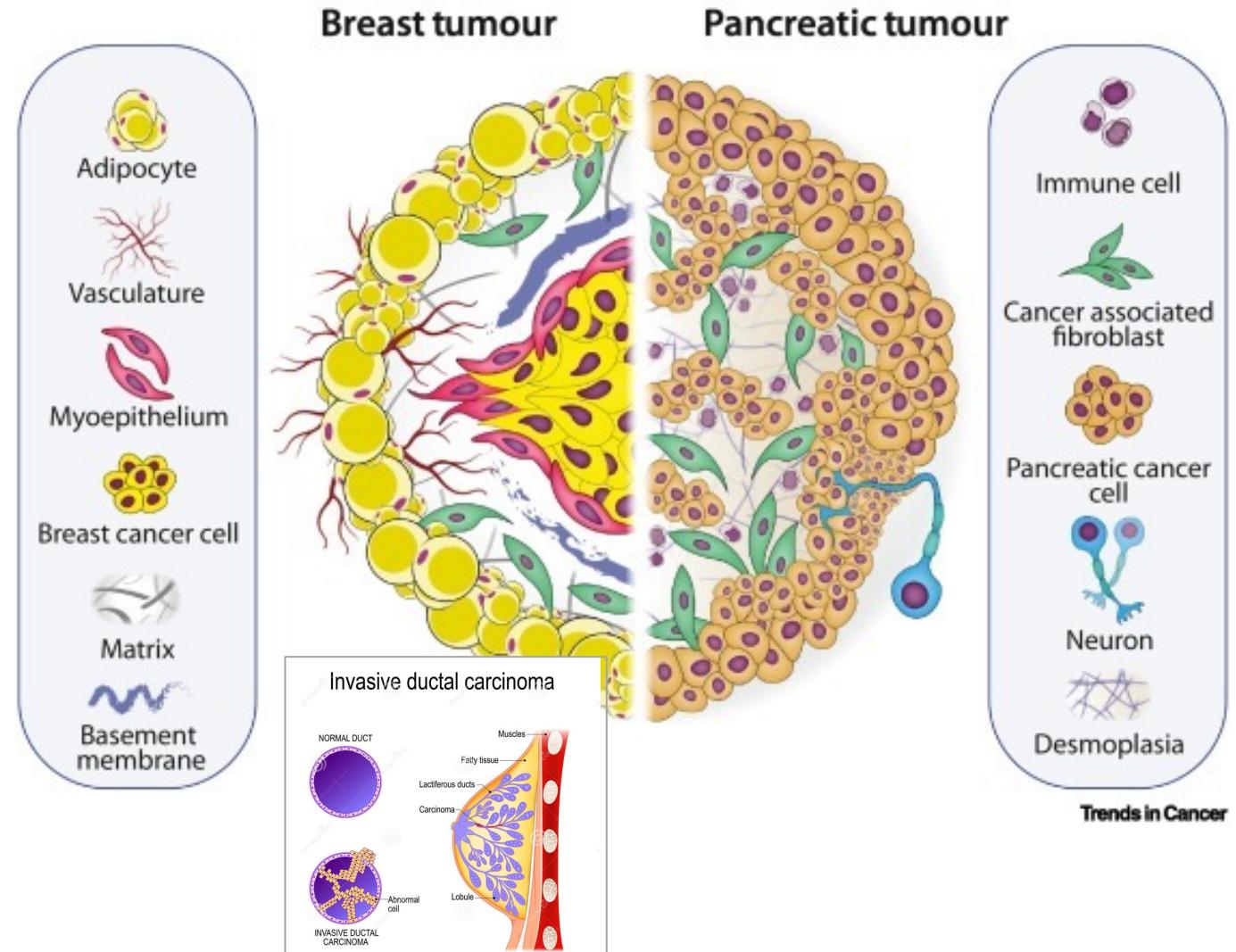
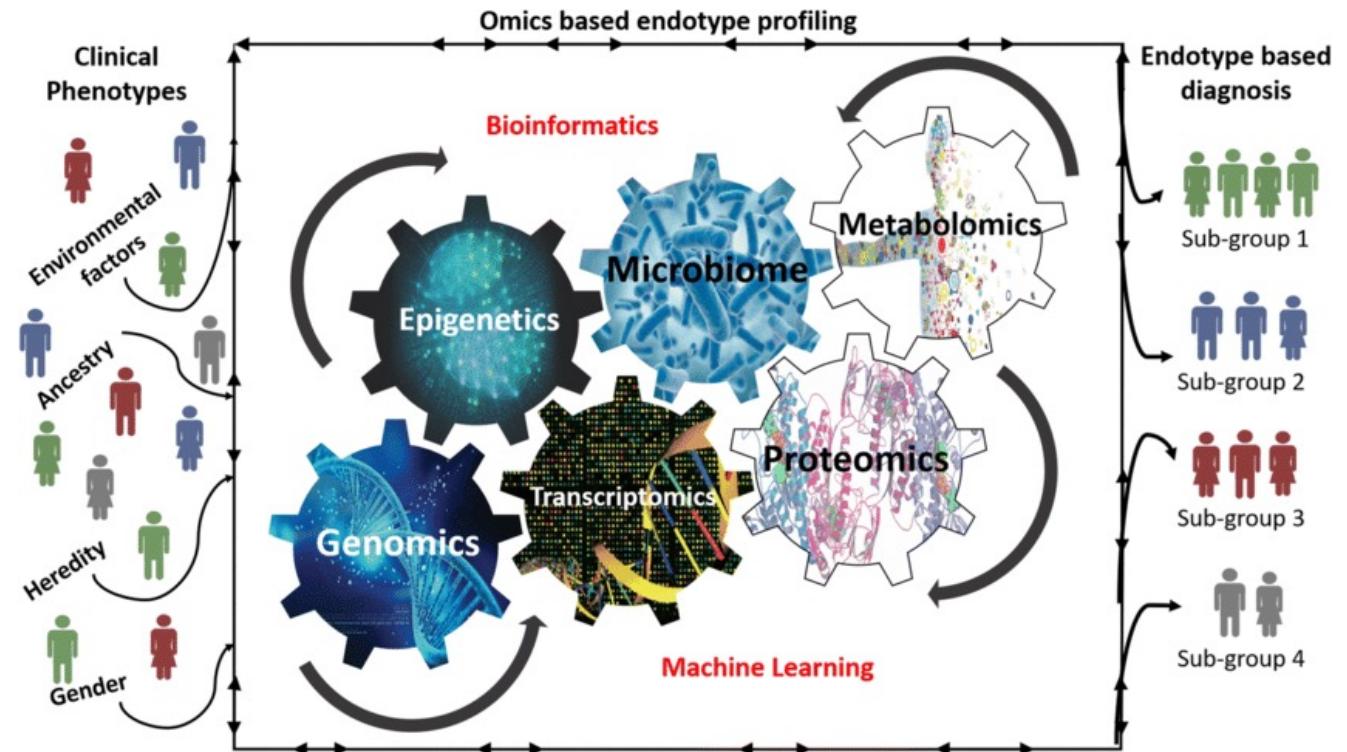


Figure from Carter et al., 2021, Trends in Cancer 7:11

# Computational Oncology

- Transcriptomics
- Germline and somatic DNA changes
- Epigenetics
- Microbiome
- Metabolomics
- Integration with EHR
- Longitudinal, case/control, preclinical or phase I trial
- Multi' omics integration





UNIVERSITY OF  
**LIMERICK**  
OLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

## Limerick Digital Cancer Research Centre

Drawing on the collective expertise and resources of partners who have seen recent research investments totalling more than €300 million to develop digital personalised medicine to transform Cancer Care.



 **SFI Centre for Research Training  
in Foundations of Data Science**

 **LERO** Software for  
a better world

 **HRI**  
health research institute

 **SSPC**  
SYNTHESIS AND SOLID STATE PHARMACEUTICAL CENTRE  
Innovation Through Collaboration

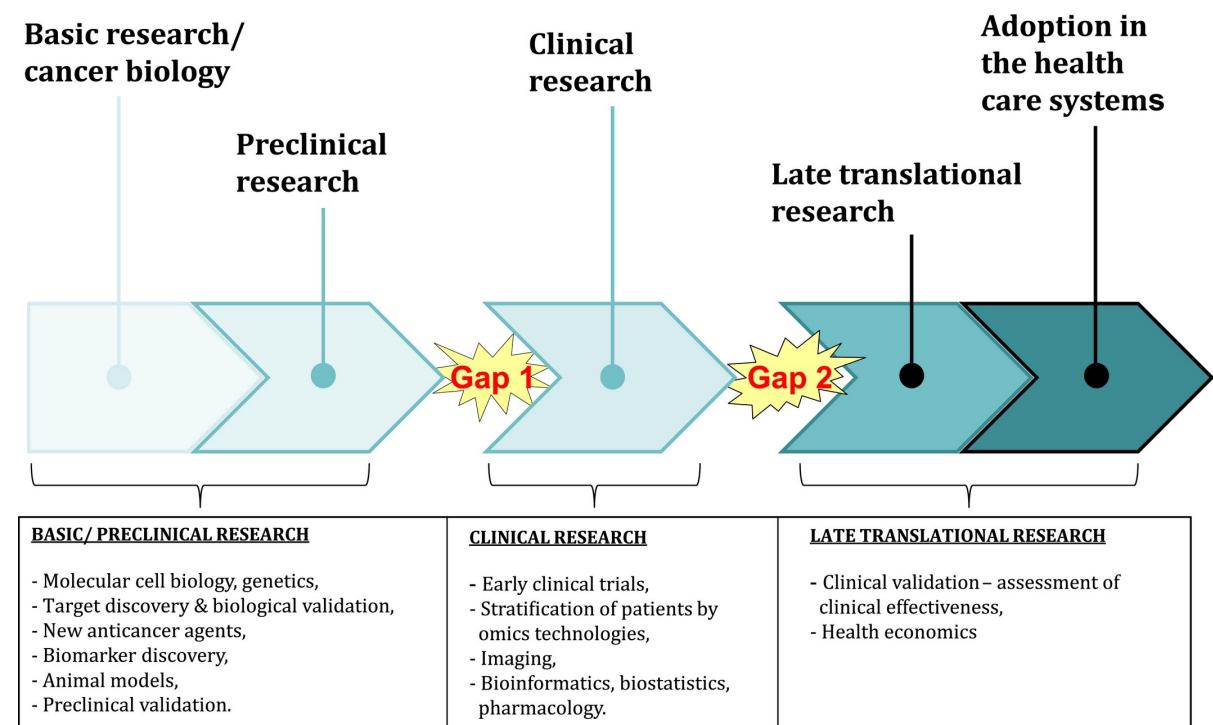
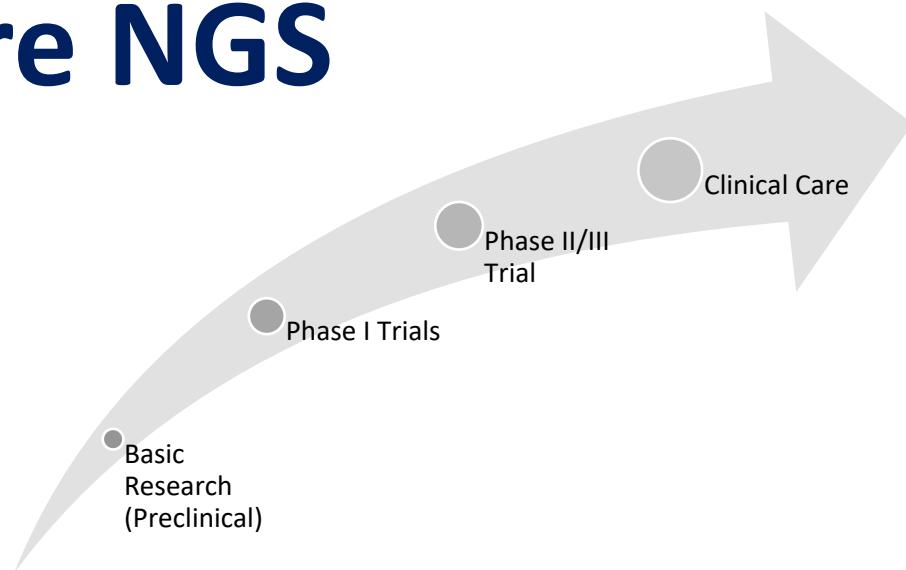
 **Bernal  
Institute**

 **Confirm**  
Smart Manufacturing



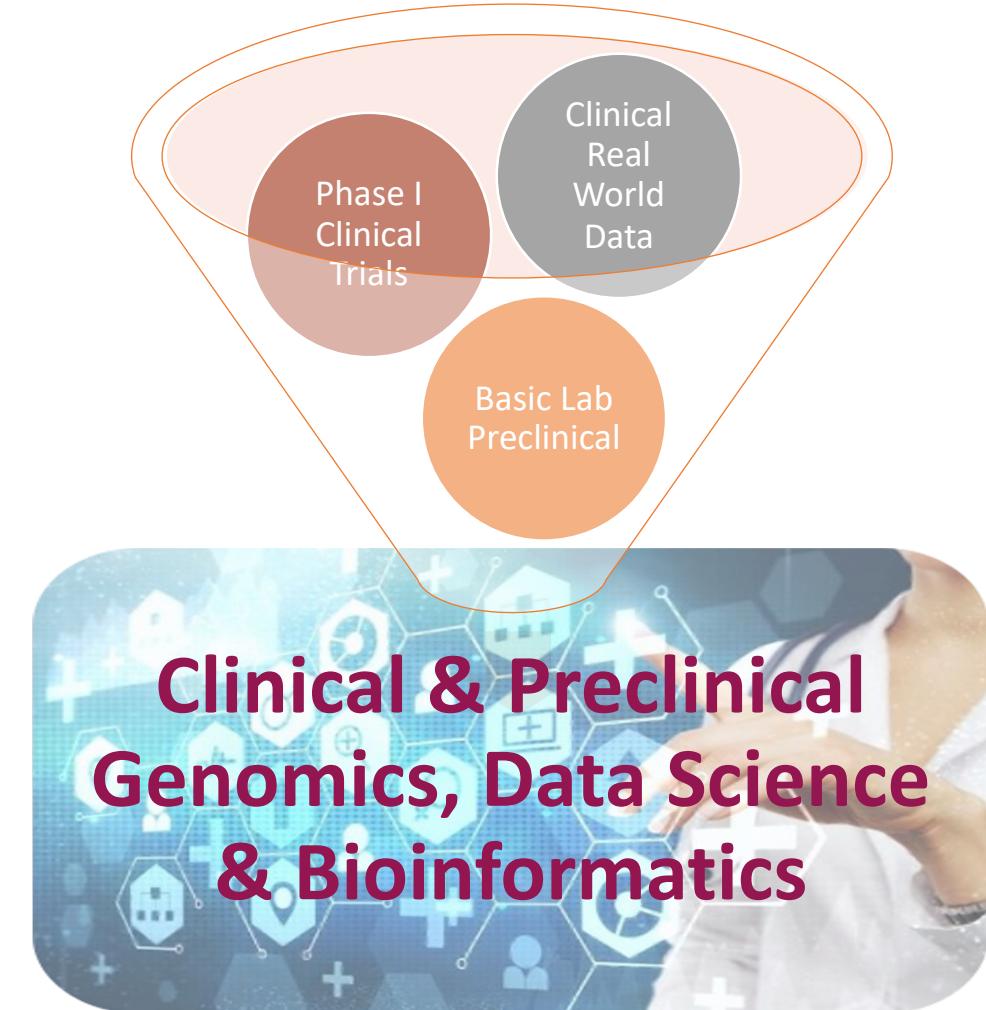
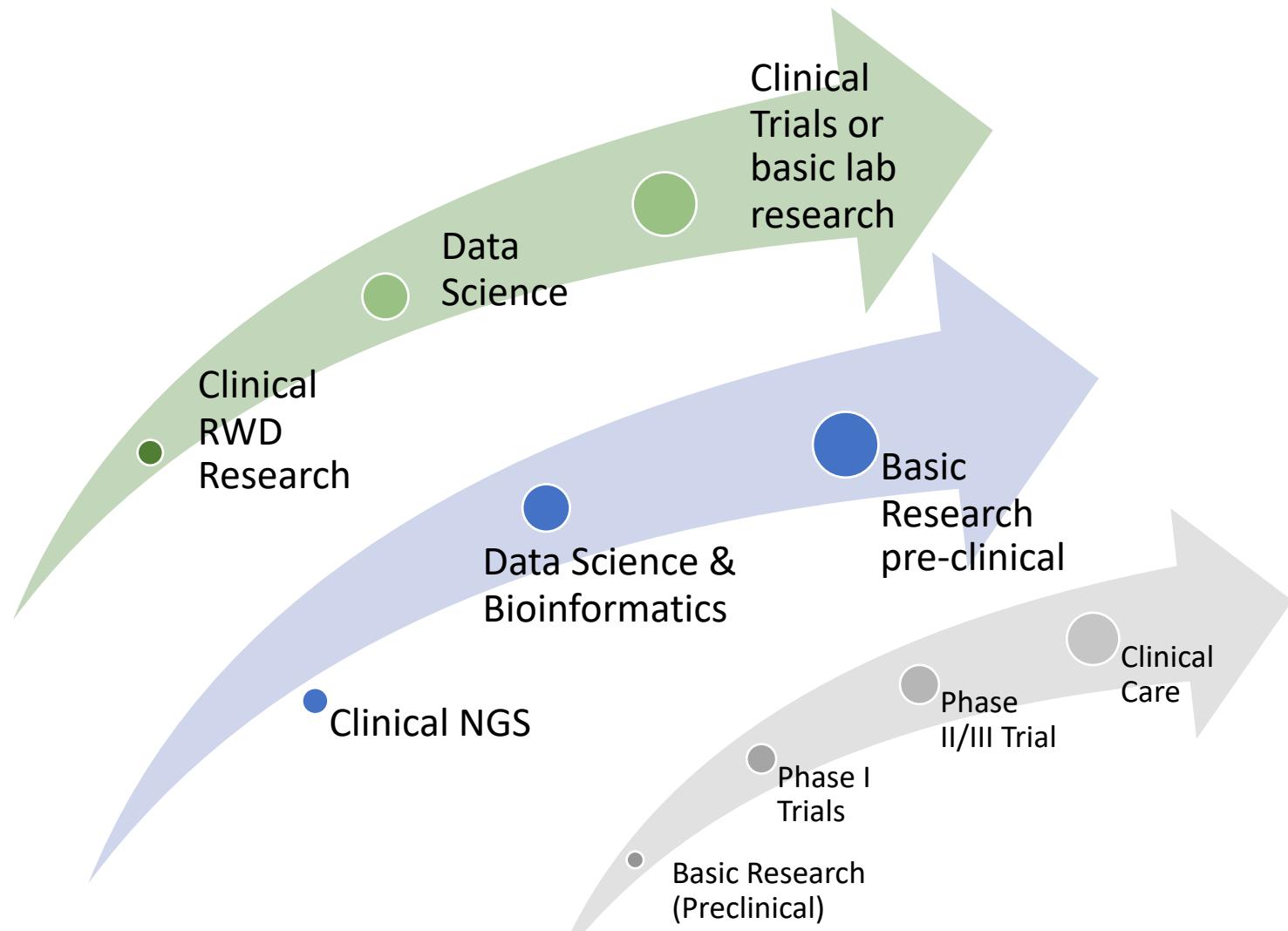
# Phase 0/1 clinical trial pipeline

## Pre NGS



Celis, J.E. and Pavalkis, D. (2017), A mission-oriented approach to cancer in Europe: a joint mission/vision 2030. Mol Oncol, 11: 1661-1672. <https://doi.org/10.1002/1878-0261.12143>

# Data Rich in Clinical Oncology Research



# Recruitment to Clinical Trials in Ireland

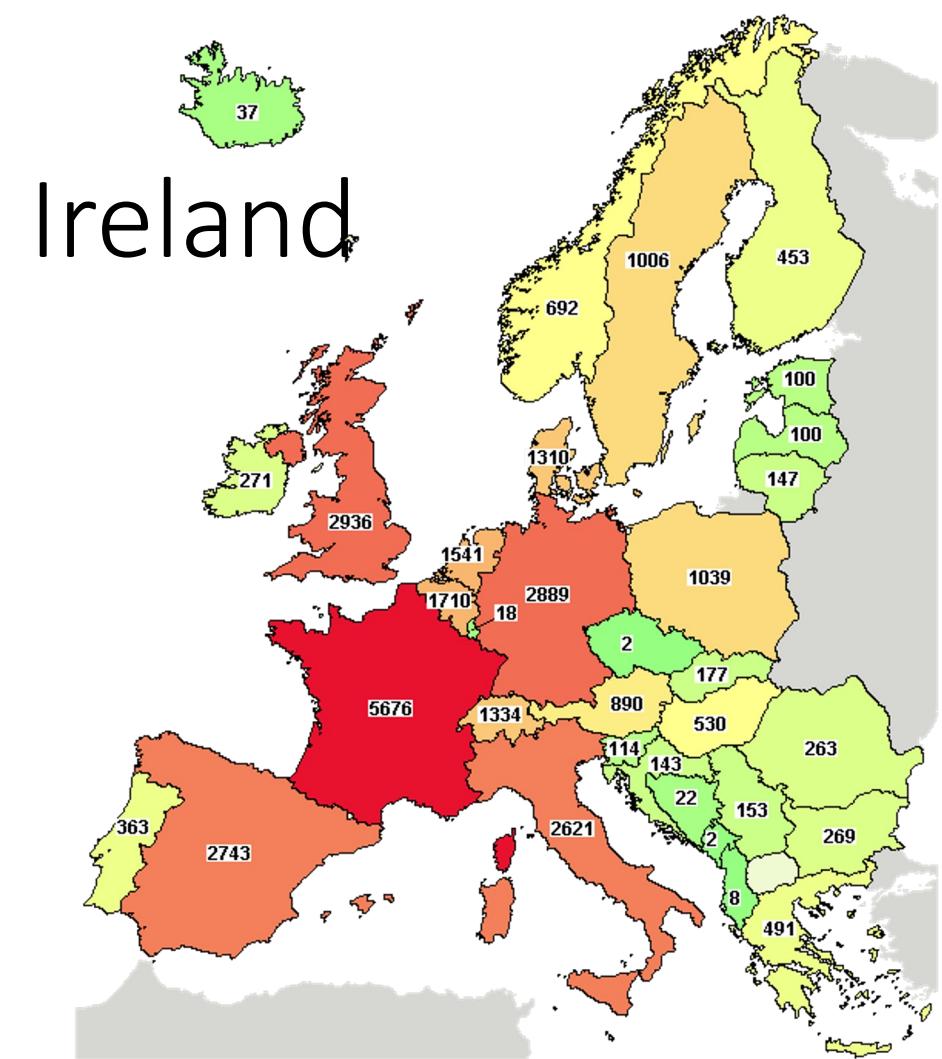
*Patients have been shown to have significantly better outcomes by taking part in clinical trials.*

*Clinical trials enhance the value proposition for innovation and help us to attract global investments*

**But** 2/3 Irish patients not offered CCT (Kearns et al., 2020).  
Lack access to structured routine care **clinicogenomic** data that can predict trial outcomes (Singal et al., 2019)

*Lack of digital health data impediment to CCT*

[www.ipha.ie](http://www.ipha.ie), Nov 11, 2020



# Skills for Interoperable, Real-time, Real-World Data

## eHealthHub



Strand II All-Island programme in federated eHealth cancer research awarded €4 million from the Shared Island Unit





Mark Lawler (QUB)



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

DATA-CAN  
The Health Data Research Hub for Cancer



Aedin Culhane (UL)



National  
Cancer  
Registry  
Ireland



# eHealthHub



Heterogeneous  
Irish Data



Common  
Data Standard



4 Million Euro  
10 PhD Students  
4 Post doctoral Fellow  
7 Research Assistants



# eHealthHub

# Interoperability, Standards

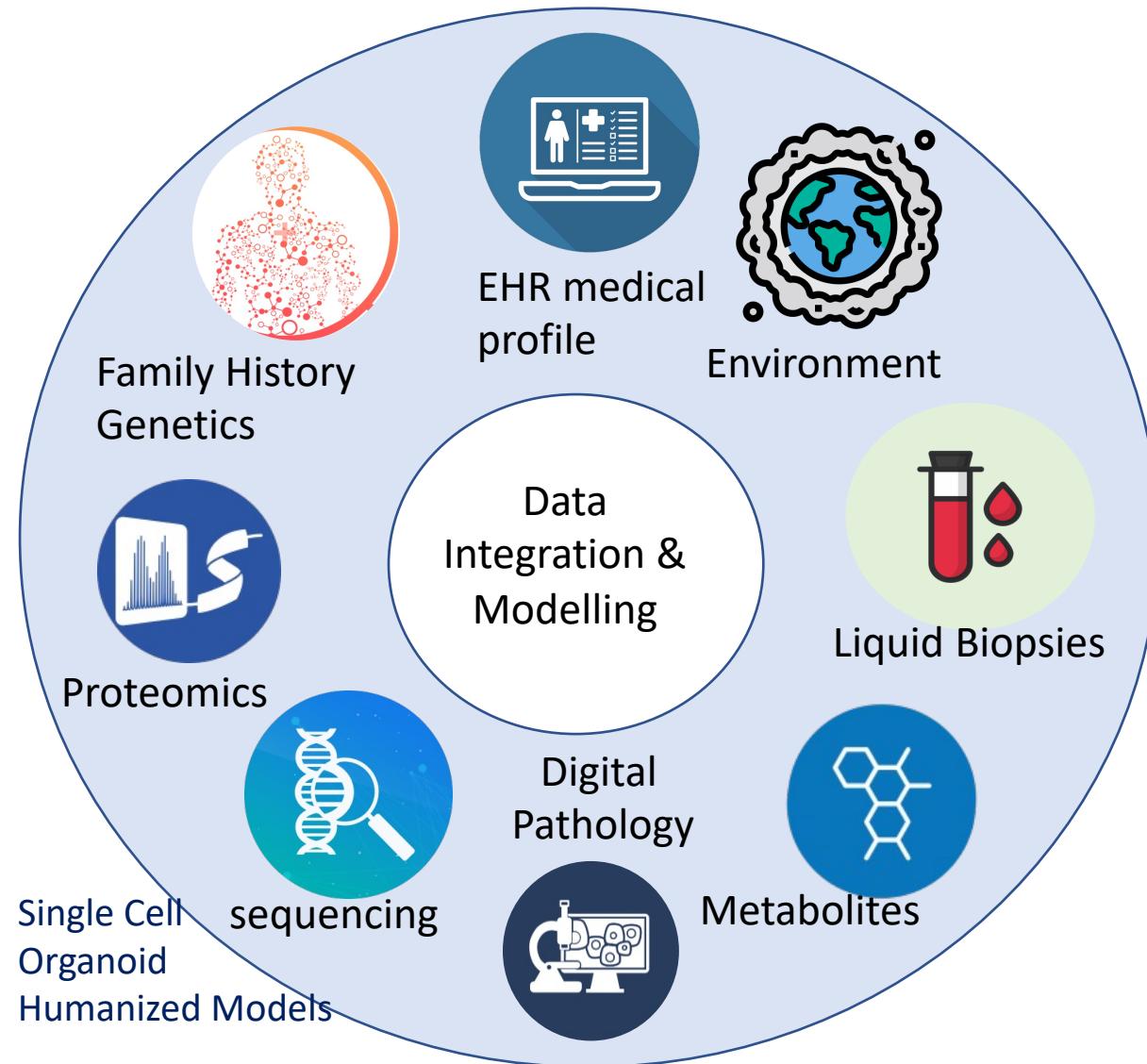


Observational Medical Outcomes  
Partnership (OMOP)  
Common Data Model (CDM)



Health Level 7 International Version 2  
Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

# Digital Data in Cancer EHR



Patient history  
Co-morbidity

Drugs, treatments history

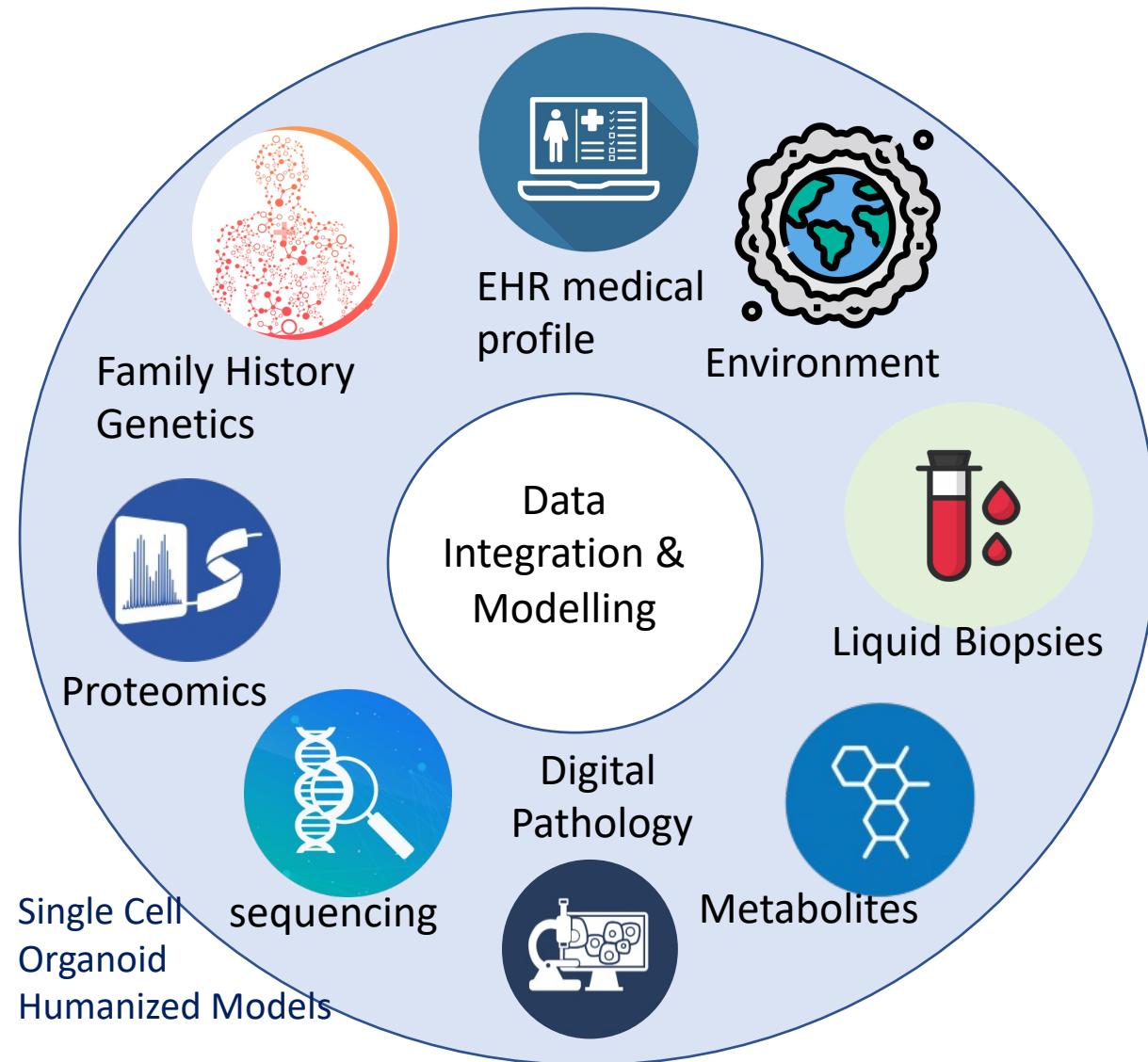
Pathology  
Digital Pathology

Germline Genetics, family risk

Genomics  
Blood tests (liquid biopsies)  
Immuno-oncology

Mobile Apps -eg boutros bear

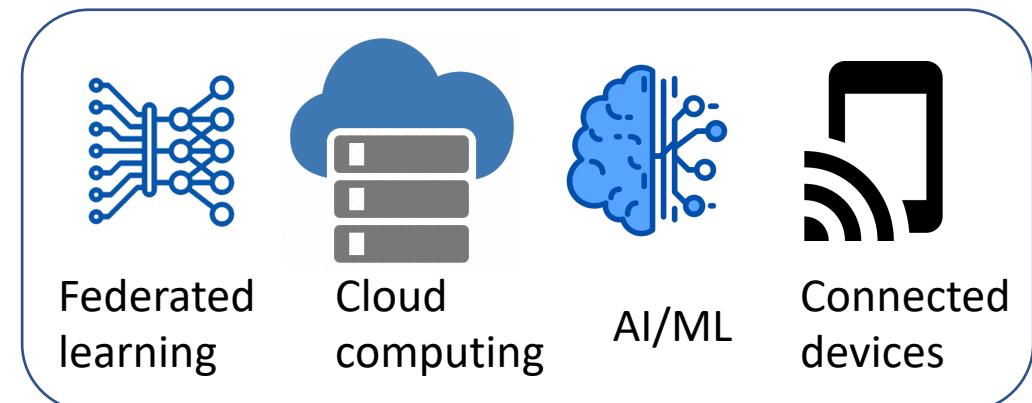
# Cancer Digital Health



## Data Science

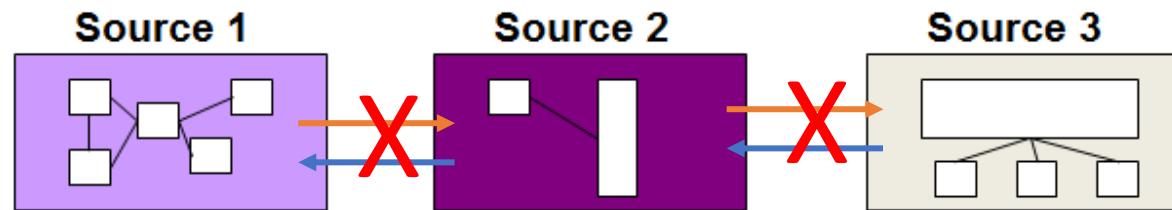


## Technology



# What's so important about standards

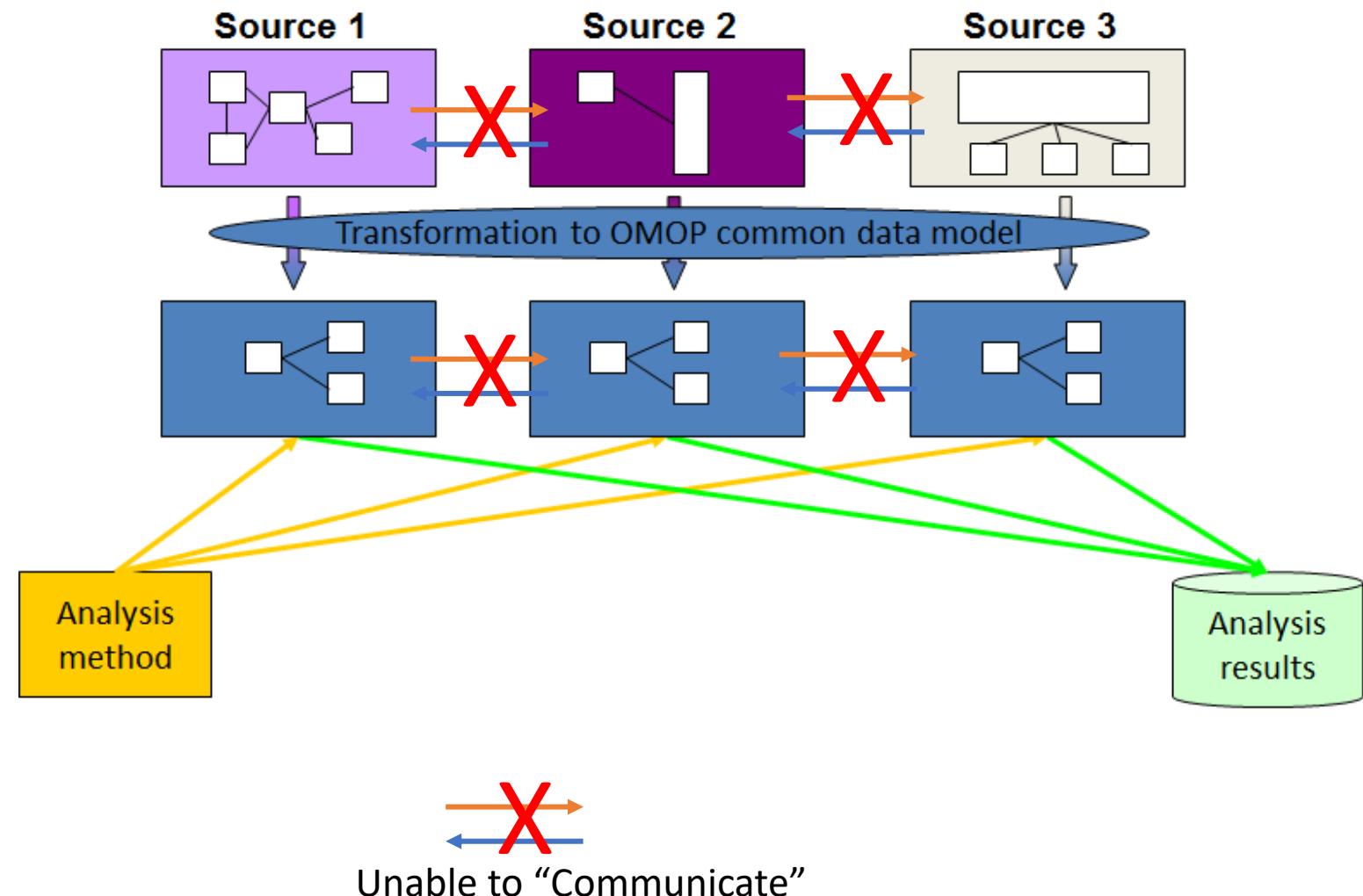
- Data source (EHR) is held locally within each site
- Researchers can query internal database
- Limited silos of data is a problem.
- Studies are underpowered especially in rare disease



Unable to "Communicate"

# What's so important about standards

- Data can be locally secure
- but globally accessed
- Query can be sent to each data source
- Summarized results (not data) returned
- Aggregated over many

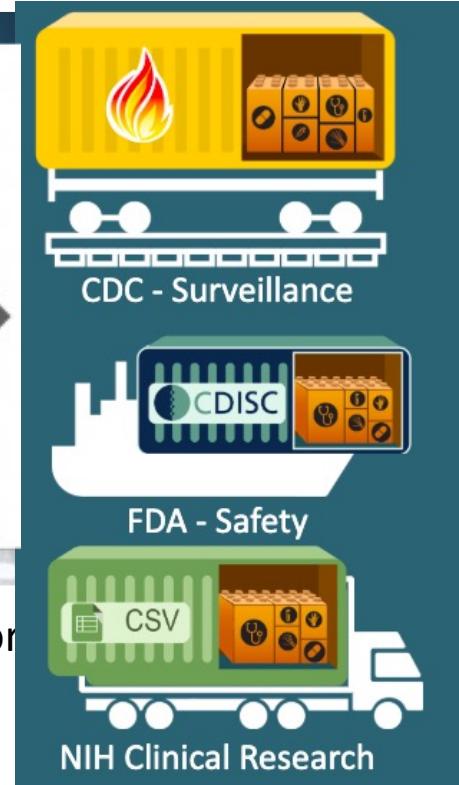


# Real-time, Real-World Data



EHR Insurance & medical records  
inpatients, outpatient and GP  
data mapped to a common  
format provide

**Real-time, real-world**  
**surveillance and research**

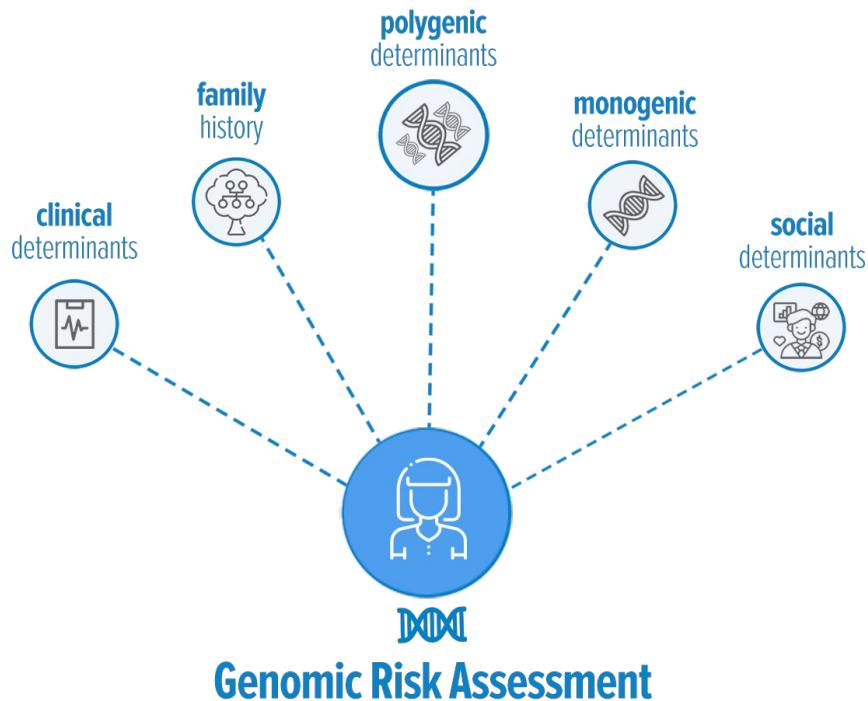


**Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI, pronounced “Odyssey”)** strives to promote better health decisions and care through globally standardized health data, continuously developing large-scale analytics and a spirit of collaboration through open science.



Founded in 2014, OHDSI is a growing collaborative of more than 2,300 researchers across disciplines (including biomedical informatics, epidemiology, statistics, computer science, health policy, clinical sciences), across stakeholders (including academia, industry, government and regulatory authorities, and health providers), and across geographies (including 76 countries and six continents). OHDSI also has established an international distributed data network that applies one open community data standard and collectively contains data for more than 800 million patients around the world, and has produced a suite of open-source software packages that enables the community to translate that data into reliable evidence.

# Clinically actionable genes in EHR



**emerge** network  
ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS AND GENOMICS

The screenshot shows the OncoKB homepage. The top navigation bar includes links for Levels of Evidence, Actionable Genes, Cancer Genes, API / License, About, News, and FAQ. It also features a search bar, account information, and a logo for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

## Welcome to OncoKB

MSK's Precision Oncology Knowledge Base  
An FDA-Recognized Human Genetic Variant Database\*

**685** Genes    **5697** Alterations    **127** Cancer Types    **107** Drugs

Search Gene / Alteration / Drug

Therapeutic Levels    Diagnostic Levels    Prognostic Levels    FDA Levels

**Level 1**  
FDA-approved drugs  
43 Genes

**Level 2**  
Standard care  
20 Genes

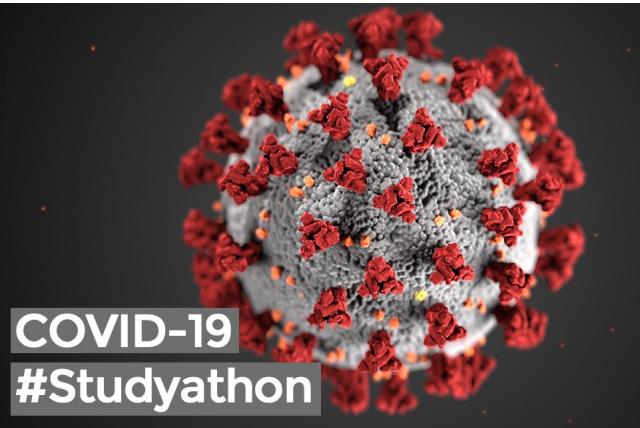
**Level 3**  
Clinical evidence  
26 Genes

**Level 4**  
Biological evidence  
24 Genes

**Level R1/R2**  
Resistance  
11 Genes

<https://www.nature.com/collections/ccigjichjc/>

# Our RWD research impact during COVID-19



THE LANCET  
Rheumatology

956,374 patient records



## Risk of hydroxychloroquine alone and in combination with azithromycin in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: a multinational, retrospective study



Jennifer C Lane\*, James Weaver\*, Kristin Kostka, Talita Duarte-Salles, Maria Tereza Abrahao, Heba Alghoul, Osaid Alser, Thamir M Alshammari, Patricia Biedermann, Juan M Banda, Edward Burn, Paula Casajust, Mitchell M Conover, Aedin Culhane, Alexander Davydov, Scott L DuVall, Dmitry Dymshys, Sergio Fernandez-Bertolin, Kristina Fister, Jill Hardin, Laura Hester, George Hripcasak, Benjamin Skov Kaas-Hansen, Seamus Kent, Sajan Koshti, Spyros Kolovos, Christophe G Lambert, Johan van der Lei, Kristine E Lynch, Rupa Makadia, Andrea V Margulis, Michael E Matheny, Paras Mehta, Daniel R Morales, Henry Morgan-Stewart, Mees Mosseveld, Danielle Newby, Fredrik Nyberg, Anna Ostropolets, Rae Woong Park, Albert Prats-Urbe, Gowthami Rao, Christian Reich, Jenna Repts, Peter Rijnbeek, Selva Muthu Kumaran Sathappan, Martijn Schuemie, Sarah Seager, Anthony G Sena, Azza Shaabai, Matthew Spotnitz, Marc A Suchard, Carmen O Torre, David Vizcaya, Haini Wen, Marcel de Wilde, Junqing Xia, Seng Chan You, Lin Zhang, Oleg Zhuk, Patrick Ryan, Daniel Prieto-Alhambra, on behalf of the OHDSI-COVID-19 consortium

### Summary

Background Hydroxychloroquine, a drug commonly used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, has received much negative publicity for adverse events associated with its authorisation for emergency use to treat patients with COVID-19 pneumonia. We studied the safety of hydroxychloroquine, alone and in combination with azithromycin, to determine the risk associated with its use in routine care in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

**Methods** In this multinational, retrospective study, new user cohort studies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis aged 18 years or older and initiating hydroxychloroquine were compared with those initiating sulfasalazine and followed up over 30 days, with 16 severe adverse events studied. Self-controlled case series were done to further establish safety in wider populations, and included all users of hydroxychloroquine regardless of rheumatoid arthritis status or indication. Separately, severe adverse events associated with hydroxychloroquine plus azithromycin (compared with hydroxychloroquine plus amoxicillin) were studied. Data comprised 14 sources of claims data or electronic medical records from Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, and the USA. Propensity score stratification and calibration using negative control outcomes were used to address confounding. Cox models were fitted to estimate calibrated hazard ratios (HRs) according to drug use. Estimates were pooled where the *P* value was less than 0·4.

**Findings** The study included 956 374 users of hydroxychloroquine, 310 350 users of sulfasalazine, 323 122 users of hydroxychloroquine plus azithromycin, and 351 956 users of hydroxychloroquine plus amoxicillin. No excess risk of severe adverse events was identified when 30-day hydroxychloroquine and sulfasalazine use were compared. Self-controlled case series confirmed these findings. However, long-term use of hydroxychloroquine appeared to be associated with increased cardiovascular mortality (calibrated HR 1·65 [95% CI 1·12–2·44]). Addition of azithromycin appeared to be associated with an increased risk of 30-day cardiovascular mortality (calibrated HR 2·19 [95% CI 1·22–3·95]), chest pain or angina (1·15 [1·05–1·26]), and heart failure (1·22 [1·02–1·45]).



ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-18849-z>

OPEN

## Deep phenotyping of 34,128 adult patients hospitalised with COVID-19 in an international network study

Edward Burn et al.\*



CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY, BIOMARKERS & PREVENTION | RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Characteristics and Outcomes of Over 300,000 Patients with COVID-19 and History of Cancer in the United States and Spain



Elena Roel<sup>1,2</sup>, Andrea Pistillo<sup>1</sup>, Martina Recalde<sup>1,2</sup>, Anthony G. Sena<sup>3,4</sup>, Sergi Fernández-Bertolin<sup>1</sup>, Maria Aragón<sup>1</sup>, Diana Puentet<sup>1,2</sup>, Waheed-Ul-Rahman Ahmed<sup>5,6</sup>, Heba Alghoul<sup>7</sup>, Osaid Alser<sup>8</sup>, Thamir M. Alshammari<sup>9</sup>, Carlos Areia<sup>10</sup>, Clair Blacketer<sup>3</sup>, William Carter<sup>11</sup>, Paula Casajust<sup>12</sup>, Aedin C. Culhane<sup>13,14</sup>, Dalia Dawoud<sup>15</sup>, Frank DeFalco<sup>3</sup>, Scott L. DuVall<sup>16,17</sup>, Thomas Falconer<sup>18,19</sup>, Asieh Golozar<sup>20,21</sup>, Mengchun Gong<sup>22</sup>, Laura Hester<sup>23</sup>, George Hripcasak<sup>18,19</sup>, Eng Hooi Tan<sup>24</sup>, Hokyun Jeon<sup>25</sup>, Jitendra Jonnagaddala<sup>26</sup>, Lana Y.H. La<sup>27</sup>, Kristine E. Lynch<sup>16,17</sup>, Michael E. Matheny<sup>28,29</sup>, Daniel R. Morales<sup>30,31</sup>, Karthik Natarajan<sup>18,19</sup>, Fredrik Nyberg<sup>32</sup>, Anna Ostropolets<sup>18</sup>, José D. Posada<sup>33</sup>, Albert Prats-Urbe<sup>24</sup>, Christian G. Reich<sup>34</sup>, Donna R. Rivera<sup>35</sup>, Lisa M. Schilling<sup>11</sup>, Isabelle Soerjomataram<sup>36</sup>, Karishma Shah<sup>5</sup>, Nigam H. Shah<sup>33</sup>, Yang Shen<sup>22</sup>, Matthew Spotnitz<sup>18</sup>, Vignesh Subbiah<sup>37</sup>, Marc A. Suchard<sup>38</sup>, Annalisa Trama<sup>39</sup>, Lin Zhang<sup>40,41</sup>, Ying Zhang<sup>22</sup>, Patrick B. Ryan<sup>3,18</sup>, Daniel Prieto-Alhambra<sup>24</sup>, Kristin Kostka<sup>34</sup>, and Talita Duarte-Salles<sup>1</sup>



Lancet Rheumatol 2020;  
2: e098-711

Published Online

August 21, 2020

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See Comment page e652

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A Shaabai PhD, P Ryan PhD).

Real World Solutions, IOVIA,

Real World Solutions, IOVIA,



# Hydroxychloroquine and COVID-19

- From March 1 to April 30, 2020, Donald J Trump made 11 tweets about unproven therapies and mentioned these therapies 65 times in White House briefings, especially touting hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine

**CNBC**

MARKETS BUSINESS INVESTING TECH POLITICS CNBC TV WATCHLIST CRAMER PRO 8

HEALTH AND SCIENCE

## Trump says he still thinks hydroxychloroquine works in early stage coronavirus

PUBLISHED TUE, JUL 28 2020 5:49 PM EDT | UPDATED WED, JUL 29 2020 11:22 AM EDT

BERKELEY LOVELACE JR.

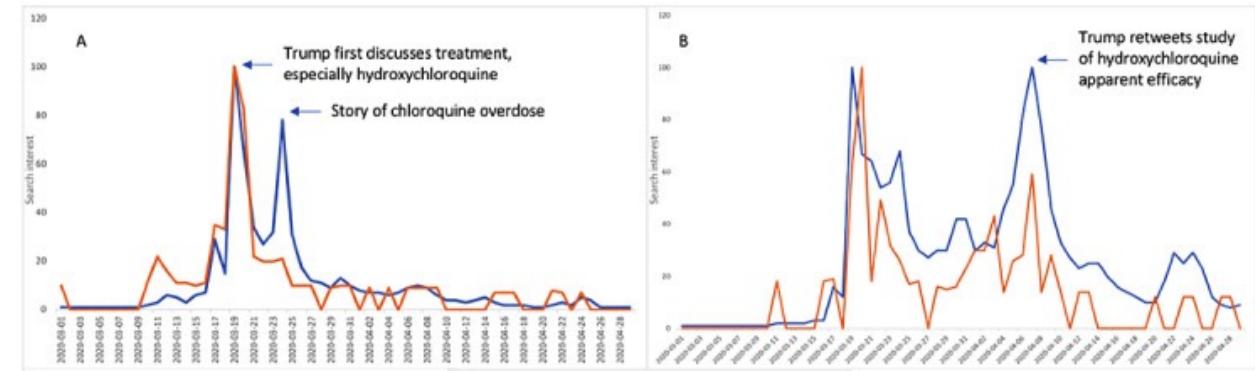
SHARE f t in e

**KEY POINTS**

- Trump was asked about a video he shared on Twitter that went viral across social media platforms that claimed hydroxychloroquine is "a cure for Covid."
- The video was later labeled as containing misleading information and has since been taken down.
- There are no FDA-approved drugs for the coronavirus, which has infected more than 16 million people worldwide and killed at least 655,300.

**VIDEO 02:41**

Trump: I happen to believe in hydroxychloroquine



Google searches (blue line)

Purchases (orange line)

[J Med Internet Res. 2020 Nov; 22\(11\): e20044.](#)



# Safety of hydroxychloroquine

- Evidence was needed around the use of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) alone and in combination with azithromycin (AZ). We examined the use of these drugs in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients.
- Findings:
  - In history use in RA population, HCQ alone is generally safe but in combination with AZ it shows a doubling of risk of 30-day cardiovascular mortality.



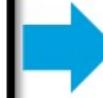
Study-a-thon  
March 26-29<sup>th</sup>



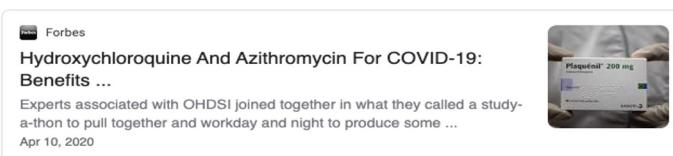
Initial draft  
April 10<sup>th</sup> 2020



April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020

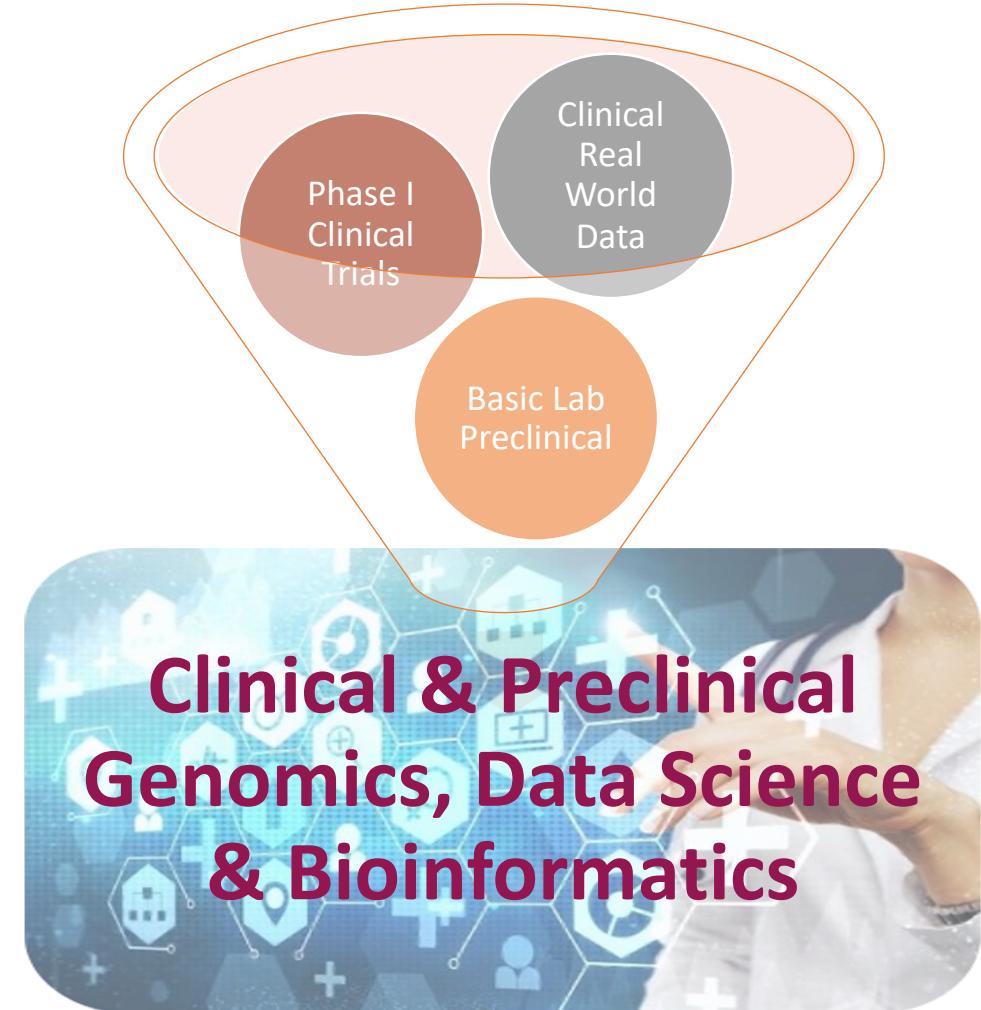
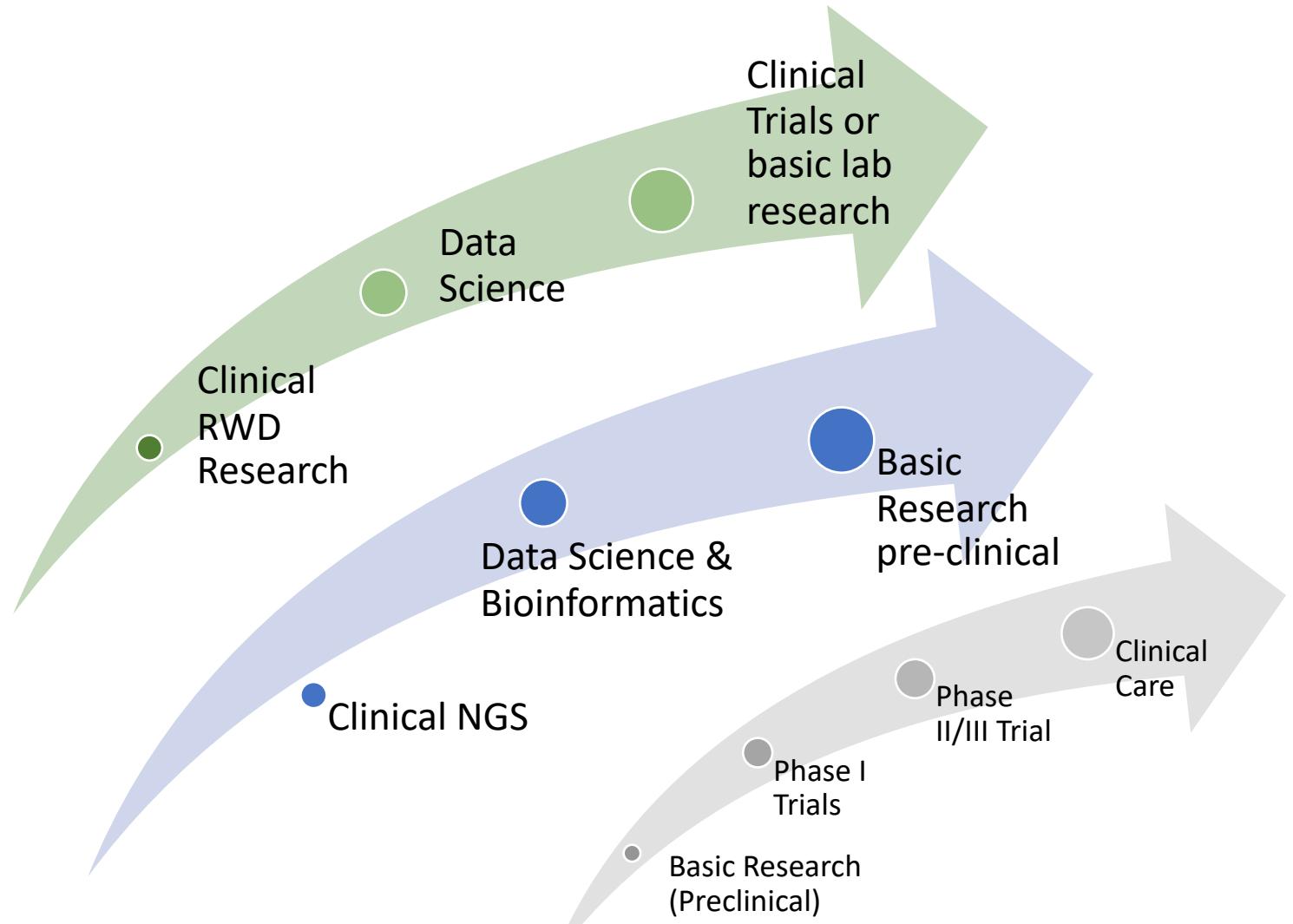


Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 2020

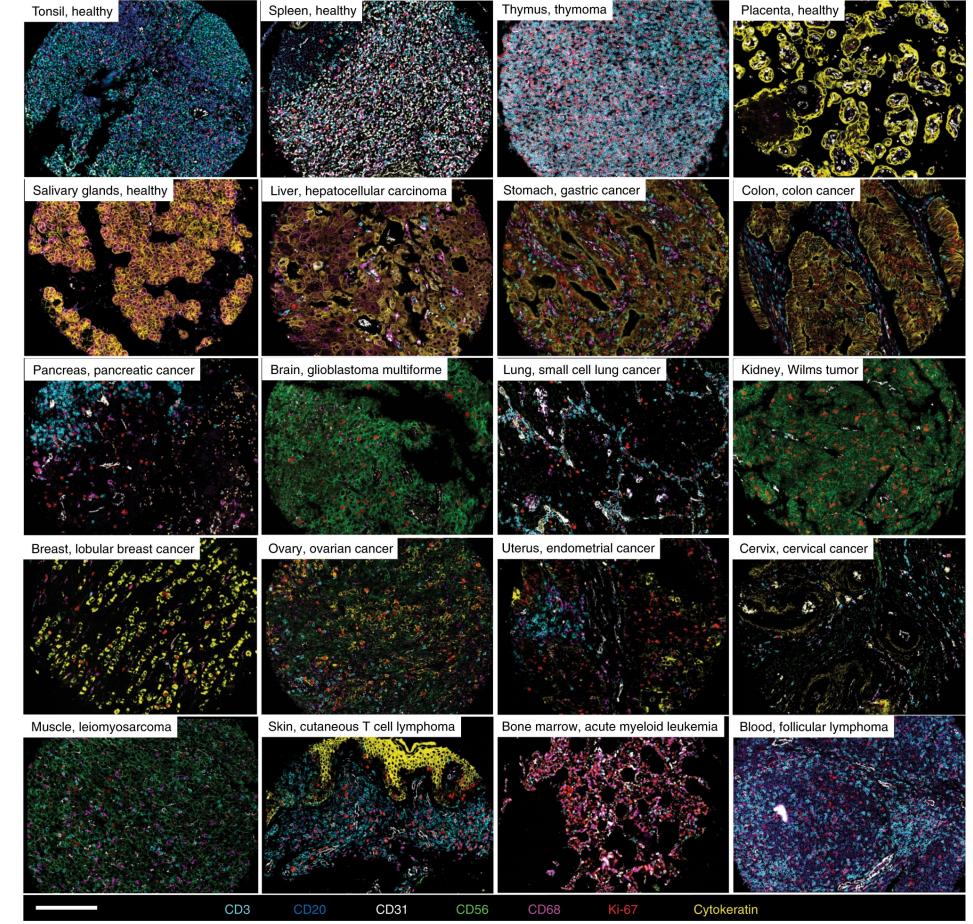
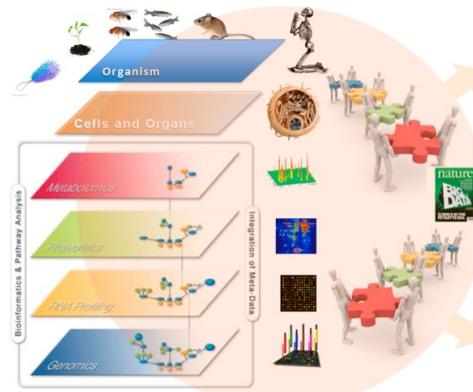
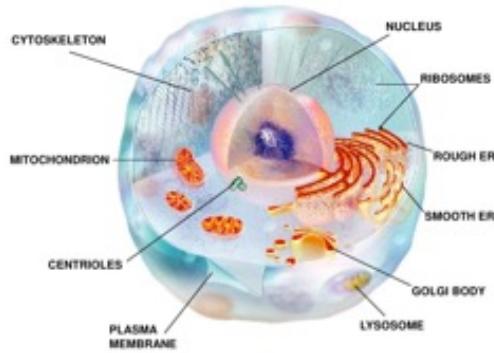


EMA Recommendation  
REAL WORLD IMPACT FROM RWD

# Data Driven Clinical Oncology Research



# Culhane lab- Computational Oncology model that integrate multi modal data



# Complexity of cancer : molecular basis of multicellular disease

- Human disease occurs within a complex milieu of cells
- Multiple body systems are involved in disease response;  
immune, lymph, nervous, endocrine
- Disease response involves local and systemic signalling and local tissue effects
- Harnessing the immune system

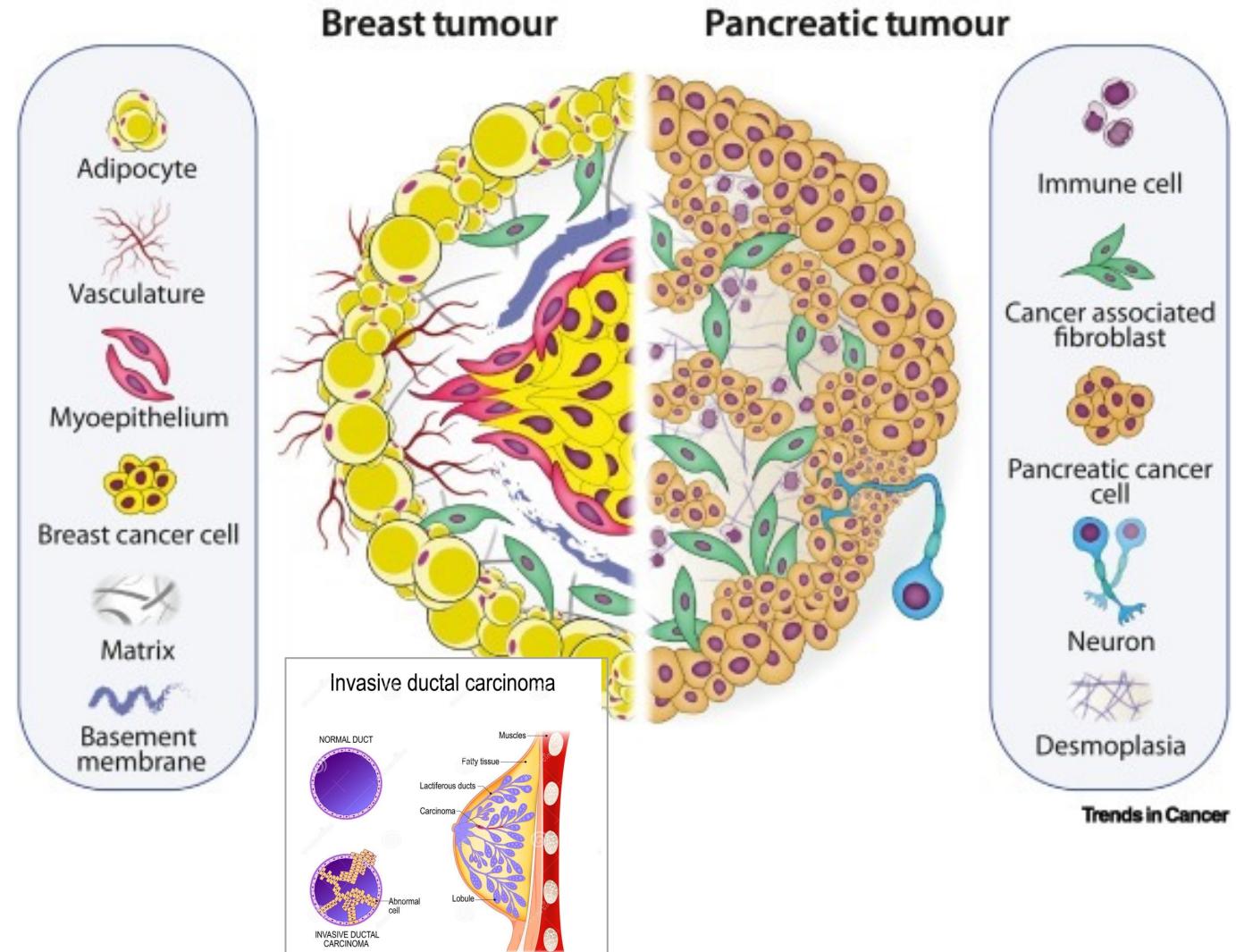


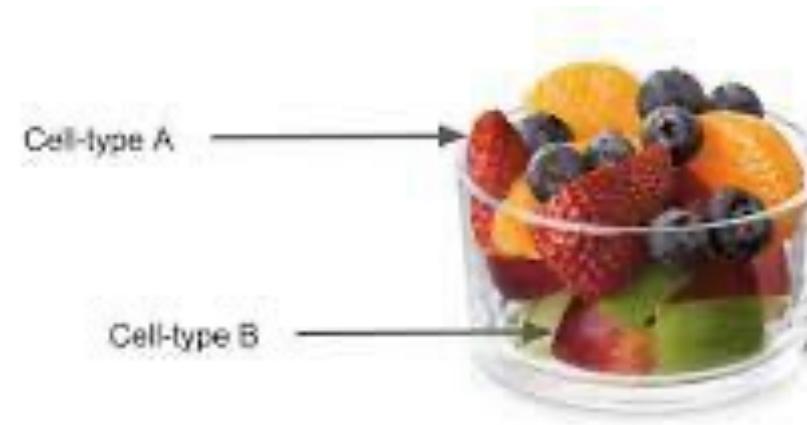
Figure from Carter et al., 2021, Trends in Cancer 7:11

# Tremendous Technology Advances in <5 years



Bulk

Average of cell mixture  
biopsy (pre-2020)



Cell-type A

Cell-type B

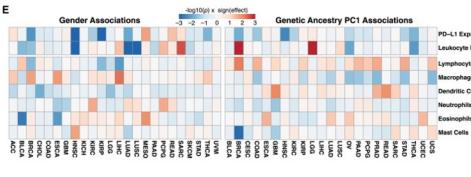
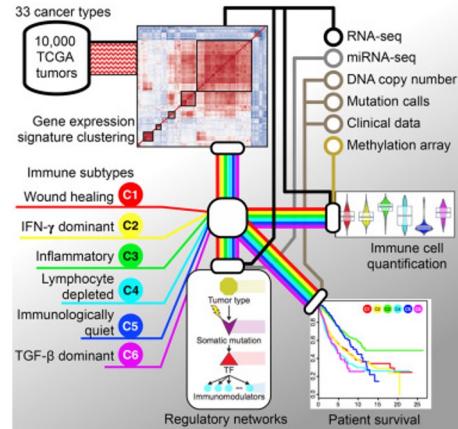
Single-cell

Spatial single cell  
measurements (post 2020)

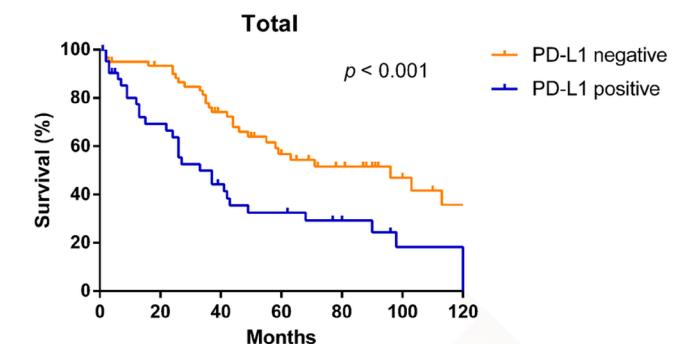
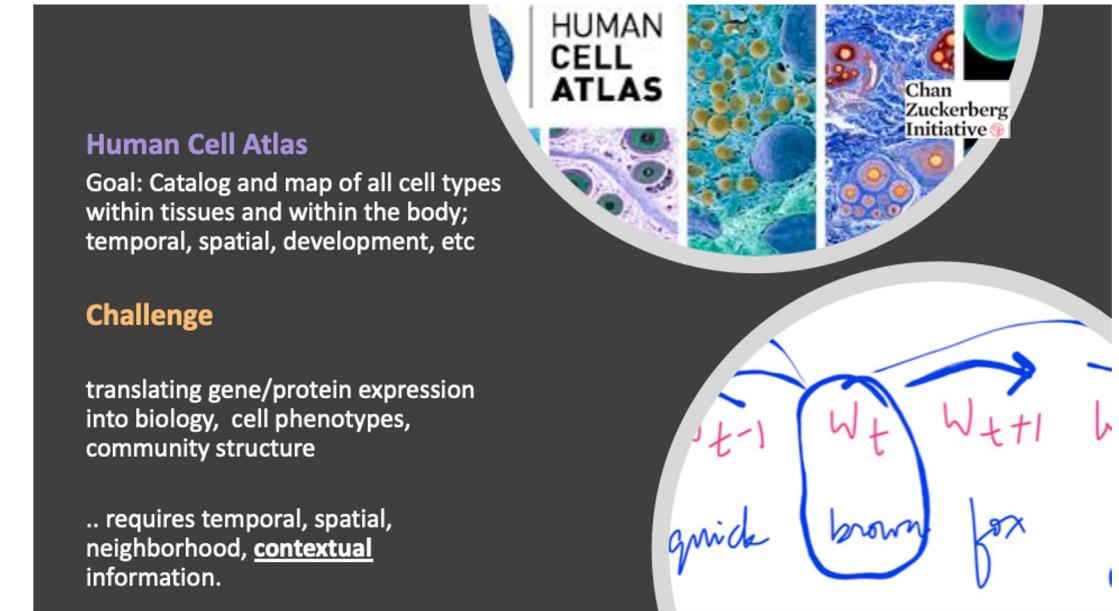
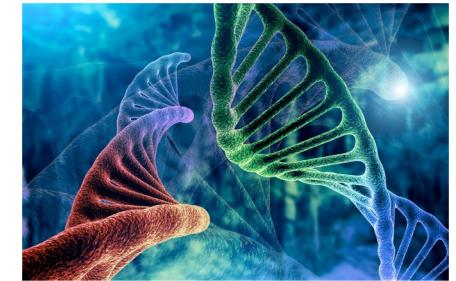
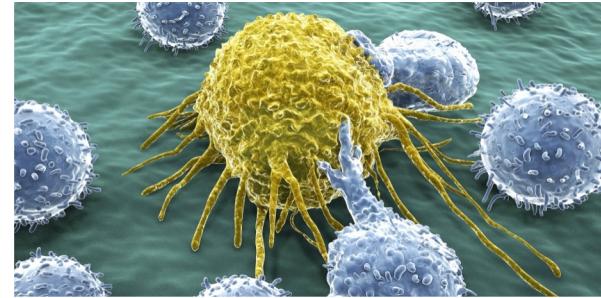
Resource

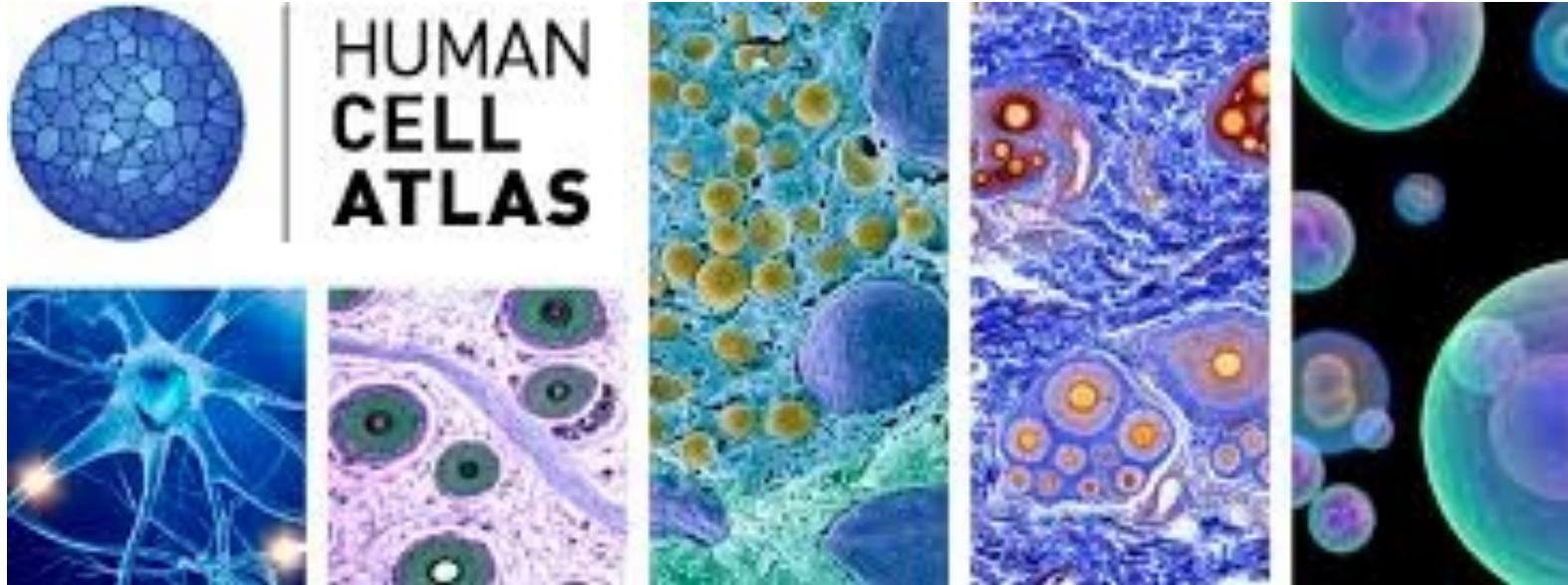
## The Immune Landscape of Cancer

Vésteinn Thorsson <sup>1, 37</sup>, David L. Gibbs <sup>1, 36</sup>, Scott D. Brown <sup>2</sup>, Denise Wolf <sup>3</sup>, Dante S. Bortone <sup>4</sup>, Tai-Hsien Ou <sup>5</sup>, Yang <sup>5</sup>, Eduard Porta-Pardo <sup>6, 7</sup>, Galen F. Gao <sup>8</sup>, Christopher L. Plaisier <sup>1, 9</sup>, James A. Eddy <sup>10</sup>, Elad Ziv <sup>11</sup>, Aedin C. Culhane <sup>12</sup>, Evan O. Paull <sup>13</sup>, I.K. Ashok Sivakumar <sup>14</sup>, Andrew J. Gentles <sup>15</sup>, Ranaunq Malhotra <sup>16</sup>, Farshad Farshidfar <sup>17</sup>, Antonio Colaprico <sup>18</sup> ... Ilya Shmulevich <sup>1, 25</sup>



> 10,000 tumors comprising 33 diverse cancer types (TCGA). Across 6 immune types pan-cancers





## Creating a Human Cell Atlas

catalog and map of all cell types to the location within tissues and within the body; temporal, spatial, development



Chan  
Zuckerberg  
Initiative 



Research Topic

## Multi-omic Data Integration in Oncology

Submission closed.

Overview      Articles **13**



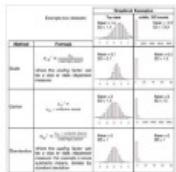
frontiers

in Oncology

Cancer Genetics

Articles

By Views    By Type    By Date



### Impact of Data Preprocessing on Integrative Matrix Factorization of Single Cell Data

Lauren L. Hsu and Aedin C. Culhane

**Mini Review** Integrative, single-cell analyses may provide unprecedented insights into cellular and spatial diversity of the tumor microenvironment. The sparsity, noise, and high dimensionality of these data present unique challenges. Whilst approaches for ...

Published on 23 June 2020

Front. Oncol. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2020.00973

3,467 total views



102

Hsu & Culhane corral: Single-cell RNA-seq dimension reduction, batch integration, and visualization with correspondence analysis bioRxiv 2021.11.24.469874;



# SINGLE-CELL ANALYSIS ENTERS THE MULTIOmICS AGE

A rapidly growing collection of software tools is helping researchers to analyse multiple huge ‘omics’ data sets. By Jeffrey M. Perkel

**I**t takes about 20 days for a mouse to grow from fertilized egg to newborn pup. Ricard Argelaguet and his colleagues were interested in what exactly happens inside the cells of a mouse embryo between days 4.5 and 7.5, when the stem cells shift into three layers: the ectoderm, which develops into the nervous system; the mesoderm, which develops into muscle and bone; and the endoderm, which develops into the gut and internal organs.

Researchers can easily distinguish between these three layers by looking at which genes are expressed in individual cells. But the team wanted a more nuanced picture. So, in 2019, the researchers combined the gene-expression data with two other sources of information<sup>1</sup>. The first was methylation, a chemical modification

that alters how genes are expressed. The second was chromatin accessibility: how modifications to chromatin, the knotty complex of proteins and DNA in eukaryotic nuclei, affect which parts of the DNA are accessible for transcription into RNA. Both are factors in epigenetics, the non-genetic elements that influence how genes are expressed.

Combining the three data sources revealed something unexpected: in the absence of external stimuli, embryonic stem cells will become ectoderm. “This was the most essential contribution of the paper,” Argelaguet says. It showed “that there is kind of a hierarchy of cell fate specification at the epigenetic level”. Argelaguet, a computational biologist at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge, UK, was

one of four first authors on the study, which was supervised by Babraham investigator Wolf Reik, as well as John Marioni at the EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute in nearby Hinxton, and Oliver Stegle at the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg.

Their result explains the decades-old observation that embryonic stem cells in culture will preferentially differentiate into neurons. And it’s a finding, says Argelaguet, that would have been impossible to make using just a single type of data.

## Genomics explosion

The past decade has witnessed an explosion in single-cell genomics. Single-cell RNA sequencing (RNA-seq), which profiles gene



**Aedín Culhane**  
Dana-Farber  
Cancer Institute/  
Harvard Chan

**Elana Fertig**  
Johns Hopkins  
University

**Kim-Anh Lê Cao**  
The University of  
Melbourne

## Spatial hackathon

With such a fast-growing tool set, researchers can struggle to know what they should use for which questions, and how to go about it. To help close those gaps, Elana Fertig at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland; Aedin Culhane at Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston; and Kim-Anh Lê Cao at the University of Melbourne, Australia, organized a virtual conference on single-cell omics data integration. As part of that event, held in June 2020, the organizers provided three curated data sets and challenged attendees to apply whichever algorithms and workflows they liked to integrate and interpret the data, in a series of ‘hackathons’. Unlike in-person hackathons, in which researchers intensively collaborate on software projects in short bursts over a few hours or days, these were virtual events held over a month, with collaborators dispersed around the globe. One event

# Culhane lab- Multi Modal, Multivariate analysis Matrix Factorization

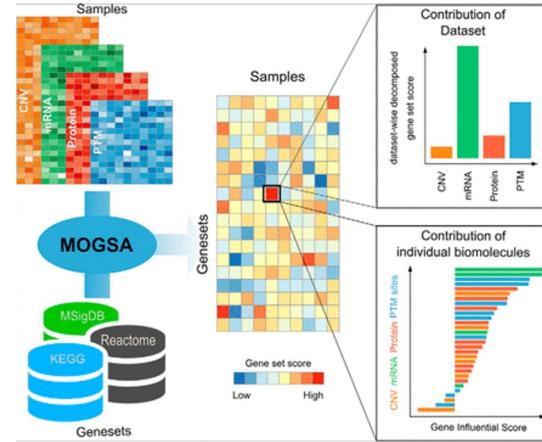
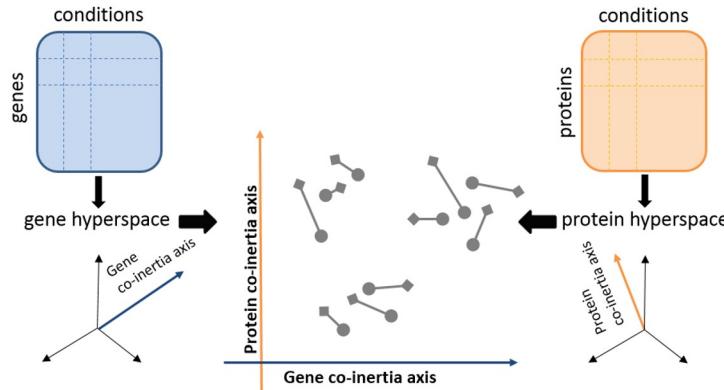
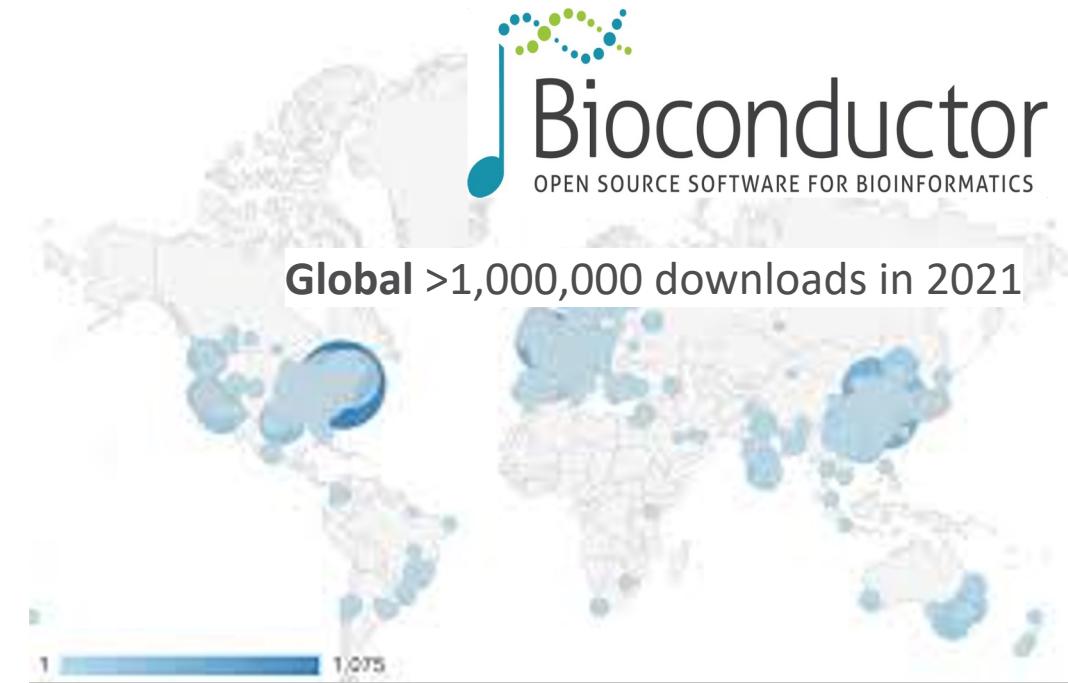


Table 4. Dimension reduction methods for multiple (more than two) data sets

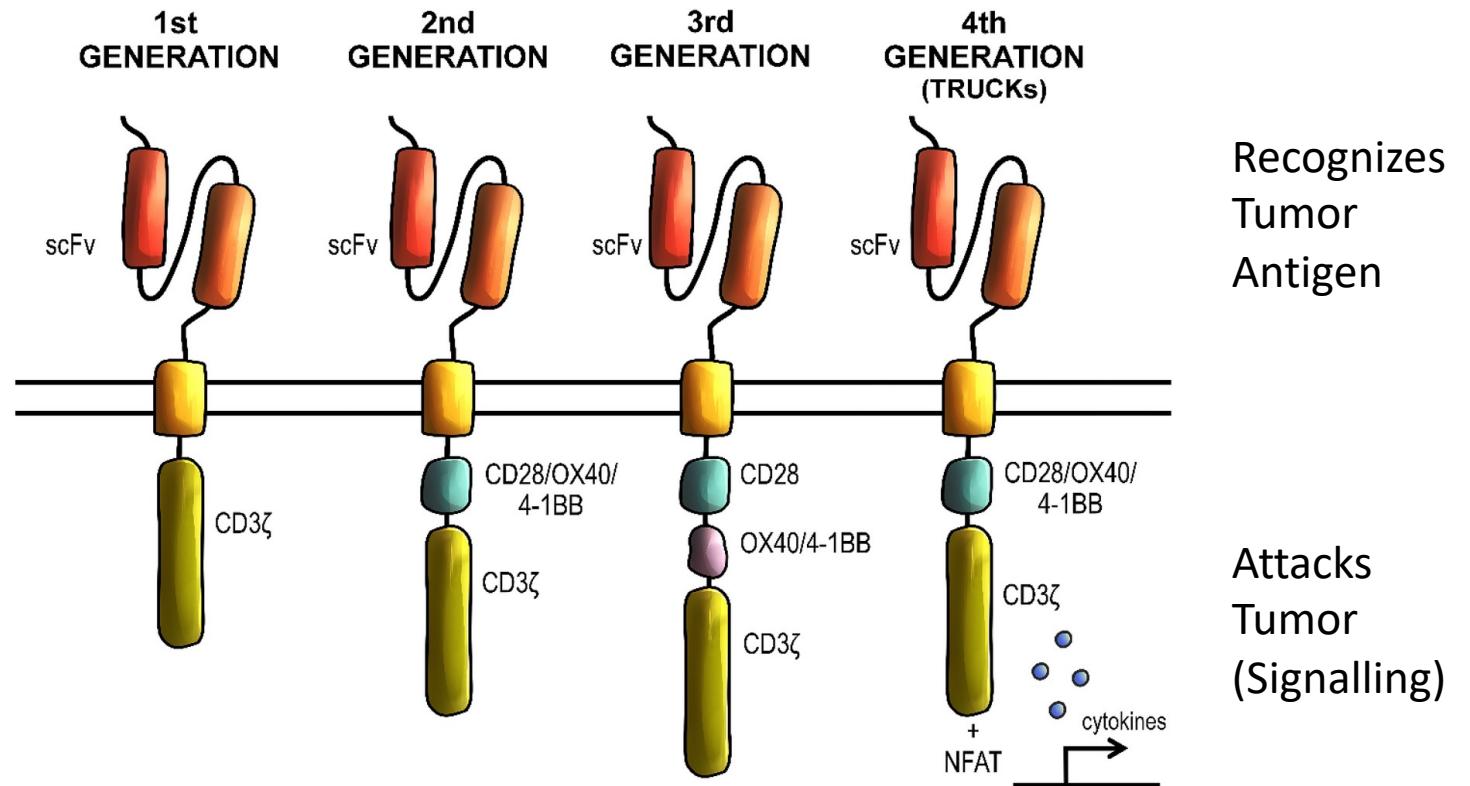
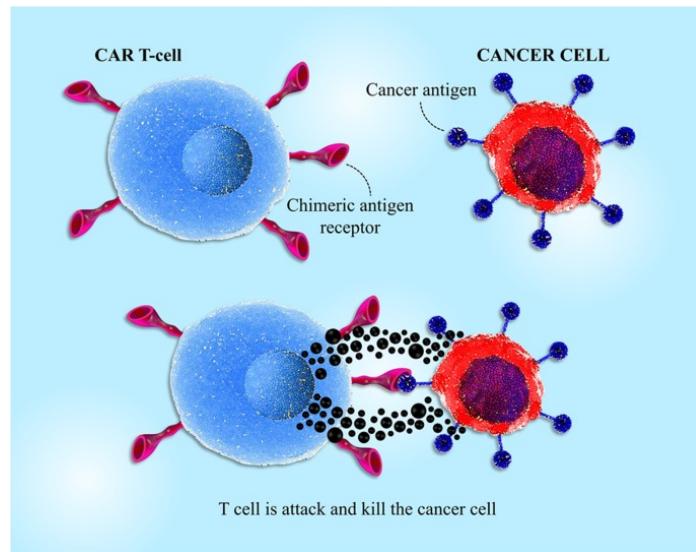
Method	Description	Feature selection	Matched cases	R Function [package]
MCIA	Multiple coinertia analysis	No	No	mcia{omicade4}, mcoa{ade4}
gCCA	Generalized CCA	No	No	regCCA{dmt}
rGCCA	Regularized generalized CCA	No	No	regCCA{dmt} rgcca{rgcca} wrapper.rgcca{mixOmics}
sGCCA	Sparse generalized canonical correlation analysis	Yes	No	sgcca{rgcca} wrapper.sgccca{mixOmics}
STATIS	Structuration des Tableaux à Trois Indices de la Statistique (STATIS). Family of methods which include X-statis	No	No	statis{ade4}
CANDECOMP/ PARAFAC / Tucker3	Higher order generalizations of SVD and PCA. Require matched variables and cases.	No	Yes	CP{ThreeWay}, T3{ThreeWay}, PCAn{PTaK}, CANDPARA{PTaK}
PTA statico	Partial triadic analysis Statistis and CIA (find structure between two pairs of K-tables)	No No	Yes No	pta{ade4}, statico{ade4}



# Overview of talk

- Briefly introduce computational oncology and our lab
- **Two recent papers**
  - **CAR T-Cell in renal cancer**
  - **Sensitivity to NK cell killing**
  - **GVHD and tissue resident cells**
- eHealth -Hub for Cancer

# Next generation CAR T-Cells therapies

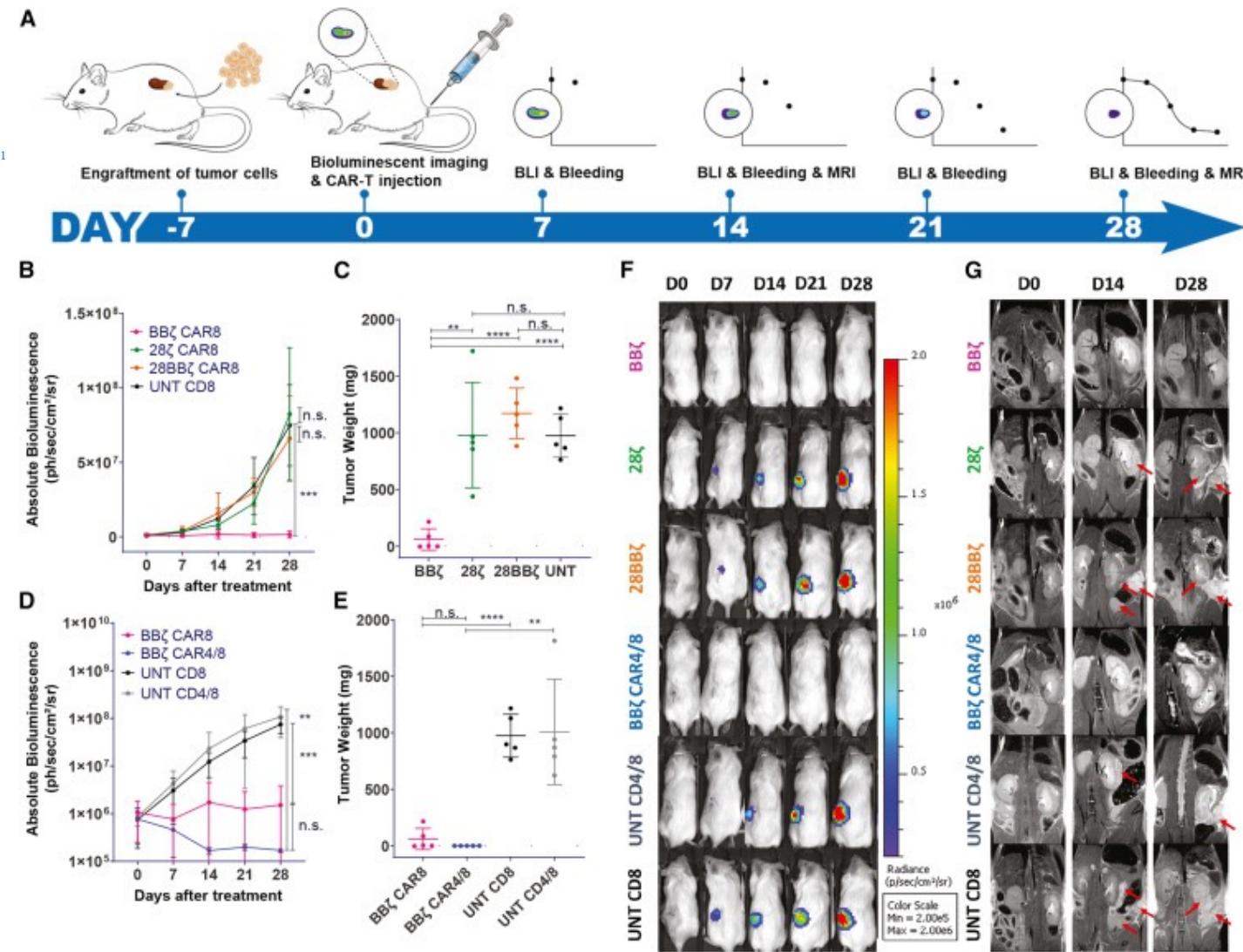
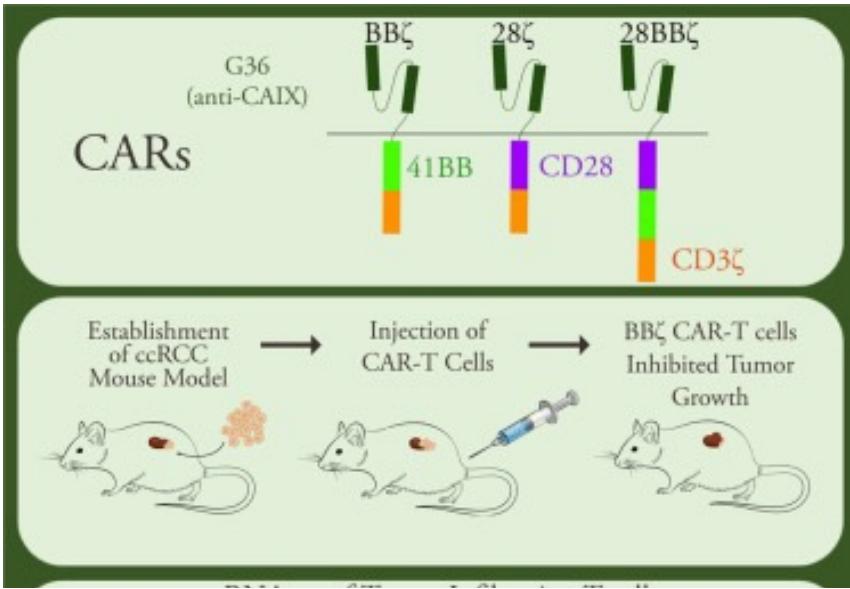


The most frequently used intracellular domains are derived from

- The CD28 family (CD28 and ICOS)
- The TNF receptor family (4-1BB, CD27, and OX40).

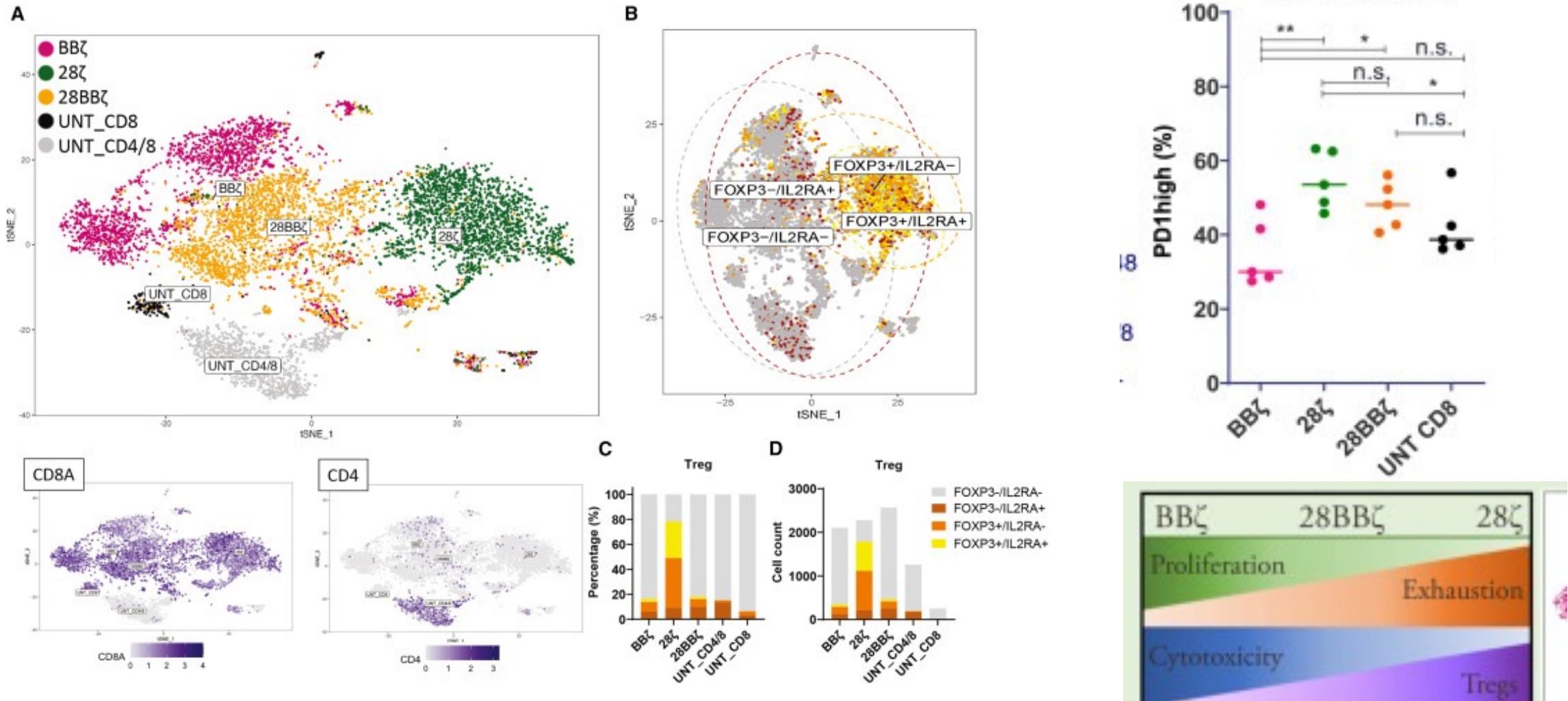
# Anti-CAIX BB $\zeta$ CAR4/8 T cells exhibit superior efficacy in a ccRCC mouse model

Yufei Wang,<sup>1,2</sup> Alicia Buck,<sup>1</sup> Marion Grimaud,<sup>1</sup> Aedin C. Culhane,<sup>3,4,5</sup> Sreekumar Kodangattil,<sup>1</sup> Cecile Razimbaud,<sup>1</sup> Dennis M. Bonal,<sup>6</sup> Quang-De Nguyen,<sup>6</sup> Zhu Zhu,<sup>2,7</sup> Kevin Wei,<sup>2,7</sup> Madison L. O'Donnell,<sup>8</sup> Ying Huang,<sup>8</sup> Sabina Signoretti,<sup>2,8,9</sup> Toni K. Choueiri,<sup>2,10</sup> Gordon J. Freeman,<sup>2,10</sup> Quan Zhu,<sup>1,2</sup> and Wayne A. Marasco<sup>1,2</sup>



No 1st-generation CARs (poor persistence in vivo)  
2nd -generation (28 $\zeta$  and BB $\zeta$ ) CARs  
3rd-generation CAR (28BB $\zeta$ )

# scRNAseq comparing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation CAR T-Cells therapies in ccRCC

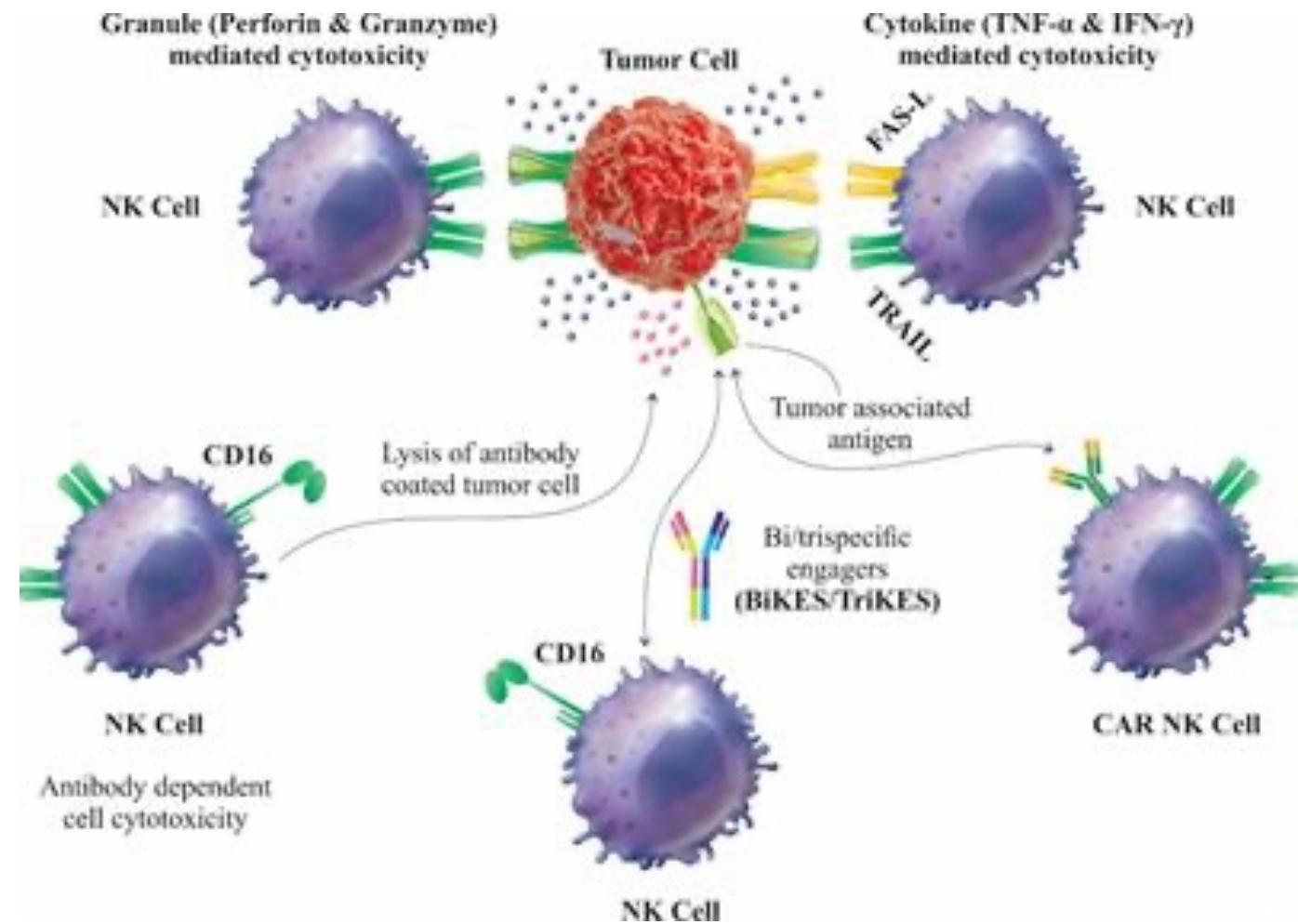


## 2. Towards NK cell therapy

Rapidly evolving interest in engineered NK cells for tumor immunotherapy

"infusions of allogeneic NK cells can be safely performed across human leukocyte antigen (HLA) barriers and avoid the graft-versus-host reactions that are an inherent challenge for immunotherapies based on administration of allogeneic T cells"

Scheffer et al., 2021 Nat Genet. 2021 Aug;53(8):1196-1206.



# NK Cell Killing

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-021-00889-w>

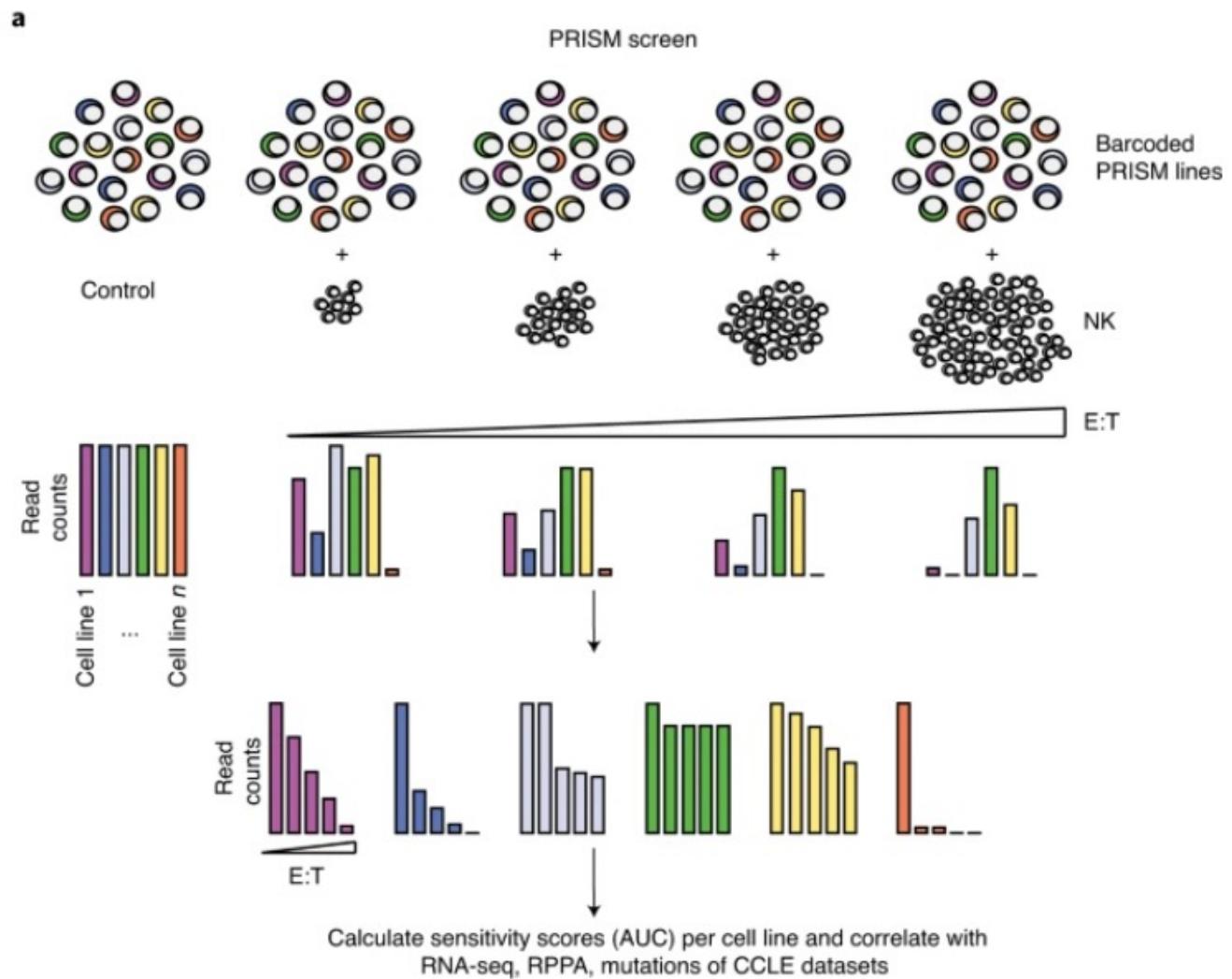
nature  
genetics

Check for updates

## Genome-scale screens identify factors regulating tumor cell responses to natural killer cells

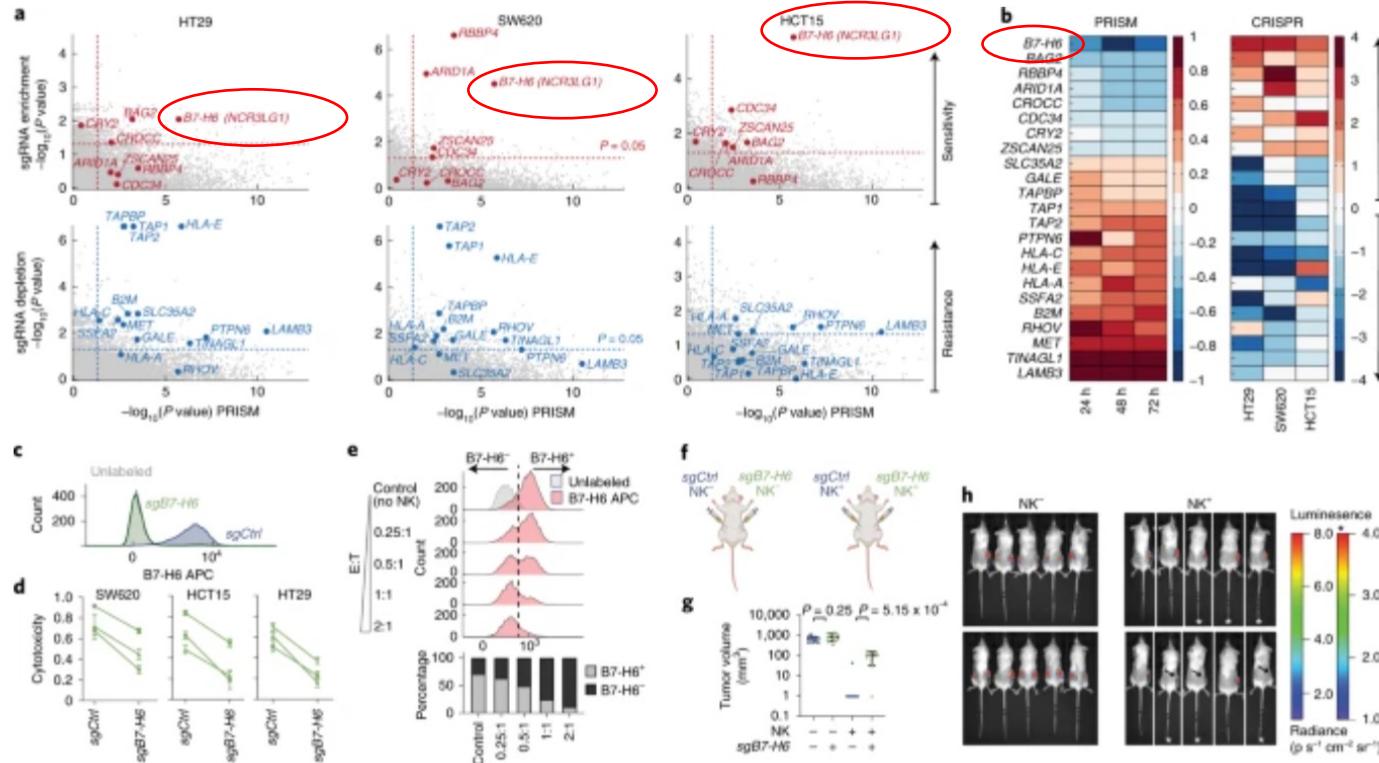
Michal Sheffer<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>✉, Emily Lowry<sup>①</sup>, Nicky Beelen<sup>5,6</sup>, Minasri Borah<sup>1</sup>, Suha Naffar-Abu Amara<sup>7</sup>, Chris C. Mader<sup>3</sup>, Jennifer A. Roth<sup>3</sup>, Aviad Tsherniak<sup>③</sup>, Samuel S. Freeman<sup>③</sup>, Olga Dashevsky<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Sara Gandolfi<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Samantha Bender<sup>3</sup>, Jordan G. Bryan<sup>③</sup>, Cong Zhu<sup>3</sup>, Li Wang<sup>3</sup>, Ifrah Tariq<sup>③,8</sup>, Govinda M. Kamath<sup>9</sup>, Ricardo De Matos Simoes<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Eugen Dhimolea<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Channing Yu<sup>③,1,2,3</sup>, Yiguo Hu<sup>③,11,15</sup>, Olli Dufva<sup>③,10,11,12</sup>, Marios Giannakis<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Vasilis Syrgkanis<sup>9</sup>, Ernest Fraenkel<sup>③,8</sup>, Todd Golub<sup>③,13</sup>, Rizwan Romee<sup>1,2</sup>, Satu Mustjoki<sup>③,10,11,12</sup>, Aedin C. Culhane<sup>③,14</sup>, Lotte Wieten<sup>③,5,6</sup> and Constantine S. Mitiades<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>✉

**Fig. 1: Overview of the PRISM study using NK cells.**



# B7H6 is essential for NK cell killing

**Fig. 4: Key regulators of tumor cell responses to NK cells in PRISM and CRISPR studies.**

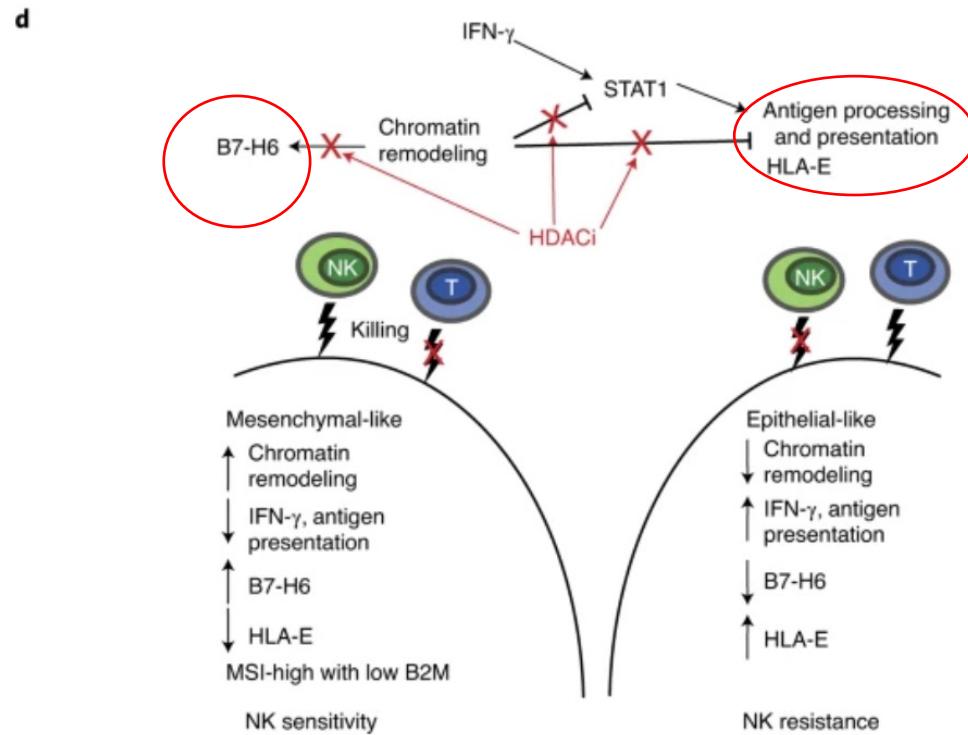


High B7H6 important for NK killing sensitivity

# Tumor Immune Environment –NK cells

## NK cell sensitive tumor cells

- chromatin remodeling
- ‘mesenchymal-like’ transcriptional programs
- high *B7-H6 (NCR3LG1)*
- low levels of *HLA-E/antigen presentation genes.*
- NK cell–sensitive tumor cells correlate with immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) resistance in clinical samples.



# PDL1/PDL2 family (treefam TF331083)

B7H6 is a B7 protein

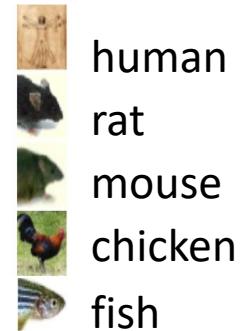
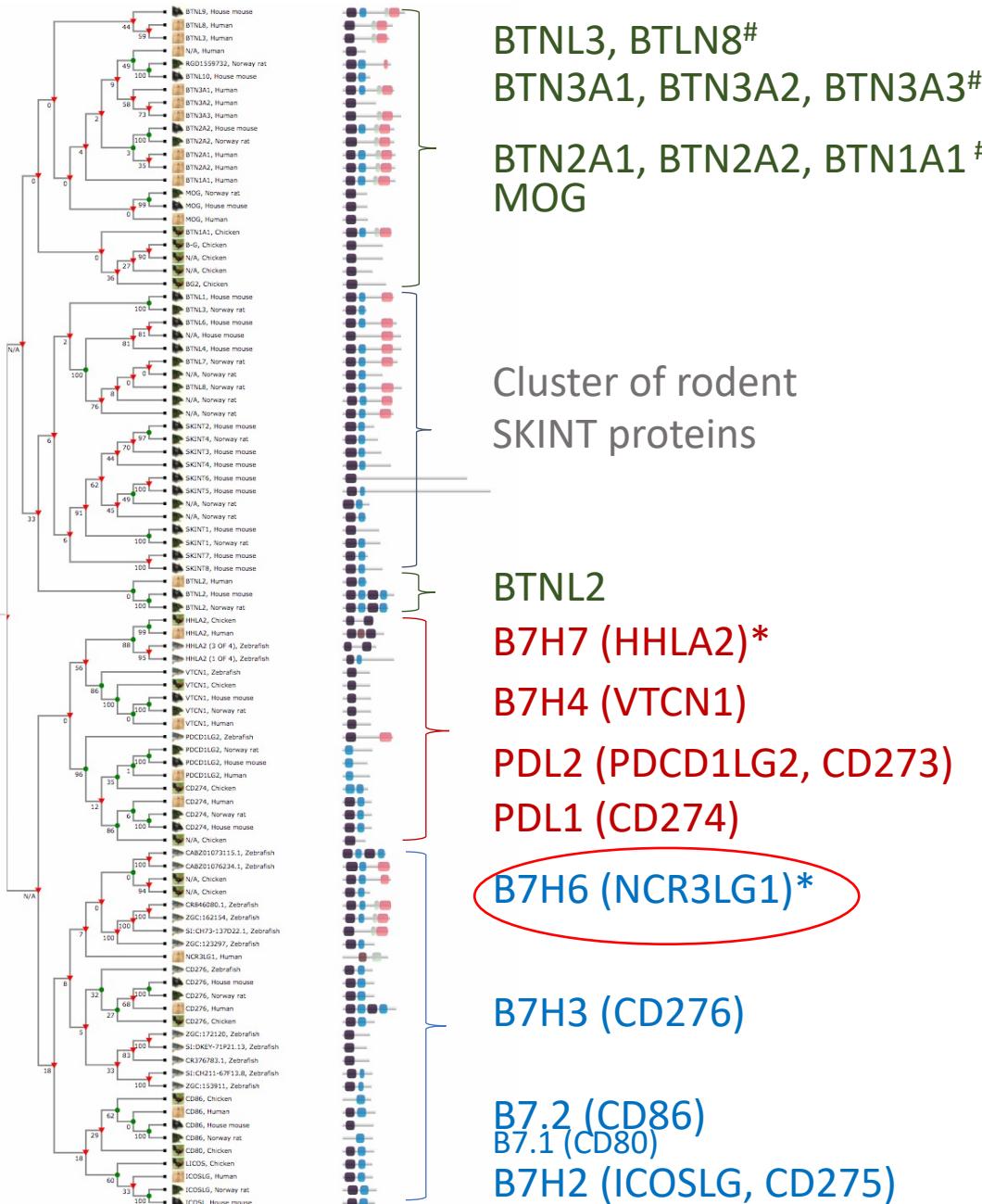
In the same family as PD-1, and CTLA4

## BTN/BTNL Cluster

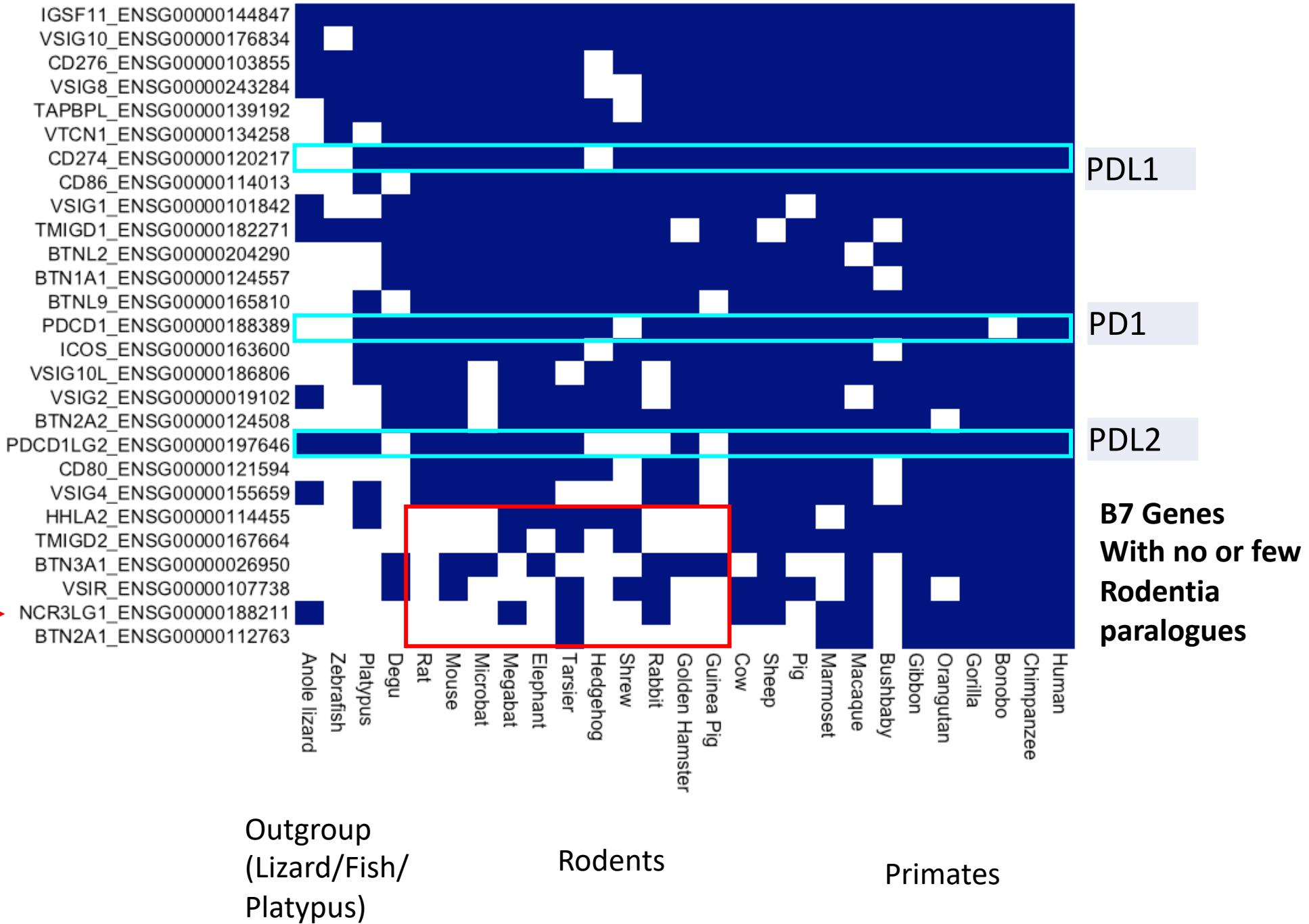
Gene ancestor

## PDL1, PDL2 Cluster

## CD276 Cluster



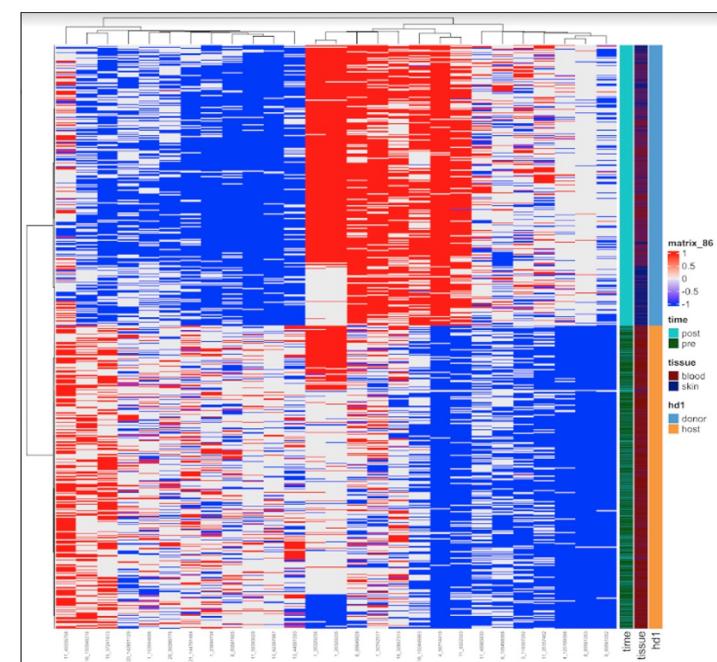
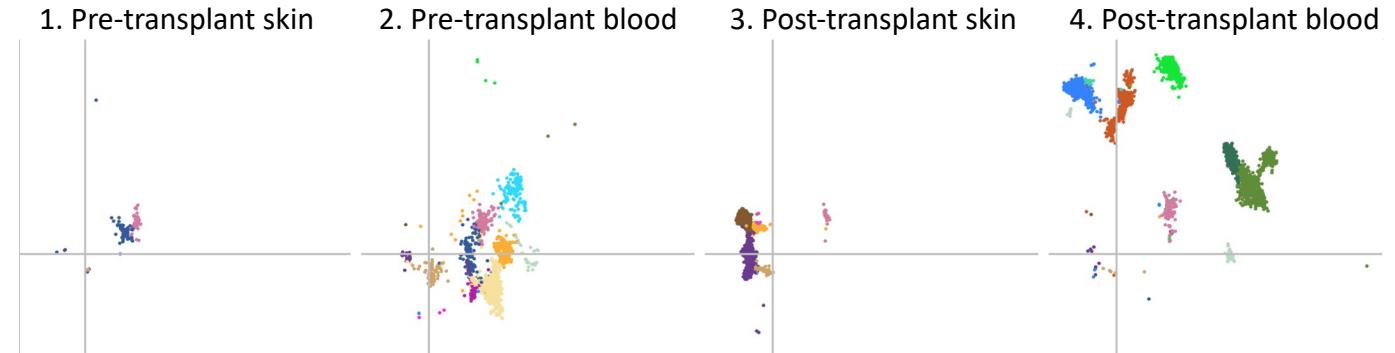
Why  
haven't  
we heard  
about  
B7-H6  
before?



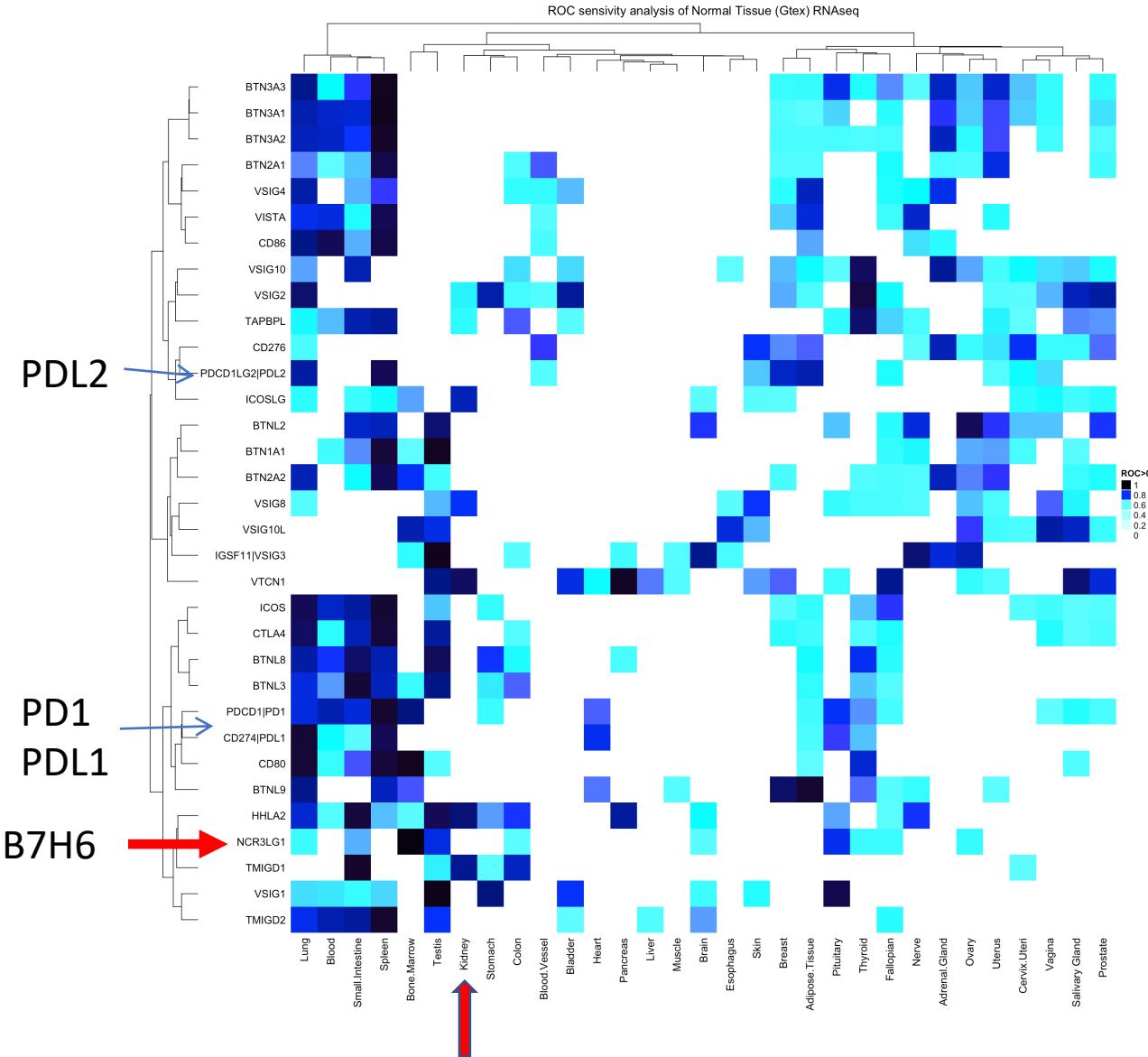
Unpublished

### 3. Tissue resident immunity and GVHD

- scRNAseq and TCR seq
- Pre/Post transplant
- Blood, Tissue from Receipt and Donor



# Tissue Specific of B7 genes



ROC sensitivity/specificity to identify genes that differentiated different tissues. Most immune genes had high specificity for blood, spleen, small intestine, lung.

Tissue specificity + evolution/GWAS can be used to deliver personalized IO

Unpublished

# Summary

- Importance of computational oncology and our lab
- Framework for sharing health data for research -eHealth -Hub for Cancer
- Single Cell Genomics and Immuno-Oncology Research
  - CAR T-Cell in renal cancer. Wang et al., Mol Ther Oncolytics 2021
  - Sensitivity to NK cell killing. Scheffer et al., Nat Genet. 2021
  - GVHD and tissue resident cells (unpublished)

# Questions

- Tools and methods to analyse single cell data
  - Corral, Hsu & Culhane, 2021
  - Bioconductor Eckenrode et al, 2021
  - Hackathon Le Cao et al., 2021
- Real-world data (COVID-19 Study-a-thon)  
Roel et al. 2021,  
Lane et al, 2020,  
Burns et al. 2020
- TME immune, stroma cells in cancer  
Wang et al., 2021,  
Dhimolea et al., 2021,  
Sheffer et al., 2021



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Dana-Farber  
Cancer Institute

Department of Data S



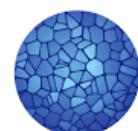
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Massive Analysis and  
Quality Control Society



CHAN  
ZUCKERBERG  
INITIATIVE



HUMAN  
CELL  
ATLAS



OHDSI  
OBSERVATIONAL HEALTH DATA SCIENCES AND INFORMATICS

